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## Forum hosts lively debate on PARC

**Matt Jachman**  
Staff Writer

The Plymouth Arts and Recreation Complex is gaining momentum, funded by rental income and private

donations, and the community needs to say yea or nay to its proposed future as a public entity for sports, culture and education, according to Don Soenen.

"We really need to get the

city and the township and the school district to work together on this," Soenen, PARC president, said Thursday at the Plymouth Community Forum. "We can't operate as an island. This is not just PARC."

But for Plymouth Township Supervisor Shannon Price, the devil is in the details and he hasn't seen those details yet.

PARC is a nonprofit, based at the former Central Middle School, that houses 14 nonprof-

it cultural and sports organizations, including arts studios, local theater companies, youth sports programs and the Michigan Philharmonic.

See PARC, Page A2

## Autorama show car made trip of over 14,000 miles from Australia



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Chris Bitmead (foreground, second from right), and his crew from Australia (from left): Mark Allen, Greg Maskell and Brodie Mitchell.

**Matt Jachman**  
Staff Writer

A mystery car from more than 14,000 miles away is being prepped in Plymouth Township to compete for one of the most coveted titles in the world of custom hot rods.

Chris Bitmead has spent about eight years building the car — little more than a

shell when he bought it — in a shed at home in Perth, Australia. He's been helped by roughly 30 friends, or "mates," as the Aussies call them, some of whom of joined him for the Detroit Autorama, which opens Friday, Feb. 26, at Cobo Center.

The cost of shipping the car alone was about 20,000 Australian dollars, or \$14,200. And that didn't include the shipping con-

tainer Bitmead had to buy and customize.

"It sounds mad, doesn't it?" Bitmead said Thursday at American Speed, an auto restoration and customizing shop in the township.

But Bitmead and his crew are vying for Autorama's Ridler Award, given annually to the vehicle displaying what judges

See AUTARAMA, Page A2

## Stewart announces bid for state Board of Education

**Joanne Maliszewski**  
Staff Writer

Plymouth Township resident and former state Rep. John Stewart has announced his run for a seat on the Michigan State Board of Education.

"This is the best place for me," said Stewart, a Democrat, referring to his dedication and support of public education.

Stewart, an attorney with an office on Main Street in Plymouth, served in the state House from 2000-06. Six years ago, he also made an unsuccessful run for the state Senate, a race won by Patrick Colbeck of Canton, who has served in the seat since. In 2007, Stewart became a Democrat. "There is no room in the Republican Party for a moderate," he said.



Stewart

Stewart has visited 14 major school districts, attending school board meetings. He also initiated a "listening tour," which has included stops in Grand Rapids, Kalamazoo, Lansing, Livonia, Wyandotte and Taylor, as well as five state Board of Education meetings.

"My purpose was to listen to their concerns and for the opportunity to speak about the need to restore full funding for public education," Stewart said. During his tenure in the state House, Stewart served on a variety of committees, including chair of the Higher Education Committee, Appropriations, Banking and Financial Institutions and Commerce committees, as well as Environmental Quality and Health and Human Services.

"We need to stop raiding the School Aid Fund," Stewart said. "I support full funding for special education, art, physical education, band, orchestra and choir, fourth grade through 12th grade," Stewart said. "I have first-hand knowledge of the 15 major public universities in Michigan. We need to do whatever we can to make college more affordable for Michigan's students."

Stewart said his years in the state House show he has a voting record consistent with his support of public education,

See STEWART, Page A5

## Help us kick off 'Community Scrapbook'

The Plymouth and Canton Observers will start a "Community Scrapbook" spot in the papers to highlight residents and their lives.

We ask that if you and your family have an event, activity, vacation or anything you photograph and would like to see it published, email editor Joanne Maliszewski at jmaliszews@hometownlife.com.

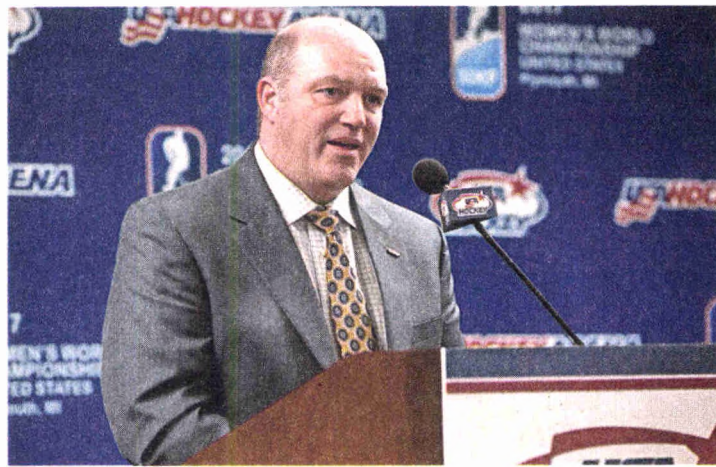
To make this effort successful, we urge all to participate. It will be a fun way to include more people in our newspapers and to highlight life in the Plymouths

and Canton. We will not publish inappropriate photos.

Please be sure you email your photos as JPG attachments. And don't forget to identify the people — and pets — in your photos, as well as when the photo was taken and what the folks in the photo are doing. Also, be sure to put "Community Scrapbook" in the email subject line.

We look forward to "Community Scrapbook" and sharing life in our communities.

## A coup for Plymouth Township



RENA LAVERTY | USA HOCKEY

On the heels of the Five Nations Tournament at the USA Hockey Arena, Plymouth Township Supervisor Shannon joined in this week's news that the 2017 IIHF Women's World Championship is heading to the arena next year. Turn to page B1 for more about the announcement.



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# AUTORAMA

Continued from Page A1

consider the best in creativity, engineering and workmanship. Ridler-eligible cars cannot have been shown anywhere else, ever, and the rules also limit advance publicity, so Bitmead is vague on the details of his car, a Ford coupe.

The Ridler comes with a cash prize of \$10,000 — not even enough to cover shipping.

## 'It's the recognition'

"The money's not what it's all about. It's the recognition," said Bitmead, director of a civil engineering firm in western Australia.



BILL BRESLER  
STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Brodie Mitchell works on a detail of friend Chris Bitmead's custom car, which will be shown for the first time at the Detroit Autorama.

As a car guy, he said, he knows the Detroit Autorama is the show to

be in. Bitmead's car is believed to be the first from outside North America to compete for the Ridler, named for Don Ridler, a popular sports figure who promoted Autorama in its early days in the 1950s.

The car started out Dec. 3 by ship from Fremantle in western Australia. By way of New Zealand and the Panama Canal, it arrived Jan. 19 in Philadelphia, where it sat out a snowstorm, and was then trucked to American Speed, where Bitmead and his crew are putting the finishing touches on it.

"Chris has got a thing about distances," joked Greg Maskell, the owner of Maskell's Customs and Classics in Shepparton,

eastern Australia, where Bitmead had his car painted last year. Shepparton and Perth are more than 1,800 miles apart.

Another crew member, Mark Allen, had accompanied Bitmead on a trip to the 2012 Detroit Autorama, where they scouted the Ridler contenders and took in the show.

"We did our own judging thing," Allen said, explaining that they picked nine of what they considered the best vehicles, eight of which became Ridler finalists — the Great Eight. They also guessed the eventual winner, a 1956 Ford Thunderbird.

The 2012 trip gave Bitmead an idea of what

kind of competition his car would face.

"If we didn't think we could bring a car that was up to level, I wouldn't have gone to the effort of bringing it halfway around the world," he said.

## 'Huge following'

The Detroit trip is a big deal in Australian custom car circles; there's social-media buzz and two Australian car magazines, *Street Machine* and *Forged*, will be in Detroit to cover the show and follow Bitmead's quest for the Ridler. Bitmead's group of friends and family will grow to more than 20, including his wife Colleen, by the time Autorama opens.

The Australians had high praise for the Detroit area and American Speed, saying people seem friendly and have gone out of their way to help them.

"American Speed has been awesome," Bitmead said. "We only met the guys when we walked in here."

The Detroit Autorama runs noon to 10 p.m. Friday, Feb. 26, 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 27, and 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 28, at Cobo Center. Tickets are \$19 each, \$6 for children ages 6-12 and free for children under 6. Discounted tickets are available at O'Reilly Auto Parts stores. The event website is <https://autorama.com/attend/detroit/>.

# PARC

Continued from Page A1

"Great idea, but where's the funding

source?" Price said at the forum at the Plymouth District Library. "Where's the needs assessment?"

Price said he wants details, including a busi-

ness plan, an economic impact study and a study of recreation needs outside PARC's mission, before he's willing to see if Plymouth Township voters want to tax themselves for it.

## Price: 'Open to it'

Price and Soenen had a lively debate — interrupted a couple of times by people in a mostly PARC-friendly crowd of about 65 — that didn't follow the traditional PCF format, in that Price is neither in favor of nor opposed to PARC at this point.

"I'm open to it," he said. "I'm not a yes, I'm not a no. I want to get the answers to those questions first."

PARC grew out of a movement to preserve Central, the former Plymouth High School, and re-purpose it for a community use. The complex is being purchased, for \$3.3 million, from the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools by Mark and Patty Malcolm of Plymouth, who plan to donate it to PARC once the organization's future is secure.

But Soenen said the township has to get on board before that can

happen.

"We've got to talk about it and eventually we've got to let the voters decide," he said.

Soenen said PARC is doing well financially on rentals from tenants and private donations that go toward repairs and small upgrades, but lacks money for needed restoration work, like new windows, heating systems and updating the pool, as well as projects like building a planned 800-seat auditorium. Plans for PARC have been scaled down some, he said, and amenities such as a new pool and a new gymnasium set aside.

He said the re-purposing tab will come to between \$20 and \$25 million and has suggested a property tax, of up to 1 mill (\$1 for every \$1,000 of a property's taxable value), to raise that money.

## Some common ground

But Thursday, Soenen said he's open to other funding options. That's where he and Price found common ground.

"As far as wanting to go and find other funding opportunities, I'm there," Price said. Price

said Mike Mitchell, the township's director of parks and grants, would be available as a resource for PARC.

The two also agreed that a study of recreation needs should involve the broader community, not just those needs that can be served at PARC.

Price, though, criticized Soenen for not coming up with a long-discussed business plan. "The goalposts keep moving, right?" Price said.

Price said the township, which has a larger tax base, would be paying three-quarters of the bill if a joint taxing authority is established.

Soenen answered that it didn't make sense to develop a business plan until PARC officials get input from township officials and know where voters stand.

He referred to actions he said created a hostile environment in the township toward PARC, including abruptly pulling township representatives from a PARC organizing committee in late 2013 and a January 2014 Board of Trustees resolution that bars the township from participating in any

taxing authority-type agreements with the city until November of this year, which is after the next township election.

"You can only bang your head against the wall for so long," Soenen said.

On that last point, Colleen Pobur, a Plymouth City Commission member, spoke up from the audience.

"Why don't you make a resolution to abolish that resolution?" she asked Price.

Price, who was appointed supervisor last April, said he wants to look forward. Earlier, he had said that the legacy costs owed by the city related to the Plymouth Community Fire Department, which the two communities once shared, had chilled relations between the city and township, though progress has lately been made toward resolving the issue. That tab had been pegged a year ago at roughly \$3.7 million.

"I don't believe members of our board would be interested in undoing a resolution," he said.

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# P-CEP choir program to perform in Italy

**Danielle Alexander**  
Staff Writer

Plymouth-Canton Educational Park's 2015-16 Festival Singers have been invited to perform in Italy during spring break. In addition to various smaller performances, they will serve as the choir for a Mass at St. Peter's Basilica in Venice the Tuesday after Easter, as well as a Mass at St. Mark's Basilica, also in Venice.

Choral director Jennifer Neumann said the choir had to submit a repertoire, as well as recordings, before getting approval and an invitation to sing.

"We have been preparing music throughout the school year," Neumann said, "mainly sacred pieces since it's Easter week, a holy week, which is a pretty big honor."

P-CEP's choir program consists of 15 curricular and extracurricular choirs composed of more than 300 students. Festival Singers is an advanced extracurricular choral ensemble that meets one day per week, with extra rehearsals often occurring week-

ends.

In the past, members of the choir program have performed at Carnegie Hall in New York City, Disney World in Orlando, Cedar Point in Ohio and in Toronto, Chicago and London.

"It is time-consuming, but I love it and can't imagine doing anything else," Neumann said. "The students work very hard and are really diligent."

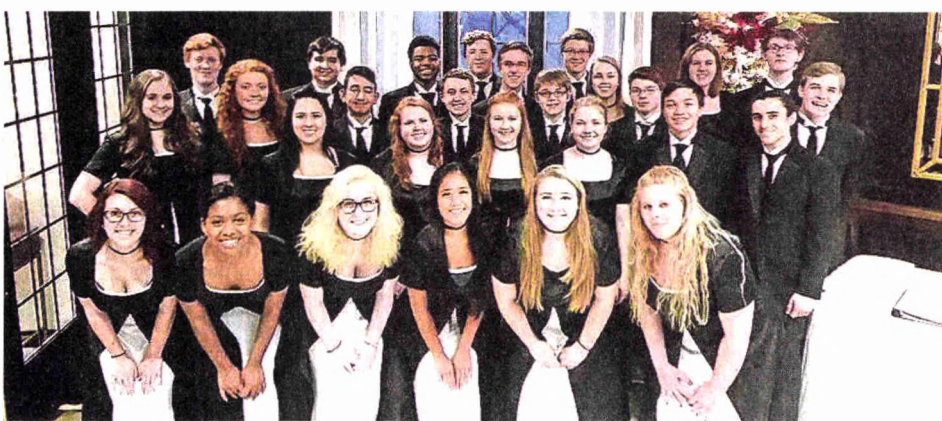
P-CEP's choir boosters are raising money to support those participating in the Italy trip. Donations can be made by contacting pcepchoirs@yahoo.com.

Also, students, alumni and community leaders will be gathering for a concert by both the choirs from Eastern Michigan University and P-CEP at Plymouth First United Methodist Church at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 27. The church is at 701 Church Street. Proceeds from the event will be divided between the two programs to support their upcoming tours.

dnalexander@hometownlife.com  
248-860-4183



P-CEP's Festival Singers have more than 40 performances every school year.



P-CEP's Festival Singers will make a tour of Italy this spring.



Choral director Jennifer Neumann has been at P-CEP for 16 years.

# Observer & Eccentric to connect businesses with seniors at annual expo

The *Observer & Eccentric* presents the 13th annual Spring Senior Expo, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesday, April 5, in the VisTaTech Center at Schoolcraft College in Livonia.

This tradition for seniors features diverse demonstrations and workshops, local business exhibitors, prizes, free admission, free parking and free refreshments. Learn to live healthy, make wise financial decisions and enhance life to make it the best ever.

Businesses wishing to participate can take advantage of various exhibitor and sponsorship packages.

Prior to the expo, a Spring Senior Expo special publication will be inserted into all *Observer*, *Novi News*, *Northville Record*, *Milford Times* and *South Lyon Herald* newspapers Thursday, March 31, and in all *Eccentric* newspapers Sunday, April 3. This special publication will feature articles, interests and resources for today's seniors. The publication

will also include participating local business exhibitors and information on all demonstrations and workshops being offered for this year's event.

For those interested in greater involvement and exposure, there are speaking, advertorial and various sponsorship level opportunities.

Businesses interested in learning more about how to become an exhibitor or sponsor should contact Choya Jordan at 248-926-2203 or cbjordan@michigan.com.



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER  
The 13th annual Spring Senior Expo will be held April 5 inside Schoolcraft's VisTaTech Center.

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# Canton to host Chinese spring festival

Celebrating a tradition that is thousands of years old, the Canton Commission for Culture, Arts and Heritage Multicultural Committee will host a Chinese Spring Festival at 7 p.m. Saturday, March 12, at The Village Theater at Cherry Hill.

Providing main stage entertainment will be choral performances by the Michigan Chinese Choir, the Canton Philharmonic Choir, the March Wind Choir, the AM Choir and the New Century Chinese School youth chorus.

The program also features duets and small group performances by Yangtze Melody Group and Xin Yun; pop music by the Desert Island Band; Chinese yo-yo; Tai Chi; and a traditional Chinese instrumental performance by the Troy Chinese Classic Music Guzhang Team.

The evening includes a special guest performance by Shuping Ma, a notable opera singer in China and the United States. She is a graduate of Sichuan Music College in China and was a vocal professor at Xinhai Music College in Guangzhou. Ma has performed at the Detroit Opera House and throughout China and the U.S. and is the director for three area Chinese choirs.



The Ann Hua Waist Drum Team will perform at the Chinese festival.

The art of traditional Chinese folk and classical dances will be shared by Cherry Blossom, Shihui Dance Group, Michigan New Century Chinese School, Clivia Dance Group, Ann Arbor Jade Dance School, the Ann Hua Waist Drum Team, Ann Hua Chinese Dance

Group and the Senior Chinese American Golden Years Troupe.

Event-goers can also enjoy a free punch and cookie reception starting at 6 p.m. In addition, a variety of cultural displays will be available for all to enjoy in The Village Theater lobby.

Tickets to this special Chinese celebration are just \$5 per person.

Tickets can be purchased and printed at home or held at will call, anytime from www.cantonvillagetheater.org. The box office is open 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. each weekday. Tickets can also be

ordered by phone at 734-394-5300, ext. 3, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. each weekday. If available, tickets may be purchased one hour prior to the program.

The Village Theater at Cherry Hill is located at 50400 Cherry Hill Road.

## STEWART

Continued from Page A1

which forms his platform. It also includes demanding accountability of all schools, including public and charter and cyber schools, in Michigan.

While endorsements are not officially made until after the Aug. 2 primary election, Stewart has already been recommended by Steve Cook, MEA president, Dr. David Hecker of the AFT and the Michigan Democratic State Central Committee to run for the state Board of Education. Locally, Chuck Portelli, formerly of the Plymouth-Canton Education Association (teachers union), has also recommended Stewart.

"It has been gratifying to receive widespread support. I will continue my 'listening tour' to school districts across Michigan," Stewart said.

Stewart is a former Plymouth Township trustee who served from 1988-92. He holds a bachelor's degree from Eastern Michigan University, a master's degree in public administration from Wayne State University and a law degree from Michigan State University.

He is married to Beth, executive director of the Michigan Philharmonic. They have two daughters and one grandchild.

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# Resurrection Church hosts Lenten speaker series

Resurrection Catholic Church in Canton is hosting a Soup Supper and Speaker Series this Lent.

It was to begin Friday, Feb. 19, including a simple, meatless meal of soup and bread followed by a talk on "Marriage, the Baby and the Family" by Crystal Squire, development director at AAA Pregnancy Resource Center

in Livonia. Attendees are invited to participate in Stations of the Cross following the presentation.

The second night in the series will take place Friday, March 18. Tying in to the Jubilee Year of Mercy declared by Pope Francis last year, it will feature a discussion on "Living Lent with Mercy" by Resurrection Deacon

Paul F. Lippard.

"Mercy is one of the core teachings of Jesus and we are called to live it out in everyday life," said Lippard, a graduate of the University of Detroit with a major in scripture who has been involved in religious education for more than 35 years.

These events, hosted by Resurrection's Evangelization and Respect

Life Committees, are a way for people to enrich their Lenten experience by examining specific aspects of their faith.

The meals will be served 5:30-6 p.m., followed by the presentations 6-6:45 p.m. and Stations of the Cross at 7 p.m.

All are welcome at these events. Please respond by calling the parish office at 734-451-

0444 or emailing re-soffice@resurrectionparish.net.

Resurrection Church is located at 48755 Warren Road in Canton, between Beck and Ridge roads. For more information about these or other Lenten activities, call the parish office or go to www.resurrectionparish.net.

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# Growth Works dinner recognizes youth who overcome obstacles and their helpers

**Julie Brown**  
Staff Writer

The annual Growth Works, Inc., awards dinner is a time to pause and reflect.

"We've been doing it a long time," executive director Dale Yagiela said of the agency which helps young people in Plymouth-Canton and surrounding communities. The 27th annual dinner, Feb. 18 this year at Fox Hills Golf Club, was "to acknowledge progress our participants have made," he said.

Staff and community partners were also lauded. Staffers, many of whom go back with Growth Works for years, are "really important to us," Yagiela said. "They're working with folks that need a lot of support, a lot of care. You need a good heart."

Yagiela has been with the agency since it began in 1971 as Plymouth Youth, Inc. The name change to Growth Works followed several years later.

Chemical dependency treatment for youth became key in the 1980s. The agency was operating alternative education for the Plymouth-Canton school district and found drug use often interfered with school success.

Yagiela praised hospital-based programs for youth who have substance abuse problems. Growth Works in the early 1980s began after-care for youth coming out of such hospital programs.

In the middle 1980s, juvenile delinquency



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER  
**Michele Baldori of Canton earned the Rick Bergquist Memorial Scholarship.**

programming evolved into what now serves 17 western Wayne County communities. Youth have gone through the Wayne County Juvenile Court and been referred, Yagiela said.

"The intent is to rehabilitate them and keep the community safe," he said. Now, Growth Works has ties in substance abuse work and court intervention with Washtenaw County as well.

"It's just doing more of the same. We're concerned about kids, crime, drug use and how they all intersect," Yagiela said.

For Yagiela and colleagues, seeing young people get lives back on track is rewarding. "It's kind of what makes you stay with the work when you see that," he said. "People can make a decision to change."

He praised the Conference of Western Wayne as "a real key partner in this since we started the delinquency program." He sees the region as stronger in that regard



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER  
**Kevin Kreimes of Canton, Emily Scott of Plymouth, Bruce Thacker of Milan and Rob Lauer of Canton. All won Program Achievement Awards.**



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER  
**TaWanna Sperling and Marsha Sperling represented Rick Bergquist Memorial Scholarship winner Ka'Mariera Moorer of Taylor.**

than others due in large part to the CWW and its leadership.

"This isn't about punishing people. It's about helping them make bet-

ter decisions," Yagiela said.

He's nearly 67 and has no immediate retirement plans. The agency's board is working on its



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## Women's Health Presentations

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## Spotlight Players to perform 'Old Ringers'

Spotlight Players senior group Still Got It Players is set to perform *Old Ringers* in the Biltmore Studio at The Village Theater at Cherry Hill.

*Old Ringers* is a PG-13 adult comedy written by Joe Simonelli about four senior women and one man affected by their negative financial changes due to the economy. Strapped for funds, they decide to start a new business venture that includes a phone sex service to increase their incomes. This all comes about from a call accidentally made to one woman from the As You Like It — Shakespeare Phone Sex Service.

The play offers bawdy comic lines while also addressing relationship issues between mother and daughter, as well subjects regarding religion, age, sex, dating and morals.



Laura Kitzman of Canton, Philip Lukasik of Westland and Chris Saksewski of Belleville practice for "Old Ringers."

"Senior citizen phone sex gone hilariously wrong!" producer Laura Kitzman said. "This play will appeal to anyone who wants to get away from the cold and snow and enjoy a cleverly written comedy. There are also some great messages in this play regarding relationships, integrity and ethics."

*Old Ringers* will run

March 16-20, with Wednesday and Thursday performances at 1 p.m., Friday and Saturday performances at 7:30 p.m. and a Sunday performance at 2 p.m.

Tickets are between \$16 and \$18. They can be purchased by calling the box office at 734-394-5300 or at [www.cantonvillagetheater.org](http://www.cantonvillagetheater.org).

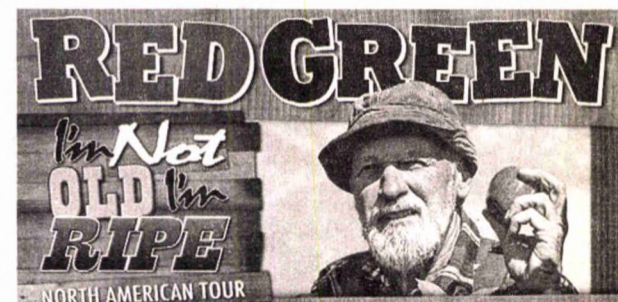
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# Art center to host workshop for transgender youth

**Brad Kadrich**  
Staff Writer

As the mother of a transgender son, Kelly Darke works hard to provide a nurturing, safe environment where her son can be himself.

Now Darke, owner of Mindful Art Center in Livonia, is trying to extend that same comfort to transgender kids at work.

Darke is hosting a youth art workshop at her center (12886 Farmington Road) Sunday, Feb. 28, as part of an ongoing art therapy effort to help transgender youth find their way through life.

"I want to provide a place where kids feel comfortable without any judgment and where they can meet other kids going through the same thing," said Darke, whose son, Grayson, came out as transgender in January 2015. "These are kids just trying to be who they are. I want to give them a place to do that."

Darke has been helping all kids — and adult clients — express themselves since getting her master's degree in art therapy from Wayne State University in 2009.

## EXPRESS YOURSELF

**What:** Transgender Youth Art Workshop

**Where:** Mindful Art Center, 12886 Farmington Road, Livonia

**When:** Sunday, Feb. 28. Clients in kindergarten through fifth grade meet 1-2 p.m.; clients in sixth grade and higher meet 2:15-3:15 p.m.

**Why:** Provide an environment where transgender youth can learn to express themselves without fear of judgment

**How much:** Art supplies will be provided; there is a \$5 supply fee. Space is limited to 20 people; RSVP by Feb. 27

**Details:** For more information, go to [www.mindfulartcenter.com](http://www.mindfulartcenter.com) or call 734-502-7920

The Grosse Pointe Park native, who now lives in Westland, first worked for agencies, most recently TBI Solutions in Southfield, before opening Mindful Art Center in September 2014.

She said having her client list dictated largely by insurance companies eventually drove her into private practice.

"Most agencies work



Jessy Cociolone (left) paints cards as her step-mom, art therapist Kelly Darke, looks on.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

with insurance companies, so the insurance company dictated who I could see," said Darke, who also got her bachelor's degree at WSU. "In private practice, the client has full control. I'm an art therapist and I wanted to work independently."

Darke has always had a therapeutic bent toward her life. She said she's got a "long history" of art and painting and

also has had a longtime fascination with psychology.

She believes the two can go hand-in-hand. In fact, she said, she has long used art as her "personal therapy."

"It's relaxing, it's satisfying, it's something I can do on my own," she said. "There aren't any rules; it is what I make of it. It's very personal. No one can tell you what it means."

It wasn't the career path she once thought she'd take. Darke said she originally thought about being a doctor. Then, she said, her brother suffered a nasty broken leg.

"When I saw him in the hospital with his leg, I almost passed out," she said, laughing. "That's when I thought, 'Maybe not a doctor.'"

Having always wanted to have her own studio,

Darke decided to make the leap from TBI Solutions when her husband, who also owns his own business, found the Farmington Road space for Darke's center.

At the moment, the center hosts only art therapy classes, but Darke said she's considering expanding the center's offerings to include workshops and art classes, including for adults.

At the moment, Darke is focusing on the workshop for transgender youth. But first she had to educate herself. After Grayson came out last year Darke, who also has a stepdaughter who is gay, spent the next year educating herself, reading books and attending support groups for parents of transgender kids.

"For a lot of kids — and adults — when you have issues you can't quite describe with words, art can help you do that," Darke said. "Kids can use art and expression to do that. You can express yourself without any judgment. There's no right or wrong, so you're not being judged by that."

[bkadrich@hometownlife.com](mailto:bkadrich@hometownlife.com)  
Twitter: @bkadrich

# Canton Leisure Services captures mParks awards

Canton Leisure Services was among the winners as the state mParks awards honored parks and recreation agencies and individuals who have contributed to Michigan's recreation industry, which has long been an important economic driver by inspiring tourism, supporting jobs and improving health for the residents of and visitors to our state.

In all, mParks honored 22 parks and recreation professionals, agencies, advocates and legislators

with Michigan Recreation and Park Awards, which were presented Thursday at an mParks conference in Acme.

This year, Canton Leisure Services was the recipient of two mParks awards: the Excellence in Therapeutic Recreation Programming Award for Canton's Camp Leisure Club and a Special Brochure Award for the Canton Farmers Market's seasonal brochure.

"This recognition is further proof of Canton Leisure Services' dedication to quality programs

and events," Canton Leisure Services Director Debra Bilbrey-Honowitz said. "Canton residents are fortunate to have access to these award-winning programs in our community, as well as year-round recreation opportunities, health and wellness classes and activities, fine arts and cultural programs, family-friendly community events and more."

mParks is the statewide professional association for Michigan's parks and recreation

industry, committed to educating and inspiring a diverse membership of 2,000-plus parks and recreation professionals, agencies, advocates and vendors. It also serves as the voice for the industry, promoting and advocating for parks and recreation as an invaluable resource for community, economy and public health.

Since 2004, Canton Leisure Services has been accredited by the Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies.



Canton has won awards from mParks.

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# St. Mary Mercy Hospital CEO discusses pros and cons of Affordable Care Act

**Julie Brown**  
Staff Writer

As president/chief executive officer of St. Mary Mercy Hospital, David Spivey sees varied sides of the Affordable Care Act, which became law in 2010.

"It's been challenging. The regulations are greater," Spivey told Plymouth Rotarians and guests at a Friday, Feb. 19, luncheon.

On the plus side, he noted, more people are covered by health plans, including through expansion of Medicaid.

"As business people, we deal with a lot of regulation every day," Spivey said. "We find ways to adjust." He does won-



**JULIE BROWN**  
David Spivey, president/CEO of St. Mary Mercy Hospital, discussed the Affordable Care Act, health care consolidation and other issues Feb. 19 at the Rotary Club of Plymouth.

der if crafters of the ACA legislation studied economics in college, noting insurance rates are going

up. "We'll see where it goes moving forward," he said at the Plymouth Cultural Center lunch.

It had been almost 15 years since Spivey spoke to Plymouth Rotarians and he was eager to tout the hospital's enhanced reputation. "We've come a long way," he said.

Spivey noted "quiet" 1990s improvements at the hospital at Five Mile and Levan, prior to its joining Trinity Health as part of the St. Joseph Mercy Health System in 2000.

He's proud of the 2009 addition of seven residency training programs for physicians. "It's really been a revitalizing aspect of the hospital I'm

quite proud of," he said.

Spivey also lauded the 2012-14 renovation work that included a new emergency room and three patient floors with private rooms. "It's going to serve the community for many years to come," he said.

Other health system sites, including Chelsea and the hospital on Woodward in Oakland County, also have been renovated. "We're here to stay," he said of his employer, the fourth largest health system in the U.S.

Spivey also praised the MercyElite training facility created in 2014 for all athletes, including young ones. Schoolcraft College and the Livonia Recreation Center are among its partners.

"Hire people who know what they're doing. Give them the support they need," he urged, noting the sports facility included hiring away from a competitor.

This year includes Level II trauma certification through the American College of Surgeons, among the "halo effects in improving the organization," he cited.

He noted the recent merger of Oakwood and Botsford systems into Beaumont, to leverage size and scale much as other industries do. "Consolidation is definitely here to stay," he said.

Consumerism is a factor, as well. Some people now have high-deductible health insur-

ance plans in which they pay \$5,000 to \$7,000 a year out of pocket for care.

"That's causing people to be more price-sensitive in their shopping for health care," Spivey said.

He added his hospital is solid financially, which boosts care. "It allows us to be able to give back to the community through community programming," he said.

Spivey concluded by noting the challenges of caring for an aging population. "Aging and chronic disease is something we've got to figure out and reverse some of the trends," he said.

By 2030, he noted, 19 percent of Americans will be 65 or older.

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

### FIGHT THE FLU

**Time/Date:** Donations 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday and 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, through February  
**Location:** Salvation Army Plymouth Corps, 9451 S. Main, Plymouth.

**Details:** The Salvation Army Plymouth Corps, in conjunction with the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools, is asking the community to "Share the Love - Not the Flu" and donate items that will keep students and teachers well during the flu season.

**Contact:** Laurie Aren at laurie\_aren@usc.salvationarmy.org or call 734-453-5464.

### CONCERNED CITIZENS

**Time/Date:** 7-8:45 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 24  
**Location:** Plymouth Library, Main Street.

**Details:** Mark Clinton has announced his candidacy for Plymouth Township treasurer in 2016. He will be speaking and answering questions at the meeting of Plymouth Concerned Citizens.

### CELEBRATE BLACK HISTORY MONTH

**Time/Date:** 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Feb. 20; 7-8:30 p.m. Feb. 25  
**Location:** Canton Public Library.

**Details:** The Canton Public Library has announced a series of programs to celebrate Black History Month. Mancala, a challenging game that has been played from ancient times throughout Africa, is featured Saturday, Feb. 20. All ages are welcome. "Buffalo Soldiers: History & Horses" featuring a presentation by James H. Mills of the Buffalo Soldiers Heritage Center, happens Thursday, Feb. 25. Mills is set to share the history of the legendary African-American U.S. Army regiment.

### MOTORCYCLE SWAP MEET

**Time/Date:** 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 21.  
**Details:** Motorcycle enthusiasts are expected to pack the Suburban Collection Showplace during the Detroit Area Motorcycle Swap Meet. With a new event manager, the swap meet returns after a one-year absence. The event will be a one-stop-shop for bikers looking to buy, sell and swap motorcycles. Individuals attending the event will also have the opportunity to shop a variety of vendors offering one-of-a-kind accessories, bike parts, leather apparel and more.

Admission for the event will be \$8 per person and free for

children 12 years of age and younger. For more information on the Detroit Area Motorcycle Swap Meet call 989-225-1244 or go to [www.hugeswapmeet.com](http://www.hugeswapmeet.com).

### CANCER SCREENINGS

**Time/Date:** 8 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Saturday, March 12  
**Location:** Women's Health Center, St. Joseph Mercy Ann Arbor hospital campus, 5320 Elliott Drive, Ypsilanti

**Details:** Backed by a grant from the College of American Pathologists Foundation, St. Joseph Mercy Ann Arbor will provide free cervical and breast cancer screenings. As the only location in Michigan participating in the See, Test & Treat program, SJMAA will provide uninsured and low-income women ages 21-64 with free pelvic and breast exams and Pap tests with same-day results. Women ages 40-64 can also receive a free mammogram with same-day results. HPV tests, health education and access to community health resources are also offered. Spanish-speaking staff will be available for those needing translation services.

### MOM-2-MOM SALE

**Time/Date:** 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, March 12  
**Location:** Hillside Elementary

School, 36801 W 11 Mile, Farmington Hills

**Details:** Hillside Elementary School hosts its fourth annual Mom-2-Mom sale, featuring 70 tables of gently used baby, maternity and children's clothing, toys and equipment. Early bird admission at 8 a.m. is \$3; general admission after 9 a.m. is \$2.

### ESSAY CONTEST

**Time/Date:** Applications due April 1  
**Details:** The Beloved Community, partnering with the Michigan Roundtable for Diversity and Inclusion, has announced the second annual Dr. Martin Luther King Essay Contest. The contest is open to all sixth- through 12th-grade students in Plymouth and Canton, including those children who attend traditional public, charter and private schools or who are home-schooled. Participation in the essay contest is intended to foster a deeper understanding of the importance of diversity and inclusion and further the goals of education, deep reflection and reconciliation on topics critical to racial justice in the Plymouth-Canton community.

**Contact:** Inquiries about the application process may be directed to Loren Khogali at [lorenkhogali@gmail.com](mailto:lorenkhogali@gmail.com) or Sommer Foster at [sommer.foster@gmail.com](mailto:sommer.foster@gmail.com).

### BOLLYWOOD BASH

**Time/Date:** 6 p.m. to midnight Friday, March 11  
**Details:** Third annual Bollywood Bash to benefit Good News India, which rescues children from bonded labor, sex

slavery, providing them a safe haven. It runs the largest network of care centers for orphaned and destitute children, seeing them through university and vo-tech training. GNI currently owns and operates 30 "Dream Centers." To be held at Novi Christian Community Center, 45301 W. 11 Mile Road, Novi. Tickets are \$12 online or \$15 at the door. Email [novibolly-woodbash@gmail.com](mailto:novibolly-woodbash@gmail.com) or go to [www.facebook.com/nccc78](http://www.facebook.com/nccc78) for more.

### CANCER SUPPORT

**Time/Date:** 6-7:30 p.m. third Monday of each month  
**Details:** Connecting with others who know what it is to have lung cancer can help during this difficult time. To start, join the Lung Cancer Support Group at the Beaumont Cancer Center-Farmington Hills, 27900 Grand River Ave., Suite 230. Thoracic surgeon Dr. David Sternberg leads the group. The group is open to anyone living with lung cancer and their loved ones. Meetings are free the third Monday each month. For more information, call 248-473-4828.

### WIDOWED FRIENDS

**Time/Date:** 9 a.m. the second and fourth Thursday of each month.  
**Details:** Join Widowed Friends, a peer support group, hosting a Men's Only Breakfast and Fellowship at Steve's Family Restaurant, 15800 Middlebelt Road, Livonia. Contact Dick at 313-534-0399.

**Time/Date:** 9 a.m. the first and third Monday of each month.  
**Details:** Join Widowed Friends, a peer support group, hosting a

Ladies Only Breakfast and Fellowship at Connor's Restaurant, Haggerty/Five Mile Road, Northville. To save a seat, contact Carol at 313-562-3080.

**Time/Date:** 9 a.m. the first Thursday of each month.  
**Details:** Join Widowed Friends, a peer support group, hosting Co-Ed Breakfast at Richard's Restaurant, on Plymouth Road at Eckles Road. Contact Jerry at 734-455-2651.

### SENIOR PROGRAMMING

**Time/Date:** 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday  
**Location:** Friendship Station Senior Center, 42375 Schoolcraft, Plymouth Township

**Details:** The Plymouth Community Council on Aging announces new programs for senior community from the city of Plymouth and Plymouth Township Upcoming programs and events will include Chair Exercise, Free Wii Bowling, Knitting & Crocheting Class, Craft Classes, Free Drop in Game Day, Senior Cardio Fitness and Senior Yoga. In addition to the new programs, the center will offer free monthly bingo beginning Feb. 16. Presently, the Community Senior Transportation is at the Friendship Station. The center will offer Focus Hope distribution and a newly created food pantry.

**Contact:** For more information and a calendar of dates and times and information on membership, call 734-354-3222. For transportation information, call 734-459-8888.

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## Two former Westland council members die

**LeAnne Rogers**  
Staff Writer

Two former Westland council members — one who also served as the city's department of aging director — died last week.

Robert Wagner, 90, died Feb. 16 and had divided his time between Westland and Scottsdale, Ariz.

Having served on the city council for 16 years, including time as council president, Mr. Wagner later worked for the city heading services for senior citizens.

Arrangements were handled by Elton Black

and Son Funeral Home in Highland Township. No services were listed.

Mr. Wagner is survived by his children of Robert M. (Tieng) and Linda (Terry) Sletten; grandchildren Kari (Mark) Lawry, Michelle (John) Campbell, Amporn Wagner and Marinda (Jonathon) Mattus; and 11 great-grandchildren.

» Former council member Deloris Newell, 73, of Westland died Feb. 16. She also served on council during the '80s.

Ms. Newell also has served as a member of the Westland Zoning Board of Appeals and Westland Economic De-

velopment Committee. She was a legislative aide to the Wayne County Commissioner Susy Heintz Avery.

Arrangements for Ms. Newell, who was born in Cookeville, Tenn., were handled by Uht Funeral Home. Funeral services were held Feb. 19 at St. Mary Catholic Church. The Rev. Jack Baker officiated and burial followed at Parkview Memorial Cemetery in Livonia.

Ms. Newell is survived by her husband Gary Sowpel; daughters Rhonda and Cassandra (William Jr.) Bishop; and two grandchildren.

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# 'The Cross and the Light'

Show brings Broadway-caliber performance to local churches

**Pam Zinkosky**  
Correspondent

The sounds of whips and cries of agony rip through the air. Tongues of fire envelop the room and the wind whistles loudly. Beautiful voices ring out. The crowd at turns cries, rejoices, sings "Hosanna," shouts out. And it's all happening at church. It's a retelling of an age-old Christian story — the passion and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

This is no ordinary passion play, but a Broadway-quality multi-sensory experience that uses state-of-the-art environmental projection to not only project visions on the walls up to 150 feet wide by 30 feet high, but also project sounds and even smells that captivate the audience. The musical production, called *The Cross and the Light*, is now in its fifth season and running in March at two metro Detroit Catholic churches and one in Florida.

*The Cross and the Light* is the vision of Farmington resident Kelly Nieto, a former Miss America runner-up, comedian, fiddle player, mother of five and convert to Christianity who gives all the credit for the performance to God. Nieto said she received a vision from God on Good Friday 2000 at Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church in Farmington. While praying the Stations of the Cross, she had a physical and spiritual reaction to Jesus' suffering and envisioned a live Stations of the Cross on the altar, she said.

After several Lenten seasons of amateur church productions of the passion, Nieto wrote music — God-inspired, she said — for the performance and brought it to the Cathedral of the Most Blessed Sacrament in Detroit with a professional cast of about 80 people, then moved it to Detroit's Music Hall Center for the Performing Arts with the addition of the resurrection and Pentecost.

## A touring production

Last year, Nieto brought the production back into churches with a touring cast of seven — three women and four men, who each play several roles. Nieto also hired Northville resident Ryan Richert, who owns the Christian nonprofit production company Outside the Box Ministries Inc., as technical director, to add the environmental projection component that brings *The Cross and the Light* to life and also enables it to be set up in eight hours or less on location.

Richert, a member of Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church in Northville, supplies the technical knowledge and crew and rents the necessary equipment to run



DiRita



Nieto



Richert

the environmental projection piece, which is also known as "video mapping," he said. He's been working with the technology for about four years, he said.

"People walk into (what may be) their own church and don't even recognize it," he said. "It's a new experience. It draws you in emotionally."

"I love how overtly evangelistic (*The Cross and the Light*) is," said Richert, who provides production support for up to 40 faith-based events each year through Outside the Box Ministries. "Most Christian productions do not get that specific about who Jesus was and what he did for us."

Nieto also "made it relevant to the 21st century" starting with the 2014 production, she said: "There are no costumes to separate us from that time." Jesus wears jeans. The high priests take a selfie in front of the cross. It allows us to see ourselves in the characters, she explained, noting that her 16-year-old son said he could see himself as Judas.

While more than 70,000 people have seen *The Cross and the Light* in Detroit, Illinois and Adelaide, Australia, and another 8,000 will see it this year in the Detroit area, plus 6,000 in Florida, there is some resistance to it, Nieto said. It's entertainment, which some view as inherently secular.

"Priests are afraid we're competing with them and we're not," Nieto said. "In order to reach beyond the choir, you have to entertain." But you can entertain with Biblical material and, since entertainment equals emotional engagement, which creates memories, it's one of the best ways to teach and motivate, she said.

"It's the visual, mystical piece of this that's so emotionally engaging," Nieto said. "We connect



"The Cross and the Light" actors sing during the Pentecost scene.

with people on a level that they don't even understand."

## Vision turned business

Nieto's vision for *The Cross and the Light* gave rise to two businesses — Nieto Productions LLC, which owns the rights to and produces the musical, and Living Faith-Fine Arts Apostolate, a nonprofit dedicated to bringing students to view the performance. Nieto believes in inspiring today's youth, as they represent the future of evangelism. Living Faith has offered subsidized or free tickets to 16,000 students so far.

Nieto's successful business model is due in part to Northville resident and friend Diana DiRita, who in 2012 agreed to become Nieto's "house manager," a role she knew little to nothing about. "I'm from corporate America," said DiRita, who had left her global finance director job at Harman International to be home with her two children. "I didn't know what that meant."

DiRita, a parishioner at Our Lady of Good Counsel in Plymouth Township, said she knew Nieto's production was meant for a larger stage and that Nieto needed help. "It's beautiful and it's authentic and it's God's word," she said. "It's an authentic Bible story. It's not her version."

DiRita also knew that, in order to get to that larger stage, Nieto needed to copyright and protect her work — hence the limited liability company Nieto Productions. She also needed funding and strategic planning, which became part of DiRita's job description.

What amazed DiRita, she said, was that Nieto Productions always "broke even" on ticket sales versus expenses, which included renting the venue, paying the cast and crew and marketing. "That is truly a miracle," she said. "Most production companies go belly-up and they have longer runs. Our longest run was one week. Why

(did it do so well)? Because it is so good!"

In fact, EncoreMichigan.com, which reviews Michigan theater performances, nominated *The Cross and the Light* for two music awards. That goes to show, DiRita noted, that this is not just a Catholic performance and not even just a Christian performance. It appeals to the secular world.

Nieto said that satisfaction rates with *The Cross and the Light*, according to a research study of attendees, rival that of satisfaction with the iPhone. The study found that 86 percent of attendees were extremely satisfied with the performance, 77 percent said they would recommend it to others, 89 percent felt emotionally moved by it and 82 percent said they felt God's presence during the performance.

"I really believe we're ahead of the curve in terms of evangelism," DiRita said.

## Site hosting

As part of Nieto's 2014 move back into the churches, she and DiRita developed a turn-key model churches could use to host the performance. In addition to bringing the performance and all the technical equipment, Nieto Productions provides a project management tool called Teamwork that guides sites through every phase of marketing, along with a press kit, customizable art work, audio and video tracks, online ticketing and everything else necessary to host the event.

Each church or site pays for the production and the tools that come with it and makes a plan for funding it. Churches can sell tickets, find sponsors and donors, partner with area organizations or do any combination of these to cover the costs.

The theater business is expensive, DiRita said. The fixed cost for a site to rent the environmental projection equipment starts at \$25,000, depending on the number of

performances. That doesn't include paying the cast and crew or any travel expenses.

That's why DiRita, who now fills the role of full-time, year-round managing director and chief financial officer for both the production company and Living Faith, has embarked on a \$500,000 capital campaign to fund the purchase, storage and maintenance of the technical equipment for the environmental projection. Owing the equipment, DiRita and Nieto noted, will cut in half the cost to the church or other host site.

DiRita is reaching out to the public, asking for individual donations as well as long-term benefactors and sponsors. She's also applying for grants and scheduling speaking events for Nieto as fundraisers.

Along with purchasing the necessary production equipment, the five-year plan for Nieto Productions and Living Faith is to develop *The Cross and the Light* movie, expand the theater production to

reach more cities and turn the production into an off-Broadway show. Next year's goal is to have five different touring groups performing in 10 cities.

*The Cross and the Light* runs March 10-12 at Our Lady Star of the Sea in Grosse Pointe Woods with shows at 8 p.m. all three nights; and March 17-20 at St. Malachy in Sterling Heights with shows at 7 p.m. March 17, 10 a.m. March 18, 8 p.m. March 18-19 and 8 p.m. and 2 p.m. March 20. Go to [www.crossandlight.com](http://www.crossandlight.com) for tickets.

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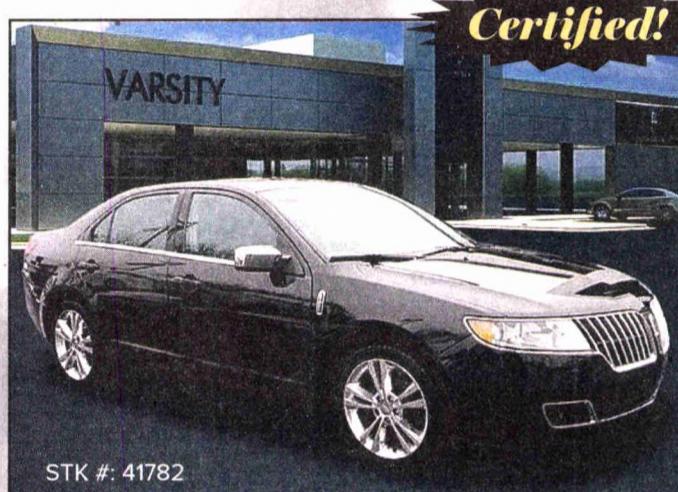
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RENA LAVERTY | USA HOCKEY  
Reagan Carey, director of women's hockey for USA Hockey, said bringing the 2017 IIHF Women's World Championship to the Plymouth arena is a perfect fit.

USA HOCKEY

## CENTER OF IT ALL

USA Hockey announces 2017 IIHF Women's World Championship to be played in Plymouth

Tim Smith  
Staff Writer

Consider last week's Under-17 Five Nations Tournament the dry run for USA Hockey Arena in Plymouth Township. It was announced during a Thursday press conference at the Beck Road arena that the 2017 IIHF Women's World Championship will take place there in early April of next year. The tourney will feature

eight teams and is second only to the Olympics in size and scope for international women's hockey. Among those watching the press conference were players from the Detroit Compuware Tier 1 AAA girls hockey team, including captain Jordan Modjeski of South Lyon. "It's unbelievable. It's going to be a really great experience," the 16-year-old Modjeski, a student at Livonia La-dywood, said afterward. "It's

going to be really great to see the games, to wear some red, white and blue. ... We all look up to these girls. We've all watched them play and we all strive our best to get to where they are right now. It's going to be fabulous to see them in person." Modjeski and her teammates enthusiastically greeted USA Hockey women's hockey director Reagan Carey near

See WORLD, Page B2

KLAA GIRLS BASKETBALL



JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO  
Vying for extra space during a closely contested game are Canton's Madison Wolfbauer (front) and Plymouth's Gabby Chouinard.

KLAA BOYS BASKETBALL

## Tourney opens with thud for Wildcats

Plymouth stopped cold after first quarter by Northville

Tim Smith  
Staff Writer

Waves of Northville's defensive pressure came after the Plymouth Wildcats during Thursday's KLAA Kensington Conference boys basketball tournament opener. After the first quarter, the visiting Wildcats could barely create a ripple. Plymouth took a 15-11 lead into the second quarter, but would not score another field goal until Jeremy Abraham's jumper from the top of the key at 4:25 of the fourth. In between, the Mustangs out-scored the Wildcats 20-0 in the second and 15-1 in the third en route to a 53-25 victory. "I thought our effort was pretty good from the beginning," said Northville head coach Todd Sander, whose KLAA Central Division champions improved to 17-0 overall. "(The Wildcats) got hot, (Brent) Davis made a few shots early; he's a really good player. We didn't have to adjust too much. "Our guys have really committed to the defensive end all year long and they really stepped up. When you get stops like that, it allows you to run out easier and we like to play fast."

See WILDCATS, Page B3

# DOWN TO THE WIRE



JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO  
Plymouth's Hannah Badger (right) dribbles around Canton's Natalie Winters.

Canton holds off late push by Wildcats to advance to Kensington Conference final

Tim Smith  
Staff Writer

Inch by inch, second by second, the anxious Canton Chiefs held off a last-minute bid by Plymouth to score a triple and force an overtime session to decide Friday's Kensington Conference varsity girls basketball semi-final. Up just 29-26 in the — as always — grueling battle between campus rivals, the Chiefs had four fouls to give with a half minute remaining and used every one as the Wildcats were unable to get open for a potential

game-tying shot. Finally, with 1.2 ticks on the scoreboard, Canton junior Brianna Finn fouled Plymouth senior Cassidy Lewis behind the 3-point arc on the left wing to set up a chance for Lewis to make three freebies and extend the contest. With no time on the clock and Lewis standing by herself at the north end of the Bob Blohm Court, the first free throw went in and out to clinch the Canton victory. "It's a lot of pressure, but I tried to just clear my head," said Lewis, who along with sophomore Gabby Chouinard led the Wildcats with seven points each. "We practice it every day. It happens; got a bad bounce. "They had fouls to give, so we

See CANTON, Page B2



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER  
Northville's Justin Gibbons splits Plymouth defenders Pete Carravallah (left) and Julian LeDoux on his way to the hoop during Thursday's KLAA tournament opener.

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## INAUGURAL MILK &amp; CEREAL BOWL

## 'Hunger' game on tap

USA Hockey Arena hosts NTDP U-17 game at 2 p.m. Sunday to help fill cereal bowls for hungry children

**Tim Smith**  
Staff Writer

USA Hockey NTDP fans get the chance Sunday to help take a bite out of hunger.

The inaugural Milk & Cereal Bowl Game is slated for 2 p.m. Sunday at USA Hockey Arena in Plymouth Township, when the National Team Development Program's Under-17 team squares off against the Muskegon Lumberjacks in a USHL contest.

Fans coming to the arena, located on Beck Road between M-14 and Five Mile Road, are encouraged to donate a box of cereal and purchase a toy cow for \$3 for sale at the game. The purchase of the toy cow represents one gallon of milk, according to a USA Hockey press release. Kroger will match every purchase of a toy cow by donating a gallon of milk.

"Nutrient-rich milk is always in demand at Gleaners," said Ken McClure, communications manager for Michigan Kroger stores. "We appreciate USA Hockey for providing this opportunity for us to partner with the Milk & Cereal Bowl campaign."

Fans can also assist online. Go to usahockeyarena.com to purchase tickets for the game and click on the "GLEANERS" button. For each ticket sold over the website, \$4 will be donated to Gleaners Community Food Bank of Southeastern Michigan.

According to Gleaners officials, there is a reported shortage of milk and cereal donations, something that needs to be reversed because breakfast is considered the most important meal of the day for children.



"Milk and cereal are two of the most important items for a food bank like Gleaners to have on hand," Gleaners president Gerry Brisson said. "Unfortunately, there is a shortage — we do not receive enough donations of either to keep up with the demand. To make sure children and families receive the milk and cereal they need, we have to go out and purchase them."

"That's why we are in constant fundraising mode, to make sure we have adequate supplies to keep up with the demand for these much-needed, nutritious items."

Meanwhile, every time NTDP goaltenders Jake Oettinger, Joseph Woll, Dylan St. Cyr (Northville) and Adam Scheel make a save this season during a home game, Kroger will donate \$5 to Gleaners as part of Kroger's "Great Save Initiative."

### Celebrating hockey

The Milk & Cereal Bowl Game will take place during the third day of Hockey Week-end Across America, which was detailed during Thursday's press conference at USA Hockey Arena.

Sunday also is "Celebrate Local Hockey Heroes Day" to honor the many volunteers who have helped USA Hockey

and the sport itself flourish in recent years, said Dave Fischer, senior director of communications for USA Hockey.

Hockey fans and players were encouraged to wear their favorite jersey Friday. Saturday is Try Hockey For Free Day at 300 locations across 45 states.

"Thousands and thousands of new kids will get a chance to try our sport for the very first time," Fischer said. "Not limited to that, get neighbors out to see games that haven't seen before or whatever it may be. Watch on television."

"And we finish on Sunday with Celebrate Local Hockey Heroes Day; the key there is local. There's so many great volunteers all across our country that help make hockey go in communities."

USA Hockey president Jim Smith is a volunteer and he applauded the efforts of all the men and women who give their time to help bring new attention to the sport. He also said this weekend's Twitter taglines are #WatchIt, #LiveIt, #PlayIt.

"That captures the essence of what we're trying to do here this weekend," Smith said. "There's 300 rinks across 45 states. Kids are going to wear jerseys to their schools, thousands of new kids are trying it for free."

"It's a sport I believe that's going to take over some of the traditional sports; they're kind of on the decline. USA Hockey and the hockey community is on the rise. I'm excited about the future, I'm excited about this building, I'm excited about having a long and beneficial relationship with Plymouth."

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## BOYS BASKETBALL

## ALL THEY DO IS WIN

Warriors move to 17-0 after dismantling Macomb Christian

**Ed Wright**  
Staff Writer

Lutheran Westland basketball players Zach Burk and Brent Croft had 20/20 vision Thursday night against visiting Macomb Christian and, as a result, the Warriors' sights are still set on a potential 20-0 regular season.

Burk and Croft both scorched the nets for 20 points to lead the Warriors to an emphatic 75-24 victory.

Lutheran Westland improved to 17-0 overall and 12-0 in the Michigan Independent Athletic Conference's Red Division, while Macomb dropped to 9-10 and 4-9, respectively.

The winners set the tone early by racing to a 20-6 first-quarter lead. The Warriors stretched their advantage to 43-10 at the half before putting the game on ice with a 24-point third quarter.

"We were in control from the start," Lutheran Westland head coach Jim Hoeft said.

"Our guys played with intensity despite the lopsided score. I was able to get some guys some rest in preparation for our big game against Parkway Christian on Tuesday."

"We are excited about the opportunity to win the conference outright on our home floor. We know it's going to be a battle, but our guys are up for the challenge."

The Warriors' perimeter shooting — which has been one of its strengths this winter — was ridiculously good again. Croft, who nailed eight 3-pointers in the Warriors' previous game, found net on four of six triples against Macomb.

For the game, the Warriors shot an efficient 57 percent from the floor while connecting on 8-of-10 free-throw attempts.

Burk ripped down 13 rebounds and swished all but one of his five free throws. Kyle Farley took advantage of some extra playing time by scoring nine points.

Luke Smith was solid with eight points, 11 rebounds and two blocked shots, while Ben Brown contributed six points, 10 rebounds and four blocks.



JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

Hauling in a rebound despite defensive pressure from Plymouth's Elise Wehmer (back) is Canton's Marissa Templeton.

## CANTON

Continued from Page B1

couldn't really do much off the catch. We were told to shoot it (as we were fouled), but that was our only chance. It came down to that. But we fought hard to keep the game close the whole game, so I'm proud of us."

### Evenly matched

Wiping his brow after the victory, which catapulted Canton (15-3) into Wednesday's conference final at home against Wayne Memorial (which defeated Northville, 52-51 in OT), was Chiefs head coach Rob Heitmeyer.

"It's kind of one of those bang-bang plays," Heitmeyer said. "To Cassidy's credit — I've seen her play ball for many years, she's a great kid, she's a great basketball player — she had the presence of mind to make sure she was in a shooting position to get that shot off."

"You hate to have a team go home with a loss in a game like this, because both teams gave it everything they had tonight."

According to Plymouth head coach Ryan Ballard, whose team's record dipped to 7-11, he was proud of the way his squad battled after an early deficit (Canton led 15-9 at halftime) to go the distance with the outcome in jeopardy.

"They were doing the foul-or-defend situation, and they chose to foul," Ballard said. "It almost cost them. We got the shot up. ... You make those (free throws) and you (tie) the game. That's just tough; sometimes the ball doesn't bounce your way."

"We can play with anybody. We beat Novi earlier this week, who's 14-3 and a very good team. ... And then tonight you're battling Canton."

Points were almost painfully tough to come by all night long. The game was just 4-4 after one quarter, with a banker from the top of the key by Lewis knotting the score.

In the second, Canton quickly went up 7-4 on a trey by junior Brianna Finn (seven

points) and methodically padded the lead to 15-9 at the break thanks to a pair of blue-collar layups by junior Marissa Templeton (3-of-3 on field goals for six points) and one by Finn.

"Coaches not only like kids who take high-percentage shots, but kids that finish at the rim," Heitmeyer said. "And Templeton's been working hard every single practice finishing at the rim and it paid dividends for the team tonight."

The Wildcats came out shooting in the third quarter and went on to post a 15-4 margin to go up 24-19 entering the fourth.

During that span, Templeton might have scored her most important field goal, finding an offensive rebound in a scrum and scoring on a put-back to cut Plymouth's lead to 21-19 with 2:20 left in the third.

"It was still a close game," Templeton said. "I just went out there and tried to get us back in the game, because it's always really close with them. We always play them buzzer to buzzer."

Plymouth senior Hannah Badger (five points) did follow with a triple off a nifty feed from sophomore Chantal LeDoux at the end of the quarter.

Between the third and fourth, Canton coaches reminded the team to get back to the defensive ball pressure that helped stop Plymouth in the first half.

"That worked, got a few stops," Heitmeyer said. "And what helped us is we got a few baskets and then we were able to put some full-court pressure on them."

Also scoring six points for Canton was junior Shanya Butler, while junior Madison Wolfbauer tallied six points and nine rebounds.

Both were among several Chiefs who for much of the night refused to give any ground to the Wildcats.

For Plymouth, senior Jordyn Chouinard led with seven rebounds (five on the defensive end).

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RENA LAVERTY | USA HOCKEY

Members of the Detroit Compuware Tier 1 AAA girls hockey team (foreground) listen along with others at Thursday's press conference at USA Hockey Arena.

## WORLD

Continued from Page B1

the podium and then chatted via cellphone to Meghan Duggan, captain of the U.S. Women's National Team.

"It's going to be tremendous. The facility is perfect size for us and to be able to pack the stands here with the red, white and blue is going to be great," Carey said. "I just called one of our (U.S. women's national) players, our captain Meghan Duggan, and they got the opportunity to speak with her."

"You can see the excitement and energy that goes with being able to connect these young, future players with our top level. In women's hockey, you have to definitely work a little harder to build that connection. It's not on TV every night."

The women's tourney is one of several major events that are on the way to USA Arena, such as a U.S. junior camp featuring top male players under age 20 (late July and early August) and another Five Nations tourney in November.

According to Plymouth Township Supervisor Shannon Price, the buzz from last week's tournament (more than 6,500 fans came out to catch all or part of 10 games) hasn't dissipated — and is growing even more with news of the women's world championship coming to USA Hockey Arena.

"It was a great tournament. We came up just a little bit short in the last game (Russia defeated the U.S., 5-3, Saturday)," Price said. "But it was

really exciting, the arena was full and rocking, people chanting 'U-S-A.' It was a great time for the arena and our community."

"We fell in a bed of roses when USA Hockey took over this arena. And just when you thought it couldn't get any better, today we announced the women's world championship is going to be here in Plymouth Township and more programming coming. It's a fantastic asset to our community and they're a great partner."

### More to come

Scott Monaghan, senior director of operations for USA Hockey's National Team Development Program, said it was good to build off the momentum of the Five Nations Tournament with Thursday's announcements.

"We've only really brushed the surface of the fan base we can get to," Monaghan said. "It's obviously Plymouth, Canton, Northville, Novi — those are our nearby communities and this should be their home team."

"But southeast Michigan, the hockey community, is huge. It's 30,000 people plus and we want to pull those people in for these events."

Monaghan added that USA Hockey feels "we have a lot of upside to what we can do with crowds. I think one of the things we're tuning towards is that women's world championship next spring and being able to have the house full every night and really rocking and really involve the community in the event."

Others on hand for the press

conference included USA Hockey president Jim Smith and executive director Dave Ogrean.

They said the Five Nations tourney only hinted at the arena's potential.

"When we acquired this building (from Peter Karmanos), what was in our minds was certainly IIHF championship events would be perfect in a building of this size, in addition to the fact that we're like at ground zero for a heck of a lot of enthusiastic hockey fans," Ogrean said. "When we decided to bid for the women's world championship and have it in the U.S., we knew we just wanted to bring it here (Plymouth). ... I think our decision will be validated and it will definitely not be the last of what you see."

Ogrean also made sure to credit Karmanos and Mike Vellucci — who respectively owned and guided the Ontario Hockey League's Plymouth Whalers out of what was then known as Compuware Arena until the sale to USA Hockey in spring 2015.

"Pete Karmanos is just about as true and loyal and relentlessly supportive a partner as USA Hockey's ever had," Ogrean said. "We owe a huge deal of gratitude to Pete and also to Mike Vellucci, who's been a great ally of ours."

"We owe them a lot, because if not for them and if not for making a deal that something like a nonprofit organization could handle, we wouldn't be here today."

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## KLAAs BOYS BASKETBALL

# Chiefs sprint to another big victory

## Undefeated Canton out-runs Stevenson down stretch in first-round tourney game

**Ed Wright**  
Staff Writer

That rare (especially this late in the season) and impressive goose egg that sits just to the right of the hyphen in the Canton boys basketball team's won-loss record remained intact Thursday at Livonia Stevenson, thanks to a few dynamic plays and several subtle ones.

The Chiefs played stride-for-stride with the Spartans' dragster-like offensive tempo for just over a half before turning on the after-burners down the stretch to post a 71-62 victory in a first-round KLAAs Kensington Conference tournament game.

Now 17-0, Canton will host Salem at 7 p.m. Monday in a semifinal. The Rocks advanced Thursday with a triumph over Westland John Glenn.

Stevenson, which led throughout most of the first quarter and trailed just 32-29 at the half on parents night, dropped to 9-8.

The Chiefs' OMG plays included a second-quarter dunk by senior Logan Ryan, who undoubtedly impressed the college coaches who were in attendance with his 19-point, seven-rebound performance;

and the high-arc, rainbow corner three that 5-foot-6 freshman guard B. Artis White calmly nestled into the net with a pair of arms-extended Spartans sailing at him early in the third quarter.

Among the less-mind-blowing sequences that only a coach (or a parent) can truly appreciate included Chris English's baseline mini-hook shot that settled into the twine just as the third-quarter buzzer sounded. The shot capped a textbook "last-shot" sequence during which Canton ran off 20 seconds before a heads-up (and double-teamed) Ryan bounced a perfect dime to the wide-open English.

White finished with 16 points (12 the result of four treys), while seniors Hamoudy Turfe and Obi Okoli added 11 and 10 points, respectively.

### Team effort

"Our success this season isn't because of one guy, it's because they guys play together like the ultimate team," Canton head coach Jimmy Reddy said. "We have multiple guys who can hurt you. We literally have seven guys who can score in double figures on any given night, which makes us tough to guard.



Canton's Logan Ryan (right) goes up to alter the shot of a Livonia Stevenson player Thursday.

ED WRIGHT

"I wish we would have played a little better defensively tonight, but Stevenson does that to you. They play so darn fast."

The Spartans' primary catalysts were guards Devin Dunn (17 points) and Ian Knoph, who added 16, all of which came in the first and fourth quarters.

Dunn attacked the basket with a fearless bravado, bank-

ing in one left-handed runner (he's right-handed) over the 747-like wingspan of Ryan.

"Devin played very well tonight," Stevenson head coach Kareem Smartt said. "He's not afraid to drive and he knows how to finish.

"Overall, though, we just didn't get a lot of shots to fall. And there was one stretch in the third quarter when we kind

of lost focus and had four straight turnovers; that's when they kind of opened it up on us.

"Canton does such a nice job of moving without the ball, which is why they get so many open looks. And having two big guys like Logan and Jalen (Cochran) inside makes it tough, especially with smaller teams like us."

### Just like that

In almost the blink of an eye, the Chiefs extended their three-point halftime lead to 39-31 after White dropped in one of his four triples just 86 seconds into the third quarter.

Canton led 52-40 after three quarters and maintained at least a nine-point advantage throughout the fourth.

English finished with eight points for Canton. Cochran didn't score, but he contributed seven boards, two steals and a blocked shot.

Senior Gino D'Agostino scored eight points and grabbed six rebounds for the Spartans. Canton did a thorough defensive job against usual double-digit scorer Kyle Malkowski, who was held to just four.

Both teams turned the ball over 10 times.

Canton visited the free-throw line just six times, making three. Stevenson canned 10-of-14 freebies.

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## WILDCATS

Continued from Page B1

### Not thrilled

Plymouth head coach Mike Soukup was so disappointed by the effort of his team that he preferred to send an email later Thursday night with his comments.

"We were unable to execute after the (start of the) second quarter," Soukup said. "They took us out of what we wanted to run and we were not able to make the necessary adjustments."

Abraham glumly shook his head about the way his team (7-10) performed.

"We were just coming out flat and not playing as hard as we did the first quarter," Abraham said. "Just not playing our game."

Definitely on top of his game all night was Northville senior forward Justin Gibbons (18 points), who drained three treys during the first quarter to keep the Mustangs close. After that, he had plenty of help knocking down points as the Mustangs wound up connecting on 19-of-48 field-goal tries (40 percent).

"I was able to hit a few shots," said the 6-4 Gibbons, who had 14 points at halftime. "But once other guys started getting shots, putting the ball in the hoop, we started to go on a run.

"We got so many capable guys on this team of putting up points. Once they started putting up points, that's when we really started to separate."

Others helping Northville's cause were senior guard Justin Zimbo (11 points) and junior guard Kevin Morrissey (10 points).

"It's kind of been our M.O. all year; different guys will step up," Sander said. "We have a lot of balance. Justin Zimbo was shut out at the half and then stepped up and made some big shots during our run during the second half.

"Kevin (Morrissey) got us started in the second quarter with a few makes. It's a really fun group to be around, but



Plymouth's Pete Carravallah (front) sprints after a loose ball along with Northville's Jake Justice during Thursday's conference tournament match-up.

JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

they're hungry."

Northville enjoyed a 39-26 rebounding edge and scored 11 second-chance points, compared to zero for Plymouth.

Also helping off the bench for the Mustangs were senior forward Scott Lohman and junior forward Jake Justice, each registering four points. "Scott did a nice job posting up and a couple big rebounds as well," Sander said.

Leading the Wildcats with seven points was Davis, who scored all of those points in the opening quarter.

Sophomore guard A.J. Neal scored five points and senior guard Pete Carravallah three, as Plymouth managed to hit on just 8-of-41 field-goal tries (including 3-of-20 from beyond the 3-point arc).

### Shutting the door

Sander said he didn't recall blanking a team for a full

quarter, let alone nearly two. The Wildcats went up 15-11 with 15 seconds to go in the opening quarter, when Neal sank a baseline jumper.

Then came an abrupt halt to Plymouth's offense.

The second quarter opened with a basket by Justice and a trey from above the top of the key by Morrissey to put the Mustangs up 16-15.

It snowballed from there, with Plymouth unable to inbound the ball in Northville's zone several times, leading to turnovers and points the other way.

Closing out the 20-0 second was Morrissey, with a driving layup at the horn.

It was more of the same in the third, with Northville leading 44-15 when Plymouth finally scored another point — a free throw by senior Frank Brown with 1:42 to go in the quarter.

"That's what our team

expects to do every night, give that kind of effort," Gibbons said. "Tonight, Plymouth wasn't hitting any of their shots, on top of the fact we were locking them up.

"We take pride in our defense. That's a big part of our team."

Sander, however, said he will remind his team to expect a different Plymouth squad when they meet again during the first round of the Class A district at 5:30 p.m. Monday, March 7, at Salem.

"They're solid, they're quick, they're athletic," Sander said about the Wildcats. "Unfortunately, we have to play them again in a couple weeks; we drew them in the district.

"So we're happy tonight, but we know we got to turn around and play them again."

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## KLAAs BOYS BASKETBALL

## Rocks rally in second half to down Rockets

**Tim Smith**  
Staff Writer

Turning up the heat a notch in the second half helped host Salem defeat Westland John Glenn 65-60 in Thursday's Kensington Conference boys basketball tournament game.

The Rocks trailed 30-28 at halftime, as Chris Agnew of the Rockets made shot after shot during the opening two quarters. Agnew wound up with 33 points, including 21 before intermission.

But Salem cranked up the defense enough to slow Agnew down after that and junior forward Cameron Grace got hot himself — scoring 15 points during the third as the Rocks outscored the Rockets, 25-20, to go ahead 53-50 entering the fourth.

Salem (11-6) held the fort from there and will move on to face Canton in Monday's conference semifinal. John Glenn's record dipped to 8-9.

"In the second half, our kids rose to the occasion, did a nice job defensively and shut everybody down a little bit," Salem coach Bob Brodie said. "Not completely, but they did a lot better job in terms of changing their shot trajectory and not allowing penetration or fast-break baskets.

"I was proud of the way we played defensively and we handled their pressure; they had full-court pressure the entire game."

A big reason for the turnaround was the all-around performance turned in by Grace, who also had eight rebounds.

"He made some nice steals at the top and had a couple fast-break transition baskets," Brodie said. "Cameron gave us a spurt and we never looked back after that."

Chipping in 14 points was senior guard Calin Crawford, while senior center Kenny Topolovec registered eight for the Rocks.

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## GIRLS BASKETBALL

## Lutheran Westland rolls to victory over Macomb Christian

**Ed Wright**  
Staff Writer

The Lutheran Westland girls basketball team applied another coat of shining polish to its spectacular season Thursday when it overwhelmed Macomb Christian, 63-44, in a Michigan Independent Athletic Conference Red Division showdown.

The Warriors improved to 15-3 overall and 10-2 in the division.

The winners rolled to a 34-14

halftime lead and never looked back.

Sophomore forward Rachel Reddeman had a big night for the Warriors, posting 18 points and 13 rebounds — both team highs. Junior guard Taylor Jones maintained her strong pace by adding 15 points and three steals. Jones drained all five of her free-throw attempts.

Eleanor Storck also posted a double-double, finishing with 12 points and 11 rebounds. Storck made six of her eight field-goal

attempts.

"We played well as a team tonight," Lutheran Westland head coach Sandi Wade said. "Our offense really came together tonight, moving the ball well on the perimeter and getting it inside as well.

"We had a huge advantage inside tonight and we executed well in the paint. We have a big game Tuesday against Parkway Christian. We have a goal of finishing 17-3 for the season before districts start. I'm proud

of my girls and how they are playing."

**MERCY 45, LADYWOOD 28:** Farmington Hills Mercy advanced to Sunday's Catholic League final against Bloomfield Hills Marian with Wednesday's victory over Livonia Ladywood at Novi Detroit Catholic Central.

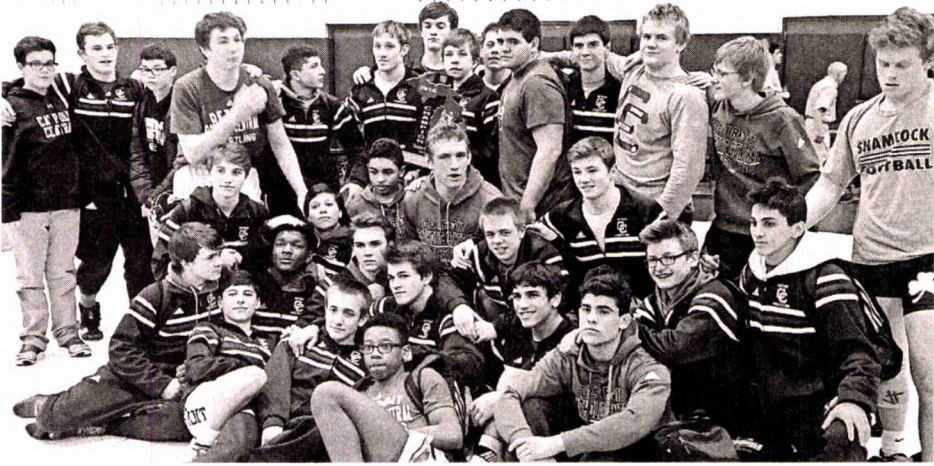
Junior Katie Coe scored 10 points, Jenna Schluter eight, Jordyn Schluter and Claire Murray six apiece, Jackie Bauer and Chloe Godbold five

each.

Alexandra Audia scored 12 points and Maggie Shirk eight for the Blazers (6-10).

Mercy had its best quarter in the first, leading 16-11. It was 24-16 at halftime and 33-20 at the end of three quarters.

"I thought we played four pretty good quarters," Mercy head coach Gary Morris said. "We won each one. I thought we defended better as the game went on. It was a pretty complete effort."



BRAD EMONS

Novi Detroit Catholic Central's wrestling team captured its eighth straight regional title Wednesday at Salem.

PREP WRESTLING

# Regional champ CC eyes next test at CMU

Brad Emons  
Staff Writer

Whether it's in Battle Creek or now in Mount Pleasant, Novi Detroit Catholic Central's wrestling team usually finds its way to the MHSAA Division 1 state finals.

The top-ranked Shamrocks will be making their eighth consecutive trip to the quarterfinals after demolishing two more regional foes Wednesday at Salem.

Following wins over the host Rocks (70-3) and Dearborn Fordson (71-6), CC has now outscored four post-season tournament foes by an aggregate total of 306-9.

Joining the Shamrocks Feb. 26-27 at Central Michigan University's McGuirk Arena will be last year's state runner-up Hartland, Davison, Oxford, Hudsonville, Grand Ledge, Temperance Bedford and Macomb Dakota.

"Our mindset in practice is we're going hard, we're getting our conditioning levels all the way peaked to the top and set ourselves apart from the rest of the teams in the state," said CC junior Ty Morland, who owns the team's best individual record at 39-1 in the 171- and 189-pound weight classes. "It's going to be a lot harder with teams like Davison and Hartland, so it will be a lot closer."

And when the Shamrocks (15-5) arrive Friday in Mount Pleasant for their quarterfinal match-up, it's a good bet they'll be seeded No. 1. Four of their losses came against out-of-state opponents, with Davison the only in-state team to beat them. Davison knocked CC out in last year's quarterfinal in Battle Creek.

"Any time you beat a Hartland team by 17 points, no matter what our record may be ... we're 15-1 in-state, so I think our guys have earned it," Hancock said. "But no matter the seed, we'll be ready to wrestle three duals."

CC was more than ready to wrestle Wednesday as Stone Moscovic (119 pounds), Kevon Davenport (125) and Conor Cox (160) recorded two pins apiece, while Jackson Ross (215) Tyler Johnson (152), Aaron Rehfeldt (135) and Cameron Amine (130) each finished 2-0.

"We're just trying to stay sharp, stay healthy and making sure we have good practices," said Hancock, who has guided CC to four state championships in his nine years. "I think our guys understand what the process is all about. It's less about the wins and losses. It's more about staying focused, healthy, just continuing to believe." The Shamrocks, who

put 13 wrestlers into the individual regional tourney at Saline, will be ready to make lineup adjustments on the fly for the team state finals.

"You have to make sure you're prepped to wrestle for three rounds," Hancock said.

The trip to the MHSAA's new venue at CMU takes on special meaning for Hancock, who wrestled for the Chippewas; he earned NCAA All-America honors as a senior in the 174-pound division.

"I haven't shared that with our guys and I won't share it with our guys," Hancock said, "but it means a lot to go back to my alma mater and represent our high school, our Basilian fathers and be able to compete as a coach back where I used to wrestle with my teammates and coaches."

Host Salem, meanwhile, ended its season with a 15-5 record as the Rocks rested four of their seven regional qualifiers.

Salem's lone win came from 145-pounder Bruce Haslitt, who defeated Joe Urso, 12-6. At 152 pounds, CC's Tyler Johnson edged the Rocks' Seth Dunn, 4-3.

Both Haslitt and Dunn were regional qualifiers, along with Tyler Moore, who lost by major decision, 13-5, to Ross at 215 pounds.



SCHOOLCRAFT ATHLETICS

The MCCA/Region XII champion Schoolcraft men's bowling team includes (front row, from left) Ben Jakes, Eric Deyonker, Sam Berger and Jason Bley and (back row, from left) assistant coach Ben Berger, Drew Garrison, Sean McKinney, Andrew Gury, Kacey Brezovsky and head coach Patrick Yelsik.

COLLEGE BOWLING

# STRIKE FORCE

## Schoolcraft men roll to MCCA/Region XII championship; women qualify for nationals

Tim Smith  
Staff Writer

Schoolcraft College bowlers soon will be shuffling off to Buffalo.

The men's and women's bowling teams both qualified for the National Junior College Athletic Association finals in Buffalo, N.Y., after finishing first and second, respectively, Feb. 12 at the regional.

"I let the kids know it's going to be a business trip," said Patrick Yelsik, head coach for both Schoolcraft bowling teams. "Are we going to have a good time? Absolutely. But we're going to go there to take care of business. We're going to handle what we know we can handle and that's to perform to the best of our ability."

Really knocking down the competition with a stellar performance up and down the lineup was Schoolcraft's men's squad — easily winning the 2016 MCCA/Region XII championship at Merri-Bowl Lanes in Livonia.

Led by Garcen City alum Kacey Brezovsky, who led the field with a tally of 1,453 pins — edging Muskegon's Mark Edens by 25 pins — the Ocelots steamrolled their way to their first-ever regional crown.

Schoolcraft amassed a 8,757 total, well ahead of Muskegon (7,334), Kirtland (7,278) and Wayne County (7,174).

"They won by 1,400 pins, which in basketball terms is probably a 90-point victory. It's unheard of in bowling," said Yelsik, MCCA/Region XII coach of the year. "They came out ready to go, from the get-go, from top to bottom. We played completely up to our potential, so it was really awesome to see."

### Work pays off

About Brezovsky's first-place finish in the individual standings, Yelsik praised the bowler's unending work ethic and quest to improve.

"Kacey's one of the hardest workers on the team. He's always at practice, one of the first ones to show up and one of the last ones to leave," Yelsik said. "I know it's a cliché in sports, but in a sport like bowling, perfect practice really does make perfect."

"He's always out there perfecting his game and it's really nice to see him get some of these accolades, because it couldn't happen to a nicer kid. He works his tail off in the class-



SCHOOLCRAFT ATHLETICS

Schoolcraft College's Rachel Boucha and Ashley Schou won the doubles championship at the NJCAA/Region XII women's bowling championship Feb. 12 at Merri-Bowl Lanes in Livonia.

*"They won by 1,400 pins, which in basketball terms is probably a 90-point victory. It's unheard of in bowling. They came out ready to go, from the get-go, from top to bottom. We played completely up to our potential, so it was really awesome to see."*

PATRICK YELSIK, Schoolcraft coach

room, he works his tail off with the sport."

Five off the top eight finishers on the men's side were Ocelots. In addition to Brezovsky, others spearheading the lopsided regional victory were Andrew Gury (third, 1,415), Sean McKinney (fourth, 1,396), Sam Berger (sixth, 1,326) and Ben Jakes (eighth, 1,290).

"Every single school there has a couple horses," Yelsik said. "Their first and second bowlers, they can really go."

"The difference with us is we've got our top three that have carried us all year, but in our spots four through eight, those guys are really interchangeable. Yesterday, they all really produced."

Those lower spots were filled by Jakes, Eric Deyonker (11th, 1,166), Drew Garrison (12th, 1,160) and Jason Bley (13th, 1,158).

Brezovsky and Gury also were named doubles champions (totaling 1,314 over three games). Named to the all region/conference team were Brezovsky, Gury, McKinney and Berger.

Yelsik said it was great to defeat Muskegon, last season's regional champion and "the gold standard of bowling in the conference. ... We're really happy to knock them off the hill, for us to take

the top spot."

### SC women second

On the women's side, the Lady Ocelots qualified for nationals thanks to finishing second with a total of 6,516 (trailing first-place Muskegon's 6,881).

Schoolcraft was sparked by Rachel Boucha, a Salem High School alum from Canton who finished third overall with 1,176 and won MCCA Freshman of the Year honors.

Placing fourth through sixth were Ashley Mattia (Redford Union, 1,071), Ashley Schou (Livonia, 1,044) and Kaylin Janiczek (Livonia, 1,036).

Rounding out the Schoolcraft lineup were Chelsea Dzielan (Garden City, 11th, 882) and Cierra Cox (14th, 848). Boucha and Schou also won the doubles trophy with a score of 979; both were named to the all region/conference team, along with Mattia.

Yelsik said Boucha "had a great showing" and gave kudos to Mattia, "who's been a pretty consistent performer all year."

"I can't imagine there's too many teams out there that had both their men and women qualify," Yelsik said.

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### CITY OF PLYMOUTH 2016 MARCH BOARD OF REVIEW

The City of Plymouth Board of Review will be conducting the 2016 March Board of Review and will convene in the City Commission Conference Room, 201 S Main Street, Plymouth, MI 48170.

The regular Board of Review schedule is as follows:

- Tuesday, March 8, 2016 ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING 12:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, March 9, 2016 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- Thursday, March 10, 2016 from 3:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
- Monday, March 21, 2016 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Other hearing dates and times may be scheduled as needed. Hearings are by appointments only. COMPLETED 2016 BOARD OF REVIEW PETITIONS ARE NECESSARY, and must be submitted to the Front Office located on the First Floor of City Hall prior to your appointment. The "Deadline" for submitting petitions for all persons wishing to appeal in person before the Board of Review is Monday, March 21, 2016.

A resident or non-resident taxpayer may file a petition with the Board of Review without the requirement of a personal appearance by the taxpayer or a representative. An agent must have written authority to represent the owner. Written petitions must be received by Monday, March 21, 2016 by 4:00 p.m. Postmarks are not accepted.

Copies of the notices stating the dates and times of the meetings will be posted and published in the local newspaper.

All Board of Review Meetings are open meetings in compliance with the "Open Meetings Act".

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Assessor's Office at (734) 453-1234, ext 252.

Linda J. Langmesser, CMC  
City Clerk

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LO-000268811 3x4.8



### ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS MEETING NOTICE CITY OF PLYMOUTH, MICHIGAN (734) 453-1234

A regular meeting of the Zoning Board of Appeals will be held on Thursday, March 3, 2016 at 5:30 P.M. in the Commission Chambers of the City Hall, 201 S. Main Street, Plymouth, MI, to consider the following:

- 1. Z 16-01 305 Pacific  
Non-Use Variance Requested  
Rear Yard Setback  
Side Yard Setback and  
Attached Front Facing Garage on lot less than 60 feet wide  
Zoned: R-1, Single Family Residential  
Applicant: Bill Cowdin, Brad and Tarah Woodberg

All interested persons are invited to attend.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City of Plymouth will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audiotapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting/hearing, to individuals with disabilities. Requests for auxiliary aids or services may be made by writing or calling the following:

Maureen Brodie, ADA Coordinator  
201 S. Main Street  
Plymouth, MI 48170, (734) 453-1234, Ext. 206



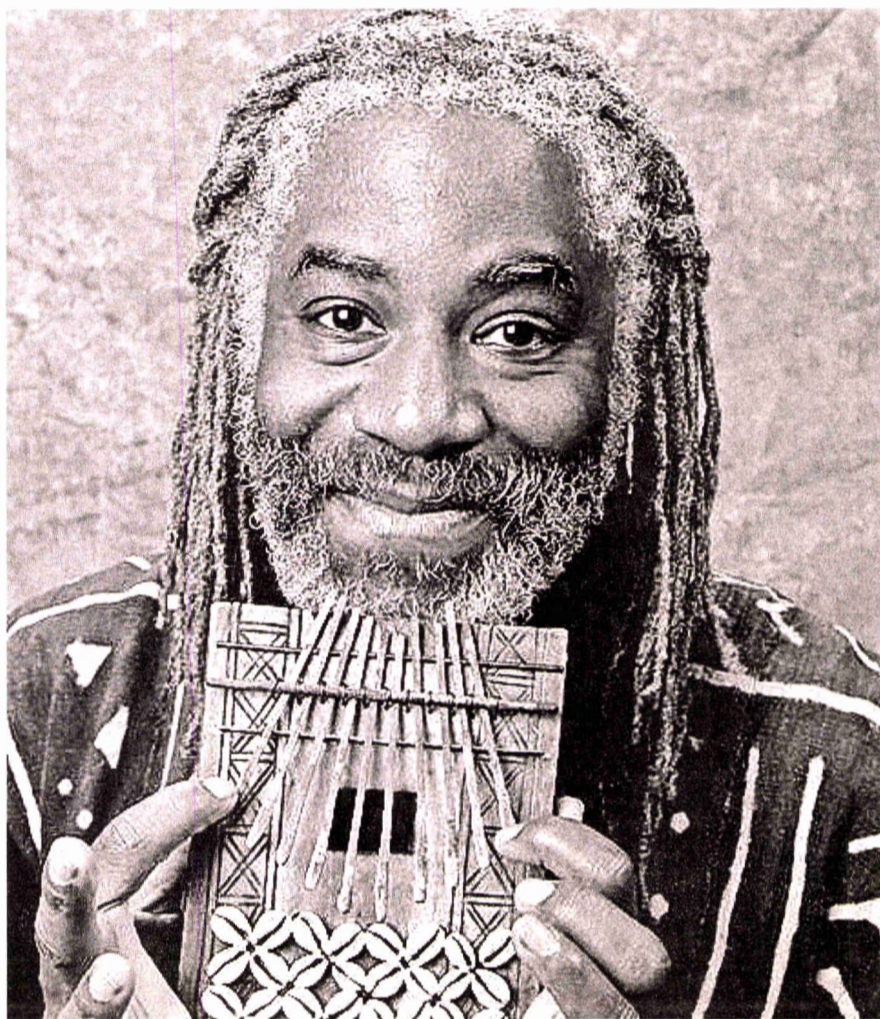


# STORYTELLING EVENT ENGAGES CHILDREN WITH TALES, MUSIC



Carolyn Graves of Commerce Township will serve as storytelling concert maestro.

Amy "Ami" Jackson sings, plays piano and tells stories.



SUBMITTED

La Ron Williams of Ann Arbor is among the storytellers at the Detroit Story League's 6th annual Children's Concert in Livonia.



Chrissy Begle of Livonia is among the featured storytellers at the 6th Annual Once Upon a Time Children's Story Concert.

**Sharon Dargay**  
Staff Writer

If your kids fidget, zone out and fuss when it's time to listen, take them to a storytelling concert.

It will teach them how to experience live entertainment and will sharpen their listening and imagination skills, says Judy Sima, president of the Detroit Story League.

"It's cheaper than a movie and it is entertainment kids don't normally see. There aren't many places you can see a live storyteller. Most of the libraries have gone toward animal acts, jugglers and magicians."

Detroit Story League's 6th Annual Once Upon a Time ... Children's Story Concert will bring three storytellers to the stage at 2 p.m. Saturday, March 5, in the auditorium at Civic Center Library, 32777 Five Mile, Livonia. The program is for ages 4-10. Admission is \$3 and includes the concert, refreshments and a gift for each child.

Sima said the concert gives children a chance to experience live entertainment in a theater setting. Although libraries offer story programs, most are held in the children's area with listeners seated on the floor.

Carolyn Graves, who will serve as "maestro" for the upcoming event, says the "magic of storytelling" enables even the most unruly young audiences to pay attention.

"I was going into a classroom once and the custodian stopped me and said, 'oh, you don't want to go into that classroom.' But the kids were wonderful. They didn't wiggle. They were tuned in and as soon as the story ended they hit the ceiling."

Graves and Sima said most storytellers who perform for children include some audience participation, especially for early elementary school-aged listeners.

"I like to start a story and have them listen for a while and then get more participatory," Sima said. "I

think it's important for children to sit and listen and use their imagination," she added. "With storytelling you have to use your imagination."

## Listening, participation

The three performers at the upcoming Detroit Story League concert all go beyond just telling stories. La Ron Williams of Ann Arbor sometimes uses musical or rhythm instruments to keep young listeners engaged.

"He has a wooden box he sits on. It has a hole on it and he plays drums on the box as he sits on it. He brings kids up to participate and it's a lot of fun. We're lucky to have him this year," Sima said.

Amy "Ami" Jackson of Detroit, a pianist and singer, has told stories for more than 40 years and is a founding member of the Detroit Association of Black Storytellers. She tells stories that give listeners a chance to participate.

"Her voice is musical," Sima said.

"She is quite accomplished."

Chrissy Begle, Detroit Story League vice president, also will perform. The Livonia woman started storytelling while teaching preschool.

"She is so upbeat. She is a ball of energy," Sima said. "She does some participation stories having the kids sing along."

As maestro Graves will introduce the performers and keep the concert flowing. Off stage she's in charge of the League's story bureau, an outreach program that provides storytellers for events at churches, schools, nursing homes and other community venues, for a \$50 fee.

"It goes into our fund for scholarships for upcoming storytellers. It's a win-win," Graves said.

For more information about the concert or to arrange for a storyteller for a community event, visit [detroit-storytelling.org](http://detroit-storytelling.org).

[sdargay@hometownlife.com](mailto:sdargay@hometownlife.com)

## Is a German shorthaired pointer the right dog for you?

**Sharon Dargay**  
Staff Writer

German shorthaired pointers are a little like potato chips.

"They're an addicting breed. You can't have just one," says Lynn Taylor, a Milford resident who owns five German shorthaired pointers and one Labrador retriever.

"They are very smart," she said. "It's a great breed."

It's also a breed attracting the national spotlight after one of its own, GCH Vjk-Myst Garbonita's California Journey — known as "C.J." — won Best in Show on Tuesday, Feb. 16, at the Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show in New York. The 3-year-old male is one of three German shorthaired pointers to win the top title at Westminster since 1907.

Taylor, who was among the more than an estimated 3.5 million viewers watching the broadcast, said C.J.'s win at Westminster will bring more attention to the breed. She anticipates getting a few more calls and Facebook posts, espe-

cially since she'll have a litter of puppies for sale soon. She breeds some of her dogs and sells one or two litters annually.

But she says the breed isn't for everyone and that the Westminster win isn't a good reason alone to adopt or buy a German shorthaired pointer.

"They are high energy. They require exercise. Mental stimulation is important. So, when I'm selling my puppies, I ask my buyers what kind of lifestyle they have," she said. When one prospective buyer said she hoped to start exercising — buying a dog was motivation — Taylor rejected her request.

"That is not the answer I was looking for. You already have to be that way, outdoorsy, active," Taylor said. "You'll see Facebook posts where (German shorthaired pointers) are tearing stuff up. That is because they aren't getting stim-



SPORT DOG PHOTO Riot, one of Lynn Taylor's German shorthaired pointers, retrieves a bird. Taylor, a Milford resident, owns five German shorthaired pointers.

ulation or exercise."

### Active dogs

Taylor, who serves as secretary for the German Shorthaired Pointer Club of Michigan, works with her dogs in several AKC and UKC events, including hunting, dock diving, obedience and conformation. She rescued her first two German shorthaired pointers 10 years ago and then bought a puppy when she couldn't find another young pointer in rescue.

Bob Hoffmeyer, Club president and a Clarkston resident,

trains, walks or runs with his dog every day. The Club offers AKC-licensed field trials in Ionia, hunting tests and walking trials at Highland Recreation Area and water tests at Highland Dam.

"It's a versatile breed. They love the water and they love the land," Hoffmeyer said. "So, they may track fowl or a hare, a skunk or opossum, and then point at it. If you shoot at it, they will retrieve it for you."

Both Taylor and Hoffmeyer say German shorthaired pointers make good family pets. Hoffmeyer calls them loyal

and trainable. Taylor says they are independent and affectionate.

"They have a switch. They go outside and work hard and play hard, but when they come in they settle in and are wonderful lap dogs. Mine are cuddlers," she said. "The thing people don't understand is that switch. I can exercise them in the morning and at night we come in and they relax."

Taylor said breeders generally sell German shorthaired pointer pups between \$1,000-\$1,200. She said the dogs have a lifespan of 12-15 years.

Check out Taylor's website at [highcaliberkennel.com](http://highcaliberkennel.com)

Find out more about the German Shorthaired Pointing Club of Michigan at [gspcfm.org](http://gspcfm.org)

If you want to rescue a dog, check out the Southeast Michigan Bird Dog Rescue on Facebook. Or visit the National GSP rescue at [gspca.org](http://gspca.org).

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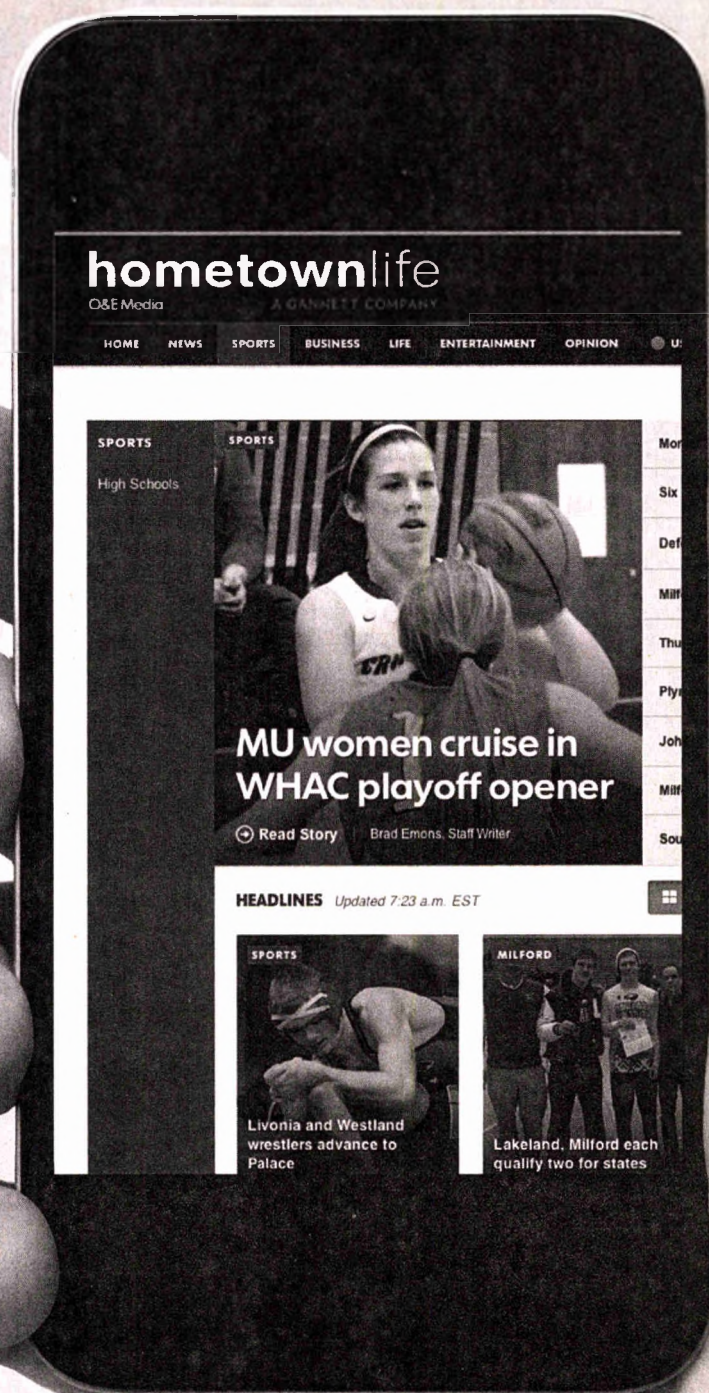
Type **Observer and Eccentric** in the search field. Select the Observer and Eccentric from the list of available selection options.

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Jessi Tatoris-Rogers, surgical assistant, demonstrates the Trios 3 digital impression device as Joseph Nemeth, D.D.S., a Southfield periodontist looks at its scan on a monitor. JOHN STORMZAND | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

## Digital scans make 'goop' outdated

Sharon Dargay  
Staff Writer

Got a crown or denture? You've likely tasted "goop." "Traditionally, dentists use a tray and fill it with impression material, which is a kind of goopy goop, and put it into the patient's mouth in order to get an impression," said Joseph Nemeth, D.D.S., a periodontist. "It takes several minutes to set up in the mouth. It very often causes gagging. Patients have a fear of it and because they have a fear of gagging, it causes them to throw up sometimes."

"And the impression sometimes has to be retaken over and over and over."

Nemeth took goopy impression material off the menu at his Southfield practice last year and replaced it with an intraoral scanner that makes digital impressions. He's one of a handful of dentists in southeast Michigan using a scanner called Trios, that scans teeth and projects the digital image on a monitor for both the patient and dentist to see.

Nemeth uses the most updated version — Trios 3 — and says he was the first dentist in Michigan and one of few in the country, to embrace the technology.

"We had a 3-D scanner before this. It was okay, but it didn't do (teeth) shades. It took longer and the scanner was

big, bulky and uncomfortable. When we were told about this, it sounded like it was the way to go. We ordered one immediately.

"It's revolutionizing dentistry. It's really a wonder."

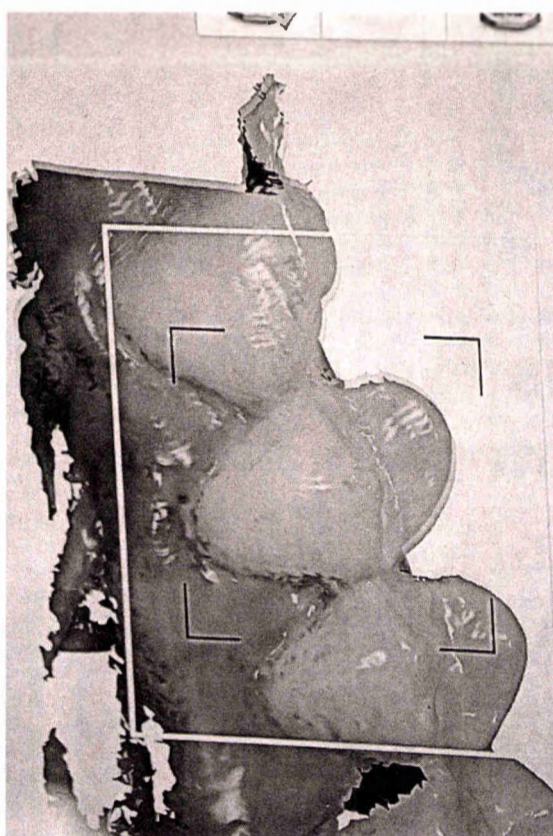
Nemeth said the system is more accurate than impression material, which can be distorted by varying temperatures. It's more environmentally friendly and sends the scan electronically, rather than by vehicle, to the dental lab, saving a few days in the process.

"You can see it on the screen. You can see your own mouth in real time as it's happening and you can rotate (the image) and turn it. You can see if you have cavities, if you have broken teeth. You can see if the shade of the tooth is right."

### How it works

Jessi Tatoris-Rogers, a surgical assistant at the practice, recently demonstrated the technology in Nemeth's office.

Instead of placing a tray of impression "goop" into the patient's mouth, she moved the Trios hand-held device along the upper and lower teeth. Two pictures appeared on the monitor. One was a real-time scan of the patient's mouth. The other showed the individual images of each tooth coming together to form the lower and upper set of teeth.



Teeth are shown on a monitor that both the patient and dentist can see. JOHN STORMZAND | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

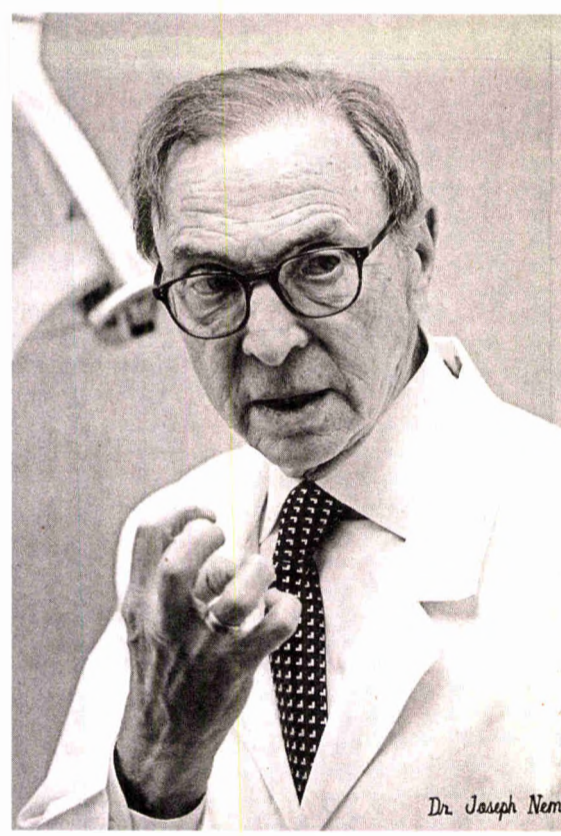
"Patients are thrilled, especially after the scan. We'll show them what we've done and people are amazed to see their mouth on the TV screen. Especially as big as it is," she said.

Nemeth said 3-D printers may be next innovation in dentistry.

"They're being perfected and we have one on order. It will allow us to print out whatever we want to print out that

we have scanned," he said. "Virtual reality is here in dentistry."

sdargay@hometownlife.com  
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Joseph Nemeth, D.D.S., talks about dental technology. JOHN STORMZAND | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

## Find help for rare disorders through NIH clinics

A rare disorder or, as they are sometimes referred to, an orphan disease, is a medical mystery that needs our attention.

Increasing awareness of various infrequent and sometimes unheard of medical disorders may prompt more research into potential treatments and cures. The more attention a condition gets, the better the odds are that something can be done about it. Interestingly, the criteria for identification of rare disorders is that few people in the world have them and yet there are 7,000 separate identified orphan diseases in existence. Rare Disease Awareness Day on Feb. 29 will shine a light on them.

Examples of rare disorders include: Marfan syndrome,



Len McCulloch  
GUEST COLUMNIST

neurofibromatosis, Niemann-Pick disease, Turner syndrome, FG syndrome, Tourette's syndrome and Addison's disease, which was said to afflict President John F. Kennedy.

I've had the opportunity to meet with and speak to various support groups that exist for individuals with some of these conditions. It led me to a realization that the one thing they have in common is a lack of attention paid to the mental health issues associated with being in a "medical minority." While much attention needs to

be paid to the medical management of rare diseases including surgical procedures, medication trials and so forth, it can also be beneficial to address the psychological and emotional consequences of such conditions.

Therapeutic progress for individuals often can be seen when the question, "Why me?" evolves into "What am I going to do about it now?" To get past the "Why me?" often seems to entail a modification in identity which can now incorporate the medical diagnosis into the mainstream of one's personality. Then a question of "How can I build a life after tragedy?" can be asked and answered.

The February-March 2016 issue of *Neurology Now*, a free publication of the American

Brain Foundation's American Academy of Neurology, reported that the National Institutes of Health (NIH) created a network of medical centers dedicated to diagnosing rare diseases. Typically, the diseases they discover affect fewer than 50 people in the world with an array of symptoms that have stumped other physicians, sometimes for years. Many of these patients and their families have already been to dozens of doctors and have taken hundreds of tests, but remain undiagnosed or find only more dead ends. Through the Undiagnosed Diseases Network (UDN) Program, these individuals now can benefit from the expertise of a panel of physicians and receive unrestricted access to the latest

medical technology. Last September, the NIH launched the network at seven medical centers across the country, which dramatically increased the number of patients that can be accepted. To apply and get more information, visit UDN's website at: [www.undiagnosed.hms.harvard.edu/apply](http://www.undiagnosed.hms.harvard.edu/apply). For more information on rare diseases that affect 200,000 people at any one time in the United States, visit [www.rare-diseaseday.org](http://www.rare-diseaseday.org).

Len J. McCulloch is a Diplomate of the American Psychotherapy Association. He is credentialed in mental health, traumatic stress, brain injury, addictions and social work. For a telephone courtesy consult, call McCulloch at 248-474-2763, ext. 222.



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## Trust is key to dealing with a micromanager

BY DEBRA AUERBACH  
CAREERBUILDER

Every manager has his or her own style. Some are so hands-off that their workers barely hear from them. Then there are the bosses who want to see every version of a project, be copied on every email and be a part of every meeting.

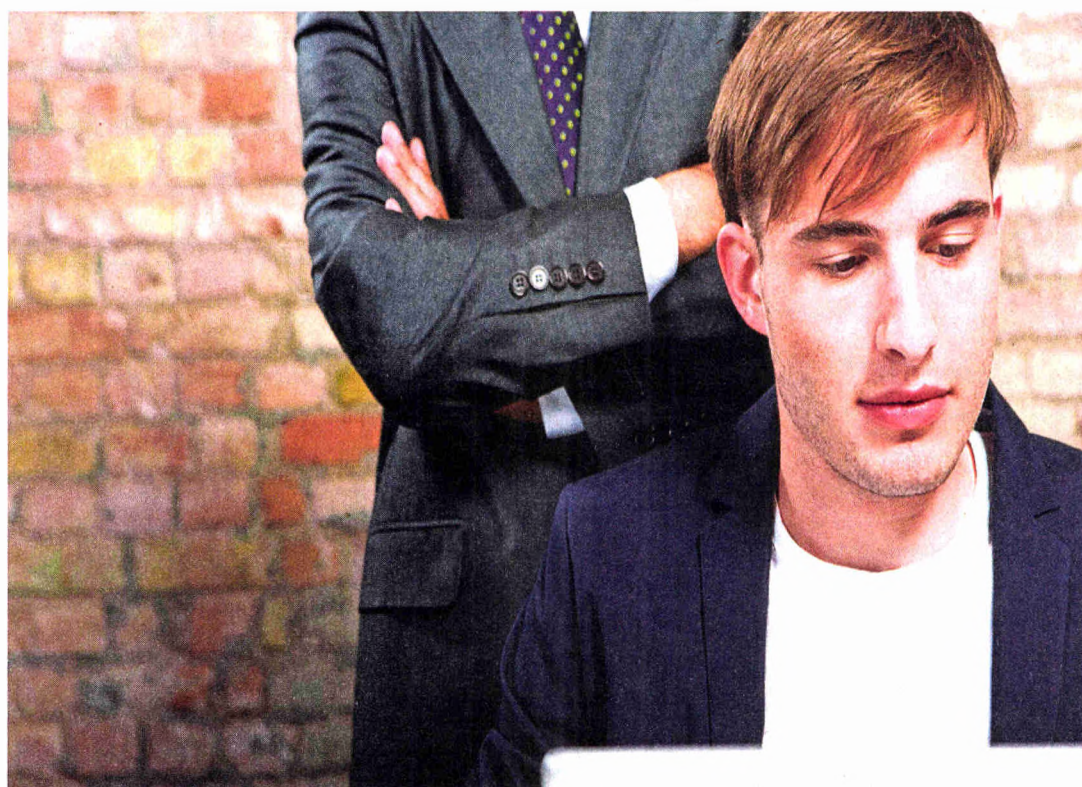
If your boss falls into the latter category, you have a micromanager on your hands. While it's helpful to have someone to bounce ideas off of and get feedback from when needed, too much oversight can stifle your creativity — and your professional growth.

Here are some tips for dealing with a micromanager and building a better relationship.

### Be on top of your game.

When you have a micromanager, you don't want to give him or her more of a reason to nitpick, and making frequent mistakes is a surefire way to do that.

"If you're making mistakes, you are sure to only increase the visibility of your errors and make your manager manage you more," says Stefanie Lomax, a human-resources veteran with 16 years of experience and the founder of HRPro4You. "Double-check your work (and) give it to a second set of eyes if you can,



THINKSTOCK

just to make sure what you submit is accurate. Check your numbers, your grammar, spelling, etc., before you turn it in to your boss. And make sure anyone else that should be in the know — by way of other co-workers, vendors, etc. — are included in your project delivery."

### Determine whether you're a target.

Chavaz Kingman, a corporate trainer and executive consultant, says that if your boss is micromanaging, you should determine whether it's happening to everyone on the team or just you. "If your

micromanager is only micromanaging you, then you know this particular manager has a trust issue with you," he says.

### Build trust.

If trust is an issue between you and your boss, you'll need to find a solution if you want any chance of getting your manager to give you more space.

"A trustworthy employee is less likely to be 'harped' on about their work," Lomax says. "Being able to gain trust by doing what is asked of you, and even doing things that aren't by going above and beyond, builds that trust factor

and can lead to less of a need for the manager to question your trustworthiness."

### Provide frequent updates.

Lori Dernavich, a growth stage leadership adviser, says that sharing updates with your micromanaging boss can also help strengthen your relationship. "Send a quick email at the start of the day laying out what you'll be focusing on and any meetings you're having. Send a status report on Friday afternoons that outlines what you accomplished during the week," she says. "These will often allay fears of the

micromanager and will help build trust between you and your manager."

### Try to adapt.

"You and your boss may have very different work styles or personalities," says Bill Driscoll, a district president for Accountemps, a division of Robert Half. "Adapt as much as you can to his or her style. You don't need to change your behavior completely, as long as you remember that you can reach the same goal using a different approach."

### Decide if this is a deal-breaker.

"If all else fails, ask yourself whether you can work for a truly difficult boss," Driscoll says. "It will depend on your own personality and tolerance. Ask yourself what you have to gain by hanging in there. Leaving may not be your first choice, so before you throw in the towel, see if there's a way to change the relationship with your manager, or at least change how much you let his or her behavior and attitude affect you."

*Debra Auerbach is a writer for the Advice & Resources section on CareerBuilder.com. She researches and writes about job-search strategy, career management, hiring trends and workplace issues.*

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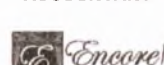
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6. Creating and simulating mathematical models for servo hydraulic subsystems in matlab/simulink to support the analytical DVPA;
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