

# 36 WAYNE-WESTLAND OBSERVER

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**GIRLS BASKETBALL STATE TOURNEY IS UNDERWAY**  
SPORTS, B1

## Court date set for homicide suspects

David Veselenak  
hometownlife.com

The three people charged in the double homicide of two men in Westland earlier this year are due back in court next week for a preliminary examination.

Dominik Charleston, 19, of Romulus; Amber Tackett, 17 of Taylor; and Kobi Taylor, 19, and homeless, are all expected to returned to Westland's 18th District Court at 8:30 a.m. March 10 for a preliminary examination.

The three are charged in the deaths of Jordan Baker, 19, of Wayne, and Howard Wick, 35, of Westland, who were both found dead Feb. 6 outside of some homes at Norene and

Treadwell in Westland. Police say the three were arrested a day after the two were found dead. Police say it appeared the incident was drug-related.

Charleston faces two counts of first-degree murder, two counts of felony murder, two counts of armed robbery and one count of felony firearm. Both Taylor and Tackett are charged with two counts of felony murder, two counts of armed robbery and one



Charleston



Taylor



Tackett

count of felony firearm. If convicted, all three face a maximum of life in prison.

A preliminary examination is held to determine if there is enough evidence for a case to go to trial. They were arraigned in person Feb. 9 before District Judge Sandra Cicirelli.

All three suspects remain locked up in the Wayne County Jail, where they were remanded without bond.

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## Report: Police chase stolen vehicle to I-94, driver crashes

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Westland police say a suspect fled officers during a traffic stop and landed in the hospital after crashing in Van Buren Township.

Westland police say they attempted to pull over a vehicle during a routine traffic stop after the vehicle was spotted at about 1:40 p.m. Tuesday near Michigan Avenue and Merriman. After running the license plates, it turned up that the vehicle had been reported stolen earlier that day during a home invasion from a neighboring jurisdiction, police said. Police did not initially say where the chase began. Police then began pursuing

the vehicle, a chase that led them to I-94. Police say the chase ended when the suspect's vehicle struck a tree while trying to exit off of the freeway to the rest area near Belleville Road in Van Buren Township.

The suspect suffered minor injuries and was taken to a local hospital. No other injuries were reported, police said.

Police said more information would be released later on as it became available. The investigation remained in the beginning stages as of Tuesday afternoon, according to police.

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Khadega Mohammed (left) and Julia Wicker of Canton were among protesters recently at Detroit Metro Airport.

JUNFU HAN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

## Local man supports temporary ban on all travel to United States

Sharon Dargay  
hometownlife.com

Terry Olexsy's biggest beef about immigrants is assimilation.

The Highland Township man says newcomers should learn English, venture out of their ethnic enclaves and become citizens if they plan to stay in the country.

He wants them to enter the United States legally and says policy-makers should take a cue from Ellis Island as they consider tightening borders.



Olexsy

"They should have to do the same thing my grandparents did to get into the country," said Olexsy, founder of Mature Voters of Oakland County and chairman of the Highland Activity Center Advisory Council. "The people that came over from Europe, they weren't guaranteed a spot in here. If they were sick, we didn't necessarily accept them. If they lied, they weren't accepted."

His grandparents emigrated from Russia and Poland, entering the country by way of Ellis Island, where millions of immigrants were turned away, detained or welcomed during the first half of the 20th century.

"They all came in through general ports. They didn't sneak in and cross borders," he said. "They came on ships and they didn't come first class. Nobody helped them. They didn't get free housing, free medical care. They counted

See BAN, Page A2

## 'WHAT DID I DO WRONG?' AN IMMIGRANT'S STORY

Jay Grossman  
hometownlife.com

She's a single mom raising four boys, working six days a week in a job that probably doesn't pay all that much. In her spare time, she takes classes at Oakland Community College.

Sitting in a booth at a Tim Hortons off Square Lake Road in Bloomfield Township, you'd have a tough time picking her out from any other customer. Except she feels different.

She feels like America is making her an outcast.

Rafa is a Muslim refugee from Syria. She left an upper middle class suburb of Damascus four years ago after

the bombs began to fall. She is afraid to give her full name, because even though she is in the U.S. legally, having been granted political asylum, her two oldest children are still waiting for their paperwork to get finalized.

Like any other parent, she is worried something bad will happen. She wonders how far President Donald Trump will go with his immigration reform policies. She worries about the stigma these policies are placing on legal refugees like herself.

"It was not an easy process," Rafa said about gaining political asylum. "Where are we



Protesters, including Hussam Saleh, 6, of Canton, initially protested President Trump's travel ban, which has now been slowed by the courts.

JUNFU HAN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

See IMMIGRANT, Page A2



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VAN NAZARIAN

Van Nazarian's photography often focuses on cars. He's the featured artist for March at the Livonia Public Library.

# Photog heads March art show

Van Nazarian is about to get his days in the art limelight.

Nazarian, a Livonia resident, is the March featured artist in the Livonia Fine Arts Gallery, located on the second floor of the Livonia

Public Library. Nazarian, who grew up in Detroit the son of a tailor and a seamstress, was influenced by a favorite uncle. The uncle, whom Nazarian called "a serious car lover," worked for Ford Motor

Co. for 49 years and got him "hooked on cars."

While studying industrial design and photography at Wayne State, Nazarian worked in the automotive department of Montgomery Ward. At the same time, he studied transportation design.

Nazarian spent the next 35 years in graphic arts and photography, shooting everything from major appliances to classic cars.

His show runs, which runs through March 31, includes images from a private tour of Jay Leno's garage in Burbank, images from various Concours d'Elegance shows, a lost Chevrolet concept car of the '50s, commissioned tribute art and images from around the Detroit area.

An artist's reception takes place 2-4 p.m. Saturday, March 11. The library is located at 32777 Five Mile (at Farmington Road) in Livonia. The show is sponsored by the Livonia Arts Commission. For more information, call 734-432-5976.

## IMMIGRANT

Continued from Page A1

supposed to go if we're told to leave here? Going back to Syria is like a death sentence. If I did something wrong, I'd accept it. What did I do wrong?"

She never planned to leave Syria. She has a sister living in the U.S., but she never considered moving here. Maybe a vacation, but she never dreamed of leaving her home.

But the bombs kept dropping, closer and closer to her apartment in Damascus, and she knew she had to do something. She was living in a war zone. She had already separated from her husband and was basically on her own.

"My visa was about to expire, so I left," she said. "It was a hard decision to make, because I could only take my two youngest ones. I was separated from my two oldest boys for over two years."

She spoke of witnessing the massacre in Darraya and of tanks stopping directly in front of her apartment. She said the military wanted to take her 16-year-old son and force him into the army, but she managed to pull him back.

Her two oldest sons, both in their early 20s, are now in the U.S. attending college and working full-time jobs.

"They're scared," she said. "They're afraid to go out and drive, that someone might stop them and question them. They have exams right now and they're having a hard time focusing."

She understands the fears over illegal immigration and terrorism, but she feels there are many individual Muslims who are being lumped together into one large negative stereotype. They're being convicted of a crime they never committed.

Ultimately, she believes these policies will empower the extremists. Muslims caught in the

middle will be forced to take sides. She stresses again that she is in the U.S. legally and so are her children.

It would be easy to say she has nothing to fear and that might well be true. But put yourself in her shoes.

"All we're trying to do is build a better future," she said. "We didn't come here to beg... we came here to be productive citizens."

She pauses, worried she has said too much already. She never intended to become a spokesperson. Just a few years ago, she was living in a large apartment in Damascus. Her family was nearby and so were her friends.

Now she's huddled behind a cup of coffee in a Tim Hortons, frustrated and alone.

She is not the enemy. Don't treat her like one.

Jay Grossman is a staff writer for the Birmingham Eccentric. He can be reached via email at jgrossman@hometownlife.com.

## BAN

Continued from Page A1

on people they knew or fellow immigrants to help them.

"They stayed in tenements, group housing and they were happy to be there. These people had to bust their backs once they got there. They had nothing. They lived a hard life in the beginning and they earned their right to be U.S. citizens."

He said those early U.S. immigrants, including family members, had to "change dramatically" as they became a part of the country's melting pot of culture and ethnicity. They learned English and eventually moved beyond the close-knit ethnic communities they initially depended on.

"They gave up old-world fashions to fit in as Americans," he said.

### Americans first

Olexsy, a retiree, said he believes some immigrants that don't assimilate want Americans "to change" instead. He suspects some newcomers take advantage of the public's goodwill and that

illegal residents are getting government benefits, such as food stamps and housing.

"They know how to work the system," he said. "Why should our government be giving away (benefits) and yet we have homeless veterans on the street? Our priority should be American citizens."

Olexsy wants better vetting and government oversight to ensure foreigners don't stay in the country longer than allowed. He said he believes President Trump will build a wall along the U.S.-Mexican border and make Mexico pay for it.

He's not against giving migrant or seasonal workers from foreign countries temporary work visas, but says they should be required to learn English and assimilate into the culture.

"Give them a temporary card as long as they can speak English," he said. "They can work three to six months out of the year and make money for their family. We should have compassion for these people, as long as they are legitimate."

Olexsy had a mixed reaction to Trump's exec-

utive order Jan. 27 that banned citizens from Iran, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria and Yemen from entering the country for 90 days. The order also barred refugee admissions for 120 days and stopped Syrian refugees from entering the country indefinitely. The directive sparked confusion at airports across the country as the new rules took effect.

"The people who had a green card and were working here should have had a right to come right in. They shouldn't have been held up," Olexsy said.

A federal appeals panel earlier this month rejected Trump's request to reinstate the travel ban after a federal district judge struck it down.

Trump is expected to roll out a new travel ban this week. Olexsy hopes it's more rigorous than the first, giving the government time to revamp immigration policy.

"I think if we're banning seven (countries), we might as well ban them all temporarily," he said. "It should be everyone for 60 or 90 days."

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**CITY OF GARDEN CITY BOARD OF REVIEW DATES**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN TO all property owners of the City of Garden City that the Board of Review will meet in session on the following date and time to examine the assessment roll for the current year:

Tuesday	March 7, 2017	9:00 a.m.
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The Board of Review will meet in session on the following days and times to hear appeals on the assessment roll:

Monday	March 13, 2017	9:00am-4:30pm
Tuesday	March 14, 2017	9:00am-4:30pm
Wednesday	March 15, 2017	1:00pm-9:00pm

**NOTE: Meetings located in THE GARDEN CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT CONFERENCE ROOM with late night appointments on Wednesday only**

**APPEALS BY APPOINTMENT or WRITE-IN.** Write-ins must be received by Wednesday March 15th.

Taxes are paid on **TAXABLE VALUE**, which is the lesser of the calculated Assessed and Capped value, unless there is a property transfer. The capped value is based on the CPI (Consumer Price Index), which is 0.9% for 2017.

The 2017 Assessment Roll will be open for inspection March 8, 2017 and March 9, 2017 in the Assessment Office from 9:00a.m. To 5:00 p.m.

ALLYSON BETTIS  
TREASURER-CLERK

**AMERICAN MONTESSORI ACADEMY**

American Montessori Academy, a Tuition-Free Public School Academy, announces its Open Enrollment period for the 2017-2018 school year for grades K-8. Applications may be picked up at the Academy lower campus: 14800 Middlebelt Road, Livonia, MI, 48154.

3/3/17 - 3/24/17	Open Enrollment for new applicants
3/3 - 3/24, 9:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. (Mon-Fri)	
* 3/8 & 3/15 also 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.	
* 3/18 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	

If enrollment applications exceed the number of available spaces, a random selection will be held at AMA lower campus, 14800 Middlebelt Road on March 27, 2017 at 6:00 p.m.

Published: March 2, 2017

**PUBLIC NOTICE MINUTES OF REDFORD TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETINGS DECEMBER 2016 & JANUARY 2017**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the approved Minutes for meetings of the Township Board of the Charter Township of Redford for the month of December 2016 and January 2017 are posted at the following public places within the Township:

- Community Center, 12121 Hemingway
- Fire Department, 15145 Beech Daly
- Library, 25320 Six Mile Road
- Department of Public Services, 12200 Beech Daly
- Police Department, 25833 Elsinore
- Town Hall, 15145 Beech Daly

Approved Minutes may also be viewed on-line at [www.redfordtwp.com](http://www.redfordtwp.com)

GARTH J. CHRISTIE, Clerk  
Charter Township of Redford

Published: March 2, 2017

**CITIES OF WESTLAND, LIVONIA, REDFORD TOWNSHIP NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ANALYSIS OF IMPEDIMENTS TO FAIR HOUSING COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG)**

In accordance with HUD requirements, the Cities of Westland, Livonia, Redford Township will jointly prepare an Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing. The communities will conduct a joint Public Hearing on Wednesday, April 5, 2017, at 6:00 p.m. at the offices of the Livonia Housing Commission, 10800 Farmington Road, Livonia, 48150. The purpose of this public hearing is to obtain the views of citizens, public agencies and other interested parties regarding the Analysis to Impediments. The public hearing will feature data for population and housing characteristics, fair housing considerations, impediments and fair housing strategies. The Analysis of Impediments is required to receive CDBG funds. To assist in the analysis, citizens and other interested persons are invited to complete a Fair Housing Survey, found on the City of Westland website at [www.cityofwestland.com](http://www.cityofwestland.com), under Choose Service/Community Development Survey.

Written comments regarding the draft Analysis to Impediments should be sent to the City of Westland, Department of Housing and Community Development, 32150 Dorsey Road, Westland, MI 48186. Copies of materials to be discussed during the public hearing are available for review at the Housing and Community Development Department during normal business hours. For additional information please contact the Housing and Community Development Department at (734) 713.3111.

Joanne Campbell, Director  
William R. Wild, Mayor  
James M. Inglis, Director  
Dennis Wright, Mayor  
Michael Dennis, Director  
Tracey Schultz Kobylarz, Supervisor

Published: March 2, 2017  
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Post: WLND Westland Cable, Westland City Hall, Public Library, Friendship Center, Jefferson Barns Community Vitality Center, Livonia City Hall and Libraries; Redford Township Hall and Libraries

Published: March 2, 2017

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# Refugees to U.S., Michigan: Some facts

**Matt Jachman**  
hometownlife.com

Public attention has turned more intently to the world's refugees, particularly those settling in or heading to the U.S., since President Donald Trump last month announced a moratorium on travel into the country by people from seven countries in which the majority of the population is Muslim.

Enforcement of the so-called travel ban — applying to people from Iran, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria and Yemen — was later blocked by the U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals, but a revised order is expected from the White House this week.

Meanwhile, using federal and state government sources, we looked at refugees who arrived in Michigan in recent years to find where they came from, what kind of process they went through, how they're being helped, how much it costs and how many are here.

## Who is a refugee?

According to the Department of Homeland Security, refugee status is a legal status that can be granted to people who have been persecuted or fear they will be persecuted because of race, religion, nationality, politics or membership in a particular group. Applicants must be of "humanitarian concern" to the U.S. and show they were persecuted or fear persecution due to race, religion, nationality, political opinion or membership in a certain group before they are given refugee status. They also must be found admissible to the U.S. and cannot be settled in another country.

An asylum-seeker is a refugee who has already traveled to the U.S. and is applying for asylum at a port of entry.



Taosif Alam of Farmington Hills protested Jan. 29 at Detroit Metro Airport.

JUNFU HAN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

## Application and screening

Refugees seeking resettlement in the U.S. must get a referral, usually from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, or sometimes from a U.S. embassy or a nongovernmental organization in which employees have been trained to handle refugee referrals. In some cases, such as those of people who seek to be reunited with close relatives who are already refugees in the U.S.,

refugees can apply for resettlement without a referral.

Refugees trying to get into the U.S. are processed by the Department of State, which funds nine resettlement support centers around the world.

Applicants' registration is the first of a multi-step process that includes interviews with state department and Homeland Security personnel, security checks by several federal departments, including the FBI, the Department of

Defense and intelligence agencies, fingerprint collection and screenings, a cultural orientation class and a medical check. Resettlement applicants are rejected if they do not pass the security and medical screenings.

Refugees' travel to the U.S. is booked through the International Organization for Migration, which provides loans to cover airfare. According to a state department spokesman, the average IOM loan is \$1,100 and the average monthly loan

payment is \$85. Loan repayments, the spokesman said, are funneled back into the program to help other refugees.

There were officially 84,995 refugees admitted to the U.S. in the 2016 fiscal year, according to the state department.

## Help in Michigan

Refugees in Michigan find places to live through resettlement agencies such as the U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants and Catholic Charities of Southeast Michigan; those agencies are eligible for state department resettlement grants of \$2,075 per refugee for their costs, the department spokesman said.

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services provides refugees with temporary financial assistance, with the goal of having them become self-sufficient. In addition, social service agencies, often faith-based groups, help refugees with finding employment, getting health care, providing education for their children and other needs. For the 2017 fiscal year, the state received \$4.8 million in federal grants to pay such organizations for providing refugee services, said Bob Wheaton, the MDHHS communications manager.

Adult refugees without children in Michigan are entitled to cash assistance and medical assistance for up to eight months, and the average payments are \$306 a month in cash assistance and \$54 a month in medical assistance for an individual, Wheaton said.

Children and adults with children are eligible for other types of state assistance, such as cash assistance for food, that are also available to the general public if they meet eligibility criteria, Wheaton said.

The MDHHS refugee program, including cash

assistance, health screenings and administrative costs, are completely reimbursed by the federal government, Wheaton said. That reimbursement totaled \$18 million for the last fiscal year, he said.

## By the numbers

Over the last five fiscal years — 2012 through 2016 — 19,536 refugees from around the world have resettled in Michigan, according to state department figures provided to MDHHS. Many were from some of the countries included in Trump's travel ban, but there were also refugees from Afghanistan, Burma, Nepal, the Ukraine, Zaire and many other countries.

For the 2016 fiscal year, three resettlement agencies — U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants, Samaritas and Catholic Charities of Southeast Michigan — reported placing 333 refugees in Oakland County and 1,295 in Wayne County.

In the same fiscal year, there were 2,802 refugees resettled in Michigan from six of the seven countries named in the travel ban: Syria (1,372), Somalia (256), Iran (9), Iraq (1,108), Sudan (55) and Yemen (2), according to MDHHS. That number was nearly 66 percent of the 4,254 refugees placed in Michigan that year. There were none listed from Libya.

Among the 15,282 refugees resettled in the state in fiscal years 2012 through 2015, state department records show, 8,035, or nearly 52.6 percent, were male, and 7,242, or about 47.4 percent, were female. About 34.1 percent were under the age of 18, 61.6 percent were ages 18 to 65, and 4.2 percent were 65 or older.

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# Constituents push Rep. Trott for town hall

Matt Jachman  
hometownlife.com

A local congressman drew criticism last Thursday as constituents alarmed by the policies of a new administration continued to call attention to their campaign to meet with him in person to voice their concerns.

More than 200 people packed a room at the Novi Public Library on Thursday evening for the event, billed as a David Trott town hall without David Trott. Trott, a second-term Republican from Birmingham, was part of a congressional delegation visiting India during this week's recess, a member of his staff confirmed.

Organizers accused Trott of ducking constituents who might disagree with him on President Donald Trump's agenda. A new crackdown on immigrants who are in the country illegally and the planned repeal of the Affordable Care Act were the most-discussed issues Thursday.

Trott should be having "vibrant dialogue" with a "well-informed and engaged" citizenry, said one of the speakers, attorney John Janiszewski.

"Constituents deserve much better," Janiszewski told the crowd. "We deserve to have individual opportunities to air our grievances."

Janiszewski, an assistant Michigan attorney general, emphasized he was speaking on his own behalf and not representing his office.

He rejected the idea, promoted by Trump, that people packing town halls across the country are paid activists and refuted the comment earlier in the week by Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., that "winners make policy and losers go home."

"I can assure you, we



The audience applauds a speaker during Thursday's standing-room-only town hall at the Novi Public Library. Organizers said they want U.S. Rep. David Trott, R-Birmingham, to meet in person with constituents.

are not all losers," Janiszewski said. "We are simply citizens who ask to be engaged."

Trott should face the public and explain where he stands on Trump's policies and serve "as a check on executive overreach," Janiszewski said. "Your silence serves as a breeding ground for discontent and damaging assumptions," he said.

Trott communications director Katie Vincentz said Friday that Trott has attended 1,000 public events since taking office, including 40 town halls, public forums and coffee talks. She said a busy legislative calendar so far this year has limited his ability to meet directly with constituents, but that public events are being planned.

Representatives of the Michigan People's Campaign, one of the groups behind Thursday's event, have met with Trott staffers sever-



Some of those who gathered at the Thursday meeting at the Novi Public Library wrote their hometowns and ZIP codes on badges to show they were in U.S. Rep. David Trott's district.

al times and their concerns were relayed to Trott, Vincentz said. Trott, she said, has also responded in writing to more than 6,500 questions and concerns from constituents.

Other speakers Thursday addressed diversity

**"I can assure you, we are not all losers. We are simply citizens who ask to be engaged."**

JOHN JANISZEWSKI,  
attorney

and tightened immigration policies.

Fatima Abdrabboh, a lawyer and director of the American Muslim Advocacy League, said non-Muslims and Muslims shouldn't be afraid to break the ice and have conversations about cultural differences.

"Those are the real questions," she said, drawing laughter when she spoke about being asked if she has hair underneath her hijab. "It's not ignorant. People want to know."

Islamophobia, or the irrational fear of Mus-

lims, is "an industry" from which some profit, she said.

"It's easier to have a bogeyman than to deal with our own stuff," she said.

Abdrabboh said her travels to other parts of the world helped confirm that U.S. is "the greatest" country.

"Do not take that for granted," she said. "Complacency is not something we can afford to have."

Also speaking were Jayesh Patel, a lawyer and the founder of Street Democracy, an advocacy group that works on legal issues on behalf of impoverished people, and Nada Dalgamouni, director of global education at the International Institute of Detroit.

Patel jokingly said that Trump's immigration policies means that "people who look different and have funny names" have to worry about being detained,

even if they are naturalized citizens or were born in the U.S.

They also, he said, have to worry about being the targets of harassment and violence.

"People who haven't had to think about these issues are now having to," he said. Patel's parents immigrated from India; he said that, among his extended family of 28 people, 27 are native-born or naturalized citizens.

Dalgamouni, who was born in Jordan, made a case for more liberalized immigration policies for people who want to enjoy freedom and improve their lives.

"Immigration is what made this country a great country," she said.

Meredith Quinlan of the Michigan People's Campaign urged the crowd to keep the pressure up.

"Every call, every meeting, every email, every action is making a difference," she said. Members of Congress, she added, "are scared" that they will lose their seats.

Sherri Masson of Milford, who introduced each speaker, said the town hall was organized by herself and two other women who met on Facebook, in conjunction with the MPC. She and others, Masson said, personally invited Trott on Feb. 14 by speaking with staff members at his district office in Troy.

Trott's 11th District includes many communities in western Wayne County and northern and western Oakland County, including Livonia, Plymouth and Northville, Plymouth, Northville and Canton townships, Birmingham, Farmington, Farmington Hills and Novi.

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## Greater Farmington Film Festival announces lineup

Farmington-Hills based nonprofit organization kickstartART Farmington announces the film lineup and schedule for the 2017 Greater Farmington Film Festival.

The Greater Farmington Film Festival will be March 2-5, with a selection of recently released feature films and documentaries that engage the heart and mind, explore important contemporary issues and inspire action: good films for a better world.

The line up includes: "Death is Not the Answer" (documentary, 95 minutes), directed by Keith Famie. Show time is 7:30 p.m. March 2, at the Smith Theatre at Oakland Community College

"Death Is Not the Answer" delves deeply into the complex, often misunderstood world of depression and suicide. This documentary features many of the nation's most respected mental health professionals. The film also offers enlightened thoughts of how we can find contentment and happiness through mind-body health, diet and music. In the end, the film offers hope and a much deeper understanding about depression and what leads to suicide.

A Q&A with Famie and others featured in the film to follow the screening.

"Maya Angelou, and Still I Rise" (documentary, 114 minutes), directed by Bob Hercules and Rita Coburn Whac, at 7 p.m. March 3, at the Farmington Civic Theater.

The first documentary about the iconic writer, poet, performer and activist who overcame racism and devas-

tating abuse to become one of our culture's greatest voices. Rare footage and photos unveil an intimate and often unknown view of her public and personal life with the power of her own words.

"Life, Animated" (documentary, 89 minutes), directed by Roger Ross Williams. Show time is 9:15 p.m. March 3, at the Farmington Civic Theater.

"Life, Animated" is the real-life story of Owen Suskind, son of the Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Ron Suskind and his wife Cornelia. An autistic boy who couldn't speak for years, Owen memorized dozens of Disney movies, turned them into a language to express love and loss, kinship, brotherhood.

The family was forced to become animated characters, communicating with him in Disney dialogue and song, until they all emerge, together, revealing how, in darkness, we all literally need stories to survive.

"Zootopia" (animated, 110 minutes) at 10 a.m. March 4, the Farmington Civic Theater. This is a free show.

"After Spring" (documentary, 101 minutes), directed by Steph Ching and Ellen Martinez, at 7 p.m. March 4, the Farmington Civic Theater.

Presentation of "After Spring" is made possible by the generous support of Christine and Bob Greig and David Richardson and Debbie Feit.

"After Spring" is a feature documentary that focuses on the Syrian refugee crisis. With the Syrian conflict now in its sixth year, millions of people continue to be displaced. "After Spring" is the story of what happens next. By following two refugee

families in transition and aid workers fighting to keep the camp running, viewers will experience what it is like to live in Zaatar, Jordan, the largest camp for Syrian refugees. With no end in sight for the conflict or this refugee crisis, everyone must decide if they can rebuild their lives in a place that was never meant to be permanent.

"The Eagle Huntress" (documentary, 111 minutes), directed by Otto Bell, at 9:15 p.m. March 4, at the Farmington Civic Theater.

Aisholpan, a 13-year-old girl, trains to become the first female in 12 generations of her Kazakh family to become an eagle hunter and rises to the pinnacle of a tradition that has been handed down from father to son for centuries. While there are many old Kazakh eagle hunters who vehemently reject the idea of any female taking part in their ancient tradition, Aisholpan's father, Nurgai, believes that a girl can do anything a boy can, as long as she's determined.

"The Last Laugh" (documentary, 85 minutes), directed by Ferne Pearlstein, at 2 p.m. March 5, at the Holocaust Memorial Center on Orchard Lake Road in Farmington Hills.

Presentation of "The Last Laugh" is made possible by the generous support of Bloom General Contracting, Inc.

Tickets are on sale at [www.gffilmfest.com](http://www.gffilmfest.com) and are \$6 each or a full festival pass can be purchased for \$30 (six films for the price of five); the children's film "Zootopia" is presented free.

More information about the festival is available at [www.gffilmfest.com](http://www.gffilmfest.com).



### Livonia Public Schools

Opens the Prestigious International Baccalaureate Diploma Program to Out-of-District Students in Wayne County.

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Fifteen seats are open to students entering 10th grade in fall 2017

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IBDP students are required to take IB exams in order to earn the highly acclaimed and internationally recognized IB diploma.

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from 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

All candidates MUST meet the IBDP selection criteria.

For complete information, visit [www.franklinib.info](http://www.franklinib.info)  
or contact coordinator

Ms. Sunshine Weber at [sweber4@livoniapublicschools.org](mailto:sweber4@livoniapublicschools.org).

# Garden City Arts Center benefit set for Sunday

The Great Lakes Arts Center, in partnership with the Garden City Moose Lodge, is hosting a BBQ to benefit the art center from 1-6 p.m. Sunday, March 5.

Chef Mike Zadorski will man his monster grill and serve tasty meat and veggie options. Creative Director Don Wakefield will discuss the future art center and provide a

tour of the 17,000-square-foot building

Once open, the art center will offer exhibits of anything manmade, from paintings and sculpture and multimedia works to custom cars and furniture. Classes, performances, demonstrations and many special events, including food and beverage pairings, will eventually be available every day.

The art center is at 29135 Ford Road, just east of Middlebelt. Parking is in back of the building. The event is being held to help raise funds to rehab the building and install a wheelchair lift, which is expected to cost \$40,000. A \$20 donation is appreciated for food and beverages. Yearly memberships are available, starting at \$100.



The Great Lakes Arts Center is at 29135 Ford Road.

SUBMITTED

## With tax cut bill dead, lawmakers push other bills

Kathleen Gray

Detroit Free Press Lansing Bureau

LANSING — A cut to the individual income tax from 4.25% to 3.9% may have died in the state House of Representatives on Thursday on a 52-55 vote, but other lawmakers introduced a number of bills last week that would lower the tax burden on Michigan residents.

The bills would remove the increases in vehicle registration fees that were passed last year to help pay for road improvements; increase the personal exemption on state income taxes from \$4,000 to \$6,000, and establish tax credits for people who make improvements to their homes, making them more accessible.

All the bills were introduced by Democrats, who are at a distinct disadvantage because Republicans hold a 63-47 majority. But both Republicans and Democrats have introduced several bills already this year that would eliminate the income tax on pensions that was approved by the Legislature in 2011. After the defeat of the income tax cut last week, it's uncertain what direction future tax proposals will take.

Another bill introduced last week is a familiar plea to modify the fireworks law that was passed in 2012, allowing individuals to set off commercial-grade fireworks. The law has been changed to limit the explosions to the 10 federal holidays, as well as the day before and after the holiday.

But every year, local communities plead with their legislators to change the law even further and allow them to set more stringent guidelines. The resulting bills have not gotten a vote in the Legislature.

Bills introduced last week:

### House bills

**HB 4251:** Remove increases in vehicle registration fees. Sponsor: Rep. Scott Dianda, R-Calumet.

**HB 4252-4253:** Accelerate the phase-in of removing the sales and use taxes on the difference for a trade-in vehicle. Sponsors: Reps. Bronna Kahle, R-Clinton, Michael Webber, R-Rochester Hills.

**HB 4254:** Provide for per-pupil funding formula based on the greater of current year or prior year pupil count. Sponsor: Rep. Abdullah Ham-



Rep. Robert Kosowski, D-Westland, has sponsored a bill to give veterans a waiver of public transit fees.

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moud, D-Dearborn.

**HB 4255-4256:** Require the reduction of air pollution emission standards during certain months and restrict emission standards during thermal inversions. Sponsors: Reps. Abdullah Hammoud, D-Dearborn, Stephanie Chang, D-Detroit.

**HB 4257:** Require containment of petroleum coke piles. Sponsor: Rep. Stephanie Chang, D-Detroit.

**HB 4258:** Require an air pollution impact student and consideration of cumulative pollution levels before issuing air quality permits. Sponsor: Rep. Stephanie Chang, D-Detroit.

**HB 4259:** Provide for the auditor general to have authority to gain confidential or electronic data. Sponsor: Rep. Joseph Graves, R-Linden.

**HB 4260:** Specify youth sports' training programs to have written clearance form regarding concussions and length of time before a return to athletic activity. Sponsor: Rep. Sheldon Neeley, D-Flint.

**HB 4261:** Allow sports betting in Michigan. Sponsor: Rep. Robert Kosowski, D-Westland.

**HB 4262:** Provide for a waiver of fees for public transit for veterans with ID cards. Sponsor: Rep. Robert Kosowski, D-Westland.

**HB 4263:** Revise experience requirements and

waive examination fees for electrician licenses for veterans. Sponsor: Rep. Robert Kosowski, D-Westland.

**HB 4264:** Increase the personal exemption on income taxes from \$4,000 to \$6,000. Sponsor: Rep. Tim Greimel, D-Auburn Hills.

**HB 4265 and SB 170:** Establish a five-foot clearance distance that a driver of a vehicle must maintain when passing a bicyclist. Sponsors: Rep. Holly Hughes, R-White River Township, Sen. Margaret O'Brien, R-Portage.

**HB 4266:** Authorize zoning and growth management policies to household agricultural in residential zones. Sponsor: Rep. Tim Kelly, R-Saginaw Township.

**HB 4267:** Provide for and allocate additional revenue to be deposited in the automation fund in county general funds. Sponsor: Rep. Tim Kelly, R-Saginaw Township.

**HB 4268:** Allow active duty members of the military to carry a concealed weapon even if there is a personal protection order against the individual. Sponsor: Rep. Tim Kelly, R-Saginaw Township.

**HB 4269:** Provide for ambulance and emergency medical personnel to be present at high school sporting events. Sponsor: Rep. Jewell Jones, D-Inkster.

**HB 4270-4271:** Estab-

lish cancellation protocols for state service contracts and require cost-benefit analysis for privatization of services so public service workers can present alternative recommendations. Sponsor: Rep. Jewell Jones, D-Inkster.

**HB 4272:** Allow township supervisors to perform marriages. Sponsor: Rep. Michael McCready, R-Birmingham.

**HB 4273-4274 and SB 186-192:** Require training of security guards and establish licensing fees for security guard agencies; remove licensing and registration for private security businesses that respond to security alarms. Sponsors: Reps. Robert Wittenberg, D-Oak Park, Martin Howrylak, R-Troy, Sens. Darwin Booher, R-Evart, Bert Johnson, D-Highland Park.

**HB 4275:** Revise credit rating criteria for issuing of bonds to pay off unfunded pension or retiree health care liabilities. Sponsor: Rep. Ben Frederick, R-Owosso.

### Senate bills

**SB 169:** Revise license and permit regulations for campgrounds and incorporate rules on sewage systems and water requirements. Sponsor: Sen. Darwin Booher, R-Evart.

**SB 171-172:** Provide for increased penalties for physicians and phar-

macists who wrongfully prescribe or dispense controlled substances. Sponsors: Sens. Jim Ananich, D-Flint, Margaret O'Brien, R-Portage.

**SB 173:** Provide for requirements for charter schools or authorizing bodies upon termination or revocation of contract to have property revert back to the state. Sponsor: Sen. Jim Ananich, D-Flint.

**SB 174-175:** Revise the state accreditation system for public schools and modify requirements for a high school diploma. Sponsors: Sens. Marty Knollenberg, R-Troy, Jim Stamas, R-Midland.

**SB 176:** Revise requirements for tourist-oriented directional signs. Sponsor: Sen. Tom Casperson, R-Escanaba.

**SB 177:** Require use of bid scorecards for state procurement contracts. Sponsor: Sen. Patrick Colbeck, R-Canton.

**SB 178:** Create fundraising license plates for the Detroit Red Wings, Detroit Tigers, Detroit Lions, Detroit Pistons and Michigan International Speedway. Sponsor: Sen. Jim Stamas, R-Midland.

**SB 179:** Create an appropriations for the

capital outlay budget. Sponsor: Sen. Darwin Booher, R-Evart.

**SB 180-183:** Require background checks and fingerprinting of child care organizations and establish penalties for failing to report certain charges against child care workers. Modify licensing requirements for child care centers. Sponsors: Sen. Tonya Schuitmaker, R-Lawton, David Hildenbrand, R-Lowell, Hoon-Yung Hoggood, D-Taylor.

**SB 184:** Establish income tax credits for the purchase or modification of a home that improves accessibility to the home. Sponsor: Sen. Vincent Gregory, D-Southfield.

**SB 185:** Increase the minimum wage to \$15 per hour by Jan. 1, 2018. Sponsor: Sen. Coleman Young II, D-Detroit.

**SB 193:** Allow local units of government to enact ordinances and restrict the use and sale of fireworks. Sponsor: Sen. Steven Bieda, D-Warren.

**SB 194:** Allow townships to perform work on county roads. Sponsor: Sen. Tonya Schuitmaker, R-Lawton.

For more information on bills, go to: [legislature.mi.gov](http://legislature.mi.gov)

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# Canton man's Hollywood dreams coming true

**Jill Halpin**  
Correspondent

He has been blown-up with explosives, spun 30 feet through the air dangling by a wire, had his body set afire while wearing a flame-retardant suit and helped Hollywood hero Hugh Jackman fight robots.

Now he's working alongside actors Chace Crawford from TV's "Gossip Girl" series and Elisha Dushku of "Bring It On" fame in "Eloise," a new movie filmed in Michigan and in theaters now.

It sounds both frightening and exciting to most, but for Matthew Philliben, former Canton resident, it is all in a day's work.

Philliben, a 2003 Detroit Catholic Central graduate, has spent almost 10 years working as an actor and stuntman in film and TV and loving every minute of it.

"I love it — the adrenaline rush of performing stunts — and I love showing my skills as an actor. I'd do it forever if I could," he said.

His Hollywood career is pretty much of a dream come true for the 32-year-old, who now splits his time between metropolitan Detroit and Atlanta, now a worldwide hub for film production. It's also a world apart from his first job at about age 9, delivering the *Canton Observer* newspaper throughout his neighborhood.

Philliben's ambitions began even before that, he said, "I always knew that I wanted to do this with my life. There was never any backup plan. I knew that this is what I wanted to do."

Growing up in Canton he spent a



Matt Philliben, a 2003 graduate of Detroit Catholic Central, has gathered more than 40 acting and stunt credits to his name in the past 10 years.

good deal of his time writing, painting and drawing. "I was always creating; always using art as an outlet."

It wasn't until he graduated and began attending Schoolcraft College in Livonia that his skills began to really develop under Professor James Hartman of the school's theater department.

"He was the first teacher that I had that gave me the confidence that I did have the talent to make it happen," Philliben said.

Philliben next spent some time working in independent films around Michigan, transferring to Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo to study theater and film. It was after that he received his first big break: the opportunity to work on the set of "Real Steel," a science fiction sports film starring Hugh Jackman, produced by DreamWorks Studios and filmed in Detroit and other locations throughout Michigan.

Although he started out providing security detail on the film set for Hugh Jackman, it wasn't long before Philliben's skills in martial arts were brought to the attention of the film's stunt coordinator, Garrett Warren. Warren, an award-winning stunt choreographer, who worked on films including "Avatar," the "Transformers" series and "Iron Man 2," provided Philliben with a glimpse into the world of stunts. And he was instantly entranced.

Philliben was able to perform stunt work in the "Real Steel" fight scenes, offering a rare chance for the valuable on-the-job training that is necessary to work successfully in the field.

"In the stunt world, to be legitimate you need to learn on set from a professional stunt coordinator. Garrett gave me my start. He pretty much took me right off the street and gave me this opportunity. It is not many people that get that chance," he said.

Philliben not only took that chance, he was able to quickly build a career, performing stunt work in films such "Oz, the Great and Powerful" and the upcoming "Fate of the Furious," in which he worked with Charlize Theron, Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson and Vin

Diesel, as well "Transformers: The Last Knight" starring Mark Wahlberg, which is scheduled for release later this year.

Also included in his 40-credit strong Internet Movie Database profile are a wide variety of acting roles, including TV series like "12 Monkeys" and "Rush: Inspired by Battlefield" and films like "Red Dawn," "Divergent" and the newly released "Eloise."

"Eloise," a horror movie filmed at and inspired by the now-defunct asylum of the same name located in Wayne, casts Philliben as an orderly. The role allowed Philliben to return to Michigan, as it filmed at locations throughout metropolitan Detroit.

It also allowed him an opportunity to act and perform stunts, combining both of his loves. While his stunt work keeps the blood rushing quickly through his veins, he appreciates the opportunity to share his acting skills.

"With stunt work, you never know what is coming next and that is really exciting, and I love acting, too. I would do both forever, if I could," he said.

On Feb. 26, he will watch the Oscars broadcast, as many others do. Only Philliben will know many of the Academy Award attendees personally. He will cheer on his former co-worker Ryan Gosling, nominated for an award in the Best Actor category and whom Philliben calls "a really nice, down-to-earth guy."

Philliben is hopeful that someday he will be attending the Academy Awards himself — already focusing on an end goal for his flourishing career.

"I would love to get to that level," he said.

## Our Mental Health: The gift of hope

"Hope springs eternal," said one philosopher. And another said, "The greatest virtues are faith, hope and love." Yet another said, "Hope depends on faith and the outcome of both is love." While hope is a small word, it is a big antidote for despair. The importance of hope, in recovery from despair, is independent of the source of the suffering. Pain is pain. Hope is essential to any recovery. Without hope there is despair. Despair is the submission to loss. It is giving



**Len McCulloch**  
GUEST COLUMNIST

up. It is concluding there is no way out. It is dependency and accomplishes nothing. It is suicide of the soul.

Hope, on the other hand, requires faith in optimism and in one's self. And, hope usually requires interaction with another person. Despairing people can usually not discover hope on

their own. They need another person, able to enter their world of despair, and offer them a deal. The deal, psychologically, is a "working alliance."

This is a technical term usually reserved for the positive relationship developed between a psychotherapist and a patient. But it can occur between any two people wherein one has hope to offer to the other in a realistic manner. This "working alliance" amounts to two or more people agreeing to be

optimistic in their combined efforts to deal with, overcome or put up with and tolerate a major personal distress. Some people are trained professional "therapists" who can offer hope. Some are ordinary people with an extraordinary life experience or natural endowment of resilience, so as to be able to offer hope to others. Hope motivates one to act with the belief that there will be a positive outcome from optimism, hard work and perseverance. Hope differs from a

wish. Wishing for a solution to a life problem is a passive event. It can be done in solitude and does not always come true. Hope, on the other hand, is an active event and implies a willingness to work toward a solution or an ability to tolerate seemingly insurmountable problems known as suffering.

So, I encourage hope. If you are struggling with trauma or despair from any source, find another person, group, cause or organization with which to establish a working alliance pursuant to an optimistic overcoming of sorrow. Join up with another in any

small or big way and reap the benefits of hope which are movement onward and forward, despite the cost.

*Len McCulloch is a diplomate of the American Psychotherapy Association and is credentialed in Traumatic Stress, Mental Health, Brain Injury, Social Work, and Addictions. He is a psychotherapist of 40 years and author of "Our Mental Health," a monthly column syndicated in Observer and Eccentric Newspapers. His 250-plus publications to date have been archived over the past 15 years at the Farmington Library. McCulloch can be reached for a courtesy phone consultation at 248-474-2763 x-222.*

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# As PARC grows, tax discussions begin

**Darrell Clem**  
hometownlife.com

An ambitious plan to boost Plymouth's image as an arts and recreation destination has surpassed early expectations, officials say, and a tax proposal to support the project could go to voters next year.

In its first 17 months, the nonprofit Plymouth Arts and Recreation Complex, or PARC, has drawn tenants who lease space for theater productions, fitness programs, youth sports, culinary arts classes, autism consulting, orchestra concerts and arts education, among other programs.

In all, PARC has leased 41 of the 60 rooms inside the former Central Middle School in Plymouth, said Don Soenen, PARC board president. That represents 24 tenants, some of whom lease more than one room. Another 23 community groups rent space only when they need it.

"We've had arts organizations coming in droves," Soenen said.

The Michigan Philharmonic has made its headquarters in what was once the school principal's office.

"We love it here," said Beth Stewart, Michigan Philharmonic executive director. "We have so much room. We like being right in the middle of all the action."

The orchestra, which performs regionally, has some performances in PARC's gymnasium.

PARC emerged as a grassroots movement as Plymouth-Canton Community Schools district officials decided to close the former Central school. A local couple, Mark and Patty Malcolm, paid \$3.5 million for the site and the nonprofit PARC leases and rents space to cover operating expenses.

Soenen said PARC still needs money to renovate the three-story building and fulfill a vision to have an 800-seat auditorium. That's where a tax proposal comes in, tentatively in spring 2018, though the amount isn't known. It would go before voters in Plymouth and Plymouth Township.

Soenen said much work remains between now and then:

» PARC has to get its site plan approved by the city of Plymouth.



The performance space extends the stage out into the audience for a current production.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Don Soenen says PARC has exceeded expectations thus far.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER  
Forever After Productions, a theater company, now has all of its resources at the PARC.

foot building, located at 650 Church St., sits on 16.6 acres that include numerous athletic fields. It's a place where young children can swim or play sports while senior citizens can find fitness programs or social gatherings. One theater group, Forever After Productions, makes PARC its home and performs its shows there.

PARC has had some detractors and the project became a political football in last year's Plymouth Township election. Kurt Heise, the township's new supervisor, said he supports PARC, but said officials still need to lay out a firm plan as a tax increase is sought.

"I think PARC provides a valuable service to the community. It's a nonprofit that fills in many of the gaps in recreation and senior services which the city and the township cannot provide," Heise said. "I know they have some very ambitious plans for the future and, at this time, I'm still in a wait-and-see mode. ... They are going to have to demonstrate their ability to deliver. (But) I support what they're doing. I believe PARC provides a valuable community service to our taxpayers."

dclem@hometownlife.com  
Twitter: @CantonObserver  
734-972-0919

» Officials will try to raise as much money as possible through private fundraising, before seeking a tax. Some sources already have been identified.

» An economic impact study will be done to help determine the financial boost the PARC facility could have on the area.

» PARC officials plan to finalize their business plan and conduct public forums to educate the community on the PARC vision.

Marsha Kreza, PARC marketing consultant, described the PARC pro-

ject as a way to bring together people who have diverse interests in arts, recreation and education, whether they prefer theater or musical performances or other offerings.

"It's really exciting," she said.

Gail Grieger, PARC executive director, said PARC is expected to broaden its reach as it grows.

"We see PARC as the destination in Plymouth," she said. "When you think of Plymouth, you will think of PARC. It represents so much of

what Plymouth stands for — and that's community." The 160,000-square-

## Shoplifting suspect comes back to mall for phone

**David Veselenak**  
hometownlife.com

Livonia police were called Friday afternoon to Von Maur, 37500 Six Mile, on the report of a retail fraud.

A store employee said they saw a suspect select several tops and go into a fitting room. She reportedly came out and did not have one of the tops accounted for. She went into another fitting room with other merchandise, but an attendant reportedly noticed not all the items were accounted for when she walked out. She reportedly tried to leave, but was stopped by an employee.

She apologized, but then reportedly tried to leave the store and head to her vehicle. The employee grabbed her handbag and several items fell out, including her cellphone. She then got into her car and drove away.

When police got there, they went inside the store. While there, the suspect's phone rang. It was reportedly the suspect, who said she had lost her phone. The loss prevention employee told her she would meet her in the parking lot at nearby Bar Louie. Police later noticed the woman's vehicle pull up near the restaurant and initiated a

traffic stop. She was arrested and taken to the police station for processing.

### Retail fraud suspect flees

An employee at Meijer, 13000 Middlebelt, came to the police station Saturday evening to report a retail fraud.

The employee said he saw the suspect walk out of the clothing department with several pieces of team sports clothing. He was then seen taking a camera off the shelf and placing it into his cart. Several items appeared to have been concealed. He was then seen going into a fitting room, coming out and selecting more merchandise. He left the fitting room without the merchandise visible. He then reportedly walked toward the checkout and exited the building without paying for several pieces of merchandise. An employee tried to stop him, but he reportedly fled the store and was last seen near the railroad tracks. Items reported taken included a camera, printer and Detroit Tigers apparel.

### Catalytic converter taken

Police were called Saturday afternoon to a home in the 12000 block

of Cavell on the report of a stolen catalytic converter.

The resident said he noticed a dragging noise coming from his vehicle earlier that morning when he went to work. He later found part of his exhaust dragging on the ground. He took it to the shop, which told him the catalytic converter had been cut off from the car. His wife said a neighbor told her they heard a buzzing noise earlier that morning, followed by a car that drove off, but did not see anything.

### Wheels, tires missing

Police were called Saturday morning to a residence in the 17700 block of Westbrook on the report of stolen wheels and tires.

Police arrived and saw the vehicle with its driver window busted out and all four wheels and tires missing.

The owner said he saw the vehicle with the wheels still on it the night before. He said the car was locked and all the keys were accounted for. Nothing appeared missing from inside the vehicle.

— Compiled from reports filed with the Livonia Police Department.



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GIRLS BASKETBALL DISTRICTS

## Good tourney tip-off for Chargers

Churchill off to winning start;  
Glenn, RU, Warriors also prevail

Tim Smith  
Hometownlife.com

A balanced offense spearheaded Livonia Churchill to a 45-38 win over Livonia Franklin in Monday's Class A girls basketball district opener at Westland John Glenn.

The Chargers (7-14) were

paced by Macey Reese and Annie Yost, with 12 points each, while Shae Smith chipped in with 10 points.

Senior Sarah Channey scored eight points for Franklin, which was plagued by trouble at the free throw line (nine of 23 attempts).

Churchill broke out to a 12-2

lead after one quarter, padded it to 32-10 at halftime and never looked back.

"Tonight was a good win for us," Chargers head coach K'Len Morris said. "At this point in the year it's not about style points, it's about getting the win by all means necessary and tonight we did that."

"Macey played great for us off the bench leading the team with 12 points. Annie Yost dominated the post again. Shae

See DISTRICTS, Page B3



TOM BEAUDOIN  
Westland John Glenn's Jasmine Edwards (32) dribbles past Redford Thurston's DaMareon Crimes (42) during Monday's district game.

CHARITY HOCKEY GAME



RENA LAVERTY

Schoolcraft College's Andrew Lindsay (left) gains a step on older brother Robert Lindsay of the Michigan State Police hockey team. The teams played a charity game Friday at USA Hockey Arena in Plymouth.

## SKATING FOR A CAUSE

Schoolcraft hockey team falls in shootout to Michigan State Police squad

Tim Smith  
Hometownlife.com

Andrew Lindsay called it a "once in a lifetime opportunity" to play in a hockey game against his older brother, Robert.

But if all goes as planned, Friday's charity hockey contest at USA Hockey Arena in Plymouth — between Schoolcraft College and the Michigan State Police — is only the first of many to come. The troopers won 5-4 in a shootout.

Schoolcraft sophomore Andrew Lindsay, who in January stepped down from the active roster to become an assistant coach while working toward his dream of becoming a state trooper, came out of "retirement" to skate in the afternoon game.

And he finally faced Robert Lindsay, 25, who is a Michigan State Police trooper.



RENA LAVERTY

The action heats up around Michigan State Police goalie Justin Sand during Friday's game to benefit the Fallen Troopers Memorial Fund.

"He had the whole idea of doing it," Robert said. "And our team, we're trying to get more charities to help. ... It was just a fun game to play in, especially against my brother."

More than \$4,250 was raised for the Michigan State Police Fallen Trooper Memorial Fund, with Schoolcraft players selling tickets in advance.

Ocelots head coach Rob

Lindsay, whose sons are Andrew and Robert, said the team did a great job raising that amount — even though it came up short of the original

See CHARITY, Page B2

PRE-REGIONAL HOCKEY

## Patriots can't slow Falcons in 5-2 loss

But Franklin's Phelps likes his team's progress

Tim Smith  
Hometownlife.com

The bubble burst for Livonia Franklin midway through Tuesday's Division 3 boys hockey pre-regional against Dearborn Divine Child at the Ann Arbor Ice Cube.

But despite a 5-2 loss, Franklin's first-year head coach Dan Phelps and senior co-captains Kolby Dewhirst and Jack Ores (who scored the Patriots second goal) all agreed the team is moving in the right direction.

"I'm extremely proud of my guys from where they started at the beginning and where we're at right now," Phelps said. "People that have watched us and followed us can certainly see the difference in our team."

"We knew it could be a rough season, but I give my guys all the credit in the world. They really turned it around and they fought to the end in this game right here. That's a pretty deep team, if you ask me. I think they're even better than they played tonight."

According to Dewhirst, a defenseman, improvement on the squad since December was noticeable. "From the first week to the last week it was a huge difference and I'm very proud of the boys for all the hard work they put in."

Concurring was Ores, a forward who one-timed a centering pass from junior linemate Jonah Pollack high into the Falcons net with 10:37 left to make it a 4-2 deficit.

"Coach has done a great job with the guys and I think the next couple years will be huge for these guys," Ores said. "They'll make their mark out there."

Franklin finished the season with a 8-17-1 record, having entered the game on a four-game winning streak. For a while, the Patriots hung tough against the speedy Falcons.

Divine Child peppered Franklin sophomore goalie Will Augustine all night, but could not get one into the net until 6:53 of the middle frame, the Falcons' 15th shot of the contest.

A shot bounced off the lively end boards and senior forward Jose Sanchez pounced on

See HOCKEY, Page B2

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PREP BOWLING

# Super: Area bowlers excel at Division 1 regionals

Tim Smith  
Hometownlife.com

There's nothing like the so-called "home-court advantage," and that provided a welcome backdrop for the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park boys and girls bowling teams last weekend.

On Friday at Super Bowl in Canton, Salem's boys team finished second and the girls third at the MHSAA Division 1 team regional. Both teams qualified for this Friday's team final at Sterling Lanes in Sterling Heights.

And, several P-CEP performers came back Saturday and earned spots at the individual finals.

Leading the way was Canton senior Meghan Macunovich, who rolled a six-game series of 1,152 to finish in first overall. She capped off her big day in style, registering a 225 game.

It was the third time in four seasons with the Chiefs that Macunovich took home the championship trophy.

Also qualifying on the girls side were Plymouth sophomore Madalyn Harden (fifth, 1,079) and Salem freshman Lexis Silverman (10th, 1,037).

Other area qualifiers included Westland John Glenn juniors Julianna Dietz (sixth, 1,068) and Sarah Hayes (seventh, 1,067).

In the boys' individual regional, Salem senior Mitchell Rusinek parlayed a 297 in his final game to finish third overall with a total of 1,257.

Joining Rusinek from the Park at individual finals will be Canton junior D.J. Jablonski (sixth, 1,204), seniors Andrew Nosay (seventh, 1,201) and Dominic Dimaya (eighth, 1,191).

Coming up just short for the Rocks was Alex Mattson. He finished in a deadlock with



Salem's varsity boys bowling team finished second at Friday's MHSAA Division 1 team regional at Super Bowl.

SUBMITTED

Westland John Glenn senior Michael Pizzuti, but dropped a one-game roll-off 192 to 189.

Plymouth's top finisher was junior Mike Koski, who finished 17th with a 1,144 series. The top-10 finishers automatically qualify.

The first-place finisher was

John Glenn junior Matt Essa, who enjoyed 244, 236 and 257 games en route to a 1,308 tally. Other Rocket qualifiers included seniors Jared Stevens (fifth, 1,233) and Michael Pizzuti (10th, 1,181).

In the boys D1 team regional, Belleville won with 4,101

pins followed by Salem (4,038) and Wayne Memorial (3,994).

Sparking the Rocks were twins Shane Rusinek and Mitchell Rusinek, with respective scores of 620 and 617.

Winning the girls team regional with 3,512 pins was Farmington Harrison, followed by

Belleville (3,353) and Salem (3,320).

The girls were led by Lexis Silverman with a 556 series and Leah Boucha with a 518 total.

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FILE PHOTO

Livonia Franklin junior forward Brandon Webb (7), shown from earlier this season, looks to center the puck.

## HOCKEY

Continued from Page B1

it and buried it from below the right circle.

Before you can say boom-boom, however, the deficit was three.

Falcons' forward Ian Juszczak tapped in a cross-crease pass from linemate Vincenzo DiDomenico (with Sanchez also assisting), and forward Nick Renner collected a loose puck in the slot and snapped a shot past Augustine.

But the gutsy Patriots showed they were not about to lie down when Pollack scored on Franklin's only shot of the second period, with 6:46 to go.

Brendan Neve sent a pass from the left wing toward the Divine Child goal, and Pollack was there at the right side of the crease to slam it past goalie Josh Lucas. Collecting the second assist for Franklin was junior Jordan Gittens (two assists).

"Jonah Pollack (broken wrist in January) came back a little early, he was supposed to be out for the season," Phelps said. "He got our first goal tonight, he's only been on the ice for a week."

Strong, poised goalkeeping by Augustine in the scoreless first period kept the Patriots in the contest for a while, but ultimately the dynamic line of

Sanchez-Juszczak-DiDomenico proved too much.

The Falcons (10-15-2) out-shot Franklin 9-5 in the frame (and 28-10 for the game), but had several high-quality chances in the opening three minutes. But Augustine was ready, snagging Knute O'Brien's shot from the right circle and then denying Sanchez on the one-timer in front.

About four minutes into the frame, Augustine turned aside a bid by Renner.

Franklin had a couple chances later in the period. Freshman Trey Ziebol skated in on Lucas with about 6:45 to go, but was stopped. The rebound went to junior Trevor Vanvliet, who clanked a shot off the post.

### Spartans romp

Also Tuesday, Livonia Stevenson opened postseason play with a 12-0 mercy rule win over West Bloomfield at Novi Ice Arena. The Division 2 pre-regional ended after two periods.

Sharing the shutout for the Spartans were Will Trage and Derek Dudek.

"It was a good way to start off," Stevenson head coach David Mitchell said. "It was a solid team win for us, we had balanced scoring and kept things simple."

Stevenson will face Novi on Thursday at 8:15 in the regional semifinal.

## CHARITY

Continued from Page B1

\$5,000 goal.

"We'll come up with it (the other \$750) somehow," he chuckled, adding that he "wanted it to be a close game, like it was. I told my boys no checking and hitting, because these guys all got to go to work the next day."

"... I was real happy about the president of our school getting involved in it. And I'm glad the MSP got involved with the puck drop."

Schoolcraft College president Dr. Conway Jeffress participated with Andrew Lindsay and Trooper Jon Tibaldo in the ceremonial puck drop. Tibaldo went on to score two goals during regulation and the clincher in the shootout.

"It was a lot faster than anyone on my team has played in a long time," Tibaldo said. "It took us a little bit to get acclimated to it, but it was fun. It was a fun game, fast-paced, just good all-around hockey."

Before the ceremonial puck drop, Jeffress gave kudos to the Schoolcraft hockey program for initiating the event.

"This is great, I love to see them do public service kind of work," Jeffress said. "When they can get out and contribute beyond themselves, I think that's a great thing."

### Chance to remember

Tibaldo, 29, of Warren, said Andrew Lindsay and Schoolcraft student activities director Todd Stowell were instrumental in the charity game coming to fruition.

"Schoolcraft reached out to me, Lindsay reached out to me and Todd did a lot of work for it," Tibaldo said. "We really appreciate it. They were the brains behind it, they just came to us with the idea. Obviously, we thought it was a great idea."

According to First Lt. Mike Shaw, with the state police for more than two decades, the charity game against the Ocelots was good for the MSP for several reasons.

"It's always a good thing for us to get out there," Shaw said. "For one, it's for a cause like this, the Fallen Trooper Memorial. Not only does it take care of the trooper memorial that's up in Lansing, it also allows us to raise funds for the 51 troopers that have been killed in the line of duty."

"A lot of their grave sites, back from the very first trooper that was killed — Harold Anderson was shot and killed in Novi — that was way back in 1920. So in 1920, that grave site kind of falls apart a little bit.



RENA LAVERTY

The Michigan State Police hockey team swarms around winning goalie Justin Sand after the troopers defeated Schoolcraft 5-4 in a shootout.



RENA LAVERTY

Taking part in the pre-game ceremonial puck drop is Schoolcraft College president Dr. Conway Jeffress. He drops the puck between MSP Trooper Jon Tibaldo (left) and Schoolcraft's Andrew Lindsay.

This gives us an opportunity to go back there and remember our fallen."

Another plus is getting the troopers out into the community.

"This is one of the things we show people," Shaw said.

"That, 'Hey, yep, we drive around in that awesome blue car with the light on there. We're the premier law enforcement in the state if not the country. But also we do things like this, we play hockey, we raise funds. It's always a good thing for us to get out here and do stuff like this.'"

### Back and forth

As for the game itself, the teams played to a 1-1 tie after one 15-minute period and the MSP outscored the Ocelots 3-1 in the second to go up 4-2 entering the final stanza of regulation.

Tibaldo scored two of the MSP goals in the second, including one where he stick-handled and waited for the goalie to commit before going shelf.

Schoolcraft rallied in the third to send the game to overtime. First, forward Owen Hund (Garden City) scored an unassisted goal in the third period to make it 4-3. It was his second of the game. Netting the equalizer was Nick Oliveri.

After two scoreless five-minute OT sessions (the second in a 3-vs-3 format), the teams went to the shootout to decide matters. The lone tallies were scored by David Tasker and Tibaldo.

The other Schoolcraft tally was registered by Livonia Stevenson alum Vinnie Glenn, midway through the second period to make it a 2-2 game. Assisting were Westland's Jacob Stanley and Andrew Nowak (Stevenson).

Each of the Ocelots three goalies played a period, with Matt Monendo (Livonia Franklin) followed by Bryan Donaldson and Brett Kates (Garden City).

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