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# THE PERSPECTIVE

Serving the students and staff at the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park / Canton, MI

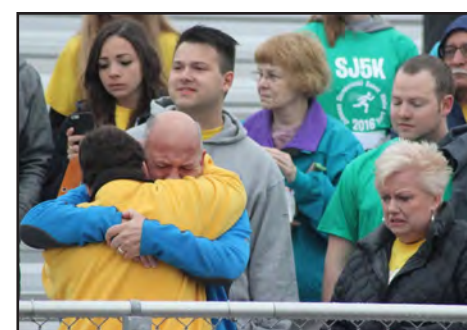
## \$25K: Community on the run



**Upper:** Canton math teacher Ed Webber runs for fellow math teacher and SJ5K honoree, Sharon Laing, by wearing a pink t-shirt dedicated in her honor. **Lower:** Sharon Laing shares her story.



Photos by Ally Schwinke



**Left:** Lily Griffiths and Ethan Byrnes run in the SJ5K. **Upper:** Saenz family members embrace each other after an emotional speech. **Lower:** Barbara Lindlbauer hugs Tommy Halewicz, original founder of the SJ5K.



## SJ5K honors Johnson, Laing, Saenz, Slomkowski, White

by **Genevieve St. Jean**  
and **Natasha Pietruschka**  
News Editor and Art Director

The sixth annual SJ5K raised about \$90,000 for five families within the Plymouth-Canton community. May 1 marked the day of heroes, as per the theme of the 2016 SJ5K. Approximately 2,900 people came together to support the heroes within the community. The recipients include Sharon Laing, Torrance Johnson, Terri Saenz, Ann Slomkowski and Chris White.

For Barbara Lindlbauer, Jesse Lindlbauer's mother, her hero is Tommy Halewicz. Halewicz began the first SJ5K in 2011 for Jesse, who suffered brain damage after a sinus infection caused a ruptured brain abscess in December 2010. Barbara said in the opening ceremony before the race that Halewicz was dating her daughter when he originally set in motion the first SJ5K and will soon be her son-in-law.

Barbara Lindlbauer said, "It's easy to feel alone when your family struggles through a medical crisis, believe me I know. But thanks to the SJ5K, 19 families in six years haven't had to. Thank you, Tommy, for loving my daughter. Look what that love has created. Thank you all, all of you, for your amazing support. We couldn't do it without you."

Torrance Johnson, a student at Erickson Elementary School, has Spinal Muscular Atrophy Type II. Johnson gave his own speech to share his story and thanks, at the age of 10, to the crowd.

Johnson said, "While we are taking life one day at a time, our faith is strong, so no need for pity. I recently had surgery so people would ask 'are you going to be able to make the SJ5K?' I replied, 'Absolutely. I would not miss this event.' In conclusion, I would like to say thank you for all your prayers, thoughts and support."

Karen White spoke on behalf of her son, Chris White, a 2012 Salem graduate. During his sophomore year at Central Michigan University, he developed a brain tumor. Chris is relentless as he continues to work with trainers over six hours a week. "I think he is a true example of being a hero," said Karen.

The race included honorees who call the Plymouth-Canton school district their home. Both Ann Slomkowski, a teacher in the district for 30 years, and Sharon Laing, a current math teacher at Plymouth, received much support from the race. Both these leaders in the community and classroom continue to fight breast cancer.

Grant Slomkowski, Ann Slomkowski's son, shared kind words about his mother. "Anyone that knows her understands her deep commitment to her students. She teaches her students and everyone around her how to navigate life and to enjoy it along the way."

Laing said to the wide audience, "I was told I would need to undergo chemotherapy. Six treatments every three weeks and that it would make me very tired and have a lot of other side effects. They

recommended taking time off work. So how would I be able to keep teaching? So I fought. I refused to let cancer treatment affect my presence at school, sorry kids. I hope they know it's because I care about them so much."

Terri Saenz, a mother of two Salem graduates, will also benefit from the race. She was diagnosed with ALS, also known as Lou Gehrig's Disease, in January 2015, and according to her website, will be using the funds from SJ5K to move from her two story house to a ranch style home which will be transformed to accommodate her needs when her muscles weaken.

The 2016 SJ5K was planned and run by 14 seniors in the National Honor Society at P-CEP. In addition to the race, NHS also hosted a bottle drive, which made over \$250 to add to the money given to the families.

Plymouth senior Charlotte Clark, the SJ5K coordinator and part of NHS, said, "Seeing the families on race day and seeing them smile and hearing them talk about what the SJ5K means to them was just the most incredible feeling. That's when you know that every single hour we all worked to make this event happen was worth it. It's so amazing to feel like you've made a difference in someone's life. That's exactly what everyone who participated in the SJ5K did."

Additional photos and a video of the opening ceremony are online at [the-perspective.tk](http://the-perspective.tk)!

## Select P-CEP bathrooms are gender neutral

by **Hannah Saad**  
News Editor

Ongoing efforts by the Gender and Sexuality Alliance have resulted in permanent gender-neutral, or unisex, bathrooms in Plymouth and Canton, and a temporary bathroom in Salem. Citing incidents against transgender and gender neutral students at the Park, the GSA worked to have bathrooms available to students who do not feel comfortable using the boys' and girls' restrooms.

"Keeping these students safe is an important step," said Canton junior and GSA member Bailey Allen.

The gender neutral bathroom in Plymouth is in the counseling office, and the gender neutral bathroom in Canton is located in the main office's copy room. Currently, Salem is still deciding on a permanent location for a gender neutral bathroom.

Salem freshman Tyler See used to go in the girls' restroom as he is listed as a female in the school records, until he started facing harassment from other students. "I had to stop using the bathroom. I had to use the girls' bathroom, but I would get kicked out. They (other girls in the restroom) called me 'fag' and told me to kill myself," said See.

P-CCS Director of Communications Nick Brandon said, "Every decision that we make as a school district is centered around what is best for student safety, student well-being, and student learning. We thank and support our three excellent principals at P-CEP for

their leadership on creating policy and rules to best serve all of our students at The Park."

Isabelle Shavrnock, Salem junior, uses the gender neutral bathroom in Canton every day. "I like going where I'm comfortable and where it feels really nice."

However, other students at the Park do not want these bathrooms. In response to a Twitter poll conducted by The Perspective, when asked "Should P-CEP offer gender-neutral bathrooms?" 63 percent of 989 voters said no.

In response to the poll, Plymouth senior Brennan Brooks said, "No. You are either male or female."

Canton senior Razeen Karim said, "Using a bathroom designated for whatever genitalia you have isn't difficult."

Colin Urbaczewski, a Salem senior, said, "I'm sorry, but you are either XX or XY. Set and done."

Other voters supported P-CEP offering gender neutral bathrooms. Canton junior Syd West replied to the poll: "Yes, there is a whole group of people who identify as neither male or female or even both, and having gender neutral bathrooms would provide them with a safe, comfortable area for them to do their business."

Plymouth junior Brielle Catrinar said, "Everyone who voted no needs to seriously check themselves like wow are you kidding me."

The Park is introducing these gender-

neutral bathrooms as other states, like North Carolina, pass laws that state people must use the bathroom that corresponds with the person's gender assigned at birth. According to The Detroit News, the Michigan Department of Education is recommending that schools allow students to use bathrooms that have "alternative and non-stigmatizing" options, like gender-neutral or single-user bathrooms, but also said that those should not be the only options.

According to The Detroit Free Press, state senator Tom Casperson is going to introduce legislation for the state of Michigan that would have students use the bathroom that corresponds to the gender the student was assigned at birth. This would rival the suggested policy of the Michigan Department of Education, which suggests that transgender students would be able to choose their pronouns and which bathroom in which they would be most comfortable.

Should P-CEP offer gender-neutral bathrooms?



989 votes • Final results

5/4/16, 10:12 AM

Illustration by Robyn Apley







Photo by Claire Heise

President Barack Obama speaks to a crowd of over 1,000 Flint residents and journalists at Northwestern High School. At the event, President Obama addressed the issue of Flint's lead contaminated water supply, promising the people of Flint that he would make sure their water supply is safe to drink, safe to cook with and safe to bathe in.

# Obama visits Flint to discuss water crisis

by **Claire Heise**  
Staff Writer

On Wednesday, May 4, President Barack Obama landed in Flint in response to the people's outcries and protests over the lead-poisoned water supply in Flint. President Obama was greeted by Governor Rick Snyder and Flint's mayor Karen Weaver. President Obama was then escorted over to Northwestern High School where he sat at a round table with fellow Flint residents to hear their experiences with the crisis. At the round table, he met Amariyanna (Mari) Copeny, also known as Little Miss Flint. The eight-year-old wrote President Obama a letter saying that she would love to meet the Obama family when she traveled to D.C.; instead, Obama came to her.

"I didn't even know he was going to write back," Mari told MLive. "To get so many letters from kids that he can't even write back to them but he only wrote back to me." Before the President made his appearance in front of over 1,000 people in the gymnasium of Northwestern High, Governor Snyder approached the stage to a chorus of boos from the audience. Snyder could hardly get a word out and was then quickly escorted off of the stage.

Next, Mayor Weaver came on stage and was greeted by shouts and cheers from the audience. Mayor Weaver spoke about the suf-

fering of the Flint residents and although the water is filtered, there's a possibility that it's still not safe to drink. She touched base on the businesses and homes being shut down due to the crisis, and that the citizens of Flint need to do what's necessary to get safe, clean, drinking water.

Later in the event, the president requested a glass of water. He had a glass of filtered Flint water during the round table meeting, which was captured by photographers from all around Michigan, but having him do it in front of well over 1,000 people was a sight for Flint citizens to see.

Rachel Quigley, a Salem junior, said, "I think it's great that Obama drank the filtered water; it helps show that he's with the citizens of Flint. Even though he's definitely not going through this problem at the same extent, he knows this is a really big issue and wants to do anything he can to help the citizens know he stands with them."

When President Obama came out, the whole room was filled with energy. Obama reassured the people of Flint about the diligent efforts that he and his people in Washington are making in order to fix the crisis, "I also wanted to come here, though, to tell you that I've got your back (and) that we're paying attention...I will not rest, and

I'm going to make sure that the leaders, at every level of government, don't rest until every drop of water that flows to your homes are safe to drink and safe to cook with, and safe to bathe in — because that's part of the basic responsibilities of a government in the United States of America."

Many parents around Flint are worried about what the water will do their children; since their bodies are still developing, the tainted water can affect their growth, impair function of blood cells and cause learning disabilities. With two children himself, President Obama related very closely to the frustration and anger from the Flint parents, and he encouraged the parents of children who have been exposed to lead water to take advantage of Medicaid and go get their children checked: "We're getting everybody as a village looking out for every child, making sure that they're getting checked out, making sure they've got pediatric care, making sure they're being tested effectively, making sure then that they're getting nutritious food."

As the President stood on stage and finished his speech, he said; "God bless you. God bless Flint. God bless Michigan. God bless the United States of America."

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# Tampon sales tax could cease to exist

by **Benjamin Henderson**  
Opinion Editor

What do groceries, prescription drugs, farm equipment and newspapers have in common? All are exempt from Michigan's sales tax. The question, according to Michigan state Representative Sarah Roberts of St. Clair Shores, is why we are still taxing items that are medically necessary for so many of our citizens?

Earlier this year, Roberts introduced two bills designed to ease what she feels to be an unfair financial burden placed on half of our state's citizens. The first bill would eliminate the Michigan's six percent sales tax on tampons and other feminine products; the second would create an initiative to provide free tampons and sanitary napkins in public schools and state buildings.

Many students around the Park remain enthusiastic about both bills. Ashlyn McAnn, Plymouth senior, said

that, while it would be amazing if feminine products were provided in public restrooms, she did not think that such a bill was realistic. She referenced the stigma many young girls experience asking their friends for tampons or pads; she said that public availability would alleviate many of these problems. "After all," she said, "you never know when it's gonna come."

Jessica Kane published an article with the Huffington Post in 2015 claiming that the average American woman spends \$18,171 over the average 39 years of menstruation before the onset of menopause. This includes birth control and other feminine hygiene products. Of this, a six percent sales tax would rack up a total of more than \$1,000 paid in taxes over those 39 years.

Roberts' first bill, aimed at eliminating the sales tax

on feminine products, has gained wide bipartisan support among the Michigan House of Representatives. However, even by her own account, the bill to provide free tampons and sanitary napkins in public schools has yet to pick up the same momentum.

State Representative Kristy Pagan of Canton was not very optimistic about either bill. During a visit to speak to P-CEP's Real Representatives club, Pagan told students that although she fully supported both bills and admired Representative Roberts' efforts, she made it clear that she thought there was "little chance for either bill to pass." She cited the lack of adequate support in a state government dominated by the GOP.

# IASA show spotlights wide variety of colorful dances

by **Ashley Hegener**  
Editor-in-Chief



Photo courtesy of Priya Mathews

IASA members perform the Bhangra dance at the Gloria Logan Auditorium.

This year's IASA show not only had several traditional dances, modern dances and colorful costumes, but featured a dance done in the dark with glow sticks and Frisbees that were tossed into the audience.

The IASA performers had been preparing and rehearsing for weeks before the show on April 29. "At times (learning the choreography was difficult), but once you get it down it becomes a second nature, said Shahar Naqvi, Salem senior and a dancer in the show. The show featured traditional dances such as bhangra, South Indian and raas.

"I went because a lot of people always talked about how fun it is to watch the dances and how energetic the crowd is," said Danya Raza, Canton senior.

With the Gloria Logan Auditorium being so full, many of the audience members stood in the balcony to watch.

The energy in the room was electric. There was constant cheering, even when a dance or the dancers were being announced. The performers were just as energetic as the crowd, constantly dancing and running across the stage, rarely pausing to take a breath.

Canton senior Samiha Akbari said, "The best part about being in the show is really getting to work with a bunch of different people and getting really close with those people. It's definitely an experience that I think everyone should take part in and do once in their high school experience."

# Perspective reporter testifies for Senate Bill

by **Emmanuel Jones**  
Editor-in-Chief

Senate Bill 848, a four-page bill designed to protect student publications from prior review by administration and retaliatory student disciplinary actions, will now advance to the senate floor after passing in committee, where the bill is expected to pass.

Giving testimony in favor of the bill in committee was Jeremy Steele, a representative of the Michigan Interscholastic Press Association (MIPA), which supports student journalism programs from all over Michigan, Frank LoMonte, on behalf of the Student Press Law Center (SPLC) and Chris Robbins, a Sports Editor from the Perspective. Robbins was the only student journalist invited to testify at the hearing, stating his own personal experience involving a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request directed at the Plymouth-Canton Community School district in early December.

"I feel that journalists should have every right to publish what they want and not be in fear of punishment when expressing their own ideas," said Robbins. "Censorship of ideas has turned a lot of high school journalists away from involving themselves in newspaper programs, which should not be the case."

Senator Rick Jones, a Republican from Grand Ledge, who serves as the chairman of the judiciary committee, served as one at the sponsors of the bill along a multitude of different senators from all across the state. Jones, Patrick Colbeck, a Republican from Canton, and Steve Bieda, a Democrat from Warren, all voted in favor of passing the bill during the judiciary committee vote, along with two other senators, Tonya Schuitmaker, a Republican from Allegan and Tory Rocca, a Republican from Sterling Heights.

Speaking solely in opposition was Bob Kefgef, a representative of the Michigan Association of Secondary School Principals (MASSP).

One of the main goals of the bill was to show how student journalism promotes civic awareness by students. LoMonte's speech focused on how he and the SPLC have helped students be more civically aware of problems with student journalist programs by encouraging the passing of New Voices and Civic Readiness Acts across the country. As many as 20 states, including Missouri, Rhode Island and Maryland, which are home to colleges with prominent journalism schools, have already started campaigns that support the cause of more student journalist rights.

LoMonte said, "A survey of 900 high school journalists in Missouri and Kansas found that students whose schools encouraged inquiry into contemporary issues reported significantly higher levels of civic efficacy – the ability to use media to make

social and political change – than students whose schools discouraged the discussion of issues of public concern."

Steele, a long-time journalism professor at Michigan State University, has been advocating for students rights for several years across the state.

Steele said, "This bill balances the responsibility of public school officials to protect students from harm with the vital need to educate young people about the importance of the Constitution and the benefits of being civically engaged through journalism."

Steele is hopeful that the bill will be passed by the senate and house, and potentially signed by the governor.



Photo by Freda Robbins

Perspective reporter Chris Robbins testifies in favor of Senate Bill 848, along with MIPA representative Jeremy Steele.

# Perspective staff claims awards at MIPA

Staff members of P-CEP's student newspaper, The Perspective, claimed 16 awards at the Michigan Interscholastic Press Association (MIPA) Spring Conference. These 16 awards included one first place award, four second place awards, one third place award and 10 honorable mentions, which are rewarded to students who place in the top six in the division.

Canton senior Robyn Apley placed first in the Editorial Cartoon category for her cartoon, "Gay Marriage." Apley also placed first in the Editorial Cartoon category last year.

Salem seniors Genevieve St. Jean and Chris Robbins placed second in the News Story category for their story, "District charges student big bucks for emails." St. Jean also placed second in the Editorial category with her story, "District should be more transparent," and Robbins placed second in the Online Follow-Up News Coverage category with his story, "FOIA request sparks widespread response." Canton senior Jared Stephens received second place in the Personality Profile category with his story, "Humans of P-CEP: Lorenzo Sigmon, chess player."

P-CEP competed against 19 schools in Division 1 on April 21, and MIPA processed a total of 4,303 entries from high school newspapers and yearbooks across the state.

For the full list of award winners, go to the website at [www.the-perspective.tk](http://www.the-perspective.tk).



Photo by Leola Gee

David Wang, Genevieve St. Jean, Hannah Saad, Claire Heise, Khadega Mohammed, Amy O'Brien, Natasha Pietruschka and Ashley Hegener attend the MIPA conference.

## What's going on @ the Park?

### P-CEP International Taste Fest

What: Hospitality/Culinary Arts classes will provide food from around the world. Profits will be donated to charity

Where: Salem Cafeteria

When: May 20 from 6:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m.

Cost: \$10 in advance, \$13 at the door

### Park Players present "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown"

Where: Canton Little Theater

When: May 20 and 21 at 7 p.m.

Cost: \$10

### K-12 District Art Show

When: May 21 from 11:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Where: Plymouth H.S.

Cost: \$5 per family

### Spoken Word Show

When: May 24 at 7 p.m.

Where: Canton Little Theater

### Memorial Day: No school for grades K-12

When: May 30

### Last day for graduating seniors

When: June 2

### Prom

When: June 3 from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m.

### Finals for grades 9-11

When: June 14-16

### Final Report Cards mailed

When: June 24



# Whose business is your business?

by **Ben Henderson**  
Opinion Editor

Everybody needs to use the bathroom. As far as I am aware, there are no exceptions to this rule. Three gender neutral bathrooms have been opened at P-CEP, one at each school. This should not be controversial. In fact, these bathrooms should be the very definition of a non-issue. The fact that such a simple measure to provide for the safety and comfort of students while they facilitate a biological necessity has been met with such resistance is a sad reflection of our society's intolerance of anything beyond the heterosexual, cisgendered norm.

Gender neutral or unisex bathrooms are nothing new. In fact, you probably have one in your very own home, or at least a unisex corner in your cave. Calling them "gender neutral" is a simple step to make the option of using them more inviting to LGBTQIA+ students who would be harassed or otherwise be made uncomfortable in

gendered bathrooms.

On a Twitter poll put up by The Perspective, 63 percent answered that P-CEP should not offer gender neutral bathrooms. Ironically, of these 63 percent, gender neutral bathrooms affect approximately 0 percent. The bathrooms are out of the way and have absolutely nothing to do with cisgendered, heterosexual students at the Park.

The controversy goes far beyond the Plymouth-Canton community. Following the introduction of new initiatives by the Department of Education to protect LGBTQIA+ students in accordance with the 1972 Education Amendment Title IX, America has seen a sudden surge of concern for who uses what bathroom and what they have between their legs.

North Carolina even went so far as to require that their citizens use the bathrooms that correspond to the gender they were assigned at birth.

The legislation, championed by their governor, goes so far as to block local governments from passing their own laws regarding bathroom use. Similar legislation has been introduced in Michigan by State Senator Tom Casperson. With these laws has come a rash of harassment, both from police officers and self styled genital vigilantes.

All of this controversy sheds a fundamental light on our society's fear of what lies beyond Adam and Eve, the dark space in between the poles of an invented binary that we so desperately cling to. Whether a person is passing or non-passing trans, intersex, non-binary or just uncomfortable using gendered bathrooms, they deserve to be able to go to school without being harassed or made to feel uncomfortable about any aspect of their gender or sexuality.

It is no coincidence that LGBTQIA+ teens have the highest rates of both suicide and homelessness out of any

demographic in our country. These statistics are a direct result of a broad social pattern of stigmatization and violence, both at home and in public. The Michigan Department

of Education's initiative and our own district's complicity with it is the exact opposite of a problem. However insurmountably small, it is still a step in the right direction.



Illustration by Madelyn Gynn

# The true meaning behind the separation of church and state

by **Miriam Sponsler**  
Editor-in-Chief

Living in America for most of my life, I have been exposed to all sorts of different religions and beliefs. It's one of the things I love most about this country. Because we have freedom of religion, given to us in the First Amendment, we have the right to practice whatever religion we choose, if any at all. With all of these different belief systems, it's surprising that we have been able to keep faith out of the government for so long. How were we able to do this? We misinterpreted the founding fathers, protecting the state from the church rather than the church from the state.

The Constitution states, "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof." It seems pretty self explanatory. Congress is not allowed to force a religion onto anyone, create a national religion or prohibit someone from freely practicing what he or she believes. The law really is that straightforward. But some people have turned it into something far beyond what the founding fathers intended. In fact, the phrase "separation of church and state" never appears in the Constitution. It was introduced by Baptists that strived for religious toleration in Virginia, whose official state religion was, at the time, Anglican. James Madison and Thomas Jefferson heard their cause and added an interpretation of this to the Constitution.

Congress has no business interjecting in something as local as doctrines of faith. They were forbidden to promote one denomination over another, or harness politics onto the church. Faith is not a civil contract, it is a personal decision that should not be corrupted or influenced by politics. However, this does not mean that public figures should be discouraged from displaying what they believe and why. The government does not need to be protected from the church because with all of the different practiced religions we have in this country, it is unlikely that one would be able to take full power and overthrow the government. However, the church must be protected because time and time again, the court punishes someone for exercising his or her "freedom" of religion, as seen in Reynolds v. United States and Everson v. Board of Education.

George Washington said, "Religion and morality are indispensable supports, for it is impossible to rightly govern the world without God and the Bible." Our first president recognized how vital religion was to a working country, and just like Madison and Jefferson, wanted to protect the religious freedom of the American people. They also knew that if the government was allowed to get involved with religion, there would be tyranny. Most of the Constitution was intended to prevent dictatorship

and monarchy and promote a strong democracy. This is why they prohibited Congress from creating a national church, because that much concentrated power would have led to the problems the framers were trying to get away from.

The separation of church and state was never intended to protect the state from the church, but the church from the state. The intention was not to ban prayer in schools, rip off crosses from public places or forbid public worship. The founding fathers recognized the important role faith plays in society and encouraged everyone to practice their beliefs. If it's not offensive for a state senator to hang up a picture of his or her favorite sports team, it shouldn't be offensive for that same person to hang up a crucifix. A football team praying before a big game shouldn't be seen as breaking the law, unless the coach is forcing it upon each player. Giving kids the option of publicly displaying their beliefs should be encouraged, not banned.

The way this law has been interpreted defeats the whole reason why it was created in the first place, and discourages people like myself from being proud of what I believe in. It has made me fear that doing something as simple as wearing a crucifix around my neck will be seen as offensive and could eventually become illegal.



# Water Wars: How far is too far?

by **Ally Schwinke**  
Photo Editor

The annual P-CEP Water Wars has been growing. This year there were 96 senior teams that signed up. Now the question is, is that too much? Since each player pays \$10 to enter, that means there is A LOT of money on the line and I believe all that money has taken away the fun of the game.

I have heard of way too many instances where teams are cheating, lying, arguing and threatening other teams. Many have forgotten that this is supposed to be a fun game for seniors to all come together for one last hooray, not an actual war where people argue and try to sabotage each other.

Water Wars is for seniors to have fun and carry on the tradition. It is not supposed to

be a competition for people to make cash. The money is just a little motivation for people to get out there; it is not there so people can take it more seriously.

Now I am definitely not saying I am against Water Wars, because it really can be extremely fun. First, the team names are absolutely hilarious and so creative. Then you have the opportunity to meet people that you may have never seen before that go to your same school. You also have the pleasure of hardcore stalking to find where people live, work, hangout or even where their girlfriend's cousin's best friend lives - whatever it takes to get that person out.

But when people run away

right before getting their "Time Of Death" picture taken, refuse to admit they are out, hide in their house the entire time or pay someone to give them the address to someone's house, that is when the fun of the game gets taken away.

I believe that all of this cheating mainly happens because people really want to win that money. The amount of money that is rewarded has taken the fun out of the game. Some people are getting way too worked up about all of it and taking it way too seriously. So, now the question is, how do we get the fun back into the game? It is up to your class to figure that out or else the Water Wars tradition may not be a tradition any longer.



## Letters to the Editor

### Class sizes should be reduced

In recent years, I have noticed that a lot of my classes have around 35 students. Having that many students in one classroom can be very difficult for students who have ADD or ADHD. Since these students already have a hard time focusing, a large number of students in a class could be detrimental to their learning ability.

Also, there are students who have anxiety disorders and who are afraid to be in big crowds. I believe it is very important to take the mental health of students into consideration whilst deciding class size.

I know it is very hard to reduce class size at P-CEP considering there are approximately 6,000 students who attend the schools. However, I, along with other students I have asked, believe that

there is not enough staff in ratio to the number of students. Perhaps if more teachers were hired, there could be a significant reduction in the amount of students who are in a class.

Not only are large classes a struggle for students, but for teachers as well. I feel as though it would be very hard for teachers to keep 35+ students on track and focused on the material. With fewer students, teachers would be able to focus more on students as individuals, which would impact students' grades. Reducing class size would benefit both students and teachers, so it's a win/win situation.

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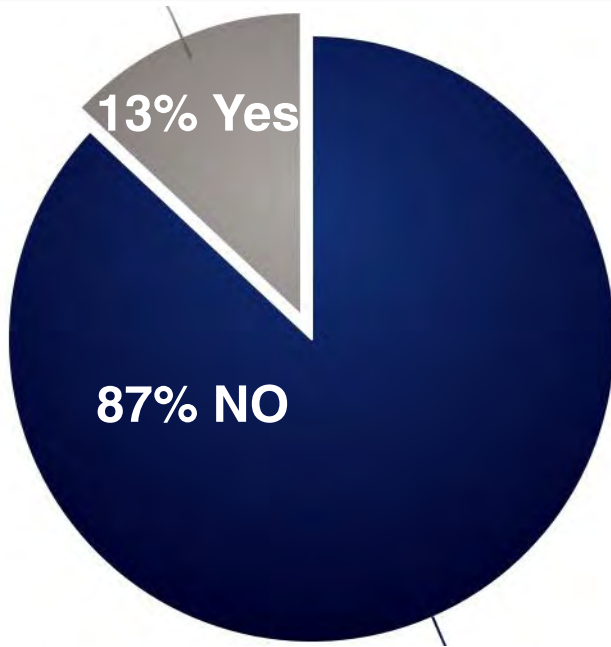
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This data was taken from a Perspective Twitter poll, in which 54 P-CEP students participated.

## Point-Counterpoint:

# Is the sexual education system in Michigan adequate?

by **Natasha Pietruschka**  
Art Director

It may be time to revisit “the birds and the bees” - after all, spring has arrived! Michigan, and more specifically the Plymouth-Canton school district, has remained rather stagnant on their current level of sexual education in public schooling. Though an abstinence-based program is highly stressed in Michigan, individual districts essentially make the decision on which method to teach. The Plymouth-Canton school district has maintained a traditional view on relationships, but with society ever-evolving, these methods seem to be outdated.

Sexual education at the high school level merely skims the surface over a very complicated and personal topic. The state of Michigan requires teaching about HIV and STDs, but most schools don't go beyond that. Furthermore, clinical abortion cannot be considered a method of family planning, nor can abortion be taught as a method of reproductive health. The Plymouth-Canton school district holds a high image of themselves, and teaching anything other than pro-abstinence can be seen as a disservice.

Many argue that such intimate subjects should be taught at home, but for those who do not receive this information from their parents, public schools are a resourceful outlet. The district even offers a sexual education advisory board, where members of the community can participate by discussing the extent of these policies.

With this in mind, a student's awareness of the consequences and effects of sexual activity should be a priority, but the case isn't always so. Some health teachers in the district avoid the subject because of a lack of comfort, leaving students uninformed of certain risks. In response, many

students have complained about the insufficiency of their health classes.

“I've learned more about reproduction in Honors Zoology than in health,” said Natalie George, Canton senior.

At our current rate, skimming over the subject isn't doing anyone a favor. European countries like the Netherlands are eliminating the taboo by starting these discussions at young ages - even at the age of four! Modern times are calling for a system that goes beyond strict abstinence and disease prevention. While abstinence is the only 100 percent proven method of pregnancy prevention, an abstinence-only curriculum leaves kids who are already sexually active in the dark about how to protect themselves and their partners. Conversations about contraceptives are briefly, if even, discussed.

“I've been through health three times through middle school, high school and biology and I still don't understand what birth control does to my body,” said Canton sophomore Sam Flucht. “Kids are going to have sex, and they aren't going to know what to do.”

Stepping outside the Plymouth-Canton community, in 2014, Kalamazoo County's STD rate rose 27 percent, nearly doubling the statewide average.

Change begins with acknowledging a problem. It would be absurd to send someone on the road without taking driver's education, so why is sexual education treated any differently? Curriculums should be comprehensive, evidence-based and LGBT-inclusive. These methods only encourage awareness, not reckless behavior.

by **Janet Nava**  
Staff Writer

Abstinence. The word we all associate with sex-ed, along with some snot-nosed lady droning on about how everybody should wait to lose his or her virginity. Although this may come across as another boring lesson that everybody thinks they know about, they really don't. Abstinence can work, has worked and continues to work.

Of course, most of the teenage population would disagree with me, for we all have friends who have been or are sexually active; however, the teaching of abstinence is essential to students. Let's face the facts; high school students are too young to be sexually active. Teaching students how to wait until after higher-levels of education or even until marriage is better than teaching them to go ahead and be sexually active at the young ages between 14 and 18.

The sexual education in Michigan teaches students the dangers of participating in sexual activities and that waiting until they are physically mature is a chance for fewer risks; this is better than advertising to students different ways to participate in sexual activities and letting parents go over their own religious and social beliefs with their children.

If sexual education went any further, then students would be required for a grade to learn things that could go against their religious teachings. Going over the heads of parents is the last thing the Michigan school districts need right now, so keeping safe with the abstinence education is the best fit for everybody.

What's even more controversial is the idea and action of showing students STD ridden genitalia. Sex-ed lessons that are required to show

students pictures of infected private parts can be highly offensive to students and parents, despite having the family already signing the waiver or permission slip.

Using the scare tactic for teenagers is not the most effective solution. Teenagers are deviant and end up doing things out of spite, or because they were told they shouldn't. Trying to gross them out or telling them that they'll get pregnant will cause students to roll their eyes at the educators anyways. So instead of showing them, they should be taught ways to practice abstinence.

Overall, learning about sex is a tricky situation, and talking about it can even get worse and more awkward when you're required to be surrounded by peers. There is absolutely no need to make it worse with permission slips or waivers to allow students to learn how to participate in sexual activities. The sex-ed program, therefore, should stay so students and parents will not get offended, nor run the risk of causing or advertising to students to participate in sexual activities.

Nowadays, students see everything sexualized in the media, so with the sex-ed classes taught here, abstinence is the best way to teach them to look the other way from participating in sex before higher education or marriage.

For more discussion on hot topics, visit our online opinion section at [the-perspective.tk!](http://the-perspective.tk)

# Have no fear: GMOs are not a threat

by **Lauren Flynn**  
Photo Editor



If you've been in a grocery store in the past few years, and I'm certain that you have, then you've seen the shelves set to the side of other grocery items boasting their claims that they are “organic” and “non-GMO” and implying that they are healthier and of higher quality than the rest of the products in the store. Not only are these products more expensive than the rest of the items in stores, they are causing unnecessary fear of genetically modified food.

Foods containing genetically modified ingredients, or GMOs, are often portrayed as unsafe science experiments that will cause cancer and other diseases if eaten regularly. These claims are eaten up by “foodies” looking to stay healthy because it is easy to assume that foods that have been bioengineered are dangerous if you don't know much about them.

So what are GMOs, really? Genetically engineered foods are the result of selectively manipulating genes of an organism's DNA to control traits and characteristics of that organism. Scientists can add one or more genes to an organism's genome to achieve the desired

traits.

Very little evidence has been published to support claims that GMOs cause cancer. In fact, one controversial study published by Food and Chemical Toxicology was recently discredited and retracted, leaving even less evidence for these claims.

The general scientific consensus is that GMO foods are not harmful to humans, and there have been a number of success stories and cases where certain crop industries were salvaged by genetic engineering.

For instance, in the 1990s Hawaii's papaya industry was falling apart as the deadly ringspot virus was taking over the crop. There was and is still no organic way to fight this virus, so scientists genetically made a breed of the papaya which was resistant to the virus. Today, about 80 percent of Hawaii's papayas are genetically engineered.

So if GMOs aren't dangerous, then why are people pushing for mandatory labeling of GMO foods? Consumers fight for this

labeling because they want to know what is in the food they are eating, but more importantly, companies involved in the organic food industry want to keep GMOs a controversial topic because there is money to be made. By keeping the fear of GMO foods alive, companies are able to charge extra for their non-GMO foods, claiming that they are safer and healthier. If consumers as a whole were to realize that GMOs are safe and that non-GMO foods offer no added benefits, these companies would no longer be able to charge these high prices.

Mandatory labeling of GMO foods is unnecessary and causes more harm than good. Labeling foods with GMOs will strengthen the stigma that they are unsafe, because the indicating labels will come across as warning labels to consumers. GMOs are safe, but should continue to be tested and regulated on a case to case basis to ensure that standards are met and research is furthered.

# Welfare reform needed

by **Alec Middleton**  
Staff Writer



As a part of the New Deal created by former President Franklin Roosevelt, a national welfare was initiated in 1935. Since then, several million people in America have been greatly helped by the benefits that welfare offers. I think that the idea of welfare is great and it is a must-have for our society to prosper and keep poverty levels from getting too high. However, I feel like some reform should be made so that people providing the help for the less fortunate aren't being screwed out of their own money by people who misuse it.

First of all, I think that a drug test should be implemented in order for people to receive their welfare checks. If people are using their welfare money just to buy illegal drugs then it is a huge waste of the taxpayer money. If we were to remove drug abusers from state financial aid it could greatly decrease how much states have to give to their citizens. According to [welfareinfo.org](http://welfareinfo.org), one of the requirements for welfare recipients is

to be drug free; however, only 15 states enforce this rule. If a rule required welfare recipients to be drug free, the likelihood of people avoiding the use of illegal drugs would be greater. I believe that people will make better choices if they are truly in need of getting a welfare check. This can stem from maintaining a job, avoiding illegal drugs or balancing their own budget. Each have a substantial amount of benefits in helping people succeed.

One may argue that it's unconstitutional for people to be drug tested because it's against the Fourth Amendment which protects citizens from unreasonable search and seizure. Also, some feel it is discriminatory against poor people and an attempt for the rich to keep their money. Actually, I think that it is a reasonable request for people to be given drug tests. If they want to be given money by the government then they should be cleared by the government. It's not like the government

is searching your house or personal belongings without a reason; instead it's a precautionary measure to ensure that people will do good things with the benefits they are being given. In regards to the viewpoint that it is discriminatory to the poor, I think that is a weak argument for this instance because the taxpayer money is meant to be helpful for people who need welfare checks, not a bad thing. It's quite simple; if they really need the money then they will not do illegal drugs and if they're an addict then they can seek help by using their welfare money wisely.

In addition to drug testing, I think there should be some reform by checking up on people who are out of work. The people who are fully capable to work should be given six months or so to find a job that can get them some money to get off welfare or at least be better off than they previously were and still have welfare. I don't think it's greedy for people to be concerned about how

their hard earned money is being used. Personally, if I work hard for my money I don't want it going to some lazy person who doesn't want to get a job when they are fully capable of working. I have no problem being taxed and having that money be given to veterans, children or people incapable of working because they truly need it.

Do I think welfare should go away? Absolutely not. Do I think that there needs to be some reform so that taxpayers aren't giving money to people who will abuse the welfare system? Yes. It is crucial that we voice for some reform in the near future and the best time is to do it now during the presidential election season. If it becomes a big enough topic, some change may be made to help all citizens.



# Hunt retires: Story-based Spanish not available next year

by **Hamoudy Turfe**  
Staff Writer

Learning a foreign language is arguably one of the hardest things in the world. Salem Spanish teacher Kathy Hunt has always wanted to tap into the brain's ability to acquire languages in order to make it easier for students. About 13 years into her career she founded Teaching Proficiency through Reading and Storytelling (TPRS). It is a creative way of teaching languages through repetition of useful phrases and vocabulary in a story, one of the oldest ways to learn. She calls her classes "Story-based Spanish" to clarify how the language is taught.

Hunt is planning to retire at the end of this school year. As a result, Story-based Spanish will no longer be offered.

Salem senior Davis Reich is one student who finds Hunt's TPRS teaching method helpful. He said, "I've been in Story-based Spanish with Señora Hunt every year of high school and it has been an absolute pleasure. I've made a lot of friends in her class, learned a lot, and laughed a lot. At first the class was difficult because it's so unique compared to 'regular' Spanish, but it revolves around speaking, which helped my skills grow and I was even able to utilize my Spanish in México to my advantage. I'm going to miss the class, Señora, and my classmates."

Hunt has been teaching for 25 years. She has been teaching Story-based Spanish for 11 years. Story based Spanish officially became a class in 2005-06.

Story-based Spanish is Hunt's version of getting students to learn the principles of Spanish without having to memorize difficult vocab-

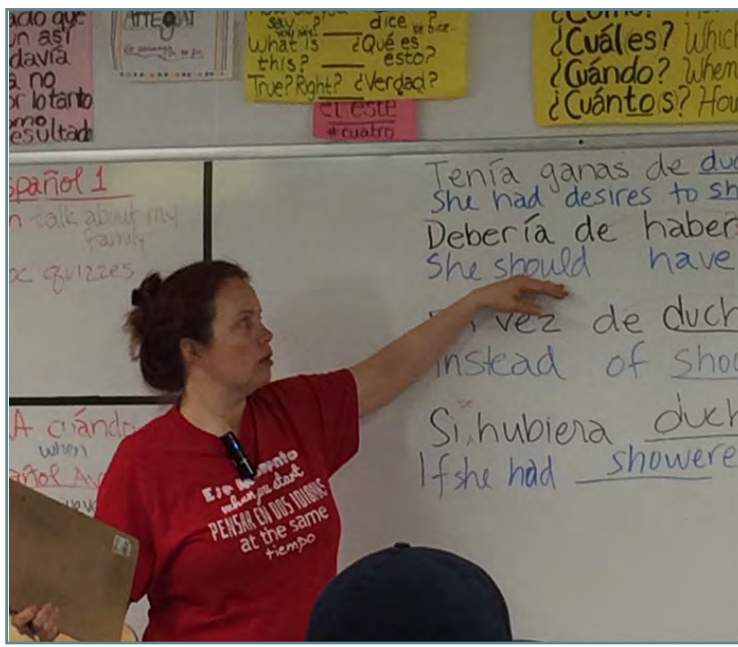


Photo by Hamoudy Turfe

Kathy Hunt teaches her Story-Based Spanish class, which will not be available next year as Hunt is retiring.

ulary, which is often quickly forgotten, or stress out about long tests.

As the class is ending, students reflect on how Story-based Spanish has helped them to learn the language. Mitchell King, Salem senior and a three-year student of Hunt's, said, "I've loved taking Story-based Spanish because I never had to worry about memorizing unnecessary vocabulary like in normal Spanish classes. I was able to focus on improving my personal Spanish speaking skills."

Hunt's main objective is to make her students comfortable with speaking, reading and hearing Spanish in class by repeating common expressions in all these formats. Students learn new vocabulary every week and then create a story using that same vocabulary as a class. The goal at the end of the week is for every student to be able to write their own version of the story that was told in class while using the same vocabulary.

Also in Story-based Spanish, students must attempt to speak nothing but Spanish for the entire class period. Hunt's classroom is a very interactive and fun environment when students choose to participate.

I.B Mourad, Salem senior and a two-year student of Hunt's, said, "Story-based Spanish has been a great experience for me. I have learned so much Spanish in these last two years. I have also been able to improve my writing and speaking skills tremendously."

When asked about her future plans, Hunt said, "I am not done making a difference in this world. Being a Spanish teacher was my first dream job. Now, I think it would be fun to be a children's author or a medical translator."

# Real Reps concert raises money for scholarships

by **Benjamin Henderson**  
Opinion Editor

P-CEP's Real Representatives club hosted a benefit concert to raise money for two underprivileged seniors set to attend college in the fall. By the end of the night, \$2,100 had been collected as well as \$625 donated to an ongoing online fundraiser on [youcaring.com/thereal-reps](http://youcaring.com/thereal-reps).

The club is paying out a total of \$2,400 in scholarships. \$1,800 is being awarded to Destiny McDonald, a senior at Detroit's Cody Academy of Public Leadership. An additional \$600 is going to a senior at Godwin Heights in Grand Rapids named Audreyana Simms, who is interested in pursuing a career in social work.

The show began at 7 p.m. and took place inside Plymouth Arts and Recreation Complex, the building that was formerly known as Central Middle School. An admission of \$10 was collected at the door.

Natalie Rogers, Plymouth senior and president of the Real Reps, said that she was "beyond excited for tonight," referring to the event as "the culmination of a year of effort."

Performers included local bands The Howells and The Ugly Cherries. The show also saw the debut of the duo Honey Punch made up of Salem senior Madelyn Gunn and Canton junior Tara Nichols. A martial arts demonstration was given by brothers Tom and Scott Green, Salem freshman and Salem junior respectively, advertising for a self defense course they are jointly teaching this summer. Plymouth senior Mackenzie Grosse, who appeared in the Park Players' production of "Nice Work if You Can Get It," also gave a rendition of the song "Remember Me."

The night was rounded off by Salem junior Savannah Reibert's performance of "House of Gold," during which performers and organizers took the stage to thank the audience, finishing the concert on a touching note.

Amanda Williams, local resident and mother of two, said the night "was an opportunity to watch a showcase of talented teenagers put on for a great cause."



Photo by Beckett Watson

Natalie Rogers, president of the Real Reps club, performs onstage at the benefit concert.

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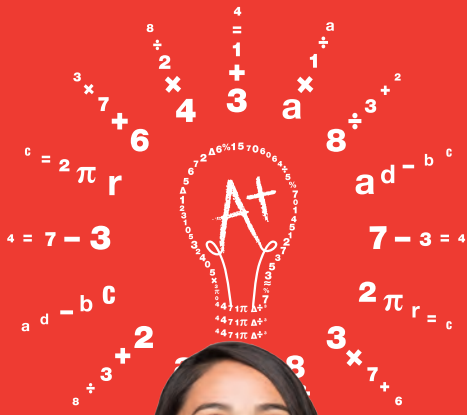
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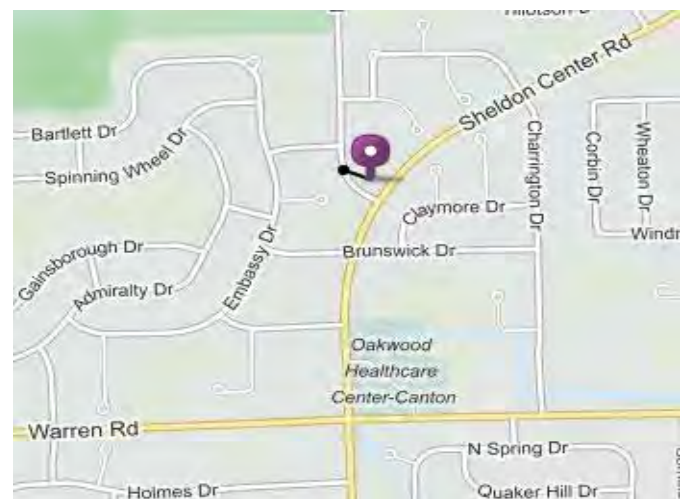
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**Quick Hits:****Achievements at the Park**

**Canton** senior Rachel Dickson placed third in the National Gymnastics meet

**Salem** senior Chaz Jeffress set the P-CEP two mile record at 9:08.54

**Salem** Senior Jannik Schmitt set the P-CEP record for shot put at 57 ft 7 in

**Plymouth** Junior Nolan Ouellette broke the boys lacrosse record for goals in a season

**Salem** Girls Varsity Softball team set the record for most consecutive out-of-the-park home runs in one inning at four

**Plymouth** junior Jack Boczar set the P-CEP boys golf 18 hole record at 66

# Chiefs conquer Wildcats

by **Jordan Anheuser**  
Staff Writer

## Plymouth and Canton battle it out on the varsity soccer field

Photo courtesy of Canton Athletics

The Canton Chiefs Varsity Girls Soccer team faced the Plymouth Wildcats on their home field and after a long 80 minutes, filled with yellow cards and controversial calls, the Chiefs emerged victorious with a 3-1 win over the Wildcats.

Junior forward for the Chiefs, Hannah Lapko said of the May 5 game, "It was a team effort. Everyone worked hard."

Despite the final score, Plymouth wasted no time getting down to business. In the first two minutes of play, Plymouth raced down the field to gain a corner. The ball was well played, bounced around in the box and was played back towards an open Plymouth sophomore Hailey Melnick, who shot the ball to the upper left corner of the net for a nice goal.

No more than 12 minutes later, the Chiefs tied up the score with a one touch shot by Canton senior Casey Muglia. The game continued to go back and forth, each team fighting for possession of the ball. With 15 minutes left in the first half the Chiefs had another scoring opportunity with a corner kick. Senior Mary Galm sent the ball in, and it landed at the feet of junior Sarah

Willet, who shot it in for another goal past Plymouth goalkeeper Rebecca Przybylo.

The first half ended with the Chiefs up by one goal.

With both teams desperately wanting to win, the second half started off as a battle. Early in the half the Wildcats were granted a corner kick. Kenna White, Plymouth freshman, fought to touch the ball in the net.

The goal was called back due to a foul she committed. With 13 minutes left in the game, Canton was awarded a controversial penalty kick. Canton junior Raquel Church was chasing down a ball in the box, and as Przybylo came out to collect the ball, Plymouth senior defender Megan McCurry knocked down Church in the box. She received a yellow card as Lapko stepped up to take the shot. Lapko nailed the ball into the



Canton forward Raquel Church challenges Plymouth defender Megan McCurry in front of the net.

right side of the goal, giving the Chiefs a 3-1 lead that would eventually be the final score.

Lapko said, "It feels good to win because we have been so motivated and hardworking. It is nice to still be undefeated." Both teams showed up to play and had a great performance. Canton junior Abby Heyde said, "Madison Archibald played great, she deserves to be mentioned."

For these two Park rivalry teams, a rematch may be in order for districts. But, 80 minutes is a long game and with such determined and talented players on both teams, it could go either way.



Play it for P-CEP winners pose with their trophy. **Top row right to left:** Jamie Crosby, Andrew O'Connor, Jack Ngwe, Mikey Schwartz, Matt Weiner and Mackensie Blair. **Bottom right to left:** Trevor Nowaske, Jason Arnold and Joey Dorigo. **Not pictured:** Gabriella Mazzuca.

Photo courtesy of Caroline Simko

# Students 'Play it for P-CEP'

by **Alec Middleton**  
Staff Writer

More than 150 students from all grades attended the second annual charity co-ed soccer tournament, Play it for P-CEP, on Saturday, April 13.

Event organizer, Salem senior Caroline Simko, started the event last year as a way for P-CEP students and staff to not only have fun but also raise money for the Educational Excellence Foundation, a program that exists to benefit students in Plymouth-Canton Community Schools.

"My friends and I started it last year to begin a charity event for our own that we could continue the next year and other students could continue it on for years," Simko said.

Teams were divided between six and 12 players respectively and the games were held at Independence Park in Canton. A total of

12 teams joined the event, with all skill levels welcome. Brackets were determined based off skill level: beginner, intermediate and advanced. The games were played like actual soccer games with refs present and normal 6v6 rules such as throwing in, corner kicks, penalty shots, and no slide tackling.

Canton senior Austin Carr said, "It was an awesome day for soccer to say the least, with perfect weather and an electric atmosphere. Immediately teams were super excited and amped for the day's festivities. Even though my team didn't do very well, I know we all enjoyed the experience."

When teams had a break, they played music, ate snacks, drank water and cheered on their fellow students.

"Some of the teams who were there just for fun were so funny to

play against and watch," said Sydney Gondek, a Canton senior. "The championship game was intense but the best team came out on top in my opinion."

In the end, the team "Fáke Madrid" pulled out the victory after defeating all four of their opponents.

Salem junior Jack Ngwe said, "It was wicked. We were in a position to where there was a possibility that we wouldn't be in the final. The trophy added more incentive and a drive to win and I felt accomplished."

"The atmosphere was great! Some teams were a lot more experienced than others but I think every team had fun even if their record wasn't the best," Simko said. "I hope that Play it for P-CEP builds popularity and we can get more teams for next year!"



# Player Profiles: *A closer look at P-CEP's athletes*

## Mitch Gonzalez:

*Plymouth Lacrosse, 3rd year on varsity*

**How long have you been playing this sport?**

"I have been playing lacrosse since sixth grade. I played for Canton lacrosse after I quit hockey."

**How did you become interested in your sport?**

"I became interested in the sport when my friends started playing the game. My parents put me in every sport growing up but not lacrosse. I thought it would be fun to try, so I picked up a stick and started playing. My first year was rough learning a new game but I liked it."

**Who's your biggest rival?**

"Personally, I think Northville is our biggest rival. I always look forward to that game but if you ask anyone else they would say the Park teams are our biggest rivals."

**What was your best performance?**

"My best performance is probably against the Park teams. That rivalry usually brings my best game out of me. I love the intensity of the teams during those games."

**How does playing this sport make you feel?**

"Lacrosse is a great sport. There is nothing better than tossing around the marble on the field. Scoring a geno and then pointing at the stands for some dimes. All jokes aside, lacrosse games are always something I looked forward to. On the field I can let loose and unleash the inner animal."

**Do you like being a member of your team/ how does it make you feel? Is it like a family?**

"Lacrosse isn't just a sport of quality lettuce and jaw dropping snipes. It's a great way to bond with the boys. Going into freshman year joining lacrosse was a way for me to connect to the Park. It gives me the feeling of family. I will miss the team camaraderie and the coaches."

**Do you remember your toughest loss? How did you come back from that?**

"This past week I haven't been able to play because of an injury. I had to watch from the sidelines as Ann Arbor Pioneer put up 20 goals on us. We were the better team by far but we didn't



Photo courtesy of Mitch Gonzalez

show up to the game with a good attitude. We had a great practice the next day and are looking forward to our next game."

**Is there anything you do the night before to help you prepare for a game?**

"The night before a game I polish off a box of Velveeta mac and cheese. Helps get the calories in."

**What kind of training do you do to get in shape?**

"I hit up Lifetime fitness after school for the weights during the summer and school year. Pre-season we train as a team. We lift and condition after January."

**What is your goal for this season?**

"My goal for this season is to have a good time with the boys and make it deep into the playoffs. I'm happy to be able to toss around the rock for one last season."

## Madison Archibald:

*Canton Soccer, 3rd year on varsity*

**Are you committed to a university/college or are you interested in recruiting?**

Yes, I am attending Siena Heights University on a soccer scholarship.

**How long have you been playing this sport?**

"I have been playing soccer for as long as I can remember. It's been a part of my life since around the age of 4."

**How did you become interested in your sport?**

"I became interested in this sport from a young age. I participated in as many sports as I could, such as basketball, softball and dance, but the sport that I fell in love with the most was soccer. I just grew up loving the feeling of stepping onto the field and forgetting everything else that didn't matter. The feeling after scoring a goal is unbelievable and nothing can compare. I hope to play as long as my body lets me."

**What was your best performance?**

"My best performance would have to be when we played Hartland this season. Although we tied 1-1, there are some games where you just have endless amounts of energy. That was one of those games. All my passes were spot on, I was getting in strong tackles and it was just overall a strong performance for the entire 80 minutes."

**How does playing make you feel?**

"This sport makes me feel invincible. When I step onto the field all of my worries disappear and I get to do something I love. Scoring goals and being a leader on this team makes you feel so important. I could not imagine life without soccer because it is such a big part of my life."

**Do you like being a member of your team/ how does it make you feel? Is it like a family?**

"I love being a member of my team. They are one big family to me and we always have each other's backs. It makes you feel welcomed and well supported. You know if you make a mistake they are always willing to be there for you. There is no other feeling that being at practice and laughing and having fun while getting better."



Photo courtesy of Madison Archibald

**Do you remember your toughest loss? How did you come back from that?**

"The toughest loss would have to be any loss against Plymouth. Since it's a Park rival game there are always bragging rights at stake. We came back from it by continuing to work hard and push each other at practice."

**Is there anything you do the night before to help you prepare for a game?**

"I drink a lot of water the night before but I'm not very superstitious about anything the night before a game. But on game days I always get either Potbelly or Jimmy John's, and I always put my left sock/shoe/shin guard on first."

**What is your goal for this season?**

"My goal for the season is to play my best every game and help lead my team to winning our division, conference and district."

## Running through life: Salem Track star

by **Michael Adzima**  
Sports Editor

Some high school athletes run so they can get in better shape. Some run because they want the experience of competing in varsity team sports. Salem senior Chaz Jeffress runs for another reason. Running is part of his life, and part of his family.

Chaz has been running since the fourth grade with Hershey's Track & Field Organization. "It was never really a choice I made myself, my entire family has been runners. My dad was an Eastern Michigan alumni and ran for them, so it was always just something I was expected to do," said Jeffress about how he got into running.

Jeffress kept running as he got into high school, joining cross country and track & field for the Salem Rocks. This means he gets to run in the fall and spring. Cross country and track

both require immense skill and stamina, and Jeffress says there are pros and cons to both seasons. "In cross country, the team is smaller and you really bond with the people around you. On a competitive

standpoint, track is definitely more fun. More people, more spectators, and everyone is watching. Track competition is the best," said Jeffress.

Throughout his high school career, he has risen to be one of P-CEP's most prominent runners of all time. He has received All State honors twice and is a six time state qualifier. With all these achievements, Jeffress still has one that he feels stands out above the rest, both in the record books and in his heart, "The one that I'm most proud of at the moment is breaking the Park record in the 5k. It's on the top

of the record board, it's the one everyone sees, and it's the one that I hope stands up there for a long time."

Running for Jeffress comes down to more than the achievements. Running cross country and track has been a part of his life for a long time, and his success seemed to come natural with his family's shared passion for running. Jeffress has found an extended family with the Rocks, as his experiences on both teams have brought him extremely close to his teammates throughout the years. "I've played on football teams, basketball teams, etc., but track and XC are something else," said Jeffress. "There's just something that happens there that creates huge, long lasting relationships."

One thing he is unsure about when it comes to running is

the future. He will be attending Eastern Michigan in the fall, but has not decided if he will run cross country or track, "I know everyone expects me to, and Eastern really wants me to come run for them, but running in college is a huge commitment. It becomes almost like a job. In the house I live in, track and cross country have also been a priority and I kind of want to just end it here and focus on my education for once."

Though the future is unclear for Jeffress' running career, one thing is certain. The records broken, honors achieved, and most importantly the friendships formed and strengthened by running, will make Jeffress a Salem running legend for years to come.



Photo courtesy of Focal Point

Chaz Jeffress is also a member of Salem Cross Country.

## Boczar breaks Plymouth record

by **Genevieve St. Jean**  
News Editor

Jack Boczar, Plymouth junior, shot a 66 in a boys' golf 18 hole tournament, breaking the Plymouth record set in 2012 by Ryan Rieckhoff, who shot a 67. Boczar was medalist of the KLAA pre-season tournament, held at Idyl Wyld in Livonia, which is a par 70, making Boczar's score four under par.

Boczar said about his record, "I'm just focused on helping out the team but two of my good friends Kyle Rodes and Josh Henize were very good players from Plymouth and following in their footsteps is always great."

Jack has been playing golf for around 10 years and has been a member of Plymouth Varsity Golf since his freshman year. His 18 hole average is 75 according to his recording profile on ncsports.org.

The coach, Dan Young, explained Jack's progress: "I feel Jack's biggest difference from his freshman year and even last year is his mental approach. He's more seasoned and mentally tougher. This comes from experience and hard work."

Other key performers at the tournament were senior Kyle Kozler shooting a 73, junior Joe Fontana with a 76, senior James Baldwin with an 81, junior Justin Kapke with an 84, and Matt Decker with an 88.

Young said, "As far as our team, we have a lot of work to do in order to be champions at the end of the season. We need to be more consistent in all areas of our game. If we continue to put in the work, I think we will be in the mix at the end!"

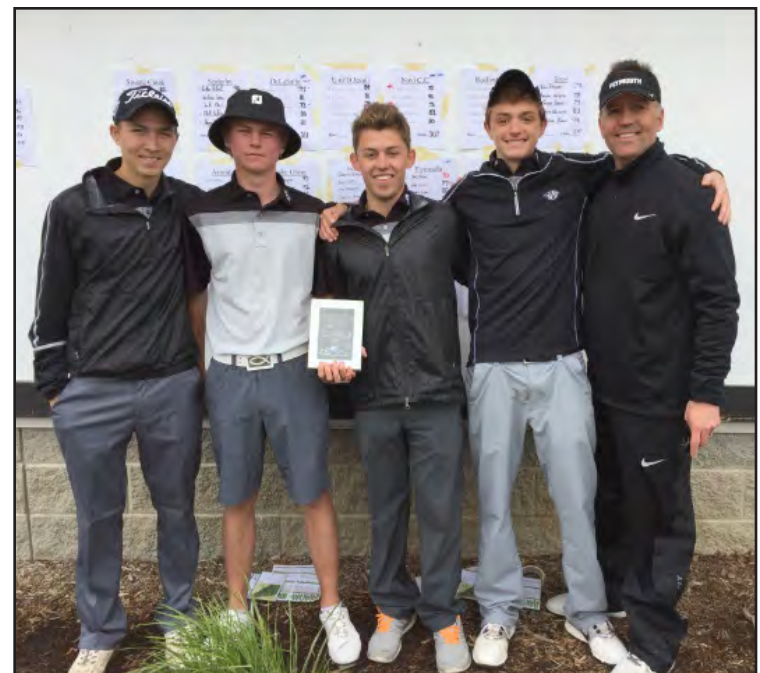


Photo courtesy of Plymouth Athletics

From left to right: James Baldwin, Jack Boczar, Kyle Kozler, Joe Fontana and coach Dan Young



# Love Your Health: hooked on sugar



by **Kylie Cardenas**  
Staff Writer

Every student is required to take a health class at some point in middle or high school, and there is usually an emphasis on addictions - addictions to alcohol, drugs, and in more recent years, even food. We often hear about America's obesity epidemic and we know that it's often caused by junk food. Too much salt, fat or sugar. But even people that seem to be perfectly healthy can be consuming far too much sugar on a daily basis. If you find yourself needing a chocolate bar to keep you going or unable to go a day without having sweets, you may have a sugar addiction.

The American diet is known for being made up mostly of processed and packaged foods, which are filled with added sugars, and sweets like candy, desserts or sodas aren't the only things that have them. Added sugars are in virtually everything, making it sometimes hard to monitor. It's hard to put a single number on the daily recommendation for added sugar consumption, but the American Heart

Association suggests a maximum of 37 grams for men and 25 grams for women. If you are very active, your body may be able to handle more because it will burn off the sugars you eat, but there is no physical need for added sugars and you will always be healthier eating less.

Sugar detoxes have become more popular in the diet world and sometimes they can be just what you need.

However, some people take it to the extreme, even cutting fruits from their diets because of the high sugar content in them. Natural sugars are completely different from added sugars and it's important to remember that fruits are not the bad guys. The sugar in most processed foods can give you a rush because it digests and turns to energy quickly. But fruits and vegetables also contain fiber and protein that makes the sugar digest more slowly, giving you long lasting energy.

If you don't have any of the symptoms that come with sugar addic-

tion, like having cravings around the same time every day, not being able to drink coffee or tea without loads of sugar or having trouble resisting desserts and sweets at any time, there is really no need to completely cut out sugar. But if you are addicted or if you have diabetes or a family history of it, you should be careful of how much you consume and try to eat more whole-foods to avoid the hidden additives in packaged foods.

Some tips to lessen your sugar intake are to eat more fruit when you are craving something sweet, avoid artificial sweeteners found in diet and sugar-free products, keep sugary foods out of the house and enjoy them when you eat out, and eat foods rich in magnesium, like beans, nuts and greens, since research has found low levels of magnesium in people that strongly crave chocolate.

## Finding local art in your area

by **Amy O'Brien**

Staff Writer

The summer is coming up and that means you have a lot more time to go out and do things that you don't have a lot of time for due to school taking up about seven hours of your day. But without school, what will you do with the extra seven hours of your day other than sleep in? If you have no reason to be stuck inside your house, go out and admire local art! Here are some cool places to check out.

1. **Art In The Park:** This takes place in Downtown Plymouth from July 8 to July 9. Art In The Park is Plymouth's annual art showcase in Kellogg Park. This is Michigan's second largest art fair. This year will be its 35th anniversary. Each year more than 400 artists from around the U.S. come together over the three day event to offer their work. While this is more of an event to sell artwork, there are many family and kid activities to be found here, such as face painting and sand candy art.

2. **Ann Arbor Street Art Fair:** Downtown Ann Arbor's own art fair from July 21 to July 24. The fair was established in 1960 and has won several awards, making the Top Ten Fairs and Festivals list every year since 2004. The mission of the fair is to increase public knowledge and appreciation for art and to connect artists to viewers and artists to artists.

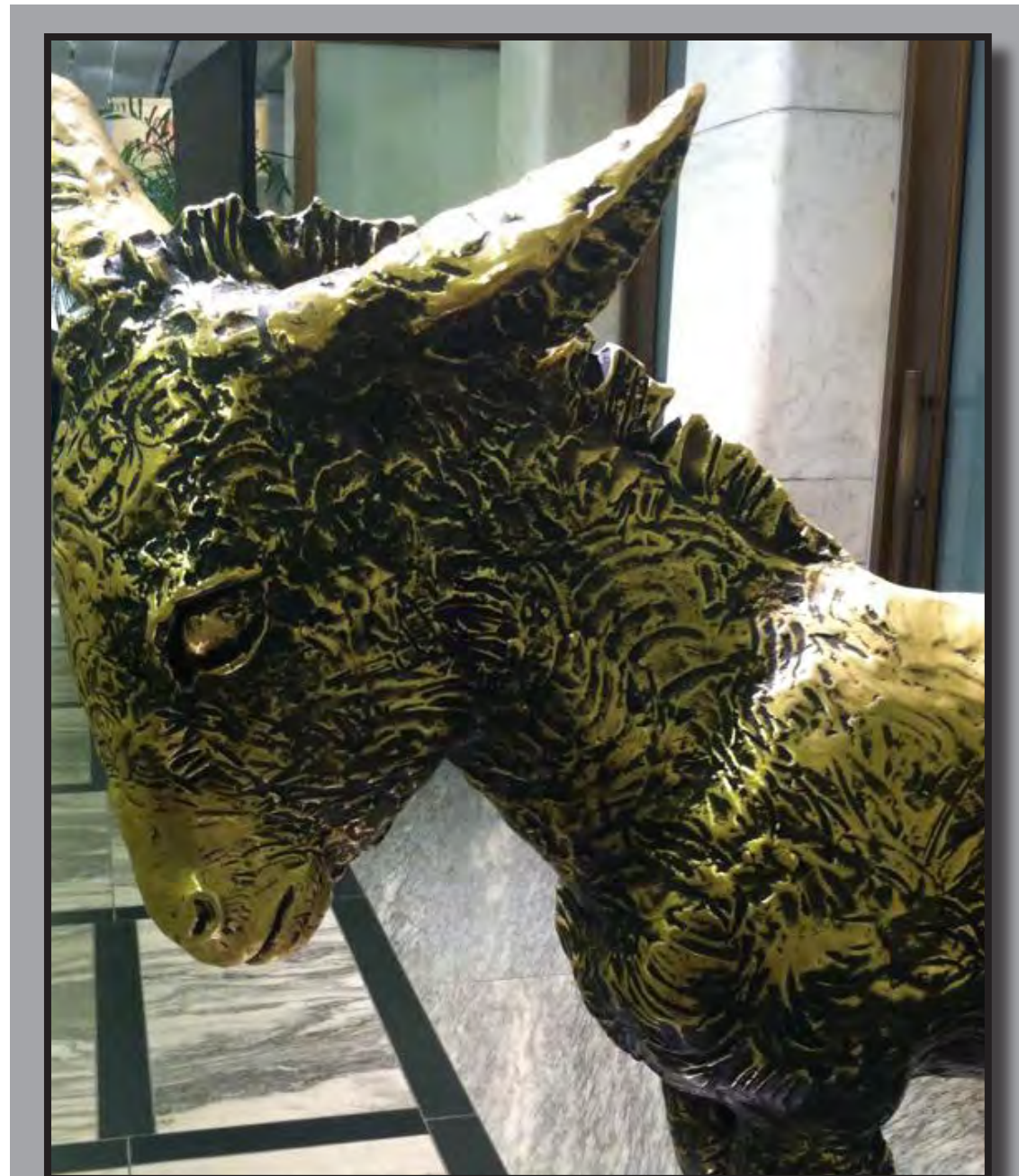
3. **The Rocky Horror Picture Show Shadow Cast Experience:** Every second and fourth Saturday of the month starting at 11:30 at the historical State Wayne Theater in Wayne by the Michigan Rocky Horror Preservation Society. The play and then later movie became famous in the late '70s when people would dress up in strange clothes and put on heavy makeup to attend the show. The most im-

portant part of the show was the shadow cast. The cast performs the film as the movie plays behind them, interacting with the crowd and dancing to the Time Warp all night long. Tickets are \$10, but shows sell out. Buy tickets online in advance.

4. **The University of Michigan Museum of Art:** Opened in 1946 in Ann Arbor, the art museum has been a local attraction for decades. The museum is one of the largest university art museums in the United States. The museum is open six days a week, closed on Mondays. The museum holds many collections such as African, American, Asian, European, and Middle Eastern art. Admission is always free to the museum, but donations are appreciated.

5. **Graffiti Alley:** Located in Downtown Ann Arbor, the alley provides an interesting walk to anyone who ventures down it. The alley was once spotless, however in the late '80s the walls began to become a canvas for local graffiti artists. Now in 2016 the walls are thick with spray paint. Most times people come to the alley there are usually people taking photos, performing their music with guitars and small drums, or music is coming out of stereos while someone dances nearby. The alley can be found on East Liberty Street right next to a FedEx office and a restaurant named Taste Kitchen.

6. **The Detroit Institute of Art:** If you haven't been to the DIA yet, you are surely missing out. The DIA is free to all Wayne County residents so just bring your driver's license or school ID. The DIA is in Midtown Detroit and has one of the largest art collections in the country. Famous artists from Vincent van Gogh to Andy Warhol can be seen. The museum is open six days a week, closed on Mondays.



Donkey by Renee Sintenis is located in the DIA.

Photo by Amy O'Brien

## My Story: growing up with an autistic brother

by **Hannah Saad**

News Editor

Photo courtesy of Michelle Saad



Adam Saad poses for his hockey picture.

My brother, Adam, was born when I was five years old. I was excited to have a little baby brother to take care of. I never thought anything was different about him back then; however, when I look back, Adam exhibited signs of autism early on. He never made eye contact with anyone, he didn't respond to his name, he would wander away and he didn't start talking until he was three years old. In honor of Autism Awareness Month, I thought I would share Adam's story.

My family didn't find out Adam had autism until he was four years old. I had never heard of autism and I had no idea how common it is. It felt good to have an answer to what was causing these symptoms; now we just had to learn how to incorporate it into our lives.

One of the things my brother would do was run away. He would ride his bike when no one was watching and go into other neighborhoods. Adam's communication

skills weren't great, so if someone else found him before my family did, they wouldn't have much to go off of. We had to call the police a few times to help us find him. The scariest episode was when Adam was in first grade: during his recess, he ran away from the school and went into a neighborhood he had never been to before. The paraprofessional assigned to him didn't realize he ran away and my family didn't know until a Canton police officer called my mom to tell her he was at the police station.

After Adam was diagnosed, my family had to step up. My siblings and I had to be prepared to chase after Adam when he tried to run away. We had to learn how to involve him better in our activities. When my mom had surgery, I had to stay home from school so that I could take care of Adam.

Adam's social skills started improving once he started going to the ASD (Autism Spectrum Disorder) classroom at Tonda

Elementary. Once he got better academically, Adam was able to move to Bird Elementary School when he was in fourth grade and be in a general education classroom. Since then, he's been learning alongside peers his age, with a little adjusted work, and has been getting along with his peers well.

Growing up with my little brother has made me see autism in a different light. I remember the days when he couldn't talk to anyone; when I see him now, I see how much he's improved. A few years ago, I wouldn't have seen Adam playing hockey and soccer, learning taekwon do, or getting ready for general education at middle school. I don't know what the future holds for Adam, but right now, it seems bright.

## Listen up: Summer Playlist



by **Ally Schwinke**  
Staff Writer

It has been fun reviewing music that people know or may not have known. Now it is time for my last hoorah, so I decided to do something different. At first I wanted to review my top ten favorite albums, but that was nearly impossible to do.

Then I decided to create the ultimate summer playlist. Now this playlist is a mix of classic summer songs, the ultimate throwbacks and a few of my personal favorites.

Let's start with the classics. You can never go wrong with the classics like "Island in the Sun" by Weezer or "Margaritaville" by Jimmy Buffett. Two perfect songs for a relaxing day by the pool. Other

great rock classics that never get old are "Rockaway Beach" by The Ramones and "Summer of '69" by Bryan Adams.

Then there are also the classic throwbacks for our generation. You have to admit there is not a summer that goes by when you do not jam to songs like "Burning Up" by the Jonas Brothers or "What Time is It" by the one and only High School Musical Cast. Yes, you may be embarrassed to admit it, but it's true and it is ok.

As for my personal favorites, I highly recommend you check them out if you never heard of them, because they rock. Let's start with the

ultimate 'chilling on the beach song,' "Scarlet Begonias" by Sublime. Great sound, fun lyrics, perfect song and that is all you need. Another classic beach song I love is "King of the Beach" by Wavves. The title says it all. A song for all those graduating seniors who are ready to take the next step in their lives, "Soco Amaretto" by Brand New is a perfect song for that. The song is perfect to listen to at a bonfire with all your friends and reminisce about the good times and the times to come.

Some songs that are not technically "summer base" but always remind me of summer are "Way to Go" by Grouplove, "Can't Kick up The Roots" by

Neck Deep and "In Between Days" by The Cure. All of these songs bring great energy and will be sure to put you in a great mood on a beautiful summer day.

One other thing I must say before our goodbye is that I highly recommend going to as many summer concerts and festivals that you can. Whether it is The Vans Warped Tour, Electric Forest, Faster Horses, Mo-Pop or several huge shows coming this summer to DTE or Meadow Brook Music Festival; just get out there, explore new music and I hope you all have a music filled summer.



# Mystery in the air

The following are fan favorite conspiracy theories on a number of topics.

## Holocaust Denial

Jonathan DeClaire | *Copy Editor*

One of the most well-documented tragedies in human history is the Holocaust, the systematic extermination of not only the Jews of Europe but of all the people deemed to be undesirable by the Nazi regime. There is a staggering amount of information and evidence describing the atrocities that occurred: mountains of Nazi documents, testimonies not only by survivors, but by the Nazi SS guards at the camps and the officers in charge of the crimes against humanity, and also there is the evidence at the camps themselves. And yet there are people who deny that these horrors ever happened.

The people who deny the Holocaust argue several points. They claim: The Nazis never had an official policy or intention to exterminate the Jews, the Nazis never used gas chambers to kill Jews, and that the 5-6 million dead is a gross exaggeration of the real body count. Some of these people also claim that the Holocaust was developed to demonize the Germans; on a grander scale some believe that it was fabricated by the Jews themselves so that they could create an all-Jewish country in Palestine.

The people who believe that the Holocaust is a

hoax are not all just Neo-Nazis. Some entire countries deny the Holocaust; the most prominent and outspoken is Iran. However, their claims of denial can be seen as heavily biased considering their disdain for Israel.

People are understandably confused and outraged when they hear about people denying this tragic event. Lisa Birou, a Plymouth English teacher, said regarding the denial, "I may be an unfair person to ask because I minored in history; but I can't see the logic with all of the evidence out there."

This was echoed by Colin Hammocks, a Plymouth senior, who said, "I feel like those people, while they are ignorant, have a right to free speech and their opinions but it is really hard to dispute history like the Holocaust, which affected millions of people."

However, Kendall Elliott, a Plymouth sophomore, described it in a way that matches with millions of other people around the world, "It's weird that people deny that. I feel upset that people deny that and it confuses me."

## Moon landing hoax

Alec Middleton | *Staff Writer*

Since the Apollo 11 moon landing in 1969, the world has speculated as to whether or not the moon landing was real or fake. According to a poll conducted by CNN, 20 percent of American people believe that the moon landing was a hoax and was just a ploy by the United States government to persevere against the USSR during the Cold War. There are several instances on the Apollo 11 mission that have left many people skeptical.

First of all, the famous American flag that was placed into the moon's surface was blowing despite the fact that there is no air in the moon's atmosphere. Without any air there can be no wind to make the flag move. Canton senior Austin Carr said, "I've watched the video of the flag moving and it's pretty obvious it's waving because some type of wind not because the astronauts were moving it around."

With no clouds or atmosphere on the moon, the view of space is much clearer than on Earth. In addition, the stars would be a lot brighter with no atmosphere or clouds. What is weird about the

moon landing is that there are visibly no stars in any picture or video taken on the mission. Canton sophomore Jacob Riegal said, "NASA claims it is because the Apollo landing took place during lunar mornings, but still, why couldn't they have a single picture throughout their 22 hour stay on the moon?"

Another reason why people think it was faked is because there was no impact crater from the space ship. For those who don't know, The Apollo 11 spaceship had an exhaust panel where the ship's gas comes out of. When landing at such great speeds, one would think that the dust on the moon's surface would blow around and a crater would emerge but that is not the case. It's very weird that there was blast marks from a supposedly heavy powered ship.

"I'm sure that scientists and NASA have debunked those claims in order to prove that the moon landing was real but I do see where conspiracy theorists are coming from," says Canton junior Michael Crawford.

## Avril Lavigne is dead

Miriam Sponsler | *Editor-in-Chief*

It sounds completely ridiculous right? But could it possibly be true? The singer responsible for "Sk8er Boi" and "Complicated," Avril Lavigne, hasn't been the same since shortly after the release of her album, "Let Go." In 2013 the artist came out with a song titled "Hello Kitty" that confused fans around the country. Leaning away from her punk rock/pop sound, this song is more of a dubstep. This began the conspiracy that maybe Avril Lavigne is actually dead.

Avril Lavigne hired an actress that looked like her to walk around and confuse the paparazzi. The double's name was Melissa Vandella, and the two girls immediately became friends. In fact, in one of

Lavigne's photoshoots, "Melissa" is written on the back of her hand in permanent sharpie. Fans question why she did that for a photoshoot, and began to wonder how close the two girls really were.

Shortly after writing sessions began for Lavigne's "Let Go" follow-up album, her grandfather passed away. With the passing of her close family member, the pressure of releasing a new record, and the toil of fame, Lavigne entered a deep and dark depression, and was so-called found dead in her home. Her family, record label, and anyone else that knew about it were told to keep quiet.

Lavigne's doppelganger quickly took her place, and shortly after released the album "Under My

## Reptilians

Janet Nava | *Staff Writer*

Hailing from the Alpha Draconis star system; 5 to 12 feet tall, blood-drinking, shape-shifting reptilian humanoids are the force ruling the conspiracy against humanity. Now hiding in underground bases, the aliens control earth by taking human form and rising into political power. Once they acquire power they manipulate societies into decisions that are all a part of a big master plan that is to end the human race on Earth.

The Reptilians (as they're called) are actually major world leaders such as former President George W. Bush and Queen Elizabeth II of the United Kingdom. After the discovery of the so-called conspiracy, someone anonymously from the U.S. Congress edited the Lizard People ("Reptilians") Wikipedia page, potentially confirming that the U.S. gov't is run by Lizard aliens. Another piece of evidence is the controversial video of Nancy Pelosi being seen and supposedly confirmed as a shape shifter to Canton junior Hoang Tran.

"The video was basically proof that those things walk around and control stuff in the government," said Tran. "It was really creepy how the video showed her actually shape shifting in public."

The video pledges in the description that there is no error or digital glitch, which then goes onto saying that the Reptilian shape shifters live among us. Theorists have also provided evidence that 9/11 was also a cause of the Reptilians trying to lead

humans to have war with each other and escalate the downfall of the human race.

"This could actually be the cause of what's been going wrong with the world," said Salem sophomore Lauren Garvey. "The conspiracy is probably what led to everything we see as going bad today."

This conspiracy at first seems too crazy to be real, but let's think about it. Over the recent decades, the world has been becoming worse and worse. Tensions are rising between countries and more violence and war seem inevitable.

Humans are a violent bunch, but since when has that stopped us from ever trying for peace as a people. Most conflicts are over money, religion, country values and just the disliking between races/ethnic groups in countries.

"Almost all of the things wrong with the government is caused by the politicians, so it makes sense that Reptilians live," said Plymouth junior Anthony Reed.

Since 9/11 is being tied to Reptilians planning so humans could go to war, this is said to be the great plan for the end. With present day fears of nuclear war and the Holy War with the terrorist group, ISIS, it's possible that this is the demise of the human race led by the aliens living underneath our feet.



Illustration by Natasha Pietruschka

# Seniors reflect on high school years

by **Jordan Anheuser**  
*Staff Writer*

With the 2015-2016 school year coming to a close, P-CEP seniors are getting ready to graduate and turn the final page in their high school chapter. Although the future is bright and there is much to look forward to, many great memories are also being left behind.

High school is four years of life that pass by surprisingly quickly, despite the fact that some school days drag on forever, especially when you have developed senioritis. Canton senior Maddie Stowe said, "I'm going to miss the routine of high school; you always know what is coming next."

It is true that during senior year one may find it harder to wake up at the crack of dawn and face the parking lot traffic, especially when one has already gotten their college acceptance letter. But, there are benefits to being a senior. For example, senior spring break.

Traveling on a trip to another state or country with all of your best friends is a vacation you will remember for the rest of your life. "I had a swell time in the land of Mexico. I immersed myself into the culture and had a great time with friends and family alike, and made many new friends," said Salem senior Davis Reich.

Not to mention senior prom, and of course the game of water

wars. Seniors also get more days off, no ACT testing, and who could forget, senior skip day? In addition to all these things, the senior class also starts summer two weeks earlier than any of the other classes.

Senior year is a time to have fun and spend time with the people you love because as the year comes to a close, you don't want to look back and realize you wish you would have done more and been more involved.

There are many fun classes you can take as a senior. Canton senior Lindsey Redmond said, "Advanced video has been my favorite class in all of high school; every morning I get to have fun with my buddies."

Still do your homework (at least sometimes), and drag yourself out of bed, but get outside of your comfort zone a little bit. Appreciate all of the Friday nights spent under the lights at the football field, all the pep rallies everyone likes to skip, and the ability to live down the street from your best friends, because once high school ends that could all change.

As for the high school athletes: have a positive attitude! Be a leader, and remember that this is it, this is your last season stepping

Skin." In an almost too coincidental event, some of her songs on the album leaked information about her death, specifically in the songs "My Happy Ending" and "Nobody's Home." Immediately after this fans started to notice specific physical differences between Avril from 2002 and 2004. Some of the differences include skin blemishes on her face, and moles and freckles on her arms. Finally, in an interview conducted in 2014, she was asked whether or not she was actually a clone, and then she fumbled through the entire performance right after.

Sydney Gondek, Canton senior, said, "Do people actually believe she's dead? I mean of course

she looks different, she's getting older."

Mitchell Bates, sophomore at Plymouth, had a similar response: "That's taking crazy assumptions to the next level. So does that mean anytime someone starts to change the way they look they're automatically dead and replaced by a doppelganger?"

After he say the video of her 2014 interview, Canton senior Josh Chemotti said, "The whole thing was probably planned to freak people out. People will believe anything."

on the court or baseball field. Your last season diving into a pool, trying to knock down all 10 pins, or jumping the hurdles.

Most of all, have fun. "My favorite high school memory was winning states in gymnastics my sophomore year," said Canton senior Alexis Panizzoli.

High school athletics bring people together, and the people on your team have been by your side for four years. Don't take it for granted.

Although it may be sad to leave high school lives behind, there are many great things to look forward to. Plymouth Senior Bailey Zmuda said, "I am excited to attend Central Michigan University next year to major in athletic training so I can become a physical therapist."

So, to the class of 2016, congratulations, we made it! As for the classes to follow, good luck, enjoy yourself, and take nothing for granted. A word of advice from Canton senior Ryan Apley, "Don't be afraid to be yourself."



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