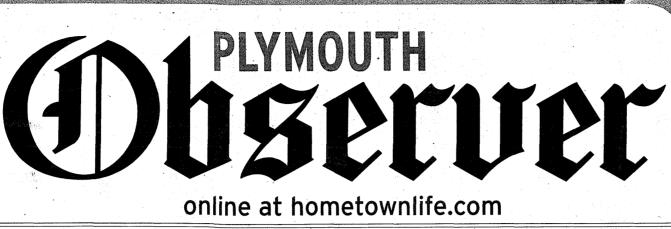
New: Hometown Life Inspire Planning a garden and other ways to showcase your home

THURSDAY March 18, 2010

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

Volume 124 Number 61

75 CENTS



PIPELINE

Small screen

Stephanie Hosko of Plymouth will be a guest on NBC's Today show today (Thursday). The segment featuring Stephanie, a student at All Saints Catholic School



Stephanie Hosko

in Canton, airs at 2 p.m. on WDIV TV-4. She is in New York as a finalist in the Jif "Most **Creative** Peanut Butter Sandwich" contest. Her sand-

wich - a "chick-

enchita" featuring

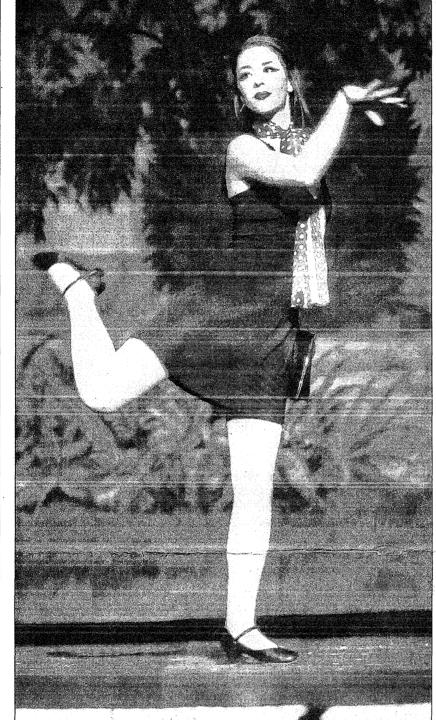
grilled chicken, sauteed red peppers, crushed pineapple, pineapple juice, lettuce and soy sauce, along with the requisite peanut butter, on a flour tortilla – finished in the top five in online voting that ended last month. At stake is a \$25,000 grand prize, with \$2,500 scholarships up for grabs for the four runners-up.

Stephanie will appear with Kathie Lee Gifford and Hoda Kotb during an hour which is also scheduled to include an interview with former Cheers! star Kirstie Alley.

Awards night

Huron Valley Ambulance is seeking nominations for their Life Saving and Heart Safe Awards, two of their annual Emergency

Fosse's footwork



District bests state average on **MEAP** tests

BY BRAD KADRICH **OBSERVER STAFF WRITER**

Some Plymouth-Canton scores went up, some were down when the state released the numbers for the annual Michigan Educational Assessment Program testing. But one trend remained consistent with the district's 2009-10 performance in comparison with previous years.

All of the district's scores are still well above state averages.

Plymouth-Canton scores rose in eight areas of testing and dropped in five others, while six of the district's 24 schools reached the 100-percent plateau.

Schools hitting 100 percent included Gallimore Elementary (thirdgrade reading); Allen and Workman elementaries (third-grade math); Bird Elementary (fifth-grade math); and Dodson and Isbister elementaries (fourth-grade math).

The highest jump was a fourpoint increase for sixth-graders on both the reading and math tests. Four of the dist school (Central, Discovery, East and Pioneer) increased their reading scores, and all five schools were better in reading.

'We're particularly proud of the parents, for continuing to make achievement a priority. When everyone's working together it leads to tremendous success.'

SPECIAL SECTION INSIDE

MIKE BENDER, director of secondary education

Mike Bender, the district's director of secondary education, said the scores show the progress being made. "It certainly reflects the job

the kids and teachers have done," Bender said. "We're particularly proud of the parents, for continuing to make achievement a priority. When everyone's working together it leads to tremendous success."

The Plymouth-Canton scores top the state averages in every category, some of them by a large margin. But Bender said the district is always looking for improvement as it moves toward a federally mandated 100 percent in all area requirements coming in 2014.

Ve're in the process of analyzing

Medical Services Recognition Awards.

The awards program takes place during National EMS Week on Wednesday, May 19, in Ann Arbor. The deadline for both award nominations is Friday, April 9, at 5 p.m.

For the Life Saving Award, nominees can be citizens of any age who live in the HVA service area who have saved, or attempted to save, a life under unusual or extraordinary circumstances. Nominees also must not have received an award for their lifesaving deed from any other organization.

For the Heart Safe Award, which HVA created in 2008, nominees can be any business or organization that meets the following criteria for creating a "heart safe" environment at their workplace: Automated external defibrillators (AEDs) in all buildings, staff trained in CPR/AEDs and regularly practiced cardiac emergency response plan in place. Forms for both award nomina-

tions are available online at www. hva.org. Call Nancy Raupp at (734) 477-6782 for information.

BILL BRESLER I STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Mackenzie Elliott is Charity Hope Valentine in the Park Players production of 'Sweet Charity.'

Park Players do stage shuffle in 'Sweet Charity'

BY BRAD KADRICH **OBSERVER STAFF WRITER**

When Mackenzie Elliott thinks about playing the lead role in Sweet Charity, she knows it won't be too much trouble to capture Charity Hope Valentine as a person.

After all, Charity is an optimistic chatterbox who, despite being stuck in a dead-end job, still sees the good in everything. But the lead role in the Park Players spring presentation, which hits the stage this weekend, is

OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The Plymouth Township Police Department

plans to use federal grant money to dedicate an

The recently awarded money from the U.S.

Department of Justice will pay the salary and bene-

fits for an officer to join the western Wayne County

The task force, run by the Michigan State Police,

narcotics task force for the next three years. The

amount totals about \$260,000, said Police Chief

investigates the illegal drug trade in communi-

The money comes at a time when the police department, like all township departments, is

struggling with a tight budget that officials blame

linked to the drop in home values, and cuts in state

The chief said the department is in the process

of selecting an officer for the task force and should

on reduced property tax collections, which are

"It obviously helps," Tiderington said.

make an assignment within 30 days.

ties throughout western Wayne County, including

Plymouth Township and its neighbors in the county.

officer to the fight against illegal drugs.

Tom Tiderington.

aid.

'SWEET CHARITY' • What: Park Players production of "Sweet Charity" • When: Thursday-Saturday, March 18-20; Friday-Saturday, March 26-27; 7 p.m. • Where: Gloria Logan Auditorium, Salem High School

• Tickets: \$12

also going to test Elliott's singing and dancing skills, something she hasn't really done much of in her previous Park Players experience.

"She's a lot like me," said Elliott, an 18-year-old Plymouth High School senior from Plymouth who last appeared in Noises Off. "She's opti-

The biggest decline was a threepoint drop in fourth-grade reading. results at each grade level in each subject," Bender said. "We continue to look at ways to strengthen our students' performance."

bkadrich@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-8899

PLYMOUTH-CANTON SCHOOLS MEAP RESULTS

	Ma	ath	Read	ding	Science	S.Studies
Grade	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009 2008	2009 2008
3rd	97.0	97.0	94.0	92.0		una francia paraletta constanti su missione e a missione de la secolo de const
4th	97.0	95.0	89.0	92.0		
5th	94.0	92.0	92.0	91.0	92.0 92.0	
6th	95.0	91.0	94.0	90.0 _.		87.0 87.0
7th	93.0	94.0	91.0	90.0		
8th	88.0	89.0	91.0	88.0	87.0 89.0	
9th						87.0 89.0

on the Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP).

SOURCE: Michigan Department of Education



APARTMENTS	C2
AUTOMOTIVE	C4
CAREER BUILDER	C3
CROSSWORD PUZZLE	C2
FILTER	B6
Obituaries	B8
PUBLIC SAFETY	A4
REAL ESTATE	C2
Sports	B1
STRICTLY BUSINESS	B4

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S . . .

Federal grant puts officer on drug task force **BY MATT JACHMAN**

The department has an officer on loan to a western Wayne criminal investigations task force, which is also overseen by the MSP, but has not previously had an officer in the drug unit.

Township officials have been seeking \$400,000 worth of concessions from the unions that represent dispatchers, police officers and sergeants, and have discussed the possibility of layoffs in the police department if an agreement on concessions cannot be reached.

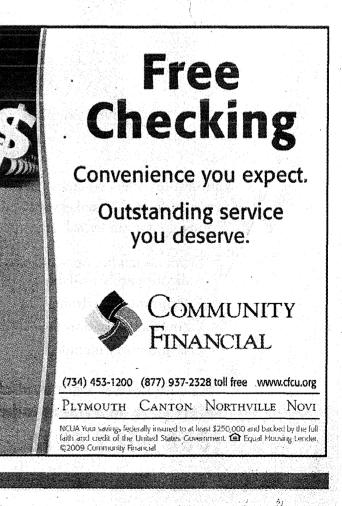
In the event of layoffs, Tiderington said, the three-year diversion of an officer to the drug task force would be re-evaluated. The department has 21 patrol officers, 11 dispatchers, six sergeants and two lieutenants.

The department last year won a justice department grant for proposed upgrades to some of the communications equipment used in the dispatch center, which also serves the Plymouth Community Fire Department.

Tiderington said a measure to approve purchase of approximately \$157,000 in equipment for that project should appear on the agenda at the Board of Trustees meeting on Tuesday.

3

mjachman@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-2405



Please see 'SWEET', A6

AROUND PLYMOUTH

online at hometownlife.com

HOUR DETROIT MAGAZINE'S

Jeffrey H. Miller, MD

Board Certified Interventional Radiologist Board Certified Phlebologist

"Around Plymouth" is designed to announce upcoming events taking place in the community. Items will run on a spaceavailable basis. Send details to bkadrich@ hometownlife.com

Sale at Salem

The Plymouth Salem High School Student Congress, the student government, is planning a community garage sale for 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday in the Salem cafeteria.

The fund-raiser, open to the public, will feature free facepainting for children and a bake sale. Items for sale will include, clothing, toys, electronics, athletic equipment and more.

The Student Congress, with adviser Tyniesha Moss, a Salem English teacher, is made up of seven representatives from each class plus a board of five officers. The group organizes student activities, including the annual fall Homecoming and a battle of the bands that was held last month, and raises money for charities.

Salem is at 46181 Joy Road in Canton Township.

Newsroom....

Classified Advertising......

Display Advertising.....

1

FN FISI

March 19 & 26 4:30-7:00 pm

Good Friday breakfast

Observer & Eccentric | Thursday, March 18, 2010

All men and boys are invited to an All-U-Can-Eat Breakfast Friday, April 2, at 8 a.m. at St. Michael Lutheran Church, 7000 Sheldon Rd. in Canton.

This community outreach event includes a powerful message by Pastor Dave Woodby and son Zack. Tickets are \$5 and \$2 for boys 10 and under and can be obtained by calling the church office at (734) 459-3300.

Show and tell

"Show and Tell" takes on a new dimension at the Plymouth Historical Museum when collectors display their collections and possibly sell an item or two.

"Show and Tell ... and Sell" showcases are 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday, March 20, Saturday, April 17, and Saturday, May 15. The March 20 showcase will feature such collections as political folk art, postcards, and snow globes--presented by two child collectors. The May 15 showcase is planned to feature military collectibles, as the event occurs on Armed Forces Day. The museum is still looking for collectors for these

events. Details and an application can be found on the museum's Web site at http://www.plymouthhistory.org/Events.html.

The showcases are part of the Plymouth Historical Museum's current special exhibit, "Show and Tell Collectibles," which runs through Sunday, June 13. The exhibit consists of an eclectic mix of personal and Museum collections ranging from antique tools to chatelaines to stuffed animals.

The Plymouth Historical Museum'is located at 155 S. Main Street, a block north of downtown Plymouth. Hours are Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday 1-4 p.m. For further information, call (734) 455-8940 or visit the museum's Web site at www.plymouthhistory. org.

Senior spellers

The Plymouth Community Council on Aging together with the Northville Senior Center will host the annual Wayne County Senior Spelling Bee on Wednesday, April 14, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Northville Senior Center located at 303 W. Main Street, Northville. Call (734) 453-1234, Ext.236 to

RSVP as a speller or spectator, Wayne County will offer a free

lunch, prizes and raffles for everyone who attends. .



Hitting the stage

Student-run radio station 88.1FM presents "My Dear Disco," with special guests Good Luck Varsity and Serein at the Salem High School Auditorium Saturday, April 17. Just a year out of college, the band has already put over 35,000 miles on their veggie vehicle. Canton's own Good Luck Varsity will also perform. Brothers Evan and Jordan Baker began Good Luck Varsity as a duo shortly after the break-up of their former band The Rising Tide. Opening the show is the Plymouth's Serein. The band got on the bill by winning the Salem High School Battle of the Bands. Tickets are \$10, \$15 at the door, and can be purchased at the station's office at Salem High School, Tickets can also be purchased online at 881TheEscape.com. The show is at 7 p.m. and doors open at 6:30 p.m. All the profits from the show will benefit WSDP, the student radio station at Canton, Plymouth and Salem High Schools.



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A2 (P)

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LOCAL NEWS

Murder trial postponed as defense lawyer quits

BY MATT JACHMAN OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Nearly a year and a half after it began, the case of a Plymouth Township woman accused of killing her newborn has taken another turn.

Henry Scharg formally withdrew last week as the defense attorney for Emily Portellos, who faces several murder charges in the death of the infant girl found in her bedroom Oct. 15, 2008.

Scharg, in papers filed in Wayne County Circuit Court, cited a breakdown in communications between he and Portellos and a loss in Portellos' confidence in his ability to represent her.

"Defendant believes that she cannot receive a fair trial as long as she is represented by present counsel," states Scharg's motion to withdraw from the case. Scharg did not return phone calls Tuesday and Wednesday.

His move came during jury selection in Portellos' trial. Some 80 prospective jurors had filled out questionnaires, and their answers were being combed through by Scharg, assistant prosecutor Lora Weingarden and presiding Judge Dan Ryan, Weingarden said.

The three had been planning to use the questionnaires to choose a smaller jury pool whose members would be questioned individually, in a proceeding called voir dire, until agreement on a jury could be reached.

"I was ready and excited to go to trial and I was very disappointed to hear it had been adjourned," Weingarden said.

Portellos, who has been in jail without bond since her arrest in November 2008, previously rejected an offer from the prosecutor's office that would have called for her to plead guilty to second-degree murder in exchange for a prison sentence of between 18 and 30 years, Weingarden said.

Portellos is now represented by Demetra Arapakis Christos and Gregory M. Meihn, both of the firm Foley & Mansfield. Neither returned phone calls.

As Christos and Meihn are new to the case, it would be premature to discuss a plea offer, said Maria Miller, spokeswoman for county Prosecutor Kym Worthy. The trial has been rescheduled for Wednesday, May 12. Portellos, 29, faces one count each of felony murder, firstdegree murder, second-degree murder and first-degree child abuse.

Scharg, who had represented Portellos since the case began, had tried to get Ryan removed from the case, claiming the judge could not be impartial because of religious views, but was turned down by the court's presiding judge, Timothy Kenny.

Scharg had also sought to suppress what police said was Portellos' admission that she suffocated the infant shortly after birth. He claimed a police interview in a hospital setting hours after the birth — Portellos had lost a lot of blood and had undergone surgery — was improper and that Portellos, having been medicated for the surgery, was unfit to make such an admission.

Ryan ruled the evidence admissible last month after a hearing that stretched over several days.

mjachman@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-2405

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Folkies take stage at Hulce Center

Folkies and their fans will head to Plymouth's Joanne Winkleman Hulce Center for the Arts on Saturday for the BaseLine Folk Society's March coffeehouse concert.

The concert, which starts at 7 p.m., is a chance for folk, traditional and acoustic musicians to show their stuff on stage, whether they're seasoned performers or first-timers. The hosted event also includes a featured performer or group.

Up to eight performers can sign

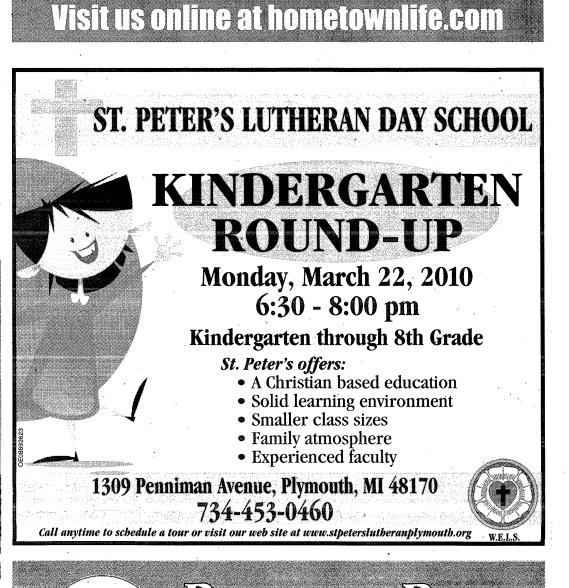
up for the open-microphone portion of the evening; if more than eight show up, names are drawn. Each open-microphone performer gets to play two songs; if there are fewer than eight, each gets to play three songs. Signup for the open mic show is 6:15 p.m. to 6:45 p.m. The host on Saturday will be Cathy Fitzpatrick and the featured performers will be Alex and Maggie Zakem. Tickets are \$5 a

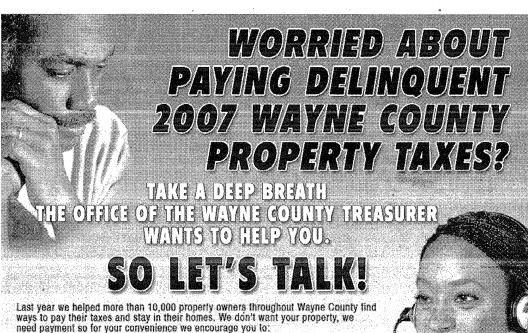
person; refreshments are available

and donations are accepted.

Baseline, which stages shows on the third Saturday of each month from September through May, meets at the Joanne Winkleman Hulce Center for the Arts (headquarters of the Plymouth Community Arts Council), 744 North Sheldon, Plymouth, south of M-14 and north of North Territorial.

For more information, contact Mike Mullen at (248) 347-6881 or by e-mail at mjmmullen@yahoo. com.





Emily Portellos' lawyer, Henry Scharg, withdrew from her murder case during jury selection.

A3

(P)

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Observer & Eccentric | Thursday, March 18, 2010

PUBLIC SAFETY

Pair arrested with pot, police say

Two men, both of Plymouth, were arrested on drug-possession charges after a traffic stop Sunday afternoon.

(P)

The officer who stopped them, according to a Plymouth **Township Police Department** report, found suspected marijuana inside a cellophane wrapper in the car, police said. The substance later tested positive for marijuana, police said.

In addition, the passenger, 25, was charged with hindering and obstructing police. Police said he initially gave the officer a phony name; police were able to confirm and cash were taken from an his real name.

The incident began when the patrolling officer spotted the pair on eastbound Ann Arbor Road in a Plymouth Voyager with a cracked windshield, police said. He stopped the driver, 19, for the equipment violation.

Before the stop, police said, the officer noticed furtive movements by the passenger. And upon speaking to the driver, police said, the officer noticed a strong odor of marijuana coming from the Voyager.

Cold calling

A 23-year-old Canton Township woman reported she was told to pay a ransom for her cellular phone after it was stolen from the Kmart on Ann Arbor Road in Plymouth Township Monday evening.

The victim was browsing at the store, in the video and music department, and had left her iPhone on a rack at about 9 p.m., she told police, a police report said.

About 15 minutes later, while at a health club, the woman realized her phone was gone, she said. Using a friend's phone, she called her own number and a

CRIME WATCH

man answered, she said. She told him she wanted her phone back, she said, and he responded that "times are tough" and she would have to pay a reward for her phone. He then ended the call.

Attempts to call the man again were unsuccessful, police said.

Theft in church lot

Credit cards, a debit card unlocked car parked at Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church during noon Mass on Sunday.

The victim, a 64-year-old township woman, told police she had left her Buick Lucerne unlocked outside the church on North Territorial, a police report said. She later was informed that three transactions had been made on the debit card, and one purchase made on each of two credit cards, police said.

Police said she canceled the stolen cards.

Larceny from auto

A wallet with cash credit cards and a debit card in it was stolen from a 2000 Ford Taurus that was parked in the driveway of a house on Currin Court one night last week.

The car had not been locked, the victim, a 19-year-old woman, told police. There theft took place between about 8 p.m. March 10 and 7:30 a.m. the next day, she said.

There were no indications the credit or debit cards had been used, police said, and the victim canceled them. By Matt Jachman

The Plymouth Community Fire Department responded to the following runs during the period March 10-16:

• Tuesday, March 16 -Commercial rescue run on Wilcox; rescue run at a public building on Haggerty; rescue run on Beech; residential rescue runs on Newport, on Wintercrest Court and on Brewster.

• Monday, March 15 - Fire on Ann Arbor Road: residential rescue runs on N. Territorial and on Morgan; commercial rescue run on Ann Arbor Road; rescue runs at a public building on Haggerty.

• Sunday, March 14 -Residential rescue runs on Talltree, on Main, on Old Salem, on Sheldon and on Maple Ridge; vehicle accident with wash-down at Five Mile and Haggerty.

 Saturday, March 13 - Mutualaid-given run on Ford Road; special run on Van Buren; rescue run at a public building on Haggerty.

• Friday, March 12 -Residential rescue runs on Newporte, on Woodgate and on Hunters Park; commercial rescue run on Beck; fire runs on Five Mile and on Helm; vehicle fire on Wilcox; vehicle accident on Ann Arbor Trail; rescue run at Schoolcraft and Haggerty.

• Thursday, March 11 -Residential rescue runs on Red Maple, on Newporte, on Betty Hill, on Brownell and on Woodgrove; commercial rescue run on Concept; investigation on Pacific.

Wednesday, March 10 -Residential rescue run on Betty Hill; vehicle accident with washdown and extrication on the ramp from westbound I-96 to southbound I-275; rescue runs on Wing and on Main.

Rent in the

Coalition deals with underage drinking

BY JULIE BROWN OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Adam Harrison, 17, a senior at Plymouth High School, doesn't drink. "My escape, I watch American Idol,"

Harrison told a gathering at Plymouth A.M. Rotary Tuesday morning.

He's youth coordinator for the Plymouth-Canton Changing Alcohol Policies & Perceptions Coalition. As part of National Alcohol Awareness Month, several town halls are being held in Plymouth and Canton this week and next.

Harrison said drinking occurs when parents are out of town but also when they're home. "The availability for siblings and uncles is so easy," he said of those who buy alcohol for teens.

His life has been impacted by drinking. A debate tournament in which young people could stay overnight was canceled when a teen got drunk. Harrison recalled a bad New Year's Eve party at which a friend became ill from alcohol.

"I'm not a drinker, but I still am affected by it," said Harrison, who lives in Plymouth and Canton. Most local young people do drink, he said, and he's often a designated driver.

Lt. Al Cox, city of Plymouth acting police chief, acknowledged the problem of underage drinking. "The time of year tends to affect it," Cox said, adding children as young as sixth grade have been found drinking locally.

"They wound up going into the court system," Cox said.

Older youth, 18-20, are more likely involved with drinking and driving, such as a recent crash at Ann Arbor Road and Main Street. "Alcohol is a drug whether people want to accept it or not," Cox said. "They mimic what their parents do.

City police have a lot of sting operations and there's not a lot of selling of

alcohol to underage decoys. It's usually someone the young person knows who provides the alcohol, Cox said.

"I've been to middle school house parties, middle school house parties where the parents are there," he said.

"People need to know who their kids are hanging out with."

The coalition, which is currently compiling data on local substance abuse, will have a community meeting 7 p.m. Thursday, April 15, at Plymouth City Hall commission chambers on Main in downtown Plymouth. Call (734) 455-4343 for information on the meeting, open to those of all ages.

'You let them know where you stand, you let them know this is a big deal," Cox said of underage drinking. Young people need to know they can call for a ride if necessary. Some families have a code word so teens can "save face" with peers and still get out of a bad situation.

Jeanne Knopf DeRoche of Plymouth Township is an organizer through her DeRoche Group. "It's a perception that this isn't going on," she said of underage drinking. Some adults think of their own younger days drinking, and that young people will be fine as long as they don't drive.

"We just don't have good data which is one of the reasons for the coalition," she said, noting the difficulty of gathering data in Plymouth-Canton schools.

At Plymouth Canton Educational Park, 23 percent of teens have experienced binge drinking in the last month, she said. Some 28 percent of students have been in a car driven by a drunk peer.

'Kids don't drink to drink," she said. "They drink to get drunk." The median age for boys to start drinking is 11.7, a bit older for girls.

Drinking impairs learning and memory functions which are difficult to recover later in life, she said.

jcbrown@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-6755

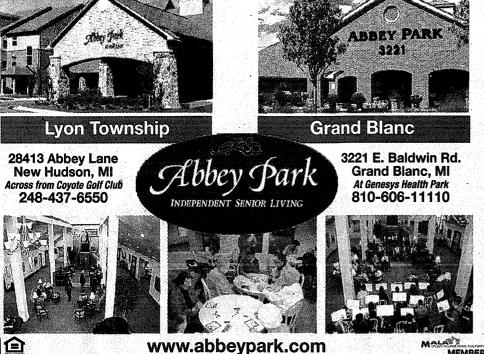
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Wash all the linens		
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Warm & fuzzy staff		Once in a while.
24-hour staffing		Not always provided
Medicare certified services	2월 1986 - 2013년 1월 20	
Access to fitness center	Provide a state of the second s	Once a week, if at all
Theater FREE movies & popcorn		Additional charge
Scheduled transportation		
Weekly entertainment		
FREE ice cream social		



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LOCAL NEWS

Split vote gives preliminary OK to liquor cap

BY MATT JACHMAN. **OBSERVER STAFF WRITER**

Plymouth officials are moving closer to capping the number of places in the city allowed to serve alcohol, but those in favor of the plan aren't raising a toast just yet.

The City Commission voted 5-2 Monday in favor of limiting the number of establishments licensed to serve beer, wine or liquor by the glass to 22, the current number. The move came after about 90 minutes of public input - most of it from bar and restaurant owners who admitted they were motivated by selfinterest - and discussion by commissioners.

Commissioners expect to vote on a second reading of the proposal at their Monday, April 5, meeting, and signaled they are open to amending it.

"I think you need to think about what's going on in the community and how it's changed," said Frank Yaquinto, the owner of Compari's on the Park, who favored a cap.

"Does the market always get it right?" he added. "Do we need more licenses in the city? Do we need more competition?"

"The pendulum was really one-sided for many years,' said Box Bar and Grill owner Chip Falcusan, referring to a time when there were only a handful of alcohol-serving establishments in town. "Now the pendulum has swung the other way."

Falcusan urged commissioners to find a balance. "If you don't have it, your downtown is going to die," he said.

'We have a huge investment there," said Frank Agostini, a partner at E.G. Nick's. "We want to protect it."

The vote came after a commission subcommittee, chaired by Commissioner Michael Wright, met several times in recent weeks to gauge the demands on citv services, such as public safety, made by bars and restaurants that serve alcohol, and to explore the effect the number of drinking establishments have on Plymouth's image as a family-friendly, pedestrianfriendly place with a good

'We feel an outright ban on liquor licenses may have unintended consequences." CONRAD SCHEWE, chairman of the

Planning Commission

of the property," Nikollbibaj said. "We've got to survive, too.'

Conrad Schewe, chairman of the Planning Commission, spoke on its behalf. The planners had unanimously recommended against a license cap.

"We feel an outright ban on liquor licenses may have unintended consequences," said Schewe, arguing that the trend for vibrant downtown areas has been toward bars and restaurants and away from retail.

Commissioner Ron Loiselle,

who voted against the limit, said he feared officials had not studied the issue thoroughly enough and that the problems thought to be posed by alcohol-serving establishments had not been adequately defined.

He urged the commission to take more time, and perhaps consider a license limit for the downtown area only.

"To put a cap on the entire city, I think, is wrong," Loiselle said.

Observer & Eccentric | Thursday, March 18, 2010

Other commissioners said the time had come.

"I want to see us have a good time, but I don't want to see it become a frat party," said Commissioner Ed Hingelberg, a member, with Commissioner John Barrett, of Wright's subcommittee.

Voting with Loiselle against a license limit was Commissioner Gerald Sabatini. Voting with Hingelberg, in favor, were Wright, Barrett, **Commissioner** David Workman and Mayor Dan Dwyer.

mjachman@hometownlife.com (313) 222-2405



mix of businesses.

"We've got a pretty darn good success story," said Wright. And bars and restaurants contribute to it, he added.

Wright's subcommittee recommended the cap, but he said members are still discussing the possibility of limiting new licenses to beer and wine only, and want to obtain more police statistics, specifically on the number police runs related to patrons of Plymouth bars and restaurants, for comparison purposes.

A moratorium on new liquor licenses, which the commission approved last fall in order to give officials time to study the issue, is set to expire in early April.

Not all proprietors at the meeting favored a cap.

Victor Nikollbibaj, owner of the Grecian Cafe, said he recently bought a liquor license he hasn't been able to use because of the moratorium, and that the license and upgrades to his restaurant have cost him \$70,000. He said he bought the license in order to compete.

"We pay taxes. We take care





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LOCAL NEWS

online at hometownlife.com



mistic about life. Even when bad things happen to her, she's still ready to get going.

"She's so much like me as a person that that's not a stretch," Elliott added, "but the singing and the dancing ... it's tough to synchronize everything."

She gets her chance heading up the cast of some 55 actors, including a Park Players record six freshmen, that tackles a play Park Players director Kristen Quesada has long wanted to try: a Bob Fosse production. Cy Coleman did the music, Dorothy Fields wrote the lyrics and it's based on Neil Simon's book, but Quesada likes the idea of taking on Fosse, the legendary choreographer and director.

"I've always wanted to do something 'Fosse," said Quesada, in her eighth year directing the Park Players. "It's a really cool style of dance. It's highly stylized jazz. All the



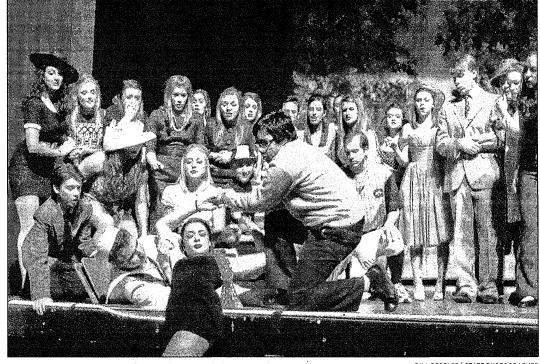
"Big Spender" is just one of the big numbers from the Park Players production of "Sweet Charity."

musical numbers intrigue me." Quesada said the large cast provides "lots of opportunities" for an ensemble cast, and the play has "a lot of big dance numbers." That meant finding actors who could act, sing and dance — "This cast really needed a lot of triple threats, kids who could do all three," Quesada said.

But the key to the production will be Elliott, who Quesada said is up to the challenge of making Charity — a 1960s dance hall hostess stuck in a dead-end job yet still convinced she can find Mr. Right — believable "as the heroine

you really want to win." "We had to find someone who captured that innocence," Quesada said. "Mackenzie has

that." Musical director Cathy DePentu said the music for



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

A 55-member cast tackles "Sweet Charity" March 18-20 and 26-27 at the Gloria Logan Auditorium in Salem High School.

Sweet Charity, while not particularly difficult, still provides a challenge for the musicians down in the pit. "It's great music, and it's a great book, and it's characteristic sounds of the '60s," DePentu said. "The 'Fosse' in this play, though, comes through in the dancing."

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A6 (P)

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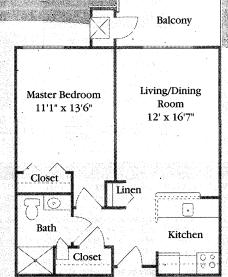
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LOCAL NEWS



The Comic Opera Guild presents 'Sally' at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill in Canton.

Comic guild brings 'Sally' to stage

The Comic Opera Guild continues its series of American Musical revivals with this production of Jerome Kern's 1920 hit, "Sally."

Originally opening to rave reviews, the show ran on Broadway for 507 performances. Performances at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill in Canton are scheduled for Thursday-Saturday, April 8-10, at 8 p.m. and Sunday, April 11, at 2 p.m.

"Sally" tells the Cinderella story of an orphan dishwasher who gets a chance to dance in a Ziegfield ballet. Considered one of Kern's best shows, it features several of his enduring songs, including "You Can't Keep a Good Girl Down," "The Church around the Corner" and "Whippoorwill." "Look for the Silver Lining," the show's biggest hit, became permanently associated with the original Sally, Marilyn Miller.

Marilyn Miller was featured on silver screen version of the show in 1929, which also starred the famous comedian Joe E. Brown. Several plot changes of the play were made in the film version. The Comic Opera Guild has incorporated the best of both versions in its revival.

Reserved seating tickets are \$20 for adults, \$17 for seniors and youth, except on Thursday, April 8, when all seats are \$15. Tickets for groups of 15 or more are \$15 per person. To get tickets online, visit www. CantonVillageTheater.org and click on Box Office or call (734) 394-5460.

Tickets can also be purchased in advance at Summit on the Park, located at 46000 Summit Parkway. To view the 2009-2010 performance schedule, visit Cantonvillagetheater.org and click on Season-At-A-Glance.

The Village Theater at Cherry Hill is located at 50400 Cherry Hill Road in Canton. For more information about this performance, visit Cantonvillagetheater.org.

Schoolcraft forum talks Michigan's recovery

Attitudes in Michigan need to change before the state can move forward from its economic struggles.

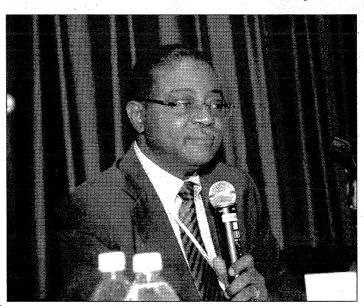
At least that seemed to be the consensus last week at an economic job symposium conducted at Schoolcraft College's VisTaTech School in Livonia. The symposium was sponsored by the 11th Congressional District Democratic Organization.

"The mindset in Michigan has to change in order to move forward," said Dr. Soji Adelaja of the Land Policy Institute-Bio Economy. "We need to point assets in the right direction and become a more knowledge based economy."

Adelaja said 95 percent of Michigan residents believe the auto industry has to come back, a statistic he said runs contrary to studies showing a more knowledge-based economy is needed here.

"However, the auto industry could lead us into having the best public transportation system in the country," Adelaja said.

Ron Dzwonkowski, Detroit • Free Press associate editor, moderated the forum and talked about how the broad middle class in Michigan grew for most of the 20th century. "Before the year 2000,



Dr. Soji Adelaja told the audience at last week's economic symposium that the 'mindset' in Michigan has to change before the state can move forward.

Michigan was 18th in per capita income; eight years later it is 37th in the nation," he said. "What made us prosperous in the past, won't in the future."

Other Michigan statistics given by the panel included indications the most prosperous states are in the north. Though the state is 34th in the country for its universities, speakers pointed out, but only 20 percent of the population in metro Detroit have a four-year degree, compared to 55 percent in other major metropolitan areas with successful economies. Successful cities, speakers said, need to broadly diversify their employment, similar to Chicago and Minneapolis.

"High tax industries provide good economies," said Lou Glazer, president of Ann Arbor-based Michigan's Future. "Minnesota has one of the highest taxes in the country, with the lowest unemployment and best economy, while Mississippi has the opposite. We cannot have a Mississippi structure and want Minnesota's economy."

(CP)

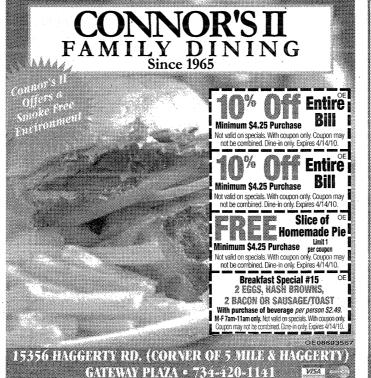
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There was a common concern voiced by the audience regarding the slice of population in metropolitan Detroit that came from three or four generations of auto assembly workers. Many of them are between the ages of 35-55 years and not able to retire yet.

"Community colleges must increase access and affordability for all, including those who have lower skills and need more training," said Mike Hansen, president of Michigan Community College Association. "Colleges have seen a remarkable increase in enrollment in the past few years, with some programs having waiting lists, due to lack of space."

Mark Gaffney of Michigan AFL-CIO said many of that population have sustained injuries that prevent them from working in physical jobs again.

"The recession in Michigan was largely caused by federal trade and manufacturing policies, therefore many of those people need government assistance to survive," Gaffney said. "It's going to take Michigan years to recover, therefore, unemployment extensions should be done a year at a time, and not a month at a time."





Questions About IRA Contributions?

- Q. Can I still make a contribution to my IRA for 2009?
 - A. Yes. You can contribute through April 15, 2010 even if you have already filed your tax return.
 - Q. How much can I contribute?
 A. This depends on many factors; please consult your tax advisor to see what your options are.
 - Q. What products are available for my contributions?
 - A. We have many products available. We'll find the best fit for your personal needs.

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Our fundamental purposes are to enhance the lives of our readers, nurture the hometowns we serve and contribute to the business success of our customers.

OUR VIEWS

Liquor level fine where it is

When the city's self-imposed moratorium on liquor licenses within its limits expires next month, there are really only a couple of ways city commissioners can go when deciding how to handle such licenses.

They can either uncap the number of businesses they allow to serve liquor, or they can leave it the way it is, with 22 licenses available within the city.

We think the latter course of action is the right one to take.

Plymouth residents were all over the map on the issue at a public meeting last week at the Plymouth Cultural Center. Some felt the current cap worked, some thought even the 22 was too many and others thought there shouldn't be a cap at all.

There's an argument to be made that capping the number of licenses restricts business, that the market is a better way of determining how many alcohol-serving establishments can survive in Plymouth. There's also an argument being made in the blogosphere that, and we're paraphrasing here, limiting the number of liquor licenses restricts residents' ability to go out and have a good time.

The first argument is viable, though it's certainly the City Commission's responsibility to cultivate the atmosphere of its community. The second argument is inane; people who want to have a few drinks are certainly going to be able to find a place, whether there are two or 22 or 2,200 liquor licenses within the city.

There are other considerations here, principally the amount of time and money spent by city employees, largely police officers, on business related to liquor licenses. There's the administrative time employees have to put into it, and there's the time police officers spend responding to alcohol-related incidents.

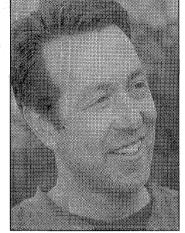
Some residents fear that if police officers are tied up on alcohol-related incidents, they may not be able to respond to incidents at other locations within the city.

The professionals appear to agree. Police Lt. Al Cox, the city's acting police chief, said patrol officers are "taxed" by the runs involving bar and restaurant drinkers, such as drunken driving and disorderly conduct arrests. City Manager Paul Sincock, who pointed out the city has a liquor license for every 410 residents or so, said on a recent Saturday night, police responded to five incidents related to people who had been drinking at local bars and restaurants. City Commissioner Michael Wright, a member of the committee charged with making a recommendation to the full commission, said his committee's work is about preserving Plymouth's key commercial attributes: a family-friendly atmosphere, walkability, and a wide variety of shops and restaurants.

COMMUNITY VOICE

Plymouth officials are considering capping the number of establishments licensed to serve alcohol by the glass, such as bars, restaurants and banquet facilities, at the existing number, which is 22. Do you think that is a good idea?

We asked this question outside the U.S. Postal Service station in downtown Plymouth.



"I think there needs to be some sort of cap. I don't know if 22's the magic number. ... You have to have a balance." Bill Anderson

Ann Arbor



"Yes I do. Because we have a fair number. ... I think they should keep track of who gets a liquor license." Carol Kennedy Plymouth Township

LETTERS

"No, I don't. In order to

have a vibrant downtown.

to serve alcohol."

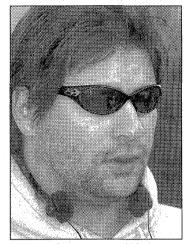
you have to have the ability

Dennis Zagata

Hell, Mich.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

We welcome your Letter to the Editor. Please include your name, address and phone number for verification. We ask your letters be 400 words or less. We may edit for clarity, space and content. Submit letters via the following formats. Web: www.hometownlife.com E-mail: bkadrich@hometownlife.com. Blog: You may also let your opinions be heard with your own blog at hometownlife.com. Deadline: Letters must be received by 9 a.m. Monday to be published in the Thursday edition.



"I'm not sure. ... I think there's a lot to be discussed about it. ... I do see an issue, though, with so many bars."

J.J. Harmon Plymouth

During his first year in office, President Obama has made a commitment to creating a more transparent, participatory and collaborative federal government.

Now, it is our responsibility as residents of Plymouth and Wayne County to ensure that this same commitment is made here.

March 14-20 is Sunshine Week (held around Madison's birthday), a national initiative to promote the importance of open government and freedom of information. I encourage everyone to attend a local government meeting or visit the Web sites of Plymouth and Wayne County to learn more about what our government is doing. As members of the League of Women Voters, we are continuously answering Madison's call to action: we are working to keep our community fair, vibrant and strong — starting with having an open and transparent government.

Band needs you

There exists a wonderful opportunity for students who will be attending the Park, and even for district eighth-graders as well. This exclusive circumstance does not exist anywhere else in the nation. The 305-acre Park campus sites three separate high schools totaling over 6,200 students and nearly 300 staff.

Three high schools, each their separate entity; yet together create a product recognized throughout Michigan and the United States. Chiefs, Rocks, and Wildcats meld into one of the finest and storied marching bands in the country. Your three high

n Alexandra Alexandra (1997) - Alexandra (1997)

The best way to do that is to leave the cork in the bottle, so to speak, when it comes to liquor licenses.

Run to serve

Former Govs. John Engler and James Blanchard were in metro Detroit recently, offering advice to current and future state leaders.

Speaking recently at Michigan State University's Michigan Political Leadership Program at Laurel Manor in Livonia, the two former political adversaries agreed that Republicans and Democrats must work together to turn Michigan's economy around.

Blanchard said candidates should run because they love Michigan, not just themselves.

"Make sure you want to serve," he told them.

These are wise words. We hope everyone running for - or considering running for - office takes them to heart.

This is an election year. Michigan voters will choose a new governor as well as state senators and state representatives. On the local level, state Rep. Marc Corriveau, D-Northville, is giving up his 20th District seat to run for the state Senate. Incumbent Democrat Rep. Dian Slavens of Canton faces a challenge, and the seat Corriveau is vacating is up for grabs.

The state faces a projected budget deficit of \$1.5 billion next budget year and high unemployment for at least another two years, among other problems.

Elected officials must work together to find ways to balance the budget but still provide essential government services.



schools create your Plymouth Canton Marching Band!

Approximately 40 marching band seniors will be graduating in June. Their time with the band has come to a close yet each of them will take his or her place in the annals of the phenomenal history of the program. Many will actually miss those "band camps" they participated in every summer. They will look back on their years each knowing that they were part of a great group of individuals who came together and performed as a unit and who put their heart and soul into making the most of their time with the band.

Returning members anxiously await the new season and what the 2010 show will be. They look forward to being with friends and having sectionals to hone their musical talents. Parades in Plymouth and Canton will showcase the band's early accomplishments. The 200+ hours of practice throughout the summer will plant and nurture the seed that blossoms in fall competitions in Downriver, Ypsilanti, St. Louis, Canton, Detroit, and the National Championship in Indianapolis.

Last year, the marching band was 178 strong, approximately 2.87 percent of the student population. A band of 200 members would require 3.22 percent of the students and 4 percent would field some 248 marching members; and the sound they would produce would be stupendous!

The marching band is looking for new members. Not necessarily to "replace" those who graduated, but new student musicians (freshman, sophomore, junior, senior, and even eighth-graders) looking to become part of this marching corps. The Plymouth Canton Marching Band is holding two more meetings — Thursday, April 22, and Wednesday, May 19 — for students, and their parents, who are interested in joining the band. Students will be able to speak with band members and get a firsthand account of what it's like to be part of the marching band and to play in stadiums in front of thousands of people. Parents will also be able to ask booster members questions that they may have.

Think about becoming part of the Plymouth-Canton tradition. Think about becoming part of the Plymouth Canton history. Think about becoming part of the 22-time MCBA Flight 1 State Champion. Think about becoming part of a 20-time Bands of America National Finalist and three-time national champion. Think about becoming a member in your Plymouth Canton Marching Band.

> Carl Katafiasz Canton

Let sun shine

Almost 200 years ago, James Madison wrote, "A popular government, without popular information, or the means of acquiring it, is but a prologue to a farce or a tragedy; or, perhaps, both." His words remain a call to action today.

Given the gravity of the issues facing our nation, the need for public access to governmental decisions and policies that affect all Americans is greater than ever. Access to this information allows citizens to hold their government accountable at the local, state, and national level.

Whether it is to track how federal stimulus dollars are being spent or to attend a local government meeting where land use or school funding decisions are being made, "sunshine laws" afford us access and create government transparency.

However, these laws are only as good as we, the people, demand that they be.

ONLINE VOICES & VIEWS

Here's a look at what readers are saying about stories on our Web site, www. hometownlife.com: and a

• In response to the story, "Residents debate cap on liquor licenses":

stoppnthink wrote:

"Replying to davidr60home, who wrote: People that consume alcohol will do so whether there are 20 places to go or 50. The number of licenses does not increase the number of people drinking.' I beg to differ. License density DOES make a difference in total volume of liquor consumed. If this were not true the desirability of those licenses and associated profit would not exist. I guess I question the change in character of the community if this should happen."

davidr60home wrote:

"People that consume alcohol will do so whether there are 20 places to go or 50. The number of licenses does not increase the number of people drinking."

stoppnthink wrote:

"The issue is not the capping of the licenses. It is rather being able to deal with the influx of DUI in the City and Township effectively. Even with the current number of police many of those who drive and drink excessively escape monitoring. (There are only so many officers on duty at night given the current staffing.) Couple this with the continuing clamor of balancing a budget by a reduction of public safety in the adjacent communities and this could really lead to some nasty unintended consequences. Look at the intertwined considerations. This is not that simple."

Paula Bowman, president

League of Women Voters of NW Wayne County

Good Samaritan

I wanted to relay a very positive experience I had with a driver who stopped on the southbound Ford Road exit ramp of I-275 as I crashed through a fence and hit a tree on Feb. 22, that very snowy day.

Although several people stopped and the Canton police came right away, this young man whose name is Joe, and is being deployed to Iraq for a second tour of duty, stopped and went out of his way to make sure that he waited with me until the state trooper came to take the report, and the tow truck came. He helped me find my cell phone and said that if I couldn't reach my husband he would be glad to give me a ride from the dealership, where my car was being towed to.

He followed through by contacting me an hour later to see if I was all right and needed a ride home.

This soldier who will put his life on the line in a dangerous country, not knowing what his future will hold, still had the sensitivity and concern to make sure that my needs were taken care of.

So often we ignore goodness in fellow human beings and only focus on the negatives; hopefully you will print this and "Joe" and his family will know what a great person he is.

> Sandy Lopez Northville

LOCAL NEWS

(CP) **A9**

Hey, kids! Win Tigers tickets

Are you a young person who goes above and beyond to make your neighborhood, school, community or family better?

If this is you, tell us your story in 500 words or less and you could win four tickets to an

upcoming Tigers baseball game. The

Observer S Eccentric and Hometown Newspapers will select one winning essay a month during the regular baseball season (April-September). The winner will receive

four game tickets, one Hot & Ready Little Caesars pizza and an autographed Detroit Tigers item. In addition, your name will be announced in pre-game festivities at Comerica Park.

E-mail your essay to: cbjordan@hometownlife. com with the subject line: PAWS for Applause. Or mail it to: Attn: Choya Jordan

Observer ♂ Eccentric Newspapers/Hometown Weeklies

615 W. Lafayette Blvd. Detroit, MI 48226 Game tickets to be awarded to essay winners include: Sunday, April 11 (Detroit vs. Cleveland); Sunday, May 2 (Detroit vs. Los Angeles Angels); Sunday, June 13 (Detroit vs. Pittsburgh); Sunday, July

11 (Detroit vs. Minnesota); Sunday, Aug. 22 (Detroit vs. Cleveland) and Sunday, Sept. 12 (Detroit vs. Baltimore).

The winning essays along with a photo of the winner will be published in the Observer & Eccentric and Hometown Newspapers.

You can check credit report for free; fix errors

was doing some research online and what caught my attention was the number of ads for credit reports.

In the past, a credit report was only important when you were thinking of obtaining credit (i.e., applying for a credit card or mortgage.) Fast forward to today and you will find that credit reports are used for much more than obtaining credit. Credit reports have been used to determine auto insurance premiums. I don't know what credit has to do with whether you are a good driver, but the reality is it does factor into the equation in determining your premium.

In addition, more employers have been using credit reports in making hiring decisions. In fact, I recently read where a man was explaining that he obtains credit reports on the women he dates because he doesn't want to marry anyone with poor credit. It's sometimes hard to figure out why someone's credit report enters into the equation, but it does. Because credit reports are used so often and for a variety of different reasons, it is important to occasionally check on the status of your report.



Rick Bloom

one company may show your credit report as clean doesn't mean the others will. Therefore, it is important to review your credit report with all three companies. Several years ago a federal

of each other,

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law was passed which requires the credit reporting bureaus to provide consumers with a free credit report once every 12 months. It is this law that has caused some confusion.

There are many ads on television and online offering free credit reports. The commercial I've seen the most is by FreeCreditReport.com which is owned by Experian.

Although many of these companies are legitimate, they offer a service at a cost. Typically, the free credit report is used to get you to sign up for other services. Then there are other companies that are not legitimate. They are either trying to trick you into signing up for a service that you don't need or, worse, some are attempting to steal your identity.

The one place you can be assured is on the up-and-up is AnnualCreditReport.com. This is the only place that you can go where the three credit bureaus are required by law to provide you with a free credit report.

In using AnnualCreditReport.com you are allowed one free report every 12 months from the three credit reporting bureaus. The question is do you obtain them at once or do you spread them out getting one report every four months? I see solid reasons for both strategies. By receiving all your credit reports at once it does allow you to compare all three reports at once which you cannot do if you spread the reports out over time. On the other hand, if you do spread the reports out over a four-month period, it may allow you to catch some erroneous information that has been placed on your credit report.

I really do not know which strategy is better than the other. I think whatever one you use is fine. The key is to just do something.

Take advantage of the law and obtain your free credit reports on a year-by-year basis. Obviously, I am very skeptical of free products. However, you can be assured that when you go to AnnualCreditReport.com you actually can obtain your credit reports for free without strings attached. Good luck!

Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial adviser. Observer & Eccentric readers can submit questions at moneymatters@hometownlife.com. For more information, visit his Web site at www.bloomassetmanagement.com.

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Charles White, now associate pastor of Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish in Plymouth. Fr. White will challenge you with his spirited explanation of what helped him find HIS place in God's puzzle. Don't miss this dynamic evening. No charge, no reservations, no pressure. All are welcome!

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online at hometownlife.com





Breslin beckons

Poised Chiefs win Class A quarterfinal, reach Final Four

BY TIM SMITH **OBSERVER STAFE WRITER**

Oozing confidence and poise, the way Canton's girls basketball team gets off to fast starts is almost becoming a science.

And the Chiefs followed the "lesson plan" perfectly Tuesday night, getting out to a 6-2 first-quarter lead and rolling from there to a 53-36 victory in a Class A state quarterfinal against Midland Dow at Davison High School.

The victory moves Canton (24-1) into the state semifinal game against Detroit Renaissance (23-2) slated for 1 p.m. Friday at Michigan State University's Breslin Center. It's the school's first Final Four appearance since 1994.

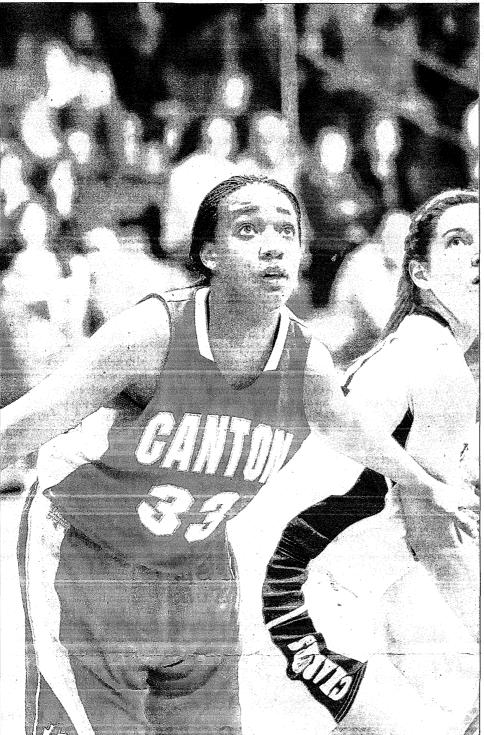
Against the Chargers, it was junior forward Kayla Bridges providing the early spark. Bridges scored six quick points as the Chiefs went up 8-4 midway through the opening frame.

"You always have the mentality that you want to set the tone early and let the other team know you want to win as bad as they do," said Bridges, who tallied eight points and four rebounds for Canton (24-1). "So I just thought coming out as hard as I did with all my team set the tone for the game."

By the time the first frame ended, Canton's lead was up to 16-6 following strong, to-the-hole moves by junior forwards Kari and Sara Schmitt and a sweet jumper from the corner by junior forward CarolAnn Sexauer.

Despite foul trouble, with Canton getting whistled 10 times to Dow's four at one point during the first half, the Chiefs never wavered. It didn't matter that Kari Schmitt (11 points, four boards, three steals) sat the entire second quarter after receiving her second foul.

Canton still held serve during the stanza, outscoring Dow 9-8 to go up 25-14 at halftime.



PCA drops regional

BY TIM SMITH **OBSERVER STAFF WRITER**

Despite some poor shooting, early foul trouble and a case of "turnover-itis," Plymouth Christian Academy led 10-9 after one quarter of Monday's Class D regional boys basketball semifinal at Hillsdale College.

But then came a 16-0 run by Camden-Frontier. As might be expected.

BOYS REGIONALS that was too much for the Eagles to bounce back from as PCA lost 64-52.

"It's always a good experience when you win the district and you go to the next round and you have a chance with 32 teams," said PCA head coach Mike Doyle. "But that second quarter's always been our bugaboo quarter. I even tried to mix it up, call a time out, change our defense and everything. It just didn't work."

PCA (13-8) led 14-11 with about six minutes left in the first half, following a layup by senior guard Don Mullett (six points).

But Redskins' senior forward Nick Balbo followed with back-to-back putbacks to put Camden-Frontier (14-9) in front and things went downhill fast.

"We got bad shots and when we take bad shots the other team gets out and runs," Doyle said. "It's tough, it really is."

Also hurting PCA's chances was getting beat in the rebounding department to the tune of 2-to-1 for the evening.

According to Camden-Frontier head coach Gary Morrison, noting that the win was the program's first in the regionals in nearly a decade, it was essential to keep the

Eagles from getting into a half-

court game.

SIDELINES

Wydryck lauded

Tabatha Wydryck, a 6foot-1 junior guard for the Madonna University women's basketball team, earned honorable mention accolades for the 2010 National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) Division II All-America women's basketball team.

Wydryck, a Wyandotte native who averaged 11.1 points and 8.2 rebounds this year, is the second Crusader in as many seasons to receive such an honor joining 2009 third-team selection Kim Olech (Plymouth).

A first-team Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference pick, Wydryck ranked in the top 18 in steals per game (3.07), total steals (89) and defensive rebounds per game (6.8).

She helped MU to a 14-15 overall record and a berth in the WHAC title game.

Haldane saluted

Madonna University junior Sam Haldane was selected as the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference's Pitcher of the Week in baseball (ending March 14).

Haldane, a transfer from Lake Land Community College (Ill.), went 1-0 for the No. 21-ranked Crusaders last week, throwing a complete game against Calumet College of St. Joseph (Ind.).

The St. Thomas, Ontario, native struck out a careerhigh 10 batters while allowing just three hits in a 4-0 win to improve to 1-1 on the year.

Salem Baseball Camp

Baseball players can choose between Saturday, March 20, or Saturday, March 27, for the Salem Baseball Skills Camp.

Go to www.rocksbaseball. com for more information and a registration form or call Pat at (734) 516-5530.

The way the officials called the game did not rattle Canton, however.

Please see CHIEFS, B3

Canton junior forward Kayla Bridges helped get her team going Tuesday night against Midland Dow.

Heavy 'medal' for Canton gymnasts

BY TIM SMITH **OBSERVER STAFF WRITER**

Talk about icing on the cake. An outstanding season by Canton's girls gymnastics team couldn't have gotten any better at last weekend's state and individual state finals

But it did, as freshman Alex Fideler won a MHSAA state championship Saturday

at Rockford STATE FINALS High

School in the balance beam. Fideler's mark of 9.65 did the trick, giving Canton its third-ever individual champion (following Katey Gilles and Alyssa Kelley, both on vault in 1995 and 2006).

"She (Fideler) beat the girl that had the highest allaround score ever in state meet competition," said veteran Canton head coach John Cunningham, referring to Grand Ledge's Alexis Byington. "... To beat her in the event was a tremendous accomplishment."

Byington tallied 38.85 all-around points, nipping Canton's Fideler (fifth, 37.45) and junior Robyn Piwowar (ninth, 36.9).

"In order to do that at state meet, you have to be totally solid, focused," Cunningham said. "... (it was an) absolutely solid routine, it was beautiful.'

Also outstanding was Piwowar, who finished third in vault (a personal best of 9.6)

"Robyn's third-place finish

'She (Fideler) beat the girl that had the highest allaround score ever in state meet competition. ... To beat her in the event was a tremendous accomplishment.' JOHN CUNNINGHAM, Canton coach

in vault also was exceptional," Cunningham said. "In her three years she's been fifth, fourth and third on D1 vault. And again, Alexis Byington is at the head of that pack. She was untouchable."

FIVE MEDALISTS

Fideler and Piwowar were all-staters for the Chiefs in Division 1. But also making All-State in Division 2 were Canton's Mallory Hudak, Ayana Lewis and Brooke Granowicz. All brought home medals, the criteria for being named All-State.

Lewis had an outstanding day, finishing fourth in two events and fifth in two oth-

The only Chief not to medal was Kali Pierce, who sustained an injury during Friday night warmups but

still competed. "This crew took 15 medals," said Cunningham, proudly. "Of the six girls I took, five of them medaled in the individual finals. And Kali Pierce probably would have medaled had she not sprained her ankle in

Please see GYMNASTICS, B3



Whalers-Soo could be special

BY TIM SMITH **OBSERVER STAFF WRITER**

Special teams and goaltending figure to be the keys to the first-round Ontario Hockey League playoff matchup between the Plymouth Whalers and Sault Ste. Marie.

Veteran Plymouth head coach and GM PLAYOFF Mike Vellucci said his team will PREVIEW need to excel both

on the power play and penalty kill against the Greyhounds - also strong in those areas.

Speedy, hard-working forward Tyler Brown could be a key player for Plymouth's pen-

alty killing hopes. And between the pipes, the Whalers Matt Hackett and Robin Lehner of the. Greyhounds could put on

FOR OPENERS

What: OHL first-round playoff series between Plymouth and Sault Ste. Marie. Games 1-2: 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday, both at Compuware Arena in Plymouth.

Specials: The Whalers are holding the line on ticket prices and will again offer \$5 Fridays for the opening game. The popular 4-for-\$44 family deal also is still available.

Tickets: \$15, \$11.

Info: Go to www.plymouthwhalers.com for more information or call (734) 453-8400.

enough of a clinic to bring a smile to the face of Plymouth goaltending guru Stan Matwijiw.

"They're a very good team, they've got a great goaltender, they have the top power play and one of the top penalty kills," Vellucci said. "So special teams is going to be a big part of it. We've got to be disciplined and goaltending, ... it's going to come down to goaltending.'

Hackett finished the regular season with a 2.62 goals against average, .925 save percentage and record of 33-18-1-2. He was a big reason why Plymouth earned the fourth seed in the Western Conference (79 points) to gain home ice against the fifth seed Greyhounds (77 points).

"Hack's been great," Vellucci said. "He's had a real good run down the end here, and when he's on top of his game there's nobody better."

Please see WHALERS, B2

Saberettes Kids Clinic

The Plymouth Saberettes are holding a Kids Pompon Clinic from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. March 20 at the Plymouth High School cafeteria. The clinic is open to children ages 5-14.

Pre-registration is now open on the www.pompons. plymouthwildcats.com Web site. You may also contact Saberette parents Lisa Krahel at lisalynn1509@aol.com or Lori Schroeder at weearefamily@aol.com.

Flag football

The city of Plymouth **Recreation Department** will be taking Summer NFL Youth Flag Football Registrations (for grades three-eight) now through April 16 at the recreation office from noon to 4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday.

The office is located in the Plymouth Cultural Center, 525 Farmer St. For more information, call (734) 455-6620. Check out more program and registration information, including Spring Classes which are now open for registration, at www. ci.plymouth.mi.us.

Graves signs cager

Madonna University women's basketball coach Carl Graves announced the signing Monday of 5-foot-10 forward Kayleigh McCollum of Muskegon Catholic Central to an NAIA letter-of-intent. McCollum averaged 13.1 points and 6.8 rebounds

per game this season for the Crusaders.

The three-year letter winner has scored 642 career points and pulled 334 career rebounds as Muskegon CC captured two River Valley Conference titles, a pair of Class C districts and one regional crown.

She has also earned four letters in soccer where she was selected All-Conference, All-District, All-Region, All-Area and All-State as a junior.

(CP) . Observer & Eccentric | Thursday, March 18, 2010



Stevenson



Plymouth

Ryan Renault



Mario Macari Salem



Farmington

Joseph Shecter Danny Sager N. Farm.-Harrison Stevenson



Churchill

Justin Shureb

Stevenson



Ethan Range

Farmington



Jake Poynter Andrew DeBrincat N. Farm.-Harrison Stevenson

online at hometownlife.com

Michael Justus Plymouth

All-Observer icers a cut above the rest

FIRST-TEAM Cole Rochowiak, Sr. F, Liv. Stevenson: The third-year senior and captain finished with a team-best 39 points on 17 goals and 22 assists with a plus-34 for the KLAA Central Division, Kensington Conference and overall KLAA champions.

"He was our leader both on and off the ice," Stevenson coach David Mitchell said of the All-KLAA pick. "He is a player who loves the game of hockey and thrives on challenges. He was our team leader in plus-minus and had four short-handed goals. He was a joy to coach.'

Ryan Renault, Sr. F, Plymouth: One of the key reasons why Plymouth finished 19-6-1 overall and finished in a tie for the KLAA South title was the play of Renault, an all-conference senior forward who had a knack for being in the right place at the right time to put his laser shot to work against opposing netminders.

Wildcats coach Paul Fassbender said Renault's consistency, not to mention numerous multi-point efforts, enabled him to finish with 15 goals, 22 assists and 37 points - leading Plymouth in scoring for the second consecutive season.

Mario Macari, Sr. F, Salem: The gifted senior co-captain led the KLAA South co-champion Rocks in every offensive category, with 17 goals, 25 assists, 42 points and a plus-22 mark.

"Mario was used in every situation this season including power play and penalty kill," said Salem coach Ryan Ossenmacher about the allconference selection. "This is the second year in a row that Mario has been one of our most consistent offensive play-

2009-10 ALL-OBSERVER **BOYS HOCKEY FIRST TEAM** Cole Rochowiak, Sr. F, Liv. Stevenson Ryan Renault, Sr. F, Plymouth Mario Macari, Sr. F., Salem Errik Scott, Sr. Def., Farmington Joseph Shecter, Jr. Def., N. Farm.-Harrison Danny Sager, Sr. G, Liv. Stevenson SECOND TEAM Christo Papaionnou, Sr. F, Liv. Churchill Justin Shureb, Jr. F, Liv. Stevenson Ethan Range, Sr. F, Farmington Andrew DeBrincat, Jr. Def., N.F.-Harrison Jake Poynter, Sr. Def., Liv. Stevenson Michael Justus, Jr. G, Plymouth THIRD TEAM Adam Rosen, Sr. F, N. Farm.-Harrison Mike Woynick, Sr. F. Liv. Churchill Nick Elliott, Jr. F, Farmington A.J. Rosales, Jr. F, Canton Justin Bauer, Jr. Def., Plymouth Steven Manser, Sr. G, Salem FOURTH TEAM John Strauch, Sr. F. Liv. Stevenson Kraig Andrews, Sr. F, Farmington Jake Otto, Soph. F, Liv. Churchill Josh Jarvela, Sr. F, Salem Riley Hoernschmeyer, Sr. F, Canton Michael Brown, Sr. G, N. Farm.-Harrison COACH OF THE YEAR David Mitchell, Liv. Stevensor HONORABLE MENTION Churchill: Steve Klisz, Mike Kutek Scott Hamill; Franklin: Anthony Crechiolo, Jacob Wirgau; Stevenson: Tim Pruchnik, Jacob Vert; Canton: Kyle Korte, Garrett Bryden, Matt Rodgers, Jimmy LaFontaine; Plymouth: Zach Gambrell, Pat Smiatacz, Evan Swieczkowski; Salem: Mark McGee, Garrett Berg, Matt Hull; Farmington: Zach Massa, Mitch Hall, Tim Rogers, Matt Gutknecht, Tim Pattison; North Farmington-Harrison: Scott Newel, Justin Parolo, Ryan Arndt, Justin VanValkenburg. ers. He was a leader both on

and off the ice this year and his performance was key to our successes."

Errik Scott, Sr. Def., Farmington: Scott was the top defenseman for the OAA Red Division co-champions. The No. 7-ranked Falcons posted an 18-6-2 record, losing to **Division 2 state champion** Trenton in a regional final. He also had seven goals, 17 assists and a plus-16 rating.

"Errik has one of the hardest and accurate shots of any player I've had as a coach," coach Mark Vellucci said. "Night in and night out, he was our best defenseman, and his leadership will be missed. He's a young man with great character."

Joseph Shecter, Jr. Def., N. Farm.-Harrison: A three-year varsity player and a team captain, Shecter was a major reason the Flyers did so well (16-7-2) and won a share of the OAA Red Division championship. He played in all situations and was a key member of the power-play and penaltykill units. Shecter had four goals and 20 assists.

"Joe is just a great allaround player," coach Ken Anderson said. "Defense was his first job, to get that done. When we needed him to come up and close the gap in the offensive zone, he was able to do that without hurting his defensive game."

Danny Sager, Sr. G, Liv. Stevenson: The senior played in 25 of 27 games posting a record with 19-4-2 with a 1.92 goals-against average (with five shutouts). The All-KLAA selection also

had a save percentage of 92. "Danny is a tremendously hard worker both on-and-off the ice." Mitchell said. "He grew up a great deal this season learning how to 'slow the game down.'

He was confident and calm in every situation that he was put in. His play, as the backbone of our team, was no doubt a huge reason for our success and having the record we did."

SECOND-TEAM

Christo Papaionnou, Sr. F, Liv. Churchill: The three-year varsity player and team MVP finished with 17 goals and 20 assists (37 points) with a plus-19 for the KLAA South Division cochampions.

The All-Kensington Lakes selection had only 10 minutes in penalties. ⁶Christo really worked hard

in the off-season and it really paid off - he had a very good senior year," Churchill coach Pete Mazzoni said. "He played in every situation. He made the guys he played with better players.'

Justin Shureb, Jr. F, Liv. Stevenson: The junior was the Spartans' top sniper with 21 goals to go along with 16 assists for 37 points.

The All-KLAA honoree ranked second on the team in plus-minus (32) and took only eight minutes in penalties all season.

Justin is a tremendous worker who is tenacious at both ends of the ice," Mitchell said. "Justin's speed puts an enormous amount of pressure on opposing teams. He played and excelled in all situations.

"He's a tireless worker at both ends of the rink and never takes a shift off. As a coach you could always count on Justin to bring his best effort to the rink night-in and night-out.'

Ethan Range, Sr. F, Farmington: Range, who was a threeyear varsity player and twoyear captain, was one of Farmington's leading scorers with 30 points on 10 goals and 20 assists. He had a plus-12

rating. "Ethan is one of the best character leaders I've had the privilege to coach," coach Mark Vellucci said. "He was the heart and soul of the team. He never took a shift off. His passion and dedication for the game of hockey is something I'll sorely miss. He has great character

and is a fine young man." Andrew DeBrincat, Jr. Def.,

N. Farm.-Harrison: Another outstanding junior defenseman for the Flyers, DeBrincat has played alongside Shecter for three varsity seasons to become one of the top defensive duos in the OAA and area. He had six goals, 14 assists and a plus-20 rating.

"Andrew has the great ability to slow the game down in hectic situations, to settle it down to our pace," coach Ken Anderson said. "I know he's going to make the right play, the smart play. He and Shecter were defensive partners throughout the year, and they played off each other so well."

Jake Poynter, Sr. Def., Liv. Stevenson: The senior was the Spartans' top blueliner and finished fifth in scoring with four goals and 22 assists for 26 points.

The All-KLAA selection had a plus-minus of 29, tied for fourth on the team.

"Jake had an unbelievable year for us on the blueline," Mitchell said. "He was our leading scorer defensively while consistently playing against the opponent's top players or top lines. Jake seemed to get stronger as the season went on. He played and excelled in all situations quarterbacking the power play unit and playing often on the penalty kill. He was a huge reason for our goals-against (1.81 average) and as consistent as a coach could ask for in a defenseman.'

Michael Justus, Jr. G, Plymouth: Steady and at times spectacular. Justus provided strong netminding all season for the Wildcats. He finished with a 12-5-1 record in 18 games, giving up just 2.66 goals per outing and stopping nearly 90 percent of the shots he faced.

Fassbender said Justus "was one of the reasons we were as strong as we were" and is looking forward to what the youngster can do for the squad as a senior. Justus was an All-KLAA selection. COACH OF THE YEAR

David Mitchell, Liv. Stevenson: The third-year coach guided the Spartans to the Division 1 regional final and a 21-4-2 overall record.

Mitchell also led the Spartans to a clean sweep of all three titles in the **Kensington Lakes Activities** Association - Central Division, Kensington Conference and KLAA.

"This is one of the hardest working groups of young men that I have ever been associated with," said



is 56-14-9 overall. "They dedicated themselves on-andoff the ice, in the classroom and in the community. They accomplished

Mitchell, who

a majority of

the goals that they had set for themselves. This team was not only successful on the ice, but they had a team G.P.A. of 3.29 and put in countless hours of community service.

"Everybody associated with Stevenson hockey had a great deal to do with our success. It was everybody, from our phenomenal assistant coaches, to our outstanding support staff, to our supportive parents and students that made this year special. It was a wonderful group, which made for a great year, one that will be looked back on with gratification and built upon by future Spartan hockey teams.'

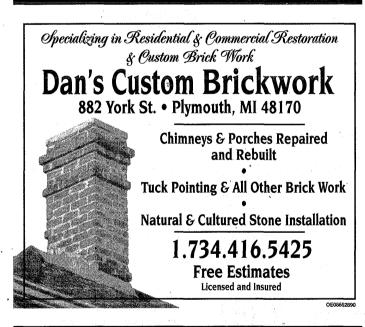


B2

LOCAL SPORTS

Seguin grabs scoring co-title in finale

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BY TIM SMITH **OBSERVER STAFF WRITER**

On the surface, it seemed strange that Plymouth Whalers' head coach Mike Vellucci would pull goalkeeper Scott Wedgewood in the final minute of a game his team trailed 4-0 — giving his team a 6-on-4 manpower advantage, too.

But with just 25 seconds to go in Sunday afternoon's regular season finale, forward Tyler Seguin's wrist shot from the left circle high into the Saginaw net took away any such thoughts.

His top-shelf, power-play blast gave him a share of the **Ontario Hockey League's** scoring championship with Windsor's Taylor Hall.

"It's not about (individual) points," said Seguin following Saginaw's 4-1 win at Compuware Arena. "But in that type of game, the game was kind of over, everyone was trying to give me the puck and I knew I only had one shift there.

"It was five or six minutes, I was exhausted, but finally got a little bounce my way and it was nice."

Earning assists on the goal were forwards AJ Jenks (Walled Lake Central) and

FROM PAGE B1

Lehner, meanwhile, wasn't far behind in those categories (2.80, .918, 27-13-0-3).

On the offensive side, the Whalers tout forward Tyler Seguin, who shared the OHL scoring title with Windsor's Taylor Hall (each with 106 points).

But there are other strong forwards such as AJ Jenks

Robbie Czarnik (University of Michigan), who finished the regular season with 63 and 49 points, respectively.

It's fitting that Seguin and Hall would finish with 106 points, since it is widely speculated that they will be the Top-2 picks in June's National Hockey League Entry Draft in Los Angeles.

"He (Seguin) wanted it, we tried to get him the points if we could," Vellucci said. "He worked hard for it all year and deserved it."

The shared scoring title is the third in OHL history and the first since Jack Valiquette and Rick Adduono each scored 135 points in 1973-74. Meanwhile, Seguin said he

didn't think being blanked in the finale would have had an adverse effect going into Plymouth's first-round playoff series with Sault Ste. Marie (the first games are 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday, both at Compuware). "I think either way we

were going to turn the page," Seguin said. "Our mentality going into this game was that we didn't want bad habits created. But we didn't get too many good bounces our way.

"They (Spirit) worked hard ... they had to win. But now we're going to try to turn the

Czarnik (University of

goals.

season series.

the league with 21 power play

It all points to a very com-

petitive series; each team won

three games in the regular

The first game is 7 p.m. Friday at Compuware Arena,

with Game 2 slated for 7 p.m.

Saturday (also at Compuware).

page, forget about this game and look forward to next weekend."

Plymouth finished in the fourth seed of the OHL Western Conference with 79 points (38-27-1-2) while Saginaw clinched sixth (34-27-4-3) with 75 points.

SPIRIT MOVES UP

The Spirit had a lot to gain Sunday, which began with Saginaw and Erie tied at the bottom of the playoff picture. Thanks to the win, rather than going up against conference leader Windsor (106 points or London (101 points), the Spirit will visit third-place Kitchener (91 points).

"We didn't want to be in the eight hole, no disrespect to London or to Kitchener," said Saginaw head coach Todd Watson. "But I don't think anybody in our league wanted to be in that eighth slot. We just wanted to get out of that.

"We're glad to do that, but now as you look forward it presents a new set of problems."

Watson's squad (including defenseman and Canton native Joe Underwood) finally is healthy, however. It also boasts goalie Edward Pasquale (outstanding with 34 saves against the Whalers) and top forward line Jordan Skellett, Ivan Telegin and Josh Shalia.

Tellegin scored two goals Sunday and assisted on another while Skellett (one goal, one assist) and Shalia (three assists) also were a collective pain in Wedgewood's side.

Saginaw took a 1-0 lead in the first when Telegin batted home a rebound and then padded that advantage to 3-0 in the second on markers by Vincent Trocheck (unassisted) and Telegin.

Vellucci said he used the game to rest some key players, some nursing injuries. "We sat a couple guys out, just wanted to get through with no injuries and put a decent show on for our home crowd that was sold out."

On the plus side, defenseman Michal Jordan returned to the lineup and played well, after missing several weeks due to injury.

"He did great, it was a good game to get him back in and get game tested," Vellucci said. "He didn't have any pain issues so that was very good."

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(Walled Lake Central) and The Whalers are extending mid-season pickups Robbie the \$5 Fridays promotion for the playoff opener and did not Michigan) and Phil McRae. raise ticket prices for the first For the Greyhounds, winger round (\$15, \$11, 4-for-\$44 Brett Thompson is third in deals).

Big crowds are expected, with Seguin an obvious drawing card. He is touted as the first or second pick in the upcoming NHL draft.

The playoff series schedule is as follows (all games begin at 7 p.m.):

• Games 1-2: Friday-Saturday at Plymouth;

• Games 3-4: Tuesday-Wednesday, March 23-24 at Sault Ste. Marie;

• Game 5 (If necessary): Friday, March 26 at Plymouth;

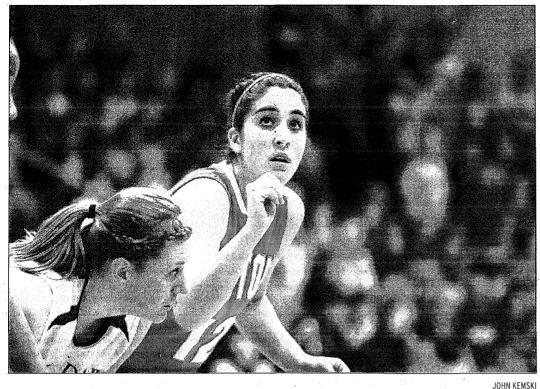
• Game 6 (If necessary): Sunday, March 28 at Sault Ste Marie:

• Game 7 (If necessary): Tuesday, March 30 at Plymouth.

All games will be broadcast online at www.plymouthwhalers.com.

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LOCAL SPORTS



Watching to see if a free throw falls Tuesday night is Canton senior forward Alyssa Cottrell (No. 12), who contributed to her team's victory over Midland Dow in the Class A state guarterfinal contest.



"This is a pretty level-headed group, they have great poise and they've done a great job all year figuring out how the game's going to be called and adjust from that," said Canton head coach Brian Samulski. "They've played in a lot of big games. Even though we're fairly young, they were all there last year, they have a lot of experience.

"They compete all the time and I think that's big."

Dow head coach Bob Wellman, whose team made the quarterfinals for the first time, knew what had to be done to stay in the game. But Canton's physical play and efficiency frustrated the Chargers, who made 21 turnovers.

"Tonight we didn't move the ball well, we got caught standing around," Wellman said. "They did great job on Becca Mills inside, we didn't find the open girls and we didn't hit shots,

"We just, against their pressure, we didn't play the way we can play."

STRONG STARTS

One thing the Chiefs do on a regular basis is come out strong both for the first and

second half, which is something Samulski preaches. It happened again Tuesday. "It's just focus and being ready to play," he said. "They knew it was a big game and they've been focused and ready all 25 games."

True to form, Canton really took control in the third with a 19-9 quarter. Kari Schmitt hit a jumper off a feed from Sara Schmitt (20 points, eight rebounds, three steals in an outstanding all-around game) to signal her return to the game.

The Chiefs did need to hold off a charge by Dow junior center Becca Mills (10 points, 11 boards) during the third. She scored back-to-back buckets to make it 31-20 and then stole the ball, only to miss a layup that would have sliced the Canton lead to nine points.

Sara Schmitt then collected one of her three offensive rebounds and deposited a nice, five-foot hook shot from the side of the lane to give Canton a 33-20 edge.

Sophomore guard Robyn Mack then showed her calmness under pressure, with a power move through the paint for a bank-shot followed by a jumper from the corner and all of a sudden it was 37-21.

In the final minutes of the

third, karma seemed to help the Chiefs. Sexauer was called for a questionable foul, but she swiped the subsequent endbounds pass under Dow's basket. She then tallied a layup, making it 40-21

Canton controlled the tempo in the fourth, working the ball around the perimeter and eating up time. The Chiefs also drew plenty of fouls and iced the game with some good freethrow shooting.

Both Sexauer and Mack registered six points to augment the Schmitts and Bridges.

Chipping in with nine points and six rebounds for Dow was junior forward Sarah Arent while also scoring nine was junior guard Shelby Thompson. Now, Samulski and the Chiefs will prepare for the bright lights of Breslin. "I think they'll be OK,"

Samulski said. "They'll come in, compete and get after it and we'll see what happens."

Bridges, meanwhile, said it hadn't sunk in yet about reaching the Final Four – one of the team's top goals this season.

"At the beginning of the year we always talked about how we wanted to be there (Breslin), our No. 1 goal," she said, smiling. "And we're going to be there now."

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Eagles' district streak hits 3

BY TIM SMITH **OBSERVER STAFF WRITER**

When Mike Doyle took over the Plymouth Christian Academy boys basketball team in 2007, the Eagles had won just three districts in two decades.

Following Friday's 57-40 victory over Class D district host Saline Washtenaw Christian in the finals, PCA equaled that 20-year output in just three short seasons.

"Three district championships in a row," noted Doyle. "Just, ... wow, what a journey."

Doyle praised his team (14-7) for regathering itself in the second half and overcoming the Wildcats' home-court advantage.

Washtenaw played the most inspired game I have seen any opponent play against us all season," Doyle said. "In the first half they hit open shots, got to every loose ball and did what they wanted on offense. The home crowd really got behind their team and it showed." Actually, PCA rolled out to a

21-16 lead after the first quarter. But Washtenaw Christian came back with a strong second frame (13-4) to take a 29-25 lead into halftime.

Some adjustments during the break paid off for the Eagles, however.

"We changed our defense in the second half to try to get a few deflections and steals

FROM PAGE B1

"We knew we had to not let them get us into a half-court game," Morrison said. "We wanted to push the ball, we wanted to run up and down the floor."

The Redskins came out strong and pushed the ball down the court, leading to numerous points in the paint - along with drawing plenty of PCA fouls in the process.

The energetic Balbo (16 points. 11 rebounds) had a lot to do with that, right from the outset.

"In the timeouts and pre-



Plymouth Christian's varsity boys basketball team celebrates last week after winning the Class D district championship. The Eagles, coached by Mike Doyle, include (listed alphabetically) Jordan Allen, Travis DeKruyter, Matt Dodson, Riley Groenewoud, Chad Ibach, Eric Jipping, Joshua Johnston, Donald Mullett, Mitchell Noel, Daniel Ross and Ethan Walker.

and to change the pace of the game," said Doyle.

But PCA could not turn those plays into points until Doyle inserted Matt Dodson (9 points) into the game, who promptly "hit three threepointers to put some distance between us late in the third quarter.'

The Eagles crept ahead 41-35 entering the fourth and didn't let up, with contributions across the board. Sealing the win with four consecutive foul shots in the final minutes was Mick Noel (9 points).

"We won with balance with nine players scoring and playing together on defense in the second half," Doyle added.

out of the intermission was brief.

The Redskins still enjoyed a 20-14 scoring edge in the frame to take a 47-30 advantage into the fourth. Camden-Frontier drained four triples in the third, two by senior guard Brady Nusbaum (eight points).

"That's some of the best shooting we've had in the last two, three weeks," said Morrison, whose team advanced to Wednesday's regional final against Taylor Baptist Park.

A snapshot of what kind of night it was for the Eagles came in the fourth quarter, with PCA already down 54-39.

Sophomore guard Gunnar

have such good balance." Playing another excellent game for PCA was Eric Jipping,

to defend our team because we

"I've said all along it is tough

who sank eight of 16 shots from the floor and finished with 18 points.

Tanner Goss and Justin Troost registered 19 and 10 points, respectively, for the Wildcats (7-16).

Plymouth Christian's district title means the Eagles will travel to Hillsdale College for a Class D regional quarterfinal against Camden-Frontier. The tip-off is set for 6 p.m. Monday.

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eight points. Johnston scored two buckets, including a trey, in the final minutes to cap off his prep career.

Chipping in with seven points was freshman forward Mitchell Noel.

The loss didn't sour things for Doyle, who coached the Eagles to their third consecutive district championship.

"This year was supposed to be a rebuilding year," Doyle said. "That's what everybody said anyway. We did our best and we competed."

Doyle praised Canton Agape Christian transfers Mullett and Walker who "played great, they've been a blessing all season. And Riley Groenewoud (first-year PCA varsity player)

FROM PAGE B1

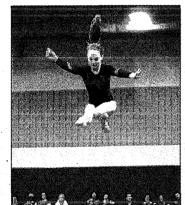
warmups on Friday night."

Canton, meanwhile, finished fourth at Friday's team finals with 145.000 points (second best this season for the Chiefs). Cunningham said that was the best his team could have expected to finish because of the strength of the opposition.

Again winning the title was Grand Ledge, with 150.225 points, followed by Farmington (149.100) and Troy Athens (148.225). Trailing the Chiefs with 140.750 points was Northville.

"We were in the middle, nobody was within five points of us from the bottom," Cunningham said. "And we were three points away from Farmington, we were three points away from (Troy) Athens.

"It was an excellent finish, .. I couldn't have asked more of



The latest state champion for

Canton's girls gymnastics team is freshman Alex Fideler, shown from earlier this season.

the girls. It was a team effort. You start with 80 teams, you go to 12 teams and your fourth."

The team and individual performances underscore a bright future for the program. According to Cunningham, the lone gymnast who will be

graduating in June is Hudak. But junior Cathy Huang, who missed the season after sustaining a knee injury, is expected back in 2010-11.

MHSAA GIRLS GYMNASTICS INDIVIDUAL FINALS RESULTS March 13 at Rockford H.S.

Vault: 1. Alexis Byington (Grand Ledge), 9.825; 3. Robyn Piwowar (Canton), 9.6 (personal best); 18. Alex Fideler (Canton),

Uneven parallel bars: 1. Byington (Grand dge), 9.875; 6. Fideler (Canton), 9.3516. Balance beam: 1. Fideler (Canton), 9.65 (personal best); 8. Piwowar (Canton), 9.4. Floor exercise: 1. Taylor Tepper (Grand Rapids Kenowa Hills), 9.575; 5. Piwowar (Canton), 9.425; 10. Fideler (Canton), 9.2. All-around: 1. Byington (Grand Ledge), 38.85; 5. Fideler (Canton), 37.45; 9. Piwowar (Canton), 36.9. DIVISION 2

Vault: 1. Brooke Madzia (Troy Athens), 9.575; 5. Ayana Lewis (Canton), 9.3 (personal best); 19. Mallory Hudak (Canton), 9.0. Uneven parallel bars: 1. Samantha Kohl (Farmington United), 9.3; 8. Lewis (Canton), 8.825.

Balance beam: 1. Kohl (Farmington), 9.45; 5. Lewis (Canton), 9.375 (personal best); 9. Brooke Granowicz, 9.075; 14. Hudak (Canton), 8.95

(Canton), 8.95. Floor exercise: 1. Amanda Lumley (Farmington), 9.6; 4. Lewis (Canton), 9.375 (personal best); 7. Hudak (Canton), 9.275. All-around: 1. Madzia (Troy Athens), 37.55; 4. Lewis (Canton), 36.875 (personal best); 16. Hudak (Canton), 34.9.

game warmup he's taking control," Morrison said. "He's just like a sergeant out there in charge of his team, pumping everybody up. Everything coming out of him is positive (and) that spreads."

A layup by PCA senior Riley Groenewoud with just 10 seconds to go in the half snapped the Redskins' huge run, making it 27-16 at halftime.

LIGHTS OUT

But although sophomore center Eric Jipping (10 points) converted a couple field goals in the opening minute of the third, any momentum coming

Fink — who lived up to his name with two treys among his 20 points - missed both free throws. But it was Balbo to come away with the rebound and he followed with a putback.

Camden-Frontier's balanced attack also featured nine points and seven rebounds from senior center Kurtis Tyler, with senior forward Wade Clevenger scoring eight.

TOPS FOR PCA

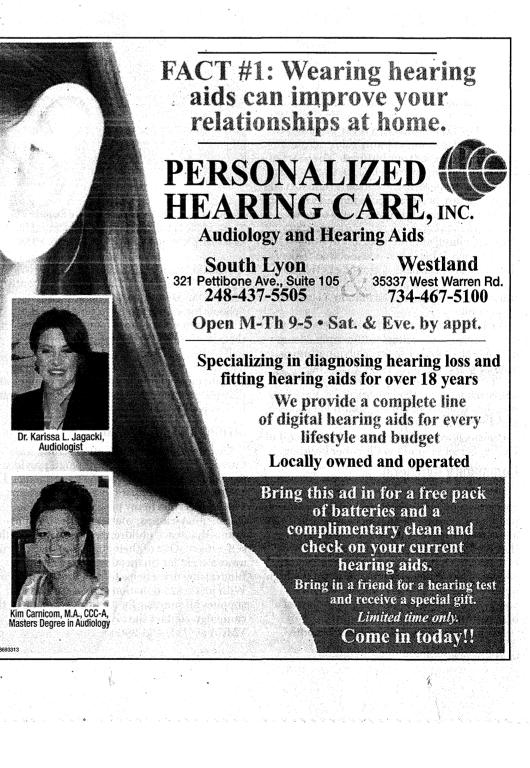
The top PCA scorer was senior forward Ethan Walker, with 11 points while senior guard Josh Johnston tallied

comes out as a senior and he's the glue that holds the team together."

A lot of talented youngsters are on their way to the varsity squad, and the coach already will have a group of solid returnees in Mullett, juniors Travis DeKruvter. Matt Dodson, Noel, freshman Donald Ross and Jipping.

"He's fun to watch because he's just a little bit of what he's about," said Doyle, about the 6-4 Jipping. "Whenever I yell at him I have to remember he's only a sophomore."

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Canton's Scero, Irwin to lead MU

BY BRAD EMONS **OBSERVER STAFF WRITER**

Expectations remain high this spring with the return of nine letter winners, including two All-Americans and two All-Conference picks, for the Madonna University women's softball team.

The 2010 Crusaders are ranked No. 14 in the NAIA Coaches preseason poll after going 53-11 overall and earning a berth in the NAIA Nationals.

MU captured the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference regular season title (25-3 record) and postseason tourney in 2009 under coach Al White.

Junior right-hander Jess Irwin will toe the mound once again for the Crusaders after going 33-9 with a 1.62 earned run average. The Monroe native fanned 423 batters in 256.1 innings a year ago en route to NAIA All-American

COLLEGE SOFTBALL

honors.

Irwin has a capable back-up in sophomore right-hander Hallie Minch, a Garden City grad who finished 20-2 with a 2.29 ERA.

Senior second baseman Brittney Scero (Canton), another All-American, leads the infield after hitting a teambest .383 a year ago.

Also back is All-WHAC first baseman Cat Sidor, a senior from Livonia Churchill who hit .315 with a team-high 48 RBI.

Junior Kelly Lesko (.297) also returns to the infield as does sophomore Amanda Straub.

All-WHAC outfielder Ashley Shay (Garden City/Dearborn Divine Child) will also see duty behind the plate after batting .350 a year ago.

The outfield returnees also

include junior Tara LaMilza (.353) and senior Rachael Kethe.

comers - including six freshmen.

Amber Rafko (Monroe) will split time between infield and catcher, while Arielle Cox (Monroe Jefferson), Erica Landess (Carleton Airport) and Katelyn Hamann (Westland/ Divine Child) will vie for infield time.

Shoring up the outfield will be sophomore Kiley Thornton (Ida), a transfer from Owens **Technical Community College** (Ohio); Krista Messer (Taylor Kennedy), Ali Robinson (Farmington High) and Katie Rankin (Farmington High). Livonia Franklin's Natalie Sanborn and Messer will add depth on the mound.

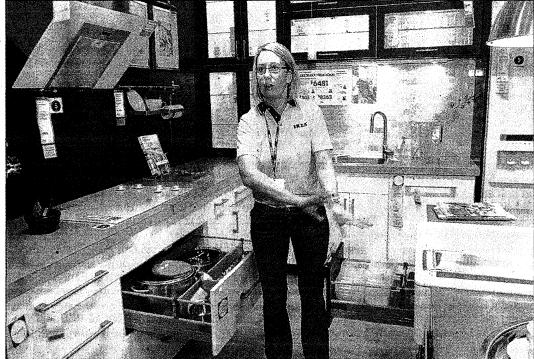
MU doesn't play its season opener until Saturday, April 17 against Siena Heights.

White recruited seven new-

(P) Thursday, March 18, 2010

B4

Plymouth Strictly Business



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Kitchen manager Janet VanderLugt talks about features of the new kitchen displays at the Canton IKEA, which is undergoing its biggest remodeling since it opened in 2006.

Remodeled IKEA ready with new look

BY DARRELL CLEM OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Canton-based IKEA has started rolling out its largest showroom remodeling project since the home-furnishing retail giant opened its doors four years ago on the northwest corner of Ford and Haggerty roads, store officials said Monday.

The massive effort comes as store manager Kelly Frieze said many people, despite a housing market slump, still want to spruce up their homes — especially if they plan to stay put rather than try to sell.

"People still want to invest in their homes," he said, as he and other store employees gave a tour of Michigan's only IKEA, a sprawling, 310,000square-foot store that draws customers from across the state, Ohio and Canada.

The 300-employee store opened in June 2006 amid

Store officials unveiled new kitchen room settings that workers had finished by Friday, and kitchen manager Janet VanderLugt said updated dining room displays should be completed by late next week.

Changes to the bedroom department are expected by mid-May, along with an expanded Swedish food market area. Work still has to be done in a children's play area.

Founded in 1943 in Sweden, IKEA now has more than 300 stores in 37 countries, including 37 in the United States. Canton store officials focused on remodeling the kitchen display area first as warmer weather approaches.

"Spring is the best time for kitchen remodeling," VanderLugt she said. "It's the perfect time to buy a kitchen."

Not everyone wants to buy an entire room, however. Some shoppers, such as Detroiters planning studio.

Pulling out a kitchen drawer where recyclables can be separated and stored near a sink, Frieze said IKEA also has made strides to become more "green" as an increasing number of customers seek to become more environmentally friendly.

As IKEA touts its remodeling efforts, store officials also announced a grand re-opening of sorts for Saturday, March 27. Among the highlights, according to store officials:

• Raffles, gifts and Swedish food sampling will be offered.

• From 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., Joe "The Appliance Doctor" Gagnon of 1600 WAAM AM radio will host a live morning radio show from the kitchen area.

• Starting at 11 a.m., the Eastern Michigan Improve Troupe of Upside Down Frown Productions will provide entertainment by "living" in the new kitchen room settings.

Circle of Service

Assisted Moving L.L.C., of Plymouth, has been awarded the Circle of Service designation by the National Association of Senior Move Managers. The Circle of Service designation is bestowed on senior move management companies that have been a NASMM member, in good standing, for a minimum of five years, and have shown consistent dedication and support of the National Association of Senior Move Managers and the senior move management profession.

"This special designation is awarded to senior move management companies attaining an elevated level of experience and expertise," said Mary Kay Buysse, NASMM's Executive Director. "Assisted Moving L.L.C., has been instrumental in the development of the senior move management industry and has worked to increase the professionalism, credibility, and visibility of this emerging senior service."

Fifty-five senior move management companies from across the United States and Canada received the Circle of Service designation this year. The awards ceremony took place during the National Association of Senior Move Managers 2010 Annual Conference in Las Vegas in

Business connections

February.

1200

Bruce Webb and Kevin DeVoy, Coldwell Banker Preferred Realtors, host a "Business Connections Event" with local business professionals coming together for a good time and to network at the Plymouth Roc, 1020 Ann Arbor Road in Plymouth, 6-8 p.m. Thursday, March 25.

Those attending are encouraged to bring their networking ideas, business cards and

BUSINESS BRIEFS

brochures. Appetizers will be provided.

RSVP to Bruce Webb (bruce@brucewebb.com or (734) 392-6021) or Kevin DeVoy (kevindevoy@cbpreferred.com or (734) 392-6028).

Food drive

Downtown Plymouth is undergoing a Streetscape Project to improve the downtown Plymouth community. In conjunction with this, the Downtown Development Authority wants to support underprivileged families within the Plymouth community. In an effort to do so, the DDA is partnering with the Plymouth Community United Way to collect food and supplies to donate to the Salvation Army Plymouth Corps.

Looking for downtown Plymouth businesses to participate, the DDA is encouraging downtown businesses to accept donations April 17 to May 17 of non-perishable items. This will afford donors the opportunity to walk the streets of Plymouth and explore downtown establishments. The DDA will provide a donation box that each owner is free to decorate.

Businesses interested in participating can contact the DDA.

Retooling America

On April 5-6, Sensible Business of Canton hosts a "Retooling America Initiative" at its Training Facility in Westland.

The purpose of Retooling America Initiative is to help displaced workers find success in gaining employment in a challenging market. The goal is to prepare candidates to meet potential employers as well as to gain access to counseling and services hosted by Sensible Business Consulting Group, LLC. This workshop is FREE to assist displaced workers in job placement. The initiative goes 9 a.m. to noon both days, and features:

• Innovative Resume Writing: In this course, clients learn what a resume is, what the acceptable formats are, the importance of action words, how to narrow career objectives by efficient job source tools, how to prepare a "scannable" resume, the importance of removing "digital dirt" and how to write an effective cover letter. Students also learn the importance of first impressions, how to create job tracking tools, and how to research salary requirement information.

• Value of Self-Promotion: In this course, clients learn how to create a 30-second value statement, how to portray a healthy self image, how to be assertive, and how to enhance self esteem.

• Interview Techniques: In this course, students discover the true purpose of an interview, learn to differentiate between Behavior Based and Traditional interview questions, how to prepare, and "do's and don'ts" that could mean the difference between getting hired and being passed over.

• Networking: In this course, students learn the benefits of networking, how to prepare for networking, the perfect time to network and proper etiquette. Students are also introduced to the impact of personal online networking. Whether in cyber space, on the golf course, at the bar or at the mall, our clients will understand how to meet, greet, and grow their perspective business through interpersonal interaction.

Sensible Business Consulting Group's training site is located at 36660 Cherry Hill in Westland. Visit www.sensiblebusiness.org or contact (734) 620-9461 for more information.

much fanfare after IKEA officials chose Canton for its Michigan location. Frieze said plans to remodel became more urgent late last year after a fire sprinkler system malfunctioned, causing flooding and forcing a temporary shutdown.

The remodeling project involves two-thirds of a second-floor showroom where customers can see 10 new kitchen room settings equipped with the store's latest display layouts and merchandise designed to inspire homeimprovement shoppers. Kavel Hudson and Jessica Velez, visited the store Monday just to browse for merchandise they might want. "It's my first time here,"

Hudson said, while Velez was a return customer.

"I like the prices and the quality of the products," she said.

In all, Frieze said, IKEA sells some 9,000 items ranging from a 25-cent dog bowl to entire room furnishings costing thousands of dollars. Customers can get in-store help redesigning a room, such as in the store's new kitchen • In an IKEA meatball chef contest, customers who submitted their own recipes will have them judged by celebrity chefs, with a chance to win a refrigerator and have a recipe prepared as a lunch special in the store restaurant April 3-30. The top 10 entries will present their dishes to the judges on March 27.

For more information about the Canton IKEA or its promotions, log on to www.IKEA-USA.com/Canton.

dclem@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-2238

Visit American House In March For A Chance To Win Gold!

March is definitely full of surprises at American House as we roll out the "green" carpet for spring. If our green doesn't shock the winter blues away, maybe a chance to win GOLD will! During the month of March, call us to schedule your FREE LUNCH and TOUR. And when you make a deposit to move in, we'll enter your name into a drawing to win a one-ounce American Eagle GOLD COIN.



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Westland-Joy	(734) 454-9838
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* FOUNDED 1979 *

Entries allowed for new deposits only, received between March 1 - 31, 2010. Only one entry per person. One winner will be drawn from all entries submitted. Restrictions may apply. Support Services provided by third party. "American House" and flag logo are registered trademarks of American House Management Company LLC.

Business series

The Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce continues its Business Development Series with a workshop on how to gain business through LinkedIn.

The seminar takes place March 23 from 8:30-9:30 a.m. at the Chamber office (850 W. Ann Arbor Trail). LinkedIn is the premier professional networking site available and can be a great resource for your business. The users of LinkedIn have an average household income of \$109,000; 80 percent are college graduates and 49 percent are business decision makers.

The searchable LinkedIn Groups feature allows users to establish new business relationships by joining alumni, industry or other relevant groups. This is just one tool that makes this site one of the fastest growing networks on the web. Over 60 million professionals use LinkedIn to exchange information, ideas and opportunities.

There is no charge to attend this workshop, but we only have seating for 35 people. Please contact the Chamber at teri@plymouthmich. org to register.

The workshop will be presented by online networking expert Urvi Mehta of PR Easy. She was the presenter of our successful Facebook and Twitter workshops.

Parking is available in the parking deck off of Harvey Street behind the Chamber building.

Community luncheon *

The March 24 State of the Community luncheon is an opportunity to join fellow business people and community leaders as we hear about what to expect from our community in the coming year. In spite of almost every area of local government being challenged by lower revenues, our leaders plan to maintain the high quality of life for this community. We invite you to join us to hear how you can be part of a brighter future.

Featured speakers will include Plymouth



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Plymouth Township Supervisor Richard Reaume will be one of the featured speakers at the State of the Community luncheon March 24 at Plymouth Manor.

Township Supervisor Richard Reaume, Wayne County Commissioner Laura Cox, Plymouth Mayor Dan Dwyer and Plymouth-Canton Schools Superintendent Dr. Craig Fiegel.

The event will be from noon to 1:30 p.m. and the cost to attend is only \$20. The luncheon will be held at Plymouth Manor, located at 345 N. Main St. To attend this event, please reply to teri@plymouthmich.org or contact the Chamber at (734) 453-1540. Cancellations must be received 48 hours prior to the event.

Strong Kids Campaign

Last week, the annual YMCA Strong Kids Campaign kicked off. The campaign provides funds to support children who need financial assistance to participate in YMCA programs. The YMCA runs many programs including summer day-camps, youth athletics and programs that teach children wellness and healthy self-esteem. One of their goals is to never turn away a child for financial reasons and this fundraising drive helps to support that mission. With just a \$25 donation you can provide art supplies all summer for a child. To donate to the campaign contact the Plymouth Community YMCA at (734) 453-2904.



Observer & Eccentric | Thursday, March 18, 2010





FILTER

Shop, eat, pamper yourself during Diva Day

BY SHARON DARGAY O&E STAFF WRITER

Nothing says "diva" better than a sparkling piece of finger bling. Or an armful of bright pink

roses and head-turning tankini

Add a free feather boa, food, and special drinks, and divas will discover their own little paradise Saturday, March 27 in downtown Plymouth.

The 2nd Annual Diva Day, offering discounts, giveaways and fun for women will run 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

"It's a day to be pampered," said Terri Fry, events manager for the Plymouth Chamber of Commerce. "We get boas for the ladies. Last year they were pink. This year they are turquoise. The restaurants have special drinks and appetizers and shops will have drawings for gift certificates or baskets. Some put out snacks and sample-sized stuff.

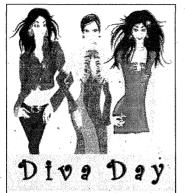
"It's a nice day for women this time of year. They are ready for spring."

Come early for one of the free 500 feather boas. Last year they were distributed by noon.

But if you miss that giveaway, a string of Mardi Gras beads or princess crown from Genuine Toy Company, 550 Forest, might be just what you need to complete your Diva attire.

"We're still trying to put together a giveaway," said Charles Dare, co-owner. He

more interested in mood rings, "bling rings" and costume jewelry.



Plymouth Chamber of Commerce sponsors its 2nd Annual Diva Day, Saturday, March 27.

PINK FOR DIVAS

Sarah Klatt, one of the coowners of Magnolia, fresh flower market, said her store will have "a lot of food" on hand, along with a sale and free drawing with purchase.

"We're very excited to have it again. It was great for us last year and the women who came in enjoyed it and the extra freebies. They had a good time," Klatt noted.

Although turquoise is the official Diva Day color this year, Klatt said she'd opt "hot pink roses" as the perfect diva flower.

What does a diva wear? Rachelle Fanelli, owner of Sunny J's, says it's all a matter of personal taste.

"One person might say a matching bra and panty set. Someone else might think a chemise is sexy," said Fanelli, who sells swimwear and lingerie. "People are hooked on the tankini. Once some women discover it, they never go back to a one-piece. It gives you the confidence to go out and wear

tomers consider "every day is Diva Day" at Sunny J's because the store's niche is custom-fitting and sizing swimsuits.

"We make them feel good



Shoppers received pink feather boas during the first Diva Day. The first 500 women who attend this year's event will get a free turquoise boa.

& Gift Boutique, Candy Trail, Creatopia Pottery, Dearborn Jewelers, Gabriala's, Genuine Toy, Gigi's Mode, Hands on Leather, Home Sweet Home, Jill Andra Young

Photography, Magnolia, Penniman Gallery, Plymouth Yoga Room, R.S.V.P., sideways, Sun & Snow, Sunny J's, Sweets 21, That's Awesome, TranquiliTea,

Wilcox Consignment, Merle Norman, Salon 550, 1999 Tavern, 336 Main, Compari's, E.G. Nicks, Ironwood Grill, Sean O'Callaghan's, and The Rock Bar & Grill.

Comedy documentary release in time for laugh fest

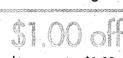
The Jim Dudek film, Detroit International *Comedy Festival* – which made its debut at the Emagine Theatres in January – was released for home viewing on Tuesday, March 16.

This mixed performance and documentary style independent film captured what the 2nd annual 2009 comedy festival was all about, not only for the audience, but also for the comedians. It shows the best 44 standup comics from the U.S., Canada and England onstage, backstage and offstage.

The DVD is being released at this time to create excitement for the 3rd Annual Detroit International Comedy Festival "Laugh Detroit" which runs March 21-27, 2010, at Mark Ridley's Comedy Castle in Royal Oak.

The DVD will be sold during the 2010 festival for \$11.95 but it's available now for \$9.95, including shipping, from www. ArkDistribution.com





ART

Lotus Arts Gallerv Location: 995 West Ann Arbor Trail, downtown Plymouth Details: 3rd annual Michigan Local Artist Exhibit runs through March Contact: (888) 889-4ART (toll free) or (734)453-5400

Northville Art House

Time/Date: Through March 21 Location: 215 W. Cady, Northville Details: "Under the Influence" exhibit showcasing the influential artistic relationship between teachers and students at the Center for Creative Studies in Detroit. The exhibit illustrates that art is not done in a vacuum

Coming up: Dollmaking class taught by Charlie Patricolo, 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., April 24-25. The two-day class costs \$100, along with a \$10 kit fee. Registration is available now

Contact: (248) 344-0497 or visit www.northvillearts.org

Village Theater at Cherry Hill Time/Date: 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., Monday-Friday, through March 29 Location: 50400 Cherry Hill Road, Canton

Details: Works by Plymouth resident and self-taught artist Tony Roko on display Contact: (734) 394-5300

AUDITIONS

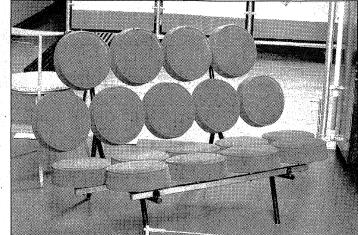
University of Detroit Mercy Time/Date: 7 p.m., March 29 Location: 4001 W. McNichols, Detroit; in Studio 164 in Reno Hall Details: Non-equity auditions for the theater's 2010-2011, 40th season. Provide a recent headshot, resume and two monologues: one classical and one modern. RSVP at the theater's Facebook page; search "UDM Theatre Company" on Facebook

Contact: Greg Grobis at grobisgj@ udmercy.edu or at (313) 993-3273

COMEDY Go Comedy!

Time/Date: Various show times Wednesdays thru Sundays Location: 261 E. Nine Mile, Ferndale Details: Improv most nights. Open mic/jam session show for improvisers is 10 p.m. Wednesdays Contact: (248) 327-0575; www. gocomedy.net

JD's House of Comedy



"Marshmallow" sofa is on display in the "Good Design Stories from Herman Miller" exhibit through April 25 at Henry Ford Museum.

Time/Date: 8 p.m., March 20

School, Beverly Hills

Location: 22305 West 13 Mile, on

the campus of Detroit Country Day

Details: Violinist Arnold Steinhardt

Festival - Laugh Detroit, March 21-27 Location: 269 E. Fourth, Royal Oak Contact: (248) 542-9900, www. comedycastle.com

CONCERTS

The Ark

Time/Date: Grant-Lee Phillips, March 18; John Oates, March 19; Jer Coons, March 20; The Boxcars, March 21; The Nitty Gritty Dirt Band, March 22; Sweet Talk Radio, March 23; Adrian Legg, March 24; Altan, March 25; Paul Thorn, March 26; South Memphis String Band, March 27; Gemini, March 29; The Fabulous Thunderbirds, March 29; Celtic Crossroads, March 30; Bitch, March 31 Location: 316 South Main, Ann

Arbor Contact: (734) 763-8587; www.

theark.org

Detroit Institute of Arts

Time/Date: Friday Night Live concerts, 7 and 8:30 p.m. Location: 5200 Woodward Ave Contact: (313) 833-7900, www.dia. ora

JWH Center for the Arts

Time/Date: 6:15-6:45 p.m., open mic sign up; performances, 7 p.m. Location: 774 N. Sheldon, Plymouth Details: Host is Cathy Fitzpatrick and featured performers are Alex and Maggie Zakem on March 20. BaseLine Folk Society open mic is for acoustic, folk and traditional musicians. Admission is \$5. BaseLine Folk Society open mic runs every third Saturday of the month through May Contact: Mike Mullen, founder, mjmmullen@yahoo.com

Magic Bag

Time/Dates: Satin Peaches, The

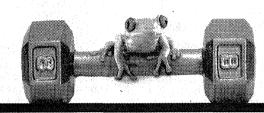
GET OUT

will be joined by actor Alan Alda for an evening of conversation and performance entitled "A Celebration of the Bach Chaconne." The discussion and concert is presented by the Chamber Music Society of Detroit. Tickets are \$43 - \$75; students \$25

Coming up: The Chamber Music Society of Detroit presents Steven Isserlis, on cello and Dénes Várjon, on piano, 8 p.m., March 27, in a program that consists of sonatas by composers Barber, Dohnanyi, Schumann and Chopin. Tickets range from \$43-\$75; students pay \$25

Contact: (248) 855-6070 **Trinity House Theater**

Time/Date: Brooks Williams and Beaucoup Blue, 8 p.m. March 19, tickets \$15, \$12 for subscribers; Annie and Rod Capps, 8 p.m., March





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Observer & Eccentric | Thursday, March 18, 2010

20, tickets \$15, \$12 for subscribers;

Gemini, 8 p.m., March 27, tickets \$15,

Location: 38840 West Six Mile,

Contact: (734) 464-6302, www.

Bakers Keyboard Lounge

erskeyboardlounge.com

Detroit Institute of Arts

Time/Dates: 2 p.m. Sundays

Time/Dates: 2-5 p.m. Sundays

Details: Jazz for Kids Program

Location: 20510 Livernois Ave.,

Contact: (313) 345-6300, www.bak-

Details: Target Family Sundays, sto-

rytelling, performances, free with

Location: 5200 Woodward, Detroit

\$12 for subscribers

trinityhouse.org

FAMILY

Detroit

admission

Livonia

Contact: (313) 833-7900, www.dia. org

Detroit Zoo

Time/Date: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. through March Location: I-696 service drive and Woodward, Royal Oak Details: Admission is \$11 for adults 15 to 61, \$9 for senior citizens 62 and older, and \$7 for children ages 2 to 14: children under 2 are free. Contact: (248) 541-5717

Marguis Theatre

Time/Dates: 2:30 p.m. all shows; Saturday, March 20, 27, April 10, 17, 24 and May 1; Monday-Friday, April 5-9; and Sunday, March 14, 21, 28, April 11, 18, 25 and May 2 Location: 135 E. Main, Northville Details: "Peter Cottontail," tickets, \$8.50, ages 3 and up Contact: (248) 349-8110, www. northvillemarquistheatre.com

e great indoors

(CP)

B7

Time/Date: Various show times Wednesday-Saturday evenings Location: 25333 W. 12 Mile, inside Star Theatre complex, Southfield Details: Stand-up shows, 8 p.m. Thursday and 8 p.m., 10:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday; Apollo amateur night, 8 p.m. Wednesday Contact: (248) 348-2420 or www. ticketmaster.com

Joey's Comedy Club of Livonia Time/Date: 8 p.m. Mondays, Open Mic; 8 p.m. Tuesdays, Local Legends; 8 p.m. shows Wednesdays, Thursdays; 8 p.m. & 10:30 p.m. Fridays, Saturdays

Location: 36071 Plymouth Road, Livonia Details: Jay Black, March 17-20; Myg Kaplan, March 24-27 Contact: (734) 261-0555, www.kickerscomplex.com

Mark Ridley's Comedy Castle

Time/Date: Bret Ernst, who appeared in the movie "Beer League," and hosted MTVs "Wrestling Society X," March 18-20; **3rd Annual International Comedy**

Publish: March 11 and 18, 2010

Fake Take, March 19; The Mega 80's, March 20; The Killer Flamingos, March 26 Location: 22920 Woodward,

Ferndale Contact: (248) 544-3030, www.

themagicbag.com

Plymouth Coffee Bean Company Time/Date: The Skinny Raccoons, with Justin Erion, March 20 Location: 884 Penniman Avenue, Plymouth

Contact: (734) 454-0178

Schoolcraft College

Time/Date: 8 p.m. Friday, March 19 Location: Presentation Room at VisTaTech Center on the campus, located at 18600 Haggerty, Livonia Details: Emmanuelle Boisvert on violin and Pauline Martin on piano perform music by Beethoven, Bloch, Grieg and Corelli; admission \$20. \$10 for students Contact: Schoolcraft Book store

at (734) 462-4409 or www.scboxoffice.com

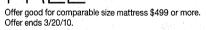
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PLYMOUTH-CANTON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

The Board of Education of the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools invites all interested and qualified companies to submit a bid for Card Key Security System for the High School Educational Complex. Specifications and bid forms are available by contacting Ms. Hunter in the PCCS Purchasing Department at (734) 416-2741.

A pre-bid meeting will be held at 2:00 p.m. EST, on Tuesday, March 23, 2010 at Salem High School, 46181 Joy Rd., Canton, MI 48187. Bidders this is a MANDATORY pre-bid meeting. Any and all technical and pre-bid questions should be directed to Harry Lau in the PCCS Maintenance Department (734) 416-2970.

Bids are to be submitted in a sealed envelope to the E.J. McClendon Educational Center (attn: Card Key Security System at HS Complex Bid) 454 S. Harvey Street, Plymouth, MI 48170 on or before 2:00 p.m. EST., Tuesday, March 30, 2010 where they will be opened and read publicly. Faxed bids will not be accepted. The Board of Education reserves the right to accept and/or reject all bids, as they judge to be in the best interest of the school district.

> Board of Education Plymouth-Canton Community Schools Nancy Eggenberger, Secretary

> > OE08692890 2x4.5



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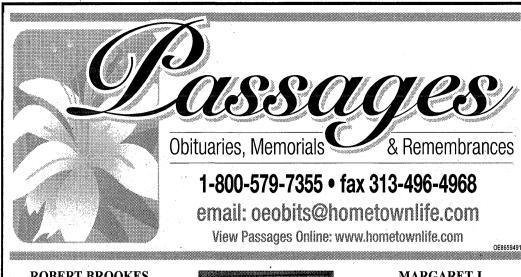
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Offers good from 3/18/10-3/23/10 unless otherwise stated. Limit one coupon per customer. Valid only at The Great Indoors stores and at www.thegreatindoors.com. May not be combined with any other coupon code. Offers exclude Everyday Price items, Exceptional Values and Great Price items. Not valid on prior purchases, gift cards, delivery, installation or sales tax. Void if reproduced, transferred, or where prohibited. Any other use constitutes fraud. Associate: Collect this coupon, Limited offers and special purchases excluded from raincheck option. The Great Indoors shall not be held liable for errors. CONTRACTORS LICENSE NUMBERS: The following license numbers are held on behalf of The Great Indoors: AZ (Gen. Comm. Contr. Lic. ROC #160177B-1 and Gen. Res. Contr. Lic. ROC #160178B); CA (Contr. Lic. #797513); MD (MHIC 321-47); MI (Res. Bldr, #210175210); NV (B2 #0054532 and C16 #0054531); New York City (Lic. Number 1119508); VA (Class A Contr. 2705 057009). Services and installation performed by The Great Indoors authorized licensed contractors.

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BELIEFS & VALUES

online at hometownlife.com



ROBERT BROOKES

Age 67, formerly of Westland, died March 12, 2010. Retired gas linesman from Consumer's Power Company. Survived by wife, Joan; children, Michael (Catherine) & Cathy, all of Redford & Mark (Dawn) of Roscommon; 15 grandchildren;" five great-grandchildren & their grandfather, Andy Sambrone of Redford. Walsh Funeral Home, Roscommon 989-275-3600

MARY BUNKER

Age 79, March 12, 2010, of Garden City. Beloved wife of 50 years of Thorton M. "Ted" Bunker. Loving sister of Virginia McNut, Jean Foster, Robert Armentrout and Richard Armentrout. Also survived by many nieces and nephews. Memorial services will be held at a later date. Arrangements by R.G. & G. R. Harris Funeral Home, 31551 Ford Rd., Garden City. Memorial contribution may be made to Angela Hospice.

BETTY JEAN BURKHART

March 14, 2010, age 78. Beloved wife of Donald. Dear mother of Lee Burkhart, Joyce (Kevin) Abraham, Denise (Mark) Bair and Susan (Al) Bednarski. Also leaves six grandchildren and nine greatgrandchildren. Services will be held on Thursday at 11am at the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home, 280 South Main Street, Plymouth. Share your special special thoughts and memories at: www.schrader-howell.com

GERALD CREWDSON

Age 65, of Novi, March 15, 2010. Gerald was a proud Army Veteran. He retired from Ford Motor Co. after 38

years. He is survived by many cousins. Funeral Friday 11 AM at Thayer-Rock Funeral Home, 33603 Grand River Ave., Farmington. Visitation Thursday 2-8 PM. www.thayer-rock.com





FLORENCE T. DUNEC

Age 91, March 12, 2010. Beloved wife of the late Joseph. Loving sister of the late Joseph "Ed" Nycek, Mitchell Nycek and Sylvia Fary. Dearest aunt of Mary Ann Dixon, Fran Braum, Toni Hill, Frank Fary, Vince Fary, Pat Fary, Anita Moseley and Ken Nycek. Also survived by brother-in-law Frank Fary, Sr. Second mother and great aunt of many. Her great and great-great nieces and nephews were her joy. Visitation Friday 3-8pm with a 7pm Rosary at the John N. Santeiu & Son Funeral Home, 1139 Inkster Rd. (bet. Ford Rd. and Cherry Hill). In state Saturday 10am until 10:30am Mass at St. Edith Church, 15089 Newburgh (just south of 5 Mile), Livonia. In leiu of flowers memorials suggested to Angela Hospice or St. Edith Church.

BEVERLY A. HINSCH

Age 72, formerly of Livonia, Michigan, passed away Friday, March 12, 2010 at her home in Bonita Springs, Florida. She was born in Detroit, Michigan on July 31, 1937 the daughter of the late Charles and Elizabeth (nee Franke) Corner. Beverly attended Wayne State University and was a proud member of the Delta Zeta Sorority. She was also an avid bridge player. She is survived by her loving husband of 51 years James E. "Jim" Hinsch; sons, James Hinsch Jr., Robert Hinsch; daughters, Kathryn (Ben) Hinsch, Debra Renauer; brother, Charles; sisters, Betty Lou Corner, and Dorothy (Mike) Kotzan. Also surviving are her two granddaughters, Morgan and Renee Renauer. In accordance with her wishes funeral services will be private. Shikany's Bonita Funeral Home

(239) 992-4982 Family Owned Since 1978

MARGARET I. KOENINGER (nee BERG)

March 10, 2010, age 85. Beloved wife of the late Pastor Leonard J. Koeninger and loving mother of the late Pastor Philip J. Koeninger and baby Paul Koeninger. Survivors include her daughter Kristine Wolfe, grandchildren Katherine and Mark Tiefel, Scott and Lindsey Wolfe, Abigail Wolfe and sister Catherine Thomas. Visitation will be at 10am. Saturday, March 20th, immediately followed by a noon Memorial Service at St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church, 1343 Penniman, Plymouth, MI. In lieu of flowers, memorial contribution suggestions may be found at: www.schrader-howell.com.

OBITUARY POLICY

The first five "billed" lines of an obituary are published at no cost. All additional lines will be charged at \$4 per line. You may place a picture of your loved one for an additional cost of only \$6. Symbolic emblems may be included at no cost (example: Flags, American religious symbols, etc.)

Deadlines:

Friday 4:15 PM for Sunday Wednesday 9:45 AM for Thursday

Obituaries received after these deadlines will be placed in the next available issue.

e-mail your obit to oeobits@hometownlife.com or fax to: Attn: Obits c/o Char Wilson

313-496-4968

For more information call: Char Wilson 586-826-7082 or Liz Keiser 586-977-7538 or toll free

800-579-7355 ask for Char or Liz

OE08658429



Youngsters collect eggs at the annual event at First Church of the Nazarene, 21260 Haggerty, Northville.

Churches plan egg hunts, kids' Easter programs

BY SHARON DARGAY O&E STAFF WRITER

Bring on the Easter Bunny. It's nearly time to play hide and seek with goody-filled plastic eggs at local church-

Eager egg-hunters will find 8,000 of them hidden around the grounds at the Detroit First Church of the Nazarene's annual Easter Eggstravaganza, 10:30 a.m., Saturday, April 3. The church is located in Northville at 21260 Haggerty, but draws a lot of children from across the street in Livonia and Farmington Hills.

"People come from all over, really," said Lisa Harris, a church secretary in charge of hospitality. "We have repeat people come just for the egg hunt because it's so fun and popular. We always draw new guests who have never been to the church.

"Last year we broke our record with 420 children. Over 1,000 people attended when you count the adults."

The church has sponsored

their ages. Eggs are strewn on the lawn in plain view for toddlers and hidden outside around the church for older children.

Participants bring their own baskets to collect eggs. The church also has decorated bags on hand for those who forget to bring their own containers. All eggs include goodies and some can be redeemed for prizes.

"At the end there's a lunch and there's always a really nice message," Harris added.

Hot dogs, chips, cookies and beverages will be served while youngsters watch a special show from Big Blast Ministries.

"Some years we've had puppets and we had a yo-yo group that came and gave a special message regarding Easter and the Lord. It's always entertaining with a colorful and upbeat message."

The church is accepting online registration through March 31 at dfcnazarene. org. After that registration is accepted at the event.

Easter Fun Dav runs 10 a.m.-noon, Saturday, March 27, at the church, 27475 Five Mile, Livonia. The event will include games, crafts, an Easter egg hunt, prizes and more for children ages 3 to 13. The event is free and open to the public. (734) 422-1470

• Faith Lutheran Church, 30000 Five Mile, Livonia, holds its hunt, rain or shine, at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, March 27. The event is aimed at toddlers through age 10. Register by Monday, March 22 by calling (734) 421-7359.

• Bethel Baptist of Livonia offers an egg hunt for children who attend noon Good Friday services at the church, located at 29475 Six Mile, Livonia. The event, for youngsters, sixth grade and younger, begins at approximately 1 p.m. (734) 525-3664.

• St. Michael, 7000 Sheldon, Canton, plans an egg hunt, along with crafts and stories, for children up to fifth grade, beginning at 9:30 a.m., April 3. Nonparishioners may attend, but should call (734) 459-3333, so the church can get an accurate count.

(*)(F) (B8-WGcReLCP) **B6**

Observer & Eccentric | Thursday, March 18, 2010

KNOW THE SCORE: Check out the numbers in today's **sports** section

outreach to the community. Youngsters, age 1-11 hunt in separate groups according to

Here's a sampling of Easter egg hunts at other local churches: • St. Paul's Presbyterian



FOOD AND WINE

Observer & Eccentric | Thursday, March 18, 2010

(WGcReLCP-B9)_(F)(*) **B**7

Easy home entertaining

Keep your party simple yet chic with these hostess hints

Hosting get-togethers at home can be stressful with all of the elements to consider the invitation, the décor, and most importantly, the food and beverages. Planning the perfect party can overwhelm even the most seasoned hostess, but there are easy solutions for making your event memorable without becoming inundated.

Jen Isham, entertaining expert and finalist on The Next Food Network Star, offers her suggestions for hosting a hassle-free social gathering: • Chances are that your

guests won't recall the design of your invitations or the color of your cocktail napkins, so use an eco-friendly electronic invitation with an appropriate theme and stick with matching monochrome plates and flatware. That leaves you time to focus on the factors that will stick in their minds most - the cocktails and hors d'oeuvres.

 If you're not exactly a master mixologist but still want to wow your guests with drinks, try serving Godiva Liqueur on the rocks. Isham notes, "This simple drink can be prepoured before guests arrive so that they have a beverage in hand within minutes of arriving. Try chilling the bottle beforehand, then just add ice when they enter the party." Your visitors will undoubtedly be grateful for the warm (or cool) welcome.

Once guests have arrived and mingling has commenced, you'll have a bit of time to use your creativity behind the bar. Your arrival drink can easily become the beverage du jour with some festive garnishes.

"Try using melted chocolate or different colored sugars to rim glasses of Godiva Liqueur over ice," suggests Isham.

• Moisten the rim of the glass and fill a shallow bowl or plate with your garnish of



Greet quests with a glass of flavored liqueur.

choice.

• Hold the glass sideways and dab the rim into the garnish while slowly turning so that only the outer edge is covered.

• Then simply add ice, using tongs, and pour liqueur into the glass for a tempting and festive drink.

Consider stocking up on all varieties so your guests can have their pick of chocolate, white chocolate, mocha and caramel flavors. For those who are looking to go above and beyond in delivering the perfect cocktail presentation, use different forms of ice and glassware to provide variety.

When it comes to planning party food, the trick is to keep it simple.

• No-cook appetizers are a perfect no-fuss option for entertaining, which leaves more time for socializing with guests. Isham says, "Assorted nuts, cheeses, olives and preserved fruits in silver or gold bowls make for a lovely and chic appetizer spread with no time wasted slaving away in the kitchen." For an upscale hors d'oeuvre that still saves time, try Isham's Bruschetta Bar with Toppings Trio recipes

• Rather than serving buffet-style in your dining room, Isham suggests using all areas of the house with food and



Photo courtesy of Fotolia Bruschetta with Kalamata Tapenade Topping

beverage stations. This will lead to your guests mingling and moving about so no one has the chance to be a wallflower.

• Another way to encourage guests to get to know each other is to organize carpools according to neighborhood. This not only will forge new

BRUSCHETTA BAR WITH TOPPINGS TRIO

friendships but also promotes

having designated drivers so

everyone will get home safely.

keep it chic — just remember

to focus your energy and cre-

ativity where it matters and

keep the rest simple.

It is, in fact, possible to entertain with ease and still

By Jen Isham

Coarse black pepper

high heat until soft.

1. Heat olive oil in sauté pan and

cook onions down over medium

Toast slices of baguette in the oven. Toppings can be added to bruschetta before serving or can be displayed in bowls for guests to top themselves.

Kalamata Ta	penade Topping
1 jar kalamata olives (drained and pitted) 1 jar capers (drained) 2 cloves of garlic 3 anchovies HERBED MUS	1.Blend to a rough paste. 2.Top toasted baguette slices with mixture and serve on decorative plate.
1/2 tablespoon butter 1 tablespoon olive oil 2 cups sliced mushrooms (any variety will ork, mix varieties if you choose) 2 garlic cloves, chopped 1 small shallot, chopped 3 sprigs fresh thyme Crumbled goat cheese Bai samic Re	Salt and pepper to taste 1.Heat butter and olive oil in saute pan and sear sliced mushroom, gar- lic, shallots and thyme sprigs until browned on each side. 2.Top toasted baguette slices with warm mushrooms and crumble goat cheese on top. D ONION TOPPING
2 tablespoons olive oil 2 red onions, sliced thinly 1/4 cup balsamic vinegar	 2. Turn down heat to medium, add balsamic vinegar and sugar. 3. Stir constantly until vinegar is thickened.
1/2 cup granulated sugar	4. Top toasted baguettes with

4. Top toasted baguettes with onion mixture and garnish with coarse ground black pepper.

Courtesy of Family Features

CITY BITES

Go Gluten-free

Plymouth - Hiller's Markets will hold its largest-ever **Gluten-Free Foods Fair 11** a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday, March 20 at its Plymouth location, 15455 Haggerty.

The event is designed to educate and enlighten the public about the benefits of embracing a gluten-free lifestyle and the cuisine options available at Hiller's Markets' seven stores. Two dozen vendors will be on hand with samples of glutenfree fare.

"The fair is a great way for people to taste a wide variety of menu items before purchasing the products," says Michelle Fuller, co-president of Tri-County Celiac Support. "It really saves time and money."

Celiac disease prevents individuals from digesting foods containing gluten and other related proteins found in wheat, barley and rye.

New gluten-free foods are constantly added to Hiller's Markets' shelves and all items are clearly labeled in every aisle of its stores. The familv-owned chain now carries desserts and sweets made by Rumi's Passion, and authentic pizzas, chicken strips and Italian entrees made by G.F. Cucina. Both companies are local to Michigan.

"We want our valued customers to also know that Hiller's Markets will take back a food item if they don't like it and give them store credit," said Lynn Lederman, Director of Community Services at Hiller's Markets. "We also like to remind our shoppers that they may be able to get a tax deduction or rebates if they are on a gluten-free diet."

Hiller's Markets are located in Ann Arbor, Berkley, Commerce Township, Northville, Plymouth, Union Lake and West Bloomfield.

Celebrity Chefs Dinner

Farmington - Community Living Centers of Farmington will serve up its annual fundraiser, Celebrity Chefs Dinner, 6:30 p.m., Friday, April 16 at the Detroit Athletic Club, 241 Madison Ave., Detroit. Metropolitan Detroit's finest chefs will assemble and prepare a feast, describing their creations between each course. The evening will begin with





Gluten-free products at Hiller's Market

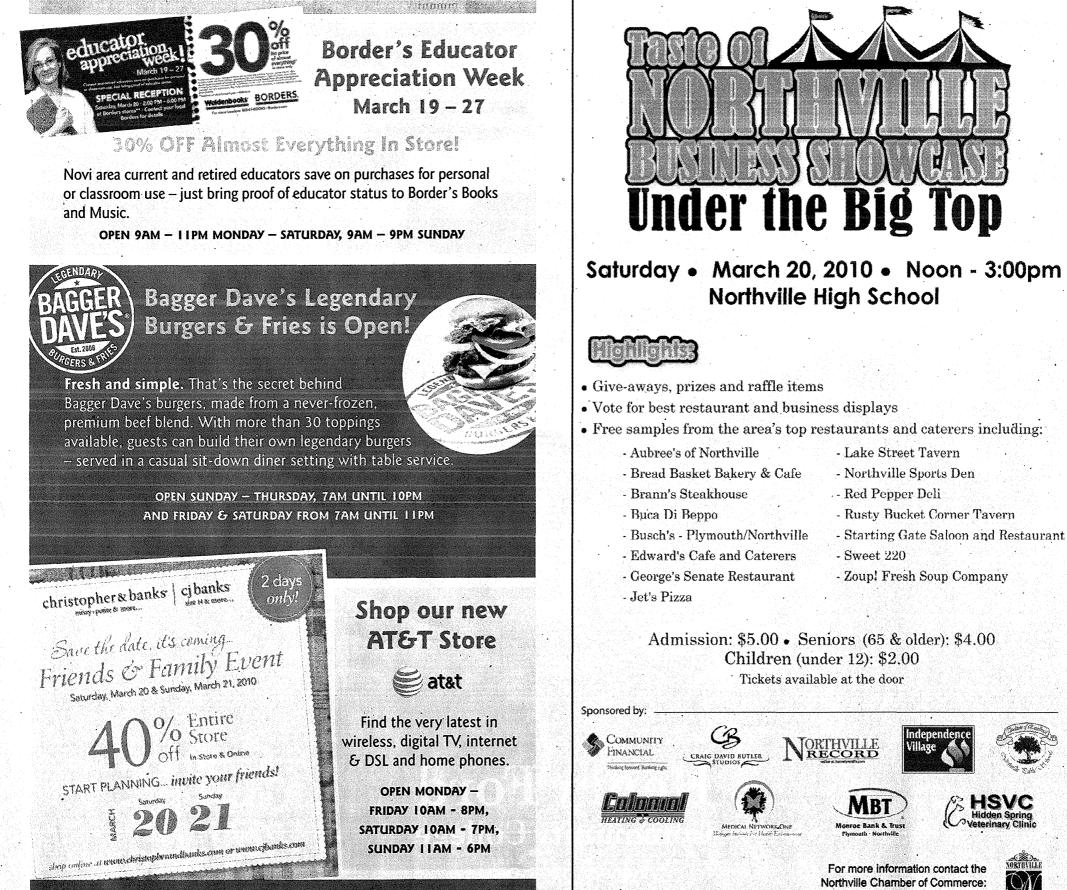
appetizers, followed by five courses, wine and dessert.

The chefs will include Milos Cihelka, formerly of the Golden Mushroom, Steven Allen of Steve and Rocky's, Joseph Beato of Restaurant Via Nove, Brian Beland of Country Club of Detroit, James Bologna of The Townsend Hotel, Kevin Brennan and Jeffrey Hammer of the Detroit Athletic Club, Randy Emert of Great Oaks Country Club, Michael Green of Lochmoor Country Club, Gerald Matthes of Give Thanks Bakery, Brian Polcyn of Forest Grill and Cinco Lagos, Charles Rachwitz of Rocky's, and Daniel Vallone of Tam O'Shanter Country Club. Chef Milos chairs the annual event.

The dinner admission price is \$125 per person of which \$75 is tax deductible. Proceeds from this annual fund-raiser help Community Living Centers of Farmington serve developmentally disabled adults through its seven licensed group homes, one apartment training site, one senior home and two independent living programs. The nonprofit organization currently cares for 116 adults with more than 94 trained staff members.

Call Barb Schuler at the CLC office at (248) 478-0870 for more information or to make a reservation. A group discount is available for parties of 10.

For more about Community Living Centers, visit www.³ clchomes.org.



SIMON

Novi Town Center 26132 Ingersol Drive | Novi, MI 48375 | www.novitowncenter.com

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Phone: 248-349-7640 www.northville.ora



(*)(F) (B10-WGcReLCP) Observer & Eccentric | Thursday, March 18, 2010

Alternative Energy Summit Pathways to Green Jobs

presented by

Henry Ford Community College Friday, March 19, 2010

8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Administrative Services and Conference Center 5101 Evergreen Road, Dearborn

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KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Robert Ficano - Wayne County Executive Peter Sinclair - Greenman Studio Matt Rousch - WWJ News Radio Beth Sommers - State of Michigan

BREAK-OUT SESSIONS

CRESIT Energy - Renewable Solutions DTE Energy - Energy Optimizations Program Lumasmart - LED Lighting Newman Consultants - Sustainable Building DELEG - Wind Projects in Michigan WARM - Home Solutions Behler-Young Company - Geothermal and Hybrid Heating Michigan State University - Bio Fuels Lumasmart - LED Lighting LaFontaine Auto Group - Building Green



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Home show pros: 'Go green' here to stay

BÝ JULIE BROWN O&E STAFF WRITER

"Think Green" was front and center at the recent Canton Home

Improvement Expo. "The big thing is proper insulation on a house," said Patrick Elliott of Livonia, project manager for Canton Construction. He was among vendors at the March 6-7 event at Canton's Summit.

"With the proper insulation, you can really cut your heat bills," he said. You need to look at your home as a whole system. Proper ventilation is needed to avoid condensation, which can lead to mold and attendant health problems.

"People are so much more aware of energy conservation," Elliott said. For roofs, certain materials reflect the sun away, lowering costs.

Not all can afford to go fully green, he said, but when the time comes to, for example, replace a furnace, being green comes into play. Windows are also important part of energy conservation, Elliott said.

The Expo, in its ninth year, was presented by Canton's Building and Inspection Services Division, the Canton Chamber of Commerce and the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers.

Marni Carnahan of Belleville was busy representing Sherwin-Williams Paint Co. on Michigan Avenue in Canton. Paint has Volatile Organic Compounds, she said, or VOCs.

"Basically, it's the odor." Sherwin-Williams has some low and zero lines, which don't compromise on quality.



Sherwin-Williams also has tools for painting made from recycled materials. "So you could go green for your entire project, which everyone should," Carnahan said.

She agreed "green" won't go away: "There's a huge demand for it right now. Being green is very big."

The "green" paint is top of the line and washes well, she said. Oil-based paints are being phased out, with Sherwin-Williams ahead of the game in Michigan.

Carnahan's pleased with response to a free decorator service with purchase of a \$75 gift card. "That's taken off really well," she said.

\$60,000

\$225.000

\$111.000

In a nearby room at the Summit was Lori Mounts of Redford, designer with Long Kitchen & Bath Designs of Northville. Mounts said fixtures and cabinets are now made more with the environment in mind.

"A lot of people are going green," she said. "Some have been there for years." Solvents used are friendlier to the environment "as well as to the consumer.'

Faucet components now mean minimal lead content, she added. "Delta's starting to do it and so is Moen."

Mounts believes green is here to stay, much like organic food. "It's really for our health and for our planet,"

Giving back

she said.

At Long, business is good with countertops, mirrors and faucets being replaced. More customers opt for partial work ("They're freshening") with fewer full remodels other than those caused by leaks.

"I think people are tired of being afraid of spending money," said Mounts, who hopes that continues.

Jason Benward of Canton and Sam Stukel of Plymouth were representing Horton Plumbing & Remodeling of Plymouth. Their remodeling work is going strong, including bathrooms, kitchens and basements.

"Everyone's trying to go green lately, eco-friendly," Benward said. Low-flow toilets are best for that.

"You will recoup it in your water bill," he said of cost. "And they flush better." Low-flow toilets are now higher with better design, for less strain on the back and knees.

Canton Construction, owned by John Sarnecky, is at 5914 N. Lotz, Canton 48187. It can be reached at (734) 844-8420, jsarnecky@ cantonconstructioncorp.com, cantonconstructioncorp.com.

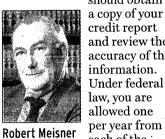
Sherwin-Williams Paint is at 46006 Michigan Ave., Canton 48188, (734) 495-9441, sw1397@ sherwin.com, www.sherwin-williams.com. Long Kitchen & Bath Design is at 190 E. Main, Northville 48167, (248) 349-0373, Imounts@ longkitchenandbathdesign.com, www.longkitchenandbathdesign.com.

Horton Plumbing & Remodeling is at 1382 S. Main, Plymouth 48170. It's at (734) 455-3332, www.hortonplumbing.com, jasonbenward@ hortonplumbing.com.

Accurate credit report vita

Q: Do you have any credit tips which can help me in regard to my credit report?

A: Make sure that there are not any errors on your credit report. It is also important to make sure that your report is up to date and accurate. You should obtain



and review the accuracy of the information. Under federal law, you are allowed one per year from each of the

three major reporting bureaus; log into www.annualcreditreport. com for more information. But be careful of making large purchases right before applying for a home loan, and, if you cannot make a payment on time, contact the lender to make other arrangements before it is too late. Do not fall victim to scams that claim they can remedy your credit as only time and consistent timely payments can improve your

Lathrup Village

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of Nov. 30 to Dec. 4, 2009, at the Oakland County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.				
Auburn Hills				
3707 Eaton Gate Ln	\$191,000			
815 Hathaway Dr	\$191,000			
366 N Vista	\$73,000			
3555 South Blvd	\$165,000			
Beverly Hills				
30627 Banbury Ct	\$217,000			
32463 Sheridan Dr	\$115,000			
Birmingham				
1274 E Lincoln St	\$365,000			
909 Fairfax St	\$285,000			

Bloomfield Hills

Bloomfield Township

Clarkston

\$640.000

\$130,000

\$255.000

\$185,000

\$104,000

\$280.000

\$179,000

\$34,000

\$491,000

\$325,000

\$320.000

\$190,000

\$200.000

\$495,000

\$150.000

\$450,000

\$188,000

\$270.000

\$198,000

\$72.000

\$85,000

\$373,000

764 Lakeview Ave

932 Pierce St

1500 Villa Rd

160 Kirkwood Ct

1025 Stratford PI

1289 Atkinson Ave

3755 Brookside Dr

6181 Indianwood Trl

5025 Kings Gate Way 752 Robinhood Cir

3711 Thornbrier Way

1559 W Long Lake Rd 310 Westwood Dr

9232 Allen Rd 7879 Deerhill Dr

9745 Ellis Rd

10250 Ellis Rd

5171 Heath Ave

3926 Klais Dr

2930 W Hickory Grove Rd

1113 N Old Woodward Ave # 4

411 S Old Woodward Ave

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\$150,000

9319 Robertdale

8177 Staghorn Trl

1920 Bass Lake Rd

Commerce Townshi

	18200 Roseland Blvd	\$122,	000
	18714 San Diego Blvd	\$237.	
	18791 Sunnybrook Ave	\$53,	
	18240 W 11 Mile Rd	\$75.0	
	Milford	4107	
	1796 Brookbury Dr	\$356.0	າດເ
	3900 Dabate Ct	\$200,0	
	732 Manor Dr	\$103,0	
	1770 Red Oak Ln	\$118,0	
	181 W Washington St	\$140,0	
	Northville	0140,0	
	22324 Roberts Dr	\$55,0	າດເ
	1002 Whitegate Dr	\$332.0	
	Novi	\$332,V	500
	25923 Arcadia Dr	\$405.0	າດເ
	45053 Bartlett Dr	\$82.0	
	28201 Carlton Way Dr	\$115,0	
	39985 Crosswinds	\$105,0	
	50641 Drakes Bay Dr		
		\$775,0	
	41645 Hempshire St	\$382,0	
	28038 Hopkins Dr	\$125,6	
	41683 Juniper Cir	\$116,0	
	51135 Luke Ln	\$292,0	
•	26377 Mandalay Cir	\$490,0	
	25483 Sullivan Ln	\$280,0	
	30233 Viewcrest	\$224,0)0(
	Oakland Township		
	4414 Carriage Hill Ct	\$267,0	
	5350 Keswick Ct	\$560,0	
	3706 Tremonte Cir S	\$225,0	
	2118 W Gunn Rd	\$955,0	000
	Oxford		
	143 Broadway St	\$123,0	
	1030 Cross St	\$211,0	
	760 Doral Dr	\$77,0	
	1181 Iroquois Trl	\$459,0	
	1910 Lakesview Dr	\$230,0	
	518 Linhart St	\$135,0	
	1990 N Baldwin Rd	\$73,(
	166 Spezia Dr	\$74,()0(
	Rochester		
	820 Garnet Ct	\$235,0	
	766 Miller Ave	\$115,0	
	803 Plate St	÷\$19,0	
	1379 Tulberry Cir	\$370,0)0(

1470 Werth Dr	\$315,000
Rochester Hi	
3205 Avalon Rd	\$123,000
1784 Blue Grass Dr	\$380,000
3746 Connors Dr	\$50,000
2223 Crystal Dr	\$128,000
3697 Edinborough Dr	\$275,000
199 Grosse Pines Dr	\$240,000
3547 Hogan Cir	\$330,000
3583 Hogan Cir	\$50,000
772 Lake Forest Rd	\$157,000
1457 Lantern Ln	\$80,000
2665 Long Meadow Ln	\$210,000
74 Longford Dr	\$100,000
2384 Longview Ave	\$135,000
69 Manor Way	\$89,000
2995 Pheasant Ring Dr	\$278,000
1197 Pine Ridge Ct	\$93,000
2069 Saint Andrews Dr	\$228,000
3151 Salem Dr	\$240,000
793 Snowmass Dr	\$270,000
969 Stag Ridge Rd	\$205,000
106 Stonetree Cir	\$220,000
590 Ten Point Dr	
	\$150,000
694 W Bluff Ct	\$155,000
336 Willow Grove Ln	\$82,000
366 Wimpole Dr	\$185,000
South Lyon	
619 Lyon Blvd	\$125,000
Southfield	
18555 Bainbridge Dr	\$85,000
24749 Harden Ave	\$69,000
19047 Middlesex Ave	\$49,000
15833 New Hampshire St	\$75,000
28206 Red Leaf Ln	\$62,000
30690 Red Maple Ln	\$105,000
17570 Roxbury Ave	\$85,000
27676 Sutherland St	\$80,000
24629 Templar Ave	\$80,000
Trov	
.3716 Acorn Dr	\$285,000
1755 Austin Dr	\$175,000
1230 Autumn Dr	\$170,000
2551 Avalon Dr	\$122,000
2901 Devonwood Dr	\$415,000
806 Drew Dr	\$213,000
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\$80,000
\$280,000

set amount from every transaction,

others donate a flat amount. Some

agents and offices organize special

events over and above their ongo-

ing contributions. One example was

from Danny DeYonker, an associate

with RE/MAX First based in Shelby

Township, who raised \$4,000

basement.

we sponsor."

1999年1月1日 オンジャプルシャプルシ

for CMN last year with a special

"haunted house" fund-raiser in his

Schneider said: "I am honored to

accept this award on behalf of all

the RE/MAX sales associates and

broker/owners in Southeastern

Michigan who contribute to CMN

on a daily basis. It is their commit-

ment to this very worthy cause that

makes this award possible. RE/MAX

agents are a very charitable group

and I am proud of their continued

support and ongoing efforts to raise

awareness of this unique program

credit report. You may not wish to unnecessarily apply for a new credit card and/or cancel long-standing credit cards which may adversely impact on your credit score.

Q: Do you have any homeowners' insurance tips that I might be able to pass on to my mother who owns a house but wants to cut back?

A: The Insurance Information Institute warns against cutting your homeowners' insurance during hard economic times. Being underinsured can cost you more in the event that you have to make a claim. Also, one should be wary of insuring a house for its real estate value rather than the cost of rebuilding. You should not select an insurance company by price alone, nor should you drop flood insurance. If you are a renter, neglecting to purchase renters insurance is a bad idea. You should obtain a knowledgeable insurance agent who is familiar with your situation and who can advise you on exactly how much insurance you should get and what type, particularly, if you are in a condominium where the insurance has to be complimentary to that held by the association in order to ensure full coverage.

Robert M. Meisner is a lawyer and the author of Condominium Operation: Getting Started & Staying on the Right Track, second edition. It is available for \$9.95 plus \$1 shipping and handling. He also wrote Condo Living: A Survival Guide to Buying, Owning and Selling a Condominium, available for \$24.95 plus \$5 shipping and handling. For more information, call (248) 644-4433 or visit bmeisner@meisner-associates.com. This column shouldn't be construed as legal advice.

KNOW THE SCORE check out the numbers in l Dection

HOMES SOLD-WAYNE

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re cities, addresses, and sa	ales	18564 Gillman St
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		15132 Houghton St
Canton		16559 Middlebelt Rd
42454 Bishop Rd	\$155,000	29875 Minton St
4081 Elizabeth Ave	\$91,000	32924 Perth St
43075 Fernwood St	\$150,000	33825 Richland St
51140 Gold Ridge Ln	\$308,000	29366 Terrence St
7334 Irongate Rd	\$120,000	28036 W Chicago St
1362 Longfellow Dr	\$106,000	Northville
44691 Meadowcreek Ln	\$122,000	42488 Corlina Dr
43848 Palisades Dr	\$158,000	48933 Rainbow Ln S
4751 Sherwood Cir	\$185,000	42285 Sunnydale Ln
42449 Somerset Ct	\$120,000	Plymouth
5741 Wedgewood Rd	\$148,000	336 Adams St
43517 Westminister Way	\$140,000	44429 Albert Dr
1610 Whittier Dr	\$129,000	287 Arthur St
Garden City	9 <u>966</u> 553	1378 Carol Ave
6027 Arcola St	\$97,000	12755 Essex Ct
1817 Helen St	\$90,000	12211 Hillside Dr
Livonia	안 지않으며	48120 Hilltop Dr E

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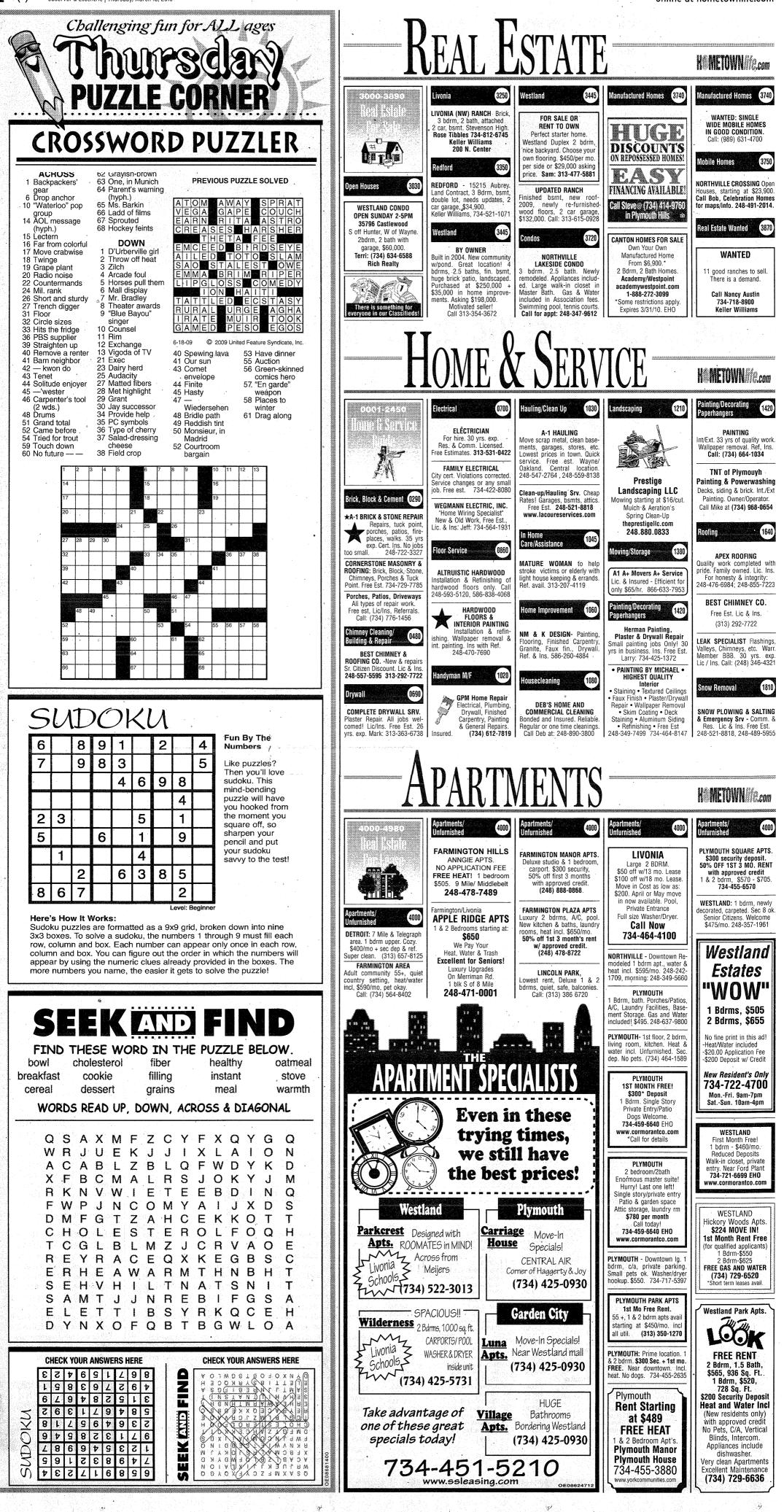
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	12063 Landers Dr	\$275,000
	9298 Mayflower Dr	\$168,000
	50955 N Territorial Rd	\$95,000
	174 Pinewood Dr	\$58,000
	Redford	
	18260 Brady	\$41,000
	14415 Fenton	\$77,000
	26622 Kenneth Ct	\$73,000
	17465 Lennane	\$70,000
	19771 Macarthur	\$74,000
	24567 Orangelawn	\$46,000
	16681 Ryland	\$60,000
	14412 Salem	\$60,000
ŝ.	13041 Tecumseh	\$70,000
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	Westland	
	27950 Ann Arbor Tri	\$120,000
	1240 Easley Dr	\$87,000
	31266 Fernwood St	\$67.000
	34636 Hazelwood St	\$124,000
	36673 Hazelwood St	\$138,000
	38549 Loruss Ave	\$69.000
	7505 Melvin Ave	\$110.000
	948 Mitchell Dr	\$173.000
	1246 Portland St	\$105.000
	390 S John Hix St	\$78,000
	2025 S John Hix St	\$77,000
	32651 Sandra Ln	\$78.000
	33285 Winchester St	\$76,000
		\$10,000

REAL ESTATE BRIEFS

Jeanette Schneider, VP/regional director of RE/MAX of Southeastern Michigan and Eric Miller, Franchise Sales consultant, received an award from Children's Miracle Network. The award recognizes that agents have raised over \$100 million in personal donations toward the charity and its work with ill and recovering children. The Southeastern Michigan region supports the RE/MAX **Communication Station Preschool at** Beaumont Hospital, Royal Oak, and has been affiliated with the hospital since 1992. The preschool is the first hospital-based program in Michigan specifically for children with speech and language difficulties. The program is designed for children ages 3-6. Every year, RE/MAX agents and offices make donations to Children's Miracle Network through a variety of ways. Some agents contribute a







Help Wanted-General 5000



Divorce Services

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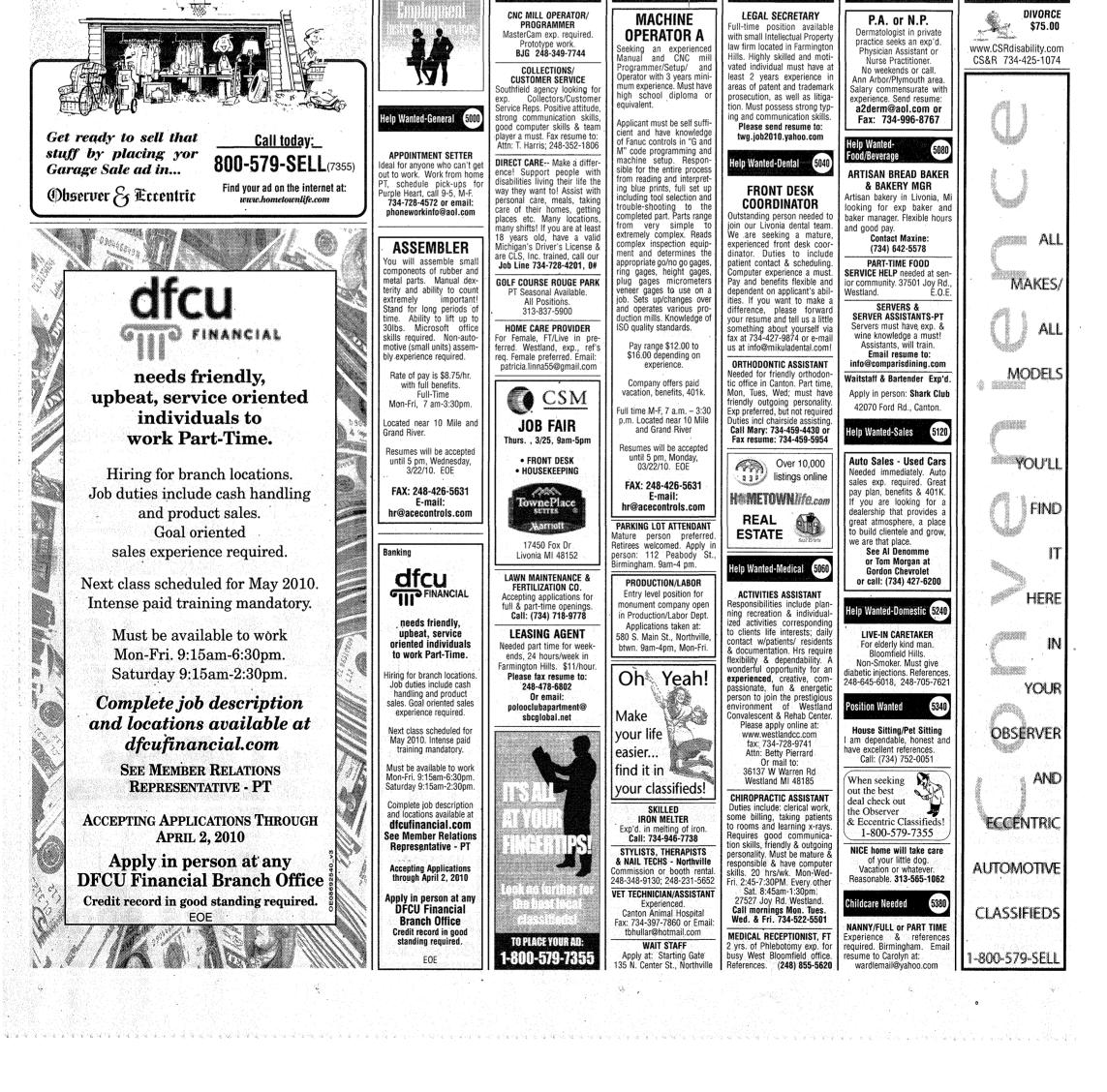
Help Wanted-Office

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Help Wanted-Medical

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Help Wanted-General,



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1. B.



Planning a garden



March Madness in-home party recipes



places to go in 300 miles

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contents



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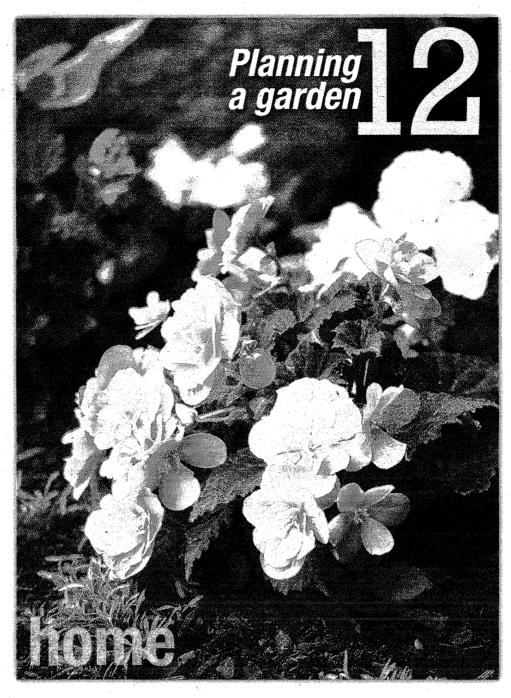
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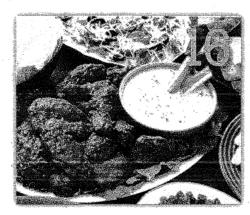
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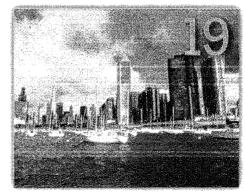




Food Hosting a March Madness party? Get recipes that will complement the games.

Travel

Road Trips: 5 places to go in about 300 miles – Where to take a family trip, romantic weekend, girls night out, shopping trip or scenic excursion.



6

Health & Fitness The Kettlebell Craze Get the moves from local trainers.



Entertainment Check out new books, local music events, DVDs and what's playing in theaters this month.



Pets How can you make your garden more pet friendly? Find out now!



Tech Savvy Now is the optimal time to reorganize and clean up your hard drive. Find tips to make your computer run more smoothly.

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Easter Treats 5 Green Living 20 Money 22

Westland, Garden City, Canton & Plymouth, March 2010 \succ INSPIRE 3

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Welcome to Hometown Life INSPIRE

Dear Readers:

You told us you want to read more stories about how to improve, enjoy and showcase your home. And, you want more information about food, travel, regional entertainment, pets, trends and technology. In short, you want it all — stories that reflect your hometown spirt and advertisements from local companies — in a compact, monthly

publication. That's how Hometown Life Inspire came to be. We hope it informs and inspires you to tackle projects and/or enjoy entertainment and travel opportunities close to home.

Our first edition is all about thinking spring by planning flower and vegetable gardens. Included is a local list of near-by resources to help. And pet owners can read about what makes a dog-friendly garden.

Spring means cleaning and that includes your computer. Mike Hogan, contributing writer, seeks out local tech advisors who offer up tips

on how to give your computer a refresh for spring.

Check out Alison Bergsieker's story on "5 places to go in about 300 miles." From family fun to a girls weekend, the story offers up some close-to-home destinations that have lots to offer.

Books, movies, local music events and new DVD releases along with enticing recipes for a March Madness party or an Easter celebration all inside.

Spend some time with Hometown Life Inspire and tell us what you think. E-mail inspire@hometownlife.com with your comments suggestions and tell us what yo want to read in upcoming editions.

Hometown Life Inspire— just like our local print and online editions — is local and "all about you."

Sincerely, Susan Rosiek, Publisher/Executive Editor srosiek@hometownlife.com



itood

Easter brownie fun — hop To It!

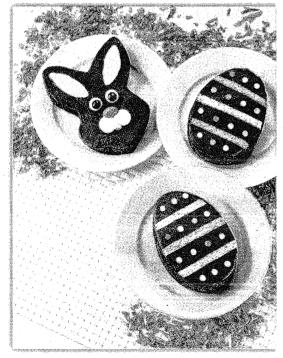
Put a new spin on Easter; serve brownies in bunny and egg shapes – an easy way to make a yummy impression. Even Peter Cottontail would be proud to deliver these fudgy treats!

Simply bake a pan of brownies using your favorite mix or recipe. Cool completely, then smooth on fudge icing. Bunnies and eggs will practically hop out of the pan when you use comfort-grip cutters. These easy-grip stainless steel cutters have extra deep sides, perfect for cutting shapes from thick desserts like brownies, sheet cakes, fudge and crispy rice treats.

Decorate brownies using the pastel palette of the season. Create cute bunny faces by piping icing to make eyes, ears, muzzle and tongue. Finish the eyes with candy-coated chocolate pupils and add a jelly bean nose.

Brownie Bunnies will love sharing the Easter basket with colorful Egg-stra Special Brownies adorned with pink and blue sugar stripes and accents of confetti sprinkles. Everyone will look forward to these springtime treats in their baskets, so hop to it!

For more recipes and egg-cellent ideas or to order comfort grip cutters and decorating supplies, visit www.wilton.com.



Create cute bunny faces by piping icing to make eyes, ears, muzzle and tongue. Finish the eyes with candy-coated chocolate pupils and add a jelly bean nose.

Easter Brownies

1 package (about 20 oz) brownie mix (13 x 9 in size) Eggs, water and oil to prepare mix

1 can (16 oz) Brownie Fudge Icing Pink and White Tube Decorating Icing

Mini candy-coated chocolates Purple jelly beans Pink and Blue Dusting Sugar Spring Confetti Sprinkles

Preheat oven to 350°F. Spray 13 x 9-inch baking pan with vegetable pan spray.

In large bowl, prepare brownie mix following package instructions; spread into prepared pan. Bake 35-38 minutes; cool completely. Ice smooth with Fudge Icing.

For Bunny Brownies: cut brownie shape with Bunny Face Comfort Grip Cutter. With round decorating tip, pipe white icing eyes and muzzle and pink icing ears and tongue; smooth with spatula. Attach candy-coated chocolate pupils and jelly bean nose with dots of icing.*

For Egg-stra Special Brownies: cut brownie shape with Egg Comfort Grip Cutter. Place parchment paper strips to keep sections free from dusting sugar. Using shaker, dust stripes of pink and blue sugar; carefully remove strips. Attach confetti sprinkles with dots of icing.

Each serves 1.

*Note: Bunny Brownies can also be decorated completely with candy. Use regular marshmallows, sliced, for muzzle and halved mini marshmallows for eyes. Use pink taffy, rolled out and cut to size, for ears. **

— Family Features

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Westland, Garden City, Canton & Plymouth, March 2010 > INSPIRE 5

illiness

Kettlebell swings onto fitness scene with full body workout

By Linda Ann Chomin Contributing Writer

Michelle Christ swings the odd-looking weight between her legs to demonstrate the latest trend in exercise equipment. Kettlebell is a cannonball-shaped object that uses the momentum of the body for strength training when swung by its handle.

To prevent injury, good technique is essential. That's why Gayle Harschman, adult and youth coordinator for Plymouth-Canton Community Education, added the class to its fitness lineup at the end of January. Certified kettlebell trainers don't recommend learning the basic moves from a DVD or book.

Christ begins the second class with caution by warming up students, then picks up the kettlebell and goes into a dead lift from the floor while balancing on one leg. After doing a few more basic kettlebell moves, she stretches her legs by moving them from side to side.

"The kettlebell is excellent for balance," said Christ, a certified personal trainer through the Aerobics and Fitness Association of America. "Balance goes away as we age. Kettlebell training helps prevent falls. It's great for women over 50, also those in menopause. Weight bearing exercises help stimulate bone growth and you're working your back muscles. Women usually don't think about working the back, which can lead to back pain. Kettlebells strengthen back muscles and abdominals."

Bob Budai uses kettlebell as one of his tools as a physical therapist at Excel Rehabilitation in Waterford and as a personal trainer for his Functional Strength Training business in Novi.

He teaches kettlebell classes in Novi, the Walled Lake Sports Academy, Livonia Wate-Man Fitness Equipment and The Corners at Temple Shir Shalom in West Bloomfield.

"In physical therapy, I use it to treat every condition from head to toe, knee, hip and back pain patients, also shoulder, neck," said Budai, an International Kettlebell & Fitness Federation certified trainer.

Christ recommends starting slow to prevent injury. Kettlebell instructors suggest women use 5-pound weights, men 10-15 pounds unless they're not in condition; then men should go with 5 pounds as well.

"Start out very slow, build up with three basic moves," said Christ of Westland. "They really have to practice to get the moves down. If you're deconditioned, go at your own pace.



Ericka Dawydko, health and fitness management wellness director for the Livonia Family YMCA, demonstrates a kettlebell move.

Don't worry about the person next to you." Even though Scott Ickes spins and weight trains, the first class with kettlebells left him sore.

"I felt it the next day," Ickes said. "It worked muscles-I never knew I had."

"It was definitely a workout," said Mary Bryant, the Canton resident next to him in the gym at Gallimore Elementary School. "I'm also taking Zumba and Turbo/Kick Jam which are cardio, but with kettlebell I'm able to tone muscles."

"SOMETHING NEW"

Friends Kim Benti, 32, and Kathleen Somervell, 35, were looking for "something new" when they saw the listing for Lean & Mean Kettlebells with Christ in the school brochure. Both live in Plymouth.

"I thinks it's challenging," Benti said. "I felt afterward I was standing taller. Things don't bounce back like in our 20s. You could feel it in your muscles."

Somervell likes the fact it's relatively inexpensive. A kettlebell costs as little as \$7 to more than \$100. Gloves with suede palms prevent callouses (\$5-\$7).

Ericka Dawydko uses kettlebell along with medicine balls and dumbbells as part of the exercise program at the Livonia YMCA. As a safety precaution, she recommends using chalk to prevent kettlebells from slipping from hands while standing on a rubber-matted floor in a basement of workout area.

She says, "If you feel you're going to drop it, let it go and get out of the way." It's also important to clear a six- to eight-foot radius around the body in case momentum sends it flying. And consult your physician before beginning any form of exercise.

"Kettlebell use is becoming popular among women," said Dawydko, YMCA Wellness director and a Canton resident. "Based on form and techniques of the person using the kettlebell, they're able to lift a lot more weight than they think they can. If you're able to use more weight to exercise with, you're able to burn more calories which means burning more body fat. Most of our clients are surprised how fast their overall strength increases, how cardiovascular fitness improves. Using kettlebells allows us to do everyday activities a lot more efficiently and easily, climbing stairs and carrying groceries and playing with kids and just overall housework."

Jimi Varner uses kettlebells as part of his Extreme Metabolic Bootcamp workouts. Varner was a professional wrestler for six years before becoming a certified personal trainer 12 years ago. He currently is on staff at The Sports Club of Novi and most recently worked with *The Biggest Loser* as a trainer, for Michigan finalist Mike Morelli of South Lyon.

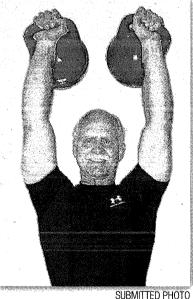
The kettlebell is an ancient tool used for

strengthening the body. It was originally used in Russia as a counterweight for agricultural scales, according to Veronica Torres of Elements of Exercise. By 1948, it was being used to train Russia's elite military forces. In the United States, kettlebells were popularized in the 2001 book, *The Russian Kettlebell Challenge* by Pavel Tsatsouline, once a nationally ranked kettlebell lifter in the former Soviet Union. Dragon Door published the book and the first U.S.-made Russian-style cast iron kettlebell was forged.

"It's basically the father to the dumbbell," said Varner of Livonia. "It was here before dumbbells came about. There are a lot of unique exercises that are more joint friendly that you can't do with the dumbbell. It's muscle integration versus muscle isolation, that's where bar bells and dumbbells come into play."

Varner recommends an exclusive kettlebell workout once or twice a week along with a traditional strength training program with a machine, dumbbells and barbells, once to twice a week, and endurance for cardiovascular conditioning, once to twice a week.

"For football and wrestling training, you might want to lean on kettlebell for several weeks, three to four days a week, where power and strength is needed," Varner said. "For weight loss, once or twice a week."*



David Thorp demonstrates a kettlebell exercise in the overhead position after a press.

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timess

Start swinging the right way

By Linda Ann Chomin Contributing Writer

Certified kettlebell trainers recommend classes to learn the foundation exercises. Here are a few basic moves from Michelle Christ, an instructor for Plymouth-Canton Community Education and Elements of Exercise.

1. Swing — a key movement in kettlebell. Swing kettlebell between legs and then up in front of the body. Imagine a straight line from neck all the way down the spine to tail bone. Swing works the abdominal muscles

2. Clean — pick up bell from floor and lift up to the shoulder with one hand and then switch to other side

3. Snatch — bend the knees. Grab kettlebell and raise all the way from the floor overhead then swing between the legs. There's the potential to hurt the wrist, depending on how the bell flips over. Be careful

4. Clean and press — take kettlebell from floor to shoulder, rack position to chest then push above the head.

Dozens of variations use these basic moves. Kettlebell Instruction:

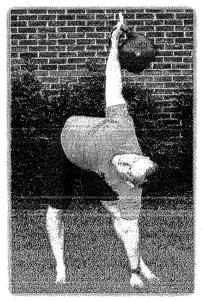
Plymouth-Canton Community Education (734) 416-2940
Livonia YMCA, Ericka Dawydko, wellness director (734) 261-2161, ext. 208

• The Sports Club of Novi, Jimi Varner, personal trainer, www.jimivarner.com or (248) 735-8850, ext. 4063

• The Spirit of the Dragon, David Tharp, (248) 446-1068 or www.thespiritofthedragon.com, or visit South Lyon Area Recreation at www.slrec.com.

• Functional Strength Training based in Novi, contact physical therapist Bob Budai at (248) 390-8363 or www. funstrength.com.

• Elements of Exercise studio in Dearborn, www. elementsofexercise.com or (888) 363-3635. **



SUBMITTED PHOTO Bob Budai of Functional Strength Training demonstrates a windmill exercise with a kettlebell. \$25 Carpet Installation ANNIVERSARY SALF



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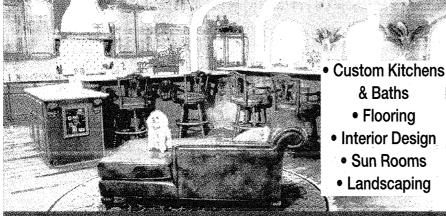
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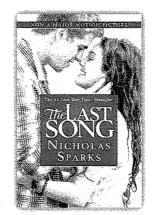
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The latest in books, music and movies

« NEW READS »



MARCH NEW RELEASE » THE LAST SONG Nicholas Sparks | Grand Central Publishing Publication Date: March 1

A tale about 17-year-old Veronica "Ronnie" Miller that unfolds is an unforgettable story about love in its myriad forms — first love, the love between parents and children — that demonstrates, as only a Nicholas Sparks novel can, the many ways that deeply felt relationships can break our hearts ... and heal them.

MARCH NEW RELEASE » CHELSEA CHELSEA BANG BANG Chelsea Handler I Grand Central Publishing Publication Date: March 9 Life doesn't get more hilarious than when Chelsea Handler takes aim with her irreverent wit. In this new collection of original essays, Handler delivers one laugh-out-loud moment after another as she sets her sights on the ridiculous side of childhood, adulthood and daughterhood.





MARCH NEW RELEASE » HOUSE RULES Jodi Picoult I Atria

Publication Date: March 2

House Rules is about Jacob Hunt, a teenage boy with Asperger's Syndrome. He's hopeless at reading social cues or expressing himself well to others, and like many kids with AS, Jacob as a special focus on one subject — in his case, forensic analysis. House Rules looks at what it means to be different in our society, how autism affects a family and how our legal system works well for people who communicate a certain way — but lousy for those who don't.

entertainment

« LOCAL MUSIC EVENTS »

THURSDAY • MARCH 18 **Chuck Bradley Band** » Mediterranean Bistro. Livonia

The Duffy King Koalition » Edison's, Birmingham

Extreme Air Band Karaoke » Rock Starz, Garden City

Jim Newton & Jimmy Blues Jazz Sax & Piano » Maria's Front Room. Ferndale

Lee Roy's Blues Band » Token Lounge, Westland **Open Mic** » Westland

Public Library, Westland

FRIDAY • MARCH 19 **Blues Night Out 2** » Longacre House, **Farmington Hills**

Live Flamenco Show » Tasca de Plata Tapas Bar & Restaurant, Canton

SATURDAY • MARCH 20 Karaoke with Eric » Weal Inn, Highland

Live Flamenco Show » Tasca de Plata Tapas Bar & Restaurant, Canton

SUNDAY • MARCH 21 Extreme Air Band Karaoke » Rock Starz, Garden City

MONDAY • MARCH 22 **Extreme Air Band Karaoke** » Rock Starz, Garden City Karaoke » Double 00 Pub, Redford

TUESDAY • MARCH 23 Extreme Air Band Karaoke » Rock Starz, Garden City

Benny and the Jets » Wayne Road Pub, Westland **Chris B Acoustic Show**

» Commerce Township, Uptown Grill Live Band Karaoke »

Bullfrog Bar & Grill, Redford

Spirit of Detroit Chorus » **Bethlehem Evangelical** Lutheran Church, **Farmington Hills**

WEDNESDAY • MARCH 24 **Double Take** » JB Bamboozies **Farmington Hills**

Extreme Air Band Karaoke » Rock Starz, Garden City No Lookin' Back Open Jam Session » Uptown Grill, **Commerce Township**

THURSDAY • MARCH 25 **Chuck Bradley Band »** Mediterranean Bistro. Livonia

Extreme Air Band Karaoke » Rock Starz, Garden City Karaoke » Traveling Fork,

Livonia Karaoke with Eric » Weal Inn, Highland

Lee Roy Blues Band » Token Lounge, Westland

FRIDAY • MARCH 26 Live Flamenco Show » Tasca de Plata Tapas Bar & Restaurant, Canton

SATURDAY • MARCH 27 Live Flamenco Show » Tasca de Plata Tapas Bar & Restaurant, Canton Karaoke with Eric » Weal Inn, Highland

« DVD RELEASES »

MARCH 2 2012 **Cold Souls** Gentlemen Broncos Ponvo The Private Lives of Pippa Lee We Live in Public Where the Wild Things Are

MARCH 5

Alice In

Starring:

Depp, Mia

Wasikowska,

Helena Bonham

Johnny

Carter

Capitalism: A Love Story Hachiko: A Dog's Story Old Dogs Pirate Radio Planet 51 Precious The Boondock Saints II: All Saints Day

Up in the Air

MARCH 9

MARCH 16 Armored Astro Boy Bandslam **Did You Hear About** the Morgans? Ninia Assassin Princess & The Frog The Fourth Kind

> MARCH 20 The Twilight Saga: New Moon

MARCH 23 **Brothers** Dread The Blind Side The Fantastic Mr. Fox The Men Who Stare At Goats

MARCH 30 An Education I Sell the Dead Sherlock Holmes

«NOW PLAYING »

IN THEATERS IN THEATERS MARCH 12 **Green Zone** Wonderland Starring: Matt

Damon, Greg Kinnear, Amy Ryan

IN THEATERS IN THEATERS MARCH 26 MARCH 19 **Hot Tub Time How To Train** Machine Your Dragon Starring: John Starring: Jay Cusack, Rob Baruchel, America Ferrera, Corddry, Craig Jonah Hill Robinson

Clash of the Titans Starring: Sam Worthington, Gemma Arteton, Liam Neeson



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do-it-yourself home » garden

Planning answers question

By Diane Gale Andreassi CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Planning your flower garden is just as important as sun, light and water to reap the best looking plants with the least amount of effort.

Decide what type of plants will do best in the area you're planting, how to prepare the dirt, what your soil needs are and when and what to fertilize.

Gardeners either have a plan or adhere to a RAP (Random Acts of Planting) system, says Bryan Matnick, buyer and sales designer at Glenda's Garden Center in Novi and Livonia.

The RAP followers buy plants based on looks, but they have no real idea where or if the plant will thrive in the garden space they're considering, says Matnick.

"People are buying with emotion, putting here and there and that causes maintenance," he said.

For instance, you don't want to put a tall plant by a small plant, because it steals the sun, nutrients and air from the little guy. Above all, know how big the plant you're buying will get.

PLAN NOW, PLANT LATER

Tim Parker, Plymouth Nursery general manager, says not considering plant growth is one of the biggest mistakes he sees.

After a couple of years that pretty little tree by the side of the house is threatening to grow through the roof.

Experts say March is the perfect time to prune away bad ideas and decide how you're going to make the most of the growing season. Mid-May, when fears of frost have melted, is the unofficial start of flower planting in southeast Michigan.

If you can't wait to get out and play in the dirt, start by preparing the ground and cleaning up debris left from the winter.

Get to know your planting area by observing the amount of sun and shade it gets. Make sure you're putting the shade-loving plants where they're protected from the sun and sun-loving growers out in the open.

Study your soil and consider that it has to have good drainage. Most areas in southeast Michigan have a lot of clay, which holds water and water drowns plants.

You probably have a lot of clay if you put your shovel to the ground and it's hard to pen-



Experts say March is the perfect time to prune away bad ideas and decide how you're going to make the most of the growing season.

etrate the surface, Parker says.

These conditions require adding sand and

gravel, which will help draw the water from the

clay. "Most people kill with kindness and overwater," Matnick said.

If you have a lot of sand in your yard you want to add mixtures that will help hold moisture, like Canadian Peat.

Always water in the morning and as near the bottom of the plant as possible. Watering at night allows the water to sit on top and possibly create mold.

"Most people equate watering plants with taking a shower," Matnick said. "Anytime you have water sitting on plants you create a great condition for mold."

Matnick also suggests using a root stimulator, like Upstart.

Mix your soil with mulch and manure to make it nutrient rich and add Preen to keep the weeds at bay, recommends Michele Hinds, of The Vines Flower and Garden Shop in Farmington.

A thick layer of mulch will keep the weeds down and help the plants retain water. Taking the time to lay this protective covering will save hours and lots of labor later in weeding and watering.

Keep in mind that less is more when designing your flower and vegetable gardens.

APPEALING ALL YEAR

Incorporate contrasts in the flower garden by considering color, texture and bloom time. That means including annuals, perennials, deciduous plants and evergreens.

"A good garden will be appealing in all four seasons," Parker said.

Remember, too, there is strength in numbers. Grouping the same plant together, as opposed to scattering them around the garden, adds to the eye appeal and should limit maintenance.

Matnick uses a simple formula to planting using odd numbers. He says he always suggests grouping the same plant in threes, fives, sevens and nines.

"If you have the luxury to use odd numbers it looks better," he said.

If you're planting perennials, flowers that return annually, make sure the plants are suitable for Michigan temps that dip as low as 20 degrees below zero. Look for plants that are marked for Zone 5.

A lot of gardeners are moving toward container planting, using custom pots and hanging baskets, Parker says. They can be moved around the garden at will and they offer lower maintenance, because it's a contained area.

Plymouth Nursery sells "Six Packs" that include all the flowers you'll need for a container. They take the worry out of deciding what colors and designs mix and match well, Parker says.

"For a person who is not as confident with the combinations of how things mesh together we've done that for them," Parker said, adding that each six pack is labeled as sun- or shadeloving. "It's an easy grab and go tray or a pot or hanging basket."

In the past, it was unusual to see anything but annuals used in hanging baskets and containers. But, more and more gardeners

are adding perennials to these contained spaces. "They'll put in ornamental grasses, sedums

and coral bells and it can keep interesting foliage in the off season," Parker said. Some plants draw other interests to the

garden. For instance, if you want to attract butterflies and hummingbirds plant butterfly bushes, marigolds and milkweed.

Other plants are known to spread and entirely take over an area. Black Eyed Susan, for instance, is very invasive. If that's what you're looking for great, but if not, you're setting yourself up for a lot of work, pulling unwanted growth.

If you still like the flower and want it in your garden, take the container they came in, cut the bottom out and plant the pot in the ground. This creates a border.

The experts agree that having a plan is key to avoiding problems in the months to come.

John Steinkopf, owner of Steinkopf Nursery in Farmington Hills, says a plant to look for this year is the Invincible Spirit, a pink hydrangea.

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of how does your garden grow

GETTING HELP

Get your garden started. There are a lot of places to turn for help in planning and planting your vegetable and flower gardens. Consider the following:

Learn about plant design and care at the Novi Spring Home & Garden Show, April 9-11 at Rock Financial Showplace.
Garden clubs provide a great opportunity to learn about plants and socialize with people who enjoy making something grow. Go to Michigan's Garden Clubs at www. michigangardenclubs.org.

• Steinkopf Nursery on Farmington Road in Farmington Hills offers a wide range of classes, involving topics like how to care for houseplants, bulbs and fruit trees. Call 248-474-2925 for more information and to learn about the classes or visit www.steinkopfnursery. com.

• Home Depot hosts gardening classes on Saturdays. Check out a store near you for the times and dates in April and May. Go to www.homedepot. com for a location.

Look for growing tips on free fliers at Schwartz's Garden Center in Romulus. Call 734-753-9269 or go to www. schwartzgreenhouse.com.
Begonia Brothers in Northville offers gardening classes throughout spring and early summer. Contact them at 888-889-8282 or www. begoniabrothers.com.

• Learn about organic tree fruit 4-6:30 p.m. Friday, April 16, at the Extension Education Center, 5454 Venoy, Wayne. The session is sponsored by Michigan State University Extension Wayne County Horticulture. Call Kristine Hahn at 734-727-7234 or go to www.msue.msu.edu/wayne for more information. The cost is \$25.

• Learn about pruning, lawn care, replacing grass with ground cover and making compost by attending "Yard Care," a Livonia Community Education Enrichment class, Monday, March 29, at Riley School. Go to www. Ipsenrichmentclasses.org/ livonia or call 734-744-2602 for more information.

• The Michigan State University Extension program is a great place to turn for expert advice on soil health; pest problems; plant care and how to preserve fruits and vegetables, as well as a myriad of other gardening topics. In Wayne County, call 734-727-7240; Oakland County, 248-858-0881; and Washtenaw, 734-997-1678. Go to www.ewashtenaw. org/government/departments/ extension.

• Wayne-Westland Community Schools Leisure program is offering classes on "Getting Your Garden Ready" and "Do It Yourself Home Landscaping" in March. Go to www.wwcsd.net or call 734-419-2426 for more information.

Bryan Matnick, of Glenda's Garden Centers, offers gardening programs through his personal business, Branching out with Bryan.
Contact him at 248-890-1900.
Canton Township Leisure Services offers a number of garden classes, like Creating an Organic Garden and Lawn and Garden Know How. For more information, go to www.leisure. canton-mi.org or call 734-394-5460.

• Get your questions answered online by going to www.helpful gardener.com.

GROW VEGETABLES ALMOST ANYWHERE

You don't need an acre of land to plant a vegetable garden. Dig out an old barrel from the garage or dust off a hanging basket container and presto, there's your vegetable garden.

The interest in vegetable gardening increased tenfold last year with a lot of folks trying to trim household budgets, according to Lori Vogel of Raney's Gardens in South Lyon.

"I'm still eating from my garden from things I froze," Vogel said. "It's better than the grocery store, and you grew it."

"If you don't think you have space for it, you can plant any vegetable in a pot," Vogel said.

Vegetables need as much sun as you can give them, according to Brian Klemz, part owner of Begonia Brothers in Northville.

"You cannot give them too much sun and they need plenty of water," he added.

CONTAINER GARDENS

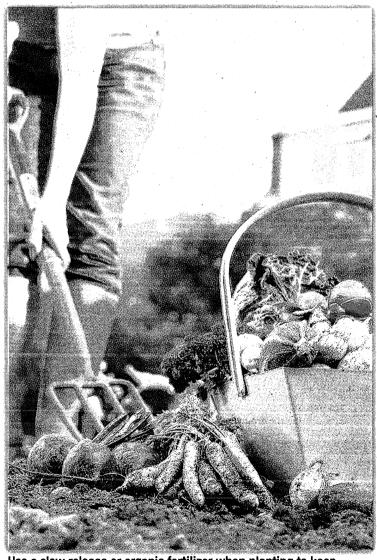
Container gardening, he says, is great for people who are just getting their feet dirty in the gardening world. Virtually every vegetable from tomatoes to snap peas, cucumbers and eggplant are ideal candidates for growing in pots.

"For people who don't have space, there's less weeding, maintenance and normally they can be kept right outside your door where it's easy to get to," Vogel added. "It's right there while you're sitting out on the deck. You don't have to water a large area, you're watering a pot."

Double your return by making your mini-vegetable gardens nice to look at, too. The bright red of tomatoes, adorned with spike herbs and trailing peas can have an interesting appeal, both to the eye and taste buds. Add your favorite ingredients to the same pot and you have a salad that's ready to pick whenever you want. You may have to use multiple pots to get everything in that you need.

If you like, you can buy dwarf plants that won't become too big for your container. But, it's not necessary to limit your choices to the little guys. Some of the most popular vegetables chosen for container gardens are carrots, radishes, lettuce tomatoes and peppers. One rule to remember is that all container pots need drainage capabilities. Don't forget to punch some holes in the bottom, and cover them with mesh, gravel, paper towels or coffee filters to prevent the soil from seeping through.

Using a slow release or organic fertilizer when planting will help keep vegetables fed for the whole growing season.



Use a slow release or organic fertilizer when planting to keep vegetables fed for the entire growing season.

WESTLAND, GARDEN CITY, CANTON & PLYMOUTH, March 2010 > INSPIRE 13

0)HKS

Help your dog, garden co-exist peacefully

By Sharon Dargay STAFF WRITER

You love your canine companion

But you also love your garden. Do you let him romp unfettered in the back yard? Or keep the flowers and

shrubs looking nice?

You can combine both passions this summer without severely curtailing Fido's freedom or letting your landscaping go to the dogs.

Know where your four-pawed pal tends to play, be aware of their patterns and then address potential problems before they

are etched into the ground, suggests Jamey Gutierrez, senior landscape designer for English Gardens.

"I had one customer in Northville who had two large dogs and every time he let them out, the dogs would run down the back deck and into pure mud," she said. "We put in flagstones. In between the joints we put in a moss, because it was shady, too. It never dried up. It was inevitable it never would be anything but a path. It solved his problems."

In her own yard, Gutierrez left plenty of grassy area for her $2^{1/2}$ year-old boxer, Luna, to run on,

while keeping most of the landscaping toward her house. She suggests leaving some space between fencing and plants because many dogs run the perimeter of their yards. She also advises homeowners to create a structure or plant trees — maples, birch or even a large pear tree — to give their dogs respite from the sun.

David Zenisek, chief landscape designer for Begonia Brothers in Novi, recommends using a fine, double-shredded mulch because it contains fewer tempting sticks than hardwood mulch.

"If you opt for stone ground cover in the landscape, do your-

self a favor and choose one that is heavier. Lighter stone will only create a mess when your pet runs through it," he said.

Gutierrez advises against using mulch containing cocoa hulls, which, like chocolate, can contain theobromine, a substance that is toxic to dogs.

Dr. Michael Redmer, a veterinarian with the Michigan Humane Society's Berman Center for Animal Care in Westland, also suggests that homeowners harvest and destroy toadstools as they emerge from the ground and avoid planting known toxins including milkweed, lily of the valley, jack-in-the-pulpit, foxglove, morning glory, bleeding hearts, hemlock and nightshades, such as belladonna.

"Most dogs will chew on virtually anything," he said."It's more common for puppies to chew plants indiscriminately. I discourage animals from eating the grass, because it could have



Know where your four-pawed pal tends to play, be aware of their patterns and then address potential problems before they are etched into the ground.

insecticides and fertilizer." Rhubarb leaves, azaleas, rhododendrons, daffodils and even lilies, so ubiquitous in summer gardens, are toxic. Yews, known for their bright red berries, contain enough toxin in as little two centimeters of branch to kill a

full-sized zebra or llama, Redmer

Veterinarians administer supportive care and fluids - usually there's no specific antidote – and may induce vomiting or feed the dog charcoal to stop absorption.

noted.

"If you suspect your animal may have ingested poison, call a vet," Redmer said. "We can give

you advice on how to induce vomiting. Most people don't have access to charcoal, and if it's a half-hour drive to the vet, that can make a difference."

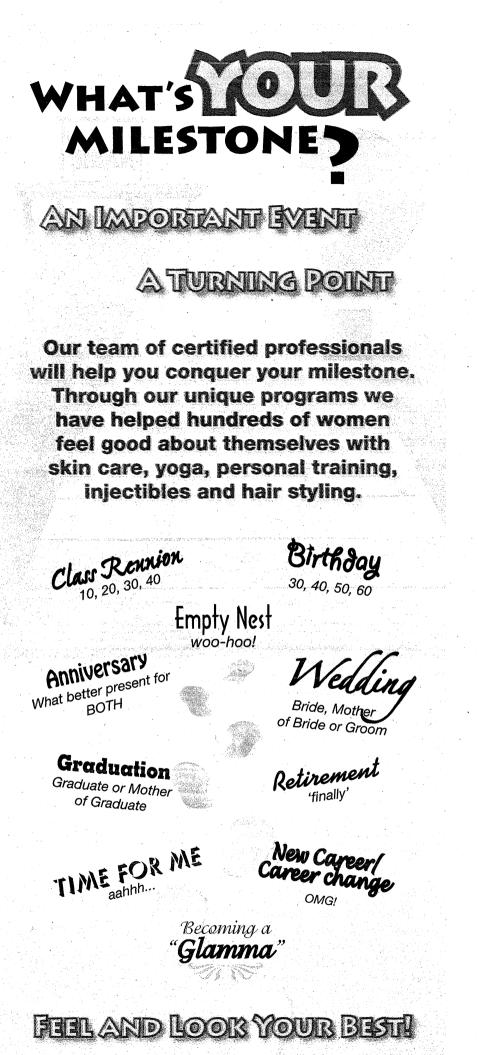
Training may be the best prevention, whether the dog is chewing on plants, digging the lawn or urinating throughout the yard.

"The key is to monitor them and teach them positive behaviors. The problem is, most people don't have the patience or provide the consistency," said Mike Toomey, training director for PRO K-9 in Canton. He uses positive training techniques in the dog's home environment."**



Training may be the best prevention, whether the dog is chewing on plants, digging the lawn or urinating throughout the yard.

14 INSPIRE > WESTLAND, GARDEN CITY, CANTON & PLYMOUTH, March 2010



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Divine Yoga and Massage - Cheryl Wickham

105 N Lafayette, Ste 100, South Lyon, MI 48178 248-437-YOGA - www.divineyogacompany.com Cheryl is currently a certified Baptiste teacher, E-RYT, a nationally certified massage therapist and bodywork practioner and the owner/director of Divine Yoga and Massage.



Cheryl has found yoga to compliment her life spiritually, emotionally, and physically. Divine encourages a sense of community and inspires people to get out of their own way and to live life to it's fullest potential. Divine is a Baptiste affiliate studio and offers a dynamic style class that has a whole body focus.



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mature. She is familiar with all textures. Attended the Toni & Guy Academy and Vidal Sassoon. Stays up on current trends in hair and fashion. Color is also one of her places she derives alot of her inspiration from. It really can transform a person. She lives for that look on a clients face when they are happy and love their hair.

WESTLAND, GARDEN CITY, CANTON & PLYMOUTH, March 2010 > INSPIRE 15

Sudoku

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number-can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

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Thai-Peanut Ginger Wings Makes 20 servings

(10 5 1)

 1 can (12 fluid ounces) Nestlé Carnation Evaporated Milk
 1 cup creamy or chunky peanut butter
 1/2 cup soy sauce, divided
 1/4 cup chopped green onions
 2 1/2 teaspoons ground ginger
 2 teaspoons rice or cider vinegar
 1/2 teaspoon red pepper flakes
 5 pounds frozen chicken wings, thawed

PLACE evaporated milk, peanut butter, 3 tablespoons soy sauce, green onions, ginger, vinegar and pepper flakes in blender; cover. Blend until smooth. Combine 1/2 cup peanut sauce, remaining 5 tablespoons soy sauce and chicken wings in large bowl; cover. Marinate chicken in refrigerator for 1 hour. Refrigerate remaining peanut sauce.

PREHEAT oven to 425° F. Foil-line and grease 2 baking sheets with sides.

PLACE chicken on prepared baking sheets. Discard any remaining marinade.

BAKE for 40 to 45 minutes, turning once, or until chicken is cooked through. Remove from baking sheets to serving platter. Stir remaining peanut sauce and spoon some over wings. If desired, serve remaining sauce with wings and assorted cut-up vegetables.

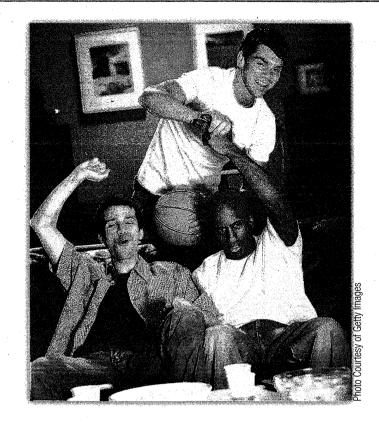
TIP: Jazz up the presentation with a colorful array of fresh vegetables, such as pea pods and red and yellow peppers.

Nutrition Information per serving: 270 calories; 180 calories from fat; 20g total fat; 5g saturated fat; 90mg cholesterol; 190mg sodium; 1g carbohydrate; 0g fiber; 1g sugars; 22g protein

— Recipe courtesy of Family Features For more great game day recipes, visit www.thecookingmilk.com.

Answers found on page 20

16 INSPIRE ➤ WESTLAND, GARDEN CITY, CANTON & PLYMOUTH, March 2010



Go nuts for the underdogs

The March tournament is finally here. That means 63 games in 6 rounds of tournament play. 65 hours of coverage over 19 days. And if we're lucky, 1 great Cinderella story.

Hoops fans all over the country will get caught up in the excitement of the national college basketball championship tournament, which tips off on Tuesday March 16. Whether you're rooting for top seeds or pulling for the underdog, add to the excitement by hosting your own tournament party.

PRE-GAME FUN

Go one-on-one with the pros without breaking a sweat by firing up the basketball video games. Or show your skills in an indoor game of H-O-R-S-E. Set up some Nerf hoops or use trash cans and paper wads and let the games begin.

SLAM-DUNK SNACKS

When the action starts, make sure you're ready to cheer on your favorite teams with easy-to-eat snack foods that will give your guests the energy to go the distance. Nuts are a great source of natural energy – fueling you up so you don't miss a second. Try Emerald Deluxe Mixed Nuts snack canisters for a great-tasting snack packed with protein, vitamins, minerals and the good fat your body needs. Nuts are an easy way to keep snacking fingers happy. But also make sure hearty dips, a meat and cheese plate, and a variety of chips and salsas are on hand; they'll score extra points with hungry fans. At the buzzer, serve cookies, brownies or basketball cupcakes for a sweet finish.

UNDERDOGS

Make that "underdog-team" as much a part of your tournament experience as cheering on the top seeds.

This year, Emerald Nuts has put a unique spin on the bracket brouhaha at www. underdogbracket.com. It's a bracket game that turns the tournament upside down by tracking your favorite underdogs and giving users a chance to win \$10,000.

There are three ways to win:

• Pick the underdog that goes the furthest for a chance to win \$10,000.

• Pick the championship team for a chance to win \$5000.

• Enter daily at www.underdogbracket. com for a chance up to \$200 instantly.

You can text the word UNDERDOG to 87963 or go to www.underdogbracket. com to play along and for complete rules and prize list.

— Courtesy of Family Features

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WESTLAND, GARDEN CITY, CANTON & PLYMOUTH, March 2010 - INSPIRE 17

ACTION FIGURES MOST CONSUMERS DON'T JUST READ THE PAPER. THEY TAKE ACTION WITH IT.



Over 100 million adults read a newspaper each day.

But they do more than just read. They are moved to take action by the advertising in it. So if you want response to your advertising, place it where it will be seen, where it will be used, where it will move readers to act on what they read.

YZ[/]0

listings.

action in the past three months: checking ads, clipping coupons, or checking entertainment

800% report looking at advertising when reading the

used a preprinted insert in past 30 days. **500%** prefer to receive inserts in the newspaper.

419% say newspapers are the medium used most to check out ads – more than radio, TV, internet, magazines and catalogs combined.



website in past 30 days.

NEWSPAPER ADVERTISING. GET IN ON THE ACTION

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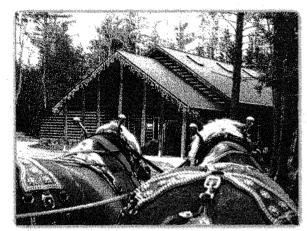


18 INSPIRE ➤ WESTLAND, GARDEN CITY, CANTON & PLYMOUTH, March 2010

Five places to go in about 300 miles

By Alison Bergsieker CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Area residents can turn a short road trip into an exciting vacation, with several attractions within 300 miles. Plan a romantic evening for two, a family fun weekend, a girls night out, a shopping trip or a scenic excursion all in nearby driving destination.



2007 - Horses used for the Elk Viewing Dinner Ride at Thunder Bay Resort in Hillman.

ROMANTIC OUTING FOR TWO

226 miles north: Thunder Bay Resort in Hillman

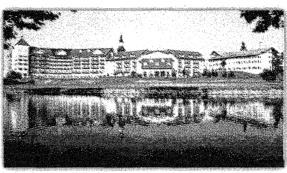
Anytime of the year, Thunder Bay Resort makes an ideal destination for couples.

Percheron draft horses pull your sleigh or carriage over the river and through the woods to view massive bull elk, cows and calves.

The horse knows the way to the Elk Antler Log Cabin, deep in the woods beside a bend in the Thunder Bay River. Warm up by the split-stone fireplace, enjoy something from the bar and savor the delicious aroma while a five-course gourmet dinner is prepared on antique Detroit Jewel and Garland wood cook-stoves.

Combine with wine tastings, murder mystery weekends, golf, snowmobiling, cross country skiing, fishing, quilting and scrapbooking for the perfect Michigan getaway.

Visit www.thunderbayresort.com for more information.



Courtesy of Frankenmuth Convention & Visitors Bureau The Bavarian Inn Lodge.

FAMILY FUN WEEKEND

104 miles north: Frankenmuth Families are making a big splash in more than 30,000 square feet of aquatic fun in the new Zehnder's Splash Village Hotel and Waterpark located next to Bronner's Christmas Wonderland. The whimsical waterpark features Giggling Gorge and Perilous Plunge — two giant four-story tube slides.

Frankenmuth's Bavarian Inn Lodge features five indoor pools, 360 Bavarian theme guest rooms and more than 100 video and arcade games.

Visit www.frankenmuth.org for more information.

GIRLS NIGHT OUT 177 miles west: Grand Rapids Downtown Grand Rapids has more than 75 restaurants,

nightclubs, entertainment venues, eclectic boutiques and museums, along with a scenic river walk, for the ultimate girls night out. Kick off the evening with a

stop at Dr. Grins comedy nightclub or Mojo's Dueling Piano Bar & Restaurant.

Have time to shop? Downtown Grand Rapids features a handful of art galleries and furniture stores, salons and spas and niche clothing stores with one-of-a-kind items.

Stay at the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel for the full Grand

Rapids experience. Visit www.downtowngr.org

for more information.

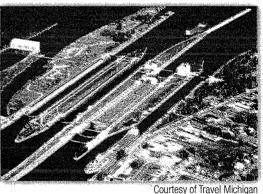
SHOPPING TRIP

304 miles southwest: Chicago, IL Chicago's Magnificent Mile along Michigan Avenue and State Street is a shopping district of world renown. Shoppers can enjoy magnificent department stores and boutiques that offer a mix of American and international style. With more than 460 retailers, there is something to offer every style.

If you're inclined to explore and travel to other parts of the city, neighborhoods such as Bucktown, Wicker Park and Lincoln Park are host to oodles of smaller boutiques with rare items not found anywhere else. Enjoy fine dining in more than 200 restaurants and choose from 50 hotels for a weekend stay. *Visit www.themagnificentmile.com or www.chicago.com for more information.*



Chicago has something to offer for everyone.



Aerial view of Soo Locks.

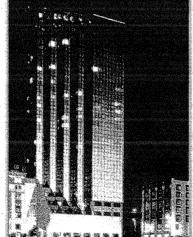
A SCENIC EXCURSION

341 miles north: Sault Ste. Marie

The Soo is a land of majestic wilderness and breathtaking shorelines. The two active Locks, the MacArthur and the Poe, handle an average of 10,000 vessel passages per year, which means visitors are almost certain to get a glimpse of one or more of the many ships that pass through.

Shipwrecks, including the historic Edmund Fitzgerald; the second largest waterfall east of the Mississippi River, Tahquamenon Falls; and northern lights make a trip to Sault Ste. Marie a truly scenic experience. Visit www.saultstemarie.com for more information. **

WESTLAND, GARDEN CITY, CANTON & PLYMOUTH, March 2010 > INSPIRE 19



Courtesy of Travel Michigan Night view of Amway Grand Plaza in Grand Rapids.

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weeper

Low Profile Design

90° Corners



Sudoku Answers

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20 INSPIRE ➤ Westland, Garden City, Canton & Plymouth, March 2010

Green your spring cleaning routine

(ARA) - Do you feel like Mother Nature set up camp in your home over the winter? Cold winter months spent indoors often translate to dirt and clutter buildup around the house. And, if you're like television personality Hannah Keeley, with those first few warm spring days comes the irrepressible urge to throw open the windows and get down and dirty with some serious spring cleaning.

But before you get started, make sure to follow these simple tips from Keeley to keep your home clean and green.

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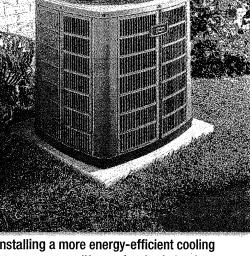
The cleaning products aisle at the grocery store is teeming with spring cleaning junkies, searching for the latest miracle products that promise to whip their homes into shape. Resist the urge. Most of these powerful cleaners contain some pretty toxic chemicals. Instead, choose eco-friendly cleaners, or just raid your kitchen cabinets. Vinegar and water cleans windows and mirrors beautifully. A little castile soap with water makes a fantastic all-purpose cleaner. And baking soda is the best scouring powder out there.

CONSERVE WATER

Don't leave the tap running while cleaning - instead turn the faucet on as you're ready to rinse off. Better yet, collect water in a bucket for your cleaning needs. Sweep instead of mopping whenever possible and place doormats both outside and inside of your home's doors to catch dirt and mud, lessening the need to wash the floors. In the kitchen, only run the dishwasher when your family has a full load and in the bathroom, consider installing a new waterefficient showerhead to cut down on usage.

WIPE AIR VENTS

Dust collected on your vents may re-circulate throughout your home's air. While you're at it, have your air ducts cleaned to remove any mold or contaminants that may have accumulated throughout the winter. Schedule a tuneup with your local HVAC dealer to restore capacity and help cut utility costs. If you're in the market for a heating or cooling system up-



areen livina

Installing a more energy-efficient cooling system may qualify you for the federal government's tax incentives for increasing your home's efficiency.

grade, consider a new energy-efficient unit such as the American Standard Allegiance (R) 15 air conditioner. Many combinations are Energy Star-rated and could qualify you for the federal government's tax incentives for increasing your home's efficiency.

RECYCLE

Instead of filling your trash can with all of the clutter you've collected throughout the year, set up a home recycling station for papers, cardboard, aluminum, glass and plastics. Be sure your recycling station is located in a place that is protected from the weather, pets or outdoor critters. Turn other items that cannot be traditionally recycled (toys, video games, etc.) into someone else's treasure. Collect your family's unused items and donate them to charity. Remember, if you don't use it and you don't love it, you don't need it. ^(#)

Courtesy of ARAcontent

tech savv

Spring cleaning? Don't forget your computer



By Mike Hogan Contributing writer

Whether it's your house, car or office, spring time is a great opportunity to clean up and clean out.

Unfortunately, many people neglect their computers, even though they're used as often as anything in the house. It doesn't take a computer expert to keep your machine running well.

ANTIVIRUS SOFTWARE

Gregory Allen of Canton Computers believes the first step is purchasing anti-virus software.

"There should always be anti-virus applications," Allen said. "Not that the free stuff is bad, but a lot of the time the free stuff is missing some important components."

One of those integral components is "real-time scanning," also called "real-time protection," which scans information as it comes into the computer, meaning information is scanned as it is downloaded or programmed into the system, instead of scanned after the information is already written. Allen recommends programs like Spy Sweeper with Anti-Virus or Norton Anti-virus.

Once anti-virus software is purchased, installed and run on the computer, it's important that computer users keep their machine updated.

"The big thing at this point is making sure you're protected by keeping your subscriptions up to date," Allen said.

GET PHYSICAL

A big part of keeping your computer running is to physically cleaning the computer.

"Keeping the machine clean and clear of dust and pet hair will make a huge difference in how long your computer will last," Allen said.

Most computers have a removable shell, so computer owners can easily remove the casing to their computer and clean out dirt and dust. This can be done with pressurized air canisters, or with a hose attachment from a typical vacuum cleaner.

"We recommend keeping your computer out of desks with cubbies," Allen said. "The less air that can move through, the more heat that builds up. Heat is a big enemy of computer hardware."

CONSIDER A DEFRAG

Other than physical cleaning and virus protection, Allen says modern computers don't actually need as much maintenance as they used to require. For example, technicians used to recommend that computer owners defragment computer drives often. Allen says processes like that aren't necessary on recent systems.

"Defragmenting on a modern machine is going to make little difference on performance these days," Allen said. "Drives are more efficient, and files are more efficient. With modern operating systems, most of that stuff is handled in the background as you go anyway."

Users should run updates about once a week, and should physically clean their machines as often as possible. Safe searching is also a big part of maintaining a clean computer.

STAY INFORMED

"Beware of free software," warns Iain George, the owner of Westland PC in Westland. "Free software is not always free. They always throw something that runs in the background."

George says the three main concerns for computers should be viruses, spyware and malware. While viruses are meant to harm computer systems, spyware is meant to record information that computer users enter into their machines, like browser histories and other personal data.

"It can be personal information, or it could be marketing information," George said. "Malware, on the other hand, is used to sell stuff to you."

Malware appears to most users as a virus-

scanning program. The program will warn users that their system has a virus, and must purchase a particular program in order to eliminate the virus.

"Malware is definitely a sign that someone has a problem on their computer," George said. "It gets you to buy something, which eventually causes your computer to be inoperable." **

TECH SAVVY RECOMMENDS:

• Invest in antivirus software like Norton or Spy Sweeper. Look for software with "realtime protection" or "real-time scanning."

• Practice safe searching. Avoid messages and sites that you're unfamiliar with.

• Keep your computer programs updated as often as possible.

• Use canned air or a vacuum cleaner hose attachment to carefully clear dust, dirt and pet hair from inside the computer.

• Invest in an external hard drive to store important documents in case of a crash.



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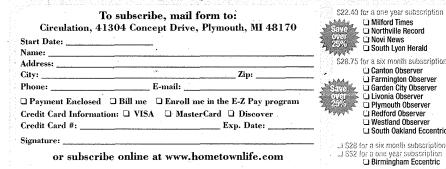
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Eight IRA mistakes to avoid at tax time

(ARA) — Saving more for retirement is always a good idea, especially now. In 2009, the Employee Benefit Research Institute estimated that Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs), a cornerstone of retirement savings, sank to a median value of less than \$29,000 post-financial meltdown. That leaves many Americans working even harder to recoup their losses and stay on track to make retirement a reality.

The good news is that many people can increase their saving potential simply by learning more about IRA dos and don'ts. Saving as much as possible, handling rollovers correctly and avoiding costly penalties are the keys to success.

"There's no question that saving through an IRA is a strategic move, but it's not quite as simple as set it and forget it," said J.J. Montanaro, a certified financial planner with USAA. "Staying aware of what to do and what not to do can really pay off, especially now, when you have the opportunity to invest and potentially save on your tax bill."

Montanaro outlines eight of the most common mistakes IRA investors make when it comes to making the most of this retirementsaving tool:

L . Thinking you've missed the deadline: Though 2009 is over, it's not too late to make your IRA contribution count toward this year's tax bill. This year, you have until April 15 to make "2009" IRA contributions and claim eligible deductions on your tax return.

2 . Not contributing enough: Contributions to a Traditional IRA are tax deductible, within limits, so you can help secure your future and cut this year's tax bill at the same time. If you're younger than 50 years old, you can contribute up to \$5,000 annually. Maxing it out makes for maximum tax savings.

🕉 🛾 Not playing catch-up: Age does have its rewards. If you're 50 or older, you may be eligible to contribute an extra \$1,000 (up to \$6,000 per year) to an IRA account. This "catch-up" contribution offers a chance to kick your savings into overdrive.

🚰 🛛 Assuming you can't contribute: If you're a stay-at-home spouse, you can still open an IRA as long as contributions from both spouses don't exceed your combined taxable compensation. A "spousal IRA" is especially handy when the working spouse is already covered by an employer retirement plan and can't deduct IRA contributions. What you can deduct will depend on your Modified Adjusted Gross Income (MAGI), but every bit counts.

5 Rolling the wrong way: If you've recently switched jobs or lost your job, you can roll the funds from your old employer's retirement plan into an IRA. Just be sure the transfer is made directly from one custodian to the next — a direct rollover. If the payout goes to you first, it will be subject to a mandatory 20 percent withholding tax. Then, you'll have only 60 days to move the funds you received, plus the 20 percent that was withheld, to a new account or you'll have to pay income taxes on the distribution, plus an early withdrawal penalty if you're not at least age 59 1/2.

6 Not considering a Roth: You might be able to save more on taxes in the long run by contributing to a Roth IRA instead of a Traditional IRA depending upon your tax situation. Roth IRA contributions aren't tax deductible, but the Roth can provide taxfree withdrawals come retirement time. And starting this year, the income restrictions to convert a Traditional IRA to a Roth IRA have been eliminated, opening the door to millions more investors. Ask a trusted financial adviser if opening or converting to a Roth IRA would be the right move for you. It's important to keep in mind that conversions from a Traditional IRA to a Roth IRA are subject to ordinary income taxes, so it's recommended that you consult with a tax advisor regarding your particular situation.

Withdrawing too early: Your IRA is designed to remain untouched until you reach age 59 1/2. If you make a withdrawal from your Traditional IRA before then, you'll have to pay taxes on the income and investment earnings, and fork over a 10 percent penalty, with some exceptions. While a Roth IRA allows you to withdraw your contributions, not including earnings, at any time without taxes or penalties, you'll thank yourself later for not raiding the piggy bank.

🞖 🛯 Procrastinating: More than any technicality, it's plain old procrastination that hurts investors the most. Whether it's uncertainty in the markets, cash flow concerns or the rising costs of college, there will always be excuses to put off this year's IRA contribution. But timehonored investing principles show that consistent contributions — through good times and bad — provide the clearest path to long-term investing success. So make the commitment and take action to help secure your financial future now. 🛞

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