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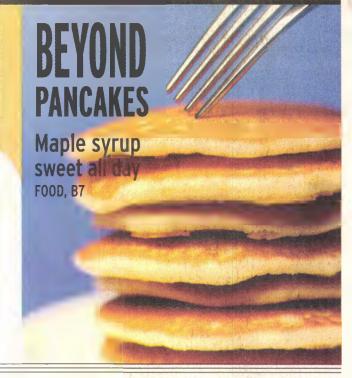


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THURSDAY PLYMOUTH March 17, 2011 The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers Volume 124 Number 61

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Student scholarships

The Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce has kicked off the fundraising drive for its Student Citizen Scholarships with a mailing last week to all chamber members. Chamber officials said some \$2,700 had already been donated, "assuring each student will receive \$540."

The Chamber of Commerce will reward up to five Plymouth/Canton students with Student Citizenship Scholarships. These scholarships will be based on community service only, not grade point average. There will be a selection committee who will pick one student each from Canton, Plymouth and Salem high schools, the Starkweather Education Center and a non-PCCS student living in the district. Companies and individuals are asked to give contributions that generally range from \$25 to \$100 and the contributions are tax deductible.

Contributors will be recognized on the chamber's web page and at the Showcase of Plymouth on May 23. To make a contribution, you can download a donation form from the chamber website at www.plymouthmich.org/chamber/Student-Citizenship-Scholarships.

For more information on the program, call the chamber, (734) 453-1540.

kaking in volunteers

The Plymouth Community United Way is seeking volunteers for the spring "Rake-N-Go" event scheduled for April 30.

Volunteers are invited to help clean yards and provide light labor for senior citizens in the Plymouth, Plymouth Township and Canton communities. The day of the event, volunteers will meet at The Salvation Army Plymouth Corps at 9451 S. Main St. at 8 a.m. to check in. The PCUW will supply a continental breakfast and yard waste bags, but volunteers are asked to bring rakes, garden tools, hedge trimmers and gloves. We are also in need of some volunteers willing to do some minor gutter cleaning.

To help out the day of the event, respond by April 16 to Krista at kstrobel@ameritech. net or call (734) 453-6879, Ext. 6.

Mother knows best

Local women and girls are invited to send us (in 50 words or less) the best advice you received from your mom.

include a photo of your mom or, better yet, you and your mom. E-mail your best submission and photo (jpg format only) to bkadrich@ hometownlife.com.

Include your first and last name and hometown and identify your mother (first and last name, please). Include a daytime phone number or cell phone where you can be reached during business hours. The photos and advice will appear in the Thursday, May 5, Salute To Women edition of Hometown Life Woman. Deadline to submit advice and photo is 5 p.m. Friday, April 15.

School closing among board budget options

BY BRAD KADRICH OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Plymouth-Canton Community Schools officials will likely close one elementary school and move the Starkweather Education Center as they deal with a projected \$17 million hole in the 2011-12 budget.

The closing of an elementary school was among many political "third rail" items discussed Tuesday as the district's Board of Education began considering recommendations made by its finance committee to deal with the looming budget deficit. Other

recommendations, which have been politically touchy for board members in the past, include changing or even eliminating the Talented and Gifted program, privatizing services, extending class sizes and cutting teachers.

The difference this time? They're pretty sure some — or all — of those cuts might have to be made.

"I know we're going to have to make some decisions we don't want to make," board President John Jackson said. "We should do it with our eyes open."

The eye-opening process took another step Tuesday, when board

members began considering some 34 recommendations - made with varying levels of importance — made by the finance committee. Some 19 of them were items that could be accomplished for the 2011-12 school year; the rest would need some study and some time and were projected for the 2012-13 school year or beyond.

Taken as a whole, the recommendations total far less than \$17 million in cuts. District officials said the difference would likely be made up by using the fund balance, projected at some \$11.6 million at the end of this year, and potential staffing cuts.

Former board Presidents Mark Horvath and Mike Maloney urged the board to approach the problem with a greater degree of urgency than they've shown so far. Horvath pointed out that, with a \$17 million deficit, the board would have to consider 170 options averaging \$100,000 apiece in order to get to the magic number. He said if the board meets twice a week for two hours at a time, it gives trustees "about 17 minutes" to discuss each option.

"The clock is ticking, and it's down to about 16 minutes," Horvath said.

Please see BUDGET, A2



Jesse Lindlbauer and his sister, Sarah, share a moment Sunday during a spaghetti-dinner fundraiser at All Saints Catholic School in Canton Township. Jesse, 16, is recovering from the effects of an infection that spread to his brain.

Joining in for Jesse

Community eases burden for 'SuperJess' and his family

BY MATT JACHMAN OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

It's often during our greatest trials that we find our greatest strengths and the physical and moral support of friends and family that can help see us through.

That axiom was certainly at work Sunday at All Saints Catholic School in Canton Township, where hundreds of people gathered to support 16-year-old Jesse Lindlbauer, who is recovering from the trauma and complications caused by an infection that spread to his brain, and his parents, Barb and Dave. and their family. The event was a spaghetti dinner in the school's gymnasium and cafeteria, one of several fundraisers planned for the com-

ing weeks. Jesse, an athlete and standout student at Canton High School, has already beaten long odds — he was given just a 20-percent chance of surviving when he was admitted to Mott Children's Hospital in December — and is back home undergoing intensive outpatient therapy to restore his functioning, plus academic tutoring to help him keep up with school work.

CARE COVERED

Plymouth MI

The Lindlbauers, of Canton, are insured, but insurance



Jesse Lindlbauer, who suffered an infection that damaged his brain and is undergoing intensive therapy, poses Sunday with friends, from left, Mark Montante, Lucas Dziadzio, Andrew Kelty, Peter O'Connor and Dylan Bonell. Lucas, Peter and Dylan wear their 'SuperJess Support System' T-shirts, while Jesse's T-shirt reads, 'Impossible is Nothing.'

doesn't cover many of the things, such as some therapy equipment, or the home nursing care needed for family members to get a break at night, that will be important to Jesse's recovery. The nighttime nursing care alone, which the Lindlbauers are receiving at cost from a company familiar with Jesse's situation, is about \$4,000 a month, Barb Lindlbauer said.

So friends, neighbors, people the Lindlbauers know through their children's schools, and even strangers rallied Sunday to an event

that's become so familiar in communities around the country: the fundraising dinner for someone with a medical need. Organizers say they sold more than 600 dinners and raised over \$14,000, including from money raffles of donated gift baskets and the sales of T-shirts and wristbands.

"It's amazing how word has spread and how so many people care," said Barb Lindlbauer, who has been blogging at CarePages.com

Please see JESSE, A6

Plymouth-Canton reaches contract with teachers

BY BRAD KADRICH OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

After nearly a year of negotiating, and more than six months after their last deal expired, Plymouth-Canton Community Schools officials have reached a new contract agreement with the district's 1.100 teachers.

The deal, the effect date of which is Aug. 31, 2010, is a one-year deal that expires Aug. 30. The PCCS Board of Education voted 6-0 Tuesday (Secretary Adrienne Davis was absent) to accept the deal.

Ray Bihun, the district's chief of human resources, said the sides spent more than 20 sessions negotiating the deal. Some 80 percent of the members of the Plymouth-Canton Education Association reportedly approved the deal in a ratification vote.

"Both sides worked really hard to get an agreement," Bihun said.

PCEA President Nancy Wojtowicz agreed.

"We spent a lot of time on total compensation (salary and benefits)," Wojtowicz said. "Both sides had to give and take a little bit. We felt like we came up with a fair agreement considering the economic times we're dealing with."

The one-year deal contains no increase to the basic salary structure, but

leaves in place the step increases teachers get for years of service. The teachers also agreed to increased health benefit contributions, increased co-pays to prescriptions, office visits and trips to the emergency room, along with the in-network deductible.

The district is giving teachers \$300 each for a flexible medical spending account, and another \$100 for a classroom benefit.

According to Bihun, those concessions will cost the district some \$400,000, and the increased contributions from teachers to their health plan will save the district about \$1 million, meaning the district nets some \$600,000 in savings from the deal.

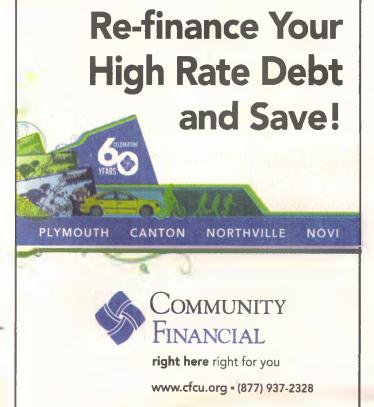
The negotiations were a drawn-out process stretched over some 11 months. It got contentious at times, with teachers taking to shows of solidarity at board meetings, crowding the meeting room with dozens of teachers and taking to the podium to demand a new deal.

But Bihun said there "weren't any real sticking points."

"We spent a lot of time on language," he said. "They had needs, and we had parameters, and we had to work with facilitators."

Part of that language had to do with a new state

Please see TEACHERS, A3



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March folk concert is Saturday

AROUND PLYMOUTH

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

Preschool Book Land

The staff of Plymouth-**Canton Community Schools** Early Childhood Programs will host "Book Land 2011," a special preschool literacy night. The event will take place on Thursday, April 7, from 6-8 p.m. at Hulsing Elementary School, 8055 Fleet Street, in Canton.

Many fun activities have been planned based on our favorite storybooks. All games and prizes are for children ages two, three and four. Tickets are \$1 per child, and parents are free!

Call the Early Childhood Office at 734-416-6190 for more information.

Economic luncheon

Lt. Gov. Brian Calley will be the keynote speaker at the Canton Economic Club luncheon set for 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday, April 11, at the Summit on the Park Community Center, 46000 Summit Parkway in Canton.

Cost is \$20, and RSVPs are requested by Thursday, April

To RSVP or for more information, call (734) 394-5185.

Call for artists

The Plymouth Community Arts Council announces its second annual open art exhibition, Pure Art of Michigan, to be held in April. Artists are invited to submit work that highlights the unique beauty of our state.

Works will be accepted in all media except sculpture. There will be a \$10 fee for up to two entries of reasonable size. Paintings must be framed and ready for hanging and clearly identified and priced on the back. Final selections will be made by the exhibition committee.

The drop off day for exhibit consideration is Monday, March 28, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Pure Art of Michigan

runs from April 1-30.

Observer & Eccentric | Thursday, March 17, 2011

The Plymouth Community Arts Council is located at 774 N. Sheldon Rd. in Plymouth. For further information, contact Nancy Pilon at (734) 455-4681, (nanpilon@yahoo. com) or Tamara Trudelle at the PCAC at (734) 416-4278, tamara@plymoutharts.com.

Jazz @ the Elks

On Tuesday, March 22, Jazz @ The Elks presents the John Trudell Jazz Quartet with John on Trumpet and Flugelhorn, Ray Tini on Bass, Bill Cairo on Drums, and Chuck Shermatero on Keyboard.

The event takes place at the Plymouth Elks Lodge #1780 at 41700 Ann Arbor Rd, just west of Haggerty in Plymouth. The concerts are from 7 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. and there is limited seating so come early for a good seat for a \$5 donation with complimentary hors d'oeuvres.

For more information, go to www.PlymouthElks1780.com or call (734) 453-1780.

Appraisal clinic

The Plymouth Historical Museum hosts an antique appraisal clinic with Ernie DuMouchelle of DuMouchelle Art Galleries in Detroit on Wednesday, March 30, from noon to 6 p.m. Items to be appraised include antique furniture, art, and small objects. No jewelry please. Appraisals are by appointment only and time slots are filling up quickly. Oral evaluations will be provided for \$10 per item; written evaluations will be provided for \$15 per item.

Call for an appointment, (734) 455-8940. The Plymouth Historical Museum is located at 155 S. Main Street, just north of downtown Plymouth.

Sagear scholarship

The Rotary Club of Plymouth A.M. is striving to recognize a Plymouth-Canton School District High School Senior who has overcome adversity with its annual Sandra Sagear Rotary Scholarship.



Duchess on stage

Barbara Scanlon (The Grand Duchess) and David Troiano (General Fritz) in a duet from Comic Opera Guild's "The Grand Duchess of Gerolstein," being presented by the Comic Opera Guild at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill April 2-3. Performances are 8 p.m. Saturday, April 2, and 2 p.m. Sunday, April 3. Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$17 for seniors and \$15 for students, and can be purchased by credit card at (734) 394-5460 or online at www.canton-mi.org/ villagetheater or at Summit on the Park, 46000 Summit Parkway in Canton.

Club officials are looking for students who have displayed courage, perseverance, spirit, and creativity in succeeding in achieving an education, despite a physical, mental or emotional barrier. They have also shown an appreciation of others and a commitment to their community. The recipient of this award will receive a scholarship.

The award is named after Sandra Sagear, a 1969 graduate of the original Plymouth High School who imagined and believed she could succeed as she lived everyday with Polio. To download an application, go to: http://www. storytellerdesign.com/Portals/ 4/2011ApplicationScholar-Rotary.pdf

Damaris scholarship

The Plymouth Community Arts Council will recognize a Plymouth-Canton School district senior who has displayed outstanding abilities in visual arts and plans to continue his/her education in this field with its annual awarding of the Damaris Fine Arts Scholarship.

To download an applica-

tion, go to: http://www.storytellerdesign.com/Portals/4/ 2011Damarisaward.pdf

Seeking vets

The American Legion Beasley-Zalesny Post 112, located at 344 Elizabeth St. in downtown Plymouth at the corner of Ann Arbor Trail, is seeking veterans from all wars.

The post meets 7 p.m., the third Monday of each month, September through June. The active post, along with its Women's Auxiliary, works a number of programs both in Plymouth and at the VA Hospital in Ann Arbor. The post's efforts are geared toward doing all they can to take care of needy veterans.

For more information please call Joe Burman at (734) 459-7324.

PLAV recruiting

PLAV Post #166, located at 39375 Amrhein in Livonia (at the corner of Amrhein and Eckles) is seeking veteran members interested in joining a vibrant post, restructuring itself in the 21st century. The Post goal is to have a significant and meaningful impact within the veteran commu-

The post meetings are the second Monday of every month at 7:30 p.m., with the exception of July and August, and a light lunch with refreshments follows. Free beverages are provided throughout the meeting's. Those interested in additional information are welcome to call Roger L. Kehrier at (734) 453-2031 or stop in the night of a scheduled meeting.

music. The group is in its sixth season, its second in Plymouth. The PCAC is at 774 North

Saturday's concert, hosted by Kenny Lang and with featured performers Jeff Karoub and Friends, begins at 7 p.m. There will also be an openmicrophone segment during

Plymouth's BaseLine

Folk Society returns to the

Plymouth Community Arts

Council on Saturday for its

BaseLine is a group of

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March coffehouse-style con-

which up to eight performers or groups will get to play up to two songs.

Musicians interested in the open-microphone segment should show up to register between 6:15 p.m. and 6:45 p.m. If more than eight performers or groups show up, a lottery will be held.

Admission to the show is \$5; refreshments will be served.

Sheldon, at Junction, south of M-14, in Plymouth. For more information, call BaseLine president Mike Mullen at (248) 719-3464 or e-mail him at mjmmullen@yahoo.com.

Dance studio hosts field fundraiser

Metro Dance Company is hosting a hip hop benefit "Dance From the Heart" to raise funds for The Miracle League of Plymouth. The event is open for anyone ages 8 to adult, regardless of experience, and will be held at Metro Dance Company in Plymouth 1-4 p.m. Saturday, March 19.

Registration for the event is underway. Hip hop classes are \$15 per student with 100 percent of the proceeds donated to The Miracle League of

Plymouth. Anyone interested in the event can contact Metro Dance Company at (734) 207-8970 or by e-mail at info@ MetroDanceCompany.com.

"We wanted to hold this fundraiser because it directly benefits some very special children in our community," said Metro Dance director Kristie Wyler. "Our goal is to raise as much money as possible to help these children and their families enjoy good times together."

At the top of the list of recommendations is the closing of an elementary school — officials wouldn't say publicly which one and moving Starkweather, the district's alternative education center, from its current building, which most observers feel is no longer suitable as an education center. The move, officials said, could save the district some \$700,000.

"(Starkweather) is just a very inefficient building," said James Larson-Shidler, the district's assistant superintendent for business services. "(Closing that building) is where we'd get the greatest impact."

Trustees said they understood the need to consider every option, while acknowledging it isn't going to be easy.

"I realize we have to take some bigger steps," Vice President Dianne Gonzalez said. "But this (closing a school) is going to be an emotional decision."

The biggest financial impact, by a wide margin, would be cutting teachers. Larson-Shidler walked trustees through an illustrative

example of how eliminating teachers would impact the budget, while making it clear the numbers were not being recommended. For example, eliminating 61 full-time teachers at the elementary level would save the district \$4.75 million; cutting 35 middle school teachers would save \$2.625 million; and cutting 28.7 high school teachers would save \$2.1 million.

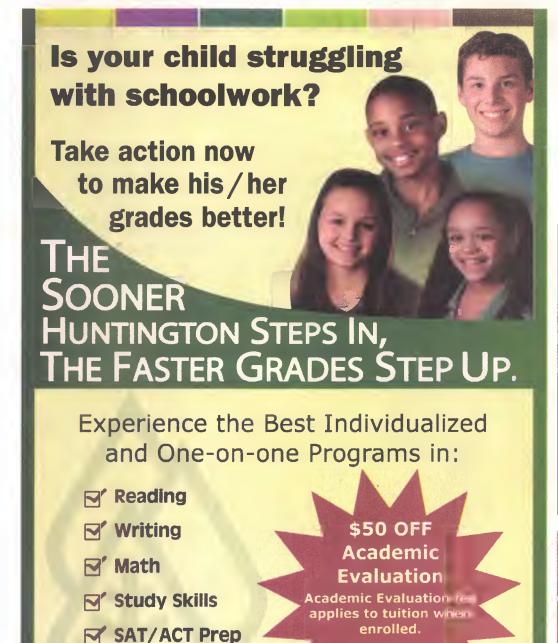
"We obviously feel it would have an impact on student achievement," Larson-Shidler told the board. "(But) it would have significant impact on the budget.'

Among the longer-term recommendations the committee made were boundary realignment, which is likely for the 2012-13 school year; relocating the preschool program from the Tanger Center; and eliminating the TAG program, which would save the district an estimated \$123,800.

The recommendations were made by a committee made up of various school officials, core team leaders, principals and department heads. Missing this year, as opposed to how the budget was arrived at last year, was input from members of the public.

Trustee Steven Sneideman said he hoped that would change as the district moves through the budget process (the board has to approve its budget by June 30).

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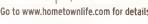
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BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Dennis Bielskis and John Spencer at the site where the wall will be displayed.

Canton will be first state stop for Vietnam wall

BY DARRELL CLEM OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

In its first trip to Michigan, the Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall is coming to Canton's Liberty Fest in June, culminating the tireless efforts of local veterans and their supporters.

The V-shaped memorial not to be confused with others such as The Moving Wall will stand 6 feet tall and stretch 288 feet across ballfield No. 3 on the north side of Heritage Park.

The wall, three-fifths the size of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C., contains 58,227 names of Vietnam troops who died serving their country.

CRYING EYES

"When you see those names, it brings tears to your eyes and a lump to your throat to think of all these men and women who died," said John Spencer, a 66-year-old Vietnam veteran and Canton resident.

Spencer and Vietnam veteran Dennis Bielskis, members of the Vietnam Veterans of America Plymouth-Canton Chapter 528, discussed the project on a cold, overcast Thursday morning as they stood near the Heritage Park site where the wall will stand.

"The people I've talked to are all excited about this," Bielskis said.

The traveling wall is expected to draw large crowds from across southeast Michigan. Bielskis said the wall comes to Canton 11 years after The Moving Wall was here for Liberty Fest.

An opening ceremony is expected to occur about 6 p.m. Thursday, June 16 - the second day of Liberty Fest. A closing ceremony is tentatively set for 5 p.m. Sunday, June 19, the day after Saturday night's festival-ending fireworks show.

Greg Welsh, the Floridabased wall manager, said Thursday he hauls the aluminum wall in a 32-foot trailer pulled by a Ford F-350 truck, and the memorial is assembled on site.

"This is our first trip to Michigan since we built the wall," Welsh said.

VETS FUNDRAISING

Veterans raised money to build the wall in 2005, and Welsh said it was publicly unveiled in April 2006 in Florida.

VVA Chapter 528 orchestrated the local effort, which Bielskis said comes 11 years after The Moving Wall made a local stop. Local veterans have raised the \$10,000 they need for the project, including a \$4,000 donation from the Canton-based America's Most Wanted Car Club, a Liberty

Fest regular.

from the same generation we come from," Bielskis said.

Donations also came from VVA Chapter 528, the Plymouth-based Mayflower Lt. Gamble VFW Post 6695 and the Canton Veterans Memorial Association, among

Spencer chairs the traveling wall committee, and Bielskis serves as vice chair along with Al Dorey. Other committee members include Joe Agius, Gary Boucher, Bill Boudreau, Gordon Dorey, Ted Enright and Gary Pritchard, and they have had help from other supporters.

However, Bielskis said volunteers still are needed to help while the traveling wall is in town. To get involved, send him an e-mail to dbielskis@ att.net.

While the wall is in Canton, veterans expect to have an hours-long reading of all the names of Michigan servicemen and women who either died or were POWs in the war, though a precise time isn't yet known. Because the wall elicits somber emotions among many people who see it, organizers decided to put the memorial on ballfield No. 3, on the far north end of Heritage Park.

"It's the farthest away from the festival carnival," Spencer said. "We're trying to keep it away from the noise

"A lot of their members come dclem@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-2238

Plymouth YMCA names new program director

Lindsay Lagios, previously the Youth Coordinator for the Plymouth Family YMCA, is returning as the Y's Community Program Director, according to Josh Landefeld, Executive Director of the Plymouth Family YMCA, which is a part of the YMCA of Metropolitan Detroit.

Lagios will be responsible for the development, operations, delivery of all youth programming, including Youth Sports, Summer Day Camp, and Youth Volunteer Corps. Lagios will ensure that all programming is quality and meets the needs of the community. As the Community Program Director, Lagios will ensure that staff, volunteers, and participants carry out the YMCA's mission and values during all daily activities.

Lagios spent several years at YMCA Camp HayoWentHa in Central Lake, MI where she served as Nature Shack Director, Office Manager, and Bus Driver. While at HayoWentHa, Lagios

designed and delivered accurate outdoor education to thousands of school aged children and adults, inspected and maintained all camp vehicles, and researched opportunities for improved services for clients.

In 2008, Lagios moved to the Detroit Metropolitan area and was hired at the Birmingham Family YMCA as a summer day camp counselor. Throughout 2008, Lagios expanded into Youth Sports and Child Watch. While at the Birmingham Y, Lagios assisted in developing a successful Child Watch program, created and executed Youth Sport lesson plans, and helped the summer day camp director run a successful program.

During the spring of 2010, Lagios was hired at the Plymouth Family YMCA as the summer day camp director. Lagios was responsible for leading a dynamic team of staff, creating successful lesson plans, and providing an environment that encouraged

personal growth. After the summer, Lagios merged into the role of youth coordinator. Throughout the past fall and winter, Lagios has worked diligently to provide successful lesson plans for all youth sports, ensure that YMCA staff are providing the same standards while officiating youth sporting events, and coordinating volunteers.

"Over the past 8 months I have grown to know and love the Plymouth community," Lagios said. "As the Plymouth Family YMCA's community program director, I aspire to provide the community with excellent programming that will allow youth to become successful adults. I am excited to be working with the Plymouth community and eager to see the growth and development of all program participants."

For more information about the programs provided by the Plymouth Family YMCA please visit www.vmcadetroit. org or call (734) 453-2904.

mandate that every teacher be evaluated every year. Bihun said it used to be that tenured teachers only got evaluated every three years. The sides, he said, had to negotiate how that process would work.

The stickiest points, he said, were obviously compensation and benefits. Raises were "always on the table," Bihun

said, as was the elimination of the step increases, which Bihun said would have saved the district \$2.4 million.

"Sometimes we were millions of dollars apart," Bihun acknowledged.

The district still has agreements to reach with their parapros, cafeteria workers and licensed techs and, with the teachers' deal expiring in August, the sides will likely be back at the table within a month.

"We're glad to have a deal," Wojtowicz said. "We would

Schoolcraft College

have liked to have seen a longer-term contract."

Bihun said financial uncertainty made that nearly impos-

"I guess we could have talked about a two-year deal, but we don't know what the money is going to look like," Bihun said, referring to the district's budget and the state foundation grant. "It's not very pleasant to have to turn around and do it again."

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Contact Editor, Brad Kadrich Voice Mail: (313) 222-8899 E-mail: bkadrich@hometownlife.com Comment online at hometownlife.com

Delmas relative cuts deal on gun charges

BY DARRELL CLEM **OBSERVER STAFF WRITER**

A relative of Detroit Lions safety Louis Delmas is facing sentencing in April after he pleaded guilty to three counts of assault with a dangerous weapon, following accusations he pointed a handgun at three teens - one wearing a Michael Myers-style Halloween mask - as they drove by him in Canton.

Delmas, a passenger, was never charged in the incident that Canton police say happened about 2:15 a.m. Dec. 21 while Ravelle Sadler, 20, was driving west on Ford Road.

Sadler, a Cincinnati resident described by Delmas to Canton police as his brother, faces sentencing April 7 in Wayne County Circuit Court, a court clerk said.

Sadler agreed to plead guilty to three counts of assault with a dangerous weapon last week in return for authorities dismissing a felony firearm charge and one count of carrying a concealed weapon.

Sadler could face penalties ranging from probation to four years in prison. However, he would have faced a mandatory two-year prison term if he had been convicted of the felony firearm charge.

Delmas was never charged though the .40-caliber semiautomatic handgun pointed by Sadler belonged to him.

Early on, Canton police Sgt. Mark Gajeski had described Delmas as a witness in the case and said "the gun was registered to him, but he has a concealed pistol license out of



Delmas lists his address as Miami, Fla., but he lives in Canton during

the football season. Sadler's plea came before he was to stand trial in Wayne

County Circuit Judge Bruce Morrow's courtroom. He was accused of pointing the handgun at three teens - ages 16, 17 and 18 - from Garden City and Canton while

he was driving a silver Nissan Titan pickup truck. According to Canton police reports, the teens drove alongside the Nissan on westbound Ford near Lilley as one of them

wore the mask. One of the teens told police the mask was worn as "a joke." Gajeski has said there was

no indication Delmas gave the gun to Sadler. Canton Detective Sgt. Dave Schreiner has said local police

investigated the case and turned their findings over to the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office to decide charges. Some people, including some

readers of the Observer online edition, had said the teens shouldn't have been involved in donning a mask as a prank after 2 a.m. Still others said the prank didn't warrant having a gun pointed at them.

According to a police report, the teens feared Sadler was going to fire the gun, yet they trailed the Nissan and called 9-1-1, prompting police to stop the truck near Ford and Ridge roads on Canton's far west side.

Traffic stop leads to two marijuana arrests

₫ Two teenaged boys were arrested on charges of marijuana — and drug paraphernalia - possession early Sunday after a traffic stop on Ann Arbor Road

near Main Street. Police recovered two "bongs" for smoking pot, pipes, marijuana grinders and rolling papers and more than 54 grams of suspected marijuana,

according to a Plymouth Township Police Department report.

The suspects were among five boys in an eastbound Mercury Mountaineer that a township officer spotted, just after midnight Sunday, without working brake lights, the report said. The officer initiated a traffic stop, and the Mountaineer's driver pulled into the parking lot of a fast-food restaurant, police said.

The officer noticed a strong odor of marijuana coming from the open driver's window of the Mountaineer, police said. In the vehicle, police found a backpack with more than 34 grams of suspected marijuana in it, plus paraphernalia, and a second bag with nearly 20 grams of suspected marijuana in it, plus more paraphernalia.

The driver, 16, of Canton Township, was arrested, along with a passenger, 15, of Plymouth Township.

The other three boys were turned over to their parents, police said.

Fuel theft

An estimated 220 gallon of diesel fuel were reported stolen March 7 from several delivery trucks parked outside

a business on Port Street in Plymouth Township.

CRIME WATCH

The theft occurred between about 6 p.m. March 6 and 3 a.m. March 7, the complainant told police. The trucks had been parked south and southwest of the building, he said.

Car burglarized

Rd.

3 A purse, with cash, credit cards and a camera in it, was reported stolen March 10 from a car parked outside a child-care facility on Helm Street.

The victim told police she arrived to drop off a child about 8:20 a.m. and returned to her Toyota Sienna about five minutes later to find a window smashed and the purse missing.

- By Matt Jachman

FIRE RUNS

The Plymouth Community Fire Department responded to the following runs during the period March 9-15:

Tuesday, March 15 — Rescue runs on 4 Tyler, on Lilley, on Northville Road, on Wendover, on Shadywood, on Virginia, on Sheridan, on Haggerty, on Pinetree, on Brownell, on Bellwood, on Covington and

on westbound M-14 east of Beck.

Ann Arbor Rd.

Arbor Trail

• Monday, March 14 — Industrial run on Plymouth Oaks; residential runs on Liberty and on Northville Road.

Haggerty

· Sunday, March 13 - Residential rescue runs on Shadywood, on Green Valley, on Nantucket, on Main, on Newporte; rescue runs on Lilley, on Haggerty, on Newport, on N. Territorial and on

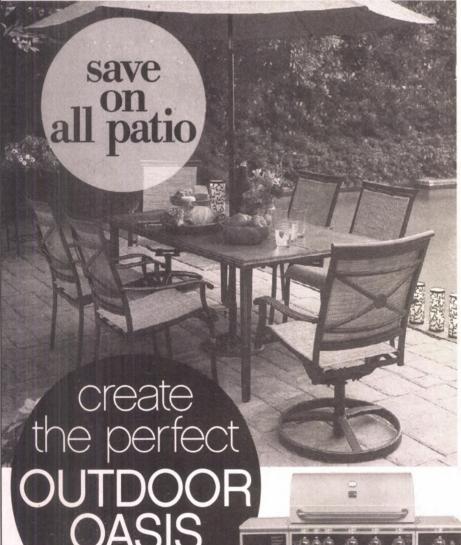
• Saturday, March 12 — Residential rescue runs on Northville Road, on Canton Center and on Green Valley; rescue run on Lilley; rescue run at a public building on Haggerty; special run on Marylin.

• Friday, March 11 - Rescue runs on General Drive, on Micol, on Northville Road, on Meadow Hill and on Ann Arbor

• Thursday, March 10 — Fire run on Haggerty; vehicle accident with washdown on Plymouth; rescue run at a public building on Haggerty; residential rescue runs on Main and on Haggerty.

• Wednesday, March 9 — Rescue runs at a public building on Haggerty; residential runs on Herald and on N. Territorial; vehicle accident at Ann Arbor Road and

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Two facing charges in break-in

BY MATT JACHMAN

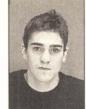
A man and a woman from Northville Township are facing a Friday preliminary hearing in 35th District Court in the break-in of a house in Plymouth Township.

Alexander W. Passaniti, 26, and Christina R. Henson, 27, were arrested on the afternoon of March 8 outside the house, on Amherst Court in the area of Ann Arbor Trail and Beck. Undercover police officers from a western Wayne County multijurisdictional squad had been watching the two and radioed for help from uniformed Plymouth Township officers, according to a statement from township Chief Tom Tiderington.

The glass in the back door of the house had been shattered, and police entered the house, but Passaniti fled and was found hiding in some bushes a couple of houses away, police said. Henson, meanwhile, had crouched down in the vehicle the two had used, which was sitting the driveway of the house, and police arrested her there, said Sgt. Steve Rapson, a township detective.

Police said both confessed to the break-in of the house on Amherst. Nothing was reported stolen.

They were arraigned March



Passaniti



10th in 35th District Court by Judge James Plakas. Each was charged with one count of home invasion, and Henson was also charged with possession of heroin. Rapson said heroin was found in her purse upon her arrest.

Both were also charged as habitual offenders, which could increase the length of any prison terms should they be convicted.

Both were being held in the Wayne County Jail on Wednesday on bonds of \$300,000 each.

The western Wayne County community response team is made up of officers from Plymouth Township, Canton and Northville townships, the county Sheriff's Department and the Michigan State Police. Tiderington said the unit has been effective in fighting serious crimes in western Wayne County.

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The Park Players present "The Pajama Game."

PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER I STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Jammie time

Players tackle love, strife in spring musical

BY BRAD KADRICH OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Kelly Childs has had to overcome one major obstacle as she prepares to play Babe Williams in the Park Players' production of The Pajama Game.

The obstacle? Kelly Childs. Childs, a bubbly, Canton High School senior acting in just her second show with Park Players, has to play Babe, the stern head of the grievance committee at the pajama factory that provides the backdrop for the spring musical. Childs' problem has been that Babe is such a polar opposite to her own personal-

"It's hard to be so stern sometimes because I'm upbeat and fun," Childs said. "I just get it in my mind, I think, What would Babe do?"

Childs and Plymouth High School senior Phill Schultz lead a 70-member cast as the Park Players put on The Pajama Game starting this weekend at the Gloria Logan Auditorium in Salem High School. The story deals with labor troubles in a pajama factory, where worker demands for a seven-and-a-half-cent raise are going unheeded. In the midst of this ordeal, love blossoms between Babe, the grievance committee head played by Childs, and Sid, the new factory superintendent

played by Schultz. Schultz, doing his third musical, was also part of the



The pajama factory workers sew and sing.

Plymouth High School football team that reached the state championship game last fall. That football player mentality contributes to the "manly man" image Schultz said the director told him helped with the decision to

cast him. "I was cast in a 'manly man' role, so it fits my personality," Schultz said. "I've been singing since I was little, so the singing aspect (of the role) attracted me to it."

The challenge for Schultz is reaching the higher notes required for the tenor role.

"It's a really high singing part for me," he said. "I've had to work on my range, but it's coming together."

One of the biggest challenges with this musical, according to choreographer Marisa Kowalski, is the sheer size of the cast and the bevy of musical numbers in the play. Of the 70-plus cast members, Kowalski said, maybe

a couple of dozen have had dance experience. The rest are

learning. "It's hard because there are so many numbers and the cast is so large," said Kowalski, a 17-year-old Salem High School senior from Plymouth. "But everyone is working hard and

PARK PLAYERS ON STAGE

What: Park Players presentation of the Broadway musical 'The Paiama Game.'

When: 7 p.m. March 17-19 and March 25-26 at the Gloria Logan Auditorium inside Salem High School.

Highlights: Featuring the songs 'Hey There,' 'Steam Heat' and 'Hernando's Hideaway,' 'The Pajama Game' is a musical based on the novel '7½ Cents' by Richard Bissell featuring a score by Richard Adler and Jerry Ross. Tickets: \$12 in advance or at the door. Salem High School is located at 16181 Joy Road in Canton.

all excited."

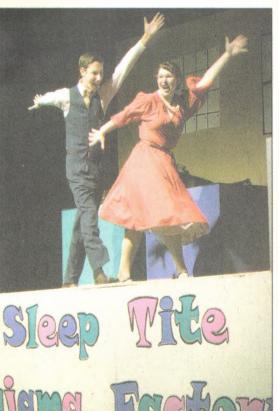
It's all been coming together under the direction of firsttime Park Players director Rob Leider, a veteran director who guided some 87 shows while teaching at West Bloomfield. Leider, an acquaintance of Tim Schoenherr, Plymouth-Canton's arts coordinator, said one of the biggest challenges was learning the room.

"Directing in a high school when you don't work there is a challenge," Leider said. "You've got to get to know the kids, and the culture of what you're getting into. Fortunately, the adults who've been part of the program have been very welcoming, and the kids have been great."

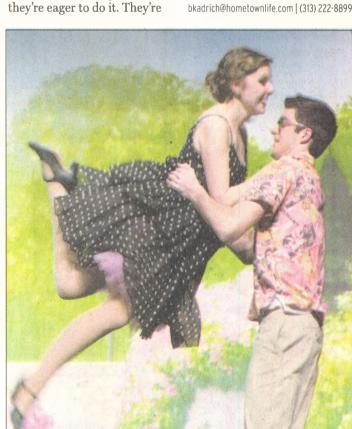
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Babe Williams (Kelly Childs) not that enthralled with Sid. At right, chorus member Emily Farhat.



Mr. Heinz (Michael Albert) and Mabel (Holly Platis) dance away Heinz's jealousy.



Kelsey Allen and Tanner Cottrell rehearse.

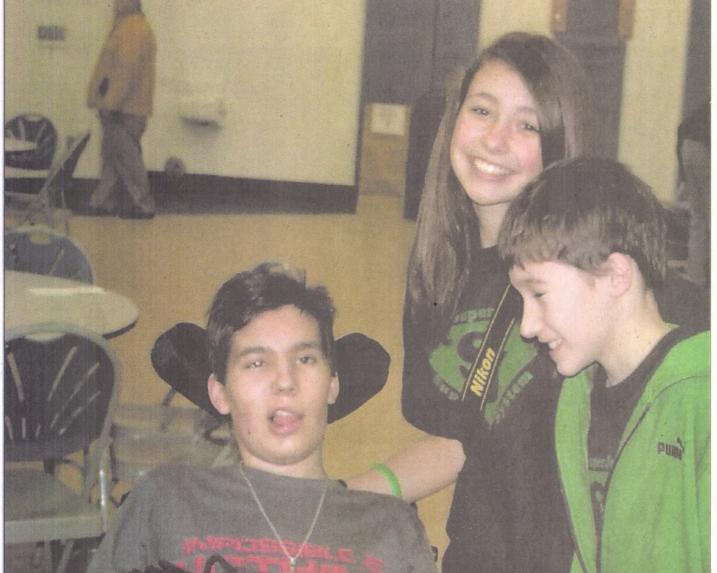


Josh Smith, Carolyn Wilts and D'Wann Bevell sing the classic number "Steam Heat."



The ever-efficient Heinz (Michael Albert) sings "Think of All the Time I'll Save."

Observer & Eccentric | Thursday, March 17, 2011



Jesse Lindlbauer, a sophomore at Canton High School, with his sister, Sarah, and a brother, Noah, on Sunday. The three have an older brother, Jeremy.

Concert, fun run planned to support 'SuperJess'

BY MATT JACHMAN **OBSERVER STAFF WRITER**

More fundraisers are being planned to support Jesse Lindlbauer, a 16-year-old Canton Township boy who in December suffered brain damage due to an infection.

Jesse, a sophomore at Canton High School, was hospitalized for 11 weeks and returned home late last month. He is undergoing physical, occupational and speech therapy, and tutoring to help him keep up with school work. Parents Dave and Barb have medical insurance, but money is being raised to help pay for extras that aren't covered, such as nighttime home nursing care.

On Saturday, March 26, three local bands will be performing in a fundraiser at The Barn, a Canton concert spot. The concert, featuring The Playlist, Taking Flight and Bloomfield, is 7:30-10 p.m. Admission is \$5 a person.

The Barn is at 43065 Joy Road between Main and Lilley. Those who want more information about the concert or want to volunteer can email Mario Gruszczynski at mariog453@gmail.com.

On Sunday, May 1, five-kilometer walk and run and onemile walk and run fundraisers are scheduled for the area around Salem High School. The SuperJess 5-K is being sponsored by the National Honor Society at Plymouth-Canton Educational Park.

The events will start at 8 a.m. at Salem. The fee is \$20 for those 18 and under, \$25 for adults. Those who register by April 4 can get a free race T-shirt.

For more information about the SuperJess 5-K, or to obtain a registration form, e-mail Tommy Halewicz at thalewicz@aol.com.

A fund has been set up to help pay Jesse's medical-related expenses through Michigan Family Medical Relief, a 501(c) 3 charitable organization. To donate or volunteer for the SuperJess Support System, email Linda Bonell at lindabonell@comcast.net.

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about her and her family's experiences during Jesse's illness and recovery.

Such fundraisers are wonderful events. In addition to raising money, they bring people together for a cause, give supporters a chance to focus their concern through organizing and attending, and put a human face on a real family's struggle that can't be easily communicated or totally understood.

DAUNTING ROAD

Though the road Jesse and the Lindlbauers are on is daunting, there were more smiles than somberness at All Saints on Sunday, which boosted the sense of optimism Barb Lindlbauer has expressed about the outlook for her son's recovery. Many wore their "SuperJess Support System" Tshirts, a tribute both to Jesse's fighting spirit and the community safety net that has been created to lift him up.

"It makes us feel really special, for sure," Barb Lindlbauer said of the outpouring. They had long thought of Jesse as special - that's part of being a parent, after all - but "now we see, through so many other people, that they all think he's special, too," she added.

Jesse's close friends also appreciated the support. "It shows, like, how many people he's touched in the community," said one friend, Mark Montante.

Barb Lindlbauer and Linda Bonell of Plymouth Township, one of the chief organizers, especially wanted to thank Nancy O'Connor, Jen Deprez, Liz Dziadzio, Mary Halewicz and Cathy Lutkenhoff for their help in bringing Sunday's dinner together. All Saints offered its facilities free of charge, and the food was provided by Rose's of Canton restaurant and Mama LaRosa Foods Inc.

Jesse, who was the center of attention on Sunday, is impressing his therapists with his progress so far.

"They thought he wouldn't be able to do three days a week (of therapy) and he's doing four and five," his mother said. "He's doing good. He's very determined."

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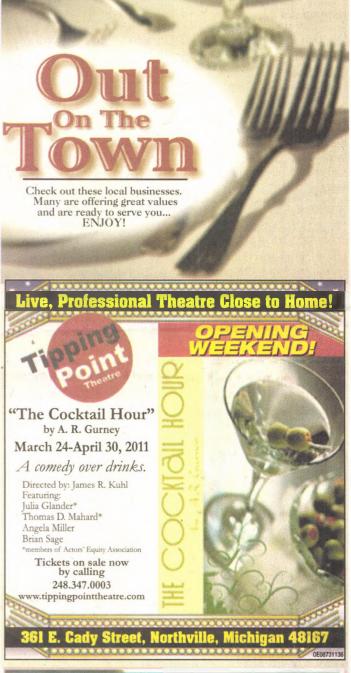


Jesse Lindlbauer's mother, Barb, right, with friend Mary Halewicz at a spaghetti dinner fundraiser at All Saints Catholic School on Sunday. Halewicz is one of the chief organizers of the fundraisers being held to support the Lindlbauers.



fundraiser for Jesse Lindlbauer and his family. Sixteen-year-old Jesse suffered brain trauma in December due to an infection, and is undergoing physical, speech and occupational therapy while staying at home.



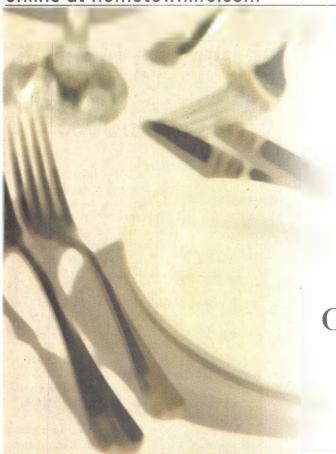




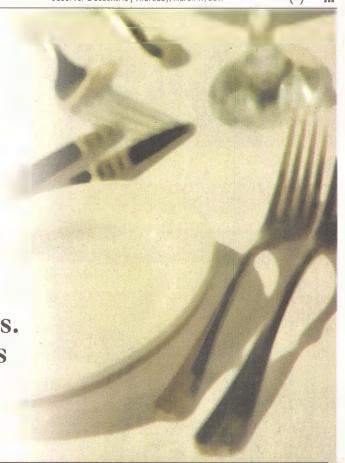


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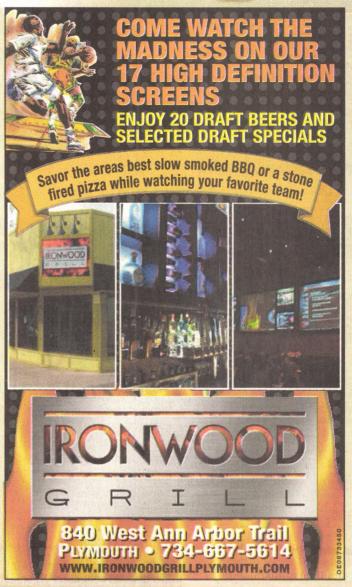
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STRICTLY BUSINESS

Thursday, March 17, 2011

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Contact Editor Brad Kadrich Voice Mail: (313) 222-8899 E-mail: bkadrich@hometownlife.com

Comment online at hometownlife.com

IT'S YOUR BUSINESS Q&A



Drs. David Crowl and Zachary Lemon said they enjoy the close-knit community and all of the services and activities that are offered in Plymouth.

New clients welcome for internal medicine

Observer: Tell us about your business, including the types of services and/or products you

Plymouth Internal: We treat patients ages 14 years old and up. We offer sports physicals for \$15.00 and School Physicals for \$20. We offer diabetic management and classes, cholesterol management, as well as all other medical needs. We have x-ray and lab facilities in our office as well. We now have a gynecologist, Dr. Sheryl Parks on Thursday afternoons. Dr. Parks has been in practice for over 20 years and has another office in Westland.

Observer: Why did you choose Plymouth?

Plymouth Internal: We enjoy the close-knit community and all of the services and activities that are offered. Observer: What makes your business unique?

Plymouth Internal: We are gladly accepting new patients with walk-in hours to conveniently meet you and your family's needs. We accept most insurance plans. Our focus is in prompt, comprehensive and state-ofthe-art medical management... Observer: How has it changed since you opened?

CHAMBER CHAT

State of the Community

The popular annual State of the Community

lunch, set for March 23, 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. Change is a way of life for

our local elected officials as governments reinvent themselves due to lower tax revenues and state

for regular exhibit space, and an additional \$10

for electricity. Exhibit space includes a six-foot

covered table.

PLYMOUTH INTERNAL MEDICINE

Business name: Plymouth Internal Medicine Business address: 261 S. Main, Plymouth Your name and title: Dr. David Crowl and Dr. Zachary Lemon Your Hometown: Both from Plymouth Business opened: Sept. 1, 2009

Plymouth Internal: We have continued to grow our practice and have enjoyed participating in all of the festivals and

Business phone: (734) 414-8040

Your business specialty: Internal medicine

and inspirational. Observer: Do you have a funny tidhit to share with other business owners?

activities which have been fun

Plymouth Internal: During the Green Days, we set up a tent and had a massage therapist giving free massages all day, as well as bottled water and snacks. A storm suddenly occurred and our office was overflowing with people trying to stay dry! So we just moved the massage chair indoors and continued on inside! It was a lot of fun and everyone in the lobby wanted to sign up for the free massage!

Observer: How has the recent economy affected your business?

Plymouth Internal: The economy has inflicted all

types of businesses, out biggest change has been seeing patients loose their insurance plans and that makes it tough if you have an ongoing illness that needs medications to control.

for other business owners?

Plymouth Internal: Stay local and small, it creates such a wonderful atmosphere for this homey community! Spruce up your curb appeal... people do notice! We have patients complimenting our flowers and decorations that we love to do for each season/ holiday!

Observer: What's in store for the future of your business?

Plymouth Internal: We appreciate the continued support and hospitality as we establish ourselves in the Plymouth community. We look forward to meeting you soon!

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Career change?

Out of a job? Changing careers? Become a real estate agent and be ready for the upcoming real estate boom.

Remerica Hometown will be presenting a pre-license training class beginning soon by Real Estate Professional Education Group, LLC, at 41025 Ann Arbor Road in Plymouth.

Call today for a reservation or a private interview. Call Judy at (734) 459-6222 or e-mail judycourtney@remerica.com.

Water commission

Oakland County Water Resources Commissioner John P. McCulloch has selected prominent Bloomfield Hills attorney J. Bryan Williams to be Oakland County's representative on the Detroit Board of Water Commissioners.

McCulloch said he selected Williams because of his long history of public service and superior legal acumen.

Those qualities will make him a valuable addition to the Water Board," McCulloch said. "I've had the pleasure of working with Bryan for many years and know that he will represent the people of Oakland County with uncompromising excel-

Williams, who specializes in corporate governance, munici-

pal law and finance, has been named one of Michigan's top attorneys by Super Lawyers Magazine, a national publication which identifies the best lawyers in each state as chosen by their peers and through independent research.

According to the terms of a stipulated court order, Oakland, Macomb and Wayne County each nominate an individual for Detroit Mayor Dave Bing to appoint to the seven-member Water Board. The nominees must have at least seven years of experience in a regulated industry, a utility, engineering, law or finance.

Business news

Courtesy the folks at the Plymouth Downtown Development Authority:

 After a long period of being empty, Pat O'Neil has purchased the Draugelis & Ashton law offices building on Penniman as an investment. O'Neil said he plans to keep the building office space. The first and second floors are about 2,500-square-feet each. O'Neil said the 7foot ceiling basement is finished and would be cheap office space or storage.



Irish offering

Danny Nedanovski of Steve's Family Dining on Five Mile in Plymouth gets ready for St. Patrick's Day with some lean corned beef. Steve's Family Dining offers a variety of menu items, for diners also looking for non-St. Patrick's

Interested parties can contact Terry Poli at (734) 620-6286.

• Diva Day 2011 takes place April 2 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Retailers should let Teri Fry, teri@plymouthmich.org, at the Chamber know by March 18 if you plan to participate. She is ordering 500 boas this week and posters should be ready sometime next week.

• Charter One Bank in Downtown Plymouth will be featuring R.S.V.P. as their Local Business of the Month for the month of March. Stop into the branch anytime during the month of March to find out why Charter One Bank thinks R.S.V.P. is so great and, while you're there, enter a drawing for a \$25 R.S.V.P. Gift Card. The winner will be chosen from all entries received at the end of the business day on Thursday, March 31.

Dance reservations

Registration for the Metro Dance Company Summer 2011 dance season is now open. Classes available for all ages 2 ½ - adult and begin the week of July 11. Register in person, by phone at (734) 207-8970 or online at www. MetroDanceCompany.com.

Metro Dance Company is located in Plymouth on the corner of Mill (Lilley) and Ann Arbor Trail, just outside downtown Plymouth.





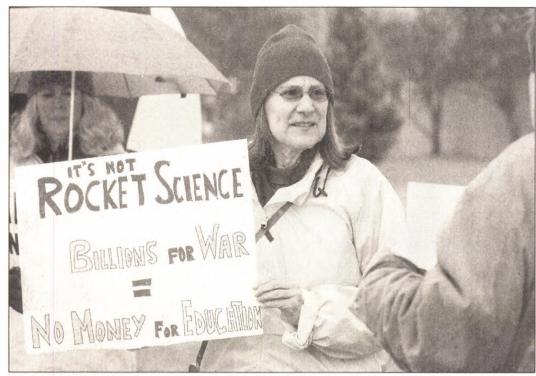
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Upcoming events • Multimedia marketing — Many marketing campaigns hook potential customers with catchy slogans or pictures. While snappy text and design might make a customer take a second look, it does not always convert a customer lead into a sale. Print, radio, TV, direct mail and internet are all parts of a successful marketing campaign, but how you put it together dictates your success. This workshop will show you how to get the biggest impact with your target audience for the money spent. This Business Development Series workshop

is scheduled 8:30-9:30 a.m. March 22 at the Chamber office (850 Ann Arbor Trail). To register for the workshop e-mail teri@plymouthmich.org or call (734) 453-1540.



p.m. Monday, May 23, at The Inn at St. John's. This exciting annual event, with over 90 exhibitors and 700 attendees, provides a costeffective way to directly promote your company to consumers and businesses. This year's event will be held on the main floor at The Inn at St. John's. We will be using the Grande Ballroom and the Garden Gallery. Both rooms are large with easy access for unloading and loading. We will have premium space set up in the Grande Ballroom but there will only be 20 available. The cost this year is \$135 for premium exhibit space, \$110 (members) and \$210 (non-members)



Suzanne Nash of Livonia was co-host of the 'Defend the Dream' rally Tuesday at the Alfred Noble Library on Plymouth Road in Livonia.

Demonstrators protest public sector cuts, anti-union legislation

BY KEN ABRAMCZYK **OBSERVER STAFF WRITER**

Mark Schutte stood in a drizzling rain in front of the Alfred Noble Library on Plymouth Road in Livonia.

Schutte and other demonstrators gathered late Tuesday afternoon with members of MoveOn.org and other citizens at a "Defend the Dream" rally to show support for public education, public services and labor unions.

Like many others at the rally, Schutte of Livonia carried a sign that read "We Are Wisconsin."

"I feel the middle class is being taken apart piece by piece," said Schutte, a technician and member of Communications Workers of America, Local 4009. "I'm against tax breaks for the rich when people are barely able to feed themselves.

Schutte also worries about the attempts by state governments to break up public sector unions, pointing to the Wisconsin's governor's efforts to terminate public employee contracts and the legislation allowing for a financial manager in Michigan to terminate collective bargaining agreements in the public sector. "I'm here for state workers and all workers. There's a drive to break up the public sector workers and their unions,"

Schutte said. In a related development, state Democratic legislative leaders called for an amendment Wednesday to the state constitution to protect collective bargaining rights.

A CALL TO REJECT CUTS

Organizer Kathy Murphy expected more than 200 at the demonstration. She said sup-

porters were rallying to stop the attacks on the middle class. "We're against the privatization, deregulation and slashing of public services," Murphy said. Murphy urged elected representatives, namely U.S. Sens. Carl Levin and Debbie Stabenow, U.S. Rep. Thaddeus McCotter, state Sen. Glenn Anderson and state Reps. Phil Cavanagh and John Walsh to reject privatization, deregulation and public service cuts.

Murphy said Gov. Rick Snyder proposed to increase taxes on individuals by more than \$1.6 billion and will transfer that money dollar-for-dollar in tax breaks to corporations. In addition, the Republicans have proposed legislation mandating that public school districts privatize all non-instructional services, Murphy said. The Republicans in the U.S. House recently proposed more than \$100 billion in cuts to the federal budget, including Pell grants, vocational and adult ed, job training and employment funds, clean and safe water and community development block grants, Murphy said.

"Instead of punishing working Americans, we need to stop these attacks and invest in America by making corporations and millionaires pay their fair share," Murphy said.

A request for a comment from McCotter's office on the rally drew a short response. "I hope they took the opportunity at the library to borrow an economics primer," McCotter said. Walsh could not be reached in Lansing Wednesday for comment on the rally.

Signs reading "Unions Make U.S. Strong" and "We Are Wisconsin" dotted the landscape in front of the library.

Stu Butterfield, a retired firefighter from Dearborn, was protesting legislation that curbs workers' rights to collectively bargain and changes in state Act 312, the law that allows for police and fire unions to go to binding arbitration.

"My concern is the idea that we have to sacrifice has been drilled into people, while we're giving tax breaks to big business," Butterfield said. "The rich continue to get tax breaks, while the middle class bears the brunt of it. We cut our services, and we give up what we

earned. 'We're told that the state is broke and the country is broke, and I see record corporate profits and a small percentage of people controls the wealth in this country. That's not good for our economy, and it's not good for our security. You can't sustain a democracy with that condition."

EXPRESSING FRUSTRATION

Kathy Ventittelli of Southfield felt like she had to 'do something to express her frustration."

"To undo the unions is to undo the progress in this country," Ventittelli said. "What are we doing? We have to take a stand."

Jim Inglis, director of the Livonia Housing Commission, told the Livonia City Council that the 2011 Community Development Block Grant budget was cut 7 percent, the same that was proposed by President Barack Obama.

Inglis has proposed \$372,000 for 2011, down \$30,091 from the program total of \$401,211 in 2010. A 62.5-percent reduction would reduce spending by \$250,757, Inglis said.

Alma College

Alma College has named over 400 students to the Dean's List for outstanding academic performance during the 2010 Fall Term. including three from Canton and three from Plymouth.

Students who achieve a 3.5 or better grade point average during a term, while carrying a minimum of 13 credits, at least eight of which are evaluative grades, are named to the Dean's List.

Canton students who made the list include senior Maricatharine Eggenberger, a 2007 graduate of Plymouth High School; freshman Chelsie Myers, a 2010 graduate of Plymouth Christian Academy; and freshman Lindsey Schmidt, a 2010 graduate of Canton High School.

Plymouth students named to the list include freshman LeeAnne Carr, a 2010 graduate of Plymouth Christian Academy; freshman Katherine Greenough, a 2010 graduate of Ladywood High School; and sophomore Erin Rodes, a 2009 graduate of Plymouth High School.

Madonna University

Named to Madonna University's Dean's List in recognition for superior academic achievement during the Fall 2010 term were the following residents from Canton:

Candice Mahdi Abro Dena Ahmad Zaneh Abdul-ezaz Allie **Shelby Elizabeth Anthony** Angela Marie Arpi Alice Yousef Batayeh Lisa Leann Beam **Ashley Elizabeth Benton** Jennifer Gracia Binkerd **Keith Christopher Booms** Danielle Marie Born Rachelle Elise Boulet **Tiffany Lauren Braboy**

Sherry Catherine Browning Kali Dawn Burnette Virginia T Butler **Deborah June Caperton Kirsten Marie**

Cappabianca

Nicole K Carter Katelyn Elizabeth Chalifoux Jessica Christine Cicirelli **Matthew Daniel Cole Bethany Grace Constance** Renata Bachi DaCosta Roberto D'Amico

Dantes Mallory Ann Darow Holly Jeane David Jennifer Diane Demmers

Kathleen Sarah Dizon

Daniel S Danaher

ON CAMPUS

Amrit Kaur Dhaliwal Kathleen Marie Digiovanni Chelsea Faith Dingus Mahira Elder Laura Josephine Enersen Ann Espinoza Kevin Michael Essex **Mohamad Hussein Farhat** Jenna Lynn Gambino Angela Marie Gasparotto Pierre Andre Genereux Kathleen Nicole Grenfell Christine Sue Hadjinian Nickie Ann Hampsher Janet Hedrick **Elaine Catherine Howard Andrew Huang** Janine Marie Jagodzinski Deanna Rose Janisse Vincent Jigbeh Jaryan Matthew Joseph Kay Julie Nicole Kayganich Rebecca Ann Keeling Gina Michelle Kilgore Cajetan Bah Kimfon **Parker Andrew Laabs**

Andrea Jean Ladzinski William Leddy Alexandra Florence Lenhart **Taylor Justine Lewis Bradley Michael Lineberry** Jacquelyn L Lukens Jennifer Jean Machnee

Marvic Juco Malabanan Jennifer Lynn May Meghan Nicole Miller **Angela Marie Mills** Jessica Rose Molnar Julia Cynthia Molnar Raluca Silvia Morariu Joe Christopher Mullally **Amy Margaret Neville** Helen Thanh Nguyen-Tran **Stephanie Leann Obleness Becky R Pakos Brandon Michael Paris** Sejal B Patel **Sweta Jay Patel** Binaki B Patel Kenneth Richard

Patterson Allison Jeannine Peak Carolyn S Perakes Virginia Carroll Perry Nicole Christina Petrik Michael Sean Poe **Rachael Anne Reyes** Catherine M Romzek **Ester Narciso Rondaris** Carly Elizabeth Scanlon **Brittney Lynn Scero** Deborah J Siegal Alyson M Sloane Danielle E Smith Danielle Kathryn Suhy Kari Michelle Theisen Irene R Tillman **Robin Marie Tramel** Leilani Genece Vance Gustavo Roman Vasquez **Dwiti Nitin Ved** Carolyn L Verla Aliisa Sofia Vint Keesha Michelle Wallace

Brittany L Warner

Courtney Adams Weld

Jeanne Marie Winn

FREE EXAM

Expires 4-6-11.

Ashley Amanda Winslow Joshua Craig Wolfe Ashley Erin Worthington Erik Alan Wright Melissa Maxine

Wroblewski Phillip Zhang Named from Plymouth

Kyle Clinton Allen Whitney Mountain Allmond

Brigid Eileen Behmer **Andrea Rose Burdette Jeffery Peyton Casper** Rachel Choate Kathryn Ann Collins Kevin M Crilley Megan C Daniels Amy A Davidson **Kimberly Nicole Davies Mary Grace Deady** Crystal Lynn Demsky-Waldrep

Kristi Nicole Durkin Karie Ann Eichhorn Valerie A Fischer **Lindsay Renee Fricke Henry Lloyd George** Almira Halit **Alexis Taylor Hambrick** Kyle T Harold Christopher William

Healy Erika Lynn Henaughen Jenna Renea Hilderley **Mary Ann Iafrate Matthew Michael Jenkins** Katelyn Rose Kerr **Scott Richard Kus** Allison Lester **Emily Shannon Lipe Destinee Elaine-T Loftis** Brittany Marie Majeske Diana Marie Merlino Douglas Mullen Thuy-mien Amanda

Nguyen Alan George Palgut Elena Marie Panagiotides Jenna Cassidy Peace **Javier Alfonso Ramirez** Garrett S Rebain Katharine Patricia-Helen

Rener Melissa Ann Rich **Donnis Jacquelyn** Rodriguez

Katelyn A Rzetelny Kristen Renee Sabatini Kristina Paula Sangalang Sarah Elizabeth Sherwood Sophie Marie Stevenson **Daniel Matthew Stoney** Matthew Michael Szmytke Jessica Lynn Teper Kara R Timm Daniel M Vukcevich Kristen Marie Walters Marleigh Justine

Whetstone Theresa Marie White **David Robert Wilcox** Adam Woloszyk

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OPINION

THURSDAY, March 17, 2011 PAGE A10 (P)

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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.

PLYMOUTH

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Brad Kadrich, Community Editor Susan Rosiek, Executive Editor Grace Perry, Director of Advertising

OUR VIEWS

The key role

Parents play big part in stopping bullies

Experts agree bullying is on the rise in schools, and they also agree on at least one other thing: The Internet is playing a huge role in the spike in incidents.

In the Plymouth-Canton school district, they're doing what they can not only to raise awareness of the problem, but to give parents some help in dealing with it in the wake of a couple of recent incidents of cyber threats, one of which could have turned into something deadly.

Plymouth-Canton administrators have disseminated information, talked to kids and brought in experts to help parents, because they know the same thing all the experts

This can't be done without parents.

There's a reason for that: Much of the bullying, much of the threatening, is being done at home, on the computer. It starts as a minor tiff during school hours, but escalates in the relative safety of cyberspace, where kids being bullied can respond without, as one high school administrator put it, "without the immediate threat of a punch in the nose."

It escalates because friends of both the bully and the bullied get involved, on Facebook pages and MySpace accounts, on sites like Formspring that appear to offer more anonymity. Kids feel safer, thus braver, when all they have to do is type. They often don't realize they might have to back up that tough talk the next day at school.

For others, pressure builds up, in life and in school, for which a key release is the Internet. Cyberspace provides a convenient soapbox from which to launch diatribes, to make threats, to issue warnings. That's what one recent incident seemed to be, when a student threatened to shoot up one of the three Plymouth-Canton high schools. Two vigilant students reported the threat to a — wait for it parent, who reported it to police, who had the "anonymous" threatener's IP address in seconds and showed up on his doorstep to stop what could have been a horrific incident.

If you think we're dramatizing to make a point, you're wrong. The incident was self-dramatizing; no exaggeration

Parents play a key role here, not just in keeping track of what their children are doing on the Internet, although every expert ever quoted on the subject calls that a critical necessity. But bullying situations are also teaching moments, not just for teachers, but for parents.

Kimber Bishop-Yanke, who runs a consulting service — Girls Empowered & Boys Empowered & Kids Empowered - that teaches parents, students and school officials how to deal with all of those disturbing behaviors, knows the importance parents play in helping their kids through it all.

One way to prevent it, she said, is to teach kids to stand up to bullies and meanie kids. Rather than ignore it or ask "Why are you doing this to me?" Bishop-Yanke said the best thing kids can be taught to do is to stand up and say, in a clear, strong voice, "Stop."

"The biggest message we're trying to get out there is that we need to stand up for ourselves," she said. "Standing up for themselves is a skill, it takes practice."

It's a skill the school district is trying to help kids acquire. They've brought Bishop-Yanke in to talk to students and parents. They're reaching out now to both the Plymouth and Canton public libraries to host expert panels to help parents deal with the issue.

And that's the key element: The parents. Too often, in these days of economic woe, homes where both parents work or where there's only one parent, the job of parenting gets shoved off onto teachers.

But this problem isn't happening in school; it's largely happening at home, and parents need to step up and police it. When kids get into trouble, the police or the teacher who reported them or friends trying to help get heaped with the blame. But that's killing the messenger.

Parenting is not the job of teachers, it's the job of parents. And parents who aren't sure what to do or feel overwhelmed by the responsibility should know they're not alone. There is plenty of help available to recognize warn-

Parents just need to take advantage of it.

ONLINE VOICES & VIEWS



The following are excerpts from readers participating in our online forum for discussing issues, In Your Voices. Find more comments or join the discussion on the Web at hometownlife.com.

 In response to "Sheldon patch job comes before rebuilding project,"

"THANK YOU!!! We lost a tire there just last weekend. It's a horrible road."

maturelady1

"Expect a whole lot of cold patching before Sheldon Center is improved. Anytime Wayne County says bids will be accepted in the spring, don't expect that date to hold. Based upon past County performance this project will not get underway until late fall (utility work, maybe) and real construction to start the spring of 2012. Canton residents negatively impacted by the condition of the road should sue in 35th District Court. Everyone should call Commissioner McNamara's office so that he can keep the heat on Wayne County Roads." bcanton

COMMUNITY VOICE

How do you think the Detroit Tigers will do this season?

We asked this question at the Plymouth District Library.



"I'm on the grounds crew. That pretty much depends on our starting rotation. ... Any team, usually the pitching staff is the No. 1 key."

> Ryan Silva Canton Township



"I think they'll do all right. ... If they keep up their pitching, I think they'll do well."

> **Shannon Silva** Canton Township



"Win division. Division's that weak. ... I would like to see how the pitching staff rounds out. ... I think they have a lot more up side than they have down side."

> Kevin Majewski Canton Township



"Hopefully, they're going to do good."

Connie Smiaielski Plymouth Township

LETTERS

Can't afford generosity

There were many letters to the editor complaining about Gov. Snyder's new budget proposals especially the one taxing pensions.

While it is true that Michigan has never taxed pensions it is also true that many states with a state income tax do. Michigan has been very generous in not taxing pensions but it can no longer afford this generosity. Pensions are, after all, ordinary income as opposed to Social Security retirement benefits which are not taxed.

Public union pensions are financed by taxpayer dollars and for the life of me, I don't remember ever being asked if my tax dollars should or should not be used to fund pensions of public union workers. I do remember voting for Gov. Snyder with the hope he would straighten out our financial mess here in Michigan, attract more business and create more jobs and given the chance I think he will do just that but I am disheartened by all the voices crying for change as long as it does not affect them.

Even my state senator, Patrick Colbeck, who ran on a platform vowing to finally fix our finances cannot seem to disengage himself from politics as usual and do the right thing and support his governor's efforts.

Janusz M. Szyszko

Canton

What's missing in budgets

Recently President Obama and Governor Snyder with their advisers released budgets. One wonders if and/or how much these facts were considered: The poverty level in the U.S. is the highest since the 1940s. The middle class is collapsing. Sixteen percent of citizens are unemployed or underemployed. The gap between rich and poor is wider than ever before. Yet tax rates for millionaires are lower.

To deal with huge deficits (caused mainly by Wall Street), both budgets are similar in two respects. One, they contain pro-business policies. On the federal level, large corporations pay no income tax. Gov. Snyder suggests a huge reduction in business taxes.

Two, neither deficit reduction plan mentions Social Security. I heard some startling news when a well-known senator stated there is a surplus in Social Security for the next 27 years. However, it is believed some Republicans want to privatize

A main difference between the federal and state budget is found in the area of social services for society's most vulnerable people. The president would not agree with our governor's plan for low income workers to lose tax refunds.

A second difference is in the area of education. President Obama stresses the importance of education and does not advocate cuts to K-12 or universities as proposed by Gov. Snyder.

Since the midterm elections, Republicans control several state governorships plus the House of Representatives. Many stress ideology and hold extreme views. Governor Walker in Wisconsin uses budget deficits as a ploy to dismantle unions. Rep. Paul Ryan, also a Wisconsinite, is chair of the budget committee who echoes Wall street's wishes.

Michigan Republican Gov. Snyder appears to be more moderate and realistic. However, he may

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.

E-mail: bkadrich@hometownlife.com.



Read or comment online: www.hometownlife.com

Deadline: Letters must be received by 10 a.m. Monday to be published in the Thursday edition.

Blog: You may also let your opinions be heard with your own blog at www.hometownlife.com.

not have the support of all fellow Republicans.

It is imperative for the future of our state and our country for governors and all representatives in state houses and in Congress to have meaningful dialog and to reach compromises in order to maintain democratic principles. Above all, they must work together to assure taxes and spending are simple, equitable, efficient and that sacrifices are fairly shared.

Hannah Provence Donigan

Commerce

New secret weapon

New Republican governors have discovered a new secret campaign weapon in fooling voters during the campaign. First, they promise a "plan" or "blueprint" for resolving their states' financial problems. They provided a long or medium-length list of campaign promises to cut government spending while at the same time increasing state support for "essential public services."

After winning their elections, the governors then move ahead with the unannounced part of their money-saving plans – shafting the unions representing public employees and working hard to eliminate or substantially reduce their collective bargaining rights. At the same time, K-12 education and universities are apparently not considered "essential public services." Neither are police or fire protection.

Michigan's new governor, Rick Snyder, didn't follow his counterparts in New Jersey, Ohio, and Wisconsin on the union-bashing campaign, but he did propose in his budget to slash state spending for K-12 schools and public universities as well as revenue sharing for cities and townships.

At the same time, Snyder proposed taxing the retirement pensions of senior citizens for the first time in the state's history.

Why weren't these secret plans known during the campaign. The major daily newspapers in Michigan were in a position to question Snyder during the campaign on how he was going to "reinvent" the state of Michigan by cutting taxes and improving the economy. He also promised to do more for the educational community. But who questioned him about his new version of "voodoo

It's time that Michigan voters get more savvy about political candidates who promise one thing in the campaign and turn around do the opposite

after Election Day.

Leonard Poger Westland

Don't tax pensions

To all my elected officials and anyone else who will listen:

In February of 2007, I took early retirement to "make way for new less expensive employees." After over 38 years with the same city, my decision to retire was based on the fact there was no state tax on pensions, and as retired no Social Security tax. Barring these taxes, I was able to arrord retirement.

My story is the same for the early retires of the auto industry and other government jobs. Had not the auto employees took the early buyouts, could the auto companies have survived? I and others could have remained working, but were encouraged to retire, not only for our good, but for the good of others.

To add to the misery, what little money I have been able to save gets less than 1-percent interest now. GMC stock became worthless. Pension dollars of 2007 are frozen at that date, never to increase. I can make it now, but tax my pension and I'll be on the dole like so many others. Don't tax my pension, and I can take care of myself without local state or federal assistance.

Please, take all this into consideration.

Don Gould Livonia

Protect private pensions

The anger and fear exhibited by public employees in Wisconsin about their pensions resembles the fear retirees in private pension plans have experienced for many years. Pensions – public and private - could once be counted on by retirees. Today, they fear the rug will be pulled out from under them.

The resemblance stops there because there is a stark difference between public and private plans. Private sector retirees and older workers have seen companies steadily renege on promises for earned retiree health and pension benefits - with the government doing little to stop the trend.

Millions of retirees in private plans have already had the rug pulled out from under them by companies using pension assets for restructuring purposes at the expense of retirees, all with the full knowledge of the courts and the federal government.

These "back door reversions" leave private pension assets vulnerable to market downturns, and leave taxpayers vulnerable to pick up the tab at the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation. Unlike public plans, once a company goes bankrupt, there are no revenue-raising options such as taxation that can help private pensioners recoup

Retirees in private plans feel as strongly as those in public plans, and are asking Congress to prohibit these reversions unless the plan is sufficiently funded. It's a budget-neutral solution to protect private pension assets that both Republicans and Democrats should enact now before the anger and fear of retirement insecurity spreads from state capitols to the U.S. Capitol.

> Tom Gibson Livonia

A11

March 31: Deadline to pay 2008 property taxes

ver my more than 30 years as Wayne County treasurer, I cannot recall a more challenging time for so many property taxpayers. Like the rest of the country, Wayne County is experiencing record numbers of property tax fore-

As county treasurer, I am required by state law to collect property taxes - taxes that pay for government services that we all want, including police and fire protection, schools for our children and much more.

I know many who are having great difficulty paving their bills. Please don't ignore the problem; the time to act is

Please note: March 31 is the deadline to pay or make arrangements to pay 2008 delinquent taxes. With this deadline just a few weeks away, I encourage those with delinquent taxes to contact our office right away.

We realize there are many reasons people have not paid their 2008 taxes. Please understand, we do not want your property, we need your



Raymond J. Wojtowicz

payment and we are here to help. If the situation is not addressed, you stand to lose your house to foreclosure.

We recognize these are challeng-

ing times for so many and have put in place programs to assist you. Several years ago, I instituted the Taxpayer Assistance Department designed specifically to reach out and inform those with delinquent taxes about payment options they may use to keep their property.

PAYMENT PLAN

We offer a payment plan that will allow you to budget your payments over the year and avoid foreclosure. If you live in the home and own the home, we can offer a hardship extension to give you additional time to pay. It is essential to act now as time is running out.

Our outreach is simple: "Let's talk." Our goal is to encourage people to contact us and not panic.

By contacting the Taxpayer Assistance Department, you will speak with a trained member of our staff who will take your information and work with you to explore available options. Please know that your privacy will be fully protected and all personal and property data is shred to ensure confidentiality.

We cannot guarantee that everyone who contacts us will be able to save their property, however, we will do all that we can to advise you of your options. The 2008 tax year and any taxes prior to that is what needs to be paid or payment arrangements made before March 31.

READY TO HELP

My office stands ready to help. Through our extensive educational and informational awareness efforts, we are using every resource available to reach delinquent taxpayers to help them resolve their property tax issues. We have partnered with more than 20 community organizations to assist you in this time of need.

Those with delinquent 2008 taxes can pay their taxes in person or online, arrange a payment plan, or apply for a substantial hardship extension which will allow through the end of the year to pay the back taxes.

The payment plan option is an agreement that requires the taxpayer to pay 20 percent of the delinquency by the end of March, 20 percent by May 15, 20 percent by Aug. 15 and the remaining balance by the end of 2011.

More information about these two programs can be found on our website at www. treasurer.waynecounty.com, or by contacting our Taxpayer Assistance Department at taxinfo@co.wayne.mi.us or (313) 224-6105.

Due to extreme volume, our phones are often overloaded. Also our offices will be extremely busy the end of the month, so I urge you to act now. If you have delinquent taxes, don't give up. Help us help you. Let's talk.

Raymond J. Woitowicz is the Wayne County treasurer.

LETTERS

Cut officials' benefits

Why is it the Republican governors and tea partiers talk about cutting "government," yet they are really talking about cutting the workers who really service the people?

They want to cut pay of teachers who educate our children, the police who protect us, the firefighters who protect our property, the EMTs who rescue us and the snow plow drivers who clear our streets.

Why don't they cut the number of school board members? Why not cut the size of city councils or those county commissioners who find more ways to waste money than the federal government. How about cutting their salaries by 10 percent or telling them to contribute to their pension or pay for their health care. Wouldn't it be fiscally responsible if they drove their cars to work, like the rest of us.

No, that would be asking them to really turn into a government bythe people, of the people and for the people.

> Skip Wehrle Garden City

School Aid for colleges, too

I wanted to take the time to clear up a couple of misconceptions that certain individuals may have regarding the School Aid Fund and any allocation of its surplus to "other" areas.

When Proposal A passed, it was clear by the overwhelming support their guard down. Don't let this behind it that voters wanted to have could be dedicated to education. There has been nothing that has occurred in the past fiscal year that would be contrary to that desire and the governor's current proposed budget does not appear to contradict that either.

The first misconception that people have is that the School Aid Fund is only limited to K-12. There was no language in the ballot proposal or currently in the State Constitution that would indicate

this to be the case. The language refers to "school districts" and "higher education." Community colleges should be included in the definition of "higher education." For example, if the governor's proposed budget states that he is going to use a certain amount of money from the School Aid Fund to help community colleges, this would not contradict the State Constitution. Any argument that would exclude community colleges would be quite contradictory to the general purpose of any education funding, that being the necessary education of our young people. To exclude community colleges, which tend to serve a different part of the population than do four-year educational institutions, would greatly restrict access to a public benefit of which the community greatly supports.

The second misconception is that money was directed to "other" areas in FY 2010. During that fiscal year, the School Aid Fund had a \$208 million surplus. The Legislature, with support from the governor, approved a measure to direct those funds toward community colleges. To think those funds went anywhere but education is completely false.

As someone who has greatly benefited from a community college, I struggle to understand why certain individuals would express support for all public educational institutions except community colleges. Those institutions are allowed access to the School Aid Fund just like every other public school.

Alexander Steward Livonia



Do your homework; check out charities before opening wallet

he destruction that occurred in Japan last week reminds us of the power of Mother Nature and how, in a matter of minutes, our world can drastically change. The earthquake and tsunami will affect Japan for years and will have consequences here, and around the world.

Obviously, the most important aspect of the disaster is the loss of human life and the pain and grief that so many in Japan will face. There are, however, other consequences of the natural disaster that are important to mention.

Japan is the third largest economy in the world behind the United States and China. At this point, how the tragedy will affect the Japanese economy is unknown.



Money Matters

Rick Bloom

reopened for business, there was a substantial sell-off. Whether this is a one-day event and whether it will affect

other markets is hard to say. However, the rebuilding of Japan will have an economic consequence not only to Japan, but to markets around the world.

Another consequence of the tragedy is that once again Americans, who are by far the most generous people on earth, will be opening up their checkbooks to help.

Not surpris-Unfortunately, what that also ingly, when means — just as we have seen in other disasters — is lowlifes the Japanese stock market will attempt to take advantage of our good nature.

One problems is that too many Americans do not spend the time to make sure the money they are donating is actually going to the cause they choose.

After the Haitian disaster, hundreds of websites popped up seeking solicitations of money. Unfortunately, many of these websites were bogus and were attempting to steal money and/ or confidential information.

Although it is in our DNA to help those less fortunate, always make sure to check out the charity and confirm the money will be going where it will be most beneficial and not in the scam artist's pocket.

One trick used by many scam artists is to make their bogus charity appear very similar to a legitimate one. This, coupled with tear-jerking solicitations and professionally made websites, can cause people to let happen to you. Before you give, a steady source of revenue that do some homework.

As Americans, it is our nature to help those in need. However, take a few minutes and check out the charity before giving your hardearned money away. 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 website at www. bloomassetmanagement.com.



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Performances show cultural variety is valuable

BY BRAD KADRICH **OBSERVER STAFF WRITER**

Observer & Eccentric | Thursday, March 17, 2011

The folks on the Celebration of Diversity planning committee at Workman Elementary School are focused on getting people to value diversity.

They believe that mission was accomplished with Friday's two-hour "Celebration of Diversity" event that featured 10 performances during the show and 11 different countries represented during the World Tour and Food Tasting part of the event.

"Valuing diversity is and always has been critical to harmony and understanding of one another," said organizer Sabrina Boykin. "The ultimate goal of diversity is to value a broad range of people and notions. Diversity helps us to grasp the connections between various aspects of our own individuality."

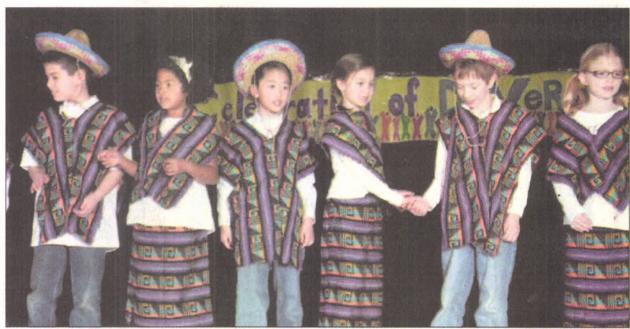
Some 700 people attended the fifth annual event. After the performances, Boykin said, each child received a color passport and went to each country for the World Tour and Food Tasting. In each classroom the room was transformed to give the feel of the country.

"When the students answered the passport question in each country they received a stamp," Boykin explained. "When they had at least 5 stamps they selected from a variety of prizes encouraging world peace and unity."

Boykin pointed out parent volunteers, students and teachers spent considerable time preparing for the event, and the turnout and quality performances proved it was worth the

"It was a huge success," Boykin said. "This event is so important because it is an evening for us to embrace and celebrate the many diverse cultures represented at our school."

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



Students from Noreen Watson's second-grade class (from left) Jon Grenillo, Yensi Goerge, Jeffrey Yang, Bridgette Bowser, Eric Wilhite and Allison Albin sang the Mexican song "To Everyone and the Whole World."





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MADONNA BASEBALL SQUAD NEARLY PULLS UPSET OVER CMU - B2

SECTION B

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THURSDAY, March 17, 2011

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WHEW!

Canton hangs on, returns to Final Four

OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Perhaps for the first time all season, adversity hit Canton's varsity girls basketball team in the face Tuesday night.

The Chiefs squandered a 24-8 first-half lead and actually trailed by a point entering the final minute of their Class A state quarterfinal against Midland at Davison High School.

And one of their key players senior forward Sara Schmitt — sat on the bench after having fouled

But senior forward Kari Schmitt drove through the lane for a basket to reclaim the lead at 33-32 with 29 seconds left in regulation.

After a traveling call against the Chemics, Canton junior point guard Robyn Mack hit a couple clutch foul shots with 10 seconds to go and the Chiefs escaped with a 35-32 victory.

"It was really nerve-wracking, you could hear the crowd," Mack said. "So I just tried to focus on the basket, I shot it and it went in."

BACK TO BRESLIN

The victory punched 24-2 Canton's ticket for a return trip to Breslin Center at Michigan State University.

Canton will face Inkster (23-2) at 2:50 p.m. Friday; Inkster is one of the teams that defeated the Chiefs this season.

"All the credit goes to the kids and I couldn't be happier for them," Canton head coach Brian Samulski said. "They eyeballed getting back

STATE QUARTERFINAL

to Breslin since last year, and so I'm thrilled for them. This is something they wanted to do and they got it

Last season, the Chiefs lost 50-47 to Detroit Renaissance in a Class A state semifinal.

According to Midland head coach Elaine Mahabir, whose team finished 22-3, her squad "found our guts and dug down deep" to turn a potential rout into a white-knuckle

"The opportunities were there for us," Mahabir said. "I wish we would have connected on a couple more in the third quarter to not put so much on the fourth quarter.

"I'm so proud of my team but I'm so broken-hearted for them, too. Coming down from 13 in a quarterfinal, I don't know how many teams can do that."

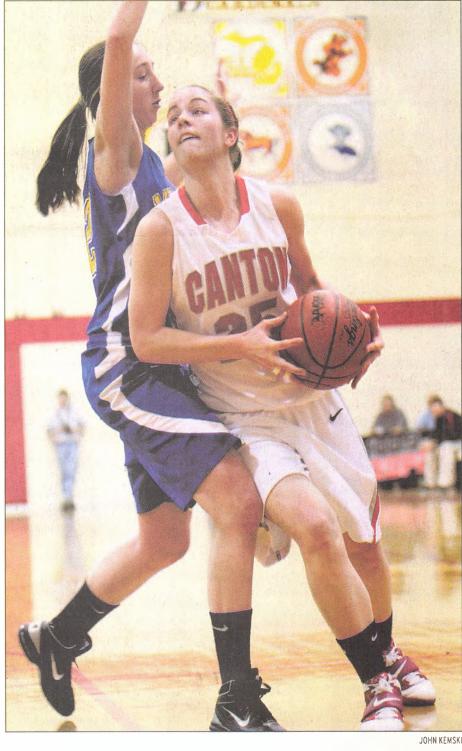
NO WAY TO END IT

Both Mack and Kari Schmitt said there was a bit of extra motivation to lead the Chiefs to a win after Sara Schmitt fouled out with 2:41 left and Canton nursing a 29-26 lead.

"We wanted to win it for her," said Mack, the game's top scorer with 13 points. "We knew she wanted to keep going to the Final Four so we did."

The way the contest started, Canton fans who traveled to Davison might have started thinking about setting their car GPS systems for Breslin.

Please see BASKETBALL, B2



Not to be denied, Canton senior forward Kari Schmitt (No. 25) drives toward the basket Tuesday night. Defending her is Midland's Maura McAfee (No. 32, left).

Rocks, Chiefs boast D1 individual champs



Salem's four all-state swimmers proudly stand (at right, blue sweatsuits) following Saturday's Division 1 boys swimming and diving state meet at Oakland University. They include Jason Zhang, Matt Collingwood, Max Mills and Adam Seroka.

BY TIM SMITH OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Saline owned the Division 1 boys swimming and diving state meet, winning eight out of 12 events Saturday at Oakland University's nata-

But swimmers from Plymouth-Canton Educational Park made quite a splash.

Salem senior Adam Seroka and Canton junior Victor Zhang each were state champion after winning an individual event, while the Rocks placed seventh in the team standings with 112 points. Saline topped the field, with

Seroka captured the 500 freestyle with a time of 4 minutes, 32.90 seconds, while Zhang's mark of 51.55 nipped Livonia Stevenson's Kellen Schoff (51.65) to win the

"What a great way to wind it up, with a state championship," Salem head coach Chuck Olson said about Seroka's prep career.

Salem senior teammate Max Mills also earned all-state honors (which go to the top eight in each event) in the 500 free, finishing sixth in 4:44.27.

"Obviously, the last three weeks they've pretty much been training together," Olson said about his distance swimmers. "So it's always good to have somebody in practice doing the

BOYS SWIMMING AND DIVING

same thing you're doing.

"It's been pretty specific the last few weeks, so it's worked out real well."

Seroka also was an all-stater in the 200 free, thanks to a third-place finish of 1:40.73.

The third Salem senior to nab all-state honors, Matt Collingwood, showed his versatility. Last year, he was an all-stater in the 500 free, "but we kind of flipped him over to sprints this year," Olson said.

Not to worry, because Collingwood still made all-state after finishing fifth in the 50 free with a time of 21.81 seconds.

Another all-state winner was Salem's 400free relay team of Collingwood, sophomore Jason Zhang, Mills and Seroka. The quartet placed seventh with a time of 3:14.24.

"I was real pleased" with the seventh-place performance, Olson said. "The guys really swam well on Friday (at prelims) and we swam faster on Saturday."

Olson said the Rocks narrowly missed reaching Saturday's team finals in the 200 free relay. Collingwood, freshman Eric Li, Mills and Seroka placed ninth at prelims with a time of 1:28.79 - just edged out by Byron Center's 1:28.76.

Please see SWIMMING, B2

Lofty honor awaits Plymouth senior

BY TIM SMITH OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Taylor Birman's career with the Plymouth High School varsity girls basketball team ended in defeat recently.

But the senior captain kept her head high and wore a smile as she congratulated the opposing team and proceeded to the locker room.

For her, that glimpse of character and sportsmanship is par for the course.

In fact, at halftime of the March 26 Class C boys basketball final at Breslin Center in East Lansing, Birman will be one of 32 students (13 from Class A schools) to receive the Michigan High School Athletic Association Scholar-Athlete Award.

With the award comes a \$1,000 college scholarship from Farm Bureau Insurance, in its 22nd year of sponsoring the award.

"It's really cool, because I've worked so hard for these past four years," Birman said. "And to know that's paid off and I've actually worked toward something is really cool.

Please see BIRMAN, B3



During the final game of her prep girls basketball career, Plymouth senior Taylor Birman (No. 32) dribbles around a Novi defender.

Canton gymnasts second at finals

OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Before Friday's girls gymnastics state finals began at Kenowa Hills High School in Grand Rapids, Canton head coach John Cunningham gathered his team and delivered a message.

"I told the girls 'There are only two trophies and Grand Ledge already owns one, we want the other one," Cunningham said.

Led by top-level performances and ultimate teamwork, the Chiefs reached that goal with a second-place finish of 146.5 (second to Grand Ledge's 149.675). Closely trailing the Chiefs were Troy Athens (146.475) and Farmington (146.15).

The last time Canton placed second at the team finals was in the mid-1990s, Cunningham

"It (taking second) was such a great feeling," Cunningham said. "Grand Ledge, yeah their champions, yeah it's the fourth time in a row that they've been state champs.

Please see GYMNASTICS, B3

SIDELINES Girls lax tryouts

The Canton varsity girls lacrosse team will hold tryouts through Friday at Discovery Middle School.

For registration details, go to www.eteamz.com/cantonchiefsgirls lacrosse or contact coach David Bower at davidkbower@gmail.com.

This is the first season that Canton will have its own varsity and junior varsity girls lacrosse teams (as will Plymouth and Salem). Up until the 2010 season, there was a combined varsity team featuring players from all three schools.

Black and Blue Classic

The 2011 Boys "Black and Blue" Lacrosse Tournament is scheduled for Saturday at the Canton High School football field. Lacrosse teams from across Michigan will compete from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Admission is free for spectators and food and beverages will available for purchase. The event is co-sponsored by the Plymouth and Salem boys lacrosse teams.

Berger All-Region

Washington University (Mo.) senior forward Kathryn Berger (Livonia Ladywood) recently earned 2010-11 D3Hooops.com first-team All-Central Region honors in women's basketball.

Berger leads the Lady Bears in scoring and rebounding this season with 13.8 points and 6.5 rebounds per game and has recorded a team-high five double-doubles.

She also leads the team in three-point shooting with 58 three-pointers and a .397 shooting percentage from beyond the arc and is 78-of-92 from the foul line (84.8 percent).

She has been recognized as the University Athletic Association Athlete of the Week five times so far this season.

Earlier this year, Berger became just the 12th Washington U. player in program history to eclipse 1,000career points and she currently ranks eighth in school history with 1,105 points and sixth in rebounding with 701 boards.

She is one of only three players in school history to score 1,000 points and pull down at least 700 rebounds during a career.

The No. 12-ranked Lady Bears, 24-5 overall, will face No. 7 Illinois Wesleyan in the NCAA Division III Tournament semifinals 7 p.m. Friday at the Shirk Center in Bloomington, III.

MU academic duo

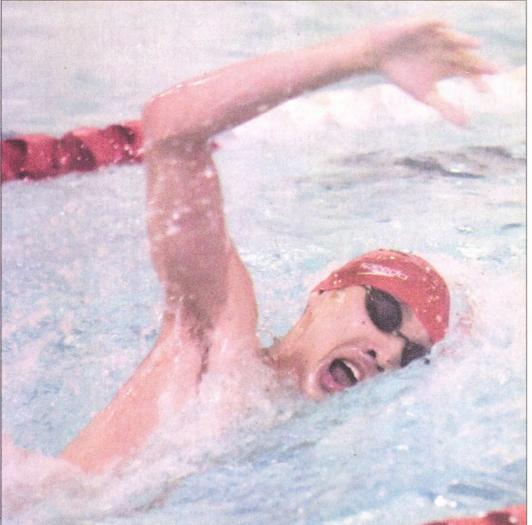
Madonna University's Katie Martin and Tabatha Wydryck were among 219 basketball players named as National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) 2011 Daktronics-NAIA Scholar-Athletes.

To be selected, a studentathlete must be a junior or senior academically and have a cumulative grade point average of 3.5 or higher on a 4.0 scale.

Martin, a junior guard from Woodhaven, appeared in 22 games this season, making one start. The Riverview Gabriel Richard grad was named to the WHAC's Champion of Character Team in 2010 and was the 2010 Blue and Gold Awards Female Champion of Character award

Wydryck, a senior forward from Wyandotte, started all 27 games this season, averaging 11.6 points and 7.4 rebounds per game en route to All-WHAC first-team honors for the second straight season.

The Crusaders ended the 2010-11 season with a 12-15 overall record and an appearance in the WHAC semifinals.



Observer & Eccentric | Thursday, March 17, 2011

Canton junior Victor Zhang, shown from earlier this season, won the 100 backstroke at the Division 1 state meet.

The coach added that junior diver Nick Griwicki had an excellent showing (11th, 340.85

According to Olson, Salem's senior trio of Seroka, Mills and Collingwood (all co-captains) is leaving quite a legacy.

"They've gotten better every year. I can't say enough good things," Olson said. "They were captains this year and did a great job with that as

"I think they set a good standard for the Salem boys and hopefully the underclassmen were paying close attention so they can pick up where these three left off."

GOOD DAY FOR CHIEFS

Posturepecho

Canton head coach Dave Le

Posturenedic

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said the Chiefs (16th place, 149 points) enjoyed their highest finish at the state meet since placing 12th in 2002.

"This was the first time in Canton school history that we had two relays come back and swim in the finals," Le said. "And Victor is the first swimming state champion for Canton since 1979"

Zhang stayed strong despite swimming in several events Saturday. He also was all-state in the 200 IM, with a fourthplace time of 1:52.56.

"Victor swam very well," Le said. "He dropped time in the IM (1:53.10 at prelims), he finished fourth and got out of the pool.

"He was able to get his focus back for the 100 backstroke and really got after it."

Le said coaches from the **Kensington Lakes Activities** Association were enthralled with the race-to-the-wire

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STEARNS

between Le and Schoff in the

"It was fun to watch him and Kellen Schoff from Stevenson both go head-to-head," Le added. "Being from the same area and the same conference, it was very exciting for all of us that coach in the conference to watch.

"Victor was victorious, and he deserved it."

The Chiefs also had two relay teams finish 14th Saturday. Those included: Zhang, junior Adrian Simion, junior Jay Jin and sophomore Mike Carlson in the 400 free relay (3:16.49); and Jin, senior Jacob Dillon, Zhang and senior Evan Champine in the 200 medley relay (1:40.75).

The third Plymouth-Canton Educational Park team, Plymouth, placed 39th overall.

tsmith@hometownlife.com

Crusaders nearly stun Chippewas

The Madonna University baseball team held a 1-0 lead over NCAA Division I member Central Michigan University through 5.1 innings Tuesday, but three unanswered runs in the sixth gave the home standing Chippewas the 3-1 win at Theunissen Stadium.

"We had every opportunity to execute and win a baseball game today," said MU coach Greg Haeger. "If we had gotten some timely hitting it could have made the difference."

Sophomore Steve Pelletier (Farmington Harrison) and freshman Victor Barron led MU (10-8) with a pair of hits each in the loss.

Brendan Emmett was the only Chippewa with two hits.

MU stranded eight runners on base, while CMU (8-9) left six on base in both teams' first games in Michigan this sea-

The Crusaders tallied a run in the top of the first inning, taking advantage of a pair of Chippewa errors to gain the early lead.

Junior Drew Adamiec reached on a one-out CMU infield and moved all the way to third when the single by Pelletier was misplayed in the CMU outfield to put runners at second and third with just

MU capitalized on the CMU miscues when sophomore Brad **COLLEGE BASEBALL**

Lineberry (Plymouth) drove in Adamiec from third for a 1-0 lead after half an inning.

The Crusaders looked to add on another run in the third when senior Jeff Bultinck opened the inning by reaching on a CMU error and was at third following a sacrifice bunt from Adamiec.

Central's Jake Sabol was able to get the next two MU hitters to ground out and strikeout to end the threat and keep the count 1-0.

MU sophomore starter Jeremy Gooding (Livonia/ Dearborn Divine Child Catholic) worked himself into and out of a jam in the third after a lead off single by Sam

Gooding overthrew first on a pick off attempt and that allowed Russell to get into scoring position at second, but then retired the next two Chips on strikes before getting a pop out to center to end the

MU had another potential scoring situation erased in the top of the sixth when senior Mike Gansser popped up a squeeze bunt and junior Dan Harder - who led the inning off with a single and stole second - was doubled off of third for the double play to end the

inning. CMU then took the lead in the bottom of the sixth when Tyler Hall reached on a oneout walk off of junior lefty Tom

Hall's walk was followed by a single from Emmett and both runners moved up on a passed ball to put runners at second and third with one

A wild pitch from Hansen allowed Hall to score to tie the game and a Crusader error brought Emmett home to give the Chippewas the lead for keeps, 2-1.

Central also got in RBI single by William Arnold to increase its lead to 3-1 after six

MU could not advance a runner past second base the remaining three innings, falling by the 3-1 final.

Hansen (2-2) was saddled with the loss as he was charged with all three runs that scored in the sixth and walked two in his two-thirds of an inning of work.

Gooding threw the first five, allowing just two hits while striking out eight in taking the no decision.

Reliever Jon Weaver earned the win for CMU, throwing two innings while giving up a pair of hits. Matt Faiman came in and worked around a walk in the ninth for the save.

Mack - who also played great defense and collected four steals — buried two treys in the first two minutes and Sara Schmitt followed with a jumper to make it a quick 8-0 edge for the Chiefs.

Canton kept coming, with the lead growing to 16-6 after one and 24-8 with a minute left in the half.

But the Chemics were far from done for the night. Midland senior Amy Lane connected on a last-minute triple to shave that lead to 24-11 at the break.

The third quarter was nightmarish for the Chiefs, who only managed a field goal from freshman guard Rachel Winters and a Mack free throw during the frame.

There were uncontested layups and free throws that didn't drop. Canton made just eight of 19 foul shots in the game.

JUST ENOUGH

Midland pulled to within 27-20 after three and the Chemics kept rolling into the fourth, frustrating Canton at every turn.

A jumper by junior Maura McAfee made it 27-24 and freshman Jessica Walter's layup closed the gap to 27-26 midway through the fourth.

Kari Schmitt (seven points, six rebounds, four steals) and Mack each tallied field goals to briefly hold off the Chemics, but junior Tierra Carter con-



Canton junior sparkplug Robyn Mack (No. 4) launches a shot over the outstretched arms of Midland's Danielle Blake during Tuesday's Class A quarterfinal in Davison.

verted a layup with 1:45 to go and Blake drained her leadchanging bucket.

With a chance to return to Breslin hanging in the balance, the Chiefs grabbed that lead right back and never let go again.

"If you look at the third quarter," Samulski said.

"You look at the layups we missed and the free throws we missed, you got to make those in championship games.

"But to end the game I thought we stepped up and made them."

tsmith@hometownlife.com

Crusaders' 14-1 start bodes well

Almost perfect.

That was the final ledger on the Arizona spring trip last week for the Madonna University women's softball

The Crusaders closed their trip to Tucson Invitational Games with a 3-1 victory over the University of Great Falls (Mont.) as part of a tripleheader Friday at the Reitan

Garden City's Hallie Minch earned the win, throwing five innings and allowing just one run, while Jess Irwin picked up her second save of the year as MU raised its season record to 14-1 overall.

Sophomore Arielle Cox led MU at the plate with a pair of

MU got on the board in the bottom of the third, plating a single run as Cox led off with a double to right center and came home three batters later on a single through the right side by Minch for a 1-0 advan-

The Madonna lead grew to 3-0 in the fourth when Erica Landess connected on her third homer of the season, a 2-run blast to left center to extend the MU cushion.

The Argos scored in the fifth when Lindsay Cline belted a homer of her own to trim the deficit to 3-1.

Irwin then came in for the sixth and seventh, slamming the door and walking just one.

Earlier in the day, MU fell to Robert Morris (Ill.), 4-3, for its first setback of the season as Irwin suffered her first loss when the Eagles rallied for two runs in the top of the seventh.

Ashley Shay (Garden City/ Dearborn Divine Child) led the MU offense with three hits, while Landess and Jackie Barley added two each.

Jennifer Burns scattered 10 hits, walked two and struck out seven in going the distance for the Eagles (9-7).

In a battle of nationally-ranked NAIA teams, Madonna bounced back with a 2-1 victory in eight innings over Olivet Nazarene (Ill.) in Game Two, as Irwin (7-1) struck out 12, walked two and allowed just six hits.

Shay went 3-for-3 in the win, while Landess knocked in both runs.

The loss dropped the Tigers to 14-3 overall.

MU returns to action Thursday when it travels to Indiana University-Southeast for a double-header.



Go to www.hometownlife.com for details

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Whalers hit rough patch

The Plymouth Whalers will try to right the ship before the Ontario Hockey League playoffs start next week.

After dropping road games March 6 at Sault Ste. Marie (4-1) and March 11 at Erie (5-1), the Whalers were defeated 4-2 in a Sunday matinee against the Grevhounds.

Mitchell Heard and James Livingston scored the Plymouth goals Sunday.

With the losses, Plymouth's record dipped to 35-25-1-4 and sank the Whalers into sixth

OHL HOCKEY

place in the OHL Western 65 points, three behind fifthplace Erie, with just three games to play.

Plymouth visited Owen Sound Wednesday and will travel to Kitchener for a game set for 7:30 p.m. Friday before closing out the regular season 7 p.m. Saturday against Guelph at Compuware Arena.

SPORTS ROUNDUP

Plymouth softball clinic

The Plymouth High School Varsity Softball team is hosting a softball clinic on March 26 at the Plymouth softball stadium.

Times are 9-11:30 a.m. for advanced players and 12 noon to 2:30 p.m. for beginners and fees are \$40 per person (which includes lunch and a T-shirt).

The deadline to register is March 21. Call (734) 397-2733 or go to plymouthsoftball@ gmail.com or http://softball. plymouthwildcats.com/ for more information.

Salem baseball clinic

The Salem High School Varsity Baseball team is having their 20th annual baseball clinic on March 26 and April 2 for ages 7 to 15.

Coach Dale Rumberger and the varsity players run a threehour session of skill drills and techniques

The cost to participate is only \$25, which includes a T-shirt, the clinic and a snack.

For more information, send an e-mail to salemrocksbaseball@gmail.com or visit the Web site, www.rocksbaseball. com.

Girls on the Run

Local girls in grades 3-8 are invited to participate in the Girls on the Run after-school program, via the Plymouth Family YMCA.

Girls on the Run is a program that combines training for a 5k event with uplifting, self-esteem enhancing, curriculum-based lessons. Registration for the 10-week spring season begins March 14 and continues through May 25.

Small teams of eight-to-15 girls meet twice a week after school for 75-minute sessions. Trained coaches guide and mentor girls through a fun and inspiring curriculum that includes specific life lessons such as dealing with body image and the media, resisting peer pressure, making healthy decisions and contributing to their community.

At the end of the season, teams design and implement a community service project and complete a non-competitive 5k (3.1 miles) run/walk event with participants, families and friends. This year's New Balance Girls on the Run 5k is set for Saturday, May 21.

For more information, go to www.gotrdetroit.org or call director Ashleigh Shiffler at (734) 453-2904.

Father's Day Run

The Plymouth YMCA Fathers Day Run has again been recognized as a quality physical activity by the Governor's Council on Physical Fitness.

This year's run, by the way, is set to begin at 7:30 a.m. Sunday, June 19 in downtown Plymouth.

The Governor's Council endorses local, regional and state events to acknowledge an organization's ability to plan and carry out a quality event that significantly contributes to the health and well-being of Michigan residents. The Fathers Day Run exemplifies this core value and is endorsed by the Governor's Council.

"By endorsing local events all across the state, we hope to bring attention to the importance of physical activity and encourage our citizens to take responsibility for their health," said Marilyn Lieber, president and CEO of the council. "These local events can have a tremendous impact on health

care costs that present a significant challenge for our state's economy."

For more information about the Governor's Council endorsement program, go to www. michiganfitness.org. For more info on the Fathers Day Run, contact cmorency@ymcametrodetroit.org.

Conference. The Whalers have

YMCA spring leagues

The YMCA spring soccer and girls volleyball leagues are now forming.

The soccer leagues are for children ages 4-10 and will run from April 11 through June 11. There will be one practice and one game per week, on

Volleyball is for girls ages 9-10 and 11-12, also to run from April 11 through June 11. There will be one practice and one game per week, on Friday evenings.

Both the soccer and volleyball leagues are filled on a firstcome, first-served basis and the registration deadline is April 1. For more information about these leagues, or other YMCA programs, go to www.ymcadetroit.org or call the office at (734) 453-2904.

Steelheaders meeting

The Metro-West Steelheaders monthly meeting will be at 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 5 at the Livonia Senior Center, located at the southeast corner of Farmington and Five Mile roads.

Meetings are free and open to the public. No reservations

Captain Jerry Lee will be one of two featured speakers. He has over 30 years of fishing and guiding experience on the Great

Among the topics include use of lead-core, rotators, cut bait, in-line boards and the latest downrigger savvy. His presentation also includes tips and tactics to consistently boat limits of fish for his customers on a daily basis.

Captain Chip Cartwright will also unveil the latest from Wolverine Tackle, which produces the world famous Silver

For more information, call Jim Robertson at (734) 383-2790.

For girls only

Canton Arctic Edge Arena, at 46615 Michigan near Canton Center Drive, welcomes girls for some informal sticks and pucks, between 8-8:50 a.m. Saturdays.

The program carries the point-blank slogan "No Cuts! Boys!" and is just \$5 per participant.

Girls must bring their own equipment or use rental equipment available at Arctic Edge on a first-come, first-served basis. For more information, call

(734) 487-7777 or go to www. arcticarenas.com.

CAP Hall of Fame

The Livonia Churchill athletic patrons will stage their ninth annual Hall of Fame induction dinner at 6 p.m. Thursday, March 24, at the Italian American Club, located at 39200 Five Mile Road, Livonia.

Among the inductees will be former football and track coach Bob Armstrong, baseball and hockey player Ron Griffin (1976) and the 2005 and 2006 varsity gymnastics teams coached by Christa Hinderliter and Kelly Grodzicki.

Tickets are \$35 each (if purchased by March 1) or \$40 (after March 1).

For more information, call Neal Houghan at (734) 634-5524; or e-mail nhoughan@ seasons.org.

Combine training

Combine training for high school football to prepare for the 2011 season takes place on Sundays at the Auburn Hills Sports Dome.

Players will be taught drills and techniques used to prepare college seniors for the NFL Combine and use SPARQ, Michigan Preps and NUC testing protocols.

To register, visit www.coachjacksonspeed.com; or call coach Jaime Jackson at (248) 535-



Celebrating their second-place finish at Friday's state meet in Grand Rapids is Canton's varsity girls gymnastics team, coached by John Cunningham (front, with trophy). In the back row (from left) are Erica Lucas, Brooke Granowicz, Kali Pierce, Robyn Piwowar and Nicole Lasecki. In the front row (from left) are Ayana Lewis, Marina Milad, Melissa Green and Alex Fideler.

"But ... a cross-section of coaches and judges all came up and congratulated my team. It was a cloud nine experience and a lot of people shared in it."

Still, the finals were so close that the Chiefs couldn't relax knowing they finished with the runner-up trophy until third-place Athens was announced.

"So when they announced the third-place team (Athens) ... I knew we had second," the veteran coach said. "And that was the instant I knew.'

Keys to the finish were 9-point-plus performances by Alex Fideler, Brooke Granowicz, Melissa Green, Ayana Lewis, Erica Lewis and Robyn Piwowar.

"You know what, this is one of those things where you have to step back and say everybody on the team contributed," Cunningham said. "Everybody had a good meet."

MANY WINNERS

Everybody had a great weekend, too, as it turned out.

At Saturday's individual finals, six Chiefs earned medals - highlighted by Lewis earning a Division 2 state championship on vault with a 9.45 score.

"This is only Ayana's second year in high school gymnastics," Cunningham said. "She didn't compete as a freshman. She has evolved into just a terrific gymnast.

"People comment and compliment her about her resiliency, bounce, attitude, she truly is a state champ."

Lewis also medaled on uneven bars (second, 9.5), balance beam (seventh, 9.1) and all-around (second, 37.275). Other D2 medalists were won by Lucas (third on vault, 9.35) and senior Kali Pierce (seventh on floor exercise, 9.275).

In D1 competition, Piwowar capped off a stellar Canton career. She medaled in every event but bars Piwowar scored sixth-place

finishes on vault (9.3) and floor (9.4) while taking seventh all-around (36.875) and ninth on beam (9.225). Fideler (a 2010 state cham-

pion) medaled on beam (third, 9.45) and floor (sixth, 9.4). Another DI medalist, Melissa Green, took eighth on vault with a tally of 9.15. Those in D1 were slotted

there due to competing at Level 9 in club competition; D2 gymnasts are at Level 8 or lower. Meanwhile, Piwowar was

named the Senior Gymnast of the Year by the Michigan High School Gymnastics Coaches and Judges Association.

The award goes to "who they consider to be the most impressive gymnast of the year, sort of the ambassador," Cunningham said.

When it came time to present the award, however, he became choked up with emotion. "It was just terrific, she deserved it so much."

Salem, Plymouth recap

As for Salem and Plymouth gymnasts who took part in D2 individual finals, there were no all-staters.

But Salem's Nicole Jacobs narrowly missed the cut on floor exercise with a 10thplace tally of 9.250 (missing eighth by .025 points). Jacobs came in 15th in all-

around scoring with 35.350

points and took 14th on vault with a 9.0 tally. In the uneven bars event, Jacobs placed 21st with an 8.6, just ahead of Salem teammate

Ade Jepperson (22nd, 8.5). For Plymouth, Reagan Engstrom's 8.750 on beam earned her a tie for 19th place.

tsmith@hometownlife.com

"And I made my parents really proud, so I'm happy about that."

DOING IT ALL

She accomplished that long ago. Her resume includes membership in the National Honor Society, a grade point average north of 4.1 (tops of her graduating class), tutoring other students and dishing out meals to the less fortunate with Trinity Church's food bank.

And she won five varsity letters in girls basketball and girls lacrosse, demonstrating her leadership capabilities as captain of both teams.

"I'm not the most vocal (captain)," Taylor said. "But I like to kind of lead by example and show them what hard work looks like. And just to support

TAYLOR-MADE

Who: Taylor Birman, co-captain of Plymouth's varsity girls basketball and girls lacrosse teams.

What: The 17-year-old will be presented with a Michigan High School Athletic Association Scholar-Athlete Award.

When: Birman and 31 other student-athletes from across Michigan will be honored at halftime of the Class C boys basketball final set for Saturday, March 26 at Breslin Center in East Lansing.

Other: Her parents are Lori and Dave Birman of Canton. She carries a grade-point average of 4.14 and is a member of the National Honor Society, among other achievements both in academics and athletics.

them (teammates) and care about them as people more than teammates.'

Helping others is something Birman won't stop trying to do when she starts attending Michigan State University's Honors College (where she will study psychology or human medicine) in the fall.

"I want to make a difference in the world and just help people out." Taylor emphasized. 'I don't want to work behind a desk my whole life, I want to

be doing something interesting with my life."

According to Birman, teachers and coaches recommended her for the MHSAA Scholar-Athlete Award. But the main thing was writing two essays.

BACKING IT UP

"One was about something I've overcome, an obstacle," she said. "And the second one was a story of me displaying sportsmanship, talking about 'It's really cool, because I've worked so hard for these past four years.'



TAYLOR BIRMAN, MHSAA scholar-athlete

Birman wrote that sportsmanship is "the character that you demonstrate at all times, no matter what the scoreboard says. What will matter is how you represented yourself out there, how you treated other players, and how you developed your character along the

Those aren't merely words to Taylor Birman, either. She backs those up with her actions, evident to anybody watching how she handled that last district basketball defeat.

tsmith@hometownlife.com



Check us out on the Web every day at hometownlife.com

Members of Mt. Hope Congregational Church in Livonia are wearing these bracelets as a reminder to stop complaining during



Observer & Eccentric | Thursday, March 17, 2011



DEBRA AHRENDT

Age 45, daughter of Robert and Marilyn Prodehl, passed away March 14, 2011 in Toledo, OH. She is survived by the family and friends she loved so much. A memorial service will be held on March 18, 2011 from 2-5pm at Fisher Funeral Home, Redford, MI



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 included at no cost (example: American Flags, religious symbols, etc.)

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

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

800-579-7355 ask for Char or Liz

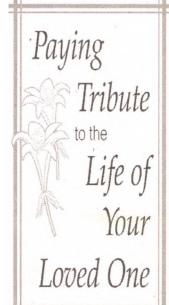


RICHARD S. ANGERILLI

Age 74 of Howell, formerly of Farmington Hills, passed away Friday, March 11, 2011. He was born July 29, 1936 in Detroit, the son of Louis and Loretta (Lemon) Angerilli. Beloved husband of Clara (Kecskes) Angerilli whom he married June 4, 1960 in Detroit. Dear father of Lisa (Kevin) Hansen of Howell, Lori (Thomas) Cometto of Idaho and Dawn (Craig) Bright of Howell. Also survived by twelve grandchildren, two great-grandchildren and brother, Louis of Walled Lake. Richard was a veteran of the U.S. Air Force. Mass of Christian Burial was Wednesday, March 16 at 10 a.m. (in-state 9 a.m.) at St. John Catholic Church, 2099 Hacker Road, (at M-59), Howell. Visitation Tuesday 2-4 & 6-8 p.m. at MacDonald's Funeral Home, Howell (517-546-2800). Burial in Oakland Hills Memorial Gardens, Novi. Memorial contributions may be made to the American Heart Association or American Cancer Society. Please visit the family's online guestbook at uneralhome.com

JACQUELINE S. JOHNSON Age 87, of Redford, MI passed away March 13, 2011. Arrangements by Funeral

WILLIAM E. KLEPSCH, Sr. Age 82, of Livonia, MI, passed away March 10, 2011. Arrangements by Thayer-Rock Funeral Home, Thayer-Rock Farmington.



Pastor urges positive attitude for Lent season

BY SHARON DARGAY **O&E STAFF WRITER**

The Rev. Steven Schafer doesn't want to complain about it, but for Lent he wishes everyone would stop

"Anything that makes us more positive people is a good thing for us. I told my wife on Sunday, this may have been the most important sermon I've given in years because it has the power to transform lives."

During his sermon March 13, the first Sunday of Lent, Schafer instructed ushers at Mt. Hope Congregational Church in Livonia to distribute purple bracelets inscribed with the words "A Complaint Free World," while urging worshippers to "give up gossiping" and "give up criticizing" for

"Change your words and your thoughts and you will change your life," he told the congregation.

The bracelets, which came from an organization called "A Complaint Free World," created by minister and author Will Bowen, are meant to remind church members of their Lenten challenge. When they complain, they move the bracelet from one wrist to the other. Anyone who points out another person's complaining is urged to move their bracelet, too. The goal is to keep it on one wrist as long as possible.

"It was quite well received," Schafer described the congregation's reaction. "People were joking about it after the service. One lady said 'I had to switch it twice during the service."



Noreen Panizzoli, office administrator at Mt. Hope Congregational Church. tries on her Lenten "Complaint Free World" bracelet.

A lawyer jokingly told Schafer the challenge could make "filing a complaint" for a client a difficult task.

But Schafer distinguishes between "legitimate" complaints — such as social injustice, grief, pain, and the legal process — and trivial whining.

"Our conversations are peppered with complaints about the weather, bad drivers. If you're in great pain, of course, you should be able to cry out to God and say 'this isn't fair.' But those complaints are fairly rare. It's the tiny complaints that dominate our lives. If you're conscious of not complaining some positive things could happen."

Schafer usually prepares a series of Lenten sermons each year, but said he hasn't done anything as "outlandish" as this year's complaint-free theme or last year's "Plastic Fast," when

he urged congregants to give up credit card use for 40 days.

"I've had people say long after last Lent their buying habits changed. They don't use credit cards as frequently or freely as they used to."

He hopes this year's complaint-free observance will be equally as effective.

To find out more about A Complaint Free World bracelets and books by Will Bowen, visit www.complaintfreeworld.biz.

Mt. Hope Congregational Church holds Sunday school at 9:30 a.m., morning worship at 10:30 a.m., fellowship hour at 11:30 a.m. and senior high school youth gatherings at 6 p.m., every Sunday.

The church is located at 30330 Schoolcraft; call (734) 425-7280 for additional information.

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Visit www.rosedalegardens.org For information about our many programs

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NATIVITY OF THE VIRGIN MARY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH 39851 West Five Mile, Plymouth Twp., MI Sunday Services Mattins 8:30 am, Divine Liturgy 10:00 am Rev. Fr. Demetrios Sean Govostes. Parish Office 734-420-0131 Office Hours M-F 10:00 am - 2:00 pm

www.nativitygochurch.org

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Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church

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Sunday Worship 8:30 & 11:00 am - Traditional Staffed Nursery Available



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Making disciples who share the love of Jesus Christ Pastors: Davenport, Bayer, & Creeden 734-522-6830

> Risen Christ Lutheran David W. Martin, Pastor 46250 Ann Arbor Road • Plymouth (1986) (734) 453-5252 Worship 8:15 & 10:45 am Sunday School 9:30 . Adult Bible Study 9:30

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Fellowship Presbyterian Church Adult Sunday School: 9:30 - 10:15 a.m. • Worship: 10:30 a.m. Childrens Sunday School: 10:30 a.m.

Pastor: Dr. Jimmy McGuire Services held at: Saint Andrews Episcopal Church 16360 Hubbard Road in Livonia • South of Six Mile Road Nursery provided • www.fellowship-presbyterian.org

For Information regarding this Directory, please call Donna Hart at 248-437-2011, Ext. 247 or e-mail: dhart@dnps.com

EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN



40000 Six Mile Road Northville, MI 48168 248.374.7400 www.wardchurch.org

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North Congregational Church



36520 12 Mile Rd. **Farmington Hills** (bet. Drake & Halsted) (248) 848-1750

10:30 a.m. Worship & Church School Faith - Freedom-Fellowship

Ministers Dr. Mark P. Jensen Rev. Mary E. Biedron

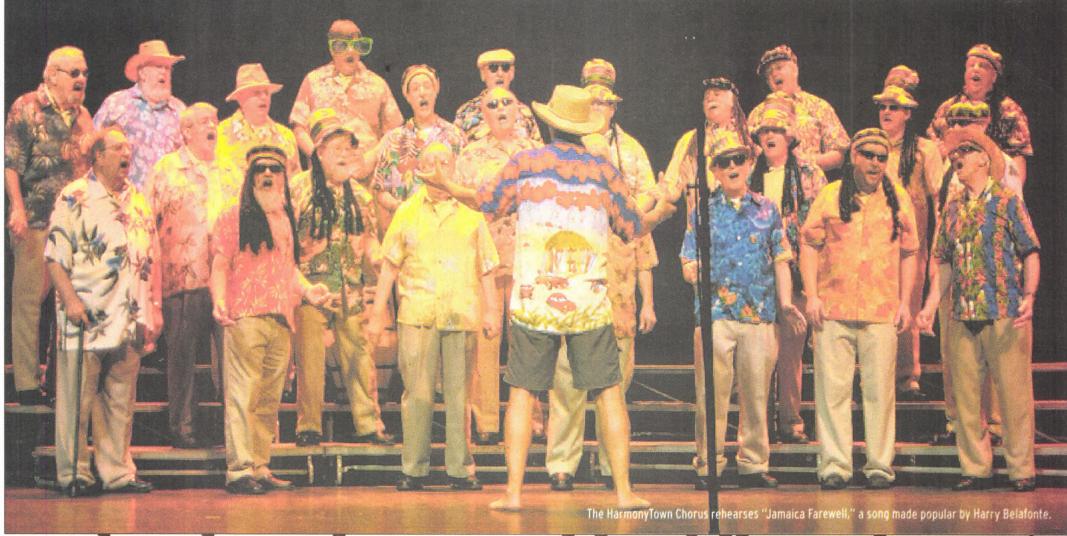
ENTERTAINMENT

Thursday, March 17, 2011

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SWEETEN BREAKFAST, **LUNCH AND DINNER FARE WITH MAPLE** SYRUP - FOOD, B7





Barbershop chorus tackles folk, rock music

BY SHARON DARGAY **O&E STAFF WRITER**

The HarmonyTown Chorus draws the line at singing rap, but relishes the challenge of turning an Elivis or John Denver tune into four-part harmony.

"We always joke around about that — as barbershop harmony gets older, we just can't see singing rap, and even disco," said Jim Farkus, member. "We typically sing barbershop music, but we're moving up in the decades now and starting to include more recognizable music.'

The group's annual show on March 27 at the Village Theater in Canton will take the audience back to the '50s and '60s, with songs such as Elvis' Are You Lonesome Tonight and Under the Boardwalk by the Drifters.

The first half of the concert will pay tribute to the early days of rock and folk music and the second half will offer a mixed bag of tunes, from John Denver's Country Roads to the Battle Hymn of the Republic.

The 27-member chorus also will dress the part, wearing 1950s-style clothing and donning flowered shirts and hats with built-in dreadlocks for a barbershop rendition of Jamaica Farewell, a song made famous by Harry Belafonte.

Transforming a rock song into barbershop music is easier if a quartet rather than a soloist originally sang the tune.

"In four-part harmony the first tenor is the lead singer and there is baritone, tenor and bass. Typically if the songs were sung by a group, they

may have had four-part harmony. Some were three- or five-part. It isn't a far stretch to go from the original to barbershop," Farkus explained.

"We have very talented musicians in our organization and a lot of them take a song and rearrange it," he added. "The Barbershop Harmony Society's main headquarters is in Nashville (Tenn.) and they provide a list of hundreds of songs we can choose."

The Chorus' upoming show will include a guest quartet, Moxxy, and appearances by an Elvis and Buddy Holly impersonator.

HarmonyTown Chorus rehearses at 7:30 p.m. every Tuesday at Kirk of Our Savior Church, 36660 Cherry Hill, between Wayne Road and Newburgh, in Westland. Potential new members may drop or call (734) 743-1764. No

auditions are necessary.

'Typically these are guys who sing in the shower or were in the high school chorus. They enjoy singing and they like the camaraderie," Farkus said. "We have a couple of members who don't participate in the shows. We practice every Tuesday and they just enjoy singing there."

Those who want to perform in front of an audience can deliver musical valentines every February and sing at community events as well as the spring show.

"We go out to senior homes, birthday parties, anniversaries. We put on close to 30 shows a year at various places.

Farkus said the group planned to entertain senior citizens today, March 17 in Novi.

A New Year's resolution that you can keep!

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SHOP LOCAL START HI

A BARBERSHOP SALUTE TO THE 50'S & 60'S

What: HarmonyTown Chorus sings songs from the 1950s and 1960s in four-party harmony. Special guest quartet is Moxxy, the 2010 Pioneer District Silver Medalist

When: 3 p.m. Sunday, March 27 Where: The Village Theater at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill,

Admission: \$13 before March 23:

Contact: (734) 394-5300 or (734) 394-5460; www.canton-mi.org/villagetheater

Hear humorous opera in English at Village Theater

The Comic Opera Guild will present Offenbach's The Grand Duchess Of Gerolstein in English at 8 p.m. Saturday, April 2 and 2 p.m. Sunday, April 3, at The Village Theater at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill, Canton.

The French satire has charmed audiences worldwide for over a century, poking fun at all things military. The production is a Michigan premiere with Barbara Scanlon, as the Grand Duchess, leading a cast of professional soloists, accompanied by full orchestra and

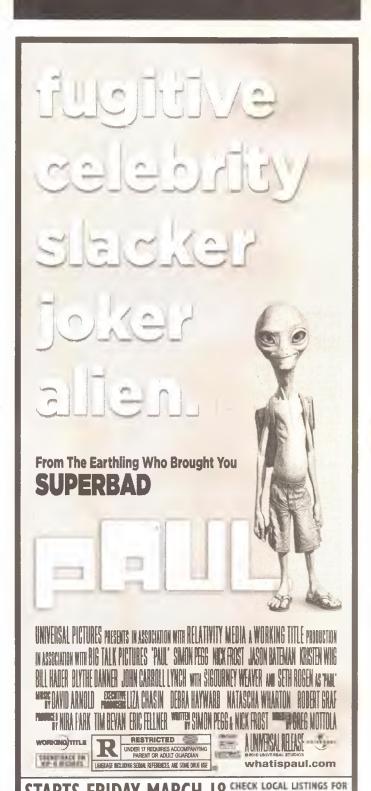
The plot involves a lovelorn monarch who promotes a handsome but inept soldier to commander-in-chief, with disastrous, but hilarious consequences. Offenbach, known as the "Mozart of the Champs Elysee" created the operetta form, and his music is still heard everywhere, from the can-can to *The Marine* Hymn. He inspired Gilbert and Sullivan and gave birth to the musical comedy.

Tickets for the Comic Opera Guild's production are \$20 for adults, \$17 for seniors and \$15 for students. Buy them online at www.canton-mi.org/villagetheater, in person at Summit on the Park, 46000 Summit Parkway, Canton, or with a credit card by phone at (734) 394-5460.



Go to www.hometownlife.com for details

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Observer & Eccentric | Thursday, March 17, 2011

Catching up with Danielle Car

You're likely to find Danielle Car, country music singer and Canton resident, in the classroom these days reading to children. Since the Observer & Eccentric wrote about Car and her Christmas CD last fall, she has taken a keen interest in promoting National March is Reading Month by volunteering throughout metro Detroit. "Having developed a love of books at a young age, it's a cause near and dear to my heart," Car said in an e-mail. "I've also enlisted the help of some of my friends and local celebrities to help spread the word. I was so pleased at how many folks jumped at the chance to take part in my special 'Reading Blog' on my personality page at Fresh100. com, including Denise Ilitch, Devin Scillian, Mitch Ryder and former Tiger Curtis Granderson." Car also now has her own weekend shift on Fresh 100.3. Listen to her from noon to 5 p.m. Saturdays and 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sundays. "On the music front, I've just been nominated for the People's Choice Award at the 2011 Detroit Music Awards this year," she said. More info is to come on the nomination at www. daniellecarmusic.com.

ART

City Gallery
Time/Date: Through April 8; gal-

lery hours are 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday

Location: In the Costick Center at 28600 W. 11 Mile, Farmington Hills Details: Work by Stephen Deeb, head of the art department at North Farmington High School

Coming up: Farmington Art
Foundation holds its Spring Exhibit
and Sale, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Thursday,
April 14, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Friday,
April 15 and 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Saturday, April 16 at the Costick
Center. Opening reception, 6 p.m.,
followed by awards at 6:30 p.m.,
April 14

Contact: (248) 473-1856

Northville Art House

Time/Date: Through March 26. Hours are 1-5 p.m. Wednesday-Saturday

Location: 215 W. Cady in downtown Northville

Details: Beyond The Blueprint:
Architects' Other Art, showcases
the works of Metro Detroit artistarchitects, including Dennis Michael
Jones, a visual artist and educator
in Plymouth who continues to balance his architectural work with
his art

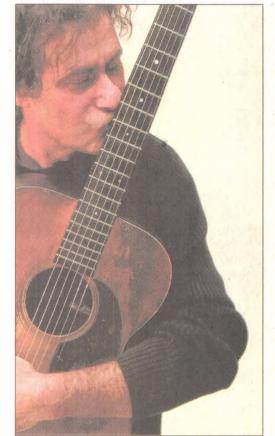
Contact: (248) 344-0497

Village Theater at Cherry Hill Time/Date: Through March 29; gallery hours are 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday-Friday

Location: 50400 Cherry Hill, Canton Details: Pressed flower artwork of Shelley Xie, a self-taught artist and resident of Canton Contact: (734) 394-5300

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.



GET OUT!

Dick Siegel will perform with the Brandos Friday, March 19 at Trinity House Theatre in Livonia.

Henry Ford Community College

Time/Date: 7 p.m. and 9:15 p.m.

Location: At the college audito-

rium, 5101 Evergreen, Dearborn

Details: "Arabs Gone Wild Comedy-

and Aron Kader, both from Comedy

Show," features Dean Obeidallah

Central's "Axis of Evil" comedy

tour, and Maysoon Zayid, female

Arab-American comedian who has

appeared on MTV, PBS and MSNBC.

Special guest is Mike Mosallam;

Contact: Call the college at (313)

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

Contact: (248) 348-2420 or www.

Joey's Comedy Club of Livonia

open Mic; 8 p.m. Tuesdays, Local

Legends; 8 p.m. shows Wednesdays,

Time/Date: 8 p.m. Mondays,

Thursdays: 8 p.m. & 10:30 p.m.

Location: 36071 Plymouth Road,

Details: Mo Mandel, through March

19; Mark Sweeney, March 23-26; Chili

Contact: (734) 261-0555, www.kick-

Mark Ridley's Comedy Castle

night, 8 p.m. Wednesday

ticketmaster.com

Fridays, Saturdays

Challis, March 30-April 2

erscomplex.com

845-9600; get tickets at www.arab-

tickets \$25

sgonewild.com

JD's House of Comedy

gocomedy.net

Sunday, March 20

Time/Date:

Lowell Sanders, March 17-19; Erik Griffin, March 24-26; Lynne Koplitz, March 31-April 2

Location: 269 E. Fourth, Royal Oak **Contact**: (248) 542-9900, www.comedycastle.com

CONCERTS

The Ark

Time/Date: Sonya Kitchell, March 17; Scythian, March 18; The Victor Wooten Band & The Clarke Band, March 19; The California Guitar Trio & Fareen Haque, March 20; The Juliets; March 22; Po' Girl & Peter Mulvey, March 23; May Erlewine & Seth Bernard, March 24; The Spring Standards, March 25; NewFound Road, March 26; Madcat, Kane & Maxwell Street, March 27; Steve Poltz, March 28; Dala, March 30; Matt Wertz, March 31

Location: 316 South Main, Ann Arbor

Contact: (734) 763-8587; www. theark.org

Baseline Folk Society
Time/Date: Third Saturday of the

Location: The JWH Center for the Arts, Plymouth Community Arts Council, 774 N. Sheldon, Plymouth Details: Eight "open-mic" performances plus a featured group. Sign up for open mic from 6:15-6:45 p.m.; show starts at 7 p.m. Open mic performers may sing two songs. If more than eight performers sign up, a lottery will be held for the eight spots. The next performance on March 19 will feature Jeff Karoub & Friend, who recently were seen

is Kenny Lang. Individual membership is \$25 and includes monthly concerts from September through May. Otherwise, admission to each concert is \$5 at the door. Family memberships are \$50 and include monthly concerts

Contact: (248) 719-3464 or mjm-

Zuill Bailey will perform in the Chamber Music Society of

Detroit series on March 26.

Chamber Music Society of Detroit

mullen@yahoo.com

Time/Date: Pre-concert talk, 6:45 p.m., concert at 8 p.m. Saturday, March 26

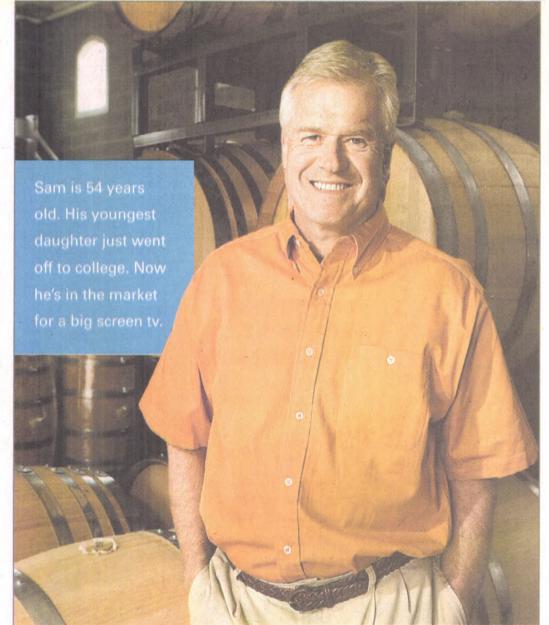
Location: Seligman Performing
Arts Center, located on the campus
of Detroit Country Day School,
22305 W. 13 Mile, Beverly Hills
Details: This concert marks the
debuts of both cellist Zuill Bailey
and pianist Piers Lane in metro
Detroit and on the Chamber Music
Society of Detroit series. They'll
play music by Mendelssohn,
Schumann, Rachmaninoff and
Roberto Sierra. Single tickets range
from \$43-75; \$25 for students

Contact: (248) 855-6070

Jazz @ The Elks
Time/Date: 7-10:30 p.m., every

fourth Tuesday **Location**: Plymouth Elks Lodge #1780 at 41700 Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth

Details: Jazz musicians perform; no cover, but donations accepted. Complimentary hors d'oeuvres. John Trudell Jazz Quartet with Trudell on trumpet and flugelhorn, Ray Tini on bass, Bill Cairo on drums, and Chuck Shermatero on keyboard at next show, March 22 Contact: (734) 453-1780 www. PlymouthElks1780.com



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OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC HOMETOWN
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www.hometownlife.com



Exhibit combines live plants with glass art

on Channel 2's morning show. Host

Works of glass art by the Furnace Design Studio of Dearborn will be displayed with collections of exotic and unusual plants 10 a.m.-5 p.m. March 25-29 at Planterra Conservatory Extraordinary in West Bloomfield.

The exhibition, jointly produced by Planterra and Furnace Design Studio, will offer a breathtaking display of color, living foliage and light.

The artwork presented within a garden setting also is designed to demonstrate the healing benefits of color and horticultural therapy. A private opening reception, with cocktails and strolling dinner on March 24 will benefit the Henry Ford West Bloomfield Healing Arts Program. Tickets are \$100 available by calling (248) 661-1515 A special roundtable discussion on art and color therapy is free open to the public and runs 7-8 p.m. March 29.

Planterra Conservatory is located at 7315 Drake, in West Bloomfield. Visit www.botanicalglass.org for more information about the exhibit. The Conservatory is open to the public. Hours are 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday-Friday; www.planterra.com, (248) 661-1515.

Furnace Design Studio is the collaboration of internationally-acclaimed glass artists, and is known for custom commissions and site-specific installations for homes, com-



Glass meets green at the Botanical Glass Exhibition.

mercial spaces and hospitality interiors. They share a 14,000-square-foot working studio with the Glass Academy in Dearborn. The studio is open for tours by appointment from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Monday-Friday. Visit www. FurnaceDesignStudio.com or call (313) 561-4527.

Art organization seeks short films

The Northville Art House is accepting short films for its annual "Reel Michigan" Film Festival on Saturday, June 25.

The organization and its charity partner, Forgotten Harvest, will present a festival of Michigan-made or Michigan-themed short films as a part of the City's popular Arts & Acts event held June 24-26.

Arts and Acts is a vibrant, annual celebration of the arts in southeast Michigan featuring art, music, film, plays and more. The film festival will include short documentaries, comedies, dramas and animation.

Filmmakers interested in participating can find details

http://ci.northville.mi.us/

Community/ArtsCommission/ ArtsAndActsCallForEntries-ReelMichigan2011.pdf. Or email to ReelMichigan@gmail. com. Entry submission is \$10 (students \$5) and films can include any project filmed with any kind of camera.

Entry deadline is April 1. For more information call the Northville Art House at (248) 344-0497.

FOOD

Thursday, March 17, 2011

hometownlife (m) com

HAVE A STORY IDEA?

Contact Editor Sharon Dargay Voice Mail: (313) 222-8883 **E-mail:** sdargay@hometownlife.com Comment online at hometownlife.com



Beyond pancakes

Maple syrup sweetens breakfast, lunch, dinner fare

It's nearly spring and the maple sap is flowing. It's time to bundle up and watch the maple sugaring process and then whip up a menu of foods sweetened with the golden brown liquid.

Learn how Native Americans taught early settlers how to collect and boil maple sap at a presentation at 10 a.m., 11 a.m. and noon Saturday, March 19, at Cass Benton Park, located off Northville Road between Six Mile and Seven Mile in Northville. During the Wayne County Parks program, participants will hike into the woods for a hands-on demonstration of tree tapping, sap collection and boiling.

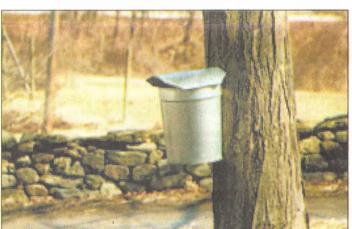
Advance registration and pre-payment are required. Cost is \$5 per person. Call (734) 261-1990 or visit www.waynecountyparks.org.

Kensington Metropark Farm Learning Center in Milford offers "Maple's Sweet Story," noon to 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday this month. Stop in for a hot breakfast from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Farmhouse Grille, and then take a guided tour to the sugar bush to see the maple sugaring process, including tapping trees and boiling sap. Guided tours begin at noon; the last guided tour leaves at 2:30 p.m. After 4 p.m., the sugar bush remains open for self-guided visits.

The fee for the weekend program is \$3 for adults, \$1 for seniors and kids 3-12. The pancake breakfast at the Farmhouse Grille is \$5. (800) 477-3178 or (248) 685-1561.

The Maple Syrup Association of Michigan explains how to turn maple sap into maple syrup from black maple and sugar maple trees in your own backyard. Visit its Web site at www.mi-maplesyrup.com for an equipment list and instructions you can use next February, the month when most tapping is completed in the lower peninsula.

Now, crack open a bottle of Michigan-made maple syrup and start cooking!



COURTESY THE MICHIGAN MAPLE SYRUP ASSOCIATION

Buckets collect sap that will be processed into maple syrup.

MAPLE CORN MUFFINS

- 1/3 cups flour
- 2 eggs
- cup cornmeal
- % cup milk
- 3 teaspoons baking powder ½ teaspoon salt
- ½ cup Maple Syrup
- ½ cup melted shortening Sift dry ingredients together.

Beat eggs in bowl; add milk, maple syrup and shortening. Blend dry ingredients in quickly to just moisten flour. Pour into 12 muffin tins and bake 425 degrees for about 20 minutes.

MAPLE RHUBARB PIE

- 3 cups rhubarb, cut up ²/₃ cup Maple Syrup
- 1 egg
- ⅓ cup sugar
- 2 tablespoons flour (rounding)
- Pinch of salt
- Beat egg; add sugar, syrup, and flour. Mix well and add rhubarb. Put into two-crust pie. Bake at 425 degrees for 15 minutes. Reduce heat to 350 degrees until it bubbles, approximately 30 minutes.

MAPLE SPRING CHICKEN

- 1 chicken, 2½-3 pound cut-up 1 teaspoon salt
- 4 cup melted butte Dash of pepper
- ¼ cup maple syrup
- ¼ cup chopped almonds ½ teaspoon grated lemon rind
- 2 teaspoons lemon juice

Place chicken pieces in a shallow, buttered baking dish. Mix remaining ingredients and pour evenly over chicken. Bake uncovered, 50-60 minutes, at 325 degrees. Baste occasionally. This baked chicken is especially good served with rice.

MAPLE BARS

- ½ cup sugar
- ½ cup soft shortening
- 1 egg
- ½ cup pure maple syrup
- % cup flour
- 1 cup chopped nuts 1 cup rolled oats
- ½ teaspoon baking powder
- 1 teaspoon vanilla

½ cup coconut

Mix all of the ingredients thoroughly. Spread in 8- by 8inch square greased pan. Bake 350 degrees for 30-35 minutes. While warm, cut in squares.

MAPLE COTTAGE PUDDING

- 1 cup maple syrup
- 1 cup flour 1 tablespoon butter
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- 3 tablespoons sugar
- ½ teaspoon salt ½ cup sweet milk
- Nuts

Serves 6.

Sift together flour, baking powder and salt. Heat syrup to boiling point. Put in baking dish. Mix other ingredients in order. Pour batter into syrup. Bake until brown. Turn upside down and sprinkle with nuts. Serve with whipped cream. Bake 350 degrees for 25-30 minutes.

MAPLE APPLE CRUNCH

- 8 to 10 graham crackers, crushed
- 4 apples
- ½ cup butter or margarine ½ cup maple syrup

thoroughly. Slice apples. Butter a 1 quart baking dish and place apples in bottom of dish. Pour maple syrup over apples and add cracker and butter mixture. Bake at 325 degrees for 25 minutes. Top with whipped cream or ice cream. Serves 6

Mix cracker crumbs and butter

Recipes courtesy of the Maple Syrup Association of Michigan

New Weight Watchers chef, Isabella Nicoletti, to visit local meetings

Weight Watchers' new chef, Isabella Nicoletti, will introduce an Italian menu to Weight Watchers groups in

She's focusing on greens in demonstrations this month.

A classically-trained Italian chef whose cooking roots extend back to her native Italy, chef Isabella spent 24 years working her way up the ranks of the culinary hierarchy while also working her way across the Atlantic Ocean from Vicenza, Italy to metro-Detroit

She served as executive chef and oversaw menu development at Jimmy Schmidt's Chianti Tuscan Grill & Stelline, before joining the staff in 1998 Paesano Restaurant and Wine Bar in Ann Arbor and took on additional projects including the publication of a cookbook, Perbacco Isabella!, instruction for aspiring chefs.

Now she is facing new challenges as a chef at Weight Watchers, which has its headquarters in Farmington Hills.

"I want to show how great tasting Italian cuisine can be integrated into the Weight Watchers lifestyle," she said. Her recipes reflect her love of garlic, fresh herbs and vinegars as well as seasonal products.

"I really like to go to the farmers' markets and get the freshest produce, meat and fish.

In the meantime, she's learning the PointPlus Program and demonstrating healthy cooking techniques to Weight Watcher members in meeting room demonstrations throughout southeastern Michigan. At demonstrations she also answers questions and gives out recipe sheets. The meetings are free and open to the public. Her scheduled is posted on askflorine. com each month.

Attend a demonstration this month

• 9 a.m. and 10 a.m., March 18, Burlington Square, 22285 Eureka,

•12:15 p.m. March 23, Charrington Square, 9912 E. Grand River Ave.,

•7:30 a.m., 8:30 a.m., 9.30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m., March 26, Northwood

Shopping Center, 30935 N. Woodward Ave., Royal Oak

• 10 a.m. March 29, Oak Valley Village Center, 2809 Oak Valley, Ann

•6 p.m. March 30, North Park Plaza, 17117 W. 9 Mile, Southfield

At each meeting she cooks a recipe and offers samples to the audience. Recipes this month support March's "Go Green" theme.

Here are a couple of chef Isabella's

GREEN KALE AND AVOCADO SALAD

PointsPlus Value: 6

½ cup orange juice

3 tablespoons lemon juice

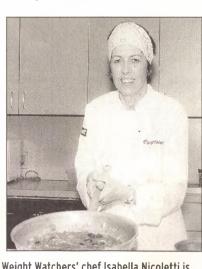
2 teaspoons soy sauce

1 clove garlic, minced

1 medium avocado 3 cups kale

1 teaspoon kosher salt 1 teaspoon black pepper

2 tablespoons olive oil 4 teaspoons flax seed or hemp seed



Weight Watchers' chef Isabella Nicoletti is demonstrating recipes using greens this month throughout southeast Michigan.

Whisk together juices, soy sauce and garlic. Slowly add oil and set aside. Peel avocado and cut into ½-inch cubes; mix with kale and dressing. Season with salt and pepper. Divide onto 4 plates and sprinkle each with 1 teaspoon of seeds.

TUSCAN KALE WITH SHALLOTS AND TURKEY BACON

PointsPlus Value: 3

2 teaspoons honey

1 teaspoon Sherry vinegar

2 teaspoons olive oil 3 medium shallots, minced

1 teaspoon kosher salt

2 pounds kale, leaves only 2 ounces uncooked turkey bacon, cut into

In a small bowl whisk together honey and vinegar. Set aside. Rip each kale leaf into 5 or 6 pieces. Wash it, then boil in salted water until kale is tender, about 4 to 7 minutes. Drain, cool and squeeze out excess water. Heat oil in a large (12-inch) skillet. Add shallots and turkey bacon and cook, stirring, until lightly browned, about 5 minutes. Set aside. Add kale until it is just heated through (do not overcook or it will begin to weep moisture). Off the heat, add the honey mixture and toss well. Add the shallots and bacon and toss well. Season

with salt. Serve immediately. It's great

over soft polenta.

REAL ESTATE

AUTOS

PAGE B8 (*) Thursday, March 17, 2011

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CLASSIFIED DEADLINES: SUNDAY EDITION, 4:30 P.M. FRIDAY THURSDAY EDITION, 4:30 P.M. TUESDAY

Julie Grewn, editor : (3/11/222-6/55) jcbrown@hometownlife.com

Building pros offer tips on working with contractor

Canton Home Expo the place to be for expert advice

BY JULIE BROWN **O&E STAFF WRITER**

Tom Adamusik of Canton has been in business with his Regal Construction Inc. of Canton over 20 years. He agreed homeowners are staying put in this housing market, often looking to upgrade their homes.

"Bathrooms are still going strong," said Adamusik, among vendors at the 10th annual Canton Home Expo March 5-6 at the Summit on the Park. He sees less roofing and siding work

"People are afraid to spend it," he said, noting, however, that auto company bonus checks and tax refunds will bring him business.

"I would certainly get references," Adamusik said of working with a contractor on a project. "That's the No. 1 issue." A contractor should be licensed and insured.

"If you don't have a good rapport in the onset, you won't have it throughout the project," said Adamusik, who was assisted at his booth by daughter Jennifer Bux of Westland, a mom of two who helps out at shows.

Adamusik was on the committee that got the home expo started years ago, and was involved with the Canton Chamber of Commerce. The annual event is sponsored by Canton's Building and Inspection Services, the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers and the Canton chamber.

At the show that Saturday was Ralph Richardson of Canton, shopping not for his home but for his church, Geneva Presbyterian in Canton. There are two benches to replace in the memorial garden.

"I've got at least three contractors here that are going to come out," said Richardson, who also enjoyed coffee, Danish and popcorn at the free event.

"This sounds promising. "I enjoy this show," the retiree added. "It's fascinating, all the vendors. It's definitely a good introduction

to all the possibilities." Chris Cleveland of Monroe was staffing the booth for Mans Lumber on Michigan Avenue in Canton. The business is owned by the fourth Mans

"We're doing a lot of flooring renovations and cabinets," Cleveland said. "Also a lot of decking." Mans customers seek energy-efficient windows as

well. He's been with the company six



years, and noted Mans does well at the

Cleveland recommends shopping around for a qualified contractor, noting some unemployed workers have set up shop and aren't necessarily quali-

"We handle everything for the homeowner," he said. "We do a lot of work for builders as well. The company's been around for so long that customers feel safe."

Mans outgrew its Ford Road location and moved to Michigan Avenue where there's a showroom and ware-

Nearby was David Henry, president of Town 'N' Country Hardware, affiliated with True Value and located on Ford Road in Garden City. "Just 56 years," Plymouth Township resident Henry said of the store's tenure.

"Oh, I think that's true," he said of people staying put more now. "We do very well with fireplace." He has a good contractor for those installa-

Town 'N' Country customers also upgrade their barbecues, the store being the largest one-outlet location for Weber sales in Michigan.

"We are a full-service hardware store as well," Henry said, noting big box stores don't necessarily save customers money, especially with current gasoline prices.

He said it's good to start thinking about snowblower needs for next year: "Snowblowers are probably the biggest gamble of everything we buy. It's worse than going to the Detroit

Alfonso Hysko, a Belleville resident who grew up in Canton, was manning his AGH Construction Inc. of Belleville booth. He's been in business since February 2002.

He's seen residents staying put the last three-four years, and back then doing minor work like painting and countertops.

That evolved into kitchens and baths. "Now it's more major projects," said Hysko, citing basement remodeling and others. He's already seeing auto bonus checks benefit him.

I know that some of those monies are going to go into my pocket," Hysko

"Definitely shop around," he said of looking for a contractor. "I try not to strong-arm them." In comparing bids, you need to be sure you're comparing apples to apples, he said.

The key is a contractor doing what he/she said within the set amount of time, Hysko said.

"Just go out and spend," he added. "Go out and remodel, especially if you're staying put."

He's seen Lowe's and Home Depot stock go up recently, a good sign: "The real estate market is starting to move forward."

Novi resident Tony Silvestri has been in business with his Northville Interiors since 1987. He does kitchens, baths and entertainment centers.

Silvestri used to have a storefront in downtown Northville, and showed pictures and news clippings of his contributions to putting MacKinnon's restaurant back together after it was struck by a vehicle.

December through March are slower in his business, "It's about eight months out of the year," said Silvestri, in his first Canton Home Expo.

He does his installations with several other staffers, including drywall, tile work and hardwood floors. "If I can push a Michigan product, I do, he said.

Silvestri's also encouraged by auto company bonus checks and tax refunds coming in. "You don't have to spend \$20,000 on a kitchen," he said. "It all depends on their needs."

He showed on his laptop floor plans he can show customers. There are also 3-D images with the ability to change elements like flooring and cabinets, and even to introduce lighting.

"Most of the time this is what sells the job," Silvestri said.

Bedbug issue could be threat

Q: I understand that the New York State Legislature just passed a law requiring city landlords to disclose any history of bedbug infiltration before leasing an apartment. Do you think that would apply to condominiums and co-ops?

A: Apparently, the law requires landlords to give renters written notice before



Robert Meisner

a lease is signed indicating whether the apartment being considered, or any other apartment in the building, has been infested

within the past year. Of course, anyone renting out an apartment in a co-op or condominium would also have to comply with the law. However, it appears that co-ops and condominium buyers may be entitled to know whether there has been a bedbug problem and should certainly make that a part of any contract negotiations. I would expect that in New York as well as other jurisdictions, a separate disclosure law for co-ops and condominiums regarding bed bugs may well be introduced, but people in Michigan should be aware of this potential issue. Q: It is my understanding that there are number of properties under water in the Naples/Fort Myers area which have not gone to market. What effect do you think that will have on the real estate environment in that

A: In speaking with a number of investors, as well as real estate persons, it appears that the breadth of the decline has not been reached yet and that there is still at least a 10 to 15 percent potential decline in real estate values in the Naples/Fort Myers area. A number of the condominium units are underwater even if some of them were bought in the early 2000s as they were grossly overpriced during the boom times, appreciating at approximately 20 percent a year. While no one knows for sure when the bottom will come, there are a number of opportunities for real estate investment and/or a first or second home purchase in the Naples/Fort Myers corridor at this time. As always, you should confer with a real estate professional to assist you in looking for the right property.

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. Call (248) 644-4433 or visit bmeisner@meisner-associates. com. This column shouldn't be construed as legal advice.

Check out the numbers in **Sports**

HOMES SOLD-WAYNE

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of Nov. 29 to Dec. 3, 2010, at the Wayne County Register of Deeds office Listed below are cities, address and sales prices.

Canton	
2146 Cameo Ct	\$330,00
4261 Forest Bridge Dr	\$200,00
48235 Greenwich Ln	\$180,00
39994 Hillary Dr	\$117,00
4676 Hunters Cir W	\$75.00

es,	29019 Ba 32530 Di 31205 Ma 33630 Ri
0,000 0,000	33033 B: 15962 De 37517 Gr 11834 Ha

31205 Marquette St 33630 Rosslyn Ave
Li
33033 Brookside Ct
15962 Deering St
37517 Grantland St
11834 Haller St
18133 Lathers St
27426 Lyndon St
31581 Merriwood Parl

n kluge ku	3232,00
32 Proctor Rd	\$117,00
40 Spinning Wheel Dr	\$176,00
Garden City	
19 Barton St	\$16,00
30 Donnelly St	\$31,00
05 Marquette St	\$66,00
30 Rosslyn Ave	\$83,00
Livonia	
33 Brookside Ct	\$255,00
62 Deering St	\$96,00
17 Grantland St	\$149,00
34 Haller St	\$83,00
33 Lathers St	\$159,00

	\$178,000	16845 Pollyanna St	\$157
	\$252,000	31381 Westfield St	\$80
	\$117,000	Northville	
el Dr	\$176,000	44415 Broadmoor Blvd	\$328
rden City		18481 Clairmont Cir E	\$750
	\$16,000	48836 Freestone Dr	\$115
	\$31,000	39406 Jasmine Cir	\$285
	\$66,000	17201 Lake View Cir	\$191
	\$83,000	46487 Pinehurst Cir	\$598
.ivonia		46632 Pinehurst Cir	\$529
	\$255,000	46640 Pinehurst Cir	\$537
	\$96,000	48905 Rainbow Ln S	\$296
	\$149,000	655 Randolph St	\$50
	\$83,000	17660 Rolling Woods Cir	\$427
	\$159,000	39669 Southwind Ln	\$210
	\$85,000	15831 Spyglass Dr	\$515
k Dr	\$67,000	19285 Surrey Ln	\$53

16845 Pollyanna St	\$157,000
31381 Westfield St	\$80,000
Northville	
44415 Broadmoor Blvd	\$328,000
18481 Clairmont Cir E	\$750,000
48836 Freestone Dr	\$115,000
39406 Jasmine Cir	\$285,000
17201 Lake View Cir	\$191,000
46487 Pinehurst Cir	\$598,000
46632 Pinehurst Cir	\$529,000
46640 Pinehurst Cir	\$537,000
48905 Rainbow Ln S	\$296,000
655 Randolph St	\$50,000
17660 Rolling Woods Cir	\$427,000
39669 Southwind Ln	\$210,000
15831 Spyglass Dr	\$515,000
19285 Surrey Ln	\$53,000

48704 E Hillcrest Ct
1200 Maple St
49451 Plymouth Way
Redford
13501 Crosley \$65,000
17611 Gaylord
9425 Hazelton
9606 Hemingway
10000 Hemingway
13565 Marion
9589 Mercedes
18699 Olympia
18704 Seminole
12730 Tecumseh

317 Yerkes St

\$105,000	
	2151 Ala
\$315,000	1950 Ali
\$285,000	32048 /
\$90,000	7600 Au
	35838 8
	36205 F
\$48,000	7445 Gi
\$45,000	7392 Ku
\$61,000	451 N Ha
\$75,000	6541 N I
\$59,000	37085 V
\$74,000	27530 V
\$53,000	
\$31,000	
\$70,000	

REAL ESTATE BRIEFS

26830 W Davison West	\$33,00
2151 Alanson St	\$10.00
1950 Alexander Dr	\$111.00
32048 Anita Dr	\$71,00
7600 August Ave	\$75,00
35838 Booth St	\$23,00
36205 Farragut St	\$11,00
7445 Gilman St	\$62,00
7392 Kubis St	\$9.00
451 N Harvey St	\$52,00
6541 N Hix Rd	\$44.00
37085 Vincent St	\$65.00
27530 Warren Rd	\$75.00

HUMES SUI D-OAKLAND

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of Nov. 29 to Dec. 3, 2010, at the Oakland County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

Beverly Hills	
18365 Bedford St	\$242,000
31800 Eastlady Dr	\$222,000
20326 Ronsdale Dr	\$360,000
18397 Warwick St	\$150,000
18873 Warwick St	\$298,000
Birmingham	
1810 Fairview St	\$630,000
1670 Holland St	\$75,000
451 N Eton St # E2	\$40,000
1480 Old Salem Ct	\$975,000
752 Randall Ct	\$456,000
1092 Ridgedale Ave	\$390,000
5325 Wing Lake Rd \$125,000	
Bloomfield Hills	
233 Barden Rd	\$135,000
168 Hillboro Dr	\$75,000
2292 Sudbury Way	\$240,000
2071 Wabeek Hill Ct	\$335,000
Bloomfield Township	
7077 Cathedral Dr	\$287,000
467 Fox Hills Dr N	\$45,000
3889 Lincoln Rd	\$175,000
2751 Mackintosh Ln	\$300,000
2251 Park Ridge Dr	\$240,000
4420 Squirrel Rd	\$99,000
799 Upper Scotsborough Way	\$268,000
875 W Glengarry Cir	\$1,135,000
6825 Whysall Rd	\$321,000
42522 Woodward Ave	\$50,000

Commerce Township

\$1,000,000

8575 Edgewood Park Dr

HOWE2 20FD-OWK
812 Ivy Hill Dr 1901 Juniper Dr
162 Majestic Oaks Dr
970 Parkgate Dr
Farmington
2753 Floral St
3086 Floral St
Farmington Hills
7071 Aldgate Ct
8861 Balmoral Way
3341 Barfield St
8257 Bayberry Rd
3107 Baypoint Dr
2026 Cadillac St

12 Ivy Hill Dr	\$210,000
01 Juniper Dr	\$245,000
52 Majestic Oaks Dr	\$274,000
70 Parkgate Dr	\$50,000
Farmington	
753 Floral St	\$20,000
086 Floral St	\$41,000
Farmington Hills	
071 Aldgate Ct	\$312,000
861 Balmoral Way	\$120,000
341 Barfield St	\$118,000
257 Bayberry Rd	\$130,000
107 Baypoint Dr	\$208,000
826 Cadillac St	\$265,000
290 Chapelweigh Dr	\$135,000
621 Colfax Dr	\$27,000
543 Fendt St	\$115,000
915 14 Mile,w 102	\$55,000
327 Hamilton Ave	\$35,000
265 Lancaster Dr	\$190,000
600 Middlebelt Rd	\$125,000
231 N Meadowridge	\$170,000
679 Pebble Ct	\$183,000
201 Polo Club Dr # 105	\$250,000
992 Richmond HI	\$108,000
524 Roosevelt Ave	\$45,000
727 Shiawassee Rd # 56	\$29,000
407 Springbrook Dr	\$174,000
D13 W 12 Mile Rd	\$17,000
060 W 12 Mile Rd Unit 95	\$41,000
948 W 13 Mile Rd	\$450,000
Franklin	
958 Hersheyvale Dr	\$286,000
621 N Greenbriar Rd	\$253,000

32826 Cadillac St	\$26
25290 Chapelweigh Dr	\$13
33621 Colfax Dr	\$2
34543 Fendt St	\$11
31915 14 Mile, w 102	\$5
21827 Hamilton Ave	\$3
38265 Lancaster Dr	\$19
23600 Middlebelt Rd	\$12
30231 N Meadowridge	\$17
25679 Pebble Ct	\$18
39201 Polo Club Dr # 105	\$25
29992 Richmond HI	\$10
21524 Roosevelt Ave	\$4
30727 Shiawassee Rd # 56	\$2
25407 Springbrook Dr	\$17
32013 W 12 Mile Rd	\$
30060 W 12 Mile Rd Unit 95	\$
35948 W 13 Mile Rd	\$45
Franklin	
25958 Hersheyvale Dr	\$28
30621 N Greenbriar Rd	\$25
Lathrup Village	
28565 Lathrup Blvd	\$8
18825 Rainbow Dr	\$12
26845 Bloomfield Dr S	\$11

1419 Timber Ridge Ct

ZIBZI Hamiltofi Ave	\$35,000	131 E92(01) DL
38265 Lancaster Dr	\$190,000	61070 Preakness Blvd
23600 Middlebelt Rd	\$125,000	22190 Quail Run Cir U
30231 N Meadowridge	\$170,000	So
25679 Pebble Ct	\$183,000	15620 Arbor PI
39201 Polo Club Dr # 105	\$250,000	15815 Fairfax St
29992 Richmond HI	\$108,000	20506 Mada Ave
21524 Roosevelt Ave	\$45,000	18239 Maryland Dr
30727 Shiawassee Rd # 56	\$29,000	24200 Pierce St
25407 Springbrook Dr	\$174,000	23240 Russell St
32013 W 12 Mile Rd	\$17,000	23471 Russell St
30060 W 12 Mile Rd Unit 95	\$41,000	28290 Tavistock Trl
35948 W 13 Mile Rd	\$450,000	19045 W Nine Mile Rd
Franklin		17361 Wiltshire Blvd
25958 Hersheyvale Dr	\$286,000	21270 Winchester St
30621 N Greenbriar Rd	\$253,000	29755 Woodland Dr
Lathrup Village		Wh
28565 Lathrup Blvd	\$85,000	680 Akehurst Ln
18825 Rainbow Dr	\$123,000	35 Glandon St
26845 Bloomfield Dr S	\$110,000	8483 Huron River Dr
Milford		20 Pardyke St
1189 Marjorie St	\$106,000	971 Pembroke Dr
780 Milford Glen Dr	\$257,000	
609 Telya Rdg	\$220,000	

\$345,000

Novi			
22622 Autumn Park Blvd	\$515,000		
41380 Belden Cir	\$100,000		
24507 Bethany Way	\$306,000		
28439 Carlton Way Dr	\$127,000		
24561 Dinser Dr	\$85,000		
44746 Gwinnett Loop	\$75,000		
26027 Island Lake Dr	\$270,000		
24250 Jamestowne Rd	\$189,000		
39502 Kartar Ln	\$85,000		
40664 Ladene Ln	\$230,000		
24688 Nepavine	\$475,000		
24998 Samoset Ct	\$398,000		
47130 Scarlet Dr S	\$188,000		
21835 Sunflower Rd	\$175,000		
45521 Violet Ln	\$335,000		
South Lyon			
25566 Coach Ln	\$40,000		
131 Easton Dr	\$41,000		
61070 Preakness Blvd	\$322,000		
22190 Quail Run Cir Unit 1	\$110,000		
Southfield			
15620 Arbor PI	\$110,000		
15815 Fairfax St	\$135,000		
20506 Mada Ave	\$25,000		
18239 Maryland Dr	\$85,000		
24200 Pierce St	\$65,000		
23240 Russell St	\$30,000		
23471 Russell St	\$70,000		
28290 Tavistock Trl	\$135,000		
19045 W Nine Mile Rd	\$50,000		
17361 Wiltshire Blvd	\$25,000		

\$25,000 White Lake

\$293,000

\$95,000 \$135,000

BIA

• Building Industry Association of Southeastern Michigan (BIA) will sponsor a three-hour Continuing Competency course, required for license renewal for both Builders and Maintenance and Alterations Contractors licenses, on Tuesday, April 12, from 9 a.m. to noon at Association Offices, 2075 Walnut Lake Road, West Bloomfield.

For those with licenses issued prior to Jan. 1, 2009, three hours of continuing competency are required each licensing cycle. The instructor, Don Pratt, CGB, CGR, CGP, CAPS, of CECS of Michigan, LLC, will present one hour for each of the required subjects: legal issues, codes, and safety issues. Registration fees are \$55 for members or guests. For registration information, call (248) 862-1002 or register online at www.builders.

org/events.php.

Investors

The Real Estate Investor Association of Wayne County holds monthly meetings the first Tuesday of each month at the Holiday Inn, 17201 Northline Road, Southgate. Entrance fee is \$20 for nonmembers to be applied to annual membership. For information, call (313) 819-0919 or visit www.reiawaynecounty.org.

Career Seminar

Keller Williams Realty will offer a Real Estate Career Seminar 6:30-7:30 p.m. Thursday, March 17, at 40600 Ann Arbor Road, Suite 100, Plymouth. Those attending will learn about the \$50,000 income guarantee and the free pre-licensing course.

For information, contact Lesley Aiello at (734) 459-4700 or laiello@kw.com.

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- 13 Sudden impulse 14 Train
 - 16 Jungle warning
- 17 Raw fish dish 18 Tool handles 20 Riviera summer
- 21 Comical 23 Lightning byproduct
 - 26 Opal and topaz 27 Actor's quest 28 Gauge
 - 31 Came down hard 33 In - parentis 34 Quick reminder
 - 35 Tissue layer 36 Finish a pie crust
 - 38 Building site 41 Tire necessity 43 Strongholds
- 1 Pompous gait 2 Halt

45 Radar blip

51 Lingerie buys

52 Antarctic sea

53 Pastrami

curve

DOWN

partner

54 Dangerous

- 3 Unit of length 4 Pierre's monarch
- 5 Cheesy snacks 6 Amazing bargain
- Offended 8 Shoreline problem
- 9 Ottoman title 10 — annum
- 11 Church alcove 15 Ocean's motions

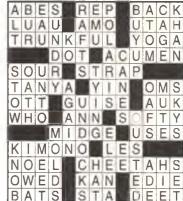
47 Crisp bread **Answer to Previous Puzzle** 49 Mimicked 50 Hard wood

24 Flamenco

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25 Beatty or

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19 Gulf st. 26 Earth, 22 Apt. units in combos

27 Where Ipanema is 28 High peak

29 Acapulco warmer 30 They cut quite

a swath 31 "Shiny Happy People" band 32 Having plenty

to spare 34 Fairgrounds 36 After yr. 1 37 Stubble

remover 38 Perjurers 39 Fierce whales 40 Reproving

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Lane 45 Teacup handle 46 Navy noncom 48 Tina Turner's



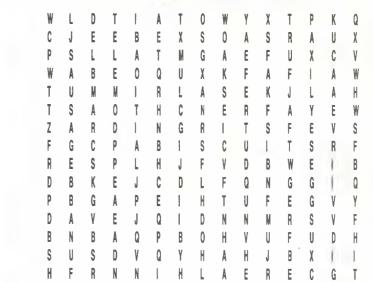
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8

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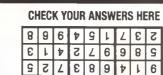
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fruit

grits

muffin



bagel

biscuits

breakfast

cereal

eggs

french toast

1 8 2 8 9 7 8 9 8 6 5 2 4 1 3 9 7 1 7 2 8 3 9 5 4 6 2 8 9 6 9 1 7 1 p 7 1 8 2 8 6 5 9 699117 3 | 2 | 8

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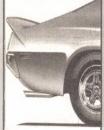
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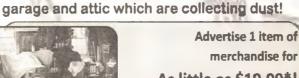
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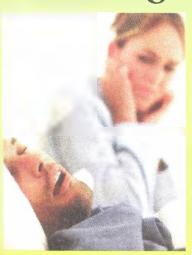
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Signs of spring are everywhere in Inspire

If you live in the metro area, Detroit Tigers Opening Day at Comerica Park, the



Red Wings heading to the playoffs and St. Patrick's Day parades and celebrations mean only one thing. We made it. Spring is here — finally.

Contributing Writer Mary Quinley leads the way by taking us

on a tour of area pubs that are great places to watch a baseball or hockey game. Good food, good drinks, big TVs (lots of them) and a friendly atmosphere are what make these local spots the place to gather. So get out and have some fun.

As always, Inspire offers up help for those DIY projects that call out to every homeowner. This month, we have our eye on fixing up the bathroom. Local experts offer up their suggestions on how to transform that old bathroom into a minor masterpiece without spending a fortune.

A special treat in today's Inspire is a trip to the country store by Contributing Writer Dennis Zelazny. Read about the Dixboro Country Store in Superior Township and Kean's Store Company in Mason. Day trips worth the time. Don't miss this special feature. Zelazny s "Local Attractions" column

will become a regular feature of Inspire. So if you a have a local spot to suggest, e-mail Zelazny at dzelazny@hometownlife.com.

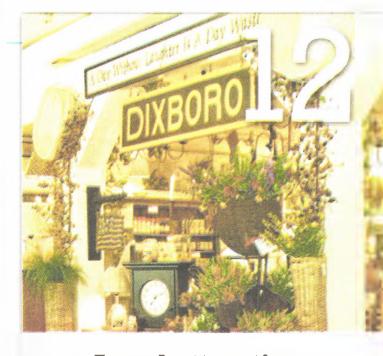
Food is a big part of today's Inspire
— spring sweets and March Madness recipes can all be found inside.

Now put your feet up and spend some time with today's edition.

Happy St. Pat's Day. Good health and good cheer to all!

As always, I welcome your comments.

Susan Rosiek Publisher srosiek@hometownlife.com



Local attractionsA day at the country store



Tech savvyApps for your
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Food Slam-dunk favorites



Entertainment

New books, music, top movies on DVD and what's coming to theaters



Home
Luxury upgrades that
don't cost a
bundle

Food Sweet spring treats





Cast-iron comeback 4

Sports pubs 8

Game-day chili 22





Cast-iron comeback

(ARA) — A skillet hidden away in a cabinet, or some other small piece of cookware that's about all the cast iron you'll find in most modern homes. In the early 1900s, iron was a material of choice not just for cookware, but for many other essential items throughout the house: A skillet on the stovetop, sinks and bathtubs, and fences that decorated and defined the front yard. Even some buildings were made of iron. But as lighter, rust-resistant materials became available, iron fell by the wayside as a material in homes.

Fast forward to today, and a new generation of design-savvy homeowners is rediscovering the beauty, durability and usefulness of cast iron in kitchens and bathrooms. A handful of enterprising manufacturers are reinventing the look, design and appeal of cast iron.

If the concept of cast iron in kitchen and bath fixtures is new to you, consider the material's advantages:

- Durable. Enameled cast iron is especially durable, combining the longevity and dent-resistance of cast iron with the rust-proof beauty of enamel.
- Customizable. Cast-iron sinks and bathtubs add instant elegance to a space. And with more than 20 colors to choose from, it's easy to create a customized look to reflect personal style.
- Eco-friendly. Some cast-iron products, like those made by bath design pioneer Kohler, have a "green" side. Kohler manufactures its cast iron from 83 percent recycled materials.

These three cast-iron fixtures have regained popularity — and reclaimed cast iron's reputation as a material of choice — in American homes:

KITCHEN SINKS

The kitchen sink plays host to a handful of hardworking activities in the heart of the home - whether it's cleaning up from holiday feasts or serving as a baby bathing spot.

Today's Kohler's Lawnfield and Wheatland cast iron kitchen sinks emphasize design with an ideal balance between form and function at an attractive price. Single-basin sinks reflect



Cast-iron cookware isn't the only use for cast iron in the kitchen. Cast-iron sinks marry beauty, durability and usefulness in kitchen settings.



A whole new generation of homeowners is discovering the beauty and durability of cast iron in the bathroom.

historical design, and double basin cast iron sinks offer a modern convenience. You'll find a variety of color choices, as well as under-counter and self-rimming options.

BATHROOM ST KS

Whether it's the focal point in a petite powder room or coupled in a master suite's double vanity, bathroom sinks have a tall bill to fill — homeowners require good looks and durability, which today's enameled cast-iron bathroom sinks can provide.

Enameling technology makes it possible to have a cast-iron sink in an array of vibrant new colors beyond your grandparents' classic white claw-foot tub. Kohler's Tides bathroom sink comes in over 20 colors, and its self-rimming design makes it easy to install. With a cost well below \$200, it's price-competitive with sinks constructed from acrylic or fiberglass.

BATHTLIBS

The first cast-iron baths were free-standing models — a design so ubiquitous that many Americans still associate it with cast iron. When Kohler introduced the built-in bathtub in the early 1900s, the style quickly became the design of choice for American homeowners and remains the most popular style today.

Now, you can find cast iron bathtubs that offer the convenience and functionality of the built-in style, along with the elegance and durability of enameled cast iron. For those who crave design variety, drop in/undermount and freestanding styles are also available in cast iron. You can even find styles that offer massaging water jets and bubbles.

You may fondly recall your grandparents' cast iron, but modern design and a vibrant array of colors have today's homeowners falling in love with cast iron's durability and convenience all over again and enjoying it for years to come — just as other homeowners have before them.

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Five 'luxury' bathroom upgrades that don't cost a bundle

It's probably safe to say that no potential buyer ever passed on a house because the bathroom was just too lovely and luxurious. And few of us would prefer to come home at the end of the day to decompress in an outdated bathroom with a shabby shower and cabinets that have seen better days.

A beautiful bathroom can help potential buyers overlook other flaws in a home. And the bath is one room where homeowners can be confident their renovation dollars will yield not only improved home value, but enhanced enjoyment as well.

Because bathrooms are typically small, it can be difficult to make little changes without tearing down to studs and wood floors.

"There's not a lot of inexpensive ways to change a bathroom, but new paint is always easy," said Frank Mastroianni, owner of Home Source Construction, a Westland-based company that's been in business for 50 years. "Changing an out-of-style vanity or toilet is also possible.

"When you get into tubs and tile, it starts getting expensive."

Mastroianni is encouraged that work has started to increase throughout the area, as evidenced by increased attendance at the various home shows held in the spring.

"I think buyer confidence is back," he said.
"People are investing in their homes now
because they can't move."

Jim Seghi has owned Seghi Renovations in South Lyon for the past 20 years. His company has been very busy lately with a variety of projects, many of which involve updating the bathroom.

"January and February were the busiest I've seen it in 20 years," Seghi said. "If there was a busier time, I don't remember it. We're kind of coming out of the doldrums."

While Seghi said many of his customers are opting for complete remodeling when it comes to bathrooms, he had a few suggestions for those working with a tight budget.

"A lot of times, a new vanity with a new countertop can really spruce things up," he said. "Even some new towel bars and fresh towels can really make a difference.

"We try to be value-conscious in everything we do," he added.

Ben Templeton has been running his Templeton Building Co. in Birmingham for 30 years. His firm does a lot of bathroom work, but says many people "are happy when you add a bigger closet."

Templeton also shared a few tips for perking up a tired bathroom.

"A lot of time you can change the tile and the cabinets," he said. "We just had a customer where we changed all the hardware and put in a new sink and they absolutely loved it."

Fortunately, you don't have to spend lavishly to elevate the luxury quotient of your home's bathroom. Here are five "luxury" upgrades that can be done on a moderate — or even modest — budget:

When it comes to creating a comfortable, energy-efficient ambiance in a room, it's hard to beat Mother Nature. Natural



Venting skylights exhaust heat and humidity while providing privacy and natural light.

light helps reduce dependency on artificial light sources and the electricity they consume, and can have a positive effect on mood and overall health. You may hesitate to add a large, clear window to a bathroom, but skylights are a great way to add the luxuriousness of natural light without compromising on privacy. Choose a venting style which can also be a cost-effective way to help vent humidity, steam and odors from a bathroom. New models, like Velux America's No Leak Skylight, eliminate leak worries; when properly installed, Velux skylights are no more prone to leaks than any other quality window. Visit www.veluxusa.com to learn more.

Ripping out that old ceramic tile and replacing it with the trendiest stone may not be in your budget, or your shower's future, but swapping out a standard shower head with something more luxurious probably is. It's easy to find a variety of shower heads — from rainfall and massaging, to hand-held or dual-head and multi-jet — that will elevate your daily

washing routine to a spa-quality experience. What's more, a new shower head is one of the easiest bathroom renovations to do yourself, even if you have no previous DIY experience.

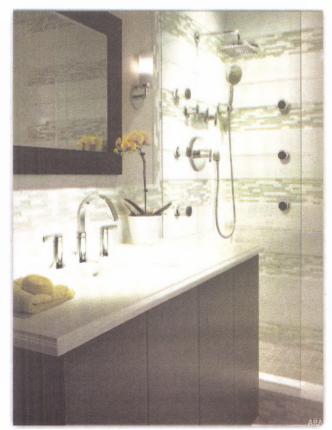
Who doesn't love warm. plush bath towels? Or footsoothing rugs that protect tootsies from cold floors? It makes sense not to skimp when it comes to choosing towels, area rugs and other accessories for your bath. Even top-quality accessories cost less than major renovations, and they can go a long way toward making your bathroom feel polished, put-together and posh. From good bath linens to a towelwarmer that can make them feel extra cozy, accessories are an economical, effective way to add luxurious touches to your bathroom.

Think your downstairs powder room or first-floor master bath can't soak up some sun? Think again. To bring natural light and warmth into a first-

floor bathroom, simply add a sun tunnel. This variation on the traditional skylight uses reflective tubing connected to a low profile acrylic dome that sits on your roof to deliver diffused, natural sunlight to interior spaces, allowing you to enjoy the luxury of natural sunlight in your first-floor, windowless bath. Add a light kit, and you've got a 24-hour light source.

If you've ever stepped out of a relaxing warm shower only to find yourself shivering in a cold bathroom, adding a touch of warmth to the room may seem like the ultimate luxury. You can find an array of heaters that work well in a bathroom setting, from wall units that will put warm air at body level, to overhead lamps that warm from above. You can even find combo units that both heat the bathroom and warm your towel at the same time, or exhaust fans that remove moist, cold air and replace it with warm ain.

— Information provide by ARA content. Staff writer Bill Emerick contributed to this story.



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Enjoy game day at the local pub

By Mary Quinley CONTRIBUTING WRITER

On game day — especially when hometown teams, like the Wings and the Tigers, are playing — local pubs and taverns provide welcoming comfy quarters to sip a beverage, grab a bite to eat and, most importantly, watch "the game."

Some places offer drink and/or food specials during televised games. And, if a team makes the playoffs, several watering holes will have raffles and giveaways.

Here's a sampling of area establishments where fans can watch sporting events.

 Penn Grill & Bar, Plymouth: Ron and Mary Cabble, avid Tigers fans from Livonia, like to sit outside at the Penn under an umbrella during game time. As they cheer for their team from The D, they sip a couple of brews, and oftentimes, enjoy some chow.

"On a warm, sunny day — with people strolling by — it just doesn't get much better!" said Mary Cabble.

- Northville Sports Den: With a total of 18 televisions two on the patio this pub attracts sports enthusiasts of all ages. "Whenever there is a game, we always have specials like sliders for \$1 or Coney dogs for \$1.50," said Ramona Bluestein, co-owner. A Little League menu, happy hour specials and meal deals are featured throughout the week.
- Lake Street Tavern, South Lyon: According to Mary Poole, owner, \$2 drafts and other drink specials, are available during all televised games. This baseball season, the tavern will offer several bus trips to Comerica Park to see the Tigers play.
- Buffalo Wild Wings (Westland, Livonia, Canton and Novi): "I love Buffalo Wild Wings! The reason is simple they have great wings with a variety of sauces," said Danny Diroff, 18, of South Lyon. Diroff enjoys watching hockey games with his friends at the eatery. Weekly specials include drink discounts and "boneless wings for 60 cents" on Thursdays.
- South Lyon Cantina: Diehard Hockeytown Wing nuts show up to root for their favorite men in red at this family-owned eatery/pub where more than a dozen plasma TVs are strategically placed. "There's a hometown feeling here," said Joseph Camia, manager.
- Forza Sports Bar and Grille, Milford: Stop by on Opening Day or anytime the Red Wings play a game and ask about the drink specials. Stay for lunch or dinner. The versatile menu runs the gamut from sandwiches and flatbread pizzas to fish and chips, several chicken choices and salmon.
 - · Coach's Corner Bar & Grill, Livonia: Food



Photo by Mary Quinley

Red Wings fans gather at Coach's Corner Bar & Grill in Livonia to cheer for their favorite hockey team. Pictured are (back row, from left) Don Slankster of Madison Heights and Franklin Luxon of Royal Oak; and (front, from left) Pat Day, Pat Latarski, Kathy Day and Stephanie Day, all of Livonia, and, Margaret Slankster of Madison Heights.

and drink specials and trivia competitions are featured at this family-oriented watering hole that boasts to be "Livonia's friendliest neighborhood sports bar." On Opening Day, said Mike George, owner, the place will be packed with fans who take the day off of work to watch the game. Two bus treks to Comerica Park are planned for the upcoming Tigers' season.

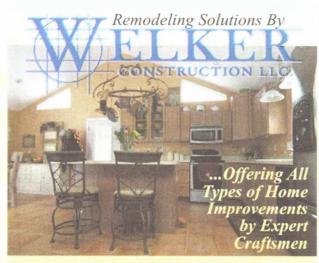
- Timberwolf Tavern, Redford: If any sports team makes it to the playoffs, expect drink specials and raffles at this restaurant/bar. T-shirts and jerseys have been given away in the past.
- Library Sports Pub, Novi: "I think we have a much cozier atmosphere where people really get into the game. The acoustics and the view of the TVs are good," said Bob Barnett, owner. Drink specials are available throughout the hockey season.
- Sports Venue Bar & Grill, Garden City: Anytime a home team plays, plan on game day specials. Edibles, like wings and sliders, and pitchers of beer, have been featured.

GO WINGS! GO TIGERS!

Where to watch sports

- Coach's Corner Bar & Grill, Livonia: www.coachscornerlivonia.com
- Northville Sports Den, Northville: www.northvillesportsden.com
- Lake Street Tavern, South Lyon: www.lakestreettavern.com
- Buffalo Wild Wings, Westland, Livonia, Canton and Novi: www.buffalowildwings.com
- Beaver Creek, Westland: www.beavercreektackleandbeer.com
- Deadwood Bar & Grill, Northville: www.deadwoodbarandgrill.com
- Venue Bar & Grill, Garden City: www.sportsvenuebarandgrill.com
- Doc's Sports Retreat, Livonia: www.docssportretreat.com

- Forza Sports Bar and Grille, Milford: (248) 714-9159
- Penn Grill & Bar, Plymouth: (734) 453-3570
- Rusty Bucket Corner Tavern, Northville: www.myrustybucket.com
- Timberwolf Tavern, Redford: www.timberwolftavern.com
- Hermann's Olde Town Grill, Plymouth: www.hermannsotg.com
- Library Sports Pub & Grill, Novi: www.librarypub.com
- Grand Tavern, Farmington Hills: www.grand-tavern.com
- The Lyon Cantina, South Lyon: www.thelyoncantina.com



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Apps for your gaming pleasure

By Jon Gunnells CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Video games have always been expensive but video game applications (apps) for your



Ion Gunnelle

iPhone, Blackberry or Android phone dont have to be. Even some of the most downloaded video game apps for smartphones are cheap or in some cases free. Take a look at the following popular video game apps that could help you stay occupied

next time you're stuck in the car, sitting in a waiting room, or bored at work. We won't tell your boss.

ANGRY BIRDS (FREE)

The Super Mario Brothers of smart phones. This quintessential video game app is not only wildly popular for users of all ages, it is also available to be played on Android phones, iPhones and on any touch screen Blackberry. If you have not yet heard of Angry Birds, you are likely out of the loop as the phone-based game has led to the development of an Angry Birds movie called Rovio as well as a board game. And for those users who would prefer to actually play Super Mario Bros. on their phone—that game is available, too.

WORDS WITH FRIENDS AND WORDFEUD (FREE)

WordFeud and Words with Friends are essentially variations of Scrabble that can be played with other smartphone users. WordFeud is only for Android phones but Words with Friends can unite players on Android phones and iPhones. Blackberry users can always play their pre-loaded Word Mole app on their units and submit high scores to earn their place in the online rankings. A Scrabble app is also available for many platforms and is free on the iPhone.

FIND DIFFERENCES (FREE)

A hand-held version of the photo matching game (Photo Hunt) that can be played at touchscreen game machines at bars is now available for touchscreen smartphones. Try to beat the clock as you find differences in similar pictures.

mette re bandante de de

For the die-hard gamers who require impressive graphics and game play like that of the Playstation3 or Xbox, Infinity Blade is a great choice, even with its \$5.99 price tag. Infinity Blade is available on the iPhone, iPad and iTouch.

Many more games are available at the iTunes Store, Blackberry App World, Android Marketplace and Windows Marketplace. To find the games that are right for you and your smartphone, grab your device and start clicking. Just make sure to stay away from games like Smurf Village — a kids game that charges players for in-app purchases. It's easy to rack up a huge phone bill in no time.

HOW TO DOWNLOAD GAMING APPS

New to the smartphone scene? Here's how you download apps, including free ones — whether you own a Blackberry, iPhone, Android, Windows smartphone or handheld tablet.

Blackberry

Visit blackberryappworld.com, create an account and download the Blackberry World App. Then you can access thousands apps — many of them free — directly from your handheld device.

Apple products

Visit the iTunes store from your computer, iPhone, iPad or iTouch.

Windows phones

Users with Windows Mobile 6.0 or 6.1 can download apps by visiting Windows Marketplace by phone or computer. Smartphone users running Windows Mobile 6.5 already have Windows Marketplace installed and can find it in the start menu.

Android phones

Visit Market. Android.com from your computer, Android phone or new Android tablet to get started.

– Jon Gunnells

Shopping by way of the good old days

By DENNIS ZELAZNY CONTRIBUTING WRITER

It's hard to imagine what life was like 171 years ago. A visit to a museum can be interesting but nothing is for sale and even if it was we

couldn't afford to exclaim, "Ship it." In my travels, I have found two unique retail stores that offer a most interesting story. The stores offer



Dennis Zelazny

products in a vintage setting and everything is readily available and ready to use.

Dixboro General Store. near Ann Arbor, was built in 1840. Kean's Store Company in Mason was built in 1928. These two businesses share a lot of the same history. Kean's is Mason's oldest continuously operating business, while Dixboro General Store thrived until World War II and closed for a short time before reopening in 1947. Both are in full operation today, and what makes them unique is the ambiance they have managed to keep alive for all these years.

On a recent trip, my first stop is Dixboro General Store. The traditional trading post Indian statue is gone but owners Steve and Brenda Dani still get asked if they carry cigarettes. They do not. But what they do offer is a unique place to shop for home furnishings and decor.

When we shop for the store we buy what we like,' explained Steve, adding that their motto is "Unique and never ordinary."

The Danis purchased the business four years ago. Steve's history with the store goes back another 16 years; he knows every nook and cranny of the building. He is



The counter at Dixboro General Store is more than 100 years old, and rests on the original squeaky floors.



Inspiring display of silk flowers, and many decorative items perfect to brighten your home.

just amazed and amused at the structure.

"If you look at the basement and the attic spaces you will understand why building codes were developed," he

Over the past 20 years, a lot of tender loving care was put into the building that once included the post office, dance hall and several antique stores. But what makes it unique is that they all shared the same name, Dixboro General Store.

The store is filled with quality handbuilt furniture mostly from Georgia and North Carolina.

"All of our furniture is American made," Steve proudly added.

The Danis have fur-

nished dwelling spaces from apartments to multimillion dollar homes. They understand that not everyone likes or wants a fainting couch or a grand high back settee, so they know where to get all the items and styles that people are looking for today.

While visiting the store, you will want to look at the handmade

accessories they have those too. Yankee candles are one of their top selling items, they have carried them for 20 years and now offer their own brand of soy candles.

toys they offer: Jacob's

ladders and spinning tops

are my favorites. And if

you're looking for home

Next stop is Mason, near East Lansing, and a visit with Teresa Wren, third-gen-

eration owner of Company.



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-Terry J., Roseville, MI

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-Iris S., Northville, MI Age: 77

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with a twist



location. The family business included the buildings to the left and right, until the entire block was purchased. As the walls between the buildings came down the store grew larger and the sales floor filled with usable everyday merchandise.

Wren points out that the candy counter and the front doors have been in the same location since 1928. The building is always being improved and much effort is put into maintaining that yesteryear atmosphere. The floors still squeak and the original tin ceiling hangs overhead.

Remember Brach's Choco-

late Stars? They are still available by weight at the candy counter along with chocolate-covered peanuts. During the holidays, customers can even pick up a box of those cherished-chocolate covered cherries. I asked Wren what was the longest stocked product that they still get requests for and I was surprised that "oil cloth" was the answer. It is mainly used as tablecloth covering and remains available by the yard.

It's a lot to take in and time travel can be tiresome, so when you visit save time to have lunch at the Baja Grille, conveniently located right next door.

In 1995, Wren's father purchased the last remaining space on the block that was Jack Davis Menswear some 60 years ago. The space was converted into a restaurant.

Kean's Store Company is an experience — with sights, smells, tastes and service guaranteed to delight any size group, family or individual. Visitors are always invited to stop by and enjoy a free cup of coffee with them.

Next issue: A place up in the air — see you soon!



Kean's carries todays trendy fabrics and all your favorite sewing notions, including foilwrapped needles.



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Your feathered friends' seasonal travel plans

(ARA) — The arrival of the first robin in your back yard is a sure sign of spring, one welcomed by virtually any bird-watcher who has weathered a cold winter. But did you know that you can help migratory birds such as robins as they travel one of nature's most amazing journeys?

The bird species and populations appearing in your neighborhood and at your backyard feeder may vary drastically from month to month depending on your region of the country. It is easy to wonder where all your feathered friends go during the winter. Some bird species only travel a few miles, like down a mountain side, away from the peak. Others travel great distances — over thousands of miles.

The often-misunderstood travels of birds can be revealed by looking at one of the most interesting phenomena in the animal world: migration. Migration is the relocation of a population from one geographic location to another, recurring on a regular, seasonal basis.

Birds can use assistance to make their migration voyages more successful. They need access to food sources, not just during their long trips between staging areas, but before they leave on their journey and after they arrive in their new location. Clean bird feeders full of a high quality bird seed like Scotts Songbird Selections Regional Blends, fresh water and native plants can be beneficial to the weary winged traveler.

Although many fish, mammals and insects migrate throughout the course of a year, birds are by far the most mobile animals on earth. Due in part to their incredible adaptations and the ability to fly, migration allows birds to access distant food resources, avoid the stressors of cold weather and seek out environments more conducive to breeding, nesting and raising young.

Ornithologists believe birds are triggered to migrate by external factors such as the number of daylight hours, temperature or amount of rainfall. The marvelous process of migration can take birds on trips at speeds of 18 to 25 mph for song birds and faster for stronger flyers such as ducks and hawks. Some birds fly at night to avoid predators and some, like the Arctic Tern, travel a route so long each year that it equals more than 22,000 miles round trip.

TOWAY.

In North America, the majority of migratory birds travel four major flyways or paths: the Pacific, Central, Mississippi and Atlantic Flyways.

Fall is the time when many northern bird populations begin to relocate and head farther south in search of food sources and warmer weather. In the spring, those same birds will return north to breed, nest and raise young. En route, many birds will need to stop for rest and snacks to refuel their tiny bodies for the re-



maining leg of the journey. In response, nature has developed "staging areas" at many locations along these intercontinental routes. Large, open areas with ample food supplies may attract big groups of the same species year after year and can become known to bird watchers, photographers and ornithologists alike. Predators also take note of these popular stops and take full advantage.

Although birds are uniquely adapted to the incredible trials of migration, it can still take a toll on even the most durable of birds. Up to half of the birds in North America who head south for the winter won't make the return flight, according to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Bad weather, predators, hunters and other dangers, such as collisions with tall buildings and cars, can take the lives of many of the migrants en route.

"Feeding birds year-round is really important," said John Robinson, chief ornithologist for Scotts. "For example, in the winter, food may be difficult to find in northern climates. At other times of the year (and even in southern climates) birds need to have access to healthy food sources and water to aid in the laying of eggs, feather development, raising of young, or to help selected species prepare for the long flights of migration."

Planting trees near windows or installing window awnings can reduce reflections and lessen the danger of collision. In addition, simply placing your bird feeders within a few feet of a window helps to slow birds down and lowers the chances of an accident. Everyone wins by placing a feeder near a window, because doing so will increase your viewing enjoyment when feathered friends stop by.

So, the next time you happen to look to the sky just as a large flock of songbirds flies overhead, you don't have to wonder where they're going or where they've been. Just fill up your bird feeder and hope you can help them on their long journey home.



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OE08730450

Sample some simple spring sweets

Cooking Channel and Univision star Ingrid Hoffmann, host of Simply Delicioso and Delicioso (on Telefutura Univision), shares her ideas to liven up your springtime desserts! Ingrid suggests combining fresh, seasonal flavors with Eagle Brand* Sweetened Condensed Milk to ensure perfect homemade and easy desserts year-round. Serve up a sweet surprise with these delicious new recipes and baking tips:

• Surprise guests with a new twist on the traditional Latin-American dessert with a Chocolate Flan Cake. A velvety-textured

flan custard is layered with a rich chocolate cake for a perfect marriage of sweet and creamy.

Dessert bars are a great solution for easy entertaining. Spice up any table by preparing Tropical Dessert Bars and then top with smooth and creamy Dulce de Leche, which can easily be made by



Ingrid Hoffmann

heating Eagle Brand Sweetened Condensed Milk on the stovetop or in the oven.

• Exotic fruits paired with rich cream cheese create a delicious combination in this recipe for Passion Fruit Cheesecake. Find seasonal inspiration by visiting local farmers markets.

Visit www.eaglebrand.com or www.marcaeagle.com for more recipes and helpful tips.

Tropical Dessert Bars

Makes 3 dozen

Ready in 3 hours

Bottom Layer

1 (17.5-ounce) package sugar cookie mix

½ cup butter, melted

Cream Cheese Pineapple Layer

1 (8-ounce) package cream cheese, softened

2 large eggs

1 (14-ounce) can Eagle Brand Sweetened Condensed Milk

1 teaspoon vanilla extract

1 (20-ounce) can crushed pineapple in juice, drained, reserving 2 tablespoons juice

Coconut Layer

1½ cups flaked coconut

½ cup macadamia nuts, chopped

¼ cup butter, melted

HEAT oven to 350°F. Line 13 x 9-inch baking pan with foil, extending foil over edges of pan.

STIR cookie mix and melted butter with fork until crumbs form. Press evenly in bottom of prepared pan. Bake 12 to 15 minutes or until lightly browned.



Chocolate Flan Cake

BEAT cream cheese in medium bowl with electric mixer on medium speed until smooth. Beat in eggs just until blended. Beat in sweetened condensed milk, vanilla and 2 tablespoons pineapple juice. Pour over warm crust. Sprinkle drained pineapple evenly over top.

STIR coconut, macadamia nuts and butter in small bowl until evenly moistened. Sprinkle over pineapple layer.

BAKE 30 to 35 minutes or until filling is set and coconut is lightly browned. Cool 1 hour on wire rack. Chill 1 hour. Cut into bars.

Chocolate Flan Cake

Makes 18 to 20 servings Ready in 8 hours

Crisco® Original No-Stick Cooking Spray

Cake

½ cup Smucker's® Caramel Flavored Topping

1 (18.25-ounce) box Pillsbury® Moist Supreme® Devil's Food Premium Cake Mix

½ cup Crisco Pure Vegetable Oil

3 large eggs

14 cups water

Flan

4 ounces cream cheese, softened

4 large eggs, at room temperature

1 (14-ounce) can Eagle Brand Sweetened Condensed Milk

1 (12-fluid ounce) can PET® Evaporated Milk

1 teaspoon vanilla extract

HEAT oven to 350°F. Coat 12-cup fluted tube pan with no-stick cooking spray. Place



Tropical Dessert Bars



Passion Fruit Cheesecake

piece of rolled up foil in tube opening of pan to prevent cake from baking over top. Pour caramel flavored topping into prepared pan.

PREPARE cake mix according to package directions using the oil, eggs and water. Pour evenly over caramel flavored topping.

COMBINE cream cheese, eggs, sweetened condensed milk, evaporated milk and vanilla in blender container. Process until blended. Pour slowly over cake batter.

COAT piece of foil with no-stick cooking spray. Cover pan tightly with foil and place coated side down. Place pan in large roasting pan. Pour hot water into roasting pan to a depth of 2 inches.

BAKE 2 hours or until toothpick in center still has a few moist crumbs. Place cake on cooling rack. Cool 15 minutes. Remove foil and invert onto serving plate. Cool 1 hour at room temperature. Chill 4 hours or overnight.

TIP: Be careful when inverting hot cake onto serving plate. Place plate upside down on top of pan, place another cooling rack on top, then invert.

Passion Fruit Cheesecake

Makes 12 to 16 servings Ready in 11 hours

Crisco Original No-Stick Cooking Spray

Cheesecake

30 gingersnap cookies

% cup pecans

6 tablespoons butter, melted

4 (8-ounce) packages cream cheese, at room temperature

h cup sugar

1 (14-ounce) can Eagle Brand Sweetened Condensed Milk

4 large eggs

1 cup frozen passion fruit pulp, thawed or 1 cup passion fruit puree

Passion Fruit Glaze

% cup frozen passion fruit pulp, thawed or % cup passion fruit puree

½ cup sugar

½ cup water

HEAT oven to 350°F. Coat 9 x 3-inch springform pan with no-stick cooking spray.

PROCESS cookies and pecans in food processor until fine crumbs form. Place in small bowl. Stir in melted butter until evenly moistened. Press evenly onto bottom of prepared pan and 1-inch up sides. Bake 10 minutes. Cool on wire rack. Wrap foil around bottom and sides of pan.

BEAT cream cheese and sugar in large mixing bowl with electric mixer on medium speed until smooth. Pour in sweetened condensed milk gradually, beating until blended. Beat in eggs just until combined.

MEASURE /s cup of cheesecake and pour into small bowl. Whisk with 1 cup passion fruit pulp until blended. Pour remaining cheesecake into cooled crust. Spoon small dollops of passion fruit mixture over top of batter. Swirl with knife to make marbled appearance.

BAKE 60 to 70 minutes or until center is almost set. Cool 1 hour on wire rack. Chill at least 8 hours or overnight.

To make glaze: COMBINE fruit pulp, sugar and water in small saucepan. Bring to a boil on medium high heat. Cook 15 to 20 minutes or until mixture begins to thicken and measures about A cup. Place in small bowl. Cool completely.

REMOVE cheesecake from pan. Place on large serving dish. Spread glaze over top.

— Courtesy Family Features

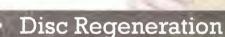
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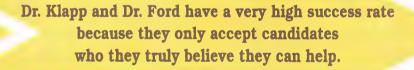
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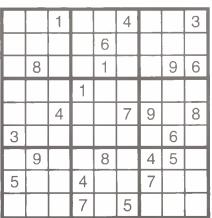


Sudoku

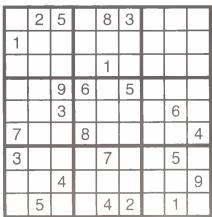
Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

						4	2	
3		1						
9		8			6	5		
1		9			3	2		
7	8		4		5		9	
2			1					5
	3	6		9	7			
4			6	5	1		7	
		7		3	4			

Level: Beginner



Lovel Intermediat



Level: Advance

Answers found on page 22

Slam-dunk favorites

MIX IT UP WITH JENNY

It's true — the kitchen is the heart of the home. Ever notice how people always



Jenny Harper

gather there? Whether baking treats, making dinner or spending time with family and friends, the kitchen is my favorite place to be. Since my day job is Consumer Test Kitchen project manager for the Nestle Test

Kitchens, you can bet I love to stir things up. This column lets me pass along to you some of my best recipes, tips and baking secrets.

When March Madness tips off, I know it's time for some fun foods that will be slam-dunk favorites at game-watching parties.

Chips and other munchies are always good, but I thought I'd spice things up a bit with these two recipes — they're easy to hold and eat while cheering on our favorite underdogs.

• Tex-Mex seasonings liven up these mini meatballs, which are great for dipping in salsa and sour cream. Putting them on skewers makes them fun for guests of all ages.

• Smoked almonds team up with creamy Carnation to make a great blue cheese dip for wings, veggies or crackers. Be sure to have plenty of napkins!

For more ways to enjoy the hoopla of March Madness, including recipes, nutritional information and tips, visit www.TheCookingMilk.com.

Mexi-Meatball Kabobs

Makes 30 servings, 2 skewers each Prep: 35 minutes Cooking: 15 minutes

Nonstick cooking spray

- 3 pounds lean ground beef
- 2 cups quick oats
- 1 can (12 fluid ounces) Nestle Carnation Evaporated Milk
- 2 large eggs
- 2 cup ketchup
- 2 packets (1.25 ounces each) taco seasoning mix
- 1 teaspoon ground black pepper
- 3 large bell peppers (any color), cut into 60, 1-inch pieces



Photos courtesy of Nestlé

Mexi-Meatball Kabobs

60 4-inch wooden skewers Salsa and sour cream (optional)

PREHEAT oven to 350° F. Foil-line 3 baking sheets and spray with nonstick cooking spray.

COMBINE ground beef, oats, evaporated milk, eggs, ketchup, taco seasoning and black pepper in large bowl until just mixed. Form mixture into 120, 1-inch meatballs. Place on prepared baking sheets.

BAKE for 15 to 20 minutes or until no longer pink in center. Drain on paper towels, if needed.

THREAD two meatballs and one piece of pepper on each skewer. Place on large serving platter. Serve with salsa and sour cream.

TIPS: Meatballs can be made and baked ahead of time, refrigerated for up to 3 days or frozen up to 3 months and heated prior to serving.

Smokin' Almond Blue Cheese Dip

Makes 20 servings (2 tablespoons each) Prep: 5 minutes Refrigerate: 2 hours

- 1 cup sour cream cup mayonnaise
- ²₃ cup (5 fl.-oz. can) Nestle Carnation Evaporated Milk
- 2 cup smoked almonds, chopped
- 4 ounces blue or Gorgonzola cheese, crumbled

- 8 teaspoon ground black pepper

1 tablespoon cider vinegar

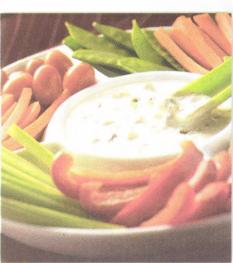
COMBINE sour cream, mayonnaise, evaporated milk, almonds, cheese, vinegar and black pepper in medium bowl; cover. Refrigerate for 2 hours before serving. Makes about 2½ cups.

SERVE with assorted cut up vegetables or chicken wings.

NOTE: To use as a dressing, increase evaporated milk to 1 cup.

Jenny Harper is Consumer Test Kitchen project manager for the Nestle Test Kitchens and Very-BestBaking.com.

-- Courtesy Family Features



Smokin' Almond Blue Cheese Dip



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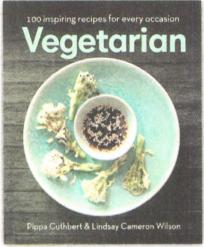
BOOKS

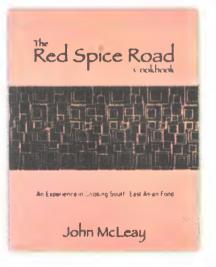


Author: Pippa Cuthbert & Lindsay Cameron Wilson

This book contains a large and tasty collection of main courses, side dishes, soups and salads, snacks and small dishes. It includes tips on nutrition and cooking vegetables; how to avoid spoilage; the best way to store vegetables; as well as recipes and a comprehensive glossary.

Released: January 2011





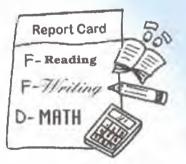
The Red Spice Road Cookbook

Author: John McLeay
Combining centuries-old recipes with modern ingredients and know-how, Chef John McLeay shares his love of all things Asian. Mouth-watering recipes include: crab-filled betel leaves, prawn and sticky pork salad, prawn jungle curry and crispy five-spice quail. There are also common favorites such as Penang curry, chilli basil chicken, mapo tofu and pork belly, as well as easy, delicious desserts. Also included is a "basics" section, which instructs the home cook on how to make fundamental stocks, pastes and garnishes.

Released: August 2010



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MOVIES

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Release Date: March 18 Rated: R

VINEL WITH

A struggling attorney Mike Flaherty (Paul Giamatti), who moonlights as a high school wrestling coach, becomes legal guardian of an elderly client in an attempt to help keep his practice afloat. When the clients teenage grandson runs away from home and shows up on his grandfather's doorstep, Mike's family life and his wrestling team are turned upside down. Mike's win-win proposition turns into something much more complicated than he ever bargained for.

Release Date: March 18 (Limited)
Rated: Not Rated

In the gripping thriller "The Lincoln Lawyer," Matthew McConaughey stars as Michael "Mick" Haller, a slick, charismatic Los Angeles criminal defense attorney who operates out of the back of his Lincoln Continental sedan. Having spent most of his career defending petty, gutter-variety criminals, Mick unexpectedly lands the case of a lifetime. What initially appears to be a straightforward case with a big money payoff swiftly develops into a deadly match between two masters of manipulation and a crisis of conscience for Haller.

Release Date: March 18 Rated R

LIAM TO A STATE OF

Based on the novel "The Dark Fields" by Alan Glynn. Bradley Cooper and Robert De Niro star in "Limitless," a paranoia-fueled action thriller about an unpublished writer whose life is transformed by a top-secret smart drug that allows him to use 100 percent of his brain and become a perfect version of himself. His enhanced abilities soon attract shadowy forces that threaten his new life in this darkly comic and provocative film.

Release Date: March 18 Not Rated

« MUSIC »

AS THE CARS GEAR UP FOR THEIR FIRST NEW ALBUM IN 24 YEARS
TITLED "MOVE LIKE THIS." THE
NEW WAVE GROUP IS GIVING:
FANS AN INITIAL TASTE OF THE
RELEASE WITH THE MUSIC VIOLE
FOR "BLUE TIP."

The Cars reunite for first album in 23 years

Remember the Cars, an American rock

band that emerged from the early new wave music scene in the late 1970s? They are releasing a new album May 10. We haven't heard from them since 1987.



The band features musician and producer Ric Ocasek, guitarist Elliot Easton, keyboardist Greg Hawkes and drummer David Robinson The group is strongly considering touring, but dates have yet to be confirmed.

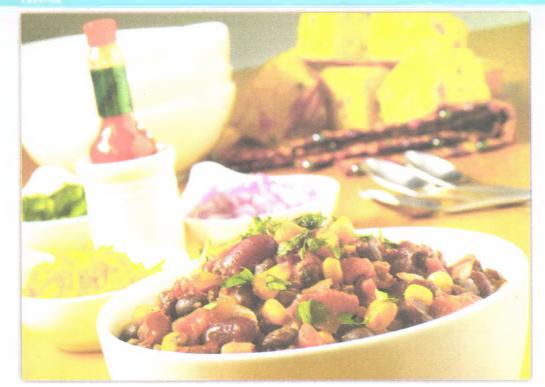
Def Leppard

23 years ago Def Leppard had their hit album "Hysteria." It was the fourth studio album by the English heavy metal band. It is the band's best-selling album to date, selling more than 20 million copies worldwide and spawning seven hit singles.

And today's music scene is all about Lady Gaga and Adele

Lady Gaga's "Born This Way" is outselling most of the competition by a comfortable margin. Adele, artist of the moment, took to the stage accompanied by nothing more than a pianist to belt out the heart-wrenching "Someone Like You," a track from her current album "21." Both artists are claiming a spot in the history charts.





Spice up game day with chili

For a great game-day party, give rival fans one thing they can agree on – the food. Ditch traditional finger foods for a hearty, winter classic with a spicy Southwestern twist.

A hearty mix of ground beef and beans, with hints of chili powder, cilantro and barrel-aged Tabasco sauce, Game-Day Chili is sure to become a household tradition. Serve the chili with an array of toppings on the side – like Cheddar cheese, red onion and original Tabasco sauce – allowing guests to customize their own bowl. For more fan-pleasing recipes visit www.Tabasco.com.

Game-Day Chili

Makes 6 servings

- 1 tablespoon vegetable oil
- 1 red onion, chopped
- 1 pound ground beef
- 2 teaspoons chili powder
- 1½ teaspoons salt
- 1 can (16 ounces) diced tomatoes
- 1 can (15½ ounces) red kidney beans, drained
- 2 tablespoons original Tabasco brand pepper sauce
- 1 can (11 ounces) corn, drained 2 tablespoons fresh chopped cilantro Shredded Cheddar cheese, optional Chopped red onion, optional Cilantro sprigs, optional

Heat vegetable oil in medium saucepan over medium heat. Add onion; cook until tender, about 5 minutes, stirring occasionally.

In drippings remaining in saucepan, cook ground beef over medium-high heat until well browned on both sides, stirring frequently. Stir in chili powder and salt; cook one minute. Add tomatoes (and their liquid), kidney beans and Tabasco sauce. Heat mixture to boiling over high heat. Reduce heat to low; cover and simmer 15 minutes, stirring occasionally. Stir in corn and cilantro; heat through.

Garnish with shredded Cheddar cheese, red onion and cilantro sprigs, if desired.

— Courtesy Family Features

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Sudoku Answers

E	Beginner										
ſ	6	7	5	9	1	8	4	2	3		
	3	4	1	5	7	2	8	6	9		
	9	2	8	3	4	6	5	1	7		
	1	5	9	7	6	3	2	8	4		
	7	8	3	4	2	5	6	9	1		
	2	6	4	1	8	9	7	3	5		
	5	3	6	8	9	7	1	4	2		
	4	9	2	6	5	1	3	7	8		
	8	1	7	2	3	4	9	5	6		

Intermediate									
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. :	Advanced										
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	8	4	9	6	2	5	1	7	3		
	5	1	3	4	9	7	2	6	8		
	7	6	2	8	3	1	5	9	4		
	3	8	1	9	7	6	4	5	2		
	2	7	4	1	5	8	6	3	9		
	9	5	6	3	4	2	8	1	7		

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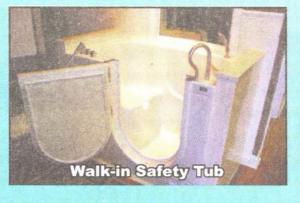
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