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Leap year babies

With Feb. 29 fast approaching, we are looking for Leap Year babies!

How do you celebrate? When do you celebrate? Has life been any different because you're a Leap Year baby? These are the things we'd like to know.

If you're a Feb. 29 baby, or had a Feb. 29 baby, or even know of a Leap Year baby, and are willing to share your story, please e-mail your information (and a photo!) to Observer editor Brad Kadrich at bkadrich@hometownlife.com.

City approves property purchase to add parking

By Matt Jachman
Observer Staff Writer

The land-contract purchase of an underused church property on the outskirts of downtown Plymouth will add about 100 parking spots to the area's parking inventory.

The city will pay \$775,000 over 10 years to the First Church of Christ-Scientist, on Ann Arbor

Trail west of Harvey, for about 1.6 acres of church property — the church building itself and the entire parking lot. The Christian Science congregation is keeping its reading room/Sunday school building and a small adjacent parcel with frontage on Ann Arbor Trail.

The deal was approved with a 4-1 Plymouth City Commission vote on Monday, and closing is

expected in the next few weeks. The funding is coming from the Downtown Development Authority, which will manage the lot. The DDA board had previously approved the purchase.

"It's a step toward helping solve our parking problem," said Commissioner Ron Loiselle, who led the city's negotiating team.

"I think it's the best thing the city can do to address the topic that

people talk about over and over and over again," said Mayor Dan Dwyer.

Expansion plans

While the current church parking lot of about 100 spots will be available for free public parking once the deal is complete, the long-term plan is to

Please see PARKING, A3

Gov's choice

Gov. Rick Snyder announced the appointment of three members and the reappointment of one member to the Michigan Board of Psychology.

The one reappointment: Alan Warbelow of Plymouth, a limited license psychologist and program manager at Eastwood Clinics, where he is responsible for the administrative and clinical management of outpatient mental health and substance abuse services. He received a bachelor's degree in psychology from Wayne State University and a master's degree in clinical psychology from the University of Detroit.

Miracle coaches

Miracle League of Plymouth is looking for volunteer coaches for the league's second season at Bilkie Family Field in Plymouth.

Miracle League officials are hoping volunteers will donate their time to be a "buddy" to players, coach a team, work in the concession stand or umpire a game.

Volunteers can contact Shari Bilkie at info@miracleleagueplymouth.org.

Have a bite



Three-year-old Halle Heineman feeds snacks to dad, Chris Heineman, during Plymouth's first Daddy/Daughter dance at the Plymouth Cultural Center Saturday. A sell-out crowd filled the center. See more pictures from the event on page A8.

District hears public input on closing options

By Brad Kadrich
Observer Staff Writer

Michele Fleming's children are among the few who live in Plymouth Township who attend elementary school at Hulsing Elementary School.

And Fleming, who lives in the Joy/Lilley area, wants it to remain that way even after the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools Board of Education makes its decision on which schools to close in its facilities optimization plan. Her children (she has a second- and a fourth-grader at the school) have made friends from the

other areas that feed Hulsing. However, while her children could be sent to Allen Elementary on Haggerty, their Canton friends would more likely be shipped to Gallimore or Miller as the district redraws its school boundaries.

"I just think (Hulsing) should remain an elementary school," Fleming said of the school, tucked into the Windsor Park subdivision in Canton. "We want to make sure, if Hulsing closes, we get to stay with our community."

Please see CLOSING, A3

Group drops Colbeck recall

By Darrell Clem
Observer Staff Writer

A recall group has dropped its campaign to oust state Sen. Patrick Colbeck, R-Canton, for his support of Michigan's emergency manager legislation — a decision partly blamed on the daunting task of collecting 27,300 signatures to get the issue placed on a ballot.

"Our decision was to let it lapse at this point," recall leader Mary Kelley said Tuesday.

Her remarks came as the Committee to Recall Patrick Colbeck faced a deadline this week to submit petitions to Wayne County election officials.

Colbeck, in his second year as 7th District senator, welcomed the news, saying "I've got enough drama in my life" dealing with Lansing politics. He vowed to contin-



The group seeking to recall state Sen. Patrick Colbeck, R-Canton, over his support of emergency manager legislation, has decided to drop the attempt.

ue efforts to create jobs and find a solution to traffic problems near the I-275/Ford Road interchange. "I'm just going to continue doing what I've been doing all along —

Please see COLBECK, A2

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Yazaki: Fine won't affect Canton mission

By Darrell Clem
Observer Staff Writer

Yazaki Corp., a major Japanese auto supplier that has its North American headquarters in Canton, will try to repair its tarnished image after agreeing to pay \$470 million in criminal fines for its involvement in price-fixing and bid-rigging conspiracies.

"We're focused on our future and happy to have this chapter closed," Yazaki spokeswoman Misty Matthews said.

Yazaki's criminal fines, reportedly the second-largest penalty obtained by federal officials for an antitrust violation,

came nearly two years after FBI agents raided the sprawling Canton complex near Haggerty and Warren along with branches in Lexington, Ky., and Columbus, Ohio.

Yazaki isn't expected to scale back its 1,200-employee workforce in Canton following allegations the company engaged in criminal wrongdoing that the U.S. Justice Department said boosted the prices customers paid for cars and trucks around the world.

"We do not have any changes planned in the workforce," Matthews said.

She conceded the embattled company has "intensified all corpo-

rate compliance efforts" following a scandal that led to the multimillion fines and reports of prison time facing four executives who are expected to return to the United States from Japan.

Yazaki's damaged reputation follows years of respect for the company earned for supporting programs and contributing large amounts of money to organizations such as the Canton Community Foundation and the Canton Chamber of Commerce.

Matthews indicated that Yazaki intends to remain involved in Canton and other communities where it does business.

COLBECK

Continued from page A1

what the vast majority of 7th District residents want me to do," Colbeck said. "We're trying to get jobs pushed through."

Still around

Colbeck's district includes the townships of Canton, Plymouth, Northville, Brownstown, Grosse Ile, Huron, Sumpter and Van Buren, and the cities of Belleville, Flat Rock, Gibraltar, Rockwood, Trenton, Woodhaven and part of Northville.

Although the recall campaign has been abandoned, Kelley said the group remains in place and could decide to revive its efforts if other measures become political hot buttons. She cited Colbeck's support to make Michigan a right-to-work state — viewed by critics as a union-busting measure — as one potential issue.

Kelley, a Northville Township resident and retired Trenton elementary principal, cited several reasons why recall organizers have dropped their effort to oust Colbeck:

- A challenge to get the organizational support and money needed to wage a massive recall

effort.

- Stringent recall rules that force organizers to collect the signatures they need within a 90-day window. "The recall process is designed by the legislators (we) are seeking to remove," Kelley said.

- A lack of name recognition for Colbeck, a freshman legislator, and his stance on issues. "Many people did not know who he was," Kelley said.

- Concern by some people about signing petitions and providing personal information, though Kelley said recall organizers plan to destroy the documents.

Keeping focus

Colbeck has long said he remained focused on his job while he was targeted for potential recall. He said he was most concerned by rude treatment he received from his foes.

"You never like to walk down a street (in the district) and have someone tell you to go back to Lansing," he said. "The personal nature was disappointing, but that goes with the territory. I'm very good at focusing on what needs to be done."

Word that the recall effort against Colbeck has been abandoned came

after a separate group earlier ditched plans to try to oust Democratic state Reps. Dian Slavens of Canton, Phil Cavanagh of Redford and Tim Bledsoe of Grosse Pointe.

Colbeck, Slavens and other legislators have long said they opposed a wave of recall efforts, saying voters should aim their frustrations at elections rather than seek to oust lawmakers for their stance on a single issue.

"I'm glad it didn't go through for Dian Slavens as well," Colbeck said Tuesday.

Stu Sandler, an attorney and Republican strategist, has said the anti-Democrat recall efforts were dropped to put the focus on this year's elections.

"I think our plan is, we are going to present our different views on how the Republican Party proposes to reinvent Michigan in this next election," he has said.

Slavens, Cavanagh and Bledsoe had been targeted for their opposition to emergency manager legislation.

Much like Colbeck, Slavens has defended her voting record in Lansing and said she is fighting in Lansing for jobs and other measures important to her constituents.

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CORRECTION

The story in the *Observer* about the Jan. 24 death of Francesco DiBlasi, founder and former conductor of the Livonia Symphony Orchestra, should have said those interested in attending his memorial service at 2 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 11, at Laurel Manor, 39000 Schoolcraft, Livonia, should RSVP to Christine Moore at mchristinemoores@yahoo.com.

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'Teddy bear' tavern doorman loved to laugh

By Matt Jachman
Observer Staff Writer



Armstrong

tough exterior at Hermann's — "People knew not to put their feet on the furniture or sit on the pool table" — but was in reality tenderhearted, quick with a laugh and easy to talk to, people who knew him said. He liked to call himself Michigan's oldest bouncer.

"He was a softie. He was a good family guy," said Steve Trussler, a co-worker at Hermann's, on Starkweather in Plymouth's Old Village.

Armstrong had worked at part-time at Hermann's for at least 16 years, his daughter said, starting there when it was called the Lower Town Grille.

John "Jack" Armstrong of Plymouth, a career salesman and longtime weekend doorman at Hermann's Olde Town Grille, is being remembered this week as a "Teddy bear" with a ready joke and a devotion to community causes who could put on a gruff front when he needed it.

Armstrong, 73, died Friday after a long battle with cancer. His funeral was on Tuesday.

"He was just the most easy-going, fun-loving guy you could ever meet," said a daughter, Janet Armstrong of Plymouth. "If there was someone who had a negative word to say about Jack, I would be amazed."

Armstrong could adopt a

But most of his working life was in sales.

Armstrong for years was a traveling salesman for John H. Graham, a manufacturers representative, for which he sold hardware items, and also sold real estate for a short time, Janet Armstrong said.

In 1988, he began at the Plymouth Community Crier newspaper as a sales consultant, and ended up there as advertising director. He and a partner also had an advertising firm, Visual Impressions, for a few years, she said.

"He had always been a salesman. He was born to be a salesman," she said.

Armstrong was born in Detroit on July 6, 1938, and grew up in Detroit, Van Buren Township and the city of

Wayne, where he graduated from St. Mary's High School. After a stint in the Army, during which he got to travel extensively, he began working for Kroger, and then for Graham, Janet Armstrong said.

He coached several youth sports, was involved with the Civitans and the Special Olympics in Plymouth, and later with the Toys for Tots organization, which provides toys for needy children at Christmas. Armstrong helped start an annual auction at Hermann's that benefits Toys for Tots, Janet Armstrong said.

At Hermann's, Armstrong was "always the first to dress up" when there was a theme or costume party. He golfed regularly — right up until the end of November last year, despite

his illness — and "always had a joke," his daughter said.

"He got just about everything out of life that he possibly could," she said.

Armstrong's wife, Judy, died in 1987.

In addition to Janet Armstrong, other survivors include Julie Bardelli and her husband, Rich, of Plymouth Township; son Jim and his wife, Teresa; brothers Harry, Mike, and Carl Gowan; and three grandchildren.

Arrangements were handled by the Vermeulen Funeral Home.

Memorial contributions may be made to Marine Toys for Tots Foundation, 18251 Quantico Gateway, Triangle, VA 22172.

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

PARKING

Continued from page A1

raze the church building and develop a permanent public lot with even more spaces and new lighting. City officials, however, haven't decided on a way to pay for such improvements, and DDA operations director Tony Bruscatto said it could be several years before the site is redeveloped.

Dwyer said the additional parking is the centerpiece of several downtown parking regulations.

Other changes could include the issuing of no-fee "courtesy tickets" to first-time violators of parking time limits, a graduated fee scale for repeat offenders, and the use by parking enforcement of handheld devices that would flag the license plates of repeat offenders. But

the mayor has said the city should provide more parking before taking the enforcement steps.

Loiselle said the plan is to "gently coerce" people who work at downtown businesses to park in the new lot, freeing up closer-in parking for downtown visitors. The new lot would be for long-term parking rather than the two-hour limit of many on-street downtown parking spots.

The Christian Science church would retain the use of 38 spaces in the city's new lot, mainly for the purpose of having adequate parking should the congregation decide to expand its reading room in the future. But the entire lot would be open to the public, Dwyer said, and no spaces would be formally reserved or blocked off for church members. Church members typically only use the lot on Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings.

No-interest purchase

The interest-free, land-contract deal requires a \$150,000 down payment at closing and quarterly payments totaling \$625,000.

Commissioner Meg Dooley voted no. Joining Dwyer and Loiselle in voting yes were Commissioners Mike Wright and Diane Bogenreider. Commissioners Gerald Sabatini and Ed Hingelberg were absent.

Ellen Elliott, executive director of the Friends of the Penn Theatre, said the purchase is "a good start" toward solving a "problem that has been skirted around for too long."

But Elliott, who has spoken to the commission several times about parking issues, added she's skeptical the new lot will be a long-term solution.

"It's too far away from where the real need is," she said.

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CLOSING

Continued from page A1

Fleming was part of a small crowd Tuesday at Discovery Middle School for the first of three public forums designed to elicit resident comments on the facilities recommendations made by Plante & Moran CRE-SA, the firm the district hired to conduct the facilities study. Other forums are scheduled for Feb. 27 and March 6, both at 6:30 p.m., and both at Discovery Middle School.

Hulsing is one of three elementary schools on the radar in the list of scenarios presented by CRESA. Hulsing and Fiegel Elementary, located on Joy Road in Plymouth Township, would close under all five scenarios presented by CRESA. Gallimore would join them in one scenario.

CRESA calculated the scenarios two ways: Housing students at 85-

percent and 90-percent capacity. Phil Freeman, the district's assistant superintendent for facilities, said the scenarios drawn up using an 85-percent capacity seemed to be "rising to the top." However, administrators pointed out it's all still just preliminary until the board makes its decisions, likely at the March 27 board meeting.

"This is all preliminary information," Supt. Dr. Jeremy Hughes said Tuesday. "No decisions have been made about anything. (Closings) will be a board decision."

Administrators answered questions for nearly three hours Tuesday. Some of the questions included:

- To Fleming's point (keeping Hulsing kids together), Freeman said: "They'd probably be split in two different directions. We would do our best to split them to no more than two (schools), if at all possible."

- Why close Hulsing and/or Gallimore? Hughes pointed out both schools are centrally located within the district and would make good locations for programs such as the Tanger Center's special education program or an early-childhood development center.

"Gallimore is much more accessible if we want to use it for a special program," Hughes said. "Hulsing is nestled in a neighborhood and is less accessible."

- The attraction of closing Fiegel is its location near the borders of Livonia and Westland. The school, considered the most likely to be closed, would make a good home for Starkweather, the district's alternative high school currently housed in a sub-par building in Plymouth.

"We get (Starkweather) students from (Livonia and Westland)," Freeman said. "That makes Fiegel a prime candidate for Starkweather."



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Fire reform, not taxes, the right solution

By Bob Doroshewitz
Guest Columnist

On Feb. 28, Plymouth Township voters will be asked to approve a new Special Assessment District for fire that effectively grants future boards unlimited taxing power and strips you of your authority to vote on future millage increases.

If passed, the SAD will enable boards to assess up to 10 mills for equipment and an unlimited amount for employee and other operational costs.

It is on the ballot as a result of an employee-backed petition drive, not by sponsorship of the township board. That makes it different from anything we have ever seen or probably will ever see again. Tax increases are almost always initiated by boards, not by employees driven by self-preservation who masquerade as neutral citizens concerned for the well-being of the community.

It is not the government ask-



Bob Doroshewitz

ing you for money, but rather the employees of the government who are desperate to hold onto lucrative pay and work rule packages that are long overdue for reform.

We don't need to keep throwing more money here but instead need to change the way we spend the money we have. The role of government is to deliver services to its citizens at the best possible value and sometimes it takes a complete overhaul to do that.

While the majority of the board is clear that the fire delivery model can and should be reformed, and can be done so with service levels equal or better than we have now, the employees — through their petition drive — have told you that the only viable answer is to preserve the status quo and the

only way to preserve the status quo is to raise taxes.

Many of you were coaxed into signing a petition that put forth false claims that promised you'd pay just one mil for five years, a claim not backed by the law. Further, fear-mongering tactics scared some into believing no one will come to your aid in an emergency. To that, I can only say that we live here, too. And as raw human nature goes, no elected official in the history of the world has ever voted for change that would put his own family in harm's way.

You have seen facts and opinions, points and counterpoints and you may not know what to believe. But the numbers — the pay levels, lucrative lifetime benefits and long periods of on-the-clock idleness — are indisputable.

Many of you shook your heads in disbelief at these facts as life changed for you a decade ago when your benefits were cut by that company we've all heard of. And as

the world of the private sector employee has changed, then so must that of the public sector employee. But you can't understand why that hasn't happened and neither can I.

The problem is that the lifetime benefits are a ticking time bomb, one that will explode on the next generation. No money is set aside and nothing in any petition drive made provision to do so. Passing a one-mill tax will do nothing more than push the costs down the next generation of taxpayers, those least able to complain — your children and your grandchildren.

In just a few years, health care liability will eclipse a million dollars per employee and it won't be long until the township spends more each year to pay employees no longer working here than it does for those who do. For months, I watched in astonishment as the wife of a firefighter and her lawyer berated and then sued the board, demanding a millage vote that would fool the public

into believing there will be no mess for our kids to clean up.

Their plan is the equivalent of paying the minimum on a credit card now and letting the interest pile up for someone else to pay later. Bill the kids seems to be the mantra. After all, it's easy to feed off the future as the future is unable to speak for itself. Unconscionable, disturbing — you pick the adjective.

The board could have taken the easy way out and come to you with a small, temporary, hole-plugging millage. Chances are you would have supported it and just shrugged off the increase. We could have given in to the picketers, petitioners and pamphleteers. But we didn't and that should speak volumes to you.

Soon enough it will be our turn to pass the torch — let's do so with a bill stamped "Paid in Full" and demand reform over new taxes.

Bob Doroshewitz is a Plymouth Township trustee.

Board suppressing constitutional rights

By Tom Kelly
Guest Columnist

More than a year ago, the City of Plymouth elected to drop out of the Plymouth Community Fire Department and implement a "paid-on-call" fire department with only a private ambulance company providing EMS service.

The City of Plymouth did not give residents a chance to vote on which level of service they would prefer.

A group of Plymouth Township residents got together and decided we would like to have the



Tom Kelly

"right" to vote on what level of Fire/EMS service we wanted — and were willing to pay for — in the township.

In April 2011, a Steve Mitchell Communications (nationally renowned polling agency) poll found that 73 percent of township residents would support a 1-mill increase in property taxes to maintain our "current" level of Fire/EMS service.

The Plymouth Township Board of Trustees would

not listen to the results of the poll. Township officials would not put a 1-mill, "general millage, for Fire Department Operations" on the ballot. There is currently a .9848 mill, Fire Operating millage on the levied taxes.

The Citizens Action Group (CAG) went to land owners in the township and received 4,000 petition signatures, requesting that a 1-mill/five-years millage be put on the ballot, under MCL 41.810 (Special Assessment District). The SAD is the only avenue available to township residents (vs. city residents, who can petition for a "general mill-

age" rate increase) to petition the elected officials for a ballot vote.

Township officials fought the petitions of 4,000 people completely. First, they alleged that the signatures were invalid, and of insufficient number. Wayne County Circuit Court ruled against the township.

Next, they alleged that the CAG didn't have standing to file the suit against them. Again, Wayne County Circuit Court ruled against the township. Are you seeing a pattern here?

Currently, the township board has negated the will of 4,000 of their constitu-

ents, who petitioned them to put a "1-mill/five-years" rate increase on the ballot. The township board "replaced" the petition language with a ballot proposal, of "in an amount not to exceed 10 mills," for an unlimited number of years. The township clerk, and the Michigan Bureau of Elections, found no fault in the petition language that was signed by 4,000 people!

The constitutional rights of the citizens, to petition their elected officials, is being suppressed by the Plymouth Township Board of Trustees. The issue has gone beyond what level of Fire/EMS Service Plym-

outh Township residents want, and is currently one of allowing citizens their constitutional rights.

Please contact your Plymouth Township elected officials, and tell them you won't let your constitutional rights be violated by seven of 28,000 residents. Put a 1-mill/5-years millage question (for Fire Department Operations), on the ballot.

Tom Kelly is a member of the Citizens Action Group of Plymouth Township. View the group's website at www.plymouthtownshipcitizens.org and the group's Facebook page, CitizensAction Plymouth Township.

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Tax code's tough to fathom

By Rick Bloom
Guest Columnist

Over the last few weeks there have been lots of stories about taxes. Whether it is the occupied Wall Street crowd, Warren Buffett's tax rate vs. his secretary, or the release of Mitt Romney's tax returns, taxes have been in the news. Unfortunately, what has become evident to me is that there is a total misunderstanding of our tax laws. Therefore, I thought it would be important to review some of the basics so readers have a better understanding. Everyone recognizes that no one, not even tax experts, understands our tax laws completely. After all, our tax laws are tens of thousands of pages long. Let's not forget they're written by lawyers for lawyers. Therefore, they are very difficult and complex to understand. However, there are some basics that help readers understand some of the conversations that are occurring.



Money Matters
Rick Bloom

is a distinction between gross income and taxable income.

The other major bracket — capital gain — is based upon the taxes paid on an investment that is held for at least a year and then sold with a gain. Your capital gain rate can either be zero, five percent or 15 percent. Therefore, when Warren Buffett talks about having a lower bracket than his secretary, he is not telling you the whole story. He is comparing his capital gain bracket to his secretary's ordinary income bracket. A fair comparison would be comparing his ordinary bracket to her ordinary income bracket or his capital gain bracket to her capital bracket. What he did was compare his effective tax rate to her effective tax rate, which is something totally different.

Effective tax rate

Many times during this discussion about taxes you will hear something referred to as your effective tax rate. Basically, your effective tax rate is the total taxes you pay as a percent of your income. However, like so much when it comes to taxes, there are different ways to compute it. First, since the effective tax rate is the percent of your income, the first question is what income do you use? Do you use your gross income, which

would be the \$75,000, or do you use taxable income, which would be the \$50,000 from the example outlined here. Or do you use what is considered adjustable taxable income? The next question is what taxes do you use? Do you use just federal income taxes or do you include all federal taxes such as the Medicare and Social Security tax? The bottom line is the effective tax rate can be computed a number of different ways and when you hear discussions regarding taxes and the effective tax rate, you should keep that in mind.

When taxes are discussed you will also hear the term, marginal tax rate. Your marginal tax rate would be the taxes that you pay on your last dollar of income. For example, if someone's taxable income (all ordinary income) was \$400,000 their marginal tax rate would be 35 percent. That means the last dollar that they earned was taxed at 35 percent, however, that doesn't mean that the entire \$400,000 was taxed at 35 percent. After all, our tax rates are progressive and, therefore, part of the \$400,000 would also have been taxed at the lower brackets.

I suspect that as the presidential campaign heats up later this year, we will hear more and more discussion about taxes, tax policies and tax

rates. As far as I'm concerned, it doesn't matter what side of the debate you're on. It is more important that you understand what the conversation is about and that you don't let anyone pull the wool over your eyes. We all know that numbers can be manipulated and politicians are pros at that.

One last note, during this whole discussion it is important to put things into perspective. According to the tax policy center, the following are the effective tax rates paid by the average American based upon gross income and federal income taxes. If your family makes between \$50,000-\$75,000, your effective tax rate is 5.7 percent. It is 7.2 percent for families earning over \$75,000-\$100,000 and for families earning over \$100,000 it's 9.9 percent. For those lucky enough to earn over a \$1 million a year, the average effective rate is 18.9 percent.

My advice for lawmakers is that they shouldn't focus on tax rates and tax brackets but rather what would make things better for all of us — tax simplification. 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.bloomassetmanage-

PCAC sets spring calendar

The Plymouth Community Arts Council announced its new line up of art programs for the spring/winter. All classes are held at the PCAC, 774 N. Sheldon Road, Plymouth, MI unless otherwise specified.

• Spring Break Creative Arts Camp begins Tuesday, April 10 to Friday, April 13 for ages 6-12. Class runs from 9:30 a.m. to noon. Cost is \$65 for Member, \$75 Non Member. Painting, printing, drawing, ceramics, weaving, theater games, and more.

• Returning are the ever-popular Pre School art programs with instructor Lisa Howard. You and Me Together is an explorative art class for 2-1/2 to 4 year olds together with a parent or caregiver, and will be offered for five week sessions starting Wednesday, Feb. 29. Littlest Artist Studio, offered Tuesday mornings, is intended for 4-5 year olds who can work independently. Emphasis is on creative expression and experimenting with new materials and techniques. Five week sessions of Littlest Artist Studio begin Tuesday, Feb. 28. Cost of either program is \$80

per five week session (\$65 for PCAC members).

• New this spring are some specialized classes including Abstract Painting Classes and Violin Lessons.

Abstract Painting Classes begin March 5 through May 14, and run 10 sessions. The class is designed for ages 15 and older, all skill levels are welcomed.

• Violin Lessons begin Fridays, March 2 through May 4, eight sessions. Classes meet in the PCAC Arts-co House 5:45-6:15 p.m. Cost is \$86 membership cost \$96 non member cost \$7 book fee. You may bring your own instrument, or rent one. RENTAL INFO: \$45 for 2-months rental, including a violin with bow and case, and music stand.

• Continuing this season are Drop-In Classes, including Pam Grossmann's Drop-In Drawing & Painting and Jeff Burda's Drop in Pottery classes.

For more information or to register for any of these programs visit the PCAC website: www.plymoutharts.com, stop in the PCAC at 774 N. Sheldon Road, Plymouth, or call (734) 416-4278.



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2/15
3/6

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Workshops discuss plans for Medicare-eligible individuals who purchase their own healthcare coverage.

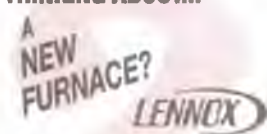
*Based on Medicare's 2011 and 2012 Overall Plan Star Ratings. See full results at www.medicare.gov. Plan Star Ratings are assessed each year and may change from one year to the next. Health Alliance Plan is a health plan with a Medicare contract. Alliance Medicare Rx (pdp) is a stand-alone Prescription Drug Plan with a Medicare contract.

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Magical Night benefits Gleaners



Former Plymouth-Canton school board member Nancy Eggenberger picks up her Lucky Stars prize from Jerry Grady and state Rep. Dian Slavens.



Canton Community Foundation Board of Directors Chairman Jerry Grady (right) talks with new board member Brian Geer and his wife, Tamara.

Despite it being one of the few blustery, snowy nights so far this winter, guests and sponsors celebrated to a retro Hollywood theme at the Canton Community Foundation's fourth annual Magical Night of the Stars Jan. 29 at the Emagine Theater in Canton.

"What makes this evening extra special is that we are here to benefit and support Gleaners Community Food Bank," said Jerry Grady, chair of the CCF board of directors. "The importance of Gleaners and what it has done to help families in southeastern Michigan is unbelievable. We are especially thankful for Gleaners' strong commitment to Canton."

Steve and Jackie Darr, who operate the Open Door Ministry Food Pantry

on Lilley Road, received a round of applause for their work in helping feed the area's hungry. Gleaners' delivers an equivalent of 85,000 meals throughout southeastern Michigan through its partner agencies, such as Open Door. "Our relationship with Gleaners is a testament to the partnerships the foundation is able to create and cultivate for the good of the community," Grady said. The board chair highlighted CCF's accomplishments in 2011, which included working with nonprofit agencies through programs such as the educational Lunch & Learn, planned giving programs and a new newsletter in which charitable organizations can share news with others.

Guests were treated to a cocktail reception, stroll-



Steve and Jackie Darr, who operate the Open Door Ministry Food Bank in Canton, receive a round of applause for their work.

ing dinner, dessert and a chance to win prizes at the Lucky Stars game.

Olivia Scott won the eve-

ning with the \$500 cash prize in the 50/50 raffle with her choice of legendary star John Wayne. But



CCF Board chair Jerry Grady with Suzette Hohendorf, development coordinator at Gleaners Community Food Bank.

Sponsors and prize donors for the event included: Schuler Co. Inc., Ashley Capital; Rehmann; Jack

Demmer Automotive Group; Community Financial Credit Union; Fausone Bohn LLP; UHY, LLP; Grid4

Communications; WCA Assessing; Laurel Manor; Paul and Nancy Hill-egonds; Kennedy Niemier

Insurance Agency; Melanie and Doug Burzynski; Cleaning Authority; LaSharm; Indigo Salon; Papa John's Pizza; Emagine Theater; Trader Joe's; Holiday Market; Sweet Bikes; Canton Leisure Services; Keller Stein and Starbucks.

Dawn LaRiche of Lou LaRiche Chevrolet pulled the card for irony when she won the Jack Demmer Ford "The Works" package for her choice of Barbra Streisand.

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C103	Umeka Burton
J357	Helen Powers

Purchases must be made with cash only and paid at the time of sale. All goods are sold as is and must be removed at the time of purchase. Extra Space Storage reserves the right to bid. Sale is subject to adjournment.

Publish: February 2, 2012

Senior troupe takes Biltmore stage

The Spotlight Still Got It Players navigate new literary territory as they present "The Oldest Profession" by Paula Vogel.

Organizers call the play funny, heartwarming, and "yes, a bit shocking," warning the play carries an "R" rating and is "not for the little ones." It will be presented in the Biltmore Studio at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill.

In the play, five aging practitioners of the oldest profes-

sion are faced with a diminishing clientele, increased competition for their niche market, and aching joints. With wit, compassion, and humor, they struggle to find and learn new tricks as they fight to stay in the life.

"I read this play about a year ago and felt passionately that I needed to tell the story of these wonderful women," director Debbie Lannen said. "Rarely do you find a piece that is so well written and captures the

essence of it's character."

Performance dates are noon March 1; 7 p.m. March 2; 2 and 7 p.m. March 3; and 2 p.m. March 4. The cast includes Carol Lipinski of Plymouth as Ursula and Marian Busa of Canton as Edna.

Tickets are \$11 to \$15 and are available by phone at the Village Theater Box Office at (734) 394-5460 or online at www.canton-mi.org/village-theater or www.spotlight-playersmi.org.



Carol Lipinski of Plymouth (left) and Marian Busa of Canton (right) star with Lana Collins of Northville in the Still Got It Players production of "The Oldest Profession."



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PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Mark Williams and his 6-year-old daughter, Lexie, and Michael Hamernik and 4-year-old daughter Gabby, get their boogie on.

Steppin' out with dad!

When City of Plymouth recreation officials noticed there really weren't any offerings for fathers and their daughters in the local community, they decided to try one on for size.

Judging by the response, they're likely to do it again.

Some 130 dancers turned out for the inaugural "Daddy/Daughter Dance." The young ladies each received a pair of sunglasses, and refreshments were served.

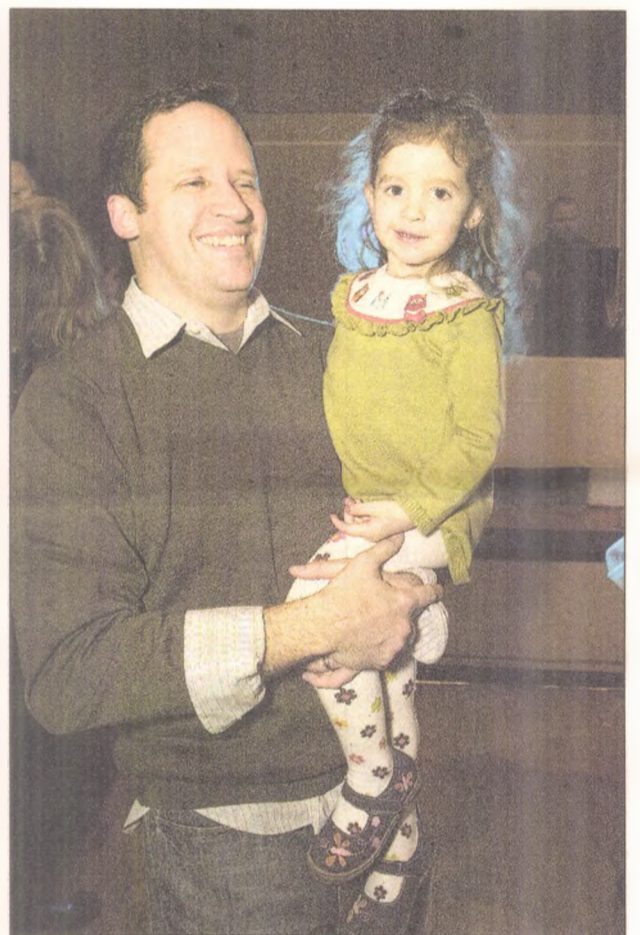
"We noticed there wasn't anything like it currently offered in Plymouth," said Lauren Misuraca, assistant director for recreation. "We thought it would be a good fit."

Apparently, the community agreed. The sell-out crowd filled the Plymouth Cultural Center's large reception room.

"It's definitely something we'll do again," Misuraca said.



John Buzuvis and 2-year-old daughter Meghan enjoy the festivities.



Mike Bambery enjoys the dance with 3-year-old Erin.



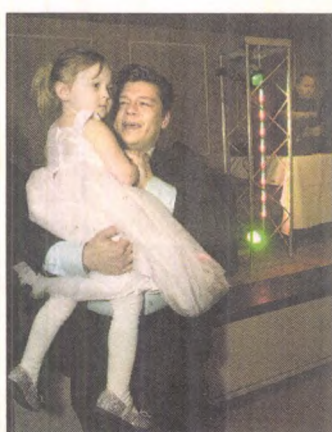
It's time to get down with the daddies and daughters at Plymouth's Cultural Center.



Photographer Dan Swint makes a portrait of dad Brad Gallant and 3-year-old daughter Kate.



Brent Ruffner and daughter Katie, 7 years old. Daughters Kelsey and Karly are sitting out this dance.



Rick Moreno and 3-year-old Macy dance to the DJ's tunes.



Adam Vincens and daughter Isabel, who'll be 2 years old in March.

PLYMOUTH BUSINESS BRIEFS



HandyPro of Plymouth was recently selected for Angie's List's 'Super Service Award' and as a Top 500 Franchise for 2011 by Entrepreneur magazine.

Presidential essay

In honor of Presidents Day, Community Financial announced an essay contest for local elementary and middle school students to have a chance to win a cash prize as well as lunch for their classmates.

Community Financial is asking students to answer the following question: Which U.S. President would you like to have lunch with and why?

Essays will be accepted between now and Feb. 20 from area students explaining which U.S. President — from George Washington to Barack Obama — they would like to sit and have lunch with and why. Essay forms are available at any of the Community Financial branch offices in Plymouth, Canton, Northville, Novi, Gaylor, Hillman and Lewiston, and online at www.cfcu.org/contest.

"Students deserve the opportunity to share their perspectives, so we wanted to give them a platform to express themselves as well as reflect on U.S. history and the presidency," said Natalie McLaughlin, Community Financial education partnership coordinator. "It's important to value the opinions of our young people who provide fresh and unique ideas."

Essays will be judged by a group of Community Financial team members in two separate categories — 4th and 5th graders and 6th through 8th graders. The top essay author in each category will earn \$100 as well as lunch for their classroom with Community Financial President and CEO Bill Lawton. Each category will also have five finalists who will each receive a \$10 Subway gift card.

HandyPro honors

HandyPro, a national handyman service and senior home modification franchise company headquartered in Plymouth, has recently been selected for Angie's List's "Super Service Award" and as a Top 500 Franchise for 2011 by Entrepreneur magazine.

The Angie's List award is given to only five percent of all the businesses rated by the national consumer review service. Angie's List Super Service Award

winners have met strict eligibility requirements including earning a minimum number of reports, an exemplary rating from their clients and abiding by Angie's List operational guidelines.

Ratings are updated daily on Angie's List, but members can find the 2011 Super Service Award logo next to business names in search results on AngiesList.com.

This is also the first time HandyPro has received the prestigious Top 500 Franchise honor by Entrepreneur.

"We are thrilled to be given the Super Service Award from such a prestigious organization as Angie's List, because it shows that our mission of top-notch customer service is something we live by every day," said Keith Paul, founder and president of HandyPro. "It's that attention to customer service that has also helped our franchise growth, and it shows our franchisees also adhere to our vision."

BarBQ benefit

RealBarBQ, the fastest-growing Michigan-owned group of barbecue restaurants, opens its doors Monday, Feb. 13, featuring RealBarBQ specialties such as ribs and chicken, as well as sandwiches and salads.

With restaurants already located in Lincoln Park and Detroit, RealBarBQ officials said they're "excited" to open the doors in Canton. To show appreciation for the welcome mat already being put out by residents and businesses, RealBarBQ is supporting local schools by donating money to Plymouth-Canton high schools every time a "Booster Sandwich" is purchased.

The sandwich, which features pulled pork, pulled chicken, cheese, bacon, lettuce and tomato, will not only satisfy the diner's appetite, but will help support local high school athletics. For every sandwich sold, \$1 will be donated to athletic programs.

RealBarBQ hours will be 11 a.m. to midnight each of the week, with breakfast hours Saturdays and Sundays from 9 a.m. to noon. The restaurant also features a full bar, with a happy hour daily from 3-7 p.m.

RealBarBQ of Canton is located at 42452 Ford Road (at the northwest corner of Ford and Lilley).

PLYMOUTH CHAMBER CHAT

Joint after-hours

Plymouth Community Chamber members will be joining their neighbors in Livonia for the February After Hours with the Livonia Chamber of Commerce Feb. 29. This event will again provide businesses the opportunity to expand their network of professionals from business people in a neighboring community and with many Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce members at the same time.

"Last year we held two joint After Hours with other Chambers that drew our largest attendance with both events having over 100 people," said chamber executive director Wes Graff. "With the Livonia Chamber having over 810 members and our Chamber having over 770 members, we will definitely be able to draw another outstanding crowd for this joint event. While the trip is a little further for our members to go, it will be well worth the drive to for this fantastic opportunity to network."

The event runs 5-7 p.m. at Guilio's, 31735 Plymouth Road in Livonia. Guilio's will provide hors d'oeuvres and there will be a cash bar. There is no fee to attend; RSVP by Feb. 27 to teri@plymouthmich.org or call (734) 453-1540.

Google workshop

The chamber hosts the workshop "Google to the Maxx" Feb. 28 at the chamber office, 850 W. Ann Arbor Trail. The event will feature guest speaker Meaghan McCann, president of Search Ad Marketing, an expert on how to attract traffic to your web site and how to use Google to the Maxx who has received excellent reviews by members after speaking at several Chamber workshops and events in the past two years.

The workshop is from 8:30-9:30 a.m. and there is no charge to attend, but our conference room can only hold 25 people comfortably. If you are interested in attending, please RSVP to teri@plymouthmich.org or call 734-453-1540 as soon as possible.

Speed networking

The Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce hosts a "Speed Networking" event Feb. 9.

The event, which chamber officials are hailing as a sort of "speed-dating for businesses," takes place 8 a.m. at the Red



Adding on

On Jan. 20, Schultz & Associates cut the ribbon at their newly expanded offices at 496 W. Ann Arbor Trail, Suite 205. The firm has acquired a couple of practices in the past few years and expanded their client base, which has caused their need for additional space. Pictured are Jeffery Schultz and members of his staff, clients, friends, family and Chamber Ambassadors. For more information on Schultz & Associates, go to their website at www.schultz-cpa.com.

Olive Restaurant, 1059 Ann Arbor Road, in Plymouth. Members will have the opportunity to meet approximately 20-25 businesses in one hour. This structured networking event will allow you to meet most of the people in the room and within two minutes learn about each other's companies.

The purpose is to meet potential customers or develop new referral partners. It is quick, efficient and a very productive way to start your work day. The event will start with everyone having the opportunity to enjoy coffee, juice and a continental breakfast.

To respect the participants' time, chamber officials are urging people to arrive at 8 a.m. and be ready to start at 8:15 a.m. The cost to attend will be \$10 to cover the continental breakfast and beverages.

To sign up for the event, call (734) 453-1540 or e-mail teri@plymouthmich.org.

Footbridge project

A new footbridge will be installed sometime this spring in the Plymouth Township Park and will provide park-goers with a walkway across Tonquish Creek that can be used by walkers, joggers and bicyclists who frequent the park. The bridge will be made of aluminum, which is a good material to be able to withstand weather conditions and continual use at the well-visited park.

IT'S YOUR BUSINESS Q&A

Health club offers 24/7 fitness

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

Snap Fitness: Open 24/7, clean, comfortable and friendly health club, no crowds, lines or waiting, with professional training and nutrition planning available.

Observer: How did you first decide to open your business?

Snap Fitness: It was a great opportunity to offer convenience and personal wellness to our community.

Observer: Why did you choose Canton?

Snap Fitness: It's our hometown.

Observer: What makes your business unique?

Snap Fitness: Personal support in a friendly, neighborhood facility available 24/7 and free personal assessment.

Observer: How has it changed since you opened?

Snap Fitness: Expanded personal training and equipment.

Observer: How has the recent economy affected your business?

Snap Fitness: Economic recovery allowing many



Snap Fitness-Canton, located at 4011 S. Canton Center, is open 24/7 and offers professional training and nutrition planning available.

SNAP FITNESS

Business name and address: Snap Fitness-Canton, 4011 S. Canton Center, Canton

Your name: Bob and Natalie Thomas, owners

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Observer: What's in store for

the future of your business?

Snap Fitness: Outdoor group training.

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OUR VIEWS

Unveil the plan

Township owes residents fire service answers

Plymouth Township officials have teased, tantalized, obfuscated and argued long enough.

It's time to announce whatever plan they've formulated for the new-look fire protection model they'll have to develop in the wake of the departure of the City of Plymouth from the Plymouth Community Fire Department.

Since city officials announced more than a year ago they were opting out of the longtime joint arrangement with the township for fire services, Plymouth Township officials have had more than enough time to develop such a plan. In the meantime, union negotiations have fractured the township from its firefighters, with each side blaming the other for slights — real or perceived — in the process.

Township officials say they've gotten concessions totaling a couple of million dollars from all its other bargaining units, but the fire department refuses to pony up. Firefighters say they offered some \$300,000 in concessions, but the township has said "too little, too late."

Both sides are right. The firefighters haven't really conceded much, and the township turned down their biggest offer.

But it's past the time when any of that matters. Pointing fingers isn't doing township residents any good. They're still left pondering the most important question to them: Am I going to be protected?

Township officials have hinted sort of broadly at what they'll do. It's been rumored they were prepared to lay off half a dozen firefighters at Tuesday's board meeting, but it didn't happen. They've also hinted at moving to 12-hour shifts, using a public safety model, using paid on-call firefighters and eliminating transport and signing a contract with Huron Valley Ambulance.

Now residents have to consider a ballot proposal for a Special Assessment District for fire services that could raise taxes to fund fire safety (although no one on the board seems particularly anxious or willing to levy it), and no one really knows what the department is going to look like.

You can't blame residents for being confused. Here is a tax proposal on the ballot for Plymouth Township, yet none of the board members supports it. Residents don't care that it was a citizens' group who pushed the question onto the ballot; they just want to know they're going to be protected, whatever happens.

It's not fair to the firefighters, who deserve to know their fate (although it's possible behind-the-scenes discussions have given them that knowledge). It's also not fair to the residents to be kept in the dark about one of the fundamental responsibilities of a municipal government.

Rumors are running rampant — there will be massive layoffs, officials are planning on closing the Lake Pointe fire station, etc. — that could be laid to rest if leaders would simply lay out their plan.

Residents deserve that kind of comfort, and it's time township officials gave it to them.

COMMUNITY VOICE

What do you think of Gov. Rick Snyder's plan to raise the gasoline tax and vehicle registration fees to pay for road repairs?

We asked this question at the Plymouth District Library.



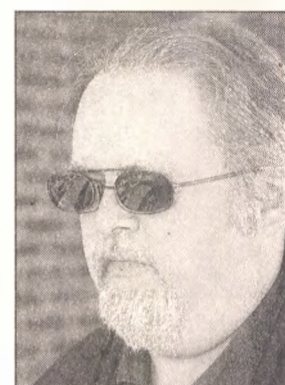
"I think they could find a different way to do it."
Amanda Nadell
Plymouth Township



"Depends on how much... I wouldn't object, because roads in Michigan stink. It would depend on the rate."
Brian Wesley
Plymouth Township



"I don't like it at all. I'm a teacher and he already took my pension. ... It's just one thing after another."
Angie Larson
Plymouth Township



"I'm not a particular fan of the governor, but roads need fixing. I think that's actually a pretty good idea on his part as long as he doesn't overdo it."
Dan Strayer
Waterford

LETTERS

Station #2 crucial

As a Plymouth Township senior, I am very concerned about the township board's plan to close the Lake Pointe station. Lake Pointe is our biggest subdivision, with 850 homes.

Recently, the advanced paramedics at Station #2 saved the integrity of my right eye after I suffered a severe global rupture. Because of the close proximity of the station and their up-level training, I still have my eye, even though I lost my vision. The doctors at Kellogg Eye Center will gladly attest their performance and skill. They were certified ALS paramedics.

The original community plan, established in the 1960s for the Lake Point community, never came to fruition, and the project was turned over to the township. The idea was to have a self-contained city, like Lathrup Village of Southfield. A water supply, schools, churches, bank, fire station and parks, with the encompassing use of Edward Hines

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

We welcome your Letter to the Editor. Please include your name, address and phone number for verification. We may edit for clarity, space and content. Submit letters by the following formats:

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E-mail: bkadrich@hometownlife.com

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

Deadline: Letters should be received by 9 a.m. Monday to be published in the Thursday edition.

Parkway, was part of the master plan. Hence, we still have Farrand School, St. Kenneth and Lake Point Church. However, we are now being informed of a covert plan to close our crucially required fire station.

Lake Pointe subdivision located at the north end of the township is separated by a major railroad intersection and a flood plain. Past township leaders recognized this unique situation and the danger and risk to our residents should an emergency vehicle be restricted during an emergency response by a blocked railroad crossing or a flooded park drive.

Now, I don't understand how they can even consider closing this station and placing so many residents, and senior residents like myself, at extreme risks? Our needs haven't changed, even though they say their budget has.

In the past, township leaders supported and recognized the importance of having a full-time fire department. What's happened to our leadership and sense of moral obligation? How can the Board of Trustees do this with a clear conscience?

It will be an interesting election come this fall.

Laura Gumina
Plymouth Township

GUEST COLUMN

Concerned parents face double standard

By Tony Lollo
Guest Columnist

When Barbara and Matt Dame decided to voice their opinion about the books *Beloved* and *Waterland* in the AP English curriculum on the PCCS campus, they did so as citizens and concerned parents of a student currently enrolled in the class.

It should stand to reason, then, that their opinion would be treated with the sort of respect that should be the foundation of a society valuing the freedoms of speech and press. What happened to the Dames was something entirely different. A campaign of spoken and written hyperbole about "banning" and "book burning" has turned our quiet town into another political battleground.

Publications and blog sites as far away as New York have decided not to report both sides of this debate, but have instead launched personal and hurtful attacks against the Dames, and anyone else who may hold a similar view about questionable material in the district's curriculum.

The question begs to be answered: Who brought politics into an issue that started between a school district and a group of concerned parents? Should a person's political or religious views be called into question when voicing their concern to a school district in which that person lives, and where their children attend

school? If the answer to this question is no, then it certainly wasn't the Dames who brought politics into this issue.

Sharon Lollo came under fire for simply reading one of the questionable paragraphs from *Beloved* in front of the school board, drawing the gavel from Vice President Adrienne Davis. Davis reprimanded Lollo for using questionable language, compelling Lollo to ask why language and content deemed acceptable for the district's students couldn't be read out loud in front of the board members.

The "stunt," as some have called it, drew raucous applause from some in the meeting who had come to support the Dames. Much has been made, even in this publication, about Lollo's political affiliations, as one of the founding members of "Rattle With Us," a Tea Party group based here in Plymouth. What seems to have been left out is the fact that Sharon Lollo also lives in, and has a grandchild, in the district. So the question again is this: Should a person's religious or political views be called into question when voicing concern to a school district in which that person lives, and where their children attend

Literature with questionable, often offensive material is included in curriculum because of its cultural relevance or historical value, while the Bible, arguably the most culturally relevant work in Western civilization, is off the table as a teaching tool.

If this issue was about an AP English teacher assigning readings from the New Testament, would everyone file into the same side of the boardroom as they did on Monday night? Would the ACLU and the usual list of bloggers still talk about censorship and book burning?

Teachers are discouraged from displaying devotional material and talking about faith in order to preserve unity in the classroom, so students with different belief systems are not marginalized and made uncomfortable; yet a student who felt uncomfortable with the material in *Beloved* was marginalized and separated from her peers because of her beliefs, sent to the cafeteria while her classmates continued without her.

Barbara and Matt Dame's daughter is the victim of a double standard. If we are going to insist that our classrooms be religiously neutral and all-inclusive, we'd better be consistent about it. We owe it to our kids. A dangerous precedent is set in a free-thinking society when concerned parents, regardless of their political or religious beliefs, are made fodder for local journalists and propagandist bloggers.

It was these, not the Dames or Sharon Lollo, who brought politics into this issue.

My purpose is not to try and convince anyone to take a particular side on this issue, but rather to point out a few inconsistencies in the way the matter has been treated. There seems to always be a double standard when it comes to how we deal with censorship in our schools.

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Tony Lollo is a Plymouth resident.



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Roll model

Bowler, 62, cashes in with 1st tourney win

By Tim Smith
Observer Staff Writer

Bowling is in Rick Capaldi's blood. His father, grandfather and uncles built Westland Bowl in the early 1960s when he was a teenager attending Redford Union. "I was 14 years old, that's when I and where I actually started bowling," said the Canton resident, now 62. "My grandfather, my father (the late Henry) and his brothers they built that place. I'd bowl a lot of games, practice and go after school, especially after I got my driver's license."

Other than a 20-year respite from competitive bowling to raise his own family and raise his own bowling alley (Oak Lanes on Middlebelt in Westland), the sport has been an integral part of his adult life, too.

And on Jan. 29, Capaldi defeated a bowler half his age to capture the Metro Detroit USBC Association Masters Tournament at Century Bowl in Waterford Township. His match score of 734 eclipsed the 691 tallied by Grand Blanc's Corey Miller. Earlier that day, he rolled a 300 game and 815 series against Joseph Krajenke and defeated Miller 773-

THE CAPALDI FILE

Who: Rick Capaldi, 62, Canton resident and owner of Westland's Oak Lanes.

What: He captured the Metro Detroit USBC Association Masters Bowling Tournament on Jan. 29 with a 734-691 match win over Corey Miller at Century Bowl in Waterford Township. Capaldi averaged 231.1 for the entire tournament (which began Jan. 21) and 233.7 in match play. He topped a field of 32 players of all ages.

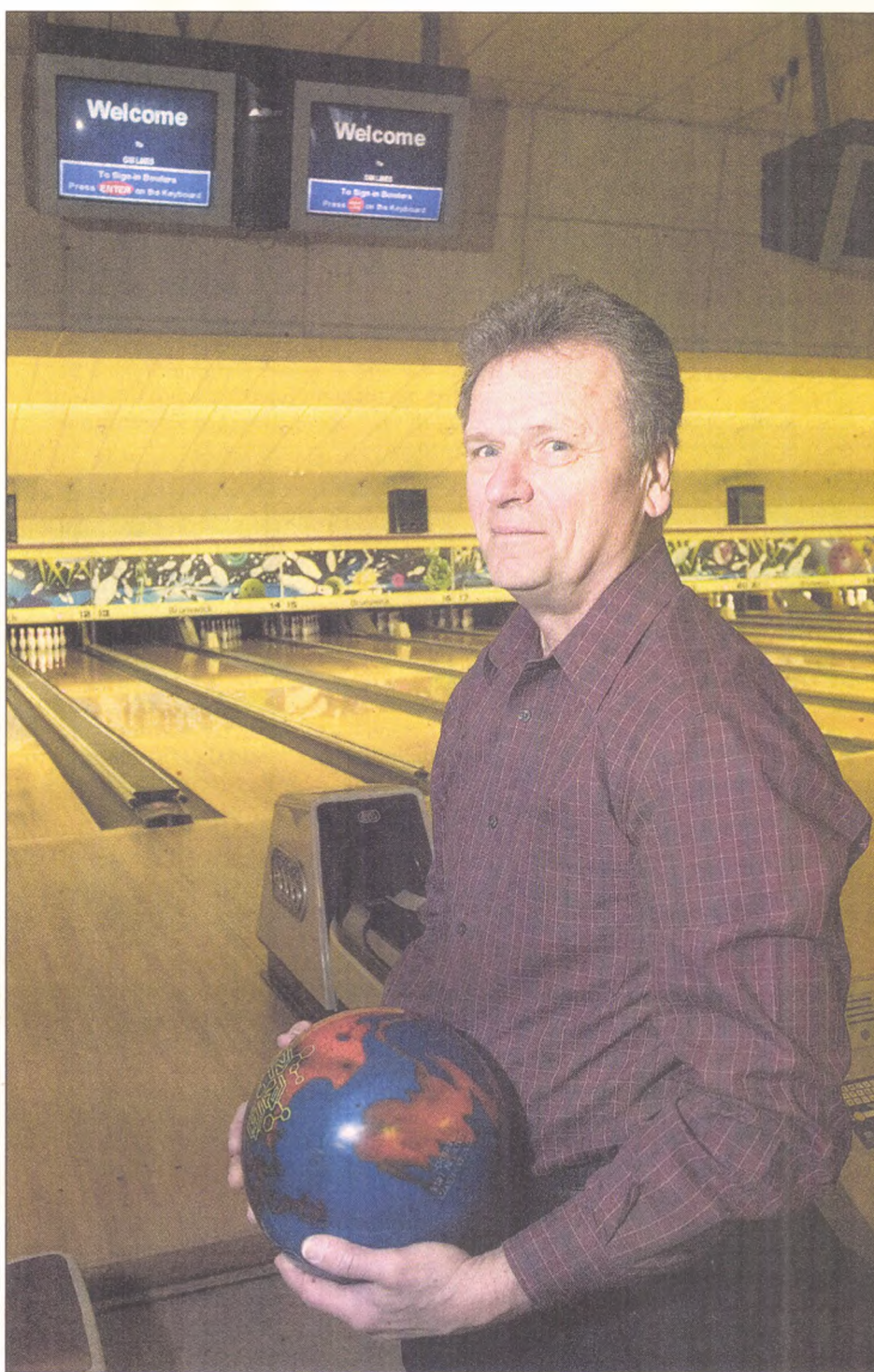
Prize: Capaldi, who graduated from Redford Union, won a \$4,000 check. Co-sponsoring the tournament were Turbo 2-N-1 Grips, Red Robin Restaurants of Michigan and Ansara's Big Boy Restaurants.

Family: His wife is Pam. They have four adult children (Christy, Rico, Kelly and Matt) and seven grandchildren.

759 en route to the final match.

After Miller bested him 659-635, that forced a

Please see CAPALDI, B3



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Bowling's been a big part of Canton resident Rick Capaldi's life since he was a youngster. Capaldi, shown this week at Oak Lanes in Westland (which he owns), won his first-ever tournament on Jan. 29.

Salem nears crown

By Tim Smith
Observer Staff Writer

Salem needs one more victory to clinch at least a share of the KLA Central varsity boys basketball title.

BOYS HOOPS That's thanks to Tuesday's 62-51 victory at Novi, lifting the Rocks' record to 13-2 overall and 7-2 in the division.

As of Tuesday night, Salem moved ahead of Northville pending late results from the Mustangs game against South Lyon.

If Northville lost, the Rocks can win the title outright with a win in the 7 p.m. Friday contest against the Lions.

"We led wire to wire," Salem head coach Bob Brodie said, noting that the Rocks closed out the win with efficiency from the charity stripe.

"We knocked down free throws (13-22 in the game) to close it out," he said. "It was a good win for us."

Scoring 17 points for Salem was Chris Dier-

Please see HOOPS, B3



JOHN KEMSKI

The picture of confidence is Canton's Ayana Lewis, who was a standout at Saturday's Canton Invitational.

Close to the 'Ledge'

Invite stats, B3

By Tim Smith
Observer Staff Writer

Canton gymnastics coach John Cunningham always knew he had a pretty special team this season — one that could make some noise at the state meet.

But after Saturday's strong, second-place performance at the Canton Invitational, the athletes themselves are realizing just how strong their team is.

Canton scored 145.825 points, less than one point behind perennial powerhouse Grand Ledge (146.8).

"We proved, or at least they proved to themselves, that they can actually win," Cunningham said. "I'm talking about the relationship, as long as we didn't

CANTON INVITATIONAL

scare Grand Ledge into doing something because nobody's been close to them.

"They've been four, five points ahead of all the other teams. And now finally we're a situation where we're within a point of them."

With a dozen or so elite teams among the field of 20, the invite again gave Cunningham and his team a gauge as to what it has the potential to achieve.

"If the kids had any question about how good they are, they should understand now that they really belong in the elite," he said.

The Chiefs finished ahead of Farmington (143.725), Troy Athens (143.250) and Howell (140.450) in the top five. Salem placed sixth with

a score of 137.425 while Plymouth finished 13th (135.025).

Game plan

Now with state regionals and the state meet just a few weeks away, the veteran coach employs a simple mantra with the gymnasts.

"Don't get sick, don't get injured and keep improving," Cunningham said.

"That's the rule."

Once again, Ayana Lewis was outstanding in the Division 1 competition. She broke her own school record on uneven parallel bars, finishing third with a 9.675 (the former mark was 9.6). But Cunningham said Grand Ledge's Christine Wilson scored a perfect 10.0.

"As far as I know (that's) the first one ever in the state. A 9.675 set our school record, but it was third place," he noted.

Lewis also placed fourth on vault (9.4), sixth on balance beam (9.5) and tied with teammate Melissa Green for sixth in all-around scoring with a 36.875.

"I think Melissa is the only person on the team that medaled (Top 10) in every event plus all-around," Cunningham said. "That's really good."

Green medaled in every event, including second on vault with a 9.55 score. Other Top-10 showings were on beam (9.5, fifth), bars (8.825, ninth) and floor (10th, 9.0).

Returning from injury to medal in two D1 events plus all-around was Jocelyn Moraw. Her scores included 9.35 on floor (fourth) and 9.05 on bars (seventh). Her all-around of 36.0 was good for eighth.

Please see INVITE, B3

Canton girls soccer coach Jeannine Reddy (second from right) celebrates with three of her players on National Signing Day. The players include (from left) Allyson Krause, Karyn Berinti and (far right) Megan Trapp.



PHOTOS BY JOHN KEMSKI

Two members of the Salem varsity girls soccer team participated in National Signing Day festivities, along with their parents. Seated at left is Katelynn Krause, with parents Arno and Cathy Krause behind her. Seated at right is Emily Lundh, with parents Mark and Dorie Lundh.



NATIONAL SIGNING DAY - PT. 2

Soccer players enjoy signing day spotlight

By Tim Smith
Observer Staff Writer

Football still garners the biggest share of the spotlight when National Signing Day rolls around.

But that doesn't mean high school soccer players aren't doing what they can to garner more attention for their sport.

"Yeah, football seems to be the main focus around here," said Canton senior Allyson Krause, who was one of five girls soccer players from Plymouth-Canton Educational Park to sign national letters of intent on Wednesday, Feb. 1. "So we're trying to get soccer more involved here. Kids are starting to get more athletic scholarships for soccer, which is kind of cool."

Krause signed to play soccer at Michigan State University. Canton teammates Karyn Berinti (Alma College) and Megan Trapp (Eastern Michigan University) also made it official during a late afternoon press conference at Canton High School.

Please see SIGNINGS, B2

WHERE THEY'RE GOING

Five girls soccer players from the Park participated last week in National Signing Day ceremonies. Following is a look at the quintet:

Kalyn Berinti, Canton senior: Division III Alma College is where Berinti signed to play. Owner of a 3.6 grade point average, she is a forward with the Chiefs and hopes to keep playing that position at Alma. Her parents are Nicholas and Faith Berinti.

Allyson Krause, Canton senior: The Michigan State University-bound forward carries a 3.2 grade point average. Here parents are Mary and Darrel Krause.

Katelynn Krause, Salem senior: She will play center-

mid at Grand Valley State University and her parents are Arno and Cathy Krause. She carries a 4.17 grade point average and is in the National Honor Society.

Emily Lundh, Salem senior: Lundh, who carries a 3.75 grade point average, is a forward for the Rocks. She signed with Eastern Michigan University. Her parents are Mark and Dorie Lundh.

Megan Trapp, Canton senior: Trapp is a center-midfielder who signed with Eastern Michigan University. She carries a 3.5 grade point average. Her mom is Laurie Trapp and her older sister, 2010 Canton grad Allison Trapp, attends Western Michigan University.

Salem netter signs with Adrian

By Tim Smith
Observer Staff Writer

National Signing Day wasn't just about football and soccer at the Park.

Salem senior tennis player Morgan Spencer joined the party on Feb. 1 at Canton High School. The 17-year-old signed to play tennis at Division 3 Adrian College.

"It's real exciting, it means a lot," said Spencer, who still has one more season to go with Salem's varsity girls tennis team. "I really love playing so it means a lot that I can play in college and keep going."

Also thrilled about Spencer's accomplishment was Salem coach Lin Ware, on hand for the afternoon press conference.

"It's really exciting to have a tennis player here (at the press conference)," Ware said.

"We've only had six since the 1970s. It's been about four years since we had a player.

"And they play singles and doubles in college and she'll definitely be on the team her freshman year."

Spencer's prep career has seen a steady rise, moving up to No. 3 singles as a junior. This spring, Ware expects her to be at 1-2 singles.

"She's a solid player, she keeps the ball in play," Ware noted. "She's a fighter and she's done really well."

According to Spencer, a tennis player since fifth grade, she immediately knew Adrian was a perfect fit for her.

"It's really a nice campus," she said. "I like that it's only an hour away. That's nice and I get to play tennis there so that's a plus, too."

Her parents, Wanda and Mike Spencer, also



Salem girls tennis player Morgan Spencer signs with Adrian College during last week's National Signing Day. On hand for the big moment were (standing, from left) Salem head coach Lin Ware and Morgan's parents Mike and Wanda Spencer.

were there for the signing event.

The short drive to Adrian is one plus, Wanda Spencer said. But it also is a great opportunity for Morgan because the Bulldogs are looking to restock the team after losing a number of seniors following the upcoming 2012 season.

"The coach (Adam Albertsen) recruited her (last) summer," Wan-

da said. "He was looking for players that had a lot of growth and potential and were strong players because he's losing five of his seven seniors this coming year."

"So he wanted to get a strong upcoming freshman team so he could build that team strong for the four years."

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Senior sendoff for girls cagers

By Tim Smith
Observer Staff Writer

"Senior Night" on Tuesday was a winning one for the Plymouth varsity girls basketball team as the Wildcats defeated Wayne Memorial by a 44-30 score.

Cross-campus rival Salem also had ceremonies honoring seniors as they played their final home game. But the Rocks, despite playing tough, fell 42-37 to KLAAC Central co-leader Novi.

Plymouth (10-5, 6-3 in the KLAAC South Division) won each of the four quarters, going up 11-8 after one and 19-14 at halftime.

"We definitely won the rebounding battle," Plymouth head coach Bob de Bear said. "We came out in the third quarter and widened our lead a little bit (to 35-25)."

"We won every quarter, I'm very happy for these guys."

He was most happy for seniors Alyssa Burris, Kate Watson and Chyna Williams (six points, 12 rebounds), who were honored in what de Bear called a "beautiful" ceremony including speeches from teammates.

Other Wildcats who made a big impact on the night included sophomore guard Kylie Robb (18 points, five rebounds), sophomore forward Jada Woody (nine points, six boards) and sophomore forward Tionne Johnson (six points, 12 boards in a starting role).

Robb's "floor game was outstanding," the coach said.

Rocks come close

Over at Salem, on the night of the final home game for seniors Bri Berberet, Katelynn Krause, Katie Heitmeyer and Jenny First, the Rocks enjoyed a 26-16 lead at the break.

But then came the Wildcats with a 17-3 third frame to upset Salem's apple cart.

"We just made a couple turnovers and missed a couple defensive assignments in the third quarter," Salem head coach Fred Thomann said. "It got away from us."

Thomann, who said his team played a strong first half, noted that the Rocks didn't give up and cut the deficit to a deuce in the waning moments.

Berberet, as she has most of the season, led Salem in scoring with 18 points. Krause contributed 11.

The loss dropped the Rocks record to 3-12 and 2-7 in the KLAAC Central while Novi improved to 12-3 and 7-2.

CANTON 43, CHURCHILL 27: Visiting Canton broke Livonia Churchill's zone defense to go on a 17-6 tear in the third quarter Tuesday, busting open a tight KLAAC South Division game.

Senior point guard Robyn Mack led the Chiefs (12-3, 7-2) with 14 points, with Paige Aresco and Rachel Winters tallying eight each. Aresco also grabbed seven rebounds.

"I didn't think we played great tonight, but to the kids credit they hung in there and kept working at it," Canton head coach Brian Samulski said. "I really thought we came out and had a nice third quarter." Leading Churchill (5-9, 2-7) with nine points was Cecile Hansen.

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SIGNINGS

Continued from page B1

So did Salem's Katelynn Krause (no relation to Allyson) and Emily Lundh, who will go to Grand Valley State University and Eastern, respectively.

Duly noted

"We have a lot signing today," Lundh said. "It's exciting when you have a lot of people here who are getting recognized for soccer, which is good."

Concurring was Katelynn Krause, also a varsity girls basketball player

at Salem.

"I just think it's great there's so many, just from the Park itself," she said. "It shows what talent we have here and what commitment the players playing at Canton, Salem and Plymouth have."

Canton's Berinti said "It means a lot, it's exciting and cool to see everyone together, to see where they're going. It's kind of our last step all together before everyone takes off."

That is, after one last season of high school soccer, taking place this spring.

Sharing their big moment were parents,

classmates, other teammates and coaches.

"I wish them the best of luck, and all three are so deserving of playing at the collegiate level," Canton girls soccer coach Jeannine Reddy said. "You have to be very committed, whether it be in club, or high school (with) all the time and effort they put into it."

According to Salem girls soccer coach Joe Nora, his two signing players are "tremendous players, tremendous kids" who are going to strong programs.

"I'm lucky to have them for one more season and then they're off

to the next stage of their soccer lives and professional lives," Nora said. "I have no doubt they will succeed."

Fitting in

The girls agreed that it was important to feel they fit in with the college they signed on with, including proximity to home and a comfort level with those in the college program.

"I really like the Eastern coaches and the team feels like a family," Lundh said. "I'm really excited to be going there next year and starting this new chapter in my life."

One of Lundh's future teammates at Eastern is Canton's Trapp.

"The program that they had I was really interested in, with the coaches they had and the girls were super nice," Trapp said. "It was close to home which was definitely one of the things I was looking for."

"So my family, my mom and my close family that lives around here could come and watch. Also, just the level of it. I was really looking into D-I, but I knew the MAC was good competition, a good place and a good level for me."

Allyson Krause said she visited several colleges. It wasn't a given that she'd stay in the Great Lakes state when she started looking toward her future.

"I've been playing since I was four, and I started getting looked at by colleges my freshman year," she said. "So I went to a few schools."

"I didn't want to go to (MSU) at first, but then my parents said it'd be a good idea since it's in-state. I went there and fell in love with it."

The payoff

National Signing Day, for all five girls, put a capper on their college soccer dreams — which started when they were kids playing in rec programs.

"It's a really exciting day, just because it's what I've worked for since I was little, when I was 5 years old and starting to play soccer," Katelynn Krause said. "At that point you don't think you might get here where you're going to actually play college soccer, stuff like that."

"But as I got older, I really made it a goal for myself and really strived to get to this point. It's just a great feeling."

Come back Sunday for Pt. 3 of National Signing Day coverage.

tsmith@hometownlife.com
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Early lead boosts PCA

By Tim Smith
Observer Staff Writer

Thanks to a fast start Saturday, Plymouth Christian Academy varsity girls basketball coach Carol Gerulis was able to get everybody involved in the Eagles' 49-33 victory over Lenawee Christian.

The Eagles broke out to a 15-4 lead after one quarter and didn't stop there, whether starters or backups were on the court at PCA. At halftime, the lead was a whopping 31-9.

"We had a real big lead early on so they did what I asked them to do," PCA head coach Carol Gerulis said. "I wanted to make sure we got everybody in the game and were trying to get everybody on the scoresheet."

Actually, nine of PCA's 11 players scored at least one point as the Eagles improved to 11-4 overall.

After building a 19-7 edge midway through the second quarter, the Eagles really took control of the non-conference matchup with a 12-2 run the rest of the half. Junior guard Karen Windle (14 points, eight rebounds, four steals) scored a layup and added a free throw for a three-point play.

Following up with field goals were junior center Allison Smith (five points) and senior guard Kristin Lindberg before junior guard Jenna Abraham (eight points, four assists) drained a trey from the left corner at the halftime horn.

It was more of the same in the third, with quick ball movement around the perimeter exposing weaknesses in the Cougars' defense. A triple by sophomore guard Martha Mullett (six points) and buckets by sophomore center Jenny Malcolm and sophomore guard Rachael Fuller in the final 90 seconds upped PCA's lead to 44-19 after three.

"We're taking care of the basketball, something we've learned in the last couple games," Gerulis said. "We've learned how to take care of it in pres-



ANDY RUBENSTEIN

Dribbling past Lenawee Christian's Laurel Schaaf on Saturday is Plymouth Christian's Emily Gerulis (No. 10).

sure situations. So they showed they could do it a whole game now."

Tallying seven points, three steals and three assists was sophomore forward Emily Gerulis. Chipping in with six points and five rebounds was sophomore forward Rachel Smith.

For Lenawee Christian, Kirstyn Gordon and Nikki Schaefer scored 13 and eight points, respectively.

On Friday, the Eagles defeated Bloomfield Hills Roeper 34-32 in a Michigan Independent Athletics Conference Blue Division matchup, with a late surge doing the trick.

"We were down five points with four minutes to go in the fourth quarter and they hung in their tough," coach Gerulis said. "We were able to get out of there with a two-point win."

Malcolm led PCA (8-1 in the MIAC Blue) with 14 points and 12 rebounds, while Windle tallied 11 points, nine rebounds and eight steals.

PCA 52, LUTHERAN N'WEST 38: Karen Windle scored 17 points Tuesday to pace Plymouth Christian Academy (12-4 overall, 9-1 in the MIAC).

Also solid for the Eagles was Emily Gerulis, with 12 points, nine rebounds and four assists.

PCA got off to an 8-0 start and carried that into halftime, leading 25-12. The Eagles weren't seriously threatened the rest of the night.

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BALLERT, ILO JOSEPHINE

94 passed away peacefully on February 3, 2012 at Angela Hospice in Livonia, Mich. She was known to friends and family as "Jo" and was a fixture in the Livonia Public School system from 1961 through 1987, having taught in nine different elementary and junior high schools. She loved teaching and particularly her later vocation as a Reading Specialist at Riley Middle School. Jo received her Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Toledo and Masters of Arts in Education and Education Specialist (Special Education) degrees from the University of Michigan. Wolverine football games were always at the top of her favorite pastimes, as she and husband Al would cheer from their end zone seats and travel to Bowl games. Jo was also very active in her church, Rosedale Gardens Presbyterian Church in Livonia, and served on numerous committees, prayer groups and as an elder. Jo made it a point to be an active participant in local and state politics, and to always stay informed on current event issues. Missed dearly by her children, Colby (Carol) and Josette (David) Koets, grandchildren, Steven (Katie) Koets, Sara (Kirk) Pauley, Brendan (Janie), Cassandra and Zachary Ballert and great-grandson Connor Koets. She was preceded in death by her husband of 69 years, Albert G. Ballert, son, Albert Jr. and brother, Robert Butler. Services were held from the Rosedale Gardens Presbyterian Church, 9601 Hubbard, Livonia. Interment Toledo Memorial Park. In lieu of flowers, memorials can be given to the church or to the donor's choice of organization in her name. Arrangements entrusted to the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home, Plymouth. Share memories at schrader-howell.com

BROWN, LOUIS H.

February 6, 2012. Age 84 of Westland. Beloved husband of Dolores. Dear father of Deborah (Harold) Roe and Scott (Erica). Loving grandfather of 4 and great-grandfather to 2. Funeral service Thurs. 1pm at the Uht Funeral Home, 35400 Glenwood Rd., Westland. Family will receive visitors Weds. 2-9pm. Interment at Cadillac Memorial Gardens Cemetery, Westland. Please view memorial and send tributes at www.uhtfh.com

DZIESKOWSKI, CYNTHIA ANN
of Wixom, Jan. 11, 2012; age 58. Arrangements by Simple Funerals (248) 227-1954.



FISHER, ANDREW

February 7, 2012 age 94 of Plymouth. Beloved husband of the late Elizabeth: Loving father of Betty Jo Sulpher, Janice (Jim) Schultz, Elaine (Dennis) Lockhart, Daniel (Vivian), James (Nancy), Laura (Daniel) George, and the late Pamela Croft. Dear brother of Angela Thomas, Orville (Delores) Fisher, and Fay (George) Schomberger. Also survived by 12 grandchildren, and 6 great-grandchildren. Visitation Thursday 2-9 PM at Vermeulen Funeral Home, 46401 W Ann Arbor Rd (btwn Sheldon & Beck) Plymouth. In state Friday 10 AM until the 10:30 AM funeral mass at Our Lady of Good Counsel Church, 47650 North Territorial (at Beck) Plymouth. To share memories please visit vermeulenfuneralhome.com.

GIBSON, MARTHA LYNN

of Royal Oak, Jan. 30, 2012; age 55. Arrangements by Simple Funerals (248) 227-1954.



KUCZEK, EDWARD A.

Born June 10, 1919 and died February 5, 2012 at the age of 92. Ed was married to Gayle for 42 years, who preceded him in death. Parents Albert and Anna and sister Lillian passed before him. Survived by sister Frances, brother-in-law Jerry, daughter Karen, many cousins and numerous friends. Ed was in the Army Air Core and was honorably discharged on February 16, 1946. He enjoyed golf, dancing and playing bridge, and spent many years at Walloon Lake and many winters in sunny Florida after retiring from Ford Motor Company in June 1981. Visitation Thursday 10 a.m. until the 3 p.m. Funeral Service at the John N. Santeiu & Son Funeral Home, 1139 Inkster (South of Ford road). Family suggests memorials to Capuchin Soup Kitchen or the Carmelite Nuns.



MACDONALD, THERESA

Age 70, February 4, 2012. Beloved wife of Richard for 47 years. Loving mother of James and Karen. Dearest daughter of Mary and the late Thomas Podkowka. Sister of Helen Richards. Proud retiree from the City of Livonia DPW after 32 years of service. Visitation Tuesday 4-8 pm and Wednesday 2-8 pm with a 7 pm vigil service Wednesday evening at the Harry J. Will Funeral Home 37000 Six Mile Rd. in Livonia. Funeral Thursday, in state 9:30 am until time of Mass at 10 am at St. Colette Catholic Church 17600 Newburgh Rd. in Livonia. Visitation Saturday 10 am until time of prayer service at 12 pm at the Barry Funeral Home in Rome, New York.

MARICH, EVA MARIE
of Westland, Jan. 11, 2012; age 87. Arrangements by Simple Funerals (248) 227-1954.

NOTEBAERT, RITA

88, passed away at the loving home of her caregiver, Sheryl Christie in Williamsburg, Thursday, February 2, 2012. Rita was born April 13, 1923 in Belle River, Ontario, Canada and grew up in Detroit the cherished daughter of the late Russell and Lillian Bruckner. She was the beloved wife of the late Tom, dear sister of the late Mark (Marie) VanEvery, daughter-in-law of the late Gerard and Marguerite Notebaert and sister-in-law of Tensie Egnatios. Rita and her beloved husband, the late Thomas G. Notebaert, were married at St. Gabriel Catholic Church in Detroit on May 14, 1949. They honeymooned at Traverse City's Park Place Hotel and at their cottage on Torch Lake. They made their home in Plymouth until retiring to Elk Rapids. She leaves behind their daughter, Michelle (Jerry Dietrich) Notebaert of Elk Rapids and their son Craig (Georgia) Notebaert of Plymouth. Also surviving are grandchildren, Amy (Nick) Anderson, Ryan (Sarah) Notebaert, Roth Notebaert and Carlee Notebaert and great-grandchildren, Alex Goss, Abby Goss, Mandy Anderson, Cameron Anderson, Evan Notebaert, Savannah Notebaert, Matthew Notebaert and Isabella Notebaert and several nieces and nephews. A celebration of Rita's life will be held at a later date. Memorials may be directed to Sacred Heart Catholic Church, 143 Charles, Elk Rapids, MI 49629. Please visit Rita's webpage at www.lifestorynet.com to sign the online guest book and share a message or memory with her family. The family chose Life Story Funeral Home, Traverse City to handle the arrangements.

PELKEY, HOWARD E.

February 6, 2012 age 70. Beloved husband of Barbara. Dear father of Kendra (Bill) Ratliff and Blaine (Joy) Pelkey. Grandfather of Cassie, Amanda, Cheyenne, Cierra and Tyler. Brother of Jerald (Diane) Pelkey. Services were held Thursday at the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home. Contributions suggested to the Multiple Sclerosis Society or the American Cancer Society. Share your special thoughts and memories at www.schrader-howell.com

STOUGH, CHERIE ANN

of Arizona, formerly Harrison Twp., Jan. 4, 2012; age 29. SimpleFuneralsInMichigan.com

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RELIGION CALENDAR



Ballet Emmanuel performs Feb. 15 at Hope Lutheran Church in Farmington Hills.

Send items for the religion calendar to Sharon Dargay at sdargay@hometownlife.com. If including a photo, it must be in jpg format, attached to the e-mail.

pizza, and pop
Contact: (734) 427-3660
BREAKFAST
Time/Date: 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 19
Location: St. Theodore Social Hall, 8200 N. Wayne Road, Westland
Details: Pancakes, French toast, ham, sausage, scrambled eggs, applesauce, coffee, tea, juice, milk; \$3 for adults and \$1.50 for children, 2-10
Contact: (734) 425-4421

February

BALLET
Time/Date: 7 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 15
Location: Hope Lutheran Church, 39200 W. 12 Mile, Farmington Hills
Details: Ballet Emmanuel, a professional Christian Ballet Company based out of Colorado Springs, Colo., will perform "Rain ... Hope in the midst of the storm," an original contemporary ballet concert depicting the story of the Flood from the point of view of Noah's wife. Free admission
Contact: Laci Landry at (810) 247-0422 or visit balletemmanuelcompany@gmail.com

BETHANY
Time/Date: 7 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 11
Location: Elks Lodge, 31117 Plymouth Road, Livonia
Detail: Stilettoes Dance, "Detroit Still Doo Wops," with music from 8 p.m.-midnight. Cost is \$20 and includes beer and pop
Contact: Chooch at (734) 697-7270

BOWLING FUNDRAISER
Time/Date: 1 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 26
Location: Westland Bowl 5940 Wayne Road, Westland
Details: For Good Hope Lutheran Church in Garden City; tickets are \$20 for adults; \$15 for children and include three games, shoes,

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION
Time/Date: Dinner, 6 p.m. Feb. 18; Eucharist, 10 a.m. Feb. 19
Location: St. John's Episcopal Church, 574 S. Sheldon, Plymouth
Details: The dinner, held at the Summit in Canton, will include, a video presentation, music, gift drawings, and a ticket for a chance to win a centennial quilt and more. The ticket costs \$40 per person. Bishop Wendell Gibbs will attend the worship service on Feb. 19. The service will include special music and banners created by members of the parish. A celebration reception will follow the service
Contact: (734) 453-0190

CLOTHING BANK
Time/Date: 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 25
Location: Canton Christian Fellowship Clothing Bank, 41920 Joy Road, between Lilley and Haggerty roads, Canton
Details: Free clothing and shoes are available to anyone in need
Contact: (734) 927-6686 or (734) 404-2480

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<p>CHURCHES OF THE NAZARENE</p>	<p>PRESBYTERIAN</p>	<p>EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN</p>	<p>Risen Christ Lutheran David W. Martin, Pastor 46250 Ann Arbor Road • Plymouth • MI 48150 (734) 453-5252 Worship 8:15 & 10:45 am Sunday School 9:30 • Adult Bible Study 9:30 Nursery Care Available All are welcome. Come as you are www.risenchrist.info</p>
<p>PLYMOUTH CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE 45801 W. Ann Arbor Road • (734) 453-1525 Sunday School - 9:45 A.M. Sunday Worship - 11:00 A.M. Sunday Evening - 6:00 P.M. Family Night - Wed. 7:00 P.M. NEW HORIZONS FOR CHILDREN LEARNING CENTER (734) 455-3196</p>	<p>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</p>	<p>WARD CHURCH 40000 Six Mile Road Northville, MI 48166 248.374.7400 www.wardchurch.org Traditional Worship at 8, 9:30 & 11 a.m. Contemporary Worship at 9:30 & 11 a.m. Children's Programs available at 9:30 & 11 a.m. The Traditional Service is broadcast on the radio each week at 11 a.m. on 580 AM</p>	<p>ST. PAUL'S EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL 17810 FARMINGTON ROAD, LIVONIA (734) 261-1360 WORSHIP SERVICES SUNDAY: 8:30 A.M. & 11:00 A.M. THURSDAY: 6:30 P.M. website: www.stpaulsilivonia.org</p>
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For Information regarding this Directory, please call Karen Marzolf at 313-222-2214 or e-mail: kmarzolf@hometownlife.com

By Sharon Dargay
 O&E Staff Writer

Comedy catechism Nostalgic show benefits Redford church

Arrive late for Mary Zentmyer's performance this weekend at Thurston High School in Redford, and she'll make you apologize to the audience.

Wear a top with cleavage or a short skirt and you risk a dressing down.

Chew gum and you're guaranteed a reprimand.

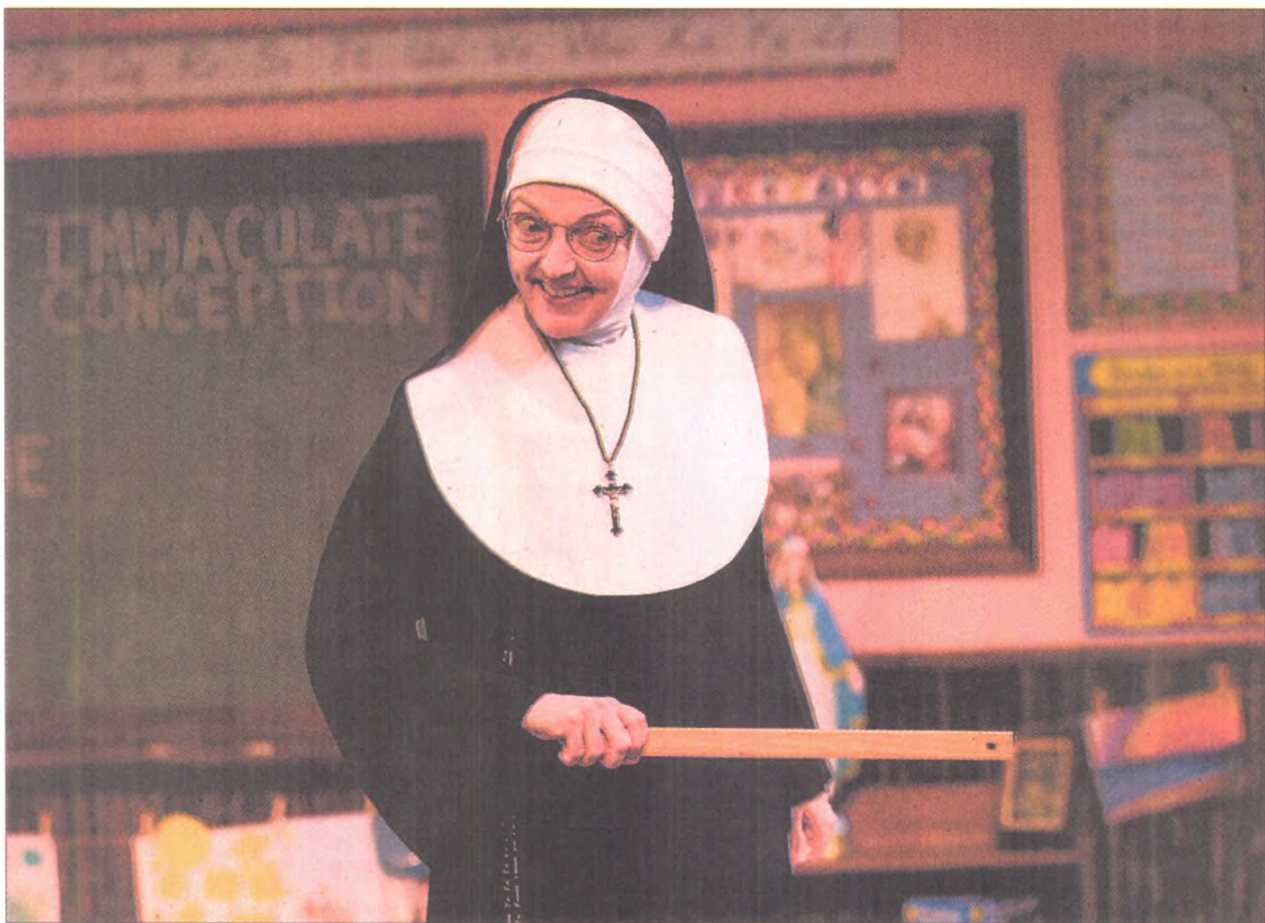
And if your cell phone rings?

"I will confiscate cell phones. People get shook up. If I can figure out how to call the person back, I'll hold the phone to the mic and ask them to apologize," said Zentmyer, who has played the role of "Sister," a nun from the order of SOB (Sisters of Blarney) in the popular *Late Nite Catechism* series of interactive shows, for the past 16 years.

"There is some discipline and people eat it up. I don't think patrons like to be picked on but they like to see their friends get picked on. It's hilarious to me."

Zentmyer, who appeared in *Late Nite's* Christmas show during a six-week run last year at the Century Theatre in Detroit, will return in *Till Death Do Us Part*, *Late Nite's Catechism 3* Saturday in Redford. The show includes Sister's lessons on marriage and life, along with a *Newlywed Game*-style competition for audience members. The show is about 80 percent scripted and 20 percent improvisation.

"There's no profanity and it's good clean fun," said Zentmyer, 56, a Catholic school alumna from Chicago, Ill. She's one of several actresses from around the coun-



Mary Zentmyer makes a point in "class" while performing as "Sister" in the "Late Night Catechism" series.

try who perform the nun character for Entertainment Events, Inc., a New York company that has produced the show since 1999.

Zentmyer said audiences love the nostalgia and the interaction. Audience members who correctly answer Sister's questions might take home a prize, such as a laminated holy card.

Nostalgic show

"You're back in grammar school and I'm your

teacher. If you went to Catholic school, it's hilarious," Zentmyer explained. "And even if you didn't go to Catholic school, you still catch on, because everyone has had one tough teacher."

That's exactly the situation that Maryann and Dave Capman of Redford found themselves in when they saw one of the *Late Nite Catechism* shows years ago in Birmingham, and more recently at the Gem Theatre in Detroit.

"I went to Catholic school, so I knew what was coming. I lived it," Capman said, recalling the performance. "My husband didn't go to Catholic school and he was cracking up."

"At the Gem, she called us out of the audience. She asked us all these silly questions. You had to sit there like a student and answer the questions and if you didn't answer it right, you didn't get a lollipop. I did pretty good but I was laughing."

Perfect date night

Capman is a member of the church council at Our Lady of Loretto and suggested the church hire one of the *Late Nite Catechism* productions to help raise money for a new roof, parking lot and masonry repairs. *Till Death Do Us Part* was the perfect choice for the weekend before Valentine's Day.

"I think people will really enjoy it," Capman said. "We hope it's a good crowd."

'TIL DEATH DO US PART

What: The third interactive show in the popular "Late Nite Catechism" series with Chicago actress, Mary Zentmyer playing the part of Sister **When:** 7 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 11

Where: William F. Weber Performing Arts Center at Thurston High School, 26141 Schoolcraft, Redford

Details: After teaching countless students about the saints, venial sins, limbo and more, Sister will offer a hilarious lessons on the Sacraments of Marriage and the Last Rites, including her own wacky version of the "Newlywed Game." Proceeds benefit Our Lady of Loretto's Capital Campaign for a new roof, parking lot and building masonry repair

Tickets: \$30, available at Our Lady of Loretto, visit www.entertainmentevents.com, or call (877) 386-6969

Contact: Our Lady of Loretto at (313) 534-9000

Zentmyer looks forward to interacting with the audience. She said the improvised portion of the show helps keep the material fresh and "keeps me on my toes."

She has portrayed the nun — in full habit with no makeup — in churches, "fancy schmancy theaters," black box performing spaces and even a church festival beer tent last summer in Portland, northwest of Lansing.

"I dressed in the rectory and they took Sister in a golf cart to the beer tent," she said. "It's a great gig. I get to make people laugh. How lucky is that?"

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In addition to practicing only Social Security disability law attorney Bieske has written a book for attorneys about the subject and has been interviewed on various television programs. Both attorney Bieske and Alfonsi have also been interviewed on radio programs and have given speeches to many groups.

Attorneys Bieske and Alfonsi offer free phone or office consultation. If they represent you, there will be no fee charged until after the case is won. The fee is a percentage of retroactive benefits.

Bieske and Alfonsi represent clients from all over the state of Michigan. Their Livonia office is on Six Mile Road just west of I-275. Their Novi office is located on Haggerty Road just north of 12 Mile Road. Call them at 1-800-331-3530 for a free consultation if you have been denied, or if you are thinking of possibly applying for Social Security benefits.

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- Animated Feature Film
- Actor in a Supporting Role
- Actress in a Supporting Role
- Director
- Tie Breaker Categories
- Music (original score)
- Documentary Feature

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Art

DETROIT INSTITUTE OF ARTS

Time/Dates: 2 p.m. Sundays
Location: 5200 Woodward, Detroit
Details: Target Family Sundays, storytelling, performances, free with admission
Exhibits: Rembrandt and the Face of Jesus exhibit runs through Feb. 12 and includes 64 works. Tickets are \$16 for adults; \$8 for youth, 6-17. Other exhibits include Detroit Revealed: Photographs 2000-2010, an exhibit of 50 photos through April 8; Gift of a Lifetime: The James Pearson Duffy Collection of drawings, paintings, prints, sculptures and photographs through March 18
Contact: (313) 833-7900, www.dia.org

DIRTY SHOW

Time/Date: 7 p.m.-2 a.m. Feb. 10-11, 21 and over; noon-5 p.m., Feb. 12, 18 and over; 7 p.m.-1 p.m. Feb. 14; 7 p.m.-2 a.m., Feb. 17-18, 18 and over
Location: Bert's Warehouse Theatre, 2739 Russell Street, Detroit
Details: Exotic art exhibit with art by more than 300 artists, priced \$10-\$10,000. The show includes a film screening, burlesque performance, and more. Tickets are \$20 in advance at www.dirtyshow.org and \$25 at the door
Contact: (313) 393-3233

FARMINGTON HILLS CITY GALLERY

Time/Date: 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday, through Feb. 24

Location: Costick Center, 28600 W. 11 Mile, Farmington Hills

Details: The work of Patrice Erickson, all original oils, is on exhibit. Erickson is inspired by nature and strives for landscapes that are rich in color

Contact: (248) 473-1856

NORTHVILLE ART HOUSE

Time/Date: 1-5 p.m. Wednesday-Saturday, through Feb. 18

Location: 215 W. Cady, Northville

Details: "6th Annual Member Exhibition," includes work by more than 70 artists; free admission

Coming up: Sell or donate "used art" for "Art from the Attic," 2-7 p.m. Feb. 21-22 or by appointment. Opening sale and reception is 6-9 p.m. Friday, Feb. 24; public art sale is 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 25 and noon-4 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 26. Opening reception tickets are \$10; public sale is free admission
Contact: (248) 344-0497

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

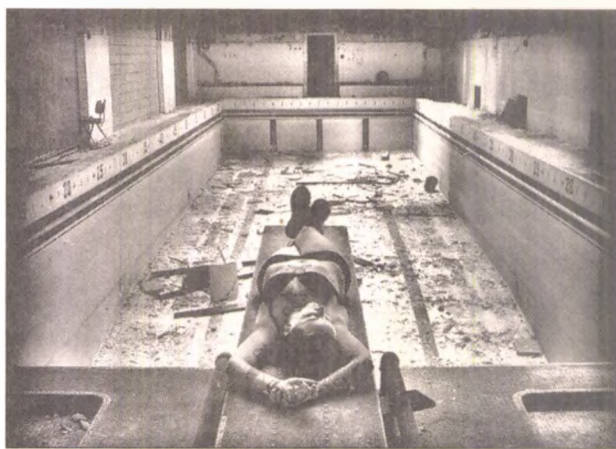
Time/Date: 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday, noon-5 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 25-May 20

Location: University of Michigan Museum of Art, 525 S. State, Ann Arbor

Details: "Fluxus and the Essential Questions of Life," includes more than 100 works by major artists, such as Yoko Ono, Nam June Paik and George Maciunas; admission is free
Contact: (734) 764-0395

VILLAGE THEATER

Time/Date: 10 a.m.-2



Photography by Erron Reed of Westland, including this piece, will be on display at The Dirty Show, beginning Feb. 10, in Detroit. The exhibit includes works by more than 300 artists.

p.m. Monday-Friday through Feb. 24
Location: 50400 Cherry Hill Road, Canton
Details: "Lest We Forget: Legends of Detroit Gospel," celebrates the history of Gospel music in Detroit
Contact: (734) 394-5300 or visit cantonvillagetheater.org.

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; gocomey.net

JD'S HOUSE OF COMEDY

Time/Date: Various show times Wednesday-Saturday evenings

Location: 25333 W. 12 Mile, inside Star Theatre complex, Southfield

Details: Stand-up shows, 8 p.m. Thursday and 8 p.m., 10:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday; Apollo amateur night, 8 p.m. Wednesday
Contact: (248) 348-2420

or www.ticketmaster.com

JOEY'S COMEDY CLUB OF LIVONIA

Time/Date: 8 p.m. Mondays, open Mic; 8 p.m. Tuesdays, Local Legends; 8 p.m. shows Wednesdays, Thursdays; 8 p.m. & 10:30 p.m. Fridays, Saturdays

Location: 36071 Plymouth Road, Livonia

Details: Basile, through Feb. 11; Mikey Mason, Feb. 15-16; Rich Guzzi, Feb. 17-19; Coco, Feb. 22-25; Glen Wool, Feb. 29-March 3

Contact: (734) 261-0555, www.kickerscomplex.com

MARK RIDLEY'S COMEDY CASTLE

Time/Date: Tim Nutt, Feb. 9-11; Rocky Laporte, Feb. 16-18; Ted Alexandro, Feb. 23-25

Location: 269 E. Fourth, Royal Oak

Contact: (248) 542-9900, www.comedycastle.com

Dance

DANCE MONTH

Time/Date: through Feb. 18

Location: Berman Center for the Performing Arts, 6600 W. Maple, West Bloomfield

Details: Eisenhower

Dance Ensemble, 8 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 11; Ballet Folklorico de Antioquia, 8 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 18. Ticket prices are \$15 for Jewish Community Center (JCC) members and \$20 for nonmembers for the Michigan Five showcase; \$20 for JCC members and \$25 for nonmembers for the Eisenhower Dance Ensemble; and \$30 for members and \$40 for non-members for all other programs. Call the box office for student and workshop prices
Contact: (248) 661-1900; www.theberman.org

MOON DUSTERS

Time/Date: 8:30-11:30 p.m. every Saturday; dance lessons 7-8 p.m.

Location: Livonia Civic Center, 15218 Farmington Road, Livonia

Details: Singles and couples dance to music of the '30s, '40s and '50s; free refreshments. Dance lessons cost \$6; dance and lessons are \$11; dance only is \$7 for guests, \$6.50 for associates and \$6 for Moon Dusters members
Contact: Joe Castrodale, club president, (248) 968-5197

Film

MARQUIS THEATRE

Time/Date: 7:30 p.m. Feb. 11

Location: 135 E. Main, Northville

Details: "Anatomy of a Murder," tickets \$3

Coming up: "It's a Mad, Mad, Mad World," Feb. 18, "Bye, Bye, Birdie," Feb. 25

Contact: (248) 349-8110

PENN THEATRE

Time/Date: 4:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, Feb. 11-12

Location: 760 Penniman Ave., Plymouth

Details: "Happy Feet 2," \$3

Coming up: "Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows," 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 16, 7 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Feb.

17-18, and 4:15 p.m. and 7 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 19; "Hugo," 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 23, 7 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 24; 4:15 p.m. and 7 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, Feb. 25-26 and 7 p.m. Thursday, March 1

Contact: (734) 453-0870; www.penntheatre.com

REDFORD THEATRE

Time/Date: 8 p.m. Feb. 17 and 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Feb. 18

Location: 17360 Lahser, just north of Grand River Ave., in Detroit

Details: "The Apartment," tickets \$4

Coming up: "Gone With The Wind" 8 p.m. March 2-3 and 2 p.m. March 4, includes an appearance by "the Gone With The Wind answer lady," Kathleen Marcaccio

Contact: (313) 537-2560

Museums

CHARLES H. WRIGHT

Time/Date: 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday and 1-5 p.m. Sunday

Location: 315 E. Warren Road, Detroit

Details: Regular museum admission is \$8 for adults, 13-61; and \$5 for youth, 3-12, and seniors, 62 and over. Members and children 2 and under are admitted free. "Moving to His Own Beat" celebrates the life and music of Fela Anikulapo-Kuti, who fused traditional African high life music with classical jazz and funk, a unique sound he called "Afrobeat." The exhibit runs through April 1

Contact: (313) 494-5800

PLYMOUTH HISTORICAL MUSEUM

Time/Date: 1-4 p.m. Wednesday and Friday-Sunday; current exhibit runs through June 17

Location: 155 S. Main, Plymouth

Details: "Ration Stamps & Bombers, WWII at Home" is the current exhibit. Admission is \$5 for adults and \$2 for students, 6-17

Contact: (734) 455-8940

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DENZEL WASHINGTON RYAN REYNOLDS

SAFE HOUSE

UNIVERSAL PICTURES PRESENTS IN ASSOCIATION WITH RELATIVITY MEDIA A BLUEGRASS FILMS PRODUCTION
 DENZEL WASHINGTON RYAN REYNOLDS "SAFE HOUSE" VERA FARMIGA BRENDAN GLEESON
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 CHECK LOCAL LISTINGS FOR THEATERS AND SHOWTIMES

COLLEGE HOCKEY IN THE ID

THE RIVALRY CONTINUES!
MICHIGAN VS MICHIGAN STATE

Saturday, February 11, 2012 at 7:30 p.m.
 Joe Louis Arena

LITTLE CAESARS FAMILY 4-PACK: \$44-4 General Admission tickets, 4 slices of pizza and 4 soft drinks.
 MARRIOTT DETROIT: For the College Hockey Fan Rate call 1-800-352-0821

SHOW YOUR COLORS #3 RSVP ON FACEBOOK
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FOR TICKETS, CALL 313-396-7575

Tickets available at the Joe Louis Arena Box Office, all Ticketmaster locations, Hockeytown Authentics in Troy, or visit OlympiaEntertainment.com/CollegeHockeyInTheID.com

Northville Art House accepts film entries

Reel Michigan is now accepting Michigan-made or Michigan-themed short films — 25 minutes or less including credits — as a part of Northville's Arts & Acts event June 22-24. Arts and Acts is an annual celebration of the arts in Southeast Michigan featuring art, music, film, plays and more.

Reel Michigan will accept all film genres, from student films to the experimental. Reel Michigan 2012 is the perfect platform for Michigan filmmakers to showcase their talents.

Industry speakers and possible workshops will also be part of Reel Michigan 2012. Participants in the event party this year will get a chance to mingle with local filmmakers, meet the crew from Northville Civic Concern and watch as awards are given out for the best films in several categories.

"Films" will include any

project filmed with any type of camera, including digital films. All entries must be submitted on a DVD only.

Questions? E-mail to Lisa at ReelMichigan@gmail.com.

Send submissions to Reel Michigan, c/o Northville Art House, 215 W. Cady, Northville, MI 48167.

Entry fee is \$15 by April 23. Late entry fees are \$20 no later than April 27. The student filmmaker entry fee is \$10 by April 23. Late entry fee for students is \$15 no later than April 27.

Students must submit a copy of their current student ID with their entry package.

Make checks or money orders payable to Northville Art House. All entry fees are non-refundable.

For an entry form and guidelines, visit www.ci.northville.mi.us/community/artscommission/artsandacts.asp

Subscribing has **REWARDS...**

The following subscribers have won a complimentary pass for two to any of the area's Emagine Theaters just for being a subscriber.

- William Weatherston Beverly Hills
- Catherine Foege Canton
- John Thornhill Farmington Hills
- Lawrence Lesperance Garden City
- William Decker South Lyon
- John Juzswik Livonia
- Diane Elland Milford
- Leslie Foley Northville
- Gerald Vanberkel Plymouth
- Celest Latcha Redford
- Joseph McLachlan Berkley
- Gordon Kramer Novi
- Cele Dpalma Westland

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 Offer Expires: 6 - 30 - 12

Monday meal makeovers

For some, Mondays may be the start of another week of the same old thing. But with a little help, Mondays can be the perfect time to make a difference in your routine. Celebrity fitness trainer and author Kathy Kaehler has teamed up with MorningStar Farms and the Meatless Monday campaign to encourage people to eat a healthier diet, one week at a time.

"My approach to lasting change has always been to start with small steps," said Kaehler. "I advise taking a weekly approach to help make diet and exercise changes manageable."

Kaehler shares these simple tips and tools for success:

- **Get Organized** at the top of the week. Use Sunday to make a grocery list, rinse and prep your vegetables for the week, and make a schedule of dinners for each night. It will take you no longer than an hour, will help you get organized, and will save time and money.

- **Go Meatless** on Mondays. Join the national Meatless Monday campaign and pledge to reduce your meat intake, one Monday at a time. It's a fun way to explore meatless eating, and there are some great meat alternative products that you can incorporate each week.

- **Themed Meals.** Planning themed meals can make eating healthy a little more exciting. Try meatballs on Monday, tacos on Tuesday and fish on Friday. Try these recipes for Sweet-and-Sour Veggie Meatballs over brown rice or Thai Peanut-Sauced Veggie Meatballs over your favorite noodles.

For recipes, coupons and more, visit www.MorningStarFarms.com.

Sweet-and-Sour Veggie Meatballs

Prep Time: 20 minutes
Total Time: 20 minutes
Servings: 14

2 packages (8.5 ounces each) Morningstar Farms Meal Starter Veggie Meatballs
½ cup firmly packed brown sugar
4 teaspoons cornstarch
½ cup vegetable broth
½ cup red wine vinegar
2 tablespoons reduced-sodium soy sauce
1 tablespoon light-colored corn syrup
2 teaspoons grated gingerroot
1 large red bell pepper, cut into 1-inch pieces
3 green onions, cut into 1-inch pieces

Prepare veggie meatballs according to package directions.

In medium saucepan stir together brown sugar and cornstarch. Stir in broth, vinegar, soy sauce, corn syrup and gingerroot. Cook and stir over medium-high heat until boiling and thickened. Stir in bell pepper.

In chafing dish or 2½-quart crockery cooker place meatballs. Spoon sauce over top, gently stirring to mix. Sprinkle with green onions. Keep warm over low heat for up to 2 hours. Serve with cocktail picks.



Thai Peanut-Sauced Veggie Meatballs

Thai Peanut-Sauced Veggie Meatballs

Prep Time: 20 minutes
Total Time: 20 minutes
Servings: 14

2 packages (8.5 ounces each) Morningstar Farms Meal Starter Veggie Meatballs

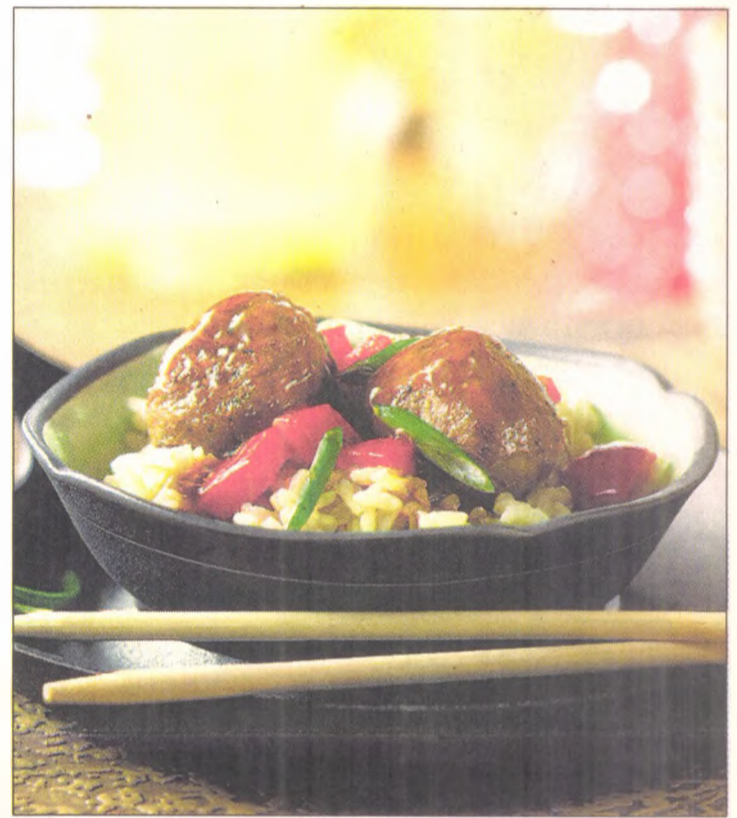
½ cup creamy peanut butter
½ cup vegetable broth
¼ cup reduced-sodium soy sauce
3 tablespoons rice vinegar
3 tablespoons chili paste with garlic (sambal oelek)
2 teaspoons grated gingerroot
1 teaspoon sugar
3 tablespoons sliced green onions
3 tablespoons dry roasted peanuts

Prepare veggie meatballs according to package directions.

Meanwhile, in small saucepan whisk together peanut butter, broth, soy sauce, vinegar, chili paste, gingerroot and sugar. Cook and stir over medium heat for 3-5 minutes or until heated through.

In chafing dish or 2½-quart crockery cooker, place meatballs. Spoon peanut sauce over top, gently stirring to mix. Sprinkle with green onions and peanuts. Keep warm over low heat for up to 2 hours. Serve with cocktail picks.

— Courtesy of Family Features



Sweet-and-Sour Veggie Meatballs

Brewing your perfect cup of tea

Hot or iced, decaf or caffeinated, with or without sugar, there are a lot of ways to enjoy drinking one of the world's most popular beverages — tea. In addition to knowing your preferred way of enjoying tea, it is important to know the right way to brew it. Below are some simple tips to ensure a flawless cup.

- The perfect cup of tea starts with fresh water. If tap water is being used, let the water run for a few minutes so it's as fresh as can be.

- If you plan on serving your tea in a teapot, pre-heat the pot. This prevents cracking that could occur when boiling water is placed in a pot that is room temperature.

- Brewing time depends on the type of tea you are preparing and how strong you'd like it to be. Green tea only needs about 1-4 minutes. Black tea generally steeps for about 3-5 minutes.

- Be sure to use a tea cozy if you are keeping tea in a teapot for a while. Reheating the tea will cause the tea to have less flavor.

Going Green

Growing in popularity, and with good reason, green tea is a consumer favorite and provides a number of benefits. Research suggests that drinking two to three cups per day of green (or black) tea may help support normal, healthy vascular function. Those looking for the benefits of green tea along with the refreshing taste of superfruits can enjoy both with Lipton's Green Tea with Superfruit

flavors. This includes flavors such as Red Goji and Raspberry, White Peach and Mangosteen, and Purple Acai and Blueberry.

Here are two recipes using perfectly brewed green tea. Find more recipes at www.lipton.com.



GETTY IMAGES

Use fresh water for the perfect cup of tea.

Warm Cinnamon-Spiked Red Goji Tea

Makes: 2 servings
Prep Time: 10 minutes
Brew Time: 3 minutes

2½ cups water
2 tablespoons granulated sugar or firmly packed brown sugar
2 cinnamon sticks
3 Lipton Red Goji with Raspberry Green Tea Bags

Bring water and sugar to a boil in 1-quart saucepan. Add cinnamon sticks and simmer 3 minutes. Remove from heat and then add tea bags. Cover and brew 3 minutes. Remove cinnamon sticks, then tea bags and squeeze. Pour into mugs.

Ginger-Honey Mangosteen Warmer

Makes: 4 servings
Prep Time: 5 minutes
Brew Time: 3 minutes

4 cups boiling water
1 piece fresh ginger (about 3 inches), sliced
6 Lipton White Mangosteen and Peach Green Tea Bags
3 tablespoons honey or agave nectar

Bring water and ginger to a boil in 2½-quart saucepan. Remove from heat and then add tea bags. Cover and brew 3 minutes. Remove ginger, then tea bags and squeeze. Stir in honey.

Courtesy of Family Features

CITY BITES

Wine tasting

LIVONIA — d.vine fine wines and Andiamo Italian Trattoria are partnering to present a tasting of small plates and fine wines, 2 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 11, at p.m. fine dining, 17386 Haggerty. Cost for "A Food and Wine Pairing Straight from the Heart" is \$45.99 per person. Try 16 different wines from around the world along with appetizers, 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 16. Cost is \$20 per person, \$15 per Wine Club member. Call (734) 432-3800 for reservations.

Coffee time

SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN — Get a free small coffee every Wednesday through February at participating McDonald's restaurants. The offer is available from open to close at participating restaurants for in-lobby dining and at the drive-thru. No purchase necessary.

Happy hour

PLYMOUTH — Panache 447 started a happy hour this week. It features a half-off drink menu at the bar and lounge from 4-6 p.m. Monday-Friday. In addition, Panache will begin offering paired dinner tastings in their White Room, Tuesday, Feb. 21. Call (734) 386-8447. Panache 447 is located at 447 Forest Ave.

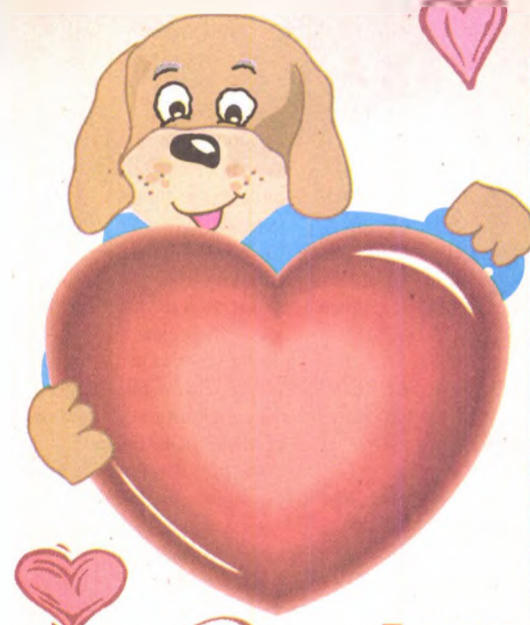
Paczkis already?

PLYMOUTH — Perfectly Sweet Cakes & Desserts is taking pre-orders for Paczkis before Fat Tuesday, Feb. 21. Call (734) 453-2253. What about Valentine's Day? Yes, it has Valentine's cookies, coffee and cake, too. It's located at 880 W. Ann Arbor Trail.

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Scoop's Hound Dog Highlights



Funny Valentine Contest

CONTEST:

Scoop loves to laugh. Send your clean jokes, riddles or short stories. The winner(s) will receive a family 4-pack to a Plymouth Whalers game and a Scoop t-shirt. Good Luck!

Mail to:
Scoop the Newshound
 41304 Concept Drive
 Plymouth, MI 48170

Deadline for submissions:

All entries need to be received at the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers by close of the business day on March 29th. Winners to be announced in the March Scoop's Hound Dog Highlights.

Scoop's Funny Bone: Riddles, Jokes, and other Funnies

- **Knock knock**
Who's there?
Frank
Frank who?
Frank you for being my friend!
- **What did the boy owl say to the girl owl on Valentine's Day?**
Owl be yours!
- **What did the valentine card say to the stamp?**
Stick with me and we'll go places!

Funny Valentine Contest

Youth Name: _____

Youth Age: _____

Youth Community: _____

Parent's information to contact winning entry:
 (Phone, email, home address)

Selected winners will have their name, age, hometown and photo in the next Scoop's Hound Dog Highlights.

Scoop's Craft Corner

Be My Valentine

Let your friends know how much you care for them by making a special Valentine's treat.

Materials Needed:

- Red, pink, and green construction paper
- Scissors
- Lollipop
- Glue stick



Step by Step Instructions:

Use red and pink construction paper to cut out a heart shape. Make sure that the heart is larger than lollipop candy.

Now let's make leaves. Fold the green paper in half and cut out a leaf shape. Keep the two sides attached making sure not to cut the seam.

Write a special message to your Valentine on the heart or leaf.

Now glue the heart to the candy wrapper. Make sure that your message is on the un-glued opposite side.

Unfold leaf shape and spread glue on it. Place the lollipop handle in the seam of the two leaf sides and press the two glued sides together to secure it around the handle.



Age Appropriate:
5 years and older

Partners Help Needed? Yes - for younger readers



The Scoop on Health

SPONSORED BY:

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 Livonia Dental Group
 32280 Five Mile Livonia, MI 48154
 www.livoniadentalgroup.com



After eating all of your Valentine sweets make sure to take care of our teeth. In recognition of the National Children's Dental Health Month take a short quiz to see how much you know about good oral care.

What should you not eat a lot of?

- Meats
- Sweets
- Vegetables



Teeth not only help you eat, but they also help you

- Taste
- Talk
- Hear



How many times a day should you clean your teeth?

- 1 time
- 2 times
- 5 times



Canine teeth are used for

- Tearing food
- Chewing Food
- Tasting Food



What are the last four teeth a person will get?

- Molars
- Wisdom
- Canine



If you have a problem with your teeth who should you visit?

- Your Doctor
- Your Dentist
- Your Gym Teacher



Answers:

Sweets, 2. Talk, 3. 2 times, 4. Tearing, 5. Wisdom, 6. Dentist

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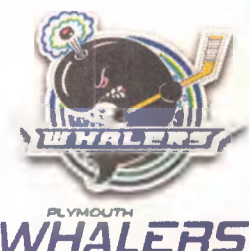
Kids Gotta Play
 53535 Grand River Ave
 248-486-5300
 www.kidsgottaplay.com



Baskin-Robbins of Livonia
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 www.baskinrobbins.com

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Brain TEASER

Each letter has a symbol. Decode the special Valentine Day message by replacing each symbol with a letter.

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z



Answer: Love is special when you share it

Join Scoop's Birthday Club!

Scoop's Birthday Club Entry Form

Sponsored by **baskin R Robbings**

* Required for Birthday Club

* Name: _____

* Address: _____ Zip: _____

* City: _____ * Boy or Girl

* Date of Birth: _____

* Email: _____

* Phone: _____

* Parent's Printed Name: _____

* Parent's Signature: _____

I would like to sign up for **baskin R Robbings** Birthday Club and receive a FREE 2.5 oz. scoop on my birthday. Expect an email from Baskin Robbins with additional instructions.

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Fill out the form and have your parent's fill in their name and signature. Clip and mail, it's that easy!

Mail to: Scoop the Newshound - 41304 Concept Dr. Plymouth, MI 48170



- Haiden Richmond**
Community: Inkster
February 17
- Valerie Zamora**
Community: Livonia
February 28
- Ryan Mason**
Community: Warren
February 29

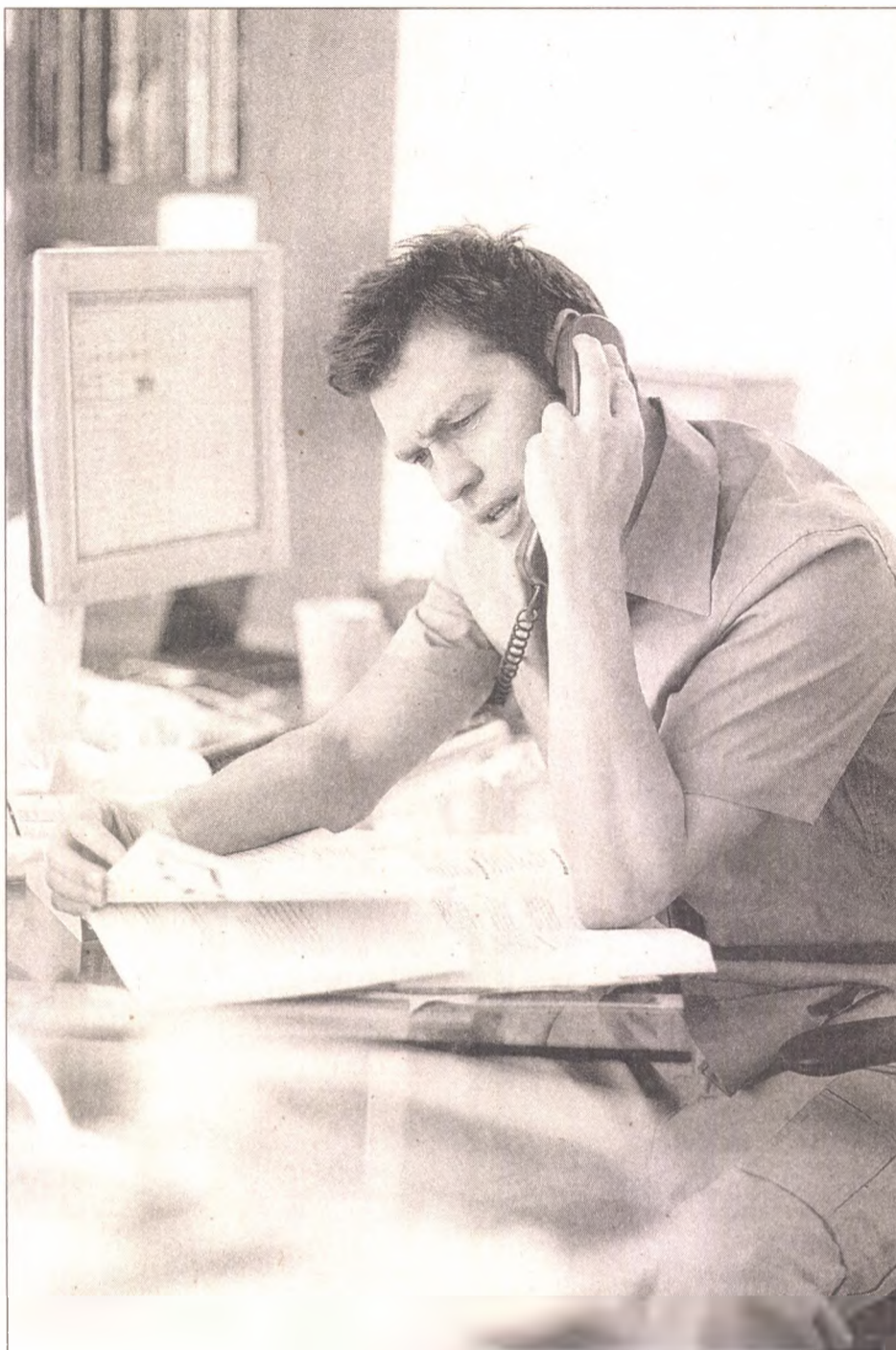
Emergency plan vital for small business

Reacting to a natural disaster or emergency not only means ensuring the immediate safety of employees, but also planning how the business will continue to function in the aftermath. Even if your business is not located in an area that is a likely target for a natural or man-made disaster, you need to be prepared for the unexpected with a comprehensive business continuation plan. The Better Business Bureau advises business owners to develop a plan of action should their business face a disaster.

Creating a disaster plan for your business is a great way to start the new year. According to the Insurance Institute for Home and Business Safety, one in four small businesses forced to close because of a disaster never reopens. Business that have a business continuity plan in place — and use it during and after disaster strikes — typically experience less damage, loss and downtime than businesses without a plan.

"If your business lacks an emergency plan, a natural disaster can turn into a business catastrophe," said Patrick Bennett, BBB director of community relations. "But a solid emergency plan can give you a lot of peace of mind and a greater sense of security."

After you've made plans to ensure the safety of your employees, BBB offers the following advice to help keep your business operating and meeting your



customers' needs in the wake of a disaster:

- Don't be caught off guard. Consider the different types of disasters — fire, flood, tornado, etc. — that can occur and how your business would respond differ-

ently to being displaced for a week, a month, or longer.

- Know your surroundings. Determine alternate locations for your business to operate if you are displaced from your current build-

ing. This could mean enabling employees to work from home or finding an alternate location for your office or store.

- Prepare your staff. Identify essential staff who are core to the operations of the busi-

ness and keep a list of their phone numbers (home, work, pager, cell) and e-mail addresses that can be accessed by employees from several locations (home, Internet, etc.).

- Communicate, communicate, communicate. Devise an emergency communications plan that outlines how your business will communicate with employees, customers and other key external contacts in the days following a disaster. Contact vendors to confirm their emergency response plan procedures. Be prepared to use alternate vendors for essential supplies and equipment. Have your back-up equipment kept in good working condition.

- Have an up-to-date inventory of your assets. Review your insurance policies to ensure that you have adequate coverage for items you cannot afford to lose. A standard policy may not cover business interruption losses.

- Store your documents safely and efficiently. Keep duplicates of personnel, payroll, payables and receivables and other essential records at an off-site location. Regularly make back-up copies of important computer files.

- Establish a succession of management for the company. Determine who will manage the company if key leaders are unavailable.

For more business tips, visit <http://detroit.bbb.org/Business-Tips-Index/>.

Yes to inspect request often best

By Robert Meisner
Guest Columnist

Q: We live in a detached condominium and every year the Board of Directors undertakes an exterior inspection of all of the units for maintenance purposes. However, this year we received notice that they are offering an interior/exterior inspection to the interior of the unit, but that would be the financial responsibility of the individual co-owner. Our bylaws state that the association has access to the units as necessary for maintenance, repair or replacement of any of the common elements and to make emergency repairs



Robert Meisner

to prevent damage to the common elements. However, I feel that an interior inspection is an invasion of my privacy. Would it be

within my rights to refuse the interior inspection?

A: It appears from your question that they are making the interior inspection an option which you do not have to accept. If that is the case, you can obviously opt not to have an interior inspection. On the other hand, to the extent that the association believes that it needs to inspect your unit for common element problems, I think there is a good argument that that cost should be defrayed by the association. If, on the other hand, the inspection of the unit deals with problems that are within the co-owner's responsibility to maintain repair or replacement, then that is something that should be the co-owner's responsibility. You should determine exactly why and what is going to be the subject matter of any inspection in the interior of your unit and whether it is mandatory or not.

Q: The president of our board wants to know whether we should get involved in endorsing any local candidates for election. Do you have any comments on that?

A: The association, through its board, should, in my judgment, steer clear of endorsing candidates entirely. Endorsing a candidate and coming out on the wrong side of an election could certainly end up doing the association a disservice. The best bet is to make this announcement at a board meeting. Let the co-owners know that the association will not be getting involved in any local politics. Obviously, there may be an unusual issue which directly affects the association like an express train going through the middle of the project where some involvement by the association, either politically or legally, would be required, but that is in a rare situation.

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.

HOMES SOLD/REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS - WAYNE

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of Oct. 24-28, 2011, at the Wayne County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

1621 Bentley Ct	\$284,000
46728 Doubletree Rd	\$200,000
48541 Inverary Rd	\$350,000
2275 Lexington Cir S	\$206,000
1603 Mulberry Ln	\$153,000
48367 Rockefeller Dr	\$230,000
2260 S Lilley Rd	\$80,000
48641 Saltz Rd	\$65,000
43628 W Arbor Way Dr	\$51,000

41688 White Tail Ln	\$123,000
GARDEN CITY	
32137 Alvin St	\$85,000
33354 Alvin St	\$75,000
6963 Dover St	\$54,000
LIVONIA	
28575 Broadmoor St	\$135,000
19658 Donna St	\$125,000
29228 Elmira St	\$45,000
16888 Fairfield St	\$130,000
36212 Fairway Dr	\$280,000
14625 Flamingo St	\$148,000
14191 Houghton St	\$115,000
35174 Munger St	\$220,000
32315 Wisconsin St	\$125,000

31637 Wyoming St	\$123,000
NORTHVILLE	
16731 Carriage Way	\$114,000
40745 N Northville Trl	\$316,000
49848 Parkside Dr	\$365,000
19431 Scenic Harbour Dr	\$295,000
18525 Steep Hollow Ct	\$487,000
PLYMOUTH	
48042 Ashwood Dr	\$395,000
13743 Hilltop Dr W	\$425,000
49310 Plumtree Dr	\$236,000
13450 Saint Andrews Sq	\$407,000
10468 Trailwood Rd	\$285,000
REDFORD	
20380 Gaylord	\$25,000

12720 Leverne	\$38,000
18368 Macarthur	\$35,000
26327 Margareta	\$46,000
9648 Sioux	\$31,000
18618 Sumner	\$21,000
8847 Woodbine	\$30,000
WESTLAND	
34216 Arrowhead St	\$86,000
33229 Creston St	\$62,000
35040 Melton St	\$77,000
8110 Pickering Pl	\$211,000
2128 S Harvey St	\$90,000
1324 Sharon St	\$30,000
1360 Shoemaker Dr	\$31,000
7475 Woodview St	\$20,000

HOME SOLD/REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS - OAKLAND

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of Oct. 17-21, 2011, at the Oakland County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

BIRMINGHAM	
1898 Henrietta St	\$160,000
515 Lewis St	\$200,000
578 Woodland St	\$200,000
BLOOMFIELD HILLS	
4716 Overton Cv	\$370,000
69 Barden Ct	\$150,000
304 Barden Rd	\$850,000
BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP	
2110 Eagle Pointe	\$133,000
422 Fox Hills Dr N	\$26,000
1189 Foxwood Ct	\$500,000
4851 Haddington Dr	\$257,000
1627 S Hill Blvd	\$75,000
1239 S Timberview Trl	\$150,000
1959 W Spinningwheel Ln	\$225,000
1401 Woodglen Ln	\$196,000

COMMERCE TOWNSHIP	
3105 Belle Terre	\$138,000
9464 Chaumont Dr	\$180,000
4942 Parkgate Dr	\$350,000
3206 Rio Vista St	\$90,000
5668 Strawberry Cir	\$369,000
6054 Strawberry Cir	\$284,000
2713 Trillium Hills Dr	\$59,000
FARMINGTON	
23631 Bicking Ct	\$70,000
34740 Whittaker Ct	\$200,000
FARMINGTON HILLS	
25832 Beecham Rd	\$188,000
25861 Beecham Rd	\$129,000
31720 Bristol Ln	\$200,000
31729 Coronet Dr	\$200,000
20824 Deerfield	\$347,000
21420 Gill Rd	\$167,000
27985 Kendallwood Dr	\$180,000
22850 Montclair St	\$118,000
35295 Quaker Way	\$271,000
29270 Stillwater	\$231,000
37871 Thames Dr	\$175,000
FRANKLIN	
27201 Gardenway Rd	\$335,000

26620 Woodlore Rd	\$300,000
Lathrup Village	
27430 California Dr SW	\$75,000
27440 California Dr SW	\$75,000
18823 San Quentin Dr	\$127,000
18160 Wiltshire Blvd	\$125,000
MILFORD	
3174 Katie Ln	\$284,000
1970 Mystic Hills Dr	\$210,000
1186 Riverside St	\$260,000
774 S Milford Rd	\$63,000
1983 Scenic Dr	\$335,000
NOVI	
24570 Bethany Way	\$310,000
25742 Buckminster Dr	\$222,000
41454 Chattman St	\$250,000
40548 Lenox Park Dr	\$230,000
40552 Lenox Park Dr	\$240,000
24335 Lynwood Dr	\$415,000
26993 Maxwell Ct	\$45,000
51158 Mayfair Trl	\$45,000
24435 Nantucket Dr	\$338,000
24826 Olde Orchard St	\$33,000
25160 Seeley Rd	\$590,000
2489 Shawood St	\$35,000

24487 Venice Dr	\$190,000
22053 Worcester Dr	\$400,000
SOUTH LYON	
61008 Evergreen Ct	\$61,000
822 Fairhaven Dr	\$235,000
23941 Prescott Ct	\$61,000
24706 Ravine Dr	\$19,000
52816 Willowbrook Dr	\$61,000
SOUTHFIELD	
21145 Glenmorra St	\$75,000
25331 Lois Ln	\$120,000
27470 Spring Arbor Dr	\$70,000
15999 W 11 Mile Rd	\$14,000
18301 W 13 Mile Rd Unit A23	\$54,000
18880 Webster Ave	\$110,000
29145 Wellington Rd E	\$39,000
WHITE LAKE	
1338 Clearwater St	\$159,000
430 Coledale Dr	\$265,000
21 Dunforth St	\$330,000
255 Hurondale Dr	\$120,000
8944 Lakeview Dr	\$50,000
918 Sloane Ct	\$188,000
9384 Steephollow Dr	\$115,000
8195 Timber Trl	\$120,000

REAL ESTATE BRIEFS

Career Seminar

Learn about the \$50,000 income guarantee Thursday, Feb. 16, 6:30-7:30 p.m. at Keller Williams Realty, 40600 Ann Arbor Road, Suite 100, Plymouth.

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

Seminar on Tuesdays

A free Reverse Mortgage Seminar is 6:30 p.m. every Tuesday at Colonial Mortgage

Corp., 33919 Plymouth Road, Livonia. No obligation.

Learn about reverse mortgages. RSVP with Larry Brady at (800) 260-5484, Ext. 33.

Free Foreclosure Tours

Free Foreclosure Tours are 1 p.m. every other Sunday. Meeting place is Panera Bread on the southeast corner of Middlebelt and I-96. E-mail Georgia@adddvalurealty.com or visit FreeForeclosure.com.

sureTour.com.

On Facebook

RE/MAX has launched a new Facebook page for customers and the public to get direct answers for their real estate questions from RE/MAX experts. The new site is a chance for the public to ASKREMAX and get clear, expert answers in real time. Visit www.facebook.com/ASKREMAX.

Finance Seminar

Learn how to finance

your purchase and rehab projects in and around Detroit. Hear from an expert in the lending business, Trent Dalrymple, who has more than 25 years of experience. Real estate and investment professionals are welcome. Seating is limited so call (248) 547-3006, or sign up at www.metro-mi.com. These free one-hour seminars will be 6-7 p.m. on the first and third Thursday of the month at Metro Mortgage Investments, 26711 Woodward Ave.,



Suite 301, Huntington Woods.



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Thursday

PUZZLE CORNER

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

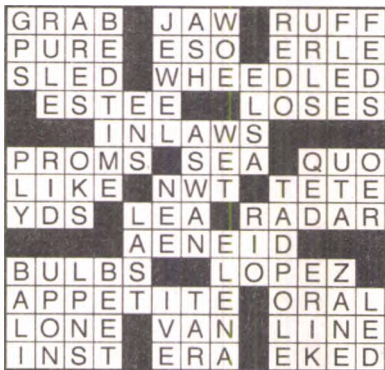
ACROSS

- 1 Recipe meas.
- 4 Blueprint
- 6 Come unglued
- 12 "Rope-a-dope" boxer
- 13 Slightest trace
- 14 Disney CEO
- 15 Poured gently
- 17 Alaskan port
- 18 Look forward to
- 19 Apprehends
- 21 Chocolate-colored dog
- 23 Bread ingredient
- 27 Wild plum
- 30 Omigosh!
- 33 — and dont's
- 34 Speakeasy risk
- 35 Prefix for cycle
- 36 Stop abruptly
- 37 Gridiron stats
- 38 Like a basso's voice
- 39 Iowa college town

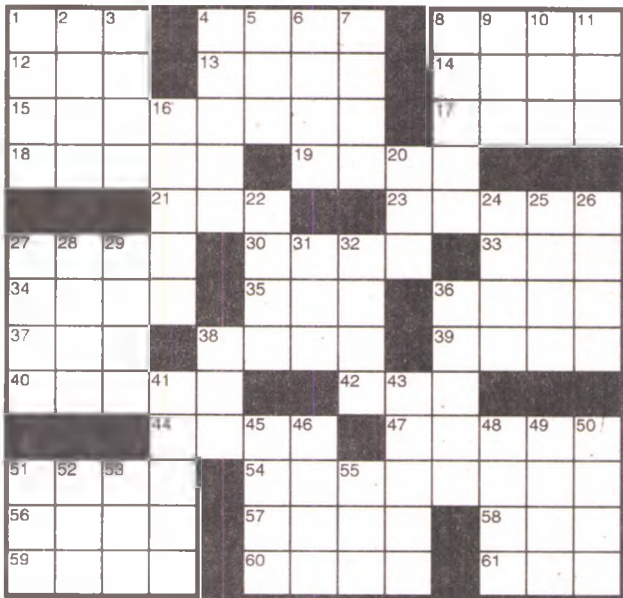
DOWN

- 40 "Die Fledermaus" role
- 42 Sty matriarch
- 44 Libretto feature
- 47 Camel kin
- 51 Sufficient, in verse
- 54 Goalpost part
- 56 Surgeon's attire
- 57 People devourer
- 58 Architect's wing
- 59 Sappho's verse
- 60 When shadows are shortest
- 61 Mekong native
- 1 Hooray for me! (hyph.)
- 2 Vast number
- 3 Bigger than elite
- 4 1492 caravel
- 5 Building site
- 6 Pharaoh's god
- 7 Goose egg

Answer to Previous Puzzle



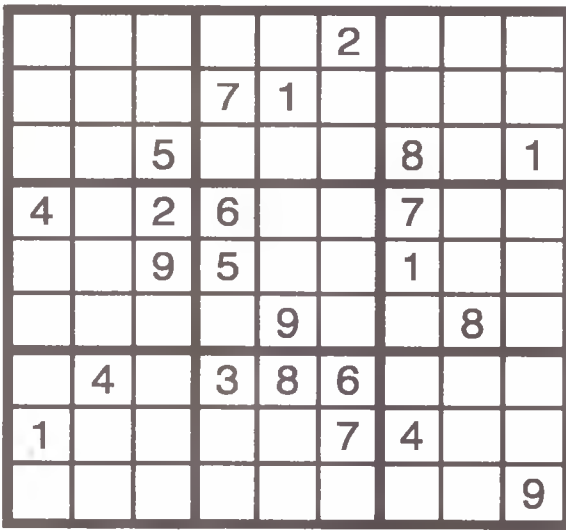
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- 8 Car-wash step
- 9 Back when
- 10 Mineral find
- 11 Prior to
- 16 Caught cold
- 20 So long!
- 22 Eight bits
- 24 Not know from —
- 25 Type of survivor
- 26 Reproving clucks
- 27 Baja Ms.
- 28 Alan or Cheryl
- 29 River to the Seine
- 31 Vexation
- 32 Domino dots
- 36 Walls
- 38 Van — Waals force
- 41 Grassy expanses
- 43 Merlin of the NFL
- 45 Computer graphic
- 46 Jason's vessel
- 48 Director Gance
- 49 — fide (in bad faith)
- 50 Guthrie of folk music
- 51 Id companion
- 52 Auction signal
- 53 Be billed
- 55 El Dorado loot

Want more puzzles? Check out the "Just Right Crossword Puzzles" books at QuillDriverBooks.com

SUDOKU



Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Here's How It Works:

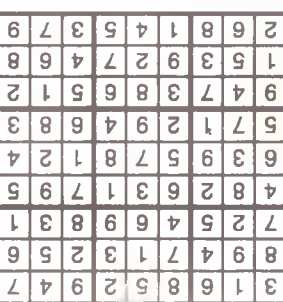
Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

Word Search — Hearty, Winter Foods

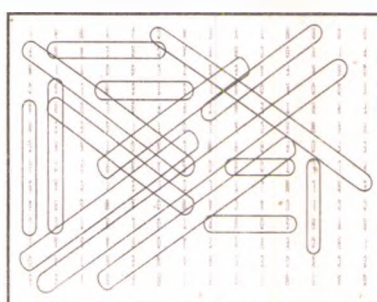


- Casserole
- Chili
- Cream
- Crackers
- Filling
- Hot
- Hot chocolate
- Lasagna
- Oatmeal
- Potatoes
- Pot pie
- Roast
- Soup
- Stew
- Winter

CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE



CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE



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GARDEN CITY: Clean 2 bdrm, fully finished upstairs, ca. 1 car. \$825/mo. + \$825 Sec. 1 yr. lease 734-591-9329

GARDEN CITY: Remodeled 3 bdrm, bsmt. garage 28417 Barton \$800 + sec. No pets, immed occup. (734) 421-5194

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LIVONIA: Charming 3 bdrm, 2.5 bath, C/A, partial finished bsmt, garage, FR, \$1175/mo + sec. dep. Call: (248) 330-0507

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Co-op Services Credit Union (734) 466-6113	4	0.25	3.375	0	J
Dearborn Federal Savings Bank (313) 565-3100	4.125	0	3.375	0	A
Fifth Third Bank (800) 792-8830	4	0	3.375	0	J/A/V/F
First State Bank (800) 372-2205	4	0	3.375	0	J/V/F
Golden Rule Mortgage (800) 991-9922	3.625	0.25	2.9	0.25	J/A/V/F
Group One Mortgage (248) 282-1602	4	0	3.5	0	J/A/V/F
Mortgages by Golden Rule (800) 991-9922	3.6	1.25	2.875	0.25	J/A/V/F
Talmer Bank & Trust (800) 462-2786	3.875	0	3.25	0	J/A/V/F

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