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PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Jasmine Millwood reads from her book, 'Unbreakable,' the memoir she wrote about life for her and her sisters bouncing around the foster care system, and the uncle who eventually rescued them from

**District moves to beef up security**

By Brad Kadrich  
Observer Staff Writer

The Plymouth-Canton Board of Education Tuesday took steps to increase security at the three-high school Plymouth-Canton Educational Park.

In one move, the board voted 4-2 (trustee Mark Horvath was absent) to hire a third school resource officer from the Canton Police Department, an agreement that will put a SRO in each of the park's three buildings, a boost from the two who patrol the park now.

Separately, the board got started on the process of adding security cameras in an effort to beef up security at the massive complex, giving the administration permission to seek bids on installation of such a system.

The agreement to hire a third SRO comes a couple of months after administration, while considering a number of moves to increase security, listed such a move as one of the priorities for better protection for the park's 6,200 students.

"Apart from the general deterrent factor which the presence of officers presents, the availability of the SROs on campus is an asset to the park administration in being able to quickly summon and secure police assistance in individual cases of need or in instances of a widespread or general emergency," Supt. Jeremy Hughes wrote in a memo to the board.

**New deal**

The Canton Police Department currently has two SROs assigned to the park, at no cost to the district. District administrators recently negotiated a deal with CPD to provide a third, although the district will have to eventually pick up the total cost.

That cost (estimated at some \$90,000 a year) will be split between CPD and the district in the first year. Under the three-year deal, the district will pick up

Please see SECURITY, A2

**Math major**

Nathan Oweis, an eighth-grader at New Morning School, competed in the recent MATHCOUNTS competition at the University of Michigan-Dearborn.



Oweis

MATHCOUNTS is a national enrichment club and competition program that promotes middle school mathematics achievement.

Consisting of fun and creative problems that promote critical-thinking and problem-solving skills, the MATHCOUNTS competitions have written and oral rounds, as well as individual and team components.

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**Helping to heal**

Writing, family's love, helped new author overcome horrific childhood

By Matt Jachman  
Observer Staff Writer

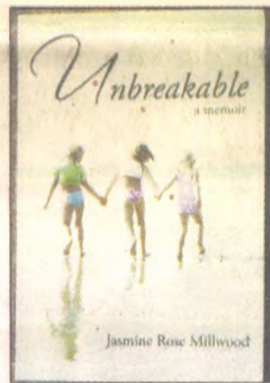
At age 2, she was rescued from a crack house, where she and a twin sister were found lying on a mattress in their own waste, according to her case file.

At 5, she says, she was sexually abused by a man who was seeing her mother, a woman plagued with psychological and drug and alcohol problems who could not overcome her demons.

Later, she says, she and her two sisters endured beatings and psychological abuse at the hands of their father and a cruel stepmother. And the Michigan social workers whose job it was to protect them took almost two years to act on their plight.

Yet, with the love of her sisters and an uncle who adopted all three girls, Jasmine Millwood survived the horrific conditions of her childhood and is now thriving as she anticipates the publication of a memoir, *Unbreakable*, of her growing-up years.

**Writing as therapy**  
"It all fell into place," this has been a dream of mine," said Millwood, of Plymouth, during an interview Tuesday. "I think it's my time to help people."



Jasmine Millwood's first book, 'Unbreakable,' can be ordered through the Amazon and Barnes & Noble websites, or through [jasminemillwood.com](http://jasminemillwood.com).

Please see AUTHOR, A2

**Parade prowess**



Dancers from the O'Hare School of Irish Dance in Plymouth got their jiggy on during Sunday's St. Patrick's Day parade in downtown Detroit. An estimated 65,000 people lined Michigan Avenue to watch the parade Sunday, brought out by gorgeous weather, which saw temperatures in the 60s, some 20 degrees higher than normal, officials said. Organizers said some 3,000 people participated in the parade.

**Officials jockey over further state tax reform**

By Matt Jachman  
Observer Staff Writer

Citing the potential harm to municipal budgets, elected officials in the Plymouths are speaking out against eliminating Michigan's personal property tax.

But as long as the idea is being pushed — Lt. Gov. Brian Calley's office is studying the issue and is expected to soon put forth a proposal — officials want to keep their hands in the game in hopes of getting the most favorable outcome.

"I get that this is a want or a need, to change it, but they have to replace it with something," Plymouth Mayor Dan Dwyer said Tuesday. "Just eliminating it is absolutely foolish."

"That would be a devastating blow for the community," if the tax is abolished without a replacement, said Plymouth Township Supervisor Richard Reaume. "Many of our communities in western Wayne County would be greatly impacted by the loss of personal property tax."

The personal property tax is a tax on business furnishings, such as desks, computers and copy machines, and industrial equipment, such as welding machines and metal presses. The tax is paid at the millage rate in each community, and the value of the equipment being taxed depreciates over time.

Please see TAX REFORM, A3

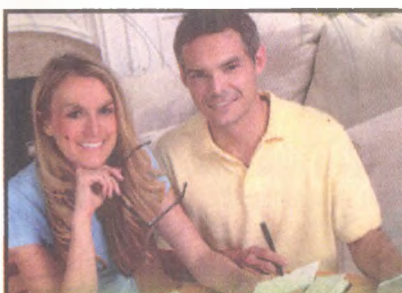
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## SECURITY

Continued from page A1

some 75 percent (\$67,541) in the second year and the entire cost the third year.

Board Vice President Adrienne Davis and trustee Mike Maloney voted against the measure.

"My sense is I'd like to wait," Maloney said. "We have a review (coming) on safety and security at the Park. I'd be more comfortable if we brought this back and looked at it in the context of an entire plan."

Administrators will also get started on the process of soliciting requests for proposals for the installation of security cameras. Installing such a system, where none exists now, could cost the district as much as \$900,000, depending on the level of coverage board members decide they want.

### Payment plans

Brodie Killian, the district's executive director for finance, outlined several ways the district could opt to pay for the system.

"There are several options, some better than others," Killian said. Among them:

- There is still some \$1

million left from the sale of bonds in 2010. That money could be used, Killian said, to pay for the system.

- Using cash on hand, with the district's budget situation, he said, is not really an option.

- Financing the purchase. "Considering (interest) rates are at near-historic lows, that's a pretty attractive option," Killian said.

The cost will also depend on the level of coverage board members decide they want. Hughes split the \$900,000 cost into estimates based on three levels:

- Covering just the main areas, such as entry/exit points and the cafeterias.

- Covering main areas, plus hallways, common spaces, gyms, etc.

- Full coverage, including entry/exit points, hallways, cafeterias, common areas and outside areas such as the walkways between schools and the parking lots.

RFPs are expected to be sent before the end of March, with bids due back by mid- to late-April and a recommendation to the board the week of May 7.

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## AUTHOR

Continued from page A1

First, though, Millwood had to help herself — and she did that, she said, by writing.

Starting at age 10, she jotted her experiences, thoughts and feelings on scraps of paper, waking in the middle of the night to do so if she felt the need. As a teenager, that habit turned into a regular journal and, in college, she organized the material on a computer.

"I was really passionate about publishing this some day," she said. And the writing was therapeutic. "I found that it was helping me heal and feel better," Millwood said.

Young Jasmine and her sisters — twin Camai and older sister Fawna — spent years in Michigan's foster care system, bouncing between relatives and foster parents, sometimes together, sometimes apart. Their mother, Charlene in the book, made several attempts to provide a home for them, but ultimately was incapable, Millwood said.

### 'Nothing but chaos'

Between her mother, other relatives and unrelated foster parents, she said, she had about 30 foster placements.

"It was nothing but chaos and it was extremely tumultuous," she said.



BILL BRESLER  
STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER  
Jasmine Millwood, 23, said publishing her memoir "has been a dream of mine." The book, 'Unbreakable,' is out March 22.

One foster father was Richard Reaume, now the Plymouth Township supervisor, with whom the sisters spent about a year in 1994 and 1995. He was also their mother's brother.

Reaume, a single foster father, had taken on a difficult situation. "He loved us so much," Millwood said. "We gave him hell and it was hard for him to deal with."

But the girls' biological father, "Ben," stepped in and, with a girlfriend he later married, "Diane," got custody of the girls, Millwood said.

The sisters thought they finally had a family. "This was actually like a real mom and a real dad," she said.

But the stepmother's "attitude just flipped like a switch," she said. She and her sisters were routinely abused and neglected, she said, with scant food and no new clothes for two years.

### 'Us against the world'

Even so, their desire to

be part of a normal family at first kept them from saying much about the turmoil. "We were trying so hard to make it work," Millwood said. The sisters drew closer. "We kind of became conspirators, because it was just the three of us against the world," she said.

Later, the girls did complain, but their allegations were ignored at first, Millwood said.

Eventually, the father terminated his parental rights, and Reaume came back into the picture.

"I think he finally realized if he wasn't going to step up, nobody would," Millwood said.

Reaume, who rarely speaks publicly about his personal life, said the move was a sacrifice, but that he was making an investment in the girls.

"It was a hardship," Reaume said Tuesday. "It was very difficult raising the children when they were angry at the world."

Now, he is enormously proud.

"He's behind me 100 percent," with the publication of *Unbreakable*, Millwood said. "And I need him to be."

Millwood said she wasn't thrilled, about a month shy of turning 12, at the prospect of having Reaume as her permanent dad. She so wanted a father and a mother, she said.

But as the years passed, she said, she realized Reaume's love and support had lifted her. She graduated from the University of Michigan-Dearborn last year, and says she couldn't have done it without him.

"We finally opened up our hearts to him, just

like he did for us when we needed him," she said.

Millwood's older sister, Fawna, is now living and working in Florida, and is engaged to be married in December — Reaume plans to walk her down the aisle. Camai lives and works in the Detroit area.

### Learning from experience

Both sisters have read *Unbreakable*, and Millwood said the book expresses their feelings about their experiences as well as her own. "It made me feel good that I can sort of use their voice," she said.

Millwood is planning a second book, which she says will be a self-help book directed at steering women away from unhealthy relationships. She is also booking speaking engagements — including to a gathering of social workers at her alma mater later this month — that she hopes can prevent abuse help correct the wrongs in the child welfare system that she and her sisters endured.

"Let's learn from this to make sure it doesn't ever happen again," she said.

"Unbreakable," published by Wasteland Press, can be ordered through the Amazon and Barnes & Noble websites, or through www.jasminemillwood.com. It is also available as an e-book. A portion of sale proceeds will benefit the St. Clair County Child Abuse/Neglect Council and the YMCA Storer Camps.

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## CORRECTION

An incorrect headline in the March 8 issue of the *Observer* misidentified the upcoming theater production at School-

craft College in Livonia. *Romeo and Juliet* by William Shakespeare begins Friday, March 23.

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# Folk fans plan old-fashioned hootenanny

By Matt Jachman  
Observer Staff Writer

The March BaseLine Folk Society concert in Plymouth will turn the tables, or, to use a more apt metaphor, the microphone, on the audience.

The crowd itself will be the featured performers for BaseLine's Saturday concert at the Plymouth Community Arts Council, as the local trio The Folk Laureates leads the audience in an old-fashioned singalong.

"Basically, we're just going to sit down and

tell the audience, 'Hey, you're the stars,'" said Scott Ludwig of Canton Township, who plays guitar, banjo and mandolin with The Folk Laureates. Cathy Fitzpatrick of Northville and John Delle-Monache of Northville Township make up the rest of the trio.

Ludwig says they've picked out 17 of the most familiar folk songs for the show, including *Michael Row Your Boat Ashore*, *Puff, the Magic Dragon* and the Kingston Trio's *Greenback Dollar*. Songsheets will be ready

for those who don't know the lyrics.

They'll throw in some Irish-inspired tunes, too, such as *When Irish Eyes are Smiling* and *The Wild Rover*, for St. Patrick's Day. "We'd be in trouble if we didn't do something like that," Ludwig said.

The audience-as-star idea is new for BaseLine, though the shows often end with audience participation in the final number of the night.

Formed in 2005, BaseLine is made up of performers and fans of tra-

ditional acoustic folk music. Its monthly shows, from September through May, are on the third Saturday of each month at the PCAC building in Plymouth and have been drawing crowds of between 70 and 120 people, the latter number being considered a packed house.

"It's a wonderful place to play," Ludwig said. BaseLine is in its third season at the PCAC.

Each show includes an open-mic session for up to eight performers or groups, a performance by the host musician, and a featured artist or group.

Ludwig thinks the crowd will be game on Saturday.

"If it falls flat, I don't think we'll do it again, but I



The Folk Laureates — Scott Ludwig (left), Cathy Fitzpatrick and John Delle-Monache — will lead the audience in an old-fashioned folk singalong Saturday during the BaseLine Folk Society's March show at the Plymouth Community Arts Council.

don't think it will," he said.

The March BaseLine Folk Society show is at 7 p.m. Saturday at the PCAC building, 774 North Sheldon, at

Junction, Plymouth. Tickets are \$5 each; refreshments will be served.

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## TAX REFORM

Continued from page A1

### \$1.3 billion across state

Many taxing entities — public schools and libraries as well as cities and townships — share in personal property tax revenue. Statewide, about \$1.3 billion annually is collected through the personal property tax.

In Plymouth, the city will receive about \$350,000 this budget year in personal property taxes, according to Finance Director Mark Christiansen. Most of the money goes into the general fund, but some also goes toward debt service, the waste and recycling fund and the Brownfield Authority and Downtown Development Authority, he said.

In the township, which has a larger industrial base, the personal property tax will bring in about \$780,000 this year, about 12 percent of the township's tax revenue, Treasurer Ron Edwards said.

That's down from nearly \$1 million last year and about \$1.2 million in 2008, Edwards said.

Both Reaume and Dwyer said they understand the tax is cumbersome for companies, and that there may be an administrative savings for business in getting rid of it. But on top of other revenue hits in their communities in recent years, they said, not having an alternate source of revenue would be difficult.

"Five or six years ago we could have absorbed that (elimination of the tax) without a problem. Now, everything's a problem," Dwyer said.

### 'Leave it alone'

State Rep. Kurt Heise, R-Plymouth Township, who represents both communities, shares that view. Heise's district includes the city of Wayne, which relies heavily on personal property taxes paid by Ford Motor Co., which has extensive facilities there, including an assembly line.

"I would just like to leave it alone," said

Heise, noting the Michigan Business Tax was abolished and replaced just last year. "Let's let that process work itself out more before we embark on another big round of tax reform."

Heise said because of the potential harm to local communities, he doubts the tax would be eliminated cold turkey; he envisions a phasing-out of the tax, and perhaps a replacement source of revenue.

Heise recently attended a meeting in Dearborn, along with several Wayne County mayors and Ford officials, at which Dearborn Mayor John O'Reilly outlined his plan for a tax to replace the personal property tax. Heise said O'Reilly's plan is "still very much in the discussion stage" and wouldn't be a dollar-for-dollar replacement, but has been signed onto by Ford. Both Dwyer and Reaume have been briefed on the plan.

"It's a good start on (O'Reilly's) part and it certainly keeps the communities in the game," Heise said.

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## Mannequin returned to her perch on the porch

By Matt Jachman  
 Observer Staff Writer

Priscilla the mannequin is back at her home on Clemons Drive in Plymouth Township.

Priscilla, who likes to hang out on the porch wearing seasonal garb during colder weather (the home's human occupants use the porch when it's warm), disappeared on Super Bowl Sunday in February, and turned up Monday, a few days after a story about her disappearance appeared in the *Plymouth Observer*, said Evelyn Butler, a human friend.

"Apparently, Priscilla wandered off her porch that Sunday, looking for a party to crash," Butler joked in an e-mail.

"She is now celebrating her favorite holiday, St. Patrick's Day, with her pals, safely at home," Butler continued later.

Butler, an attorney in Livonia, had filed a police report about a month after Priscilla's disappearance. She said an *Observer* reader had



Priscilla, dressed up here for St. Patrick's Day, is back on her porch in Plymouth Township, along with the gargoyle Robyn (left, on the chair arm) and the cat Loki (on the seat).

arranged for Priscilla's return.

Priscilla, who was specially made for Butler about 10 years ago after another mannequin Butler liked to display was damaged, is stuck in a sitting position

and dresses up for many colder-weather holidays, including Christmas, New Year's Eve, Chinese New year and St. Paddy's Day.

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## CRIME WATCH

### Pot possession

A traffic stop a freeway in Plymouth Township early Saturday ended with the arrest of a 25-year-old Southfield man on a marijuana-possession charge and several outstanding warrants.

The arrest took place on westbound M-14 near Napier at about 5 a.m., according to a Plymouth Police Department report. A patrolling officer pulled over a woman who was driving a 2002 Chevrolet Impala for improper lane usage and a nonworking headlight, the report said.

Upon speaking to the woman, who had a male passenger in the Impala, the officer noticed the odor of marijuana, police said. The man in the passenger seat admitted to having marijuana in the sock on his right foot, and retrieved a plastic bag of suspected marijuana from the sock, police said.

The man was arrested, and police discovered outstanding warrants for him, the report said. He was later released on bond, but a marijuana-possession citation carries a mandatory court date. The driver was released, along with her car.

Police said the substance later tested positive for marijuana.

### Vandalism

A window on a sport-utility vehicle was smashed, apparently by someone who used a concrete block that was left at the scene, on a residential street in the area of Ann Arbor Road and Sheldon on the night of March 8.

The vandalism took place on Erik Pass near Gregory Lane, where a woman had parked her 2012 Jeep, a police report said. The window had been smashed several times; police speculated it was an attempt to burglarize the Jeep.

### Lawn job

A man on Oak Lane in the area of Five Mile and Northville Road reported to police that someone drove over his lawn twice within a two-day period last week.

The first incident was between March 8 and March 9, and the second some time on March 10, the man told police. Police noted that damage to the lawn was light.

— By Matt Jachman

## Plymouth Township assures it will continue with mutual aid pact

By Lonnie Huhman  
 Correspondent

The question of whether Plymouth Township could fulfill its part of the area's mutual aid agreement was recently raised by Northville Township and other western Wayne communities after it eliminated six firefighter positions.

Mutual aid is an agreement among communities with the purpose of acting as a partnership in case of an emergency. If one happens, a community could call upon a neighbor to help out in specific ways. Many times, aid is called upon in times of multiple vehicle accidents or fires.

When layoffs happen, it raises the concerns of public safety officials because assistance could turn into indirectly subsidizing another department's day-to-day work.

However, Plymouth Township has assured its neighbors it would hold up its end of the agreement.

According to John Werth, Northville Township's public safety director, Plymouth Township is committed to the mutual agreement that has it sharing four people and an engine in case of a fire emergency, and if medical help is needed it would send two people and an ambulance.

Northville Township Fire Chief Richard Mari-

nucci, the current president of the Western Wayne Mutual Aid association, said the aid partnership with Plymouth Township has been relatively balanced with calls for aid about equal. However, he said the staffing shortages in some communities do raise concern. He said it's a partnership and the goal is to not have it be one-sided.

According to City of Northville Fire Chief Jim Allen, who is now in charge of the city of Plymouth's fire services, Northville might be called upon a bit more to help with fire emergencies, but he doesn't expect any significant imbalance.

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**AROUND PLYMOUTH**

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

**MAD HATTER TEA**

**Date/Time:** Sunday, April 15, 2-4 p.m.  
**Location:** Plymouth Historical Museum, 155 S. Main  
**Details:** The Plymouth Historical Museum hosts its annual Mad Hatter Tea where ladies wear their craziest hats. "Contain Yourself: Container Gardening Basics," will be presented by Sue Paulin, a Master Gardener in northwest Illinois. Before the presentation, enjoy scrumptious delicacies from Fancy Food Catering and the Museum's signature "Mary's Blend" tea — a taste bud tingling cherry and almond black tea in honor of Mary Todd Lincoln. This tea is also available for purchase in the Museum's store. Tickets for the Mad Hatter Tea are \$20 for Friends of the Plymouth Historical Museum members and \$25 for non-members, if purchased by April 6 (add \$5 to the ticket price after that date), and can be purchased at the Plymouth Historical Museum during open hours, or on the website at <http://www.plymouth-history.org/Events.html> using PayPal.  
**Contact:** For further information, call (734) 455-8940.

**Heise opposed to charter school bill**

By Julie Brown  
Staff Writer

State Rep. Kurt Heise, R-Plymouth, didn't mince words when it came to cyber charter schools in Michigan. "Cyber schools is on the House floor," Heise said Monday, March 12, during a constituent meeting at the Northville District Library. "I'm still a no. The votes aren't there for it. It's going to be interesting to see what happens."  
 Cyber charters have operated in Michigan less than two years. "We don't have enough data," Heise said. He noted taxpayer money would follow operators, and there's little oversight of them. He trusts parents to do what's best, he said, but not necessarily providers.



JOHN HEIDER  
STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER  
Michigan state Rep. Kurt Heise meets with some constituents at the Northville District Library on March 11.

Homeschoolers in Michigan have been indifferent or even hostile to the concept, he said. Heise would be more amenable on cyber charters with smaller caps. "Cyber charters in Michigan are still very much a work in progress," he said of the "largely unproven education technology." The two operators in Michigan have some 1,700 students. Heise also touched on foundation allowance spending for public schools, which is the same as last year due to the state budget cycle. There are incentives for best practices such as merged services, which would increase per-pupil allocations. "It is better than where we were a year ago, which was lousy," Heise said, adding retirement reform is the largest area open to change. There's also much interest, he said, in the Five Mile corridor among businesses on both the Northville Township and Plymouth Township sides. The old Detroit House of Corrections site has extensive contamination and would require "some operation that would not need pristine land." "We're hearing good stuff about the future, we're just not there yet," he said of the economy. Heise will host another constituent hour 7:30-8:30 a.m. Friday, March 16, at Plymouth Panera's, Main and Ann Arbor Trail in downtown Plymouth.

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**Deadline nears for Rake-N-Go applications**

Plymouth Community United Way is still accepting applications from senior citizens and disabled people who could use a hand with spring yard cleanup. The Rake-N-Go takes place Saturday, April 28, in Plymouth, Plymouth Township and Canton. Seniors and disabled persons in need of help should call Betty Nolan at (734) 453-6879, Ext. 7, or send e-mail to [betty.nolan@unitedway.org](mailto:betty.nolan@unitedway.org) for an application by March 22. Applications are also available on the Web site at [www.plymouthunitedway.org](http://www.plymouthunitedway.org) or the PCUW office, 960 W. Ann Arbor Trail, Suite 2, Plymouth. Volunteers are needed as well to clean yards and do light outdoor chores. To sign up, call Betty Nolan before April 12.



The Plymouth Community United Way's Spring Rake-N-Go is scheduled for Saturday, April 28. Seniors and disabled persons in need of help should apply by March 22.

Last November, 350 volunteers made a difference by raking and cleaning the yards of 50 homes owned by senior citizens and people with disabilities.

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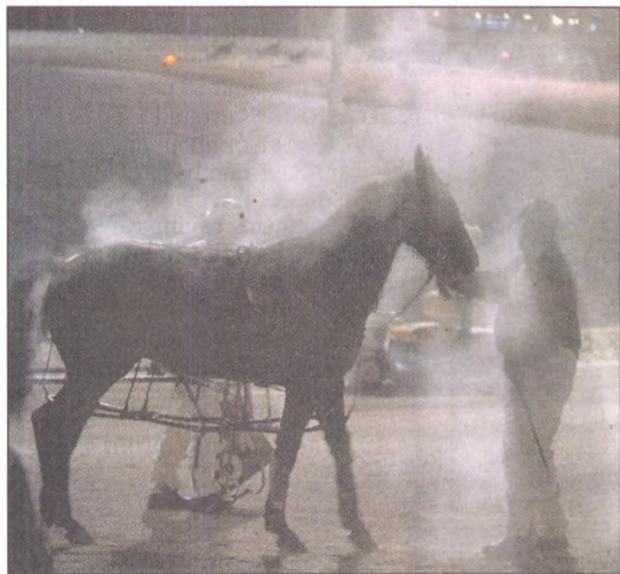
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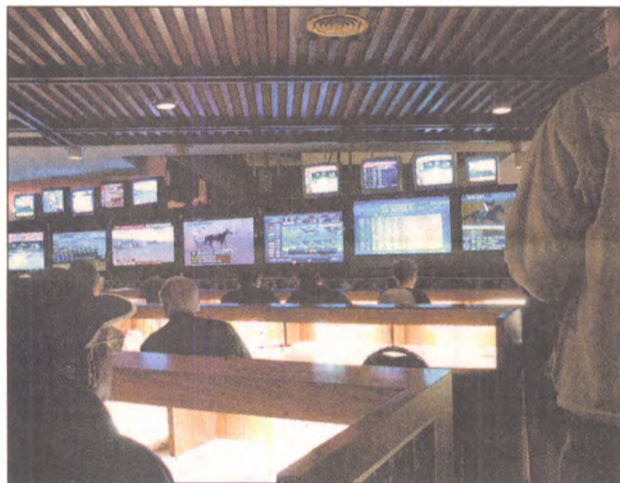


PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Horses race around the track at Northville Downs on a recent night.



After the fourth race at Northville Downs in January, a horse steams in the sub-freezing air as he gets ready to head back into the paddock.



Visitors to Northville Downs watch races from other race tracks. Bettors can place bets on any race that's simulcast to Northville Downs.



Northville Downs driver Donald Gribbin leads his horse, Promiscuous, to a stall in the track's paddocks after the fourth race back in January. Northville usually has 14 races on the race nights, Fridays and Saturdays.

# Winning the race

## Northville Downs survives changing times

By Brad Kadrich  
Observer Staff Writer

Severino "Bags" Bagozzi worked at Northville Downs for decades, right up until the day he died.

Ron Bondie of Plymouth Township has been there since 1964, and really doesn't see himself leaving any time soon, despite the fact he's moved into his 70s.

Much of the rest of the staff has been around 35-40 years, according to Michael Carlo, who, along with his brothers, now runs the track, started more than 100 years ago when a group bought the property and started the Wayne County Fair.

That kind of longevity, and loyalty, is part of what Carlo said makes Northville Downs successful.

"We've got a great core of people who've been with us a long, long time," said Carlo. "We've got families who've been racing with us for 40-50 years."

### Long-time staffers

Bondie is one of those lifers. He's worked race tracks since the mid-60s, when his father was a mutuel clerk at Hazel Park Raceway and took him to work. His father's boss eventually offered him a job as a messenger. His work pleased the boss, who told him to leave an application while he went off to enlist in the Army, and there'd be a job waiting for him when he got out of the service.

"I enjoyed what I was doing; the public is always interesting to talk to," Bondie said. "Pretty soon I went from working the thoroughbreds, and

they asked me to work at the harness tracks, so I was working the afternoon tracks (post-time 3:30), and then at 8:30 for the harness tracks."

The Downs got started shortly after the turn of the 20th century, when a group of people bought the property — the track sits on about 50 acres, according to Carlo — and carved out a track.

"We used to have farmers bring their horses down to the oval to race them before it was a company, before it was legal, before it was anything," Carlo said with a smile.

That's when it was the Northville Driving Club, before a group led by Carlo's great uncle, John Carlo, came along in the mid-1940s and started the company that has run racing there ever since.

### Family style

The family business passed on to Lou Carlo (Mike's dad), and is now run by brothers Mike, John and Edward. Mike came back to the family business after a few years doing sales and marketing for horse racing publications in New York.

"It's in the blood, it's what we know, it's what we do, it's what we love," said Carlo, who grew up at the track. "The attraction for my brothers and me is the on-going legacy, keeping it going."

Business was good. The track would run six days a week and used to race in the summer, when the weather was good and the economy was OK. The state Legislature then passed legislation that forced Northville Downs into winter-only racing, with the larger Hazel

Park Raceway allowed to keep its summer schedule.

"In some ways it's been a little better," Carlo said. "In the 80s and 90s it was better, because you weren't fighting a nice golf day or summer baseball. In January-April, there's not a lot going on. We became something to do."

There were easy years, and there were difficult years. The establishment of the lottery, and casinos, hurt business — "It didn't seem like it at the time, but the lottery really was competition," Carlo said — and Northville Downs was, according to Carlo, on the verge of closing its doors in the late 1990s.

### Good timing

Then came a break, when the Detroit Race Course closed down.

"We got all their business the next year," Carlo said. "We were right back in business."

And right back in business pretty well. Northville Downs runs live racing Fridays and Saturdays from January through April, and simulcasts from other race tracks — a practice that became legal in 1995 and started at Northville Downs in 1996 — 12 hours a day, seven days a week year-round. Last year, some \$53 million was bet at Northville Downs.

Carlo said the track still remains a popular attraction because the staff makes sure it's a "fun night out" for people. You can still make a minimum bet of \$1, which means it doesn't have to be an expensive night. And in-track promotions —

for instance, one person every live racing night gets a shot at winning \$100,000 — keep it interesting for the patrons.

"This is just a great night out," Carlo said. "You can come here with \$20 and watch four hours of racing, bet on every race, and still not spend your \$20."

Players who don't want to bet on the horses have other attractions at Northville Downs. The track runs a charity poker room and roulette, among other things.

"The poker player is different, and that's good for us," Carlo said. "The more products I can give you, the better it is."

The Carlo family has ridden the ups and downs of the roller-coaster existence of horse racing over the years.

"Horse racing is an industry that has taken a beating the last 10-15 years, with the proliferation of on-line and casino gambling," Carlo said. "It's been a struggle to keep the track going, and keep it going for the families here who've made Northville Downs their lives. That's the allure for us."

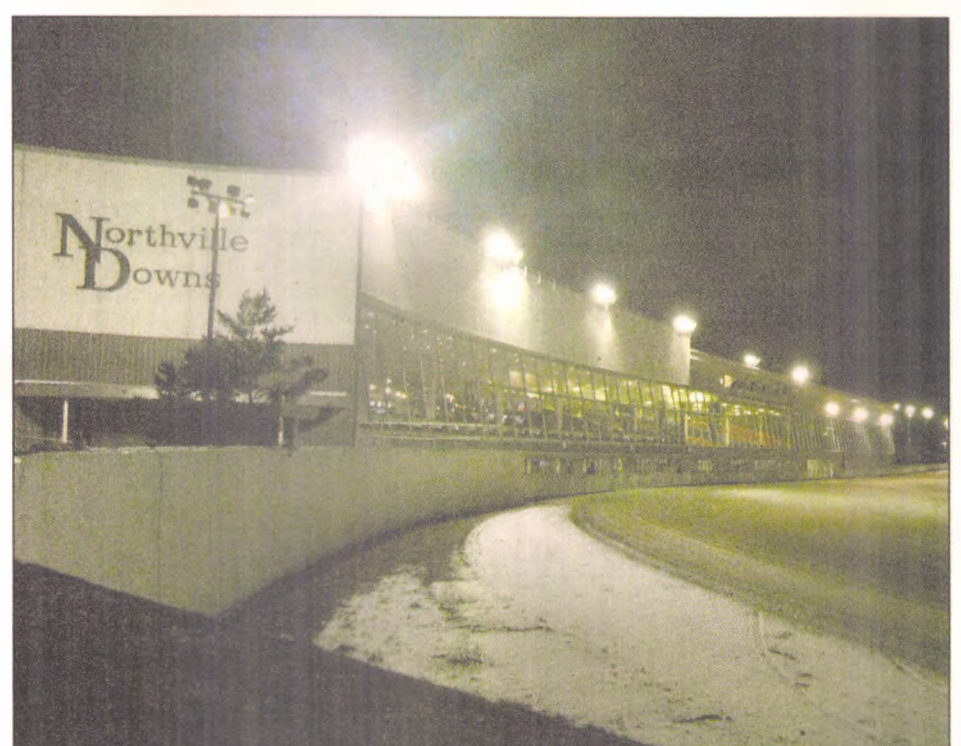
Bondie, for one, is grateful they've succeeded, and he doesn't see himself, despite his age, giving it up any time soon.

"I love what I'm doing, I love the people I get to meet," said Bondie, who counts actors Mickey Rooney and Ann-Margaret among the people he's met. "I love what I'm doing ... I want to be around to enjoy it. They'll probably have to take me out of here on a gurney."

bkadrich@hometownlife.com



As horses and drivers warm up outside, bettors go over their race track forms inside Northville Downs.



Northville Downs track at Seven Mile and Center in Northville runs harness races at night.



## IT'S YOUR BUSINESS Q&A

# Candy store goes 'old school' variety

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

**Candy Trail:** We sell candy in bulk or by the piece. We do candy buffets for weddings, graduations, and showers. We offer birthday parties in the store. Children decorate cupcakes with candy, face painting, candy bingo, and a goodie bag to go! Many birthday parties include pizza and beverages. We sell toys and books (written by local Michigan authors who come in on Saturday's and read their books to children), stuffed animals, puzzles, webkinz, jewelry and beverages. Recently, we have added homemade caramels from Jo Jo's treats and sweets in Old Village.

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

**Candy Trail:** I retired from DTE Energy in 2001 with plans to start another career. A month later 9/11 happened and our world started to change. After job searching and realizing going back into the corporate world didn't interest me I decided to open a retail store. I felt candy was the direction God was taking me. It's fun and people are always happy in a candy store.

**Observer:** Why did you choose Plymouth?

**Candy Trail:** I live in Plymouth and wanted to be near my business. Plymouth didn't have an old-fashioned candy store where kids can stop by on their way home from school and buy a couple pieces of candy. Candy stores were all over when I was growing up but there are very few today. We wanted to create memories for kids that all of us had as a child. The old-fashioned candy store fit well in Plymouth, where it feels like an old-fashioned town.

**Observer:** What makes your business unique?

**Candy Trail:** We carry candy people have not seen since their childhood days. I always hear people saying visiting us is "a blast from the past." Remember the ice cube? Freshen up gum? Candy cigarettes (now called candy sticks), sen sen, cinnamon toothpicks and whirly pops? We have 5-lb gummy bears, the largest in the world. We make candy bar bouquets, gift



Sandi McGrew opened Candy Trail in downtown Plymouth in April 2009.

### THE CANDY TRAIL

**Business name and address:** The Candy Trail, 942 W. Ann Arbor Trail, Plymouth

**Your name:** Sandi McGrew, owner

**Your hometown:** Plymouth

**Business opened:** March 7, 2009

**Number of employees:** 3

**Your business specialty:** Old fashion candies, mary janes, squirrel nut specialty, old war heads, laffy taffy, salt water taffy, scorpion and cricket suckers, 24 flavor of jelly belly's, 21 colors of M&M's, pucker powder machine, bulk candy, licorice, chocolates.

**Hours of operation:** Tuesday-Saturday, 11 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. (hours and days increase to 10:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. Monday-Saturday in the summer).

**Phone and website:** (734) 73sweet (79338), www.candytrail.com

baskets and are always looking for unique ideas.

**Observer:** How has it changed since you opened?

**Candy Trail:** Business has increased, word of mouth is the best advertising. If people like your store and you (I know how important customer service is) they will support your business. We've added more products and will be adding pinatas and balloons this year.

**Observer:** How has the recent economy affected your business?

**Candy Trail:** We opened in 2009 when the economy was at its worst. I knew after the first year things could only improve, which they have. People told me when I first opened that the businesses that made it through the great

depression were confectionery and entertainment. We're going into our third year this March.

**Observer:** Any advice for other business owners?

**Candy Trail:** I think more and more people are opening a business due to the lack of jobs. I think it's great. The more products offered, the more customers you will have.

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

**Candy Trail:** We plan on being in business a long time, that's the plan. Candy makes people happy and when you're happy you're healthy. Candy can be healthy for you, look at all the benefits of dark chocolate. Let me know what your favorite candy is and if we don't sell it, we'll get it.

## PLYMOUTH CHAMBER CHAT

### Success strategies

The Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce hosts a business development workshop, "Success Strategies That Work," Tuesday, March 27, from 8-9:30 a.m.

Presented by Michael Jeffreys, the workshop will guide you through the Law of Attraction and how to take positive thinking and turn it into results that creates revenue and benefits your business. Beyond just achieving a positive mind set, this workshop provides practical strategies and techniques to improve anyone's performance in sales, customer service or business management.

There is no charge to attend, and bagels and cream cheese will be served. For more information, call the chamber, (734) 453-1540.

### Community luncheon

The Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce presents its annual "State of the Community" luncheon noon-1:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 28, at Plymouth Manor, 345 N. Main in Plymouth.

The popular annual State of the Community Luncheon provides a great opportunity to network with fellow business people and community leaders.

The speakers will include Plymouth Township Supervisor Richard Reau-



### Welcome to town

Justin Sharer of Sharer Design Group recently cut the ribbon on his new business in downtown Plymouth. He has always had a passion for residential design, and shows it in every kitchen and bathroom he designs around the metro Detroit area. The company also offers complete interior design services for the entire home. Sharer Design is located at 975 W. Ann Arbor Tr. Their phone number is (734) 582-9660 and the website is www.sharerdesigngroup.com.

me, Wayne County Commissioner Laura Cox, Plymouth-Canton Community Schools Supt. Dr. Jeremy Hughes, and a representative from the City of Plymouth.

To attend this \$20 event, e-mail [teri@plymouthmich.org](mailto:teri@plymouthmich.org) or contact the Chamber at (734) 453-1540.

## Are you ready to cut the cord?

By Jon Gunnells  
Guest Columnist



Jon Gunnells

subscription.

### Hulu Plus

Hulu Plus also offers instant streaming of movies and

television shows for \$7.99 with no commitments. Just like Netflix, there is no need for a cable box, new remote, or digital receiver. All you need is a supported portable device, computer or game system.

Amazon Prime is more of a newcomer to the digital streaming game, but they too offer an extensive library of instant streaming video.

But what if you don't have an Internet ready television or game system and don't feel like watching the newest action thriller on a tiny phone or tablet screen? Don't worry; a number of electronic visionaries have you covered.

Roku offers digital devices that connect wirelessly to any TV and stream content for as low as \$49 per month. Roku is compatible with your Netflix, Hulu and Amazon subscriptions and also offers 350 channels worth of programming including the 24 Wall Street Journal channel and other unique programming you can't get through a cable or satellite television provider.

### Roku players

Roku players also have HD capabilities and connect seamlessly with applications you may have on your phone or computer such as Pandora, Spotify, Angry Birds or Facebook.

One of the drawbacks to cord cutting is the inability to watch sports at an economical price. Sure there are streaming services available to catch every NHL, NBA or NFL game. But those packages can cost as much as \$350 per season.

And while there are a number of sports channels including the SEC Network the Big Ten Network is not available to stream through any service at any cost.

If you aren't a big sports fan however, a combination of Netflix and a Roku player would cost about \$39-\$70 up front depending on your chosen device, followed by about \$8 per month. That's around \$150 per year, or about one and a half months of cable.

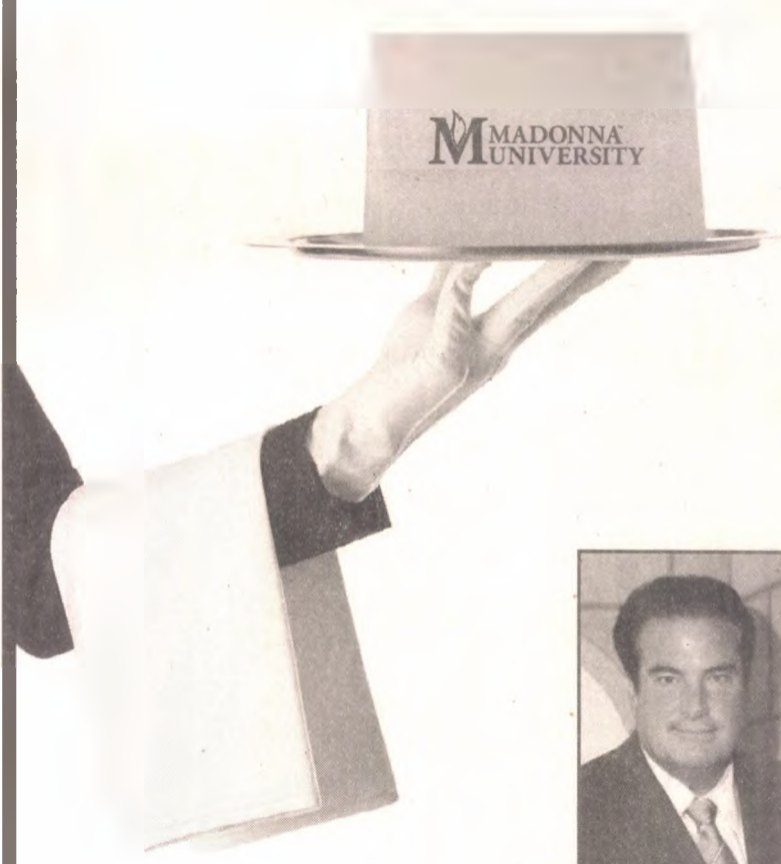
As you can see, cord cutting savings are astounding and the programming is vast and growing. If you are looking to save money or become less of a slave to your TV, consider cutting the cord yourself. The results may surprise you.

**Jon Gunnells**, a Northville Township resident, is a social media planner at a Detroit-based advertising agency. He can be reached at [jonathan.gunnells@gmail.com](mailto:jonathan.gunnells@gmail.com). Follow him on Twitter @GunnSh0w.

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## OUR VIEWS

# Stay safe and sober

## Plan ahead for celebrating St. Patrick's Day

St. Patrick's Day is a popular night out to celebrate with friends and family. Unfortunately, it is also very dangerous.

Last year in Michigan on St. Patrick's Day, two people died in alcohol-related accidents and 101 people were arrested on drunken driving charges for having a blood alcohol level of .08 or higher. Thirty four of those arrests were at "super drunk" levels of 0.17 or higher.

Nationally, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 39 people were killed in traffic crashes involving at least one driver or motorcyclist with a blood alcohol level of .08 or higher on St. Patrick's Day 2009.

*St. Patrick's Day fell on a Saturday in 2001. That's when Anna Bonde of Livonia was killed by a drunken driver at just age 19. The 1999 Churchill High School graduate was en route to volunteer at an elementary school in New Orleans during her spring break from college.*

en route to volunteer at an elementary school in New Orleans during her spring break from college.

Dave Bicknell, a manager at the Bennigan's on Ann Arbor Road in Plymouth, and Dena Brotherton, a manager at 4 Friends Bar & Grill in Canton, agree on one thing: It's one of the busiest days of the year. "We throw a big party," said Bicknell, echoed by Brotherton, who said, "We have a big crowd that comes in."

That's just two of the many places in Plymouth and Canton that are events scheduled. The beer and the alcohol will likely be flowing increase the chance for accidents.

To keep that from happening, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration offers the following tips for celebrating St. Patrick's Day without being arrested for drunken driving and without endangering either yourself or an innocent motorist:

- Plan a safe way home before the festivities begin.
- Before drinking, designate a sober driver and leave your car keys at home.

• If you're impaired, use a taxi, call a sober friend or family member, so you are sure to get home safely.

• If you happen to see a drunk driver on the road, don't hesitate to contact local law enforcement.

• If you know someone who is about to drive while impaired, take their keys and help them make other arrangements to get to where they are going safely.

The sign of St. Patrick's Day is the shamrock. It is supposed to signify good luck, but you should not rely on luck to keep yourself and others safe if you plan on drinking alcohol to celebrate.

Instead, follow the advice given by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

Doing so could save your life or the lives of other motorists.

## COMMUNITY VOICE

### What is it that you most look forward to about the coming of spring?

We asked this question at the Plymouth District Library.



"Just can't wait for the weather to clear, get outside."

**Steve Nappi**  
Plymouth



"Being able to be outside and ride my bike again."

**Kerry Nappi**  
Plymouth



"Warmer weather. ... Getting outside, working in the yard, getting the garden started."

**David Michaels**  
Lincoln Park



"Walking in downtown Plymouth with my son."

**Tricia Kless**  
Plymouth

## LETTERS

### Sad comment

Regarding the Sunday, March 4, Observer and the closing of Station 2 of the Fire Department ... Unbelievable!

Susan Bondie's quote, "Somebody's going to die ... and I hope and pray ... etc." What kind of person makes a comment like that? Very sad.

My family of four have been residents of Lake Pointe for 18 years. I hope I never run into this neighbor.

**Steve Bracey**  
Plymouth Township

### Smart meters

To the entire Plymouth Community: If you are still unfamiliar with the topic of "Smart Meters" with respect to your electric utility service, it would behoove you to start your research today.

Currently, "Smart Meters" are not being installed or offered in our community; however, the Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) has queried the utility companies to respond to questions concerning these new-fangled electric meters. The deadline for the utility companies to respond is March 16, 2012.

A "smart meter" is a surveillance device (violates our Fourth Amendment) that monitors your "energy consumption behavior" and it emits biologically destructive "pulsed" radiation in your home. A nonconsent installation of a smart meter is unlawful because your power company has no easement (rightful access) to do that.

### 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:

**Web:** www.hometownlife.com

**Mail:** Letters to the Editor, Plymouth Observer, 615 W. Lafayette, Second Level, Detroit, MI 48226

**Fax:** (313) 223-3318

**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.

Here's a quote (from Itron, a partner of Cisco, maker and marketer of Smart Meters): "Itron works with utilities to influence the energy choices of end users."

When someone sells you something, do they have the right to "influence" the way you use it, not to mention invading your privacy and endangering your health?

Please visit the mich.gov and click on E-Dockets, specifically U-17000 for more information. Many folks have already voiced their concern and opposition to these utility measurement devices.

Do it today ... please!

**Bruce Hartdegen**  
Plymouth

### Stand up for clean air

In 2010, Michigan ranked as one of the 10 worst mercury-polluting states in the nation, according to Environment Michigan's report, "Michigan's Biggest Mercury Pollution."

Coal-fired power plants in Michigan emitted 2,253 pounds of toxic mercury into our air in 2010. To put that in context, just a drop of mercury is enough to contaminate a 20-acre lake.

Thanks to a recently-finalized standard from the Obama administration, mercury pollution from coal plants will now be cut by 90 percent. That's a breath of fresh air for Michigan's children, who'll be less likely to suffer from developmental disorders as a result of mercury poisoning.

Unfortunately, recently, Oklahoma Sen. James Inhofe tried to revoke this victory for clean air and our health by proposing a bill to overturn this standard to limit mercury pollution from power plants. If it passes, Sen. Inhofe's dangerous legislation would put up to 11,000 American lives at risk every year.

I'm hopeful that Sens. Carl Levin and Debbie Stabenow will do the right thing and stand up for clean air. We're counting on them to oppose this blatant assault on our air, water, and health.

**Sheelagh McCarthy**  
Lansing intern  
Environment Michigan

## GUEST COLUMN

# County Treasurer's Office: Dedicated staff 'here to serve'

By **Raymond J. Wojtowicz**  
Guest Columnist

It is with tremendous regret that I read and hear repeatedly comments that all Wayne County officials are corrupt. As indictments have been filed against some former county employees there is a growing perception that all who work for Wayne County are corrupt.

As Wayne County Treasurer, I am appalled. As with other offices throughout Wayne County, my office is filled with hard working, dedicated, public servants. We are struggling to service the many distressed taxpayers in danger of losing homes to foreclosure.

With fewer resources due to budget cuts and unprecedented demand for services as a result of the challenging economy, I am proud of the effective and efficient services my staff provides.

Together with the staff, I have dedicated my life to public service. We all share a belief that we are here to do all we can ethically, morally and professionally for those we serve.

Regardless of the political turmoil that swirls around the county, this office continues to serve the

local governments, the county and the citizens to the best of our abilities.

In the past several years we have continued to innovate in the discharge of our duties. From assisting tens of thousands of taxpayers in avoiding foreclosure to moving to extremely productive online auctions to financing billions of dollars to fund essential government services, the staff continues exemplary service on behalf of the citizens we serve.

Following is brief summary of some recent accomplishments and innovations over the last several years:

- In 2011, successfully borrowed a quarter of a billion dollars to fund essential government services throughout the county and for communities.

- Initiated an online auction of tax foreclosed properties which last year generated \$32 million in sales.

- Now including "reverter" clauses in deeds to fight blight and the neglect of properties by auction purchasers addressing concerns about inappropriate speculators.

- Coordinated with Register of Deeds Bernard J. Youngblood to electronically record deeds saving time and resources.

- Working to institute electronic certification of deeds to speed the process for our citizens.

- Coordinating efforts with the 43 communities of the county to move to electronic filing of tax rolls

to more efficiently track taxes and provide easy access to the voluminous information essential to administration.

- Last year, provided \$15 million to Wayne County to balance the budget and provide needed financial stability.

- In 2011, assisted over 14,000 taxpayers in avoiding foreclosure, helping stabilize neighborhoods by preventing the blight that accompanies the abandonment of properties.

- Updating cashier stations to increase efficiency and accuracy by installing cash recyclers, credit card acceptance, and check scanners.

- Mindful of the distress taxpayers feel, dedicated to treating all customers with honesty, dignity, and respect.

The public needs and deserves to know that there are those in public service who are here to serve. On behalf of the staff at the treasurer's office, I feel a need to address the misconception that all public servants in Wayne County are dirty based on the perception of the actions of a few. I am proud to work with the dedicated staff in this office. It continues to be my pleasure to serve the good people of Wayne County.

**Raymond J. Wojtowicz** is the treasurer of Wayne County. For more information, go to www.treasurer.waynecounty.com.

# Becoming a landlord isn't for everyone

By Rick Bloom  
Guest Columnist

One question that keeps coming up at talks I give is whether buying homes and renting them out would be a good investment. The theory being that homes, particularly in southeast Michigan, have dropped dramatically in value and, at the same time, the rental market is relatively strong. And since home values are at or near their bottom, an investor could make money on renting the property while



Money Matters

Rick Bloom

consider.

Unlike stocks or mutual funds, owning real estate is totally different. Whereas you can sometimes put a mutual fund or a stock on automatic pilot, not so with real

the home appreciates in value.

In theory, it makes sense. However, there are some other issues to con-

estate.

I tell people that when you own real estate and you're a landlord, it's not an investment, it's a business. You are required to be much more proactive than you would be with a stock or a mutual fund.

### Collecting rent

At a minimum, you have to make sure your tenants are paying every month. In addition, you have to be involved in the repair and maintenance of the property. You can hire a management company to do these things, however, they can be

expensive, particularly if you only own a few properties.

Being a landlord is not easy and one of the most difficult aspects is dealing with tenants. Not only do you have to screen your tenants, but you also have to be willing to evict them if they don't pay the rent.

This is one of the most difficult issues that potential landlords must address. If you can't honestly say that you would evict a tenant for non-payment of rent, then you can't be a landlord. Even if you do hire a management company, ultimately the decision whether to evict is yours.

If you've decided that you have what it takes to

be a landlord, then you need to look at the economics. Even though this is a good rental market, you can't assume that the property will be rented 100 percent of the time. You must factor in some sort of vacancy rate. In addition, you must also factor in the cost of repairs and maintenance.

Whether you do the repairs yourself or hire out, there's still a cost. Remember it is not just regular maintenance that you need to consider, but also that you will need a new roof and other major items every so often.

Buying real estate for rental purposes is a business that people have done well with, but it's also a one in which others

have failed miserably.

If you're thinking about buying real estate and becoming a landlord, I recommend you talk to someone who is a landlord. Also read some books about being a landlord.

Just like investing, if you do your homework ahead of time and go into it with realistic expectations, you'll have a much greater chance of success.

Good luck!

Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial adviser. Observer & Eccentric readers can submit questions at [moneymatters@hometownlife.com](mailto:moneymatters@hometownlife.com). For more information, visit his web site at [www.bloomassetmanagement.com](http://www.bloomassetmanagement.com).

## Giving Hope accepts grant requests

The Giving Hope Women's Giving Circle is seeking to provide grants to organizations to enrich the lives of women and children in the Canton-Plymouth communities.

Organized in 2006, Giving Hope is a group of community women who are pooling their philanthropic dollars in order to make a difference in the lives of local women and children. In addition to grant-making, Giving Hope has created an endowment fund for future granting and is educating women as to needs in the Canton and Plymouth communities.

"At this time we are encouraging area organizations to read our granting guidelines and determine if they have a need

that we can match with our granting efforts," said Marion Rozum, chairwoman of the Giving Hope Grants Committee. "The granting committee will accept applications through April 1. The dollar amount of the requested grants can range anywhere from \$500 to \$4,000."

Grant criteria are as follows:

- Be a nonprofit 501(c)(3) with a current State of Michigan License to Solicit, if applicable
- The grant must be primarily for women or children
- Canton and Plymouth residents must be the majority population served
- The grant is a one-time gift, it is not intend-

ed to be financial support

• The proposed program should begin in 2012 and be completed by June 2013

• The grant request must have clear objectives with a measurable outcome

Interested organizations should submit a grant application no later than April 1, 2012 to:

Giving Hope, Women's Giving Circle Grant Committee, c/o Canton Community Foundation, 50430 School House Road, Suite 200, Canton, MI 48187.

To request an application or to verify your organization's eligibility prior to submitting a proposal, contact Joan Noricks at the Canton Community Foundation at (734) 495-1200.

Check us out on the Web every day at [hometownlife.com](http://hometownlife.com)

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		<b>Honey Maple Turkey</b> \$5.99 lb. <i>Save \$2.00 lb.</i>	<b>Hoffman's Super Sharp Cheddar Cheese</b> \$5.99 lb. <i>Save \$4.00 lb.</i>

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<b>Stop by Cuppa Joe's Cafe for a Sweet Deal on a Tasty Cup of Java.</b> Our coffee is roasted in our in-house roaster and ground just before we brew it. It's the best coffee in town!
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## DIVISION 2 GIRLS HOCKEY STATE FINAL

## 'P-C-S!'

Park's girls hockey team finally on sports radar

It happens every winter in the halls of Canton, Plymouth and Salem high schools.

Players on the Penguins — a varsity girls hockey team composed of players from all three schools — are met with shrugs and raised eyebrows when talking to other students about their squad.

That blend of apathy and surprise also is something Plymouth-Canton-Salem Penguins players and coaches experience out in the community.

"Oh, you mean there's a girls hockey team at the Park?"

Well, after Saturday night, it's a pretty good bet that the team is being talked about beyond the confines of Arctic Edge Arena, its home rink.

From the opening faceoff until the celebrations nearly three hours later — when PCS forward Mariah Tucker scored in triple overtime against Farmington Hills Mercy for the 3-2 victory and Division 2 state championship — there was a feeling of exuberant discovery in the stands.

"I think it really opened the eyes for a lot of people that didn't know much about girls hockey or the fact we have a varsity team at the Park here," PCS head coach Mary Beth Johnson said. "But they saw some great hockey tonight and I think we collected a few more fans just because of this game."

"It was great to see the support of the community and the alumni and everybody that was here to cheer them on. I think if we didn't have that, maybe it would have been a different outcome."

## Loud and proud

All night long, chants of "P-C-S!" reverberated inside the arena, fighting to be heard over the strains of a large Mercy contingent's own cheering section.

Most of the game, Penguins fans had an edge in the decibel department.

And there were plenty of students wearing their school colors, including top athletes such as Canton

Please see P-C-S, B2



The tired but happy Plymouth-Canton-Salem Penguins hoist the Division 2 state championship trophy at Arctic Edge Arena in Canton.

PHOTOS BY JOHN KEMSKI

## Pens work OT for title

By Tim Smith  
Observer Staff Writer

It wouldn't have been out of place had ace bandages and ice packs filled the championship trophy hoisted Saturday night by the Plymouth-Canton-Salem Penguins girls hockey team.

Nearly out of oxygen and energy — but not desire or great goaltending — the host Penguins survived injuries to key players Nicole Natelborg and Cortny McAdoe to pull out a 3-2 victory in the third eight-minute overtime against Farmington Hills Mercy at jam-packed Arctic Edge Arena.

Scoring the winner just 21 seconds into the third OT was senior forward Mariah Tucker. Her backhand to the right of Mercy netminder Clarissa LeVasseur bounced off the goalie's shoulder and found its way inside the cage.

"I wasn't even trying to score on that, I was just trying to get off the ice, I was dying," Tucker said. "That is the most relieving moment, the most exciting. I'm just feeling the love right now."

## Down, not out

Hard checks levied by the Marlins against PCS senior



Keeping tabs on each other Saturday night are Alexandra Conner (No. 4) of the Farmington Hills Mercy Marlins and Mariah Tucker of the PCS Penguins. Tucker scored in the third overtime to give the Penguins the championship.

scoring threat Natelborg and top-six junior forwards McAdoe left the Penguins down two players as the marathon unfolded.

After the game and awards presentation, Natelborg (serious leg injury) and McAdoe (concussion) went for further medical evaluations.

But senior goalie and Miss Hockey nominee Kaitlyn Allard made numerous clutch saves to extend the Michigan Metro Girls High School Hockey League Division 2 championship tilt just long enough for the Penguins (16-4) to prevail.

Please see PENS, B2



JOHN KEMSKI

Canton's Erica Lucas, shown performing on the uneven parallel bars at regionals, won a Division 2 state championship on vault last weekend.

## 'Amazing' season ends for Chiefs

By Tim Smith  
Observer Staff Writer

Grand Ledge once again spoiled things for Canton's varsity girls gymnastics team on Friday at Grand Rapids Kenowa Hills.

But individual gymnasts from Canton, Salem and Plymouth all made their mark the following day at the individual finals.

On Friday, the Comets tallied 149,400 points to outdistance Canton

(148,575) for the second year in a row. Salem came in eighth in the team standings with 140,300 points.

"Friday's meet was close all the way," veteran Canton head coach John Cunningham said. "As we finished on beam, (Grand Ledge) was on bars right next to us. They pulled off a 9.8 and 9.7 finish and edged us by .825."

"It was a thrill to be

Please see CHIEFS, B3

## Tourney spotlights lacrosse

By Tim Smith  
Observer Staff Writer

Lacrosse is finally getting the green light and Saturday's annual "Black and Blue Tournament" is proof.

All three boys varsity teams at Plymouth-Canton Educational Park are helping to put on this year's scrimmage-format tournament — organized by parent boosters and a popular way for squads to gear up for next week's official start of the season.

In all, there will be 11 varsity teams playing at least four 25-minute scrimmages on the varsity turf football field at PCEP. Games will run from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m.

"There's not a lot of opportunities for anybody to see what lacrosse really is unless they come to a high school game," Plymouth lacrosse booster Jill Halpin said. "This is a one-stop, (people can) pick up a lot of different games just by coming over to the field."

The event (the fourth annual, but only second as the "Black and Blue") solely was a Plymouth-Salem production in previous years, hence the moniker.

## All together now

But with Canton joining the effort this year



Lacrosse is a hit with Plymouth's John Halpin, shown at the 2011 Black and Blue tournament.

(although the Chiefs did participate on the field in 2011), it might soon be time for a change.

"The name 'Black and Blue' was Salem and Plymouth," explained Plymouth parent Bob Conley. "But in the spirit of unity for the Park (it was decided) to open it up. They (the Chiefs and their boosters) will participate this year and then next year I'm sure we'll reconfigure the name."

"We just wanted to ride off of last year's success and didn't want to change the name."

According to Conley, the collaboration of the three PCEP programs is a big deal.

## BLACK AND BLUE

What: "Black and Blue" boys lacrosse tourney.

When: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Saturday.

Where: Plymouth-Canton Educational Park varsity turf football field; co-hosting the tourney are parent groups from Plymouth, Salem and (for the first time) Canton.

Who: Eight schools are participating in addition to the three Park boys varsity squads. New to the lineup is Dearborn Divine Child, with other teams including Farmington, Haslett-Williamston, North Williamston, Novi, Saline, Tecumseh and Walled Lake Northern.

Format: The preseason tourney gives all teams a chance to play four or five 25-minute scrimmages. No championship trophy will be awarded.

Admission: Free, although spectators are invited to bring canned food goods to be donated to Gleaners Food Bank.

"For the three schools to come together to host an event says a lot for the Park," said Conley, whose son, Brad, is a goalie at Plymouth. "And then

Please see LACROSSE, B3

## At the Joe

Canton's Ted Pletsch of Bowling Green's men's hockey team will be competing this weekend at the CCHA championship at Joe Louis Arena in Detroit.

Pletsch's team is the No. 11 seed in the CCHA playoffs and won two consecutive road series (including over top-seeded Ferris State) to reach the championship weekend.

The Falcons will face off at 8:05 p.m. Friday against the University of Michigan and if victorious in that game will advance to the championship game at 7:35 p.m. Saturday.

A third-place game will be played at 3:35 p.m. Saturday, involving the losers of the Friday contests.

Pletsch's dad is CCHA commissioner Fred Pletsch, also from Canton.



Pletsch

## 'Cats hockey meeting

Players interested in joining the prep or varsity boys hockey teams at Plymouth are invited to attend an informational meeting 7 p.m. Tuesday in Room 2112 at Salem High School. Parents also are encouraged to attend.

Head coach Gerry Vento will cover spring and summer plans for both teams. For more information, e-mail Vento at gvento1@yahoo.com.

## 7 MU women All-Academic

Seven Madonna University women's players were among 162 across the country honored Monday to the 2012 Daktronics NAIA Division II Scholar-Athlete team.

To be selected, a student-athlete must be nominated by her head coach, maintain a 3.5 grade-point average or higher and have reached junior academic status to qualify for this honor.

The Crusaders selected include seniors Erin Bentley (Ida-pre-medicine), Katie Martin (River Gabriel Richard/pre-medicine) and Megan Murphy (Onaway/general science with an elementary education minor).

They are joined by juniors Michelle Lindsey (Bloomfield Hills Mar-iar/nursing), Kaylee McGrath (Livonia Stevenson/nursing), Kristie Porada (Gibraltar Carlson/pre-medicine) and Heather Pratt (Flushing/business administration).

Martin is a repeat selection from last season and all seven were chosen last month to the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference all-academic team.

## NAIA salutes MU's Bijelic

Madonna University sophomore redshirt Dran Bijelic (Utica Eisenhower) was named to the Daktronics NAIA Division II Scholar-Athlete men's basketball team.

The nursing major, who appeared in eight games for the Crusaders this season, was among 106 recognized throughout the country carrying a cumulative grade-point average of 3.5 or better.

# 'Special' victory for Whalers

By Tim Smith  
Observer Staff Writer

Something special happened for the Plymouth Whalers Sunday afternoon at Compuware Arena against season-long nemesis Owen Sound. Namely, four power-play goals and stellar penalty killing — particularly during a lengthy 5-on-3 disadvantage in the third period — as the Whalers earned a 4-3 OHL victory before 3,132 fans.

As a result, West Division champion Plymouth defeated the Attack for the first time in four meetings this season and caught Western Conference and OHL points leader London with 95 points.

London lost 1-0 to Kitchener Sunday night, but the Knights still have a game in hand on Plymouth. The Whalers only have two games left.

"We're still trying to get first overall," Whalers head coach and general manager Mike Vellucci said. "Those two points mean something with London and/or to make sure we're in front of the teams in the east."

As for the trouble his team has had with Owen



Plymouth Whalers winger JT Miller (No. 12) skates away from the boards and Owen Sound defender Gemel Smith (No. 9) Sunday afternoon at Compuware Arena.

Sound (losing 6-2, 5-4 and 5-1 in the first three meetings), Vellucci did not have the reason other than "they play very hard. Today, we had more scoring chances and their goalie (Scott Stajcer) played pretty good. But they compete very hard." Fortunately for the

Whalers, Plymouth netminder Scott Wedgewood also was solid. He stopped 33 of 36 shots, including several prime chances in front of the Whalers' crease during Owen Sound's third period power plays. Owen Sound finally scored with 4:40 left to

cut the Plymouth lead to a goal when Daniel Zweep chipped in a rebound. But the Whalers shut the door in the final minutes, pinning Stajcer in his zone until 45 seconds remained as Owen Sound head coach Greg Ireland tried to get an extra attacker out on the ice in an attempt for

the equalizer. The Plymouth power play was the big story of the game, with four goals in six opportunities — two scored by forward Stefan Noesen (goals 36-37) in the second period. Trailing 2-1 after one period (with Plymouth winger Tom Wilson the lone goal scorer for the home team), Noesen snuck his own rebound high on Stajcer's short side with 13:25 left in the middle stanza.

**Power switch**  
About two minutes later, the Whalers' power play struck again. Center Andy Bathgate fired a cross-crease pass to Noesen, stationed on the left side of the Owen Sound goal. The Ottawa prospect fired a one-timer into the twine. Before the second period ended, with Plymouth enjoying a two-man advantage, the Whalers made it 4-2. This time, Bathgate sent a carbon-copy pass — from right-to-left — to center JT Miller. The 2011 first-round pick of the New York Rangers tapped the puck into the wide-open cage. Bathgate, stuck on 19

goals for several games, unselfishly passed up a chance to take the shot at scoring his 20th. "The goals are nice, also getting to 20's a nice milestone," Bathgate said. "But I outdid my points from last year (he has 62, eclipsing his career mark of 60). So I'm not going to worry about it. If they end up in the net, if I get an assist or not, I don't really care." He then smiled about setting up players like Noesen. "It's pretty easy when you got Noesen over there," Bathgate added. "He seems to find the spot and he's open all the time. He's got a real knack for putting the puck in the net." That three-goal surge held up as Plymouth managed to bend but not break during the third. Wedgewood stopped 17 of 18 shots in that stanza, including one where he extended his left pad to thwart Artur Gavrus near the right post. Scoring in the first for the Attack were Cameron Brace and former Whaler defenseman Jay Gilbert.

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## PENS

Continued from page B1

"That's the toughest game we've played so far," Allard said following the Penguins' happy awards ceremony. "I think there are teams that are better in Division 1, but that game was so close the whole time and we both wanted it so bad that it was intense." Adding to the intensity was the squad's determination after Mercy hits injured Natelborg (who scored in the third period to briefly give PCS a 2-1 edge) and McAdoo.

"Before Nicole got off the ice, we all told her we'd win it for her," Allard said. "It was a big deal, because she's a major part of our team. We did it together." PCS senior defenseman and captain Emily Bullock noted the team refused to give up.

"We did it with perseverance," Bullock said. "We don't have that big of a bench and going down two players and playing through three overtimes is not easy."

**Fired up**  
Beaming with pride was Penguins head coach Mary Beth Johnson, who helmed the team's second D2 title in three years.

"Our girls had a lot of heart and they weren't going to take no for an answer," Johnson said. "It's very rewarding. I think our players really stepped up, especially when both of them went out."

"They were playing for Cortny and Nicole even more than ever. It just gave us more fire."

Allard had the heat all night, however. Her string of big stops had Mercy head coach Brandon Malinowski shaking his head.

"Hands down the best goalie I've seen in a long time," Malinowski said. "She's phenomenal. You



They're No. 1! The PCS Penguins pose with their MMGSHL Division 2 championship trophy and medals after defeating Farmington Hills Mercy in triple overtime Saturday night. Team members (listed alphabetically) are goalie Kaitlyn Allard, captain Emily Bullock, Jenna Carter, CeCe Hitch, Beth Johnson, Emily King, goalie Becky Lough, Jackie Lough, Cortny McAdoo, Nicole Natelborg, Elizabeth O'Donohue, Alexis O'Flynn, Sydney Smith and Mariah Tucker. Standing at far left is head coach Mary Beth Johnson; standing at far right are assistant coaches Emily Nelson and Brad Johnson.

PHOTOS BY JOHN KEMSKI



Grace Martin of the Farmington Hills Mercy Marlins dives in an attempt to poke-check PCS Penguins forward Nicole Natelborg (No. 7). At left for the Penguins is sophomore forward Jenna Carter.

get that many shots on goal, well ... she had our number tonight."

The Marlins (17-5) turned up the juice in the third period and first two overtimes, and did knot

the score at 2-2. Senior defenseman Lauren Hensick — given a four-minute boarding penalty in the second period after checking tiny McAdoo into the

wall — did a spin move in the right circle and fired a hard shot that got past Allard with 8:12 to play in the third. But Allard later styled senior forward

Alexandra Conner on a dangerous rush to send the contest to overtime.

**Close calls**  
Late in the first OT, an apparent Mercy goal was waved off by an early whistle. Moments later, Conner had a wide-open net to shoot the puck into, but her shot clanked off the inside of the far post. Natelborg was injured on an open-ice hit in the neutral zone with 7:02 left in the second overtime. But the Penguins continued to hold the fort, helping Allard with tireless effort all over the ice.

Then came the moment many in the Arctic Edge stands were waiting for. The Penguins — out-sized, outnumbered, but not outworked — forced play deep into the Marlins' end. Senior forward Jackie Lough sent the puck from the bottom of the left circle toward LeVasseur, who turned it aside. Tucker tracked the puck down in the right corner, fought for space to the left of LeVasseur and backhanded it in.

The winning tally

touched off a mob scene in the right circle, with Tucker buried under a mob of happy teammates. In the stands, a large gathering of Penguins fans, family members and alumni broke into a happy chant of "P-C-S! P-C-S!" as they had throughout the night. "We were saying to the girls between the first and second overtime that it's not necessarily going to be a pretty goal," Johnson said. "Sometimes it's the dirty ones (goals) in front that win the game and that's kind of what happened." Natelborg could not even walk after the game, but she was helped out onto the ice for the awards ceremony. Also on hand was McAdoo.

**Trading goals**  
PCS was badly outshot (44-21). But Mercy never was able to take the lead thanks to Allard's spectacular netminding and a couple of timely goals by the Penguins.

With 5:32 left in the first period, Bullock passed the puck to Tucker at the bottom of the left circle, and her shot slipped past LeVasseur.

That lead held up until Hensick surprised Allard with a wraparound marker with just 2:17 to play in the second.

Once again, the Penguins took the lead with 8:12 left in the third period on a shorthanded tally. Sophomore forward Jenna Carter, who was a solid two-way performer all game long, sent a pass to Natelborg in the Mercy zone. Natelborg circled the net and beat LeVasseur with a shot from the right of the cage.

Immediately preceding the PCS goal was a sparkling stop by Allard on forward Madeline McClain.

It only took Mercy 2:08 to even things up again, on Hensick's second goal.

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## P-C-S

Continued from page B1

senior boys goaltender Spencer Craig.

Plenty of Penguins alumni made sure to come out, too. Standing and yelling until they were hoarse were players from the 2010-11 team, including Sarah Coleman, Tory Campbell, Rebecca Majsza and Rhianna

Fleisher. "Here come the alumni," Johnson shouted following the awards ceremony, as the girls shuffled out onto the ice toward her. They weren't about to miss out on sharing the moment.

But what had Johnson really smiling following the game was what some young girls mentioned to her after watching the

entertaining nail biter. "I had a few players that are about 10 years old right now and they said they want to play (with PCS) in four years," she said. "It's exciting that those girls got to see a great game and have something to look forward to in the future."

If those girls skate with the Penguins, it would mean Saturday's rivet-

ing championship game and accompanying atmosphere indeed had a lasting impact.

Maybe from now on, the Penguins will feel they finally belong on the sports radar at Plymouth-Canton Educational Park.

**Tim Smith** is sports editor of the Plymouth-Canton Observers. He can be reached at (734) 469-4128 and tsmith@hometownlife.com.



Penguins fans cheer loudly after the championship-clinching goal is scored Saturday night at Arctic Edge Arena.

JOHN KEMSKI



# Passages

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**BELSLEY, LOIS**

Passed away on March 10, 2012 at age 87. She was the beloved wife of the late Benjamin Belsley for 56 years. He predeceased her February 20, 2002. Loving mother of Larry (Elaine) Belsley, Linda (John) Reardon, Jeanie (Patrick) Allen, Steven (Patti) Belsley, and Sally (Ron) Blaszczak. Dear grandmother and Great-grandmother of many adoring grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Funeral service will be held today at the Apostolic Christian Church of Livonia Thursday March 15, 2012 at 11:00AM. Memorial donations may be made in her name to the Woodhaven Retirement Community, 29667 Wentworth, Livonia MI 48154.



**ELLIS, KATHRYN JEAN**

1924 - 2012. Jean would have been 88 years old on March 25. She was a sweet, caring woman who raised five children; a very kind and loving wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, sister, aunt and friend. She was the loving wife of more than 40 years of Russell W. Ellis, who predeceased her in 1986. She passed away peacefully on March 12, 2012, surrounded by family. Born in Detroit, Jean was the daughter of Allan and Mabel Hedley, who both had emigrated from Ontario, Canada. She graduated from Farmington High School in Michigan and attended nursing school in Barrie, Ontario. While there, she met Russ at Wasaga Beach, Ontario, as he was serving in the Canadian Army and based nearby. They married in Stayner, Ontario, in 1943. As the war ended, they lived for a short time in Windsor, Ontario, before moving to the Farmington area where they settled and raised their children. Jean was primarily a homemaker, though she worked for a short time as a nurse and later as a bookkeeper in Russ's real estate business. She was also a member of First United Methodist Church of Farmington since 1947. She loved spending time with family, grandchildren and friends, traveling, music and reading. She believed in the power of faith and positive thinking, as well as the value of tolerance. For more than 40 years, she enjoyed many happy and peaceful times at the family cottage at Belmont Lake, Ontario. Jean is survived by her children, Joan, Judith, William (Theresa), Robert (Lisa) and David (Eileen); sisters, Margaret Schlack and Patricia Eisenlord; 11 grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; six nieces and nephews. A Memorial Service will be held 11:00 a.m. Friday, March 16th, at the First United Methodist Church of Farmington, 33112 Grand River Ave., Farmington, MI 48336. The family will receive friends for visiting from 9:30 a.m. until 10:45 a.m. in the Markham Room of the church. In lieu of flowers, donations are suggested to First Step, firststepmi.org. Arrangements by Thayer-Rock Funeral Home, Farmington. www.thayer-rock.com



**GARRIS, GORDON G.**

March 11, 2012. Age 85. Loving companion of Peggy Vella. Loving father of Gordy, Susan Irish, Gregory (Donna), Gerylann, Nancy (Bill) Wilcox, Geoff (Ashley) and Gary (Charisse). Also survived by 14 grandchildren and 10 Great-grandchildren. He worked at Otis Elevator. Funeral Saturday 10 a.m. from the Chapel of L. J. Griffin Funeral Home, 7707 Middlebelt Road, (at Ann Arbor Trail). Family will be receiving visitors Thursday 6-9 p.m. and Friday 12-9 p.m. Share a "Memorial Tribute" with the family at griffinfuneralhome.com



**KLEKNER, MALVINA**

Age 91 of Livonia. Beloved wife of the late Roland S. Loving mother of Roland S. (Olga), and Thomas. Dear grandmother of Carolyn, Christina, Danielle, and their mother Catherine. Preceded in death by her two brothers in Hungary. Malvina enjoyed friends, sewing, gardening, baking, world travel, and her cherished cat. Visitation will be held at Fred Wood Funeral Home-Rice Chapel 36100 5 Mile Rd. Livonia (E. of Levan) Thursday from 1-9PM with a 7PM Rosary. Funeral Friday at Holy Cross Hungarian Roman Catholic Church, Detroit, MI. In-State 10:00AM, Mass 10:30AM. Interment Holy Sepulchre Catholic Cemetery. Please share memories at Fredwoodfuneralhome.com

**PERRY, ELIZABETH**

Age 80, died March 9, 2012. Visitation was on March 12 at Phillips Funeral Home. Funeral March 13 at St. Joseph Catholic Church, South Lyon. www.phillipsfuneral.com

**WRIGHT, PEARL R.**

Age 89, of Hillsdale, passed away Sunday, March 11, 2012, at the McGuire Skilled Nursing Facility in Hillsdale. She was born on July 14, 1922 in Hilham, Tennessee to William & Ova (Dale) Bilyeu. She was married August 7, 1948 to Gerald L. Wright and he preceded her in death Nov. 11, 1993. Pearl retired in 1949 from the Ford Motor Company. She was a graduate of Dearborn High School. She was one of the original, "Rosie the Riveter's". In her younger years she enjoyed swimming, dancing and bowling with her sisters. In her later years Pearl enjoyed bingo, gardening, painting and talking politics. Surviving are three children, Pamela (Gregory) Podsiad of Osseo and Sandra (Michael) Gee of Livonia and Gerald (Glenna) Wright Jr. of Merkle, Texas; 13 grandchildren, 26 great-grandchildren and 1 great great-grandchild also survive. She was preceded in death by her parents, husband, a son James and a daughter Patricia Diane, 3 sisters and 2 brothers. Funeral services for Pearl Wright will be Wednesday, March 14, 2012, at 10:00 a.m., at the VanHorn-Eagle Funeral Home in Hillsdale with Dr. Daniel Pann officiating. Interment will take place at South Lyon Cemetery in South Lyon, Michigan Wednesday afternoon at 1:30 p.m. The family will receive friends for visitation Tuesday evening from 6-8 p.m., at the funeral home. Memorial contributions are suggested to the American Cancer Society. www.eaglefuneralhomes.com.



**TATUM, JOANNE MAE**

March 10, 2012 age 81 of Canton. Loving wife of the late William Edward. Dear mother of Diane (Bill) Dowlin, Scott (Gail) and Randy (Tammy). Proud grandmother of Erin, Jordan and Erika. Funeral service Friday 1 PM at Vermeulen Funeral Home, 46401 West Ann Arbor Road (btwn Sheldon and Beck) Plymouth. Visitation Thursday 3-9 PM at the funeral home. Memorial contributions may be made to Arbor Hospice, American Cancer Society or The Michigan Humane Society. To share memories please visit vermeulenfuneralhome.com.

**In memory of**



**Happy 31st Birthday, Brian**  
March 16, 1981

We love and miss you very much. Love, Your family



**COLEMAN, Thomas M.**

Age 67, of Westland, MI, passed away March 13th, son of Malcolm and Margaret Coleman. He married Paula Coleman (Taylor) Sept. 24th, 1967 and she survives. He is also survived by two sons, Donald Thomas (Michelle) Coleman and Sean Patrick (Angela) Coleman; his grandchildren: Kyle Thomas, Thomas Paul, Carlie Ann; one sister: Sharon (Orval) Flick, many nieces, nephews and his faithful dog Buba. He was preceded in death by his parents and one son Ronald. Arrangements at Pursue Funeral Home, Adrian, MI. Viewing and funeral service will be held at St. Simon & Jude Catholic Church, Westland, MI. Donations may be made to the American Cancer Society.



**STEINLAUF, EDWARD**

79 of Bartow, FL passed away on Saturday, March 10, 2012. A native of Michigan he moved to Bartow in 1997 after retiring. Edward was a Army Korean War Veteran. He was preceded in death by his wife Margaret and he is survived by Debra Medland (Thomas) and Elaine Jennings (John). Three grandchildren Jason Claypoole (Jessica), Brian Jennings and Lindsay Jennings. The remains of Edward and his wife Margaret are being placed at rest at the Florida National Cemetery in Bushnell, FL. Condolences may be sent to the family at www.whiddenmcleanfuneralhome.com

**HOOVER, ADA ILENE "ADALENE"**

Age 96, March 9, 2012. Beloved wife of the late William Hoover. Loving mother of Vickie (Sam) Smoker and Joyce (Doug) Wells. Dear grandmother of Jeremy (April), Joe (Nicole) and Daniel (Jennifer). Great-grandmother of Lucas, Ella and Zoe. Interment was held at Parkview Memorial Cemetery. A Celebration of Life will be held. Contact Joyce for details. Memorial donations may be directed to Samaritan's Purse International Relief. Please share a memory at www.rgrharris.com

**JACOBS, BETTY J.**

Of Wayne March 10, 2012 age 90. Beloved wife of the late George K. Loving mother of Doreen (the late William) Roe, John (Marilyn) and Deborah Gillette. Dearest grandmother of Stacy Gillette and Mark Thurber. Dear great-grandmother of Anabelle Davis. A memorial gathering will be held Saturday, March 17th from 1:00 until 3:00 at the Uht Funeral Home, 35400 Glenwood St. Westland. Please visit and sign a tribute at www.uhtfh.com.



May peace be with you in this time of sorrow.

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For Information regarding this Directory, please call Karen Marzolf at 313-222-2214 or e-mail: kmarzolf@hometownlife.com



## Celebrate Irish culture with food, music, dance

By Sharon Dargay  
 O&E Staff Writer

More than 40 dancers and 20 musicians will keep toes tapping and hands clapping for nine hours at the 27th annual St. Patrick's Day Irish Fest in Westland.

"We've got five fiddlers, banjo, flutes, harp, piano, pipes. We've all played together for years. A lot of them are my former students. They're in college and are coming home to play," said Mick Gavin, musician, fiddle teacher and the Redford resident who founded the annual gathering.

"The whole thing has blossomed over the years into this production. We really don't have a set program. It's word of mouth — you're up in a half hour or you'll be on at 4:30 p.m. or the step dancers are coming, so we need a piano player and a couple of fiddlers on. It's not as complicated as one might think. We're all very familiar with each other. It's more comfortable there than in a crowded pub. There's a big dance floor, a big stage, and no drunks. It's totally different."

Gavin is proud of the family-friendly atmosphere at the event, which will start at 3 p.m. Saturday, March 17 at the Hellenic Cultural Center, 36375 Joy, east of Newburgh, Westland.

"I wanted to have a cultural day for children and families. It's just a great family day. It's for the community."

A cash bar will be available, but plenty of food will be served, too. The menu includes Emer-



Holland Raper will be among the musicians at the 27th annual St. Patrick's Day Irish Fest in Westland.

### 27TH ANNUAL ST. PATRICK'S DAY IRISH FEST

**What:** A music, food and dance celebration of Irish culture

**When:** 3 p.m.-midnight, Saturday, March 17

**Where:** Hellenic Cultural Center, 36375 Joy, east of Newburgh, Westland

**Details:** Irish traditional musicians, singers and dancers; cash bar and Irish food available for purchase

**Admission:** \$10 at the door; children 14 and under admitted free

ald Isle favorites such as corned beef sandwiches, dinners and Irish stew, along with hot dogs and pizza.

#### Dancers, fiddlers

Dancers from Ardan Academy of Irish Dance and O'Hare School of Irish Dance in Plymouth will perform. Siblings and dance champions,



Members of Crossroads Ceili perform last December at The Ark in Ann Arbor. They'll play traditional Irish songs this Saturday in Westland.

Brian and Megan McParland, who now also teach dance, will be on hand.

"Holland Raper," from the Berklee School in Boston (Mass.) will be there. Holland is one of my former students. Since she was 9, I went to her home and taught her for four hours every week in one sitting, which is unusual for a 9- or 10-year-old," Gavin said. "I would ask, 'Are you tired?' And she'd say no."

In addition to Raper and Gavin on fiddle, Gavin's son Michael will play fiddle and banjo and his wife, Colleen will play flute, whistle and Irish pipes. Other musi-

cians will include Kelsey Lutz on fiddle, Lance Wagner on fiddle, Balladeer Eddie McGlinchey with vocals, guitarist Colum Paige, Ray Maguire with vocals and guitar, the Dolowy family of Plymouth with fiddle and dancing, Cape Breton pianist Tom MacNeil and his son, Callum on Highland pipes.

"They enjoy the camaraderie of being on the big stage," Gavin said, referring to the musicians.

#### Planning a party

For several years before he founded the annual St. Patrick's Day event, Gavin began

building an audience for Irish music by inviting musicians to play concerts locally.

"I used to get phone calls in November and December trying to book me for St. Patrick's Day. 'Could you come out and play some tunes?' I finally said, 'Listen, why not get a hall and get all these musicians together and have a St. Patrick's Day party?'"

"Twenty-seven years later we have St. Patrick's Day (Irish Fest)," Gavin said. "It's in a big hall that holds 1,000. The retirees come in around 3 p.m. to see the dancing and hear music. Families come in around 5-6 p.m.

They like to eat first and then let the kids dance around and watch the dancers."

Musicians will play from 3-4:30, followed by dance performances that are scheduled to end at approximately 9:30 p.m. Musicians will take the stage again and play until midnight.

Musicians will play traditional favorites, take requests and even sing *Happy Birthday* if anyone in the audience is celebrating.

A raffle also will be held to raise funds for Ardan Academy dancers who plan to compete in world competition this year.

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Art

CITY GALLERY

Time/Date: 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday, through April 13; meet-the-artist reception, 6-9 p.m. Monday, March 19  
 Location: In the Costick Center, 28600 W. 11 Mile, Farmington Hills  
 Details: Unique, edgy paper dress creations made of entirely recycled materials by artist Matt Richmond. Richmond's materials vary from plastic Kroger bags to Target holiday wrapping paper. The exhibit also features a wide array of fashion images by various photographers, starring Richmond's designs  
 Contact: (248) 473-1856



Paper dresses by Matt Richmond are on display through April 13 in Farmington Hills.

DETROIT INSTITUTE OF ARTS

Time/Dates: 2 p.m. Sundays  
 Location: 5200 Woodward, Detroit  
 Details: Target Family Sundays, storytelling, performances, free with admission  
 Exhibits: 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



Devil's Night Dames captain Yo-Yo, greets fans at Masonic Temple in Detroit. Her team will take on reigning champion roller derby team, the Detroit Pistoffs, Saturday, March 17.

NORTHVILLE ART HOUSE

Time/Date: Through March 23  
 Location: 215 W. Cady, Northville  
 Details: Call for entries for the 4th Annual West of Center All-Media Show. Applications with jpgs on CDs must be hand-delivered or shipped to the Northville Art House to arrive by March 23. Applications are available on the Art House website at www.northvillearts.org. The show will open June 1  
 Current exhibit: Anarchy of the Line; Drawing Comes of Age features works by 14 artists, through March 24.  
 Contact: (248) 344-0497 or e-mail to arthouseoffice@northvillearts.org

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Time/Date: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday, noon-5 p.m. Sunday, through 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

Benefit

LSO TEA

Time/Date: 2-4 p.m. Sunday, March 18  
 Location: Livonia Marriott Inn, located between Newburgh and I-275 off Six Mile, Livonia  
 Details: First annual tea event to celebrate the "wearing of the green" with great food, fun, prizes and Irish music. Tickets are \$30 and benefit the Livonia Symphony Orchestra. Reservations due Thursday, March 25  
 Contact: www.livoniasymphony.org; (734) 522-1687

Hear pirate tunes at barbershop chorus show

Harmony Town Chorus will pilage and plunder its way in song across the seven seas, 3 p.m., Sunday, March 25 at Thurston High School, 26255 Schoolcraft, Redford.

The buccaneer-themed "A Pirate's Life," concert will feature a play set to music as the Chorus sings pirate songs, hunts for buried treasure and finds a safe harbor where they can end their journey.

Ebb 'N' Flow, the 2011 District Quartet champions, and Harmony Town's quartet, Impulse, also will perform.

Tickets are \$13 in advance and \$15 at the door.

The price to "board" our Barbershop voyage are just 13 dollars advance, 15 dollars at the door. Buy online at wesingbarbershop.com or call (734) 743-1764.



Tony Pyrkosz (left), Paul Michalik, Frank Adams, and Don Bohnwagner get into the spirit of their upcoming concert, "A Pirate's Life," Sunday, March 25, in Redford.

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 Thursday, March 29 2 PM  
 Friday, March 30 7:30 PM

Hagopian World of Rugs  
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 Saturday, March 24 7:30 PM

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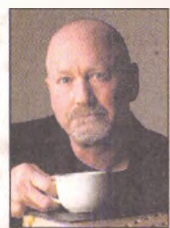
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## Preaching the wonders of coffee

By Dan Dean  
Staff Columnist

I am a believer. I once was lost, but now am saved from the lousy coffee syndrome that has taken a firm hold on the psyche of our fast-paced, have to have everything on the go, society.



Coffee Preacher

Dan Dean

I am here to preach the virtues of quality coffee.

Maybe it's the fact that I am starting down at my 50th birthday and

I am tired of the push for more and more — whether in food portions or drink sizes. I would rather spend more money for real quality in smaller portions. And this is most evident in the coffee I choose to drink.

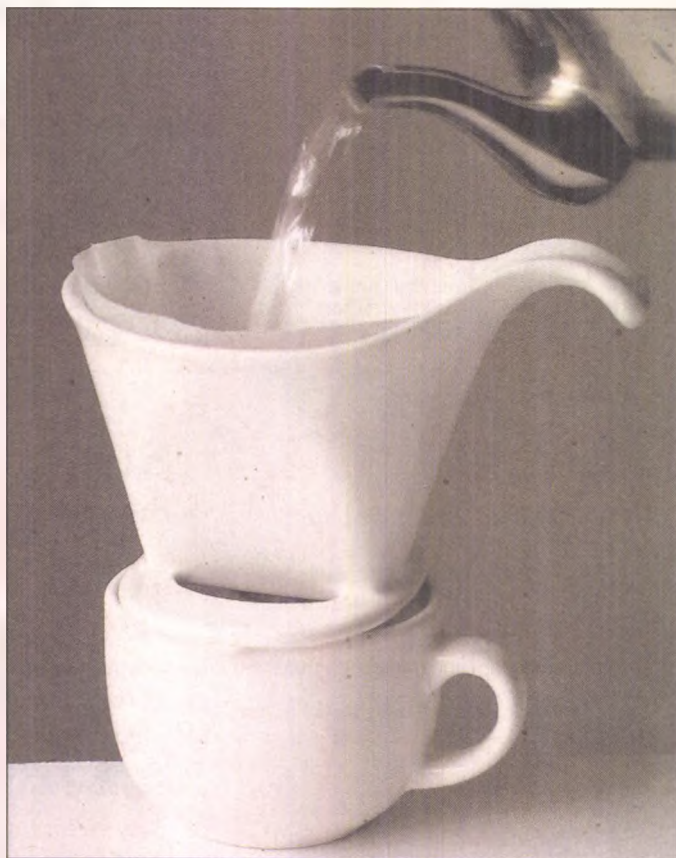
Like most people who make life-changing adjustments, I was near the bottom. Oh sure, those around me thought that I was in coffee heaven. I owned my own coffee shop and had access to all the coffee and espresso one could drink. And while on the outside I had a beautiful, supportive wife and three amazing kids — and one killer coffee shop — inside I had a stirring deep in my soul. I knew that there had to be better coffee.

### Let the blind see

I had read about the comparisons of coffee to wine and on the surface it sounded plausible — both wine and coffee are made from an agricultural crop. And as I had read, the very nuances that give grapes their distinct flavor profiles that show up in wine — things like soil quality, altitude, climate and processing methods — all can be identified in coffee beans.

I was still a skeptic, until another recovering photo-journalist/coffee guy sent me a pound of coffee that opened my eyes. With alleluias ringing in my head, I sipped the pure blissfulness that originated from a farm in Panama. That coffee from Jeff Taylor at PT's Coffee in Topeka, Kan., is the one that I now blame for occasional impulse purchases of \$25 and even up to \$50 for a half-pound of coffee.

The reality is — in the long run — to truly appreciate and savor coffee can



PHOTOS BY DAN DEAN

Using coffee from a local roaster less than a week old, a small 4-oz. cup, filtered water and a single brewing device like the Bee House ceramic dripper pictured above is a wonderful way to appreciate all coffee has to offer in flavor and aroma.



Coffee beans are weighed before grinding.

Crafting one small cup of coffee at a time using fresh roasted and fresh ground coffee, is a sensory overload well worth the few minutes it takes to brew.

be a cost savings, especially if you are accustomed to parting with \$4 or \$5 for a sugary 24-ounce concoction that has little resemblance to the agricultural product.

### Walk the road less traveled

My journey started long ago, when I gave up the can for Eight O'clock whole

bean coffee from A&P - ground at home in a \$10 grinder. But it was when I became aware of the care and hard work it takes to produce coffee that I truly started to walk the walk. The coffee we drink — except for the kind still sold as ground coffee in a can — is the seed of cherries grown at a high altitude, requiring the cherries to be picked and sorted by hand. There are different methods of removing the pulp to reveal the seed, which ultimately is the coffee bean, that is mostly a manual process as well, depending on the method used.

It is a labor of love and hard work for farmers trying to eke out a living for their families. But there are roasters like my friend Jeff Taylor who are working directly with farmers to produce better crops and hence a contract to pay a higher price for beans. These Direct Trade relationships are making a better life for the producers and a better cup for consumers.

There is something special that happens when the correct weight of beans — ground just right — is united with the correct weight of filtered 201.5-degree water. The combination produces a mouth-watering aroma from pungent steam resulting in a beautiful, creamy, sweet, slurry of goodness. It may take a leap of faith to start your walk along a path to appreciating a smaller quantity of quality coffee — but the payoff in the end is likely more money in your pocket and more money for coffee farmers.

### Unravel the mystery

It is a miracle to behold and worth the leap of faith that will unlock your senses to a new way of thinking about coffee.

**Next month:** Think I am crazy for spending \$50 on a bag of coffee? I am not the only one.

Dan Dean, assistant managing editor of presentation for the Observer & Eccentric and Hometown Newspapers, is a former independent coffee shop owner. He can be reached by e-mail at [ddean@hometownlife.com](mailto:ddean@hometownlife.com).

## CITY BITES

### Bon appétit

#### FARMINGTON HILLS

— The staff and students of Oakland Community College's Culinary Studies Institute will prepare an "April in Paris" dinner Thursday, April 5, at OCC's Orchard Ridge Campus, located on Orchard Lake Road just south of I-696. The six-course meal highlights French foods and wine and will begin with passed hors d'oeuvres at 6 p.m. A cash bar also will be featured. Tickets are \$60 per person. The event will feature entertainment typical of a French bistro and the Culinary Studies Institute Bakery will be open, offering French pastries to take home, or enjoy on site. Participants may "dress to impress" (men in ties, and women in pearls) in their favorite French attire, including berets. Get a ticket order form at [www.oaklandcc.edu/culinary](http://www.oaklandcc.edu/culinary), or by calling Maureen Gilbert at (248) 522-3700. Checks should be made out to Oakland Community College.

### Vegan chef

#### WEST BLOOMFIELD

— Henry Ford West Bloomfield Hospital will offer a vegan cooking class with Chef George Vutetakis, executive chef at Garden Fresh Gourmet, 6:30-8 p.m. Wednesday, March 28, in the demonstration kitchen at the hospital, 6777 W. Maple. Registration will close 72 hours before the start of class. Cost is \$19. The class will feature recipes from Vutetakis' *Vegetarian Traditions: Favorite Recipes from My Years at the Legendary Inn Season Café* cookbook. Vutetakis, who learned to cook in his Greek grandmother's kitchen, doesn't try to imitate meat in his cooking but instead focuses on fruits, vegetables, whole grains, nuts and beans. He works with local organic farmers, whom he credits as the heroes behind the creation of his sustainable, healthy cuisine. To register or for more information call (248) 325-3890, or e-mail [dk@hfhs.org](mailto:dk@hfhs.org).

### Wine tasting

LIVONIA — Learn to guess what's in the glass using all your senses at a wine tasting at 7 p.m. Thursday, March 29 at d.vine wines, 17386 Haggerty. You'll learn about terrier, grape varietals, growing regions, and how winemaking techniques can affect how the wine presents itself. Cost is \$15 per person; \$10 for Wine Club members. Call (734) 432-3800 for reservations; [www.dvinefinewines.com](http://www.dvinefinewines.com).

## Find a premium pour at the local watering hole

The cover story of the latest installment of *Draft Magazine* highlights the 100 Best Beer Bars in America. The Midwest district is well represented by Michigan establishments worthy of the coveted award. Many are located outside the distribution of this paper but still worth a visit for those seeking beer enlightenment further than the front porch. The Hop Cat in Grand Rapids comes highly recommend for those looking for premium pours with a casual vibe.



Beer Tracker

Nate Parsons

The premise behind Beer Tracker is to bring attention to what many consider the best beer in the world, and more importantly where these selections can be obtained locally. Piqued with enough interest, a visit to the local liquor store would be warranted by

the reader, then back home for a private tasting. Although enjoying a world class beverage in the comfort of home has benefits, venturing out to the local watering hole has its upside.

Navigating today's drinking landscape for those looking for a premium pour is a hit or miss proposition with no guarantees. While there is no silver bullet to satisfy all, there are those who make a conscious effort to cater to the beer enthusiast.

### Hermann's Olde Town Grille - Plymouth

Hermann's is considered by most the quintessential neighborhood pub, the type of place that demonstrates the "social lubricity" a couple of good pints can facilitate. Someday it will become desirable and even fashionable for every town to have a local neighborhood pub. Until then, Hermann's will have to suffice. Not known for an extensive tap line, Franziskaner, a traditional German Hefe-Weisse brewed



by Spaten Brau always is present. Upon delivery the body is cloudy orange, as hints of lemon, honey, and clove scents drift from the glass. Taste is citrusy and refreshing, perfect for the summer but enjoyed year around.

### Pizzeria Biga - Farmington Hills

The idea of beer and pizza starts the mouth watering like

Pavlov's dog. Taking this concept to the next level has been a winning combination for many proprietors. Pizzeria Biga, on the border of Farmington Hills and Southfield, offers traditional Neapolitan pizza and a well-thought-out beer menu. Old Rasputin Imperial Stout from North Coast Brewery can be found here on a nitro tap... worth the trip in itself. The black opaque offering with cascading carbonation packs a

punch at 9% ABV. The robust flavor yet silky delivery is an intoxicating tonic for those looking to graduate from a traditional Guinness.

### Ashley's Pub - Westland

Boasting 101 beers, Ashley's is the place when looking for sheer quantity and quality. Truly a world class selection from local product to premium sippers from abroad. The draught line changes daily with rotating Belgium, US Craft, Michigan Craft, and Beer of the Month selections. Piraat, a Belgium IPA from Brouwerij Van Steenberge is a mainstay on tap. Served in the proper glassware Piraat shimmers smoky orange with a snowy white head. Layers of bready malts and citrus wash the mouth and exit with a crisp finish. A slice of heaven in our own backyard.

Just a few of my favorites! Tell me yours? Cheers!

Nate Parsons can be contacted at [modevin@yahoo.com](mailto:modevin@yahoo.com)





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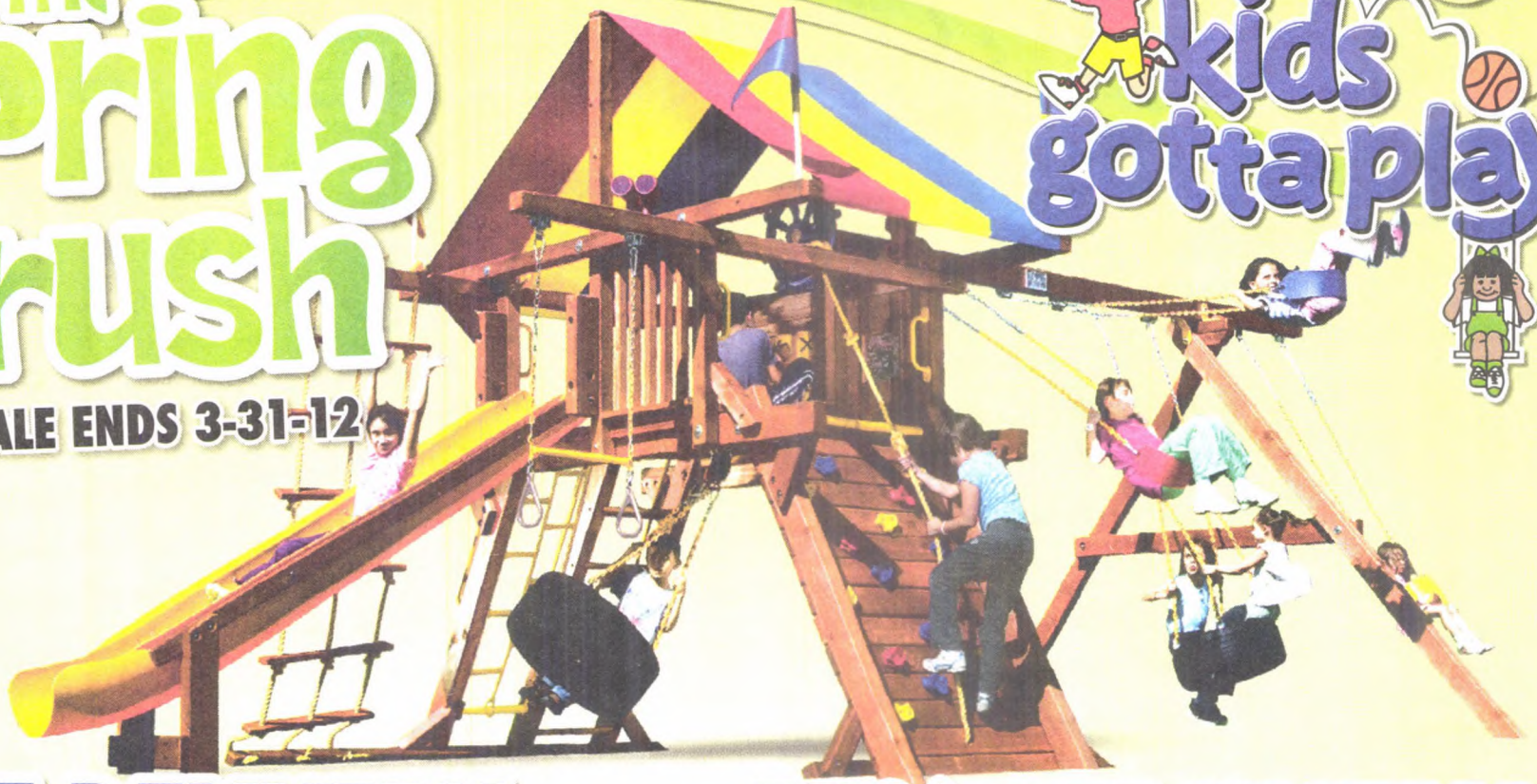
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# Higher gas prices, warmer weather spark interest in bicycles

**By Helen Niemiec**  
Contributing Writer

If the balmy weather and promise of an early spring weren't enough, the rising gasoline prices are making bicycle stores a popular stop, as casual and serious riders look for a new set of wheels or accessories that enhance their riding experiences.

Bicycle shop owners agree that the onset of spring always increases interest in recreational cycling but that this season's gas prices are adding an additional incentive to opt for a vehicle that uses pedal power instead of fossil fuels.

"Gas prices are bringing people in. It's less expensive to drive a bike five miles to work than to use the car," said Mike O'Donnell, store manager of D&D Bicycles in Northville. D&D also has stores in Berkley, Brighton, Waterford and Westland.

## Spring beckons bikers

Even without that factor, bicycle shops expect to see increased business this month and next as people return to the outdoors again. The bicycle shops encourage people to bring their bikes in for a "spring tune up," which often means lubricating gears, checking brake lines, new cables and the like.

Looking for a new bike often leads to a conversation between the potential buyer and the shop owner. What will the bike be used for? Will it be for a casual spin around the neighborhood or is the rider interested in using it as an exercise tool? What is the person's price range, since bikes can run from \$200 to \$5,000? The three different types

## POPULAR BIKE PATHS

Each county boasts a number of bike paths that families can enjoy. The stretch of I-275, which includes both Wayne and Oakland counties, has a bike path along its route. More county-specific options are:

- **Livingston County:** Island Lake Recreation Area/Michigan State Park, Brighton; Murray Lake Trail, Brighton.
  - **Oakland County:** Heritage Park, Farmington Hills; Hickory Glen Park, Commerce; Huron Valley Trail, on the former railroad tracks linking South Lyon to Milford; Kensington Metropark, Milford; and Paint Creek Trail in northeast Oakland County (Rochester, Rochester Hills, Lake Orion).
  - **Wayne County:** Hines Drive, from Dearborn Heights to Northville; Lower Huron Metropark in Belleville; Maybury State Park, both with mountain biking trail and paved bicycle path in Northville; and Willow Metropark in Belleville.
- For more, see [www.trail.com/Michigan](http://www.trail.com/Michigan).

of bikes are: cruisers for casual rides, trail/mountain bikes for different terrains, but especially used for dirt roads, and the racing bikes, with the thin tires and more aerodynamic for enhanced speed and performance.

"I try to figure out what a person's potential need will be," said Rob Akers, owner

of International Bike Shop in Garden City. "People should keep in mind that (riding) is an evolutionary process. The more serious you become about cycling, the need for a different type of bike may occur."

Gary Childs, co-owner of South Lyon Cycle, said his customer base runs the gamut but that it's families looking for recreational biking that visit during the spring.

"We have those comfort bikes that people can use when they're cycling around the neighborhood or going up to the market," he said.

A key part of a comfortable ride is the right fit, he added. While big box stores sell standard height bikes, the specialty shops offer an array of sizes of frames which is especially good for people above or below average height, a variety of seats and even different pedals.

Children's bikes also are a big seller, all shop owners agreed. Most bicycle shops have some sort of trade in policy where when a child outgrows a bike, they can trade it in and get a credit on a larger bike.

## Specialty bikes

South Lyon Cycle offers a "European-styled" children's bike that comes without pedals.

"It's a two-wheeler and the kids pedal like Fred Flintstone did," Childs explained. "It's a balance bike, with no training wheels. Children learn balance a lot quicker. I got one for my two-year-old goddaughter and she was flying around in no time."

Please see **BIKES, 12**

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# Wellness care for your pet: It's not just about shots

By Heather Ferguson, D.V.M.  
Guest Columnist

Most pet owners recognize the need for regular veterinary visits for their animals, but what takes place during the exam is not only about updating vaccinations. A complete history, physical exam and consultation with the veterinarian regarding relevant blood testing will contribute a significant amount toward your animal's long-term health.

Animals do not readily express outward signs of illness, many times showing these signs only when an illness is quite advanced. These signs are misinterpreted as "they are just getting older" or "just slowing down." Minor changes in attitude and interaction with owners are many times early signs that something may be amiss.

During your pet's wellness exam, a complete physical examination is performed, including an oral exam, examination of the eyes, ears and skin, heart and lung auscultation, abdominal palpation and a basic assessment of joint health.

Your dog or cat's body condition is also assessed, and recommendations regarding weight management are made. Sixty percent of all pets in the U.S. are overweight or obese. As in humans, this health condition shortens life and increases risk factors for diseases like diabetes, heart disease, organ disease, arthritis and certain cancers.

Blood work, in addition to the standard yearly heartworm test, can identify many problems. Health issues such as thyroid disease, kidney disease, liver disease, some hormonal disorders and some blood-borne diseases, if identified early, can be managed by something as simple as a diet formulated specifically for the health issue, or a daily medication or supplement.

## Animals benefit

Many animals in our practice have benefited from this type of testing. An older golden retriever that comes to our clinic had elevated liver values on her wellness testing. She had absolutely no symptoms that anything was wrong and routinely ran several miles with her owner daily.

We repeated these tests one month later, and the liver values were still elevated. An ultrasound revealed that this dog had a mass in her liver. This tumor was removed surgically. Now two years later, this dog is the poster child of health, still running with her owner at age 11. If we had found this



Heather Ferguson, D.V.M., and Gunther.

tumor at a later stage, it may have been inoperable, or may have spread to other organs, making this dog's long-term outlook much more grim.

An oral exam is part of your pet's physical. Dental disease is prevalent in both dogs and cats. Dogs tend to accumulate tartar, and develop progressive stages of periodontal disease, many times ending in tooth loss. Cats are prone to oral resorptive lesions, where their tooth enamel is eroded away, often resulting in painful defects resolved only by advanced dental care or extraction.

## Dental cleaning

If your veterinarian is recommending a dental cleaning, they are noticing an issue that needs to be addressed. Preventive care cleanings not only maintain oral health, but long-term health of the pet.

Though dogs are now fewer in number in pet owning households than cats, cats have fewer numbers of veterinary visits. Why? Often, cats are thought to be more self-sufficient than dogs. Actually, they are known to be better at hiding disease than dogs, sometimes coming to the veterinary clinic too sick to save.

Also, with more people keeping their cats indoors to protect them, many feel that there is no need for vaccinations. This is not true. Many cases of humans requiring rabies treatment are because an unvaccinated indoor cat contracts rabies from a bat that gets into the household.

Dr. Heather Ferguson, D.V.M., has been practicing small animal medicine since graduating from Michigan State University in 1990. She is a partner in the Lyon Veterinary Clinic at 21188 Pontiac Trail in South Lyon, between Eight and Nine Mile roads. Contact her at (248) 486-5600.

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## Gardeners antsy with early introduction of spring

By Helen Niemiec  
Contributing Writer

The snow is history. Tulips and daffodils are standing tall, plus lilacs and rose bushes are starting to show growth. A late April phenomena has come more than a month earlier than normal and it has gardeners eager to get flowers and vegetables in the ground.

Despite the temperatures so far, there is no guarantee that a killing frost won't surprise Michigan before the new May 15 "safe" date. (Michigan moved to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Zone 5 planting area this year, rather than the Zone 6 which anticipates potential frost up until Memorial Day.)

Anita Callender, Master Gardener coordinator at Michigan State University's Extension Services, said the coming season will be "interestingly difficult."

The not normal winter leads to confusion, she said, not only for gardeners but the plants as well.

"It will be a very interesting summer to see how things will grow. Annual bulbs need a hard freeze so they hibernate. That didn't happen. We didn't get as much snow, which insulates them from the cold soil. We're not going to have a slow snow melt which provides moisture," Callender said.

### Starting indoors?

Those gardeners starting indoors with seeds should already be starting those plants. The rule of thumb, she said, is to use May 15 as the target plant date and track backward to determine when to start indoor seedlings. No matter where seeds are purchased, or if gleaned from last year's vegetables and flowers, Callender said go to the website of a large seed company and use that guide for planting. If

seeds need four weeks to six weeks to germinate, plant them by April 15. This year, maybe two or three weeks ahead of the scheduled frost date for planning, she suggested.

New seedlings and purchased bedding plants can go in the ground earlier but Callender warns planters to be vigilant.

"It's tempting to get started earlier and when I look out my office window and see my tulips ready to blossom, I understand. You can do it but you have to be careful," Callender said.

Pop them in the ground but be ready to take action should the weather become more "Michigan normal."

Have at hand a roll cover, a bed sheet or newspapers to put over young plants to protect them from frost touching new leaves. If the weather turns colder and is sustained at a colder temperature, cover the new plants with compost or cover with leaves collected from last fall. Roll covers are available at garden stores, as is bagged compost.

"A lot of plants won't take the cold soil. Seeds also need the ground to be a certain temperature. They won't germinate in cold weather and will rot in the soil," Callender said.

Early starters are advised also to get a soil thermometer, available at garden and home centers. Websites again will include the optimum ground temperature for flowers and vegetable plants.

### Cool weather crops

Carrots, onions, collards and peas already are safe for planting, since they are colder soil plants. "There's a tradition to plant peas on St. Patrick's Day," she said. "But they could have gone in the

Please see GARDEN, 10

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# Savor the flavor: Tap into coffee's true potential

By Dan Dean  
Staff Writer

They speak passionately about their craft in an effort to change the perception of the world's most popular beverage from a morning jolt to culinary craft. It is part science and part art, said Teresa Pilarz, owner of Espresso Elevado in Plymouth about the profession of coffee roasting.

"Wine has 750 flavor profiles and coffee has 1,500, twice the complexity of wine," said Frank Lanzkron-Tamarazo, owner of Chazzano Coffee in Ferndale. He offers "cupping parties" that he advertises as a "night of violent sipping and slurping" referring to the tasting process professionals use to analyze the flavor of coffee. Lanzkron-Tamarazo offers the classes either at his shop on Nine Mile or to private groups to help customers understand coffee in a new light.

## Part science

Josh Longsdorf sounds as much like a chemistry professor as he does an artist as he explains crafting a great cup of coffee with precision and consistency. The owner of Anthology Coffee, Longsdorf developed his appreciation for coffee working at iconic West Coast coffee giants Ritual Coffee Roasters and Stumptown Coffee Roasters.

Longsdorf graduated from Plymouth-Canton schools in 1999 and recently moved back to the Detroit area to be closer to family. He currently owns a café at the Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit and has plans in the works to open another café in Detroit.

On the phone recently from his roasting operation inside Commonwealth Café in Birmingham, Longsdorf talked about the importance of water quality, precise water temperature, ratios measured in grams and simple equipment that allows for total control of the brewing process.

For home brewing the key is getting the water hot enough. "The optimal temperature for brewing is 201.5 degrees to extract the natural sugars and other chemical compounds that are part of coffee," said Longsdorf. But for a good cup of coffee do not use straight tap water he warns. "Chlorine has an adverse affect on coffee," he said. "I recommend a reverse osmosis system,

## THE EQUIPMENT

- Electric water kettle
- Gram scale
- Burr grinder
- Clever coffee Dripper, Hario dripper or Bee House dripper
- Brita Water Pitcher
- Paper coffee filters



Anthology Coffee's Josh Longsdorf said that using a gram scale to accurately weigh coffee beans and water is key to making a consistent cup of coffee.

JEFF TAYLOR | PT'S COFFEE  
Coffee grows in the mountains at Finca Las Mercedes in El Salvador.

but some tap water needs to be added back to give it some minerals.

"The density of a coffee bean increases for coffee grown in higher elevations because it grows much slower," Longsdorf said. "Using a measurement like a tablespoon will not give consistent results." A better approach is to weigh both the coffee and water using an inexpensive gram scale. "We recommend a ratio of 15 parts water to one part coffee," he said.

## Fighting a culture of convenience

Advertising has changed dramatically since Juan Valdez and his trusty mule, Conchita, first started promoting coffee grown in Colombia in the 1960s. The image of coffee today is shaped by campaigns that focus on convenience, whether grabbing a cup on the go or making it at home with the ease of brewers that use portioned disposable cups.

Reminding customers that coffee is produced much the same way today as it was in the heyday of the fictional Valdez, is part of Teresa Pilarz's mission at her Plymouth shop. Taking a break while entering notes

into a laptop from her latest batch of Route 606 Espresso still cooling in the shiny red San Franciscan roaster behind her, Pilarz speaks passionately about the "labor of love" in producing coffee.

"Considering the manual labor involved in picking, sorting and processing the fruit from remote areas, importing to the United States, shipping by truck to the roaster and the roasting, bagging and labeling ... it is an absolute bargain," she said, discussing the price of coffee.

A recent link on the shop's Facebook page to a *New York Times* article about the equivalent cost of a pound of coffee for those portioned coffee makers costing as high as \$50 gives credence to her claim that 12-ounce bags of coffee fresh from her roaster selling for \$14 is a bargain.

Pilarz said that while some people will not flinch about paying \$8 for a glass of wine, which is a beverage from similar agricultural beginnings, they may not understand why exceptional coffee should cost \$2.50 a cup, as it does in her shop. Education is key she said and that's why she offers classes on subjects like



Teresa Pilarz pours Ugandan Bugisu coffee beans into the roaster at her shop in Plymouth.



Frank Lanzkron-Tamarazo, owner of Chazzano Coffee in Ferndale takes in the aroma of coffee beans as they are roasting.

small batch roasting and home brewing.

Convenience also comes with a high price in terms of quality, according to Lanzkron-Tamarazo.

"The K-Cup is a great marketing idea, but it is terrible for coffee," he said of the popular trademarked portion cups used in Keurig coffee brewers. "In order for a K-Cup to work it has to use stale coffee," he said. "If I put my coffee into a sealed cup it would explode the lid right off. 'Why drink stale coffee?'" he said, noting that fresh coffee gives off carbon dioxide for about two weeks before it starts to get stale.

"At our retail store if our bags of coffee do not sell in 2½ weeks we donate it to homeless shelters," he said.

## Brew it better at home

Lanzkron-Tamarazo, Longsdorf and Pilarz all agree that for a similar initial investment in equipment as that of many home brewing machines with all the bells and whistles customers can brew a far better cup of coffee at home. The key is using fresh roasted coffee

## LOCAL ROASTERS

Coffee bought locally will give you the best bang for your buck and the freshest coffee. Below is a list of local roasters. The Internet is a great place to find fresh roasted coffee as well.

### Anthology Coffee

Coffee roaster with coffee available at Mills Pharmacy on Maple in Birmingham, Red Hook Coffee in Ferndale, Museum Of Contemporary Art Detroit cafe and Astro Coffee in the Corktown area of Detroit.

Anthologycoffee.com and on Facebook

### Commonwealth Cafe

300 Hamilton Row, Birmingham  
Cafe sells home brewing supplies and fresh roasted coffee beans.

(248) 792-9766

gocommonwealth.com

### Chazzano Coffee Roasters

Coffee roaster and cafe offering 40 different varieties of coffee all certified for Kosher for Passover by the Council of Orthodox Rabbis for Greater Detroit. Online tutorials for brewing methods on the store's website under the movie tab.

1737 E. Nine Mile, Ferndale  
chazzanocoffee.com

### Espresso Elevado

Coffee roaster and espresso bar. Large variety of home brewing supplies available as well as fresh roasted coffee.

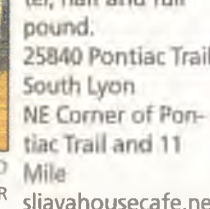
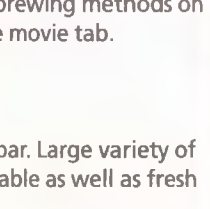
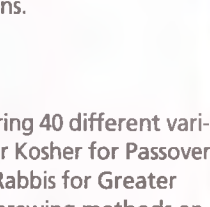
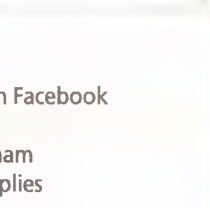
606 S. Main, Plymouth

http://shop.espressoelevado.com



HAL GOULD  
STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Java House Café owner  
Chrystal Russell.



Maritza and Jeff Taylor meet with Direct Trade farmer Sergio Ticas from Finca Los Planes in El Salvador on a recent 17-day coffee trip to Central America.

## The quest for great coffee

By Dan Dean  
Staff Writer

Jeff Taylor's journey to find exceptional coffee has taken him across the globe and along the way he has met some exceptional people, none more so than his wife, Maritza.

"I met Maritza at a coffee competition in Ecuador in 2008. We were both on the jury to judge coffees. We married two years ago and she emigrated from Colombia to the USA," Taylor said.

From the couple's hotel room in Antigua, Guatemala, Jeff Taylor spoke recently about his quest to find great coffee. The couple were on the final leg of a 17-day coffee sipping journey through Central America. Jeff is co-owner along with Fred Polzin of PT's Coffee in Topeka, Kan., and Maritza is director of quality assurance. Their Central America trip followed a 12-day trip to Kenya in January.

The couple find exceptional coffee in what is considered the newest approach, Direct Trade, the basis for which is, in its simplicity, quite old-fashioned. A former award-winning photojournalist, Taylor has an adventurous spirit that has served him well during his coffee travels that began in 1997, four years after he and Polzin opened a small coffee shop in Topeka. PT's Coffee Co. has since grown into one of the leading roasters in the country and was named 2009 Roaster of the Year.

The coffee that Taylor cherishes is grown at a high altitude. When the Taylors set out on their business trips, there is no staying at swanky resorts, rather climbing mountains and traveling backroad two-tracks are the norm. Their adventures take them to many of the 35 or so countries in a tropical band around the equator between the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn regarded as the primary coffee producing nations.

Taylor is searching for coffee that he explains as having a clean cup with no off-flavors, high acidity or a bright mouth feel and, most importantly, sweetness.

"Fruit has sweetness, that is where coffee comes from — it is the seed of a cherry," he said. When it is picked, processed and roasted correctly, it has a natural sweetness, he added.

And when Taylor finds a farmer producing the sweet coffee he is looking for, he pays a premium price. A minimum of 25-percent over any other price farmers can garner through available markets, including Fair Trade. "Most (Direct Trade partners) are paid quite a bit more, in fact I believe we only have one right now that we are paying the minimum 25 percent," he said.

Establishing an ongoing relationship is one of the goals of Direct Trade.

## Direct Trade

"We started the Direct Trade concept as a way to work closely with farmers ... I want to be able to call a farmer during the year and ask about the crop and how things are going," he said. "We are looking for farmers who have high expectations, are willing to push boundaries, have good conservation practices using little fertilizer and no pesticides, a willingness to institute social programs and most importantly strict guidelines for processing."

On Taylor's Facebook page, his past profession as a photojournalist is well-represented as he documents his travels. One amazing photo in his collection shows the one-lane "highway of death," El Camino de la Muerte, in the Bolivian mountains. It is just one example of the risk and adventure of reaching the best coffee.

"The sweetness in coffee comes from growing in high altitude. The higher the coffee is grown, the sweeter it is," he said. And above 6,000 feet is where he finds all his Direct Trade coffee.

It may not be work for the faint of heart, but for Jeff and Maritza Taylor and their customers, it is an adventure and risk worth taking to find exceptional coffee.

For more about PT's Coffee, its Direct Trade program and to order coffee, visit [ptscoffee.com](http://ptscoffee.com).

Please see COFFEE, 12

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## GARDEN

Continued from page 6

ground weeks ago.”

Michigan has had below normal precipitation this year but Callender warns that rain, ground warming and future snow falls can affect the early starts.

“If the soil is too moist, it’s really bad for seeds but it’s also very bad for purchased plants. If it gets too soggy, there will be root rot and you won’t have anything growing from that,” Callender said.

If the planting bug bites, Callender said she can’t blame anyone for taking advantage of a mild winter and pushing ahead to a more vibrant spring. For anyone jumping the May 15 deadline, Callender said they may want to plant flowers close to the house and wait until May 15 to plant in the middle of the yard or the edges of a fence line.

“Every yard has a mini-microclimate. The conditions vary. The beds closest to a house will benefit from the warmth from the brick of the house and get the residual heat plus they are more protected from the wind,” Callender said.

The Farmer’s Almanac is predicting a dry, cool summer, which is another anomaly for Michigan.

“It will be very interesting to see what our summer gardens look like,” Callender said.



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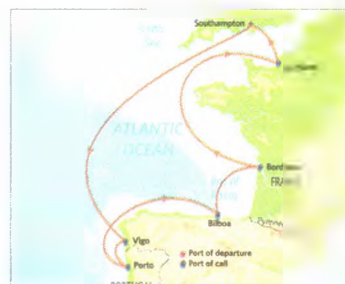
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# Sudoku

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

8		3		4				1
			7		6			
		7	3					9 8
	1					2	5	
	4		6	1	3	9		7
7		6						
		1						2
6		4						3
			8		5	1	7	4

Level: Beginner

		5	9					3
	9	3	1					7
1								4
	8			7	6			
		9					8	6
		1						
			5			6		4
6				7			3	
				3			9	7

Level: Intermediate

1			6					
5						7	8	
9			3	7				
8	5		1					7
4				7	2	6		
			8	3				
7				6	4	5	8	
		1					2	

Level: Advanced

Answers found on page 14

## BIKES

Continued from page 3

Seth Kleinglass, owner of Sweet Bikes in Canton, said the recreational cyclist shouldn't be intimidated by going into a specialty store, since the clientele isn't all avid enthusiasts.

"We ask more questions and we have a lot of information we can offer them. They'll come in and want a Schwinn like they had when they were younger and we can set them up with a bike that is high quality, really suits their needs and their comfort plus comes already assembled," Kleinglass added.

Accessories are an important part of the riding experience, O'Donnell said. Once there is a bike and a purpose, riders need to outfit themselves properly.

### Safety first

"Always buy a helmet. Always," O'Donnell said. "After that, it's a matter of preference. You want to wear clothing that makes you visible. You may want to purchase reflectors for the bike or to attach to your clothing. You may want a more comfortable seat than is standard and your pedal needs may be different."

For extra comfort, there are gel seats and



even bike shorts with padding.

All agree that anyone with a bicycle should have a good lock and a tethering system to insure no one "borrows it" while the rider is in a shop or making any kind of stop where the bike is out of their sight.

Kleinglass said that a bike rack always is a good idea since it gives more flexibility in where a person or family cycles.

"There are different kinds of racks. There are trunk models for sedans and a receiver hitch for SUVs and trucks. The hitch is the best since the bike never comes in contact with the car," he explained.

The bicycle shops all agree that there is a steady interest in cycling, especially since bike paths have emerged over the years.

"We do have a fairly developed park system," Akers said. "The opportunity is out there. Plus bikes are more 'dirt road friendly' and cycling out on a dirt road makes people feel more comfortable, since there is less traffic and you can hear cars or trucks coming from a distance away. You can really get into the back country. There are a lot of dirt roads in Oakland County but there are even quite a number in Wayne County."

## COFFEE

Continued from page 9

within two weeks of roasting and using a pour over device like a Hario, Clever, Bee House or Chemex following a few basic steps:

1. Use only filtered water. A filter works well to remove the chlorine from tap water.
2. Measure coffee and water using a gram scale at a ratio of 15 parts water to one part coffee.
3. Grind coffee beans just prior to brewing using a good quality burr grinder.

## WHERE TO BUY A BIKE

- American Cycle & Fitness-Trek Bicycle Store  
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29428 Woodward Ave., Royal Oak (248) 542-7182  
www.americancycleandfitness.com
- D&D Bicycles & Hockey  
121 N. Center St., Northville, (248) 347-1511  
8383 N. Middlebelt, Westland, (&34) 522-9410  
4141 12 Mile, Berkley, (248) 547-0770  
www.ddbicyclesandhockey.com
- Downtown Ferndale Bike Shop  
163 W. Nine Mile, Ferndale (see ad on Page 12)  
(248) 439-1892 downtownferndalebike-shop.com
- Farmington Bike & Repair Shop  
22856 Orchard Lake Road, Farmington, (248) 474-7338
- K L M Bike & Fitness  
33502 Woodward Ave., Birmingham, (248) 645-2453
- Performance Bicycles  
43270 Crescent Blvd., Novi, (248) 347-5985  
2067 S. Telegraph Road, Bloomfield Hills, (248) 874-1092  
www.performancebike.com
- South Lyon Cycle  
209 S. Lafayette, South Lyon, (248) 437-0500  
www.southlyoncycle.com (see ad on Page 13)
- Sweet Bikes  
39904 Ford Road, Canton, (248) 403-8049  
www.sweetbikesonline.com
- Town-N-Country Bikes  
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## Sudoku Answers

### Beginner

8	6	3	2	4	9	7	1	5
1	5	9	7	8	6	4	2	3
4	2	7	3	5	1	6	9	8
3	1	8	4	9	7	2	5	6
2	4	5	6	1	3	9	8	7
7	9	6	5	2	8	3	4	1
5	7	1	9	3	4	8	6	2
6	8	4	1	7	2	5	3	9
9	3	2	8	6	5	1	7	4

### Intermediate

7	4	5	9	8	2	1	6	3
8	9	3	1	6	4	2	7	5
1	2	6	7	3	5	9	4	8
5	8	4	2	7	6	3	1	9
2	7	9	3	5	1	4	8	6
3	6	1	8	4	9	7	5	2
9	3	7	5	1	8	6	2	4
6	5	2	4	9	7	8	3	1
4	1	8	6	2	3	5	9	7

### Advanced

1	7	2	4	6	8	5	3	9
5	3	6	2	9	1	7	8	4
9	4	8	3	7	5	6	1	2
3	6	7	5	4	2	8	9	1
8	2	5	6	1	9	3	4	7
4	1	9	8	3	7	2	6	5
2	5	4	9	8	3	1	7	6
7	9	3	1	2	6	4	5	8
6	8	1	7	5	4	9	2	3

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OE08769313

# Area Irish pubs host St. Pat's celebrations

Jill Halpin

Contributing Writer

St. Patrick's Day, the wonderful once-a-year opportunity for just about everyone to be Irish for the day, falls on Saturday this year. That means even bigger crowds as whole families can celebrate together throughout the day, and local restaurants and pubs are ready for them with some special activities on tap that promise fun for everyone.

"It's the biggest day of the year," said Mitch Black of Dick O'Dow's Irish Pub in Birmingham. "Michigan has a long tradition of celebrating its Irish heritage and we are ready for it." This year marks the 17th year of celebrating at Dick O'Dow's and the festivities open for breakfast with call of a bagpiper at 7 a.m., Black said. Various bands including The McGlynns and Company of Strangers will play throughout the day. Earlier in the day, song sheets with lyrics will be provided for a family sing-along.

At Duggan's Irish Pub in Royal Oak, the doors also open at 7 a.m. with full menu of Irish and American favorites. Admission is limited to 21 years and up. Local radio station WOMC-FM (104.3) will broadcast live throughout most of the day and live entertainment begins at 4 p.m. and lasts until midnight.

Cowley's Old Village Inn in Farmington opens its doors at 10 a.m. with live entertainment by the Shawn Riley Band from 11:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Entertainment provided by the band Free Beer will begin at 5:50 p.m. until close. Admission is for those ages 21 and up.

### Irish favorites

In downtown Plymouth at Sean O'Callaghan's Pub, the fun also kicks off at 7 a.m. with a breakfast menu including many Irish favorites. Live music begins at 11 a.m. and continues to midnight

with bagpipers and Irish step dancers stopping in throughout the day for the festivities. Breakfast and lunch served until midnight; admission is limited to 21 years and up.

Malarkey's Irish Sports Bar in Westland features a full schedule of activities beginning at 10 a.m. Live entertainment starts at 3 p.m. and features dueling pianos, a variety of Irish bands, bagpipers and Irish dancers with no cover charge. Admission is limited to age 21 and up.

For those looking for a tamer way to celebrate, a great family atmosphere to celebrate the holiday can be found at Novi's Diamond Jim Brady's, which will feature Irish music and a full menu including traditional Irish fare throughout the day and evening hours.





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