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USA WEEKEND



Opening Day ticket contest

Enter our Facebook contest for a chance to win two tickets to Opening Day to watch the Detroit Tigers and the Boston Red Sox on Thursday, April 5 at Comerica Park. Our website, [hometownlife.com](http://www.hometownlife.com), is giving away two prime tickets but you must act fast. Share the contest link with a Facebook friend and get five extra chances to win if they also enter the contest. The winner will be selected at random April 2.

Enter by clicking on the contest link in our Don't Miss module at [Hometownlife.com](http://www.hometownlife.com) or by visiting our Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/OEHometown>.

Bee-autiful

Ryan Teevens, an eighth grader at New Morning School in Plymouth, has qualified



as a semi-finalist to represent New Morning School and participate at the state level of the 2012 Michigan National Geographic Bee. The bee takes place Friday, March 30 at Western Michigan University. The state winner will continue on to compete at the national level in May.

The contest is designed to encourage teachers to include geography in their classrooms, spark student interest in the subject, and increase public awareness about geography.

Voices heard

The Plymouth-Canton Board of Education meets at 7 p.m. Tuesday in Discovery Middle School to hear public comment about its facilities study and the plan to right-size the district.

The entire meeting will be devoted to public input on the plan, which includes the possible closing of two elementary schools and redistricting of all 16 elementary boundaries.

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Chiefs coach headed to Hall

By Tim Smith
Observer Staff Writer

Canton football coach Tim Baechler is getting into "the Hall," but he isn't ready to become a museum piece anytime soon.

The 44-year-old Baechler will be inducted into the Michigan High School Football Coaches Association Hall of Fame on Saturday at the Ann Arbor Sheraton. His career record of 173-67 includes a stellar mark of 120-37 since taking over the Chiefs for the 1998 season.

When the Plymouth resident and physical education teacher at Canton High School found out he would be in the Class of 2012, "I was extremely excited and a little

More on Baechler, B1.

bit shocked because I'm not that old of a guy."

When he took over as Hudson High School's head coach at age 24, his first captain was Casey Randolph — who later was on Baechler's coaching staff at Canton and instrumental in developing the Chiefs' top-notch wrestling program.

"I was only seven years older than him, which was crazy," Baechler said. "So yeah, I was excited but a little shocked that it happened so early."

To earn induction into the MHSFCA Hall of Fame, coaches must either have 100 victories or 20 years on the sidelines.

"To me, obviously I want to get in on merit, which I've done, with the win-loss record," he noted. "But some guys get in on longevity."

Other stops along Baechler's career trail included Onsted, his hometown White Pigeon and Dexter. Since taking over a 1-8 team at Canton, the Chiefs have won 10 games seven times and have gone to the Division 1 finals (in 2005).

The MHSFCA also named him its Coach of the Year eight times.

According to Sue Heinzman, co-athletic director at Plymouth-Canton Educational Park, Baechler's pending honor is well-deserved.

Please see **BAECHLER, A2**



BILL BRESLER
STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Canton's Tim Baechler has reason to smile as he is being inducted March 24 into the Michigan High School Football Coaches Association Hall of Fame.

Artist readies antique press for new prints

By Matt Jachman
Observer Staff Writer

In a world of virtual typesetting, inkjet printers and computer graphics programs that allow limitless variety, Mike Mullen takes a slower, hands-on approach to his printing.

"I get results that I could never imagine," said Mullen, a printmaker, art instructor and musician, of old-fashioned relief printmaking. "The process really takes over and takes you places where you'd never get on your own."

Mullen, who lives in Northville Township, recently bought a 121-year-old, pedal-powered platen press that he's in the process of restoring. For its post-restoration debut — and its first printing job in about 30 years — he is planning a limited-edition linocut print that is to be the centerpiece of an arts fundraiser in Plymouth next month.

Mullen will donate 100 copies of the print, *Endless Possibilities*, to the Plymouth Community Arts Council, which has a two-day fundraiser — also called *Endless Possibilities* — planned for Friday, April 27, and Saturday, April 28. Prints number one through five will be auctioned off through the PCAC (bids will be accepted beginning Friday, March 30), and prints six through 100 will be available during the fundraiser for \$100 each. The press itself, which weighs about 1,100 pounds, will be displayed at the PCAC that weekend.

Musical guests

Mullen will also be performing with his folk group, the Pairadocs Trio, at

Please see **PRESS, A6**



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Mike Mullen (above) is working on the Bessler and Price letterpress that he'll use to produce a limited edition print for the Plymouth Community Arts Council. The press (top) was a standard for small print shops. A resurgence in interest in letterpress means that old presses are put back into service.

Audience cheers thumbs-down to Sheldon rezoning

By Matt Jachman
Observer Staff Writer

Applause from the audience in a crowded City Hall meeting room greeted the Plymouth Planning Commission's 9-0 vote Wednesday against a bid to rezone a warehouse site on the city's outskirts.

Grand/Sakva Properties, which has developed major area shopping plazas, is seeking to rezone the site on the west side of Sheldon Road south of M-14 from industrial to general business, which would allow for retail, restaurant and office uses. Company representatives have talked in broad terms about a shopping center of 200,000 square feet to 300,000 square feet, but haven't mentioned specific tenants.

Opponents of the plan, including many residents of the nearby New England Village subdivision, fear a shopping center would dangerously increase traffic, bring crime, excess noise and light pollution to the neighborhood, strain the city's resources and hurt downtown Plymouth's retail shops.

"The lure for a lot of people is the quaintness here," said Jim Lampion, who lives nearby, after the vote. A shopping center on Sheldon would turn that environment "upside down," Lampion added.

Please see **SHELDON, A2**

Parents push for half-day option

By Brad Kadrich
Observer Staff Writer

Karin Young of Plymouth doesn't believe every child is ready for all-day kindergarten.

And she's found dozens of parents who agree with her.

That's why Young, the mother of twins, presented the Plymouth-Canton Board of Education with a petition signed by more than 80 people who think the district's decision to switch to an all-day kindergarten format — with-

out a half-day option — is the wrong way to go.

"Many parents want to be offered half-day kindergarten," Young said. "Certainly, (the petition) should give (the board) a strong indication that all-day kindergarten is not the answer for all parents."

District officials plan to move to all-day kindergarten at all 16 elementary schools, beginning with the 2012/13 school year, because the state plans to

Please see **HALF-DAY, A3**



Board of Education Trustees Judy Mardigan, Barry Simescu and John Barrett (right), along with Supt. Jeremy Hughes at last week's school board meeting.

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SEGMENT I: 24 Hrs Lecture, 6 Hrs Driving	SEGMENT II: 6 Hrs Lecture Defensive Driving
April 17-May 10 M,T,W,TH 6-8 p.m.	April 30, May 4, 7 M,F,M 6-8 p.m.
May 14-June 4 M,T,W,TH 6-8 p.m.	June 18, 19, 21 M,T,TH 11 a.m.-1 p.m.
June 11-28* M,T,W,TH 9-11 a.m.	July 16, 17, 19 M,T,TH 11 a.m.-1 p.m.
(*June 11 class held 2:30-4:30 p.m.)	August 13, 14, 16 M,T,TH 11 a.m.-1 p.m.
June 12 class held 1/2 hour after school /	
July 9-26 M,T,W,TH 9-11 a.m.	
July 30-August 16 M,T,W,TH 9-11 a.m.	
August 13-30 M,T,W,TH 4-6 p.m.	

GO WILDCATS! SEGMENT II \$35

SEGMENT I: 24 Hrs Lecture, 6 Hrs Driving	SEGMENT II: 6 Hrs Lecture Defensive Driving
April 17-May 10 M,T,W,TH 3-5 p.m.	April 24, 26, May 1 T,TH,T 3-5 p.m.
May 14-June 7 M,T,W,TH 3-5 p.m.	May 22, 24, 29 T,TH,T 3-5 p.m.
June 4-28* M,T,W,TH 8-10 a.m.	June 18, 19, 21 M,T,TH 10 a.m.-12 noon
(*No classes exam week, week of June 11 /	August 20, 21, 23 M,T,TH 10 a.m.-12 noon
June 4, 5, 6 classes held 5-7 p.m.)	
July 9-26 M,T,W,TH 8-10 a.m.	
August 6-23 M,T,W,TH 8-10 a.m.	

GO SPARTANS!

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Township yard-waste pickup resumes April 2

The weekly curbside pick-up of yard waste resumes in Plymouth Township on Monday, April 2.

Yard waste — grass clippings, garden prunings, leaves, brush and wood debris — is picked up on the same schedule as trash and recyclables.

Here are some guidelines to follow for yard-waste pickup:

• Brush, and branches up to six inches in diameter, should be bundled and tied with string — no wire or plastic ties. The bundles should be no more than three feet long and should not exceed 50 pounds each.

• Leaves and grass clippings should be packed in brown paper yard-waste bags available from various retailers, or in a trash container (with a maximum size of 35 gallons) identified with a yard-waste sticker or marked clearly with two large X's or C's. Take care

to ensure that the label is facing the roadway. The filled bags or containers should not weigh more than 50 pounds each.

• Residents should set yard waste at the curb no later than 7 a.m. on pickup day and no earlier than 6 p.m. on the day

before pickup.

Yard-waste stickers are available at Township Hall, 9955 North Haggerty, just north of Ann Arbor Road.

For more information, call the township's solid waste department at (734) 354-3270, ext. 4.

BAECHLER

Continued from page A1

"Tim Baechler is an outstanding coach and mentor," wrote Heinzman in an e-mail to the Observer. "He is constantly thinking, talking and researching what will make his players better at football. He also holds all his players accountable for their actions and character."

"Tim's presence can be intimidating which is part of being a good football coach. He is in charge and student-athletes respect him. But the Tim I know, is very caring and sensitive."

"I am proud and honored to be able to work with Tim and to witness the transformation of Canton Football going from a (1-8) team when he took over to a state powerhouse."

SHELDON

Continued from page A1

The planners' vote against the rezoning is a recommendation to the Plymouth City Commission. The City Commission is tentatively scheduled to take up the issue at its Monday, April 2, meeting.

Attorney Bryan Amann, representing Grand/Sakwa, said he wasn't surprised at the vote, suggesting planners had their minds made up before the meeting. Scant discussion of the issue by commissioners before the vote "spoke volumes," Amann said.

Grand/Sakwa's purchase agreement with the owner of the 36-acre site is contingent upon the rezoning, but Amann said, "I wouldn't make any assumptions," when

asked if the purchase would be scrapped.

Strong opinions

The vote came after more than a dozen people, most with strong opinions against the rezoning, expressed their views to planners.

"We don't need anymore shopping centers," said Matt Markwardt, who lives adjacent to the site. "It's a home community." "It will suck the life out of this downtown," said Teri Allen, a partner in downtown Plymouth's Dearborn Jewelers.

Some opponents, echoing city planning consultant Don Wortman's opinion that the site's current industrial zoning is the correct one, said it should be redeveloped under that zoning. The building, which has seen many uses since opening in the

1950s, is only partially occupied.

"Let's leave it alone, and somebody will be in here making a profit," Markwardt said.

But Amann had earlier said some uses permitted under the current zoning might prove more unpleasant for residential neighbors — like a sludge-hauling operation, or a staging area for concrete processing for the rebuilding of I-96, which is scheduled to begin next year. Industrial uses wouldn't require as much buffering from neighbors as Grand/Sakwa is offering to provide for a shopping center, he said.

"Sometimes, when we get what we ask for we don't like the results, and this may be one of those times," Amann said.

'Substantial investment'

Nearby resident Joe White told planners they should consider recommending the rezoning.

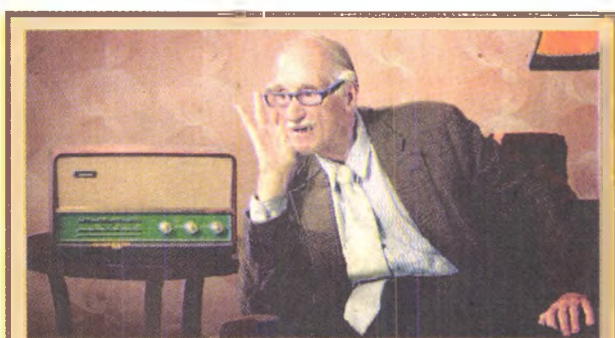
White said he's not really in favor of another shopping plaza but doesn't want to see the site lie fallow.

"I want to see more taxpayers in this town," White said. "You have a developer who's willing to come in and make a substantial investment."

Planning commissioners, however, indicated they agreed with Wortman's assessment that the current zoning is correct.

"The petitioner has not presented any evidence that the property cannot be used based on an industrial zoning," said Commissioner Frank Brennan, who made the motion to recommend against the rezoning.

In an attempt to make a business zoning more palatable to its opponents, Grand/Sakwa had attached 16 conditions to its request, including a pledge to not locate a Walmart, a Sam's Club, an automobile dealership or an adult entertainment business on the site.



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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 for an application by March

22. Applications are also available on the Web site at 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.

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



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.

HALF-DAY

Continued from page A1

cut funding for half-day kindergarten students in half.

But Young, and the others who signed the petition, believe many parents don't want the all-day option. An attorney by trade, Young said she'd made arrangements to be home more for her children as they transitioned into kindergarten.

The decision to move to the all-day option takes away time Young thought she'd have with her kids.

"I have made a sacrifice, and I sort of feel like it's all for naught now," Young said. "I'm losing a year I had planned on spending with the kids."

Young and the others who signed her petition said they believe some kindergarten-age children are "just not ready" for five full days of school and that half-day kindergarten is "a good transition for these students."

While there is no stated plan to offer a half-day option to every parent, district administrators may have at least a partial solution.

Superintendent Dr. Jeremy Hughes said Thurs-

day administrators are considering a plan — to be recommended to the board — to use one of the elementary schools to be closed under the district's right-sizing plan for a "Young Fives" program. The program would cater to students who are old enough to begin kindergarten, but whose parents don't believe they're ready.

The district would offer two sections (of 20-25 seats each) of Young Fives, but don't believe they'd fill all of those openings. They could fill open seats with half-day kindergarten students.

"It's an idea being considered," said Hughes, who stressed such a plan would need Board of Education approval. "We're probably not going to offer (half-day kindergarten). We'd be losing money, because of the state funding."

While saying they understand state funding is a concern for the district, they also think there's a bigger picture.

"We're already rushing our children," said Jennifer D'Angelo, a Bird Elementary School parent from Plymouth. "Once they grow up, they're grown up."

bkadrich@hometownlife.com
(313) 222-8899

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.plymouthhistory.org/Events.html> using PayPal.

Contact: For further information, call (734) 455-8940.

ART EXHIBIT

Date/Time: Through March 28, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Thursday

Location: Plymouth Community Arts Council, 774 N. Sheldon, Plymouth

Details: The Plymouth Community Arts Council hosts an exhibit of clothed life drawings and watercolors of Barbara Eko Murphy.

Contact: (734) 416-4278

BOWLING FUNDRAISER

Date/Time: Friday, March 23, 6 p.m.

Location: Plaza Lanes, 42001 Ann Arbor Road in Plymouth

Details: The Rotary Club of Plymouth A.M. hosts a bowling event to raise funds for local students to go to college. Bowling for Dollars for Scholars will begin with registration at 6

p.m. The \$20 cost includes two games, shoes and pizza.

Contact: For additional information or to buy tickets in advance, please contact Dorian McGlannan at (734) 453-0190, Ext. 11. Advance purchase is strongly encouraged.

TINY TOTS MEETING

Date/Time: Wednesday, March 21, 7-8 p.m.

Location: Plymouth Salvation Army, 9451 S. Main, Plymouth

Details: The Salvation Army - Plymouth Corps' Tiny Tots Preschool will be hosting a parent informational meeting. The Tiny Tot's program will begin accepting registrations for the 2012-2013 school year at this meeting. If you are not able to attend this meeting you may register during office hours Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to noon, and 1-4:30 p.m.

Contact: Call (734) 453-5464, Ext 27; or e-mail Shelia_Johnson@usc.salvationarmy.org, or visit www.misalplymouth.org for further details.

GIVING HOPE EVENT

Date/Time: April 18, 6:30 p.m.

Location: Courthouse Grille, 41661 Plymouth Road in Plymouth

Details: Giving Hope, Women's Giving Circle hosts its spring educational meeting, featuring Dr. Debra Hollander, medical director of behavioral medicine services for St. John Providence Health System, talking about "The Impact of Stress on Our Bodies and Finding Our Inner Wisdom." cost is \$10 per ticket (free to anyone under 21). Light refreshments and wine will be served.

Contact: RSVP to (734) 495-1200 or e-mail givinghopewgc@gmail.com

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Junior seeks books for Peace Corps plan

By Brad Kadrich
Observer Staff Writer

Emma Distel of Plymouth is busy these days, trying to teach English to school teachers and students during a Peace Corps assignment to Kyrgyzstan.

One problem she's run into, according to friends, is a lack of teaching materials.

So her friend, Laura Murphy, is trying to do something to help her.

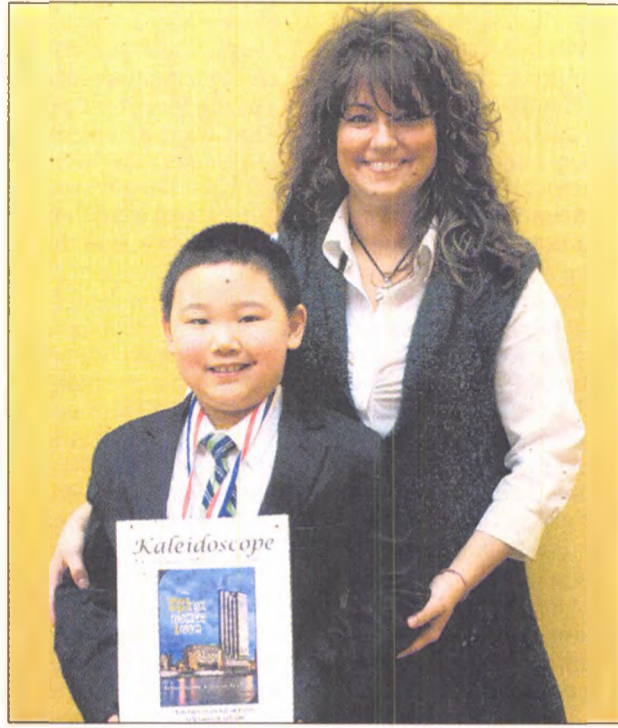
Murphy, a junior at Canton High School, is conducting a book drive to try and get some textbooks and other English-language books to Distel in Kyrgyzstan.

"About all she's got right now are Clifford (the Big Red Dog) books and some Dr. Seuss," said Murphy, a 17-year-old Plymouth resident. "She said, 'Try teaching English with Dr. Seuss. It's not easy.'"

So Murphy wants to help her. She's looking for books suitable for students in first grade through 12th grade. Books such as dictionaries, thesauruses, children's books and even some fiction, would be welcome donations.

She's already gotten some donations, and hopes to get more, from students through Plymouth-Canton's National Honor Society.

While developing the



Aaron Peng with first-grade teacher Kimberly Sparks at the Young Authors Luncheon.

Dodson student honored at Young Author Luncheon

Aaron Peng, a second-grader from Dodson Elementary School in Canton, was awarded a medal at the "Write, Right from the Heart" Young Authors Luncheon last week at the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel in Grand Rapids.

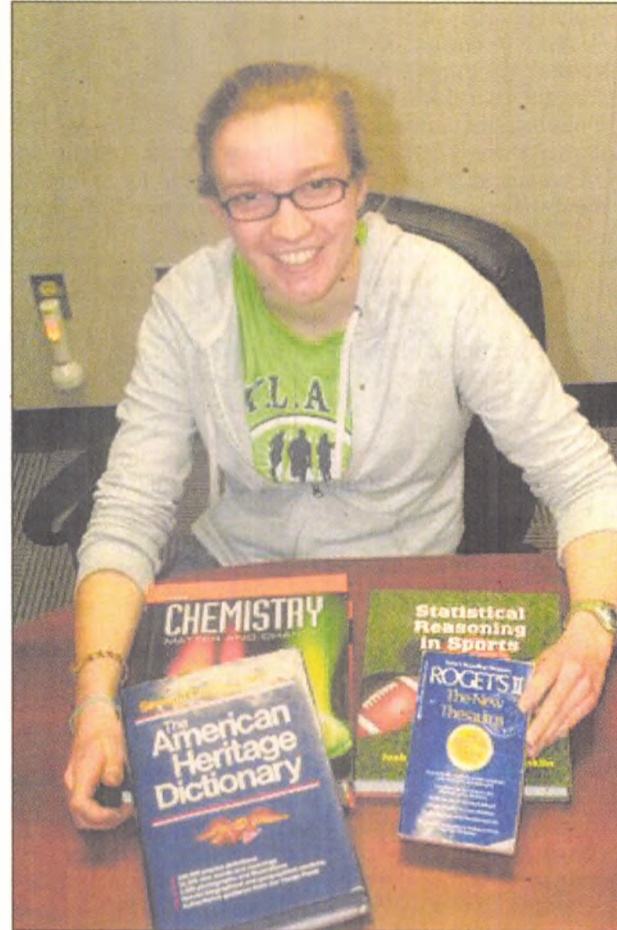
Aaron's poem, *The Beautiful Seasons*, was selected among hundreds of submissions from across Michigan and was published in the 2012 Kaleidoscope, a publication by the Michigan Reading Association.

Aaron wrote *The Beautiful Seasons* last year as part of a lesson taught by first-grade teacher Kimberly Sparks.

"The stories, poetry

and artwork submitted to this edition of Kaleidoscope," MRA's President, Sue Sharma, Ph.D. said, "represent the hard work and creative minds of talented young individuals and their supportive teachers." Sharma added teachers "play an important role in nurturing the expressive voices of young writers."

Aaron and his family were joined at the luncheon by Sparks and Dodson's Intervention Specialist, Bonnie Goodrich. The luncheon also featured special guests Karen and Darrin Brege, author and illustrator of the best-selling Mick Morris Myth Solver series.



Canton High School junior Laura Murphy is collecting books to help her friend, a Peace Corps worker, teach English to students in Kyrgyzstan.

project, Murphy learned one important fact: It's going to be expensive. She said her research shows shipping 500 books to Kyrgyzstan via the U.S. Postal Service could cost \$1,600 or more. That's why, in addition to book donations, she's certainly willing to accept monetary gifts.

While collecting books is the main thing, "Obviously, I'm always open to (money)," she said with a smile.

How to raise it was the question. Murphy talked to several people, among them Don Dignan of the Vietnam Veterans Chapter 528, who made suggestions as to how best to

raise the money.

Dignan even wrangled donations from the VVA and the VFW.

"I told her to check with the various (civic) organizations, and even go shop-to-shop," Dignan said. "Businesses are usually willing to help. It's a worthwhile project. The Peace Corps has always, since its inception, been a noble cause."

Murphy believes the project will be worthwhile not only in the short term, but also as a long-range program.

"The books will help not only students there now, it'll affect the whole infrastructure," Murphy said. "It's not just for students now, but for students to come who will be able to communicate better with the rest of the world."

Murphy hopes, if donations go well, to be able to ship the books in June.

"I'd like to get them there as soon as I can," she said. "That way Emma can introduce them to as many kids as possible."

Anyone wishing to help Murphy can contact her at lmurphy318@gmail.com (make checks payable to PCEP National Honor Society, with "Book Drive" on the memo line).

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Canton goes viral for TIGER support

By Darrell Clem
Observer Staff Writer

Canton hopes to rally area residents to support a major lobbying blitz intended to help secure \$18 million in federal dollars to reshape the traffic-snarled, accident-prone I-275/Ford Road area.

Amid support from neighbors such as Westland, Canton has created a website where area motorists fed up with Ford Road traffic congestion can find ways to contact key federal and state officials who can potentially influence the bipartisan effort.

Disappointed yet undeterred by three rejections, area officials believe residents can help sway federal officials to approve a fourth-round grant dubbed TIGER, or Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery, intended to spur jobs and fix road problems.

"The residents are going to be key to making

I-275/Ford Rd. Recommended Enhancement Concept

Features:

- Access to Northbound I-275 from Cherry Hill Rd., without use of Haggerty Rd., bypassing Ford/Haggerty intersection.
- Access from Southbound I-275 to 58 Haggerty Rd. and Cherry Hill Rd. without use of the Ford/Haggerty intersection.
- Access from Southbound I-275 to NB Haggerty Rd. without use of the Ford/Haggerty intersection.
- Potential for improved access to development parcels east of I-275, relieving congestion at Ford/Lotz intersection.



New / Realigned Road
New Service Drive Roadway



Canton Center to east of I-275. It also contains videos showing a proposal to ease traffic problems. Area officials such as Westland Mayor William

Wild strongly support efforts by Canton and the Michigan Department of Transportation to secure the federal grant.

"A lot of our folks use that interchange every day on their way to work in the morning and on their way back," Wild said.

The most-touted fix involves adding two new ramps, or slips, from the southbound I-275 exit to allow motorists to access Haggerty Road, either northbound or southbound, without traveling on Ford. The same plan calls for a northbound service drive, just east of the interstate, from Cherry Hill to north of Ford Road. MDOT already has initiated a new study to further explore that proposal and others.

"We don't care how they fix it," Canton Township Supervisor Phil LaJoy said. "But they've got to fix it." Officials from the Plym-

ouths, Livonia, Van Buren Township and other communities have previously endorsed efforts to fix the troubled interchange.

Wild said the northbound service drive would greatly benefit residents who live in the Cherry Hill Road area.

"We have a big residential component down there," he said, and a new service drive "would definitely help our traffic patterns a lot."

Safety issue

Colbeck has said efforts to steer commuters away from Ford Road would improve access to the Ford commercial strip by people who want to shop there — but who may avoid the area due to traffic bottlenecks.

Not only is traffic congestion a safety issue, he said, "it's an economic issue."

Wild said efforts to reshape the I-275/Ford

area would be far less costly than building a new interchange at Warren or Cherry Hill. Much like Canton, he said, traffic accidents have increased over the years at Westland intersections such as Ford-Hix and Ford-Newburgh.

"Those are high-accident intersections," Wild said, "and they have been for years."

MDOT officials and the Michigan Legislature have supported efforts to fix the I-275 interchange but, amid state budget woes, they would prefer to secure federal dollars to pay the bulk of the cost.

However, Colbeck said he has been told the state will pay the project's remaining \$4 million tab if the TIGER grant is approved.

"Once we get the approval from the federal government, we should be good to go," he said.

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BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Mike Mullen and his Chandler and Price letterpress.

PRESS

Continued from page A1

the PCAC on April 27 to help kick off the fundraiser, which will feature several other musical acts the next evening. Mullen, who plays guitar, is president of the Base-Line Folk Society, which gathers at the PCAC, September through May, for coffeehouse-style folk concerts.

According to Jeff Burda, executive director of the PCAC, *Endless Possibilities* will depict a child holding something undefined — a pencil? a paintbrush? a conductor's baton? — and poised to create art, symbolizing the possibilities of the work's title. The theme, Burda said, is tied to the PCAC's wide reach in the community and its array of arts programs, which include exhibits, workshops and classes in art, theater and music, sum-

mer arts camps for children, and concerts. Burda teaches part time at an area high school and is a PCAC pottery instructor.

Mullen says he has the print's design sketched out and plans to carve it into linoleum — from whence the word linocut — for his press. The carving will be a mirror image of the finished print; Mullen said part of the challenge of that style of printmaking is that it forces him to think in reverse.

"You ink the surface and whatever's left on the block takes the ink," he said.

Press 'revolutionized' trade

Mullen is thrilled with his antique press, an 1891 model "jobber" press built by Chandler & Price of Cleveland. He bought it from a man in Westland who kept it in his basement but hadn't used it

in decades. The man had bought it as a 14-year-old and had used it for small jobs to earn some cash.

"Most kids at that time had a paper route. He had a printing press," Mullen said.

The "jobber," with a maximum printing area of 8 by 12 inches, could accommodate smaller-sized projects, such as business cards and stationary, in a more cost-effective way than other presses of its time, Mullen said. "This particular style of press revolutionized the printing industry," he said.

Mullen began cleaning up the Chandler & Price, one thing led to another and pretty soon it was being completely restored, he said. He hopes to have the project finished in early April.

"That's typical when you get into a project. You think it's going to be a week or two, and now it's been three months," he said.

Foot power

The former owner had a motor mounted on the press to power it, Mullen said, but he didn't want that, preferring to use the original foot treadle instead. That'll give him more precise control over the process, he said.

Once Mullen has the linoleum carved, the printing itself should only take a couple of hours, he said. And once finished, according to Burda, the carving will be destroyed, leaving the prints as the only ones of their kind.

"You can only get it here," Burda said. The PCAC will also receive an artist's proof of the print to hang on the walls of its headquarters in Plymouth.

Mullen, who also made a limited-run print for a recent Northville District Library fundraiser, said he's glad to be able to help out. The PCAC has worked out well as a headquarters for Base-Line, which is in its third season there, and he wants to give back, Mullen said.

"That organization has bent over backwards for us and welcomed us with open arms," Mullen said.

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PCAC fundraiser to showcase local art, music

By Matt Jachman
Observer Staff Writer

Call it a party with a purpose. The Plymouth Community Arts Council, a nonprofit that offers art exhibits, classes, musical concerts and special programs, is taking a new approach to its annual spring fundraiser.

The PCAC is planning a two-day celebration with art, music, food and drink for Friday, April 27, and Saturday, April 28, at its building on Sheldon Road in Plymouth. The event will feature the auction and sale of limited-edition prints made especially for the fundraiser, a folk concert by the Pairadocs Trio on April 27, and an April 28 hootenanny with several area folk musicians, plus hors d'oeuvres and alcoholic and nonalcoholic drinks both days.

It's the PCAC's biggest fundraiser of the year, said Jeff Burda, the group's executive director. The idea is to give patrons something tangible — a print, a performance, food and drink



The Pairadocs Trio — Tom Ditkoff (left), Jeff London and Mike Mullen — will take the stage in Plymouth on Saturday, April 27, to help kick off a two-day fundraiser for the Plymouth Community Arts Council. Mullen, a printmaker, is also donating 100 special-edition prints to the fundraiser.

or just a good time — for their donations, Burda said.

"It's going to help us get through the next year as a nonprofit," Burda said

on Thursday. The goal is \$25,000 — more than any previous fundraiser, he said.

"We love the number of people that come into

PCAC for all its programs and offerings; we're committed to making that number grow through 2012 and beyond," said Deb Madonna, the PCAC

president, in a press release.

The free fundraiser kickoff will be 6-7:30 p.m. April 27 at the PCAC. Food and drinks will be served while printmaker Mike Mullen of Northville Township displays his 1891 letterpress, which he is in the process of restoring, and talks about his craft. Ninety-five copies of a limited-edition print Mullen is preparing, *Endless Possibilities*, will be on sale for \$100 each, plus the first five prints in the series will be auctioned to the highest bidders (bids will be taken beginning Friday, March 30).

Later, beginning at 8 p.m., Mullen's folk group, the Pairadocs Trio, will perform. Drs. Tom Ditkoff, an orthopedic surgeon, and Jeff London, a child psychiatrist (thus the "pair of docs") will make up the rest of the trio. Tickets are \$25 each.

On April 28, from 7-10 p.m., a folk hootenanny, with musicians that include Kathy Nieman & Friends, The Folk Laureates, and Mary Kohn and Craig Porter, will be held.

Tickets for that show are also \$25; food and drink will be served both nights.

Burda said the event is designed in part to showcase some of the arts programs which the PCAC is involved. Another event, planned for this fall, will offer visitors an even wider look at PCAC programs, he said.

The PCAC hosts art shows, offers classes in painting, pottery, music and other arts, has arts summer camps for children, hosts regular Base-Line Folk Society concerts, serves as headquarters for the Michigan Philharmonic and sponsors special events such as the summertime family concerts in Kellogg Park.

Event tickets can be purchased by phone at (734) 416-4278 or in person PCAC office, 774 North Sheldon, at Junction, during business hours: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday. Seating is limited for both concerts.

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Board meets to consider academies

By Brad Kadrich
Observer Staff Writer

Last month, Plymouth-Canton Community Schools administrators revealed plans for a number of academies they'd like to offer to freshmen and sophomores in everything from science and engineering to an international program.

On Monday, they could find out whether they actually get to offer them.

The P-CCS Board of Education meets Monday in a special

meeting to discuss the proposal for the academies, which need board approval before they can be implemented. The meeting takes place at 7 p.m. at the board meeting room, 454 Harvey, in Plymouth.

Supt. Dr. Jeremy Hughes asked for the meeting after an internal study showed not only students, but teachers, would be interested in signing up to learn, and teach, in the academies.

In a survey of ninth- and 10th-grade students, more than 200 said they'd be interested in a

Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics (STEM) academy. Another 181 showed interest in a fine/performing arts academy and 104 in a business academy.

"The numbers give us reason to want to continue this plan," Hughes told board members. "We believe there are more students who will be interested once they know the board has approved them."

In addition to the students, teachers have begun expressing interest in the academies, Hughes said. An internal inquiry showed 35 teachers expressed interest in knowing more about the academies and possibly teaching in them.

The idea for the academies came about as a result of an EPIC/MRA survey that showed local residents wanted better, more challenging programs offered as part of the district's curriculum.

"(The academies) give us more options for our students," said Tim Schoenherr, the district's director of innovative

programs. "We want to make the world bigger for our kids. We don't want any of our students to be left out."

Hughes said budget numbers for the various academies were still being worked out, but should be in board members' hands prior to Monday's meeting.

"I think it's a bold step," board president John Barrett said. "They have a chance to vastly improve our graduates' competitiveness."

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

Culinary contest

The PCEP Culinary Team (a team of four students) is taking part in the state championship competition in Lansing today (Sunday) and Monday.

Coach/teacher Diana Woodward and her students will be given a 10 foot area, two folding tables, and two camp stoves to complete their task. They must do a drill of butchery and knife skill tasks. They are then given an hour to create a three-course meal presentation with no running water, refrigeration, electricity or other heat sources of any kind.

In addition to the meal and advanced skill presentation, students also must create standardized recipes for every component on every dish, as well as a cost calculation (down to the fraction of a cent) and determine menu price. The team includes Canton High School Seniors Cayla Phillips and Tessa Warner and Salem High School seniors Hannah DeAngelis and Haley Chynoweth and alternate Meagan Gaedtkke.

National honor

East Middle School eighth graders, Paige Bimberg and Brigid Cummings, received honorable mention in a national contest.

The students entered the 2012 C-SPAN Student Cam Video Project. More than 2,000 students



East Middle School eighth-graders Paige Bimberg and Brigid Cummings.

from 43 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico submitted videos. There were a total of 1,203 videos in the competition this year. Seventy-five videos were chosen as winners, one of which was Brigid and Paige's video about the Electoral College.

The video can be viewed at <http://www.studentcam.org/>

Reading month

The Plymouth-Canton Schools love the month of March because March is Reading Month.

Each District Elementary School will celebrate with guest readers, author visits, reading competitions and themed decorations, all designed to help children discover the joy of reading. District teachers and administrators believe that reading is the key to academic success, and that's why they spend so much time and energy emphasizing reading during the month of March.

SCHOOL BRIEFS

Kindergarten signup

Plymouth-Canton Community Schools will provide all-day kindergarten for the 2012-2013 school year. Children who are 5 years old before Dec. 1 can attend kindergarten starting in September 2012.

P-CCS will enroll kindergartners online beginning March 19, 2012 by clicking on the kindergarten enrollment link at www.pccs.k12.mi.us

Residents also can enroll from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at one of the following locations:

- Monday, March 19 at Workman Elementary, 250 Denton Road, Canton
- Tuesday, March 20 at Allen Elementary, 11100 Haggerty Road, Plymouth
- Wednesday, March 21 at Tonda Elementary, 46501 Warren Road, Canton

Prior to May 7, the District will notify families which elementary school their child will attend. During the week of May 7, enrolled families will visit their child's school with these important documents: birth certificate, immunization and vision screening documentation and proofs of residency. To find out more about All Day Kindergarten, visit the District website or contact any elementary school. The Community Relations Department also can provide support at (734) 416-2757.



Energy excellence

Tom Diliberti of Energy Education Inc., presents an award to Plymouth-Canton Board of Education president John Barrett and district energy specialist Melvin Latnie. Energy Education presented the district with its 'ENERGY STAR Leader' award for demonstrating environmental leadership by significantly reducing its greenhouse emissions by 20 percent in 2012.

Chamber scholars

Plymouth-Canton Community Schools and the Plymouth Chamber of Commerce are accepting applications for the Student Citizenship Award scholarship. Nominations from all employees, parents and friends of high school seniors from the Plymouth and Canton area will be accepted before 4 p.m. on Friday, April 13.

The \$1,000 scholarship is based on community service only. Grade point average does not play a role in the committee's decision.

The selection committee will pick one student each from Canton, Plymouth, Salem, Starkweather and a non-P-CCS high school for the award. The scholarship application, which is available at the Board of Education office, requires the student to give a one paragraph description of what community service means to them, a one page bulleted list of the student's community service and a one page testimonial by the person nominating the student for the award. Inquires should be directed to the P-CCS Community Relations office at (734) 416-2757.



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The Plymouth Community United Way recognized contributors at its recent awards presentation.

Gardener: Taking out trees, plants can improve look

By Julie Brown
Observer Staff Writer

Residents are eager to get out in their gardens, judging by attendance at a recent gardening program sponsored by the Northville District Library.

Master gardener Janet Macunovich shared tips on gardening and landscaping the evening of Monday, March 5, drawing some 125 to the Northville Community Senior Center.

"It just says something nice about what people are doing for the world around them," Macunovich said of the impressive turnout.

She and husband Steve Nikkila, a photographer,

started work together in the early 1980s. "I don't believe in pie in the sky stuff," the practical Macunovich said, showing photos of a garden at The Detroit Zoo, their family gardens and those of clients.

Macunovich, author of books including "Designing Your Gardens and Landscapes," stressed the importance of clearing out trees and plants to make room for the new.

"People don't actually do it," she said. "They talk about it." It takes discipline for a gardener to give something up.

She recommends thinking about eliminating plants when they're not visible in all their glory. One needs to assess a

plant's health, too, in freeing up space.

"We didn't change the bones, we just changed the things that went in them," she said of their family gardens.

Gardeners should consider species, health and location when planting. "Things just get all overgrown, and that's difficult for us to deal with," she said.

Macunovich emphasized that perennials can be moved. "They need to go to new soil," she said, and often thrive there.

The couple has a free weekly newsletter and a website, www.GardenAtoZ.com. Their e-mail is info@GardenAtoZ.com.

jcbrown@hometownlife.com

United Way honors contributors

Over 100 business and community leaders attended the Plymouth Community United Way Annual Meeting and Awards Presentation earlier this month at Comcast in Plymouth. The event is a way to thank those who contributed to the 2011 campaign. It also serves as a showcase for several of the agencies funded by PCUW.

The morning began with a continental breakfast followed by the meeting that included reports on the nonprofit's 2011 finances and programs.

Platinum, Gold, Silver and Bronze awards were then presented by 2011 Campaign Chairman, Jeff Bell.

Among the many recipients were Johnson Controls, Comcast, General Motors, DTE Energy, UPS, Robert Bosch LLC, Automotive Components Holdings, Burroughs Payment Systems, Visteon, UAW Local 845 (Ford), and Community Financial.

Community Service Awards went to Bird and Hulsing elementary schools for collecting

nearly 10,000 cans of food for local pantries. Home Depot, at Five Mile and Beck, was recognized for donating supplies to raking events in spring and fall 2011. Panera Bread and Einstein Bros Bagels received awards for providing food for special events held during the year. One of those was last fall when 350 volunteers cleaned the yards of senior citizens and people with disabilities.

For information about giving and volunteering, visit www.plymouthunitway.org.

Authority offers lawn-care workshop


The Southeastern Oakland County Water Authority (SOCWA) is offering a free Healthy Lawn Care Workshop on Monday, March 19 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Bloomfield Township Public Library, located at 1099 Lone Pine Road.

Participants at the

workshop will learn cutting edge ways to establish and maintain a green, earth-friendly lawn. Topics covered will include; composting, soil testing, lawn care basics, weed and drought management, and a demonstration by SOCWA Master Composters.

This free event is sponsored by SOCWA in cooperation with the Bloomfield Township Public Library and is funded by a donation from the Fair Random Garden Endowment Fund. To register for the seminar please call (248) 288-5150 or visit www.btpl.org.

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County committee to get public's input on ethics ordinance

The Wayne County Commission's Special Committee on Ethics will hold a public hearing in connection with the newly proposed Ethics Ordinance at 10 a.m. Thursday inside the auditorium of Livonia City Hall, 33000 Civic Center Drive.

The Special Committee on Ethics, chaired by Wayne County Commissioner Joan Gebhardt (D-District 12), has been preparing the county's first comprehensive ethics ordinance since the continuation of the Ethics Task Force. In addition to Gebhardt, that membership included Vice Chair Alisha Bell (D-Detroit) and commissioners Diane Webb (D-Garden City), Tim Killen (D-Detroit) and Ilona Varga (D-Lincoln Park).

Present members of the Special Committee on Ethics include Gebhardt, Bell, Commission Chairman Gary Woronchak (D-Dearborn), Vice Chair Pro-Temp Laura Cox (R-Livonia) and Commissioner Irma Clark-

Coleman (D-Detroit).

"By conducting this public hearing we will receive public input and hear many of the concerns coming from our constituents," Gebhardt said. "This will allow the committee to process this information and continue to take the necessary steps in resolving many of the issues that have generated a recent fury in Wayne County."

Controversy has surrounded the county since late September when it was revealed that its former economic development director received a severance payment of \$200,000 when she left her county job to become CEO of Metro Airport.

The furor that followed resulted in the termination or resignation of high-ranking appointees in the administration of County Executive Robert Ficano. The new airport CEO returned the money and later was fired from the airport position.

Art exhibit features work of high school friends reunited after retirement

The Livonia Arts Commission is presenting "Double Vision," an exhibit featuring the artwork of Mary Ann Relyea of Plymouth and Mary Kehoe of Farmington, two high school friends who rekindled their friendship after retirement and found that they had remarkably similar careers.

"Double Vision" is on display in the Fine Arts Gallery at the Livonia Civic Center Library on Five Mile east of Farmington Road. A meet-the-artists reception will take place 2-4 p.m. Sunday in the gallery. The exhibit is open during library hours through March 24.

The two artists attended Our Lady of Mercy High School, their shared interest in art making them fast friends. For four years they practiced painting, drawing and other art forms under the guidance of Sister Ignatius in her fine arts class. Upon graduation, they went their separate ways to further their educations. They both majored in fine art, with Relyea attending Mount Mary College in Milwaukee and Kehoe attending Marygrove College in Detroit.

Over the ensuing years, the two lost track of



'Hines Park 5' is by Mary Ann Relyea, a pastel artist who enjoys creating landscapes and other scenes from locations in Michigan.



Gracie the cat is the subject of this piece by Mary Ann Relyea.

each other while following remarkably similar career paths. Relyea taught art at Mount Mary College, then in Michigan at Benedictine, St. Paul's on the Lake and Bishop

Gallagher. She spent the last 15 years of her teaching career at Gabriel Richard. She was named teacher of the year in 1999.

Concurrently, Kehoe taught art in the Detroit Public Schools for a time before leaving to raise a family. After her children

were grown, she returned to teach in Detroit. She was named art teacher of the year in 2006.

After retirement, both women continued creating artwork, enjoying the friendship of fellow artists, whom they found by joining local art clubs. It was at the meeting of one such club, decades after high school, that the two found themselves sitting next to each other. In conversation, they surprisingly discovered that they were the same "girls" that years ago had become friends in Sister Ignatius' art class. They resumed their close friendship and continue to share their interest in the arts, taking classes and going to meetings together.

In addition to working on their art, the two enjoy traveling. Each has taken many trips to foreign countries where they find inspiration for much of their work. In their work, the women have different techniques. Kehoe is known for brilliant-colored watercolor paintings. Relyea primarily is a pastel artist, creating landscapes and other scenes from locations in Michigan. She also works in colored pencil. One such work, *Three Images of Bruce*, won an award of excellence at the 2011 Colored Pencil Society of America national convention in Dallas.

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To all residents and other interested parties: Agenda's and Minutes for the Charter Township of Plymouth Board of Trustees Meetings are available for review under the Reference Desk Page of the Township Website: www.plymouthtwp.org . They are also posted in the Clerk's Office at Plymouth Township Hall, 9955 N Haggerty Road Plymouth, Michigan for public perusal.

Meeting dates: January 10, February 7, March 6 & 20, April 17, May 8 & 22, June 12

The public is invited and encouraged to attend the Board of Trustees Meetings.

Joe Bridgman, MMC
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Publish: February 12 & 16, March 4 & 18, April 15, May 6 & 20, June 10 2012

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Women of Ravensbruck: Portraits of Courage

A new exhibit is on display at the Holocaust Memorial Center Zekelman Family Campus in Farmington Hills.

The exhibit, "Women of Ravensbruck: Portraits of Courage," which opened on Sunday, details the lives of those imprisoned at Ravensbruck, the Nazi's major concentration camp for women, with a special focus on the few survivors with ties to southeast Michigan. It will be on display through June 24.

The exhibit features the stories of local women, other survivors researched by the late artist Julia Terwilliger, and those who did not survive Ravensbruck. The local women included in the exhibit are:

- Lola Taubman of Ann Arbor
- Agi Rubin of Farmington Hills
- Irene Zuckerman-Snitchler of Southfield
- Paula Barton-Marks of West Bloomfield
- Elizabeth Wees of Novi

Terwilliger's artwork has immortalized the faces of the women of Ravensbruck in one of the newest exhibits of Holocaust art to emerge. The exhibit centers around seven large wooden panels with mixed media and photo transfer images of Ravensbruck women, young and old, those who survived and those who did not.

The collection contains original artifacts from the camp, including a handmade recipe book and gifts secretly exchanged by the women.

Holocaust Memorial Center Executive Director Stephen M. Goldman conceived the idea for the



Visitors stopped to read the stories of the women featured in the 'Women of Ravensbruck: Portraits of Courage,' a new exhibit at the Holocaust Memorial Center in Farmington Hills.

exhibit in collaboration with guest curator Dr. Rochelle G. Saidel in 2001 while he was the director of the Florida Holocaust Museum.

"This is a long overdue testament to these women who survived deplorable conditions and inhumane treatment," said Goldman. "We wanted to honor the local survivors of Ravensbruck and pay homage to all those who were imprisoned against their will - many of whom did not survive to see the camp liberated."

Art, history

The exhibit, on loan from the Holocaust Memorial Center, features both art and history. In addition to Terwilliger's artwork, the exhibit includes historical photographs, documents, and other informational materials plus rare artifacts. The exhibit is supported by Lauren and Sam Bienstock in honor of their family members imprisoned at Ravensbruck, who are featured in the exhibit.

Florine Mark, of Farmington Hills, president and CEO of Weight

Watchers Group, was the keynote speaker at the opening ceremony on Sunday, March 11. Her speech, "The Courageous Women Inside Each of Us," honored the women of Ravensbruck and acknowledge all women as part of National Women's History Month.

"We are very honored to have Florine Mark speak at the opening ceremony," said Goldman. "Her leadership role in the community and business expertise is an inspiration not only to women, but to all of us."

The Holocaust Memorial Center is located at 28123 Orchard Lake Road in Farmington Hills. Hours are Sunday through Thursday from 9:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. (last admission at 3:30 p.m.); and Friday from 9:30 a.m. - 3 p.m. (last admission at 1:30 p.m.). The museum is closed on Saturday and public holidays. Admission is \$8 for adults, \$6 for seniors and college students and \$5 for children.

For more information, call (248) 553-2400, or visit www.holocaustcenter.org.



PHOTOS BY JASON LOUDERMILK | BRETT MOUNTAIN PHOTOGRAPHY

Agi Rubin of Farmington Hills points to some of the artifacts included in the exhibit. She is one of the women featured.

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Filing for an extension can solve tax problem

By Rick Bloom
Guest Columnist

Q: Dear Rick: I have a tax problem. I've always filed my returns on time and I've never had an extension. Last year, a friend of mine was having trouble in his business and asked if I was interested in investing in it. It wasn't that much money and I wanted to help my friend, so I did. As I was getting ready to file my tax return, I find out the business, which actually made money last year, had received an extension to file a tax return. I was told that I shouldn't file my return until I get the documentation (K-1) from the business. Unfortunately, I'm not going to get the K-1 until April 15. I am beside myself and not sure what I should do. My tax



Money Matters

Rick Bloom

amend my return. I don't want to do either. I want to file my return on time. I do not want to get in trouble with the IRS. What should I do?

A: Don't worry. These things happen all the time. It's not unusual for a business to need extra time to file a return, even though it does cause issues for individual owners of the business.

preparer, who is not a CPA, told me I can either file for an extension or file my return without the business information and then

I recommend filing for an extension. I recognize that you've never filed for an extension before and it's not something you would prefer to do. However, I believe it is the best option for you.

Filing an amended return causes more scrutiny by the IRS and it's also more costly.

Filing an extension is no big deal. It does not increase your audit risk, nor will it bring you unnecessary IRS scrutiny.

As the deadline nears to file tax returns, it is not unusual for taxpayers to either not have the necessary information they need to file or not have time to do it. In those situations, I always recommend an extension. In fact,

extensions are so common these days that you don't even need the IRS's permission to get an extension. By filing Form 4868, you automatically receive a six-month extension. In addition, when you apply for an extension from the federal government it automatically applies to the state of Michigan. It is preferable to file for an extension than to either file an incorrect or sloppy tax return.

One caveat

There is, however, one caveat. It is an extension of time to file your return, not an extension to pay your taxes. In other words, your taxes are still due by the April tax deadline so you are required to guesstimate your tax liability. If you estimate you are going to owe money to the state or federal government, you still have to pay that by the April deadline.

In your case, since this is the first year you are

receiving a K-1 for business income, you can ask the business to give you a guesstimate as to what your income will be for tax purposes.

When it comes to taxes, I constantly hear all sorts of misinformation. Generally, it comes from people who hear something from one of their friends. People forget that not every return is audited and that as crazy as it sounds, most of our tax laws are self-enforcing. The great majority of Americans are law-abiding citizens. They follow the law when it comes to filing returns. Just because someone got away with something, doesn't make it legal.

More reporting

Everyone should be aware that there are more reporting requirements than ever before. In the past, there were certain income items that weren't reported on forms such as 1099 and,

thus, some people chose not to report that income. In today's world, businesses are under more of an obligation to report different types of income.

If you don't report income when you should, not only will you be assessed the taxes, but you could be hit with interest and penalties.

In addition, keep in mind that the interest the IRS assesses is more than the interest you'll get at the bank and penalties can be severe — upward of 50 percent of the amount of tax that is owed. Therefore, filing a correct tax return is the right thing to do and financially the smart thing to do.

Good luck!

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

Bill would penalize 'swatters'

People who make false calls to Michigan emergency response centers could face felony charges under legislation unveiled by Rep. Kurt Heise to help combat a disturbing national trend known as "swatting."

"Swatting" usually entails using the Internet to make false emergency phone calls to 911 centers, in the hopes of getting a SWAT team or similar first responders to show up at an innocent person's address. House Bill 5431, introduced by Heise, makes the crime a felony punishable by up to four years in prison.

"Swatting" is a reckless and wanton act that endangers people's lives and drains our already limited taxpayer resources," said Heise, R-Plymouth. "Calling a 911 center with the sole intention of getting multiple first responders to show up is abhorrent, and we should prosecute these offenders to the fullest extent of the law."

By using "spoofing technology," swatters can make it look like calls are actually coming from the supposed victims of violent crimes such as kidnappings or hostage situations.

"The innocent victims of swatting have literally been woken up in the middle of night to find SWAT teams, with guns drawn, at their window or doorstep," Heise said. "Our emergency first responders don't have the time or resources to respond to false crisis events. We need to take a strong stand against swatting before an innocent victim or emergency first responder is killed, or resources are misdirected."

HB 5431 is now under consideration by the House Judiciary Committee.

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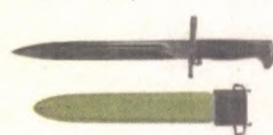
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GIRLS LACROSSE PREVIEW

Year 2 on tap for girls lacrosse

By Tim Smith
Observer Staff Writer

Believe it or not, the spring sports season is getting started — even as state tournaments for winter sports continue.

First up is lacrosse. The Plymouth-Canton Educational Park girls and boys lacrosse teams officially begin the 2012 season this week.

And Saturday's "Black and Blue" tournament gave the PCEP boys players the chance to get in some scrimmages against other squads.

Today, it's time to take a look at how girls lacrosse teams are taking shape as they embark on their second season as standalone varsity squads:

Canton

The March weather is hot, and that's how Canton head coach Dave Bower hopes his team will be when it opens up at 7 p.m. Friday at Farmington.

But Canton, 6-13-1 overall and 4-6 in the KLAA Lakes Division in 2011, will open up without top scorer Stephanie Bower.

The senior co-captain and attacker is recovering from knee surgery and will probably miss the first half of the season. Bower scored 47 goals last year, earning a second-team all-state selection.

Without the scoring threat, coach Bower looks to get more offense out of senior attacker/co-captain Kaitlyn Allard (23 goals, 30 points), sophomore attacker Sara Davenport, senior midfielders Annelise Niermann (24 goals, 26 points) and Julie Podorsek (23 caused turnovers) and junior midfielder/defender Cassidy Tucker.

"We're working to build more balance into the attack this year with more scoring off passes rather relying so heavily on individual skill to get to goal," Bower said.

Senior leadership will be another key to the season, especially until

Please see LACROSSE, B3



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

On Saturday, Tim Baechler will be welcomed into the Michigan High School Football Coaches Association Hall of Fame. But the football field at the Park is his favorite place to be.

Driven to lead

Hall of Fame-bound Baechler loves football, working with kids

By Tim Smith
Observer Staff Writer

THE BAECHLER FILE

Tim Baechler was consumed by football as a youngster in White Pigeon, Michigan.

"It's a small town," Baechler said. "... There's nothing else to do but play sports."

Now age 44, he hasn't changed. Exhibit A is his outstanding record since taking over in 1998 as Canton High School's head football coach — 120-37 and a trip to the Division 1 state finals in 2005. His overall record in 23 years is 173-67.

Exhibit B is around the corner. Baechler will be inducted into the prestigious Michigan High School Football Coaches Association Hall of Fame this Saturday at the Ann Arbor Sheraton.

But for Baechler, he'd rather focus on Exhibit C. Perhaps a letter or chance interaction with a former player maybe a decade or more after high

Who: Tim Baechler, 44, veteran head football coach at Canton High School. He also is a physical education teacher there.

What: He is being inducted into the Michigan High School Football Coaches Association Hall of Fame. Fourteen inductees are being honored for 20 years of coaching and/or 100 wins. Baechler is a 23-year coach with a record of 173-67 at five schools (Onsted, White Pigeon, Hudson, Dexter, Canton).

Ceremony: 7:30 p.m. Saturday, March 24 at the Ann Arbor Sheraton. The guest speaker is University of Michigan head coach Brady Hoke.

Misc: Baechler is an eight-time winner of the MHSFCA Coach of the Year Award. He led the 2005 Canton squad to the Division 1 state finals.

Mentors: Sports-loving father David Baechler (deceased), mother, Marlynn; his former coaches, including White Pigeon High School's Marv Schneider, Pat West and Adrian College's Ron Labadie.

Family: He and wife Julie live in Plymouth. Their children are Broc, 14 (a Canton High School freshman) and Lou, 12 (All Saints Catholic School). He has two living older siblings (Jeff, Jodi). Another older brother, David Jr., is deceased.

school ended. "What you really take pride in is when kids write you a letter, parents write you a letter," he emphasized. "Those

feel better than a paycheck or a win does. Or when they come back when they're 30, and they

Please see BAECHLER, B3

Tee it up

Golfers who can't wait to swing their clubs have just the place to go.

Beginning Friday, Pheasant Run Golf Club opened up for business. There are 18 holes available to play.

This spring's unusually warm weather prompted the early opening. For more information, or to book a tee time, please call the Pheasant Run Pro Shop (734-397-6460) or visit www.golfprgc.org.

ShamRock 'n Run Sunday

More than 3,100 runners and their families will go to Kellogg Park in Plymouth for Sunday's inaugural ShamRock 'n Roll Run. There will be 10K and mile-long runs and a 5K run/walk all slated for the event, which begins 8:15 a.m.

Runners should wear a "rocker" costume or anything green to celebrate the Rock 'n Roll theme and St. Patrick's Day all rolled up into one fun, festive day. Organizing the event is the Kona Running Co.

For more information, call Alicia Douglas (734-231-7172) or e-mail her at aliciadoug@aol.com.

Coaching clinic set

The Michigan Youth Athletic Association will be hosting its fourth annual football coaching clinic March 23-24 at St. Mary's Cultural Center, which is located at 18100 Merriman Road in Livonia.

Among the invited speakers are University of Michigan head coach Brady Hoke and Detroit Catholic Central head coach Tom Mach.

The registration fee for the two-day event is \$50. A staff of 10 will receive a discounted rate of \$400.

The clinic will be held 5-9 p.m. March 23 and from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. March 24. A social event will be hosted by the MYAA immediately following Friday's session.

For more information, visit www.miyaa.org.

MU's Naubert lauded

The National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics announced the 2011-12 Division II Men's Basketball All-America teams and Madonna University sophomore Bobby Naubert was selected to the honorable mention team.

A 5-10 guard, Naubert averaged 15.0 points, 6.41 assists and 3.9 rebounds per game in leading MU to an 18-13 overall record and a 12-6 mark in the WHAC, good for third place.

Canton's Pletsch soaks in college hockey spotlight

By Tim Smith
Observer Staff Writer

Ted Pletsch's dad is commissioner of the CCHA, but the 21-year old Bowling Green University hockey player isn't calling his parents in Canton to ask for any special favors.

That's because the Falcons are flying on their own — shocking the college

hockey world by upsetting then-No. 1 Ferris State and advancing to this weekend's big stage, the CCHA Championship at Joe Louis Arena.

"Growing up in Canton, I think I played one or two minor hockey games there (JLA) when I was younger," said Pletsch, a



Bowling Green freshman forward Ted Pletsch (No. 21, left) competes during a recent game. The Canton High School alum and his Falcons teammates played the University of Michigan in Friday night's CCHA Championship semifinals.

2008 graduate of Canton High School. "That was really fun and now to play a Division I hockey game there in front of thousands of fans is going to

be unbelievable." Of course Fred and Kelly Pletsch must be riding high themselves, with the way Pletsch and his teammates have shown their

exceptional mettle during the CCHA Tournament, which continued through this weekend. (Bowling Green and Michigan were tied 2-2 and headed into

a second overtime when this issue of the *Observer* went to press.)

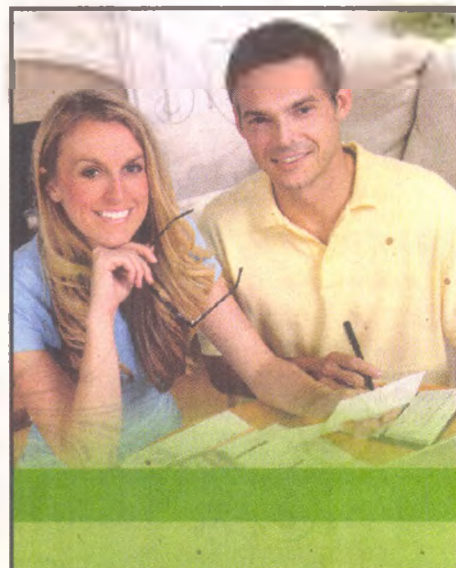
"It's been very exciting," said Pletsch, a freshman checking forward at Bowling Green who cut his formative teeth as a hockey player at Arctic Pond in Plymouth with teams such as the Ice Dogs and Penguins.

"First to beat Northern (Michigan). They were rich and people thought we were going to lose that weekend and we proved them wrong. "Then against Ferris (on Sunday in Big Rapids), down 3-0 going into the second period and just fighting our way back. Yeah, it's been a really great run."

No time to quit

Pletsch said Bowling Green needed to rally in Game 2 against North-

Please see PLETSCHE, B2



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Battling for a puck along the boards are Bowling Green's Ted Pletsch (No. 21) and an unidentified opponent.

PLETSCH

Continued from page B1

ern Michigan in the first round just to have a chance to win that series. The squad's resilience was really ramped up against Ferris State in the deciding game of the best-of-three quarterfinal. "Every guy had the opportunity to quit and just throw in the towel," he continued. "But guys kept fighting and we eventually got the job done. No one wanted to have our season end." No matter what happened at JLA, Pletsch is optimistic that the Bowling Green tourney run might help players get closer looks from professional scouts.

"Bowling Green's never made it this far since 2001," he continued. "So I'm sure there will be a lot of scouts there from every league you can imagine. I think it's definitely going to open up some doors for everyone on the team, myself included." After this weekend's games, it will be back to Bowling Green for more classes and training for his sophomore season. If he needs advice, he knows where to get it. While playing in AAA leagues in the Plymouth-Canton and Farmington areas during high school, he wasn't sure how far he wanted to go in the sport. Enter Fred Pletsch to prop up his spirits. "He's helped me a lot throughout my hock-

ey days," Ted noted. "Through high school I was kind of iffy if I wanted to continue playing or not. He would just encourage me a lot to keep playing, keep working toward my goal of eventually getting to play Division I hockey." The Canton native took his dad's advice to heart and moved up to Ottawa, Ontario, Canada to play for the Pembroke Lumber Kings, a junior team in the CJHL/CJHL. "It was tough for a few years," Pletsch said. "But eventually it worked out for the best." There's no denying that fact, as he revels playing under the bright lights.
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Salem slugger Powell signs with Davenport

Although Alexis Powell has one more season on Salem's varsity girls softball team, she is looking ahead, too. The Salem senior recently signed to play softball at Davenport University, where she will be coached by Ronda Varnesdeel. Rocks head coach Bonnie Southerland and Plymouth-Canton Educational Park co-athletic director Tom Willette were on hand for Powell's signing ceremony, along with Alexis's mom, Mary Powell. In an e-mail to the Observer, Southerland raved about the talent and versatility the three-year starter brings to the Salem program — and will bring to Davenport. "Alexis is on pace to set some serious hitting records (in) her senior year," Southerland noted. "Alexis' primary position is catcher, but she has also



Salem varsity softball player Alexis Powell recently signed to play college softball at Davenport University. Pictured (from left) are Mary Powell (Alexis's mom), Alexis Powell, athletic director Tom Willette and Salem coach Bonnie Southerland.

seen some time at first, third and even shortstop. With this kind of versatility, it makes her a very valuable player." In 2011, Powell led the Rocks with 13 home runs and earned all-conference, all-Observer, all-district and Salem Offensive MVP honors. "We are very excited to

get this season going with Alexis leading the way," Southerland continued. "Alexis by far has probably (one of) the hottest bats in the KLAAs going into this season." Salem's official game schedule begins Monday, April 16, when the Rocks host Dearborn Edsel Ford in a doubleheader.

Whalers' bid for OHL title comes down to finale

The Plymouth Whalers defeated host Sault Ste. Marie 5-3 on Wednesday and entered their final game with a chance to at least grab a share of the Ontario Hockey League overall and Western Conference titles. Plymouth (47-17-2-1, 97 points) received an assist in the championship quest when Windsor defeated London 2-0 on Thursday. The Knights defeated Sarnia 3-2 on Friday and also have 97 points entering Satur-

day's game against Erie. The Whalers, meanwhile finished the regular season with Saturday night's home game against Sarnia. Whoever wins the Western Conference will be the top seed for the OHL playoffs. Plymouth already is champion of the West Division. In the win at Sault Ste. Marie, the Whalers were sparked by forward and Farmington Hills product Alex Aleardi's three-goal hat

trick. The performance gave Aleardi 36 goals, second on the team to forward Stefan Noesen, who has 37. Plymouth built a 5-0 lead after two periods and managed to ward off a late rally by the Greyhounds. Other goal scorers for the Whalers were forwards Mitchell Heard (29th) and Jamie Devane (23rd). Making 27 saves to pick up the win was Plymouth goalie Scott Wedgewood.

Crusaders double up CMU

By Ed Wright
Observer Staff Writer

The Madonna University baseball team "Cook"-ed up a noteworthy road victory Tuesday afternoon in Mount Pleasant. Led by junior Matt Cook, the Crusaders spoiled Central Michigan University's home opener by posting a 6-3 triumph at Theunissen Stadium. Cook shined on the mound and at the plate, shutting out the Chippewas for five innings after relieving starter Jeremy Gooding in the bottom of the fifth — while reaching base five times in a hitter's role. The Crusaders, who improved to 15-9, scored all of their runs with two outs.

"I'm very proud of our team today," said Madonna head coach Greg Haeger. "We played hard and were shorthanded, missing a few key starters. Our pitchers did a good job keeping us in the game and we got some key two-out hits at the plate." Sparked by Jordan Dean's solo home run, CMU (6-10) chalked up a three-spot in the first inning off Gooding, who yielded three hits, two walks and one earned run while striking out two in four innings. The Crusaders sliced their deficit to 3-1 in the third when Josh Deeg singled with two outs and scored on Dan Harder's double. Madonna tied it at 3-3 in the top of the fifth.

After the first two batters were retired, Deeg singled before Harder and Cook walked. Billy Hardin III then delivered a clutch two-run double. The Crusaders scored three in the seventh to seize the lead for good. Harder singled with one out, but was picked off. Cook and Hardin drew back-to-back walks before Spencer Sarel plated Cook with a two-out single. The first two CMU batters reached in the ninth, but Cook worked out of the jam, striking out the final batter. Harder continued his torrid hitting with three hits. Deeg was 2-for-5 with a pair of runs scored.

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Thurs. April 26...6-10pm

1-DAY CPL CLASSES
Sunday, April 1...8am-8pm
Sunday, April 15...8am-8pm

2-DAY CPL CLASSES
Saturday, April 21...8am-4pm
Sunday, April 22...8am-Noon

WOMEN'S CPL/CCW
Sunday, April 29...8am-8pm
Taught by Women for Women

PERSONAL PROTECTION SERIES I
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LACROSSE

Continued from page B1

Stephanie Bower returns. Besides Allard, Niermann and Podersek, the Chiefs will be led by senior attacker/co-captain Julia Beard (who will attend Robert Morris University along with Allard, both on lacrosse scholarships), senior midfielder/co-captain Jenny Nyberg and senior defender Kristin Larsen.

Larsen will have support on defense, namely by Tucker and junior Kelly Harris.

"Both (Tucker, Harris) are second-year players with a ton of potential on both ends of the field," Bower said.

Laura Murphy, a junior, brings speed and defensive savvy to the back and junior newcomer Nicole Farley adds depth.

Sophomore Melissa Neal, who made 128 saves last year, returns as Canton's starting goaltender.

"Melissa has worked very hard in the off-season to improve her skills in goal," Bower said. "We expect her to continue her strong development."

The Chiefs also boast several promising newcomers. Those include sophomore attackers Sara Davenport and Megan Bis, sophomore midfielder Annika Nulder and junior midfielder Amanda Nowicki.

"We are continuing to develop and grow the program," Bower said, "expanding from 32 to 36 girls in the program from last year. I anticipate that we will build on our record from last year."

Plymouth

Led by a dozen seniors eager to leave their mark on Plymouth's girls lacrosse program, the Wildcats are eager to open the season at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday at PCEP against Ann Arbor Huron.

"Our goal this year is to compete with some of



The Canton girls lacrosse team is gearing up for Wednesday's start of the regular season. From left are Chiefs head coach Dave Bower, team co-captains Jenny Nyberg, Kaitlyn Allard, Stephanie Bower, Julia Beard and assistant coach Sara Tidewington.



Shown from this 2011 game is Salem scoring threat Rose Krasofsky (No. 96). She is one of the team's key returnees.

the more elite teams in the state and make a run in the playoffs," Plymouth head coach Bob Hill said. "In order to do that, we have to go through some very talented teams here at the Park, as well as Northville and South Lyon."

Senior co-captains

Katie Hill, Shannon Lubin and Grace Stover will be called upon to grab the leadership reins after the team lost seven girls to graduation.

Hill scored 90 goals along with 127 draw controls last year, while Lubin tallied 14. Chipping in with 21 draw controls

was Stover.

But the Wildcats will look for contributions from other seniors — Samantha Arsenault, Emily Lehr, Jordyn Burdick, Janie Roberts, Nicole Brodzik, Amber Beattie, Avalon Dewaele, Amanda Kne and Dori-
enne Sherrod.

Minus senior Nicole Natelborg to open the season (due to a hockey injury), the Wildcats' offense will rely on juniors Haley Swanson (26 assists), Clare Cox, Shelby Crosier, Jillian LaRoy, Ali Holmquist, Julia Hahn, Jamie Dottavio and Mariah Lax.

Returning goalkeepers are junior Sarah Messer and sophomore Megan Wieloch.

Coach Hill added that the program is starting to grow.

"We have several girls who have never played the game before, so our future prospects look very bright," he said.

The future will be very bright if some of the promising freshmen and sophomores make an impact.

He listed Justine Barnes, Carly Clark, Elisabeth DeClaire, Charyl Ewing, Piper Gasaway, Carly Gustafson, Hannah Riley, Michelle Burke, Andra and Jessica Cristiu, Rachel Kelly, Sophie Miller, Elizabeth O'Donahue and Gretch-

en Schoen as being in that group.

Salem

When the Rocks take the field for Friday's season opener against Ann Arbor Gabriel Richard, they will look to parlay varsity experience into improved results.

Head coach Dave Medley lost some key players to graduation (goalie Meghan Eldridge, defenders Katie Meagher, Allie Carter and attacker Alexis O'Connor) but is optimistic that with 14 returnees in the fold things will improve from last year's 4-14 record.

Some of the players who Medley will lean on are junior Shannon Fitzpatrick and sophomores Kiersten Vala, Jenna Carter and Rose Krasofsky — last year's top scorer.

"There is a core group with stick skills and speed that spent time as starters last season," Medley said.

What might determine how quickly the improvement takes hold will be how newcomers mesh with the veterans, Medley noted.

Salem will rely heavily on returning seniors Alex Godre and Lauren Harber "to mentor the newcomers" as well as for supplying on-field talent.

Junior co-captains Leah Schrauben and Alissa Amell and Bridget Maul each begin their third season.

Other returnees such as junior Sarah Bowerman and sophomores Laura Britton, Sarah Edgecomb and Bridget Kerwin have continued making progress from what they showed late last season.

In goal will be freshman Samantha Howe.

Medley said the young team remains a work in progress: "I believe player confidence will grow should we have early success."

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(734) 469-4128

BAECHLER

Continued from page B1

tell you how the memories were so awesome.

"They don't forget things that you did or things that you said."

Although Garrett Bryden isn't 30, he's another example of the football brotherhood that Baechler relishes. Bryden graduated from Canton in 2011 and the football player is entering his sophomore year at Northwood University.

But last week, Bryden visited Baechler and other coaches while on his spring break.

"I was just proud of him," said Bryden, about his reaction upon hearing of Baechler's award. "I was glad that I was here to be a part of it with him, he worked hard his whole career and I'm just glad he got it."

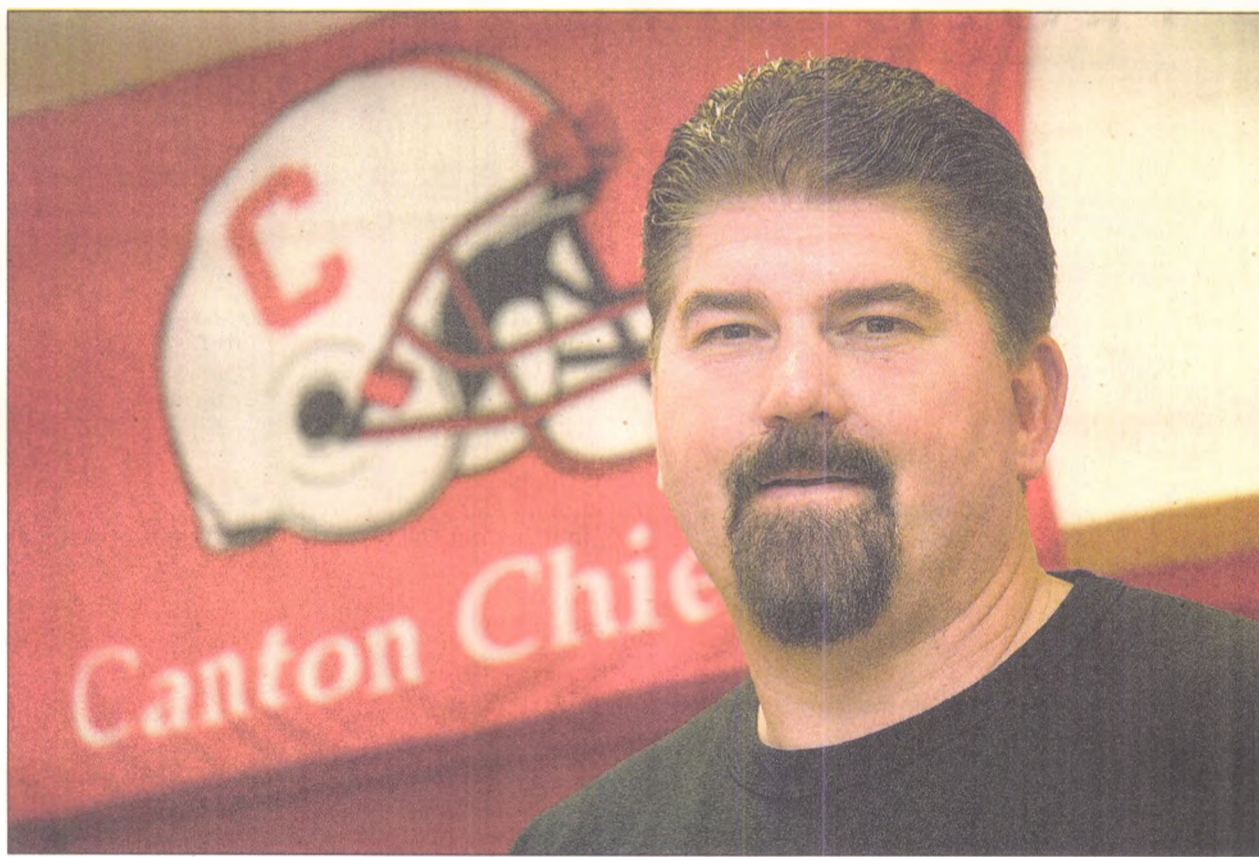
"He got me to where I am today, the football player I am, the man I am, just a role model of my life. I couldn't ask for anything more as a high school football coach."

Learning to compete

Baechler doesn't forget any of the people who molded him into the successful man and coach he is today.

He points to his roots, his earliest role models such as his father (the late David Baechler) and older brothers David Jr. (deceased) and Jeff.

"You have to love it to do it (coach)," Baechler said. "Who first really put that in me was my dad and my brothers. I was the youngest in my fami-



During 14 seasons coaching the Canton Chiefs, Tim Baechler's record is outstanding. But he also points with pride to helping young men learn lessons that can help them throughout life.

ly. I had one brother nine years older than me and another seven years older.

"They were great brothers to me. We fought like anybody else, but they played sports with me. They taught me."

Baechler's self-described "ferocious" manner on a football field also goes back to those days.

"Growing up with older brothers makes you learn how to compete," he stressed. "At White Pigeon where I grew up you were expected to win football games. We had a really good football program and you were just expected to win."

"I think growing up there has helped me be

THROUGH THE YEARS

Following is Tim Baechler's win-loss record since taking over the Canton varsity football team:

1998, 3-6; 1999, 4-5; 2000, 8-4; 2001, 9-2; 2002, 9-2; 2003, 11-1; 2004, 10-1; 2005, 11-3; 2006, 12-1; 2007, 5-4; 2008, 10-2; 2009, 10-2; 2010, 10-1; 2011, 8-3. (Total: 120-37)

the kind of coach I am. I love the game, expect to win, fierce competitor and love working with kids."

Team benefits

To that end, Baechler has a no-cut policy on his football team. Yes, he wants to win — badly. But he sees his role as being there for all kids, regardless of talent levels.

"We don't cut here. there's a lot of kids that...

will probably never get on the field or not very often," he explained. "But football's good for them, it's good for them to be around us, and my coaches are good role models."

If Baechler had anything to say about it, those very coaches would have their names inscribed along with his on the Hall of Fame plaque.

He wrote down names of coaches on a sheet of

"My assistant coaches, especially in 1998 when I first took over, the previous year they'd only won one game. So there was nowhere but up to go with this."

Despite struggles, such as records of 3-6 and 4-5 the first two years, those assistants continued to encourage Baechler.

"We'd get back after a loss, put the film in and ... you just question everything you do," he recalled. "And they're like 'No, stay with it, stay with this.'"

"I hired the right guys because they saw improvement, they saw where we were headed and I needed that."

Where Canton's football program was headed was a string of 10-victory seasons and playoff success.

Time to teach

And when 2012's training camp rolls around, Baechler and his staff will once again demand excellence and superior work ethic. It will be time to get after it and try to keep raising the bar.

But Baechler emphasized there's another component to being a Hall of Fame-worthy coach that has nothing to do with the team's record.

"I think every coach uses football as a learning tool to teach kids lifelong lessons," Baechler said. "Football is so like life. In football sometimes things are good, sometimes they're not and the only way to get through it is to keep working hard, and that's life."

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SPORTS ROUNDUP

AAU openings

The LaZers AAU Girls 16U Elite Basketball Club has openings for the spring/summer season. Varsity level players are sought for the team. Call Coach Z for information at (734) 286-1009 or e-mail him at zgodadominic@sbcglobal.net.

Play GCYBSA ball

Registrations are now under way for the Greater Canton Youth Baseball Softball Association's baseball and softball programs.

The GCYBSA offers progressively developmental recreational baseball and softball programs for players age 4-18 from Plymouth and Canton. GCYBSA is also home to a Competitive League and travel programs (Boys Cardinals, Girls Pride Fast Pitch).

For more information, go to www.gcybsa.com or contact Coralee Ott at (734) 394-5358, via e-mail at cott@canton-mi.org.

Baseball clinics

Baseball fundamentals are on tap for youngsters looking to improve their skills, at the forthcoming Plymouth Wildcats Youth Baseball Clinic.

Participants in grades 1-8 will receive age-appropriate instruction from 2012 Plymouth varsity baseball coaches and players. Stations will include hitting, pitching, infield, outfield, catching and radar gun readings.

Sessions, in the Plymouth High School gymnasium, will take place: 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday March 17 (for those in grades 1-4); Saturday March 31 (for those in grades 5-8).

The pre-registration cost, which includes snack, is \$20. The fee is \$25 the day of the

clinic. Pre-registration is urged, as the camp is limited to 100. Go to www.baseball.plymouthwildcats.com for more information.

YMCA spring leagues

The Plymouth Family YMCA is accepting registrations for spring co-ed soccer and girls volleyball leagues.

Both leagues run from April 16 through June 9. There will be one practice and one game each week. The cost is \$84 for program members or \$115 for community members. The registration deadline is March 30.

If you are interested in participating or coaching your child's team, please contact the YMCA at (734) 453-2904 or visit www.ymcadetroit.org.

Salem baseball camp

Learn all about baseball from Salem's varsity players and coaching staff.

The annual Salem Varsity Baseball Clinic will take place Saturdays March 24 and 31 in the high school gym.

For a fee of \$28, kids will get three hours of instruction, focusing on pitching, hitting and all phases of fielding, along with a T-shirt.

Each player should bring a baseball glove and hat to one of the following sessions, space permitting:

Session 1: Saturday, March 24, 9 a.m. to noon, ages 11-14; 14; Session 2: Saturday, March 24, 1-4 p.m., ages 7-10; Session 3: Saturday, March 31, 9 a.m. to noon, ages 7-10; Session 4: Saturday, March 31, 1-4 p.m., ages 7-10.

For more information, call Mary Theisen at (734) 354-9181 or e-mail salemrocksbasesball@gmail.com.

All-American frosh

Canton grad Lipa wastes no time making mark at Cornerstone

What a rookie season it's been for 2011 Canton High School grad Lindsay Lipa.

She just concluded her freshman indoor track and field season at Cornerstone University with a pair of freshman records and an All-American honor to her name.

Lipa competed as a sprinter and jumper for the Chiefs throughout her high school career and upon entering Cornerstone she was turned into a multi-event athlete which combines the sprints, hurdles, throws, jumps and middle distance events.

She broke the freshman mark in the long jump (18-foot, 0.5-inches) early in the season only to see her mark get topped by her teammate (and roommate) Brittany Green of Monclova, Ohio.

Lipa did however manage to hang on to two freshman records by season's end which included the triple jump (35-1.75) and pentathlon (3,144 points).

"Both the triple jump and pentathlon were new events to Lindsay this year, which speaks to her athleticism," said Cornerstone coach Paul Koutz.

The pentathlon (60 meter hurdles, high jump, shot put, long jump, and 800 meters) was where Lindsay earned her All-American plaque.

Competing at the NAIA



Cornerstone's Lindsay Lipa (No. 8) leads the pack during a recent indoor track and field meet. Lipa graduated in 2011 from Canton High School.

National Championships in Geneva, Ohio, Lipa entered the competition with the eighth best mark, and her rank held true to form as she snagged the final All-American slot with her eighth place finish scoring 3,101 points.

Throughout the five event competition, Lipa only managed to secure

one personal best performance which was in the 800 meters where she clocked a time of 2:24.87.

Lipa and the rest of the Cornerstone University Golden Eagles will transition to the outdoor track season with the Grand Rapids Open, hosted by Aquinas College, on March 31st.

GC's Williamson steps away from boys hoop job

By Ed Wright
Observer Staff Writer

The final 32 minutes of Greg Williamson's long and illustrious high school basketball coaching career unfolded Friday night a lot like the past 20 years had: with the veteran Garden City mentor and former Canton resident guiding a team of big-hearted, undersized players who battled to the final buzzer.

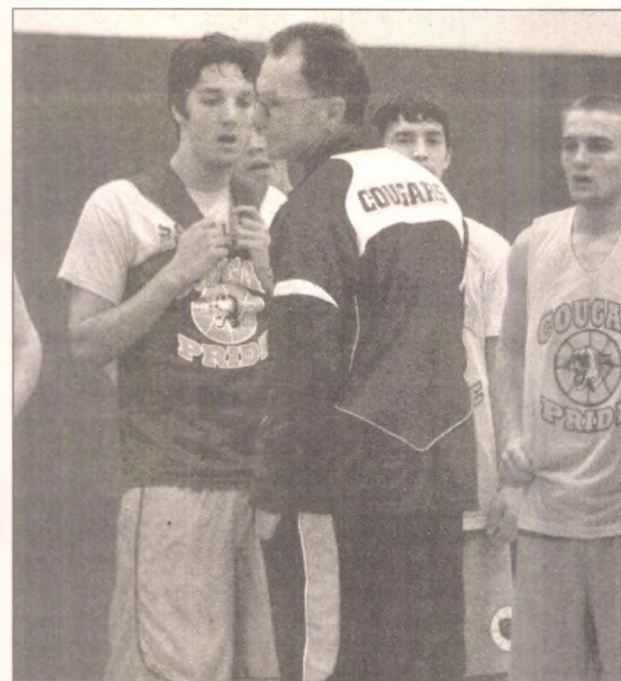
Not long after Williamson's Cougars' 53-51 down-to-the-wire setback to Redford Thurston in a Class A district final — with his players scrapping to the very end — the highly-respected coach officially announced his retirement from the profession, bringing the curtain down on 30 years of positively shaping young men's lives.

Williamson's brother and longtime assistant coach Mike also stepped down.

"My brother and I weren't real sure if we were going to coach this year, but my fiancée' (Carol Collins) encouraged me to come back for one more year," Williamson said Tuesday night, not long after his final team banquet had wrapped up. "I'm glad I came back."

Williamson said he kept his plans to retire from coaching "low profile" most of the season.

"But at our final home game (on March 2) against Southgate, they held a little ceremony for me, so the players found out then, if they didn't



Garden City boys basketball coach and former Canton resident Greg Williamson, pictured during a November practice, resigned last week after 20 years at the school.

know already," he said. "The thing I'll remember most about coaching here are all the players and people I've come to know. It always made me feel good when another team's coach would comment on how hard we played."

Williamson's teams captured back-to-back Class A district championships in 2000 and 2001.

"It always helps to get a 6-10 big guy who can play," Williamson said, smiling, referring to Justin Ockerman.

Williamson's steady leadership qualities and knowledge of the game will be missed, Garden City athletic director Rob Phillips emphasized.

"As a coach and as a person, Greg is near the top of the list when

it comes to people I respect," said Phillips. "Greg got everything he could get out of the players. And he treated everyone equally — whether you were the best player on the team or the 12th player on the team."

Williamson, who retired as a counselor at Garden City High School two years ago, said he and Collins plan to spend more time in Florida.

"Although I'll still be attending a lot of Garden City games," he said. "It's in my blood."

Prior to taking over at Garden City, Williamson coached at Detroit Catholic Central and Allen Park Cabrini.

ewright@hometownlife.com
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STATE OF MICHIGAN
COUNTY OF WAYNE
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH

SUMMARY OF ORDINANCE NUMBER C-2011-09

AMENDMENT TO SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL ORDINANCE

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE NUMBER C-91-19, THE SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL ORDINANCE; PROVIDING FOR PURPOSE AND FINDINGS; PROVIDING FOR DEFINITIONS; PROVIDING FOR ADMINISTRATION; PROVIDING FOR RECYCLING OF SOLID WASTE; PROVIDING FOR SOLID WASTE HAULER DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES; PROVIDING FOR OWNER RESPONSIBILITY; PROVIDING FOR HOURS OF COLLECTION AND STORAGE OF SOLID WASTE; PROVIDING FOR PROHIBITIONS; PROVIDING FOR LICENSE PROCEDURE; PROVIDING FOR REGULATIONS AND DUTIES OF LICENSEES; PROVIDING FOR REFUSAL OR REVOCATION OF LICENSE; PROVIDING FOR PENALTIES; PROVIDING FOR REPEAL OR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR PUBLICATION AND EFFECTIVE DATE.

THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH ORDAINS:

SECTION 1. AMENDMENT TO ORDINANCE.

Ordinance Number C-91-19, the Solid Waste Disposal Ordinance is hereby amended to read as follows:

CHAPTER 72
SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL

72.005. Purpose and Findings. This section provides for the purpose and findings of solid waste collection.

72.010. Definitions. This section provides for the definitions of terms used in this Chapter.

72.015. Administration. This section provides for the operation and administration of this Ordinance under the direction of the Township Board.

72.020. This section provides for license requirements and interference with collection.

72.025. Recycling of Solid Waste. This section provides for the recycling of solid waste.

72.027. Solid Waste Hauler Duties and Responsibilities. This section provides for solid waste hauler duties and responsibilities.

72.030. Owner Responsibility. This section provides for owner responsibility

72.040. Hours of Collection. This section provides for hours of collection.

72.050. Storage of Solid Waste. This section provides for storage of solid waste.

72.060. Weekly Collection. This section provides for weekly collection.

72.065. Prohibitions. This section provides for prohibitions.

72.070. License Procedure. This section provides licensing procedures for solid waste haulers.

72.075. Regulations and Duties of Licensees. This section provides for regulations and duties of solid waste hauler licensees.

72.080. Refusal or Revocation of License. This section provides for refusal or revocation of a license.

72.090. Penalty. This section provides for penalties and fines.

SECTION 2. SEVERABILITY.

This section provides that any unenforceable section can be severed from the resot of the Ordinance.

SECTION 3. REPEAL OF CONFLICTING ORDINANCES.

This section provides that all Ordinances or parts of Ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed only to the extent necessary to give this Ordinance full force and effect.

SECTION 4. SAVINGS CLAUSE.

This section provides that adoption of this Ordinance does not affect proceedings, prosecutions for violation of law, penalties and matured rights and duties in effect before the effective date of this Ordinance.

SECTION 5. PUBLICATION.

This section provides that the Clerk for the Charter Township of Plymouth shall cause this Ordinance to be published in the manner required by law.

SECTION 6. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This section provides that this Ordinance, as amended, shall take full force and effect upon publication as required by law.

Copies of the complete text of this Ordinance are available at the office of the Charter Township of Plymouth, 9955 N. Haggerty Road, Plymouth, Michigan 48170, during regular business hours.

Joe Bridgman, MMC
Township Clerk

Introduced: February 7, 2012
Adopted: March 6, 2012
Effective: March 18, 2012

Publish: March 18, 2012

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Growing with God: Catalyst ministry sparks faith of twentysomethings



Members of the Northville Christian Assembly's Catalyst Young Adult Ministries meet in the home of Art Thomas in Plymouth Township.

By Julie Brown
 O&E Staff Writer

James Loruss, 21, of Novi is a senior at Madonna University, studying film music scoring. He's a regular with Catalyst Young Adult Ministries of Northville Christian Assembly.

"The Holy Spirit," Loruss said of his attendance at the 7:30-9 p.m. Thursday sessions at evangelist Art Thomas' home in Plymouth Township. "It's just good communion and good fellowship."

At parties, he's offered drugs and alcohol, and finds attending Catalyst helpful with handling that. "It's where I connect mostly with my church friends. It makes it easy to say no," Loruss, who is single, said.

Thomas is an evangelist with the church on Six Mile as his home church. He earned an associate's degree in early childhood development from Schoolcraft College.

"That's why I work with young adults," joked Thomas, 27, who has ministerial credentials through Assembly of God. He's married to Robin, who's active in the ministry, and the couple has a 1-year-old son Josiah and another child due in late September.

Reaching out

Catalyst has met about two and a half years at their home, as well as other homes, the church and restaurants. It's aimed at those post-high school through their 20s, with the oldest an early 30s.

"The high schoolers

all have youth groups," Thomas said. "The young adults tend to drift off."

A recent Thursday session included a time of prayer and Scripture reading from Isaiah. "It's kind of structured and kind of free-flowing," Thomas said.

He likes to begin by asking, "What's God been doing in your life?"

They've had music but don't usually.

"We've got people in all stages," Thomas said. "It's a very volatile time for people," he said of that stage of life, when career, relationships and faith questions often dominate.

Rebecca Hunt, 27, of South Lyon is single and works as a secretary at the church, which about three-quarters of the group attends. "We've



PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

As pastor Art Thomas (left), speaks, Michael Kimling Jr. gives a friendly pat on the head to Thomas' wandering tyke, Josiah, during a meeting of Northville Christian Assembly's Catalyst Young Adult Ministries.

known Rebecca since we were all in youth group together as teenagers," Thomas said.

She agreed it's a great experience. "It really just encourages me to stay committed in my walk with Christ. It helps me grow in my walk with Christ."

She learns more about the Bible, adding "There's always more to learn." She's interested in cre-

dentials for writing spiritual books.

"I just really like the diversity of our group, the age differences," said Hunt, who also appreciates the openness.

'Grown so much'

Marie Quaranto, 30, of Canton is single and works as a nanny. She's a longtimer like Hunt.

"I love this group," Quaranto said. "I feel like

I've grown so much since I started coming here." She finds she's grown in knowledge, boldness and more.

"The way I perceive events has changed," said Quaranto, who sees "more of God's hand in my life."

Jeff Holloway, 29, of Westland is recently married and a security offi-

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Own a bully breed or plan to adopt one? You may be eligible to take your furry companion to one of Michigan Humane Society's (MHS) veterinary clinics for free spay and neuter services, rabies and distemper vaccinations, heartworm testing and pre-surgical blood work.

MHS is distributing certificates that are redeemable at its Westland, Detroit or Rochester Hills clinics for the health services, valued at \$220-\$335. There are no pet owner eligibility restrictions based on income or residence, but the dogs

must be a pit bull-type dog, such as an American Pit Bull Terrier, American Staffordshire Terrier, Staffordshire Bull Terrier, Cane Corso and Presa Canario.

"There are definite challenges facing the breed," said Kevin Hatman, public relations coordinator. "Every single rescue out there is seeing a large number of Pit Bulls. And with the stigma about the breed, there are adoption challenges. We're trying to target the problem at the source."

Pit Bull-type dogs make up about 35 percent of MHS' canine intake. Hat-

man said the organization finds homes for about 100 every year.

Certificates are available by calling MHS at (248) 283-1000, Ext. 127. MHS' Cruelty Investigation and Rescue teams that operate in Detroit, Hamtramck and Highland Park also will distribute them.

Hatman said MHS hopes to expand the program's reach by giving certificates to several animal rescues that will in turn distribute them to others. Those groups include Animal Care Network, the Buster Foundation, C.H.A.I.N.E.D., Detroit Bully Crew and

the Friends of the Dearborn Animal Shelter.

For information about other MHS programs, visit www.michiganhumane.org.

Chili dogs

If you love eating chili, helping dogs and playing hoops, you'll want to reserve Saturday, March 31 for the annual Chili Hoops and Hounds event presented by Tail Waggers' 1990, a Livonia-based animal welfare group.

The fun (and eating) runs from 1-5 p.m. at UAW Local 182, 35603 Plymouth Road, located next to Kickers/Joey's

Comedy Club, in Livonia.

Taste samples for \$1 each or buy an all-you-can-eat chili wristband for \$15 and help determine the "People's Choice Award." Honors also will go to the "Best Tasting Chili" and "Best Table Decoration."

This family event will include an inflatable, inter-active basketball challenge, face-painting, magic, entertainment and more.

For more information about Tail Waggers' 1990 visit www.tailwaggers1990.org.

By Sharon Dargay



Screening program adds gluten, food allergy testing to its schedule

United Health Organization (UHO), the non-profit group that coordinates community-wide health screenings, will kick off an expanded schedule of tests on March 23.

Its screening program at 45 sites in Michigan runs through May 12.

"This year we're encouraging participants to begin anew. It's never too late to make a fresh start in pursuit of a healthier lifestyle," stated Ifetayo B. Johnson, executive director of UHO and Project Healthy Living, in a press release.

Many of the basic screenings for fitness, obesity, hypertension, vision and hearing remain free of charge. New blood screenings include a cereal allergy panel for \$20, food allergy panel for \$20 and Michigan region respiratory allergy panel for \$30. A four-hour fast is recom-

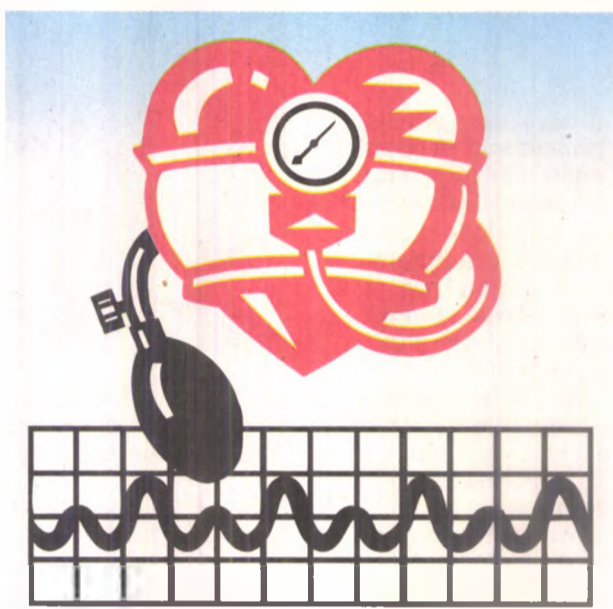
mended before testing.

Individuals can pre-register to be screened at their preferred location using Fast Track, UHO's online registration system. All Project Healthy Living events are free and open to the public. Participants must be at least 18 years or accompanied by a guardian.

Telemedicine, a personalized healthcare service via audio/video teleconferencing, will be tested at selected sites in the metro-Detroit area during Project Healthy Living.

For more information about UHO, Project Healthy Living, its events, fee schedules, screenings, locations and times, call the hotline at (313) 531-9108 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday-Friday, or visit the website at www.projecthealthyliving.net.

UHO will kick off the program from 10 a.m. to



4 p.m. March 23 at Baker College in Allen Park.

Local testing sites include:

- 6 a.m. to 2 p.m. March 30 at the Costic Center, 28600 11 Mile, Farmington Hills
- Noon to 6 p.m. April 2

and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. April 3-4, at Westland Shopping Center, 35000 W. Warren, Westland

- 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., April 11 at the Livonia Senior Center, 15218 Farmington Road, Livonia

GARDEN & NATURE

Library series

The Redford Township District Library, 25320 W. Six Mile, offers a free series of gardening classes, 6:45 p.m. Monday, through March 26. Topics are trellises, arches and vertical plantings, March 19; and spring gardening — do it the right way, March 26. Advanced Master Gardener LeRoy Wolff is the instructor. Register at adult reference desk, or call (313) 531-5960, Ext. 103.

Butterflies

"Southeast Michigan Butterfly Association (SEMBA) celebrates its 5th anniversary, 7 p.m., Wednesday, March 21, at Nankin Mills Nature Center, 33175 Ann Arbor Trail, Westland. Includes refreshments and a program to highlight the events and growth of this local group of butterfly gardeners. Parking on Hines Dr. or Ann Arbor Trail. \$3 for non-members.

The group also meets at 7 p.m. Wednesday, April 18 at Nankin Mills. The meeting topic is "Butterfly Garden Enhancements." Participants will learn how to create and install accessories and enhancements for their butterfly gardens. Admission for non-members is \$3. Questions? Call (734) 326-0578 or visit www.sembabutterfly.com.

English Gardens

• Get tips on landscape design at 1 p.m. Saturday, March 24.

• Kick off spring with a look at what's new for the garden at the annual Garden Party Weekend, Saturday-Sunday, March 31-April 1.

Area stores are at 155 N. Maple, Ann Arbor, (734) 332-7900; 22650 Ford Road in Dearborn Heights, (313) 278-4433; 4901 Coolidge Highway, Royal Oak, (248) 280-9500; and 6370 Orchard Lake Road, in West Bloomfield, (248) 851-7506. For information, log onto www.EnglishGardens.com.

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SOCIAL SECURITY

Many people are wrongly rejected when they apply for Social Security Disability benefits. Money was taken out of their paychecks for Social Security taxes to ensure that they would receive disability benefits if they could no longer work full-time. Sadly, the government denies approximately 60% of those who apply for disability benefits.

Attorneys J.B. Bieske and Jennifer Alfonsi have 42 years combined experience representing only Social Security disability clients. And they personally meet with all clients and appear themselves at all court hearings. Many large firms assign inexperienced attorneys to your case. And some of these firms are located thousands of miles away and only fly the attorney in the day of the court hearing. Attorneys Bieske and Alfonsi have vast experience before local Michigan judges.



Attorneys Bieske and Alfonsi can often make a winning difference at the application stage. And, if an appeal is necessary they have won several hundred cases before a court date is even set.

Those denied can appeal on their own but statistics for many years reveal that those represented by attorneys win a much higher percentage of appeals. And attorneys who specialize in Social Security Disability cases win a much higher percentage yet.

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

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

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

www.ssdfighter.com

Popular event sells out, but raffle sale continues

By Sharon Dargay
O&E Staff Writer

Ann Peczynski and Livonia, her sisters and friends will get together Thursday for a "girl's night out."

"They'll share their time together with more than 900 other women at an annual event that celebrates laughter and raises money for Angela Hospice's bereavement programs.

"It's a fun event. It's a woman's event. It's a positive event," said Peczynski, who has attended "Laughter Lifts You Up," since it began five years ago. She initially attended the gathering, which includes a comedian, food and raffles at Laurel Manor, because she works in the business office at Angela Hospice in Livonia and wanted to support the nonprofit organization. Since then the outing has become a girl's night out tradition for herself, her sibling and friends.

"I think word of mouth has spread through the years," Peczynski said. "I look at it as everyone could use a little laughter in their life."

She's not surprised tickets sold out a week before the event.

"We had to add more tables. We're at capacity," said Barbara Iovan, Angela Hospice events director. "It has grown considerably over the years. This is 100 more (tickets) than last year."

Iovan said "save the date" reminders went out to past attendees in January. The majority of women who attend the March 22 event will arrive in groups, although individuals are welcome, too.

Although event tickets are gone, supporters can buy raffle tickets through Wednesday, March 21, for baskets of gift certificates that offer their own "night out" or "day on the town" experiences.

Tickets cost \$5 each or \$10 for three. Winners



Enjoying "Laughter Lifts You Up" last year are Deborah Marway (left front row) of Canton, Rozanne Fleszar of Novi, Toni Clark of Commerce Township, Kelly Thomas (left back row) of Livonia, Sandy Minidis of Wyandotte, and Marge Aramian of Northville.

don't have to be present to win the "Girls on the Go" gifts, valued at a total \$2,300; the "Girls Goin' Shopping" basket, worth \$1,964; or the "Girls in the Groove," package, valued at \$1,680.

"They are wonderful packages. We have all kinds of experiences ... Meadow Brook Theatre, Westland shopping center, many wonderful restaurants, salons," Iovan said. "We have a wonderful package from Laurel Manor, Silver Tree Yoga, The Henry, which is a nice hotel in Dearborn, and Henry Ford Museum."

Raffle proceeds also

go toward bereavement programs that are available for free to the general public. That includes group and one-on-one counseling.

"We have programs for children and loss of spouse support groups. We have a group for loss due to suicide. We have a quilters group. We have heartstrings, for the loss of a child under 25."

Raffle ticket forms — and a complete list of businesses that have donated to the gift baskets — are available from the Angela Hospice website at www.angelahospice.org. Or call Iovan at (734) 953-6045.

Although Laughter Lifts You Up has become Angela Hospice's largest fundraiser, Iovan said it's not just about fundraising.

"It really is kind of a thank you to people in a way," she said, adding, "It's a great event."

Save the date for Angela Hospice's next fundraiser, its 24th annual golf outing, 9:30 a.m. Monday, May 14 at Fox Hills in Plymouth. Cost is \$185 per person and includes a continental breakfast, use of the driving range, a barbecue lunch, golf with a shotgun start at 11 a.m., silent auction, raffles, and dinner.

BOWLING NIGHT BENEFITS SCHOLARSHIPS

Rotary Club of Plymouth A.M. is offering a way for you to have fun, while benefiting students at the same time.

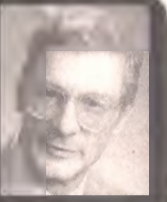
Its scholarship fundraiser, Bowling for Dollars for Scholars, will begin with registration at 6 p.m. Friday, March 23, at Plaza Lanes, 42001 Ann Arbor Road East, Plymouth. Cost is \$20 and includes two games, shoes and pizza.

Rotary Club of Plymouth A.M. meets at 7 a.m. Tuesdays at the Plymouth Community Arts Council, (PCAC), 774 N. Sheldon, Plymouth. It awards six to seven scholarships annually.

Buy tickets in advance by calling the PCAC at (734) 416-4278 or by calling the Rev. Dorian McGlannan at St. John's Episcopal Church, at (734) 453-0190. Tickets are available at both the arts center and the church.

Arthritis Today

JOSEPH J. WEISS, M.D.
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EXERCISE

When a doctor talks to a patient with arthritis about activity the patient should undertake, the instructions are different from what a cardiologist would advise a heart patient or an internist suggest to a diabetic.

A cardiologist wants his patient to engage in vigorous activity that puts a slight strain on the heart. The idea is that the effort should both challenge and strengthen the heart to pump with more power and for an extended period.

An internist needs the diabetic to take on an activity program throughout the day. Then the body can utilize insulin at a low but continuous level that replaces the highs or lows of blood sugar that occur with long periods of sitting and intermittent eating.

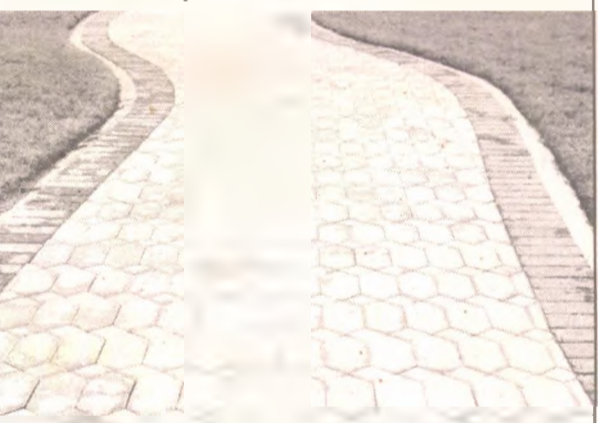
In contrast, a physician on advising exercise to a patient with osteoarthritis of the knee will concentrate not on power but on constancy. The rule is: keep walking. How far a person walks or how long he or she stays on the trail or treadmill does not matter. What counts is to keep going in a steady manner. This type of ongoing and mild strain is what joints can handle best and muscles adapt to readily. The result is an increase in strength and endurance.

For patients with Fibromyalgia instructions are the same as for individuals with arthritis, with one exception: persistence. For a patient without Fibromyalgia, daily exercise means four to five times a week. For a patient with Fibromyalgia daily exercise means seven days a week. The patients with Fibromyalgia need more because the activity is not just to build muscles but is the medication that treats the condition itself.

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REUNIONS

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CLASS OF 1982 For information about the 30-year reunion on Saturday, Oct. 20, at Fr. Patrick O'Kelley Knights of Columbus in Dearborn, visit the "AHS Class of 82" page on Facebook, or contact Diane Goodreau at dianeschofield@sbcglobal.net or (313) 363-0523; Jim Linaras at godofouzo@yahoo.com; or John Zadikian at zman6754@aol.com.

DETROIT MACKENZIE CLASS OF 1962

50th reunion, Friday, June 1. For more information e-mail mackenzie1962@gmail.com or phone Mavis (Higgins) Farrand at (734) 675-5675 or Sandy (Turnbull) Dillaha at (734) 281-8595.

FARMINGTON HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1967

Organizers of the 45th reunion on July 21 are looking for classmates. Send your e-mail address to Susan (Himmelspach) Whittaker at S_whittaker@comcast.net or Fred Gregg at fredge1@comcast.net to receive a reunion packet.

GARDEN CITY HIGH SCHOOL EAST CLASSES OF 1968-1973

Reunion Sept. 22. Looking for classmates. Check out the "Garden City High School (East) Reunion 2012" on facebook.

Or e-mail to Cindy Eads Frens at irish4200@hotmail.com, Debi Cassidy Haller at debi.haller@gmail.com, Doris Fugaban Williams at doris1226@wowway.com, Lee A Gilligan at ee.gilligan@att.net, Sue Cook at stasselmyer@charter.net, SuzieWright Rogiero at suzierogiero@yahoo.com, Jackie Kalifut at jackieidson@gmail.com or Jeff Fordell at jeffreyfordell@comcast.net.

LINCOLN PARK HIGH CLASS OF 1962

Planning for 50-year reunion, set for Sept. 15, is under way.

For more information or to RSVP e-mail Jean Badoud-Riddell at fictionweaver@sbcglobal.net, Marilyn Roy Snyder at Marilyn@Marilyn-JSnyder.com, Jim Barton at jbarton@genesisfinancial.com or Carol Jehle at jehlecarol@aol.com.

NORTHVILLE HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1971-75

The classes are joining together to celebrate with a reunion on Aug. 4. Reunion organizers are searching for classmates from those years. Send your name, address, phone and e-mail to nhs40yearreunion@gmail.com. The organizers will send more details after receiving your information.

REDFORD THURSTON HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1962

Looking for classmates for reunion on Sept. 8. Contact: nikkiwestberg@yahoo.com or Sue (Hughes) Morman at (734) 414-9941 for more information.

WAYNE MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1957

Looking for classmates for the 55th class reunion to be held May 19. For more information contact Wanda Putman Boice at boice@aol.com or pollygirl219@aol.com. Or call Richard Smith at (248) 747-6817.

CLASS OF 1962

Looking for classmates for 50th class reunion on May 19. E-mail to Judy (Ramsey) Oleson at joleson@sbcglobal.net or call her at (586) 268-1663 or e-mail to Kathy (Quinn) Hayes at bustchr@aol.com.



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Alex O'Connor, (right) prays with other members of the Northville Christian Assembly Catalyst Young Adult Ministries.

GOD

Continued from page B5

cer for Domino Farms. He'd like to be a pastor and is working on a master's degree in pastoral ministry at Madonna.

"I would probably say encouragement," Holloway said. "It challenges me to have a deeper relationship with God."

Jared Dietrich, 28, of Livonia will teach English overseas, and is married. "We're here to support each other," he said. "For me, it's great just to be with other like-minded people."

Also joining in the discussion that recent Thursday was Annisa McElhenny, 18, an Oakland Community College student who wishes to become a nurse, and is the daughter of the Northville Christian Assembly pastor. The young adults were joined by Art Thomas' parents, Gaylord and Linda Thomas, formerly of Plymouth Township and now living in Wears Valley, Tenn.

The senior Thomases were in town for a celebration of their 50th wedding anniversary, and joined in the discussion with the younger Christians.

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Trade couch for court during March Madness

Consumed by March Madness?

The Society of Vascular Surgery suggest that arm chair hoopsters put their tournament brackets aside and pick up a basketball between now and the national collegiate men's basketball championship on April 2.

"Instead of simply cheering, try some fancy footwork," said David H. Stone, M.D., a member of the Society for Vascular Surgery. "Participate in March Madness by shooting a few hoops."

For a person weighing 150 pounds, 30 minutes of basketball can burn off:

- 153 calories shooting hoops solo
- 204 calories during an informal game
- 272 calories during a five-on-five game of basketball

"Your vascular system will have a great work out," Stone said. "Vigorous exercise such as basketball pumps your blood and lowers your blood pressure. This helps to keep your

weight down. These are all positive health benefits."

For the slam-dunk of vascular health:

- Participate in 30 minutes of exercise daily. This may reduce the risk of stroke, the fourth leading cause of death in America according to the United States Center for Disease Control and Prevention's 2010 National Vital Statistics Report. In 2010, 137,000 Americans died of stroke.
- Eat healthy.

- Don't smoke.
- Maintain a healthy body weight.

The lack of regular physical activity results in 250,000 deaths annually according to a report in the medical journal, *Circulation*. Least physically fit individuals have a mortality risk 4.5 times higher than physically fit persons.

Non-invasive vascular disease screening tests and medications are available. For vascular health information, visit: VascularWeb.org.



Partnership promotes home medical monitoring

By Sharon Dargay
O&E Staff Writer

Huron Valley Ambulance has expanded its in-home health monitoring service, HVA LifeLink to St. Mary Mercy Hospital, which is offering the program as "Mercy LifeLink" to its patients.

"This is our first partnership with a hospital," said Joyce Williams, public affairs manager for the Ann Arbor-based ambulance provider. "It is new for St. Mary Mercy and the partnership is new. St. Mary Mercy has a senior ER and this is a value-added service. They can talk to seniors about it while they are in the ER."

Individuals who buy the service pay a one-time \$25 set-up fee and \$27.90 monthly. They receive a pendant or bracelet that includes a call button and a communications console that includes a powerful speaker. When patients press the button after experiencing an accident or medical emergency, the system, which is tied into the home phone line and an electrical outlet, dials a preprogrammed responder, such as a neighbor, friend, family member or the Mercy LifeLink call center.

Nicole Karbacz, program coordinator, said the monitoring device has a 300- to 400-foot range. A patient can be outside of their home and successfully activate the system if they are in range.

"If they are inside the house and they press the button, they typically are able to communicate back and forth with the dispatchers," Karbacz said. "The value added to our system is that its a 911 dispatch center. The people who answer the phones are medically trained. They know what questions to ask."

The call center can dispatch an ambulance if necessary. If the call comes from a customer in Plymouth, Plymouth Township or one of the other communities that HVA serves, it sends one of its ambulances. If it comes from another city, such as Livonia, that HVA doesn't serve, it can dispatch the appropriate ambulance provider.

Williams views Mercy LifeLink as an extension of the "buy local" concept because its call center is local. Bigger services with a national reach typically send calls out of state, she said.

"We're customer service oriented," added Karbacz, noting that a LifeLink representative installs the monitoring console in the home. "We want to make sure they understand what the buttons are on the panel, what the benefits are. We want to make them comfortable with it."

David Spivey, president and CEO of St. Mary Mercy Hospital said in a press release, that the new Mercy LifeLink system is designed to "keep patients safe, healthy and living independently."

MEDICAL DATEBOOK

March

GARDEN CITY HOSPITAL

• Get Up and Move, an invigorating exercise program, aims to help you to make an easy transition back to an exercise program or get you started for the first time. It meets at 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. Tuesday, March 20, 27 and Thursday, March 22, and 29. Fee is \$30 per month; for more information call (734) 458-3242.

• Learn how to relax, stretch and breathe while creating balance, strength and flexibility for both the body and mind through yoga, 4 p.m. Tuesday, March 20 and 27 and 6:30 p.m., Wednesday-Thursday, March 21-22 and 28-29. Wednesday-Thursday classes are held at the Westland Specialty Center, 35600 Central City Parkway, Westland. Tuesday classes meet at the hospital in Garden City. Garden City Hospital is located at 6245 Inkster Road, Garden City.

PAP TESTS

The University of Michigan Health System will offer free Pap tests from 1-4 p.m., Saturday March 24 at the Briarwood Building 2, Suite B, 400 E. Eisenhower Pkwy., Ann Arbor. Women over 21 who have not had a Pap test in the last two years, and who do not have health insurance that covers such tests, may register by calling the U-M Cancer Answer Line at (800) 865-1125.

HEART WALK KICK-OFF

Anyone interested in becoming a team captain for the American Heart Association's 2012 Metro Detroit Heart Walk on May 12, at Ford Field in Detroit, may attend the Team Captain Kick-off, 6-7:30 p.m. Thursday, March 22 at the American Heart Association office, 40 Oak Hollow, suite 220, Southfield. RSVP or get more information by calling Kathryn Brennan at (248) 936-9508 or e-mail her at Kathryn.Brennan@heart.org.

April

April

MICHIGAN BARIATRIC INSTITUTE
The Michigan Bariatric Institute offers a free educational seminar, from 6-7:30 p.m., April 5 at St. Mary Mercy Hospital, located at 36475 Five Mile in Livonia. For more information call (877) 949-9344.

Ongoing

AQUATIC CLASSES

The YMCA of Metropolitan Detroit and the Arthritis Foundation have partnered to offer aquatic classes designed to ease the pain of arthritis. Classes are held 11 a.m.-noon Tuesday and Thursday at the Farmington branch; 1-1:45 p.m. Monday and Wednesday at the Livonia branch; and 2-3 p.m. Wednesday and Friday, at the Birmingham branch. All classes are offered to members and nonmembers of every age and participants do not need to know how to swim to participate. To join, interested individuals can contact their local YMCA branch or visit www.ymcadetroit.org.

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 Stk. #12048 36 MPG

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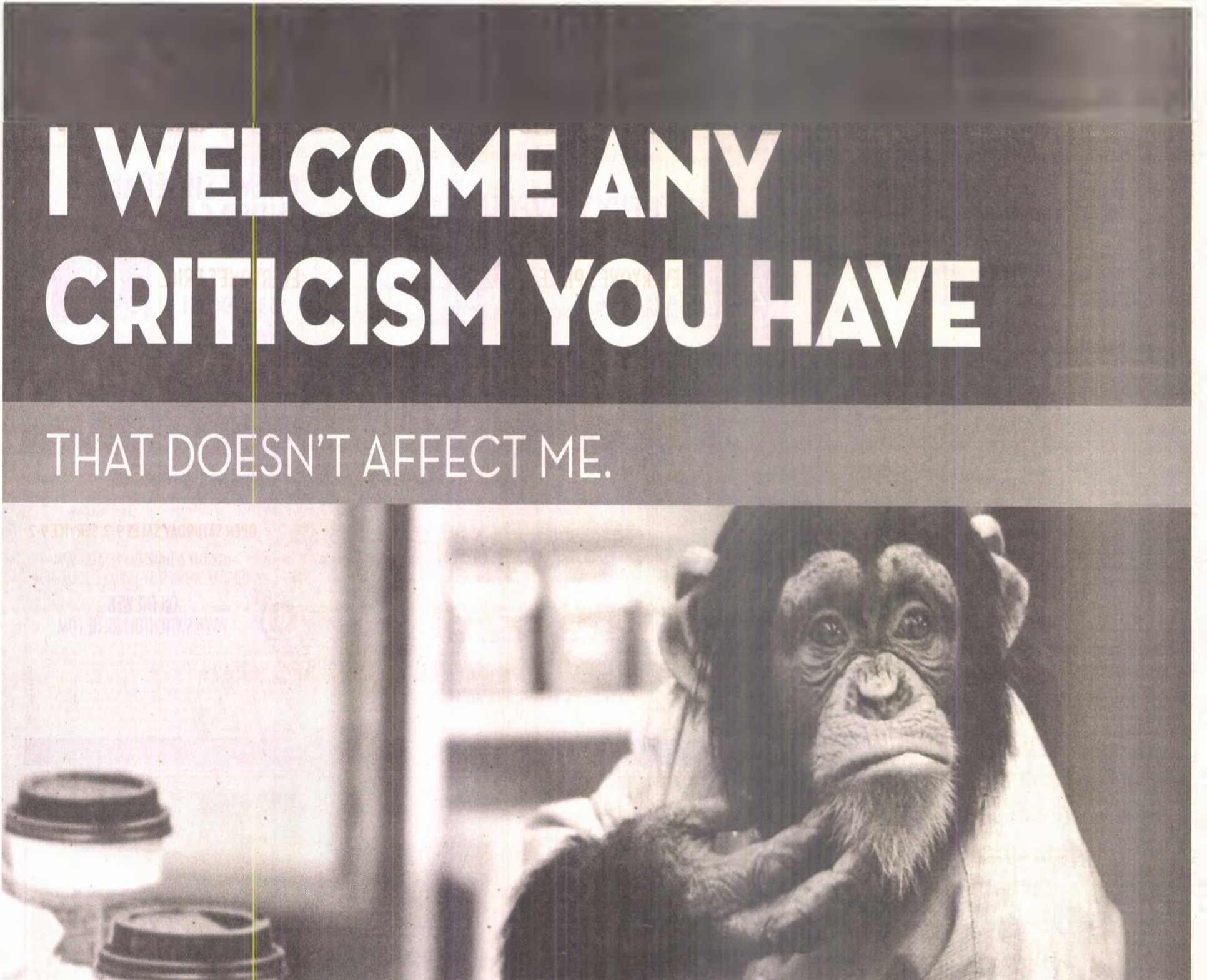
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BUICK, INFINITI GET SANE ABOUT MARCH MADNESS

By Dale Buss

March Madness is upon us, and that means tens of millions of potential car buyers are going to get heavy marketing doses of at least a couple of automotive brands: Buick and Infiniti.

So far this young year, American consumers already have been treated to dogs barking out a Star Wars theme, by Volkswagen, a look at how pick-up trucks will fare when the world "ends" later this year, in a Chevrolet pick-up truck ad - both of them during the Super Bowl - and multiple gazes during the Oscars telecast at the new Azera, by Hyundai.

Auto brands keep stepping up to these "big platforms" with more and more ambitious marketing programs built around their TV

advertising but also extending across media channels, especially to social media and other digital forums. Audi, Chrysler, Fiat, Honda, Kia and Toyota also launched big advertising efforts around Super Bowl XLVI, while Mercedes-Benz also provided a big presence during the Oscars telecast on ABC.

Now that March Madness has launched, Buick and Infiniti, each in its second full year of participation as the official automotive "corporate sponsors" of the NCAA Men's Basketball Tournament - a spot that used to be held solely by Pontiac -- are taking advantage. With the full participation of American consumers, March Madness has become a multifaceted, extended marketing "season" much like the Super Bowl.

In fact, in some ways, March Madness arguably has become an even more effective "tentpole" marketing platform than the Super Bowl. Fan demographics are more purely favorable, for



Infiniti is introducing the JX with a big NCAA campaign.

instance, because they rely so heavily on college alumni, who tend to have higher incomes than non-college graduates. Consumer engagement is high, with millions of Americans filling out tournament brackets even if they don't know a thing about college basketball.

And with 68 teams in the hunt for a championship, at least at the beginning, there are that many more people and markets who might be enthusiastic about the tourney - and who will be exposed to Infiniti and Buick's marketing - than about the two-team Super Bowl.

"It's an alumni audience, not a kid audience," said Craig Bierley, director of advertising and promotions for Buick. In fact, Bierley partially credits the brand's March Madness relationship for dropping the average age of Buick buyers to 59 from around 62 years old just two years ago.

This year, Buick will be focusing its March Madness efforts on its new Verano

subcompact, an important entry by the brand in a new segment, with sponsorship of March Madness on Demand video streaming by CBS Sports and Turner Sports, in-game advertising, and expansion of its popular Human Highlight Reel online-video and TV campaign, which features the altruistic exploits of former NCAA athletes.

Verano delivers key luxury features and characteristics found in the Buick LaCrosse, in an efficiently packaged, right-sized vehicle for the compact luxury market. It is the brand's third all-new model in the past two years and the first in the compact luxury segment.

Verano is the latest model in a Buick product renaissance that began with the Enclave and continued with the LaCrosse and Regal. Like them, Verano is distinguished by luxury and technology, including 10 standard air bags, an available heated steering wheel and a Buick IntelliLink radio system.

For example, Verano's interior is marked by exceptional seat comfort and support, design and craftsmanship, as well as premium soft-touch materials, including ice blue ambient lighting inspired by the LaCrosse. Rich leathers, warm woods, metallic accents and soft ambient lighting make the cabin an inviting environment.

Meanwhile, Infiniti also is tapping into the "cultural engagement that takes place beginning on selection Sunday and carries through the tournament" that makes March Madness a unique marketing property, said Jim DeTrude, Infiniti's director of marketing.

His brand will be attempting to leverage that uniqueness to get attention for the all-new Infiniti JX crossover. Infiniti's campaign will include traditional TV advertising, online promotions in and around bracket selection, and, for the first time, heavy involvement in on-site marketing at the Final 4 in New Orleans.

Infiniti expects the JX to shake up the status quo when the innovative 7-passenger luxury crossover joins the Infiniti lineup this spring. As a fresh, bold alternative to the many flavors of vanilla currently dominating the luxury crossover segment, the all-new Infiniti JX is designed to excel in the areas that luxury crossover buyers desire most - interior flexibility and roominess, safety, and advanced hospitality features.

The JX offers real 3-row utility, plus all the premium features, performance and innovations that Infiniti has become known for worldwide.

So let the Madness begin.



Dale Buss



The new compact Verano will be the emphasis of Buick's March Madness marketing.

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* Plus tax, Title, License, DOC and CVR fees. With approved credit

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Are you over miles or concerned about reconditioning or disposition fees? No matter where you leased it, bring it to Bill Brown Ford! Now may be the best time to look into trading out of your lease. With spring around the corner we need more inventory for our two used car lots. We have had great success with Ford, Mercury, Lincoln, GM Chrysler, and import leases. Somewhere between 4 and 12 months, early lease is ideal but now is the perfect time to take advantage of the spring market.

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NEW 2012 Ford Edge SE
 EPA estimated 19 city / 26 hwy mpg[^]



Buy for **\$21,535+**
 MSRP \$28,540

24 month lease
 Security deposit waived, plus tax and license, includes acquisition fee.
\$1000 DOWN \$237*
SIGN AND DRIVE \$294*
 \$1421 due at signing. \$0 due at signing.

Featuring: 17" Wheel, Cruise Control, Power Windows, Seats, Locks. 4 at this price 96 available.

NEW 2012 Ford Escape Limited
 EPA estimated 21 city / 28 hwy mpg[^]



Buy for **\$22,589+**
 MSRP \$29,940

24 month lease
 Security deposit waived, plus tax and license, includes acquisition fee.
\$1000 DOWN \$204*
SIGN AND DRIVE \$261*
 \$1404 due at signing. \$0 due at signing.

SUN & SYNC Package
 Featuring: 302A Package, Chrome Wheels, Luxury Package, Moonroof, Premium Sound. 10 at this price 490 available.

NEW 2012 Ford Explorer XLT
 EPA estimated 17 city / 23 hwy mpg[^]



Buy for **\$29,916+**
 MSRP \$37,010

24 month lease
 Security deposit waived, plus tax and license, includes acquisition fee.
\$1000 DOWN \$325*
SIGN AND DRIVE \$383*
 \$1434 due at signing. \$0 due at signing.

Featuring: Sync, Reverse Sensing, Keyless Entry, Power Windows, Power Locks, Power Liftgate. 3 at this price 55 available.

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NEW 2012 Ford F150 Super Cab 4x4 XLT
 EPA estimated 15 city/21 hwy mpg[^]

Buy for **\$25,399+**
 MSRP \$38,825

Featuring: 3.7 V6, XLT Chrome Package, XLT Plus and Convenience Package, Sirius Satellite Radio, Limited Slip, Keyless Entry. 5 At This Price. 112 Available.



24 Month Lease
 Security deposit waived, plus tax and license, includes acquisition fee.
\$1000 DOWN \$279*
SIGN & DRIVE \$339*
 \$1438 due at signing. \$0 due at signing.

*All payments and prices are for qualifying A/Z planners. For qualifying, non A/Z planners an additional \$900 to \$1500 would be required to keep the payments or price the same. 10,500 miles per year. To Buy For Price add tax, title, doc and destination fee. All factory rebates assigned to dealer including owner loyalty or previous lease and may require Ford Credit financing. Not all buyers will qualify for lowest payments. Pictures may not represent actual vehicle. Subject to availability. Payments and prices per program in effect at publication and are subject to change. ^ MPG-EPA estimated when equipped as shown. All offers expire 3/31/12



NEW 2012 Ford Fusion SEL
 EPA Estimated 23 city/33 hwy[^]

Buy for **\$19,938+**
 MSRP \$29,085

Loaded, Leather, Moonroof
 Featuring: Sync, automatic, power windows, locks, mirrors, keyless entry, satellite Radio, BLIS, rearview camera, reverse sensing. 10 at this price 293 available

24 month lease
 Security deposit waived, plus tax and license, includes acquisition fee.
\$1000 DOWN \$172*
SIGN & DRIVE \$227*
 \$1347 due at signing. \$0 due at signing.



NEW 2012 Ford Fiesta SE
 EPA Estimated 29 city/38 hwy[^]

Buy for **\$14,718+**
 MSRP \$18,040

Featuring: Automatic, sport appearance package, SYNC and sound, ambient lighting, satellite radio, heated seats, keyless entry key pad. 3 at this price 72 available

24 month lease
 Security deposit waived, plus tax and license, includes acquisition fee.
\$1000 DOWN \$178*
SIGN & DRIVE \$230*
 \$1283 due at signing. \$0 due at signing.



NEW 2012 Ford Focus SE
 EPA Estimated 28 city/38 hwy[^]

Buy for **\$16,825+**
 MSRP \$22,475

Sport Package.
 Featuring: Automatic, cruise control, rear spoiler, power windows, heated seats. 5 at this price 200 available

24 month lease
 Security deposit waived, plus tax and license, includes acquisition fee.
\$1000 DOWN \$179*
SIGN & DRIVE \$232*
 \$1298 due at signing. \$0 due at signing.

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