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PLYMOUTH

BRANFORD MARSALIS AND HARRY CONNICK JR. UNCOVER THEIR ROOTS USA WEEKEND

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Egg hunt

The Plymouth Lions Club hosts its annual Easter Egg Hunt at 10 a.m. Saturday, April 7, at Plymouth Township Park.

Egg-hunters are being urged to bring their baskets, bags and cameras. The event will feature age groups for 0-3, 4-6, 7-8 and 9-10. There will be collection boxes available for hearing aids, eyeglasses and cell phones. Donations are welcome.

Plymouth Township Park is located at Ann Arbor Trail and Mc-Clumpha.



Optimist Oratorical contest gold-medal winner Brittny Baxter with contest host Bill Baumgartner.

Contest winner

The Plymouth Optimist Club held its 38th annual Oratorical Contest March 19, using the subject "How My Optimism Helps Me Overcome Obstacles."

Plymouth Christian Academy student Brittny Baxter was the goldmedal winner, after giving what Optimists said was a "delightful speech that inspired all in the packed audience" at Station 885.

Baxter now competes in the district competition, which could ultimately lead to a \$2,500 scholarship.

Anyone wishing more information about the Plymouth Optimist club can contact Jim Hutchings (734) 748-8310.

Warm weather brings early yard-waste pickup in township

By Matt Jachman Observer Staff Writer

Motivated by unseasonably warm weather that began ahead of spring's arrival Tuesday, residents across Plymouth Township have been raking leftover fall leaves and cleaning up yards in recent weeks. But with trash-haulers not ready to begin picking up yard waste until April, that left bags and bins of decaying compost material with no place to go.

"Last year at this time we had snow on the ground," township Supervisor Richard Reaume said last week.

This year, however, "People were

putting the yard waste out already this week," Reaume said. When the bags weren't picked up and the bins weren't emptied, the supervisor added, some of those people called his office, some with not-so-nice words for him.

Opening early

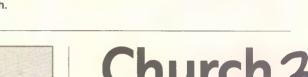
Reaume responded by checking in with the township's trash collector, Duncan Disposal Systems, which agreed to open the composting season beginning Monday — one week early.

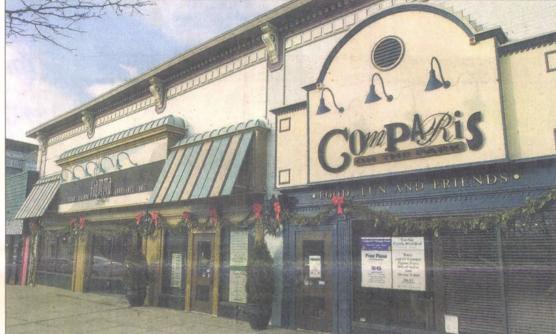
"We happen to have the equipment ready, and we can arrange for

Please see PICKUP, A5



John Secord bags leaves in the front yard of his Beech Court home in Plymouth.





Church 3 extends reach to Zambia

By Matt Jachman Observer Staff Writer

A Plymouth Township-based megachurch is forging ties with people balfway around the world with the

Share favorite memory of grandma!

On May 3, Hometown Life Woman will publish "A Salute To Women."

As part of this edition, we invite readers to add your words and photo to this special edition. Tell us about a special memory you have of your grandmother (in 50 words of less, if possible). Share your favorite memory and photograph (jpeg format attached to the e-mail).

E-mail your photo and special memory to bkadrich@hometownlife.com. Be sure to include your first and last name and identify your grandmother with a first and last name, too. Be sure to tell us where you live, and don't forget to provide a daytime phone number where you can be reached.

Then look for your photo and/or memory in the May edition of Hometown Life Woman.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Downtown eateries with sidewalk dining are waiting for the April 1 start to the sidewalk cafe season in downtown Plymouth.

Plymouth ready for outdoor dining season

By Matt Jachman Observer Staff Writer

Plymouth's outdoor dining season is just around the corner — and with early spring looking like the middle of summer, that's none too soon.

"We had so many calls the last week about the patio, whether it was open or not," said Frank Yaquinto, owner of Compari's on the Park and Fiamma Grille, restaurants on Main Street in downtown Plymouth that offer sidewalk dining. "Hopefully this weather will keep up."

While diners are "chomp-

ing at the bit," in Yaquinto's words, to get outside, the city's sidewalk cafe season officially begins Sunday, April 1, according to city policy. The Plymouth City Commission adopted a revised version of that policy Monday, the first change in three years.

City Manager Paul Sincock said the revision cleans up some language and clarifies the policy's limit of 30 seats, per establishment, on the public sidewalk. Some places use a combination of public and private space for an outdoor dining area, Sincock said, and seats in the non-public area don't count toward the maximum.

Sincock said that, to his knowledge, no restaurants that have sidewalk dining exceed the 30-chair limit on the public sidewalk.

Yaquinto and others said outdoor dining is part of Plymouth's charm.

"Those outdoor cafes are what make downtown Plymouth in the summer," Mayor Dan Dwyer said.

The sidewalk cafe policy revision did not increase the price restaurants pay each

Please see OUTDOOR, A10

goal of putting two impoverished villages on a path of sustainable economic growth.

Members of NorthRidge Church, which hosts more than 9,000 people at weekend services at three area locations, have agreed to "sponsor" more than 3,000 children in the villages of Moyo and Hamaundu, in the southern African country of Zambia, through World Vision, a Christian relief and development agency.

Organizers expected the longplanned program to generate 2,000 sponsorships, but that number was quickly reached when the program was announced at services early this month, and more than 1,000 more sponsors are on a waiting list as World Vision prepares to send along information about more children in need.

"This has set a precedent with World Vision," said Beth Harris, NorthRidge's outreach director. "A church has never been able to do the number of sponsorships we've been able to do."

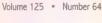
While each sponsorship links a church member or family to a child or young adult in Moyo or Hamaundu, sponsors' contributions actually go toward a World Vision Program that helps improve life for all villagers, Harris said.

Please see CHURCH, A4

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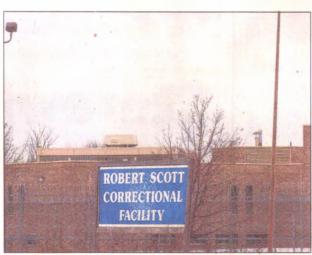
Community Life	B5
Crossword Puzzle	C3
Education	A4
Health	B5
Homes	C2
Jobs	C1
Obituaries	B4
Services	C4
Sports	B1
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JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

4

The Michigan Senate approved a bill by state Rep. Kurt Heise, R-Plymouth Township, that allows for the sale of the former Scott Correctional Facility in Northville Township.

Senate OKs measure to sell vacant prison

By Matt Jachman Observer Staff Writer

State, Wayne County and local officials' vision of a high-tech research and industrial park in Plymouth and Northville townships moved a step closer to reality Thursday.

That's when the Michigan Senate approved a bill by state Rep. Kurt Heise, R-Plymouth Township, that allows for the sale of the former Scott Correctional Facility in Northville Township. Heise, who represents both communities, has been working with Sen. Patrick Colbeck, R-Canton Township, as well as local and county leaders on the issue. The 48-acre former prison site is at Five Mile and Beck, in the midst of an area of about 1,000 acres that officials are touting as an ideal location for hightech companies such as advanced battery manufacturers.

"We need to move that property. We

Please see PRISON, A4

LOCAL NEWS

AROUND PLYMOUTH

Board to consider revamped academy plan

By Brad Kadrich Observer Staff Writer

The Plymouth-Canton Board of Education will consider a retooled proposal Tuesday for three "academy" settings to be added to the district's curriculum.

The reconfigured academy proposal comes after board members were a bit skeptical of the previous proposal put forth by district administrators last week. Dr. Jeremy Hughes, the district's superintendent, went back to the drawing board and presents his new proposal Tuesday.

That'll make Tuesday's meeting a particularly busy one. The board is also expected to vote to close Gallimore and Fiegel elementary schools and repurpose them for other educational opportunities.

Under Hughes' new academy proposal, Plymouth-Canton would add an international academy (a prelude to offering an International Baccalaureate program), an arts academy and a STEM (Science, Technology, Math and Engineering) academy.

The plan for a business academy has been dropped.

MEETING TO CONSIDER

What: Plymouth-Canton Board of Education meeting When: Tuesday, March 27, 7 p.m. Where: Discovery Middle School in Canton Why: The board is expected to consider a proposal for three academy programs at the high school park, and whether to close Gallimore and Fiegel elementary schools

"We've tightened the plans up a little," Hughes said. "The IB program, I think, is a no-brainer, and there seems to be real interest (within the district) for the STEM."

Deadlines

The IB program is the one with a timing deadline. Administrators must apply for the program by April 1, or be forced to wait until the 2013/14 school year to apply.

Barry Simescu and Judy Mardigian, the longestserving members of the board, expressed an interest in the STEM academy idea, though both felt it could be put off a year while budget numbers get crunched to make it more financially viable.

"I see (STEM) as (having) the big student involvement," said Simescu, who said he agreed with Mardigian the STEM program could be

"slid back a year." "There will be more students involved in this one than all the others."

While board members debated the issues, some teachers complained during the public comment portion they weren't included in the discussion for the parameters of the academy, and that the district was trying to rush the academies into the curriculum.

"I don't understand where we're going in this rush to chase (state) monev)," said Joan Pence, a high school science teacher. "I think a fruitful discussion has begun, but I can see a lot of outcomes, and none of them are good in terms of the people (teachers) you need to buy in. We need time to take a look at this."

Hughes said he understands teachers will be important to the process. and said they will be consulted as the plans develop.

"The curriculum when it hits the road has to be teacher-directed and teacher-driven," Hughes said. "I regret some (teachers) feel they were left out, and to some extent they were. We wanted to get a blueprint on paper." Trustee Sheila Paton,

who as a community activist last year talked about the idea of an IB program in the district, said the timing may never be quite right.

"I'm really excited about this," she said. "I've sat through what seemed like always cutting, cutting, cutting. I'd like to see us grow and add something back. My fear is, I don't know if there's ever going to be exactly the right time." Canton resident Ken Crouch, who has a fourth-

grader at Tonda Elementary and a seventh-grader at Pioneer Middle School. said the academies represent the kinds of programs parents are looking for.

"For a parent who has considered sending his children to a charter school, it's programs like these that we want offered for our children," he said. "It is programming like this parents want to see.'

"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. 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.

PET-A-PET

Date/Time: Third Saturday of the month, 10 a.m.

Location: Woodhaven Retirement Center in Livonia



Dr. Seuss fans will want to get to the Plymouth District Library this month to see three outstanding displays. From the extensive collection of library volunteer and retired teacher, Diane Cupps, there are Dr. Seuss items dating back to the 1940s. Recently, Justina Bloch, a second grader at Our Lady of Good Counsel, was in and admiring the many Seuss treasures. The displays on the main and lower levels of the Library will be in place until April 1.

Details: PET-A-PET, Inc. is looking for enthusiastic, friendly pets and their owners to visit facilities one hour a month. Pets must be up to date with vaccinations, proof required. **Contact:** Laurie Patterson at (734) 953-0438.



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(CP) A3

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LOCAL NEWS

PRISON

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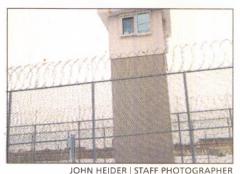
Continued from page A1

need to clear that property out," Heise said Friday. "I think the interest level will be high, and the sooner we can get a for sale sign out there, the better."

Northville Township has the right of first refusal to buy the property for \$1, with an eye toward redevelopment. Northville Township officials could not be reached Friday.

"The authorization to sell the Scott Correctional Facility presents a monumental opportunity for our community to revitalize an unused eyesore, and brings with it the potential to stimulate the economy with new business and needed jobs," Colbeck said in a press release. "It will herald a new era of economic development in Northville and surrounding communities."

The proposed high-tech park, dubbed the Wayne County Advanced Technology Park, involves about 1,000 acres that straddle Five Mile, the border between the two townships. The site's pluses include the proximity of freeways and thoroughfares, the railroad freight line that runs through it and the foreign companies that are involved in advanced technology and already have



The former Robert Scott Correctional Facility at Five Mile and Beck roads in Northville Township.

facilities in the area, Plymouth Township Supervisor Richard Reaume says.

In addition to hosting tech companies, Reaume said, the vision includes businesses that would provide services to employees at those companies, such as restaurants, grocery stores, dry cleaners and child-care facilities.

The measure passed Thursday in the Senate, Heise said, was the same as approved in the House last September, aside from some time-frame differences. Those will be reconciled and the measure sent to Gov. Rick Snyder, who is expected to sign it.

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

CHURCH

Continued from page A1

"We're not just sponsoring kids, it's a whole area development plan," Harris said, adding that the church's commitment is for 10 to 15 years.

The development plan, said NorthRidge's Mike Miller, focuses on five key areas: providing the villages with clean water, better health care and an improved education system, fostering economic development, and supporting local churches. NorthRidge sponsors' donations will go to World Vision programs already in place in the villages, he said, and World Vision is partners with existing churches there.

"What we want is a relationship (and) ultimately a sustainable, thriving community," said Miller. "To do what we're talking about, it will probably take anywhere from 10 to 15 years from today to the finish line, where those communities are thriving."

Harris and Miller said because key development areas are interrelated, improving conditions in one can improve conditions in another. For example, they said, village girls who now have to walk three to five miles daily to fetch well water. which their families depend on, have a hard time being in school, so wells closer to the population will improve access to education.

"Now they can get water and go to school," Miller said.

NorthRidge's commitment came after Pastor Brad Powell and several other men from the church visited both Moyo and Hamaundu about six months ago. Miller said World Vision has been laying the groundwork for about a year and a half.

Church member Mark Warren of Wyandotte and his family are sponsoring two Zambian children through a donation of \$35 a month per child. Warren said it's good to be a part of something bigger than oneself and that he's "thrilled to give back halfway around the world."

As the program progresses, he said, sponsors can interact with the children, exchanging letters and pictures, Warren said.

"We're just an average family who's glad to be part of the campaign," said Warren, the circulation director for the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers.

Harris said another goal is to have more visits by NorthRidge members to Moyo and Hamaundu.

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BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

As John Secord bags leaves in the front yard of his home, Plymouth Township officials have asked their waste hauler to begin early pickup of yard waste.

PICKUP

Continued from page A1

the extra labor to come on board," Duncan president Tom Duncan said. The composting yards — Duncan contracts with three yards for the area communities it serves

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— will be ready to handle the material too, Duncan said.

Duncan said he expects the demand to be light, but added, "We're going to be prepared to pick it up, whatever they have." The company is charging \$1,500 for the extra week of yardwaste pickup, he said.

"We're just trying to help them out the best we could," he said. In Northville Town-

ship, where his company also has a contract, yardwaste pickup was already scheduled to begin the last week of March, Duncan said.

First time But only Plymouth Township has requested an early start to the composting season because of the weather this year, Duncan said, and he can't recall a time, in nearly 40 years in the trash-hauling business, when yard waste started coming out so early.

"I don't remember a season like this. This is an extraordinary circumstance," Duncan said.

Yard-waste collections usually peak in April and May as lawn fertilizers take effect and grass grows fastest, then slows down for a time before picking back up in the fall with leaf-raking season, Duncan said.

Plymouth pickup

In the city of Plymouth, yard-waste pickup is scheduled to begin Monday, April 2. City Manager Paul Sincock said there are no plans to begin early pickups.

Residents who have already put containers of yard waste at the curb in anticipation of pickup are being asked to remove them until the season opens.

Yard waste is picked up in both communities on the same schedule as trash and recyclables.

mjachman@hometownlife.com (313) 222-2405

Bins, bundles and bags: A yard-waste pickup primer

By Matt Jachman Observer Staff Writer

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

Because of the warmer weather this month, yard-waste pickup in the township begins Monday, one week earlier than originally scheduled. In the city, yard-waste pickup begins Monday, April 2.

Here are some guidelines to follow for yardwaste pickup in the township:

• 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 yardwaste 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.

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Yard-waste stickers are available at Township Hall, 9955 North Haggerty.

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

are different:

• Trash bins used for yard waste should be marked "compost" or "yard waste." Brown paper yard-waste bags can also be used. Each filled bags or bin should weigh no more than 50 pounds.

• Brush and branches that are bundled and set at the curb can be no more than two inches in diameter, and the bundles can be no more than four feet long (and still not weigh more than 50 pounds each).

• Brush can also be set out in brown yardwaste bags, or in trash cans properly marked for yard waste (maximum size of 32 gallons). The bags or bins should not weigh more than 50 pounds each.

Plymouth residents should have yard waste at the curb by 6 a.m, on pickup day or risk missing pickup for that day.

The city's solid waste department can be reached at (734) 453-7737.

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Seminar focuses on brain injuries

By Brad Kadrich Observer Staff Writer

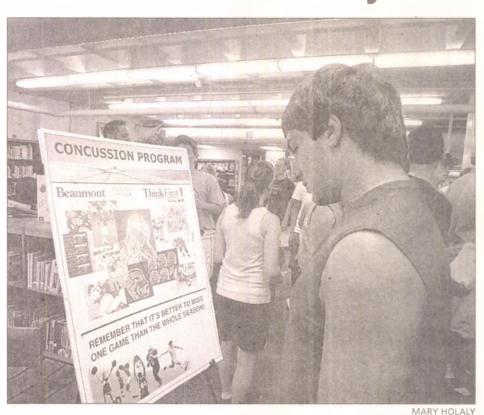
Statistics show some 6 percent of student-athletes can expect to suffer some level of concussion during a given sports season.

With hundreds of high school athletes playing dozens of sports at the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park, district officials figured it was a good idea for athletes, coaches and parents to know what they're looking for. So when officials from Beaumont Hospitals offered to partner with their free concussion screening program, Plymouth-Canton administrators jumped at the chance.

Some 260 winter athletes took part in the first workshop in November, and another 150 spring athletes just completed the seminar over two days this week. The sides hope to do a third session in July to catch football land basketball players.

"It raises awareness to the fact concussions are very serious," said athletic director Sue Heinzman, who owns a master's degree in sports medicine from the United Sports Academy in Alabama. "It used to be a coach would just say, 'Walk it off.' Recent research says multiple concussions have a real effect. You can't just assume if you feel better in an hour that you're OK.'

Participants listened to advice from Dr. Neal Alpiner, who specializes in pediatric physical medicine at Beaumont, then adjourned to the



Nick Troher, 17, a Salem High School senior from Plymouth, checks out information on Beaumont Hospitals' concussion seminar.

computers, where Beaumont officials helped athletes establish a baseline, which will help evaluate cognitive skills should they suffer a head injury down the road.

A concussion, the most common traumatic brain injury in adults and children, is caused by a bump or blow to the head. They range from minor to major and are defined as a change in consciousness, such as loss of memory.

The high number of such injuries, Beaumont officials said, show that sports where there is physical contact are going to come with "consequences."

"We try to show the signs and symptoms ... we reinforce a lot of what

coaches teach," said Lori Sheridan, Beaumont's neuroscience administrative manager. "When other athletes experience something, or see a teammate in trouble, they're not afraid to say some-

thing." Heinzman believes in the program enough to have made it mandatory for her coaches. A former college field hockey and softball player at Eastern Michigan University, she also "strongly recommended" student-athletes attend the seminars.

"We strongly suggest that players, especially those in sports that have concussion potential (football, wrestling, etc.), get (screening) done," said Heinzman. "Parents can certainly decide if

they want their kids to do it, but we strongly recommend it.

Plymouth-Canton is the second district to partner with Beaumont (Royal Oak was the first). Beaumont pays the cost (an estimated \$15,000) through grants and donations. Plymouth-Canton's size (it's the third-largest district in the state) made it an attractive partner for Beaumont, whose doctors, Sheridan said, are committed to helping kids.

"The neurosurgeons and administrators are so committed to this program," Sheridan said. "If we help even one kid, it's worth it. It's the right thing to do.'

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

SCHOOL BRIEFS

Scholarship bids

Plymouth-Canton Community Schools and the Plymouth Chamber of Commerce are accepting applications for the Student Citizenship Award scholarship. Nomina-tions 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 onepage bulleted list of the student's community service and a one page testimonial by the person nominating the student for the award.

Author, author

Sports is much more than a win-lose, physical battle between combatants but when properly understood is a way to discover a higher consciousness that leads toward peace and joy.

This is the message given by nationally renowned volleyball coach Jeanne Hess, author of Sportuality: Finding Joy in the Games.

'Springing from seeking the true meaning of words, Sportuality continues a conversation about the role of sport in the cultural life of America."



said Hess, a 1976 Salem High School graduate. **'The book** really explores sport

as a vehicle for personal transformation that causes us to work together for something greater than ourselves. This idea becomes very clear when we discover that the word 'competition' actually means working together rather than against."

Hess is a nationally renowned volleyball coach whose Kalamazoo College team has finished third or higher in the Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association (MIAA) ten times, ranks in the top 30 alltime among NCAA Division III colleges, and won her 500th career victory in 2011.

Reading fair

March is Reading Month in the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools, and what would March be without a Reading Fair? The purpose of the Reading Fair, which takes place 1:30 p.m. Friday, March 30, at Gallimore Elementary School, is to allow students the opportunity to explore their favorite fiction book in a variety of areas. Students will share their interpretation of the book and this will be displayed with other student works as well.

The Reading Fair is similar to a science fair in that students will share their interpretation of their books on a display board. Judges will have the opportunity to discuss the students' boards with them and provide feedback.







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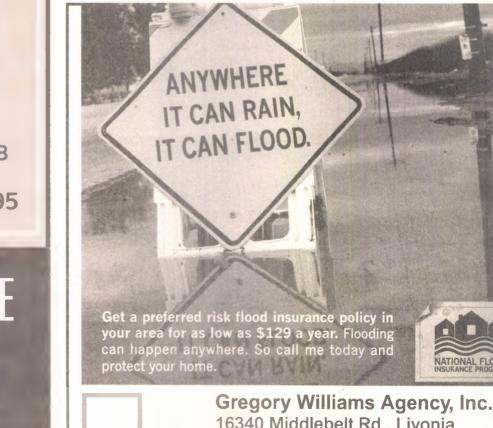
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LOCAL NEWS

Covered in 'KISS' Fan retools bathroom in band's honor

By Jill Halpin Correspondent

A8

(P)

There are legions of followers of the 1970s-era glam rock-and-roll band KISS.

And then there is Rick Hoffman.

You can call Hoffman, a longtime Canton resident, a fan, but that would be an understatement at best. He is, in his very own words, "the number one KISS fan in the world.

In fact, Hoffman is such a KISS enthusiast that he has devoted a room in his house to the band. He decorated and customized the room: a half-bath on the first floor of his home that has become a shrine to KISS lead singer Gene Simmons and his band mates. It is a sight to behold, complete with a special-order black sink, black toilet and, of course, black light.

However, the black light is not the only light in the room. The bathroom features multiple lighting options including a red light and a regular overhead light as well as customized murals and specially designed handmade plaques featuring busts of KISS band members.

And that is only the beginning.

KISS logo

There is also the etched mirror with the distinctive KISS band logo, the "KISS Army" logo above the light switch and the clock resembling the cover from KISS' Destroyer album, not to mention Simmons's face in his classic pose - tongue out - on the back of the sliding door.

Hoffman is smitten with his creation.

"The best thing about it is that it's been three years and every time I walk in there it's still just so cool," Hoffman said. "It's the best room in the house."

As the owner and operator of Artworks by Red. a custom graphic arts and signage business that provides banners and signs for many area businesses, local schools and

sports teams, Hoffman is accustomed to working in creative design.

He said he was moved . to refurbish his bathroom a few years ago after visiting a KISSthemed coffee shop in Myrtle Beach, S.C. Hoffman and his wife, Gail, were visiting their son, Donnie, on leave from the military, when they happened upon the KISS Coffeehouse in a popular shopping area in Myrtle Beach. Of course, he said, they were compelled to go inside and look around.

Buying power

"We left a few hours later, \$200 lighter with no coffee," Hoffman said. "But we sure had a lot of KISS memorabilia."

However, it was the memory of the coffee shop's bathroom, outfitted in KISS collectibles and souvenirs, that stayed with him after his return to Michigan. It was not long before he knew he wanted to replicate it in his own home. "It was just so cool," he

said.

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Gail Hoffman gave the final okay for the project.

"I knew he loved it when we were in Myrtle Beach," she said. "Once we got home, I said, 'You want to do that to our bathroom, don't you?' I told him to go ahead, you only live once.

Educated at Ypsilanti's Eastern Michigan University and Washtenaw Community College in graphic arts and design, Hoffman grew up in Livonia and graduated from Bentley High School. He has lived in the Canton area for the past 18 years.

Armed with a lifelong interest in drawing, Hoffman said it took him a few weeks to re-design the bathroom and just another two weeks to finish it.

It was his artistic background coupled with his devotion to rock and roll that led him to undertake the one-of-a-kind KISS bathroom project, he said.

"I've always had an interest in graphic arts, always been good at it," he said. "And I've always loved KISS."

Comfort level

Although it took a little while to get used to it, Gail said she is now completely comfortable with their redecorated bathroom, even if Gene Simmons's face is on the back of the door.

"Sometimes I walk in and shut the door and say, 'Whoa, Good Lord, Gene Simmons is right there," she said.

Even though she admits her musical tastes run

more to a mellower, softer side, "I'm okay with it now. Some people are shocked that I let him do it, but once they go in and see it, they love it. It's

very well done." "It wouldn't have been my first choice, but if it makes him happy, I'm alright with it," she said. "If it were in our upstairs bathroom it might be another story.

pretty strong proof.

Hoffman is proud his bathroom has become somewhat of a showplace.

"Everybody that has ever seen it loves it," he said.

However, there is one person to whom he would love to show the room: **KISS front man Gene** Simmons himself. "Wouldn't it just be great if Gene could see it

himself?" he asked.

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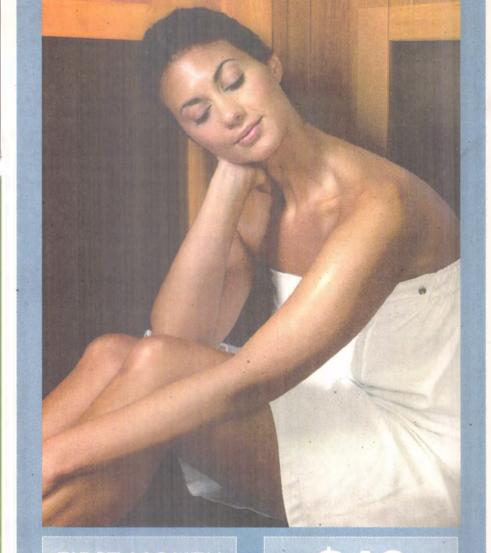
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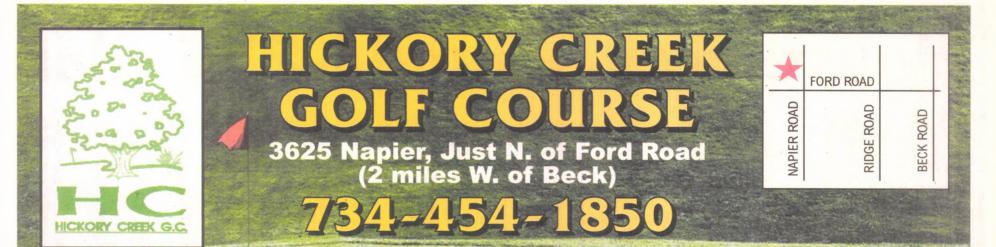
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Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, March 25, 2012

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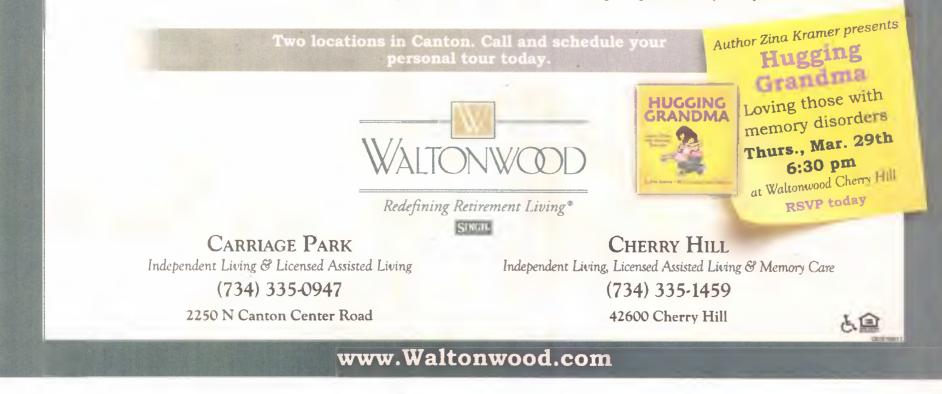
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House gets behind I-275 plan

By Darrell Clem Observer Staff Writer

In yet another boost to Canton's efforts to fix the I-275/ Ford Road interchange, the state House voted Tuesday to support a resolution calling on the U.S. Department of Transportation to approve funding for the project.

The vote came mere days after Canton Township and the Michigan Department of Transportation submitted to federal officials an \$18 million request for grant dollars to reshape the interchange — a project officials say would create nearly 300 jobs, ease traffic congestion, reduce accidents and improve a key economic corridor of western Wayne County.

"We now have support of the full Michigan Legislature," township Supervisor Phil LaJoy said.

The House vote came after state Rep. Kurt Heise, R-Plymouth, introduced a resolution already approved by the state Senate to support efforts to secure federal dollars through a program called TIGER, Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery. The measure has received bipartisan support.

Local support

Meanwhile, LaJoy and oth-

er officials continue to push for a grassroots lobbying effort for the funding. They have asked local motorists fed with up Ford Road traffic congestion to go to www.tiger4canton. com to find ways they can lobby federal officials to approve the grant.

Already, the project has received support from Westland, Livonia, Wayne and the townships of Van Buren, Plymouth and Northville. Other entities favoring the effort include MDOT, the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments, the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools and retail giant IKEA, among others. "I don't know of anything else we could possibly do to make this happen," LaJoy said Friday.

Lots of reasons

One interchange fix suggests installing two new ramps, or slips, from the southbound I-275 exit ramp at Ford to allow motorists to access Haggerty in either direction without traveling on Ford. It also calls for a northbound service drive along the east side of the interstate, from Cherry Hill to north of Ford Road.

The TIGER application cites numerous reasons for the proj-

ect, aside from traffic safety. Officials say the project would:

• Improve the flow of goods in an area strategically located between Detroit Metro and Willow Run airports, a "major distribution hub for a variety of national and international trucking and logistics companies" such as Canton-based W.F. Whelan.

• Boost industrial and commercial property values.

• Allow a quicker response by first responders to get to accident scenes along I-275 and Ford Road.

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Compari's owner Frank Yaquinto said diners are "chomping at the bit" to eat outside, but the city's sidewalk cafe season doesn't start until April 1.

OUTDOOR

Continued from page A1

season for use of the sidewalks. The annual fee is \$250 per establishment for a permit application, plus \$1.50 per square foot of space used. The latter charge was last raised, from \$1 a square foot, in 2008. ing Director Jim Penn told commissioners even smaller sidewalk dining areas keep him busy with enforcement issues.

Dwyer said he's open to considering a fee increase, but wants to hear from restaurant owners before doing so. Commissioners said they would revisit the fees next year.

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Sincock, in a memo to commissioners, advocated a fee of at least \$5 a square foot, saying the sidewalk cafes tax city services.

Commissioner Ron Loiselle, at Monday's meeting, unsuccessfully made a similar argument.

"They are taking up valuable sidewalk space and essentially being allowed to expand the restaurant," said Loiselle, who suggested a price of \$2 a foot or as much as \$5.

Loiselle's motion to raise the fee, however, died for lack of support, as did another motion to waive the permit application fee for restaurants with five or fewer sidewalk seats. Build"There are legitimate points of view on both sides," the mayor said.

Yaquinto said he's willing to talk about the fees. "It's very difficult on

"It's very difficult on business now anyway," he said, arguing against an increase. "I guess we would cross that bridge when it comes to it."

Yaquinto said sidewalk seating sometimes has to be closed because of bad weather, meaning the restaurateurs aren't benefitting from it, and that weather in some years has also sometimes meant his sidewalk dining hasn't opened until June.

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The planetdance competition team, which consists of 60 local dancers, recently competed at the 'Countdown Dance Competition' in Waterford.

Dancers excel at competition

The competition team from planetdance in Canton, which consists of 60 local dancers, recently competed at the "Countdown Dance Competition" in Waterford where they took top honors.

According to planetdance's Jen Toby, the team placed in several different categories, including top mini solo, top teen solo, top senior solo, top teen duo, top senior trio and several group overall

placements.

"I'm beyond proud of all of my dancers and could never thank them enough for their hard work and dedication on and off the dance floor," Toby said.

The studio also had sev-

eral students receive scholarships to California, Toby said.

planetdance is located at 44314 Cherry Hill in Canton. For more information on the studio check out www.planetdancestudio.com.

luseum hosts 'Mad Hatter' tea

The Plymouth Historical Museum presents tea time at its finest when it hosts its annual Mad Hatter tea 2-4 p.m. Sunday, April 15.

It's the event where ladies where their craziest hats, and where Sue Paulin, a master gardener in northwest Illinois, will present "Contain Yourself: Container Gardening Basics."

Before the presentation, attendees can enjoy delicacies from Fancy Food Catering and the Museum's signature "Mary's Blend" tea — a 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 nonmembers, if purchased by April 6 (add \$5 to the ticket price after that date). They can be purchased at the Plymouth Historical Museum during open hours, or on the website at http://www.plymouthhistory.org/Events.html using PayPal.

Ticket holders who come early that day are also invited to enjoy the Museum's special exhibit, "Ration Stamps & Bombers: WWII at Home." Ticket holders are also encouraged to wear their craziest hat to the Mad Hatter Tea. The Plymouth Histor-

ical Museum is locat-

ed at 155 S. Main Street, a block north of downtown Plymouth. Hours are Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday 1-4 p.m. For further information, call (734) 455-8940.

MILITARY NEWS

Advanced training

Army National Guard Pfc. Michael A. Fortenberry has graduated from the Multiple Launch Rocket System (MLRS) Crewmember Advanced Individual Training course at Fort Sill, Lawton, Okla.

The course is designed to train the crew member in launch operations of various missiles and ammunition in quick strikes during combat. The student was trained to perform maintenance in various launchers and re-supply vehicles and reload ammunition on these type vehicles.

Students were trained to drive, operate, perform maintenance and ammunition re-loading of the M270 self-propelled loader launcher and the ammunition resupply vehicle and trailer. They also learned to mount radio sets in vehicles, cables communication components in vehicle launcher, and operate and perform operator maintenance on communications equipment.

Fortenberry is the son of Lisa Jackson of Canton and Michael A. McClendon of Detroit. He is a 2007 graduate of Mumford High School, Detroit.

Combat trained

• Army National Guard Pvt. Dustin J. Crowley has graduated from Basic Combat Training at Fort Sill, Lawton, Okla.

During the nine weeks of training, the soldier studied the Army mission and received instruction and training exercises in drill and ceremonies, Army history, core values and traditions, military courtesy, military justice, physical fitness, first aid, rifle marksmanship, weapons use, map reading and land navigation, foot marches, armed and unarmed combat, and field maneuvers and tactics.

Crowley is the son of Caroline Crowley of Wyandotte and Joe Crowley of Canton.

The private is a 2007 graduate of Roosevelt High School, Wyandotte.

• Army National Guard Pvt. Dionte K. Miah has graduated from basic combat training at Fort Jackson, Columbia, S.C.

During the nine weeks of training, the soldier studied the Army mission, history, tradition and core values, physical fitness, and received instruction and practice in basic combat skills, military weapons, chemical warfare and bayonet training, drill and ceremony, marching, rifle marksmanship, armed and unarmed combat, map reading, field tactics, military courtesy, military justice system, basic first aid, foot marches, and field training exercises.

Miah is the brother of Oren McWilliam III Canton. He is a 2004 graduate of Mumford High School in Detroit.





Master gardener Sue Paulin of Illinois presents 'Contain Yourself: Container Gardening Basics' at the Plymouth Historical Museum's Mad Hatter Tea April 15.



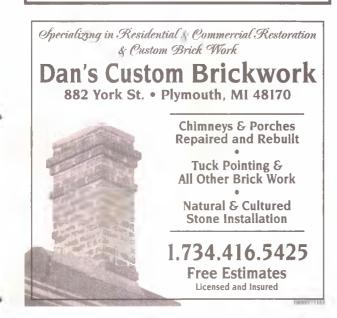
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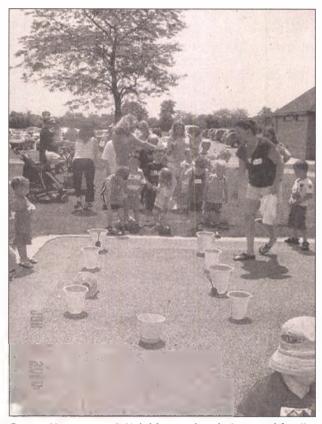


A12 (CP)

Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, March 25, 2012

LOCAL NEWS

Canton Newcomers celebrate 40th



Canton Newcomers & Neighbors enjoy their annual family picnic. The group marks its 40th anniversary with an April birthday bash.



Card players at Canton Newcomers & Neighbors gather around the Bunko table.

Canton Newcomers and Neighbors, one of the largest social and charitable organizations in Canton, is gearing up to celebrate 40 years of service to the community.

"We are very pleased to have the opportunity to celebrate this hallmark of success," said Canton Newcomers and Neighbors Co-President Vivien Pierson. "Our Birthday Bash on April 4 is a perfect opportunity for those brand new to Canton, already established residents and former members to connect. Everyone is encouraged and welcome to come celebrate with us."

Originally established by homeowners in the Windsor Park subdivision located at Sheldon and Warren Roads, Phyllis Redfern remembers helping organize the group in 1972.

"Back then we didn't have I-275 or even a post office," Redfern recalled. "We had to go to downtown Plymouth or out to the Westland Mall to shop. The only meeting location choices in Canton for our subgroups were the Roman Forum and the Rusty Nail. Our one grocery store was Dennis' Market on Canton Center who still had hitching posts for those that came by horse. It was mostly farm land with gravel roads when Canton Newcomers was first established."

With the rapid influx of new residents to Canton in the 1970s, there was high demand for a local social organization. According to records, members of the Plymouth Newcomer's Club helped Canton start their own club. Men already had the Canton Lion's Club established a few years earlier so women created the Canton Newcomers.

LOCK-IN A COMPETITIVE INTEREST RATE FOR 3 YEARS

THE BIG 4-0

What: Canton Newcomers & Neighbors 40th Birthday Bash When: Wednesday, April 4, 7 p.m. Where: Sunflower Clubhouse, 45800 Hanford in Canton

Event: Will host a fun 1970's theme. Carrabba's will provide a treat, the club will present a certificate of appreciation to their season's sponsor, Showroom of Elegance, and Dr. Jyothi Nichana will offer tips on aging gracefully. There is no charge; don't have to be a member to attend. **Contact:** Reserve a spot by contacting Noreen at nrybar@yahoo.com or calling (734) 981-0486.

At the height, there were 300 members who would regularly attend meetings, so school gymnasiums at Gallimore and Miller elementaries had to be used for the monthly general meeting. Because of the continuous flow of new residents into Canton, membership was limited to three years and then members moved onto one of the off-shoot groups.

Today, Canton Newcomers still meets on the first Wednesday nine months a year. The majority of members opt to leave spouses at home and enjoy a "ladies night out." There are also many smaller interest groups that have extra get-togethers to play cards, throw dice for bunko, catch a movie or enjoy a kid's play group. The big difference, according to members, is that residents don't have to be new to Canton to be a member.

Canton to be a member. Under the current leadership of Co-Presidents Noreen Rybar and Vivien Pierson, the organization expanded to include established residents with unlimited years of membership privileges. With this transition, Canton Newcomers and Neighbors developed a unique niche in the Can-



Shelley Megge said her father, Jack Walsh, was an inspiration to other cancer patients, having lived 11 years longer than doctors expected. The two drove cancer patients to their treatments as volunteers for Road to Recovery. Now Megge will pick up where her father left off.

Daughter continues dad's legacy as volunteer for cancer patients

By Karen Smith Observer Staff Writer

Nearly two years ago, Livonia resident Jack Walsh decided it was time to act. He had been diagnosed with multiple myeloma, a form of blood cancer nine years prior, and he was so thankful he was still alive that he wanted to do something to give hope to others fighting cancer.

That's when he heard about Road to Recovery, a volunteer-based American Cancer Society program that transports cancer patients to and from treatment. Since Walsh, 67, couldn't always drive due to the medications he was on, he recruited his daughter Shelley Megge to drive and he became the copilot and a friend to those they took to treatment.

Walsh lost his battle to cancer on Feb. 3, but Megge, also of Livonia, plans to continue his legacy as soon as she finishes recovering from knee surgery.

"It's so worth it," she said. "It's awesome; you feel amazing. People are going through so much, and everybody's so grateful."

Megge, 43, plans to take along a letter written by her father to share with and went."

His doctor at Our Lady of Hope Cancer Center at St. Mary Mercy Hospital had asked Walsh to write a letter to encourage other cancer patients undergoing stem cell transplants. It was that same letter that he would give to cancer patients to read as he and his daughter transported them to and from cancer treatments through Road to Recovery.

'Do the things you enjoy'

The letter reads, in part, "If you have cancer, I wish you the best. Don't worry too much and take one day at a time. Do the things you enjoy; it will make you feel better and take your mind off the cancer. And remember, don't sweat the small stuff."

Now Megge will share that letter with patients she transports with help from her children, Amanda, 23, a student at Eastern Michigan University; Aaron, 20, who's studying to be a paramedic; and Julia, 8, a student at Hoover Elementary.

Megge said she enjoys volunteering for Road to Recovery because it is so flexible. The owner and manager of a Southfield office building, Megge can go onto their web site and choose when she wants to drive patients so it fits within her schedule. She said some trips are just 15 minutes, some are longer. Some are only one way. Volunteers can drive as much or little as they want — even just once every six months. But she's happy to continue driving, and involve her children the way her dad involved her, in order to continue his legacy. "He wanted so much to give people hope," she said. For more information or to volunteer for Road to Recovery, call Andrea Jones at (248) 663-3485 or visit www.cancer.org/ roadtorecoverygl.



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ton civic arena.

"Due to the loyalty of members, Canton Newcomers and Neighbors are a stronger force and more valuable entity for our community than ever before," Canton Township Treasurer Melissa McLaughlin. "Even though membership numbers vary with the housing market, their contribution to the Canton community has consistently increased. The group is definitely a highly valued asset that we count on to deliver a positive influence and contagious friendly spirit." Canton Newcomers and Neighbors have expanded from just welcoming new residents to reconnecting existing residents and their whole families to the Canton community.

each passenger.

'Basically a miracle'

Megge said her father had a rare cancer. "He should have only lived six months to a year." But it wound up being 11 years. "It was basically a miracle."

A stem cell transplant put him in remission for five years, and then medications were able to control the cancer after it came back.

Megge said her father was so positive, many people didn't know he had cancer. "You never would have known when he was in pain; he just kept going."

In November, less than two months before he died, he went to Hawaii. "He was never bed-ridden; my dad just went

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 denice

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 personally at all court hearings. Many large firms assign inexperi-enced 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

OE08769143

Commissioned advisers beholden to someone else

By Rick Bloom Guest Columnist

Q: Dear Rick: My daughter lives out of town and has decided she needs the services of a financial adviser. I've sent her some of your columns so she would have an understanding of who to hire. I understand the difference between a fee adviser and one who works on commissions. I've told her to avoid commission-based financial advisers because of the conflict of interest. What confuses me is the difference between fee-only and fee-based. I'm not sure if it's just a difference in terminology or if there really is a difference. Please explain the difference.

A: First, I do agree with you that commissioned financial advisers do have a conflict of interest. After all, their compensation comes from the products they sell. I believe that when you hire a professional, their loyalty should be to you and only you.



Rick Bloom

ucts that they sell and that is where their loyalty is.

comes directly

from the prod-

Fee-based advisers will charge you a fee and at the same time also accept commissions. Sometimes this means that they are double-dipping. They are getting paid from both the client and the product.

What some fee-based advisers do is offset the fees they charge you with any commission they receive. Their view is that handling it that way reduces any conflict of interest. I don't agree. I believe there can, potentially, still be a conflict of interest. After all, what if the commissions are substantially more than the fee that they would charge you? In that situation you may not be paying any fee; you're just paying commissions.

A fee-only adviser receives 100 percent of his/her compensation directly from the client (I should note that my firm, Bloom Asset Management, has always been a fee-only adviser firm). Fee-only advisers do not receive any compensation from any product they may recommend to a client. In that way, there is no conflict of interest.

I believe that when you hire a professional, whether it is a doctor, lawyer or a financial adviser, you want them to be loyal to you, and only to you. That is why for the great majority of people, I recommend a fee-only adviser. Although the industry is changing and more advisers are becoming fee-only advisers, there are still a majority of financial advisers that work on commission. I believe that so many of those advisers are really not advisers but rather, financial salespeople.

Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, March 25, 2012

There is nothing wrong with salespeople, however, I do believe they create a problem in the financial world. My other problem with commission salespeople is that not only does their compensation come from buying and selling products, but also many times they are compensated for doing nothing.

Many different types of investment products have what are known as trailers. Trailers pay a financial salesperson an ongoing fee for as long as the investor retains the product. In theory, the reason why they are compensated that way is so they can service the client for as long as they hold that product. However, reality is somewhat different. In many situations, the salesperson does nothing. You are paying them high fees and getting nothing in return. What also bugs me about commissions is that in many situations clients do not know what fees they are paying. When fees are undisclosed, they are generally higher than someone should be paying.

(CP) A13

The bottom line when it comes to hiring a financial adviser is you have to feel comfortable enough to ask questions. If a financial adviser intimidates you or does not want to answer your questions, you know you're dealing with the wrong person. Good luck!

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

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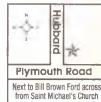
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LOCAL NEWS

Easter eats back on tap in Canton



The annual Easter Bunny Breakfast and Easter Eggstravaganza events begin at 9 a.m. on Saturday, March 31.

The Easter Bunny is coming to town, and he's bringing pancakes and eggs and lots of fun for the entire family. Canton Leisure Services accordingly invites local families to the annual Easter Bunny Breakfast and Easter Eggstravaganza events beginning at 9 a.m. on Saturday, March 31.

The morning starts with a two-hour buffet of breakfast favorites in the Summit on the Park Grand Ballroom, located at 46000 Summit Parkway in Canton. Participants will enjoy a complete pancake bar, sausage, scrambled eggs, hash browns, fresh fruit, bacon, pastries, juices, milk, coffee and tea, as well as strolling entertainment featuring a visit from the Bunny himself. **Pre-registration** is required. Tickets are



Leisure Services officials recommend early arrival for the Easter Eggstravaganza, which starts at 10:30 a.m. at the Heritage Park Playground and Splash Pad.

\$15 for ages 13 and up, \$10 for ages 4 to 12, and \$4 for ages 3 and under. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Kids ages 11 and under can also stick around after breakfast for the Easter Eggstravaganza — also be purchased onsite from Daydream Cafe as well as Cruisin' Custom Coney's.

The Easter Eggstravaganza will begin at 10:30 a.m. and run until 12:30 p.m. at the Heritage Park Playground and Splash Pad, located on the east side of the Summit on the Park. No pre-registration is necessary, but entry is \$2 per participant collected onsite; to keep things fun and fair, children will be divided into two age categories. As the Eggstravaganza is traditionally well-attended, guests are encouraged to allow some extra time for parking.

To register for the Easter Bunny Pancake Breakfast or for more information, please visit www.cantonfun.org or call (734) 394-5460.

Planet Fitness to donate signup fees to breast cancer research

For the third straight year, Planet Fitness, with locations in Canton, Farmington Hills, Livonia, Southfield, Troy and Westland, will hold a special springtime promotion to raise money for The Breast Cancer Research Foundation.

which consists of a series

of continuous weather-

ter egg hunts as well

permitting outdoor Eas-

as fun indoor activities

a special visit from the

peteer. Tasty treats can

including: crafts, games,

Easter Bunny, and a pup-

For every new member who signs up at a Planet Fitness gym from March 26 through April 4th, a \$10 donation will be made to the foundation.

More than 320 Planet Fitness gyms across the country will participate in the nine-day sale. Memberships will cost just \$10 down, and then \$10 a month.

In the past two years, **Planet Fitness gyms** nationwide have donated \$583,200 to The Breast Cancer Research Foundation through the springtime promotion.

The Breast Cancer **Research Foundation is** an independent not-forprofit organization committed to funding scientific research to achieve prevention and a cure for breast cancer.

For more information, visit www.planetfitness.com.

Hazardous waste day set for April 14

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lic Service will be holding a Household Hazardous Waste Collection on Saturday, April 14, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., at the Romulus Civic Center, located at 11111 Wayne Road.

This free event is open to Wayne County residents only and is an excellent opportunity to make your home and environment safe by properly disposing of waste that is considered toxic, flammable or corrosive.

Only household generated products from Wayne County residents will be

commercial waste, industrial waste, radioactive materials, explosives, ammunition, shock sensitive materials, household trash, 55-gallon drums, refrigerators, microwaves or other appliances, tires, yard waste and concrete. For information on how to dispose of these items, contact the Wayne County Resource Recoverv Coordinator at (734) 326-3936.

For more information on the April 18 collection, please call (734) 326-3936 or visit www.waynecounty.com.



online at hometownlife.com

Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, March 25, 2012





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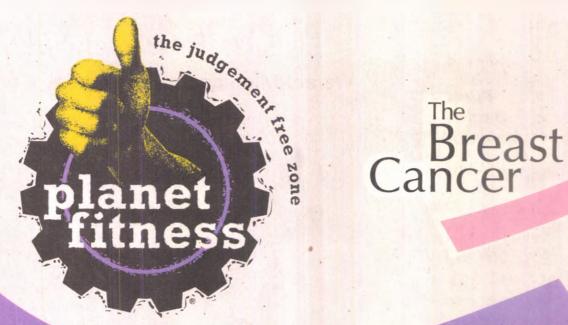
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INSIDE: ALL-AREA BOYS HOCKEY, B4

SUNDAY, MARCH 25, 2012 OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

SPORTS

TIM SMITH, EDITOR

tsmith@hometownlife.com 734-469-4128

OHL PLAYOFFS

Rally can't save Whalers

By Tim Smith Observer Staff Writer

With one lightning-fast burst down the middle of the ice late in the second goal, Plymouth Whalers forward Alex Aleardi netted a shorthanded goal to cut Guelph's lead to 3-1 Friday in Game 1 of their OHL first round series.

That play, with 3:38 to go in the second, brought new life inside Compuware Arena, both in the stands and on the Plymouth bench.

But even though the Whalers ramped up the pressure with 21 shots in the third — and with forward J.T. Miller scoring a power-play goal — the early three-goal deficit proved too much as the Storm came away with a 4-2 victory.

"We had 47 shots, their goalie (Toronto prospect Garret Sparks) played really well and they got a couple bounces," Plymouth head coach and general manager Mike Vellucci said. "But I just told the guys, you got to win four games to win a series. It's not college hockey where it's one-game elimination."

The Whalers will look to even the series with a game at Guelph set for 6:30 p.m. Sunday. (Game 3 at Compuware is 7 p.m. Tuesday.)

Aleardi, who tallied 36 goals during the season, said his team now knows what it has to do to take over the bestof-seven Western Conference quarterfinal.

"He's a big goalie, he takes up a lot of space," Aleardi said about Sparks. "But we made him look good tonight. We just got to keep getting to the net. We're going to put pressure on him, he's going to weaken down and we're going to score a lot of goals."

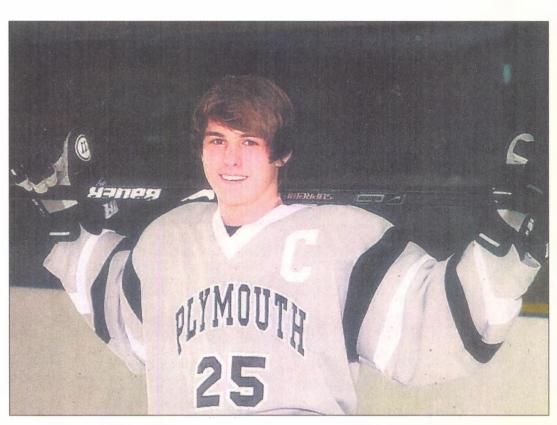
Goal in mind

Aleardi's goal did what he intended it to do, light a fire under his team to climb back from a 3-0 hole. Head down, he steamed full speed down the ice with one thing in mind.

"He (the Guelph defenseman) was skating slow and I just saw the puck kind of sitting there," Aleardi said. "I got a pretty quick pace out there and I thought why not pressure him and make him lose the puck.

"I ended up beating him to the puck and getting the boys going on my goal, shorthanded."

Miller made it 3-2 with 16:42 to play in the third. Forward Mitchell Heard battled along the right-wing boards and



Since childhood, Zach Gambrell's love of hockey has been a constant. The Plymouth senior looks to continue playing the sport — and enjoying it — well into the future.

Zach attack

Passion for hockey's never wavered for Plymouth senior

By Tim Smith Observer Staff Writer

Even when he was little playing with the Plymouth Sharks in a recreational hockey league, coaches saw something special in Zach Gambrell.

"From day one when he was put on a team, Zach played up a year," said his mom, Cheryl Gambrell. "So he played with older boys."

The Plymouth High School senior forward didn't stumble then, or anytime since with a seven-year stint with the Canton Crush travel team leading to a very successful high school career.

Gambrell, a first-team selection to the All-Observer hockey team, finished with the most goals, assists and points in the decade-long existence of the Wildcats.

For the record, Gambrell, 17, finished his prep career



Plymouth senior forward Zach Gambrell (No. 25) capped off an outstanding high school career in 2011-12, setting new school marks for goals, assists and points.

about his scoring mark. "Per- pretty good coaches. It all

Coaches call

If you coach one of the spring sports and would like to see a preview of your team in the Observer, please contact Plymouth-Canton sports editor Tim Smith at (734) 469-4128 or send him an email (tsmith@hometownlife.com) as soon as possible. Also follow up with recaps of games, meets and matches once the season begins.

Dolinski lifts WSU tankers

Wayne State University freshman Kaylee Dolinski helped Wayne State University earned the NCAA Division II National Women's Swimming and Diving championship by a single point over Drury University (Neb.) last weekend in Mansfield, Texas.

Dolinski swam the third leg as a member of WSU's first-place 800-yard freestyle relay team and also scored points for the Warriors with a 13th in the 1,000 freestyle (10:17.2) and a 14th in the 1,650 freestyle (17:21.97).

Dolinski, who attends WSU on an academic scholarship, also competed in the 200- and 500 freestyle events.

Dynamo 1st

The Livonia YMCA Dynamo, an under-10 girls soccer team, captured first place with a 7-0-1 record recently during the second session at High Velocity Sports in Canton.

Members of the Dynamo include: Andrea Abramson, McKenna Coury, Allie Fulton, Alexis Gibbons, Mandy Laiacono, Jenna McCann, Olivia Pelles, Julianna Racette, Jada Sabir, Jade Sabir, Abby Woods and Emily Woods. The Dynamo are coached by Laura, Don and Lesley McDougall.

Please see WHALERS, B3

with 48 goals, 50 assists and 98 points — in 98 games. "Obviously, I feel pretty great about it," Gambrell said sonally, I think that's a pretty great accomplishment. I mean, it's mostly just a lot of hard work and I had some kind of added up to having a good career.

Please see ZACH, B3

What a Discovery: Middle school cagers go undefeated

By Tim Smith Observer Staff Writer

Given the challenge of being the best, playing smart and working the hardest, Discovery Middle School's boys basketball varsity and junior varsity teams literally followed that blueprint to perfection.

The Canton school's A (varsity) and B (JV) teams each went 8-0 this season, enjoying a combined 16-0 record and first-year head coach Kevin Palmer couldn't have asked for a better debut.

Discovery enjoyed back-to-beat unbeaten seasons for the first time in school history. Enjoying the unprecedented two-year run were co-captains Chris Walls, Julian Ledoux and Beaumont Hoffman. "I was following in the footsteps of a great coach at Discovery, Dave VanWagoner, who built a consistently great basketball program at the school," Palmer noted. "Our group had three qualities that every coach wants in a team: great athletes, a very high basketball IQ and a great work ethic.

"We wanted to be the best team we faced all year, every day in practice and we were."

Please see DISCOVERY, B3



The Discovery Middle School boys basketball champions, who went a combined 16-0 this season, include the following: (front row, from left) Gage Moyers, Noah Haren, Ryan Radwan, Matt Brooks, Julian Ledoux; (middle row, from left) Jason Arnold, Zach Gruczelak, Nate Yaekle, Obi Okoli, Brent Davis, Ben Yaekle; (back row, from left) assistant coach William Hundley, Michael Chang, Chris Walls, Beaumont Hoffman, Javon Vinson, Hunter Thornhill, Jesse Warner, Evan Newel and head coach Kevin Palmer.

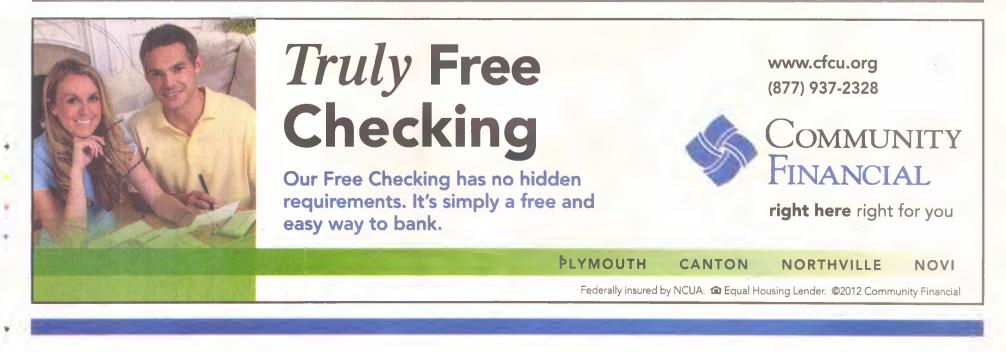
Rooney eyes homecoming

Mount St. Mary University (Md.) men's lacrosse co-captain Brendan Rooney (University of Detroit Jesuit) will return for a match beginning at 3 p.m. Saturday against the host University of Michigan in the first-ever meeting between the schools.

Rooney helped the Mountaineers to 2011 NEC and 2010 MAAC conference championships.

The homecoming also features the return of Mountaineer players Conor Carey (Farmington Hills) and John Marsalese (Huntington Woods).

Rooney has appeared in five games for the 2-4 Mountaineers.



(CP) Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, March 25, 2012

DETROIT BASKETBAL

B2

LOCAL SPORTS

Whalers' Levi 'grateful' to sign NHL contract

By Tim Smith Observer Staff Writer

Ever since defenseman Austin Levi has played for the Plymouth Whalers, he's been witness to a string of teammates making their way to contracts with National Hockey League teams.

At the top of that list, of course, is Boston Bruins standout forward Tyler Seguin, who starred two years for Plymouth and last season won a Stanley Cup his rookie year in the NHL.

Now, the 20-year-old Levi has the chance to have his name added to the list as he inked a three-year, entry-level contract with the Carolina Hurricanes of the NHL. Whalers' goalie Scott Wedgewood subsequently signed a deal with the New Jersey Devils. "A lot of players have

"A lot of players have gone to the NHL from Plymouth," said Levi, following the Whalers' 6-2 loss to Sarnia in the regular-season finale on March 17. "I'm just really grateful for the opportunity and I worked hard for it. "It's good to finally see

it coming to fruition."

Levi, a 6-4, 205-pounder who lived several years with his family in Farmington Hills before moving in 2010 to Canton, added that getting the contract now is a big relief — particularly with the OHL playoffs beginning. Plymouth lost 4-2 Friday night in Game 1 against Guelph (see related story, B1).

"It's really exciting and a big relief to come here before playoff time so I can really focus on what's



RENA LAVERTY

Plymouth Whalers defenseman Austin Levi (No. 7) signed an entry-level contract with Carolina of the NHL. Levi is a Canton resident, formerly of Farmington Hills. Pictured in the background is goalie Scott Wedgewood, who also recently inked a deal with the New Jersey Devils.

really important for our team, to win a Memorial Cup," Levi stressed. "So it's exciting but it's a relief to get it out of the way."

This season, Levi's fourth with the OHL Whalers, he scored five goals and 25 assists for 30 points in 64 contests.

Those marks were the second best among Plymouth blueliners in 2011-12, only behind Howell's Beau Schmitz.

The Hurricanes announced last week that they had signed Levi to the contract.

Levi will receive a \$175,000 signing bonus and could make \$525,000 if he makes the NHL club next season. If he is sent to the minors, he will earn \$60,000.

According to Ron Francis, director of hockey operations for the Hurricanes, Levi brings "excellent size and has really come into his own" as a stay-at-home defender. Although Levi would like it best to make the Hurricanes next fall, he said he hopes to at least make the Charlotte farm team in the American Hockey League.

Wedgewood signs

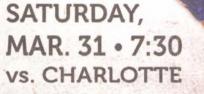
It was announced this week by the New Jersey Devils that netminder Wedgewood came to terms on an entry-level contract. No further details were available, per club policy.

Wedgewood, New Jersey's second choice (third round) and 84th overall selection in the 2010 NHL Entry Draft, joins the organization after spending the past four seasons with the Whalers.

The 6-1, 190-pounder finished the regular season with a 28-10-3 record and 3.02 goals-against average.

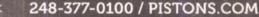
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MADNESS IN MARCH.



- 1

LOCAL SPORTS

DISCOVERY

Continued from page B1

The proof was on the scoreboard. Discovery scored an average of 47.5 points per game while yielding only 21.5 per contest.

"Our kids were phenomenal this year with their ability and schemes that we taught them," said Palmer, a former high school coach.

"By the end of the season, I felt like our kids could have taken on some high school freshman teams and given them a run for their mon-

ey. "I don't expect to have another group of players like we had this year to come walking through the door any time soon, which is why I appreciate how lucky I was to get the opportunity to coach such a talented group of players."

Pipeline for PCEP

Thirteen eighth graders will move on and play for one of the freshman teams at Plymouth-Canton Educational Park in 2012-13.

"There were a lot of very special players on our team that are going to have great high school carriers through the next four years," Palmer emphasized. "But I don't want to single out any individual kids because it took all 18 of them to achieve the record and great season we had." Palmer, helped this season by assistant coach William Hundley, said he can't wait to see how well the players make the transition to the Park over the next four years.

"I'm very excited to watch them move on and see how they develop as high school players under great coaches like coach Brodie at Salem, coach Soukup at Plymouth and coach Reddy at Canton," he added.

Members of the Discovery teams included: Jason Arnold, Matt Brooks, Michael Chang, Brent Davis, Noah Haran, Beaumont Hoffman, Zach Gruczelak, Julian Ledoux. Gage Moyers, Evan Newel. Obi Okoli, Ryan Radwan. Hunter Thornhill, Chris Walls, Jesse Warner, Javon Vinson, Ben Yaekle and Nate Yaekle.

> tsmith@hometownlife.com (734) 469-4128

ZACH

Continued from page B1

"I think that's a pretty cool little feature to have. I don't think many high school (players) get to break records or anything."

The scoring record is nice, but he points to something else as the highlight of his Plymouth career.

"It was probably my freshman year," Gambrell said. "We beat Canton both times in the regular season, like 7-3 or something. We were bigtime underdogs, so it was good to beat them.'

This season, playing on a line with Mike Schultz and Joe Burke, he tallied 15 goals and 13 assists for 28 points.

Gives his all

He also was team captain and brought a standard of performance on and off the ice that firstyear Wildcats coach Gerry Vento appreciated.

"As for Zach, besides his obvious skill on the ice, it is his team-first attitude that makes him a special player, which explained why he was our captain," Vento said. "On the ice, his skills were obvious to anyone that watched him play, but his

er's 3.1 grade-point average contributed to the Wildcats' All-Academic team award for a cumulative GPA of 3.06.

"This is something I am very proud of as a coach," Vento said.

Although Gambrell's days wearing the black and silver have now concluded, he isn't done with hockey - by any means. This weekend, he is trving out with Team Michigan, a squad of elite senior high school players. A strong showing could land him a spot on the roster for a tournament in Minnesota.

"If I were to make the team and play in the tournament, I definitely think that would doors for me." Gambrell said. "To get a lot more people noticing me and looking at me.'

Other players from Plymouth-Canton Educational Park are expected to be at the tryouts, including two other All-**Observer** first-teamers: Salem forward Mark McGee and Canton goalie Spencer Craig.

"Absolutely," Gambrell said when asked if he would like playing with others from the Park on Team Michigan. "I mean, I played with Mark (with the Crush) before I played high school hockey. So I know Mark from way, way back. It would be fun to play on the same team with him again."

A Tier II league sanctioned by USA Hockey. Players usually must go from prep to the NAHL (or similar United States Hockey League) before being considered for college teams.

'Under most situations, you cannot go from high school to college," Cheryl said. "You have to go the junior level route first, unless you are superb."

As an example of that progression, Justin Abdelkader of the Detroit Red Wings went from Muskegon Mona Shores High School to Cedar Rapids of the USHL before starting at Michigan State in 2005-06.

"There's one or two (NAHL) teams that have expressed some interest," Gambrell said. "But there's nothing too serious yet. But I'm going to a few camps and trying to get my name out there a little bit more."

And there is an everpresent ambition Zach's carried since he was on the Sharks at age 4, when Cheryl and dad Paul Gambrell first began chauffeuring him to early morning Sharks practices at Plymouth Cultural Center.

"Zach's success truly is his excellent love of the game," Cheryl said. "And through his entire hockey career, he does very well because he's out there having a blast. He's having fun. Whether he's playing NAHL, college or even pickup hockey, that isn't about to change.



PHOTOS BY RENA LAVERTY

Plymouth Whalers forward Alex Aleardi (left) of Farmington Hills is flying high after scoring a spectacular shorthanded goal Friday night against Guelph netminder Garret Sparks in the teams' playoff opener at Compuware Arena. At right for Guelph is defenseman Matthew Finn (No. 4).

WHALERS

Continued from page B1

passed the puck to center Andy Bathgate behind the net.

Bathgate then threaded a perfect pass to Miller near the left post for a tap-in marker.

Numerous times after that, Plymouth came close to at least sending the game into overtime. But Sparks held his

ground and Guelph's Francis Menard netted an empty-netter with 21 seconds left to wrap up the win.

Guelph led 1-0 after one period despite being outshot 12-8. A loose puck bounced off a player in front of Plymouth goalie Scott Wedgewood (26 saves) right to Jason Dickinson, who swept it home for the power-play goal.



Plymouth's Alex Aleardi (No. 40, left) scored in the second period, but he and his teammates were stymied throughout the third by Guelph goalie Garret Sparks. Here, the netminder kicks out a shot with Whalers forward Danny Vanderwiel (No. 18) hovering in search of a possible rebound. Also pictured is Guelph's Kyle Pereira (No. 9).

Just 1:04 into the second, the Storm doubled the lead to 2-0. Brock McGinn banked a shot from behind the net past Wedgewood. And three minutes later, Guelph tallied another goal on the power play, this one on a long screen shot by defenseman Andrey Pedan that sailed over Wedgewood's blocker. The Whalers finally got

it going thanks to the spectacular goal by Aleardi, a play started when forward Mitchell Heard chipped the puck out of the Plymouth zone.

Unfortunately for the home team and its 2,265 fans, it all proved too little too late.

> tsmith@hometownlife.com (734) 469-4128

MU splits series at Aquinas

The Madonna University baseball team opened its home and Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference schedules this past week by splitting four games against Aquinas College.

The four-game split left the Crusaders with a 17-11 overall record and 2-2 mark in the WHAC. Aquinas left town with marks of 8-10 and 2-2, respectively.

Defensive miscues and a dearth of timely hitting haunted the Crusaders on Sunday when they were swept, 4-1 and 3-1, by visiting Aquinas.

nightcap, 3-1.

MU grabbed a temporary 1-0 lead in the fourth when Spencer Sarel knocked in Dan Harder. However, Aquinas scored once in the fifth and twice in the sixth to seize the victory.

Tyler Cotter (Livonia Churchill) led MU's five-hit attack with a pair of safeties.

In contrast, the Crusaders' bats were booming on Saturday when they swept Aquinas, 6-5 and 10-7.

In Saturday's opener, MU built up a

work ethic is what separated him from other players that may have been just as talented.

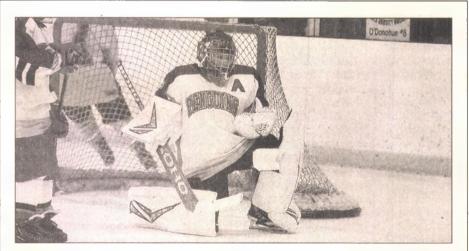
"He never gave less than 100 percent on the ice and at off-ice workouts."

Vento added that Gambrell set a positive example with his academic work, too. The right wing-

He loves it

And players who excel at the high school tournament could very well find themselves knocking on the door of the North American Hockey League — a Junior

tsmith@hometownlife.com (734) 469-4128



Miss Hockey finalist

Kaitlyn Allard, senior goalie and an assistant captain for the PCS Penguins, makes a save during the recent Division 2 state championship victory against Farmington Hills Mercy at Arctic Edge Arena. Allard was a finalist for the annual "Miss Hockey" award, presented by Hockey Weekly. Allard was the only Michigan Metro Girls High School Hockey League player from D2 to be nominated for the honor, but lost out to Claire Boyle of Grosse Pointe South. Penguins head coach Mary Beth Johnson said Allard "had a great season though, ... what an honor." GPS captured the D1 title.



'Cats open lacrosse season

Closing in on the Ann Arbor Huron goal Wednesday night is Plymouth's Emily Lehr (No. 23) as the Wildcats' varsity girls lacrosse team opened the season losing 18-11. At right for Plymouth is Haley Swanson (No. 14). Lehr had a goal while Swanson had three goals and two assists. Leading Plymouth with six goals was Katie Hill, while Shannon Lubin also scored. "We knew going in that Ann Arbor Huron was going to be a tough way to start the season, but I thought our girls eventually settled down and played well in the second half," said Plymouth coach Bob Hill.

In the opener, Aquinas pushed across the only two runs it would need in the first inning against MU starter Matthew Cook, who dropped to 4-1 despite allowing just five hits and zero earned runs in seven innings. Cook struck out seven and walked three. The Crusaders' lone run came in the sixth when Alex Charles tripled and scored on a passed ball

MU committed six errors in the nineinning contest.

Garrett Rebain (Plymouth) was the lone MU player with two hits. Aquinas out hit Madonna, 5-4.

Kaleb Ort notched the win for Aquinas after limiting the Crusaders to three hits and one run in 6.1 innings. Ort fanned 12.

Aquinas used a strong pitching performance from Jake Ritsema to win the 6-0 lead through four innings before withstanding a five-run Aquinas assault in the sixth inning.

Junior All-American Jeremy Gooding (Livonia) earned his second win of the season for MU, going seven solid innings (seven strike outs, eight hits allowed). Randall Stempek retired Aquinas in order in the ninth to earn his third save.

Josh Deeg hit his second home run of the season for MU while Spencer Sarel and Drew Adamiec each drove in two. Nick Kissane and Michael Wood each drove in a pair of runs for Aquinas.

Deeg starred in Saturday's nightcap, throwing a complete-game to earn his second win of the season. He struck out seven and excelled at the plate, ripping four hits and driving in three runs.



LOCAL SPORTS

Churchill leads All-Area parade

FIRST-TEAM

Spencer Craig, Sr. G, Canton: Talk to any hockey coach and he'll list Craig as one of the best netminders in the state.

The third-year starter didn't hurt his lofty reputation in 2011-12, with a 2.33 goalsagainst average, .899 save percentage and one shutout for the KLAA South Division and Lash Cup champions.

Craig earned all-conference honors for a second consecutive season and was all-state honorable mention.

"Whenever you have Spencer in net you know you have an opportunity to win the game,' coach Jeremy Majszak said. "He's just that kind of goalie that can steal games for you and put the team on his back."

Over a two-game stretch against Livonia Churchill and Novi, Craig stopped 74 of 77 shots to lead the Chiefs to a pair of victories.

During Craig's three years with Canton, he put his name in the school record book for most shutouts in a season (five) and career victories by a goalie (36).

"Spencer plans to take his game to the next level next season playing junior hockey," Maiszak said.

Jim Lelekatch, Sr. Def., Liv. Churchill: The four-year varsity player and team captain earned both all-KLAA and Division 1 first-team all-state honors for the 21-7 Chargers, who reached the state quarterfinals.

In 28 games, Lelekatch had seven goals and seven assists to go along with a plus-12 rating. He took just four minutes in penalties.

Lelekatch also made Michigan High School Hockey Coaches Association academic all-state team and earned the Chargers' Hobey Baker Character award.

"Jim is a classic example of what hard work can do for your development," Churchill coach Pete Mazzoni said. "He played in every situation - his offensive really developed this year in large part to the work in put in during the offseason. Just a great captain and the definition of a student-athlete.'

Nick Proben, Sr. Def., Liv. Churchill: The second-team allstater and three-year varsity player finished the year with five goals and 23 assists for 28 points with a plus-34 rating. The captain had just eight minutes in penalties. "Nick is really a forward playing defense," Mazzoni said. "He developed his defensive game and it helped his offense. He was a guy that we wanted to handle the puck for us. He is a good decision maker and makes a great first pass valuable skills need to play defense."



Canton

Jim Lelekatch

Churchill

Eric Stanis

NF-Harrison



Stevenson

Mark McGee, Sr. F, Salem: Talented and hard-working, Salem's team captain and MVP left a legacy that will be tough to surpass. He scored 29 goals and 11 assists for 40 points, earning all-conference and Division 1 first-team all-state honors.

McGee is the first PCEP player ever voted all-state in backto-back seasons, coach Ryan Ossenmacher said.

In his three-year career with the Wildcats, McGee tallied the second-most goals in school history

"Mark is a model for our future players to follow on how to commit to getting better and doing everything possible to attain that goal," Ossenmacher said.

This spring, McGee is trying out for Team Michigan, and will play in a Midwest tournament of elite high school seniors should he make the squad.

In the fall, he will likely continue playing hockey in the North American Hockey League with the intent of eventually joining a college program.

"I am confident that he will continue to excel because of his abilities and determination," Ossenmacher noted.

Beyond McGee's development as a player the past three years, he has worked to improve his grades, which the coach said he is most proud of.

Zach Gambrell, Sr. F, Plymouth: The fourth-year varsity player scored 15 goals and assisted on 13 others to lead the squad in goals and total points. Those numbers gave him school career records of 48 goals and 98 points, collected in 98 games for a point-a-game average. He was the unanimous team MVP, made the All-KLAA team and earned all-state honorable mention honors. Following graduation, Gambrell is hopeful of playing in the NAHL with an eye on college hockey down the road.



Churchill



Stevenson



Jake Otto

Churchill

Churchill

2011-12 ALL-OBSERVER **BOYS HOCKEY FIRST TEAM**

Spencer Craig, Sr. G, Canton Jim Lelekatch, Sr. Def., Liv. Churchill Nick Proben, Sr. Def., Liv. Churchill Jake Otto, Sr. F, Liv. Churchill Mark McGee, Sr. F, Salem Zach Gambrell, Sr. F, Plymouth SECOND TEAM

Josh Cliff, Sr. G, Farmington Chris McDonald, Sr. Def., Liv. Stevenson Eric Stanis, Jr. F. NF-Harrison Dominic Lutz, Soph. F, Liv. Stevenson Mike Gambino, Sr. F. Liv. Churchill Duggan Tear, Sr. F, Canton Jared VanValkenburg, Sr. F, NF-Harrison THIRD TEAM Alex Estes, Sr. G, Churchill

Justin Brereton, Sr. Def., NF-Harrison Mark Prokes, Sr. Def., Farmington Devin Smythe, Sr. F, Churchill Nate Sink, Sr. F, Stevenson Sean Smiatacz, Sr. F, Plymouth Austin Sartorius, Sr. F. Salem

FOURTH TEAM Richard Guglielmi, Sr. G, Plymouth Michael Manzer, Sr. Def., Salem Reede Burnett, Jr. Def., NF-Harrison Zac Massa, Sr. F, Farmington Derek Ried, Sr. F, NF-Harrison Thomas Ross, Sr. F, Stevenson Brandon Grillo, Sr. F, Canton **COACH OF YEAR**

Pete Mazzoni, Liv. Churchill HONORABLE MENTION Churchill: Brad Milks, Tommy Carey Riley Brown, Ben Proben; Franklin: Brian Roulier, Danny Donahue, Tyler Satkowiak; Stevenson: Mario Tomei, Jake Kierdorf, Travis Harvey; Canton: Taylor Baker, Andrew Gorski, Brandon Schlieger, Zach Cox; Plymouth: Dean Gunther, Mitch Claggett, Mike Schultz; Salem: Kyle Eggenberger, Alek Zultowski, Kyle Downey, Evan Patton, Jake Sealy; North-Harrison: Keith Ladouceur, Jake Ladouceur, Stephen Coulter, Kyle Wood; Farmington: Mike Manzo, Cooper

Farmington's seven victories, and his teammates recognized his important role by giving him the team's highest individual honor. Cliff had a 2.32 GAA and .913 save percentage.

McLean, Kyle Gandy.



Mark McGee Salem





grade-point average and is a standout pitcher on the Stevenson baseball team.

"He was a beast on the ice for us this year," Mitchell said. "He logged a ton of ice and was the leader amongst our defensive corp. He was moved to defense last year, so this was basically only his second full year on the blue line and for him to do what he did was truly phenomenal."

Eric Stanis, Jr. F, North-Harrison: Stanis was the leading scorer for the Flyers, who had a 15-8-2 record while competing in the Oakland Activities Association's top division. The junior forward scored 17 goals and assisted on 19 others.

"He played with a lot of energy, and he was solid in the defensive zone, too," coach Ken Anderson said. "He had a knack for finding the net when he had his chances.

"With 19 assists, he was able to get his linemates some good goals, too. I'm very happy for Eric and Jared (VanValkenburg); they truly deserve this recognition."

Dominic Lutz, Soph. F, Liv. Stevenson: The sophomore led Stevenson in points this season (33) 18 goals and 15 assists in 25 games.

Lutz also led the team in plusminus rating with a plus 16.

"He played and excelled in all situations as a sophomore this past season," Mitchell said. "He worked extremely hard at both ends of the ice not only leading the team in scoring, but most often playing against other teams top lines



Zach Gambrell Plymouth

Jared

NF-Harrison





Farmington

VanValkenburg **Coach of Year**

Tear scored a team-high 17 goals, drew 10 assists and was plus-12 (best on the team) as the Chiefs won their division.

For his efforts, Tear earned all-conference honors and was named the team MVP.

"Duggan really elevated his game this year," Majszak said. "After playing on the third line with a total of around seven points last year he stepped up to fill the void on offense left by graduating seniors.

"When the game was tight, with time ticking away, Duggan was your guy on the ice.'

Tear, who has aspirations of playing NAHL hockey later this year, could be counted on in every situation that faced the Chiefs, Majszak continued.

The winger came through on numerous occasions, "whether it was to score a goal, kill a penalty or keep the other team off the board.'

Jared VanValkenburg, Sr. F, North-Harrison: He also made a significant contribution to the North-Harrison offense. Van-Valkenburg capped his high school career with 13 goals and 17 assists for the Flyers, who earned the No. 3 seed in the OAA Red Division playoffs. He was second on the team in both categories.

"Jared always seemed to step up in the big games for us and scored some big goals when we needed it," coach Anderson said. "He possesses a great shot. He was unselfish with the puck and got his linemates involved, too.'

Jake Otto, Sr. F, Liv. Churchill: The four-year player and team captain earned MHSHCA Division 1 first-team all-state along with all-KLAA honors after racking up 48 points on 18 goals and 30 assists.

Otto posted a staggering plus-43 rating with only four minutes in penalties.

"Jake was the heart-and-soul of our team," Mazzoni said. "He played every situation for us for three years.

"Jake was a great leader and role model for us. Played his best in every game. We moved him to wing this year and his offense took off, without sacrificing his defensive responsibilities."

This spring, he is trying out for a squad of elite high school seniors that will compete in a tournament in Minnesota.

"Zach's leadership will be a major void for our team to replace next season," said coach Gerry Vento about his captain. "Rarely do you find (such) a player ... who is never satisfied with his effort and always expects more of himself both at practices and games.

"He certainly left a mark not only on this team, but the program as a whole.'

SECOND-TEAM

Josh Cliff, Sr. G, Farmington: Cliff (6-9-1) had all but one of

"Josh is very deserving of this honor," coach Mark Velluc-ci said. "He was our team MVP and helped lead the Falcons to a near upset of (top-ranked and eventual Division 2 state champion) Brother Rice in the preregional.

"His GAA for a team that had only seven wins was pretty good. His desire to compete day in and day out is something that rubbed off on his teammates."

Chris McDonald, Sr. Def., Liv. **Stevenson**: The senior stood out on the blue line for the Spartans and finished the year with three goals and 10 assists.

"Chris was one of our team captains and leaders both onand-off the ice," Stevenson coach David Mitchell said. "He played in all situations – on defense most often against other team's top lines and players. He also saw action on the power play in front of the other teams' net.'

McDonald also earned all-KLAA honors. He carries a 4.17

SPORTS ROUNDUP

Lutz, an all-KLAA choice, also tallied the game-winning goal in a 6-4 win over Churchill.

"Dominic had a breakout year for us this year," Mitchell said. "He had a year that is pretty special for a sophomore. The future for him is extremely bright. He had an extremely productive year, while many teams keyed on him."

Mike Gambino, Sr. F, Liv. Churchill: The second-team all-stater had 36 points in 28 games with 14 goals and 41 assists to go along with an impressive plus-41 rating.

"Mike made the most of his senior year and capitalized on his opportunity," Mazzoni said of his Most Improved Player. "He has a big time shot, skates hard and was a physical presence for us.

"Mike embraced the concept of two-way hockey and presented many matchup difficulties for our opponents."

Duggan Tear, Sr. F, Canton: A tireless grinder with a knack around the net, the three-year letter winner was a thorn in the side of KLAA goaltenders all season.

COACH OF YEAR

Pete Mazzoni, Liv. Churchill: The 12th-year coach guided the Chargers to a 21-7 record and a second straight Division 1 regional title before falling to state runner-up Grosse Pointe North in the quarterfinals.

"We had a locker room full of guys who were committed to the team and did not care who got the credit," Mazzoni said. "It was a special season because many of our players have been in the program for such a long time. It was definitely a year to remember."

Mazzoni, who was also named MHSHCA Division 1 Coach of the Year, boasts a career varsity record of 233-97-41 (including two seasons at Redford Union).

"I want to make sure that our assistant coaches - Dave Higham, Jason Moul and Steve Greco - get their just due," Mazzoni said. "They are just as much deserving of this as anyone.

"Our administration is very supportive of interscholastic sports. And our support staff allows us to do the things that we want and need to do."

Canton football camps

Football players of all ages have something they can benefit from thanks to a trio of camps being run in mid-late June by the Canton High School football program. All of the camps will take place at the varsity turf stadium at Plymouth-Canton Educational Park. All participants will receive Chiefs football T-shirts.

• Kicking it off from June 11-14 is the "Football Skills Camp," for youngsters entering grades seven-nine. Prospective participants must pre-register by May 21 (\$45), although latecomers to sign up will owe \$55.

Sessions will run from 5-7:30 p.m. and focus on improving fundamentals while learning the Chiefs' football philosophy.

• Next up, June 18-21, is the "Wing T/3-4 Camp" for those going into grades 10-12.

Times are 2-5 p.m. June 18 and 5-8 p.m. June 19-21 with registration fees \$25 (if pre-registered by May 21) and \$30 (for latecomers).

On the agenda will be become a "tough and agile back or an efficient passing and throwing quarterback.'

• Wrapping things off June 25-28 is the "Funda-

mental Football Camp," for kids entering grades three-six. Times are 9 a.m. to noon all four days. Fees to sign up are \$75 (if signed up by June 1) and \$100 for those who register after that date.

Campers will learn about blocking, running, throwing and catching on offense and "proper footwork and techniques" on defense.

For more information, e-mail Enza Lanava of the Canton Chiefs Booster Club at elanava@wowway.com or call her at (313) 300-1173. All checks must be made payable to the Canton Chiefs Football Boosters Club.

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.

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 ageappropriate instruction from 2012 Plymouth var-

sity 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.

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 is 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@cantonmi.org.

B5.(*) SUNDAY, MARCH 25, 2012 OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

HEALTH

SHARON DARGAY, EDITOR SDARGAY@HOMETOWNLIFE.COM (313) 222-8833 FACEBOOK: HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

To your health: Ten steps to conquering heart disease

You may already know that heart disease is the No. 1 killer in America, and that factors like obesity increase your risk of developing it. But of all the shocking things you know — or believe you know about heart disease, here's the statistic that you might find the most eye-opening: 80 percent of all heart disease is preventable.

"It's important that everyone understand as much as possible about heart disease prevention, as 80 percent of heart disease can be avoided," says Dr. Martha Grogan, medical editor-in-chief of the new book *Mayo Clinic Healthy Heart for Life*!

Heart disease claims the lives of 600,000 Americans each year, and another 12.7 million suffer from heart attacks. One in three women are diagnosed with heart disease and 50 percent of men are at risk of heart attacks before age 65. Those statistics may make you feel like you, too, are in the cross-hairs for developing heart disease. Some lifestyle changes, however, can help you greatly reduce your risks.

In the new book, available now online and in bookstores nationwide, Mayo Clinic experts discuss risk factors for heart disease, how to recognize the symptoms, and what lifestyle steps you can take to help reduce your risk. The catchphrase "Eat 5, Move 10, Sleep 8" sums up the approach Mayo experts advocate to minimize heart disease risks. The slogan reminds you to eat five servings of fruits and vegetables each day,



Diet and exercise are keys to a healthy heart.

do at least 10 minutes of moderately intense physical exercise daily, and get at least eight hours of sleep per night.

In addition, Mayo experts say, 10 simple – steps can help you minimize your risk of heart disease. Here's a sampling of the steps that you'll find in the clinic's new heart healthy book:

• Eat healthy — Adopt simple dietary changes such as eating at least five fruits and vegetables each day, switching to whole grains and lean proteins, and eating a healthy breakfast every day.

• Be active — A sedentary lifestyle is as deadly as smoking, experts say. Exercising just 10 minutes a day can deliver significant heart-health benefits. Have trouble sticking with an exercise plan? Finding something you enjoy doing, whether it's playing a sport, running, tai chi, yoga or extreme house cleaning, can help you maintain your commitment to exercising.

• Sleep well --- Sleep deprivation has serious health repercussions, including increasing your risk of heart disease. Conversely, getting adequate sleep can actually have a restorative effect on the heart. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says sleep deprivation has become a national public health epidemic. Creating a bedtime routine and a relaxing sleep environment can help you get the

eight hours of sleep per night that your body needs.

• Plan for emergencies - A heart emergency can happen at any time, so it's important to know the warning signs of a problem. Learn to recognize symptoms of a crisis, and act quickly to get medical help.

• Enjoy life — A positive attitude, supportive network of family and friends, and good management of your stress not only improve your heart health, they can improve your overall enjoyment of

life, as well. In addition to offering solid advice and the 10

steps to heart health, the Mayo Clinic Healthy Heart for Life! also discusses how the heart functions, what can go wrong, tools for ongoing heart health, and tips on how to keep your whole family heart healthy.

"Following these steps can help you dramatically reduce your risk of heart disease, even though it can't be completely eliminated," Grogan says. "If you've done everything in your power to prevent heart disease or live with it as effectively as possible, then you have, indeed, conquered it."

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 27 and Thursday, March 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 27 and 6:30 p.m., Wednesday-Thursday, March 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.

April

MICHIGAN BARIATRIC

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.

ARTHRITIS SUPPORT

2-3:30 p.m. the third Thursday of the month at the Krieger Center, DMC Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital, 1 William Carls Drive, Commerce. Enter the building via the South Garden entrance. Registration not required.

BREAST CANCER SUP-PORT GROUP

Meets 6:30-8 p.m. on the second Tuesday of the month in the Atrium of Our Lady of Hope Cancer Center, St. Mary Mercy Hospital, 36475 Five Mile (use south entrance off Levan Road), Livonia. Call (734) 655-1100, or visit www. stmarymercy.org.

BIPOLAR SUPPORT

Depression Bipolar Support Alliance meets 6:30-8 p.m. the second and fourth Wednesday at Lincoln Behavioral Services Center, 14500 Sheldon Road, Suite 160B, Plymouth. It is accessed through the Plymouth Executive Park driveway north of M-14. It is a self-help group for people suffering from depression and bipolar disorders. Meetings are open also to family members. All DBSA leaders are professionally trained and attend two trainings for every year to update their skills in leading the group. Call Nancy at (734) 536-3457 or Katrina at (734) 837-7700 with questions.

CAREGIVERS SUPPORT GROUPS

St. John's Support Group for the Caregivers of Alzheimer's Patients or patients with other forms of dementia meet the first and third Friday of each month at 10 a.m. at St. John's Episcopal Church, 574 S. Sheldon, Plymouth. Respite care will be provided. Call Connie McNutt at (734) 895-1426 for information. Authorized by the Alzheimer's Association.



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DISCOVER III-REMARKABLE

Hearing Problems ... or maybe just earwax?

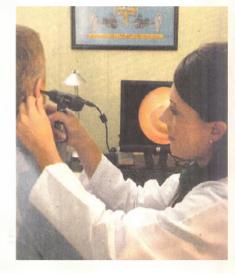


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COMMUNITY LIFE

Whimsical kitten offers a lesson in diversity

By Sharon Dargay O&E Staff Writer

When Lonna Baum wore eyeglasses for the first time in third grade, she felt like a fish out of water.

"I knew how odd I felt walking into class when no one else had them," she said. "I remember I didn't want to put them on and



of Livonia hopes to write a book series about "understanding differences.'

new book about a myopic kitten will help young readers understand how it feels to be "different."

never left

Years

later, the

Livonia

resident

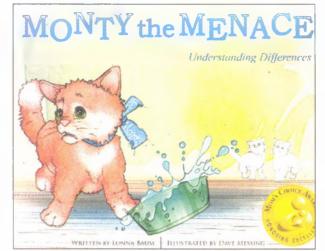
hopes her

her.

Monty the Menace tells the story of Monty Katt, one of three kitten siblings, who can't seem to avoid mishaps at home. He becomes a menace to his sisters as he tumbles down stairs, trips over water bowls and sits on their lunch. Mother Katt suspects vision problems and takes her son to the "catometrist" for an exam. He leaves the office wearing glasses ---and looking "different" ---but is no longer a menace because of his corrected vision.

"I want to make them understand it really doesn't make you different ... you're the same you," Baum said. She hopes Monty the Menace,

4



The cover of "Monty the Menace" shows why the story's main character needs glasses.

which was illustrated by Livonia artist Dave Messing, will be the first in a series of children's books that increase understanding of differences. She's already planning the next story about the Katt family, which will focus on hearing.

The self-published author started toying with the idea of writing a children's book a few vears ago while volunteering in a physical disabilities awareness program through the Epilepsy Foundation of Michigan.

Baum, who is married, has two grown children and two grandchildren, worked as a physical therapist at hospitals in Allen Park and Wayne and ran her own private practice in Livonia before retirement.

As a volunteer she talked about vision, hearing and movement disabilities with first and second graders.

"Because of their questions, it made me think about putting things on paper. I wanted to do something pretty universal and not make it too specific or it wouldn't appeal to a wide audience," she said, explaining why she focused on vision and eyeglasses.

She used cats instead of humans as the main characters because animals gave the story a "surreal" quality.

"I love animals. I happen to have two cats," she added. "I knew if I did it with cats I could play with the story a little. It was fun.'

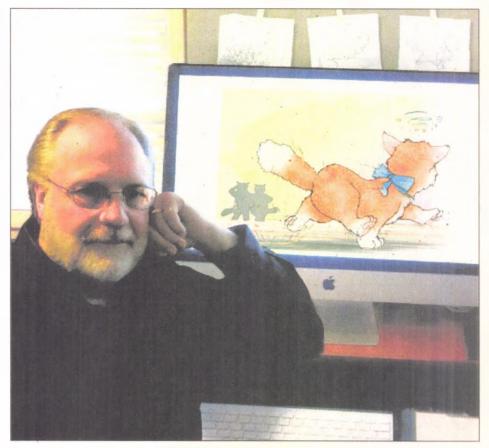
Finding an artist

Bringing Messing into the project was "funny fate," she said.

While browsing an art fair. Baum saw a children's book he had illustrated. She remembered that her daughter had taken art lessons from him years earlier.

"I didn't know he was illustrating children's books. He used to have an art store in Livonia."

Messing has illustrated several children's books in addition to working as an advertising designer, illustrator, and builder of props and miniatures for film and print. His work has been featured on tele-



Dave Messing of Livonia starts with pencil drawings and then uses a computer to layer colors for each image. That's "Monty" the kitten from "Monty the Menace" on the computer screen behind him.

vision, in print, film and magazines.

Messing said special needs children have always been dear to his heart and that he often receives grateful comments from readers when he draws eyeglasses on a character or places a wheelchair in the scene. "I always thought I'd

have to do it (write a book) on my own if I didn't find someone," he said. "Then Lonna comes along with a book about vision."

Working together

They met at a Panera cafe on a regular basis to mesh words and pictures, finalize details and get the book ready for BookMasters, Inc., the printing firm.

"Dave Messing made the words come to life with a great sense of whimsey," Baum said.

Messing said he enjoyed working with Baum, who gave him free rein to create the images. Each began with a pencil sketch that was transferred to a computer for coloring.

"What's neat is when I read the copy for the first time I picture every page in the group right then," Messing said, explaining his illustration process. "I don't like to peruse it in front of the author. I like to take it home, sit in my studio and read it." He said he envisions the

book illustrations in order, but then "cherry picks" images as he works.

"Monty ticked all the boxes for me," Messing said. "I knew I could make it funny and I knew it was a book that was needed."

Mom's Choice Awards, an organization that evaluates products and media, including children's picture books, recently awarded Monty the Menace a "Gold Medal."

The book costs \$16.95 and is available at amazon.com and barnesandnoble.com, in addition to Baum's website at montythemenace.com. Visit Messing's website at .www.coroflot.com/davemessing.

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B8 (WGcReLCP) Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, March 25, 2012

COMMUNITY LIFE

Schoolcraft College honors its **Transition Center students**

By Sharon Dargay O&E Staff Writer

Yvonne St. Arno, 53, says she is "shocked" by how much her life has changed since enrolling at Schoolcraft College with the help of its Transition Center.

The Westland woman is studying business administration, while working a part time job in the college marketing department where she handles social media.

"I'm in a different place now. I look back and I'm amazed how my life has changed and the direction it has taken. I don't like to brag, but I'm pretty proud of myself." The college is, too.

St. Arno was among the students who were recognized at the Transition Center's annual Spaghetti Dinner and Wine Glow on March 20.

The Transition Center spotlights students who use the program's resources to achieve success and improvement in their personal lives.

Other honorees included Leah Esslinger of Plymouth, a liberal arts student; Kendra Sparks of Livonia; and Peter Helms of Livonia, a liberal arts student and military veteran who used the Transition Center's

Veterans Services program.

The Center incorporates the services of: Women's Resource Center. Adult Student Services, Veteran's Services and New Student Orientation. Proceeds from the annual dinner benefit scholarships for students and the Transition Center at Schoolcraft College.

St. Arno credits the Transition Center for her return to school after being away from classes for more than 30 years.

"I was fresh out of a divorce after 28 years of marriage," said St. Arno, a 1977 high school graduate from Lutheran High West.

Her lawyer suggested she contact the Transition Center. She was accepted into the program, and started classes after figuring out her preferences.

"They had me take an interest exam. I wasn't sure what I wanted to do."

During her marriage, St. Arno was a stay-at-home mom with two sons. She said the Transition

Center helped ease her way back into class. During her first year at Schoolcraft, she attended support groups that included students from a range of ages and with a variety of experiences

"It was nice to meet with others. It's a lot different

Kendra Sparks (left) of Livonia, Peter Helms of Livonia, Leah Esslinger of Plymouth and Yvonne St. Arno of Westland are honored at the Schoolcraft College Transition Center annual Spaghetti Dinner and Wine Glow.

being in school when you're in your 50s than it is when you're in high school." The following year she

mentored newcomers at the Transition Center. My family has been a

support to me. And everyone at Schoolcraft is very

supportive - everyone from the people who pick up the garbage to the president."

For more information about the Transition Center call (734) 462-4443 or visit www.schoolcraft. edu/transition.

Teens raise funds for hungry children



Joe Beauchamp and Travis Wesenberg collect donations for their team.

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"There's no



Teens from Newburg United Methodist Church in Livonia recently joined thousands of other youths nationwide by participating in World Vision's 30 Hour Famine.

As part of the Famine, they participated in games and lessons that taught about hunger, poverty, water-borne illnesses and the barriers that keep people from getting enough to eat. The theme for this year's 30 Hour Famine was "Overcome Hunger with Love." By going without food, the 29 Newburg teens got a taste of what the

world's poorest children and families face every day.

According to World Vision, a Christian humanitarian organization dedicated to tackling the causes of poverty and injustice, hunger and preventable diseases claim the lives of 22,000 children every day. More than 1 billion people go hungry every day.

Newburg's participants raised more than \$1,500 in three hours to help end hunger and preventable disease. Funds raised by the

30 Hour Famine help feed and care for chil-



Megan Robeson, (left) Mitchell Crosby, Cassidy Wesenberg and Monica Weinrauch collect donations at Newburg United Methodist Church for their teams.

dren in need around the globe. A portion of the funds raised assist families in need in the United States. Famine funds contribute to World Vision's response in areas where famine, conflict, and other crises make children vulnerable to hunger and preventable disease. Since 1992, 30 Hour Famine has raised close

to \$140 million. World Vision works in nearly 100 countries, helping approximately 100 million people every year.

For more information about Newburg United Methodist Church visit newburgumc.org; for information about World Vision's 30 Hour Famine, visit 30hourfamine.org.

Fou next best



Dr. Thomas Selznick, Four Seasons Medical Directo

Rehabilitation and nursing centers have changed dramatically since Dr. Selznick went into practice 25 years ago after a residency at Wayne State University.

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Arthritis Today

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AROUND THE KNEE

To a physician a patient who comes because of knee pain, needs close attention. The "knee pain" requires more delineation beyond being the joint between the hip and the ankle. Around the knee joint are four other structures that are potential sources of pain, and one structure that worries patients but is of little concern medically

The four sites that because of their proximity to the knee joint cause "knee" pain are: the patellar tendon, the pre-patellar bursa, the anserine bursa and the fibular bursa. When a patient complains of knee pain, and the doctor, on examination, finds the knee normal, the examination will turn to looking at these other four structures.

In the evaluation of knee pain, examination forms the basis of diagnosis, as the patient experiences similar "knee pain" whether the cause of pain is from the knee or sites around it. Thus, if the physician finds the knee is normal, his examination will turn to the patellar tendon. If examination and palpation of the tendon does not elicit pain, he will go forward with the same type of assessment to pre-patellar, anserine and fibular bursars.

Usually, this systematic approach brings out the source of the knee pain. With this knowledge, the physician can undertake appropriate treatment.

The knee area that causes the patient more concern than the doctor is a Baker's Cyst. It is a bulge in the back of the knee, a result of fluid residing in that area of the knee joint. The Cyst is painless, and rarely causes a problem. However, its presence worries the patient giving the doctor the task of explaining the best treatment is to ignore it.

Subscribing has *k*

The following subscribers have won a FREE 4-square Cheese Pizza from Buddy's in our weekly drawing:

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- Marguerite Meier Canton
- Bruce Ring Northville
- Dennis Pattock Garden City
- Michael Kramer South Lyon
- **Richard Hall** Livonia
- Diane Berghoefer Highland
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COMMUNITY LIFE

Life lessons: This column is tough to write

By Joe Gagnon Guest columnist

ome of you know that I came a whisker away from the pearly gates a



Doctor

than ever.

few years ago while on fishing trip and my days of writing and living can be measured in inches rather than feet. My love of Valorie and family give

me strength and the prayers Joe Gagnon help as well.

The book I will publish later this year will tell you the rest of the story. The depression period is over and I concentrate my time on helping others more

I have always been cautious

about mentioning the many big names I've had the privilege of meeting along the way, but this one deserves his name in this column. He's Shawn Burr, a big fan favorite with the Detroit Red Wings from 1984-95. After telling Scotty Bowman he was too old to coach, he suddenly found himself playing in Florida for a couple of years and then he came aboard the Red Wing Alumni Hockev team.

After his first practice he sat beside me drinking a pop and started telling me about his problems with his new home in the Port Huron area. It was built on some sort of fault line and coming apart and his new appliances which were top drawer kept breaking down. He used to make fun of me when he would skate by telling me I reminded him of his new refrigerator which wasn't working. Every year Shawn

hosts a huge golf event and has raised tons of dollars for different charities. He is such a giving person and much more gentle that the 200 pounds that used to send opposing players to la la land and there is no one funnier in a dressing room.

Battling cancer

Mitch Albom recently devoted his column to Shawn's serious challenge with cancer today. It started a year ago when he just about didn't make it. He went through all the treatments and the alumni was updated every week with his uplifting jokes and humorous remarks about his will to live and his love for his wife and kids. This time around he will go through the treatments to try and put the big C into remission and then will need a bone marrow transplant. Imagine, he says, "If my wife is a

match I will spend the rest of my life telling myself what to do." See what I mean about his humor? Last summer at a Red Wing golf outing I had a long conversation with Shawn and he told me how lucky he was to recover but he also told me how tough it would be to survive a second go around. He looked at me and said, "Joe, I know what you've been through but I am only in my 40s. It's OK for an old guy like you to go but not fair for me. "He was absolutely right on the button.

The last few days have been spent touring retail appliance stores and getting the feel of what is new in the industry. Last year was an up year pointing to one of two things. Either the economy is improving or the appliances are breaking down prematurely or both. Retailers are feeling pangs of guilt in selling products that

won't last as long as they used to. Some stated that if they tell a shopper that quality is not what it used to be, they may lose that customer to their competition. An appliance sales person wants to please you with a product that many times creates a referral or future sales. I don't think Shawn Burr would take a job today in appliance sales. He has always cared too much for his teammates and loved the hockey fans that filled his heart with pride. If he was writing this column he would come up with a question in closing. Do the tears hitting the keyboard hurt it or just discolor it with the salt content? Stay tuned.

Joe Gagnon can be heard at 8 a.m., Saturdays on WAAM 1600. You can e-mail your problems and questions on appliances to appldr@ twmi.rr.com.

A shocking - but life-saving - tip for you

By Lon Grossman Guest columnist

ow many of you have heard of, or know about Ground Fault Interrupters or **Ground Fault Circuit** Interrupters? (They're also referred to as GFI or GFCI). If your home was



GFIs are

similar to a circuit breaker, but more sensitive. They'll sense if someone is getting electrocuted and disconnect the power within 1/40th of a second.

There are three types of GFIs:

• Circuit breaker combination: Installed in the electrical service box, it protects everything on the circuit.

• Receptacle type: Replaces a regular wall receptacle and when installed, still serves as an outlet but offers the additional protection of the GFL

• Portable: Generally used by trades people, such as carpenters who use power tools at different job sites.

Once installed, GF's require maintenance. On each interrupter there is a test button. Each month, this button should be pushed to trip the safety device and device reset. Tripping the device cleans oxidation and corrosion on the inside, which can affect its sensitivity and ability to protect.

Basically, what I'm saying is that if you don't trip or press and reset the test buttons monthly the GFIs could become useless and not trip when they're supposed to.

In new home construction, they are required for kitchens, bathrooms, exterior and even garage receptacles.

If your home doesn't have a GFI, install at least one. If you have a swimming pool, all equipment and surrounding plugs should be protected.

If you are not handy, I promise you, any licensed electrician can easily install them for you.

Q: I have a block basement wall and the paint is crumbling off in areas near the floor leaving a white, powdery residue behind. What causes this and how can it be corrected?

A: This is caused by leaking and is called efflorescence. You may not actually see water on the floor because the seepage may be minor and evaporates. Make sure the terrain is sloped away 4 to 6 feet with at least a 1-inch slope. The patio, driveway or walks should also be slightly pitched to direct rainwater away from the house. If you have a sump pump, make sure ground water is draining into it and it is pumping the water out and away from the house.

Q: Our house burned down and was rebuilt on the same lot. Since we moved back we have blue water. We never had this problem before the house burned down, so we feel it is not the water supplied by our water company. When taking a shower or bath the walls of our showers/tubs get a blue/green film on them and although it can be scrubbed off, I find myself scrubbing the showers and tubs a few times a week. We spoke with our builder and plumber since day one and they said this

happens but have never figured out the cause or the cure. Have you ever heard of this?

A: I spoke to David from 4-A Plumbing and he said it sounds as if lead-free flux or leadfree solder was used and recommends to get a water test done to see if the test results show a lot of lead. I think it may be something else. Check with an electrician and have him inspect to make sure the electrical system is properly grounded 8-feet into the earth as well as all ground connections are secure and proper.

Q: My showerhead used to have good pressure but not anymore. Can it be cleaned? A: Minerals in your water blocked openings in the shower's head. Put a rag around the head so you won't damage the chrome. Remove

the shower head using a wrench. Hold the neckpiece coming out of the wall, with your hand or a channel lock. Once removed place the shower head in a jar filled with vinegar and let it soak for about two hours. Lightly poke out the spray holes with a safety pin and reinstall. Or, pour the vinegar in a small plastic bag and tape it around the shower head without removing it. Let it soak for a couple of hours.

Lon Grossman is president of Technihouse Inspections Inc., a southeast Michigan residential and commercial inspection company. E-mail your questions to him at drdiy@comcast.net. Call (248) 855-5566. Visit his website www.technihouse. com. Follow Lon's Blog at http://drdiy.wordpress.com/.

An Advertorial Special Section Offer

This special edition of Homtetown Life Woman will deliver hyper-local content



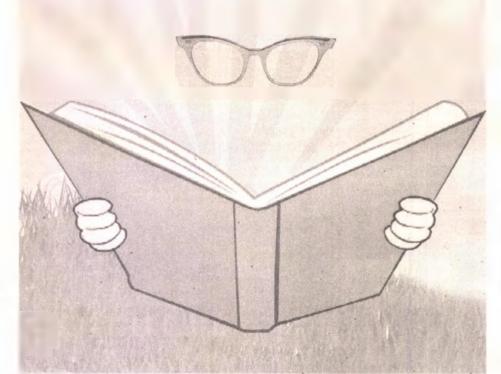
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Spring Book, Arts & Crafts Festival



Artists, authors and artisans from Detroit and across the country will talk about and sell their work at our 2nd annual event. This free fun filled weekend offers classes and workshops on writing, painting, journalism, eBook conversion and more. Local celebrities will read books to children and those who are young at heart. Detroit Reads will have tutoring session for adults "learning to read or reading to learn." Our "Gentle to All Ears" poetry and open mic will delight fans of prose and spoken word.

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COMMUNITY LIFE

REUNIONS

DEARBORN HEIGHTS ANNAPOLIS

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 CODY**

CLASS OF 1962

Looking for Classmates from January and June graduations for 50th reunion, 6 p.m. Sept. 29, at the Holiday Inn, 17123 Laurel Park Dr. North, Livonia. Call Neal and Barb Gehring at (248) 568-2254; NGBG@comcast.net.

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. address, p 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 jackieideson@gmail.com or Jeff Fordell at jeffreyfordell@comcast.net. LINCOLN PARK HIGH

CLASS OF 1962

CLASS OF 1902

50-year reunion for January and June graduates is set for 6 p.m.-midnight, Saturday, Sept. 15, at the Marriott Hotel, located at Six Mile and I-275 in Livonia. For more information or to RSVP e-mail Jean Badoud-Riddell at fictionweaver@ sbcglobal.net, Marilyn Roy Snyder at Marilyn@MarilynJSnyder.com, or Carol Jehle at jehlecarol@yahoo.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 ALL CLASSES

Wayne High Schools Alumni Association 28th All Class Reunion Banquet will be held 5-10 p.m. Friday, May 18 at Wayne Tree Manor, 35100 Van Born, Wayne. Dinner served at 6 p.m. The organization will honor the class of 1962. For more information call Wanda Boice at (734) 326-777 or www.waynehighalumni@aol.com **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 email to Kathy (Quinn) Hayes at bustchr@ aol.com.

BOWL-A-THON HELPS SEND YOUTH TO CAMP

Bowl a few games Sunday, April 29, at Westland Bowl and you'll help abused and neglected children at the same time.

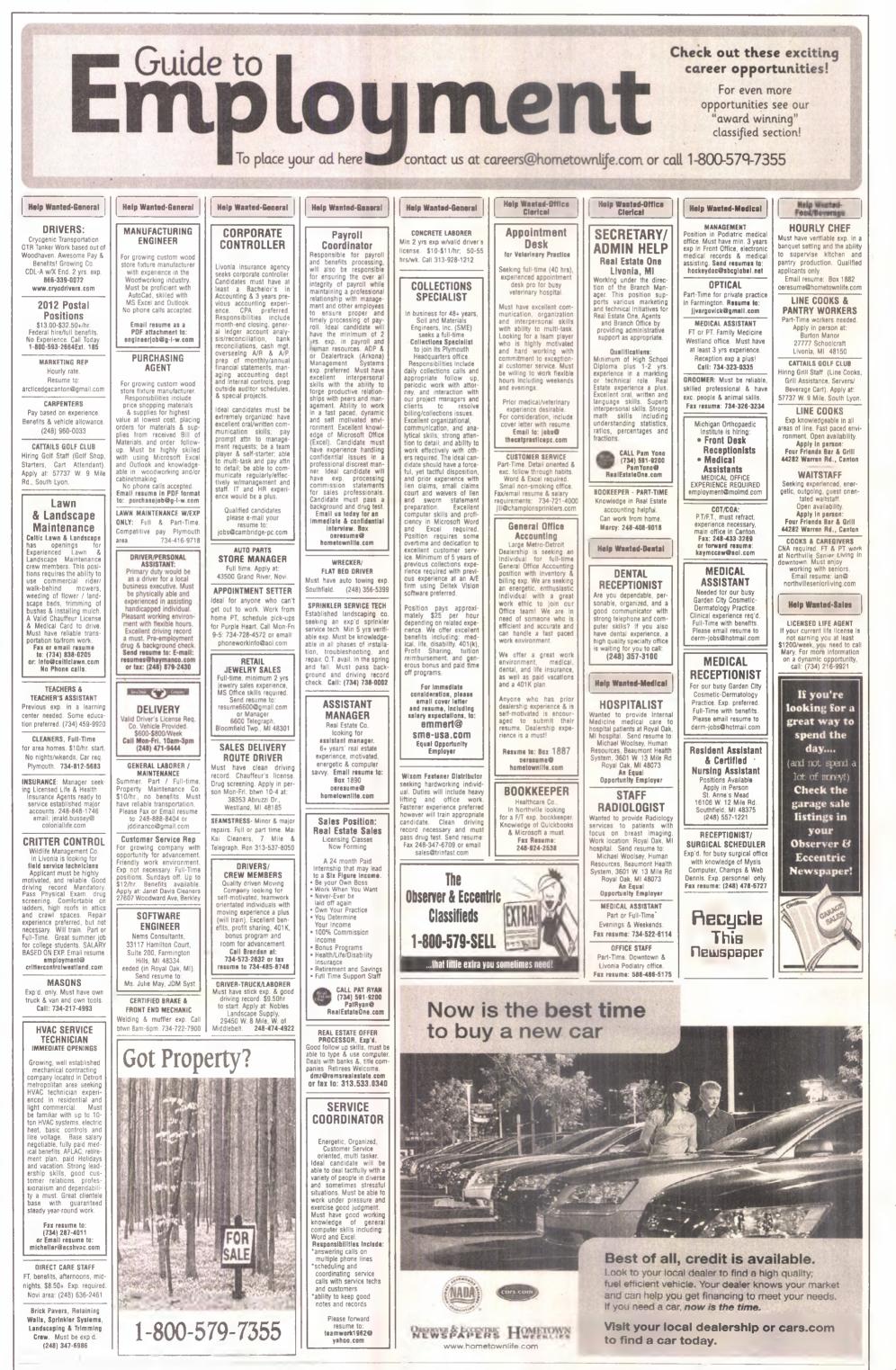
Bowl-A-Thon — with check-in at 1:30 p.m. and bowling at 2 p.m. — aims to raise funds for Royal Family Kids Camp, held July 29-Aug. 3 near Fenton. Royal Family Kids, Inc. is a concentrated program of recreation, education and affirmation to aid in the process of healing the emotional scars of childhood abuse experienced by children involved in the foster care system in Wayne County.

Detroit First Church of the Nazarene in Northville and Northville Christian Assembly sponsor the camp.

Bowlers pay \$20 per person for two games, shoe rental, pizza and soda. There also will be a silent auction room and door prizes. Westland Bowl is located at 5940 N. Wayne Road between Ford and Warren Roads.

Royal Family Kids, Inc. has more than 155 camps scheduled for 2012. Volunteer staff members from throughout metropolitan Detroit help provide a positive, life-changing summer camp experience for some 48 children ages 7-11. The Wayne County Department of Human Services selects the youngsters who attend camp. There is no charge for campers.

The camp budget is met through fundraisers such as the Bowl-A-Thon and from contributions made by local businesses, from grants, and from other donors who share a concern for this population of children. For more information, e-mail co-director Bethann Parker at parkette@sbcglobal.net.



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COMMUNITY LIFE

Milestones

Ring-Aurora

Howard and Jodi Ring of Plymouth announce the engagement of their daughter, Megan, to Peter Aurora. Peter is the son of Martin Aurora Gonzales and Maria Zavaleta de Aurora of Lima Peru.

The bride-elect is a 2004 graduate of Canton High School. She graduated from the University of Michigan Medical School and is a resident at C.S. Mott Children's Hospital in Ann Arbor.

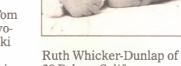
Her fiance received his doctorate in engineering at the University of Michigan. He is employed by

Kendra Lynn Barich

Kendra Lynn Barich was born Feb. 15, 2012, at **Providence Park Hospital** in Novi.

Proud parents are Jenna and Bryan Barich of Novi.

Grandparents are Tom and Julie Howe of Livonia and Mark and Vicki Barich of Dearborn. Great-grandmother is



Audette-Nason

Catherine Audette and Aaron Nason announce their engagement.

The bride-to-be, daughter of Charlie and Ilene Audette of Farmington Hills, attended Michigan State University and is a marketing project manager at One Reverse Mortgage.

Her fiance, son of George and Deanna Nason of Clawson, also attended Michigan State University and is a mort-

Smith-Barnauskas

Alexandra Therese Smith of Northville and William Charles Barnauskas of Livonia announce their engagement.

The bride-to-be, daughter of Tim and Cindy Smith of Novi, earned a bachelor of science degree in nursing from Madonna University. She se employed as a labor and delivery nurse at St.



Nissan They plan a May wedding at St. John Chapel in Plymouth.



29 Palms, Calif.



gage banker for Quicken Loans.

A May 2012 wedding is planned at St. Florian Church in Hamtramck.



GARDEN & NATURE

Butterflies

"Southeast Michigan Butterfly Association (SEMBA) meets at 7 p.m. Wednesday, April 18, at Nankin Mills Nature Center, 33175 Ann Arbor Trail, Westland. 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

Kick off spring with at look at what's new for the garden at the annual Garden Party Weekend, Saturday-Sunday, March 31-April 1. The weekend includes free presentations, refreshments, door prizes and a showcase of new gardening products. Featured presentations are:

· Eight Months of Continuous Color with Janet Macunovich, Advanced Master Gardener, 10 a.m. in Dearborn Heights and 1 p.m. in West Bloomfield, both Saturday, March 31, and noon, April 1 in Royal Oak. Macunovich will talk about extending color in the garden.

• Top 10 tips for A Successful Garden with Detroit News garden columnist Nancy Szerlag, 1 p.m. in Royal Oak and 4 p.m. in West Bloomfield, both March 31 and noon, Sunday, April 1 in Dearborn Heights.

• Top 10 tips for Lawn Care with Ashton Ritchie of Scotts. He'll share his 40 years of experience and answer questions about weeds, bare spots and more, 10 a.m. March 31 in Royal Oak, noon, April 1 in Ann Arbor and 3 p.m. April 1 in Dearborn Heights.

• All About Hydrangeas, 1 p.m. in Ann Arbor, 2:30 p.m. in Royal Oak and 4 p.m. Dearborn Heights, all on March 31, and 3 p.m., April 1 in West Bloomfield.

• The Thrills & Spills of Container Gardening with Proven Winners representatives, 10 a.m. in Ann Arbor, 11:30 a.m. in West Bloomfield, 2:30 p.m. in Dearborn Heights, all on March 31 and 1:30 p.m. April I in Royal Oak.

Passages View Online www.hometownlife.com Obituaries, Memories & Remembrances

(*) B11

1-800-579-7355 • fax 313-496-4968 • oeobits@hometownlife.com Deadlines: Friday 4:15 p.m. for Sunday • Wednesday 9:45 a.m. for Thursday

BOUCHER, CECILE

Age 91, March 16, 2012. Loving wife of the late Alfred. Mother of Angela (Jason) Becktold. Grandmother to Geoffrey, Greyson, Greenlea, Gideon and Gaspar Cecile was an active member of St. Edith Catholic Church. Memorial gathering Thursday, March 22, 2012 from 6-9PM, with a vigil service at 7PM at Fred Wood Funeral Home, 36100 Five Mile Road (one block East of Levan), Livonia, MI. Mass Saturday, March 24, 2012 10:30AM at St. Edith Catholic Church, 15089 Newburgh Road (South of 5 Mile Road), Livonia, MI. Memorials may be made to The Huron Forest Camp Cedar Ridge, 36208 Freedom Road, Farmington, MI 48335. Please share memories at:

Fredwoodfuneralhome.com

CAINCROSS, **DENIECE LYNN**

Age 53, of New Boston, died March 17, 2012. Born in Lapeer on December 17, 1958, daughter of the late Norma Jean Thomason. Deniece was a Reserve Police Officer with Van Buren Township, and dispatched for Belleville. She was a loving wife and mother who took great pleasure in her family and home. She enjoyed gardening and looking for four leaf clovers. She loved her new "Bumblebee" Camaro. Survived by husband, David, three children, Heather (Yacine) Belkadi of Wixom, Cory of Wayne, and Nicole of Canton, five grandchildren R.J. and Molly Belkadi, Zane Richter, Haley and Logan Brandess. Visitation will be 1-7 PM Sat., March 24, 2012 at Brown Funeral Home, Belleville, with a 7 PM Memorial Service.



FARKAS, LESTER R.

Age 82, formerly of Age 82, 10therly of Northville, passed away peacefully in the presence of family on January 5, 2012 in Barrington, IL. Beloved husband of the late Eleanor (Barkiewicz), loving father of the late Leslie (Bryan Fischer) and Drew (Lisa), and beloved grandfather of Alec, Kit, Annabelle and Eli. Lester was a star athlete at Central High School in Flint, MI and a US Army veteran, before graduating with a degree in mu (violin) from Eastern Michigan. Lester taught music in the Livonia Public Schools and conducted the Livonia Youth Symphony, with one of his proudest moments being the direction of that orchestra in a performance of Beethoven's Ninth Symphony. A Memorial for Lester for local family and friends will be held at R.G. & G.R. Harris Funeral Home, 15451 Farmington Rd., Livonia, Sunday at 12 p.m. Family will receive visitors from 10:30 a.m. until service. Donations to the Barrington Fine Arts Boosters, at Barrington Fine Arts Department, Barrington High School, 616 W. Main St, Barrington IL, 60010, Attn: Judy Bruce, would be appreciated. Please share a memory of Lester at: www.rggrharris.com.



Happy 31st Birthday, **Brian**

March 16, 1981 We love and miss you very much.

Love, Your family



HYDE, **JOHN**

Age 87. Husband of the late Ruth. Beloved father of Bonnie (Conrad) Richards & Debbie Hyde. Loving grandfather of Jonathan (Adriana) & Ryan (Charity) & greatgrandfather of Adelaide. Dear brother of June Fisher. Services were at Charles Step Funeral Home, Redford. Interment Christian Memorial Cemetery. Condolences to CharlesStepFuneralHome.com

May peace be with you in this time of sorrow.



SHIRLEY JANE (NEE BOYT)

82, died March 8, 2012 in Traverse City, MI. She was born April 11, 1929 to Lillian (Hills) and Frederick Boyt in Detroit, MI. She is survived by her daughter, Elisabeth Kroepel of Newburgh Heights, OH; her son Geoffrey; her sister, JoAnne (Boyt) McCallum of Traverse City; her sister-in-law Gloria (Weitzman) Boyt of Grosse Pointe Woods; nieces, nephews and their families; friends and relatives. Shirley graduated from Cass Technical High School, earned a Bachelor's degree in Education from Wayne State University, and a degree from the University of the South at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul. She was a lab assistant at Grace Hospital, raised family in Farmington Hills, and after moving to Livonia, where she lived for over 40 years, worked as an educator for Detroit Public Schools until retirement. Shirley was an active member of Faith Lutheran Church, volunteer, union member, and philanthropist. A bon vivant with bright blue eyes and a sparkling smile, she was an avid reader, good cook, and gardener who enjoyed nature, personal fitness, and animals. She was happy to offer encourage-ment and share a cup of coffee. Shirley was a woman of strong character and abiding faith with a creative flair who treasured visits with family and friends. She will live on through the lives she touched. We miss her. Contact

SEVONTY, **ABDON JOSEPH**

Passed into God's hands March 11, 2012. He was born July 30, 1910, in Pierz, MN, into a large, hardworking farming family of 13 children. At 16, the entire family moved to Michigan, where he began a long career in the automobile industry, culminating in his retirement at 60 from Chrysler, after 40 yrs. He was a man of great moral character, strong faith in God, and a tremendous father, grandfather and great-grandfather. He was my role model, both as a child and as an adult. His legacy to his family is beyond measure. With deepest love, respect, and appreciation, we say "thank you." You are You are home. Your deeds speak volumes to the kind of man you were. Abdon is survived by his beloved daughter Janet B. Korte; two loving grandsons Jeremy and James Korte; four dear great-grandchil-dren Jonathon, Jordan, Joshua and Jamie; and two dear sisters Clarice Wamsganz and Margaret Danko. Abdon is preceeded in death by his beloved wife Simone Sevonty and loving son Robert Sevonty. Visitation Friday, March 23, 2012, 2-8 PM, with a Rosary at 7PM at John N. Santeiu & Son Funeral Home, 1139 Inkster Rd., (btwn. Ford Rd. and Cherry Hill). In state Saturday 9am until The Mass of Christian Burial 9:30 AM at St. Mel Catholic Church, 7506 Inkster (just north of Warren), Dearborn Heights, MI. www.SanteiuFuneralHome.com



STANTON, HAROLD S. March 16, 2012 Age 86. Loving husband of Joyce. Dear father of Michael (Susan), Motlie Stanton-Fuja (Steve) and Tim (Sharyn). Also survived by six grandchildren and three great grandchil-dren. Brother of David and Marshall (Janice). Services were held at First United Methodist Church of Birmingham. Memorial tributes to the hunger project of your choice. A.J Desmond & Sons 248-549-0500 View obituary and share memories at: www.DesmondFuneralHome.com AIDEMOND

www.davidcbrownfh.com

Mary Mercy Hospital in Livonia.

Her fiance, son of Bill and Peggy Barnauskas of Clinton, earned a bachelor of science degree in engineering from Michigan State University. He is employed as a pro-

Sanchez-Hubbard

Sabrina Sanchez and Scott Patrick Hubbard announce their engagement.

The bride-to-be, daughter of Manuel and Mary-Elizabeth Sanchez of Westland, earned an associate's degree from Schoolcraft College and a bachelor's degree from Wayne State University. She is employed at Tom Holzer Ford in Farmington Hills.

Her fiance, son of Richard and Alice Hubbard of

Cavanaugh-Worthing

Catherine Elizabeth Cavanaugh and Eric Nathan Worthing announce their engagement. The bride-to-be, daughter of Michael and Theresa Cavanaugh of Dexter, is a 1998 graduate of Livonia Stevenson High School, a 2003 graduate of Grand Valley State University, and 2008 graduate of Michigan State University's **College of Osteopathic** Medicine. She is current-

ly employed as a physician. Her fiance, son of Mark

and Rita Worthing of Brunswick, Maine, is a 2001 graduate of Brunswick High School and a



cess engineer at ACH -Automotive Components Holding in Saline.

A June 2012 wedding is planned at Our Lady of Victory Catholic Church in Northville.

Westland, is employed at

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planned in Westland.

A June 2012 wedding is

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College. He is a medical

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A September 2012 wed-

student and will graduate

Novi.

 The Beauty of Summer Flowering Bulbs with Pieter vander Lans of 2Plant

International, 10 a.m. in West Bloomfield, 1 p.m. in Dearborn Heights and 4 p.m. in Royal Oak, all on March 31.

• Perennials: Gardening with Color, 2:30 p.m. March 31 in Ann Arbor and noon. April 1 in West Bloomfield.

 The Basics of Organic Gardening with Greg Brackett, 1:30 p.m. April 1 in Ann Arbor.

 Take Back Your Garden: Stop Deer & Rabbits from Devouring Your Garden, 11:30 a.m. March 31 in Royal Oak and 3 p.m. April 1 in Ann Arbor. Julia Hofley will teach the techniques to keep plants from getting eaten from neighborhood rabbits and deer.

• The Grass Can Be Greener will focus on what you need to keep your lawn looking its best, 1:30 p.m. April 1, in West Bloomfield.

 Wedding Floral Trends with Ron Worth, English Gardens floral designer, 11:30 a.m. March 31, in Dearborn Heights.

 How to Arrange Fresh Flowers Like a Pro, 2:30 p.m. March 31 in West Bloomfield and on April 1 at 1:30 p.m. in Dearborn Heights and 3 p.m. in Royal Oak

• Planting for Success will teach the secrets to growing a beautiful garden, starting with the planting process, 11:30 a.m. March 31 in Ann Arbor.

· Grow Your Own Vegetables, 4 p.m. March 31 in Ann Arbor.

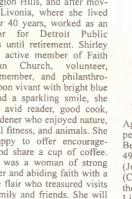
Area stores are at 155 N. Maple, Ann Arbor, (734) 332-7900; 22650 Ford Road in Dearborn Heights, (313) 278-4433; 4901 Coolidge Highway, Royal Oak, (248) 280-9500; and 6370 Orchard Lake Road, in West Bloomfield; (248) 851-7506. For information, log onto www. EnglishGardens.com.



FISCHER, LESLIE E. (NEE FARKAS)

Age 52, formerly of Northville, passed away peacefully on October 23, 2011 in Waukesha, WI, after a courageous battle with cancer. Beloved wife of Bryan and loving and devoted mother of Alec and Kit. Leslie was the daughter of the late Lester and late Eleanor Farkas, survived by her brother Drew. Leslie was a graduate of Northville High School, attended the Peabody Institute of the John Hopkins University (violin), the University of Michigan (BA History) and Marquette University Law School (JD 1988). She was the champion of the Marquette's 1987 moot court competition and served as an Asst. DA in Rock County, WI. She loved her dogs Fox, Sophie and Teddi and was an active member in the Australian Terrier Club. A Memorial for Leslie for local family and friends will be held at the R.G. & G.R. Harris Funeral Home, 15451 Farmington Rd., Livonia, Sunday at 12 p.m. Family will receive visitors from 10:30 a.m. until service. Donations to HAWS shelter at www.hawspets.org, would be appreciated. Please share a memory of Leslie at:

www.rggrharris.com





Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home

RISCH, DORIS M.

Age 88, March 20, 2012. Beloved wife of the late Raymond. Dear mother of Richard (Nanette), Kathleen (Karl) Neumaier, Denise (Ron) Muir, Michael (Donna) and the late Thomas (the late Sharron). Grandmother of 12. Great-grandmother of 20. Greatgreat-grandmother of two. Sisterin-law of Dorothy LeVasseur, Frances Markgraff and Josephine Risch. Doris was a longtime volunteer at Garden City Hospital. Visitation Thursday 1-9pm, with an evening Rosary at the John N. Santeiu & Son Funeral Home, 1139 Inkster Rd., (between Ford Rd. and Cherry Hill). In state Friday 9am until 10am Mass at St. Dunstan Catholic Church, 1515 Belton (2 blocks west of Inkster, 2 blocks south of Ford Rd.)

www.santeiufuneralhome.com





THURBER, JOHN A.

Age 72, of Birmingham, died March 19, peacefully 2012 Beloved husband of Barbara for 49 years. Loving father of John (Jenny) Thurber and Sarah (Craig) Lindsay. Proud grandfa-ther of Katharine and Andrew Lindsay. Dear brother of Mary Alice Locicero, Frances (Roy) Talmadge, and Jeanne (Robert) Murray. Services have been held Memorials appreciated to Capuchin Soup Kitchen or Six Rivers Regional Land Conservancy. Obituary and condolences at: lynchfuneraldirectors.com

VINCENT, **CAROLINE "KELLEY"**

Of Gregory, MI, age 66, died March 19, 2012. Funeral Friday, March 23 at 11:00am at Staffan-Mitchell Funeral Home, Chelsea. Visitation Thursday 2-4 & 6-8pm. www.mitchellfuneral.com

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(1) \$500 Matching Down Payment on 2012 Fusion, Escape, Explorer (purchase only), Mustang V6, Mustang GT (purchase only), Edge, Taurus SEL, Taurus LTD, Taurus SH0, Fiesta (purchase only), Flex, Expedition, \$250 on Fiesta lease. (2) MPG estimate based on 2012 Fusion SEL 2.5L I-4 Engine with 6-speed automatic 23 city/33 hwy mpg, 2012 Taurus SEL 3.5L Duratec V-6 Engine 18 city/28 hwy mpg, 2012 Escape 2.5L I-4 Engine 4x4 20 city/27 hwy mpg, 2012 Focus SE Sedan with SFE package – EPA estimated 29 city/40 highway mpg, and 2012 F-150 Supercab 3.5L V-6 EcoBoost 4x2 16 city/22 highway. (3) Not all customers will qualify for 1.9 % APR Ford Credit Financing, \$19.19 per month per \$1,000 financed for 60 months at APR of 1.9% on the 2012 Ford Focus. (4) Not all lessees will qualify for Ford Credit Red Carpet low mileage lease. Residency restrictions apply. Some payments higher, some lower. Special lease rates are for eligible A/Z Plan lessees. You must currently lease a Ford product through Ford Credit and re-lease through Ford Credit. Payments include \$500 Renewal Bonus Cash on all vehicles with the exception of the Focus (\$250 renewal). (5) MSRP, A-Plan price is for qualified, eligible A-Plan customers and excludes document fee, destination/delivery charge, taxes, title and registration. Optional equipment not included. See dealer for qualifications and complete details. Take retail delivery from dealer stock by 4/2/12.

SECTION C . (*)

SUNDAY, MARCH 25, 2012 **OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC** HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

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How students can meet the challenge of the evolving health care industry

Health care reform has expanded access to health care insurance coverage to more than 30 million new patients beginning in 2014, stretching the resources of health care facilities nationwide. Meanwhile, the introduction of new regulations and technological innovations, as well as the rapid adoption of electronic health records (EHRs), have added new layers to an already complex industry.

Health care administration professionals navigate this complicated system from the business side, ensuring that health care delivery processes run smoothly and patients continue to receive quality care. They balance the influx of new patients while maintaining resources.

With the health care industry showing no signs of slowing down, these professionals are in high demand. Health care is the fastest growing sector of the economy, with its professional positions predicted to account for 26 percent of all new jobs created in the United States between 2008 and 2018, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Employment of health care administration professionals, specifically, is expected to increase much faster than the average for all occupations.



Graduates with education in health care policy, information systems, accounting, budgeting and analysis in diverse provider settings will be poised for greater probability of career success.

Some universities now offer degree programs specifically designed for this career track. For example, interested students can now enroll in a bachelor's degree program in Healthcare Administration at DeVry University. The program is broken down into two specializations: Healthcare Informatics and Healthcare Management. Health Informatics students will also experience lab courses that allow them to explore

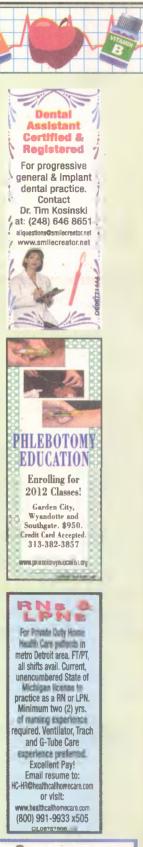
data requirements for gathering and testing, as well as data analysis for decision-making and business intelligence.

"Industry innovations or expansion often lead to job opportunities, and the health care industry is ripe with available positions for graduates with related education," says Joseph York, national dean for the College of Health Sciences, DeVry University. "Healthcare administration degree holders are particularly valuable. They are equipped with the fundamental business analysis and management skills necessary to adapt and succeed when faced with evolving health care challenges.'

The variety of this line of work is appealing to many professionals. From the size of its work settings - from hospitals to health care services companies - to its unique specializations, healthcare administration presents attractive options for each unique professional.

Many industries continue to cut jobs or freeze hiring due to the poor economy, yet the health care industry has remained a beacon of opportunity. Health care administration is one of its most high-growth fields, promising rewarding opportunities for professionals of all ages.

-ARA Content





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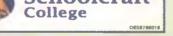
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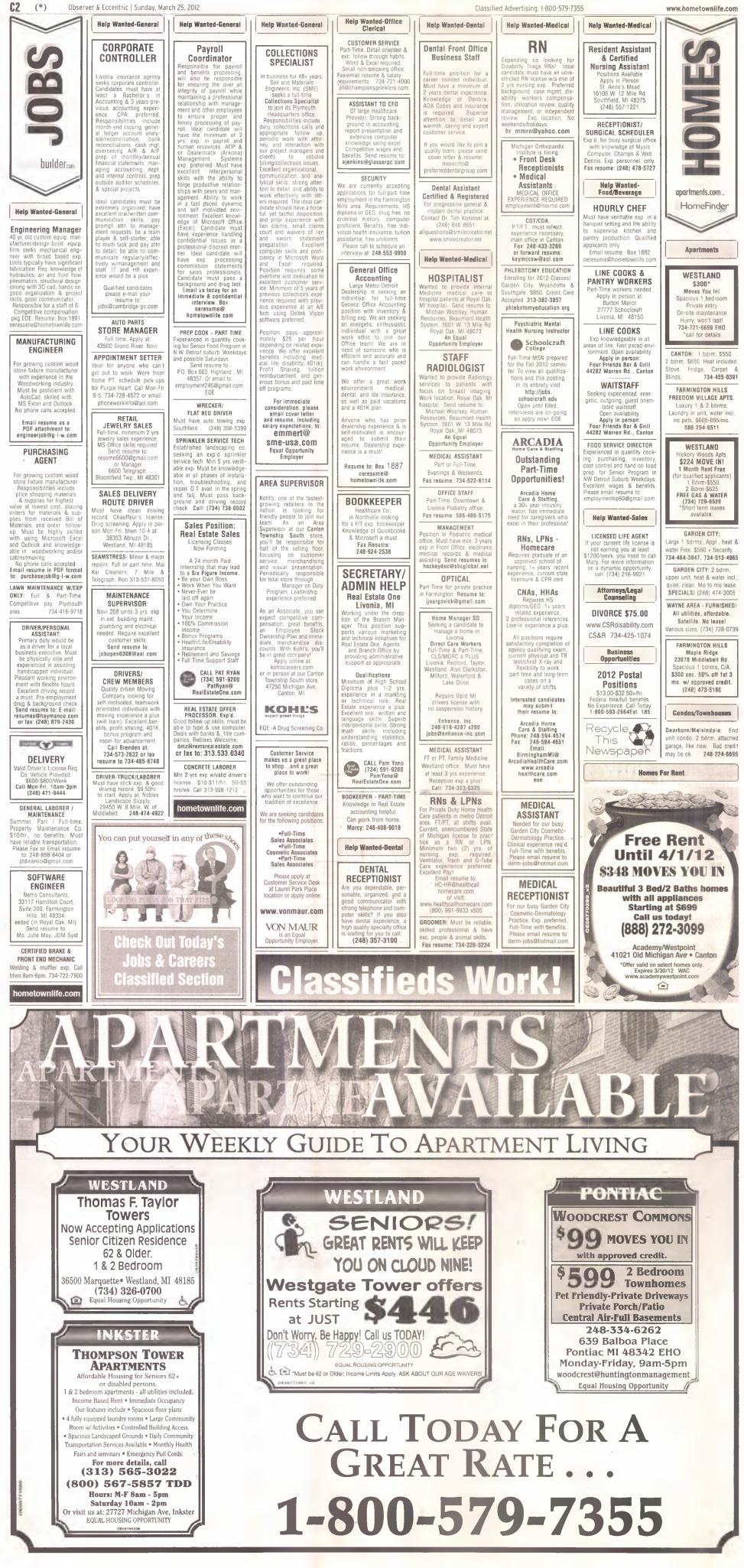
to join its Plymouth Headquarters office. **Responsibilities include** daily collections calls and appropriate follow up, periodic work with attorney, and interaction with our project managers and clients to resolve billing/collections issues. Excellent organizational, communication, and analytical skills; strong attention to detail; and ability to work effectively with others required. The ideal candidate should have a forceful, yet tactful disposition, and prior experience with lien claims, small claims court and waivers of lien and sworn statement preparation. Excellent computer skills and proficiency in Microsoft Word and Excel required. Position requires some overtime and dedication to excellent customer service. Minimum of 5 years of previous collections experience required with previous experience at an A/E firm using Deltek Vision software preferred. Position pays approximately \$25 per hour depending on related experience. We offer excellent benefits including: medical, life, disability, 401(k), Profit Sharing, tuition reimbursement, and generous bonus and paid time off programs.

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Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, March 25, 2012

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www.hometownlife.com Classified Advertising: 1-800-579-7355 **C**5 Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, March 25, 2012 (*) **Sports Utility** Chevrolet Ford Honda Jeep Mazda Postiac Saturn **BUICK RAINIER 2004** HHR 2007 **TAURUS SEL 2012** HONDA ACCORD 2007 LIBERTY 2007- 4x4, leather **VUE XR 2008** MAZDA 3 2010 VIBE GT 2009 Silver, one owner 64K ndv_AWD_onlv_\$9.125 12C1020A 6100 (Blue Breeze, SE, alloys and Red. 43K. \$14 995 heated seats, tinted glass, new Silver, auto \$14,900 ABS! Showroom Sharp! \$11,995 **BOB JEANNOTTE BOB JEANNOTTE** brakes/tires. Exc cond. 69,600 **BOB JEANNOTTE BOB JEANNOTTE BOB JEANNOTTE** NORTH BROS. FORD Reduced to \$13,995! miles. \$12,400. 248-332-271 BUICK, GMC BUICK, GMC BUICK, GMC BUICK, GMC 734-402-8774 888-372-9836 BUICK, GMC LIBERTY 2009 (734) 453-2500 (734) 453-2500 (734) 453-2500 Lou LaRiche (734) 453-2500 TAURUS SHO 2010 Black Raven, 4WD, and pan sunroof! Make some trails! (734) 453-2500 P21431A 4 dr sedan, AWD, ed, moon, nav, 20's \$27,888 CHEVY EQUINOX LT 2010 ION 2007 G6 2007 CAMARO 2010 HONDA CR-V 2006 Silver Storm, convertible, GT, and remote start! Ready to 12T1129A 4 dr sedan auto, A/C, full power, only 55K on odometer \$9,988 37K, brown. Must see \$23,700. Just \$18,995! red. Mercury Phantom Black, 6-spd. sur mmer Tan, LX, and AWD! One sweet ride! Only 888-372-9836 Certified Pri roof, and racing stripes! NORTH BROS. FORD **BOB JEANNOTTE** impress! Just \$16,995! Lou LaRiche Chevy Muscle! Just \$29,995 \$16,995! North Bros. Value Lot 734-402-8774 **MILAN 2010** 888-372-9836 BUICK, GMC 888-372-9836 888-372-9836 734-402-8908 12C8472A 4dr. sedan, FWD FUSION 2011 SEL Lou LaRiche (734) 453-2500 WRANGLER SPORT 2010 Lou LaRiche Lou LaRiche Unexpectanty laid off, must sell, like new, almost all options, less 3,000 miles, white 99, 4 cylinder, A/C 13T1003A 4WD, 4DR, 6 ylinder, auto, full power, 2 20K \$17,488 CHEVY SUBURBAN 2008 Toyota DEALER G6 2009 CHEVROLET IMPALA HONDA ODYSSEY 2008 Blue-Grav \$25 004 White Frost, GT, sunroof, and 734-402-8774 **BOB JEANNOTTE** 4 to choose from \$23,500/best. 248-427-1245 Enchanted Black, leather NORTH BROS. FORD SOLARA 2004 eather Powerful G-force! sunroof, and htd. seats! Luxury for the whole family Reduced Prices! 734-402-8774 Reduced to \$15,973! MONTEGO 2006 BUICK. GMC 888-372-9836 **BOB JEANNOTTE** 888-372-9836 GMC 12C7020A Premier, inspected \$10,9 fully Just \$23,895! (734) 453-2500 Lou LaRiche Lou LaRiche BUICK. GMC 888-372-9836 Lexus North Bros. Value Lot FORD ESCAPE 2009 **ENVOY 2007** (734) 453-2500 Lou LaRiche HHR 2008 734-402-8908 Gray Horizon, 33K, 4WD, and **GRAND PRIX 2008** ES300 Rally Red, alloys, leather, and sunroof! Ready for summer cruisin'! Only \$12,495! 888-372-9836 **BOB JEANNOTTE** leather! In pristine condition! Glacier Gray, alloys, power 12C8192A 4 dr, sedan, red, leather, alloy rims, spotless \$6,988 ACCORD EX 2005 Volkswagen Just \$21,997! BUICK, GMC options, and fun on four Pontiac 888-372-9836 1 owner, 4 door, sunroof, air wheels! Just \$9,995! auto, CD, 76,000 miles, \$9000 (734) 453-2500 888-372-9836 VOLKSWAGEN 2008 North Bros. Value Lot Lou LaRiche Lou LaRiche Call: (734) 522-7286 Black, Manual, Roof, Leather 24K \$13,995 GRAND AM GT 2002 734-402-8908 **Autos Wanted** GMC YUKON DENALI 2000 Lou LaRiche er must see \$7.995 **GMC ACADIA 2009** White, 73K. \$33,995 **BOB JEANNOTTE BOB JEANNOTTE IMPALA 2001** Jeep Blue Harmony, SLT, leather & AWD! Roomy & loaded! **BOB JEANNOTTE** SOLSTICE 2007 Lincoln FINAL JOURNEY Blue Flash, LS, OnStar, and BUICK, GMC BUICK, GMC Galaxy Gray, convertible, auto **BUICK, GMC** We buy running alloys! Budget friendly! Only \$7,495! (734) 453-2500 Reduced to \$26,333! WRANGLER 4X4 2004 and junk cars, etc. We pay \$50-\$5000 cash on spot. Get more cash than dealer (734) 453-2500 and leather! Drop-top do (734) 453-2500 888-372-9836 LINCOLN MKX 2009 888-372-9836 geous! Reduced to \$14,944! 888-372-9836 **BOB JEANNOTTE** Man ion Sunset, navigation rome, sunroof, etc.! **VOLKSWAGEN JETTA** Lou LaRiche PONTIAC G6 2010 GMC YUKON XL 2008 Lou LaRiche k blue 35K \$1 **BUICK, GMC** Dk Blue 39K \$12 995 Lou LaRiche trade oaded, pewter 62K \$30 500 Loaded all-arou **BOB JEANNOTTE BOB JEANNOTTE** 313-320-1829 Reduced to \$27,765! ACADIA 2010 **BOB JEANNOTTE** (734) 453-2500 12C8381A leather, moonroof. 15K \$29,888 888-372-9836 BUICK, GMC BUICK, GMC **GRAND PRIX 2008** BUICK, GMC **Chrysler-Plymouth** WRANGLER 4X4 2006 (734) 453-2500 **UNWANTED AUTOS LLC** Lou LaRiche 12C9369A 4 dr. black, 6 cylinder, full power, alloy (734) 453-2500 NORTH BROS. FORD (734) 453-2500 \$300 & up for cars **JETTA 2010** 734-402-8774 **BOB JEANNOTTE** \$400 & up for **NEW YORKER 1994** ter \$11 988 55K on odo Midnight Black, SEL, leather and sunroof! Ready to roll! Just \$18,777! PONTIAC G6 ck V6 nice \$9,500 GMC YUKON XL 2009 MKZ 2011 Irucks/vans/late models r., air, auto, pl. cruis: lock brakes, pw, ps, am BUICK, GMC North Bros. Value Lot 12T1082A 4 dr sedan AW black 99C, leather, moon, 248-467-0396 Loaded, black. Won't last! \$33,199 <u>CLASSIFIEDS WORK!</u> 734-402-8908 (734) 453-2500 Ne **BOB JEANNOTTE BOB JEANNOTTE** 888-372-9836 ess \$27 1-800-579-7355 BUICK, GMC 248-514-6921 **Trucks for Sale NORTH BROS. FORD** www.hometownlife.con BUICK, GMC hometownlife.com Lou LaRiche WWW.HOMETOWNLIFE.COM (734) 453-2500 734-402-8774 (734) 453-2500 FORD F-150 2008 Dodge XLT 72K 4X4 \$18,500 MERCURY MOUNTAINEER **Chevy Runs Deep BOB JEANNOTTE** 2008 73K Premeier \$16,995 Black DURANGO 2004 BUICK, GMC , V8 Gray, Very cl uns great \$10,498 (734) 453-2500 **BOB JEANNOTTE** Switch **BOB JEANNOTTE** BUICK, GMC **GMC SIERRA 2005 BUICK, GMC** to (734) 453-2500 4X4, ext cab, gray. Runs great \$11,995 (734) 453-2500 LaRiche! CHEVY TAHOE LT 2007 **BOB JEANNOTTE** 94,000 miles, loaded, mint. CHARGER 2010 BUICK, GMC to date maintenance 12C8450A 4dr. sedan Ralley RWD 20's, moon, only 12K (734) 453-2500 \$21,000, 734-765-6159 eter \$21,988 CHEVY TAHOE 2007 GMC SIERRA 2006 1500 DEALER White Co hite Cotton, LTZ, 4WD, a sunroof! Loaded from L to Z! Just \$21,395! Extended cab, 4x4, gray, 78K, \$17,949 734-402-8774 **BOB JEANNOTTE** 888-372-9836 Ford BUICK, GMC Lou LaRiche (734) 453-2500 BEST SELE FUSION SE 2008 V6 w/roof \$12,495 FORD EDGE 2007 **GMC SIERRA EXT CAB 2007 BOB JEANNOTTE** Summer Sand, SE, and power options! Very sharp BUICK, GMC **BOB JEANNOTTE** edge! Call for price! **BUICK, GMC** (734) 453-2500 888-372-9836 (734) 453-2500 TAURUS 2010 Lou LaRiche Saturday Sales 9-3 • Service 9-2 Stunning Silver, limited, chrome, and sync! Top to CHEVY COLORADO 2007 Victory Red, LT, 4WD, and Z71! Ready for adventure! **CHEVY TRAILBLAZER** bottom loaded! Reduced to \$24,977! 2008 Just \$15,495! 12T1144A 4 dr, 4WD, dk 888-372-9836 888-372-9836 cherry, leather, moon, only 29K on odometer, 1 owner \$19,488 Lou LaRiche Lou LaRiche NORTH BROS. FORD EDGE SE 2010 **CHEVY SILVERADO 2011** 734-402-8774 4 dr wagon, dark blue, FWD, full power, alloys, only 7800 Summit White, LT, 2500HD, and 16K! This truck is a FORD ESCAPE 2009 certified \$21,988 beast! Just \$31,595! 12T9192A G2 Redfire, auto NORTH BROS. FORD 888-372,9836 leather, moonroof, alloy 15:10 734-402-8774 \$17,988 Lou LaRiche EDGE SEL 2010 NORTH BROS. FORD 12T9165A 4 dr. cinnamon, leather, only 12K on odome ter \$23,488 **GMC SIERBA 2009** 734-402-8774 White Heat, 43K, extended cab, and OnStar! Own the FORD ESCAPE XLT 2009 road! Just \$17,999! 12T9057A Red. 4 cylinder, full power, moon, 24K on NORTH BROS. FORD 888-372-9836 734-402-8774 dometer \$16,988 Lou LaRiche NORTH BROS. FORD 2012 CHEVY MALIBU FOCUS SE 2006 2012 CHEVY CRUZE 12C9283 auto, air, full power \$7,988 North Bros. Value Lot 734-402-8774 FORD F-250 2008 FORD ESCAPE XLT 2012 **LEASE FOR** LEASE FOR BUY FOR ver, boss i BUY FOR-11C6011A auto, full power, chrome wheels, 15K miles, 734-402-8908 124 tified!\$27,988 DEALER FREESTYLE 2006 certified \$22 988 **EVERYONES PRICE EVERYONE'S PRICE** 734-402-8774 NORTH BROS. FORD P21448 White, 6 cylinder, full p ower, alloy wheels \$10,988 24 MD 159 175 \$17.670 \$16,993 734-402-8774 ZERO DOWN North Bros. Value Lot \$295 DOWN LEASE Mini-Vans 734-402-8908 **OR LESS OR LESS OR LESS OR LESS** Sports & Imported NMUT 22 Samera HONDA ODYSSEY 2005 **MUSTANG GT 2008 CORVETTE 2005 COUPE** P21458 California Special 15K, 1 owner, certified



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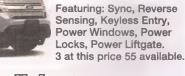
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