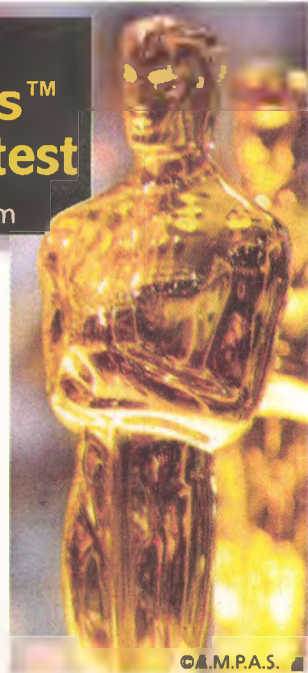




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Volunteer help

One of the things Eric Bacynski does as a member of the Plymouth District Library board is comb through the library's annual reports.

While culling them recently, Bacynski discovered just how much the library depends on volunteer help to keep the operation running.

The numbers: 3,800 hours put in by more than 120 volunteers.

"I'm reminded of the incredible job all of the staff and volunteers do," Bacynski posted.

Core values

The Plymouth-Canton Board of Education last week approved core principles designed to make sure students in the district were getting a quality character education.

The core principles — respect, responsibility, honest and integrity and acceptance — were the result of work done by a committee made up of teachers, administrators, parents and community members.

It was the response to a goal set by the board in August 2012 to deliver a formal and consistent district-wide character development curriculum for all grades.

Central issue

The Plymouth-Canton Board of Education has made the decision to close venerable Central Middle School and build a new middle school in Canton, if voters pass the \$114 million bond the district will seek in May.

Central Middle School is the oldest building in the school district, having served as the original Plymouth High School. School board members have begun to debate what to do with the building, and over the years options have been discussed ranging from selling the property to converting it to board office space.

What would you do with Central Middle School? Please email your thoughts to Plymouth Observer editor Brad Kadrich at bkadrich@hometownlife.com.

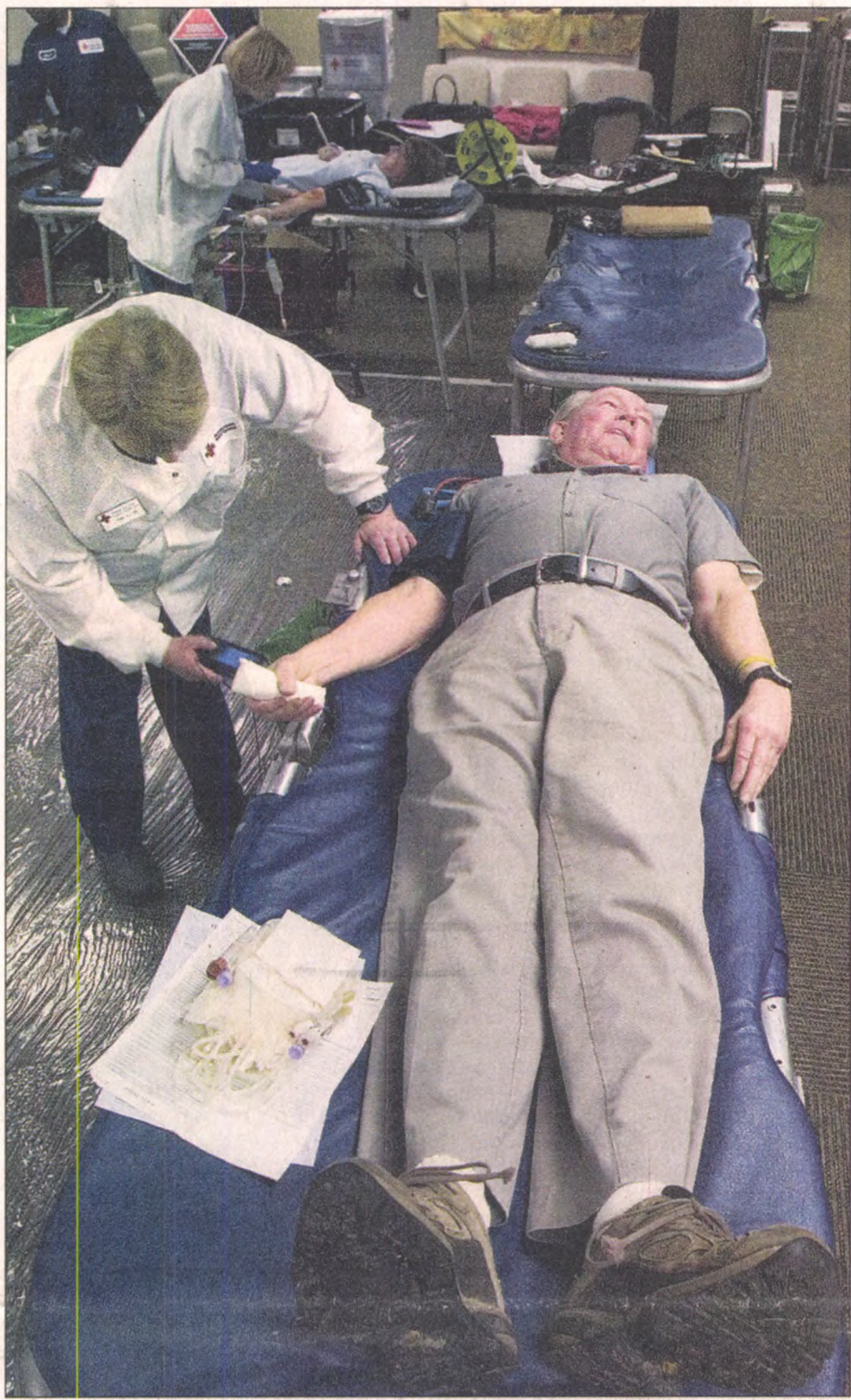
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BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Ready to donate, Canton resident Ivan Speers is prepped by Red Cross nurse Pam Cirocco during a blood drive at Plymouth Church of Christ.

Blood brother

Faithful donor has touched hundreds of lives

By Matt Jachman
Staff Writer

Ivan Speers is a quiet, unassuming man who lives in Canton Township with his black Lab, Willy.

But he got the red-carpet treatment Monday afternoon at the Plymouth Church of Christ, when he donated his 120th pint of blood during a church blood drive. Nurses fussed, fellow donors gawked and church members and a local American Red Cross executive were on hand to thank him.

"I didn't think it'd be anything like this," Speers, halfway through donating his pint, said of the attention he was receiving. "I never really thought of it that much."

Speers, 75, said he's been donating blood for more than 50 years. At 120 pints, he's given the equivalent of 15 gallons and, with each pint having the potential to be used in treating up to three people, has touched hundreds of lives.

"Anytime you get over 15 gallons, that's doing a lot," said Diane Risko, a Red Cross donor resources representative. "You find that people aren't always that committed."

Helping a neighbor

For Speers, it started out in the 1950s, he said, when neighbors in

Plymouth's Old Village — then called Lower Town — got together to help an ill neighbor by donating blood. The idea was, he said, that with enough donors, enough compatible blood would be found to help the neighbor.

Then there were blood drives during his stint in the U.S. Army, 1961-63, and Red Cross drives. Speers gave at his own church, Plymouth Church of the Nazarene, until it stopped hosting blood drives, and has also given regularly at Church of Christ for years. Now, he faithfully attends each of the Church of Christ's five yearly drives.

"He's always here," said church member Diane Johnson of Redford Township, who organizes the drives. "We're so proud of what he does."

The church, with about 250 members, hosts what are considered smaller drives, with around 40 pints donated each time. But the Red Cross relies on the church's consistency, Johnson said.

"Doing it five times a year gives them the volume they need," she said. Speers said he donates blood regularly because others can't. "I just got into it," he said.

He's aware of the Red Cross's need for blood — about 700 units a day in southeast Michigan, according to Risko.

Please see **DONOR, A2**

City mulls 'green' light for lights

By Matt Jachman
Staff Writer

Financial incentives and promised savings from reduced energy consumption are prompting Plymouth officials to consider going green with much of the city's street lighting.

The City Commission saw a presentation Monday from DTE Energy, which maintains 552 streetlights in Plymouth, on swapping out 392 mercury vapor lamps for new light-emitting diode, or LED, fixtures that could cut the system's electricity use by about two-thirds. The city's net cost for replacing the lamps with the LED fixtures is estimated at just over \$104,000.

Debra Cain, DTE's account manager for Plymouth, pitched the lighting-upgrade program by saying the energy company is investing in it as well and would offer energy-efficiency rebates with a changeout. She estimated the LEDs would lower the system's energy costs by about \$30,000 a year.

"This is it — right now,"

Cain said, explaining that DTE is at the beginning of a major LED push. "You will receive much-improved lighting."

Most lights

The 392 streetlights in DTE's proposal include lights on all city streets, with the exceptions of Ann Arbor Road and Main Street, where DTE has 148 high-pressure sodium streetlights that are more efficient than mercury vapor lights, though not as efficient as LEDs.

The manufacture of mercury vapor lamps, Cain said, has been outlawed by the federal government, though DTE stockpiled them for use as replacements before that law took effect.

Jason Faron, a sales representative for American Electric Lighting, which makes the LED fixtures DTE has chosen, said each fixture is rated at 67 watts, compared to the 200 watts typical for the current mercury vapor lamps.

"This is basically why a lot of people are moving

Please see **LIGHTS, A2**



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Readers in an unscientific poll conducted by the Observer have a variety of ideas of what to do with Central Middle School if the district closes it and moves the students to a new school building.

Readers offer ideas for Central

By Brad Kadrich
Staff Writer

In a continuing and totally unscientific poll conducted by the Observer, readers have a variety of ideas for what the Plymouth-Canton Board of Education should do if and when they close Central Middle School.

District officials are using a May 7 election to try to pass a \$114.4 mil-

lion bond with which, if it passes, they'll build a new middle school in Canton and close Central Middle School, home to nearly 900 students, most of them from Canton.

One of the central issues — no pun intended — is what the board will do with the Central Middle School building and property.

Please see **CENTRAL, A3**



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Downtown kitchenware shop to close

By Matt Jachman
Staff Writer

Isabella's Copper Pot, a kitchenware store on Main Street in downtown Plymouth, will be closing its doors next month.

The store, which offers high-quality cookware, cutlery and kitchen gadgets, opened in July 2010. Manager Doug Fopma said the store will be closed by March 31 or before; any unsold inventory, Fopma said, would be moved to the Isabella's location in Gaylord, Mich., which

has been open since 2007.

A sign on the door of the shop advertises storewide discounts of 30 percent. Some fixtures are also for sale.

Owner Stacy Shafto said a combination of factors led to the decision to close. One was the distance between the Plymouth and Gaylord stores — a three-and-a-half hour drive — which made spending time with family difficult, she said. Slower sales and the departure of a key employee were also factors, she said.

"We had been thinking about different options for a very long time" when the employee announced in January that she would be moving, Shafto wrote in an e-mail. "We took that as a sign that closing, however difficult, was the right thing to do."

Building owner Jim McKeon, a longtime downtown Plymouth landlord, said there is interest in the site of about 1,900 square feet. Without a signed contract, McKeon said, he is not ready to make an announcement about a

new tenant.

"It certainly won't be a restaurant," McKeon said with a laugh, explaining he owns the sites of three nearby Main Street restaurants and doesn't want to give them more competition.

McKeon said he expects quite a bit of remodeling work to be done before the next tenant opens the doors there. The building dates from 1893, he said.

Linens, Nordicware bundt cake pans and cookie cutters

were among the most popular items at the store, Shafto said. "We really enjoyed being in Plymouth and met some life-long friends here," Shafto said. "Closing has been an agonizing decision for us since we hate to let people down and no one likes to give up."

Shafto said she hopes customers will stay in touch and visit the Isabella's location in Gaylord on trips to northern Michigan.

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LIGHTS

Continued from page A1

to this technology," Faron said as he showed off an LED fixture to commissioners.

Commissioner Ron Loiselle and Department of Municipal Services Director Chris Porman have been working with DTE on an LED program for more than a year, and said the estimated cost has dropped dramatically since they started.

"I'm highly in favor of it," Loiselle said Tuesday. "It saves energy for the city. In the long run, it'll help cut budget expenses."

Future phase

Porman said the total cost for installing the 392 LED fixtures is just over \$152,000, and that the city's \$104,312 net cost reflects a \$20,000 investment from DTE, plus energy-efficiency rebates. The city's net cost amounts to just over \$266 a fixture.

According to DTE, there are a total of 404 mercury vapor streetlights in Plymouth, but Cain said the 12 not included in the 392 DTE wants to replace are on fixtures other than

traditional streetlight poles, such as strung on cables across roadways. A future phase of DTE upgrades, she said, will include replacing those kinds of lamps.

DTE's proposed LED program also does not include streetlights in Plymouth's downtown, which are high-pressure sodium lamps owned and maintained by the city.

Officials said DTE would soon install a trial LED streetlight fixture for commissioners and the public to view. Two trial LED streetlights are already up, one at Ann Arbor Trail and Harvey and another at Ann Arbor Trail and Sheldon, but neither has the kind of fixture DTE has chosen for its program.

Porman said if the LEDs aren't installed, the city faces a mandated replacement of mercury vapor lamps, with the somewhat more efficient high-pressure sodium lamps, by the end of 2015. While that wouldn't require up-front investment by the city, he said, it would also mean lower savings on energy costs and the increased possibility of a DTE rate hike.

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MDOT narrows Ford Road fix options

By Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

A long-touted proposal to reshape the I-275/Ford Road interchange to ease Canton traffic congestion has been ruled out as a viable option by Michigan Department of Transportation officials.

MDOT officials and consultants confirmed the decision Wednesday morning, saying U.S. transportation authorities rejected the idea as too disruptive to the interchange and failing to qualify for federal funding.

The revelation was made public as officials from MDOT and a consulting firm, Wilbur Smith Associates, came to Canton for talks with Downtown Development Authority officials.

The news could explain why Canton lost out four times in trying to secure a federal economic-recovery grant to reshape the interchange, partly by adding new ramps from the southbound I-275 exit to Haggerty Road and allowing drivers to avoid Ford.

That proposal was identified years ago after MDOT and the township commissioned a study by a consulting firm, Parsons-Brinckerhoff, which then-Supervisor Tom Yack said cost \$500,000. He is upset the plan appears dead.

"I am so ticked about this I can't tell you," Yack said Wednesday morn-

ing, reached by telephone after the DDA meeting. "Talk about a waste of money."

Yack, now a township trustee, said MDOT should try to persuade federal officials to reconsider.

MDOT also has ruled out another option of adding two new interchanges to I-275 at Cherry Hill and Warren roads — proposals deemed the most costly and intrusive on the environment.

Three options

Gorette Yung, MDOT project manager, and Matt Wendling, senior engineer for Wilbur Smith Associates, said efforts to address Ford traffic woes have been narrowed to three options:

- Do nothing, which many officials and motorists view as unacceptable.
- Efforts such as adding a westbound through lane on Ford Road, partly by connecting what are now right-turn lanes.
- Convert Ford Road into a boulevard with eastbound and westbound lanes separated by green space.

MDOT and consultants say the boulevard concept could be accomplished as Ford undergoes a massive reconstruction expected within a few years as the road deteriorates.

No specific time line has been announced. Yung projected the boulevard would take one to

two construction seasons and likely cost \$20 million to \$40 million.

Yung and Wendling indicated the proposal could provide a suitable fix to Ford Road traffic woes through 2035, easing traffic congestion and reducing crashes along one of Michigan's most accident-prone thoroughfares.

DDA board member Dave Wisniewski indicated tentative support.

"If it can improve traffic flow up to 60 percent, I think it would have a great impact on the community, reduce accidents and allow for the better flow of traffic," he said.

Township Treasurer Melissa McLaughlin, who chairs the DDA, said the boulevard plan could improve safety, though she said it could undo streetscape work already completed along Ford Road.

"It's like shoot me now, we just did that," she said.

Yung said MDOT hasn't adopted the boulevard proposal as the final plan among the three remaining options.

Study continuing

MDOT still is conducting an environmental study. Meanwhile, MDOT is expected to have its next community meeting on Ford Road in March or April at Summit on the Park, though no date has been confirmed.

Among highlights of the boulevard plan:

- It would stretch from the Ford/I-275 area to west of Sheldon Road.
- Landscaped areas, or green space, would separate eastbound and westbound traffic.
- Ford would be widened to three lanes from I-275 to Haggerty Road.
- Haggerty would be converted into a boulevard for 1,000 feet in both directions from Ford Road.
- Left turns from Ford Road onto north-south roads such as Haggerty and Lilley would be eliminated.
- Turnaround lanes, similar to those on Michigan Avenue, would be installed for automobiles and larger trucks.
- Some widening of Ford Road would occur, encroaching on what is now the right-of-way.

DDA officials are hopeful any fix will be as least disruptive as possible to businesses.

Of the three remaining proposals, Yack said doing nothing may be a better alternative than a boulevard.

"I think doing nothing is the best course of action unless MDOT can show us someplace in Michigan that emulates what they're proposing for Ford Road," he said. "I wouldn't want Canton to be the experiment."

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CORRECTION

A story on the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools' search for a new superintendent should have said that, prior to joining the district, executive director for business services Brodie Killian spent several years as a municipal bond investment banker and investment adviser.

DONOR

Continued from page A1

"You hear it on the radio, see the ads," he said.

Familiar face

The donation procedure is routine for Speers, who jokes that he should have a small spigot put into his arm. He's become familiar with the Red Cross workers and church volunteers, and even stopped by with Willy, the black Lab, for a visit at the greeter's desk during one drive.

Speers spent a career working in lumber yards

and for a Plymouth home builder, after his time in the Army. He retired from N.A. Mans & Sons in Canton.

Along with his post-donation snack Monday, Speers also received a goodie bag from the Red Cross — with an official-looking Red Cross jacket, a baseball cap, a certificate and an ornament, all presented by Risko. He's due a 15-gallon pin as well.

"This is something I never even dreamed of," he said.

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BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Ivan Speers of Canton is fit to donate his 120th pint of blood, this time at Plymouth Church of Christ. Behind Ivan is nurse Joan Cordina.

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AROUND PLYMOUTH



In concert

Sunday, March 10 at 4 p.m. the Plymouth First United Methodist Church presents the widely acclaimed male chorus Measure for Measure in concert 4 p.m. Sunday, March 10. The group has earned praise for their lively musical excellence in performances throughout North America and Europe, and their repertoire includes selections from many different musical styles. Admission is free; a free-will offering will be received to benefit the Methodist Children's Home and the music ministry at Plymouth First United Methodist Church. The church is located at 45201 North Territorial Road in Plymouth. For more information, call (734) 453-5280.

"Around Town" 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.

PROJECT GRADUATION

Date/Time: Saturday, March 9, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Location: Canton High School Cafeteria, 8415 N. Canton Center in Canton

Details: The Senior Graduation Party Committee sponsors Project Graduation, a vendor show designed to be the marketplace for all graduation party and gift needs. Attendees will be able to sample foods from caterers and bakers and arrange party rentals such as tents, tables and chairs, outdoor bounce rentals, slushy and popcorn machines, etc. There will also be "gift" vendors such as Tastefully Simple, Scensty, Tupperware, jewelry and also formal dress and Tuxedo shops for Prom. Admission is free.

WINE EVENT

Date/Time: Friday, March 8, 7-11 p.m.
Location: Fox Hills Golf & Banquet Center
Details: The third annual Plymouth-Canton Community Schools Educational Excellence Foundation Wine Tasting Event is set. Tickets are \$40 per person and include wine tasting & strolling dinner. Tickets are avail-

able at all Busch's Fresh Food Market locations and Showroom of Elegance on Canton Center Road in Canton. There will be more than 60 varieties of wine from around the world and Michigan based Craft beers. Pouring takes place from 7-9:30 p.m. Proceeds will be used to fund teacher grants in Plymouth-Canton classrooms. There will be a silent auction at the event and currently a live web-based auction is taking place. The most unique and exciting items are \$1,000 and \$2,000 certificates toward the purchase of a new car at one of seven local participating dealerships including Atchinson Ford, Lou LaRiche Chevrolet, Jack Demmer Ford, Victory Honda, Dick Scott Chrysler-Jeep-Dodge-Ram, Tennyson Chevrolet and Hines Park Lincoln. You can view all the available items and purchase tickets online at WWW.PCCSEEF.COM

Contact: For more information please call Executive Director Carole Kody (734) 416-2718.

MAD HATTER TEA

Date/Time: Sunday, March 10, 2-4 p.m.
Location: Plymouth Historical Museum, 155 S. Main in Plymouth
Details: It's tea time ladies! Grab your gals and come to the Plymouth Historical Museum for the annual Mad Hatter Tea where ladies wear their craziest hats! "Mad About Hats-100 years of Wearing Hats, 1860-1960" will be presented by Sandy

Root, a Civil War reenactor and period milliner. Before the presentation, enjoy scrumptious delicacies from Joe's Deli of Plymouth and the Museum's signature "Mary's Blend" tea—a taste bud tingling cherry and almond black tea in honor of Mary Todd Lincoln. This tea is also available for purchase in the Museum's store. Tickets for the Mad Hatter Tea are \$20 for Friends of the Plymouth Historical Museum members and \$25 for non-members, if purchased by March 1 (add \$5 to the ticket price after that date), and can be purchased at the Plymouth Historical Museum during open hours, or on the website at <http://www.plymouth-history.org/Events.html> using PayPal.

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

SEWING GUILD

Date/Time: First Thursday of each month, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Location: First Presbyterian Church, 701 Church Street, Plymouth
Details: This Plymouth-Canton neighborhood group is open to sewists of all levels. The Feb. 7 meeting features "Machine Embroidery Primer," followed by "3D Flying Geese-hands on" on March 7; "Charity auction" April 11 (note date change); and "Machine or Hand Applique Quilt Block-hands on" on May 2.
Contact: For more information email asgpc@comcast.net

CENTRAL

Continued from page A1

Plymouth resident Laura Foos said she would combine the Central Middle School land with the Plymouth Cultural Center on Farmer (the land on which it sits is owned by the district) to create a full-service community recreation center.

Look around

Her plan would be similar to Canton's Summit on the Park or what Livonia did when Livonia Public Schools closed Bentley High School, building a \$25 million rec center. Foos' plan would happen in two phases. Phase 1 includes Community Education classrooms on one side where it's carpeted and quieter; two pools to support swim lessons, as well as lap swimming. Possibly a wade pool for kids and/or seniors; a workout room with memberships to generate more revenue; and a large gym with multiple floors.

Phase 2 would convert the Cultural Center to support hockey and figure skating by installing a second rink in the side where the community classes used to be. Developers could sink the rink to make it easier to control the climate, and the area above the rink could be used for the elevator down, a sports gift shop, and an arcade.

Canton resident Thomas Donnelly said he supports the bond, and has a few ideas what to do with the property, including:

- First, the park in front of Central Middle School should be preserved for all the tributes to veterans. "That is a must," Donnelly wrote.
- Downtown Plymouth has no comprehensive grocery store. My guess is that the CMS property is currently zoned residential or some other non-commercial status.
- Preserving the school proper by converting it to condos is a romantic idea (not unlike the fate of old Ypsilanti High School) but

the makeup of the building would require massive rehab, the cost of which would be a waste. It is a tired old building that needs to come down. The football field should go, Donnelly said.

"I would hope that no one tries to preserve a wall or other portion of CMS like what was done at the former Daisy Air Rifle site," Donnelly wrote. "What may have been a nostalgic idea has become an eyesore."

Denise Muench's solution is simple: Donate the building and the adjoining property to the City of Plymouth.

"The city can refurbish the building into a Rec Center which can be utilized by the community," wrote Muench, a Plymouth resident. "Think of it — a real pool in Plymouth, a decent fitness room, a gym, soccer fields, etc. What's not to like about this idea?"

What not to do

Plymouth resident Bill Huppenbauer said he isn't sure what to do with Central, but he knows what not to do with it: Use it for office space for the district's administration.

"If Central Middle School doesn't efficiently house students, why would the board spend money to 'fix' the many problems that the building has rather than leasing board office space at a commercial office building? Also, could the board possibly need as much space as Central Middle School has?"

Steve Bracey, a 27-year resident of Plymouth Township, said the district should keep the gym and the pool, eliminate parts of the building that are problem areas and renovate the rest to create a cultural/fitness/recreation center serving Plymouth and Plymouth Township.

"It would be another great reason for people and businesses to move to this great community," Bracey wrote. "The hard part would be the money, and getting the city and township to agree on anything! It could be beautiful."

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CRIME WATCH

High-speed chase

Canton police chased a silver Toyota Corolla before abandoning the pursuit Monday night in Westland after the driver reached speeds of 90 mph, a police report said. The incident started about 10:20 p.m. Monday when an officer on patrol near Ford Road and I-275 saw a vehicle with a license plate registration sticker that had expired in October. Police tried to stop the female driver as she headed across the Ford Road bridge into Westland, but she accelerated at speeds initially recorded at 85 mph, the report said.

The woman ignored a red traffic light at Newburgh Road and turned northbound, racing at speeds of 90 mph before Canton police terminated the chase at Newburgh and Warren.

An investigation led police to the vehicle's owner, a man who was working at the Kroger store at Ford and Canton Center when the incident occurred. He indicated to police that his girlfriend had his car.

Police learned the 25-year-old woman's license was suspended and that she was wanted for a felony warrant involving a controlled substance in Romulus.

The investigation was continuing.

Money scam

A 43-year-old man notified Canton police after he apparently became the victim of an identity scam, according to a police report.

The man, who lives on Norwood, northeast of Hanford and Canton Center, told police Saturday afternoon he had been contacted by someone alleging to be from Dish Network about a promotion. He said he had used

the company's service for years.

He said he was advised he owed \$890 and that he needed to have the money transferred to a bank account, which he did, according to a police report. He moved the money from his bank to a New York bank, but he was notified a few days later that his money hadn't been credited. Moreover, he received a new bill from Dish Network for \$341, the police report said.

The man was told the company had never received the original \$890. Dish Network advised him he had been a victim of fraud and to file a police report.

Pursuit and capture

A 61-year-old Ann Arbor man was facing charges following allegations he led Canton police on a high-speed chase that ended in Plymouth Township, where officers used a tire-deflating device to end his attempt to flee, a police report said.

The incident started about 2:30 a.m. last Thursday when Canton police noticed the driver traveling northbound on Sheldon at Joy at a high rate of speed, the report said. The man stopped abruptly at a red light at the intersection, locking up his brakes and skidding into the intersection, police said.

With police trailing him, he turned east on Mayville and pulled over, but sped off as the police officer started to get out of his car, the report said. The officer activated his siren and chased the man north on Brookline, where he was seen driving off the roadway and nearly hitting a fire hydrant and a parked

car, the police report said.

The driver failed to obey a stop sign at Brookline and Judson, then turned left on Judson and ran a stop sign at Sheldon as he fled at 75 mph in a 45 mph zone, police said. He then ran a red light at Ann Arbor Road, swerved and drove through Penniman at 85 mph before Plymouth Township officers deployed the tire-deflation device.

The man was stopped a short distance later. He was suspected of using alcohol and drugs after police found Vicodin at the scene. The man had prior alcohol-related driving incidents out of Ontario and Romulus.

The man complained of pain and was taken to Oakwood Hospital, where it was learned he had earlier suffered a broken femur and had a hip replacement. His blood was drawn and authorities were awaiting the results for possible charges.

Identify theft

A 62-year-old woman contacted police after she learned she was the apparent victim of a tax-filing scam.

The woman, who lives on North River Woods, northwest of Beck and Geddes, told police Feb. 13 that her taxes had been filed a few days earlier electronically by a certified public accountant.

The woman told police she was contacted the next day by the CPA, advising her that her tax return had been denied. She then learned someone had used her Social Security number earlier this year to file taxes.

She notified the Social Security Administration for an investigation. — By Darrell Clem

Booze heist at second CVS store reported

Vodka theft

A woman fled a Plymouth Township drug store Friday afternoon with 10 bottles of vodka for which she hadn't paid, and police said it was the second such theft at a local store that week.

The theft occurred at the CVS store on Sheldon Road at Ann Arbor Road just after 4 p.m. Friday, a Plymouth Township Police Department report said.

A clerk told police he was working a cash register when a woman exited with a big bag or purse, and the shoplifting alarm sounded. He called for her to stop, he said, but she ran to a maroon-colored two-door Chevrolet Cavalier, which then headed west on Ann Arbor Road, he said. The Cavalier was being driven by another person, the clerk said.

Police said a review of in-store surveillance video showed the woman putting 10 bottles of vodka into a shopping cart. The store manager told police the same woman is suspected in a similar theft of liquor Feb. 11 at the CVS at Five Mile and

Sheldon.

Phone swiped

An employee on Feb. 11 reported the theft of his cellular phone and its case from the men's locker room at Aunt Millie's Bakery.

The Westland man told police he hung his coat in the locker room at the bakery on Port Street at around noon Feb. 10 when he arrived for work, and checked on it during a break about 90 minutes later, finding the phone was gone. Another man, the victim said, reported that cigarettes had been stolen from his coat during the same time frame.

Mail theft

A man reported the theft of mail on his street, Southworth Road near Ann Arbor Road, to police in the township on Monday.

According to a police report, the man called police to report that he had just seen someone in a gold-colored full-sized sedan, which he thought was a Chrysler product, reach into the mailboxes

at two neighboring houses. The witness was not able to describe the driver of the car, nor did he get the car's license plate number, police said.

A responding officer didn't find the car in the area, but did find two letters, torn open, in the street. Police kept the letters, as no one answered the door at the houses to which they had been delivered.

Fraud

A township woman reported the unauthorized use of a debit card to police earlier this month. Police said the card had been used to make large purchases at Office Depot, the Apple Store and a Chili's restaurant, among other places.

The debit card, from an area credit union, was canceled.

The victim told police she contacted the credit union after being refused a cash withdrawal at an automatic teller on Feb. 3. An employee at the credit union told her about the suspected fraudulent purchases, she said.

By Matt Jachman

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to federal guidelines, the Charter Township of Plymouth decided on February 12, 2013 to submit the following projects for funding from the 2013 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program:

LOCATION	2013 PROJECTS	ESTIMATED ALLOCATION
201 South Main	SENIOR SERVICES	\$ 4,558
3850 2nd, Wayne, MI	TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM	\$ 8,800
1160 Sheridan	ADA Accessibility Improvements to Township Park	\$ 65,842
46640 Ann Arbor Tr.	ADMINISTRATION	\$ 8,000
9955 N. Haggerty Rd		TOTAL \$ 88,000

If Wayne County determines after all applications are received that additional funds are available for public service projects the proposed allocations submitted are:

LOCATION	2013 PROJECTS	ESTIMATED ALLOCATION
201 South Main	SENIOR SERVICES	\$ 4,558
3850 2nd, Wayne, MI	TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM	\$ 8,800
1160 Sheridan	ADA Accessibility Improvements to Township Park	\$ 65,842
46640 Ann Arbor Tr.	ADMINISTRATION	\$ 8,000
9955 N. Haggerty Rd		TOTAL \$ 88,000

Publish: February 21, 2013

AT879482 - 3x3.5

**CITY OF PLYMOUTH
2013 MARCH BOARD OF REVIEW**

The City of Plymouth Board of Review will be conducting the 2013 March Board of Review and will convene in the City Commission Conference Room, 201 S Main Street, Plymouth, MI 48170.

The regular Board of Review schedule is as follows:

- Tuesday, March 5, 2013 ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING 3:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, March 6, 2013 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- Thursday, March 7, 2013 from 3:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
- Monday, March 11, 2013 from 3:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Other hearing dates and times may be scheduled as needed. Hearings are by appointments only. COMPLETED 2013 BOARD OF REVIEW PETITIONS ARE NECESSARY, and must be submitted to the Front Office located on the First Floor of City Hall prior to your appointment. The "Deadline" for submitting petitions for all persons wishing to appeal in person before the Board of Review is Monday, March 11, 2013.

A resident or non-resident taxpayer may file a petition with the Board of Review without the requirement of a personal appearance by the taxpayer or a representative. An agent must have written authority to represent the owner. Written petitions must be received by Monday, March 11, 2013 by 9:00 p.m. Postmarks are not accepted.

Copies of the notices stating the dates and times of the meetings will be posted and published in the local newspaper.

All Board of Review Meetings are open meetings in compliance with the "Open Meetings Act".

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Assessor's Office at (734) 453-1234, ext 253.

Linda J. Langmesser, CMC
City Clerk

Publish: February 14, 17 and 21, 2013

AT8794120 - 3x4.5

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH
NOTICE OF HEARING
ASSESSMENT BOARD OF REVIEW**

NOTICE OF HEARING given that the Plymouth Township Board of Review will meet on the following dates and times:

Hearings are by appointment, please call 354-3269, between 8 am and 4:30 pm for an appointment.

Date	Time	Meeting Type
Tuesday, March 5	9 am - Noon	Organizational Meeting
Monday, March 11	2 pm - 5 pm 6 pm - 9 pm	Hearings by Appointment Hearings by Appointment
Wednesday, March 13	9 am - Noon 2 pm - 5 pm	Hearings by Appointment Hearings by Appointment
Thursday, March 14	9 am - Noon	Hearings by Appointment
Saturday, March 16	9 am - 11 am	First Come - First Served

Other hearing dates and times may be scheduled as needed.

All persons protesting their assessment must complete petitions prior to appearing before the Board. A personal appearance is not required. Written protests to the Board of Review must be received by mail or delivered in person to the Assessing office by the close of business on Monday, March 25, 2013 at 4:30pm.

The Board of Review will be held in the Board Meeting Room of Plymouth Township Hall, 9955 N. Haggerty Road, Plymouth, MI 48170.

Please come prepared as a ten (10) minute time limit before the Board of Review will be strictly adhered to.

Publish: February 14, 17 and 21, 2013

AT8794295 3x5

Allied Health and Nursing Job Fair


**Wednesday
February 27, 2013
1-3 pm**

**Schoolcraft College
VisTaTech Center, DiPonio Room**


Resumes Will Be Accepted

Positions:

- Registered Nurse
- Licensed Practical Nurse
- Nursing Assistant
- Home Health Aide
- Health Information Technician
- Coding Specialist
- Medical Receptionist
- Medical Assistant
- Medical Biller
- Medical Transcriptionist
- Massage Therapist



More than 30 health and educational facilities will be represented



Schoolcraft College
18600 Haggerty Road
Livonia, MI 48152
www.schoolcraft.edu

For more information call the Schoolcraft College Career Services Office at 734-462-4421 or email ctc@schoolcraft.edu

Barefoot stages retro romance

A handsome, successful diplomat conceals the truth about his wedded bliss (or lack thereof) in *Kind Sir*, running through Feb. 24 at the Barefoot Productions Theatre in Plymouth.

For the cast and crew at Barefoot Productions, *Kind Sir* is as much a comedy of errors as a sophisticated love story. Director Craig A. Hane cast his leads — the commitment-phobic diplomat and the presence-commanding actress who loves him — to sell the central romance. Yet much of the play's charm comes from playwright Norman Krasna's sharp dialogue and the hilarious act of revenge in the final scene.

Film fans may recog-

nize the play as the inspiration for the 1958 movie *Indiscreet*, directed by Stanley Donen (*Singin' in the Rain*) with Cary Grant and Ingrid Bergman in the leads. As a fan of both versions, Hane used the film as inspiration for recreating the high-society glamour of 1950s New York City.

This stage version features Adam Weakley of Whitmore Lake and Maureen Paraventi of Redford in their breakout roles on the Barefoot Productions stage. Paraventi narrated readings of *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow* and *A Christmas Carol* earlier this season; Weakley, a regular in Ann Arbor theater, will perform with Barefoot Productions for the

first time. Chris Steves of Woodhaven, David Alexander of Redford and Ann Arbor residents Eric Bloch and Linda McCalister round out the cast as two couples who conspire to bring the protagonists together.

Audiences have one last chance to see *Kind Sir* this weekend at the Barefoot Productions Theatre (240 N. Main Street, Plymouth). Shows on Friday, Feb. 22, and Saturday, Feb. 23, run at 8 p.m.; the run closes with a 2 p.m. matinee on Sunday, Feb. 24.

Tickets are \$16 for general audiences and \$14 for students and seniors. To reserve tickets, call the box office at (734) 560-1493 or visit www.justgobarefoot.com.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The P-CEP Marching Band color guard hosts three open rehearsals Monday March 4, Wednesday, March 6 and Friday, March 8, from 3:30-6 p.m. All rehearsals held at the Plymouth High School band room, 8400 Beck in Canton.

Color guard hosts open rehearsals

The Color Guard program affiliated with the Plymouth-Canton Marching Band is looking for new prospective members to participate in three open rehearsals to see what the program is all about.

The rehearsals are open to current eighth through eleventh graders in the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools. The open rehearsals will be held Monday March 4, Wednesday, March 6 and Friday, March 8, from 3:30-6 p.m. All rehearsals held at the Plymouth High School band room, 8400 Beck in Canton.

Color guard members dance, spin flags and props, and perform

alongside the 180-member marching band during the fall competition and football season. Those with dance experience are encouraged to attend. Participants should wear comfortable clothes and be ready to move.

Current eighth graders and other incoming performers interested in joining the Color Guard are encouraged to attend all three rehearsals. The Color Guard program is now under the direction of guard director Jeffrey Cash. Cash is a nationally acclaimed color guard specialist hailing from North Carolina. He has worked with some of the top independent guard programs in

the Nation. Direct any questions to Cash at your.jeffrey@gmail.com.

The 2013 Marching Band begins practicing in May and continues through the summer with camps, rehearsals, and fun. The Plymouth-Canton Marching Band is recognized as one of the premier high school bands in the country and the only band in the nation comprised of students from three separate high schools. Last season, the PCMB was named a Grand National Finalist, finishing 12th out of more than 500 bands, at the Bands of America national band championship held in Indianapolis every November.

U-M, MSU athletic directors to speak together at four-chamber luncheon

University of Michigan's David Brandon and Michigan State University's Mark Hollis, both regarded as innovative leaders in collegiate athletics, will appear together to speak at a multiple-chamber luncheon Friday, April 26, at Laurel Manor in Livonia. The event will run from 12 noon to 1:30 p.m.

The athletic directors from the rival Big Ten

schools will speak at the event that will involve the Livonia, Westland, Northville and Plymouth chambers of commerce. The program is presented by Bill Brown Ford, St. Mary Mercy Hospital, Trinity Health, and Edward Jones Investments: Robin Whitfield, Financial Advisor.

Brandon has been at the helm of the Michigan Athletic Department since March 2010. He is a U-M alumnus who played football for Coach Bo Schembechler and was elected in 1998 to serve an eight-year term on the school's Board of Regents. He previously worked as chairman and CEO of Domino's Pizza and chairman, president and CEO of Valassis Communications, headquartered in Livonia. He also serves in leadership roles for a number of non-profit organizations.

Hollis has led the Michigan State Athletic Department since January 2008. The MSU alumnus has worked in various executive and strategic planning roles for Spartan athletics since 1995. Before returning to his alma mater, he worked as an assistant and associate athletic director at the University of Pittsburgh, and he worked for the Western Athletic Conference, eventually earning the title of assistant commissioner. He has won numerous awards for his work in collegiate athletics.

Both gentlemen led programs engaged in one of the nation's fiercest collegiate sports rivalries, but they also work together on initiatives that support the Big Ten Conference and NCAA as they adapt to the ever-changing world of collegiate athletics. They are scheduled to discuss their proj-

ects, trends in collegiate athletics, unique challenges of their business, and answer audience questions.

This is the first time the Livonia, Northville, Plymouth and Westland chambers have teamed to coordinate a major luncheon. The four western Wayne County-based chambers combine to represent more than 2,200 members.

Seats to the luncheon are \$30 for chamber members, \$40 for non-members. Chamber members can purchase tables

of 10 for \$300 and receive preferential placement. Each chamber has a limited number of seats they can sell.

Those interested in attending this program can contact their community's respective chamber for details on the event and to reserve seats. Contact the Livonia Chamber at (734) 427-2122, the Westland Chamber at (734) 326-7222, the Plymouth Chamber at (734) 459-1540, or the Northville Chamber at (734) 349-7640.



Hollis



Brandon



SAVE THE DATE

MONDAY, MARCH 4, 2013 TIME: 11:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.

Auto workers, have you been offered the option to receive a lump-sum payment from your employer? What you do now will affect your lifestyle in retirement. Join us for a free retirement planning seminar to learn how you can pursue a more confident retirement with a RiverSource® Variable Annuity. Learn how to:

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- Create a plan to help you live out your dreams in retirement
- Make your money last through retirement

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- BREAST OF CHICKEN *baked with white wine, mushroom, leek and thyme sauce*
- BARBECUE SCOTTISH SALMON *slow-roasted mushroom salad, barbecue glaze*
- GRILLED PORTOBELLO MUSHROOM WITH RAVIOLI

Beverages include Coffee, Tea, or Soft Drinks

Seating is extremely limited, so please RSVP today!
Call Mary at 734.432.6490 or email Mary.A.Zak@ampf.com



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All guarantees are based on the continued claims paying ability of the issuing company and do not apply to the performance of the variable subaccounts, which vary with market conditions.

You should consider the investment objectives, risks, charges and expenses of a variable annuity and its underlying investment options carefully before investing. For free copies of annuity and underlying investment prospectuses, which contain these important considerations, call 1 (800) 333-3437. Read the prospectus carefully before you invest.

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PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Volunteer Diane Johnson has organized the blood drives at Plymouth Church of Christ for about 15 years. She also feeds the crew at the blood drive, and is famous for her sloppy joes. Helping Diane is Jessica Bone.

Red Cross: Blood donations vary, but need is constant

By Matt Jachman
Staff Writer

Blood donations fluctuate with the seasons — and the economy — but the need for blood in southeastern Michigan is constant, according to American Red Cross officials.

The Red Cross' southeastern Michigan chapter, based in Detroit, provides blood products to patients in Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, Washtenaw and St. Clair counties, where the demand from clinics and hospitals is about 700 units of blood every day.

That means the Red Cross needs about 900 people to show up daily at its donor centers and blood drives, with the extra numbers needed to ensure the minimum is reached, as some potential donors find they cannot give because of risks to their health or the health of others.

Bridget Tuohey, a Red Cross spokeswoman, said that donors like Ivan Speers are rare indeed. Speers, of Canton Township, donated his 120th pint of blood Monday at Plymouth Church of Christ. The 75-year old says he has been giving blood for more than 50 years; church and Red Cross officials said he donates at each of the church's five annual blood drives.

Tuohey said very few people donate that frequently in a year, and that even fewer donate that frequently over a period of many years, as Speers has. Donors can give only once every eight weeks.

Many donors, Tuohey said, started donating while in the military; Speers said he first donated to a blood drive organized for an ill neighbor, and later participated in drives during a two-year stint in the U.S. Army.

Tuohey and Diane Risko, a Red Cross donor representative, said the summer months and the Christmas holidays typically represent the low point for blood donations. Risko said a smaller blood drive in, say, August, will be extreme-



The man of the hour, 120 pint donor Ivan Speers, heads for the cubicle to give his history and see if he's well enough to donate.



Joanne Sonnenberg is a retired RN who now volunteers for the Red Cross. She's prepping blood collection bags for the crowd that will come through the door.

ly valuable for the Red Cross because donations tend to be lower then. The soured econo-



Done! Pam Cirocco, RN, readies Ivan's donation for processing.



As a thank you for his 120th pint of blood, Ivan Speers of Canton receives a cap, jacket and other gifts, presented by church volunteer Diane Johnson.

my, too, has affected donations, as workplaces, especially automobile plants, have fewer people on hand for blood drives, Risko said. Some autoworkers who left the plants during the downturn were long-time donors, she said. "Now, it's not as convenient for those donors," she said.

Whole blood donated to the Red Cross is typically divided into three components: red blood cells, platelets and plasma.

Tuohey and Risko said innovations in medicine have both increased the need for blood donations and decreased it. At the same time that transplants have become more commonplace and cancer survival rates



Ivan Speers rolls the bandage in hand to keep the blood flowing well.

are increasing, trends that increase the need for blood products, hospital blood management has also improved, conserving supplies, and the greater use of less-invasive surgeries has reduced the need for

blood in many surgical procedures. "Over time it's pretty much evened out," said Tuohey. "The need is fairly consistent."

mjachman@hometownlife.com
(313) 222-2405

Know details of homeowner's policy; good to shop around

By Rick Bloom
Guest Columnist



Money Matters

Rick Bloom

The big news last week was that a large meteorite slammed into the earth. Thankfully, it did so in a relatively rural area in Russia and caused no major damage. As I read about the event, I wondered if our insurance companies would cover the damage if a meteorite crashed into our homes. Or would they try to get out of paying the claim?

After doing some research, I'm happy to report that meteorites are covered just like other falling objects. Although the chance of something falling on our

homes is relatively minor, it was nice to see that they are covered. That being said, my question is: Do you know what is covered by your homeowner's insurance?

Most people buy homeowner's insurance when they purchase their home and then just automatically renew it on a year-by-year basis.

The philosophy is, if it ain't broke don't fix it. The problem with that is when it comes to insur-

ance policies, you never know if they're broke until you need them. That's why it makes sense to be proactive with any type of insurance coverage.

Insurance policies are written by lawyers for lawyers. In other words, they are difficult to understand. That is why it is important — on an occasional basis — to sit down with your agent and review the policy. If your insurance agent is not willing to sit down with you, then it is time to get a new agent.

Review what is covered, what is not covered and your policy limits. Things change and your insurance coverage needs to change too.

Whether it is the amount of coverage you're carrying on your home or the riders that you have, make sure your policy is up to date. Your family situation may have changed. For example, if you have a child that is going to college and living away from home, you should know if they are covered under your policy.

Don't forget that costs do matter. Always look for ways to make your policy more cost-effective. For example, maybe you don't need that rider on your jewelry or maybe you should consider raising your deductible. Cost matter but that doesn't mean that you should look for the

cheapest policy because that isn't always the best. The reverse is also true. Just because you're paying more money for insurance doesn't mean you're getting better coverage.

I also recommend shopping your policy around every few years. Once you have met with your current agent and reviewed coverage, it will be easier to comparison shop. It is surprising how much money people can save on insurance coverage once they start shopping around.

In that regard, when you shop your insurance policy around, ask about discounts. In any insurance policy, companies offer a variety of dis-

counts. It is a fair question also to ask your current agent.

While it is unlikely our homes will be hit by a meteorite, storms and other disasters can happen in Michigan. Therefore, it's always important to have your policy up to date. Football season is over, baseball hasn't started yet so it's a great time to call your agent and review your policy.

Good luck!

Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial adviser. His website is www.bloomassetmanagement.com. If you would like Bloom to respond to your questions, please e-mail him at rick@bloomassetmanagement.com.

Village Theater hosts Chinese festival

The Chinese Festival Committee of the Canton Multicultural Subcommittee, in partnership with the Chinese Association of Greater Detroit, presents its first Chinese Cultural Festival at The Village Theater at Cherry Hill on Saturday, March 30, from 7-9 p.m.

All tickets are \$5 and include cultural displays, a reception and program that will entertain and educate the entire family.

While learning about Confucianism, the Chinese ethical and philosophical system developed from the teachings of the philosopher Confucius, enjoy traditional music and dance performances coordinated and produced by the committee and CAGD.

Using traditional Chinese instruments like the guzheng, which was made popular in Confucius' time over 2000 years

ago, several award-winning players will perform exquisite music. The Peking Opera, which is a well-loved style of Chinese opera made popular during the Qing Dynasty, will be featured with its colorful instrumentals, singing, and costumes.

Organizers said this audio-visual spectacle is "widely regarded as one of the cultural treasures of China." Full of Chinese cultural facts, the opera will give the audience a taste of Chinese culture, as well as grand stories, ornate makeup, exquisite costumes, graceful gestures, and martial arts.

Many metro Detroit-based Chinese dancing troupes will perform Chinese dances with themes ranging from the time of Confucius to Mulan in the present, and with origins from Mongolia in to the "River South" area in Southern China. Professional Chinese singers and local choirs will also perform some very popular Chinese songs.

An ancient concept from China, Tai Chi is a Chinese term for the "supreme ultimate" state. The "supreme ultimate" state generates Yin and Yang, which produce all things. The Ann Arbor and Canton Chinese Tai Chi Groups together will present a special demonstration of Tai Chi movements, involving fans.

This program is supported in part by a grant from Community Financial Credit Union. To purchase reserved seat tickets, visit www.cantonvillageattheater.org or phone (734) 394-5460. Tickets can also be purchased one hour before the event at The Village Theater box office.

The Village Theater at Cherry Hill is at 50400 Cherry Hill in Canton.

Spring Celebration!

ARTS & CRAFT SHOW

Saturday, March 2
9:00am-4:00pm

\$2.00 Admission
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Medical Director, Gynecological Robotic Surgery, St. Mary Mercy Hospital

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Beginner's guide to Twitter

By Jon Gunnells
Guest Columnist

One of the most common rants I'm subject to as a social media professional is that people don't like or understand Twitter.

I liken this to someone saying "I don't like or understand words on the Internet."

Without this column, it would be none of my concern whether readers or nonreaders like Twitter or any other social site. But as an ambassador to the local technologically challenged (and it's OK to be technologically challenged), I feel it is my duty to explain Twitter.

Twitter is a social network designed in 2007 that asks one question: what's happening?

Users who sign up for the free service have 140 characters to answer Twitter's question from a computer or mobile device. Why 140 characters? Because in 2007, smartphones weren't so smart — and 140 characters was the maximum length of a text message. In its infancy, mobile Twitter users sent their 140 character messages to the Twitter servers



Tech Savvy

Jon Gunnells

has fallen out of practice.

Most people who complain to me about Twitter also point out they don't care to hear about "when others are brushing their teeth or eating a bagel." I couldn't agree more. While some use Twitter to tell followers about toothpaste and strawberry cream cheese others provide much more valuable content.

I use my personal Twitter account (@GunnSh0w) to share informative links about digital media, talk about sports, share funny photos and quickly message friends. Some of those topics may interest you, some may bore you, but everyone is different.

Each Twitter user can choose who he or she follows. If you follow me on Twitter (and some of you already do) that's cool. If you don't follow me on

by texting a unique Twitter number.

With the rise of mobile applications, sending Twitter messages via text

Twitter — I won't cry — and neither will others.

One of the greatest benefits of Twitter is finding new users that share your interests and being exposed to new information that creates new interests. Some Twitter users follow celebrities, gossip blogs, news sites, comedians or strangers. Some users only follow friends, some users protect their Tweets so only friends can see them.

Twitter's protected Tweets is a great security feature for folks that don't want to have their content seen. Additionally, private messages called "direct messages" can be sent, and users can be blocked.

So why is the site called Twitter? I can't actually say, but Twitter does have a noticeable avian theme. The Twitter logo is a bird, the message are called Tweets (birds Tweet) and the homepage on Twitter's mobile app is a bird house.

Jon Gunnells is a freelance writer and social media planner. Comments or suggestions for future columns? Email jonathan.gunnells@gmail.com or follow him on Twitter at @GunnSh0w.

CHAMBER CHAT



Seniors get help

Mary Ribeiro and the team from Seniors Helping Seniors, along with Chamber Ambassador Bruce Webb, cut the ribbon at their grand opening. The company matches seniors who need in-home support with loving, caring, kind, compassionate, volunteer-minded seniors who want to help throughout eastern Washtenaw and western Wayne Counties. Those interested in caregiving must be over the age of 50. To contact Senior Helping Seniors call (734) 996-9570.

Chamber scholars

The Plymouth and Canton chambers are accepting donations to the 2013 Student Citizenship Scholarships.

The Plymouth Community and Canton Chambers of Commerce, on behalf of contributors, will reward up to five Plymouth/Canton students with scholarships based on community service only, not grade point.

There will be a selection committee who will pick one student each from Canton, Plymouth and Salem high schools, Starkweather Alternative High School and a non P-CCS high school student who lives in the district.

Companies and individuals are asked to give contributions that generally range from \$25 to \$500 and the contributions are tax deductible. Last year we had 55 businesses and individuals contribute to the fund that rewarded 5 students each with \$1,000 scholarships.

Contributors will be recognized on the Chamber's web page and in our Enews letter. Donations need to be received by April 26. You can download the donation form at www.plymouthmich.org/chamber/student-citizenship-scholarships.html.

Networking Coffee

The Canton Chamber of Commerce hosts a networking coffee 7:30-9 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 28, at the Hampton Inn & Suites, 1950 Haggerty in Canton. Call (734) 453-4040 to RSVP.

Development workshop

The Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce hosts a Business Development Workshop, "Building Your Net Worth Through Your Network," 8:30-9:30 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 26, at the chamber office, 850 W. Ann Arbor Trail in downtown Plymouth.

The workshop features Greg Peters, "The Reluctant Networker," who will help participants learn:

- Two simple keys to a productive networking mindset
- Why selling at the event is so hard and what to do instead
- Why 95 percent of people fail at their net working

There is no cost to attend, but the event can only accommodate 30 people.

To RSVP call (734) 453-1540 or email teri@plymouthmich.org.

First Friday

The Canton Chamber of Commerce hosts its monthly First Friday Club meeting 8:30 a.m. Friday, March 1, at the chamber office, located at 45525 Hanford.

This is an opportunity for one-on-one networking in a small group setting. This networking event is limited to 10 separate businesses plus a sponsor. Participants should bring business cards, flyers, etc., to share with the group. Participation in this networking event is limited to once per quarter.

To make a reservation, call (734) 453-4040 or email admin@cantonchamber.com.

Rake-N-Go

Do you know a senior citizen or disabled person who could use a hand with yard cleanup this spring? The Plymouth Community United Way, in conjunction with Comcast Care Days, is organizing a Rake-N-Go on Saturday, April 27, in Plymouth, Plymouth Township and Canton. Seniors and disabled individuals in need of help to clean their yards should call (734) 453-6879, ext. 7 or email betty.nolan@pcuw.org before Friday, March 15.

Chamber map

The Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce will be distributing 5,000 maps during 2013 and 2014. Valuable advertising space is available on the map for companies/organizations wanting to promote themselves to visitors and residents. These maps are distributed through the Chamber office (indoor and outdoor displays), local hotels, real estate agents, new resident welcome bags, apartment complexes, wedding parties for out-of-town guests and visitors to the community.

For advertisers the map uses full color advertising to promote the venues, products and services. Also, complimentary stands for easy distribution can be provided to advertisers for their own location.

Contracts for advertising need to be signed Feb. 16. Contact Mike Brace (Embrace Marketing) at 734-560-6642 or mab746@yahoo.com.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Pharmacist award

The American Pharmacists Association announced Plymouth resident Douglas A. Miller as the 2013 recipient of the APhA Gloria Niemeyer Francke Leadership Mentor Award.

Miller, a Wayne State University faculty member, was selected in recognition for his exceptional mentorship in leadership, as evidenced by the large cadre of former students, trainees and colleagues who have served as leaders within the profession.

Miller is a professor in the Eugene Applebaum College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, Wayne State University, where he teaches courses dealing with professional practice and patient care. He earned his BSP Pharm from the Ohio State University College of Pharmacy and his PharmD from the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and Science. His pharmacy experience includes practice in community, long term care and hospital settings. For more than 20 years, he was part of a team that conceptualized and implemented innovative clinical pharmacy services at Detroit's Henry Ford Hospital.

Mall plans unveiled

Plans for a major renovation of Briarwood Mall will be discussed at a press conference on Tuesday, March 5 in the center court at the mall in Ann

Arbor.

Simon Property Group, Inc., the world's largest owner, developer and manager of quality retail real estate, will detail specific renovation plans and renderings will be revealed for the first time at the press conference. Following the announcement, a ceremonial tile breaking will mark the official start of construction.

Speakers will include Ida Hendrix, mall manager; Andrew Cottrell, lead architect and others.

Franchise honor

Franchise owner Todd Valmassei from Once Upon A Child of Canton was recently honored with a Sales Excellence Award at the franchisor's Annual Conference and Trade Show, held last month in Clearwater Beach, Fla.

"The idea behind Once Upon A Child is so simple," said Valmassei. "Kids continually outgrow their stuff, often before it is worn out. So it makes sense to have a place where families can turn their children's outgrown items into cash, and buy the next round of clothing, toys or equipment in next-to-new or gently used condition, all at the same time. Once Upon A Child of Canton is that place, and I'm proud to have so many customers from our community support us."

For more information about Once Upon A Child of Canton, located at 44540 Ford Road, contact Valmassei at (734) 459-6669 or OnceUponAChild.CantonMonroe@gmail.com or visit www.onceuponachildcantonmi.com.

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'Embrace of Aging'

Famie film shares men's perspectives

By Julie Brown
Staff Writer

On his 53rd birthday recently, local filmmaker Keith Famie had some thoughts on aging.

The 10-time Michigan Emmy award-winning director/producer and Novi resident is looking forward to the Sunday, Feb. 24, premiere of his *The Embrace of Aging: The Male Perspective of Growing Old*.

"I thought, 'Well, I should try to do a documentary on this,'" he said.

Famie, a 1978 Farmington High School graduate, is doing a three-part series, the first on men and aging, then women and aging, and dying. Work is under way on the women's portion, part of which will be shown at the Feb. 24 premiere.

"It becomes chasing the Holy Grail, if you will, in a sense," he said of the extensive filming and interviews. It started with personal curiosity.

Famie was adopted at age six weeks, and lost his adoptive father in 2003 to Alzheimer's.

"That did have a profound effect on me, no question," he said. The documentary has a lot on Alzheimer's.

His mom is going on 93. Famie met his biological parents at 35; his biological dad died at 92, and that mom's alive in Florida.

"Things start to change with our bodies," he said of middle age. With "comorbidity," we realize, "things start to stack up. The dominoes start to fall. That's what takes you out of the game of life, really."

Famie sought both health experts and everyday men for *The Embrace of Aging*. His heart expert

PREMIERE

Tickets for the Feb. 24 premiere at Shriners Silver Garden Event Center in Southfield are available for \$75 each. Contact Visionalist Entertainment Productions at (248) 869-0096. Doors open at 5 p.m. For more information on "The Embrace of Aging," including the trailer, photos, stories of elements in production, visit www.embraceofaging.com.

is in cardiology at the University of Michigan — and has heart disease himself.

Many facets to work

Famie has done earlier documentaries on ethnic groups in metro Detroit, Italian, Polish, Arab-American, Asian-Indian and Greek. He's also explored veterans' issues for World War II and Vietnam veterans.

Men face issues like prostate cancer, and Famie said men also can lack social networks that women enjoy. "These are things women figure out a lot earlier than men."

Some men retire from work: "Then they're kind of lost. They don't have friendships."

As a baby boomer, Famie (also known for his time on *Survivor* in the Australian Outback) sees much interest in aging and mortality. "It's like a tsunami of aging population growing."

Some products marketed to boomers are essentially "snake oil," he said. "It really comes down to a lifestyle. It's hard, common-sense work." He made a lot of great

friends filming. One man is a clinical psychologist from Albuquerque who faces both bladder cancer and the loss of his wife to cancer.

Famie filmed at the 9/11 Memorial in New York City with a police captain and a well-known restaurateur.

"It'll touch different people in different ways," Famie said of his film. He hopes people will live healthier lives, and that women will understand what men go through.

He's glad Chuck Gaidica of WDIV TV Channel 4, a Northville native,

will serve as master of ceremonies for the Feb. 24 premiere. "A great guy," Famie said. "Happens to be a very close friend."

The aging documentary will be shown on Detroit's public television later this year, he said, likely late summer or early fall. He also wants men to see the women's film, on how women adapt to aging.



Filmmaker Keith Famie's excited about his "The Embrace of Aging: The Male Perspective of Growing Old" premiering Feb. 24.

Men may say, "Oh, wow, I need some new friends." I think that's going to be a big impact."

He'll take a global approach on the dying portion, different countries and faiths. That will likely start closer to the end of the year.

Famie's son, 20, and daughter, 22, have worked with dad on films, including travel. His son wants to be a biogenetic engineer, while his daughter studies criminal justice.

'Cherish friendships'

Famie has stopped eating gluten, and works out with more discipline than in the past now. "I think the other thing is I've really learned to cherish friendships," he said. He calls friends right away: "I really go out of the way spending time with my guy friends."

He praises his co-executive producers, Tom Rau of the Brighton area and Russell Ebeid. "Those guys are really important, as are our corporate spon-

sors," Famie said.

The premiere will be at Shriners Silver Garden Event Center in Southfield. Stewart Francke, also featured in the film, will perform. Comedian Bill Mihalic, who has written for Jay Leno, will share thoughts on aging men. The event will highlight the work of the Bo Schembechler: Heart of a Champion Research Fund and Alzheimer's Association of Michigan.

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OUR VIEWS

Yes on bond

Equity, technology needs too important to pass on

The Plymouth-Canton Board of Education will seek a \$114.4 million bond issue May 7 officials say will allow them to build a new middle school, bring the district to the cutting edge of technology use and replace, over a 10-year-period, an aging vehicle fleet.

Voters served by the district should approve the bond. There are a lot of good reasons:

- It finally — after more than a decade — addresses the issue of the equitable education of students attending Central Middle School. From extreme cold temperatures in winter months to oppressive heat in spring and summer, to its lack of electrical infrastructure and sight lines that make the building all but unsupervisable from a student safety aspect, it's long past time to send Central Middle School to educational pastures.

You shouldn't need to see studies that show the environment at Central isn't conducive to learning, but if you do, Principal Anthony Ruela can show you a few. Common sense will tell you students at all of the district's middle schools should have the same opportunities to learn, and that simply isn't the case right now.

One speaker said at a recent meeting that even if the bond fails, the students will still be getting a quality education in Plymouth-Canton, and that's true. But it would be sort of like people saying at the turn of the 20th century, "Hey, even if we don't get one of those new-fangled motor cars, we'll still be able to get around on this really nice horse."

And make no mistake about it: Without the bond, this inequity will not be addressed. The district has neither the \$24 million it would take to bring improvements to Central, nor the \$38 million it would take to build a new school. With no bond, the district is stuck adding Band-Aids to a situation that long ago needed major surgery.

- It gives the district a chance to put together a replacement plan for its aging vehicle fleet. Over a 10-year period every vehicle would be replaced. It doesn't address, as some board members would have preferred, continuing replacement plans after that period, but that's a question for another day.

- It aligns Plymouth-Canton with 21st-century thinking in terms of technology by, among other things, providing a 1:1 ratio of electronic learning devices to students. In five years, if the bond is approved, every student and teacher in the district will be using an iPad to teach and learn.

Among the other technological advantages the bond will bring are the ability to develop digital curriculum resources needed to prepare students to be college- and career-ready, a wireless network solution to allow digital access anywhere throughout the buildings and grounds and district-owned fiber wireless networks for voice and data.

But the 1:1 device to teacher/student ratio is the biggest advantage. Everyone agrees it's how kids learn these days. Teaching from textbooks is going the way of the mimeograph and the overhead projector.

This has been the area that has caused board members the most consternation. They've delayed agreeing to seek the bond with valid questions — "How are we going to insure the devices" — and silly ones — "Why should we invest in technology that's going to be obsolete in five years?"

That last one is true no matter what they do. Technology is designed to be obsolete soon after it's invented. What's the district to do? Not invest in technology? In today's electronically advanced age, that would be folly.

There are concerns about the bond, the most salient being what would happen to the Central Middle School property if a new building is built? It's a valid question and needs an answer, but it's not a question that should delay or derail the bond.

Administrators say they can sell the bond without having taxpayers pay any more. It is true, however, that they'd be paying fewer taxes without the bond, because the district's debt levy, and therefore the amount of taxes Plymouth and Canton voters would be paying, is scheduled to drop.

There's a cost to maintaining quality. In this case, that cost comes in the form of a bond. The district has made its case for its approval.

COMMUNITY VOICE

Do you think the minimum wage should be raised, as President Barack Obama proposed last week, and why or why not?

We asked this question at the Plymouth District Library.



"It's a double-edged sword, isn't it? I have mixed feelings about it. It's certainly good for the workers but, on the other hand, small businesses are going to be slammed. ... If it were up to me ... I would just let the market float."

Gene Dickirson
Plymouth Township



"I definitely think it should be raised."

Jeanne Vicini
Plymouth



"Yes. Too many people are struggling with low income. ... It's just not keeping up with the pace of life."

Anne Vicini
Detroit



"Yes. Because the low-income people need a little bit of a boost. The cost of living ... has just gotten so high."

Judy Swan
Plymouth Township

LETTERS

Cream always rises

The cream always rises to the top. In this particular case, the cream would be the elementary teachers from Plymouth-Canton.

At Hoben School on Feb. 11, Plymouth-Canton teachers presented their case to the community as to why public education has been and will always be one of the very best ways for children to learn.

The event was arranged to share the story that seems to be getting lost in all of the clutter about school choice, privatization, charter schools and schools for profit. And that story is this: In this community, the best and brightest teachers are in the classrooms of our public schools.

Citizens were invited to hear about every curricular topic taught in PCCS. As I listened attentively to three of the presentations, I swelled with pride. The magic of teaching and the joy of learning were described to me and many others in great detail.

It is understandable that parents want only the very best for their children when it comes to education. Searching for the best brought many of these parents to Hoben School on Monday night. What they saw and heard were master teachers working together, studying the research, attending professional development conferences and implementing

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

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

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

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

instruction based on best practices.

On that night, the story was made very clear — what occurs in Plymouth-Canton classrooms is good for kids. I hope mightily that parents who have been searching can finally rest. Consider your search over. You have found that special place for your children to learn and grow — the Plymouth-Canton public schools. Enroll now, before all the seats are taken.

George Belvitch
Plymouth

Gas tax not the way to go

I have read your article on the gas tax. I, for one, do not agree with the tax increase. But I do know that rising taxes are a way of life and a certain amount must be implemented to our economy for its growth and prosperity. I do not believe getting the money from gas is the way to go, due to the instability of gas. What I mean is you don't see the phone or electric company raising their rates due to an outage.

I am also a great defender of quality work and material. I like to get what I pay for. I am aware of the toll the weather takes on the roads, but I am also aware that we need to insist on quality materials and workmanship, too.

Our city inspectors must be more involved in all aspects of any work in the city of Livonia and hold all contractors to a higher standard.

Also, as far as the city council is concerned, the lowest bid is not always the best one. And last but not least, the state and local municipalities must be more transparent with our money when it comes to spending. This is a given, but it seems to be a neglected part of the process.

Michael Martin Sr.
Livonia

GUEST COLUMN

DIA reaccreditation affirms commitment to excellence

By **Graham W.J. Beal**
Guest Columnist

As stakeholders in the Detroit Institute of Arts and in the well-being of our cultural community, I want to share some excellent news with the residents of Wayne County.



Graham W.J. Beal

After a two-year review and thorough evaluation of every aspect of DIA operations, the museum has again earned reaccreditation from the American Alliance of Museums, the foremost professional organization for museums in the United States.

Accreditation is a high-profile, peer-based validation of the DIA's operations, accomplishments and impact, and affirms that we are fulfilling our obligation to the public trust. It certifies that the museum meets the highest professional standards of operation and public service, and brings national recognition of our commitment to excellence.

The reaccreditation process is a long and arduous one. We compiled a comprehensive self-study report, analyzing every operation from care of the art collection to accounting and investment policies to exhibition programs and evaluation methods. The report was reviewed by an independent, autonomous Accreditation Commission consisting of museum professionals. An Accreditation Visiting Committee then spent two days on site interviewing staff and board members.

Accreditation is a testament to the hard work and dedication of DIA staff and volunteers. Their efforts made the Visiting Committee's decision to grant reaccreditation easy — in their words, a "no-brainer." Here are some of the glowing accolades from the committee's report:

- The DIA is one of the nation's great museums, and a global resource for cultural and visual-arts education, with first-rate, compelling programming that is varied and focused.

- The DIA is extremely well-run, and policies and procedures are carefully considered.

- The DIA has a cogent plan

with clear direction based on sound museological practice and philosophy.

- Volunteers, supporters, patrons and audiences have a palpable pride in the museum.

- The DIA has the most elaborate demographic study of its diverse audiences that the Visiting Committee members have seen.

- Teaching is a paramount concern.

- The DIA's public areas are well-maintained, clean, inviting and helpful in assuring a good visitor experience.

The 14,774 visitors on school field trips and 50,759 other Wayne County residents who have enjoyed free admission since last year's millage vote can attest to the report's findings that the DIA has met its goal of "making its collection accessible to all who wish to visit and learn," with displays "geared to various learning styles as well as to multiple ages."

You can read the entire report at <http://www.dia.org/support/newsletter.aspx>. We hope you will experience the museum for yourself very soon.

Graham W.J. Beal is director of the Detroit Institute of Arts.

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Awrey sold; official says company will hire back 'many workers'

By Ken Abramczyk
Staff Writer

Awrey Bakeries has been purchased by Minnie Marie Bakeries for an undisclosed price in a last-minute deal that helped save the bakery.

The sale was finalized over the last several days and news of it was released Wednesday. The new company planned to continue to produce Awrey products and expected to hire back many workers in the upcoming weeks, according to a press release.

Approximately 200 employees were terminated within the last two weeks at the Awrey facility at 12301 Farmington Road.

Awrey is known for its thaw-and-serve, finished baked goods including Danish, cakes, brownies, biscuits and muffins, produced and distributed at its 218,000-square-foot facility. Their primary customers include food service distributors, national chains and contract sales.

John Awrey, family member of the original founders and director of sales and marketing, said he was pleased that the new owner "will preserve the Awrey's Brand and tradition of fine products."

"It is also gratifying that the new owner will be able to hire back many of our hard working associates in the coming days and weeks," Awrey said. "The investors in the new owner of Awrey's assets are Michigan residents with backgrounds in operating family-run businesses and bakeries. They know Michigan is a good place to do business and will



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Charlotte Colbert prices items in the Awrey Bakery store. She has worked for Awrey for 20 years. Colbert lives in Garden City.

expand our focus to develop a local supply chain of farmers, millers and producers of Michigan grown wheat, soybeans, sugar and other ingredients."

"We look forward to launching a number of new products in the year ahead," Awrey said, "including a line of gluten-free products produced from Michigan ingredients. We also intend on returning the Awrey brand to the shelves of grocery stores for its loyal, longtime customer base."

There was no information available online in an Internet search for Min-

nie Marie Bakeries. The company is owned by Jim McColgan. The business will continue to be headquartered at the site of Awrey Bakeries.

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Statewide auto thefts decline again

H.E.A.T. (Help Eliminate Auto Thefts) commented Wednesday on the 2011 auto theft statistics released by the Michigan Automobile Theft Prevention Authority (ATPA) in its annual report. Although the statistics continue to show a decrease in the number of vehicle thefts, Michigan is once again ranked as the state with the sixth highest total motor vehicle thefts in the nation.

"We're always pleased to see the number of statewide vehicle thefts decline," said Terri Miller, executive director of H.E.A.T., based in Livonia. "However, that doesn't mean thieves aren't trying new ways to target drivers, their belongings and personal information. Thefts may

be down, but fraud, carjackings and other auto theft-related crimes continue to rise in Michigan communities."

Those auto theft-related crimes include online/Craigslist fraud with the sales of vehicles and parts; catalytic converter and tire and rim thefts; and re-tagging/cloning vehicles (swapping or duplicating VIN numbers).

2012 ATPA Annual Report Highlights: (Note: This data, which is the most recent available, is from 2011. Data for the 2012 calendar year will be available from the ATPA in February 2014).

• Auto thefts in Michigan declined 6.5 percent from 2010. In 2011, 25,048 vehicles were reported

stolen in Michigan, compared to 26,875 in 2010.

• From 1986 to 2011, Michigan auto thefts dropped by 65.2 percent, compared to a decrease in auto thefts nationally of 41.6 percent.

• In 2011, Wayne County topped the list of Michigan counties with the highest reported motor vehicle thefts at 14,880 (59 percent of total state thefts). Oakland and Macomb counties accounted for 1,943 thefts (8 percent) and 2,201 thefts (9 percent), respectively.

• The 2000 Dodge Caravan topped Michigan's list of most stolen vehicles in 2011. Thieves' top color preferences for vehicles to steal were once again black, followed by white and red.

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KLAA KENSINGTON CONFERENCE TOURNAMENT

Clutch Chiefs move on in tourney

By Jeff Theisen
Staff Writer

Canton and South Lyon played to a deadlock for 31 minutes and 59 seconds Tuesday night, but everything changed in the final second.

final buzzer went off for a 45-43 road win to reach the KLAA Conference final.

"It felt amazing," said Gring. "It was probably the most intense basketball I've ever played in my life. This gym is loud. Our fans were crazy, their fans were crazy, it was a sweet atmosphere."

The game looked as though South Lyon was going to roll into the finals with a nine-point lead heading into the fourth.

That's when Canton caught fire. Jordan Nobles started

the fourth off with Canton's first three of the night.

After South Lyon regained the nine-point edge, Josh Mayberry hit another three.

A bucket by South Lyon's Luke Short would put South Lyon back up eight, but it would quite

some time before the Lions would score again.

A 11-2 run capped off by an inside hoop from Nobles put Canton in the lead for the first time since the first quarter and with under a minute to play in the game.

Please see CHIEFS, B2

Rocks hopes fade to Black

By Brad Emmons
Observer Staff Writer

Dre Black proved to be the trump card in Westland John Glenn's 65-52 KLAA boys basketball semifinal victory Tuesday night at Salem.

The 6-foot-1 junior guard hit 7-of-8 shots from the floor, including a pair of key three-pointers in the third quarter, to catapult the 16-2 Rockets to the Kensington Conference championship game Friday against KLAA South co-champ Canton, which also advanced Tuesday with a 45-43 semifinal win at South Lyon.

Black helped pick up the scoring slack for the injured Richard Roberts, the team's second leading scorer who sat out his second straight game with an ankle injury.

Black finished with a game-high 21 points, while fellow senior guard Nick Daniels added 20 and junior forward Isaac Everette chipped in with 15.

"Dre normally plays a lot and he's hit some big shots for us all year," Glenn coach Dan Young

said. "He hit the game-winner to beat Muskegon in the (holiday) tournament. He made some plays tonight, and in the third quarter, it was big boost for us to bank it in like that. It gives you a big boost going into the fourth."

What Young was referring to was Black's three-pointer at the buzzer from just inside halfcourt to give the Rockets a 46-42 cushion.

Black had 10 of his points in the third quarter as Salem made a charge behind 6-6 senior forward Chris Dierker (19 points), who converted back-to-back three-point plays within a span of 28 seconds to give the Rocks a 38-37 advantage.

But two free throws by Black, two more from Everette and Black's three-point bomb — all during the final 1:51 of the third — put Glenn ahead to stay.

Telltale stretch

The Rockets then outscored Salem 19-10 in the final period to win going away as Black's steal

Please see ROCKS, B2



DOUGLAS BARGERSTOCK

Salem's Chris Dierker (No. 23) tries to make his way to the hoop despite defensive pressure from Westland John Glenn's Isaac Everette during Tuesday's contest.

PCLL clinics

For the first time in the organization's history, Plymouth-Canton Little League is offering a series of clinics on hitting, fielding and pitching.

The clinics will take place at Total Baseball in Wixom, 30990 S. Wixom Road, and the cost of each clinic is \$10 per participant. The schedule is as follows:

Saturday, Feb. 23: pitching, catching, infield/outfield from noon to 1 p.m.; infield/outfield, 2:30-3:30 p.m.; hitting, 3-4 p.m.

Saturday, April 13: hitting, 4-5 p.m.; infield/outfield, 5-6 p.m. and 6-7 p.m.

Sunday, April 21: hitting, 4-5 p.m., infield/outfield, 5-6 p.m. and 6-7 p.m.

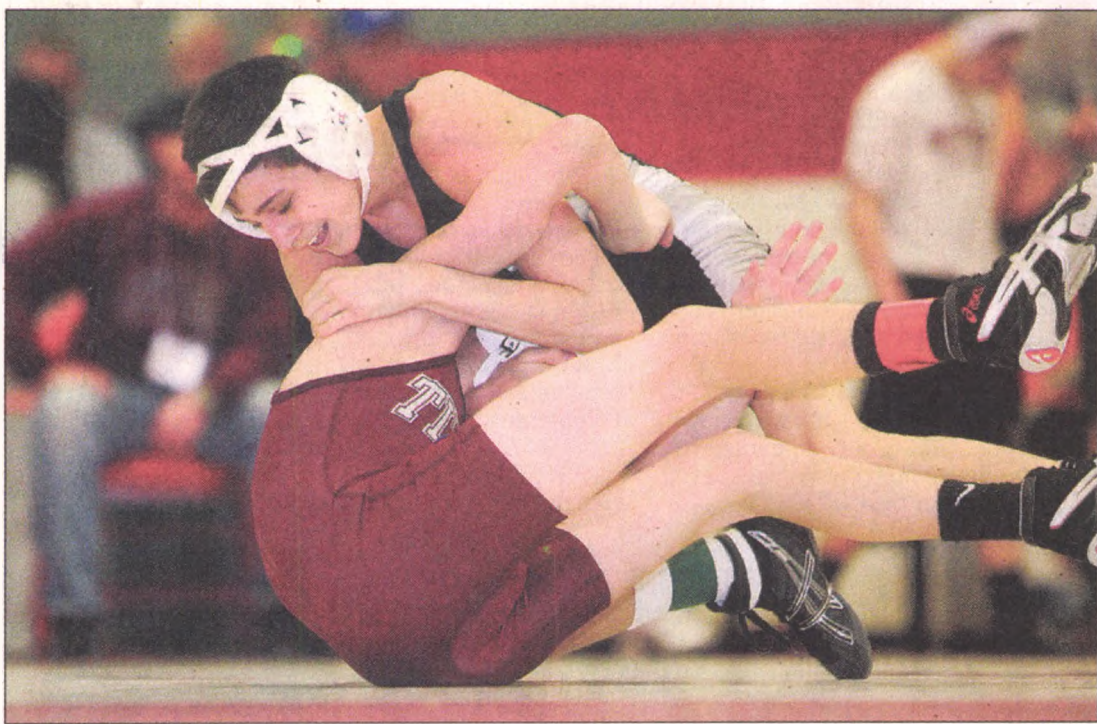
Salem girls lax meeting

There will be a parent/student information meeting for all returning student athletes and future players for the Salem girls lacrosse team to be held 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 28, in Room W2112.

Salem is looking for new players as it plans to add its first junior varsity team. No previous playing experience is required, just desire to learn and play the sport.

Tryouts will begin 5:30 p.m. Monday, March 11, at East Middle School. Please go to www.Salem-girlslacrosse.com for contact and season information.

D1 INDIVIDUAL REGIONALS



ANDREW RUBENSTEIN MD

Plymouth's Mohamad Youssef (top) subdues one of several opponents he defeated at 103 to win the Division 1 individual regional championship Saturday at Canton High School.

Six going to the Palace

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

The Palace of Auburn Hills will welcome a contingent of six wrestlers from Plymouth-Canton Educational Park — including four from Plymouth High School — to the Division 1 individual finals slated for Feb. 28 through March 2.

To qualify for the D1 finals, wrestlers needed to finish in the top four at Saturday's Canton-hosted individual regional.

Plymouth junior Mohamad Youssef leads the pack, having earned the individual regional championship at 103 pounds with his takedown of Ann Arbor Pioneer's Billy Cobb-Gulley at the regional.

Youssef, needing 2:29 to pin Cobb-Gulley, improved to 49-3 for the season.

"Mo looked really good this last weekend fighting through a tough semifinal and final

match," Plymouth head coach Quinn Guernsey said. "In both he had to overcome some challenges, but was able to win both matches with pins."

"He has really separated himself as one of the premier 103-pounders in the state and has put himself in a great position to place very highly in two weeks."

In the semifinals, Youssef pinned Temperance Bedford's Tyler Rogaliner in 4:15.

The lone PCEP wrestler to finish second was Canton 125-pounder Ben Griffin, who lost by injury default to Bedford's Mitch Pawlak to fall to 49-4 for the season.

Salem senior captain Tyler Gross (38-7) defeated Mickey Sutton of Woodhaven in the bout for third place at 160.

"Tyler changed his game plan and avenged a loss against Woodhaven's Mickey Sutton from a week before

to place third," Salem head coach Pete Israel said. "Tyler has been working very hard to make adjustments and I think now he is well-tuned for a great showing at The Palace."

Israel lamented that Tyler's younger brother, Mitchell, fell just short of also qualifying for the D1 finals.

Mitchell Gross lost the "blood round" matchup at 189 to Bedford's Codie Betten-court, losing 5-4.

"Mitch had a really good season," Israel said. "I hope the feeling he had carries forth a great drive for him. With hard work this summer, Mitch should have no problem next year making it to states."

Also Palace-bound
Meanwhile, three other Plymouth grapplers placed

Please see GRAPPLERS, B4

Toledo's calling

Plymouth's Woody happy with college choice

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Not many would choose a "rust bucket" city such as Toledo over an Ivy League setting.

Plymouth High School junior Jada Woody did, and she's thrilled with that decision.

Woody, a talented forward with the Wildcats, recently made a verbal commitment to play basketball at Division I University of Toledo — passing up major eastern colleges such as Princeton, Dartmouth and Colgate.

Woody — who carries a 3.8 grade-point average — will receive a full scholarship and go after a career as a neurologist the same way she won't say no to getting in there for an offensive rebound or putback.

"I got offers from other schools, but Toledo was the best well-rounded school," Woody said. "They had what I want aca-

demically, they're close to home, they have a really good basketball team and the athletic facilities are really good."

And don't expect her to change her mind between now and her senior year, when she can officially sign an NCAA D-I letter of intent.

"I've heard lots of stories, especially in girls basketball, of kids getting recruited a lot earlier," Woody said. "But I'm pretty firmly committed to Toledo. I'm not looking to go anywhere else."

She might have been tempted, however.

During the recruiting process, Woody was contacted by Princeton about a scholarship there. She was encouraged to seriously consider that by her mom, 1992 Canton grad Julie Nicastri-Tankard — a starting center with

Please see WOODY, B3



Happily modeling her future University of Toledo women's basketball jersey is Plymouth junior Jada Woody.

JOHN KEMSKI EXPRESS PHOTO



RENA LAVERTY

Celebrating his goal Saturday against Guelph is Plymouth Whalers forward Rickard Rakell (No. 24, right). Rakell returned to the Whalers last week after spending a month with the Anaheim Ducks of the National Hockey League.

Numbers game

MHSAA grid playoffs may undergo makeover

By Brad Emons
Observer Staff Writer

A new postseason football playoff formula for the 2013 season appears to be gaining some legs according to sources contacted by *The Observer*.

According to those sources, a group within the Michigan High School Football Coaches Association has proposed an Enhanced Strength of Schedule System that will be up for review and possibly a vote at the Michigan High School Athletic Association's Representative Council's annual meeting in May.

Among the proposed changes under the Enhanced SOS for the MHSAA 596 schools that participated in 11-man football in 2012 include:

- Based on enrollment, equal divisions will set prior to the season with each of the eight divisions having 74-to-75 teams. (Previously the MHSAA set the 256-team field on Selection Sunday following the ninth game of the regular season.)

- Automatic qualifiers will need seven wins now instead of six (or five wins with an eight-game schedule).

- Teams with four wins can now be considered for the postseason (or five wins with an eight-game schedule).
- Additional qualifiers will be determined by playoff points filling spots until each division has 32 teams. (Previously additional qualifiers by playoff points were added from Class A team, then Class B, then Class C, then Class D, etc ...)

- The point system for a win will change to: Division 1 (88 points); Division 2 (80); Division 3 (72);

- Division 4 (64); Division 5 (56); Division 6 (48); Division 7 (40); and Division 8 (32). Previously wins were awarded for Class A (80 points), Class B (64), Class C (48) and Class D (32).

- Teams will receive bonus points for each of its opponents victories regardless whether or not your team defeated an opponent or not. Previously teams received eight points for each win by an opponent they've beaten and less points (1) for each victory by an opponent that defeated you.

- The bonus point multiplier will change depending on the size of the opponent as opposed to the former 8 or 1 multiplier.

- Out-of-state opponents will be placed into a division (instead of class) based on enrollment.

If the Enhanced SOS formula had been in effect last season, Division 1 runner-up Novi-Detroit Catholic Central would have missed the state playoffs along with three 6-3 teams — Temperance Bedford, Davison and Traverse City West.

In Division 2, Milford would have earned a spot in the 32-team field with a 4-5 record.

A total of 21 six-win teams from across the state would have failed to qualify for the playoffs.

Jury's out

According to Canton coach Tim Baechler, winning seven games under the proposed plan would be "a very tough accomplishment, but I do like the fact that we would be rewarded for our strength of schedule."

Baechler noted the fact the Chiefs play in an ultra-competitive division and typically open the season playing a Division 1 play-

off team.

"Now that Salem has dropped us as their Game 9," Baechler said, "we now have a one-year contract with Ann Arbor Pioneer, another very good program."

Salem coach Kurt Britnell said "At first thought, I don't really care for it. I like the idea of get to six and you're in. I can see why some coaches would want to adopt it because of some soft scheduling for other teams."

"We'd probably have to do some re-aligning of our division because of the South Lyon's until they combine schools again."

Livonia Franklin, a member of the KLAA's tough South Division, has qualified as an additional playoff qualifier three different times with a 5-4 record.

"I don't know if that would be better or worse for us in our situation," Franklin coach Chris Kelbert said. "We're playing all Division 1 (teams) and seven of our nine games every year are against teams that are in the playoffs."

The fact that Catholic Central would have not made the postseason last year was an eye opener for coaches such as Baechler.

"I would have to dig in and do some math to really know if it is the best system for our state," Baechler said. "The fact that CC would not have made the playoffs this year makes the system seem ridiculous as they made it to the state championship game."

"If the best teams are the teams qualifying for the playoffs, then I'm in favor of it."

— Tim Smith contributed to this report.

Rakell's return sparks Whalers

A seven-goal second period Monday afternoon spearheaded Plymouth to a 10-2 rout of host Sarnia in an Ontario Hockey League contest.

Leading the way was forward Stefan Noesen, who registered three goals (21 for the season) along with defenseman Gianluca Curcuruto, who set up three of the goals.

Also scoring for the OHL West Division leaders were Austin Levi, Cody Payne, Tom Wilson (one goal, two assists), Ryan Hartman, Matt Mistele, Rickard Rakell and Connor Carrick (one goal, two assists).

Rakell, in just his third game back with the Whalers (32-16-5-4, 73 points) following a stint with Anaheim of

OHL HOCKEY

the NHL, also chipped in with an assist as Plymouth extended its win streak to six games.

Helping the cause with two assists was Vince Trocheck.

Making 13 stops for the victory was Plymouth netminder Matt Mahalak.

Plymouth will play back-to-back home games Friday and Saturday, against Windsor and Sarnia, respectively. Both games at Compuware Arena begin at 7 p.m.

PLYMOUTH 7, GUELPH 4

Rickard Rakell's return to Compuware Arena from the National Hockey League was a triumphant one Saturday, as he collected one goal and two assists to key Plymouth's victory before 2,970 at Compuware Arena.

After the Storm scored three goals in the first 15:44, Whalers' coach Mike Vellucci pulled starting goalie Matt Mahalak in favor of Alex Nedeljkovic (21 saves on 22 shots) and the tide turned in the middle stanza.

Plymouth responded with five unanswered goals to take a 5-2 lead into the third. Vince Trocheck's 42nd goal of the season tied the game at 12:41 on the power play and Rakell — who spent the past month with the Anaheim Ducks before returning Friday at Kitchener — broke the deadlock at 17:56 with a shorthanded tally, his 14th goal of the year.

Stefan Noesen (one goal, two assists) broke a personal scoring slump with his 18th of the season at 19:32 of the second and Matt Mistele finished the scoring in the final frame with his second and third goals of the game, giving him 29 for the campaign.

Contributing three assists for the Whalers was Mitchell Heard.

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CHIEFS

Continued from page B1

South Lyon would get a chance to retake the lead with Luke Short getting fouled on a drive with 15 seconds remaining. He missed both, but the Lions got the rebound and Short was again fouled with 10 seconds left. He hit his second free throw to tie it.

Canton came down and eventually found Gring for an outside jumper that hit nothing but net for the Chiefs.

"A heckuva high school basketball game and a heckuva comeback by us," said Canton head coach Jimmy Reddy. "Our guys showed a ton of poise and a lot of urgency when they had to. It feels great."

Back and forth

The first half saw both teams control the lead. Canton's Greg Williams hit for eight points in the first quarter as the teams remained deadlocked at 12 heading into the second.

The Chiefs hit a pair of free throws to open the

second but did not change the scoreboard again until 1:30 remained in the half. South Lyon opened up a 21-14 lead, but Canton trimmed the lead to 22-18 by the half.

Lion senior guard Short did the most damage with eight points. He finished with a game-high 20.

Mayberry and Greg Williams led Canton with 10 each. Gring hit all eight of his points in the second half.

Neither team shot well in the opening 16 minutes with Canton making 8 of 23 shots and South Lyon just 6 for 22.

ROCKS

Continued from page B1

and layup to start the fourth led to the uprising.

"Yes, he hurt us," Salem coach Bob Brodie said of Black. "We knew he could shoot the ball, but when you make a couple of shots like that, it's just a snowball effect and he had a good night for them."

Brodie could only marvel about the 40-foot shot by the Glenn guard.

"I heard him call it," Brodie chuckled. "I thought, 'Oh, not now.' The momentum is a big thing, and like I said, we started to get our doobers down and all of the

sudden we give up a lot of points and we don't score."

Glenn jumped out to a 12-2 lead at the outset and led 21-14 after one quarter.

But Salem was able to stay within striking distance at the half, trailing by six, 32-26, thanks to a 1-3-1 zone defense.

In the third quarter, Dierker's eight points enabled Salem to take a one-point lead on two different occasions.

But the Rocks — unable to successfully defend their 2012 KLAA championship — turned it over six times in the fourth and made only 5-of-12 shots from the floor.

"We've fallen apart a lot late in the season,"

said Brodie, whose team slipped to 12-6 overall.

"We've been playing in spurts. We've made runs at teams. We made a nice run tonight and suddenly go back to our old ways, allow them to score and get enough stops."

Senior Ahwad Khalid added 10 points, but starting point guard Kevin Mack did not score picking up three quick fouls in the second quarter and his fourth in the third period.

"He never got into the game offensively or defensively," Brodie said of Mack. "We've got to get some points from him, some hustle and some leadership. Can't do that too much when he's on the bench with us."

Plymouth boys best Brighton

It's been an up-and-down season for Plymouth's varsity boys basketball team.

But the Wildcats played one of their better games of the season Tuesday night, with their 61-37 win over Brighton in a KLAA tournament consolation matchup.

Plymouth (7-11) was

BOYS HOOPS

led by Josh Priebe, who scored 21 points. Chipping in with 11 points was Brendan Swanson, while Jake Divens and Sid Acharya added five each.

"We were able to put a good first quarter together and a great half," Plymouth head coach

Mike Soukup said. "I was hoping that the momentum would stay going after halftime and it did for us."

"We put four quarters together and played really well tonight, so it's good that we're kind of peaking at the end of the year."

The Wildcats will host Howell at 7 p.m. Friday.

Chiefs' comeback bid falls short

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

CONFERENCE FINAL

Westland John Glenn's varsity girls basketball team could rocket its way all the way to Breslin Center in the upcoming Class A state tournament.

But whatever obstacles it might face getting there likely won't be any more taxing than three hard-fought victories over Canton — including Monday night's tale-of-two-halves 44-39 win in the KLAA Kensington Conference title matchup.

"Canton is an excellent program," John Glenn head coach Eric Kovatch said following the contest at John Glenn. "They get everything out of those kids. We beat them three times this year, which is a tribute to our girls."

What seemed like a blow-out at halftime turned into an intense slugfest in the final minutes. The Chiefs (14-5) continued a second-half rally that lifted them out of a 21-10 halftime hole to being one triple away from forcing overtime in the final seconds.

After Rachel Winters buried a jumper from the left corner with just under a minute left, the Rockets (17-1) hung on to a precarious 40-37 edge.

With 29 seconds remaining, two foul shots by Paige Aresco made it 41-39.

Glenn tacked on a point thanks to a free throw by Raven Bankston (eight points) and Canton then inbounded the ball under the Rockets' basket with 14 seconds left.

Winters (10 points) elected not to shoot from behind the arc, perhaps not comfortable with her look due to the Rockets' frantic defense.

Unfortunately for the Chiefs, any opportunity for overtime ended when standout ShaKeya Graves (18 points) stole the ball and took it in for a layup as time elapsed.

"I thought Rach was open, but she didn't let it fly," Canton head coach Brian Samulski said. "But that didn't have anything to do with the (final) score."

It was a play here, a play there.

"The main thing is we said we didn't care about the scoreboard, what the scoreboard was going to say. But we weren't going to lay down in the second half and let them roll over us."

Rockets build lead

John Glenn parlayed 23 Canton turnovers in the first half into the big half-time lead.

The Rockets led 10-2 after one quarter, with the lone points by the Chiefs a bucket by junior power forward Taylor Hunley (11 points, eight boards) at the 5:25 mark.

A trey at the halftime horn by Graves from beyond the top of the arc padded the lead to 21-10 at the intermission.

It was more of the same to start the second half, as Raine Bankston (10 points) turned a mid-court steal into another layup just 17 seconds into the third.

"Glenn, they are so athletic," Samulski said. "They make you do things that you're not used to doing. Last time we played someone that quick and fast was when we played Glenn."

After being blanked in the first half, Aresco got untracked — scoring her team's first six points of the third to make it 24-16 with 4:52 remaining.

Samulski also wanted to change things up a bit in the paint, teaming up Hunley and junior forward Shannon Perry (six points, seven rebounds). Both players came through with some low-post points to boost Canton's confidence.

Then a driving layup by Aresco (10 points) made it 33-25 after three.

Winters buried a 3-ball from the left flank with 5:50 to go in regulation to make it a 34-30 game and signal to the Rockets that nothing was over just yet.

But as was the case all night, the Rockets answered. A putback and foul shot by Graves and Kierra Jordan's free throw bumped the lead back up



JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

During Monday's conference title contest, Canton's Taylor Hunley (No. 5) tries to escape the defensive clutches of Westland John Glenn's Kierra Jordan (No. 24).

to 38-30.

With 2:50 left, the Bankston twins got into the act. Raven picked off a Canton pass and fed the ball to Raine, who raced in for the layup, opening up a 40-33 advantage.

Canton kept pushing, but could not finish what was a gallant comeback bid.

"We turned it over 15 times in the first half," Samulski said. "But to the kids' credit, they hung in there, they came out and they battled. They gave that team everything that they could handle."

"We had an opportunity down the stretch to see what we could get done. We just came up a little short."

Taking control

According to Kovatch, as tough as the Chiefs bounced back, he had complete confidence the Rockets would finish what they started.

Leading the charge was Graves, who was injured the last time John Glenn and Canton faced each other.

"She (Graves) makes a big difference, she's the leader of the team," Kovatch said. "She's a D-I ballplayer going to DePaul (University). She's been doing it for three years and I always feel comfortable with ShaKeya in the game, controlling the tempo."

Meanwhile, Samulski (whose team faces Waterford Kettering Thursday) said the Chiefs will benefit during the postseason from playing the likes of John Glenn. "It's important to play good games down the stretch. That's what it's all about this time of year."

PCEP gymnastics teams sweep top three spots

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

The "Red, Black and Blue" dominated Saturday's KLAA Kensington Conference girls gymnastics meet at Walled Lake Central High School.

Canton — as has been the case all season — took the No. 1 spot in the team standings with 148,600 points.

But they had company at the top from their Plymouth-Canton Educational Park rivals. Plymouth and Salem finished 2-3 with respective scores of 142,025 and 141,550.

In fourth with 140,075 points was Livonia Blue.

"We're peaking at the right time," noted veteran Canton coach John Cunningham. "We hit beam with only one fall for seven routines."

Cunningham added that Canton's second-highest team score of the year featured just two of 16 individual scores below the 9.1-point mark.

Capturing first in two of the four routines was Canton's Jocelyn Moraw, who prevailed on uneven parallel bars (9.450) and floor exercise (9.500, tied with Pinckney's Ashley Hextall).

Erica Lucas placed

first on vault with a 9.450 tally.

Also outstanding for the Chiefs were Melissa Green (9.375 on vault; 9.350 on floor), Maddie Toal (9.550 on beam), Nicole Lasecki (9.4 on beam, 9.325 on floor), Ellie Bachman (9.350 on beam) and Hailey Hodgson (9.250 on vault).

Wildcats shine

Plymouth's sparkling showing was led by senior co-captain Sarah Uhlian, who tallied a personal best all-around score of 34.45.

Uhlian also broke the school record with a 9.6 score on beam, good for third place.

"Sarah showed her consistency and leadership," Plymouth coach Pam Yockey said. "She is a hard worker who never drops her smile."

Several other Wildcats also had outstanding performances, including Katie Salanga (9.450 on beam, eighth), Brenna Connelly (9.150 on floor), freshman Rebeca Simu (9.0 on bars) and Hailey Metz (9.0 on floor).

"We had strong performances from all," Yockey said.

Unable to take part was senior co-captain Jane McCurry, who was visiting a Wisconsin college

about a track and field scholarship.

Others helping the cause were Samantha Fontana (8.9 on beam), Kayla Janevski (8.9 on vault) and Molly McSween (8.1 on bars).

Solid Rocks

For Salem, all five performers hit the 9.0 mark in at least one event.

The top individual score for the Rocks was posted by Andrea Merlotti, with a 9.550 on beam (good for a fifth-place tie).

Morgan Soper registered a 9.325 on floor (fifth-place tie) while Paulette Martino chipped in with scores of 9.075 on floor and 9.000 on beam.

They were joined by Brooke Allgeyer (9.025 on vault) and Brittany Ramirez (9.0 on vault).

"I'm very proud of the team," Salem coach Dana Driscoll said. "The girls had a great meet it was good to see them do well and be confident."

"They have been working very hard and routines are coming together at the end of the season. It was nice to see the Park compete well and sweep the top three spots."

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GIRLS GYMNASTICS RESULTS

KLAA GIRLS GYMNASTICS CONFERENCE MEET

FEB. 16 AT WALLED LAKE CENTRAL

TEAM STANDINGS: 1. Canton, 148,600 points; 2. Plymouth, 142,025; 3. Salem, 141,550; 4. Livonia Red, 140,075; 5. Brighton, 139,650; 6. Milford/Lakeland, 138,400; 7. Howell, 138,350; 8. Livonia Blue, 137,325; 9. W.L. Maroon, 132,700; 10. Northville, 128,600; 11. Walled Lake Gold, 124,300; 12. Waterford United, 114,850; 13. Pinckney, 37,350.

Vault: 1. Erica Lucas (C), 9.450; 2. (tie) Catrina Malysz (M/L), Ashley Hextall (Pi.), 9.400; 4. Melissa Green (C), 9.375; 5. Hailey Hodgson (C), 9.250; 6. Margo Mekjian (B), 9.200; 7. (tie) Brianna Rhoad

(LB), Paige Blythe (H), 9.150; 9. Jocelyn Moraw (C), 9.125; 10. (tie) Maggie McGowan (LR), Emily Gucciardo (B), Annie Martini (B), 9.100; 13. Brooke Allgeyer (S), 9.025; 14. (tie) Brittany Ramirez (S), Marisa DeCamp (H), 9.000.

Bars: 1. Moraw (C), 9.450; 2. Malysz (M/L), 9.250; 3. Green (C), 9.100; 4. Rebeca Simu (P), 9.000; 5. (tie) Nicole Lasecki (C), Madison Raske (WLM), 8.800; 7. (tie) Andrea Merlotti (S), Ramirez (S), Hextall (Pi.), 8.750; 10. (tie) Maddie Toal (C), Mekjian (B), 8.700; 12. Haley Metz (Ply.), 8.600; 13. Rhoad (LB), 8.550; 14. Marissa McVey (LR), 8.500.

Beam: 1. Hextall (Pi.), 9.700; 2. (tie) Moraw (C), Blythe (H), 9.650; 4. Sarah Uhlian (P), 9.600; 5. (tie) Toal (C), Merlotti (S), McVey (LR), 9.550; 8. Katie Salanga (P),

9.450; 9. Lasecki (C), 9.400; 10. Ellie Bachman (C), 9.350; 11. (tie) Amber Talaski (M/L), Sammi Pulgini (WLG), 9.250; 13. (tie) Katie Kretzschmar (LR), DeCamp (H), 9.200; 15. Gucciardo (B), 9.125; 16. (tie) Martini (B), Taylor Shotwell (M/L), 9.100; 18. Rhoad (LB), 9.050; 19. Paulette Martino (S), 9.100.

Floor: 1. (tie) Moraw (C), Hextall (Pi.), 9.500; 3. Pulgini (WLG), 9.375; 4. Green (C), 9.350; 5. (tie) Lasecki (C), Morgan Soper (S), 9.325; 7. Talaski (M/L), 9.300; 8. Rhoad (LB), 9.250; 9. (tie) Lucas (C), Shannon Diaz (LR), 9.225; 11. Blythe (H), 9.175; 12. (tie) DeCamp (H), Brenna Connelly (P), 9.150; 14. Emily Gucciardo (B), 9.100; 15. (tie) Uhlian (P), Martino (S), 9.075; 17. McGowan (LR), 9.025; 18. (tie) Metz (P), Mekjian (B), 9.000.

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'Cats, Rocks win KLAA consolation games

When Jada Woody plays well for Plymouth's varsity girls basketball, noted Wildcats' head coach Bob de Bear, the team has a pretty good chance of winning.

Such was the case in Monday's KLAA consolation bracket game against host Grand Blanc, won 48-39 by Plymouth (8-10 overall).

Woody led Plymouth with 15 points, and chipped in with four rebounds and poise under pressure to spark the victory.

"Jada Woody had a great game," de Bear said. "She scored, she rebounded, she brought the ball up against pressure."

"She contributed in the huddle and at half-time. When she has a good game we are usually pretty good."

Several others also made big contributions, however.

Junior center Shelby Cheston led Plymouth with seven rebounds along with three blocked shots.

Junior point guard Kylie Robb scored 14 points, sophomore Leah Kliczinski tallied 10 points and played well on defense, as did junior Tionne Johnson.

Plymouth will host Howell 7 p.m. Thursday in another KLAA consolation game. It will be Senior Night for the Wildcats.

GIRLS HOOPS

SALEM 29, HOWELL 20: Breanne Beaver and Janyra Wilson each tallied double-doubles Monday night to spark the Rocks (9-10) to a KLAA consolation bracket victory.

Beaver registered 12 points and 10 rebounds, while Wilson helped the cause with 11 points, 10 boards and four blocked shots.

Salem led 11-9 at halftime and took control in the third, outscoring Howell by a 10-2 margin.

Rocks' head coach Fred Thomann complimented his team for how well it played defense, took care of the basketball and handled rebounding duties.

STEVENSON 52, W.L. CENTRAL 8: Eleven of 14 players scored Monday as host Livonia Stevenson (9-10) romped to a KLAA consolation bracket win over visiting Walled Lake Central (1-18).

The Spartans, who led 19-3 after one quarter, outscored the Vikings 16-3 in the second as junior guard Abby Knoph scored all 12 of her points, including four 3-pointers.

Kyra Johnson chipped in with eight.

SOUTH LYON EAST 56, FRANKLIN 40: Gabi Bird poured in a game-high 24 points Monday as host South Lyon East (10-9) downed Livonia Franklin (8-11) in a KLAA consolation bracket encounter.

Sydney Jones chipped in with 13 points for the victorious Cougars, who trailed 16-14 after one quarter before outscoring the Patriots 22-9 in the second.

Katelynn Devers scored a team-high 23 for Franklin, while Caitlin Milican added six.

Franklin made 12-of-19 free throws, while South Lyon East hit only 8-of-21.

WOODY

Continued from page B1

the Chiefs and at Saginaw Valley State University.

It only took some face time with Toledo women's basketball coach Tricia Cullop and visits to the campus to decide it was where Woody wanted to go.

"The staff at Toledo just had that charisma," Plymouth girls basketball coach Bob de Bear said. "Their head coach is very charismatic. They also have the (academic) program that Jada wants. Jada thinks that far ahead."

Perfect fit

Jada's parents (Roy and Julie Tankard of Plymouth) eventually realized Toledo was the perfect fit.

"They really like Toledo a lot and it's a really good school, too," Woody said. "It was a little overwhelming during the recruiting process, but really exciting."

"I know my mom ... when I didn't want to commit to Princeton, she kind of was like, 'Are you sure you don't want to go to Princeton?'"

Woody didn't waver, taking care of her college choice while juggling schoolwork and basketball.

"I think it showed me how much I can handle at once," Woody added. "I felt it was a really big test in life."

Nicastri-Tankard said she is glad her advice didn't pan out. "I will definitely love

the fact that she will be close because I can definitely see more of the games," said Nicastri-Tankard, part of two Final Four Canton teams (coached by Bob Blohm). "It'd be weird not really being able to see her play. With Toledo, I'm very, very happy. It was all her choice. I told her if I felt she was making a bad choice for herself, I'd definitely let her know."

Having support at home played a key role in her choice, first and foremost talks Nicastri-Tankard had with her about what to expect playing college basketball.

"We definitely had conversations about the basketball experience and playing for a coach and what kind of relationship I had with the coaches I played with," Nicastri-Tankard said. "And there's the family feeling you get with your teammates, who end up being your family away from home."

"You're traveling with



JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

Competing during a varsity girls basketball game earlier this season is Plymouth's Jada Woody (No. 20).

them, living with them, you're on the road eating together. All that interaction, it's like having another family."

Then there is the burden of managing books and hoops, something at which Woody already is excelling.

"She's on a much better road than I was," Nicastri-Tankard said. "I was

more about basketball and school came second for me. School is definitely number one (for Jada), the academic part of it."

Wherever a student-athlete opts to bridge the gap between high school and adulthood, that really is all any parent wants to hear.

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Wildcats win KLA South boys swim meet

Plymouth's varsity boys swim team captured the KLA South Division meet championship Saturday at Westland John Glenn, with 594 points.

The Wildcats, under the watch of first-year coach Kenn Forbes, finished ahead of second-place Canton (428) with the host Rockets third with a 366 tally.

Senior co-captains Cameron Earls and Nick Weber were the catalysts, each winning one individual event (100 butterfly, 200 IM, respectively) and sharing in two of Plymouth's three relay wins.

Also prevailing in an individual event for the Wildcats was Ben Yang in the 100 backstroke.

Earls and Weber teamed up on the victo-

rious 200-medley relay (with Garrett Beauprez and Alex Wilson) and 200-free relay (with Ryan Heinze and Wilson).

Finishing first in the 400-free relay was Plymouth's tandem of Yang, Beauprez, Alex Johnson and Wilson.

Meanwhile, Salem finished fourth at the KLA Central Division meet, with 340.5 points — well behind first-place Livonia Stevenson (605).

According to Rocks head coach Chuck Olson, he thought his team swam well and now looks for "some big drops in times" at this weekend's Kensington Conference meet at Novi.

Undoubtedly, so will Plymouth's Forbes and Canton coach Dave Le.



Salem hockey players Evan Patton (No. 11), Kyle Downey (No. 20), Alek Zultowski (No. 2) and Jake Fedel (No. 15) honor Max Merget (center) before Friday night's game at Plymouth Cultural Center. Merget is battling brain cancer.

CHERYL BURRIS

To the Max!

Salem icers honor Merget, then win 11th in a row

By Derrick Vergolini
Correspondent

Salem's varsity boys hockey team made Friday's "Senior Night" one to remember, on and off the ice.

The Rocks won their 11th in a row with a 9-5 victory over Howell and also honored Salem senior and varsity boys tennis player Max Merget, who recently was diagnosed with brain cancer for the fourth time in his life.

As part of the program was a 50/50 raffle that raised money to go to pediatric brain cancer research. The raffle winner donated her money back to total the earnings at nearly \$500.

"For it to be our senior year and on Senior Night [with] a lot of the seniors chipping in and every-

one just digging deep and working hard, it definitely felt good to keep a streak going," said assistant captain Jake Fedel about what the streak means to the seniors.

Senior assistant captain Alek Zultowski — a long-time friend and tennis teammate of Merget's — carried the team by tallying six points (3 goals, 3 assists) which included a hat trick that was completed 14 seconds into the third period of the KLA crossover matchup.

"It's cool to get points especially on Senior Night, but really getting one in the win column, that's all that matters," said Zultowski, who now leads the team with 56 points.

Other Rocks weren't shy when it came to offense.

Forward Taylor Burriss

tallied his first two goals of the season with both coming on plays where the junior crashed the net to find a loose puck. Noah Saad (two assists), Jake Sealy (three assists), Adam Marthaler (one goal) and captain Kyle Downey (two assists) all contributed to the score sheet.

Junior forward Jason Newel scored two goals 1:41 apart in the first period to give Salem a 2-1 lead. Newel's first goal came only 29 seconds after Howell's Nolan Arendt opened the scoring just over three minutes into the game.

Howell scored two goals with under two minutes left in the first to tighten it to 4-3 at the intermission.

The Rocks scored on a 5-on-3 power play just 39 seconds into the second

period for a 5-3 lead and cruised from there.

With 3:55 left in the game, Fedel (1 goal, 2 assists) topped off the scoring when he scored high glove-side on an odd-man rush.

Heading into the state playoffs coming up soon, Downey said, "skating, getting the puck out, getting the puck deep and setting up the cycle" will help them continue to play at a high level.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION:

Merget, who played four years on Salem's varsity boys tennis team with Zultowski, was jointly honored by the hockey team and tennis team.

In addition to the 50/50 donation, Max was presented with two Rocks' hockey shirts emblazoned with his tennis nickname, "The Punisher." According to Rebecca Zultowski (Alek's mom), "Max got his nickname from his energetic net play on doubles."

BOYS WRESTLING RESULTS

MHSAA INDIVIDUAL REGIONAL WRESTLING TOURNAMENT RESULTS

(Top 4 qualify for state finals, March 1-3 at Palace)

DIVISION 1

Feb. 16 at Canton

130 pounds: Alex Molly (Southgate Anderson) d. Myles Amine (Novi Detroit Catholic Central), 5-4; **3rd place:** Jordan Markey (Ypsilanti Lincoln) won by major dec. over Jake Helminski (Temperance Bedford), 14-2.

135: Ken Bade (CC) pinned Quentin Santiago (Wyandotte), 3:28; **3rd:** Nate O'Sullivan (Saline) dec. Jon Conn (Plymouth), 6-3.

140: Malik Amine (CC) won by major dec. over Allen Parker (Wayne), 15-3; **3rd:** Logan Parks (Southgate) dec. Alec Breckenridge (Plymouth), 5-1.

145: Travis Mann (Westland John Glenn) won by major dec. over Kody Roy (Livonia Stevenson), 21-8; **3rd:** Josh Lockwood (Southgate) p. Victor Lindsey (Dearborn Fordson), 4-10.

152: Jordan Atienza (Livonia Franklin) won by major dec. over Mike Babicz (CC), 13-4; **3rd:** Alex Cornelius (Saline) dec. Alex Coe (Northville), 6-2.

160: Lorgan Marcicki (CC) p. Yahya Talab (Fordson), 2:57; **3rd:** Tyler Gross (Salem) dec. Mickey Sutton (Woodhaven), 10-4.

171: Drew Garcia (CC) p. Derek Hillman (Woodhaven), 4:28; **3rd:** Sam Ekanem (Wayne) dec. David Lijewski (Bedford), 9-6.

189: Allen Steele (Franklin) dec. Nick Giese (CC), 5-3; **3rd:** Codie Bettencourt (Bedford) dec. Jimmy Russell (CC), 3-1.

215: Brandon Sunday (Bedford) dec. Jahi Hilliard (Ann Arbor Pioneer), 7-3; **3rd:** Jordan Brandon (John Glenn) dec. Vincent Pizzo (Wyandotte), 7-2.

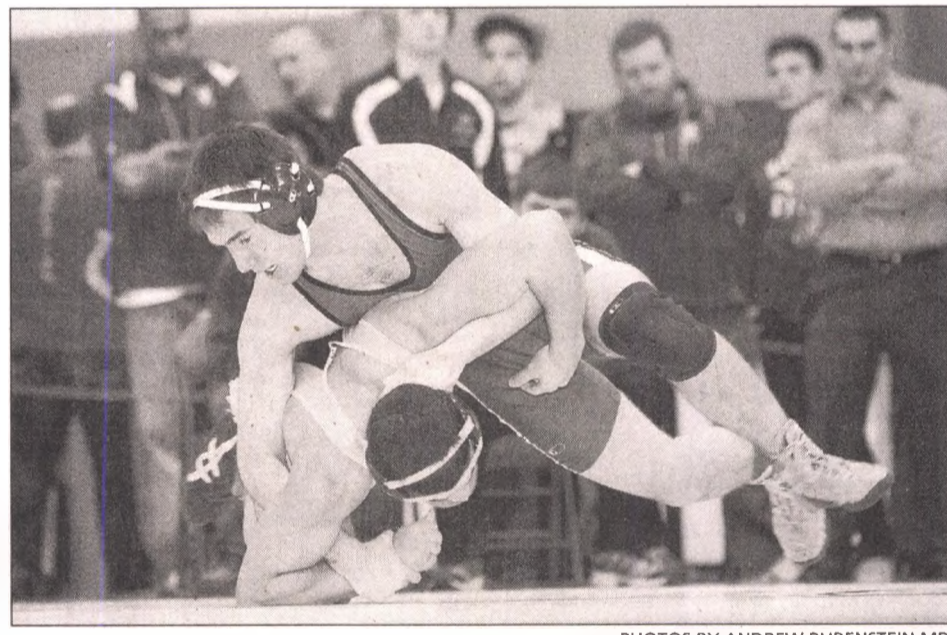
285: Robert Coe (CC) p. Manny Haddad (Livonia Churchill), 2:54; **3rd:** Adam Ortman (Bedford) won by injury default over Dylan Morantes (John Glenn).

103: Mohamad Youssef (Plymouth) p. Billy Cobb-Gulley (Pioneer), 2:29; **3rd:** Jack Newa (Franklin) dec. Chase Spanos (John Glenn), 4-3.

112: Kyle Gillies (John Glenn) dec. Jarad Fernandez (Southgate), 8-4; **3rd:** Taylor Ticknor (Saline) p. Parker O'Brien (CC), 1:30.

119: Mitch Rogaliner (Bedford) dec. Trevor Zdebski (CC), 8-5; **3rd:** Raven Schmitt (Southgate) p. Trey Berry (Plymouth), 1:51.

125: Mitch Pawlak (Bedford) won by injury default over Ben Griffin (Canton); **3rd:** Evan Toth (CC) dec. Immanuel Govantes (Farmington), 8-3.



The lone Salem wrestler to qualify for the Division 1 individual finals is 160-pounder Tyler Gross, shown during one of his bouts at the D1 individual regionals.

PHOTOS BY ANDREW RUBENSTEIN MD

GRAPPLERS

Continued from page B1

fourth to earn a ticket to The Palace: Jon Conn (135), Alec Breckenridge (140) and Trey Berry (119).

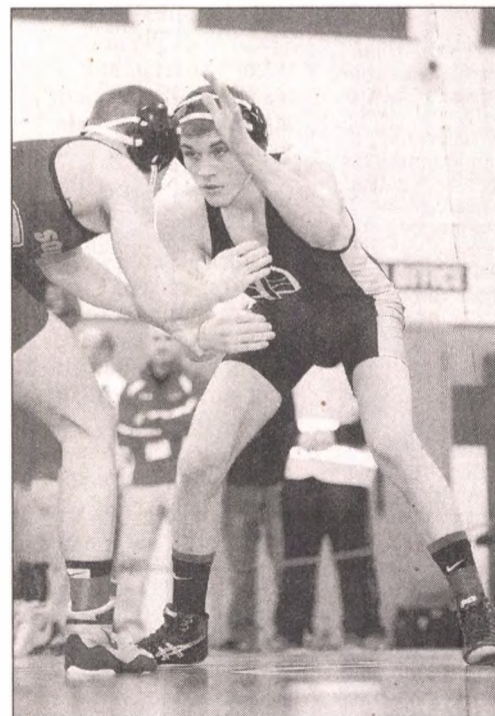
"The rest of the team also wrestled very well," Guernsey said. "Trey Berry has been very close to being a state qualifier in the past and it was nice to see him achieve that goal."

"Jon Conn has competed with some of the best kids in the state this year and he displayed that in his match against (Novi-Detroit Catholic Central's) Ken Bade in the semis, only losing 8-4.

"One-forty was a very tough weight and having Alec take fourth is a bit misleading. The guys from this region could fill a lot of spots on the (Palace) podium."

Guernsey added that it was "tough to swallow as a team" to watch three others fall just short of qualifying.

"The good thing is that two of them, Hussein



Youssef (145) and Joey Shaver (160), will be back next season," Guernsey said. "It was very emotional to see returning state placer and senior Chase Kallil (130), who has battled injuries all season, fall in the blood round and not have a chance to improve his eighth-place finish from last year."

Another plus was the way 145-pounder Sofus Nielson competed.

"He also got a lot of experience after not being a starter for most of the year by qualifying for the regional tournament," Guernsey said.

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BOYS SWIM RESULTS

KLA SOUTH DIVISION BOYS SWIM MEET

Feb. 15-16 at John Glenn

TEAM STANDINGS: 1. Plymouth, 594; 2. Canton, 428; 3. Westland John Glenn, 366; 4. Wayne Memorial, 309; 5. Livonia Churchill, 273; 6. Livonia Franklin, 213.

FINAL EVENT RESULTS

200-yard medley relay: 1. Plymouth (Cameron Earls, Garrett Beauprez, Nick Weber, Alexander Wilson), 1:46.78; 2. Plymouth (B), 1:49.49; 3. Canton, 1:53.44; 4. Churchill, 1:53.68; 5. Canton, 2:02.02; 6. Franklin, 2:01.48.

200 freestyle: 1. Josh Wakeford (WJG), 1:52.45; 2. John Stover (WM), 1:54.2; 3. Beauprez (P), 1:55.47; 4. Alexander Johnson (P), 1:56.23; 5. Franklin Qiu (LC), 1:57.56; 6. Aaron Alholinna (WJG), 2:00.44.

200 individual medley: 1. Weber (P), 2:05.87; 2. Justin Larkins (LF), 2:09.54; 3. Benjamin Yang (P), 2:11.2; 4. Gerard Niemann (Canton), 2:16.39; 5. Aniketh Visai (P), 2:16.95; 6. Noah Karson (WM), 2:24.58.

50 freestyle: 1. Cody Hodges (WJG), 23.49; 2. Ryan Heinze (P), 23.65; 3. Wilson (P), 23.86; 4. Devin Gibson (WM), 24.16; 5. Jacob Burdicki (WJG), 24.74; 6. Travis Majtara (Canton), 24.89.

1-meter diving: 1. Ethan Burke (LC), 322.20 points; 2. Connor McManus (P), 279.25; 3. Dave Cunningham (WJG), 247.75; 4. Austin Tetlow (Canton), 194.35; 5. Cameron Stancer (LC), 190.90; 6. Uriel Figueroa (WM), 163.00.

100 butterfly: 1. Earls (P), 56.2; 2. Weber (P), 56.87; 3. Wakeford (WJG), 58.65; 4. John Kukulka (WJG), 1:00.08; 5. Brandon Burger (P), 1:02.8; 6. Majtara (Canton), 1:04.03.

100 freestyle: 1. Hodges (WJG), 51.23; 2. Heinze (P), 51.75; 3. Qiu (LC), 52.92; 4. Johnson (P), 53.12; 5. D. Gibson (WM), 54.47; 6. Michael Gibson (WM), 55.26.

500 freestyle: 1. Stover (WM), 5:09.89; 2. Beauprez (P), 5:10.95; 3. Earls (P), 5:15.37; 4. Alholinna (WJG), 5:34.12; 5. Jacob Forgacs (LF), 5:40.24; 6. Nathan Benjamin (Canton), 5:41.59.

200 freestyle relay: 1. Plymouth (Earls, Weber, Heinze, Wilson), 1:33.6; 2. John Glenn, 1:34.46; 3. Wayne, 1:37.25; 4. Canton, 1:40.66; 5. John Glenn (B), 1:43.17; 6. Plymouth (B), 1:43.33.

100 backstroke: 1. Yang (P), 59.42; 2. Kukulka (WJG), 1:01.9; 3. Daniel Saltzman (LC), 1:05.73; 4. Jackson Norwood (LC), 1:06.51; 5. Keegan Kendall (P), 1:06.94; 6. Bronson Knowles (P), 1:07.08.

100 breaststroke: 1. Larkins (LF), 1:03.7; 2. Alex Bourdreaux (Canton), 1:08.36; 3. Niemann (Canton), 1:09.55; 4. Visai (P), 1:10.39; 5. Michael Wilyard (C), 1:13.33; 6. Kyle Reppenhagen (LC), 1:16.26.

400 freestyle relay: 1. Plymouth (Yang, Beauprez, Johnson, Wilson), 3:33.08; 2. John Glenn, 3:36.13; 3. Wayne, 3:37.76; 4. Canton, 3:44.6; 5. Churchill, 3:45.93; 6. Franklin, 3:48.85.

KLA CENTRAL DIVISION BOYS SWIM MEET

Feb. 15 at South Lyon East

TEAM STANDINGS: 1. Livonia Stevenson, 605 points; 2. Northville, 559; 3. Novi, 397.5; 4. Salem, 340.5; 5. South Lyon Unified, 296.

FINAL EVENT RESULTS

200-yard medley relay: 1. Novi (Gucci Onimura, Dennis Kim, Tanner Vincent, Andrew Ao), 1:39.17; 2. Stevenson, 1:40.69; 3. South Lyon, 1:42.88; 4. Stevenson (B), 1:44.07; 5. Northville, 1:44.35; 6. Salem, 1:44.7.

200 freestyle: 1. Nick Arakelian (LS), 1:47.96; 2. Jackson O'Dowd (LS), 1:49.4; 3. Austin Hunt (N'ville), 1:51.02; 4. Matt Laporte (LS), 1:52.81; 5. Alex Lee (LS), 1:53.08; 6. David Ptashnik (LS), 1:53.25.

200 individual medley: 1. James Xue (N'ville), 2:04.82; 2. Scott Wang (N'ville), 2:06.07; 3. Grant McNamara (LS), 2:06.9; 4. Charles Liu (Salem), 2:07.38; 5. Bradley Bielicki (LS), 2:07.4; 6. Max Wilkinson (SL), 2:08.2.

50 freestyle: 1. Ao (Novi), 22.12; 2. Andrew Westphal (N'ville), 22.39; 3. Onimura (Novi), 22.9; 4. Sam Boyea (N'ville), 23.18; 5. Jake Goeddeke (LS), 23.25; 6. Jerry Bai (Salem), 23.33.

1-meter diving: 1. Alex Canadi (SLU), 406.40 points; 2. Levi Oxner (SLU), 328.60; 3. Jacob Lanczki (SLU), 328.50; 4. Ethan Schmidt (SLU), 317.80; 5. Matt Meadows (SLU), 309.85; 6. Anton Travis (N'ville), 306.60.

100 butterfly: 1. Vincent (Novi), 54.43; 2. Ao (Novi), 56.15; 3. Ptashnik (LS), 56.39; 4. Bai (Salem), 56.65; 5. Frank Zhang (N'ville), 57.09; 6. Wang (N'ville), 57.76.

100 freestyle: 1. Westphal (N'ville), 48.88; 2. O'Dowd (LS), 49.72; 3. Matt Pairitz (Salem), 50.14; 4. Boyea (N'ville), 50.5; 5. Parker Belmore (LS), 50.86; 6. Lee (LS), 51.4.

500 freestyle: 1. Laporte (LS), 4:50.84; 2. John Ferrara (LS), 4:53.94; 3. Turner Solterman (Salem), 5:01.47; 4. Hunt (N'ville), 5:05.72; 5. Liu (Salem), 5:07.04; 6. Eric Ferrara (LS), 5:07.3.

200 freestyle relay: 1. Northville (Westphal, Boyea, Alan Ruan, Hunt), 1:29.96; 2. Stevenson, 1:31.11; 3. South Lyon, 1:31.78; 4. Novi, 1:33.74; 5. Salem, 1:35.14; 6. Salem, 1:36.57.

100 backstroke: 1. J. Ferrara (LS), 53.42; 2. Onimura (Novi), 56.07; 3. Belmore (LS), 56.58; 4. Patrick Casey (Salem), 57.7; 5. Goeddeke (LS), 57.97; 6. Gordy Williams (Novi), 58.64.

100 breaststroke: 1. Arakelian (LS), 1:00.88; 2. Kim (Novi), 1:02.56; 3. Ruan (N'ville), 1:02.64; 4. Tommy O'Donohue (LS), 1:02.85; 5. McNamara (LS), 1:02.92; 6. Nathan Louie (Novi), 1:02.93.

400 freestyle relay: 1. Stevenson (Arakelian, O'Dowd, Belmore, J. Ferrara), 3:14.96; 2. Northville, 3:19.44; 3. Novi, 3:19.56; 4. Stevenson (B), 3:28.69; 5. Northville (B), 3:28.75; 6. Salem, 3:29.29.

SPORTS ROUNDUP

Salem Rockettes host kids clinic

The Salem Rockettes are hosting their annual Junior Rockette's Kids Clinic from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, March 16.

The event is open for all kids grades K-8. It is a great opportunity for older kids them to spend time with the Rockettes and ask questions and information about try-outs for the 2013-14 season.

The clinic includes: learning routines for all levels. Rockettes T-shirt, poms, snack/drink and an invitation to perform in the Salem High School

Rockettes Variety show. The cost of the clinic is \$30.00 in advance. Registration forms for the kids clinic and Rockettes try-out information can be found at www.pompon.salemrocks.com.

Lineman school

The Michigan Youth Athletic Association is offering a football lineman school (grades 3-12) from 6-7:30 p.m. Tuesdays, Feb. 26, March 5, 12 and 19 at Precision Baseball, located at 7835 Market Drive, Canton. The cost is \$85.

For more information, visit www.miyaa.org; or e-mail infor@miyaa.org.

Holy time: Orthodox churches observe Lent

The Council of Orthodox Christian Churches of Metropolitan Detroit (COCC) will observe the first Sunday of Orthodox Great Lent with a service of Great Vespers at 6:30 p.m. March 24 at Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral, 707 E. Lafayette Blvd., in the city's Greek-town district.

The service will be part of the cathedral's observation of its patronal feast, the Annunciation of the Theotokos (Virgin Mary), which occurs March 25 on the Orthodox

For more information about the Great Vespers on March 24, call the cathedral at (313) 965-2988. For more information about the COCC, visit www.coccdetroit.com.

liturgical calendar.

The Most Rev. Nicholas, metropolitan of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Detroit, will preside at the service, assisted by the Very Rev. Dean Hountalas, vicar general of the Metropolis and

pastor of Holy Cross Church, Farmington Hills, and the Very Rev. Roman Star, pastor of St. Innocent of Irkutsk Orthodox Church, Redford, and president of the Orthodox Clergy Brotherhood of St. John Chrysostom of Metropol-

itan Detroit.

Services are open to the public. Refreshments will be served afterward.

The COCC, a 56-year-old clergy and lay association that represents various canonical Orthodox churches in metropolitan Detroit, traditionally conducts its own series of Lenten Vespers services on the five Sundays of Great Lent beginning with the Sunday of Orthodoxy. The next service in this year's series will be held March 31 at St. Michael the Archangel Rus-

sian Orthodox Church, Redford, followed by services April 7 at the Assumption of the Theotokos Greek Orthodox Church, St. Clair Shores; April 14 at St. Lazarus Serbian Orthodox Cathedral Ravanica, Detroit; and April 21 at Holy Trinity Orthodox Church, Detroit.

For more information about the Great Vespers on March 24, call the cathedral at (313) 965-2988.

For more information about the COCC, visit www.coccdetroit.com.

RELIGION CALENDAR

Send items for the religion calendar to Sharon Dargay at sdargay@hometownlife.com.

February

CATHOLIC SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

Time/Date: Noon-2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 24

Location: St. Damian Catholic School, 29892 Joy, Westland

Details: Take a guided tour of the school, which includes preschool-eighth grades, meet the staff members who will be available to answer questions/concerns and have conversation with other parents and students. St. Damian has interactive Smartboards in every classroom, Apple iPads and a technology lab. St. Damian offers latchkey programming, CYO sports, foreign language, music, computers, art, and physical education with more than 3 acres of outdoor sports fields. Bus transportation is available for Livonia residents and Westland residents within the Livonia School District

Contact: (734) 427-1680; www.stdamian.com

FILM

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Friday, Feb. 22

Location: Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 28000 New Market Road, Farmington Hills

Details: See the movie, "Gifted Hands" for free in the church Fellowship Center. The film tells the true story of Dr. Benjamin Carson. A special dinner of breaded catfish, mac & cheese and more will top off the evening, which is designed to celebrate Black History month. Free will offering will be accepted for the meal. Call the church if you plan to attend the dinner

Contact: (248) 553-33809

GRIEF SUPPORT

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Feb. 27, March 6, 13 and 20

Location: St. Michael the Archangel Parish, 11441 Hubbard, Livonia

Details: The church and L.J. Griffin Funeral Homes present "Grieving with Great Hope," a five-week grief support series that offers a prayerful, practical and personal approach for people who are mourning the loss of a loved one. The series began Feb. 20. Presenters include the Rev. Bill Tindall as well John and Sandy O'Shaughnessy from Good Mourning Ministry

Contact: St. Michael's at (734) 261-1455 or www.goodmourningministry.net

LENTEN SERVICE

Time/Date: 5:30 p.m. prayer service, 6:30 p.m. soup dinner, Feb. 27-March 27

Location: Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 35300 W. Eight Mile, Farmington Hills

Details: Topics for the Wednesday night program are: "We were planned for God's pleasure," Feb. 27; "We were formed for God's family," March 6; "We were created to become like Christ," March 13; "We were shaped for serving God," March 20; "We were made for a mission," March 27

Contact: (248) 478-6520; belcfh@gmail.com

LENTEN SERVICE

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Wednesday, through March 20

Location: Lola Park Lutheran Church, 14750 Kinloch, Redford

Details: Free treats served after services. The theme of the series is "Names of Wondrous Love"

Contact: (313) 532-8655 or (734) 968-3523

LENTEN SOUP SUPPER

Time/Date: 6 p.m. supper followed by service at 7:30 p.m.

Location: Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 28000 New Market Road, Farmington Hills

Details: Soup suppers and service are held Wednesday, through March 20

Contact: (248) 553-3380

LENTEN SOUP SUPPER

Time/Date: 6 p.m. supper, 7 p.m. reflection, Tuesday, Feb. 26

Location: St. Michael the Archangel Parish, 11441 Hubbard, Livonia

Details: Robert Fastiggi, professor

of theology at Sacred Heart Major Seminary, will talk about "Growing in Dependence on Christ during Lent." Reservations are required and there is a charge of \$5 per person. Felician Sisters will serve on Feb. 26.

Contact: (734) 261-1455, Ext. 207; www.livoniastmichael.org

SINGLES MEETING

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 28

Location: First Presbyterian Church of Northville, 200 East Main, Northville

Details: Single Place is a social organization for mature singles that meets at the church. Darlene Lane will talk about her trip to Machu Picchu in the Andes Mountains in Peru. Ice cream will be served. Donation is \$5

Contact: www.singleplace.org

March

LENTEN LECTURE

Time/Date: 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 19

Location: St. John Neumann Catholic Church, 44800 Warren Road, Canton

Details: Dr. Patricia Cooney-Hathaway, author, lecturer, and professor at Sacred Heart Major Seminary, will present "The Spirituality of Vatican II: What it means for the

People in the Pew." This is a free event and light refreshments will be served. Call the church office to register

Contact: (734) 455-5910

PARENTING SEMINAR

Time/Date: 10 a.m.-2 p.m. March 2

Location: Mariam Center, located on the campus of St. Mary Orthodox Church, 18200 Merriman, Livonia

Details: Parenting seminar features Dr. John Chirban, an author, advisor to the "Dr. Phil Show," researcher and clinical instructor in psychology at Harvard Medical School. The \$10 registration fee includes lunch. Register online at <http://saintmarylivonia.com>

Passages

Obituaries, Memories & Remembrances

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Deadlines: Friday, 4:15 p.m. for Sunday paper
Wednesday, 9:45 a.m. for Thursday paper



JOHNSON, MICHELLE L.
Age 33, of Livonia, passed away surrounded by her loving family. www.casterlinefuneralhome.com

SMITH, RODGER W., Jr.
Age 65 of Anchorage, Alaska (formerly of Canton, MI), on February 11, 2013 went to be with the Lord. Beloved son of Marge and the late Rodger Smith. Loving Father of Jessica (Tim). Dear Brother of Roxanne (Ron), Rock (Tammy), the late Rodney, and the late Ron.

TRASKOS, HELEN
Age 92, died Feb. 12, 2013. Graduate of Fordson High, Dearborn. Attended Wayne State Univ. Retired 1983, employed by AMA/ MVMA for 43 years. Service at 11:00am, Wed., March 6th at Ward Presbyterian Church, Northville. Gifts to Ward Church, Deacon FD, 248-374-7400

May you find comfort in Family and Friends

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Traditional Service 10:30 am
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www.friendsofunity.org
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Florence Erntzen, Licensed Unity Teacher
734.454.0015

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Choir entertains, brings 'hope' to listeners

By Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

The Therapy Choirs of Michigan has sung more than 160 free concerts over the past five years.

It has recorded five CDs, performed at Detroit's Fox Theatre, and belted out the national anthem at Comerica Park.

Early next month it will entertain listeners at the Capitol in Lansing as it has annually for 14 years.

But as director, Leonard McCulloch notes, the performances are "about more than just singing."

The organization, made up of choirs in Farmington Hills and Auburn Hills, is therapy for its members, many of whom have suffered brain injuries from traumatic accidents. Singing is one way to help them regain communication skills and self-esteem.

"Music therapy isn't new. For many years it has been used to help in healing. Choir therapy is our own creation. It's a twist on music therapy," said McCulloch, a Farmington Hills therapist and founder of the Therapy Choirs of Michigan. McCulloch also writes a regular column, "Our Mental Health" for the *Observer & Eccentric*.

"We're finding it (choir) helps with the emotional healing." It also improves speech for those with communication difficulty as a result of stroke or brain injury, improves socialization skills — choir members quickly bond — and gives members a chance to feel appreciated.

UPCOMING CONCERTS

• 15th annual TCM Capitol Concert:

The group will perform noon to 1 p.m. Tuesday, March 5, in rotunda of the State Capitol building, 115 W. Allegan St. #400, Lansing. Free and open to the public, the concert celebrates Choir Therapy Awareness Week in Michigan

• 5th annual Concert for Careforward's "Carnival of Care,"

noon Saturday, March 16, Macomb Community College Sports Arena, 14500 E. 12 Mile, Warren. The concert is free and open to the public. The Carnival is aimed at survivors of catastrophic injury, their families, caregivers, nurses, social workers, caseworkers and those interested in learning more about the support community for catastrophic injury survivors.

"We don't strive to produce a musical masterpiece," McCulloch said. "They have the ability to relate socially in a universal way through music."

Volunteers

Sherry Cantrell is vice president and has managed much of the "behind the scenes" work since the Farmington Hills choir began in 1998. She obtained a nonprofit, 501 c3 status for the organization in 2007 and coordinates Volunteer Voices, a group that assists with the therapy choirs.



The Therapy Choirs of Michigan performs in the rotunda at the Capitol in Lansing.



Len McCulloch is founder and president and Sherry Cantrell is vice president and treasurer of the Therapy Choirs of Michigan.

Regulars, like Terry Gonda and Kristi Reeve, sing at performances. The Rev. Renee Machiniak of The Church of the Holy City in Royal Oak is the organization's chaplain and gives an inspirational introduction at many of the concerts. Karlen DeChiera, co-founder of the Michigan Opera Theatre, wrote an original song about friendship

for the group. Other volunteers turn pages for choir members and assist where needed.

"With our choirs, it's therapeutic but (members) don't realize that. They come every other week for an hour and a half and have fun singing," Cantrell said. "This is good for their spirit and self esteem and they are having fun."

Cantrell, a Royal Oak resident, said she has enjoyed watching members improve their skills. She recalls one young autistic boy who wanted to sing, but couldn't bring himself to join the Auburn Hills choir. He sat in an adjacent room and sang along as the choir rehearsed. "As weeks progressed he came closer and closer and then joined us. To me, that's an accomplishment," she said.

Singing together

The Auburn Hills choir, based at the Macomb Oakland Regional Center, includes developmentally-disabled and mentally ill members. The Farmington group consists

mostly of brain-injured individuals. Together, the choirs number approximately 40 singers.

McCulloch started the Farmington choir after discovering that one of his clients preferred to sing rather than speak.

The man, who had spent 18 years in a state hospital, along with four other patients formed the first therapy choir. Two of the original five still sing with the organization.

"We borrowed five robes from the Methodist church. We sang our first show for an annual dinner," McCulloch recalled. "We were shaking in our boots. Five little songs is all they knew and me waving my wand in front of them."

It didn't take long for the group to develop a saying that reflected its new confidence: "When we take the stage, we own the place."

Over the years the group has sung with confidence on six public television specials. It even drew interest from the producers of the television show, *Glee*, who were looking for a therapy choir to portray a chorus of disabled veterans on the show.

"Unfortunately the idea was put on a back shelf," McCulloch said.

Developing a veteran's choir is among McCulloch's goals.

Starting young

The former Detroit and graduate of St. Francis de Sales High School, had little formal training

in music.

"I had an uncle who was a priest and he travelled. He stored his stuff in my mom's attic. I came across his guitar and I took it to school for show and tell."

He eventually learned one song and performed it at school talent shows.

"Ever since I've gotten benefit out of music, now with these folks for 15 years."

What benefit does the audience receive?

In addition to hearing a wide variety of folk and traditional songs, "they walk away with awareness and that is huge," Cantrell noted. "We talk about awareness and prevention of brain injury."

McCulloch said audience members also may feel hopeful as they clap along to such familiar tunes as *Michael Rowed the Boat* and *You Are My Sunshine*.

"Let's face it, at some point in life all of us have to deal with overcoming something hard. They see these people overcoming some of the most horrific challenges," he said, referring to traumatic injuries. "At our annual Christmas shows at Detroit Rescue Mission, you can almost feel the hope being transferred. We call our tour, a tour of hope."

For more information about the Therapy Choirs of Michigan, visit therapychoirs.org, e-mail Cantrell at cantrell7031@comcast.net or call McCulloch at (284) 476-9329.

Garage sale offers scary cinema items

Need a few ghoulish decorations for your annual Halloween party? Or a scary set for the local community theater troupe?

Wolfman Mac, aka Mac Kelly, may have just what you need.

The creator of the *Chiller Drive-In!* television show is throwing in the towel and selling sets, props, memorabilia, stickers, Halloween decorations, scripts, posters, and other collectibles from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. in the cafeteria at Salem High School, Joy at Canton Center, in Canton.

Collectors will find thousands of items at the station's fifth annual record show. The music will span many genres including

rock, jazz, pop, country, R&B and folk. The show will also feature special giveaways and door prizes.

"We love presenting this record show," stated Bill Keith, station manager, in a press release. "I enjoy being there when a person finds that special album they've been searching for. We have a lot of fun hanging out with people that love music."

Tickets are \$3 general admission and \$5 for early admission from 9-10 a.m. Students at Canton, Plymouth and Salem High Schools will receive free admission with a student ID. All of the proceeds will benefit 88.1 The Park, which is staffed by high school students in the Plymouth-Canton The station has served the community since Feb. 14, 1972. Visit the station's website at www.881ThePark.com.

Free parking is available in the garage at Perry and Lawrence.

Students to sell thousands of records, CDs

88.1 The Park, the student radio station for the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools, will sell records, CDs, import-only releases, 45s and 78s, T-shirts, posters and other collectibles from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. in the cafeteria at Salem High School, Joy at Canton Center, in Canton.

Collectors will find thousands of items at the station's fifth annual record show. The music will span many genres including

rock, jazz, pop, country, R&B and folk. The show will also feature special giveaways and door prizes.

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Location: 5200 Woodward, Detroit

Family Sundays: 2 p.m. Sundays; storytelling, performances; free with admission

Exhibits: Hidden Treasures: An Experiment, through March 3; Motor City Muse: Detroit Photographs: Then and Now, through June 16; Shirin Neshat, includes eight video installations and two series of photos, April 7-July 7
Contact: (313) 833-7900, www.dia.org

GALLERY@VT

Time/Date: 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Monday-Friday, Feb. 1-24

Location: Village Theater at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill Road, Canton

Details: Mixed media by Sabrina Nelson
Contact: (734) 394-5308

LIBERTY STREET BREW PUB

Time/Date: Exhibit through March 30; pub hours are 3 p.m.-midnight, Monday-Thursday; 3 p.m.-1 a.m. Friday; 11 a.m.-1 a.m. Saturday; and noon-midnight, Sunday

Location: 149 W. Liberty St., Plymouth; Upper Hall Gallery
Details: Second annual group show by Art Circle Six. This year's

show features the artist challenge "Icons, Myths and Legends"
Contact: (734) 207-9600

NORTHVILLE ART HOUSE

Time/Date: 1-5 p.m. Wednesday-Saturday, through Feb. 23

Location: 215 W. Cady, Northville
Details: 7th Annual Member Exhibition is an all-media, non-juried show.

Contact: (248) 344-0497

PLYMOUTH COMMUNITY ARTS COUNCIL

Time/Date: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday-Thursday and during public events, through February

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

Details: Rock music poster graphic design from Gary Grimshaw, former artist at the Grande Ballroom, is on display along with poster works by artists for the San Francisco Band, Moonalice.

Contact: (734) 416-4278

THREE CITIES ART CLUB

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Monday, March 4

Location: Meeting room "A" in the Canton Township Hall, 1150 Canton Center Road, south of Cherry Hill Road, Canton

Details: Dennis Knapp, owner of Detroit's Martin Universal Design and Martin F. Weber Co. of Philadelphia, Pa., and his daughter, Dawn Knowles of Canton, will show the latest in innovative products supplied by their companies. Martin/F. Weber Co. produces a range of art materials for artists of all skill levels and signature artists' products for

such teachers as Bob Ross, Susan Scheewe and Bruce Blitz. The program is free and light refreshments will be served

Contact: Marilyn Meredith at (248) 327-3989 or marilynmeredith@wowway.com

Film

HUMANE SOCIETY OF HURON VALLEY

Time/Date: Doors open 6 p.m.; film begins 6:30 p.m. Monday, Feb. 25

Location: 3100 Cherry Hill Road, Ann Arbor

Details: "Peaceable Kingdom: The Journey Home," a 78-minute documentary, shatters stereotypical notions of farming life. Admission is free. Refreshments and a brief introduction kick off the screening. Parking is limited. RSVP for the event. Anyone interested in touring the shelter should arrive at 5:30 p.m.

Contact: (734) 661-3527; www.hshv.org

PENN THEATRE

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Thursday-Friday, Feb. 21-22 and 28, and 3:45 p.m. and 7 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, Feb. 23-24

Location: 760 Penniman Ave., Plymouth

Details: "Lincoln," \$3

Coming up: "Parental Guidance" will run 7 p.m. and 9 p.m. Friday-Saturday, March 1-2 and 4:45 p.m. and 7 p.m. Sunday, March 3

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

REDFORD THEATRE

Time/Date: 8 p.m. Feb. 22, and 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Feb. 23

Location: 17350 Lahser, Detroit

Details: "The Letter," starring Bette Davis; \$4

Contact: (313) 537-2560; www.redfordtheatre.com

Music

BASELINE FOLK SOCIETY

Time/Date: Sign up for open mic, 6:15-6:45 p.m.; performances, 7 p.m., the third Saturday of the month.

Location: The JWH Center for the Arts, Plymouth Community Arts Council, 774 N. Sheldon, Plymouth

Details: Eight open mic performances along with the featured act; admission is \$5. Individual and family annual memberships also are available

Contact: Scott Ludwig at BFS-president@aol.com or call (734) 453-0869

JAZZ AT THE ELKS

Time/Date: 7-10 p.m. last Tuesday of the month — except December

Location: Plymouth Elks Lodge #1780, 41700 Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth

Details: There is a \$10 donation at the door which includes hors d'oeuvres. Proceeds from Jazz Elks goes toward special needs and disadvantaged children and veterans. On Feb. 26 Johnny Trudell Quartet with Trudell on trumpet and flugelhorn, Ray Tini on bass, Chuck Shermatero on keyboard and Bill Cairo on drums,

will perform

Contact: (734) 453-1780 or e-mail to plymouthelks1780@yahoo.com

TRINITY HOUSE THEATRE

Time/Date: Most shows start at 8 p.m., doors open at 7:30 p.m.

Location: 38840 W. Six Mile, Livonia

Details: Billy Brandt and Band with special guest Michael On Fire, Feb. 22; Joshua Davis, Feb. 23; Julianne and the Rogues, March 1; Olivia Millerschin with Greater Alexander and Nick Urb, March 2; Empty Chair Night with Annie and Rod Capps, Joel Parmer and Christopher Mark Jones, March 3; Jay Stielstra and Judy Banker with Drew Howard and Dave Roof, March 8; Jan Krist and Jim Bizer, March 9; Kevin Meisel, March 15; Dick Siegel and the Brandos, March 16; Malcolm Holcombe, March 22. Most shows tickets are \$15, and \$12 for subscribers. Only cash and checks are accepted

Contact: (734) 464-6302

Something different

DETROIT ZOO

Time/Date: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily

Location: I-696 service drive and Woodward, Royal Oak

Details: Admission is \$11 for adults 15 to 61, \$9 for senior citizens 62 and older, and \$7 for children ages 2 to 14; children under 2 are free.

Contact: (248) 541-5717



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Cod Moroccan-Style with Mango-Carrot Slaw

Healthy recipes for Lent

Cooking nutritious — and delicious — meatless meals for Lent has never been easier. These recipes start with Alaska Seafood, which is additive-free, lean, and full of helpful vitamins, minerals, nutrients and heart-healthy omega-3 fatty acids.

To find more easy, delicious, and healthy Lenten recipes, visit www.wildalaskaflavor.com.

Cod Moroccan-Style with Mango-Carrot Slaw

Prep time: 15 minutes

Cook time: 20 minutes

Servings: 4

4 Alaska Cod fillets (4 to 6 ounces each), fresh, thawed or frozen

2 tablespoons olive oil, divided

½ cup finely chopped shallots (2 to 3 shallots)

¼ cup chopped cilantro

2 teaspoons fresh grated ginger

1 can (14.5 ounces) vegetable broth, divided

1 teaspoon sugar

4 cloves garlic, chopped Large pinch of saffron

1 teaspoon cinnamon

½ teaspoon allspice

2 cups dry couscous

¼ cup toasted almond slices

Mango Slaw:

1 mango, peeled and sliced (about 2 cups)

½ red bell pepper, finely sliced

½ cup shredded carrot

¼ cup chopped cilantro

1 tablespoon fresh lime juice

1 teaspoon grated lime peel

2 teaspoons orange juice

1 tablespoon honey

½ teaspoon cinnamon

Rinse any ice glaze from frozen fillets under cold water; pat dry with paper towel.

Heat heavy nonstick skillet over medium-high heat. Brush both sides of cod with 1 tablespoon oil.

Place in heated skillet and cook, uncovered, about 3 to 4 minutes,

until browned. Shake pan occasionally to keep from sticking.

Turn cod over, cover pan tightly and reduce heat to medium. Cook an additional 6 to 8 minutes for frozen cod or 3 to 4 minutes for fresh/thawed fish. Cook just until fish is opaque throughout. Remove from pan; keep warm.

In the same pan, sauté shallots in 1 tablespoon oil just until soft, about 2 minutes. Add cilantro, ginger, 1 cup vegetable broth, sugar, garlic, saffron, cinnamon and allspice; cook until thickened. Meanwhile, prepare couscous according to package directions, using remaining vegetable broth as part of the liquid.

Slaw: In large bowl, combine mango, bell pepper, carrot and cilantro.

In separate small bowl, blend lime juice and peel, orange juice, honey and cinnamon. Pour dressing over slaw; toss.

For each serving: Place about ¾ cup couscous on a plate; top with ½ cup mango slaw. Top with a cod fillet. Pour ¼ cup shallot sauce over fish; garnish with 1 tablespoon toasted almonds.



Salmon Penne with Green Beans Vinaigrette

Warm Halibut Potato Salad

Prep time: 15 minutes

Cook time: 15 minutes

Servings: 6

1 pound small white or red new potatoes

4 Alaska halibut fillets (4 to 6 ounces each), fresh, thawed or frozen

1 tablespoon olive oil

Pepper, to taste

1 teaspoon dried dill

2 tablespoons parsley, chopped

1 cup celery, chopped

½ cup red bell pepper, chopped

1 cup fresh (or canned) mandarin orange segments

1 tablespoon fresh dill, chopped

½ teaspoon seasoning salt

1 package (5 ounces) arugula

Dressing:

½ cup green onions, sliced

2 tablespoons olive oil

½ cup orange juice

2 tablespoons Dijon mustard

Boil potatoes in salted water just until tender; drain and cool slightly. Slice potatoes in ¼-inch-thick rounds.

Meanwhile, rinse any ice glaze from frozen halibut under cold water; pat dry with paper towel.

Heat heavy nonstick skillet over medium-high heat.

Brush both sides of halibut with olive oil. Place in heated skillet and cook, uncovered, about 3 to 4 minutes, until browned. Shake pan occasionally to keep from sticking.

Turn halibut over; season with pepper and dried dill. Cover pan tightly and reduce heat to medium.

Cook an additional 6 to 8 minutes for frozen halibut, or 3 to 4 minutes for fresh/thawed fish. Cook just until fish is opaque throughout. Break into large chunks (removing skin, if any).

Mix parsley, celery, red pepper, orange segments, fresh dill, and seasoning salt together in large bowl. Add potatoes to celery mixture; stir.

For dressing, sauté green onions in olive oil. Add orange juice and Dijon; whisk. While warm, pour dressing over salad. Add halibut chunks and mix gently.

To serve, portion a handful of arugula onto plates; top with halibut potato salad.

Cook's Tip: If using canned mandarins, omit orange juice and use the juice in the can.

Salmon Penne with Green Beans Vinaigrette

Prep time: 10 minutes

Cook time: 15 minutes

Servings: 5 (2 cups each)

12 ounces whole wheat penne (or other pasta)

½ pound fresh green beans, trimmed and halved

Finely grated zest and juice of 1 lemon

1 tablespoon fresh thyme leaves

½ teaspoon garlic salt

3 tablespoons olive oil, divided

12 ounces Alaska salmon, fresh, thawed or frozen

Salt and freshly ground black pepper

Lemon wedges and sprigs of thyme, for garnish

Cook pasta in boiling water for about 8 minutes, or according to package instructions, until al dente. Add green beans during the last 3 to 4 minutes of cooking time.

Drain pasta and beans, reserving 3 tablespoons cooking liquid, then return pasta, beans and reserved liquid to pan. Add lemon zest, lemon juice, thyme leaves, garlic salt and 2 tablespoons olive oil.

While pasta cooks, rinse any ice glaze from frozen salmon under cold water; pat dry with paper towel.

Heat heavy nonstick skillet over medium-high heat.

Brush both sides of salmon with 1 tablespoon olive oil. Place in heated skillet and cook, uncovered, about 3 to 4 minutes, until browned. Shake pan occasionally to keep from sticking.

Turn salmon over; cover pan tightly and reduce heat to medium. Cook an additional 6 to 8 minutes for frozen salmon or 3 to 4 minutes for fresh/thawed fish. Cook just until fish is opaque throughout.

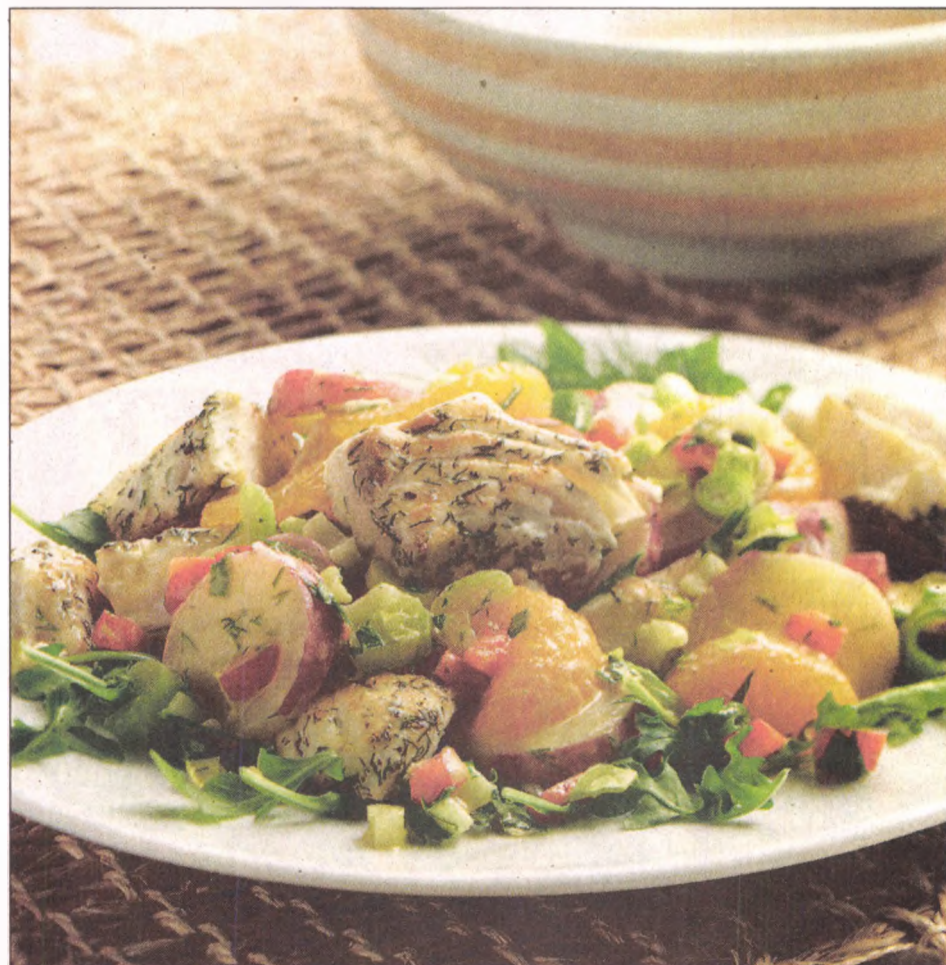
Break into large chunks (removing skin, if any); add to pasta. Cook and stir gently over medium heat for 1 to 2 minutes. Season to taste with salt and pepper. Garnish with lemon wedges and thyme sprigs.

— Courtesy of Family Features

NUTRITIOUS, DELICIOUS DINING

Eating seafood at least twice a week can help protect against heart disease, according to USDA 2010 Dietary Guidelines for Americans. To keep hearts healthy, the USDA recommends eating 8 ounces of seafood per week, which is equivalent to two 4-ounce servings. Here are ways you can add delicious, Alaska-healthy seafood to your diet:

- Choose seafood such as Alaska pollock, cod, halibut, sole, King and Snow crab, black cod and salmon, which offer nutritional benefits such as heart-healthy omega-3s.
- Prepare seafood so it's lean and flavorful by using healthy cooking methods such as grilling, roasting or baking, and skipping calorie- and fat-laden methods such as frying, breading, or by adding rich sauces.
- Add flavor using spices and fresh or dried herbs as seasonings.
- Serve seafood with healthful sides, such as whole grains, roasted vegetables and crisp greens.



Warm Halibut Potato Salad

Exterior upgrades boost home's resale potential

Homeowners looking for the most return on their investment when it comes to remodeling should consider exterior replacement projects. According to the 2013 Remodeling Cost vs. Value Report, Realtors rated exterior projects among the most valuable home improvement projects.

"Realtors know that curb appeal projects offer great bang for your buck, because a home's exterior is the first thing potential buyers see," said National Association of Realtors President Gary Thomas, broker-owner of Evergreen Realty, in Villa Park, Calif. "Projects such as siding, window and door replacements can recoup more than 70 percent of their cost at resale. Realtors know what home features are important to buyers in your area and can provide helpful insights when considering remodeling projects."

Results of the report are summarized on NAR's consumer website HouseLogic.com, which provides information on dozens of remodeling projects, from kitchens and baths to siding replacements, including the recouped value of the project based on a national average. According to the Cost vs. Value Report, Realtors judged a steel entry door replacement as the project expected to return the most money, with an estimated 85.6 percent of costs recouped upon resale. The steel entry door replacement is the least expensive project in the report, costing little more than \$1,100 on average. A majority of the top 10 most cost-effective projects nationally in terms of value recouped are exterior or replacement projects; all of these are estimated to recoup more than 71 percent of costs.

Three different siding replacement projects landed in the top 10, including fiber cement siding, expected to return 79.3 percent of costs, vinyl siding, expected to return 72.9 percent of costs, and foam backed vinyl, expected to return 71.8 percent of costs. Two additional door replace-



ments were also among the top exterior replacement projects. The midrange and upscale garage door replacement were both expected to return more than 75 percent of costs.

According to the report, two interior remodeling projects in particular can recoup substantial value at resale. A minor kitchen remodel is ranked fifth and is expected to return 75.4 percent of costs. Nationally, the average cost for the project is just under \$19,000.

The second interior remodeling project in the top 10 is the attic bedroom, which landed at eight and tied with the vinyl siding replacement with 72.9 percent of costs recouped. With an average national cost of just under \$48,000, the attic project adds a bedroom and bathroom within a home's existing footprint. The improvement project projected to return the least is the home office remodel, estimated to recoup less than 44 percent.

The 2013 Remodeling Cost vs. Value Report compares construction costs with resale values for 35 midrange and upscale remodeling projects comprising additions, remodels

and replacements in 81 markets across the country. Data are grouped in nine U.S. regions, following the divisions established by the U.S. Census Bureau. This is the 15th consecutive year that the report, which is produced by Remodeling magazine publisher Hanley Wood, LLC, was completed in cooperation with NAR.

Realtors provided their insights into local markets and buyer home preferences within those markets. The 2013 national average cost-to-value ratio rose to 60.6 percent, ending a six-year decline. The ratio represents nearly a three-point improvement over 2011-2012. Lower construction costs are the principal factor in the upturn, especially when measured against stabilizing house values. In addition, the cost-to-value ratio improved nationally for every project in this year's report.

"A Realtor is the best resource for helping homeowners decide what improvement projects will provide the most upon resale in their market," said Thomas. "Each neighborhood is different, and the desirability and resale value of a

particular remodeling project varies depending on where you live. When making a home remodeling decision, resale value is just one factor that homeowners should take into consideration."

Most regions followed the national trends; however the Pacific region, consisting of Alaska, California, Hawaii, Oregon and Washington, once again led the nation with an average cost-value ratio of 71.2 percent, due mainly to strong resale values. The next best performing regions were West South Central, South Atlantic, and East South Central. These regions attribute their high ranking to construction costs that were lowest in the country. Most remaining regions showed strong improvement over last year. These are Mountain, New England, East North Central, Middle Atlantic, and West North Central.

To read the full project descriptions and access national and regional project data, visit www.costsvsvalue.com. "Cost vs. Value" is a registered trademark of Hanley Wood, LLC.

Draft master deed with care

By Robert Meisner
 Guest Columnist

Q: I am a developer of a condominium and wonder if you can give me your feeling about the maintenance of a building shell in the case of a condominium attached townhouse unit.

A: In my experience in representing both developers and condominium associations, if the exterior requires minimal maintenance (i.e., brick), it is something that should be done by the association. Owners tend to maintain what they can see — painting trim — but nothing else. If the use of the building is commercial or if in residential projects the developer is offering "maintenance-free living," it is better to have the association responsible for all exterior maintenance.



Robert Meisner

On the other hand, in a typical townhouse residential project, there is a centuries-old tradition of having adjacent owners responsible

for their own maintenance. Many times I will include an article on "Party Walls" laying out each owner's responsibility to maintain while providing for remedies including self-help and a lien. Another consideration in a townhouse project as to whom should be responsible is whether there are firewalls extending beyond the roofline. If not, and you have a flat roof, it is almost impossible to guess where the roof may be leaking. On the other hand, if you have walls clearly dividing the roof between units, then the owner can maintain his own roof. In any event, it calls for careful consideration in drafting the master deed and the thought process by the condominium association owners as to whether they want to change any of the responsibilities between the parties.

Q: Our board refuses to fix or otherwise commence repairs to the common elements around my unit which has lasted for more than a year. These common elements have caused damage and continue to cause damage to my unit because of the roof leaks. Do you think I have any basis for action, including emotional distress, against the board?

A: You may have a difficulty suing for intentional infliction of emotional distress and negligent infliction of emotional distress but you probably do have a claim for breach of the board's fiduciary responsibility because, apparently, they knowingly failed to comply with the condominium documents and, presumably, the statute of the state in which you are located. You are best advised to have a lawyer write a strong letter to the board demanding action, including the recoupment of your attorney fees and costs and the absence of such relief, that you will commence legal proceedings.

Robert M. Meisner is a lawyer and author of *Condominium Operation: Getting Started & Staying on the Right Track*, second edition, available for \$9.95 plus \$1 shipping/handling. He also wrote *Condo Living: A Survival Guide to Buying, Owning and Selling a Condominium*, \$24.95 plus \$5 shipping/handling. Call (248) 644-4433 or visit bmeisner@meisner-law.com. This column shouldn't be construed as legal advice.

HOMES SOLD/REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS-WAYNE COUNTY

These are the residential real estate closings recorded Oct. 22-26, 2012, at the Wayne County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

CANTON

164 Alexandria Ct	\$379,000
44965 Coachman Ct	\$136,000
256 Constitution St	\$85,000
1125 Dundee Dr	\$133,000
2324 E Roundtable Dr	\$165,000
2245 Fairway Cir	\$143,000
42659 Hanford Rd	\$130,000
6970 Harvard Ln	\$52,000
48951 Ivybridge Way	\$70,000
313 Kings Way	\$138,000
1478 Knightsbridge Rd	\$170,000
3340 Milcroft Ct	\$185,000
2100 Morrison Blvd	\$100,000
47162 N Pointe Dr	\$330,000
3487 Parklawn Dr	\$148,000
47440 Pembroke Dr	\$70,000
46596 Registry Dr	\$219,000
42024 Saratoga Cir	\$132,000
42286 Saratoga Cir	\$136,000
3677 Shepherd Ln	\$175,000
4755 Sherwood Cir	\$220,000
43936 Somerset Sq	\$136,000
41563 Strawberry Ct	\$199,000
46568 Swanmere Dr	\$270,000

7040 Woonsocket St	\$173,000
43889 Yorktown St	\$170,000
GARDEN CITY	
28611 Beechwood St	\$72,000
31743 Chester St	\$113,000
30707 Elmwood St	\$70,000
2033 Gilman St	\$50,000
31412 Hennepin St	\$22,000
32539 James St	\$82,000
5935 Lathers St	\$20,000
32960 Rosslyn Ave	\$49,000
LIVONIA	
34425 Five Mile Rd	\$93,000
14063 Alexander St	\$128,000
18963 Bainbridge Ave	\$169,000
10015 Bassett St	\$115,000
9336 California St	\$130,000
12475 Cardwell St	\$116,000
8921 Crown St	\$143,000
9650 Deering St	\$86,000
17329 Ellen Dr	\$370,000
14474 Fairway St	\$222,000
15561 Fitzgerald St	\$135,000
20238 Floral St	\$50,000
8949 Frederick St	\$114,000
15073 Gary Ln	\$150,000
18354 Gillman St	\$93,000
17428 Golfview St	\$225,000
19353 Hardy St	\$145,000
29149 Hathaway St	\$76,000
32112 Hees St	\$97,000
36242 Hees St	\$119,000
14266 Hubbell St	\$111,000

18613 Lathers St	\$52,000
32660 Lyndon St	\$177,000
38815 Lyndon St	\$155,000
27429 Meadowbrook St	\$147,000
33621 Michele St	\$110,000
8965 Parent St	\$118,000
14424 Park St	\$98,000
19592 Pollyanna Ct	\$192,000
33745 Pondview Cir	\$42,000
33727 Richland St	\$150,000
29705 Robert Dr	\$105,000
38047 Ross St	\$165,000
9841 Seltzer St	\$80,000
8865 W Deborah Ct	\$130,000
30631 Wentworth St	\$168,000
18346 Westchester Dr	\$380,000
19367 Whitby Dr	\$206,000
15080 Yale St	\$143,000
NORTHVILLE	
341 First St	\$110,000
16748 Brooklane Blvd	\$488,000
39614 Greenbrier Ct	\$260,000
19733 Hayes Ct	\$73,000
19700 Meadowbrook Rd	\$185,000
42282 Norwood Ct	\$75,000
42076 Queen Anne Ct	\$83,000
17248 Victor Dr	\$325,000
39469 Village Run Dr	\$245,000
39476 Village Run Dr	\$255,000
16559 Winchester Ct	\$344,000
15898 Winchester Ct	\$311,000
20479 Woodcreek Blvd	\$353,000

PLYMOUTH

766 Coolidge St	\$160,000
48950 Fox Dr S	\$485,000
42157 Old Pond Cir	\$110,000
1742 Old Salem	\$200,000
1492 Penniman Ave	\$303,000
361 Pinewood Cir	\$65,000
41679 Riveroaks Dr	\$172,000
861 William St	\$225,000
REDFORD	
25579 Deborah	\$69,000
25841 Dover	\$42,000
9968 Garfield	\$50,000
12851 Garfield	\$48,000
19170 Indian	\$20,000
8944 Lenore	\$75,000
25839 W Seven Mile Rd	\$70,000
9705 Wormer	\$45,000
9726 Wormer	\$23,000
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36529 Avondale St	\$96,000
34000 Barton St	\$30,000
7912 Beatrice	\$106,000
30836 Beechnut St	\$68,000
35072 Bock St	\$74,000
7382 Central St	\$22,000
32537 Joy Rd	\$85,000
36140 Oregon Ave	\$20,000
7701 Randy Dr	\$111,000
8514 Sanford Dr	\$81,000
33145 Shawnee St	\$72,000
193 Stephanie Dr	\$150,000

HOMES SOLD/REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS-OAKLAND COUNTY

These are the residential real estate closings recorded Oct. 8-12, 2012, at the Oakland County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

BEVERLY HILLS

21676 Corsaut Ln	\$266,000
32600 Norwood Dr	\$345,000
31445 Sunset Dr	\$205,000
22235 Village Pines Dr	\$343,000
16207 Wetherby St	\$278,000
BIRMINGHAM	
1693 Banbury St	\$141,000
150 Bird Ave # 18	\$57,000
1300 Buckingham Ave	\$577,000
967 Donmar Ct	\$220,000
1271 Lyonhurst St	\$695,000
1031 Madison St	\$273,000
2736 Pembroke Rd	\$225,000
1021 Stanley Blvd	\$375,000
2757 Windemere Rd	\$170,000
BLOOMFIELD HILLS	
1922 Eagle Pointe	\$152,000
1270 Greenglen Ct	\$180,000
4855 Quarton Rd	\$390,000
1549 S Hill Blvd	\$120,000
923 S Shady Hollow Cir	\$388,000
2273 Somerset Rd	\$169,000
801 W Long Lake Rd # F2	\$73,000
820 Willoway Estates Dr	\$321,000

42160 Woodward Ave Unit 46	\$65,000
BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP	
3498 Bloomfield Club Dr	\$437,000
3825 Carriage Ln	\$364,000
3838 Heathfield Rd	\$180,000
58 Manor Rd	\$365,000
4171 Meadowlane Dr	\$169,000
4004 Parkwood Ct	\$160,000
566 Reynard Ct	\$455,000
4800 Stoneleigh Rd	\$900,000
719 Upper Scotsborough Way	\$265,000
COMMERCE TOWNSHIP	
5630 Blackmoor St	\$110,000
2160 Canal St	\$133,000
1795 Cedar Bend Dr	\$405,000
8410 Golf Lane Dr	\$245,000
3181 Lacosta Ct	\$200,000
309 Muskoka	\$100,000
5815 Pickbourne St	\$76,000
4563 Racewood Dr	\$286,000
4488 Ravinewood Dr	\$200,000
6000 Teeple Creek Ln	\$255,000
FARMINGTON	
23895 Drake Rd	\$264,000
22870 Frederick Ave	\$124,000
33821 Glenview Dr	\$119,000
31550 Lamar Dr	\$118,000
FARMINGTON HILLS	
34527 Bunker Hill Dr	\$209,000

28298 Burton Ln	\$209,000
25248 Carrollton Dr	\$235,000
31100 Claymore Rd	\$285,000
28275 Farmington Rd	\$110,000
29855 Fox Club Dr	\$252,000
29390 Glen Oaks Blvd W	\$25,000
32810 Hearthstone Rd	\$85,000
36875 Howard Rd	\$447,000
35745 Johnstown Rd	\$185,000
29427 Lake Park Dr	\$220,000
35765 Lone Pine Ln	\$175,000
30658 Maplewood Cir	\$147,000
28899 Millbrook Rd	\$525,000
34490 Rhonswood St	\$53,000
30487 Salisbury St	\$85,000
30684 Sudbury Ct	\$248,000
LATHRUP VILLAGE	
18541 Dolores Ave	\$140,000
MILLFORD	
337 Mill Pond Ln	\$224,000
1068 Riverstone Cir	\$241,000
NOVI	
45242 Bartlett Dr	\$84,000
45174 Courtview Trl	\$281,000
45196 Courtview Trl	\$328,000
1505 East Lake Rd	\$285,000
26222 Fieldstone Dr	\$269,000
44567 Gwinnett Loop	\$161,000
24305 Homestead Ct	\$275,000
28024 Hopkins Dr	\$159,000
102 Lashbrook St	\$250,000
42041 Loganberry Rdg S	\$175,000

23593 Valley Starr	\$139,000
39708 Village Wood Cir	\$44,000
39786 Village Wood Cir	\$59,000
45100 W 10 Mile Rd	\$178,000
22054 York Mills Cir	\$451,000
SOUTH LYON	
24667 Brompton Way	\$358,000
228 Brookwood Dr Unit 7	\$67,000
25045 Carriage Ln	\$40,000
52073 Copperwood Dr N	\$320,000
53772 Edgewood Dr	\$235,000
863 Glen Meadows Dr	\$30,000
54885 Grenelle Cir W	\$65,000
23806 Maple Ct	\$313,000
23740 Prescott Ln W	\$479,000
61704 Rambling Way	\$149,000
53771 Springwood Dr	\$214,000
1074 Stable Ln	\$190,000
SOUTHFIELD	
5 Bedford Towne St	\$40,000
21039 Harvard Rd	\$139,000
18441 Magnolia Ave	\$85,000
16999 Morrison St	\$152,000
16325 Pellysylvania St	\$120,000
28902 Red Leaf Ln	\$75,000
18301 W 13 Mile Rd Unit A7	\$61,000
WHITE LAKE	
8797 Arlington St	\$76,000
1100 Castlewood St	\$20,000
9044 Millward Ave	\$129,000
9120 Sandison Dr	\$120,000

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DEADLINES:
Fri. at 4 pm for Sunday
Tues. at 3 pm for Thursday

NEWSPAPER POLICY
All advertising published in this Newspaper is subject to the conditions stated in the applicable rate card. (Copies are available from the advertising department: Observer & Eccentric Media
41304 Concept Drive, Plymouth, MI 48170
866-887-2737.
We reserve the right not to accept an advertiser's order. Our sales representatives have no authority to bind this newspaper & only publication of an advertisement shall constitute final acceptance of the advertiser's order. Advertisers are responsible for reading their ads the first time it appears & reporting any errors immediately. The Newspaper will not issue credit for errors in ads after the FIRST INCORRECT INSERTION. When more than one insertion of the same advertisement is ordered, only the first insertion will be credited. Publishers Notice: All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968 which states that it is illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation, or discrimination." This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal housing opportunity basis. (FR Doc, 724983 3-31-72), Equal Housing Opportunity Statement: We are pledged to the letter & spirit of U.S. policy for the achievement of equal housing opportunity, throughout the nation. We encourage & support an affirmative advertising & marketing program in which there are no barriers.

Challenging fun for ALL ages

Thursday PUZZLE CORNER

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

ACROSS

1 "Fernando" band
5 Call it quits
9 Prow projection
12 Swing a scythe
13 Kuwaiti leader
14 Caviar
15 Sale caveat (2 wds.)
16 Sugar cane product
18 Luau welcomes
20 Swat
21 Dogie stopper
23 Natal native
25 Overhead
26 The ex-Mrs. Bono
28 Not having a stitch on
32 Expressions of awe
35 Baseball stat
36 Downhill runners
37 Nervous

DOWN

1 A Knute successor
2 Nile god of pleasure
3 — out (rescues)
4 Basilica areas
5 Garment edges

Answer to Previous Puzzle

H	O	N	P	E	S	O	R	O	A	M
A	V	E	A	V	I	V	A	C	H	E
H	A	R	D	C	A	S	E	S	T	A
S	L	O	W	E	D	R	I	P		
			E	R	E	L	O	Y	O	L
O	P	A	L	S	T	A	U		W	A
M	U	L	L	F	O	P	C	E	N	T
A	C	E	D	O	M	G	I	D	D	Y
R	E	C	T	O	R		F	I	R	
			W	E	E	R	A	C	E	R
W	A	D	I	S	C	E	N	A	R	I
I	D	E	S	T	R	O	T		I	S
G	E	N	T	S	O	N	S	C	E	E

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

SUDOKU

Fun By The Numbers

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

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

Level: Beginner

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

Word Search

aluminum carbon fluorine hydrogen radon
argon cesium gold nickel silicon
barium elements helium radium sodium

CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE

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

CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE

Word Search

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

THE OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC MORTGAGE MONITOR

		30 Yr.	Pts.	15 Yr.	Pts.	Other
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Accurate Mortgage Solutions	(800) 593-1912	3.25	0	2.625	0	J/A
AFI Financial	(877) 234-0600	3.25	0	2.5	0	J/A/F
Ameriplus Mortgage Corp.	(248) 740-2323	3.25	0	2.5	0	J/A
BRINKS Gold Star Mortgage	(888) 293-3477	3	1	2.375	0.875	J/A/V/F
Client Services by Gold Star	(800) 991-9922	3.25	0	2.5	0	J/A/V/F
Co-op Services Credit Union	(734) 466-6113	3.875	0.25	3.125	0	J
Dearborn Federal Savings Bank	(313) 565-3100	3.75	0	3.25	0	A
Fifth Third Bank	(800) 792-8830	3.5	0	2.875	0	J/A/V/F
Gold Star Mortgage	(888) 293-3477	3.125	0.25	2.5	0	J/A/V/F
Group One Mortgage	(248) 282-1602	3.5	0	2.875	0	J/A/V/F
Mortgages by Gold Star	(888) 293-3477	2.875	1.75	2.25	1.75	J/A/V/F

Above information available as of 12/28/12 and subject to change at any time. Rates are based on a \$200,000 loan with 20% down & credit score of 740 or above. Jumbo rates, specific payment calculation & most current rates available Fridays after 2:00 P.M. at www.rmcreport.com.
Key to "Other" column - J=Jumbo, A=Arm, V=VA, F=FHA & NR=Not Reported.

All Lenders are Equal Opportunity Lenders. Lenders to participate call (734) 922-3032

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JOBS

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Help Wanted - General

Are You Looking For a Rewarding Career in Property Management?

Dart Properties II LLC, a full service property management company, is seeking qualified, customer-service oriented individuals to join our team. We are currently looking to fill the following positions:

- Leasing Consultant
- Human Resources Assistant
- Maintenance Technician
- Remodel Team Member
- Dart Services Team Member
- Groundskeeper

Applicants must have and maintain a valid Michigan driver's license with an acceptable driving record. Please visit www.dartproperties.com today for a detailed description of these positions and also to apply. (EOE)

BRIDGEPORT OPERATOR
Must have 10 yrs exp. Gage work. Retirees welcome.
734-522-0444

Job Opportunities

Help Wanted - General

CAR WASH HELP
FT in Plymouth. Must be mechanically inclined.
Apply in person
15065 N. Sheldon Rd. Plymouth

COOK

Dining Services Management Company has immediate opening for a Full-Time Cook at a school in the Farmington area. Minimum 2 yrs. experience. Position requires daily preparation of 600 meals for 15 Satellite Elementary Schools + some Catering. Must be able to work mornings, starting at 5:00am. Candidate must be friendly, energetic & customer service oriented. Great Benefits!

Please send resume: sales@ovationsdining.com

DIRECT CARE STAFF
Work with developmentally disabled adults. Westland
(734) 722-4580 x9

DIRECT CARE WORKER
PT positions avail. Positive attitude a must. Must have clean driving record. Starting \$7.61/hr. (734) 524-1361

DIRECT CARE WORKER
Start at \$7.61/hr. untrained. \$7.86 fully trained and current. Part-time to start. Homes in Canton and Livonia Areas. Must have clean driving record and criminal history.
Call: 734-394-5620

DRIVER - TOW TRUCK
We are continuing to expand and are in need of professional tow truck drivers. If you have 1 or more years of experience you may qualify for a \$1000.00 sign on bonus. We offer good pay with benefits. Call: 734-722-7100 or stop by our location at 6375 Bits Rd. Westland, MI 48185

Job Opportunities

Help Wanted - General

EDUCATION/TEACHING
Country Hills Montessori School, located in Farmington Hills, MI currently has an opening for a Lead Toddler Teacher. Candidate must hold their certification from an accredited Montessori program. Experience with children is required. We seek educators who are passionate about children, team players, and committed to improvement. Please send letter of intent and resume to: chmfth@gmail.com

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Experienced commercial wire person needed
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TEACHERS, INFANT TEACHER & ASSISTANT TEACHERS
Exp'd for Montessori Academy of Farmington Hills. Full-Time & Part-Time. Exc. pay. Please email resume to: thiltsmonessor@aol.com

Job Opportunities

Help Wanted - General

MEDICAL ASSISTANT
Experience in EMR, Front/Back Office Busy Internal Medicine Practice, Full/Part-time
Email: ugorropa@dmcc.org

OPTICAL DISPENSER, PT
Exp. req. Reliable, mature, friendly person. Wage negotiable, commensurate w/exp. Resume vision eyes@you@hotmail.com

PLUMBER
Experienced in remodel & repair. Must be motivated & dependable. (734) 453-4622

Project Engineer II-Controls
for diesel engine manufacturer in Plymouth, MI. Requires Bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering, Electrical Engineering or related field and 2 years experience planning & executing functional integration & optimization of powertrain software & control systems into vehicle platform for engine, transmission, and driveline systems including reviewing engineering projects for compliance with engineering principles; performing controls algorithm and software analysis & development; performing technical studies, technical plans, failure mode analysis, engine testing and data analysis & validation and planning and executing engine performance and emissions research & development. The position is located in Plymouth, MI. Send resume to: AVL Powertrain Engineering, Inc., Attn: Neil Carter, 47603 Halyard Drive, Plymouth, MI 48170-2438. Please indicate PEIIIC in subject line.

REMOVABLE PARTIAL DENTAL TECHNICIAN
Experience preferred. Full-time. Farmington Hills
Phone: (248) 626-3144

Help Wanted - Medical

MEDICAL ASSISTANT, FT
Must know EKG, injections and vital signs for fun Farmington Hills family practice. Minimum 2 yrs exp. **A MUST.** Fax resume: 248-476-9709

Nurse Practitioner:
Geriatric Care Associates PLC seeks a Nurse Practitioner with a minimum Master in Gerontological Nursing. Must have unrestricted Michigan Board of Nursing Registered Nursing License and Nurse Practitioner Specialty Certification. Responsibilities include managing medical conditions of elderly patients at various sub-acute rehab nursing centers and long-term care facilities in Wayne, Oakland and Washtenaw counties. Mail cover letter, resume and salary requirements to: 2050 North Haggerty Road Ste 100, Canton, MI 48187

WAREHOUSE Part-Time
Entry level stock work. Flexible daytime hours. Will train. Now Ray Electric. Call: 248-449-4500

Job Opportunities

Help Wanted - Office Clerical

OFFICE WORK
Part-Time.
Livonia.
248-939-3524

Help Wanted - Dental

DENTAL RECEPTIONIST
Are you dependable, personable, organized, and a good communicator with strong telephone and computer skills? If you also have dental experience, a high quality specialty office is waiting for you to call: (248) 357-3100

FRONT DESK RECEPTIONIST
Exp. preferred, need computer skills, PT - average 30 hrs/wk. Scheduling appointments, answering phones, insurance claim processing, dependable, able to multi-task. Fax resume to: 734-425-1907

REMOVABLE PARTIAL DENTAL TECHNICIAN
Experience preferred. Full-time. Farmington Hills
Phone: (248) 626-3144

Help Wanted - Medical

MEDICAL ASSISTANT, FT
Must know EKG, injections and vital signs for fun Farmington Hills family practice. Minimum 2 yrs exp. **A MUST.** Fax resume: 248-476-9709

Nurse Practitioner:
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WAREHOUSE Part-Time
Entry level stock work. Flexible daytime hours. Will train. Now Ray Electric. Call: 248-449-4500

Help Wanted - General

Food - Beverage

COOK: Exp'd cook or caterer for fast, casual Mexican restaurant in downtown Detroit. 313-223-1400, ask for mgr.

Position Wanted

CNA: Employed at hospital, looking for work to care for the elderly. Light housekeeping, PT/weekends. (313) 467-5607

Attorney & Legal Counsel

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CS&R 734-425-1074

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After 5pm. 734-525-0192

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even more potential employees with an Observer & Eccentric and Hometown Recruitment Package!

For details call 1-800-579-7355

Help Wanted - General

Auction Sales

ESTATE AUCTION
Sat., Feb 23rd, 7pm
Cultural Center
525 Farmer
Plymouth, MI
Lardo Figurines
Hummel Figurines
Furniture, Glassware
Porcelain, Tools,
Cash/MC/Visa
Bank Debit Cards
No Checks
Doors Open 6pm
Joe Carl,
Professional
Auction Service
734.451.7444
jcauctions.com

Estates Sales

WESTLAND ESTATE SALE
By JAMIE'S ATTIC
Fri. 10-5 Sat. 10-4
8329 Rae St. Btwn. Joy & Ann Arbor Trail (by Hines)
Nice, Clean Estate Sale.
Quality Furniture, Bedroom Sets, Tons of knick knacks, decorative items, some 50's, Kitchen Items & Nice Appliances. Jewelry, House Packed.
www.jamiesattic.com
734-771-4537

Garage/Moving Sales

CANTON ESTATE SALE!
7551 Green Meadow Lane
Canton, MI 48187
Feb 22-24, Fri 10-5, Sat & Sun 10-4
Beautiful furniture, artwork, housewares, wrought iron patio furniture, electronics & more! (734) 819-1210

FARMINGTON Estate Sale:
30785 Hunters Dr., off 14 Mile, just west of Orchard Lake at Hunters Ridge Apts. Sat. 2/23, 9-4 & Sun 2/24, 10-3. Ultra suede sofas/loveseat, leather chairs, two table & chair sets, washer/dryer, kitchenware, crystal, linens, tools, books, artwork and much, much more! Photos at: www.michiganestatesales.com (734) 675-6586

PLYMOUTH
Large Estate / Indoor Garage Sale - Fri., Feb. 22nd & Sat., Feb. 23rd (11571 Maple Ridge Dr., Plymouth, MI - Country Club Village). 8AM to 4PM. Everything Must Go!! Please See Pic's on Craig's List. Kindel Dining Room Table, Heikman Kitchen Table, Older M & J Sianoa China Cabinet, Hutch and Tea Cart, Over-sized Like New Leather Sectional Sofa. 2 Coffee Tables. Lots of Collectables, Antiques & Fine Art, Oriental Rugs. Electronics including TV's, DVD Players, Stereo's and Surround Sound, Fine China and Casual Dining Wear. Sports Equipment, Movie Posters, King and Full Size Beds, 2 Sleeper Sofa's, 2 File Cabinets, Tons of Men's Clothing - Including Custom Suits, Ties, Shoes, Formal and Casual Clothing - Large and X-Large sizes, Women's Clothing (mostly medium 6, 8, including Vera Wang), Teenage Boy's Clothing - Large and X-Large sizes, DVD's, CD's, Tons of Toys, Games (including computer, video, board and puzzles), Clarinet, Saxophone, 9 Foot Pre-Lite Christmas Tree, Tons of Halloween Decor, Books and lots of Nick Knacks... Something for Everyone!! Perfect for Collectors, New Home Owners and those who Love to Shop and Save!!

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MOVING, MOVING, MOVING!
Bedroom Furniture, Dining Set (incl 16 pc china set), power tools, patio furniture, lawn equip. More. 734-748-8601

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Save 20% to 70% OFF Retail Prices!
2 Days Only!
March 1st & 2nd. Amazing Appliance Savings Event! Additional 15% OFF or 12 Months Special Financing when you use your Sears Card on Purchases \$299 and up!
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HOME GYM:
Multi function with free weights, \$300 firm.
Call: (734) 542-3097

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For details call 1-800-579-7355

Found - Pets

CAT FOUND- Feb 10, 2013
Gray/White cat found Warren/Middlebelt area in Garden City. Has no identification, female, approx. 8-10lbs.
248-943-2151

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PETS

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Cats

CAT: Very sweet, fixed female, black long hair. No young children. Needs loving home.
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4 mo old male pup. Housebroken and has most shots. Needs loving home. Asking \$300.
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I have 2 boys & 2 girls, 9 wks, w/ the parti gene. Very Small & Adorable \$750. Shots & wormed.
I also have 2 Parti Color Yorkies, black/white & tan. 13 wks. 2 boys & they are just adorable! \$900. Sheddies.
Please call Jenny (734)205-8263
jennullins77@yahoo.com

YORKIES (Teacup)
Very cute puppies. AKC registered. 804-322-1296.
petshowoff@gmail.com

Found - Pets

CAT FOUND- Feb 10, 2013
Gray/White cat found Warren/Middlebelt area in Garden City. Has no identification, female, approx. 8-10lbs.
248-943-2151

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CHARLEVOIX COUNTY SEEKS COMMISSION ON AGING DIRECTOR
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CANADA DRUG CENTER - your choice for safe and affordable medications. Our licensed Canadian mail order pharmacy will provide you with savings of up to 90 percent on all your medication needs. Call today 1-800-259-4150, for \$10.00 off your first prescription and free shipping.

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DISH NETWORK. STARTING AT \$19.99/MONTH (for 12 mos.) High Speed Internet starting at \$14.95/month (where available) SAVE! Ask About SAME DAY Installation! CALL Now! 1-888-638-5171

90 percent on all your medication needs. Call today 1-800-259-4150, for \$10.00 off your first prescription and free shipping.

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Twice a week
Thursday mornings & Saturday afternoons

Western Wayne County Area
Deliver The Observer Newspapers to homes in Western Wayne County.
Must have vehicle, valid driver's license & insurance.

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 Blizzard White, long bed, and ABS! Hard working truck!
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 1376007A, S/Crew, 4x4, 1thr., full power, Showroom New!!
 \$14,988
 DEALER
 734-261-6200

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 Jet Black, XLT, chrome and sunroof! Strong towing power!
 Only \$22,888!
 888-372-9836
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FORD F-150 2010
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Ford F-150 2010 K Inq Ranch
 4x4, V8, 40,000 miles. Fully loaded with equip. All leather int. \$31,000. 734-422-6938

FORD RANGER 2011
 P21586- S/Cab, Sport, 4x4, 1tp, 8,000 one owner miles!!
 DEALER
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FORD RANGER XLT 4x4
 2007, 24,000 miles, 1.9% and hard cover, \$18,000. Call: (248) 207-0062

GMC CANYON 2004
 Pitch Black, SLE, 4WD, and remote start! Off-road grill!
 Only \$14,884!
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GMC SIERRA 2000
 Excl. Cab, Blue, 4x4, \$8,500
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head to Cobo

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METRO DETROIT LOVES DOGS

Meet the five most popular breeds of dogs in the metro Detroit area. The American Kennel Club announced this month that the most popular dog in Detroit for 2012 were the German shepherd (a newcomer to the top spot in this poll), followed by rottweiler, Labrador retriever, Yorkshire terrier and bulldog.

Show dogs head to Cobo March 2-3

Dog lovers get ready. The Detroit Kennel Club, Michigan's only benched dog show, returns to Detroit's Cobo Center for the 110th and 111th shows, March 2-3.

The two-day celebration of dogs is expected to attract more than 2,000 dogs from more than 160 breeds and varieties recognized by the American Kennel Club. Show highlights include new demonstrations, obedience and conformation competition, rare breed exhibits and high flying four-legged competitions. Also featured will be the return of purebred rescue and the energetic Rock-N-Roll K9 Performance Team.

Novi breeders Michele and Michael Asher will show two of their Parson Russell terriers — Stevie (Cobblestones Six Million Dollar Man) and Ben (Cobblestones Show Me The Money). Ben, a seven-month-old male will participate in class competition, while Stevie will compete for Best of Breed honors. Michele Asher has been involved with dogs for some 40 years.

"My first job in life was working at a kennel — Perky's in Livonia," she said. "I did it all, learned to groom and care for dogs. I loved it."

The Ashers started breeding dober-

mans and German short-haired pointers. They downsized about 11 years to the Parson Russell — a much smaller breed. Michele says they made the right decision. "They are so smart," she said, adding on a daily basis she and Michael "crack up over something" the dogs do.

The couple currently has dogs ranging in age from four months to 11 years. They average one to two litters a year and that includes pet/companion dogs and shows dogs.

The guardians of many dogs over the

Please see **DOGS, 10**

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Proper heating requires the right balance

By **Lon Grossman**

Guest columnist

Q: I am having trouble balancing the heat in my house. It was built in 1940 and has finished ceilings in the basement (A point of interest — you were the inspector on our house before we bought it and did a thorough job — thanks again.) and there are many handles on the ceiling, which turn to let the heat flow to the rooms. I have no idea what I am doing so some of the rooms are cool and some are warm. It seems that somebody should be able to help us out and this is where you come in hopefully. Can you recommend a person or company that would be able to balance the heat properly?



Lon Grossman

A: Basement finished ceilings make the job more difficult but not impossible. Since I inspected the house for this reader I called them personally and explained how and also recommended three duct cleaning companies as well as three insulation companies. I will explain why in a minute.

Many, if not most people, do not realize they can and may need to adjust the dampers in their ductwork seasonally. Hot air rises and cold air falls, a fact we learned in high school. So in the summer if you close a few of the dampers and registers to rooms that are seldom used on the first floor, you'll force more cooler air upstairs where it will eventually settle to the lower level cooling the whole house. Don't ever close all the vents because you'll restrict the airflow and defeat what you're trying to accomplish. Vice versa for the winter months with regard to the dampers.

When the ductwork is visible in the basement, the job is relatively easy. You'll look to see where the vents terminate. If there is a room and the room's vent is directly above that area, you'll know the vent provides conditioned air to that particular room. If not, it goes to the second floor.

In your case, you cannot see the ductwork, just the damper handles. Have someone upstairs put his or her face by the register. Open and close each vent until they feel the airflow change. Don't rush because it takes time to detect the change. Also tapping

on the handle should give them a clue or help them to determine if you're on the right vent.

So you see, it is a job you can do. I recommended cleaning the ductwork since it had never been done. Be careful since cleaning the ductwork properly takes several hours and costs a minimum of \$300 to \$400. Don't be fooled and become a victim of one of those companies that advertise \$99 duct cleaning.

I also recommend that you check into adding more insulation to your walls and attic. A house built in the 1940s usually doesn't have enough. You can turn your heat all the way up but the cold walls and lack of insulation will suck it away and you'll still feel drafty as well as poor from your high heating bills.

Q: I live in an end unit condo, which has a bath and a half. In my full bath, there is a ceiling ventilator directly over the toilet, which sometimes drips. I have had a board member from the condo over to look at it. He claims it is caused by sweat caused by the attic conditions (pretty vague). If it is caused by sweat, why did it drip recently when the outside temperatures were below freezing? What kind of repairman should I contact? Would it be a roofer, plumber, or someone else?

A: Believe it or not, he is correct. Warm, moist air migrates or is pulled into the cold attic from the bathroom where it condensates and drips back down. You have a few ways to eliminate this problem. First, just wrap the exhaust vent pipe in the attic with insulation. The vent pipe should, without exception, be vented through the attic and to the exterior. If it isn't, do so.

Another solution is to install an "S" trap (almost like you have under your kitchen sink) in the flexible exhaust pipe.

Finally, instead of running the exhaust vent pipe up and through the roof, run it under the insulation over to the nearest roof eave and overhang and have it vent down through the soffit.

Lon Grossman of Bloomfield Hills 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/>.

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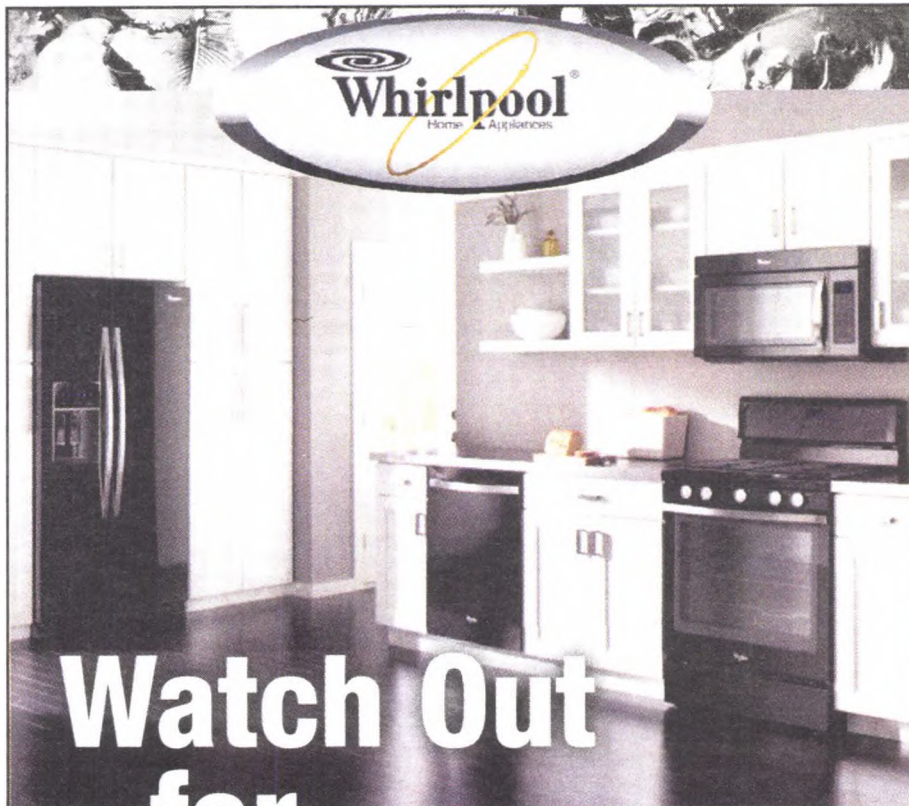
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(BPT) — Expecting a tax refund this tax season? If so, you may be interested in a convenient savings option offered by the U.S. Department of the Treasury. Taxpayers may buy paper Series I Savings Bonds, in amounts ranging from \$50 to \$5,000, with their annual tax refund by completing the “Allocation of Refund (Including Savings Bond Purchases)” IRS Form 8888. TreasuryDirect online account holders may deposit all or part of their tax refunds into their TreasuryDirect accounts.

“Each new tax season gives people a chance to build their savings,” says Jerry Kelly, national director of the Treasury Department’s Ready.Save.Grow. campaign. “The average annual tax refund of \$3,000 can compound over time when invested in savings bonds. I encourage tax refund recipients to learn more about the benefits of savings bonds as they plan for long-term savings goals.”

To use your tax refund this year to buy savings bonds, follow these steps:

- 1. Fill out Form 8888** — Complete this form to designate your desired dollar amount to buy paper Series I Savings Bonds or to deposit into your TreasuryDirect account.
- 2. Set up a TreasuryDirect account** — Although you can buy paper savings bonds with your tax refund, electronic savings bonds are even easier to manage with an online TreasuryDirect account. For instructions on how to set up a TreasuryDirect account, helpful tools including a tip sheet and guided tour can be found on www.treasurydirect.gov/readysavegrow.
- 3. Give paper savings bonds as a gift with tax refund dollars** — You may use your tax refund to buy paper savings bonds as a gift to others. To do so, add the recipient’s name as a “co-owner or beneficiary” on Form 8888. The bonds will be mailed to you.
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account by using Form 8888. Then use your TreasuryDirect account to make a gift of this deposit. Resources that provide guidance on gifting savings bonds include a tip sheet, demo and video, which are available on www.treasurydirect.gov/readysavegrow. To efficiently give savings bonds to your child using your tax refund, set up a minor-linked TreasuryDirect account in your child’s name.

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Information provided by the U.S. Department of the Treasury, Bureau of the Public Debt.

Think Spring for home improvement projects



Floors: Protect your asset with proper care

By Jill Halpin
Contributing Writer

Taking care of the floors in your home is about more than just regular housekeeping: it's about guarding an asset.

After all, the flooring in your home is one of your biggest home investments right alongside kitchens and bathrooms, local flooring experts say, and how you take care of them goes a long way toward protecting that investment.

"The floor in your home is probably in the top five investments in your home. Making sure that you maintain it properly is very important to help your home keep its value," said Kathy Keiper,

founder of Centurion Services, a residential and commercial floor cleaning company serving the southeast Michigan area.

"Your floors need to be managed in order to give them their full life expectancy," she said.

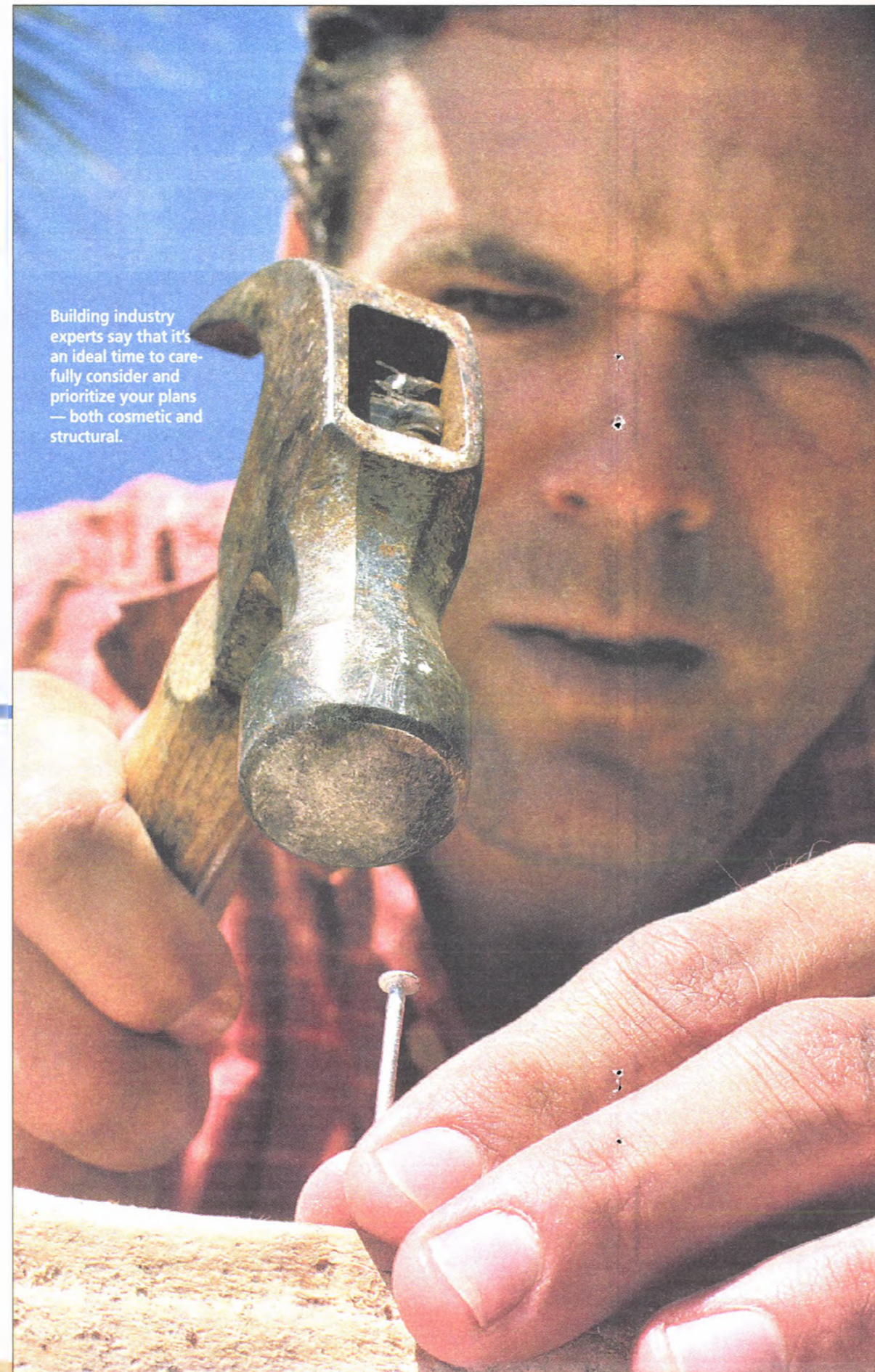
Wood flooring requires regular sweeping and "Swiffering," in order to keep it looking fresh, and requires only occasional cleaning with a "damp, not wet" water and vinegar solution.

"The finishes that were put on professionally protect your floor very well," said Ron Williams of Perfect Flooring in South Lyon.

Unless there is water damage, your wood floor-

Please see FLOORS, 12

Building industry experts say that it's an ideal time to carefully consider and prioritize your plans — both cosmetic and structural.



Shrug off winter chill with smart home projects

(BPT) - Spring is near and, for homeowners, now is the time to shrug off the winter chill and think about home improvement plans. Building industry experts say that it's an ideal time to carefully consider and prioritize your plans - both cosmetic and structural.

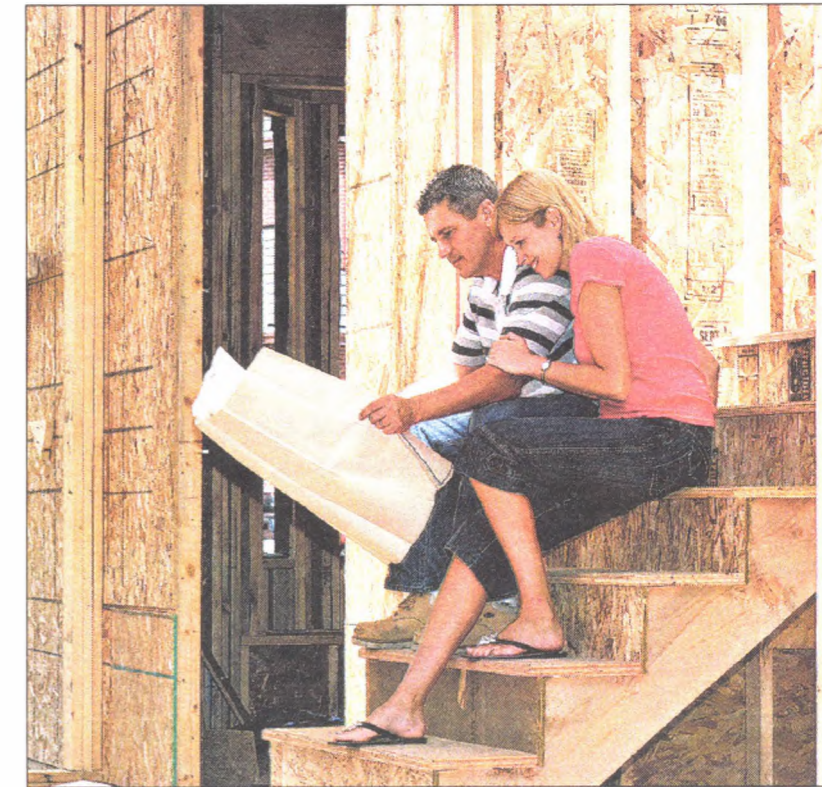
Understanding what is an essential home improvement and what is purely cosmetic is fundamental for those looking to make a smart investment area during a renovation project. Hiring an energy rater, inspector or appraiser to examine the home will give a better sense of the required work and avoid any subsequent costly headaches.

If you're thinking of going green, small changes such as using compact fluorescent light bulbs can contribute to reducing your home's carbon footprint. Fluorescent light bulbs typically have a longer life and use less energy thereby reducing excessive energy waste as well as monthly energy bills.

Investing in energy-efficient appliances is another effective way to live green and add value to your home. Many modern air conditioners use 30 to 50 percent less energy to produce the same amount of cool air as air conditioners from the 1970s, according to the U.S. Department of Energy. Homeowners with an old central air system can consider having a new, more energy efficient HVAC system installed. While these may come with an expensive up-front cost, the savings on energy bills over the long term will prove to be a wise investment. Additionally, the inclusion of other energy efficient appliances such as refrigerators, washing machines and dryers will contribute to lower energy bills.

Another significant way to reduce energy consumption is to ade-

Please see PROJECTS, 13



Smart spending tips for spring home improvements

(BPT) — Spring home improvement season is on the way, and if you're like most homeowners you have a list of jobs you want to accomplish. Some will be small, economical do-it-yourself projects. Others may require the services of a professional and a greater monetary investment. However you accomplish your home improvement plans, it's important to do so as cost-effectively as possible.

To make the most of your home improvement projects this spring, take these five steps:

1. Define what you want to do. Be precise and detailed in exactly what you want to accomplish. Going into a home

improvement project without a clear vision of the end result means you'll be making decisions on the fly — and that's the type of decision-making that can become costly. Knowing exactly what the scope of your project will be can help you better estimate the costs and stay on track with your budget and objectives.

2. Decide if you can do it yourself or need to hire a pro. Yes, DIY can save you dough, but only if you can do the job right the first time. Fixing mistakes can cost more in the long run than hiring a professional. Be honest with yourself about your DIY capabilities, and if a project is beyond your scope, look for a pro to help.

3. Make sure you're hiring a reputable contractor. While the majority of home improvement contractors are honorable and just trying to earn an honest living, there are also less reliable ones out there, too. Doing business only with companies or contractors who are licensed and bonded can help you weed out the scam artists. Always seek independent reviews of any contractor you may hire. Don't just rely on the references he or she provides.

4. Create a budget for your project, communicate it to your contractor and make sure he or she understands you're committed to staying on budget. Good contractors know how to



balance quality concerns and cost constraints and will work with you to avoid cost overruns. Your budget should lay out how much you will spend on materials and labor, with some "wiggle room" left over to cover emergencies or necessary changes.

5. Check your credit. It would be great to pay cash for everything your home needs, but it's not always possible. It's

Please see SPENDING, 12

Sudoku

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

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

Level: Beginner

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

Level: Intermediate

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

Level: Advanced

Answers found on page 12



Above, this is what Parson Russell terriers do when it's raining outside and they can't go out and play, says Michele Asher.



Spirit, 5, a Doberman and Emmy, 11, take a nap together.

DOGS

Continued from page 3

years, the Ashers also raised two children — Melissa, 27, and Michael Jr., 31.

The Ashers or their dogs attend and compete in some 50 shows a year.

Showgoers can see them along with Ben and Stevie at the DKC shows which are "benched," that means guests have the opportunity to meet with owners and breeders and learn about breed characteristics, temperament, care, health, grooming, history and other issues for dog owners. When dogs are not in the judging rings, they are required by the rules of the show to be displayed on a bench according to breed, making it easy for guests to talk to breeders of a specific dog in the same location.

The show catalog contains a breeder's directory that is a year-long reference for local veterinarians, breeders and show spectators and is considered "the local source" for a good breed referral.

"We are very excited to present another weekend packed full of family fun,

competition and, of course, offering visitors up-close and personal time with the breeders, owners and handlers," said Erik Bergishagen, president of the Detroit Kennel Club. "Being one of five benched shows in the United States, and the only one in Michigan, is an honor. It brings an element to our shows the public doesn't get at other shows."

The 110th DKC Show will take place Saturday, March 2, and the 111th show will follow Sunday, March 3. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$8 for children (ages 3-12) and seniors (65 and over). A family pass (two adults, three children) is also available for \$40. Tickets will be sold separately for each show and are good only for that day's show. Dogs will be on display to the public and demonstrations will run from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Best in Show will go into the ring approximately 6 p.m. each day.

For additional show information, contests and updates, follow the Detroit Kennel Club Dog Shows @DKCDogShows on Twitter, on Facebook and www.DetroitKennelClub.com.



Where are you headed on your next vacation?

Does winter leave you thinking about a dream vacation? Wonder where the hot spots are this year for a memorable getaway? Ever thought about where you would go if money was not an obstacle?

An annual survey by Travel Leaders Group, a national agency that specializes in both business and leisure travel, has revealed that four of the top five international destinations for luxury travelers in 2013 are in Europe, specifically river cruises. The only non-European luxury travel destination in the top five is Australia, which also happens to be the top "dream" destination for travelers if money were not an issue.

Conducted from Nov. 19 through Dec. 16 last year, these luxury travel trends are based on responses from 567 Travel Leaders Group owners, managers and front-line travel experts throughout the United States who identified themselves as selling luxury travel.

"Luxury and experiential travel are definitely strong segments for the industry right now. While you can look around and find numerous articles touting far-flung destinations as top spots for high-end travel, those lists appear to be aspirational rather than based in the reality of actual bookings," Travel Leaders Group CEO Barry Liben said. "Our top luxury travel destinations are based on actual booking data. It's no wonder river cruise companies are expanding their offerings and

adding more and more new ships. 'If you build it, they will come' has never more true than right now for luxury river cruising, particularly in Europe."

Based on the results of the survey:

- Nearly 93 percent of Travel Leaders Group's luxury travel agents report their Europe river cruise bookings are higher than or equal to last year at this time.
- More than 80 percent of the agents who book luxury travel report that their Mediterranean cruise bookings are higher than or equal to last year at this time.

Kate Rosevear, owner of the Travel Leaders branch in Plymouth, agreed that Europe is the hot destination for local travelers this year.

"Cruises in Europe are becoming more and more popular," she said. "Italy is our No. 1 international destination. Spain has also been gaining in popularity over the last couple of years."

"River cruises in Europe appeal to those who have done a lot of cruising in the Caribbean. The ship becomes their hotel room and the food is generally quite good. They end up spending a couple of days in Budapest, Prague, Paris or whichever city they wind up in at the end of the cruise."

Rosevear also mentioned the Greek Islands as an up-and-coming destination.

When Travel Leaders Group agents were asked to compare their overall 2013



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FLOORS

Continued from page 8

ing should last a lifetime, he said, adding that it is even possible to change the color of your wood floor with some simple sanding and resurfacing procedures.

"You can pick a different stain — go either lighter or darker — keeping the same flooring. You can end up with a whole different look without having to replace the floor," he said.

The best method for maintaining ceramic tiles and vinyl flooring is to make sure to clean up spills promptly, before they have the chance to leave stains.

In case of a stained or chipped ceramic or vinyl tile, it is possible to replace one at a time so be sure to keep some extras on hand during installation.

Pay attention to stained or darkened grout, Williams cautioned, if you are looking for a fresh and clean look.

"Grout can be professionally cleaned or even stained without replacing the tile," he said.

Caring for carpet properly begins with an important step that many homeowners may disregard: thorough vacuuming.

"Most people don't realize that you have to take your time and make sure you are vacuuming correctly at least twice a week in order to pull out all of the dirt — once slowly across the carpet and then again at a 90 degree angle — with a good quality vacuum," said Keiper.

"Loose soil is the easiest to remove and vacuuming in different directions is the best way to get as much dirt up as you can. Once you add water, it spreads and becomes a bigger mess requiring a professional," she said. Keiper recommends having your carpets cleaned by a professional yearly, or as recommended by the manufacturer. "Most people don't realize that their warranty states that the carpet must be properly maintained in order for the warranty to remain valid and that usually includes a professional carpet cleaning. It is important that consumers read their warranty completely and then follow the manufacturer's instructions for care," she said.

Be sure and keep carpet cleaning receipts just in case you need them as proof, Keiper advises.

Even though spring and fall are popular times for cleaning carpets, winter may be a good time to rid your house of the germs imbedded into carpeting.

"Winter is a good time to have carpets cleaned because we are all shut up inside with no fresh air, often with colds and flus and other viruses," Keiper said.

Developing an awareness of the traffic patterns on your carpeting can serve as a guide to knowing when to replace your carpet.

"Sometimes you can try to change the configuration of your furniture if you are noticing some traffic patterns that are causing excessive wear," Keiper said.

However when matting occurs and your carpeting is "trafficked out," it may be time to replace it, said Williams.

Be sure to choose a heavy carpet for longevity and durability, and pay attention to the texture retention.

"You want to be sure that it has a warranty for texture retention. A general warranty is not as important because all new carpets have stain resistance built right into their fibers," Williams said.

In addition to choosing a heavy duty, texture-retaining carpeting, you also want to make sure to choose an eight-pound pad.

"You also want to avoid thinner, low-end carpeting. Although it may be cheaper at the outset, you will only end up having to replace it sooner because it will not wear well," he said.



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SPENDING

Continued from page 9

likely you'll need to fund larger projects with credit, so it's important to understand your credit status before you apply for any kind of loan or line of credit. Knowing your credit score and what's on your credit report can help you better understand the likelihood of you getting the loan you need and what terms you might expect to get on a loan. Enrolling in a product such as freecreditscore.com offers you the chance to get credit score alerts, identity protection alerts and fraud resolution support.

Spring is a great time to make improvements that will increase your home's resale value and your enjoyment of your home. It's important to make wise decisions about how you'll manage and fund your home improvement projects, so that when the work is done, you're left with a better home — and as little debt as possible.

Sudoku Answers

Beginner

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

Intermediate

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

Advanced

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



TRAVEL

Continued from page 7

Luxury Travel bookings so far to their luxury travel bookings at this time last year, more than 86 percent of those surveyed say bookings are higher than or equal to 2012.

If money were no object

When all Travel Leaders Group owners, managers and agents who completed the survey (1,045) were asked to identify their clients' Top International Dream Destinations, if money were no object for the travelers, the following topped the list (agents were allowed to choose up to three destinations):

1. Australia, 46.58 percent; 2. Bora Bora, 25.92 percent; 3. Cruise-world, 20.26 percent; 4. Tahiti, 16.84 percent; 5. Italy, 16.58 percent; 6. Cruise-Europe (river), 13.82 percent; 7. South Africa, 13.55 percent;

8. United Arab Emirates, 12.63 percent; 9. Cruise-Europe (Mediterranean), 12.50 percent; 10. Fiji, 10.53 percent; 11. New Zealand, 9.87 percent; 12. Antarctica, 9.47 percent; 13. Ecuador-Galapagos Islands, 6.05 percent; 14. China, 5.26 percent; 15. Kenya, 4.34 percent; 16. France, 3.55 percent; 17. (tie) Bali and Cruise-China (river), both 3.42 percent; and 19. (tie) Cruise-Europe (Baltic) and Tanzania, both 2.89 percent.

These luxury trends are part of a comprehensive travel trends survey which included responses from 1,045 U.S.-based travel agency owners, managers and frontline travel agents from the flagship Travel Leaders brand, along with those affiliated with Travel Leaders Group's Luxury Travel Network, Nexion, Results! Travel, Travel Leaders Corporate, Tzell Travel Group and Vacation.com units. To view the results from the 2013 Travel Leaders Travel Trends Survey, visit www.travelleadersgroup.com.

PROJECTS

Continued from page 9

quately seal the home to stop air leaks by opting for a smart insulation material. Insulation experts say that homeowners should survey their house from top to bottom, and assess any trouble spots such as drafty areas or cold zones which could be caused by air leakage. Air leakage can limit the effectiveness of heating systems and leave you with higher energy bills. According to InsulationSmart.com, floors, walls and ceilings can account for up to 31 percent of air leakage in a home. Spray foam insulation, which can help combat air leakage, is growing in popularity among homeowners since it is an energy-efficient material that delivers year-round benefits. Spray foam insulation, like that available from Icynene, works well in all types of homes across the country, regardless of

climate.

Spray foam insulation performs for the life of the property, ensuring that homeowners enjoy comfortable indoor temperatures all year round without overrunning their heating and cooling equipment. Insulation experts from Icynene note that quality spray foam insulation can noticeably reduce heating and cooling costs, in some cases by up to 50 percent. Additionally, spray foam insulation helps minimize random airborne moisture and pollutants from entering the home, ideal for allergy sufferers. More information on the effectiveness of spray foam insulation is available online at www.icynene.com.

Updating your home with cost- and earth-conscious improvements will provide a multitude of benefits. Not only will your home be more comfortable, but you'll be saving money and doing right by the environment.

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Heart-smart recipes you'll love

Eating for heart health is actually easier — and more delicious — than you might think. When you have a good plan and plenty of mouthwatering recipes, you'll enjoy taking care of your heart.

According to the FDA, diets rich in whole grain foods and other plant foods, and low in saturated fat and cholesterol, may help reduce the risk of heart disease. Here are some tips to help you make these kinds of heart-smart choices:

- Choose leaner cuts of meat. You can find plenty of delicious options such as skinless chicken, lean pork and beef. And you can make smart substitutions, too — use ground turkey instead of ground beef to make meatloaf or burgers even leaner.

- Add fruits and veggies to every meal. Strawberries in yogurt, blueberries on a salad, carrots and hummus as a snack, roasted sweet potatoes with dinner — it's easier than you think to add nutrient-dense produce to your diet. Eat plenty of different colored produce for variety and a wider range of health benefits.

- Enjoy more whole grains. Whole grains add carbohydrates for energy, fiber to fill you up, and nutrients important for good health. And, according to a recent national survey, four out of five doctors recommend Post Shredded Wheat as part of a healthy, low-sodium diet, to maintain a healthy heart, reduce the risk of heart disease, and support healthy blood pressure levels. These recipes are a great start to adding more whole grains — and they're so good, you might forget they are heart smart.

Get more tips and heart-smart recipes at www.PostShreddedWheat.com.

Apple Crisp

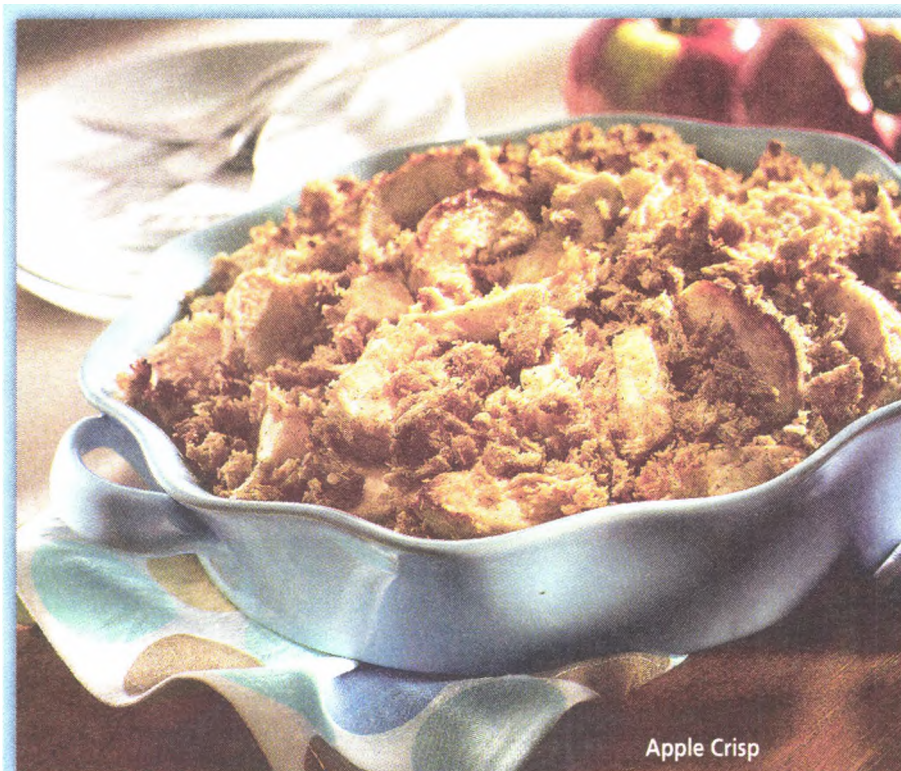
Total Time: 65 minutes
Makes: 6 servings

- 5 cups peeled apple slices
 - $\frac{1}{2}$ cup firmly packed light brown sugar, divided
 - 1 tablespoon lemon juice
 - 1 tablespoon tapioca
 - $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon ground cinnamon
 - $\frac{1}{2}$ cups Post Original Shredded Wheat Spoon Size Cereal, finely crushed
 - $\frac{1}{4}$ cup ($\frac{1}{2}$ stick) margarine, melted
- Preheat oven to 350°F.

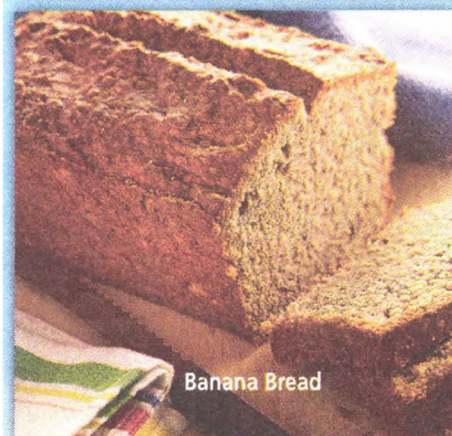
Mix apples, $\frac{1}{4}$ cup sugar, lemon juice, tapioca and cinnamon in large bowl. Let stand 10 minutes.

To make topping, stir crushed cereal, remaining $\frac{1}{4}$ cup sugar and margarine in medium bowl until well blended.

Spread apple mixture in ungreased



Apple Crisp



Banana Bread



Grab 'n Go Peanut Butter Bars

$1\frac{1}{2}$ -quart baking dish. Sprinkle evenly with cereal topping.

Bake for 45 minutes or until topping is browned and apples are tender when pierced with fork.

Savory Meatloaf

Total Time: 75 minutes
Makes: 12 servings

- 2 eggs
- 1 cup milk
- 2 pounds lean ground beef
- 3 biscuits Post Original Shredded Wheat Cereal, crushed
- 1 can (8 ounces) stewed tomatoes, undrained
- 1 medium onion, chopped

- $\frac{1}{4}$ cup chopped green pepper
 - 2 teaspoons Worcestershire sauce
 - 2 teaspoons salt
 - $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon ground black pepper
- Preheat oven to 375°F.

Beat eggs and milk in large bowl with wire whisk until well blended. Add remaining ingredients; mix well.

Shape meat mixture into oval loaf in shallow baking pan.

Bake 1 hour or until cooked through (160°F).

Variation: Prepare as directed, using fat-free milk and substituting $\frac{1}{2}$ cup cholesterol-free egg product for the eggs and 2 pounds thawed frozen ground turkey for the ground beef.

Grab 'n Go Peanut Butter Bars

Total Time: 10 minutes
Makes: 16 servings (1 bar per serving)

- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup firmly packed brown sugar
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup honey
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup reduced fat peanut butter
- 3 cups Post Original Shredded Wheat Spoon Size Cereal, coarsely crushed
- $\frac{1}{4}$ cup raisins

Mix sugar, honey and peanut butter in large microwavable bowl. Microwave on high $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 minutes or until bubbly at edge; stir until well blended. Stir in cereal and raisins.

Press firmly into 8-inch square pan sprayed with cooking spray. Cool. Cut into bars.

Store in airtight container.

Take Along Tip: After completely cooled, wrap bars individually in plastic wrap. Leave in bowl on kitchen counter for a great grab-and-go snack.

Banana Bread

Total Time: 65 minutes
Makes: 16 servings (1 slice per serving)

- $1\frac{1}{4}$ cups flour
- 1 cup Post Original Shredded Wheat Spoon Size Cereal, finely crushed
- 1 teaspoon pumpkin pie spice
- $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon baking powder
- $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon baking soda
- 1 cup sugar
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup (1 stick) margarine
- 2 eggs
- $\frac{1}{4}$ cup fat-free milk
- 1 cup mashed ripe bananas (about 2 large bananas)

Preheat oven to 350°F. Mix flour, cereal, spice, baking powder and baking soda in medium bowl; set aside.

Beat sugar and margarine in large bowl with electric mixer on medium speed until light and fluffy. Add eggs; mix well. Add flour mixture alternately with milk, beating well after each addition. Blend in bananas.

Pour into greased 9x5-inch loaf pan. Bake 1 hour to 1 hour 5 minutes or until toothpick inserted in center comes out clean. Cool in pan 10 minutes on wire rack; remove from pan. Cool completely.

Special Extra: Toast the bread slices and top each with a scoop of vanilla or chocolate sorbet and a drizzle of strawberry sauce for a different kind of banana split.

— Courtesy Family Features

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This playful series is designed to bring movement, energy, and breath back into your body. Suitable for all levels. Modifications are offered for body type, fitness level and ability.

Hatha Yoga (Wednesdays, 6:30 - 8 p.m.)

Experience the fullness of your practice by slowly merging asanas (postures) and breath to create a powerful, meditative flow, Vinyasa style. Six months of yoga experience required.

Bring a sticky mat and any other yoga prop you may need. Cost is \$9/class if paying for a full session (4 or 8 weeks) or \$11 drop-in fee.

POLYNESIAN AEROBICS (Thursdays, 6 - 7 p.m.)

This fun class will get your whole body moving and is designed for adult women of all fitness levels. Polynesian Aerobics not only builds strength in your legs and core, but can improve balance and coordination. This is also a great cardio workout!

Cost is \$8/class if paying for full session (6-8 weeks) or \$10 drop-in fee.

HULA - HARMONY OF HANDS, HIPS & HEART (Thursdays, 5 - 6 p.m.)

This class coordinates hands, hips and heart as we learn hula to classic mele (songs). Hula is easily adaptable to all fitness levels and enjoyed by all ages. Hula gets the whole body moving, improving coordination, control, agility and flexibility. Those recovering from surgery or new to physical activity can enjoy hula while seated.

Cost is \$8/class if paying for full session (6-8 weeks) or \$10 drop-in fee.

TO REGISTER FOR CLASSES, CALL 734.458.3242.

All classes are held in Westland Mall's Community Room unless otherwise noted.

For a complete list of scheduled classes:

Scan the QR code
Visit GCH.org
OR call 734.458.3242



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