SPRING FORWARD

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THURSDAY, MARCH 7, 2013 • hometownlife.com



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Fashion show

The Plymouth Community Council on Aging hosts the 2013 Fashion Show.

The show, featuring fashions by Dress Barn of Novi, takes place Monday, March 11, at the Plymouth Cultural Center. Doors open at 12:30 p.m., lunch is served at 12:45 p.m., and the show starts at 1:30. Tickets are \$5 for PCCA members, \$8 for non-

members and guests. The Plymouth **Cultural Center is** located at 525 Farmer in Plymouth. For more information, call (734) 453-1234, ext. 236.

City fears loss of revenue from personal property tax repeal

By Matt Jachman Staff Writer

The phase-out of Michigan's personal property tax is a work in progress, subject to legislative changes and a statewide vote next year, rather than a done deal.

·That was the message Monday evening from state legislators as they heard concerns from Plymouth and Northville officials about the revenue loss their budgets face with the end of the PPT.

Plymouth faces an estimated 2014 loss of \$38,580, while Northville faces a loss of \$59,113, officials said. Those figures are net of state replacement money (which does not apply in Northville because of the PPT's small effect on the overall tax base) and money from local assessments, subject to local votes, designed to replace PPT revenue that goes toward public safety purposes.

The PPT's elimination over 10 years was passed by a lame-duck session of the state Legislature in December and signed into law Dec. 20 by Gov. Rick Snyder. But the law ends the PPT for smaller businesses in 2014, and most businesses in Northville and Plymouth fall into that category, officials said.

No argument

No one argued that the PPT, a tax on business equipment and industrial machinery that's collected at the local level, should be kept as it was.

"I think everybody is in agreement that the PPT is a burdensome tax. It thwarts job growth" by creating a disincentive for companies to invest in new equipment, said state Rep. Kurt Heise, R-Plymouth Township.

Heise appeared with state Sens. Patrick Colbeck, R-Canton Township, and Mike Kowall, R-White Lake Township, at a joint meeting of the Plymouth City Commission and the North-

Please see REVENUE, A2

Bee buzz

Plymouth-Canton's **Community Literacy** Council hosts its 22nd annual spelling bee 7 p.m. Wednesday, March 13, at Canton High School. This fun evening of spirited competition benefits the council's goal of improving adult literacy in Plymouth-Canton and surrounding areas of Western Wayne County.

The Community Literacy Council is a volunteer, nonprofit organization that provides free literacy tutoring to adults via one-on-one instruction or small conversation groups.

For more information about ways to get involved, visit www.plymouthcantonliteracy.org or call Amy D'Urso at (734) 416-4906.

Parks hearing

Wayne County Parks

is holding a public hear-

ing on Monday, March

11, to announce a pro-

posed project that will

be considered for grant

funding in Hines Park.

will be at 6:30 p.m. at

Ann Arbor Trail, West-

Questions regard-

ing the public hearings

Elizabeth Iszler, Wayne

County Parks, at (734)

can be directed to

Crossword Puzzle ...

Entertainment

B10

A12

.B6

261-4312.

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Business.

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Homes.

Nankin Mills, 31375

The public hearing



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Patrick Kelleher with one of Headfirst Printing's T-shirts, this one for a football team from Hermann's Olde Town Grille in Plymouth's Old Village.

Partners in prosperity

Businesses combine printing, packaging at new digs

By Matt Jachman Staff Writer

A workspace-sharing arrangement between a couple of neighbors has become a partnership that's finding growth in two niche markets, specialty printing and special-

ty packaging. Headfirst Printing, a custom graphics shop, and ATS Packaging, a broker of corrugated packaging for shipping auto parts, recently moved from Plymouth's Old Village neighborhood to nearly 6,000 square feet on Jib Street west of Sheldon, in one of Plymouth Town-

ship's industrial parks. The additional space where electricity is drawn from the sun by 4,000 square feet of solar panels on the roof — gives the businesses room to add equipment, storage and a clothing showroom, plus take on new work assembling specialty packaging for one of the Detroit Three automakers.

"Our old place would kind of fit in the front room," said Patrick Kelleher, the public



Patrick Kelleher shows off old-school six-color screen printing equipment at Headfirst Printing on Jib Street. The company recently moved from a much smaller facility in Old Village.

face of Headfirst and a selfdescribed printing geek.

"I grew up in print," said Kelleher, who hails from Chicago. "I've had ink on my fingers my whole life." His father sold printing equipment, and Kelleher has worked at several print shops, freelanced as a print designer and Web designer, and managed Kinko's locations.

Sharing space

In September of 2011, Kelleher, who was freelancing at the time, and an Old Village neighbor, Anthony Sebastian, a specialty packaging broker, began sharing space on Davis Street in Old Village, getting a good deal on the lease and some old printing equipment,

Please see BUSINESSES, A3

One finalist withdraws from district search

By Brad Kadrich Staff Writer

Adrian Public Schools Superintendent Christopher Timmis has pulled his name from consideration for the soon-to-be-vacant superintendent's position in Plymouth-Canton.

Timmis, superintendent in Adrian since July 2008, notified Plymouth-Canton officials Monday he was withdrawing. The day after Timmis, one of four semifinalists interviewed by the Plymouth-Canton Board of Education last week, interviewed, he met with potential international partners on projects his district is considering. He also went on a fundraising trip.

The desire to finish those projects. and others like them, caused Timmis to withdraw from the Plymouth-Canton process.

"We are doing some exciting things in Adrian," Timmis said Tuesday. "The people in Plymouth-Canton are great people, and it's a wonderful district, but I just thought the timing, combined with the things I still want to accomplish here, made this the best decision."

Timmis was one of three candidates invited back for a second interview. He had been scheduled to talk to various interest groups, take a tour of the district, visit the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park and sit down for a second interview

School board President John Barrett said the board will continue on with the second-interview process with its other two finalists, Plymouth-Can-

Piease see FINALIST, A3



Adrian Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Chris Timmis withdrew from the pool being interviewed for the next **Plymouth-Canton Community Schools** superintendent.



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Observer & Eccentric | Thursday, March 7, 2013

Local man makes splash on big screen in 'Oz'

By Matt Jachman Staff Writer

A modest shipping manager from Livonia made his big-screen debut Tuesday in the made-in-Michigan prequel to a classic loved by generations of moviegoers.

Dan Gruenwald, a nearly 17-year employee of Superior Controls in Plymouth Township, plays three Munchkins in Oz the Great and Powerful, which tells a backstory to 1939's The Wizard of Oz and premiered Tuesday in Royal Oak. Oz the Great and Powerful, a Disney movie directed by Sam Raimi, a Hollywood veteran with Michigan roots, will be in wide release Friday.

"I was very pleased with the movie," said Gruenwald, who manages the shipping department for Superior Controls and a spinoff engineering company, Red Viking. "It's a great movie, kind of a little dark. ... It's before The Wizard of Oz. It's showing you how the wizard became the wizard."



Dan Gruenwald, left, in a scene from "Oz the Great and Powerful," in which he played three different Munchkins. The Livonia man, who works in Plymouth Township, said he was fortunate to be given a leave from his job to pursue acting. Filming was done in Michigan.

Gruenwald, who had acted before only on radio, was cast as three different Munchkins in the new Oz. Filming took place during summer 2011 at Raleigh Studios in Pontiac, where Gruenwald had to undergo two hours of makeup application each day.

Movie making is an amazing and complicated process, he said, expressing admiration for Raimi and others on the set.

"Once you do a movie, you appreciate how much goes into it," he said. "It's a lot of hurry up, hurry up and wait." Actors in makeup and costumes might sit for eight hours or more before getting in front of a camera, but they have to be at the ready, he said.

His favorite part, the former high school wrestler said, was doing stunts for the movie. But it was grueling at the same time, he said.

"Your body's not used to that kind of stuff," Gruenwald said. "I'm used to nine to five, a busy work week, but I'm not used to getting my body thrown around." Gruenwald, at 4-foot-2, lost 10 or 15 pounds, he said, to make stunts easier on himself and the actor who had to lift



Dan Gruenwald of Livonia, at left in the middle, in a dance number from "Oz the Great and Powerful," a prequel to the classic "The Wizard of Oz."

him.

Gruenwald got a twomonth leave from his job to pursue his Oz roles, a benefit for which, he said, he is grateful to company management.

"I'm very fortunate," he said. A fellow actor, he said, lost a job because of the movie's demands, while another flunked a semester in college.

Company communications manager Dawn McDonald-Watkins said Gruenwald is excited about the movie's release, but also has "kept it close" and has not been boastful. When he was away making Oz, she said, not everyone there knew what he was doing.

"I don't want to say he's been shy about it, but he's been really humble about it," she said.

Gruenwald said he made many friends and contacts on the set of Oz and would like to continue acting, but doesn't want to risk the security of a job he loves. "I don't know what the future

holds," he said.

He said he'd like to see Michigan filmmaking thrive and the state government restore tax incentives that helped the industry here.

"It's kind of nice to see something that was done in Michigan," he said, adding that the spinoff effect creates a lot of jobs in acting, set building, hotels and more. "If we're not going to give it to them, they just jump to another state."

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OBSERVER NEWSPAPERS Published Sunday and Thursday by the Observer & Eccentric Media

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A GANNETT COMPANY

REVENUE

Continued from page A1

ville City Council, held at Northville City Hall. Heise said many details

Heise said many details of how the PPT will be phased out, and replacement funds distributed, have yet to be ironed out.

For example, he said, lawmakers need to address how the law will affect taxing entities such as downtown development authorities and public library districts. Heise said he hopes details can be pinned down by the fall.

Election issue

In addition, voters will decide in August 2014 on the creation of a statewide authority that would administer the replacement funds. Heise said if that measure fails, most

other aspects of the PPT phase-out would fall apart.

Kowall said the PPT, along with the now-defunct Michigan Business Tax and its surcharge, which lawmakers did away with two years ago, were the biggest tax complaints he's heard from businesses.

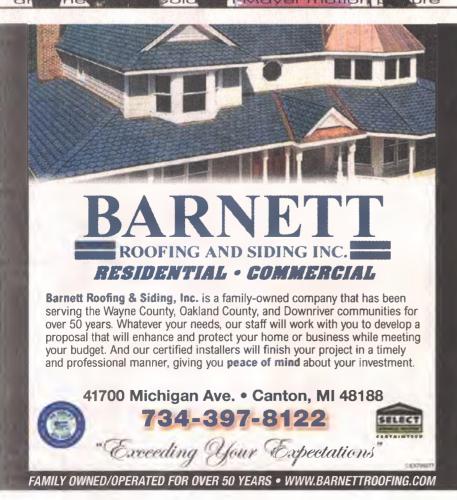
Local officials expressed concern that the PPT phase-out means more revenue will be taken from their communities after years of declining revenue.

"I don't think there's any disagreement on the tax (elimination)," Plymouth City Manager Paul Sincock said. "It's, how are you going to replace it at the local level because, frankly, we've taken a lot of cuts."

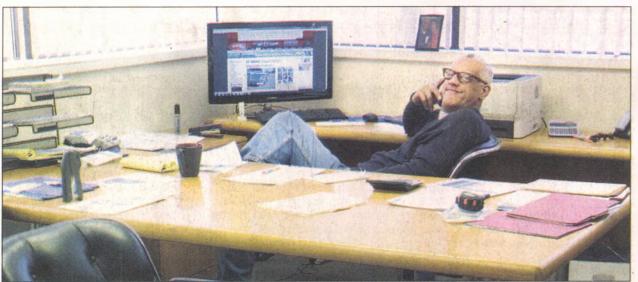
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BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Anthony Sebastian, who brokers specialty packaging for shipping automobile parts, jokes he is a "not-so-silent" partner in Patrick Kelleher's Headfirst Printing. At a new location in Plymouth Township, the partners are also branching into assembling specialty packaging for one of the Detroit Three automakers.

BUSINESSES

Continued from page A1

they said. Sebastian needed space for his own business, which was increasing with the resurgence of the automobile industry, and became a "not-so-silent" partner in Headfirst Printing.

Headfirst does a limited amount of traditional offset ink-on-paper printing, mostly for customers Kelleher acquired as a printing rep. But its forte is specialty printing—on clothing, bags, caps, banners, mugs and even golf tees—for retailers, athletic teams, clubs and companies' promotional items.

Kelleher is expanding a newer line of work — the custom-forming and cus-

tom-printing of cases for cellular phones, mostly for retailers.

Headfirst, he says, is the only company in the Midwest using a vacuum-form dye sublimation process to shape and print cell phone cases and computer tablet cases. The process uses heat to instantly transform solid inks into gases, which then permanently adhere to the plastic. The process is typically done in China, he said, and Headfirst had to buy a madein-China sublimation machine.

"We had to do a lot of modifications on it. We had to make hundreds of terrible cases before we made one good case," he said. Doing the printing in house, he said, allows for much faster shipping than contracting it out to China.

Tech contributions

Headfirst already has a website, www.thegreatcase.com, that customers can use to design their own cell phone cases. and Kelleher is planning a similar site for people who want to create their own shirt designs. Headfirst also uses dye sublimation to print "tech shirts," the breathable mesh shirts favored by runners, which leaves the printed portions of the shirts with the same feel as the unprinted fabric, as opposed to the patchy feel of screen-printed shirt designs.

Sebastian's technological contribution is a custom-designed package, complete with attached pallet, used for shipping a specific 100-pound automobile part for one of the Detroit Three. There's a limited demand, said Sebastian, who holds two packaging-related patents, but it's a good niche to get into. "All the grove goes into designing this," he said, showing off a

sample of the assembly.
Kelleher and Sebastian
hope to soon begin assembling the package under
a combined name, Headfirst ATS.

"Patrick's been a great partner," said Sebastian, who spends a lot of time on the road visiting auto plants that use his products and the manufacturers that make them. "I needed someone inside."

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VFW Post welcomes MP company home

The public is invited when VFW Post 6695 of Plymouth officially welcomes home members of the 303rd Military Police Group at a celebration Saturday at the Post headquarters.

The 303rd MP Company, based in Inkster, returned home recently from a tour in Afghanistan. Members of VFW Post 6695 adopted the company during their deployment and will welcome its members home in an official ceremony 5 p.m. Saturday at the Post, located at 1426 S. Mill in Plymouth.

According to VFW officials, members of the 303rd Military Police Company earned 12 Purple Hearts, 12 Bronze

Stars for valor, 20 Combat Action Badges and 20 Bronze Stars issued.

According to VFW
Post Commander Dennis
Bielskis, nine members
of the company were
caught in an ambush,
and four of those are still
in the hospital. One MP
might lose a leg, another
received shrapnel in the
eye with the metal still
lodged in his brain, and
one young lady was hit in
both hands "but is doing
well," according to Bielskis.

Post officials are serving pasta, but are asking folks to bring a dish to pass, including salads, desserts and breads to share.

For more information, call (248) 912-8825.



Members of VFW Post 6695 will welcome home members of the 303rd Military Police Group at a Saturday ceremony. The post adopted the 303rd while it was deployed.

FINALIST

Continued from page A1

ton Executive Director of Business Services Brodie Killian, who had his second interview Monday, and Michael Meissen, currently the district improvement/school improvement and student achievement supervisor for Milwaukee Public Schools. Meissen's second interview is set for Thursday.

"We're keeping the process exactly as we had it planned from the beginning," Barrett said. "We interviewed (Killian) Monday and we're doing our other interview (Meissen) Thursday."

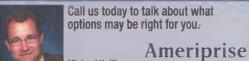
Barrett said the board will not bring in a replacement finalist for Timmis. Curtis Cain, associate superintendent for educational services for the Shawnee Mission School District in Overland Park, Kan., was the fourth semifinalist, but he will not be invited back in the wake of Timmis' withdrawal,

Barrett said.

"Everybody felt when we narrowed it to three that we had three excellent candidates," Barrett said. "We're still confident we have two excellent people."

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Pension recipients...have you been offered the option to receive a lump sum payment from your employer?



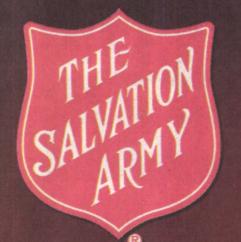
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Knife-wielding thief goes to prison

By Darrell Clem Staff Writer

A Westland man accused of wielding a knife inside a Canton Walmart store and stealing two laptop computers has been sentenced to one to five years in prison.

Sean Thomas Boegler, 46, has started serving his time behind bars after he was recently sentenced by Wayne County Circuit Judge Bruce Morrow for attempted armed robbery, according to the Michigan



Boegler

Department of Corrections. Boegler's decision to accept a plea to a reduced charge averted a trial for

armed robbery

- a more serious charge that carries penalties ranging up to life in prison with a conviction.

The case stemmed from an incident that Canton police say happened around 12:30

p.m. Friday, Dec. 14, inside the Walmart store on Ford Road east of Lotz. Boegler had been accused of brandishing a knife when employees approached him about two laptops he was attempting to steal.

Workers told police a man pulled a knife on loss prevention employees, fled and store and got into a getaway vehicle. However, quick action by witnesses helped Canton police trace Boegler to a Westland residence using a license plate number, Detective Sgt. Dave Schreiner has said.

Authorities made an arrest and impounded the vehicle they believe was used during the Walmart incident.

"They did recover the stolen merchandise," Schreiner has

Boegler's case was sent to Wayne County Circuit Court for disposition after he voluntarily waived his right to a preliminary examination in late December in Plymouth 35th District Court.

According to the Michigan Department of Corrections, Boegler could potentially be released from prison as early as next Dec. 12, because he has been given credit for time spent in jail while he was awaiting the outcome of his case.

If he serves the maximum sentence, however, he wouldn't be eligible for release until Dec. 12, 2017.

dclem@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-2238 Twitter: @CantonObserver

PLYMOUTH CRIME WATCH

Vehicle thefts

A sport-utility vehicle was stolen late last month from outside an apartment on Brougham Street, in the area of Wilcox Road and Hines Drive, police report.

The theft occurred between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. on Jan. 27, according to a Plymouth Township Police Department report. The victim told police she had left her 2005 Jeep Liberty unlocked and with the keys in the center console.

Bank statements and a laptop computer were in the Liberty, the woman said.

In another reported vehicle theft, a 2008 Chevrolet Impala was stolen from another apartment complex on Newport, in the area of Joy Road and Haggerty, police said. The theft occurred between late Friday night and just after noon Saturday, a police report said.

The victim told police the car had been locked, and she had possession of both sets of keys, police said. Police found no broken glass at the spot where the Impala had been parked.

Fraud

A 52-year-old township man reported recently that someone had filed a 2012 income tax return using his name and Social Security number. The Internal Revenue Service is investigating.

The victim told police Feb. 26 that he had received a letter from the IRS the day before stating that his 2012 return had been received and was under review. But the man hadn't yet filed a 2012 return, he said.

In addition to going to police, the victim filed a complaint with the Federal Trade Commission

Vandalism

A brick was thrown through a window at a building on Main Street, south of Ann Arbor Road in the township, on the night of Feb. 27, police said.

The complainant told police she locked up the building late in the afternoon of Feb. 27 and returned the next morning to find the window broken. Police said entry into the building was not gained.

— By Matt Jachman

Business break-in

Canton police were investigating a break-in that occurred around 4 a.m. Sunday at the Country Deli & Wine Shop, in a shopping center on Lilley just north of Warren.

A 28-year-old man reported receiving an alarm when the incident occurred. A witness also told police he had seen a small group of people near the front of the store and then he heard a loud noise.

Police went to the store and found the entry glass door had been shattered, with glass covering the sidewalk. Authorities brought in a police dog but didn't immediately locate a suspect.

A police report indicated cigarettes had been taken during the break-in.

Airport intruder

Canton police were investigating reports of a break-in at a storage shed at Mettetal Airport, southeast of Joy and Lilley roads on Canton's north side. The incident happened sometime prior to 8 a.m. Tuesday. Nothing appeared to be missing.

iPhone stolen

A 24-year-old man told Canton police his iPhone was stolen while he was working Feb. 21 at the Dollar Tree store on Joy Road east of Morton Taylor.

CANTON CRIME WATCH

The man reported he had taken his new \$500 phone to work and was told by a manager to put it away or it would be locked in the office, a police report said.

The employee placed the iPhone near an area of the checkout lane and later noticed it was missing. The manager denied taking the phone, police said, and it wasn't clear who may have taken the phone.

Laptop lifted

A Canton High School teacher reported a laptop computer was missing from her classroom Friday morning, southwest of Joy and Canton Center roads.

A police report indicated the missing laptop was brought to her attention during second hour, raising questions about whether it had been stolen during first hour, a police report said.

Missing plate

A 52-year-old man who lives on Fordham Circle, northeast of Ford and Morton Taylor roads, notified police after the license plate was stolen off his 2006 Ford Taurus sometime between 11 p.m. Friday and 7 a.m. Saturday, a police report said.

The man told police he had parked the vehicle in front of a friend's apartment. He said he didn't hear any suspicious activi-

ty during the night. **Custody dispute**

A man involved in a custody dispute with his ex-wife over their daughter contacted police following allegations the ex-wife may have kicked and damaged the taillight of his 2003 Chevy Trailblazer while it was parked at the Holiday Estates mobile home park on Geddes west of Canton Center.

Police received a call about the incident about 6:25 p.m. Saturday. The man told police his ex-

wife had come by the house to drop off their daughter when an argument ensued. He told police he didn't want to prosecute the woman but wanted to file a police report as part of an ongoing custody dispute.

Car damaged

A 21-year-old woman contacted police after her vehicle was damaged while it was parked in a shopping plaza on Lilley Road just south of Joy Road shortly before 8 p.m. Monday.

The woman went to the police station to report the incident. She said she went to her car and noticed a large hole with multiple cracks in the rear bumper on the driver's side.

- By Darrell Clem



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Robotics team captures Kettering district

LOCAL NEWS

By Brad Kadrich Staff Writer

The Plymouth-Canton Lightning Robotics 862 team picked up last weekend right where they left

Lightning 862 won its first competition of 2013, capturing the district title at Kettering University. The team combined with the alliance of Team 70 (More Martians of Goodrich) and 910 (Foley Freeze of Madison Heights).

The team conquered this year's game, building a robot that can climb 90 inches and shoot Frisbees accurately.

While winning the district title, the team also captured the Engineering Inspiration Award, which celebrates a team's outstanding efforts in advancing respect and appreciation for engineering and engineers, both within their school



Plymouth-Canton robotics team members started building their robot in January, and it won the Kettering district last weekend.

and their community.

"The robotics team had three great days at Kettering," said Jay Obsniuk, the team's advisor.

The win capped the efforts of the team that started when the build season began in January.

"The robot game this year has been a big challenge," Obsniuk said. "Trying to get a robot to climb 90 inches and

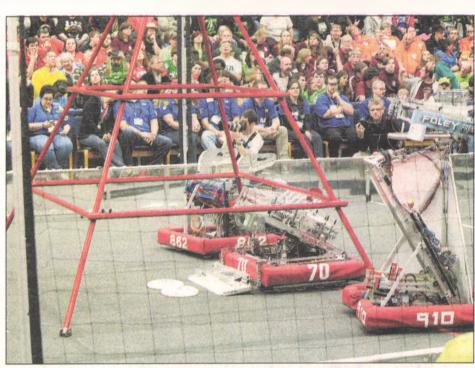
shoot Frisbees took a lot of time to come up with a design, keep the students involved and build many prototypes."

Next up for the 109member team: District competitions March 22-23 at Grand Valley State University and April 5-6 at Bedford High School.

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



Members of the 109-member Plymouth-Canton Lighting Robotics 862 team react to winning the district competition at Kettering University last weekend.



Plymouth-Canton's Lightning 862 won its first competition of 2013, capturing the district title at Kettering University. The team combined with the alliance of Team 70 (More Martians of Goodrich) and 910 (Foley Freeze of Madison Heights).







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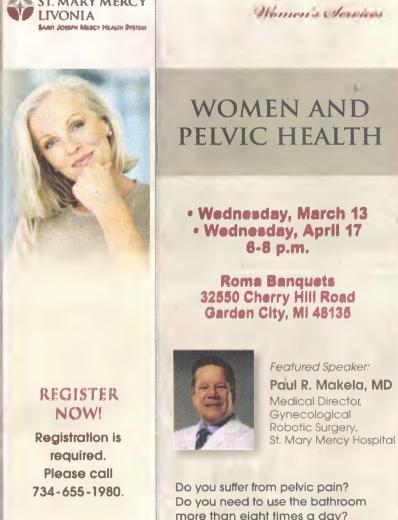
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Homeowners find help at Canton expo

By Brad Kadrich Staff Writer

Kathleen McFall of Livonia has been looking for six months for someone to carve a tree in her front yard into an animal shape of some sort.

She'd had no luck, until Saturday.

That's when McFall and her husband, George, walked up to the Home Expo at the Summit on the Park in Canton. The first person to whom McFall spoke was Tom Fink, and her problem was solved.

"I would go to antique stores and other places and ask if anyone knew someone, and no one did." McFall recalled. "Then I walk up here, and the first guy I talk to is going to come take a look.

It's the kind of service Canton Township officials say the expo provides. The two-day event featured more than 100 vendors, demonstrations and workshops, plus an appearance from Joe Gagnon, "The Appliance Doctor" from WAAM-AM (1600).

And it was the kind of service Fink, owner of Cut & Carve Chainsaw Artistry of West Bloomfield, was happy to provide. Fink said this was his fourth Canton expo.

"I enjoy (the expo), and I've made some sales," Fink said. "Mostly it's another opportunity to carve. It gets me off the sofa," he added, smiling.

Frank and Carly Plescia of Canton were smiling, too. They're considering a re-do of the deck at their Canton home and were looking for product



Frank and Carly Plescia of Canton check in at the reception table at the opening of the two-day Canton Home Expo.

information and contractor contact numbers.

Observer & Eccentric | Thursday, March 7, 2013

'We're interested in a particular product, and we were really impressed with it," Carly said, to which Frank added, "There was a good variety of products and services available."

While consumers count

on the expo as a source of product and service information, it's a valuable conduit for the vendors, as well. Karen Rysztak of Mechanical Energy Systems, an alternative energy leader based in Canton, said the expo is . a great teaching tool.

"It's about educating

people, that's the main thing," Rysztak said.
"While we want to make sales, we want to educate people so they can understand" options about energy savings.

Heidi Wong of Canton just bought a house, which is heated by propane. She was at the expo looking for ways to save on energy.

"My new house is prime for solar panels," Wong said. "We're getting ready to retire and we were looking for a way to lower our utilities."

Stacey Kim, a designer for Accent Remodeling of Canton, said her

company takes part in a variety of similar shows, but likes staying close to

home, too. "We get quite a few referrals," Kim said. "A lot of our work is in the area, so this is more localized."

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



Jordan Cockrum of Canton spins the wheel to win a prize at the Kroll Construction booth at Canton's home expo. That's Justin Murphy of Kroll watching her win. Kroll Construction is based in Garden City.



Mandy Wilkinson of Livonia kept the popcorn flowing at the Handy Pro booth.



Esha Kalsi of Canton took time out from browsing the Canton Home Expo vendor booths to give a hug to a dinosaur.



Heidi Wong of Canton hears advice on alternative energy from Livonia resident Karen Rysztak and Daren Griffith of Owosso, representing Mechanical Energy Systems in Canton.



Julia and Michael Kyle of Canton stopped by the Accent Remodeling booth, where designer Stacey Kim gave them some advice.



Tom Fink of Cut & Carve Chainsaw Artistry of West Bloomfield did a variety of carving demonstrations.



George and Kathleen McFall of Livonia talk with Handy Pro renovation specialist Michael Macunovich at the Canton Home Expo Saturday.

Growth Works presents annual awards

Growth Works Inc., a nonprofit comprehensive youth services agency active in Western Wayne County, recently held a dinner for the recognition of volunteers, community members and young people who have been lauded for their efforts over the past year.

Since 1970, the Plymouth-based agency's focus has remained the provision of services for at-risk youth, helping to change immediate behavior while promoting longterm commitment to responsible choices while building stronger families. Growth Works' primary programs include Aftercare & Residential Treatment (ART), Community Intervention & Treatment (CIT) and the Western Wayne Care Management Organiza-



Brett Campbell, a youth honoree, poses with his parents and Growth Works staffers Denise Dornton (far left) and Erin Ennis (next to Brett Campbell).

tion (CMO).

Volunteers Janet Volante and Ken Brooks are being recognized for milestone years, 15 and five, respectively, serving on the Board of Directors and bringing their expertise and support to the agency. Former Wayne

County Commissioner Joan Gebhardt, a Democrat, received a community award for her efforts aimed at improving the lives of young people, serving on the Youth Services Committee and supporting programs to bring drug education

and community initiatives to Livonia. A former employee, April Wyncott was also recognized for her time and commitment to the CMO since its inception in 1999.

LOCAL NEWS

Youth program awards have been received by Brett Campbell, Marena Siladi, Juan Hernandez and Anthony Browne for their special achievements and outstanding efforts over the past year.

Awards were presented at the Growth Works' 24th annual Recognition & Awards Dinner, held Feb. 28 at the Fox Hills Golf and Conference Center near Plymouth.

For further information about Growth Works, its program and events, call (734) 455-4095.

Dr. Karissa Jagacki,

Audiologist

Kimberly Carnicom, Audiologist

Matt Lewandowski,

Audiology Resident

Society looks at local history at conference

The 55th annual Michigan in Perspective: The Local History Conference will be held March 22-23 at the Holiday in Detroit-Livonia Conference Center.

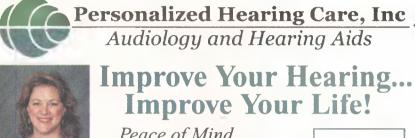
The conference is one of the Historical Society of Michigan's four major history conferences. Organized by the Michigan in Perspective Planning Committee, the conference will feature several keynote speakers and breakout sessions focused on local history in Michigan.

Open to anyone interested in state or region-

al history, registration for the two-day event is only \$39 (\$49 after March 13). Meals that feature keynote speakers, including lunch on both days and breakfast on Saturday, are available by reservation on a space-available basis. The luncheons are \$22 per ticket, and the Saturday breakfast is \$17 per ticket. Register online at www.hsmichigan.org or by calling (800) 692-1828.

To see the full conference flier or to register, go online to www.hsmichigan.org/conferences/ local-history-conference.





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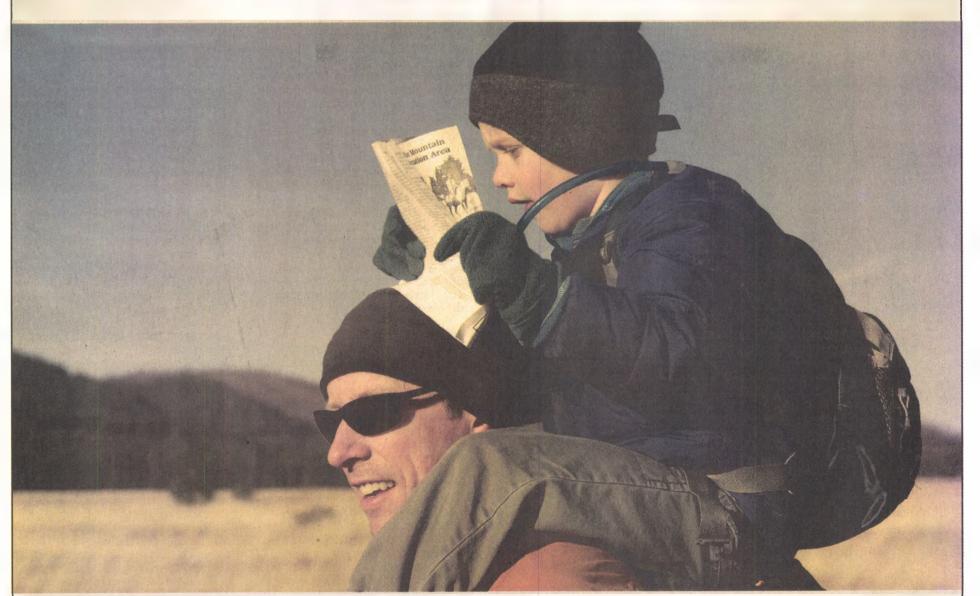
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By Jon Gunnells **Guest** Columnist

one are the days of hooking up large, expensive video game systems to your living room team. There's now a much easier way to play video games and it's a lot easier and more intuitive than simple touch screen gaming on your mobile device.

Using Moga, a portable, powerful gaming control, gamers can play a wide variety of games from their Android or Apple smartphone or tablet. The controller, which costs \$49.99, can pair with your existing games, but also comes with "an amazing" library of titles.

Some of the games preloaded on the Moga controller are arcade and game system classics such as Pac-Man and Sonic the Hedgehog. Additionally titles can even be downloaded courtesy of the Moga Pivot app. New titles are added to the gaming library each

I recently tried the Moga controller, pairing it with a Samsung Galaxy Tab 7.7. Both items were provided courtesy of Verizon Wireless. Playing games on the Moga was seamless and the only true downside was my lack of Pac-Man skill.

The Moga controller, which is about the size and shape of an Xbox 360 controller, has an impressive battery life of about 18 hours. The controller



Tech Savvy

Jon Gunnells

the best features about the Moga is how easily it connects to your device. The controller is Bluetooth enabled so there is no need to use cords between the controller and mobile unit. Secondly, moga has a stand that smart phones can be set on. Instead of holding a phone, you can simply hold the control and have

access to both devices. Moga can be purchased online, through a variety of big box retailers or at Verizon Wireless

New apps to try

Sick of Angry Birds and Words With Friends? There's a laundry list of new (to me at least) mobile apps that will keep you occupied during your lunch break or on a rainy Saturday afternoon.

Temple Run 2: The first installment was fun and addicting and the sequel is just as good — but harder. Navigate temples on foot and in vehicles while avoiding obstacles to get your high score. Temple Run 2 is a free app that is available on Android and Apple devices.

Mario Kart or simply competing with your friends, Fun Run is for you. Race against three other users in real-time, but be careful of lightning bolts and other hazards that competitors put in your way. Invite

Fun Run: If you like

friends for private races and get points for better finishes. Points can be used to customize your character and upgrade to other characters. Fun run is also free and available on Android and Apple

devices.

Hill Climb Racer: This title isn't necessarily new, but if you haven't tried it you are missing out. This very simple game allows users to drive their vehicles through mountains and other challenging terrains. It's not easy, but the better you do, the more coins you collect to upgrade your car parts and even buy new vehicles. The first few levels can get tiring, but if you can make it to the Moon level, you will have weeks of fun. Hill Climb Racer is another free app available on both Android and Apple platforms.

Now that you have the newest apps and newest in mobile gaming, what are you waiting for? Get

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.

IT'S YOUR BUSINESS Q&A

Charity hopes to prevent tragedy

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

Kevin Fischer: Established to fund scholarships to Detroit Catholic Central High School and support organization that help individuals and families living with mental illness.

Observer: How did you first decide to open your

Kevin Fischer: I lost my son to suicide in 2010 after a three-year battle with mental illness.

Observer: Why did you choose the Plymouth-Canton

Kevin Fischer: It's where he grew up and died, and it's where we host most of our fundrais-

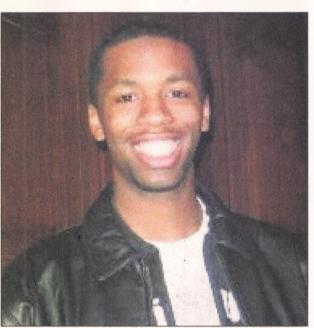
Observer: What makes your business unique?

Kevin Fischer: Passion for driving awareness/ education, preventing others from suffering the same tragedy.

Observer: How has it changed since you opened? Kevin Fischer: We've

grown annually in participation and awareness. Observer: Any advice for

other business owners? Kevin Fischer: Follow your heart.



The Dominique Fischer Memorial Foundation was established in honor of Dominique Fischer. The nonprofit helps individuals and families living with mental illness.

DETAILS

Business name and address: Dominique Fischer Memorial Foundation, P.O. Box 5443, Plymouth, MI

Your name: Kevin Fischer, president Your hometown: Plymouth **Business opened:** June 2011

Your business specialty: Nonprofit charity. Business phone/website: (734) 667-2475/www.thenique.com

Observer: What's in store in the future for your business? Kevin Fischer: Growth!

Number of employees: 3

We just need to help those who need it, but don't know where to go.



Business mixer

Ribar Floral of Plymouth sponsors its monthly Business 2 Business Mixer 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 12, hosted by Scrambler Marie's Restaurants and Tammy Brown Agency-Farm Bureau Insurance, 43225 Ford Road in Canton.

The event is open to businesses in Plymouth, Canton, Northville and surrounding areas, and is a chance for business-to-business mixing. Participants should bring business cards for exchanging with fellow business areas.

There are no fees or groups to join. For more information, email ribarflo-

Grand slam

A local fine jewelry store, Showroom of Elegance, located at 6018 Canton Center Rd, is asking Detroit Tigers fans to take a leap of faith in March for a potential big pay out.

Anyone who purchases jewelry March 12-23 is automatically eligible to receive their merchandise purchases for free if the Detroit Tigers hit a grand slam in the ninth inning at the home opener on April 5th against the New York Yankees. Some restrictions apply as only the first \$50,000 worth of merchandise purchases will be considered for the

Grand Slam promotion. 'We love our clients and this promotion is specifically for them," said Showroom owner Linda Robin. "Instead of peanuts or Cracker Jacks, we hope fans check out our selection of diamond

rings and colored stone earrings." For questions about this promotion call (734) 207-1906.

Business News

From the desk of the folks at the Plymouth Downtown Development Authority:

· Dean Sadler Hair and Makeup Studio is delighted to welcome Ashley Maloney and Kathy Gosney to the team. Maloney previously worked at Clover Salon and Gosney came over from Salon

Awesome. • Several welds have broken on the metal staircase located on the east side of the Central Parking Deck (behind 336). The stairs are no longer safe, and have been blocked off to help prevent pedestrian usage. However, as a reminder, drivers are encouraged to use the pedestrian ramp entrance to the second level of the parking deck that is accessible from Main St. between the Sardine Room and 336.

• The fifth annual Diva Day takes place Saturday, March 23, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. in downtown Plymouth. The first 500 Divas will get free Hot Pink Boas. Little Divas and Diva Dogs are also welcome.

Downtown Plymouth boutiques, salons and restaurants will present special offers, unique refreshments and chances to win Diva Day prizes. Participating shops include: Basket Kreations: Beauty Haven; Bella Mia; Bohemian Home; Candy Trail; Core Sports Pilates Fitness Studio; Creatopia Pottery Stu-



Expo excellence

Dr. Michael Brackney of the Brackney Chiropractic Health Center had Canton resident Sherry Purchase in his massage chair during last weekend's Canton Home Expo at the Summit on the Park in Canton. The annual expo featured more than 100 vendors, demonstrations and workshops. For more information and photos, please see our photo page on page A6.

dio; Dazzling Daniela; Dearborn Jewelers; Eclectic Attic; Genuine Toy Co.; Gigi's Mode; Hands on Leather; lolaryan; Magnolia, A Fresh Flower Market; Merle Norman; Old World Olive Press; Opndohr; Pawsitive Pet Massage; Simply the Best Boutique; Spa Agio; Sun & Snow; Sunny Js; That's Awesome; Tran-

The event is free to attend. For more information call (734) 453-1540 or visit www.plymouthmich.org/events.

Mad Hatter Tea

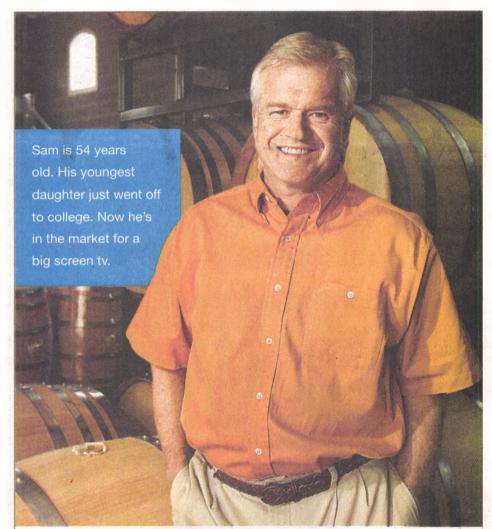
The Plymouth Historical Museum hosts its annual Mad Hatter Tea 2-4 p.m., Sunday, March 10.

"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 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 nonmembers, 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.plymouthhistory.org/Events.html using Pay-

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



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Nearly 350 tickets were sold for the Canton Partnership for the Arts & Humanities fundraiser Saturday at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill. The event featured food from Antonio's Cucina Italiana and Panache.

Arts party raises \$15,000

Steve King likes playing the Village Theater at Cherry Hill, and if the crowd Saturday was any indication, the feeling is

mutual.

Nearly 350 people turned out to see King and his Dittilies, who headlined the fundraiser for the Canton Partnership for the Arts & Humanities for the second straight year.

The evening featured the music of the Dittilies, along with food presentations from Antonio's Cucina Italiana and Panache 447. Showroom of Elegance handed out cubic zirconia stud earrings with a \$25 gift card to the ladies in attendance.

All of that led to proceeds of more than \$15,000, including ticket sales and sponsorships, for the partnership.

"It was a great night," said Jill Engel, the partnership's executive director. "Every person leaving the theater told me what a wonderful time they had."

Stacy Hogan, a Partnership donor, said the fact it was a fundraiser was almost secondary.

"They are incredibly talented musicians and

the show was entertaining from start to finish," Hogan said. "The fact that it was a fundraiser for the Partnership was a bonus. We will definitely attend next year."

April Robichaud of Canton said the partnership fundraiser is becoming an annual tradition for her and her husband, Ron.

"We had a blast, both years we saw them," Robichaud said. "The music is great, we love how they are so engaging with the audience and that we can get up and dance like we were at a bar, without it being a bar atmosphere."

Estate planning not only for the wealthy

By Rick Bloom
Guest Columnist

t one of my recent library speeches, I was asked if estate planning is important now that the estate tax exemption has risen to over \$5 million.

The person who asked the question thought that with the high estate tax exemption the great majority of people would not have to pay taxes and, therefore, estate planning

was not important.

I want to share my

answer with you.
Estate taxes are one reason for estate planning. Although avoiding estate taxes are important there are other things that are more important. I believe that people do estate planning to save on taxes, avoid probate and more importantly, to make sure that there is an orderly distribution of property upon death.

One of the main goals of estate planning is to do what you can so that families do not fight. Unfortunately, we see it all the time. An estate may have avoided taxes but the family is left in ruins because of all the infighting. The goal of estate

planning
has never
been just
to save
on taxes,
but also
to protect
someone's
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Money Matters

Rick Bloom

tion and costs.

People tend to think that if you avoid estate taxes you also avoid probate. That is not the case. The estate tax is administered by the federal government, while probate is dictated by the state. Therefore, just because your estate is under \$5 million and there is no federal estate taxes issue, that doesn't mean you can't have all sorts of problems with probate. Therefore, in today's environment, the avoidance of probate has become a major benefit of doing proper estate planning.

Most people think that estate planning deals with issues after death. Although that is true, estate planning is also very valuable before death. For example, having medical durable power of attorney and gener-

al durable power of attorney can be valuable documents in cases of family emergencies.

My philosophy is the more you can keep judges, courts and attorneys out of family affairs, the easier life will be. Doing proper estate planning can accomplish this. After all, in cases of a family emergency no one wants to have outsiders involved in the decision-making process. Proper estate planning accomplishes this.

It is a mistake to assume that only the wealthy need estate planning. Under the new estate tax laws, they may be the only ones subject to estate tax, but that is just one element of estate planning. Every adult needs some sort of an estate plan. Not everyone needs a trust. Not everyone needs sophisticated estate planning documents. Everyone, however, need some estate

planning. 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 email him at rick@bloomassetmanagement.com.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE OF PERSONAL PROPERTY

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned will sell, to satisfy lien of the owner, at public sale by competitive bidding on **Monday, March 18th, 2013 at 9:30 A.M.** at the Extra Space Storage facility located at:

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Publish: February 28 & March 7, 2013

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Gannett Local, O&E Media help businesses go digital

More than 250 customers learned how diving into the digital age can improve business at a seminar presented recently by Gannett Local, a division of Gannett Co. Inc., the parent company of Observer & Eccentric Media. Gannett Local specializes in helping companies maximize digital advertising and marketing dollars.

Keynote speaker Brandwyn Coleman, senior executive, market support, for Gannett Local, told attendees that online customer reviews are changing the way people buy just about everything these days. And business growth is now dependent on word-of-mouth via social media. The key is to get the most out of your marketing budget, she said.

"A small business owner can put themselves out there just like Nike, Coca-Cola or Starbucks," Coleman said. "What we want to do is make sure all those large digital marketing tools are available to everybody, no matter how small their business is."

The seminars focused on increasing web traffic and driving conversion through pay-perclick marketing, optimizing search engines like Google and Yahoo, capturing leads and using social media advertising effectively.

Attendees received a free digital media audit

of their business. The Gannett Local seminar served as the official launch of Michigan Media Solutions Digital Marketing Servic-



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Gannett Local's Digital Roadmap seminar was held in Southfield.

es, aimed at helping businesses with all aspects of their advertising and marketing needs across every platform, from print to tablets to smartphones and desktops, to reach a statewide audience. O&E Media is part of Michigan Media Solutions, a collective of digital properties that spans the entire state.

Observer & Eccentric | Thursday, March 7, 2013

Frank Ruggirello, director of community and media relations for Schoolcraft College, attended the event.

"I'm looking for new ideas," Ruggirello said. "We do have a little budget for marketing and I always want to maximize those dollars.'

Ruggirello's last job was in a public school district that didn't have enough money to run a marketing campaign.

"I wanted to see what Gannett and in particular what Observer & Eccentric has to offer and whether we can work that



Keynote speaker Brandwyn Coleman is a senior executive marketing consultant with Gannett Local.

into our marketing plan," he said.

Frank Cibor, O&E Media advertising sales manager, said going digital is a challenge for businesses that have focused on more traditional marketing techniques. "This

is exciting," he said. "This will get them to see what is out there."

For more information, contact Advertising Director Grace Perry at (313) 222-2437 or via email at gperry@hometownlife.com.



Frank Ruggirello, director of community and media relations for Schoolcraft College, was interested in hearing about digital marketing. Ruggirello is former director of community relations for Plymouth-Canton Community Schools.



Attendees filled the room.

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LEGAL NOTICE

1954 PA 188 PROCEEDINGS NOTICE OF SPECIAL ASSESSMENT HEARING

Charter Township of Plymouth Wayne County, Michigan

THE RESIDENTS AND PROPERTY OWNERS OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH, WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN, AND ANY OTHER INTERESTED PERSONS:

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that as a result of Petitions of property owners within the Township signed by the record owners of land whose front footage constitutes more than 50% of the total front footage of the hereinafter described Special Assessment District and the Township Board of the Charter Township of Plymouth proposes a road paving project in the Ridgewood Hills Subdivision and to create a Special Assessment for the recovery of the cost thereof by Special Assessment

Notice is hereby given to all persons interested, that the Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Plymouth has tentatively declared its intention to make the hereinafter described improvement:

The proposed improvements shall consist of milling, and/or pulverization, and/or removal of the existing bituminous road with the placement of a new bituminous pavement course. In addition, select areas of concrete curb and gutter will be removed and replaced as necessary. It is understood that this is primarily a road improvement project and therefore any drainage problems existing prior to the project will not be corrected except where said modification is necessary to protect the life of the road pavement. Existing water problems, such as standing water, etc., outside of the roadway will not be resolved by this program. It is further understood that this alternate, if permitted by the County of Wayne, could be subject to special conditions dependent upon the findings of the soils investigation report, existing subsurface conditions, etc. The proposed improvements to the existing two-lane asphalt pavement shall consist of complete and partial asphalt pavement replacement, as well as miscellaneous driveway and drainage work, which may be needed to facilitate the replacement of the asphalt road pavement. The project commences at the south right-of-way line of Powell Road and proceeds southward on Hillcrest Dr. for approximately 3100 feet to the north right-of-way line of Ann Arbor Road. The project proceeds:

- East from Hillcrest Dr. along Meadow Dr. for approx. 1000 feet to Meadow Ct., and south along
- Meadow Ct. for approx. 600 feet to terminus East from Meadow Ct. along Sunbird Dr. for approx. 130 feet to terminus
- South from Meadow Dr. along Robin Ct. for approx. 250 feet to terminus West from Hillcrest Dr. along Plum Tree Dr. for approx. 135 feet West from Hillcrest Dr. along Harvest Dr. for approx. 150 feet
- East from Hillcrest Dr. along Harvest Dr. for approx. 900 feet to Meadow Dr. West from Hillcrest Dr. along Hillcrest Ct. W for approx. 500 feet to terminus East from Hillcrest Dr. along Hillcrest Ct. E for approx. 550 feet to terminus West from Hillcrest Dr. along Pinehill Dr. for approx. 120 feet
- East from Hillcrest Dr. along Pinehill Dr. for approx. 850 feet to Normandy Dr. West from Hillcrest Dr. along Woodway Dr. for approx. 150 feet
- East from Hillcrest Dr. along Normandy Dr. for approx. 1500 feet to Pine Hill Dr. West from Normandy Dr. along Normandy Ct. W for approx. 550 feet to terminus East from Normandy Dr. along Normandy Ct. E for approx. 500 feet to terminus
- South from Normandy Dr. along Chambury Ct. for approx. 650 feet to terminus West from Hillcrest Dr. along Winterset Circle for approx. 130 feet

That it has further been tentatively determined that the following described lots and parcels of land will specially benefit from said improvements and will constitute a Special Assessment District against which the cost of said improvement shall

The district limit for frontage along Hillcrest Dr., Meadow Dr., Meadow Ct., Sunbird Dr., Robin Ct., Plumtree Dr., Harvest Dr., Hillcrest Ct. W., Hillcrest Ct. E., Pinehill Dr., Normandy Dr., Woodway Dr., Normandy Ct. W., Normandy Ct E., Chambury Ct., and Winterset Circle consists of Lots 1 through 185 of the Ridgewood Hills Subdivision No. 1, Lot 209 of Ridgewood Hills Subdivision No. 2, and Lot 356 of Ridgewood Hills Subdivision No. 3, located in the Northwest 1/4 of Section 32, T.1S, R.8E, of Plymouth Township, Wayne County, Michigan.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Plymouth shall meet on Tuesday, March 12, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. at the Plymouth Township Hall, 9955 N. Haggerty Rd, Plymouth, Michigan 48170, for the purpose of reviewing said proposed Special Assessment District, and hearing objections to the improvement, creation of the Special Assessment District, and the assessment thereon. All persons may then and there appear and make any objections they may have to such improvement and assessment. Appearance and protest at the hearing is required in order to appeal the amount, if any, of the special assessment to the state tax tribunal. An owner or party in interest, or agent thereof, may appear in person at the hearing, or may file an appearance or protest by letter. All parties or agents appearing in person at the hearing for purposes of protest should request the appearance be entered into the record of the meeting.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the plans, specifications, estimates of cost and recommendations of the engineer for said proposed Special Assessment District have been filed with the Township and are available for public examination at the office of the Township Clerk. The estimate of costs of such construction is in the approximate amount of \$1,193,000.00.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that periodic redetermination of costs for the proposed Special Assessment District may be necessary and may be made without further notice to the record owners or parties in interest in the property.

> Nancy Conzelman Charter Township of Plymouth 9955 North Haggerty Road Plymouth, Michigan 48170 (734) 354-3224

Publish: March 7, 2013

AT08795421 4x12

Inspire Theatre School is open for spring enrollment

Inspire Theatre School for the Arts will kick off its spring semester with one seven-week class designed to teach students the art of comedy/ melodrama.

Theatre for the Advanced Theatre Student, which will be taught on Saturday mornings, will introduce students to many of the aspects of theatre, both on stage and behind the scene. Along the way, they will be exposed to set and prop work as well as training for the stage. Those students who have had stage experience will be given instruction to build on the skills they already pos-

Classes will focus on building characters, tapping into emotion, stage directions, finding their voice, confidence in public speaking, interpreting roles, characterization, projection, as well as improvisation and "being real." This semester's project is the comedy, The Ballad of Gopher Gap.

Bunco DeSneer (slicker than lard on hot cornbread) is salting the Spenawampum Mine in Gopher Gap with fake minerals. He hopes to snare rich Easterners looking for a good investment. He's aided in his dirty work by Flora Fourflusher, a phony assayer, and Slats, a stupid stagecoach driver. The other full-time resident is Crazy Nanette, whose only child disappeared years ago when she left it in a nice cool spot ... under an ice wagon. When the suckers show up, including a waif, a judge, a newspaperwoman and the man-hungry Ottillie, Bunco wastes no time in fleecing them.

Two unexpected visitors arrive: Rocky Romantic, a mountain man and "wil-



Kylee Hammond of Farmington, Jamison Irwin of Livonia, MaryRosa Clark of Garden City and Kelsi Fay of Livonia perform in a scene from "Enchanted Forest," a recent Inspire School of Theatre Arts production.



Kelsi Fay and Jacob Robertson of Livonia appeared in the Inspire School of Theatre Arts' production of "Enchanted Forest."

derness poet," and Verlinda Springblossomy. She's inherited the town from a distant relative, Piute Pete, and doesn't believe in "robbing the earth." She intends to close down the mine and open a hummingbird sanctuary. Naturally, Bunco will have none of this and the hilarity begins.

Inspire Theatre began in 2005 and has produced such plays as the Wizard of Oz, Father of the Bride, It's a Wonderful Life, Agatha Christie's The Mousetrap, as well as many original productions. IT enjoys the status of being Westland's only live theatre.

Inspire School for Theatre Arts began in the fall of 2010 as an outreach to the community for children to learn the elements of theatre in a safe, nurturing environment. This is ISTA's third season. This past Christmas ISTA presented Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol. Past classes have presented A Merry Christmas, Charlie Brown, It's the Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown, plus two original productions, The Wolf Chronicles and Enchanted Forest.

Students come from Garden City, Westland, Livonia, Canton, Farmington Hills and Redford. Inspire Theatre located at 33445 Warren Road, east of Wayne Road, in Westland.

Registration will be 10 a.m. Saturday, March 9. Classes will run for seven weeks and conclude with the production. Auditions will held the first week of class and parts will be assigned the following week. Classes are \$20 per class or \$105, if paid at registration. Class size is

For more information. contact Len Fisher at inspire@inspiretheatre. com or by calling (734) 751-7057.

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Belle Isle Zoo celebrates all things mudpuppy

"Snot otter" and "slime dog" may sound like names that kids might call each other on the playground, but they're actually alternative monikers for the mudpuppy - a large, permanently aquatic salamander native to the Detroit River.

The Belle Isle Nature Zoo will host an event to celebrate the mudpuppy 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday, March 10.

Mudpuppypalooza will feature fun and educational activities such as mask making, games and mudpuppy cookie decorating. Admission to the Belle Isle Nature Zoo and all Mudpuppypalooza activities are free.

In 2006, the Detroit Zoological Society (DZS) embarked on a program



Unlike its amphibian cousins, the mudpuppy never forms air-breathing lungs, but rather relies on the bushy red gills behind its head to breathe under water.

to monitor the Detroit River mudpuppies, conducting catch-and-release surveys to track populations and better detect declines. Mudpuppies are measured, weighed and implanted with computer chips for identification before being returned to the river.

The Belle Isle Nature Zoo is located at the east end of Belle Isle near the

Blue Heron Lagoon. The Nature Zoo is open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday November through March and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. April through October. It's closed Mondays and Tuesdays. Admission is free.

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OUR VIEWS

MEAP scores not political fodder

Despite outpacing the state average on the annual MEAP tests, Plymouth-Canton Community Schools' students had unusually low science scores this year. That's a dangerous fact considering Gov. Rick Snyder and his charter school supporters make no secret in their belief that public schools are ineffective.

Based on Snyder's wellpublicized commentaries that public schools have failed students and his 2012 duck session push to revamp public education, low science scores are easy fodder for his push to send public dollars to charter schools.

But there's more to the story on those science scores. As can be imagined, science scores historically fall in behind the higher reading, writing and social studies scores

on MEAP. In the MEAP world, only fifth and eighth graders are tested in science. Reading and math, however, are tested in each grade level (third through eighth). It appears that even MEAP does not consider science as basic a subject as reading, writing and arithmetic for consis-



Plymouth-Canton's Lightning Robotics 862 won the district competition last weekend at Kettering University.

tent grade-to-grade test-

In 2012, the percentage of Plymouth-Canton Community Schools fifthgraders testing proficient in reading was 81. In math, it was 72. That compares with 17 for science.

The same story goes for eighth-graders, who scored at 77 percent in reading and 59 percent in math, compared to 23 percent in science.

Parents of Plymouth-Canton students can breathe a sigh of relief the statewide average for fifth-graders in science this year was 13 percent and 16 percent for eighth graders.

Plymouth-Canton students are not alone in decreasing science scores. It seems the entire state of fifth- and eighth-graders appear to struggle with science, based on the cut scores system.

MEAP has never been a favorite among educators. It is administered in the fall of the academic year. That means teachers spend the start of each school year reviewing last year's

material and so are, in essence, teaching for the three days when MEAP is administered.

In a world in which science and math are stressed more than ever, it is curious that the cut scores process seemingly targets students' apparent lack of science knowledge.

But are students really without a knowledge of science? Just look at the group of students in Plymouth-Canton high schools who built a robot for the 2013 FIRST Robotics Competition,

and went out and won the district competition at Kettering University with it last weekend. Their story is chronicled in this newspaper.

If Gov. Snyder and his supporters who believe that public education, particularly in science, fail students and leave them ill-prepared for a hightech world, then why make attempts to gut public education in favor of the more costly charter schools. Of course, it has yet to be proven that charter schools are more effective in preparing students for their futures.

Perhaps the time has come for Gov. Snyder and his compatriots to support public education rather than demean it.

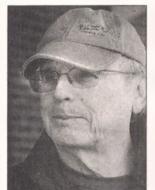
Perhaps it's time that Snyder's administration stop making public education and standardized tests, such as MEAP, a political football to be tossed at will for whatever is the ideological whim of the moment.

Public education is not a failure and to treat it as such, particularly based on skewed test scores, is a path on which Snyder and his administration should not tread.

COMMUNITY VOICE

The city of Plymouth is mandating that sidewalk dining areas have video cameras for security purposes. Is this something you agree with, or do you have a problem with it, and why?

We asked this question at the Plymouth District Library.



"With all the trouble they've had. ... If there're charges filed, I guess it's good to have that on film."

Michael Sheedy Plymouth



"I would take issue with that, actually." **Dennis DeWitt**

Plymouth Township



"I think that's an invasion of privacy. Just the fact that people are at their leisure. ... I think it's a little much."

Robert Miller Plymouth



"That doesn't bother me. I don't have anything to hide and I don't have a problem with it."

Cathy Darling Superior Township

Brad Kadrich, Community Editor Susan Rosiek. **Executive Editor**

Grace Perry, Director of Advertising

OUR VIEWS

In March, celebrate women who dared to dream

Women's History Month sheds light on the many contributions women have made to life in the U.S.

Abolitionist and suffragist Sojourner Truth delivered her "Ain't I a Woman?" speech December 1851 at a Women's Convention in

Akron, Ohio. "That man over there says that women need to be helped into carriages, and lifted over ditches, and to have the best place everywhere. Nobody ever helps me into carriages, or over mud puddles, or gives me any best place! And ain't I a woman? Look at me! Look at my arm! I have ploughed and planted, and gathered into barns, and no man could head me! And ain't I a woman? I could work as much and eat as much as a man — when I could get it and bear the lash as well! And ain't I a woman? I have borne 13 children, and seen most all sold off to slavery, and when I cried out with my mother's grief, none but Jesus heard me! And ain't I a woman?" Truth asked her audience.

Truth has ties to Michigan, having lived the final 27 years of her life here. She died at age 86 in 1883 and is buried in a Battle Creek cemetery. The National Congress of Black Women was instrumental in having a bust of Truth placed in the U.S. Capitol's Emancipation Hall in April 2009. At the dedication, first lady Michelle Obama honored Truth in her role as the first black first

During World War II, many Michigan women went to work in defense plants as "Rosie the Riveter." Women also served with distinction in the military, and just recently the combat ban for most military women has been lifted.

Obstacles remain, but it's hard to imagine a time when girls thought their options after graduation were limited to teaching, nursing or being a secretary. Such work remains valuable, but women have broken through many barriers, entering law, medical and engineering schools in record numbers.

Some children and teens, in fact, don't recall a time when the U.S. Secretary of State wasn't female, up until just recently.

Barriers have fallen, but

some remain. There's a notable pay gap between men and women, even adjusting for family responsibilities. Many women are breadwinners, and our nation as a whole suffers when women face pay discrimination.

New career opportunities are emerging for young people of both genders, especially in STEM - Science, Technology, Engineering and Math. We need to guarantee our young people have these skills and take courses that will prepare them for the future, which will have technology likely barely dreamed of today.

Celebrating Women's History Month allows the community to collectively shed light on the impact women have had on our society, culture and economy. The stories of women who have had an incredible impact can provide excellent role models for today's teens and children.

Stop by the Plymouth District Library and read about women in history and encourage children and teens to do the same.

Explore women's history — it's an interesting journey.

LETTERS

Just fix Central

We do not need to spend millions of dollars to build a new middle school. Central Middle School's structure is solid. There isn't anything wrong with it that it can't be fixed or repaired.

One teacher awhile back wrote in the Observer that she needed more outlets in her class, problems like this can be fixed. Money should be spent to update any problem we have at the school. The school has a swimming pool and recreation area.

There are homes in Plymouth that are over 100 years old and people live in them and keep them up. All across the U.S. older buildings are being used. The children are being sent to school to be educated and it is what is being taught in the classes that is important.

We should save where we can

due to the poor economy. The Greatest Generation graduated from that school and you didn't hear them complain about the school and they didn't even have a swimming pool.

> **Connie Fitzner** Plymouth

Figures and lies

I just finished reading the article (Observer, Feb. 24) that named Sen. Patrick Colbeck the most "conservative" official in Lansing. And, evidently, he is wearing this title as a badge of honor.

It's funny how the definition of words change with the political climate. Once, before the advent of the tea party, a conservative was defined as being moderate, frugal and believing in tax fairness. Democrats were referred to as the tax-and-spend party.

The new "conservatives," i.e., Patrick Colbeck, are now justly

called the shift-and-reward party — shift the tax burden to people of modest means and reward the

Now that tax season is upon us, we can see the true effects of the new "conservative" party's policies. The average family will be paying from \$500 to \$1,500 more, while the good senator's backers reap billions in cuts. And, as I have stated before, not one new job can be attributed to these corporate gifts.

In fact, last week an independent report released by Comerica showed a net loss of 15,000 jobs in our state last year.

So, when these new "conservatives" start spouting their propaganda, remember that old adage, "figures don't lie, but liars figure."

James Huddleston

Canton

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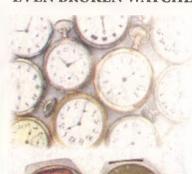
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SPORTS

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CLASS A BOYS BASKETBALL DISTRICTS

'Cats finally taste success

By Tim Smith Staff Writer

When Josh Priebe and the rest of the Plymouth Wildcats tipped it up Monday night in a Class A boys basketball district contest at Northville, they were aware that the bleachers at one end of the gymnasium were filled with noisy, orange-clad home fans.

That didn't get them seeing red, however. Instead, they put their blinders on and went to work, earning a 48-37 win.

"The whole game we were trying to tune it out," said Priebe, a senior guard who led the Wildcats with 17 points. "We knew it was going to be loud, we knew it was going to be crazy. We knew we just got to do our thing, keep grinding.'

Priebe was far from a one-man show as the Wildcats (10-11) won a district game for the first time in history. Plymouth advanced to face Novi-Detroit Catholic Central in a Wednesday night district semifinal.

He had plenty of hard-nosed help from senior backcourt cohorts Jake Divens (15 points) and Brendan Swanson (five

points, eight rebounds) and senior forwards Sid Acharya (five points) and Brian Schmid (four boards), among others.

"This is the first district win in Plymouth history," Priebe said. "So we were really pumped. We know Northville's a good team, we knew there was going to be hype and we just came out really tough."

Work pays off

Plymouth head coach Mike Soukup said his senior leaders set the tone, but he emphasized the entire squad followed his game plan to perfection.

"We've won three (in a row). We're getting rolling at a pretty good time," Soukup said. "We've been so close all year long, it's nice to finally see some of the hard work that nobody else gets to see pay off in a big way, in a big win for us.

"We executed the game plan we had, which was to try to limit (Andrew) Meacham as much as we could. He's one of the best players in the KLAA. And limit (Stewart) Henzi, if we could, and

Please see HOOPS, B3



BRIAN QUINTOS

Taking the ball to the basket Monday night against Northville in the Class A boys basketball district game is Plymouth senior guard Josh Priebe.

Grea Williams (No. 22) of Canton splits Salem defenders **Nate Sass** (No. 12) and **Kevin Mack** (No. 11) during Monday's district

game at

Northville.



BRIAN QUINTOS

Canton dunks Rocks

By Tim Smith Staff Writer

Canton knocked off some early rust Monday, knocked down a few shots and knocked Salem out of the postseason tournament with a 57-49 victory at Northville.

The Class A district boys basketball game opened with the Rocks going up 7-0 with about 3:30 remaining in the first quarter. But Canton head coach Jimmy Reddy called a timeout, inserted senior guard Ryan

Planey and junior forward Davon Taylor into the lineup and the Chiefs started to get on track.

"I thought Planey and Taylor off the bench were huge for us," Reddy said. "Especially when we needed to make shots early. Those guys came in and gave us some energy.

"Planey especially, and then Davon in the second half finishing around the rim. Davon did a great job on the glass (16 rebounds) and guarding defensively, as well."

It took the Chiefs a little while to take off, how-

Salem still held a commanding 20-10 edge with 3:45 left in the opening half following a threepoint play by Rocks senior forward Chris Dierker (14 points, eight rebounds) and a trey from the left flank by senior guard Kevin "KJ" Mack (16 points).

The Chiefs (15-6) came storming back, with 6-8 junior forward Jor-

Please see DISTRICT, B3

Boys bowling MHSAA recap

Salem junior Brandon Allison reached the round of 16, but was eliminated in a first-round match play opener Saturday at MHSAA Division 1 Singles Bowling Finals held at Northway Lanes in Muskegon.

Allison, the 14th seed coming out of the qualifying block with a six-game total of 1,223, lost to third seed Alex Zarbaugh of Belleville, 396-386.

Unable to make it out of the qualifying block were Canton junior Josh Pozan (27th, 1,166), Salem senior Kevin Williams (32nd, 1,138), Canton sophomore Aaron Madsen (48th, 1,082) and Canton junior Michael Richards (58th, 1,014).

Allison and Williams, part of Salem's D1 team championship, won Friday in Muskegon.

Girls bowling MHSAA recap

In the MHSAA Division 1 Individual Singles Bowling Finals held Saturday at Muskegon's Northway Lanes, Salem senior Kristin Larkins and Plymouth junior Caitlyn Webb emerged out of the qualifying block but were subsequently defeated in the Round of 16.

Larkins, who was the fifth seed with a six-game total of 1,216, lost to 12th-seeded Barbara Lawson of Grand Ledge by a 399-371 tally. Lawson eventually won the state championship.

Webb, the top finisher at the previous weekend's D1 individual girls regional at Super Bowl in Canton, was 14th out of the qualifying block (1.175) but fell 391-378 to second-seeded Heather Baur of Davison

Salem senior Bridget Maul placed 30th in the qualifying block (1,120) while Canton junior Bri Baily finished 58th (918).

Wildcats nab 1st regional crown

Plymouth became the first school from the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park to claim a regional hockey title Satur-

BOYS HOCKEY day with a

resounding

8-0, mercyshortened victory over Dearborn Heights Crestwood-Garden City Unified at the Dearborn DISC.

With the regional crown, the Wildcats advanced to the Division 1 state quarterfinals at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday against Novi Detroit Catholic Central, at the University of Michigan's Yost Ice Arena in Ann Arbor. Results were not available as of press time.

"These boys worked hard all year long, accomplished a lot of things, and they deserve that trophy," said head coach Gerry Vento. "It is a great accomplishment for the program, but we still have some work to do."

The Wildcats (22-5-1) blitzed Crestwood-GC (13-10-4) with seven first period goals. Junior forward Mike Schultz led the way with two goals and two assists. His brother, senior forward Nick Schultz, finished with one goal and two assists.

Junior forwards Corey Smith and Michael Scarpello, who were called up to the varsity team two weeks ago after spending most of the season with Plymouth's prep team, each found the net. Smith scored twice.

Junior Zach Tavierne and senior Ryan Theisen (power play) closed out the scoring for the Wildcats, who outshot the Chargers 31-2. Sophomore goaltenders Jared Maddock and Erik VandenBosch combined for Plymouth's eighth

Please see WILDCATS, B4

Park sweep

Chiefs lead campus parade to D1 team gymnastics finals

By Tim Smith Staff Writer

This time around, Canton varsity gymnastics coach John Cunningham hopes he doesn't have another Bill Murray Groundhog Day moment at the Division 1 team finals.

Cunningham's team Saturday won the Region 3 championship at Plymouth High School, with 145.95 points. It marks Canton's fourth consecutive regional title - the first three times it was Grand Ledge to come between the Chiefs and a state title.

Even so, winning Saturday was just one of the to-do items for the Chiefs as they embark on some unfinished business.

"This is that step," Cunningham said. "This is our fourth regional championship, and hopefully it's not our fourth second place at states."

He chuckled slightly when making that comment.

"We have the ability to win states," Cunningham added. "I just hope they can put it all together."

PCEP prowess

The Chiefs will have plenty of company from Plymouth-Canton Educational Park when they return to the Plymouth gymnasium for the D1 finals, which begin at 2 p.m. Friday. Also qualifying were Plymouth and Salem, placing sec-

ond and third overall with 140.775 and 140.325 points, respectively. Making the cut as the state's 13th-ranked team



JOHN KEMSKI I EXPRESS PHOTO

Canton sophomore Jocelyn Moraw, shown preparing Saturday for her routine on uneven parallel bars, tallied the highest all-around score of

was fourth-place Livonia Red

"There's no other region that (four teams) can score 140, there's just no way it can happen," Cunningham said. "I've looked at the scores from around the state and there are some 140 teams, but it will be 1-2, not 1-2-3-4.

The Park also will be wellrepresented at next Saturday's individual finals (also at Plymouth). The top eight D1 and D2 finishers in each event automatically qualified. Also making the cut were the top six allarounders in each division.

Canton had medal winners across the board, including the top 4 in Division 1 all-around -led by Jocelyn Moraw's 37.15. In places 2-4 were teammates Maddie Toal (36.025), Melissa Green (35.925) and Nicole Lasecki (35.65).

But Cunningham emphasized that some sharpening up will need to take place if the Chiefs are to finally scale the Grand

Please see GYMNASTS, B4

Salem hosts baseball clinic

Youngsters wanting to spruce up their baseball skills can do so at the 2013 Salem Varsity Baseball Clinic, set for Saturday, March 23, in the Salem High School gymnasium.

Session 1 is 9 a.m. to noon, for kids ages 7-10; Session 2 will take place from 1-4 p.m., for those ages 11-15.

Cost for three hours of instruction from the 2013 Salem coaching staff (led by Dale Rumberger, 2012 Michigan High School Baseball Coaches Association Hall of Fame Inductee and veteran Rocks' varsity coach) and current varsity players is just \$30. That includes a snack and T-shirt.

For more information, e-mail salemrocksbaseball@gmail.com or contact Jeff Vergolini at (734) 612-7027.

Dynamo 1st

The Livonia YMCA Dynamo, an under-11 girls soccer team, posted a 7-0-1 record to win the second indoor session at High Velocity Sports in Canton.

Team members include: Andrea Abramson, Jamie Colling, Allison Esker, Emily Esker, Alexis Gibbons, Mandy Laiacono, Olivia Pelle, Julianna Racette, Riley St. Ledger, Abby Woods and Emily Woods.

Dexter puts clamps on Canton

Observer & Eccentric | Thursday, March 7, 2013

By Tim Smith Staff Writer

Canton played a typical solid defensive game Tuesday night in a Class A girls basketball regional semifinal at Novi High School.

Unfortunately for the Chiefs, they were up against Dexter - another gritty squad, albeit with more size and experience — and the Dreadnaughts' defense was enough to snuff Canton in a 26-17 victory.

"They're a pretty big group and they're a pretty experienced group," said Chiefs' head coach Brian Samulski about the Dreadnaughts, who started five seniors. "They really packed it in the lane and when we struggled we struggled to get around the rim and score around the rim. That's my fault.

"I got to do a better job of finding a way to get the girls opportunities around the rim."

The first half was a defensive struggle for **GIRLS BASKETBALL** REGIONALS

(21-3) hanging on to a 3-2 edge after eight minutes of play. Dexter upped that edge to 9-2 at halftime, as the Chiefs (16-7) could not consistently gain entry into the post.

Canton was unable to score a field goal until a putback by junior forward Paige Aresco (six points, five rebounds, four steals) with about six minutes left in the third (which made it an 11-4 Dexter lead).

A trey from the left corner by junior guard Rachel Winters with 4:30 remaining in the third did cut the deficit to 13-8, but Pisano (eight points) answered with a basket and Kill sank two free throws following an offensive charge called against the Chiefs.

It was 18-11 entering the fourth and the Chiefs did rally on successive field goals by sophomore guard Alanna Brown (four points) and junior cen-

JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

Canton's Paige Aresco (No. 14, left) faces defensive scru-

tiny from Dexter's Emma Kill during Tuesday night's Class

SICAL THERAPY SPECIALISTS

A regional semifinal contest. In the background for the

Chiefs is Natalie Winters (No. 13).

ter Taylor Hunley (four points, five rebounds, three blocked shots) to pull to within 20-15 with 3:50 left in regulation.

The Chiefs kept pressing on defense and forced Dexter to turn the ball over a few times down the stretch. But they could not capitalize, putting up errant shots and sending the Dreadnaughts to the free-throw line at the other end of the court.

"Obviously, they're disappointed," Samulski said. "No one wants to lose. But hopefully we learned from it and go from there and see if we can get better. We'll have nine kids coming back.

The girls should really feel proud of what they got done. I don't think anyone coming into this deal thought they'd be as competitive as they were."

Samulski pointed to how three of the team's losses were to Westland John Glenn (the state-ranked team that defeated the Chiefs in the KLAA Kensington Conference final) and two others were also against top opponents.

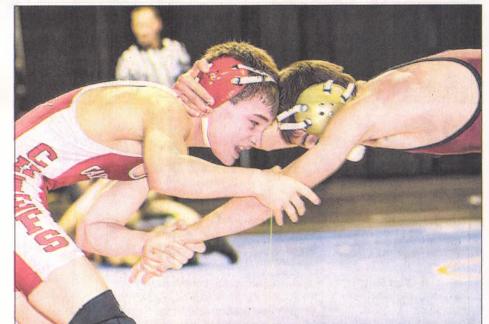
"They competed in every game, battled hard, they played in the conference championship game against a really good team (Glenn)," he continued. "They won the district championship and they competed tonight."

Only seniors Kayla Lagola and Megan Smith will be leaving the team, and Samulski had praise for them as well. "Kayla and Megan, they had outstanding careers. They're great kids, couldn't ask for better people."

Canton also played shorthanded, without 5-11 junior forward Shannon Perry who injured a knee Friday in the district final against Northville.

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DON'T MISS OUR



INDIVIDUAL WRESTLING FINALS

DANIEL BARGERSTOCK

Despite suffering from a meniscus tear, Canton junior Ben Griffin (left) takes on Warren Mott's Garett Strube in the first round of the ind vidual finals at 125.

Griffin, Youssef place at Palace

The top placer among Plymouth-Canton Educational Park wrestlers at the Division 1 individual finals was Canton junior Ben Griffin, who finished sixth at 125.

Plymouth 103-pounder Mohamad Youssef came in seventh while four others from the Park did not finish in the top eight.

But Chiefs' head coach Cory Mancuso cited Griffin's performance despite wrestling with a torn meniscus (sustained at the KLAA Championships).

"I'm very proud of Ben," Mancuso said. "He wrestled really well for having a torn meniscus. Most kids wouldn't even think of competing with that type of injury.

"Ben is one tough kid. He will get the surgery to repair his knee in the next week or so and then get back on the mat and start training for next season."

In the first round last Thursday, Griffin defeated Garrett Strube (Warren Mott) by a major decision of 11-3. Then came a 4-1 victory over Davison's Derek Humphrey in the quarterfinal before dropping a 4-3 bout to eventual runner-up Martin Rodriguez of Holt.

"The semifinals match against Rodriguez was a tough match up for Griffin," Mancuso added. "He wrestled a really good match. Unfortunately, a questionable call by the official ended up being the difference in

the match. "In my mind Griffin didn't win the match, but

he didn't lose it either." Griffin's 2-3 showing at the Palace gave him a 51-7 record for the season.

Plymouth's Youssef finished at 52-5 with his 3-2 showing in Auburn Hills.

In the opening round, Youssef lost by major decision to Harrison L'Anse Creuse's Brendan Hazelton (13-5) but the Wildcat turned the tables

on Kalamazoo Central's Javuis Cunningham in the quarterfinal winning 9-0.

He followed that up with a 6-2 victory over Livonia Franklin's Jack Newa only to fall 4-1 to Ann Arbor Pioneer's Billy Cobb-Gulley.

Youssef's season ended with an 8-1 win over Jackson Renicker of Brighton.

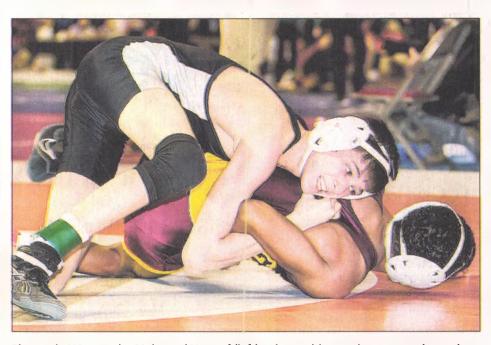
As for the other PCEP state qualifiers, Salem's Tyler Gross (160) and Plymouth's Trey Berry (119) and Jon Conn (135) all went 1-2.

Gross won by major decision over Nate Smith of Hartland, 12-2 and finished 39-9.

Berry decisioned Chad Medley of New Baltimore Anchor Bay by a 6-5 score and wound up 40-18 for

the year. Conn (45-15) won by forfeit over Grand Ledge's

Dylan Steward. Also at the Palace was Plymouth 140-pounder Alec Breckenridge, who went 0-2 to finish 46-8.



Plymouth 103-pounder Mohamad Youssef (left) gains position against a second-round foe during the Division 1 individual finals at the Palace of Auburn Hills.

BOYS WRESTLING RESULTS

MHSAA INDIVIDUAL WRESTLING FINALS **AREA FINISHERS** Feb. 28-March 1 at Palace

DIVISION 1

Ben Griffin, Canton (125), 6th place: won by major decision over Grarrett Strube (Warren Mott), 113; decisioned Derek Humphrey (Davison), 4-1; dec. by Martin Rodriguez (Holt), 4-3; dec. by Mitch Pawlak (Temperance Bedford), 3-0; lost by injury default to Ben Caladrino (Howell). Final record: 51-7.

Mohamad Youssef, Plymouth (103), 7th place: lost by major

dec. to Brendan Hazelton (Harrison L'Anie Creuse), 13-5; won by rnaj. dec. over Javuis Cunningham (K'zoo Central), 9-0; dec. Jack Newa (Livonia Franklin), 6-2; dec. by Billy Cobb-Gulley (Ann Arbor Pioneer), 4-1; dec. Jackson Renicker (Brighton), 8-1. Final record: 52-5.

Tyler Gross, Salem (160): dec. by Shon Powell (Brother Rice), 11-4; won by maj. dec. over Nate Smith (Fartland), 12-2; dec. by Carson Whaley (Grand Blanc), 9-5. Final record: 39-9. Trey Berry, P ymouth (119): pinned by Austin Thompson

(Port Huron Northern), 1:07; dec. Chad Medley (New Balt. Anchor Bay), 6-5; p. by Trevor Zdebski (Catholic Central), 3:15. Final record: 40-18. Alec Breckenridge, Plymouth (140): lost by maj. dec. to Kaelan Richards (Rochester), 9-0; dec. by Jacob Heaps (Portage Northern), 8-5. Final record: 46-8.

Jon Conn, Plymouth (135): p. by Justin Oliver (Davison), :34; won by forfeit over Dylan Steward (Grand Ledge); lost by maj. dec. to Quentin Santiago (Wyandotte Roosevelt), 9-0. Final record: 45-14.

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Ramirez HRs as Crusaders split

The Madonna University baseball team split on opening day of its spring trip March 1 in the RussMatt Invitational in Auburndale, Fla.

The 24th-ranked Crusaders fell to Evangel University (Mo.) in the opener, 1-0, before bouncing back to beat Trinity International (Ill.), 12-3, at Lake Myrtle Park.

Evangel (11-3) got a complete game one-hitter **COLLEGI: BASEBALL**

from pitcher Blake McKnight, who improved to 5-1 overall. He struck out six and walked only one.

Evangel scored its lone run in the bottom of the sixth on Nathan Jones' solo homer off MU starter Josh Deeg, who slipped to 1-1.

Deeg went the first 5.1 innings, allowing just the one hit, but he walked

eight and struck out five. Austin Demotte finished. In the nightcap, fresh-

man catcher Brett Ramirez (Salem) went 2for-3 with a homer and four RBI as the Crusaders routed Trinity International (0-2)

Designated hitter Jeff Beckles also knocked in two runs, while Steve Pelletier (Farmington Harrison) added two hits and an RBI.

www.plymouthpts.com

6:00am-7:00pm M-F • Sat am

HOOPS

Continued from page B1

we did that. Best game of the year."

Meacham led Northville with 10 points, while Henzi and junior Joe Hewlett each tallied six.

Mustangs head coach Todd Sander lamented some early struggles both with offense and protecting the basketball, as the Mustangs finished the season with a 12-9 record.

"They made a good call going 2-3 (zone)," Sander said. "It gave us a lot more trouble than I thought it would. But we were cold early, and just (had) some real unforced turnovers early.

"There really was no reason for them, there was no pressure. Guys were maybe a little bit nervous. I'm not sure."

Sander did tip his cap to the Wildcats' collective defense and tenacity.

"Plymouth is a spectacular team when they have the lead," Sander said. "They're senior-loaded on their roster. Their guards are very, very good and protect the ball very good. They're hard to come back from.

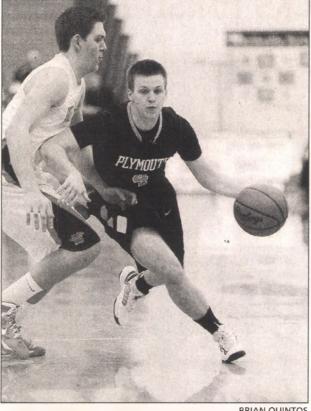
As an example of how tough the Wildcats were, Divens took a hit to the nose trying to launch a buzzer-beating trey at the end of the third quarter. He shook it off and sank two of three foul shots to put Plymouth up 31-22 entering the fourth.

Then in the opening moments of the fourth, Priebe went strong to the rack only to get knocked to the floor. A couple of burn marks were worth the price for draining the subsequent free throws.

Nearly three minutes into the quarter, it was senior guard Tyler Gamblin's turn to work his way through traffic for a dirty defensive rebound to keep the Mustangs from getting a run going.

"Our defense led to our offense tonight," Priebe

Such was the case early in the second quarter, when the Wildcats took control. After Northville led 8-7 entering the sec-



BRIAN QUINTOS

Dribble driving past a Northville player Monday is Plymouth senior guard Jake Divens (No. 4).

ond, Acharya sank a free throw to tie the game. Priebe and sophomore guard Josh Reynolds each parlayed a steal into a layup to open up a 12-8 edge with six minutes left in the half.

Plymouth kept pressing and expanded the lead to 18-11 with 2:30 remaining. First, an alleyoop pass from Acharya from the left wing found Priebe for a layup. Swanson then picked off a Northville pass and Acharya benefited with a reverse layup.

Northville tried to get back into the game early in the third, thanks to a trey by junior forward Malik Bazzi (10 points).

Closing it out

Any such thoughts were short-lived as Plymouth went on an 8-0 run to go up 28-18 with 2:40 left in the third quarter. Priebe stole the ball yet again, and took it in for another layup. He followed that up by driving along the baseline from the left corner for a bankshot. Swanson capped the surge, taking a feed from Acharya and burying a 3-pointer from the right corner.

The Mustangs could not

get any closer than seven points the rest of the game, forced to take lowpercentage shots from the perimeter or foul Plymouth players in an attempt to get the ball back.

Swanson hit 8-of-10 free throws in the fourth to ice the victory

"I thought we settled at times, shooting outside rather than look inside first," Sander said. "But it's a completely different thing if those things go in."

As for Plymouth's next task, Priebe said the way the Wildcats stayed focused Monday could help when they face the Shamrocks (5-15): "We know we just got to tune it out and play our game and we'll be good."

Soukup added that he'll remind his team not to get caught up in Catholic Central's below-.500 record.

"They play in the Catholic League, not the 'KLAA," Soukup said. "It's going to be a huge challenge, but I'm going to enjoy this one for about two hours and go home and start prepping."

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There's silver lining even in defeat

ifteen minutes after Salem's season ended Monday night, players started to trickle out of the locker room at Northville High School.

of the emerging players were sophomores or juniors, because still behind

LOCAL SPORTS



Tim Smith

closed doors were seniors Chris Dierker, Kevin Mack, Ahmad Khalid, Nate Sass, Cam Werner, Austin Whitted and Ankit Tikari each one a significant member of the rotation - immersed in one final pow-wow with head coach Bob Brodie.

Finally, Mack, the affable team captain, slowly strode into the hallway. He looked ahead, not behind him.

That was exactly what Brodie told his now explayers as their prep careers came to a sudden close at the hands of the cross-campus Canton Chiefs in the Class A boys basketball districts.

"This isn't the end of our life, you know," said Mack, a 6-0 point guard paraphrasing Brodie's emotional message to the Class of 2013. "It was fun, we've been together four years now and we've won a lot of things.

"But this isn't the end of the road. Coach told us if this is the worst thing to happen to you in your life then you're going to have a good life. That was just the message, to keep going on."

One year ago, Mack, Dierker and the other seniors were part of a Salem team that rolled to the Kensington Lakes **Activities Association** championship with some big-time victories under immense pressure. The Rocks ultimately fell short in the state tourna ment, however, falling to Novi-Detroit Catholic Central.

After Tyler Stewart



Salem guard and captain Kevin "KJ" Mack (No. 11) is shown being shadowed by Canton's Josh Mayberry (No. 2) during Monday's district contest.

(Madonna University) and others graduated, the hope was for similar success in 2012-13. Although Salem was a strong team, particularly early in the season, the victories became harder to come by as the months came and went.

Stand tall

Brodie, who wore red eyes, loosened tie and unbuttoned shirt when he eventually left the team room Monday, reiterated what he told those players who now will hopefully continue with basketball at the college level.

"It's not the end of the world," Brodie said. "Those seniors had a great two years. They played well, they had some championships under their belt. They had a great season this year. We played a lot of close games, we just didn't finish a couple times and lost our focus and gave up too many (scoring) runs.

"But they (Rocks) dug hard, they played hard right up to the end. I'm proud of the way they played the last couple years."

He's been down this road before, of course, saying so long to cherished teams and players. On the other hand, he

brightens when discussing what the future might bring for some of the 2013 Rocks.

Dierker, for one, is said to have verbally committed to Madonna, where he would join Stewart.

"Chris has been outstanding," Brodie said. "Last year he was good for us and this year he was good for us. He was a go-to guy and we tried to go to him tonight a little bit."

Brodie said Madonna would be "a perfect fit" for the 6-7 power forward, although he repeated what he said last year when Stewart signed at MUcollege ball is a different animal than the KLAA.

Mack is considering a couple opportunities, too. "I'm playing basketball in college somewhere," said the kid they call KJ.

"I just haven't committed yet." Then, the Rocks went up into the stands to watch two other high

school teams compete. They looked lost, as though they knew they should still be down on that floor.

Tim Smith is sports editor of the Plymouth and Canton Observers. He can be reached at tsmith@hometownlife.com.

PCA cagers off to good start in districts

The big test is looming for Plymouth Christian Academy's varsity boys basketball team, the very one that Eagles head coach Dominique Washington has been looking

PCA blew out Huron Valley Lutheran 63-28 Monday night in a Class D district opener and now move on to face powerhouse Allen Park Inter-City Baptist — the thirdranked team in Class D with a 17-4 record.

"I told my seniors they've never beaten Inter-City Baptist," Washington said. "For my four seniors, there is no next year. We've been playing all year for a moment like this.'

PCA (12-9) loaded its schedule with eight teams ranked in the top-15 either in Class C or Class D, particularly to

CLASS D

help the team get ready for when the competition ante gets raised, as it will be against Inter-City Baptist 8 p.m. Wednesday at Taylor Baptist Park.

Of course, the Eagles first needed to take care of HVL, doing so with a string of 3-balls in the first half to build leads of 21-7 after one quarter and 38-12 at halftime.

The main thorn in the Hawks' side early on was Alex Huber. He scored 12 points, all on treys during the first half, and contributed six assists

Other PCA players to spark the attack included Drew Ibach (16 points), Daniel Jipping (12 points, 10 rebounds), Mick Noel (nine points) and Matt Sumner (seven rebounds)

BAPTIST PARK 73, LUTH. Kaminski and Daniel Eubank

each scored 20 points to lead four players in double figures Monday as host Taylor Baptist Park (15-6) downed Lutheran High Westland (10-10) in the Class D district opener. Kirk Thomas and Devante Schofield added 16 and 15, respectively, for the host Wildcats, who pulled away in

the second half. Nick Andrzejewski scored 19 points and grabbed seven rebounds for the Warriors, who trailed by only seven at half, 34-27, before being outscored 22-7 in the third quarter. Jake Davenport also added

seven points in the loss. "We hung tough in the first half," Lutheran Westland coach Jim Hoeft said. "Our defensive energy was good and we shot 50 percent (11-for-22) from the floor.

"We looked tired in the second half. We looked worn down. Our guys did not give up, but I just don't know how much was left in the tank. We've got to hand it to Baptist Park ... they were definitely the better team tonight. It was one of those nights.

DISTRICT

Continued from page B1

dan Nobles (eight points, seven blocked shots, six rebounds) connecting on successive field goals (including a trey) to slice the Salem lead to 20-17.

Then it was Planey's turn as he hit a triple from the left corner and made all three free throws after being fouled on another bid from behind the arc to put Canton up 25-20 at halftime.

Hot hand

"Yeah, there's just games like that where you luckily have it," said Planey, who led the Chiefs with 20 points. "It's just how our team is. We play together, we know who's hot and if we get them the ball, it's going to go down."

After intermission, the surge picked right up where it left off, with the Chiefs building a 36-22 lead following a jumper from Planey and sophomore guard Greg Williams' basket-and-one with 1:20 remaining in the third.

All Salem (12-9) could muster during that stretch were two buckets by Dierker. The Chiefs led 38-26

after three quarters and the Rocks could never really threaten after that, although they did benefit from Canton foul trouble to cut the lead to less than 10 a few times.

"That run really hurt us and that's where our season's kind of gone this year," Salem head coach Bob Brodie said. "We've given up some runs and can't get back into it. But we never quit. We could have folded the tent up a little bit, but we didn't do that.'

Other Canton contributors included Williams (nine points), senior point guard Josh Mayberry (eight points, seven assists) and senior Scott Gring (five rebounds). Taylor augmented his work on the glass with eight points.

"Salem had a great start to the game. We weren't as ready for the game as we talked about," Reddy said. "We talked about having a fast start and we didn't. But I think our poise and our

purpose was solid. We kept our composure."

Nate Sass scored seven points for Salem, hurt as a unit by poor shooting (14-of-56, 25 percent). Pulling down six rebounds was senior center Ahmad Khalid.

According to Brodie, after his team got to within 52-43 with two minutes left, there still remained hope on the Salem bench.

"You're hoping for a shot to be knocked down," Brodie said. "But you spend a lot of energy just to stay in the game and get after them.

"That's a good basketball team over there. Those guys have a lot of firepower. They're strong, they're big, they shoot the ball well. Everything we did, they had an answer for us."

Despite the victory, Reddy said some wrinkles would need to get ironed out before Wednesday's district semifinal against Novi. "We'll have to play better Wednesday if we want to play on Friday night."

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Whalers win 4th straight

Plymouth Whalers goaltender Alex Nedeljkovic stopped 27 shots and his teammates displayed a balanced offense in Tuesday morning's 4-1 win over Saginaw.

The Whalers have won four games in a row (and 12 out of 13) to improve to 38-17-5-4, good for 85 points and first place in the Ontario Hockey League's West Division.

Former Spirit captain Vince Trocheck scored his 47th goal of the year for Plymouth

OHL HOCKEY

and added an assist. Trocheck now has 47 points and 53 assists for 100 points on the season and is second in the league scoring race behind Sarnia's Charles Sarault (102 points).

Matt Mistele (32), Tom Wilson (23) and Mitchell Heard (12) also scored for the Whalers - who led 2-0 after one period and 3-1 after two.

Nedeljkovic lowered his goals against average 2.11, raised his save percentage to 0.928 and has an impressive 17-2-1-1 won-loss record.

Andrey Alexeev scored the lone Saginaw goal in the second period, his eighth of the season. The Whalers, who

have qualified for the OHL playoffs for a current league record of 22 consecutive years, outshot the Spirit, 34-

Plymouth is off until 2 p.m. Sunday when they host Saginaw at Compuware Arena.

SPORTS ROUNDUP urday, March 16; 9 a.m. to

'Cats baseball clinics

The Plymouth Wildcats Youth Baseball Clinic is just around the corner.

Youngsters who want to improve baseball skills for the 2013 season and beyond are urged to sign up ASAP for the sessions: 9 a.m. to noon Satnoon Saturday, March 23. Both sessions will take place at the Plymouth High School gymnasium and are for boys and girls currently in grades oneeight.

The cost is \$25 per session, with that fee including a snack. T-shirts will be available at the clinic.

Because there only is room for 100 campers, early registration is encouraged. For the registration form, go to http://baseball.plymouthwildcats.com/240.html.

Contact Plymouth baseball coach Bryan Boyd with any questions. He can be reached at Bryan. Boyd@pccsmail.net.



Plymouth's varsity boys hockey team celebrates its firstever regional championship Saturday at the Dearborn DISC, after blanking Crestwood-GC Unified 8-0. The Wildcats were slated to face Novi-Detroit Catholic Central Wednesday night in a Division 1 quarterfinal.

WILDCATS

Continued from page B1

shutout of the season. Seniors Mitch Claggett, Dean Gunther and Jordan Lopetrone each chipped in two assists.

Journey continues In addition to the first regional title, the team

has also established a new program record with 22 wins in a season.

"It was a nice to win the regional (Saturday), but we had to get two tough playoff wins over our rivals to give us this opportunity," said Vento, referring to last Monday's 5-1 victory over Canton and Wednesday's 4-3 double-overtime thriller over Salem.

The Wildcats, Vento added, have worked together since last summer and they are seeing rewards for their hard work, "but the good thing is they are still not satisfied.

Observer & Eccentric | Thursday, March 7, 2013

Plymouth continues the journey with its first hockey matchup against the Shamrocks, a perennial hockey power, with a berth in the state semifinals on the line. Catholic Central advanced to the state quarterfinals with a 3-1 win over Birmingham Brother Rice on Saturday.

"It is going to be a great atmosphere and a great opportunity for our players and program," Vento said. "We are looking forward to it. We hope the student body will support us by showing up in force."



JOHN KEMSKI I EXPRESS PHOTO

Amanda Hoehn (right) of the PCS Penguins vies for the puck against a Detroit Country Day player Tuesday at Eddie Edgar Arena.

Penguins romp to start playoffs

By Tim Smith Staff Writer

This season for the Plymouth-Canton-Salem Penguins girls hockey team has been punctuated by nail-biting finishes and overtime sessions.

Such was not the case Tuesday in a Division 2 playoff against Detroit Country Day at Eddie Edgar Arena in Livonia. Goals came fast and furious for the Penguins en route to a 9-0 mercy-rule victory over the Yellow Jackets in the Michigan Metro Girls High School Hockey League firstround playoff matchup.

PCS will now square off against Walled Lake 8 p.m. Thursday at Eddie Edgar. Should the Penguins get past the Wild, the D2 championship game is 4 p.m. Saturday, with Farmington Hills Mercy the likely opponent.

"We did have to take care of business and it's kind of hard to start playoffs in that fashion because if we start forming bad habits that will carry over into Thursday's game against Walled Lake," PCS head coach Mary Beth Trainor said "If we make mistakes against Walled Lake they'll definitely capitalize on us.

"So we have a lot of work to do (Wednesday) at practice.'

Scoring three goals and assisting on another for the Penguins (10-6-0-3) was senior forward Jordan Patterson, who now has 24 goals and 10 assists to rank among the MMGHSHL D2 scoring leaders.

Contributing two goals and three assists was junior forward Jenna Carter. She opened the scoring early in the first, banging in a rebound while helping PCS kill off a penalty.

Patterson and Cece Hitch padded the lead to 3-0 before PCS scored twice

within 45 seconds late in the first to put the Pens up 5-0.

Emily King scored on a rebound (from Ashley Saunders and Carter). Then came a screen shot by junior Alexis O'Flynn from the left point that floated under the crossbar with 2:04 remaining (on assists from Morgan Cusumano and Cortny McAdoo).

The onslaught continued just 45 seconds into the second period. Carter ripped a shot from the right circle that banked in off the left post to make it 6-0. It was Carter's 11th goal of the season.

An unassisted shorthanded marker by senior defenseman Annelise Niermann upped the margin to 7-0.

With 5:17 to go in the frame, Carter sent the puck to Patterson on the right wing and her shot slipped over the goal line for an 8-0 edge. Closing out the scoring with 1:20 remaining was Patterson, burying a shot from the left wing (again from Cart-

Making five stops for the shutout was goalie Becky Lough

According to Trainor, it has been another strong season for the Penguins who upset Mercy in triple overtime for the 2012 D2 championship.

"We've had a lot of tough losses, three or four overtime losses and a few games that were neck and neck," Trainor said. "So a few bounces here or there. are record could be a lot better.

"The record doesn't necessarily show how good a team we have.

"If they play their game and the right team shows up at playoffs, they should be able to make a mark."

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

'Cats, Rocks finish 2-3 at regionals

By Tim Smith Staff Writer

Canton isn't the only gymnastics team from Plymouth-Canton Educational Park wanting to make some big noise at this week's Division 1 state finals.

Also in the hunt will be Plymouth and Salem, which finished 2-3, respectively, at Saturday's D1 team regional at Plymouth High School. The Wildcats tallied 140.775 points, while the Rocks were right behind with 140.325.

According to Plymouth head coach Pam Yockey, it took an inspirational routine on floor by senior co-captain Jane McCurry (who tied for first with 9.55) to push the Wildcats past the 140-point thresh-

"Jane just literally blew right through floor," Yockey said. "She's a very strong and confident performer and she really led us the whole meet.

"That's what really brought us over. We weren't scoring our normal scores on floor and, because of that, when she came in and just decided she was going to do it, she kind of brought the team through."

McCurry wanted to make sure she didn't let her team down in the quest for states, finishing her impressive routine with an emphatic flourish — complete with

hands pointing skyward. "I love floor," McCurry said, listing it as her favorite of the four events. "I was a very competitive cheerleader, so I'm best at tumbling. It's what I'm most comfortable doing and I just love the feeling of performing."

Others were key

Yockey underscored the efforts of several other Wildcats for the regional success.

"Rebeca Simu on bars and Haley (Metz) on bars, they are just very determined and very focused," Yockey said. "They just know where they're at, they just swing bars like it's second nature. Haley does a wonderful job on vault and Rebeca is an outstanding vaulter."

Simu and Metz tied for fifth in D1 on vault with 8.85; both also finished in the top eight on bars. Metz came in fourth on bars with 8.875, while Simu's 8.475 earned her eighth place.

Also strong on beam



PHOTOS BY JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

Plymouth senior gymnast Jane McCurry's finishing routine on floor exercise was a key factor in the team qualifying for the Division 1 team finals.



Showing skill and concentration during her performance on the balance beam is Salem's Morgan Soper.

for Plymouth was Samantha Fontana, who tied for fifth in D2 with senior teammate and co-captain Sarah Uhlian (each with a score of 8.925).

"She came through for us on beam. She's one of our stronger performers on beam," Yockey said about Fontana. "She just

nailed her routine." The coach couldn't for-

get to single out Uhlian for her contributions. "Sarah is one of our consistent performers. I can always guarantee

I will get a certain all-

around score from her,"

Yockey said. "And she's

nerstones of the team

been one of the main cor-

for four years. She's an excellent captain and a very strong leader."

Placing in a tie for seventh on floor for the Wildcats was Katie Salanga, with 9.15.

Salem standouts

Salem head coach Dana Driscoll's team will be going to the D1 team finals for the third consecutive year, and she said having three PCEP teams qualifying speaks to the high quality of gymnastics in the area.

"It feels good, it's nice," Driscoll said. "It's been a long time since Plymouth had a team to compete with us and be up there with us at that level.

"It's really neat to be able to take all three teams up there and see what happens. On any given day, you never know.'

Among Driscoll's top performers Saturday were Andrea Merlotti, Morgan Soper, Brooke Allgeyer and Brittany Ramirez. Merlotti was the third-place allarounder in D2 (35.870). while Soper placed fourth in D2 all-around with 35.375.

Allgeyer and Ramirez each finished in the top eight in D2 vault, while Ramirez tied with Merlotti for second in D2 bars (8.75). Placing third on beam and floor was Soper.

"Today, Morgan had a great meet," Driscoll said. "The last two years she was really disappointed to not make the all-around (for states), even though she had some really good events. Thankfully, she had a better meet and all the girls really did.

"They struggled on beam a little bit, but we just kept preaching teamwork and the only way they could do it was together."

One Salem gymnast who will be returning to the individual finals for a second straight year is Merlotti, who also took great pride in the team's showing.

"As a team, we did very well," she said. "We were a lot lower in our division in the beginning. We definitely proved to everybody that we're capable of getting (to) states, but we had to work really hard to get there and we knew we could.

"Now, it's to just put our all out there for states and do the best that we can."

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

GIRLS GYMNASTICS RESULTS

MHSAA REGION 3 GYMNASTICS RE-· GIONALS March 2 at Plymouth H.S.

TEAM STANDINGS: 1. Canton, 145.95*; 2. Plymouth, 140.775*; 3. Salem, 140.325*; 4. Livonia Red, 140.075*; 5. Grosse Pointe United, 138.50; 6. Livonia Blue, 136.725; 7. Saline, 134.85; 8. Northville, 133.175; 9. Adrian, 129.075; 10. Tecumseh; 11. Dearborn Edsel Ford; 12. Dearborn Fordson. (* qualified for Division team finals, March 8 at Plymouth)

VAULT: (Top 8 per, division qualify for state meet) **Division 1:** 1. Melissa Green (Canton), 9.40; 3. Jocelyn Moraw (Cnt), 9.075; 4. Nicole Lasecki (Cnt), 9.0; 5. (tie) Haley Metz (Plymouth), Rebeca Simu (Ply), 8.85; 8 Maddie Toal (Cnt), 8.70. Division 2: 1. Erica Lucas (Cnt), 9.35; 2. Andrea Merlotti (Salem), 9.125; 3. (tie) Hailey Hodgson (Cnt), 9.10; 5. Brooke Allgeyer (5lm), 9.025; 7. Brittany Ramirez

UNEVEN PARALLEL BARS:

(Slm), 8.95.

(Top 8 per division qualify for state meet) D1: 1. Moraw (Cnt), 9.20; 3. Green (Cnt), 8.9; 4. Metz (Ply), 8.875; 6. (tie) Toal (Cnt), Lasecki (Cnt), 8.65; 8. Simu (Ply), 8.475. **D2:** 1. Emma Abessinio (Grosse Pointe United), 8.90; 2. (tie) Ramirez (Slm), Merlotti (Slm), Lucas (Cnt), 8.75; 6. Samantha Fontana (Ply), 8.60.

BALANCE BEAM: (Top 8 per division qualify for state meet) D1: 1. Toal (Cnt), 9.55; 2. Moraw (Cnt), 9.15; 3. Lasecki (Cnt), 8.775; 5. (tie) Green (Cnt), 8.475. D2: 1. Abessinio (GPU),

9.275; 3. Morgan Soper (Slm), 9.075; 4. Merlotti (Slm), 8.95; 5. (tie) Sarah Uhlian (Ply), Fontana (Ply), 8.925

FLOOR EXERCISE:

(Top 8 per division qualify for state meet) **D1:** 1. Moraw (Cnt), 9.725; 3. Lasecki (Cnt), 9.225; 4. Green (Cnt), 9.15; 5. Toal (Cnt), 9.125

D2: 1. (tie) Jane McCurry (Ply), Abessinio (GPU), 9.55; 3. Soper (Slm), 9.40; 5. Lucas (Cnt), 9.325; 7. (tie) Katie Salanga (Ply), 9.15.

ALL-AROUND: (Top 6 per division qualify for state meet) D1: 1. Moraw (Cnt), 37.15; 2. Toal (Cnt), 36.025; 3. Green (Cnt), 35.925; 4. Lasecki (Cnt), 35.65. D2: 1. Abessinio (GPU),

36.625; 2. Lucas (Cnt), 35.875; 3. Merlotti (Slm), 35.870; 4. (tie) Soper (Slm), 35.375.

GYMNASTS in top form on vault.

Continued from page B1

Ledge obstacle.

"We need to be better (at finals)," he said. "If we have this meet, we will lose (likely to Grand Ledge). But it's a good wake-up call for my girls.

"We really didn't do well on beam, we did great on floor and vault. If we can clean up beam, we can challenge."

Vaulting to the top The Chiefs already are

Erica Lucas took first in the D2 competition (9.35), sprinting down the runway and soaring high above the apparatus. She medaled in two other events.

And Canton nailed down three of the top four spots in D1. Green won with 9.40, followed by Moraw and Lasecki in second and third, respectively.

Moraw demonstrated her athletic strength and speed, which she also displays with the Canton girls track team.

Going at top speed from the get-go, her explosive movements were capped off by a nifty legs-overtorso flip.

As for senior co-captain Lasecki, she wowed the crowd with her Yurchenko-style backward vault.

"You have to make sure that from your entry point that every aspect of it is good enough so that you can make the flip-around,' Lasecki said. "You kind of have to rely more on your setup for it than the

flip."

Other Canton firsts were scored in D1 by Moraw (bars, 9.20; floor, 9.725) and Toal (beam, 9.55).

"Jocelyn had one of the most beautiful floors, a 9.725," Cunningham said. "That's just one of the best scores I've seen in years."

Rounding out Canton's impressive cast Saturday was Hailey Hodgson, who tied for third in D2 vault with 9.10.

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

Reserve tickets now for May prayer breakfast

Dr. Tony Campolo will talk about "The Choices We Face, The Decisions We Make" at the Livonia Community Prayer Breakfast, Thursday, May 2 at Laurel Manor Banquet and Conference Center, 39000 Schoolcraft Road, west of Newburgh.

The event is 7-8:45 a.m. and tickets are \$15 for adults and \$10 for stu-

Campolo is professor emeritus of sociology at Eastern University, a for-

mer faculty member at the University of Pennsylvania, and the founder and president of the Evangelical Association for the Promotion of Education. He has written more than 35 books.

The event also will feature a children's choir from St. Michael Catholic School in Livonia.

For more information, see www.livoniaprayerbreakfast.org. For tickets, call Sally Butler at (248) 476-9427 for

RELIGION CALENDAR

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

March

AUCTION

Time/Date: 12:30-2 p.m. March 10

Location: Redford Aldersgate United Methodist, 10000 Beech Daly, Redford Township

Details: All proceeds go to support the Food4U food bank that distributes food baskets monthly to 40-80 families

Contact: (313) 937-3170 **CLASSES**

Time/Date: 7:30-9 p.m., Thursday, March 14

Location: Universalist Unitarian Church of Farmington, 25301 Halsted, Farmington Hills

Details: All classes are open to the public. A \$5 donation is suggested. Refreshments will be served at a 7 p.m. social gathering. Classes for the evening include "Secrets, Fantasies and Intimacy - Rekindling the Bond" with Julea Merlin; "Make Your Organization More Efficient Using Google Docs" (for MS Word /Excel users), with Chuck Eglinton; and "Fiction and Fact: Stories and

Guy Stern Contact: (248) 478-7272; www.uuFarmington.org

Reality about the Holo-

caust" with author Susanna

Piontek and her husband,

CONCERT

Time/Date: 4 p.m. Sunday, tion and consolidation of March 10 Location: St. John Lutheran Church, 23225 Gill, Farmington Hills

Details: Olivia Duval, soprano, sings a program of spirituals and art songs, accompanied by Wesley Fishwick at the piano. Admission to the concert is

free, although a free will offering will be collected Contact: www.stjohnelca.org or www.wesleyfishwick.com

CONCERT

Time/Date: 7:30 p.m. Friday, March 22 Location: Temple Beth El, 7400 Telegraph,

Bloomfield Hills Details: Josh Nelson, a popular performer and composer of modern Jewish music, performs. The concert is free and no reservations are required Contact: (248) 851-1100, Ext. 3150

DISCUSSION GROUP

Time/Date: Miniseries shown 8-10 p.m. Sunday, through March 31; discussion from 6:30-7:30 p.m. Wednesday, From March 6-April 3

Location: Kenwood Church, 20200 Merriman,

Details: The church will offer a discussion group on the History Channel miniseries, "The Bible" Contact: (248) 476-8222

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

Location: Northwest Unitarian Universalist Church, 23925 Northwestern Highway, Southfield

Detail: "The Economics of Happiness" is a film about a world moving in two opposing directions. On the one hand governments and big business continue to promote globalizacorporate power. At the same time, individuals are demanding better regulation of trade and finance Communities are coming together to re-build more human scale. There will be refreshments and a discus-

sion after the film Contact: (248) 354-4488;

www.northwestuu.org

FISH DINNER Time/Date: 5-7 p.m. Friday through March 22 Location: St. Aidan Church Activity Center, 17500 Farmington Road, Livonia Details: Adult dinner includes two filets of salmon, cod or a combination for \$9. Child dinner includes one filet of salmon or cod or macaroni and cheese for \$5. Both the adult and child dinners include roasted potatoes, vegetables, coleslaw, dinner roll, and dessert. Beverages included for adults are coffee, tea, milk, pop and water. For children they are milk, pop and water. The child's dinner is for age 10 and under. Side dishes of macaroni and cheese are available for \$2 Contact: (734) 425-5950

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 office to register

Contact: (734) 455-5910 **LENTEN SERVICE**

Time/Date: 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, through March

Location: Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 30650 Six Mile,

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VIRGINIA (JINNY) M. 1954 - 2013

of Westland, Michigan passed away Friday (March 1, 2013) at home after an extended illness. Virginia was born July 19,1954, to the late William and Maxine (Arnold) Rumpa. In 1972, she graduated from Garden City East High School. She was an administrative assistant for the Canton Police and Fire Departments. Virginia is survived by her husband of 33 years, Darryl E. Babik, Sr., daughter Julie Babik of Belleville, Michigan, son Darryl Babik of Ypsilanti, Michigan, two grandsons, Kayden Griffin-Babik and Dimitri Babik, sister Sandra (Gary) Rumpa-Mackey, nephew Andrew Mackey, niece Amanda (Jason) Bowker of Delaware, Ohio, and her beloved canine companions Toto and Dorothy. She was preceded in death by her sister Tammy Rumpa, in 2001. In honor of Jinny's love of animals the family asks that memorial contributions be made to the Michigan Humane Society.

DOROTHY'W.

Age 99, March 3, 2013. Beloved

wife of the late Ralph W. Brown.

Loving mother of Dorothea (Joe)

Prince, R. Paul (Patricia), Ken-

neth (Sandra) and the late Kevin. Grandmother of 15. Great grand-

mother of 13 and Great-great

grandmother of one with one on

the way. Survived by one brother

and three sisters. Visitation Fri-

day 3-9 pm at the Harry J. Will

Funeral Home, 37000 Six Mile

Rd. in Livonia. Funeral Satur-

day, in state 10 am until the time

of service at 11 am at St. Paul

Middlebelt Rd. in Farmington

Hills. In lieu of flowers contribu-

tions may be made to Concordia

Lutheran School, 9600 Leverne,

Lutheran

Redford, MI 48239.

Church,

20805



LENZ, SANDRA ANN

57, passed away Sunday, March 3. She is preceded in death by her parents, Mary and Raymond. Loving wife of 20 yrs to Kenneth. Beloved mother of Kelly Collins. Sister of Mary Kay Wiedman, sister in law of Janet Gourley (Robert) and Alan Lenz (Karen). Aunt to several loving nieces and nephews. Family will receive friends at Turowski Life Story Funeral Home, 45100 Warren Rd (btw Sheldon and Canton Center), Canton, on Friday from 3-9 pm, with a scripture service at 8 pm. Mass of Christian Burial will be held Saturday, 10:30am at St John Neumann Catholic Church, 44800 Warren Rd. In state 10 am until mass begins. Interment Glen Eden Cemetery, Livonia. In lieu of flowers family suggests donations be made to the Michigan Humane Society or Salvation Army.



THOMPSON. EVA C.

Of Farmington Hills, March 4, 2013. The last of her generation of emigres from Russia, to Canada and then the United States of America, she will be missed by her daughter Tracy Thompson Edwards, son in law W Randall Edwards, many beloved nieces and nephews, and three cats. A graduate of Wayne State University, she worked as an insurance underwriter, but the loves of her life were flowers, animals and especially the earth. She is preceded in death by: her husband, John E Thompson; parents, Dora and Charton Chmiel; sisters Sophia Wyszynski, and Mary Shultz, and brother Harry Chmiel. Memorials and tributes may be made to your favorite animal rights organization. Funeral Services were held Wednesday, March 6, at the Heeney-Sundquist Funeral Home, downtown Farmington. Interment Oakland Hills Memorial

Gardens, Novi. heeney-sundquist.com

TRAME, **ELIZABETH ANN**

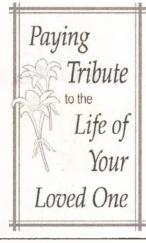
March 3, 2013, age 61. Beloved wife of Richard O. Loving mother of Kristin. Dear daughter of Lyman (Oddice) Shell. The family entrusted care and services to L.J. Griffin Funeral Home, Canton Chapel, (734) 981-1700. Memorial contributions may be made to Arbor Hospice, 2366 Oak Valley Dr., Ann Arbor, MI 48103. Share a "Memorial Tribute" with the family at:

griffinfuneralhome.com



Age 92 of Kalamazoo, March 3, 2013. Beloved wife of the late Paul R. Loving mother of Mi-chelle (Fred) Pulve, Nancy VandenBerg, Cynthia (Dennis) Steven Claramunt, Lomske and the late Paul Jr. (daughter-in-law Sharon). Dear grandmother of 11, Great grandmother of 18 and great great-grandmother of one. Visitation Fri. 2-8 PM and Sat. 10 AM until the Sat 11 AM Funeral Service at Vermeulen Funeral Home, 6401 W Ann Arbor Rd., (btwn Sheldon & Beck) Plymouth. Interment Detroit Memorial Park-West. Memorial contributions may be made to Muscular Dystrophy. To share a memory,





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ENTERTAINMENT



A young Peter Ostrum portrays Charlie Bucket, the boy who finds a golden ticket in the 1971 film, "Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory."

By Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

ike Charlie Bucket, the role he played in the 1971 movie, Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory, Peter Ostrum has found his "golden ticket"—and it moos.

Ostrum, a veterinarian and former childhood film star, loves working with cows on dairy farms in upstate New York. And although he enjoyed his early film experience — a topic he'll talk about when he introduces the Wonka movie this weekend at the Redford Theatre — the senior partner at Countryside Veterinary Clinic in Lowville, N.Y., says he is exactly where he wants to be.

"We travel from barn to barn. I start my mornings at 7 a.m. and I just walked in the door," said Ostrum, talking by phone from his home at around 9 p.m. recently.

"My interest and my expertise is working with dairy cattle, mainly Holsteins, some Jersey. I like the animals, yes, but it's the relationships that you build with your clients that are probably the most meaningful. You become part of their business enterprise and in many cases, a part of their family. You work with the

From actor to veterinarian

Willy Wonka fans, animal lovers get rare treat at film screening

same client time and time again. It's a trust you build up between each other that I find pretty satisfying"

Ostrum got his first taste of veterinary medicine while working with horses during high school. For a brief period in college he explored his chances for re-establishing an acting career, just in case he wasn't accepted to veterinary school. An industry insider told him the Willy Wonka credit looked nice on a resume but wouldn't open many doors.

"After that conversation I thought I'd better work as hard as I possibly could to get into (graduate) school," said Ostrum, who earned his vet degree from Cornell University. "It was good advice. The Jodie Fosters and Ron Howards are few and far between. There are a lot of starving actors and it's not because they don't have talent.

"Getting a part in a film, it's like the perfect storm. I was in the right place at the right time. Usually it's out of your control."

Fresh face

Ostrum, who grew up in suburban Cleveland, Ohio, was involved in children's theater at the Cleveland Playhouse. When casting directors for Willy Wonka began searching for child actors to fill several roles in the film, they contacted the Playhouse and other theaters known for their children's programming.

"My name was given to the casting agent and that started the process," Ostrum recalled. "The other kids in the film had

WILLY WONKA AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY

What: A film screening and actor appearances When: Doors open 6:45 p.m., autographs from 7-8 p.m., show starts 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, March 8-9; doors open 11:45 a.m., autographs from noon to 1 p.m., matinee starts 1 p.m. Saturday, March 9.

Where: Redford Theatre, 17360 Lahser, Detroit

Details: The 1971, 100-minute film stars Gene Wilder and Jack Albertson. Peter Ostrum, who played Charlie Bucket and Paris Themmen, who played Mike Teevee, will introduce the film, meet fans and autograph photos and customer-provided items for \$20 Tickets: \$5

Contact: (313) 283-0225; (248) 615-3651; redford-theatre.com

done quite a bit — Broadway, commercials, television — and I didn't have any of that in my background. I was a fresh face and no one knew who I was."

He was cast in a lead role as Charlie Bucket, one of several children who find golden tickets hidden in candy bars. The tickets allow them to tour Willy Wonka's spectacular chocolate factory. The story is based on the book, Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, by Roald Dahl.

"The director had a



A poster announcing the 1971 film, "Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory."

clear vision of what he wanted. He had some great people in the film — Gene Wilder, Jack Albertson — and it worked. We had no idea when we were filming that 42 years later we'd still be talking about it."

On the set

Ostrum was 12 and in seventh grade, when he got the part. He turned 13 years old during filming, which took five months to complete in Munich, Germany. Teachers in Ohio sent school assignments to him. He and other child

actors were expected to be in school a total three hours a day during filming.

"It had to add up to three hours. You'd go back and forth as they needed you on the set," he explained. "Filming is a long process. It's a lot of work. The novelty wears off pretty quick."

His fondest memories are of Albertson, who played his grandfather in the movie and who took him "under his wing" and served as a mentor. Ostrum said he also had a good relationship with



Peter Ostrum is a veterinarian, working primarily with dairy animals, in upstate New York. Ostrum, who played Charlie Bucket in the film, "Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory," will be on hand when it screens this weekend at the Redford Theatre.

Wilder, who played Willy Wonka. The former child actors from the film also get together once or twice a year. Paris Themmen, who played Mike Teevee, will join Ostrum at the screening, meet and greet and autograph session at the Redford Theater.

Ostrum, who is married and has a daughter in college and son in high school, said he is too busy with his veterinary practice to make many personal appearances in connection with the movie. For many years he preferred to stay out of the spotlight.

"If people find out about (the film), that's great, but it's just part of who I am. It is what it is. I don't brag about it."

Two years ago, Ostrum found himself in front of the cameras again as one of the featured veterinarians in a reality series, Vets on Call. Sponsored by Pfizer Animal Health and shown on YouTube, the series gives viewers a glimpse into the life of a dairy veterinarian. Ostrum is shown examining cows, diagnosing and advising farmers.

"I found my niche," he says in one episode. "It's great fun."

Children's Spring FILM FESTIVAL Shown at the Great MJR Digital Cinema Westland Grand Digital Cinema 16 6800 N. Wayne Rd. 734.298.2657



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Free to children 12 and under until theatre capacity

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A Different Film Each Week
Adults: \$1.00 No Advance Ticket Sales

Mystery drama shows local talent, sites

By Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

John Bosley wants you to see his feature film next week and then post your thoughts on its Facebook page.

"The director of Paranormal Activity did this with his film and his career was launched," said Bosley, lead actor and writer-director of The House That Jack Broke. "I would rather have audience members post their real feelings about the film on our Facebook page, then to have glowing reviews written by critics. What matters to me the most is what the audience

thinks.' He's confident viewers will enjoy his film, which included a local cast and crew, and was shot in fall 2011 throughout southeastern Michigan. It will debut at 7 p.m. Thurs-day, March 14 at the Main Art Theatre, located at 11 Mile and Main in downtown Royal Oak. Tickets are \$9.25 general admission, \$7 for senior citizens, 62 and over, and for students. Get tickets in advance at landmarktheatre.com. For more information, call the theater at (248) 542-5198.

The House That Jack
Broke tells the story of
Jack and Anne Peterson, a newlywed couple
whose marriage begins
to unravel when the FBI
investigates the husband's connection to a
double murder.

"I didn't want to do the usual 'who dunnit' type mystery. I wanted to explore how a discovery into someone's past effects the rela-



John Bosley, (right) directs Grover McCants of Farmington Hills and Erika Hoveland of Royal Oak.



Debra Christian's house just off Napier Road in Superior Township, doubles as the home of fictional characters Jack and Anne Peterson, in the film, "The House That Jack Broke."

tionships of the people around them," Bosley said. "I also don't like long, slow, talking movies, so I wanted to write it in such a manner that it felt like the pace of an action movie, yet was about relationships and mystery. I wanted it to be a story with many differ-

ent layers that all come together for a grand climax at the end."

Bosley, who lives in Midland County with his wife, is a self-taught filmmaker and scriptwriter who learned the craft by reading books and test-

Please see LOCAL, B7

LOCAL

Continued from page B6

ing out techniques by trial and error. He devotes his time exclusively to his own projects and is focused on perfecting his skills as a screenwriter and director, but he isn't working alone.

"I really believe that this film couldn't have happened without the efforts of the cast and crew of this film. I can spend all the time I want to on a script, but it takes the hard work and talent of other people to make it a reality," Bosley said.
"Acting talent from people like Erika Hoveland, (of Royal Oak) by far the best actress in the Great Lakes area, and unforgettable performances by actors like Grover McCants, were what made this film come alive.'

McCants, of Farmington Hills, owns a production company that creates music videos, polit-



Grover McCants of Farmington Hills plays the lead detective in the independent film, "The House that Jack Broke."

He also portrays a

swim coach in a student

film that will premiere

March 28 at the Detroit

There's not a lot of mon-

it's fun. When they can't

afford Morgan Freeman,

they come to Grover," he

Bosley plans to take

Maine and Los Angeles,

The House That Jack

Broke on tour, with

ey in this business, but

"I just have fun.

said, with a laugh.

Film Theatre.

er projects. In his spare time he enjoys acting. He performed in To Kill A Mocking Bird on the Farmington Players' stage two years ago and has worked as an extra in many Michigan-made films. His role as lead FBI agent in The House That Jack Broke is his first feature film appear-

"I'm excited about this," McCants said. "I saw John as a young man with a vision and I vision."

attend film festivals and that the tour allows him to bring the film to view-The House that Jack

film festivals. He said

general audiences don't

Broke is set in Maine, but was shot at several locations in the Detroit area, including Debra Christian's house on Napier Road in Superior Township. It doubled as the Maine residence of the fictional Petersons. The crew also shot at the homes of Kelly Karnesky in Livonia and James Sands, executive producer, in Royal Oak.

"The one location that stands out the most is the Hamtramck correctional facility. We used a long hallway in that facility to double as our FBI headquarters hallway," Bosley said. "It's the same hallway that was used in the production of *Machine* Gun Preacher. We also shot our airplane scenes at the Canton-Plymouth-

GET OUT!

Arts Crafts

BIRMINGHAM GALLERY

Time/Date: Artist reception runs 5-9 p.m. Friday, March 8; show runs 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday, through March 15

Location: 33772 Woodward Ave., Birmingham

Details: The show, "Kateland," features paintings by Kate Paul of Livonia

Contact: (248) 792-3375

DETROIT INSTITUTE OF ARTS

Time/Dates: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday-Thursday, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Friday; 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday-Sunday Location: 5200 Woodward, Detroit

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

Exhibits: 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; printmaking by Ellsworth Kelly, May 24-Sept. 8

Special program: Hedar Leslie and Leigh Keno, known to "Antiques Roadshow" fans as the Keno brothers, will share stories about some of their most important discoveries at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 13. They'll give a behind-thescenes peek at their work while discussing what makes American furniture so special. Cost is \$15 for the lecture only. Tickets for the lecture, a 5:30 p.m. cocktail reception and a sit-down dinner at 7:30 p.m., both with the Kenos, are \$125. Tickets are available by calling (313) 833-4005, visiting the DIA box office, or online at www.tickets.dia.





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Creamy Chicken Enchilada Soup

pdating familiar family recipes is a great way to turn them into new family favorites.

"Cooking with broth, in place of water, is a quick way to boost flavor in a dish," said Chef Amanda Freitag, judge on the Food Network series Chopped. "When giving recipes a makeover, I like to use College Inn Broths, which are made from premium ingredients like plump chicken, tender beef, and farm-grown vegetables."

Amanda Freitag's tips on cooking with broth:

- Lighten up mashed potatoes by substituting chicken broth for milk or cream and butter.
- · Add flavor to rice and couscous by cooking with broth, instead of

Freeze unused broth in an ice cube tray for future use.

These recipes were winners in the College Inn Ultimate Recipe Challenge contest, and are sure to be a hit at your family table. For more recipes, visit www.collegeinn.com. College Inn Broth can be found at all major grocery retail stores.



Cherry Bomb Meatloaf Sliders

Submitted by Richard S. Servings: 4 to 6 Prep Time: 20 minutes Cook Time: 55 minutes

Sauce:

- 1 cup chopped dried cherries
- 1 cup chicken broth 4 cloves garlic
- 2 tablespoons balsamic vinegar 1 tablespoon tomato paste
- 1/2 cup extra virgin olive oil
- 1 tablespoon hot sauce Salt, to taste

Meatloaf: 1 pound lean ground beef

- 1/2 cup panko bread crumbs 1/4 cup finely chopped fresh parsley
- 2 tablespoons minced onion
- 2 tablespoons pickle relish 1 clove garlic, crushed
- Salt and ground pepper, to taste 1/2 cup beef broth
- 1 egg, lightly beaten
- Spread:
- 4 ounces cream cheese, softened 4 slices smoked provolone, chopped
- 2 teaspoons chopped chives 1/2 teaspoon Worcestershire sauce
- 12 Hawaiian or Portuguese sweet dinner rolls, sliced
- 1. Preheat oven to 350°F.
- 2. To prepare sauce, combine cherries, chicken broth, garlic, balsamic vinegar and tomato paste in medium saucepan. Cook over medium heat 15 minutes or until thick and bubbly. Remove from heat and pour into food processor;

process 2 minutes, drizzling in olive oil and hot sauce until

fully emulsified. Season with

salt, if desired. Set aside. 3. To prepare meatloaf, break up ground beef into large chunks in medium bowl. Mix in the bread crumbs, parsley, onion, relish and garlic; season with salt and pepper, if desired. Add beef broth and egg, mixing until combined.

4. Place meatloaf mixture diagonally into a 9- by 13-inch baking pan, making a long log (15 inches long by 2 inches wide). Smooth the top and bake 30 minutes. Brush with 2 tablespoons of sauce to glaze. Bake an additional 15 minutes and remove from oven. Let meatloaf rest 10 minutes before slicing.

5. To prepare spread, combine cream cheese, provolone, chives and Worcestershire sauce in a small bowl, stirring to create a thick spread.

6. To serve, cut meatloaf into twelve, 1-inch-thick slices. Place each slice onto an open roll and top with 1 teaspoon each sauce and spread.

Creamy Chicken Enchilada Soup

Submitted by Pamela V. Servings: 4 to 6 Prep Time: 20 minutes Cook Time: 45 minutes

- 4 to 5 boneless, skinless chicken thighs (1 pound)
- ½ cup canola oil, divided
- ½ teaspoon salt, divided 2 soft corn tortillas, sliced into 1/4-inch strips
- 1 small onion, diced
- 1 clove garlic, minced 1 1/2 teaspoons chili powder
- 1 teaspoon ground cumin
- 1/4 cup lime juice 1/4 teaspoon lime zest
- 1 quart chicken broth
- 1 can (14.5 ounces) diced tomatoes, undrained 1 can (4 ounces) diced green chilies, drained
- 4 ounces reduced-fat cream cheese

Toppings:

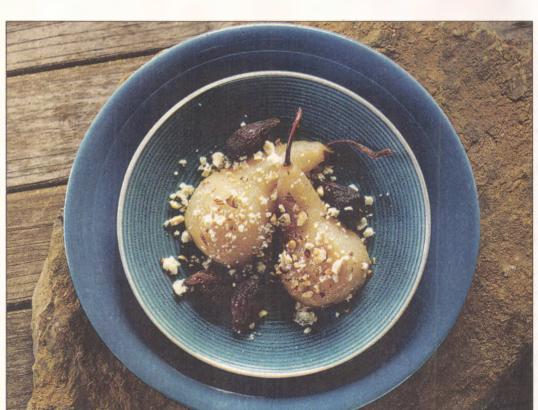
- Fried tortilla strips ½ cup shredded cheddar cheese
- 2 green onions, sliced into 1/4-inch pieces 1. Preheat oven to 350°F.
- 2. Place chicken in 8- by 8-inch glass baking dish. Brush with 1 tablespoon oil and sprinkle with 1/4 teaspoon salt. Bake 15 to 20 minutes or until no longer pink inside. Shred cooked chicken meat with 2 forks and set aside.
- 3. Heat remaining oil in small skillet. Add tortilla strips in 2 batches; fry until golden brown, about 2 minutes each batch. Drain on paper towel-lined plate. Sprinkle with 1/4 teaspoon salt and set aside. Reserve 1 tablespoon oil for Step 4.
- 4. Heat reserved 1 tablespoon oil in Dutch oven over medium heat. Add onions and cook until translucent, about 3 minutes. Add garlic and cook 30 to 60 seconds, stirring constantly. Do not brown garlic. Add chili powder and cumin; stir and cook 15 to 30 seconds.
- 5. Quickly stir in lime juice, lime zest, broth, tomatoes, and diced chilies. Bring mixture to a boil, and reduce heat to simmer. Add cream
- cheese. Simmer until cream cheese is melted. 6. Stir in shredded chicken, cook about 5 min-
- 7. Ladle into individual soup bowls, and garnish with tortilla strips, cheddar cheese and green onion.

Savory Honey Mustard **Poached Pears and Figs**

Submitted by Pamela V. Servings: 4 to 6 Prep Time: 10 minutes Cook Time: 25 minutes

- 2 cups chicken broth
- 1 cup dry white wine
- 1 cup water
- ½ teaspoon Dijon mustard 3 tablespoons honey, divided
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice 2 bay leaves
- 4 pears (firm variety such as Bosc),
- peeled, halved and cored
- 6 ounces dried figs, stems removed 1/2 cup chopped hazelnuts
- 1/2 cup crumbled blue cheese or goat
- 1. Trace diameter of large saucepan onto parchment paper. Cut out and set aside.
- 2. Combine broth, white wine, water, mustard, 2 tablespoons honey, lemon juice and bay leaves in large saucepan. Bring to a boil, whisking occasionally. Reduce heat to low and simmer 5 minutes.
- 3. Add pears, core-side-up, and figs; cover with vented parchment paper so pears stay fully submerged.
- 4. Simmer 20 minutes until pears are fork-tender.
- 5. Toast hazelnuts in small, non-stick saute pan over medium high heat, about 2 minutes or until fragrant, stirring constantly. Quickly remove nuts from pan onto a separate plate.
- 6. To serve, remove pears from poaching liquid and place onto individual salad plates. Drizzle with remaining 1 tablespoon honey and sprinkle with nuts and cheese.

--- Courtesy Family Features



Savory Honey Mustard Poached Pears and Figs

FACEBOOK: HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Sign of spring: Home Expo in Canton great place to get spruce-up ideas

By Julie Brown Staff Writer

Annette and Michael Popa of Canton came to the right place Saturday, March 2.

"We come pretty much every year to see what's new," she said of their attendance at the 12th annual Canton Home Expo at the Summit. They just did some waterproofing with a business at a previous Expo.

"We're starting to paint stuff," Michael said of their home. The Popas like to get new ideas. "It doesn't hurt being free," he said. "There are a lot of vendors here."

That will help them freshen up their home interior.

John Weyer of Canton, Canton's building official, was busy at the Saturday-Sunday event, but took a moment to talk. It draws some 5,000-6,000 people, he said. This year, there were about 20 new vendors for a total of around 130.

"The workshops are really popular," Weyer said. "Home Depot does a lot with the kids."

"People enjoy the entertainment of it, too. It's really a onestop shop.

There are exhibitors from Ohio, Weyer said, as well as Chelsea and Brighton. "Geographically, we're pulling from a bigger audience. It truly has grown to a Southeast Michigan venue."

It helps Canton Township staff with issues of permits, inspections and code compliance, working with contractors. Joe Gagnon, "The Appliance Doctor," broadcasts from the event each year, and was instrumental in getting it going.

N.A. Mans Lumber and Mill Work, in Canton and Trenton, has been in business since 1900. It was represented Saturday by Chris Degiulio of Dearborn, who works in the kitchen department, and Dottie Kelly of Canton, in inside sales support.

"A great company to work for," she said. "We've been coming to this (Expo) since it started." Owner Doug Mans is active with the Canton Chamher of Commerce which with the Observer & Eccentric and

others helps bring the show to

Kelly is a cancer survivor and recalled the support her employer gave: "It was my family. My family lives in Philly."

"And they take care of their customers the same way," Degi-

They've been busy with kitchen and bath work. "People are coming in because they're thinking of spring," he said.

"We're seeing a big interest in interior remodeling," especially in the last six months, he said. "The economy, we feel, has turned the corner." Consumers are more confident.

"This is an exciting venue," he added of the Home Expo. "It's a hometown feeling." Younger people are also visiting, along with older familiar faces.

John Sarnecky of Canton is owner of Canton Construction. He's been busy following last year's March 15 and July 1 hail-storms, and noted approaching insurance claim deadlines. "It's a win-win for the customers as well as us," he said of the exterior damage repair work.

'This show is wonderful," Sarnecky said. "We've been with this show since day one." Outside the Summit doors, the company's apprentices were building cedar furniture, done with the township building department's help. One company staffer uses a chainsaw for

"It's good exposure and it's very reasonable," Sarnecky said of the Expo. His firm had a busy winter. They do additions, basements, kitchens, baths and exterior work including roofing, siding and gutters. Company president is his wife, Marissa, and they've been in business 16 years.

Also busy was Susan Glessner of Livonia, with Baldwin Landscape Group in Plymouth. She does landscape design construction. "I'd like to get some business in the Canton area." said Glessner, who's also doing her own home landscaping. "We're right next to it."

Baldwin Landscape Group has been busy, "They're enjoying their homes more," she



PHOTOS BY AMY COLLIGAN

This is the 12th year for the Canton Home Expo, held at the Summit.



Joe Gagnon, "The Appliance Doctor," broadcasts live from the Canton event.

said of customers. "I don't think the landscaping hurt as much as the other industries."

She said women are in her field as designers but less often in construction. "I love what I do. If you can go to work every day and be happy, that's huge," Glessner said.

The show also gave Canton resident Kristina Wittner and others with the Canton Newcomers and Neighbors a chance to meet and greet. She's been in Canton since 2004 and emphasized you don't need to live in Canton or be new.

Wittner joined "so I could meet more people so I could socialize." She's the interest group leader, and likes the exposure the Home Expo

Her group has around 96 members. "There's something for everybody," said Wittner, noting it's mostly women, but also has lots to do for couples and families.

"Whatever you're interested in," she said.

jcbrown@hometownlife.com

HOMES SOLD/REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS-WAYNE COUNTY

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of Nov. 5-9, 2012, at the Wayne County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

CANTON 6800 Bridgemont Dr 1967 Brookfield St 1109 Celina Ct 636 Cherry Orchard Rd 759 Cherry Stone Dr 7578 Chichester Rd 44732 Crestmont Dr 1736 Delancy Cir 48696 Fifth Ave 47525 Fox Run Dr 6999 Foxcreek Dr 46882 Hendrie Ct 8636 Holly Dr 39858 Lynn St 110 Madison Ct 47196 Northgate Dr 45289 Patrick Dr 2219 Preserve Cir E 3649 Shepherd Ln 4405 Southbridge Dr 1313 Terrel Ct 1304 Tradition Dr 1775 Tremont Rd 316 Troon Ln	\$233,000 \$120,000 \$1222,000 \$141,000 \$195,000 \$195,000 \$405,000 \$243,000 \$243,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$121,000 \$1

43538 W Arbor Way Dr 2785 Woodmont Dr E GARDEN CITY	\$56,0 \$180,0
31324 Florence St 572 Harrison St 6149 Harrison St 29157 Hennepin St 33230 John Hauk St 32411 Pardo St 33025 Pardo St 32117 Rush St 28527 Sheridan St LIVONIA	\$31,0 \$35,0 \$40,0 \$29,0 \$56,0 \$70,0 \$47,0 \$30,0 \$26,0
14243 Alexander St 36686 Ann Arbor Trl 31675 Bretton St 10055 Camden St 36237 Club Dr 14619 Country Club Dr 18072 Curtis Ct 18221 Deering St 9951 Doris St 28564 Elmira St 11848 Farmington Rd 17006 Farmington Rd 17006 Farmington Rd 14346 Garden St 31171 Hillbrook St 37708 Howell St 37708 Howell St 37954 Jamison St 9271 Lathers St 18600 Laurel Dr 14301 Lyons St 37263 Myrna St 17710 Myron St 18994 Myron St 18994 Myron St 37612 N Laurel Park Dr	\$68,0 \$110,0 \$131,0 \$30,0 \$101,0 \$206,0 \$45,0 \$88,0 \$123,0 \$170,0 \$144,0 \$170,0 \$144,0 \$170,0 \$155,0 \$150,0 \$150,0
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00	34649 Navin Ave
00	14151 Newburgh Rd
	20050 O-1-1 C4
00	34855 Pembroke Ave 33468 Rayburn St 37582 Schoolcraft Rd
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0(17327 Stamwich St
00	17327 Stamwich St 37080 Vargo St
00	32458 Washington St
00	18907 Woodring St
00	14155 Woodside St
0	NORTHVILLE
	16894 Abby Cir
00	44676 Broadmoor Cir
00	16314 Brookwood Ct
00	19547 Dartmouth Pl
0	631 East St
00	50352 Livingston Dr
00	17892 Maple Hill Dr
0	49831 Parkside Dr
0	15496 Prestwick Cir N
0	39765 Rockcrest Cir
0	50576 Teton Ridge Rd
0	PLYMOUTH
0	1393 Carol Ave 1641 Lexington St 42045 Micol Dr 651 N Evergreen St 8889 Oakview St 730 Penniman Ave 49479 Pointe Xing
0	1641 Lexington St
0	42045 Micol Dr
0	651 N Evergreen St
0	8889 Oakview St
0	730 Penniman Ave
10	49479 Pointe Xing
10	12457 Woodgate Dr
	REDFORD
0	11347 Appleton
Ю	9069 Fenton
0	17302 Fox

\$145,000 \$128,000 \$270,000 \$160,000 \$97,000 \$130,000 \$165,000 \$140,000	
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\$400,000 \$420,000 \$275,000 \$105,000 \$515,000 \$325,000 \$343,000 \$502,000 \$117,000 \$623,000	,
\$203,000 \$355,000 \$120,000 \$188,000 \$165,000 \$273,000 \$112,000 \$156,000	
\$12,000 \$55,000 \$62,000	

13486 Garfield	\$71,000
9615 Hemingway	\$65,000
17403 Indian	\$80,000
18257 Indian	\$35,000
17341 Lennane	\$64,000
19957 Lennane	\$14,000
11356 Lenore	\$66,000
26539 Margareta	\$64,000
14209 Minock Dr	\$90,000
9075 Seminole	\$65,000
15033 Sumner	\$58,000
9940 Tecumseh	\$55,000
26303 W Six Mile Rd	\$80,000
26309 W Seven Mile Rd	\$15,000
15918 Wakenden	\$37,000
WESTLAND	
36027 Abbey Dr	\$128,000
6722 Caribou St	\$92,000
34454 Cherry Hill Rd	\$24,000
36555 Deerhurst N	\$88,000
1314 Easley Dr	\$40,000
2203 Emerson St	\$4,000
31015 Fernwood St	\$25,000
33624 Glen St	\$45,000
29128 Manchester St	\$22,000
7627 Melvin Ave	\$79,000
142 N Parent St	\$29,000
643 N Wildwood St	\$113,000
30635 Nelson Cir	\$135,000
501 Pattingill St	\$120,000
319 S Christine 38255 S Rickham Ct	\$69,000 \$68,000
1831 Short Ave	
30839 Stephen Ct	\$23,000 \$107,000
30033 Stephen Ct	J 107,000

Be leery on home offer

By Robert Meisner Guest Columnist

Q: I am looking to sell my house and have been approached by someone who guarantees the sale of my home within a certain period of time. What do you

A: Make sure that the company you are dealing



reputable by asking references. Be sure you get a written listing agreement outlining the

with is

nature and extent of the guarantee, and, before you sign it, have an experienced real estate lawyer review it to be sure that you are adequately protected with respect to the sales price, among other things. If it sounds too good to be true, it may well be!

Q: I am the landlord of an apartment building and require carpeting in each of the units. However, one of my tenants has a wheelchair and indicates that they cannot navigate the carpeting. They want me to allow the installation of a wood floor. What do you think?

A: There are obviously disability discrimination issues involved in this request and your response. While each case has to be evaluated on its facts, I would allow the installation of the wood floor with two provisos: (1) appropriate cork noise-attenuating underlayment is required; and (2) the handicapped owner agrees to minimize any noise within the unit that might disturb the unit owner below. Typically, wheelchairs have rubber wheels that will not generate noise on a wood floor, but if that is a concern, it can be a requirement of approval. Finally, I would facilitate a conversation between the handicapped tenant and the tenant in the unit below so that they can address any problems that may arise in an amicable fashion. If there is still a concern about noise transmission, there could be a requirement that the wood floor be carpeted over when the handicapped tenant departs as part of your

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 EST DNS-OAKLAND COUNTY

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of Oct. 22-26, 2012, at the Oakland County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

BEVERLY HILLS	
32458 Sheridan Dr	\$145,000
31459 Sleepy Hollow Ln	\$360,000
30760 Vernon Dr	\$215,000
BINGHAM FARMS	
23170 Hickory Hollow Ci	r \$265,000
BIRMINGHAM	
2757 Dorchester Rd	\$182,000
1552 Henrietta St	\$351,000
2738 Manchester Rd	\$273,000
1640 Maryland Blvd	\$223,000
1299 Pilgrim Ave	\$425,000
1423 Ruffner Ave	\$130,000

BLOOMFIELD HILLS	
6968 Cedarbrook Dr	\$191,000
648 Deauville Ln	\$445,000
1122 E Glengarry Cir	\$1,441,000
2007 E Hammond Lake	Dr \$175,000
65 Hillsdale Rd	\$335,000
3341 Kernway Dr	\$249,000
1840 Long Pointe Dr	\$405,000
542 Newburne Pointe	\$145,000
4212 Ramsgate Ln	\$435,000
3873 Shellmarr Ln	\$415,000
758 Tennyson Downs Ct	\$570,000
3721 Thornbrier Way	\$325,000
41 Vaughan Ridge Rd	\$390,000
999 W Glengarry Cir	\$785,000
801 W Long Lake Rd # G	
4041 W Maple Rd # E103	2 \$51,000
COMMERCE TOWNSHIP	
296 Annison Dr	\$167,000
4333 Racewood Dr	\$200,000

5999 Strawberry Cir **FARMINGTON**

\$330,000

ALE TRANS	ACTIO
23921 Fairview Ct	\$250,000
23080 Gill Rd	\$380,000
30789 Shiawassee Rd # 9	9B \$35,000
FARMINGTON HILLS	
27028 Arden Park Cir	\$142,000
29983 Ardmore Dr	\$160,000
29820 Briarwood Ct	\$315,000
32374 Craftsbury Ct	\$169,000
34300 Glouster Cir	\$160,000
21670 Hancock St	\$88,000
23755 Haynes St	\$60,000
25370 Leestock	\$156,000
21390 Magnolia Ct	\$150,000
29944 Minglewood Ln	\$126,000
30045 Minglewood Ln	\$135,000
30412 Ramblewood Clu	b Dr
\$145,000	£220.000
29124 Shenandoah Dr	\$220,000
35266 Valley Forge Dr	\$183,000

27653 W Echo Vly

23720 W Newell Cir

28728 Wintergreen

VIE INAIVS	ACTIO
0004 F-11 Ct	\$350,000
3921 Fairview Ct	\$250,000
3080 Gill Rd	\$380,000
0789 Shiawassee Rd # ! RMINGTON HILLS	9B \$35,000
7028 Arden Park Cir	\$142,000
9983 Ardmore Dr	\$160,000
820 Briarwood Ct	\$315,000
2374 Craftsbury Ct	\$169,000
1300 Glouster Čir	\$160,000
1670 Hancock St	\$88,000
3755 Haynes St	\$60,000
370 Leestock	\$156,000
1390 Magnolia Ct	\$150,000
944 Minglewood Ln	\$126,000
0045 Minglewood Ln	\$135,000
412 Ramblewood Clu	b Dr
45,000	
124 Shenandoah Dr	\$220,000
300 V- II F D-	4402.000

\$55,000

\$110,000

\$465,000

18769 Saratoga Blvd MILFORD	\$130,00
2846 Canterbury Ct	\$773,00
54184 Derek Dr	\$230.00
961 Geneaire Way	\$308,00
2865 Hidden Pne	\$115,00
NOVI	
27555 Belgrave Pl	\$231,00
27665 Cromwell Rd	\$218,00
50292 Drakes Bay Dr	\$1,225,00
51188 E Bourne Ter	\$240,00
51332 E Bourne Ter	\$268,00
27520 Harrington Way	\$245,00
27583 Harrington Way	\$249,00
23189 Inverness Ct	\$495,00
26995 Ladbroke St	\$224,00
21866 Meridian Ln	\$234,00
41641 Tera Ln	\$140,00
49603 Timber Trl	\$367,00
SOUTH LYON	

\$330,000

LATHRUP VILLAGE

23300 Clarkshire Dr

IY	3.
408 Jean Rd 61171 Ladbrooke Dr 20990 Laser Ln 575 N Hagadorn St 61091 Palamino Ct 61091 Preakness Blvd 61141 Saddlecreek Dr 53596 Valleywood Dr 640 Woodland Dr \$20 SOUTHFIELD	\$180,000 \$260,000 \$320,000 \$95,000 \$267,000 \$258,000 \$310,000 \$25,000 6,000
27070 Bradford Cir 28520 Everett St 29745 Farmbrook Villa 15600 George Washing \$50,000 WHITE LAKE	
9355 Buckingham St 804 Sunnybeach Blvd 9261 Thornyside St 8035 Wildwood Ln 8063 Wildwood Ln 8223 Wildwood Ln	\$340,000 \$100,000 \$99,000 \$214,000 \$217,000 \$222,000

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Apts. \$224 MOVE IN!

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1/2 Off!

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ranch, 3 bdrm, 1.5 bath, deco-rated, air, bsmt. All Carpeted. No pets, \$875, 734-591-9163

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this newspaper & only publication of an advertisement shall

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will be credited Publishers Notice: All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968 which states

advertise "any preference limitation, or discrimination." This newspaper will not

dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal

letter & spirit of U.S. oolicy for the achievement of equal housing opportunity, throughout he nation. We encourage

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CareerBuilder



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CONTACT US AT: 800-579-7355

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rate card. (Copies are available from the advertising department Observer & Eccentric

constitute final acceptance of the advertiser's order.

responsible for reading their ad(s) the first time it appears & reporting any errors immediately. The Newspaper will not issue credit for errors in ads after the FIRST INCORRECT INSERTION

only the first insertion

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knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all

housing opportunity basis (FR Doc, 724983 3-31-72). Equal Housing Opportunity Statement: We are piedged to the advertising & marketing

program in which there

are no barners

Eccentric and Newspapers



candidate!

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

42 Heavy

hydrogen discoverer

43 Lighten, as a

Sedgwick

Interpret tea

DOWN

50 Back when

leaves

53 Embroider

influence

52 Special

burden

44 Memorable

first

48 Similar

49 Falco or

ACROSS

- Kid's ammo
- Dart about
- 8 Express 12 Yes vote 13 Geologic time
- divisions
- 14 Pavarotti piece 15 Glue
- 17 Flat-fixer's tool 18 Veinlike
 - deposit 19 Schmoozes
- 20 Admires oneself 23 Machine part
- Theirs, to them 25 Deprives of wind 29 Groove on
- 30 Fragrant 32 Common
- pronoun 33 Pried
- 35 Door opener 36 Palm (off)
- 37 Labels 39 Splice, in botany

33

43

48

- 1 Exclamation from Emeril Provo inst. Brut Burglar or
- arsonist Rigs, as dice "Bus Stop"
- author dangerous fly

Answer to Previous Puzzle



HALE NEO 12-2-11 © 2011 UFS, Dist. by Univ. Uclick for UFS

- 19 Social asset 20 Husks
- 8 Kind of party 9 Vaccine type Pottery flaw Tumbledown
- Wild oxen of building 22 As a result 23 Mediocre Tibet 16 Dots in "la mer"
 - grade 25 Sea floor 26 Football's
 - Swann 27 Frame of mind
 - 28 Periscope
 - sites 30 Leopard
 - feature Place to surf
 - 34 Miff
 - 35 Boxing win 37 Grill
 - 38 Ward off
 - 39 Duffel filler 40 Long-handled
 - tool Three oceans
 - touch it 42 Karachi
 - language
 - 45 Airline to Stockholm
 - 46 Census datum 47 Weather system

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

50

Level: Beginner

Here's How It Works:

49

30



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!

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Numbers

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THE OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC MORTGAGE MONITOR						
		30 Yr.	Pts.	15 Yr.	Pts.	Other
1st Choice Mortgage Lending	(734) 459-0782	3.375	0	2.75	0	J/A
Accurate Mortgage Solutions	(800) 593-1912	3.5	0	2.75	0	J/A
AFI Financial	(877) 234-0600	3.375	0	2.75	0	J/A/F
Ameriplus Mortgage Corp.	(248) 740-2323	3.375	0	2.75	0	J/A
Client Services by Gold Star	(800) 991-9922	3.375	0	2.75	0	J/A/V/F
Co-op Services Credit Union	(734) 466-6113	3.875	0.25	3.125	0	Ų
Dearborn Federal Savings Bank	(313) 565-3100	3.75	0	3	0	А
Fifth Third Bank	(800) 792-8830	3.75	0	3	0	J/A/V/F
Gold Star Mortgage	(888) 293-3477	3.125	2.25	2.625	0.25	J/A/V/F
Group One Mortgage	(248) 282-1602	3.625	0	3	0	J/A/V/F
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3.25

0.875

0.75 J/A/V/F

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Sierra Pacific Mortgage

Word Search — When it Rains ...

more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

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



Precipitation

Protection

Puddles

Boots

Broken

Cats

Caution

Cloudy

Dogs

	C	HEC	K Y	DUR	AN	SWE	RS	HER	E
	ヤ	8	6	2	L	3	9	9	Z
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O	6	g	ε	7	Þ	Į.	8	2	9
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U)	8	6	F	3	Z	S	9	9	Þ
	9	Þ	2	L	9	6	ε	L	8

9 1 2 8 6 4 7 3 5

CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE

Rain

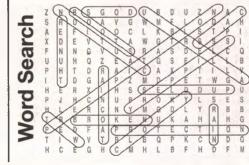
Raincoats

Slippery

Thunder

Umbrella

Wet



B11



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PreOwned Salespeople

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strong mechanical aptitud and knowledge of engine components.

fits in a great work environ ment. Uniforms and all tool provided. Suitable for entr level or individuals wishin to supplement retirement in

Send resume to hr@ilmor.com

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hr48170 @yahoo.com

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DENTAL HYGIENIST Part-Time opportunity available for energetic, patient-oriented fee for service dental practice. Must have current MI license. Ask for Joy or Janice at: (734) 464-2400

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Wayne County

RSVP By March 11, 2013

Ms. Whitley

313-224- 5906 or

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White Lake area. Contact Holly at 248-478-4378

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diamond cocktail ring missing. Please help! Heartbroken over

the loss of this wedding ring. REWARD (248)946-1203

RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER

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Guardian Bldg.
500 Griswold, 32nd Floor
Detroit, MI. 48226
Dress for Interview
Parking will not
be validated
RSVP Ry March 11, 2013.

hometownlife.com

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Auction Sales

ESTATE AUCTION
Sat., March 9th, 7pm
Cultural Center
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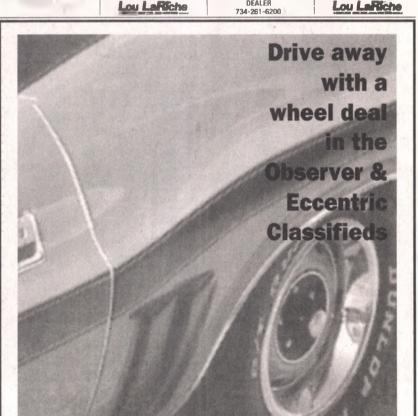
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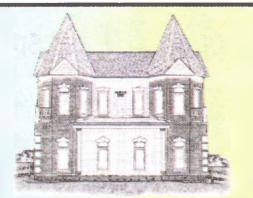
PICTURE PERFECT MAKEUP

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20TH ANNUAL WOMEN'S POWER BREAKFAST

PAGE 4





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Plan a party or a wedding and power up this spring

Don't miss the stories and advertisements

for and about weddings. A special time deserves special attention and that's what

urry, spring! That sentiment is shared by many who are tired of commuting in snow and sleet. The beauty of Michigan is our four seasons. I'm ready for another season. You?

Today's Hometown Life Woman aims to put you in a festive mood with a cov-

er story on party planning. Wedding and graduation season is almost here, so don't delay if you have a bride-to-be or grad-tobe in your family. Contributing Writer Pam Zinkosky offers up timely information on metro area party venues, food, catering ser-



Susan Rosiek

And speaking of special — the Women's Power Breakfast is celebrating 20 years in support of Gleaners Community Food Bank of Southeastern Michigan on Wednesday, April 10. More than 500 of metro Detroit's most prominent female business and com-

vices and everything in between.

today's Woman has to offer.

munity leaders will gather at Detroit's Eastern Market to network, share breakfast and raise money to feed hungry children.

Kids can't learn, play or do much if they're hungry. This year's goal is to help raise enough money to provide two million meals for hungry children.

Funds raised from this year's event benefit Gleaners' school-based programs, including SmartBites, Weekend Back Pack and school-based mobile pantry distributions. The programs reach thousands of children each week with the nutritious food they need to grow and thrive.

Tickets can be purchased online by visiting www.womenspowerbreakfast.org.

As always, I welcome your comments about today's edition and suggestions for future Woman.

> Susan Rosiek publisher srosiek@hometownlife.com

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THEY'VE GOT THE POWER

Women's breakfast celebrates 20 years

HERE COMES THE BRIDE

> And her makeup is perfect







CELEBRATE **GOOD TIMES**

> **Planning** makes perfect parties



LET THEM EAT

CUPCAKES

Patrick's Day

Green treats for St.



WHAT A WAIST

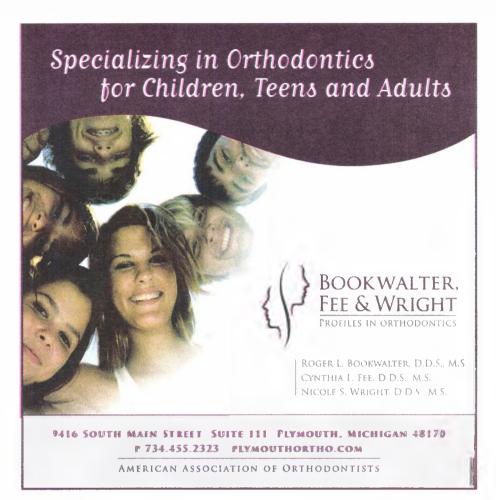
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Local Horologist Repairs Hard-to-Fix Timepieces and Clocks



BILL MILLER OF TRIPLE CROWN WATCH COMPANY is an expert watch maker, who can repair your watch or clock.

Have a watch, clock or timepiece you treasure and just can't figure out how to fix? Well, you're not alone. When many of the Detroit Area's jewelry stores can't seem to make a watch tick, they outsource more complicated repair cases to Troy's own certified horologist (that's an expert watchmaker) Bill Miller of Triple Crown Watch Company.

Miller has over 29 years experience with watches and timepieces, and received his degree in horology at Houston Technical College.

Over his expansive career, Miller has seen his share of unique cases. "One of the most interesting cases I worked on was an English Grandfather clock from the 1590's. The owner wanted it restored to working order, and rewired for battery operation," said Miller.

"Another difficult request was hand-cutting a triangular crystal for a special-edition Masonic pocketwatch by Rolex," Miller continued. There's good reason over 172 jewelers in the area rely on Triple Crown and Miller for those hard-to-fix assignments. "I enjoy the challenge of restoring unique timepieces to their original functioning state. It is as much an artform as it is pure mechanics, and it is extremely rewarding to see these old pieces correctly keeping time again."

Triple Crown Watch Company is an Authorized Howard Miller Clock Company Service Center

Triple Crown is located at 1940 E. Maple Rd. (at John R.) in Troy. In addition to repairing watches, they also repair clocks of any sort and size from small alarm clocks to vintage grandfather clocks. If you're having a watch repaired, you may want to consider having a backup. Triple Crown is an authorized dealer of Fendi, Swiss Army, Citizen, Bulova, Accutron and Luminox just to name a few.

For more information, stop by Triple Crown at 1940 E. Maple (15 Mile) just west of John R., visit www.triplecrownwatchcompany.com or give them a call at 248-585-2777. They will make sure you stay on time in 2013!

Advertorial

Women's Power Breakfast celebrates 20 years

More than 500 of metro Detroit's most prominent female business and community leaders will gather at Detroit's Eastern Market Wednesday, April 10, in Detroit for the 20th annual Women's Power Breakfast in support of Gleaners Community Food Bank of Southeastern Michigan.

The event begins at 7:30 a.m. in Shed No. 3 at the market.

Honorary chairs are Eva Tansky Blum, PNC Bank; Joyce Hayes Giles, DTE Energy; Barbara Levin, community leader; and Donya Redmond of Sodexo. This year's event chairs are community leaders Cynthia Ford and Karen Mazo.

This year's event will also recognize Dulcie Rosenfeld, a former board member and longtime Gleaners supporter who founded the Women's Power Breakfast in 1994. Rosenfeld will be honored for her leadership and commitment to feeding hungry children and families for 20 years.

The funds raised from this year's event benefit Gleaners' school-based programs, including: SmartBites, Weekend Back Pack and school-based mobile pantry distributions. The programs reach thousands of children each week with the nutritious food they need to grow and thrive.

DTE Energy Foundation, PNC Foundation, and Sodexo are Hunger Champions for the Women's Power Breakfast campaign. Their support will allow Gleaners to match all donations made leading up to April 9, when Gleaners will host a Double Your Donation Day fundraiser on WJBK-Fox 2.

"We have a big goals this year, but I'm already so impressed by out region's women corporate and community leaders, who are responding to the call to feed our hungry children," said W. DeWayne Wells, president of Gleaners. "Dulcie can feel proud that the event she started 20 years ago has grown to have such a tremendous impact on our mission."

Tickets range from \$120 Friend to \$1,000 Platinum Angel levels. Corporate and individual support opportunities are available from \$1,200 for a table to \$50,000 Champion level. To purchase tickets or learn more about Children's Hunger support opportunities, contact Suzette Hohendorf at (886) 453-GLEANER (2637), Ext. 243, or e-mail shohendorf@gcfb.org. Tickets can also be purchased on line by visiting www.womenspowerbreakfast.org.

'We have a big goals this year, but I'm already so impressed by out region's women corporate and community leaders, who are responding to the call to feed our hungry children.'

W. DEWAYNE WELLS, president of Gleaners

Look 10 years younger in one hour

'The Hour Lift' facelift now most popular cosmetic procedure — lasts for 10 years

"The results will last between five and ten years, depending upon the patient

~Dr. Eric Seiger Skin & Vein Center in Fenton



She eats right, she works out and takes care of herself every day. She wants her face to reflect this same youthful vitality that the rest of her body shows. That's why one local 69-year-old woman, who asked to remain anonymous, is in the preop area of the Skin and Vein Center in Fenton for "The Hour Lift," a mini face lift procedure that's becoming more and more popular. "We've been doing these for about 15 years, but they've become much more mainstream now since makeover shows on TV began to glamorize them about 10 years ago," said Dr. Eric Seiger, board certified dermatologist and cosmetic surgeon. "It's not a 'taboo' thing anymore."

Dr. Seiger estimates he has done between 2,500 and 3,000 of these procedures, on women as young as 24 and for a couple who was each 86 years old. "I'd say the median age for this surgery is about 58, and 95 percent of my patients are women. The results will last between five and 10 years, depending upon the patient."

The difference between The Hour Lift and a regular facelift is that The Hour Lift involves

regular facelift is that The Hour Lift involves cutting the skin and tightening the facial muscles, rather than moving the facial muscles.

The areas primarily improved by a facelift are the

The areas primarily improved by a facelift are the jowls, cheeks and neck. There's a huge difference in recovery time and price. "It's the difference between a three-day recovery and a two-week commitment," said Dr. Seiger.

The price is also a huge factor in a person's decision to undergo this procedure. Dr. Seiger says he used to charge \$3,800, and he cut the price to \$2,900 when the economy changed a couple of years ago. A full facelift will cost between \$6,000 and \$15,000 — depending upon the scope of the procedure. These elective cosmetic procedures are not covered by insurance.

"The number one thing that patients say to me is, 'I don't want to look 20 years old again. I just want to look in the mirror and be able to look as good as I feel inside. I want to feel refreshed," said Dr. Seiger For the 69-year-old patient who was waiting for her procedure, The Hour Lift was not only for her own self-esteem, but also for her success in the business world. "A youthful appearance validates your professionalism," she said. "This is how we get measured for our success."



Debbie Purcell is prepped for a mini face lift on Monday, at the Skin and Vein Center in Fenton. Dr. Eric Seiger directs resident physician Kate Johnson. They are assisted by nurse Amy Sowers.

Originally published in the Tn-County Times, Fenton, Mt 48430 Dated September 23, 2013

Thinking about having 'The Hour Lift'?

Here's what to expect:

Q: What happens before the procedure?

A: Prior to surgery, you may be given a medication to help you relax, Local anesthesia is then administered to minimize discomfort.

Q: How long does the procedure take?

A: One to 11/2 hours.

Q: What actually happens during the "One Hour Lift"?

A: A short incision is made in front of the ear. The surgeon gently lifts the tissues under the skin, removing any extra skin. The surgeon re-drapes the overlying skin, leaving the patient wrinkle-free with a firmer, more youthful jaw line.

Q: What can I expect during recovery?

A: Post surgery, patients wear an ice-containing head garment for 24-48 hours. They are likely able to shampoo and wear make-up the day after surgery. Sutures will be removed in six to eight days, resuming normal activities within three days.

Q: Does it hurt? Will I bruise or swell?

A: Approximately 85 percent of patients experience no bruising. There is minimal pain, controlled with oral medication.

Q: How long will the results last? A: Look five to 10 years younger, with results lasting usually five to 10 years.

Q: Can I talk to anyone who has had the procedure?

A: The Skin and Vein Center can arrange for a contact with someone who has had the procedure and agrees to speak to prospective patients.

Source: skinandvein.com

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Lauren Freeland-Magnetta

Jillian McDonald Fiebelkorn



Barbara Deyo

Here comes the bride and her makeup looks great!

By Barbara Deyo **Guest Columnist**

eddings are a mainstay of my business. I figure I have done easily 1,000-plus weddings in my career. So, suffice it to say, I've pretty much seen it

Last month was a new experience. I had a bride trial scheduled, she came in with a full face of makeup on - lashes and all. I said, "Wow, your makeup looks pretty. Aren't we doing a makeup trial today?" Yes, we were. I was her fifth one — and the second one of the day.

She didn't look happy. As I said, her make-

up was pretty, but just not what she wanted. We proceeded to look at pictures of her inspirations, of her previous trials. I was able to inspect what she had done that day, so we could try to figure out what the others did, or didn't do, that she wasn't happy with.

We talked for 20 minutes before I even picked up a brush. After more than two hours with bride-to-be and mother-of-thebride (who got her makeup done as well), trial No. 5 was complete. She looked in the mirror. She smiled. I exhaled. I'm hired.

Your wedding day is a milestone. No matter how prepared you may be, that all goes out the window when you are the bride. Being the bride tends to bring out tensions

and anxieties you might not normally have, coupled with the fact that all eyes will be on you all day. I know this because it is what I do for a living. Remember - 1,000-plus weddings. Trust me.

So all you brides to be out there, here is my best advice for you: Take a deep breath, exhale slowly ... and let's proceed.

Getting started

Communication is paramount. My first course of action when a client comes to me for her makeup is, ask questions. If you have a particular look in mind, come prepared. Bring inspiration photos from magazines, as well as photos of yourself where you like

the way you look. I may see something different than you do. You may like the photo, but are not sure why — and more than likely, it's the overall feel rather than one specific aspect. For example, you may see the smoky eye and I may see the dewy skin that's really making the look you want. I dig deeper into what you really mean. After all, "natural" to you may not mean the same thing as "natural" to me.

I find out your normal comfort level with makeup to make sure we don't overdo it. In fact, it's not a bad idea to come with your normal makeup on, so I can see what your

Please see DEYO, 7



PHOTO COURTESY OF JEFF GRIFFITHS. **ELITE ENTERTAINMENT**

Krysti Chesney

DEYO

Continued from page 6

everyday makeup is - and then give you your best bridal version of you.

I want to know what your dress looks like, the overall theme of the wedding and how vou envision vourself that day. It all comes into play in determining your final look.

So once we are on the same page and you feel comfortable, there is still another matter to consider. What is right for you? There are so many different looks you can have on your wedding day, and there is no right or wrong one. I don't recommend trying anything too new on the day of your wedding. If you have never worn red lipstick, today might not be the day to give it a whirl. Likewise, if you are a glam red kind of girl, stick to it — a blushy nude will feel unnatural to

As flexible and willing as I am to do what makes you happy and comfortable and accommodate your every need, I have some cardinal rules I am not willing to break -1,000-plus weddings remember? Trust me.

Foundation is a must

You must wear foundation. Even if it's a sheer tint, you need to wear something for longevity and so you don't look "faded" in pictures. And you want it to last all day, so a light layering of foundation, concealer and powder will make it last longer. Evening out the skin tone is one of the key factors in having a polished look. Along with that is proper contouring and highlighting. When done correctly, it will be a subtle thing that you don't "notice" necessarily, but makes a big impact.

Please, get your eyebrows shaped the week before. It saves time and redness on the day of and it is an absolute must for perfect makeup. And on your wedding day, you need to fill in your brows a bit. Even if it's just a light-colored brow gel, it adds balance to the overall look.

Think about 20 years from now. I was an early '90s bride, so I can tell you, my grey/ plum ultra-matte lipstick tells the time. Clean, classic, simple makeup is best. And keep in mind, there are certainly many variations that create a timeless beauty.

Last but not least — touch up. You spent all that time, money, blood, sweat and tears, please don't forget to reapply your lipstick.

Your ceremony and reception are over in the blink of an eye, but the video coverage and photo album will last a lifetime. You don't want to be shiny for eternity. Powder vour nose. Remember, 1,000-plus weddings - trust me.

Barbara Deyo, health, wellness and beauty writer, owns Deyo Studio for face and body, 576 N. Old Woodward Avenue, second floor in downtown Birmingham. Deyo is an internationally acclaimed makeup artist, having groomed the faces of Paul McCartney, Bob Seger, Kerrie Washington, Shaun Robinson and more. She has been named Best of the Best by Allure, Hour, Real Detroit and WDIV. Call (248) 203-1222 or visit www.devostudio.com for more information.





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Planning the perfect party

By Pamela A. Zinkosky

Contributing Writer

Whether you're hosting an intimate bridal shower or a grand graduation, the devil is in the details — what to serve, how to decorate, who to invite, how to entertain. Luckily, metro Detroit has its share of party planning resources to help you succeed.

Start with the basics — what are you celebrating, how many guests will you have, will you host in-home or at a facility and what would you like the atmosphere of the event to be?

"I always ask (the client) what's their vision — how would they like to entertain — and go from there," said Joanie Sams, director of catering for The Townsend Hotel in Birmingham.

The Townsend hosts formal tea parties for up to 50 people in its lobby, which is a public area, or more private events in a variety of banquet areas that can hold a couple hundred people if necessary. Each room has a different feel, Sams

explained.

If you decide to host at a facility, consider the available space and seating, but also the atmosphere. Many restaurants offer private or semi-private rooms for parties. Also consider banquet halls and even local parks for events.

Unique venues

Amy Jean Thompson, co-owner of The Ideal Bite Catering Co. in Royal Oak, which provides party planning and catering at many local sites, said she recommends unique venues like Habatat Galleries in Royal Oak. It's a glass gallery that offers areas where up to 100 people could be served, she said. "You could also do a strolling meal among the artwork."

If you're looking for an intimate homelike setting, check out Bon-A-Rose Home Style Foods in New Hudson. The food distribution and catering company is located in a 19th century home that makes a nice venue for parties of up to 60 people, or more if it's outdoors.

Anna Hoffman, owner of Bon-A-Rose,

said she's hosted graduation parties with 150 people. The home's first and second floors, which hold about 35 people each for seated meals, were opened up, and a tent extended the party into the outdoor grounds and gardens.

"It's like having it at your house but without all the work and stress," Hoffman said. "It's very home-oriented and loving. People have free rein of the building."

Feeding the masses

Fairly early on in your party planning, decide what kind of food you'll serve and how you'd like it served. If you want it catered, provide at least a month's worth of notice to your caterer if possible.

Again, consider your vision for the event. If you have gifts to open and games to play at a shower, for example, you might opt for a plated or family-style meal, because buffet dining does take longer, Sams pointed out.

On the other hand, food often becomes part of the entertainment. Sharon Juer-

gens, partner and executive chef for Diamond Jim Brady's Bistro in Novi, said dining stations are popular these days, because they prompt guests to take an active part in the food creation and service

Diamond Jim Brady's creates a lot of seafood bars, noodle bars and potato bars, with guests choosing their toppings and sauces, Juergens said.

Laura Livingston, catering director for Joe's Gourmet Catering & Events in Livonia, said Joe's has done stations with pierogis, sliders and fries, barbecued food and even sushi.

Ideal Bite Catering offers its popular Stations of Detroit, with food stations including Mexicantown, Hamtramck/Polish, Corktown BBQ, Greektown/Coney Island and Dearborn/Middle Eastern to represent various Detroit ethnicities. Clients can choose three stations for approximately \$23 per party guest.

RealBarBQ in Canton offers a popular

Please see PLANNING. 16





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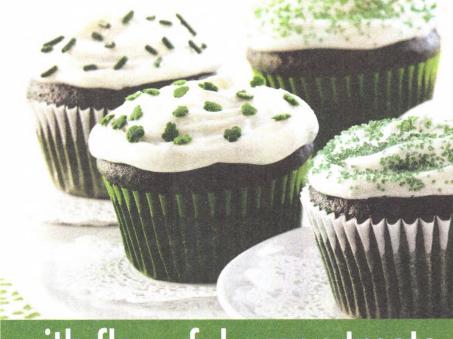
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Celebrate St. Patrick's Day



with flavorful green treats

St. Patrick's Day is the perfect occasion to have fun in the kitchen with the color and flavor of the holiday — vivid green and refreshing peppermint.

"Food color and extract can transform an ordinary cupcake or cookie into a festive delight, worthy of any St. Paddy's party," said Mary Beth Harrington of the McCormick Kitchens.

For a green twist on classic red velvet cupcakes, stir green food color into basic cake mix and add pure vanilla extract, sour cream and cocoa powder. Whip up minty green cream cheese frosting and decorate with green sprinkles or colored sugar to make them fun for kids of all ages.

For more St. Patrick's Day ideas and recipes, visit www.McCormick.com, www.Facebook.com/McCormickSpice, or www.Pinterest.com/mccormickspices.

Easy Green Velvet Cupcakes

Prep Time: 20 minutes Cook Time: 20 minutes Makes 24 servings

1 package (18½ ounces) German chocolate cake mix with pudding

1 cup sour cream

& cup water

¼ cup unsweetened cocoa powder

4 cup vegetable oil

1 bottle (1 ounce) McCormick Green Food Color

3 eggs

2 teaspoons McCormick Pure Vanilla Extract 1 container (16 ounces) cream cheese

frosting or Vanilla Cream Cheese Frosting (recipe follows) Green sprinkles (optional)

Preheat oven to 350°F. Beat cake mix, sour cream, water, cocoa powder, oil, food color, eggs and vanilla in large bowl with electric mixer on low speed just until moistened, scraping sides of bowl frequently. Beat on medium speed 2 minutes.

Pour batter into 24 paper-lined muffin cups, filling each cup ½ full.

Bake 20 minutes or until toothpick inserted in center of cupcake comes out clean. Cool in pan 10 minutes. Remove from pans; cool completely on wire rack. Frost with cream cheese frosting. Decorate with sprinkles, if desired.

Minty Green Cream Cheese Frosting:

Stir $\mbox{\ensuremath{\&}}$ teaspoon McCormick Pure Peppermint Extract and $\mbox{\ensuremath{\&}}$ teaspoon McCormick Green Food Color into canned cream cheese frosting or Vanilla Cream Cheese Frosting.

Vanilla Cream Cheese Frosting:

Beat 1 package (8 ounces) cream cheese, softened, 4 cup (½ stick) butter, softened, 2 tablespoons sour cream and 2 teaspoons McCormick Pure Vanilla Extract in large bowl until light and fluffy. Gradually beat in 1 box (16 ounces) confectioners' sugar until smooth. Makes 2½ cups.

— Courtesy Family Features



Bloomfield Hills designer Julie Geisinger introduced several new styles to the free to be yoga tees® line earlier this month and announced the arrival of the brand new "free to be baby" line.

The newest additions are available for sale at freetobeyogatees.com under the shop tab.

The new unisex eco hoodie, features the "peace love detroit" design. Made from an organic cotton/RPET blend (RPET is recycled polyester made from recycled plastic bottles), the hoodie is available in heather coal.

In the "free to be baby" collection, a long-sleeve infant one piece, made from 100-percent organic cotton, comes in canary which is great for a baby boy or girl. Sizes are 3-6 months, 6-12 months and 12-18 months and feature the "peace love detroit" design.

A women's baby-rib tank top is now available in aster blue, a fresh new color just in time for spring. Featuring Gandhi's quote, "Be the change you want to see in the world," the tank is made from a blend of organic bamboo/ organic cotton/lycra and comes in sizes small through large.

Founded in June 2010, free to be voga tees, voga apparel & state of mind offers designs for both men and women. Made in the U.S., the Earth-friendly tees come in a variety of styles and colors and are made from sustainable fab-

Visit freetobevogatees.com for additional information or to purchase a free to be voga tee.

The entire collection is on sale at Artis-in Market at Twelve Oaks Mall in

Camp Fair 2013 at Michigan Science Center

Metro Parent's Super Summers for Kids Summer Enrichment & Camp Fair happens noon to 3:30 p.m. Sunday, March 10, in the newly reopened Michigan Science Center 5020 John R Street in Detroit. Admission is free.

This year's theme is "Childhood passions: Rooted at home. Realized at camp." Visitors are invited to scout

out some of the coolest camp concepts around southeast Michigan and beyond, including tennis, robotics, horse riding, hockey, dance, special needs and lots more, with options ranging from tykes to teens and explore the new science cen-

Learn more at MetroParent.com/ CampFair.



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Safe, smart ways to slim down before your wedding

Many brides-to-be, and even some grooms-to-be, express concern about their weight in the weeks and months leading up to their wedding. Losing weight is a goal for many engaged couples, but it's important that couples who want to shed a few extra pounds don't sacrifice safety for the sake of slimming down.

According to a Cornell University study of 273 women with a wedding day approaching, 70 percent wanted to lose more than 20 pounds before their weddings. However, reality indicates that a weight loss of 5-10 pounds is more attainable — more so if the weight loss regimen is spread out over several weeks. The term "brideorexia" has entered the vernacular, and it is associated with brides who are taking extreme measures to lose weight. Taking laxatives, engaging in fluid-only diets and even using tobacco or drugs to serve as appetite suppressants are just some of the measures some brides have taken to shed weight before their wedding days.

There is no magic formula to shed pounds, but there are certain ways to jump-start and maintain the process of healthy weight loss so brides can look slimmer and healthy for their big day.

• Eat. Although initial calorie curbing can help shed weight, eventually your body may adapt to your new eating habits or go into "survival mode," which means conserving fat reserves. Researchers at Penn State University found that fasting signals to your body that it is being starved, triggering a lower metabolic rate. Brides-to-be should never cut out food entirely. Eating anything less than 1,200 calories a day will encourage the body to try to conserve energy by lowering its metabolism. Severe calorie restriction is not an effective way to lose weight.



Concern about fitting into their gowns drives many brides to crash diet in an effort to lose weight.

• Step up your exercise regimen. Reducing food intake alone will not help you lose weight quickly. The goal is to burn more calories than you consume. Therefore, adding more cardiovascular activity to your rou-

tine can help burn calories more efficiently.

- Reduce sodium intake. Sodium doesn't necessarily lead to weight gain, but it can make it appear so. Sodium contributes to water retention in the body, which may make you appear heavier or bloated.
- Identify sources of empty calories. Fruit juices, soda and other beverages are often the culprits with regards to unnecessary calorie consumption. Therefore, choose your beverages wisely and limit them to water, teas and unsweetened drinks. If you want to drink fruit juice, consider diluting it. In addition, most alcoholic beverages have 100 calories or more.
- Hire a good photographer. A camera allegedly adds 10 pounds, a reason many couples panic about their wedding day. A professional photographer will know how to manipulate lighting and angles of the camera to ensure a more flattering shot.
- Eat smaller portions. Oftentimes, it's not a matter of what you are eating, but how much. Most portion sizes served in restaurants or even at home are double or triple the amount that you should be eating. When in doubt, cut everything in half.
- Fill up on fiber or protein. Instead of resorting to pills to suppress an appetite, simply eat foods that will fill you up naturally. High-fiber foods will bulk up in the stomach and keep you feeling satiated longer. The same can be said for lean proteins, which take longer to digest, thus fending off hunger pangs.

While losing weight for a wedding is many couples' ultimate goal, the best way to tackle this task is in a healthy, responsible manner.

- Courtesy of Metro Creative



Edible wedding favors may include cookie baskets featuring gourmet items from a favorite bakery.

Edible favors are thoughtful, delicious

A token of appreciation for guests is requisite at wedding receptions. Wedding favors enable attendees to walk away from the event with a memento and also a small thank you for their participation and celebration of this momentous event.

Brides- and grooms-to-be have different ideas when it comes to wedding favors. Guests have their own opinions, too. As customs and trends change, so do the options in wedding favors.

In the past, wedding favors were not much different from the items offered today, and not every guest was privy to a take-home trinket. In the 16th century, wedding favors were a sign of extravagance and showed off the family's wealth to the guests. Only rich and prominent people during those times could afford and provide sophisticated gifts to their guests. Some favors symbolized luck, and sharing them with guests ensured good luck to all as well. Almonds were common favors because they symbolized fertili-

ty, health, happiness, wealth and longevity.

Edible gifts can be as varied as a person desires. Candy-coated almonds are still popular, but many couples have expanded their choices and have created new trends in favors. For those couples seeking a unique edible favor for the wedding, here are some suggestions:

- Cake or brownie pops. Food on a stick has long been a favorite of many, but the concept has been taken to new heights with the creation of cake pops. These are small balls of cake or brownie that are made from cake crumbs and frosting. The balls are covered in candy melts or chocolate and served on a stick. Chocolate artists can transform ordinary cake pops into works of art with intricate piping designs on the hard, outer shell. Clear cello bags and decorative ribbon may be all that's necessary for a classic wrapping.
- Cookies. Pastry arts continue to be popular favors for any occasion. Many bakeries offer intricately designed and decorated

cookies that can pertain to any theme. Think about a wedding couple or a set of rings as the cookie of choice for a wedding favor.

- Petit fours. These bite-sized pastries lend themselves well to wedding favors. They can easily be paired and put in small boxes as take-home treats. Some bakeries create petit fours on demand. If not, petit fours can be purchased through online vendors.
- Chocolate. Gourmet chocolate remains a popular edible favor. Choose among truffles, caramels, chocolate-covered pretzels or any favorite treat.
- Seasonal treats. If a wedding coincides with a particular season or holiday, favors can be coordinated as well. Think caramelcovered apples for fall parties, chocolate bunnies for spring events, spiced cake bars for the winter holidays or lemon tarts for summer weddings.

Edible gifts are thoughtful and flavorful mementos of the wedding day.

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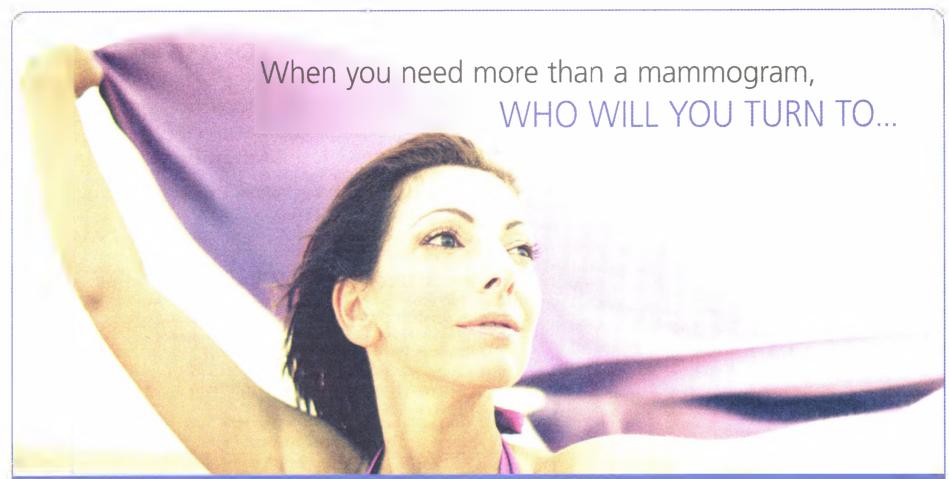


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PLANNING

Continued from page 8

menu for graduations: slow-cooked barbecued ribs, pulled pork, chicken and wings. Owner Dave Ebner said the ribs — with six different house-made sauces — are the most popular.

"We smoke our ribs for three to four hours, and other meats for up to 20 hours," Ebner said.

RealBarBO also offers sides like mac and cheese, cornbread, coleslaw, potato salad and smoked baked beans. Catering packages start at \$6.99 per person and go up to \$13.99 per person, or they can be customized with items that might not even be on the menu, Ebner said.

Lighter fare

For showers, the food trends toward the lighter side. Livingston said Joe's signature salads are popular. The full-service caterer offers a variety of salads for \$4.95 per person, including fattoush, classic Caesar, Michigan cherry, and Joe's signature salad with romaine lettuce, spiced pecans, goat cheese and pears.

For dessert, Joe's offers specialty cakes from its in-house bakery or, for something a little different, s'mores. "We cook them up there," Livingston said. "You just provide the fire."

When choosing a caterer, Thompson recommends asking a lot of questions about the food. "Where does it come from, how do they select it, how do they present it? Don't fall for a caterer that uses frozen or processed foods. Make sure to spend some time getting to know who you are working with," she said.

"A good rule of thumb when getting pricing," Thompson said, "is to imagine how much it costs to eat a nice meal at a restaurant. If you get a price per person around the cost of a fast-food meal, you can expect to receive the same quality that you would at a drive-through window."

How much food to order or prepare is also a big question, and it really depends on a multiple factors. First, consider who you're inviting, suggested Thompson. Feeding a group of women at a shower isn't going to require as much food as feeding the football team at your son's graduation party.

"If you have a lot of high school kids, make sure you have a lot of late-night food because they tend to get hungrier later." suggested Eliza Wood of The Grad Girls, which provides onsite party staffing.

Especially for graduations, consider how many other parties are scheduled that day and whether your guests may have already eaten, Thompson said. "Sometimes you're one of five parties a person is attending that day," in prime graduation party

All things considered, there are a few rules of thumb in estimating food amounts. Juergens gave the following guidelines: one and a half appetizers per person, four to six ounces of meat per person and half a pound of pasta per person. "We almost always go over because you never want to run out," she added.

And have a backup plan. Remember, you can always order pizza or another dish from a local restaurant if you run out of food.



PHOTO BY ELAYNE GROSS

Unique ideas

Once you've nailed down the party basics, you may want to think about some unique touches to make your event shine. For example, depending on your budget, you may rent a photo booth for guests' entertainment or hire a disc jockey or live band to provide music.

"The big thing for graduation parties are the ice cream carts." Thompson said. You can rent them by the hour and pay for enough ice cream for your guests. It's a nice nostalgia item, she said. "How often do you get a novelty ice cream?"

Coffee carts, funnel cake machines and slushy machines also make nice food and beverage items that double as entertainment.

You can also make the cooking part of the entertainment. Thompson said she's done cooking demos for in-home showers that have turned out really fun. "We cook in your kitchen, and you eat while we clean up," she said.

Ebner said RealBarBQ can also prepare food onsite upon request. "We can get a portable smok-

er and cook the food there," he said. "We've also talked to a couple people about doing a pig roast. It just depends on your budget."

You can also choose nontraditional ways of entertaining. Sams, who said The Townsend is known to think outside the box in creating events, once helped a bride create a unique bridal shower based on an idea she read in Southern Living mag-

"We did part sit-down and part buffet," Sams said. Guests handed in their gifts upon arrival and had a seated meal. Behind a partition, Townsend staff opened the gifts and created table settings incorporating the gifts so that guests could walk around and see the gifts displayed while enjoying a strolling dessert.

"It was so much fun," Sams said. "This way you could actually see it all put together."

Sams has also hosted plenty of couples showers, including a tool time shower. "Everybody brought tools," she said. "That way the guys were able to buy into the shower."



PHOTO BY ELAYNE GROSS

Food often becomes part of the entertainment. Sharon Juergens, partner and executive chef for Diamond Jim Brady's Bistro in Novi, said dining stations are popular these days, because they prompt guests to take an active part in the food creation and service.

Minimizing the stress

No matter how you look at it, parties are hard work. But they should be at least a little bit fun for the hosts, or they're not worth hav-

One way to minimize stress, Hoffman said, is to have the event catered. "People do have a tight budget, but once you consider the time to buy the food, cook the food, prepare it, that is very high-anxiety for people," she said.

Wood and Sidney Migoski, originally from Northville but now living in Ann Arbor, provide that service for graduations and other parties through their company The Grad Girls. They charge approximately \$30 per hour for the two of them to be onsite, depending on the number of hours they're needed.

"We try to make it so the people hosting the party can enjoy it," Migoski said.

"Some clients are skeptical," Wood noted. "They think it's excessive. But by the end of those parties, they're so glad they hired us."

Migoski and Wood also noted some ideas for keeping a party manageable. "A lot of people are going simple with a variety of pastas and salads," Wood said. They're also cooking up a few family recipes and filling in with specialty items from local caterers or restaurants, or even Costco, she said.

Most caterers also offer a full-service option, with staffing onsite to serve the food and clean up. "I try to encourage people to do a fully staffed event because time is money," Livingston said.

Joe's charges \$18 to \$25 per hour for onsite staffing, which could include setup, decorating, serving the food, bartending and clean-

Another idea to keep the meal simple is to set a time for dinner instead of trying to serve food throughout the party, The Grad Girls said. Include a timeframe, such as 4 to 6 p.m., on the menu, and then serve appetizers and drinks the rest of the time.

Reining in the budget

Everyone's watching their dollars these days, but that doesn't mean you can't throw a great party. Here are some budget-wise ideas

gested. Guests will take smaller portions •Combine parties. Parties with dual or even that way, because they've already filled their triple guests of honor can cut costs and make plates with other items.

> •Skip the full bar. "A lot of folks, to save money and to make the choices a little easier for guests, they'll do beer and wine and one signature cocktail like a mojito." Livingston said. "Or they'll do all Grey Goose vodka

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•Go meatless. Vegetarian dishes are a great choice for warm-weather events because they're light and in-season, plus they're colorful and make a great presentation, Juergens

gens. "People want to try a little bit of every-•Keep decorations simple and natural, Juergens suggested. Look to your yard for flowthing. This way you don't waste food." •Put the prime rib last. "When arranging ers or twigs that would make nice centerpieca buffet, place the most expensive or most es. Use wicker baskets from home to hold silsought-after thing at the end," Juergens sugverware.

no to cal

Here are some area resources to contact for upcoming celebrations.

Bon-A-Rose Home Style Foods

Catering Venue: historic home with seating for up to 60 people or up to 150 with outdoor grounds New Hudson (248) 437-4341 www.bonarosefoods.com

Diamond Jim Brady's Bistro

Catering Venue: heated and enclosed patio areas seating up to 35 people (248) 380-8460 www.djbistro.com

Edwards Cafe and Caterer

Catering Northville (248) 344-1550 www.edwardscaterer.com

The Grad Girls

Event service and management Northville (248) 756-0461

Habatat Galleries

Venue: seating for up to 100 people, or strolling meals Royal Oak (248) 554-0590 www.habatat.com

The Ideal Bite Catering Co.

Catering Event planning Roval Oak (248) 398-2629 www.idealbitecatering.com

The Inn at St. John's

Catering Venue: various rooms with seating for up to 1.000 people Plymouth Township

(734) 414-0600 www.stjohnsgolfconference.com

Joe's Gourmet Catering and Events

Event planning, catering, florist and pastry services (Located in Joe's Produce Gourmet Market) Livonia (248) 477-4333 www.joesgourmetcatering.com

Laurel Manor

from area experts:

uation party idea, she said.

entree," said Thompson.

for more fun, said Hoffman. With multiple

hosts, you get more ideas for the party, and

also split the expenses. This is a popular grad-

•Choose entrees instead of appetizers. "Peo-

ple think appetizers are less expensive than

dinner, but they're way more labor intensive

•Make the portions small. "Slice chicken

breasts into four equal portions," said Juer-

for us than creating a large portion of one

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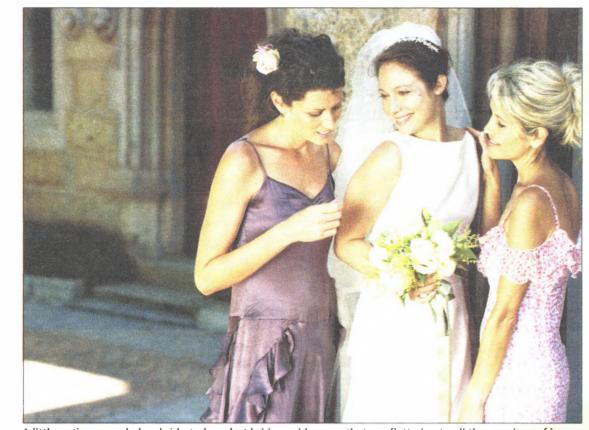
Find a gown they all will love

Close friends and family members are an important component of a couple's wedding day. Individuals who are especially close to the bride and groom are often asked to become members of the wedding party, which means a bride-to-be will be asking one or more women to play an integral role in the celebration. To set these ladies apart from other guests at the wedding, they are often asked to wear coordinating bridesmaid gowns. Selecting a style and color that is fitting to the unique people of the bridal party can be chal lenging, but it's not impossible

As if choosing your maid of honor wasn't tricky enough. vou now must make a host of other decisions as well, all while playing stylist to the wedding party. Fashion sense is as unique as a fingerprint, and it is unlikely the bridesmaids will be able to agree on every aspect of the gowns they will be asked to wear. However, there are ways to narrow down the choices and be as accommodating as possible to their needs.

Size matters

The body shapes and sizes of the women in your bridal party will be different, and this should be kept in mind when selecting a gown style and cut. There are certain dress shapes that are universally flattering, such as A-line. Try to avoid gowns that are extremely form-fitting, as only a few of the bridesmaids may be able to pull off this look successfully. The remainder could be left feeling self-conscious and uncomfortable. Plus. form-fitting clothing will be restrictive and can be difficult to move around in — particularly considering the gown will be worn for an entire day.



A little patience can help a bride-to-be select bridesmaid gowns that are flattering to all the members of her bridal party.

Flattering color

As a bride, you may have a colorscape in your mind for the wedding. But what looks good in table linens and flowers is not always the right choice for clothing. Take the skin tones and hair colors of your bridesmaids into consideration before choosing a dress. Green- and yellow-hued dresses may not look nice on women with olive skin tones, while very pale colors may wash out women with fair skin. Those with dark skin may need a brighter-colored dress.

Price tag

It is an honor to be asked to be part of a bridal party, but that honor can be expensive. The bridesmaids are expected to pay



for their wardrobe, hair styling and makeup, as well as parties and gifts for the happy couple. As a courtesy to the women who

already will be investing a considerable amount to be a part of your wedding, make every effort to select a gown that is afford-

able. There are plenty of retailers in our area that offer stylish options.

Other tips

Once you've decided on the basic elements, consider the following suggestions to find a gown that the bridal party will

 Take one or two bridesmaids shopping with you. Try to select ones with opposite body types so you can see how the gown looks on a woman who is thin and one who may be more full-figured.

 Think about choosing separates. The bridesmaids can mix and match tops and bottoms to find a fit that works. This may enable a woman with a larger bust size to select a top with supportive straps, while another bridesmaid can opt for strapless. Many bridal shops have increased their inventory of separates because of their growing popularity.

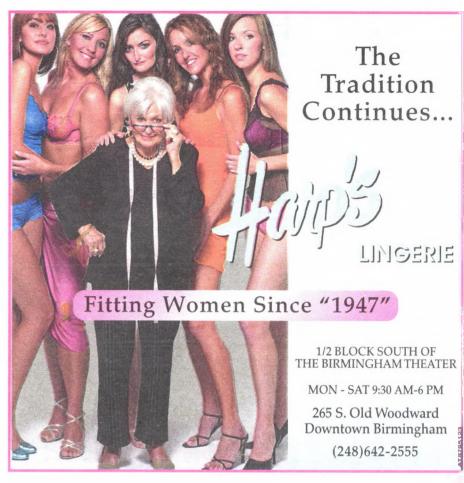
· Choose one color and then let the bridesmaids choose the style they like the best for themselves. The look will still be cohesive, but it won't be boring with one type of gown. Also, each bridesmaid will be comfortable with a gown that flatters her shape.

 Go with a tea-length gown. These gowns have become quite trendy and are less formal and cumbersome than full-length gowns. Plus, there is a greater likelihood that the gown can be used again at a later date.

 Purchase the bridesmaid gowns at the same store where you will be purchasing your wedding gown. Most shops will offer a courtesy discount if the bridesmaid gowns are purchased at the same store.

Ensuring bridesmaids are happy in their gowns takes a little work, but will be well worth the effort.







Wedding themes add up to extra fun

Every couple wants their wedding to be memorable. The goal of planning a wedding is to create an experience that everyone will remember for years to come. For some couples, a theme wedding is the best way to accomplish just that.

When it comes time to select a theme, the day the wedding takes place may dictate the theme. For example, if the wedding takes place on Halloween, the ideas for the theme are easy. Many other couples choose a theme that highlights a specific interest or hobby or something that is dear to them. Here are some popular wedding themes:

 Holiday. The Christmas season lends itself well to wedding planning. The colors (red, green, gold) are already established and most churches and buildings are already decked out in holiday finery, cutting down on the amount of flowers and embellishments couples need.



A masquerade theme might be an entertaining theme for a couple's nuptials.

Because the holiday season is so busy and a popular time for socializing, couples who want to tie the knot during this time of year should send save-the-date cards well in advance. Another option is to have a "Christmas in July" wedding, featuring the same holiday themes, but without the hectic nature of the holiday season.

• Vegas. Couples who want to tie the knot in Las Vegas, but want to ensure all

their loved ones can attend, can recreate the magic of Vegas wherever they may be. Casino-inspired games and big buffet meals can make guests feel like they have stepped into a casino on the famed Vegas strip. In addition, an Elvis impersonator is essential to a Vegas wedding.

• TV show. Some couples elevate certain television shows to cult status. Whether it's *Friends* or *Star Trek*, popular television shows have been transformed into festive wedding themes. Whether the idea is to go daring and exchange vows in costume or simply name reception tables according to characters or show locations, couples can include a little television fun into the event.

• Fairytale. Many men and women envision a fairytale wedding complete with horse-drawn carriage and the "happily ever after." This is what makes Disney properties, as well as the various castles around the world, popular backdrops for wedding events. Those planning a fairytale wedding need only look to favorite stories or movies for their inspiration.

• Interest or passion. Love to climb mountains? Avid about scuba diving? Couples who share a particular interest can include elements of this sport or hobby into their wedding. Invitations and decor can hint at the theme, and then special activities can further enhance it. Fish bowls as centerpieces may call to mind underwater adventures, while surfboard-shaped invites may set the scene for a beachside party.

Theme weddings can add an extra spice to the festivities and incorporate couples' interests into the event — making it even more special.



Vintage style returns

Brides-to-be devote plenty of time to thinking about their wedding gowns, and some women spend months scouring stores for their ideal designs. But what if the perfect gown is already tucked away in a family member's closet?

Some brides view a hand-me-down gown with a degree of skepticism. After all, people may poke fun at dresses passed on by well-meaning friends and family that feature styling that is out-of-date (think 1980s shoulder pads). However, in most cases, dresses can be altered and turned into something that fits the new bride's style and physique. Your local Bridal Shop will be more than happy to assist you.

According to About.com, the average machine-sewn wedding gown made of synthetic fabrics will cost \$500 and up. High-end fabrics and special orders can increase the cost of a gown to \$2,000 or more. Designer gowns custom cut and sewn according to a bride's measurements may cost as much as \$6,000. Some brides may not want the added cost but more importantly they might just cherish the historical factor, the history of a vintage gown can prove to be an interesting part of your wedding.

When considering a vintage or handme-down gown, there are certain questions brides-to-be should ask before agreeing to wear the dress.

• What is the size? It's much easier to take fabric away from a gown than to match it and add fabric to the gown. Therefore, try on the gown and see if alterations will be possible. Do not plan on crash dieting to fit in the gown. You may not reach your goal, and then you may be stuck with an ill-fitting dress. How well a gown fits goes a long way toward the bride's appearance.

• What is the condition? Many dry cleaners offer wedding gown preservation packages, and brides have been taking advantage of this service. The gown is cleaned and boxed so it will not discolor. If you are receiving a gown that has undergone this treatment, there is a greater likelihood it will look much like it did when it was first worn. However, some former brides do not store their gowns properly, and they may be stained, torn or discolored. While it is



Certain factors will solidify brides' decisions to use handme-down wedding gowns.

possible to do some cleaning, you may not end up with a gown that meets your approval.

• Is the shape flattering? If a gown has good "bones" to it, there's a chance that a talented tailor can turn it into something that will enhance your frame and body type. If the gown is of a style that you never would have considered, such as a mermaid cut or princess style, then it may be much more difficult and costly to transform it into something workable

 Are you settling? Every bride wants to feel romantic in her wedding gown, which is why shopping for a gown is often akin to searching for lost treasure.
 If the hand-me-down gown doesn't give you goosebumps when you put it on and you're settling simply because of the price, then it may put a damper on your entire wedding.

• What's your budget? Even though hand-me-down wedding dresses may be no cost initially, you may accumulate a sum depending on the extent of the alterations needed. Get an estimate from a seamstress and find out if it will be financially smart to go with the used gown or purchase something new.

Wearing a hand-me-down gown is something many brides consider, especially if the dress has sentimental meaning or is a family heirloom. Certain questions should be answered before finalizing the decision to go with something vintage.

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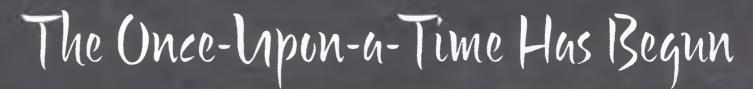
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Expert tips for hair styles

Special occasions and parties crop up over the course of a typical year. Be it weddings, birthday parties or anniversary galas, friends and families often gather to celebrate especially momentous events.

Part of the excitement of these events is donning formal wear or cocktail attire and enlisting the help of beauty experts to look your best for these memorable events. Experienced hair stylists and makeup artists can transform your look from basic to glam in a short amount of time, and women often rely on the professional expertise of cosmetologists to help them create the perfect party look.

April Cornelius, a professional stylist and owner of the business Bridal Hair by April (www.bridalhairbyapril.com), says, "Usually the hair stylist and makeup artist work together and have an easy flow of the clients. They work in conjunction to create looks that are not easily executed by an amateur."

For those with hectic social schedules, Cornelius shares her secrets of hair success to ensure you put your best face forward at the next big occasion.

Preparation and party countdown

Once the decision has been made to use a professional stylist to work on your hair for a special occasion, there are a few things to keep in mind to ensure success. The first step is finding a stylist with whom you will have a good rapport. Ask your regular salon stylist if he or she

does special occasion work, or ask for a referral from a friend or family member who has used someone in the past.

Cornelius warns against taking drastic measures with your hair within two to three weeks of the event.

"Try not to schedule a cut or color right before the party," she says. "Otherwise you may be stuck with a color or shorter cut than what you wanted. Also, spend time in advance to talk to your stylist

about suggested cuts and colors that may enhance your hairdo."

Once you get your gown, hair accessories and veil, schedule a trial run so that the stylist can walk you through different options.

"Hair styles are usually based on the type of dress you are wearing, and the stylist can suggest different things," Cornelius says. "If you choose a style that requires more or longer hair, the stylist can often adjust by using temporary hair extensions that are not easily detected."

Cornelius notes that women with short hair need not worry about having a hairstyle that looks formal and fashionable: "Short hair is easy to style. I like to use side parts and maybe some height at the crown. Using fun, stylish clips, curls and headbands are additional ways to dress up the look."

The day of the event

Few things can complicate a style further than not being ready for the stylist or using products on your hair that are not conducive to keeping the hair set.

"Hair should not be washed any less than one day before the appointment," Cornelius says. "It is essential that the hair be completely dry before the stylist gets there in order to make the process run



Work with a stylist you know and trust. Explain what you want and what you expect; bring pictures if possible.

more smoothly. He or she cannot spend extra time blow drying the hair, and if it needs to be done it could incur an extra cost."

It is advisable to use mousse or hair spray in the hair because they will help set the hairstyle. Avoid the use of hair serums or frizz-fighting oils that can cause hair pins or curls not to hold well.

In most cases, a stylist will come equipped with the items he or she needs. If you have discussed any special hair accoutrements, such as rhinestones, beads or clips, have them at the ready.

It can take about an hour to do a hairstyle, and if the stylist is working with more than one person for the party, it is important to be on time for your appointment, or be home if the stylist is coming to you.

Other handy tips

Cornelius shares more first-hand tips that can also make styling go more smoothly.

- If you have very curly hair and need it smooth and prepped for your stylist on your appointment date, try going to a hair salon the day before and have it professionally blown out.
- Print out or bring a magazine clipping to illustrate what type of style you want. Small pictures viewed on a mobile phone are not enough for a stylist to rely on.
- Bring fun accessories, including cobs, pins or clips, to enhance your style.
- Wear a button- or zip-down shirt for easy unrobing after your style is done. You don't want to have to pull anything over your head.
- Go to a stylist someone you trust has recommended. You don't want to put a special event style into the hands of someone you don't know.

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Wedding receptions run the gamut from small, intimate gatherings in a restaurant to large spectacles featuring hundreds of guests inside a banquet hall. At the heart of any wedding reception is the desire to present a memorable party for all in attendance. That being said, there are some steps couples can take to add extra indulgence to wedding receptions and really set them apart from the mundane.

With the average cost of weddings now teetering around \$28,000, couples certainly are pulling out expensive stops to treat guests to a good party. Although some may argue that spending tens of thousands of dollars on a one-time event is preposterous, there are scores of couples who want to splurge on an event that (hopefully) will be a once-in-a-lifetime occurrence. With this in mind, many want to add special touches to the wedding that will show guests how much they are appreciated. Here are some ways to do just that.

• Butler-passed hors d'oeuvres.

During the cocktail hour, guests are mingling and taking advantage of the opportunity to engage in conversation. Rather than disrupt the flow of conversation to make a trip to the food stations, choose butler-passed hors d'oeuvres to bring food right to the guests. It lends a feeling of indulgence and is also a convenient way to keep guests satiated.

Valet parking.

Most wedding venues provide onsite valet parking. However, if you're using a restaurant or banquet hall that does not provide this service, you can hire a valet company to do the parking for guests. Being able to exit the car right in front of the venue and not worry about finding a parking space will be convenient for guests.

· Emergency toiletries baskets.

Rather than spending money on an extra floral arrangement for the men's and women's restrooms, purchase items that can be grouped into a handy basket. For women, include items such as extra pairs of stockings, spray deodorant, sanitary items and sewing kits. For

men, mints or mouthwash, dental floss, cologne and stain removal pens may come in handy.

• Specialty courses.

In addition to the cocktail hour and the main meal, you may be able to arrange specialty stations for guests with particular palates or interests. Some couples like to have a cigar smoking area or you can offer specialty cocktails. When ethnic customs are included in a wedding, menu items can be geared around native dishes. Candy and dessert bars are also popular to have at weddings, particularly if children are invited. A flambe dessert presentation is both a spectacle and a treat.

Overnight accommodations.

For the wedding that will run into the wee hours of the morning, offer guests a place to stay nearby to remove the hassle of driving home at a late hour. Some reception halls have arrangements with nearby hotels. For those that don't, negotiate a discounted rate for wedding guests. Many do and will set aside a block of rooms for your event with a discount code.

Special seating.

Guests who may have mobility issues or difficulty hearing may appreciate being seated in certain spots for convenience. Seat the elderly or handicapped close to the exits and the restrooms, if possible. When choosing a reception room, confirm the distance to the restrooms to make it convenient for those who may not be able to walk far. Those who may be sensitive to the music can be seated away from the speakers. And, of course, every attempt should be made to seat individuals who may have conflicts with others away from one another.

• Birthday and anniversary mentions.

You can notify the band or DJ of any guests in attendance who may be celebrating their own special events on your wedding day or in close proximity.

There are many extra touches you can take as a couple to make guests feel welcomed and important at your wedding.





Test out wedding music vendors

Music is an integral element of many of life's special events. The score of a movie can carry a film, while a tender song can bring tears to a person's eyes during a stage production.

Many couples spend lots of time choosing a song for their first dance at their wedding. While that song is significant, couples should devote lots of time to choosing a band or DJ for the reception as well.

Statistics compiled from a variety of sources, including *USA Today*, TheKnot.com and *Brides* magazine, point out that roughly 80 percent of guests say the thing they remember most about a wedding is the entertainment. When asked, many couples admit they wish they spent more time and money choosing their wedding entertainment.

Music helps make memories and gets guests on their feet. Those who enjoy themselves most at the wedding are often the people who are on the dance floor. It is important to note that price shouldn't be the deciding factor for wedding day entertainment. It is crucial to see the entertainment provider in action to judge for oneself just how good he or she is.

One of the best ways to witness a DJ or band in action is to attend a wedding where they will be working. Find out if you can spend a little while peeking into a wedding and gauge guests' responses to the music and find out how the entertainment engages the crowd. The entertainer may be able to arrange this with a couple from an upcoming wedding so that you don't necessarily have to crash the wedding. If a musical entertainment company is wary of letting you see players in action, it may be an indication to look elsewhere.

Another good way to see for yourself if the entertainment factor is high is to pay attention to the bands and DJs used at weddings you attend. If you are planning nuptials in a year or the months to come, take the cards or information of the entertainers you come across at weddings and any special event parties. If there is someone who is doing an



Spending time and money selecting the right band or DJ can ensure your wedding is a fun-filled event.

impeccable job, there should be no hesitation to hire that person for your own wedding. Don't be embarrassed to ask a friend or family member for the name and number of their DJ.

If you have specific music requirements, such as cultural music or certain versions of songs you prefer to be played, it is key to discuss this with the DJ or band ahead of time and confirm they can meet your needs. Certain wedding vendors may promise you the world, but fail to deliver. Ask the DJ for a playlist to see his or her selections for the wedding. Find out if the band has a compilation they can send to you so you can see how they sound performing some of the more popular songs typically played at wedding receptions.

If you like a particular band or DJ, double-check that the people you see playing are actually the ones who will be performing at your wedding. Many times performers are part of larger companies that have many people working under one name. If you're not careful, you may not get the same performer you had hoped for. Request specific individuals if you want to guarantee that the music will be what you heard at a previous wedding or during a trial performance.

Music can make or break a wedding reception. Invest ample time into selecting and trying out vendors to ensure fun is to be had by all.

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Advantages of a wedding video



Couples find that having a wedding video to cherish long after the day has passed is well worth the price.

In a financial climate where most people are pinching pennies, it comes as no surprise that many engaged couples seek ways to cut costs with regard to their weddings.

The decision to hire a videographer is one such area couples fret over. After all, with a photographer snapping hundreds of pictures, having a video may seem like an unnecessary luxury. However, people often find that having a wedding video to cherish long after the day has passed is well worth the price.

There are several advantages to hiring a professional videographer to capture the day. A professional video will showcase all moments of the wedding from perspectives not easily captured by photography. In addition to showcasing the images of the wedding, the video will also share the sounds and emotions of the day. Here are some things to think about.

 Choose a videographer who will work in conjunction with the wedding mood and parameters. You probably don't want a videographer who uses bright lights that can be distracting. Nor do you want a videographer who pushes the camera in guests' faces for a less-than-candid interview.

• The videographer often works in tandem with the photographer. Some photographers have a videographer on staff. But it is fine to bring in your own if you like the quality of the photographer's photos, but not the videographer's work.

• A videographer will capture the things you may have missed during the busy day.

 Although ours is an increasingly digital world where people capture photos and videos on their smartphones and other devices on a regular basis, a wedding video can serve as a family memento.

• Although no one wants to think of a friend or relative passing away while planning their wedding, the fact remains that after a few years some of the people who attended your wedding may no longer be around. Having a wedding video may be the last moving image and sound of a special person who is no longer in your life.

• Sound is a portion of the wedding that photos simply cannot capture. To relive the music and the words of the day, a videographer is a necessity.

• You can work with a good videographer so it's not simply a video with closeup shots of your face or unflattering perspectives.

Although brides and grooms may be cutting costs with regard to their wedding, they may not want to pass on the wedding video.



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Here's to you

Tips for a great best man toast

The best man toast can be one of the most memorable parts of a couple's wedding. Sometimes a toast is memorable for its humor and heartfelt sense of appreciation for the groom and his bride, while other toasts are more mem-

orable for all the wrong reasons.

It's understandable to be nervous when asked to give a best man toast. but there are a few tricks of the trade a best man can employ to calm those nerves and ensure his toast is memorable for all the right reasons.

• Practice makes perfect.

Few people are capable of standing in front of a crowd of people and speaking off the cuff. A spur-of-the-moment speech may provide an adrenaline rush, but such an endeavor may come

off as if you didn't care enough to put the effort into writing a thoughtful toast ahead of time. In addition, practicing the toast once it's been written will make you feel more comfortable and confident in front of the crowd.

• Avoid alcohol.

Getting liquored up prior to your toast is a recipe for disaster. Though it may

seem like a good idea to employ alcohol to calm your nerves and lower your inhibitions, it's not a good idea.

• Get to the point.

Men and women who have attended their fair share of wedding receptions no

doubt have sat through a longwinded toast from the best man or maid of honor. Such toasts can bring a festive reception to a grinding halt. Avoid longwinded walks down Memory Lane in favor of a toast that thoughtfully cuts to the chase and lets everyone get back to celebrating.

Connect your thoughts.

While it's important to be brief, don't be so brief that no one at the reception learns about your relationship to the groom. Share a humorous anecdote from your mutual past to usually is the best man's toast illustrate the type of relationship you and the groom share with one another.

> • Congratulate the couple. Because nerves play such a significant part in many best man toasts, it can be easy to forget to congratulate both the bride and groom. Don't just toast the groom at the end of your best man speech; toast his new bride as well.

> > - Courtesy of Metro Creative

Seating your guests

Weddings are filled with many emotions: happiness, excitement and anticipation, to name a few. With all of the positive emotions a wedding may drum up, in the mix there may be a few negative ones, including feelings of being overwhelmed at all the details that need to be completed on a deadline.

One aspect of wedding planning that tends to send people into panic is wedding reception seating arrangements. The thought of having 200 friends and family members together under one roof - and then attempting to seat them next to an acceptable group of people - can cause some couples to hyperventi-

Every family has its ups and downs, and there are certain people who get along well and a few who clash. Ensuring that a wedding is memorable for all the right reasons (and not for the brawl at table 3) is why seating arrangements are so important. Many couples can use a little advice when seating guests, while others would love another person to handle the seating arrangements for them.

Here are some guidelines for setting up reception seating arrangements.

 Place yourselves, as well as the bridal party, at a separate table that is in a prime location in the room. Be sure to allow the spouses or dates of bridal party members at the same table so couples remain together.

- Some couples choose to seat both sets of parents at one table together — the parents' table. Grandparents may also be seated at this table, depending on the number of people each table can accommodate.
- If children under the age of 7 are invited, they should be seated with their parents. Children between ages 7 and 14 can be seated at a separate kids' table.
- Be mindful of guests with disabilities or mobility issues. Seat them close to the door, bathrooms or food station.
- Instead of separating the bride and the groom's family to separate sides, intermingle the tables to promote conversation.
- Consider arranging guests by common interests at each table, seating business associates or parents' friends together.
- Take into consideration people who have relationship rifts and try to seat them separately. But don't stress about this too much because it won't be possible to accommodate everyone. You'll have to hope that at your wedding a certain level of decorum will preside.
- It's not unheard of to let guests seat themselves. This takes the pressure of finding a seat for everyone off of you as a couple and enables vou to think about the other tasks at hand. This can take place at a buffet wedding or a smaller affair.

— Courtesy of Metro Creative

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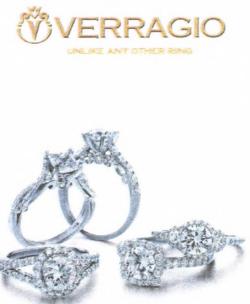
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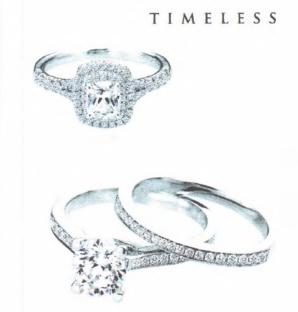




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How to find the right banquet hall

Planning a wedding is no small feat, as couples are faced with many decisions seemingly from the moment they get engaged right up until they walk down the aisle as man and wife. One of the biggest decisions a couple will make is where to host the reception.

Couples must consider a variety of factors when looking for the right banquet hall to host their reception. The wedding is a celebration and the banquet hall is where the couple and their guests will let their hair down and hopefully enjoy a festive and memorable night. Because the reception is typically the most lengthy portion of a couple's wedding day, it's important to find a place where everyone can be comfortable and enjoy themselves. The following are a few tips for cou-

ples looking to find the ideal banquet hall to host their wedding reception.

• Ask around.

Word of mouth is a great way to find the right banquet hall. Ask friends or family members who got hitched in the same town where your ceremony will be if they can recommend a reception site. These friends or family members can provide a behind-thescenes look at a reception hall, from how accommodating the staff was to how flexible the banquet hall was with regard to pricing to how open the staff was to suggestions. Wedding planning isn't easy, so if friends, family members or co-workers recommend a hassle-free banquet hall, that recommendation can remove a lot of the stress from planning a wedding.

Consider the size of the facility.

Some couples prefer an intimate affair with relatively few guests, while others will desire a large wedding party with lots of guests. Couples can find a banquet hall that's capable of catering to small or large wedding parties, but find one that fits your party specifically. If your wedding party is small, then avoid a larger facility that will appear empty. If the party is large, make sure there's adequate room so guests won't feel like they're sitting on top of one another during dinner and dessert.

• Don't downplay decor.

A banquet hall with an attractive decor is not only aesthetically appealing, but can appeal to a couple's finances as well. Such a hall likely won't need any additional decorations, while a banquet hall that's unadorned and lacks embellishments will, and those decorations can dip into a couple's overall wedding budget. Compare the costs of the more decorated banquet hall with the one that's more plain in appearance, factoring in the cost to decorate the latter, and you might just realize the one with more aesthetic appeal is more affordable in the long run.

• Prioritize privacy.

Few couples would be open to strangers having easy access to their wedding reception. When shopping for a banquet hall, look for one that gives you and your guests all the privacy you need. Many couples have taken to hosting the entire ceremony at a hotel, which may handle the bulk of the planning and

Rice toss



Tradition states that couples be covered with tossed rice upon exiting the ceremony. The idea of throwing rice began during the Middle Ages, when rice symbolized fertility. Rice was tossed at the married couple in the hopes they would have many children and be blessed with prosperity as a family.

remove the hassle of transportation for out-of-town guests. However, couples considering a hotel should look for one that can promise privacy from other guests at the hotel who aren't there for the wedding. The reception room should be secluded from the rest of the hotel so other guests walking by aren't tempted to walk in on the festivities.

The banquet hall is where couples can expect to spend most of their time on their wedding day, so couples should exercise their due diligence to ensure they find an inviting and festive facility.

- Courtesy of Metro Creative



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