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NCAA touney ticket giveaway

We are giving away tickets to the March 23 session of the NCAA men's basketball tournament at The Palace of Auburn Hills. Both Michigan State and U-M are playing at The Palace and could be featured in action Saturday. Share the contest link with a Facebook friend and get an extra five chances to win if they also enter the contest.

To enter, visit our website, hometownlife.com, and click on the Don't Miss module on the right-hand side. The drawing is tomorrow morning, Friday, March 22, so get those entries in, pass the word to your friends and good luck!



Plymouth-Canton culinary team members Emily Koelzer (left) and Chelsea Polydoros work their magic at the state competition.

Diva Day

The fifth annual Diva Day, set for 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, March 23, features free hot-pink boas for the first 500 Divas. Downtown Plymouth boutiques, salons and restaurants will present special offers, unique refreshments and chances to win Diva Day prizes.

For more information call (734) 453-1540 or visit www.plymouth-mich.org/events.

Town hall

Americans for Prosperity-Michigan will hold a town hall discussion on right-to-work at 7 p.m. Thursday, March 21, at the Plymouth Cultural Center, 525 Farmer in Plymouth. The event takes place just one week before Michigan's new right-to-work law is slated to take effect March 28.

Speakers will share information about the economic benefits of right-to-work, clear up misconceptions about right-to-work and walk union members through the process of opting out under the new law.

There is no cost to attend. Light refreshments will be served. For more information, visit MichiganAFP.com.

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Entree excellence Culinary team defends state title

By Brad Kadrich
Staff Writer

It was a one-and-done kind of opportunity for Plymouth-Canton's culinary team when it traveled last weekend to Lansing to defend its title at the Michigan Restaurant Association's state culinary competition.

And they're not done. Plymouth-Canton successfully defended the state championship it won a year ago, edging the Saginaw Career Complex in the culinary discipline to earn a trip to Baltimore for

the national competition next month.

Plymouth-Canton prepared a three-course meal — a tribute to pork appetizer (pancetta, ham shank, and pork belly with apple, fig, beet, and celery), a vegetarian multigrain risotto strudel for the entree, and a pear mousse with hazelnut cake for dessert. The team had one hour and only two butane burners to complete their meal.

Time limit

According to Diana Woodward, the culinary team's fac-

ulty adviser, the biggest challenge in completing such a meal in the 60-minute time limit is execution.

"Our students are ambitious, and the menu they create is always so advanced and so challenging," Woodward said. "If they pull it off the way they're supposed to, and they way they want it, we knew it would be amazing. The problem is, everything comes down to that one competition day. Precision and the ability to think and make adjustments

Please see CULINARY, A3

Relay for Life ready for better year

By Brad Kadrich
Staff Writer

His father. His older brother. A beloved uncle. Both grandmothers. A cousin.

The list is of family members among the closest to Larry Johnson. It's also a list of family members he's lost to cancer.

It's no wonder Johnson, a Farm Bureau Insurance agent from Plymouth, is so invested in the Plymouth Relay for Life. After a tumultuous 2012 event that saw as many as three chairpersons come and go, Johnson, a Plymouth resident, has taken over the position of event chair as the Plymouth Relay for Life readies for its annual event.

"This is personal for me," Johnson said. "I am personally relaying for six people I lost to cancer. I don't ever want to hear those words ('You have cancer'). Hopefully, with all we're doing with Relay for Life, I won't ever have to."

Plymouth's seventh annual Relay for Life is set for June 22-23, back at Central Middle School after a two-year run at West Middle School. The relay starts at 10 a.m. Saturday and



Abigail Stonerook, the American Cancer Society's staff partner for the Plymouth Relay for Life, said the "energy" within the organizing committee "is alive."

runs through 10 a.m. Sunday.

Registration has already begun at the event's website (www.relayforlife.org/plymi), and the event has already eclipsed last year's total number of teams, with 20 already signed up.

Higher goals

With last year's total participants (10 teams) already dou-

KICKING THINGS OFF

What: Kickoff party for the Plymouth Relay for Life
When: Tuesday, March 26; registration starts at 6:30 p.m., the program runs from 7-8 p.m.
Where: Plymouth Cultural Center, 525 Farmer in Plymouth.
Why: Relay for Life is the annual fundraiser to benefit the American Cancer Society's fight against cancer. It's a 24-hour relay scheduled for June 22-23 at Central Middle School.
Who: Anyone at all interested in volunteering, being part of a team or even being a team captain is encouraged to attend.
More info: The event has a website (www.relayforlife.org/plymi) and a Facebook page ([FB.com/RFLPlymouth](https://www.facebook.com/RelayforLifePlymouth)).

bled, organizers are turning their goals toward at least 25 teams.

"We want to get to 30 teams, but tripling it in one year would be a stretch," Johnson said. "Three years ago, we

Please see RELAY, A2

City wants post office downtown

By Matt Jachman
Staff Writer

The Plymouth City Commission on Monday took a stand in favor of keeping postal services downtown.

With a voice vote, the commission passed a resolution calling on the U.S. Postal Service to relocate the Pursell Station — the post office on Penniman between Harvey and Main — to another downtown location. The resolution called the post office "critical to community vitality of the downtown."

"This is our opportunity to provide feedback to the federal government on that. I would like to see them stay in downtown Plymouth," said Mayor Dan Dwyer.

The U.S.P.S. recently announced a favorable offer had been made for the Pursell Station, which has been on the market for nearly three years. The postal service is looking for an alternative site at which to offer services provided at Pursell, such as postage sales, postal boxes, and package and letter intake.

The commission's resolution specifically urged U.S.P.S. to move the post office to either the Mayflower Center on Main Street or the vacant convenience store at Penniman and Harvey, two of the five locations the postal service is considering, or to another "Central Core Downtown Plymouth location."

"They have a verbal commitment to me that they will stay in the city of Plymouth," said Dwyer.

Of the three other locations under consideration, two are on Ann Arbor Road and one is on Sheldon.

U.S.P.S. spokesman Ed Moore said last week that no formal offer for the building has been made and could not provide a time frame for the closing of the sale. He would not divulge the offered price; the building is listed at \$990,000.

Moore said the relocated Pursell Station would open in coordination with the sale and that there would be

Please see POST OFFICE, A2

Taking the stage



BRIAN QUINTOS

Plymouth High School senior Danielle Allen said the role of Elle Woods, the lead character in the Park Players' production of 'Legally Blonde,' is a perfect capper for her Park Players career. The Plymouth-Canton Educational Park's theater troupe takes on the musical for a second weekend with performances Thursday-Saturday at Salem High School. For more on the production, please turn to page A6.



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Relay for Life volunteers Kim and Nena Ash got in a little clowning around after a planning meeting for the Plymouth Relay for Life's kickoff event.

Teams raising Relay funds

Here's how some of the teams are raising money for Relay for Life:

- Officials and kids at both Isbister Elementary School and Pioneer Middle School have committed to holding "mini Relays" with proceeds being donated to Relay for Life.

- Team "Friends for Life" conducted a successful comedy fundraiser at Joey's Comedy Club in January, an event that raised more than \$1,000. The team will also hold its annual bowling fundraiser Friday, May 3, at Plaza Lanes (Ann Arbor Road) in Plymouth (registration at 6:30; bowling begins

at 7 p.m.). Cost is \$20 per person, which includes three games no-tap bowling, shoes, one pizza per lane, and soda. There will be a silent auction, nickel a pin, door prizes, and some additional activities. Participants need to register and pay by April 26 to reserve their spot. E-mail wfl2009@wowway.com for additional information and registration forms. Last year's bowling fundraiser raised more than \$4,000.

- Luann Andes, cancer survivor, owner of "Defining Image Hair Salon" on Main Street in Plymouth, and the volunteer respon-

sible for bringing Relay to Plymouth in 2007, is more involved than ever this year. Team "Defining Image Hair Salon" began their fundraising in December by wrapping gifts at the salon, raising about \$400. They have also teamed with "Bark for Chocolates" out of Northville and are selling chocolates out of the salon as a Relay fundraiser.

An upcoming fundraiser for them will be a "Comedy For A Cause" night at Joey's Comedy Club in Livonia on May 1. Tickets are \$15 and sold at Defining Image Hair Salon.

RELAY

Continued from page A1

had our best year with 11 teams, so 50 percent more than that would be stretching it."

The biggest change this year, aside from the increased participation, is the site. After two years at West Middle School, organizers decided this year to move it back to the track at Central Middle School. Walkers at West Middle School found the going tougher on the school's grass (the first year) and the pavement (last year, when temperatures got into the 90s).

After scouring the community for an alternate location, the committee decided to move back to Central. Other sites considered included Kellogg Park (not cost-effective) and Plymouth Township Park (too big for what is a growing event).

"West just wasn't a good fit ... it doesn't have a nat-

ural track," said Abigail Stonerook, the American Cancer Society's staff partner for the event. "We considered different options, but Plymouth doesn't really have a natural place to have it."

Great support
The growth of the event, Stonerook said, coincides with the solid support it's getting locally. Among that support:

- Team captains meetings are being conducted at Plymouth City Hall.
- The second day of the Relay for Life is also the last day of the spring session for the Miracle League of Plymouth. Those players and families plan on coming over to the Relay for Life to have their end-of-season party.

- More involvement with Plymouth-Canton schools. For instance, Relay for Life is benefiting from a couple of "Mini Relays" being staged at Isbister Elementary School and Pio-

neer Middle School. Those schoolwide events will raise money that will flow directly to Relay for Life.

But even bigger than the money, according to Stonerook, is the involvement of the children.

"It's part of our goal to engage the youth," she said. "Some 50 percent of cancers are preventable, a third of those through nutrition and physical activity choices. We are looking to engage the children as a preventative measure."

Not just cash
"I'm not as concerned about money coming from the schools," she added. "I want kids engaged in the fight against cancer."

Organizers hope to top the \$75,000 the Relay collected in 2011. Last year's total dropped to some \$38,000 in a year when chairmanship of the committee changed hands three different times. This year, Johnson has taken control of the chair, and roles among committee members are better defined and better communicated.

Many of the committee members who stuck it out through all the changes last year are back this year, with an energy Stonerook said will be the key to success.

"The energy suffered (in 2012) because of all the losses," she said. "The people who stuck it out were really committed. Add some new people to those committed people and the energy is great. It's alive. We're excited."

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City seeks residents' feedback on streetlights

By Matt Jachman
Staff Writer

Plymouth is asking residents to check out the lights, and then light up their computer keyboards, as city officials consider new energy-efficient street lighting.

Light-emitting diode, or LED, fixtures of the kind DTE Energy wants to put up in much of the city have been installed on two streetlight poles at Harvey and Ann Arbor Trail, and city officials are looking for feedback from the public before they decide whether to agree to DTE's proposal.

People who wish to weigh in on the demonstration lights can e-mail their comments to city-manager@ci.plymouth.mi.us.

The demonstration lights are completely different from the two types of LED fixtures put up last August, when officials also sought public comment. DTE, saying per-fixture costs have dropped since discussions about the program began, has decided to go with a different type of LED fixture, with which they propose to replace 392 mercury vapor streetlights in all residential areas of Plymouth.

DTE maintains a majority of the city's streetlights.

The LED fixtures would cut the wattage used per fixture by about two-thirds when compared to mercury vapor lights, DTE officials say.

The replacement plan

would cost the city an estimated \$104,000 but would have the potential to save \$30,000 annually on the city's lighting bill, according to DTE.

The replacement plan would not include the streetlights on Ann Arbor Road and Main Street, which are high-pressure sodium lights that are more efficient than the mercury vapor lights. Nor would it include streetlights in Plymouth's downtown, which are high-pressure sodium lamps owned and maintained by the city.

The Plymouth City Commission is expected to debate DTE's light-fixture replacement proposal within a month.

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AROUND PLYMOUTH

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

DIVA DAY

Date/Time: Saturday, March 23, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Location: Downtown Plymouth

Details: The fifth annual Diva Day features free hot-pink boas for the first 500 Divas. 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 Studio; 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; Pawitive Pet Massage; Simply the Best Boutique; Spa Agio; Sun & Snow; Sunny Js; That's Awesome; TranquilliTea. The event is free to attend.

Contact: For more information call (734) 453-1540 or visit www.plymouthmich.org/events.

EGG HUNT

Date/Time: Saturday, March 30, 10 a.m.

Location: Plymouth Township Park

Details: The Plymouth Lions Club again hosts its Easter Egg Hunt. Organizers say parents should bring the kids, their baskets and cameras. The hunt will be divided into age groups 0-3, 4-6, 7-8 and 9-10. There will be a collection box available for hearing aids, eyeglasses and cell phones. Donations are welcome.

PRICE HOURS

Date/Time: Friday, March 22, 8 p.m.

Location: Crescent Academy International, 40440 Palmer in Canton

Details: Wayne County Commissioner Shannon Price, (R-District 10), will be conducting district office hours. The session allows constituents the opportunity to sit down with Price and discuss matters of concern within the community.

Contact: For more information, contact Michael Mitchell, (313) 224-0882.

HEISE COFFEE

Date/Time: Friday, March 22, 7:30-9 a.m.

Location: Panera Bread, 20140 Haggerty in Northville

Details: State Rep. Kurt Heise is sponsoring coffee hours to give residents a convenient opportunity to meet with him locally. No appointment is necessary. Rep. Heise is also available to meet with constituents by appointment either in the district or at his Lansing office.

Contact: Residents are invited to call toll-free (855) REPKURT or e-mail kurtheise@house.mi.gov to schedule an appointment.

GIVING HOPE

Date/Time: Wednesday, April 10, 7 p.m.

Location: Plymouth Cultural Center, 525 Farmer, Plymouth

Details: "Give the Girls a Boost" is coming, an opportunity to support a good cause and enjoy a "Girls' Night Out" to benefit the Giving Hope Women's Giving Circle. The group is also looking for business sponsors.

Contact: For more information and to register, go to: cantonfoundation.org

MILLER WOODS TOURS

Dates/Times: Sundays, April 14, 21 and 28, 2-4 p.m.

Location: Miller Woods (Powell Road, east of Ridge between N. Territorial and Ann Arbor Road)

Details: Free, guided tours will occur in April to see the native spring wildflowers in Miller Woods. Tours depend on when the flowers are blooming, but are tentatively scheduled for Sunday, April 14, 21 and 28. Check the website at millerwoods.com for up-to-date tour dates. Tours start every half hour. Park on side of road. Sorry, no dogs allowed in the nature preserve.

SEWING GUILD

Date/Time: First Thursday of each month, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Location: First Presbyterian Church, 701 Church Street, Plymouth

Details: This Plymouth-Canton neighborhood group is open to sewists of all levels. The Feb. 7 meeting features "Machine Embroidery Primer," followed by "3D Flying Geese-hands on" on March 7; "Charity auction" April 11 (note date change); and "Machine or Hand Applique Quilt Block-hands on" on May 2.

Contact: For more information e-mail asgpc@comcast.net

POST OFFICE

Continued from page A1

no lapse between closing the current location and opening a new one.

The post office, which dates from 1935, is named

after Carl Pursell, a longtime Republican U.S. congressman who represented the Plymouth area.

The U.S.P.S. is asking for public input on where the Pursell Station should be relocated. Letters can be

addressed to: Vice President, Facilities, Attention: Marla Larsen Williams, Facilities Implementation Team A, 62 Stratford Drive, Blomington IL 60117-7000.

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Members of the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park Culinary Team huddled up at the state competition last weekend in Lansing, and went on to defend their state title by capturing first place in the culinary discipline.

CULINARY

Continued from page A1

on your feet is so important to pulling this off.”
The culinary victory wasn't the only success of the weekend for Plymouth-Canton, the only competitor to place in all four disciplines. Plymouth-Canton was also first in the nutrition/marketing discipline, second in management/entrepreneurship and third in the ServSafe Knowledge Bowl.
All of that was done with the burden of returning champion status. According to Woodward, the team “got a little bit of a hard time” on arrival because “everyone knew we were the defending state champion.” That's a particularly tough defense to make with an all-new team.

Baltimore-bound
“None of these kids returned from last year, which made defending the

title earned by other students especially difficult,” Woodward said. “They took it in stride, but that added pressure had to be a little rough. They are so focused and so precise, I don't think they even noticed almost every other school was watching them compete at one point during their event time.”
The culinary team now advances to the national championships in Baltimore, Md., April 18-22. Woodward hopes their work ethic and attitude will carry them far.
“I always tell my students they need to do their personal bests,” she said. “If they could do better, work harder, put in just a little more detail, and choose not to, I keep trying to remind them they will be so disappointed in the end. You might not win, but if you are going to do something like this, why not strive for excellence?”

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After successfully defending its state title in the Michigan Restaurant Association competition, the Plymouth-Canton culinary team heads to the national competition next month in Baltimore. Team members (back, from left) include Taylor Hoener, Paul DiNicola, Chelsea Polydoros, Emily Koelzer, teacher Diana Woodward, alumni-mentor Tyler Bergquist and mentor Carla Spicuzzi. Team alternate Ashley Saunders is in front.

Three boys hospitalized after rampage

By Matt Jachman
Staff Writer

Three teenaged boys were treated at a local hospital Saturday after what police describe as a drug- and alcohol-induced rampage in which they damaged a Plymouth Township home, bit themselves and banged their heads on a cement floor.

None of the injuries were serious, and two of the boys were released from St. Mary Mercy Hospital in Livonia later Saturday, while the third was released Monday, said Plymouth Township Sgt. David Hayes. Police continue to investigate.

Police were called to a house on Parkview, in the area of Ann Arbor Trail and I-275, just after midnight Saturday on a report of three out-of-control boys, Hayes said.

The responding officer found two 15-year-olds and one 16-year-old who had reportedly been yelling, damaging property and injuring themselves, though the officer did not witness the self-injury, Hayes said.

An adult woman at the house reported the three had been drinking, smoking marijuana and using the hallucinogenic drug LSD, police said. LSD is the common term for lysergic acid diethylamide, also known as acid.

Hayes said several officers and paramedics were needed to restrain the three, and they were transported to St. Mary Mercy. Some blood was found at the scene, Hayes said, though not a lot.

The boy who stayed at St. Mary until Monday was being treated more for the drugs he had ingested than for injuries he had suffered, Hayes said.

No criminal charges have been filed. “That could change as the investigation goes on,” Hayes said.

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Advertisement

Educating Student Athletes ...and Parents about Concussion

Ask A Garden City Hospital Health Expert



Dr. Szczecienski
Sports Medicine

Concussion has been receiving a lot of attention related to football players at the professional and collegiate levels. Unfortunately, the same can't be said for high school athletes and competitors in other sports. “Dr. Stan” Szczecienski, Medical Director of GCH's Center for Sports Medicine, has seen far-too-many cases of concussion – so many so that he's made it his mission to educate as many people as possible about the prevention, warning signs and treatment of this often avoidable injury.

Q: Our 14 year old wants to play football at his high school next season. We are worried about all the risks that come from playing contact sports, mostly head trauma. But, he says his older sister's cheerleading is as dangerous. Is that true?

A: While football is widely recognized for the quantity and types of injuries related to its participants, your son makes a valid point about cheerleading. Last year alone, the American Association of Neurological Surgeons estimates more than 10,000 concussions were suffered among cheerleaders, gymnasts and dancers.

A concussion is a disruption of the normal chemical activity in the brain and is caused by the brain being jarred. Concussions can cause sensitivity to light or sound, headaches, loss of memory, dizziness, balance problems, confusion, drowsiness, nausea, difficulty in concentration and other problems. Concussion symptoms disappear within seven to 10 days in approximately 80 percent of cases, but symptoms may remain for weeks, months and, occasionally, for years.

One of the biggest misconceptions people have concerning concussions has to do with the force needed to cause one. The reality is impact does not have to be hard – and it frequently happens in something other than contact sports. In fact, the person at the top of a cheerleader pyramid is 10 times more likely to suffer a concussion or a catastrophic injury than a football player.

When deciding on whether to allow your child to participate in a sport, it's important to remember that through proper education and training, we can begin to recognize and help prevent youth sports injuries; thus minimizing long-term effects.

To read more in-depth concussion information from Dr. Stan, go online to GCH.org to view the Spring 2013 Edition of our Healthy Generations magazine.

Also, don't forget the importance of getting involved! Dr. Stan's 2nd Annual Coaches Event is Saturday, March 23. The event, which features national experts speaking on a variety of health issues affecting today's young athletes, is FREE and we encourage all parents to attend. For more information and to register visit GCH.org.

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BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

An SUV hit a small preschool bus at Sheldon and Warren Roads. There were no children in the bus; both drivers were taken to a local hospital.

Drivers hurt in crash

By Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

No children were aboard a preschool bus that flipped onto its driver's side when it was struck broadside by an SUV Monday morning in the intersection of Warren and Sheldon roads, Canton police Lt. Pat Sullivan said at the scene.

Police had the east section of the intersection blocked off Monday afternoon as an investigation spanned several hours. The accident happened about 10:30 a.m.

Based on a preliminary investigation, Sullivan said it appeared the male driver of the SUV

was traveling north on Sheldon and struck The Children's Hour preschool bus while it was headed east on Warren.

The elderly driver of the heavily damaged SUV was taken to a St. Joseph Mercy Hospital in Ypsilanti for what Sullivan said appeared to be serious injuries.

The 50-year-old male driver of the preschool bus also was taken to the hospital, Sullivan said, but it was believed his injuries were less serious.

The Canton Police Accident Investigation Team was working under gray, drizzly skies Monday afternoon to piece together exactly what caused the two-

vehicle crash.

Canton Detective Sgt. Dave Schreiner said the investigation includes exploring whether the SUV driver may have had a medical condition that caused the accident.

Police say it does not appear alcohol or drugs was a factor in the crash.

Though the investigation was continuing, Sullivan said initial indications are that the preschool bus had the green light when the accident occurred.

Police remained on the scene for several hours.

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PLYMOUTH CRIME WATCH

Shoplifter ticketed

A 45-year-old Plymouth woman was ticketed for shoplifting on Monday after trying to leave the Kroger supermarket on Ann Arbor Road with items concealed in her purse.

A Plymouth Township Police Department report said a Kroger employee told police he saw the woman put makeup and food items in her purse while shopping, then pay for the merchandise in her cart, but not the items in her purse, at the self-checkout line.

The employee confronted her about the items in

her purse, the report said, and police were called.

The woman was issued a ticket for third-degree retail fraud and then released.

Vandalism

Two incidents of vandalism were reported earlier this month at the Plymouth Heritage Apartments.

The taillight on a Saturn Vue parked at the complex, which is on Heritage Drive in the area of Sheldon and North Territorial, was broken early on March 9, and the door to an apartment was damaged around the same time in an apparent break-in attempt, a police

report said.

The victim of the vandalism to the car told police she heard someone walking up and down her apartment building's stairs around 2 a.m. March 9, saw her neighbor in the hallway, and then looked outside to see a group of people gathered in the area near her car. She heard a noise outside, and later noticed the damage to her car, police said.

She also reported that the door to a neighboring apartment had been freshly damaged. Police noted damage to the door and frame but said the door was still locked.

By Matt Jachman

CANTON CRIME WATCH

Fraudulent return

A 68-year-old Canton woman who lives on Wheaton, northwest of Warren and Sheldon, notified police Monday afternoon that someone had used her Social Security number to file a fraudulent federal tax return.

She learned her identity had been stolen after her tax documents were twice returned to H&R Block. She told police she needed to file a report to document the situation.

The woman had been expecting a \$450 federal return that she hasn't received.

Deer kill

A police officer had to shoot and kill a deer after it was struck by a vehicle on Lilley Road just south of Joy Road, a police report said.

Police received a call

about the deer being struck about 7:45 a.m. Monday. An officer arrived to find the deer was alive but couldn't move out of the road in the southbound lane of Lilley. It appeared to have a broken back, a police report said.

The officer euthanized the deer and turned it over to a resident with a kill-tag issued.

Concealed weapon

Canton Police arrested a 26-year-old Detroit man for carrying a concealed pistol after his permit had expired, a police report said.

The incident happened Saturday after police went to the Walmart store on Ford Road east of Lotz after being contacted by Livonia police.

Livonia officers had trailed three men who allegedly had been acting suspiciously earlier

at a Livonia Walmart store. The men had been pushing around a cart of merchandise and had looked at guns in the hunting section — and Livonia police had suspected the men of trying to use a fraudulent credit card.

When the men were confronted in Canton, they told police they simply had been looking for two space heaters, and they produced receipts. However, police learned one of the men was carrying a pistol although his permit had expired.

Chip dumping

A property owner on Lotz between Cherry Hill and Ford roads notified police Friday morning to report he has been having problems with someone dumping wood chips on his property. He said the incident is believed to have happened last Thursday or Friday.

— By Darrell Clem

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Major film with Plymouth origins debuts at Penn

By Matt Jachman
Staff Writer

A major independent film with deep Michigan roots will open on the big screen in New York, Los Angeles — and downtown Plymouth — on Friday before heading into wider release a week later.

Love and Honor, a romantic drama co-written by Plymouth Township resident Jim Burnstein, and co-produced by Plymouth resident Patrick Olson, makes its Michigan theatrical debut Friday at the Penn Theatre in a sold-out fundraiser for the Friends of the Penn. Burnstein, Olson, director Danny Mooney and executive producer Eddie Rubin will be introduced for a question-and-answer session as part of the event.

The film, co-written with Garrett Schiff, stars Liam Hemsworth (best known for *The Hunger Games*) and Austin Stowell as U.S. soldiers in 1969 Vietnam who head to Michigan — not their assigned leave destination, meaning they go absent without leave, or AWOL — as Stowell's character tries to win back the woman who has dumped him, played by Aimee Teegarden. Hemsworth's Mickey Wright, along for the ride, ends up finding romance amid roiling protests, based on actual events, in the Ann Arbor area and at the University of Michigan.

'Beautiful story'

"They are living through all the emotions that young people at that time lived through," said Burnstein over coffee



Pat Olson and Jim Burnstein's film premiers at the Penn on Friday.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

at the Plymouth Coffee Bean.

"They're returning to a place that's changed," said Olson, a first-time movie producer.

Olson, who has a background in educational publishing, is part of the group that owns the Penn, and so has a good relationship with the nonprofit Friends of the Penn, which maintains and runs the theater. Movie-making has long interested him, he said, and he "fell in love with" Burnstein's script.

"I think it's a beautiful story and I was interested in making a product that could be seen around the world that would move people," Olson said.

Burnstein, who has several films among his screenwriting credits, including *Renaissance Man* and *D3: The Mighty Ducks*, said the "spark" for the plot came from a story about Mike Wright, the Plymouth City Commission member who was in the U.S. Army in Vietnam, going AWOL for a week. The name of Hemsworth's character is a nod to his friend, Burnstein said, though he added: "Never in his wildest dreams was he ever as cool as Liam Hemsworth."

Wright, in a phone interview Tuesday, said he and an Army buddy, assigned to a week's leave in Honolulu, decided they

couldn't afford that high-priced city and jumped on a plane — soldiers could fly for free — to San Diego. There, they hung out with his buddy's family and friends and visited the beach and local drinking establishments, he said.

"Everybody was quite intrigued, of course, about what the whole experience was like," and his buddy's friends asked questions about Vietnam, Wright said.

Burnstein, who protested the war around the time Wright was in Vietnam, said idea of going AWOL intrigued him, and that he wanted to explore the tension that would come with soldiers having

two very different experiences — fighting in a war abroad and protesting the war at home — within a week.

'Challenging' film shoot

Love and Honor was filmed entirely in Michigan in the summer of 2011; scenes were shot in Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti, Saline, Inkster and, closer to Plymouth, at Plymouth Orchards in Superior Township, where the battle scene that opens the movie was staged.

"They had to do a little set dressing, but not much," Burnstein said.

Burnstein, who runs UM's screenwriting pro-

gram, said he is pleased with the way *Love and Honor* turned out. Its settings, including for a complex battle scene and scenes of riots in Ann Arbor, are sweeping for an independent film, he said.

"Most independents don't attempt what we attempted," he said. "It's hard as hell. It's really, really challenging."

Olson, Burnstein said, was a hands-on producer, helping organize and plan in the weeks before shooting, and on the set every day.

"It was really fantastic to work with such a great group of people," Olson said. "All the planets lined up in a very unique way."

Wright, who was wounded by shrapnel in the war and awarded a Bronze Star and a Purple Heart, was a technical advisor for *Love and Honor*, choreographing the battle scene and offering tips on soldiers' language and other details of their day-to-day lives. He said he was on the set for most of the filming of the battle scene and was impressed with how hard the cast and crew worked.

"It was a once-in-a-lifetime experience, no question about it," said Wright.

Friday's Plymouth premiere of "Love and Honor" is sold out, but the movie will open March 29 at the Imagine 18 in Novi and the Michigan Theater in Ann Arbor as it goes to 10 major markets around the country. It has been available as a video-on-demand for several weeks.

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'Blonde' ambition

Park Players take on major musical

LEGALLY BLONDE

What: Park Players' production of "Legally Blonde"

When: Thursday-Saturday, March 21-23, all shows 7 p.m.

Where: Gloria Logan Theater, Salem High School

Tickets: \$15; available at www.showtix4u.com

By Brad Kadrich
Staff Writer

Johnathan Rase saw "Legally Blonde" a few years ago, and one of his first thoughts was how perfect it would be for the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park's Park Players to produce.

At that point, the rights to it hadn't been released, so it was off-limits. But by the time came for Rase, one of the directors for the theater group, to direct a musical, he'd gotten good news.

"I'd received an email from Musical Theatre International letting me know the rights finally became available for high schools to perform it," Rase said. "That very same day, I applied for the rights."

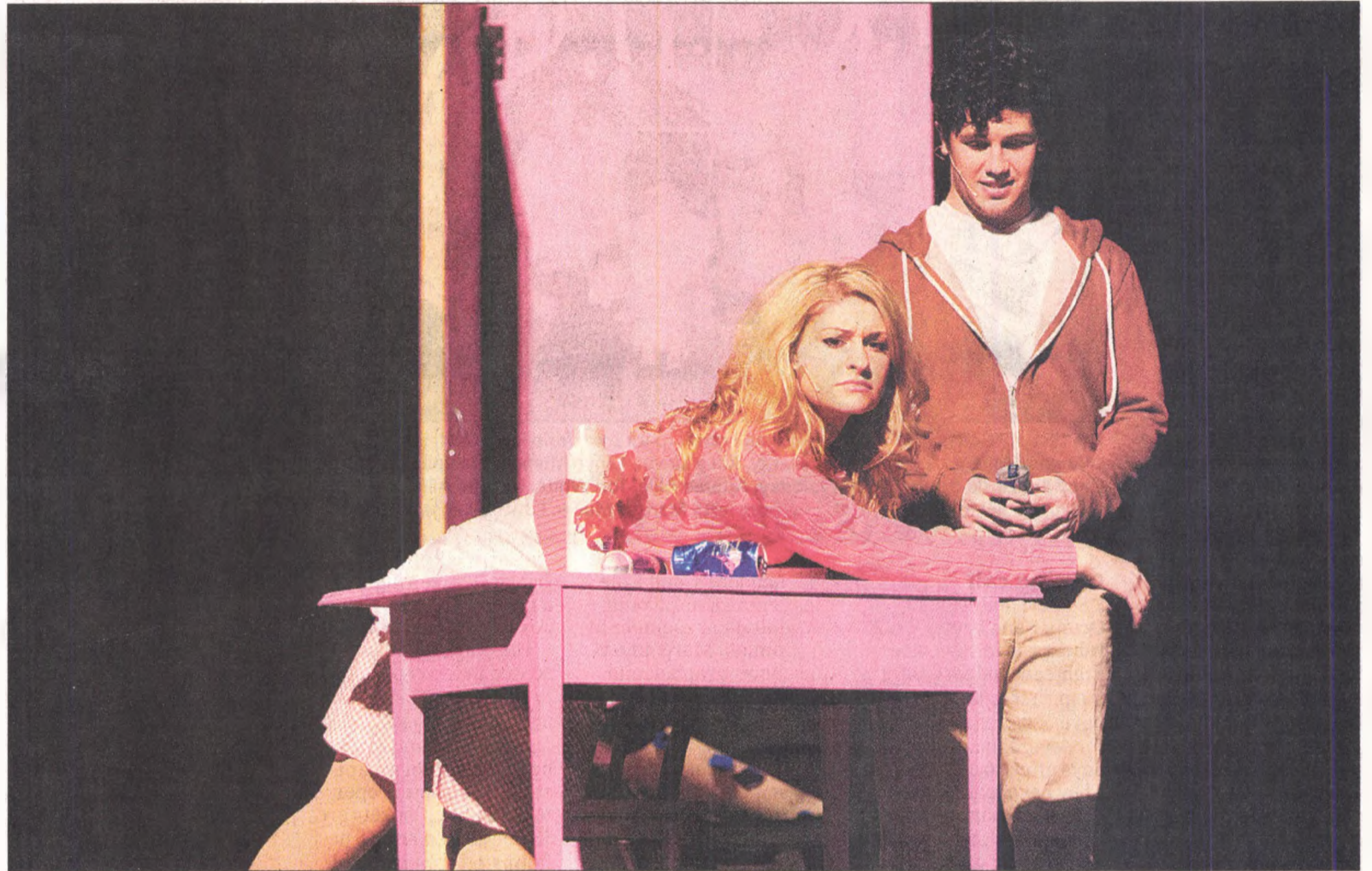
By all accounts, it was worth the wait. Enthusiastic crowds greeted the Players when the play opened last weekend. And, for their part, the Players staged a couple of surprises themselves, particularly for Danielle Allen, who plays the show's lead character, Elle Woods.

"The show went wonderfully the first weekend," Rase said. "In fact, after curtain call on opening night, the cast surprised Danielle with a birthday cake. The surprise didn't end there. Next, a friend of Danielle's came on stage and asked her to prom. It was quite heartwarming, that young man was so nervous."

Largest cast

Rase said the cast for "Legally Blonde" is "the biggest I've worked with so far." The production started rehearsals in January, meeting four days a week.

Within a month, he said,



PHOTOS BY BRIAN QUINTOS

Danielle Allen plays Elle Woods and Alex Armesto is Emmett in the Park Players' production of "Legally Blonde," which concludes its run this weekend.



Cast member Sydney Hicks (Paulette) on stage with Logan during the Park Players' production of "Legally Blonde."

the students had the show memorized — "A daunting task for Danielle Allen, she spends nearly the entire show on stage," Rase said.

But the challenge wasn't enough to unnerve Allen, a Plymouth High School senior doing her second Park Players pro-

duction — she was a featured dancer last year in "Nine" — to go with 10 plays as part of Ever-After Productions (now known as Forever After).

Allen said she "couldn't have asked for a better role" for her final Park Players production.

"Her personality and

confidence is really refreshing," Allen said. "It's cool to play the real girly-girl. The show is modern, and it's cool to play."

She said she was "a little nervous" when the opening curtain rose.

"But at the same time, I had so much support



Danielle Allen (Elle Woods), Sydney Hicks (Paulette) and Jeffrey Selewski (Kyle) in a scene from "Legally Blonde."

from castmates and my parents, it made everything go a lot easier," she said. "The pressure wasn't really there. The part was so much fun and energetic."

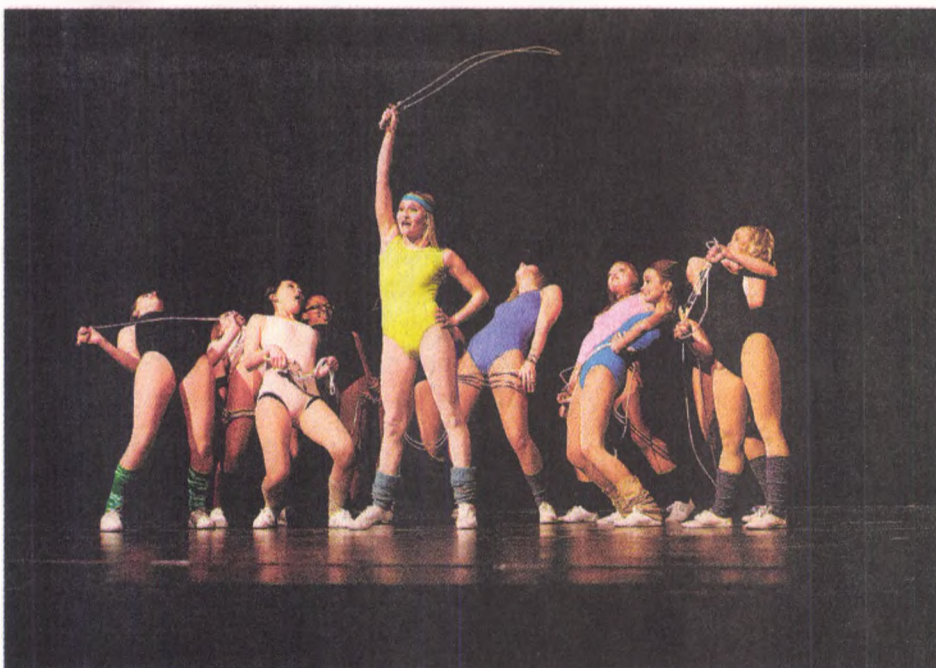
The musicians, not surprisingly to DePentu, have risen to the challenge.

"It is a Park Players Production ... as we expect every year, they rise to the demands of the performance," DePentu said. "The company works so well together, the show reflects the willingness of the actors/crew and orchestra to put aside their egos and work as a unit to produce a wonderful evening's entertainment."

Challenging music

The cast is backed by the 30 musicians in the orchestra pit. Orchestra director Cathy DePentu said the music is "more rock band than orchestra," making it musically challenging. The music varies in style, including stadium rock, rock anthem, funk, reggae and ballads.

bkadrich@hometownlife.com
(313) 222-8899



Laura Sieber (Brooke) and castmates in the Park Players' production of "Legally Blonde" dances their way through one of Kristen Quesada's choreographed numbers.



Cast members Sydney Hicks (Paulette) and Jeffrey Selewski (Kyle) share the stage with Logan. Including the dog, director Johnathan Rase said the "Legally Blonde" cast was the largest he's worked with in his time with the Park Players.

Michigan Philharmonic concert unites nature, music

The Michigan Philharmonic performs a concert that unites nature and music at 2 p.m. Sunday, April 21, at the First United Methodist Church of Plymouth.

Sharing the stage for a side by side performance of An Outdoor Overture by Aaron Copeland, will be the spirited

exuberance of the Michigan Philharmonic Youth Orchestra.

This spring event will feature nature-themed pieces by Ottorino Respighi and Antonin Dvořák along with the soaring majesty of "Adventures on Earth" by John Williams; the inspirational symphon-

ic finale to the Academy Award-winning film that made us all look at our world a little differently, "E.T. The Extra-Terrestrial."

To provide the Earth Day event with some local emphasis, guest composer and University of Michigan Associate Professor Evan Cham-

bers will be in attendance as the orchestra performs his evocative work, "Watershed." This piece helps to shed light on the preservation and resilience of southeastern Michigan's Huron River.

Michigan Philharmonic ticket holders will also have the chance to trav-

el in style to future concerts. Beginning with this April 21 performance, and continuing through the 2013/14 season, every person who purchases a Michigan Phil concert ticket will be entered in a drawing to win a two-year lease on a 2014 AWD Cadillac ATS Sedan — the North

American Car of the Year — courtesy of Don Massey Cadillac.

Tickets are \$30. Senior and student discount tickets are available and all kids are admitted free with a paying adult. To purchase tickets or sponsor this event, please call (734) 451-2112 or visit www.michiganphil.org.

St. Damian students present 'Godspell Jr.' at three parishes

By Sue Mason
Staff Writer

Parishioners at three Westland churches will be treated to performances of *Godspell Jr.* courtesy of students at St. Damian School.

The acting troupe will present the Stephen Schwartz musical, which is based on the Gospel of St. Matthew, Friday, Saturday and Sunday, March 22-24, at St. Damian, St. Theodore and Divine Savior churches. The traveling show will open with a 7 p.m. performance on Friday at St. Theodore on Wayne Road, north of Cowan, followed by a 7:30 p.m. show on Saturday at Divine Savior on Joy Road, west of Hix. The final performance will be at 3 p.m. Sunday at St. Damian on Joy Road east of Merriman.

"The kids are having a fun time learning from the parables," said Mary Melonio, music minister at St. Damian. "Once people see the show it will bring smiles to their faces."

Melonio, who has a background in music education, came up with the idea of doing a musical to get students involved and let the community know about the school. She talked to then-Principal Mary Stempian, who quickly agreed.

"My daughter attended St. Mike's and she did it in eighth grade," Melonio said. "I figured what a better way to teach kids and expose the school to the area. I want to open the community's eyes to the wonderful jewel we have here."



The cast of "Godspell Jr." includes Gillian Frazier (back row, from left), Madeline O'Connor, Maggie Behnke, Kari Toloday, Kiley Slevin, Lanya Munson, Danielle Lebsack, Libby Rudzinski (Jesus), Rachel Toloday, Aubree Allie, Tori White, Izabelle Allie, Eva Muller, Rachel Rudzinski (front row, from left), Marissa Muller, Edward Lebsack, Jenna Muller and Bridgette Behnke.

Casting call

She did auditions in October and began rehearsals in November. Eighteen students ranging from first to ninth grade have been rehearsing for several hours on Sundays after 10 a.m. Mass. They have learned to sing, dance, memorized lines, and learned the basics of acting along with sign language for one of the musical numbers.

A student from Webster School — Libby Rudzinski of Dearborn Heights — is playing Jesus. Her brothers and sister attend St. Damian. Tony Quillen, a student at John Glenn High School and member of St. Theodore Parish, is playing John the Baptist and Judas. According to Melonio, that's how the play was written.

Melonio is getting help from Quillen's mother, Lisa Marcolina, the children's music director at

St. Theodore's, and Ellie Roggenbuck of Livonia, an adult choir member at St. Damian. Marcolina is the choreographer, and Roggenbuck "has been at my side the entire time," said Melonio.

"There's a lot of dancing, and the kids have been amazing," said Melonio. "Ellie, out of the goodness of her heart, has been helping. God sent her to me. Without her, I couldn't do this. It's wonderful to see that kind of spirit, that giving of herself. It's wonderful."

Parental support

Of course, there's been plenty of parental support. All the youngsters have made it to rehearsals, thanks to the parents, who also have provided the props. The play is set in the 1960s, and the cast is providing their own costumes — tie-dyed T-shirts, jeans and a lot of

fringe. The setting will be a park with a fence where Jesus is electrocuted.

The play will be presented in the community rooms at St. Theodore and Divine Savior. The St. Damian production will be in the school gymnasium. The show is open to the public. Tickets are \$3 per person and \$5 per family and are available at the door.

The three Westland parishes are in the process of merging into one community. *Godspell Jr.* is the results of these parishes uniting in song, talent and dance among the very young, Melonio said.

"These children are 'The Light of the World,' the future of our communities and churches and we are so very proud of them," said Melonio.

smason@hometownlife.com
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John the Baptist, played by Tony Quillen, baptizes Jesus, played by Libby Rudzinski in a scene from St. Damian's production of "Godspell Jr."

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BUSINESS BRIEFS

Rapunzel project

Formula Salon will host a cut-a-thon to raise money for The Rapunzel Project, a non-profit organization dedicated to helping cancer patients keep their hair during chemotherapy. The event takes place Saturday, April 13, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The Rapunzel Project's mission is to inform patients that they have an option utilizing cold cap therapy, a technology to prevent hair loss associated with chemotherapy.

"This charity really spoke to us because it has to do with following through with our passion and our mission: to make people feel beautiful," said Formula owner Tricia Mavin said about the Rapunzel Project. "This is a place of wellness and healing. In return, feeling beautiful can heal people."

Formula Salon will host the cut-a-thon from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, April 13. The salon will offer hair cuts for a minimum \$10 donation, makeup application, and services including massage, nail polish change, facial waxing and hair braiding.

For more information and to schedule an appointment, contact the salon at (734) 354-9410 or visit at 890 S. Main in Plymouth.

Free dentistry

Doctors Pinckney, Greenbaum, MacFarland and Timpner, DDS, open their doors to the community, offering a gift of free dental services 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday, April 12.

The offer is intended for people who have dental needs but who are unable to afford the cost of treatment. No advance appointments will be made. Patients will be given a time for treatment when they arrive and will be seen on a first-come, first-served basis. Doctors are asking people to arrive early to be guaranteed an appointment.

Doctors will see the first 100 people (more if time allows). Patients must be

at least 12 years old in order to be seen, and they must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian if under the age of 18. Free treatment will include exams, X-rays, cleanings, fillings, extractions and pain control.

For more information, visit www.CantonDentists.com or call (734) 981-4040.

Premier adviser

Wells Fargo Advisors has for the second consecutive year designated Canton's Neil Weissman, Managing Director-Investments, as a member of the firm's Premier Advisors Program.

Weissman has been a financial advisor with Wells Fargo Advisors for two years and has six years' experience in the brokerage industry. He has a bachelor's degree in materials science and engineering from the University of Michigan and a master's degree from Stanford University.

Weissman lives in Canton with wife Stacy and their two children.

Business seminars

Monroe Bank & Trust announced a four-part business seminar series throughout its Wayne and Monroe county footprint.

Seminars will include topics critical to the success of businesses and non-profits. The first in the series is titled "Understanding Financial Statements", and will be presented the Red Olive Restaurant banquet room, 1051 Ann Arbor Road on Wednesday, March 27, from 8 am to 9:30 am. A complimentary breakfast will be served.

In-house financial experts Audrey Mistor, Monroe Bank & Trust Private Bank Plymouth/Northville Community President; and VP of Lending Darren LaLonde will present the session.

Future seminars in the 2013 series include "SBA, MEDC and USDA Loan Opportunities" in May, "The Affordable Care Act and Your Business" in August and "Retirement Tips and Topics for the Self Employed" in November.



Cellular & More celebrated the grand opening of its new Ford Road store (across from Target) Tuesday.

Cellular opens new Canton store

Cellular & More, a Verizon Wireless premium retailer, celebrated the grand opening of its newest and what officials are calling its most innovative store yet in Canton Tuesday.

The new building is located just two doors east of their previous location on Ford Road across from Target and features a comprehensive display area showcasing the latest emerging 4G devices. The interactive environment displays the smart-

phones, tablets, wireless modems, mobile hot-spots, and other devices for clients to handle and test, including Home Phone Connect, a wireless replacement for home landlines as well as home internet. The two-story building will also house the corporate offices on the upper level.

"We've been in Canton for nearly 20 years and feel a strong connection to this community, which led to the decision to invest in the new build-

ing," said Dean Leja, Vice President of Cellular & More. "Everything from the exterior landscaping to the interior displays will reflect the company's focus on improving the overall buying experience for our clients. And, our hands-on product displays will allow clients to truly test-drive the products before making the decision to buy."

For additional information, visit www.cellularandmore.com or call 800-CELL-MORE (800-235-5667).

CHAMBER CHAT

Canton dinner auction

The Canton Chamber of Commerce hosts its annual dinner auction Saturday, April 20, from 6:30 p.m. to midnight, at Burton Manor in Livonia.

This year's theme is "The Great Divide: U-M vs. MSU." The event features more than 200 raffles, trips to Cabo San Lucas and Boyne Mountain, airline tickets, jewelry and more. Two winners will go home with \$1,000 in cash. The night also includes a strolling dinner and open bar.

Cost is \$75 per person. The event is sponsored by Jack Demmer Automotive Group and MSA Delivery Service.

Contact the chamber office, (734) 453-4040, for additional information regarding donations, sponsorships or attending.

AD luncheon

Athletic directors for the University of Michigan (David Brandon) and Michigan State University (Mark Hollis) headline a joint meeting of the Plymouth Community, Livonia, Northville and Westland chambers of commerce Friday, April 26, at Laurel Manor in Livonia.

While they lead programs that are heated rivals, both men work to support the Big Ten Conference and NCAA. They are examples of competitive cooperation. Both leaders will share comments about their current projects, challenges and answer questions.

The cost to attend this event is \$30 for members or \$40 for non-members. Doors open at 11:30 a.m., the program starts at noon.

Reservations are required, with payment, by April 22. To reserve, email teri@plymouthmich.org or call (734) 453-1540.

Showcase Plymouth

The Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce is accepting registrations for exhibit space at the annual Showcase and Taste of Plymouth, set for Monday, May 6, from 5-7:30 p.m., at the Inn at St. John's.

Exhibit space prices are \$110 or \$135 (premium) and includes a 6-foot-by-3-foot skirted table.

Showcase and Taste of Plymouth attracts 650-750 attendees from the community and member businesses, 95 total exhibitors including 20 restaurants, Community Service Awards presented to 20 honorees and each exhibitor can bring three people.

The Inn at St. John's is located at 44045 Five Mile in Plymouth. Anyone interested in exhibiting can contact the chamber at (734) 453-1540 or email teri@plymouthmich.org by April 26.

Business workshop

The Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce presents a business development workshop, "Does Your Website Rule or Druol?" featuring Meaghan McCann of Search Ad Marketing, 8:30-9:30 a.m., Tuesday, March 26.

McCann will educate chamber members on best practices for an effective and profitable website. She will share information on what makes a visitor-friendly website, how to not get ripped off when working with a website developer and what it takes to get new visitors to the site and keep them coming back.

The meeting takes place at the chamber office, 850 W. Ann Arbor Trail in downtown Plymouth. There is no cost to attend. To RSVP call (734) 453-1540 or email teri@plymouthmich.org.

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Check us out on the Web every day at hometownlife.com

Authors enjoy library's fair

By Julie Brown
Staff Writer

Larry Paladino of Warren served 1965-66 with the 173rd Airborne in Vietnam. Paladino, who was editor of the *Birmingham Eccentric* and a sports editor for the Associated Press, was deployed with his unit to Vietnam from Okinawa in 1964.

His self-published book is of letters he received in Vietnam as well as letters he sent. "It's just a great history," he said. "I wanted it for my grandkids."

His book is *Thank You for Fighting the Bad People*, that title taken from a thank-you Valentine sent to Vietnam by first-grader Linda Grizzle. Paladino wrote the book in about eight years, off and on.

He was joined Saturday, March 16, at the Plymouth District Library by wife Marilyn for "Celebrat-

ing Authors: Plymouth District Library Local Author Fair."

Paladino's unit, which had heavy casualties, received the Presidential Unit Citation. Paladino married Marilyn after the war: "We didn't really know each other when we corresponded. She was a dance teacher at my aunt's dance studio."

He also had for sale *Tales from the Detroit Lions*, which he and Charlie Sanders wrote, as well as *Greener Pastures*, done with Clarence Underwood, former Michigan State University athletic director.

Sharing ideas

"It's great," Paladino said of the author fair. "I've never been to one before." The authors met together to share ideas and resources the first hour before the doors opened to the public.

"The idea is for them to get to know each other," said Marjorie Sadler,

adult services librarian. This is the fifth year for the event, and she was pleased with the turnout. "Right now, it looks great."

In lighter fare, Dianne Griswold of Plymouth Township wrote *A Slice of Time*, about the Plymouth Historical Museum through volunteers' eyes. She describes how the museum became so impressive for a community its size, starting with 40 volunteer interviews for her research and narrowing the book down.

Griswold, who volunteered at the museum about three years, is proud of the largest permanent Lincoln collection on exhibit there.

"I was able to abscond Margaret Dunning's secret baked bean recipe," she added of the book which was published in September 2012.

"Maybe Pam Yockey," Griswold said of

her favorite story in the book. "Pam like myself is a former teacher." Yockey, a seamstress at the Henry Ford, costumed the Abraham and Mary Todd Lincoln figures at the Plymouth museum.

Adults and kids

Plymouth Township's Joel Thurtell, a retired *Detroit Free Press* reporter, wrote *Mouse Code* in the 1980s for a magazine contest on adventures in ham radio.

"Unfortunately it sounds like my heroes are going to have to be mice for it to work," he recalled of his writing at that time. "It could be read to kids at any age. I find adults like it."

Thurtell's work can be found at www.hardalee-press.com as well as his blog, www.joelontheroad.com. He wrote with photographer colleague Patricia Beck *Up the Rouge: Paddling Detroit's Hidden River*. Thurtell also wrote



GERRY MARTIN

Canton author Cheryl Vatcher-Martin was one of the many authors at Saturday's author fair at the Plymouth District Library. Vatcher-Martin was showing her books "Haiku For You: With Some One Room School House History" and "Romulus, Mi. Notes From The Past."

Shoestring Reporter: How I Got To Be a Big City Reporter Without Going to J-School and How You Can Do It Too. He said that's more of a journalism text, and he uses it in classes he teaches at Wayne State University.

Timely for Easter, Thurtell also wrote *Cross*

Purposes: If Newspapers Had Covered the Crucifixion. His *Seydou's Christmas Tree* is based on a lesson a young Muslim friend taught Thurtell and his wife while they served as Peace Corps volunteers in Togo.

jcbrown@hometownlife.com
(313) 222-6755

United Way recognizes contributors

Marie Morrow gave a big "Thank you" to Johnson Controls and nearly 100 business and community leaders who attended the Plymouth Community United Way annual meeting and awards presentation at Comcast in Plymouth.

The PCUW president said the event was a way to show appreciation for those who contributed to the 2012-13 fundraising campaign or provided community service. It also was an opportunity for the public to learn about the work the non-profit does in Plymouth, Canton and Western Wayne County as several of the agencies funded by PCUW were showcased.

The morning began with a continental breakfast followed by the meeting which included reports on PCUW's 2012 finances and an announcement that PCUW is moving forward to research initiatives that produce lasting change and measurable results in addition to still providing basic needs and other much needed human services.

Platinum, Gold, Silver, and Bronze awards were then presented by PCUW

Board of Directors Chairman, Paul Hood. Among the recipients were Johnson Controls, Comcast, DTE Energy, UPS, Robert Bosch LLC, Automotive Components Holdings, Burroughs Payment Systems, UAW Local 845 (Ford), and Community Financial as well as dozens of other businesses, Plymouth-Canton Community Schools, Plymouth Rotary Foundation and the City of Plymouth.

Johnson Controls received the Platinum Award, the highest level attained by Key Contributors.

"Johnson Controls is proud to be recognized by the Plymouth Community United Way with the Platinum Award for its 2012 Campaign. Year after year, our employees are generous supporters of this great organization and the outreach it provides to the Plymouth community," said Jeff Williams, Group Vice President and General Manager, Johnson Controls Automotive Seating.

Community Service Awards went to All Saints Catholic School in Canton for collecting 464 hats, gloves, scarves and socks to help low-

income and homeless families and individuals. Dodson Elementary students and staff contributed 385 warm winter items. Smith Elementary helped replenish shelves at local food pantries with their successful food drive. They also collected Hats for the Homeless.

The Inn at St. John's collected 280 backpacks with school supplies for needy students. Golfers received a free round of golf for each backpack donated.

FedEx held a Purple Tote Project that yielded two carloads of food, hats, clothes, children's book, toiletries, and cleaning products in addition to a check for \$932.

Home Depot, Panera Bread #748 and Einstein Bros Bagels #2344 received awards for continuously donating supplies and food to special events such as Make-A-Difference Day. Last fall, over 400 volunteers raked 50 yards of senior citizens and people with disabilities.

Many other corporations, businesses, clubs, and individuals also donated food, hats, blankets and frozen turkeys during 2012.



Mary Kay Dodero, Communications Manager (left) and Curt Bastianelli, Executive Director of Purchasing (right) for Johnson Controls, accept the Platinum Award from PCUW Board of Directors Chairman Paul Hood (center).

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OUR VIEWS

Will lawmakers' visit mean better representation?

It is no secret that the cities of Northville and Plymouth have many similarities, way beyond the fact that they are so close geographically. They both have charming and popular downtowns, share a fire department, and are destination communities for their public schools, parks and public safety.

They face many of the same challenges, especially when it comes to dealing with Lansing and our state government. So it made a lot of sense for the two communities to come together and host a public forum recently, which was attended by several state lawmakers — including state Rep. Kurt Heise, (R-Plymouth Township) and state Sen. Patrick Colbeck, (R-Canton).

The legislators, who attended a joint meeting of the Northville City Council and Plymouth City Commission last week, offered some straight talk to the local public officials on issues impacting both communities.

They discussed the elimination and/or reduction of the personal property tax and state shared revenue, which have had a major impact on local budgets. Unfortunately the lawmakers



Colbeck



Heise

said the elimination of these important funding sources are not going to be reversed any time soon — if ever.

Another topic broached was the fact that the state Liquor Control Commission (LCC) has been issuing more liquor licenses without getting input from local communities, which in years past had more control over how many and which new alcohol-serving businesses can come

to town.

Heise and Colbeck said the LCC has taken a more "free market" approach under Gov. Rick Snyder's administration. However, Plymouth Mayor Dan Dwyer and Northville Mayor Chris Johnson pointed out that both communities already have plenty of bars, and should have some kind of say on the matter, especially when you take into account state funding cuts have meant fewer police officers on

the street.

Another issue discussed concerned the ability of downtown development authorities in both Northville and Plymouth to be able to capture revenue from various millages — a subject that came up recently when the Detroit Institute of Arts complained that the DDAs were taking some of their funding approved by voters last year. The matter is now in court.

However, as Northville City Manager Patrick Sullivan pointed out, the DIA and Detroit Zoo are no different than any other taxing authorities. The DDAs in Northville and Plymouth have been instrumental in the turn-arounds of both downtowns, so the issue is critical for local officials. Heise said the matter will be determined by the courts, and said he recognized how important DDAs have been.

The other major issue discussed was transportation funding. Colbeck, who serves on the Transportation Committee, explained Gov. Snyder's proposal to maintain the state's roads by raising vehicle registration fees by 60 percent, and add 14 cents per gallon to gas (18 cents per

gallon of diesel fuel), and raise the sales tax by one cent. A bill is in the works to put the proposal on the May ballot, but if Monday's meeting was any indication, the proposal is going nowhere as Heise, and especially Colbeck, didn't offer any support for the idea.

In fact, Colbeck offered many different ideas, including selling naming rights and concession rights at state-owned assets (like rest areas), and appropriating more of the general fund budget to roads.

The main point local officials got across to them is that they don't want local funding reduced further, and they would like to have more flexibility in how the transportation funds can be spent.

In the end, Heise and Colbeck didn't exactly offer up what the local officials wanted to hear on these important issues. However, it was refreshing to see they were willing to come and be grilled by the locals. It was a good exchange, and hopefully will lead to better representation in Lansing for both Plymouth and Northville.

COMMUNITY VOICE

The latest assessments show increasing residential property values in Plymouth and Plymouth Township. Is the market improving where you live?

We asked this question at the Plymouth District Library.



"I just got my new tax assessment and it went down another \$3,600."

Judy Linna
Canton Township



"Yes. It's a good neighborhood — Hough Park."

Brenda Krachenberg
Plymouth



"I think so. I'm in the township."

Bonnie Mettie
Plymouth Township



"I live in Eastpointe and I'm renting at the moment. ... A few more homes have sold. ... I don't think they're getting the higher (prices) over in the area I'm in."

Rachelle Reamer
Eastpointe

LETTERS

Enhanced technology crucial

I appreciate the numerous articles in the Plymouth Observer the past two weeks supporting technological improvements in the Plymouth-Canton school district.

Our school district must keep improving technological capabilities and programs to insure students have an academic advantage as they pursue either a career path or higher education. Taking a quote from school board President John Barrett, "This is the way of the future; it's the nature of the global world. We have to give kids what they need to meet the demands of the job market. We need to make sure our students have the critical skills that are now demanded by colleges and employers."

Universities and employers/businesses are continually advancing their technological capabilities, and expect their future students or employees to have the appropriate technical skill level. Careers in fields like drafting and printing have changed dramatically, and the old methods are really lost arts due to technological advances.

For prior generations, an online degree or telecommuting was just a figment of the imagination. However, through technological advances these are now new norms of our times. Today, you can conduct business or get a degree from the comfort of your home vs. an office or classroom. Preparing for college is no longer sitting at the kitchen table and filling out applications; all documents are completed online through various technological applications.

The classroom has evolved from blackboards and textbooks, to interactive whiteboards and various forms of technical interface to global resources. The card catalog has been replaced by Google, periodicals and newspapers are online, and instead of day-dreaming about far off places students now have these places at their fingertips.

From another article on March 14, "Digital learning in Plymouth-Canton Schools: Innovation guides teaching, learning," a class lesson at Central Middle School culminated in students creating video "trailers" for their subject following online research. According to their teacher Rick Coughlin, "Rather than a written report, the students actually created a presentation that they could post online and share with the world."

I'm not saying all 6,200 students at the "Park" should have an Apple iPad (sorry, classmates). Rather, that the district investigate and provide the highest level of learning and technological applications for all students and academic areas to make learning exciting and competitive with our ever-changing world.

The need to continually enhance the forms and levels of technology for Plymouth-Canton students to live and survive in an evolving a digital world is crucial.

Kara Kwiecinski
Salem High School junior
Plymouth

Truth detector needed

Building on Joanne Sonnenberg's "Search for truth" letter (March 14) on Lori Levi's "Lack of response" (March 7), the Millennials in their early 20s-30s may not have been given the educational tools or examples needed to search for and recognize real truth.

Many Millennials and others have now established beliefs that they can each have their own relative "truth." Members of the current "Greatest Generation" regularly attend religious events and do voluntary (not government) community service driven by their beliefs. Research shows this level is much higher than for Millennials and other age groups. Our "Greatest Generation" had their values forged in the furnaces of World War II and Korea.

It is extremely important to provide our very young teens and high school students with both the skills and opportunities to seek the truth for civic and ethical/moral reasons. The Plymouth-Canton Schools teach required history, social studies, civics and health classes. The actual content of classes needs to be closely monitored so schools not only prepare our youth to pass "yearly progress" fact tests, but also to think critically and logically with a sound ethical/moral basis.

This basis was critical to the original "Greatest Generation" (the Founders) of the United States and needs to be taught as history and understood by all students today, regardless of their own relative "truth" or that of their teachers.

There is no such thing as "my truth" or "your truth." There exists only the real objective truth. We need to make the best use of the time we have to both record and study the experiences of the "Greatest Generation" and to have real face-to-face discussions with these treasures: our parents, grandparents, uncles/aunts and those lonely people in our own neighborhoods and nursing homes. They may not text, Twitter, or Tweet but they are closer to truth.

Stan Olszewski
Plymouth

Support school bond

May 7 is an important date for all residents of Plymouth-Canton Community Schools. On that day, citizens from throughout the district will be voting on a \$114 million bond proposal that is essential to the continued excellence of our schools and our communities.

The best feature of this bond is that it will provide necessary improvements and upgrades for our children while leaving school tax rates unchanged. We urge all of our neighbors to become informed about this important measure:

- Necessary infrastructure and facility improvements throughout the district, benefiting every school and every child without diverting vital resources from the classroom.
- Enhanced security to protect our most precious asset, our children.
- Technology upgrades essential to keeping our children competitive in the demanding 21st century job market.
- State-of-the-Art STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) Labs at all middle schools.
- New buses to ensure our students arrive at school safely and ready to learn.
- A new, modern middle school in Canton that more efficiently and effectively serves the district's population.

Equitable educational opportunities and learning environments for all of our students, a guiding principle of the Plymouth-Canton community.

It is crucial concerned community members realize that without the bond, most of these enhancements will have to be addressed regardless in order to keep PCCS competitive with surrounding districts. Far from being a wish list, the items in the bond are imminent needs. Without the bond, the only other option to meet these vital needs is to reduce resources flowing to classrooms.

All funds from the bond will work locally, maintaining PCCS as a top-ranked, destination district, one that will increase property values by continuing to attract quality teachers, administrators and residents to the Plymouth-Canton community. Our district has traditionally run very lean, using proceeds from bonds to fund major capital investments. Because of the care they have shown over many years with our tax dollars we now have this exceptional opportunity.

We urge all citizens of the district to become informed voters. If you have questions about the bond, PCCS has provided detailed information at <http://www.pccs.k12.mi.us/2013bond>

Anyone interested in helping to pass the bond and ensuring a brighter tomorrow for PCCS and our communities can e-mail voteyesppccs@gmail.com. You can also join us on Facebook.

Denise Zander and Sommer Foster
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OHL PLAYOFFS PREVIEW

Whalers all business for playoffs

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

The Plymouth Whalers are white-hot entering the Ontario Hockey League playoffs, which for them kicks off at 7 p.m. Friday against Sarnia at Compuware Arena.

Sunday's 4-0 whitewash of Windsor gave Plymouth 16 victories over the final 17 contests of the regular season and the No. 2 seed in the Western Conference (42-17-5-4, 93 points).

Sarnia opens the first round after a third-place finish in the OHL West Division (which the Whalers

WHALERS VS. STING

Following is the schedule for the Plymouth-Sarnia first-round OHL playoff series (Best-of-seven, all games at 7 p.m.):

- Game 1:** Friday, at Compuware Arena
 - Game 2:** Saturday, at Compuware Arena
 - Game 3:** Monday, at Sarnia
 - Game 4:** Wednesday, March 27, at Sarnia
 - Game 5:** (if necessary) Friday, March 29, at Plymouth
 - Game 6:** (if necessary) Saturday, March 30, at Sarnia
 - Game 7:** (if necessary) Tuesday, April 2, at Plymouth
- Tickets:** Call Compuware box office at (734) 453-8400 or go to www.plymouthwhalers.com

ers won, by the way). The Sting posted a 35-28-1-4 record, good for 75 points.

But Plymouth coach and general manager Mike Vellucci has been around

the block a few times. He doesn't put any stock in the Whalers' torrid second half, rather focusing on the fact both teams in the playoff matchup are

at zeros.

To that end, he kept regulars Tom Wilson and Colin MacDonald home for the finale, in order to rest nagging injuries. Both are expected to be ready Friday night.

"Last year we ran into injury trouble and didn't have the depth," Vellucci said. "Hopefully, this year we have the depth. ... You got to have a lot of depth, four lines that can play. Make sure everybody's healthy and rested."

The Whalers — in the OHL playoffs for the 22nd straight year — know full well they'll need to fire on all cylinders from the

opening puck drop Friday to have a shot at bringing home the OHL championship for the first time since 2007.

"We got to go in there, every game is important and every shift is important," Vellucci said.

Pick your poison

The Plymouth-Sarnia matchup boils down to the Whalers' deep-and-talented roster against Sarnia scoring stalwarts led by wingers Charles Sarault (108 points, one shy Plymouth scoring champion Vince Trocheck) and snip-

Please see **WHALERS, B2**

One for the book

Whalers' Trocheck wins OHL scoring title, praises 'selfless' teammates

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Vince Trocheck — having finished a postgame interview — triumphantly walked into the Plymouth Whalers locker room a good 15-20 minutes after Sunday's 4-0 road win over Windsor.

When he did, loud cheering spilled out into the corridor at Windsor Family Credit Union Centre.

Nearby, equipment workers for the Whalers could only listen, smile and nod as they collected sticks, pucks, tape and other odds and ends for the return trip to Compuware Arena in Plymouth.

Trocheck's teammates were waiting to cheer for him, because his three-point game against the Spitfires won him the Ontario Hockey League scoring championship. He assisted on a power-play goal by Garrett Meurs with 2:26 left to earn his 109th

point, surpassing Sarnia's Charles Sarault (who finished with 108).

About 5:45 of a seven-minute power play had elapsed when Meurs rifled a cross-rink feed from Trocheck over the blocker of Windsor goalie Jordan DeKort to trigger the kind of on-ice celebration one might expect for a playoff winner.

"I'm ecstatic. I don't even know how to really explain it," said Trocheck, who started the afternoon two points behind Sarault. "I didn't want to be that selfish guy that's going out there to get points. I'm all about the team. It's all about the team winning."

"But this team, the guys are just so selfless. They went out there today and pretty much did it all for me to win that scoring title, and I can't say enough about that."

It was duly noted by the man who traded with Saginaw to acquire Trocheck in January.



RENA LAVERTY

After scoring his 50th goal of the season Saturday, Vince Trocheck (right) is congratulated by teammates including Stefan Noesen (No. 11). Trocheck had another celebration on Sunday, winning the OHL scoring championship with his 109th point in a 4-0 victory at Windsor.

"That's what being a team's all about," Plymouth coach and general manager Mike Vellucci said. "From coaches to players, everybody was rooting for him. We were actually pressing a little too hard, passing on shots thinking he had to get a goal."

"It wasn't a goal, he just needed a point. So I'm really proud of the team and proud of Vince."

Trocheck laughed when asked

what he might have said to Meurs had he missed what turned out to be his 32nd goal of the season.

"He wouldn't miss it, he buried it," Trocheck said. "That was one of the hardest shots I've ever seen from that guy."

It turned out to be quite a weekend for Trocheck. On Saturday night against Windsor at Compu-

Please see **TROCHECK, B2**



PHOTO COURTESY NCAA.COM

Celebrating after she and her teammates on the Elmira Soaring Eagles won the NCAA Division III women's hockey championship Saturday is Tanis Lamoureux (center). The 2010 Salem grad is flanked by teammates Katie Gaskin (No. 20, formerly of Wayne State University) and Caitlin Metcalf (No. 23).

Lamoureux soars for D-III champs

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

WOMEN'S HOCKEY

championship.

"The best part about the last few games was just how well our team played and how we all came together," said Lamoureux, a 5-5 junior forward and co-captain who formerly played in the Plymouth-Canton area with Victory Honda. "We definitely had our ups and downs over the course of the year just as any team would but ... we were playing the best hockey we had played all year and that was extremely exciting to see and be a part of."

Also exciting, she noted in an e-mail to the *Observer*, was "looking around and seeing the NCAA logos."

Getting some free NCAA swag didn't hurt either. "All the free attire made me feel like I was in the pros, definitely a special experience."

Lamoureux pointed to her two seasons playing for the Victory Honda 19U women's team as something that helped her become the all-around player and team leader she is today. She did not participate in varsity athletics at Salem.

"I had the privilege of being a captain during my last year at Victory Honda and that has prepared me for the role of captain," she noted.

After the riveting ride that ended with the championship, several mem-

Please see **ICERS, B4**

GIRLS LACROSSE PREVIEW

PCEP girls lax teams gearing up

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

The growing pains are still reverberating around Plymouth-Canton Educational Park following the 2010 breakup of the combined girls lacrosse team.

But as the 2013 season dawns, coaches and players for Canton, Plymouth and Salem talk less about going solo and more about racking up victories in the Kensington Lakes Activities Association.

Following is a glimpse at the three teams.

Canton outlook

The Canton Chiefs finished 8-12 overall and 3-5 in the Kensington Conference, with the Chiefs then defeating Northville 12-11 in the first round of regionals.

Head coach David Bower, assisted by Ross Davenport and Jim Neal, welcome Canton's "strongest team yet" with eight seniors and nine juniors providing veteran leadership and on-field talent.

"We will continue to emphasize team play, both offensively and defensively," Bower said. "With a good balance between speed and skill, I look forward to watching our team transition the ball up the field."

Once in the opponent's end of the field, he envisions having "a fairly balanced attack that can spread defenses and create scoring opportunities from many different angles."

Leading the way will be all-state honorable mention Cassidy Tucker, a senior captain and midfielder who scored 26 goals and led the Chiefs with 43 ground balls. Senior midfielder Annelise Niermann (all-KLAA) was Canton's top player in the "turnovers won" category. Junior goalie Melissa Neal holds records for saves in a game (16) and season (194) and save percentage (45.8 percent).

Other key returnees are senior captain and defender Laura Murphy (second in ground balls) and junior midfielder Annika Nuler, a player who can get it done on offense and defense.

New to the Chiefs and ready to make an impact right off the hop are sophomore midfielder Jordan Church, sophomore attacker Kelsey Tucker, junior midfielder Alexis O'Flynn and junior midfielder Connie Cox.

Tucker had a four-game cameo last season, and scored eight goals and assisted on two others. The others are con-

Please see **PCEP, B4**

Canton girls lax tryouts

Tryouts for the Canton High School varsity girls lacrosse team have been extended until Friday, March 22, as the Chiefs are looking to bring in players for the coming season.

The sessions will take place 5-7 p.m. Monday through Friday at Discovery Middle School. No experience is required.

Contact coach David Bower, (734) 634-8797, cantongirlslacrosse@pccsmail.net, for more information.

MU softball blanked, 3-0

The Madonna University softball team was held scoreless for just the second time this season as the Crusaders fell Saturday to NCAA Division II foe Ohio Dominican, 3-0, at Panther Field.

Visiting MU registered four hits with sophomore designated player Caitlyn Keuveelaar accounting for two of them.

Senior outfielder Amber Rafko and junior third baseman Carlee Meek each added one as the Crusaders slipped to 10-11 overall.

Sophomore Bree Crampton (5-6) was charged with the loss as she gave up three runs on five hits over her six innings of work, striking out three.

Madonna took a 2-0 lead in the top of the second when it appeared sophomore outfielder Karleigh Creighton (North Farmington) belted a two-run homer, but the Crusaders had batted out of order and the round-tripper was taken off the board leaving the game 0-0.

Ohio Dominican (4-17-1) got on the board in the bottom of the fourth when Caitlin Jividen and Taylor Thomas hit back-to-back home runs to center field for a 2-0 lead.

The Panthers tacked on their third run in the bottom of the sixth on a homer from Kelsey Albanese for a 3-0 lead.

Keuveelaar and Rafko both singled in the seventh, but were stranded as Rachel Stanzel (2-11) worked out of the jam for the complete game shutout. She struck out three.

The Crusaders are idle until 4 p.m. Wednesday, March 27, when Albion comes to open the brand new University Field.

PCLL clinics

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

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

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

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

Aleardi thanks Whalers as he tests pro waters

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

One hockey locker room door closes, another opens and that's fine with former Plymouth Whalers forward Alex Aleardi.

On Sunday afternoon, the 20-year-old Aleardi completed his final game in the Ontario Hockey League, with the Windsor Spitfires — fittingly, in a game against the Whalers at WFCU Centre.

A day or two later, the speedy forward left for Massachusetts, where he will begin a professional tryout with the Springfield Falcons of the American Hockey League. Springfield is the top affiliate for the NHL Columbus Blue Jackets.

"I'm going there Tuesday or Wednesday, basically going to go up there and earn my spot, do it all over again," said Aleardi, adding with a laugh that he's "back to being a rookie."

Waiting to see Aleardi outside the Windsor Spitfires locker room were parents Ignazio and Denise Aleardi (formerly of Farmington Hills). So were Barb and John Land, the billet parents for Alex in 2008-09 with the Kitchener Rangers. "You got through five years of this stuff," said



PHOTOS BY TIM CORNETT | WINDSORSPITFIRES.COM

Alex Aleardi, shown during Sunday's game against Plymouth, enjoyed being a veteran presence for the young Spitfires over the last few months. The former Farmington Hills resident also was a team and community favorite with the Whalers.

Ignazio Aleardi as he gave a fist bump to Alex.

When they greeted him, they wore old Kitchener jerseys, complete with Aleardi's No. 42. After wearing No. 40 with the Whalers ("close enough," he would say) he got his favorite number back for the final couple months of his OHL career with Windsor.

Others close to the long-time Farmington Hills resident over the past several years were at WFCU Center for the game, won 4-0 by the Whalers. On hand were Rasa and Glenn Poorman of Plymouth, who hosted Alex in 2012-13 before his January trade to Windsor.

"It's indescribable, the emotions running through my head right now, just seemed like five years disappeared so quick," Aleardi said. "I'm thankful for everyone like family, friends, fans, coaches and teammates, all the way down the list."

"Billet families and everything, anyone that's really supported me and supported my team. I'm just so grateful for everything. Just glad I got to be a part of something like this."

Aleardi, who finished the season with 27 goals and 44 assists for 71 points over 67 games (divided between Plymouth and Windsor), also



Plymouth goalie Matt Mahalak (No. 37) rejects this scoring bid by former teammate Alex Aleardi (No. 42) of the Windsor Spitfires Sunday at WFCU Center. At right is Stefan Noesen of the Whalers.

made sure to walk over to the Whalers' locker room to congratulate his old teammates on a great season and wish them well for the playoff run

That was interesting

Always popular with the Plymouth team and community, Aleardi was traded in early January for Zach Lorentz because the Whalers needed to deal one overage player by the OHL-imposed deadline.

"It was definitely an interesting feeling," said Aleardi, about going over to spend some time with the Whalers. "I'm happy for them, they're doing well. They're making a playoff run now and of

course I wish we were making our own. But all the best to them and I hope they win the Memorial Cup."

Aleardi — who actually looks like a OHL rookie now that he shaved off his trademark beard — said he enjoyed his three seasons with the Whalers, where he learned to become a complete player. Yet he also relished being a veteran presence for the young Spitfires.

"Just show them what it takes to win," he noted. "I know you got to block every shot, it doesn't matter if it's 5-1 or 6-2, you're down and there's a minute left. Still block that shot. Show pride and passion. You're doing what

you love."

Great journey

Watching the younger Aleardi interact with his smiling, enthusiastic parents, it's easy to see the apple didn't fall far from the tree.

"It's been great, it's been a great journey," Ignazio Aleardi said. "... his billets are here from Day 1, every billet he's been with."

And it was fitting that Plymouth was the opponent for the final game of Alex' excellent OHL career. In 321 career games in Kitchener, Belleville, Plymouth and Windsor, Aleardi tallied 104 goals, 123 assists and 227 points.

"I think it's a very good thing for him," Ignazio added. "Because you know what, Windsor didn't end up making the playoffs but a lot of his friends were (at the game), and people he's been with the last two-and-a-half years. It's a good thing."

One door closes, another opens.

Now, the Aleardis and Lands might have to go out and get Springfield Falcons' jerseys. They won't mind one bit.

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WHALERS

Continued from page B1

er Reid Boucher (62 goals in 68 games).

Conversely, Plymouth features eight players who cracked the 20-goal plateau — led by Trocheck, who fired home 50 goals and assisted on 59 others for 109 points.

Trocheck scored 24

goals for Saginaw before his January trade to the Whalers and then went off on an offensive tear (26-33—59 in just 28 games).

Matt Mistele and Garrett Meurs registered 34 and 32 goals, respectively, followed by Stefan Noesen (25), Cody Payne (24), Wilson and Ryan Hartman (23 each) and Rickard Rakell, who netted 21 despite missing a month while up with Ana-

heim of the NHL.

Go ahead and throw the name of forward Mitchell Heard into the mix. Heard scored 17 goals in 31 games and probably would have surpassed 30 goals had he not been with Lake Erie of the AHL for the first half of the season.

Two-way 'D'

On defense, the Whalers gave up just 202 goals, while Sarnia allowed 254.

Strong, experienced blueliners such as MacDonald, Nick Malysa and Austin Levi, along with newcomers Connor Carrick and Gianluca Curcuruto, give the Whalers the best of both worlds — whether playing close to the vest or pushing the offensive envelope with pinching and sniping.

Vellucci's squad also has the edge in goal. Both veteran Matt Mahalak (2.86 goals-against average, .906 save percentage) and rookie Alex Nedeljkovic (2.28, .923) have excelled.

"Both guys have played great," Vellucci said. "Mahalak has two shutouts in a row, so he's playing well. It's a good time for both of them."

The Sting will rely on JP Anderson, who has a 3.31 goals-against average and .905 save percentage.

A key for Plymouth will be staying out of the penalty box, largely to slow down Boucher, who scored 21 goals on the power play.

As for the regular season series between the teams, Plymouth won four

of the six games and lost one in a shootout. In the most recent matchups, Plymouth won 10-2 on Feb. 18 and 4-0 on Feb. 23.

"They got a great team. They got a good goalie," Vellucci said. "They got the leading goal scorer in the league in Boucher, they got a couple good lines and their defense likes to jump into the play."

"So we're going to have to be patient and just push the tempo a little bit."

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TROCHECK

Continued from page B1

ware, he scored his 50th goal of the season to help the Whalers earn a 4-3 overtime victory.

According to Vellucci, everything followed the script Sunday before 5,641 at WFCU Centre.

The West Division champions left a few key players home to rest minor injuries with the playoffs looming and Vellucci wanted the Whalers to get through the finale unscathed — and find a way for Trocheck to at least nab a share of the scoring title.

Also playing a strong game for Plymouth (42-17-5-4, 93 points) was goalie Matt Mahalak, who stopped all 24 Windsor shots for his third shutout of the season and second in a row. Mahalak thwarted Remy Giftopoulos and former Whaler Alex Aleardi (Farmington Hills) in the final five minutes to preserve the shutout.

"Obviously it's great to win games, but we already solidified where we're at," Vellucci said. "Today we wanted no injuries and we wanted to make sure if we could get Vince a couple points it would be great."

The Whalers got on the board without Trocheck's help at 15:02 of the opening period. Stationed near the left post to tap the puck past DeKort was another one of Vellucci's mid-season acquisition, right wing Sebastian Uvira.

Drawing assists were defenseman Connor Carrick and forward Stefan Noesen, who slipped a perfect pass to Uvira from the right circle. It was Uvira's 10th of the season and seventh with Plymouth.

In the second period, the Spitfires had a few chances



TIM CORNETT | WINDSORSPITFIRES.COM

Teammates Gianluca Curcuruto (No. 32) and Sebastian Uvira (center) mob Vince Trocheck of the Plymouth Whalers (No. 25) after he assisted on a goal in the third period Sunday in Windsor to win the OHL scoring title.

es on the power play, only to be denied by Mahalak. The goalie blocked a point shot taken by Windsor scoring standout Alexander Khokhlachev (48 points in 29 games) and then snagged a wrist shot by Josh Ho-Sang.

Just over two minutes after the Whalers completed that penalty kill, Noesen made it a 2-0 game.

Defenseman Austin Levi sent the puck up the left wing to Trocheck, who motored into the Windsor zone and fed a pass to Noesen and the Ottawa prospect did the rest. Noesen went forehand-backhand-forehand before sliding the puck between DeKort's pads for his 25th goal of the season.

Windsor's Kerby Rychel drew a penalty with just 16 seconds left in the period and it took the Whalers just 4.4 seconds to go up 3-0.

Trocheck and defenseman Gianluca Curcuruto played catch along the blueline from one point to the other, and Curcuruto launched a shot on goal that DeKort kicked out. The rebound went right to Cody Payne, who banged it home for his 24th goal of the year.

That assist gave Trocheck a share of the scor-

ing crown, with virtually an entire period left to determine whether the Whalers could help their teammate get it all to himself.

Then came the assist, followed by the on-ice mob scene and locker room cheering. Trocheck shook his head when talking about how all of that unfolded.

"That's just how they are; they're a selfless group," Trocheck said. "And I can't wait to go into playoffs with them and go into battle."

"I'm going to do everything for them and, like you saw out there, they'll do anything for another guy on the team. That's what championship teams are built off of."

The Whalers will now begin what they hope will be a long postseason run, beginning at 7 p.m. Friday at Compuware against Sarnia.

"We got to go into it with a clear slate and not worry about seeding or what we've done in the past," Trocheck said. "We got to go into it thinking it's 0-0 in the series, and we got to beat Sarnia the best we can, by playing the best we can."

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Grapplers earn state accolades

FIRST-TEAM

Mohamad Youssef, Jr., Plymouth (103): It was a breakthrough season for Youssef to say the least. He finished 52-5 and established himself as one of the top 103-pounders in the region by winning the Wayne County and Observerland tournaments as well as the Division 1 district and regional championships.

At the D1 regionals, he pinned Ann Arbor Pioneer's Billy Cobb-Gulley in 2:29 and then placed seventh at the D1 finals at the Palace of Auburn Hills.

With that, Youssef became the third state placer in Plymouth school history.

"Mo started the season with the goal of placing at the state meet and worked all season to achieve that goal," coach Quinn Guernsey said.

According to Guernsey, an example of Youssef's competitive fire was at the individual regionals at Canton High School where "after fighting off his back against Tyler Rogaliner of Bedford, Mo was able to finish a powerful double leg shot and secure a pin sending him to the regional final."

Michael Volyanuk, Soph., Farm. Harrison (103): Volyanuk was the Division 1 state runner-up, finishing his sophomore season with a 45-8 record. He won a district championship and was a finalist at the Observerland, OAA and regional tournaments. He was third in the Oakland County meet. Volyanuk is 65-18 in two varsity seasons.

"Obviously, being in the state final, there's only one highlight better than that, and that's winning it," coach Jim Stuef said. "By Monday of the next week, he was ready to get back to work. He wanted to get back in the weight room and prepare for next year. He wants to be a state champion. He'll put the time and effort into it and, hopefully, attain it. He showed great growth from one year to the next, and he was definitely the most improved wrestler on our team."

"He's probably the strongest kid, pound for pound, in our room. He really likes the power lifting that we do. (In action photos), he looked like a little kid last year. He looked like a stud this year; he had that cut, muscular look to him."

Kyle Gillies, Sr., Westland Glenn (112): The three-time all-stater was the Division 1 runner-up after winning both the regional and district titles.

Gillies, 55-1 overall this season with a school-record 204 career wins, also won Wayne County, Observerland and the Catholic Central invitationals.

"Kyle is arguably the best wrestler to come out of John Glenn," coach Bill Polk said. He is a four-year varsity letter winner who won a ton of matches for us. He was a consistent performer for us always stepping up for the big matches.

"You can't replace a wrestler like Kyle. They only come around every once in a while. I'm excited to see the path that Kyle chooses after high school and sure he will be a great success in life."

Richard DeMarois, Sr., Canton (119): The senior enjoyed another outstanding season for the Chiefs, finishing with a 47-6 record while qualifying for the D1 individual regional.

There, he earned an 8-0 major decision over Nick Robertson of Livonia Franklin.

One of DeMarois' highlights this season was at the D1 team districts at Plymouth High School. He won 9-0 against Livonia Churchill's Josh Perez and defeated Plymouth's Trey Berry with a takedown in the second period.

"Richard DeMarois is one of the finest team leaders in the history of Canton Wrestling," coach Cory Mancuso said. "He brought his teammates together as family this season. The heart and dedication he put into (the team) for the last four seasons will never be forgotten by all of his coaches and his teammates."

Next fall, DeMarois plans on wrestling at the collegiate level.

Trey Berry, Sr., Plymouth (115): Berry capped off a stellar career for the Wildcats by making it to the D1 individual finals, where he fell just short of achieving his goal of being a state placer.

In the blood round, Berry was pinned in 3:15 by Trevor Zdebski of Novi-Detroit Catholic Central (third-place finisher) to finish the year with a record of 40-18.

Guernsey said Berry's most successful journey of the season was the KLAAs championships, where he defeated fellow first-team All-Observer wrestler Richard DeMarois of Canton to reach the final.

Berry placed fourth at the D1 individual regionals at Canton High School to qualify for the state finals.

"They have competed with some of the best wrestlers in the area and this year was no exception as 119 was again a very deep and balanced weight class," Guernsey noted.

The coach added that Berry is planning on wrestling next season at Muskegon Community College.

Danny Martinez, Sr., Liv. Franklin (125): The senior finished the year with a 40-2 record before suffering a broken arm in the Observerland Invitational finals.

Martinez was champion at the Wayne County and CC invitationals. He also holds the Franklin records for career wins (192) and pins (106). As a junior he took fifth in the state finals.

"Kids like Danny don't come around too often," Franklin coach Dave Chiola said. "He's an incredible wrestler, a straight A student, a super nice kid, and very humble."

"Danny has been a dominant wrestler in the state for four years and was on pace to have a phenomenal year before he broke his arm. His leadership and work ethic will be missed. His maturity level and outlook on life is that of an adult. I'm sure he will be successful in whatever he does."



Mohamad Youssef Plymouth



Kyle Gillies John Glenn



Richard DeMarois Canton



Trey Berry Plymouth



Danny Martinez Franklin



Ben Griffin Canton



Mannie Govantes Farmington



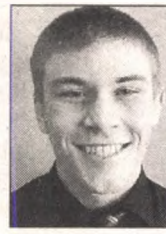
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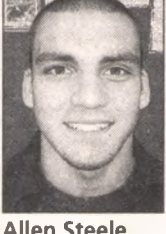
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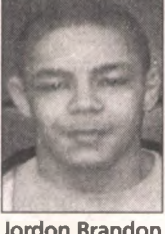
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Manny Haddad Churchill



Bill Polk Coach of Year

Ben Griffin, Jr., Canton (125): Fighting through injury much of the season, Griffin showed time after time why he is one of the toughest wrestlers in Observerland.

At the D1 team district finals, he suffered a torn meniscus yet literally got off the mat to win 13-4 over Livonia Churchill's Jonathan Locklear. Griffin kept battling all the way to the Palace. At individual regionals, he came in second, losing in the finals by injury default.

Then, at the state finals, he finished sixth to post a season's record of 51-7 — making it to the podium for the third time in three seasons.

"He is by far the toughest wrestler I've been had the privilege to coach," Mancuso said. "His hard work and year-round commitment has molded him into one of the greatest athletes in the history of Canton High School."

Mannie Govantes, Sr., Farmington (125): Govantes concluded his senior season with a 49-7 record and seventh-place finish in the Division 1 tournament, setting a school record for single-season victories. He also broke a 28-year-old school record for most pins in a season with 37.

Govantes, who finished with a 122-44 career record, is fourth on Farmington's all-time victory list behind Nick Tomski (134), Matt Michalski (130) and Mark Churella (123). He also is the Oakland County, Lakeland, Observerland and OAA tournament champion.

"Mannie's exceptional athleticism and acrobatic moves made him a crowd favorite, keeping his fans on the edge of their seats," coach Al Beyar said. "Mannie is a great young man with a smile on his face 24/7. He has a personality that makes it easy for anyone to feel comfortable being around him."

"His dedication and love of the sport showed in the practice room and in the meets. He is a hard worker and is goal-oriented, and that will help him in achieving his life goals. His leadership, talent and work ethic will be greatly missed next year."

Zach Francis, Jr., Luth. Westland (125): The junior finished 53-3 en route to a fourth-place finish in Division 4.

He was also district champion and third at the regional. Francis also added titles at Observerland, Adrian-Madison, Franklin, Burton Bendle, Redford Union, Blissfield and Lutheran Westland.

"Zachary obviously had an amazing year," Lutheran Westland coach Joe Schmidt said. "It was nice to see all of his success on-and-off the mat this year. He is one of the hardest working kids that I've ever coached. I'm looking forward to see what he does next year."

Chase Kallil, Sr., Plymouth (130): When the season started, Kallil was enthusiastic about a return trip to the D1 state finals. But then on the first night of the season, he suffered an injury that altered how his senior year would go.

But he fought his way back to action, and came up one match short when he lost 9-5 in the blood round of D1 regionals to Sejad Al-Hussain of Dearborn Heights Crestwood.

One of the highlights for Kallil, who finished with a 11-5 record for his abbreviated season, was cruising to victory over a higher-seeded Brighton wrestler at the KLAAs tournament, Guernsey said.

"A lot of the success Chase had this year came off the mat," Guernsey noted. "After suffering what should have been a season-ending injury opening night Chase led the team in a different way helping coach and bring along the younger, more-inexperienced wrestlers who were being asked to fill his shoes."

"... Chase's leadership will be greatly missed both on the mat and off. His current post graduation plans are undecided but he plans to keep wrestling involved in his life."

Andrew Fialka, Sr., Farm. Harrison (135): Fialka compiled a 40-10 record as a senior and ended

a four-year varsity career with 111 victories. He's believed to be the first 100-win wrestler in school history. Fialka is the Observerland champion at 135; he was second in the OAA tournament and fourth in Oakland County. Fialka, who will study engineering at Michigan State, was seventh in the state at 125 last year, and he just missed qualifying at the higher weight.

"Andrew is a great leader and a hard worker," Stuef said. "He's an aggressive, physical type of wrestler. I wouldn't say he's a super technician, but he's going to get out there and punish you when he gets his opportunity. When it comes to what you call home run moves, he'll catch a guy in it and pretty much guarantee a pin out of it."

"If he had been down at 130, I think he would have been a state placer again. He certainly had that ability. It was just unfortunate things went the way they did at the regional when you had the No. 1 and 2 kids in the state at the same weight from the same school. But he's ready to move on to college and do all the things he's going to be really good at. I'm very proud of his efforts."

Jon Conn, Jr., Plymouth (135): After taking some "great steps" his junior season, Guernsey is excited about Conn's chances for standing on the podium at next year's D1 finals. This time around, he fell just short of placing.

"The team is really happy to have him coming back for his senior year and look forward to achieving the goal of being all-state," said Conn, who was a team captain and KLAAs Scholar Athlete for the second year in a row.

On the mat, Conn finished with a 45-14 record, winning one of his three bouts at the finals.

"Jon had a lot of success at tournaments this year, including making the finals at the tough Wayne County and Observerland tournaments," said Guernsey, adding that another challenge came at the Novi-Detroit Catholic Central Invitational where Conn placed sixth "in possibly the toughest weight" of that tourney.

"His biggest win of the season probably came over JD Waters of Hudson, who would go on to win a state title in Division 4," Guernsey said.

Allen Parker, Sr., Wayne (140): The senior, a two-time state qualifier, took eighth in the Division 1 state finals and posted an overall record of 39-6.

Parker, who posted over 100 career wins, also won the district, KLAAs Observerland, Wyandotte and Garden City tourney titles.

Headed to Olivet College, Parker was also regional and Wayne County runner-up.

"We expected to see Allen on the podium at 'states' after watching him piece together such a great career," Wayne coach Steve Vasiloff said. "He never stepped on a wrestling mat until ninth grade and we had the privilege of coaching him into one of the best 140 pounders in the state. It took a large amount of hard work to get him to this level and we can't wait to see what he does next year at Olivet."

Travis Mann, Sr., Westland Glenn (145): The Division 1 state champion ended his senior year with a 32-3 record which also included individual titles at the regional, district and Observerland.

"Travis is one of the toughest wrestlers I have ever coached," Polk said of the two-time state placer. "And when I say that, I don't mean wins and losses. He is just physically and mentally tough. From his freshman year on Travis always chased the best kids in the state and because of that he wound up being a state champion."

Alec Pantaleo, Canton (145): What could Pantaleo do for an encore after winning the D1 state championship in 2012?

Pantaleo was getting things rolling again, and was virtually unbeat-

able entering a January matchup against Novi-Detroit Catholic Central. He sustained a broken hand against his CC opponent, ultimately ending his season.

Yet Pantaleo did return to win a match to help the Chiefs win the team district championship before shutting it down for the year.

"Him coming back to help his team showed a lot about his character and commitment to his teammates," Mancuso said.

Pantaleo is expected to be ready to roll for his senior season, when he will undoubtedly make a strong push to get back to the Palace.

Jordan Atienza, Jr., Liv. Franklin (152): The Division 1 state runner-up finished with a record of 58-1 while also winning titles at the regional, district, KLAAs, Observerland, CC and Wayne County tourneys.

Atienza's career record is 159-18. "Jordan has been a force in our wrestling room and in the state since the day he arrived," Chiola said. "He has an incredible work ethic and keeps striving to improve, while seeking out the best competition."

"He takes charge of practices and helps everyone on the team improve. His development over the years has been outstanding and I'm looking forward to seeing how he finishes up his career."

Aaron Bibik, Sr., Liv. Clarenceville (160): Finishing 50-10, including 24 pins, Bibik capped his senior year with a fifth-place finish at the Division 3 state finals.

Bibik, Clarenceville's first state placers since 2000, was also district champion and regional runner-up. He also took titles at Wayne and Dearborn Heights Annapolis, while also placing second at the Livonia City and Garden City tourneys. He added at fourth at Wayne County.

"Aaron's season was a great one to watch and see his confidence build every week and with every match," Clarenceville coach Nick Elam said. "He became dominate in all positions of the sport and had a great setup in neutral to score takedown. His stand-up from bottom was at times unstoppable and the tilts that he ran on top allowed him to build up a large lead against opponents. Bibik's leadership and work ethic will be missed greatly next year."

Tyler Gross, Sr., Salem (160): The two-year captain was the model of consistency his senior season and throughout his prep career.

He posted a 39-9 record to match his win total of 2011-12; in the process he topped the 100-win plateau and cracked Salem's all-time top-10.

At the D1 individual regionals, Gross defeated Woodhaven's Mickey Sutton to take third place and qualify for the state finals for the second season in a row.

Although he wasn't able to reach the podium, he did garner a 12-2 major decision win over Hartland's Nate Smith.

According to coach Pete Israel, the graduation of Gross will leave a huge void both in the lineup and locker room.

"Tyler had another great season to top off a great career," Israel said. "... I could not more proud of Tyler not only on the mat, but off the mat. He not only talked about hard work, he walked the walk."

Israel added that Gross was frustrated about "how his season ended" by not placing at the state meet.

"But I believe he could take that motivation and continue on to have a successful college career," Israel said. "I believe the lessons in the wrestling room for Tyler about hard work and dedication will serve Tyler well in life."

"He is just one of those kids that you wish you had a whole lineup of."

Sam Ekanem, Sr., Wayne (171): The senior, headed to Harvard, took eighth in Division 1 while finishing with a 41-13 record.

The three-year captain with over 100 career wins was the Garden City Christmas Invitational champion and district runner-up. He also took third at the regional, KLAAs, Wayne County and Holt meets, along with a fourth at Observerland.

"Sam was another wrestler who didn't start wrestling until ninth

ALL-OBSERVER WRESTLING

2012-13 ALL-OBSERVER BOYS WRESTLING TEAMS

103 pounds: 1. (tie) Mohamad Youssef, Jr., Plymouth; Michael Volyanuk, Soph., Farmington Harrison; 2. Jack Nawa, Sr., Livonia Franklin; 3. Chase Spanos, Soph., Westland John Glenn.

112: 1. Kyle Gillies, Sr., John Glenn; 2. Brandon Harris, Soph., Plymouth; 3. Marco Lytwyn, Soph., Livonia Stevenson; 3.

119: 1. (tie) Richard DeMarois, Sr., Canton; Trey Berry, Sr., Plymouth; 2. (tie) Josh Perez, Jr., Livonia Churchill; Kevin Huynh, Jr., John Glenn; 3. Nick Robertson, Soph., Franklin.

125: 1. (tie) Danny Martinez, Sr., Franklin; Ben Griffin, Jr., Canton; Mannie Govantes, Sr., Farmington; Zach Francis, Jr., Lutheran Westland; 2. Jon Locklear, Sr., Churchill; 3. Tim Way, Jr., Wayne Memorial.

130: 1. Chase Kallil, Sr., Plymouth; 2. Brett Quinn, Sr., John Glenn; 3. Caleb McCabe, Soph., Salem.

135: 1. (tie) Andrew Fialka, Sr., Farmington Harrison; Jon Conn, Jr., Plymouth; 2. Marc Przybylski, Sr., Canton; 3. (tie) Deandre Moore, Sr., John Glenn; Caleb Richter, Soph., Lutheran Westland.

140: 1. Allen Parker, Sr., Wayne; 2. (tie) Alec Breckenridge, Sr., Plymouth; Bobby Mathieson, Sr., Harrison; 3. Brian Spehar, Sr., Garden City.

145: 1. (tie) Travis Mann, Sr., John Glenn; Alec Pantaleo, Jr., Canton; 2. (tie) LaRone Mack, Sr., Harrison; Cody Roy, Sr., Stevenson; 3. (tie) Nick Frazier, Jr., Franklin; Paskual Pietrushi, Sr., Harrison; Jacob Richter, Soph., Lutheran Westland.

152: 1. Jordan Atienza, Jr., Franklin; 2. Jayson Walton, Sr., Redford Union; 3. James Ward, Sr., North Farmington.

160: 1. (tie) Aaron Bibik, Sr., Livonia Clarenceville; Tyler Gross, Sr., Salem; 2. (tie) Wesley Kuuttala, Sr., Farmington; Matt Wisniewski, Sr., Garden City; 3. Joey Shaver, Jr., Plymouth.

171: 1. (tie) Sam Ekanem, Sr., Wayne; Collin Rankin, Sr., RU; 2. Ryan Southerland, Sr., Farmington; 3. (tie) Dan Huber, Soph., Franklin; Bret Thrushman, Sr., Franklin.

189: 1. Allen Steele, Sr., Franklin; 2. Adam Druce, Sr., Garden City; 3. Mitchell Gross, Soph., Salem.

215: 1. Jordan Brandon, Jr., John Glenn; 2. K.J. Wooley, Jr., Canton; 3. (tie) Tyler Casteels, Sr., Wayne; Carl Keeney, Sr., RU; Tony Agostini, Sr., Salem.

285: 1. Manny Haddad, Sr., Churchill; 2. Dylan Morantes, Sr., John Glenn; 3. Aaron Mauldin, Jr., Wayne.

COACH OF YEAR
Bill Polk, John Glenn

HONORABLE MENTION
Churchill: Jake Hale; Franklin: Jeremy Nelson, Tyler Solnikowski; Stevenson: Connor Vaughan; John Glenn: Quinn Dupraw, Andre Brown, Herbie Taylor; Wayne: Jack DeJack, Dom Sanders, Mike Nicholson, Marcus Jordan, Lucas Hofbauer; Clarenceville: Domanick Slagle, Mike Weiss, Brendan Groves; Lutheran Westland: Brad Hura, Alex Reardon, Thomas Krueger, Martin Kemp, Connor Even, Manny Rankine; Canton: Allan Beckman; Plymouth: Spencer Schifter, Hussein Youssef, Sofus Nielson; Salem: Riley Doxtader, Alex Arble; Garden City: Ali Arab; Redford Union: Roderick Howard, Adam Chernavage; Farmington: Eric O'Neill, Brandon Schulz, Chase Walkowiak, Trent Bekker, Marcello Perez; Harrison: Dan Allor, Gabe Colston, Mike Robinson; North Farmington: Justin Shelton, Joe Benjamin.

grade," Vasiloff said of the KLAAs scholar and academic all-stater. "but when he does something he always gives 100 percent. This was evident on-and-off the mat with Sam carrying a 4.14 grade-point average. He became a captain of our team when he was only a sophomore because of his great work ethic and attitude. He wrestled year-round competing nationally at Fargo (N.D.) and Oklahoma City.

"He gained the attention of college coaches, and the combination of grades and wrestling ability got him into Harvard under early admission."

Collin Rankin, Sr., Redford Union (171): Rankin closed out his highly-successful prep mat career in style by registering a 51-3 mark.

The two-time state-qualifier will graduate as one of the school's all-time winning grapplers after racking up close to 200 victories.

"Collin wrestled well this entire season," said RU coach Rob Rankin, Collin's dad. "He was the hardest worker in our room every practice and he hates to lose."

Allen Steele, Sr., Liv. Franklin (189): The senior finished 51-4 on the season and 134-43 for his career after placing sixth in Division 1.

Steele was the regional, district, KLAAs, Observerland and Wayne County champion.

"Allen is one of the most determined wrestlers I've ever coached," Chiola said. "Once he puts his mind to something, he puts everything he has into it in order to accomplish it. He didn't start his career being the biggest, or strongest or having the best technique, but he kept working hard until he became one of the best wrestlers in the state."

"He's a great asset to the team and a great role model to younger wrestlers. Losing him will be like losing an assistant coach. He will do well in his future endeavors."

Please see ALL-AREA, B4

Crusaders add more firepower

By Brad Emons
Observer Staff Writer

Madonna University volleyball coach Jerry Abraham has signed a pair of prep standouts to NAIA letters-of-intent adding Romulus' Maya Davis and Fenton's Payton Maxheimer.

The duo join the defending Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference regular season and tournament champion Crusaders, who are coming off of the their 11th trip to the NAIA National Championships last December.

Davis, a 5-foot-10 middle hitter who resides in Wayne, led Romulus to a Western Wayne Athletic Conference championship last fall in her third varsity season.

She earned a pair of Offensive Player of the Year awards as well as All-WWAC, All-District and All-Region honors in addition to being a nominee for an All-State.

A selection to the principal's honor roll, Davis is the niece of former NBA player John Long and the cousin of former NBA

COLLEGE VOLLEYBALL

player Terry Mills.

Hard-hitting frosh

"Maya is very athletic," Abraham said. "She is the kind of player who can come in bid for a starting position as a middle hitter and that is what we hope she will do as a freshman."

"Maya has really good range as an athlete, hits hard and moves well antenna to antenna. She has a nice serve and has the potential to be a terminating type hitter down the road. We love her athleticism, speed and jumping ability."

The 5-10 Maxheimer lettered in basketball, soccer and volleyball while leading Fenton to three Flint Metro League volleyball championships in addition to a Class B district and regional titles as a senior.

A two-time (2011, '12) All-Flint Metro League first-team selection, Maxheimer was also tabbed as her team's most valuable player and the Tri-County Times Player of

the Year as a junior and a senior.

She holds the top two spots in the Tigers' record book for single-season digs with 501 as a senior and 489 as a junior.

In basketball, Maxheimer led the Tigers in points, rebounds and steals as a junior, en route to team MVP honors and All-Flint Metro first-team accolades.

Maxheimer has been selected as a scholar-athlete six times.

"Payton is a very experienced player with the ability to play all the way around," Abraham said. "She is an excellent defensive player who has also set in the past. Payton has excellent court sense and really reads well on defense."

"She is extremely quick and athletic on the floor and comes from a very successful high school program. Payton has played at a very high club level and has the ability to come in and compete at a variety of positions."

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GANNETT NEWS SERVICE

Ice dancers Meryl Davis and Charlie White, who train at Arctic Edge in Canton, continue to take the world by storm.

Ice dancers win second world title

Olympic ice dancing silver medalists Meryl Davis and Charlie White made figure skating history this past weekend, becoming the only U.S. ice dancing team to ever win two world titles.

The team, which trains out of Arctic Edge Arena in Canton, already made the record books in 2011, when they captured their first world title, becoming the first U.S. ice dancing team to ever win a world championship.

This second win, however, both cements their place in figure skating history, and also positions them as the team to beat at the 2014 Olympic Winter Games in Sochi, Russia.

Davis and White dominated the international skating scene this season, standing atop the podium at all six competitions

they entered.

The gold-medal run began with Skate America, followed by the NHK Trophy in Sendai, Japan, the ISU Grand Prix Final, the U.S. Figure Skating Championships, the Four Continents Championships, and the World Championships this past weekend in London, Ontario, Canada.

Davis and White, both college students at the University of Michigan, were so strong that they even defeated 2010 Olympic champions Tessa Virtue and Scott Moir of Canada to capture the title.

"This has to be close to the top," White said. "Obviously, the first time we won worlds, being the first-ever American world championship, that has a special place. But our growth this season

and how far we've come to win this gold medal, that's what makes this one really special."

"I think that, not only winning, but putting out a performance that we were really thrilled with and really proud of makes it that much more enjoyable," Davis said after she and White won the ice dance at the World Figure Skating Championships with 189.56 points.

Davis and White are focused on the 2014 Olympic Winter Games in Sochi, Russia. They continue to train in Canton with longtime coach Marina Zoueva, with the goal of standing on the top step of the podium in Sochi and again making history by becoming the first-ever American ice dancing Olympic Champions.

SPORTS ROUNDUP

Triple Threat cagers

Canton-based Triple Threat Training is opening the doors for sixth-grade girls interested in joining T3, a brand new travel basketball team.

Spokesman Dominique Washington said sixth-graders would play in eight to 10 tournaments throughout the local area.

A parent information meeting is slated for 7 p.m. Friday, April 5, at High Velocity (located on Michigan Avenue west of Canton Center Road), where more details about practice times and tournament locations will be presented.

Parents wanting more information can send an email to TripleThreatTrainingMI@gmail.com or call (734) 341-1336.

Salem baseball clinics

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, email salem-rocksbaseball@gmail.com or contact Jeff Vergolini at (734) 612-7027.

PCEP

Continued from page B1

sidered solid, two-way performers.

Joining Tucker and Murphy as co-captains are senior defender Meredith White and senior attacker Kelly Harris.

Plymouth outlook

Last year's Wildcats tallied a 10-6 record, good for second in the conference before falling 12-7 to South Lyon in the playoffs.

Unfortunately, gone are 12 seniors including all-state scoring machine Katie Hill (180 goals in the past two years).

For head coach Bob Hill and the rest of his staff, the key to the season will be how quickly sophomores and juniors get acclimated.

"The seniors contributed the bulk of our scoring last year so we definitely have our work cut out for us," Hill explained. "Halley Swanson (team captain) and Clare Cox can score but we are going to need all of our juniors

and sophomores to step up."

Swanson scored 46 goals as a junior last year and was named as an all-state honorable mention selection.

"She is a patient, tough player that can beat defenses with the pass or drive the net and score," Hill said.

Senior defender Jamie Dottavio (29 ground balls) and junior goalie Megan Wieloch (.400 save percentage) will try to hold the fort against KLAA rivals.

Other key returnees are senior co-captain Shelby Crosier and seniors Sarah Messer, Jillian LaRoy, Mariah Lax and Ali Holmquist.

Top newcomers include: juniors Elisabeth DeClaire, Chalyne Ewing, Carly Clark, Pip-

er Gasaway, Carly Guystafson; sophomores Elizabeth O'Donohue, Sophie Miller, Michelle Burke, Gretchen Schoen, Jessica Cristiu, Andra Cristiu and Rachel Kelly.

Hill said the team will try to reach two main goals this season. One is to defeat park rivals Canton and Salem and "sweep the Park."

The other is to win a playoff game.

Salem outlook

Rocks' head coach Dave Medley said the attitude surrounding the 2013 team finally "has some swagger to it," with plenty of veterans ready to do some damage in the KLAA.

He likes Salem's chances of making another jump in the standings, after last spring's 5-12

mark (which included the team's first-ever KLAA wins over Northville and Canton).

"I am feeling pretty good about this group but not to the point of being giddy," Medley said. "However, we go into the season with high expectations and achievable goals that should surpass our two previous seasons."

"This will be a season of fine turning fundamentals in some of our weaker areas and areas where we have strengths we'll work on to make them stronger."

Back for more are senior captains Alissa Amell, Shannon Fitzpatrick and Leah Schrauben as are seniors Bridget Maul, Megan Wood, Gracie Savage and goaltender Sarah Bowerman (who will share duties

with sophomore Samantha Howell).

The scoring nucleus from 2012 also returns, sparked by juniors Jenna Carter, Shannon Burke, Kiersten Vala, Rose Krasofsky, Bridget Kerwin, Laura Britton and sophomore Joslyn Longe.

Junior Sarah Edgecomb could be a plus at midfield while sophomores Megan Finkbeiner and Caroline Verklon bring defensive promise.

"The emphasis has been on maturing as a team," Medley continued. "And that means everyone getting on the same page, each player knowing the progression on defending a shot on goal to our own shot selection."

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ICERS

Continued from page B1

bers of the Soaring Eagles will be playing in a women's professional league in Europe.

Will Lamoureux consider that following her 2014 graduation, which she

hopes follows a back-to-back D-III title?

"If I have an opportunity to play pro I would take advantage of it," Lamoureux said.

But for now, she will savor Saturday's victory and the role her goal in the semifinal played in helping make that happen. Elmira trailed 3-2 with

under three minutes to play in the middle frame and were killing off a penalty.

That's when Lamoureux and Ashley Ryan broke in on a 2-on-1 rush, with the latter netting her 11th goal of the season.

Samantha Curk's OT goal then advanced Elmira into the winner-take-all

tilt against Middlebury.

In the final, senior Lauren Sullivan made 30 saves and Taylor Steadman scored the only goal that was needed to give the Soaring Eagles (23-5-1) their third title in 12 years of existence.

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ALL-AREA

Continued from page B3

Jordan Brandon, Jr., Westland Glenn (215):

The junior went 55-5 en route to a runner-up finish in the Division 1 state finals.

Brandon also placed third at the regional and district tournaments, while winning the Observerland and Wayne County titles. He also was runner-up at CC.

"Jordan wrestled outstanding all season and was the best 'team guy' in our lineup," Polk said. "When we needed a pin Jordan was the guy to get it. He has grown as a wrestler and a person and I am most proud of that more than anything. For a big guy he has the speed and athleticism of a light weight so he is always fun to watch. Jordan is a warrior and is

the guy you want on the mat when the match is on the line. Next season should be fun with him anchoring our lineup. Our young wrestler will become better wrestlers just being in the room with him."

Manny Haddad, Sr., Liv. Churchill (285): Despite a first-round loss, the senior battled back through the blood rounds and placed third among Division 1 heavyweights.

Haddad, a two-time state qualifier, finished the year with a 40-8 record was district champion, regional runner-up and third in the KLAA Association meet. "Manny had many obstacles to overcome this year," Churchill coach Marty Altounian said. "He dealt with nagging injuries all year, but the competitor in him didn't let him give up. He could have with all the distractions he had around him. He came in day-in and day-out ready to

work with one goal in mind - 'states.'

"He is one of the quickest and talented big guys I've seen. His power was just unmatched. When you put power, quickness, talent and desire in one man, good things will come. In Manny's case it did. He was always in a good mood with a smile on his face. He just loved wrestling and wanted to do well. He will be missed at Churchill."

COACH OF YEAR Bill Polk, Westland Glenn:

The 13th-year coach guided the 21-10 Rockets to the KLAA South Division and Kensington Conference titles, along with a Division 1 team district and Observerland invitational crown. "On paper, I think we did really well," Polk said. "I can't remember many years, even the years we went to Battle Creek, where we won the division, the conference, Observerland outright ... so

team wise, statistically, we did really well.

"I don't think we were as balanced from top-to-bottom, so I think the kids overcame a lot to achieve everything we did."

Polk was ably assisted this season by Eric Chambers, Jeremy Harris, Andrew Hein, Frank Cox and John Wood. "Jordan Brandon is going to lead the bunch obviously," Polk said of next year's squad. "I've got half-a-dozen other kids that have worked real hard over the last couple of summers. I think that we should probably be more balanced than we were this year. But I don't know if we'll have quite as many losses. Losing Travis (Mann), Kyle (Gillies) and Dylan (Morantes) obviously will be hard to replace. But I like this freshman group we had this year that did pretty well on JV. So if we keep them all going, they should be able to step in and be good varsity kids."

Livonia parish marks its 50th anniversary

Take a self-guided tour of St. Aidan Parish in Livonia by scanning the QR codes throughout the church with your smart phone and learn about the art in the house of worship.

Check out the 25-year-old time capsule that the church will open next month. Or pass through St. Aidan's holy doors and receive a partial indulgence for your sins.

All of those activities and more will mark the parish's 50th anniversary this year.

St. Aidan was formed in 1963 and services were held in a school while the parish's first church was under construction. That building served the community until the 1980s when the parish outgrew the facility. The new church, complete with bell tower, was finished in time for the parish's 25th anniversary.

A set of "holy doors" recently was added to the atrium of the church. The doors were inspired by a pilgrimage to Rome. The holy doors on the four major basilicas of Rome are opened



Catholics who walk through St. Aidan's holy doors to celebrate its 50th anniversary will receive a partial indulgence.

by the Pope on designated jubilee years. Catholics from all over the world come to cross the thresholds of these doors as a sign of their desire to be free from the effects of sin and to renew their relationship with Jesus. After first celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation, those who walk through a holy door receive a plenary — or complete — indulgence, the removal of all punishment due for sins that have been forgiven. The Archbishop

of Detroit, Allen Vigneron, has granted a partial indulgence to Catholics who walk through St. Aidan's holy doors to celebrate the parish's golden anniversary and the Catholic Church's 2013 Year of Faith.

St. Aidan's pastor, the Rev. Kevin Thomas, continues the long-standing tradition of the church's service to its community. Thomas is police chaplain for the City of Livonia. Over the years the parish also has donated clothing to the community, bought food for the needy and supported soup kitchens, held numerous blood drives and assisted those affected by national tragedies and disasters.

The church has planned several celebrations over the year to mark its anniversary. All are open to the public and include a reception on June 19, harvest festival on Aug. 25 and Mass, followed by a gala on Oct. 20.

For more information, visit the Golden Anniversary webpage at www.staidanlivonia.org or call the parish office at (734) 425-5950.

Passages

Obituaries, Memories & Remembrances

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



IVERSON, MARGARET ELLEN

Margaret Ellen (Golibart) Iverson died Friday, March 15, 2013 at age of 85 from complications of a stroke at her home at Homewood at Crumland Farms, Frederick, MD. She was born March 28, 1927 in Washington, DC. She and her family moved to Lancaster PA in 1935 and then in 1940 the family resettled in Frederick, MD. Her parents were Mark J. Golibart and Margaret J. (Rohrbach) Golibart. She attended the Frederick Academy of the Visitation, and later graduated from the Mercy Hospital School of Nursing in 1949, where she received her RN Degree. She was employed at Mercy Hospital before she entered into the US Air Force and was awarded the commission of 1st Lieutenant, and stationed at Clarke AFB in the Philippines. Margaret was a member of the Catholic Daughters of America, volunteered at Frederick Memorial Hospital and American Red Cross, and also worked as a Nurse for several years at Homewood (Frederick, MD downtown location). She married Dr. Warren P. Iverson on Feb. 4, 1956 at St. John the Evangelist Roman Catholic Church, in Frederick, MD. She resided at Homewood at Crumland Farms (and for many years previously on Beechwood Dr. in Frederick, MD). She was predeceased by her husband Warren on Aug. 26, 2008. Also by her sister Madeleine Sherald, brothers Martin T. Golibart and Mark J. Golibart, Jr. Margaret is survived by her son, Martin Philip Iverson (Frederick, MD) and daughter, Mary Katherine Rosso (Birmingham, MI). Grandchildren: Timothy D. Iverson (Frederick, MD); Melody Baumgardner (Frederick, MD); Emily Rosso (Missoula, MT); Jennifer Rosso (Birmingham, MI); Caitlin Rosso (Birmingham, MI); Krista Threefoot (Columbia, MD). Great Grandchildren: Michele & Norah Threefoot. Also sister Jeanne Rogers (Bethany Beach, DE) and Sister-in-law Chica Golibart (Cape Charles, VA). And numerous nieces and nephews. She will also be remembered by many friends, neighbors, and care-givers at Homewood at Crumland Farms. Visitation was held on Monday, March 18 at Stauffer Funeral Homes of Frederick. Funeral Mass was held on Tuesday, March 19 from St. John's Catholic Church, Frederick. Donations in lieu of flowers may be made in memory of Margaret Ellen Iverson, sent to St. Katherine Drexel Church Building Fund (8428 Opossum-town Pike, Frederick, MD 21702); or to Homewood at Crumland Farms (7407 Willow Rd, Frederick, MD 21702). Expressions of sympathy may be shared with the family at: www.staufferfuneralhome.com.

ARNOLD, BARNY WINDY

February 6, 1933 - March 14, 2013. Barny Windy Arnold, 80, of Venice, FL and Plymouth, MI, died on March 14, 2013. He was a veteran of the Korean War. Survivors include his wife, Marilyn; children Karen (Dan) Burdette, Mark (Vicky) Arnold, Diane (Jay) Tucker, and Sherri Arnold; grandchildren Jason and John (Amanda) Burdette, Holly Arnold, Miranda Tucker, Mark A. and Elliot Arnold. He was predeceased by his parents, Asa and Laura Arnold. Barny was a veteran of the Korean War. He worked for GM for over 35 years and for State Wayne Theaters for 25 years. Burial will take place at a later date in Michigan.

HOY, ALBERT HOMER

Of Ann Arbor, MI. Age 90, formerly of Garden City, MI, passed away on March 16, 2013 at Sunrise Assisted Living Facility. Albert was born on February 1, 1923 in Lewiston, Maine, the son of the late John and Emma (Hoffman) Hoy. Albert served in the Army during WWII and also worked at Cadillac Automotive, retiring after 35 years. Albert is survived by his son, Lane (Jennifer) Hoy, grandchildren, Jeremy and Shannon Hoy and brother, Charles Hoy. He was preceded in death by his beloved wife of 59 years in 2008, Doreen Mae (Giggey) Hoy. A funeral service was held on Wednesday, March 20, 2013 at the Nie Family Funeral Home, Carpenter Road Chapel. Please visit Albert's personal webpage to leave a memory at: www.niefuneralhomes.com

RANDOLPH, DONNA M.

March 17, 2013, age 72. Beloved wife of the late Buell H. "Randy." Survived by 1 sister and several nieces and nephews. Care and services are entrusted to the L. J. Griffin Funeral Home (734)981-1700. Share a "Memorial Tribute" with the family at griffinfuneralhome.com

KALINOWSKI, GEORGE J.

Age 87, passed away March 15, 2013. He was born on March 27, 1925, in Lodz, Poland. He was a member of the Polish Underground Army during the German invasion of Poland. During that time, George became a P.O.W. After the war, George found and moved his immediate family to Detroit, where he attended college and received a formal education. George retired from Ford Motor Co. as an Electrical Engineer at age 65. He is survived by his beloved wife of 58 years, Alexandra, his loving children: Mark (Patrice), Annie, Thomas, and Susan (Chuck) Dziadzio. He is also survived by his grandchildren: Christopher (Ana), Brittany, Christine, Michael, Nick, Ava, Melody (Tony), and Paul Overley, his great grandchildren: Chris Jr., Marcos, Elijah, and Selah and his two nieces: Christine and Barbara. He was preceded in death by his brother John in 1969 and his grandson, Ricky in 1990. Visitation will be held on Thursday, March 21 from 4:00 P.M.-9:00 P.M. at PHILLIPS FUNERAL HOME, 122 W. Lake St., South Lyon. A funeral Mass will be celebrated on Friday, March 22 at 11:00 a.m. at St. Joseph Catholic Church, 830 S. Lafayette, South Lyon.

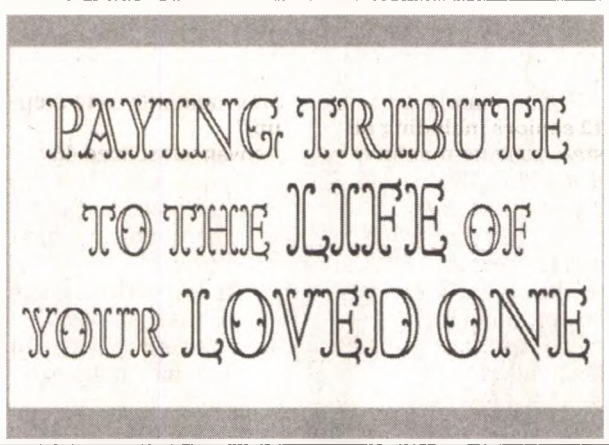
Online guestbook:
www.phillipsfuneral.com



KENT, GLADYS M.

Age 94, of Farmington. Passed away March 16, 2013. Arrangements by Thayer-Rock Funeral Home. www.thayer-rock.com.

May peace be with you in this time of sorrow.



RELIGION CALENDAR

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

March

BETHANY

Time/Date: 8 p.m.-midnight, Saturday, March 30

Location: Don Hubert VFW Hall, 27345 Schoolcraft, east of Inkster, Redford

Details: Bethany, an organization serving Catholics and other Christians, offers a singles dance. Tickets are \$13. Beer, wine, pop, snacks and coffee are included

Contact: (586) 264-0284

BRUNCH

Time/Date: 9:30 a.m., Sunday, March 24

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

Details: Palm Sunday brunch will be served between the 8:15 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. services

Contact: (248) 553-3380

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, per-

forms. 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, through April 3

Location: Kenwood Church, 20200 Merriman, Livonia

Details: The church will offer a discussion group on the History Channel miniseries, "The Bible"

Contact: (248) 476-8222

EASTER SERVICES

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Thursday, March 28; 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. Friday, March 29; and 9:30 a.m. Sunday, March 31

Location: Lola Park Lutheran Church, 14750 Kinloch, Redford

Details: All services have the general theme "Names of Wondrous Love." Maundy Thursday sermon theme is "The Lamb." Sermon theme for Good Friday is "The Alpha and the Omega" and for Easter is "The Light." A free Easter breakfast will be held from 8-9 a.m. All visitors will receive the free DVD, "The Road to Emmaus."

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www.friendsofunity.org
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734.454.0015

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Sunday Worship 9:30am

EASTER WEEK SERVICES:
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Sat 7pm, Sun 7am & 9:30am

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For Information

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Musical brings passion, resurrection of Jesus to life

By Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

Kelly Nieto punched up her popular Lenten musical with a new name, cast, secular stage and extended story line this year.

The Farmington Hills woman says the changes — which include a venue switch from the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament to Music Hall — will help her reach a broader audience with her dramatic telling of the Stations of the Cross, Resurrection and Pentecost. It's advice she said came straight from God.

"We loved being at the Cathedral. It was an incredible two years. It was the biggest event in the history of the Cathedral — over 11,000 (attendees) each year. We sponsored 2,400 low-income children to see it at no cost. But it was difficult for people to see past the 15th row. At the same time we knew we wanted to reach out to people who would not go to a cathedral. We knew God was calling us to a broader audience."

Nieto, who is married and has five children, produced "The Living Stations of the Cross" at her parish, Our Lady of Sorrows in Farmington, for 10 years, before moving the production to the Cathedral in 2011. The presentation blended Nieto's original contem-



Kenny Watson portrays Jesus.

porary songs with Pope John Paul II's text of the 14 Stations, which conclude with Christ being placed in a tomb. This year, the musical drama, renamed *The Cross and the Light*, will begin a week-long run on Palm Sunday, March 24, at Music Hall in downtown Detroit. The title change

reflects the addition of a new second act that includes scenes about the Resurrection and Pentecost.

Nieto said she was inspired to extend the story beyond the Stations of the Cross, while praying at a Good Friday service last year. The day after Easter she revised the

production, making it "10 times better," than the original work.

"When we were at the Cathedral, we'd go to black between each scene. It was very presentational. Now, this is like a full-blown theatrical musical where there are character lines built from the opening number. In fact, one of the coolest things is we now have our singing soldier. His is everybody's favorite character," she said. The character evolves from a "mean and nasty" soldier to Christian covert.

"Now you have a character you can invest in. It's very different in that sense. It's a theatrical piece now, not just a presentation of information."

Somber to joyous

The first act ends with Jesus dying on the cross. The second starts with his placement in a tomb, the culmination of the Living Stations of the Cross.

"After the 14th Station, it turns bright — I mean, the music never stops. There is a stark contrast between what the cross is and what the light is. So, in terms of musical style, energy and emotion, it's very different in act two. We take you from the empty tomb all the way to Pentecost with Peter and the apostles baptizing thousands.

"And whether people will know it or not, everyone in the audience is being baptized spiritually and musically in every sense. You leave there feeling as if 'I have a call.' 'I have to do something for the Lord.'"

Nieto said a priest reviewed the script for biblical accuracy and that it represents a Christian story without denominational overtones.

"Every line is from the Bible. We didn't take any license with the truth of the story. It is a timeless message and we will never water it down."

Volunteers needed

In addition to producing and writing the show, Nieto also serves as technical director and leads promotional efforts. She has distributed flyers and spoken at numerous Sunday worship services, but said she welcomes volunteers to assist with publicity, selling merchandise and other tasks.

An Australian the-



Cast member rehearse a dramatic scene from the "The Cross and the Light."



LaRonn Dolley as the "Singing Soldier" watches as Christ is crucified.

ater troupe contacted her through the Internet and plans to perform the Living Stations portion of the program this year. Representatives from churches in Lansing, western Michigan, Upper Michigan, Ohio, Colorado and Mississippi will view the full show to determine their interest in purchasing rights

to perform it.

"That's really the goal because I can't do more than one of these a year," Nieto said.

"If a big production company came in town and saw this, that is what we're looking for our next step, that they would find investors and have an equity production. That's the next level up."

THE CROSS AND THE LIGHT

What: A musical dramatization of the passion, death and resurrection of Christ

When: 7:30 p.m. Sunday, March 24; 10 a.m. Tuesday-Wednesday, March 26-27; 3 p.m. and 8 p.m. Thursday, March 28; noon and 8 p.m. Friday, March 30; 3 p.m. and 8 p.m. Saturday, March 30; and 3 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Sunday, March 31

Where: Music Hall, 350 Madison, Detroit

Details: The cast includes 45 professional and amateur actors, including Detroit vocalist Kenny Watson, who plays Jesus, and Candice Jackson as Mary Magdalene. Kelly Nieto of Farmington Hills is the executive producer. She also wrote the music with Nic: Dalbis of Crossroads Productions. Annie Klark is musical director and Jamie Kolacki is the director. The musical takes the audience through the Stations of the Cross, through the Resurrection and Pentecost. Tickets range from \$35-\$100.

Contact: www.crossandlight.com or www.ticketmaster.com

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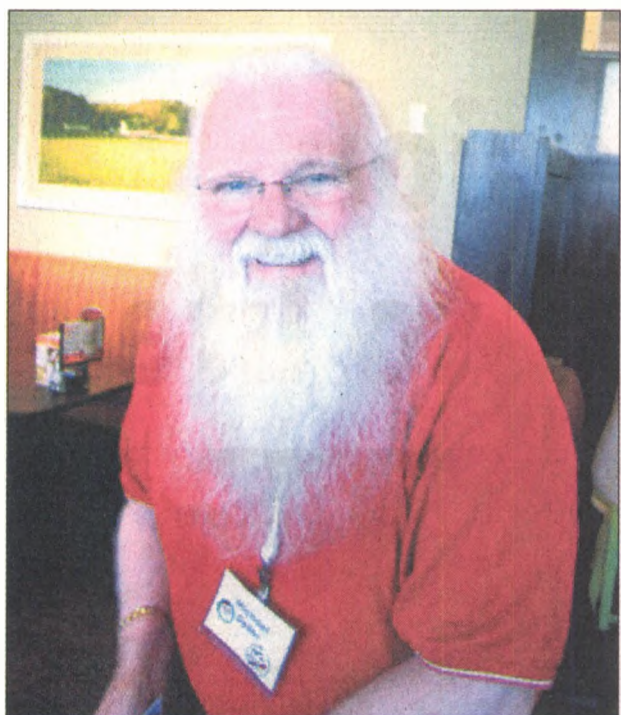
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Jewish film fest offers international stories



Michael Deller of Livonia will perform paper-cutting stories at the storytelling concert.

Stories come alive at concert due to skill

By Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

Turn off your iPads, iPods, Xboxes, and eBook readers on Saturday, March 23, and head to the Livonia Public Library for some good, old-fashioned storytelling.

Three experienced storytellers will bring the magic of their performance art to children, age 4-10, at 2 p.m. in the library auditorium, 32777 Five Mile. Admission is \$2 per person or \$5 for families.

"Karen Czarnik will start off the program with a couple of songs to get everyone settled," said Judy Sima, who will serve as the program emcee. "We'll have Michael Diller, who was head librarian for Livonia library for a long time. He'll do paper cutting stories. He'll tell a story and when he's finished cutting paper (simultaneously) he'll open it and it will be something — almost like magic. And there's Linda Day, our former president. She's wonderful. She makes all these characters come alive. She puts her whole self and body into the story. Her stories are captivating."

Each child will receive a gift and refreshments will be served after the concert.

The storytelling concert drew 200 youngsters last year. The event is designed to celebrate



Karen Czarnik



Judy Sima



Linda Day

of Farmington Hills will perform at the upcoming Detroit Storytelling League concert.

the audience and the performer."

She said storytelling also brings family members together by sparking discussions over their common experience.

"I think this will be a terrific story concert this year."

For more information call (248) 476-8515 or visit the Detroit Story League website at www.detroitstorytelling.org.

The Jewish Community Center of Metropolitan Detroit will present its 15th Annual Lenore Marwil Jewish Film Festival, beginning April 7, and will offer 30 award-winning films.

"Each year, hundreds of films have to be viewed in order to choose the very best in the largest Jewish film festival in the country," said Rachel Ruskin, film festival director. "Each one of these films is like entering another world, a once-in-a-lifetime adventure."

This state-wide festival offers events in West Bloomfield, Flint, Kalamazoo and Ann Arbor. It features movies from around the world, including Israel, England, France, Germany and the Czech Republic.

Among this year's films: *Life In Stills*, a documentary, tells the story of Miriam Weissenstein's The Photo House and portrays the relationship between the 96-year-old owner and her

grandson, Ben Peter. Miriam's shop is slated for destruction when Ben comes into the picture. He is determined to save the building and its collection of nearly 1 million negatives that document Israel's birth, beginnings and most notable moments in history. The film runs at 8 p.m. April 15 at The Berman Center for the Performing Arts, on the Jewish Community Center campus, 66600 W. Maple, West Bloomfield. See it at 2 p.m. Sunday, May 5, at the Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty, in Ann Arbor.

Hava Nagila (The Movie) will explore the song that is played at weddings, sporting events and even social clubs in Moscow. How does one song become incredibly popular when so few people even understand the words? Film goers will see why artists such as Bob Dylan and Elvis have tried to make Hava Nagila their own. See it at noon, Sunday,

April 7 in West Bloomfield and 8 p.m. Sunday, May 5 in Ann Arbor.

The Price of Kings takes a look into the life of the legendary and controversial Israeli leader Shimon Peres, a man who went from hawk to dove, from winning the Nobel Peace Prize to mourning the death of former Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin. The film is narrated by Helena Bonham Carter. It will screen at 2 p.m. Tuesday, April 16, in West Bloomfield.

In My Best Enemy, Victor Kaufmann is the son of wealthy gallery owners and living a fairly comfortable life in Vienna. He has a loving girlfriend, Lena, and a best friend named Rudi. Suddenly things take a dramatic turn when the two men learn surprising information about each other. Then roles begin to reverse in this film that is both comic and suspenseful. See it at 8 p.m. Wednesday, April 17,

in West Bloomfield.

The Other Son tells the story of two men who were switched at birth. "Joseph" son of a prominent Israeli officer and physician, discovers that his biological parents are Arab and live on the West Bank. The couple discovers that their child, Yassin, is an Israeli. The film screens 8 p.m. Wednesday, April 10 in West Bloomfield and 8 p.m. Wednesday, May 8, in Ann Arbor.

For a complete list of films visit www.jccdet.org.

Admission to each film is \$11. Or purchase a patron pass, which allows guests to see all films, or a matinee pass, for matinee screenings only, for \$40 for JCC members and \$45 for non-members. For more information or to purchase tickets, visit www.jccdet.org or call The Berman Center for the Performing Arts box office at (248) 661-1900.

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Try these recipes from Hungry Jack using simple pantry staples, and turn them into what will become new brunch favorites:

- Put a unique spin on brunch food with a savory Ham, Egg and Cheese Pizza.
- DIY Pancake Breakfast Sandwiches: You can assemble them for your guests, or get everyone involved by letting them build their own and add some custom touches like eggs, cheese or bacon.

— Combine sweet, spicy and smoky flavors for Spicy Candied Bacon, a definite crowd pleaser.

- Set out some flavored or Greek yogurt and a bowl of Good Morning Granola so guests can create their own breakfast parfaits.

For more creative recipes and ideas, visit www.hungryjack.com.



Ham, Egg and Cheese Pizza

Spicy Candied Bacon

Yield: 6 slices
Prep Time: 5 minutes
Cook Time: 25 minutes

- ½ pound extra-thick cut bacon, about 6 slices
 - ¼ cup Hungry Jack Original Syrup
 - ¼ teaspoon cayenne pepper
 - ¼ teaspoon ground cinnamon
 - ¼ teaspoon cracked black pepper
1. Heat oven to 375°F. Line a 15- by 10-inch baking pan with foil. Lay bacon slices on foil.
 2. Bake 18 to 20 minutes or until bacon edges begin to curl. Remove from oven. Tilt pan to drain. Pat bacon with paper towel. Combine syrup, cayenne pepper, cinnamon and pepper in small bowl. Drizzle evenly over bacon slices.
 3. Bake 5 minutes or until evenly browned. Remove to wire rack. Cool 5 minutes.

Serving suggestion: Candied Bacon Breakfast Sandwich: Canned fried egg on English muffin. Top with shredded cheese, Spicy Candied Bacon and a dash of hot sauce or ketchup. Top with other half of English muffin.

Good Morning Granola

Yield: 5 cups
Prep Time: 10 minutes
Cook Time: 30 minutes

- 3 cups old-fashioned rolled oats
 - 1 cup sliced almonds
 - ½ cup shredded sweetened coconut (optional)
 - 2 tablespoons wheat germ
 - ½ teaspoon salt
 - ½ teaspoon ground cinnamon
 - 2 tablespoons pure vegetable oil
 - ½ cup Hungry Jack Sugar Free Breakfast Syrup
 - 2 tablespoons firmly packed brown sugar
 - 1 cup dried fruit, such as raisins, golden raisins, cherries or cranberries
1. Heat oven to 350°F.
 2. Combine oats, almonds, coconut, wheat germ, salt and cinnamon in large bowl. Combine oil, syrup and brown sugar in another bowl. Pour over oat mixture. Toss until well coated. Spread evenly in 13- by 9-inch pan.
 3. Bake 30 minutes or until golden brown, stirring frequently. Cool completely. Stir in dried fruit. Store in airtight container at room temperature.

with a pantry punch

Ham, Egg and Cheese Pizza

Yield: 8 servings
Prep Time: 15 minutes
Cook Time: 35 minutes

- Crust:**
- No-stick cooking spray
 - 1 ¾ cups Hungry Jack Complete Buttermilk Pancake & Waffle Mix
 - ¼ cup grated Parmesan cheese
 - ½ teaspoon dry mustard
 - ½ teaspoon onion powder
 - ½ cup water
 - 2 tablespoons olive oil
- Filling:**
- 3 large eggs
 - 1 cup sour cream
 - 1 tablespoon Dijon mustard
 - 1 ½ teaspoons fresh dill weed or ½ teaspoon dried dill weed
 - ¼ teaspoon salt
 - 1 cup shredded Swiss or cheddar cheese
 - ½ cup thinly sliced green onion
 - 4 ounces thinly sliced deli-styled baked ham, coarsely chopped
 - Fresh dill sprigs (optional)

For crust:

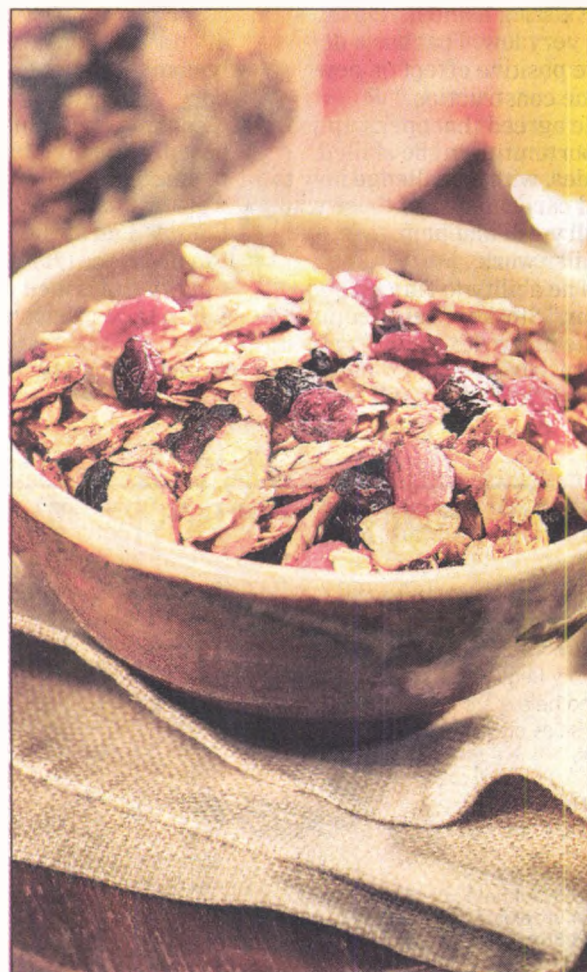
1. Heat oven to 425°F. Coat 12-inch pizza pan with no-stick cooking spray. Combine pancake mix, Parmesan cheese, dry mustard and onion powder in medium bowl, stirring until blended. Stir in water and olive oil until dough forms.
2. Press dough onto bottom of prepared pan to form a crust, building up outside edge to form a rim. Bake 7 minutes.

For filling:

1. Whisk eggs, sour cream, Dijon mustard, dill and salt in medium bowl. Stir in cheese and green onions. Pour over hot crust, spreading evenly. Toss ham to separate pieces. Sprinkle evenly over egg mixture. Reduce oven temperature to 350°F. Bake 20 to 25 minutes or until egg mixture is set in center. Cool 5 minutes before cutting. Garnish with fresh dill, if desired.



Pancake Breakfast Sandwiches



Good Morning Granola

Pancake Breakfast Sandwich

Yield: 4 servings
Prep Time: 15 minutes
Cook Time: 15 minutes

- Pancakes:**
- No-stick cooking spray
 - ¼ cup Hungry Jack Complete Buttermilk Pancake & Waffle Mix
 - ½ cup water
 - ¼ cup Hungry Jack Original Syrup
 - ½ cup shredded sharp cheddar cheese
 - 1 cup frozen shredded hash brown potatoes, thawed, chopped into bite-sized pieces
 - ¼ teaspoon salt
 - 4 3-inch round sausage patties
- Eggs:**
- 1 tablespoon butter
 - ½ cup diced red pepper
 - 4 large eggs
 - ½ teaspoon salt
- For pancakes:**
1. Coat griddle or skillet with no-stick cooking spray. Heat griddle or skillet on medium heat (350°F).
 2. Whisk pancake mix, water and syrup in medium bowl. Stir in cheese, potatoes and ¼ teaspoon salt. Cook sausage patties as directed on package.
 3. Pour 2 tablespoons batter on griddle, spreading batter to make a 3-inch circle or by using 3-inch pancake molds, coated with no-stick cooking spray. Repeat to make 7 more pancakes. Cook 2 minutes or until golden brown. Turn. Cook second side 2 minutes.
- For eggs:**
1. Melt butter in large skillet. Add red pepper. Cook and stir about 1 minute. Whisk eggs and salt in small bowl. Pour into skillet with peppers. Cook slightly, then shape into four 3-inch circles about the same size as the pancakes and sausage.
 2. Place one pancake on plate. Top with cooked sausage patty, egg and another pancake to make breakfast sandwich. Repeat with remaining ingredients to make 3 more sandwiches.
- Tip:** If using pre-made sausage patties, flatten slightly into 3-inch rounds, if necessary.

Encouraging news emerges on home permit front

Based on single-family new home permit data compiled by the Home Builders Association of Southeastern Michigan in its Southeastern Michigan Residential Building Activity Report, a total of 250 single-family home permits were issued in Macomb, Oakland, St. Clair and Wayne counties in January 2013.

From a year-over-year perspective, permit activity in January was nearly 84 percentage points higher than January 2012 (136). This year's January total is also the fastest to start a year since 2007. Finally, from a trailing 12-month perspective, southeastern Michigan reached a total of 3,758 permits which is 46 percent higher than January 2012 (2,569) and the highest level since September 2007 (3,849).

Michael Stoskopf, CEO of the Home Builders Association of Southeastern Michigan, said, "We've off to a great start," following an improving 2012. "In January, we're off to our best start since 2007."

His organization does a monthly index for builders. "They set a new record high for their optimism index," said Stoskopf, a Williamston, Mich., resident.

"Existing home inventories are very low. That has a definite positive effect on new home construction."

He agreed that opens up job opportunities in the skilled trades, with a challenge now to find carpenters and those who do drywall and plumbing, and similar work.

"The ability to find skilled labor," Stoskopf said, looms large now, with surviving businesses also seeking that labor pool. "They're looking for tal-



Michael Stoskopf

ent to hire as well. That is our next big challenge."

He and colleagues are buoyed by the recent encouraging news.

"There were times when I would wonder if we could get back to this," said Stoskopf, adding the figures are only 45-50 percent back. "Hopefully that will continue."

Oakland County led the way with 119 single-family home permits issued. Macomb and Wayne were literally deadlocked with 68 and 63 permits, respectively. St. Clair County did not have any single-family home permits issued in January.

Looking back, this was the best January for Oakland County since 2006. For Macomb, it was the best since 2007. Wayne County was the best since 2010. Finally, since 2009, St. Clair County has issued only one permit in the month of January (2011), so this year's result is not unexpected.

While sale prices for exist-



ing homes showed significant improvement from January 2012 to January 2013, according to Realcomp, the average new home permit value across the region was mixed. Overall, comparing January 2013 to January 2012, average permit values for the four-county region improved by just over 1 percent to \$217,320. This increase was the result of performance in Oakland County, where average permit values rose by 17 percent to \$255,168. The average permit value in Macomb fell slightly (1.2 percent) to \$225,328, while Wayne County saw a significant decrease of nearly 23 percent with average permit values in January 2013 at \$136,635.

The six-month forecast shows positive permit activity but with muted performance when compared to 2012.

This report is based on an algorithm created by HBA's Stoskopf. It is issued monthly by the association including a six-month forecast and a trailing 12-month perspective.

Headquartered in West Bloomfield, Home Builders Association of SE Michigan (HBA) and Apartment Association of Michigan (AAM) are trade associations representing 500 builders, remodelers, multi-family property owners, developers and suppliers to the single family and multi-family residential construction industry. HBA is affiliated with the Home Builders Association of Michigan in Lansing and the National Association of Home Builders in Washington, D.C.

Staff writer Julie Brown contributed to this report.

Ill. court rules on security force

By Robert Meisner
Guest Columnist

Q: I have heard about a recent case out of Illinois regarding the association's passage of various rules for the benefit of its private security force. Can you give me any details on same?

A: In a recent decision reached by the Illinois Supreme Court, it was held that an Illinois homeowners association's private security force can, pursuant to its duly passed rules, set and monitor speed limits on private association owned roads by use of



Robert Meisner

both audio and visual devices and by use of a stop, detain and ticket protocol if the speeders

are homeowner members who drive in excess of the posted speed limit; further, the court said that the use of oscillating amber lights on security devices is lawful. It may also be possible, although the Court did not address this, that a Homeowner's Association's third-party security services vendor is also allowed to use the same lawful methods for enforcing association speed rules. However, it seems that the court is saying that only members may be ticketed, not guests or invitees who can only be verbally warned to slow down and asked to observe the speed limits. This opens up the avenue for much more enforcement, at least in Illinois, and perhaps, in other states, of the right to enforce the road regulations although the association runs the risk of being threatened with a false imprisonment claim as was the case in Illinois. See your attorney first!

Q: The last time I was in Sedona, Ariz., there was nothing but traffic lined up which impeded my ability to consider investing in residential property. Do you have any information concerning any improvement?

A: Sedona has gone through a major traffic reconfiguration using roundabouts as opposed to stop signs and stop lights which has substantially improved the viability of traffic in the city. While my recent last visit was during the off season, it appeared that traffic was moving smoothly without any major tie-ups, and having talked to a number of the residents, it appears that traffic is much better during even the high season which is generally in the spring. I also note much of the development areas which used to be on dirt roads are now paved with a number of residential developments springing up as the economy turns for the better.

Robert M. Meisner is a lawyer and author of *Condominium Operation: Getting Started & Staying on the Right Track*, second edition, available for \$9.95 plus \$1 shipping/handling. He also wrote *Condo Living: A Survival Guide to Buying, Owning and Selling a Condominium*, \$24.95 plus \$5 shipping/handling. Call (248) 644-4433 or visit bmeisner@meisner-law.com. This column shouldn't be construed as legal advice.

HOMES SOLD/REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS-WAYNE COUNTY

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of Nov. 19-23, 2012, at the Wayne County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

CANTON	
44208 Ardmore St	\$146,000
41574 Ayrshire Dr	\$135,000
5530 Barr Rd	\$238,000
2469 Brookfield St	\$180,000
1944 Brookline St	\$149,000
6634 Brookshire Ct	\$190,000
747 Buchanan St	\$240,000
184 Cherry Hill Pointe Dr	\$168,000
282 Cherry Hill Pointe Dr	\$140,000
44933 Coachman Ct	\$131,000
565 Constitution St	\$132,000
44247 Craftsbyrby Ct	\$160,000
39557 Dorchester Cir	\$210,000
41879 Echo Forest Ct	\$310,000
155 Edington Cir	\$150,000
45075 Fair Oaks Dr	\$153,000
906 Huntsville Dr	\$317,000
42614 Keystone Ln	\$174,000
42962 Lombardy Dr	\$156,000
1680 Manton Blvd	\$192,000
45441 N Stonewood Rd	\$160,000
7472 Pointe Dr	\$178,000
6209 Runnymede Dr	\$178,000
43706 Westminster Way	\$150,000

2577 Woodmont Dr E	\$180,000
GARDEN CITY	
28425 Alvin St	\$52,000
32601 Alvin St	\$87,000
1711 Belton St	\$46,000
29045 Birchlawn St	\$39,000
32640 Bock St	\$39,000
32985 Brown St	\$13,000
6563 Cardwell St	\$53,000
980 Douglas St	\$62,000
33367 Florence St	\$64,000
1547 Helen St	\$40,000
6632 Mansfield St	\$75,000
28515 Sheridan St	\$25,000
27621 Windsor St	\$66,000
LIVONIA	
36772 Angeline Cir	\$130,000
14678 Auburndale St	\$120,000
30154 Bentley St	\$134,000
11325 Berwick St	\$165,000
34732 Bridge St	\$291,000
17424 Brookview Dr	\$175,000
10010 Camden St	\$115,000
36473 Dowling St	\$119,000
15160 Fairfield St	\$25,000
15508 Fairfield St	\$60,000
14306 Farmington Rd	\$125,000
16941 Farmington Rd	\$135,000
31552 Fonville St	\$125,000
36580 Gardner St	\$216,000
18255 Gillman St	\$58,000
20617 Golf Ridge Cir	\$340,000
15603 Green Lane Ave	\$152,000
14217 Harrison St	\$123,000
34000 Hathaway St	\$182,000

20263 Hugh St	\$85,000
37362 Kingsburn Ct	\$295,000
18250 Laurel Dr	\$98,000
15521 Levan Rd	\$165,000
18537 Middlebelt Rd	\$65,000
34442 Munger Dr	\$183,000
37466 N Laurel Park Dr	\$117,000
33447 Norfolk St	\$240,000
16887 Renwick St	\$150,000
36894 Sunnydale St	\$177,000
35649 W Chicago St	\$163,000
29724 Westfield St	\$115,000
18645 Williams Ct	\$218,000
15612 Woodside St	\$178,000
14381 Yale St	\$140,000
NORTHVILLE	
44684 Aspen Ridge Dr	\$308,000
44712 Broadmoor Cir N	\$400,000
44854 Broadmoor Cir S	\$337,000
16689 Forest Dr	\$421,000
119 Hampton Ct	\$225,000
18922 Heather Ridge Dr	\$576,000
16025 Johnson Creek Dr	\$505,000
20250 Longridge Dr	\$339,000
41718 Pon Meadow Ct	\$296,000
49118 Rainbow Ln N	\$312,000
17255 Ridge Rd	\$317,000
20000 Springwood St	\$215,000
15832 Spyglass Dr	\$600,000
19265 Surrey Ln	\$81,000
PLYMOUTH	
13256 Beacon Hill Dr	\$330,000
39819 Birchwood Dr	\$170,000
42208 Brentwood Dr	\$145,000
10857 Brookwood Dr	\$330,000

13950 Covington Dr	\$473,000
41429 Greenbriar Ln	\$173,000
643 Herald St	\$175,000
14908 Maplewood Ln	\$190,000
40566 Newport Dr	\$54,000
11249 Parkview Dr	\$171,000
394 Pinewood Dr	\$70,000
49903 Powell Ridge Ct	\$460,000
8871 Quail Cir	\$432,000
13605 Westbrook Rd	\$505,000
REDFORD	
9078 Beech Daly Rd	\$65,000
12862 Brady	\$46,000
17409 Centralia	\$65,000
19133 Centralia	\$55,000
12011 Columbia	\$50,000
17374 Denby	\$65,000
25021 Donald	\$74,000
15048 Gaylord	\$96,000
19163 Macarthur	\$60,000
14222 Mason Dr	\$137,000
13041 Nathaline	\$72,000
19402 Negaunee	\$13,000
9576 Rockland	\$60,000
27011 W Seven Mile Rd	\$46,000
27005 W Chicago	\$60,000
WESTLAND	
32938 Audeys Way	\$200,000
33627 Beechnut St	\$59,000
34640 Florence St	\$86,000
7522 Garden St	\$76,000
7427 Gilman St	\$84,000
30767 Middlebury St	\$64,000
170 S Carlson St	\$80,000
6319 Twin Oaks	\$101,000

HOMES SOLD/REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS-OAKLAND COUNTY

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

BEVERLY HILLS	
16141 Amherst Ave	\$250,000
16227 Amherst Ave	\$110,000
21843 Hampstead St	\$346,000
22685 Nottingham Dr	\$379,000
BIRMINGHAM	
1324 Bird Ave	\$530,000
150 Bird Ave # 17	\$42,000
2146 Bradford Rd	\$151,000
768 Emmons Ave	\$270,000
843 Purdy St	\$785,000
BLOOMFIELD HILLS	
6904 Cathedral Dr	\$330,000
2745 Ayershire Dr	\$333,000
6785 Colby Ln	\$300,000
764 E Fox Hills Dr	\$46,000
3035 East Ridge Ct	\$645,000
458 Fox Hills Dr N # A-4	\$32,000
4702 Hedgewood Dr	\$250,000
7515 Hiddendenbrook Ln	\$925,000
2779 Indian Mound S	\$741,000
371 Martell Dr	\$1,475,000
3260 Middlebury Ln	\$288,000
3885 Oakland Dr	\$452,000

5095 Sebring Ct	\$340,000
850 Trailwood Path # D	\$87,000
8 Vaughan Xing	\$685,000
6565 Whysall Rd	\$339,000
BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP	
1621 Franklin Rd	\$420,000
1621 Franklin Rd	\$290,000
COMMERCE TOWNSHIP	
1703 Burnet Rd	\$135,000
8627 Cooley Lake Rd # 301	\$235,000
4889 Driftwood Dr	\$172,000
8352 Lagoon St	\$179,000
5391 Lancaster Ln	\$243,000
3278 Ledgewood Ct E	\$180,000
5690 Pickbourne St	\$43,000
FARMINGTON	
23086 Floral St	\$76,000
32718 Grand River Ave Unit B	\$37,000
37759 Windwood Dr	\$254,000
FARMINGTON HILLS	
31615 Bella Vista Dr	\$180,000
35701 Congress Rd	\$280,000
21981 Crescent Ct	\$180,000
28950 E King William Dr	\$214,000
29558 Eastfield St	\$131,000
29751 Edgehill Ave	\$160,000
21590 Flanders St	\$142,000
28315 Grand River Ave	\$240,000
28256 Harwich Dr	\$270,000
30518 High Valley Rd	\$235,000
25530 Lynford St	\$188,000
29454 N Meadowridge	\$109,000

27850 Peppermill Rd	\$140,000
36018 Quakertown Ln	\$185,000
30991 Ridgeway Dr	\$190,000
31000 Ridgeway Dr	\$136,000
31579 Rocky Crst	\$115,000
25330 Springbrook Dr	\$150,000
30349 Stratford Ct	\$215,000
22986 Tuck Rd	\$122,000
30314 W 11 Mile Rd	\$140,000
29000 W Nine Mile Rd	\$72,000
27635 W Echo Vly Unit 215	\$43,000
27708 Westcott Crescent Cir	\$150,000
33686 Yorkridge St	\$275,000
MILFORD	
354 Heritage Dr	\$255,000
1655 Indian Garden Ln	\$128,000
2490 Woodridge Ct	\$361,000
NOVI	
50678 Amesburg Dr	\$604,000
24815 Apple Crest Dr	\$170,000
41525 Belden Dr	\$120,000
43519 Castlewood	\$377,000
24690 Cavendish Ave E	\$435,000
25760 Cody Ln	\$420,000
31008 Eagle Dr	\$189,000
24623 Nepavine Dr	\$527,000
24779 Nepavine Dr	\$463,000
31098 Seneca Ln	\$195,000
22692 Shadownpine Way	\$245,000
25284 Sutton Ct	\$50,000
24464 Thatcher Dr	\$438,000
30222 Viewcrest Dr	\$250,000

30232 Viewcrest Dr	\$248,000
39888 Village Wood Cir	\$45,000
24251 Weathervane Ct	\$180,000
SOUTH LYON	
1000 Birchway Ct	\$280,000
24431 Brompton Way	\$40,000
24679 Brompton Way	\$40,000
51922 Copperwood Dr S	\$311,000
304 E Liberty St	\$178,000
24699 Martindale Rd	\$35,000
59585 Mary Ln	\$274,000
22000 N Dixboro Rd	\$181,000
53906 Springwood Dr	\$242,000
SOUTHFIELD	
28035 Aberdeen St	\$33,000
27620 Bradford Ln	\$60,000
29742 Everett St	\$36,000
21128 Evergreen Rd	\$5,000
30116 Marshall St	\$35,000
23420 Noel Dr	\$78,000
23724 Philip Dr	\$70,000
29460 Spring Hill Dr	\$125,000
16255 W Nine Mile Rd	\$38,000
21439 W Nine Mile Rd	\$66,000
25086 Woodvale Dr S	\$55,000
WHITE LAKE	
1148 Castlewood St	\$156,000
9076 Cedar Island Rd	\$51,000
10175 Elizabeth Lake Rd	\$138,000
9503 Marina Dr	\$90,000
8188 Timber Trl	\$190,000

HOMES

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Thursday PUZZLE CORNER

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

ACROSS

1 Harness part
4 Long sighs
8 Running shoe name
12 Shakespeare title word
13 "En garde" weapon
14 Buffalo's lake
15 Gold-rush phenomenon
17 Skein of yarn
18 Ms. Barkin of films
19 Black hole, once
21 Cager — Holman
23 Tasty
27 Karachi language
30 Crowning point
33 Stadium cheer
34 Clark and Orbison
35 Payable now
36 Ski resort "must"

DOWN

1 Legendary ox
2 Rock star, e.g.
3 Wrench or saw
4 Hartford rival
5 Military addr.

37 Sault — Marie
38 Corduroy rib
39 Gulleets
40 Mineral analysis
42 Sweater letter
44 After-bath wear
47 Snoops
51 Toy on a string (hyph.)
54 Archaeologist's find
56 Treats shabbily
57 FBI agent (hyph.)
58 Electrical unit, once
59 Troubadour prop
60 Crooned
61 Python relative

Answer to Previous Puzzle

H	A	R	M	U	F	O	P	H	E	W
U	R	E	Y	N	O	R	L	O	R	E
M	A	T	S	F	O	G	B	O	U	N
B	E	T	T	E	A	P	R	E	S	
E	N	D	E	A	R					
O	V	E	R	L	G	E	Y	R	S	
L	I	V	A	W	E	T	A	I	L	
D	E	E	U	M	A	G	U	M	M	Y
S	P	Y	I	N	G					
A	M	A	S	S		N	U	B	B	Y
P	A	C	K	R	A	T	S	O	L	A
S	U	E	Y	S	E	E	A	L	E	R
O	D	D	S	H	A	T	T	U	N	E

1	2	3		4	5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12				13					14			
15			16						17			
18					19				20			
		21		22			23		24	25	26	
27	28	29		30	31	32			33			
34				35					36			
37				38					39			
40			41			42	43					
		44		45	46		47		48	49	50	
51	52	53			54		55					
56					57				58			
59					60				61			

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

SUDOKU

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

Level: Beginner

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

FROZEN FOOD WORD SEARCH

WORDS

APPETIZERS ICE CUBES
CAKE KITCHEN
CELSIUS LEFTOVERS
COLD MEALS
CONVENIENCE MEAT
COOKING PANCAKES
CREAM PIZZA
DEFROST QUICK
DELICIOUS REFRIGERATOR
DESSERT SAFETY
FAHRENHEIT SORT
FOOD STORAGE
FREEZER SUPERMARKET
FRESHNESS VARIETY
FROST VEGETABLES
FROZEN WAFFLES
HANDY ZERO

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally & diagonally throughout the puzzle.

CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE

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

Word Search

ANSWER KEY: APPETIZERS, CAKE, CELSIUS, COLD, CONVENIENCE, COOKING, CREAM, DEFROST, DELICIOUS, DESSERT, FAHRENHEIT, FOOD, FREEZER, FRESHNESS, FROST, FROZEN, HANDY, ICE CUBES, KITCHEN, LEFTOVERS, MEALS, MEAT, PANCAKES, PIZZA, QUICK, REFRIGERATOR, SAFETY, SORT, STORAGE, SUPERMARKET, VARIETY, VEGETABLES, WAFFLES, ZERO

THE OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC MORTGAGE MONITOR

	30 Yr.	Pts.	15 Yr.	Pts.	Other
1st Choice Mortgage Lending (734) 459-0782	3.5	0	2.625	0	J/A
Accurate Mortgage Solutions (800) 593-1912	3.625	0	2.75	0	J/A
AFI Financial (877) 234-0600	3.5	0	2.625	0	J/A/F
Ameriplus Mortgage Corp. (248) 740-2323	3.5	0	2.625	0	J/A
Client Services by Gold Star (800) 991-9922	3.5	0	2.625	0	J/A/V/F
Co-op Services Credit Union (734) 466-6113	3.875	0.25	3.125	0	J
Dearborn Federal Savings Bank (313) 565-3100	3.75	0	3	0	A
Fifth Third Bank (800) 792-8830	3.625	0	2.75	0	J/A/V/F
Gold Star Mortgage (888) 293-3477	3.25	1.75	2.375	1.5	J/A/V/F
Group One Mortgage (248) 282-1602	3.875	0	3.375	0	J/A/V/F
Mortgages by Gold Star (888) 293-3477	3.125	3	2.375	1.5	J/A/V/F
Sierra Pacific Mortgage (313) 215-1766	3.375	0.75	2.5	0.625	J/A/V/F

Above information available as of 3/15/13 and subject to change at anytime. Rates are based on a \$200,000 loan with 20% down & credit score of 740 or above. Jumbo rates, specific payment calculation & most current rates available Fridays after 2:00 P.M. at www.rmcreport.com
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 miles, certified, 1.9%, \$15,988
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JUMP START YOUR GARDEN

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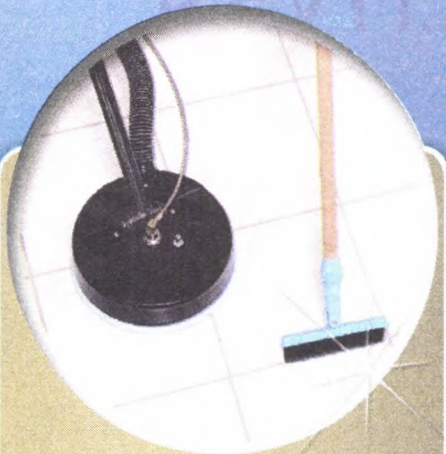
KEEP 'EM OUT

PAGE 18



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30+
Years
Serving the
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CLEANING**

**\$25.00
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If Cleaning 400^{SF.} or More



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\$29.95**



Per Room (2 Room Minimum)



**UPHOLSTERY
CLEANING**

**10%
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Cat show the place for feline fanciers

By Michelle Muñoz
Contributing Writer

Ever wondered what the difference is between Bengal cats and Persian cats? Between a Himalayan and an American Shorthair? If the answer is yes and you enjoy cats, The International Cat Association show in April is the place for you.

According to the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, about 62 percent of households in the United States have a pet, and 86.4 million of those pets are cats, versus 78.2 million which are dogs. A small portion of those cats will be at the Holiday Inn Detroit Livonia Conference Center Friday-Sunday, April 26-28, in the final week-end of the TICA show season. The show is being presented by the Great Lakes Cat Consortium and hosted by Glass CiTICATs Cat Club out of Toledo.

At the shows, pedigreed cats



Noble John, owned by Ann Grenier of Livonia, was a regional winner last show season.

are judged based on standards for the breed. Household pets can compete, though, too. The judging standards for household pets are based on cleanliness, beauty, temperament and health. TICA clubs hold events nearly every week-end around the country and the world. Michigan is in the Great Lakes region along with Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Ken-

tucky, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, Wisconsin and Ontario.

Spectators are able to attend and learn all about the felines. There will be cats available for adoption from shelters and rescue organizations and kittens from breeders. Mike Vasquez, regional director of the TICA Great Lakes region, said the event is likely to fill its maximum of 250 cats allowed.

"You get to learn about different breeds," Vasquez said. "If you see a cat you like or a certain breed you like then find someone and most people are happy to discuss their breed with spectators."

Ann Grenier runs The Country Cat and City Kitty rescue organization in Livonia. She said the cat shows are a great way to educate the public on different breeds and the need for pets to get spayed and neutered.

"It's a really good educational thing and you can talk to the

judges who are more than happy to answer any questions," Grenier said.

Grenier has been helping cats in need for nearly 25 years and has had the rescue for about seven. The rescue takes in cats that are found or brought to them by owners who are no longer able to care for them. Grenier said her rescue gets about 50 or 60 cats every year.

Her love for the cats she helps and those still in need earned Grenier the 2011-12 Great Lakes Region's Humanitarian of the Year Award.

The Livonia show will have 20 rings, or 20 judges, over the three days. Each judge hands out awards in several categories. Dana Lundon of 96.3 WDVD's Blaine and Allyson in the Morning will be on hand to judge one of the three days.

There will be vendors on hand and a vet to answer cat health questions. For more information, go to <http://www.greatcatconsortium.org>.

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Cracking walls can drive you crazy

By **Lon Grossman**
Guest Columnist

Q: Have you ever heard of a house experiencing cracks in the winter between the ceiling and the walls or am I just cracking up?

A: You may be, but the other problem is called "truss rise." In houses built with wood trusses, cold air in the attic in winter sometimes causes the trusses to expand and rise off the tops of the interior walls on which they are attached. Here's what happens: Roof trusses are engineered structures, which function as a unit. When the exposed top chords expand or contract, the entire unit is lifted right off the walls. This problem is called truss rise.

The wallboards (i.e. drywall) that are nailed to the underside of this bottom chord are pulled up with it, producing a gap. Rising roof trusses seem to occur more often in houses with heavily insulated attics, since the lower truss chord is well protected against moisture absorption by the insulation that covers it.

All this does not seriously affect the structural strength of the house. The problem is mainly the unsightly crack and its constant reappearance. Most, if not all, of this cracking can be eliminated by adding roof and soffit vents to keep the attic-moisture free in winter. Also make sure bathroom exhaust fans do not discharge into the attic.

Furthermore, minor cracks between the ceiling and wall can be covered with crown molding around the ceilings perimeter, but attached to the ceiling only. That way it will conceal the crack.

Q: I have a question regarding home insulation. The walls in my house were insulated in 1977 with urea formaldehyde. I remember there were some health issue discussions as the time, but I never heard anything definite one way or the other. Was there ever an answer as to whether or not it was considered safe?

A: Urea formaldehyde insulation was a good insulation with an excellent R-value. The problem was due to the installer. If they didn't properly adjust the equipment, the insulation off-

gassed high levels of formaldehyde. The off-gassing caused irritations and respiratory problems.

The same problems occurred in numerous FEMA trailers because formaldehyde is used in thousands of products including carpeting, furniture, paneling, cabinets, etc.

With time, the off-gassing dissipates and the product is safe unless you are extremely sensitive to volatile organic chemicals.

Q: We are experiencing an odd smell in one room. It comes from the return air ducts. We had the furnace, AC, attic and room all tested, but cannot locate the odor. The odor does not occur every day and usually only when it is sunny. Any comments?

A: I know from your two-page letter that you tore out walls and did mold testing, but why haven't you had your ductwork cleaned and sanitized?

At the risk of sounding skeptical, be wary of duct cleaning companies that are too inexpensive. You really do get what you pay for.

There are many good companies, Safety King, ((800) AIR-DUCT), and A-1 Duct-Cleaning, ((800) 382-8256), among them.

Q: My house had a septic tank. Many years ago when our sub converted to the city sewer, a sewer pipe was connected to the street side of the septic tank and joined the city sewer system. Lately, sewage is coming up through the floor drain. The plumber wants to drain the tank, crush and fill it and run a sewer pipe. I am worried about killing my 100-foot blue spruce that grows next to the tank.

A: Usually when one connects to the city sewers the septic tank needs to be drained, crushed and filled at that time. I'm surprised you got away without doing that.

Understand that the tree's roots are probably in the tank and possibly in the drain leading up to the tank from the house.

Call a plumber that will run a camera in the sewer line and they should be able to pinpoint the exact problem.

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



Lon Grossman



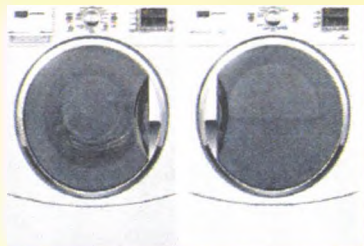
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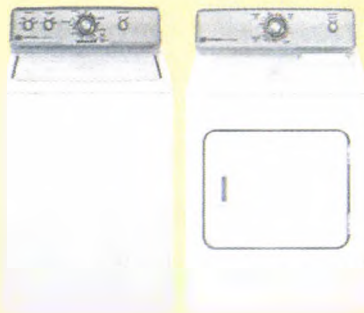
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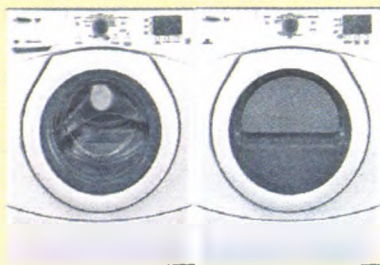
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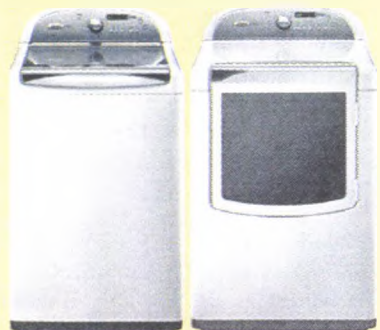
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Power up With delicious protein-rich recipes

It takes a lot of energy to keep up with today's busy lifestyle. Between juggling work, family, friends and activities, people are often looking for something to help them keep going. Many are turning to nutritious, plant-based sources of protein, such as peanuts, to help provide long-lasting energy throughout the day.

"By adding peanuts it is easy to make a protein-boosting smoothie, energy-rich waffles, better-for-you burgers, and crunchy kale chips without a lot of salt," says Jennifer Iserloh, chef and certified health coach. "This Peanut Teriyaki Turkey Burger has more ingredients than you would normally expect when building your burger, but the payoff is huge. This meal is a source of vitamins E and A, folate and plenty of heart-healthy compounds that you get from superfoods like peanuts."

For more nutrition information and delicious ways to stay energized, visit www.nationalpeanutboard.org.

With 7 grams per serving, peanuts have more energy-boosting protein than any nut. This, along with their more than 30 essential vitamins and nutrients, makes peanuts a superfood.

Peanut Teriyaki Turkey Burgers

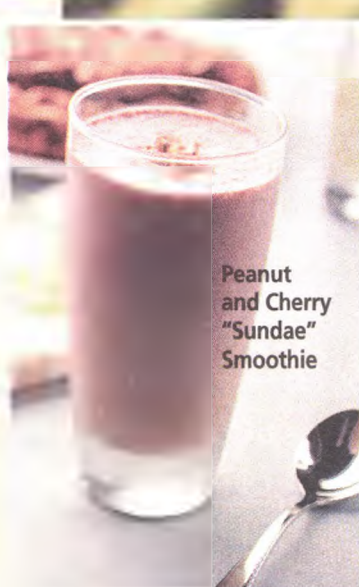
Serves 4

- 2 cups baby spinach
- 1 clove garlic, quartered
- ½ cup reduced-fat mayonnaise
- Zest of 1 lemon
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice
- ½ cup unsalted, dry roasted peanuts
- 1 8-ounce container mushrooms, such as button and cremini
- ½ pound ground turkey breast meat
- 2 tablespoons teriyaki sauce
- Cooking spray
- 4 large romaine lettuce leaves or 1 cup packed baby spinach leaves
- 1 ripe avocado, thinly sliced
- 4 5-inch whole wheat pitas

Place spinach and garlic in a food processor. Process until spinach is finely chopped. Add mayonnaise, lemon zest and lemon juice; blend again to smooth. Transfer to container and clean food processor bowl.

Preheat oven to 400°F.

Place peanuts in food processor and pulse until they are finely chopped.



Peanut and Cherry "Sundae" Smoothie



Peanut Berry Waffles

Add mushrooms and pulse again 10 to 15 times until finely chopped. Add turkey meat and teriyaki sauce, and pulse until just combined; mixture should be sticky and moist. Form into four equal patties, and place on plate or waxed paper.

Heat large skillet over medium high heat. Pull skillet off heat and coat with cooking spray.

Add burgers and place back on heat. Cook without moving for 4 minutes until a golden crust forms. Spray tops of burgers with a thin layer of cooking spray and flip. Cook four minutes more then slide skillet with burgers into oven. Bake 20 to 25 minutes until burgers are cooked through and no longer moist in the center. Set aside.

Layer one romaine lettuce leaf or ½ cup baby spinach leaves into each pita along with a few slices of avocado. Spoon in two tablespoons mayonnaise mixture. Slide burger in and serve immediately. Use toothpick to hold pita together, if needed.



Peanut Teriyaki Turkey Burgers

Peanut and Cherry "Sundae" Smoothie

Serves 2

- 1 cup frozen cherries
- 1 cup reduced-fat, plain Greek yogurt
- 1 cup fresh, prewashed baby spinach leaves, packed
- 1 cup skim milk
- ¼ cup unsalted, dry roasted peanuts
- ½ teaspoon vanilla extract
- 4 ice cubes

Place all ingredients in blender and process until smooth. Serve immediately.

Peanut Berry Waffles

Serves 4, makes 8 waffles

- 1 cup whole wheat pastry flour
 - 1 cup peanut flour
 - 3 tablespoons granulated sugar
 - 1 tablespoon baking powder
 - 4 egg whites
 - ¼ teaspoon salt
 - 2 cups skim milk
 - ½ cup unsalted, dry roasted peanuts, finely chopped
 - Cooking spray
 - 1 cup fresh or frozen blueberries
- Preheat waffle iron according to manufacturer's instructions. Place flours in large bowl along

with sugar and baking powder. Mix well and set aside.

Place egg whites in large bowl along with salt. Using an electric mixer, beat egg whites on high about 1 minute until fluffy and cling to bowl.

Add milk and peanuts to bowl with flour mixture.

Using wire whisk, whisk flour mixture into milk until just combined; there will be small lumps. Fold in ½ cup egg whites, using rubber spatula, until well combined. Gently fold in remaining egg whites until just combined; batter should be light and fluffy.

Coat inside of waffle iron with cooking spray. Place a heaping ½ cup mixture onto waffle iron, spreading it out slightly with rubber spatula. Top with 2 tablespoons blueberries and close the lid. Cook for 3 to 4 minutes, until waffle is cooked through but still soft to the touch. Transfer to plate. Repeat with remaining batter.

Cool waffles completely before storing in an air-tight container on the countertop for 3 days. To freeze, transfer cool waffles to large zipper lock bag and freeze for up to 3 months.



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Get fired up for an Easter feast

Looking to put a delicious twist on your Easter meal? Try cooking ham on the grill.

It's easy to fire up your feast with this Spiced Grilled Ham with Citrus Glaze recipe. A flavor powerhouse, ham can be prepared in multiple ways, complementing a variety of dishes and flavors that fit into any Easter celebration and beyond. Surround it with savory sides like Roasted Potatoes with Bacon and Goat Cheese for a truly mouthwatering meal. And, no fired-up Easter feast would be complete without a sweet and smoky dessert that's also fresh off the grill — Caramel Frozen Yogurt Pie with Grilled Peaches.

Visit www.porkbeinspired.com.

Spiced Grilled Ham with Citrus Glaze

Prep Time: 15 minutes

Cook Time: 1½ to 2 hours

Yield: 12 to 14 (4-ounce) servings

- 6 to 7-pound fully-cooked bone-in ham, trimmed
- 1 tablespoon ground coriander
- 1 tablespoon ground paprika
- 1 teaspoon ground cumin
- ½ teaspoon ground cinnamon
- ½ teaspoon ground cloves
- ¼ cup lemon marmalade (or other citrus marmalade)
- 2 tablespoons orange juice
- 2 tablespoons packed brown sugar

Preheat gas or charcoal grill to medium-hot (375°F to 425°F). Prepare grill for indirect cooking: For gas grill, turn off center burner; for charcoal grill, bank coals on either side; place a drip pan under grate between heat sources.

Score a diamond pattern into ham, about ¼ inch deep into any fat. In small bowl, combine coriander, paprika, cumin, cinnamon and cloves. Rub spice mixture over all sides of ham. Place ham, flat side down, in center of grill over drip pan. Cover and cook, adding briquettes as necessary to maintain heat, until internal temperature of ham reaches 140°F, 1½ to 2 hours or 15 to 18 minutes per pound.

Meanwhile, in small bowl, combine marmalade, orange juice and sugar.

Brush marmalade mixture over ham. Cover and grill 5 minutes, until glaze is lightly caramelized. Remove ham from grill, transfer to cutting board, and let rest 15 to 30 minutes.

(Oven-roasting instructions can be



Caramel Frozen Yogurt Pie with Grilled Peaches



Spiced Grilled Ham with Citrus Glaze

found at www.porkbeinspired.com.)

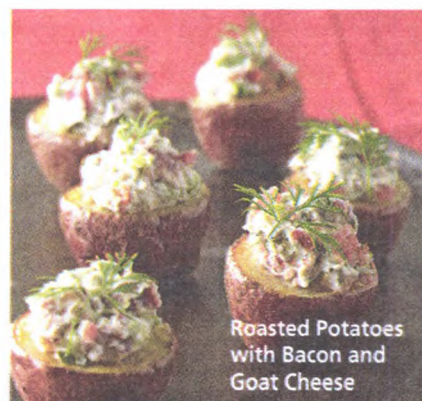
Caramel Frozen Yogurt Pie with Grilled Peaches

Prep Time: 20 minutes

Cook Time: 15 minutes

Yield: 8 to 10 servings

- 2 pints premium vanilla frozen yogurt
- 19-inch prepared graham cracker pie crust, or 8 individual graham cracker pie crusts
- 1¼ cups caramel sauce, store-bought



Roasted Potatoes with Bacon and Goat Cheese

- 2 tablespoons butter, melted
- 2 tablespoons dark brown sugar
- 6 ripe medium sized peaches, halved and pitted

Transfer 1 pint of frozen yogurt from freezer to refrigerator to soften for 30 to 40 minutes.

Preheat oven to 375°F. Bake pie crust until lightly browned and crisp, about 10 minutes. Set aside to cool.

To assemble pie, spread softened yogurt evenly over pie crust. Place in freezer and chill about 1 hour. When firm, spread about ¼ cup caramel evenly

over frozen yogurt.

Return pie to the freezer, and transfer second pint of frozen yogurt to refrigerator. Allow pint to soften for 30 to 40 minutes.

Spread second pint of yogurt evenly over caramel, making decorative swirls, if possible. Freeze until firm. Remove from freezer 10 minutes before serving.

To grill peaches, prepare medium fire in a charcoal grill or preheat gas grill on medium. Melt butter and stir in brown sugar until dissolved. Toss peaches with butter mixture until well coated.

Grill peaches directly over medium fire, cut-side up, until grill marks are visible, about 5 minutes. Turn peaches over and grill until grill marks show and peaches are tender, about 4 minutes longer. Set aside to cool. When cool, cut peaches into thick wedges.

When ready to serve, cut pie into wedges and serve with peaches on the side. Drizzle a little of remaining caramel sauce over top.

Roasted Potatoes with Bacon and Goat Cheese

Prep Time: 10 minutes

Cook Time: 40 minutes

Yield: 6 servings

- ½ pound bacon, sliced
- 12 small red potatoes, halved
- Olive oil
- ½ cup sour cream
- ¼ cup goat cheese, plain
- 4 tablespoons green onions, sliced
- ¼ cup Parmesan cheese, grated
- 3 tablespoons dill, snipped, plus dill for garnish
- ½ teaspoon seasoned salt
- ¼ teaspoon pepper

Heat oven to 450°F.

In large skillet, cook bacon over medium heat, turning to brown evenly, until crisp. Blot bacon on paper towels, mince and set aside. Brush cut surfaces of potatoes lightly with olive oil. Place potato halves cut side up on a shallow rimmed baking pan; bake until potatoes are tender and faces of potatoes are lightly browned, about 20 to 30 minutes.

Meanwhile, in small bowl mash together sour cream and goat cheese, stir in minced bacon, onion, Parmesan, dill, salt and pepper. Top each potato with a spoonful, about 2 teaspoons, of sour cream mixture. Serve warm.

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Sweet Potato Waffles

Fresh brunch ideas

Sweeter breads and casseroles are popular brunch foods, but they can be heavy and full of fats, sugar and calories. For a lighter, fresher brunch that still leaves guests satisfied, fill their plates with delicious and healthy fresh fruits.

Fresh fruits help satisfy a sweet tooth without filling you up with unhealthy ingredients. And fresh fruits are available year-round thanks to an abundance of fruits available from Chile. Here are a few delicious ways to make your brunch fresh and tasty with fruit:

- Slice up a variety of fresh fruits and serve them in fruit-based containers. Carve a basket from a watermelon, hollow out the center of halved cantaloupes or honeydew melons, or make individual servings in orange peel cups.

- Set up a yogurt bar so guests can customize their own yogurt parfaits. Include creamy yogurt, fresh Chilean blueberries, plums, grapes, kiwis and apples. Have a selection of homemade granolas, toasted nuts and coconut flakes with honey or agave nectar for drizzling.

- Set out fresh fruit skewers stacked with chunks of your favorite fresh fruits. For an added layer of flavor, lightly grill the skewers over smoky coals or in a grill pan on the stove. Drizzle with honey and sprinkle with toasted coconut flakes.

Another way to enjoy fresh fruit is to incorporate it into your brunch recipes. This recipe for Sweet Potato Waffles tops fluffy waffles with fresh Chilean peaches, plums and grapes; and this recipe for Blueberry, Apple and Gorgonzola Paninis uses fresh Chilean blueberries for little bursts of sweet flavor in a savory sandwich. For more brunch recipes like these, visit www.fruitsfromchile.com.

Sweet Potato Waffles

Serves 8

- 1½ cups buttermilk or plain yogurt
- 4 large eggs
- ½ cup sugar
- 2½ cups flour
- ¾ tablespoon baking powder
- ¾ cup cooked sweet potato puree

Please see BRUNCH, 11

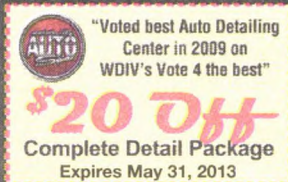
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A modern master suite

Adding technology — and style — to the bedroom

When it comes to adding technology to your home, the bedroom might not be the first place you would consider. But the reality is that high tech is becoming an integral part of every living space — including the bedroom.

A survey by the International Furnishings and Design Association (IFDA) looked at what designers expect to see in American homes by the year 2020. The report predicts that:

- Master bedroom suites will get busier, sharing time as a home office, media center or exercise room.

- Some 97 percent of respondents believe that by 2020 many home furnishings will be activated by means such as voice and sensor. Primary candidates for remote control/motorized operation include lighting, entertainment gear, environmental controls and window treatments.



Henderson

“High-tech is here to stay,” said Emily Henderson, HGTV “Design Star” winner and designer on “Secrets from a Stylist” on HGTV. “Technology can make your life easier in so many ways. And with so much activity centered in the master suite, it makes sense to add useful tech devices into that living space, too.”

Here are a few of Henderson’s favorite ways to modernize the master bedroom in style:

Bed control

“It shouldn’t take a lot of work to get comfortable enough to relax,” said Henderson. “Traditional beds only have one position, and that’s not going to be a good fit for everyone or every activity. That’s why I love Leggett & Platt’s adjustable bed bases. With a wireless remote I can easily change my position to be comfortable no matter what I’m doing.”

Henderson says that today’s adjustable base beds are not only more functional than old models, but they’re more attractive, too. “You can find a style to fit your room and a model that offers the level of technology that you’re comfortable with,” she said. “For example, the Leggett & Platt Designer Series has intu-



High tech is becoming an integral part of every living space — including the bedroom.

itive digital remotes that let you adjust both the head and the foot of your mattress so you can find exactly the right position. They even have a massage feature for a little stylish pampering and a bed skirt option for a more traditional look.” Learn more at www.lpadjustablebeds.com.

Motorized window treatment control

“It’s such a luxury to be able to lie in bed and use a remote to open your curtains or shades in the morning,” said Henderson. “I think it officially means you are a grown up, but in a good way.” Henderson recommends that you get shades or curtains that have blackout lining, and ideally two settings — one for privacy and light control, which would be lighter and thinner, and one with the blackout lining for that perfect dark room that you can sleep in. Blackout curtains also muffle outside noise. “I’m a big fan of The Shade Store motorized window treatments, which are all custom made. They are super high quality so less likely to break down and are still very

attractive.”

You can find motorized shades or shutters with a timer, which lets you program them to open and close whenever you like. Some have wall switches, while others have a remote control so you can operate them from anywhere.

Remote control TV mount
“Wall mounting your TV isn’t anything new, but being able to lie in bed and control the exact placement (right, left, tilt up, tilt down) is a total luxury,” said Henderson. “Many companies are starting to do this so you don’t have to have the TV across from your bed, instead you can put it on a side wall and have the long extendable arm bring the TV to you — by remote.”

Make sure that your wall mount is compatible with your television.

- Check the weight rating on the mounts and brackets to make sure they can support your TV.

- Some mounts have different shapes to fit different screen sizes. Check the specification on the packaging to be sure.

Hide ugly cables with a cord concealer. You can find low-profile paintable flat screen cord cover kits at your local home

improvement stores. Paint them to match your wall and they’ll blend right in.

Heat control

Sleeping at the right temperature is crucial for a wakeless night’s sleep, but finding an attractive thermostat can be tricky. “There are thermostats which you can control with your iPhone even if you are traveling, so that when you are headed home you can make sure it’s warm enough without wasting a lot of energy,” said Henderson.

These thermostats are intended to save you energy and money by automatically learning your patterns and behavior and adjusting itself accordingly.

You can also create your own personal comfort zone within the bedroom with temperature controlled pillows and blankets. And there’s nothing quite like waking up and putting your feet down on heated flooring.

Music control

You want to listen to music on good quality speakers, but you don’t want a huge speaker in your bedroom; nor do you want to have to get up and turn the stereo off. “Also, I don’t always like the music right next to my ear, on the nightstand,” said Henderson, “so instead I recommend a Bluetooth or wireless speaker that plugs into your wall. You can find speakers that are small and attractive with a great sound and can be controlled by your smartphone next to your bed.”

When choosing a speaker, keep a few things in mind:

- Bluetooth reach is limited to about 30 feet. Some speakers use Wi-Fi wireless network technology, which has wider coverage.

- Some models have a dock for smartphones or other devices, as well as additional audio inputs for connecting other devices such as your TV. Make sure the model you choose is compatible with your devices — some only work with iOS or Android systems.

- Some wireless speakers come with remotes or voice recognition controls, but the quality varies. Read user reviews before making your decision.

— Courtesy Family Features



Blueberry, Apple, Gorgonzola Paninis

BRUNCH

Continued from page 10

(canned or fresh)
3 tablespoons melted butter
2 peaches, sliced
2 plums, sliced
1 cup grapes, halved
½ cup pecans
Maple syrup
Blend the first 7 ingredients well and let rest for 20 minutes.
Make waffles in a waffle maker.
Top with fruits and toasted pecans.

Add maple syrup to taste.
Nutrients per serving: 300 calories, 9g protein, 7g fat, 63 calories from fat, 4g saturated fat, 120mg cholesterol, 2g dietary fiber, 99mg sodium

Blueberry, Apple, Gorgonzola Paninis

Serves 4

8 Italian bread slices

8 ounces Gorgonzola, crumbled
½ cup blueberries
1 crisp apples, thinly sliced
8 ounces thinly sliced ham or smoked turkey
1 cup arugula
2 tablespoons red pepper jelly, divided
2 tablespoons olive oil
Layer 4 bread slices evenly with Gorgonzola, blueberries, apples, ham and arugula.

Spread 1½ teaspoons pepper jelly on side of each of the remaining 4 bread slices; place bread slices, jelly sides down, on top of arugula. Brush sandwiches with olive oil.

Cook sandwiches in batches in a preheated Panini press or grill pan 2 to 3 minutes or until golden brown.

Nutrients per serving: 450 calories, 19g fat, 171 calories from fat, 9g saturated fat, 57g cholesterol, 1,507g sodium, 24g protein, 4g dietary fiber

— Courtesy Family Features

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How does your garden grow?

Local experts offer advice before you plant

By Pamela A. Zinkosky
Contributing Writer

Long before the first crocus pokes its head above ground, southeast Michigan gardeners are anticipating a colorful, bountiful growing season. Even those who don't call themselves gardeners are likely thinking about sunshine and new beginnings. After all, Midwest winters make our brief growing season so much sweeter.

Whether you're a seasoned gardener, a first-timer, or somewhere in-between, these hints from local nurseries will help make your garden grow to perfection.

Ready, set ... garden!

With a little luck, March brings a few days that make us all want to get outside and dig in the dirt. But think twice before getting the garden tools out too soon, say local experts.

Even turning the soil should wait until at least mid-April.

"By working (too soon), you're going to compact your soil, which you don't want to do," said Teri Wojickowski, store manager for One Stop Landscape Supply in Highland. "It's hard for your root system to develop" when the soil isn't aerated properly, she said.

Missy Tuccini, merchandising manager for Plymouth Nursery Home and Garden Showplace, gives this guideline: "You can tell if the soil is ready to be worked by taking a handful, squeezing it, then opening your hand. If you press on it and the soil stays in a mushy clump, it's not ready. If it crumbles apart, then your soil is ready."

As far as planting, it's best to wait until May for most plants, said Barb Schwartz, owner of Schwartz's Greenhouse in Romu-



lus. "May 1 is a good rule of thumb," she said.

Some cold-weather crops, like cabbage, broccoli and Brussels sprouts, can be planted in early April if your soil is ready, said Tuccini. Otherwise, she suggested starting them from seed indoors 10 to 12 weeks before you're ready to plant them outside.

Even if you do wait until May to plant, there's no guarantee against frost, which can damage plants. Watch the weather, and if there's a frost warning, cover your plants overnight with a sheet or newspa-

pers to keep them safe.

Before you plant

Before any plants go into the ground, do some spring cleanup and maintenance to give them a healthy start. Start by doing basic cleanup from the winter, said Schwartz. Pull out any weeds, trim plants, and turn the soil to aerate it.

Some nurseries recommend testing your soil with a store-bought kit to determine acidity and nutrients. This is helpful especially if you've had problems growing plants in previous years. It's also a good way to determine whether you need to add anything to the soil or enrich it with compost, said Wojickowski.

"Some good advice as the planting season begins, whether you're planting in a garden or a container, is to use a good quality planting or potting mix," Tuccini suggested. "Your plants will perform better, bloom more, and yield better-tasting fruits and vegetables."

Also, pay close attention to the types of plants you choose for different areas around your yard. Determine which areas of your yard are full-sun, part-sun or shade, and purchase plants that thrive in those conditions.

If you're planting a flower garden, pay attention to heights of flowers as well. You'll want to put taller flowers in the back so that they don't hide low-growing flowers. Any good nursery will be able to provide a height range for the flowers you purchase, or you may find them on a tag connected to the plant.

Start strong

Give your plants a good start with two important things: mulch and a weed-preventer.



What's new

Tried-and-true plant varieties are great garden starters, but if you're looking for something fresh to add panache to your garden, here are some ideas from Plymouth Nursery:

Perennial flowers

Candytuft "Absolutely Amethyst": A variety of Iberis that blooms in lavender to deep purple instead of white. "It blooms in spring, is drought resistant, and at 10 to 12 inches tall and wide it makes a great border plant," said Missy Tuccini. Coral Bells "Sugar Berry," "Coco," "Sweet Tart" and "Ginger Snap." These perform well in full sun to full shade and grow to 4 to 6 inches tall.

Sun annuals

Lobularia "Lavender Stream"
Osteospermum "Serenity Bronze"
Petunia "Littletonia Sweet Sherbet"
Verbena "Candy Cane" and "Limegreen"
Brachycome "Radiant Magenta"

Shade annuals

Coleus "Colorblaze Velvet Mocha" and "Vino"
Begonia Rieger "Veronica" and "Carneval"
New Guinea Impatiens "Harmony Red Fire"
Caladium "Tapestry"

Fun fruit and vegetable varieties

Watermelon "Faerie"
Tomato "Cherokee Purple"
Pepper "Naga Viper"
Soybean "Edamame Envy"
Sweet Potato "Georgia Jets"



"Mulching is beneficial to reduce weeds and also keep a consistent moisture," said Wojickowski.

Sprinkling a weed preventer on top of the soil, such as Preen, will help keep the weeds down throughout the season.

"The granules are simply sprinkled in garden beds," Tuccini explained. "Be sure to apply early in the spring, and reapply every eight weeks until fall."

It's not a foolproof method, warns Schwartz. You'll still have to do some hand weeding for maintenance, but at least you'll prevent some weeds from germinating.

"A lot of people Preen and then mulch overtop," said Wojickowski.

Another idea for blocking weeds is to use a weed mat, and anchor it with soil and then mulch, said Donald Zywicki, owner of Zywicki Greenhouse in Belleville.

Maintenance tips

Even if you don't have a "green thumb," you should be able to grow a decent garden if you follow these simple tips:

- Fertilize: "Regardless of what you choose to grow, fertilizing is a must," said Tuccini. "Plants require 16 different nutrients from the soil, and feeding them with a complete fertilizer replaces the nutrients they use." Schwartz suggested fertilizing in the early morning or evening using a fertilizer spray bottle and applying the solution "always into the soil, never on plants." If you're fertilizing plants in the ground, it's hard to avoid getting it on the plants, so be sure to rinse the plants with water after you fertilize, she said.

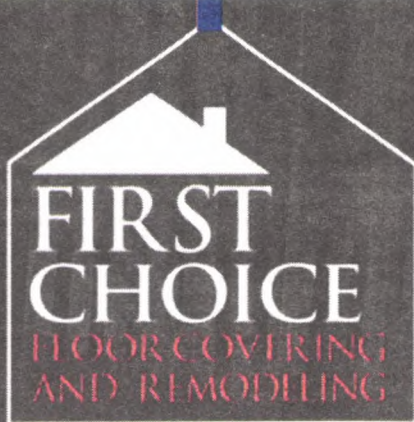
- Water: Even the novice gardener knows plants need water, but how much and when? One of the most common mistakes people make, said Zywicki, is watering at night. "They should water in the morning and let it dry out at night," he said.

Schwartz pointed out another common mistake: "Especially in pots, people have a tendency to over-water. Over-watering will kill a plant just as fast as under-watering. The best test is always your finger. If the soil is moist, chances are that plant has enough water."

Also, check the moisture level recommended for your particular plants. That will help you know how much to water.

Please see GARDENS, 22

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Sudoku

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

Level: Beginner

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

Level: Intermediate

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

Level: Advanced

Answers found on page 22

Green ways to beautify your home

When it comes to improving your home, it's easier than ever to make eco-friendly choices that save you money, are better for the environment and make your home more beautiful. Here are a few easy ways you can go green all over the house.

Light it Up — As you make the switch from incandescent bulbs, it's important to look for a bulb that will not only conserve energy and save money, but that gives you the kind of illumination you want. Look for an alternative with even light distribution, such as 3M LED Advanced Light. It lights up a room as beautifully as you would expect, and lasts for 25 years, delivering energy efficiency without compromise. It uses one quarter of the energy used by an incan-



Look for furniture made from reclaimed wood, carpets made from recycled plastic, flooring made from sustainable resources such as bamboo or cork, and wallpaper made from managed timber sources.

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descent light bulb and can save you up to \$140 worth of electricity over the bulb's lifetime. In addition, it contains no mercury and does not need special disposal. Learn more at www.3MLighting.com/LED.

Decorate with Recycled Materials — Whether you're a do-it-yourselfer or want to buy ready-made items, there are plenty of options that keep materials out of landfills. Look for furniture made from reclaimed wood, carpets made from recycled plastic, flooring made from sustainable resources such as bamboo or cork, and wallpaper made from managed timber sources. You can find glassware, dinner sets and accessories made from recycled glass, and textiles like curtains and blankets made from organic fibers.

Save Water with Style — Upgrading your water-using devices can help you use less water and save money. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) says that products with the WaterSense or EnergyStar labels will cut down on

your water usage. For example, replacing faucets and aerators with WaterSense models can save you an average of 700 gallons of water per year. Replacing your showerhead could save 2,900 gallons of water per year, and a new toilet could save you 13,000 gallons of water per year. Look for the EnergyStar label on dishwashers and washing machines — they can use up to half as much water and 40 percent less energy.

Clean Green — Keep your home sparkling clean with eco-friendly cleaners and detergents. Look for products with plant-based ingredients and that are free from artificial chemicals, colors and fragrances. And learn to make your own cleaners, too. Baking soda and vinegar are natural products with a lot of cleaning power.

Making some green improvements around your house is easier than you think — and the payoff is a beautiful home and a better environment.

— Courtesy Family Features

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Borrower's guide to impressing a mortgage lender

(BPT) — Who doesn't like to make a good impression? Whether it's a first date, meeting the future in-laws for the first time or interviewing for a job, making a good first impression can pave the way for some of life's happiest experiences. That's especially true for homebuyers, whose ability to secure their dream home depends on first impressing a mortgage lender.

In many areas, a seller's market is emerging, with lower inventory of desirable homes and rising prices, according to the National Association of Realtors. That means increased competition for buyers, and more sellers giving preference to buyers who approach the bargaining table with their finances in order. Real estate experts and finance pros alike agree: It pays to get pre-approved for a mortgage when you're in the market to buy a home.

Gone are the days of easy approvals, no-money down mortgages and sub-prime borrowing, thanks to the Great Recession. Borrowers today need to show sound financial management skills and good credit in order to secure the best financing deals. If you're in the market for a mortgage this spring, here are some steps you can take to impress potential lenders:

- **Examine your credit** — Your credit status is key to securing a mortgage. The higher your score, the better your chances of securing a mortgage for the amount you need at the terms you want. You should monitor your credit year-round, and take a critical look at things when you know you're going to be house-shopping. Pay all your bills on time, pay down credit card balances and keep an eye on your ratio of credit available to credit used. Websites like freecreditscore.com can help you understand your credit and make informed financial decisions. You can track your credit score and report over time, and see how your financial behaviors impact your credit.

- **Stay at your current job** — Long gone are the days when lenders signed off on mortgages without adequate proof of employment and income. Any mortgage company you apply to will want to see that you have a reliable work history and income. If you know you'll be buying a house this year, now is not the time to switch jobs. If you know you'll need to change jobs in 2013, consider putting off a house purchase, especially if you may need to relocate for a new job.

- **Cap other spending** — Excessive spending in the months leading up to your mortgage application may make a lender question your ability to manage debt. When you know you will be applying for a home loan, reduce other spending. Avoid large credit purchases if possible. If you must use credit for a purchase, consider how it will impact your credit. [Freecreditscore.com](http://freecreditscore.com) has a patented Score Planner that lets anyone visiting the website see how their financial behaviors can affect their credit score.

- **Save up a substantial down payment** — It's harder than ever to get a no-money-down mortgage. Many lenders have stopped offering them at all. To maximize your chances of getting a good mortgage deal, you'll need about 20 percent of the purchase price for a cash down payment. Beyond helping you secure financing, there are other very good reasons to save for a down payment. First, it will help you get into the habit of saving for a goal. And, when you do buy a house, the down payment helps ensure you have instant equity — and ultimately reduces your monthly payment.

Securing financing before you go home shopping can help you make the most of your opportunities, and helps you move quickly when you find a house you want. By taking a few steps to impress potential lenders, you can make your mortgage application process a successful one — and secure the keys to your dream home.

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Making a regular effort to guard against critters such as raccoons from entering your attic or chimney is well worth the time, says Lon Grossman, president of Bloomfield Hills-based Technihouse Inspections Inc., a southeast Michigan residential and commercial inspection company.

What to do when critters invade your home

By Jill Halpin
Contributing Writer

It happens every spring. Visitors arrive, taking up space in your home's attic, basement and even chimney. They wreak havoc, tearing up insulation fibers, leaving noxious droppings or even threatening to bite. Whether they are raccoons, squirrels, mice or owls, once these wildlife callers invade your home, getting them to leave can be a tough job. "Most people don't realize that mice can enter a home through a hole a half of the diameter of a dime. That is all it takes for them to get inside," said Lon Grossman, president of Bloomfield Hills-based Technihouse Inspections Inc., a southeast Michigan residential and commercial inspection company. Uncovered chimneys and damaged fascia are also popular entryways for these guests, allowing them access to attics and other quiet shelters where they can take up residence, Grossman said. Once a pregnant female raccoon finds safe quarters, she will often give birth and even raise her family in an attic if left

undisturbed, said Sheryl Sutherland, co-owner of Varmint Police in Westland. That is just what happened to Laura and Dan McHugh of Plymouth Township. After purchasing a home that had been vacant for a year, they discovered that raccoons had entered the home through the chimney.

Raccoon invaders

"We had to have the raccoons removed and the fireplace professionally cleaned and checked for repairs," said Laura McHugh.

"It was quite costly, especially since we were charged by the number of babies" to which the raccoon had given birth, she added.

It is not just homes that are at risk, either, said Sutherland. As co-owner of Varmint Police for the past 17 years with her husband, Bill, Sutherland has seen her share of damage caused by raccoons and other wildlife that enter dwellings and cannot escape on their own.

She recalled the owners of an office building who repaired a roof without first checking to see if any wildlife had entered the roof space prior to sealing it off.

"The raccoons had gotten in and they

couldn't get out. Unfortunately, while they were living there, they also discovered the water faucets. They turned them on and flooded the entire building," Sutherland said.

Raccoons and other wildlife do not always contain their mischief to homes and businesses.

Bob Boyd of Oakland County's Critter Control recently removed a raccoon from a customer's car.

"It was one of the most unusual cases I have had," he said.

The raccoon was living in the garage and "one evening the homeowner left her car window cracked. I think she drove around for two days without realizing the animal was in the car with her," he said.

When it comes to removing wildlife from your home, office or your car, it's often a job that is best left to professionals, Boyd said.

"Most homeowners don't realize that it is unlawful to trap animals without a permit," Boyd said.

"In addition, you also need a permit to release them. You can't just trap animals and go release into your local park — it's a quandary for a lot of homeowners," said Boyd.

Advice: Hire a pro

Sutherland said that she has spent her fair share of time crawling in attics and under decks to trap and remove wildlife from homes and yards, and agrees that hiring a professional is often the best option.

Only a couple of local municipalities still have animal control departments that handle small wildlife, including Livonia and Southfield.

Other cities and townships recommend that you call a private, professional service, Sutherland said.

"These animals can have distemper or

Please see CRITTERS, 20

Don't let moles ruin your lawn

By Jill Halpin
Contributing Writer

Thawing snow may reveal clumps of dirt and brown trails of dead grass that were not there when your lawn went dormant in the fall. If this describes your lawn, you may have moles.

Unlike other wildlife who hibernate in winter, moles do not spend the season asleep.

Instead, these small mammals with powerful paws use their time digging away at your lawn beneath the piles of snow, which act as a blanket for these busy creatures, in essence giving them warmth and additional cover for their misdeeds, said Jordan Goetz of with Tuff Turf Molebusters, a Grand Rapids-based fertilization and pest control company with an office in Livonia.

"Moles can cause damage to your lawn all winter long. The snow acts as an insulation lair and allows the moles to continue to destroy lawns all winter long," Goetz said.

Moles are able to dig tunnels at a rate of 18 feet per hour, with most lawn damage occurring from both the tunnels and the mounds of dirt that appear as earth is pushed up.

Adding insult to injury, it is often well-maintained lawns that attract moles, he added.

Healthy lawns attract

"The healthier lawns have a higher proportion of earthworms, and that is the main diet of moles," Goetz said.

If you do have moles, stay persistent on them, using underground traps to catch them.

Goetz also recommends applying a pesticide-free, castor-oil based repellent (available at most local hardware stores) to the perimeter of your lawn to keep moles at bay.

Bob Boyd of Critter Control in Oakland County said that most lawns can be mole-free within three-four days once traps are set.

"It depends on the size of the yard as well as the weather. Moles dig deeper in the heat of the summer and it may take a little longer to get rid of them," he said.

The cost to remove moles can range from \$220 and higher, depending on the number of moles caught.

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CRITTERS

Continued from page 18

other diseases that are harmful to humans and pets," she said. "If you suspect you have a critter living in your home, it's best call a professional to make sure the animal is removed safely."

Sutherland also recommends paying attention to any dropping or sounds you might hear indicating where an animal might be living.

"Just because you can't see them doesn't mean that they are not there," she said.

That is why making a regular effort to guard against these invaders is well worth the time, said Grossman.

Spring walkaround

Spring is a great time to take a walk around your home and make sure any gaps are caulked and sealed.

"I recommend doing a complete inspection after the snow clears away to make sure that the weather hasn't pulled any gutters away from the home and made it possible for something to get inside," he said.

Your findings may be shocking, according to Grossman.

"If you totaled up all of the areas that need caulking or other sealing in an average-sized home, it would equal a three-foot gaping hole," he added.

Take care to check around windows to make sure that there are no new gaps that would allow spiders, earwigs or ants to enter and look closely at brick mortar that may require patching.

Other areas that may require caulking or sealing include:

- outside faucets
- hairline cracks in walls or foundations
- dryer vents
- bathroom exhaust vents
- any area that power comes into the house, such as air conditioning lines.

Grossman recommends taking simple precautions, such as adding protective screening to any vents in roofs and siding as well as screens on tops on chimneys and flues.

"I have seen birds and squirrels get into

a flue pipe and it can make a big problem and really smell," he said.

Sutherland also cautions against bird feeders.

"I know that people love birds; I love them, too. However, when birds drop seeds on to the ground, it attracts chipmunks, squirrels, mice, rats and other wildlife looking for food," she said.

Unfortunately, she said, they can carry diseases and expose pets to harm.

"It is the main reason we vaccinate our pets," she said.

Be proactive

It is much easier to be proactive rather than have to go through the hassle of removing an animal, said Brian Wilson, Livonia's superintendent of Public Services.

It just makes more sense to secure your home against wildlife rather than have to go through the trouble of removal, he said.

Wilson said it has practically become an annual springtime rite of passage to rescue or remove wildlife from homes and yards.

"I know it is spring when the calls to rescue ducklings that have fallen into a sewer grate come flooding in," he said.

While ducklings may be fairly standard, Boyd said that he occasionally gets calls for removing more exotic animals — like peacocks or even lizards that have escaped from their owners.

However, it is the natural visitors who most often are of concern for homeowners.

Boyd said that as spring brings its usual visitors to yards, in some cases, letting nature run its course is the best option.

"If you have a nest of baby bunnies in your lawn, they are not going to bother anyone, just leave them alone," advises Boyd.

Knowing what to expect when you call a professional to help remove wildlife from your home or yards is also helpful.

Service calls range from \$110 to upward of \$160 and most companies charge a "per animal" fee that can run between \$60-\$70, although more involved cases can cost more.

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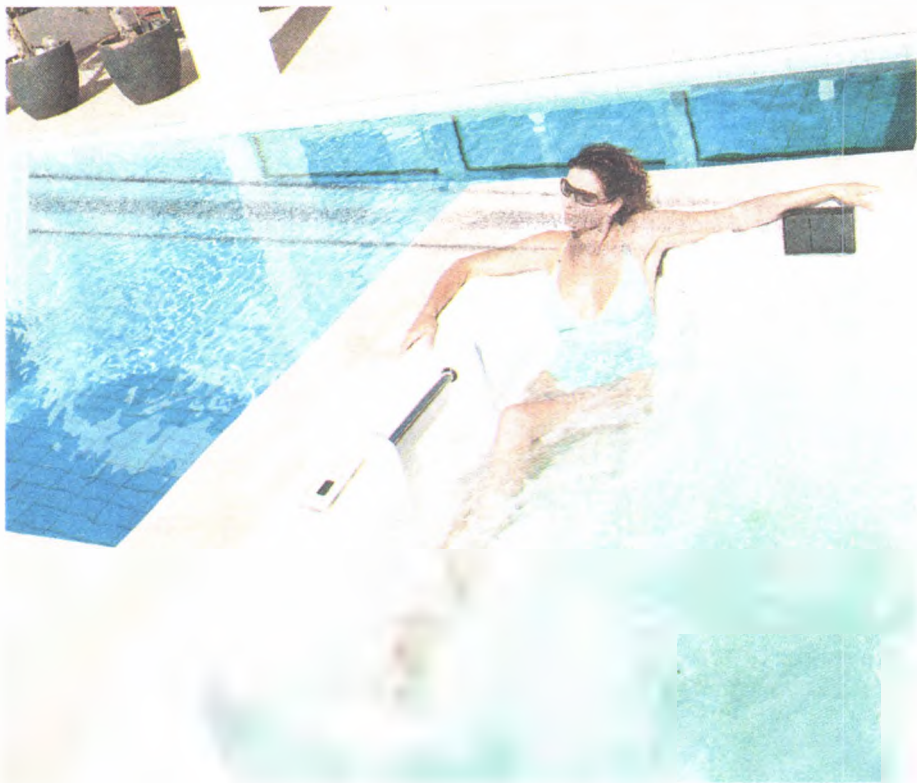
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Pool and spa show in Novi

The 18th annual Novi Backyard, Pool & Spa Show will run Friday through Sunday, March 22-24, at the Suburban Collection Showplace in Novi. "Homeowners will find everything that they need to create a backyard setting perfect for a home vacation," said Christopher Ferriss, president of Association of Pool & Spa Professionals, Michigan Chapter.

"Many of our exhibitors provide maintenance, servicing and refurbishing for existing in-ground and above-ground pools, hot tubs, spas and backyard environments."

Hundreds of ideas, products and services are available from the major outdoor living environment categories on display including in-ground and above-ground pools, hot tubs, spas, swim spas, decks, patios, outdoor living spaces, landscapes, grills, brick paving, decorative concrete, patio furniture and accessories.

Homeowners will find the information they need about building and buying a pool or spa at show exhibits.

Experts are available with tips and advice on purchasing, planning, maintenance, safety and landscaping.

Suburban Collection Showplace is located at 46100 Grand River Ave. between Novi and Beck Road in Novi. Show hours are from 3-9 p.m. Friday; 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Saturday and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday. Admission is \$8; \$4 for children 6-14 and children 5 and under admitted free. Discount coupons for \$2 off adult admission are available at the show's website. On-site parking is available for a fee. For more information, visit www.NoviPoolShow.com or call (734) 398-9700.

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GARDENS

Continued from page 13

Tuccini recommends purchasing a water wand that connects to your hose. "The gentle sprinkle is easier on your plants and keeps the soil where it belongs," she said.

- **Keep critters away:** There's nothing worse than finding your plants have been eaten up by rabbits, deer and other critters. While you can't completely prevent critters from nibbling on your plants, you can try a couple tricks.

"The best way of preventing damage from critters like deer and rabbits is with a fence," said Tuccini. "If that's not possible, then the next best approach is with an animal repellent spray, such as Repels-All. Animal repellents work by either using ingredients with scents that irritate the unwanted animal, or contain blood which makes the animal think it is in danger."

"Scotts has a new line of products for specific critters," said Wojickowski. There's also a similar product called Shake Away that comes in a granule and is organic, said Schwartz.

A couple of natural remedies are garlic granules and black pepper granules, available in any store that sells herbs



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and spices. Schwartz said these have worked in her garden. Sprinkle the granules into the soil around the plants, and reapply every seven to 10 days, she said.

- **Watch out for disease:** "Get in the habit of walking around and inspecting your plants regularly in order to catch insect damage or plant diseases in the early stages," Tuccini suggested. "Local garden centers can help to diagnose and treat problems if they arise."

Also, be aware of a prevalent disease that's hit double impatiens and bedding impatiens, said Schwartz. Known as Downy Mildew, it's an airborne disease that destroys impatiens, creating a milky white appearance on the underside of their leaves. Once the plant gets it and it's in the soil, it can be difficult to grow impatiens in that soil again.

You can take your chances with the impatiens, and the disease may never show up, said Schwartz, or you may choose to replace them with something like begonias, which also thrive in shade and are very low-maintenance. Tuccini also suggested New Guinea impatiens and Sunpatiens, which are not affected by the disease.

Sudoku Answers

Beginner

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

Intermediate

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

Advanced

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



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