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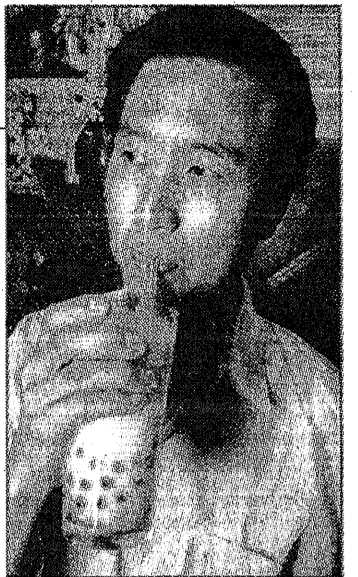


Root out May school elections

- Our Opinion, A10

In search of Bubble Tea

- Hometownlife, D1



THURSDAY
March 27, 2008

PLYMOUTH Observer

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Jacobs climbs ladder

BY TONY BRUSCATO
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Newly hired Plymouth-Canton Schools Supt. Craig Fiegel is expected to be in town today and Friday to shorten his learning curve in the district he'll lead beginning July 1.

"We'll spend a couple of days to familiarize him with the district," interim Supt. Ken Jacobs said. "He's a quick learner and I expect him to have an immediate impact when he takes over."

Jacobs, who has filled in as superintendent since Jim Ryan retired Feb. 28, said there will be plenty for Fiegel to study in the district of 18,000-plus students.

"I'm sure there will be nuances coming into the state in terms of funding, finding out where we are and what our goals are and developing his own imprint on the district," Jacobs said. "We have very unique situations given the high school park, the fact we're involved in a year-long research of the administrative structure at the park, and we have our own challenges with our budget situation, given our foundation allowance is lower than most districts around us."

Jacobs, who was the district's assistant superintendent of administrative services before taking the interim superintendent's position, will be rewarded for his efforts with a new title when Fiegel takes over.

At that point, Jacobs will become deputy superintendent, a post that hasn't been filled since Ryan — who was former Supt. Kathleen Boohar's deputy — replaced Boohar in 2002. Jacobs' assistant superintendent position will not be filled.

Jacobs was hired by Plymouth-Canton Schools in 1968 as a special educa-

Please see **JACOBS, A4**



It's a crazy scramble as kids search for Easter eggs in more than six inches of snow at Saturday's Plymouth Township Easter Egg Hunt at township park.

PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Hunting through the snow

Mother Nature's surprise storm can't stop resurrected egg hunt

BY BRAD KADRICH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Kristen Cupp saw Mother Nature had dumped several inches of snow on the area Saturday morning and was even more determined not to miss the suddenly resurrected Plymouth Township Easter Egg Hunt.

Cupp, a township resident, bundled her two children, 6-year-old Matthew and 4-year-old Ally, against the weather and headed to Plymouth Township Park.

"I definitely didn't want to miss it," Cupp said. "How often do you get to put your kids in snowsuits and watch them hunt for Easter eggs?"

Matthew and Ally were among some 110 children who braved the wintry weather on the fourth day of spring to take part in the hunt.

Township officials organized the hunt at the last minute, after the Plymouth Jaycees — who've sponsored the hunt for years — had to cancel it



Three-year-old Ian Miller reaches for the Easter treats at Saturday's Easter Egg Hunt at Plymouth Township Park. Ian was there with sister Alexis, 5, and mom Rachel Miller.

because they lost their charter.

After capturing some \$1,000 in private donations from residents and businesses, township officials put the hunt together, including finding the Easter Bunny to pose for pictures.

Children were divided into two age groups — 6 and under, 7 and older — and hunted down some 700 pounds of candy (in 1,600 plastic eggs and 1,200 plastic baggies) hidden in the snow.

"Parents had a ball getting



Seven-year-old Serafine Hinz uses the shuffle technique to find candy that other kids missed.

pictures of their kids with the Easter Bunny, and everyone went home with candy," said Treasurer Ron Edwards, the hunt's principal organizer. "Everyone went home with candy. It worked out great."

bkadrich@hometownlife.com | (734) 459-2700

The sky's the limit

Planners OK Penn for rooftop dining

BY TONY BRUSCATO
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

If all goes well, patrons of the Penn Grill and Bar will soon be able to raise the roof while sitting on it.

The Penniman Avenue restaurant already has outdoor sidewalk seating. Soon, owner Billy Farwell plans to construct downtown Plymouth's first rooftop seating.

"We want to have a bar up there which will only be used in the summer time," Farwell said. "It will be open air, with tables and heat lamps. People will be able to see Kellogg Park from there. It will be done real classy, and we think it might draw some new people to Plymouth."

Farwell said part of the project will include construction of an indoor stairway to the roof, as well as new upstairs restrooms for patrons to replace the current broom-closet-size first-floor bathroom.

The plan has been approved by the city's planning commission, which considered the noise factor for downtown residents.

"After viewing the information we received on where their speakers and televisions will be located, we felt the noise would be minimized," said Jennifer Frey, planning commission chairperson. "The building is surrounded on three sides by brick walls, and noise typically carries up and out."

"We felt it was a unique concept for Plymouth, and unique for this restaurant with the view to the park," she added. "It's a unique opportunity that currently doesn't exist in the city."

Former Plymouth Mayor Dan Dwyer, who is now a member of the Downtown Development Authority, said he has some concerns about rooftop seating.

"I don't think the Penn is well-managed, and that's clearly reflected by the number of drunk driving violations they have," Dwyer said. "Now there will be more trouble, just on the rooftop."

"There's not a person down there who bought condos knowing rooftop bars would be across the street from them," he added. "I don't think condo living and rooftop partying go hand-in-hand."

The DDA, which has no legal standing to block the decision, could discuss rooftop seating at its April 10 meeting. The group can forward its opinions to the city commission, which still needs to rule on the additional parking requirements to accommodate rooftop seating.

tbruscato@hometownlife.com | (734) 459-2700

Kilpatrick scandal hot topic around Plymouth

BY TONY BRUSCATO
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Speaking mayor-to-mayor, Plymouth Mayor Phil Pursell had a message for embattled Detroit Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick.

Get out now. In the wake of a dozen charges being filed against Kilpatrick and former chief of staff Christine Beatty in the Detroit text message case,



'At a time when we're in an economic downturn, it casts a pall over the entire state. I wish he'd step down, it would make it a whole lot easier on the city.'

PHIL PURSELL, Plymouth mayor

Pursell said the scandal puts a dark cloud over the entire state.

"At a time when we're in an economic downturn, it casts a pall over the entire state," Pursell said. "I wish he'd

step down, it would make it a whole lot easier on the city."

"It puts a bad taste in the mouths of suburbanites, and they don't want to go downtown," he added. "If it

wasn't for Mike Ilitch, Peter Karmanos and Dave Bing, they wouldn't go. It's sad all the way around."

The talk around town Monday afternoon — shortly after Wayne County Prosecutor Kym Worthy announced the charges against Kilpatrick and Beatty — centered on Kilpatrick, with most saying he needs to

Please see **SCANDAL, A4**



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Hairdresser Sue McHugh thinks Kilpatrick should 'own up to his responsibility' as a public official.

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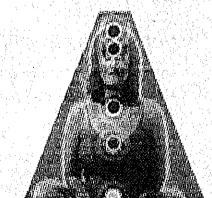
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Coming Sunday in Health



DVD promotes yoga and self-reflection to resolve food issues

Comedy Night

To all aspiring comedians, think you're funny? Got your act together? Let us be the judge. Looking for comedians for a Comedy Night at the Cherry Hill Village Theater in Canton June 7 (TV audience material only).

Some appreciation prizes will be awarded based on tickets sales. The event is being sponsored by the Plymouth High School Football Booster club and all proceeds will benefit the Plymouth High School football program.

If you are interested in participating as a comic, or in attending, contact Tiffany at (313) 300-7620 or e-mail ekj90@sboglobal.net

Cruisers walking

The PCCA Cruisers Walking Club brings community seniors together to enjoy a low-impact form of exercise.

The group meets at the Plymouth Township Park at 9 a.m. Thursdays from May through October, to walk together on the fitness walking trails.

Call the Plymouth Community Council on Aging, (734) 453-1234, for more information.

J.C. Penney opening

J.C. Penney Company Inc. hosts the grand opening of

the J.C. Penney store at 43690 Ford Road in Canton, set for Friday, April 11, marked by a ribbon-cutting ceremony at the store's main entrance at 8:45 a.m. The new store will contribute approximately 150 jobs to the local economy. The store will operate Monday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

DAR meets

The Daughters of the American Revolution/Sarah Ann Cochrane Chapter of Northville/Plymouth meet for their annual meeting noon Monday, April 21, at Mill Race Village, Cady Inn, Northville.

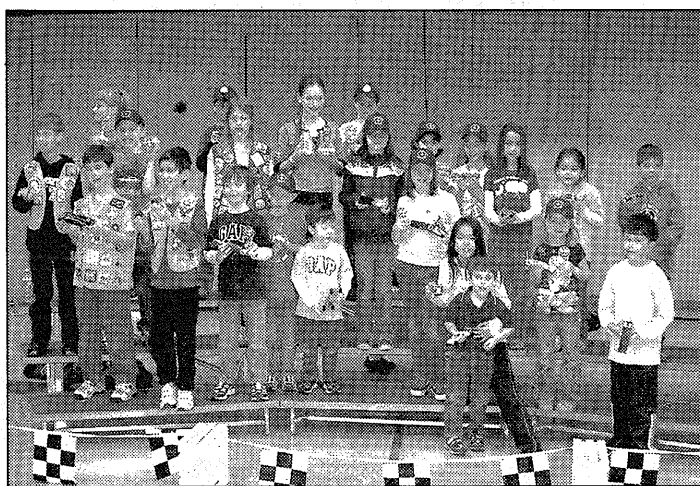
For more information, call (734) 459-4764.

Moonlight madness

The downtown Plymouth merchants present the Moonlight Madness Spring Sale on Friday, April 4 and Saturday, April 5. Sale begins at 6 p.m. Friday, with more sales on Saturday.

Downtown Plymouth features a wide variety of specialty shops and galleries that will be offering special discounts and bargains during the annual Spring Sale.

Contact the Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce at (734) 453-1540



Pinewood prowess

The Plymouth YMCA Adventure Guides recently held their 20th annual Pinewood Derby. Amy Lawler, 9, of Bird Elementary School, came in first place with her car, 'Dots.' There were 29 cars in the competition, from children in kindergarten through eighth grade. The YMCA Adventure Guides program motto is 'Friends Forever,' and it brings parents and their children together in a structured program of campouts and many other activities throughout the year. The main objective of the Adventure Guides program is to foster companionship and understanding and set a foundation for positive, lifelong relationships between parent and child. For more information regarding the program and how to participate, contact Josh Landefeld at (734) 453-2904 or jlandefeld@ymcetrodetroit.org.

for more information.

New Morning auction

New Morning School conducts its 32nd annual auction Saturday, April 5, at Laurel Manor in Livonia. The Roaring 20s will come alive for jaspers and flappers alike!

Enjoy an elegant meal with open bar, and peruse the hundreds of offerings in our silent auction. Then, get ready to bid on the exciting packages in the live auction. Experience the excitement

of bidding on unique items such as getaways to Malta, Florida, and Toronto; luxury ski & golf trips; local spa packages; fine jewelry; and a one-of-kind package to Beverly Hills, California that includes a deluxe stay at the Beverly Wilshire Hotel, dining and celebrity-sighting at Spago, and tickets to see Dr. Phil.

The huge silent auction features something for everyone, from sports memorabilia to children's items, electronics, original artwork, home

improvement packages, and more. Step into our Speakeasy to enjoy a specialty martini bar, live music, and learn to dance the Charleston.

The local community is welcome to attend. Call (734) 420-3331 to purchase tickets by phone or visit www.newmorningschool.com for more information. Tickets are \$75 per person which includes seated dinner, dessert, open bar, and the silent and live auction portions of the evening.

Folksinger benefit

Musical storyteller and political satirist Charlie King will perform during a fundraising concert at 7 p.m. Saturday, April 5, at Unity Church of Livonia.

The show will raise money for the Livonia-based Citizens for Peace and Peace Action of Michigan.

Folk legend Pete Seger called Charlie King "one of the finest singers and songwriters of our time" as he performs folk songs about the extraordinary lives of ordinary people. His songs have been sung and recorded by other famous artists such as Pete Seeger, Arlo Guthrie, Peggy Seeger, Chad Mitchell and Judy Small.

Tickets are \$15 in advance or \$20 at the door. Students pay only \$10.

Unity of Livonia is on Five Mile Road between Middlebelt and Inkster roads. For tickets or additional information, call 248-548-3920 or 734-425-0079.

Colored pencil exhibit

During the month of April, Lotus Arts Gallery will be hosting "Michigan Colored Pencil 2008," a juried colored

pencil exhibition sponsored by the Colored Pencil Society of America District Chapter #104, featuring 100-percent colored pencil works of artists in the Great Lakes region.

The public is invited to view the exhibition and meet the artists at the opening reception on Saturday, April 5, from 6-8 p.m. Enjoy complimentary light hors d'oeuvres and beverages and conversations with the artists. Awards for best works in the exhibit will be presented at 7 p.m. Lotus Arts Gallery is located at 995 West Ann Arbor Trail (corner of Ann Arbor Trail and Harvey Street) in downtown Plymouth.

The exhibition will be on display April 1-25. The public is welcome to view the exhibit during gallery hours between 11 a.m. and 6 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday. If you have any questions, or for more information, please contact the gallery toll free at (888) 889-4ART or at (734) 453-5400.

Scrapbook event

Creative Memories hosts a National Scrapbook Day event 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Saturday, April 19, at the Holiday Inn Express in Canton.

The event provides a chance to spend the day completing album pages, as well as get a look at the newest products and techniques from Creative Memories.

Cost is \$40 per person. The Holiday Inn Express is located at 3950 Lotz in Canton. For more information or to register for the event contact Chrissy Detary, senior consultant with Creative Memories, (734) 454-4321.

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CORRECTION

A story in the March 23 Plymouth Observer about the Midwest Rabbit & Rehome should have said the facility's phone number is (248) 912-7976.

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Filling an urgent need - clinic helps patients avoid ER trip

BY BRAD KADRICH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

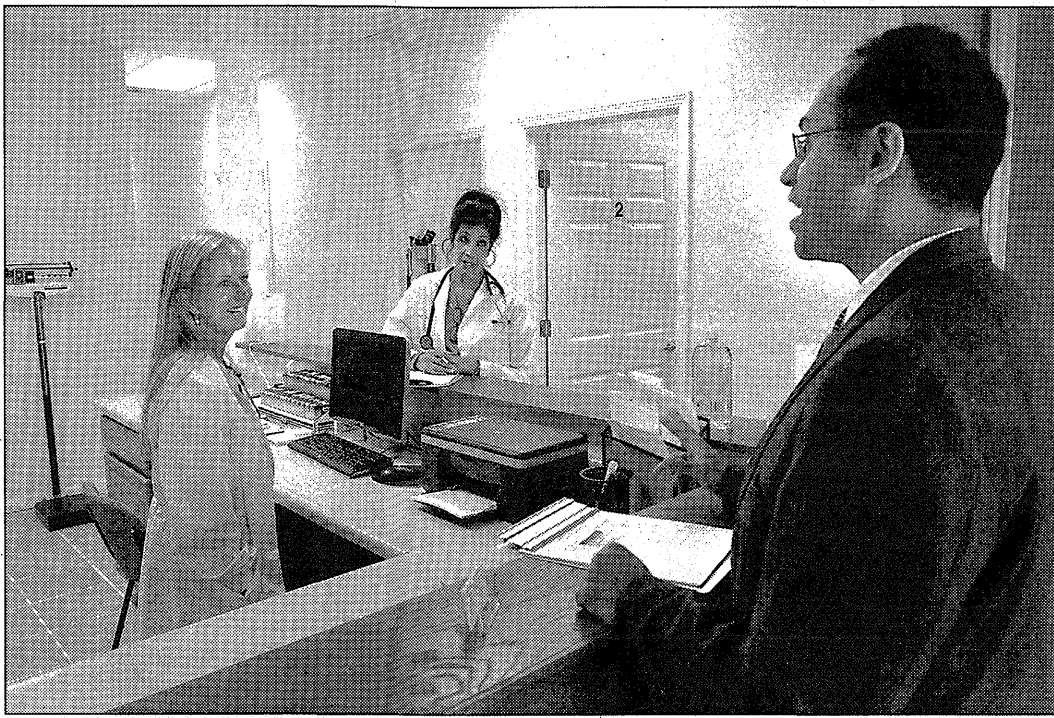
Dr. Amr Abbas saw an urgent care clinic in Plymouth Township as a possible bridge between family doctors and the emergency room.

So Abbas and three other doctors built it.

Abbas and doctors Mahmoud Al-Shami, Mazen Shoukfeh and Paula Turner opened Northville Urgent Care on the border of Plymouth and Northville townships in an effort to serve an untapped market that bustles not only with residential areas but a business climate, as well.

"We were excited to find this location, because it's close to business and close to residential," Abbas said. "This provides patients a great opportunity to be seen without spending a lot of time in an emergency room."

The idea for the clinic - designed to treat everything from the common cold to hypertension and other medical illnesses - was conceived by the doctors, who worked with each other at a local hospital. The idea was to build a clinic whose schedule and services fit the clientele.



At right, Dr. Amr Abbas speaks with registered nurse Katy Conroy and Dr. Paula Turner at the new Northville Urgent Care at Five Mile and Beck in Plymouth Township.

Abbas said the Plymouth-Northville area they've tapped is one where urgent care services are needed.

"It's a great opportunity, especially for patients who don't have primary care doctors," said Abbas, an interven-

tional cardiologist who got his medical degree in Cairo and did his training at William Beaumont Hospital. "That's how you take care of the health needs of a community."

The clinic, easily accessible off M-14, treats common respi-

ratory infections, asthma, does evaluation of chest pain and can evaluate and treat diabetes and hypertension. Clinic staff can perform lab testing for things like blood sugar levels, strep screenings and urine analysis, and it has on-site X-

URGENT NEEDS FILLED

- **What:** Northville Urgent Care
- **Where:** 47311 Five Mile (at Beck), Plymouth Township
- **Why:** Treatment of common respiratory problems, high school physicals, X-rays, some lab work, other services
- **When:** 3-9 p.m. Monday-Friday, noon to 9 p.m. weekends
- **Contact:** (734) 254-0665

ray capabilities.

Being staffed by doctors also on staff at a hospital gives Northville Urgent Care's staff a complete perspective, according to Abbas.

"When you have physicians all the time, a doctor has the complete ability to manage patients," Abbas said. "If we have questions, we can page each other. We see patients in hospital, and we see urgent-care patients. It gives us both perspectives."

Katy Conroy, the veteran registered nurse who helps run the clinic, said it can serve as a sort of liaison between patients and primary-care physicians.

"We can work in concert with doctors in the commu-

nity," said Conroy, who helps run a similar clinic in Novi. "If we see a patient who needs a certain kind of doctor, we can refer them."

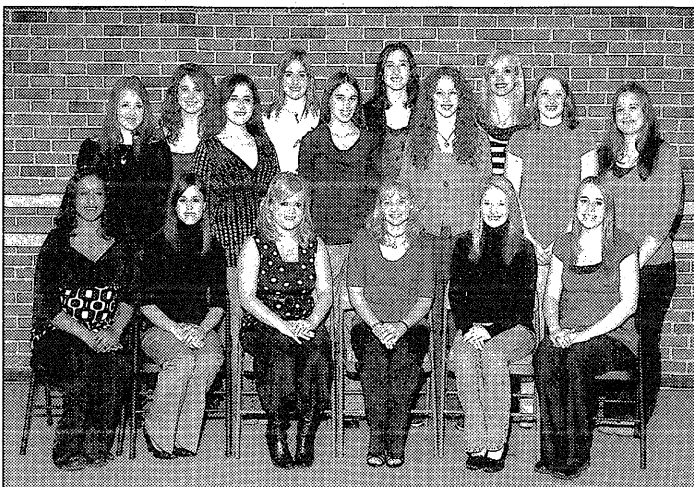
The clinic opened earlier this month, during cold-and-flu season, and Dr. Paula Turner said business has been steady.

"It's a little different patient contact than you see in hospital work," said Turner, an internal medicine specialist with a degree from Wayne State University Medical School. "It helps you maintain your diagnostic skills, and it lets you help the community with the medical resources you have available."

"Rather than have a hospital take in minor cases where patients can wait for hours, we can fill in that gap in the after-hours market."

The clinic is open 3-9 p.m. Monday-Friday and noon to 9 p.m. weekends. With several high schools nearby, the clinic can do booming business in the high school athletic physical market, as well as being the place to go to avoid hospitals.

"It's a nice area," Conroy said. "People try to avoid the ER at all costs. It's nice to be the place they can do that."



Competing in the Michigan Junior Miss Program Saturday are Canton Junior Miss Whitney Askew (front row), Alpena Junior Miss Katherine Homant, Brooklyn Junior Miss Nicole Bontrager, Houghton Lake Junior Miss Brittany Manifold, Plymouth-Canton Junior Miss Erin Wheeler, Prudenville Junior Miss Adrienne Linsley, Redford Junior Miss Sara Mayne (back row), Muskegon Junior Miss Christy VanAndel, Wyandotte Junior Miss Samantha Thomas, Clarkston Junior Miss Chelsey Knapper, Bay County Junior Miss Lillian Asiala, Wayne-Westland Junior Miss Raven Rickard, Montrose Junior Miss Nicholle Pierce, Ann Arbor Junior Miss Katherine Ballman, Westland Junior Miss Rachel Mlynar and Detroit Junior Miss Jennifer Quaine. Not pictured is Inkster Junior Miss Kiana Sledge.

Seventeen teens vie for Michigan Junior Miss

Seventeen high school girls will be competing for scholarship money and the chance to represent the state in the 50th anniversary edition of the Michigan's Junior Miss Program.

The scholarship program will take place at 6:30 p.m. Saturday at Washtenaw Community College. This marks the first time that Michigan's Junior Miss has been held in the Ann Arbor area.

The 17 high school seniors from throughout the state will vie for the title of Michigan's Junior Miss 2008, along with \$9,000 in college scholarship money.

The winner will go on to compete at America's Junior Miss in Mobile, Ala., in June.

Contestants are judged on talent, physical fitness, self-expression, interview and scholastic achievement.

America's Junior Miss Program is the oldest and largest scholarship program for high school senior students. Since America's Junior Miss first began in 1958, more than \$90 million dollars in college scholarships have been awarded.

Each year, 200 additional college scholarships are

available to contestants who participate in local, state and national Junior Miss programs around the country. National sponsors are The City of Mobile and Mobile County and the Mitchell Company.

Tickets for the program are \$15. Call State Committee Chairperson Lydia Soroosh at (734) 426-4744 for ticket sales information.

Proceeds from this event go toward the Michigan Junior Miss Scholarship Program.

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JACOBS

FROM PAGE A1

tion teacher at Pioneer Middle School, and has held just about every administrative position in the district since. He's been an assistant superintendent at the Park, serving two stints as acting principal.

Jacobs moved on to become director of maintenance and operations. He later was named executive director of maintenance and operations, including transportation and food service, before becoming an assistant superintendent, incorporating human resources and all

internal operations to his duties.

"I've been very fortunate, Plymouth-Canton has been very good to me," said Jacobs, who lives in Plymouth Township. "I'm very appreciative of the fact Plymouth-Canton has recognized my strengths and willingness to provide opportunities for me. This is my home, and I'm very interested in Plymouth-Canton's continuing excellence."

Jacobs said when Ryan announced his retirement, there was a moment's thought of applying for the position.

"At one point I may have, but my plan is to retire in a couple of years," Jacobs said. "I knew

the board was looking for someone with longer tenure. I felt more useful in a supportive role."

Fiegel said he's looking forward to working with Jacobs to learn about the district.

"It sounds great to me," Fiegel said. "He's been there 40 years, and I'm looking forward to working with him and learning from him."

With Jacobs' promotion will come an as-yet-undetermined increase in his \$126,000 annual salary.

"We still haven't determined that," Jacobs said. "That's not of importance to me at this time."

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SCANDAL

FROM PAGE A1

admit to his alleged wrongdoings and step down.

Worthy charged Kilpatrick and Beatty with perjury, obstruction, conspiracy and misconduct in the text message scandal that led to a secret multimillion-dollar civil lawsuit settlement with three former Detroit police officers. Kilpatrick said he expects "full and complete vindication."

"I think he should own up to his responsibility as a public figure, and if he's guilty he needs to admit it," said Sue McHugh, 44, a hairdresser at Vanity Hair on Penniman in downtown Plymouth, who said the scandal has been the No. 1



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Loyd Stewart of Canton Township said if Detroit Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick is found guilty of wrongdoing then maybe other high-ranking politicians will be caught.

topic of discussion among customers. "They think he should be like the New York governor (Eliot Spitzer) and just step down and get out of the spotlight as soon as possible."

Loyd Stewart of Canton Township said if Kilpatrick is

found guilty of wrongdoing, then maybe other high-ranking politicians will be caught.

"They all think they get away with this bull ... if it was you or I, we'd be in jail already, no ifs, ands or buts," said Stewart, 56. "They ought to put the guy away."

Christine Scott, 34, of Farmington Hills said the impact on the region and state "is huge."

"I'm glad they're finally forcing him to come clean," Scott said. "How are you going to get people to move back into the city if he continues to do these kinds of things?"

"I hope he steps down and doesn't wait until they force him or find him guilty," she added. "It's embarrassing for people outside this area to see what's happening."

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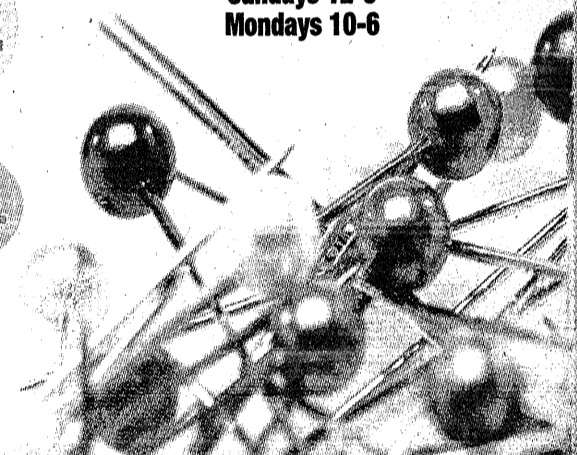
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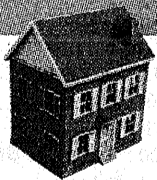
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Charter Township of Canton Board Proceedings - March 18, 2008

A regular study meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Canton held Tuesday, March 18, 2008 at 1150 Canton Center S., Canton, Michigan. Supervisor Yack called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and led the pledge of allegiance. **Roll Call** Members Present: Caccamo, LaJoy, McLaughlin, Zarbo Members Absent: Bennett, Kirchgatter, Yack Staff Present: Executive Director Santomauro, Director Conklin, Abe Vinitzki, Leigh Thurston, Deputy Chief Golles, Deputy Chief Nemecek, Fire Chief Rorabacher, Dave Medley, Anna Stump **Adoption of Agenda** Motion by Zarbo, seconded by McLaughlin to approve the agenda. Motion carried by all members present. **STUDY SESSION TOPIC** **Item 1. PRESCRIBED BURN 2008 Purposed Areas to Burn** Sheldon and Warren Nature Pond and Flodin Park Nature Trail **Item 2. 2007 YEAR IN REVIEW - PUBLIC SAFETY, HUMAN RESOURCES AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR** **Adjourn** Motion by LaJoy, supported by McLaughlin at 9:30 p.m. to adjourn. Motion carried by all members present. - Thomas J. Yack, Supervisor - Terry G. Bennett, Clerk -

Copies of the complete text of the Board Minutes are available at the office of the Charter Township of Canton, 1150 S. Canton Center Rd, Canton, MI 48188, during regular business hours and can also be accessed through our web site www.canton-mi.org after Board approval.
Publish: March 27, 2008

CITY OF PLYMOUTH NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING FOR RECOMMENDING RENEWAL, REVOCATION AND NON-RENEWAL OF LIQUOR LICENSES IN ACCORDANCE WITH The City of Plymouth Liquor Management Ordinance

Plymouth City Commission
Commission Chambers
201 S. Main
Plymouth, MI 48170
March 20, 2006 - 7:00 p.m.

The City of Plymouth may provide correspondence, reports and/or public comment from the City Manager, Police Chief, City Clerk, Building Official, Fire Chief or Inspector, City Treasurer and/or other members of the City of Plymouth Staff. Licensees are required to notify the City's Attorney Office at least three (3) days prior to the hearing date if they intend to contest the proposed action, and to provide the names of witnesses known at the time who will testify on their behalf. (Section 8, B6) City Attorney Office - Plunkett & Cooney, Robert Marzano 248-901-4000.

Linda Langmesser, CMC
City Clerk

Publish: March 27, 2008



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The DTE Energy Foundation proudly announces the recipients of the 2007 Walter J. McCarthy Jr. Awards for Volunteer Leadership and the organizations that benefit from their good work:

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Geraldine Downes, Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders Association</p> <p>BIG RAPIDS
Lawrence Bourke, National Little Britches Rodeo Association of Michigan.</p> <p>BYRON CENTER
Laura Brown, Wyoming Public Schools Educational Foundation</p> <p>CANTON
Alfred Ciantar, Salem High School</p> <p>CARLETON
Gary Breitner, Monroe County Library System
Kristine Durkin, St. Patrick's Church
Virginia Oliver, River Raisin Centre for the Arts</p> <p>CASS CITY
James Heiser, United Way of Tuscola County</p> <p>CLAWSON
Joseph Bedford, City of Clawson</p> <p>CLINTON TWP.
Brian Thomas, Boy Scouts of America - Clinton Valley Council</p> <p>DEARBORN
Karin Sharp, Looking for My Sister</p> <p>DETROIT
Leon Burke, Community Service Community Development Corporation
Cornelia Butler, Wings of Truth Gospel Church
Karla Hall, Michigan Nonprofit Association; Motown Historical Museum, Inc.
Donald McSwain, Optimist Club Foundation of Central Detroit
Leslie Nolan, Detroit Institute for Children
Esther Porter, City of River Rouge
Mitchell Shamsud-Din, Community Service Community Development Corporation</p> <p>DUNDEE
Michael Drummond, Monroe County Library System
Tim Sampson, American Cancer Society</p> <p>E. TAWAS
Tim Kolnits, Tawas Area Schools</p> <p>ECORSE
Cassandra Marbury, Great Faith Ministries, Inc.</p> <p>ERIE
William Dempsey, Mason Consolidated Schools</p> <p>FARMINGTON HILLS
Keith Abbott, Boy Scouts of America - Clinton Valley Council
Marc Zupmore, Michigan Roundtable for Diversity and Inclusion</p> <p>FLAT ROCK
Bonnie Fitzgerald, American Cancer Society, Inc.</p> <p>FORT GRATIOT
Terry Hall, Fort Huron Scholarship Assistance Program of St. Clair County
Mark VanderHauvel, March of Dimes Birth Defects Foundation</p> <p>GRAND RAPIDS
Kellie Alcook, Boxer Haven Rescue
Niurka Diaz, Down Syndrome Association of Western Michigan</p> <p>GRANDVILLE
Mary Conner, Wyoming Public Schools Educational Foundation</p> <p>GREENWOOD
David Asselin, Pheasants Forever-St. Clair County</p> | <p>GROSSE POINTE FARMS
Frederick Curto, Student Mentor Partners</p> <p>GROSSE POINTE PARK
Marsha Ennis, Arts & Scraps</p> <p>HOWELL
Michael Schlaack, Boy Scouts of America - Great Sauk Trail Council</p> <p>HUNTINGTON WOODS
Roberta Urbani, International Wildlife Refuge Alliance; City of Detroit Recreation Department; Community Foundation of Greater Rochester</p> <p>IDA
Matthew Kirkland, Boy Scouts of America - Great Sauk Trail Council</p> <p>INKSTER
Douglas LaRowe, Lymphoma Research Foundation
Artie Norwood, Community Service Community Development Corporation</p> <p>KINDE
Stephen Harmon, Greater Huron County United Way</p> <p>KINGSLEY
Steve Rawlings, Michigan 4-H Foundation</p> <p>LASALLE
Donald Pearce, Mason Consolidated Schools
Dennis Reincke, Mason Consolidated Schools</p> <p>LINCOLN PARK
Daniel Meyers, Trenton Firefighters Charities</p> <p>LIVONIA
Don Bramlett, Boy Scouts of America - Detroit Area Council
William Clemens, Livonia Public Schools - Stevenson High
Charlotte Mahoney, YMCA of Metropolitan Detroit
Winom Mahoney, Habitat for Humanity of Monroe County
Doyle McKay, Boy Scouts of America - Detroit Area Council
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Reed Romain, National Multiple Sclerosis Society
Matthew Shackelford, Friends of the Detroit River</p> <p>MARYSVILLE
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John Goulet, Marysville Viking Regiment Boosters Club, Inc.</p> <p>MONROE
Dennis Bergmooser, Pheasants Forever - Monroe
Peter Burkit, Monroe Hockey Association, Inc.
Doug Diroff, Monroe Hockey Association, Inc.
Jeffery Hensley, Monroe Public Schools; Arthur Lesow Community Center
Rodney Johnson, Monroe County Intermediate School District
Kathleen LeCompte, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; International Wildlife Refuge Alliance
Linda Schmidt, Monroe County 4-H Council
Myron Smolinski, YMCA of Monroe County
Edward Stehulak, Monroe Public Schools - Monroe High School
Kathleen Stiefel, Airport Community Schools
William Terrasi, Foundation at Monroe County Community College
Nancy Williams, The Education Foundation of the Monroe Public Schools
Marsha Wilson, Monroe Public Schools - Raisinville Elementary School</p> | <p>MT. PLEASANT
Daniel Thering, Jacob Michael Davis Foundation, Inc.</p> <p>MUSKEGON
Kenneth Bowlin, Eastside Extravaganza, Inc.
Keven Carroll, Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Lakeshore, Inc.
Laneta Paskel, Muskegon Heat
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Rajan Telang, Accounting Aid Society</p> <p>ROCHESTER HILLS
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Stephen Chapman, Boy Scouts of America - Detroit Area Council</p> <p>ROGERS CITY
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Molly Luempert-Coy, Community Foundation of Monroe County; March of Dimes; Monroe County Chamber of Commerce Foundation; Bureau Foundation; YMCA of Monroe County; Foundation at Monroe County Community College; Michigan Duck Hunters Tournament, Inc.; American Red Cross - Monroe County Chapter; Mercy Memorial Hospital Corporation; First Step - Western Wayne County on Domestic Assault</p> <p>SOUTH ROCKWOOD
Timothy Walsh, Village of South Rockwood</p> <p>SOUTHFIELD
Suzanne Dibble, Detroit Dance Collective</p> | <p>Mark Jubas, Akiva Hebrew Day School - Yeshivat Akiva</p> <p>Henrietta Robinson, Leukemia & Lymphoma Society</p> <p>Ray Parker, Amateur Athletic Union of the U.S., Inc.</p> <p>SPRING LAKE
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Janie Duca, West Michigan Society for Protection and Care of Animals</p> <p>ST. CLAIR SHORES
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Shelley Murphy-Wolocko, American Cancer Society, Inc.
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Bichitra Pathbhaban, Troy Community Foundation
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Derek Snyder, Chippewa Hills High School</p> <p>WEST BLOOMFIELD
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Thomas Wilson, Female Alumni Athletic Boosters</p> <p>WYOMING
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Raymond Bollaert, Michigan 4-H Foundation</p> |
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Investors can learn from mistakes made by Bear Stearns

The stock market has been on a roller coaster ride of late. One day it's up 400 points, the next day it's down 300 points.

Market volatilities are, unfortunately, the norm. One of the main problems recently has been the real estate downturn and the sub-prime crisis.

Although many people have seen significant reductions in certain investments — there have been some funds and investment partnerships that have gone belly up — there had been no large name companies put out of business. That changed last week when it was announced J.P. Morgan was buying Bear Stearns.

The reality is Bear Stearns had no alternative. It was forced to sell in order to avoid bankruptcy. The question is: What happened to Bear



Money Matters

Rick Bloom

the dot-com crash and 9/11. It was, however, not able to survive the sub-prime market.

Although, there are lots of reasons and detailed explanations about why Bear Stearns failed, I believe there are two simple reasons that caused the collapse.

The first problem Bear Stearns ran into was liquidity. Bear Stearns was highly leveraged. When it ran into a cash

flow problem, the amount leveraged prevented it from having any flexibility in working out this problem.

The second issue that hurt Bear Stearns was the lack of diversification. The firm had a significant portion of its investments within the sub-prime market. While things were good, Bear Stearns was doing well, however, when the sub-prime market had its downturn, the firm was hurt.

For the average investor, there are lessons to be learned from the collapse of Bear Stearns.

The first deals with leverage.

I believe that people should not leverage their investments. When people margin their investment accounts it allows them to borrow money against an investment portfolio. The problem with this

strategy is when there is a downturn you lose flexibility in your account. Because of the requirement to have a certain amount of equity in a portfolio, investments can be sold, without knowledge in order to cover collateral on the loan.

Bear Stearns lost control and they were forced to sell at an inopportune time. The same thing can happen to the individual investor who over-leverages an account.

Keep in mind that a year ago Bear Stearns was selling for \$160 a share. On Friday at the close of business before the Monday sale, it was selling for \$30 a share. The sale price — \$2 a share.

Secondly, Bear Stearns suffered from a lack of diversification.

I always stress the need to diversify a portfolio.

Diversification offers protection against volatile and uncertain markets.

The lessons to be learned from the Bear Stearns situation are: first, that it could happen to anyone. Big companies, small companies, big investors and small investors are all subject to the volatilities of the market;

Second, to be a successful investor, you must diversify your portfolio. Investors who do not diversify are, in fact, gamblers — and the reality of the situation is most gamblers lose;

Third, to be a successful investor you always have to remain in control of your investments. When you lose control — by using margin on accounts — you lose all flexibility.

In spite of this crisis, however, it would be wrong to

assume the sky is falling simply because Bear Stearns was sold at a fire sale price. We have seen this in many different industries where for many different reasons companies go out of business. In our own back yard, companies like Highland Appliance and Fretter went out of business because they could not adapt to the changing times.

As investors, we must adapt to the changing environment. However, adapting to change does not mean forgetting about the fundamentals. Don't let that happen to you.

Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial adviser. Observer & Eccentric readers can submit questions at moneymatters@hometownlife.com. For more information, visit Rick's Web site at www.bloomassetmanagement.com. You can hear Rick from noon to 3 p.m. Sundays on WDTK-AM (1400).

Sheriff warns about fake IRS e-mails

Wayne County Sheriff Warren C. Evans is warning local residents about an online identity theft scam that uses bogus e-mails, designed to look like they have been sent by the IRS, to trick people into providing personal information. Evans said his Internet Crime Unit has received several complaints from people who have received these "spoof" e-mails.

Evans said that the bogus e-mails bear the logo of the IRS, or in some cases, the IRS's tax return processing company, eFile, and inform the recipient that they are owed a tax refund. Contained in the e-mail is a link to a fake IRS Web site, which prompts the victim to provide personal information that the scam artist can use to steal the person's identity.

"With a poor economy and this being the height of tax time, a lot of people could fall prey to this scam because the e-mails look legitimate and offer the promise of money to the targeted victim," Evans said. "We want to help protect citizens from being swindled out of a lot more money than they are being offered as part of this scam."

Typically, a spoof e-mail often starts out saying something along these lines: "After the last calculations of your fiscal activity we have determined you are eligible to receive a tax refund," and then specifies an amount the recipient is supposedly due. Evans said that it is important for people to know that the IRS does not notify people via an unsolicited e-mail if they have a return due to them.

"Typically, these are believable amounts, ranging from \$50 or \$60 up to several hundred dollars, to draw people into the scam," Evans said. "The insidious part of this con is that it doesn't really play on a person's greed. The victims are being led to believe that this is their hard-earned money being returned to them."

The e-mail contains an embedded link to direct victims to a web site, which appears to be an IRS Web site, but will have a Web address that has nothing to do with the IRS or federal government, Evans said.

The look-alike web site offers the victim the opportunity to get their refund applied to his or her credit card and asks the individual to provide their account information and Social Security number.

"With just that information, an identity thief can be off to the races and your life can be turned upside-down before you even know anything is wrong," Evans said.

Evans said that because the e-mails are likely being generated outside Michigan, and perhaps outside the United States, anyone receiving a suspect e-mail should report it to the FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center at www.IC3.gov, which investigates such complaints.

"We hope that by educating the public to this fraud, no one will fall victim to it," Evans said. "But if they do, or even if they receive one of the bogus e-mails, they should make a complaint immediately through the FBI's Web site, rather than a local agency."

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OUR VIEWS

Stewart a perfect fit for symphony

The Plymouth-Canton Symphony Society made a free-agent move last week as good as anything Dave Dombrowski has done for the Detroit Tigers.

The PCSS snapped up Beth Stewart, the former executive director of the Plymouth Historical Museum, to take the same post with the symphony when current director Jennifer Philpot-Munson leaves.

If her history is any indication, Stewart, who spent 18 years leading the museum, will provide some stability to an organization that has undergone four leadership changes in just nine years.

The symphony is lucky to get Stewart, who has been mentioned in connection with many positions since leaving the museum two years ago. She left the museum in the midst of an unsuccessful run for the state House of Representatives, and her name has since been linked to a range of things from the Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce to a potential run for Wayne County Commissioner.

Stewart has rebounded nicely from the severe attacks perpetrated on her during her run for office. She handled the situation with class, remained upbeat and, most importantly, her active support of the Plymouth community never wavered.

She's the perfect replacement for Philpot-Munson, who has done a superb job in her stint. Stewart has plenty of experience running a nonprofit agency and knows the arts community in this area inside and out.

The symphony's board is happy with the level of corporate donations and funding from grants — two signs of the solid job done by Philpot-Munson — but they'd like to see a hike in individual giving. Stewart should be able to help there with her knowledge of the community and the people in it.

Miguel Cabrera, the Tigers' newest high-priced acquisition, will make some \$25,000 *per at bat* under his new contract. Stewart, the symphony's newest acquisition, will make about \$29,000 *per year*.

We think she'd be a bargain at twice the price.

Stewart has rebounded nicely from the severe attacks perpetrated on her during her run for office. She handled the situation with class, remained upbeat and, most importantly, her active support of the Plymouth community never wavered.



Pass energy standards

It is critical that the Michigan Legislature pass the 10 percent by 2015 Renewable Energy Standard and the Energy Efficiency Standards now! The delay in passing this legislation decreases Michigan's chances of addressing global warming, protecting the Great Lakes, attracting renewable energy investors to the state, and reviving our struggling economy with clean energy jobs. There are seven new coal plant proposals on the table, and the longer we wait to pass these bills, the more likely it becomes that Michigan will build another dirty coal plant. It is time for this great state to leave coal where it belongs, in the past, and move forward to a 21st century energy future.

Kerry Griffith
Plymouth

LETTERS

Many of those great leaders are now gone. And today many think that need to stand against prejudice is over. But it is not. People are people and always will be.

I know that today I do not have as good a chance of getting some high-paying jobs simply because of my sex or the color of my skin. I hope one day we can once again stand together across racial lines and don't give up the struggle to end the evil that is prejudice and the injustice it brings to those who only want to be treated with an even hand.

I pray one day my kids will grow up and stand an equal chance of getting a government job or contract in Michigan. Even though they are white males.

Rick Kennedy
Livonia

clear delegate win.

3. Revote. If Michigan Democrat voters get a chance to revote with only Clinton/Obama on the ticket, why shouldn't other states revote now that only two candidates remain? If a revote happens, most likely candidates will win similar percentages of the vote, meaning neither candidate would gain the 2,025 delegates needed to win. So what's the point?

Lynn McLean
Troy

Hollywood hurts UAW

A message to the UAW: Why aren't we protesting the advertising voice-overs Hollywood stars make for foreign cars and other products? I keep hearing Kevin Spacey shilling foreign cars as well as many others and I don't hear a peep from the UAW leadership or rank and file.

While the Hollywood types are big Democrats and UAW leadership pushes millions toward the Democrats, the Hollywood crew is busy swinging a wrecking ball at U.S. car manufacturing sales — not only through advertisements but by the cars they choose to "promote" when filming and the companies they choose to support in their advertising endorsements.

Yes, they have the right to sell their voices to anyone they please. However, we have the right and should expect that the UAW sit down with the Democratic National Committee and have someone encourage the Hollywood crowd to not help our major competitors sell their foreign cars. In the end it is in their interest too because by putting us out of business, who is going to pay \$9 to go to see a movie here in America?

Certainly the workers at GM, Ford and Delphi are going to struggle at being able to do that in the near future without a little help from Hollywood as well as others. Perhaps we should vote against Hollywood with our feet by not seeing the films of back-stabbing Hollywood stars who promote foreign cars.

Ed Johnson
Royal Oak

No is the answer

Say yes to seat the delegates that were elected in the January Michigan primary. The current whining by the Democrat Party to "re-vote" reminds me of grade school kids. We can all remember a child who did poorly on a test and then peppered the teacher with requests to do a "makeup test." These kids were sickening, by asking for special consideration, as if their life was ruined if they did badly on one test.

Are two of these children now running for the Democrat Party presidential candidacy? Or is it the leaders of the Democrat Party who haven't trusted voters to choose the "correct" candidate (Clinton). None of the whining or maneuvering within the primary process seems "presidential" in any stretch of my imagination.

Before the Michigan primary, the delegate counts were: Clinton won 24 (36 percent), Obama won 25 (37 percent).

Of Michigan's 156 delegates, Clinton won 80 and Obama won one, because he took his name off the ballot. The most un-presidential decision he could make, unless of course he was acting as a puppet of the Democrat Party leaders. Currently (excluding Michigan and Florida), Clinton has 1,245 (46.3 percent) and Obama has 1,415 (52.7 percent) of the pledged delegates.

There are still 55 uncommitted Michigan delegates. That leaves three options:

1. The best solution. Leave the Michigan delegates as they were voted. The national Democrat Party made the rules, Obama choose not to participate, and the public voted. Everyone made adult choices. The results are what they are! Let's move on. This option should also include deleting a percentage of Michigan superdelegates (proportional to the uncommitted delegates).

2. Assign the 55 uncommitted delegates to the naive candidates that were convinced to remove their names from the ballot. Assign delegates based on the percentages won in primaries prior to the Michigan vote. Obama would get most of the uncommitted votes, but this process may not match the agenda of the national Democrat Party nor give him a

Constitution has been ignored

I would like to see that the federal government is under control, whether both sides agree or not. This is not the case. It has become obvious that the government has been subverted to elements within the Republican Party instead of being American first.

We cannot get officials to respect congressional oversight and the president is using signing statements and executive orders to override laws passed by Congress.

The Constitution has been ignored in spite of the fact that all officials take an oath to protect and uphold the Constitution. The time to act has come.

Lorraine Norton
Livonia

Fix the mess

How long can we allow our state government, including our governor, to constantly run this state into the ground?

This election faux pas that the House, the Senate and the governor pushed through makes the state of Michigan just a laughing stock of how the people in Michigan can't do anything right.

I ask the leaders in our state — union, business and clergy — to stand up and say "enough's enough" and let's get some help from the federal government and get some good people in this state to right the rudder and put us on the right track.

Melvin Kaftan
Birmingham

Still fighting for equality

Michigan like many states in the country had many of its citizens stand together and fight for equality during the civil rights movement. They crossed racial lines and stood together and fought against prejudice so that regardless of the color of your skin you could stand an equal chance of getting a high paying job or position.

Root out school elections in May

Daffodils and tulips aren't the only things poking up through the snow and mud this year. So are May school elections in some districts that are determined to keep them separate from traditional August and November state and federal elections.

That could change. H.B. 4507 would require that all school elections be held in November, but following a confusing set of amendments to the bill, it has languished in the state Senate since late November.

It's become increasingly apparent that the business of running a school district is no bed of roses. It's time for the Legislature to prune that hill of unnecessary amendments and insist that school districts hold their elections in November.

That time frame is fiscally responsible and ensures a greater turnout of voters.

Previous state legislation that took effect in January 2005 consolidated elections, requiring that they be held only in May, August and November. Gone were the days of June elections — and "do-over" votes when bond issues failed.

The response has been mixed. According to the Oakland County Clerk's office, 18 school districts have switched to November elections.

Those districts are hoping to avoid a situation like that in Wayne County's Redford Union district, which faces a deficit and had little choice but to move the election to November. Doing so reduces costs by sharing the financial burden with other governmental units.

Some districts, like Plymouth-Canton and Garden City, are trying to minimize the cost by holding their May elections every other year instead of yearly, starting in 2009.

The thinking is that odd-year May elections keep education issues and candidates off of crowded ballots. Unfortunately, that doesn't help improve the traditionally low turnout for school elections.

After all, that is what elections are about — hearing the collective voice of the public.

It's up to the Legislature, and reticent districts like Ferndale and Clawson, to plant a sound foundation for school elections by moving them to November.

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Our fundamental purposes are to enhance the lives of our readers, nurture the hometowns we serve and contribute to the business success of our customers.

QUOTABLE

"The board was impressed with her commitment to the Plymouth-Canton area ... Her nonprofit experience is exceptional and her community knowledge and contacts are simply amazing. Beth already has a deep knowledge of our organization because in her role as director of the historical museum she did a lot of collaboration with us."

- Steve Alexandrowski, president of Plymouth-Canton Symphony Society board of directors, on the hiring of former museum director Beth Stewart

State needs to get serious about reducing its corrections spending

IBM has an old motto that still makes as much sense as ever: "You can't manage what you can't measure."

Now we all know that Michigan needs a big-time transformation to get through today's tough times and on to a prosperous future. We need something that will give us a vibrant, diversified economy and make this a state where talented people are welcomed. We need Michigan to again become a wonderful place to live, where you can bring up a family in revitalized towns that are surrounded by world-class natural resources.

The big issue, of course, is ... how do we get there?

Whatever the path, getting there is bound to require an economic compass — a way to measure where we are and check to determine how much progress we have made. We need a set of benchmarks and metrics to measure — and manage — our progress.

So let me offer one. The Center for Michigan has just published a comprehensive benchmarking study, "Michigan Scorecard: Benchmarks for Michigan's Transformation." The Michigan Scorecard sets out 36 measuring sticks for us to compare where we are against other states, as we move forward to develop and put in place a new common ground vision for Michigan.

The news isn't all bad: Ten out of the 36 metrics show Michigan's doing pretty well. We give them a "thumbs up." Sadly, however, another 19 indicate we're falling behind ("thumbs down"), while seven say we're about even with our competitors.

One yardstick much in the news lately has to do with our prison policies and practices. Here's how the Michigan Scorecard reads:

"With a per-capita incarceration rate of approximately 1/3 of 1 percent in 2005, Michigan was very slightly below the nation's average." Yet, "Michigan's incarceration rate is about 40 percent higher than the average rates of its Great Lakes neighbors."

And the cost of all this has shot through the roof: "The number of Corrections employees has more than tripled since 1980, to the point that today over 30 percent of all state Civil Service employees are in the Department of Corrections. With an appropriation of over \$2.2 billion in 2006, the Department of Corrections spent over 20 percent of Michigan's General Fund budget."

To put this in perspective: Michigan spends more today to hold criminals in jail than we do to educate our kids in public colleges and universities. According to the Pew Center for the States, we share that very unhappy distinction with only three other states.

Moreover, according to the nonpartisan, nonprofit Citizens Research Council, we spend around 30 percent more per inmate per year

than our neighboring states. CRC also estimates that if our spending on prisons just matched that of our neighbors, we'd save around \$500 million each year.

For a state that's financially challenged, that's a big number. And, not surprisingly, it's provoked fierce partisan disagreement about how to find that half-billion dollars.

Republicans generally talk about privatizing various aspects of the corrections system, going so far as to advocate turning entire prisons over to the private sector. Democrats talk about reforming the prison sentencing laws to reduce the number of people in the slam.

Looking at how many inmates are either drug users or dealers, some lawyers and law enforcement experts are urging a system of "drug courts" that sentence people convicted of drug-related crimes to a strict treatment regime and tethers, rather than far more expensive time behind bars. Lawyers and advocates for youth oppose Michigan's juvenile lifer law, which forces judges to sentence kids as young as 14 to life in prison without parole for first-degree murder.

Sen. Alan Crosey, R-DeWitt, Lansing's leading advocate of tough treatment for criminals, disagrees. He says that the real benchmark is Michigan's high violent crime rate, arguing that "if we adopt other states' practices, we'll arrest less offenders" and see our violent crime rate go up even further.

There are two ways to solve this argument.

One is to get impartial, independent advice. That's coming from the Council of State Governments' Justice Center, which is currently doing a study on finding efficiencies in Michigan's prison system.

Noting how much prisons cost us, the Justice Center's Michael Thompson says, "If you're going to spend that kind of money, you'd hope for better outcomes." Its report is supposed to be released in time for the 2009 legislative session.

The other is for all sensible men and women of good will to stop being boxed in by ideologues of both right and left. If privatization could save money, we should look for proof from other states.

If that comes, why not experiment? And if changing Michigan's "lock 'em in jail and throw away the key" sentencing guidelines will save lots of money at little risk to the public, why not try it?

Either way, the stakes are too big and the costs too enormous not to benchmark our prisons against other states and measure our progress (or lack of it.) The Michigan Scorecard is bound to help ... if people are sensible enough to make use of it.

Phil Power is founder and president of The Center for Michigan. The opinions expressed here are Power's own and do not represent official views of The Center. He welcomes reader comments at ppower@thecenterformichigan.net.



Phil Power

Obama speech offers an explanation — and a vision

While sorting out a basement shelf a few weeks ago, I came across a class photo from my elementary school days.

There we were, all scrubbed, all smiling, all white.



Wayne Peal

It's different for my son. His second-grade class is truly diverse. It's diverse in terms of race — not just white-black, but white-black-Asian. It's diverse in terms of religion — not just Christian-Jewish, but Christian-Jewish-Muslim-Hindu. It's diverse in terms of culture, containing not just the North American-

born, but those from Europe and the Far East as well.

In short, it's the true melting pot. Yet the suburban Oakland County community in which we live is far more Oyster Bay than Ellis Island.

I've thought about all these things a lot these past few days, especially in the wake of Barack Obama's speech on race.

Like him or not, vote for him or not, the Illinois senator touched on some uncomfortable truths about our attitudes, all our attitudes, on race. He also offered an example of how we can transcend those attitudes and move, however haltingly, toward the future.

In part, he himself is the proof. His pastor may have railed on (not entirely inaccurately) about how power in America is concentrated in the hands of "rich white men."

But millions of Americans, white and black, rich and poor, are more than ready to hand the most powerful office in the land to Obama. Millions of others, just as diverse, are willing to give that job to Hillary Clinton.

That just hasn't happened before. To think that choice isn't the product of an evolving America is neither true nor correct.

Of course, injustices linger and old attitudes die hard.

Obama's presidency, should it happen, might even churn the cultural waters more

than calm them. The issues are bigger than Obama and his pastor, bigger than white and black alone, bigger than any of us can realize. Yet even now, win or lose, there's no going back. This isn't the 1960s or even the 1980s. This already is a new America and we must adjust our attitudes, across the board, to meet its realities.

Our families, stressed as they might be by Michigan's horrid economy, still have better access — and more choices — regarding health care than do many of our neighbors, especially those who have lost their jobs.

Too many Americans continue to fall behind, too many remain isolated by race, culture or creed.

Yet when I look at my son and his classmates, I see a vision of that new America, one where all can live and learn together.

It's the kind of America to which I pledged allegiance — at least in principle — in my all-white classroom those many years ago.

Wayne Peal is editor of the Southfield Eccentric. You can contact him at wpeal@hometownlife.com.

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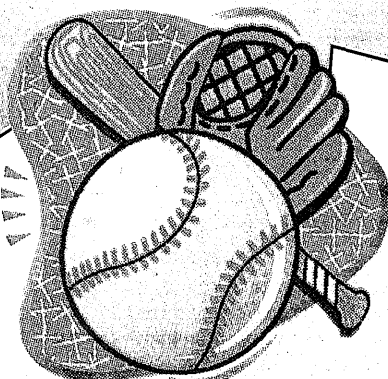
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2008 OHL Playoffs: Plymouth vs. Kitchener

Rangers seize commanding 3-0 advantage

BY ED WRIGHT
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

By the time you read this article, the Plymouth Whalers have either: A) set the groundwork for a dramatic comeback in their Ontario Hockey League first-round playoff series against Kitchener; or B) unlaced their skates for the last time until training camp in August.

Heading into Wednesday night's Game 4 at Compuware Arena, the Whalers' backs were against the proverbial boards as they trailed 3-0 in the best-of-seven series against the No. 1-seeded Rangers. (Wednesday night's results can be found on www.hometownlife.com.)

If a Game 5 is necessary, it will unfold Friday beginning at 7:30 p.m. in Kitchener. Game 6 — again, if necessary — would be played at Compuware Arena on Saturday with a 7:05 p.m. start.

A climactic Game 7 would be played Monday on the Rangers' home ice.

Last Monday before 5,659 at the Kitchener Memorial Auditorium, the Whalers dropped a 7-3 decision to the Rangers as Matt Halischuk tallied two goals — his fourth and fifth of the series — for the winners.

The Rangers surged to a 2-0 first-period lead on goals from Mike Duco and Mikkel Boedker, and never looked back to secure a 3-0 series advantage.

Kitchener led 4-2 after 40 minutes.

Chris Terry paced the locals' offensive attack with a pair of goals. The high-scoring center also assisted on Joe McCann's second-period net-finder.

Nazem Kadri, Justin Azevedo and Mike Mascioli found the back of the net for the Rangers, who received solid goal-tending from Josh Unice, who stopped 20 of the 23 shots he faced.

Jeremy Smith made 25 saves for the Whalers.

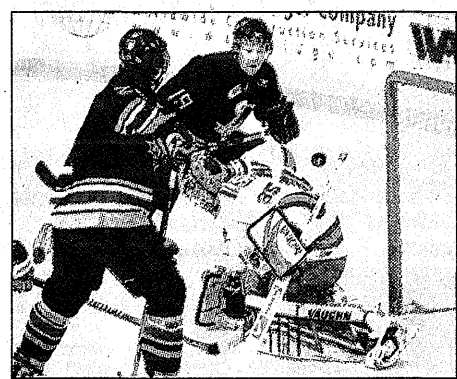
On Saturday in Plymouth, Kitchener prevailed 6-4, in a game that was highlighted by missed opportunities by the Whalers.

Plymouth failed to capitalize on a pair of golden second-period scoring chances — a two-minute, two-man advantage situation and a penalty shot — that ultimately led to the two-goal defeat.

The Whalers outshot their foes 40-38, making it just the fifth time all season the Rangers had been outshot.

Terry gave the hosts a 1-0 lead 8:14 into the contest off assists from Andrew Fournier and Jozef Sladok.

Please see **WHALERS, B3**



WALT DMOCH

Plymouth Whalers forwards A.J. Jenks (foreground) and Patrick Lee fail to slip the puck past Kitchener goalie Steve Mason during Saturday's 6-4 Ranger win at Compuware Arena.



NATALIE SHAVER

Plymouth Whalers center Chris Terry visited 16-year-old Redford Township resident Bobby Suvoy just a few hours before the team's March 15 home game against Sarnia. Suvoy was originally scheduled to attend the game with several family members and friends, but worsening affects of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis prevented the trip to Plymouth.

ONE COOL ASSIST

Whalers' Terry brightens the life of seriously ill Redford teenager

BY ED WRIGHT
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER



Plymouth Whaler Chris Terry on the ice.

THE BOOK ON TERRY

Name: Chris Terry;
Age: 18;
Hometown: Brampton, Ontario;
Drafted by Whalers: second round (29th overall) of the 2005 OHL draft;
Drafted into NHL: fifth round (132nd overall) by Carolina in 2007 draft;
Accomplishments: The 5-10, 187-pound center registered a team-high 101 points (44 goals and 57 assists) during the '07-08 regular season, which ranked him sixth in the entire Ontario Hockey League;
Favorite hockey movie: "Mystery, Alaska";
Who inspires him?: "My parents, definitely. My dad was a very good hockey player growing up. He was drafted into the CHL, but couldn't play. My parents have helped me every step along the way."
Most memorable moment with Whalers: "Winning the OHL title last year. It was a phenomenal feeling, the way everybody on the team came together for one goal."

more — Terry's or Suvoy's.

"I can't say enough nice things about what Chris did that day and what he's done for my son since," said Bob Suvoy, Bobby's dad. "Bobby was smiling the entire time Chris was there and he was smiling long after he left."

"Even though Chris had a game later that day, he stayed for more than an hour to visit with Bobby. Since then, he's given out shouts to Bobby when he's been interviewed on TV during and after games. I'll tell you what, it brings tears to my eyes thinking about it."

Two-way inspiration

Terry, the Ontario Hockey League's sixth-leading scorer during the regular season (101 points), said the visit was a life-changing experience for him.

During the meeting in Suvoy's sports-themed bedroom, Terry pledged to try to score a goal for Bobby and — for further inspiration — he wrote the following phrase on the stick he used that night: "Do it 4 Bobby."

"Meeting Bobby helped show me how valuable life is and how we should cherish it," said Terry. "It helped me realize how good I have it and how fast things can change."

Please see **TERRY, B3**

Emotional meeting

When the Whalers' No. 1 scorer met his No. 1 fan that afternoon, it was difficult to say whose life was enriched

Up, up and a-Waid

Ex-Chief Waidmann making big strides in decathlon at EMU

BY ED WRIGHT
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER



EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

Canton graduate Brad Waidmann has worked his way into becoming a top-flight decathlete at Eastern Michigan University. A senior, Waidmann tied for first at the Mid-American Conference indoor championships in February.

If you placed the tools of Brad Waidmann's athletic trade at the feet of someone ignorant to the sport of collegiate track and field, they'd probably guess they were the instruments of a mighty warrior.

In Waidmann's case, that presumption wouldn't be far from the truth.

Armed with a spear-like

javelin, a 16-pound metal ball (for the shot put), an air-slicing discus and a set of muscles that can run and throw far and fast, the former multi-sport star at Canton High School and current Eastern Michigan University senior is one of the Mid-American Conference's top performers in the decathlon, a 10-event competition that requires a warrior-like body and mindset.

The decathlon menu consists

of a 1,500-meter run, discus, shot put, pole vault, long jump, high jump, javelin, 110 hurdles, 400-meter run and 100-meter dash.

Earlier this month, Waidmann tied for first in the heptathlon at the MAC Indoor Championships at EMU. Even though the heptathlon is a scaled-down version of the decathlon — it consists of seven events, not 10 — the show-

Please see **Waidmann, B3**

Sidelines

Plymouth Wildcat baseball camp

The Plymouth High School baseball team will be hosting its annual Spring Training Baseball Camp Saturday, April 26, from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the school's baseball complex.

The camp is open to the first 100 kids in grades third through eighth that register. The fee is \$50, which includes a camp T-shirt and lunch.

The camp is designed for aspiring young players who are looking to improve their skills for the 2008 season and beyond. It will focus on age-appropriate skill development in a positive, fun and learning environment.

Camp attendees will receive instruction from the Plymouth coaching staff and players.

Among the topics covered will be mental preparation and plate discipline; base running; and infield and outfield play.

There will also be controlled scrimmage games.

For more information, call John Nadratowski at (734) 844-3212.

PCS Lacrosse

Face-Off Classic

The inaugural Plymouth-Canton-Salem Face-Off Lacrosse Classic will be held Saturday at the PCEP varsity stadium. Competing in the scrimmage will be Salem, Canton, Plymouth, Grosse Ile, Holland and Vicksburg.

Games are set to begin at 9 a.m. and will run until 2 p.m.

Admission is free.

Bridges saluted

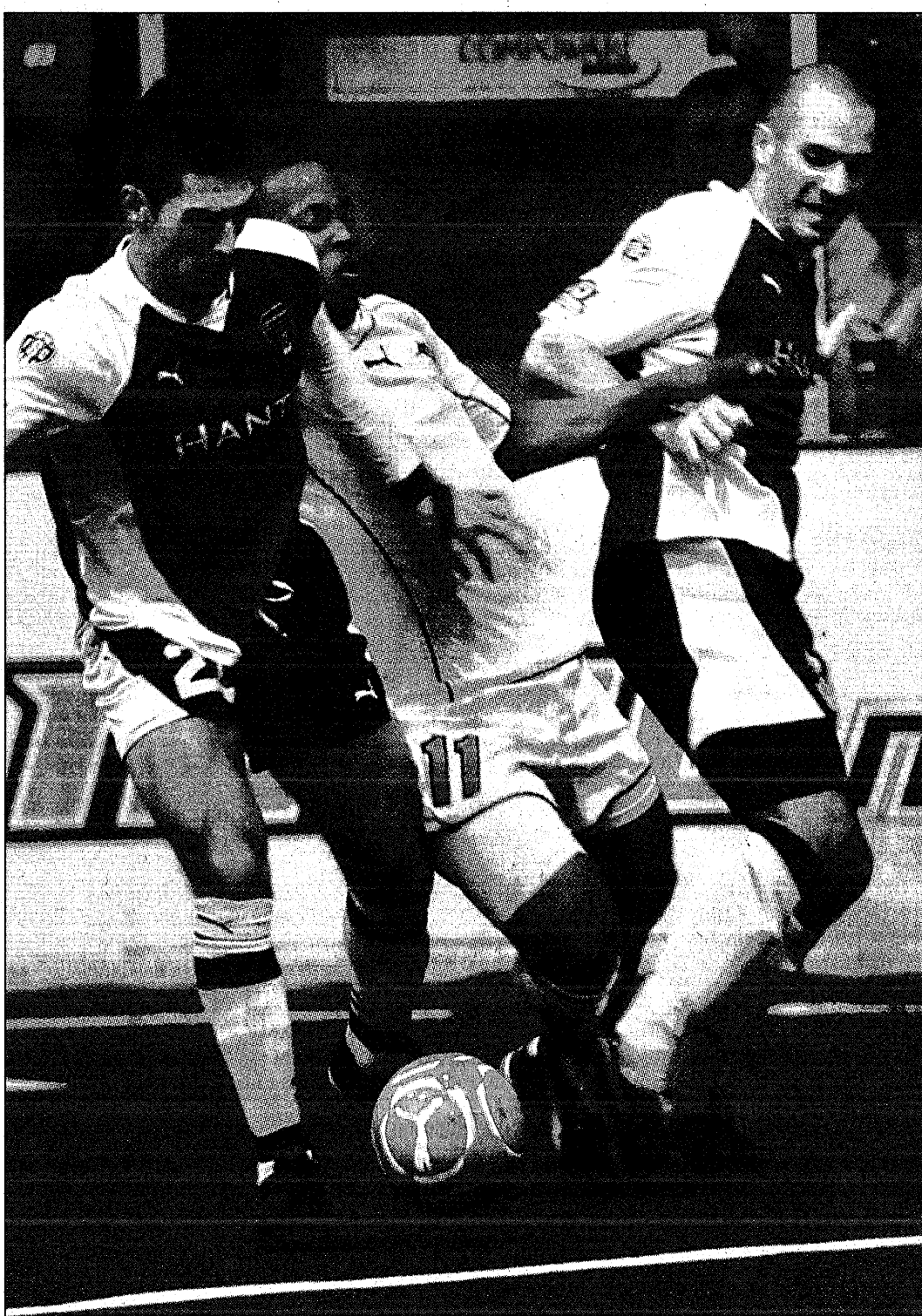
Madonna University senior forward D.J. Bridges (Canton High) recently earned 2008 National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) honorable mention All-America honors in men's basketball.

The 6-foot-3 Bridges, who averaged 18.9 points and 6.9 rebounds per game, was named to the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference's first-team.

He saved his best game for last, setting a new career-high with 36 points in a late-season game against Cornerstone.

Bridges ended his career in the top five all-time at MU in scoring, rebounds and blocked shots.

The Crusaders wrapped up the best season in school history, posting a 19-13 record, their first winning season in the program history. MU also set a new benchmark for WHAC wins with 10.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Detroit Ignition players Jonathan Greenfield (left) and Ze Roberto (right), pictured in a game earlier this season, both played key roles in the team's impressive 29-12 victory over California Saturday night.

Ignition sets record over Cougars

Unlike the weather, the Detroit Ignition is heating up.

The second-year Major Indoor Soccer League squad netted a franchise-record number of goals in its 29-12 triumph over California Saturday night.

The Ignition's seventh-straight victory improved

its record to 19-7 while the Cougars slipped to 9-18.

Defending league scoring titleist Jamar Beasley ignited the goal-rush with a two-point-er 17 seconds after the opening kick. It was the slick-dribbling Beasley's first of five net-finders.

Detroit rookie Leo Gibson

scored a pair of goals in the first quarter to help give his team a 9-2 edge after the opening 15 minutes.

Detroit led 21-8 at the intermission on a Jonathan Greenfield goal.

The Ignition will host the New Jersey Ironmen (13-14) on Friday at Compuware Arena.



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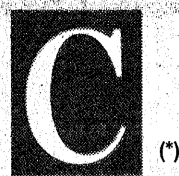
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Local Habitat volunteers head to Gulf Coast

BY JULIE BROWN
 O&E STAFF WRITER

Come May, local Habitat for Humanity volunteers will travel to the Gulf Coast to work on areas ravaged by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

"We have 50 people going," said Sally LePla, executive director of Habitat for Humanity of Oakland County, based in Pontiac. "It's amazing. People are paying their own way."

The build, May 11-16, follows a trip the Oakland volunteers took just after the hurricanes struck to Bay St. Louis, Miss., and subsequent visits to work on housing.

"It was pretty much destroyed," Rochester Hills resident LePla said of the area they visited.

For the 25th year, former U.S. President Jimmy Carter and his wife, Rosalynn, will call attention to both the need for affordable housing and Habitat for Humanity's work to help low-income families realize the goal of homeownership.

"While great strides have been made in the recovery efforts since Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, the work is far from over," said President Carter in a statement. "Along with the thousands of wonderful volunteers, Rosalynn and I look forward to creating not only new houses, but new awareness about the dire need for affordable housing in the Gulf."

Biloxi and Pascagoula, Miss., still recovering from the devastating 2005 hurricane season, will serve as host cities for the build. Volunteers will help construct and rehabilitate 60 houses and frame up to 48 more in the two cities. Houses also will be built and repaired by volunteers in Gulf Coast communities in Louisiana, Mississippi, Texas and Alabama.

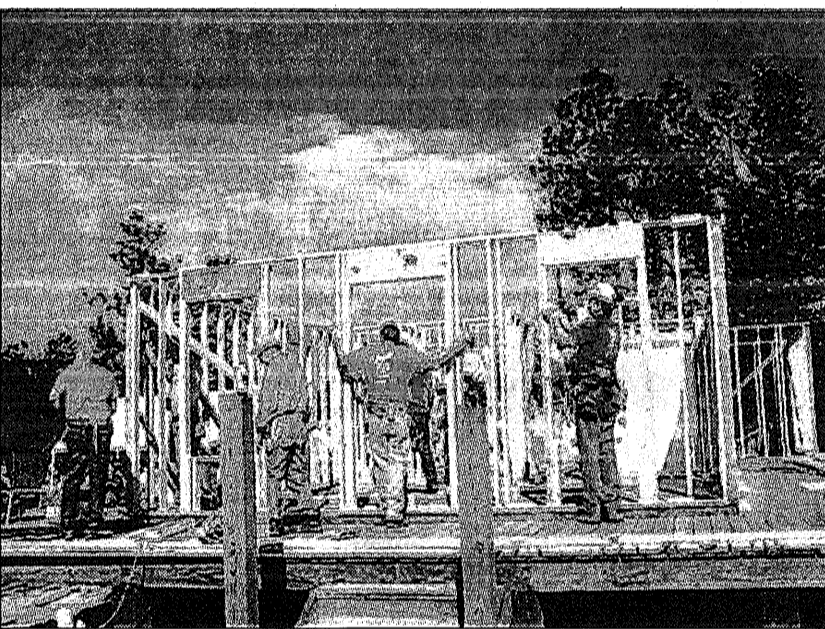
The kickoff will be May 11, LePla said, with home dedication on May 16. "It's an amazing, amazing thing," she said.

LePla will go to Mississippi with the group. She noted the Carters have usually alternated between international and U.S. projects (Los Angeles was last year), but chose to continue with a U.S. effort this year due to the Gulf Coast's great needs. "They are doing the Gulf region that was devastated by the storm," LePla said, adding many local volunteers are using vacation time, paying their own way "and spend that week building."

"We have an incredible volunteer cadre," the Oakland County director said. "They are the ones who raise the walls and raise the tresses.



Ute Brantsch of Detroit, Pat Palmer of Grand Blanc and Mimi Zwolak of Rochester Hills were among those on last year's Habitat trip to Mississippi.



Local volunteers raise walls during a Habitat trip to Mississippi last year.

"Michigan has a high level of giving hearts," LePla added. There will be volunteers from Macomb and Detroit Habitat going as well; local volunteers have worked extensively

in the Gulf region, but this is the first time for the Carter partnership. Gretchen Hurlbert of Lake Angelus is volunteer coordinator for the Mississippi recovery, and can be

reached at ms@habitatoakland.org. LePla's e-mail is director@habitatoakland.org. The Web site for the Oakland County affiliate is www.habitatoakland.org and the phone is (248) 338-1843.

The local group will go to Hancock County in Mississippi, said Hurlbert, a former teacher who's a retiree like her husband. The local volunteers will likely build two houses, the total group 10 in May. The volunteer spots are filled for the May trip, but another build with local volunteers is planned for November 2008, and those interested should contact Hurlbert via e-mail.

"I would say talk to anybody who's been there," Hurlbert said. "They will convince you" to go.

"It's such a huge event we were able to expand it," said Hurlbert, who's taking her fifth trip to the Gulf Coast with Habitat since the hurricanes hit. "There's still so much need in the Gulf Coast." She and LePla agreed the Carters are helping to draw attention to the region, which some

Please see HABITAT, C4

Check on giving deed in lieu of foreclosure

Q. We are in the process of defaulting on our construction mortgage. We plan to give the bank our deed in lieu of foreclosure. The bank, however, has an interest reserve account and I am wondering if they can assert any claims on that.

A. In a similar case in Illinois, when the owners defaulted on a construction mortgage and then gave a deed in lieu of foreclosure to the bank, when they subsequently tried to close the account, the bank asserted a right of setoff on the grounds that the construction loan had not been satisfied in full.

In Illinois, the deed in lieu of foreclosure statute provides "acceptance of a deed in lieu of foreclosure shall relieve from personal liability all persons who may owe payment or the performance of other obligations secured by the mortgage ..." The court held that the statute would have prevented the bank from suing for a deficiency judgment on the debt, but the court interpreted it as not precluding the bank from exercising its setoff right. In that case the parties had entered into a written deed in lieu of foreclosure agreement, in which the bank was to "have no further recourse towards borrowers with regard" to the note and mortgage. The court considered this language to be ambiguous but held that this language, like the statute, did not bar setoff. In short, you should check with a knowledgeable real estate attorney regarding the ramifications of your giving a deed in lieu of foreclosure to close all loopholes.

Q. A number of years ago a water pipe broke, flooding our residence. We hired a contractor, who made substantial repairs and replacements, which did not include mold remediation. We are now in the process of selling our home and must deliver to the buyer a disclosure form. Should we mention the water damage?

A. In a case based on similar facts, a subsequent buyer discovered mold. The Supreme Court of Nevada held that the statute does not require a seller to disclose a defect in residential property of which it is not aware. In that case, the seller was aware that the house once had water damage, but was not aware of the presence of mold at the time of the sale. That case illustrates why a seller's disclosure form is not a substitute for a thorough property inspection conducted by a qualified firm, which does not limit its liability to the amount that you pay for the inspection.

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

HOMES SOLD

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of Dec. 3-7, 2007, at the Wayne County Register of Deeds office, plus some from Oakland County. Listed below are cities, addresses and sales prices.

Canton	
2344 Amber Dr	\$192,000
50520 Amberley Blvd	\$305,000
2322 Arcadia Dr	\$143,000
4214 Berkeley Ave	\$110,000
49958 Black Horse Ln	\$330,000
8388 Chatham Dr	\$647,000
4016 Cornerstone Dr	\$46,000
382 Country Club Ct	\$378,000
41894 Coventry Way	\$150,000
44223 Cranberry Dr	\$195,000
3890 Elizabeth Ave	\$128,000
1398 Elmhurst St	\$128,000
1724 Emerald Pines Dr	\$330,000
44534 Forest Trail Dr	\$175,000
6944 Foxthorn Dr	\$98,000
48776 Greenwich Cir	\$335,000
42375 Hystone St	\$174,000
43646 Lombardy Dr	\$175,000
1550 Morrison Blvd	\$170,000
41056 Northwind Dr	\$109,000
1230 Old Colony Ln	\$312,000
318 River Meadow Cir	\$222,000
1869 Vanderbilt Rd	\$263,000

Farmington	
1921 Vanderbilt Rd	\$184,000
1947 Vanderbilt Rd	\$194,000
1816 Wentworth Dr	\$270,000
31831 Grand River Ave	\$34,000
32718 Grand River Ave	\$60,000
36566 Saxony Rd	\$191,000

Farmington Hills	
27900 Berrywood Ln	\$81,000
24267 El Marco Dr	\$195,000
28108 Harwich Dr	\$267,000

Garden City	
28802 Elmwood St	\$98,000
32115 Hennepin St	\$73,000
31766 James St	\$68,000
32326 Rosslyn Ave	\$129,000
28840 Rush St	\$117,000

Livonia	
18807 Arleen Ct	\$265,000
20238 Brentwood St	\$90,000
32987 Brookside Cir	\$240,000
20626 Golf Ridge Cir	\$325,000
34425 Grove Dr	\$190,000
11807 Hunters Park Ct	\$90,000
14628 Ingram St	\$156,000
37203 Ladywood St	\$223,000
39348 Lyndon St	\$172,000
32314 Maryland St	\$120,000
11975 Merriman Rd	\$160,000
15939 Middlebelt Rd	\$160,000
28473 N Clements Cir	\$151,000
29854 Oakley St	\$169,000
20133 Osmus St	\$240,000
29275 Pickford St	\$143,000

Milford	
615 E Buno Rd	\$335,000
2775 Tall Timbers Dr	\$670,000

Northville	
16460 Brook Trout Ln	\$234,000
16477 Brook Trout Ln	\$224,000
49186 Freestone Dr	\$129,000
19709 Hayes Ct	\$125,000
21332 Lujan Dr	\$280,000
990 McDonald Dr	\$565,000
16035 Morningside	\$139,000
51101 Park Place Dr	\$450,000
17998 Ridgeview Dr	\$760,000
49010 Running Trout Ln	\$129,000
19903 Schoolhouse Ct	\$120,000
16811 Yellowstone Dr	\$134,000
16859 Yellowstone Dr	\$129,000

Novi	
45231 Bartlett Dr	\$139,000
1203 E Lake Rd	\$665,000
27973 Hopkins Dr	\$140,000
51255 Luke Ln	\$370,000
27098 Maxwell Ct	\$349,000
25583 Portico Ln	\$180,000
47106 Scarlet Dr S	\$244,000
30218 Viewcrest	\$254,000

Redford	
741 Ann St	\$165,000
575 Auburn St	\$175,000
1298 Beech St	\$220,000
9241 Caprice Dr	\$170,000
1233 Carol Ave	\$208,000
853 Church St	\$600,000
42480 Clemons Dr	\$372,000
9116 Countrywood Dr	\$330,000
230 Garling Dr	\$123,000
45572 N Turtlehead Ct	\$255,000
49730 Plymouth Way	\$145,000
1168 Sutherland Ln	\$205,000
50467 Waterstone Ct	\$325,000

South Lyon	
9570 Berwyn	\$105,000
17729 Fox	\$122,000
19404 Poinciana	\$113,000
15647 Ryland	\$148,000

Westland	
57797 International Dr	\$384,000
58043 International Dr	\$240,000
25650 McCrory Ln	\$276,000
26241 Shumans Way	\$342,000

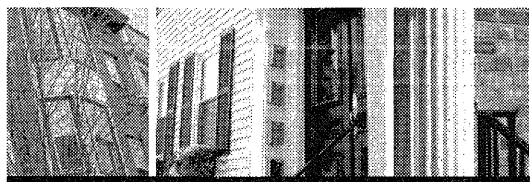


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REDFORD - 2 bdrm, 1 bath, bsmt, appliances, great cond. No pets. \$750, \$800 w/ gar. Sec 8 OK. (248) 773-1117

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This is the Habitat house in Mississippi the Oakland volunteers built last year in five days.

HABITAT

FROM PAGE C1

have forgotten.

Hurlbert considers herself fortunate to be able to volunteer: "They're the nicest, most unassuming people in the world," she said of home recipients...

Local Habitat affiliates of Oakland, Macomb and Detroit jointly held a fund raising concert at The Palace in December 2005, with help of the Detroit Pistons. In sub-freezing temperatures, volunteers stick built a house in the parking lot of The Palace...

Since then, the Oakland Habitat group has maintained a partnership with the group in Bay St. Louis, Miss. That affiliate didn't exist before Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

Hurricanes Katrina and Rita destroyed or damaged more than half a million houses along the Gulf Coast. According to a 2007 RAND Corp. study, 60 percent of all houses in Harrison County, Miss., which includes Biloxi, were damaged.

In 2008, the annual, weeklong event was renamed the Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter Work Project to recognize the former first lady's years of dedicated service to help raise awareness and provide simple, decent and affordable housing in partnership with families in need.

To date, Habitat for Humanity's Gulf Coast Recovery program has completed or begun construction on more than 1,300 houses. In addition to building homes, Habitat also is working to serve as a catalyst, bringing together organizations to address low-income housing and recovery on a scale that Habitat alone would not be able to accomplish.

LePla came from a corporate background, and is glad she made the switch to nonprofit work. "I love it out here and I'm a few minutes from work that way," she said of her move into Rochester Hills.

Hurlbert has worked on a couple dozen homes in the Pontiac area, and jokes she has "Habitatus maximitis," not curable or fatal. "We can always use volunteers in Pontiac," she added of those not traveling to Mississippi.

The Habitat for Humanity Web sites contributed to this report.

BIA

Building Industry Association of Southeastern Michigan (BIA) and its NAHBR Professional Remodelers will present the ABCs of Remodeling for all interested homeowners. The event will take place at Doyle Center, 7275 Wing Lake Road in Bloomfield Hills on Tuesday, April 1, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. and is free to everyone.

Homeowners will have an opportunity to speak directly with remodelers and to providers of related services. A panel of experts will discuss what homeowners need to know about major and minor remodeling for improvement projects such as kitchens and baths, home additions and insurance repairs.

The panel of experts includes Mark Renn of H.J. Oldenkamp, John Maloney of BOA Construction, Don Pratt of Wake-Pratt Construction, Patty Shea of Shea Company Construction, Tim Smith of Countrywide Bank, FSB, Mike Gordon, A.I.A., of Moiseev/Gordon Architects and Don Bourdeau of Al Bourdeau Insurance.

Each expert is a member of BIA and its NAHBR Professional Remodelers Council.

Exhibitors will be on hand to show their remodeling products and services, including Advance Plumbing & Heating Supply, Affordable Spaces/Four Seasons, Andersen Windows, Carnovale Associates, Closets Plus, Inc., Hinkson Construction Co., Michigan Shelf Distributors, Newmyer Remodeling and Shea Company Construction.

The event is free to everyone. For further information, call the Association, (248) 862-1008.

Building Industry Association of Southeastern Michigan (BIA) and Construction Association of Michigan (CAM) present The Southeast Michigan Residential & Commercial Construction Safety Training Workshop on Thursday, April 3, from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Total Sports Complex, 30990 Wixom Road in Wixom. The seminar will include how to deal with fall protection, trenching, rigging, masonry, aerial lift, fire protec-

tion, scaffolding, asbestos awareness and more.

Registration is \$75 per person. After March 25, registration is payable at the door only and is \$90 per person. To register, call Joe Forgue at (248) 972-1141 or Sheila Denstaedt at (248) 862-1033. To register online, visit www.cam-online.com or www.builders.org

Building Industry Association of Southeastern Michigan (BIA) presents Green Built Training on Wednesday, April 9, from 9-10:30 a.m. at 879 Benjamin, Troy. This house built by Wake-Pratt Construction is on the east side of Crooks Road, north of Square Lake Road.

In this first of five trainings, Chris Pratt of Wake-Pratt Construction discusses the technical and sales aspects of Building Green using materials and methods that result in Green Built® certification. Building Green offers a change from selling cost per square foot to making an environmental statement.

The training is free for BIA members. Advance registration is required. For registration information, call (248) 862-1008.

Building Industry Association of Southeastern Michigan (BIA) will sponsor a Certified Graduate "Design Build" course on Tuesday, April 15, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at BIA headquarters, 30375 Northwestern Highway, Suite 100, in Farmington Hills.

Chuck Breidenstein, CAPS of Builders Professional Services Group, will teach techniques that lead to a well managed, full service building or remodeling business with increased profits and maximized customer satisfaction. He will also discuss the benefits of implementing a design/build strategy and how to make it successful.

Registration fees are \$155 for NAHBR Professional Remodeler members, \$175 for BIA members and \$200 for guests. For registration information, call (248) 862-1033.

Building Industry Association of Southeastern Michigan (BIA) and its Sales & Marketing Council (SMC) will present "Selling to the CAPS Generation, the New Gen X" (Certified Aging-In-Place) on Wednesday, April 16, from 8:30-10:30 a.m. at BIA headquarters, 30375 Northwestern Highway, Suite 100 in Farmington Hills.

Chuck Breidenstein,

BRIEFS

CAPS, of Builders Professional Services Group, will instruct attendees on how to communicate and interact with this exciting and evolving population and how to do business with one of the fastest growing market segments. Registration fees are \$15 for SMC members, \$25 for BIA or Apartment Association of Michigan members and \$50 for guests. For registration information, call (248) 862-1033.

Building Industry Association of Southeastern Michigan (BIA) will sponsor a builder's license preparation course on Friday, April 18, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at BIA headquarters, 30375 Northwestern Highway, Suite 100, in Farmington Hills.

Presented by NCI Associates, the course is designed to prepare students for the Michigan Residential Builder's License Examination. Material covered will include topics on the exam, laws and rules, building practices and procedures, sample test questions and test-taking strategies.

Registration fees are \$200 per person. For registration information, call (248) 862-1033.

Building Industry Association of Southeastern Michigan (BIA) will sponsor a lien law seminar on Wednesday, April 30, from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at BIA headquarters, 30375 Northwestern Highway, Suite 100, in Farmington Hills.

Marty Burnstein, of the Law Offices of Marty Burnstein, will discuss "What's New in Michigan Construction Lien Law and Lien Procedures." Registration fees are \$75 for BIA members and \$125 for guests. For registration information, call (248) 862-1003.

Apartment Association of Michigan's (AAM) Property Management Council (PMC) will sponsor a professional maintenance course on "Pool Chemistry and Maintenance" on Thursday, April 17, from 8 a.m. to noon at Wilmar Offices, 23975 Research Drive, Farmington Hills.

Wilmar staff will instruct attendees in several aspects of proper pool chemistry, filtration, circulation, routine cleaning, daily testing and chemical maintenance. Registration fees are \$45 per person. For registration information, call (248) 862-1033.

Apartment Association of Michigan's (AAM)

Property Management Council (PMC) will sponsor a "Leasing 101: The 2008 Tour" seminar on Friday, April 25, from 9 a.m. to noon at AAM headquarters, 30375 Northwestern Highway, Suite 100, in Farmington Hills.

Led by Kathleen Mabie of Success on Site, the seminar will cover competitive analysis of what is being sold, setting up the close, telephone techniques, Internet and e-mail and meet-greet information. The seminar is valuable for newly hired leasing personnel as well as seasoned ones.

Registration fees are \$69 for PMC members, \$79 for AAM or Building Industry Association of Southeastern Michigan members and \$99 for guests. For registration information, call (248) 862-1033.

'Tools of the Trade'

Real estate author, speaker and expert forecaster Stefan Swanepoel will present his visionary "Top 10 Trends" for 2008 as Realcomp II Ltd. hosts its annual "Tools of the Trade" Expo, Thursday April 10, from 9 a.m. to 3:35 p.m. at the Ford Conference and Event Center in Dearborn. Swanepoel will serve as the Expo's keynote speaker.

Free and open to all Michigan Realtors and support personnel, the all-day, Big Top-themed event will also feature presentations, technological displays and more than 50 exhibitors sharing industry innovations. A catered lunch will be served by Opus to Go.

"Each year, the Expo provides Michigan Realtors with a comprehensive forum for networking as well as discovering new resources and information designed to enhance their business and ability to serve their customers," said Karen Kage, CEO of Realcomp II Ltd. "As attendance for our event continues to grow, we are looking forward to more than 1,000 Realtors joining us this year. 'Tools of the Trade,' we are quite happy to say, has truly become one of Michigan real estate's most anticipated events."

To register for the Expo or to obtain more information, visit online at: www.RealcompExpo.com.

Broker Summit

The Michigan Association of Realtors will host its sixth annual Broker Summit Conference on April 15-16. The event will be held at the Hyatt Regency in Dearborn.

The 2008 Broker Summit will feature industry speaker Dr. Lawrence Yun, chief economist and senior vice president of Research for the National Association of Realtors.

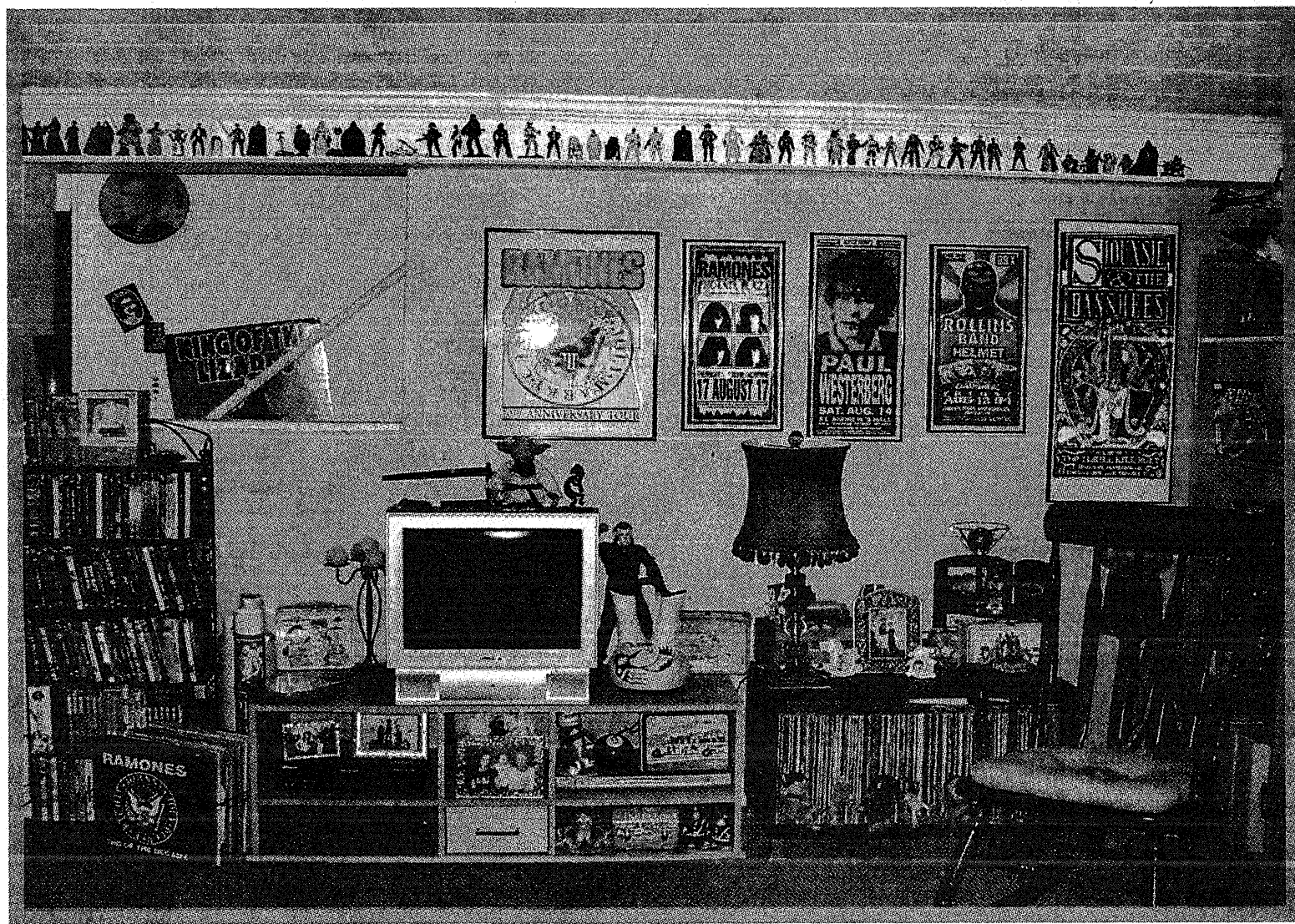
Also highlighting the event will be John Tucillo, author of The Eight New Rules of Real Estate; Sherry Chris, president and CEO of Better Homes and Gardens Real Estate; Steve Harney, industry leader in real estate agent training; Greg McClelland, counsel to the Michigan Association of Realtors; Kelly Myers, of McClelland & Anderson, LLP; Nancy Haynes, director of Fair Housing Center of West Michigan; and Brian Westrin, MAR manager of Legal Affairs. An expert legal panel and MAR update are also scheduled. For more information, visit the MAR Web site at http://www.mirealtors.com/brokersummit/2008.



Table with columns: THE OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC MORTGAGE MONITOR, 30 Yr. Pts., 15 Yr. Pts., Other. Lists mortgage providers and their rates.

Northern Properties Look Here First! Primary Residence... Building Site... Summer Home or Hunting Property... WATERFRONT PROPERTY... OSCODA TAWAS AREA... An Active Community - 55 & up Retirement, Year round living Vacation Home or Summer Home

ACCENTS



Creative space

Busy parents turn basement into their fun place

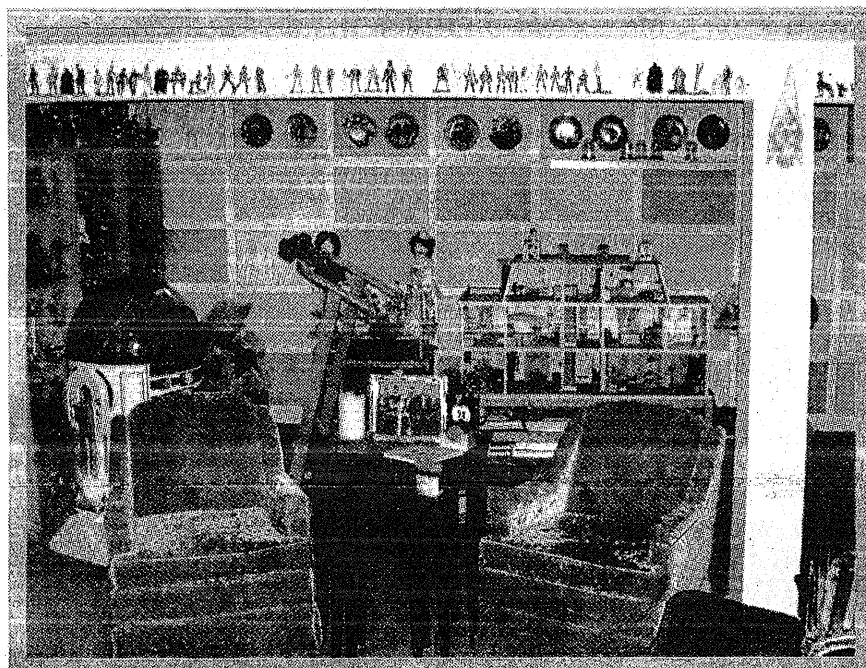
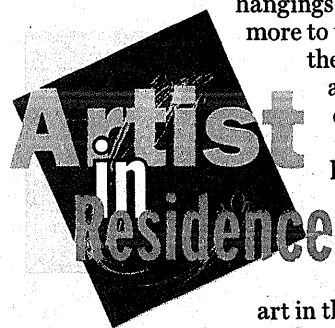
BY LANA MINI
O&E STAFF WRITER

The decor on the main level of Mike and Heather Johnstone's home, for the most part, seems like your "normal" Plymouth suburban family house.

But look at a few of the wall hangings and realize, there's more to this family past their regular day jobs and raising two children.

Not every home has a Hammer Horror Dracula print hanging over the fireplace - or Mexican folk art in their bedroom celebrating the important Day of the Dead Mexican holiday.

"It's not until you get downstairs that you see who we really are," said



The lower level of Mike and Heather Johnstone's home brings guests into a completely different world. On top, from Paul Westerberg posters to a Sesame Street lunchbox - the basement is about fun. Above, color is as important as the collection.

Heather Johnstone.

The lower level of the home brings guests into a completely different world that's all about fun - cartoons, film, music and comic book collectibles. It's not just what they have, it's how they display it that shows their creativity.

Lined perfectly along the perimeter of the room and on shelves are countless miniature comic and movie figurines collected over the years from *Spider-Man*, *Star Wars*, *Planet of the Apes* and more.

The walls are bright pink and green in some areas, and squares of orange and golds in others. Hand painted chairs, paper Oriental lights, a collection of Pez dispensers... gazing at the

collection seems endless.

His favorite items are anything from *Star Wars*. "We wanted a room that was fun to hang out in and a place where we could keep all of the toys and other fun things that we had," Heather said.

Mike Johnstone is in retail management, Heather's career is in purchasing and direct marketing. Together they're raising their kids and with the little spare time they have, they try to use their creative skills to transform their basement into something that represents their personalities. He loves music, film and toy collectibles. She loves music, dancing, sewing and art

Please see **SPACE, D2**

POOL AND SPA SHOW

Homeowners who want to purchase a pool, spa or hot tub can check out the Novi Backyard, Pool & Spa Show March 28 - 30 at the Rock Financial Showplace in Novi.

Hot tubs made in Michigan from standard to luxury styles complete with waterfalls and foot and neck jets will be on display. Vendors who carry vinyl pools in several sizes and colors and custom gunite, steel wall or fiberglass inground pools and spas will set up booths at the show. Some products offer solar powered lights and multiple water jets shooting to the center of pools along with music systems.

Patio furniture that can be customized with hundreds of fabrics, finishes, sizes and models will be on display.

The show is sponsored by the Michigan Pool & Spa Association, member of the Association of Pool & Spa Professionals. Rock Financial Showplace is located on Grand River Avenue between Novi and Beck Road in Novi. Show hours are from 3 - 9:30 p.m. Friday; 11 a.m. - 9:30 p.m. Saturday and 11 a.m. - 6 p.m. Sunday. Admission is \$8. For more information, visit www.NoviPoolShow.com or call (800) 328-6550.

HEALTHY LAWN CARE

Do you have questions about lawn maintenance? Learn about proper care from Gary Eichen, turfgrass specialist, who discusses mowing, fertilizing, watering, and weed management with the environment in mind. The session is free and begins at 7 p.m. tonight at Oak Park City Hall, 13600 Oak Park Blvd. Call (248) 288-5150 or e-mail LFDean@aol.com to register in advance. The event is sponsored by Southeastern Oakland County Water Authority for the Clinton River Watershed.

PASSION FOR SPRING

Spring will be in full bloom through March 31 in the Conservatory at Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Road, Ann Arbor. In the lobby, visitors can view displays created by Runciman Landscapes and receive a coupon for 10 free tulip bulbs from Downtown Home & Garden. The gardens are open daily, except Mondays, 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m. \$3 is the suggested admission, but free for Matthaei Botanical Garden members.

DESIGNING TABLE

Ginny Newman, master flower show judge, will demonstrate how to design a functional table and an exhibition table at 7 p.m. April 1 at the monthly meeting of the Livonia Garden Club. The club meets at the Livonia Senior Center (Five Mile and Farmington roads). Visitors are welcome.

GO GREEN

A series of classes dedicated to the greening of America, issues and solutions for improving the environment, are scheduled as follows: Going Green, (native plants, water saving principles, lower pesticide use), 7:30-9 p.m. April 15 or 10-11:30 a.m. April 17; Landscaping for a Healthy River, 7-8 p.m. April 17; Nature Near You, 1-2:30 p.m. April 21; Spending Lean on Building Green, 7-9 p.m. April 23; Residential Rain Gardens, 7-8:30 p.m. May 1. Classes will be held at The Community House, 380 S. Bates, in Birmingham. Call (248) 644-5832 to register, or visit online at www.communityhouse.com.

Taste the bubbles in this popular Asian drink

BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA
O&E STAFF WRITER

Within minutes Margaret Yee can whip up a whimsical beverage that she claims is more popular among Asians than that ever-present cup of Starbucks coffee.

It's caffeinated and can be creamy or slushy, icy or steamy - all without an ounce of carbonation. Bubble tea is a Taiwanese beverage that often blends sweetened red tea and cream with chewy tapioca pearls. Fans know it's the sort of drink you also chew - and it requires an extra-wide straw.

Around since the '80s, it's most common to find bubble teas at Thai restaurants. Remy's Bangkok Cuisine in Royal Oak serves a host of such bubble beverages, from the original chilled variety to a smoothie to a bubble drink blended with ice. Flavors include Thai tea or coffee, fruity varieties like mango, strawberry, lychee or honey dew, and the even sweeter stuff from almond to chocolate, mocha to coconut.

But an extensive menu can be found at Kim's Restaurant in Troy, too. While it's rather unusual to find bubble tea at a

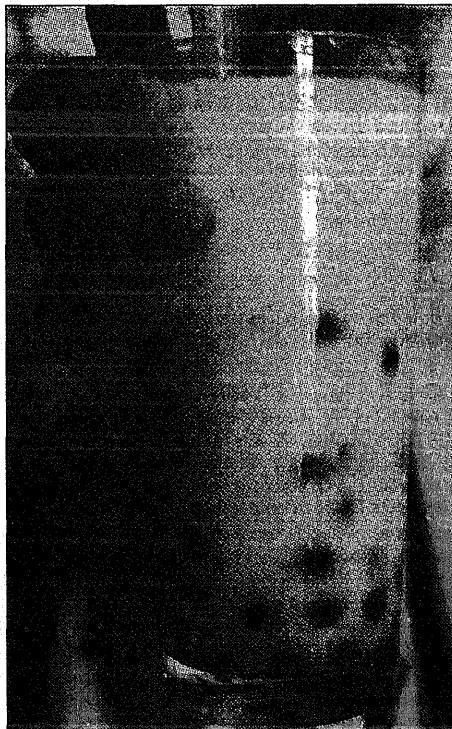
ORDER UP: WHERE TO FIND BUBBLE TEA

Kawaiian Café: Asian Village, 200 Renaissance Center. Call (313) 259-0025.
Kim's Restaurant: 102 E. Long Lake Rd, Troy. Call (248) 524-9207 or visit www.kimsrestaurant.com.
Remy's Bangkok Cuisine: 30923 Woodward Ave, Royal Oak. Call (248) 288-0002 or visit remysbangkokcuisines.com
Tiki Tea: Twelve Oaks Mall, 27500 Novi Road, Novi. Call (248) 348-9400.

traditional Chinese restaurant, this family-owned establishment started cooking up the tapioca treat more than a year ago. Yee said her customers at Kim's began inquiring about where to find bubble tea in the metro Detroit area. She researched recipes and makes a truly authentic Taiwanese variety right inside the eatery in Troy.

Customers can order bubble tea with a meal or just grab a quick drink to go. Kim's bubble teas come in traditional,

Please see **TEA, D2**



Cool off with a bubble drink, like this one made at Kim's Restaurant in Troy.

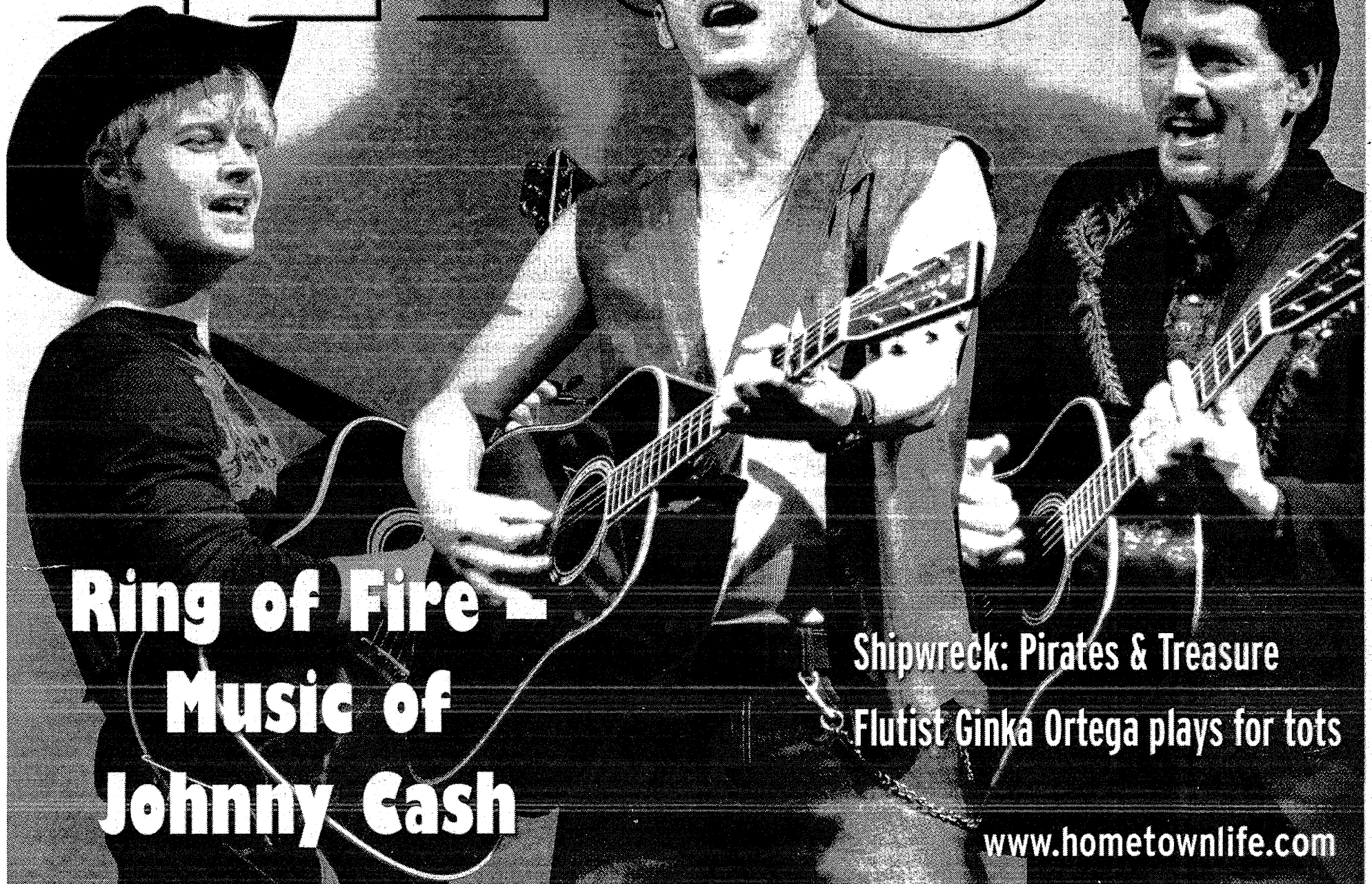
HONEYDEW GREEN BUBBLE TEA

1/2 to 1 cup tapioca pearls, cooked according to package directions and soaked in honey or sugar syrup for a few minutes
4 teaspoon Sencha green tea
1 1/2 cups water
2 tablespoon sugar
a few small slices of fresh ginger
2 cups fresh honeydew chunks

Bring water to a boil. Remove from heat and let sit for 2 minutes. Pour water over green tea. Steep for 3 minutes. Strain tea. Add ginger slices to tea. Dissolve sugar in tea. Chill. Remove ginger slices from tea. Place as many tapioca pearls as you like in the bottom of each glass. Put tea and honeydew into blender with some cracked ice (about six cubes) Blend until smooth. Pour into glasses. Insert wide straws. Makes 2 bubble teas. Recipe courtesy of bobafind.com

PURE ENTERTAINMENT!

Thursday, March 27, 2008



Ring of Fire
Music of
Johnny Cash

Shipwreck: Pirates & Treasure

Flutist Ginka Ortega plays for tots

www.hometownlife.com

Detroit Science Center calls all mateys to exhibit

BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA
O&E STAFF WRITER

Sink into the Detroit Science Center's latest exhibit and you'll find a combination of rich history, hands-on technology and deep sea adventure in the form of *Shipwreck! Pirates & Treasure*.

Making its Midwest traveling debut, the extensive exhibition comes courtesy of Odyssey Marine Exploration, a world leader in deep ocean shipwreck exploration. It centers on the 2003 discovery of the SS Republic, a ship ravaged by a hurricane near the coast of Georgia in the late 1800s.

Kelly Fulford, director of marketing for the Detroit Science Center, came across *Shipwreck!* when searching for a new traveling exhibit to bring to the science center. Originally housed in New Orleans, she said, it was meant to be a permanent attraction in Louisiana. Shortly after Hurricane Katrina hit the shores, plans changed and the exhibit was transported back near Odyssey headquarters in Tampa, Fla. where it was shown at the Museum of Science and Industry.

The educational aspect demonstrating the impressive technology used in recovering shipwreck treasures fits into the Detroit Science Center's mission, said Fulford. And she noted, there is something for everyone. "It depends on your interests."

Visitors will step over the bridge and weave through elaborate seafaring displays that feature more than 30 interactive activities and more than 300 authentic artifacts recovered from the sea.

An informational video introduces visitors to the technology used to locate sunken ships — even a century after the fateful voyage that sent the ship plummeting to the bottom of the ocean. The SS Republic, recovered from the Atlantic Ocean, gave way to actual treasure. Using a remote operated vehicle called Zeus, Odyssey officials were able to collect more than 50,000 gold and silver coins from the wreckage. And this exhibit allows visitors to see that treasure for themselves, as well as attempt to operate

a machine remotely to experience the challenges associated with marine archeology.

Two hurricane tubes recreate the experience of coping with the high winds of a natural disaster. Step inside and feel the wind advance to speeds exceeding 80 miles per hour. Step out with a completely new hair style.

Metro area residents who remember the *Titanic* exhibit hosted at the Detroit Science Center in 2003 will have a sense of some of the preserved artifacts. But *Shipwreck!* contains many more hands-on displays. Learn about the passengers who traveled on these ships. Choose an item on a wall full of glass bottles and seek it out on a nearby touch screen to learn more about it.

To augment the exhibit — and bring the reality of a shipwreck disaster rather close to home, the Detroit Science Center has compiled artifacts from the Great Lakes. Just before wandering into the official exhibit, visitors can peruse *Great Lakes Lost & Found*, containing items recovered following the wreck of the SS Edmund Fitzgerald in 1975 and the SS Regina in 1913. From original china to a perfectly preserved glass thermometer, the items provide a suitable precursor to the interactive displays and historical accounts found in *Shipwreck!*

"With Detroit's proximity to the Great Lakes and its history of shipwreck exploration, the city is the ideal location for an exhibit that explores deep ocean adventures and features treasures recovered in several of our marine archeological expeditions," said Greg Stemm, chairman and CEO of Odyssey.

Pirate fans can also get their fill. Storybook-like displays reveal details about such famous pirates as Edward "Blackbeard" Teach, and spooky glass cases show the dangerous fate that pirates would suffer once they were captured. Shake a box of treasure and guess what might be inside or marvel over the perfectly-preserved tea cups or silver serving spoons recovered from the SS Republic. It's a timeless exhibit suitable for all ages. And it runs through Sept. 1.



This angelic figurine is part of the Odyssey's exhibit.

SHIPWRECK: PIRATES & TREASURE

What: Go 1,700 feet below the surface of the Atlantic Ocean to the site of the SS Republic in this new exhibit.

When: Open now through Sept. 1.

Where: Detroit Science Center, 5020 John R. Street, Detroit

Tickets: \$13.95-\$15.95, call (313) 577-8400 or visit www.detroitsciencecenter.org.

Family

These bottles were recovered as part of the Civil War-era wreckage of the SS Republic. It's now part of the Detroit Science Center's newest exhibit.

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Special Offer: Buy 2 Adult tickets and receive 1 Youth ticket FREE when you turn in the Madeline Flyer (available at the Summit on the Park or Village Theater).

Kids, don't miss a special hat craft class from 10-11 am before the show!

No registration required...only \$5.00 at the door!

Adapted from the popular book by author Ludwig Bemelmans. • Sponsored by the Partnership for the Arts and Humanities and Canton Leisure Services.

Inside this week's

PURE ENTERTAINMENT
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Cash legend lives on stage

Ring of Fire honors the man in black

BY LANA MINI
O&E STAFF WRITER

The music of America's most beloved rebel, the man who lived his life on his terms, will be celebrated this week at The Palace of Auburn Hills.

The first national tour of Ring of Fire, the Music of Johnny Cash — is a Broadway hit featuring more than 30 of his most popular and favorite songs.

Stories of passion, redemption, humor and salvation set the stage ablaze in the musical production. Ring of Fire includes such hits as *I Walk the Line*, *Jackson, I've Been Everywhere*, *Folsom Prison Blues*, *A Boy Named Sue* and the title track *Ring of Fire*.

The performance is hailed by critics and Cash fans.

More than four years after his passing, Cash remains one of the most popular entertainers of all time with 10 Grammy Awards plus a Life Achievement; inductions into both the Country Music Hall of Fame and the Rock Music Hall of Fame and a Kennedy Center Honor.

He's had 48 singles on the Billboard Hot 100 Pop charts and more than 130 hits on the Billboard Country singles chart — more than anyone in history. Plus, his autobiography *Man in Black* has sold more than 1.5 million copies.

How well do you know the man in black? Take our quiz and see! (Answers listed below.)

1. Johnny Cash was born in:

- A. 1932
- B. 1947
- C. 1928
- D. 1931

2. He was raised in:

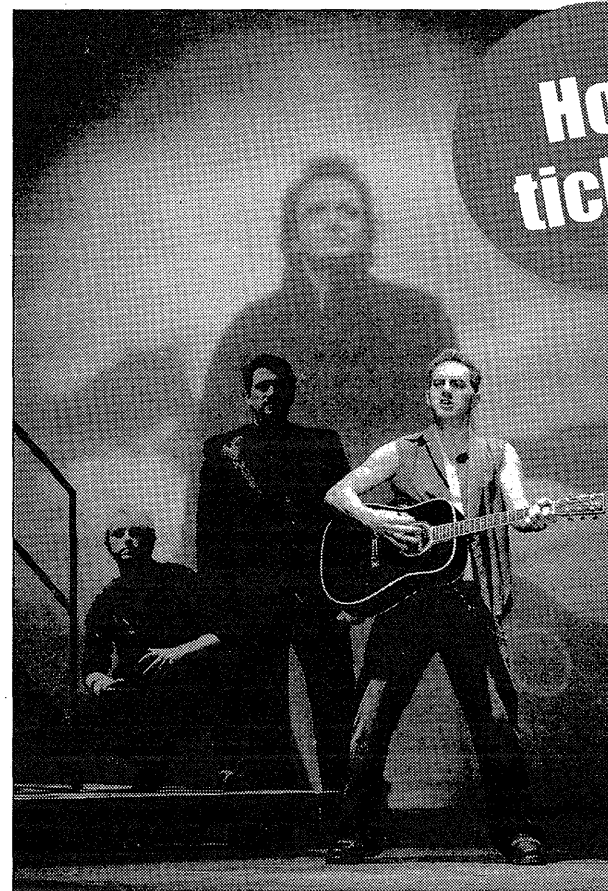
- A. Memphis, TN
- B. Detroit, MI
- C. Dyess, AK
- D. Des Moines, IA

3. Cash was good friends with:

- A. Charo
- B. Jimmy Carter
- C. Wayne Newton
- D. Liz Taylor

4. Cash's induction into the Country Music Hall of Fame is significant for many reasons including:

- A. He was the youngest singer to be inducted at age 48
- B. He was the oldest singer to be inducted at age 84



Hot ticket

Ring of Fire tells a story about Johnny Cash, through his own songs.

RING OF FIRE - THE MUSIC OF JOHNNY CASH

What: A Broadway hit featuring more than 30 of Johnny Cash's most popular and favorite songs

When: 4 p.m.

Sunday, March 30

Where: The Palace of Auburn Hills

Tickets: \$20-\$30

Get tickets:

www.palacenet.com or at the door

- C. He was never inducted
- D. He was severely wounded when kicked by an ostrich at his farm

5. Cash had the idea for mariachi-style horns in the hit song "Ring of Fire" because:

- A. His wife, June, loved mariachi
- B. It came to him in a dream
- C. The song was originally recorded in Spanish
- D. His mom never let him play a horn

6. Cash worked for two weeks at a plant in which Michigan city?

- A. Royal Oak
- B. Pontiac
- C. Westland
- D. Grosse Pointe

7. The last song he wrote was:

- A. *Like the 309*
- B. *Walk the Line*
- C. *Good Morning, Friend*
- D. *Jesus Was Our Saviour and Cotton Was Our King*

8. Cash recorded a cover album that included which song:

- A. *Personal Jesus*, by Depeche Mode
- B. *One*, by U2
- C. *Hurt*, by Nine Inch Nails
- D. All of the above

9. Cash was featured in commercials for which Michigan-connected company:

- A. GM

- B. Vernors
- C. Lionel Trains
- D. Stroh's Beer

10. Which punk band remade Ring of Fire:

- A. Sex Pistols
- B. Ramones
- C. Social Distortion
- D. The Germs

11. At the beginning of each concert, what did Cash say?

- A. Thank you, I love you
- B. You wanted the best and you've got the best
- C. I'm a cowboy, baby
- D. Hello, I'm Johnny Cash

12. How many times did Cash propose to June Carter before she accepted his hand in marriage?

- A. They never married
- B. She proposed to him
- C. Once
- D. More than 30

Answers:

- 1) A. 1932; 2) C. Dyess, Arkansas;
- 3) B. Jimmy Carter; 4) A. He was the youngest singer to be inducted at age 48, although he was kicked by an ostrich, that has nothing to do with the Hall of Fame; 5) B. It came to him in a dream;
- 6) B. Pontiac; 7) A. *Like the 309*; 8) D. All of the Above; 9) C. Lionel Trains; 10) C. Social Distortion; 11) D. Hello, I'm Johnny Cash; 12) D. More than 30.

Dr. Seuss

Family
fun

lives on

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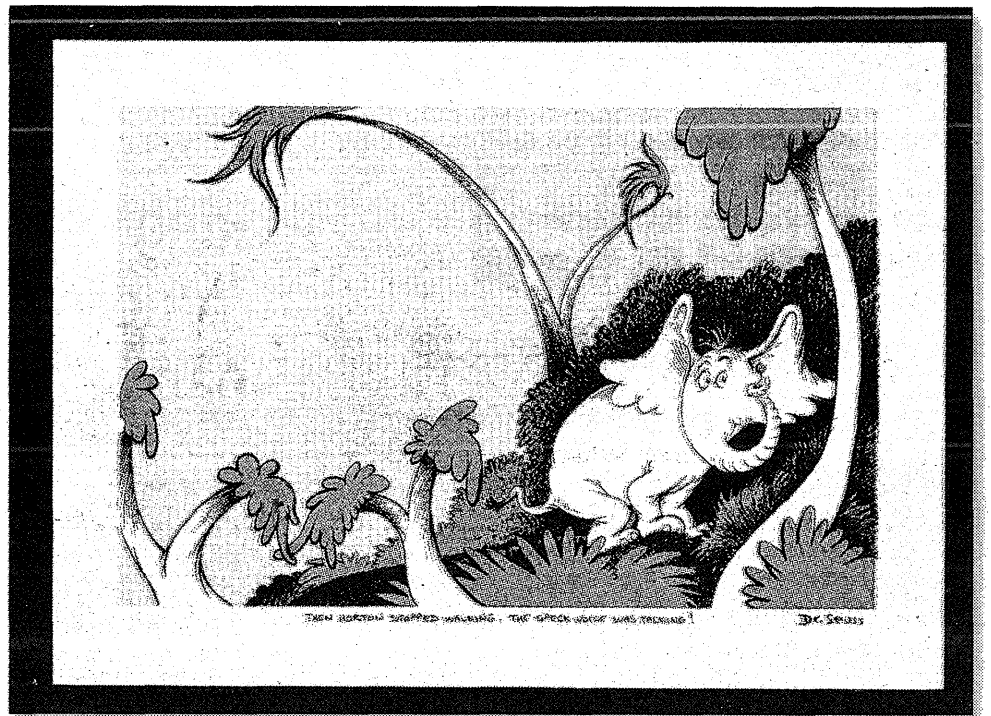
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The Speck-Voice Was Talking!, limited edition Dr. Seuss print, \$225 unframed at Art Leaders Gallery through April.

Who in Who-ville isn't delighted by Dr. Seuss? Celebrate March is Reading Month by going beyond the pages of this beloved artists' books.

HORTON HEARS A WHO!

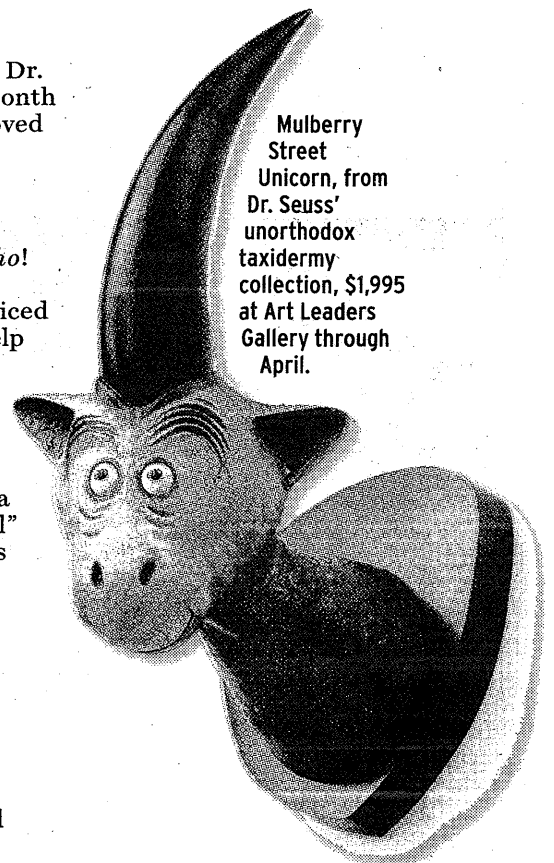
In theatres now, *Horton Hears a Who!* brings Dr. Seuss characters to life in delightful animated glory. Horton (voiced by Jim Carrey) hears a faint cry for help coming from a tiny speck of dust floating through the air. The elephant doesn't know it yet, but that speck houses all of Who-ville, led by the Mayor (Steve Carell). See how Horton saves the particle ... because "a person's a person no matter how small" in this fanciful flick. From the makers of *Ice Age*, rated G.

GREEN EGGS AND HAMADEUS

"I do not like green eggs and ham; I do not like them, Sam-I-Am!" The classic story unfolds in music as the Detroit Symphony Orchestra presents *Green Eggs & Hamadeus* Saturday, March 29 at Orchestra Hall. Narrated by nine year-old Kyle Alexander Brenn, the program includes Mozart's *Eine Kleine Nachtmusik*, original works by conductor Rob Kapilow, and guest soprano Sherry Boone. Performances will be staged at 10 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. with plenty of family fun between. Tickets are \$10-\$46. Call (313) 576-5111 or visit www.detroitssymphony.com.

DR. SEUSS'S SECRET ART

Children adore the doc's illustrations, but few know the artist also created 'a secret collection' geared toward adults. Through April, Art Leaders Gallery in West Bloomfield will host an exhibition and sale commemorating the 104th birthday of Dr. Seuss. The free exhibit includes more than 50 limited-edition works ranging from illustrations and paintings to bronzes and whimsical taxidermy sculptures — inspired by his zoologist father — that incorporate real beaks and horns. Art Leaders Gallery is located at 33030 Northwestern Hwy. Call (248) 539-0262 or visit www.artleaders.com.



Mulberry Street Unicorn, from Dr. Seuss' unorthodox taxidermy collection, \$1,995 at Art Leaders Gallery through April.

Compiled by Wensdy Von Buskirk

www.hometownlife.com



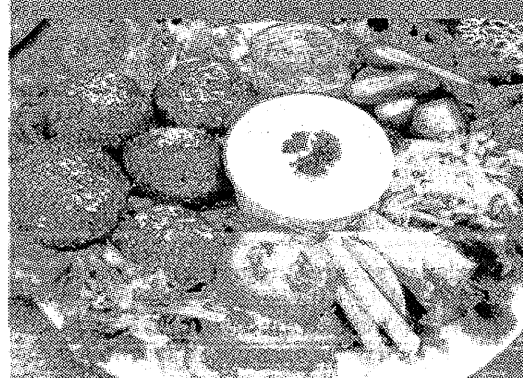
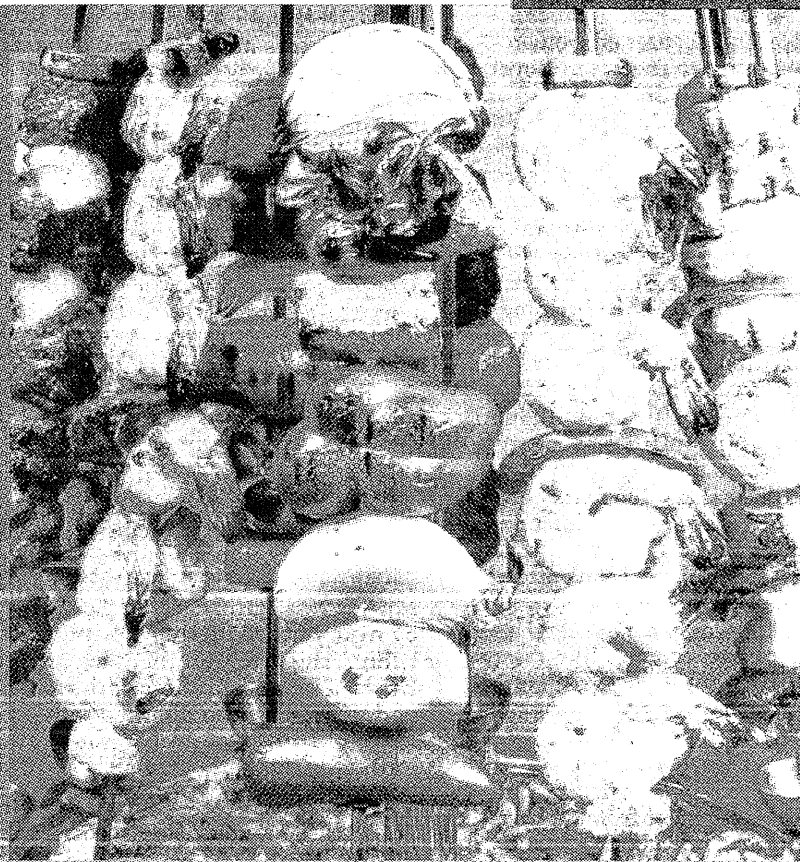
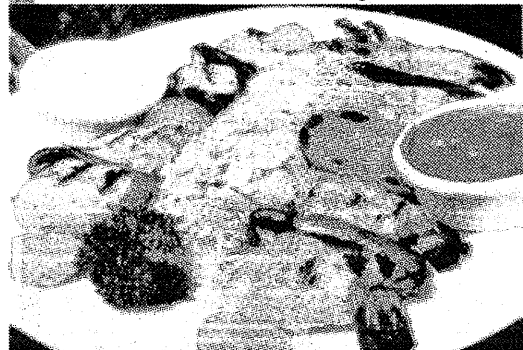
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Don't 'Return to the House on Haunted Hill': it's dumb

The most fascinating thing about *Return to the House on Haunted Hill* is the closing credits.

I haven't seen a credit list like this since *Ben-Hur*, or the mammoth *Titanic*. *Return...* certainly isn't one of those. Apparently this was filmed in Bulgaria and the producers seem to have hired everyone in the country to take part.



Greg Kowalski

I know what grips and gaffers are, but how many films have a staff ophthalmologist? And what is a C camera puller? And the list just goes on and on.

I'm sorry to spend so much time dwelling on the credits, but not only are they the most fasci-

nating thing about this movie, they are the only good thing.

The story itself is standard glop. Well produced glop, but glop nevertheless.

You may remember the original 1959 *House on Haunted Hill*, which was a terrific William Castle cheesy thriller starring Vincent Price. I liked the 1999 remake, mainly because it didn't take itself too seriously.

But *Return ...* well, they should never have gone back.

This time around a group of people go to the asylum (it's not a house anymore) to track down some mumbo-jumbo heathen statue that gives the place life. They encounter various murderous ghosts, including the evil doctor who created the place. He is played by the wonderful Jeffrey Combs, who is almost completely wasted in this role, which could have (and perhaps should have because it would have added another interesting list to the cast) been played by a mannequin.

In fact this movie is so dumb that it will leave you rooting for the monsters and cheering every time one of the idiot characters is slaughtered. At least there is a fair amount of that going on.

But really, go and check out the original. At least it's fun.

Greg Kowalski can be reached at (248) 901-2570; e-mail gwalski@hometownlife.com.



From the film "Happiness" by Sophia Barthes.

Lunafest celebrates women in films

BY LANA MINI
O&E STAFF WRITER

A film festival that focuses on women returns to the Main Art Theatre in Royal Oak this Sunday, March 30.

Lunafest — a festival that travels the country — features short films, about 90 minutes worth, from women filmmakers from across the globe.

It was wildly popular here last year.

"It's a special treat," said movie-goer Teri Williams, spa director of Radiance MedSpa of Birmingham, who is helping to promote the festival just because she loves it. "These films are made by women, for women and are about women's issues."

Lunafest (luna means "moon" in Italian) is sponsored by the popular Luna energy bar. The goal of Lunafest is to help promote women filmmakers. Ten percent of proceeds go to local breast cancer initiatives.

Don't think men can't attend the event.

"I brought my husband and daughter last year; both were amazed and can't wait for this year's festival," Williams said. "The estrogen buzz will feel like a big warm and fuzzy hug."

The 7th annual festival includes nine shorts from quirky animations to touching documentaries. After, a viewing of director/producer Carrie LeZotte's short film called *One of Us*, will be screened. The 40-minute short depicts a woman's emotional ordeal after she is raped by an acquaintance. LeZotte will be at the Main Art Theatre to talk with audience members, over coffee and sweet rolls, after the film. Films with their plotlines are:

My Other Mother - When her baby sister



Celebrate women in films at Lunafest at The Main Art Theatre in Royal Oak, March 30.

LUNAFEST

When: Sunday, March 30

Time: Begins at 4 p.m.

Where: Main Art Theatre, 118 North Main St. Royal Oak, (248) 263-2111

Tickets: \$15

Visits: For advance tickets please go to www.oneofusfilms.org or www.lunafest.org

Running time: About 90 minutes

dies, Margo's other mother shows her how to grieve.

Make A Wish - A young Palestinian girl will do whatever it takes to buy a birthday cake.

Dona Ana / Mrs. Ana - A seller of medic-

inal plants shares the joys and hardships of her life along with her love of strawberries.

Happiness - Iwona buys a box of happiness at a strange discount store and has to decide what to do with it.

Family Reunion - Katrin leaves New York to visit her native Iceland, in this whimsical tale of family secrets.

Daikon Ashi - A young girl struggles with adolescent rebellion and the reality of family ties.

Breaking Boundaries - A documentary reflection on one female Olympic athlete's determination and success.

The Guarantee - A dancer's hilarious story about his prominent nose and the effect it has on his career.

Pockets - A pocket becomes an abstract metaphor for the journey of motherhood.

Ann Arbor film lovers bring heavy metal horror flicks to the masses

BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA
O&E STAFF WRITER

When Ann Arbor-based writers and filmmakers Jason Buchanan, Jason Gibner and Brad Torreano joined forces, they sought to shine a light on the oddities of modern horror cinema. Taking the name The 42nd Street Drive-In, this collective recently partnered with Synapse Films and Emagine Theaters in Novi to offer a double-feature drive-in series meant to screen "the strangest of the strange," films meant to be seen on a big screen — though they rarely are.

Buchanan, who works as a full-time writer for the All Movie Guide in Ann Arbor, spoke with FILTER recently, and shared the following insights into the 42nd Street Drive-In's latest venture:

FILTER: How and when did the 42nd Street Drive In collective come about?

Buchanan: "(We) had all attended 24-hour horror marathons and other unusual screenings at movie theaters outside of the Detroit-area, and began talking about what we might do to bring that sense of unpredictability to a region where theaters don't really seem to be offering much more than the typical multiplex and art-house fare. There are so many great and interesting movies out there, and seeing these lesser-known flicks in a crowded theater is a much different experience than watching them at home alone or with just a few friends."

FILTER: What is your interest or background in film — are you all filmmakers yourselves?

Buchanan: "We're all lifelong film enthusiasts. Brad and (I) have been watching and making films together since we first met as film students at Eastern Michigan University, and shortly after graduating we met Jason Gibner through our friend Jeremy Wheeler (Jeremy and Jason Gibner collaborate on a popular monthly dance party called The Bang!

at the Blind Pig in Ann Arbor).

FILTER: Is this the first double feature film festival (of sorts) you've hosted at the Emagine in Novi? How did it come about and how did you choose the theater?

Buchanan: "This is our first series. We wanted people to check local movie listings and have to do a double-take — this stuff is so bizarre that they can't believe it's actually playing in a theater. We chose the Emagine because they seemed open to the idea of trying something different."

FILTER: What criteria did you use when choosing films to showcase?

Buchanan: "The main criteria this time around is that they had all been released by Synapse. Synapse is a Novi-based DVD distribution company that releases some of the most obscure, bizarre, interesting and entertaining flicks ever made. If this series proves a success, we hope to expand it by teaming with other companies like Synapse."

FILTER: Who do you feel these movies will appeal to?

Buchanan: "These movies will appeal to adventurous moviegoers with an open mind and a warped sense of humor."

FILTER: How do you hope these events might impact movie-going in metro Detroit?

Buchanan: "We hope that this series will show Detroit-area moviegoers that going to a movie can be an event, and that it can be fun. These are the kind of movies that will shock and surprise viewers in ways they might not expect, but we're giving them much more than just outrageous movies — We'll be selling Synapse DVDs in the theater, giving away special prizes, holding costume contests, hosting an appearance by *Nightmare SINema* host Wolfman Mac, and raffling off one of the fantastic lobby posters designed by local artist Jeremy Wheeler."

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The 42nd St. Drive-In staff (left to right) includes Ann Arbor's Brad Torreano, Jason Gibner and Jason Buchanan.

THE 42ND STREET'S DRIVE-IN DOUBLE FEATURES

What: The 42nd Street Drive-In has curated some rarely seen double-feature horror movies for the big screen.

When: Films begin at 8 p.m. Thursdays, starting April 3. Each event features a contest, costume-related or otherwise, and often a special guest. Vintage cult trailers will be screened along with the films, and all films will be available for sale.

Where: Emagine Novi, 44425 West 12 Mile Road in the Fountain Walk Shopping Center, west of Novi Road in Novi.

The Films:

April 3: Heavy Metal Horrors with "Rock 'n' Roll Nightmare" (1987) and "Black Roses" (1988). A Special Synapse prize goes to the rocker with the best heavy metal outfit.

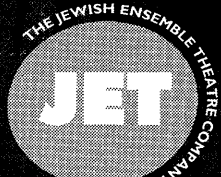
April 10: Alien Terror and Horrific Hooch with "Deadly Spawn" (1983) and "Street Trash" (1987). Meet Detroit horror host Wolfman Mac and win the Ultimate Street Trash kit.

April 17: Japanese Punk Rock Zombies and Killer Schoolgirls featured in "Wild Zero" (2000) and "Stacy" (2001). A Special Synapse prize goes to the brain-eater with the best zombie costume.

April 24: Nightmare Noir Mayhem and Shotgun Revenge in "Thriller: They Call Her One Eye" (Vengeance Edition, 1974) and "Singapore Sling" (1990). Attendees can enter to win the Ultimate Thriller Revenge Kit.

Tickets: \$7, log onto www.emagine-entertainment.com

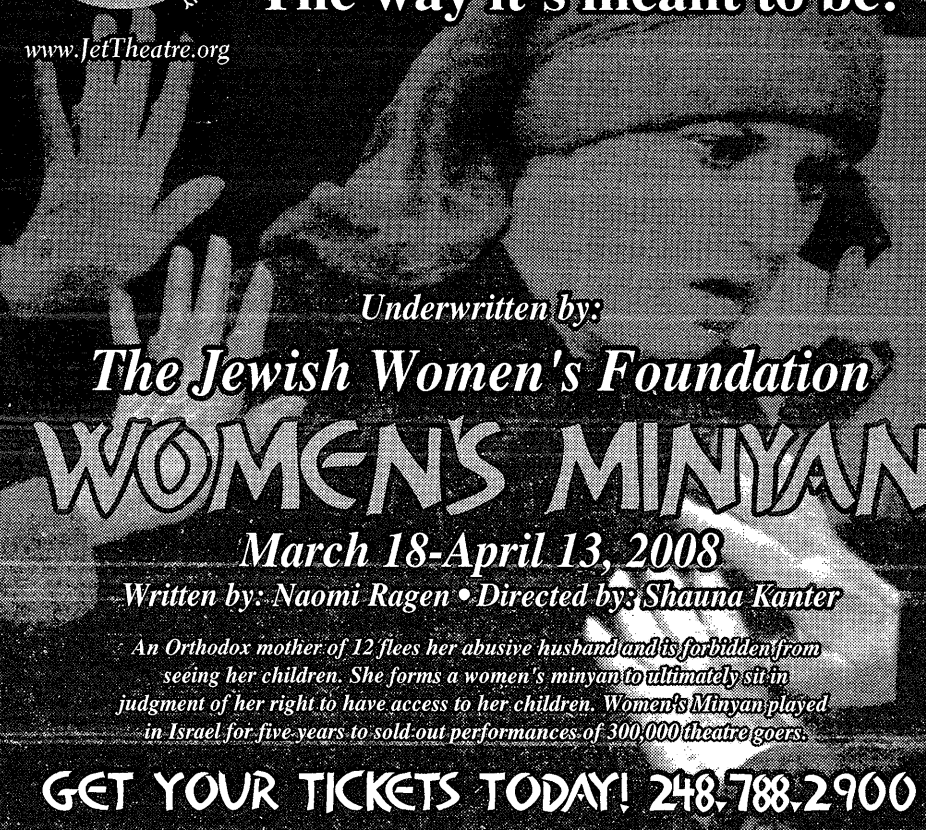
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Tiger-town offers plenty of post-game eateries

With Opening Day at Comerica Park just around the corner, Detroit sports fans already have visions of home runs and hot dogs in mind. But there are plenty of options for great food and drink outside the ballpark, too — giving baseball fans a chance to make the most of any game day in the city.

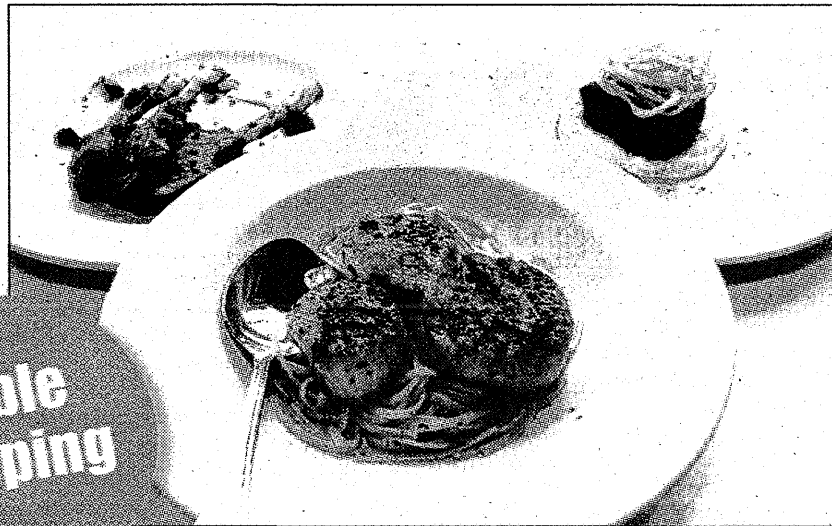
The Filter staff uncovered a few prime spots to find great grub. Chances are you parked your car well within walking distance of these eateries:

Small Plates: If your appetite tends toward something more sophisticated than brats and beer, Small Plates' original Detroit location offers tapas inspired by dishes from across the globe. Go for something simple to share like a BBQ Chicken Pizza or order up an array of those signature small plates, like Empanadas, Fish Tacos or Pan Asian Lettuce Wraps. 1521 Broadway, Detroit. Call (313) 963-0497.

Detroit Beer Co.: Sure they sell beer at the stadium but if you're thirsty for a locally-made micro brew like People Mover Porter or Detroit Red, The Detroit Beer Co. has got you covered. And they go great with a Detroit Burger, made however you like it, Sausage and Bell Pepper Pasta, or Brewmaster's Shepherd's Pie. 1529 Broadway, Detroit. Call (313) 962-1529.

Compiled by Stephanie A. Casola

Johnny Rockets: I always have fun when I'm in a Johnny Rockets. I love the 1950s diner-style, the indi-



If you're up for sharing an array of tapas after a day at the ball park, try Small Plates. Chefs there dish out such sophisticated fare as lamb, scallops and petite tenderloin.

vidual jukeboxes on each table where I can hear Dion's *The Wanderer*, the Coke with cherry syrup added to it ... a perfect spot for a pre-Tiger game lunch (after it's usually too crowded). I crave the Streamliner burger that comes with the original meatless Boca burger, grilled onions, fresh lettuce, ripe tomato, pickle & mustard plus fries of course. Add grilled mushrooms at an extra charge. 2239 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Call (313) 471-3446.

Hockeytown Cafe: This place is great because of its rooftop. You can watch crowds going into the ballpark while sipping on one of 50 different beers — or a non-alcoholic fruit blend. Indulge in the fried mushrooms and if you feel guilty eating something battered, follow it with the Bases Loaded Salad with greens, cucumbers, red onion, tomatoes, black olives, banana peppers, black bean salsa and alfalfa sprouts. Or, you'll never strike out with the deep dish pizza. 2301 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Call (313) 471-3464.

Loco Bar and Grille, Greektown: The staff is always friendly, the crowd is laid-back and usually hip and the Tex-Mex menu items are interesting. Plus Loco "Crazy" Bar is a fun name. The portions are big, so this is a place to go if you want to fill up in fajitas and cerveza. If you want your food spicy, tell them and they certainly will accommodate. Loco is open til 4 a.m. on weekends, so go have fun! 454 E. Lafayette Blvd., Detroit. Call (313) 965-3737.

Compiled by Lana Mini

Nemo's: Still a great place before and after the Red Wings or Tigers (the bar runs shuttles to and from the games). In 2005 Sports Illustrated named it No. 3 among the "25 Best Sports Bars in America." It was also the first place Mike Ilitch brought the Stanley Cup after the Red Wings won it in 1997. While the abandoned Tiger Stadium deteriorates nearby, Nemo's still remains an old standby and a favorite among loyal sports fans. Grab a burger and brew at 1384 Michigan Ave., Detroit. Call (313) 965-3180.

Please see **TIGERS, E9**

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TIGERS

FROM PAGE E8

Elwood Bar & Grill: In 1997, the Elwood was saved and moved by owner Chuck Forbes to make way for Comerica Park. Its proximity to Comerica Park (behind the park's scoreboard) and Ford Field makes it a convenient destination. Built in 1936 by Detroit architect Charles Noble, the historic Elwood Bar & Grill is downtown's most recognizable Art Deco diner. The menu features traditional bar fare (burgers, chicken wings, potato skins) and not-so-traditional grub (portabella burgers and walleye fingers). One of the salads is the Ty Cobb — with romaine lettuce, chicken, bacon, gorgonzola, avocado, hard-boiled egg and bleu cheese dressing — although we wonder whether Cobb truly was a fan of romaine and gorgonzola 300 Adams (at Brush), Detroit. Call (313) 962-BEER

Compiled by Ken Abramczyk

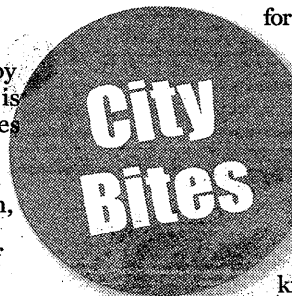
Town Pump Tavern: This self-described 'hipster English tavern' offers 18 beers on tap, a full kitchen serving until 11 p.m. and free wireless Internet access so sports fans can stay connected to games across the street and the nation. Order up a Pumptown Burger with Better Made potato chips on the side, or a famous 12-inch hand tossed Rock Shrimp or Cheeseburger pizza. 100 West Montcalm, Detroit. (313) 961-1929.

Park Bar and Bucharest Grill: This come-as-you-are bar doesn't have a sign, but those 'in the know' love the scene here. Big windows overlook Park Avenue and a circular bar makes for a social atmosphere where you can catch up with old friends and make new ones. The eclectic beer selection specializes in Michigan micro-brews, and you can fill up on Romanian food for cheap (\$4-\$6). Try the shawarma with pita, or a specialty sausage if you didn't get your ballpark frank. 2040 Park Ave., Detroit. Call (313) 962-2933.

Compiled by Wensdy Von Buskirk

Westland eatery offers movie-dinner deal

Alexander The Great Restaurant in Westland will offer a deal for Emagine theater moviegoers. The restaurant has made a dinner and movie package available for \$29.95.



"We recognize that the economy is rough right now," said Tom Tomich, owner of Alexander the Great. "As part of this community for 30 years, we also know that people still want to be able to go out and enjoy themselves from time to time. At \$29.95, we feel like people can still enjoy a night away from the kitchen and catch a show, but feel comfortable that they are getting a pretty good bang for their buck."

Alexander The Great previously offered their dinner and movie package with Showcase Cinemas, which recently closed its Wayne Road location. Valid tickets purchased under the previous arrangement will be honored by Emagine. Movie tickets are good at both Emagine Theater's Canton and Novi locations.

The movie-and-dinner package is available for purchase at Alexander The Great, located at 34733 Warren Rd. (1/2 block east of Wayne Road), in Westland. Call (734) 326-5410.

VINO MARIA

The Community House in Birmingham presents Vino Maria with wine tasting, wine games, food and a live jazz band 7:30-10 p.m. April 3. Proceeds from the event will benefit Children's Health and Wellness in Oakland County on behalf of the Junior League of Birmingham as well as The Community House's 21st Century Leaders Program.

Attendees can learn about wine in an entertaining set-

ting. The event will feature wine tasting, short seminar and wine trivia games combined with live jazz band and a wide array of hors d'oeuvres.

Certified sommelier Nidal Daher hosts the event. Daher has been working in the wine industry and consulting for wholesale distributors for over 15 years. He has served as the wine director, event sommelier, and catalogue scribe for the Detroit International Wine Auction.

Tickets are \$60. The Community House is located at 380 S. Bates, Birmingham. Call (248) 644-5832 or visit www.communityhouse.com for information.

MONDAVI VISITS MORTON'S

As part of Morton's The Steakhouse's 30th anniversary celebration, Morton's in Troy will be participating with the Charles Krug Winery and the Make-A-Wish Foundation to host a wine dinner on Tuesday, April 22. This event is in conjunction with Morton's national "30 Wishes for 30 Years" campaign with the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

Peter Mondavi, Jr., owner of Charles Krug Winery, and Tylor Field, vice president of wine and spirits for Morton's The Steakhouse, will personally host the wine dinner. In addition to four courses of Morton's cuisine and wine from Peter Mondavi Jr., guests will have the opportunity to place a bid on a 27-liter bottle of 2005 Charles Krug, Vintage Selection, Cabernet Sauvignon, with 100 percent of the funds generated by the auction benefiting the Make-A-Wish Foundation. The 27-liter bottle will be on display for three weeks before the wine dinner for silent bids open to everyone. The cost of the dinner is \$150 per person and includes the reception at 6:30 p.m. with Peter Mondavi and Tylor Field as well as a 4-course dinner beginning at 7:30 p.m. with specially selected wines with each course.

To make reservations, call Morton's The Steakhouse in Troy at (248) 404-9845.

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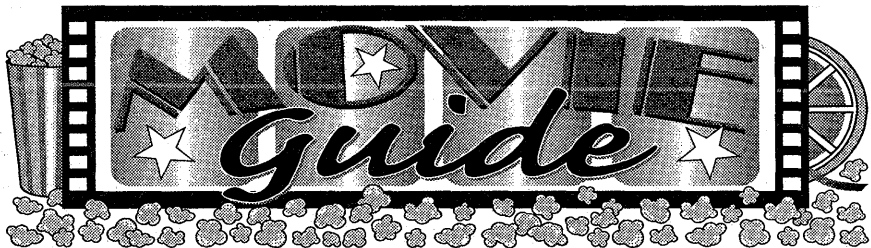
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Flutist shares world music with youngsters

BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA
O&E STAFF WRITER

Ginka Ortega understands the value in exposing children to music at an early age. The world-renowned flutist and Bloomfield Hills resident took up her first instrument, the piano, at the tender age of 7. "My family was very musical," said the Bulgarian-born performer.

She'll reach out to her youngest audience yet this Saturday, March 29, as she performs as part of the Macy's Super Saturdays at the Max M. Fisher Music Center. The Detroit Symphony Orchestra offers two events, a National City Young People's Concert cleverly titled *Green Eggs & Hamadeus* at 10 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. in Orchestra Hall, while Ortega takes the stage at 10:30 a.m. for a Tiny Tots performance in The Music Box.

Ortega discovered the flute around age 14, and said she fell in love with the instrument the first time she heard it. "I'm a frustrated singer," she said. "It's the next best thing to the voice."

Ortega's musical influence goes from classical to world music and in this performance she'll offer a selection of songs that span the globe. "Music is like storytelling in a way," she said. "So I just like to tell the story of what I'm playing." Compared to esteemed performances at Carnegie Hall, an upcoming show for the United Nations and her travels around the world, Ortega said this show

will not be as formal. "I try to involve a young audience rhythmically," she said. The show will offer more of a participatory experience, a lesson in using your imagination and in how to listen to music, she said.

Ortega holds degrees from Varna State School of Music in Bulgaria, Wayne State University, Oberlin Conservatory and the University of Michigan. She carries the title of Michigan Musical Ambassador and has received a State of Michigan Arts Award. She is founder and artistic director of Musica Viva World Music Concerts, which brings musicians to Michigan from all over the world. "I did it before it became in fashion," she said. "Now everyone does that."

Choosing to remain here in the metro area with her husband and children, Ortega considers music to be a universal language — one that translates in any country where she performs.

"I feel that classical music as we know it, it is so important to keep that tradition that has been given to us," she said. Ortega will perform with pianist Raffaella Maurato for the Tiny Tots show.

From 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. the KidZone will be open in the Atrium. Children and their parents can visit the instrument petting zoo, meet balloon artists, participate in arts and crafts, enjoy kid-friendly food and drinks, and meet DSO musicians.

scasola@hometownlife.com | (248) 901-2567



Ginka Ortega

MACY'S SUPER SATURDAYS AT THE MAX

What: Flutist Ginka Ortega performs in the Tiny Tots Concert Series
Where: The Music Box at the Max M. Fisher Music Center, 3711 Woodward Ave., Detroit.
When: 10:30 a.m. Saturday, March 29
Tickets: \$12, call (313) 576-5111 or visit www.detroitssymphony.com.

Music of the Baby Boomers

From the frivolity of Frankie and Annette to the British Invasion, music fans are getting ready to relive the roots of American music history with *The Beat Goes On: The Music of the Baby Boomers*. Created by conductor Jack Everly (right) the show marks a collaborative performance between the Detroit Symphony Orchestra and musical theater veterans — vocalists John Musick, Roy Chicas, Joe Cassidy, Farah Alvin, N'Kenge and Julie Reiber. It's all part of the DTE Energy Foundation Pops Series. The show recaptures the past in medleys by Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons and The Beatles. It includes songs by Burt Bacharach including 'I Say a Little Prayer,' 'Raindrops Keep Falling on My Head,' 'Always Something There to Remind Me,' 'Close to You' and 'What The World Needs Now is

Love.' The show also delves into girl groups with songs like 'It's My Party,' and 'Respect.' And pop culture addicts should listen for TV and movie theme songs from 'Star Trek' to 'Dr. Zhivago' and 'Love Story.' Showtimes are 10:45 a.m. and 8 p.m. Thursday, March 27; 8:30 p.m. Friday, March 28; 8:30 p.m. Saturday, March 29 and 3 p.m. Sunday, March 30, at Orchestra Hall at the Max M. Fisher Music Center, 3711 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Tickets \$15-\$105, call (313) 576-5111 or visit www.detroitssymphony.com.



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"Inspirations from India" is part of the Fusion Festival in Canton.



2 events feature classical music from America, India

BY LANA MINI
O&E STAFF WRITER

The Plymouth Canton Symphony Orchestra's season finale showcases American music at its finest on Saturday April 5 with *American Romance*.

On a completely different end of the music spectrum, a week earlier, Orchestra Canton presents world sounds in its first annual Fusion Festival featuring *Inspirations from India* on Saturday and Sunday March 29 and 30. The festival aims to share world music with American audiences.

In April, at the PSO season finale, composer and string bass virtuoso Clark Suttle will be featured in the world premiere of his *Esh Olam* (The Eternal Flame) concerto for the new electric Bass and Orchestra, a new commission by the PSO.

The composer will explore exciting possibilities with an electric bass that's performed like a regular, standup bass but with additional electronic effects.

Suttle has performed with the Michigan Opera Theater, Flint and Kalamazoo Symphonies and formerly as the assistant conductor of both the Buffalo Philharmonic and the Phoenix Symphony. A shining star in his career is his acclaimed 13-year tenure as the Music Director & Conductor of the Monterey Symphony in California.

The season finale is of course conducted by Nan Washburn of the PSO who has earned more than 16 prestigious awards from the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers and the League of American Orchestras.

"Having Nan as our music director has revolutionized the Plymouth Symphony and created a novel and visceral excitement to the concert-going experience," said PCSS Executive Director, Jennifer Philpot-Munson.

The second half of *American Romance* focuses on American icon George Gershwin with *Catfish Row* — the suite from his ground-breaking opera, *Porgy and Bess*. The suite includes the standards such as *Summertime* and *I Got Plenty o' Nuttin.* Also on the program is *Oedipus Tyrannus Prelude* by John Knowles Paine, the first American to write a symphony and gain wide recognition as a composer.

CLASSICAL MUSIC EVENTS

American Romance: The season finale of Plymouth Canton Symphony Orchestra's 62nd season, 8 p.m., Saturday, April 5, at Ward Presbyterian Church, 4000 Six Mile Road in Northville.

Fusion Festival: Orchestra Canton at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill Road, Canton, 8 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, March 29 and 30. The festival includes two free workshops; one on the sitar instrument at 6 p.m. on Saturday and Indian dance at 4 p.m. on Sunday prior to the shows.

Details: Both shows are created under award-winning Music Director and Conductor Nan Harrison Washburn.

Tickets: \$10-\$25.

For details and discounts call (734) 451-2112 or visit www.plymouthsymphony.org.

Music

INDIA INSPIRATIONS

Hasu Patel, sitar player and guest composer, is one of the few distinguished female artists performing classical music on Sitar, the most popular string instrument of India.

As a performer, composer, and educator, she has dedicated her life to preserving the highly evolved classical music of Ancient India.

At the Fusion Festival, Patel will play sitar along with tabla players and dancers.

Patel plays the sitar in a unique style known as *Gayaki Ang* (Singing Style), in which the sitar replicates the fluidity and subtle nuances of the human voice.

This innovative technique, which is credited to her Guru Ustad Vilayat Khan Saheb of Imdad Khani Gharana, is the most significant contribution to her music inheritance.

She has performed worldwide. Hasu is affiliated with the Ohio Arts Council (Ohio Artists on Tour), Greater Columbus Arts Council, Mid-America Arts Alliance and International Alliance of Women in Music and teaches sitar, tabla and vocal music.

"My Music, My Dream — It gives me an eternal pleasure when I teach the students and play before music lovers around the world. The more one plays, the more humility captivates one," Patel said.

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Chamber society's popularity grows

BY LANA MINI
O&E STAFF WRITER

It's ironic. The Chamber Music Society's reputation is so strong nationwide that music lovers from throughout the country come here for its concerts. Its popularity is consistently growing.

Even though the concert series usually sells out, the local clientele still is usually regulars who have supported the Chamber for years.

And loyalty is necessary to keep the program alive. What the CMSD wants everyone to know is that Chamber music can be enjoyed by anyone — whether or not you're even knowledgeable about the music itself.

"Much of the general public still doesn't know what we offer right here in our own backyards," said Lois Beznos, president of the CMSD. "When new people come, they are always welcomed by our warm audience."

On March 22, the CMSD announced the celebration of its 65th anniversary. Last week it began its *Opus 3 Series* — a concert series that occurs over three Saturdays in March and April featuring a different world-renowned pianist each time.

On April 5 the show features Argentinean Ingrid Fliter who is the 2006 recipient of

the prestigious Gilmore Artist Award. The final concert of *Opus 3*, on April 12, features award-winning Jean-Yves Thibaudet, who is French. Thibaudet's concert is in collaboration with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra.

Each concert is held at 8 p.m. at the Seligman Performing Arts Center in Beverly Hills.

Fliter will perform Schubert *Impromptus, Op. 90, Nos. 1 and 2*, Beethoven: *Sonata No. 31 in A-flat major, Op. 110*, Chopin *Nocturne, Op. 9, No. 3* and Chopin *Sonata in B minor, Op. 58*.

Thibaudet performs Debussy *12 Preludes, Book 2* (complete) and Brahms *Piano Sonata No. 3 in F minor, Op. 5*.

Before that performance at 6:45 p.m. is a pre-concert discussion featuring Steven Rings, assistant professor of music at the University of Chicago who will discuss the evening's repertoire.

The CMSD hosts some of the world's best musicians in acoustically outstanding venues.

Concert-goers are encouraged to subscribe to the series to be assured available seating, but handfuls of tickets often remain at the door on show night.



OPUS 3 PIANO SERIES

What: A three-concert series by the Chamber Music Society of Detroit

When: Began last week and continues 8 p.m. Saturdays, April 5 and April 12

Where: Seligman Performing Arts Center, 22305 West 13 Mile Road (at the corner of Lahser and 13 Mile roads), Beverly Hills, on the campus of the Detroit Country Day School.

Tickets: Individual tickets to each show are \$43-\$75, students \$25. Series subscription prices range from \$87-\$210.

Information: Call (248) 855-6070 or visit www.ComeHearCMSD.org



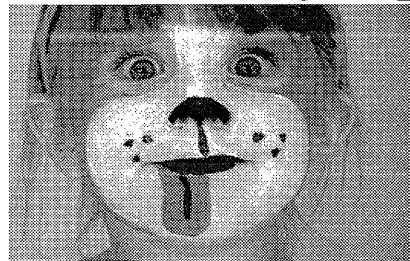
Pianist Ingrid Fliter performs on Saturday, April 5.

Face Painting Contest

Submit your child's face painted picture for a chance to win a family four pack to the Shrine Circus.

Pictures can be mailed or electronically e-mailed.

Winning submissions may be published.



All entries need to be received by April 3, 2008 at 5:00 p.m. Include: name and age of youth, city of residence, parent/guardian name, contact phone number. No purchase necessary. One entry per person please.

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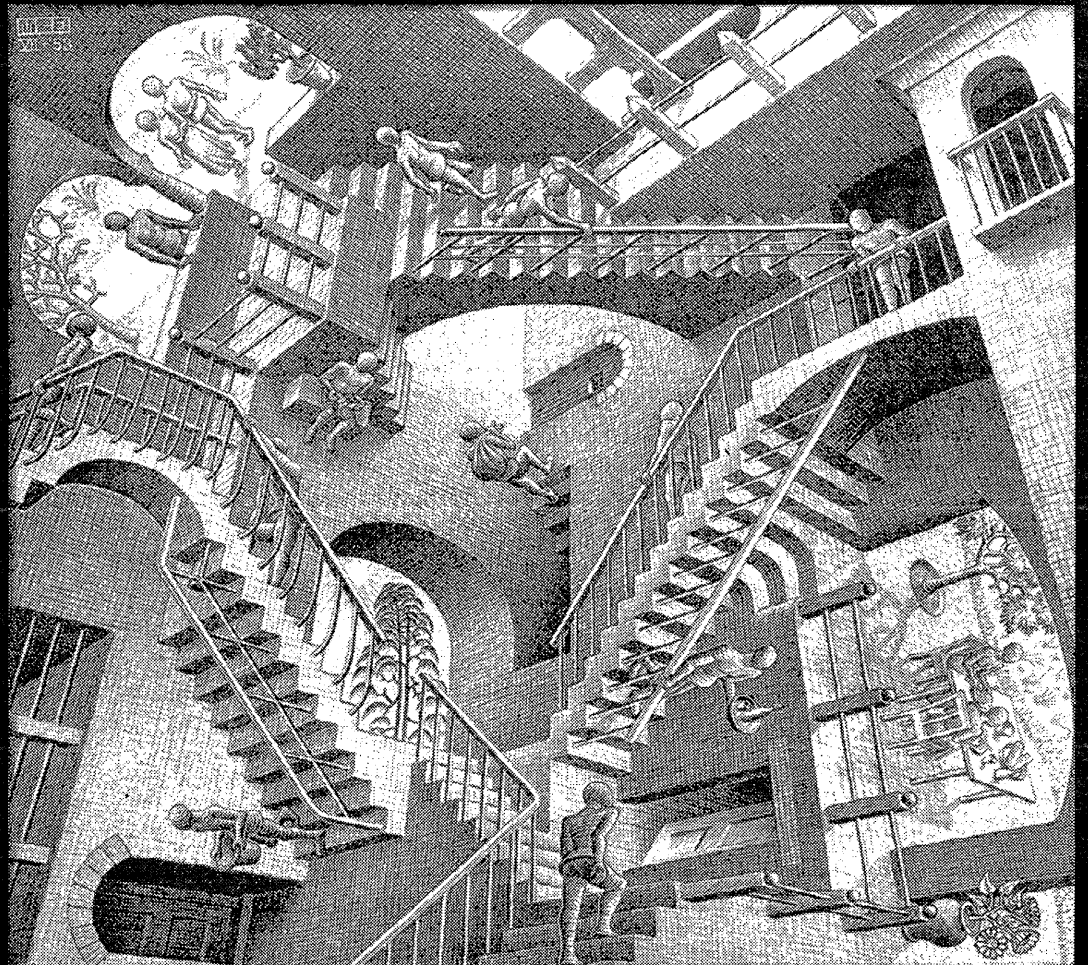
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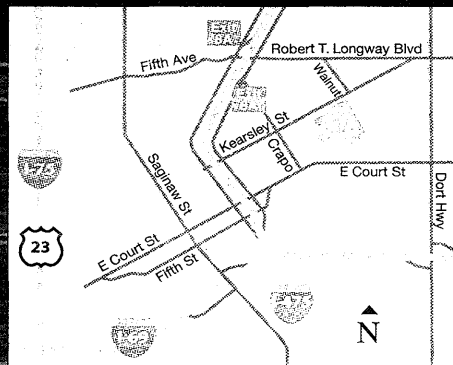
M.C. Escher is one of the most popular and intriguing artists of the 20th century. His ingenious compositions are based on careful observation of the physical world, transformed into images of intricate shape-shifting forms and architectural fantasies that captivate the imagination. Organized by the Portland Art Museum, Oregon, the exhibition of 94 works also includes 14 rare images on loan from Skot Foreman Fine Art, NYC.



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