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How to manage social media - Special section inside



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PLYMOUTH OBSERVER

online at hometownlife.com

PIPELINE

Penn finale

The Plymouth Community Arts Council and the Plymouth Canton Symphony Society will present the final "Saturday @ the Penn" musical variety show of the season on Saturday, March 6. This family event will be held at the Penn Theater in downtown Plymouth, with doors opening at 11:05 a.m., show starting at 11:30 a.m. Admission is \$4 per person.

The featured performer for March is the ever popular Guy Louis, Chautauqua Express, who delights families with musical adventures, incorporating a variety of instruments and audience participation into his program. Special guests are the crowd-pleasers Gemini.

The Penn Theater is located at 760 Penniman in Plymouth. Saturdays @ the Penn is generously sponsored by a grant from the Wilcox Foundation, as well as by several local businesses and individuals.



The Plymouth-Canton Marching Band is hosting a series of informational meetings for students and parents interested in joining the 2010 Marching Band program.

Band hopefuls

The award-winning Plymouth-Canton Marching Band, a 22-time Bands of America finalist at Grand Nationals in Indianapolis, is hosting a series of informational meetings for students and parents interested in joining the 2010 Marching Band program.

The meeting is designed for existing eighth-graders, but is open to any high school student. Interested students will spend time with the existing marchers, while parents listen to a presentation by band directors, David Armbruster and Sheldon Frazier, and the Plymouth Canton Music Boosters on how existing eighth-graders can become a member of the award-winning marching band for the 2010 summer/fall season. Future musicians and color guard members are welcome.

Parents and students are asked to attend one of the open house meetings (Tuesday, March 16; Thursday, April 22; Wednesday, May 19) at 7 p.m. in the Plymouth High School band room, 8400 Beck in Canton.

Questions? Contact Sheldon Frazier, associate director of bands, at (734) 582-5665 or Sheldon.Frazier@pcsmail.net.

Board approves social studies course



The "Think Squad" includes Cameron Day, Alexis Ackridge, Christina Light, Christopher Brennan and Gary Zahn.

BY BRAD KADRICH
 OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

One of the most important lessons Alexander Wright has learned working as a freelancer in the TV business is this: "You're only as good as your last job."

But Wright, a 1994 graduate of Canton High School, is pretty happy with the job he has now, working as an independent contractor producing a show called *Think Squad* for PBS.

It's the latest stop in a career that started in film school at the University of Michigan and has included a variety of projects including a historical perspective on U-M football that led to a job with Fox Sports Detroit. "Obviously, it feels good to see your name in the credits," said Wright, who graduated U-M with a degree in film and video and a second major in Italian language.

Wright, the son of Nancy and Plymouth City Commissioner Mike Wright, got his start locally. As a youngster, he ushered at the Penn Theatre. At the University of Michigan, he studied under Plymouth screenwriter Jim Burnstein, the coordinator of the screenwriting program at U-M's Department of Screen Arts & Cultures. In fact, Wright was on duty at the Penn when the theater showed

Wright as rain

Canton grad carving out niche in public TV



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Alexander Wright, a 1994 graduate of Canton High School, is producing a science show, "Think Squad," for Detroit Public Television.

Renaissance Man, the feature film starring Danny DeVito for which Burnstein penned the screenplay.

Burnstein, according to Wright, "passed me around to be a gopher" for a variety of TV producers, allowing Wright to learn the ropes. Burnstein chuckles at that characterization, since one of the "gopher jobs" he helped Wright get was with Academy Award-winning filmmaker Sue Marx.

"(Wright) is a super smart guy, very creative and he's got this easy-going manner that allows him to really do anything behind the camera," Burnstein recalled. "He can produce, he can shoot, he can work with actors. He's got a very low-key persona that just makes you feel comfortable. You could see that even when he was doing college films."

Wright ended up at Detroit Public TV, where he produced largely documentaries, including the U-M football documentary, *Michigan Football Memories*, the project Wright said "got me in the door" at Fox Sports Detroit. There, he worked on shows such as *Tigers Weekly* and *CCHA Access*, which detailed stories involving the Central Collegiate Hockey Association.

Please see **WRIGHT, A5**

African-American class comes with advisory panel

BY BRAD KADRICH
 OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Teachers and administrators knew the first African-American history course description they were developing for Plymouth-Canton Community Schools' social studies curriculum was going to contain controversial material.

What they didn't necessarily expect was the controversy that came before the course was even approved.

The Plymouth-Canton Board of Education last week approved the course description for African-American History & Culture, the district's first such course on African-American history. But the approval didn't come easily; discussion was pulled from the school board agenda several times while the parameters of an "advisory" committee were worked out.

In the end, after weeks of haggling, the board voted to approve both the committee and the course.

"This is a very difficult topic," board President Steven Sneideman said. "Everybody here has it in their heart to do the right thing. We're a diverse community and we want to do what's right to address that diversity."

The course, developed by Salem High School social studies teacher Carrie Chobanian, is designed to examine African-American history from the 1890s to the present. Students will "revisit key themes," such as empowerment, community, identity, the role of the church, citizenship, entrepreneurship, oppression and cultural expression, according to the course description.

As part of the course, the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History in Detroit "is willing to partner" with PCCS to "engage in a service-learning collaboration between students in the class and the museum," according to the course description.

But the time frame of the

Please see **COURSE, A5**

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Good news, bad news for purse store owner

BY MATT JACHMAN
 OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

First, the bad news: Vic's Mart, a store on Forest in downtown Plymouth that specialized in designer-inspired purses, has shut its doors.

Now, the good news: Owner Martin Caruana is still selling purses at a boutique in Plymouth, and will soon do so online at a new Web site, www.allthingspurses.com.

Caruana said Vic's Mart was the victim of the weak economy. The store was popular when it opened in 2008, he said, and he expanded the space, to about 1,400 square feet, about the time the economy soured.

"If the numbers carried on the way they were we would've been

Please see **PURSE STORE, A5**



FILE PHOTO

Martin and Vicki Caruana, who opened Vic's Mart in 2008, said the store became a victim of the economy. Caruana will still sell purses at an Old Village boutique and on-line.

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

Rabbit rescue

Children get a chance to make an Easter craft and enter a raffle to win a large, stuffed animal when Genuine Toy Co., hosts a fund-raiser for the Great Lakes Rabbit Sanctuary 1-4 p.m. Sunday, March 14.

Volunteers from the sanctuary will be on hand to answer questions about bunny rabbits and their care. You need not be present to win the raffle, but crafts are limited, so registration with an associate to ensure a spot is reserved. Crafts not reserved will be done on a first-come basis.

Genuine Toy Co., is located inside Westchester Square Mall, 550 Forest Ave., in downtown Plymouth. For more information, call (734) 414-9500.

CFCU scholars

Community Financial, in collaboration with the Community Foundation of Plymouth and the Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation, will be awarding 11 scholarships in April, valued at \$1,000 apiece.

Applications can only be made on-line by going to

<http://scholarships.egrant.org>, creating an account and logging in. Read the guidelines for our "Community Financial Margaret Dunning and George Lawton Scholarships."

Students who qualify need only complete just one application; they will be considered for both scholarships.

Deadline to submit four copies of the application is March 5.

Goodfellows meet

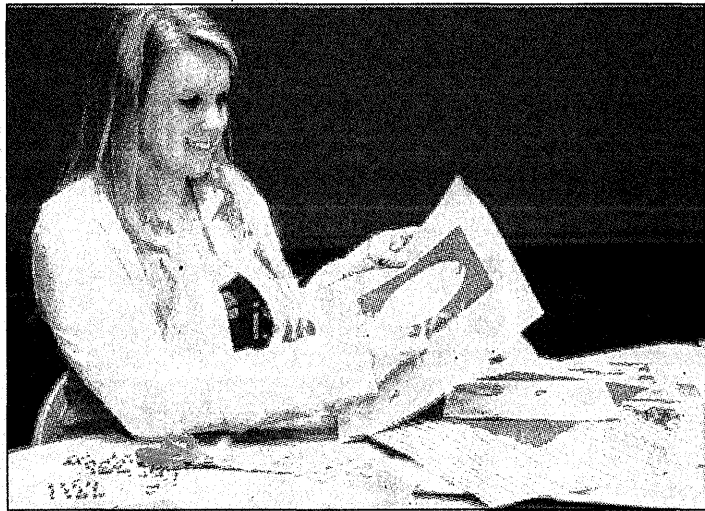
The Plymouth Goodfellows host an informational meeting 7 p.m. Wednesday, March 10, at the Plymouth District Library, 223 S. Main in downtown Plymouth.

The meeting will be a recap of the 2009 season and a brainstorming session on how to help more people in the upcoming year. For more information, e-mail Plymouthgoodfellows@yahoo.com or call (734) 262-3199.

Vernor's history

Keith Wunderlich will present a talk on "The History of Vernor's Ginger Ale" on Thursday, March 11, at 7:30 p.m. at the Plymouth Historical Museum.

Wunderlich has been an avid Vernor's Ginger Ale collector for 30 years. His Web site, "The Vernor's Ginger Ale Story" at



Scrapbookers session

The Plymouth District Library kicks off a new monthly scrapbooking session. A spacious, well-lit work area will be provided for this drop-in session, to take place the second Monday of every month from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Upcoming sessions will be held on March 8, April 12 and May 10. No lessons will be provided, although the Library's many books and magazines on this subject will be made available for check-out. Participants should bring their own supplies. For more information, call the Library at (734) 453-0750, Ext. 4.

www.wowway.com/~vernors/history.htm contains information about "Detroit's Drink."

The talk will take place during the Plymouth Historical Society's monthly meeting. Admission is free to the meeting and lecture. Refreshments are served following the meeting.

The Plymouth Historical Museum is located at 155 S. Main Street, Plymouth, one block north of downtown. For more information, call (734) 455-8940.

Mom-to-mom

The Plymouth Canton

Mothers of Multiples host their semi-annual Mom-to-Mom Sale 8:30 a.m. to noon Saturday, March 13 at West Middle School, 44401 Ann Arbor Trail (at Sheldon) in Plymouth.

The event features department-style shopping (grouped by boy or girl, then by size), spring and summer boys and girls clothing (newborn to size 10), sets for twins and triplets and multiples items, clothes, toys, baby gear, strollers, maternity clothes and a bake sale.

Admission is \$1, cash only, all sales are final (no strollers before 10 a.m.). For more information, e-mail pcmom@hotmail.com

Craft show

The Plymouth-Canton Music Boosters host their seventh annual Spring Arts and Crafts Ensemble on Saturday, March 13. The juried art event is produced twice each year by the PCMB to help support the band and color guard programs at the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park.

The most recent PCMB Art & Craft Ensemble had over 2,000 visitors. "The Arts & Craft Ensemble has grown to be a high quality, well-attended event where only hand-made items are sold," said John Noss, president of the 2010 Plymouth-Canton Music Boosters.

"The money raised helps the Concert and Marching Bands, Color Guard and Percussion programs that provide students with a one of a kind arts experience. Our recent Holiday event had record-breaking attendance of over 2000 people, so we know the community is accepting of this show."

Plymouth High School is located at 8400 Beck Road in Canton. The Spring Arts & Craft Ensemble will be held from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on March 13. In addition to over 100 exhibits, there will be food, a raffle, and entertainment by local musicians and artists throughout the day. Admission is \$2.

Preschool open house

PCN co-op preschool hosts an open house 6-8 p.m. Tuesday,

March 9, at 5825 N. Sheldon.

PCN provides a play experience and curriculum developed by trained, objective teachers who provide insight into your child's growth and development. The preschool also uses the Handwriting without tears curriculum in all classes to give your child the head start they need. Class options include 3 days a week for 4-year-olds in the morning or afternoon and a two days a week for 3-year-olds.

For more information call (734) 455-6250 or check the Web at www.plymouthnursery.org.

Speaker series

Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church continues its "Dignity of Life" speaker series with a presentation, "The Cybersex Explosion: What You Need to Know," 7 p.m. Thursday, March 11, at OLGCC, 47650 N. Territorial (at the corner of Beck) in Plymouth Township.

Church officials said the presentation is designed to "help keep your family healthy and safe in changing times." The presenter, Dr. Kenneth Adams, an internationally recognized author, speaker and therapist, will talk about how cybersex activity is changing the way people see and experience sexuality, and how pornography, prostitution, affairs and "sexting" are a few of the problems created or escalated by the Internet and other new technology.

The series is sponsored by the church's Gospel of Life Committee. For more information, contact Mark Renfer via e-mail at mark.renfer@gmail.com.

Irish dancing

The staff at Plymouth Park Apartments has extended an open invitation to join them 1-2:30 p.m. Saturday, March 13, at 107 N. Haggerty, for an enjoyable afternoon of wonderful entertainment with Irish Dancers and complimentary refreshments.

There's no need to RSVP; just come wearing "green" even if you're not Irish. This is a free event.

For more information call (734) 453-1234, Ext. 236.

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Sandwich earns Plymouth girl slice of finals

BY BRAD KADRICH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Like the old Frank Sinatra song says, Stephanie Hosko's "little town blues" will be melting away when she heads to the Big Apple as a finalist in Jif's "Most Creative Peanut Butter Sandwich Contest."

Stephanie, the 10-year-old daughter of John and Lauren Hosko of Plymouth, learned last week she'd been chosen among the top five finalists in on-line voting in the contest, which concluded Feb. 12. At stake is a \$25,000 grand prize, with \$2,500 scholarships up for grabs for the four runners-up.

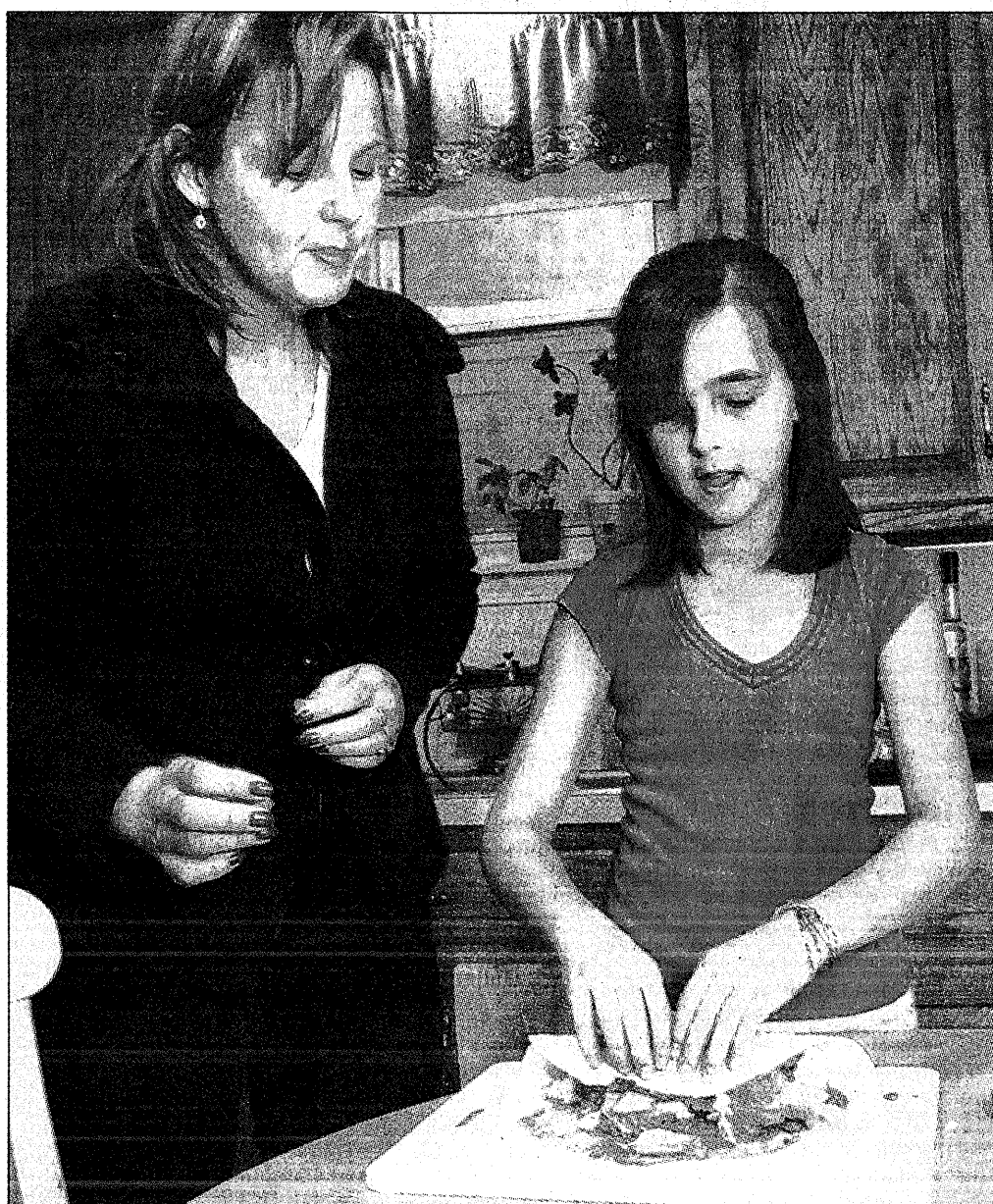
It'll be the first trip to New York for Stephanie, a fifth-grader at Canton's All Saints Catholic School.

"I was like, 'Oh my gosh, I can't believe this,'" Stephanie recalled of getting the news. "It was so unreal."

Stephanie's sandwich - a "chickenchita" she developed with her grandmother, Diane Roslinski - features grilled chicken, sauteed red peppers, crushed pineapple, pineapple juice, lettuce and soy sauce, along with the requisite peanut butter, on a flour tortilla.

Now Stephanie gets to take the creation to New York, where she and the other four finalists will each individually demonstrate their sandwich creations during a live judging event March 19 before a panel of judges that includes parenting author Miriam Weinstein, Good Housekeeping Senior Food Editor Genevieve Ko, Jif Mom's Voice their Choice Winner, Lisa Roberts; registered dietitian and nutritionist Marissa Lippert and MomCentral.com founder and CEO Stacy DeBroff.

The whole story - which started when Roslinski, a dental hygienist, found out



Stephanie Hosko, with mom Lauren, takes her "chickenchita" to New York for the finals of Jif's Most Creative Peanut Butter Sandwich contest. Stephanie's creation finished in the top five in on-line voting.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

about the contest from a patient - just keeps getting more and more surreal. After reading about Stephanie's creation, Bill Sorenson, who owns Nassau Bar and Grill in Plymouth Township, made the sandwich a featured menu item. Now comes the trip to New York.

"It's really strange how it started off as a whim, and it just got bigger and bigger," said Stephanie's dad, John. "We got the e-mail telling us where they're going to stay, and it's right there in Times Square. How cool is that? I'm really excited for her."

Stephanie still has her eyes

- and her hopes - on the grand prize.

"I want that really bad," Stephanie said. "You make a sandwich and you have a chance to go to New York. It's unbelievable."

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Defense in murder case loses bid to remove judge

BY MATT JACHMAN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The attorney defending a Plymouth Township woman accused of killing her newborn daughter has lost a bid to have the judge hearing the case removed from it.

Judge Timothy M. Kenny, Wayne County Circuit Court's presiding judge, on Tuesday ruled against attorney Henry Scharg's request that Judge Daniel Ryan be recused from the murder trial of Emily Portellos, 29.

Ryan is a part-time instructor at the Ave Maria School of Law in Florida, and Scharg's claim was that his ties with the conservative Catholic institution would affect his impartial-

ity in the case.

Portellos is charged with felony murder, first-degree murder and first-degree child abuse. She has been held without bond in the Wayne County Jail since her arrest in November 2008.

The baby was born Oct. 15, 2008, at the Portellos home; a medical examiner said the girl had been smothered.

The trial is to start in Ryan's courtroom on Wednesday, March 10.

Kenny said Scharg could appeal the decision to the Michigan Court of Appeals. Scharg could not be reached on Wednesday.

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Warrants OK'd in downtown shooting

BY MATT JACHMAN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The Plymouth Township man who fired several shots from a pistol in downtown Plymouth on the afternoon of Feb. 24 is facing criminal charges.

No one was hurt in the brief incident, which began and ended at the downtown parking deck. The 54-year-old fired at least four shots from a 9 mm semiautomatic pistol, police said.

The Wayne County prosecutor's office on Wednesday approved two warrants in the case - one for a felony charge of illegal possession of a gun, and another for a misdemeanor charge of reckless use of a gun, said Plymouth Sgt. Jamie Grabowski. The suspect did not have a permit to carry a concealed pistol, Grabowski

said.


The felony charge carries a sentence of up to five years in prison, the misdemeanor charge a sentence of up to 90 days in jail.

The suspect remained Wednesday at St. Mary Mercy Hospital in Livonia, Grabowski said, where he was taken after the incident for a psychological evaluation. He will not likely be arraigned on the charges until his release, the sergeant said.

Plymouth Mayor Dan Dwyer on Monday praised the police response. Officers from both the city and Plymouth Township responded to the incident.

"The amount of restraint and incredible bravery is commendable," Dwyer said.

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PUBLIC SAFETY

Guarding against fast-growing identity theft requires constant vigilance

Restaurant shed broken into, but nothing stolen

BY MATT JACHMAN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Just because you're safe at home in Plymouth or Plymouth Township doesn't mean your identity is safe. Identity theft, which can ruin credit and run up bills and lead to months of aggravation and expense, is the fastest-growing crime in the world, and thieves don't need to snatch a purse, break into a house or threaten harm in order to operate.

"It's such a giant money-maker that there are (gangs) all around the world doing this," said Officer Tony Angelosanto, Plymouth's crime prevention officer.

There are many ways identity thieves can come at victims, from simply stealing a new credit card out of the mailbox to pulling vital information off the Internet to "skimming" credit and debit card information with special devices.

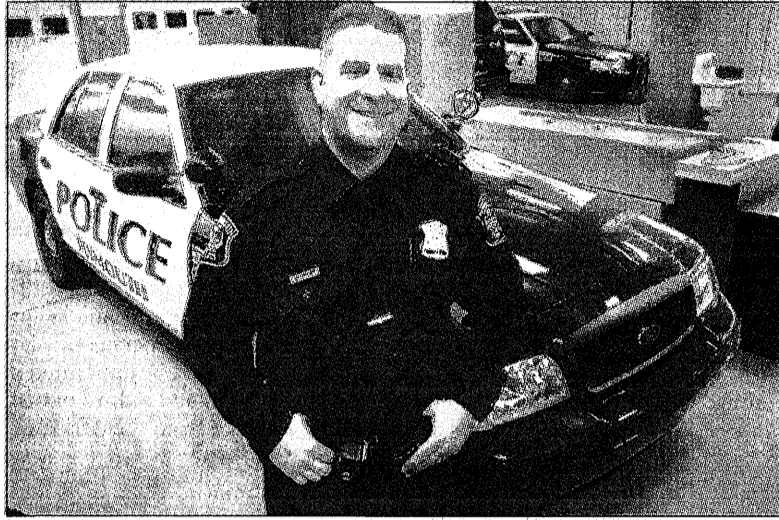
Nationwide, there are half a million victims of identity theft each year, and one in 20 adults has been the victim of identity theft at some point.

In Plymouth in 2009, 127 cases of fraud were reported. Ninety percent of those, Angelosanto said, involved some form of identity theft.

In Plymouth Township in 2009, 93 fraud cases were reported, said Police Chief Tom Tiderington. The vast majority, he said, would have involved identity theft.

Angelosanto suggested a multi-pronged approach to guarding against identity theft:

- Protect all important numbers: credit card numbers, Social Security numbers, driver's license numbers and personal identification numbers. Don't write them on checks or receipts.
- As a rule, don't give out important numbers over the telephone, particularly if you didn't initiate the call. Make sure you're dealing with reputable



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Plymouth Police Officer Anthony Angelosanto offers tips to prevent identity theft in his monthly appearance in the Observer.

firms, and that you initiated the purchase, when making credit card transactions over the phone.

- Limit the number of credit cards, and cancel accounts that are not regularly used.

- Don't use a credit card on the Internet unless the site will securely encrypt the number.

- When applying for a new credit card, or expecting a replacement for a card about to expire, call the company if it doesn't arrive on time. Mail theft is "a real big thing these days," Angelosanto said.

- Outgoing mail with sensitive information in it should be taken to the neighborhood mailbox instead of stuck in a home mailbox, where it could be stolen.

- Obtain a credit report at least every six months from one of the three credit reporting agencies: Experian, Equifax and TransUnion. The Web address to obtain a report by computer — over a secure connection — is www.annualcreditreport.com.

Regularly examining credit reports enables people to spot problems, such as unauthorized accounts, before they grow. Similarly, credit card statements and other bills should be examined carefully for any unauthorized charges.

- Don't give out personal identification (PIN) numbers for things such as debit cards or automatic teller machines cards. If you write the numbers down, keep the paper in a secure place, not in a wallet, which could be lost or stolen.

- Be careful when using your Social Security number. If the number is requested by a business or doctor's office, find an alternative. If requested by a government agency, the request should be accompanied by a privacy notice.

- Don't use obvious computer passwords, or passwords that could compromise your identity, such as birthdate, mother's maiden name, or the last four digits of your Social

Security number. Use passwords that are a mixture of upper- and lowercase letters and numerals, and change them often.

- When using ATM, debit or phone cards, beware of "shoulder surfing" — the practice of standing behind someone using such a card in order to steal its numbers. Also, beware of credit card "skimming" by store and restaurant employees; small electronic devices can steal credit card information, unbeknownst to the cardholder, when the card is handed over for a transaction.

Victims of identity theft, Angelosanto said, should report the crime to their local police department, notify credit card companies and banks, cancel checking accounts that were violated, notify the credit reporting agencies and ask that their credit reports be red-flagged. Phone calls should be documented and confirmed in writing, and mail should be sent certified mail.

If a financial transaction device, such as a credit or debit card, was used illegally, Angelosanto said, the victim should be prepared to file a police report in every community in which the card was used.

If a Social Security number was stolen, Angelosanto said, the Social Security Administration should be notified.

Angelosanto also recommended that identity theft victims notify the Federal Trade Commission at (877) 438-4338. The FTC doesn't prosecute, he said, but gathers information and provides advice on restoring stolen identities.

Tony Angelosanto, Plymouth's crime prevention officer, can be reached at (734) 453-1234, Ext. 526.

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

A shed at a Plymouth Township restaurant was broken into early Sunday, but nothing was reported stolen from it.

The incident occurred at the Max & Erma's, on Beck Road near Five Mile, between about midnight and 9 a.m., the manager told police. The shed door had been pried open and both the shed and the door frame were damaged, according to a police report.

Thefts from vehicles

Two vehicles, both left unlocked, were burglarized on the night of Feb. 24.

Both incidents occurred outside houses on River Oaks Drive, and each vehicle was parked in a driveway.

A charging device for an iPhone was reported stolen from a Dodge Charger, and a small amount of change was reported stolen from a Chevrolet Uplander, police reports said.

The victim in the latter incident told police that a similar incident had occurred about a month ago but that he didn't report it at the time.

By Matt Jachman

FIRE RUNS

The Plymouth Community Fire Department responded to the following runs during the period Feb. 24 to March 2:

- Tuesday, March 2 - Residential rescue runs on Beacon Hill, on Pinewood and on Plymouth Valley; vehicle fire on Sheridan; special run on Wilcox.

- Monday, March 1 - Residential rescue runs on Lilley, on Plymouth Road and on Caster (with extrication); commercial rescue runs on Plymouth Oaks and on Eastside.

- Sunday, Feb. 28 - Residential rescue runs on Dogwood, on Woodgrove and on Marguerite; commercial rescue run on Five Mile; rescue run at a public building on Haggerty.

- Saturday, Feb. 27 - Rescue run at a public building on Main; residential rescue runs on Northville Road, on Spicer, on Breckenridge, on Pacific, on Grant, on Mill and on Vanburen; mutual-aid-given rescue run at westbound M-14 and Robinwood.

- Friday, Feb. 26 - Residential rescue runs on Haggerty, on Beacon Hill, on Newport, on Northern and on Grant.

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24-hour staffing	ALWAYS	Not always provided
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Access to fitness center	ALWAYS	Once a week, if at all
Theater FREE movies & popcorn	ALWAYS	Additional charge
Scheduled transportation	ALWAYS	Not always provided
Weekly entertainment	ALWAYS	Not always provided
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For more information on these or any other events visit www.schoolcraft.edu/webcalendar

Wine Glow & Spaghetti Dinner
March 9
Benefit for Transition Center scholarships. Tickets: \$35 per person (\$18 tax deductible). Wine Glow 5:30 p.m. Dinner 6:30 p.m. in the VisTaTech Center. Tickets and information at 734-462-4443 or www.schoolcraft.edu/transition.

Collage Concert
March 13
The college's Wind Ensemble, Jazz Ensemble, Jazz Improvisation, Choral Union, Synthesizer Ensemble and soloists perform at 8 p.m. in the VisTaTech Center. Tickets: \$8 for adults, \$5 for students, \$3 for children under 12 and senior citizens. Tickets available at www.scbboxoffice.com or 734-462-4403.

Kids can discover their creative side
March 16
Open House for Kids on Campus Summer Camp programs at 5:30 p.m. in the VisTaTech Center. Parents and kids (grades 1-12) can meet instructors, see demonstrations, and sign up for summer sessions. More information at www.schoolcraft.edu/koc or 734-462-4448.

Emmanuelle Boisvert and Pauline Martin in concert
March 19
Violinist Boisvert and pianist Martin perform as part of the Friday Evening Concert Series at 8 p.m. in the VisTaTech Center. Tickets: \$20 per person (\$10 for students) available at www.scbboxoffice.com. More information at www.schoolcraft.edu/music or 734-462-4403.

"King Lear"
Weekends in March and April
Tickets for the Dinner Theatre performances March 19-20 and 26-27 are \$24 per person. Dinner 6:30 p.m. in the VisTaTech Center, performance 8 p.m. in the Liberal Arts Theatre. Tickets for the April 9-10 performance only are \$12 per person. Tickets and more information at www.scbboxoffice.com.

Exhibit and author visit explore 1967 riots
March 8-26
"Smoldering Fire of Civil Unrest" exhibit, on loan from the Detroit Historical Museum, weekdays 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. in the VisTaTech Center.
"Motown Burning" author John Jeffire speaks March 25 at 6:30 p.m. in the VisTaTech Center. More information at www.schoolcraft.edu or 734-462-4422.



"Think Squad" actors Kelley Donnelly and Alexis Ackridge run through a scene.

WRIGHT

FROM PAGE A1

Think Squad, co-produced by Oliver Thornton (another Burnstein prodigy), whom Wright says writes all the scripts and does all the edits — "He's taught us everything we know about the business, mostly the stuff you don't learn at school," Wright said with a smile — came across someone's desk at Detroit Public TV two years ago "waiting for the right champion."

Wright and Thornton watched PBS shows growing up. One they remembered was *The Bloodhound Gang*, a segment from the PBS show *3-2-1 Contact* about three young people who solved crimes, largely with the help of their knowledge of science. When *Think Squad* came along, Wright remembered that show.

"Detroit Public TV wanted to find a program that gets kids interested in science," Wright said. "We've been able to script a show that engages young people."

Think Squad is a diverse group of young people "committed to solving the science-based riddles plaguing their peers." The group works together to solve mysteries using scientific methods.

Wright, who grew up in Plymouth and now lives in Detroit, also wanted to use local talent for the show, grabbing Detroit-area actors to use in front of and behind the camera, rather than holding any sort of "cattle call."

"It's important for us to show kids you don't have to go to Los Angeles to find a job in science," Wright said. "They're doing really cool things right here."

Kelley Donnelly of Canton benefited from Wright's desire to cast local talent. The 14-year-old actress, who has worked with local groups the Spotlight Players and Forever After Productions, among others, saw an announcement on TV for the show, and went down to try out.

Donnelly, a Plymouth High School freshman who landed a speaking role in Rob Reiner's *Flipped*, which premieres in September, earned one of the roles. "Working with everyone was a ton of fun, and working in front of the camera was a fun experience," said Kelley, the daughter of Patrick and Marybeth Donnelly. "(Wright) was really nice. My character had to wear glasses, so I had to wear his, so there we were and neither of us could see. It was funny."

Wright found funding for *Think Squad* from the American Honda Association and AT&T. The first season is on sort of hiatus right now because of the station's pledge drive. It returns March 26 and airs Fridays at 4:30 p.m. and Sundays at 9:30 a.m. (completed episodes are available online at thinksquad.org). Soon, producers will turn their attention to finding funding for a second season.

"We're looking for partners who want to tell a story like this, a hometown story where we're employing local talent on both sides of the camera," Wright said. "We don't want all this hard work to go to waste."

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PURSE STORE COURSE

FROM PAGE A1

fine, but the economy didn't agree," he said during an interview on Tuesday.

Vic's Mart shut its doors to the public on Feb. 24, and Caruana and some friends spent the next few days moving out the remaining stock.

Some of it ended up at the Freestyle Salon on Mill Street in Old Village, where Caruana will be selling purses on consignment in a boutique that owner Pam Free has set up at the front of the salon.

Caruana welcomes the change.

"I really think being where I am is going to make a tremendous difference," he said.

"I think it's a good thing," said Free, who opened the salon in 2001. "Bring his clientele together with my clientele, you can't go wrong." The boutique also has jewelry for sale.

Caruana calls the purses "designer-inspired," meaning they're not knockoffs, but original designs "inspired" by the work of top designers. Most of the purses are priced between \$40 and \$60.

Vic's Mart purses have been for sale on consignment at Freestyle for about six months and have proved popular; Free said clients ask about them when they're sold out.

Caruana also carries handmade purses from three local artisans.

He also plans to continue the "purse parties" women booked at Vic's Mart; he has an agreement with the owner of the Sweet Afton Tea Room, a former neighbor on Forest, to host the parties there, and is planning to seek other Plymouth venues.

Caruana, who also works as a computer consultant, said he's open to expanding the purse business in the future — but with more caution.

"I will take the time to make sure the market's right, that the economy's right," he said.

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COURSE

FROM PAGE A1

course, whose study would begin around the time of Jim Crow laws mandating racial segregation, and the potential teachers of the course, drew the concern of Adrienne Davis, the board's only African-American representative.

"I was a little disturbed to hear a white teacher discuss an African-American course that was written completely from a white perspective," Davis said. "In 2010, that's disturbing. It's not 'like' or 'not like' the class. There is a perspective to the African-American experience that the Caucasian perspective can't bring."

Not everyone feels that way. Social studies teacher Darrin Silvester, who recalled adversity he faced when introducing material about the gay-lesbian lifestyle several years ago, had high praise both for the course and its writer.

"This is a profoundly creative course ... Carrie Chobanian is

one of the best teachers I've ever known," Silvester told board members at the Feb. 23 meeting, when course approval was last pulled from the agenda. "Will it cause risks? Yes. But it's about risk and trust. You have to trust your teachers."

Davis expressed a concern about a non-African American teaching the course — "If you have not experienced discrimination, how can you teach it?" she asked — but it's a concern not shared by the administration.

"The course is rigorous, and it gives students an option they've expressed an interest in," said Cindy Swift, the district's assistant superintendent for instruction. "I am confident we have teachers in our social studies department who can teach this course."

Still, the board felt compelled to establish the advisory committee for the course. The committee will be made up of seven-12 members, a third of which would be appointed by the board and a third of which would be from the African-

American community. Among the committee's responsibilities would be recommending content modifications, identifying possible class resources and recommend "appropriate adjustments" for future semesters.

According to Swift, it will be the only course — outside sex education courses, which she said are required by law to have such committees oversee them — to have an "advisory" committee.

The words "advisory" and "recommend content modifications" replace the terms "oversight" and "make content modifications," respectively, a compromise at least some board members felt was more in spirit with normal board policy.

"It fits with our board job, which is eyes in, fingers out," said board Secretary Nancy Eggenberger. "I think this will be a terrific course. We need to make sure we encourage our staff and not dictate to them."

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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.

OUR VIEWS

Police showed poise in handling gunman in city

It's ironic that last Thursday's incident in which a 54-year-old Plymouth Township man was arrested after firing four rounds from a handgun he was carrying around downtown Plymouth came in the middle of discussions about public safety in both communities.

In the City of Plymouth, there have been talks about retraining police officers in a "public safety model" that would also have them responding to fire and rescue emergencies. In Plymouth Township, officials are talking about laying off seven police officers due to budget constraints brought on, in part, by the state's seemingly never-ending economic crisis.

And there they were last week, side-by-side, working to defuse a situation that certainly could have been worse, especially if police had overreacted. The man was seen first in the lower level of the parking deck, where he fired off one shot before wandering through TranquiliTea and onto Ann Arbor Trail.

The man fired three more shots at nothing in particular — police say he never pointed the gun at anyone but himself and the ground — before being convinced by Plymouth and Plymouth Township officers to put his gun down, according to Plymouth Detective Sgt. Jamie Grabowski.

It was a tense situation, frightening for those who witnessed it, but it could have been much uglier — and deadlier — had the first officers on the scene, Plymouth Sgt. Joe Kahanec and Officer Jennifer Dergis, not remained calm. The Plymouth Township officers who arrived to help — Lt. Robert Antal, Sgt. Dennis Wilson and Officers Bryan Rupard, Steve Coffell and John Drake — worked in concert and ended the incident without harm, to the suspect or to civilians.

The incident has already sparked debate (see public comments on the story at our Web site at www.hometownlife.com) about the wisdom of Plymouth Township cutting officers from its roster. It's also bound to reinforce the feeling in the city that its police force be kept intact. Those are warranted concerns and valid arguments.

But they're for another time. Members of both departments handled what could have been a deadly situation, and brought it to a safe conclusion. For that, they should be commended.

Team effort keeps city streets clear

We can't speak for how other communities do it, but in Plymouth, city officials have certainly figured out how to get it right when it comes to snow removal.

Another case in point came last week, when Mother Nature dumped some six-eight inches in many areas. When roads in surrounding areas — namely the Wayne County-controlled roads like Ann Arbor Road in Plymouth Township — are being rendered unpassable by the weather, City of Plymouth Municipal Services Department crews have already cleared many roads, particularly the main streets.

Their success starts with the plan, and the flexibility built into it. The Plymouth City Commission adopted a snow-removal plan that requires snow removal on residential streets when four inches of snow falls. But the policy also gives the on-call MSD supervisor the authority to make a judgment call, a call that always seems to be the right one.

The other key ingredient to the success of the plan is the city's determination to keep its residents informed. Using the city's e-mail alert system (residents can sign up on the city's Web site at www.ci.plymouth.mi.us), officials manage to keep residents abreast of everything from projected snowfall to road closures, water main breaks and snow emergencies.

Chris Porman heads up MSD, but he doesn't do it alone. The MSD team of eight crew members plus the people who work in the office are the epitome of what teamwork is all about.

COMMUNITY VOICE

'Do you agree with Plymouth Township officials' plan to lay off police officers, in order to deal with a budget shortfall, unless they can get concessions from the police unions?'

We asked this question at the Plymouth District Library.



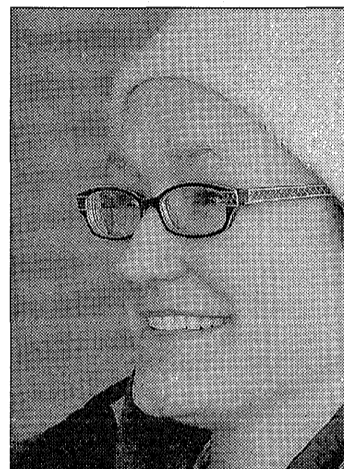
"In general I'm against it. Cops are needed."
Bill Lincoln Sr.
Romulus



"They should not do that."
Barbara Farrell
Plymouth Township



"No. It's safe and they shouldn't mess with that. I just don't think (it) will make things better."
Nicole Ayres
Westland



"I don't agree with that. Plymouth is pretty safe. ... It's a pretty wealthy area. They have enough money to afford more taxes."
Hannah Meier
Redford

LETTERS

Foolish 'hero'

The residents of Plymouth Township and the City of Plymouth live in very safe surroundings. However, there are times when we are grateful for our trained police force and should back away and let them do the job they are trained for.

I was in McMullens Barber Shop last Thursday at 3:15 p.m. when a shot rang out. It was amplified by the parking structure the shop faces in the rear. We moved back from the windows, called 9-1-1 and waited. One man outside simply could not contain himself and raced around the delivery alleyway in his silver SUV looking for the source of the shot.

Then another shot rang out. Now he was on foot looking between the vehicles parked on the ground level. The police had arrived and kept shoppers and teens from Central Middle School away. The police had automatic weapons out and an EMS truck ready for any challenge or outcome. Our hero now attempted to direct traffic and tell the gathered people to back away.

After a brief time, things seemed to return to normal and the police were gone. Our foolish hero was gone too.

Our police are trained and armed to handle such occurrences and we should let them do their job. As I read today's *Observer*, I know I'd vote to support them in any reasonable way and not cut their numbers.

Terry Streaun
Plymouth

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

We welcome your Letter to the Editor. Please include your name, address and phone number for verification. We ask your letters be 400 words or less. We may edit for clarity, space and content. Submit letters via the following formats. Web: www.hometownlife.com E-mail: bkadrich@hometownlife.com Blog: You may also let your opinions be heard with your own blog at hometownlife.com. Deadline: Letters must be received by 9 a.m. Monday to be published in the Thursday edition.

Mob atmosphere wrong

After attending the Plymouth Township board meeting (Feb. 23) I discovered that there was a gross misunderstanding about the current Plymouth Township budget.

The participants at the board meeting clearly did not understand what budgets are, or did not understand that these reductions are needed to survive. Plymouth Township cannot continue to operate as is. The board is correct, the Plymouth Township police department needs to be reduced immediately in order for Plymouth Township to survive in the near future.

Plymouth Township is one of many areas that need to cut back its workforce. After careful examination of the current salaries and benefits of the Plymouth Township police officers, there is a lot of room for

reductions. I do believe that salary and health care concessions of current police officers could be reduced in order to save these officers. There is no evidence of any kind that services would suffer in any way from these reductions in the police force.

I was very disappointed in the mob-like atmosphere at the Plymouth Township board meeting. In the future I hope attendees of Plymouth Township board meetings will respect the board, and not act like a mob.

Keith Martin
Plymouth

RESA tax

Reference RESA article (RESA eyes millage to help struggling districts," *Observer*, Feb. 28), this was a very interesting article; the RESA is an agency that I was not aware of.

However, one-third of a page of text did not seem to include: 1) explanation of the acronym; RESA stands for Regional Educational Service Agency — for schools in Wayne County, Michigan, and 2) that its mission is to: provide services such as group purchasing, computer service, and staff development. Its service sector covers 34 local school districts having approximately 20,000 teachers and 400,000 students.

There is also a lot of detail about the effects on individual districts, but nothing on 'how' the RESA charter permits such a tax (which I believe I would support).

Roger Glynn
Livonia

ONLINE VOICES & VIEWS

Here's a look at what readers are saying about stories on our Web site, www.hometownlife.com:

• In response to the story, "Police arrest downtown shooting suspect":
TeacherBlue wrote:
"Dispatcher: Can you hold a second, I am shaking down seniors on the other line to raise money for our golf outing. The other officers are over at Independence Village collecting the loot."

Gimmeabreak1961 wrote:
"Caller: Hello, 9-1-1?"
"Dispatcher: Yes."
"Caller: There's a man shooting a gun!"
"Dispatcher: That's impossible. We have good citizens who watch out for each other."
"Caller: No — really, there's a man shooting a gun."
"Dispatcher: Well, OK, but you'll have to give us a few weeks to recall the officers that we laid off because they weren't needed because this is such a safe community and our lawnmower storage barn and subdivision street paving were more important. Can you wait that long? Hello ... are you still there?"
"Caller's phone: BANG BANG"

• In response to the story, "Residents pack meeting, plead to save police jobs":
suburb1 wrote:
"Time to start consolidating cities and

townships. No reason that the 36-square mile area bounded by Napier-Eight Mile-Haggerty/Eckles-Joy, has to have four municipalities. Consolidate Northville, Northville Twp., Plymouth and Plymouth Twp. into 1 regional entity.

"Each of the four entities has their own chief and assistants sitting behind a desk, pushing paper back and forth — while the regular joe/policeman put their lives on the line. It's the regular policemen that we need to keep out on patrol."

"Cost savings of over \$300,000 alone resulted in sharing waste disposal in central Wayne County [Wayne, Inkster, Garden City, and Westland]; let's have some of that in our Plymouth/Northville area in the area of Police and Fire."

Gimmeabreak1961 wrote:
"That being said I would have to assume that if crime did dramatically increase after letting go of some police officers, that the board would hire them right back because I highly doubt the board would ever let our town become a dangerous place to live."
"ARE YOU NUTS?! If they have no money to pay for the officers to begin with, how in the world would they have the money to hire them back? If they had the money to begin with, why lay them off?"

"As for what happened in downtown Plymouth at the parking deck, I guess the '... good citizens ...' should all have

responded to deal with that whacko. Would YOU have gone in and faced that guy down? I think not. What would have happened if there wasn't the numbers of officers that responded? And folks, if I'm not mistaken, that was all of the officers that were working. Would that have been enough if this guy chose to start shooting them and other people? When you can show up in large numbers, less people get hurt."

hyejan wrote:
"We live in a great city with people that care for each other and that is why our township is so safe."

"How long do you think great people will want to live in a township that isn't well protected? At the board meeting a new young resident stood up and stated that safety was her main reason for choosing this township to raise her family. She represents the face of what Plymouth Township's future could look like. The board needs to address her concerns and vote with her needs in mind. They need to listen closely so they can vote in a way that will attract new great young families to this community. Without the addition of these new fresh families, this township cannot survive and remain great. To the board I say; start looking at other cost saving measures to balance the budget that won't compromise safety, which in most cases, is a No. 1 priority to those people that you represent."

PLYMOUTH OBSERVER



Brad Kadrich
Community
Editor

Susan Rosiek
Executive Editor
/ Publisher

Grace Perry
Director of
Advertising

Documentation needed for small business loan

I was watching the business news shows over the weekend and the topic was small businesses and the problem they are having obtaining financing.

For many small businesses, credit is their life blood and they cannot operate without the ability to borrow. Although, it is difficult for a small business owner to obtain financing, it is not impossible. Money for small businesses has been set aside by banks as well as credit unions. In fact, credit unions have become very friendly to the small business person.

If you are a small business person or if you are thinking of starting your own business and need financing, there are things you can do to improve your chances of obtaining a business loan.

The key is to be organized and ready to present your case to the lender. It is important to have a business plan when you are seeking financing. A business plan is nothing more than an outline as to how the business runs and how the loan proceeds are to be used. A business plan shows that the owner has given thought to the business and how the loan proceeds will be used.

There is no universal outline for a business plan. There are many different ways of preparing them and, in fact, it actually has become easier over

the years because there are a variety of software packages to use. However, a good business plan should contain certain information so the lender has a complete picture of your business situation. One issue that should be addressed in the business plan is cash flow. Lenders want to see projections for money coming in and how that money will be spent. Although, you don't have to show where every penny goes it is important to provide some sort of detailed information.

A good plan also contains some information about your business and your competitors. It is also important to discuss your expertise in the business. The more you know about your business and the industry will help a lender decide in your favor.

I would be nice if having solid financial projections and a good business meant it is easy to obtain financing. Unfortunately, this is not the case. In today's world where banks and other financial institutions are somewhat risk-averse, lenders are looking for ways to secure the loan. In that regard, you should address how you intend to repay the loan and what type, if any, collateral you have to secure the loan. From the financial institution standpoint the most important issue in approving the loan is reimbursement.

Being prepared and organized is important to obtaining a business loan. Financial institutions will request documentation from the business and

from you personally. Therefore, anticipate and be prepared to provide a variety of documentation to the lender.

In my experience, lenders are going to request tax returns (business and personal for the last three years) and a credit report. It is not a bad idea to obtain your credit report before you make your application so you can address any issues.

There are three major credit reporting agencies: Equifax, Experian and TransUnion. If you know what credit reporting agency your financial institution uses, obtain a copy and review it for accuracy.

Anticipate some of the questions that may be asked so you can be prepared.

The greatness of the American economy is the small business person. It is the small business person who creates jobs and keeps our economy growing.

It is unfortunate that small businesses have such difficulty obtaining financing. However, it is not impossible and the one thing that most small business owners are successful at is overcoming obstacles. Financing is just one of those barriers that must overcome. By being prepared and organized, you will have the upper hand. Good luck!

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.



Money Matters

Rick Bloom

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Schoolcraft hosts symposium on state's future

Schoolcraft College in Livonia will host an economic symposium on Michigan's future 10 a.m. to noon Saturday.

Panelists include Lou Glazer of Michigan Future Inc.; Dr. Soji Adelaja of the Land Policy Institute;

Mike Hansen of the Michigan Community College Association; Mark Gaffney of the Michigan AFL-CIO; and Rupesh Srivastava of Youngsoft Inc.

The moderator will be Detroit Free Press Associate Editor Ron Dzwonkowski.

Natalie Mosher of the 11th Congressional District Democratic Organization is the lead organizer.

"An Economic Symposium: 2010 The Next Steps for Michigan's Future" will be held in the VisTaTech Center.

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SPORTS, FILTER, FOOD

HOMETOWN LIFE



Whale of a future

NHL prospect Tyler Seguin's star on rise at Compuware, PCEP

BY TIM SMITH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

It's not every day that a future professional star athlete walks the halls, attends classes and chows down in the cafeteria at Plymouth High School.

But Plymouth Whalers standout forward Tyler Seguin is doing all that while scoring at a rapid clip and building up his resume for the National Hockey League Entry Draft in June, when Seguin is expected to be one of the top few selections.

"I'm now taking U.S. history, American literature and public speaking, which are all requirements to graduate," said Seguin, one of nine Whalers attending Plymouth. "I'm just a regular school guy there."

It's no regular existence, however. On those days when the Whalers are not on a road trip, Seguin (who, like all high school Whalers, lives with a local billet family) sleeps in. Then it's a rush of activities, first driving to "the Park" with classmates/teammates Scott Wedgewood and Colin MacDonald and taking care of school duties.

"After that it's straight to the rink for a 1:45 p.m. practice and then after that leave the rink by about 4 or 5," Seguin said, "depending on how long we're in the gym. Then we head on home."

Being a budding celebrity doesn't seem to wow other students, even though PHS secretary Jan Pickard said the best way to find Seguin is to look for a group of girls.

"I think everyone's just a normal kid. We all have our dreams, mine come with a little bit of newspaper press and stuff like that," Seguin said about how other students interact with him. "Maybe some guys see me in the newspaper here and there, but I mean, in the end I'm just a regular kid and lots of people respect that."

The wow factor is there for Seguin's incredible hockey talent.

Seguin, an 18-year-old who soon will graduate with the rest of the PHS senior class, obviously has "NHL superstar" written all over him. With an uncanny ability to skate, shoot and make linemates better with his superior hockey sense, many have compared Seguin to former Detroit Red Wing and NHL Hall of Famer Steve Yzerman.

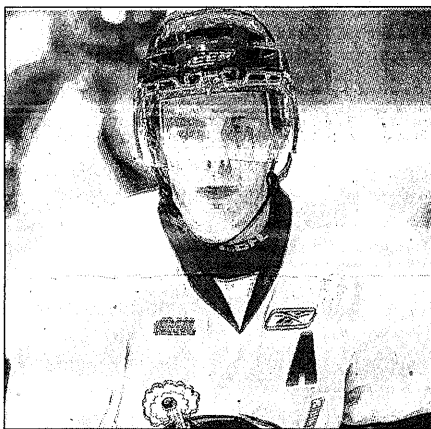


BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Tyler Seguin (center) spends his lunch time at a Plymouth High School cafeteria table with fellow Plymouth Whalers RJ Mahalak and Nick Malysa.

'Maybe some guys see me in the newspaper here and there, but I mean, in the end I'm just a regular kid and lots of people respect that.'

TYLER SEGUIN, *Whalers forward*



WALT DMOCH

Those lofty comparisons are on-target for anybody (including many NHL scouts) who has seen Seguin on the Compuware Arena ice. As of Wednesday, he had 46 goals and 99 points to lead the OHL in scoring. "Right now I'm trying to have more

than one strength. I'm trying to complete my all-around game to show scouts I can play wing or center," Seguin said. "Normally being a centerman, I have to be good in all three zones and that's what I'm trying to perfect right now."

Even more impressive to those around Plymouth-Canton Educational Park or Compuware is how well Seguin deals with everything and everyone — including international hockey media requests.

"He handles the media really well. He's very mature for his age and he's a great player, but he's a good kid," Whalers president, general manager and head coach Mike Vellucci said. "You know, that's the key. You can be a great player and not a very good person."

"But he's got that thing about him that he carries himself really well and he's just a really solid citizen."

The Ontario Hockey League team's director of communications, Pete Krupsky, can't escape noticing the crush of media attention that comes Seguin's way. He also notices Seguin's

Please see **SEQUIN, B3**

GIRLS HOOPS

Year ends for Rocks

BY TIM SMITH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

One play and one call that didn't go Salem's way Monday night ended the season for the Rocks girls basketball team.

Host Novi defeated Salem 46-39 in a Class A district opener, advancing the Wildcats (18-3) into Wednesday's match-up with 19-1 Canton. That game took place after this issue of the *Observer* went to press.

"I thought we had chances to finish on top in this game but we just didn't close it out the way we could have or should have," said Salem head coach Fred Thomann, whose team finished the season 13-7.

After the Rocks had a tough first half, falling behind 25-15 at the break, senior forward-guards Sara Stone and Brett deBear helped spark a third-quarter comeback (13-4) that brought Salem to within a point, 29-28, entering the fourth.

Salem then took the lead midway through the fourth when the crucial play of the night took place.

Please see **GIRLS HOOPS, B2**



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

In her final Salem game, senior Sara Stone scored 17 points but it wasn't enough.

Canton grapplers invade Palace

BY TIM SMITH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Canton is sending six wrestlers to the Division 1 individual finals this week and head coach Cory Mancuso expects a nice haul of medals by the time it's all said and done.

"We were hoping for seven," Mancuso said. "But six is good and it ties the school record for the most we've sent."

Leading the contingent are senior state champion contenders Brent Winekoff (152) and Donnie Watkins (140).

Also competing at the Palace of Auburn Hills beginning Thursday will be junior Anthony Abro (189), junior Ben Poirier (215), senior Keith Zech (171) and senior Waleed



WINEKOFF

Saturday.

"Everybody's healthy and in good shape," Mancuso said. "I think they're focused and ready to go."

Winekoff, who is undefeated (57-0), is the favorite to be the state champion in his weight class. He will face Lowell junior Dan Fleet (37-7).

"He (Winekoff) needs to go out and do what he's been doing all season," Mancuso

INDIVIDUAL FINALS

Faraj (125).

Friday will be the quarterfinals and semifinals with the medal rounds set for

said. "Just kind of stay the course, stay aggressive, wrestle to win and he'll be fine."

Canton's other state champion hopefuls include Watkins (51-3 at 140) and Abro (58-2 at 189).

Watkins goes up against Kalamazoo Central senior Andrew Ermatinger.

"Donnie has just as good a chance as anybody else in his bracket," the coach said. "If he's wrestling on, he can win his bracket pretty easily, too."

"(But) he's got some tough kids, it's the state tournament and everybody's tough."

Please see **WRESTLING, B2**

Chiefs step up at conference meet

BY TIM SMITH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Last week's fourth place performance by Canton's boys swimming & diving team at the KLAA Kensington Conference meet took the sting out of losing to Plymouth the previous weekend in the division meet.

The Chiefs, who had shared the KLAA South title with Plymouth following the Wildcats' division meet victory, redeemed themselves with 464 points at the Novi-hosted tourney.

Canton edged fifth-place Salem (455) and sixth place Novi (452) with Plymouth seventh (321). Northville won the meet with 981 points.

"The boys were definitely fired up for conference meet, knowing that this was their

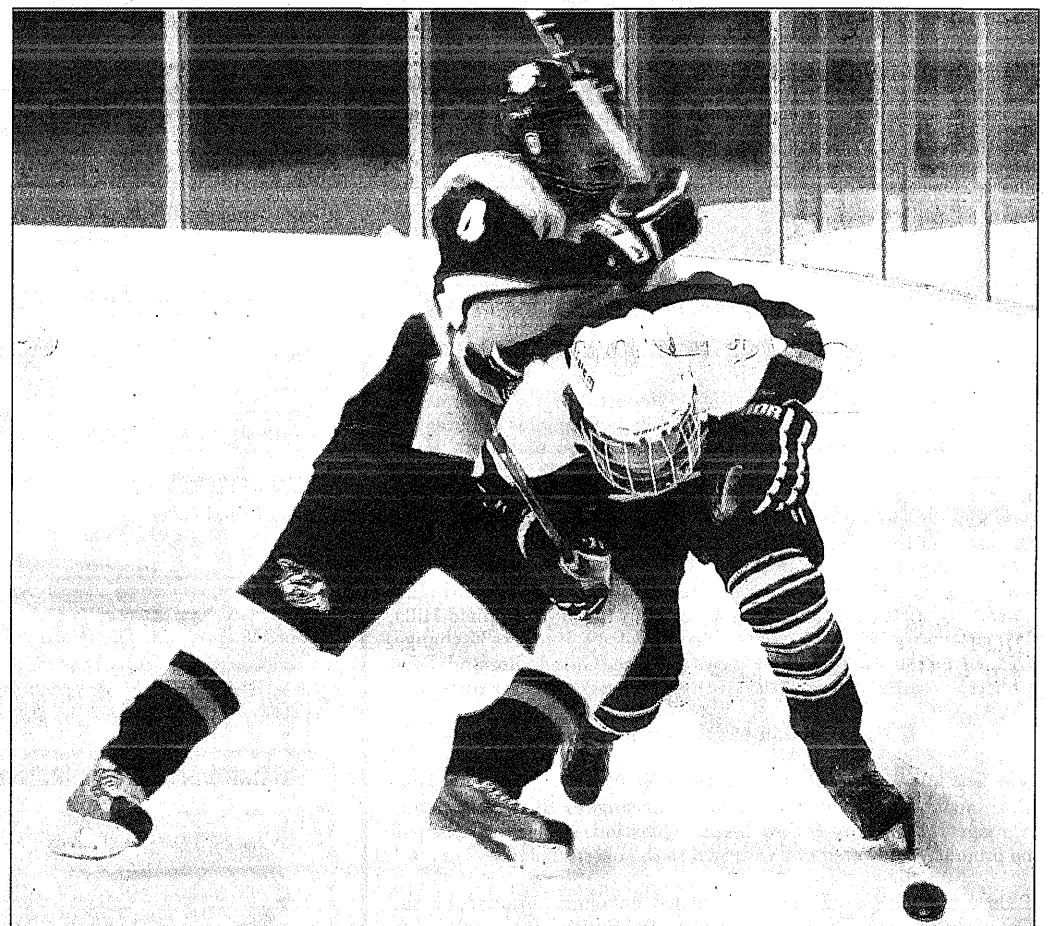
last chance at the season to beat Salem and Plymouth," said Chiefs head coach Dave Le. "They got excited and swam very well."

"Plymouth and Salem swam very well at conference meet and the boys look forward to seeing them at state meet (March 12-13 in Holland)."

Canton will be represented by all three relay teams, along with Jay Jin (200 IM, lifetime best 2:04.84; 100 back, 56.49) and Victor Zhang — who finished first and set meet marks in the 100 back (53.86) and 100 fly (52.90).

Please see **SWIMMING, B2**

BOYS SWIMMING



Fighting for the puck along the boards Monday are Plymouth junior forward Tyler Sanders (No. 4) and Salem senior defenseman Ryan Blakey.

Plymouth survives wild finish

BY TIM SMITH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Monday's Division 1 pre-regional hockey game between arch-rivals Plymouth and Salem came down to a frantic, last-ditch blast by Rocks senior defenseman Steve Haburne.

D1 PREREGIONALS

The one-timer sailed over a wall of bodies standing between Haburne and Wildcats junior goalie Michael Justus, then hit the glass as the final buzzer sounded.

That — and an unassisted goal in the second period by senior forward Pat Sniatacz — clinched Plymouth's nailbiting 4-3 victory at Eddie Edgar Arena and advanced the Wildcats into Wednesday's

Please see **PREP HOCKEY, B3**



Salem senior Brett deBear, shown in this 2009 file photo, scored 10 points in Monday's district loss.

GIRLS HOOPS

FROM PAGE B1

"Brett deBear took the ball to the rim and made a great shot," Thomann said. "They called her for charging. So, instead of getting two and a free throw they came down and hit a triple."

Novi junior Maddy Sinkovich, who took the deBear charged, scored the trey that gave the Wildcats a 34-32 advantage.

That six-point swing turned

out to be too much of a bitter pill for the Rocks to overcome.

Stone (17 points, nine rebounds) and deBear (10 points, four boards) did their best to keep Salem's season alive. Chipping in with seven points was junior guard Heidi Schmidt while senior forward Rachel Norman contributed five points and four rebounds.

For Novi, senior Caroline Johnson scored 22 points including 15 in the first half. Senior Jessica Cingel scored six.

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SWIMMING

FROM PAGE B1

Meanwhile, Kyle Kemp qualified in the 500 free (4:58.98) while other Canton highlights included Pat Jenner placing eighth in the 50 free and 11 swimmers shaved a second or more off their previous personal bests.

Wildcats head coach Doug Schade was pleased with his team's performance.

"We swam great, setting three school records in all the relays and qualifying all three for states," said Schade, adding that Ethan Christensen also qualified in the 100 butterfly.

Plymouth's Connor McManus and Kyle Wilkinson, along with Canton's Ryan Kilgore, will compete Friday in the Division 1 diving regionals.

Salem head coach Chuck Olson could not be reached for comment Tuesday.

But the Rocks' Adam Seroka continued to have an excellent season, with a conference record time of 4:46.20 in the 500 free (qualifying for states). Seroka also qualified in the 200 IM (second, 1:57.08).

Salem's Max Mills (500 free, 4:57.69) and Matt Collingwood (200 free, 1:47.18; 100 free, 49.34) are Holland-bound along with the Rocks' 200- and 400-free relay teams.

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Salem boys nip Howell

Salem hung on at the buzzer Tuesday night for a 45-44 KLAA boys basketball victory over Howell to end the regular season.

The Rocks (10-10 entering next week's districts) went up with nine seconds to go when Tyler Stewart hit two clutch free throws.

But Pinckney (9-11) had the game's last chance, and the field-goal try missed the mark at the horn to enable Salem to squeak out the victory.

"The kids maintained their poise at the end," said Rocks head coach Bob Brodie. "We were up and then down and we just kept scrapping back."

Junior center Jake Peterson was a key contributor for Salem, with 12 points, 11 rebounds, five assists and four blocks.

"He had a very good game for us tonight," Brodie said. "Very solid all-around."

The win moved Salem up to seventh overall out of the 24-team conference while the Pirates placed eighth.

CANTON 61, WALLED LAKE CENTRAL 46: Kevin Weisz, Brandon Duffey and Dietrich Lever were standouts Tuesday night as the visiting Chiefs improved to a final mark of 14-6.

Weisz buried six-of-eight from beyond the three-point arc and scored 17 first-half points. Meanwhile, Duffey saved his 15 points for the second half to help Canton build upon its 32-22 halftime lead.

Lever finished with 14 points, seven assists and six steals, playing a solid game throughout, said head coach Jimmy Reddy.

Senior Paul Baumgart added six points and eight boards.

Reddy said his team's trademark defense and rebounding led to plenty of offense, plenty to polish off the Vikings (15-5).

PLYMOUTH 58, HOWELL 50: In another KLAA game to conclude the regular schedule, Plymouth (11-9) made free throws down the stretch to hold off the Highlanders (4-14).

Mike Nadratowski scored 20 points for the Wildcats, with other contributors including Aaron Thompson (15 points), Brennen Bayer (12 points) and Pat Salo (8 points).

KLAA KENSINGTON CONFERENCE BOYS SWIMMING & DIVING MEET

Feb. 26-27 at Novi

TEAM STANDINGS: 1. Northville, 981 points; 2. Livonia Stevenson, 707; 3. South Lyon Unified, 608; 4. Canton, 464; 5. Salem, 455; 6. Novi, 452; 7. Plymouth, 321; 8. Westland John Glenn, 200; 9. Livonia Franklin, 198; 10. Livonia Churchill, 151; 11. Wayne Memorial, 121.

200-yard medley relay: 1. South Lyon (Evan Faletti, Andy Stone, Adam Oxner, Nate Wagner), 1:39:55 (meet record); 2. Northville, 1:39:68; 3. Stevenson, 1:40:11; 4. Novi, 1:42:66; 5. Canton, 1:43:42; 6. Plymouth, 1:43:94; 7. Franklin, 1:43:99; 8. Salem, 1:46:02.

200 freestyle: 1. Nate Lunn (N'ville), 1:45:25 (meet record); 2. Matt Collingwood (Salem), 1:47:18; 3. Evan Bischoff (SL), 1:48:23; 4. Alex Miller (N'ville), 1:48:42; 5. John Blicke (N'ville), 1:49:89; 6. Travis Vincent (Novi), 1:49:47; 7. Todd Truran (N'ville), 1:51:45; 8. Andrew Ao (Novi), 1:51:63.

200 individual medley: 1. Kellen Schoff (SL), 1:56:14 (meet record); 2. Adam Seroka (Salem), 1:57:08; 3. Joon Chung (Novi), 1:57:29; 4. Ben Schoenek (N'ville), 2:01:44; 5. BoFang Zhang (N'ville), 2:02:51; 6. A.J. Aquino (N'ville), 2:03:11; 7. Oxner (SL), 2:03:73; 8. Jay Jin (Canton), 2:04:84.

Canton icers escape with win

BY TIM SMITH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

It took a goal with less than half a second left in the second period for Canton's boys hockey team to survive to play another game in the Division 2 pre-regional.

The Chiefs, who had been heavily favored to defeat Livonia Franklin (just two victories all season), managed to win 2-1 at Farmington Hills Ice Arena. Canton will next face No. 7-ranked Farmington United at 7 p.m. Thursday.

"The mental game played a huge aspect tonight," said Canton head coach Jeremy Majszak. "Everywhere I went for the past week, everybody was saying that we'd be playing Thursday."

Netting both goals for Canton (13-10-2) was junior forward Garrett Bryden, giving the Chiefs their first playoff win in the three seasons Majszak has been on the coaching staff (this is his first year as head coach).

"They (Patriots) played hard and with urgency, they had nothing to lose," Majszak said. "We talked about that before the game and got caught flat-footed in the first period."

Adding to Canton's apparent attitude that the win was won before the puck drop was a first-shift shot from center ice by senior defenseman Alec Gilo that handchecked Pat's netminder Anthony Crechiolo.

Then just three minutes into



JOHN KEMSKI

Battling for the puck following a faceoff Tuesday against Livonia Franklin are Canton's Phil Baciak (No. 7) and Taylor Baker (No. 22).

the game, Bryden scored after receiving a pass from junior forward Jordan Smith to make it 1-0.

But Kevin Webb evened things up at 4:30, beating sophomore netminder Spencer Craig (13 saves) on the power play. Webb beat Craig short side from the left circle.

Canton then threw everything it could at the Franklin goalie, who stopped 39 of 41 shots for the game.

It took a desperation play to break the deadlock. Senior winger Riley Hoenschmeyer ripped a hard shot along the red line from the corner and Bryden redirected it in from the doorstep.

"It was just one of those fluke goals," Majszak said. "You throw it on the net and

hope something happens."

The third period was scoreless, with Craig holding the fort.

Canton will need to defeat Farmington on Thursday for the chance to play in the regional final Saturday night at Wyandotte Yack Arena.

"It's the playoffs, everybody's on an even playing field," Majszak added.

PCS PENGUINS 8, BLOOMFIELD 0: Freshman Cortny McAdoo's shutout Tuesday night over the Bloomfield Hills Knighthawks at the St. Clair Shores-hosted Division 2 playoffs of the Michigan Metro Girls Hockey League enabled the PCS Penguins girls hockey team to move on to Thursday's game against Detroit Country Day.

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State meet encore for Salem boys

BY TIM SMITH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Make it two-for-two for Salem's boys bowling team.

The second-year Rocks qualified for the Division 1 state finals for the second consecutive year.

"I'm just amazed that we qualified two years in a row, let alone the only two years we've been in the program," beamed Salem head coach Kathie Hahn. "I think this is a real boost for the program and hopefully (it) can continue."

Salem totaled 4,040 points at the Region 6 regional Feb. 26-27 at Westland Lanes — just five points behind first-place Westland John Glenn (4,045).

The Rocks also will be represented by three individuals Friday and Saturday at M-66 Bowl in Battle Creek.

Ryan Clark finished fourth with 1,290 points to make the cut. He will be joined by Salem's Shaun Schmidt (fifth place, 1,288) and Kyle Newcomb (10th place, 1,166).

"My two seniors (Schmidt and Newcomb) have played a key role this year and are going to be missed both by the team and me personally," Hahn said.

Canton's David Blythe is the lone Plymouth-

PREP BOWLING

Canton Educational Park bowler not from Salem to qualify.

Blythe finished seventh at regionals with a total of 1,207 pins.

Chiefs head coach Jim Keppen said there were other players "floating at the cut line that faded in the last game."

Both Canton teams were "middle of the pack," he added.

Plymouth head coach Tammy Thompson said there were no qualifiers from her teams. Freshman Antonio Spinale fell just 17 pins shy of making it.

But she said it was an encouraging season nonetheless.

"We have a young team though," Thompson said. "My varsity boys team has one senior, two freshmen and the rest are sophomores."

"I think we will do great the next few years," Thompson said. Kyle Webb had the high average for the boys (200) while Mackenzie Carlson's 160 average topped the girls.

Meanwhile, Super Bowl in Canton will be hosting the Division 2 boys and girls finals.

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KLAA SWIMMING RESULTS

50 freestyle: 1. Aaren Marecki (SL), 22.22; 2. John Lubisco (N'ville), 22.27; 3. William Greenlee (N'ville), 22.5; 4. Adam Dabkowski (SL), 22.71; 5. Spencer Miller (N'ville), 22.77; 6. Paul Gutu (WJG), 22.82; 7. Patrick Jenner (Canton), 23.17; 8. Brandon Tolinski (Canton), 23.33.

1-meter diving: 1. Kevin Bain (N'ville), 420.60 points (11-dive meet record); 2. Will Price (N'ville), 418.85; 3. Dan Gironza (SL), 361.60; 4. Cody Roe (WJG), 320.70; 5. Brendan O'Sea (SL), 319.25; 6. Cameron Sawyer (SL), 290.05; 7. Connor McManus (Ply.), 282.90; 8. Ryan Kilgore (Canton), 259.55.

100 butterfly: 1. Victor Zhang (Canton), 52.90 (meet record); 2. Schoenek (N'ville), 53.29; 3. K. Schoff (SL), 53.34; 4. Greenlee (N'ville), 53.72; 5. Stone (SL), 54.15; 6. Aquino (N'ville), 54.64; 7. Ethan Christensen (Ply.), 56.05; 8. Dabkowski (SL), 56.15.

100 freestyle: 1. Marecki (SL), 49.04; 2. Lunn (N'ville), 49.20; 3. Collingwood (Salem), 49.34; 4. Bischoff (SL), 49.61; 5. Ryan Winkler (N'ville), 49.82; 6. Truran (N'ville), 49.96; 7. S. Miller (N'ville), 50.15; 8. A. Miller (N'ville), 50.35.

500 freestyle: 1. Seroka (Salem), 4:46:20 (meet record); 2. Chris LaFayette (N'ville), 4:53:11; 3. Danny Schoff (SL), 4:55:71; 4. Travis Vincent (Novi), 4:56:40; 5. Max Mills (Salem), 4:57:69; 6. Tim Shea (N'ville), 4:58:50; 7. Kyle Kemp (Canton), 4:58:98; 8. Blicke (N'ville), 5:02:04.

200 freestyle relay: 1. Northville (Lunn, Blicke, Lubisco, Aquino), 1:29:63; 2. Stevenson, 1:30:07; 3. Canton, 1:32:70; 4. Novi, 1:32:55; 5. Salem, 1:32:80; 6. Southlyon, 1:33:28; 7. Plymouth, 1:34:84; 8. Franklin, 1:37:07.

100 backstroke: 1. Zhang (Canton), 53.86 (meet record); 2. Lubisco (N'ville), 55.66; 3. John Ferrara (SL), 55.87; 4. Jin (Canton), 56.49; 5. Joey Wakeford (WJG), 57.23; 6. Brandon Larkins (LF), 57.25; 7. Faletti (SL), 58.38; 8. Wagner (N'ville), 58.46.

100 breaststroke: 1. Oxner (SL), 58.97; 2. Chung (Novi), 59.46; 3. Stone (SL), 1:01:06; 4. Jong Min Kim (Novi), 1:02:96; 5. Jake McNamara (SL), 1:03.35; 6. John Dunnuck (SL), 1:03.62; 7. Zhang (N'ville), 1:04.45; 8. Anthony Adamowicz (N'ville), 1:04.80.

400 freestyle relay: 1. Stevenson (Mohamed Ghoiteimi, Dabkowski, K. Schoff, Marecki), 1:34.33 (meet record); 2. Northville, 3:14.51; 3. Salem, 3:19.31; 4. Canton, 3:19.69; 5. Novi, 3:22.15; 6. South Lyon, 3:22.46; 7. Plymouth, 3:25.65; 8. Franklin, 3:34.26.

PLYMOUTH-CANTON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS NOTICE TO BIDDERS

The Board of Education of the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools invites all interested and qualified companies to submit a Bid for Bid Package #25A: Interior Signage at Salem High School.

Bidding documents prepared by TMP Associates, Inc. will be available for public inspection and pick-up (1 set per company) at the office of the Construction Manager, McCarthy & Smith Inc., 24317 Indoplex Circle, Farmington Hills, MI, 48335 (248) 427-8400. They can also be viewed at: FW Dodge Plan Room, Southfield; Construction Association of Michigan Plan Room, Bloomfield Hills; Daily Construction Reports Plan Room, Detroit; Builders Exchange, Grand Rapids; Construction News Service, Grandville; and Reed Construction Data, Novi, MI. Bid Division description includes:

Bid Division 122: Interior Signage

Any and all questions in regards to the bidding or the Bid Package Documents should be addressed in writing to the Construction Manager, McCarthy & Smith Inc. Questions or clarifications will be promptly answered and returned to the bidder/bidders.

Bids are to be submitted in a sealed envelope supplied by the Construction Manager, McCarthy & Smith Inc. with the corresponding bid division identified on the outside of the envelope. All bids should include 2 copies (1 original, 1 copy) of the Proposal Pricing Form (Section 00300) and the Proposal Execution Form (Section 00400). The Proposal Execution Form provides a space for the bidder to disclose any familial relationship as required by the State of Michigan and this form must be signed and notarized in order for the bid to be accepted.

Bids are due to the PCCS E.J McClendon Educational Center on or before 10:00 a.m. EST, Wednesday, March 17, 2010, where they will be opened and read publicly. Faxed proposals will not be accepted. The Board of Education for the Plymouth Canton Community Schools reserves the right to accept and/or reject all bids, as they judge to be in the best interest of the school district.

This project is to be bid and the work performed at the Prevailing Wage Rates.

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Notice is hereby given that on Monday, 03/15/2010 at 9:30 am, TATE & CO. Auctioneers, Executive Administrator for Extra Space Storage, will be offering for sale under the judicial lien process, by public auction, the following storage units. The goods to be sold are generally described as household goods. The terms of the sale will be cash only. Extra Space Storage reserves the right to refuse any and all bids. The sale will be at the following location: Extra Space Storage, 6729 N Canton Center Rd. Canton, MI 48187.

Owens, Stephon/ Owens Concrete/ S.L.O. Concrete	B40	10x15	4 Tires, 4 rims, vinyl tarp, back pack leaf blower, cooler, concrete saw, misc industrial grade tools, misc household goods
Ron Kilby	F200	10x20	Vacuum, pool cues, waterbed disassembled), grill, disassembled pool table, 12+ boxes, ficus tree, misc household goods
Ron Kilby	F201	10x20	Speaker, various style furniture, 10+ boxes, misc household goods
LeAnn Decker	I338	10x15	Golf clubs, hockey sticks, 2 sofas, 8+ totes, 14+ boxes, misc household goods & decorations
Rene Kurtycz	J346	10x10	Pool skimmer, fishing nets, sewing machine, Halloween decorations, crutches, sewing machine, 4+ totes, 15+ boxes, misc household goods

Publish: February 25 & March 4, 2010

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With focus and fire, Plymouth Whalers forward Tyler Seguin chases down the puck in Saginaw's end during a recent game.

PREP HOCKEY

FROM PAGE B1

game against Livonia Stevenson.

Letting out a big sigh of relief was Plymouth head coach Paul Fassbender, who lamented how his team gave up two goals in the second period after the Wildcats (19-5-1) built a 3-1 lead in the first.

"We had a lot of little breakdowns," Fassbender said. "For some reason, whenever we play Salem we make it a game.

"We had them on their heels, then we make some bad decisions, not protecting the puck and the next thing you know it's in our net."

CLOSING IT OUT

The Wildcats clamped down in the final period, blocking shots, clearing the zone and winning crucial faceoffs to hold off Salem (12-10-3).

"We played smarter, we blocked shots which we haven't done all year," Fassbender said. "We were able to find ways to clear the zone. And we won faceoffs."

"I don't think we've won faceoffs for six months and we finally started winning them at the end and that really helped."

According to Salem head coach Ryan Ossemacher, his team bounced back after a mistake-prone opening stanza.

"They capitalized on a couple of our errors early in the game," he said. "But then we picked it up. I think in the second half we carried the play."

"If the game had gone another five minutes I think you'd probably be having a different interview."

Ossemacher credited Plymouth for collapsing deep to protect Justus and make it virtually impossible to net the tying goal as the seconds ticked down.

"I think at the end all five guys were within three feet of the net, and that's what you need to do," Ossemacher said. "It just makes it harder to score."

Haburne's bid to tie the game and force overtime came seconds after a heated scrum involving both teams.

Salem players rushed Justus (30 saves), bowled him over into the net and shook him up on the process. But the puck didn't cross the line.

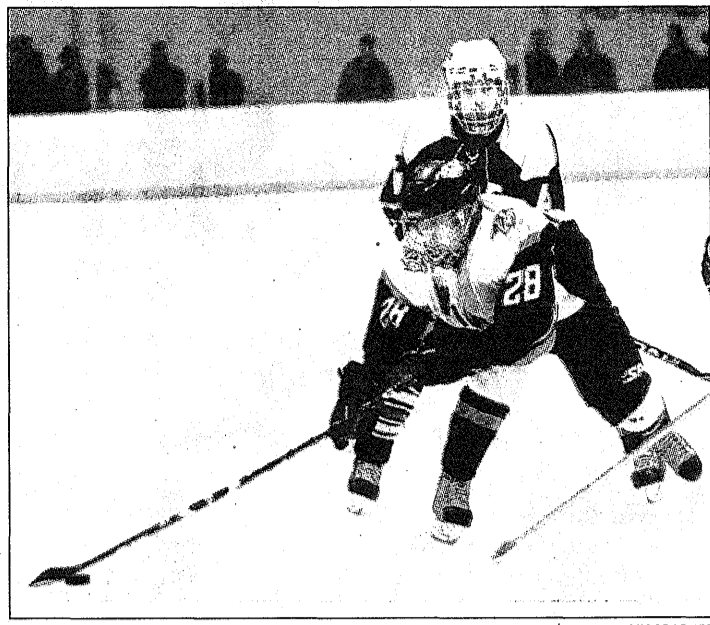
"Justus played well," Ossemacher added. "We had a lot of rebound opportunities and he stood his ground. We just couldn't find a way to finish them."

Concurring was Fassbender, noting that Justus "played great, they threw everything they could at him. There were a lot of shots, a lot of deflections."

REDEMPTION

One player who did finish was Smiatacz, who scored the unassisted game-winner at 11:33 of the second period.

Smiatacz redeemed him-



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Plymouth junior defenseman Justin Bauer (No. 24) reaches for the puck while trying to elude Salem senior forward Kurt Driscoll (No. 4). Closing in on Bauer is Salem junior blueliner Max Coral (No. 23). The play took place during Monday's D1 hockey pre-regional at Eddie Edgar Arena in Livonia.

self for a penalty he took earlier in the frame that contributed to a power play marker by senior forward Mario Macari (which tied the game at 3-3).

On his goal, Smiatacz dug the puck out along the right half-wall, skated into the slot and buried a shot past Salem senior goalie Steven Manser (34 saves).

"I felt like I had to step it up for my team because I let them down before," said Smiatacz, after stepping off the ice. "So, I just had to go out there and do my job."

"I felt amazing after that. It was one of the greatest goals I've ever scored in my life."

Just a minute or so before Smiatacz scored, the Rocks came within an eyelash of taking the 4-3 lead when a Salem player tried to jam the puck past Justus' left skate at the post. Ossemacher thought it was a goal.

Ossemacher also questioned Plymouth freshman forward Nicholas Schultz' goal on a sharp-angle shot at 9:13 of the second. Setting up the goal were junior forward Tyler Sanders and sophomore D-man Nathan Stemberger.

The Salem coach said it appeared to him that the shot rang off the crossbar, but officials ruled it hit the back bar and ricocheted out.

"I typically don't question things that happen, the refs do a good job for the most part," Ossemacher said. "But I need to see that third goal because from my perspective I don't know how that went in."

Both teams got off to a good start, scoring a goal early. Plymouth senior forward Taylor Currier flipped a backhand past Manser at 2:55 for the game's first tally.

Less than two minutes later, Salem answered when senior forward Josh Jarvela scored.

The Wildcats then scored on the power play at 7:15. Senior blueliner Evan Swieczkowski threaded a pass from the left circle to

senior forward Ryan Renault on the opposite side. Renault then found Sanders alone near the left post for a tap-in.

It was 3-1 when Schultz found the mark.

Salem's comeback began when junior forward Nick Hayes scored a power play goal at 7:23 of the second period.

Hayes took a centering feed from senior forward Kurt Driscoll and backhanded the puck in from right in front of Justus. Starting the play was junior forward Ryan Quigley.

Macari banged in a rebound for Salem's equalizer (with assists to Driscoll and senior forward Josh Jarvela). That triggered a mob scene, as happy teammates piled on top of Macari.

Macari's goal was the tie-breaker by Smiatacz loomed just 1:27 later.

"I think we got too emotionally high at that point (Macari's goal), thinking we had won the game," Ossemacher said. "And when you do that you're bound for a quick lapse and that's exactly what happened on that fourth goal."

Ossemacher, however, said it was a good season and one for returnees to remember next winter.

"We finished 12-10-3 and eight of our losses were against teams ranked in the top-10," he stressed. "... every team we lost to you have a chance to see them at Compuware (state finals)."

The loss also meant the end for a group of three-year players who came to the Rocks the season Ossemacher arrived.

"They're my first group because they came in as sophomores when I took over," he said. "And they committed themselves. I couldn't ask for anything more."

Except for a longer third period on Monday.

tsmith@hometownlife.com

Whalers mix hockey, homework

BY TIM SMITH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

On the ice, Tyler Seguin and his Plymouth Whalers teammates are some of the best in junior hockey — with the National Hockey League in many of their futures.

But it is off the ice, at Plymouth-Canton Educational Park, that high school-age Whalers really make their mark as young men, according to John Seidelman, the retired Plymouth High School counselor who is the point man for the unique collaboration.

Seidelman said it is nothing for players to return home after midnight following travel back from a road game and then be in the classroom by 7 a.m.

They don't float through their classes, as the Whalers place a high priority on their players earning their opportunity to graduate with the rest of the seniors (and since the program began in 2003, the graduation rate of Whalers is 100 percent).

"The Whaler organization prides itself on players doing the very best they can," Seidelman noted. "The players have had a flawless discipline record and continue to have a very positive impact on the entire high school community."

"Seidelman began working with Whalers players in '03, assisting them with registration, setting up class schedules and guiding them through any academic rough patches."

Despite having abbreviated school days (players generally have early afternoon practices) or even missing complete days due to having road games during the week, the Whalers get the job done on many levels.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Plymouth High School cafeteria worker Donna Thomas brings Whalers newspaper clippings from the Observer to Tyler Seguin, RJ Mahalak and Nick Malysa. "These guys are awesome," said Thomas who worries that the boys might not see the newspaper's coverage of the team.

"The players gain new friendships throughout the year and when time permits participate in other activities," he continued. "The greatest challenge I have witnessed in my years of working with players is the delicate balance of time management."

"(They) start their day at the Park as early as 6:30 in the morning, are on the ice each day practicing by 2:00 p.m. and often have at least three games per week."

THE RIGHT STUFF

Meanwhile, Seidelman has nothing but praise for student Seguin, calling him "a delight" to work with over the past two years.

"When he graduates he should be very proud of his accomplishment," said Seidelman. "The demands on Tyler's time is very demanding, but he has always found a way to get the job done."

"I have been very proud of his work and accomplishment. He is a fine young man."

Seidelman added that the way Seguin is able to work hard on his classwork and also be a good person matters to NHL scouts, too.

"Several months ago I got a call from an NHL scout asking me questions about leadership, school work ethic, and academic skills as they related to Tyler," Seidelman said. "I was pleased I could share positive feedback regarding Tyler to him."

"It was made clear to me that the same skills and attributes I have been talking about are looked at when NHL teams take a serious look at drafting players."

There's no doubt those scouts have no worries when it comes to updating big league general managers about what Seguin brings to the table besides his obvious hockey acumen.

John Seidelman doesn't want it, but he deserves some kind of assist in all that.

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SEQUIN

FROM PAGE B1

businesslike demeanor in dealing with everything.

"For a young man still going to high school, he does an outstanding job," Krupsky said. "Whenever we go on the road, he's the first Whaler player that people request for interviews. ... You wouldn't know he's 17 or 18 years old the way he handles everything with maturity, with class."

"It's a real credit to him and his parents and his upbringing."

According to Seguin, in his second year with the Whalers and at PCEP, he agrees with Krupsky's assessment that this year is a good

learning experience to prepare for eventual NHL life.

That life, the ultimate dream of every Canadian hockey player, will become true for Tyler at the NHL Entry Draft in June at Los Angeles' Staples Center.

"It's more of a privilege and something pretty cool," Seguin said, talking about the media spotlight this season. "I know this is my job here, and it only comes around once."

"So all the media I get, I'm just going to have as much fun with it as I can."

Judging from Seguin's wide grin either with the Whalers or at Plymouth High School, it looks like he's as on target in that endeavor as he is around enemy goalies.

tsmith@hometownlife.com

Educated: Spirit powers past Plymouth

Ivan Telegin's power play goal at 3:58 of the third period snapped a 3-3 tie and the Saginaw Spirit went on to defeat the Plymouth Whalers, 6-3, in an Ontario Hockey League game played Tuesday morning before 4,513 during Education Day at the Dow Event Center.

Education Day in Saginaw featured nearly 3,000 school

age children at the Dow Event Center and they saw the Spirit clinch a spot in the upcoming OHL playoffs.

Plymouth — who clinched a playoff spot Feb. 21 in an 11-3 victory in Sarnia — remains in fourth place in the Western Conference with a record of 36-25-0-2. Garrett Meurs (16), AJ Jenks (23) and RJ Mahalak (2) scored for Plymouth.

Blood drive Friday

Plymouth is back in action on Friday at 7 p.m. at Compuware Arena against Sault Ste. Marie.

Meanwhile, the Whalers are hosting a blood drive from 12 noon to 6 p.m. at Compuware before the game.

Anyone attempting to give blood will receive a voucher for the game that evening.

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IT'S YOUR BUSINESS PROFILE

PR pro Lorenz proud of his Plymouth base

BY JULIE BROWN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Scott Lorenz comes by his public relations savvy naturally. "My dad, of course, was probably one of the best promoters around," the younger Lorenz said of late dad Ralph, who owned the Mayflower Hotel in downtown Plymouth. "I think it's kind of in the blood."

Scott Lorenz, 52, of Plymouth has operated Westwind Communications as president since 1981. He was involved with the family's operation of the now-closed landmark hotel before that.

Lorenz was student body president at the University of Nevada-Las Vegas, and learned a lot about public relations there. In his younger days, he was involved in getting the Plymouth Ice Sculpture Spectacular and Mayflower Balloon Fest off the ground in his hometown.

Ad dollars were limited, so organizers relied heavily on publicity. "We were kind of forced to be creative," he said.

Lorenz was working for Domino's Tom Monaghan. "People approached me to promote their businesses and their organizations. One thing led to another," he said of Westwind's formation.

Westwind Communications is home-based in the family's Plymouth home. "I call it my world headquarters," he said, pausing to sign for a delivery. Downtown Plymouth Panera's, where the Mayflower Hotel once stood, is his ancillary office.

"That's my water cooler, so to speak," he said of Panera's, where many gather to visit and exchange information.

Lorenz can do his work with people all over the world, mostly with clients from the U.S. He does a lot of book promotions, as well as working with inventors and entrepreneurs. He helps physicians and lawyers with their PR, including introduction of new techniques such as the once-new laser eye surgery.



Scott Lorenz of Plymouth is president of Westwind Communications. His family owned and operated the Mayflower Hotel in downtown Plymouth.

WESTWIND COMMUNICATIONS

- **Business name:** Westwind Communications
- **Business Location:** Plymouth, Mich.
- **Owner:** Scott Lorenz of Plymouth
- **Business Specialty:** Public relations
- **Business Phone and Web site:** (734) 667-2090; catch Scott Lorenz via e-mail at scottlorenz@westwindcos.com; business Web site is www.westwindcos.com

"I see how things are going around the country," he said. A few years back during the television screenwriter strike, Beverly Hills, Calif., plastic surgeons saw business suffer. "Nobody was working," he said. More recently, cardiologists have needed a PR boost. "People call me when they need me," Lorenz said. "They need a shot in the arm."

He cites media placements including *Good Morning America*, Fox News, *The Wall Street Journal*, *Los Angeles Times* and others. Lorenz is particularly fond of having worked on an Around the World Balloon Trip's media relations in the late 1990s.

"I had to turn my phone off at night and sleep with it on my chest," he recalled. "It was like

drinking out of a fire hose." He's seen changes in public relations, now heavily Internet-based, "which allows me to work anywhere with anybody. I can do this job anywhere."

He recalled starting out and sending snail mail. "Five days later, somebody may call you back," he said. Now, with e-mail and a hot story, responses are almost instantaneous.

"So the instant feedback is probably the coolest thing," he said. "It's a whole different ballgame."

He recalled speaking by phone from Japan with the late Bob Talbert of the *Detroit Free Press* years ago. Talbert told Lorenz about working from home and filing his columns electronically.

"What are you talking about, e-mail? It was just that fresh," Lorenz said of that conversation.

Client Terry L. Cochran of the Cochran, Foley & Associates law firm is pleased, writing on Lorenz's Web site, "He has been the driving force in enhancing our image and increasing public perception. He obtained dozens of print and electronic news stories including 50 plus news-feature segments on Fox-TV, dramatically improved our Web presence and its importance in attracting new clients. He created and managed the pay per click advertising program which has been a significant development in the marketing of any practice. I unequivocally endorse Scott and the good services of Westwind Communications."

Lorenz sees good things for Westwind Communications. "The future's bright, very bright," he said. There will always be new books and inventions, along with medical breakthroughs and lawsuits for media discussion.

Lorenz is married to Yvonne and they have two grown children, Katie and Joe. He agreed meeting people is the best part of the job. "So that's really the fun part about this. It's fun to work on."

jbrown@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-6755

PLYMOUTH BUSINESS BRIEFS

Smith testifies

The House committees on Financial Services and Small Business held a joint hearing last week on the condition of small business and commercial real estate lending in local markets.

Among those testifying was Wes Smith, president of Plymouth-based E&E Manufacturing.

"It is manufacturers like Wes and his workers who will revive and strengthen our recessed economy," said United States Rep. Thaddeus G. McCotter, whose district includes Plymouth.

Block captains

The Downtown Business Association is considering implementing a block captain program to help disseminate information to merchants.

The block captain would be the go-to person on the major streets to keep other merchants informed of activities and other important information.

Business News

Eclectic Attic will be opening on Forest April 1 in the old Baker's Rack building. Owner Tina Camero says EA will be a high-end consignment shop with men's and women's clothing. She will also carry furniture, antiques and vintage pieces in the 1,600-square-foot store. Tina lives in Northville, but says "I love Plymouth."

Burger Spot, which closed in January in Westchester Square Mall, will be re opening soon with familiar faces as new owners. E.G. Nicks owners Frank Agostini and Tony Belli, along with building owner Denny Pennington, will be partnering to reopen Burger Spot.

Sun and Snow owner Bob Parent is hopeful the business at Main Street and Ann Arbor Trail will be open by mid-March.

Forest Computer Solutions is offering \$5 off the hourly rate for computer services in the month of March. They are located at 480 Forest, with their entrance off the Harvey Street parking lot. Contact Roz and Jayme at (734) 259-8611 or at www.forestpconline.com

Retail upswing

Michigan retailers began 2010 with an upswing in sales and confidence, according to the latest Michigan Retail Index survey, a joint project of Michigan Retailers Association and the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago.

The survey found that more than 40 percent of retailers increased sales in January, the highest level since November 2007. In addition, 49 percent project better sales for the rest of the winter and early spring, the best since March 2008.

However, the number of retailers posting year-over-year sales decreases in January, 47

percent, outnumbered those ringing up increases, 42 percent, for the 27th consecutive month.

"Michigan's retail industry has posted better sales numbers three months in a row and shown solid improvement since its low point last winter and spring," said MRA President and CEO James P. Hallan. "We expect this trend to continue as the economy begins to slowly create more jobs and chip away at double-digit unemployment, currently the biggest problem affecting consumer spending."

The Michigan Retail Index survey for January found that 42 percent of retailers increased sales over the same month last year, while 47 percent recorded declines and 11 percent saw no change. The results create a seasonally adjusted performance index of 49.9, up from 47.8 in December. A year ago, the index had dropped to 29.0 in January.

Index values above 50 generally indicate an increase in positive activity, while values below 50 indicate a decrease.

Looking ahead, 49 percent of retailers expect sales during February - April to improve over the same period last year, while 29 percent project a decrease and 22 percent no change. That puts the seasonally adjusted outlook index at 61.8, up from 57.1 in December. A year ago the index had fallen to 41.6 in January.

CHAMBER CHAT

Auction theme

The Chamber's Auction Committee is asking members to provide ideas for a theme for this year's Gala Auction on Nov. 5. The theme is a vital part of making the event a successful, memorable evening for the 400 attendees. Please submit ideas for a theme by Feb. 22. If your theme is chosen we will announce it in our E-Newz. To provide ideas, please e-mail the Chamber at teri@plymouthmich.org.

Egg hunt

The Plymouth Lions Club will be sponsoring their second Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 3. The project will consist of several of their members stuffing thousands of plastic eggs with festive toys and goodies for the kids and gathering a variety of prizes for children ages 0 to 14.

They are asking area businesses to contribute to this project with donations to purchase Easter candy, small toys, pens, pencils, coloring books, stuffed animals, plastic eggs, pre-stuffed Easter baskets, and any other prizes or monetary donations you might find appropriate.

For a donation of \$25 or more, your business name will be printed on a banner of appreciation, which will be hung at the event. All donations will receive recognition in their monthly newsletter as well as print media. E-mail JoEllen Hinker at jehinker@comcast.net or call Debbie Dowling at (734) 207-7464 for more information.

March events

The Chamber will hold its annual School Board Celebration at a Coffee Connection hosted by our Education Committee from 8-9 a.m. on March 11. Members are invited to join in a



On 'Task'

Task Team LLC celebrated its grand opening with a ribbon-cutting ceremony Feb. 23. Task Team is a new business venture, comprised of skilled business professionals who are available on short notice to relieve pressure points in the work cycle. The owners - Marti Chamberlain and Gayle Carpenter - say their company is unique because they are not temporary staff. They work with established staff, at strategic times, to accomplish specific tasks. They accomplish the tasks that new, growing or recovering businesses aren't quite ready to hire staff to tackle, allowing managers and owners to work on their business, not in it. These highly skilled professionals are available at a fraction of the cost of permanent or even temporary staff and can be the answer to the common business dilemma of balancing a fluctuating workload with a stationary staff. Task Team opened "their doors" for business on Jan. 1, and has enjoyed a successful start working with several Plymouth businesses. They can be found at www.taskteam.net.

celebration to thank the School Board for their efforts to deal with a job that is always difficult. Certificates of appreciation will be given to the School Board members at the coffee. If you are interested in joining us to acknowledge the School Board's efforts and share a cup of coffee with fellow members, please contact the Chamber at teri@plymouthmich.org or at (734) 453-1540.

Join 300 other business people from Western Wayne County for one of the best networking events of the year in this region. The Annual Western Suburban Area Council of Chamber's "Breaking the Boundaries"

Business Mixer will be at Burton Manor on Thursday, March 11, from 5-7 p.m. This will be a great night for networking, where business meets business across every border in the western suburbs.

There are 6 exhibit spaces available for this event. Spaces are \$60 each with 8-by-3-foot exhibit tables. Each space will also have a Plymouth Rocks framed 8-by-11-inch logo on the table to identify where you are from in Plymouth. To reserve space, please call the Chamber at (734) 453-1540. Space must be paid for by March 8 or the space will be offered to other members. Payments can be taken by credit card over the phone or by check.

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While visiting the Canton Home Improvement Expo, bring this ad with you to receive a 10% discount for any order placed through April 5th, 2010
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Spring Celebration

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For more information call (734)422-2090

ART

Livonia Senior Activities Center
Time/Date: Noon to 5 p.m., Saturday, March 6
Location: 15218 Farmington Road, Livonia
Details: Michigan Woodworkers Guild presents a showcase of custom woodworking, including custom built furniture, cabinetry, art. Parking and admission are free
Contact: www.michiganwoodworkers-guild.org

Lotus Arts Gallery
Location: 995 West Ann Arbor Trail, downtown Plymouth
Details: 3rd annual Michigan Local Artist Exhibit runs through March; includes the works of 18 local artists. Meet the artists and enjoy complimentary hors d'oeuvres and beverages, 6-9 p.m., Friday, March 12
Contact: (888) 889-4ART (toll free) or (734)453-5400

Northville Art House
Time/Date: March 5-21
Location: 215 W. Cady, Northville
Details: "Under the Influence" exhibit showcasing the influential artistic relationship between teachers and students at the Center for

Creative Studies in Detroit. The exhibit illustrates that art is not done in a vacuum.
Contact: (248) 344-0497 or visit www.northvillearts.org

BOOK SIGNING

Royal Oak Farmer's Market
Time/Date: 7 a.m. to 1 p.m., Saturday, March 6
Location: 11 Mile at Troy, east of Main in downtown Royal Oak
Details: Victoria Zande, Livonia resident, writer and musician, will sign copies of her self-published writing/poetry preview collection titled 31 May 2002-08 October 2003 "The Reason's Why."
Contact: www.victoriazande.com

COMEDY

Go Comedy!
Time/Date: Various show times Wednesdays thru Sundays
Location: 261 E. Nine Mile, Ferndale
Details: Improv most nights. Open mic/jam session show for improvisers is 10 p.m. Wednesdays
Contact: (248) 327-0575; www.gocomedy.net

Ford Community & Performing Art

Center
Time/Date: 6 p.m. and 9:30 p.m., Saturday, March 13
Location: 15801 Michigan Ave. at Greenfield, Dearborn
Details: Michigan Lesbian and Gay Comedyfest with Jessica Kirson, Gloria Bigelow, Jamie Pierce and Roxanna Ward; tickets \$30 in advance and \$30 at the door
Contact: www.comedyfest.org, (313) 537-7000

JD's House of Comedy
Time/Date: Various show times Wednesday-Saturday evenings
Location: 25333 W. 12 Mile, inside Star Theatre complex, Southfield
Details: Stand-up shows, 8 p.m. Thursday and 8 p.m., 10:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday; Apollo amateur night, 8 p.m. Wednesday
Contact: (248) 348-2420 or www.ticketmaster.com

Joey's Comedy Club of Livonia
Time/Date: 8 p.m. Mondays, Open Mic; 8 p.m. Tuesdays, Local Legends; 8 p.m. shows Wednesdays, Thursdays; 8 p.m. & 10:30 p.m. Fridays, Saturdays
Location: 36071 Plymouth Road, Livonia
Details: Ruben Paul, March 3-6; Sheila Kay, March 10-13; Jay Black, March 17-20; Myq Kaplan, March 24-27

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For additional help please call the Wayne County Taxpayer Assistance Department at 313-224-6105 or go to www.treasurer.waynecounty.com

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Movies at the Marquis
 Saturdays 7:30pm January 16 - March 27, 2010

All shows begin at 7:30pm, doors open at 6:45pm.

The Classics are Back on the Marquis Theatre's Big Screen.

The remaining movies include:

Date:	Movie:	Ticket Sponsor:	On-sale Date:
Mar 6	Charade (1963)	Sincerely Yours, Inc., 110 N. Center	Now
Mar 13	Paris When It Sizzles (1964)	Sizzling Sticks, 144 Mary Alexander Ct.	Now
Mar 20	Vertigo (1958)	Poole's Tavern, 157 E. Main	Mar 6
Mar 27	Easter Parade (1948)	Gardenviews, 202 W. Main	Mar 13*

*Gardenviews' new location this Feb: 117 E. Main

Sponsored by: Urban Optiques, Wilson J. Eyewear, TOM HOLZER

tickets (\$3/ticket) are available for purchase exclusively at ticket-sponsor locations. The Movies at the Marquis series is open to all guests five years and older. The historic Marquis Theatre is located in downtown Northville at 135 E. Main Street. For more information and updates on the 2010 Movies at the Marquis series, visit www.downtownnorthville.com or call 248-349-0345.

Northville Downtown Development Authority 215 West Main Street Northville, MI 48167 Tel: 248-349-0345 www.downtownnorthville.com

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CANTON'S HOME EXPO

sponsored by Canton's Building and Inspection Services, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers and the Canton Chamber of Commerce

March 6-7

Win a Free Roof from Rapid Roofing!

Free Admission, Parking & Refreshments!
 Free "Green" Home Improvement Tips & Coupon Booklet!
 Free How-to Workshops!
 Live broadcast of 104.3 WOMC 'Sunday Brunch' from 10am - 2pm!
 More than 120 Exhibitors!
 Murray Gula & "The Appliance Doctor" Joe Gagnon Broadcasting Live all Weekend!

Kid's Corner Project Center!

Visit www.canton-mi.org or call 734/394-5200

Summit on the Park
 46000 Summit Parkway
 Saturday: 9am - 5pm
 Sunday: 11am - 5pm

FILTER

Get home projects in gear with help from Canton expo

BY SHARON DARGAY
O&E STAFF WRITER

Find answers to your home improvement questions and get inspired about "going green" at the ninth annual Canton Home Improvement Expo this weekend.

More than 120 vendors will be on hand for the two day event that is expected to draw about 7,000 visitors.

John Weyer, building official, said the event is second in attendance only to the community's annual summer Liberty Fest.

"We started out from a one-day workshop exhibition ... residents could come in and talk to the inspector and staff," said Weyer. "It was a way the public could get home improvement answers in a one- or two-hour quick shot. We had probably 1,000 to 2,000 people come through that one-day show."

"And then a year later I brought in Joe Gagnon, the 'appliance doctor' and he provided some entertainment. I thought why not put them both together, make it educa-

tional and entertaining?" Weyer has included vendors, live broadcasts, and children's activities ever since.

The expo runs 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, March 6, and 11-5 p.m. Sunday, March 7, at Summit on the Park, 46000 Summit Parkway, south of Cherry Hill, between Beck and S. Canton Center Road; (734) 394-5460. Admission, parking and refreshments are free.

Gagnon, an *Observer & Eccentric* columnist, will broadcast his show, heard on 1600 WAAM, live from the expo. Murray Gula, host of *Your Home with Murray Gula*, heard on 1130 WDFN, also will broadcast live.

New this year, Chris Edmonds and Stacey DuFord will broadcast 104.3 WOMC's *Sunday Brunch* live, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Prizes, including wood projects made by Canton Construction along with the Michigan Regional Council of Carpenters, will be raffled throughout the weekend.

Rapid Roofing will give away a free roof to one lucky expo visitor. The second place

winner will receive free roof shingles.

All Expo attendees also will receive a free, reusable canvas bag. Those who bring their bag from last year's expo will receive a free day pass to Summit on the Park.

"This year I tried to showcase it as 'going green' with green tips," Weyer described this year's show. "Outside of the building there will be solar panels on display and wind generators.

"Part of the reason we're doing this is to remind people to shop around and do their homework and ask good questions of the exhibitors." City staff members will be on hand to answer questions about construction requirements such as permits.

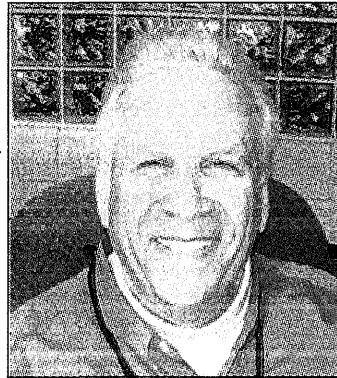
For the third year, a children's activity center, co-sponsored by Home Depot, will give youngsters an opportunity to make a wood project.

Here's the schedule of demonstrations and workshops:

- **Saturday, March 6**
 - 10 a.m. — What to do in an emergency, by Aaron's Solar Roofing Systems
 - 11 a.m. — Design Trends for 2010, by Interiors by Decorating Den
 - Noon — Tiling Floors & Walls - Easy Installation, by Home Depot
 - 1 p.m. — Affordable Ways to Revamp your Deck, by N.A. Mans Lumber & Mill Work
 - 2 p.m. — Lawn and Garden Know-How, from Home Depot
 - 3 p.m. — Live Demonstrations of Michigan's



Larry Milewski and his children, Aidan (left) and Jenna work on a project during a previous Canton Home Improvement Expo.



Murray Gula will broadcast his home improvement show from the Canton expo this weekend.



Visitors make their way through aisles of vendor displays at a previous Canton Home Improvement Expo. More than 120 vendors will be on hand for the event this weekend.

- Solar Energy by Mechanical Energy Systems
- 4 p.m. — Electrical Safety in Your Home: Questions and Answers, by Van Buren Electric
- **Sunday, March 7**
 - Noon — Turf & Ornamental Fertilization: Question & Answers, with Turf Pro, Inc.
 - 1 p.m. — Ask a Pro Workshop: Brick Pavers,

- Patios & Walkways by Michigan Pete Landscaping
- 2 p.m. — Retaining Wall Seminar with Rock Shoppe
- 3 p.m. — Energy Efficient Lighting Upgrades by Home Depot
- 4 p.m. — Crown Moldings: Enhance your Home, by Home Depot

"AN AMAZING 3-D EXPERIENCE!"
Jeff Craig, SIXTY SECOND PREVIEW

"MAGNIFICENT!"
Pete Hammond, BOXOFFICEMAGAZINE

"BRILLIANT!"
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MIDNIGHT SCREENING IN SELECT THEATRES THURSDAY, MARCH 4!

Learn about the heavens at annual expo

Amateur astronomers and beginning star gazers alike will find activities, learning seminars and observing equipment to suit their needs at the Ford Amateur Astronomy Club's seventh annual Astronomy Expo and Swap.

The event runs 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday, March 6, in the gymnasium at Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 30650 Six Mile, Livonia. Admission is \$5. Pizza, hot dogs, wraps, cookies and drinks will be available for purchase.

- The activities schedule includes:
- 10 a.m. Astronomy 101
 - 10:30 a.m. High Resolution Lunar and Planetary Imaging
 - 11 a.m. Climbing the Learning Curve - Astrophotography with a DSLR
 - 11:30 a.m. Our Star, The Sun
 - 1 p.m. Backyard Observing
 - 1 p.m. New Frontiers in Astronomy: Discoveries - Surprises
 - 2 p.m. No Charge Astronomy
 - 2 p.m. Exploring Hubble Sequences in the Spring Sky
 - 3 p.m. To be arranged

Planetarium lectures also are scheduled for 10 a.m., 11 a.m., 1 p.m., and 2 p.m.

The Ford Amateur Astronomy Club, with more than 160 members, is dedicated to encouraging the study of Astronomy and related subjects. Members' interests range from simple naked-eye sky gazing to observing Messier and deep-sky objects, variable star observing, the use of computers, and astro imaging.

The club was founded in 1992 as a part of the Ford Employees Recreational Association within Ford Motor Company. Today the group is open to all astronomy enthusi-

asts.

Dues are \$30 for new member families and individuals. Renewals are \$25. Membership benefits include a subscription to the Star Stuff newsletter, discounts on subscriptions to *Astronomy* and/or *Sky & Telescope* magazine, after-hour use of the observing sites at Island Lake and Lake Erie Metro Parks and discounts at selected area astronomical equipment retailers.

The organization also welcomes the public to its general meetings at 5:30 p.m., the fourth Thursday of the month, at Henry Ford Community College (HFCC) Administrative Services and Conference Center, 5010 Evergreen, Dearborn.

Its astronomers offer weekly star shows at 7:15 p.m., most Tuesday nights, at the Henry Ford Community College Planetarium.

Visit the group's Web site at www.boonhill.net/faac/. The phone at Holy Cross Lutheran Church is (734) 427-1414.



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RELIGION CALENDAR

Religion calendar items appear on Thursdays on a space available basis. To submit an item, e-mail sdargay@hometownlife.com or write: Religion Calendar, Observer Newspapers, 615 W. Lafayette-2nd Level, Detroit, MI 48226, Attn: Sharon Dargay. Item must include the venue address and phone number and any admission costs for events. Items must be submitted at least a week in advance of publication. Feel free to send a related photo in jpg form. For a complete listing online, go to hometownlife.com.

MARCH 4-10

Antioch Preschool
Time/Date: 2-4 p.m., Sunday, March 7
Location: Corner of 13 Mile and Farmington Road, Farmington Hills
Details: Open house
Contact: Sharon Dettler at (248) 626-7906, Ext. 28, or e-mail to antiochpreschool@sbcglobal.net

Congregation Beth Ahm
Time/Date: March 5-6
Location: 5075 W. Maple, West Bloomfield
Details: Bet Midrash will be led by two guest scholars-in-residence, Rabbi Elie Kaunfer and Rabbi Ethan Tucker, from Mechon Hadar in New York City, N.Y. and is made possible by the congregation's Menasche and Sara Haar Fund. Advance reservations are required for Friday night dinner and Shabbat lunch. The cost is \$36 for adults and \$15 for kids age 4-10 (includes meals). High-school and college students and professional Jewish educators may attend for \$18. A special family rate is available for parents and children attending the Bet Midrash together (\$100 or basic registration, whichever is less). Complimentary child care for babies and toddlers as well as Shabbat Club (supervised activities for children in grades K through 5) available throughout the morning and afternoon on March 6 at no charge. Reservations are required for afternoon child care and Shabbat Club. Meal reservations due by March 2
Contact: Nancy Kaplan (248) 737-1931 or e-mail nancyellen879@att.net

Faith Community Church
Time/Date: 6 p.m., Sundays, beginning March 7
Location: 14560 Merriman, Livonia
Details: GriefShare is a special seminar and support group for people grieving the loss of someone close. GriefShare is a non-denominational group and features biblical teachings on grief and recovery topics.

There is a \$15 fee to cover the cost of the workbook/journal.
Contact: (313) 682-7491

Rosedale Gardens Presbyterian Church
Time/Date: 6-7 p.m., March 7, 14, 21, 28 and April 11, 18, 25
Location: 9601 Hubbard, Livonia
Details: Ballroom dancing lessons, followed by a practice session, with music. A dance party will be held 7-9:30 p.m., March 28 and April 25. Light refreshments will be served. Cost is \$6 for each lesson and \$6 for the dance. Attend the class and dance for \$10. Pay at the door in Fellowship Hall. The proceeds from the March classes will go to the Cancer Relay for Life; April's proceeds will go to the Capital Improvement Fund.
Contact: (734) 751-1957 or (734) 422-0494

St. Robert Bellarmine
Time/Date: 8 p.m.-midnight, Saturday, March 6
Location: 27201 W. Chicago Road, Redford
Details: Bethany Suburban West singles group monthly dance
Contact: Kathy M. (734) 513-9479 or Tom Z. (313) 582-5963

MARCH 11-17

Felician Sister House Chapel
Time/Date: 9 p.m., Sunday, March 14
Location: On the Madonna College campus, 36600 Schoolcraft, Livonia
Details: Bethany Suburban West singles group annual Lenten Mass
Contact: Kathy M. (734) 513-9479

Little Lambs Christian Preschool
Time/Date: 10 a.m.-noon, Saturday, March 13
Location: 8500 N. Morton Taylor, just south of Joy, Canton
Details: Open house with opportunity to visit the facility, meet the staff and learn about the program, which includes hands-on Bible curriculum, "Handwriting Without Tears," and other social and academic programs for children, age 3-5.
Contact: (734) 434-7792 or visit www.pbcplymouth.org/littlelambs

St. Aidan
Time/Date: 5:30 p.m., light dinner (must RSVP by March 8) and 6 p.m. program
Location: 17500 Farmington Road, Livonia
Details: Janene Ternes, commissioned spiritual director and founder of Prayer in Motion LLC., will present "A Lenten Evening of Reflection - Praying with Body, Mind and Spirit: Continually Renewing Our Faith."

She'll share her inspirational story and lead participants in a variety of prayer experiences using music, movement, scripture of the season, and guided meditation. Basic movements, which can be done by anyone, regardless of experience or physical limitation, will be taught.
Contact: To register or for more information call (734) 425-5950

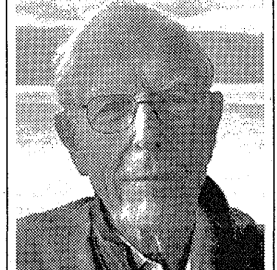
St. Joseph Parish
Time/Date: 7 p.m., Thursday, March 11
Location: 830 S. Lafayette, South Lyon
Details: A panel discussion on domestic violence will include Joyce Hyttinen, director, Office for Catholic Social Action, Domestic Violence Education and Action with the Archdiocese of Detroit; Samantha Lederer, psychotherapist specializing in ways to end the cycle of abuse and break free from repression; and Cristy S. Cardinal, director of prevention at HAVEN in Pontiac. Question and answer session after the presentations; refreshments will be served
Contact: Elaine M. Young at (248) 719-6855

St. Matthew's United Methodist Church
Time/Date: 7 p.m., Monday, March 15
Location: 30900 Six Mile Road, Livonia
Details: The career team at this career resource workshop works one-on-one with job-hunters to help build a network of contacts, evaluate skills and potential markets, and provide honest feedback and encouragement. There is no charge for this workshop
Contact: (734) 422-6038

St. Michael Lutheran Church
Time/Date: 3:30 p.m., Sunday, March 14
Location: 3003 Hannan, Wayne
Details: Detroit Lutheran Singers perform works by J.S. Bach, Johannes Brahms, Gabriel Fauré, Francis Poulenc, Sergei Rachmaninoff, John Rutter and more; tickets are \$10 and \$7 and are available at the door or in advance
Contact: (248) 988-6715; www.detroitlutheransingers.com

St. Thomas a Becket
Time/Date: 7-8:30 p.m., March 14-17
Location: 555 S. Lilley, at Cherry Hill, Canton
Details: Dynamic Parish Lenten Mission with Passionist priest, the Rev. Melvin Shorter; "A Divided Heart is the Heart of the Problem"
Contact: (734) 981-1333

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CARTER EVERETT (PETE) PORTER

Born in Chicago, IL, September 11, 1922 Carter Everett (Pete) Porter graduated from Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana in 1943 with a B.S. in Chemical Engineering, with Distinction. He served in the U.S. Army in France from 1944 to 1946 with the 81st Field Artillery Battalion in Luxembourg and France. After the war, he returned to Chicago, joined the Army Reserve as a Captain, and married his life's love, Catherine Agnes (Kay) Collins, an Army nurse whom he met in Aix-en-Provence, France. They moved to Cranford, New Jersey where he accepted a position as a chemical engineer at Standard Oil of New Jersey (1946-1982). Over the years their family grew to five children, Catherine, Sharon, James, Thomas and Virginia. Pete spent his entire career with Standard Oil (now ExxonMobil), with responsibilities for chemical research/development (8 patents) and petro-chemical plant construction. When not engaged with his job at Standard Oil, Pete dedicated his home life as an Elder, Trustee and Treasurer in the Presbyterian Church in Cranford, NJ; a 49 year career with the Cranford Auxiliary Police retiring as Captain; an Army Reserve officer with 30 years of service, retiring with the rank of Colonel; a leader in the Boy Scouts of America (receiving the Silver Beaver distinguished service award). He also was elected President of the Cranford Board of Education and worked on the Cranford River Maintenance Committee. Pete also delivered hot meals to seniors in the Meals on Wheels Program. After the passing of his wife, he moved to Michigan to be near his daughter, Catherine, and remained an active resident at Independence Village in Plymouth until his passing. Pete is the son of Howard Curtis Porter and Dorothy Jane Everett. Throughout his life he was a kind and nurturing father and loving husband. His wife Catherine passed away in 2001. He is survived by three daughters, Catherine Philbert of Northville, MI, Sharon Morfit of Oakton, VA, and Virginia Graboski of Omaha, NE, two sons, James of Escondido, CA and Thomas of Fairfax, VA, ten grandchildren, and two great grandchildren. Schrader-Howell Funeral Home in Plymouth, Michigan, is in charge of arrangements. On-line guestbook, www.schrader-howell.com (current obituaries). Pete will be buried in Arlington National Cemetery, VA, with full military honors on April 28th, alongside his wife Catherine. Funeral services will precede the interment at Arlington. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Cardiovascular Center at the University of Michigan, <http://www.med.umich.edu/cvc/about/gift.html> (gifts in memory of), or (888) 518-7888.

RINA M. DOBSON
 Resident of Canton Twp. Born: August 8, 1936. Passed: February 26, 2010. Share a Memorial Tribute online at griffinfuneralhome.com

HENRY F. HALL
 May 17, 1919 - February 26, 2010. Born in Blaine, KY. Resided in Novi, MI. Share a Memorial Tribute at griffinfuneralhome.com

DAVID HENRY
 Of Sparta Tennessee formerly of Plymouth Michigan passed away at his home, February 19, 2010. He is survived by his two sons Tony (Deborah) Henry, of Fowlerville, Michigan, & Larry (Susan) Henry of Novi Michigan, five granddaughters Katie, Christy, Caroline, Kirsten & Lauren Henry and one sister Judy Henry of Cloudford, New Mexico. He was preceded in death by his mother Mary (Greenlee) Henry, his father Ernest L. Henry, three sons Terry, Tim & Davey Henry. David retired after 22 yrs in the U.S. Air force as a Sr. Master Sergeant. After retirement he moved back to Plymouth Michigan and started Olde Village Upholstery when he retired a second time in 1984, before moving to Tennessee. He leaves behind many friends. He will be sorely missed.

WALLACE "SMYCZYNSKI" SMYTHE
 Age 96, February 27, 2010. Beloved husband of the late Stella Mary (7/14/2000). Dearest father of Claudia (David) Lusch, Christine (Charles) Rymal, Paul (Maryann Wilkison) Smythe & Peter (Eileen Quinn) Smythe. Dear brother of Leocadia Wallison. Loving grandfather of 10 & great-grandfather of three. Services were held Wednesday 12 noon until time of funeral mass 1:00pm, at St. Valentine Catholic Church, 25881 Dow St. At Beech Daly, Redford Township. Visitation was held at The Fisher Funeral Home, 24501 Five Mile Rd, Redford Township. Tuesday 3 until 8pm.

OBITUARY POLICY

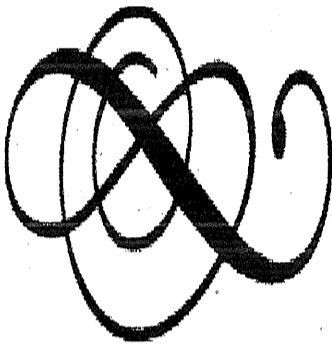
The first five "billed" lines of an obituary are published at no cost. All additional lines will be charged at \$4 per line. You may place a picture of your loved one for an additional cost of only \$6. Symbolic emblems may be included at no cost (example: American Flags, religious symbols, etc.)

Deadlines:
 Friday 4:15 PM for Sunday
 Wednesday 9:45 AM for Thursday

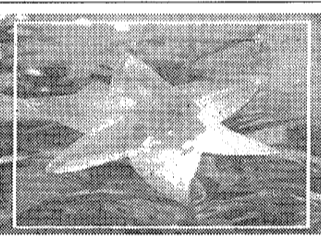
Obituaries received after these deadlines will be placed in the next available issue.

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 or fax to:
 Attn: Obits c/o Char Wilson
 313-496-4968

For more information call:
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 St. Genevieve School - PreK-8
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 32765 Lyndon • Livonia • 734-522-1616
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 www.nativitygochurch.org OE0868331

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 734-522-6830

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 Early Childhood Center Phone 734-513-8413

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 Worship 8:15 & 10:45 am
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 Childrens Sunday School: 10:30 a.m.
 Pastor: Dr. Jimmy McGuire
 Services held at: Saint Andrews Episcopal Church
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AAUW cast lunch a hit with thespians

BY JULIE BROWN
O&E STAFF WRITER

Cast members of the recent Plymouth-Canton AAUW *The Wizard of Oz* are a hard-working bunch.

The American Association of University Women branch put on the play earlier this month at Garden City High School. There's scant time each year between the morning and afternoon shows Saturday, so a cast lunch is needed.

Sue Sayers of Plymouth has coordinated that tasty lunch for more than 10 years, with the women eating outside the O'Leary Auditorium at the high school. There's no kitchen or kitchenette to work with.

"I've stuck with it because it works well," Sayers, a secretary at Madonna University's College of Science and Mathematics, said of her plans.

Other AAUW members contribute salads or desserts, although with fewer members the lunch can be a challenge. Some women who winter in Florida contribute financially. "They want to help, so they'll send some money," Sayers said. "We really don't heat anything up," she said of the food, served earlier this month as AAUW marked its 50th anniversary of presenting live drama to area children. "It's got to be quick, easy and nonmessy."

Sayers provides much food herself, along with about 10 other women who donate food or money used for paper products. Sandwiches are a staple, made with ham, turkey and cheese. She added roasted red pepper, which was especially good with the ham.

"It's kind of like whatever the mood strikes me," she said. "That was a nice taste difference."

Sayers uses focaccia, croissants and dark pumpernickel for sandwich breads. "I try not to be too routine."

The women appreciate the lunch. "It's all waiting for them," she said of cast members, who eat in costume and makeup. "I think it's a real important part of it."

"You never know what's going to be a hit and what isn't," said Sayers, who's made adjustments over the years. Her group is small enough to avoid duplication, which can be an issue for larger potlucks.

Consider how long food can sit out, she recommends, and if you'll have refrigeration available. "And just try to have a variety."

TRI-COLORED ORZO

From Cindy Naumoff of AAUW

1 pound orzo pasta
3 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil, plus ¼ cup
¼ cup crumbled feta cheese
½ cup dried cherries, cut in half
12 fresh basil leaves, torn
¼ cup toasted pine nuts
3 tablespoons fresh lemon juice, plus zest of 1 lemon
1 teaspoon salt or to taste
1 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper

Bring a large pot of salted water to boil over high heat. Add the pasta and cook until tender. Drain. Return pasta to pot and toss with 3 tablespoons of olive oil. Cool.

Once orzo is cool, add the basil, pine nuts, cherries and feta cheese. Mix.

In small jar, mix dressing ingredients. Pour over pasta. Stir to combine. Serve.

NOTE: If salad is mixed ahead of serving, you might need extra dressing as the pasta tends to absorb the dressing.

PRETZEL JELL-O SALAD

This is an old recipe — but always a favorite

2½ cups crushed pretzels
1 (8 ounce) container Cool Whip
3 tablespoons sugar
1 (6 ounce) package strawberry Jell-O
¾ cup butter/margarine
2 cups boiling water
1 (8 ounce) package cream cheese
1 (16 ounce) package frozen strawberries
1 cup sugar

Combine crushed pretzels with sugar and melted butter. Press in 9- by 13-inch pan. Bake at 350 for 10 minutes. Remove from oven and cool completely. Blend cream cheese, sugar and Cool Whip together. Spread on top of crust. Combine water with Jell-O until dissolved. Add frozen strawberries and stir until almost set. Pour mixture over cream cheese and put in refrigerator until set.

Can be used as a salad or dessert. Enjoy!

CRUNCHY SPINACH SALAD

This recipe is from AAUW's Gerry Dugan

1 (10 ounce) package of Aunt Mid's Gourmet Classic Spinach
1 package shredded cabbage or pre-packed slaw mix
½ cup slivered almonds
½ cup white raisins
Dressing
¼ cup sugar



½ teaspoon celery seed
¼ cup of white vinegar
1½ tablespoons minced onion
¾ teaspoon dry mustard
½ cup canola oil
¾ teaspoon salt

Pull spinach leaves from stems, tear into bite size pieces. Rinse in colander, drain well. Meanwhile prepare dressing by combining all ingredients with a whisk.

In a large bowl mix spinach, cabbage, almonds, and raisins. Toss dressing with the salad just before serving.

1 clove garlic, minced
¼ cup white wine vinegar
¼ teaspoon pepper

Trim and cut green beans. Boil until crisp and tender, about 4 or 5 minutes. Drain and plunge in cold water. Drain again and pat dry. Combine dressing in blender or small jar. Toss all together and enjoy.

SPAGHETTI SALAD

2 pounds thin spaghetti, cooked, rinsed and drained
1 large red onion, diced or chopped into small pieces
2 large green peppers, diced or chopped
2 large tomatoes, diced or chopped
Bottle (2.75) McCormick Salad Supreme dry seasoning
Bottle (16 ounce) of Seven Seas Viva Italian dressing

Add onion, pepper and tomato to spaghetti and mix well. Pour dry seasoning over ingredients. Toss with Seven Seas Viva Italian dressing.

Note: Use the dressing and seasoning to your taste. This makes a very large spaghetti salad. It's enough to feed the entire cast and crew with some left over.

GREEN BEAN PECAN SALAD

This recipe is from AAUW's Dorothy Grant, who also provided the Spaghetti Salad recipe

1½ pounds fresh green beans
1 cup pecans toasted & chopped
1 cup red onion, chopped
1 cup crumbled feta cheese

Dressing:
¾ cup olive oil
1 tablespoon minced dill
¼ teaspoon salt

CITY BITES



The dining room of the Titanic.

Titanic dinner

Farmington Hills — The Pine Tree Grill in Farmington Hills will recreate the opulence of the luxury liner, Titanic, with a special evening of sumptuous dining and elegant service.

The RMS Titanic Dinner, a first-class, seven-course meal, will begin with cocktails at 6 p.m. followed by dinner at 7 p.m. Saturday, April 17 in the "Dining Salon" of the Pine Tree Grill, located in the clubhouse at the Farmington Hills Golf Club, 37777 11 Mile Court.

The evening will be a "Night to Remember," with an elegant atmosphere recreating the grand style enjoyed by first-class passengers. The dinner will feature authentic recipes taken from the Titanic's menus, nautical entertainment, a captain's table, starched white

linens, china, crystal, and silver service. A special room will be available with cigars and brandy, following the meal.

The evening will commemorate the famous RMS Titanic, which struck an iceberg shortly before midnight on April 14, 1912, and sank two hours and 40 minutes later. At the time, the Titanic was the largest steamship in the world, surpassing all others for luxury and opulence. First-class passengers feasted in style in a dining room that was 114 feet long and spanned the full width of the ship.

Proper formal attire is requested and reservations are required for the RMS Titanic Dinner. The cost is \$65 per person, which does not include alcohol, tax or tip, and must be prepaid to guarantee a reservation. Call (248) 476-5193.

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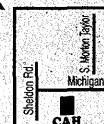
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Realtors share tips on finding just-right pro for sale, purchase of just-right home

BY JULIE BROWN
O&E STAFF WRITER

Nancy Austin of Canton's been a Realtor since 1984. She urges buyers and sellers of homes to ask friends and colleagues for the name of a good Realtor.

"I think 95 percent of what I do comes from referrals," Austin said. Her Keller Williams Realty office in Ann Arbor has her serving Plymouth, Canton, Northville, Novi, Livonia, Westland and Garden City.

"You want somebody who's full time," she said of a Realtor for buying or selling. Be leery if you hear comments about it being a hobby.

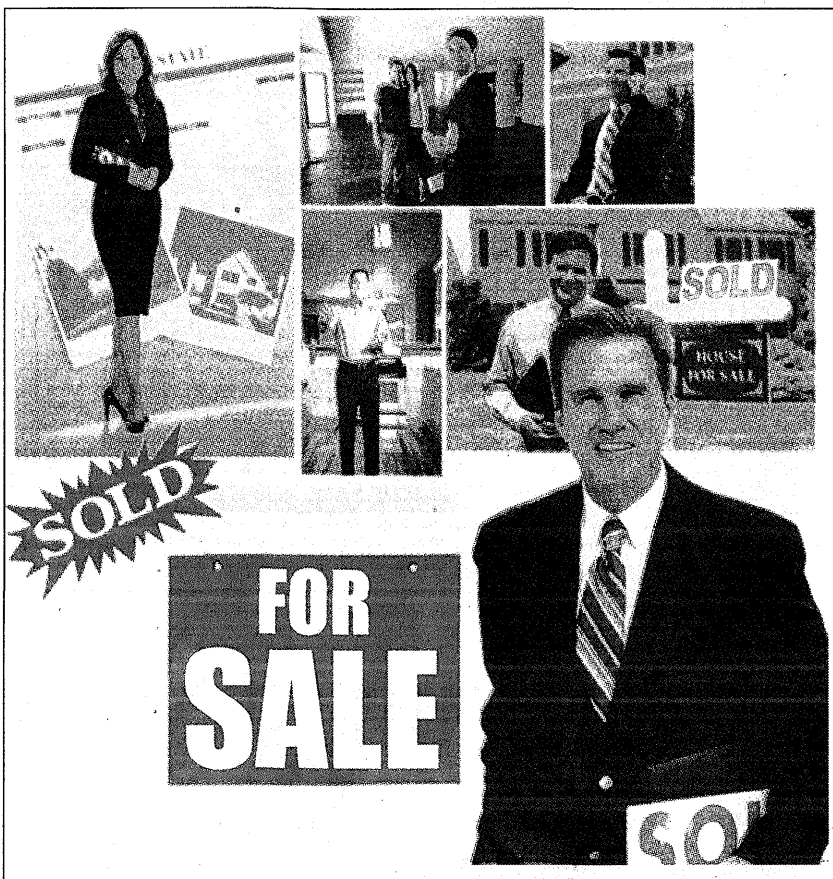
Honesty and integrity are important, Austin said. "I think it's a trust issue. You have to read personalities. If there's a hint of not being honest you don't want to work with them."

The field differentiates between "real estate agent" and "Realtor," with the latter a member of the National Association of Realtors, Michigan Association of Realtors and a local association. Realtors follow a written Code of Ethics, she said.

Austin recommends looking for evidence of additional training, such as the Graduate of Realtor Institute (GRI) and Accredited Buyer Representative (ABR) designation. There are others, and those show a Realtor has pursued additional training.

"I think the person should have a passion for their business, not just a paycheck," Austin said. She prides herself on being a good listener, and notes that listening is key to establishing rapport and working well with clients.

Typically, buyers and sellers don't contact the Better Business Bureau on Realtors, Austin said. In addition to referrals from friends and colleagues, local associations like the Western Wayne Oakland County Association of Realtors can help.



You also want someone who enjoys the work, she added. "I think it's fun. I like the work."

Austin holds a bachelor's degree in teaching with a biology major from Mercy College, now part of the University of Detroit Mercy. Realtors don't need to have a bachelor's degree to be effective, however, "as long as they know and love the business."

Dale E. Smith, executive vice president of WWOVAR, one of the local associations, agreed with Austin.

"The most important think out there is education," Smith said of knowledge needed to benefit buyers and sellers. "We provide some great education," he added of the Farmington-based WWOVAR.

These days, Realtors need a financ-

ing background, as it relates to short sales and government programs.

"You have to have a network in place to follow through on it," Smith said of a sale. The appraisal system has changed in recent years, and dealing with title companies and mortgage companies takes skill and contacts.

You can ask at an agency if they deal primarily with buyers or sellers, Smith said. "The game has changed a little bit," he said of real estate in recent years. "Today, the market has changed dramatically."

Realtors who succeed have adapted their business models, he said.

Realtor Gary J. Reggish is broker/owner of Remerica United Realty of Novi, a Livonia resident and president of WWOVAR. He noted so many

homes now are short sales, and you need to find an agent educated in the process.

"You don't want to list with somebody where you are their guinea pig," he said. "You don't want them to be learning on you." There's training with designation courses for such sales.

"Experience is key," said Reggish, who's been in the field since 1999 and in real estate investing before that. Newer agents may have time to give on a listing, he said, but you should find out what support system is in place as well.

"What does that office have in place as that go-to trainer?" he said. The professional needs to be well-trained with experience.

Reggish, who earned a bachelor's degree with a double major in biology and physiological psychology from the University of Michigan, agreed a college degree is not required. "Education, training and practical experience is absolutely required," he said.

That's especially true now in changing market conditions, he said. You want a professional, much like a lawyer or doctor, who goes above what additional training is required by law.

You need someone with a passion for the industry, Reggish said.

He agreed referrals are critical for business. You need to look into qualifications, and not just take someone's word a person is qualified. "Professionals sit down and have a consultation with those buyers," Reggish said.

He cited the differences among private sales, short sales and sales of bank-owned properties. The bank-owned properties often now sell for full price or even above, drawing multiple offers.

"A buyer could lose a property that is the best choice," Reggish said in urging hiring a pro well-versed in market conditions.

Document plays a vital role

Q: Can you tell me what is referred to as a Memorandum of Lease and why it needs to be utilized?

A: The purpose of a Memorandum of Lease is to place the world, or, more precisely, subsequent parties to transactions involved in the property on notice of their existence. Some might argue that a Memorandum of Lease is unnecessary because third parties can see, and, therefore, should be aware of a tenant's possession and the possible rights that



Robert Meisner

might attach under its lease. Possession of the premises is not necessarily consistent with the record title with the register of deeds and merely provides

a perspective purchaser, lender or tenant with inquiry notice which imposes on the purchaser a duty to investigate. Inquiry notice, however, is not the same as constructive notice to a subsequent taker. Simple inquiry of a record owner is insufficient to apprise third parties of the extent of a tenant's rights under a lease. It is only through recording of a Memorandum of Lease that a third party can actually be charged with having constructive notice of the most critical provisions in the lease. It is best to consult with your lawyer in regard to what action you should take.

Q: We have a member who repeatedly engages in what we consider to be outrageous communications and conduct with the association, its managers and the Board of Directors. His conduct includes vulgar and harassing letters, disruption of association meetings and physical assault of a board member. What can we do about it?

A: You definitely need to take legal action, including attempting to get a Personal Protection Order and an Injunction. In one case in Maryland, on similar facts, the association sued the member and asked the court to permanently bar the member from using spoken or written words towards any member of the association that harassed or intended to incite a breach of the peace or that verbally harassed or attacked these individuals. The Maryland Court of Appeals ruled that the trial court did have the authority to enter such an order because it did not violate the member's constitutional right to free speech because the order was narrowly tailored to prohibit the member's use of "fighting words" that would tend to incite a breach of the peace or invoke a physical or violent response. In that case, the member regularly used personally abusive language against the association and its board members that was likely to provoke a violent reaction.

HOMES SOLD-OAKLAND

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of Nov. 16-20, 2009, at the Oakland County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

City	Address	Price	City	Address	Price	City	Address	Price
Auburn Hills	2237 Allerton Rd	\$49,000	Beverly Hills	22536 Metamora Ln	\$248,000	Birmingham	520 Aspen Rd	\$637,000
Bloomfield Township	731 Brockmoor Ln	\$300,000	Bloomfield Hills	3984 Columbia Ct	\$685,000	Bloomfield Hills	4465 Connoamore Ct	\$250,000
Clarkston	6757 Berwick Dr	\$172,000	Clarkston	412 Circle Pt	\$175,000	Clarkston	6670 Cranberry Lake Rd	\$355,000
Davisburg	5607 Birch Dr	\$220,000	Farmington	21040 Larkspur St	\$118,000	Farmington Hills	37896 Amber Dr	\$130,000
Eastland	6080 Eastlawn Ave	\$100,000	Eastland	6481 Enclave Dr	\$265,000	Eastland	7118 Ingomar Ln	\$250,000
Garden City	28541 Bock St	\$80,000	Garden City	31420 Bock St	\$49,000	Garden City	28814 Elmwood St	\$73,000
Northville	43875 Nine Mile Rd	\$330,000	Northville	41776 Broquet Dr	\$60,000	Northville	20810 W Glen Haven Cir	\$85,000
Oakland Township	4837 Carrington Dr	\$135,000	Oakland Township	126 Knorwood Dr	\$49,000	Oakland Township	3525 Oakmonte Blvd	\$102,000
Oxford	1810 Prestwick Ct	\$260,000	Oxford	540 Sandhurst St	\$196,000	Oxford	281 State St	\$210,000
Rochester	333 Ferndale Ave	\$515,000	Rochester	735 Loggers Cir	\$310,000	Rochester	962 River Mist Dr	\$225,000
Rochester Hills	3568 Alida Ave	\$60,000	Rochester Hills	1201 Barneswood Ln	\$178,000	Rochester Hills	1243 Barneswood Ln	\$190,000
South Lyon	25955 Cobblers Ln	\$123,000	South Lyon	610 Covington St	\$45,000	South Lyon	6164 Greenwood Dr	\$100,000
Southfield	28588 Aberdeen St	\$3,000	Southfield	18115 Cornell Rd	\$110,000	Southfield	29626 Farmbrook Villa Ct	\$52,000
Troy	1700 Chatham Dr	\$263,000	Troy	6519 Crabapple	\$313,000	Troy	3971 Gatwick Dr	\$288,000
Westland	3713 Amburst Dr	\$100,000	Westland	30765 Ann Arbor Trl	\$105,000	Westland	37450 Barkridge Cir	\$41,000
Westland	3713 Amburst Dr	\$100,000	Westland	30765 Ann Arbor Trl	\$105,000	Westland	37450 Barkridge Cir	\$41,000
White Lake	645 Burgess Dr	\$270,000	White Lake	1910 Margie Dr	\$210,000	White Lake	705 Sunnybeach Dr	\$187,000
White Lake	645 Burgess Dr	\$270,000	White Lake	1910 Margie Dr	\$210,000	White Lake	705 Sunnybeach Dr	\$187,000
White Lake	645 Burgess Dr	\$270,000	White Lake	1910 Margie Dr	\$210,000	White Lake	705 Sunnybeach Dr	\$187,000

HOMES SOLD-WAYNE

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of Nov. 9-13, 2009, at the Wayne County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

City	Address	Price	City	Address	Price
Canton	2680 Brookhaven Rd	\$177,000	Eastland	6080 Eastlawn Ave	\$100,000
Canton	8387 Chatham Dr	\$460,000	Eastland	6481 Enclave Dr	\$265,000
Canton	42746 Colling Dr	\$175,000	Eastland	7118 Ingomar Ln	\$250,000
Canton	281 Edington Cir	\$158,000	Eastland	5856 Mary Sue St	\$80,000
Canton	45851 Gainsborough Dr	\$158,000	Eastland	5303 Parview Dr	\$295,000
Canton	44129 Gordon St	\$144,000	Eastland	5383 Parview Dr	\$270,000
Canton	6796 Kings Mill Dr	\$303,000	Eastland	6608 Ridgeview Dr	\$88,000
Canton	168 Marshall Rd	\$220,000	Eastland	6410 Snow Apple Dr	\$70,000
Canton	168 Nassau Ct	\$150,000	Eastland	8189 Staghorn Trl	\$199,000
Canton	6990 Pittsford St	\$146,000	Eastland	6160 Sunnydale Rd	\$95,000
Canton	343 Princeton St	\$170,000	Eastland	3730 Ellisia Rd	\$155,000
Canton	3863 Ravensfield Dr	\$123,000	Eastland	4869 Greenview Ct	\$255,000
Canton	42790 Shadowlawn Dr	\$182,000	Eastland	8401 Hummingbird	\$230,000
Canton	46974 Southgate Dr	\$175,000	Eastland	8261 Meridan St	\$45,000
Canton	46881 Southwick Dr	\$290,000	Eastland	105 Robin Rd	\$111,000
Canton	43934 Stuart Ct	\$145,000	Eastland	180 Ruppert St	\$120,000
Canton	1653 Trinity Rd	\$359,000	Eastland	5607 Birch Dr	\$220,000
Canton	42299 White Hart Blvd	\$200,000	Eastland	21040 Larkspur St	\$118,000
Canton	1233 Wildwood Ln	\$172,000	Eastland	31609 Shaw St	\$136,000
Canton	2480 Woodmont Dr E	\$177,000	Eastland	33775 State St	\$139,000
Canton	28541 Bock St	\$80,000	Eastland	32318 Valley View Cir	\$178,000
Canton	31420 Bock St	\$49,000	Eastland	37896 Amber Dr	\$130,000
Canton	28814 Elmwood St	\$73,000	Eastland	29364 Breezewood	\$106,000
Canton			Eastland	36093 Congress Ct	\$250,000
Canton			Eastland	23329 Elmgrove St	\$180,000
Canton			Eastland	29520 Geraldine Rd	\$96,000
Canton			Eastland	29555 Mullane Dr	\$256,000
Canton			Eastland	20813 Ontaga St	\$97,000
Canton			Eastland	21332 Parklane St	\$190,000
Canton			Eastland	29539 Pine Ridge Cir	\$100,000
Canton			Eastland	30195 S Stockton Dr	\$63,000
Canton			Eastland	28788 Schroeder St	\$285,000
Canton			Eastland	29247 Summerwood Rd	\$265,000
Canton			Eastland	37710 Wendy Lee St	\$125,000
Canton			Eastland	10420 River Mist Dr	\$185,000
Canton			Eastland	28836 Willow Creek St	\$195,000
Canton			Eastland	22172 Wingate Ct	\$195,000
Canton			Eastland	30725 Roberts Dr	\$257,000
Canton			Eastland	220 Bellevue Ave	\$132,000
Canton			Eastland	431 Dell Ct	\$84,000
Canton			Eastland	46002 Rockledge Dr	\$205,000
Canton			Eastland	42080 Schoolcraft Rd	\$90,000
Canton			Eastland	25301 Five Mile Rd	\$13,000
Canton			Eastland	27345 Ashley Ct	\$90,000
Canton			Eastland	27345 Ashley Ct	\$84,000
Canton			Eastland	13511 Dixie	\$100,000
Canton			Eastland	24633 Elmira	\$22,000
Canton			Eastland	19917 Kinloch	\$54,000
Canton			Eastland	17371 Lennane	\$35,000
Canton			Eastland	15408 Lexington	\$80,000
Canton			Eastland	14226 Sarasota	\$153,000
Canton			Eastland	9932 Tecumseh	\$36,000
Canton			Eastland	12870 Tecumseh	\$21,000
Canton			Eastland	37113 Amburst Dr	\$100,000
Canton			Eastland	30765 Ann Arbor Trl	\$105,000
Canton			Eastland	37450 Barkridge Cir	\$41,000
Canton			Eastland	37502 Barkridge Cir	\$40,000
Canton			Eastland	37587 Barkridge Cir	\$37,000
Canton			Eastland	8555 Blackburn Dr	\$61,000
Canton			Eastland	1553 Dowling Ct	\$81,000
Canton			Eastland	39208 Forest Creek Dr	\$188,000
Canton			Eastland	8478 Haller St	\$88,000
Canton			Eastland	32101 Harvard St	\$85,000
Canton			Eastland	32559 Judy Dr	\$90,000
Canton			Eastland	31590 Mackenzie Dr	\$95,000
Canton			Eastland	30053 Malvern St	\$92,000
Canton			Eastland	28925 Manchester St	\$50,000
Canton			Eastland	828 S Henry Ruff Rd	\$69,000
Canton			Eastland	953 S John Hix St	\$83,000
Canton			Eastland	2560 Stockmeyer Blvd	\$95,000
Canton			Eastland	6371 W Morgan Cir	\$100,000

REAL ESTATE BRIEFS

Career Seminar

Keller Williams Realty will hold a Career Seminar 6:30-7:30 p.m. Thursday, March 18, at 40600 Ann Arbor Road, Suite 100. Candidates would benefit from previous experience or successes in: service industries, account management, retail sales, small business operations, marketing or event planning. Candidates should have: good people/communication skills, some computer knowledge, a strong work ethic, an optimistic "can do" attitude and a strong desire to achieve results through helping others. Call (734) 459-4700 to reserve a free seat.

Kudos

Founded in 1983, Keller Williams Realty

International now ranks as the third largest real estate franchise organization in the United States. Total North American associate count stands at close to 73,000.

Its rapid growth trajectory is a result of culture, team spirit and a conviction to serving clients with the highest standards of integrity and professionalism.

Dave Kashat of the D&R group, Realtor at Keller Williams Livonia Market Center, was awarded top sales agent of 2009 of all North America with 574 units (closed home-listings/sales).


He has been in the real estate business since 2001 and has been active on Keller Williams Leadership Council since 2003.

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.



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FOR BOOMERS, PRACTICAL VEHICLE IS BEST VEHICLE

Advertising Feature

CAReport



By Dale Buss

You're not dead yet. That's why you're still attracted as heck to the growling new Chevrolet Camaro even though it makes you feel like you're sitting inside a tunnel and your butt hurts when you drive it. Or you really hate to give up your Z4.

But you're an aging boomer now, and there are more reasons than ever for you to be practical in your automotive choices. That's not just because good mileage and decent cargo capacity make sense for someone who's raised a family and has got a lot of stuff. Unwelcome things have come with "maturity" as well, such as a greater need for comfort and convenience in your vehicle – and less tolerance when you don't have that.

According to AutoTrader.com, here are six 2010 models that offer features for practical boomers that you might want to consider:

2010 Audi A8: This car is big and powerful enough to lull you to sleep once you get comfortable behind its responsive wheel. That's why A8's best feature is its radar-assisted Adaptive Cruise Control.

The option automatically keeps you at the speed that you choose but always at a safe distance – which you also program – from the vehicle in front of you. It's a great check on chronic tailgaters. It allows you flagrant inattention to your speed so that you can TXT more accurately. And if you do

nod off and are about to snuff yourself out, the Audi system first will slow down – then wake you up with an alarm. The rest is up to you.

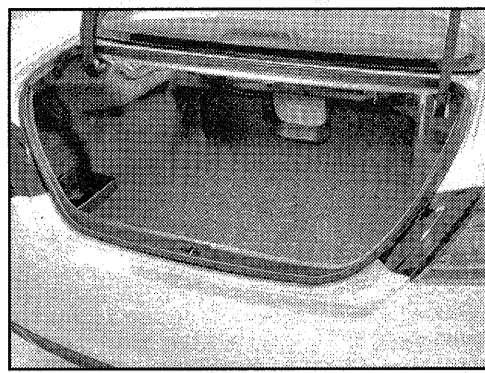
2010 Toyota Avalon: A really mature boomer would tolerate the fact that this full-size sedan is even more boring than most Toyotas. Avalon's awesome trunk is the thing to focus on.

Some competing models do offer more room (such as Ford Taurus's 21.2 cubic feet of trunk space). But Avalon's 14.4-cubic-foot-trunk is elegantly accessed through a low-cut, wide lip so you can shove four sets of golf clubs back there – or all the lifetime supplies of foods from Costco that you want.

A raised compartment on the side will hold a gallon of milk. And Avalon's trunk lid actually rises when you pop it remotely, which many don't do.

2010 Chevrolet Equinox: Every grandparent learns that grandkids are a mixed blessing. It's not all buying them Sno-Cones and taking them to the zoo. Part of the experience is having to repeat many of the same annoying tasks that you did with your kids.

That's why this crossover's greatest feature is its power child-safety locks for the rear doors that you control from the dash. No more getting your fingers greasy by having to set child-safety locks manually. And when you're out on the town with another couple, it's just as easy to disengage the devices.



The trunk of the Toyota Avalon is spacious and shaped just right for maximum practicality and access.

Got grandkids in the rear seat of the Chevrolet Equinox? Control the childproof locks from the front.



2010 Lexus RX 350: You already know that this crossover drives and rides as smooth as butter – so we won't tell you that. What you might not know is that among the nifty features that makes this vehicle one of the best all-around luxury movers in the market is something just for your aching knees: the driver's Easy Exit system.

When you turn the car off, the driver's seat automatically slides back two inches, and the steering wheel tilts upward and slides forward, to make your egress smoother. And when you re-enter and push the "on" button, the wheel and seat slide back to their memory-set positions.

2010 Ford Taurus: You remember the jelly-bean-shaped original Taurus, right – which became America's best-selling vehicle? Well, Ford finally has come up with a worthy successor to the inspired original with this version of Taurus. It's got lots of nifty features for a reasonably priced sedan, including a cross-traffic

alert system that helps you avoid being sent to kingdom come when you're backing out of your driveway or a parking lot. Sensors in each rear quarter panel detect would-be projectiles and warn you with a light on the corresponding side-view mirror – and then an audible alarm.

2010 Honda Accord Crosstour: We're not sure why Honda chose to include "Accord" in the name of this vehicle because it is not the Accord of your youth. This new model specializes in providing you with significant utility and well-used space without the height and vehicle size that you'd normally have to lug around to get it.

For example, the tailgate opens large and offers a low lift-over height, since you can't throw around tree stumps as easily as you once did. There's also under-floor storage back there and even reversible floor panels so the dirt from your tree stump won't soil the carpet.

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<p>H & W TOWING Top \$\$ Paid For Junk Cars Free Towing! Licensed. 734-223-5581, 313-384-4752</p>	<p>HONDA ODYSSEY 2006 Touring, DVD, \$18,995</p> <p>BOB JEANNOTTE PONT, BUICK, GMC (734) 453-2500</p>	<p>FORD ESCAPE LIMITED 2007 4x4, leather, heated seats, clean and green, 11K mpg, low payments, \$13,983. Stk.#6181A</p> <p>PAT MILLIKEN FORD 800-737-0250</p>	<p>BMW 2004 X5 4.4 liter, V8, Titanium, Silver Metallic, leather seats, Premium Package, 18,574 miles, exc. cond. like new. \$25,000/best. 248-634-1311</p>	<p>DTS 2007 Silver, only \$18,695</p> <p>BOB JEANNOTTE PONT, BUICK, GMC (734) 453-2500</p>	<p>EDGE LIMITED 2008 Panoramic roof, leather, SYNC system, heated seats, only 10K miles, reduced! \$24,198. Stk.#6225T</p> <p>PAT MILLIKEN FORD 800-737-0250</p>	<p>MUSTANG 2005 First Year Of Maintenance Is Free! \$9,878. Stk.#10T1138A</p> <p>DEALER 734-402-8774</p>	<p>GRAND MARQUIS 2000 Only 60K miles, full power, runs great, looks great! \$5,995</p> <p>PAT MILLIKEN FORD 800-737-0250</p>	<p>G6 GT 2007 Salsa Red, Convertible, Leather & ABS! It Won't Be Winter Forever! Reduced To \$17,995! 888-372-9836</p> <p>Lou LaRiche</p>
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2010

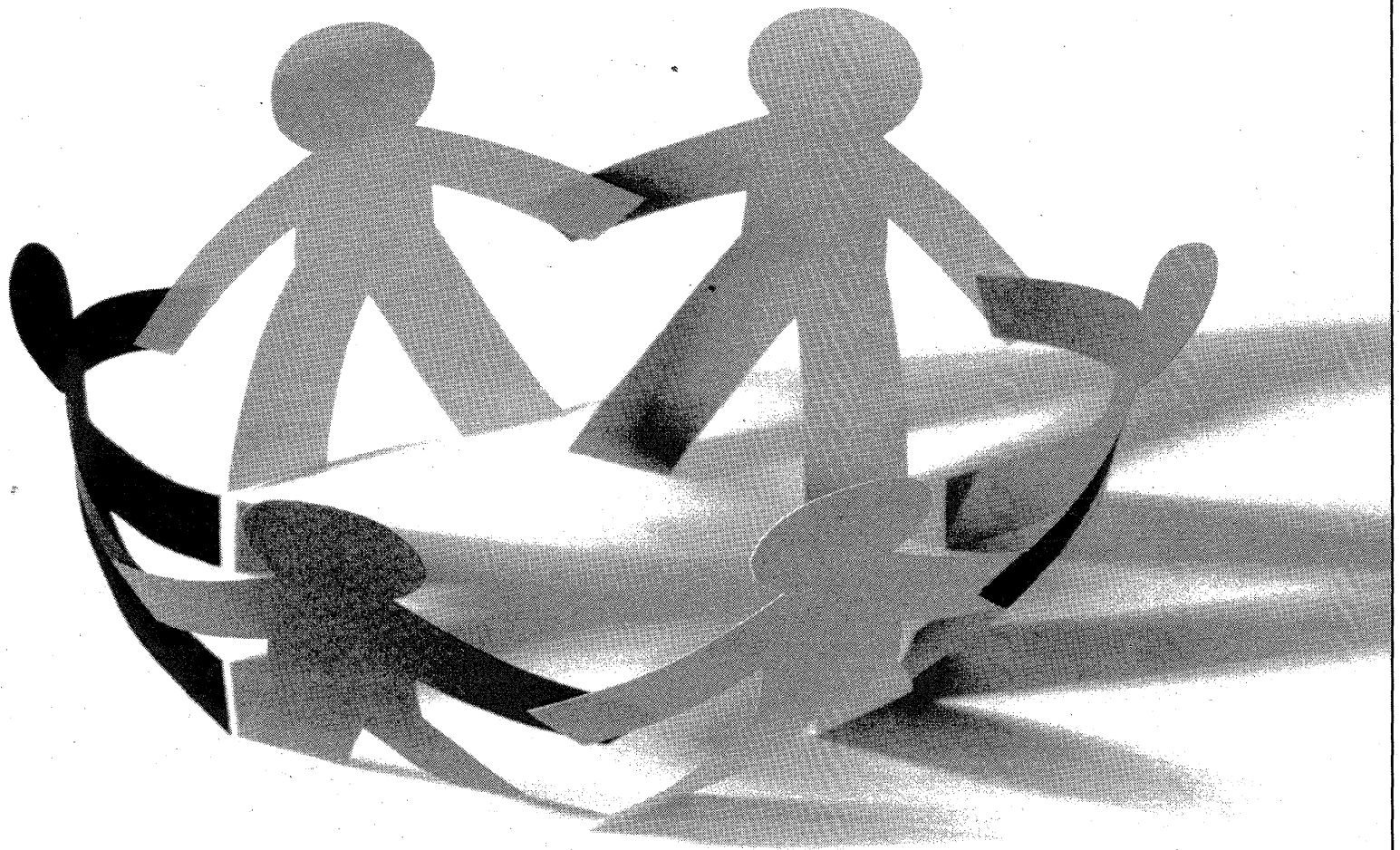
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Welcome to Hometown Life Woman

From the Publisher

Welcome to Hometown Life Woman. This is the publication you can rely on to address your concerns and dreams. Our monthly special section, published the first Thursday of each month, is all about women — women with children and women without, young women and not so young women.

The excitement generated by Hometown Life Woman is because it is all about you — the women who live and work in our communities. So don't be surprised to see your friends, neighbors, mothers, daughters, professionals and local women leaders on these pages in the months to come.



Susan Rosiek

Our first edition explores how the exploding world of social networking has transformed our lives and how it works for women and families. We also examine the etiquette of social media.

Milestone birthdays receive an in-depth look by contributing writer Sally Rummel who will help you plan a party for that special "milestone" person in your life.

And, of course we will be discussing everyone's favorite subject — food and the healthiest ways to prepare it. This month, for example, you will read about a heart healthy tuna-pasta casserole.

In the coming months, we look forward to you sharing your favorites via Hometown Life Woman.

Moms, aunts and grandmoms will want to check out "Culinary Kids." This month's feature offers some tips on how to make

kids and parents happy in the kitchen.

Book lovers will enjoy some quiet time in "Book Corners" where local librarians and local book club devotees offer their own lists of "must" reads.

We ask that you spend some time and indulge in the pages of Hometown Life Woman. Then tell us what you think.

Hometown Life Woman is a work in progress so we want to hear from our you. Share your story ideas with us. Just e-mail woman@hometownlife.com with your comments and suggestions and tell us what you want to read in upcoming editions.

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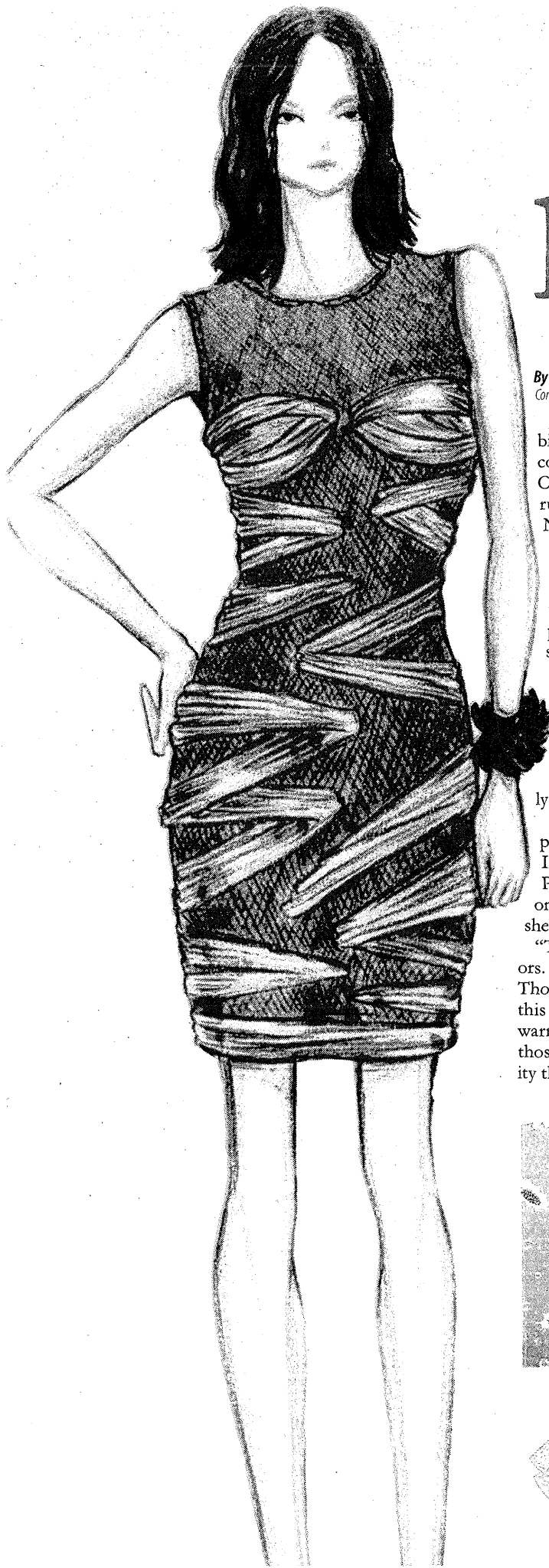
Hottest looks this season.



PLUS

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Have a spring fling with the season's hottest hues



By *Wensdy Von Buskirk*
Contributing Writer

If you want to be on trend this spring, splash a bit of turquoise into your wardrobe. It's the hottest color of 2010, according to the Pantone Fashion Color Report, compiled each season based on the runway shows at Mercedes-Benz Fashion Week in New York.

According to the report, turquoise transports us to a tropical paradise while offering a sense of protection and healing in stressful times.

Other favored colors of the season are tomato puree, fusion coral, violet, Tuscany, aurora, Amparo blue, pink champagne, dried herb and eucalyptus.

Beckie Thompson, president of Fashion Group International Detroit, said Pantone's color palette is "right on," reflecting the color trends she's observed in the industry.

"They are really great colors. Spring always brings exciting brights," said Thompson, of Livonia. "But what I think is different this season is what you're seeing them paired with — warm neutral shades — and it's just sort of splashes of those colors. I think it's a fresh approach to practicality that customers will respond to."

In today's economy most people can't afford to buy a bunch of new clothes in the latest colors, so Thompson suggests investing in fun accessories instead.

"They give a lot of dimension to your clothing but they also give you a lot of mileage and freedom to change your look," she said.

Thompson's been picking up bangles to layer in unexpected ways, and using her grandmother's vintage pins to update necklaces.

"I think people are looking to get little pieces. If they already have a wardrobe of khakis and neutrals they can just sort of plug in these colors," she said.

At Rococo, a trendy boutique in downtown Northville, clothing starts at \$30, making it more affordable to pick up a new dress or flirty top in a hot hue.

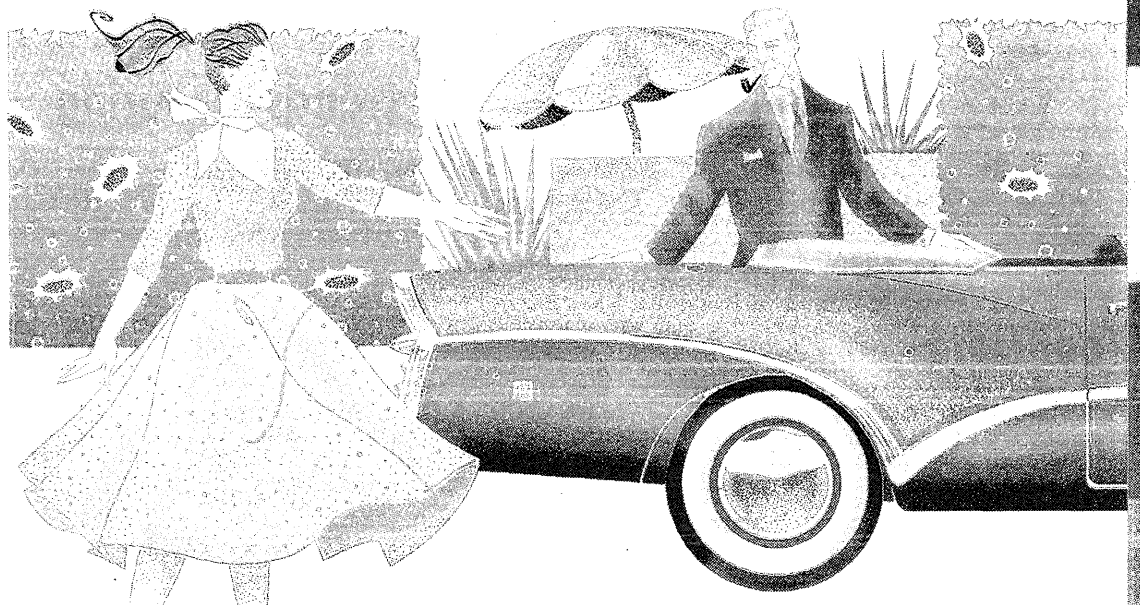
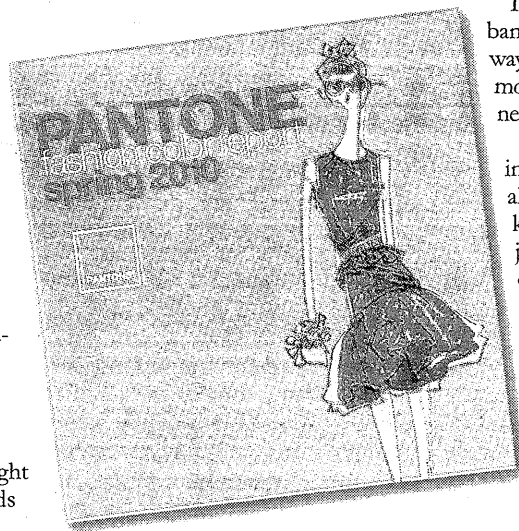
Rococo owner Tricia Hurches affirms turquoise is going to be popular this

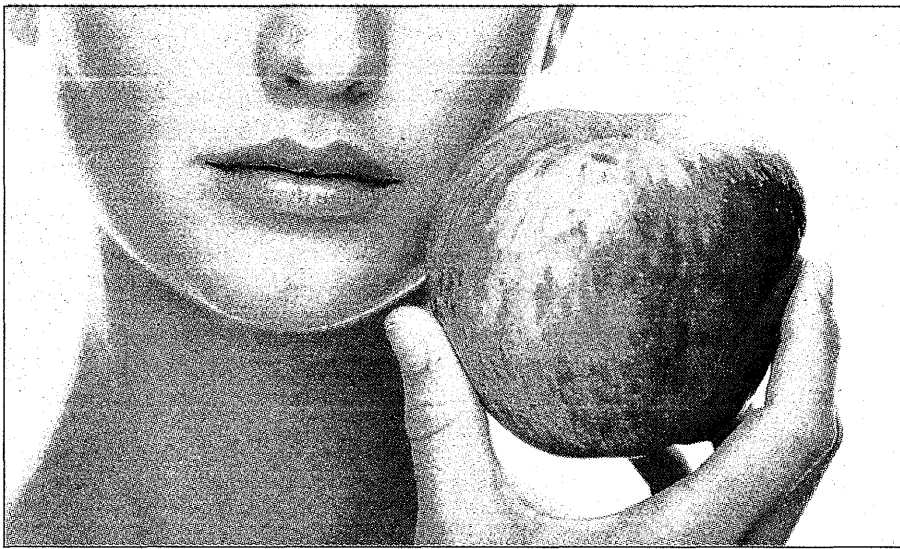
spring, but she's also seen a lot of fuchsia and purple.

She recommends colorful florals, which continue to gain popularity.

If the new color palette eludes you, never fear. Hurches said good old black and white, in lace or graphic stripes and prints, are also all the rage.

"It's totally '80s and early '90s," she said.





Staying healthy in a tough economy

By Linda Ann Chomin
Contributing Writer

Drop that cigarette and pick up an apple. That's the message from health professionals in 2010.

There's never been a better time to change bad habits. Prevention is not only key to staying healthy in a tough economy, but also saving money.

Poor lifestyle choices cost lives and drain the budget. Those \$1 deals on fast food menus increase waistlines and the risk for stroke and heart disease, the No. 1 killer of women and men according to the American Heart Association. Add physical inactivity and stress from the loss of a job or home into the equation and the body's defenses decline further. That's why it's important to take steps to a healthier tomorrow today.

Dr. Joseph Williams sees the result of unhealthy lifestyles every day at Williams Family & Sports Medical Center in Farmington.

"Quitting smoking is a great way to stay healthy and cut down on major expenses, including cigarettes and health care," said Williams, a primary care physician at Botsford Hospital in Farmington Hills. "Respiratory infections occur more in smokers and in his or her family. Second-hand smoke affects everyone, especially children."

Williams practices what he preaches by eating healthy and staying active. He's maintained the body that won him the Natural Mr. U.S.A. title from the North American Body Building Association in 1990.

In addition to working out with weights four times a week, he practices yoga. Williams says exercise can be inexpensive when done at home. The energy used for situps, body squats and abdominal crunches is free.

Marianne Simancek is director of community outreach at St. Mary Mercy Hospital in Livonia, where she oversees health education

Fitness classes close to home

Garden City Hospital recognizes that good health takes planning, information and support and offers a variety of classes developed to enhance fitness and wellness. Here are few. All fitness classes take place in the Health Enhancement Center Gym, located on the first floor of Garden City Hospital. Free parking is available in the hospital's surface-level parking lot. For more information or to register for a fitness class, call (734) 458-3242.

• GET UP AND MOVE

This exercise program gets participants up and moving and is the perfect complement to a diet program. The class will help transition back to an exercise program or help you get started for the first time. Fee is \$30 per month.

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and screening programs. She buys portion appropriate vegetables, fruits and lean meats when shopping for her family. She offers several tips for staying within budget while eating healthy.

Simancek says don't stress out over providing meals for your family. Plan a menu for the week and then make the grocery list accordingly so as not to spend money on unnecessary items.

"I start with things within my control, putting my family first, making sure there's a healthy meal on the table and make sure we stay a strong unit," said Simancek, of Novi. "It is a challenge these days, but you don't have to sacrifice healthy eating. When planning meals, include leftovers in next day lunch and dinner so it's not wasted. Picture that as being dollars down the garbage disposal."

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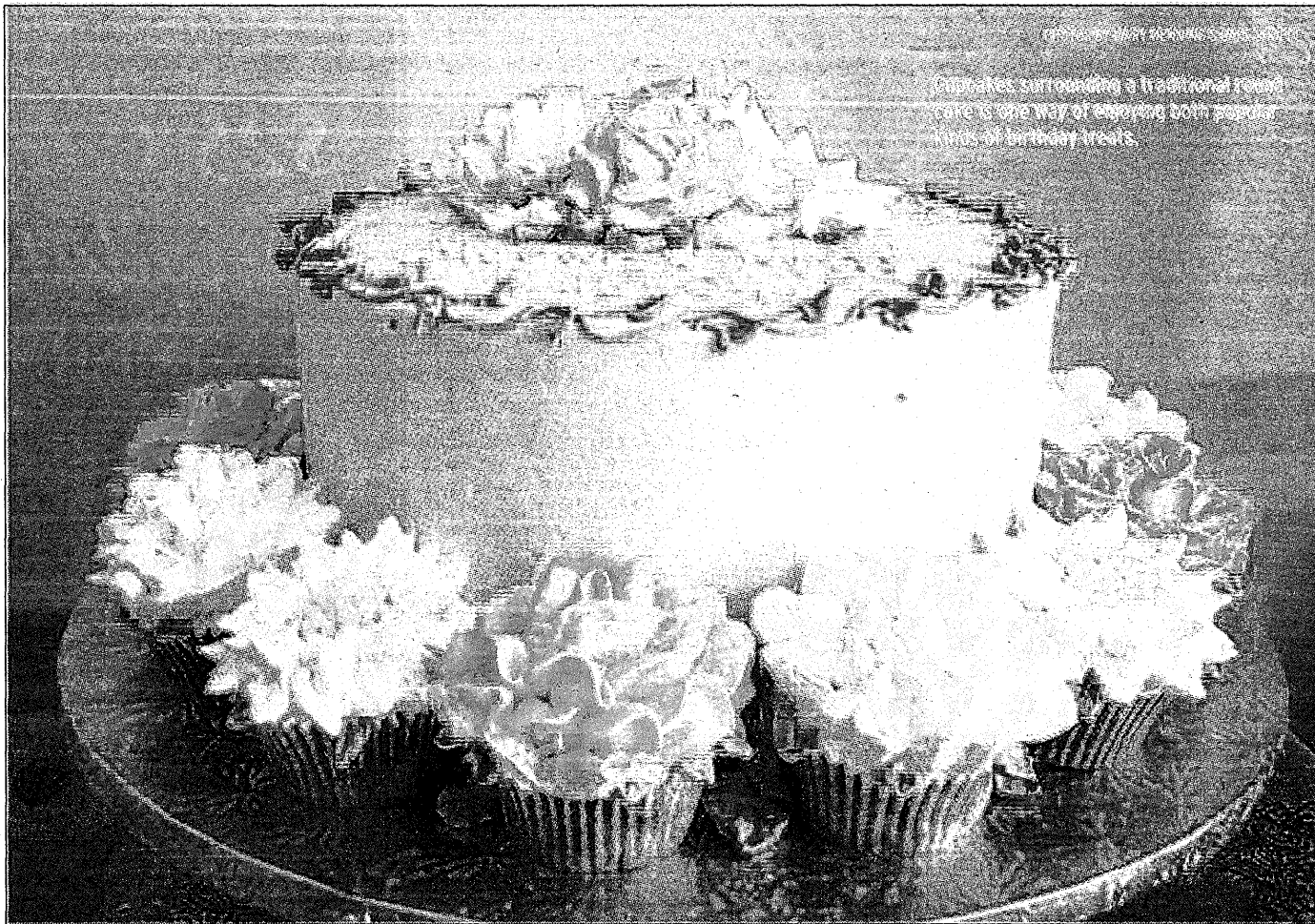
How to throw 'the best' birthday parties

By Sally Rummel
Contributing Writer

One area couple marked the husband's recent 60th birthday with a surprise party using the theme of "It's a Wonderful Life," his favorite movie.

That kind of theme provided a format to use for planning the entire party — from invitations to decorations — making it a fun party to plan and easy to execute, blowing up decorative posters from the invitation to use as themed decor.

A party theme takes much of the stress and guesswork out of throwing a birthday celebration,



Cupcakes surrounding a traditional round cake is one way of combining both popular types of birthday treats.

Milestone Birthdays

because it streamlines many of the decisions a host has to make when planning the party.

According to Rose Ana Twitchell of South Lyon, owner of A Social Affair — event planning services, party hosts will want to consider the personality and lifestyle of the person who is celebrating a milestone birthday.

"You'll want to determine the kind of party you want to host, depending on the personality of the person having the birthday, the types of friends he or she has and his or her accomplishments," said Twitchell, who plans events for personal and corporate parties throughout southeast Michigan.

Some trends for milestone birthdays, Twitchell said, include Games You Used To Play (favorite games from childhood, from Candy Land to Clue), Roaring Twenties and Casino Night, among others.

"You should always keep your budget in mind, too, when planning a party," she said. "Also, know what part of the party you're comfortable handling yourself, and what parts you may wish to have help from a party professional."

After choosing a theme, you'll have to decide "where and when?" In setting a date, party planners need to plan it far enough in advance to accomplish the "to do list," as well as keep in mind dates to avoid — such as holidays, major sporting events (unless that's the theme of your party), local festivals, etc.

While a party planned in a person's home is the most affordable route to take, a host has to be

realistic about the number of people that can comfortably be entertained in their home, as well as the work of preparing their home for a party.

Other options can be to choose a restaurant, banquet hall, or an outdoor venue like a park, if the party is planned in the summer.

For a party that's almost like being at home, caterers Anna Hoffman and June Tyrrell of Bon-A-Rose Catering Co. on Grand River in New Hudson suggest a birthday event that can either be "at your place or ours."

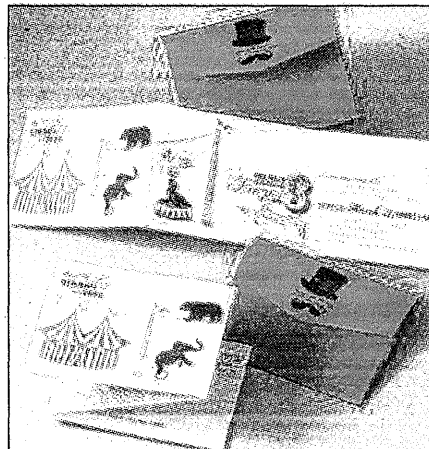
"We're able to accommodate up to 90 guests in a Tuscan-inspired turn-of-the-century home," said Hoffman, whose family has been catering special occasion events for more than 30 years. "Guests have said it's 'the next best thing' to partying in your own home, without all the prep and the mess."

Bon-A-Rose will also bring a party to the host's home within an approximate 30-mile radius of New Hudson/Lyon Township, providing authentic Italian-American "tried and true" favorite recipes.

Bringing in a caterer, whether your party is at home or at another venue, takes an important party item — food — off of your "to do" list.

Once the date and place have been established, it's time to select an invitation that will set the tone for the party's theme.

For Andrea Barringer, owner of The Write Invite in Northville, having a custom-made birthday invitation sets the tone for a quality, elegant event.



Custom invitations, like these from R.S.V.P. in Plymouth, set the mood and tone of the birthday party.

"People contact me usually having some kind of an idea of what they want for an invitation as far as a theme or style, but they don't always know how to put it all together," said Barringer, who operates her business out of her home. "That's where I can really be of service."

Barringer recalls a recent birthday invitation order that included a photo overlay of the "birthday person" years ago at age 20, over an invitation designed like a dinner plate, then embellished with a rhinestone clip. The invitation set the tone for the entire event, letting

guests know what to expect with a dinner party, then became a special keepsake of the birthday event.

"We pride ourselves on providing our customers with an exclusive, unique invitation," Barringer said. "We like to provide fashion-forward invitations that show an innovative sense of style. It truly sets the mood for the party."

And what's a birthday party without a cake? The cake is actually the "centerpiece" of the celebration and should reflect both the tastes of the person having the birthday and also the theme of the event.

Shaped cakes are becoming very popular, according to Mary Denning, owner of Mary Denning Cake Shoppe in Westland. Purses and shoes for women, a golf course for men, a dump truck or princess for kids are just a few examples of custom orders requested at this "sweets" destination.

"A lot of our customers are also requesting cupcakes placed around a traditional cake," Denning said.

But the most important aspect of a birthday cake is still the taste. "A cake can look good, but it still has to taste good," Denning said. "That's why we use fresh eggs, real butter and don't freeze our cakes. We also use more buttercream, adding fondant for decoration only, realizing fondant doesn't taste that great."

A week before the party, a checklist for tasks to be completed each day will make the day of the party fun for even the hostess.

First birthdays make memories

(Family Features) — A child's first birthday is a milestone. While it might not be remembered by the child, parents, grandparents, older siblings and other family and friends will treasure the celebration for years to come.

Photos and/or videos of the day will become cherished family mementos that will eventually be shared with the birthday boy or girl. Whether you make it simple — a cake or cupcakes with pre-made decorations — or an elaborate themed party, the highlight of the day will be watching the little one dive into the cake.

The cake experts at Wilton have hundreds of ideas for creating fantastic first birthday parties. For something simple, bake "Take One Cupcakes" in re-usable, easy to clean, silicone baking cups. Spatula ice them with white icing, then top with cut-out cookies in the shape of a number "1." Ice the cookies with colors to coordinate with the baking cups, and pipe dots for decoration. To save time, use the #1 candle instead of the cookie.

Other theme ideas ... princesses and palaces, pirate ships and treasure chests, mischievous monkeys in the jungle, even Noah's ark ... are detailed in the First Birthday Bash section of the Wilton 2010 Yearbook of Cake Decorating. Step-by-step instructions guide even a novice decorator to dazzling results.

For more first birthday party ideas, tips and supplies for baking, decorating and celebrating any occasion, or to share your family's first birthday photos and memories, visit www.wilton.com/celebrations/1st-Birthday/.

TAKE ONE CUPCAKES

Cookies:

- 1½ cups (3 sticks) unsalted butter, softened
- 1 cup granulated sugar
- 1 egg
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- ½ teaspoon almond extract
- 3 cups all-purpose flour
- 2 teaspoons baking powder

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Sky Blue, Rose, Leaf Green, Lemon

Favorite cupcake recipe or mix

1 can (16 oz.) White Decorator Icing

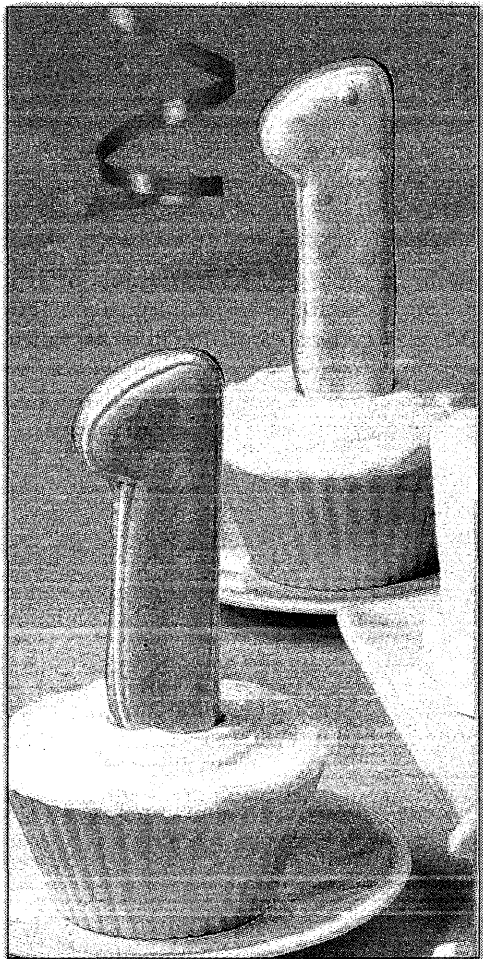
Preheat oven to 400°F. In large bowl, beat butter and sugar with electric mixer until light and fluffy. Beat in egg, vanilla and almond extracts. Combine flour and baking powder; add to butter mixture, 1 cup at time, mixing well after each addition. The dough will be very stiff; if necessary, blend last flour in by hand (if dough becomes too stiff, add water, a teaspoon at a time). Do not chill dough.

Divide dough into two balls. On a floured surface, roll each ball into a circle about 12 inches in diameter and ¼-inch thick. Dipping "1" cutter into flour before each use, cut out cookies. Bake on ungreased cookie sheet; cool completely.

Divide and tint royal icing as desired. Pipe tip 3 icing outline around cookie edges; let dry. Thin remaining icing and flow in between icing outline to cover; immediately overpipe tip 2 multicolored dots with thinned icing. Let dry.

Spray baking cups with vegetable pan spray. Bake cupcakes following recipe instructions; cool completely. Spatula ice cupcakes with white decorator icing. Insert cookie into each top.

Each serves 1.



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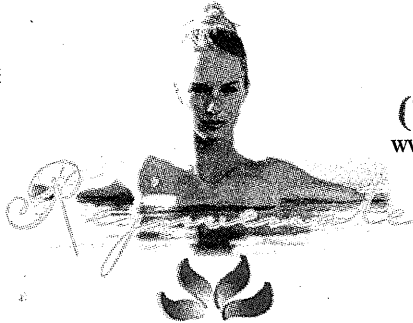
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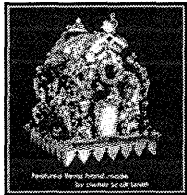


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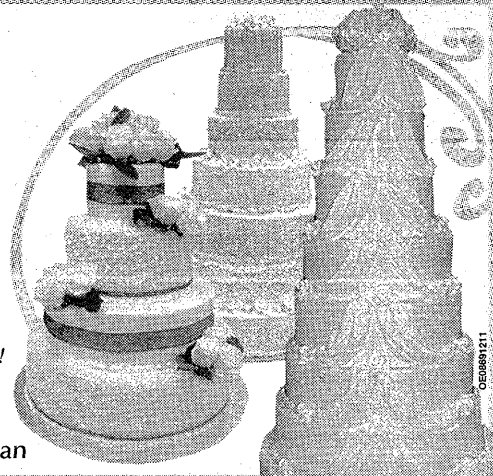
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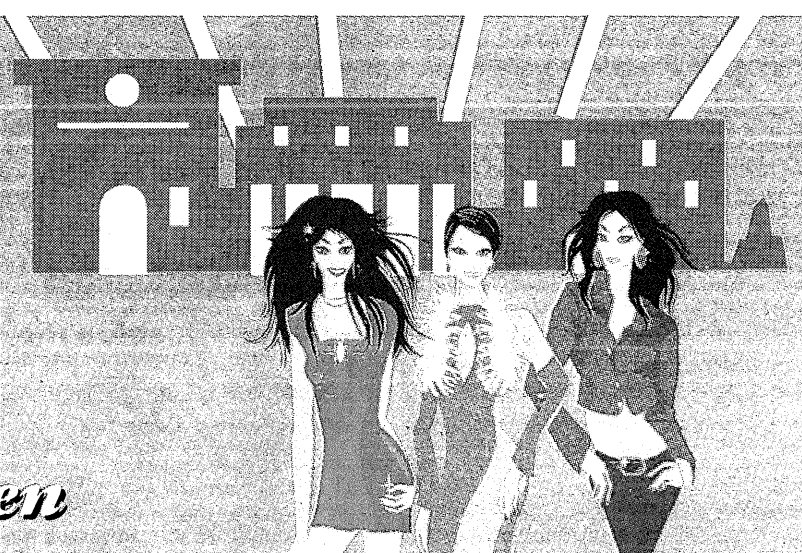
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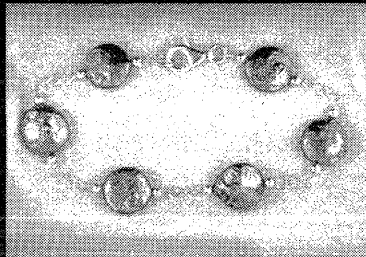
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Tooling around: You can be a Ms. Fix-it

By **Wensdy Von Buskirk**
Contributing Writer

If you're tired of nagging your hubby to hang those dining room curtains, or you can't afford to hire a handyman, why not do it yourself?

According to Melissa Laing, women everywhere are taking on home improvement tasks traditionally reserved for men. Why? Because traditions have changed.

Laing, of Plymouth, says more single women own their own homes, and those who are married can't always rely on their spouses to get the job done.

"We're not coming from traditional families anymore. We're not married to men whose dads took them into the garage and taught them how to fix things. We've got men raised by women," Laing says. "We teach women how to fix things that the husband in the house has no idea and just wants to hire it out."

For many families these days, paying for home repairs can make or break the budget, so Laing helps women gain the confidence and know-how they need to roll up their sleeves, grab the right tools and get to work.

In addition to teaching community-based home improvement classes, Laing is a consultant for Tomboy Tools, a Denver-based company devoted to empowering women to fix it themselves.

Tomboy Tools are designed especially for women. They're lightweight, have smaller grips and feature updated designs that make them more ergonomic and easier to use. For example, the tape measure lists all the fractions, and the ratchet screwdriver has room within the handle to store all the bits so they don't get lost. Many of the tools come in pink and benefit breast cancer causes.

Tomboy Tools also offers kits that contain everything you need for a particular project, such as an air compressor kit, paint kit, or Super Stepper Kit, which includes a variety of tools that fit inside a step stool, along with a simple guide to home improvement written by women.

Tomboy Tools are sold through home parties where consultants teach women how to do a specific home improvement project of their choice, or lead a more general Tool School 101.

"Typically when we do a party someone hosts, maybe 20 percent of people have had some experience picking up tools," Laing says. "But for the most part they're using a butter knife to fasten a screw on a wall plate."

Laing teaches women how to do simple repairs that save them from having to hire expensive help, such as fixing a toilet or unclogging a drain. She also teaches more intensive workshops, like how to do basic tiling, repair drywall or install moldings.

One of the most popular workshops is mosaic tiling. Although the project is decorative, the principles of cutting and grouting tile can be used to create a kitchen backsplash or bathroom floor.

Laing says women catch on quickly.

"We're not looking at a series of classes," she said. "We're talking about a 45-minute session and everyone's empowered. Women have this incredible ability to soak up knowledge. Once it makes sense — after that 'aha' happens — they're using tools."

For more information on Tomboy Tools, visit www.tomboytools.com or e-mail Melissa Laing at michigantomboy@comcast.net.

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Couple taking a picture with monument, Barcelona, Spain

Take better travel photos

It happens all the time. You work hard to plan a great vacation; you see memorable sights, have a terrific time and take plenty of pictures. But when you actually see the pictures, they're a bit disappointing. Some are too light or too dark, others just don't capture the moment quite as vividly as you remember it.

Don't despair. You don't have to be a professional photographer to take good travel pictures. These tips from the real pros can help you take pictures you can be proud of.

Keep it simple. Trying to cram too much visual information into the picture is like trying to cram too much stuff into a suitcase — you end up with a confusing mess. Instead, photographers for Fodor's say to keep it simple. They say that a good photograph — travel or otherwise — should have a single subject or idea with as little clutter as possible.

Balance. When taking pictures of friends or family members in your vacation spot, try to strike a balance between a picture of them and a picture of a place. National Geographic pros recommend showing enough of a person to be able to recognize him or her, but not to be so close up that there's no context and you can't tell where they are.

Pay attention to light. The Society of American Travel Writers, an organization of professional travel journalists and photographers, recommends shooting photos early in the morning and late in the afternoon. Between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m., the sun is overhead and the light is flat — which makes pictures boring. Shooting in early morning and late afternoon adds more

color and shadows to your photos, giving them more definition to the subject.

Think in thirds. Putting your subject in the middle of the frame doesn't always make the best picture. Imagine a three-by-three grid in your viewfinder — some cameras can actually show you this grid. Place your subject at one of the intersections of those lines. This "Golden Mean" technique can add more interest and dimension to your shot.

Here are some other quick tips to help you create memorable photos:

- Take a lot of pictures — digital is free. The best image is often the one you didn't plan for. You can always delete the ones that don't work out.

- Use the highest resolution possible. Image quality is compromised when you try to enlarge low-resolution pictures.

- Switch to macro mode when zooming in. Macro is a closeup setting for small images, usually depicted by a flower on your camera.

- Don't always use the camera's rectangular viewfinder to frame your picture. Look for natural frames, such as an arch, a tree branch or a rock formation.

- Look for unusual angles to lend more interest to your photographs. Don't be afraid to get on the ground to shoot low or climb up higher to get a better perspective.

- Be on the lookout for humor you can incorporate into your photographs.

You don't have to be a pro to take better photos. Practice and experiment before your trip so when you're out there, you can give it your best shot.

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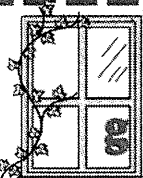
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Social media: Fun, pro

Women embrace new forms of media

By Mike Hogan
Contributing Writer

Over the past few years, social networking accounts have become what televisions were in the '60s: All of a sudden, everybody has one. But these sites aren't just used for entertainment. Women all over Michigan are finding innovative ways to use these sites to expand their social lives and boost their professional lives as well.

FACEBOOKING THE FAMILY

Facebook is regarded as the most commonly-used social networking site in the world. Founded in 2004, it was originally limited only to users who had a college or university e-mail address. In 2006, it was opened to anyone over the age of 13.

Jacquenette Eroh works in the city of Livonia Public Works office. She originally joined to catch up with family members and friends.

"I started out using it because I could exchange pictures and see other people's pictures in the family," Eroh said. "I have a sister-in-law who is from Russia, and we were kind of experimenting to see if her family could get the site to see the pictures that she had put on there. It was just a quick way to view the photos to start with."

Eroh continues to use the site to keep up with friends, but is surprised to see how much information they're sharing.

"There are pictures on there of adults that I can't believe I see sometimes," Eroh said. "But everyone has their own idea of what is enough or too much. You can never know who is looking."

Other than the occasional barrage of too much information, Eroh is concerned about how Facebook is affecting communication.

"The problem is that it turns into a big phone tag game," Eroh said. "It's kind of a shame. People are losing the ability to talk to each other."

A downturn in personal communication is not the only possible result from using Facebook. Angie Mohr, a producer for Green Light Film Funding in Northville, is concerned about Internet bullying and safety.

"It's just another way to act all big and brave and cool," Mohr said. "We tell our daughter that if she's going to act and talk a certain way in school, she needs to act the same way on the Internet."

Mohr monitors the Internet accounts that her 11-year-old daughter uses and discourages her from doing things that might endanger the family, particularly posting photos and videos.

"The video camera could swing around and catch something, maybe where we live or an address," Mohr said. "We're very strict about what goes on."

TWITTER

Even though the site opened in 2006, Twitter has made a larger impact in the last year than in the first three years. The site is pretty basic. Users can post messages, or "tweets," consisting of no more than 140 characters, including spaces. For reference, this paragraph is 292 characters.

Laura Rolands is an attention coach and the founder of LSR Coaching and Consulting. She works with people of all ages around the Michigan area who are diagnosed with ADD (attention deficit disorder) or ADHD (attention deficit hyperactivity disorder) or who need help handling attention-related issues. As a business owner,

Rolands opened her Twitter account to market her business.

"I started it for marketing purposes," Rolands said. "But it has developed into a way for me to build relationships and affiliations with businesses that are related to mine."

Rolands has formed partnerships with other professionals through her Twitter account. She believes that through her Twitter account, www.twitter.com/CoachForADHD, and her Web site, www.myattentioncoach.com, her exposure has greatly increased.

"As I started to share more information, I found there was more opportunity for relationships with other people," Rolands said.

Some users find the task of shortening their messages quite challenging, while others avoid that challenge completely.

"There was one person I was following who just completely filled my page," Rolands said. "It was something like 20 tweets in under an hour. I had to stop following her, even though she occasionally delivered good information."

Among the advice that Rolands delivers on her Twitter account, she encourages her Twitter followers to actively manage their online exposure. She recommends setting a timer or paying close attention to how much time they spend online.

THE NEW JOB HUNT

If Facebook represents the more personal end of the social networking spectrum, then LinkedIn is on the opposite end. LinkedIn users have an opportunity to post their professional experience and skills, and to make connections with co-workers, business partners or even potential employers.

Recently, Walsh College began offering free workshops for unemployed job seekers, called the Take Charge Workshops. The classes are offered at the Novi and Troy campuses.

Brenda Meller, marketing manager for Walsh College, runs one workshop aimed at helping job seekers use social media for job hunting.

"LinkedIn is predominantly the best site for job seekers," Meller said. "As I see it, it's a requirement for job seekers."

LinkedIn users are able to use their profile as an electronic resume. Meller says the site has areas where users can enter important professional information that might not make it on a typical resume. In her workshop, she encourages every participant to open an account, which she believes is effective.

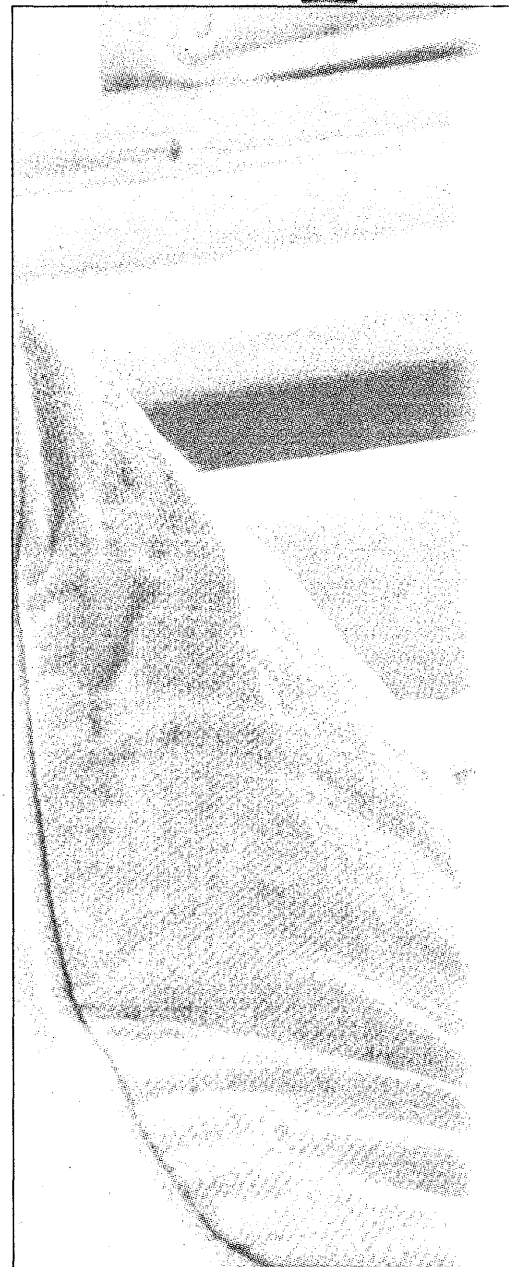
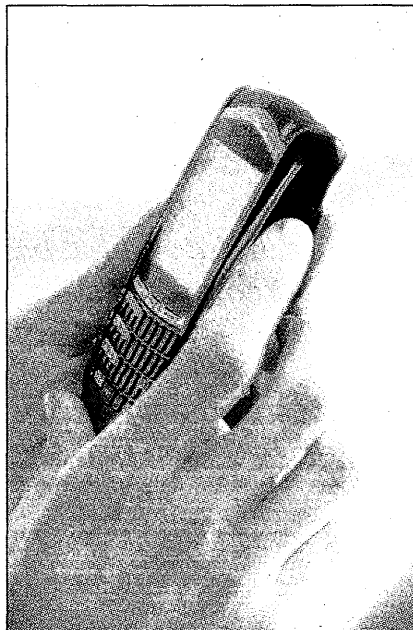
After one workshop, a participant who was able to find employment sent Meller a message that he titled "The Note."

"It's nice hearing about his experiences and the support he got from Walsh. I read his e-mail, which I call 'The Note' to the class," Meller said. "It's inspirational, it's uplifting and it shows it really does work. I believe in the power of all these sites, and if you really put your heart and your mind into it, that you will find that opportunity."

Meller says that in her experience, she's found that women find it harder to network professionally, because women tend to be inclined more toward social networking.

"I think women are naturally better at networking socially," Meller said. "But I definitely believe that women can easily draw on that networking ability and bring that in to social media."

Mike Hogan, free-lance writer, lives in Oak Park. He is experienced with social networking and social issues.



"It's just important to be honest, open, respectful of people whose opinion may be different from your own, and share knowledge when you have something to add to the conversation." Jessica Soulliere, Social Media communications coordinator for University of Michigan Health System



Jessica Soulliere

Profitable and necessary



Mind your manners in social media

By **Wensdy Von Buskirk**
Contributing writer

Emily Post never had to worry about offending someone online, but in the modern world of social media, old-fashioned etiquette still applies.

According to Rosh Sillars, photographer, social media expert and co-author of *Linked Photographer*, Facebook and other social media sites should be treated like face-to-face gatherings. If you go to a party and tell bad jokes, push politics, or endlessly talk about yourself, eventually you'll lose your audience.

"When you go to an event you don't hold out your hand and immediately ask people to buy what you're selling, or pass out a bunch of business cards and leave. It's about building relationships," said Sillars. "The more active you are online, the more you're commenting on what other people write, re-Tweeting their stuff, sharing

their information, that's what works. If you're all about 'look at me, look at my stuff, love me to death' you're going to be sitting in a corner alone."

Adrienne Lenhoff, president of Buzzphoria, agrees. Lenhoff helps 36 clients, from Faygo to Saladworks, connect with customers online. Business is so good, she's expanding to a 28,000-square-foot space in Novi next month.

"Nobody likes being talked at. If you're just constantly pushing out self-promotional messages to people, they're going to tune out," Lenhoff said. "You've got to look at how to get people engaged enough to care to come to your event, or recommend you to people. It's coming up with a mix of stuff."

Lenhoff suggests devising an editorial calendar to help meet your online goals. If you want to promote your restaurant, for example, post links to favorite online recipes

or offer fun facts about food instead of simply harping about your Happy Hour. Software like HootSuite allows you to pre-program a month's worth of posts that reflect your mission.

If you use social media strictly to stay in touch with friends and family, be aware of ways you might offend people too.

"With textual communication, sarcasm is hard to translate, or different moods or tones," she said. "There can be a breakdown in terms of understanding what the person's talking about or what the person means when they're sending you a message, vs. when you can detect nuances in somebody's voice."

To Jessica Soulliere, Social Media communications coordinator for University of Michigan Health System, the beauty of social media is making connections that benefit you.

"It's just important to be honest, open, respectful of people whose opinion may be different from your own, and share knowledge when you have something to add to the conversation," the Livonia resident said.

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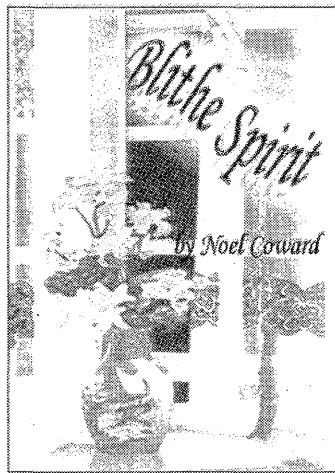
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JILL ENGEL, CANTON

special event coordinator,
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"I think Larenim Mineral Silk
is a must have. It has no starch
added, which feeds acne bacteria.
I love it because really it makes me
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sion. My skin's appearance seems to glow and look
smooth and my makeup blends more evenly and
naturally."

SHANNON ADAMS FAUNT, FARMINGTON HILLS

vice president, Zerbo's Health
Foods, Livonia

"My favorite beauty trick is
lining the inside 'rim' of my eye
with a light blue/teal kohl liner.
It brightens the eye, makes the
white look whiter and always
makes your eye pop. And you'll
get tons of compliments on it every time."



APRIL ROBICHAUD, CANTON

store director, Sephora
Twelve Oaks, Novi

"Like many maturing ladies,
my hair is getting finer and
thinner. People love my curly
hairstyle, but Velcro rollers
don't. To avoid the damage and
breakage, I looked back to the
past; now I set my hair in fat
pincurls on good ol' fashioned
clippies!"



BARBARA DAVIES, PLYMOUTH

manager, The UPS
Store, Northville

"I love Oil of Olay or as
I call it 'Oil of Delay.' We
all need to keep a sense
of humor — I don't mind
having smile lines for
wrinkles."



TARYN BICKLEY

photo stylist,
Chicago & Detroit

"I really love putting
blush on just to give
a look of warmth and
rosy cheeks."



Tax time tips for the biggest federal refund

(ARA) — Seeing the results of their federal tax return is a happier experience for more Americans this year. From credits for homebuyers and energy-efficient home improvements, to increases for the Earned Income Tax credit and standard deduction, the majority of taxpayers will receive a bigger refund or less tax owed on 2009 returns.

Despite the number of tax changes, experts agree doing your own taxes is still easy, fast and affordable. "The key this year is to get organized beforehand and to allow for a bit of extra time to make sure you don't leave any money on the table," says Jessi Dolmage, spokeswoman for 2nd Story Software, the makers of TaxACT.

Dolmage shares five easy ways that all taxpayers can maximize their federal refund.

1 Get organized. Gather your tax documents and organize by category. Locate records related to events including unemployment, college, new vehicles, having or adopting children, buying a house, moving and changing jobs. New tax laws may give you bigger breaks for those events this year.

2 Use tax preparation software. If you're going to do your own taxes, why pay if you don't have to? Free solutions like TaxACT Free Federal Edition guide you through the new credits, deductions and tax laws. They also do the math, help find missing information and identify potential errors. TaxACT Free Federal Edition at www.taxact.com allows everyone to prepare and e-file for free — regardless of income, age, state of residence and military status. TaxACT also includes a maximum refund guarantee and all e-file forms for simple and complex federal returns.

3 Remember the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). Historically, one in four eligible taxpayers fail to claim this credit, designed for those whose earned incomes are below certain thresholds. The credit amount is based on filing status, age and number of qualifying children. Those without children also qualify. For 2009, more workers and families will qualify for this refundable credit. According to the Internal Revenue Service, one out of every six taxpayers will qualify this year. Taxpayers claiming the federal EITC may also be eligible for a similar credit on their state or local return.

4 Consider itemizing. The standard deduction for 2009 has increased to \$5,700 for individual or married filing separately returns, \$11,400 for joint returns or qualifying widow(er) returns and \$8,350



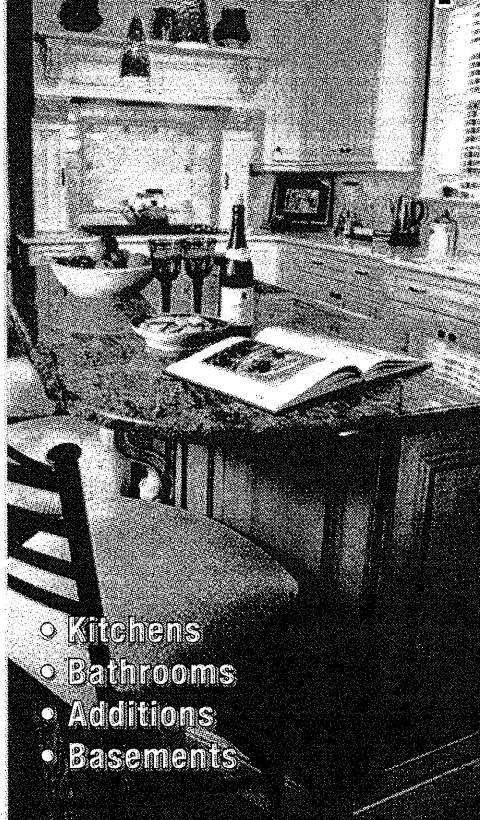
for head of household returns. If your eligible deductions exceed the standard deduction amount, you're likely better off itemizing. Software like TaxACT will identify your best option after you enter your deductions.

5 File and pay as much as possible by April 15. Even if you can't pay your entire tax bill by the deadline, file early and schedule payment any time before April 15 (June 15 for taxpayers who qualify as "out of the country") to avoid penalties and interest. If you need a six-month extension (four months if "out of the country"), Form 4868 is due by April 15 and will extend your filing deadline to Oct. 15, 2010. Remember, an extension to file is not an extension to pay.

The fastest way to get your federal refund is to e-file your return and choose direct deposit, says Dolmage. The exception is those claiming the first-time homebuyer credit. To help prevent fraud, the IRS is requiring documentation for the credit to be mailed with their return and Form 5405 for the credit. In addition, the IRS says it likely won't start issuing those refunds until the end of March. Learn more about 2009 tax law changes and TaxACT at www.irs.gov and www.taxact.com.

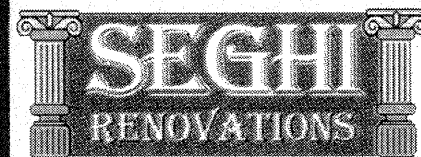
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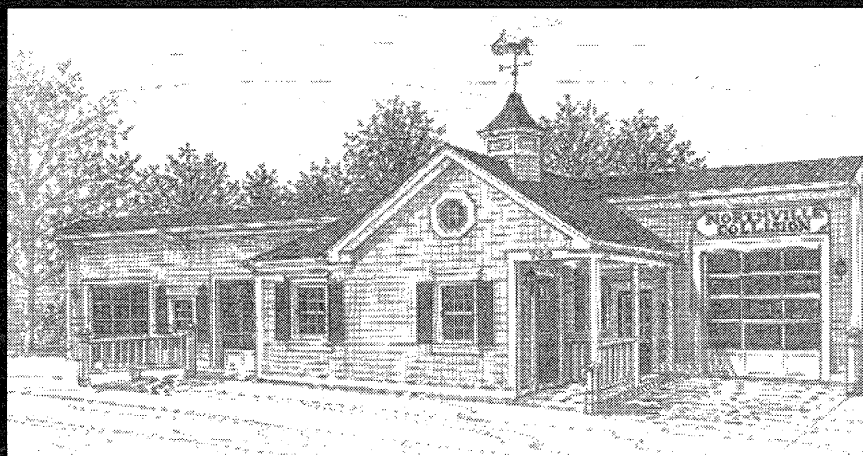
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Sudoku

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

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

Level: Beginner

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

Level: Intermediate

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

Level: Advanced

Answers found on page 21



Easy Easter Brunch

(Family Features) — Hosting an Easter brunch is a great way to bring friends and family together. And it doesn't have to be hard or expensive. Here are some simple things you can do to ensure a memorable celebration without the hassle.

Take inventory. Pull out the dishes, platters, silverware and glassware to make sure you have what you need. If needed, spruce up any silver and table linens a few days before, so you can concentrate on other things the day of the event.

Set a pretty table. For creative place cards, try Easter eggs. Put a narrow strip of tape around the middle of each egg before you dye it. When it's dry, peel off the tape and write each name in the white space with a thin line permanent marker.

Keep it centered. For an inexpensive centerpiece, leverage simplicity:

- Fill a glass bowl or vase with colorful Easter eggs — real or plastic.
- Put a potted plant inside an Easter basket.
- Set white or ivory votive candles on top of a flat mirror.

Plan the menu. The main thing you must always remember is to keep it simple. Don't be afraid to use store-bought items and recipes that can be made ahead of time. These simple time savers leave you more time to relax to enjoy your guests.

- Buy instead of baking. Muffins, fruit pastries and seasonal Easter breads can all be found in the bakery section of your grocery store.
- Provide a lighter side dish such as a simple fruit salad. Squeeze lemon or orange juice on the fruit to help it keep from turning brown.
- Create a simple, yet special main dish such as a crustless quiche. With this easy recipe from Hillshire Farm, you simply combine flavorful beef smoked sausage with cheese and eggs for a mouth-watering dish. You can prepare the mixture ahead of time, cover the baking dish with foil and keep it in the fridge until just before the party. Remove the foil, bake as instructed and watch your guests enjoy. You can find other tempting smoked sausage and polska kielbasa Easter recipes at gomeat.com.

CRUSTLESS QUICHE

Prep Time: 15 minutes
Cook Time: 45 minutes
Makes: 12 servings

- 1 package Hillshire Farm Beef Smoked Sausage
- 8 eggs, lightly beaten
- 1 1/2 cups heavy whipping cream
- 1 1/2 teaspoons dry mustard
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/8 teaspoon ground black pepper
- 1 1/2 cups (6 ounces) shredded cheddar cheese, divided

1/2 cup chopped green bell pepper
Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. Cut sausage into 1/2-inch cubes; set aside.

Place eggs, cream, dry mustard, salt and black pepper in a large bowl; whisk until smooth.

Stir in sausage, 1 cup of cheese and green pepper. Pour egg mixture into a greased 13 x 9-inch baking dish.

Bake 40 to 45 minutes or until eggs are set. Sprinkle with remaining 1/2 cup cheese. Let stand 5 minutes before serving.

Culinary kids create

(Family Features) — Children are naturally curious when it comes to the ways of the kitchen, and parents are equally curious about how to include them in cooking and baking activities.

“The best way to promote lifelong healthy eating is to get kids involved in cooking at an early age,” said Mitzi Dulan, registered dietitian and author. “Promoting the kitchen as a fun gathering place for the whole family will help build a positive attitude towards enjoying food.”

With a little adult assistance, kids can easily learn their way around the kitchen and help create fun meals and snacks.

“Introduce kids to the kitchen by having them help prepare their own snacks,” Dulan said. “A favorite snack for my children is a honey and peanut butter sandwich. Even very young kids can use a spoon to spread honey and peanut butter on whole wheat bread or a tortilla.”

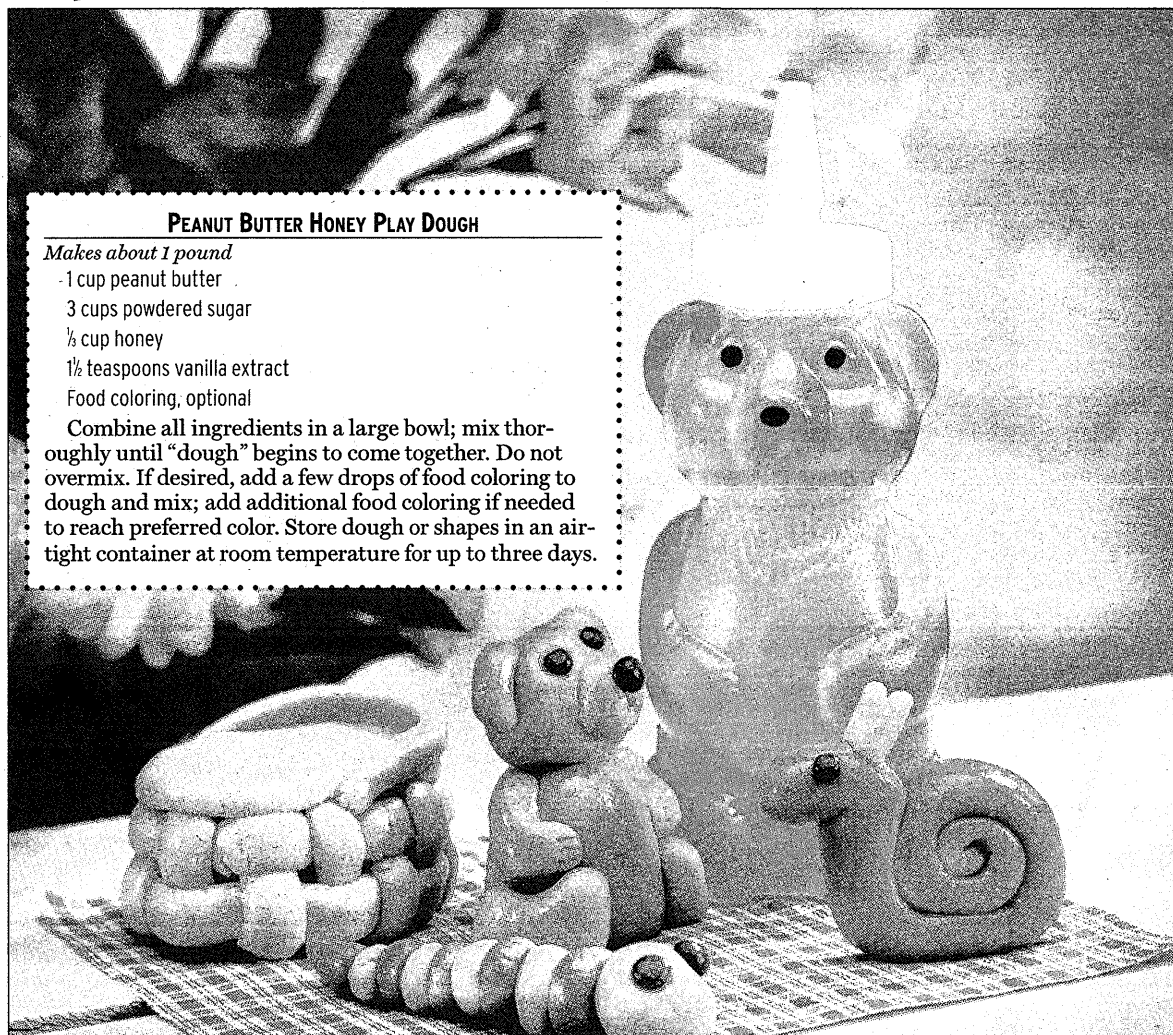
Here are three simple steps to heighten your child’s desire to learn and be involved in the kitchen:

- Tour the kitchen. Sure they eat there, but take time to familiarize them with measuring cups, cutting boards, hot pads and the general layout of the kitchen. Point out where kitchen staples such as honey, spices and other dry ingredients are stored and use this time as an invitation to talk about flavors and favorite tastes.

- Make meal planning a family event. Browse through cookbooks, old family recipes or visit honey.com for kid-friendly and tasty recipes. Invite kids to pick at least one recipe to make each week to get them involved and interested in the family’s eating habits.

- Assist your little chef. Safety is a top priority for kids in the kitchen — adults should be active participants and lead by example. Always demonstrate safe kitchen practices — from knife skills and cleanliness to age-appropriate cooking activities.

The National Honey Board provides a collection of kid-friendly recipes and fun facts in the “From Honey Bees to Brain Freeze Kid’s Guide to Cooking with Honey” brochure, including colorful illustrations and photography. To receive a free copy of the brochure, download recipes, or find out more about the benefits of using honey, visit honey.com.



PEANUT BUTTER HONEY PLAY DOUGH

Makes about 1 pound

- 1 cup peanut butter
- 3 cups powdered sugar
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup honey
- $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoons vanilla extract
- Food coloring, optional

Combine all ingredients in a large bowl; mix thoroughly until “dough” begins to come together. Do not overmix. If desired, add a few drops of food coloring to dough and mix; add additional food coloring if needed to reach preferred color. Store dough or shapes in an airtight container at room temperature for up to three days.

sweet success

HONEY BERRY WAFFLE SANDWICH

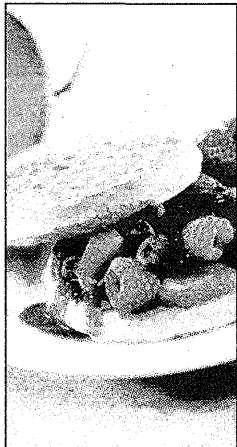
Makes 4 servings

- $\frac{1}{2}$ cups fresh berries*, divided
- 1 tablespoon butter
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup honey
- 8 frozen waffles, toasted

To prepare honey syrup, purée $\frac{1}{2}$ cup berries in a blender or food processor; set aside. In a small sauce pan over medium heat, melt butter. Add honey and bring to a boil; simmer 2 to 3 minutes; then add berry purée. Continue to simmer 2 to 3 minutes more until syrup thickens slightly. Set aside and keep warm.

For each serving, place 2 waffles on plate. Top one waffle with $\frac{1}{2}$ cup fresh berries. Drizzle with $\frac{1}{4}$ of syrup, and top sandwich with remaining waffle.

*Raspberries, strawberries and blueberries work well.



Mitzi Dulan offers seven tips for raising food-smart kids

1. Introduce a variety of foods. The key to expanding kids’ food preferences is to try new flavors early and often. Be persistent — it can take five to 20 times of trying a new food before your child actually enjoys it.
2. Avoid being a short-order cook. It’s fine to frequently include some of their favorite foods, but you don’t want to end up making four different meals each night for everyone in the family.
3. Switch to whole grains. Bread, pasta, pancakes, tortillas, pitas, cereal, crackers and brown rice. It might not always be possible to eat whole grains when eating out, but it should be a no-brainer when you are making meals at home.
4. Put the brakes on fast food. Fast food can seem like a great option when you are pressed for time, but try to limit the number of times you eat fast food. Instead, make a double batch of favorite foods and freeze half for later.
5. Make activity a family affair. Go for a family bike ride or walk. Find local tennis courts, trails or a track and get moving!
6. Ask for their help. Get children involved with grocery shopping. Make it fun by exploring colors and shapes in the produce section. Let kids select a new fruit or vegetable to try at home.
7. Look for pure foods. Buy foods with short ingredient lists or single ingredient foods like honey and kiwi.

HONEY TURKEY ROLLERS

Makes 6 servings

- 8 ounces cream cheese, softened
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup honey
- $\frac{1}{4}$ cup mustard
- $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon onion powder, optional

- 6 8-inch whole wheat tortillas
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cups Colby Jack cheese, shredded
- 12 thin slices of turkey

In medium bowl, beat cream cheese with an electric mixer until fluffy. Add honey, mustard and onion powder; mix well.

Spread 1 to 2 tablespoons of honey cream cheese mixture out to the edge of each tortilla. Sprinkle each tortilla with $\frac{1}{4}$ cup cheese, leaving about 1 inch around the edge. Place 2 slices of turkey on each tortilla. Roll up each tortilla tightly and wrap in plastic wrap. Chill at least 30 minutes, then slice each tortilla log into 8 1-inch rounds and serve.



“THIN”

For any general merchandise item in any given week, the market of shoppers is very small (thin).



4.9% shopped for women's shoes

Technological innovation and the economic downturn has changed the way that U.S. consumers shop. Consumers have become more destination shoppers, making more considered purchases and doing their homework before heading to the store. Three-quarters of all U.S. adults read a newspaper in print or online in the past week; over 170 million adults. For shoppers, newspaper advertising is an opt-in medium in an opt-out world.

95% of U.S. adults report that the recession has impacted their shopping in some way. 76% report doing fewer shopping trips. Adults also plan purchases more (67%). Actual purchases continue to be predominantly made in stores (79%) though shopping information channels have dramatically expanded.

59% of adults rank newspapers first as the media used to help plan shopping or make purchasing decisions in the past 7 days. 80% of newspaper readers report looking at advertising when reading the paper.

41% say newspapers are the medium used most to check out ads, more than all electronic media combined. (TV, radio, Internet)

77% of newspaper readers took an action as a result of a print newspaper ad in the past 30 days. 59% clipped a coupon, 52% bought something advertised and 45% visited a store.

60% of newspaper readers followed up a newspaper ad online in some way. 44% went to a website after seeing a print newspaper ad and 28% conducted an online search after seeing a newspaper ad.

82% of readers used a preprinted insert in the past 30 days. On average, adults keep inserts 4.4 days. 59% used to compare prices, 55% used to compare one circular to another, 52% saved until visiting the store and 43% used to make an unplanned purchase.

Scarborough Research 2008
How America Shops and Spends/ MORI Research 2009

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A healthy kitchen makeover

Family Features — Tackling neglected cleaning tasks? Cleaning out the attic or reorganizing your bedroom might top your list. But don't neglect your kitchen — give it a makeover by stocking it with great-tasting, healthy choices.

First, take a peek inside your refrigerator and pantry. Look at the expiration or "best used by" dates on food packages. Foods kept past their expiration dates can degrade in quality, and items such as butter and oils can go bad.

WHAT TO STOCK UP ON

Diets rich in high-fiber whole grains, fruits and vegetables and low in saturated fat, trans fat and cholesterol can lower your risk of cardiovascular disease.

- **Whole grains:** Whole grains have essential vitamins and dietary fiber. Whole-grain foods high in fiber include oat bran, oatmeal, whole-wheat bread, rice and barley. How do you know if you're getting what you need? Check the label. Whole grain should be the first ingredient.

- **Fruits and vegetables:** Low in calories and full of vitamins, minerals and dietary fiber, fruits and veggies are nutritious, filling foods. Whether they're fresh, frozen, canned or dried, they're a delicious must-have for your diet.

- **Leaner is better:** Making lean choices will help you maintain a heart-healthy diet. Consider skinless chicken and turkey, fish, shellfish and lean cuts of beef such as round, sirloin, chuck and loin. Beans and soy products such as tofu are good meat substitutes.

- **Healthier fats:** Fats play an important role in your diet, but it's important to choose the right kinds. Choose oils high in monounsaturated and polyunsaturated fats, such as canola oil or olive oil, and use soft margarines with no trans fats. Try to steer clear of saturated and trans fats, which are often found in mayonnaise, chips, cookies, packaged muffins, snack cakes and crackers.

- **Salt:** Most of the sodium (salt) in our diet comes from prepared food. Eating too much salt increases your risk of developing high blood pressure (a risk factor for both heart disease and stroke) and raises it in those who have it. When buying prepared and prepackaged foods, be sure and read the labels first. Watch for the words "soda" and "sodium" in the ingredient statement and look for the symbol "Na" on labels. Choose lower sodium products. Aim for less than 2,300 mg of sodium a day — that's about one teaspoon of table salt.

To find heart-healthy foods in the grocery store, start by making your grocery list online. Visit heartcheckmark.org to build your list from approximately 800 products ranging from meat and dairy to vegetables and snacks, all certified by the American Heart Association to be low in saturated fat and cholesterol. Print your list or access it from your Web-enabled mobile phone or PDA.

For more nutrition information, visit americanheart.org/nutrition.



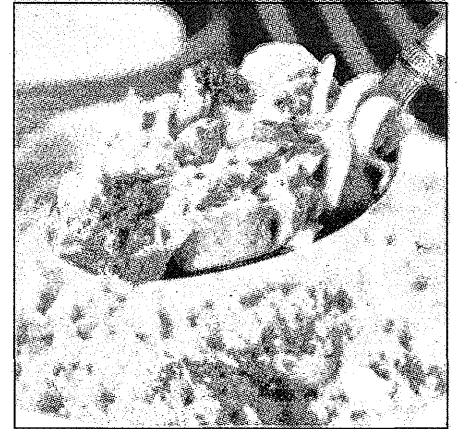
SHOP SMART! LIVE WELL! LOOK FOR THE HEART-CHECK MARK!

All products bearing the heart-check mark meet the American Heart Association's nutrition criteria per standard serving size to be:

- Low in fat (3 grams or less)
 - Low in saturated fat (1 gram or less)
 - Zero* trans fat (less than .5 grams)
 - Low in cholesterol (20 milligrams or less)
 - Moderate in sodium, with 480 milligrams or less for individual foods
- In addition, they contain at least 10 percent of the daily value of one or more of these naturally occurring nutrients: protein, vitamin A, vitamin C, calcium, iron or dietary fiber.

Also, seafood, game meat and poultry, as well as whole-grain products, main dishes and meals must meet additional nutritional requirements.

*PER U.S. FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION



MODERN TUNA-PASTA CASSEROLE

Serves 4; 1½ cups per serving

- 4 ounces dried whole-wheat rotini (about 1½ cups)
- Cooking spray
- 116-ounce bag frozen mixed vegetables, such as a carrot, broccoli and cauliflower blend, thawed
- 2 5.5-ounce cans low-sodium chunk light tuna, packed in water, flaked
- 110.75-ounce can low-fat condensed cream of chicken soup (lowest sodium available)
- ½ cup chopped bottled roasted red bell peppers, rinsed before chopping
- ½ cup fat-free half-and-half
- 1 teaspoon all-purpose seasoning blend
- ¾ cup lightly crushed (about ¼-inch pieces) low-sodium whole-grain crackers (about 34 squares)
- ¼ cup shredded or grated Parmesan cheese

Prepare pasta using package directions, omitting salt and oil. Drain well in a colander. Transfer to a large bowl.

Meanwhile, preheat oven to 350°F. Lightly spray a 2-quart glass casserole dish with cooking spray.

Stir mixed vegetables, tuna, soup, roasted peppers, half-and-half and seasoning blend into pasta until combined. Transfer to casserole dish. Sprinkle with crackers and Parmesan.

Bake, uncovered, for 25 to 30 minutes, or until casserole is warmed through and the topping is golden brown.

Cook's tip: With the variety of frozen mixed vegetable blends available to choose from, you can easily incorporate new tastes into this casserole. You can also change the flavor of the sauce by substituting low-fat condensed cream of mushroom or celery soup for the chicken soup, always choosing the lowest-sodium product available.

Nutrition analysis (per serving): Calories, 400; Total Fat, 7.0 g, Saturated Fat, 2.5 g, Trans Fat, 0.0 g, Polyunsaturated Fat, 2.0 g, Monounsaturated Fat, 2.0 g; Cholesterol, 30 mg; Sodium, 537 mg; Carbohydrates, 52 g; Fiber, 8 g; Sugars, 7 g; Protein, 32 g; Dietary Exchanges: 3 starch, 1½ vegetable, 3 lean meat

This recipe is brought to you by the American Heart Association's Food Certification Program. Recipe copyright © 2008 American Heart Association. For more information heart-healthy grocery shopping, visit heartcheckmark.org.

Courtesy of American Heart Association



Your guide to kitten care

(Family Features) — Adopting a kitten is especially exciting and can be a very enjoyable experience for the whole family. When choosing to bring a kitten into the family, explore all avenues to adoption, including humane shelters, breeders and rescue organizations.

- Look for kittens that are friendly, outgoing and do not struggle when gently handled.
- Be sure the coat looks shiny and the eyes are clear.
- If you can gather information about the kitten's parents, it may aid in understanding any long term health or behavioral concerns.
- Seek expert advice from veterinarians, animal welfare organizations, breeders and/or online kitten care resources like kittenchow.com.

By preparing ahead of time, you can welcome your new kitten into your life with confidence and get the most out of the life you share. Web sites, like kittenchow.com, make the preparation period easier by offering an informative kitten care video series called the "The Kitten Connection™." Hosted by board-certified veterinary behaviorist Dr. Karen Sueda, the 13 videos cover a wide range of topics from socializing your new kitten to understanding your kitten's transition to adulthood. The series is full of easy steps to help you enrich your relationship with your kitten and create a foundation of well-being for many years to come.

Choosing to adopt a kitten is a lifelong decision, so establishing a connection with your kitten right off the bat is very important. Kittens are only kittens for a year, but this short time is the most significant stage of a cat's development.

THE FIRST DAYS HOME

A kitten needs a safe place where she can rest, relax and not get into harm's way. Allow your kitten to acclimate to her new environment slowly. Choose a quiet, small room and make that "home base" for the first few days. This area should have the kitten's food, water, bed and litter box. Once your kitten feels comfortable and confident, allow her to begin exploring.

SAFETY FIRST.

Kittens are curious and playful, but they can get themselves into trouble unintentionally. Take a look around your house and examine the world from your kitten's view. Consider wires, plants, sharp objects and small items that can be chewed on or swallowed and remove them from your kitten's reach. It is also smart to keep your new kitten indoors and out of danger.

MAKING INTRODUCTIONS.

When you introduce your kitten to existing pets, it is important to do so with care and caution. Introductions through a closed door will help each one become familiar with the other by smell. Then follow-up with a relaxed face-to-face meeting. Treats and playtime are great ways to encourage healthy interactions and pleasant associations. Keep litter boxes and food and water bowls separate in the beginning to maintain household harmony and alleviate competition.

PROPER EATING HABITS.

Kittens tend to be occasional eaters, and this can sometimes be interpreted that a kitten does not like a certain diet. Much like adult cats, kittens tend to graze and want to return to their food intermittently. Kittens, like babies, need their own special food. Establishing proper eating habits for your kitten helps prevent problems before they start and gives your kitten the best nutritional foundation for a long and healthy life.

MAKE LITTER BOX TRAINING A BREEZE.

Instinct will usually guide your kitten to develop good litter box habits, but you can help the process by establishing a private location for the box and cleaning it regularly. Many kittens prefer a smaller box with low walls, and then you can help them work up to a larger box in time. Place the litter box in a quiet, out of the way location away from your kitten's food and water, and when your kitten starts interacting with the litter in the box, then calmly praise her to reinforce the behavior.

FIRST VISIT TO YOUR VET.

One of the first items of business with your veterinarian will be a thorough examination and schedule of vaccinations. This visit is also a good time to discuss spaying and neutering. Ask any other questions you have about health and behavior. Schedule follow-up visits, and in between appointments, do your own "home health checks," checking for any bumps or growths while petting or grooming your kitten.

It may sound a little overwhelming at first, but you will find that it all comes relatively easily and naturally when you love your kitten like you would any other member of the family. Taking the time to play with her, care for her and ease her into your home environment goes a long way toward ensuring that she has a happy, healthy and long life with you.



GETTY IMAGES

Veterinary Behaviorist and Purina Cat Chow Mentor Dr. Karen Sueda



Think Green!

The third annual Green Street Fair returns to the streets of downtown Plymouth April 30, May 1-2.

Green Street Fair Inc. was founded to help educate and inform people of all ages about the benefits of green, organic, and eco-friendly products and services.

To promote global interest and personal well-being, the Green Street Fair blends companies, artisans, entertainers, and workshops together in a friendly and family-oriented outdoor environment. Consumers who attend the Green Street Fair will be encouraged to learn the advantages of taking strides, large or small, toward living a healthier and greener life.

Highlights of the 2010 fair will include: exhibitor displays, recycling workshops, Fort Box, organic cooking demonstrations, interactive displays, children's activities, fitness and well-being demonstrations, live entertainment and more

Must-haves for 'green' moms

(ARA) — It's not enough anymore to just teach your kids to look both ways before crossing the street, pick up after themselves and play nicely together. Modern moms need to teach children lessons on how to help preserve the environment for years to come.

"The best way to teach is to lead by example, so if you want your children to grow up to be eco-minded adults, show them how to do it by 'greening' your own habits now," says Emily Smith, vice president of the Disney Online Mom and Family Portfolio. "Disney Family.com offers easy, everyday advice and tips for eco-conscious moms. Fortunately, plenty of inexpensive products and resources can help your family live a more environmentally responsible lifestyle."

Disney Family.com offers a list of the top six "green" products that can easily be incorporated into your everyday family routine.

- Reusable water bottles — You want your kids to drink plenty of water because it's good for them, but you're concerned that all those plastic bottles ending up in landfills aren't good for the environment. The solution: reusable water bottles. Easily available in stores, reusable water bottles like those used by cyclists and hikers are a great alternative to disposable bottles. By using them, you help reduce the waste stream and save money on more expensive bottled water. To really go eco-friendly, try a stainless steel bottle that is naturally durable and BPA free.

- Composting machine — Turn your leftover table scraps into compost and you will rank as the "Queen of Green" in your children's eyes. A composting machine makes the job super easy, but you can also make compost with a simple composting barrel, available in any home improvement or garden store.

- Reusable razors — Did you know that about 2 billion plastic razors end up in landfills each year? That's the estimate by the Environmental Protection Agency.

So replace your limited use disposable razors with a reusable one that allows you to keep the handle and only switch the blades. You'll reduce the amount of trash going into the waste stream and your legs may thank you since reusable razors are often better quality than disposable ones.

- Reusable shopping bags — Plastic bags wind up in waterways and harm wildlife, or end their life in landfills where they'll remain forever. Paper bags are biodegradable, but resources are required to make them. Reusable, cloth shopping bags are better for the environment. And you can make your own fashion statement by choosing fun, funky or fashionable totes to function as your shopping bag.

- Compact fluorescent light bulbs — Not only do CFLs consume much less energy than conventional incandescent bulbs, they last longer, too. You'll save money on your energy bill — not to mention your annual household light bulb budget — by replacing the incandescent bulbs in your home with these energy-saving alternatives.

- All-natural cleaning products — Long gone are the days when "natural cleaner" meant "good for the environment, but not so good for cleaning." Today, a plethora of products made from natural ingredients is gentler on the environment than harsh chemicals, but as powerful at cleaning as common chemical cleansers. You can find everything from laundry detergent and dish soap to window cleaner and even degreasers — all made from natural products.

For more tips on how you and your family can easily become "greener," visit Disney Family.com where you'll find advice, tips and products to help you live a more environmentally aware life.

— Courtesy of ARAcontent

Sudoku Answers

Beginner

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

Intermediate

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

Advanced

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



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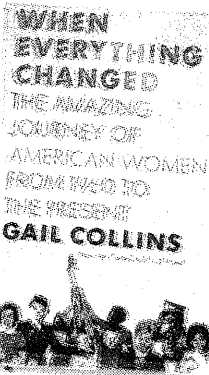
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Book Corner

By Jillian Essenmacher, reference librarian
Salem-South Lyon District Library

"When Everything Changed: The Amazing Journey of American Women from 1960 to Present"



By Gail Collins
Little, Brown and Company; 2009

In the sequel to her highly acclaimed "America's Women," New York Times columnist Gail Collins takes on the daunting task of exploring the last 50 years of women's cultural and political history in search of answers about how far we have come and where we go from here. Weaving "the public drama



Jillian Essenmacher

of the era with the memories of regular women who lived through it all," she not only probes these complex questions, but provides a comprehensive, thoughtful and thoroughly readable history of women in America. "When Everything Changed" exposes scenes from our history ranging from the laughably sexist to poignant reminders of hurdles yet to be overcome. As a member of the baby boomer generation, Collins lends an authentic voice to this important work that has appeal for women of all ages.

This book is now available at numerous TLN libraries, including the Salem-South Lyon District Library, Novi Public Library, Northville District Library, as well as area Borders, Barnes & Noble bookstores and Amazon.

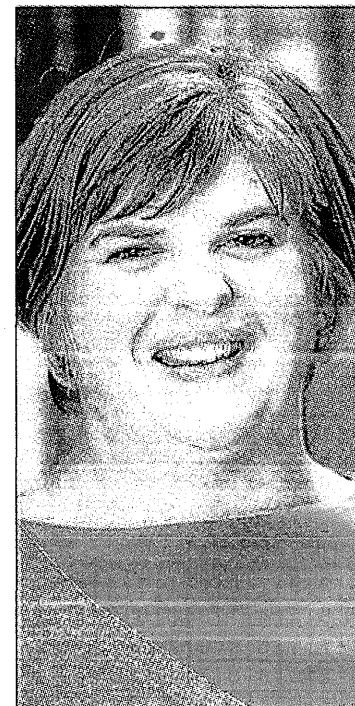
By Karin Boughey, head of Adult Services
Milford Public Library

"Warrior Princess: Fighting for Life with Courage and Hope"

By Princess Kasune Zulu with Belinda Collins
InterVarsity Press; 2009



Princess Kasune Zulu lived a privileged life in Zambia before losing a number of family members to AIDS. At 21, Princess herself was diagnosed as HIV positive and became a tireless advocate for women and children affected by the virus. Princess Kasune Zulu has given a name and face to a disease where victims are still stigmatized in their own communities.



Karin Boughey

This book is not just about the struggle of one woman to live with her diagnosis, but about the courage and fortitude it takes to become the public face of this disease. Princess Kasune Zulu speaks not just about HIV/AIDS, but about related issues like poverty, education for girls, child labor, human rights and gender equality.

A percentage of the proceeds from the sale of the book supports children affected by AIDS.

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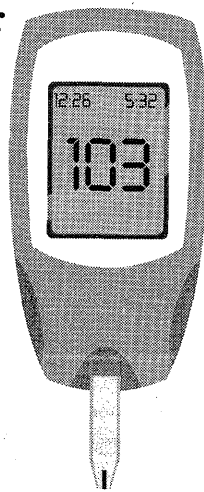
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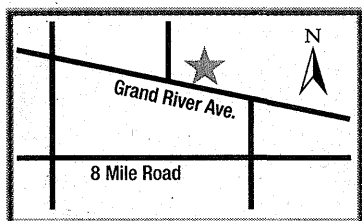
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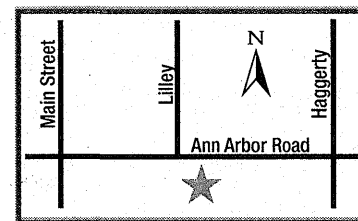
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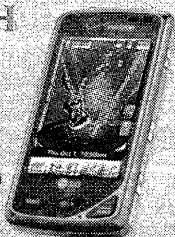


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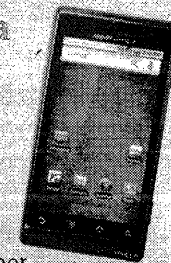
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