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LOCAL NEWS, A3

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THURSDAY
February 10, 2011

The Observer & Eccentric
Newspapers

Volume 124
Number 51

\$1.00

**PLYMOUTH
OBSERVER**

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FOOD, B7

PIPELINE

Streetscape talks

The 2011 downtown Streetscape project is expected to begin sometime in April. This year's main focus will be to construct a concrete intersection and install traffic light mast arms at the intersection of Main and Penniman, repave Penniman from Harvey to Union, and repave the remainder of the streets throughout downtown.

Like last year, Plymouth Downtown Development Authority officials have scheduled three public meetings with the project engineer to explain details and the timeline for completion. The meetings are scheduled for 7 p.m. Monday, Feb. 21; 8:30 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 22; and 2 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 23. All three sessions will be held at the Plymouth Cultural Center.

Another presentation will be made at the DDA Board meeting on Thursday, Feb. 10, which is open to the public.

Sweet lecture

The Plymouth Historical Museum hosts a free lecture, "Sanders Candy," and a Sweet Fair 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 10.

Author Greg Tasker, an assistant business editor and travel blogger for The Detroit News, traces the history of Sanders, Detroit's beloved confectioner, in a visual presentation that includes rare photographs of early Detroit stores and Sanders family members. His presentation chronicles the company's humble beginnings, from a leased storefront and a barrel of borrowed sugar to its explosive growth in the city and suburbs over the next several decades. Afterward, Tasker will answer questions and have copies of his books available for purchase and signing.

The Sweet Fair will include samples from Plymouth merchants The Candy Trail, Kilwin's, and Sweets 21. The museum is located at 155 S. Main in Plymouth. For details, call (734) 455-8940.

Math whizzes

Five students from the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park rank in the top 100 math students in the State of Michigan.

The finalists are Plymouth High School student Brett Jia, Salem High School students Natasha Counsel, Peter Su and Scott Su, and Canton High School student Bryant Chen.

These students have qualified as finalists on Part II of the 54th Michigan Mathematics Prize Competition.

The exam consists of 40 multiple-choice questions involving topics from high school mathematics. From approximately 10,000 participants in Part I, the top 1,000 students are invited to take Part II of the MMP. These students work on five challenging problems and write their solutions providing full justification and proof of their claims.

The students with the top 100 scores in the two parts of the competition are honored at an awards program. Approximately \$32,000 in scholarships ranging from \$500 to \$2,600 is awarded each year.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Through different eyes

Robert Jones and Matt Watroba open Tuesday's field trip for fifth-graders with 'Mind Your Own Business,' a tune by Hank Williams. Jones, Watroba and drummer Kevin Collins were on hand to help Plymouth-Canton fifth-graders learn about African-American history through the eyes of artists. For more on the program, please turn to page A8.

Trio plans Plymouth tribute to Depression-era music pioneer

BY MATT JACHMAN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Fans will gather in Plymouth next week for a tribute to a man whose name is synonymous with American folk music.

FOLK PERFORMANCE

What: BaseLine Folk Society show
When: 7 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 19
Where: Plymouth Community Arts Council building, 744 N. Sheldon, Plymouth, south of M-14.
How much: Admission is \$5; refreshments will be served.
Note: Musicians wishing to play in the open-microphone portion of the evening can sign up 6:15-6:45 p.m.

Woody Guthrie came out of Dust Bowl-era Oklahoma and Texas to travel the country, writing and performing songs that documented — and celebrated — the struggles of ordinary people during turbulent times. He had a short career and a life marked by illness and family tragedy, but his music has an enduring influence that can be heard today in everyday folk players and legends like Bruce Springsteen and



The Folk Laureates — Scott Ludwig (left), Cathy Fitzpatrick and John Delle-Monache — pay tribute next week to Woody Guthrie during a performance at the Plymouth Community Arts Council.

Bob Dylan. "People today still do Woody Guthrie songs," said Mike Mullen, president of the BaseLine Folk Society, a Plymouth group dedicated to performing traditional acoustic

and folk music. "His music lives on, and we wouldn't be doing what we're doing without the music of Woody Guthrie and Pete Seeger."

Please see **TRIBUTE, A2**

State toughens test standards

BY BRAD KADRICH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The State Board of Education's decision to toughen the standards for passing state standardized tests will have an impact even in districts such as Plymouth-Canton, students of which routinely outperform state and Wayne County averages, by raising the cut scores used to determine proficiency.

The new cut scores for test such as MEAP and the

Michigan Merit Exam — the scores the state uses to determine whether a student is proficient in a given subject — are still being worked out and are set to go into effect for the 2011-12 school year.

Local educators won't have much time to make adjustments to keep students proficient. And without significant improvement, schools could fall below Adequate Yearly Progress, the standard set in the federal No Child Left Behind Act.

"Because AYP is based on MEAP and MME results, there most likely would be fewer schools making AYP," said Mike Bender, Plymouth-Canton's director of secondary education.

"There's no question scores in Plymouth-Canton will be lower, and a number of our schools will not make AYP as a result," he added.

According to Bender, the state looked at 2009 stan-

Please see **TEST, A2**

**Township:
Economy
at stake in
water battle**

BY MATT JACHMAN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

A 40-percent increase in the wholesale price of water could have negative economic consequences for Plymouth Township, officials said Tuesday.

The increase, which would put the township's wholesale water rate well above the price paid by neighboring communities, was proposed by the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department last week. It was the biggest price hike among the rates proposed for more than 100 communities to which Detroit sells water; system-wide, the increase averaged 9 percent.

Township officials have vowed to fight the increase, and Supervisor Richard Reaume has requested a meeting with Detroit Mayor Dave Bing.

"We're doing everything we can," Treasurer Ron Edwards said at Tuesday's Board of Trustees meeting. "This right here will affect the economic growth of this community for years to come."

If approved by the DWSD board and the Detroit City Council, the wholesale price hike could take effect as early as July, and would likely raise the retail price the township charges residents and businesses for water. The wholesale water price, paid by the township to Detroit, would go to \$24.67 per thousand cubic feet, which is nearly 7,500 gallons.

Currently, the retail water price — the price charged by the township to its residential and business customers — is \$3.10 per thousand gallons. When combined with the \$5.25-per-thousand sewage treatment charge, water customers in the township pay \$8.35 per thousand gallons for water and sewer service.

Edwards said Tuesday that he fears Absopure Water Corp. could leave the township if the price of water gets too high. Absopure purifies and bottles water and sells it under several different labels. Officials from the company did not return calls Wednesday.

Reaume on Tuesday urged the public to get involved in the water-rate battle by writing to Bing and to Gov. Rick Snyder, and by supporting a bill by state Rep. Kurt Heise, R-Plymouth Township, that would put Detroit's water department under the control of a nine-member committee made up of representatives from Detroit, Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties, and suburban communities to which the system sells water. Bing announced two weeks ago that he opposes that plan.

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TEST

FROM PAGE A1

standardized results statewide, then recalculated them using potential new cut scores.

In the past, Bender explained, districts that might have had 95 percent of students proficient in third-grade math might see that number drop to 34 percent under the new model.

Because Plymouth-Canton scores have been largely in the 90-percent range for many of the district's scores, Bender said, the drop in proficiency "likely would be similar for us."

The state is responding to a push by the U.S. Department

of Education to make sure students are better-positioned for success when they go on to college and the working world.

It's a push local officials support, even though it will make success harder to determine, even in a district like Plymouth-Canton, where for the first time last year all schools made AYP.

"The bottom line is they're hoping to raise expectations, raise the level of academic rigor so our students are even stronger as they finish grade 12," Bender said.

"We want our kids to be well-positioned, not only to excel within our state, but also if they choose to move outside the state, we want them to be well-

positioned to succeed," he said.

The higher cut scores will make it a challenge for teachers to get students proficient. The new standards, local officials said, will raise the "sense of urgency" to strengthen student skills.

"We have to make sure we're ever more focused on the content of our curriculum and, more importantly, on (teaching) strategies," said Cindy Swift, Plymouth-Canton's assistant superintendent for instruction.

"Are we giving students every chance to learn what they need to learn? It's a challenge," she said.

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TRIBUTE

FROM PAGE A1

FAR-REACHING INFLUENCE

Guthrie died in 1967 at age 55; Seeger, who was an associate of Guthrie's beginning in 1940, is 91.

Mullen, who lives in Northville Township, said Guthrie, along with The Almanac Singers and Seeger, defined folk music in the 1930s and 1940s.

"His (Guthrie's) songs have a huge influence in the folk boom" of the 1960s, Mullen said. Guthrie's best-known song, *This Land is Your Land*, typically closes events at BaseLine and folk concerts across the country, he said.

BaseLine, which is in the middle of its second season of concerts at the Plymouth Community Arts Council, will focus on Guthrie at its next open-microphone event, Saturday, Feb. 19. Headlining will be The Folk Laureates, a trio put together by Mullen and asked to present the tribute.

The Folk Laureates — Cathy Fitzpatrick, John Delle-Monache and Scott Ludwig — met through BaseLine, and all have performed, individually, at its coffee house-style concerts.

"Now we have to blend and sing with each other, and it's a big transition," Fitzpatrick said on a recent snowy afternoon.

The trio met at Ludwig's house in Canton Township for one of its last rehearsals before the show. They spoke of Guthrie's influence on folk music, his identification with the down-and-out and marginalized in society and his "incredible life of tragedy and song," as Ludwig put it. (Guthrie's sister Clara died in a fire, his mother was institutionalized and illness and an injury cut short his career.)

BIG BAND TO ELECTRO-POP

Ludwig, a retired high school band director and music teacher, is the most musically accomplished of The Folk Laureates. Originally a drummer, he played in a jazz quintet years ago, had a folk trio, The Aficionados, while in college, played in the Big Band style and, with Max Crook, was part of an early electronic pop duo, The Sounds of Tomorrow. A compact disc of the duo's recordings is available on amazon.com.

Crook is best known for performing on, and co-writing, Del Shannon's 1961 hit *Runaway*. "We built some of our own stuff," Ludwig said of the electronics he and Crook used in their musical experiments. "Stuff that didn't exist yet." Ludwig more recently wrote and recorded a song that was played on the *The Ellen DeGeneres Show*. "That was my biggest audience so far," he joked.

Ludwig, who is vice president of BaseLine, plays guitar, banjo and mandolin with The Folk Laureates.

Delle-Monache, of Northville Township, a former radio personality, said he's influenced by early Eric Clapton, early Paul Simon and the Beatles, as well as classic folk groups like Peter, Paul and Mary, The Brothers Four and the



John Delle-Monache of Northville Township, a former radio personality, said he's influenced by early Eric Clapton, early Paul Simon and the Beatles, as well as classic folk groups like Peter, Paul and Mary, The Brothers Four and the Kingston Trio.

Kingston Trio. He plays guitar with The Folk Laureates, and, on one song, banjo.

Guitarist Fitzpatrick, of Northville, also listed Peter, Paul and Mary as a big influence, along with her late brother, Chris Thomas, who sang and played guitar. Both Fitzpatrick and Delle-Monache have written their own songs.

'WORRIED MAN' AND MORE

The Folk Laureates have been performing, pretty much on a weekly basis, since September, shortly after Mullen suggested the Guthrie tribute. They plan to play nine songs, most written by Guthrie, some popularized by him, during their half-hour on stage.

"We picked the songs that probably most people would recognize," Delle-Monache said.

They include *Sally Don't You Grieve*, a young man's plea to his girl as he heads off to World War II; *Worried Man Blues* ("It takes a worried man to sing a worried song,"); and *Deportee (Plane Wreck at Los Gatos)*, which expresses outrage over the way the loss of Mexican migrant farm workers, in a 1948 plane crash, was shrugged off by the larger society, and over the way migrants were treated in general.

The event will also feature a couple of songs by host Rick Pitts, president of the East River Folk Society, and performances by up to eight people or groups during an open-microphone segment.

While many performers and fans are middle-aged people who were part of the folk music boom of the 1960s, BaseLine does attract some young people, and players with new, original music.

"The thing that we're trying to preserve is the acoustic, folk message of the people's music," Delle-Monache said.

Added Fitzpatrick: "It comes from the heart, and that's what the music is all about."

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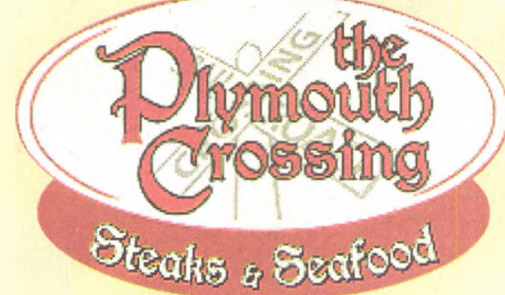
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Racing against time

Brain cancer patient determined to make marathon

BY BRAD KADRICH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Rachel McCormack is determined to run the Chicago Marathon in October, though there's one thing that might keep her from accomplishing that goal.

She might not live that long. McCormack, a 52-year-old Canton resident, was diagnosed in May 2010 with Stage IV brain cancer, a disease doctors have told her — and she has finally accepted — is going to claim her life. And while there's some question as to when (she was given four-24 months at the time of the diagnosis), there's no question how much McCormack is going to let that prognosis determine what she does with whatever time she has left: Not at all.

"I decided that, even though my tumor will eventually end my life, I won't let it destroy my spirit," McCormack said. "I could easily let it take over my whole life, and at times it does. (But) I'm not going to let it dictate everything in my life."

McCormack, who with her husband owns MicroMax Inc., a software engineering firm that designs and tests embedded control systems for the auto industry, decided she wanted to run the Chicago Marathon, which is scheduled for Oct. 9. She'd run the Free Press marathon in the early 1990s and had subsequently decided she'd run another when she reached her 50s.

RUNNING TO HELP

McCormack is determined to run in Chicago because the marathon benefits the American Brain Tumor Association. She hasn't run one since 1993 and she's a little concerned about whether she can get herself in shape to do it.

HELPING RACHEL

What: Rachel McCormack of Canton

What else: She's running the Chicago Marathon to benefit the American Brain Tumor Association

Why: The marathon benefits cancer research; McCormack is a Stage IV brain cancer patient

When: October 2011

How to help: She's already passed her minimum donation goal (\$800), but hopes to hit \$5,000. Help her at <http://hope.abta.org/goto/rachelmccormack> or at www.abta.org.

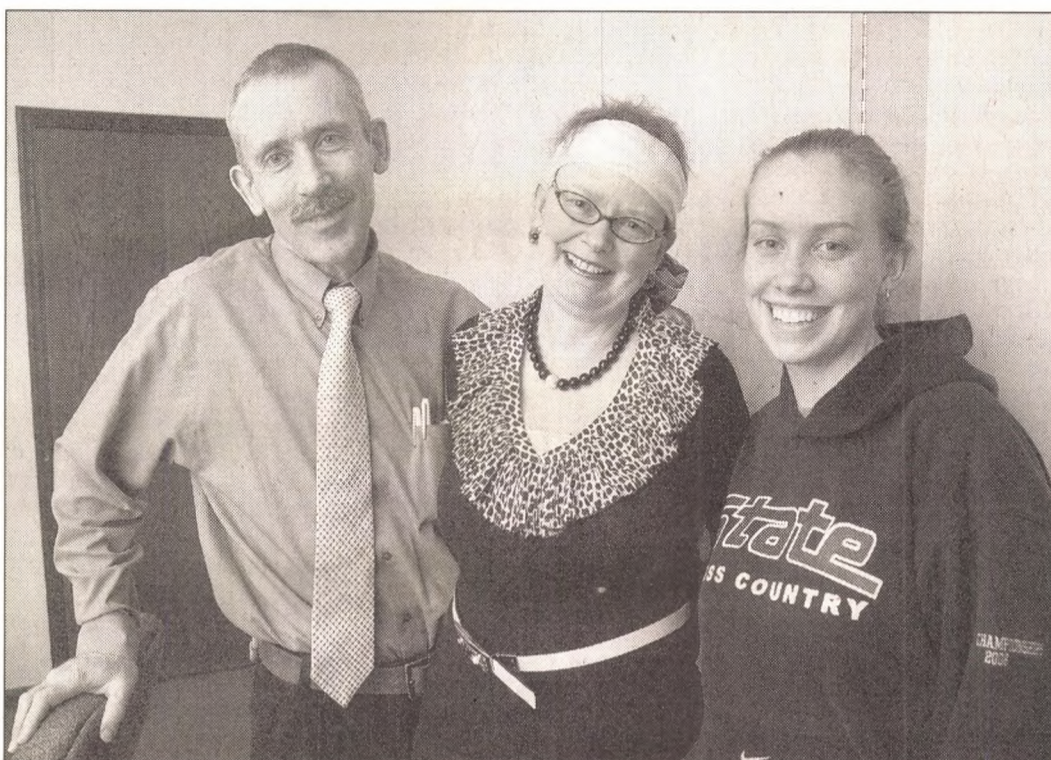
"If I follow the regimen I found online, I think I'd be able to do it," McCormack said. "It's about your mental attitude and determination. You have to finish what you set out to do."

The biggest question is time. McCormack was diagnosed in May 2010 after her primary care physician set her up for an MRI following some mysterious weight loss, which to that point, she said, had been her only real symptom.

The test, done at the University of Michigan, confirmed the diagnosis, which was then delivered to her by a less-than-delicate doctor who told her simply, "You have a brain tumor and it's going to cause your death."

"That was pretty awful," McCormack recalled. "Since then, everything in my life has changed. It's all upside down. I have a lot of adjustments to make."

Doctors attacked the tumor with surgery, which she said removed "90 percent of the cancerous tissue," but left some "tentacles" behind. She's done radiation and chemo



Michael and Rachel McCormack will run the Chicago marathon, cheered on along the sidelines by daughter Becky.

PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



Rachel McCormack of Canton hopes to run in the Chicago Marathon in October despite the Stage IV brain cancer from which she's suffering.

since but doctors, she said, seem less than optimistic that much has improved.

BRINGING IN HELP

Her hands don't work like they used to, so the knitting, crocheting and other handicrafts she enjoyed aren't possible. Her vision has been affected — she can't see colors as well — so she can't do the jigsaw puzzles she liked to do. Riding a motorcycle is out of the question.

"I bought one two years ago, and I was just getting good at it when this happened," she said, showing a rueful smile.

She can't see well enough to avoid things like potholes, so her husband, 54-year-old Mike McCormack, is also training to run the marathon with her, as will a sister.

She can't work like she used to, so daughter Becky gave up

her job in the insurance industry to come home and help run the family business, something she'd worked at in the past. It was a necessary move, with her parents worried about keeping the business going, but one that still brings a nagging guilt for McCormack.

"I hate that she had to give up her job ... having her here is a huge help to me," McCormack said. "I was worried about how we were going to keep the business going if I wasn't able to make it."

It's a guilt Becky McCormack said she understands, but is totally unnecessary.

WHO'S THE BOSS?

"It's a good job to have and it's nice to be back here to help out," Becky McCormack said. "I like being here ... I'm only 22, so if I want another job, I'm sure I can get one. I don't have to have the 'dream job' right now."

Becky, who ran cross country at Canton High School (as did sister Sarah, a 2003 grad) and at Michigan State, will sit out the Chicago marathon, instead cheering on "Team McCormack" from the sidelines. Rachel's husband, Mike, isn't as lucky. He agreed to run the marathon with his wife.

"She talked about it, and it was a snowball effect, and all of a sudden we were doing it," Mike McCormack said with a smile.

The McCormacks have been training — Rachel recently did more than three miles on the treadmill, her longest stint yet — and her resolve is as strong as ever.

"I'm going to show (the tumor) I can do things a healthy person can do, even though I'm no longer a healthy person," she said. "I'm going to show it who's boss."

Township shelves street-paving plan, opts for sidewalk upgrade

BY MATT JACHMAN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

With federal funding in doubt for the long term, Plymouth Township officials have halted plans to pave four of the township's remaining gravel streets.

Instead, about \$78,100 set aside last year to help pave sixth-tenths of a mile of streets in the Eastlawn subdivision, south of Ann Arbor Trail and east of Lilley, will go toward the installation of concrete curb ramps to make township sidewalks more accessible by the disabled and people in wheelchairs.

Another \$78,100, expected in this year's federal Community Development Block Grant allocation, will go toward improving handicapped accessibility at Plymouth Township Park, including the construction of a

specially designed pathway.

The township Board of Trustees approved the measure changing its plans for CDBG money with a 6-0 vote at its meeting Tuesday. Trustee Bob Doroshewitz was absent.

"I believe that we need to be a little safer with this" money, as the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development's CDBG program is coming under fire in Washington, D.C., said Treasurer Ron Edwards. "To fix those (sidewalks) at this time would be a better use."

Edwards, citing the same concerns about the future of CDBG money, had voted last year against paving the streets — General Drive, Firwood Drive, Micol Drive and Eastside. But the measure had been approved on a 4-3 vote after residents of Eastlawn complained about the condi-

tion of their streets.

The project had been estimated last year at \$659,000; officials had planned to use CDBG money over a period of years to pay for it.

Now, at \$1,500 per sidewalk ramp, the \$78,100 will pay for 52 ramps. Another \$4,500, left over from previously unspent CDBG money, will pay for three more.

The \$78,100 amounts to 71 percent of the township's expected annual CDBG allocation of \$110,000. Of the rest, for some \$20,900 is earmarked each year for the senior citizen transportation system the township shares with the city of Plymouth, and another \$11,000 a year goes toward program administration.

The 2011-2012 CDBG program year starts in July.

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Rash of shoplifting leads to six arrests

BY MATT JACHMAN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

CRIME WATCH

Police in Plymouth Township arrested six people in connection with four separate shoplifting incidents, two at drug stores and two at the Kmart on Ann Arbor Road, last week.

According to one report, two women escaped on the afternoon of Jan. 31 from the CVS drug store at Haggerty and Ann Arbor Road with a shopping cart of merchandise, including a radio, MP-3 players, a cassette recorder and beauty products. A witness pointed out to an arriving officer the black sport-utility vehicle in which the shoplifters fled, and officers stopped and arrested two suspects, a 43-year-old Westland woman and a 23-year-old Canton Township woman, in the area of Haggerty and Joy Road, police said.

The suspects were seen throwing something from the SUV they were in shortly before they were stopped, and police said the item turned out to be a hypodermic needle wrapped in a paper towel. New CVS merchandise, still labeled with price tags, was recovered.

Police also recovered and destroyed several other hypodermic needles after a Saturday evening shoplifting at the CVS on Sheldon Road and Ann Arbor Road.

A man had asked a store clerk for three cartons of Newport cigarettes and a package of cigars, the clerk told police, and when she turned to reach the cigars, he picked up the cigarettes and ran from the store.

A male passerby tackled a suspect outside and brought him into the store to await police; he escaped briefly, a police report said, and was

grabbed by a male clerk. The man who had tackled the suspect did not wait for police to arrive.

The suspect, 21, of Livonia, admitted stealing the cigarettes and told police he was a heroin addict, police said. An officer found two hypodermic needles on him, along with an outstanding misdemeanor warrant from another community.

Police also arrested the suspect's alleged companion, a 24-year-old Westland man, on charges of possessing drug paraphernalia and driving with a suspended license. The man had driven away from the drug store in a silver Ford Taurus, police said, and was stopped nearby because the car's license plate was completely covered with snow. Officers found hypodermic needles in the Taurus, and that the driver's license had been suspended.

In other shoplifting incidents, police also:

- Arrested a 51-year-old Detroit man who is accused of taking three tool sets and a circular saw from Kmart shortly after noon on Saturday.

A store security officer told police she saw the man put the items into a Kmart bag and leave the store without paying. She notified, a colleague, and the two of them confronted the man outside, police said.

- Arrested a 44-year-old Canton woman who is accused of taking a printer ink cartridge from Kmart on the morning of Feb. 3. She had concealed the cartridge in her clothing, a witness told police.

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PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Potentially dangerous potholes will be a thing of the past when Sheldon Center is rebuilt in a project expected to get started in spring.

Crumbling Canton road set for fix

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

One of Canton's worst roads — the dreaded two-lane stretch where Sheldon Center curves off from Canton Center and becomes a pothole-plagued challenge all the way north to Joy Road — will get a \$5.2 million makeover starting this year.

Area residents and workers who drive along the crumbling road say relief is desperately needed. Just ask Chris Joiner, a Claymore Drive father of three who said he drives on Sheldon Center about four times a day.

"It's in horrible condition," Joiner said Monday morning, leaving the neighborhood Subway shop. "I thought I blew a tire out this morning."

Luckily he didn't, but Joiner and others are eager to see the one-mile stretch of road reconstructed, paved and widened



Chris Joiner lives in the neighborhood and travels Sheldon Center multiple times each day.

from two lanes to five. "I think it would be great for businesses here," said Brandon Barnett, who works for the

neighborhood Cottage Inn Pizza shop. "It would be making progress. I know the road is in bad shape."

Wayne County, which is spearheading the project, is expected to award a contract by May or June. Canton Municipal Services Director Tim Faas said work could begin by mid-summer, though it likely will not be finished until late 2012 and will face a seasonal shutdown next winter.

"How much of it they will get done (this year) is really the big question," Faas said.

BROAD SCOPE

The project will be broader in scope than the widening last year of Canton Center between Cherry Hill and Palmer. Consider why:

- A small east-west connector that runs between Sheldon Center and Sheldon Road will be widened from two lanes to three to accommodate a new traffic configuration.

- A small north-south stretch of road — just south of where Sheldon meets Sheldon Center — will be removed and transformed into green space. As a result, traffic on northbound Sheldon will routed over to Sheldon Center a little sooner.

- In a decision to improve safety, a traffic light near Gallimore Elementary will be moved further south to Sheldon Center and the east-west connector, easing traffic congestion around the school.

"Right now traffic backs up right at the school, and pedestrian traffic isn't good, either," Faas said. "It will be reworked so that it's safer for the students, the parents and the buses."

TRAFFIC ISSUES

Plymouth-Canton school officials have long supported the road project, saying it will usher in vast improvements in traffic patterns near the school.

To be sure, Faas said, the Sheldon Center project is expected to bring its share of construction-zone traffic problems. However, Wayne County road crews are hopeful of maintaining traffic in both directions along the north-south road, and Faas said officials are asking motorists, residents and businesses to remain patient while the project is in progress.

The project will not force any businesses to shut down or relocate, though Faas said some driveways may be altered.

Wayne County is paying the bulk of the project, estimated at \$5.2 million. Canton's share amounts to \$957,000 — money local officials set aside in 2008 in an intersection improvement fund.

Amid declining revenues, money for that fund has since been cut off, meaning the Sheldon Center project will likely be the last major road project to receive dollars from that fund.

To accommodate the project, Canton also has chosen a contractor to lower about 100 feet of a 20-inch-wide water main that crosses under the Willow Creek.

Though construction efforts are expected to plague the area for more than a year, residents such as Joiner say they welcome the project.

"I'm glad it's coming — very glad," he said.

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the great indoors

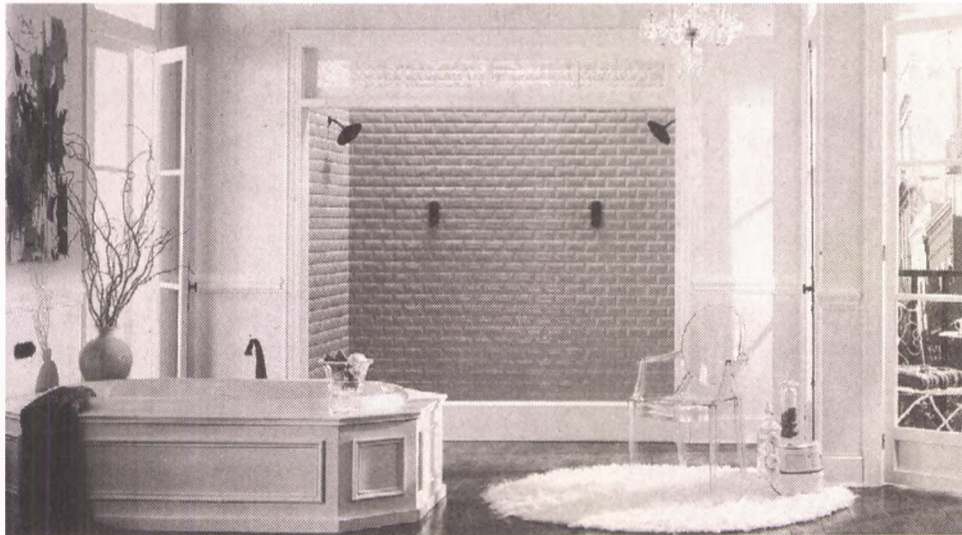
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"Around Plymouth" is designed to announce upcoming events taking place in the community. Items will run on a space-available basis. Send details to bkadrich@hometownlife.com

Community forum

The University of Michigan Depression Center will return to the Plymouth District Library on Tuesday, Feb. 22 at 7 p.m. with vital information on later-life depression.

Sara Wright, Ph.D., Clinical Lecturer in the University of Michigan Department of Psychiatry and a member of the U-M Depression Center, will present a brief overview of the latest research on later-life depression, including strategies for prevention, diagnosis and treatment. This will be followed by questions from the audience and a discussion with expert panelists.

Registration is requested and can be made by contacting the Library at (734) 453-0750, Ext. 4 or online at plymouthlibrary.org. For more information, please visit the U-M Depression Center website at www.depressioncenter.org or contact Trish Meyer at (734) 763-7495 or meyerpa@med.umich.edu

New Morning open house

New Morning School hosts an open house 1 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 13, for families interested in enrolling their children in preschool through 8th grade for the 2010-2011 school year. Following the open house, please enjoy the annual Museum, a showcase of individual projects our students will have on display.

The school is located at 14501 Haggerty Road in Plymouth. New Morning School is a vibrant, independent parent cooperative offering personalized education, multi-age classrooms, a 12:1 student-teacher ratio, and student-directed goal management plans.

More information is available at www.newmorningschool.com or call (734) 420-3331 with questions or to set up a private appointment to discuss and observe the school.

YMCA camp

The Plymouth Family YMCA is accepting registrations for Mid-Winter Break Camp. The camp will be held from Feb. 21-25 at First United Methodist Church in Plymouth. Hours of camp are 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., and campers can be dropped off any time between 7:30 and 9 a.m. and picked up any time between 4 and 6 p.m.

Activities will include swimming, field trips, character development and fun. Camp for YMCA members costs \$40 per day or \$165 for the week. The cost for community members is \$60 per day or \$195 for the week.

For more information, contact the YMCA office at (734) 453-2904 or go to www.ymca-detroit.org/plymouth.

Euchre euphoria

The Canton Lions Club is calling all euchre players in southeast Michigan to play in the first Euchre Tournament Saturday, March 12, at the Elks Club, 41700 Ann Arbor Road in Plymouth.

The doors open at 6 p.m. and play begins at 7 p.m. Awards will be given to the top four players with the highest scores. Players can pre-register by March 10 for \$20 payable at the door by e-mailing lionsclubeucre@yahoo.com. Contact Linda Obrec at (734) 945-6685 for more information.

Bridal show

Rawlison Photography and Elegant Invitations host a bridal show 1-4 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 20, at the Plymouth Cultural Center (525 Farmer).

Vendor booths will include Plymouth businesses specializing in invitations, flowers, disc jockeys, hair salons, party rental, favors, photography, apparel, gifts, reception venues and bakeries.

Free registration on their website www.plymouthbridalshow.com.

New exhibit

A new exhibit at the Plymouth Community Arts Council features contemporary mixed media by Livonia artist, Barbara Gibson. A graduate of the University of Michigan with a Masters of Fine Art, the artist has enjoyed a career that has spanned more than 35 years.



'Black comedy'

Barefoot Productions lights up the second half of its season presenting 'Black Comedy,' written by Tony-awarding winning playwright Peter Shaffer. Set in 1969 London, 'Black Comedy' tells the story of Brindsley Miller, a struggling, bohemian artist, who desperately tries to impress his fiance's father by "borrowing" his neighbor Harold's, posh furniture to glamorize his own shabby flat. Cast includes Rick Berryman of Canton, Brian Cahalan of Flat Rock, Nathan Corliss, Christine Doulette and Mat DeLisle of Livonia, Carol Lipinski of Garden City, Samantha Lowry of Novi and a few mystery guests. It opens Friday and runs through Feb. 27 on weekends. Friday-Saturday performances are 8 p.m., Feb. 20 and Feb. 27 performances are 2 p.m. matinees. Tickets are \$16 for general admission and \$14 for students/seniors. All performances at Barefoot Productions Theatre, 240 N. Main (the former Walker-Buzenberg building). For information, call (734) 560-1493.

Experienced in ceramics, printmaking, sculpture and welding, she originally made her living as a clay artist. It was through clay that she came to see herself as a process person. The more steps to the creation, the more passion she has for it. She has many forms of firing and uses her welding knowledge to create dyes for extruders. This led to the formation of large wall pieces.

The current exhibit melds clay, metal and print making. Barbara Gibson has always been entranced by rhythmic patterns in the world. Hence the process pieces in this exhibit are called "Rhythms." The exhibit can be viewed at the PCAC through Feb. 28. Exhibit hours are Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. A reception for the artist will be held on Thursday, Feb. 24, from 7-9 p.m. The public is most welcome. The PCAC is located at 774 N. Sheldon Rd. in Plymouth. Call (734) 416-4278 for further information.

Mom to Mom

Bentley Elementary School hosts its PTO Mom-2-

Mom Sale 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, March 5, at the school, located at 1100 S. Sheldon in Canton.

Proceeds from the event will benefit the PTO and Bentley students, with the hope, organizers say, to be used for future playground equipment and classroom grants at the school.

Entry fee is \$1; strollers allowed after 11 a.m. Table fee is \$15, and there are still a few available.

For more information, call Christine Wegrzyn at (734) 331-2160 or e-mail rcwegrzyn@gmail.com

Prom dresses

The Plymouth Canton AAUW Prom Dress Sale takes place noon to 4 p.m. Sunday, April 10, and 6-8 p.m. Monday, April 11, at Memorial Elementary School, 3001 Marquette, Garden City (between Henry Ruff and Middlebelt).

The sale is to provide prom dresses for girls who are not able to afford them in this economic climate. AAUW thanks all those who have contributed and will continue accepting donations through March 31. Accessories such as purses, and jewelry are also welcome.

AAUW volunteers will pick up contributions or donors can bring them to any meeting. To arrange for pick up,

e-mail or call S. Zaetta at szaetta@wowway.com (734-455-6366), K. Bellows at KiggityKate83@aol.com (734-421-8807) or E. Nelson at genelson1c@att.net (734-981-4938).

Sagear scholarship

The Rotary Club of Plymouth A.M. is striving to recognize a Plymouth-Canton School District High School Senior who has overcome adversity with its annual Sandra Sagear Rotary Scholarship.

Club officials are looking for students who have displayed courage, perseverance, spirit, and creativity in succeeding in achieving an education, despite a physical, mental or emotional barrier. They have also shown an appreciation of others and a commitment to their community. The recipient of this award will receive a scholarship.

The award is named after Sandra Sagear, a 1969 graduate of the original Plymouth High School who imagined and believed she could succeed as she lived everyday with Polio. To download an application, go to: http://www.storytellerdesign.com/Portals/

Advertisement for Steve's Family Dining featuring breakfast, lunch, and dinner options, including a 'FREE BREAKFAST' offer and a '10% OFF TOTAL BILL' coupon.

Advertisement for St. Mary Mercy Livonia Senior ERs, highlighting unique geriatric care services and providing contact information.

Advertisement for Mastercraft Jewelers featuring Pandora jewelry and a special gift promotion for February.

STRICTLY BUSINESS

Thursday, February 10, 2011

hometownlife.com

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Voice Mail: (313) 222-8899

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IT'S YOUR BUSINESS Q&A

Eatery adds spicy choice to local menu

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

Addis Ababa: We're providing over 3,000-years-old cooking techniques of Ethiopia. Featured are vegetables and meats.

Observer: How did you first decide to open your business?

Addis Ababa: I planned to have my own restaurant since I was a manager and chef at the Blue Nile restaurant.

Observer: Why did you choose Plymouth?

Addis Ababa: After a careful business study, I found out there is no unique, different type of restaurant in Plymouth. The residents of Plymouth tire of dining on the same food every day. That's why I'm here, to provide them a unique, unforgettable memory experience by adding a little spice to their daily diet.



Bekele Lessanework says his Addis Ababa uses Ethiopian cooking techniques that are more than 3,000 years old.

It's fresh, tasty and healthy. **Observer:** What makes your business unique?

Addis Ababa: We use over 3,000 years old cooking with the culture of Ethiopia. We cook

from scratch, no frozen food, no fat. We use nice, tasty spices. **Observer:** How has it changed since you opened?

Addis Ababa: Customers are increasing day-to-day.

CHAMBER CHAT

Business development

A proven process, "Whale Hunting," is a process used by hundreds of companies to successfully close bigger deals with bigger customers.

Your success this year should not be based on the strategy d'jour or the current trendy tactic. Attend this powerful training session to learn how to scout, hunt and harvest your best prospects to dramatically improve your short-term revenue and long-term growth potential by engaging your entire company in growing new business using this collaborative process. You will walk away with tools to help you define and find your ideal customers and you'll be inspired to learn more about the process.

The workshop will be presented by Jan Davies McDermott, CEO of Echo Enterprises, LLC. McDermott has worked numerous years in the non-profit, education, and private sectors, including work assisting the launch and growth of hundreds of traditional small businesses over the course of 14 years with the Michigan Small Business and Technology Development Centers.

There is no fee to participate in this workshop that will run from 8:30-9:30 a.m. Feb. 22. The workshop will be held at the Chamber Office located at 850 West Ann Arbor Trail.

To RSVP, please contact the Chamber at 734-453-1540 or teri@plymouthmich.org. Space is limited to 30 people.

Financial planning

Ryan Kus, president of Plymouth Jaycees and an independent financial planner, and his partner, Alexander Dinsler,



Cognex cuts ribbon

Members of the Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce joined the staff and guests of Cognex Jan. 26 for the grand opening of their new facility in the Plymouth area. Cognex produces vision and ID technology that is used to improve product quality, reduce manufacturing costs and track parts on production lines. The Plymouth location houses sales and technical support staff and offers training classes to clients throughout the Midwest. Pictured are Tom Bartoshesky, Richard Howson, Plymouth Township Supervisor Richard Reaume and members of the chamber's Ambassadors team. Cognex is located at 44191 Plymouth Oaks Blvd.

a certified financial planner, will host a breakfast seminar on how to manage finances in this current economy and what opportunities to look out for in the future.

The seminar takes place Feb. 16 at 7:30 a.m. at the Chamber Office. This is a free event and breakfast will be served. Call (734) 453-1540 to RSVP.

Snowman photos

Now that more snow has fallen, locals are being encouraged to gather it up and get creative. The City of Plymouth's Recreation Department is sponsoring a photo contest. Build a snowman (or woman), dress him/her up and take a picture. E-mail it to Lauren@lobsnruk@ci.plymouthmi.us or drop it off at the Recreation Department (525 Farmer

along with your name, address, phone number and e-mail address by Friday, March 4.

Judging will take place the week of March 7 and the winner will be announced March 14.

Scholarship fund

At the State of the Chamber Breakfast, chamber officials announced they will be asking members to contribute to the Student Citizenship Scholarship Fund that will award up to five local students scholarships based on community service.

This long-time, chamber-initiated scholarship program was funded by just a few sources in the past, but the chamber's Education Committee believes asking all members to contribute a little will actually allow larger scholarships. Companies

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Your Hometown: Ethiopia

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It's encouraging; I see a lot of customers returning.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Career change?

Out of a job? Changing careers? Become a real estate agent and be ready for the upcoming real estate boom.

REMERICA HOMETOWN will be presenting a pre-license training class beginning soon by Real Estate Professional Education Group, LLC, at 41025 Ann Arbor Road in Plymouth.

Call today for a reservation or a private interview. Call Judy at (734) 459-6222 or e-mail judy-courtney@remerica.com.

Top banker

Doug Chaffin, president and CEO Monroe Bank & Trust in Monroe, has been named 2011 Michigan Bankers Association Banker of the Year by the Board of Trustees of the association's Robert M. Perry Schools of Banking.



Chaffin

Each year a banker is selected for this distinguished award based on their contributions to their own bank, their commitment to the MBA, their statewide reputation as a banker who helps other bankers and the industry, and has an outstanding record of community service.

Chaffin will be honored at the MBA Banker of the Year Reception at the Perry School of Banking on the campus of Central Michigan University and at the MBA Annual Convention in June.

"We are extremely proud that Doug has received this important recognition," stated Michael J. Miller, Chairman of the Board of MBT and CEO of

Floral City Beverage, Inc. "Doug is a person of outstanding character who has provided the bank with strong leadership. The Board of Directors of MBT fully recognizes and appreciates his depth of experience and banking expertise necessary in these times. This award given by his peers is well deserved."

MBT Financial Corp., is a single-bank holding company headquartered in Monroe, Michigan, is the parent company of Monroe Bank & Trust, which has a branch in Plymouth.

Hot rod heaven

The 59th Annual Meguiar's Autorama, Presented by O'Reilly Auto Parts, is revved up and ready to roar into Cobo Center in Detroit Feb. 25-27. The show features the hottest hot rods, custom cars and '50s classics in the country and attracts visitors from across the U.S.

Local car enthusiasts scheduled to take part include:

- Tommy Jackson of Canton will show his 2002 Pontiac Grand Am, in silver.
- Randy Mason of Canton will show his 1995 Dodge Dakota.
- Jason Price of Canton will show his multi-colored 1999 Pontiac Grand Am.
- R. Ramsey of Canton will show his 1958 Chevy Corvette in black.
- Joe Shenkel of Canton will show his 2001 Ford Taurus in purple and white.
- Matt Walczak of Canton will show his 2001 Ford Explorer.
- Michael Louis Stanford of Plymouth will show his 2006 Ford Expedition in pearl white.
- Robert Lemon of Plymouth will show his 1965 Plymouth Satellite in burgundy.

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Disregard hype, stay the course with your money

Have you ever noticed that at least once a year, if not more, some winter storm is going to be the worst storm in history? The way some media were talking about the last storm you would think that we were getting close to Armageddon. There is no doubt that Tuesday's and Wednesday's storm was a reminder that this is winter in Michigan.

I bring this up because it is important to remember that in our media-driven world, it is not unusual for certain stories to get hyped. This includes weather and just about everything else in our society — including stories regarding money.

Investors can't afford to focus on stories the media chooses to hype.



Money Matters

Rick Bloom

Whether it is the story regarding Egypt or the Dow at 12,000, investors must stay the course. Don't get caught up in the media hype, because all too often the hype is greater than the reality. The recent storm prediction is a perfect example. Yes, there was a storm but it certainly wasn't the worst of all times.

The storm also should be a reminder to all to make sure that when it comes to our homes we protect ourselves.

There are a couple of things every-

one needs to do every so often. The first is a video inventory of your home. If there was some sort of disaster and your home did suffer losses, could you recreate what you lost and, more importantly, can you prove it to the insurance company?

If you have artwork or other types of collectibles, pay particular attention to them, including video taping appraisals and receipts. Of course, don't forget to talk your way through the video and highlight certain items. Remember, the purpose of the video is to document what you have for your own needs, as well as the insurance company.

When the video is complete, keep a copy in a fireproof box or off location.

Then, if there is some sort of disaster at your home, your video will be protected.

Another issue is homeowners insurance. Sit down with your agent and review your policy. Your current policy may have certain coverage that you no longer need. In addition, check with an agent to make sure your home is properly insured. With home values plummeting here and throughout the country over the last few years, your home may be overinsured. Therefore, an adjustment in your policy may be necessary.

It's also wise, from time to time, to consider competitively shopping your policy around to determine whether you have the best policy at the most

cost-effective price. We live in a competitive world so take advantage of it. Shop your homeowner's policy on-line, through your credit union or your existing agent.

Before you know it we won't be talking about winter storms, but rather spring and summer storms. It's Michigan, so we never know what the weather will be. That's why it is always important to be prepared and protect our home, no matter what the season. Good luck!

Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial adviser. Observer & Eccentric readers can submit questions at moneymatters@hometownlife.com. For more information, visit his website at www.bloomassetmanagement.com.

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Savannah Luke, Brodie Saincome, Sam Pennock, Everett Buchanan and classmates learn the song 'We Shall Overcome.'

Students see African-American history through artists' eyes

BY BRAD KADRICH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

It was hard to tell who was having more fun, master drummer Kevin Collins or the fifth-grade students he was entertaining at Canton's Village Theater at Cherry Hill Tuesday.

Collins, a musician for more than 40 of his 51 years, was one of a trio of performers brought in to help Plymouth-Canton Community Schools fifth-graders to see African-American history through the eyes of artists in a field trip to the Village Theater, a trip many of them were making for the first time.

It was part of a four-day excursion that saw students from all 16 of Plymouth-Canton's elementary schools take part in the interactive assembly.

While folk musician Matt Watroba and fellow musician Robert Jones, also a pastor, used their talent to demonstrate how music from different cultures have blended to create the American experience, it was Collins who had feet stomping and students clapping at the end of each session.

"It gives you so much energy," Collins said of seeing the students get so caught up. "You see them laughing together and being together. It makes me feel proud. You have different cultures, and we're all on this Earth together. We must come forward together to make one nation."

NEW VENUE

The venue was also an integral part of the effectiveness of the presentation. The 400-seat theater allowed four classes of students to get the message at once.

"It's not (learning from) a book, it's not in a classroom," said Jill Engel, director of the Partnership for the Arts and Humanities, one of the sponsors of the program. "There are probably lots of kids who've never been to a theater before. It's a fabulous experience."

While Collins used a variety of drums and a bell to demonstrate how messages were sent and how music was used throughout history, Watroba and Jones continued an act they first put together in the late 1980s, one they take around to schools around the state and the country to show how music has crossed cultural and chronological borders to help unite cultures.

Their musical trip took them from the beginnings of slavery through the civil rights movement and showed them how music was used to help slaves escape in the underground railroad, and how non-violent protesters used it to move their agenda in the 1960s.

When they first came up with the program, Jones — a blues musician — and folk musician Watroba noticed similarities in their music. They bring those similarities out during the program, showing how the same three chords and the same five notes can be found at the base of music ranging from slavery songs in the 1800s to music used by followers of Dr. Martin Luther King.

"The different kinds of music are like the branches on a tree," Watroba told the students. "If you trace it to the roots, you find more similarities than differences."

ART AND MUSIC

While the program was heavily influenced by music, Jones, who is also an artist, took some time to show how pictures can be used, with their varying shades and colors, to tell a story, too.

"You guys are the next generation of artists," Jones told students. "You have to give yourself permission to draw the world the way you see it. No one sees the world the way you do."

Watroba noted music throughout the years helped foster an environment where his best friend — Jones — can be an African-American, something not possible decades ago.

"In our lifetime, a black man and a white man singing up here together would have been against the law," Watroba noted. "So when I celebrate Black History Month, it's because now I can have my best friend based on his character, and not on the color of his skin."

The students left impressed.

"It showed us all the different instruments and how different music came to be that music," said 10-year-old Brooke McCaffrey, a Dodson Elementary fifth-grader. "It was really cool."

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



Kevin Collins and students make joyful noise on drums.



Master drummer Kevin Collins pumps up the crowd of students.



Matt Watroba and Robert Jones bring history to life with music.



The Rev. Robert Jones wails on harmonica.

PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER
STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

One of a kind: Tony Chrome debuts custom bike at swap meet

BY SUE MASON
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

What do you call a motorcycle big enough to accommodate a 260 mm rear tire?

If you're Tony Lamantia, you call it a "Fat Ass Bagger." That's the name he's given his newest creation, an amazing one-of-a-kind bike that has an air bag system, allowing it to sit on the ground.

The owner of Tony Chrome Customs in Westland, Lamantia will be displaying the bike at Giant Motorcycle Swap Meet Sunday, Feb. 13, at the Suburban Collection Showplace in Novi.

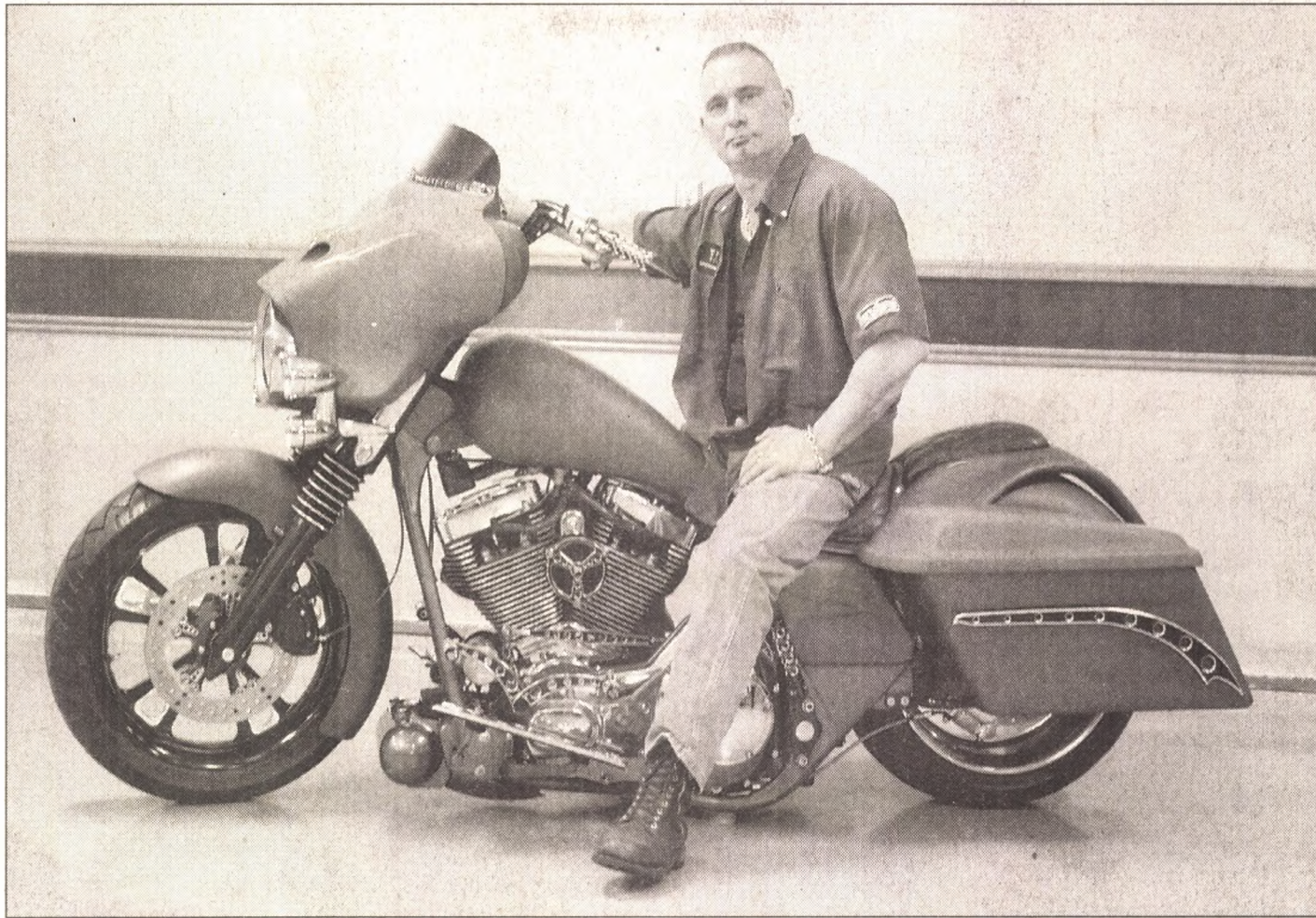
"It's a neat bike, it has a lot of bells and whistles," said the Canton resident.

The bike started out as a Harley Davidson Electra Glide Standard that was stripped down to the frame which, along with its swing arm was widened six inches to allow for a 260mm rear tire. Lamantia fabricated fenders, the seat pan and gas tank in his shop as well as designed the airbag air suspension and installed air in the front forks that lets the bike drop to the pavement.

"There's no kickstand, it rests on its frame," said Lamantia.

He also installed two-inch wider saddle bags with remote control actuators that let him open and close them remotely. The bike also features a 95-cubic-inch Harley Davidson twin cam motor, full digital instrumentation, stereo and a custom two-into-one exhaust system.

The bike took 2½ years to build and Lamantia admits that the hardest part was find-



Tony Lamantia of Tony Chrome Customs of Westland shows off his newest creation, the 'Fat Ass Bagger' that will debut at this weekend's Giant Motorcycle Swap Meet in Novi.

ing spots for all the electricals once he put in the air bag. Now that it's done — pin-stripping and graphics were added this week — it's ready for the show circuit.

The bike will debut at Giant Motorcycle Swap Meet Sunday, then Lamantia plans to take it on the road to local bike shows, including an appearance in Autorama Extreme later this

month, in Florida and the annual Sturgis Motorcycle Rally in Sturgis, S.D.

Lamantia has been "tinkering with bikes" a long time. He built his first dirt bike when he was 12 years old. He did a stint with cars in high school, got back into bikes "later in life" and finished building his first Harley from the ground up in 2001. He earned his nickname when he

put as much chrome as he could on his first bike.

"They called me Tony Chrome and it stuck, there's people who don't know I have another name," he said. "They call the operator looking for Tony Chrome's number."

He started his business in an industrial park in Westland in 2005 and sells hard to find Harley V-Twin products. He

still works full time at the Ford Motor Co.'s Saline plant and does a lot of the bike work out of his garage.

The swap meet is the Midwest's largest collection of motorcycle vendors under one roof, offering "everything for rider or machine."

"With nearly one out of every four bikers in the U.S. living in Michigan and its four border

SWAP MEET DETAILS

What: Giant Motorcycle Swap Meet

Time/Date: 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 13

Location: Suburban Collection Showplace, 46100 Grand River Ave., Novi

Details: The swap meet will feature the largest collection of motorcycle vendors under one roof in the Midwest. Cyclists attending will see new 2011 bikes as well as used bikes — street, dirt, metric, touring, cruising, trikes, choppers, custom bikes, and trailers.

Tickets: Admission is \$10 for adults and \$3 for ages 6-12. Parking is \$5. People who want to skip the lines and get in 30 minutes earlier can buy them in advance online at www.motorcycleswap.com

Contact: For information on the swap meet, call (800) 968-4242.

states, the nine swap meets we sponsor give bikers the chance to be around other bikers and to support the economic interests that are vital to keeping the industry strong," said event organizer Chad Dutmers. "We love to showcase Michigan-made bike builders and suppliers as much as possible. Our bread and butter is the Michigan biker."

To find out more about Tony Chrome Customs and Tony Lamantia visit his website at tonychromecustoms.com.

smason@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-6751

'Red, White & Tuna' is unique challenge for local actors

BY FRANK MARKUS
CORRESPONDENT

In case you haven't noticed, there are way more actors in the world than there are paying jobs for them.

Among the large subset of actors forced to give their craft away for free in community theater is a particularly masochistic minority willing to learn and portray not one character, not a schizophrenic two, but 10 different persons and their personalities and peculiarities.

Playwrights Jaston Williams, Joe Sears, and Ed Howard have been taking care of this lunatic fringe of the acting community for a quarter-century with their series of four plays depicting life in Tuna, Texas, the fictitious third smallest town in the Lone Star State, as seen through the eyes of its lovable and laughable citizenry.

Each show casts two male actors portraying 20 goofball Tunans, male and female. As you can imagine, the flow of the play hinges on the ability of the actors to swiftly and convincingly change from one character to another. These changes involve not only

costumes and wigs, but also voices, mannerisms, and affectations — from a ready-to-pop first-time mother-to-be, to her surly but artistic twin brother, to the prim and proper town busy-body and presumptive reunion queen, for example.

Given no more than 10 seconds to a minute for most changes, the show is equal parts comic timing and carefully choreographed costume changes. Costume ensembles are sewn together and rigged with rear-entry Velcro closures, and then to ensure they go on without a hitch, two dedicated dressers commit to working the entire run of the show and take a curtain call at the end of each performance.

THE 'TUNA BUG'

How does one get bitten by the Tuna bug? Well, this Midwestern Yankee spent 10 formative years growing up in Memphis, Tennessee. We never spoke "southern" at home, but my middle sister and I quickly developed an ear for accents and could faithfully mimic or pass for anyone from an urban old-money Memphis sophisticate, to a Beale Street bluesman, to a "south of the border" rural Mississippian.



TOM BIGWOOD

Michael Schacherbauer, left, from Plymouth, and Frank Markus, of Royal Oak, play 20 different characters in the Farmington Players production of 'Red, White and Tuna,' opening Feb. 11 at the Players Barn in Farmington Hills.

This was a useless skill in my professional career as a mechanical engineer turned auto-writer (my current day job is as technical director of *Motor Trend* magazine), but it proved an invaluable way to earn big laughs in Southfield

SRO Productions' performance of *Greater Tuna*.

That first installment in the four-play series introduced us to the dysfunctional denizens of West Texas' quirkiest town, from the animal-rights advocate and one-man Humane Society

'TUNA' ON STAGE

What: Farmington Players present 'Red, White and Tuna'

Where: The Farmington Players Barn is located at 32332 W. 12 Mile, north side, between Orchard Lake and Farmington Road.

When: 8 p.m. Feb. 11-12, 2 p.m. Feb. 13; 8 p.m. Feb. 18-19; 2 p.m. Feb. 20; 8 p.m. Feb. 25-26; 2 p.m. Feb. 27; 8 p.m. March 3-5.

Who: The cast features Michael Schacherbauer of Plymouth and Frank Markus, of Royal Oak.

Tickets: available at both www.farmingtonplayers.org and the box office at (248) 553-2955. Adults: \$15; Senior discount: \$2 off only on Senior Sunday, Feb. 13; Students \$2 off any performance; Thrifty Thursday \$2 off of the March 3 performance; Group discounts \$2 off any show with a group of 10 or more people.

Petey Fisk, to harried matriarch Bertha Bumiller, to recidivist convict Reverend Sturgis Spikes, to pre-owned-arms dealer Didi Snively — proprietress of Didi's Used Weapons ("If we can't kill it, it's immortal").

The popularity of *Greater Tuna* led to its sequel *A Tuna Christmas*, with action centered on the town gearing up for its annual yard-display contest and Christmas pageant.

The third show, *Red, White,*

and Tuna, has just been released to community theaters, and the Farmington Players Barn Theater (32332 West Twelve Mile Rd., Farmington Hills) is staging the play's southeast Michigan premiere in a four-week run that opens Feb. 11 and runs through March 5. The production is sponsored by Tarnow Doors of Farmington Hills and tickets are now available at the box office (248) 553-2955 or at farmingtonplayers.org.

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE OF PERSONAL PROPERTY

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned will sell, to satisfy lien of the owner, at public sale by competitive bidding on February 21st 2011 at 9:00 A.M. at the Extra Space Storage facility located at:

6729 N. Canton Center Rd.
Canton, MI 48187
734-459-4821

The personal goods stored therein by the following may include, but are not limited to general household, furniture, boxes, clothes, and appliances.

C97 Labaron Hunt - General Household, Furniture, Boxes, Clothes & Appliances
E196 Claud Stopchinski - General Household, Furniture, Boxes, Clothes & Appliances

Purchases must be made with cash only and paid at the time of sale. All goods are sold as is and must be removed at the time of purchase. Extra Space Storage reserves the right to bid. Sale is subject to adjournment.

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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.

Brad Kadrich,
Community Editor
Susan Rosiek,
Executive Editor
Grace Perry,
Director of Advertising

OUR VIEWS

More than Valentines

Feb. 14 is day to consider organ donation

It seems like we can't have a day of the year without having something recognized on that day. A few examples are Flag Day June 14, Patriots Day Sept. 11, Veterans Day Nov. 11 and Boy Scout Day Feb. 8.

Some of these observances are recognizable and easy to remember. Fourth of July, Christmas and New Year's and Valentine's Day come to mind. There are others that just have us shaking our head in amazement, days such as Wave All Your Fingers at Your Neighbor Day on Feb. 7 or Name Your Car Day on Oct. 2.

There are some important observances that go unnoticed. While most people will be giving out Valentine's on Monday, Feb. 14, the thousands of people waiting for an organ transplant will be hoping someone will take a moment to observe National Organ Donor Day.

National Organ Donor Day encourages people to sign up to donate their organs. That simple act may save a life. On average, 17 Michigan residents have organ transplants every week. However, the supply of organs available doesn't come close to meeting the demand. This state has about 3,000 people on the waiting list. That number is 100,000 nationwide, according to Gift of Life Michigan.

Organ donation is a vital need. You can donate both deceased and living organs. Sure, it is uncomfortable to think of your own death, especially an early one, but organ donation affords you the opportunity to save up to eight lives. Each tissue donor can improve the lives of up to 50 people.

According to Gift of Life Michigan:

- Nearly 10,000 Michigan patients have received a life-saving organ transplant in the last 10 years.
- Cornea transplants have been successful for more than 100 years and organ transplants have worked for more than 50.
- There is no age limit for donation.
- Donation doesn't cost the donor or the donor's family anything.
- Last year, 289 organ donors provided 786 organs to waiting recipients in Michigan. A record 1,067 people became tissue donors.

Life affords a few opportunities to share the gift of life. Being an organ donor means giving the gift of extending a life, letting families have time with loved ones, especially infants and toddlers.

In Michigan in 2010, organ donations resulted in 786 transplants and saved hundreds of lives. Transplants so far in 2011 total 62. And 2,955 patients were waiting for a transplant as of Feb. 1, including 2,424 kidney, 312 liver, 61 lung, 55 kidney/pancreas, 79 heart, 10 pancreas, eight kidney/liver and one liver/heart

The topic of organ donation now and in death is something that you may not want to discuss; however, it is an important one that could literally help to save a number of lives. Michigan residents no longer sign the back of their Michigan driver's license to indicate their wish to be an organ and tissue donor. Instead, they join the Michigan Organ Donor Registry and receive a red heart logo for their license or state ID.

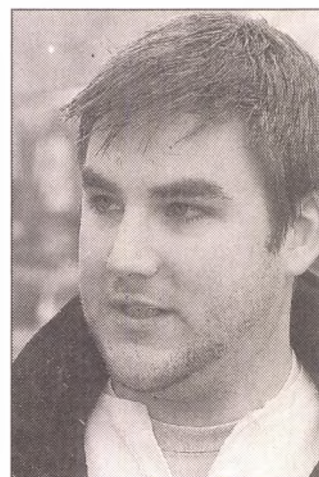
We encourage you to consider becoming an organ donor. Think about giving some the gift of a second chance at living. Do it before you love your pet (Feb. 20), take your dog for a walk (Feb. 22) or have some chips and salsa on National Tortilla Chip Day (Feb. 24).

Take a moment to look into to become an organ donor. You can get more information about organ donation on the Gift of Life website, www.giftoflifemichigan.org. If it takes you more than a day to make up your mind, not to worry. April is Organ Donation Month.

COMMUNITY VOICE

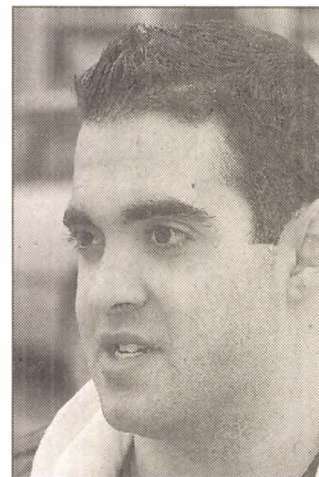
The Academy Award nominations were announced recently. Without limiting your answer to the nominees, what was your best picture of 2010 and why?

We asked this question outside the U.S. Postal Service station on Penniman in downtown Plymouth.



"'Inception.' The story line, how unique it was."

Billy Horgan
Plymouth Township



"I'd probably say 'Inception' too. I liked the visual effects, the whole concept. ... I thought the scoring was really good, the music."

Andy Psilis
Canton Township



"'Toy Story 3.' Saw it. Loved it."

Krista Ondayko
Plymouth



"I just saw 'Black Swan' last week. It was different. It made you think."

Anita Claxton
Southfield

LETTERS

Police thank you

I would just like to send a quick comment expressing my thanks to the Plymouth Township Police Department as well as the Plymouth 9-1-1 dispatcher for their quick and professional service.

I had a malicious vandalism incident at my apartment, and am very appreciative of the professional response from the 9-1-1 dispatcher, as well as the unbelievably quick response by the Plymouth Township Police. It is at times like this that I reflect back, and can recall a time or two that I was not happy with an officer about a speeding ticket I may have received, but I sure thank God our police officers are there when we call them for help in the middle of the night.

The funny thing is that looking back, I must admit that I have never once received a ticket that I didn't deserve.

Thanks again, and stay safe!

Bryan Bentley
Plymouth Township

Development issues

In reference to Randy Jost's letter about vacant properties in Plymouth; I agree with much of what he had to say.

I sincerely hope the Planning Commission will work closely with the developer of the property next to the Box Bar. Nothing is as bad as an empty building or lot. That said, I also agree with his idea of canvassing the greater

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.

E-mail: bkadrich@hometownlife.com.

Read or comment online:
www.hometownlife.com

Deadline: Letters must be received by 10 a.m. Monday to be published in the Thursday edition.

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

Plymouth area to see what businesses the public would like to see move in downtown. Hopefully they would then patronize those businesses.

I give credit to the city for keeping the vacancies to a minimum (compared to other cities) but would like an update on what the status of the former Masonic Temple property is and especially the Penniman party store lot. Can nothing be done toward clearing that lot?

Elaine Hovey
Plymouth

Reinstate strong defense

Interesting article regarding practical testing for a military history class. U.S. military history seems incomplete without the knowledge of who finances war and who benefits from it. The average citizen never benefits from war in any way; however, defense contractors always seem to make a good living.

The three basic ways of financing war (and government) are taxes, debt and inflation (printing of paper money) The inflationary finance of war is a fiscal illusion because it's a way for government to hide or disguise the costs of government including war.

Ludwig Von Mises said, "One can say without exaggeration that inflation is an indispensable means of militarism, without it the repercussions of war on welfare become obvious much more quickly and penetratingly. War weariness would set in much earlier."

The longer a war lasts the more centrally planned and government controlled the entire economy becomes. The inaugural pledge of Thomas Jefferson was no less clear: "Peace, commerce, and honest friendship with all nations-entangling alliances with none."

Our military industrial complex should strive to reinstate a strong national defense, not continue to finance an oppressive, international offense which we cannot afford.

Bruce Hartdegen
Plymouth

ONLINE VOICES & VIEWS



The following are excerpts from readers participating in our online forum for discussing issues, In Your Voices. Find more comments or join the discussion on the Web at hometownlife.com.

- In response to "Diaper Dandy: Canton mom finds a way to change the world,"

"Great work, Marybeth. God bless you for the things that you are doing to help those less fortunate."

FinnegansPop

- In response to "Poker room could be jackpot for charities,"

"The dealers at this room are terrible, and the guy that runs the place is perhaps the biggest jerk I've ever met in my life - and after having worked 12 years in retail, I've met a LOT of jerks. If you're going to play poker, pick any room BUT this one. Even Northville has better dealers."

ekdikey

"Only 50% goes to Charities ... if he was in it for the charities more than that should be donated ... what a scam!"

crazycantontokids



Brad Kadrich

When you're talking about freedom of religion, particularly when it comes to how that freedom is practiced and expressed in public schools, there are going to be a lot of strong opinions on either side. When the issue of a Sikh student wearing his kirpan to school first broke in December, Plymouth-Canton Community Schools officials recognized a firestorm was headed their way, no matter what they did. Force the kid to remove the kirpan, and you're making him abandon his faith. Allow the kirpan, and suddenly you're "catering" to a religious belief many think violates the separation of church and state.

I've got no problem with anyone who thinks either thing. This is about value systems and beliefs, and not imposing yours on me nor mine on you. All opinions are valid, not just the ones who happen to agree with me.

Unfortunately, that's not true for everyone. And even more unfortunately, many of the opinions being expressed on the kirpan issue are based only loosely - if at all - in fact.

And not all of them are rational. I saw a clipping of the first story I wrote on this subject, from a December paper, mailed to the school district with messages scrawled in black magic marker on both sides. The messages, which of course were unsigned, featured the heavy use of the "f" word and suggested if the "\$@%&@ Muslims don't like it,

they can go back to their \$@%&@! country" (that is paraphrased, obviously, because this is a family newspaper).

There are a couple of problems with that kind of argument, first and foremost the fact you can't have a rational discussion with irrational thought. But also, and this is likely most important, the student in question *isn't a Muslim*. And the student in question was born here, which means the United States *is* his country.

That argument makes me wonder whether the author of the note has ever read the words inscribed on the Statue of Liberty or heard the story of the Mayflower.

The biggest complaint seems to be that the district's decision to let this young man continue wearing his kirpan - with all of the restrictions that come with it - violates the provision in the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution against the separation of church and state.

The problem is this: No such demand for separation exists. Here's what the amendment says: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances."

It was meant to keep government from establishing or imposing a particular religion, and to stop government from preventing the practice of religion.

Now, I'm not a constitutional scholar and there will undoubtedly be people who disagree with me here (why should

this issue be any different, after all?), but the compromise reached between the district and Sikh leaders seems eminently fair to me. The kirpan must be dull, it can barely be two inches long, it must be sewn into its sheath (and therefore unremovable) and it must be hidden beneath the clothing.

If you think that's bending over backward and "giving in," as some opponents suggest in e-mails and on the blogosphere, consider this: What restrictions are made on the wearing of St. Christopher's medals, crosses or crucifixes? The answer, according to district officials, is a nice, round number: Zero.

Some of the other complaints: "My kid can't even pray, and this kid gets to wear a weapon?" (not true, Muslim students are seen praying to Mecca and other children are free to say a prayer at their desk if they wish); or "My child can't even say the Pledge of Allegiance because it has 'God' in it" (also not true; district officials point out the Pledge is said at elementary schools before the morning announcements).

There's no question the safety of students should be the preeminent concern for district officials, and there's no question it is. The agreement reached on the kirpan renders it no more dangerous than the other religious symbols about which no one seems to be complaining.

Feel free to disagree.

Brad Kadrich is community editor of the Plymouth and Canton Observers. He can be reached via e-mail at bkadrich@hometownlife.com or by calling (313) 222-8899.

W-W board fills board vacancy

BY SUE MASON
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The Wayne-Westland school board Monday evening tapped a quality assurance analyst with the state of Michigan to fill a vacant board seat.

Jeffrey Hayton of Westland was the lone candidate of 11 that were interviewed by the board at the public meeting to garner enough votes to win the seat. Trustees John Goci, Carol Middel, Skip Monit and Cindy Schofield cast votes for Hayton, giving him the necessary minimum four votes needed.

"It feels good," said Hayton. "I'm kind of surprised, happy and excited."

The Westland resident will serve the remaining 143 days of the term of Martha Pitsenbarger, who resigned last month. He also has filed to be on the May 3 school election ballot when two four-year terms, including Monit's seat, will be filled by voters.

"I wanted to get a little more involved in the



Hayton

schools," said Hayton. "I made plans to do this year and when this opened up, I decided to become available." Hayton has lived in Westland for 20 years. Married, he is the father of two children who attend middle school and high school in Wayne-Westland. He has a master of business administration degree from Eastern Michigan University and is working on his master of public administration degree. He has been a state employee for almost 13 years and currently works in the Department of Technology, Management and Budget.

In interviewing for the appointment, Hayton said the district offers pretty good schooling "and I'd like to see it stay that way." He wants to see the district be proactive in making changes to prepare for the sudden loss of revenue and that

"with more communication," the district will get through it without a lot of problems.

"The role of the school board is to set the direction, the vision for the school district and the overall tone of how it operates," he added. "The big issue looking ahead is along the lines of the economy and what we try to do to save money but not at the expense of the students."

He would like to see the district devise a way for parents to know what their children's homework assignments are so they can help their children succeed, and possibly use a blog to connect with parents.

"Generally, I think our students get a good education," he said. "The teachers go out of their way to assist the students."

Thirteen residents had submitted letters of intent for the appointment, however, the board only interviewed 11. Lori Mireles-Smith withdrew just before the interviews and Aja Lavander was a no show.

smason@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-6751

Eight candidates file for W-W school election

BY SUE MASON
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

A veteran Wayne-Westland school board member is weighing his options after finding out late Tuesday that his name will not appear on the ballot in the May 3 school election.

Skip Monit, the current school board president, was notified Tuesday by Westland City Clerk Eileen DeHart Schoof that he did not have the required number of signatures on nominating petitions that he had turned into the Wayne city clerk.

"I'm still in total shock," said Monit, a Wayne resident. "I'm pretty stunned, embarrassed, the whole gamut of emotions."

Monit, who had planned to seek a fourth term on the school board, said the problem stems from bad information he received from the Wayne city clerk who gave him the wrong number of signatures needed to qualify for the election. Monit submitted five more than what he had been told, but was still 10 short.

Monit could run as a write-in candidate, but as of Wednesday morning, he "wasn't sure what I want to do."

Making it to the ballot were eight Wayne and Westland resident, seven of whom were

interviewed Monday evening for an appointment to fill a vacancy on the school.

Those residents who will be on the May 3 ballot are:

- Jeffrey Hayton of Westland, a quality assurance analyst with the state Department of Technology, Management and Budget, who was appointed to serve the remainder of a school board term that expires June 30.

- Thomas Buckalew of Wayne, a retired Wayne-Westland teacher who said he had been thinking about a run for the school board for about four-five years. "I understand the district is facing a number of economic issues, I understand the district is in financial trouble and I'm deeply concerned," he said. "I understand the issues and would like to contribute to the solutions."

- Scott Davis of Westland, the general manager of Value City Furniture in Westland. Davis decided to campaign for a school board seat to "give back to the community and have a voice in his children's education."

- Carolyn Byndas of Westland, a business unit controller with SKF Bearings. She is seeking a seat on the board because she feels she "has a lot to give back to the communi-

ty" and that with her financial background, she has "so much input" she can give.

- Andrea Clawson of Westland, who finds the school board process interesting and believes she can "provide information and guidance to the district and the community."

- Charles "Trav" Griffin, a former Westland city council member and mayor and a retired UniServ director with the Michigan Education Association. Griffin said he has "a passion for education" and now wants "to get back involved in the community."

- Pamela Prough of Westland, who is the general manager of My Lady's Florist who decided to run for election after researching the appointment. She said "a well-educated citizenry provides for a stronger community and stronger economy."

- Harold Dunn of Westland, a retired automotive engineer and veteran campaigner who has sought election to the Westland City Council, state House of Representatives and U.S. Congress in the past.

Two four-year terms will be filled in the election. Candidates have until 4 p.m. Friday, Feb. 11, to withdraw from the election.

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Ficano touts successes in county address

BY LEANNE ROGERS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Economic development and job creation, successes and plans dominated Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano's ninth State of the County address Tuesday evening.

A term that came up several times was leveraged collaboration. Ficano cited the county's Mortgage Foreclosure Prevention Program which has helped more than 4,000 Wayne County families and saved more than 1,100 homes.

"My team created this program, which quickly became a national model, and we eventually shared it with the United Way," he said. "Now, families all over southeastern Michigan can simply dial 2-1-1 to get the best help available, at no cost. This is what my team does. This is leveraged collaboration."

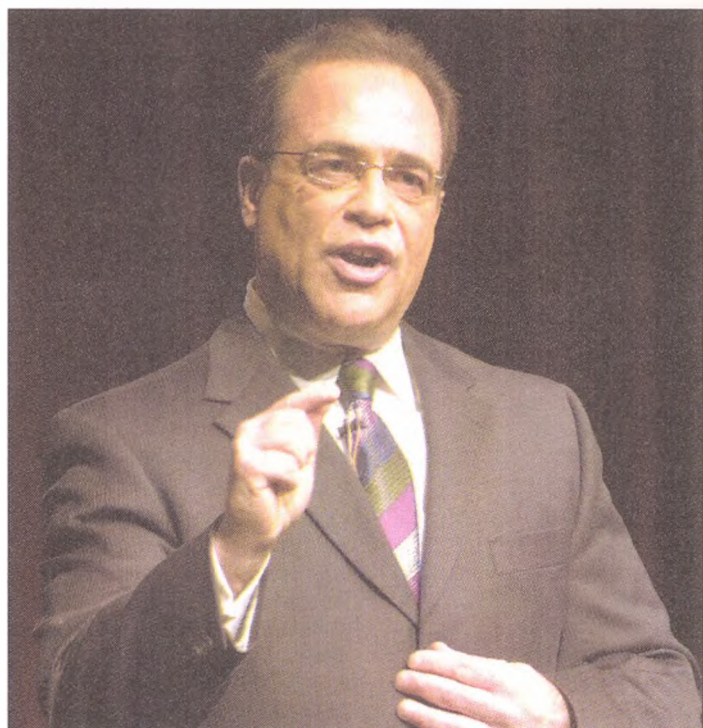
To cut bureaucracy and red tape, Ficano proposed the concept of cross designation, which would allow the lead government to take on all the responsibility and liability and handle everything from inspections to permitting.

"If we're truly serious about government reform, we need to be able to give each other full cross designation on projects so that we can cut through the red tape and get things done," said Ficano.

As an example, Ficano noted Detroit Mayor Dave Bing accepted the county's offer to help knock down abandoned buildings in the city to help clean up blight. In 45 business days, the partnership was able to knock down 453 abandoned structures, exceeding the goal of 450.

"But perhaps more importantly we gained knowledge. We figured out how to demolish a structure in six weeks instead of six months," said Ficano. "And we figured out how to do it for \$5,000 per structure instead of \$10,000. But we can do it even faster and cheaper."

Another partnership cited



FILE PHOTO

Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano made his 2011 State of the County address from the Guardian Building Tuesday night.

by Ficano was the ongoing remediation and restoration of Westland's Central City Park, which had been owned by the county.

In two years since the county's economic development department was reorganized and renamed, Ficano said \$5 billion in new investment commitments have been brought to the county.

County government itself is also going through changes, Ficano said, adding that six years ago efforts began to right-size staff, cutting costs, reducing spending and making smart investments to be more efficient and environmentally friendly.

"Unfortunately, not everyone has been willing to share the sacrifice, and I've been put in a position where I've had to make some very tough calls," said Ficano, referring to problems with union negotiations and a lawsuit over funding for Wayne County Circuit Court.

The approximately 45-minute address, carried live on radio and a webcast, was well received by the invited audience that included state and county officials.

"We've had a lot of success in Wayne County creating jobs, but we have a long way to go," said Wayne County Commissioner Diane Webb, D-Garden City. "I like the idea of collaboration. We are facing tough times in Wayne County, as are all governments. Difficult decisions will have to be made."

With new commission Chairman Gary Woronchak, Webb said she hopes to see the type collaboration Ficano talked about taking place internally within county government.

Instead of focusing on the county's budget, which has an accumulated deficit of over \$200 million, Wayne County Commissioner Joan Gebhardt, D-Livonia, said she appreciated Ficano talking about opportunities.

"It was a positive take, talking about Detroit and the other municipalities working together with the county," said Gebhardt. "He gave credit to a lot of people and his team. I liked that it wasn't all I, I, I."

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Canton grapplers can't dethrone Hartland

BY TIM SMITH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

KLAA TITLE QUAD

Cory Mancuso and his Canton boys wrestling team couldn't quite meet the goal of knocking Hartland off the KLAA throne.

In Monday's championship dual meet at Canton, the Eagles won the KLAA first-place quad for the third straight time since the league's formation.

An early 19-0 hole proved too much for the Chiefs (24-5), who lost 37-23 and now look ahead to Thursday's Division 1 team districts hosted by Salem.

"(There's) no margin for error at all. They (Eagles) know how to win," said

Mancuso, following the title matchup. "We had to have our best night and we didn't do it."

"Their guys are solid all the way through, they know how to wrestle as a team. When it's their weaker guys against our studs, they know how not to get pinned. We're not at their level yet."

Canton's state-ranked wrestlers couldn't win via pin, which would have chalked up bonus points and helped make up the huge early deficit.

Undefeated Anthony Abro (189) ground out a 3-2 decision over Matt Ostermiller and 215-pounder Ben

Poirer defeated Nick Long 7-4.

According to 171-pounder Braden Price, a 4-2 winner over Hartland's Justin Charneski, it can be a mental and physical grind to go up against Hartland's unwavering lineup.

"They've got a tough, solid lineup all the way through, from 103 to heavy," Price said. "They're the best because they don't have any holes."

"There's not one guy that's a blow-off match, they don't have anybody that you can just go out there and know you're going to get a pin with."

SETTING THE TONE

Perhaps the telltale bout of the Canton-Hartland tilt was the opener between the Chiefs consistently solid

Zach Marsh and Mitchel Thomas in the 140 weight class.

Thomas, after jumping out to a 7-2 lead, warded off Marsh's frantic comeback in the third period and won 7-6.

"That was probably the biggest match of the night, it set the tone," Mancuso said.

Hartland veteran head coach Todd Cheney said Thomas' win "was a big momentum swing for us" and was the springboard to the early 19-point advantage.

"We knew the next three matches after that we had a great shot at winning," Cheney said. "So it put us up 19-0. That was a great start for us."

Please see **WRESTLING, B2**

SIDELINES

Seguin to face Wings

Former Plymouth Whalers star Tyler Seguin returns to play Sunday afternoon in metro Detroit.

But Seguin won't be skating at Compuware Arena. He will be lacing them up for the NHL's Boston Bruins for a 12:30 p.m. game at Joe Louis Arena against the Detroit Red Wings.

Seguin tallied 106 points in 2009-10 for the Whalers, earning him a share of the OHL scoring title. He then was selected second in the NHL Entry Draft by Boston.

As a rookie, he has eight goals and nine assists for 17 points in 51 contests.

Sunday's game is slated to be shown on NBC (Channel 4 in the Detroit area).

Canton invite

With top gymnast Robyn Piwovar sidelined by the flu bug, Canton managed to finish third at Saturday's Canton Invitational behind Grand Ledge and Troy Athens.

Alex Fidele and Ayana Lewis each scored three nines out of their four events to pace the Chiefs.

Other solid performers included Erica Lucas (second on vault), Brooke Granowicz, Kali Pierce and Melissa Green (all scoring nines and high eights in all events).

Little League signups

Spring registration is around the corner for the Plymouth/Canton Little League. Online registration is available at www.ply.canll.com and there will be a walk-in signup session, noon to 4 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 19, at Plaza Lanes in Plymouth.

Available leagues include the following: T-ball, ages 5-6; Machine Pitch, ages 7-8; Minor Division, ages 8-10; Major Division, ages 10-12; and Junior Division, ages 13-14.

Visit the website listed above for additional information.

Salem lacrosse meeting

There will be an informational meeting for all Salem girls interested in playing varsity lacrosse, 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 17, at the high school's library (Room W2122, second floor).

Both parents and students should attend to obtain information for tryouts, and fees for the season. This will be the first season Salem will field its own varsity team after the split of the PCS United team. Further information may be obtained by visiting www.eteamz.com/Salemrocksgirlslacrosse.

For girls only

Looking to boost the profile of girls hockey, Canton Arctic Edge hosted Saturday night's "Hockey Night in Canton" featuring the Plymouth-Canton-Salem Penguins.

But that's not all. The arena at 46615 Michigan near Canton Center Drive welcomes girls for some informal sticks and pucks, between 8-8:50 a.m. Saturdays.

The program carries the point-blank slogan "No Cuts! Boys!" and is \$5 per participant.

Girls must bring their own equipment or use rental equipment available at Arctic Edge on a first-come, first-served basis. For more information, call (734) 487-7777 or go to www.arcticarenas.com.

S'craft men edged

Free throws were the difference Saturday as host Delta College staved off the Schoolcraft College men's basketball team, 86-83, in an MCCA Eastern Conference game. Karl Moore scored 25 points, grabbed five rebounds and had two blocks for the Ocelots, who slipped to 8-15 overall, 2-8 in the conference.

Sparks fly on 'Senior Night'

BY TIM SMITH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The final home regular season performance in the Canton career of point guard Dietrich Lever II didn't exactly go as planned Tuesday night.

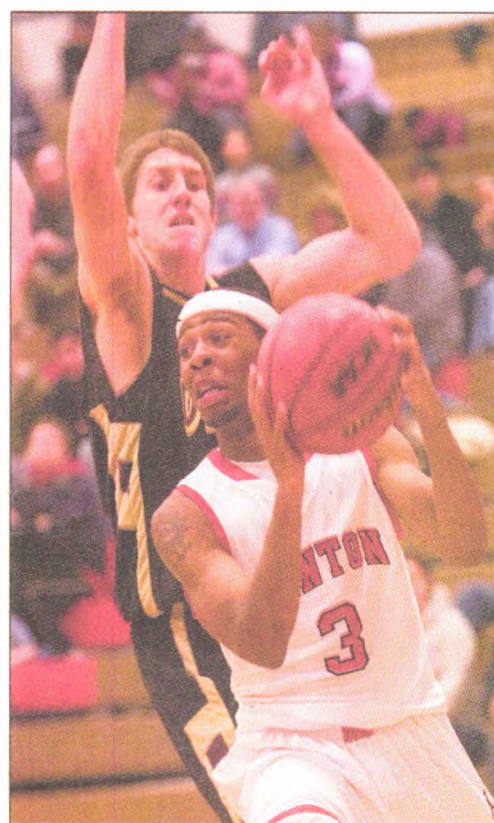
Lever did score 21 points and contributed five steals as the Chiefs knocked off Livonia Franklin, 55-28 on "Senior Night."

But the Ferris State-bound point guard — honored before the game for scoring 1,000 career points for Canton — wasn't around for the final buzzer.

Lever was ejected early in the fourth quarter along with Patriots forward Deion Grubbs following a physical altercation under one of the baskets.

According to Canton head coach Jimmy Reddy, "He (Lever) got fouled hard at the rim and kind of retaliated and they kicked both guys out."

Please see **BOYS HOOP, B2**



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Canton's Dietrich Lever II (No. 3) played the final home regular season game of his prep career Tuesday.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Shown during a game earlier this season is PCS Penguins defenseman Alissa Novak, who opened the scoring Tuesday night against Farmington Hills Mercy.

Penguins survive penalty parade

BY TIM SMITH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Throughout most of the final two periods Tuesday night, the Plymouth-Canton-Salem Penguins girls hockey team played short-handed against Farmington Hills Mercy.

A wide discrepancy in penalty calls — Mercy enjoyed five straight power plays — kept the Marlins in the game at Canton Arctic Edge.

But strong penalty killing led by senior defenseman and co-captain Sarah Coleman and excellent goaltending by tiny sophomore Cortny McAdoo helped the Penguins hang on for a 3-2 conference victory.

"A lot of the calls were unfair, very lopsided with the amount of penalties," lamented Penguins head coach Mary Beth Johnson. "But they (her players) fought through it and played a great game. They deserved to win the game tonight."

Coleman, junior defenseman Emily Bullock and senior blueliner Alissa Novak keyed a strong PK that helped the Penguins kill off four straight penalties in the middle stanza.

"It was pretty rough because we only have three D right now, because we have a lot of girls out that are sick," Coleman said. "So, we had to rotate as often as we could, ... we tried to stay in control of the puck and not just throw it away."

"We had to keep our heads together so that we didn't retaliate on them."

SETTLING THINGS DOWN

Mercy trailed 3-0 after two frames but then pulled closer with a power-play goal 33 seconds into the third period by forward Madeline McClain.

The Marlins made it 3-2 with 2:36 left. Referees were calling

another penalty against PCS when defenseman Lauren Hensick beat McAdoo.

At that point, Johnson called her team to the boards for a timeout. "I just wanted them to settle down, we kind of got a little rattled after the two goals."

That strategy worked, helped by a Mercy penalty with 1:09 remaining while the Marlins goalie was pulled for an extra attacker.

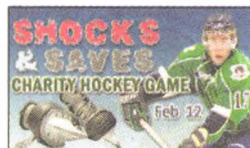
In what amounted to 5-on-5 hockey, McAdoo needed to come up tall right until the final horn. She blocked in-close tries by McClain and forward Morgan DeBrincat, the latter coming with 8.3 seconds to go.

"Cortny really came through for us," Johnson said. "She plays big in big games. I know I can always count on her."

McAdoo, who stopped 23 of 25

Please see **GIRLS HOCKEY, B3**

'Shocks & Saves'



Whalers game, events promote heart health

The Plymouth Whalers are excited to celebrate Valentine's Day and the American Red Cross's Go Red! fight against heart disease campaign by bringing awareness to heart health at Saturday's "Shocks & Saves Game."

While the Whalers play the Owen Sound Attack at 7 p.m., there will be numerous other activities leading up to and throughout the game, including a meet-and-greet with some of the Whalers, charity hockey game, CPR training course, fun games for kids and free sports physicals for kids 18-and-under.

Here is a rundown of events:
• **Skaters to Waiters:** 5:30-7:30 p.m. Thursday at bd's in Canton (42089 Ford east of Lilley). The Whalers will be guest grillers and wait on customers, while fans can learn the benefits of eating heart healthy food.

Scheduled to appear during the first hour will be Tyler Brown, Mitchell Heard, Garrett Meurs, Beau Schmitz, Dario Trutmann and James Livingston. During the second hour, Colin MacDonald, Austin Levi, RJ Mahalak, Rickard Rakell, Scott Wedgewood and Peter Neal will participate.

• **Shocks & Saves Charity Hockey Game:** On Saturday, from 4:30-5:30, Providence Hospital doctors and members of the Novi police and fire departments will square off. Tickets are just \$11 and are also good for the Whalers game; \$4 from every ticket will be donated to the Providence Pediatric Charity.

Ticket buyers are asked to mention "Shocks & Saves" when ordering in advance at the box office.

Please see **WHALERS, B3**

Salem eyes next goal

BY TIM SMITH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Salem's varsity girls basketball team needed to win Tuesday night against South Lyon to have a chance to at least have a shot at earning a share of the KLAA Central title.

A victory would have set up a Thursday night showdown with host Novi in a makeup game.

But a combination of cold shooting and solid defense from the Lions foiled that plan, as Salem lost 34-23.

With the defeat, the Rocks take a record of 6-8 overall and 5-3 in the Central to Novi — sporting a record of 12-1 and 6-1 entering Tuesday night's game against Livonia

Stevenson. Results from the Novi-Stevenson game were not yet available.

"Even if we beat them they're up a game," Salem veteran coach Fred Thomann said. "Realistically, we can't win the division."

"Now, the goal is to be the highest seed (for the KLAA conference tournament) we can be."

Eighteen Salem turnovers were part of the problem Tuesday. So was payback, as a determined South Lyon team wanted to make up for an early season loss to the Rocks.

"We beat South Lyon at

Please see **GIRLS HOOP, B2**



What a Force!

The Plymouth-Canton Force sixth grade Red basketball team won its third consecutive tournament without a loss this season, taking the Jan. 23 tourney at The Cage in Swartz Creek. The Red squad defeated a good Flint opponent twice to earn the trophy. "The team has really played well and plays with a lot of heart in every game, we are really proud of the kids," said coach Ed Gruczelak. So far in 2010-11, PC Force Red is 15-3 with the only losses against seventh grade travel teams. Celebrating with their three championship trophies are: (front row, from left) Kyle Burnette, Zack Gruczelak, Jake Cesarz, Camren Barden and Jackson Sartain; (back row, from left) coach Jeff Arnold, Blake Preston, coach Cesarz, Jack Smith, Jason Arnold, Justin Dolney and coach Gruczelak.

Chiefs third at KLAA tournament

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

It was a photo finish for the team title in Saturday's Kensington Lakes Activities Association wrestling tournament hosted by Hartland.

And it proved to be a two-team race as Brighton emerged the winner in the 24-school jamboree by edging the host Eagles for the team title, 248.5-247.5.

Canton placed third with 179 and rounding out the top ten were: Howell (159), Livonia Franklin (128), Livonia Churchill (113), South Lyon (96), Wayne Memorial (92.5), Westland John Glenn (91.5) and Walled Lake Central (75.5) rounding out the top ten.

Churchill boasted two individual champions in seniors Jacob Meadows (119 pounds) and Jonny Bannoura (140).

Meadows, the fourth seed, upset top seed Keith Boldt of Hartland in the semifinals with an 8-4 decision followed by a 4-3 victory in the finals over third seed Gabe Martinez of Franklin.

Bannoura was also a fourth seed and upended top seed Aaron Calderon of Brighton in the semifinals, 5-3, followed by a 3-1 win over second seed Zach Marsh of Canton in the finals.

Franklin's Steve Tuyo held serve as the top seed when he captured the 130-pound crown with a 24-7 technical fall over Brighton's Christopher Brish.

"Tuyo looked as good as he's looked all year," Franklin coach Dave Chiola said. "If he wrestles like this the next few weeks, he's going to be tough to beat."

KENSINGTON LAKES ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION WRESTLING TOURNAMENT
Feb. 5 at Hartland

TEAM STANDINGS: 1. Brighton, 248.5 points; 2. Hartland, 247.5; 3. Canton, 179; 4. Howell, 159; 5. Livonia Franklin, 128; 6. Livonia Churchill, 113; 7. South Lyon, 96; 8. Wayne Memorial, 92.5; 9. Westland John Glenn, 91.5; 10. Walled Lake Central, 75.5; 11. (tie) Novi and Walled Lake Western, 73 each; 14. Northville, 72; 15. Grand Blanc, 70; 16. South Lyon East, 69; 66. Waterford Kettering, 66; 18. Pinckney, 62; 19. White Lake Lakeland, 61; 20. Plymouth, 60; 5; 21. Milford, 56; 22. Walled Lake Northern, 47; 23. Salem, 41; 24. Waterford Mott, 33.

INDIVIDUAL RESULTS
103 pounds: Benjamin Griffin (Canton) dec. Jordan Amine (Brighton), 5-2; 3rd place: Kyle Gillies (Hartland) dec. Logan Crandall (S. Lyon), no score available; 5th: Nate Hughes (Hartland) dec. Devin Acker (Kettering), 5-3; 7th: Eric Gerber (Lakeland) pinned Mohamed Youssef (Ply.), 1:37.
112: Austin Eicher (Hartland) dec. Tyler Foley (S.L. East), 4-2; 3rd: Dan Martinez (Franklin) dec. Richard Demarais (Canton), 4-3; 5th: Jackson Pizzo (Brighton) dec. Richard Poole (Milford), 8-7; 7th: Brandon Calma (Lakeland) dec. Quinn Depraw (Glenn), 4-3.
119: Jacob Meadows (Churchill) dec. Gabe Martinez (Franklin), 4-3; 3rd: Alec Pantaleo (Canton) dec. Keith Boldt (Hartland), 10-3; 5th: Ian Stilton (N.ville) dec. Evan Yezbeck (W.L. Western), 8-5; 7th: Daniel Koenig (Brighton) dec. Giddian Albuerno (Novi), 7-0.
125: Alex Calandrino (Howell) dec. Evan Hoshaw (Brighton), 9-2; 3rd: Jordan Alienza (Franklin) dec. Ross Kantola (Hartland), 5-3; 5th: Said Youssef (Ply.) dec. Montell Watkins (Kettering), 7-3; 7th: Alejandro Albuerno (Novi) dec. Keshav Patel (Canton), 11-4.
130: Steve Tuyo (Franklin) won by technical fall over Christopher Brish (Brighton), 24-7; 3rd: Alec

Breckenridge (Ply.) won by tech. fall over Ryan Foley (S. Lyon East), 16-0; 5th: Ray Stambaugh (Kettering) dec. Justin Rollins (Hartland), 8-0; 7th: Corey Davis (Stevenson) dec. Devon Adams (Wayne), 8-6.

135: Joe Johnson (S. Lyon) won by major dec. over Keith Kooperman (Brighton), 11-2; 3rd: Gabe Costanzo (W.L. Western) dec. Hayden Hughes (Howell), 4-2; 5th: Travis Campo (N.ville) dec. Samer Shebak (Stevenson), 3-1; 7th: Matthew Aoun (Novi) dec. Austin Rohn (Salem), 8-2.

140: Jonny Bannoura (Churchill) dec. Zach Marsh (Canton), 3-1; 3rd: Aaron Calderon (Brighton) dec. Sam Hier (S. Lyon), 11-9; 5th: Mitchel Thomas (Hartland) p. Kody Roy (Stevenson), 1:58; 7th: Avery Opperman (Franklin) def. Beau Bielski (Novi), no score available.

145: Chase Snider (Hartland) p. Jalen Jones (Wayne), 2:55; 3rd: Carson Whaley (Grand Blanc) dec. Patrick Kern (W.L. Western), 5-0; 5th: Keybondray Sangster (Mott) dec. Frank Martin (W.L. Central), 4-2; 7th: Justin Plofl (Brighton) p. Keven Wacker (Glenn), 3:10.

152: John Julien (Hartland) dec. Andrew White (Brighton), 12-5; 3rd: Kyle Marlon (W.L. Central) def. Breiden Kemper (Grand Blanc), no score available; 5th: Chad Czenneski (Howell) p. Collin Anglin (S. Lyon), 1:37; 7th: Kevin Newborn (Wayne) won by major dec. over Joshua Marholer (Salem), 11-1.

160: Chad Hunt (Hartland) dec. Nick Zakovich (W.L. Central), 10-6; 3rd: Troy Root (Howell) p. Danny Croft (Glenn), 3:55; 5th: Jordan Maschke (Brighton) p. Ryan Grubb (Milford), 2:51; 7th: Samuel Ekanem (Wayne) dec. Tyler Gross (Salem), 5-4.

171: Brandon Hill (Brighton) dec. Anthony Patriotto (Howell), 10-3; 3rd: Justin Charneski (Hartland) dec. Braden Price (Canton), 6-3; 5th: Kameron Jones (Glenn) dec. Matt Ross (Franklin), 2-1; 7th: Jake Haddad (S. East) dec. Trevor Marsh (N.ville), 2-1.
189: Anthony Abro (Canton) dec. Matt Osemiller (Hartland), 8-4; 3rd: David Sparling (Novi) dec. Vince Tkac (Brighton), 4-2; 5th: Josh Visel (Pinckney) def. Charles Sovel (W.L. Central), no score available; 7th: Durim Gega (S. Lyon) dec. Alex O'Connor (Franklin), 2-0.

215: Kurt Alder (Brighton) dec. Dimitris Renfroe (Wayne), 6-1; 3rd: Alex Sokoli (Lakeland) dec. Nick Long (Hartland), 7-4; 5th: Dillon Morantes (Churchill) dec. Daulton Arthur (Kettering), 6-4; 7th: Mitch Faulkner (Howell) def. Robert Lincoln (Canton), no score available.

285: Ben Poirier (Canton) dec. Jacob Range (Stevenson), 11-6; 3rd: Cameron England (Howell) won by major dec. over Jonathan Stine (Pinckney), 13-5; 5th: Derrick Campbell (Glenn) dec. Nick Denney (W.L. Western), 3-2; 7th: Joey Traeye (Kettering) def. Omar Haymour (Franklin), no score available.

PREP WRESTLING RESULTS

KLAA FIRST-PLACE TEAM QUAD MEET

(Monday, Feb. 7 at Canton H.S.)
HARTLAND 37, CANTON 23

103 pounds: Ben Griffin (C) won by tech. fall over Nate Hughes, 23-8; 112: Austin Eicher (H) d. Richard DeMarais (C), 5-1; 119: Alex Pantaleo (C) major decision over Justin Rollins (H), 16-5; 125: Keith Boldt (H) pinned Ryan Siegler (C), 1:51; 130: Ross Kantola (H) dec. Mark Pryzbilski (C), 7-3; 135: Alex Emers (C) p. Devon Chalut (H), 0:39; 140: Mitchel Thomas (H) dec. Zach Marsh (C), 7-6; 145: Chase Snider (H) maj. dec. Julia Salata (C), 24-11; 152: Chad Hunt (H) p. Patrick Murphy (C), 1:25; 160: Chad Max (H) p. Ryan Graczyk (C), 1:53; 171: Braden Price (C) dec. Justin Charneski (H), 4-2; 189: Anthony Abro (C) dec. Matt Osemiller (H), 3-2; 215: Ben Poirier (C) dec. Nick Long (H), 7-4; 285: Phil Roland (H) p. Robbie Lincoln (C), 4:22.
Hartland's dual meet record: 25-2; Canton's record: 24-5.

CANTON 50, NOVI 19

103 pounds: Ben Griffin (C) pinned Dan DeNova (N), 1:08; 112: Richard DeMarais (C) p. Andrew Park (N), 1:28; 119: Alex Pantaleo (C) major decision over Giddian Albuerno (N), 12-4; 125: Alejandro Albuerno (N) maj. dec. Ryan Siegler (C), 14-5; 130: Mark Pryzbilski (C) maj. dec. Shabbang Sidhu (N), 18-3; 135: Alex Emers (C) dec. Matt Aoun (N), 8-7; 140: Zach Marsh (C) p. Carson Cook (N), 4:28; 145: Beau Bielski (N) dec. Julia Salata (C), 7-1; 152: Derrick Becker (N) p. Patrick Murphy (C), 0:52; 160: Jevon Hill (C) p. Chris Caverly (N), 0:41; 171: Braden Price (C) p. Jake Dobras (N), 3:53; 189: Anthony Abro (C) maj. dec. Justin Michael (N), 26-1; 215: Ben Poirier (C) dec. David Sparling (N), 11-8; 285: Robbie Lincoln (C) p. Chris Nally (N), 3:20.
Canton's record: 24-4; Novi's record: 14-5.

WRESTLING

FROM PAGE B1

Hartland (25-2) did win the 145, 152 and 160 bouts — the latter two by first-period falls.

Price then got the Chiefs on the scoreboard, followed by the hard-fought decision victories scored by Abro and Poirer.

Another key matchup proved to be the heavyweight bout between Canton's Robbie Lincoln and Hartland's Phil Roland.

Lincoln, actually a 215-pounder slotted as a heavy-weight, held on to a 1-0 lead until late in the second period.

But the taller and bigger Roland, in his first varsity bout, rallied to take a 3-1 lead into the third and subsequently pinned his opponent in 4:22 for six crucial points.

That made it 25-8; had Lincoln won via decision, Canton would have crept back to within 19-11.

"Our guy's not a true heavy-weight, he's bumping up," Mancuso said. "But he just keeps coming. He was just outsized today. Robbie wrestles with a lot of heart. He's really become a good wrestler."

Cheney called the victory by Roland as "huge, and huge for his confidence, too. When you're putting a kid in a big dual meet like that right out of the gate it's like 'OK, here we go kid.'"

The Chiefs' fleeting hopes were bolstered by a tech fall scored by 103-pounder Ben Griffin (over Nate Hughes) and a major decision at 119 by Alec Pantaleo (over Justin Rollins). Both Griffin and Pantaleo are state-ranked as freshmen.

However, Keith Boldt pinned Canton's Ryan Siegler in 1:51 to nab the 125-pound matchup and put the dual meet out of reach for Mancuso's squad.

Canton's lone pin of the meet took place in the final matchup, when Alex Eimers needed just 39 seconds to bring down Devon Chalut at 135.

STARTING STRONG

Canton and Hartland reached the championship match after breezing past opening matches against Novi and Waterford Kettering, respectively.

The Chiefs knocked off Novi by a 50-19 count and Hartland rolled all over the Captains, 77-3.

According to Wildcats head coach Brad Huss, he was proud of the way several of his wrestlers competed hard after being bumped up a weight class.

In particular, he noted wins by Beau Bielski (7-1 at 145) and Chris Caverly (by pin at 160) and a gallant bid by David Sparling at 215. Sparling gave Poirer all he could handle, finally losing an 11-8 decision.

"I thought we wrestled well," Huss said. "Our style, we try to be aggressive. We knew it would be a little bit of an upset for us to beat them."

Huss said his team needed to garner bonus points and at the same time stay in bouts.

"We told them ahead of time, we got to pin them, ... (and) we got to stay off our back," Huss said. "For the most part, we did that. "They're just a little bit better than us right now, it's pretty much that simple."

Novi defeated Kettering 72-6 in the consolation match to improve to 16-5 entering the team districts.

Canton now will look to shake off the loss at DI districts, slated to get started 5 p.m. Thursday at Salem. The Chiefs will face Plymouth and the winner will go up against the winner of the Salem-Livonia Churchill matchup.

BOYS HOOP

FROM PAGE B1

Lever's ejection didn't stop the Chiefs from improving to 10-4 overall and 7-1 in the KLAA South (good for a first-place tie with Plymouth).

Canton led 18-6 after one quarter and 28-11 at halftime, keyed by the strong play of Lever and junior forward Paul Baumgart (22 points, nine rebounds, four blocks).

"I thought our first half was really good defensively, we held them to 11 (points), created some turnovers so we got some easy baskets," Reddy said.

The coach also noted a bounce-back game by Baumgart, who was held scoreless Friday night in a win at Plymouth.

"He had a real tough night on Friday and he came back and was big," Reddy said. "I thought he was really good early. ... He rebounded, he scored around the rim for us and did a nice job."

Top scorers for Franklin (4-10, 3-5) were senior forward Tino Thomas (six points), junior guard Tommy Smith and sophomore guard Jake Erme (five points each).

Other seniors honored Tuesday night were forward Cody Sheeler (five boards) and guard Ben Spreitzer.

The Chiefs were helped out by junior guard Kyle Adams (eight rebounds) and junior forward Terrell Sewell (five

boards). Now Reddy's team will visit Livonia Churchill and Westland John Glenn on Thursday and Friday, respectively.

The game with Churchill is a makeup prompted by last week's snowstorm.

"If we win them both we'll be division champs," Reddy said. "Whether we share it with Plymouth or not, we got to take care of our own business."

PLYMOUTH 46, JOHN GLENN 39: In a KLAA South boys basketball matchup Tuesday night, visiting Plymouth parlayed a strong second half into victory over Westland John Glenn.

The Wildcats, who led 23-16 at halftime despite what coach Mike Soukup called a tentative performance, pulled away from the Rockets with scoring edges of 11-5 and 19-11 in the third and fourth quarters, respectively.

Mike Nadratowski paced Plymouth (10-4, 7-1) with 14 points, while Brennen Beyer had a double-double (12 points, 14 rebounds). Other solid contributors for the Wildcats included Pat Salo (12 points), Marcus Odum (eight points, six boards) and Jake Morris (six boards and strong defense).

For John Glenn (9-5, 5-3), Aveon Simmons scored 13 points. Tallying eight points each were Nick Daniels and Brett Hudy.

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GIRLS HOOP

FROM PAGE B1

their gym early (this season) by four," Thomann said. "They came in ready to play and they got it done."

"Now we've got to go to Novi and play against them and the only loss they've had was to us early in the year."

South Lyon (8-7, 5-4) led 18-15 at halftime, but the Rocks could only muster four points in each of the final two quarters.

"I thought we didn't shoot the ball very well tonight, and I didn't think we rebounded the ball very well tonight," he said. "But, I thought we were still in the game, right up until almost the middle of the fourth quarter."

"We had the opportunity, we just didn't make shots."

Thomann did praise the play of point guard Heidi Schmidt (six points) and forward Breanne Beaver (six points, 11 rebounds). Guard Bri Berberet scored nine points to lead Salem.

CANTON 53, LIVONIA FRANKLIN 37: The KLAA South-leading Chiefs kept on rolling Tuesday night with this win over the host Patriots.

It was the 100th victory

in the Canton career of head coach Brian Samulski.

Canton (12-2, 8-0) led 19-9 after one frame, 29-21 at halftime and broke the game open in the third, outscoring Livonia Franklin 15-6.

Leading the Chiefs with 18 points and 11 rebounds was Sara Schmitt.

Also in double figures were Kayla Bridges (13 points) and Kari Schmitt (10 points). Chelsea Williams and Amanda Borioe scored 16 and 12 points, respectively, for Franklin (7-7, 4-4).

"We got off to a good first quarter," Samulski said. "In the second quarter we had to fight through a little adversity but we hung in there and got it done."

"And I thought we defended really well in the third quarter and held them to six points."

Samulski said his team committed too many fouls in the first half due to reaching and lunging in steal attempts. "I thought we cleaned that up in the second half."

As evidence, although Franklin went 14-for-14 from the free-throw line, the Pats only had four chances in the second half.

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BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
One of Salem's bright spots Tuesday was senior point guard Heidi Schmidt (No. 40), pictured in a recent game. At left is Plymouth's Kate Watson.

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Whalers crank up urgency, rally **GIRLS HOCKEY**

FROM PAGE B1

It turned out to be a nail-biter, but the Michigan Metro Girls High School Hockey League contest looked like it might be a laugher earlier on.

PCS (7-6) broke a scoreless tie with 5:43 to go in the first period. Novak intercepted a pass in the neutral zone, skated in on Mercy goalie Kari Unger (17 saves) and snapped a shot over her glove.

The Penguins made it 2-0 with 2:25 left in the first as forward Tory Campbell lofted the puck high into the Marlins' cage. Assisting on the goal were forwards Becca Majszak and Beth Johnson.

Then came the string of PCS penalties in the second period, all killed off expertly.

At 11:08 of the second, just three seconds after a Penguins penalty elapsed, forward Jenny Fedon broke in on Unger and scored to make it 3-0.

Majszak forced a turnover at the PCS blueline and fed a pass to Fedon, who did the rest.

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shots, also excelled during the spate of penalties during the second.

For example, she deflected a slap shot taken by forward Grace Unger and then rejected a backhand on the doorstep by Hensick.

Later in the frame, Hensick was foiled on a wraparound try by the goalie and McAdoo also stopped forward Morgan DeBrincat on the rebound attempt.

CALM AND COLLECTED

"I've been trying to not pressure myself in the goal," McAdoo said. "What I did was be really focused in the game and tell the girls 'Get in there and don't give up or anything. Just keep going, just keep going.'"

The win snapped McAdoo's personal five-game losing streak. All but one of those losses were against Division 1 opponents, however.



Plymouth Whalers forward Stefan Noesen (No. 11, left) celebrates after beating Sarnia goalie Brandon Hope during Saturday night's OHL game at Compuware Arena.

BY TIM SMITH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

It's seemed like the Plymouth Whalers have been chasing the Windsor Spitfires forever to take over fourth place in the Western Conference of the Ontario Hockey League.

Plymouth finally leapfrogged the Spitfires in the standings thanks to two wins over Sarnia in three days last week, including a come-from-behind 7-3 thrashing on Saturday night before about 2,300 fans at Compuware Arena. Forwards Stefan Noesen and Robbie Czarnik each scored their 26th and 27th goals of the season to pace a 60-shot attack for the Whalers.

After spotting the Sting a 3-0 lead in the first period, the Whalers came to life with 26 shots on goal and four markers in the second to go up 4-3. Noesen — who also drew three assists for a five-point night — scored two of those goals, with Czarnik and Rickard Rakell each beating Sarnia netminder Brandon Hope.

"We came in at the first intermission and like we've done many times before, we said 'Let's take a look in the mirror now,'" recalled Plymouth forward and assistant captain James Livingston. "If we keep playing like this, we're going to stink up the building. If we want to win, we're going to go out and have a great period." I guess we picked the latter.

The onslaught continued in

the third, as Jamie Devane, Tyler Brown (his 20th) and Czarnik hit the back of the twine and the Whalers directed 22 more shots at the Sarnia goalie.

Other Whalers with multiple points included Czarnik (2 goals, 2 assists), Rakell (1 goal, 2 assists) and defenseman Colin MacDonald (3 assists).

Earning the victory for Plymouth was goalie Scott Wedgewood, who stopped 21 of 22 shots after relieving starter Matt Mahalak. The latter played just 3:22, allowing a pair of Sarnia goals among

five shots.

The Whalers now are 7-1-0-2 over the past 10 games, and have a record of 29-19-1-3 (62 points) entering games Friday at Mississauga and Saturday at Compuware against conference leader Owen Sound. Windsor, who went 1-2 last week, dropped to fifth overall (28-17-2-3, 61 points).

Plymouth's jump to fourth (which would ensure home-ice advantage the first round of playoffs) could be short-lived, however, because Windsor hosts conference leader Owen Sound Thursday night.

It was Plymouth's second comeback win of the week over the Sting. After falling behind 5-2 last Thursday, the visiting Whalers scored four goals in the third to win 6-5. Defenseman Dario Trutmann's unassisted marker with 36 seconds left in regulation proved to be the difference. Livingston scored twice for coach Mike Vellucci's team and goalie Mahalak stopped 28 shots for the win.

Friday night at Kitchener, the Whalers fell 6-3 to the Rangers.

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THE WEEK AHEAD

BOYS BASKETBALL

Thursday, Feb. 10
Canton at Churchill, 7 p.m.
Novi at Salem, 7 p.m.

Friday, Feb. 11
Churchill at Plymouth, 7 p.m.
Canton at John Glenn, 7 p.m.

Salem at Northville, 7 p.m.
Oakland Christian at Ply. Christian, 8:45 p.m.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Thursday, Feb. 10
Salem at Novi, 7 p.m.
Canton at Franklin, 7 p.m.

Friday, Feb. 11
John Glenn at Canton, 7 p.m.
Northville at Salem, 7 p.m.

Plymouth at Churchill, 7 p.m.
Saturday, Feb. 12
Ply. Christian at Lenawee Christian, 5:30 p.m.

PREP HOCKEY

Thursday, Feb. 10
Canton, Plymouth, Salem at Public School Showcase, TBD

Friday, Feb. 11
Canton, Plymouth, Salem at Public School Showcase, TBD

Saturday, Feb. 12
PCS Penguins at Bloomfield, TBD
Canton, Plymouth, Salem at Public School Showcase, TBD

BOYS WRESTLING

Thursday, Feb. 10
Team districts at Salem, 5 p.m.

Saturday, Feb. 12
Canton, Plymouth, Salem at individual districts, TBD

BOYS SWIMMING & DIVING

Thursday, Feb. 10
Milford at Canton, 6:30 p.m.
Howell at Salem, 6:30 p.m.

Friday, Feb. 11
Canton, Plymouth, Salem at MISCA diving, TBD

Saturday, Feb. 12
Canton, Plymouth, Salem at MISCA swimming, TBD

GIRLS GYMNASTICS

Thursday, Feb. 10
Canton at Brighton, 7 p.m.

PREP BOWLING

Thursday, Feb. 10
Plymouth vs. Clarenceville, Canton vs. Novi, Salem vs. Wayne,

3:30 p.m. at Super Bowl (Canton)

Saturday, Feb. 12
Divine Child Tournament at Westland Bowl, 9 a.m.

MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Saturday, Feb. 12
Marygrove at Madonna, 3 p.m.
Henry Ford at Schoolcraft, 3 p.m.

WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Saturday, Feb. 12
Henry Ford at Schoolcraft, 1 p.m....

OHL HOCKEY
Friday, Feb. 11
Plymouth Whalers at Mississauga, 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, Feb. 12
Owen Sound vs. Plymouth Whalers at Compuware Arena, 7 p.m.

WHALERS

FROM PAGE B1

• **CPR Training:** From 5:30-6:30 p.m. Saturday, Huron Valley Ambulance will be offering a CPR course behind the pro shop for anyone 18-and-older. Become certified or just take it as a refresher

course. Walk-Ins welcome (must have ticket to the Whalers game) or RSVP to Natalie Shaver at natalies@plymouthwhalers.com.

• **Andy the Ambulance:** HVA also is sponsoring this attraction, from 5:30 p.m. Saturday throughout the Whalers-Owen Sound game.

• **Kids Zone:** The American Heart Association and Blue

Cross, Blue Shield are hosting this event from 6 p.m. throughout the game.

• **Etc:** There will be craft tables where kids can make valentines, get tattoos (temporary, of course) and have plenty of fun. During the first intermission, there will be a mini-workout behind the pro shop to promote health and fitness.

• **Physicals:** Providence

Hospital will provide free sports physicals to anyone under 18 with a Whalers ticket from Feb. 12. The offer is valid for three months following the game and is available only to those who require physicals for sports participation.

For ticket information, call the Compuware Arena box office at (734) 453-8400.

Wildcats rally twice for win, tie

Plymouth scored three unanswered goals over the final two periods Tuesday to stun state-ranked Livonia Stevenson, 3-2, in a KLAA Kensington Conference boys hockey crossover at Compuware Arena.

Justin Bauer's unassisted goal (from Richard Mitchell) with 7:30 remaining in the third period proved to be the game-winner for the Wildcats, who improved to 5-7-7 overall and 4-2-4 in the KLAA's South Division.

Sean Smiatacz's goal from Nick Schultz and Cody Staub just 1:07 into the final period knotted the count at 2-2.

Stevenson led 1-0 after one period on J.J. Pettersson's sixth goal of the year from Ryan Urso and Andrew Palushaj.

Pettersson then notched his seventh of the season with 10:16 remaining in the second period off an assist

BOYS HOCKEY

from Urso, but Plymouth answered with just nine seconds left in the second on Cody Staub's tally from Tyler Sanders and Bauer.

Plymouth netminder Michael Justus made 23 saves, while Connor Humitz had 26 stops for the Spartans (13-4-2, 8-2-1 KLAA Central).

"I think we played very well tonight," Plymouth head coach Paul Fassbinder said. "Honestly, we have been battling all year and either losing leads and getting ties or finding ways to lose the game."

"These last two games we were down and we did the battling back. It was a huge win. This win gives us a chance at the division title still."

CHURCHILL 6, PLYMOUTH 6: In a high-scoring affair Saturday, the host Wildcats (4-7-7) and Livonia Churchill (9-8-1) bat-

led to a draw at Plymouth's Compuware Arena.

Plymouth pulled goaltender Mike Justus for the extra attacker and scored with 10 seconds left to earn the tie.

Tyler Sanders and Cody Staub each tallied two goals for Plymouth.

Zach Gambrell and Sean Smiatacz each contributed power play goals as the Wildcats started the game with a 2-0 lead.

Jake Otto led Churchill with two goals and two assists.

Joe Williams also scored twice, while Riley Brown added a goal and assist. Steve Klisz tallied the other Churchill goal.

"We had a chance to close it out and were unable to do so," Churchill coach Pete Mazzoni said. "Give Plymouth credit, they competed to the last horn."

Justus made 26 saves, while Churchill's Jesse Chambers had 16 stops.

Canton JV boys win Mercy Invitational

The Canton junior varsity boys bowling team won Saturday's Mercy Invitational, with a total of 3,190 pins — besting DeLaSalle (3,057) and North Farmington (2,988).

Plymouth and Salem finished fourth and sixth, respectively, with totals of 2,961 and 2,887.

Leading the Chiefs JV was Michael Richards, who led all bowlers with a 210-213-207-630 series.

Salem's Jimmy Bowling (165-212-190-567) placed third while other Plymouth-Canton Educational Park bowlers in the Top-10 included Plymouth's Charlie Anderson (sixth, 536), Canton's Nick Blain (seventh, 527), Plymouth's Zach Behr (eighth, 519) and Plymouth's Sean

Silagy (10th, 499).

• **PCEP** varsity bowlers also had excellent days at the Mercy Invite, although Novi-Detroit Catholic Central's 3,685 score nipped second-place Canton (3,606), Wayne Memorial (third, 3,583) and Salem (fourth, 3,555).

Salem senior Ryan Clark was the No. 1 varsity bowler, with a 255-226-217-698 series. Other PCEP standouts included Canton's Andrew Klein (fifth, 616), Canton's Alex Champagne (ninth, 589) and Salem's Tyler Foley (11th, 586).

• **In the varsity girls competition,** Regina won with a tally of 3,365, followed by Wayne Memorial (3,086), Salem (3,047) and North Farmington (2,821). Taking

sixth place with 2,800 pins was Plymouth, followed in seventh by Canton (2,764).

Individually, Salem's Bridget Maul and Kristin Larkins placed third and fifth, respectively. Maul enjoyed a 211-166-181-558 series; Larkins bowled a 159-207-180-546 series.

Top performers for the other PCEP teams were turned in by Plymouth's Caitlyn Webb (17th, 483) and Canton's Allison Fries (20th, 478).

• **Regina's JV girls team** also finished first (2,308), with Canton third with 2,221 pins.

Canton had five bowlers in the Top-20: Kimberly A'Hearn (eighth, 385); Laurie Vicko (11th, 374); Amber Holly (16th, 348); Jessica Holowicki (17th, 331) and Cloe Boyer (20th, 303).

PREP BOWLING RESULTS

BOYS DUAL MATCH RESULTS
WESTLAND JOHN GLENN 19, CANTON 11
Feb. 3 at Super Bowl
Canton scorers: Casey Bindas, 104-193-397; Andrew Champagne, 198-172-370; Kurt Kowalski, 181-167-342; Ross Terrasi, 200; Ryan Washburn, 195; Andrew Klein, 166; split score, 148. **Team totals:** 949-869-1,818 (5 points). **Baker games:** 167-168-335 (6 points).
Dual match records: John Glenn, 12-0 overall, 9-0

KLAA Central Division; Canton, 7-5 overall, 4-5 KLAA Central.
WAYNE MEMORIAL 17, PLYMOUTH 13
Feb. 3 at Super Bowl
Plymouth scorers: Justin Thompson, 178-232-410; Eric Thompson, 236-165-401; Rob Korstjens, 147-222-369; Evan Grimm, 191-161-352; split score, 151-164-315. **Team totals:** 903-944-1,847 (7 points). **Baker games:** 157-228-415 (6 points).
Dual match records: Wayne, 9-2 overall, 6-2 KLAA

Central Division; Plymouth, 7-5 overall, 5-4 KLAA Central.
GIRLS DUAL MATCH RESULTS
CANTON 28, WESTLAND JOHN GLENN 2
Feb. 3 at Super Bowl
Canton scorers: Charlotte Zimmer, 170-206-376; Cheryl Cosby, 170-189-359; Allison Fries, 184-124-308; Ashley Cade, 149-158-307; Brianna Bailey, 161; split score, 132. **Team totals:** 8-5-838-1,643 (18 points). **Baker games:** 159-141-300 (10 points).

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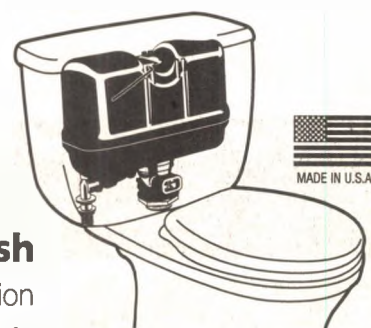
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Course on life draws from Kabballah

The Novi Jewish Center will present a new course titled: **Toward a Meaningful Life: A Soul-Searching Journey on Finding Purpose & Joy**, beginning Feb. 23. The six-part series will cover the most basic elements of life and aims to bring them more meaning and inspiration, drawing from the Kabballah's teachings. The course will cover such topics as home and family; marriage love and intimacy; positive thinking; joy and satisfaction; work and wealth; pain and anxiety; and religion and faith. The series will run twice

during the week, from 7:30-9 p.m. Wednesday and 10:30 a.m.-noon Sunday. Sessions will be held at the Providence Park Campus, Novi Orthopedic Center Building Conference Room, Main Floor 26750 Providence Pkwy. in Novi. "The objective of this course is to teach and empower individuals of all backgrounds with new life skills based on traditional Kabballah thought, thereby enabling them to transform the way they view their daily lives," stated Rabbi Avrohom Susskind of the

Novi Jewish Center. "The course offers an antidote to the monotony and grind of unchanging routines." Each lesson will conclude with a toolbox of exercises and guidelines to help participants make full use of the ideas and strategies that will be discussed. "Day after day, life can be a treadmill as we go through the motions without asking why or seeking what really matters to us," said Susskind. "This course offers recipes, tips, and techniques for not only discovering where your true meaning

lies, but in actually making it a part of your daily existence. These sessions will help you see life as the mysterious, challenging, and satisfying wonder that it really is." Toward a Meaningful Life is designed to appeal to people at all levels of knowledge, including those without any prior experience or background in Kabbalahistic thought. The course is open to the public, and attendees need not be affiliated with the center. Course fee is \$65. Register by calling (248) 790-6075 or visit www.novijewishcenter.com.

RELIGION CALENDAR

Send calendar items to Sharon Dargay at sdargay@hometownlife.com. Feel free to include relevant photos as attached jpgs. Or mail items to Sharon Dargay, The Observer, 615 Lafayette, level 2, Detroit, MI 48226.

Contact: comcentials@aol.com

Revival

Time/Date: 7-9 p.m. Feb. 9-12 and 9:30 a.m. Sunday, Feb. 13
Location: Clarenceville United Methodist Church, 20300 Middlebelt, near Eight Mile, Livonia
Details: Spirit Explosion: A Time of Revival will feature the Rev. Dr. Bernadine Wormley Daniels and pastor Matthew Denney. Nursery care will be provided nightly and programs for children Pre-K through 5th grade will be held. Daniels will hold a workshop 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 10, called "Hearing the Voice of God." The cost for the workshop is \$8 and includes lunch. Registration is required. On Friday and Saturday, youth in grades 6-12 will gather for meetings with bands and speakers.

Contact: For information or to register for the workshop call (248) 474-3444 or e-mail to clarencvilleumc@att.net.

Veteran's retreat

Time/Date: 5:45-9 p.m., Feb. 10 or April 6
Location: St. Paul of the Cross Retreat Center, 23333 Schoolcraft, between Telegraph and Outer Drive, Detroit
Details: An evening of reflection for veterans and their families will include dinner, prayer and conversation. Child care will be provided. \$5 for individuals and \$10 for families

Contact: RSVP to the Dominican Center for Religious Development, (313) 387-9574 or e-mail to info@dominicancenter.org

FEB. 18-24

Healing service

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 19
Location: Congregation Beth Ahm, 5075 Maple, West Bloomfield
Details: Service in memory of the late Debbie Friedman, a composer of contemporary Jewish liturgy and songs. Her music was groundbreaking in combining Hebrew and English lyrics set to Biblical texts, and many of her compositions are now standard features of worship services in the Reform, Reconstructionist, Conservative, and Renewal congregations and synagogues throughout the world
Contact: RSVP to Nancy Kaplan at (248) 737-1931 or e-mail nancyellen879@att.net

FEB. 10-17

Bible study

Time/Date: Beginning 7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 15 and continuing the first and third Tuesday of the month through June
Location: St. Michael the Archangel, 11441 Hubbard, Livonia
Details: Gary Michuta will begin a new study, St. Paul's Letter to the Galatians. The class is open to all regardless of religious denomination.

Contact: (734) 261-1455, Ext. 200, or visit www.livoniastmichael.org

Blood drive

Time/Date: 1:30-7:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 11
Location: Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 37775 Palmer, Livonia

Details: Blood drive walk-ins are welcome, but appointments also accepted

Contact: (734) 722-1735 for an appointment

Concert

Time/Date: 4 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 13
Location: St. John Lutheran Church, located on Gill Road, between Grand River Ave. and Freedom Road in Farmington Hills

Details: Trio Fiori performs. A free will offering will be taken. Refreshments will be served during intermission

Contact: (248) 474-0584

Concert

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 13
Location: Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 7575 Hix, Westland

Details: Michigan Concert Choir presents the musical story of Job; free admission

Ecumenical service on tap Feb. 13

The Rev. Marsha Foster Boyd, president and professor of pastoral care and counseling at the Ecumenical Theological Seminary in Detroit, will address an annual interfaith worship service sponsored by the Western Wayne County Ministerial Alliance.

The All Faiths Unity Worship Service, open to Muslims, Jews, Christians and advocates of unity, starts at 5 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 13, at New Hope Church, 33640 Michigan Ave., Wayne. The theme is "Strength to Love," which also was the title of a 1963 book of sermons by Dr. Martin Luther King. "We live in a climate where too often social, political and religious division and hostility is the norm — across our nation, and in Wayne County, as we've seen again recently in Dearborn. This service will bring people together, in the spirit of Dr. King," stated Dr. Virgil Humes, pastor of New Hope Ministerial Alliance service.

An interfaith choir also will sing. For more information call the church at (734) 728-2180.

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DORIS MAE (MONTGOMERY) JACKSON
Farmington and Livonia. Born April 2, 1922, in Highland Park; died February 8, 2011, at the age of 88. Doris enjoyed the outdoors, swimming, biking, hiking and ice-skating, and loved spending time with friends and family. She was preceded in death by her husband, Roy Tomas Jackson, and brother, Harold Montgomery. Surviving are her children, Joan (Rich) Chevalley, George (Diane) Jackson, Jane (Larry) Schwentor, Jean Jackson and James (Diane) Jackson; 11 grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren; and sister, Ruth Papsi-Ramsay. Funeral services will be held Friday, February 11, at noon at the Gorsline-Runciman Funeral Homes, 205 E. Middle St., Williamston. Graveside services will be held Friday at 2:45 p.m. in Acacia Park, Beverly Hills. The family will receive friends at the funeral home on Friday 1-hour prior to the service. Those desiring may make contributions to the Cleveland Clinic Lou Ruvo Center for Brain Health, P.O. Box 931517, Cleveland, OH, 44101, in memory of Doris Jackson. Online condolences may be sent to gorslineruncimanwilliamston.com



BARBARA JEAN MCDUGALI
February 2, 2011 Age 74 of Northville. Beloved wife of the late Daniel W. McDougall. Dear mother of Karen (Dennis) Faletti, Katherine (Nicholas) Deluca, Gordon and Eric. Loving sister of Charles B. (Louise) Bernard, Patrick Bernard and Shirley (Al) Deluca. Grandmother of seven. Service at the Uht Funeral Home, 35400 Glenwood Rd., Westland, Monday 1 pm. Family will receive visitors Monday at the funeral home from 11 am until time of service. Cremation rites were accorded. Please view memorial and send tributes at: www.uhtfh.com.



EDWARD A. SOLEAU
Age 68, of Plymouth, February 4, 2011. Beloved husband of Linda. Loving father of Annette C. Haarala and Brian E. Soleau. Proud grandfather of twins Derek R. and Brandon E. Haarala. Dear brother of Ronald (Barb) and Marvin (Christine) Soleau. Preceded in death by his parents Benjamin J. and Gertrude L. Soleau and his brother Glen R. Soleau. Owner of the Plymouth Carpet Service and a member of Plymouth Knights of Columbus. Visitation Wednesday 1-9 PM, with a prayer service at 7 PM by the Knights of Columbus, at Vermeulen Funeral Home, 46401 W. Ann Arbor Rd (btwn Sheldon & Beck) Plymouth. Funeral service Thursday 1 PM at the funeral home. Interment at Riverside Cemetery, Plymouth. Memorial contributions may be made to Out of the Darkness (www.outofthedarkness.org). American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, 120 Wall Street, 22nd Floor, New York, NY 10005 or to the Alliance for the Great Lakes (www.greatlakes.org), 17 N. State St., Suite 1390, Chicago, IL 60602. To leave a message of condolence or share a memory with the family, please visit: vermeulenfuneralhome.com.

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For Information regarding this Directory, please call Donna Hart at 248-437-2011, Ext. 247 or e-mail: dhart@dnps.com

ENTERTAINMENT

Thursday, February 10, 2011

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Contact Editor Sharon Dargay

Voice Mail: (313) 222-8883

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Comment online at hometownlife.com

Ladies, start your brushes

Artists will race to finish their canvases at Canton fund-raiser

BY SHARON DARGAY
O&E STAFF WRITER

Sharon Dillenbeck says she is known as the "fastest" brush in the west.

But even a professional artist with 30 years experience behind the easel, like Dillenbeck, needs more than a few minutes to create a masterpiece.

She and two other artists, Janisse Lahti Larsson and Marilyn Meredith, will get about 90 minutes to work on their canvases before taking the stage for a five-minute "Paint Off!" Saturday, Feb. 12 at the Village Theater in Canton.

"I'm not painting it totally on stage. There would be no way for us to do any of that," said Dillenbeck, the owner of D&M Art Studio in Canton. "We're doing some pre-painting."

The Paint Off! is a part of Village Theater's love-themed fund-raiser, "All You Need Is Love." It will include hors d'oeuvres, desserts, a silent auction and five-minute performances by several music and drama groups in the community. The Paint Off! will give visual artists a chance to shine alongside the performing groups.

Dillenbeck will represent her art studio; Larsson will paint on behalf of the Partnership for Arts and Humanities; and Meredith will make the Three Cities Art Club proud.

Jill Engel, the Partnership's executive director, will emcee the Paint Off!, getting the audience involved in the excitement and asking ticket-holders to vote on the best of the three 30- by 40-inch canvases.

"It needed to be something exciting for our act," Engel said. "Each of the three is going to start their painting during the welcome reception, but complete it on stage. All three paintings have to do with love."



Photographer Allen Brooks of Livonia, a member of Three Cities Art Club, took this Norman Rockwell-like image, which Canton artist Sharon Dillenbeck will use as a basis for her painting during the Paint Off! Saturday, Feb. 12 at the Village Theater. That's Sean Ryan and Brooks' daughter, Gaby, in the photo.

ON VIEW

All of the artists are experienced in creating art for an audience, although Larsson has taken the fine art entertainment concept to a new level. She offers a service, called "Paint the Night" and regularly works at weddings and other events. For a fee she sets up her easel, table and chair and finishes a painting of the subject's choice. She'll create a rose in acrylics during the Paint Off!

Dillenbeck, inspired by a Norman Rockwell exhibit she saw in Brooklyn, N.Y., asked photographer Allen Brooks, a member of Three Cities Art Club in Canton to produce a valentine image for her.

"He set up a girl and a little boy handing a valentine to her and produced this fabulous piece that I am literally painting from, just like Norman Rockwell would have done," Dillenbeck said.

She plans to wear a costume — long, white painter's smock and beret — while working on the Village Theater stage.

"We're kind of the home of performance art," she added, describing D&M Art Studio. "We do the chalk art in downtown Plymouth and Canton and we have painted live people into art. We like a challenge."

NEW CHALLENGE

Meredith, who is president of the Three Cities Art Club, will paint John Lennon's portrait in his "Sgt. Pepper" attire.

Creating art on stage and within a time limit is new to Meredith, who paints outdoors with other Three Cities members at summer concerts in Canton.

"During Relay for Life we paint pillars. We take master works of art and transpose



Cathy Vettese of Three Cities Art Club paints outdoors during the 2010 Relay for Life in Canton. Club members are used to painting in front of an audience at both the Relay and at summer concerts in the park. Marilyn Meredith will represent the club when she completes a canvass on stage Feb. 12 at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill.

it onto this four-sided pillar. That happens in front of the crowds that go by," she noted. "This (Paint Off!) is something brand new."

Dillenbeck is the only painter working in

ALL YOU NEED IS LOVE

What: A love-themed sampling of cultural arts in Canton

When: 6:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 12

Where: Village Theater at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill, Canton

What: A fund-raiser for the theater, "All You Need Is Love" will include hors d'oeuvres, body art, face painting and art demonstrations on three easels, spiked and non-alcoholic versions of love potion punch, silent auction and brief performances by Canton Concert Band, The Comic Opera Guild, D&M Art Studio, Forever After Productions, Plymouth Canton Symphony Orchestra, Beckridge Chorale's Village Voices, Spotlight Players, and Village Theater Ushers. Paint Off! will feature three painters finishing love-themed paintings on stage. An afterglow will include desserts presented by the theater's ushers. Tickets are \$25 for adults and \$10 for those 18 and under

Contact: www.cantonvillagetheater.org or (734) 394-5460

oils, which take longer to dry than acrylic paints. She isn't worried about the result.

"If it doesn't turn out 100 percent, that's okay. If you make a mistake, all you need is love."



John Latini performs in the sixth annual The Un-Valentine Show, Friday, Feb. 11 at Trinity House Theatre, Livonia.

Singers deliver twisted, funny 'un-valentines' in Livonia

"The Un-Valentine's Show; Songs And Tales Of Unforgiveness, Heartbreak, Dysfunction And Revenge" reveals the funny and twisted unhappy side of love at 8 p.m., Friday, Feb. 11, at Trinity House Theatre in Livonia.

John Latini, Dave Boutette, Jamie-Sue Seal and Andre Villoch will perform.

Latini is the winner of the 2008 and 2009 Detroit Blues Challenge. He's a singer/songwriter, musician, and a consummate Barnum & Bailey-style entertainer, as well as a musical chameleon. Whether he's singing one of the old jazz standards, leading a folksy sing-along, belting out the blues, or quoting from the classic rock catalog, his unique style makes every song his own. His delivery can be packed with emotion, mischievous or silly, but it is always heartfelt.

Boutette's Midwest is full of passion, humor and grace. Influenced by songwriters that span from Chuck Berry to Paul Westerberg, he documents the trips and triumphs of life between the coasts. Before stepping out on his own, Boutette spent ten years with the Detroit-based The Junk Monkeys. The band toured the nation relentlessly, supporting acts such as the Goo Goo Dolls and Hootie and the Blowfish, while recording under the Warner Bros./Metal Blade

label from 1990-93. Boutette's latest CD is called *The Piccolo Heart*.

Villoch has performed in Michigan and Indiana as a musician, actor, and comedian for years. While studying at Ball State University he worked as a writer, actor, director, and troupe musician in the university's comedy troupe Absolunacy, where he was voted Member of the Year in 1997. After Absolunacy, he went on to work with the professional comedy troupes Charlemagne and the Concrete Ballet and The Collective as the primary musical force for each. After leaving Ball State Villoch moved to northern Michigan to join some of his favorite folk and rock acts in a lively and intimate music scene.

Seal has played American roots rock for more than five years. Her albums (with the Radio Town Flyers), *Fly Away*, and *Free*, received airplay on close to 100 Americana and roots programs across the nation, as well as medium and heavy rotation on small market commercial country stations.

All four musicians will perform songs that are humorous and focus on love's downside.

Admission is \$15 for non-members and \$12 for members. The Trinity House Theatre is located at 38840 W. Six Mile; (734) 464-6302.

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Comedy Held Hostage is Jarred Kreger (left), Ch'llian Thomas and Susan Coletti. The standup comedians will perform Friday-Saturday, Feb. 11-12, at Riverside Theatre in Ypsilanti.

Stand-up comedy trio films documentary

BY SHARON DARGAY
O&E STAFF WRITER

Heckle Comedy Held Hostage and you might end up becoming the stand-up comedy troupe's punch line.

"At the end of the show we tease the audience. It's one thing that sets us apart," said Jarred Kreger of Westland, explaining how he, Ch'llian Thomas of Detroit and Susan Coletti of Harrison Township use improvised heckling to turn the table on the audience at the end of their shows.

They'll perform at 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Feb. 11-12 at Riverside Arts Center, 76 N. Huron, Ypsilanti. Tickets are \$10, available in advance by calling (734) 612-4332.

The stand-up comedians joined forces a year and a half ago, maintaining their individual routines, but performing as a group under the Comedy Held Hostage title.

"We've done every comedy club in Michigan and sold out every show," Kreger said. "Now that they know us, we can come in and they know they can't restrict us. They know we'll give a good show. It's nice to have that bit of reputation."

They took on the Comedy

Held Hostage title as a response to the restrictions and rules comedians face at some performance venues. It also signals their intent to resist unreasonable club requirements, such as dress codes or prohibitions on subject matter.

"The audience doesn't know it, but comedy club owners sometimes give comics rules. We want to be 100 percent honest and truthful about what we put out there," Coletti said.

COMEDY DVD

They've filmed their experiences both at the microphone and behind the stage while touring clubs throughout the Midwest. They'll wrap up the film project at their shows this weekend in Ypsilanti. They plan to enter the documentary into festivals and hope it will offer some leverage in landing a national college tour.

"When you become a stand-up, there's a hierarchy at the clubs from open mic to emcee, feature and headliner. It could take years to go from one level to the next," Coletti said, adding that beyond the clubs, gigs may include colleges, casinos, theater, television and uni-

mately, film.

"We want to bypass the comedy club scene and have a national college tour."

DIFFERENT STYLES

Coletti, who describes herself as "Queen Latifah meets Lucille Ball," and Thomas met seven years ago in a stand-up comedy class at Mark Ridley's Comedy Castle in Royal Oak.

"Jarred talks more about his life and his comedy is physical, too. Ch'llian has a dry sense of humor, but at the same time is clever, with a funny twist," she said.

Kreger, the seventh of nine children in a "big Irish Catholic" family, pokes fun at himself and his upbringing, which included paying his way through Divine Child High School.

He started doing stand-up comedy two years ago after a friend suggested he give it a try.

"My first show was at a theater in Farmington. My second was in the U of M Dearborn cafeteria with Hal Sparks. I got lucky performing with some (big) names," he said.

Kreger honed his material at open mic nights and won a competition at Joey's Comedy Club before joining Comedy Held Hostage.

"I spent a while not knowing what I wanted to do. I've fallen into something that I really love."

ART

City Gallery

Time/Date: Through Feb. 23
Location: At the Costick Center, 28600 W. 11 Mile, Farmington Hills
Details: Nature photography by artist Cassandra Medley
Contact: (248) 473-1856

Northville Art House

Time/Date: Through Feb. 19; gallery hours are 1-5 p.m. Wednesday-Saturday.
Location: 215 W. Cady in downtown Northville
Details: 5th Annual Member Exhibition will showcase styles and mediums of more than 50 artist members
Contact: (248) 344-0497

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

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: Tony Woods, through Feb. 12; Louis Katz, Feb. 16-19; Shane Moss, Feb. 23-26;
Contact: (734) 261-0555, www.kickerscomplex.com

Mark Ridley's Comedy Castle

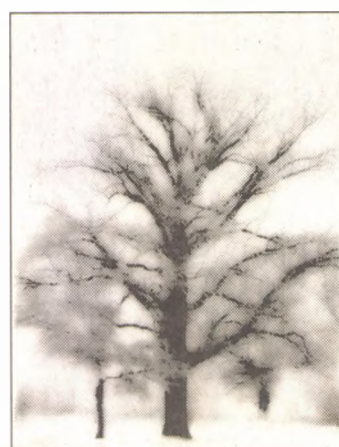
Time/Date: Jeff Caldwell, Feb. 10-12; Rachel Feinstein, Feb. 17-19; Ian Bagg, Feb. 24-26
Location: 269 E. Fourth, Royal Oak
Special show: 7-10 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 10 with "clean comic," Jeff Caldwell. The evening benefits Friendship House and Camp Lael and includes a silent auction. Admission is \$30
Contact: (248) 542-9900, www.comedycastle.com

CONCERTS

The Ark

Time/Date: The Battlefield Band, Feb. 10; The Kruger Brothers, Feb. 11; Mustard's Retreat, Feb. 12; My Folky Valentine with Annie and Rod Capps

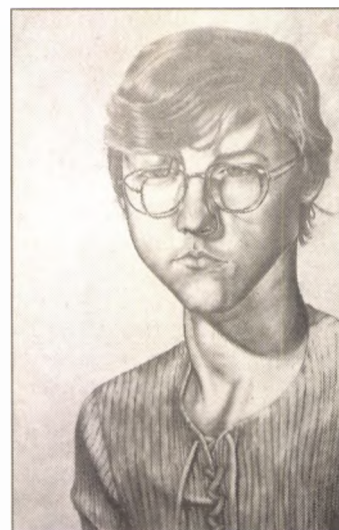
GET OUT!



"Lochaven Winter" by Cassandra Medley. Her nature photography is on exhibit at the City Gallery in Farmington Hills.



Vanessa Sawson is Celimene and Andrew Papa is Alceste in the Hilberly Theatre company production of "The Misanthrope."



"Mark," graphite on pencil, by Mary Williams of Westland, is on display at Northville Art House.

and more, Feb. 13; Genticorum, Feb. 15; Buckwheat Zydeco, Feb. 16; The Good Lovelies, Feb. 18; Cheryl Wheeler, Feb. 20; Bobby Long, Feb. 21; Open Stage, Feb. 23; The Asylum Street Spankers, Feb. 24; BreakFest, Feb. 25; Susan Werner, Feb. 26; The Jeremy Kittel Band, Feb. 27; Studebaker John & the Hawks, Feb. 28

Location: 316 South Main, Ann Arbor

Contact: (734) 763-8587; www.theark.org

Baseline Folk Society

Time/Date: Third Saturday of the month
Location: The JWH Center for the Arts, Plymouth Community Arts Council, 774 N. Sheldon, Plymouth
Details: Eight "Open-Mic" performances plus a featured group perform. Sign up for open mic from 6:15-6:45 p.m.; show starts at 7 p.m. Individual membership is \$25 and includes monthly concerts from September through May. Otherwise, admission to each concert is \$5 at the door. Family memberships are \$50 and include monthly concerts
Contact: (248) 719-3464 or mjimmullen@yahoo.com

Jazz @ The Elks

Time/Date: 7-10:30 p.m., every fourth Tuesday
Location: Plymouth Elks Lodge #1780 at 41700 Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth
Details: Jazz musicians perform; no cover, but donations accepted. The show on Feb. 22 features the George (Sax) Benson Quartet with George Benson on sax, Tom Brown on drums, Dan Pliskow on bass, and Cliff Monear on keyboard. Complimentary hors d'oeuvres
Contact: (734) 453-1780 www.PlymouthElks1780.com

Music Hall

Time/Date: 8 p.m., Thursday-Friday, Feb. 10-11
Location: 350 Madison, Detroit
Details: "Drumline Live," tickets \$30, \$40, \$50
Contact: (313) 887-8500

Seligman Performing Arts Center

Time/Date: 8 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 12
Location: Located on the campus of Detroit Country Day School at 22305 West 13 Mile, Beverly Hills
Details: Orion String Quartet and Windscape perform Bach's "The Art of the Fugue" as a part of the Chamber Music Society of Detroit series. Tickets are \$43-75; \$25 for students
Contact: (248) 855-6070; www.ComeHearCMSD.org

Schoolcraft College

Time/Date: 8 p.m. Friday, Feb. 25
Location: The Presentation Room at the VisTaTech Center on campus, located at 18600 Haggerty, Livonia
Details: Yehonatan Berick on violin and Pauline Martin on piano; \$20 general admission, \$10 for students. Get tickets online at www.scbxoffice.com; in person at the Schoolcraft College Bookstore, 8:30 a.m.-7 p.m. Monday-Thursday and 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Friday; and by call-

ing (734) 462-4409
Contact: (734) 462-4403

Trinity House Theatre

Time/Date: Unvalentine Show with Jamie Sue Seal, Dave Boutette, John Latini and Andrew Viloch, Feb. 11; Nervous But Excited with The Marvins, Feb. 12; Drew Nelson, Feb. 18; Michael Smith, Feb. 19; Blue Water Ramblers, Feb. 26; The Waymores, March 4
Location: 38840 W. Six Mile, Livonia
Contact: (734) 464-6302, www.trinityhouse.org

Village Theater at Cherry Hill

Time/Date: 6:30 p.m. welcome reception, 8 p.m. love themed variety show, 9:15 p.m. dessert reception, Saturday, Feb. 12
Location: 50400 Cherry Hill, Canton
Details: "All You Need Is Love," a gala to benefit the theater, will include the Plymouth Canton Symphony Orchestra, Spotlight Players, Village Theater Ushers, Comic Opera Guild, Canton Concert Band, Forever After Productions, D & M Art Studio, Three Cities Art Club, The Partnership for the Arts and Humanities and BeckRidge Chorale's Village Voices. Tickets are \$25 for adults and \$10 for age 18 and under
Contact: www.cantonvillage-theater.org or (734) 394-5300

Woodward Corridor Musicians

Time/Date: 3 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 6
Location: Congregational Church of Birmingham, 1000 Cranbrook, Bloomfield Hills
Details: Chamber music concert titled "Introvert...Extrovert." Tickets are \$10 for adults; students K-12 are free. Tickets are available at the door.
Contact: (248) 546-5818 or LFDean@aol.com.

DANCE

Polka Booster Club of America

Time/Date: Doors open 1 p.m., dancing from 2-6 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 20
Location: Msgr. Hunt K of C Hall, 7080 Garling Dr., Dearborn Heights
Details: Freddie Zwisch and his International Sound Machine and Band; admission is \$13 and includes wine, beer and pop. Snacks are allowed but no BYOB. Tickets available at the door or in advance
Contact: Terry at (734) 422-1901 or Joanna at (313) 561-8389

FAMILY

Bakers Keyboard Lounge

Time/Dates: 2-5 p.m. Sundays
Details: Jazz for Kids Program
Location: 20510 Livernois Ave., Detroit
Contact: (313) 345-6300, www.bakerskeyboardlounge.com

Detroit Institute of Arts

Time/Dates: 2 p.m. Sundays
Details: Target Family Sundays, storytelling, performances, free with admission
Location: 5200 Woodward, Detroit
Contact: (313) 833-7900, www.dia.org

Detroit Zoo

Time/Date: 10 a.m.-4 p.m. daily
Location: I-696 service drive and Woodward, Royal Oak
Details: Admission is \$11 for adults 15 to 61, \$9 for senior citizens 62 and older, and \$7 for children ages 2 to 14; children under 2 are free
Contact: (248) 541-5717

Music Hall

Time/Date: 4 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 13
Location: 350 Madison Ave., Detroit
Details: Black Violin consists of Kev Marcus and Wil b, two classically-trained musicians, who along with their DJ, TK, create a mix of classical and hip hop music for kids. Tickets are \$10 for children, \$20 for adults. Get tickets from ticketmaster.com or the Music Hall box office

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FOOD

Thursday, February 10, 2011

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HAVE A STORY IDEA?

Contact Editor Sharon Dargay

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Comment online at hometownlife.com

Tasty ways to ♥ your heart



Valentine's Day naturally brings thoughts of hearts, flowers, sweetness and love. But did you know that it also falls during American Heart Month? A perfect time to start taking care of your heart and the hearts of the ones you love.

You might think that a heart-healthy diet is boring or flavorless. Actually, eating for your heart can add a lot of flavor, and some of it may come from surprising sources — such as watermelon.

Eating watermelon can help maintain cardiovascular health. That's because the amino acid called citrulline in watermelon increases free arginine which helps maintain blood flow, the arteries, and overall cardiovascular function.

To get more scrumptious recipes like these, and to learn more about the heart benefits of watermelon, visit www.watermelon.org.



Watermelon Oat Crumble



Grilled Scallops and Watermelon Mini Kebabs

Use heart-shaped and circular cookie cutters to shape a variety of watermelon treats.

WATERMELON OAT CRUMBLE

Serves 6 to 8

- 2 cups rolled or quick cook oats
- ½ cup light brown sugar
- ¼ cup honey
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1 cup chopped pecans
- 6 cups watermelon balls

Toss the oats, sugar, honey, cinnamon and pecans until mixed well. Spread into an even layer on a parchment paper-lined cookie sheet. Bake in pre-heated 300°F oven until golden brown. Turn off oven leaving the tray in for an additional 10 to 15 minutes. Remove and cool. Break into crumbles. Arrange the watermelon balls in 6 to 8 small bowls or wide stemmed glasses and top with the oat crumble.

WATERMELON S'MORES

Serves 4

- 1 cup graham cracker crumbs
- ½ cup melted dark chocolate chips
- 4 2 x 4 x 1-inch-thick rectangles of seedless watermelon
- 1 cup mini marshmallows

Sprinkle the graham cracker crumbs over the center of 4 plates. Drizzle ¼ of the dark chocolate over the crumbs. Place a watermelon rectangle over the crumbs and chocolate on each plate. Drizzle ¼ of the dark chocolate over the watermelon. Sprinkle the marshmallows over the watermelon and drizzle the remaining chocolate over the marshmallows.

GRILLED SCALLOPS AND WATERMELON MINI KEBABS

- 12 sea scallops
- 4 cups boiling vegetable or chicken broth
- 24 1 x 1-inch watermelon cubes
- ¼ cup soy sauce
- 1 tablespoon sesame oil
- 1 tablespoon minced garlic
- 1 tablespoon fresh minced ginger

Cut the scallops into halves across the diameter to create half-moon shapes. Place them in a heatproof casserole dish in a single layer. Pour the boiling clear broth over the scallops and let them poach for 5 minutes. Drain and cool the scallops. On each skewer alternate 1 half-moon scallop, then 2 watermelon cubes, then another half-moon scallop. Mix together the soy sauce, sesame oil, garlic and ginger and brush the kebabs as they are grilled over a medium hot grill for about 90 seconds per side turning once. Serve warm. Serves 12 as an appetizer.

— Courtesy Family Features



Watermelon S'mores

HEART-HEALTHY EATING PLAN

The DASH eating plan (Dietary Approaches to Stop Hypertension) is a highly recommended diet that has been proven to lower blood pressure. It's been endorsed by:

- The National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (one of the National Institutes of Health, of the US Department of Health and Human Services)
- The American Heart Association
- The Dietary Guidelines for Americans
- US guidelines for treatment of high blood pressure

And new research has shown that following the DASH diet over time will reduce the risk of stroke and heart disease, as well as kidney stones. The benefits of the DASH diet have also been seen in teens with hypertension.

Learn more at www.dashdiet.org.



Watermelon season is roughly May through October. But you can enjoy delicious imported watermelon all year round.

REAL ESTATE

PAGE B8 (*) Thursday, February 10, 2011

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CLASSIFIED DEADLINES:
SUNDAY EDITION, 4:30 P.M. FRIDAY
THURSDAY EDITION, 4:30 P.M. TUESDAYJulie Brown, editor, (313) 222-6755
jcbrown@hometownlife.com

Realtor survey gives nod to home ownership

A substantial majority of both homeowners and current renters agree that owning a home is a smart decision over the long term. That's according to the results of a National Association of Realtors survey of 3,793 adults conducted online by Harris Interactive.

The American Attitudes About Homeownership survey found that in today's challenging economy, 95 percent of owners and 72 percent of renters believe that over a period of several years, it makes more sense to own a home. In addition, an overwhelming majority of homeowners are happy with their decision to own a home — 93 percent of owners surveyed would buy again.

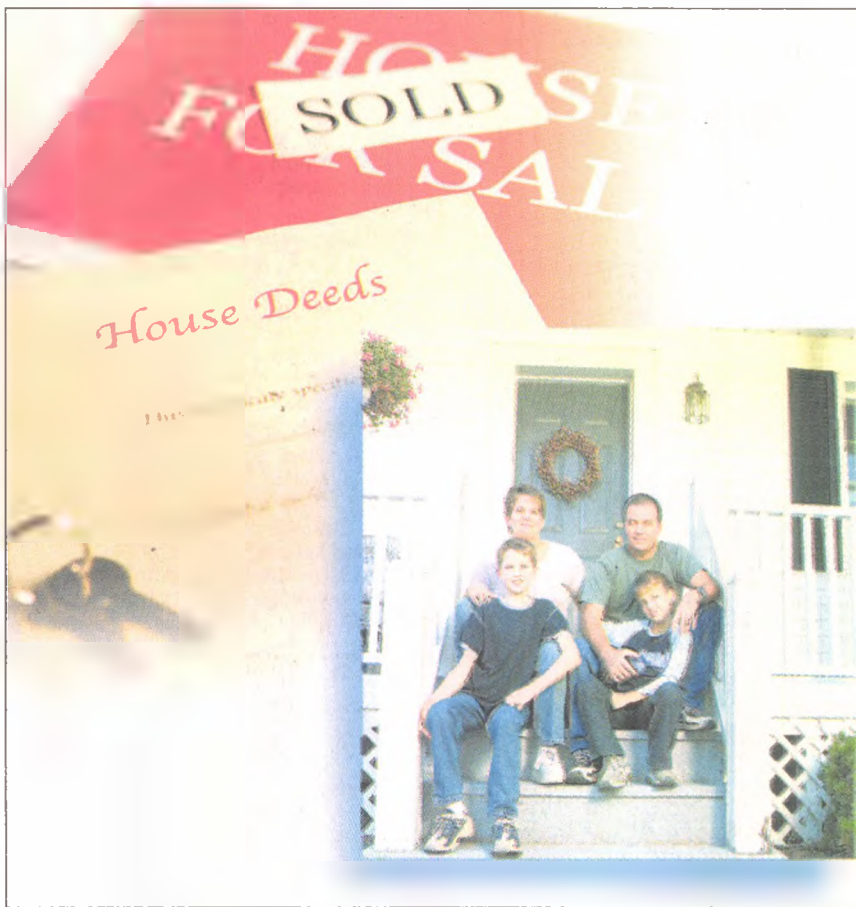
"Of course it's true locally. Nothing takes the place of home ownership," said Gary J. Reggish, broker/owner of Remerica United Realty of Novi and immediate past president of the Western Wayne Oakland County Association of Realtors. Interest rates are low, said Livonia resident Reggish, and many renters want to buy.

"You can buy houses today, nice houses, and have your payments lower than renters are paying in rent," Reggish said. Homeowners also enjoy the mortgage interest deduction, and can deduct property taxes as well.

"There are incredible bargains," he said of current housing inventory in the metro area, "in all price ranges." "Interest rates have dropped dramatically." A loan can be obtained for 30-year fixed in the 4 percent range, with significant savings over the life of the loan, he said.

Both professionally and personally, Reggish sees less tangible benefits to owning.

"Once thing that renting can never take the place of is the sense of community," he said. You don't get that in an apartment complex, he said, where residents are more transient. "You just don't have the sense of camaraderie."



There's less community input, he said, without homeowners associations and involvement even at the state level.

"There's nothing better than being able to go home and say 'This is mine.' You have choices," Reggish said.

"Homeowners and renters agree that home ownership benefits individuals and families, strengthens our communities, and is integral to our nation's economy," said National Association of Realtors President Ron Phipps, broker-president of Phipps Realty in Warwick, R.I. "The results of this survey illustrate just how important issues related to home ownership are to people in this country."

The survey uncovered some differences between homeowners and renters, as well. While more than half of owners are "very" or "extremely" satisfied with the overall quality of their family life, only one-third of renters report the same levels of satisfaction. Similarly, 43 percent of homeowners are very/extremely satisfied with their community life, compared with 30 percent of renters.

A majority of renters — 63 percent — said that it was at least somewhat likely that they would purchase a home at some point in the future. Among this group, young adults (18-29 years old) have the strongest aspirations for home ownership; only 8 percent of

young adults said that it was "not at all likely" that they would purchase a home at some point in the future.

In today's market, many aspiring homeowners are faced with worries about job security and creditworthiness. Among renters who are very or extremely likely to buy a home in the future, three out of five consider confidence in job security and creditworthiness to be an obstacle.

One point of agreement between renters and homeowners was support of the mortgage interest deduction (MID). Seventy-four percent of owners and 62 percent of renters say it's "extremely" or "very" important that the MID remain in place.

"At a time when the middle class is under increasing economic pressures, both homeowners and renters agree that the mortgage interest deduction should not be targeted for change," said Phipps. "Given strong public support of and aspirations toward owning a home, we need to keep policies in place that support and encourage responsible, sustainable home ownership for our future."

This survey was conducted online within the U.S. and fielded Oct. 6-20, 2010. A total of 3,793 adults, 18 and older were surveyed, including 1,880 homeowners, 1,115 renters, and 798 young adults. All samples came from the Harris Poll online database and were weighted for age, sex, race/ethnicity, education, region and household income to be representative of the U.S. general population of adults 18 and older.

Propensity score weighting was also used to adjust for respondents' propensity to be online. Results are available online at www.realtor.org/statsanddata/homeownership/attitudes_homeown.

—Staff writer Julie Brown contributed to this report.

Good to update documents regularly

Q: Our documents are 27 years old and our board refuses to fix them. Can I force my association's board to take action?

A: Point out that there are a number of reasons why the documents should be revisited by the association members including the need to get FHA certification, major changes in the Condominium Act over the

last 10 to 15 years, as well as the change in societal attitudes as they relate to parking recreational vehicles and the like.

Also point out to the extent possible that when the Documents are outdated, it minimizes the marketability of the condominium project as a whole, and, that the board may well have a fiduciary responsibility to seek competent legal counsel to correct and update the condominium documents to keep in the sale of homes.

Q: Our attorney brags about the hundreds of condominium associations that he represents and when I call him on the telephone, I cannot get an answer. Is there a minimum number of attorneys that should be available to assist condominium associations when the attorney represents in the hundreds?

A: That is a difficult question because some associations may require more work than others. Generally speaking, an attorney who brags about the number of community associations he or she represents should also be willing to advise the client that his firm has adequate personnel to assist in the representation, competently and efficiently, of those associations. If you are not getting the service from your attorney that you deserve, look for someone else.

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. Call (248) 644-4433 or visit bmeisner@meisner-associates.com. This column shouldn't be construed as legal advice.

HOMES SOLD-WAYNE

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of October 25-29, 2010, at the Wayne County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

Canton	
46689 Aarons Way.	\$165,000
1405 Aziz Dr	\$240,000
40477 Bay Harbor Ln	\$60,000
6046 Beaufort Dr	\$133,000
47925 Candace Ln	\$282,000
47913 Cardiff Ave	\$80,000
48902 Castleford Dr	\$60,000
49158 Castleford Dr	\$351,000
8532 Chatham Dr	\$465,000
39775 Chevot Dr	\$123,000
42183 Fairview Dr	\$114,000
39961 Finley Dr	\$160,000
1029 Foothill Rd	\$182,000
47610 Ford Rd	\$100,000
3092 Greenwich Ct	\$242,000
48492 Ivybridge Ct	\$370,000
49335 Lincolnshire Ct	\$340,000

6007 Lovewood Ct	\$397,000
723 Merrimac Rd	\$133,000
45518 Muirfield Dr	\$290,000
6100 N Ridge Rd	\$210,000
1902 Paddock Ln	\$157,000
42294 Saratoga Cir	\$110,000
1701 Thistle Dr	\$165,000
7049 Union Valley Cir	\$360,000
6015 Wedgewood Rd	\$155,000
44887 Weymouth Dr	\$285,000
44542 Whitman Ave	\$125,000
6330 Willow Creek Dr	\$156,000

38777 Jamison St	\$120,000
37241 Ladywood St	\$155,000
20433 Maplewood St	\$45,000
16515 Middlebelt Rd	\$49,000
35610 Minton St	\$128,000
28437 N Clements Cir	\$46,000
37576 Newburgh Park Cir	\$157,000
9210 Newburgh Rd	\$188,000
19285 Osmus St	\$112,000
30863 Roycroft St	\$125,000
20695 Sarah Rd	\$55,000
33019 W Chicago St	\$132,000
14392 Yale St	\$133,000

230 Riveroaks Dr	\$52,000
150 S Union St	\$215,000
14347 Shadywood Dr	\$145,000
45314 Stonehedge Dr	\$215,000

HOMES SOLD-OAKLAND

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of Nov. 1-5, 2010, at the Oakland County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

15526 Kirkshire Ave	\$126,000
32240 Robinhood Dr	\$360,000

2940 Acorn Rd	\$160,000
4052 Augusta Ct	\$260,000
1701 Hickory Bark Ln	\$234,000
7080 Holiday Dr	\$225,000
1560 Lakewood Ct	\$360,000
100 N Berkshire Rd	\$409,000
2395 Rutherford Rd	\$78,000
5082 Sebring Ct	\$378,000

1189 Eagle Nest Ct	\$265,000
541 Union St	\$250,000

61541 Richfield St	\$115,000
23531 Sawgrass Ct N	\$305,000
23482 Spy Glass Hi N	\$340,000
25346 Stanley Ln	\$70,000
1159 Vassar	\$112,000
896 Village Way	\$118,000
54335 Villagewood Dr	\$30,000
430 Whipple St	\$145,000
21484 Winding Creek Dr	\$265,000

Tax appeals

Kelly Sweeney, CEO of Coldwell Banker Weir Manuel, will be conducting a property tax appeal seminar Wednesday, Feb. 16, 6:30-9:30 p.m. at The Community House, 380 S. Bates in Birmingham.

Sweeney will educate homeowners on the ins and outs of the property tax appeal process.

Topics will include:
•Differentiating between State Equalized Value, Capped Value and Taxable Value
•Explanation of the uncapping process

•Breaking down the appeal process at local and state levels

•How to read and interpret property assessment notices for 2011

This is the third year the seminar has been held. R.S.V.P. to events@cbweirmanuel.com.

Career Seminar

There will be a Real Estate Career Seminar 6:30-7:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 17, at Keller Williams Realty, 40600 Ann Arbor Road, Suite 100, Plymouth. Learn about a free prelicensing course. For more

information, contact Lesley Aiello at (734) 459-4700 or laiello@kw.com.

Tax law changes

A 2011 panel of SIX CPAs will answer tax questions 5:30-9:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 10, at Club Venetian, 29310 John R, north of 12 Mile in Madison Heights. There have been changes in the tax laws, especially for businesses.

The seminar is presented by Real Estate Investors Association of Oakland. Seminar free to members, \$20 nonmembers. Call (800) 747 6742. (www.REIAofOakland.com)

investors

The Real Estate Investor Association of Wayne County holds monthly meetings the first Tuesday of each month at the Holiday Inn, 17201 Northline Road, Southgate. Entrance fee is \$20 for nonmembers to be applied to annual membership. For information, call (313) 819-0919 or visit www.reiawaynecounty.org.

Real Estate Sales and Appraising

Learn about a career in residential real estate. Attend a free one-hour seminar, or shadow a top agent to get an inside feel of the business.

Seminars are at noon or 6 p.m. Wednesdays. To reserve a spot, contact Keller Williams Realty International, at (248) 893-2500, 27555 Executive Drive, Suite 100, Farmington Hills 48331.

Seminar on Tuesdays

A free Reverse Mortgage Seminar is 6:30 p.m. every Tuesday at Colonial Mortgage Corp., 33919

Plymouth Road, Livonia. No obligation. Learn about reverse mortgages.

RSVP with Larry Brady at (800) 260-5484, Ext. 33.

Free Foreclosure Tours

Free Foreclosure Tours are 1 p.m. every other Sunday. Meeting place is Panera Bread on the south-east corner of Middlebelt and I-96.

E-mail Georgia@addvaluelorealty.com or visit FreeForeclosureTour.com.

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HOMETOWN WEEKLIES

Welcome Boys and Girls!

This month's contest features:

My pet is SPECIAL!

Share with us how special
your pet is.

Scoop's Hound Dog Highlights!

Hey kids!

Send us a picture or a
story of why your pet is
SPECIAL to YOU!

Youth ages 7 - 13 are invited to send a letter or a photo
of why your pet is special. Scoop will pick lucky winners
from entries received:

My Pet is Special Valentine Contest

Share how special your
pet is with Scoop!

Youth Name: _____

Youth Age: _____

Youth Community: _____

Parent's information to contact winning entry:
(Phone, email, home address)

Selected winners will have their name, age,
hometown, photo and entry published in the
next Scoop Hound Dog Highlights.

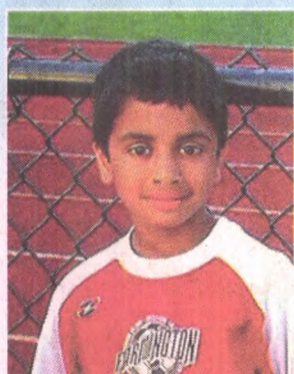
Send your entries for the
My Special Pet Contest to:

Scoop the Newshound
c/o: Michele Austin
41304 Concept Drive
Plymouth, MI 48170

Deadline for submissions: 02/28/11

Everyone who enters will receive a letter from Scoop and a small gift!

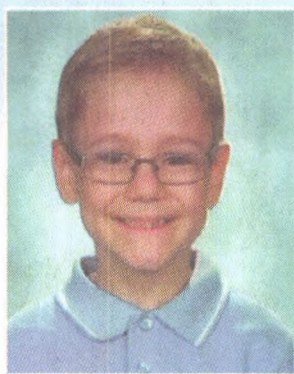
Lucky winners from last month's contest



Tejas Maire
Age: 7 1/2
Farmington Hills
1. Practice math everyday
2. Eat healthy
3. Collect box tops for school



Hanna Shurtz
Age: 10
Ferndale
1. Play my violin for senior citizens
2. Grow a big fruit and flower garden
3. Get a fish tank for guppies



Christian Charette
Age: 7
Livonia
1. Encourage kids to like school
2. Give clothes and shoes to the poor
3. Work with an animal shelter

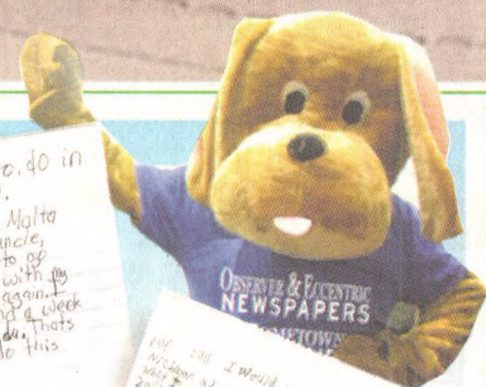


Caroline Loder
Age: 8
Livonia
1. Ride a unicycle without help
2. Play the guitar better on Guitar Hero
3. Walk more than 8 miles in the summer

What I plan to do in 2011.
For 2011 I want to go to Malta to see my grandpa, aunt, uncle, and cousins. I want to go to Michigan Adventure with my brother, sister, and my cousin. I also hope I can spend a week with my cousin in Canada. That's what I hope I can do this year.

Abigail Said
Age: 9 1/2
Westland
1. Go to Malta to see my Grandma
2. Go to Michigan Adventure
3. Spend a week with my cousin in Canada

Noah Said
Age: 12
Westland
1. Go to Malta to see my Grandma
2. Go to Michigan Adventure
3. Go to Frankenmuth



Send in your letter and photo, you may win a spot on Scoop's Hound Dog Highlight page!

Scoop, the newshound, will be offering contests on a monthly basis. Look for Scoop's Hound Dog Highlights page monthly in this newspaper!