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Dads, daughters take to the floor  
LOCAL NEWS, A8

**THURSDAY**  
February 17, 2011

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Newspapers

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**PLYMOUTH**  
**OBSERVER**  
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**PIPELINE**  
**Miracle McDonald's**  
Staffers at the Ann Arbor Road McDonald's in Plymouth and volunteers from the Miracle League of Plymouth partner 4-7 p.m. today (Thursday) to benefit the Miracle League's efforts to build a baseball field for children with special needs in Plymouth.  
The Miracle League of Plymouth is moving toward an April 29 ground-breaking for the field, which will be built behind Central Middle School in downtown Plymouth. That property is being used based on a lease agreement between the Miracle League and Plymouth-Canton Community Schools, which owns the property.  
For more information, visit the league's website at [www.miracleleagueplymouth.org](http://www.miracleleagueplymouth.org).

**Rita Rod auction**  
Following her husband's example, Rita Rodriguez is offering up items for an auction to benefit the Salvation Army.



**Salvation Army Maj. John Aren** said the new Canton thrift store will benefit from an auction of items donated by Rita Rodriguez.

The wife of former University of Michigan football coach Rich Rodriguez has donated some 170 clothing items, including new and gently used items, along with other items of memorabilia, to the Salvation Army.  
Those items will be offered up in an auction at the Salvation Army Family Store in Canton starting at 10 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 19.  
The store is located at 43403 Joy Road (at Morton Taylor) in Canton.

**Spring rake**  
The Plymouth Community United Way has scheduled the "Spring Rake-N-Go" event for April 30. Applications are now available for residents in Plymouth and Canton.  
Any residents living in Plymouth, Plymouth Township or Canton who own their own home, are elderly (over age 55) or disabled, need repairs to their yard or landscaping and are unable to do these repairs themselves, can apply for the program. The deadline for applications is March 18.  
For an application, visit the PCUW website at [www.plymouthunitedway.org](http://www.plymouthunitedway.org) or visit the office at 960 W. Ann Arbor Trail, Suite 2. For additional information, contact Krista at [kstrobel@ameritech.net](mailto:kstrobel@ameritech.net) or (734) 453-6879, ext. 6, or contact Bobbie Pummil at the Plymouth Community Council on Aging at (734) 453-1234, ext. 236.

**Township looks outside for fire deal**

BY MATT JACHMAN  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

A scant 10 months from saying goodbye to their partner in the Plymouth Community Fire Department, Plymouth Township officials are reaching out to other neighboring communities in search of fire department services.  
Township Supervisor Richard Reaume said last week he recently asked officials in both Livonia and Canton Township to study the possibility of sharing a fire department. That could

mean "everything ... from working cooperatively, jointly, to them providing our service" for a fee, Reaume said.  
**'WE HAVE TO DOWNSIZE'**  
Faced with the city of Plymouth's departure from the PCFD, shared by the two communities, township officials are looking to cut costs by restructuring the department, which will mean the loss of firefighter jobs. Plymouth officials, who are also looking for savings, have said they intend to withdraw from the 15-year-old arrangement after this year and take

the city's revenue, about \$1 million a year, with them.  
"We know we have to downsize," Reaume said. "When the city's gone there has to be a contraction." The PCFD, with 21 firefighters, an inspector and a chief, has an annual budget of about \$4 million.  
The township's approach to Livonia and Canton brought sharp criticism from Lt. Rick Tefend, president of International Association of Fire Fighters Local 1496, which represents PCFD firefighter paramedics.  
"The citizens have to realize the

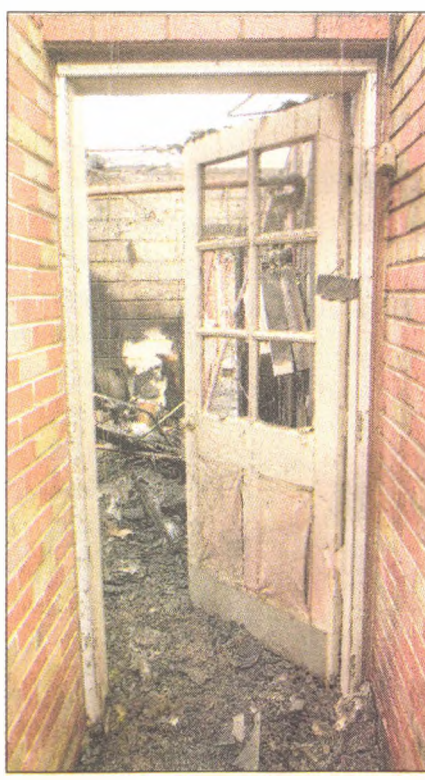
township does not have their best interests in mind when they're out doing this," Tefend said.  
**CONCESSIONS OFFERED**  
Firefighters have offered about \$300,000 in annual wage and benefit concessions, Tefend said, and could bring in \$400,000 or more annually by transporting more patients to hospitals during emergency medical runs, instead of relying on Huron Valley Ambulance.  
Please see **FIRE, A3**



Alicia Foss looks at a photograph removed from the rubble of the Park Manor apartment fire.

**Out of the ashes**

**Park Manor residents get first look at the damage**



An open, scorched door leads to devastation.

BY BRAD KADRICH  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Alicia Foss alternated dabbing her eyes with a tissue and clicking off pictures of her fire-ravaged Park Manor apartment Monday when she returned for the first time to the place she'd called home the last six months.  
Foss, displaced along with husband Don by the Thursday fire that destroyed the 1950s-style apartment complex on Plymouth Road, watched as disaster response team members pulled jewelry, dishes, pictures and other belongings from within the debris.  
While she was generally holding up well, Foss gave in to the occasional tear.  
"My whole life was in there," she said, her voice cracking under the strain. "I dreaded (coming back). I knew it was going to be bad (emotionally), but I didn't know it would be this bad. All I've been doing is crying since this happened."  
Like the other 20 or so people evacuated by first responders Thursday, Alicia and Don were awakened around 2:30 a.m. Thursday with the complex already ablaze. Uncharacteristically, it woke Don — "Usually, you can have a dogfight in his bed and he won't wake up," Alicia said — and the couple dashed out with little

BY BRAD KADRICH  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Kurt Heise understands the agreement reached last week in the running of the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department "changes the dynamic" of the department.  
But it's not enough to get Heise, the freshman state representative from Plymouth Township, to stop pushing the first bill he introduced last month.  
"I am not backing down on my bill," Heise said. "I met with House leadership (Tuesday) and let it be clear I'm moving forward with the bill. It hasn't been slowed down or delayed in any way."  
Detroit Mayor Dave Bing and county leaders finalized an agreement Friday, signed by U.S. District Judge Sean Cox, that will give suburban communities more say in running the department, including the need for a super-majority of the seven-member Board of Water Commissioners on things such as rate increases.  
Under the agreement, Bing would appoint four members to the board, while county officials (the drain commissioners in Oakland and Macomb and Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano) would recommend appoint-

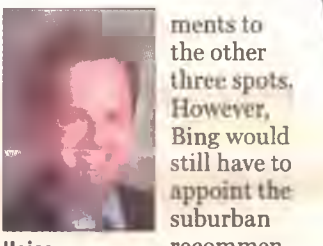
ments to the other three spots. However, Bing would still have to appoint the suburban recommendations, a fact that didn't escape Heise.  
"(Bing) appoints his own; the other three are nominated (by county officials)," Heise said. "They are not necessarily selected. I think that's significant."  
**ABOUT PERSONALITIES**  
The key to the success of this new system, according to Heise, is the independence of whomever Ficano appoints. Heise's concern is that Ficano's Wayne County appointee could simply vote with Bing's chosen representatives, undermining the suburban influence the new panel is supposed to have.  
"It's going to be significant who (Ficano) appoints," Heise said. "If he appoints a Detroit or someone who isn't aggressive, that person will be a fifth vote to go along with the four Detroiters and undermine the super majority. A super-majority sounds like a great

Please see **WATER, A3**

**Water deal won't shift Heise's focus**

BY BRAD KADRICH  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

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Heise

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Nancy Hillegonds (right) of Plymouth began a three-year board term on the board of the Canton Community Foundation. She will serve on the foundation's grants and development committees, announced President Joan Noricks (left).

# Foundation gets new board member, officers

The Canton Community Foundation has a new board member and a roster of new officers for 2011.

Nancy Hillegonds of Plymouth began a three-year board term in January. She will serve on the foundation's grants and development committees, announced President Joan Noricks.

"She is a Plymouth community leader and we are drawing on a broader representation in our region," Noricks said. "I find Nancy to be innovative, energetic and willing to help the foundation move forward."

A 14-year Plymouth resident, Hillegonds has a long history of community service, including the Plymouth Community Arts Council, and the state of Michigan Board of Medical Examiners. Hillegonds also previously worked with the state of Michigan Department of Commerce.

Hillegonds, who is originally from Ohio, and her husband, Paul, have two college-age children allowing her time

to become involved in other activities.

"This is a great way for me to ease back into community service," Hillegonds said. "The foundation is such a busy organization. I can't believe how many balls the foundation has in the air. I am still in the learning process."

The foundation board of directors also elected its new slate of officers, who serve for one year. Immediate past board chair Jim Demmer of Jack Demmer Ford, completed his term in November. Elizabeth Bland of Bank of America was elected the new board chair. Other officers include vice chair Jerry Grady, a certified public accountant with UHY LLC; treasurer Dan Durack, a community volunteer and retired Canton Township department director; and board secretary Barbara Church Rodenberg, a community volunteer, and former administrator and teacher with the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools.

"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 plymouth-library.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

## Band booster craft show

The Plymouth-Canton Music Boosters host its annual Spring Arts and Crafts Ensemble on Saturday, March 12. The fundraising event, to be held at Plymouth High School in Canton, is a juried art show produced twice each year by the PCMB to help support the band and color guard programs at the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park.

Over 100 exhibitors with handcrafted items will be on display at this artistic event. Visitors can expect a high quality show with jewelry, handmade clothing, soaps, artwork, sculptures, floral arrangements, and many spring related items.

Plymouth High School is located at 8400 Beck Road in Canton. The Spring Arts & Craft Ensemble will be held from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. In addition to over 100 exhibits, there will be food, door prizes, a raffle, and entertainment by marching and concert band musicians throughout the day. Admission is \$2. Strollers are welcome.

"The Arts & Craft Ensembles are two of the most successful fundraisers we host each year," said Erin Babcock, president of the 2011 Plymouth-Canton Music Boosters. "The money raised at this event will help send the 200-member Marching Band to the 2011 Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York City. We're hopeful the community will come out and support our kids by visiting our craft show."

## Appealing taxes

Campaign for Liberty presents "Appealing Your Property Tax" with guest speaker Jerry Vorva, a Realtor and a former member of both the State House of Representatives and the Plymouth City Commission, 7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 22, in the Freedom Room at the Canton Administration Building, 1150 S. Canton Center, in Canton.

Vorva will talk about inaccurate property assessments and

## AROUND PLYMOUTH



DAVID L. MALHALAB | MNS PHOTO

## Winning bidders

Michael and Terry Pappas of Plymouth were the happy winners of a special Daisy Red Ryder BB rifle at the 2011 Museumiana Plymouth Historical Museum Benefit Saturday at The Inn at St. John's. Joe Carli, of JCC Auction Service in Plymouth, donated his services to the benefit and auctioned off a variety of donated items. Other attendees won dozens of raffle prizes and also enjoyed a great meal.

how residents can fight back using the appeals process to potentially reduce your property tax. During his service as state Representative, Vorva wrote some of Michigan's real estate laws. He is also a leader in a current legal battle to force governments to respect taxpayers rights.

## Hip-hop fundraiser

Metro Dance Company is hosting a hip hop benefit "Dance From the Heart" to raise funds for The Miracle League of Plymouth. The event is open for anyone ages 8 to adult, regardless of experience, and will be held at Metro Dance Company in Plymouth 1-4 p.m. Saturday, March 19.

Registration for the event is underway. Hip hop classes are \$15 per student with 100 percent of the proceeds donated to The Miracle League of Plymouth. Anyone interested in the event can contact Metro Dance Company at (734) 207-8970 or by e-mail at info@MetroDanceCompany.com.

"We wanted to hold this fundraiser because it directly benefits some very special children in our community," said Metro Dance director Kristie Wyley. "Our goal is to raise as much money as possible to help these children and their families enjoy good times together."

## 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 lionsclubeuchre@yahoo.com. Contact Linda Obrec at (734) 945-6685 for more information.

## Bridal show

Rawlinson 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.plymouthbridalshows.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.

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. Zaeetta 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/4/2011Application-ScholarRotary.pdf

## Damaris scholarship

The Plymouth Community Arts Council will recognize a Plymouth-Canton School district senior who has displayed outstanding abilities in visual arts and plans to continue his/her education in this field with its annual awarding of the Damaris Fine Arts Scholarship.

To download an application, go to: http://www.storytellerdesign.com/Portals/4/2011Damarisaward.pdf

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A dozen Elks, most of them from Plymouth Lodge 1780, were volunteer ushers Saturday during the Valentines for Veterans concert at Masonic Temple in Detroit. From left are Stewart Israel, Trudy Buelow, Roger Buelow, Vivian Biegun, Gail Shoff, Joann Tatum, Jim Dent, Connie Hines, Ken Hines, Gordon Libby, Sandy Mitchelltree, and Wilburn Fannin.

## Township man honored for helping area veterans

BY MATT JACHMAN  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

He wasn't in the military himself, but Stewart Israel has a special place in his heart for the nation's veterans.

Israel is a member of the Plymouth Elks Lodge 1780 who helps coordinate Elks' veterans assistance programs at the national, state and local levels. He cooks and serves meals to homeless and hospitalized veterans, brings monthly ice cream socials and chili dog parties to the John D. Dingell Veterans Administration hospital in Detroit, and organizes gift distribution to down-on-their-luck veterans at Christmastime.

"It's part of my role as a Christian, you know, to do things for others," said Israel, a retired social studies teacher who lives in Plymouth Township.

On Saturday, Israel led a contingent of a dozen Elks, II

of them from the Plymouth Lodge, at Masonic Temple, where they volunteered as ushers and ticket-takers during Detroit's first Valentines for Veterans concert. It was one of a number of concerts across the country, free to veterans, sponsored by the organization Help Hospitalized Veterans, which worked with local VA medical centers.

Israel sat in the VIP section at Masonic and got some of the love returned to him when longtime television news anchorman Rich Fisher, the master of ceremonies, acknowledged him for his efforts.

"It was nice. It was an honor," said Israel. "It's nice to be recognized for the work you do."

Israel has been volunteering at the hospital since 1977, when the area's VA hospital was in Allen Park, said William Browning, the hospital's director of voluntary services.

"The veterans here are

spoiled so to speak. They see Stew at least twice a month," Browning said. "When they see Stew they know there's butter pecan and orange sherbet."

Israel and the Elks also throw an annual Super Bowl party and help out at VA hospitals in Ann Arbor and Battle Creek, Browning said. When volunteers are needed, he said, Israel doesn't say no.

"Anything you mention here, there will be some sort of influence by Stew, or the Plymouth Elks will be involved in some way," Browning said.

In addition to providing volunteers, the Elks chipped in \$1,200 toward the show by the Temptations Review, featuring Dennis Edwards. Israel, who is 63, said there appeared to be a lot of Vietnam-era veterans in the crowd.

"That's the sound that was Detroit. That's the Motown sound," Israel said. "They grew up with that."

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

## FIRE

FROM PAGE A1

But Reaume has characterized the union's offer of concessions as too little, too late. The township has been seeking concessions for more than a year.

"The whole time, they thought we were bluffing," Reaume said. Three firefighters were laid off 13 months ago.

The township has proposed a smaller department of 14 firefighters or fewer. They would work 12-hour shifts, instead of 24-hour shifts, and be supplemented by part-time, on-call firefighters.

"We'll have 25 percent less money and, geographically, we'll have less territory to cover," Reaume said, referring to Plymouth's impending departure from the department.

## FIREFIGHTERS FIGHT BACK

Firefighters have blasted a smaller department as inadequate. Tefend said his understanding is that any arrangement with Livonia or Canton would not include medical services, which would be handled by HVA; Reaume couldn't be reached to clarify Wednesday.

Tefend said firefighters, with help from citizens, are planning an information campaign on the issues facing the department.

"We're going to educate the public and let 'em know what these clowns are doing," he said.

## STILL UNDER REVIEW

Livonia Mayor Jack Kirksey and Canton Supervisor Phil LaJoy said Plymouth Township's overture is still being studied.

"We're crunching numbers and looking at resources," Kirksey said.

"We have not gotten back to them with any proposal yet, but we'll be taking a look at it," LaJoy said.

Meanwhile, Livonia and Canton officials are studying the feasibility of combining the communities' emergency dispatch services as a cost-savings.

"Unless something totally unforeseen were to occur, it's well on its way to becoming a reality," Kirksey said of combined dispatch.

In Plymouth, officials are also studying alternatives to the PCFD for firefighting and emergency medical services. Their move began late last summer, after a \$68,000 study commissioned by the city pointed to savings either through a restructured fire department or the adoption of a public safety model, in which police officers are trained as firefighters and medical first responders.

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## WATER

FROM PAGE A1

idea, but the Wayne County representative could undermine that."

Under the agreement reached Friday, Detroit maintains ownership and management of the department. That would change under Heise's bill would, among other things, eliminate the Board of Water Commissioners and create the Southeast Michigan Water Quality Authority and hire a private company to operate the water/sewer system as a regional public utility.

## LOCAL SUPPORT

The agreement includes a decision by Oakland County Drain Commissioner John McCulloch to drop a lawsuit he'd filed to force regional oversight — "I thought

(McCulloch's) motion was far more draconian than my bill," Heise said — and leaves behind "a hybrid of my bill and the motion McCulloch wanted."

Canton Township Supervisor Phil LaJoy, who took part in similar discussions when he was a state representative, called Friday's agreement "a step in the right direction," but said he still favors Heise's bill.

"The super-majority of five votes is a better thing (and) there's some inclusion of the suburbs, albeit through the county executive," LaJoy said. "I like Heise's bill. We've got to make changes, and I think this is a step in the right direction. There needs to be more transparency, and I'm glad this gives (suburbs) a little bigger role."

Plymouth Township Supervisor Richard Reaume, whose township is facing a potential 40-percent rate hike

this summer, didn't return a call seeking comment. Plymouth Mayor Dan Dwyer said recently he hadn't seen details of Heise's plan, but was favorable impressed by a first glance at it.

"It would be a positive thing if in some way the suburbs have more of a vote in the system," Dwyer said.

Heise said Friday's agreement is "kind of an unusual, tenuous marriage between some of the players" in the decades-long drama, but doesn't address what Heise said are "long-term" issues.

"It doesn't involve customer communities the way it should, and it's very dependent on the personalities involved," Heise said. "I don't know how this is going to be settled long term ... my bill addresses a lot of those issues so there's a long-term plan in place."

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# Winter shoppers flock to Michigan goods, goodies

BY DARRELL CLEM  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Canton resident Janet Muse made a beeline for Boblin Honey after she entered Canton's historic Cady-Boyer Barn for the season's first local Winter Market.

Canton beekeeper Bob Jastrzebski and 15 other area vendors sold their locally made products Sunday as a steady throng of shoppers ranging from baby-toting young couples to retirees packed the 1800s-era barn, perfectly situated in a snow-covered landscape along Ridge Road for the second annual Winter Market.

"His honey is great," Muse said, walking away from Jastrzebski's table a satisfied customer. "To me this (Winter Market) is a real treat. I like all the fresh food you can get here."

Muse and large crowds of patrons returned Sunday to the same area where, during summertime, they flock to an outdoor Canton Farmers Market to buy Michigan-made products such as locally grown produce, organic meats, fresh breads, natural soaps, gourmet popcorn and tasty sweets.

Market manager Tina Lloyd said a record-shattering 550 shoppers — the biggest one-day turnout for a market inside the barn — scooped up their favorite items 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday and gave the local economy a little boost. It marked the second year for Winter Market.

### OPEN DOOR

Shoppers also donated a bin full of boxed, dried pasta for Open Door Ministry, a Canton-based food pantry that serves area families in need.

"We are thrilled with the community response," Lloyd said.

As outdoor temperatures reached the 40-degree mark, vertical heaters placed inside the barn helped patrons shake off any lingering winter chill.

Wayne residents David and



Gary Kuneman of Meat Local, in Plymouth, sells local steaks to Beverly Whitty and Angela Holsworth.

PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



Patty and Eric Uram of Plymouth Popcorn.



Jayne and William Merritt drove from Wyandotte to purchase bread and a big chunk of butter.

Christine Blinn brought a shopping bag they had started to fill up with winter squash, homemade mozzarella cheese and fresh-baked goodies.

"This is lovely," Christine Blinn said. "We came out to get some fresh Michigan-made products."

The first business owner patrons encountered as they approached the barn was Garry Kuneman, owner of Plymouth-based Meat Local, who set up a row of tables outside to sell organic venison, lamb, chicken, bison and turkey, alongside fresh farm eggs, Michigan blueberries and homemade yogurt.

"I think people come out here because they have a pent-up demand," he said. "I think they're trying to get in the spring mood a little bit."

### BARN DAYS

Inside the barn, Jackie Weber of Ann Arbor-based Zingerman's sold fresh cheeses, smoked mozzarella, cacciatore salami, fresh-baked bread and chocolate treats.

"I love the people at the market, and I love the vendors," she said. "Sometimes I barter with the other vendors. I exchange things with them. It's like bringing it back to basics."

A few tables away — past the mustards and hot sauces and fresh pasta — Patricia and Eric Uram of Plymouth Popcorn Co. sold popcorn flavors ranging from cinnamon roll to chocolate strawberry to jalapeno. They offer gourmet popcorn "from the mild to the wild," Eric Uram said.

Lloyd was pleased by Sunday's turnout, and she said Winter Market returns 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. March 13 and April 10 to the barn, off Ridge Road north of Cherry Hill. Lloyd has said the market helps strengthen ties between local businesses and shoppers.

"It's all about building community," she said.

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## Teen reports pickpocketing at area Kroger supermarket

BY MATT JACHMAN  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

### CRIME WATCH

A 16-year-old Plymouth Township boy reported the theft of \$320 cash Sunday at the Kroger supermarket on Ann Arbor Road and Sheldon.

The teen was at Kroger selling raffle tickets to raise money for a tuition assistance program at Catholic Central High School in Novi, where he's a student. He told police he had the money in an envelope on his person, in either an inside or an outside pocket of the sweater he was wearing, according to a Plymouth Township Police Department report. He noticed at about 3:30 p.m. that the money was missing, police said.

The victim said he didn't see anyone take the money, and that he didn't think anyone got close enough to him to grab the envelope.

### Vandalism

A commercial carpet cleaning machine was reportedly damaged, and chemicals used

in carpet cleaning ruined, by an act of vandalism on Oxford Drive in the township on Feb. 3 or Feb. 4, police said.

The equipment and chemicals were in a Ford Econoline van used in the cleaning business, parked in the fenced back yard at the home, and a heater was being used to keep them warm inside the van, the victim told police. Someone cut the power cord to the heater late on Feb. 3 or early the next day, the victim said, which resulted in damage to the machine and the chemicals being ruined.

The victim also reported a new dent in the driver-side door to the van.

### Car theft try

Someone apparently tried to steal a 2002 Chrysler Sebring from outside an apartment on Newport Drive in the township last week.

The victim told police she parked the Sebring on Feb. 7 and returned to it Thursday to find it unlocked, with the steering column and the ignition damaged.

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# PARK MANOR

FROM PAGE A1

more than the clothes on their backs.

They'd just bought a new television and a new bed, both destroyed in the fire. A lot of jewelry was recovered — "From when I worked at Jacobson's," Alicia said — but it was still unclear Monday how much was salvageable.

While residents made their return to Park Manor, most for the first time, efforts were going on around town to help them. Plymouth Salvation Army, Plymouth Community United Way, American Red Cross and others were in a sort of triage area at the Salvation Army Corps headquarters. A host of relief efforts were being sponsored — by firefighters and businesses, by churches and individuals — to try and get the victims back on their feet.

Red Roof Inn of Canton took in half-a-dozen victims — "Their staff went over and above, as they always do," said the Salvation Army's Laurie Aren — and state Rep. Kurt Heise worked with Secretary of State Ruth Johnson's office to replace things such as driver's licenses and other identification.

Meanwhile, Mike Stout, a Livonia resident who grew up in Plymouth, watched his wife pull out glasses and dishes

and other belongings from the apartment belonging to his aunt, complex manager Mary Maxey, who oversaw the complex for years. The 85-year-old Maxey came later, but not before picture's of Stout's grandmother and grandfather were pulled — a little soiled but otherwise unscathed — from the debris.

"It's amazing to me," said Stout. "You look at everything else — it's all just shot — and something like that survives."

It's been a winter of survival for 21-year-old Colleen Harder. The college student and her fiancé, 22-year-old Brett Tavana, also lost nearly everything in the fire. The blaze comes not long after Harder survived a pair of pulmonary embolisms.

The couple, who aren't changing their August wedding plans — "We didn't delay it when I got sick, we're not delaying it now," Harder said, smiling — were a little nervous about coming back to the scene of the fire.

"It'll be good to finally know (the extent of the damage)," Tavana said. "It's surreal."

As Maxey, who arrived about an hour after her nephew, prepared to leave, she passed Don Foss on the sidewalk and whispered, "I'm sorry, Don."

Don Foss lightly held her hand and said, "I'm sorry too. For everybody."

[bkadrich@hometownlife.com](mailto:bkadrich@hometownlife.com) | (313) 222-8899



The building is fenced in. Workers clear sidewalks so that residents may attempt to salvage what they can.

PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



Colleen Harder and Brett Tavana react to the destruction of their home in the Park Manor apartment complex. The fire came about a month after Harder survived two pulmonary embolisms and about six months before their planned August wedding.



Alicia Foss watches workers sift through the rubble of her apartment.



Though the roof collapsed, a bookshelf in one unit is nearly untouched.



A resident's bicycle is buried in the soot and debris left in the aftermath of the devastating fire.

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# STRICTLY BUSINESS

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## HAVE A STORY IDEA?

Contact Editor, Brad Kadrich

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Business partners Jayme Rossiter (left) and Roz Spencer, of Forest Computer Solutions, are teaming with the Sweet Afton Tearoom to provide classes designed to teach seniors computer skills.

## Classes combine tea, cookies and computers

A dozen senior citizens will gather Monday morning at the Sweet Afton Tearoom in downtown Plymouth, but their mission will not be to sip tea.

They are going to learn how to e-mail.

Jayme Rossiter and Roz Spencer of Forest Computer Solutions teamed up with Al and Phyllis Wilkerson of the Sweet Afton Tearoom to help local seniors become more computer savvy.

When Rossiter's father passed away a few years ago, her 80-year-old mother had trouble sleeping at night. So Jayme taught her to do Facebook and POGO, an online game site where she could play live with other players. Being connected to the outside world though the computer made such a difference for her mom that she knew there must be a greater need. Talking to other friends confirmed it for her.

"I heard again and again about elderly people feeling

isolated or disconnected from their kids and grandkids," Rossiter said, "We all do so much of our communicating online and through e-mail, texting and facebook that grandma doesn't always get included in what's going on."

She and Spencer decided to use this personal experience to help more seniors get connected and they started putting the pieces in place.

The partnership with Sweet Afton Tearoom was a natural.

"We wanted to have the classes in an environment that feels comfortable for the seniors," Rossiter said. "Including the tea and cookies just sweetens the deal."

Spencer knew it would take a very special person to make the classes fun for seniors who might be a little intimidated by the computer. She immediately thought of Terry Saenz, a Canton resident who has taught scrapbooking on computers for more than 10 years. Many of her class participants

are seniors.

"She is gifted with patience and teaches in a way that is so easy to understand," Spencer said, "We knew she would be perfect for this. We hope this is the start of an on-going rotation of classes. In the future we would like to teach Facebook, too."

The first class is Monday, Feb. 21, from 9-10:30 a.m. That session will include setting up an e-mail address for each participant. Future sessions include:

- Tuesday, March 1, when participants will download pictures and coupons from e-mail.

- Monday, March 7, when they'll learn about instant messaging.

- Monday, March 14, when they'll learn how to find and use websites.

The \$20 fee includes tea and cookies. Call (734) 259-8611 for more information or to register for one or all of the classes.

resident and actively supports local youth programs and sports.

### Moving to Plymouth

Movimento Group — a Gothenburg, Sweden-based company known as the "Go-To" company for control system Diagnostic Products and Services — announced it has named Benjamin Hoffman CEO, and that the company's operational headquarters will move to Plymouth.

Hoffman brings a strong technological and business development leadership to his new position and believes the company is well positioned for growth in the global light vehicle, off-highway and heavy-duty truck markets. Prior to his new position, Hoffman served as founder and President of Movimento's North American Operations where he was responsible for sales, strategic planning, organizational and product development, financial management and customer success for major automotive and heavy-truck OEMs and tiered suppliers.

Previously, he was Senior Partner with Inovo Technologies Inc., a management consulting firm, where he specialized in new technology and innovation systems to help speed new products to market. Hoffman succeeds Lars Bramstang in this role as Movimento CEO.

"I am very enthusiastic about the growth opportunities for Movimento," said Hoffman. "Today's modern vehicles are packed with up to

100 million lines of computer code, more than in some jet fighters. Even basic vehicles have at least 30 microprocessor-controlled devices, known as electronic control units, and some luxury cars have as many as 100. As such, Original Equipment Manufacturers put forth a tremendous effort in engineering, testing and validation to guard against potential issues. At Movimento, our sweet spot is working with OEMs to help improve quality, increase productivity and reduce costs. Our key product offerings provide an average of up to 85 percent cost savings compared to conventional methods."

Movimento's key customers include automotive OEMs, Tier 1 suppliers, and heavy-duty and off-highway diesel OEMs and suppliers. Its flagship product — Movimento Puma — changes the way OEMs deal with increased electrical and software complexity throughout the product life cycle.

### 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 judycourtney@remerica.

## CHAMBER CHAT

### Jaycee breakfast

The Plymouth Jaycees (United States Junior Chamber) are hosting an Economic Insights seminar/breakfast.

Certified financial planners Ryan Kus and Alexander Dinsler will offer insights into a rapidly changing financial climate and the politics that help shape that climate, during a free breakfast seminar at 7:30 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 22, at the Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce office located at 850 W. Ann Arbor Trail.

Kus, president of the Plymouth Area Jaycees, and Dinsler are business partners and want to share planning strategies and their forecast for the economic future. The event will include breakfast. To reserve a seat, call the Chamber at (734) 453-1540. Space is limited to 30 people.

### 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 at lobsniuk@ci.plymouth.mi.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. Business development

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

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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 sec-

tors, 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](mailto:teri@plymouthmich.org). Space is limited to 30 people.

### 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 and individuals are asked to give contributions that generally range from \$25 to \$100 and the contributions are tax deductible.

A mailing will be going out soon asking members to make contributions and explains how the scholarships are awarded. Contributions will be recognized in various ways, including on a special section of the chamber website. For more information or to make a contribution, contact Wes Graff at (734) 453-1540 or [wes@plymouthmich.org](mailto:wes@plymouthmich.org).

### Band Concert

The Plymouth Community Band will perform at the Penn Theater on Friday, February 11 at 7:30 p.m. See the band's schedule at [www.plymouthcommunityband.org](http://www.plymouthcommunityband.org).

### New Morning open house

New Morning School will host an open house Sunday, Feb. 13, at 1 p.m. The school offers classes from pre-school through middle school. They are located at 14501 Haggerty next to the Lake Pointe soccer park.

Call (734) 420-3331 or visit [www.newmorningschool.com](http://www.newmorningschool.com) for more information.

## BUSINESS BRIEFS

### RE/MAX Hall of Fame

Todd Taliaferro, with RE/MAX Classic, has recently been presented with the prestigious RE/MAX Hall of Fame Award, which

honors successful agents who have earned more than \$1 million in commissions during their careers with the company.

As a seasoned professional in the real estate industry, Todd's sales experience spans over 25 years including past positions as a Regional

Vice President for a Fortune 500 company. He specializes in residential and condominium sales, luxury homes and lakefront and investment properties in Western Wayne, Washtenaw and Oakland counties. He has also gained accreditation as a Certified Distressed Property Expert and a Short Sale, Foreclosure and Bank-Owned Property Specialist.

"Taliaferro has been an integral member of our team and is more than deserving of this very prestigious award," said Carol Boji, of RE/MAX Classic. "Winning this award is a tremendous accomplishment. Todd continues to raise the bar in real estate, making us and his community proud."

Taliaferro, a Central Michigan University graduate, is a long-time Plymouth

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# A million served

## Mission accomplished as church packs meals for starving kids

BY STACY JENKINS  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Omar was an 8-year-old boy who was literally starving to death.

He weighed 19 pounds. His ribs were showing and he'd lost most of his hair. The child, who lives in El Salvador, has 11 siblings and "is one of many mouths to feed" on his family's farm.

After eating just two 13-ounce bags of food provided by the hunger relief non-profit called Feed My Starving Children, Omar made great strides. Six months later, still receiving the food, he weighed a healthy 73 pounds.

"It's one child. It's one story," said Sarah Danielson, senior team leader for Feed My Starving Children, who set up a Mobile Pack unit for some 5,000 volunteers from Plymouth Township's NorthRidge Church to pack more than 1 million meals at Whitmore Lake Middle School last weekend.

"Tonight, you have had an impact on hundreds of children," Danielson told the crowd of volunteers who showed up Saturday night for a two-hour shift. "Know that you're giving hope, rejuvenation and life to kids."

More than 1 million meals were packaged and will be sent to Haiti, Somalia and Guatemala.

NorthRidge Church had been looking for a church-wide service project to add to its long list of outreach and charity on the local level. Feed My Starving Children was suggested by a church in Chicago and after NorthRidge staff checked it out, it seemed like a perfect match.

"We wanted to provide a way for people to make a difference in the world that's outside of us," said Michael Miller, director of stewardship and outreach at NorthRidge. "We needed a reason to let the seeds of generosity grow outward."

He said it was "a little scary" when they found out they'd need 5,000 volunteers to reach their goal of packing 1 million meals.

But all 5,000 slots were filled within a week, and the church was well on its way to raising the \$190,000 needed to pay for the food. He said one little first-grade girl at the church gave \$60 when the reality set in that there are kids around the world who don't have enough to eat.

"She may as well have given \$50,000," said Miller.

He said parents and their kids who were involved in the project were having those types of discussions, "and that's what it's all about," he said.

Volunteers worked for two hours on each of the 12 shifts last Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

For Nancy Farkas, of Redford Township, it was the least she could do.

"It's a short amount of time, for a lot of volume," she said. "It has a huge impact."

Volunteers scooped dried chicken powder, dried vegetables, soy and rice into the plastic bags, sealed them and packed them into boxes. By the end of the last shift, there were 1,005,048 meals packed, which will feed 2,754 kids for an entire year.

Ursula Maley, FMSC Mobile Pack supervisor, said she was impressed by the 5,000 volunteers.

"We've had such a great reception with NorthRidge," she said.

She said the million meal goal is one that's not typical, but it's been done by larger groups.

FMSC is a Christian non-profit that provides sustainable food supplies to children in 68 countries. Maley, who was born in the Philippines, said some of the food goes to feed children there, too.

She finds her work with FMSC rewarding.

"I think it lets people know that they don't have to hand out a lot of money and they don't have to give a lot of time to make a huge difference," she said. "It's fantastic that we can show them that."

For more information about Feed My Starving Children, visit [www.fmsc.org](http://www.fmsc.org).



Packing and hauling the boxes were all part of the program for NorthRidge Church volunteers at Whitmore Lake Middle School.



PHOTOS BY MADDY BARTLETT

Volunteers young and old were on hand over the weekend as NorthRidge Church took part in the Feed My Starving Children initiative at Whitmore Lake Middle School.



Some 5,000 volunteers turned out to help NorthRidge Church meet its goal of 1 million meals packed.



More than a million meals, containing a variety of foodstuffs, will be sent to Haiti, Somalia and Guatemala.



Volunteers worked for two hours on each of 12 shifts Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

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It's a crowded dance floor at the Daddy-Daughter Dance at the Summit.

PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

# Dads, daughters take to the floor

Scores of daddies and daughters took advantage of some music and fun to create lifelong memories at last weekend's Butterfly Ball Daddy/Daughter Dance at the Summit on the Park.

"Attending these dances has become an annual tradition for some families, where little girls look forward to spending time with their dads," said Jennifer Provenzano, Canton Recreation Specialist. "It really is a special occasion where both dads and daughters get to create lasting memories."

In addition to the age-appropriate music that had their feet tapping, dads and daughters enjoyed refreshments and cheered when the event ended with the traditional balloon drop.



Tom Marten and 4-year-old daughter Elizabeth.



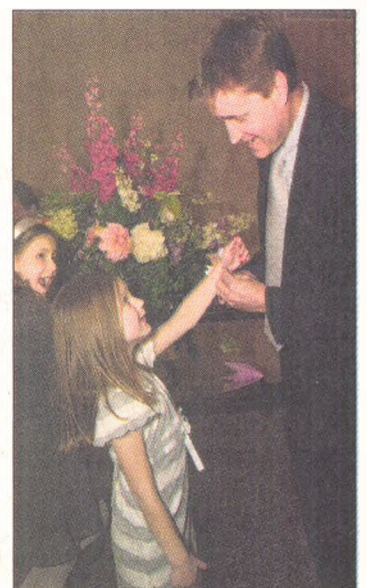
Lance Horton dances with 10-year-old daughter Nami. Teahn Horton, 13 years old, will have the next dance with Dad.



Matt Lesko and 6-year-old daughter Elizabeth burn up the dance floor.



Chris Ryan and 5-year-old daughter Cassie.



The Daddy-Daughter Dance drew a good-size pre-Valentines Day crowd to the Canton Summit. Dave Cordon ties a corsage on 6-year-old daughter Mikaela's wrist. Behind Mikaela is her sister, 10-year-old Krystyna.



# Barefoot Productions stages 'Black Comedy'

Barefoot Productions is lighting up the second half of its season with the popular *Black Comedy*, written by Tony-awarding playwright Peter Shaffer.

Set in London 1969, *Black Comedy* shines telling the story of Brindsley Miller, a struggling, bohemian artist, who desperately tries to impress his fiancée's father by "borrowing" his neighbor Harold's posh furniture to glamorize his own shabby flat. Chaos and prat falls ensue when an unexpected power failure jeopardizes all of Brindsley's plans.

"We know how much our patrons love comedies and true to Barefoot form, we wanted to deliver on that expectation by choosing a classic British farce," said Craig A. Hane, artistic director and founder of Barefoot Productions. "The show is very reminiscent of the comic delivery and timing of the Dick Van Dyke Show, a 'live' situation comedy that builds into zany and outrageous mishaps, one greater than the next."

First performed in 1965, *Black Comedy* featured Maggie Smith, as the elderly neighbor, and Albert Finney



Barefoot Productions presents "Black Comedy" through Feb. 27 on weekends at Barefoot Productions Theatre, 240 N. Main, in Plymouth.

as Harold. Barefoot's cast includes Rick Berryman of Canton, Brian Cahalan of Flat Rock, Nathan Corliss, Christine Doulette and Mat DeLisle, all of Livonia, Carol Lipinski of Garden City, Samantha Lowry of Novi and a few mystery guests.

*Black Comedy* runs through Feb. 27 on weekends. Friday and Saturday performances are 8 p.m.; Feb. 20 and 27 are matinee performances at 2 p.m. All performances are

held at Barefoot Productions' Theatre, formerly the Walker-Buzenberg Building, at 240 N. Main St., Plymouth. Tickets are \$16 for general admission and \$14 for students and seniors. Group rates are available for parties of 10 or more.

For tickets or more information, please visit Barefoot's website at [www.justgobarefoot.com](http://www.justgobarefoot.com) or call (734) 560-1493. The box office will also be open one hour prior to each performance.

## OPINION



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

# Folk singer's truths resonate in today's hard times

*Oh, the gamblin' man is rich an' the workin' man is poor, And I ain't got no home in this world anymore.*

— Woody Guthrie, "I Ain't Got No Home"

When popular musicians are lowered from the rafters of the Cowboys Dome into a sea of special effects and bizarrely costumed dancers, or prance about wearing dresses of sliced meat or bras made to look like twin machine guns, you know we're a long way from Woody Guthrie.



Matt Jachman

But we need more Woody Guthries. The Oklahoma-born, plain-speaking Guthrie was a folk music pioneer who traveled the country with his guitar beginning in the 1930s, singing the stories and struggles of people caught in the tides of Great Depression, hard times that have been compared to our own. Later, he sang about World War II, a cause which, as he saw himself part of a worldwide anti-fascist movement, he endorsed, even as he recognized the misery it brought.

Quirky and unglamorous, Guthrie sang about migrant workers, the importance of labor unions, slick but heartless bankers and company men, war, the status of women, and the loneliness of Everyman trying to find his place in an impersonal and uncaring society.

With undocumented workers under attack (the cheap goods and services they provide are forgotten when we're looking for someone to blame), unions in retreat (even though they are the only hope many have for middle-class wages and benefits), home foreclosures and personal bankruptcies up, the U.S. bogged down in a costly war with an unclear mission,

and the growth of a poor, alienated underclass, those themes resonate today.

### FACADE VS. REALITY

Yet many of us are too mesmerized by wealth, glamor and high-tech razzle-dazzle to pay attention.

It's often said we're in the midst of the worst economic times since the Depression, but when the wealthy are granted the status of demigods, images of glitz bombard us constantly and average Joes and Janes are willing to camp out overnight to be among the first to drop hundreds of dollars on the latest smart phone or video game system — gadgets that will be called "obsolete" in six months — it's sometimes difficult to see that.

Strip away the veneer and the reality is sobering. Consider:

- An estimated 50 million Americans have no health insurance, up significantly from two years ago, when the still-raging debate over "Obamacare" began. Those lucky enough to have insurance are paying higher premiums and out-of-pocket costs.

- Some 38 million people in the U.S., or about one in eight, rely on food stamps to help them eat. Among children, one in four is fed with the help of food stamps. The number of people using food stamps grew by an estimated 10 million between 2007 and 2009.

- Income disparity is massive. In 2006, CEO compensation at large U.S. companies averaged \$10.8 million each, 270 times the wages and benefits of the average full-time worker not in management.

### STATISTICS HIT HOME

- In Wayne County, more than 20 percent of the population was below the poverty level in 2008, up from just over 12 percent eight years earlier, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. The Salvation Army's Plymouth Corps reports an increase in single men from

Plymouth who rely on its food bank to help make ends meet. Since Oct. 1 of last year, 179 families from Canton Township and 149 from Plymouth and Plymouth Township have sought help from the Plymouth Corps. The meal programs offered by the Plymouth Canton Community Schools are seeing increased demand.

Despite mounting economic troubles for the poor and middle class, the social safety net, programs like Medicare, Social Security, the minimum wage and unemployment insurance, programs that keep the United States of 2011 from looking like United States of 1931, is under attack from many quarters. Strangely, some politicians, after the profligate spending of the George W. Bush years, are suddenly wringing their hands over mounting budget deficits, ready to slash and burn programs that help those with the least say and the most at stake, though those programs are dwarfed when compared to the defense budget.

### NO SMOKE OR MIRRORS

On Saturday, The Folk Laureates, a trio of local musicians, will appear at the Plymouth Community Arts Council to offer a musical tribute to Guthrie, who died in 1967 at age 55. Scott Ludwig, Cathy Fitzpatrick and John Delle-Monache won't be wearing outfits made of meat or costumes that make them look like characters out of science fiction. They won't be descending into billows of fog and a set that cost hundreds of thousands of dollars.

But neither are they wild-eyed partisans — just citizens voicing their concern through the direct, timeless songs of a truth-teller from an era we like to invoke but whose crushing realities we seem to have forgotten.

Matt Jachman is a staff writer for the Plymouth Observer. He can be reached at (313) 222-2405 or at [mjachman@hometownlife.com](mailto:mjachman@hometownlife.com)

# Hire a pro and come clean with IRS on underreporting

Last week, the Internal Revenue Service unveiled a new taxpayer amnesty program. This program is similar to one in 2009 which was intended for taxpayers who earned income abroad and

failed to report it on their tax return. The 2009 program, the first by the IRS, was by all accounts a success. Thousands of taxpayers signed up. The result was that hundreds of millions of dollars in taxes and penalties were collected.

The new program, although not as generous as the original plan in 2009, still allows taxpayers, who voluntarily come forward, to avoid jail. It is important to remember that U.S. taxpayers are obligated to report income on tax returns no matter where it is earned. All too often in the past, taxpayers avoided paying taxes on foreign income because that income was not reported in the same way as if it was earned here. However, because of technology and changes in laws, the risks associated with keeping money abroad have increased dramatically.

The majority of taxpayers don't keep money abroad so the amnesty program may seem relatively immaterial. However, it does bring up an interesting topic.

For most taxpayers, there are no formal amnesty programs. Therefore, if you haven't filed tax returns in the past or if you know that there were mistakes on your past returns, what should you do? Wait for contact from the IRS or voluntarily contact the agency? I believe it is always to the taxpayer's benefit to voluntarily contact the IRS.

Although there is no formal amnesty program for taxpayers who have not filed returns or have underreported income, there is an unwritten policy. If you voluntarily come forward, it is unlikely that you will face jail time.

On the other hand, if the IRS discovers your mistake, it will be more difficult.

The IRS does put people in jail for failing to properly file a tax return. Just ask Wesley Snipes who is sitting in a federal prison.

If you know your past returns are incorrect or if you have not filed your returns, voluntarily correct your mistakes. In that regard, I don't recommend that you contact the IRS on your own. Hire a professional to work with you, someone who has dealt with the IRS in settlement

issues. A professional who has experience dealing with the IRS will not be intimidated. An individual taxpayer with no experience dealing with the IRS is in a very difficult situation. It's sort of like going to court where one side has an attorney and you don't. It just doesn't make sense.

One of the amazing things that people discover when they come clean with the IRS is that they don't owe as much as they think. Many people who haven't filed past tax returns find that because of deductions and withholding taxes, they owe nothing, or very little. I was once involved in a situation where a taxpayer had not filed returns for years and it turned out he was entitled to a refund.

The law says everyone who is eligible must file a tax return. By coming clean with the IRS, you are meeting your obligations as a citizen. However, another benefit is you will be able to sleep at night.

If you have issues with the IRS, be proactive and begin the process to resolve them. Yes, you may be a little lighter in the pocket, however, you will be able to sleep at night. Good luck!

Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial adviser. Observer & Eccentric readers can submit questions at [money-matters@hometownlife.com](mailto:money-matters@hometownlife.com). For more information, visit his Web site at [www.bloomassetmanagement.com](http://www.bloomassetmanagement.com).



Money Matters

Rick Bloom

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**CANTON POLICE AUCTION**

These vehicles have been deemed abandoned and will be sold at public auction. The auction will be on Tuesday, February 22nd at 10:00 AM. The auction will be held at 6375 Hix, Westland, MI 48185. The vehicles will be sold as is, the starting is for towing and storage.

YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	VIN
1999	Plymouth	Neon	1P3ES42C6XD144878
1999	Dodge	Neon	1B3ES47C6XD152263
2002	Oldsmobile	Alero	1G3NL52E22C183406
1994	Chevrolet	Pick-Up	1GCEC14Z6RZ108174
1995	Lincoln	Continental	1LNLM97V0SY729137
2000	Ford	Taurus	1FAPP56S1YG215486

Publish: February 17, 2011

**NOTICE OF SALE**  
MAYFLOWER TOWING

The following vehicles will be sold at Public Auction for cash to satisfy lien pursuant to F.S. 713.78 on February 24, 2011 at 10:00 a.m.

5760 Belleville Rd.  
Canton, MI 48188  
734-397-3560

2000	Chevrolet	Metro Lsi	2C1MR5228Y6728670
1993	Ford	Econoline E150	1FDDE14N6PHB13669
2005	Ford	Taurus Se	1FAHP53215A129686
1997	Buick	Century Custom	2G4WS52MXV1403363
1994	Ford	Aerostar	1FMDA31X0RZB53039
2000	Oldsmobile	Alero Gls	1G3NF12E6YC345983
1999	Ford	Econoline E150	1FDRE14W7XHB69467
1994	Ford	Ranger	1FTCR10A7RUD44013

1179 Starkweather St.  
Plymouth, MI 48170  
734-459-0053

1992	Dodge	Dakota	1B7FL26X0NS616469
1994	Plymouth	Sundance Duster	3P3AP6437RT221733

Publish: January 17, 2011

**CITY OF PLYMOUTH**  
2011 MARCH BOARD OF REVIEW

The City of Plymouth Board of Review will be conducting the 2011 March Board of Review and will convene in the City Commission Conference Room, 201 S. Main Street, Plymouth, MI 48170.

The regular Board of Review schedule is as follows:

Tuesday, March 8, 2011 ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING  
3:00 pm

Wednesday, March 9, 2011 from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Thursday, March 10, 2011 from 3:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Tuesday, March 15, 2011 from 3:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Monday, March 21, 2011 from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Other hearing dates and times may be scheduled as needed. Hearings are by appointments only. COMPLETED 2011 BOARD OF REVIEW PETITIONS ARE NECESSARY, and must be submitted to the Front Office located on the First Floor of City Hall, prior to your appointment. The "Deadline" for submitting petitions for all persons wishing to appeal in person before the Board of Review is Monday, March 21, 2011.

A resident or non-resident taxpayer may file a petition with the Board of Review without the requirement of a personal appearance by the taxpayer or a representative. An agent must have written authority to represent the owner. Written petitions must be received by Monday, March 21, 2011 by 3:00 p.m. Postmarks are not accepted.

Copies of the notices stating the dates and times of the meetings will be posted and published in the local newspaper.

All Board of Review Meetings are open meetings in compliance with the "Open Meetings Act".

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Assessor's Office at 734-453-1234, ext. 253 or 252.

Linda J. Langmesser, CMC  
City Clerk

Publish: February 17, 20 and 24, 2011

**Achieve Charter Academy**  
3250 Denton Rd  
Canton, MI 48188  
734-397-0960 (phone)  
734-397-0968 (fax)

**OPEN ENROLLMENT NOTICE**

Open enrollment for the 2011-2012 academic school year ends on Monday, 2/28/2011 at 5 p.m. Applications are available for grades K - 8 and can be obtained at the school or by calling 866-NHA-ENROLL. Applications may be mailed or faxed to the school. Applications can also be completed online at [www.NHAschools.com](http://www.NHAschools.com). Should the number of applications received during open enrollment exceed available seats, a random-selection drawing will be necessary. The drawing, if needed, will be held on Tuesday, 3/15/2011 at 4:30 p.m. at the school. Applications received after open enrollment will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis for remaining open seats. Waiting lists will be formed accordingly.

**Canton Charter Academy**  
49100 Ford Rd  
Canton, MI 48187-5415  
734-453-9517 (phone)  
734-453-9551 (fax)

**OPEN ENROLLMENT NOTICE**

Open enrollment for the 2011-2012 academic school year ends on Monday, 2/28/2011 at 5 p.m. Applications are available for grades K - 8 and can be obtained at the school, at [www.NHAschools.com](http://www.NHAschools.com) or by calling NHA at 866-NHA-ENROLL. Should the number of applications received during open enrollment exceed available seats, a random-selection drawing will be necessary. The drawing, if needed, will be held on Tuesday, 3/15/2011 at 4:30 p.m. at the school. Applications received after open enrollment will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis for remaining open seats. Waiting lists will be formed accordingly.

**NOTICE OF NONDISCRIMINATORY POLICY AS TO STUDENTS**

Achieve Charter Academy and Canton Charter Academy admits students of any race, color, and nationality or ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of intellectual or athletic abilities, measures of achievement or aptitude, disability, status as a handicapped person, homeless status, English proficiency, religion, creed, race, sex, color, or national origin in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies and athletic or other school-administered programs.

Publish: February 17, 2011



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



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Area firefighters pour water on the Park Manor apartment blaze.

## Best response

### First responders' effort brilliant against blaze

The men and women of the Plymouth Community Fire Department — along with fire departments from Canton, Livonia and Northville — weren't simply fighting a fire when they responded to the Park Manor apartment complex last week.

Sure, the flames were already engulfing the 1950s-style construction that allowed the fire to move swiftly through the complex. But there was so much more to conquering this fire even than most.

First, police and firefighters were confronted with thick smoke in the courtyard, hampering their efforts to get the 17 people residing in the complex at the time out safely, which they did. Reports were of first responders having to feel their way along the courtyard, unable to see much, if anything, as they led residents to safety.

That part of the fight was clearly successful; only one resident had so much as burns to her feet. While the building was completely destroyed, and a great deal of personal belongings and memories were snuffed out with it, there was no loss of life.

The rest of the fight became a two-pronged battle — containing the fire and overcoming what Mother Nature was throwing at them. They were already up against all the snow she'd dropped on the area in the last couple of weeks, piled high in some areas. But on this particular morning, they were also saddled with fighting the fire in temperatures that had just barely climbed above zero.

The footing was treacherous, the temperatures at times froze the water before it ever hit the fire, according to some firefighters. Visors were ice-encrusted, hands were chaffed raw, and several firefighters took a fall — and got right back up to continue the fight.

And it wasn't just the firefighters. The EMS folks kept the residents out of harm's way and got them warm. Police and city workers helped residents get out, then kept the area secure. The Plymouth Salvation Army's disaster response team, chiefly Capt. Dan Hull, Laurie Aren and Ross Myers, were among the first on-scene and kept the coffee — and the caring — flowing.

It was a job well done, a marvelous exhibition of professionalism not at all surprising from not only the Plymouth Community Fire Department, but those providing mutual aid, as well.

It would be easy for supporters of the department, locked in strife as the City of Plymouth searches for another alternative and Plymouth Township officials claim massive change is coming, to use the incident to point out the virtues of having their own department, and they're right. Others would say the mutual aid provided by Canton, Livonia and Northville Township shows how a fire can be fought without a full-time department.

But to use this incident to push either political agenda — and some in the blogosphere are already doing that — would be unseemly. This performance, valiant as it was, is unlikely to change minds, budgets being what they are.

Let's not minimize the performance of the first-responders by turning it into a political rallying point. They were brilliant that morning.

And no one should be surprised by that.

## COMMUNITY VOICE

### Do you think the economy is going to turn around decisively this year?

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



**"No. I just don't like the directions we're heading."**

Diane Banchoer  
Livonia



**"No. It's going to take longer. Too many people don't have a job."**

Ginny Vreeland  
Plymouth Township



**"I think so, 'cause it seemed to get better toward the end of last year."**

Renee White  
Plymouth Township



**"I'm an appraiser. No. Home values are still dropping in some areas. Some of the nicer areas are starting to level off, come back a bit."**

Rob McDonald  
Livonia

## LETTERS

### Column was right

I felt Brad Kadrich's piece ("Use facts in talk about the kirpan issue," Observer, Feb. 10), was something the community needed to hear and hopefully learn something from this issue.

As far as the First Amendment is concerned, Mr. Kadrich is correct in saying that as far as the separation of church and state, no such demand exists in the First Amendment. I will point out that in 1801, the Baptist Association of Danbury, Ct., wrote President Thomas Jefferson asking for further clarification on the intent of the authors of the First Amendment to which Jefferson replied in 1802 that as to religion, the First Amendment, in effect, built a wall of separation between church and state.

Our Supreme Court, in most cases, has tried to maintain that wall.

Janusz M Szyszko  
Canton

### Vision of Progress

Pancreatic cancer is the fourth-leading cancer killer in the United States. Last year alone, more than 43,000 people were diagnosed with pancreatic cancer, and of those nearly 37,000 died from the disease. Pancreatic cancer remains the only major cancer with a single-digit five year survival rate at just 6 percent. This five-year survival rate has not improved substantially over nearly 40 years.

The Pancreatic Cancer Action Network, a national organization fighting pancreatic cancer in a comprehensive way, is leading the way to increase the survival rates of people with this devastating disease by announcing The Vision of Progress: Double the Pancreatic Cancer Survival Rate by 2020. The organization is doubling its efforts to raise awareness, support patients and intensity advocacy for a national research strategy dedicated to finding a cure by undertaking this bold new initiative.

Working to double the survival rate by 2020 through a comprehensive approach to know, fight and end pancreatic cancer is creating hope for all those who have been touched by this insidious disease. This initiative is important to me because I lost my grandmother, Helen Jagielski, to this disease over 20 years ago. Since her passing, I have continued to watch numerous friends battle pancreatic cancer, many of whom have not survived. As a member of the cancer research field, I am confident that we can see major progress in this disease, but we can't do it alone.

In order to achieve this goal we must support those who have been afflicted by pancreatic cancer and advocate for greater awareness and more resources to fight this disease. To learn more about this initiative and how you can become involved in the fight against pancreatic cancer, please visit [www.pancan.org](http://www.pancan.org).

Christina Jagielski  
Plymouth

### Super commercial

What a great way to show the rest of the world Detroit and how we're coming out of hard times.

I enjoyed every second of that commercial showing the way our city is someplace to be proud of being from. I'm quite a bit older than Eminem but he's OK in my book, and at the end saying "imported from Detroit" was the icing on the cake.

Even though it's been a few days since it was on TV, I'm still smiling.

### 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](mailto:bkadrich@hometownlife.com).

Read or comment online:  
[www.hometownlife.com](http://www.hometownlife.com)

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

Robert Denstedt  
Canton

### Quick maturation

It is interesting that after only a few weeks on the job our state Sen. Colbeck is writing as an expert on state finances.

How he got through hundreds of charts and documents in only a few weeks is amazing. Less amazing is that the majority of his proposals he writes of are almost word from word from the Mackinac Center for Public Policy, an extreme organization that advocates the elimination of the right to collectively bargain in Michigan, the elimination of public employee pensions and benefits and the most ludicrous assertion that if we simply do these things along with "aligning" public wages and benefits to the private sector the state will save \$7 billion. Now how would we do this, it would be like comparing apples to oranges to bananas. If the public sector workers like at GM or Ford got a bonus, how would our state senator and his governor "realign" our wages?

Are we getting into the realm of the state setting wages and benefits for all public sector employees. Shall the Republicans appoint a "compensation czar?" I would suspect our freshman State senator is having his information fed to him, if not written by the Mackinac Center itself.

On top of this, eliminate the MBT (Michigan Business Tax) without any corresponding income replacement and we are supposed to see miracles although this will take out \$2.2 billion more from our state treasury.

It's nice to be new and enthusiastic; however, this job requires a quick maturation in the manner in which policy is studied and offered to our citizens.

Bruce Koldys  
Canton

### Role changes are positive

There has been much talk about changes in gender roles in modern society. Many families are being affected by this shift, and I believe that this is a positive change. Not only are women getting higher power jobs, but a lot of women are the dominant supporter of the family.

Many people were laid off in Michigan due to the recession, and in some cases women were left with jobs while men stayed home. In other families, both spouses are working and day care is utilized.

This change has been going on for years, yet some people still look at the family with the "Leave it to Beaver" concept in mind. The woman was primarily the caregiver. Always seen with

children, cooking and cleaning through out the day, she always had a hot dinner ready for her husband when he returned from a long day at work.

Not everyone wants that life. It is important to find meaning for oneself outside of the home. This change in gender roles over time has fueled the need for individuality and chance to do whatever one feels they should do or need to do, without feeling pressured to do something else. It is a unique thing to know exactly what one wants to be in their life. I do not believe anything is wrong with the changes in gender roles because they are making the roles themselves less important, which makes individual happiness more important than the social norm.

Marissa Mullison  
Farmington

### Oil debacle

Mideast turmoil can choke off oil supplies. President Obama still violates court orders to permit deep water drilling. His dreams of green energy supersede promises to create jobs and prosperity.

Shutting down available gasoline will not spark the next Sputnik challenge or "Win The Future." Running out of gas will bankrupt the nation. America contains enough oil for the rest of this century, but it remains off limits. Changing this could save the country and his presidency.

Hank Borgman  
Farmington

### It's no joke

I know that many people are likely snickering and thinking that with all the "real" crime we have to fight, why is a man being charged with reading his wife's e-mail? The problem is that it is not a joke.

Technology, as ubiquitous as it is, has also become a useful tool in tracking and victimizing a partner, spouse or ex-partner/spouse by a batterer. At HAVEN, we hear story after story of how a victim was stalked, harassed, threatened and assaulted as a result of their abuser being able to locate them with GPS, tracking them via their Internet use, or through e-mail/text message information. There have been media stories from around the country where women have died as a result of such misuse of technology.

Several news articles report that various legislators plan to introduce legislation to allow for a spouse to be able to have access to their partners (and children's) e-mail accounts. Do we really want this or even need it? Do we want an abusive partner to have the ability, not to mention society's permission, to spy on their victim?

We warn victims continually (just check out our website - [www.haven-oakland.org](http://www.haven-oakland.org)) to be extremely cautious about their Internet usage. We know people access the web continuously to seek out information and that includes victims seeking information on ending a violent relationship, safety planning, counseling options, etc. An abuser having knowledge of this search could very well have a lethal end result.

Domestic violence is all about power and control. Let's not give abusers permission to control their partner via technology. Let's instead work toward creating a community that does not condone the abuse of power and one that works to ensure equality in all relationships.

Beth Morrison, CEO  
HAVEN

## 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](http://hometownlife.com).

### • In response to "District won't seek legal, audit bids,"

"John Jackson delivers on promise to bring board together ... NOT! The gang of four continues their lock-step voting. I wonder how many "meetings" and phone calls between these four took place to achieve this vote. These folks talk out of both sides of their mouth. Local school board's should not be a source of politics. Yet we in the PCCSD are exposed to this on a day to day basis. Hopefully this will change after the next school board election. I can't wait!"

bcanton



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St. Mary Mercy Hospital in Livonia made the list of America's Top 50 cities for Hospital Care and was named a Distinguished Hospital for Clinical Excellence by HealthGrades for the seventh year in a row.



# St. Mary Mercy Hospital in top 50 for quality

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN  
CORRESPONDENT

David Spivey couldn't be prouder of St. Mary Mercy Hospital in Livonia. Not only did the institution make the list of America's Top 50 cities for Hospital Care, but was named a Distinguished Hospital for Clinical Excellence by HealthGrades for the seventh year in a row.

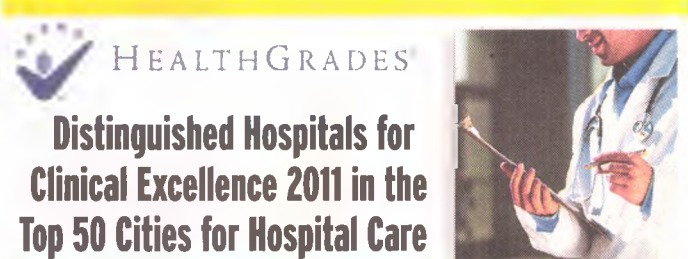
"It reflects the good work that has been going on in the Detroit metropolitan area and state of Michigan for a number of years," said Spivey, St. Mary Mercy Livonia CEO. "We're blessed with good health systems and supported by the progressive Michigan Health & Hospital Association which does much to support quality care in its member hospitals."

"Only approximately 50 hospitals have been named seven years or more in a row."

St. Mary Mercy Livonia is a 304-bed acute care hospital offering a 24-hour emergency department, general medicine, inpatient and outpatient surgery, an intensive care unit, cancer center, and cardiology, birthing, geriatrics, women's and rehabilitation services. The institution has provided medical care in the community for more than 50 years and is a member of the Saint Joseph Mercy Health System, a part of Trinity Health based in Novi.

"We're proud to be named a Distinguished Hospital. It reinforces the high quality received," said Spivey.

The ninth annual Health



## Distinguished Hospitals for Clinical Excellence 2011 in the Top 50 Cities for Hospital Care

Rank	Distinguished Hospital for Clinical Excellence 2011 by Designated Market Area	City
18	Detroit, MI	
	Huron Valley - Sinai Hospital	Commerce Township
	Henry Ford Hospital	Detroit
	Beaumont Hospital - Grosse Pointe	Grosse Pointe
	Saint Mary Mercy Hospital	Livonia
	St. Joseph Mercy Oakland	Pontiac
	Beaumont Hospital - Royal Oak	Royal Oak
	Providence Hospital	Southfield
	Beaumont Hospital - Troy	Troy

Grades Hospital Quality and Clinical Excellence study identified the top 5 percent of hospitals in the nation based on an analysis of risk-adjusted patient mortality and complication rates for medical procedures such as hip replacement surgery and diagnoses including acute myocardial infarction, congestive heart failure and pneumonia, to name a few. HealthGrades then came up with the first list of America's Top 50 Cities for Hospital Care by ranking cities with the highest percentage of nearly 5,000 hospitals. West Palm Beach, Fla., was No. 1. Detroit came in at 18 on the list.

Other metro Detroit area

hospitals named to the list were Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital in Commerce Township, Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit, Beaumont Hospital-Grosse Pointe, St. Joseph Mercy Oakland in Pontiac, Beaumont Hospital-Royal Oak, Providence Hospital Southfield and Beaumont Hospital in Troy.

In all more than 40 million Medicare patient discharges between 2007 and 2009 were studied.

St. Mary Mercy Livonia follows a comprehensive quality program to insure the institution offers the best care including the latest technology and treatments. As part of the plan, Spivey meets monthly with an

oversight committee.

"Our comprehensive quality program engages physicians, nurses and management to assure we provide high quality care," said Spivey. "The Saint Joseph Mercy Health System has a comprehensive quality plan updated every year. We use that plan to guide our work in terms of what areas we should focus on to further improve the quality here. (The fact we have an) oversight committee speaks to the importance the institution places on it."

The HealthGrades study showed Distinguished Hospitals for Clinical Excellence like St. Mary Mercy had a nearly 30-percent lower risk-adjusted in-hospital mortality rate and a nearly 2 percent lower risk-adjusted in-hospital complication rate for Medicare beneficiaries than unranked hospitals.

If all hospitals in the nation performed as Distinguished Hospitals, nearly 160,000 Medicare beneficiaries' lives could have been saved and more than 3,500 Medicare in-hospital complications could have been avoided during the study period.

"Another way to look at the data is that it's important for consumers and patients and businesses to know how their quality of care stacks up," said Spivey. "It should help attract businesses to the area and assist in the turnaround in the state that we have quality, cost-effective health care in the state."

# More info about the HealthGrades study

As part of its ninth annual HealthGrades Hospital Quality and Clinical Excellence study, HealthGrades identified those hospitals performing in the top 5 percent nationwide across 26 different medical procedures and diagnoses, then ranked cities by highest percentage of these Distinguished Hospitals for Clinical Excellence™.

West Palm Beach, Fla., ranked No. 1 in the nation, with nine out of 12 hospitals designated as top performers.

Rounding out the top five markets for hospital care quality were: Brownsville, Texas, Dayton, Ohio, Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minn., and Tucson, Ariz., respectively. The complete list of Top 50 Cities for Hospital Care and all Distinguished Hospitals for Clinical Excellence can be found at [www.healthgrades.com](http://www.healthgrades.com).

HealthGrades evaluates hospitals solely on patients' clinical outcomes: risk-adjusted mortality and in-hospital complications. HealthGrades analysis is based on approximately 40 million Medicare patient discharges for 2007, 2008 and 2009.

This year's study found that consumers are highly aware of differences in hospital quality within their communities, expect continued transparency from hospitals when it comes to quality, and rely on clinical quality ratings as a trusted source when choosing a provider.

"Our research indicates that the recent health care reform debate and highly-publicized reports about the persistence of wide variation in the quality of patient care at U.S. hospitals have resonated with the American public," said Dr. Rick May,

HealthGrades vice president of clinical quality services and study co-author.

According to a survey of nearly 15,000 visitors to HealthGrades.com that was included in HealthGrades Hospital Quality and Clinical Excellence study:

- 83.4 percent of consumers are very or somewhat concerned about hospital quality in their community.

- Almost all patients surveyed, 93.8 percent, reported being willing to go out of their way (drive further, reschedule appointments) to seek care at a more highly rated hospital.

- The majority of health care consumers surveyed, 64.9 percent, also stated that they would be willing to pay more out of pocket to seek care at a top-rated hospital.

- Over half, 57 percent, believe online hospital quality ratings are a trustworthy source of information.

- 66.8 percent want access to more quality information and 60.7 percent of survey respondents feel the federal government should pay highly-performing hospitals more.

- Distinguished Hospitals for Clinical Excellence (Top 5 percent in the nation) outperform all other hospitals across all of the 17 mortality cohorts and six of nine complication cohorts studied from 2007 through 2009.

- Specifically, Distinguished Hospitals for Clinical Excellence had a 29.82 percent lower risk-adjusted in-hospital mortality rate and a 1.91 percent lower risk-adjusted in-hospital complication rate among Medicare beneficiaries compared to all other hospitals.

More information can be found at [www.healthgrades.com](http://www.healthgrades.com).



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EMILIANA SANDOVAL the Detroit Free Press

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# Postgame brawl mars Chiefs' division clincher

BY TIM SMITH  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The always-intense hockey rivalry between Canton and Plymouth became just an ugly one on Tuesday night at Compuware Arena.

Following Canton's 2-0 victory over the host Wildcats, thus clinching the KLAA South Division, both teams forgot about the handshake line — instead launching into a full-scale brawl featuring fisticuffs and nasty stickwork.

There were no belated valentines as tempers and trash talk increasingly flared all night, particularly in the scrappy third period — as it became apparent the Chiefs and 'Cats had more in mind than merely playing hockey.

And that just was the prelude to the wild scene that will undoubtedly result in suspensions for players from both squads.

Right after the buzzer sounded, players started going at it along the boards in front of a rowdy student

cheering section for Canton.

Then other groups of combatants formed in the center ice circle, among other spots.

"The refs called a little bit here and there, they could have called a little bit more," Canton head coach Jeremy Majszak said. "But you know, that's what happens in rivalry games and at the end of the year like this, we really wanted to be division champs and they really wanted to spoil it."

"There was a lot of emotion riding on it, so that kind of happens."

## PURE STUPIDITY

Majszak said his players protected each other yet "put themselves in front of the team," something he frowns upon.

"It's just stupidity," Majszak added.

Plymouth head coach Paul Fassbender and Majszak met with referees following the game to discern how many suspensions might be in order.

"We had six, seven guys out there," Fassbender said. "They had six, seven guys out there and then it just got stupid at the end."

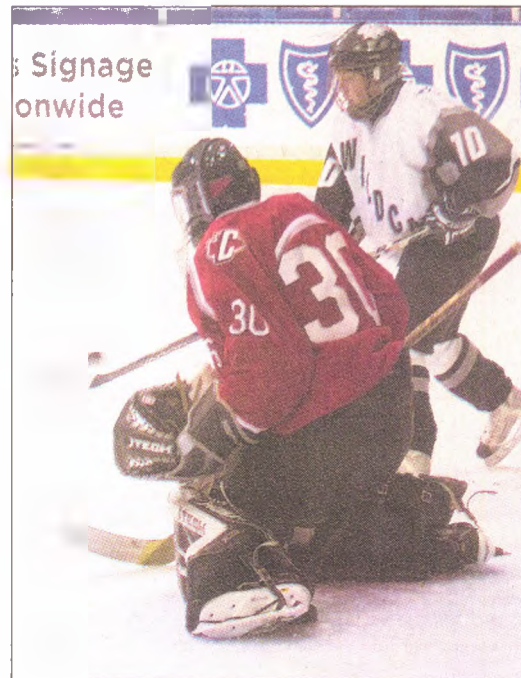
Fassbender and Majszak also said they had to find out exactly how the postgame fight began. They agreed it's not a good time for any suspensions, what with the state playoffs around the corner.

Meanwhile, the ugliness even had one of the game's top players in a subdued mood.

Canton senior defenseman and co-captain Jimmy LaFontaine scored the first goal and assisted on the other, but did not seem all that happy following the game.

"We knew we wanted it," LaFontaine said. "We needed to win and we wanted this game bad, it's a big rivalry."

But he called the postgame shenanigans "just stupid," and said it probably would make it tougher for players to get their emotions



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

With Plymouth's Mitch Claggett (No. 10) trying to distract him, Canton netminder Spencer Craig makes one of 26 stops he made en route to a 2-0 shutout victory.

Please see **HOCKEY, B2**

## SIDELINES

### Salem strong at MISCA

Salem's varsity boys swimming and diving team had a solid showing at last weekend's Michigan Interscholastic Swim Coaches Association meet at Eastern Michigan University.

The Rocks really excelled in the 500 freestyle event, with three swimmers placing among the top seven.



Seroka

Adam Seroka placed second with a time of 4 minutes, 38.65 seconds, trailed in third

place by teammate Matt Collingwood (4:45.11). Taking seventh with a time of 4:50.11 was Max Mills.

Seroka also took second in the 200 free with his 1:42.56 falling just four seconds shy of Battle Creek Lakeview's Clay Youngquist (1:38.56).

Other top 10 finishes by Salem included the following: Mills (seventh, 200 individual medley, 2:00.41); Collingwood (third, 50 freestyle, 22.15); 200 freestyle relay (the quartet of Collingwood, Eric Li, Mills and Seroka finished 10th with a mark of 1:31.47); and the 400 free relay (Collingwood, Jason Zhang, Mills and Seroka took third, with a 3:16.56 mark).

Canton's Jay Jin finished 10th in the 100 backstroke, with a time of 55.96.

Look on page B2 for full results.

### Little League signups

Spring registration is around the corner for the Plymouth/Canton Little League. Online registration is available at [www.ply.canll.com](http://www.ply.canll.com) and there will be a walk-in signup session, from noon to 4 p.m. Saturday, 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. tonight 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](http://www.eteamz.com/Salemrocksgirlslacrosse).

Please see **BOWLING, B2**

# Salem cagers drop thriller

BY TIM SMITH  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

It figures that Salem's varsity boys basketball team went ice cold Monday night in the makeup of a game that was snowed out.

The Rocks missed chances to win the KLAA Central game against Novi both at the end of regulation and the first overtime before falling 63-57 in double OT.

"It's very frustrating, but the first time out they beat us by 25," veteran Salem head coach

Bob Brodie said with a chuckle. "So I guess we've improved a little bit or they haven't, I don't know."

"But it was a great game, an exciting game to watch, and it's just unfortunate we had our opportunities and they wouldn't go."

The Rocks (11-5 overall, 5-5 in the Central) managed just one field goal over the final two overtimes, with free throws accounting for the rest of their points.

Brodie's squad had the ball with 20 seconds left in the fourth and the game tied 49-49, but a 15-footer by senior guard Josh Perrin was "right on, just a little short. Then we went to OT and it was the same scenario."

This time, again with about 20 seconds to go and the score 53-53, sophomore forward Chris Dierker missed a shot and junior guard Grant Bettner's putback would not drop.

After Novi travelled on the ensuing play, the Rocks had another chance to win the game with three seconds left.

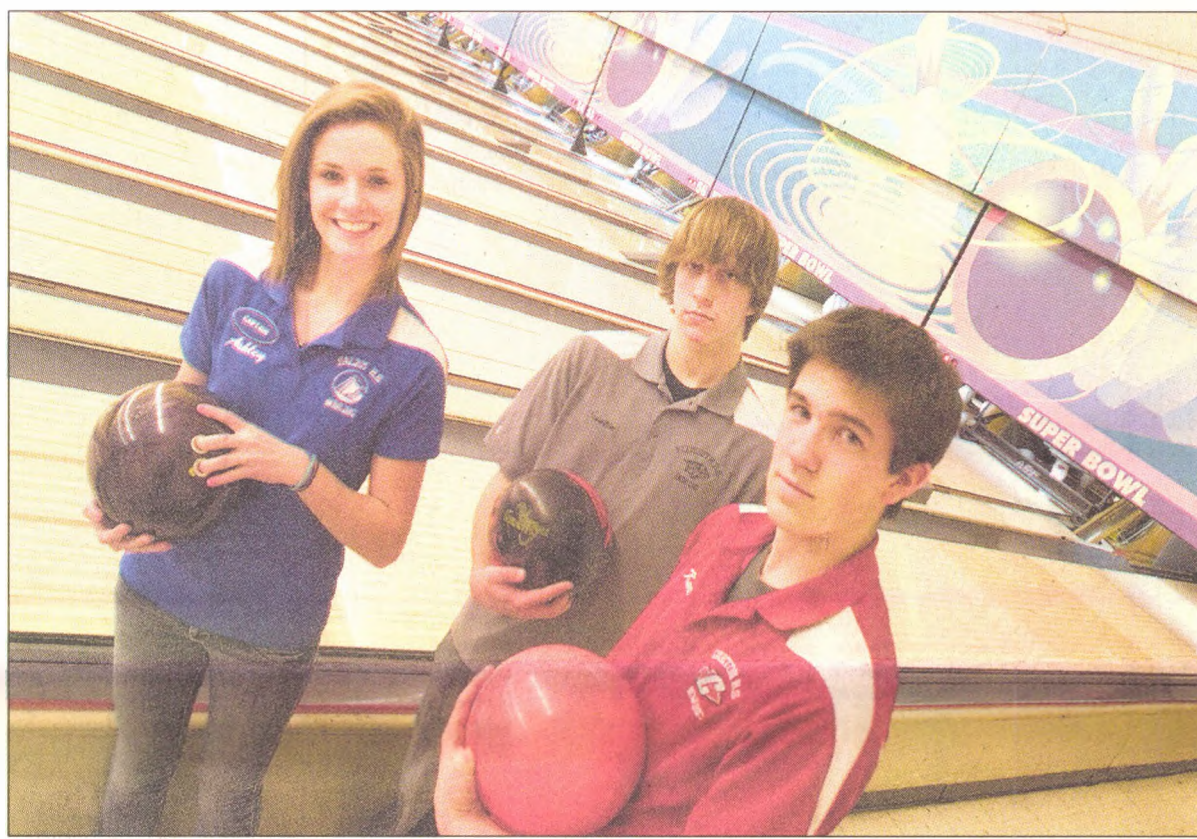
A subsequent try didn't even hit iron and that gave the Wildcats the opening to take control in the second overtime.

Novi's 6-6 forward Chris Milan then went to work with six of his 14 points in the extra OT and Salem could not recover.

"He got some loose balls and opportunities at the glass and scored on us," Brodie said.

Leading Salem with 11 points were Dierker (who also had 12 rebounds and five assists) and Bettner. Other solid performers included Perrin for his ball control and senior center Ethan Walsh, who was "a stabilizing force" off the bench, Brodie said.

Please see **BASKETBALL, B3**



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Varsity bowlers (from left) Ashley Kretschmer of Salem, Justin Thompson of Plymouth and Kurt Kowalski of Canton are more than happy to compete for their prep teams in the KLAA.

# Striking a chord

## Bowling becoming popular choice for student-athletes

BY TIM SMITH  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Everyone knows how serious high school football and basketball players are about the particular sports represented on the back of their varsity jackets.

But perhaps this might surprise you — so are the young men and women who compete on the Canton, Plymouth and Salem bowling teams.

They go all out on the bowling lanes for titles, bragging rights at Plymouth-Canton Educational Park and a shot at college scholarships.

"It's only my junior year, so I'm hoping we go to regionals," Canton junior Kurt Kowalski said. "If I can bowl individuals then I'll have some people looking for me."

"Because any kind of scholarship could help. I'd be glad to bowl in college."

According to Plymouth junior Justin Thompson, "High school bowling is more serious than most leagues, because you are competing against a new team each time and everyone is trying to make it to states."

### LEADING THE CHARGE

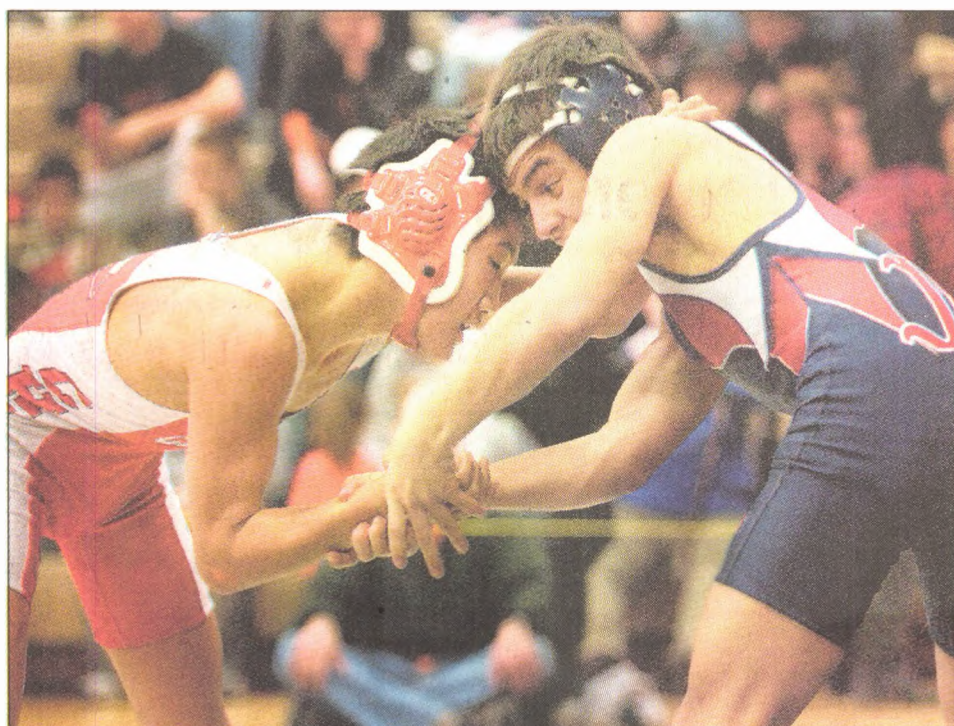
In Kowalski's case, he doesn't have to look very far for encourage-

ment and a glimpse into what it might take to bowl at the collegiate level.

Jim Keppen, co-coach for Canton's varsity boys and girls bowling teams, was a member of the Eastern Michigan University squad in the early 1980s and is a longtime advocate of bowling as a prep offering.

Keppen said athletic directors and the Michigan High School Athletic Association weren't keen on adding the sport back in the mid-1990s.

"Then they got it going, some



Canton's Richard DeMarois (left) and Franklin's Danny Martinez tangle in a 112-pound match in Saturday's Division 1 individual district at Garden City.

# Canton contingent advances to regionals

BY TIM SMITH  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Canton's wrestling machine continues to roll.

At Saturday's Division 1 individual districts hosted by Garden City, the KLAA Kensington Conference and South Division champion Chiefs nearly matched perennial powerhouse Novi-Detroit Catholic Central.

Canton boasted five individual champions and a runner-up, all qualifying for Saturday's D1 individual regionals at Plymouth. The Shamrocks had six individual champions.

Even so, Canton head coach Cory Mancuso was hoping for a larger group moving on.

"It was a bittersweet day for our team," Mancuso said. "We had

### INDIVIDUAL DISTRICTS

some guys wrestle real tough, which resulted in our team having five champions and a runner-up.

"And we also had a few guys fall short that we thought could make it."

The top four finishers in each weight class made the cut for individual regionals.

Placing first for Canton were: 285-pounder Ben Poirer (a 6-3 decision over Dearborn's Gerald Moore); 103-pounder Ben Griffin (a 6-4 win over CC's Evan Toth); Alec Pantaleo at 112 (thanks to a pin of Livonia Franklin's Danny Martinez in 1:27); 140-pounder Zach Marsh (a 7-3 decision over CC's Mike Babicz); and still-

undefeated 189-pounder Anthony Abro, who earned a 6-5 win over the Shamrocks' Miles Trealout.

Finishing second for the Chiefs at 171 was Braden Price, who lost 7-4 to CC's Kevin Beazley.

"The six guys we got through all have a great chance to make it through the regional tournament and qualify for state," Mancuso said.

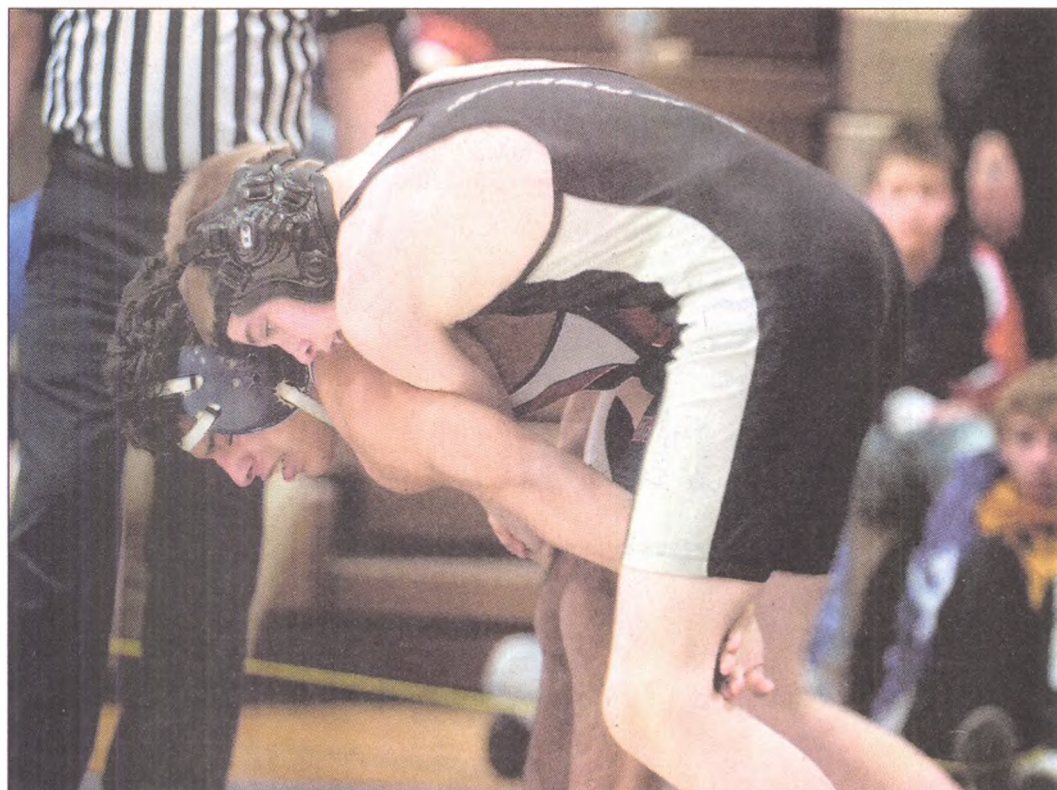
The other Plymouth-Canton Educational Park teams will be sending two wrestlers to the individual regionals.

Plymouth's Said Youssef and Alec Breckenridge each tallied a third-place finisher.

Youssef decided on Alejandro Albuerno of Novi at 125 by a 4-2 count, while Breckenridge defeat-

Please see **WRESTLING, B2**





Jon Conn (right) of Plymouth tries to keep a grip on Livonia Franklin's Gabe Martinez during an early round 119-pound match.

## WRESTLING

FROM PAGE B1

ed Farmington's Kienuwa Davis at 130 by major decision.

As for Salem, fourth-place showings were turned in at 103 by Alex Arble (a 12-8 loss to third-place finisher Jon Locklear of Livonia Churchill) and Cody Korpus, who was pinned in 2:13 by third-place finisher Gabe Martinez of Franklin.

**MHSAA INDIVIDUAL WRESTLING DISTRICT RESULTS DIVISION 1**  
Feb. 12 at GARDEN CITY (top 4 advance to regional)  
285 pounds: Ben Poirer (Canton) d. Gerald Moore (Dearborn), 6-3; 3rd place: Jacob Range (Livonia Stevenson)

p. Omar Haymour (Livonia Franklin), 4-2.  
103 pounds: Ben Griffin (Canton) dec. Evan Toth (Novi-Detroit Catholic Central), 6-4; 3rd: Jon Locklear (Livonia Churchill) dec. Alex Arble (Salem), 12-8.  
112: Alec Pantaleo (Canton) pinned Danny Martinez (Franklin), 1:27; 3rd: T.J. Fagan (Catholic Central) won by injury default over Malik Amine (Catholic Central).  
119: Jacob Meadows (Churchill) dec. Kevin Kennerly (Farmington), 7-3; 3rd: Gabe Martinez (Franklin) p. Cody Korpus (Salem), 2:13.  
125: Ken Bade (Catholic Central) p. Ian Stirlon (Northville), 1:13; 3rd: Said Youssef (Plymouth) dec. Alejandro Albuera (Novi), 4-2.  
130: Steve Tuyo (Franklin) won by disqualification over Logan Marcicki (Catholic Central); 3rd: Alec Breckenridge (Plymouth) won by major dec. over Kienuwa Davis (Farmington).  
135: Alec Mooradian (Catholic Central) dec. Riley Hanson (Catholic Central), 7-1; 3rd: Travis Compo (Northville) dec. Shahbaig Sidhu (Novi), 9-2.  
140: Zach Marsh (Canton) dec. Mike Babicz (Catholic Central), 7-3; 3rd: Jonny Bannoura (Churchill) dec. Josh Hatfield (Franklin), 7-4.  
145: Nick Mason (Catholic Central) won by injury default over Nick Tomski (Farmington); 3rd: Chris Caverly (Novi) dec. Avery Opperman (Franklin), 15-11.  
152: Andrew Garcia (Catholic Central) p. Dan Wagner (Southfield), 1:30; 3rd: John Montgomery (Northville) won by major dec. over Alex Coe (Northville), 9-1.  
160: Matt Roos (Franklin) won by major dec. over Andrew Erickson (Catholic Central), 10-2; 3rd: Alip Harp (Dearborn Fordson) won by injury default over Allen Steele (Franklin).  
171: Kevin Beazley (Catholic Central) dec. Braden Price (Canton), 7-4; 3rd: Trevor Maresh (Northville) won by major dec. over Ryan Southerland (Farmington), 10-0.  
189: Anthony Abro (Canton) dec. Miles Trealout (Catholic Central), 6-5; 3rd: David Sparling (Novi) dec. Mouhamad Soukar (Fordson), 6-2.  
215: Lucas Luchonok (Dearborn Edsel Ford) p. Justin Roe (Farmington), 3:19; 3rd: Antonio Echols (Southfield) p. Andy Boyd (Northville), 3:44.  
tsmith@hometownlife.com

## BOWLING

FROM PAGE B1

people got to the right people and got things working in the late '90s," Keppen said, "and now you can see there's hundreds of schools involved in high school bowling."

"It wasn't offered way back when. But a lot of us who did bowl in college pressed for it hard because we know how great the sport can be."

For those who might have a stereotypical image of bowlers and bowling leagues, what the sport brings out of participants at the prep level might be very surprising.

Of course, there still are plenty of laughs, high fives and colorful shirts.

But there also are baker games. That's where bowling squads operate just like a baseball lineup, requiring each member of a team to follow a set rotation with the goal of accumulating a greater score than their opponent.

"It's different than other leagues," Ashley Kretschmer, senior captain for Salem's varsity girls team, said about high school bowling. "You bowl baker games. You bowl tournaments."

Prep bowling is different for another reason, namely the chance to compare notes five days a week.

"You seem a lot closer with your high school (team) because we see each other all the time," Kowalski said. "... We'll talk about the game, on how we're doing, what we should probably work on at our next practice."

"And just hang out like any regular guys do."

Kretschmer also runs on the Salem varsity girls track and field team, doing sprints, high jumps and throws. But she describes bowling for the Rocks as an "awesome" experience.

The lefty said she signed up a couple years ago after the team's formation "and it was nice to do something different. Plus, I like bowling."

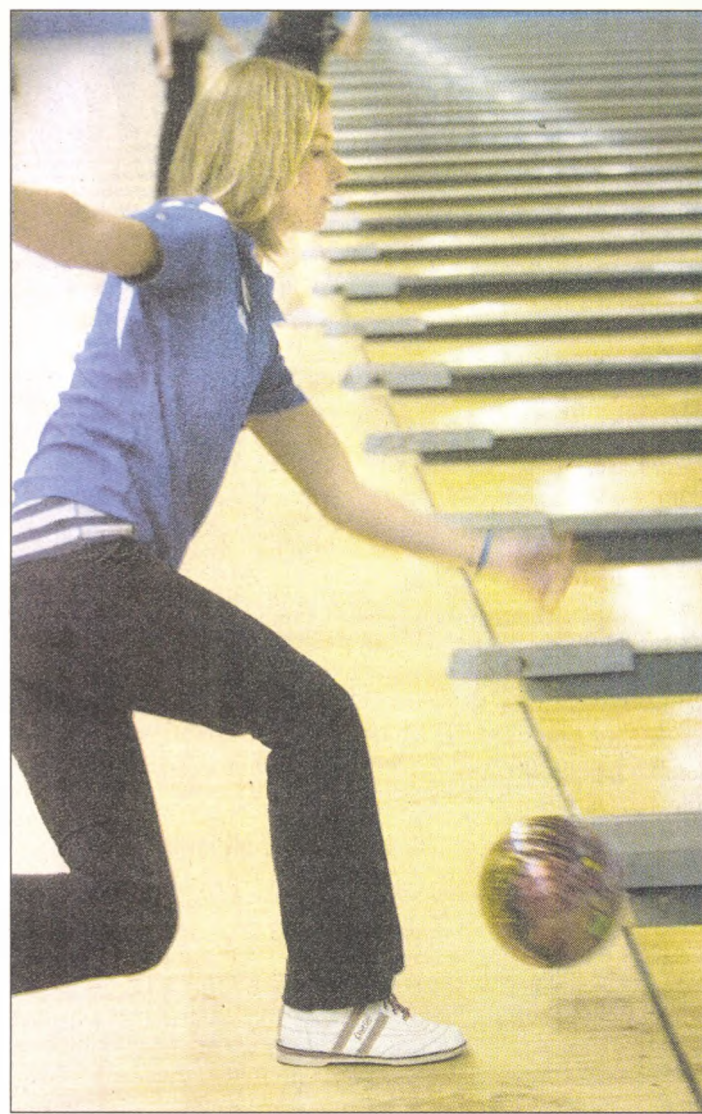
She's doing pretty well at the sport, too, with a high game of 257 on her resume.

### TEAM APPROACH

One of the unique aspects of the prep game indeed are those baker games, which are good for 10 points and precede two regular games in a 30-point dual match.

"Baker games, your whole team bowls together, there's five people that bowl," Kretschmer said. "It's like you're bowling as one person, so you have one person bowl the first and sixth frame and another bowls the second and fifth. It's a team effort."

Kowalski summed them up



With a deliberate approach and left-handed release, Salem senior captain Ashley Kretschmer sends the ball on its way during a recent varsity girls bowling match.

this way. "If somebody messes up, you're still right there to pick them up the next frame."

The intensity of baker games is another plus as far as Keppen is concerned.

"It puts pressure on them," Keppen pointed out. "There's no time to waste, you have to score right away and have to fill spares and strikes."

He added that pure team format gets teammates cheering each other on.

"One person can't carry you and even two people can carry you," Keppen said. "You need all four or five of your bowlers doing their best."

Like athletes of the more high-profile prep sports, many of those who gravitate to bowling started young and participated in various recreational leagues before getting the chance to roll for their high schools.

"I've been bowling since I was in first grade," Kretschmer said. "My mom and dad both bowl, so it was kind of obvious that I would bowl too."

Concurring was Kowalski, owner of a 215 average. "I've been bowling about 12 years. ... My whole family's athletic. Any sport they threw us into all of them just to see which one we were the best at."

Thompson said he started bowling seriously only a few years ago, but he also grew up

at the bowling alley.

"My dad got me into bowling because he has bowled for many years," Thompson said. "And I always went to watch him when I was a kid."

He apparently is a quick study, racking up a season average of 206 as well as a top game of 276.

"Justin is very good at adjusting his line or changing his ball to get back on track," said his coach, Tammy Thompson (no relation).

### NOT SO LAME

Unlike the more-established high school athletics, being a varsity bowler sometimes prompts a few smirks and raised eyebrows, however.

Those are quickly dashed. "A lot of people when they find out I have bowling on my varsity jacket, they're like 'Oh, that's kind of lame,'" Kowalski said. "But they don't understand you have a big point system behind it, how you're not just going up there and throwing a ball."

"How there's all different kinds of games, like individual games and baker games and all that. Then they find out that it's actually kind of cool."

At the same time, they might discover that bowling is only starting to heat up in the high school sports world.

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## HOCKEY

FROM PAGE B1

back in check. "It's going to be tough."

The Chiefs, who finished 7-2-2 in the division (edging 7-3-1 Salem), outmuscled Plymouth from the get-go.

"We knew they were smaller than us and a little less physical," Majszak said, "so we were trying to keep them on the outside and play the body on them."

### HOT HAND

Canton enjoyed an 11-5 shots edge in the first period, and LaFontaine made it 1-0 with 9:32 remaining on a wrist shot from between the circles that beat Plymouth senior goalie Mike Justus (28 saves) low on the glove side.

The Wildcats played their best period in the second, outshooting Canton 13-10, but could not solve senior net-minder Spencer Craig — who always seemed to be in the right place at the right time while stopping all 26 shots he faced.

"He's just playing outstanding," Majszak said. "That's something you've got to ride in the playoffs."

Canton scored an insurance marker with 12:12 left in the middle stanza. LaFontaine's



Canton goal scorer Duggan Tear (No. 8) celebrates with teammates Matt Cox (No. 16), Josh Dickson and Jimmy LaFontaine (No. 2).

shot from the top of the right circle glanced off Justus and junior forward Duggan Tear knocked in the rebound from the left post.

Craig, whose quick glove hand and padded legs frustrated the Wildcats all night, and Canton's physical defense teamed up to stymie a string of Plymouth power plays.

According to Fassbender, his team didn't challenge Craig quite enough.

"We were slow, we played soft," Fassbender said. "We

were playing afraid to get hit. We just didn't have any energy. Their goalie played well, but we didn't get any quality shots."

Plymouth dropped to 6-8-8 overall and 4-3-4 in the division. Canton's overall record is 10-4-2.

But as far as both coaches were concerned, the KLAAs South standings were of secondary importance on such a regrettable night.

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## BOYS SWIMMING & DIVING



Salem swimmer Turner Solterman, shown from earlier this season, was part of the 200-yard medley relay team that finished 17th at the MISCA meet.

Simion (Canton), 58.49; 49. Wellman (Salem), 59.01; 56. Earls (Plymouth), 1:00.24; 63. Christopher Krebs (Canton), 1:00.84.  
100 breaststroke: 1. Mike Fisher (Salem), 59.02; 41. Journey (Plymouth), 1:04.76; 44. Solterman (Salem), 1:06.15; 57. Smaran Bhaktawara (Salem), 1:06.85.  
400 freestyle relay: 1. Saline (Whitener),

Frost, Josh Ehrman, Andy Jensen), 3:14.02; 3. Saieem (Collingwood, J. Zhang, Mills, Seroka), 3:16.56; 31. Plymouth (Journey, Koch, Christensen, Liakos), 3:29.91; 34. Canton (Carlson, Krebs, Dillon, Champine), 3:30.98.  
1-meter diving: 1. Nick Nemetz (Ann Arbor Pioneer), 180.00 points; 27. Nick Griwicki (Salem), 118.65 points.

### MICHIGAN INTERSCHOLASTIC SWIM COACHES ASSOCIATION MEET RESULTS

Feb. 11-12 at EMU's Jones Natatorium  
200-yard medley relay: 1. Midland Dow (Michael Pixton, Tyler Piotrowski, Daniel Biggs, Jackson Goethe), 1:38.3; 12. Plymouth (Cameron Earls, Alex Journey, Ethan Christensen, Adam Liakos), 1:43.31; 13. Canton (Jay Jin, Jacob Dillon, Victor Zhang, Evan Champine), 1:44.03; 17. Salem (Jeremy Wellman, Turner Solterman, Eric Li, Jerry Bai), 1:44.18.  
200 freestyle: 1. Clay Youngquist (Battle Creek Lakeview), 1:38.56; 2. Adam Seroka (Salem), 1:42.56; 23. Jason Zhang (Salem), 1:51.27.  
200 individual medley: 1. Justin Glanda (Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook), 1:54.62; 7. Max Mills (Salem), 2:00.41; 20. Jin (Canton), 2:03.48; 21. Li (Salem), 2:03.58; 29. Journey (Plymouth), 2:05.37.  
50 freestyle: 1. Austin Fathman (Hamilton), 21.93; 3. Matt Collingwood (Salem), 22.15; 45. Liakos (Plymouth), 23.23.  
100 butterfly: 1. Youngquist (Lakeview), 49.79; 38. Bai (Salem), 56.52; 26. Christensen (Plymouth), 55.82; 60. Wellman (Salem), 58.68.  
100 freestyle: 1. Stephen Sobczak (Dexter), 47.37; 46. Liakos (Plymouth), 51.63.  
500 freestyle: 1. Glanda (Cranbrook), 4:38.53; 2. Seroka (Salem), 4:38.65; 3. Collingwood (Salem), 4:45.11; 7. Mills (Salem), 4:50.11; 44. Zach Koch (Plymouth), 5:10.54.  
200 freestyle relay: 1. Saline (David Boland, Brad Frost, Andrew Kriber, Adam Whitener), 1:27.71; 10. Salem (Collingwood, Li, Mills, Seroka), 1:31.47; 17. Canton (Mike Carlson, Dillon, Adrian Simion, Champine), 1:33.45.  
400 backstroke: 1. Sobczak (Dexter), 52.63; 10. Jin (Canton), 55.96; 13. J. Zhang (Salem), 56.39; 17. Li (Salem), 56.64; 41.



## Seguin's in the house

Plymouth Whalers alum Tyler Seguin (second from left) participated in a ceremonial faceoff with Janine Krolkowski (third from left) of the American Heart Association's Go Red For Women campaign before Saturday's Plymouth-Owen Sound game at Compuware Arena. Participating in the faceoff were Whalers captain Beau Schmitz (left) and Owen Sound captain Garrett Wilson (right). Plymouth lost 2-1. Seguin was in town with his current team, the NHL's Boston Bruins, for a game the next afternoon against Detroit. Seguin scored his ninth goal of the season in that game.

## SPORTS ROUNDUP

### For girls only

Looking to boost the profile of girls hockey, Canton Arctic Edge hosted the recent "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 just \$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.articarenas.com.

### Stevenson baseball clinic

Learn the basics of throwing, pitching, hitting, infield-outfield play at a youth baseball clinic (grades 2-6) from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 26 at the Livonia Stevenson High School fieldhouse. The cost is \$30 for the first 60 enrolled. For more information, call Stevenson baseball coach Rick Berryman at (734) 455-8623.



# Canton girls grab KLAA tourney opener

## BASKETBALL

FROM PAGE B1

Canton opened up the KLAA Kensington Conference girls basketball playoffs with a 40-17 victory Tuesday over host Salem.

The Chiefs (15-2) carved out leads of 6-5 after one quarter and 16-9 at halftime before breaking things open in the third thanks to a 15-4 scoring margin over the Rocks.

"We were in it for a half," Salem head coach Fred Thomann said. "But Canton took over in the third quarter. We're getting better, we're going to keep working at it."

Top scorers for Canton were seniors Kayla Bridges and CarolAnn Sexauer, with 11 and 10 points, respectively.

For Salem (6-11), Brianna Berberet tallied six points, with Katelyn Krause (5 points) and Heidi Schmidt (4 points) chipping in. The top rebounder for the Rocks was Breanne Beaver, with six.

Canton will now move on to a second round game Friday night at home.

PCA 35, LENAWEE CHRISTIAN

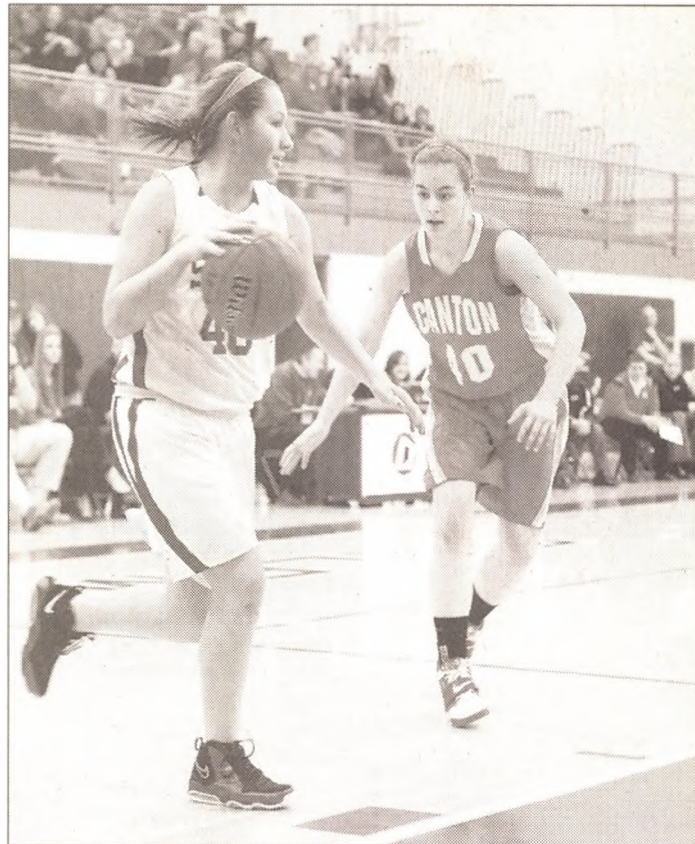
25: In a Michigan Independent Athletic Conference girls basketball tilt on Saturday, Plymouth Christian Academy parlayed solid defense and a patient offensive game into a 10-point victory.

Brianna Harris scored 14 points for the Eagles (13-3, 8-1) while Bethany Hale (9 points), Jenny Malcolm (6 points, 8 rebounds), Karen Windle (5 steals) and Emily Gerulis (9 boards) made key contributions.

PCA head coach Carol Gerulis said her team, playing its third game of the week despite several players hit by illness, conserved energy by playing at a slower tempo than usual.

Meanwhile, PCA defeated Southfield Christian 43-29 last Thursday (Bethany Hale and Harris, 10 points each) and Bloomfield Hills Roeper 45-32 on Feb. 8.

In the Roeper game, Harris scored 13 while Emily Gerulis (8 points, 7 boards), Jenna Abraham and Malcolm (7 points each) helped the cause.



JOHN KEMSKI

Salem senior point guard Heidi Schmidt (left) attempts to dribble past Canton senior forward Sara Schmitt during Tuesday night's KLAA tourney opener.

team," he said. "I don't know if it gives us experience or it's going to shatter our confidence or give us a little more hope that 'Hey, we can hang in with anyone now.' We're going to find out against Canton."

**INTER-CITY BAPTIST 49, PCA 43:** Plymouth Christian Academy's boys basketball team dropped this Michigan Independent Athletic Conference matchup Tuesday night despite 17 points and six rebounds from Eric Jipping and 12 points from Mick Noel.

The Eagles trailed 38-25 after three before turning on the jets in a fourth-quarter comeback that fell just short.

PCA head coach Keith Anleitner, whose team fell to 3-11 overall and 3-8 in the MIAC, said the rally came about when his team started adhering to the offensive system and making some shots. It was 43-43 with about three minutes to play, but the Eagles turned the ball over twice to enable Allen Park Inter-city Baptist to take the lead.

tsmith@hometownlife.com

# Plymouth nearly upsets Livonia Stevenson

BY BRAD EMONS  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Playoff intensity basketball - KLAA style - kicked off Tuesday night when host Livonia Stevenson pulled out a first-round 50-47 triumph over an up-and-coming Plymouth team.

Stevenson (12-5), getting some clutch plays late from junior guard Molly Knoph (12 points) and senior forward Monika Rudis (10 points) remains in the winners bracket of the tournament.

But now the Spartans have the daunting task of facing state-ranked Canton (15-2) in the Kensington Conference semifinals beginning at 7 p.m. Friday on the Chiefs' home floor.

Meanwhile, even Plymouth coach Bob deBear gained solace despite the setback as his team fell to 7-10 overall.

"That's a great high school

basketball game," he said. "Two good teams battling down to the wire. It could have gone either way. Unfortunately it went their way."

### TAKING THE LEAD

The Wildcats trailed 24-16 at halftime, but took a 38-33 advantage heading into the final period thanks to a pair of triples during the final 51.4 seconds by freshman point-guard Kylie Robb, who led all scorers with 16 points (including a perfect 6-of-6 from the line).

"When we came out in the second half, I felt we were just kind of flat," Stevenson coach Jen Knoph said. "Everybody was kind of falling back on their heels and nobody was getting around. They (Plymouth) started getting good shot opportunities from the outside."

Plymouth maintained its slim lead, 45-42, with 3:33 to

go on a layup by Kate Watson. But that's when the Spartans went to work as Rachel Wilkinson started an 8-2 run with a pair of free throws just 26 seconds later.

Rudis found Knoph on a back-door cut for a layup with 2:16 remaining to give the Spartans a 46-45 advantage.

Rudis then came up with a steal and scored again with 1:20 left to up the lead to 48-45 before Plymouth's Chyna Williams scooped up a rebound off a blocked shot and scored with 28.71 seconds left.

Down one, the Wildcats tried to foul, but gave up almost 17 precious seconds as Knoph broke the press and scored with only 10.4 remaining to make it 50-47.

"We fouled her," deBear said. "Both our kids said they grabbed her. Alex (Roberts) hacked her, but they just didn't give us a foul. Looking at it - who knows?"

After Molly Knoph's hoop, Plymouth's last-ditch three-point attempt during waning seconds missed the mark and Stevenson escaped with the three-point victory.

Watson, a junior, added 12 points, while senior Alex Roberts had 10 for Plymouth.

The Wildcats controlled the boards during the third quarter and shot 9-of-23 during the period to take the lead by five.

"Our kids play with so much heart," deBear said. "They find a way. They never feel like they're down-and-out."

"I just think we're really becoming a good team that plays smart and really well on the road. I just see us our confidence growing and growing."

bemons@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-6851

- BOYS BASKETBALL**  
Thursday, Feb. 17 (KLAA Playoffs-1st Round)  
Salem at Canton, 7 p.m.  
Northville at Plymouth, 7 p.m.  
Friday, Feb. 18  
Ply. Christian at University Liggett, 8:30 p.m.
- GIRLS BASKETBALL**  
Friday, Feb. 18  
Franklin Road at Huron Valley, 4:30 p.m.  
Luth. Westland at Luth. N.west, 5:30 p.m.  
Salem at Franklin, 7 p.m.  
Ply. Christian at University Liggett, 7 p.m.
- KLAA Playoffs-Semifinals**  
Novi at John Glenn, 7 p.m.  
Stevenson at Canton, 7 p.m.  
Sunday, Feb. 20 (Catholic League A-B Finals at U-D Mercy's Calihan Hall)  
Ladywood vs. F.H. Mercy, 3 p.m.
- PREP HOCKEY**  
Saturday, Feb. 19  
Catholic League Championship at O.L. St. Mary Rink, TBA.  
KLAA Crossovers at Arctic Edge, TBA
- PREP WRESTLING**  
MHSAA INDIVIDUAL REGIONALS (all Saturday, Feb. 19)  
Division 1 at Plymouth, 8 a.m.  
Division 1 at Saline, 9:30 p.m.  
Division 4 at Manchester, 9:30 a.m.  
Division 3 at Goodrich, noon.
- BOYS SWIMMING & DIVING**  
Friday, Feb. 18  
KLAA South Division Diving at John Glenn, 5:30 p.m.

- KLAA Central Division Diving at South Lyon East, 6 p.m.  
Saturday, Feb. 19  
KLAA South Division meet at John Glenn, noon.  
KLAA Central Division meet at South Lyon East, noon.
- GIRLS GYMNASTICS**  
Saturday, Feb. 19  
KLAA Meet at W.L. Central, 9 a.m.
- PREP BOWLING**  
Thursday, Feb. 17  
Canton vs. Clarenceville, John Glenn vs. Wayne at Town 'N Country Lanes, 3:30 p.m.  
Friday, Feb. 18  
KLAA Tourney at Century Bowl, 10 a.m.  
Saturday, Feb. 19  
Catholic League Championships at Drakeshire Lanes, 3:30 p.m.
- MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL**  
Saturday, Feb. 19  
Madonna at Aquinas, 3 p.m.  
Macomb CC at Schoolcraft, 3 p.m.
- WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL**  
Saturday, Feb. 19  
Aquinas at Madonna, 1 p.m.  
Macomb CC at Schoolcraft, 1 p.m.
- ONTARIO HOCKEY LEAGUE**  
Friday, Feb. 18  
Plymouth Whalers at Windsor, 7 p.m.  
Saturday, Feb. 19  
Windsor vs. Plymouth Whalers at Compuware Arena, 7 p.m.  
Sunday, Feb. 20  
Plymouth Whalers at Saginaw, 4 p.m.

### THE WEEK AHEAD

# Canton looks to get healthy for big meet

In a tuneup for the KLAA gymnastics championship meet, Canton finished 1-1 in a tri-meet last Thursday.

The Chiefs lost a close 143.925-143.15 decision to always-tough Brighton and handed Howell (137.9) a defeat to improve to 10-1 overall and 8-1 in the KLAA.

"With Ayana Lewis and Marina Milad out with injuries and Robyn Piiowar recovering from illness," Canton head coach John Cunningham said, "I (was) actually pleased with our score."

"If everyone gets back in the lineup, look out." Piiowar did return to finish third on uneven bars (8.75) and fifth on vault (9.0).

But several other Chiefs were outstanding.

Collecting firsts for Canton were Erica Lucas (with a personal best 9.5 on vault) and Kali Pierce, with a 9.075 to win balance beam. Pierce also scored a 9.05 on floor exercise.

Brooke Granowicz placed second on balance beam with a 9.05 and also had a 9.05 on floor exercise to match Pierce.

Cunningham lauded the fourth-place showing by Alex Fideler in floor exercise, calling her 9.5 score "great."

Meanwhile, Melissa Green chipped in with a third on vault (9.15), fifth on floor (9.3) and sixth on beam (8.625).

Although Canton is getting set for Saturday's KLAA championship meet in Walled Lake, the Chiefs were slated to face Livonia Blue on Wednesday.



JUDY FOSTER

One of Canton's top performers against Brighton and Howell, senior Kali Pierce, won balance beam with a mark of 9.075.

# Blazers reach Catholic League title game

Livonia Ladywood earned a spot in the Catholic League A-B Division girls basketball championship with a 43-31 victory Saturday over Birmingham Marian in a semifinal game played at the Madonna University Activities Center.

Sophomore point-guard Andie Anastos paced a balanced scoring attack with 13

points as the Blazers improved to 14-3 overall and will face Farmington Hills Mercy (13-4) for the title at 3 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 20, at the University of Detroit's Calihan Hall. (The two teams split during the Central Division season.)

Sophomore forward Kiley Gorski added 11 points and five rebounds, while seniors Teresa Wojnarowski and

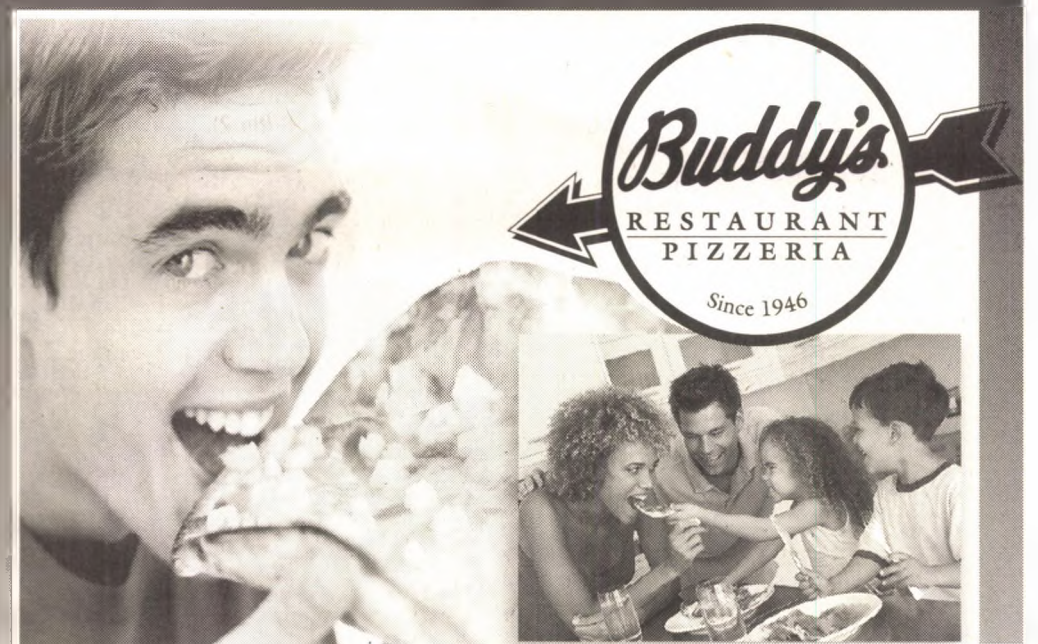
Alyssa Anastos contributed seven points and six rebounds apiece.

Alyssa Anastos also dished out seven assists.

Marian led 17-16 at halftime, but Ladywood went on an 18-7 third-quarter run to take command.

Maura Mulroy paced the Mustangs (12-5) with nine points.

# OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC NEWSPAPERS



The Observer & Eccentric and Buddy's Pizza presents

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Tell us your story in 150 words or less (attach photos in a jpg format as large as possible and be sure to identify everyone in the photo).

Deadline is the last day of each month.





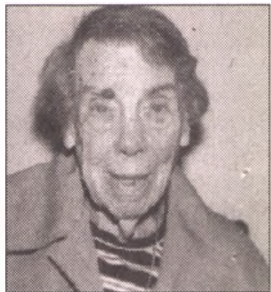
# Passages

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## DOROTHY BURKE

Age 76 of Livonia. Beloved wife of Gerald. Loving mother of Luke, Rose (Laran) Lerner, Laura, Brian and Paul (Cheryl). Proud grandma of Marc, Shauna, Joy, Kevin, Heather, Holly, Jason, Emma, Trevor and Eddie. Dearest sister of Joseph (Pat) Schutz. Visitation will be held at Fred Wood Funeral Home-Rice Chapel 36100 5 Mile Rd., Livonia (E. of Levan) Friday 2-9pm Scripture Friday 7:00pm. Funeral Service will be Saturday at St. Edith Catholic Church 15089 Newburgh Rd. Livonia Instate 10:00am Mass 10:30am. Memorial contributions may be made to Angela Hospice. Please visit on-line guestbook fredwoodfuneralhome.com



Laura Gerhard

Was born 8/2/1911 and passed away on 2/11/2011. She was a resident of Livonia, Mi. Laura is survived by her children: Rudolph Gerhard and Roland Gerhard (Maxine), 6 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren. Laura was preceded in death by her husband Carl W. Gerhard in 1958. A memorial service in Laura's memory will be held at a later date.

## MICHAEL E. CANDELA

February 12, 2011. Age 39. Beloved son of Frank (Chris) Candela and Cindy Candela. Loving grandson of Dolores Felice. Dear brother of Marianne (David) Smelewski. Beloved uncle of Joy, Evan, Nico, Pearson, Jade, Madison, Lia, Desmond and Rosa. Nephew of Vincent (Nancy) Candela, Janice (the late John) Felice, Ken (Ann) Felice and loving cousin to many. Michael was an active member of the Livonia Jaycees. Visitation will be Wednesday February 16, 2011 from 4-9pm at Harry J. Will Funeral Home located at 37000 Six Mile Rd., Livonia and Thursday February 17, 2011 from 1-9 pm with Scripture Service at 7pm. Funeral Service will be Friday February 18 at Our Lady of Victory, 770 Thayer Blvd., Northville. Instate begins at 9:30 am; Mass will follow at 10am. Donations can be made to the Leukemia and Lymphoma Foundation of Michigan or to the family to set up a trust in honor of Michael. www.harryjwillfuneralhome.com

## LOUISE I. HAYMAKER

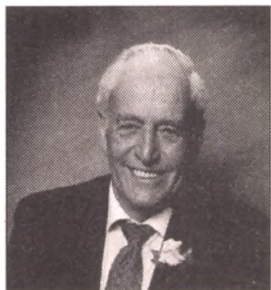
Age 99, of Farmington Hills, MI. Passed away February 14, 2011. Arrangements by Thayer-Rock Funeral Home, Farmington.

## JAMES HINEY

February 12, 2011. Age 87. Loving husband of the late Betty. Beloved brother of Catherine Mitchell. Uncle of Patrick (Lynne) and Maureen (Robert) Grant. Dear friend of Larry Smith. "Uncle Jimmie, we will miss you and your sharp wit." Memorial Service will be held on Saturday, February 19, 2011 at 11am at Harry J. Will Funeral Home 37000 W. Six Mile Rd., Livonia. www.harryjwillfuneralhome.com

## MARJORIE "MAGGIE" DUDRA

She will be missed. Age 84, February 14, 2011. Loving wife of Benedict Dudra and the late Merritt Peck. Beloved mother of Donna Jones and Mabel (Bob) Buckholz. Stepmother of Carol (John) Schuman and Kathy (Tom) Jones. Grandmother of Joshua Jones and Merritt (Bree) Buckholz. Great grandmother of two loving families. Visitation Friday 4-9pm and funeral service Saturday 11am at the Harry J. Will Funeral Home, 37000 W. Six Mile, Livonia. Memorials may be made to the Penrickton Center for Blind Children. www.harryjwillfuneralhome.com



Lawrence A. Martin

Beloved husband and father, age 90. Wife Cynthia, children Larry Martin (Marilyn), Judy Halter, Harry Moir (deceased), Kathleen Scarcelli, Joseph Martin (Kate), Annette Grzyb (Steve), Kim Hodge. Eleven grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren. Sadly missed by all. Visitation on Thursday, from 2-9pm. Services will be held 11am Friday. RG & GR Harris Funeral Home, Garden City.

May You Find Comfort in Family & Friends

## PETER D. SICKELS

46 of Monroe, formerly of the Plymouth and Canton area died on February 10, 2011 in Monroe. Surviving are his parents David and Elisabeth Sickels of Loudon, TN and sister Wendy E. (Anthony) Blas of Coppell, TX. Online condolences to: www.ruppfuneralhomeinc.com.

## GAIL L. WELCH

Age 61 of Howell, passed away at her home Sunday, February 13, 2011. She was born September 14, 1949 in Detroit, MI, the daughter of Richard J. and Joanne L. (Luers) Hennessy. Beloved wife of John whom she married in 1968 in Livonia. Dear mother of John (Dawn) Welch, Jr. of Cumming, GA, and Brian (Becky) Welch of Howell. Dear grandmother of six; also survived by her mother, Joanne of Howell and siblings, Rick (Denise) Hennessy of Grand Rapids, Christina (Tom) Rose of Livonia, Joanie (Tom) Econom of Howell, Paul Hennessy of Howell and Mark (Tara) Hennessy of Midland. Memorial services will be Saturday, February 26 at 11 a.m. (visitation 10 - 11 a.m.) at St. John Catholic Church, 2099 Hacker Road, Howell. Memorial contributions may be made to St. John Catholic Church Building Fund. Arrangements by MacDonald's Funeral Home, Howell (517-546-2800). Please visit the family's online guestbook at www.macdonaldsfuneralhome.com

## OBITUARY POLICY

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

### Deadlines:

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

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

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# 'Mrs. Coach's Closet' auction aids rehab work of Salvation Army

BY SHARON DARGAY  
& E STAFF WRITER

Rita Rodriguez has given up the Maize & Blue for a good cause.

She took a cue from her husband, former University of Michigan football coach Rich Rodriguez and donated 170 items of clothing to The Salvation Army.

"Last month Rich donated stuff to our Wayne store. When I went to their house to say thank you, Rita said 'I've got more.' I said, 'I've got my truck,' said Maj. John Aren, administrator of The Salvation Army's Adult Rehabilitation Center in Romulus. "All of it is U of M stuff."

The former coach unloaded sportswear and memorabilia at the store, which auctioned most of the donated goods and raised \$12,600 for the rehab center in Romulus. Another \$3,600 came from sale of the items.

"The Adult Rehabilitation Center is funded 100 percent by the resale of gently-used items. We take no outside funding for all of the services we provide," Aren said. "We have 100 men in residence in Romulus. They're good guys. The men receive counseling and three hot meals, hot showers, Bible study and counseling."

The Salvation Army's Adult Rehabilitation Centers give spiritual, social and emotional assistance to men and women who can't cope with their problems and care for themselves.

The Salvation Army thrift stores in Romulus, Wayne, Garden City, Lincoln Park, Dearborn, Canton and Livonia help fund the Romulus Center.

Aren said Rita Rodriguez' donations will be auctioned only from 10 a.m.-noon



Auction items include embellished U-M shirts.



The auction will include lots of shirts and other sportswear.

Saturday, Feb. 19, at the Canton Township store, 43404 Joy Road at Morton Taylor.

The list includes hoodies, sweatshirts, sweat suits, pull-overs, T-shirts, a few purses, a duffel bag, winter hat and a hockey puck. Aren said they range in size but most items are small to medium. He described the "bedazzled" pieces as "nicely done" and said most pieces offer "great

unused quality."

"This is a little different than Rich's donation. Rich delivered his to the Wayne Store. Since Rita called us for pickup, we thought we'd do it at the new (Canton) store and show the new spirit of upscale resale — high end fashion at a fraction of the original cost."

The 40,000-square-foot store opened Nov. 1, 2010.

Aren said Rita Rodriguez' is a blessing because it will bring attention to the need for donations. The store has dubbed the event "Mrs. Coach's Closet" auction.

"Donations are low and we need urgent help to restock our shelves. Our men need it and our employees need it."

To schedule a donation pickup, call (800) SATruck. For more on the Romulus Center visit www.romulus.satruck.org/rehabilitation-program.

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<p style="text-align: center;"><b>CATHOLIC</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>ST. ANNE'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH</b> Tridentine Latin Mass St. Anne's Academy - Grades K-8 38100 Five Mile Road Livonia, MI 48154 • (734) 462-3200 Mass Schedule: First Fri. 7:00 p.m. First Sat. 11:00 a.m. Sun. Masses 7:30 &amp; 10:00 a.m. Confessions Heard Prior to Each Mass Mother of Perpetual Help Devotions Tuesdays at 7:00 P.M.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>UNITED METHODIST</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>ORCHARD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH</b> 30450 Farmington Road • Farmington Hills www.orchardumc.org 248-626-3620 Worship: 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. Christian Education for all ages Pastors: Carol J. Johns, Jim Braid, Margo Dexter</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>PRESBYTERIAN (U.S.A.)</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>ROSEDALE GARDENS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)</b> 9601 Hubbard at W. Chicago, Livonia, MI (between Merriman &amp; Farmington Rds.) (734) 422-0494 Friends in Faith Service 9:00 am Traditional Service 10:30 am Visit www.rosedalegardens.org For information about our many programs</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSOURI SYNOD</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church</b> 14175 Farmington Road, Livonia Just north of I-96 www.christsavior.org Sunday Worship 8:30 &amp; 11:00 am - Traditional Sunday School/Bible Class 9:45 am Early Childhood Center Phone 734-513-8413 Staffed Nursery Available Making disciples who share the love of Jesus Christ Pastors: Davenport, Bayer, &amp; Creeden 734-522-6830</p>		
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>CHURCHES OF THE NAZARENE</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>PLYMOUTH CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE</b> 46801 W. Ann Arbor Road • (734) 453-1525 Sunday School - 9:45 A.M. Sunday Worship - 11:00 A.M. Sunday Evening - 6:00 P.M. Family Night - Wed. 7:00 P.M. NEW HORIZONS FOR CHILDREN LEARNING CENTER (734) 455-3196</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>GREEK ORTHODOX</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>NATIVITY OF THE VIRGIN MARY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH</b> 39851 West Five Mile, Plymouth Twp., MI Sunday Services Matsins 8:30 am, Divine Liturgy 10:00 am Rev. Fr. Demetrios Sean Govostes. Parish Office 734-420-0131 Office Hours M-F 10:00 am - 2:00 pm www.nativitygochurch.org</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Risen Christ Lutheran</b> David W. Martin, Pastor 46250 Ann Arbor Road • Plymouth (I-96 &amp; Shadel) (734) 453-5252 Worship 8:15 &amp; 10:45 am Sunday School 9:30 • Adult Bible Study 9:30 Nursery Care Available. All are welcome. Come as you are. www.risenchrist.info</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>LUTHERAN CHURCH WISCONSIN SYNOD</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>ST. PAUL'S EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH &amp; SCHOOL</b> 17810 FARMINGTON ROAD, LIVONIA (734) 261-1360 WORSHIP SERVICES SUNDAY: 8:30 A.M. &amp; 11:00 A.M. THURSDAY: 6:30 P.M. website: www.stpaulslivonia.org</p>		
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>PRESBYTERIAN</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Fellowship Presbyterian Church</b> Adult Sunday School: 9:30 - 10:15 a.m. • Worship: 10:30 a.m. Childrens Sunday School: 10:30 a.m. Pastor: Dr. Jimmy McGuire Services held at: Saint Andrews Episcopal Church 16360 Hubbard Road in Livonia • South of Six Mile Road Nursery provided • www.fellowship-presbyterian.org</p>				<p style="text-align: center;"><b>EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>WARD CHURCH</b> 40000 Six Mile Road Northville, MI 48168 248.374.7400 www.wardchurch.org Traditional Worship 8, 9:30 &amp; 11 a.m. Contemporary Worship 9:30 &amp; 11 a.m. Children's Programs available at 9:30 &amp; 11 a.m. The Traditional Service is broadcast on the radio each week at 11 a.m. on 560 AM</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>CONGREGATIONAL</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>North Congregational Church</b> 36520 12 Mile Rd. Farmington Hills (bet. Drake &amp; Halsted) (248) 848-1750 10:30 a.m. Worship &amp; Church School Faith - Freedom Fellowship Ministers Dr. Mark P. Jensen Rev. Mary E. Biedron</p>

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



# ENTERTAINMENT

Thursday, February 17, 2011

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BECOME A FAN TODAY

## See lively steps, beautiful costumes at Polish dance show

BY SHARON DARGAY  
O&E STAFF WRITER

The PNA Centennial Dancers will take on a new look at a new location for their 31st Dance Extravaganza Show.

After four years in Canton — and various communities before that — the showcase of Polish folk dancing moves to the Weber Performing Arts Center at Thurston High School in Redford.

"We're proud to be there. It's a bigger theater and we're able to fit more people in," said Kristal Wioncek, a former director who has two daughters in the show.

The PNA Centennial Dancers will take the stage at 4:30 p.m. Saturday, March 5, at the school, 26255 Schoolcraft. Admission is \$5 and tickets are available by calling Diane Dudek at (734) 775-3272 or Suzan Marzec at Simply Polish in Garden City, (734) 525-2880.

Five graduating seniors — Allison Bielski of Garden City, Courtney Delonis of Farmington Hills, Randy Favot of Livonia, Margaux Zanetti of Northville, and Joseph Zabawski of Canton — will be honored at the show. They'll wear white gowns or tuxedos during a waltz to Strauss' *Blue Danube*, in addition to performing in several of the folk dances in ethnic costume.

"This year we are showcasing new costumes. They came from Poland and we did a lot of fundraising for them. Each dancer has at least three," Wioncek said, adding that the outfits are decorated with lots of ribbons and hand embroidery.

### AUTHENTIC COSTUMES

Marzec, who teaches dance and choreographs the shows, bought fabric in Poland and had the costumes made in the U.S.

"We're very excited about the new costumes. Our new costume for the polonez is Kontusz, with sashes and fur and hats with feathers," she said.



Elena Wioncek and Sam Sebastian dance their way across the stage, wearing Lubelski costumes.

"We always officially open an event with the polonez."

Dancers, grouped according to age from 3 to 18, will perform a selection of national dances, like Polonez, regional dances with corresponding costumes and polka.

"I Americanize the second half of the show with the polka. That's where the creativity comes in," she said. "Last year they danced to a *Gilligan's Island* polka version. The youngest group dances to *Kiss Me I'm Polish*."

### MORE THAN DANCE

Students enrolled in Marzec's dance classes learn about culture, costumes, the stories and traditions behind each dance, in addition to movement and footsteps. She also owns Simply Polish, a store in Garden City that sells Polish pottery, ornaments, jewelry and teaches Polish art and language classes.

Marzec earned a degree in 1992 from Marie Currie Slowdoska University in Lublin, Poland and

began teaching authentic dances in western Wayne County.

"My father was born in Poland. He was a survivor of World War II and fought in the Polish army. He and my mom met in Canada. They married and he taught me to dance at a young age. That desire has always been with me."

She said dance is a great way to pass on ethnic traditions and a fun activity for youngsters and teens. Several of the PNA Centennial Dancers will accompany her to Poland this summer for a festival and parade. They also give back to the community through performances in senior centers, churches and the Plymouth Fall Festival.

"Parents want the traditions passed on and using dance is a way to get them hooked," Marzec noted. "Folk dancing is a dying art. The world is becoming smaller. We all have beautiful cultures and it's important to keep them alive in the melting pot."



Elizabeth Bartley, (left) Jonathon Bartley, Cazzi Smith, Ryan Beier, Kailee Arm, Andrew Wozniak, Evelyn Deren, and Daniel Cooper perform in Rzeszowskie.



Graduates of the PNC Centennial Dancers wear white gowns or tuxedos and will waltz at the 31st Dance Extravaganza Show in Redford.



### Music, song and dance

The Dolowy Sisters, Ella (left) and Brigid, are among the musicians set to perform at 6 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 19 at Monaghan K of C Hall, 19801 Farmington Road, between Seven Mile and Eight Mile, in Livonia. The benefit for Doctors Without Borders, will feature continuous entertainment by Finvara's Wren, Crossroads Celi, Charlie Taylor, Colin Page, Terry Bradley, Frank Kennedy, Ray Maguire, Brendan McNulty, Eddie McGlinchey, Tommy MacNeil, Siobhan and Terence McKinney, Kelsey Lutz, The Gavin Family, The Perkins Family and the Conor O'Neill's Session Band with emcee Cyndy Canty from Magic 105.1 radio. There will be dancing, step-dancing, piping, music and song in a family-friendly atmosphere. A cash bar and food will be available. Donations should be made payable to Doctors Without Borders. For more information call Kathleen O'Neill at (313) 96-IRISH, Chris Murray at (313) 563-2078, Mick Gavin at (313) 537-3489 or Peggy Gray at (734) 891-4871.

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By Mary Chase

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**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

**Dirty Show**  
**Time/Date:** 7 p.m.-2 a.m. Friday-Saturday Feb. 18-19 and Saturday, Feb. 26  
**Location:** Bert's Warehouse Theatre, 2739 Russell Street, Detroit  
**Details:** Erotic art, performance art; tickets \$20 in advance or \$25 at the door  
**Contact:** dirtydetroit.com or call (313) 393-3233

**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.go.comedy.net

**JD's House of Comedy**  
**Time/Date:** Various show times Wednesday-Saturday evenings  
**Location:** 25333 W. 12 Mile, inside Star Theatre complex, Southfield



Yehonatan Berick on violin and Pauline Martin on piano perform Feb. 25 at Schoolcraft College.



Blackthorn performs March 10-12 in Farmington Hills.

**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:** Louis Katz, Feb. 16-19; Shane Moss, Feb. 23-26;  
**Contact:** (734) 261-0555, www.kickercomplex.com

**Mark Ridley's Comedy Castle**  
**Time/Date:** Rachel Feinstein, Feb. 17-19; Ian Bagg, Feb. 24-26  
**Location:** 269 E. Fourth, Royal Oak  
**Contact:** (248) 542-9900, www.comedycastle.com

**CONCERTS**

**The Ark**  
**Time/Date:** 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

**Barn Theatre**  
**Time/Date:** 7:30 p.m. March 10-12  
**Location:** Farmington Hills Players' Barn Theatre, 32332 12 Mile in Farmington Hills  
**Details:** Blackthorn performs Celtic music; tickets are \$19 for adults and \$17 for seniors and students  
**Contact:** (248) 473-1848

**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 mjmmullen@yahoo.com

**Dick O'Dow's**  
**Time/Date:** 9 p.m. March 5  
**Location:** 160 W. Maple, Birmingham  
**Details:** The Terry Murphy Band plays progressive folk music from the U.S., Canada, Ireland and the British Isles  
**Contact:** (248) 642-1135

**Hard Rock Cafe**  
**Time/Date:** 9 p.m. Feb. 24  
**Location:** 45 Monroe Street, Detroit  
**Details:** Christian rockers, Sweet Crystal and MediSin Wheel; \$5 cover  
**Contact:** (313) 964-7625

**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

**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.scbboxoffice.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 calling (734) 462-4409  
**Contact:** (734) 462-4403

**Trinity House Theatre**  
**Time/Date:** 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

**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 Ziwich 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

**Lipizzaner Stallions**  
**Time/Date:** 7:30 p.m., Tuesday-Wednesday, Feb. 22-23  
**Location:** Eastern Michigan University Convocation Center, 799 N Hewitt, Ypsilanti  
**Details:** 41st anniversary production, "Dancing White Stallions," is an equestrian work of art and equine ballet. Tickets from \$22.50-\$17.50 for adults, \$11.25 for senior citizens over 60 and children 12 and under  
**Contact:** (734) 487-2282

**FILM**

**Movies at the Marquis**  
**Time/Date:** 7:30 p.m., Feb. 19  
**Location:** Marquis Theatre, 135 E. Main, Northville  
**Details:** "Love Story." Tickets are \$3  
**Contact:** (248) 349-8110

**Penn Theater**  
**Time/Date:** 7 p.m. and 9 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Feb. 18-19; 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 20 and 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 24  
**Location:** 760 Penniman Ave., Plymouth  
**Details:** "Unstoppable," all seats \$3  
**Contact:** (734) 453-0870; www.penn-theatre.com

**Redford Theatre**  
**Time/Date:** 8 p.m. Feb. 25 and 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Feb. 26  
**Location:** 17360 Lahser, just north of Grand River Ave., in Detroit  
**Details:** "The Harvey Girls." Tickets are \$4  
**Contact:** (313) 537-2560

**MUSEUMS**

**Charles H. Wright**  
**Time/Date:** 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday and 1-5 p.m. Sunday  
**Location:** 315 E. Warren Road, Detroit  
**Details:** Exhibitions include Art of the Masters: A Survey of African American Images, 1980-2000 through Feb. 28; The Test: Tuskegee Airmen Project through June 19; Framed Stories: The Art of Carmen Cartiness Johnson and Jerome Wright through April 11. Museum Admission is \$8 for adults, 13-61; and \$5 for youth, 3-12, and seniors, 62 and over. Members and children 2 and under are admitted free  
**Contact:** (313) 494-5800

**Cranbrook**  
**Time/Date:** 2 p.m., Thursday-Sunday  
**Location:** 39221 Woodward, Bloomfield Hills  
**Details:** Docent-guided public tours of Saarinen House, a rare integration of art, architecture, design and nature, depart from Cranbrook Institute of Science front desk. The tours are about 90 minutes long and take place rain or shine.  
**Contact:** (248) 645-3200 for house tours; http://science.cranbrook.edu

**Plymouth Historical Museum**  
**Time/Date:** Through Oct. 23  
**Location:** 155 S. Main, just north of downtown Plymouth  
**Details:** Rediscovering the Civil War  
**Contact:** (734) 455-8940

**SOMETHING DIFFERENT**

**Cottage and Lakefront Living**  
**Time/Date:** 2-9:30 p.m. Thursday-Friday, Feb. 24-25; 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 26; and 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 27  
**Location:** Suburban Collection Showplace, 46100 Grand River Ave., Novi  
**Details:** Exhibits include log, timber frame and cedar homes; cottage rental; architects; cottage furnishings; lakefront homebuilders and realtors; lakeshore maintenance; boats and docks; outdoor recreational equipment; non-profit environmental organizations; government agencies; financing and other products and services. Youngsters and adults can play in "The Beach," a giant sandbox complete with sand and carving tools for creative building. Other activities include photo classes, a wildlife encounter and photo contest display. Admission is \$10; \$4 for children, 6-14; children 5 and under admitted free. Free admission to concurrent show, Outdoorama  
**Contact:** www.NoviCottageShow.com or call (800) 328-6550

**Concert combines art, music**

The Plymouth Symphony will wrap up its regular season with a performance of Mussorgsky's masterpiece, *Pictures at an Exhibition*, at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, March 5, at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill, in Canton.



Hoover

the on-stage presentation with Nan Washburn, symphony conductor, before the concert.

Hoover lives in New York, where she maintains an active career as composer, conductor, and flutist. She is the recipient of a National Endowment Composer's Fellowship and many other awards, including an Academy of Arts and Letters Academy Award in Composition.

Mussorgsky's music was inspired by the art work of his friend, Viktor Hartmann. *Great Gates of Kiev*, a movement of the suite, was based on Hartmann's paintings of the facade of the entrance to Kiev.

Continuing the artist theme of the concert, the orchestra also will perform a world premier of Katherine Hoover's work, *J.M.W. Turner; Impressions*, based on the lush landscapes of English painter, J. M. W. Turner. Hoover will attend the world premier of her work and will be a part of



The Plymouth Symphony, under the direction of Nan Washburn, will conclude its regular season March 5 with music by Mussorgsky and contemporary composer Katherine Hoover.

her *Dances and Variations* at Kennedy Center are the subject of an Emmy-winning documentary, called *New Music*, by Deborah Novak.

The art work by Turner and Hartmann will be illuminated on the scrim as the orchestra performs the music

each painting inspired. Tickets are \$25 for adults, \$20 for seniors, and \$10 for students. Call (734) 451-2112 or visit www.plymouthsymphony.com. The theater is located at 50400 Cherry Hill Road.

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# FOOD

Thursday, February 17, 2011

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## HAVE A STORY IDEA?

Contact Editor, Sharon Dargay

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There are more than 40 known kiwifruit varieties in production around the world, but California, which produces 98 percent of the kiwifruit grown in the United States, grows the Hayward variety. It's known for its large size and high sugar content.

When selecting kiwifruit, look for unblemished, firm fruits. Press the outside of the fruit with your thumb. If it gives to slight pressure, the kiwifruit is ripe. If it doesn't give to pressure, it's not ready.

Kiwifruit can be eaten fresh or used in cooking. Slice the kiwifruit lengthwise to create two identical halves and use a spoon to scoop out the sweet meat. Looking for maximum fiber and nutrition? Rinse off the skin and bite right in.

Or use kiwifruit in recipes. Here's a sampling:

### MEDITERRANEAN KIWI COUSCOUS

- ¾ cup water
- ½ cup couscous
- Salt
- 3 California kiwifruit
- 1 yellow or orange pepper
- 1 cup colorful cherry tomatoes
- ¼ cup Kalamata olives, preferably spicy
- 3 green onions, thinly sliced
- 1 tablespoon red wine vinegar
- 3 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 garlic clove, minced
- 1 teaspoon dried oregano leaves
- Pepper
- ½ cup crumbled feta cheese
- ½ cup shredded fresh basil

1. In a small saucepan, lightly salt water then bring to a boil. Add couscous, stir, cover and remove from heat. Let stand until water is absorbed, about 5 minutes. Meanwhile, peel kiwifruit and cut into bite-size chunks. Dice pepper and slice large cherry tomatoes in half. Pit olives if needed and thinly slice green onions. Place all in a medium bowl.

2. Whisk vinegar with oil, garlic, oregano and generous pinches salt and pepper. When couscous has cooled, gently stir with kiwifruit mixture. Toss with as much dressing as needed to just coat. Stir in feta and basil. Salad will keep well refrigerated for 1 to 2 days. Serves 4 to 6.

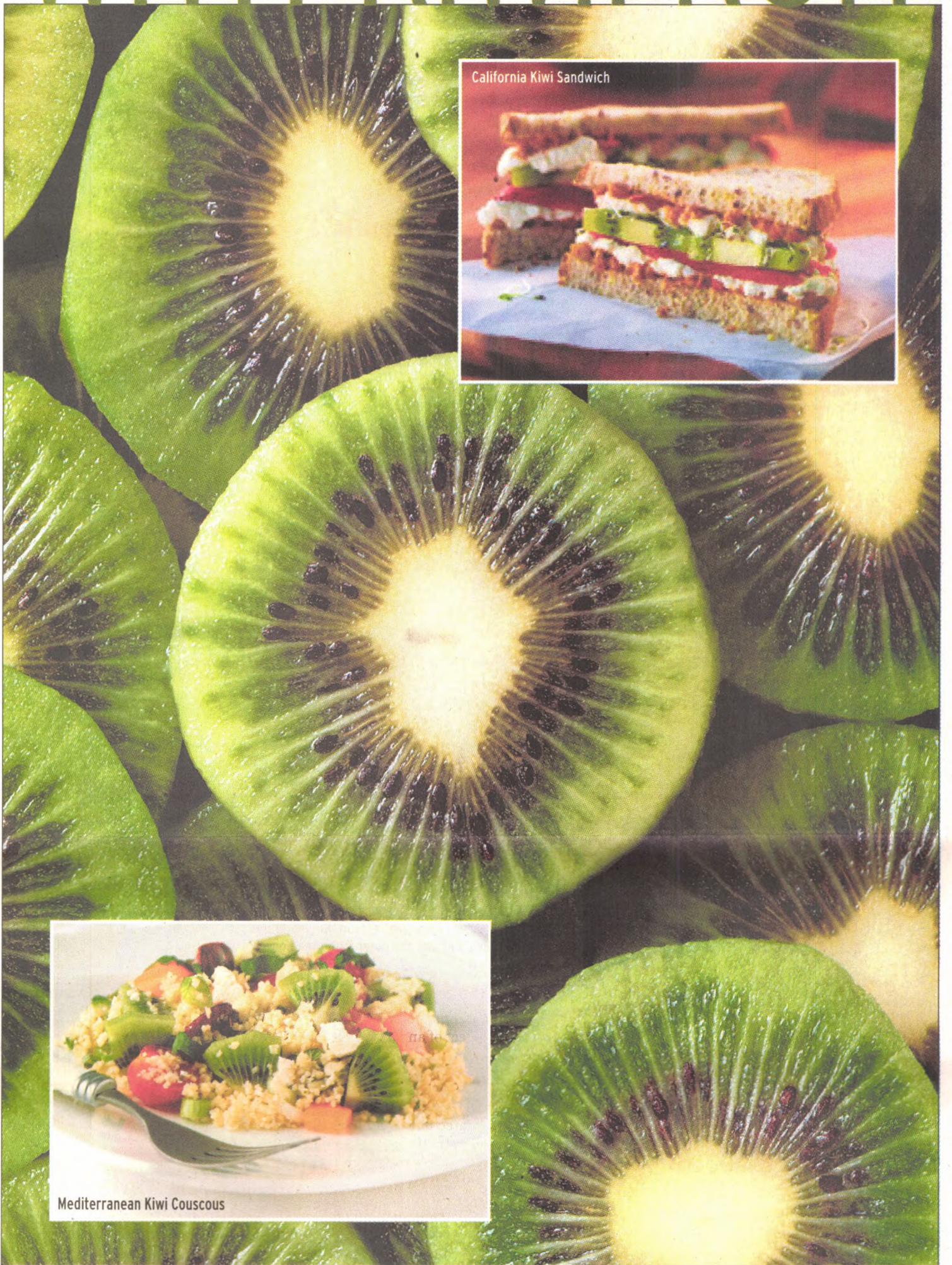
### KIWI MINT LEMONADE

- 1 cup water
- ½ cup granulated sugar
- ½ cup packed fresh mint leaves
- 3 California kiwifruit
- 2 to 3 lemons
- Sparkling water

1. In a medium saucepan, heat water with sugar over medium-high heat, stirring occasionally until sugar is dissolved. Simmer, uncovered, 5 minutes. Remove from heat and stir in mint leaves. Let stand 20 minutes.

2. Meanwhile, peel kiwifruit and cut into chunks. Puree in a food processor. Place puree in a pitcher. Strain cooled syrup into pitcher, pressing on mint, then discard leaves. Refrigerate until cold. Squeeze juice from 2 lemons. Stir into kiwifruit mixture. Taste, squeeze in juice from remaining lemon for a tarter lemonade.

3. Pour into glasses. Top with sparkling water. Serve garnished with a slice of kiwifruit. Makes about 2½ cups without sparkling water, enough for 4 drinks.



California Kiwi Sandwich

Mediterranean Kiwi Couscous

California Kiwifruit season runs from October-May.

### KIWIFRUIT SWEET OMELETTE

- 3 to 4 California kiwifruit, pared and sliced
- Powdered sugar
- Ground cinnamon
- 4 eggs, separated
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- ½ teaspoon grated lemon peel
- 2 tablespoons butter or margarine

Sprinkle kiwifruit with 1 or 2 tablespoons powdered sugar and a dash of cinnamon in shallow dish. Let stand 20 minutes; turn occasionally. Beat egg whites and salt until soft peaks form. Gradually add 2 tablespoons powdered sugar; beat until stiff. Beat egg yolks until thick; add lemon peel. Fold into whites. Heat butter in 10-inch over-proof skillet. Stir in 1 tablespoon powdered sugar and dash cinnamon. Pour in egg mixture; smooth surface. Cook over medium heat 3 to 5 minutes or until eggs are puffed and set and bottom is golden brown. Bake at 325 degrees 10 minutes or until knife inserted near center comes out clean. Loosen edge of omelette. Make a shallow cut, slightly off center, through top of omelette. Arrange kiwifruit mixture over larger section. Fold smaller portion over kiwifruit. Serve on warm platter. Sprinkle with powdered sugar. Serve hot. Makes 4 servings. Recipe can be halved; cook in smaller pan.

### HOT DIPPING SAUCE

*This hot and tangy sauce can add flavor and color to almost any dish. Try it as a dip for chicken skewers, buffalo wings, or fried calamari. It also makes a fantastic glaze for baked or grilled chicken, fish, or vegetables. And it can be used as a dip for chips, crackers, and other snacks.*

- 2 tablespoons red bell pepper, chopped
- ¼ bunch fresh cilantro
- ¼ small sweet onion
- ½ jalapeno pepper, seeded (wear rubber gloves when seeding)
- 2 tomatillos, husks removed and cut up
- 1 teaspoon fresh lime juice
- Dash salt
- 2 tablespoons brown sugar
- 2 tablespoons green jalapeno pepper jelly
- 1-2 kiwifruits, peeled and mashed with a fork

Place the bell pepper, cilantro, onion, jalapeno pepper (seeded), tomatillos, lime juice, salt, brown sugar, and jalapeno pepper in a blender or the bowl of a food processor fitted with a steel blade. Blend until the ingredients are smooth. Pour the blended mixture into a bowl and add the mashed kiwifruit. Stir until well combined. Serve as desired.

### CALIFORNIA KIWI SANDWICH

Makes one sandwich

- 1 California kiwi or pear
- 2 strips home-roasted or store-bought roasted red peppers
- 2 slices grainy sandwich bread
- 4 teaspoons olive paste or tapenade
- 3 tablespoons goat or Boursin cheese, at room temperature
- Sprouts to taste

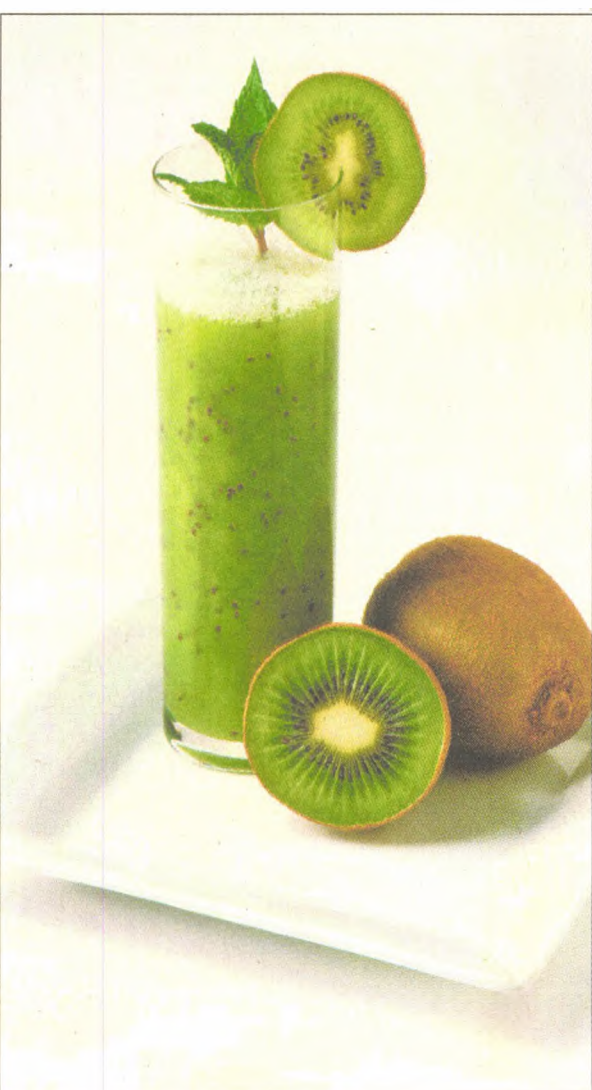
Peel kiwi, then thinly slice. If using pear, peel if you wish, core and thinly slice.

Wash and pat pepper dry. Spread 1 side of each bread slice with olive paste, then spread with cheese. Top 1 side with red pepper, then kiwi and some sprouts. Top with other bread slice, cheese side down.

### KIWI WALNUT BREAD

- 2 cups sifted flour
  - ½ cup sugar
  - 2 teaspoons baking powder
  - 1 teaspoon baking soda
  - ½ teaspoon salt
  - 1½ cups kiwifruit, drained and chopped
  - ¾ cups walnuts, chopped
  - 1 egg, beaten
  - ¼ cup butter or margarine, melted
  - 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- Sift flour with sugar, baking powder, baking soda and salt into a large bowl. Add kiwifruit and walnuts, and mix well. Add egg, butter and vanilla. Stir until just blended. Pour mixture into a greased and floured 9- by 5- by 3-inch loaf pan. Bake in a preheated oven at 350 degrees for one hour or until a wooden toothpick inserted near the center of the loaf comes out clean. Let the bread cool in the pan five minutes, then place it on a rack to complete cooling. Serve in thin slices spread with softened cream cheese.

Recipes and photos courtesy of the California Kiwifruit Commission



Kiwi Mint Lemonade











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# CHRYSLER, CHEVROLET EMERGE SUPER BOWL WINNERS

Advertising Feature

## CAReport



By Dale Buss

Like members of some ancient tribe huddled around a big campfire, the first thought of Michiganders who were watching the second half of the Super Bowl when the Chrysler ad came on was: This is good for our race!

The down-but-not-out depiction of a heroic Detroit in the Eminem spot, "Born of Fire," literally had thousands in this area cheering and clapping by the time the two minutes were over. From shots of local icons such as the Diego Rivera mural at the Detroit Institute of Arts, to an appeal to car buyers to consider luxury "imported from Detroit," the ad was a veritable paean to why people still survive and even thrive in southeast Michigan.

Then, as only a people living in the hyper-connected Twenty-first Century could, we quickly wondered: What did everybody else think? And like a group resigned to perpetually being a national and global underdog, many of us concluded that the commercial was only a parochial feel-good moment, at best.

But we would be wrong. It won't be clear for a while how much the ad - for the new Chrysler 200 sedan - actually will do for sales of the re-skinned and named

Chrysler Sebring.

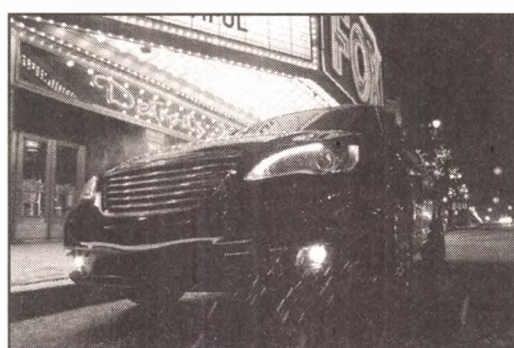
Yet signs have kept surfacing that the rest of the country not only loved the ad but also thought maybe there was something they had been missing in Chrysler's comeback and its new products.

Chrysler even has begun nurturing the ad into a bit of mythology: Executives have said that they won't show the full two-minute spot again, though parts of it may show up in future marketing for the 200 and for the brand. And of course it will live forever on the internet.

So where does Chrysler go from here? Presumably, only upward. Sales have been recovering more smartly than many industry sages had predicted - and that has occurred even without the benefit of the slew of new and overhauled new products the company is promising for its Chrysler, Jeep, Dodge and Ram brands over the next several months.

Meanwhile, Chevrolet emerged as the other big winner in the auto industry with its Super Bowl advertising.

General Motors global CMO Joel Ewanick had been telling anyone who would listen, for months, that Super



The best line of the Super Bowl: "I didn't even know this town had a volcano," in Chevy's Silverado HD ad.

The Chrysler 200 reflects the marquee of downtown Detroit's Fox Theater in its Super Bowl ad.



Bowl XLV was going to be an important stage for expanding and solidifying the new "Chevy Runs Deep" marketing theme for the brand.

And while it's arguable how much the day's body of work for Chevrolet - five ads, in total - did for Ewanick's new slogan, it's easy to argue that the spots overall likely moved the needle for the brand in the eyes of American consumers.

The best of the Chevrolet spots arguably was "Status." In it, the brand used true romance to break through the hormonal fog that was a strong factor in much of the night's advertising. What's more, the spot -- in which a guy finds out immediately that his first date was a hit -- underscored the crucial difference between GM's OnStar, which invites social-media interaction, and Ford's Sync, which does not.

The other one that scored big with this correspondent was Chevy's "Tommy" spot, in which a highly capable Silverado HD played Lassie and saved a precocious little boy from all sorts of trouble, including falling into a well and ending up in the belly

of a whale. It also contained the line of the night: "I didn't even know this town had a volcano!" This ad was an affecting twist on the brute-force genre of pickup-truck ads that held sway in the Super Bowl, and the rest of television advertising, for several years.

Volkswagen also scored a hit, with its "Little Darth Vader" advertisement, titled "The Force," which proved to be one of the most popular with Super Bowl viewers.

The company had a lot on the line with its continued presence in Super Bowl advertising. With a new U.S.-made Passat due on the market this year, a redesigned Beetle debuting as well, and the necessity to fuel CEO Martin Winterkorn's dreams of global domination, Volkswagen had a lot on its plate for the game.

"The Force" didn't do much to highlight the actual attributes of the car. But the ad did give some subliminal young-family positioning to a brand that has always concentrated on single twenty-somethings - especially in its previous Super Bowl advertising.

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Artic White, 51k, and ABS!  
In great condition!  
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CHEVY SILVERADO 2007  
Silver, 4x4 \$22,995  
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\$36,425 Stk.# 1171024A  
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FORD SUPERDUTY F-150 XL CREW 4X4 2001  
Excellent contractor special with only 69K miles. \$9,436  
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SLT, 4X4 \$16,495  
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Marshmallow White, DVD, XM, and ABS! Sure to satisfy! Just \$9,995!  
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Dark Blue, loaded! \$35,495  
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GMC ENVOY 2005  
Black, 43k. \$12,995  
**BOB JEANNOTTE BUICK, GMC (734) 453-2500**

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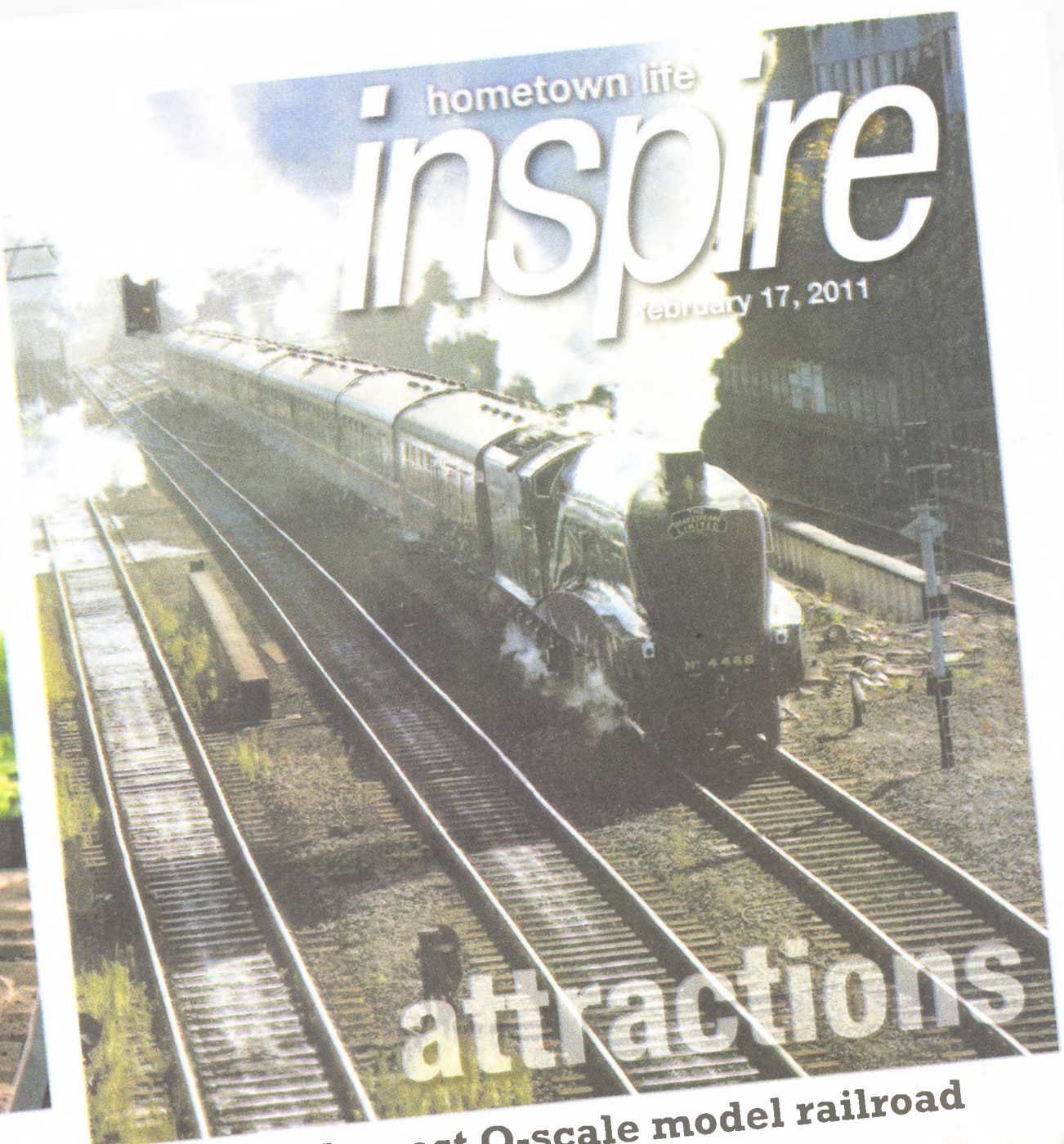
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# Chase away the winter blues — here's how

This month's *Hometown Life Inspire* journey will show you why winter is a great time to inspire yourself by getting away to warmer climates, planning for garden planting or freshening up that room that needs a coat of paint.



We'll also take you on a nostalgic train ride to one of the stellar O-scale model train layouts in the state.

What do Mexico, Hawaii, Florida, Las Vegas and Puerto Rico have in common? Yes, all are sunny and warm and they are the top five vacation destinations for Midwesterners. Check out today's story and read what local travel agents have to say about

these hot vacation spots.

For those dreaming of spring and gardens, contributing writer Beth Jachman (a gardener herself) reports on what local nursery owners have to say about planning ahead for that special flower or vegetable garden. Included is a list of local businesses that can help make your garden dreams come true.

For all of you DIYers out there, paint projects are perfect for winter. It's a great time to paint and today's Inspire offers helpful hints on colors, techniques and equipment. We also provide a list of area paint experts ready to help you with your home improvement project.

Last but not least, model railroaders of all ages will enjoy reading about "America's largest O-scale model railroad," Chi-Town

Union Station & West Oakland Railroad Museum in nearby Commerce.

Contributing writer Dennis Zelazny — a practicing train buff — visited the museum recently and offers up a personal column about his special experience. Included is a list of area hobby stores to help you get started. Can't you just hear the train choo-chooing around the track?

Enjoy today's edition — and if you're looking for a place to get out and celebrate St. Patrick's Day, check out our list of local Irish (and not so Irish) pubs. As always, I welcome your comments and suggestions for upcoming editions.

Susan Rosiek  
Publisher/Executive Editor  
srosiek@hometownlife.com



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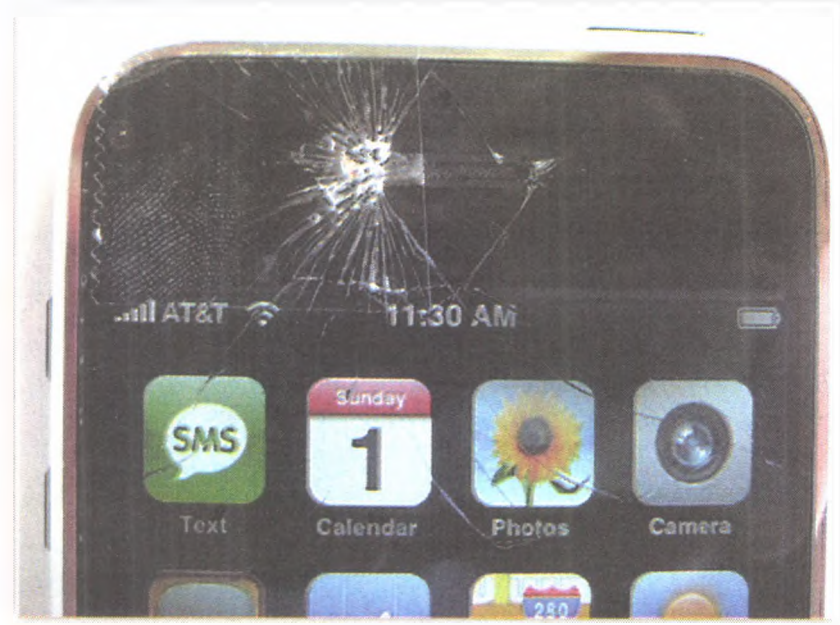


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# Your iPhone needs protection, too!



If you're among the millions that already invested in an iPhone, or if you're thinking about it, you may have concerns about protecting your new investment. One of the most appealing features of the latest iPhone model, the dual front and back glass, has some owners particularly worried about its durability.

Repairing a damaged iPhone can be expensive, as some retailers charge \$149 or more to replace a cracked screen. In addition, replacing a lost or stolen iPhone means paying full retail price, up to \$700 again.

Fortunately, there are steps you can take to protect your iPhone, give yourself some peace of mind and remain connected to family and friends.

- A good case or silicone protector can help protect the back and sides against scratches and provide some impact protection.

- A screen protector is a transparent film that protects the screen from scratches and can also help remove glare.

- There are a growing number of waterproof cases designed specifically for iPhones, such as the Magellan ToughCase. It allows your device to be submerged up to 1 meter for a maximum of 30 minutes.

But what happens if, despite your best efforts, your phone is damaged? Or, what can you do if it's lost or stolen? Apple's extended iPhone warranty program only covers

manufacturer defects and faulty batteries.

Renters or homeowners insurance may cover the loss of a phone, but the phone is typically covered only as part of a larger claim, such as a fire or burglary. It would be wise to check with your insurance agent to see if your phone is covered under your policy and what restrictions may apply.

Some consumer groups recommend keeping your previous phone as an emergency backup.

Another option is to set aside some money each month as an emergency fund to go toward replacement. However, with the high cost of iPhones, and other smartphones for that matter, saving enough could take a long time.

A more expedient option would be to choose wireless phone insurance. An iPhone protection plan, such as MobileProtect from Asurion, offers comprehensive coverage for the iPhone, covering not only damage, but also loss and theft.

"Nearly 50 percent of claims we see are filed for lost and stolen phones," said Cindy Christy, Asurion president. "MobileProtect, authorized by AT&T, is the first product to include loss and theft coverage, as well as protection in the event of damage, including water damage, and failure after the warranty expires. Plus, it provides the added convenience of next day replacement in most cases and a 12-month warranty."

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# Now is the time to plant your gardening ideas

By BETH JACHMAN  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

OK, so looking out in your yard right now may remind you of the frozen tundra, but this can actually be a good time to start thinking about your garden plans for this year.

"I take notes on what worked last year, what I'd like to see and what I wouldn't do again," Chris Patton, owner of Keller & Stein Florist and Garden Center in Canton, said. "Think about what didn't work and why it didn't work," she said — maybe it was sun, the soil or lack of water.

Gardeners can start planning now. Then when it gets warm "they will have a game plan," she said. The Internet has a wealth of information including how to get started as well as information on plants and their care, she said.

These cold winter months would be a good time to research what you could plant, according to Kermit Coleman, owner of Coleman's Farm Market in Ypsilanti.

"A lot of flowers are for sun or shade," he said. But many times you see people plant something that likes sun and lots of water next to something that prefers shade or dryer conditions, he said.

"It would be a good time to make themselves aware of what different plants like and need," he said.

Gardeners can start their own tomatoes and peppers in a window before it gets warm enough outside, but you need to have enough sun to make it work, Coleman said. It may be more realistic to buy a started plant when it's time to start planting outside.

"But a lot of people like to do it themselves," he said.

A way to check out the trends is to check out the websites of different seed companies, to see what's new and different, Coleman said. The plants are often similar but they may have a different color this year, he said.

Speaking of new colors, Patton expects Million Bells in a new "Superbells Blackberry Punch" color which sports a hot pink hue around a black center to be popular this year.

Million Bells are nice because there is no dead-heading and they tolerate the heat, Patton said. People are always looking for a new color and this is a hot new color, she said.

One new plant from last year that is expected to be big this year is the Snow Princess Alyssum, Patton said. It is a Proven Winner plant and is very vigorous, heat tolerant, disease resistant and blooms from the time it is planted until about mid-October, she said.

But the biggest trend Patton is seeing continue from the past few years is vegetable gardening and container vegetable gardening.

Container gardening is great if you don't have a lot of room to garden, she said.

Along with containers, some items that could be included in the plan are vegetable cages to hold plants upright and a trellis for the patio area.

Another idea is to plant flowering plants to add color in a vegetable garden.

A fun thing to do, is to have a taco garden or a salsa garden, in which you grow what you need for tacos or salsa such as cilantro, green peppers and tomatoes, Patton said. It is especially fun to do if you have kids, she said.

"Things like that are kind of a fun twist for those with container gardens," she said.

Container gardening also makes it easier

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This is the ideal time to start planning your flower and vegetable gardens.



# DIY-challenged?

(ARA) — If you're among the millions of American homeowners who've decided sprucing up the home you have is more cost-effective than moving into something newer or bigger, you may be looking for some easy ways to improve your living space. If you're not a seasoned do-it-yourselfer, you could consider calling in the pros — but that would fly in the face of your efforts at frugality.

Transforming a room from floor-to-ceiling isn't as hard as it may sound, even if you're DIY-challenged. The job can be simple if you start from the ground and work your way up with these easy DIY tasks:

## FLOORS WITH FLAIR

Look down. What's on the floor under your feet? Are you happy with what you see? If you're living with stained carpet, shabby vinyl or hardwood that has seen better days, it's time to make a change. If you were a DIY diva, you could refinish those hardwoods, lay some new carpet or rip out that vinyl with your bare hands. But if you're a DIY newbie, you can change the look of your floor with a lot less effort and skill.

Cover up crummy carpet with colorful area rugs and strategically arranged furnishings. Mask that vinyl that is so "last-decade" with easy-to-install, self-stick carpet tiles or vinyl tiles. Refinishing a hardwood floor may be beyond your skills, but virtually everyone can wield a paint brush and roller. Simply paint tired wood floors in a neutral color — brown, tan, khaki or even white — to create a fresh-looking foundation for your room decor.

## WALLS THAT WOW!

Painting is one of the easiest ways to freshen up a room, and painting walls really requires no special skills. Pick a new color you love — or simply freshen up the existing color. Hit the paint store and ask the staff there for some tips on how to make the job go smoothly.

Wallpaper is another great way to revive a room's look, but it's traditionally considered a job requiring some sophisticated DIY skills. Until now, that is. Mural-maker MuralsYourWay.com now carries a line of wallpaper murals that is virtually DIY foolproof. SmartStick repositionable wall murals are backed with a patented adhesive that allows you to easily place the wallpaper on any flat surface (walls, windows, even doors), pull it down, reposition it, even



Transforming a room from floor-to-ceiling isn't as hard as it may sound, even if you're DIY-challenged.

move it to a different wall. The material does not rip or wrinkle and can even stand up to a trip through the washer and dryer. MuralsYourWay.com carries thousands of murals that can all be printed on SmartStick and customized to fit your wall exactly. Wall murals and wall paper are great ways to dress up a room, and now it's easier than ever to use this favorite technique of top designers.

## CEILINGS THAT SHINE

When was the last time you looked up at your ceiling — for any reason other than to change a light bulb? It's an area of room decor that often gets overlooked, but smart interior designers know ceilings have a big impact on how a room looks and feels.

For your purposes, a little color experimentation can probably go a long way. Fortunately, many paint stores and home improvement warehouses now offer free brochures and paint chips that suggest subtle pairings of appealing wall colors with unexpected ceiling hues. Or, if you prefer to play it safe, simply repaint the ceiling white — it's one of the fastest, easiest ways to make a room feel bright and new.

You don't need the DIY-skills of a home improvement show pro to upgrade your home and freshen your decor. You can get the job done with a few simple tricks and a weekend of elbow grease.

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# How, when to get the best vacation deals

By JULIE BROWN  
STAFF WRITER

It's tempting to escape winter's grip this time of year, so many consider a trip to a warmer clime. Will cost be a factor in your travel plans? The smart shopper will look now. Booking early translates to better prices as airlines and hotels are eager to fill up planes and hotel rooms.

Kate Rosevear, owner of Plymouth's Travel Leaders, said, "It depends on what they're doing."

Travel during spring break or other busy periods requires early booking.

"Availability shrinks and prices go up," Rosevear said.

Booking early means best choice on resorts, and airline seats fill up quickly, Rosevear said: "People are back traveling again. There aren't as many flights traveling." Planes are flying full.

Most Detroiters like Delta for its points and limited stops, Rosevear said. "It's how the airlines have helped themselves become profitable again. They're not flying a lot of empty planes," she said.

Jim Ehehalt, owner of Brookside Travel in Northville, agrees early booking's best.

"There's no last-minute bargains any more. Booking out, you're going to get the better airline rate," Ehehalt said.

New rules from tour operators have Brookside travel agents able to offer deals earlier. "If you want an ocean view, those sell out fast," he said, noting travelers don't have to pay much to hold a spot.

"I've always focused on the areas where people are going to travel," he said of Brookside, which works with many honeymooners and families going on spring break.

"They have been smart and booked in advanced," Ehehalt said. Booking early helps you get the accommodations you want, and you can request a lower rate if the price drops.

"A travel agency can offer reduced or low deposits. That's what we have over an Internet," Ehehalt said.

These five destinations offer great deals, sunshine and activities for all types of travelers:

## MEXICO

From beautiful beaches to rich history, cultural diversity to cuisine, Mexico, just a short flight from the United States, is popular with many local travelers.

On the Caribbean side, you'll find Cancun and the Riviera Maya, which combine beachfront resorts with the opportunity to explore Mayan ruins like Chichen Itza and Tulum. On the Pacific coast, towns like Los Cabos, Mazatlan and Puerto Vallarta are perennial favorites for their laid-back atmosphere and beautiful scenery.



Sandy white Caribbean beaches and luscious palm trees await your arrival at Cancun or the Riviera Maya.

Ehehalt said some travelers have concerns about safety due to media coverage.

"Mexico's a large country," he said. "The tourist areas are still very safe."

You can do day trips off that property, but stay mostly on, he said. Mexico provides a wonderful value and good food, he said.

"Safety, of course, is our main concern," the Brookside Travel owner added. He cited as safe Riviera Maya and Cancun, with beautiful Caribbean seas as popular with locals.

Border areas near Texas and California "have always been questionable," Rosevear said, citing the drug trade. "That's not where people go on vacation." Most resorts are self-contained.

"They love it. They feel very comfortable," she said of her staff visiting Mexico.

## LAS VEGAS

If you're looking for glitz, glamour and fun, Vegas should be at the top of your list. And if you're looking for a low-cost vacation, it's hard to beat Las Vegas. It's a paradise for savers and spenders alike. Great deals on hotels and entertainment abound. Vegas is a family-friendly destination, even boasting hotels and resorts with themes that play into kids' favorite daydreams.

"Vegas is still very popular," Ehehalt said, noting good deals and singer Celine Dion back performing at Caesars. "It's still a draw for people." Kids turning 21 can go with parents. "So you're with them and they can enjoy it." Bachelor/bachelorette parties are also often booked through his agency to Vegas.

Flights to Las Vegas aren't as inexpensive as in the past, said Rosevear, a Plymouth Township resident. It remains a fun long weekend and there's some good pricing on newer resorts like the high-end Cosmopolitan.

## HAWAII

It's the best way to get a taste of the South Pacific. On Maui, you can relax on secluded sandy beaches or take a bike ride down the side of Haleakala, the sleeping volcano. You might be interested in making a popular drive to Hana or dining and shopping in Lahaina. On Oahu, you'll find Waikiki Beach, the Pearl Harbor Memorial and a picture-perfect hike up Diamond Head State Monument.

"It's still a paradise," said Ehehalt, who was there in December. Delta has one-connection flights from Detroit. "You are spending a little time traveling. Once you are there, it is truly amazing." You can do Hawaii on a budget, he said, but also want to be able to enjoy excursions.

"I love it," Rosevear said. The weather is almost always pretty close to perfect. The people are very friendly and the beaches are lovely."

There's a seven-day cruise with four islands including meals at \$3,500 per person with a balcony cabin/ocean view, including airfare, Rosevear said about the NCL America trip.

## FLORIDA

A family vacation to Florida's theme parks is a thrill for kids, who won't forget meeting Mickey and Minnie. The variety of theme parks is ever-expanding, and combines fun and learning about science, nature and other cultures. Florida's theme parks are also a great getaway for an all-adult trip like a girlfriend getaway or a golfing trip with buddies.

Holiday times mean you won't get great deals on airfare to Florida, Ehehalt said. You can pick up a cruise in Tampa after driving from Michigan. "You've got options when going to Florida. And the beaches are nice." Florida's

popular with locals for spring break.

"To leave Michigan's weather and come back with a nice suntan" is great, Ehehalt said.

Visitors to Florida can drive or fly, Rosevear said. "There it's a matter of when you're traveling." If cruising out of Florida, she recommends travelers go at least a day or two ahead "to make sure they get there."

She likes South Beach by Miami, which has "been completely reborn. The boardwalk along the beach is gorgeous." It's a good way to start a cruise vacation, she said.

## SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO

It can be a challenge to make a decision about Caribbean vacations because of the variety of options. This charming city has been winning the hearts of travelers over the years. One of the best facts is that you don't need to change your money or get a passport. Puerto Rico offers great food, rich history and architecture and lively nightlife. You can get in touch with nature because it's a top ecotourism destination with the only tropical rainforest in the U.S. National Park system.

"People have looked at Puerto Rico as an alternative," Ehehalt said. "Very Latin, very salsa. It has history, gorgeous beaches ... a lot of high-end shops that offer a great value."

"It's become a much more hospitable destination in recent years," Rosevear said. "I think there's a growing interest in it. They are promoting themselves heavily lately."

Tourism officials there can capitalize in being American and not needing a passport, she said. Rosevear noted Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands still don't require a passport.

The Caribbean tends to be more pricey than Mexico. "But it's a matter of personal choice. We are seeing growing interest, particularly in the U.S. Virgin Islands," she said.

The Mayan Riviera in Mexico and Dominican Republic are big locally, she said, as is Costa Rica. "It's very ecologically oriented. Lots of interesting flora and fauna." There are a lot of birds and other animals, she said, along with beautiful rainforest.

"It's a country with a lot of diversity." It has a lot of spa resorts and is "fairly easy to get to from Detroit." Spirit and Delta both have service to Costa Rica, Rosevear said.

Spokeswoman Nancy Cain of AAA Michigan, headquartered in Dearborn, said "our destinations are a little bit different."

AAA travelers are most likely to go to Florida, followed by St. Thomas and Jamaica in the Caribbean. Las Vegas is fourth for AAA and Hawaii fifth, Cain said.

"We've seen interest increasing in the last couple of weeks just because of the weather," Cain said of Michiganders seeking sunshine and warmth in winter. She also advises to book early when traveling.



# Experts offer tips for tackling painting project

(ARA) — There's no better time to paint than winter.

Paint is one of the easiest and least expensive ways to change the look of your home. It's also a project that even the most inexperienced do-it-yourselfer can do with confidence. With

## GETTING STARTED

Here are some area businesses that sell paint and the necessary supplies for do-it-yourself projects:

- Teknicolor Paints, 27849 Orchard Lake Road, Farmington Hills, (248) 994-1300
- Nelson's Painting, 1430 Junction Street, Plymouth, (734) 417-9816
- Town N Country True Value Hardware, 27740 Ford Road, Garden City, (734) 422-2750
- Northville Paint Co., 43145 Seven Mile Road, Northville, (248) 348-1599
- Strickler Paint Products, 25345 Novi Road, Novi, (248) 349-0793
- Anderson Paint Co., 33523 Eight Mile Road, Livonia, (248) 473-6406
- Nankin Hardware and Hobby, 35101 Ford Road, Westland, (734) 722-5700
- Peters True Value, 415 E. Lake Street, South Lyon, (248) 437-1751
- Paint World, 140 W. Highland Road, Highland, (248) 887-2816
- Township True Value Hardware, 25880 Five Mile Road, Redford (313) 533-0020

thousands of colors from which to choose, it's the perfect way to express your unique style and personality at a fraction of the cost of other home improvement projects.

There's more to a quality paint job than just picking up a brush or roller. Several area paint experts offered some helpful hints on tackling a home painting project.

"We have a staff that's good at helping people decide what it is they want to do," said Kevin Westfall, company general manager for Teknicolor Paints, with locations in Farmington Hills, Redford, Birmingham and Pontiac. "Are they getting ready to move, or do they just want to redecorate? Are they going to use what they already have, or are they going to buy all new things? So many people come in and all they know is they don't like something."

Darin March, owner of Northville Paint Co., says any paint job can come out sparkling if a person simply takes the time necessary to do it right.

"Preparation — once you have the prep done, painting is easy," he said. That means removing touch plates from switches and outlets, taping off ceilings and moulding and getting the right equipment for the job.

"People watch TV (shows) and they see the hosts going right to the wall," March said. "Preparation is what I stress more than anything."

Having the proper tools is also necessary for getting a quality finish.

"Getting the wrong product and wrong tools for the project," March said. "You can have the best paint and the wrong tools and you'll make painting a difficult task."

In recent years, there have been several new products on the market — from roller covers to brushes to paints — that have made life easier for do-it-yourselfers and professionals alike.

"Having the right supplies is the number one thing," said Robert Rates,

manager of Nankin Hardware in Westland. "The newest thing to come out is called Frog Tape. It has a chemical built into the back of the tape. If any paint tries to get under the tape, it forms a gel that creates a barrier and makes for a nice crisp, clean line."

March agrees.

"They've come a long way with tape," he said. "You can make sharp, crisp lines that make a paint job look so much better. Benjamin Moore has come out with a paint called Aura. It has color-lock technology and gives an incredible finish."

With the sour economy, many people put off improvement projects or scaled back. But Westfall has seen a resurgence in paint sales recently.

"Contractor business is picking up," he said. "A year ago, many contractors didn't know when their next job was coming. Some are now booked two or three weeks out, some all the way into summer."

"The do-it-yourselfers are still out there. We try to make it easy for them."

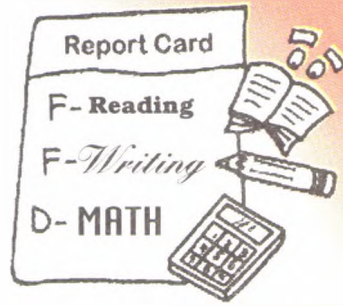
Westfall emphasized that people shouldn't be afraid to experiment with either colors or textures. Unlike some home improvement projects, nothing is etched in stone when it comes to paint.

"It's only paint — it's not rocket science," he said. "You might waste \$40 and a Sunday afternoon, but if you don't like the results, don't be afraid to redo it."





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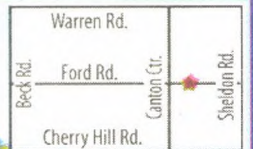


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## PRIME BEFORE YOU PAINT

Professional painters know that the key to a beautiful paint job isn't buying the most expensive paint. They know that one coat of primer and one coat of paint will give them a better, longer-lasting paint job than two coats of paint. That's why they prime first, then paint.

"Paint is formulated with more pigment than resin to provide rich, beautiful color. Primers are resin-rich to provide the ideal foundation for paint," says Frank Glowacki, Zinsser Primer brand director at Rust-Oleum. "You can't expect a paint, or a paint-and-primer-in-one product to do the job of a high quality stain-blocking primer. Having a sealed, stain-free surface is the key to getting the best paint job possible, and this is accomplished by using one coat of primer and one coat of paint."

Here are just some of the benefits of priming before you paint:

- ♦ **Priming saves you time and money.** Primers are formulated to seal the surface - and when the surface is sealed, you use less paint. No more multiple coats of paint to get an even, consistent finish. If you tint a quality primer like Zinsser Bulls Eye 1-2-3, one coat of primer and one coat of paint is usually all you need for a great-looking paint job. Just ask the paint desk to tint your primer toward the color of your paint. Since a gallon of primer is less expensive than a gallon of paint, you'll save money too.

- ♦ **Priming makes paint colors richer.** Primers hide previous colors - even the darkest blues and deepest reds — and prevent them from showing through and changing the color of your paint. Your paint colors will be more vibrant and beautiful if you prime first.

- ♦ **Primers block stains.** Most stains — water stains, crayon and marker, lipstick or nicotine — will bleed right through paint. This is where primers earn their reputation: they seal in stains and prevent them from ruining your paint job. New advanced technology water-base primers like Bulls Eye 1-2-3 PLUS take the guesswork out of primer selection because they block all stains — even water stains — so you start your paint job with a clean canvas.

- ♦ **You can paint anything if you prime first.** If you've ever tried to paint a slick surface like vinyl or plastic with paint alone, chances are it just didn't stick. Primers are formulated for tenacious paint adhesion to all surfaces, so you can paint anything — even ceramic tile and Formica cabinets — when you use a primer as your first coat.

- ♦ **Primers make your paint job last longer.** Primers prevent common paint problems like cracking, peeling and blistering and your paint will retain its original color longer, so you'll have to paint less often.

(ARA) — What's in store for home decorating this year?

No matter what your taste, you'll have no problem finding a hue in the 2011 forecast of popular paint colors to fit your lifestyle... and your tastes.

"The 2011 color forecast contains some extraordinarily versatile and contrasting hues that have been inspired by everyday life," says Donna Schroeder, color marketing and design manager for Dutch Boy Paints. "The depth and range of what we're predicting to be next year's most popular colors provide extensive options for adding accents to a room, changing themes and styles, or even completely redecorating from scratch."

Area paint store managers have detected trends in color selection as well, but sometimes not necessarily the same trend.

"We're still going back to the grey-greens," said Kevin Westfall, company general manager for Teknicolor Paints, with locations in Farmington Hills, Redford, Birmingham and Pontiac.

"In the past, it did go in cycles. We're not seeing the bright pinks, the reds, the oranges anymore. You still see those colors for, say, a kid's room or a specialty room, but it's a little more subtle right now."

Those comments echoed those made by Robert Rates, manager at Nankin Hardware in Westland.

"Last year it was darker colors, especially brown," he said. "We sold a lot of dark, deep colors. There hasn't been any one real trend so far this year."

Over at Northville Paint Co., owner Darin March has noticed a trend toward more expressive colors.

"Things go in cycles," he said. "Bright, cheery colors are coming back. They have been for a couple of years. I just sold someone two very bright colors for her daughter's room."

All of next year's color trends hues can be found within Dutch Boy's innovative Color Simplicity System. The five 2011 trend palettes are as follows:

The appreciation of old and naturally rusted or decayed items is prevalent in Dutch Boy's first palette. The passage of time is held sacred, and beauty is seen in all things weathered from time and the elements. There is a strong influence of holding onto heritage as we continue to move forward and look to the future. A true appreciation of craftsmanship and natural materials and finishes abounds. As such, rusty colors that emanate deep warmth are featured. These include: Brick Fleck, Bittersweet Or-



ange, Nature's Way and Chestnuts Roasting.

## REBIRTH

Sustainability and the respect for the environment are now a lifestyle. There's a sense of personal responsibility when it comes to nature. This is reflected in these saturated and wholesome colors. Rich greens are nature inspired and warm golds mirror the vegetables found in a farmers market. Colors in this palette include the following: Aubusson Vine, Endless Ocean, Brilliant Impression and Nectar.

## WONDER

Escapism and nature-in-the-extreme drive the next trend. There's a definite need for fun and fantasy to satisfy that inner child that's in all of us. This trend comes to life with colors such as bright fuchsia, deep blue and cheery aqua, all balanced by a nature-inspired green. You'll find a hint of '80s influence here, but the combinations are much newer to the eye. Colors include the following: Moonlit Sky, Rockets, Merlot Grape and Victory Red.

## FUNCTIONALITY

On the flip side, there are those who embrace a truly practical way of living and look into the depths and layers of nature. Within this trend, texture is key and colors are soft and faded. Windswept and washed effects and monochromatic layering set this palette. Colors include the following: Boardwalk Blue, Composed Bloom, Spruce Hollow and Range Brown.

## ABYSS

The last 2011 trend revolves around technology. Here, technology influences a stripped-to-the-bone or cellular level of design. The color palette reflects a void element, as we move into the future and become ever more reliant on online and virtual communication. Colors are neutral and gray and include the following Dutch Boy hues: Gargoyle Shadow, Fresh Linen, Pursuit of Happiness and Piccolo.



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## No blarney ... this shamrock is edible

Dancing leprechauns, pots of gold, corned beef and cabbage, green beer, parades and the wearing of the green are all synonymous with St. Patrick's Day. But perhaps the most iconic symbol of all is the shamrock, the ubiquitous three-leafed plant that makes an appearance in myriad ways — it's said to bring good luck.

In honor of the day and to start a new tradition to be enjoyed after the corned beef and green beer, the Wilton Test Kitchen created a Lucky Giant Shamrock Cookie that's easy to bake and decorate. It's the perfect way to add fun, color and sweetness to a St. Paddy's party; there's plenty to serve a crowd. Plus, kids and adults alike will enjoy this colorful cookie.

The delicious butter cookie dough with a hint of almond is baked in a shamrock-shaped pan. To decorate, start with white ready-to-use decorator icing in a can (no special skills required). Use part of it to ice the background and sides of the shamrock. Tint a portion green and ice the shamrock shape on top of the cookie, then add green candy-coated chocolates to outline the edges. The message is written with the remaining white icing.

Gretchen Homan, test kitchen director, says that since St. Patrick's Day is on a weekday this year, time might be in short supply. She suggests using convenient refrigerated cookie dough so you can still serve a fabulous shamrock cookie for dessert.

Visit [www.wilton.com](http://www.wilton.com) for additional ideas for St. Patrick's Day, and for celebrations of all kinds.

### Lucky Giant Shamrock Cookie

Makes about 15 servings

- 2 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> cups all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 cup (2 sticks) butter, softened
- 1 <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> cups granulated sugar
- 1 egg
- 1 <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> teaspoons vanilla extract
- <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> teaspoon almond extract
- 2 cans (16 ounces each) White Ready-To-Use Decorator Icing
- Kelly Green Icing Color
- Light corn syrup
- Green candy-coated chocolates

Preheat oven to 375°F.

In medium bowl, combine flour, baking powder and salt. In large bowl, beat butter and sugar with electric mixer until light and fluffy; beat in egg and extracts. Add flour mixture to butter mixture 1 cup at a time, mixing after each addition. Do not chill dough. Press into bottom of ungreased Shamrock Pan.

Bake 20-25 minutes or until edges of cookie are lightly browned. Cool in pan 10 minutes. Remove from pan and cool completely. Place cooled cookie on foil-wrapped cake board or large serving platter.

Tint 2 cups icing green; thin with corn syrup. Reserve <sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> cup white icing; thin remaining white icing with corn syrup. Use spatula to ice sides and background areas with thinned white icing. Spatula ice shamrock on top of cookie with green icing. Position candy on edges of shamrock. Using Tip 4, print message with reserved <sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> cup white icing.

**Convenience Tip:** Substitute 2 packages (18 ounces each) refrigerated cookie dough for cookie recipe above.

— Courtesy Family Features



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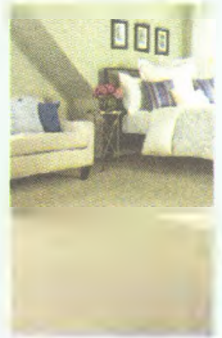
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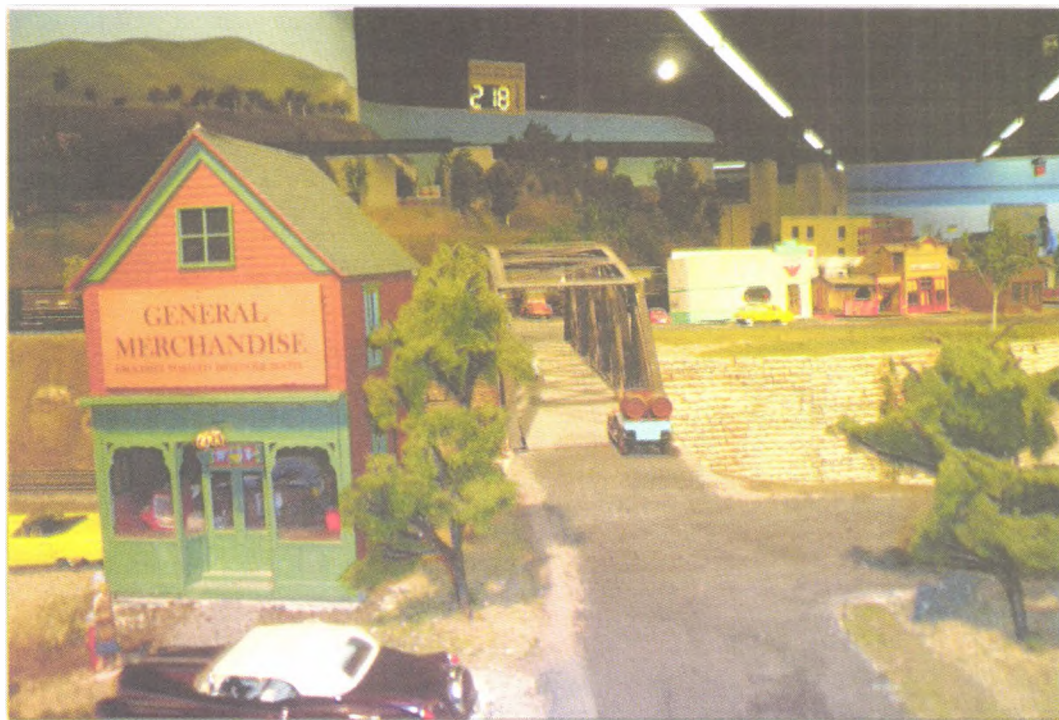
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# Woo-woo: Visit America's largest O-scale model railroad



Photos by Dennis Zelazny

Young and not so young take the time to enjoy this incredible work in progress.

A warm summer day in Chicago, 1950s — the attention to detail is well-received and very convincing to an up-close eye.

By DENNIS ZELAZNY  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Paul Gribbell wanted a place to play with his trains. His collection had outgrown his home in West Bloomfield, so he began his search for a building in nearby Commerce Township.



Dennis Zelazny

He found a real estate agent to help him find the perfect place. The building that formerly housed a Food Town grocer in the '60s and a Perry Drugs store in the '80s is now the home of "America's largest O-scale model railroad," Chi-Town Union Station & West Oakland Railroad Museum.

Gribbell, 69, has taken his hobby a long way since his first train set at age 5.

Among hobby train enthusiasts, O-scale (or O-gauge) is a term commonly used to describe the modeling size. Most of us remember the very popular Lionel train sets, which are built to O-scale specifications.

Gribbell began work on the layout in fall 1999. He decided that he was going to set the mood for his extravagant model railway to be Chicago in the 1950s and '60s. Chicago was the largest and busiest railhead in the world at that time. The 1950s time frame was a major inspiration because it was the zenith of passenger

trains. Combining these two thoughts, Gribbell describes his project as the "Luxury Passenger Trains of Chicago."

Chi Town Union Station today is America's largest O-scale train layout. It took five years before Gribbell could see the first train run around the massive layout. He opened it to the public in 2005. The model railroad covers 8,300 square feet of the 10,000-square-foot building, with more than 7,000 feet of track in operation.

The wiring of this extravaganza attaches to a computer system that can operate 30 trains simultaneously. Five main-line railroads connect to a huge 12-track passenger station complex that is almost 100 feet long. The tracks are all handmade; no snap together tracks have been used.

The buildings are also handmade, along with a river bed and life-like mountains with piers and trestles for the tracks.

Gribbell and a talented crew of a dozen or so volunteers help maintain and expand the layout.

In the center of the layout, visitors will see a "lookout center," from which the crew can watch down over the trains and oversee the many amazed guests.

Young and old will thoroughly enjoy their visit.

This is a great place to take children, because they will get almost as excited as the adults running the display.

Photographers can relax about the lighting conditions. Gribbell and his crew are installing theater lighting, which creates a bright sunlit afternoon atmosphere. If you look closely and ignore the supporting framework of the table and the supports of the roof, you would never know you weren't looking at a life-size railroad.

As you watch the constant arrivals and departures of beautifully detailed passenger trains in and out of the station, you are sure to be amazed.

Chi Town Union Station is an opportunity you don't want to miss.

The museum is open through March. Then Gribbell and his wife Maureen — the real estate broker who helped him find the building — plan some well-deserved time off.

Gribbell explains that she knew what she was getting into before they married.

The crew continues to meet and work during the summer months. Chi-Town Station reopens Nov. 5, 2011.

I can hardly wait to see what the guys have planned. Woo-woo!

Chi-Town Union Station & West Oakland Railroad Museum, 8275 Cooley Lake Road, Commerce, (248) 613-9471. Hours are 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekends. But call before visiting.

*Dennis Zelazny is publishing resources manager for the Observer & Eccentric/Hometown Newspapers. He can be reached at dzelazny@hometownwlife.com.*

## GETTING STARTED

*Here is a quick list of train/hobby supply shops in the area to get you going.*

**Nankin Hardware & Hobby Do-it**  
35101 Ford Road, Westland  
(734) 722-5700

**Merri-Seven Trains & Hobbies**  
19155 Merriman, Livonia  
(248) 477-0550

**Plymouth Train Shop**  
583 W. Ann Arbor Trail, Plymouth  
(734) 454-7337

**Just For Fun Hobbies & Crafts**  
101 Brookside, Brighton  
(in the Brookside Mall)  
(810) 229-7999

**Nankin Hobby**  
33350 Nine Mile, Farmington  
(248) 987-0640

**Carlton Hobbies**  
8194 Cooley Lake Road, White Lake  
(248) 360-4910

**Flightline Hobby**  
1192 S. Lapeer Road, Orion  
(248) 814-8359



## How to get your family's new addition off to a good start



Puppies grow more in their first year than any other time in their life.

(ARA) — Bringing home a puppy is a heart-warming and fun experience, whether you're a kid or an adult. You might think of your puppy as a new best friend — but your role as a puppy parent is even more crucial. Puppies grow more in their first year than any other time in their life, and while they'll depend on you for playtime and love, they also rely on you to give them a healthy, good start to life.

Before you go to the animal shelter or breeder, make sure you are able to take on all the challenges that raising a puppy presents and handle them with an even temper and a good sense of humor. The more positive you make his experiences, the stronger your bond will be — and it'll be a bond that lasts a lifetime.

If a puppy will be joining your family soon, or has recently arrived, keep these tips in mind to establish a happy, healthy foundation for your new pet.

- **Training:** The amount and kind of training you'll need depends on your experience with dogs, the dog you're getting and whether you want to do specialized activities with him in the future.

If this is your first dog, or if it's been a long time since you've had one, it's well worth it to sign up for puppy training classes — you'll learn just as much as your puppy will. Some breeds are naturally more obedient than others, but it will also depend on your pup's individual personality. Be sure you sign up for classes that are appropriate for your pup's age and make sure to keep it fun and rewarding.

- **Nutrition:** Just like parents teach kids to eat their veggies, a puppy parent is responsible for feeding their pup a diet that's rich in natural

ingredients with added vitamins and minerals. It's easier than ever to find high-quality puppy foods that are free of fillers and unsavory ingredients. Foods like Nutro Natural Choice puppy food make it easy to be confident that you know exactly what you're giving your puppy by listing all the ingredients.

- **Health:** Making regular trips to the vet is part of having a puppy. You'll need to make sure that he has all the necessary immunizations, checkups and medications. If you don't have an established relationship with a veterinarian, ask friends who have pets for recommendations and research clinics in your vicinity to find one that's right for you. NutroPuppy.com is also a useful resource, with nutrition, health, training and behavior tips available for new puppy parents.

- **Development:** Helping your puppy with good development is a two-fold task, both physical and behavioral. Giving your puppy good food has effects beyond creating a glistening coat and healthy immune system; it can also have an effect on his brain development. Nutro Natural Choice Puppy Lamb Meal and Rice Formula contains Smart Start with ALA and DHA, which helps puppies with learning, brain and vision development.

And to ensure that your puppy will grow into a dog that is friendly, well-adjusted and well-behaved, it's important to expose him to new people and other animals in controlled environments. Encourage timid pups and try to calm bold pups so that they learn the value of getting along with everyone. This will help them be better prepared to deal with unfamiliar circumstances and places.

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# Sudoku

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

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

Level: Beginner

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

Level: Intermediate

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

Level: Advanced

Answers found on page 22

# Tax Tips

Special Advertising Section

## Expert financial advisors are available to aid in making sound decisions

When tax season rolls around each year there are a number of individuals who need to decide how their tax returns will be prepared and filed. Each taxpayer has a number of tax preparation options. Tax professionals and financial planners are a wise choice to help get this task done.

Your money is a huge part of your life. It can determine what you can do and where you can go. Learning how to manage your money the right way is an important step toward taking control of your life. Are you like countless others, wondering where to start? No need to worry or procrastinate any longer. The most important thing is to do is to simply begin. Your financial planning can begin with a phone call.

Smith & Associates of Novi offers a unique husband and wife effort, listening to you and understanding what your financial goals are. They mutually believe that success should be measured not by your financial well-being, but also by how confident you feel about your future. With their six-member team and over twenty years of experience the results of wise planning does make a difference. *Learn more about Smith & Associates on page 19.*

Brenda W. Smith and Company, PC Certified Public Accountant of South Lyon work with their clients to ensure they are getting all the financial benefits they deserve. It is important to make the most out of financial assets, and avoid pitfalls of uninformed decision making. Even if you feel that you are in a devastating situation there is a solution for success. *Learn more about Brenda W. Smith and Company on page 19.*

**Special advertorial themes will be featured each month in Hometown Life Woman and Hometown Life Inspire, reaching 45,000 readers in Oakland and Wayne counties!**

See who we are featuring in up coming editions:

### March

#### Woman, March 3 — Weddings

(Share your product, service or expertise that will make any wedding day special).

#### Inspire, March 17 — Crafts and scrapbooking

(Tell our readers about the latest trends and products).

### April

#### Woman, April 7 — Health, Body and Mind

(Do you own a business that focuses on the whole person. Tell your story here).

#### Inspire, April 21 — Spring Home Improvement

(Get ready to capture the attention of homeowners motivated to fix-up, spruce-up and renovate. Speak with your account executive about advertorial mentions in this special section).\*

### May

#### Woman, May 5 — Women in Service

(Be among the many local businesses ready to salute women police officers, fire fighters, EMS personnel and women in local government positions).

#### Inspire, May 19 — Spring Home and Garden

(Tell readers about your special service or product that will make their home and/or garden the best on the block. Contact an account executive to discuss an advertorial mention in this special section).\*

*Your business doesn't fit into a theme? We'll create a custom advertorial for you regardless of theme for any edition! Inquire with your sales associate for details. To advertise, call (734) 582-8363 (Plymouth) or (248) 437-2011 (South Lyon).*

\*Advertorial mentions are included in ad packages for these special sections.



## Tax time makes us look at the bottom line How confident are you?



Photo courtesy of William Cowager

Amy and Tom Smith of Smith & Associates of Ameriprise Financial in front of Detroit's skyline.

Smith & Associates is a financial advisory branch of Ameriprise Financial. Tom and Amy Smith agree that, "It's always tax season and taxpayers often miss opportunities to make tax-smart moves. Decisions made now about charitable gifts, education accounts and retirement plans can benefit you later."

"We work proactively to help you manage your wealth by bringing our unique husband and wife perspective to your total financial picture."

At Smith & Associates, we believe every dream is personal and deserves a personal plan. Amy Smith encourages business relationships that are based on a personal, ongoing correspondence with their clients.

"Listening to you is our way to understand your needs and goals," she said. "Together, we'll create a personal plan that addresses cash and liabilities, protection, investment and tax strategies to help you reach your goals — such as planning for your retirement. Then we'll help you transfer that wealth to the next generation"

The Smiths mutually believe success should be measured not just by your financial well-being, but also by how confident you feel about your future. Their mission is to improve the lives of their clients by developing inter-generational planning relationships that align actions with their dreams, goals and values. Amy adds, "Our values as a firm are service, wisdom, integrity and teamwork."

Your first meeting is an opportunity to get to know Smith & Associates and

**"We work proactively to help you manage your wealth by bringing our unique husband and wife perspective to your total financial picture."**

— Amy & Tom Smith

become familiar with the services offered. Their six member staff, and over twenty years of experience really does make a difference. They received the FIVE STAR Wealth Manager, award in 2010. Their qualifications are as follows: Amy Smith is a CRPC- Certified Retirement Planning Counselor. Tom Smith is a CFP® CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™ practitioner, a ChFC® Chartered Financial Consultant and a CLU® Chartered Life Underwriter.

Your initial meeting will be relaxed and informal and you're under no obligation.

It's also where you will be able to

### Smith & Associates

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[www.ameripriseadvisors.com/amy.l.smith](http://www.ameripriseadvisors.com/amy.l.smith)

openly discuss your goals and dreams. The meeting will include a review of your existing financial situation and potential opportunities, gaps or general strategies. While you won't receive a comprehensive review or financial planning services for which fees are charged, you should expect to get a sense of what it might be like to work together.

Amy encourages potential clients, "Why not get a second opinion, a fresh perspective? Basically, we help busy and successful people simplify their lives to become more productive while achieving greater peace of mind. We are like our clients family CFO; they still are the CEO, yet they rely on us to facilitate this critical role so that they can focus on the bigger picture — enjoying life, building a career or business and spending time with family and friends."

## A well prepared staff makes good things happen for customers

"The hardest thing in the world to understand is the income tax." Knowing Albert Einstein once said that, Brenda W. Smith, CPA, agrees that taxes are complicated. She is a well-qualified professional who offers tax services, tax planning and wealth management. Numerous financial questions come to mind this time of the year and Smith and her staff want every client to get all of the tax benefits to which they are entitled. She operates year-round offices in the New Hudson and South Lyon areas.

According to a recent CNN article, Americans spend 6.1 billion hours on their taxes.

"I wish tax preparation were straight forward, and everyone could prepare their own return," Smith said. "But the truth is that our tax laws are complicated and convoluted, making it almost impossible for the average person to ensure they are preparing their return correctly and getting all the benefits they deserve."

Smith and her staff have many years of experience and do extensive training every year to get up to speed.

Staff member, Tim Dilworth, EA, CPA, is president of the Michigan Society of Enrolled Agents, a statewide organization dedicated to education and support for all enrolled agents. He maintains constant contact with the IRS, state of Michigan and the Michigan Association of Certified Public Accountants, keeping him abreast of current tax law changes and upcoming legislation. Said Smith: "He in turn shares this information with the staff here as well."

With this tough economy, Smith and her associates have seen every situation possible.

"Every person's financial life is complicated in one way or another," she said. "A person shouldn't be embarrassed if they have a financial situation to deal with."

"Our professionals don't judge — they just make the best of whatever situations exist. Why risk making a bad financial move when help is just a phone call away?"

Any experienced and full-time tax preparer knows accuracy is key for all tax returns. More importantly, Smith wants to help clients make the most of their financial assets, avoiding pitfalls and limiting risk associated with making uninformed decisions.

**Brenda W. Smith and Company, PC  
Certified Public Accountants**  
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Submitted photo

Brenda Smith, CPA and staff are waiting to work with you in New Hudson and South Lyon.

Smith tells clients, "to see us before they make major financial decisions, because afterward could be costly." Understanding the long-term tax effects is essential to good financial management, Smith added: "Tax planning is more important than tax preparation."

In order to be a more complete financial resource, Smith has become an associate financial adviser with Smith & Associates, an Ameriprise Platinum Financial Services Practice in Novi. She also was named as a "2010 Five Star Wealth Manager" by Hour Detroit Magazine ranking her in the top 7% of financial advisors in the Detroit area in overall customer satisfaction. Announcements were made that she will be given the same award for 2011.

"Everyone's tax situation is different,

**"Tax planning is more important than tax preparation."**

— Brenda W. Smith, CPA

especially in today's upside down world," Smith said. "But for every devastating story, there is an opportunity for another success."

Keep in mind that if you have life changes during the year, stop in and see Smith or a member of her staff for tax planning advice. It's an opportunity to plan for any tax changes, take advantage of any tax benefits and to avoid penalties. Knowing what tax opportunities exist will help you to act in your own best interest and concentrate on a positive future.

As always they offer new clients a \$27 discount.

— By Dennis Zelazny



# Books, music and movies to enjoy

## « BOOKS »

### MY WAR

By **DICK WHINFIELD**

A love story, a history lesson and the war experience of young Richard Whinfield, who served over 2½ years in combat areas in the South Pacific during World War II. Whinfield served as a control tower operator and shares some very exciting, haunting and at times very humorous experiences. It begins with what he had to do to get into the service, and goes through his Army career and finishes with getting back into civilian life, offering a different view of that war.

Biographies and Memoirs, Publisher Xlibris



### BLUE FREEDOM

By **SANDRA PEUT**

This romance novel is about Bella Whitman, a freelance health and fitness writer with a tragic history. It is a fast-paced adventure that begins with Bella accepting a dream opportunity to undertake a writing assignment which takes her on a journey across the South Pacific. She has reservations about the offer due to the arrogant but handsome editor in charge of the magazine, Ethan Gray, and Jay Hinckley, the contract photographer Ethan hired to travel with her. Bella finds herself drawn to Jay despite the rocky start, as they travel through the islands. The development of this relationship has its fair share of troubles and is challenged by the other woman in Jay's life. To add to the excitement a dangerous hitman is trailing their every move and challenges a difficult finish to their assignment. Employer Ethan has shadowy motives and there is a deadly rendezvous with a Thai drug consortium in a nail-biting climax included in this adventure. Bella is able to find healing from past pain and discovers emotional and spiritual freedom. Blue Freedom is funny, wild and sometimes woolly, but always entertaining.

Sunnepenny Publishing – Rose and Crown



By **JENNIFER TAYLOR**

**WOJCIK**

The time period is set between 1930-60. The story describes the lives of the Winers, a family living in Selma, Ala. It is a fiercely romantic novel laced with suspense, deceit and intrigue. It tests a family's loyalty, and illustrates the precarious choices we must often make. Vera is the one sister that they had a special bond with. The family comes from modest means. The eldest sister, Ruth, is plagued with newfound wealth, opulence and some deadly secrets. Ruth marries a successful businessman, while Vera continues to put the family first and is accustomed to taking the back seat to her sibling's happiness. A mysterious man enters Vera's life and changes everything. This is a book that can be shared with children; it contains neither explicit sex nor violence.

Tate Publishing & Enterprises



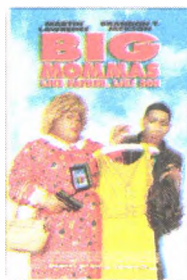
## « MOVIES »

### BIG MOMMAS: LIKE FATHER, LIKE SON

Big Momma (Lawrence) and Charmaine (Jackson) go undercover at an all-girls performing-arts school to unmask a murderer. Love will play Kurtis Kool, a school security guard and former Run-D.M.C. roachie who becomes smitten with Big Momma. Rios, Doubleday and Ang will play students at the school who befriend Jackson's character.

Release Date: Feb. 18

Genre: Comedy  
Director: John Whitesell  
Writer: Matthew Fogel, Randi Mayem Singer  
Cast: Martin Lawrence, Brandon T. Jackson, Jessica Lucas, Faizon Love, Emily Rios, Portia Doubleday, Michelle Ang  
Studio: 20th Century Fox



and stockpile of food and drink make it the last refuge in a deserted city. With daylight beginning to disappear completely and whispering shadows surrounding the survivors, they soon discover that the enemy is the darkness itself, and only the few remaining light sources can keep them safe. As time begins to run out for them, darkness closes in and they must face the ultimate terror.

Release Date: Feb. 18 (Limited)

Genre: Horror

Director: Brad Anderson  
Writer: Anthony Jaswinski  
Cast: Hayden Christensen, Thandie Newton, John Leguizamo, Jacob Latimore, Taylor Grootuis  
Studio: Magnet Releasing



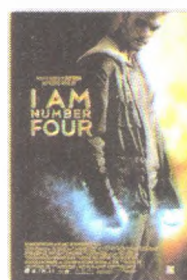
### I AM NUMBER FOUR

It is based on the young adult novel "I Am Number Four" by Pittacus Lore. The story is about a group of nine Earth-bound alien teens who escaped their planet just before it was destroyed by a hostile species. While the high school-aged kids assimilate, the title character (Pettyfer) discovers that he is being hunted by the enemy that blew up his planet.

Release Date: Feb. 18

Genre: Action, Sci-Fi

Director: D.J. Caruso  
Writer: Al Gough, Miles Millar  
Cast: Alex Pettyfer, Timothy Olyphant, Teresa Palmer, Dianna Agron, Kevin Durand, Callan McAuliffe, Jake Abel  
Studio: DreamWorks Pictures



An unexplained blackout plunges the city of Detroit into total darkness, and by the time the sun rises, only a few people remain — surrounded by heaps of empty clothing, abandoned cars and lengthening shadows. A small handful of strangers that have survived the night each find their way to a rundown bar, whose gasoline-powered generator

### DRIVE ANGRY 3D

"Drive Angry 3D" stars Nicolas Cage as Milton, a hardened felon who has broken out for one last chance at redemption. Hell bent on stopping a vicious cult of fanatics who murdered his daughter, he has three days to stop them before they sacrifice his infant granddaughter beneath a full moon. Milton must use his anger to go beyond all human limits in order to save his last connection with humanity. He's joined by Piper, a young sexy-smart waitress who liberates her ex-boyfriend's cherry red muscle car in order to help Milton. Now, the two of them are hot on the trail of the charismatic Jonah King and his murderous followers. King will throw every one of them faithful under the wheels of Milton's turbo-charged Black '71 Challenger, to fulfill his destiny and unleash hell on Earth. But the bloodthirsty cult is the least of Milton's problems.



Release Date: Feb. 25

Genre: Action

Director: Patrick Lussier  
Writer: Patrick Lussier  
Cast: Nicolas Cage, William Fichtner, Amber Heard, Billy Burke, Simona Williams, Katy Mixon  
Studio: Summit Entertainment

## WHAT'S ON YOUR RADIO?

As you travel to and from your destinations have you ever wondered what everyone else is listening to? Here is a top 10 list of songs played on the radio.

### 1. WHAT'S MY NAME?

Rihanna Feat. Drake, Loud [Clean]

Rihanna topped the Billboard Hot 100 earlier this year when she teamed with Eminem for "Love the Way You Lie," and the pop singer has done it again with her latest collaboration, the Drake-assisted "What's My Name?" "What's My Name?" is the second single by R&B singer Rihanna, taken from her fifth studio album, "Loud," released Nov. 12, 2010. "What's My Name?" remix featuring Drake is a bonus track from the album. Rihanna and Drake have described their duet as a "young" and "playful" track. The song reached No. 1 on the Billboard Hot 100, giving Rihanna her eighth No. 1 hit on the chart.



### 2. FIREWORK

Katy Perry, Teenage Dream

Katy Perry is a bit of a human firework — sparkly, colorful and spontaneous — so it's fitting that she would include a song called "Firework" on her Teenage Dream Album, which has already spawned hits like the title track and "California Gurls." The track is sure to resonate with Perry fans who love when the singer gets real about boys and love and their electrifying power.



Bruno Mars, Doo-Wops & Hooligans

These days, the million-dollar question isn't, "who is Bruno Mars?" it's what is Bruno Mars poised to do next? Yes, it's great to be young Bruno Mars, the gifted, smooth and soulful Hawaiian-born crooner/producer, who's been enjoying a magical run in the pop world since listeners and critics fell for his honey-coated hooks on tracks by ascendant rapper B.O.B. ("Nothin' on You") and bad-boy hip-hopper Travie McCoy ("Billionaire"). The pulsating groove "Grenade," is steeped in the pleasure, passion and pain that regularly characterize intimate relationships. Throughout the record, Mars (25, born Peter Gene Hernandez) projects emotions that reel you in, as well as a boyish innocence, and a sensitivity that serves to ratchet up the effervescent energy and the authenticity of his lyrics.



Rihanna

"Only Girl (In The World)" is the lead single from Rihanna's fifth studio album "Loud." It was released



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Sept. 10, 2010, and shot to the top of iTunes downloads chart in less than 48 hours. The song was written by Crystal Johnson and produced by Stargate. Lyrically, "Only Girl" finds Rihanna yearning for her man to keep her at the center of his attention. "I want you to make me feel like I'm the only girl in the world," she sings. Critical reception to the song has been largely positive. It has been praised by critics for its dance-pop feel and for Rihanna's strong vocal performance.



5. WE R WHO WE R

Ke\$ha, *Cannibal*

The release of "Cannibal" (RCA Records / Kemosabe Entertainment), the highly anticipated companion to her platinum selling debut album "Animal" Nov. 22, 2010. The songs on "Cannibal" were made to inspire people to ignore any hate or judgment and be themselves unapologetically.



"It's the perfect companion to 'Animal' and I

hope you guys like it. And if you don't like it — bite me," says Ke\$ha.

6. THE WAY I AM

P!nk, *Greatest Hits ...*

So Far!!!

Iconic performer and vocal powerhouse P!nk will release "Greatest Hits ... So Far!!!," a collection of her hit songs along with two new songs including the lead single "Raise Your Glass" produced by longtime collaborator Max Martin and co-written by P!nk. Since her debut in 2000, P!nk (Alicia Moore) has successfully paved her way on her own terms as a talented singer/songwriter/performer. Most recently, she raised the bar with her astonishing acrobatic Grammy 2010 performance of her sleeper hit "Glitter In The Air." Over the past two years, P!nk has extensively performed sold-out performances throughout Europe, Australia and the U.S., winning over critics and fans.



7. JUST THE WAY YOU ARE

Bruno Mars, *Doo-Wops & Hooligans*

We're head over heels for Bruno Mars' nostalgic, minimalist cover art for his debut album "Doo-Wops & Hooligans," and from what we've heard of the disc so far, it certainly fits the old-school vibe of his tunes perfectly. The singer-songwriter with the Midas touch for making hits recently told us in an exclusive interview that "I have records that women are going to relate to and men are going to relate to. So doo-wops are for the girls, and hooligans are for the guys."



8. TONIGHT (I'M LOVIN' YOU)

Enrique Iglesias Feat. Ludacris

& DJ Frank E, *Tonight (I'm Lovin' You)* Enrique Iglesias released a new English song at the end of November 2010. The one is

titled "Tonight (I'm Lovin' You)" and it is featuring Ludacris and DJ Frank E who also produced the single. Iglesias has featured his romantic lyrics even when it is a club song like this. The lyrics start with the same popular phrase on Pitbull's song "I know you want me" and continue all a diatribe of love.



9. DJ GOT US FALLIN' IN LOVE

Usher Feat. Pitbull

Usher aims to continue his recent string of chart success with the release of a new single, "DJ Got Us Fallin' In Love," which will appear on "Versus," an eight-song companion piece to his 2010 album "Raymond V. Raymond." That album has already spawned several hit singles, including "OMG" and "There Goes My Baby." Featuring Cuban rapper Pitbull, this all-new, club-ready dance song seems likely to start a lot of new relationships out on dance floors this summer, as Usher invites everyone to give into the moment: "Cause baby tonight, the DJ got us fallin' in love again / So dance like it's the last night of your life / Gon' get you right."



10. YEAH 3X

Chris Brown

Many have counted Chris Brown out, but the R&B wonder is slowly climbing back into various playlists. Surprisingly splashing into the Billboard Hot 100 chart's top 20 and topping the R&B chart for several weeks now with "Deuces," a mid-tempo goodbye cut from his Fan of a Fan mixtape, debuted the feel-good lead single from his forthcoming FAME (an acronym for Forgiving All My Enemies) album, "Yeah 3X," and its partnering video.



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

Intermediate

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

Advanced

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



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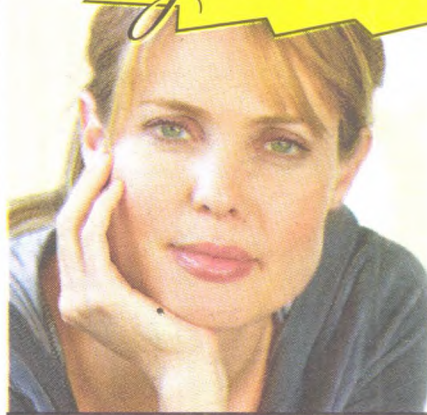
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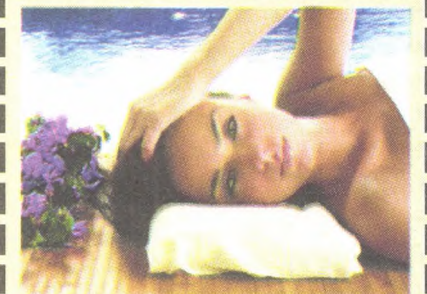
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