



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The Park Players present "The Pajama Game."

Jammie time

Players tackle love, strife in spring musical

BY BRAD KADRICH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Kelly Childs has had to overcome one major obstacle as she prepares to play Babe Williams in the Park Players' production of *The Pajama Game*.

The obstacle? Kelly Childs. Childs, a bubbly, Canton High School senior acting in just her second show with Park Players, has to play Babe, the stern head of the grievance committee at the pajama factory that provides the backdrop for the spring musical. Childs' problem has been that Babe is such a polar opposite to her own personality.

"It's hard to be so stern sometimes because I'm upbeat and fun," Childs said. "I just get it in my mind, I think, 'What would Babe do?'"

Childs and Plymouth High School senior Phill Schultz lead a 70-member cast as the Park Players put on *The Pajama Game* starting this weekend at the Gloria Logan Auditorium in Salem High School. The story deals with labor troubles in a pajama factory, where worker demands for a seven-and-a-half-cent raise are going unheeded. In the midst of this ordeal, love blossoms between Babe, the grievance committee head played by Childs, and Sid, the new factory superintendent played by Schultz.

Schultz, doing his third musical, was also part of the



The pajama factory workers sew and sing.

Plymouth High School football team that reached the state championship game last fall. That football player mentality contributes to the "manly man" image Schultz said the director told him helped with the decision to cast him.

"I was cast in a 'manly man"

role, so it fits my personality," Schultz said. "I've been singing since I was little, so the singing aspect (of the role) attracted me to it."

The challenge for Schultz is reaching the higher notes required for the tenor role.

"It's a really high singing part for me," he said. "I've had

to work on my range, but it's coming together."

One of the biggest challenges with this musical, according to choreographer Marisa Kowalski, is the sheer size of the cast and the bevy of musical numbers in the play. Of the 70-plus cast members, Kowalski said, maybe

a couple of dozen have had dance experience. The rest are learning.

"It's hard because there are so many numbers and the cast is so large," said Kowalski, a 17-year-old Salem High School senior from Plymouth. "But everyone is working hard and they're eager to do it. They're

PARK PLAYERS ON STAGE

What: Park Players presentation of the Broadway musical 'The Pajama Game.'

When: 7 p.m. March 17-19 and March 25-26 at the Gloria Logan Auditorium inside Salem High School.

Highlights: Featuring the songs 'Hey There,' 'Steam Heat' and 'Hernando's Hideaway,' 'The Pajama Game' is a musical based on the novel '7½ Cents' by Richard Bissell featuring a score by Richard Adler and Jerry Ross.

Tickets: \$12 in advance or at the door. Salem High School is located at 16181 Joy Road in Canton.

all excited."

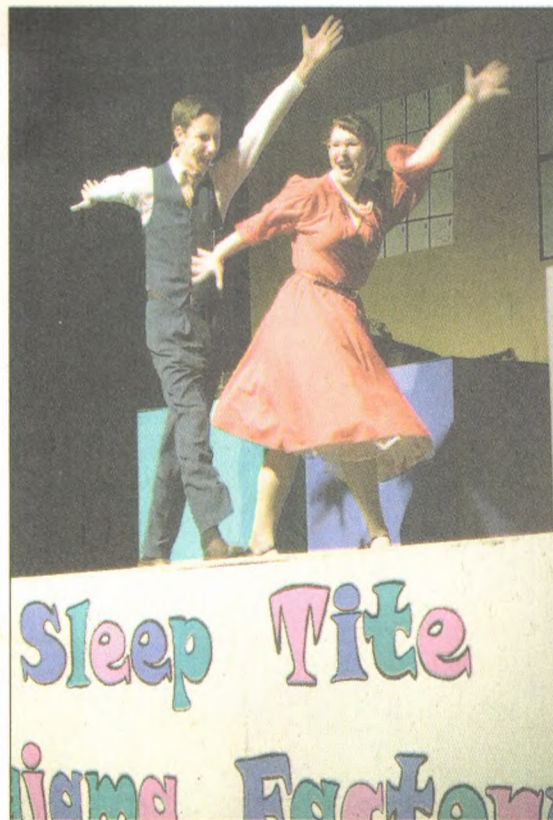
It's all been coming together under the direction of first-time Park Players director Rob Leider, a veteran director who guided some 87 shows while teaching at West Bloomfield. Leider, an acquaintance of Tim Schoenherr, Plymouth-Canton's arts coordinator, said one of the biggest challenges was learning the room.

"Directing in a high school when you don't work there is a challenge," Leider said. "You've got to get to know the kids, and the culture of what you're getting into. Fortunately, the adults who've been part of the program have been very welcoming, and the kids have been great."

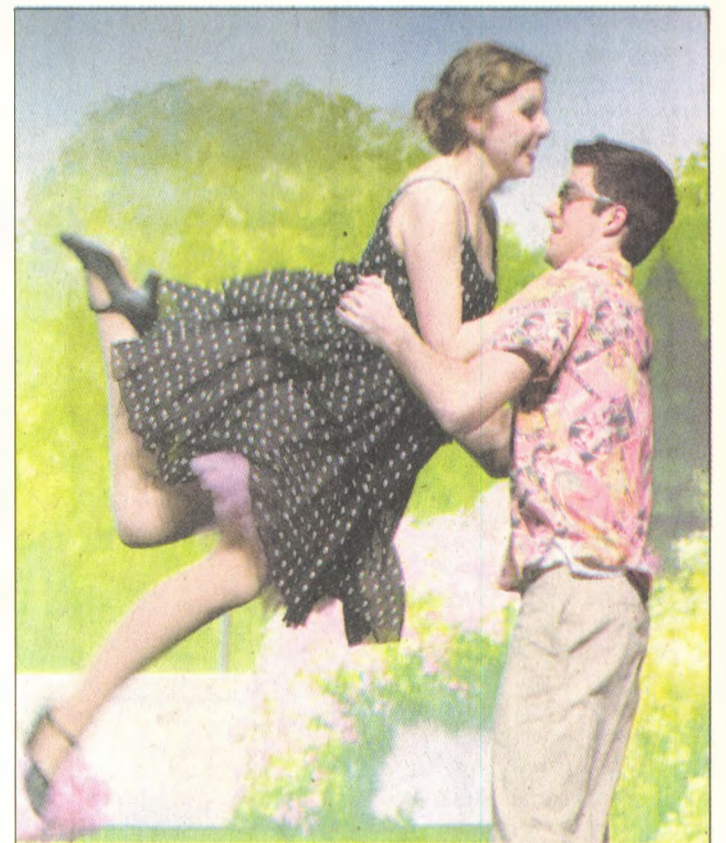
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Babe Williams (Kelly Childs) not that enthralled with Sid. At right, chorus member Emily Farhat.



Mr. Heinz (Michael Albert) and Mabel (Holly Platis) dance away Heinz's jealousy.



Kelsey Allen and Tanner Cottrell rehearse.



Josh Smith, Carolyn Wilts and D'Wann Bevell sing the classic number "Steam Heat."



The ever-efficient Heinz (Michael Albert) sings "Think of All the Time I'll Save."

March 31: Deadline to pay 2008 property taxes

Over my more than 30 years as Wayne County treasurer, I cannot recall a more challenging time for so many property taxpayers. Like the rest of the country, Wayne County is experiencing record numbers of property tax foreclosures.



Raymond J. Wojtowicz

payment and we are here to help. If the situation is not addressed, you stand to lose your house to foreclosure.

We recognize these are challenging times for so many and have put in place programs to assist you. Several years ago, I instituted the Taxpayer Assistance Department designed specifically to reach out and inform those with delinquent taxes about payment options they may use to keep their property.

PAYMENT PLAN

We offer a payment plan that will allow you to budget your payments over the year and avoid foreclosure. If you live in the home and own the home, we can offer a hardship extension to give you additional time to pay. It is essential to act now as time is running out.

Our outreach is simple: "Let's talk." Our goal is to encourage people to contact us

and not panic.

By contacting the Taxpayer Assistance Department, you will speak with a trained member of our staff who will take your information and work with you to explore available options. Please know that your privacy will be fully protected and all personal and property data is shared to ensure confidentiality.

We cannot guarantee that everyone who contacts us will be able to save their property, however, we will do all that we can to advise you of your options. The 2008 tax year and any taxes prior to that is what needs to be paid or payment arrangements made before March 31.

READY TO HELP

My office stands ready to help. Through our extensive educational and informational awareness efforts, we are using every resource available to reach delinquent taxpayers to help them resolve their property tax issues. We have partnered with more than 20 community organizations to assist you in this time of need.

Those with delinquent 2008 taxes can pay their taxes in person or online, arrange a payment plan, or apply for a substantial hardship extension which will allow through the end of the year to pay the back taxes.

The payment plan option is an agreement that requires the taxpayer to pay 20 percent of the delinquency by the end of March, 20 percent by May 15, 20 percent by Aug. 15 and the remaining balance by the end of 2011.

More information about these two programs can be found on our website at www.treasurer.waynecounty.com, or by contacting our Taxpayer Assistance Department at taxinfo@co.wayne.mi.us or (313) 224-6105.

Due to extreme volume, our phones are often overloaded. Also our offices will be extremely busy the end of the month, so I urge you to act now. If you have delinquent taxes, don't give up. Help us help you. Let's talk.

Raymond J. Wojtowicz is the Wayne County treasurer.

LETTERS

Cut officials' benefits

Why is it the Republican governors and tea partiers talk about cutting "government," yet they are really talking about cutting the workers who really service the people?

They want to cut pay of teachers who educate our children, the police who protect us, the firefighters who protect our property, the EMTs who rescue us and the snow plow drivers who clear our streets.

Why don't they cut the number of school board members? Why not cut the size of city councils or those county commissioners who find more ways to waste money than the federal government. How about cutting their salaries by 10 percent or telling them to contribute to their pension or pay for their health care. Wouldn't it be fiscally responsible if they drove their cars to work, like the rest of us.

No, that would be asking them to really turn into a government by the people, of the people and for the people.

Skip Wehrle
Garden City

this to be the case. The language refers to "school districts" and "higher education." Community colleges should be included in the definition of "higher education." For example, if the governor's proposed budget states that he is going to use a certain amount of money from the School Aid Fund to help community colleges, this would not contradict the State Constitution. Any argument that would exclude community colleges would be quite contradictory to the general purpose of any education funding, that being the necessary education of our young people. To exclude community colleges, which tend to serve a different part of the population than do four-year educational institutions, would greatly restrict access to a public benefit of which the community greatly supports.

The second misconception is that money was directed to "other" areas in FY 2010. During that fiscal year, the School Aid Fund had a \$208 million surplus. The Legislature, with support from the governor, approved a measure to direct those funds toward community colleges. To think those funds went anywhere but education is completely false.

As someone who has greatly benefited from a community college, I struggle to understand why certain individuals would express support for all public educational institutions except community colleges. Those institutions are allowed access to the School Aid Fund just like every other public school.

Alexander Steward
Livonia

School Aid for colleges, too

I wanted to take the time to clear up a couple of misconceptions that certain individuals may have regarding the School Aid Fund and any allocation of its surplus to "other" areas.

When Proposal A passed, it was clear by the overwhelming support behind it that voters wanted to have a steady source of revenue that could be dedicated to education. There has been nothing that has occurred in the past fiscal year that would be contrary to that desire and the governor's current proposed budget does not appear to contradict that either.

The first misconception that people have is that the School Aid Fund is only limited to K-12. There was no language in the ballot proposal or currently in the State Constitution that would indicate

Do your homework; check out charities before opening wallet

The destruction that occurred in Japan last week reminds us of the power of Mother Nature and how, in a matter of minutes, our world can drastically change. The earthquake and tsunami will affect Japan for years and will have consequences here, and around the world.

Obviously, the most important aspect of the disaster is the loss of human life and the pain and grief that so many in Japan will face. There are, however, other consequences of the natural disaster that are important to mention.

Japan is the third largest economy in the world behind the United States and China. At this point, how the tragedy will affect the Japanese economy is unknown.



Money Matters
Rick Bloom

is hard to say. However, the rebuilding of Japan will have an economic consequence not only to Japan, but to markets around the world.

Another consequence of the tragedy is that once again Americans, who are by far the most generous people on earth, will be opening up their checkbooks to help.

Not surprisingly, when the Japanese stock market reopened for business, there was a substantial sell-off. Whether this is a one-day event and whether it will affect other markets

Unfortunately, what that also means — just as we have seen in other disasters — is lowlifes will attempt to take advantage of our good nature.

One problem is that too many Americans do not spend the time to make sure the money they are donating is actually going to the cause they choose.

After the Haitian disaster, hundreds of websites popped up seeking solicitations of money. Unfortunately, many of these websites were bogus and were attempting to steal money and/or confidential information.

Although it is in our DNA to help those less fortunate, always make sure to check out the charity and confirm the money will be going where it will be most beneficial and not in the scam artist's pocket.



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Performances show cultural variety is valuable

BY BRAD KADRICH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The folks on the Celebration of Diversity planning committee at Workman Elementary School are focused on getting people to value diversity.

They believe that mission was accomplished with Friday's two-hour "Celebration of Diversity" event that featured 10 performances during the show and 11 different countries represented during the World Tour and Food Tasting part of the event.

"Valuing diversity is and always has been critical to harmony and understanding of one another," said organizer Sabrina Boykin. "The ultimate goal of diversity is to value a broad range of people and notions. Diversity helps us to grasp the connections between various aspects of our own individuality."

Some 700 people attended the fifth annual event. After the performances,

Boykin said, each child received a color passport and went to each country for the World Tour and Food Tasting. In each classroom the room was transformed to give the feel of the country.

"When the students answered the passport question in each country they received a stamp," Boykin explained. "When they had at least 5 stamps they selected from a variety of prizes encouraging world peace and unity."

Boykin pointed out parent volunteers, students and teachers spent considerable time preparing for the event, and the turnout and quality performances proved it was worth the effort.

"It was a huge success," Boykin said. "This event is so important because it is an evening for us to embrace and celebrate the many diverse cultures represented at our school."



Students from Noreen Watson's second-grade class (from left) Jon Grenillo, Yensi Goerge, Jeffrey Yang, Bridgette Bowser, Eric Wilhite and Allison Albin sang the Mexican song "To Everyone and the Whole World."

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ENTERTAINMENT

Thursday, March 17, 2011

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SWEETEN BREAKFAST, LUNCH AND DINNER FARE WITH MAPLE SYRUP - FOOD, B7



The HarmonyTown Chorus rehearses "Jamaica Farewell," a song made popular by Harry Belafonte.

Barbershop chorus tackles folk, rock music

BY SHARON DARGAY
OSE STAFF WRITER

The HarmonyTown Chorus draws the line at singing rap, but relishes the challenge of turning an Elvis or John Denver tune into four-part harmony.

"We always joke around about that — as barbershop harmony gets older, we just can't see singing rap, and even disco," said Jim Farkus, member. "We typically sing barbershop music, but we're moving up in the decades now and starting to include more recognizable music."

The group's annual show on March 27 at the Village Theater in Canton will take the audience back to the '50s and '60s, with songs such as Elvis' *Are You Lonesome Tonight* and *Under the Boardwalk* by the Drifters.

The first half of the concert will pay tribute to the early days of rock and folk music and the second half will offer a mixed bag of tunes, from John Denver's *Country Roads to the Battle Hymn of the Republic*.

The 27-member chorus also will dress the part, wearing 1950s-style clothing and donning flowered shirts and hats with built-in dreadlocks for a barbershop rendition of *Jamaica Farewell*, a song made famous by Harry Belafonte.

Transforming a rock song into barbershop music is easier if a quartet rather than a soloist originally sang the tune.

"In four-part harmony the first tenor is the lead singer and there is baritone, tenor and bass. Typically if the songs were sung by a group, they

may have had four-part harmony. Some were three- or five-part. It isn't a far stretch to go from the original to barbershop," Farkus explained.

"We have very talented musicians in our organization and a lot of them take a song and rearrange it," he added. "The Barbershop Harmony Society's main headquarters is in Nashville (Tenn.) and they provide a list of hundreds of songs we can choose."

The Chorus' upcoming show will include a guest quartet, Moxxy, and appearances by an Elvis and Buddy Holly impersonator.

HarmonyTown Chorus rehearses at 7:30 p.m. every Tuesday at Kirk of Our Savior Church, 36660 Cherry Hill, between Wayne Road and Newburgh, in Westland. Potential new members may drop or call (734) 743-1764. No

auditions are necessary.

"Typically these are guys who sing in the shower or were in the high school chorus. They enjoy singing and they like the camaraderie," Farkus said. "We have a couple of members who don't participate in the shows. We practice every Tuesday and they just enjoy singing there."

Those who want to perform in front of an audience can deliver musical valentines every February and sing at community events as well as the spring show.

"We go out to senior homes, birthday parties, anniversaries. We put on close to 30 shows a year at various places."

Farkus said the group planned to entertain senior citizens today, March 17 in Novi.

A BARBERSHOP SALUTE TO THE 50'S & 60'S

What: HarmonyTown Chorus sings songs from the 1950s and 1960s in four-part harmony. Special guest quartet is Moxxy, the 2010 Pioneer District Silver Medalist

When: 3 p.m. Sunday, March 27

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

Admission: \$13 before March 23; \$15 after

Contact: (734) 394-5300 or (734) 394-5460; www.canton-mi.org/village-theater

Hear humorous opera in English at Village Theater

The Comic Opera Guild will present Offenbach's *The Grand Duchess Of Gerolstein* in English at 8 p.m. Saturday, April 2 and 2 p.m. Sunday, April 3, at The Village Theater at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill, Canton.

The French satire has charmed audiences worldwide for over a century, poking fun at all things military. The production is a Michigan premiere with Barbara Scanlon, as the Grand Duchess, leading a cast of professional soloists, accompanied by full orchestra and chorus.

The plot involves a lovelorn monarch who promotes a handsome but inept soldier to commander-in-chief, with disastrous, but hilarious consequences. Offenbach, known as the "Mozart of the Champs Elysee" created the operetta form, and his music is still heard everywhere, from the can-can to *The Marine Hymn*. He inspired Gilbert and Sullivan and gave birth to the musical comedy.

Tickets for the Comic Opera Guild's production are \$20 for adults, \$17 for seniors and \$15 for students. Buy them online at www.canton-mi.org/village-theater, in person at Summit on the Park, 46000 Summit Parkway, Canton, or with a credit card by phone at (734) 394-5460.



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FOOD

Thursday, March 17, 2011

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HAVE A STORY IDEA?

Contact Editor Sharon Dargay

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Comment online at hometownlife.com



Learn about maple sugaring this month at programs in Northville and Milford.

Beyond pancakes

Maple syrup sweetens breakfast, lunch, dinner fare

It's nearly spring and the maple sap is flowing.

It's time to bundle up and watch the maple sugaring process and then whip up a menu of foods sweetened with the golden brown liquid.

Learn how Native Americans taught early settlers how to collect and boil maple sap at a presentation at 10 a.m., 11 a.m. and noon Saturday, March 19, at Cass Benton Park, located off Northville Road between Six Mile and Seven Mile in Northville. During the Wayne County Parks program, participants will hike into the woods for a hands-on demonstration of tree tapping, sap collection and boiling.

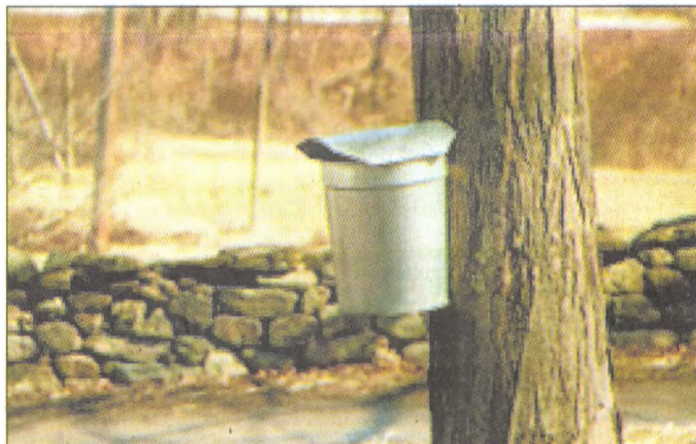
Advance registration and pre-payment are required. Cost is \$5 per person. Call (734) 261-1990 or visit www.waynecountyparks.org.

Kensington Metropark Farm Learning Center in Milford offers "Maple's Sweet Story," noon to 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday this month. Stop in for a hot breakfast from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Farmhouse Grille, and then take a guided tour to the sugar bush to see the maple sugaring process, including tapping trees and boiling sap. Guided tours begin at noon; the last guided tour leaves at 2:30 p.m. After 4 p.m., the sugar bush remains open for self-guided visits.

The fee for the weekend program is \$3 for adults, \$1 for seniors and kids 3-12. The pancake breakfast at the Farmhouse Grille is \$5. (800) 477-3178 or (248) 685-1561.

The Maple Syrup Association of Michigan explains how to turn maple sap into maple syrup from black maple and sugar maple trees in your own backyard. Visit its Web site at www.mi-maplesyrup.com for an equipment list and instructions you can use next February, the month when most tapping is completed in the lower peninsula.

Now, crack open a bottle of Michigan-made maple syrup and start cooking!



COURTESY THE MICHIGAN MAPLE SYRUP ASSOCIATION

Buckets collect sap that will be processed into maple syrup.

MAPLE CORN MUFFINS

1½ cups flour
2 eggs
½ cup cornmeal
½ cup milk
3 teaspoons baking powder
½ teaspoon salt
½ cup Maple Syrup
½ cup melted shortening

Sift dry ingredients together. Beat eggs in bowl; add milk, maple syrup and shortening. Blend dry ingredients in quickly to just moisten flour. Pour into 12 muffin tins and bake 425 degrees for about 20 minutes.

MAPLE RHUBARB PIE

3 cups rhubarb, cut up
¾ cup Maple Syrup
1 egg
¾ cup sugar
2 tablespoons flour (rounding)
Pinch of salt

Beat egg; add sugar, syrup, and flour. Mix well and add rhubarb. Put into two-crust pie. Bake at 425 degrees for 15 minutes. Reduce heat to 350 degrees until it bubbles, approximately 30 minutes.

MAPLE SPRING CHICKEN

1 chicken, 2½-3 pound cut-up
1 teaspoon salt
¼ cup melted butter
Dash of pepper
¼ cup maple syrup
¼ cup chopped almonds
½ teaspoon grated lemon rind
2 teaspoons lemon juice

Place chicken pieces in a shallow, buttered baking dish. Mix remaining ingredients and pour evenly over chicken. Bake uncovered, 50-60 minutes, at 325 degrees. Baste occasionally. This baked chicken is especially good served with rice.

MAPLE COTTAGE PUDDING

1 cup maple syrup
1 cup flour
1 tablespoon butter
2 teaspoons baking powder
3 tablespoons sugar
½ teaspoon salt
½ cup sweet milk
Nuts

Sift together flour, baking powder and salt. Heat syrup to boiling point. Put in baking dish. Mix other ingredients in order. Pour batter into syrup. Bake until brown. Turn upside down and sprinkle with nuts. Serve with whipped cream. Bake 350 degrees for 25-30 minutes. Serves 6.

MAPLE BARS

½ cup sugar
½ cup soft shortening
1 egg
½ cup pure maple syrup
¾ cup flour
1 cup chopped nuts
1 cup rolled oats
½ teaspoon baking powder
1 teaspoon vanilla
½ cup coconut

Mix all of the ingredients thoroughly. Spread in 8- by 8-inch square greased pan. Bake 350 degrees for 30-35 minutes. While warm, cut in squares.

MAPLE APPLE CRUNCH

8 to 10 graham crackers, crushed
4 apples
½ cup butter or margarine
½ cup maple syrup

Mix cracker crumbs and butter thoroughly. Slice apples. Butter a 1 quart baking dish and place apples in bottom of dish. Pour maple syrup over apples and add cracker and butter mixture. Bake at 325 degrees for 25 minutes. Top with whipped cream or ice cream. Serves 6

Recipes courtesy of the Maple Syrup Association of Michigan

New Weight Watchers chef, Isabella Nicoletti, to visit local meetings

Weight Watchers' new chef, Isabella Nicoletti, will introduce an Italian menu to Weight Watchers groups in April.

She's focusing on greens in demonstrations this month.

A classically-trained Italian chef whose cooking roots extend back to her native Italy, chef Isabella spent 24 years working her way up the ranks of the culinary hierarchy while also working her way across the Atlantic Ocean from Vicenza, Italy to metro-Detroit in 1995.

She served as executive chef and oversaw menu development at Jimmy Schmidt's Chianti Tuscan Grill & Stelline, before joining the staff in 1998 Paesano Restaurant and Wine Bar in Ann Arbor and took on additional projects including the publication of a cookbook, *Perbacco Isabella!*, instruction for aspiring chefs.

Now she is facing new challenges as a chef at Weight Watchers, which has its headquarters in Farmington Hills.

"I want to show how great tasting Italian cuisine can be integrated into

the Weight Watchers lifestyle," she said.

Her recipes reflect her love of garlic, fresh herbs and vinegars as well as seasonal products.

"I really like to go to the farmers' markets and get the freshest produce, meat and fish."

In the meantime, she's learning the PointPlus Program and demonstrating healthy cooking techniques to Weight Watcher members in meeting room demonstrations throughout southeastern Michigan. At demonstrations she also answers questions and gives out recipe sheets. The meetings are free and open to the public. Her scheduled is posted on askflorine.com each month.

Attend a demonstration this month at:

• 9 a.m. and 10 a.m., March 18, Burlington Square, 22285 Eureka, Taylor

• 12:15 p.m. March 23, Charrington Square, 9912 E. Grand River Ave., Brighton

• 7:30 a.m., 8:30 a.m., 9:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m., March 26, Northwood

Shopping Center, 30935 N. Woodward Ave., Royal Oak
• 10 a.m. March 29, Oak Valley Village Center, 2809 Oak Valley, Ann Arbor

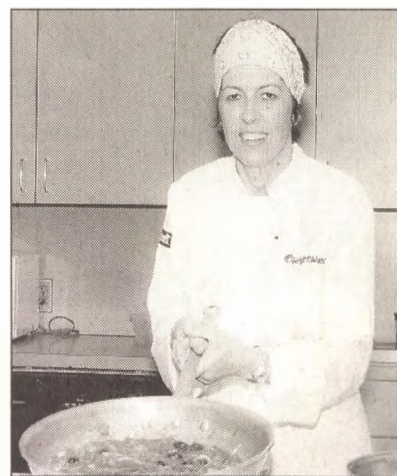
• 6 p.m. March 30, North Park Plaza, 17117 W. 9 Mile, Southfield

At each meeting she cooks a recipe and offers samples to the audience. Recipes this month support March's "Go Green" theme.

Here are a couple of chef Isabella's creations:

GREEN KALE AND AVOCADO SALAD

PointsPlus Value: 6
Servings: 4
½ cup orange juice
3 tablespoons lemon juice
2 teaspoons soy sauce
1 clove garlic, minced
1 medium avocado
3 cups kale
1 teaspoon kosher salt
1 teaspoon black pepper
2 tablespoons olive oil
4 teaspoons flax seed or hemp seed



Weight Watchers' chef Isabella Nicoletti is demonstrating recipes using greens this month throughout southeast Michigan.

Whisk together juices, soy sauce and garlic. Slowly add oil and set aside. Peel avocado and cut into ½-inch cubes; mix with kale and dressing. Season with salt and pepper. Divide onto 4 plates and sprinkle each with 1 teaspoon of seeds.

TUSCAN KALE WITH SHALLOTS AND TURKEY BACON

PointsPlus Value: 3

Serves: 4

2 teaspoons honey
1 teaspoon Sherry vinegar
2 teaspoons olive oil
3 medium shallots, minced
1 teaspoon kosher salt
2 pounds kale, leaves only
2 ounces uncooked turkey bacon, cut into small pieces

In a small bowl whisk together honey and vinegar. Set aside. Rip each kale leaf into 5 or 6 pieces. Wash it, then boil in salted water until kale is tender, about 4 to 7 minutes. Drain, cool and squeeze out excess water. Heat oil in a large (12-inch) skillet. Add shallots and turkey bacon and cook, stirring, until lightly browned, about 5 minutes. Set aside. Add kale until it is just heated through (do not overcook or it will begin to weep moisture). Off the heat, add the honey mixture and toss well. Add the shallots and bacon and toss well. Season with salt. Serve immediately. It's great over soft polenta.

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home

DIY project — beautiful bathrooms



attractions

A day at a country store

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Signs of spring are everywhere in Inspire

If you live in the metro area, Detroit Tigers Opening Day at Comerica Park, the



Red Wings heading to the playoffs and St. Patrick's Day parades and celebrations mean only one thing. We made it. Spring is here — finally.

Contributing Writer Mary Quinley leads the way by taking us on a tour of area pubs that are great places to watch a baseball or hockey game. Good food, good drinks, big TVs (lots of them) and a friendly atmosphere are what make

these local spots the place to gather. So get out and have some fun.

As always, Inspire offers up help for those DIY projects that call out to every homeowner. This month, we have our eye on fixing up the bathroom. Local experts offer up their suggestions on how to transform that old bathroom into a minor masterpiece without spending a fortune.

A special treat in today's Inspire is a trip to the country store by Contributing Writer Dennis Zelazny. Read about the Dixboro Country Store in Superior Township and Kean's Store Company in Mason. Day trips worth the time. Don't miss this special feature. Zelazny's "Local Attractions" column

will become a regular feature of Inspire. So if you have a local spot to suggest, e-mail Zelazny at dzelazny@hometownlife.com.

Food is a big part of today's Inspire — spring sweets and March Madness recipes can all be found inside.

Now put your feet up and spend some time with today's edition.

Happy St. Pat's Day. Good health and good cheer to all!

As always, I welcome your comments.

Susan Rosiek
Publisher
srosiek@hometownlife.com



Local attractions A day at the country store

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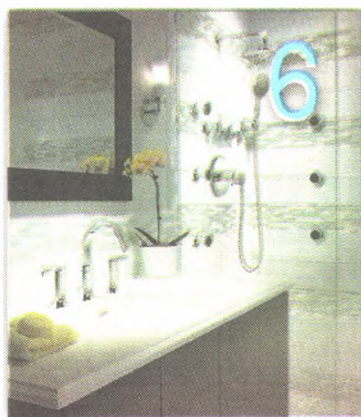
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Cast-iron comeback

(ARA) — A skillet hidden away in a cabinet, or some other small piece of cookware - that's about all the cast iron you'll find in most modern homes. In the early 1900s, iron was a material of choice not just for cookware, but for many other essential items throughout the house: A skillet on the stovetop, sinks and bathtubs, and fences that decorated and defined the front yard. Even some buildings were made of iron. But as lighter, rust-resistant materials became available, iron fell by the wayside as a material in homes.

Fast forward to today, and a new generation of design-savvy homeowners is rediscovering the beauty, durability and usefulness of cast iron in kitchens and bathrooms. A handful of enterprising manufacturers are reinventing the look, design and appeal of cast iron.

If the concept of cast iron in kitchen and bath fixtures is new to you, consider the material's advantages:

- Durable. Enameled cast iron is especially durable, combining the longevity and dent-resistance of cast iron with the rust-proof beauty of enamel.
- Customizable. Cast-iron sinks and bathtubs add instant elegance to a space. And with more than 20 colors to choose from, it's easy to create a customized look to reflect personal style.
- Eco-friendly. Some cast-iron products, like those made by bath design pioneer Kohler, have a "green" side. Kohler manufactures its cast iron from 83 percent recycled materials.

These three cast-iron fixtures have regained popularity — and reclaimed cast iron's reputation as a material of choice — in American homes:

KITCHEN SINKS

The kitchen sink plays host to a handful of hardworking activities in the heart of the home - whether it's cleaning up from holiday feasts or serving as a baby bathing spot.

Today's Kohler's Lawnfield and Wheatland cast iron kitchen sinks emphasize design with an ideal balance between form and function at an attractive price. Single-basin sinks reflect



Cast-iron cookware isn't the only use for cast iron in the kitchen. Cast-iron sinks marry beauty, durability and usefulness in kitchen settings.



A whole new generation of homeowners is discovering the beauty and durability of cast iron in the bathroom.

historical design, and double basin cast iron sinks offer a modern convenience. You'll find a variety of color choices, as well as under-counter and self-rimming options.

BATHROOM SINKS

Whether it's the focal point in a petite powder room or coupled in a master suite's double vanity, bathroom sinks have a tall bill to fill — homeowners require good looks and durability, which today's enameled cast-iron bathroom sinks can provide.

Enameling technology makes it possible to have a cast-iron sink in an array of vibrant new colors beyond your grandparents' classic white claw-foot tub. Kohler's Tides bathroom sink comes in over 20 colors, and its self-rimming design makes it easy to install. With a cost well below \$200, it's price-competitive with sinks constructed from acrylic or fiberglass.

BATHTUBS

The first cast-iron baths were free-standing models — a design so ubiquitous that many Americans still associate it with cast iron. When Kohler introduced the built-in bathtub in the early 1900s, the style quickly became the design of choice for American homeowners and remains the most popular style today.

Now, you can find cast iron bathtubs that offer the convenience and functionality of the built-in style, along with the elegance and durability of enameled cast iron. For those who crave design variety, drop in/undermount and freestanding styles are also available in cast iron. You can even find styles that offer massaging water jets and bubbles.

You may fondly recall your grandparents' cast iron, but modern design and a vibrant array of colors have today's homeowners falling in love with cast iron's durability and convenience all over again and enjoying it for years to come — just as other homeowners have before them.

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Five 'luxury' bathroom upgrades that don't cost a bundle

It's probably safe to say that no potential buyer ever passed on a house because the bathroom was just too lovely and luxurious. And few of us would prefer to come home at the end of the day to decompress in an outdated bathroom with a shabby shower and cabinets that have seen better days.

A beautiful bathroom can help potential buyers overlook other flaws in a home. And the bath is one room where homeowners can be confident their renovation dollars will yield not only improved home value, but enhanced enjoyment as well.

Because bathrooms are typically small, it can be difficult to make little changes without tearing down to studs and wood floors.

"There's not a lot of inexpensive ways to change a bathroom, but new paint is always easy," said Frank Mastroianni, owner of Home Source Construction, a Westland-based company that's been in business for 50 years. "Changing an out-of-style vanity or toilet is also possible.

"When you get into tubs and tile, it starts getting expensive."

Mastroianni is encouraged that work has started to increase throughout the area, as evidenced by increased attendance at the various home shows held in the spring.

"I think buyer confidence is back," he said. "People are investing in their homes now because they can't move."

Jim Seghi has owned Seghi Renovations in South Lyon for the past 20 years. His company has been very busy lately with a variety of projects, many of which involve updating the bathroom.

"January and February were the busiest I've seen it in 20 years," Seghi said. "If there was a busier time, I don't remember it. We're kind of coming out of the doldrums."

While Seghi said many of his customers are opting for complete remodeling when it comes to bathrooms, he had a few suggestions for those working with a tight budget.

"A lot of times, a new vanity with a new countertop can really spruce things up," he said. "Even some new towel bars and fresh towels can really make a difference.

"We try to be value-conscious in everything we do," he added.

Ben Templeton has been running his Templeton Building Co. in Birmingham for 30 years. His firm does a lot of bathroom work, but says many people "are happy when you add a bigger closet."

Templeton also shared a few tips for perking up a tired bathroom.

"A lot of time you can change the tile and the cabinets," he said. "We just had a customer where we changed all the hardware and put in a new sink and they absolutely loved it."

Fortunately, you don't have to spend lavishly to elevate the luxury quotient of your home's bathroom. Here are five "luxury" upgrades that can be done on a moderate — or even modest — budget:

When it comes to creating a comfortable, energy-efficient ambiance in a room, it's hard to beat Mother Nature. Natural



Venting skylights exhaust heat and humidity while providing privacy and natural light.

light helps reduce dependency on artificial light sources and the electricity they consume, and can have a positive effect on mood and overall health. You may hesitate to add a large, clear window to a bathroom, but skylights are a great way to add the luxuriousness of natural light without compromising on privacy. Choose a venting style which can also be a cost-effective way to help vent humidity, steam and odors from a bathroom. New models, like Velux America's No Leak Skylight, eliminate leak worries; when properly installed, Velux skylights are no more prone to leaks than any other quality window. Visit www.veluxusa.com to learn more.

Ripping out that old ceramic tile and replacing it with the trendiest stone may not be in your budget, or your shower's future, but swapping out a standard shower head with something more luxurious probably is. It's easy to find a variety of shower heads — from rainfall and massaging, to hand-held or dual-head and multi-jet — that will elevate your daily

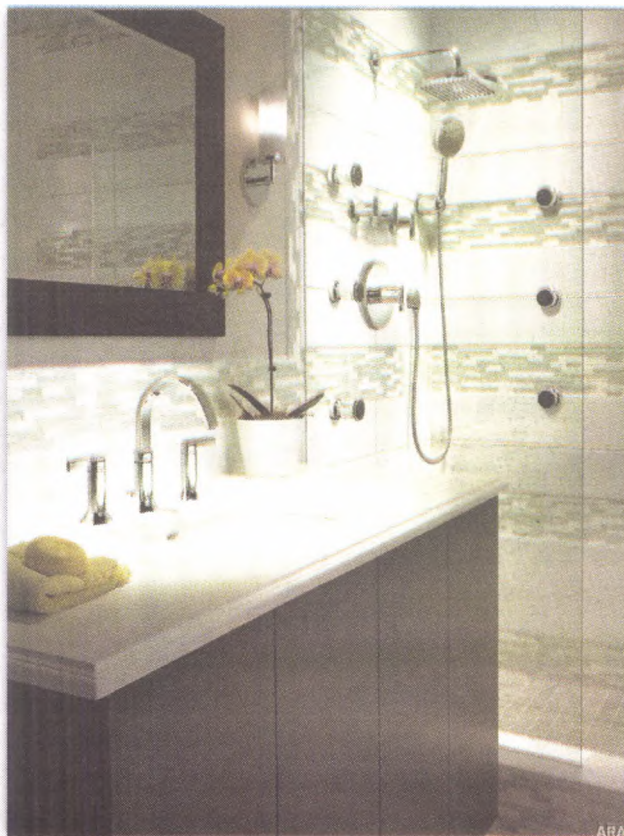
washing routine to a spa-quality experience. What's more, a new shower head is one of the easiest bathroom renovations to do yourself, even if you have no previous DIY experience.

Who doesn't love warm, plush bath towels? Or foot-soothing rugs that protect tootsies from cold floors? It makes sense not to skimp when it comes to choosing towels, area rugs and other accessories for your bath. Even top-quality accessories cost less than major renovations, and they can go a long way toward making your bathroom feel polished, put-together and posh. From good bath linens to a towel-warmer that can make them feel extra cozy, accessories are an economical, effective way to add luxurious touches to your bathroom.

Think your downstairs powder room or first-floor master bath can't soak up some sun? Think again. To bring natural light and warmth into a first-floor bathroom, simply add a sun tunnel. This variation on the traditional skylight uses reflective tubing connected to a low profile acrylic dome that sits on your roof to deliver diffused, natural sunlight to interior spaces, allowing you to enjoy the luxury of natural sunlight in your first-floor, windowless bath. Add a light kit, and you've got a 24-hour light source.

If you've ever stepped out of a relaxing warm shower only to find yourself shivering in a cold bathroom, adding a touch of warmth to the room may seem like the ultimate luxury. You can find an array of heaters that work well in a bathroom setting, from wall units that will put warm air at body level, to overhead lamps that warm from above. You can even find combo units that both heat the bathroom and warm your towel at the same time, or exhaust fans that remove moist, cold air and replace it with warm air.

— Information provide by ARA content. Staff writer Bill Emerick contributed to this story.



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Enjoy game day at the local pub

By MARY QUINLEY
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

On game day — especially when hometown teams, like the Wings and the Tigers, are playing — local pubs and taverns provide welcoming comfy quarters to sip a beverage, grab a bite to eat and, most importantly, watch “the game.”

Some places offer drink and/or food specials during televised games. And, if a team makes the playoffs, several watering holes will have raffles and giveaways.

Here’s a sampling of area establishments where fans can watch sporting events.

- Penn Grill & Bar, Plymouth: Ron and Mary Cabble, avid Tigers fans from Livonia, like to sit outside at the Penn under an umbrella during game time. As they cheer for their team from The D, they sip a couple of brews, and oftentimes, enjoy some chow.

“On a warm, sunny day — with people strolling by — it just doesn’t get much better!” said Mary Cabble.

- Northville Sports Den: With a total of 18 televisions — two on the patio — this pub attracts sports enthusiasts of all ages. “Whenever there is a game, we always have specials like sliders for \$1 or Coney dogs for \$1.50,” said Ramona Bluestein, co-owner. A Little League menu, happy hour specials and meal deals are featured throughout the week.

- Lake Street Tavern, South Lyon: According to Mary Poole, owner, \$2 drafts and other drink specials, are available during all televised games. This baseball season, the tavern will offer several bus trips to Comerica Park to see the Tigers play.

- Buffalo Wild Wings (Westland, Livonia, Canton and Novi): “I love Buffalo Wild Wings! The reason is simple — they have great wings with a variety of sauces,” said Danny Diroff, 18, of South Lyon. Diroff enjoys watching hockey games with his friends at the eatery. Weekly specials include drink discounts and “boneless wings for 60 cents” on Thursdays.

- South Lyon Cantina: Diehard Hockey-town Wing nuts show up to root for their favorite men in red at this family-owned eatery/pub where more than a dozen plasma TVs are strategically placed. “There’s a hometown feeling here,” said Joseph Camia, manager.

- Forza Sports Bar and Grille, Milford: Stop by on Opening Day or anytime the Red Wings play a game and ask about the drink specials. Stay for lunch or dinner. The versatile menu runs the gamut from sandwiches and flatbread pizzas to fish and chips, several chicken choices and salmon.

- Coach’s Corner Bar & Grill, Livonia: Food



Photo by Mary Quinley

Red Wings fans gather at Coach’s Corner Bar & Grill in Livonia to cheer for their favorite hockey team. Pictured are (back row, from left) Don Slankster of Madison Heights and Franklin Luxon of Royal Oak; and (front, from left) Pat Day, Pat Latarski, Kathy Day and Stephanie Day, all of Livonia, and, Margaret Slankster of Madison Heights.

and drink specials and trivia competitions are featured at this family-oriented watering hole that boasts to be “Livonia’s friendliest neighborhood sports bar.” On Opening Day, said Mike George, owner, the place will be packed with fans who take the day off of work to watch the game. Two bus treks to Comerica Park are planned for the upcoming Tigers’ season.

- Timberwolf Tavern, Redford: If any sports team makes it to the playoffs, expect drink specials and raffles at this restaurant/bar. T-shirts and jerseys have been given away in the past.

- Library Sports Pub, Novi: “I think we have a much cozier atmosphere where people really get into the game. The acoustics and the view of the TVs are good,” said Bob Barnett, owner. Drink specials are available throughout the hockey season.

- Sports Venue Bar & Grill, Garden City: Anytime a home team plays, plan on game day specials. Edibles, like wings and sliders, and pitchers of beer, have been featured.

GO WINGS! GO TIGERS!

Where to watch sports

- Coach’s Corner Bar & Grill, Livonia: www.coachscornerlivonia.com
- Northville Sports Den, Northville: www.northvillesportsden.com
- Lake Street Tavern, South Lyon: www.lakestreettavern.com
- Buffalo Wild Wings, Westland, Livonia, Canton and Novi: www.buffalowildwings.com
- Beaver Creek, Westland: www.beavercreektackleandbeer.com
- Deadwood Bar & Grill, Northville: www.deadwoodbarandgrill.com
- Venue Bar & Grill, Garden City: www.sportsvenuebarandgrill.com
- Doc’s Sports Retreat, Livonia: www.docssportretreat.com
- Forza Sports Bar and Grille, Milford: (248) 714-9159
- Penn Grill & Bar, Plymouth: (734) 453-3570
- Rusty Bucket Corner Tavern, Northville: www.myrustybucket.com
- Timberwolf Tavern, Redford: www.timberwolftavern.com
- Hermann’s Olde Town Grill, Plymouth: www.hermannsotg.com
- Library Sports Pub & Grill, Novi: www.librarypub.com
- Grand Tavern, Farmington Hills: www.grand-tavern.com
- The Lyon Cantina, South Lyon: www.thelyoncantina.com

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By JON GUNNELLS
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Video games have always been expensive but video game applications (apps) for your iPhone, Blackberry or Android phone don't have to be. Even some of the most downloaded video game apps for smartphones are cheap or in some cases free. Take a look at the following popular video game apps that could help you stay occupied



Jon Gunnells

next time you're stuck in the car, sitting in a waiting room, or bored at work. We won't tell your boss.

ANGRY BIRDS (FREE)

The Super Mario Brothers of smart phones. This quintessential video game app is not only wildly popular for users of all ages, it is also available to be played on Android phones, iPhones and on any touch screen Blackberry. If you have not yet heard of Angry Birds, you are likely out of the loop as the phone-based game has led to the development of an Angry Birds movie called Rovio as well as a board game. And for those users who would prefer to actually play Super Mario Bros. on their phone — that game is available, too.

WORDS WITH FRIENDS AND WORDFEUD (FREE)

WordFeud and Words with Friends are essentially variations of Scrabble that can be played with other smartphone users. WordFeud is only for Android phones but Words with Friends can unite players on Android phones and iPhones. Blackberry users can always play their pre-loaded Word Mole app on their units and submit high scores to earn their place in the online rankings. A Scrabble app is also available for many platforms and is free on the iPhone.

FIND DIFFERENCES (FREE)

A hand-held version of the photo matching game (Photo Hunt) that can be played at touchscreen game machines at bars is now available for touchscreen smartphones. Try to beat the clock as you find differences in similar pictures.

INFINITY BLADE (FREE)

For the die-hard gamers who require impressive graphics and game play like that of the Playstation3 or Xbox, Infinity Blade is a great choice, even with its \$5.99 price tag. Infinity Blade is available on the iPhone, iPad and iTouch.

Many more games are available at the iTunes Store, Blackberry App World, Android Marketplace and Windows Marketplace. To find the games that are right for you and your smartphone, grab your device and start clicking. Just make sure to stay away from games like Smurf Village — a kids game that charges players for in-app purchases. It's easy to rack up a huge phone bill in no time.

HOW TO DOWNLOAD GAMING APPS

New to the smartphone scene? Here's how you download apps, including free ones — whether you own a Blackberry, iPhone, Android, Windows smartphone or handheld tablet.

Blackberry

Visit blackberryappworld.com, create an account and download the Blackberry World App. Then you can access thousands of apps — many of them free — directly from your handheld device.

Apple products

Visit the iTunes store from your computer, iPhone, iPad or iTouch.

Windows phones

Users with Windows Mobile 6.0 or 6.1 can download apps by visiting Windows Marketplace by phone or computer. Smartphone users running Windows Mobile 6.5 already have Windows Marketplace installed and can find it in the start menu.

Android phones

Visit Market.Android.com from your computer, Android phone or new Android tablet to get started.

— Jon Gunnells

Shopping by way of the good old days

By DENNIS ZELAZNY
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

It's hard to imagine what life was like 171 years ago. A visit to a museum can be interesting but nothing is for sale and even if it was we couldn't afford to exclaim, "Ship it." In my travels, I have found two unique retail stores that offer a most interesting story. The stores offer products in a vintage setting and everything is readily available and ready to use.



Dennis Zelazny

Dixboro General Store, near Ann Arbor, was built in 1840. Kean's Store Company in Mason was built in 1928. These two businesses share a lot of the same history. Kean's is Mason's oldest continuously operating business, while Dixboro General Store thrived until World War II and closed for a short time before reopening in 1947. Both are in full operation today, and what makes them unique is the ambiance they have managed to keep alive for all these years.

On a recent trip, my first stop is Dixboro General Store. The traditional trading post Indian statue is gone but owners Steve and Brenda Dani still get asked if they carry cigarettes. They do not. But what they do offer is a unique place to shop for home furnishings and decor.

"When we shop for the store we buy what we like," explained Steve, adding that their motto is "Unique and never ordinary."

The Danis purchased the business four years ago. Steve's history with the store goes back another 16 years; he knows every nook and cranny of the building. He is



The counter at Dixboro General Store is more than 100 years old, and rests on the original squeaky floors.



Inspiring display of silk flowers, and many decorative items perfect to brighten your home.

just amazed and amused at the structure.

"If you look at the basement and the attic spaces you will understand why building codes were developed," he said.

Over the past 20 years, a lot of tender loving care was put into the building that once included the post office, dance hall and several antique stores. But what makes it unique is that they all shared the same name, Dixboro General Store.

The store is filled with quality handbuilt furniture mostly from Georgia and North Carolina.

"All of our furniture is American made," Steve proudly added.

The Danis have fur-

nished dwelling spaces from apartments to multimillion dollar homes. They understand that not everyone likes or wants a fainting couch or a grand high back settee, so they know where to get all the items and styles that people are looking for today.

While visiting the store, you will want to look at the hand-made



toys they offer: Jacob's ladders and spinning tops are my favorites. And if you're looking for home accessories they have those too. Yankee candles are one of their top selling items, they have carried them for 20 years and now offer their own brand of soy candles.

Next stop is Mason, near East Lansing, and a visit with Teresa Wren, third-generation owner of

Kean's Store Company.

She tells an incredible story of how her grandfather's business has grown and remains in its original

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By Shane L Stanley, D.C.

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-Terry J., Roseville, MI
Age: 56

"I was not able to stand for more than five minutes and when I stood up after sitting, my back would lock. As a last resort, I was ready to go in for back surgery, and then my husband saw the ad in the *Free Press* by Dr. Stanley. I thought it could not hurt to try it. (*The best thing I ever did*). I am very agile again, back to my old energetic self. I can not recommend this procedure enough to those who qualify and need it. Thank you very much Dr. Stanley!"

-Iris S., Northville, MI
Age: 77

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with a twist



late Stars? They are still available by weight at the candy counter along with chocolate-covered peanuts. During the holidays, customers can even pick up a box of those cherished-chocolate covered cherries. I asked Wren what was the longest stocked product that they still get requests for and I was surprised that "oil cloth" was the answer. It is mainly used as tablecloth covering and remains available by the yard.

It's a lot to take in and time travel can be tiresome, so when you visit save time to have lunch at the Baja Grille, conveniently located right next door.

In 1995, Wren's father purchased the last remaining space on the block that was Jack Davis Menswear some 60 years ago. The space was converted into a restaurant.

Kean's Store Company is an experience — with sights, smells, tastes and service guaranteed to delight any size group, family or individual. Visitors are always invited to stop by and enjoy a free cup of coffee with them.

Next issue: A place up in the air — see you soon!



Kean's carries today's trendy fabrics and all your favorite sewing notions, including foil-wrapped needles.



Dixboro's own brand of soy candles compliments any decor and offers wonderful and lasting aromas. Various scents are available to help set the mood at home.



The staff at Kean's is always ready to help you with your shopping and their smiles are sincerely there for you.

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Your feathered friends' seasonal travel plans

(ARA) — The arrival of the first robin in your back yard is a sure sign of spring, one welcomed by virtually any bird-watcher who has weathered a cold winter. But did you know that you can help migratory birds such as robins as they travel one of nature's most amazing journeys?

The bird species and populations appearing in your neighborhood and at your backyard feeder may vary drastically from month to month depending on your region of the country. It is easy to wonder where all your feathered friends go during the winter. Some bird species only travel a few miles, like down a mountain side, away from the peak. Others travel great distances — over thousands of miles.

The often-misunderstood travels of birds can be revealed by looking at one of the most interesting phenomena in the animal world: migration. Migration is the relocation of a population from one geographic location to another, recurring on a regular, seasonal basis.

Birds can use assistance to make their migration voyages more successful. They need access to food sources, not just during their long trips between staging areas, but before they leave on their journey and after they arrive in their new location. Clean bird feeders full of a high quality bird seed like Scotts Songbird Selections Regional Blends, fresh water and native plants can be beneficial to the weary winged traveler.

Although many fish, mammals and insects migrate throughout the course of a year, birds are by far the most mobile animals on earth. Due in part to their incredible adaptations and the ability to fly, migration allows birds to access distant food resources, avoid the stressors of cold weather and seek out environments more conducive to breeding, nesting and raising young.

Ornithologists believe birds are triggered to migrate by external factors such as the number of daylight hours, temperature or amount of rainfall. The marvelous process of migration can take birds on trips at speeds of 18 to 25 mph for song birds and faster for stronger flyers such as ducks and hawks. Some birds fly at night to avoid predators and some, like the Arctic Tern, travel a route so long each year that it equals more than 22,000 miles round trip.

In North America, the majority of migratory birds travel four major flyways or paths: the Pacific, Central, Mississippi and Atlantic Flyways.

Fall is the time when many northern bird populations begin to relocate and head farther south in search of food sources and warmer weather. In the spring, those same birds will return north to breed, nest and raise young. En route, many birds will need to stop for rest and snacks to refuel their tiny bodies for the re-



maining leg of the journey. In response, nature has developed "staging areas" at many locations along these intercontinental routes. Large, open areas with ample food supplies may attract big groups of the same species year after year and can become known to bird watchers, photographers and ornithologists alike. Predators also take note of these popular stops and take full advantage.

Although birds are uniquely adapted to the incredible trials of migration, it can still take a toll on even the most durable of birds. Up to half of the birds in North America who head south for the winter won't make the return flight, according to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Bad weather, predators, hunters and other dangers, such as collisions with tall buildings and cars, can take the lives of many of the migrants en route.

"Feeding birds year-round is really important," said John Robinson, chief ornithologist for Scotts. "For example, in the winter, food may be difficult to find in northern climates. At other times of the year (and even in southern climates) birds need to have access to healthy food sources and water to aid in the laying of eggs, feather development, raising of young, or to help selected species prepare for the long flights of migration."

Planting trees near windows or installing window awnings can reduce reflections and lessen the danger of collision. In addition, simply placing your bird feeders within a few feet of a window helps to slow birds down and lowers the chances of an accident. Everyone wins by placing a feeder near a window, because doing so will increase your viewing enjoyment when feathered friends stop by.

So, the next time you happen to look to the sky just as a large flock of songbirds flies overhead, you don't have to wonder where they're going or where they've been. Just fill up your bird feeder and hope you can help them on their long journey home.



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Sample some simple spring sweets

Cooking Channel and Univision star Ingrid Hoffmann, host of *Simply Delicioso* and *Delicioso* (on Telefuturo Univision), shares her ideas to liven up your springtime desserts! Ingrid suggests combining fresh, seasonal flavors with Eagle Brand® Sweetened Condensed Milk to ensure perfect homemade and easy desserts year-round. Serve up a sweet surprise with these delicious new recipes and baking tips:

- Surprise guests with a new twist on the traditional Latin-American dessert with a Chocolate Flan Cake. A velvety-textured flan custard is

layered with a rich chocolate cake for a perfect marriage of sweet and creamy.

- Dessert bars are a great solution for easy entertaining. Spice up any table by preparing Tropical Dessert Bars and then top with smooth and creamy Dulce de Leche, which can easily be made by

heating Eagle Brand Sweetened Condensed Milk on the stovetop or in the oven.

- Exotic fruits paired with rich cream cheese create a delicious combination in this recipe for Passion Fruit Cheesecake. Find seasonal inspiration by visiting local farmers markets.

Visit www.eaglebrand.com or www.mar-caeagle.com for more recipes and helpful tips.



Ingrid Hoffmann

Tropical Dessert Bars

Makes 3 dozen

Ready in 3 hours

Bottom Layer

1 (17.5-ounce) package sugar cookie mix

½ cup butter, melted

Cream Cheese Pineapple Layer

1 (8-ounce) package cream cheese, softened

2 large eggs

1 (14-ounce) can Eagle Brand Sweetened

Condensed Milk

1 teaspoon vanilla extract

1 (20-ounce) can crushed pineapple in juice, drained, reserving 2 tablespoons juice

Coconut Layer

1½ cups flaked coconut

½ cup macadamia nuts, chopped

¼ cup butter, melted

HEAT oven to 350°F. Line 13 x 9-inch baking pan with foil, extending foil over edges of pan.

STIR cookie mix and melted butter with fork until crumbs form. Press evenly in bottom of prepared pan. Bake 12 to 15 minutes or until lightly browned.



Chocolate Flan Cake

BEAT cream cheese in medium bowl with electric mixer on medium speed until smooth. Beat in eggs just until blended. Beat in sweetened condensed milk, vanilla and 2 tablespoons pineapple juice. Pour over warm crust. Sprinkle drained pineapple evenly over top.

STIR coconut, macadamia nuts and butter in small bowl until evenly moistened. Sprinkle over pineapple layer.

BAKE 30 to 35 minutes or until filling is set and coconut is lightly browned. Cool 1 hour on wire rack. Chill 1 hour. Cut into bars.

Chocolate Flan Cake

Makes 18 to 20 servings

Ready in 8 hours

Crisco® Original No-Stick Cooking Spray

Cake

½ cup Smucker's® Caramel Flavored Topping

1 (18.25-ounce) box Pillsbury® Moist

Supreme® Devil's Food Premium Cake Mix

½ cup Crisco Pure Vegetable Oil

3 large eggs

1 ¼ cups water

Flan

4 ounces cream cheese, softened

4 large eggs, at room temperature

1 (14-ounce) can Eagle Brand Sweetened

Condensed Milk

1 (12-fluid ounce) can PET® Evaporated Milk

1 teaspoon vanilla extract

HEAT oven to 350°F. Coat 12-cup fluted tube pan with no-stick cooking spray. Place



Tropical Dessert Bars



Passion Fruit Cheesecake

piece of rolled up foil in tube opening of pan to prevent cake from baking over top. Pour caramel flavored topping into prepared pan.

PREPARE cake mix according to package directions using the oil, eggs and water. Pour evenly over caramel flavored topping.

COMBINE cream cheese, eggs, sweetened condensed milk, evaporated milk and vanilla in blender container. Process until blended. Pour slowly over cake batter.

COAT piece of foil with no-stick cooking spray. Cover pan tightly with foil and place coated side down. Place pan in large roasting pan. Pour hot water into roasting pan to a depth of 2 inches.

BAKE 2 hours or until toothpick in center still has a few moist crumbs. Place cake on cooling rack. Cool 15 minutes. Remove foil and invert onto serving plate. Cool 1 hour at room temperature. Chill 4 hours or overnight.

TIP: Be careful when inverting hot cake onto serving plate. Place plate upside down on top of pan, place another cooling rack on top, then invert.

Passion Fruit Cheesecake

Makes 12 to 16 servings

Ready in 11 hours

Crisco Original No-Stick Cooking Spray

Cheesecake

30 gingersnap cookies

¾ cup pecans

6 tablespoons butter, melted

4 (8-ounce) packages cream cheese, at room temperature

½ cup sugar

1 (14-ounce) can Eagle Brand Sweetened

Condensed Milk

4 large eggs

1 cup frozen passion fruit pulp, thawed or 1 cup passion fruit puree

Passion Fruit Glaze

¾ cup frozen passion fruit pulp, thawed or ¾ cup passion fruit puree

½ cup sugar

½ cup water

HEAT oven to 350°F. Coat 9 x 3-inch springform pan with no-stick cooking spray.

PROCESS cookies and pecans in food processor until fine crumbs form. Place in small bowl. Stir in melted butter until evenly moistened. Press evenly onto bottom of prepared pan and 1-inch up sides. Bake 10 minutes. Cool on wire rack. Wrap foil around bottom and sides of pan.

BEAT cream cheese and sugar in large mixing bowl with electric mixer on medium speed until smooth. Pour in sweetened condensed milk gradually, beating until blended. Beat in eggs just until combined.

MEASURE ½ cup of cheesecake and pour into small bowl. Whisk with 1 cup passion fruit pulp until blended. Pour remaining cheesecake into cooled crust. Spoon small dollops of passion fruit mixture over top of batter. Swirl with knife to make marbled appearance.

BAKE 60 to 70 minutes or until center is almost set. Cool 1 hour on wire rack. Chill at least 8 hours or overnight.

To make glaze: COMBINE fruit pulp, sugar and water in small saucepan. Bring to a boil on medium high heat. Cook 15 to 20 minutes or until mixture begins to thicken and measures about ⅓ cup. Place in small bowl. Cool completely.

REMOVE cheesecake from pan. Place on large serving dish. Spread glaze over top.

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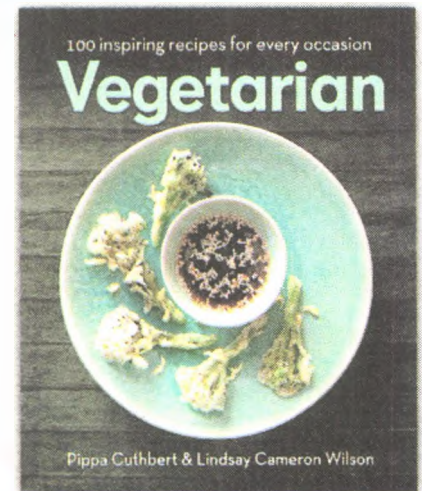
BOOKS

Vegetarian

Author: Pippa Cuthbert & Lindsay Cameron Wilson

This book contains a large and tasty collection of main courses, side dishes, soups and salads, snacks and small dishes. It includes tips on nutrition and cooking vegetables; how to avoid spoilage; the best way to store vegetables; as well as recipes and a comprehensive glossary.

Released: January 2011

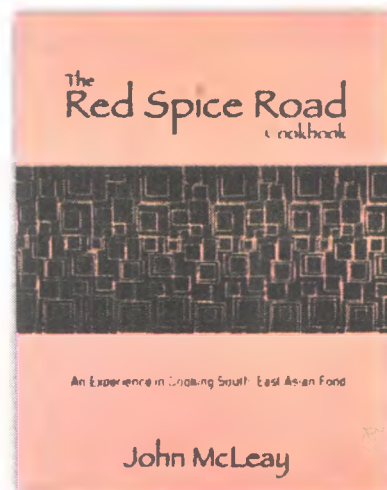


The Red Spice Road Cookbook

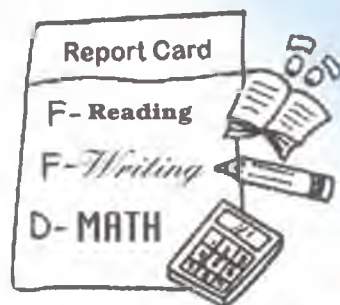
Author: John McLeay

Combining centuries-old recipes with modern ingredients and know-how, Chef John McLeay shares his love of all things Asian. Mouth-watering recipes include: crab-filled betel leaves, prawn and sticky pork salad, prawn jungle curry and crispy five-spice quail. There are also common favorites such as Penang curry, chilli basil chicken, mapo tofu and pork belly, as well as easy, delicious desserts. Also included is a "basics" section, which instructs the home cook on how to make fundamental stocks, pastes and garnishes.

Released: August 2010



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| 9. THE DARK KNIGHT TRILOGY | 19. THE DARK KNIGHT TRILOGY |
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KITCHENS & BATHROOMS

WHOLESALE TO THE PUBLIC

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Reg \$6,250

WOW!
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\$3,250
CABINETS &
COUNTERTOPS

Installed!

Our In-Stock Maple Cabinets
All Plywood Construction

Includes:

Wall ... 33x12 Diagonal Wall ... 24x30
Wall ... 12x30 Base Lazy Susan ... 36"
Wall ... 30x12 3 Drawer Base ... 18"
Wall ... 24x30 Dish Washer End Panel
Wall ... 24x30 Sink Base ... 36"
Base 12" 2 1/4" Crown
Base 12" Toe Kick
Formica Countertop

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WE STOCK CABINETS

\$100
GIFT
CERTIFICATE

WITH PURCHASE OF A KITCHEN OR
BATHROOM

EXPIRES 4/30/11



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For Contractors
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KDI
CABINET WAREHOUSE

Typical Kitchen 10x10

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Walk-in Safety Tub

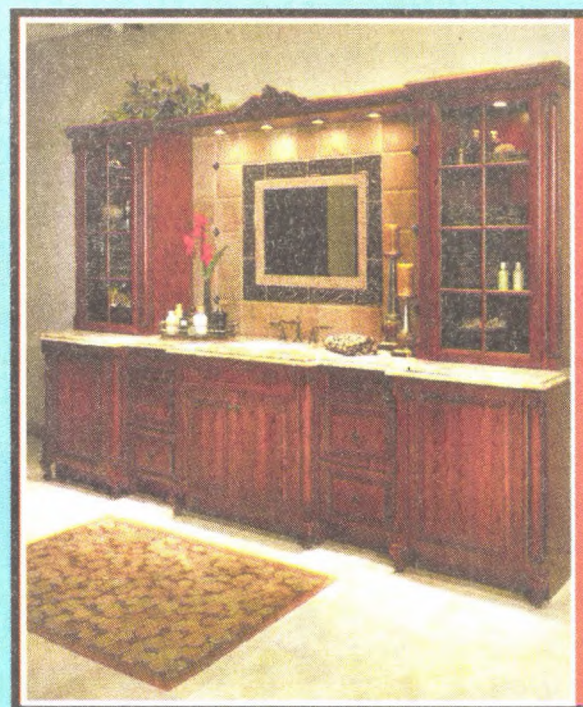
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Installed

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TYPICAL 5'x8' BATHROOM



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