25,000 DIAPERS FORD VOLUNTEERS CLEAN UP PAGE A9



THURSDAY

March 31, 2011

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

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PIPELINE

Field fundraiser

Field Elementary School hosts a fundraiser for one of the school's fifth-grade teachers, Nicole (DeMink) Runyan, recently diagnosed with cancer.

The "Get in the Ring with Runyan" pasta fundraiser takes place 5-8 p.m. Tuesday, April 5, and will feature many other fun activities at the school. Runyan is the mother of four young children and is currently unable to work while undergoing treatments.

Donations can be sent to Field Elementary (Attn: Runyan Fundraiser). Field Elementary School is located at 1000 S. Haggerty in Canton.

Biz buzz

Frank Yaquinto at Compari's/Fiamma Grill plans to open a third restaurant in the space vacated by UBS on Main Street.

According to officials at the Plymouth Downtown Development Authority, diners can look for The Sardine Room to open by the end of the year. The Sardine Room is expected to have small plates and a raw bar, including shrimp, oysters and crab claws on ice with an open kitchen. Capacity will be about 70 patrons.

Meanwhile, Yogurt Palooza will soon be opening at the Mayflower Centre. Owners Craig Turk and Christopher Tomei hope to be open by May 1.

Turk said Yogurt Palooza will feature 14 rotating yogurt flavors and a 14-item toppings bar, ranging from healthy fruits to candy. The cost is per ounce, with the average yogurt and toppings costing about \$4.

Calley speaks

Lt. Gov. Brian Calley will be the guest speaker Monday, April 11, at Canton's Economic Club Luncheon. The luncheon will be held at the Summit on



Brian Calley is the second youngest lieutenant governor

in Michigan's history. Before being elected to this position, Calley served two terms in the Michigan Legislature as a state representative. In that role, Calley served as minority vice chair of the House Tax Policy Committee, where he worked with lawmakers from both sides of the aisle.

The Economic Club hosts semi-annual luncheons with special guest speakers. The luncheons were developed with the purpose of introducing Canton's business and professional sector to leaders in the areas of manufacturing, government, entertainment, health care and economics.

The luncheon is open to anyone who wishes to attend. The cost is \$20. Reservations are required and can be made by calling (734) 394-5185.

City, businesses brainstorm on parking rules

BY MATT JACHMAN OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Plymouth officials are seeking to manage growth and have a balanced business mix downtown, and nothing illustrates that better than the debate over parking.

That debate continued Monday during an informal meeting at City Hall, with business owners and Downtown Development Authority members joining Plymouth City Commission members in discussing how to use an ordinance that allows the city to waive parking requirements for new developments in exchange for cash.

Dubbed the payment-in-lieu-of-parking option, the four-year-old law has never been used, but two projects scheduled to come before the commission will provide test cases.

"I don't know how I stand on this issue," Mayor Dan Dwyer told the crowd Monday. "I'm looking for as much feedback and information as I can get ... so I can make a good decision."

Using a marker and sheets of paper taped to the wall, Commissioner Mike Wright wrote down the pros and cons, suggested by the audience, of accepting all payment-in lieu-of-parking petitions, rejecting all, or accepting some and rejecting others, which Dwyer called the trickiest option.

JUDGMENT CALLS

"Any time you use judgment you have the potential for the perception of unfairness," the mayor said.

The commission next month will take

Please see PARKING, A6



It's mid-day, and the parking structure is nearly full. City commissioners and business owners are wrestling with parking issues as more development comes to town.



Diva Day

Ladies are invited to attend Plymouth's third annual Diva Day, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, April 2. The first 500 divas will get a free feather boa. More than 30 shops, boutiques, salons and restaurants will present special offers, unique refreshments and chances to win Diva Day prizes. For more on the event, please turn to page B7.

Police: Be wary of tax scams, cautious with info

Tax time is also prime time for con artists and identity thieves, and taxpayers should proceed with caution and a healthy skepticism in order to protect themselves, police say.

Scammers try to take advantage of taxpayers in several ways, said Officer Anthony Angelosanto, the Plymouth Police Department's crime prevention specialist. Those include setting up phony charities and luring donors by touting tax deductions that don't really exist, baiting people with

either electronically or by simply looking at unguarded tax returns or going through the mail.

Tax forms should be kept particularly secure, Angelosanto said.

"It's got so much personal information on there," he said. "Everybody in your family's going to lose their identity."

In addition to taking precautions with computerized returns, such as computer firewalls and virus and spyware protection, taxpayers shouldn't leave paper returns either at home or at the tax preparer's office. "The devil's in the disorganization," he

SHRED IT

Unneeded documents should be shredded, completed electronic returns should be renamed in a manner that doesn't give them away and saved on a thumb drive, and those who hire someone to do their taxes should make sure that person keeps their

Please see SCAMS, A6

Parents take district's sad story to Lansing 3

BY BRAD KADRICH **OBSERVER STAFF WRITER**

All kinds of voices - the governor, legislators, state and local school officials have been railing in the wind over the state of public school funding in Michigan.

Two Plymouth women are leading the charge to make sure there's one other voice that gets heard in the argument.

The kids.

Denise Zander and Sheila Paton are Plymouth mothers with skin in the game - they each have two children attending Plymouth-Canton Community Schools. The moms got heavily involved with a committee to maintain low class sizes in PCCS schools, but that committee has morphed into something with a bigger scope as the fight has raged over what's happening to school funding.

Now, the Legislative Action Network is busy letting Lansing know what parents think about what's going on, using a voice that doesn't belong to a school official. "I think hearing from

educated, informed and concerned parents who bring the personal perspective — here's what it's doing to my kids - not coming from the person holding the purse strings ... makes it a lot harder to just turn it off," said Zander, who has a child at Canton

High School and another at Pioneer Middle School. "We're their constituents. We're a different voice. I'm sort of my kids' union representative. I'm their voice, and I want them to be heard. Somebody needs to advocate for them.'

FIX ISN'T LOCAL

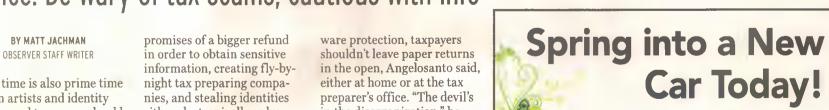
Paton said the committee originally formed over concerns about rising class sizes within the district. It wasn't long, she said, before they realized the committee should be broader in scope. She and Zander believe and school district officials have said for years — the funding problem isn't going to be fixed locally. They've turned their atten-

tion to legislative issues. For instance, there's a House bill circulating now that would cut kindergarten funding in half for districts that offer half-day kindergarten. Since Plymouth-Canton is among those (it would cost the district some \$4 million), that bill caught the committee's attention right away.

Paton was in Lansing last week testifying before a House committee.

"I get it," Paton said about the bill. "The proposal makes some sense, but you can't do it this year. I gave them the Plymouth-Canton story."

Please see PARENTS, A3



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Observer & Eccentric | Thursday, March 31, 2011

The Pure Art of Michigan exhibit at the Plymouth Community Arts Council features art like 'Da Yooper Mobile.'

Open exhibit features Michigan art

The Plymouth Community Arts Council unveils its second annual open exhibition, "Pure Art of Michigan," Monday.

Pure Art of Michigan features the work of some 50 artists from all over the metro area.

Artists were invited by the PCAC to submit work that highlights the unique beauty of the state, PCAC officials said. It was designed to offer an opportunity for artists who might not have enough work to fill an exhibit to be able to show their work.

A great variety of art work

was received including photography and works in oil, watercolor, acrylic, pastel, colored pencil, mixed media and wood block print. Themes ranged from recognizable Michigan landmarks to more personal perceptions of the beauty around us.

Officials said artists submitting work ranged from twentysomethings to a woman of 93.

Most of the pieces are for sale and the exhibit offers "a wonderful opportunity for the public to purchase some quality art work at reasonable prices.

A reception for the artists is planned for Saturday, April 9 from 3-5 p.m. Refreshments will be served and the public is welcome.

A unique feature of this exhibit is the People's Choice Award, which will be decided by public vote and announced at the end of April.

The exhibit runs through April 28 and can be viewed Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The PCAC is located at 774 N. Sheldon Rd in Plymouth.

For more information, call (734) 455-4681.

Calling all bug hunters for Rouge spring bug hunt

Volunteers are needed for Friends of the Rouge's annual Spring Bug Hunt on Saturday April 30. Interested volunteers must pre-register by April 15. Children are welcome when accompanied by a participating adult.

The event begins at 9 a.m. at the University of Michigan-Dearborn's Environmental Interpretive Center.

Volunteers are assigned to teams of 4-8 people that each travel to two sites where they look for living things in samples collected from the river.

The number and type of bugs found is used to assess each site and data are submitted to the MDNRE and Rouge communities.



These bug hunters worked on the Tonquish Creek last year.

The Spring Bug Hunt is part of a long-term monitoring program that was created in 1998 to train local residents to collect information about the health of Rouge

streams. It is coordinated by Friends of the Rouge and supported by the Erb Family Foundation.

For more information or to sign up, visit www.therouge.org.

CORRECTIONS

• A story in the Sunday, March 27, Plymouth Observer about two new charter schools coming to Canton should not have said the planned high school was being built by National Heritage Academies. NHA is not involved with the project.

· A feature on Canton arts coordinator (and

former director of the Plymouth Community Arts Council) Jennifer Tobin that ran in the Thursday, March 24, Plymouth Observer should have said the Village Theater was built in 2003, some 40,000 audience members took in plays, concerts and the visual arts last year and should have listed Chad as her stepson.











Enjoy a day of shopping and pampering!

Have lunch, dinner or just a drink!

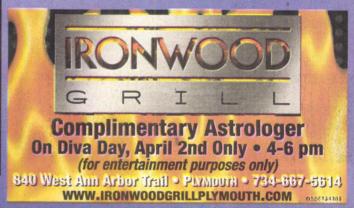
Free Boos to First 500 Woman!

BUIT HAYE FUNE









"Around Plymouth" is designed to

announce upcoming events taking place in the community. Items will

details to bkadrich@hometownlife

(Ann Arbor Trail and McClumpha)

Details: The Plymouth Lions Club

will be sponsoring an Easter Egg

changed and include 0-3, 4-6, 7-8

Contact: Heather Rau, (248) 473-

Time/Date: 7 p.m. April 8; 6 p.m.

Location: Salem auditorium, Salem

High School on Joy Road in Canton.

Salem Rockettes, a National Dance

Details: Show will feature the

Teams Championships finalist.

Time/Date: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

8400 Beck Road, Canton

Location: Plymouth High School,

Details: A sale of donated new and

High School. No dress will be priced

over \$20 and all of the dresses are

in great shape. Donations of dress-

es, formal sandals, shoes, purses,

in the general office at Plymouth

High School. Proceeds from the

sale will benefit some of the pro-

Contact: Lisa.Benages@pccsmail.

Date/Time; 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Location: Summit on the Park,

46000 Summit Parkway, Canton

Details: Children's clothes, toys,

books, videos, maternity clothes,

Excludes clearance, closeout, red-dot and Everyday Price items. Additional savings excludes special

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join now. earn today. it's free!

fisit **www.shopyourwayrewards.co**n or the great indoors store to enroll.

order kitchen and bath fixtures

and its affiliates.

grams in the Life Management

Department.

Mom 2 Mom

Saturday, April 9

jewelry, etc. are still being accepted

used prom dresses at Plymouth

Prom dress sale

Saturday, April 9

4569 or hrau@mi.rr.com

Hunt. Bring baskets, bags and

Easter egg hunt

and cell phones.

Rockette show

April 9

Barefoot hosts fundraiser

Join Barefoot Productions for its first-ever "Barefoot Cafe," a live music fundraiser featuring an eclectic mix of music and performers.

Drawing talent from throughout the metro Detroit region, this toe-tapping fundraiser is emceed by wellknown singer/songwriter Geri Valaso Green and showcases artists Eric Anderson, Michael Brock, "The Music Lady" Beverly Myers, Tim Hazel, Gary Senick, Linda Stanko, James York, Micah York and Jonathon Wennstrom.

Barefoot Cafe kicks off at 6 p.m. April 10 and offers complimentary refreshments, raffles and more at the Barefoot Productions Theatre, 240 N. Main Street in Plymouth. Tickets are available at the door for a \$20 donation and doors open at 6 p.m. For more information, call Barefoot at (734) 582-9688 or visit online at www.justgobarefoot.com.

And don't forget the premier of Barefoot's spring show, the Tony award-winning, "Lips Together, Teeth Apart," opening May 6 and running through May 22. Watch the fireworks as two dysfunctional couples vacation on Fire Island for the Fourth of July. This superbly crafted Off-Broadway show, by Terrence McNally, originally starred Nathan Lane, Christine Baranski, Swoosie Kurtz and Anthony Heald.

Tickets are \$16 general admission, \$14 seniors and students and are on sale now by calling our box office, (734) 560-1793. Due to adult language and themes, the play is recommend for patrons aged 21 and older.

That story is all too familiar around these parts, with the district facing a projected deficit of between \$17 and \$20 million. But too many people think the entire problem is local. According to Paton, legislators and even some local parents don't understand the millions of dollars of cuts the district has already made.

TALK TO LANSING

That's where the LAN comes in. They've met with all three local Legislators — Reps. Dian Slavens of Canton and Kurt Heise of Plymouth and state Sen. Patrick Colbeck, whose district covers both — in an effort to push the district's case in Lansing.

They extolled the virtues of the district to Legislators and tried to impress upon them the urgency of the problem, especially locally.

"The teachers in this district do a fabulous job ... I think the administration and the board have done a great job with what they've been given (in funding)," Paton said. "They put out a great product, but I'm concerned with what that product will look like after we cut \$20 million. It can't hurt to be involved with our legisla-

Of course, they weren't telling Slavens anything she didn't already believe, since she had three children go through Plymouth-Canton schools.

She said Lansing needs to hear from parents, and not just school officials.

"We've been encouraging parents to go to the appropriations committee meetings and talk about it. (Legislators)

say it's been quite compelling to hear from parents," said Slavens, who doesn't sit on that committee. "We want to hear from board members and administrators, too ... (colleagues) have said the most compelling stories are when the parents talk about the impact this has had on children."

GRASSROOTS

The LAN is a "small, grassroots" effort, for now, Zander said, but it's growing. The group has a burgeoning Facebook following (the Class Size Counts page has nearly 140 followers). The school funding issue has gotten so much press, she said, that parents are starting to pay atten-

"There's a core group of parents who actively approach us wanting to know what's the latest," Zander said. "In the last month, I've seen a lot more unfamiliar people expressing an interest. There are so many different sides to the story, people are asking, 'how do parents get informed?' and people say, 'Well, we have this LAN.' It's word of mouth."

Paton said Plymouth-Canton and more will be sold at 30 tables officials have done a good job of keeping the cuts out of the classroom to this point, so the effect on kids hasn't been as noticeable. That's why, she thinks, parents have been slow to get interested.

But they're interested now. "You walk into a classroom and everything's fine, so it's hard to get people stirred up," Paton said. "They hear this every year — 'the sky is falling' — and some magic solution comes along and fixes it. Well, I don't see that magic fix coming this year."

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

AROUND PLYMOUTH



Flag day

Ann Manning (left), fifth-grade teacher at Plymouth Christian Academy in Canton, accepts an American flag and a certificate of recognition from treasurer Linda Mentink, past state president Caroline Van Gorder and junior vice president and community chairperson Nancy Dignan of the Mayflower Lt. Gamble Post 6695 Ladies Auxiliary. The flag and certificate were presented as part of the post's Americanism and Community Service initiatives.

when the Canton Newcomers a social, civic and charitable group host their public Mom2Mom sale. A "large item" area and the group's motto of "where neighbors become friends" with sales going to the Autism Collaborative Center creates an extra special sale atmosphere. Strollers are welcome. Admission is \$1.

Contact: For more information about the sale, call Jessica at (616) 780-5592 or e-mail themirolands@ yahoo.com.

MOPS sale

S. Sheldon, Canton

a.m. \$1 admission.

Time/Date: 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., Saturday, April 2 Location: Connection Church, 3855

Details: Connection Church MOPS annual spring mom to mom sale. We are sold out to capacity with over 100 tables rented. Strollers after 10

Variety show

Time/Date: 7 p.m. April 1-2 **Location**: Gloria Logan Auditorium, Salem High School on Joy road in Canton. **Details**: It's the Plymouth Saberettes annual variety show. Tickets are \$7 at the door.

Rockette show

Charter Academy meeting Time/Date: 6 p.m. Monday, April 4 Location: Canton Charter Academy, 49100 Ford Road, Canton **Details:** Canton Charter Academy has scheduled a middle school information meeting for prospec-

tive parents. Principal Cathy Henkenberns, teachers and staff members will be on hand to present information about the school. The meeting will include an informal question and answer period. Tours of the school will be available. Contact: To RSVP for the meeting, call (734) 453-9517.

Preschool Book Land

Time/Date: 6-8 p.m., Thursday,

Location: Hulsing Elementary School, 8055 Fleet Street, Canton **Details**: The staff of Plymouth-Canton Community Schools Early Childhood Programs will host "Book Land 2011," a special preschool literacy night. Many fun activities have been planned based on our favorite storybooks. All games and prizes are for children ages two, three and four. Tickets are \$1 per child,

and parents are free. Contact: Early Childhood Office, (734) 416-6190.

Economic luncheon

Time/Date: 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Monday, April 11

Details: Lt. Gov. Brian Calley will be the keynote speaker at the Canton Economic Club luncheon. Cost is \$20. Contact: RSVPs by Thursday, April 7; call (734) 394-5185.

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PUBLIC SAFETY

Thursday, March 31, 2011

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HAVE A STORY IDEA?

Contact Editor, Brad Kadrich
Voice Mail: (313) 222-8899
E-mail: bkadrich@hometownlife.com
Comment online at hometownlife.com

Pot bust

A 37-year-old Canton
Townhip man was arrested
on a marijuana-possession
charge when police found
suspected marijuana in his
baseball cap during a March
19 traffic stop, according to
the Plymouth Township Police
Department.

The man, driving a Lincoln MKX, was in a left-turn lane on westbound Joy Road and Canton Center Road when he moved into a through lane before making the left turn, a police report said. An officer patrolling nearby saw the turn and pulled the driver over, police said.

Upon speaking with the driver, the officer noticed a strong odor of marijuana, and asked the driver if he had any pot, police said.

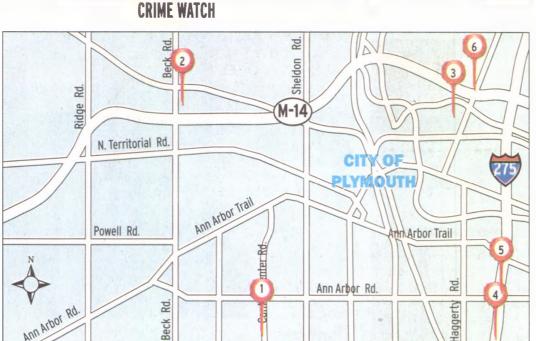
The man admitted he did, and the officer found suspected marijuana in a plastic bag in the driver's ballcap, which was sitting on the front passenger seat.

The driver told the officer it was "medical marijuana," police said, but he didn't have a card required for registered medical marijuana users. The substance later tested positive for marijuana, police said.

He was arrested and the Lincoln was impounded. The suspect was later issued a ticket on the charge, and also cited for improper lane usage, before being released.

Vehicle break-in

An athletic bag with two college textbooks in it was reported stolen Sunday from



a sport-utility vehicle parked at Compuware Arena on Beck Road.

The Jeep Patriot was parked in the arena's northeast lot while the victim attended an event at Compuware from noon to about 4:30 p.m., a police report said. When the victim returned to her vehicle, a window had been broken and the gym bag was gone, she told police.

Locker burglary

Two subwoofers and half a dozen show-quality knives were reported stolen from a storage locker at an apartment building on Shadywood, near Wilcox Road.

The victim told police he had put the items in the locker on Saturday and returned to it Sunday to find it open and the knives and speakers gone.

It was unclear how the locker had been broken into; police

said the lock was still on it.

- By Matt Jachman

FIRE RUNS

The Plymouth Community Fire Department responded to the following runs during the period March 23-29:

Tuesday, March 29

— Vehicle accident on northbound I-275 at Joy; rescue runs on Newport, on Creekwood Circle, on Lexington, on Grant, on Ann Arbor Trail, on Blunk, on Winter and on Ann Arbor Road.

Monday, March 28 —
 Rescue runs on Sheridan, on
 William, on F, on Newport, on
 Washington, on Farmbrook,
 on Shadywood, on Fleet, on
 B, on Northville Road and on
 Ann Arbor Road.

 Sunday, March 27
 Rescue runs on Main, on Meadow Hill Lane, on Ann Arbor Road, on Ann Arbor Trail, on Penniman, on Washington, on Princeton, on Pinecrest and on Brougham. Saturday, March 26

- Rescue runs on Beck, on Northville Road, on southbound I-275 at Ann Arbor Road, on Sheldon, on Ann Arbor Road, on Newporte and on Northview.

• Friday, March 25 —
Rescue runs on Briarwood,
on Beck, on Haggerty, on Ann
Arbor Road, on Postiff, on
Meadowhill and on Byron.

Thursday, March 24

— Vehicle accident with wash-down on westbound M-14 at Schoolcraft; rescue runs on Pinehurst, on General, on Shadywood, on Tavistock, on Northville Road and on Beechwood.

Wednesday, March 23
 Rescue runs on A, on
 Sunset, on Hartsough and on
 Meadowhill.

Ear-biting suspect waives local hearing

BY MATT JACHMAN OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

A 48-year-old Canadian man accused of biting off part of a Canton Township man's left ear at a bar in Plymouth waived his preliminary hearing in 35th District Court on Friday.

John A. Andrews, of Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario, is accused of biting the victim's left ear, above the ear canal, at Sean O'Callaghan's late on the night of Jan. 28. He was arrested at the scene, spent two days in jail and was released after posting a \$15,000 bond.

Originally scheduled for a Feb. 11 hearing, Andrews' defense asked for more time to prepare, and the hearing was rescheduled for Friday. Andrews waived the exam on Friday before Judge Ronald Lowe.

Andrews is charged with assault with intent to maim. He is also charged as a habit-

ual offender, which could increase the length of any prison sentence if he is convicted.

Andrews

occurred when the two exchanged words after the victim and others in his party objected to harassment from Andrews and three men he was with. Andrews and his party had been throwing objects at the other group, police said, and were about to be kicked out of the bar.

Police said

the assault

Police said Andrews admitted biting the victim but could not explain exactly why he did so. The bitten piece of the victim's ear was not found.

Andrews will be arraigned on the charge in Wayne County Circuit Court on Friday, April 8.

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

Plymouth man killed Sunday in freeway crash

BY MATT JACHMAN OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

A Plymouth man was killed early Sunday when the car in which he was a passenger rolled over on M-14 in Plymouth Township.

James Bernardi, 24, died after being ejected from the 2005 Pontiac Bonneville shortly before 3 a.m. on westbound M-14 near Sheldon Road, according to a statement from the Michigan State Police Metro South post in Taylor.

The driver, Robert C. Owens,

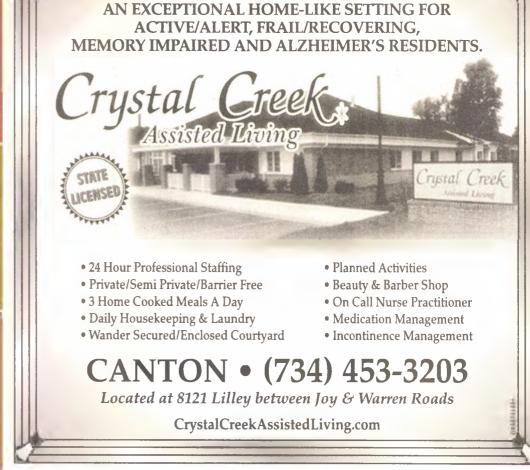
also of Plymouth, was extricated from the car by Plymouth Community Fire Department personnel and airlifted to St. Joseph Mercy Hospital; Owens had been released by Monday, a hospital spokeswoman said.

Alcohol use appears to have been a factor in the crash, police said, and it was unclear if Bernardi was wearing a seat belt or had it buckled properly. The Michigan State Police

are asking anyone who may have witnessed the crash is asked to call the Metro South post at (734) 287-5000.

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STRICTLY BUSINESS

Thursday, March 31, 2011

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HAVE A STORY IDEA?

Contact Editor, Brad Kadrich Voice Mail: (313) 222-8899 E-mail: bkadrich@hometownlife.com Comment online at hometownlife.com

CHAMBER CHAT

Showcase Plymouth

Chamber Now Accepting Reservations for Exhibit Space at Showcase and Taste of Plymouth

Monday, May 23-Inn at St. Johns - 5:00 to 7:30 p.m.

The Chamber of Commerce is now taking reservations for exhibit space at the Showcase and Taste of Plymouth, set for 5-730 p.m. Monday, May 23 at the Inn at St. John's.

This year the event will be held in the Main Ball Room and adjoining Garden Room to provide more space for exhibitors and attendees. With space going quickly, you need to reserve your space as soon as possible to ensure you can be an exhibitor.

Last year the event was bigger then ever with 830 attendees and 90 exhibitors.

Showcase and Taste of Plymouth was created to celebrate the Plymouth Community's businesses, restaurants, and the people who live here.

Exhibit space is only \$110 and \$135 and includes a 6' x 3' skirted table. This is a great opportunity to market your business to residents and local businesses. If you are interested in exhibiting, please contact the Chamber at teri@ plymouthmich.org or call (734) 453-1540. Cancellations must be received by May 17.

The major sponsors for this event are Hines Park Lincoln and Community Financial.

Learning in Lansing

Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce **Executive Director Wes Graff** was in Lansing recently for public policy conference with other Michigan Chamber of Commerce executives and also met with state Rep. Kurt Heise and Sen. Patrick Colbeck. His general impressions from the trip include the following observations:

• The common theme in government more like a business. They are aiming to have a balanced budget with the ability to pay for future obligations already promised, creating a sustainable economic model for government in the future and the end product will be designed to create a business climate that generates job opportunities.

· The primary focus for legislators is to reform the business taxes in Michigan to create jobs through more simple straight-forward structure with reduced taxes for business. The Michigan Business Tax (MBT) will be changed to a simple formula to provide stability for businesses to calculate their future tax. For small businesses that do not pay the MBT, legislators are focused on stopping double taxation by eliminating their business tax and having those owners pay tax only through

their personal income tax. • There is strong sentiment to eliminate most incentives to attract businesses and base our success on a solid business climate with low, easily under-



Cutting the ribbon

The Chamber of Commerce helped welcome the newest addition to the 'Awesome Collection.' Salon Awesome and That's Awesome boutique welcomed the Make Up Loft to their location. Pictured is owner Janelle Thomason cutting the ribbon with her staff, friends, clients and family. That's Awesome and Salon Awesome are owned by Rachelle Dempster and Brian Frydl. The Make up Loft is located inside That's Awesome at 294 S. Main in Plymouth.

standable taxes and business friendly regulations.

 The legislature is targeting a budget that is less than last year's budget. This year's budget will not include any onetime sources of revenue to plug holes and even the highest priority areas, like education, will be seeing a decrease in revenue from the state.

· The biggest issue with the Governor's proposed tax package/budget facing legislators is the private pension tax portion. Currently, there does not seem to be enough support in either chamber to pass the pension tax. They are looking for alternatives to make up the difference in the budget through altering the amount of the decrease in taxes and/or through budget cuts.

Scholarship Fund Update

• Received \$3,725 to provide \$745 per student in scholarship. • Deadline to contribute to

the scholarship fund: May 2. The Chamber of Commerce on behalf of contributors will reward up to five Plymouth/ Canton students with Student Citizenship Scholarships. These scholarships will be based on community service only, not grade point. There will be a selection committee who will pick one student each

from Canton H.S., Plymouth

H.S., Salem H.S, Starkweather

Alternative H.S. and a non P-

CCS high school student who

lives in the district. Companies and individuals are asked to give contributions that generally range from \$25 to \$100 and the contributions are tax deductible. Although we are off to a great start, our hope is to nearly double last

years scholarships and give each student \$1,000.

Contributors will be recognized on the Chamber's web page and at the Showcase and Taste of Plymouth on May 23. To make a contribution you can download a donation form from our web site at www.plymouthmich.org/ chamber/Student-Citizenship-Scholarships.

Lawrence Tech camps

This summer Lawrence Technological University will hold a dozen enrichment summer camps to introduce ics that could lead to a college major or a career. The camps are designed for high school sophomores, juniors and seniors interested in technology, science and design. For information and the registration form, contact Lisa Kujawa at kujawa@ltu.edu or go to ltu.edu/community k12/summer_camps.asp. The registration deadline is June 1.

April events

• 10- Member Connection, April 14 - Make nine new valuable business contacts in one hour in addition to doing a short 3-4 minute presentation about your business. Afterwards, everyone can stay to finish off the coffee while getting to know each other better.

Attendees are limited to the first 10 members who respond and who are from different business categories. The event will be held on April 14 from 8:00-9:00 a.m. at the Chamber office (850 W. Ann Arbor Tr.). To sign up for the 10 Member Connection, call (734) 453-1540 or e-mail wes@plymouthmich.org.

What's new with social networking

BY JON GUNNELLS **GUEST COLUMNIST**

ven if you aren't a techie or a savvy Internet user, there's a good chance you've heard of social networking — or at least have a good idea about what social net-

Maybe you have a Facebook profile to keep up with friends and relatives or maybe you've heard of Twitter because it is all news anchors seem to be talking about these days.

Beyond the well-known social networking sites like video sharing site YouTube that have become mainstream over the last five years, there are a number of niche social networks that you may find helpful, useful, or interesting.

LinkedIn — similar to Twitter, Facebook, and Youtube — has come to life over the past few years. Earlier this year the site surpassed 100 million users. The site, which caters to professionals in any industry helps users build an online profile that showcases work history and experience. It's also a way to gain references, make connections with co-workers and network for jobs. LinkedIn is a must for all working professionals or unemployed job seekers looking to reach out to companies and recruiters. Users can also post status messages to LinkedIn and have them filter to their other social networks like Twitter.

StumbleUpon is a professional time waster. With



Tech Savvy

Jon Gunnells

fully selected web pages that match their interests. Users can give pages they see a thumbs up or thumbs down to further refine their interests and share their finds with friends within the site — or on

Twitter and Facebook.

"stumble"

through care-

FourSquare (not the childhood playground game you remember) is Facebook places before Facebook places even existed. With Foursquare, users can check into restaurants, bars, local events and even receive discounts for frequenting certain places. Here's how it works. The Foursquare user who goes to a certain place the most can earn the title of mayor — earning them the opportunity for discounts or special offers. Users can also check Foursquare to locate dinner or drink specials near their location. Lastly, users can Tweet or Facebook their locations to facilitate meet-ups with friends. Or, if they prefer not to let the whole world know when they aren't home — they can just send their whereabouts to their Foursquare friends (usually a smaller network).

Flickr is the YouTube for pictures. People can user flickr to

store and share photos in what is called a stream. Users can link their streams to personal blogs, or share their uploaded pictures on Twitter. I use my flickr stream to store cool photos I snap with my cell phone and so I have a host site for photos I use on my blog. Even if you don't want to share your photos with others, flickr is a beneficial site because it can backup your photos in case you break your computer or external hard drive.

Digg (similar to StumbleUpon) is a social networking site that allows users to vote on stories, polls and more. The site is practically the easiest-to-use interface on the web. Another social networking site that allows users to vote on stories is called reddit. You can visit reddit.com on your own and decide if it is easier to use than digg.

Of course, reddit, digg, FourSquare, flickr and other niche social niche sites are just a few of the hundreds of social networks available on the Internet. Maybe you can find your niche site by fooling around online - who knows, the site you find may be the next big thing.

Jon Gunnells, a Northville Township resident, is a social media planner at a Detroit-based advertising agency. A 2007 graduate of Michigan State University, he holds a B.A. in journalism. When he's not working, Gunnells enjoys college sports, social media and playing basketball. He can be reached at jonathan.gunnells@ gmail.com. Follow him on Twitter @ GunnSh0w.



"Wizards of Waverly Place." Radio Disney will choose one lucky local semi-finalist for a chance to win a trip for four to Los Angeles, CA to see

one of the last studio tapings of "Wizards of Waverly Place" LIVE in person!!

"Like" us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter to be one of the FIRST to know about sales, contests, events and so much more. Between now and April 15th, go to our Facebook page and tell us what your favorite Easter candy is. One lucky post will be randomly selected to win a \$50.00 mall gift card. One entry per person, please.



Remember, Westland Shopping Center Gift Cards always make the perfect gift no matter what the occasion. Tired of the high gift cards fees others charge you? At Westland Shopping Center, you'll enjoy FEE FREE days every weekend in April.



Monday - Saturday: 10 am to 9 pm Sunday: 11 am to 6 pm

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Project manager

Lawrence R. Chute has joined Soil and Materials Engineers, Inc., as a Senior Project Manager in the firm's Plymouth office. With 33 years of engineering experience, Chute specializes in helping owners and design/ construction teams with structural issues, and building enclosure analysis and design.

The addition of Chute to SME strengthens the firm's strong building evaluation, rehabilitation and restoration capabilities. He will serve as a senior project manager for clients with issues related to building structural evaluation; and exterior cladding design, renovation and repair. He will provide consulting related to building/cladding interface issues, and building enclosure and structure fail-



ure analysis.

He is a registered Professional Engineer in Michigan and Ohio, and a licensed Structural Engineer in Illinois. He holds a master of science degree in Civil Engineering from Wayne State University and a bachelor of science degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Michigan. He's a current member of the Structural Engineers Association of Michigan (SEAMi), American Concrete Institute (ACI), American

Institute of Steel Construction (AISC), and the Engineering Society of Detroit (ESD).

Account promotion

Meyer & Wallis of Indianapolis announced the promotion of Plymouth native Tiffany Petersen to Account Supervisor after more than two years as an Account Executive at the agency.

"Everyone who meets Tiffany recognizes her energy and passion for doing great work," said Shannon Safar, chief operating officer at Meyer & Wallis. "Tiffany has been an integral part of the unprecedented growth Meyer & Wallis is experiencing both here and in our Milwaukee location."

Prior to joining Meyer & Wallis, Tiffany worked as an Account Executive at an international agency in Detroit.

Check us out on the Web every day at hometownlife.com



Observer & Eccentric | Thursday, March 31, 2011

KOI | WESLEY WONG

This auction collection of 126 mosaic artworks from an international group of artists is a fine example of the diverse creativity in this again burgeoning art form. In addition to the pieces available via the auction, several works by Michigan Mosaic Artists will also be on sale. Both exhibits are curated by Michigan mosaic artist, Lin Schorr.

Exhibit to benefit Doctors Without Borders

BY LONNIE HUHMAN CORRESPONDENT

The first Friday of every month the Northville Art House opens a new exhibition. This Friday is no different, except the art on display will be the first of its kind to be exhibited and will kick-off a fundraiser to benefit Doctors Without Borders.

Starting on April 1 from 6-9 p.m. the Art House, located at 215 W. Cady Street, will be hosting the opening of its mosaic art exhibit. It will be in conjunction with an online auction.

According to Manager Joan Potter Thomas, this will be the first time a mosaic exhibit has been shown at the art house since its opening five years ago

since its opening five years ago.
"We are very excited about this, and hope many visitors come out to see some wonderful displays of art and creativity," Potter Thomas said.

The exhibit will feature 126

pieces created and donated by artists from 12 different countries and 23 American states. Potter said it is truly an international show, and it is fitting that funds from the auction will go to DWB, an international aid organization.

The idea for the show was initiated by Novi Mosaic artist Lin Schorr. Potter Thomas said Schorr really worked hard at putting this exhibit on. Through her efforts, she also had the art work put on display at Providence Park Medical campus in Novi prior to bring the pieces over to Northville.

The auction will begin at the opening and interested persons can go to www. BiddingForGood.com/DWB-MSF to register and bid on the pieces. Computers will be set up at the opening to give visitors an idea on how to go about completing the auctioning process. The exhibit and auction will run through April 27.

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SCAMS FROM PAGE AT

information safe, Angelosanto said. Public meeting spaces in the preparer's office should be neutral, with no returns or tax documents in view.

Jim Sullivan, a certified public accountant at Accounting & Tax Solutions Inc. in Plymouth, says his office follows those guidelines.

"We don't generate much paper for the trash here," Sullivan said. "We generally shred everything."

That includes, Sullivan said, completed returns, once they have been filed. Documents legally required to be saved for a time, such as W-2 income and deduction statements, are kept under lock and key, he said. Accounting and Tax Solutions also doesn't outsource its work; outsourcing could also compromise security, he said.

Sullivan and Angelosanto said taxpayers should be wary of unsolicited calls or e-mails purporting to be from the Internal Revenue Service or a tax middleman. Such calls or message are often scams intended to get people to surrender sensitive information, such as bank account numbers and direct-deposit information.

DON'T TRUST E-MAILS

Sullivan said some clients have reported receiving e-mails asking them to clink on a link and provide information.

"The IRS would never contact someone using e-mail," nor by phone, without first sending a letter, often through certified mail, said Sullivan. The IRS generally uses e-mail only to disseminate basic public information about taxes, not to discuss individual returns or ask taxpayers for information, he said.

"We do a pretty good job of informing our clients of those sort of scams that are out there," said Sullivan. The IRS website, www.irs.gov, has a section warning of "The Dirty Dozen" current scams that target taxpayers.

One scam, said Angelosanto, involves setting up a "charity" and advertising tax benefits that don't really exist. He advised taxpayers not to respond to unsolicited e-mails purporting to be from charities, and not to click on any

photographs or other attachments on such e-mails. Wouldbe donors should stick with well-established charitable organizations, he said, and should verify an organization's legitimacy by contacting it themselves.

"A lot of people spring these false charities up and, unfortunately, they take advantage of people," he said.

Sullivan said taxpayers should also be cautious in deducting donations to community fundraisers intended to help seriously ill people pay their medical bills.

"Those are very nice, and I don't discourage that kind of behavior," he said. But, he added, unless the fundraisers are working through a registered 501(c)3 charity, such donations are likely not tax deductible.

VERIFY CHARITY

Registered charities can be verified through the IRS website, Sullivan said, or wouldbe donors can ask to see the group's 501(c)3 letter from the IRS. "It's a very easy thing to check," he said.

Taxpayers should also be cautious in filing their

returns. Both Angelosanto and Sullivan said electronic filing is the safest option, along with direct deposit, instead of mailed checks, for those due refunds. There are secure commercial products, and the IRS offers a free electronic filing service.

If a taxpayer uses the mail, Angelosanto said, she or he should walk the return into the post office and hand it to a clerk, or even consider certified mail. If expecting a refund, consider using a post office box or pick up the mail as soon as possible after it's delivered.

Angelosanto said taxpayers should be aware they may have a lower level of caution during tax season about revealing sensitive information, as they want to please the IRS — or someone who claims to be from the IRS — and not make a mistake that would make them the target of an audit.

"We don't want to look like we're hiding something," Angelosanto said. But that sense needs to be balanced with the need to protect oneself, he said.

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

PARKING

up two proposed downtown projects in which developers have said they plan to offer the city cash in exchange for a waiver of parking requirements.

At the proposed 789
Building, on the corner of
Ann Arbor Trail and Main
Street, 26 parking spots are
required for what would be a
three-story, 23,000-squarefoot building. At Panache 447,
a restaurant planned for the
space on Forest formerly occupied by the 1999 Tavern, three
spaces would be required
because of developers' plans to
expand the dining area to the
second floor.

The "payment-in-lieu-of-parking" cost is \$10,000 per space; the intent is for the city to set the money aside and use it later to buy or develop more public parking. According to the Downtown Development Authority, there are currently 989 public parking spaces downtown, both on the street, in lots and in the central parking deck.

Chip Falcusan, owner of the Box Bar, suggested every benefit comes with a down side, depending one one's point of view: Accepting all payment-in-lieu-of-parking petitions, for example, would be good for businesses that want to build downtown, but could harm existing businesses by putting a strain on already scarce parking.

"There is significant concern

(among business owners) as to how it will affect their business, or the town," Falcusan said. Later, he added business owners aren't anti-growth, but after the right business mix.

But Christopher Harden, a member of the Planning Commission, said use of the ordinance would be limited by the few downtown sites available for building; the paymentin-lieu of parking option only applies to new construction or the expansion of usable space, not to a business that's moving to an existing space.

"I don't see how we're going to have a hundred projects coming in under this," Harden said.

SETTING A PRECEDENT

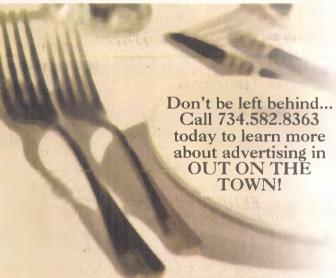
Teri Allen of Dearborn Jewelers said the way the commission decides the paymentin-lieu-of bids for Panache 447 and the 789 Building proposals will set a precedent for future proposals. "That is a major, major issue here," Allen said.

"We have got to get this right, because, if not, there're going to be some people going out of business," said Al Wilkerson, the owner, with wife Phyllis, of the Sweet Afton Tea Room.

Frank Yaquinto, the owner, with wife Maureen, of Compari's on the Park, said he fears a strict approach to parking requirements could stifle growth.

"If you don't grow, you're going to shoot yourselves in the foot," he said.

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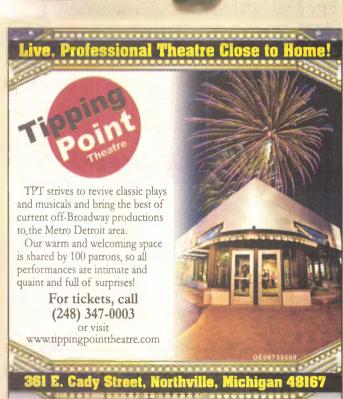
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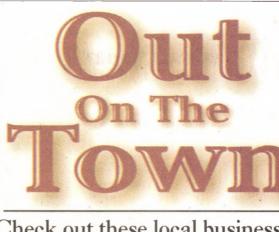






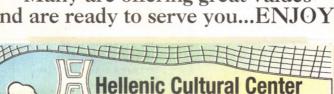
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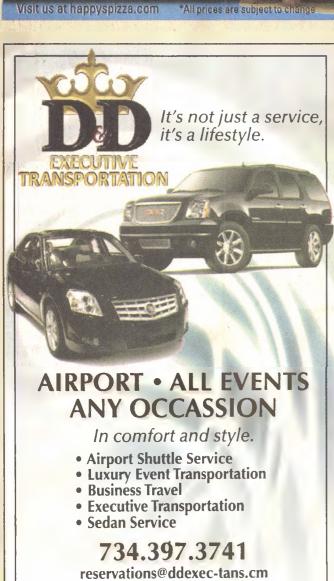
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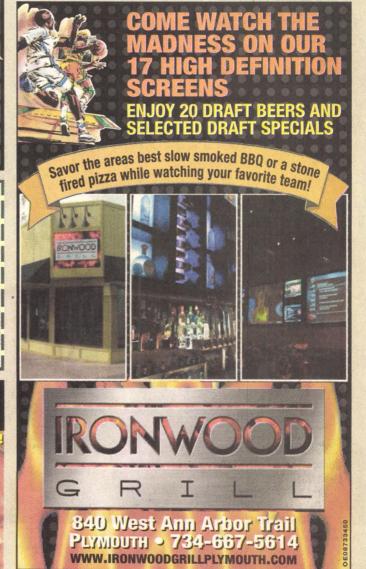
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Caregivers offered coping skills, support at program

BY JULIE BROWN **OBSERVER STAFF WRITER**

Millie Dallacqua of Redford cares for her husband of 58 years, John.

John, 87, has dementia, but no other physical problems, and lives at Woodhaven Retirement Community in Livonia

"I'm blessed still to have him," she said. "I never think of it as a challenge. I know he would do the same for me."

The couple has six children and 10 grandchildren. "It used to be 24/7," she said of her caregiving. "I do see him (now) every day.

She's pleased with his care, which also includes Angela Hospice although he's not terminally ill. "It's just another set of eyes, another set of hands," Dallacqua said of hospice.

She was among the attendees Thursday, March 24, at a "Candles of Caring" program presented by Wayne Metropolitan Community Action Agency and Adult Well-Being Services. The afternoon program drew some 40 people to the Redford Township District Library.

"I thought it was wonderful," Dallacqua said of the program, which featured a series of speakers and interludes of harp music by Christa Grix. "Very comforting."

Among the speakers was Dr. Hubert Huebl of Dearborn, a retired Oakwood surgeon who teaches medical students at Wayne State University. He's a past state president and current Dearborn affiliate president of the National Alliance on Mental Illness

"I have a family member that's had serious mental illness," he said prior to the program.

Professional caregivers can be more emotionally detached, Huebl said, but that's hard for family members. He praised forums like Thursdays, with both sponsoring groups offering support group settings for caregivers.

COPING AND CARING

Huebl reminded caregivers to take care of themselves. He noted dementia and Alzheimer's patients differ from those with physical ailments.

"The relationship is hard to sustain," he said. "In some ways, I've thought mental illnesses are among the cruelest of illnesses for that reason."

Huebl outlined feelings of guilt, resentment, anger, worry, loneliness, grief and defensiveness among caregivers. Having realistic expectations helps with guilt, he said, as does venting to a confidant,

CARE PARTNER BILL OF RIGHTS

· The right to say no. Do what is needed, not all that is

· The right to feel a full range of emotions.

You have a right to your feelings. Recognize them.

· The right to make mistakes.

Your best is good enough. The right to "take a break"

from caregiving. You have to take care of yourself

to take care of others. · The right to have fun, laugh and be happy.

It is OK to enjoy yourself.

 The right to say yes. When others offer help, just say

 The right to ask questions. The answers will help you be a

better care partner. · The right to say "I don't know." You are not expected to have all the answers.

perhaps to deal with resentment over other family members who do less.

"Anger can lead to depression and anxiety," the doctor said, noting seeing humor in daily situations helps. For loneliness, it's good to expand your circle, seek respite care and join a support group.

"Grief can be anticipatory, too," Huebl said. "You should allow yourself to feel sadness and express it.'

Sometimes, another family member has a good idea and you should keep that in mind before becoming defensive, he said: "You need to accept that you have limitations."

If you become irritable or have trouble sleeping, those are signs you need to change. Huebl recommends setting goals: "Use the 'I' word instead of the 'you' word."

SPIRITUAL SIDE

Exercise, talking to friends and keeping a journal can all be helpful, he said.

Sister Joan Kusak, IHM, of Plymouth Township is retired from campus ministry posts at Oakland Community College and Schoolcraft College. "This is probably the most difficult thing you will do in your life and yet it is the most rewarding," Kusak said.

She noted a heart full of love is needed to be a caregiver: "Perhaps that is the reason why we got this job. It's very important to be able to know our boundaries. God can fill in what is difficult for us."

She emphasized flexibility and balance in caregiving: "There's a third person in that relationship and that person is God," Kusak said.

Also emphasizing the spiritual was chaplain Kent Aughe of Royal Oak, who works at The Village of Redford, a senior community. He's cared for parents and in-laws, and focused his comments on gratitude.

"I think one of the big challenges is navigating the health care system, feeling overwhelmed by that," Aughe said. It's hard even to know what questions to ask, said Aughe, from a Lutheran background. He's had 16 years in health care chaplaincy.

He urged attendees to seek help from others, nature or a higher power. "Each person has to define that for themselves." As Aughe tells his kids, "It's not about you. There's a larger perspective that gives us some joy each day.'

He described a Village of Redford resident with health problems who nevertheless found joy in sun melting ice patterns on his window. "Often, we emphasize the negative. It's part of human nature, I suppose," Aughe

He gave "homework" of noting each day one thing to be grateful for and build on. "No, it won't be what life was before," he said. "You can make progress toward what life will be. You can practice gratefulness in all circumstances."

Nancy Coman, senior services case manager for WMCAA, also spoke, as did co-organizer Christine Goldberg of Adult Well-Being Services. Goldberg, a social worker, lives in Dearborn Heights.

The program, funded in part by The Senior Alliance, featured organizer Coman talking about reminiscing. That can help provide companionship, the Southgate resident said, along with encouraging sociability and healing at the end of life - and even after life ends.

Her dad had early onset Alzheimer's and Parkinson's disease, and died of pancreatic cancer. Coman recalled getting through to him with the news she had married.

"So don't give up on your care recipient," she said. "They do understand."

Greg Lucky of Redford cares for both his parents at home. His mom has advanced Alzheimer's. Lucky was glad to attend the program, which included extensive printed information on caregiving.

"It was excellent," Lucky said. "The speakers were very in tune with caregivers' stress. It's encouraging and motivational for me. It's a realization that others are doing the same thing."



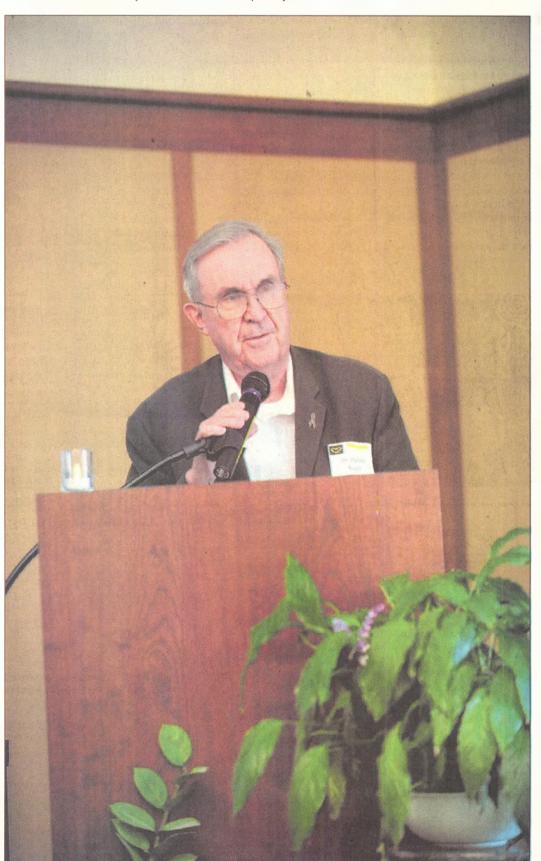
Sister Joan Kusak, IHM, of Plymouth Township speaks during 'Candles of Caring.' She noted a heart full of love is needed to be a caregiver. "Perhaps that is the reason why we got this job," said Sister Kusak, former campus minister at Schoolcraft College and Oakland Community College.



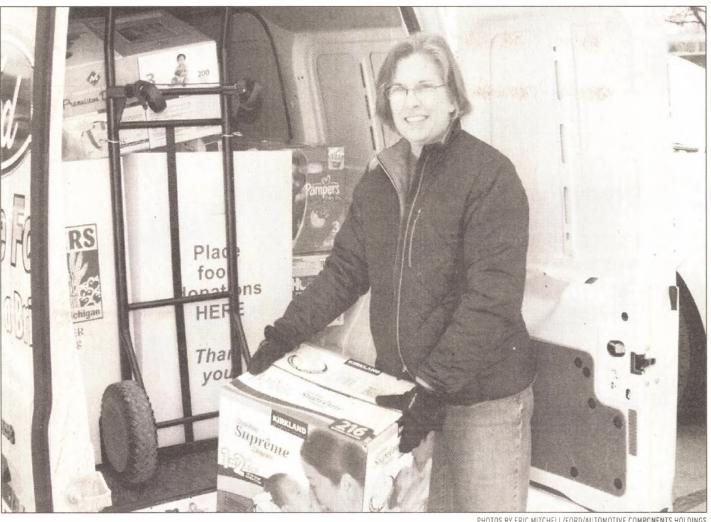
Candles were used to symbolize light during the 'Candles of Caring' program Thursday afternoon in Redford.



Nancy Coman (left) of Wayne Metropolitan Community Action Agency and Christine Goldberg of Adult Well-Being Services put the 'Candles of Caring' program together. Both women also spoke Thursday afternoon, with several of Coman's relevant poems read aloud.



Dr. Hubert Huebl of Dearborn, a retired Oakwood surgeon, speaks during 'Candles of Caring.' Huebl, who teaches at Wayne State's medical school, said, "I can't emphasize enough getting into support groups with people who have the same problems you do."



PHOTOS BY ERIC MITCHELL/FORD/AUTOMOTIVE COMPCNENTS HOLDINGS

Judy Haggerty of Northville loads diapers into a Transit Connect van last week. Haggerty is a product design engineer at Ford Motor Co.'s Automatic Transmission New Product Center in Livonia.

Ford cleans up in diaper drive

The Ford Volunteer Corps collected 25,000 diapers, 600 containers of baby formula, 900 cases of baby wipes and 10 strollers as part of its focus on children and families for last week's Ford Accelerated Action Day.

Volunteers loaded four Transit Connect vans and distributed the cargo to various nonprofit agencies including The Detroit Area Diaper Bank in Canton. Then they unloaded the vans and went back out and loaded them again.

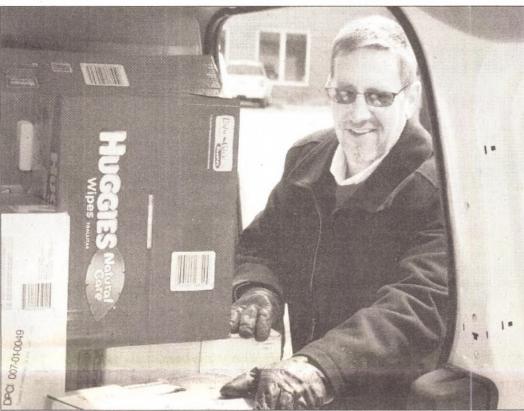
The essentials will help thousands of needy families in the metro Detroit area. Ford employees brought the much needed items to more than a dozen Ford locations including the Automatic Transmission New Product Center (ATNPC)

Nonprofit agency partners told the auto company that most assistance programs do not provide diapers and Ford employee volunteers helped fill the need with their contributions, said Eric A. Mitchell, public affairs spokesman for Ford/Automotive Components Holdings.

Baby formula is always in demand to nourish the most community's most vulnerable resident, said Mitchell. a Livonia resident.

Diapers are a huge hole in the "safety net." There is no assistance for diapers, they're not paid for or provided by WIC, Food Stamps or Medicare, according to the diaper bank's facebook page.

The diapers, formula and other items were collected over



Dave VanHoet of Canton load diapers into the Transit Connect. VanHoet works in Ford Purchasing.

four days last week (March 21-24) and everything was picked up last Friday for distribution to nonprofits.

The diaper drive was part of last week's Accelerated Action Day in which Ford workers leave the office and head out into the community to renovate facilities that serve families and children.

Several action days are planned throughout the year, each with a special focus.

Ford Motor Company encourages salaried employees to take two work days per year and volunteer in their

local area. Last year, more than 20,000 Ford employees and retirees performed 100,000 hours of work on community projects - the equivalent of \$2 million of inkind corporate contributions, according to the Ford Motor Company website.

The Ford Volunteer Corps, established in 2005, continues Ford's legacy of caring worldwide. On May 13, the Accelerated Action day will focus on the environment by creating nature trails, revitalizing gardens and protecting water resources.

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Lisa Jacobi of Plymouth helps organize the diapers collected at various Ford locations. Jacobi works at the Ford Product Development Center in Dearborn.

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IRS extension's for

can't believe how fast the first quarter of 2011 has gone. Since the beginning of the year it's been nonstop — one crisis after another. These are the times that we live in and I guess that's just the way it is. However, even though our attention is on international events mostly out of our control, we must never take our eyes off the ball regarding something we can control - our personal financial affairs. This time of year we all have an important deadline to meet and that is the filing our income tax returns.

Some of the recent numbers suggest that not as many people have completed their tax returns as did a year ago at this time. There are many reasons for that, including the passage of tax reform late last year. That being said, it doesn't matter what they do in Washington, you and I have an obligation to make sure that we file something by the April 15 deadline, or this year because of a legal holiday in Washington, D.C., (emancipation day), April 18. It's not imperative that you complete your return by the deadline, however, if your return is not filed, you must file for an extension to avoid penalties and other unwanted problems.

Every year at this time I stress there is no additional audit risk by filing for an extension. People are under the mistaken belief that extensions mean additional scrutiny by the IRS. That's just not the case. Missing information, incorrect Social Security Numbers, mathematical errors and general sloppiness are what increase audit risks.

My advice is instead of rushing to complete your return and increasing the risk of mistakes, file for an extension and take your time to ensure an accurate, complete tax return.

Extensions are automatic. The IRS doesn't approve or disapprove extensions. By filing form 4868 with the Internal



Rick Bloom

receive a sixmonth extension. However, it is important to remember Money Matters that when you file an extension, it is an extension of time to file

your tax return, not to pay your taxes. Your tax liability is due this year on April 18 and the extension of time does not apply to the payment of your taxes. Therefore, even if you file for an extension, you must guesstimate your tax liability and pay the amount owed with your extension.

If you're receiving a refund, then you don't need to make any additional payments with your extension.

Also remember the State of Michigan taxes are different than the federal government. Therefore, if you owe money to the federal government you're required to pay it along with your extension, you must to do the same for state income tax. You're not going to owe any money and, in fact, you receive a refund, then your federal extension is sufficient for the state and no additional forms are required.

The clock is ticking, but there is no reason to panic. If you decide to do an extension, pull out last year's return and use that as a guideline for your extension. Remember, if you underestimate your tax liability, the IRS can assess you with interest and penalties. Therefore, all things being equal I'd overestimate and pay a little, as opposed to acquiring unnecessary penalties and interest.

Good luck!

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

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 April 7, 2011 at 10:00 a.m.

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

1998 1986 Chevrolet Chevrolet Chevrolet Honda

Ford

1995 1995 1994 Chevrolet 2000 Dodge Oldsmobile 1994

1995

Monte Carlo Blazer Impala Civic LX S10 Durango Cutlass Supreme

Ranger

F150

1G1GZ37G8GR142491 1GNCS13W5S2224845 2G1WF55E919318449 1HGEG8657SL067975 1GCCS14Z0R8171948 1B4HS28N4YF117627 1G3WH15M5RD418807 1FTEF14N2SNB52819

1FTYR10C3WUA56198

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

1994 Honda 2001 Mazda

Accord Lx/ex Protege Lx/es 1HGCD5632RA134341 JM1BJ225510480094

Publish: March 31, 2011

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Publish: March 31, 2011

CITY OF PLYMOUTH

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Notice is hereby given that the City of Plymouth, Michigan will accept sealed bids up until 10:00 a.m., April 28, 2011. The bid opening will be at 10:15 a.m., April 28, 2011 for the following:

> Request for Proposal -**Cultural Center Concession Stand Lease**

Specifications and bid documents are available at the City Hall during normal business hours. You may also download a copy of the documentation from the City's web site at: http:// www.ci.plymouth.mi.us .

A bid bond/performance bond in the form of either a certified check or cashier's check. in an amount equal to \$750.00. must accompany each proposal.

The City of Plymouth reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids, in whole or in part, and to waive any irregularities.

> Linda J. Langmesser, CMC City Clerk City of Plymouth

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Notice is hereby given that the undersigned will sell, to satisfy lien of the owner, at public sale by competitive bidding on Monday, April 18th, 2011 at 9:00 A.M. at the Extra Space Storage facility

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

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

General Household, furniture, boxes, B30 Matari Cooper clothes & appliances General Household, furniture, boxes, C87 Jennifer Sheridan clothes & appliances General Household, furniture, boxes, D128 Bradd Rigoni -

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

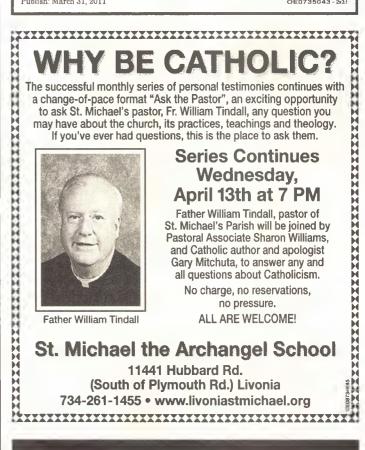
clothes & appliances

clothes & appliances

General Household, furniture, boxes,

subject to adjournment. Publish: March 31 & April 7, 2011

J359 Gary Powers -



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OPINION

PAGE A10 (P)

THURSDAY, March 31, 2011

hometownlife (m) com

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.

OBSERVER

A GANNETT COMPANY

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Community Editor
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OUR VIEWS

Way to go!

Athletic, academic success tribute to students, teachers

Plymouth-Canton Community Schools officials are struggling mightily right now with huge issues — trying to find a new superintendent, how to deal with a deficit that ranges, depending on how you crunch the numbers, anywhere from \$17 million to \$20 million.

Earlier this month, 13 high school ensemble teams from the Plymouth-Canton **Educational Park took** part in adjudicated music festivals sponsored by the Michigan School Vocal **Music Association** and the Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association. In a remarkable display of talent and achievement, all 13 ensembles received a first-division rating and qualified for state festivals.

But while the administration and the school board are struggling, the students are having no issues either in the classrooms or on the athletic fields and courts, as evidenced by all the recent successes, both academic and athletic. (NOTE: There's no way to name every academic success in the district, so we apologize in advance for the ones we miss).

For instance, eight Plymouth-Canton students made the *Observer*'s Academic All-Star team, including two who had perfect scores (the team will be announced next month).

Earlier this month, 13 high school ensemble teams from the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park took part in adjudicated music festivals sponsored by the Michigan School Vocal Music Association and the Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association.

In a remarkable display of talent and achievement, all 13 ensembles received a first-division rating and qualified for

state festivals.

That's a testament first of all to the talent of the students, but it's also evidence of the quality of the teaching. The bands are led by director of bands David Armbruster and assistant director Sheldon Frazier. The orchestras are directed by Catherine Depentu.

PCEP choirs rocked it at Northville High School, under the direction of Jennifer Kopp and assistant director Valerie Said.

Even the choirs from the middle schools got in on the success, with Pioneer Middle School's sixth- and sev-

enth-graders getting first-division ratings. Here's how they did on the athletic side:

• Canton's girls basketball team won everything in sight and reached the Class A state semifinals for the second straight year. The performance marked the end of brilliant careers for Canton's Kari and Sara Schmitt, Kayla Bridges, Melanie Pickert and CarolAnn Sexauer.

Meanwhile, Plymouth senior Taylor Birman received the Michigan High School Athletic Association Scholar-

• In boys basketball, Plymouth and Canton high schools each finished 9-1 in the KLAA South to win a share of the division. It was the first such achievement for the Wildcats.

• In hockey, Canton won the coveted Lash Cup (for Park supremacy) and also captured the KLAA South Division with a record of 7-2-2 (outlasting second-place Salem, 7-3-1). Canton goalie Spencer Craig registered five shutouts for a new school record. Salem made it to the pre-regional final before bowing out to Northville.

• Anthony Abro (189 pounds) of Canton won a Division 1 state championship in wrestling; he also hit 200 high school career victories. Other wrestlers who reached the individual finals included Canton's Ben Poirier (heavyweight), Ben Griffin (103), Zach Marsh (140) and Braden Price (171); Salem's Cody Korpus (119); Plymouth's Said Youssef (125) and Alec Breckenridge (130).

• Salem senior swimmers Adam Seroka, Matt Collingwood, Max Mills and junior Jason Zhang were Division 1 all-staters.

Canton junior Victor Zhang, likewise, was a D1 all-stater. He is Canton's first individual champion since 1979. The Chiefs also won the KLAA South Division and Kensington Conference.

Kensington Conference.

• In bowling, the Plymouth boys team qualified for the Division 1 state meet. In the individual bowling finals, representatives included Plymouth girls Caitlyn Webb and Mackenzie Carlson; Salem senior Ryan Clark; Salem girls Kristin Larkins and Ashley Kretschmer; and

Canton's Ross Terrasi.

• The Canton gymnastics team finished second in the state finals. Ayana Lewis won a Division 2 state championship on vault and medaled. Other D2 medalists were Erica Lucas and Kali Pierce. D1 all-state performers included senior Robyn Piwowar, Alex Fideler and Melissa Green (all medalists). Piwowar was named Senior Gymnast of the Year by the Michigan High School Gymnastics Coaches and Judges Association.

Salem's Nicole Jacobs, Ade Jepperson and Plymouth's Reagan Engstrom all took part in the D2 finals.

These and so many other academic successes are attributable to hard work and dedication, not only of the students and the athletes, but of the coaches and, especially the teachers.

Congratulations to all of you.

COMMUNITY VOICE

What happened to spring?

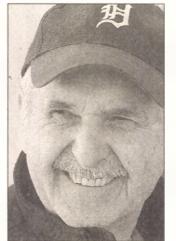
We asked this question at the Plymouth District Library.



"It went to Florida?"

Laura Cameron

Canton Township



"What happened to spring? It comes and goes."

Dan WyrstaPlymouth Township



"I don't know. ... It sucks."

Erin FishelCanton Township



"That's a good question. I don't know. ... I don't care for the cold too much. It should be here soon."

Brian Putman Plymouth Township

LETTERS

Appreciate books

Let it be known Plymouth is fortunate the Friends of Plymouth District Library have an ongoing used book sale that is in operation whenever the library is open, seven days a week all year long.

In your article, it was good to see encouragement for grown-ups to read not only to the early readers but for their own enjoyment, as well. Quite true, the local libraries have shelves of books at all levels of reading ability and many Friends of the Library groups have donated books available for sale at very modest prices. Books children can have and hold as their very

Come to your library to see what wonders await.

Bob Cooper Plymouth

Shirking their duties

The Plymouth-Canton school board needs to cut \$17-\$20 million out of its budget. The administrative executives at the board office have proposed more than 30 budget cuts, including closing an elementary school, moving Starkweather, closing buildings at night, etc. None of the proposals is backed by the financial analysis or data one would expect for initiatives that need to be implemented by September. Why is that?

The fact is, the entire nonsalary budget doesn't even add up to \$16 million. This means that if they completely eliminate heat and lights, books and pencils, bus maintenance, cafeteria food, and every single other nonsalary cost from the budget, it is still impossible to plug the budget

Clearly, nothing short of an across-the-board pay cut, or the layoff of more than 200 employees, will solve this problem. But why, then, did the board and union quickly sign off on the recent teachers contract less than one week before these budget meetings began, without getting a single salary concession? Why are they wasting time on this budget charade? And why did the executives at the board office exempt themselves and all of the board office employees from taking any pay cuts (none of the 30+ suggestions included any wage or benefit concessions for board office employees – two minor positions were

eliminated through attrition).

Is it because the top officials are all retiring this year and a pay cut would most certainly reduce their pension payouts?

One thing is crystal clear: Across-theboard wage cuts will be necessary for ALL employee classes. However, if I were a teacher, a principal, a bus driver, a maintenance worker, etc., I wouldn't give a single dime without equal concessions from the board office

And if the district and unions choose to fire a slew of teachers instead of an across-the-board pay cut, then those of you with school-age children should prepare to either move out of the district or enroll your kids in the nearest private or charter school, because class sizes will go through the roof and the quality of education in this district will be gutted.

We don't expect the board's majority faction, led by a union-entrenched decade-

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

We welcome your Letter to the Editor.
Please include your name, address and
phone number for verification. We ask
your letters be 400 words or less. We
may edit for clarity, space and content.
Submit letters via the following formats.

E-mail: bkadrich@hometownlife.com.



Read or comment online: www.hometownlife.com

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

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

and-a-half school board member, to step up to the task of solving the budget problems, but the six-figure-salaried executives at the board office who undermined their own superintendent for wanting them to follow his lead and take a pay cut, should not be allowed to continue to blatantly shirk their leadership duties.

They should start by restructuring the board office, the pay scales, and the benefit packages. Then they should put out to bid previously "protected" service contracts, starting with the no bid TMP general contractor contract, the legal services contract and the accounting services contract. Once they have taken these steps, then and only then, should they turn to their teachers for help.

And they need to start yesterday.

Nancy Conzelman
Plymouth

Thank you

I want to say a special thanks to Kathryn R. Pumphrey, the ordinance officer of Plymouth Township.

I'd contacted her about the handicap parking at spaces at the CVS and other stores at Sheldon Road and Ann Arbor Road. She informed me that six handicap spaces were needed, not three that are there. She returns my calls promptly, and informed me that the owner was notified.

This is for the World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Middle East, disabled veterans and other handicapped people. A job well done.

Brian Long Northville

Sharing the news

Finally we can share the news! On March 23, the Plymouth Canton Symphony Society revealed to its supporters that we have officially changed our name to the Michigan Philharmonic.

This comes after much thought, discussion, soul-searching and planning. We can never thank all of our supporters over the past 66 years enough for their work, attendance at our concerts, participation in our programs, loyalty to our cause and financial support. They have made it possible for us to go from a small group of local players meeting in homes, to a community based orchestra made up mostly of volunteers, whose sound was filled out with a few professional players, to what we have today

– a fully professional orchestra unafraid of

tackling the most difficult pieces put before them.

We now have an orchestra which regularly brings in professional guest performers and composers, sometimes to perform the world premiere of one of a new piece. We have received wide acclaim from Pulitzerprize winning composers, the League of American Orchestras, radio music hosts and newspaper arts critics and more.

Our conductor, Nan Washburn, whose coming to us from California almost a dozen years ago heralded the beginning of our drive to become a highly respected, all-professional orchestra, has won 17 national awards for her programming. She is recognized by universities, composers, conductors and orchestras across the country as one of the best in the business.

Not long ago, one of our guest composers told me Nan had achieved not only what she had communicated to her that she wanted her music to convey to the listener, but had somehow grasped even what she had been unable to put into words. This was following the first professional performance of the composer's piece.

In addition to all of the above, we have created a Youth Orchestra, which will now be called the Michigan Philharmonic Youth Orchestra. Our Celebration Youth Orchestra grew from just seven string players to four ensembles in just eight years. We have formed a close working relationship with the Plymouth-Canton Community Elementary Schools, building a partnership with their PTO's and music teachers to bring first class professional orchestral learning programs to their third-, fourth- and some of their fifth-grade classes.

We have grown up. At the same time, our name has become increasingly confused with a multitude of other Plymouth-Canton area entities. There was nothing distinctive about it. It still sounded like the grassroots community orchestra it started out to be. Marketing experts we had consulted with from the Lincoln Center in Washington, D.C., and others urged us to change our name. They insisted the growth of our influence and performance opportunities around southeast Michigan would continue to be limited if we did not.

This was a big decision for us. We worried that our faithful supporters would be let down by this, but the more we discussed it and passed the idea by a few key people, the more essential we decided the move was. Somewhere in the past, I read that cities never stay the same – they either begin to fade or they take the steps needed to grow and thrive. Perhaps the same is true for orchestras, and it is time for us to step up what we are doing in order to continue to grow and thrive in a market with so much competition.

Already it has begun to open doors for more performance opportunities than we ever could have had with our original name. Watch for the impressive lineup of performances over this summer alone. Summer used to be a big down time for us. We are convinced we made the right decision. We hope you are as excited about this as we are.

Jane Libbing, ed. coordinator
Youth Orchestra manager
Michigan Philharmonic

It's easy to criticize when it's not your budget to solve

STAFF COLUMNIST

t's pretty easy for us to sit back and tell legislators how they should be solving Michigan's budget crisis or, even more locally, how Plymouth-Canton Community Schools, Canton and Plymouth Township boards and Plymouth city commissioners how to resolve their financial

I've had more than one board member say to me, "How about giving it a try yourself?" To which I frequently say, "No, thanks. I'd much rather be in my position than yours."

While dealing with stories on the school budget, I had the opportunity to talk to Sheila Paton, a parent and co-chair of the Legislative Action Network, a committee she helped form to deal with legislative issues pertaining particularly to the school budget. She knows everything there is to know about what the state plans and the roadblocks Plymouth-Canton faces financially.

She told me about a tool on The Center for Michigan's website (www.thecenterformichigan.com) that puts you in the budgetary driver's seat. It lays out Gov. Rick Snyder's plans for balancing the budget and lets you make the decisions for him. You can raise taxes, cut revenue sharing, close prisons ... pretty much all the options the governor is considering.

Don't agree with him? Do it yourself. Here's my word of caution: It ain't easy.

The first thing it does is ask if you support the governor's plan to cut business taxes by \$1.2 billion, while admitting that plan increases the budget deficit. I didn't support it, because I'm not sure the best thing to do when you're dealing with a \$1.4 billion deficit



Brad Kadrich

it. I was on a bit of an island here, because less than 49 percent of the people who took the test did what I did.

is to increase

Here's what

you've got to consider: • Education: You can cut funding 15 percent to statefunded universities, which saves you \$222 million but would result in tuition increases. You can also shift funding for community colleges or fund universities out of the school aid fund, but that would cost public schools dearly. I didn't do it. I adopted the first plan because, to me, the other plans put K-12 funding at risk to a greater degree than I

• General government: I supported cuts in revenue sharing. It seems like the governor's still going to get money to communities who demonstrate the ability to be creative in sharing expenses and programs. Both Plymouths and Canton Township have shown that inclination and would likely benefit from the governor's plan. I also asked for the 10-percent, across-the-board cuts from each department.

would have been willing to do.

• Prisons and police: I supported a suggestion for prison sentencing reform, which would use various approaches to reduce prison population. I also supported the idea of prison operations reforms, including closing a prison, because if we're going to reform sentencing guidelines and get nonviolent people out of the prisons, perhaps we don't need as many beds.

• Public workforce: I supported the governor's plan for concessions from state workers, because the cuts have to come somewhere, and people in the private sector are making concessions, taking wage cuts, etc.

• Welfare and health care: I had trouble with this one (my liberal instincts probably at work). I don't know if I agree with cutting people off of welfare after 48 months, but there's probably a way to weed out those who abuse the system from those whose very lives depend on it.

• Tax increases: I had no trouble raising the tax on beer and wine; to me, it's the biggest no-brainer in the entire plan. I also supported extending sales tax to personal services because it lowers the sales tax to 5.5 percent overall, and I don't do all that much of the "services" thing. I only go to a couple of Tigers games a year, I don't go to many plays or concerts. With my car, having car maintenance taxed higher could hurt me, but overall it falls under the "something has to be done" category, and this, to me, is the lesser of the evils.

The most popular solution among nearly 10,000 people who had played along at the time I took the plunge was hiking the beer tax for the first time since the 1960s. I wasn't the only one in favor of some sort of tax increase; more than 77 percent of the participants raised some sort of tax.

None of it was easy, and I was playing with "pretend" money. I had no skin in the game, other than trying to understand. My decisions aren't going to impact anyone; when State Reps. Dian Slavens and Kurt Heise, state Sen. Patrick Colbeck and the seven members of the Plymouth-Canton Board of Education wrestle with these decisions, it's for real.

Remember that before you blast them out of hand for their decisions.

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

Bringing transparency to title insurance costs

BY BERNARD J. YOUNGBLOOD **GUEST COLUMNIST**

Then it comes to buying auto insurance, health insurance or life insurance, most of us will aggressively shop for the best and most competitive prices.

But when it comes to purchasing a title insurance policy on the most significant expenditure we ever make — our home — we never give the cost a second thought until it's too late.

That's because title insurance is a hidden cost of buying or refinancing a house, one generally presented to us in a slew of paperwork by our real estate broker or loan officer at closing. If we object, we're typically told we are squashing the deal because our interest rate lock is expiring or, when the real market is robust, the seller will entertain other offers.

On the purchase of a \$200,000 home, the cost of a title insurance loan policy for a homebuyer can range from \$597 to more than \$1,000. A buyer can cut that rate down to about \$375 if he or she gets a simultaneous loan rate in conjunction with the owner policy the seller is required to obtain.

But if the seller's and buyer's respective real estate agents work for competing

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Bernard Youngblood

these brokers often have exclusive relationships with different title insurance carriers. These relation-

ships often negate any potential savings, a problem compounded by the lack of true competition in our region for title insur-

Late last year, the Federal Trade Commission cited Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties and the Portland, Ore., area as two places where title where a monopoly exists in title insurance.

The lack of competition drives up the price tri-county residents are forced to pay when they purchase or refinance a house, and contributes to our ranking as one of the country's most distressed real estate markets.

Think back to your last home purchase or refinancing. Wouldn't it have been nice to save a couple of hundred dollars on title insurance that you could have instead spent on other home improvements or put in your bank account?

Since most consumers don't know where or how to shop for title insurance, my office has introduced a new feature on our website at www.waynecountylandrecords.com.

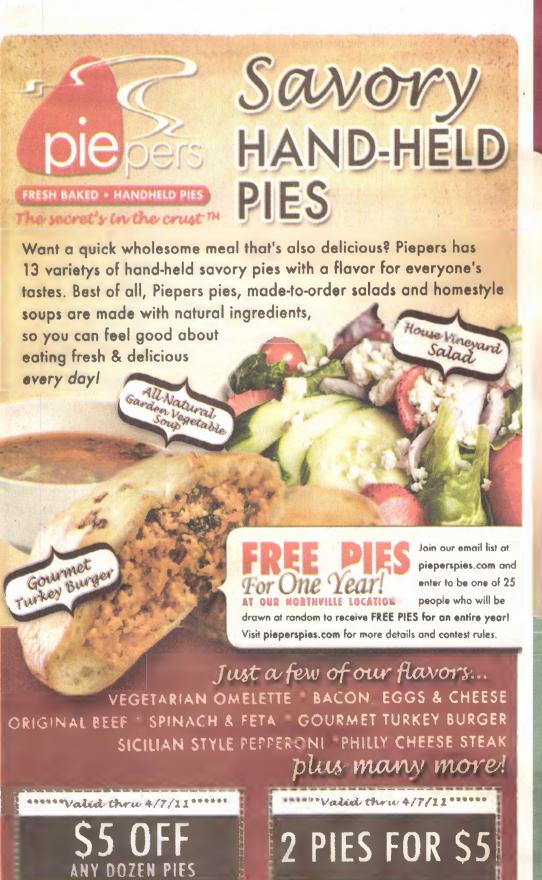
The site features a title insurance rate calculator, which prompts consumers to enter either their purchasing and financing cost or their selling price. They will then immediately receive pricing information from the title insurance companies that are licensed in Michigan. The information includes website links and phone numbers for the various providers.

This is a great tool for both homebuyers and home sellers. It empowers consumers to make informed decisions and it brings transparency to a purchase that consumers generally have no awareness of or control over.

More importantly, it will help spur competition in a local industry that has been deemed monopolistic. And competition will breed many positives for our local real estate market.

Bernard Youngblood is the Wayne County register of deeds. The Register of Deeds Office is the place where people record documents relating to land transactions. His office is located at 400 Monroe St., Seventh Floor, Detroit. He can be reached at (313) 224-5854 or by email at rodhelp@co.wayne.mi.us.

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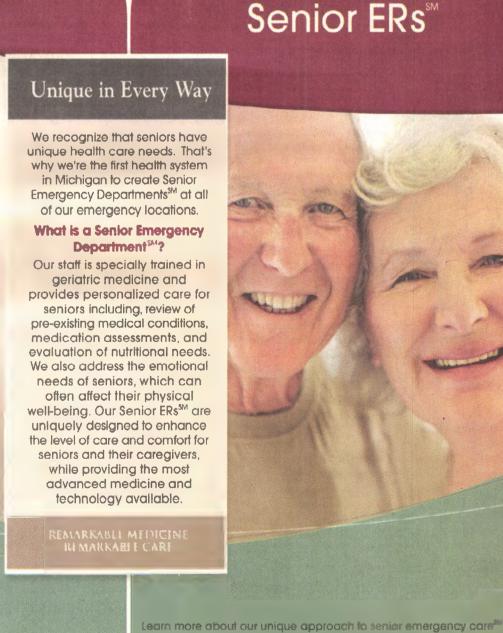
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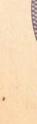


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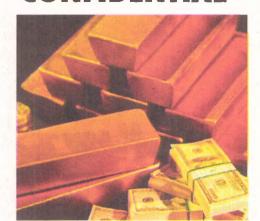
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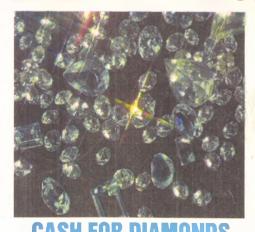


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SECTION B

SPORTS

THURSDAY, March 31, 2011

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Chiefs will be heard from

BY TIM SMITH OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

There's no denying Canton's 2010 baseball team was pretty special.

Ranked No. 5 much of the year, the Chiefs finished 28-8 and advanced to the Division 1 quarterfinal - not to mention sporting two all-state pitchers in Kevin Delapaz and Andrew

But spring is here again, and the 2011 Chiefs want to keep it going. Canton opens with an 11 a.m. doubleheader Saturday at

"Our motto this year is 'Tradition Doesn't Graduate," said fourth-year head coach Mark Blomshield. "That's kind of what we're preaching to our kids.

"We lost a lot, but we say 'You guys are our next tradition, you're going to leave your mark."

The KLAA South Division squad did lose five key players to graduation, not including a sixth (Alex Dixon) who was injured all last season.

However, Blomshield has 11

2011 BASEBALL PREVIEW PT. 1 seniors back from the team that lost in extra innings to Ann Arbor

Pioneer in the quarters. "They've been a part of a few championship teams," he said. "Obviously (2010) was our best year. But most of those seniors were called up and were part of the '08 districts; we lost in the regional finals to Brother Rice a couple times.

"They definitely know how to win, and that sometimes is the kiss of death, too."

Blomshield stressed that he and assistant coaches John Johnson, Jim Wisniewski and Steve Howard are reminding players not to get complacent, not to expect to win just because they did previ-

"It's hard to win a varsity baseball game and we need to keep our goals in our back pocket and I think we need to stay focused." Blomshield said. "Nothing's going to be easy, I can tell you that.'

Please see BASEBALL, B4



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Ryan Bazner lays down a bunt during the 2010 season for Canton. Not only is he one of the team's best all-around players for 2011, he is the No. 1 starting pitcher.

'Cats, Rocks win with strong 'D'

BY TIM SMITH OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Two girls soccer teams from Plymouth-Canton Educational Park got off to excellent starts to the 2011 season. Both Plymouth and Salem registered 1-0 shutouts on Tuesday.

In a contest at Saline, the defending Division 1 state finalist Plymouth Wildcats came away with a one-goal victory.

Coach Jeff Neschich praised goalkeeper Marissa Williams and his defensive corps for keeping Saline from mounting much of an offense. He also said Stephanie Dillon "did a solid job controlling the center-mid for us."

And all the scoring that Plymouth needed came off the foot of Zoe Foster, who booted in the rebound of a Maria Farmer shot.

The Wildcats will continue being road warriors, with contests slated for Thursday at Ann Arbor Huron and Thursday, April 7, at Northville. The first home game will be 7 p.m. Friday, April 8, against Salem.

Speaking of the Rocks, they also played a defensive gem Tuesday night - likewise winning 1-0, at PCEP against Walled Lake Central. Scoring for the Rocks was Nancy Krutty, who

coach Joe Nora said "scored a hustle goal off a great pass by Madeleine (Vala)." And that was plenty, because of the excellent

work turned in by goalkeeper Ali Eggenberger (three saves) when she was called upon along with the back line of Victoria Kaye, Katelynn Krause, Jenna Coon, Madie Kummer and Olivia Kaye — who Nora said "played organized and under control, not allowing many chances on

Next up for Salem is a game 7 p.m. Thursday at Walled Lake Northern.



Canton senior Melanie Pickert (No. 14), shown in Monday's season opener at Novi, remains vital to the Chiefs' 2011 hopes.

New Canton coach to rely on vets

BY TIM SMITH OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The sour taste from losing in the 2010 regional final might linger awhile for Canton's varsity girls soccer team.

But the Chiefs will soon enough meet up with the team that knocked them out — Division 1 state finalist Plymouth.

GIRLS SOCCER PREVIEW

By the time of that April 13 game, first-year Canton coach Jeannine Reddy and her squad should be well-entrenched into the task of having a stellar 2011 season, too.

"Overall, (this is a) great team with lots of talent," said Reddy, a veteran Canton junior varsity

coach who takes over from George Tomasso. "It should be an interesting and exciting season."

Helping her to be so optimistic is the return of several top players from the 2010 Chiefs, particularly on the defensive side of the pitch.

That team went 17-2-3, capturing the KLAA South Division,

Please see SOCCER, B3

Never too late: Whalers' rally nets overtime playoff win



RENA LAVERTY

Robbie Czarnik of the Plymouth Whalers scores the game-winning goal Saturday in overtime of Game 2 at Compuware Arena. Czarnik sends the puck past Kitchener goalie Brandon Maxwell. At far right is Rangers defenseman Jonathan Jasper.

OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

For much of Saturday night's Game 2, everything pointed to the Kitchener Rangers evening up their Ontario Hockey League Western Conference quarterfinal with Plymouth.

The Rangers — who were on the power play much of the first two periods — had a 2-0 lead midway through the third, and the Whalers' few Grade A scoring chances either were stopped by Kitchener netminder Brandon Maxwell or the goal post.

But Whalers forward Tyler Brown's shorthanded breakaway goal sparked a rally that eventually forced overtime. And in OT, forward Robbie Czarnik scored at 2:30 to give Plymouth a 3-2 victory (and 2-0 series lead) before

2,834 delirious fans at Compuware Arena. Czarnik, near the bottom rim of the left circle, roofed a centering pass from forward Jamie Devane over Maxwell who was scrambling to get back in position after taking

a spill behind his goal. "I like held on to it, and everyone was talking about it," said Czarnik with a grin. "What took you so long to shoot

Please see WHALERS, B4

WHALERS DROP GAME 3

Plymouth lost 3-1 to Kitchener in Monday's Game 3 of their Ontario Hockey League Western Conference semifinal. With the defeat, the Whalers took a 2-1 series lead into Wednesday's Game 4 at Compuware Arena (go to www.hometownlife.com for late results).

Kitchener goalie Brandon Maxwell made 35 saves, none bigger than on a penalty shot awarded to Tyler Brown in the third, with the Rangers nursing a 2-1

Scoring the lone goal for the Whalers was Farmington Hills native Alex Aleardi, an unassisted tally at 13:30 of the middle frame to tie the game at 1-1.

Playing an outstanding game in a losing cause was Whalers netminder Scott Wedgewood (45 saves, 18 in the first period).

SIDELINES

From Canton to Greece

David Foust, 33, of Canton this week is training with Special Olympics Team USA at San Diego State University and nearby venues to gear up for a summer spot on the world stage.

He will compete June 25-July 4 in Greece, at the Special Olympics World Summer Games Athens 2011.

Foust has been involved with Special Olympics Michigan since grade school. He has participated in bowling, poly hockey, aquatics, softball and basketball over the years.

"It is an honor to be chosen to compete at World Games," Foust said. "It will be very interesting and a chance to meet other athletes from around the world."

Special Olympics Team USA is comprised of 317 athletes and 126 coaches.

Solid lacrosse debut

Plymouth's boys lacrosse team defeated Ann Arbor Greenhills 7-4 on Monday, sparked by a three-goal performance from Phil Flesch. Adding two goals was Jeremy Cigile, with Conor Downey (two assists) the other multipoint player.

Also scoring for the Wildcats was Kenny Fanelli and Alec Drean, with Kyle Durham tallying an assist.

Other standouts included senior goalie Mike Justus (six saves) and Shaun Austin, who had five ground balls (important to retain possession of the ball).

Wildcat baseball clinic

Circle Saturday, April 9, on your calendar if you are a young, aspiring baseball player looking to improve skills for this season and beyond.

The Plymouth Wildcat Youth Baseball Clinic is designed to do just that. It will focus on age-appropriate skill development in a positive, fun, learning environment. Clinic attendees will receive instruction from the Plymouth Wildcats baseball staff and 2011 Plymouth Wildcats players.

Sessions, at the high school's baseball complex (gymnasium if inclement weather) and limited to 100 participants, are slated for 9 a.m. to noon (grades onefour) and 12:30-3:30 p.m. (grades five-eight).

Boys and girls currently in grades one-eight are invited to attend. Cost is \$20 per player if pre-registered and \$25 the day of the clinic. That fee includes a snack. T-shirts will be available for \$8.

For more information, contact Plymouth varsity baseball coach Bryan Boyd at Bryan.Boyd@pccsmail.net.

Women's golfers fifth

The Madonna University women's golf team placed fifth out of nine teams in Mount Union Spring Invitational held last weekend at Tannenhauf G.C. in Alliance,

Baldwin-Wallace (Ohio) captured the team title with a two-day total of 338-341-679.

Rounding out the top five were: Otterbein (Ohio), 352-339-691; Mercyhurst (Pa.), 349-346-695; Mount Union, 349-350-699; and Madonna, 387-362-749.

Mount Union's Mary Snode was individual medalist with a 76-81-157.

Chelsea Bathurst paced MU in a tie for 13th with a 92-84-176. Other finishers for the Crusaders included: Michelle Hall, 18th (96-87-183); Mariel Meyers, 29th (100-93-193); Megan Fleischer, tied for 33rd (99-99-198); and Caitlin Steele, tied for 33rd (100-98-198).

The puck stops here for all-area icers

Brandon Price, Sr. G, Salem:

The senior goaltender fortified Salem's defense with an oftenspectacular and always-reliable

Price, selected to the Division 1 first-team all-state and all-KLAA squads, tallied a record of 18-5-2, goals-against average of 2.6 and save percentage of

The co-MVP for Salem, his play was instrumental in the Rocks reaching the pre-regional finals (he blanked Plymouth in the playoff opener). Salem also finished second in the tough KLAA South with records of 17-6-2 overall and 7-3-1 in the division.

"Brandon gave us a chance to win every night and we can honestly say that he never had an off night during the season," Salem coach Ryan Ossenmacher said. "He was called on to play in almost all our games and he was ready for that challenge.'

John Mandryk, Sr. Def., Liv. Stevenson: The senior defenseman ranked a plus-19 en route to D1 first-team all-state and all-KLAA honors.

"John had a great season by any measure for a defenseman, but when you take into consideration he was a forward last year makes it almost unreal." Stevenson coach Gerry Vento said. "Because of John's teamfirst attitude - which is why he as an alternate captain - he didn't hesitate to make the move back to the blueline after one week into the season. After a week back there, it looked like he had been there his entire career. John has many strengths which make him so effective, but his ability to play with composure is what separated him from the pack.'

Mandryk also had 22 assists to go along with one goal for the 16-6-3 Spartans.

"No matter what the scenario, John approached it with the same sense of calm and determination that rubbed off on all of his teammates," Vento added. "John's leadership both on-andoff the ice will be very difficult to replace next season, but hopefully some of our returners

2010-11 ALL-OBSERVER **BOYS HOCKEY** FIRST TEAM Brandon Price, Sr. G, Salem

Observer & Eccentric | Thursday, March 31, 2011

John Mandryk, Sr. Def., Liv. Stevenson Rob Goldi, Sr. Def., Farmington Nick Elliott, Sr. F, Farmington Ryan Urso, Sr. F, Liv. Stevenson Ryan Quigley, Sr., F, Salem SECOND TEAM

Tim Rogers, Sr. G, Farmington Jimmy LaFontaine, Sr. Def., Canton Garrett Berg, Sr. Def., Salem Steve Klisz, Sr., F, Liv. Churchill Alex Schmitt, Sr. F, Farmington Andrew Palushaj, Sr. F, Liv. Stevenson

THIRD TEAM Connor Humitz, Sr. G, Liv. Stevenson Justin Bauer, Sr. Def., Plymouth Joe Williams, Sr. Def., Liv. Churchill Scott Newel, Sr. F. N. Farm.-Harrison Mark McGee, Jr. F. Salem

Jake Otto, Jr. F. Liv. Churchill **FOURTH TEAM** Michael Justus, Sr. G, Plymouth Spencer Craig, Jr. G, Canton Erick Chamberlain, Sr. Def., Farm. Justin Shureb, Sr. F., Liv. Stevenson A.J. Rosales, Sr., F, Canton Zac Massa, Jr. F, Farmington Ryan Murray, Sr. F, N. Farm.-Harrison COACH OF THE YEAR Pete Mazzoni, Livonia Churchill

HONORABLE MENTION Churchill: Mike Kutek, Cam Benson Brad Milks, Ben Proben, Nick Proben, Alex Estes; Franklin: Adam Michael, Michael Diaz, Tyler Dewhirst: Stevenson: Max Humitz, Chris McDonald, J.J. Pettersson, Nick Barr; Canton: Garrett Bryden, Matt Rodgers, Jordan Smith Josh Dickson; Plymouth: Zach Gambrell, Tyler Sanders, Tyler Lazorka, Mitch Claggett; Salem: Austin Sartorious. Connor Berlin, Nick Hayes, Matt Downey, Michael Hochkins, Michael Manser; Farmington: Ethan Baker, Danny Prokes, Kyle Rea, Austin Cole, Josh Cliff; North Farmington-Harrison: Keith Ladouceur, Peter Kusek, Blake Burnett, Kyle DeMaagd, Reede Burnett, Derek Ried.

learned from him."

Rob Goldi, Sr. Def., Farmington: A former travel player who opted to play for his school as a senior, Goldi was the leader of the Farmington defense. He also scored 29 points with five goals and 24 assists. Goldi, who had two game-winning goals, is an all-state, second-team player.

"There wasn't one time either (assistant coach) Bill (Newton) or I had to tell Robbie to work hard," Vellucci said. "I've never seen anything like it. He never took a shift off in practice, and he competed game in and game out. It's something you wish

every single hockey player in general, every athlete, could see. He was known more as a defensive defenseman, but he definitely stepped up his game offensively, too.

Nick Elliott, Sr. F, Farmington: A senior forward, Elliott scored 52 points to lead the Falcons to the OAA Division 1 regular-season championship and a 22-4 record. A three-year varsity player, Elliott had 24 goals and 28 assists. He scored on four power plays and twice with his team short-handed; he also had three game-winning goals. Elliott made the all-state first

team. "That's just a great season," coach Mark Vellucci said of Elliott's stats. "He was always a factor, game after game. There are some (Junior A) teams that have shown an interest in him. Hopefully, he can hook on with a team, have a couple good years and maybe play college hockey down the road. He definitely has the talent to play at the next

Ryan Urso, Sr. F, Liv. Stevenson: The senior finished with 13 goals and 32 assists for Spartans.

His plus-15 rating also ranked best among Stevenson forwards.

"Ryan's a very dynamic player that played a key role in all situations for our team," Vento said. "His skill level was only surpassed by his desire to compete, and that is what made him so special. We enjoyed a very successful power play this year, and a lot of that had to do with Ryan's shot from the point, especially his ability to get it off quickly with such velocity and usually on net."

Urso also earned Division 1 first-team all-state along with all-KLAA honors.

"His vision on the ice was made evident by his 32 assists, which helped make players around him better," Vento said. "It will be fun to watch his hockey career in the future.'

Ryan Quigley, Sr. F, Salem: A speed demon for opponents, Quigley — who shared team MVP honors with goalie Price — was a prolific scoring machine with 28 goals and 19

assists, along with registering a plus-25 mark.

Salem's co-captain earned Division 1 first-team all-state and all-KLAA selections as well as plenty of praise from his

"Ryan's stats tell the story, with one of the best single seasons in school history," said Ossenmacher, adding that Quigley was a "dynamic skater who had the ability to change the game with his speed." SECOND TEAM

Tim Rogers, Sr. G, Farmington: A three-year varsity goalie, Rogers was 13-3-0 this year with losses to two state champions and a Division 1 state semifinalist (Lake Orion). His goals-against average was 2.68 and his save percentage .906. He faced 436 shots and stopped 395.

"Throughout the season, he was our steady force," Vellucci said.

"He kept us in a lot of games when we could have been down and out early on. There were a couple games, if it wasn't for him in one period when the other team outshot us, we probably could've had a couple more losses. He did his job. He was rock-solid for us in every game he played. He was a great mentor to Josh Cliff, who will take over the goaltending duties next year."

Jimmy LaFontaine, Sr. Def., Canton: The senior blueliner and team co-captain contributed big-time leadership and on-ice skills to a very successful sea-

LaFontaine, an all-KLAA selection, registered 12 goals, 15 assists and a plus-24 rating. That sparked Canton to the KLAA South championship (16-7-2 overall, 7-2-2 in the division) and the coveted Lash Cup — for supremacy among Plymouth-Canton Educational Park teams.

"He was crucial on the ice in every situation," Chiefs coach Jeremy Majszak said. "He led the teams in points and plusminus" while helping keep the team's goals-against average close to the 3.0 mark.

"His hard work and skill made him instrumental to Canton's success this year."

Garrett Berg, Sr. Def., Salem: The senior was strong and steady on the blueline for Salem. He earned honorable mention for the D1 all-state team and made the all-KLAA squad.

Berg, a team-best pl helped the cause on offense, too. He scored seven goals and added 16 assists.

"He was a rock back on defense this year," Ossenmacher said. "He played a tremendous amount of minutes and was vital to our team successes."

Steve Klisz, Sr. F, Liv. Churchill: The senior captain earned second-team Division 1 all-state



Brandon Price Salem



John Mandryk Stevenson



Rob Goldi Farmington



Nick Elliott Farmington



Stevenson



Ryan Quigley Salem

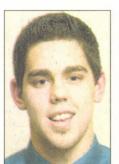


Tim Rogers Farmington





Garrett Berg



Steven Klisz Churchill



Farmington



Andrew Palushaj Stevenson

honors after scoring 26 goals and adding 20 assists for the regional champions.

A three-year player, Klisz finished with a total of 42 goals and 40 assists.

"Steve is one of our better offensive players we've had the last two years," Churchill coach Pete Mazzoni said of the all-KLAA forward. "Had a great senior year and scored many big time goals for us."

Alex Schmitt, Sr. F, Farmington: Another three-year varsity player, Schmitt was a linemate with Elliott and the team's second-leading scorer with 42 points. The senior center had 22 goals and 20 assists. Schmitt had seven power-play goals, one short-handed goal and six

game-winning goals.

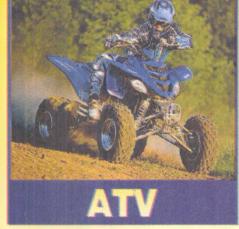
"In the three years he played, he was our most intense player because of his enthusiasm and passion for the game," Vellucci said. "There was rarely a time he wasn't going 100 miles per hour.

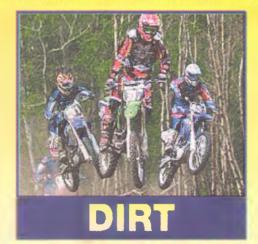
"Alex has a great shot. He liked to shoot the puck from all angles. His pattern was to go top-shelf on the glove side. He scored quite a few goals like that."

Andrew Palushaj, Sr. F, Liv. Stevenson: The senior forward earned first-team all-state honors after scoring a team-high 20 goals to go along with 13 assists. "Andrew was as pure a goal scorer as you could find," Vento

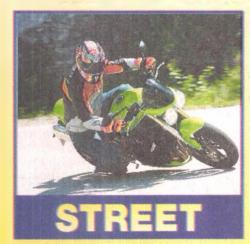
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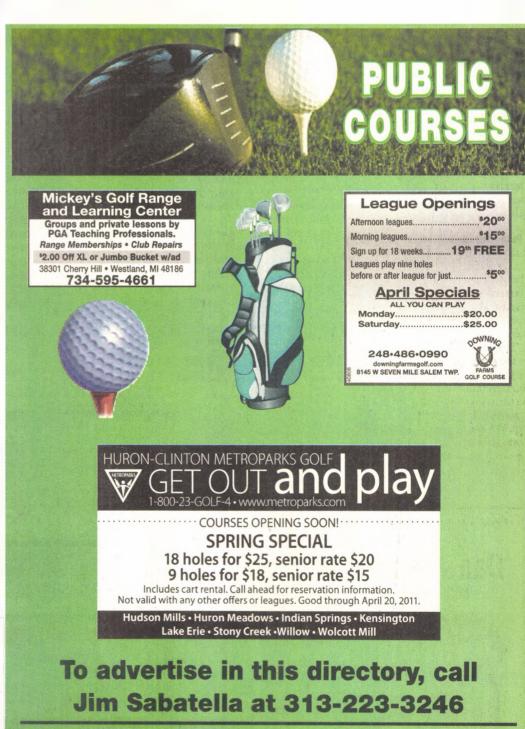
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Novi spoils Reddy's Canton girls soccer coaching debut

BY CHRIS JACKETT CORRESPONDENT

The defending state champion girls soccer team had its offense on full display March 28 as Novi defeated Canton 3-2 in the season opener for both teams.

After Ally Krause spurred a quick burst of offense for the Chiefs (0-1-0), Novi's girls' speed wore down the Canton defenders as the Wildcats (1-0-0) set up a string of scoring opportunities.

Novi senior and reigning All-Area Player of the Year Nicki Caruso nearly got the Wildcats on the board 11:50 into the contest when a corner kick from the right side found Caruso at the back post. Her header hit the outside of the left post and bounced out of bounds, but her continued efforts would lead to two Novi goals before the half was over.

With 14:38 left in the half, Caruso laid a through ball off to sophomore Erin Dircks just inside the 18-yard box, but Dircks' quick shot from 15 yards out found the gloves of Canton senior goalkeeper Kayla Bridges (two saves).

Just 36 seconds later, Caruso carried the ball up the left edge of the goal box and crossed it to junior Jessica Jarvis six yards out from the



Canton's Robyn Mack (No. 17, left) converges on Novi's Erin Dircks (No. 14) with Ally Krause of the Chiefs (behind Dircks) hot on her heels during Monday's KLAA girls soccer contest.

center of the goal. Jarvis volleyed the cross into the right side of the goal with the outside of her foot to give the Wildcats a 1-0 lead.

Following a long pass from junior Lauren Pollard at the

half line, Caruso would set up her second goal of the game from the left side and Novi carried a 2-0 lead into halftime.

RALLY TIME Canton made some adjustments and started to rally early on in the second half,

"The comeback from the first half to the second half, I'm just really proud of them," said Jeannine Reddy, after

coaching her first varsity game for the Chiefs. "I changed some things in my defensive line. It helped with speed. I had to get some glitches out and figure things out."

However, the Wildcats got one more on the board before Canton's rally.

Greenhalgh deked to the right to get past Chief defender Jen Learst and then immediately deked to the left to get past a diving Bridges, who nearly collided with Learst just inside the goal box. The miscommunication 8:53 into the half allowed Greenhalgh to tap the ball into an empty net for a 3-0 lead.

"She had great saves and then that third goal was just miscommunication between one of the defenders and her. I'm not upset, but, hey, it happens," Reddy said. "Always scheduling Novi our first game, one of the better teams in the state, we kind of get to work out all our glitches. There's kind of a lot we need to work out in the back defensively and in midfield."

Through a combination of Canton's adjustments and Novi's continued attempts to find good chemistry to replace three of four starting defenders who graduated, the Chiefs found themselves with several opportunities during the final 30 minutes of play.

About 11:10 into the half, Canton's Megan Trapp made a perfect pass through several Novi defenders to Liz Ferrill for a breakaway, but her shot from

inside the arch went wide left. After a huge point-blank save by Bridges on Greenhalgh moments later, Ferrill got the ball up the left sideline and beat the Novi defense before ripping a shot past senior netminder Gabby Gauruder (two saves) into the top right corner with 23:27 remaining.

Getting the Chiefs on the board energized the Canton squad, which continued to press and keep the ball in Novi's half.

Just three minutes after the goal, a corner kick from the right side found Kaitlyn Murphy 10 yards out from the* left post, but her shot hit the left post and bounced out into the middle of box before eventually being knocked out for a goal kick.

But after a Canton player was taken to the ground in the box with 8:10 remaining, Ferrill beat Gauruder on the left side with a penalty kick goal to cut the deficit to 3-2.

"Liz is awesome," Reddy said. "She was my best player on the field today, by far."

FROM PAGE B1

Kensington Conference and Association. They also won the districts.

Christy Balewski, Alyssa Cottrell and Lindsay Winters are some of the players who graduated in 2010.

VETS TO LEAN ON

But senior goaltender Kayla Bridges is back, as are senior defender Melanie Pickert (who will play college soccer at the University of Iowa) and junior backliner.

Reddy said Pickert is "a dominant force on our team, controlling the back line and hopefully helping in the midfield."

Trapp is a solid enough player to be on the radar of Eastern Michigan University coaches, Reddy noted.

Other outstanding returnees include junior midfielders Ally Krause and Megan Trapp.

Both are good bets to continue their soccer careers at the collegiate level, with Krause having verbally committed to Michigan State University and Trapp drawing interest from

Eastern Michigan University. At forward, key contributions can be expected from senior Liz Ferrill and junior Kalyn Berinti.

Reddy also has junior goalkeeper Danielle Schendel, to join Bridges to form a potentially strong duo.

Besides Schendel, junior defender Alex Bryden is new to the varsity.

But Reddy already knows what those players can bring to the table, because she coached the Canton junior varsity over the past five seasons.

Meanwhile, Reddy emphasized that the Chiefs must deal with a challenging early season schedule.

The Chiefs already lost 3-2 on Monday to Novi, and have games upcoming against strong teams such as Saline, Northville, Livonia Churchill and the rival Wildcats.

Ouch! Debuts no fun for new lax teams

BY TIM SMITH OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Growing pains probably can be expected for the first-year girls lacrosse teams at The Park.

Last week's openers for Salem and Plymouth underscore that point.

The Rocks lost 8-5 on March 23 at Tecumseh while Plymouth suffered a 14-3 drubbing two days later at South Lyon.

About the Salem-Tecumseh contest, Rocks head coach Dave Medley said his young squad kept pace with the Indians "but we just couldn't close the gap as they pulled away in the second half."

Senior Alexis O'Connor

scored the first Salem goal in history (previous teams were comprised of players from all three Plymouth-Canton Educational Park high schools) to make it a 1-1 contest early

It was 4-3 Tecumseh at halftime, with senior goalkeeper Meaghan Eldridge and senior defender Katie Meagher keeping the Rocks in the game.

"Also on the defensive end ... Leah Schrauben and Bridget Maul created turnovers to put us back on the offensive attack," Medley said.

In addition to O'Connor, sophomore Rose Krasofsky scored twice while other markers were collected by sophomores Breanne Beaver and Alissa Amell.

"What was encouraging was watching the performance by many of the players taking the field for their very first time in competition," said Medley, citing junior Alexandra Godre, freshmen Hannah Nowaske and Kiersten Valla

Salem's first-ever varsity home game was canceled Friday night, due to cold weather. The debut now will have to wait until 8 p.m. Wednesday, April 6 against Canton.

Debut for Wildcats

The Plymouth Wildcats lost 14-3 to the host Lions on March 25, although new head coach Bob Hill saw plenty of promise.

"Our team worked hard

to pass quickly and advance the ball," Hill said. "We have already come a long way this season and I am proud of the

Scoring the first goal in Plymouth-only varsity history was Cindy Bradford, assisted by Sam Arsenault.

The trio of Katie Hill, Megan Birdwell and Shannon Lubin accounted for the other two goals. Hill scored both times, with her linemates earning the assists.

The coach said goalkeeper Sarah Messer made 12 shots while Taylor Birman and Nicole Natelborg played well on defense, despite the final

tsmith@hometownlife.com

said. "He had that touch around the net that you just can't teach, which was evident by his 20

goals." Palushaj also posted an impressive plus-15 rating.

"He was another player for us that made our power play so effective because of his quick release and accuracy," Vento said. "He had some memorable goals for us this year - in particular, our (4-3) win against (Novi) CC (Catholic Central) and our first game against Churchill when he had a third period hat trick and scored the winner with

eight seconds left." **COACH OF THE YEAR** Pete Mazzoni, Liv. Churchill: The ninth-year coach guided the Chargers to a 15-11-2 record and a berth in the Division 1 state quarterfinals before losing a heartbreaking 5-4 loss in four overtimes to Orchard Lake St. Mary.

"This season was a great test for the character and resolve of the guys in the locker room," Mazzoni said. "Our seniors kept the team together and demonstrated great poise and leadership. We had a great locker room. It was probably one of the closer groups of kids that we



Pete Mazzoni Coach of Year

we've been here. We struggled with consistency early on. But for the most part, we thought we played some pretty good hockey most

have had come

through since

of the year. We had some nights that we felt we played well, and did not get any points."

Churchill's late season run came after a fourth-place finish

in the KLAA's South Division. "I have to give credit to the teams in our league," Mazzoni said. "The KLAA, especially the

Kensington side, was extremely tough this year. "It was definitely a roller coaster of a season, but it is always nice to win a few games in March. Probably sometime early February, we really started to see the big picture and played some of our best hockey of the

season. I am fortunate to have

a great staff and an extremely

supportive administration." Mazzoni s overall record at Churchill (2001-2011) is 152-78-30 with two regional, four league and five division titles to his credit. He was also 41-6-3 in two seasons at Redford Union (1998-2000) and one league championship.

Combine training

Combine training for high school football to prepare for the 2011 season takes place on Sundays at the Auburn Hills Sports Dome.

Players will be taught drills and techniques used to prepare college seniors for the NFL Combine and use SPARQ, Michigan Preps and

NUC testing protocols. To register, visit www.coachjacksonspeed. com; or call coach Jaime Jackson at (248) 535-

Steelheaders meeting

The Metro-West Steelheaders monthly meeting will be at 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 5 at the Livonia Senior Center, located at the southeast corner of Farmington and Five Mile roads. Meetings are free and open to the public. No

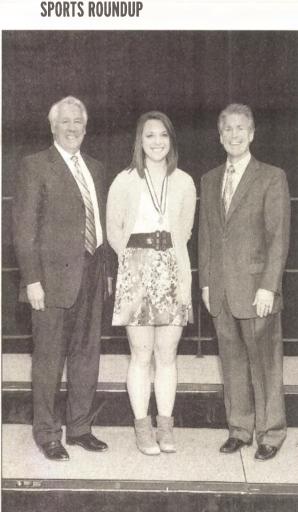
reservations needed.

Captain Jerry Lee will be one of two featured speakers. He has over 30 years of fishing and guiding experience on the Great Lakes.

Among the topics include use of lead-core, rotators, cut bait, in-line boards and the latest downrigger savvy. His presentation also includes tips and tactics to consistently boat limits of fish for his customers on a daily

Captain Chip Cartwright will also unveil the latest from Wolverine Tackle, which produces the world famous Silver Streak lures.

For more information, call Jim Robertson at (734) 383-2790.



She's a scholar and a lady

Taylor Birman (center) of Plymouth High School was honored as a recipient of the Michigan High School Athletic Association's Scholar-Athlete Award at the 2011 boys basketball finals held March 26 at Breslin Center in East Lansing. Shown with Birman are: (from left) Jim Robinson. executive vice-president of Farm Bureau Insurance: and John E. 'Jack' Roberts, executive director of the MHSAA. Birman will receive a \$1,000 scholarship from Farm Bureau Insurance to be used at the college she attends this fall. Farm Bureau Insurance awarded 32 scholarships, proportionately by school classification to students with 3.50 or higher (on a 4.0 scale) grade point average who have previously lettered in at least one sport in which post-season competition is sponsored by the MHSAA.



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WHALERS

"But he was diving over and I didn't want to shoot it at him and just waited for him to fall and just put it up."

Observer & Eccentric | Thursday, March 31, 2011

The rally brought kudos from Plymouth head coach Mike Vellucci.

"I just told them I was proud of them because they respond," Vellucci said. "They don't get down on each other and they stay in it no matter what.

"How many times have we fought back this year and had some big wins? I'm proud of them for doing that."

Everything still looked dire with less than seven minutes remaining and the Rangers on yet another power play.

MAKING IT HAPPEN

But then the Whalers flipped the switch.

First, Brown anticipated a Kitchener pass just inside the Plymouth blue line.

He tipped it off the left half-wall out into neutral ice, scooted around the defender and retrieved his own pass.

Brown then skated in all alone on Maxwell before ripping a shot into the cage at 13:42 to make it a 2-1 game.

"I saw the five-hole was open and I shot it there," Brown said. "It was a big momentum changer for us. I think it got the team going."

According to Vellucci, he talked to the team after the second period "that if you get the chance to steal it (on the penalty kill) go for it. It was a great shot."

With 4:56 left in regulation, some overdue good luck helped the Whalers even the score at 2-2.

Forward Stefan Noesen kind of muffed a slapper taken inside the Kitchener blue line. But the change-of-pace shot fooled Maxwell, who gave up a juicy rebound in the slot.

Center Mitchell Heard swooped in and beat Maxwell (35 saves) high to the blocker side. Also assisting was defenseman and Farmington Hills native Austin Levi.

LOTS OF GLOVE

Just 37 seconds later, how-

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WALT DMOCH

It's a mob scene at Compuware Arena, with the Plymouth Whalers and their fans celebrating Robbie Czarnik's winning goal in overtime of Game 2.

ever, Plymouth goaltender Scott Wedgewood saved the Whalers' bacon.

The puck hit the referee's skate behind the red line and bounced into the slot where center Michael Catenacci backhanded the disc.

But Wedgewood snared the shot with his lightning-quick trapper.

"I rely on my reactions a lot," said Wedgewood, the game's first star with 29 quality saves. "Being able to do that is probably the best part of my game.

"It hit the ref there and came out in front, but ... you have to make those kinds of saves, especially at this time of the year." That save reprised the role

Wedgewood superbly played earlier.

Throughout the first two periods, the main reason the

Whalers were close was the acrobatic play of their goalie.

The Rangers received six power plays to Plymouth's one over the first 27:30 of the contest and the Whalers were just

eight seconds away from kill-

CASHING IN

ing off the sixth.

But that's when Kitchener finally solved Wedgewood — who all night was sprawling, diving and doing whatever he could to stop the puck.

At 9:14, Rangers' defenseman Ryan Murphy circled behind the Plymouth net and fired a pass across the front of the blue ice to winger Jerry D'Amigo in the right circle.

D'Amigo in the right circle.
D'Amigo one-timed the puck
home to prompt a loud chorus of

boos directed at game officials.

Wedgewood's only mistake
was letting a routine shot hit
his pads and bounce out to
D'Amigo for a rebound goal
with about 11 minutes to play
in the third.

That made it 2-0, but Plymouth's comeback was about to begin.

The Whalers took the play to Kitchener throughout the final moments of regulation and during overtime. Plymouth outshot the Rangers 6-0 in the extra frame.

"An assistant coach said it's hard to win the game when you don't have a shot in overtime," Vellucci said. "We had six shots to their zero. So it was just a matter of time."

Now, the teams will reconvene at 7 p.m. Monday for Game 3 of the series, at the Kitchener Memorial Auditorium.

"We're happy right now, but we know it's going to be a tough game," Czarnik said. "We're going back to the Aud on Monday so it's going to be a huge game, they're not going to give up.

"We're going to have to come out stronger."

BASEBALL

SOLID SENIORS

The Chiefs still have outstanding senior catcher (and third baseman) Seth Tschetter, plus key seniors such as shortstop Chris Perkovich, second baseman Bernabe Salinas, outfielder Garrett Bryden and outfielder-pitcher Mark Main.

Add to the mix another senior (Braden Price) who returned with his family from Alaska last summer. He will patrol center field between Bryden (left field) and Main (right field).

And Tschetter will divide playing time behind the dish with senior Robby Golematis— a talented transfer from Novi-Detroit Catholic Central, who also will play plenty at first base.

"Splitting time there, that's going to keep everybody fresh,' said Blomshield, noting that Tschetter wore down physically in '10 and ended the season with an injured shoulder.

with an injured shoulder.

Blomshield said the fourthyear starter will bat third or
fourth, and likely will play
third base when he's not catch-

ing.
"He's a tough kid," the coach said. "... He still wants to play college baseball and so he's got something to fight for."

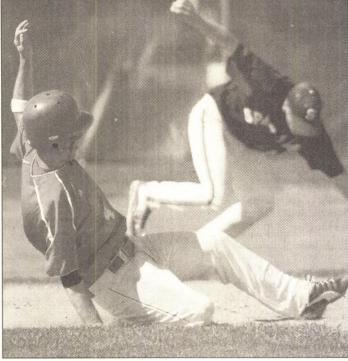
Golematis will catch
Canton's projected ace, righthanded fireballer Ryan Bazner
(also an outstanding allaround player), while Tschetter
likely will catch promising
lefthanded sophomore Michael
Stafford.

LEADING THE WAY

The Chiefs will be defensively solid up-the-middle, starting with the catching tandem

ing with the catching tandem.
The double-play combo of
Saginaw Valley-bound shortstop Perkovich and second
sacker Salinas will get the job
done in the field and make
some noise with the bat, too.

"He's really a hard worker, he's earned everything he has," said Blomshield about Perkovich. "He leads by example. He's the first one done with sprints, first one to practice and last to leave. Just



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Shown in this 2010 file photo, Canton catcher-third baseman Seth Tschetter (left) will again be a key player for the Chiefs this spring.

a great kid "

And Salinas is "a scrapper, he swings a pretty good bat. I'm challenging him to be more of a situational hitter" from the No. 9 spot in the batting order.

Price, a star three-sport athlete for Canton (also football, wrestling), is extremely fast and sure-handed with the

"You can't teach speed,"
Blomshield said. "Braden Price
can go get it like (Plymouth's
Mike) Nadratowski in center."

Mike) Nadratowski in center."
Bryden "brings intensity and he can flat-out hammer the baseball," Blomshield said.

Main is a hard-nosed player who "single-handedly beat Novi last year (in the regionals) with about two or three diving plays."

He also will be the team's third starting pitcher and second southpaw in the rotation.

WAIT AND SEE

Other pitching possibilities include senior sidearmer Jason Lynch (also a backup outfielder), senior Art Chavez and juniors Vaughn Birchler and David Blythe. Senior Sean Harte is a knuckleballer who will work out of the bullpen.

Blomshield would like Lynch to be a closer, while the others will get early season opportunities to determine the eventual fourth starter.

Stafford will play some outfield and first base in addition to pitching.

"He throws 85 (miles per hour) and right now he's — in my opinion — probably one of the top three lefthanded 16-year-olds in the state,"

Blomshield said.
Senior third baseman Rocky
Willette will see playing
time at the hot corner when
Tschetter and Bazner either

are catching or pitching.

"He didn't play a whole lot last year but he does have a good glove," the coach contin-

Other players include junior utility players Nick Tata and Greg McCurry, third-string junior catcher Evan Rinke, junior outfielder Mitch Clinton (recovering from a broken wrist) and senior utilityman Tyler Sultana (a varsity new-

comer).

"We're going to be able to hit, we're going to run and we can play good defense," summed up Blomshield, adding that his pitching staff (other than his top guys) will be a work in progress.

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Actors recreate the Last Supper in the "Living Stations of the Cross." Living Faith - Fine Arts Apostolate staged the musical meditation at Our Lady of Sorrows in Farmington for 10 years. The show moves to the Cathedral of the Most Blessed Sacrament in Detroit for 25 performances in April.

Experience the Passion of Christ at Detroit Cathedral

BY SHARON DARGAY O&E STAFF WRITER

Kelly Nieto hopes her show, the Living Stations of the Cross, will become at Lent, what *The Nutcracker* is at Christmas: A must-see family

"It's going to be a visual wake-up call, a realization of what Christ did for us on the cross. God wants us to live our faith and not just check the box that says we put in our time on Sunday. I want to inspire people and help them live the Passion," said Nieto, a Catholic convert from Farmington

The former Miss Michigan, who performed nationwide as a singer, fiddler and comedian, was inspired to create a theatrical Stations of the Cross while praying at a Good Friday service 11 years ago. The mother of five blended her original contemporary songs with Pope John Paul Il's text of the Stations of the Cross and began celebrating the devotion as a dramatic presentation 10 years ago at her home parish, Our Lady of Sorrows in Farmington. Although Nieto is assisting parish members with the 11th annual Living Stations on April 15 and 17, she's also taking a new, more elaborate production to the Cathedral of the Most Blessed Sacrament in Detroit for 25 performances, beginning Friday, April 1.

She and songwriter Nick Dalbis of Crossroads Productions in White Lake have created additional music for the new show, which includes a cast of professional performers, sets, costumes, lighting and sound. Her nonprofit corporation, Living Faith - Fine Arts Apostolate,



An actor portrays a blood-covered Jesus during the "Living Stations of the

of sets. We have costuming and

Nieto says that although the

production has "something for

lighting and effects will appeal

especially to young people. She

hopes the visual and dramatic

storytelling will draw them in

and make an indelible impres-

"It's something they'll never forget and they'll be back," she

said. "It rivals what you'll see at

the Gem or the Fox. It's a per-

and at the same time it teaches

creating a new type of musical

The production encourages

audience participation. In

addition to praying aloud at

the start of each Station, one

and visitors seated along the

Christ arrives in Jerusalem.

They sing and see some of the

main aisle wave palms as

audience member is recruited to portray Simon of Cyrene

prayer."

formance, a musical drama,

people to pray the prayers in the Stations of the Cross. We're

everyone," its contemporary

style and rock concert-like

paid actors and singers. Our

Jesus (Christopher Vaught)

is from Michigan Opera

MUSICAL PRAYER

THE LIVING STATIONS OF THE CROSS

When: April 1 and 15 performances are sold out. Tickets are still available for 10 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. April 5-8 and 12-15; 7:30 p.m. April 2, 8-9 and 16; and 2 p.m. April 3, 10 and 17 Where: The Cathedral of the Most Blessed Sacrament, 9844 Woodward, Detroit Tickets: \$15 with a \$10 discounted price for groups of 50 or more attending matinee shows. Contact: www.livingstations. org; e-mail Kelly@livingstations. org or mail a check to Living Faith - Fine Arts Apostolate, P.O. Box 343, Farmington, MI 48332

an organization dedicated to evangelizing through theater and the arts, is producing the show, which Nieto hopes to take on the road to other cities

"At Our Lady of Sorrows, we've never been able to do sets or bring in lighting effects," Nieto said. "We have a \$140,000 price tag on this one. We have \$50,000 in lights and sound. We have \$15,000 worth

Stations up close as they are played out in the aisle, as well as at the altar.

Mary Tucker, a long-time Plymouth resident who now lives in Auburn Hills, auditioned for the show because "it would be a good way to reflect on the passion of Jesus."

"It would also give me a good opportunity to look at my life and some things that need to change, which is what the Lenten season is all about," she said. Tucker plays a woman in the ensemble cast.

Elizabeth Mihalo of Livonia, who portrays Mary, also sings professionally at Blessed Sacrament, Christ Church Cranbrook and Temple Beth El. The role enables her to "evangelize and spiritually connect" as she does when she cantors, but also brings theater and dramatic intensity into the

"It's a very different role technically than opera or even musical theater," Mihalo said. "I'm partly speaking and sing-

She suspects the role will affect her own faith journey, helping her to understand the historical, human Jesus, in addition to his moral teach-

"It's a beautiful drama and I think whatever people are coming to find, they will find it, whether that's for spiritual engagement ... a moving theater experience ... a beautiful lyric love story — God and the world — they'll find it and maybe even more."

Living Faith - Fine Arts Apostolate has prepared a production kit for churches interested in staging Nieto's Living Stations of the Cross. Find more information at its Web site, www.livingstations.org.

Rosedale Gardens calls new pastor

The Rev. Steven Clark will begin a pastorate Monday, April 4 at Rosedale Gardens Presbyterian Church, in Livonia.

His first Sunday in the pulpit at Rosedale will be April 10. Clark follows the Rev. Richard Peters, who retired after 23 years in Nov. 2009 at Rosedale.

Clark was a pastor in Pennsylvania for 12 years and has pastored churches in New Jersey and Washington. He graduated in 1978 from the University of California, San Diego, in 1981 from Princeton Theological Seminary and in 2010 from Fuller Theological Seminary. He holds degrees in history, divinity and theology.

After more than 25 years of pastoring in churches, he went back to seminary to learn how to help churches better cope with the challenges of change. His two-year Th.M. program resulted in a dissertation on "Learning for Leading."

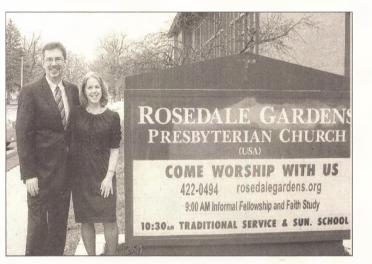
Clark and his wife, Jennie, have two adult children.

Rosedale Gardens Presbyterian Church is a congregation of 700 members with a full program of famHe graduated in 1978 from the University of California, San Diego, in 1981 from Princeton Theological Seminary and in 2010 from Fuller Theological Seminary. He holds degrees in history, divinity and theology.

ily-oriented activities. That includes two Sunday morning worship services: "Friends in Faith" at 9 a.m., and a traditional service at 10:30 a.m. Sunday School at 10:30 is for children and youth from nursery through high school. Adult Bible Studies are conducted in small groups during the year in the fall, winter, and spring seasons.

Mission activities are an important part of the church life including several mission field trips each year. An active youth program involves about 70 students in middle school and high school. people.

A full music program provides opportunities for all ages in several vocal and hand-bell choirs as well as in a new



The Rev. Steve Clark and his wife, Jennie will begin serving Rosedale Presbyterian Church on April 4.



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ENTERTAINMENT

Thursday, March 31, 2011

hometownlife (iii) com

Spiced up: FAVORITES REINVENTED

F00D, B8





it's Three Stooges time at the Redford

BY SHARON DARGAY 0&E STAFF WRITER

Some arrive wearing ties and Tshirts sporting the words "Nyuk Nyuk Nyuk."

They can translate the sounds, "smack," and "doink" as a whack to the head, followed by a quick eye poke.

And they can recite lines like "Why I outta..." and "Calling Dr. Howard, Dr. Fine, Dr. Howard," followed by a rousing chorus of "B-A-Bay."

They are, of course, fans of the Three Stooges and they'll get their twice-annual big-screen fix of Larry, Moe and Curly Friday-Saturday, April 8-9 at the Redford Theatre.

The volunteer-driven movie house created the festival more than 10 years ago at the request of patrons.

"It was Stooges, Stooges, Stooges. It was so popular we decided to do it twice a year. I get e-mails in January asking about it," said Linda Sites, a Redford resident who helps out with publicity and at the box office. "One time we had a family of cousins, uncles and brothers come in who all sat on one side of the theater. Everyone would stand up and do a 'whoop, whoop, whoop,' at times dur-

ing the film."

Not all Stooges fans are as vocal as that family was, but Sites says the fun of watching the Three Stooges — or any other classic film — on the big screen is sharing the experience with others

"We showed White Christmas in December and we had over 1,600 people. We had a huge crowd. It's because people come in with their family and their neighbors," she said. "I always think it comes down to that communal experience. It's the fun of laughing and crying with others."

The shared experience also includes intermission, 65 varieties of candy and "real butter" on the popcorn.

FILM FAVORITES

A film selection committee considers patron requests — a suggestion box is stationed in the lobby — and chooses each season's series.

Summer programming will include Star Trek in 70 mm, the classic Hitchcock film, Rebecca, and a visit by the Somewhere In Time's international fan club president, Jo Addie. Her appearance will coincide with a screening of the film, which was shot in 1979 mostly on Mackinac Island.

She'll share her experiences as an extra on the set with Christopher Reeve and Jayne Seymour.

"With the passing of Elizabeth Taylor, we want to do something for her in the fall," Sites said. "We're also having our animation festival again. That has become a regular event.

"I tried to get the *King and I* and called around, but it's not on 35 mm any more. We show 16, 35 and 70 mm films."

Sites said the Three Stooges appeared in 190 short films, many of which are available for screening. The theater's film selection committee tries to "mix them up" and show different titles each season.

"I think because of the classic theater and the organ the requests I get more often than not are for classic films. I've had a 16-year-old e-mail me and it was for a classic film."

The Motor City Theatre Organ Society owns and operates the Redford Theatre. About 200 members have pitched in at the theatre and 100 of them are frequent volunteers.

For more information about becoming a volunteer or for a schedule of upcoming films, visit redford-theatre.com

THREE STOOGES FESTIVAL

What: Six short films

When: 8 p.m. Friday, April 8, and 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Saturday, April 9
Where: The Redford Theatre, 17360 Lahser, north of Grand River
Ave., Detroit

Details: "Whoops! I'm an Indian," "Back to the Woods," "Termites of 1938," Oily to Bed, Oily to Rise," "A Plumbing We Will Go," and "Cactus Makes Perfect." Films range from 1936-1942. Tickets are \$5 **Contact:** (313) 537-2560



"Whoops! I'm an Indian" is one of six short Three Stooges Films that will screen April 8-9 at the Redford Theatre.



Art on display at a previous "Artwork After Dark" in Farmington Hills.

Enjoy wine, art at Farmington Hills event

"Art After Dark," a wine tasting with art and music, will run from 7-10 p.m., Friday, April 15, at the Costick Center, 28600 W. 11 Mile, in Farmington Hills.

Whole Foods Market of West Bloomfield will supply more than 30 varieties of wine for the tasting. Wine experts will be on hand to answer questions and a prize raffle will be held for those who order wine that evening.

Participants will get the chance to browse through more than 200 pieces of artwork for sale from the Farmington Art

Foundation, while listening to live jazz.

"Art After Dark is absolutely one of our favorite events of the year," stated Renee Mahon, marketing and communications director for Whole Foods Market. "We love sharing our excellent wines, working with the City of Farmington Hills and supporting our arts community."

Tickets to the event are \$20 in advance, and \$25 at the door. They're available online at https://recreg.fhgov.com or can be ordered by phone at

(248) 473-1848. They're also available at the Costick Center; Whole Foods Market of West Bloomfield, 7350 Orchard Lake Road; or the Greater Farmington Area Chamber of Commerce 33425 Grand River Ave., suite 101, in downtown Farmington.

Dress for the event is from casual to dressy. For more information on "Art After Dark" and other upcoming events, call the Cultural Arts Division at (248) 473-1856.



Diva Dog, Annie, photographer Jill Andra Young's late Basenji. Young will photograph children and dogs in feathers, pearls and tulle Saturday, April 2, at Diva Day in downtown Plymouth.

Shop, snack and mingle at Diva Day

BY SHARON DARGAY O&E STAFF WRITER

Bring on the feathery boas, hors d'oeuvres and shop-till-you-drop bargains — the third annual Diva Day is expected to bring 500-plus moms, daughters, sisters, and girlfriends into downtown Plymouth Saturday, April 2.

Shoppers will find more than 30 participating shops, boutiques, salons and restaurants, offering discounts, refreshments, giveaways and prizes.

"It's kind of a way to break into the spring season and shop for something fun," said Teri Fry, events manager for the Plymouth Chamber of Commerce. "Come in groups. Bring a friend, a sister a mother and daughter and have a good time."

Lime green and purple balloons will identify participating stores and the first 500 Diva Day shoppers will receive a purple boa.

Fry said the boas, which are distributed at each Diva Day, generally are gone by noon.

Razzamatazz, Old World Olive Press, Isabella's Copper Pot and Cupcake Station are new to the event. Maps of Diva Day merchants will be available at participating shops.

Retailers Johanna Ohagan and Kristi Partain opened Razzamatazz at 470 Forest, last fall, just in time for downtown Plymouth's annual Ladies Night Out.

"We had no idea what it was going to be like," said Ohagan, adding that the crowd was bigger than expected. "It was fun."

She said the store will be prepared for Diva Day with appetizers, wine, and a

giveaway of light-up wrist bands.
Razzamatazz sells home decorating items and gifts, including jewelry, candles, vases, tools, lighters, and one-of-akind handmade items.

"We have a birthday section and a wedding section. We have seasonal items, so we have a lot of Easter right now."

Shoppers who make a purchase at the store during Diva Day will be entered into a drawing for a bunny house and bunny. Ohagan said the item could be used as a "cute centerpiece."

PICTURE PERFECT

Jill Andra Young can never have too much tulle or too many feather boas and pearls on hand during Diva Day. "We probably did more dogs," said Young, recalling her Diva Day photography session last year.

Her "Little Diva and Diva Dogs" event on Saturday is aimed at canines and kids. The \$30 package includes a take-home 4by 6-inch photo and a \$20 order worth of photos in various sizes.

She keeps a tiara, "blingy rings," tulle, pearls and boas on hand for both human and canine models at her studio, located at 825 Penniman.

"Dogs like the feather boas. We use the tulle and feather boas and wrap them up in it," she said. "If the dogs don't find it objectionable I have stretchy pearls they can wear. It depends on the pet personality."

Diva Day runs from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, April 2. Other participants are Basket Kreations, Bella Mia, Creatopia Pottery Studio, Dearborn Jewelers, Eclectic Attic, Genuine Toy Co., GiGi's Mode, Hands on Leather, Haven, Home Sweet Home, Magnolia Fresh Flower Shop, Penniman Gallery, RSVP, sideways, Sun & Snow, That's Awesome, TranquiliTea and Wilcox Consignment.

GET OUT!

ART

City Gallery

Time/Date: Through April 8; gallery hours are 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday **Location**: In the Costick Center at 28600 W. 11 Mile, Farmington Hills

Details: Work by Stephen Deeb, head of the art department at North Farmington High School **Coming up:** Farmington Art Foundation holds its Spring Exhibit and Sale, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Thursday, April 14, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Friday, April 15 and 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, April 16 at the Costick Center. Opening reception, 6 p.m., followed by awards at 6:30 p.m., April 14 **Contact:** (248) 473-1856

COMEDY

Go Comedy!

Time/Date: Various show times Wednesdays thru Sundays

Location: 261 E. Nine Mile, Ferndale

Details: Improv most nights. Open mic/jam session show for improvisers is 10 p.m. Wednesdays

Contact: (248) 327-0575; www.gocomedy.net

JD's House of Comedy

Time/Date: Various show times Wednesday-Saturday evenings

Location: 25333 W. 12 Mile, inside Star Theatre complex, Southfield

Details: Stand-up shows, 8 p.m. Thursday and 8 p.m., 10:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday; Apollo amateur night, 8 p.m. Wednesday

Contact: (248) 348-2420 or www.ticketmaster.

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**: Chili Challis, March 30-April 2; Chas Elsner, April 6-9; Floyd J. Phillips, April 13-16; Mark Poolos, April 20-23; Claude Stewart, April 27-30; Mike Green, May 4-7; Rob Little, May 11-14

Contact: (734) 261-0555, www.kickerscomplex.

Laugh for Life

Time/Date: 7-9 p.m., April 1 Location: Knox Hall at Ward Presbyterian Church, 40000 Six Mile, Northville

Details: Fundraiser for AAA Pregnancy Resource Center in Livonia, features Christian comedian, Bob Stromberg. Tickets are \$15 available at www.aaaprc.org. Concessions will be available. School-aged children welcome **Contact**: (734) 425-8060

Mark Ridley's Comedy Castle

Time/Date: Lynne Koplitz, March 31-April 2; Steve McGrew, April 7-9; Michael Somerville, April 14-16; T.J. Miller, April 21-23; Don Friesen, April 28-30; Kathleen Madigan, May 5-7; John Pinette, May 12-14 Location: 269 E. Fourth, Royal Oak

Stand-up classes: A six-week session with comedian Bill Bushart, meets 1::30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Saturday, beginning April 2. Cost is \$175. Call the Comedy Castle to reserve a spot

Contact: (248) 542-9900, www.comedycastle.com

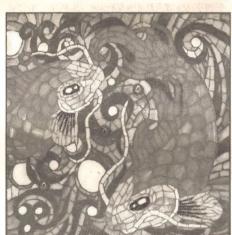
CONCERTS

The Ark

Time/Date: Matt Wertz, March 31; The Julian Lage Group, April 1; The RFD Boys, April 2; Gemini, April 3; The Civil Wars & White Dress, April 3; Garnet Rogers & Archie Fisher, April 4; Over the Rhine & Lucy Wainwright Roche, April 5; David Bromberg & Angel Band, April 7; Steppin' in it, April 8; Mr. B's Piano Celebration, April 9-10; Brendan James & Matt White & Lauren Pritchard, April 11; Adrian Legg, April 12; Catie Curtis & Amy Speace, April 13; Breathe Owl Breathe & The Photographers, April 14; The Johnny Clegg Band, April 15; Anais Mitchell, April 16; Shape Note Singing, April 17; Peter Yarrow, April 17



Sharen Bradford performs with the Complexions Contemporary Ballet. The group will dance April 2-3 at Music Hall in Detroit.



Mosaics, such as this piece by artist Wesley Wong, will be on exhibit April 1-27 at Northville

Location: 316 South Main, Ann Arbor Contact: (734) 763-8587; www.theark.org

Baseline Folk Society

Time/Date: Third Saturday of the month Location: The JWH Center for the Arts, Plymouth Community Arts Council, 774 N. Sheldon, Plymouth

Details: Eight "open-mic" performances plus a featured group. Sign up for open mic from 6:15-6:45 p.m.; show starts at 7 p.m. Open mic performers may sing two songs. If more than eight performers sign up, a lottery will be held for the eight spots. 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.

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. Complimentary hors d' oeu-

Contact: (734) 453-1780 www.PlymouthElks1780.

Trinity House Theatre

Time/Date: Trinity House Theatre Benefit Concert, April 1; Empty Chair Night, April 3; Putnam Smith, April 8, Melissa Greener, April 9; The Choir, April 14; Brooks Williams with Mike Vial, April 15; Tim Eriksen with Nick Schillace, April 16; Songwriters Anonymous Showcase, April 29; Craig Cardiff, April 30

Location: 38840 W. Six Mile, Livonia **Contact**: (734) 464-6302, www.trinityhouse.org

Village Theater at Cherry Hill

Time/Date: 8 p.m. April 2 and 2 p.m. April 3
Location: 50400 Cherry Hill, Canton
Details: Comic Opera Guild performs "The Gra

Details: Comic Opera Guild performs "The Grand Duchess of Gerolstein." Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$17 for seniors and students

Contact: (734) 394-5460; cantonvillagetheater. org

Vivace Music Series

Time/Date: 8 p.m., Saturday, April 11 Location: The Birmingham Temple, 28611 W. 12 Mile, Farmington Hills

Details: Eugenia Zukerman will share the stage with Russian/American soprano Svetlana Strezeva and her daughter, pianist, Milana Strezeva. The program will feature music by well known Russian and French composers in folk and classical traditions. Tickets are \$23 general admission and \$20 for senior citizens and students

Contact: Ann Sipher at (248) 661-1348 or Joyce Cheresh at (248) 788-9338

DANCE

Music Hall

Time/Date: 8 p.m. April 2, 2 p.m. April 3 Location: 350 Madison, Detroit

Details: Complexions Contemporary Ballet interprets U2 and The Rolling Stones, along with compositions by many Jazz, Gospel and Blues greats. Tickets are \$30, \$40 and \$50

Contact: (313) 887-8500; www.ticketmaster.com

FAMILY

Arab American National Museum
Time/Date: 2-5 p.m. Saturday, April 2
Location: 13624 Michigan Ave., Dearborn
Details: "Spring into Spring" with live butterflies, spring crafts, kid karaoke, cookie decorating, scavenger hunt and more. A pizza feast and sweet seasonal dessert will be served from 2:30-4 p.m.
Themed gift basket raffle will be held during the event. Tickets for the raffle are \$1 each. Admission is \$6 for children ordered in advance at www. arabamericanmuseum.org or \$8 at the door; all activities and refreshments are included. Adults admitted free. Adult food tickets will be available

for \$2 during the event

Contact: Janice Freij at (313) 624-0203 or jfreij@
accesscommunity.org

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

Detroit Zoo

Time/Date: 10 a.m.-4 p.m. daily
Location: 1-696 service drive and Woodward,
Royal Oak

Contact: (313) 833-7900, www.dia.org

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

FILM

MJR Cinema

Time/Date: Saturday and Sunday through April 3 Location: MJR theaters, including 6601 Allen Road in Allen Park; 15651 Trenton Road in Southgate; and 7501 Highland Road in Waterford

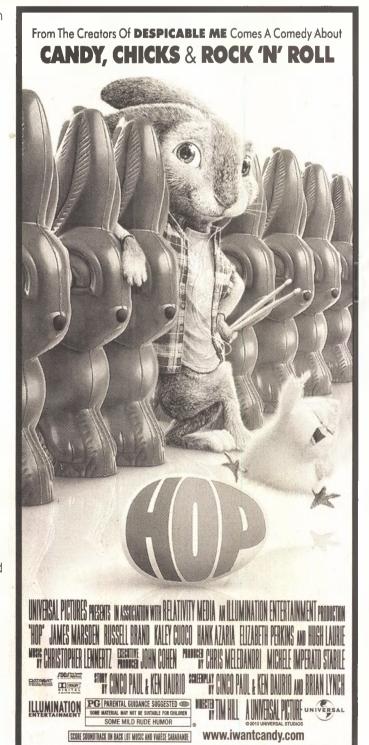
Details: Free children's festival wraps up with "Megamind," April 2-3. Free for children, 12 and under; tickets for parents are \$1 each. Call the theater for show times or check online at mirtheatres.com

Contact: Call the Allen Park theater at (313) 381-1125; the Southgate theater at (734) 284-FILM (3456); and the Waterford theater at (248) 666-7900



Royal fun

John Boufford of Northville is King Sextimus and Kristi Schwartz of Canton is Queen Aggravain in the Spotlight Players' production of the comedy musical "Once Upon A Mattress," April 8-17 at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill in Canton. Curtain is at 8 p.m. Friday, April 8 and 15; 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Saturday, April 9 and 16 and 2 p.m. Sunday, April 10 and 17. Tickets are \$18 for adults and \$16 for seniors and students under 19. (734) 480-4945.



STARTS FRIDAY, APRIL I
CHECK LOCAL LISTINGS FOR THEATERS AND SHOWTIMES

FOOD

Thursday, March 31, 2011

hometownlife m com

HAVE A STORY IDEA?

Contact Editor Sharon Dargay Voice Mail: (313) 222-8883 E-mail: sdargay@hometownlife.com Comment online at hometownlife.com

FAVORITES REINVENTED WITH FLAVORFUL SURPRISES

ith spice consumption at an all-time high across America, it's an exciting time for flavor. According to the McCormick® Flavor Forecast® 2011, different tastes, textures and colors are mixed and matched to deliver fun and excitement to eating.

"We're seeing a more adventuresome spirit in the kitchen - playful takes on America's favorites that bring both the comfort of familiarity and the energy of the unexpected," says Larry Tong, McCormick chef. "For example, a contemporary combination of mustard seed and vermouth sparks a martini-inspired steak kabob, complete with onion and olive garnishes."

Tong sees this lighthearted approach showing up in every course of the meal — right through to dessert. Taking a cue from the report's Herbes de Provence & Popcorn pairing, a deliciously creamy, nobake cheesecake has a crust of playful and crunchy crushed popcorn accented with savory Herbes de Provence.

For more recipes and featured flavors, visit www. FlavorForecast.com.

DIRTY MARTINI STEAK KABOBS

Makes 8 servings (2 kabobs and 1 cup salad each)

Prep Time: 20 minutes Refrigerate Time: 2 hours Cook Time: 15 minutes

3 tablespoons McCormick Gourmet Collection

Yellow Mustard Seed 3/4 cup dry vermouth

½ cup olive oil

4 cup fresh lemon juice

2 tablespoons honey

1½ teaspoons grated lemon peel 2 tablespoons juice from green olives

1½ teaspoons McCormick Gourmet Collection

Sicilian Sea Salt

1 teaspoon minced garlic

¼ teaspoon McCormick Gourmet Collection Coarse Grind Black Pepper

2 pounds boneless beef sirloin steak, cut into 1-inch cubes

16 small cippolini onions

16 large pimiento-stuffed green olives

Mixed Greens with Mustard Vinaigrette (recipe sidebar)

1. Heat large nonstick skillet on medium heat. Add mustard seed; cook and stir 1 minute or until fragrant. Immediately pour out of hot pan to avoid over-toasting. Coarsely crush seeds using a rolling pin or a mortar and pestle. Reserve 1 tablespoon for the Mustard Vinaigrette (recipe sidebar).

2. Mix remaining mustard seed, vermouth, oil, lemon juice, honey, olive juice, lemon peel, sea salt, garlic and pepper in large bowl until well blended. Reserve 1/4 cup of the marinade for brushing. Place remaining marinade in large resealable plastic bag or glass dish. Add steak; turn to coat well. Refrigerate 2 hours or longer for extra flavor.

3. Meanwhile, bring water to boil in small saucepan. Add onions; cook 5 minutes. Drain well. Cool onions slightly. Cut off top and bottom ends, then peel onions. Remove steak from marinade. Discard remaining marinade. Alternately thread steak, onions and olives onto 16 skewers.

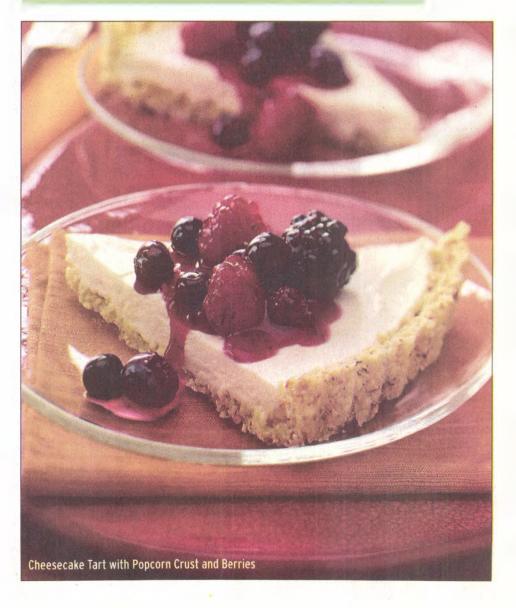
4. Grill kabobs over medium heat 8 to 10 minutes or until steak is desired doneness, turning occasionally and brushing with reserved marinade. Serve kabobs with Mixed Greens with Mustard Vinai-

Nutritional information per serving: 418 Calories, Fat 24g, Protein 28g, Carbohydrates 19g, Cholesterol 62mg, Sodium 713mg, Fiber 3g



MIXED GREENS WITH MUSTARD VINAIGRETTE

Mix /2 cup lemon juice, 1/4 cup olive oil, 2 tablespoons honey, reserved 1 tablespoon crushed toasted McCormick Gourmet Collection Yellow Mustard Seed, 1 teaspoon dry vermouth, ½ teaspoon McCormick Gourmet Collection Ground Mustard and 1/4 teaspoon McCormick Gourmet Collection Sicilian Sea Salt in medium bowl with wire whisk until well blended. Set aside. Toss 8 cups mixed greens, 1 small red onion, thinly sliced, and $^{\prime\!/}_2$ cup crumbled blue cheese in large bowl. Serve with vinaigrette.



CHEESECAKE TART WITH POPCORN CRUST AND BERRIES

Makes 8 servings Prep Time: 20 minutes Cook Time: 10 minutes

Refrigerate Time: 2 hours Popcorn Crust:

3 cups unsalted popped popcorn

1/2 cup sugar

6 tablespoons butter, melted 2 teaspoons McCormick Gourmet Collection Herbes de Provence

Cheesecake Tart with Berries: 1 package (8 ounces) cream cheese, softened

1 cup mascarpone cheese 1½ tablespoons honey

¼ cup sugar

1 tablespoon cornstarch

1 teaspoon McCormick Gourmet Collection Herbes de Provence

½ cup water 1 teaspoon lemon juice

1 cup blueberries

2 cups mixed berries, such as blackberries, raspberries and

1. Preheat oven to 350°F. For the crust, place popcorn, about 1 cup at a time, in bowl of food processor or blender; cover. Process until finely ground. Mix ground popcorn, /3 cup sugar, butter and 2 teaspoons Herbes de Provence in medium bowl until well blended. Press mixture firmly onto bottom of foil-lined 9-inch tart pan. Bake 8 to 10 minutes or until lightly browned. Cool completely on wire rack.

2. For the tart, mix cream cheese, mascarpone cheese and honey in medium bowl with electric mixer on medium speed until well blended. Spread evenly in prepared

crust. Refrigerate at least 2 hours or until ready to serve.
3. Mix ¼ cup sugar, cornstarch and 1 teaspoon Herbes de Provence in medium saucepan. Stir in water and lemon juice until well blended. Stir in blueberries. Stirring constantly, bring to boil on medium heat and boil 1 minute. Pour into medium bowl to cool slightly. Add remaining berries; toss gently to coat well. Refrigerate until ready to serve. Remove tart from foil-lined pan. Cut into slices to serve. Top with berry mixture.

Nutritional information per serving: 406 Calories, Fat 30g, Protein 5g, Carbohydrates 29g, Cholesterol 98mg, Sodium 182mg, Fiber 3g

- Family Features

REALESTATE

PAGE B9 (*) Thursday, March 31, 2011

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Contact Us

PHONE: (800) 579-SELL (7355) FAX: (313)496-4968 E-MAIL: oeads@hometownlife.com **BILLING QUESTIONS? (313) 222-8748** HOME DELIVERY: (866) 887-2737

CLASSIFIED DEADLINES: SUNDAY EDITION, 4:30 P.M. FRIDAY THURSDAY EDITION, 4:30 P.M. TUESDAY

Julie Brown, editor. (313) 222-6755 icbrown@hometownlife.com

MSU offers 'go green' tips for spring lawns

With spring here, thoughts turn to lush green lawns. Michigan State University Extension has a website offering knowledge on lawn care.

MOW HIGH - RECYCLE CLIPPINGS

- · Mow at least 3" high
- Return clippings to recycle nutrients
- Sweep or blow clippings from walks and driveways onto the lawn
- · Taller grass crowds out weeds and promotes deeper roots
- Deeper roots help the lawn survive droughts

CHOOSE LAWN-TYPE FERTILIZERS

- · Choose lawn fertilizers with low or no phosphorus (the middle number) and follow the directions
- Avoid using "triple" products (e.g. 12-
- Confirm spreader setting before applying

CLEAN UP - AVOID SURFACE WATER

- Maintain a NO APPLICATION zone near lakes, rivers, streams and storm
- Never discharge clippings near lakes, rivers, streams or drains
- Sweep fertilizer granules from walks and driveways onto the lawn
- Wash your spreader on the grass

WATER SMART

- Don't soak your lawn and avoid night watering
- · Watering should not produce puddles; lighter, more frequent watering is
- Brown lawns are OK; dormancy is a natural response to drought, however, some water may be necessary during an extended drought of more than a month
- Following Go Green Lawncare Tips will reduce the amount of water your lawn needs

Soil compaction, soil layering and excessive thatch buildup are common problems on home lawns in Michigan. These conditions do not allow adequate water movement into the soil, drainage of water through the soil profile, adequate oxygen in the soil or easy root growth. The results are shallow rooting, inefficient water use and poor turf health.

Cultivation (also called aerification) is the process of physically modifying the soil by removing plugs from the soil profile. There are several types of specialized equipment designed for this procedure. The most common include those with hollow tines that remove a core of soil. Others have solid tine spikes that punch holes into the soil.

SOIL COMPACTION AND SOIL LAYERING

Soil compaction is the result of soil particles being pushed together. It severely reduces the air spaces in the soil. Maintaining air space in the soil is important for water drainage and oxy-



gen exchange for turf roots. Compaction problems are most severe in fine-textured soils (high clay content). Severe compaction can result when these soils are subjected to high traffic. This is a common problem where turf is established on subsoils excavated from basements during the house construction process. Soils containing a higher sand content are more resistant to compaction, but heavy traffic can still compact these soils. Soil layering occurs when different soils are stacked one on top of another. This condition results in poor water movement between layers and inhibits root growth into the lower soil layer. This also occurs when subsoils excavated from basements are placed on the surface, then a shallow layer of topsoil is placed on top of the subsoils. This problem is also evident when sod is placed directly on very fine- or very coarse-textured soils.

Under these conditions, cultivation techniques can improve water infiltration and increase the air space. This procedure will provide for better rooting, which will allow the turf to be more resilient and better tolerate traffic, drought stress, and weed, disease and insect pres-

THATCH

Thatch is the accumulation of dead and decomposing turf stems, leaves and roots intermixed with live plant roots. Clippings do not contribute to thatch buildup. Clippings decompose quickly and should be returned to the turf.

Thatch is the brown layer between the soil surface and the green top growth. A thatch layer of approximately ½ inch is beneficial because it acts as a buffer at the soil surface and protects the plants from weather extremes. Thatch that builds up over 1 inch, however, can inhibit water and air movement and eventually weakens the turf stand. The thatch layer is home to a variety of microorganisms that are responsible for its decomposition. A buildup of thatch occurs when it is being produced faster than it is being decomposed. Some grasses, such as Kentucky bluegrass, accumulate thatch faster than others. Compacted soils and overwatering also encourage thatch formation. Effective thatch control requires an integrated program combining proper grass selection, irrigation, fertilization, and timely cultivation and dethatching.

CULTIVATION EQUIPMENT

There are several types of cultivation tools. MSU research indicates that using a machine that removes a core of soil is more effective than those that slice or push holes into the soil using solid tines. For hollow tine machines, the combination of tine size and spacing will determine the amount of soil that you can remove. Tines at least ½ inch in diameter should be used. Larger tines are suggested for more severe compaction or thatch problems. As a general rule, there should be a hole every 3 inches and you should aerify between 4 and 6 percent of the

surface area (see table below). Wide tine spacing and small tine diameter have little effect on a turf. For example, compare an aerifier in the table below that has a 2- by 2-inch spacing with one that has a 4- by 6-inch spacing. It would require six passes with the latter to achieve the same number of holes as one pass with the closer spacing.

DEPTH OF CULTIVATION

Generally, the deeper the cultivation, the better. As a minimum, we suggest 2.5 inches. Let's say a thatch layer of 1.5 inches exists on a site and the tines reach only to a depth of 2 inches - only ½ inch of soil will be brought to the surface with each tine. Considering the low percentage of area affected (see table), this activity will have almost no impact on mixing soil with the thatch, regardless of the number of passes.

CULTIVATION FREQUENCY AND TIMING

For many bluegrass lawns, one cultivation per year is adequate. If there is a significant thatch layer (1 inch or more) or the area is severely compacted, two or more cultivations per year will be beneficial. When it becomes evident that the thatch has been reduced to less than 1 inch and the turf is rooting well into the soil below, the frequency of cultivation can be reduced to annual treatments. The degree of compaction, soil conditions and the use of the turf will determine how frequently cultivation will be needed.

CULTIVATION TIPS

The cultivation process will cause some injury to turf. Fertilizing approximately a week before cultivation will increase the growth rate of the grass and promote quick recovery. Cultivating during spring or fall is most desirable because the turf will recover quickly. Many cores will be left on the lawn after the operation. These cores can be broken up by dragging a mat over the lawn to sift the cores back into the turf. Seeding the lawn after a cultivation procedure is a very effective way to introduce more desirable grasses.

For best results, pay attention to the moisture content in the soil when cultivating. Soil that is too dry will not allow the tines to penetrate adequately. Wet conditions may cause unnecessary damage to the turf.

Effect of Tine Diameter and Spacing on Percent of Area Affected

Tine diameter (inches) Tine spacing and percent of area affected

	2" x 2"	2" x 4"	4" x 6"
4	1.2	0.6	0.2
/8	2.8	1.4	0.5
/2	4.9	2.5	0.8
/8	7.7	3.8	1.3
/4	11.0	5.5	1.8
	19.6	9.8	3.3

HOMES SOLD-OAKLAND

These are the area residential real-estate closings recorded the week of December 13-17, 2010, at the Oakland County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

Beverly Hills 18215 Birwood Ave	\$130,000
Birmingham 1839 Birmingham Blvd 1771 Cote St 1668 Graefield Rd Unit 64 1936 Haynes St	\$236,000 \$185,000 \$55,000 \$99,000

603 Suffield Ave	\$735,000	27560 Royal Cre
1492 W Lincoln St	\$220,000	37099 Sandalwo
Commerce Townshi	ip.	39248 Silverthor
2798 Aldrington Ct	\$220,000	22114 Tulane Ave
1925 Applebrook Dr	\$50,000	
8426 Arlis St	\$83,000	17630 Ramsgate
8623 War Bonnet Dr	\$125,000	•
Farmington		1601 Hidden Valle
23011 Farmington Rd	\$135,000	1844 Quendale Li
22775 Maple Ave	\$105,000	219 W Lafayette S
Farmington Hills		
29947 Beacontree St	\$90,000	28364 Carlton W
29472 Juneau Ln	\$155,000	27473 Cromwell I
21130 Middlebelt Rd	\$69,000	21029 Dundee Dr
37029 Ridgedale Ct	\$59,000	28919 Hearthsto

7560 Royal Crescent Dr	\$160,000	40892 Kingsley Ln	\$27
7099 Sandalwood	\$150,000	25766 Laramie Dr	\$355
9248 Silverthorne Bnd	\$226,000	South Lyon	
2114 Tulane Ave	\$76,000	118 Woodland Dr	\$31
Lathrup Village		Southfield	
7630 Ramsgate Dr	\$77,000	28549 Castlegate Dr	\$120
Milford		18493 Lincoln Dr	\$100
601 Hidden Valley Dr	\$340,000	17016 Melrose St	\$103
844 Quendale Ln	\$195,000	29982 Rambling Rd	\$110
19 W Lafayette St	\$104,000	30220 Southfield Rd # A243	\$22
Novi		White Lake	
28364 Carlton Way Dr	\$116,000	657 Red Bank Dr	\$254
?7473 Cromwell Rd	\$45,000		
21029 Dundee Dr	\$385,000		

REAL ESTATE BRIEFS

Career Seminar

A Real Estate Career Seminar will be held 6:30-7:30 p.m. Thursday, April 21, at Keller Williams Realty, 40600 Ann Arbor Road, Suite 100, Plymouth. You can learn about the free pre-licen-

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

• Building Industry Association of Southeastern Michigan (BIA) will sponsor a three-hour Continuing Competency course, required for license renewal for both Builders and Maintenance and Alterations Contractors licenses, on Tuesday, April 12, from 9 a.m. to noon at Association Offices, 2075 Walnut Lake Road, West Bloomfield.

For those with licenses issued prior to Jan. 1, 2009, three hours of continuing competency are required each licensing cycle. The instructor, Don Pratt, CGB, CGR, CGP, CAPS, of CECS of Michigan, LLC, will present

one hour for each of the required subjects: legal issues, codes, and safety issues. Registration fees are \$55 for members or guests. For registration information, call (248) 862-1002 or register online at www.builders.org/ events.php.

• Apartment Association of Michigan's (AAM) Property Management Council (PMC) will sponsor a seminar for leasing professionals called Leasing 101: The 2011 Tour on Friday, April 15, from 9 a.m. to noon at Association Offices, 2075 Walnut Lake Road, West Bloomfield.

Kathleen Mabie of Ann Arborbased Success On Site will provide guidelines to increase occupancy immediately. Topics to be presented include Competitive Analysis, Closing from Start to Finish, Secure Contacts when they call, hit websites, or send e-mail, Meet and Greet Interface, Follow-up and more. The entire leasing process will be covered.

Registration fees are \$69 for PMC members, \$79 for AAM or Building Industry Association members and

\$99 for guests. For registration information, call (248) 862-1002 or register online at: www.builders.org/ events.php.

• Building Industry Association of Southeastern Michigan's (BIA) NAHBR Professional Remodelers Council will hold a three-part seminar series called "Your Master Planned Business" on April 19, June 15 and Oct. 19.

The seminars will be presented by Dawn Drozd, business coach and CEO of ClearVision Business Coaching. Part One, to be presented on April 19 is "Measure Twice, Cut Once." Part Two is "Your Master Blueprint" and will be held on June 15. Part Three is "Project Review" and will be held on Oct. 19.

The April 19 program will begin at 12:30 p.m. with lunch followed by the seminar from 1-2:30 p.m. It will be held at the Ford Conference & Event Center at 1151 Village Road in Dearborn in conjunction with the Pella Pro Expo being held at that location later that day. The June 15

and Oct. 19 programs will each run from noon to 2 p.m., including lunch, at Association Offices, 2075 Walnut Lake Road in West Bloomfield.

Registration fees for members or guests are \$40 per person for each seminar or \$80 per person, if you register for all three seminars. For further information, call (248) 862-1002 or register online at: www.builders. org/events.php.

Investors

The Real Estate Investor Association of Wayne County holds monthly meetings the first Tuesday of each month at the Holiday Inn, 17201 Northline Road, Southgate. Entrance fee is \$20 for nonmembers to be applied to annual membership. For information, call (313) 819-0919 or visit www.reiawaynecounty.org. At 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 5, the association will host Dennis Priem from Lead Paint Safety Classes LLC. Call (734) 552-3316. He will be speaking on the EPA's lead paint safety standards and liability lawsuits.

Energy tax credit a boon

Q: Can you give me some information about the Residential Renewal Energy Tax

A: Individual taxpayers are eligible for a personal tax credit equal to 30 percent of the cost of qualified



Robert Meisner

solarelectric, solar hot water, small wind energy, and geothermal heat pump property.

applicability of this credit has been extended until Dec. 31, 2016, and the previous cap of \$2,000 has been eliminated. You are best advised, however, to speak with your tax accountant. Q: I have heard that the Residential Energy-Efficiency Tax Credit has been repealed.

Could you describe what it was and what is going to happen, if you know, regarding any extension? A: The federal tax credit was equal to 30 percent of the amount expended for purchasing new, efficient technologies such as water heaters, furnaces, boilers, heat pumps, central air conditioners, insulation, windows, doors, roofs and fans. The maximum amount of this tax credit for all technologies placed in service in 2009 and

2010 was \$1,500. However,

this provision expired on December 31, 2010, but there is currently a bill in Congress to extend this program, but it has not passed as of yet. You may want to write your legislators in Congress regarding this act. Robert M. Meisner is a lawyer and the author of Condominium Operation: Getting Started & Staying on the Right Track, second edition. It is available

for \$9.95 plus \$1 shipping and handling. He also wrote Condo Living: A Survival Guide to Buying, Owning and Selling a Condominium, available for \$24.95 plus \$5 shipping and handling. Call (248) 644-4433 or visit bmeisner@meisner-associates. com. This column shouldn't be construed as legal advice.

HOMES SOLD-WAYNE

These are the area residential realestate closings recorded the week of Dec. 13-16, 2010, at the Wayne County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

Canton

3921 Cornerstone Dr	\$131,000
3933 Cornerstone Dr	\$125,000
1034 Paddington Rd	\$122,000
Garden City	
1510 Farmington Rd	\$30,000
14096 Fairway St	\$132,000
11727 Haller St	\$35,000
14900 Harrison St	\$190,000
18682 Lathers St	\$60,000
11027 Melrose St	\$157,000
Northville	
44659 Broadmoor Cir N	\$340,000
Plymouth	
41102 Greenbrook Ln	\$152,000
497 Irvin St	\$345,000
Redford	
16020 Negaunee	\$35,000
9128 Winston	\$41,000
Westland	
8241 Hugh St	\$45,000
•	



(*)



CROSSWORD PUZZLER

ACROSS

- Sahib's rule
- 4 Rind 8 Food or dog
- 12 Pigskin prop 13 Education by
- memorization
- 14 In a frenzy 15 Afore
- 16 Bakes in sauce
- 18 Some under-

- grads
- 20 Collide with
- 21 Z - zebra 24 Not neatniks
- 28 Bolted
- 31 Lease 33 Mongo dwelling
- 34 Brown-truck
- 35 1960's singer
- Little -36 Average grade
- 37 Mild rejoinder 39 Dry, as cham-
- pagne 40 Fake

- 41 Branigan or Dern 43 Lasso
- 45 CPR pro 47 Sigh or murmur
- 51 Vitamin E source (2 wds.)
- 56 Commotion
- 57 Motel vacancy
- 58 Sneaking suspicion
- 59 TLC providers 60 Urges
- 61 Watch pockets 62 -- kwon do

DOWN

- 1 66 and I-80 2 Prefix for dynamic
- 3 Cherokee, for one
- Push down
- 5 Aurora, to Socrates
- 6 Handy abbr 7 Nonsense

writer

- 9 MD employer 10 Oola's guy 11 Mo. fractions

TER

8 Without fuss

- 17 Vegas lead-in 19 Possessed
- - need 29 Links org

Answer to Previous Puzzle

CAMP

ELBA

PANCREAS SINE

INURESTACKED

AAAEGO

G R E M L I N A W A I T O A R M U M N O D

OPALSNORMANS

AOKPOE

ANGULAR CADGE

NEEDFOLKLORE

ALIT

1-18 @ 2011 United Feature Syndicate, Inc.

KLEEGAL

22 Seine vistas

26 La - Tar Pits

23 At no time

27 Wine glass

feature

28 Furnace's

25 Ow!

MEDS

ORAL

- 30 Hairy twin
- 32 Mexican
- munchie 38 Aspirations
- 40 Mount a gemstone
- 42 Invoice no. 44 Fierce felines
- 46 Pre-weekend shout
- 48 Little pie
- 49 Ms. Ferber 50 Many-petaled
- flower 51 Lopsided
- 52 Clod buster
- 53 Untold
- centuries
- 54 Shoguns' capital
- 55 Dixie fighter



Numbers

Fun By The

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Here's How It Works:

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!

Word Search - Baby Care

Q		Υ	Α	S		Α	S	F	T	0	В	С	D	W	
F	R	N	L	M	L	Υ	G	T	Ε	T	L	1	N		
C	Н	Ε	F	U	K	В	L	В	E	0	Z	D	R	В	
W	E	W	M	Α	J	S	T	Z	T	В	0	1	G	C	
P	J	R	P		N	F	В	Н	Н	Z	T	A	V	٧	
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T	A	Ε	T	Α	C		L	Ε	D	K	R	K	Υ	Ε	
R	K	S	W	E	C	G	Υ	В	Α	В	A	L	F	D	
D	T	F	S	Α	K	M	E	T	F	R	C		N	C	
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baby bassinet blanket

PP

bottle car seat clothing

crib cry delicate

GEWNTUBV

diaper formula infant

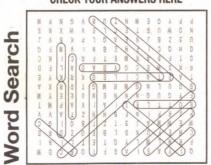
G N

milk sleep teething

CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE

	OTEOR TOOK ANSWERS HERE								
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nd	6	9	8	S	Į.	2	4	7	3
S	3	2	L	Þ	8	Z	9	g	6

CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE







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or apply online at: www.relocatemyhouse.com

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\$1,400,000, #2615853 Bela Sipos 734-669-5813, 734-747-7888

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1 Bdrms, \$495 FARMINGTON PLAZA APTS 2 Bdrms, \$635 Studio apt. - \$450 with 1 and 2 bdrms avail. No fine print in this ad! \$300 Sec. Dep, 50% off 3 Heat/Water included mo's rent w/ approved credit! (248) 478-8722 10.00 Application Fee

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Full Time. Must be enthu

siastic. College degree pre

ferred. Knowledge of MDS

desired. For Livonia retire

ment community. Send

resume w/salary history to

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Self-motivated individual to

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Searching for a male or female aide (para profession-

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days, evening and weekends. Pay based on level of experi-

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vacation & uniforms. Exp

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Specialist shock absorbers, dampers and gas springs, is seeking an entry-level persor responsible for working with our ERP system, QAC OnDemand processing Product Change Requests BOM maintenance, duties relative to engineering document maintenance, mair models/drawings, as well as assist in the test laboratory

Software used include Solid Edge, AutoCAD and Windows Office Tools. An Associate's degree or training, thorough know edge of solid modeling thorough know SolidWorks, Uni-graphics Pro/E Wildfire,

Catia or similar). GD& basi proficiency hands-on mechanical/ elec AutoCAD 2000 preferred.

MUST include salary requirements, to:

HR@acecontrols.com

Fax: (248) 426-5631 Please send resume no

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Help Wanted-General 🕮

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velocity controls, is

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tion laboratory acquisition software, LabView a plus. which MUST include

programming and transi

salary requirements, to: FAX: 248-426-5631 Please send resume no

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Send resume to lvidergar@masterjig.net **GRAPHIC TECHNICIAN** 16-24 hrs/wk in Wixom area: production focused. web experience necessary

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seasonal/part-time

Please call: 248-374-0200 HOLISTIC PETS FOODS MUST LOVE PETS! Are you outgoing and friendly? Parttime, long term; weekends a MUST, \$10/hr, plus, Contact

Janderson@gplonline.com

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248-569-2988 TEACHERS' ASSISTANT Previous exp. in a learning

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Please email resume to

Torossian@manoogian.org

thechildrenshour@email.com WARFHOUSE

Part-Time Stock position at Novi electrical distributor Hours: Monday's & Thursday's 1-8pm aturday's, 10am-5p Call: 586-843-2303

BOOKKEEPER - PART TIME Heat treating facility in the Wixom area is looking for a part time bookkeeper to work 20-30 hrs per wk Responsibilities will include A/P, A/R. Payroll, some HR functions, month-end and year-end reporting, answer ing phones, filing and other Applicant must have excel organizational skills work ethic, ability to multi task, ADP experience and be able to work independently and confidentially

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susanh683@gmail.com

LEGAL SECRETARY

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Help Wanted-Dental

Fax resume: (248) 344-1130

DENTAL ASSISTANT Experienced, Full-Time. with Eaglesoft or Dentech knowledge. Willing to learn

Fax resume: (734) 425-1907 Help Wanted-Medical (500)

front desk duties

CHIROPRACTIC

ASSISTANT Full-Time, must be available twn the hrs of: 8am-8:00pm - Fri & 8am-2pm on Sat Must be an outgoing, punctu Great benefits. Will train. Please email resumes to: mcspc@att.net

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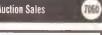
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Art, Bike,and more!

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Bargain Day 11 AM - 3 PM

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7100 Estate Sales

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LARGE ESTATE SALE Nice furniture, household, out door furniture, glassware. 4/1-4/3, 7836 Mida Dr., Belleville Rd & Ecorse Rd. 10-4pm

REDFORD: 9216 Mercedes Inkster & W Chicago, corner of Mercedes/Westfield. Furniture. household goods, glassware etc. April 1 & 2nd, 10-6pm.

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7100

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8145

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1998 FORD 1FMYU24E0WUB20869 1989 FORD 1FMEU15N2KLA23264 1994 GMC

1GKDT13W3R2518527 1994 MERCURY MEI M6249RH649930 1995 MERCURY 2MELM75W8SX657140 1995 OLDSMOBILE

1G3GR62C6S4146607 1996 CHEVY 1G1JC124XT7203581 4TWAN72N2YZ627444

1FACP41M9MF151607 1FTCF15F0FLA23039 1B7FP14H5H3323593

1MELM51U2TA654091 1N4AL11D52C180960 1994 HONDA 1HGCD7132RAO25428 KMHJF24MXWU681017

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8190

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Warranty.

warranty.

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late husband, Marc, was one of the first people to make a living as a sand sculptor in the 1960s.

Accurate proportions and consistent detailing throughout the piece are other features that the judges notice, Altamare says.

Last year, the only American to win a solo competition at the world level was Dan Belcher, 42, a landscape architect from St. Louis, who placed fourth.

"I like figurative and whimsical pieces," says Belcher, as he smoothes a giant pair of scissors in his witty "Rock Paper Scissors" monument. "It's freeing because you don't have to create something that has to last. There's nobody telling you it's right or wrong."

Sculptor Kirk Rademaker, 59, a cabinetmaker and draftsman from Oakland, Calif., competed on a four-person team that placed second at last year's world championship.

"It's been life-changing," he says about discovering sand sculpting in 1996. "It's part building, part art, part engineering. It's everything I like to do."

Sand, Sun, Surf & Sculpture

First-place winners at these contests advance to the World Championship of Sand Sculpting. Visit worldchampionshipofsandsculpting.com for more information.

Texas Sand Fest, April 15-17 Port Aransas, Texas texassandfest.com

11th annual Master Sand Sculpting Competition, June 18-25 Hampton Beach, N.H. hamptonbeach.org/sandcastle-competition.cfm

The Windermere Sand Sculpture Classic, July 22-24 Port Angeles, Wash.

24th annual Sandcastle Days, Oct. 19-23 South Padre Island, Texas sandcastledays.com



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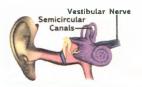
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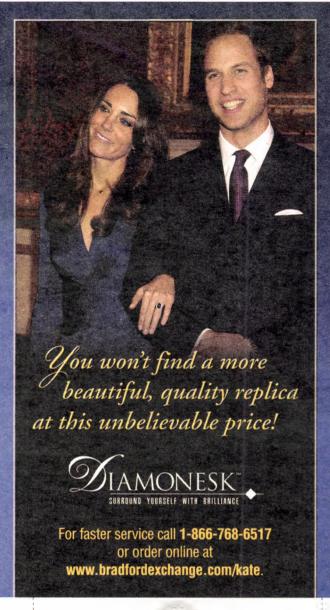
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Beauty on the Beach

Artists sculpt wondrous works in the sand

BY MARTI ATTOUN PHOTOS BY DAVID MUE

using a pastry knife, Lucinda Wierenga etches an outline of a cluster of palm trees shading a charming seaside village that she's sculpting from a 10-ton pile of sand on the beach at South Padre Island,

Texas (pop. 2,422).

"I spend months thinking of my sculptures," says Wierenga, 54, a master sand sculptor nicknamed "Sandy Feet" who co-directs Sandcastle Days, an annual fall competition that features the stunning works of two dozen professional sand sculptors from around the world.

Wierenga scrapes a clump of moist sand from between two palm fronds, then uses a plastic drinking straw dangling from her neck to blow away loose grains to make the tropical leaves look crisp and clean. She steps back a few feet to get a better perspective on the masterpiece she's titled "All Roads Lead to the Beach."

Watch sand sculptors in action at americanprofile.com/sandsculpting



Up and down the beach, sun- and surf-loving sculptors shovel and stomp wet sand into easier-to-carve blocks using forms rigged from roofing paper and C-clamps. After they pack and stack the blocks, they scoop, carve and coax the heaps into a gallery of whimsical and wondrous sculptures. The competition is among four qualifying contests in the United States for artists hoping to advance to the World Championship of Sand Sculpting, scheduled Nov. 17-27 in Fort Myers Beach, Fla. (pop. 6,561).

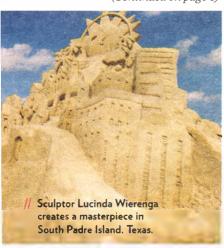
"It's not just sandcastles anymore," says Mark Chapman, 53, a mechanical engineer and photographer from Portland, Ore.. who plops handfuls of wet sand above the giant expressive eyes of Neptune, the Roman god of the sea, before carving a set of bushy eyebrows.

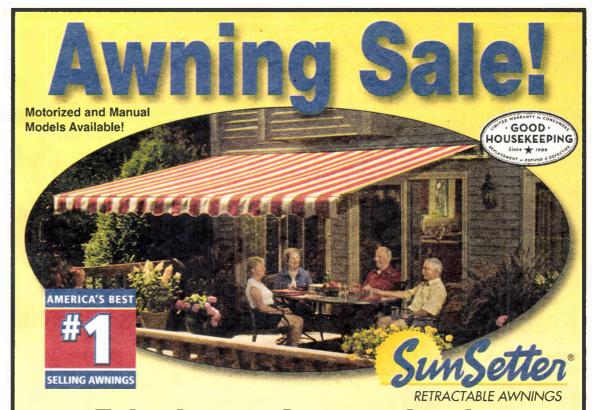
"I got into this because I really wanted to make faces and figures," says Chapman, who has sculpted about 225 mythological characters, mermaids and sea monsters in sand since 1998.

Wearing an insulated, vented hardhat to protect his head from the searing sun, he works from a rough sketch, reaching into his toolbox now and then for the perfect sand shaper: a fork, paint scraper, steak knife, trowel or metal loop. Occasionally, he sprays the sand with water so it can be sculpted and holds its shape.

A few yards away, Mark Landrum creates a whimsical scene. titled "Mr. and Mrs. Potato Head Go to Brazil." with the portly spuds wading in a stream of vegetarian piranhas. "I

(Continued on page 8)





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(Continued from page 7)

carved wood when I was younger, and I was just fascinated by it," says Landrum, 54, of Port Aransas, Texas (pop. 3,370).

During a difficult period after his divorce, the former accountant took a sandcastle-building lesson from Wierenga in 1999 and he had so much fun that he never stopped playing in sand. Four years ago, he opened his own business creating sand sculptures for businesses and corporate events, parties and weddings.

"I like how it's not permanent," Landrum says about sand art. "It's there for people to enjoy. You just leave it on the beach and walk away."

Friendly competition

About 70,000 people enjoy watching and photographing the masters of sand during the four-day competition each October. Spectators vote for the People's Choice Award, whereas the master sculptors judge their peers to select the top six winning entries. A \$1,000 prize is awarded for first place.

Ron Duvin, 75, of Williamsburg, Va. (pop. 11,998), who visited South Padre Island for his high school class reunion, marveled at the talent of sculptor Meredith Corson, 53, of Treasure Island, Fla. (pop. 7,450). "It's amazing she can do that much detail with sand," he says.

Corson carves a maiden's gown, which appears to be woven from ribbons. The former fingernail artist, who is married to sand sculptor Dan Doubleday, digs into her backyard sandbox when she needs to relax.

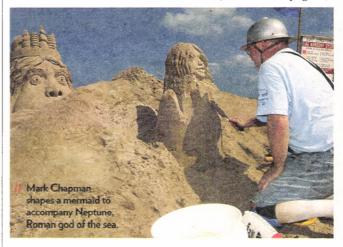
"It's my getaway, my release," she says about creating art in the sand.

Building massive sand sculptures for competitions, however, is hard work.

"We come in as the laborers with wheelbarrows and hauling clay," Corson says. "But we leave as the rock stars."

The artists work steadily from 8 a.m., when the competition's co-director Walter McDonald blows a conch shell to signal the start, until 5 p.m. Though only the first-place winner earns the coveted invitation to the world championship, the competition is friendly.

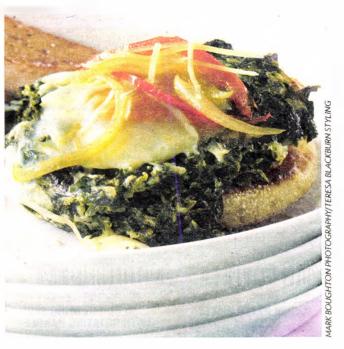
"We're like one family—one dysfunctional family," jokes McDonald, 70, who is nicknamed "Amazin' Walter" and has (Continued on page 10)



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RECIPE

AmericanProfile



Oven-Poached Eggs in Spinach Nests

This savory egg and spinach dish is perfect for Easter brunch.

Spinach:

Cooking spray

- 3 eggs
- 1/2 cup all-purpose flour
- 1 pound small-curd cottage cheese
- 4 (10-ounce) boxes frozen chopped spinach, thawed and squeezed dry
- 1/2 teaspoon salt Freshly ground black pepper

Eggs:

- 8 eggs
- 1 cup (4-ounces) shredded Swiss or Parmesan cheese
- 4 English muffins, split and toasted
- 1/2 cup slivered red bell pepper, optional
- 1/2 cup slivered onion, optional
- 1. Preheat oven to 350F. Coat a 13-by-9-inch baking dish with cooking spray.
- 2. To prepare spinach, combine eggs. flour and cottage cheese; stir well. Add spinach, salt and pepper; stir well. (This can be done up to 2 days ahead). Press mixture into prepared dish. Make 8 indentations with the back of a spoon where the eggs will be placed. Bake 25 minutes.
- 3. Remove from oven, and using a spoon, press the indentations more deeply. Break an egg into each indentation. Bake 15 minutes or until whites are set. Sprinkle with cheese. Return to oven and bake 1 minute.
- Place 1 egg and spinach nest on English muffin half. Garnish with slivered red pepper and onion, if desired.
 Serves 8.

-Recipe by Crescent Dragonwagon, Saxton's River, Vt.

Nutritional facts per serving: 320 calories, 14g fat, 25g protein, 24g carbohydrates, 4g fiber, 640mg sodium.





April 2-24

HAPPENINGS

ILLINOIS—"Nothing's Sweeter than a Child" Chocolate Festival—LaSalle, April 3. Savor chocolate delicacies and bid in a silent auction during this LaSalle County Court Appointed Special Advocates event at Celebrations 150. (815) 434-2620.

INDIANA—History Festival & Pow Wow—Bedford, April 15-17. Living history demonstrations and re-enacted battles from the Revolutionary War to World War II, historical speakers, and American Indian stories highlight this event at Bedford North Lawrence High School. (812) 797-7491.

IOWA—International Reel Wheel Film Festival—Knoxville, April 22-24. Watch films celebrating the automobile and auto racing, including Stateline Speedway: The First Ten Years, at the National Sprint Car Hall of Fame & Museum. (641) 842-6176.

KANSAS—Lawrence Public Library Spring Book Sale—Lawrence, April 8-12 and 16-17. Shop for used books during this benefit for the library at the tent at Seventh and Kentucky streets. (785) 843-3833.

MICHIGAN—Wayne County Parks Marshmallow Drop—Westland, April 22. Some 20,000 marshmallows tumble from a helicopter flying over Nankin Mills Park, and kids trade a marshmallow for a prize from the Easter Bunny. (734) 261-1990.

MINNESOTA—A Galaxy of Quilts—Owatonna, April 3-May 1. Piecemakers Quilt Guild members display their handmade creations during their triennial quilt show at the Owatonna Arts Center. (507) 451-0533.

MISSOURI—Thomas Hart Benton Birthday Celebration—Neosho, April 16. Learn about the artist, who was born April 15, 1889, and his creations, plus enjoy refreshments at Newton County Historic Park. (417) 451-4940.

NEBRASKA—Festival of Quilts—Chadron, April 15-17. Catch a nostalgic glimpse of life on the homefront during World War II at this 17th annual show, which is titled "Victory Quilts of the 1940s," at Assumption Arena. (308) 432-4041. NORTH DAKOTA-Art & Craft Fair-Minot,

April 8-9. Handmade arts & crafts and baked goods are featured in more than 150 exhibits at the North Dakota State Fair Center. (701) 837-6059.

оню-Ohio Country Antique Show—Wilmington, April 2. Browse furnishings, primitives, decorative arts and everyday necessities of 19th-century life offered by 70 dealers at Roberts Centre. (513) 738-7256.

SOUTH DAKOTA—*Hee-Haw Show*—South Shore, April 9-10. Enjoy this comedy and musical show presented by a cast of 60 to 80 performers and based on the TV show that aired from 1969 to 1993. South Shore School gymnasium. (605) 756-4511.

WISCONSIN—Quilt Show—Sun Prairie, April 3-5. View 250 handmade quilts, and enjoy a luncheon and a vendors mall with quilting supplies at St. Albert's Catholic Church. (608) 837-2298.



What is going on in the career of Jean Marsh, who was so smashing years ago in Upstairs Downstairs?

-Rachel Carter, Hartford, Conn.

Marsh, 76, has reprised her Emmywinning role as Rose, the prim and proper parlor maid, in the BBC revival of the drama series, which debuts April 10 on Masterpiece Classic on PBS. "It was a wonderful part," she says. "I think Rose got into me as much as I got into Rose." The actress co-created the epic saga of life in Edwardian England, which aired originally from 1971 to 1975. Upstairs Downstairs Complete Series: 40th Anniversary Edition will be released March 29 on DVD.

Back in the 1970s. I loved the band Black Oak Arkansas. Are they still around?

-Sam Schneider, Hopkinsville. Ky.

The Southern rockers were in peak form in 1974, when they hit the Top 40 with a remake of the '50s tune "Jim Dandy"-appropriately enough for a band whose stage-strutting lead singer was known by that very name. Jim "Dandy" Mangrum, now 63, continues to perform with a Black Oak Arkansas lineup that includes one other



original member, guitarist Rickie "Ricochet" Revnolds. When he's off the road, Mangrum, who lives in Memphis, Tenn., loves spending downtime with his grandchildren. "They call me 'Granddandy," he says proudly.

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ASK AMERICAN PROFILE



We wonder why Harry Smith left the CBS morning show and where he went. We miss him.

-Max & Jinny Tavernier, Constantine, Mich.

The decision for Smith, 59, to leave *The Early Show* was made by CBS News, which replaced him, along with Maggie Rodriguez and weatherman Dave Price, with Chris Wragge, Erica Hill, Jeff Glor and Marysol Castro. Of his departure, Smith said he was disappointed that he couldn't stick around to help the third-place morning show pull up its ratings. "It's a tough racket," he says. "There's only so much audience to go around." He now serves as a substitute on the *CBS Evening News, Face the Nation* and *CBS Sunday Morning*.



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