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PLYMOUTH OBSERVER

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CORNELL MCCLELLAN,
PERSONAL TRAINER
TO THE PRESIDENT
USA WEEKEND – INSIDE



PIPELINE

Interim auditions

The Plymouth-Canton Community Schools Board of Education is set to interview four candidates to become the district's interim superintendent.

The interviews are scheduled to take place Wednesday, starting at 5 p.m., at the E.J. McClendon Education Center, 454 S. Harvey, in Plymouth. Each of the four candidates is expected to be interviewed for some 50 minutes.

The candidates include Dr. Jeremy Hughes, a former deputy superintendent for the state Department of Education; Kurt Tyszkiewicz, PCCS director of student services and former principal at Tonda Elementary School; James Larson-Shidler, the district's assistant superintendent for business services; and Phil Freeman, the principal at Pioneer Middle School.

Brass-y move

The Brass Iron & Bed Shop is moving from Ann Arbor Trail to Forest Place, next to Francis Jewelry Gallery, this week.

The shop closed its Ann Arbor Trail location Saturday and will reopen by Thursday on Forest Place. The 1,400-square-foot space is still available.

Anyone interested can call Carol at (734) 719-0667.

Plymouth characters

Meet and greet some of the characters from Plymouth's past during the Plymouth Historical Museum's "Plymouth Characters at Kellogg Park" walk, Saturday, June 4.

Walks begin at 2 p.m. with small groups departing every 15 minutes. Walk times will be assigned as tickets are purchased. The walk circles Kellogg Park in downtown Plymouth and lasts about 90 minutes. Participants should meet at the fountain in Kellogg Park. Tickets are \$10 per person (\$5 for children under 10) in advance or \$15 (\$10 for children under 10) at the park and can be purchased on the museum's website (http://www.plymouthhistory.org/events/Plymouth-Characters-at-Kellogg-Park_ET38.html?SortBox=201106) using PayPal or at the Plymouth Historical Museum, 155 S. Main St., Plymouth. Call (734) 455-8940 for more information.

Observer online

Have you checked out our newly redesigned website? It's chock full of local news from the Plymouth community and is updated often. There are several cool features at www.hometownlife.com that allow you to browse through the latest news and features from your neighboring communities, too; allow you to chime in with your opinion on our stories, editorials and letters to the editor; check out our amazing photo galleries and videos that are captured daily by our reporters and photographers.

Readers can also find garage sale listings – with a map – each week from Wednesday through Sunday.

So, bookmark hometownlife.com to be sure you're always in-the-know in your hometown. You can also find us on Facebook by searching "Hometownlife."

Field of dreams on way to reality in Plymouth

BY MATT JACHMAN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

There is a miracle under way in Plymouth.

A years-long campaign for a baseball field designed for special-needs children with physical impairments reached a new high Friday afternoon with a ceremonial groundbreaking by the Miracle League of Plymouth.

The new \$500,000 ballfield, off Theodore Street behind Central Middle School, will be scaled down and have a soft surface free of obstacles, such as raised bases, that could pose hazards for players in wheelchairs or on crutches. Construction is expected to soon begin in earnest, and play on the new field is expected to begin in late August.

"This is just one of the steps the children will make on their way to becoming what they were meant to be," Deb Madonna, co-chair of the Miracle League of Plymouth, told the crowd gathered for the event. "They will remember the friends they made here."

Madonna, who spearheaded the project, also announced the name of the new park: Bilkie Family Field, named for the family of Bob and Shari Bilkie of Salem Township. The Bilkies – Bob Bilkie is the other Miracle League co-chair – contributed \$150,000 for the naming rights.

"It was necessary," Bob Bilkie said after the ceremony. "We just felt we had to step up." Making the contribution was a personal gesture by the family, he said, not a commercial transaction, as is often the case with naming rights.

HOME FIELD

Friday's groundbreaking featured several children who will likely play on the new field, including Gavin Carrigan, 8, of Westland, who was with parents Robert and Renee Carrigan and brother Connor.

Gavin, who uses a crutch, has been playing at a Miracle League field in Southfield for three years.

"We're excited to have one here. That's

Please see **MIRACLE, A7**



ANN ESPINOZA

Construction manager Ted Barker, Commissioner Deb Madonna, financial manager Bob Bilkie, Alexandria Thrubis of the Detroit Tigers Foundation and Tigers mascot Paws dig in at Friday's Miracle League ground-breaking ceremony.

'Royal' flush

Sweet Afton crowd 'crashes' royal wedding

BY BRAD KADRICH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Britain's Prince William and Kate Middleton exchanged their vows around 6:20 a.m. Friday in an ornate cathedral with some 1,900 people in attendance.

An ocean away, Katie Symanow of Plymouth sat with her sister, Megan, watched the proceedings on a 57-inch television in the Sweet Afton Tea Room, gathered with three dozen others who arrived around 4 a.m. to watch the Royal Wedding, with an eye on her own wedding, three weeks hence.

Symanow was all smiles watching the vintage cars and horse-drawn carriages and Middleton's beautiful wedding gown, knowing her own wedding May 20 at St. Joseph Church in Dearborn will be much less ornate, if not less beautiful.

"It's nice to see a wedding with no budget, because mine's definitely on a budget," Symanow said with a laugh. "It's just fun. In this economy everything is so sad, it's nice to have something fun to focus on."

The Symanow sisters were among 26 people who made reservations at Sweet Afton Tea Room to view



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Megan Symanow and Katie Symanow are sisters, from Plymouth. Katie's wedding is in three weeks. Their parents, David and Carolyn Symanow were married at the same time as Prince Charles and Lady Diana.

the wedding. The doors opened at 4 a.m., and people were already waiting. Phyllis Wilkerson, who owns the tea room with her husband, said she wasn't the least bit surprised the event sold out.

Of course, Wilkerson might think so. After all, she pulled her two young daughters out of bed 30 years ago for another Royal Wedding, that of Prince Charles and Diana Spencer.

"I'm not at all surprised," Wilkerson said. "I've always been interested in the history of the Royal Family. Everybody is into the royal wedding."

That's certainly true for Mona Nepiuk of Plymouth, who said she arrived at the tea room at 3:55 a.m. She watched Charles and Di's wed-

Please see **WEDDING, A4**

Lawyer switch delays teacher's preliminary exam

BY BRAD KADRICH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The preliminary exam for a Plymouth teacher facing a variety of charges was delayed Friday because the teacher changed defense attorneys.

Ray Schepansky, acting on the advice of friends and supporters, hired Plymouth attorney Richard Convertino to defend him against charges related to an April 13 incident in which he was arrested with an unloaded 9mm handgun and two loaded ammunition clips as he entered school grounds.

Convertino replaces Southfield attorney

Please see **TEACHER, A3**



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Ray Schepansky (right) goes over the case file with new attorney Richard Convertino, who filed an appearance in the case on Friday, replacing Southfield attorney Raymond Correll.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Hilary Young of Livonia brought her three children to last year's Green Street Fair, where they helped decorate Fort Box. Truth is 3 years old, Moriah is 5, and Kenzi is 6. This year's fair starts Friday.

Plymouth's biggest Green fair yet opens Friday

BY MATT JACHMAN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Next weekend's Green Street Fair, the annual downtown Plymouth showcase for products, services – and fun – designed with the Earth in mind, should offer something for everyone.

Visitors will be able to check out solar panels and "green" landscaping materials, safely dispose of old medicine (no controlled substances) and computers, attend for home furnishings and kitchen supplies, shop for family-friendliness concerts, participate in hands-on projects and, of course, eat, while learning more about the environment and healthy living.

This year's fair, the fourth, begins at noon Friday in Kellogg Park and nearby streets and continues through 5 p.m. Sunday. There are

more than 240 participating exhibitors – businesses, individuals and organizations – making this year's fair the largest yet, said organizer Raychel Rork.

"We're really proud of how far it's grown in only four years," Rork said, adding that 100,000 people are expected to attend over the course of the weekend. "It's going to be big."

The lineup will include many returning exhibitions as well as some new ones, and some exhibitors are traveling long distances to attend, Rork said.

"This is becoming a very enticing event for them," she said. "It's free to the public. It's direct to the consumers."

Crafters who use repurposed raw materi-

Please see **GREEN, A7**



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District wonders how Snyder pays for his reforms

BY BRAD KADRICH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Plymouth-Canton Community Schools officials said it was "nice" for Gov. Rick Snyder to express his ideas during the special message he delivered on education reform Wednesday.

But the one idea local school officials would have liked to have seen addressed went largely unanswered, in their eyes: How to pay for it all.

In a speech at the United Way for Southeastern Michigan headquarters in Detroit, Snyder proposed, among other ideas, bonus pay to school districts that show academic improvement, changes to merit pay and the teacher tenure system; removing the

cap on the number of charter schools in districts with failing schools; a new state office devoted to early childhood education; a greater emphasis on online education; and a more flexible system in which state funding would follow students wherever they go, rather than being assigned to a particular school district.

"I don't think there are many people in this community who would support that," said Frank Ruggirello, Plymouth-Canton's director of community relations.

Some of the governor's proposals likely wouldn't affect Plymouth-Canton, Ruggirello pointed out. For instance, Snyder would lift the cap on charter schools in districts that have

failing schools. "We don't have any failing schools," Ruggirello said.

Snyder would also force districts with open seats in classrooms to open their borders to students from outside district lines. Again, this would have little effect in Plymouth-Canton, according to officials.

"The bottom line is there aren't that many open seats to begin with," Ruggirello said. "Our long-term projections show a bit of a decrease (in enrollment), but we're not looking at a whole lot of seats available anyway."

For Plymouth-Canton administrators dealing with an \$18 million budget deficit created in large part by Snyder's cuts to the School Aid Fund,

a speech that talked more about how his reforms would be paid for would have been better.

"I think the most disappointing part for everybody in education is, it's nice to have ideas but you have to have the money to pay for it," Ruggirello said. "While he addressed all of his ideas, he didn't discuss anything about the money. I don't know how you talk about one without talking about the other."

Officials at Canton-based Tipping Point Education, a think-tank, policy-making initiative for K-12 education and higher education, said they have "great concerns" about Snyder's plan.

In a statement issued after Snyder's

special message, TPE founder Trish Brown said Snyder "wielded his ax again at the most important natural resource any state has — its children and their futures."

In the TPE statement, Brown said Snyder's plan is making things tough on teachers.

"Everything he is saying is a hodgepodge of everything that has been lashed out and discussed and fought about for years," Brown said. "He is creating more myths around education, and making it nearly impossible for educators to do their jobs at a time when education is the most important entitlement we offer."

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AROUND PLYMOUTH

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

Potters Guild

Date/Time: Saturday, May 7, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday, May 8, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Location: 340 N. Main, Suite G-11 in Plymouth

Details: Village Potters Guild Spring Sale. New designs and bargains. All in time for Mother's Day.

Contact: (734) 207-8807; www.villagepottersguild.org

Chieftette tryouts

DAR meets

Date/Time: May 16, 6 p.m. (dessert)

Location: Plymouth District Library, 222 S. Main, Plymouth

Details: The Daughters of the American Revolution hold an evening meeting, with William George Vette, SAR (in uniform) presenting, "The President's Guard." The committee is made up of Mary Black, Barbara Miller and Donna Busch.

Kindergarten meeting

Date/Time: 5 p.m. Monday, May 2
Location: Canton Charter Academy, 49100 Ford Road in Canton.

Details: Canton Charter Academy



Help for mom

Plymouth Nursery has staff available to help kids pick out a flower, plant it in a pot for mom, and make a personal tag. Parents can bring their child to the nursery, on Ann Arbor Road past Gotfredson, and choose from a selection of \$4.99 annuals, and get a four-inch clay pot with soil to plant, including a personal tag for mom. Times to plant are Saturday, May 7, from 11 a.m. to noon and 2-3 p.m.

has scheduled a kindergarten information meeting for prospective 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.

Run for Hope

Time/Date: 8 a.m. Saturday, May 14

Location: Maybury State Park, 20145 Beck, in Northville

Details: The fifth annual Run for Hope is a 5K run/walk presented by Northville Roadrunners to benefit New Hope Center for Grief Support. Fitness expert Peter Nielsen will be in attendance. Pre-register online by May 2 at www.firstgiving.com/newhopecenter. Registration forms and more information are available at www.newhopecenter.net. Registration the day of the event is at 8 a.m. Cost is \$25 for people 16 and over and \$15 for children 8-15 who register by May 2. After May 2, and day of the race add \$5. Children under 8 are free.

Contact: New Hope Center, (248) 348-0115

Date/Time: May 4-5, 6:30-9 p.m.; May 6, 6-9 p.m.; May 7, 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Location: Canton High School Gym

Details: The Canton Chieftettes pom pon squad is holding tryouts for its 2011-2012 squad. Potential

Chieftettes must have physical dated after April 15, 2011.

Contact: Any questions contact Coach Jen at CoachJenny@cantonchieftettes.com

Farm exhibit

Time/Date: 1-4 p.m. Tuesdays; 2-5 p.m. Thursdays; 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturdays, April through November

Location: Canton Historical Museum, corner of Canton Center and Heritage Park Drive in Canton

Details: Ever wondered what living in Canton back in the 1800s was like and who lived and worked on the land many now call home? Bring the whole family to experience the Canton Historical Museum's highly anticipated new exhibit, "Whose Farm Do You Live On." Learn the history of this thriving farming community from the 1800s and well into the 1900s before its transformation by land developers in the 1930s. Find out who originally purchased the land and the names of families who lived there. View tools used by these families for farming, personal care, cooking, play and education.

Contact: For additional information, visit www.cantonhistoricalociety.org or call (734) 397-0088.

Motown sound kicks off Plymouth concert series

Music will fill the air around Kellogg Park and downtown Plymouth again this year when the Friday Night Music in the Air concert series makes its return.

The popular concert series, which has graced Kellogg Park for decades, starts May 27 when Motor City Soul, billed as metro Detroit's premier Motown and soul review band, kicks things off.

The concerts draw between 4,000 and 5,000 fans weekly, according to Tony Bruscato, operations director for the Plymouth Downtown Development Authority, which sponsors the series along with title sponsor Blue Cross-Blue Shield of Michigan.

"They've become a real tradition over the years," Bruscato said.

Concerts start at 7 p.m. in Kellogg Park (there is no concert July 8 because of Art in the Park). The rest of the lineup:

- June 3, Justine Blazer — a local performer recently awarded the Dodge Ram Trucks "Country Band of the Year" award.

- June 10, The Sound Alternative plays the hits.

- June 17, Shawn Riley Band — perennial favorite of rock

and pop tunes. The local band is from Northville.

- June 24, The Crutches — Party band hailing from Spartan-courtesy, playing tons of dance tunes with a few surprises.

- July 1, Zap Toro.

- July 15, Steve King and the Dittilies — the King of Detroit rock and roll.

- July 22, Gia Warner Band — nationally-recognized songwriter, performer and voice artist; also multiple Detroit Music Award winner.

- July 29, The Bluescasters play the Blues.

- Aug. 5, Those Delta Rhythm Kings (tentative, the DDA is waiting on confirmation)

- Aug. 12 — TBD

- Aug. 19, Mass Transit Band — hits and party.

- Aug. 26, Randy Brock Group — Randy and his band bring you the best guitar-driven blues set north of Texas.

- Sept. 2, Lady Sunshine and the X Band — soul/funk/R&B.

Bruscato said he's looking forward to the excitement of another concert series in downtown Plymouth.

"It's what makes Plymouth what it is," he said.



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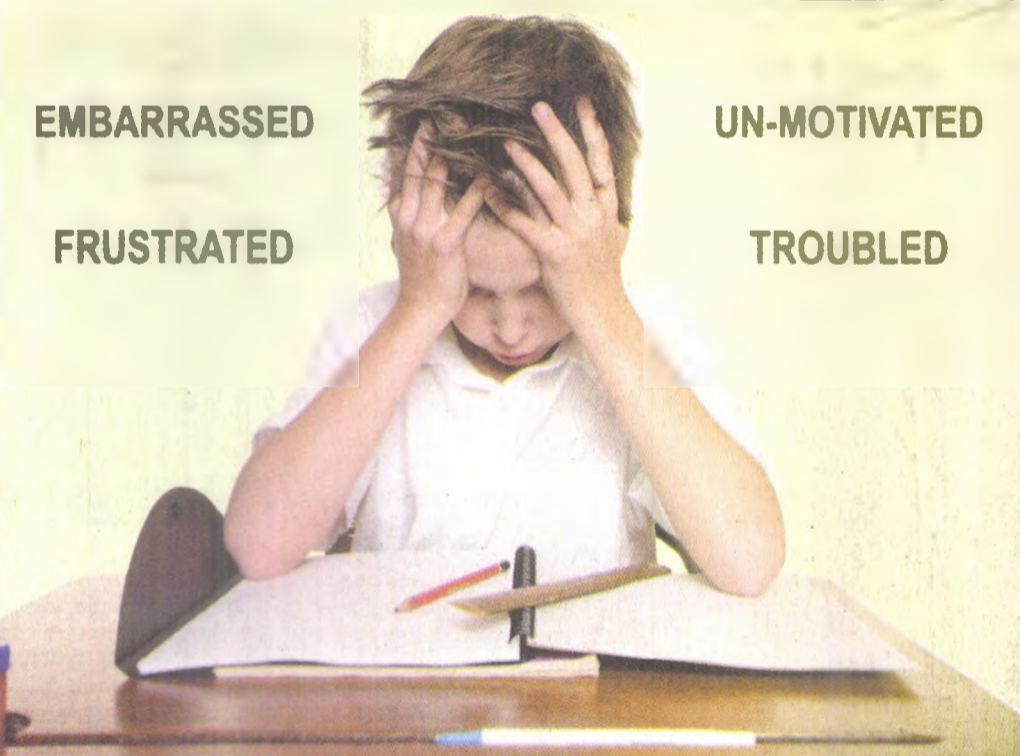
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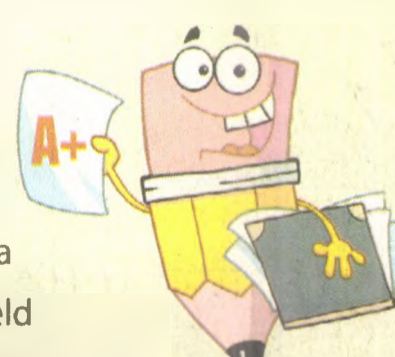
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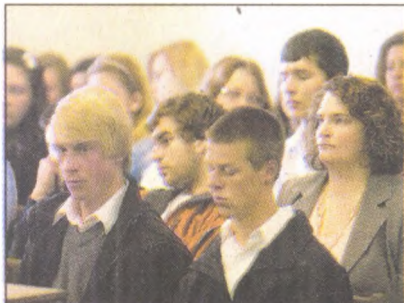


Students crowd courtroom to show their support

BY BRAD KADRICH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Support for Ray Schepansky that had been largely word-of-mouth and Internet-based moved into the courtroom Friday when Schepansky, facing a variety of gun-related charges, appeared for his preliminary examination in Plymouth's 35th District Court.

Some two dozen current and former students and friends filled the seats in Chief Judge Michael Gerou's courtroom to show their support for Schepansky, a popular history teacher at Plymouth High School arrested April 14 after allegedly making threats the day before and returning to school with a 9mm handgun and two loaded magazines.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Plymouth High School seniors Jake Beauchamp and Collin Belanger were among about two dozen current and former students who turned up in 35th District Court Friday to show support for Ray Schepansky.

Schepansky, who has taught in the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools for more than a decade, is

charged with carrying a concealed weapon, having a gun in a weapons-free zone and using a gun during a felony. Prosecutors are expected to seek reinstatement of a fourth charge, carrying a weapon with unlawful intent, which was dismissed at arraignment.

Since his arrest, supporters have taken to the social networking site Facebook, establishing a "Free Schepansky" page, which as of Friday morning had drawn nearly 1,300 followers.

One of them is Plymouth High School senior Jake Beauchamp, who called the litany of charges against his former teacher "overkill."

"Some of the charges seem interchangeable," Beauchamp said. "After looking at all the charges, it's a little

bit of overkill. (Schepansky) is a great teacher. My brother, sister and I all had him. He's done a lot for our family and we wanted to support him."

Collin Belanger, a senior at Plymouth High School, cited Schepansky's long service as a dedicated teacher and his military history as reasons to support him. "He always had the best interests of the students in mind," Belanger said. "He's done a lot for the school, for the community, for our country."

Angela Moen of Plymouth had Schepansky as a Salem High School senior in 2010, and remembered him as "one of my favorite teachers." While not condoning his actions, if they turn out to be proven true, Moen said Schepansky still deserved support.

"He's never done anything in my mind to make me think this would happen," said Moen, now in her first year at Schoolcraft College. "The Schepansky we all know deserves our support."

Mari Manning, also a 2010 Salem High School graduate, remembered Schepansky offering her help preparing for an AP test her senior year, even though she'd never had him as a teacher.

"He didn't even know me, and he was willing to help me," Manning said. "I realize you're not supposed to have weapons on campus ... they're making it out to be more than it was. I've never heard anything negative about him. It's all very upsetting and sad."

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TEACHER

FROM PAGE A1

ney Raymond Correll, who represented Schepansky at arraignment and right up through a pre-exam hearing last week at 35th District Court.

Responding to a question from Chief Judge Michael Gerou, Convertino said he wasn't prepared to move forward. He only filed his appearance in the case Friday. Gerou granted a defense motion to adjourn the hearing until May 6. Wayne County Assistant

Prosecutor Robert Donaldson offered no stiff objection to the adjournment, though he pointed out the prosecution was prepared to proceed.

"We're ready and willing to proceed," Donaldson told Gerou. "The relationship between the defendant, his attorney and the court ... I'm ready to proceed."

Gerou agreed to adjourn the hearing until 8:30 a.m. Friday, May 6. But he warned lawyers there would be no further adjournment.

"All things considered, given the gravity of the charges ... there'd be a manifest injustice

if I didn't allow the adjournment," Gerou told the lawyers. "This case will go forward at that point; there will be no adjournment at the next date."

Schepansky, who has taught in the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools for more than a decade, is charged with carrying a concealed weapon, having a gun in a weapons-free zone and using a gun during a felony. A fourth charge, carrying a weapon with unlawful intent, was dismissed at arraignment, though Donaldson said Friday he anticipates trying to get that charge reinstated.

Schepansky has been placed on administrative leave without pay from his job as a history teacher at Plymouth High School, said Frank Ruggirello, director of community relations for Plymouth-Canton Community Schools. Ruggirello said the district had no comment beyond that.

Schepansky has been in jail since his arrest. His bond was originally set at \$100,000 cash or surety, with no 10-percent provision, and the teacher has not posted bail. Before being released from the case, Correll asked Gerou to add a 10-percent component to the bond,

even if it meant other restrictions such as a tether or GPS monitoring device.

Correll pointed to the amount of support Schepansky has gotten in the community, his honorable discharge from the military and his lack of any prior record as reasons Gerou should lower the bond.

"There is no evidence he'd be a flight risk," Correll said. "Based on what he's charged with and his support in the community ... Mr. Schepansky will follow every condition set."

But Donaldson objected to it. Alluding to testimony he expects to present in court, he said,

Schepansky had indicated "on the Friday before these events he wanted to kill the assistant principal of the school."

"The day before, he was angry and said, 'certain people need to die,'" Donaldson said. "He told that assistant principal he'd commit homicide before suicide. The following morning he showed up with a 9mm handgun and two loaded clips. The risks are simply too great to release this man."

Gerou agreed and, citing the new exam date just a week away, continued the \$100,000 bond.

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WEDDING

FROM PAGE A1

ding at home because she had two young children. She said watching the wedding at Sweet Afton was the "next best thing" to actually being there.

"It's like being with Cinderella at Disneyland," Nepiuk said. "The whole Royal Family is such a special thing. It's certainly different even than what we do at the White House."

Nepiuk was with her friend, Lillian Berlin of Plymouth, who said the saga of Princess Di's children "has captured my heart." Besides, she said, it was nice to have something positive to focus on in a troubled world.

"I love the British royalty, the pomp and circumstance," said Berlin, who sported a grand hat she bought in New York. "The world needs something positive right now. Besides," she added,

smiling, "we got to wear our hats."

Paul Simmons of Westland is a regular at Sweet Afton Tea Room. A former Plymouth resident with a degree in history (along with majors in French and English) from Wayne State University, Simmons, the only man among the watchers, said he thought watching the Royal Wedding on the big-screen TV "would be fun."

Tracie Morris of Redford had more of a professional interest. A wedding planner whose biggest challenge to date has been a 600-guest wedding, Morris watched to see how such a large production came together.

"This is way off the Richter scale (of wedding planning challenges)," Morris said. "The hardest part would be making sure the proper etiquette is followed, and coordinating all those people. It would be the challenge of a lifetime."

The biggest challenge for

Robin Long of Livonia may have been getting her son, fifth-grader Patrick, out of bed in time to get there to watch the wedding. A history teacher at Northville's Amerman Elementary, where her son is also a student, Long said the historical aspect of the wedding, and the nature of the Royal Family, drew her to the event.

"As a history teacher, it's the future king and queen," she said. "I've always been a fan of the Royals, and I remember Diana. We decided to come and have some early morning fun."

Her son, Patrick, sat quietly in the back of the room, rising early so he could have his ride to school. He said he was happy to do it for his mom, and even thought it was interesting. But his mom acknowledge her son's gift.

"We'll do something for him later," she said, laughing. "I owe him big time."

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PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Claudia Palchak and Carla Szuch watch the arrival of the wedding party. They travelled in the wee hours from Wyandotte to the Sweet Afton Tea Room in Plymouth.

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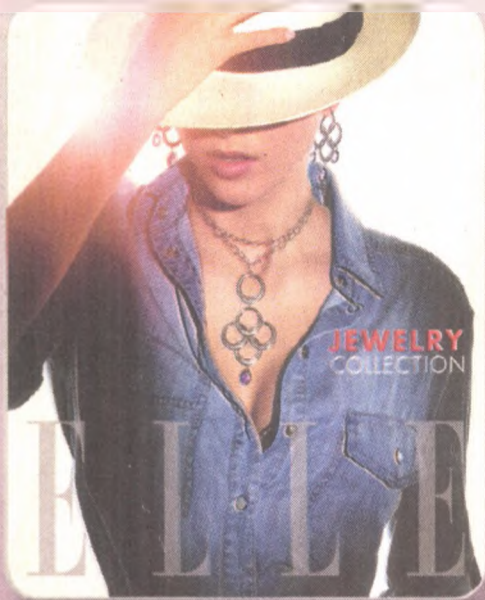
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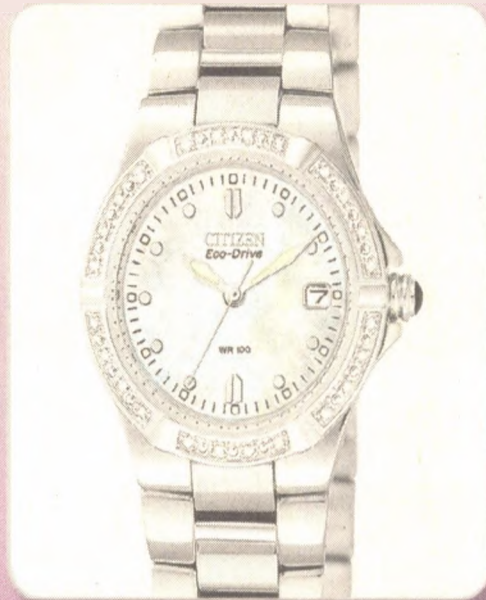
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EDUCATION

Sunday, May 1, 2011

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HAVE A STORY IDEA?

Contact Editor, Brad Kadrich

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Town hall audience voices education concerns

BY BRAD KADRICH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Calling the funding crisis in Michigan public schools a "manufactured crisis," state Rep. Dian Slavens, D-Canton, and two state House colleagues took on Gov. Rick Snyder's plan for the state's school aid fund during a two-hour town hall-style meeting Wednesday in Canton.

Saying she was worried not enough parents' voices were being heard during testimony before the House Education Committee, Slavens' town hall attracted some 100 people at The Summit.

"We need to hear from you," said Slavens, who said committee hearings were stopped before many had a chance to speak in Lansing. "Our goal is to take (comments) back to the committee and to the governor, so you can be heard."

Dr. Craig Fiegel, Superintendent of Plymouth-Canton Community Schools, made a presentation that pointed out that said the governor plans to siphon \$196 million from the School Aid Fund for community colleges, and another \$700 million for higher education (public four-year universities). He also said the SAF would lose some \$200 million under the state's new tax structure.

LESSER EDUCATION

Those figures, provided by the non-partisan House Fiscal agency, prompted state Rep. Lisa Brown, D-West Bloomfield, the minority



State Reps. Dian Slavens, D-Canton (right) and Lisa Brown, D-West Bloomfield, listen to testimony from residents, parents and school officials about proposed education budget cuts at Slavens' 'Fight School Cuts' Task Force meeting at Canton's Summit on the Park Wednesday.

vice-chair of the education committee who was on Wednesday's panel with Slavens and state Rep. Vicki Barnett, D-Farmington, to voice concern for the education her third-grader will get.

"My third-grader isn't going to get the same education my 10th-grader got," said Brown, who also has a seventh-grader. "There is no crisis in the school aid fund. It's a manufactured crisis. There's enough money so there should be an increase (in per-pupil funding). The governor is balancing

the budget on the backs of education."

In addition to the budget cuts, Snyder's plan to uncap the number of charter schools in districts with failing schools drew some complaints from people in the audience. Although Plymouth-Canton officials point out the district doesn't have any failing schools and therefore wouldn't be affected by Snyder's plan, most in the audience — which included a strong contingent of teachers from Van Buren Schools

— didn't like the idea.

"The charter school thing is interesting to me," Brown said. "There's no indication charter schools do anything any better than the public schools."

TAX MONEY

Snyder's tax plan also drew criticism from the panel. Barnett, the former mayor of Farmington Hills, said simply eliminating tax credits currently given to businesses would

solve the state's \$1.4 billion shortfall. She said some \$700 million in revenue generated from taxes that now goes to the school aid fund would be diverted to the general fund, allowing Snyder to use them to solve the deficit.

"There are some ... businesses in this state that don't pay any taxes," Barnett said. "Simply eliminating tax credits we give to business would solve the problem."

Derek Rushing of Canton urged the Democrats to "keep fighting." He said he's "a product of some of the services" offered by public schools, whom he credited for helping him develop a successful law enforcement career.

"The teachers who took me off the street did everything they could for me, and I became a successful police officer," said Rushing, a Redford High School graduate who retired from the Wayne County Sheriff's Department. "After I graduated the (police) academy, I went back and thanked my teachers. My request to you is: Fight. There are a whole lot of people here willing to fight, and I will stand with you now."

Slavens said she was glad to see so many people in the audience, because many had their voices quieted with the closing of hearings in Lansing.

"There were a lot of people who didn't get to speak to the committee because they closed the hearing," Slavens said. "We wanted to make sure their voices are heard."

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ON CAMPUS

Albion College

Local student Sandra Nahra received the Jean Keller Memorial Essay in Spanish Award Level 3 during Albion College's annual Honors Convocation. The Albion College faculty and administration choose recipients for these awards from among the most exemplary students in all academic departments.

Nahra was also elected to the Albion College chapter of Mortar Board, a national honorary society for students outstanding in scholarship, leadership, and service.

Sandra Nahra is majoring in Spanish-transamerican latina/o studies and minoring in communication studies and management-Gerstacker track, and is a member of the Prentiss M. Brown Honors Program. She is the daughter of John and Judy Nahra of Plymouth and a graduate of Plymouth-Salem High School.

University of Toledo

Julie Miller, a Doctor of Pharmacy major and a resident of Canton, was among more than 700 students from the University of Toledo who made the Fall 2010 President's List.

Defiance College

Defiance College held its annual Honors Day Convocation recently to recognize academic achievements of students. Special recognition was also given to faculty and staff.

Margaret and Michael Stauffer Memorial Scholarship – Asia Williams, Canton. Awarded to a freshman, sophomore or junior who has made a constructive contribution to the Defiance College communication arts department.



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MIRACLE

FROM PAGE A1

why we got involved," said his father. The new field will be closer for the family, he said.

Robert Carrigan is involved with the Plymouth Masons, one of the many organizations that helped with Miracle League fundraising efforts. "It just fit in because my son is able to play," he said.

Gavin, who plays multiple positions, said he follows the Detroit Tigers and that his favorite player is Magglio Ordonez, a right fielder. "He gets a lot of home runs," he said.

The Detroit Tigers Foundation gave the project a big boost April 20 with the offering of a \$40,000 challenge grant. If an equal amount can be raised by December, the foundation said, the Tigers Foundation will make a \$40,000 donation. A quick \$25,000 pledge from Lou LaRiche Chevrolet of Plymouth Township put the Miracle League more than halfway to the challenge goal.

GOAL NEARLY REACHED

The Miracle League has an overall goal of \$1.1 million, which includes a fund for future upkeep of the field, the grandstands and the clubhouse, and is reportedly within \$100,000 of that.

Other major donors include the Buhr Foundation, the Helpie Foundation and the Klopick Family Foundation.



ANN ESPINOZA

Deb Madonna pose for pictures with the Field of Dreams kids, including Honorary Ambassador Jamie Jones, at Friday's ground-breaking ceremony.

The Miracle League also benefited from a \$250,000 state grant. The Plymouth Canton Community Schools, too, played a major role, agreeing in 2009 to a no-cost lease of the site by the Miracle League.

Mayor Dan Dwyer told the crowd that the Miracle League's success is typical of Plymouth's support for community projects.

"This is how everything happens in this town," Dwyer said.

"It doesn't happen because of government. It happens because a lot of different people come together and make it work."

The ceremony was followed by a snack of baseball fare — hot dogs, popcorn, peanuts and pop — in the nearby Plymouth Cultural Center, served by the Salvation Army's Plymouth Corps.

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

Scott prison property for sale

BY LONNIE HUHMAN
CORRESPONDENT

The future use for the vacant Scott Correctional Facility property in Northville Township is undetermined at present, but township officials know exactly what they would like to see it become.

At their April 21 meeting, the Northville Township Board of Trustees approved a resolution urging Gov. Rick Snyder to sell the Scott property to private interests so it can live up to its valuable potential. They believe it can be developed with a creative and useful economic activity, which could benefit the region and state.

The 35-acre site is located at the northwest corner of Five Mile and Beck roads and had been a woman's prison, but closed over a year ago. The State of Michigan is still the property owner, and through

the Department of Technology, Management and Budget it has designated it as surplus. That means it's for sale.

"Basically, we are looking to get rid of it," said Kurt Weiss, public information officer for the management and budget department. "We want to sell it to the best proposal. Legislation is required, so working with state Legislature representatives will be necessary."

Prior to the resolution reading, Township Manager Chip Snider said an idea had been floated that would see the site turned into a "tri-county regional lock-up and dispatch." Supervisor Mark Abbo voiced his displeasure with this by saying the idea is offensive, and being left in the dark is even more offensive. Abbo thinks the township has served their time as a home for prisoners.

"We have been an institu-

tional dumping ground for 50 years," he said of the township's past as home to such locations as a Detroit House of Corrections facility.

One name mentioned during the resolution talk was state Sen. Glenn Anderson, D-6th District.

Anderson said the idea had been extended to him by a local police department, but nothing more.

"There has been no formal proposal," he said. "Absolutely no discussions, so it doesn't really have any legs."

State Rep. Kurt Heise, R-20th District, reassured township officials he would express these desires in Lansing and advocate on their behalf.

Meanwhile, Weiss said the state is hoping for some good proposals from both private and public entities.

"Our intention is to hand it off to someone who has better plans," he said.

FAIR

FROM PAGE A1

als will be on hand with, for example, jewelry, or purses made from burlap coffee sacks. There will be organic cotton clothing, easy-on-the-energy transportation, and demonstrations of organic cooking.

The food offerings will include organic chocolate truffles, organic vegan cupcakes and organic kettle corn. "Organic doesn't mean it has to taste like cardboard," Rork joked.

New this year will be a Mother's Day parade on Sunday, May 8, as the fair weekend will include Mother's Day for the first time.

Children will have the chance to make musical instruments out of recyclable raw materials then join the parade, expected to start in Kellogg Park, to honor their moms. The Deep Fried Pickle Project, a "junk band" that plays a variety of musical styles, will run the workshop, and Sunday's parade will be followed by a 12:30 p.m. concert by the trio at the Eco-

Beats stage, near Union and Penniman.

Rork said she and other Green Street organizers even take steps to ensure even the fair's trash — napkins, food wraps and tableware — is biodegradable and easy on the Earth.

"That's a major undertaking for a whole festival to think about our footprint ... how much trash we're generating," she said.

For more on the fair, visit its website, greenstreetfair.com.

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BY RICK BLOOM
GUEST COLUMNIST

Q: Dear Rick: I've worked for the same company for 30 years and I am getting ready to retire. The company is giving me a pension or a lump sum of money. I am a conservative investor. I don't like taking risks and that is why I'm leaning towards taking the pension. The problem is when I looked at the numbers, it appears I'm getting a very low rate of return on the money. I love the idea of having a set amount of income per month, but I was hoping to get a better rate of return. I don't want to invest the money in the stock market. I will probably take the pension because I have no other choice. Do you have any other ideas knowing that I am conservative and that I don't want to invest the money in the market?

A: Congratulations on your retirement and working for a company for 30 years. In today's world, if you work for a company for three or four years you're considered a long-term employee.

Considering that you are a very conservative investor and do not want any stock market investments, your options are limited. Since you like the idea of guaranteeing a set amount of money every month, there is only one option that I can think of that would provide you with a pension-like investment and at the same time, not be subject to the volatilities of the stock market. The investment you should explore is an immediate annuity.

An immediate annuity is nothing more than a pri-



Money Matters

Rick Bloom

vate pension through an insurance company. With an immediate annuity, in return for a lump sum amount of money, the insurance company will guarantee you a set amount of money for the rest of your life. As an investor in an immediate annuity, you are not assuming any stock market risk and like a pension, you'll get distributions for the rest of your life.

Not all immediate annuities are the same. Different companies will give you different amounts of money per month. Therefore, the key is to compare immediate annuities with a number of companies. In addition, with immediate annuities you can design the annuity to fit your situation. For example, if you are married you can have the pension continue for your spouse's lifetime. You can also build an inflation factor into the annuity. This will allow your pension to rise on a year-by-year basis. There are a number of options that you can choose with regards to an immediate annuity, the key is to select the ones that suit your individual situation. For example, if you are single, a spousal benefit is not important. One of the things I like about immediate annuities is the fact that you can design them in a number of different ways to fit your

individual situation.

Because an immediate annuity is for life, I generally recommend that you only deal with well known, highly rated insurance companies.

Once you get bids from a few immediate annuities, my recommendation is to compare them with your pension to determine which one is paying more. If the immediate annuity pays more on a monthly basis, that's the one that you should select. On the other hand, if your pension pays more, obviously that is the one that you should select.

Immediate annuities are becoming more popular because people like the idea of a pension and the majority of American businesses no longer offer pensions. However, just because your employer doesn't offer one doesn't mean you can't take care of it on your own.

Because immediate annuities can be designed to fit your individual situation, it makes sense to deal with someone who knows what they're doing. Therefore, don't use just any annuity salesperson, use someone with experience in designing immediate annuities and, of course, if you ever need a referral for any professional, whether legal or financial, do not hesitate to e-mail me. Good luck!

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

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Local companies help tear down former First Step shelter

Charlie Martin and Michael Kelly may be friendly rivals in the competitive world of remediation and pre-demolition asbestos abatement, but they are putting their competitive differences aside to help First Step, a local non-profit agency whose mission is to provide services to victims of domestic and sexual violence.

Kelly's company, Environmental Maintenance Engineers, is donating the asbestos abatement and Martin's company, Next Generation Services Group, is donating the demolition services for the old farmhouse and nursing home that once provided shelter for thousands of women forced to flee their homes due to domestic violence.

"Their support will prepare the property for sale and leave the neighborhood better than we found it," said Judy Ellis, executive director of First Step. "We also want to thank Canton Township for all their support as we transition into



The former nursing home and farmhouse are being readied for demolition by Next Generation Services Group. NGSG and Environmental Maintenance Engineers donated their services to tear down the old shelter.

our new facility." First Step purchased the home, located on Warren Road in Canton Township in December of 1987 and renovated it to meet the needs of the community. The organization had to vacate it in December 2008 due to

irreparable building problems, according to Ellis.

"The farmhouse is more than 70 years old," she said. "It served our survivors' needs well, but we just could not hold the facility together any longer."

First Step found a tem-

porary location to house its residents and began to collect donations to build a new facility, which is located in the City of Wayne and scheduled to open in June 2011.

"One of our biggest challenges was raising the funds needed to safely demolish the old facility," said Ellis. "People will give money to create something new, but rarely will someone donate for demolition."

That's where Kelly and Martin came in.

"I heard about First Step and this shelter demo project through their partnership with the Oakwood Healthcare System," said Martin. "We know that First Step and Oakwood work together to provide the best care for victims of violence. We wanted to help and figured the best way to do that was to lend our talent."

"We have successfully and safely completed thousands of environmental clean-up projects that have varied in

scope and complexity—including many local hospitals and universities" he added. "NGSG is a local company. Our staff grew up here in southeast Michigan; this is our home. We are doing this work for our daughters, our mothers, and our sisters. We are doing this work to help local families have a brighter future."

Martin estimated the value of the work at \$65,000.

"I believe it is imperative to give back to the community, both EME as an organization and myself personally," said Kelly. "My charity work with the Archdiocese of Detroit, the United Irish Societies and the Detroit St. Patrick's Parade made me aware of First Step and the fantastic work they do providing support and counseling for domestic and sexual assault survivors and their families"

He added that Oakwood Healthcare Systems and the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians Elizabeth Fagan Division keep EME involved with First Step through their fundraising efforts.

"We are pleased to provide environmental remediation services for this project and contribute to the demolition of this facility so First Step can build new beginnings for the future," Kelly said.

The demolition is weather dependent, but First Step has scheduled the asbestos removal with Environmental

Maintenance Engineers for last week. Next Generation Services Group will demolish the structure this week.

Next Generation Services Group is a full service remediation and demolition contractor based in Ypsilanti. It provides asbestos abatement, lead abatement, mold remediation, hazardous waste removal, demolition, salvage, dismantling and industrial cleaning with its own full-time employees.

Environmental Maintenance Engineers Inc. is based in Inkster and provides asbestos abatement, lead-based paint abatement, mold remediation, industrial cleaning, inspections, thermo imaging and universal/ hazardous waste removal services for commercial, institutional, industrial and residential clients.

First Step is the only agency in out Wayne County that provides comprehensive services to support victims of domestic and sexual violence. First Step offers temporary emergency housing, counseling, advocacy, SANE Exams, assault response, 24-hour help line services, legal information, children's services, training and education to survivors and to the community.

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Dance school expands to better serve community

Metro Dance Company in Plymouth expands adult, teen and preschool dance programs

Plymouth, Canton, Livonia and Northville residents have something to dance about — Metro Dance Company in Plymouth has expanded its offerings this year with more adult and teen classes and a wider range of times and dates for preschool classes.

"We've added more Tap, Hip Hop and Yoga for both teens and adults and added Zumba classes," said Kristie Wyler, studio director of Metro Dance Company. "We've really increased the choices of times and dates for preschool age dancers with more morning times."

Metro Dance Company, located at on the corner of South Mill (Lilley) and Ann Arbor Trail just outside of downtown Plymouth, has taught dance lessons to hundreds of children and adults since it's opening in 1997.

"We really try to offer something for everyone," Wyler said. "We've had a lot of customers say they had trouble finding classes for adults in the area."

Registration is now open for both the 6-week summer session and the 2011-2012 fall season. The studio offers classes in Ballet, Cecchetti, Pointe, Jazz, Tap, Lyrical, Modern, Hip Hop, Breaking, Pom, Ballroom, Zumba and Yoga as well as competitive classes for dancers age 6 and older.

Children ages 2.5 to 5 are offered a fun introduction to the basics of dance, called Preschool Combo,

which combines Ballet, Jazz, Tap and Acro. Combo classes foster creativity, freedom and expression in movement and a love for dance while teaching, sharing, taking turns, waiting in line, socializing and cooperating with classmates.

"A beginning teen level class is available, so even if a 12- or 13-year-old has never danced before, they won't be placed in a class with younger beginning dancers," Wyler said.

Each year, experienced dancers are welcome to audition for the Metro Dance Company Competition Team. Members meet September through June, compete at 3-4 regional dance competitions and travel out-of-state for a national competition each summer. Dancers must attend weekly rehearsals and meetings and enroll in a weekly ballet class. Competition classes are available in Jazz, Lyrical, Modern, Tap, Hip Hop, Pom and Ballroom. Solo, duo and trios are also available in discipline of choice.

But competition isn't the main focus of the studio. A variety of recreational classes are offered without a competitive edge.

"Some studios focus only on competition dancing, where we know some kids are just here to take a class or two for fun," Wyler said.

Technique classes are available for adults in Hip Hop, Tap, Ballet

(beginning-advanced), Pointe, Yoga, Ballroom and Zumba.

Adult ballroom classes are a popular choice for adults. Group classes teach the style of the waltz, foxtrot, cha cha, rumba, tango, swing and salsa.

"Dancers don't need a partner to come to class — it's structured so you can just come in and learn the steps!" Wyler said.

For students interested in learning a syllabus-based method of ballet, Cecchetti Method Ballet is the way to go. Precise exercises are practiced in a set order each class, each building on the next.

When ready, students are put up for examination and must pass before moving on to the next level of study. Students are eligible to begin Cecchetti

Grade 1 at age 7 and work through Grade 7. Each level takes approximately 18-24 months of study to complete.

Private dance lessons are available for all ages, and skill levels and are scheduled around each customers' availability. Wedding choreography and social dancing lessons are popular among adults.



"Our wedding choreography classes are popular for couples interested in having traditional and non-traditional first dances choreographed and having their bridal party in for a group class," Wyler said.

Visit www.MetroDancePlymouth.com to register for summer and fall classes online or for more information on all programs.

Four things every parent should know before choosing a dance studio

1. What type of dance floor is used?

Dance is a very physical activity that requires a lot of jumping that can put a lot of stress on bones and joints, and most dance footwear does not provide any cushioning or support. Metro Dance Company uses a "floating" hardwood sprung floor in each of its three dance rooms that absorbs the shock of jumping, helping to prevent injuries.

2. What is the size of the class?

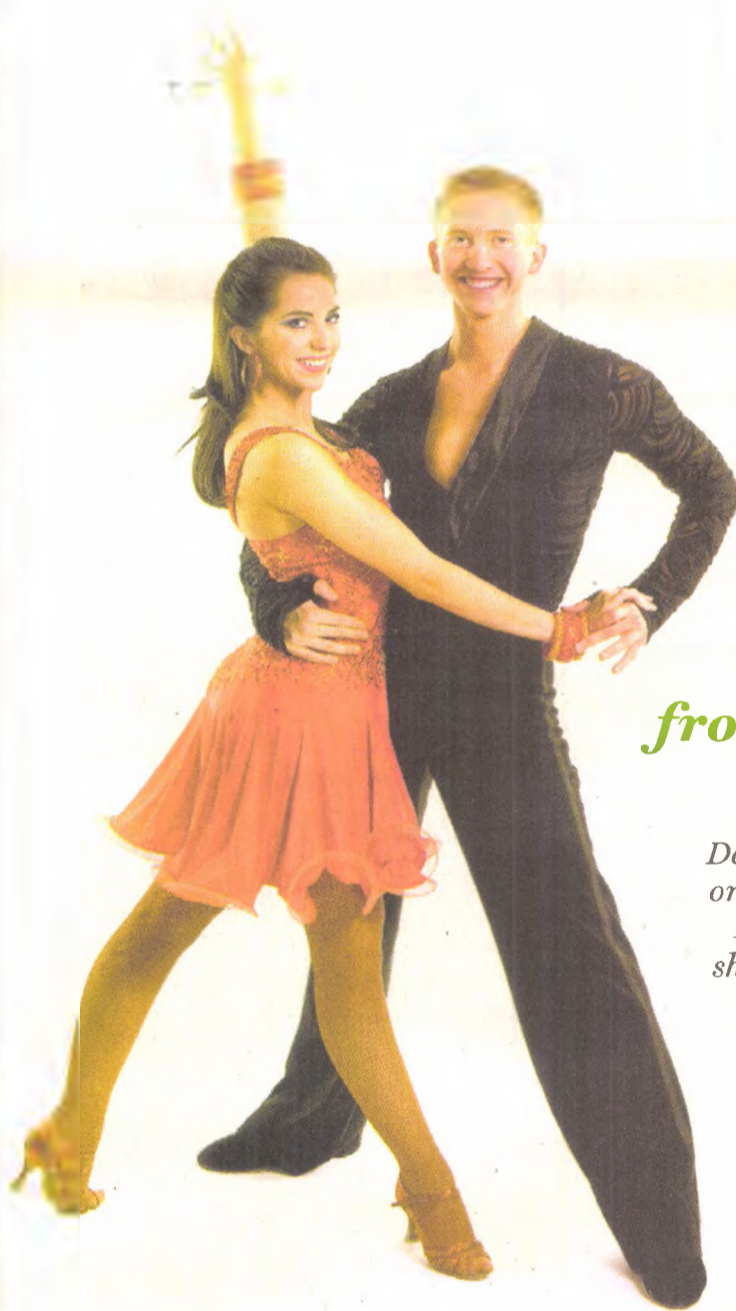
If the dance class has fewer students, each child will receive more personalized attention, learn more and have more fun. Metro Dance Company classes have smaller sizes to make sure no fundamental concepts are missed and to allow teachers to ensure students are not developing bad habits or improper technique.

3. Can I get immediate assistance and customer service?

In many studios, the teacher or studio owner conducts classes and does the administration. Metro Dance Company has an office staff on hand during all regular class times, so dancers get immediate assistance.

4. What is the studio environment?

Metro Dance Company is committed to providing safe and quality instruction to children and adults of all ages and skill levels. The studio has a relaxed, friendly atmosphere and offers students a choice of technique, recital and/or competitive dance classes. Students are taught about teamwork, a positive attitude, eating healthy and setting goals.



Metro Dance Company

541 S. Mill (Lilley)
Plymouth, MI 48170

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Testimonials from local parents:

"My daughter's experience with Metro Dance is a great pleasure. She has grown not only as a dancer but also as a team member. It is nice to see her involved in something she enjoys so much and make plenty of close friends along the way."

— Maribel Schaefer

"My daughter has basically grown up at Metro Dance. She has been dancing for over 12 years, and dance has shaped her into a disciplined, honest, fun and healthy person. She still lives to dance and loves every minute! Metro Dance is her second family!"

— Janice Johnson

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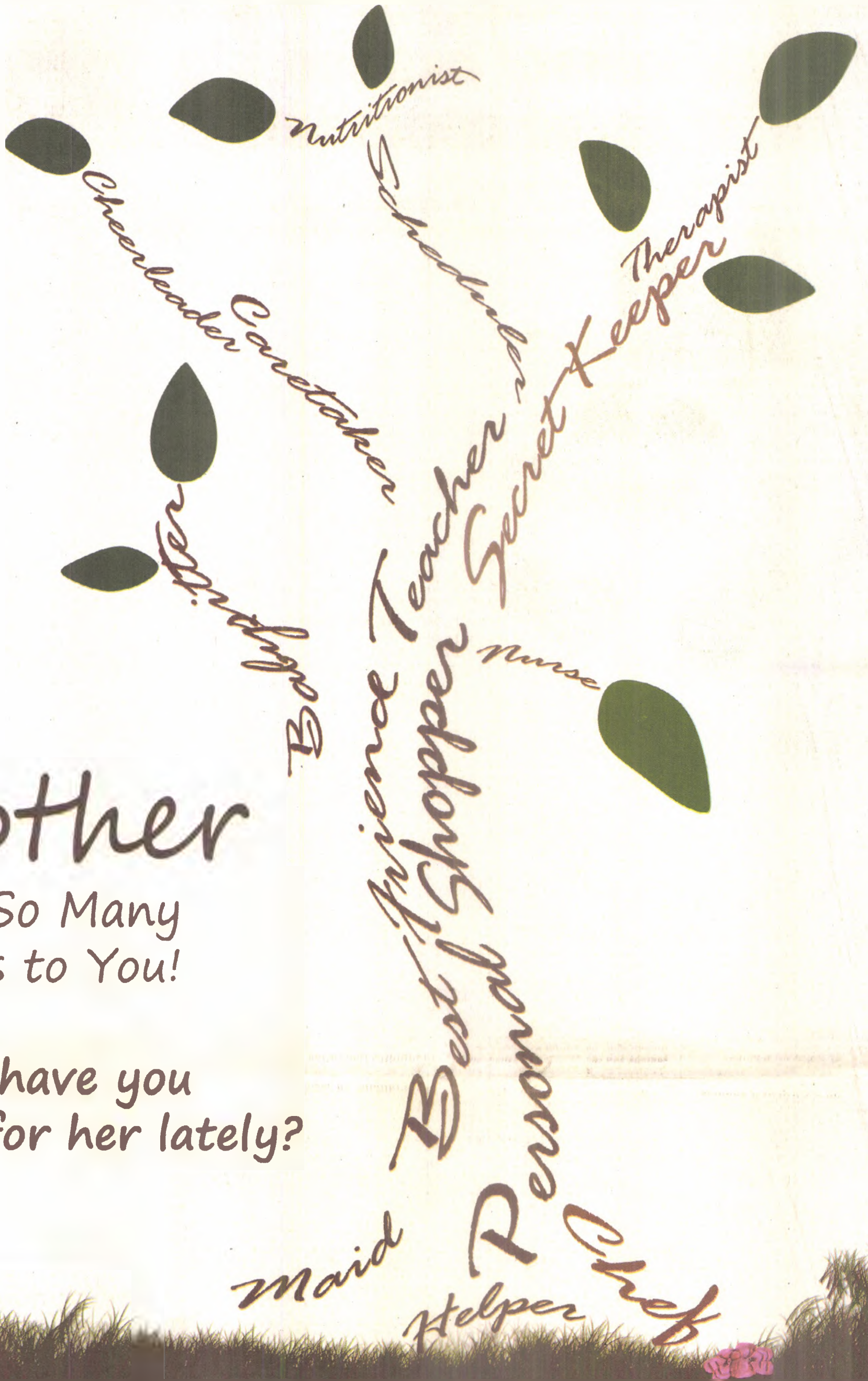
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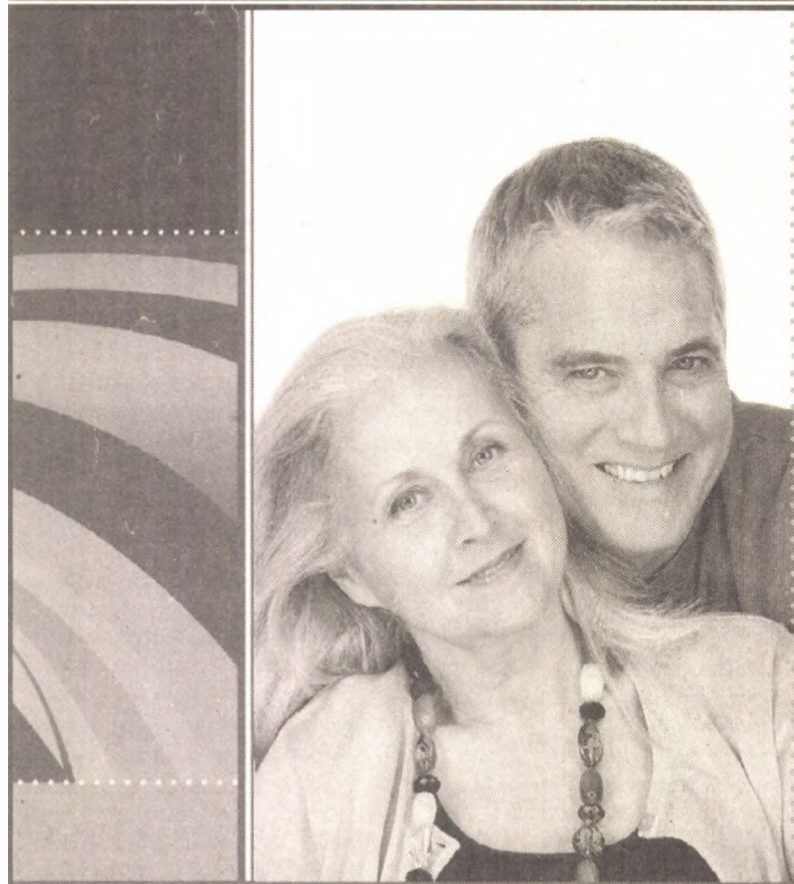
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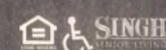
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Do Out-of-the-box Tactics Really Work?

Hiring managers weigh in

Rachel Zupek, CareerBuilder.com writer

From resumes accompanied by shoes to get candidates' "feet in the door," to candidates sending cakes designed as business cards, hiring managers have seen it all when it comes to memorable job-seeker tactics.

Facing the most difficult job market in decades, job seekers are often advised to stand out among the competition by using creative and unconventional tactics to grab an employer's attention. While that advice is sound and good, it raises the question of whether or not these avant-garde approaches actually work.

Well -- it depends. "I personally like those candidates that think outside of the box. As an HR professional, nothing makes me happier than knowing a candidate for a marketing position has, for example, created a brochure that is actually his or her resume," says Vani Colombo, HR director for VIP desk, a customer and concierge service. "I'm always amazed when candidates break the rules with class to stand out. It shows they are resourceful and willing to go the extra mile."

Tactics that worked

Vinh Nguyen, 30, is a great example of someone who didn't want to fall prey to the same fate as other unsuccessful applicants -- but who stood out in a good way. Career Tiger, a service that helps people find a job through unique and unconventional methods, helped Nguyen come up with this tactic:

When asked a question during an interview with a health-care IT company, he surprised his interviewers by pulling out a whiteboard, writing down his thought process and taking control of the interview.

"Differentiating yourself from your competition makes sense. The idea is to show that you are a thought leader in your area and that your knowledge is valuable," Nguyen says. "It was awkward at first, but breaking away

from the norm will pay off as long as you put in the work beforehand researching."

He got the job, and he is still working at the company as a project manager.

Dave Bowman, founder and chairman of TTG Consultants, a consulting firm, recalls a client who was a designer and really wanted to make an impression in an upcoming interview.

"As the interview began, he would wheel in a model of a previous theme-park exhibit he'd designed. He'd bring in with him three clowns who would be playing musical instruments. They would walk around the room for a minute or so, playing a song, and then exit, leaving the model for the interviewer to view in more detail," Bowman says. "The idea worked. His out-of-the-box tactics got him the job offer and at more money than he'd expected."

While both of these unconventional methods worked in these instances, many hiring managers say that alternative tactics often walk a fine line between admirable and creative and just plain inappropriate.

"I would consider a candidate who used a tactic if it was ethical and demonstrated a behavior that would be relevant to the job they were interested in," says Kim Lockhart, regional vice president for Spherion Corp., a recruiting and staffing provider. "For example, if someone was trying to get their name in consideration for a sales position and was using techniques to obtain an interview similar to the way they would approach securing a sale, I would consider it."

Tactics that didn't
Though many job seekers have successfully used creative job-search tactics, there seem to be an equal number of unsuccessful applicants, according to some hiring managers.

A few months ago, Carolyn Turner, a business coach in Portland, Ore., was helping a client hire an office manager.

"We had one applicant arrive unannounced at the office with a cherry pie

she had baked that morning. She explained that she wanted to stand out from all the other applicants -- which she did, but just in a scary, stalkerish kind of way," Turner says. "I got a call from the business owner that day wondering what to do; no one wanted to eat the pie, but she left it in her own pie plate, which meant they had to get it back to her somehow. It was all just very awkward."

Turner says that having gone through hundreds of resumes for that position, it became clear that good candidates stand out just by how they present themselves in their cover letters and resumes.

"There's really no need to go over the top to get noticed," she says. "For the majority of businesses and positions, a really well-written cover letter is more than enough. You'd be surprised at how many badly written cover letters and resumes there are."

Don't try this at home
Christine Bolzan, CEO of Graduate Career Coaching, agrees with Turner and strongly advises against extreme tactics in the job search. She says many applicants who use these methods end up with a permanent "Do Not Hire" label in their company file.

Bolzan recalls two examples of what not to try in your job-search efforts, one of which includes gift giving.

"I've received flowers, wine, perfume and the most memorable of all -- a pair of Ferragamo shoes, which was a generous attempt at a ping following our brief conversation of great things to buy at Heathrow Duty Free," Bolzan says. "This is never appropriate. In fact, many companies have a policy against accepting gifts of any sort."

Another job search no-no? Stalking the interviewer, which Bolzan says she's encountered on several different levels, including people who have waited in career fair parking lots and others who've waited outside the office building.

"The worst of all stalkers I've

encountered followed me into the pool at my hotel at 10 p.m. when I was trying to get a break from a long day at a large-scale recruiting event," Bolzan says. "The same event where I found over 100 different resumes secured by the wipers on my rental car windshield, and woke in the morning to even more resumes slipped under my hotel room door."

Remember the rules

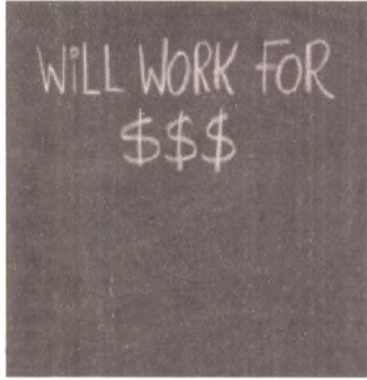
Barring stalker behavior and lavish gifts, out-of-the-box tactics can work if you play your cards right. Greg Masiewicz, manager of marketing and online communications for IQ Partners Inc., offers these tips:

1. Make it relevant
"Whatever tactic you choose to use, make sure it's relevant to the position you're applying for," Masiewicz says. "If you choose a tactic that you think will grab a hiring manager's attention but doesn't tie into the job, the industry, or what you're about, then it can come off as just seeming strange and weird instead of creative and clever."

2. Don't go too far
"It's important to walk that fine line between different, yet not going too far with trying to stand out. If you do something that's too overly crazy, you can come off seeming a little creepy and weird instead of like a star applicant with a sense of determination," Masiewicz says. "Remember, you want to grab their attention, not become a joke in the office."

3. A good idea can get you an interview, but not a job
"Remember that no matter the tactic you use to try and gain the attention of a hiring manager, at the end of the day they're still going to hire the person who they feel can do the job best," Masiewicz says. "An out-of-the-box tactic might get you an interview, but it's still up to you to show you're not only determined, but also the best person for the job."

Rachel Zupek is a writer and blogger for CareerBuilder.com and its job blog, The Work Buzz. She researches and writes about job search strategy, career management, hiring trends and workplace issues. Follow her on Twitter: twitter.com/CBwriterRZ



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In the Livonia area. \$9.50/hr. 734-284-2121 EEOC

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
Farmington Hills based real estate development firm seeking an energetic self-starting individual. Must be highly organized as well as proficient in Microsoft Word and Excel. Legal experience with transcription from dictation required. Must possess excellent phone skills for multiple-line phone system. This position offers competitive salary and benefits package. Please forward resume via email to: jdemetriou@grandsakwa.com

DIRECTOR OF PHARMACY SERVICES
Opening for a Director of Pharmacy Services to manage, direct, plan, coordinate, organize and supervise all pharmacy activities, including establishing and monitoring policies, procedures and operational protocols; supervising and coordinating pharmacists, technicians and ancillary staff; responsible for purchasing, dispensing, storage, inventory and budgeting; recruit and staff all pharmacies; as necessary, assist in dispensing and compounding of medications. Employer contracts with independent pharmacies so occasional travel may be req'd to various pharmacies in Wayne, Macomb, Oakland, Saginaw, Genesee and Bay counties. Min. 5 years experience plus Bachelors in Pharmacy or related field req'd, foreign equivalent accepted. Active MI pharmacist license is req'd. Send resumes to Babubhai Patel, President, Elite Pharmacy Management Ltd., d/b/a Your Local Pharmacy, 5918 Lilley Road, Ste. 2, Canton, Michigan 48187.

Pharmacist & Pharmacy Tech
Full-Time or Part-Time. Exc. working conditions. Multiple openings for various locations in metro area.
Email resume to: sue.haggertydrugs@yahoo.com

All advertising published in this Newspaper is subject to the conditions stated in the applicable rate card. (Copies are available from the advertising department, Observer and Eccentric Newspapers, 41304 Concept Drive, Plymouth, MI 48170 866-887-2737. We reserve the right not to accept an advertiser's order. Our sales representatives have no authority to bind this newspaper and any publication of an advertisement shall constitute final acceptance of the advertiser's order. When more than one insertion of the same advertisement is ordered, no credit will be given unless notice of typographical or other errors are given in time for correction before the second insertion. Not responsible for omissions. Publisher's Notice: All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968 which states that it is illegal to advertise "any preference limitation, or discrimination". This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal housing opportunity basis. (FR Doc, 724983 3-31-72) Classified ads may be placed according to the deadlines. Advertisers are responsible for reading their ads! The first time it appears and reporting any errors immediately. The Newspaper will not issue credit for errors in ads after THE FIRST INCORRECT INSERTION. Equal Housing Opportunity Statement: We are pledged to the letter and spirit of U.S. policy for the achievement of equal housing opportunity throughout the nation. We encourage and support an affirmative advertising and marketing program in which there are no barriers to obtain housing because of race, color, religion or national origin. Equal Housing Opportunity slogan: "Equal Housing Opportunity". Table III - Illustration of Publisher's Notice.

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All Around - Exp. only! Full-time. Apply at: 613 Manufacturers Dr. Westland, 48186. btwn 9am-3pm.

PROCUREMENT
Global - Midwest (non-automotive) Manufacturing Company seeks Emerging Leaders. The ideal candidate would have 4-6 years of practical work experience in a multinational manufacturing company; proven experience in negotiating medium and high dollar price contracts. Qualifications include: ability to travel and relocate globally. Bachelor's degree req'd. MBA/Master's preferred (supply chain mgmt or engineering degree a plus) & bilingual desired. EOE
Send your resume to: PRLD@coconfidential.com

Roof Loader/CDL Trainee - \$14/hr
Deliver roofing supplies and earn a CDL license! Heavy lifting & roof walking required. Great benefits & overtime! Apply at: Wimsatt Building Materials
36340 Van Born, Wayne

ROOFING MAINTENANCE WORKER - Must have knowledge of various roofing systems and ability to repair same. Needs a valid drivers license. Will consider someone who wants to learn & lead. Call for appt. (313) 387-0220

Member Services Coordinator
Technical Association in Farmington Hills seeks highly-organized and energetic individual to perform a variety of duties, including, but not limited to, correspondence & mailings, registrations, processing publication orders, and membership database maintenance. Must be proficient in Word (Windows); Excel; and have database experience. Must have excellent oral and written communication skills & at least three years pertinent experience. Nationwide travel, as needed, approximately 3 weeks a year. Resume and salary requirements to: barb.cheyne@concrete.org

FRONT DESK
Proficient in communication, organization, & passionate in helping others. Resumes must be hand delivered to: Transformation Health, 18444 Farmington Rd, Livonia, MI 48152 on 5/2 & 5/4, btwn 10-11am

PHLEBOTOMY TRAINING
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Help Wanted-Medical 500

Help Wanted-Sales 5123

MAINTENANCE
Person to work for a professional property management company, performing repairs at various locations. Must have building maintenance experience, own tools, and transportation capable of carrying tools and supplies. Salary based on knowledge. This is a full-time position with benefits.

Also hiring full-time, seasonal, maintenance persons for summer employment, with no benefits. EEOC.
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Summer Job
Great job for college student! \$10-15/hr. For more info email: sales@cantonparty.com

PROPERTY MGMT: Office Clerical, Belleville area. Mail resume to: Owner, PO Box 85530, Westland MI 48185

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Mitchell Home Medical Delivery & education of respiratory/durable medical equipment in patients' homes. Excellent driving record, CDL Class C/Hazmat eligible. H.S. diploma/GED. Ability to lift up to 200 lbs. Some medical experience preferred. Must be avail for rotating on-call schedule.
Fax resume w/job title in subject line to: 734-572-1072 email: hr@mitchellhomemedical.com No phone calls. EOE

Recreational Therapist
West Bloomfield Nursing Center is seeking a FT Activity Coordinator. Certified Rec Therapist with exp. in long term care preferred.
Fax resume to Julie Kasly at (248) 661-2276 or Email: Premier.jobs@yahoo.com To find out more about WBNIC go to www.apremierlife.com

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Opening for a Staff Accountant to develop and communicate business plans, objectives and goals of multiple pharmacies, including accounting functions such as accounts payable, accounts receivable, financial reporting and tax filing; survey the operations to ascertain accounting needs; recommend, develop & maintain solutions to business and financial problems; analyze business operations; project future revenues and expenses; develop, maintain & analyze budgets; develop, implement, modify & document record keeping and accounting systems; ensure accounting compliance and reporting requirements; supervise payroll; compute taxes owed & prepare tax returns; provide tax consultation and planning to pharmacies. Employer contracts with independent pharmacies so occasional travel may be req'd to various pharmacies in Wayne, Macomb, Oakland, Saginaw, Genesee and Bay counties. Min. Bachelors in Accounting or related field req'd, foreign equivalent accepted. Experience in pharmacy operations and inventory management required. Will accept any combination of education, training or experience in lieu of stated education and experience requirements. Send resumes to Babubhai Patel, President, Elite Pharmacy Management Ltd., d/b/a Your Local Pharmacy, 5918 Lilley Road, Ste. 2, Canton, Michigan 48187.


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We're looking for customer-centric, energetic, aggressive account executives who can follow a solutions-based strategy of sales with clients, have a proven ability to close sales and can think big to take their place as part of our Advertising team for the Birmingham/West Bloomfield Territory!

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Member Relations Reps- Teller Duties For Metro Detroit area including Ann Arbor
Cash handling and product sales. Intense paid training mandatory. Training classes scheduled for June. Must be available to work Mon-Fri. 9:15am-6:30pm Saturday 9:15am-2:30pm
Accepting applications through May 13, 2011

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Customer service and goal oriented sales experience required. Intense six week paid training mandatory. Next class scheduled for June. Summer training available to accommodate college students. Must be available to work Mon-Fri. 2:00pm-6:00pm Saturday 9:15am-2:30pm

ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS THROUGH MAY 13, 2011

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TELECOMMUNICATION BILLING SPECIALIST
Must have exp in reading telephone bills & entering data with Excel. FT/PT. Please send resumes to: HR Dept. P.O. Box 250370, West Bloomfield, MI 48325

VETERINARY ASSISTANT
Part-Time. Apply within: Sheldon Veterinary Hospital, 9460 Sheldon Rd., Plymouth, (734) 454-5580

WAREHOUSE Part-Time
Stock position at Novi electrical distributor. Hours: Monday's & Thursday's 1-8pm. Saturday's 10am-5pm. Call: 586-843-2303

WAREHOUSE-Full Time
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AFI Financial	(877) 234-0600	4.625	0	3.75	0	J/F
Ameriplus Mortgage Corp.	(248) 740-2323	4.875	0	4.125	0	J/A
BRINKS Financial Group	(800) 785-4755	4.375	0.625	3.625	0.625	J/A/V/F
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Co-op Services Credit Union	(734) 466-6113	5	0	4.125	0	J
Dearborn Federal Savings Bank	(313) 565-3100	4.875	0	4.125	0	A
Fifth Third Bank	(800) 792-8830	4.875	0	4.125	0	J/V/F
First State Bank	(800) 372-2205	4.75	0	4.25	0	J/F
Flagstar Bank	(313) 410-4428	4.875	0	4.25	0	J/A/V/F
Gold Star Mortgage	(800) 784-1074	4.75	0	4.125	0	J/A/V/F
Golden Rule Mortgage	(800) 991-9922	4.75	0	4.125	0	J/A/V/F
Group One Mortgage	(248) 282-1602	5.125	0	4.25	0	J/A/V/F
Mortgages by Golden Rule	(800) 991-9922	4.5	1.5	3.75	1.25	J/A/V/F

Above information available as of 4/22/11 and subject to change at anytime. Rates are based on a \$200,000 loan with 20% down & credit score of 740 or above. Jumbo rates, specific payment calculations & most current rates available Fridays after 2:00 P.M. at www.rmcreport.com. Key to "Other" Column - J = Jumbo, A = Arm, V = VA, F = FHA & NR = Not Reported. All Lenders are Equal Opportunity Lenders. Lenders to participate call (734) 922-3032 / © 2011 Residential Mortgage Consultants, Inc., All Rights Reserved

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