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LIFE, B6

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CLASSIFIED, SECTION C

MAD MEN'S JON HAMM
USA WEEKEND
ONE-ON-ONE WITH THE MAN DRIVING WOMEN MAD

Miracle League

Spring 2012 registration for the Miracle League of Plymouth takes place through March 31, with fall registration taking place in June.

Miracle League caters to special-needs players in age divisions 5-8, 9-12, 13-17 and 18-up. Games begin for the spring season May 1 and run through June 9, not counting rain dates. The fall season starts the week of Aug. 13 and runs through Sept. 22. Games are played Wednesdays and/or Thursday and at various times on Saturday at the Bilkie Family Field, 357 Theodore in Plymouth.

For all questions and inquiries, contact Shari Bilkie at

info@miracleleague-plymouth.org or visit www.miracleleague-plymouth.org.



Registration for the spring season with the Miracle League of Plymouth runs through March 31.

Blood drives

The American Red Cross has a series of blood drives scheduled in the local area to help combat a shortage of blood.

Drives will take place:

- Thursday, March 22, 10 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. at the Plymouth District Library, 223 S. Main in Plymouth.

- Sunday, March 25, 7:30 a.m. to 1:15 p.m., at St. Kenneth Catholic Church, 14951 N. Haggerty in Plymouth Township.

Donors can call Diane Risko, (313) 549-7052 or e-mail riskod@usa.redcross.org to set up an appointment.

Business roundtable

State Sen. Patrick Colbeck, R-Canton, met with business leaders from across the 7th Senate District in Flat Rock this week to discuss the business environment in Michigan and consider possible solutions to the state's high jobless rate.

"The majority of our job providers are local, small business owners," Colbeck said. "This forum provided the opportunity to bring a group of them together in order to more clearly define the problems they are faced with during this economic downturn and hear firsthand their solutions for creating more jobs in our state."

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Emotional board meeting ends with firefighter layoffs

By Matt Jachman
Observer Staff Writer

Eleventh-hour, sometimes emotional pleas and an offer of greater concessions from unionized firefighters failed to halt the layoff of six members of the Plymouth Community Fire Department late Thursday.

The Plymouth Township Board of Trustees voted 6-1 for the layoffs during a special meeting Thursday evening, following public comment and a closed-door session. Clerk Joe Bridgman cast

the only dissenting vote.

It was a cost-cutting move discussed for the past year, prompted by the City of Plymouth's departure, beginning in January, from the fire department it shared with the township for 16 years. That left an annual revenue shortfall of nearly \$1 million.

"This is quite dramatic," said Supervisor Richard Reaume as he outlined reasons for the layoffs. "I don't think there are other communities facing this type of reduction."

The loss of Plymouth also meant a reduction of between 25 percent and 30 percent of the department's work load.

Impassioned pleas

Firefighters and their supporters spoke passionately against the board's plan, and firefighters presented board members and members of the public with a list of contract concessions they said would save \$731,500 a year.

"It would save the town-

Please see LAYOFFS, A6

Layoffs take PCFD out of Station 2

By Matt Jachman
Observer Staff Writer

The layoffs of six Plymouth Community Fire Department firefighters on Thursday evening immediately changed the way Plymouth Township provides firefighting and emergency medical service.

The move left the department with 15 fire-

fighter paramedics, plus Chief Mark Wendel and the fire inspector. The layoffs were official effective at 8 a.m. Friday, but one firefighter among the six, on duty at Station 2, was sent home Thursday night, township Supervisor Richard Reaume said.

Please see STATION 2, A6



PHOTOS BY BILL BRISLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Plymouth photographer Kelly Dobson was recently named photographer of the year by the Professional Photographers of Michigan.

Picture perfect

Competitive 'to a fault,' local photographer snares state honor

By Matt Jachman
Observer Staff Writer

A longtime Plymouth-area photographer who was "discovered" when she swept—sort of—a competition for high school photojournalists in the 1980s is enjoying statewide recognition.

Kelly Dobson, who grew up in Canton Township and has a studio on Forest in downtown Plymouth, was recently named photographer of the year by the Professional Photographers of Michigan. In addition, she won first-place ribbons in all three categories she entered in the PPM's 2012 print competition.

Dobson is thrilled with the honors. She is one of only five women to be named photographer of the year in the PPM's nearly 60 years.

"I'm very competitive," Dobson said in her studio last week. "To a fault, probably."

She got her first camera, an Olympus OM-10, when she was at Canton High School and began shooting for the student newspaper, the *Plymouth-Canton Educational Park Perspective*.

Early start

As a senior, she entered a contest sponsored by the



Award-winning photographer Kelly Dobson has a studio in Plymouth, but actually grew up in Canton Township.

Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. She won all honorable mentions, she says, not because of her work was of lesser merit, but because her entries were all tearsheets—newspaper clippings of the photos—instead of prints, and she was marked down for that.

But she recalls an O&E photographer calling her journalism teacher and saying, "We need to meet with this girl,

because she's obviously got some talent," she said.

"It was sort of a bittersweet moment," Dobson said.

Soon, she was doing assignments for the *Plymouth Crier* and taking classes at Eastern Michigan University, where she was enrolled in the art program. She's also worked for the O&E, the *Northville Record*, and United Press International, for which she covered the Detroit Grand Prix in the 1980s.

Marriage and family put a hold on her career for a few years.

"Being a journalism isn't really user friendly when you have kids," she said.

But Dobson got back to photography in the early 1990s. She went to work for other photographers before opening her own shop in 2007.

"It was time to put my name on the door," she said.

She specializes in wedding photography and studio portraits, and says her business consists of about 50 percent of each.

'I like the challenge'

Her trade has changed considerably from when she

Please see PHOTO, A5

Students' recycling plan paying off

By Brad Kadrich
Observer Staff Writer

Until the last few weeks, there was never any kind of organized recycling program at the three-school Plymouth-Canton Educational Park.

Apparently, though, they needed one. In the first three weeks of a five-week trial recycling program being conducted by the Park's National Honor Society Green Team, nearly 3,300 bottles and cans had been collected. The program runs through Friday.

The program is being conducted in partnership with Coca-Cola, who provided a number of collection bins now spread around the Park's four buildings. And, considering the sheer numbers of bottles and cans being collected, the students have taken to it nicely.

"As we were planning the program, people were coming up to us saying, 'We really want to do this,'" said Rachael Hille, a Plymouth High School senior helping with the project as an independent studies student. "We were like, 'We'll get to you.'"

Large-scale problem

The idea started forming back in May 2010, when the National Honor Society's executive board started tinkering with ideas. The thought was to do something to help the environment. Considering the fact some 235,000 bottles are sold through the district's vending machines and school lunch lines, coupled with the fact no recycling program existed at the time, the idea seemed particularly timely.

"We decided we wanted to serve our environment in ways we hadn't done before," said NHS President Meagan Shokar, a Plymouth High School senior from Canton. "We decided starting small, with just plastic before we moved on to paper, would be a really good way to raise awareness of environmental issues and really start bat-

Please see RECYCLING, A3



National Honor Society President Meagan Shokar empties one of the many recycling bins placed around the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park as part of the student-run recycling program.

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.

FISH FRIES

Date/Time: Every Friday through April 6, 5-7 p.m.
Location: VFW Post 6695, 1426 S. Mill in Plymouth
Details: VFW Post 6695 hosts its 2012 Fish Fry, featuring baked or fried fish dinners, chicken strip dinners and sides including fries, macaroni and cheese, baked potato and cole slaw. All dinners are served with roll & butter and coffee.

EASTER EGG HUNT

Date/Time: Saturday, April 7, 10 a.m.
Location: Plymouth Township Park, Ann Arbor Trail and McClumpha
Details: The Plymouth Lions Club hosts the annual Easter

Egg Hunt. Bring your baskets, bags and cameras. The event will feature age groups for 0-3, 4-6, 7-8 and 9-10. There will be collection boxes available for hearing aids, eyeglasses and cell phones. Donations are welcome.

NEW MORNING OPEN HOUSE

Date/Time: Wednesday, March 7, 9:15 a.m.
Location: New Morning School, 14501 Haggerty, Plymouth
Details: New Morning School hosts an open house for families interested in enrolling their children in preschool through 8th grade. New Morning School is a non-profit, parent cooperative, offering individualized education that is tailored to your child's needs, daily student planning, small classrooms with 12:1 student-teacher ratio, and multi-age classrooms where children are grouped by ability.



Christian concert

ApogetiX (That Christian Parody Band) plays a concert 7 p.m. Saturday, March 17, at Living Word Church, 46500 N. Territorial in Plymouth. ApogetiX specializes in biblical parodies of classic and modern rock songs. Lead singer J. Jackson, who also writes the band's lyrics, says "ApogetiX is best described as Weird Al Yankovic meets Billy Graham and appeals to both the Christian and secular audiences." The Pittsburgh-based band's repertoire covers the gamut of rock and roll from Elvis to today's artists, with an occasional rap or country song thrown in for good measure. Tickets are \$10 advance, \$15 at the door, and can be bought on line at www.apogetiX.com. For more information, call (734) 207-9673.

Contact: Visit www.new-morningschool.org or call Joan Barrett at (734) 420-3331.

PET-A-PET

Date/Time: Third Saturday of the month, 10 a.m.
Location: Woodhaven Retirement Center in Livonia

Details: PET-A-PET, Inc. is looking for enthusiastic, friendly pets and their owners to visit facilities one hour a month. Pets must be up to date with vaccinations, proof required.

Contact: Laurie Patterson at (734) 953-0438.

Ross center steps up with food drive

By Darrell Clem
Observer Staff Writer

Facing a decline in food donations and an increased demand for help, The Salvation Army Plymouth Corps spent \$25,000 during the last quarter of 2011 to feed needy people in the Plymouth-Canton area. That's money Laurie Aren, the organization's director of family and community ministries, said could have been used to help struggling people pay their utility bills and avoid eviction for past-due rent.

With a shortage of food donations, Canton-based Ross Medical Education Center has stepped up to assist the local Salvation Army by announcing a nonperishable food drive through March 30 at its campus at 44958 Ford Road, tucked away in an office center between Sheldon and Canton Center.

"We'd love to have people come by the campus and drop off food. We've got lots and lots of boxes to fill up," campus Director Erin Hooks said.

The Canton campus is among 20 in Michigan, Indiana and Ohio that launched a "Together We Can" campaign to collect 10,000 canned or other nonperishable food items to help charitable organizations.

Ross cited a federal report from the Economic Research Service stating that 17.2 million

households — or 48.8 million people — have constant worries about access to food.

That comes as organizations such as The Salvation Army Plymouth Corps report a decline in donations. Its food pantry now gets 85 percent of its food from donations — down from 95 percent, Aren said.

"Donations are still coming in," she said, "but they are smaller. When people call and do food drives for us, it is a tremendous encouragement."

Ross expects some of its donations to come from its 82 Canton-based students who are enrolled in three programs — medical assisting, dental assisting and medical insurance billing/office administration.

However, Hooks said Ross has reached out to the community to broaden the scope of its campaign. Nonperishable food may be dropped off 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Thursday or 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Friday. For more information, call (734) 459-1723.

Aren commended organizations such as Ross for helping out. "It's so important for local communities to do food drives," she said. "This food stays local in the Plymouth-Canton community. It's neighbors helping neighbors."

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Ficano apologizes, promises to do better

By LeAnne Rogers
Observer Staff Writer

In his 10th State of Wayne County speech Wednesday, County Executive Robert Ficano didn't address recent calls for his resignation but did apologize for the scandals that have plagued his administration and promised to do better moving forward.

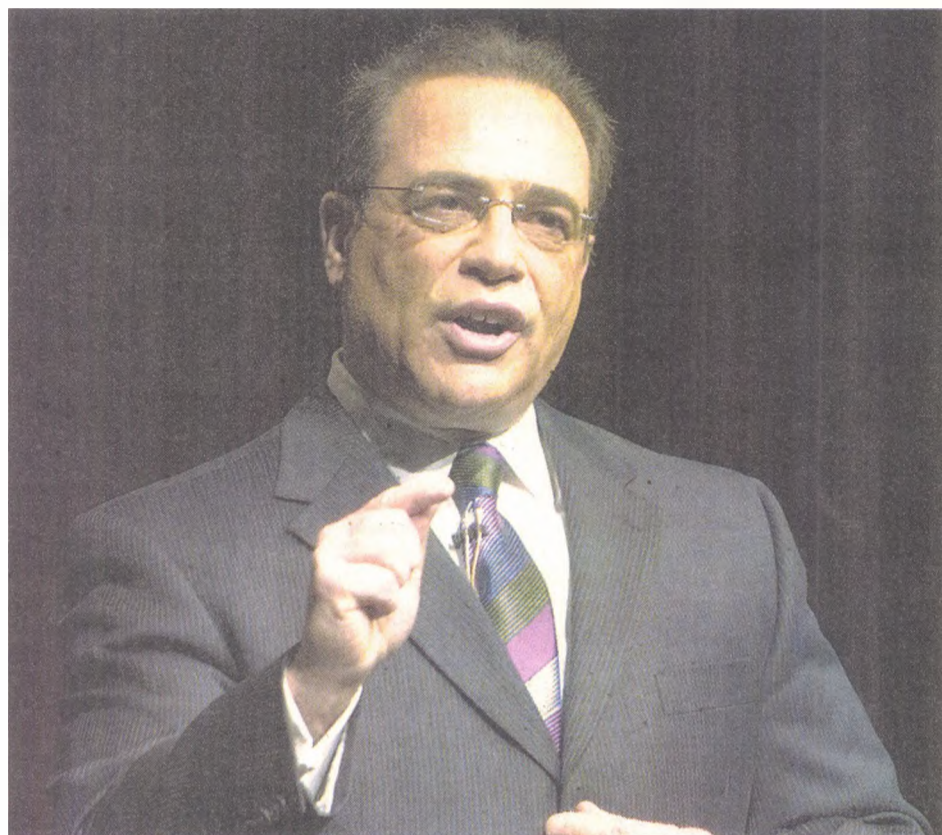
That was exactly the right response, said Wayne County Commissioner Joan Gebhardt (D-Livonia), who was among the elected and appointed officials attending the speech Wednesday night.

While Ficano is making changes in his administration to address the scandals of recent months, Gebhardt said that the commission is also working to tighten controls through an ethics ordinance. That ordinance will be the subject of a public hearing when the commission meets at 10 a.m. Thursday, March 22 in Livonia City Hall.

"He needed to address the problems of Wayne County over the last four months," said Gebhardt. "He used his time wisely and talked about the current problems and how to solve it."

Wayne County Commissioner Kevin McNamara, a Democrat from Canton, agreed. "I felt good that we finally have a balanced budget and we finally have a small surplus. It's been a long time coming. I was happy that he apologized and that's a start," he said.

Ficano didn't name names or get specific in his comments which blamed the scandals -



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

County Executive Bob Ficano gave his annual State of the County address Wednesday.

from the \$200,000 severance for former staffer Turkia Mullen to recent criminal charges against the county's top information technology officer Tahir Kazmi - on former administration officials.

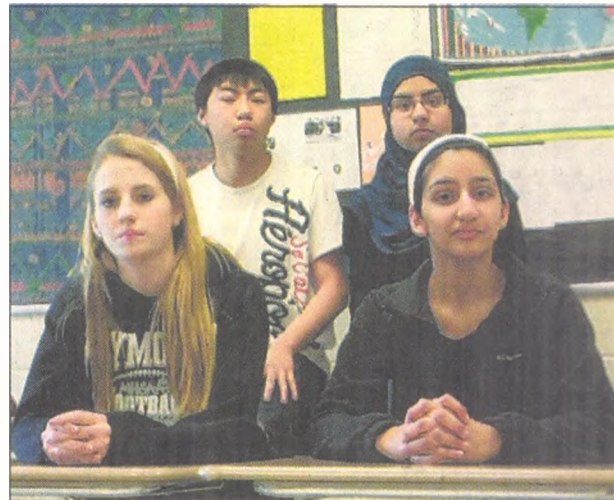
"Some people in whom I placed great trust did not serve me well this past year. More importantly, they didn't serve the people of Wayne County well," said Ficano. "And I agree with those who have said, 'He should have done better.'"

In front of a friendly invited crowd that included Detroit Mayor Dave Bing, Ficano received cheers, hearty applause and a standing ovation at the start and finish of his speech.

It was important to move forward from past issues, said Wayne Mayor Al Haidous, who was at the speech. Ficano had cited efforts to get Ford Motors investment at the Michigan Assembly plant in Wayne.

"I agree that Wayne County job and economic growth is most important," he said. "I hope we all work together for that and turn things around. I see a lot of positives today."

Seated with Haidous, Westland Mayor William Wild agreed that he was glad to hear an apology from Ficano. "I was glad to hear that he will fully cooperate with the investigation," said Wild. "I'm happy that he is ready to



Steve Lin (clockwise from top left), Mariam Asadullah, Reagan Shokar and Rachael Hille are among the leaders running the pilot recycling program at the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park.

RECYCLING

Continued from page A1

ting one of our biggest problems."

The team contacted the local representative from Coca-Cola, who immediately expressed interest in getting involved. The company provided the bins and does the pickup, a partnership that really makes the program tick.

"We were really fortunate to have some fantastic opportunities with Coca-Cola to have the plastics picked up," said Hille, a Plymouth resident. "They provided us with a lot of bins, and did the collection, and we thought that would be a really good start. They were very interested in figuring out how they could help us in the really unique situation we're in, with such a large campus."

"Making sure basic services like roads are taken care of.
• Making sure health systems are meeting the needs of the community.
• Making sure streets are clean and safe.
• Making sure the workforce is educated."

Big numbers

The numbers are staggering. According to NHS undersecretary Steve Lin, a Plymouth High School senior from Canton and the team's numbers-cruncher, the sale of plastic drink bottles equates to some 1,700 per

day when school days, special events, sporting events and summer school are figured in.

As the entirely student-run program got off the ground, it took some effort to let kids know about it and get them involved.

"We've had to use incentives (such as coupons), we've had announcements three times a week on our news television show, we've done radio, the school website, and the school newspaper had a front-page story," said NHS secretary Mariam Asadullah, also a Plymouth High School senior from Canton. "We've had to do a lot of promotion."

As the program nears its end, the team is preparing a report to the high school administration they hope will demonstrate the need for the district to pick up the program on an official basis.

For now, they're just happy it has gone so well. "It's encouraging to see everything we've been working toward working out," Hille said. "We're happy with that."

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All Saints kindergartners help Humane Society

Many cats and dogs will be eating healthy meals in coming days, thanks to the efforts of Kindergartners at All Saints Catholic School in Canton.

All Saints recently celebrated its 100th day in session. In honor of the event, all three Kindergarten classrooms donated cans of pet food as a service project.

Stephanie Laroo, a room parent whose son Braylon is a kindergartner in teacher Carol Stowe's class, approached Stowe with the idea.

"The kids have an opportunity to help those who are helpless," Stowe said. "I discussed what the Humane Society is and how they protect animals. In our class, we talk a lot about all God's creatures big and small, and respect for all. This project just reinforces this concept. It allows the compassion for them to be put into action."

Laroo said often, when times get hard, people forget about animals in need.

"I know that the shelters have seen a decline in their donations over the past couple of years, so I thought this would be a great opportunity to help out," Laroo said. "I was thrilled that Mrs. MacLellan and Ms. Zukowski (the two other kindergarten teachers at All Saints) were interested in joining us in the collection."

Braylon Laroo was excited about participating in the collection because it felt like the animals were a part of

the celebration, too. "I feel I am helping out the poor animals," he said. Another Kindergartner, Madeline Raetz, also said it was fun going through the 100th-day tunnel in the hallway and watching the cans stack up as everyone added to the collection.

The Laroo Family delivered the pet food to the Michigan Humane Society in Westland. The staff was grateful for the contribution, and thought the project "was a great idea."



All Saints Catholic School kindergartners celebrated their 100th day of school by collecting pet food to benefit the Michigan Humane Society in Westland. From left, Jack Smith, Joshua Rotherth, Madeline Raetz and Braylon Laroo were among the children excited to help support the shelter with their donations.

SCHOOL BRIEFS

Charter excellence

The leadership at Canton Charter Academy is among schools named "Schools of Excellence" by their charter authorizers. Canton is receiving the honor from the Central Michigan University Board of Trustees. The "School of Excellence" designation puts these academies in an elite class, declaring their charters are now approved for a 10-year term, rather than a typical 7-year term.

To be designated as a "School of Excellence," kindergartners through 8th grade schools must demonstrate either a three-year average proficiency of 90 percent on the state assessment in reading and math or a three-year average proficiency of 70 percent on the state assessment in reading and math while serving at least 50 percent free/reduced-price lunch eligible students.

From 2008-2010, Can-



Check and mate

Five teams of South Canton Scholars Charter Academy students recently participated in the Michigan State Chess tournament. The students not only played chess but practiced patience, how to cope with anxiety and pressure, excitement, losing with dignity and winning with sportsmanship. Among the players were (from left) first-grader Varun Nalla, fifth-grader Alek Mabry and kindergartner Lazar Mabry.

ton achieved an average of 96 percent and 97 percent proficiency in reading and math, respectively, with 11 percent of its students eligible for free/reduced lunches.

Alma College

Alma College has named over 450 students to the Dean's List for out-

standing academic performance during the 2011 Fall Term.

Katherine Greenough and **Erin Rodes** of Plymouth and **Chelsie Myers** of Canton were among students named to the list.

Wagner College

Tyler M. Seling of Plymouth made the Dean's List for the Fall 2011 semes-

ter at Wagner College in New York.

Kindergarten signup

All-Day kindergarten on-line registration Begins March 19-23. The Plymouth-Canton Community Schools will provide all-day kindergarten for the 2012-2013 school year. Children who are 5-years-old before Dec. 1, can attend kindergarten starting in September. P-CCS will enroll kindergartners online beginning March 19 by clicking on the kindergarten enrollment link at www.pccs.k12.mi.us

Residents also can enroll from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at one of the following locations:

- Monday, March 19 at Workman Elementary, 250 Denton Road, Canton
- Tuesday, March 20 at Allen Elementary, 11100 Haggerty Road, Plymouth
- Wednesday, March 21 at Tonda Elementary, 46501 Warren Road, Canton

Local students earn math honors

Students from the Plymouth and Canton areas were among the top 100 students honored in the Michigan Mathematics Prize Competition sponsored by the Michigan Section of the Mathematics Association of America.

The competition hands out some \$20,000 in scholarships every year, ranging from \$250 to \$2,500. To earn them, students take a two-part examination from topics in high school mathematics. Part One consists of 40 multiple-choice questions. Some 10,000 students took Part One, and the highest 1,000 are invited to take Part II, where students work on five challenging problems and write their solutions providing full justification and proofs of their claims.

Those are hand-graded by college professors and professional mathematics, and the top 100

are honored with awards.

Local students earning scholarships were Bryant Chen of Canton High School (\$250), Industrial Center for Academic Excellence student Ankan Bhattacharya of the Industrial Center for Academic Excellence (\$2,000) and Helen Zhou of International Academy East (honorable mention).

Kevin Ni, Madhuri Das and Kevin Shi of Plymouth High School each received an honorable mention. Peter Su, Nitin Ram and Scott Su were each awarded a \$250 scholarship, while Natasha Consul and Vishal Amin also earned honorable mentions.

Universities and colleges that have helped fund the scholarships, book awards, and examination administration are Hope College and Colleges and Universities throughout the state of Michigan.

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Band boosters host annual craft show

The Plymouth-Canton Music Boosters host their annual Spring Arts and Crafts Ensemble Saturday, March 10, at Plymouth High School. The fundraising event is a juried art show produced twice each year by the PCMB to help support the band and color guard programs at the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park.

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

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

"The Arts & Craft Ensembles are two of the most successful fundraisers we host each year," said Erin Babcock, president of the 2012 Plymouth-Canton Music Boosters. "It's a wonderful community event that welcomes springtime each year. We're hopeful the community will come out and support our kids by visiting our craft show."

PHOTO

Continued from page A1

started, Dobson said: documenting a wedding now is more like an on-location fashion shoot, and high school seniors are often looking for something a little edgier and expressive than the plain-vanilla head-and-shoulders shots of 1970s high school yearbooks. "Everyone gets those safe ones that mom and grandma like," she said of high school seniors.

But then, she said she "likes to find out what makes the kid tick" and set up something unique.

Clients want their photos to be more personal, Dobson said, pointing out examples, such as a large framed print of newlyweds, surrounded by wedding goers, enjoying a moment in an old-fashioned diner. It was at The Henry Ford, where the couple had their reception, and Dobson said she was inspired by the museum's display.

"I like the challenge of coming up with something unique with every



KELLY DOBSON

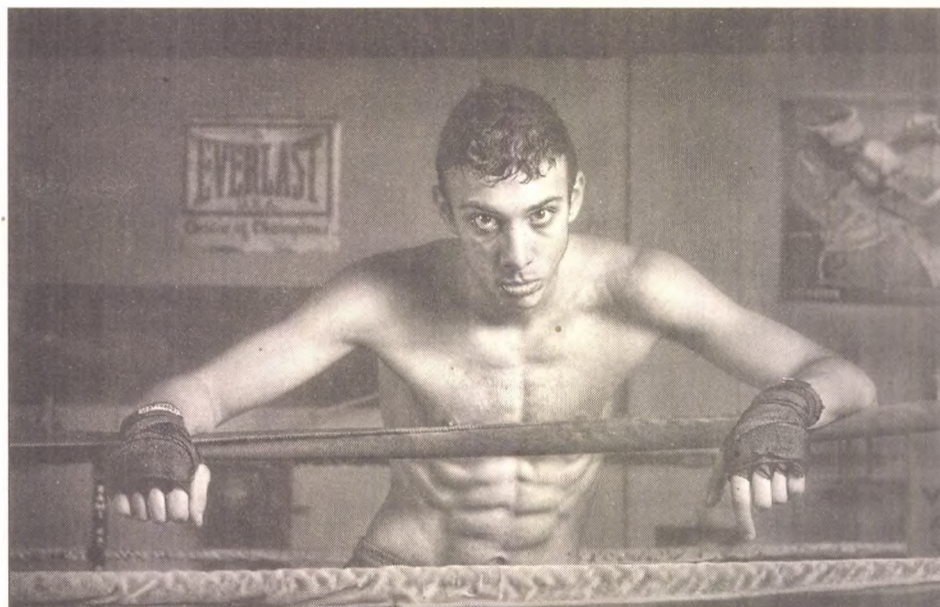
"Sacred Dance"

session I do," she said.

Dobson was a relative latecomer to digital photography, completing her transition from film about five years ago. She's not looking back.

"Everything we can do is so beyond what we could do in a darkroom, and a lot less wasteful," she said.

She's a big fan of Photoshop, using the computer program to highlight subjects, hide flaws, and give some of her pictures the look of old-fashioned



KELLY DOBSON

A senior portrait titled "Why tap 'em out when you can make them black out?"

painted photographs and even landscape paintings.

But the digital revolution in photography has made quality more accessible to those with little photo experience, she said, and the challenge has become setting yourself apart.

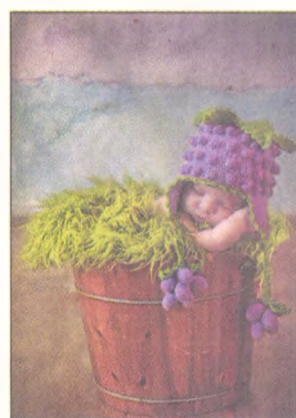
Even some of her clients have gone into business for themselves, Dobson said.

"We're now competing with all of that. Everybody's a photographer now," she said. "We have to stay ahead of the curve. We're always trying to stay on that cutting edge."

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KELLY DOBSON

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LAYOFFS

Continued from page A1

ship money. It would put you in line with the concessions you want from us," said Lt. Dan Atkins, president of Local 1496 of the International Association of Fire Fighters. "We've offered conces-

sions. We've bent over backwards," said firefighter Pat Conely. "What is the motto of this township? 'People, Our Priority.'" continued Conely, adding the motto was not being followed. However, township Treasurer Ron Edwards said the proposed concessions would only save

\$423,000. "They keep grandstanding with these numbers," Edwards said Friday morning. "It's impossible to make the numbers work out." "Perhaps this would've been a different outcome if we had been able to achieve concessions a couple years back," said Trustee Steve Mann at the board table. Firefighters had earlier offered concessions worth about \$300,000 a year, but township officials said that was too little, too late given the loss of revenue Plymouth had provided. Firefighters also pushed Thursday to be allowed to do more transporting to hospitals of patients during medical emergencies, something they said would bring in revenue. "We want to continue to work with you to make the fire department better, and we can't succeed without your backing," said Capt. Dan Philips.



Firefighter Jim Harrell addresses the Plymouth Township Board at Thursday's special meeting, during which board members announced the laying off of six firefighters and the "browning out" of Fire Station 2 in the township's Lake Pointe subdivision.

Coverage questioned

Resident Susan Bondie, who lives in the Lake Pointe subdivision, drew gasps and scattered applause when she lashed out at the board. Bondie

said public safety would be compromised. "Somebody's going to die, and I actually hope and pray it's one of you," Bondie told the board, prompting Reaume to pause public comments and call for civility. Firefighters facing the loss of their jobs said they were looking for other work. "I'll be fine. I'm applying to other departments right now," said firefighter Greg Mangan, the Local 1496 treasurer and an outspoken advocate for the firefighters. "Hopefully, it'll be one that has more respect for the fire service." Trustee Kay Arnold expressed mixed feelings about the move. "This has been one of the hardest two and a half years, going through this," Arnold said. "I'm really sorry to have to do this." "We can save you the money," responded Firefighter Jim Harrell from the audience. "It's never too late."

Bridgman said he voted against the layoffs because he thought more notice of the meeting should have been given to the public, because the township and Local 1496 are in the midst of binding contract arbitration, and because he was against the job cuts. "I've said this from day one: There's a better way of reorganizing the fire department," Bridgman said Friday. "The fire chief (Mark Wendel) had a great plan that could work, but nobody wants to listen to it." The layoffs followed voters' defeat Tuesday of a special assessment district proposal that could have raised tax money for the fire department. Nearly 84 percent of voters rejected the measure, and township officials had said they were unlikely to levy the tax even if it had been approved.

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STATION 2

Continued from page A1

"We're pretty much browning out Lake Pointe, fire Station No. 2," Reaume said of the station on Wilcox Road.

However, Huron Valley Ambulance immediately began basing a paramedic ambulance unit in the Lake Pointe area, Reaume said, moving it from its former base at Five Mile and Sheldon.

Reaume acknowledged the shift amounts to closing Station 2 as far as having firefighters based there, but said the station's territory will still be covered by HVA's presence.

Both HVA and the PCFD will continue to respond to medical calls, Reaume said, but in the

northeast corner of the township, a fire or medical emergency will bring PCFD personnel from Station 1, at Haggerty and Ann Arbor Road, rather than from Station 2.

"I have confidence in it," the supervisor said of the plan.

Reaume said HVA's Lake Pointe unit may at times even be at Station 2, though it hasn't been decided if the paramedics would actually use the building itself. The ambulance might also at times be at the senior citizen Friendship Station or at Lake Pointe Soccer Park in between emergency runs, he said.

Simply put, Reaume said, HVA will now regularly deploy three ambulances in the township rather than two, while the

PCFD will go from three paramedic crews down to two.

The 15 PCFD firefighter-paramedics will continue to work 24-hour shifts, based at Station 1 and at Station 3, which is at Beck and North Territorial, Reaume said. Each shift will have five on duty, he said; in case of vacations, personal time or sick time, off-duty firefighters could be called in to supplement, but it's possible that only four firefighters would be on duty at some times.

In addition, the township has hired part-time firefighters who could begin working later this month, the supervisor said. Already finished with the fire academy, they are undergoing training in policies spe-

cific to the department, he said.

Reaume said the township will continue to fulfill its mutual aid obligations to neighboring communities in cases of major emergencies, contrary to information that was being spread Thursday night.

"We will continue to do mutual aid and we've got a procedure in place," he said.

Firefighters on Thursday questioned how effective five-member platoons will be during major structure fires.

"It will put citizens at risk," said Guy Villet, one of the laid-off firefighters. "You can't fight a house fire with five guys."

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Wayne High Champions looks to community for help

By Sue Mason
Observer Staff Writer

Four years ago, Richard Helppie put up the seed money for a new endeavor. In many ways, it was like what he does as a venture capitalist. He helped get it started and helped it grow. Now he's looking for "investors" to help make the Champions of Wayne sustainable.

The only difference between the businesses he has worked with over the years and Champions is the product. Helppie through the Helppie Family Charity Foundation is helping Wayne Memorial High School students find success academically \$200 at a time.

"I put in the fuel and a little structure, I try to lend my expertise in growing things," said Helppie, a 1974 Wayne Memorial graduate and Distinguished Alumni honoree. "Now we need to get more donors, more mentors. This needs to become a community program. We're not limited by the group of students, we're limited by mentors. We're at capacity."

The brainchild of school psychologist Bill Gray, the idea was to motivate struggling students. The program started during the second semester of the 2008-09 school year. Initially, it didn't offer a financial



FILE PHOTO

Richard Helppie, a Wayne Memorial High School Distinguished Alumni Award recipient, has used the Helppie Family Charitable Foundation to fund the Champion Program to help students improve academically.

incentive, mentoring or an academic contract. Two students reached their goals out of 130.

Added incentive

In the fall of 2009, Helppie got involved and agreed to provide \$9,000 per semester to provide \$200 for every student who reached their academic goal. The students are paired with adult mentors who help them set their goals and work

with them to help them succeed.

What started out with 80 students has grown into more than 500 students this semester and the creation of a Champions of Wayne charitable corporation that is looking to the community to help meet the needs of the students.

Champions of Wayne is now a 501(c)3 charity, with Sean Galvin as its executive direc-

tor. In its beginning stages as a charity, the program is looking for the community to embrace it. Up until now, the high school staff has served as the mentors. But the number of students wanting to be in the program has now outstripped the supply of mentors. Last semester, 360 students were involved in Champions, 106 reached their goal. "The teachers here are very

busy as mentors, they've taken on 10-12 students each," said Galvin. "We'd like to lighten their load."

Galvin added that the mentors are "very dedicated." They make their own schedule and once a week have a one-on-one with the students.

Looking for donors

The two men are looking for donors to provide more funding for the Champions. For Helppie, the \$100,000 put into the program is money well spent.

"I think we can make significant changes in young people," He said. "Kids learn by setting goals and getting support, but it's up to them. We need to get them to graduate from high school and work up to their full potential."

The program has a website, www.championsofwayne.org, that's under construction and a Facebook page with information about the program. However, people interested in helping, can contact Galvin by e-mail at galvins@wwcsd.net or by calling (734) 419-2294.

"It's still early, but I know it can do great things," said Helppie. "It's going to take a lot of people doing a lot of little things."

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Students show creativity in essay contest

Local elementary and middle school students showed off their creativity recently during Community Financial's Presidents Day Essay Contest. Almost 800 students sent in essays answering the question: Which U.S. President would you like to have lunch with and why? Each essay was read and reviewed by a committee of Community Financial team mem-

bers and judged on creativity, clarity and overall success. The winners are: Emily Loebach, Meads Mill Middle School, who wished to have lunch with President Lincoln, and Julie Shen, Miller Elementary School, who chose President Jefferson. Both winners will receive \$100 cash along with lunch for their class with Community Finan-

cial President/CEO Bill Lawton. Ten finalists will each receive \$10 gift cards to Subway restaurants. "The responses and creativity we saw from the students were truly amazing," said Natalie McLaughlin, Community Financial sr.education partnership coordinator. "We wanted to give the students the opportunity to express themselves in

a way that only students can, and they exceeded our expectations." Overall, the students chose Abraham Lincoln more often than any other president with whom they'd like to have lunch. Presidents George Washington and Barack Obama finished second and third. For a complete list of essay contest finalists, please visit www.cfcu.org.



Spider-Man is one of the super heroes on tap for the Canton Leisure Services Camp Fair Sunday, March 10.

Schedule set for frog, toad survey training

Training sessions to participate in the 2012 Frog and Toad Survey will begin this weekend, with sessions scheduled as follows:

- Saturday, March 3, from 10 a.m. to noon, Plymouth Township Hall,

located at 9955 Haggerty in Plymouth.

- Tuesday, March 6, from 7-9 p.m., at Canton's Summit on the Park, located at 46000 Summit Parkway.
- Saturday, March 10, from 10 a.m. to noon, at

the Livonia Civic Center Library, located at 32777 Five Mile Road.

- Saturday, March 17, from 10 a.m. to noon, at Bloomfield Township Hall, located at 4200 Telegraph Road.

Each training session

will focus on frog and toad identification skills in order to help volunteers determine different species out in the field. To register, call the Friends of the Rouge at (313) 792-9621 or e-mail monitoring@therouge.org.

Fair gives parents look at camps

Parents looking for a specialized weekly camp or summer-long option for their children this summer can find what they're looking for by checking out Canton Leisure Services' annual Camp Fair Saturday, March 10, from 10 a.m. to noon.

This 'Super' free event will take place at the Summit on the Park, located at 46000 Summit Parkway, in the Grand Ballroom. Parents can stop in to learn about the wide array of camps that will provide a diverse and fun array of activities for children throughout the summer.

Summer camps offered these season, include Camp Canton, Youth Summer Camp Drama Camps for preschool and youth, musical theater and drama.

Leisure Services Pre-school Camps include All About Animals, Princess, You're-A An-Expol-ora Camp ABLE, Spe-

cial Needs Camp, Canton Sports Center (Lacrosse, Baseball and Basketball Camps), LEGO Robotics, Bricks 4 Kids, Remote Control Mania & Space Adventures; D&M Art Camps, Super Science Camp and more.

Parents are encouraged to bring their children to this free event to meet one of the "Super Heroes." There will also be face painting, a bounce house, and other games and activities. Representatives from over 25 different camps will be onsite to answer all of your questions.

Those who register for one of Leisure Services many camps by March 11 will be entered to win one of our raffle prizes, which include a Super Hero gift pack, Leisure Services Gift Card, and more.

For more information on Canton Leisure Services Annual Camp Fair, visit www.cantonfun.org or call (734) 394-5460.



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MDOT considers full closure of I-96

By Ken Abramczyk
Observer Staff Writer

The Michigan Department of Transportation wants to hear from the public before deciding on the best strategy to tackle the \$150 million I-96 reconstruction project that could begin in late 2013.

MDOT is considering closing the freeway completely for the seven miles of freeway between Telegraph and Newburgh roads; leaving either eastbound or the westbound traffic open during the construction; or both directions open, according to plans revealed to the public Thursday night at an open house at Livonia City Hall.

Residents, business owners impacted by the construction and commuters can view the construction alternatives at www.96fix.com. They can also fill out and e-mail a survey at that website. The public comment period ends Thursday, March 8.

The project calls for the road reconstruction of the freeway, bridge rehabilitation, geometric upgrades, drainage, lighting, signage and landscaping. Repairs will be completed to 36 bridges, with five of those bridges totally replaced.

Total reconstruction

Rob Morosi, spokesman for MDOT's metro Detroit region, said even though I-96 was recently resurfaced in 2001, that repair only lasts seven to 10 years. The pavement is starting to split apart, Morosi said. "We've really exhausted all the opportunities to do quick fixes," Morosi said. "The reconstruction will consist of ripping out everything that was put in, in the 1970s, down to the sub-base, remove the existing drainage, put in



I-96 freeway will be reconstructed between Newburgh and Telegraph roads late next year and in 2014.

Residents can comment on the I-96 reconstruction project scheduled to start in late 2013. They can view the construction alternatives at www.96fix.com. They can also fill out and email a survey at that Website. The public comment period ends March 8.

new storm sewers and new pavement.

"We anticipate the project will be bigger than the Lodge Freeway in Detroit and last year's Southfield project in Detroit.

"The road has given us 40 years of service, moving well over 100,000 vehicles a day. We wanted to bring this project to the public for their input."

Full closure considered

The first alternative calls for closing the freeway down entirely. MDOT expects construction will last 250 calendar days at a cost of \$500,000 to maintain and redirect traffic.

MDOT exhibited a "pros/cons" chart. The advantages to a complete shutdown are the shortest construction duration among the alternatives, no median crossovers, no shoulder upgrades or temporary pavement, no work adjacent to traffic, and concurrent bridge

construction. The disadvantage is motorists need to find alternative routes whether they drive east to Detroit or west to the I-275 or M-14 freeways or the western Wayne County suburbs.

Others options highlighted, and their length of construction and traffic maintenance costs include:

- Eastbound closed for construction, with a one lane closure on the westbound side, followed by a westbound closure with one lane closure on east-



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Traffic on I-96 on a Tuesday evening appears clear, but that will change late next year when construction begins between Newburgh Road and Telegraph Road.

bound side, 450 calendar days, \$2.3 million.

- Eastbound closed, maintain three westbound lanes with crossover, 450 days, \$3.2 million.
- Westbound closed, maintain three eastbound lanes with crossover, 450 days, \$3.5 million.
- Two westbound and two eastbound lanes open with a crossover, 550 days, \$5.7 million.
- Three westbound and two eastbound lanes open

with a crossover, 600 days, \$9 million.

- Two westbound and three eastbound lanes open with a crossover, 600 days, \$9.1 million.
- Other alternatives are highlighted on the 96fix.com website that consider morning and afternoon traffic shifts and crossovers, with moveable barriers and splitting the construction into separate projects.

Residents can visit the website, study these pro-

posals and complete a survey to let MDOT know what they prefer, Morosi said.

"We want the feedback," Morosi said. A second public hearing will be scheduled in the fall 2012 at which the traffic recommendations will be discussed. Construction plans will be presented early next year.

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'Ground breaking' new ministry caters to families with autistic children

By Diane Gale Andreassi
Staff Writer

Karen and Paul Schmid know what it's like to watch an autistic son struggle with sitting through a mass and they wonder about other families who avoid church altogether, because it's just too hard.

They know how hard it is when the sounds, sights and perfumes in the church can make children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) anxious and feel the need to make noise, move

about and just want to flee.

Karen has joined forces with Patti Banks, who also has an autistic son, to begin "All God's Children Autism" ministry at St. Joseph Catholic church in South Lyon. They want to give families like their's a place to go and feel welcomed.

"Catholics have autism as well, where are these kids?" Karen asked. "Families need support and the perfect place for that should be from their church. I want to start with a catechism program to bring back families who have left and a

ALL GOD'S CHILDREN AUTISM

Where: St. Joseph Catholic Parish, 830 South Lafayette Street, South Lyon
More info: Call St. Joseph Church at (248) 446-8700 and ask for Karen Schmid or Patti Banks; www.facebook.com/agcmin

sensory friendly room for them to attend mass and not feel like they're being disruptive. The parents don't have to be concentrating on their kids the whole time and missing out on mass."

Karen has provided a questionnaire on Facebook, at www.facebook.com/agcmin, to gauge whether or not there is

a need. Initially it drew responses from eight families and seven of those said they didn't go to church because of their child's autism. Schmid and Banks are looking for more Facebook visits.

"We are just getting started and we're trying to get the word out there," Karen said. "I know there are people who have stopped going to church. Our hope is that we can make this successful at our church and then teach other people to do it at their churches so we aren't missing people out there who really need it."

Karen describes her son as "amazing, he's just amazing." But learning to deal with his behavior that results from the autism has been a challenge. Paulie is six, is brilliant at math and has been promoted to second grade at Salem Elementary School. He was diagnosed with Aspergers Syndrome, a high-functioning form of autism that causes a lot of behavior issues. Little tasks can become overwhelming. When Paulie walks into a grocery store, for instance, his heightened senses accentuate the humming of the fluorescent lights; the odors from the bakery and fish counter are maximized. Autistic kids also tend to process every comment as literal. There are no



HAL GOULD | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

From left in back, Karen Schmid, the Rev. Stan Tokarski and Patti Banks and (front left) Paulie Schmid, 6, and Geno Banks, 6, at the St. Joseph Parish. The women are putting together a ministry to help families with autistic children to more easily attend Mass and receive religious instruction.

blacks and whites.

"He was our first (Paulie has a brother, Frankie, 4 and a sister, Clara, nine months) and we had nothing to compare him to," Karen said. "We realized that there was more than him being a strong personality and quirky. We would give his brother time out and it would work. Just a time out with him would take two hours and it never seemed to help."

Teachers and staff at Salem have taught Paulie and the Schmid's how to deal with his behavior.

"I don't know what we would have done without them," Schmid said. "We've been so blessed with all the people there. They have changed his

life and ours."

Volunteers teaching catechism, however, don't always know these techniques and an autistic child's behavior can escalate.

For more information visit "All God's Children Autism Ministry at St. Joseph Catholic Church" on Facebook and fill-out the survey provided. Hard copies of the survey are also available at St. Joseph's.

Call St. Joseph Church at (248) 446-8700. Schmid and Banks can be contacted by e-mail at allgodchildrenministry@yahoo.com or www.facebook.com/agcmin.

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GOOD DEEDS (PG-13) 11:10, 1:40, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30 FRU/SAT LS 11:55
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Meeting dates: January 10, February 7, March 6 & 20, April 17, May 8 & 22, June 12

The public is invited and encouraged to attend the Board of Trustees Meetings.

Joe Bridgman, MMC
Township Clerk

Publish: February 12 & 16, March 4 & 18, April 15, May 6 & 20, June 10 2012

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In addition to practicing only Social Security disability law attorney Bieske has written a book for attorneys about the subject and has been interviewed on various television programs. Both attorney Bieske and Alfonsi have also been interviewed on radio programs and have given speeches to many groups.

Attorneys Bieske and Alfonsi offer free phone or office consultation. If they represent you, there will be no fee charged until after the case is won. The fee is a percentage of retroactive benefits.

Bieske and Alfonsi represent clients from all over the state of Michigan. Their Livonia office is on Six Mile Road just west of I-275. Their Novi office is located on Haggerty Road just north of 12 Mile Road. Call them at 1-800-331-3530 for a free consultation if you have been denied, or if you are thinking of possibly applying for Social Security benefits.

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Invest based on personal goals, not the market

By Rick Bloom
Guest Columnist

Q: Dear Rick: About three years ago, I liquidated my investments and went to cash. Since that time I have done nothing other than keep my money in money market accounts. I never thought that the market would come back. I made a mistake. I want to get back into the market, but I'm concerned that since it has done so well that maybe I should wait. I am 64 and working and plan to work for another six years. When I retire, Social Security will cover most of my living expenses, but I will need some additional income — approximately \$1,000. At one time my portfolio was worth \$800,000-\$900,000. Today it is a little over \$400,000. Should I just jump back into the market or do you think I should wait for a correction. I used to be an aggressive investor and kept 100 percent of my money in stocks, but now I consider myself more on the conservative side.

A: I wish I could tell you when a correction would occur. Unfortunately, I can't and, realistically, no one else can either. Markets are fickle and, particularly over the short run, they are very volatile. That being said, I've always been a believer that you don't invest based upon where the market is; you invest based upon your individual goals and objectives.



Money Matters

Rick Bloom

Can't predict

We may not be able to predict where the market is going, but we do have better certainty when it comes to goals and objectives. That is why the main focus should be on what you're trying to achieve, not on what the market is currently doing.

Since your goals are longer term, it makes sense to get back into the market. However, as opposed to jumping in all at once, considering that you are now a more conservative investor, it would probably make sense to dollar-cost-average your investments.

Dollar-cost-averaging is a strategy that says that you should invest your money on a regular schedule. Every month like clockwork, no matter where the market is, you invest an equal portion into the market. Following this strategy provides some protection if the market takes a temporary downturn.

Allocation

The key factor is to have the right allocation in your portfolio.

As opposed to investing 100 percent in stocks, consider a 60/40 allocation. That means 60 percent invested in a variety of stock mutual funds and 40 percent in a number of bond funds. This type of allocation will do a better job of protecting your portfolio.

Don't let recent negative articles about bonds scare you. It is important to realize you are investing for the long term. And bonds definitely will protect a portfolio over the long run.

Investors should not base their investment decisions on where the market is. Of course there will be a correction — the question is when? Will it come in two weeks, two months or two years? That's the great unknown.

Unfortunately, investors who wait for the perfect opportunity to invest end up sitting on the sidelines and doing nothing. I believe you should invest based upon your goals and objectives and if you do that, over the long run, everything will work out.

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 web site at www.bloomassetmanagement.com.

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SPORTS

Zoned out

Canton's offense shut down in district final

By Tim Smith
Observer Staff Writer

Robyn Mack's stellar high school career featured many clutch moments and she needed to add to the list Friday night to extend Canton's season.

But the senior point guard could not even get the ball to attempt a desperation shot and the Chiefs dropped a 25-24 decision to Northville in the Class A girls basketball district final at Novi High School.

Instead of a game-winning attempt for the Chiefs, Northville senior guard Mallory Weber (seven points) intercepted the inbound pass intended for Mack and the Mustangs galloped off the floor for their first district title since 1986.

"I just knew I had to keep her (Mack) in front of me, keep the game on the line," Weber said. "So I did everything I could to stay with her and not let her get the ball."

"I think we were just so excited because we haven't won a district final in 26 years, so we were pumped. We had nothing to lose."

According to Mack, who tallied six points, Canton "just couldn't break" the relentless zone pressure deployed by Mustangs head coach Todd Gudith.

"It's a disappointing end, but it's bittersweet," Mack said. "I'm so proud of my team and I enjoyed my four years at Canton."

"It's not the way I wanted to end it, but I'm blessed and I'm lucky to have had a four-year career on an awesome team."

Making history

Gudith, whose 15-7 team advances to the Farmington regional, said the team "talked about making history" and ending the district title drought.

"One of the things we accomplished this year was beating Novi for the first time in eight years," Gudith said. "Eight years is one thing, but 26 is a whole other. We said, let's try to take a chance at that."

Canton (16-6) at least had a chance for a game-winning shot after forcing a turnover with 41 seconds remaining and down a point.

Mack's outside jumper missed, but sophomore Paige Aresco hauled in the rebound and Canton head coach Brian Samulski called a timeout with four seconds to go.

Northville had a foul to give, and it immediately fouled Mack to shave off 1.3 seconds off the clock.

Please see CANTON, B4



Canton sophomore forward Paige Aresco (No. 14) tries to keep Northville senior forward Aly Bates (No. 32) from driving to the basket Friday night.

JOHN KEMSKI

Baechler to enter MHSFCA Hall

Canton football coach Tim Baechler is being inducted Saturday, March 24 into the Michigan High School Football Coaches Association Hall of Fame.

Baechler, who has compiled a record of 173-67 over his 23-year career at five schools, is one of 14 coaches with a minimum 20 years coaching



Baechler

and/or 100 victories to be inducted. He took charge of Canton's football program in 1998.

The induction will take place at the Ann Arbor Sheraton, 3200 Boardwalk Drive. Guest speaker is University of Michigan coach Brady Hoke.

Tickets (the final date for pre-sale tickets is Friday, March 16) are \$35 and include cocktails (5:30 p.m.), dinner (6:30 p.m.) and the program (7:30 p.m.).

Make checks payable to MHSFCA and send a self-addressed stamped envelope to ticket chairman Gandalf Church, 1223 Hillcrest, St. Joseph, Mich., 49085.

For more information go to www.mhsfca.com.

Chiefs' season ends on sour note

By Tim Smith
Observer Staff Writer

It's pretty hard to beat near-perfection, as Canton's varsity boys hockey team found out Wednesday night.

Livonia Churchill skated circles around the Chiefs at Eddie Edgar Arena, ending Canton's excellent season with a 5-0 victory in a Division 1 pre-regional final.

The Chargers outshot Canton by a 38-10 margin and were sparked by a two-goal, two-assist performance by senior co-captain Jake Otto. They advanced to play Novi at 1 p.m. Saturday at Compuware

DIVISION I BOYS HOCKEY PRE-REGIONAL FINAL

Arena in the regional final.

According to Canton head coach Jeremy Majszak, his team "came out a little starry-eyed tonight, a little jittery. We didn't get the opportunities we wanted."

"We got it turned around in the second period, we started playing better hockey. But in the third, we just couldn't get out of that hole."

Otto had plenty to do with that predicament.

"It was just a good week of practice, my legs felt good," Otto said about his five-star night. "It was a great team effort. You got to give a lot of credit to (goalie)

Alex (Estes) for making the big saves when they counted."

Early chance

Estes didn't have much work, with seven of Canton's shots coming in the first period.

But he had a key stop in the first minute while a delayed penalty was being called against the senior netminder for tripping a Chiefs forward.

"Probably something that's overlooked," Churchill head coach Pete Mazzoni said, "is while the delay call was on, they had a chance and Estes made a

huge save.

"And I think that kind of gave him confidence. We were able to kill it (the Churchill penalty) and obviously getting two power-play goals in the first period gave us confidence and maybe put them on their heels a little bit."

Otto scored both of his goals during the opening period, which ended 3-0.

On the first one, a power-play marker with 10:24 left, junior winger Brad Milks rushed down the right wing and sent a crisp cross-crease pass to Otto for the tap-in.

Please see HOCKEY, B3

1,000 for the books

PCA's injured Jipping awarded points milestone

By Tim Smith
Observer Staff Writer

Over and over again on Thursday, Detroit City varsity boys basketball players won battles in the paint against Plymouth Christian Academy.

One PCA player who would have made a difference in the final regular season game — senior center Eric Jipping — could only sit and watch from the sidelines as the Bears rolled to a 58-47 victory.

Jipping's season and prep career ended on Feb. 4 against Lenawee Christian, when he suffered a partial tear to the posterior cruciate liga-

ment of his left knee.

"When it happened and when I figured it out (that his PCA career was over) it was very tough to handle," said Jipping, now walking without a limp. "But I had good support from my friends and family, and they told me that God had it in control, that he had a plan for it, and I should be able to come back and play college basketball."

"It's not like it's all over and done for me. That giant disappointment it was to have my senior year end that way."

Knowing he'll be able to play basketball again is taking some of that ini-

tial pain away from the 6-5 Jipping.

Over the hump

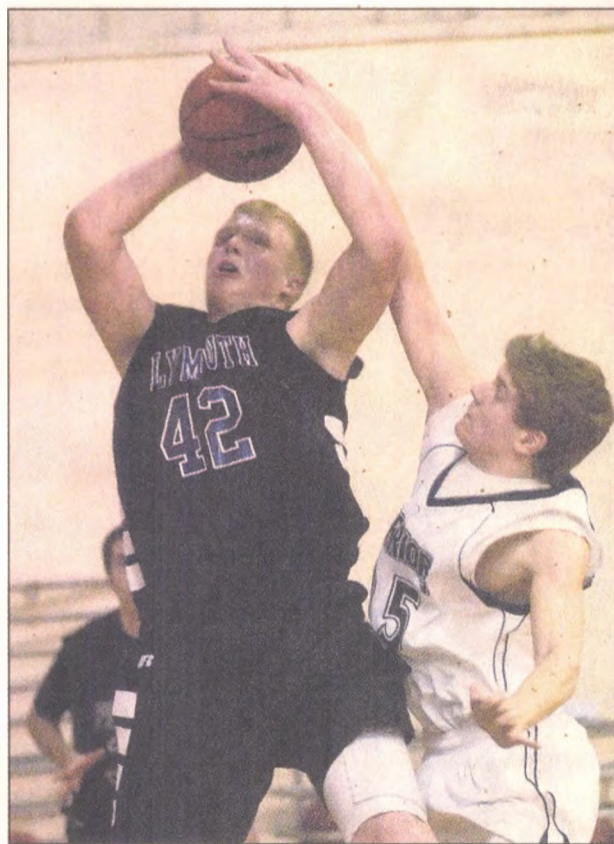
So are a couple other things.

Originally thought to be 10 points shy of the 1,000 mark when he was injured, Eagles head coach Dominique Washington and athletic director Rick Swiley pored over record books from Jipping's sophomore season.

They found uncounted points from a handful of post-season contests, and those pushed Jipping's total to 1,038 points.

"It made me happy, to

Please see JIPPING, B3



Plymouth Christian's Eric Jipping (No. 42), shown in this picture from last season, did reach 1,000 points in his prep career after all.

Girls lax meeting

Salem girls lacrosse will have a meeting for all returning parents, players, and new players for this upcoming season. The meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 7, in Room 2112 at Salem, next to the library.

Boosters meet at 6:30 p.m. with the information meeting following at 7 p.m. Season fees, uniforms, registration, schedules, and tryouts for the 2012 spring season will be discussed. Also visit www.salem-girlslacrosse.com.

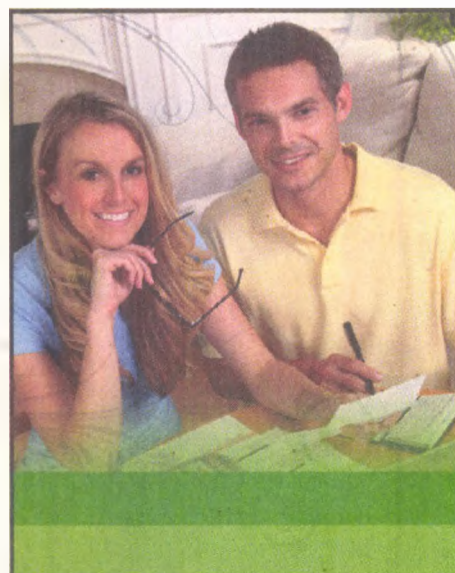
No. 1 Bears rout SC men

There's a reason why Mott Community College has been the No. 1-ranked men's basketball team for the last 13 weeks in NJCAA Division II.

The Bears jumped out to a 61-32 halftime lead and never looked back Wednesday night to rout visiting Schoolcraft College, 103-65, and clinch MCCA's Eastern Conference title outright.

Mott, now 28-1 overall and 17-1 in the conference, got a game-high 23 points from John Taylor.

Forward Karl Moore paced the Ocelots (18-11, 10-8) with 21 points and 10 rebounds.



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Canton's Victor Zhang, shown in this file photo, was a standout at the conference meet.

Canton's Zhang stars at KLAA swim meet

By Brad Emons
Observer Staff Writer

To nobody's surprise, the KLAA's Central Division teams once again dominated the Kensington Conference boys swimming and diving meet held last weekend at South Lyon East.

The Central squads swept the first five places in the 11-team meet led by defending champion Northville (847.5 points) followed by South Lyon Unified (807), Livonia Stevenson (717), Novi (560.5) and Salem (466).

Rounding out the field was Canton (393), South Division dual and meet champion Westland John Glenn (311), Plymouth (302), Wayne Memorial (191), Livonia Churchill (126) and Livonia Franklin (32).

Northville captured the team title despite winning only one individual event

as Spencer Miller captured the 100-yard freestyle in 48.52.

Two of the meet's stars included Canton senior Victor Zhang and Stevenson junior John Ferrara as the pair figured in four and three first-place finishes, respectively.

Zhang captured the 200 individual medley in 1:51.65, nine seconds ahead of runner-up Jong Min Kim of Novi. Zhang's time would have placed him second only to Saline's David Boland (1:50.3) in last year's MHSAA Division 1 finals.

Zhang, a state champion last year in the 100 backstroke, also won the Kensington Conference title in the 100 butterfly (50.43) and was the Chiefs' lead-off man in both the victorious 200 (1:28.01) and 400 (3:12.8) freestyle relays.

Ferrara garnered conference titles in the 500

freestyle (4:48.37) and 100 backstroke (52.54), the latter event where he placed third in the state last year with a 52.46.

He also teamed up Grant McNamara, Bradley Bielicki and Brandon Bielicki for a first in the 200 medley relay (1:38.93).

Stevenson's senior captain Jake McNamara also brought home a title with a first in the 100 breaststroke (1:00.77).

Other individual conference champions included Andrew Ao (Novi), 200 freestyle (1:46.62); Evan Faletti (South Lyon), 50 freestyle (21.95); and Dan Gironza (South Lyon), 1-meter diving (471.15 points).

Next up is the MHSAA Division 1 state finals, March 9-10, at Eastern Michigan University's Jones Natatorium.

bemons@hometownlife.com
(313) 222-6851

SPORTS ROUNDUP

Rockettes pom clinic

The Salem Rockettes Kids Clinic is just around the corner, slated from 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday, March 10.

Participants will learn various routines, receive a T-shirt and pom poms and be invited to perform at the annual Rockette Show.

To download the clinic flyer, go to www.pompon.salemrocks.com and click on documents.

Play GCYBSA ball

Registrations are now under way for the Greater Canton Youth Baseball Softball Association's baseball and softball programs.

The GCYBSA offers progressively developmental recreational baseball and softball programs for players age 4-18 from Plymouth and Canton. GCYBSA is also home to a Competitive League and travel programs (Boys Cardinals, Girls Pride Fast Pitch).

For more information, go to www.gcybsa.com or contact Coralee Ott at (734) 394-5358, via e-mail at cott@canton-mi.org.

YMCA spring leagues

The Plymouth Family YMCA is accepting registrations for spring co-ed soccer and girls volleyball leagues.

Both leagues run from April 16 through June 9. There will be one practice and one game each week. The cost is \$84 for program members or \$115 for community members. The registration deadline is March 30.

If you are interested in participating or coaching your child's team, please contact the YMCA at (734) 453-2904 or visit www.ymcadetroit.org.

Baseball clinics

Baseball fundamentals are on tap for youngsters looking to improve their skills, at the forthcoming Plymouth Wildcats Youth Baseball Clinic.

Participants in grades 1-8 will receive age-appropriate instruction from 2012 Plymouth varsity baseball coaches and players. Stations will include hitting, pitching, infield, outfield, catching and radar gun readings.

Sessions, in the Plymouth High School gymnasium, will take place: 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday March 17 (for those in grades 1-4); Saturday March 31 (for those in grades 5-8).

The pre-registration cost, which includes snack, is \$20. The fee is \$25 the day of the clinic. Pre-registration is urged, as the camp is limited to 100. Go to www.baseball.plymouthwildcats.com for more information.

Salem baseball camp

Learn all about baseball from Salem's varsity players and coaching staff.

The annual Salem Varsity Baseball Clinic will take place Saturdays March 24 and 31 in the high school gym.

For a fee of \$28, kids will get three hours of instruction, focusing on pitching, hitting and all phases of fielding, along with a T-shirt.

Each player should bring a baseball glove and hat to one of the following sessions, space permitting:

Session 1: Saturday, March 24, 9 a.m. to noon, ages 11-14; 14; Session 2: Saturday, March 24, 1-4 p.m., ages 7-10; Session 3: Saturday, March 31, 9 a.m. to noon, ages 7-10; Session 4: Saturday, March 31, 1-4 p.m., ages 7-10.

For more information, call Mary Theisen at (734) 354-9181 or e-mail salemrocksbaseball@gmail.com.

THE WEEK AHEAD

MHSAA BOYS BASKETBALL DISTRICT TOURNAY DRAWS CLASS D
at WESTLAND HURON VALLEY LUTHERAN
Monday, March 5: (A) Plymouth Christian Academy vs. (B) Detroit Universal Academy, 6 p.m.
Wednesday, March 7: Detroit Westside Christian Academy vs. A-B winner, 6 p.m.; Westland Huron Valley Lutheran vs. Lutheran High Westland, 7:30 p.m.
Friday, March 9: Championship final, 7:30 p.m. (Winner advances to the regional semifinals, 6 p.m. Monday, March 12 at Bloomfield Hills Roeper vs. Sterling Heights Parkway Christian district champion.)

CLASS A at NOVI-DETROIT CATHOLIC CENTRAL
Monday, March 5: (A) Novi at (B) Canton, 7 p.m.; (C) Salem at (D) Plymouth, 7 p.m.; (E) South Lyon at (F) Northville, 7 p.m.
Wednesday, March 7: A-B winner at Catholic Central, 7 p.m.; C-D winner vs. E-F winner (non-traditional), 7 p.m., site TBD.
Friday, March 9: Championship final at Catholic Central, 7 p.m. (Winner advances to the regional semifinals, 5:30 p.m. Monday, March 12 at Novi.)
GYMNASTICS MHSAA FINALS (at Gr. Rapids Kenowa Hills)
Friday, March 8
Team Competition, 2 p.m.

Saturday, March 9
Division 2 individual, noon. Division 1 individual, 3:30 p.m.
BOYS SWIMMING & DIVING MHSAA DIVISION 1 FINALS (at EMU's Jones Natatorium)
Friday, March 9
Preliminary heats, noon.
Saturday, March 11
Final heats, noon.
ONTARIO HOCKEY LEAGUE
Sunday, March 4
Plymouth at Sarnia, 2 p.m.
Wednesday, March 7
Plymouth at Erie, 7 p.m.
Friday, March 9
Ply. at Kitchener, 7:30 p.m.
Sunday, March 11
Owen Sound vs. Plymouth at Compuware Arena, 2 p.m.

DETROIT BASKETBALL

DETROIT 7

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Eagles clipped by GC

By Ed Wright
Observer Staff Writer

It was only fitting that during Tuesday's "Family Night" game against Plymouth Christian Academy, Garden City's boys basketball team displayed several acts of sharing, patience and unity — the core values of any good family.

On a night when nine players scored and a number of possessions included at least four passes, the Cougars held off a valiant fourth-quarter rally by the undermanned Eagles to win, 71-63.

After small-but-relentless PCA cut a one-time 19-point Garden City lead down to 63-57 with 4:21 left, the Cougars pulled the ball out and milked two minutes off the clock to help preserve the victory.

Garden City improved to 5-14 while PCA slipped to 6-13.

As part of the annual "Family Night" ceremony, each of the Garden City players was introduced prior to the game along with their parents.

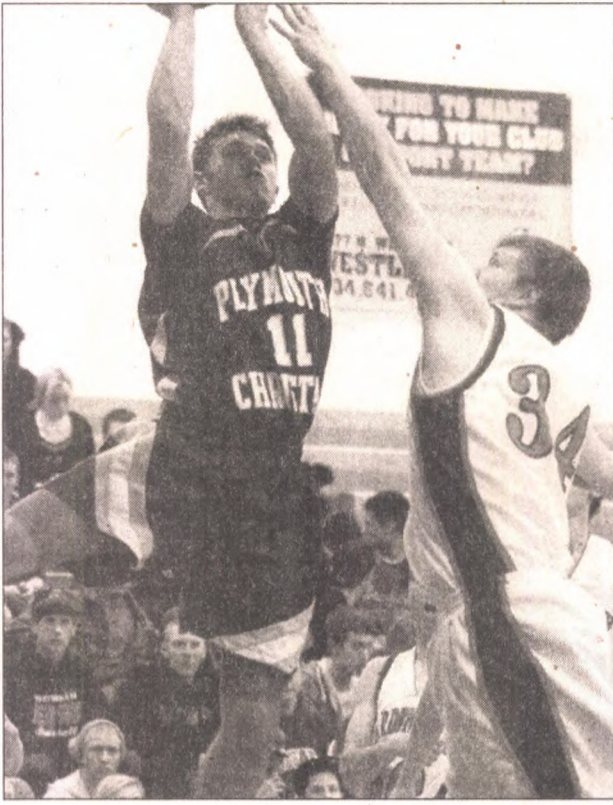
"I thought we did a lot of good things tonight," said Garden City coach Greg Williamson. "We moved the ball nicely and a lot of different players made plays. We tried to get everybody involved."

"Give (PCA) a lot of credit — they were very aggressive during their comeback."

Trying to adjust

The Eagles dressed just seven players. Sitting on the bench alongside first-year head coach Dominique Washington was 6-foot-5 senior Eric Jipping, who suffered a season-ending knee injury earlier this month.

"Our players are doing the best they can to adjust (to life without Jipping)," said Washington. "But when you lose a guy who's averaging 28 points a game, that's a big hole to fill."



ED WRIGHT

Plymouth Christian Academy's Mick Noel canned this running bank shot during Tuesday night's 71-63 setback at Garden City.

"I told them tonight that it's getting very close to win-or-go-home time, so let's battle every possession, every second they're on the court. I think they did that tonight."

Sparked by the athletic play of junior Mick Noel, PCA clipped its deficit to 34-29 at the half. Noel, who finished with 26 points, hit eight of his 10 first-half shots.

The Eagles closed their gap to 34-33 in the first minute of the third quarter thanks to back-to-back baskets by sophomore Daniel Jipping, Eric's younger brother.

But Hill answered by scoring 10 points in less than three minutes to help the Cougars increase their cushion to 48-37 with 4:10 left in the third.

After Noel buried a couple free throws at the 3:55 mark, GC closed the quarter with an 11-1 run to take a 59-40 lead with eight minutes to play.

Noel and Daniel Jipping were the primary catalysts of the Eagles' dramatic late-game rally,

which got the visitors to within 65-61 with 1:43 on the clock.

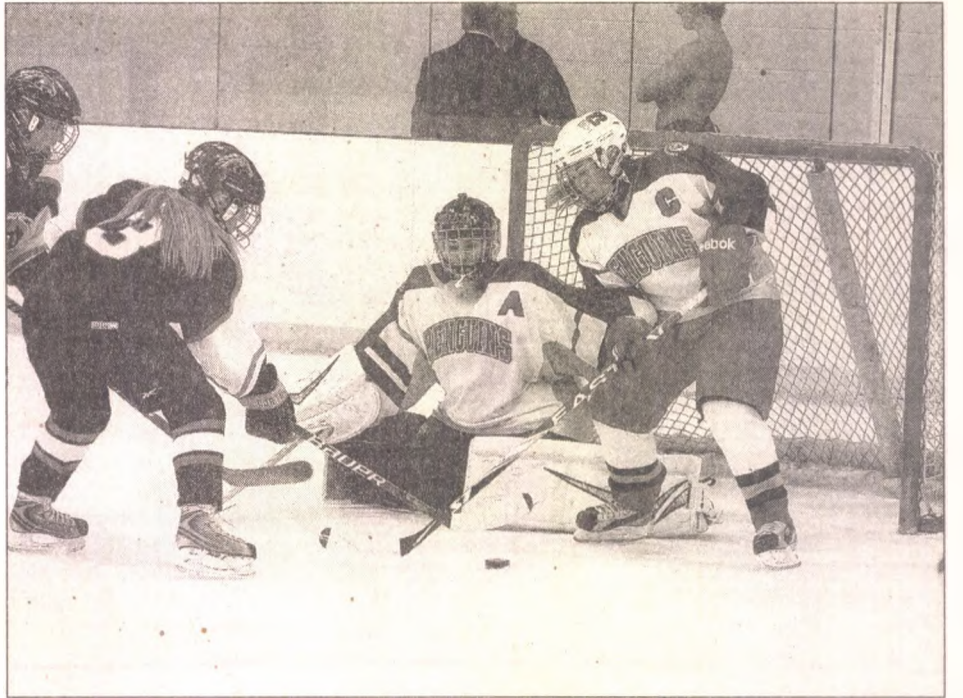
But Garden City's CJ Hill scored three points on GC's next two possessions — the latter two coming on a slick inbound pass from Tyler Gonzales — and Matt Stark closed the deal by sinking three freebies in the final 30 seconds.

Daniel Jipping finished with 17 points and five rebounds for the Eagles. Chris Scagnetti, PCA's lone senior other than Eric Jipping, registered nine points and six rebounds.

PCA was solid from the free-throw line, knocking down 19 of 26 attempts. GC made 7 of 10 from the stripe.

The Eagles settled down considerably after committing eight first-quarter turnovers, turning it over just five times over the final three frames.

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JOHN KEMSKI

PCS Penguins goalie Kaitlyn Allard (No. 35) and defenseman Emily Bullock (No. 2) were keys to the team's Division II championship. The Penguins now get set for their first playoff game, slated for Thursday at Arctic Edge.

Penguins, Arctic Edge to host D-II playoffs

GIRLS HOCKEY

Hills Mercy Marlins.

The Penguins won't play until 6 p.m. Thursday when they face the lowest-ranked remaining opponent following Tuesday's doubleheader. On Tuesday, Walled Lake and Bloomfield Hills square off at 6 p.m., followed by Regina and Detroit Country Day at 8 p.m.

Mercy is slated to play 8 p.m. Thursday, against the highest-ranked remaining team. Second-round winners will face each other in the D-II state championship game, 8 p.m. Saturday.

For all inquiries about the Division II tournament, please contact PCS Head Coach Mary Beth Johnson at smeemb@aol.com.

HOCKEY

Continued from page B1

Churchill (20-6) padded the lead on the power play with 5:21 to play in the period. Otto took a couple of whacks at the puck after Canton senior goalie Spencer Craig (33 saves) couldn't pounce on a rebound and senior forward Devin Smythe finally chipped it home.

Perhaps the crusher for Canton (14-10-1), outshot 11-7 in the first, was Otto's second goal and 17th of the season about 90 seconds later.

Making a long, outlet pass from his own zone was junior forward Thomas Carey that Otto fielded in stride through the neutral zone. After a dippy doo move around a Canton defenseman at the Chiefs' blue line, Otto cut in on Craig and roofed his shot.

Game plan works

"That's what we worked on in practice was hitting the center (with outlet passes) because we knew Canton likes to take the winger out of the play," Otto said. "So we like to hit the center and get out and it worked tonight. It was a good game plan by coach."

In the final two periods, the Chargers parlayed strong checking and puck possession into a wide edge in territorial play. Churchill outshot Canton by margins of 10-1 and 17-2.

"We didn't want to give up anything by not protecting the puck and not being smart with it," Mazzoni said. "We tried to keep them to the outside offensively and, knock on wood, it worked tonight."

The Chargers wrapped up the scoring with two



Canton goaltender Spencer Craig, shown in this 2010-11 file photo, capped a stellar high school career with a 33-save performance against Livonia Churchill.

late goals, scored by Carey and junior forward Riley Brown.

Stopping the Chiefs from getting back into the game was a string of minor penalties, some that probably could have been avoided such as boarding, slashing and high sticking.

"We deserved some of the penalties, whose team was called for eight penalties to Churchill's four. "But it was frustration because it was happening the same to us."

"When you're getting hacked and whacked, and they're not getting called and you're doing it and you're getting called, you get frustrated and you keep doing it."

Praise for goalie

Majszak said Craig — who sat dejectedly on the Canton bench for several minutes after the game — had "nothing to hang his head about."

The goalie, called one of the state's best by Mazzoni, made a number of sparkling saves to keep the Chiefs relatively close.

But Canton's offense

never got untracked.

"There's a lot of guys that ended their high school career, but hockey's not over for them," Majszak said. "They left it all out there, they had a very successful year again. It would have been nice to keep going, but maybe you lost to an eventual state champion."

If Otto and his teammates duplicate their effort against the Chiefs, Churchill's post-season run might go.

"I think we're rolling right now. I'll play anyone," Otto said. "We got a lot of confidence, our goalie's playing great. I'm just ready to keep it rolling."

Mazzoni, meanwhile, had high praise for Otto. "Jake is the heart and soul of our team," Mazzoni said. "He's been with us for four years, and he epitomizes what you're looking for."

"He works his tail off, he puts his team first and he's willing to do the things that don't always show up on the scoreboard."

JIPPING

Continued from page B1

know all the work me and my teammates put in over the three years had paid off," said Jipping, following the loss to Detroit City. "We definitely worked hard together and I was happy to hear that I actually did make that milestone."

Washington said he was glad to be able to tack on those missing 48 points.

"We found some points and he earned them, he scored them," said Washington, the former Bears player. "So you got to give them to him. He's a great player, he's a hard worker, he's relentless and never gives up."

"To me, it's disappointing to not see him be able to play the end of his senior year. But I wish him the best at the next level, I know he's going to excel at it."

Still deciding

That segues into the

other reason Jipping is feeling better these days, as he keeps pushing through another three months of physical therapy.

Jipping, with help from his parents (Lisa and Jon), is closing in on a decision where to attend college.

His finalists are Calvin and Hope colleges, both in Michigan. Plans are to study for a degree in business finance and play Division III basketball, wherever he lands.

He said doctors have assured him that he'll be able to attack the glass as ferociously as prior to the injury.

"I'll still have that mindset," he said. "My physical therapist said the knee will be as good as new. I'll be able to play just as hard as before."

DETROIT CITY 58, PCA 47: Speaking of the loss to Detroit City, the host Eagles trailed 17-10 after one quarter and could not catch the Bears.

Although Mick Noel (15 points), Daniel Jip-

ping (14 points) and Alex Huber (13 points) all had their moments, PCA (6-14) had trouble defeating Detroit City's fast-and-furious offense.

"It just comes down to effort," Washington said. "That's something our boys didn't have tonight. It was an effortless game tonight,

"The biggest thing that hurt us tonight is they didn't continue to fight after a missed basket here or there. Detroit City (8-9), they did a great job getting all the 50-50 balls."

Leading the Bears' attack were Jason Spencer (13 points) and Mike Williams (11 points). Adding 10 points each were DeAnthony Reese and Damon Williams.

PCA will face Detroit Universal Academy 6 p.m. Monday in the Huron Valley Lutheran-hosted districts.

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U-M Health System, Trinity Health of Michigan sign affiliation agreement

The University of Michigan Health System (UMHS) and Trinity Health-Michigan have signed a new master affiliation agreement that paves the way for close cooperation between the two health systems.

The announcement on March 1 forms a basis for future efforts to coordinate hospital care, cancer care, children's care, research, doctor training and more, according to health system officials.

Officials from both organizations said the agreement "benefits patients around the state and signals an intention to work together on specific opportunities that may be developed by teams of physicians and leaders from both systems."

The goal, say health system officials, "is to use the complementary strengths and geographic location of UMHS and Trinity-Michigan services to help patients get the care they need in the most appropriate place."

They will also seek to improve the safety net for the uninsured.

The effort will begin with southeastern Michigan, where both health systems are based, and grow to the rest of the state.

Local presence

Trinity Health's southeastern Michigan-wide presence encompasses the Saint Joseph Mercy Health System with hospitals in Livonia, Ann Arbor, Chelsea, Howell, Pontiac, Port Huron



Spivey

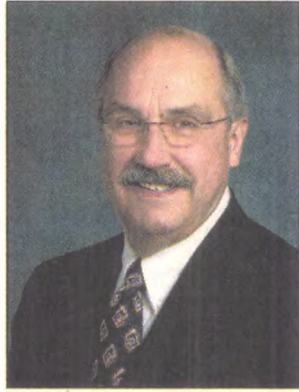
and Saline. Trinity's other Michigan hospitals include Grayling and Cadillac in northern Michigan, and Mercy Health in Grand Rapids and Muskegon.

UMHS has three hospitals in Ann Arbor and a network of primary care and specialty outpatient centers in three counties.

"Saint Joseph Mercy Health System has always collaborated with the University of Michigan Health System, but this agreement puts guiding principles around priorities of collaboration. We will be working together in clinical care, research, medical education and support services," said David Spivey, president and CEO, St. Mary Mercy Hospital.

In a joint statement hospital officials stated that the agreement will initially will explore areas that include:

- inpatient hospital capacity
- complex care for seriously ill patients
- children's care
- cancer care
- physician training and hiring
- clinical research



Faja

• information technology and other support services

The affiliation also positions UMHS and Trinity-Michigan to take advantage of new federal and state programs, such as accountable care organizations or ACOs, that incentivize health systems to provide better and more coordinated care for entire populations of patients while also containing the growth of costs.

Health care changing

"The Michigan and national health care landscape is changing and many health systems, hospitals and physician groups are aligning in a variety of ways," explained Spivey. "This new affiliation recognizes the potential for us to work together in ways that leverage our existing strengths to benefit the patients and communities we serve."

"It is important for us to create broad-based provider networks to best serve our local communities, most appropriately

using our resources and giving patients access to care they need at the location most convenient for them," added Spivey.

Ora Hirsch Prescovitz, M.D., the executive vice president for medical affairs at U-M and Ceo of UMHS, said the new affiliation "sets the stage for great things to come," in addition to making UMHS Trinity's "preferred academic partner" in the state.

New opportunity

"We are excited about the opportunity to work more closely together to better meet the needs of patients and the communities we serve," said Garry C. Faja, president and CEO of Saint Joseph Mercy Health System and regional market executive, Trinity Health-East Michigan.

Both health systems will now contribute members to a leadership group that will approve all proposed cooperative agreements, and to teams that will work on specific proposals.

Trinity Health is one of the state's largest employers, with 14 hospitals and numerous ambulatory sites, nine nursing homes, 19 senior housing facilities, eight home health care agencies and four hospices serving 35 counties.

The U-M Medical School is one of the nation's biomedical research powerhouses, with total research funding of more than \$490 million.

MEDICAL DATEBOOK

March

DIABETES SUPPORT

An adult diabetes support group sponsored by the Plymouth Lions Club will meet from 2-3:30 p.m. the second Thursday of the month, beginning March 8, at the Plymouth District Library, 223 S. Main, in downtown Plymouth. Fern Vining, a registered nurse, certified diabetes educator and Plymouth Lion will facilitate. There is no charge to attend. Discussion topics will focus on understanding diabetes and self management strategies. Call Vining at (734) 454-0859.

GARDEN CITY HOSPITAL

•Get Up and Move, an invigorating exercise program, aims to help you to make an easy transition back to an exercise program or get you started for the first time. It meets at 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. Tuesday, March 6, 13, 20, 27 and Thursday, March 8, 15, 22, and 29. Fee is \$30 per month; for more information call (734) 458-3242.

•Learn how to relax, stretch and breathe while creating balance, strength and flexibility for both the body and mind through yoga, 4 p.m. Tuesday, March 6, 13, 20 and 27 and 6:30 p.m., Wednesday-Thursday, March 7-8, 14-15, 21-22 and 28-29. Wednesday-Thursday classes are held at the Westland Specialty Center, 35600 Central City Parkway, Westland. Tuesday classes meet at the hospital in Garden City.

•Eating Disorders Support Group meets 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 7, 14, 21 and 28 at the hospital. Call (734) 458-4330 for more information.

•Diabetes Self-Management series meets at 9 a.m., Tuesday, March 6, 20, 27 and 6 p.m. Thursday, March 8, 22, 29. Learn self-care skills of nutrition, exercise, medication management,

monitoring of blood sugar levels, foot and skin care, prevention of problems and psychosocial issues. Call (734) 458-4330 to register.

• The Sleep Disorders Center of Michigan will present an evening of sleep-related topics, 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 6, at the Westland Specialty Center, 35600 Central City Parkway, Westland. Register by calling the (734) 458-3330. Garden City Hospital is located at 6245 Inkster Road, Garden City.

April

MICHIGAN BARIATRIC INSTITUTE

The Michigan Bariatric Institute offers a free educational seminar, from 6-7:30 p.m., April 5 at St. Mary Mercy Hospital, located at 36475 Five Mile in Livonia. For more information call (877) 949-9344.

Ongoing

AQUATIC CLASSES

The YMCA of Metropolitan Detroit and the Arthritis Foundation have partnered to offer aquatic classes designed to ease the pain of arthritis. Classes are held 11 a.m.-noon Tuesday and Thursday at the Farmington branch; 1-1:45 p.m. Monday and Wednesday at the Livonia branch; and 2-3 p.m. Wednesday and Friday, at the Birmingham branch. All classes are offered to members and nonmembers of every age and participants do not need to know how to swim to participate. To join, interested individuals can contact their local YMCA branch or visit www.ymcadetroit.org.

ARTHRITIS SUPPORT

2-3:30 p.m. the third Thursday of the month at the Krieger Center, DMC Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital, 1 William Carls Drive, Commerce. Enter the building via the South Garden entrance. Registration not required.

Spring forward to a good night's sleep with Garden City Hospital.



Having trouble sleeping? Believe it or not, Daylight Savings Time can play havoc with your "sleep schedule." Come discuss a variety of sleep related topics with the board certified "GCH Dream Team". From insomnia to sleep aids, the Sleep Disorders Center of Michigan will help you rest easier...and better!

Tuesday, March 6, 2012

5:30 pm - Registration

6:00 pm - Presentation

Sleep Disorders Center of Michigan

35600 Central City Parkway • Westland, MI 48185
(Located in the Westland Specialty Center, adjacent to Dick's Sporting Goods)

This event is free to the public and includes speakers:

- **Medical Director of the Sleep Disorders Center of MI, John Morrison, Jr., DO**
Reviews and explains the various sleep disorders
- **Pharmacist, Lisa Cayo, R. Ph.**
Discusses over-the-counter and prescription sleep aids, and the interactions and effects of medications
- **Sleep Medicine Specialist, Amal Omran, MD**
Provides an overview of sleep disorders in children
- **Diabetes Educator, Sharon Goodsell, RN**
Explains the link between Obstructive Sleep Apnea (OSA) and diabetes

Plus, tour our technologically advanced facility

Also, on-hand to discuss the latest products and services for improving sleep are: Garden City Home Medical Equipment and Sweet Dreamzzz, Inc.

There will also be a prize drawing that will include gift cards and more!

Light refreshments will be served, but space is limited and registration is required. To reserve your space, or for more information, call 734.458.3330



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Karl Stoll is ready to fry another batch of breaded fish at St. Genevieve's fish fry, in Livonia.

Fish fries

Catholic churches serve fellowship along with seafood

By Sharon Dargay
 O&E Staff Writer

At nearly 4:30 p.m. on a recent Friday, controlled chaos was well underway in the kitchen at St. Genevieve Catholic Church's fellowship hall, in Livonia.

Tim Jeter was bread-ing cod, as he had done every Lent for the past 16 years.

Nearby, at the stove, Jeff Crawford was up to his elbows in oven mitts, while Karl "the singing fish fryer" Stoll belted out an operatic, "Maria, Maria," as he and Bill Bonanno tended to sizzling cod.

Ray Johnson, a Bluetooth device tucked behind his ear and an apron covering his St. Genevieve T-shirt, was a blur as he moved from serving line to soup crockpots, dessert window to dining room, orchestrating last-minute tasks before the doors opened on his first fish fry of the 2012 Lenten season.

It's a moment he'd been planning since December last year.

"We start about New Year's Eve working on this," he said. "I've got 15 people in the kitchen. We all know what we need to be doing. Everyone's got a purpose."

Johnson, a nurse anesthesiologist, has coordinated



Marilyn Simoni pours the wine at St. Kenneth.

St. Genevieve's Lenten fish fries for the past six years. The Friday night dinners raise money for Catholic Youth Organization and the athletic opportunities it gives teens, like the ones volunteering in the fish fry serving line.

But when the doors opened for the early bird, senior citizen special, the gathering seemed less about fundraising and more about fellowship and good food.

"We serve between 300 and 500 meals a week in two and a half hours. And the people come to stay. They make it an event," said Karen Bonanno, volunteer coordinator. "They bring their family and friends."

Catholic tradition

The scene plays out in Catholic fellowship halls and school cafeterias

throughout Metro Detroit every Lent. Although fish fries aren't specifically a Catholic endeavor, they are a tradition in many Catholic churches. And although they all bolster parish unity and friendship, each is as unique as the churches they represent.

Johnson says it's the clam chowder ("it rocks") that sets St. Genevieve's fish fry apart from others. It also offers a sundae bar and weekly salmon or shrimp specials.

Joe Kujawski keeps the event fresh at Our Lady of Sorrows in Farmington by offering it only twice during Lent.

"The novelty would wear off and I don't think we'd get as many people in here," Kujawski said, explaining why he limits fish fries to the first Fri-

Please see SERVE, B7

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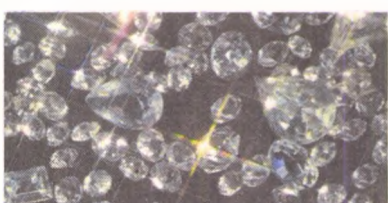
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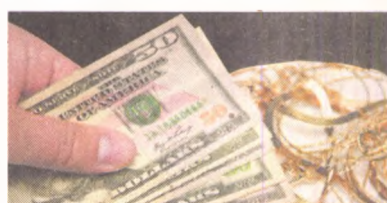
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John Tabone and Ray Johnson have a lot of experience working fish fries at St. Genevieve in Livonia.



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

At St. Genevieve, Jim Biddinger seasons salmon with Old Bay seasoning and grills it until done.

You've got choices for Friday fish fry

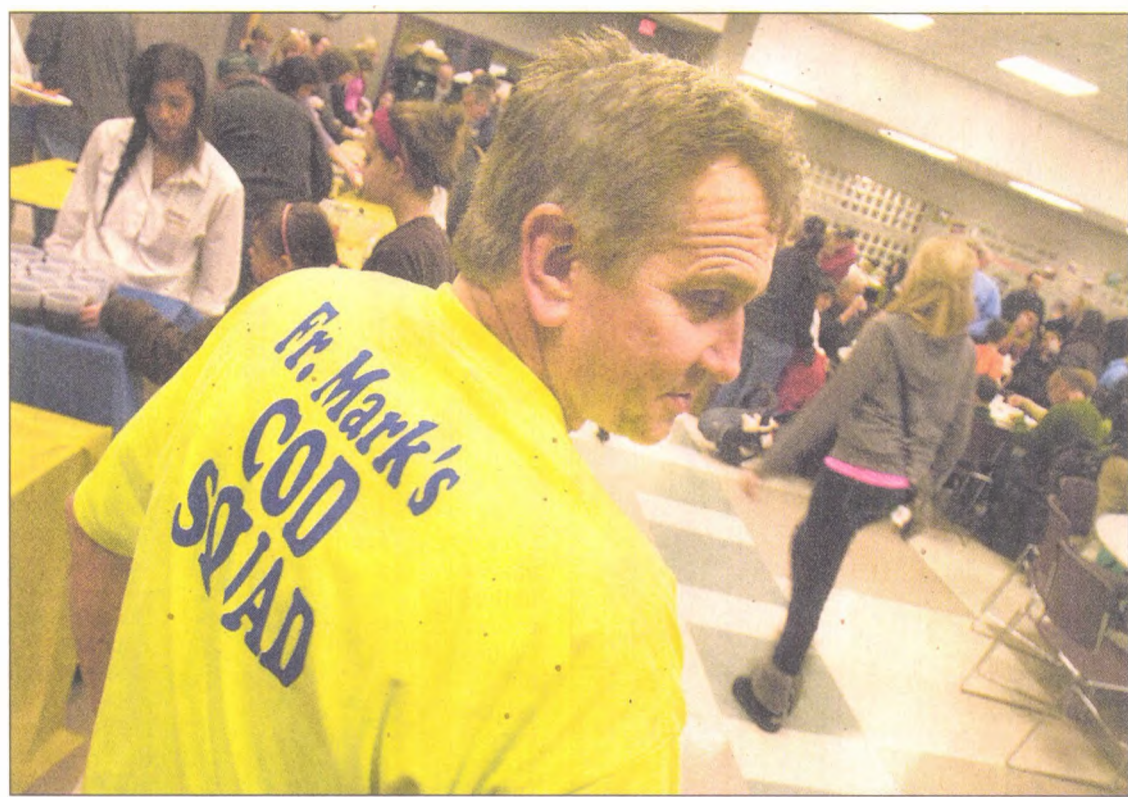
You don't have to be Catholic — or even a Christian — to enjoy a good fish fry.

But you can dine at a different Catholic church every Friday through Lent and not encounter the same menu twice. Fish fries continue as a Lenten staple at many local churches where parishioners fry, bake and grill for hundreds of visitors packed into the fellowship hall or school cafeteria. The fare ranges from seafood to pizza and pierogi, served all-you-can-eat or a la carte.

In addition to St. Kenneth, St. Genevieve and Our Lady of Sorrows, several other area Catholic churches offer Friday fish fries. Here are the basics with a few menu items highlighted:

- Our Lady of Good Counsel, 547650 N. Territorial Road, Plymouth; (734) 453-0326: 5:30-7 p.m. through March 30. Baked or fried fish, shrimp or combo with sides; \$8 for adults, \$7 for seniors. Children's menu for 12 and under is \$5.

- Our Lady of Loretto, 17116 Olympia, Redford; (313) 534-9000: 4-7 p.m. through Good Friday, April 6. All dinners come with sides; one piece of fried fish, \$6.25; two pieces, \$7.50; baked orange roughy, \$9.25; salmon, \$9; clam strips, \$6.75.
- SS. Simon and Jude Parish,



Joe Kujawski shows off his fish fry T-shirt at Our Lady of Sorrows in Farmington.

PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

- 32500 Palmer, Westland; (734) 722-1343: 4:30-7 p.m. through March 30. Baked or fried fish or fried shrimp, with sides, \$7. Children's fish dinner, for 12 and under, \$5.

- St. Aidan, 17500 Farmington Road, Livonia, (734) 425-5950: 5-7 p.m., through March 30,

- (734) 425-5950: Adults, \$9, children 10 and under \$5. Choice of baked cod, grilled salmon or both, along with sides.

- St. Damian Parish, 30055 St. Road, Westland; (734) 421-6130: 5-7 p.m. through March 30. All dinners include sides. One piece fish dinner is \$6, two

- pieces, \$7, and three pieces, \$8. Baked fish or shrimp dinners are \$7; pierogi and shrimp, \$6.

- St. Dunstan, 1526 Belton, Garden City; (734) 425-6720: 4-7 p.m. through Good Friday, April 6; fried pollack or baked cod, along with sides is \$5.25 for one piece, \$6.75 for

two pieces and \$7.75 for three pieces. Shrimp and combo fish and shrimp dinners are \$8.

- St. Edith, 1464-1222 Burgh, Livonia; (734) 450-8929: 4:30-7 p.m. through March 30 and 3:30-7 p.m. on Good Friday, April 6; \$9 dinners offer choice of baked fish, fried fish, salmon, crab cakes, pierogi, and shrimp. All come with sides. Children, 12 and under, pay \$6 for fried fish dinner.

- St. Raphael, 31530 Beechwood, off Merriman, two blocks south of Ford Road, Garden City; (734) 427-1533: 4:30-7 p.m. or until sold out, through March 30, and 3-7 p.m. or until sold out, Good Friday, April 6. Fish, shrimp and combo plates are \$8.50, along with sides.

- St. Michael the Archangel, 11641 Hubbard, Livonia; (734) 261-1455: 4:30-7 p.m. through March 30; adults, \$8, Kids, 3-11, seniors and carry-out, \$7. Kids under 3 eat free. Choice of baked or fried fish along with sides.

- St. Robert Bellarmine, 27101 W. Chicago Road, at Inkster Road, Redford; (313) 937-1500: 4-7 p.m. or until sold out, through Good Friday, April 6. Baked or fried fish available with sides, \$8.50 for adults, \$7.50 seniors 60 and older, \$4.25 children under 12.

— By Sharon Dargay

SERVE

Continued from page B6

day of Lent and March 30, the last Friday before Holy Week.

"We'll feed 700 from 5-7 p.m. It's about community. It's to bring the parish together in a different atmosphere. A lot of these people don't even know each other. Now they get to see each other in a different setting."

Started by accident

Kujawski and his wife, Sue, have coordinated the event for five years. Wearing bright yellow and pink T-shirts they were easy to identify in the noisy throng of diners that filled the school cafeteria and hallway on the first Friday of Lent.

"The way this fry started was I represented a seafood company and we had mismarked boxes ... they were going to destroy the product. I said, I know what to do with them."

He and Brian Campbell, who coordinates the kitchen, have improved on the product since then. They fine-tuned their baked fish recipes and moved the fryers outdoors, eliminating grease splatter and smells in the school.

"We know what moves and what everyone likes," Campbell said.

Wine and candles

At St. Kenneth's in Plymouth Township, the extensive menu — coordinated by a real chef — reasonable prices — \$5 for adults — and a setting



How many Our Lady Of Sorrows guys does it take to fry a piece of fish? Brian Shoup, Jeff Garvin, Jimmy Moreau and Greg Fedurek make the fish and french fries sizzle.



Jim Petruska has another tray of hot fish ready for St. Kenneth's parish fry customers.



Deanna Kluka and her sister Brianna Kluka and family are parish fry customers.

that includes glowing candles, draws visitors from as far away as Macomb County. Diners queue up in the hallway well before the 5:30 p.m. start.

"The food is exceptional, the service is quick and the price is right," said parishioner Al Meredith, sipping a White Zinfandel. He dined with family at the first fish fry of the season, but said he might volunteer on another evening.

"We not only have regular fish and chips, but we have tilapia, salmon, a multi-fish tray, green beans, baked potato, French Fries," he noted.

Rosie Marsh, church business manager, relies on approximately 50-55 volunteers to serve and cook and another 20 to prep food for the weekly event.

"We serve 550-600 in an hour and 45 minutes, on real dishes we're proud to say," Marsh said.

As the doors opened and the line of patrons snaked its way to the serving area, chef Steve Schifano took a quick break from the kitchen, where he had spent the past four and a half hours, tasting and tweaking the evening's fare.

"We have so much fun doing this," said Schifano, executive chef for University of Michigan Hospital and a St. Kenneth parishioner. "Everyone is a volunteer. We have a fabulous team."

What sets St. Kenneth's fish fry apart from others? "You could come here seven different and get something different each time."

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Annual ball promotes Hungarian culture, art



White Rose Ball debutantes are Jessica Standish (left standing) of Allen Park, Sabine Hutter of Plymouth and Rosalind Duma of Howell. Sitting are Rachel Cyranski (left) of New Baltimore and Rachel Given of Fort Wayne, Ind.

Scholarship winners and debutantes were recognized at the annual Hungarian White Rose Ball, held last month at the Dearborn Inn Marriott.

The ball, presented by The Hungarian Art Club for the past 54 years, introduces young women of Hungarian descent into society and awards a college scholarship to a student of Hungarian descent who is studying the fine arts.

Debutantes were: Rachel Cyranski of New Baltimore, Rachel Given from Fort Wayne, Ind., Jessica Standish of Allen Park, Sabine Hutter of Plymouth, and Rosalind Duma from Howell. The scholarship winners were Frank Asztalos of Detroit, a student

Darlene Szatmari, honorary chairperson and co-owner of the Hungarian Rhapsody

Restaurant in Southgate gave each scholarship recipient an additional \$500.

The honorary chairperson is selected for their contributions to promoting Hungarian culture. Szatmari has been part of the William Penn Association Family for years. She donated and devoted her time and worked alongside her husband, who managed the William Penn Hungarian Club for 17 years. Szatmari co-founded the William Penn Hungarian Dancers in 1977 and then, along with her daughter, went on to run the group for 25 years. In 1993, she and her husband and their daughter opened The Hungarian Rhapsody. Throughout the last 18 years, they have made countless donations to not only the Hungarian community, but to churches, schools, and other organizations.

Milestones

Tsernoglou-Ross

Penelope Ann Tsernoglou and Steve Ross announce their engagement.

The bride-to-be, daughter of Demetrius and Elaine Tsernoglou of Lansing, is a graduate of Southfield High School, the University of Michigan, and Michigan State University Law School. She is an Ingham County Commissioner and owner of Practical Political Consulting of East Lansing.

Her fiancé, son of George and Pam Ross of Livonia, is a graduate of Livonia Stevenson High School and Michigan State University. The former White House intern is owner of SMR Strategies of East Lansing.

A July 2012 wedding is planned at the Grand Hotel on Mackinac Island.



Marietti-Knizacky

Laura Marie Marietti and Robert Knizacky were married July 9, 2011 at St. Colette Catholic Church in Livonia. The Rev. Michael Loyson officiated.

The bride is the daughter of Dianne and James Marietti of Livonia, and the groom is the son of Trudy Graham of Custer and Benedict Knizacky of Ludington.

The bride's siblings — René Marietti, Maria Michela, and Anthony Marietti — and the groom's siblings — Daniel Barnett, Thomas Barnett, and Erica Knizacky — all served as attendants.

Additional members of the wedding party included Theresa Skora, a cousin, and friends Megan Williams, Cassie Lalla, Scott Martin, Luke Shereda, and Kyle Collins.

Aiden Marietti and Leanna Barnett, the nephew and niece of the couple, were the ring bearer and flower girl.

Frank Zak, the bride's grandfather, Lucy Ann Knizacky, the groom's grandmother, Fabian Knizacky and Theresa

Shoop, the groom's godparents, and William Marietti and Mary S. Zak, the bride's godparents, took a role in the readings and offertory at the Mass.

The newlyweds stopped at Historic Greenmead in Livonia to pose for photos and at Han-D-Dip Dairy Barn for a refreshing treat.

A reception was held in Livonia. The couple also held a second reception in Ludington, after returning from their honeymoon trip to Hawaii, including the NaPali Coast.

Both the bride and groom had perfect attendance during their elementary and high school years.

Laura is a 2005 graduate of Livonia Churchill High School. She earned a bachelor of science degree in nursing from Saginaw Valley State University in 2010.

Benjamin is a 2005 graduate of Mason County Eastern High School in Custer. He earned a bachelor's degree in business administration in management degree from Saginaw Valley State University in 2009.



Rogg-Ramas

Rachael Rogg and Kevin Ramas were married Feb. 4, 2012 at First United Methodist Church of Birmingham. The Rev. Rodney Quainton officiated.

The bride, daughter of Brian and Erin Rogg of Novi, attended Novi High School and Michigan State University. She is employed as a senior account manager at Autobel, an automotive marketing firm.

The groom, son of Tim Ramas of Commerce and Linda Ramas of Farmington Hills, attended Michigan State University and received a juris doctorate degree from Wayne State University. He is employed as an attorney at Michael Morse PC.

A reception was held at The Townsend Hotel in Birmingham. The couple took a honeymoon trip to Las Vegas, Nev.

They reside in South Lyon.



Beard-Baker

Kristen Elizabeth Beard and Brett Patrick Baker announce their engagement.

The bride-to-be, daughter of Mark and Mary Ann Small of LaSalle, Ill., earned a BBA degree in Western Michigan Uni-

versity.

Her fiancé, son of Gordon and Debbie Baker of Plymouth, earned a B.B.A. degree in accounting from Western Michigan University.

A September 2012 wedding is planned at Walt Disney World Wedding Pavilion.

Deneau-Osantoski

Elizabeth Amber Deneau of Northville and Nicholas Thomas Osantoski of Westland announce their engagement.

The bride-to-be, daughter of Christopher and Brenda Deneau of Northville, is a 2006 graduate of Northville High School and a 2011 graduate of Wayne State University. She holds a bachelor's degree in business administration and is employed by Independent Bank.

Her fiancé, son of Randy and Melinda Osantoski of Bad Axe, graduated in 2007 from Bad Axe High School and in 2011 from



Schoolcraft College with a degree in culinary arts. He is employed as a sous chef for AVI food systems at Wayne State University.

A June 2012 wedding is planned in Bad Axe.

REUNIONS

DEARBORN HEIGHTS ANNAPOLIS CLASS OF 1982

For information about the 30-year reunion on Saturday, Oct. 20, at Fr. Patrick O'Kelley Knights of Columbus in Dearborn, visit the "AHS Class of 82" page on Facebook, or contact Diane Goodreau at dianeschofield@sbcglobal.net or (313) 363-0523; Jim Linaras at godofouzo@yahoo.com; or John Zadikian at zman6754@aol.com.

DETROIT MACKENZIE CLASS OF 1962

Planning class reunion in 2012. Seeking classmates and contact information. E-mail the committee at mackenzie1962@gmail.com.

FARMINGTON HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1967

Organizers of the 45th reunion on July 21 are looking for classmates. Send your e-mail address to Susan (Himmelspach) Whittaker at s_whittaker@comcast.net or Fred Gregg at fredge1@comcast.net to receive a reunion packet.

GARDEN CITY HIGH SCHOOL EAST CLASSES OF 1968-1973

Reunion Sept. 22. Looking for classmates. Check out the "Garden City High School (East) Reunion 2012" on Facebook. Or e-mail to Cindy Eads Frens at irish4200@hotmail.com, Debi Cassidy Haller at debi.haller@gmail.com.

com, Doris Fugaban Williams at doris1226@wowway.com, Lee A Gilligan at ee.gilligan@att.net, Sue Cook at stasselmyer@charter.net, Suzie Wright Rogiero at suzierogiero@yahoo.com, Jackie Kalifut at jackieideson@gmail.com or Jeff Fordell at jeffrexfordell@comcast.net.

LINCOLN PARK HIGH CLASS OF 1963

Planning for 50-year reunion, set for Sept. 15, is underway. For more information contact JeanBadoud-Riddell at weaver@sbcglobal.net.

NORTHVILLE HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1971-75

The classes are joining together to celebrate with a reunion on Aug. 4. Reunion organizers are searching for classmates from those years. Send your name, address, phone and e-mail to nhs40yearreunion@gmail.com. The organizers will send more details after receiving your information.

REDFORD THURSTON HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1962

Looking for classmates for reunion on Sept. 8. Contact: nikkiwestberg@yahoo.com or Sue (Hughes) Morman

at (734) 414-9941 for more information.

WAYNE MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1957

Looking for classmates for the 55th class reunion to be held May 19. For more information contact Wanda Putman Boice at boice@aol.com or pollygirl219@aol.com. Or call Richard Smith at (248) 747-6817.

CLASS OF 1962

Looking for classmates for 50th class reunion on May 19. E-mail to Judy (Ramsey) Oleson at joleson@sbcglobal.net or call her at (586) 268-1663 or e-mail to Kathy (Quinn) Hayes at bustchr@aol.com.

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Five ways to resurrect your career after unemployment

Beth Braccio Hering,
Special to CareerBuilder

With hiring picking up, is it reasonable for a job seeker to believe that she can resume her career where she left off before becoming unemployed? While most experts agree that it may be possible, they also concur that such a rebound is difficult and takes a great deal of commitment. For those willing to put in the effort, here are five strategies for getting back on the career path.

1. Be certain of your career goals

Before trying to get back on track, be sure you're heading in the direction you really want to go. Having a clear sense of what you want will make it easier to target your efforts towards specific positions and companies.

"I would recommend clients reflect if they want to re-enter the same career field or if this is a time to transfer into a new career," says Mike Blount, a career coach at Messiah College Internship Center in Grantham, Penn. Adds Wil Lemire, director of career services at Western New England College in Springfield, Mass., "This may be a good time to do some career assessment to confirm that you are on the right path. Your college career office may be helpful here."

2. Evaluate your strengths and weaknesses

What skills and qualities do you bring to the table? Being able to clearly convey your best assets will make you a stronger applicant. But to be an even better candidate, you also need to cast a critical eye and look for things employers might perceive as negatives -- and fix them.

Linda Matias, president of CareerStrides.com and author of "201 Knockout Answers to Tough Interview Questions: The Ultimate Guide to Handling the New Competency-Based Interview Style," suggests that job

seekers write down all the reasons they shouldn't be hired and then formulate a plan on how to address each issue. "Too often, job seekers only pay mind to the reasons they should be hired. When that happens, they are not taking responsibility for their own career. No candidate is a perfect 10, but each job seeker should do whatever it takes to get as close to the number 10 as possible."

3. Stay active and informed

"Be prepared to explain how you've been filling the days since your last job," says Cynthia Favre, director of career services at Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter, Minn. "Employers know that it has been a rough job market, but they still expect that you have something to say about what you've been doing. For maybe six months you can say you took time to

reassess, regroup and refocus, but after that they'll wonder."

"Stagnation is a résumé shredder," Blount adds. "Show what you have done for your career."

Ways to keep sharp and prove dedication to your field may include:

- Enrolling in continuing education and skill-building classes
- Taking on temporary projects or consulting work
- Keeping up with trade publications and pertinent websites
- Volunteering in your area of expertise
- Participating in professional associations and conferences

4. Network

"When people get to know you, or get

reacquainted with you, they are more likely to think to refer opportunities to you," Favre states. "Use LinkedIn to join groups in your career field or to connect with past colleagues to find out where people are. It's important, too, to continue networking the old-fashioned way. Join professional associations and volunteer to be on committees, plan events or work the registration table at conferences."

Lemire adds that career fairs provide great networking opportunities as well as a chance to hone your "elevator pitch." "Research the attending companies and participate actively by engaging the recruiters in conversations about the nuances of their company and typical job requirements."

5. Be confident

Finally, don't neglect the fact that unemployment can take a heavy toll on one's self image. You need to come to terms with that period of your life before trying to sell yourself to others.

"Where candidates go wrong is self-confidence. They get defensive, apologetic or uptight when an interviewer asks the perfectly reasonable question, 'Why have you been outside of your field for over a year?'" Matias says. "Surprisingly, many job seekers don't prepare a response to this question ahead of time. It is as though they are hoping the interviewer won't broach the topic. Candidates should prepare a brief response, and then practice saying the response until the answer rolls off the tongue."

Beth Braccio Hering researches and writes about job search strategy, career management, hiring trends and workplace issues for CareerBuilder.com. Follow @CareerBuilder on Twitter.



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