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Road closed

Consumers Energy has Mill Street (Lilley Road) closed to through traffic between Ann Arbor Trail and Main.

Consumers Energy is making repairs to a gas main in the area and expects to have this section of roadway closed until Wednesday, April 18. Residents will be able to gain access to the Garling subdivision via Park Drive by entering the construction zone from Ann Arbor Trail. There will be no access to Park Drive from Main.

Questions regarding work should contact Consumers Energy directly at (800) 477-5050.



Boundary changes

The Plymouth-Canton Board of Education meets in a special session 7 p.m. Thursday, April 19, at Discovery Middle School to consider changes to the enrollment boundaries for the district's remaining elementary schools.

The changes are being forced by the district's move to all-day kindergarten and the closing of Fiegel Elementary School, which the board approved a few weeks ago.

The board is expected to make a final decision on elementary school boundaries at its regular meeting Tuesday, May 24, also a 7 p.m. gathering at Discovery Middle School.

EEF auction

Plymouth-Canton's Educational Excellence Foundation is running an online auction with a variety of items designed to appeal to everyone, as well as unique items specifically for district families.

In conjunction with the online auction, the EEF is selling tickets for its second annual wine tasting event Friday, April 20. Tickets are \$40 per person and are available on the website (www.pccseef. com) as well as at Busch's, Showroom of Elegance and at the Board of Education, 454 S. Harvey St.

For questions, contact Carole Kody at (734) 416-2718 or carole. kody@pccsmail.net.



PHOTOS BY JOHN STORMZAND | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Chris Mack, left, of Plymouth and Dereck LaPerriere of Garden City repair a saw blade.

Out of the rubble

Search team trains to dig for rescue

By Brad Kadrich
Observer Staff Writer

When an explosion rocked the William C. Franks Furniture store in Wayne in December 2010, Pete Bukis remembers spending "probably in excess of 18 hours" on the scene, cutting through concrete and trying to save the

lives of potential victims.

Bukis, a firefighter with the Plymouth Community Fire Department, was at the site of the explosion as part of western Wayne County's searchand-rescue team, formed four years ago to help in just such emergencies. His team spent hours digging through the rubble, much of it from the building's concrete roof, in a failed search for survivors (the explosion killed two people and severely injured the

store's owner, Paul Franks).
The SAR team was formed with firefighters picked from fire departments in 21 jurisdictions, including Plymouth, Canton, Livonia, Redford, Westland and Garden City. Bukis, a 10-year veteran in Plymouth, has been with the

team since its inception.
"It's something outside the every-day stuff a firefighter faces," said Bukis, who volunteered for the team with fellow PCFD firefighter Chris



Plymouth firefighters Pat Conely, Capt. Jim Jury and Dave Fox train lifting heavy concrete slab with air bags.

Mack. "It's a very skilled training (regimen) you can use to perfect your skills."

Added resource

The team, which rotates its monthly training sessions among various search-and-rescue disciplines, is called on to help out in a variety of emergencies. In addition to building collapses like the one in Wayne, the team might be called out for confined-space rescues, high-angle or rope rescues (from towers, antennas, etc.), trench collapses and the like.

"The team exists as a resource to handle complex incidents most fire depart-

ments don't have the resources to handle," said Chief Shadd Whitehead of the Livonia Fire Department, who serves as director of operations for the SAR team. "One of the main parts of our mission is to respond to building collapses, and that's a skill set most firefighters don't have experience in."

In addition to the Wayne explosion, the team responded to a Plymouth Township apartment collapse following a tornado a couple of years ago, and to a Detroit trench rescue situation. They even responded when a potential suicide climbed a

Please see RESCUE, A5

Planners want wall money issue settled

By Brad Kadrich
Observer Staff Writer

Whatever ends up happening to the Daisy Wall is going to cost mon-

And Plymouth planning commissioners want the developer of the stalled condominium project at their next meeting to talk about what part Joseph Freed & Associates will play in the resolution. That meeting takes place 7 p.m. Wednesday, May 9, at Plymouth City Hall.

Mark Malcolm, the CEO of Tower Automotive who has been working with the Plymouth Preservation Network to preserve the wall in some form, told commissioners last week of plans to turn the wall, the last remaining remnant of the former Daisy Air Rifle factory, into a pavilion with an adjacent park.

But there's a cost associated with the plan, estimated at some \$250,000. And that's the part commissioners want ironed out before granting an amendment to the Planned Unit Development plan used to start the failed project.

They've asked representatives of Freed to be at the May 9 meeting.

"We asked (Freed) to come and discuss the financials, so that whatever becomes of the wall, whether it's a park or green space, (Freed's) portion of that financial commitment is discussed," said Planning Commission chair Jim Mulhern. "That would potentially be part of their responsibility within the PUD agreement."

Malcolm told commissioners
Wednesday his group's plan not only
saves the wall but offers an attractive addition to the area. It is also, he
said, the only option that can be completed within the year.

The developer originally offered

Please see WALL, A2



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Plymouth planning commissioners have asked the developer of the Daisy property, which features the Daisy Wall — the last remnant of the Daisy Air Rifle factory that put Plymouth on the map for millions of BB gun owners around the world — to be at their next meeting to talk about financing a potential solution to the problem.

Director returns to stage with Sondheim play

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SONDHEIM ON STAGE

What: Spotlight Players' production of Steven Sondheim's Into the Woods

When: April 20-22 and April 27-29; 8 p.m. Fridays, 2 and 8 p.m. Saturdays, 2 p.m. Sundays
Where: Village Theater at Cherry
Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill in Canton
Tickets: \$18 adults, \$16 seniors
and students under 19; by phone
at the Village Theater box office,
(734) 394-5300, online at www.
spotlightplayersmi.org or at the

Contact: Call (734) 480-4945 or visit www.spotlightplayersmi.org.

By Brad Kadrich
Observer Staff Writer

Plymouth High School sophomore Katie Szczepanik takes the Village Theater stage Friday with the rest of the cast of the Spotlight Players' production of Steven Sondheim's *Into the Woods*.

But the Canton teenager said she probably wouldn't be if Shannon McNutt weren't sitting in the director's chair.

McNutt, the popular former director of the now-defunct Second Stage Players at the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park, makes her directorial debut leading Into the Woods for Spotlight.

It's her first directing gig since leaving Second Stage a couple of

years ago.

"It's a combination of reasons, but basically I just wanted to get back into theater again," said McNutt, still a drama teacher at the Park. "(Spotlight Players) has been around a long time, they have a new way to do things and I wanted to be part of something local."

This production fits that bill. Spotlight Players is the resident artists' group at the Village Theater, and one of its most popular attractions. Into the Woods features a cast made up largely of Plymouth- and Canton-area actors, intertwining the plots of several Brothers' Grimm fairy tales with an original story of a child-

Please see PLAY, A6



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER Lauren Norris of Canton plays the Witch in the Spotlight Players' production of Sondheim's 'Into the Woods.'

AROUND PLYMOUTH



DAVID L. MALHALAB M NEWS SERVICE | MNS PHOTO

Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, April 15, 2012

New location

The Plymouth Stamp Show, Michigan's largest such show, has a new home. The West Suburban Stamp Club's 43rd annual Exhibition and Stamp Dealers Bourse will be held in Westland at the Hellenic Cultural Center, 36375 Joy Road, east of Newburgh Road. Show times are 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Saturday, April 28, and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, April 29. The show, which had been held at the Central Middle School in Plymouth, will have more than 40 local and national philatelic (stamp) dealers. It offers a chance for those that have stamp or cover collections to have them appraised or to sell them. For more information, go online to www.plymouthshow.com or www.thewssc.com.



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"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.

PROM DRESS SALE

Date/Time: Saturday, April 21. 9 a.m. to noon.

Location: Plymouth High School

Details: The second annual Prom Dress Sale is looking for donations of long or short formal dresses, shoes, iewelry and purses. Any items to be donated can be dropped off in the general office at Plymouth High School, 8400 Beck Road, Canton. Last year, more than 100 girls went home with a dress.

Contact: Lisa Bernages, (734) 582-5553

GIVING HOPE EVENT

Date/Time: April 18, 6:30 **Location:** Courthouse

Grille, 41661 Plymouth Road in Plymouth

Details: Giving Hope, Women's Giving Circle hosts its spring educational meeting, featuring Dr. Debra Hollander, medical director of behavioral medicine services for St. John Providence Health System, talking about "The Impact` of Stress on Our Bodies and Finding Our Inner Wisdom." cost is \$10 per ticket (free to anyone under 21). Light refreshments and wine will be served.

Contact: RSVP to (734) 495-1200 or e-mail givinghopewgc@gmail.com

GRIEF SUPPORT Date/time: April 16, 23, 30,

May 7, 9; 7-9 p.m. Location: Our Lady of Good Counsel, 47650 N Territorial Road, Plymouth.

Details: The "Grieving With Great Hope" workshop offers a prayerful, practical and personal approach for individuals who are mourning the loss of a loved one. Speakers will include Deacon Bob Irvin, Fr. John Riccardo, as well as John and Sandy O'Shaughnessy from Good Mourning Ministry, a local Catholic bereavement organization. Registration forms are online at www. goodmourningministry.net or call OLGC.

Contact: 734-453-0326. olgcparish.net

ALL SAINTS EVENT

Date/Time: Wednesday, April 18, 6-8 p.m.

Location: All Saints Catholic School, 48735 Warren in Canton

Details: All Saints Catholic School hosts an open house for prospective families. Parents who are interested in learning more about All Saints can tour the school and meet faculty, staff and parents of current students. All Saints boasts a modern facility with "smart board" technology for every grade, all new computers and workstations, and a mobile computer lab with 30 netbook computers. The school also maintains an average class size of 21 students and offers a variety of activities and leadership opportunities

Contact: Visit www. allsaintscs.com or call (734) 459-2490.

SPRING CLEANING

Dates/Times: May 12 and June 9, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Location: Plymouth Cul-

tural Center, 525 Farmer,

Plymouth Details: The City of Plymouth Recreation Department sponsors a pair of Garage Sales, designed for all spring-cleaning homeowners to be able to sell. Get a 10'x10' spot to sell everything and free up extra space in the house. The \$20 fee reserves a spot.

Contact: For more information visit www.ci.plymouth. mi.us/recreationspecialevents, call the Recreation Office at (734)455-6620, or register online at https:// www.plymouthwebtrac.net.

WALL

for all grade levels.

Continued from page A1

some \$120,000 to knock the wall down; the Plymouth Preservation Network has said it has received pledges for the rest.

"The (PPN) has raised \$80,000 to \$150,000 toward a preservation piece of this project, but there are other monies (Freed) would need to contribute," Mulhern said. "Our instruction to (Freed) is to come to the meeting ready to talk financials. Our intent is to hammer out the details of an amended PUD."

Planners made no decisions about what an amended PUD might look like. That discussion is likely to happen at the May 9 meeting, Mulhern said.

"A motion will probably be put forth at the next meeting with that level of detail," Mulhern said.
"There will be a discussion between the developer, the Planning Commission and the City Commission toward finding a solution that everyone can be part of."

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Initial weigh in: Friday April 20th at 6:00pm in the Salem High School Gym **Boot Camps at:**

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• 6:30-7:15pm Monday, Wednesday, Thursday Saturday TBD

Contact Tiffany for more information: 734-255-0103





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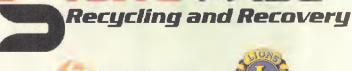
 Statewide Recycling & Recovery, 40251 Schoolcraft, Plymouth Battery Giant, 1178 Walton Boulevard, Rochester Hills

Sunday, April 27th • 8am-8pm

Northwood Mall Parking Lot, 13 Mile & Woodward, Royal Oak

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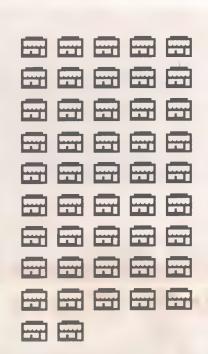


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Students watch live surgery broadcast

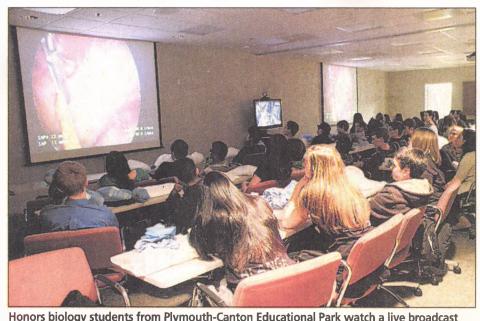
Honors biology students from the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park were trying to listen for possible questions on their next test but they weren't focused on their teacher. Instead, they were absorbed in watching a live broadcast of a laparoscopic pelvic surgery being performed at St. Mary Mercy Hospital.

Timothy Johnson, MD, Obstetrics and Gynecology, St. Mary Mercy Hospital, performed the minimally invasive procedure as 55 students watched from a hospital classroom last Wednesday, April 4.

The live video feeds - a first for St. Mary Mercy - of the operating room and the laparoscopic camera were broadcast onto a widescreen TV and two projector screens. The students asked Dr. Johnson questions as he was navigating the laparoscopic camera around the organs. The procedure lasted about an hour and a half.

"They all said to me at the end, 'Wow, it doesn't look like this in the book," said Sharon Caldwell, an honors biology teacher at Plymouth-Canton Educational Park, a campus that encompasses Canton, Plymouth and Salem high schools.

It was among the activities designed to help the students gain insight in the medical field. The students also toured the surgery department, an operating room, as well as tried their skills in



Honors biology students from Plymouth-Canton Educational Park watch a live broadcast of a laparoscopic pelvic surgery. Dr. Timothy Johnson, Obstetrics and Gynecology, St. Mary Mercy Hospital, performed the procedure as the honors biology students asked questions.



Nurse Kathy Borromeo of Perioperative Services, St. Mary Mercy Hospital, demonstrates the latest technology used in brain surgery. The activity was among the demonstrations Wednesday, April 4, designed to give honors biology students insight in the medical field.

various medical simulations: orthopedic surgery, orthopedic casting, using technology in brain surgery, and laparoscopy.

Johnson and Perioperative Services at St. Mary Mercy organized the activities for the high school stu-



Alex Johnson (left), a sophomore at Plymouth-Canton Educational Park, tries his skill in a laparoscopic surgery simulation at St. Mary Mercy Hospital. The activity was among the demonstrations designed to give honors biology students insight in the medical field.

dents. Johnson, whose son attends honors biology, had visited the students before the surgery and gave a presentation of his medical mission trips in the Dominican Republic.

"This is all part of giving back," Johnson said.

"I want to provide this opportunity for the students. I am fortunate that I entered a field that I enjoy. They also get to see that what they are learning in the classroom does matter and how it applies in real life."

SCHOOL BRIEFS

Virtual choir

With the help of 3,726 other singers from around the world, and a brilliant composer, 20 Plymouth-Canton Educational Park student-singers debuted as number one on the US iTunes and Billboard classical charts

The project, "Virtual Choir 3: Water Night," is comprised of 3,746 videos from 73 countries around the world singing the song, "Water Night." Eric Whitacre is the renowned composer who dreamed up and executed this project, and brought the thousands of voices together to sing as one choir. The final product was launched on April 2 at a live event at Lincoln Center in

The 20 P-CEP choir students who were cast in Virtual Choir 3 for this cutting-edge project were honored to be a part of the project. The truly amazing performance can be viewed at http://ericwhitacre.com/thevirtual-choir

Online auction

The Plymouth-Canton Community Schools Educational Excellence Foundation is hosting the first ever online auction at www.PccsEEF.com.

All proceeds from this event benefit the Educational Excellence Foundation, which provides educational enhancements throughout the District. Some of the items available are: reserved seats at Canton, Salem and Plymouth graduations, professional and college level athletic event tickets, restaurant gift cards and

The auction ends today at 8 p.m.

Biggest losers

The employees of Plymouth-Canton Community Schools have been invited to participate in a weight loss and fitness challenge to determine the biggest loser. The Plymouth-Canton athletic department has teamed with Fitness and Sport Performance to make this program possible.

Competitors will train in daily boot camps, learn about proper nutrition, get workout plan ideas, and be motivated by personal trainer Tiffany Grubaugh. Grubaugh has many certifications, including Certified Strength & Conditioning Specialist.

The initial weigh in will be April 20 and the competition will end on May 31; the biggest loser team will win \$1,000.



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RESCUE

Continued from page A1

radio tower in Garden City and threatened to jump (he eventually came down on his own).

Those certainly aren't normal occurrences, but Whitehead said the team was formed to respond to

"They don't happen every day," Whitehead said of such incidents. "But you have to have the resources to deal with it when they do."

Reaping benefits

One of the biggest benefits, team members acknowledge, is the idea that a community gets access to a search-and-rescue team without having to fund it entirely on their own. Each department in the 21 jurisdictions puts two volunteers on the team, then reaps the benefits when something happens.

"It's probably the best insurance policy you can have ... by training a couple of guys, you're getting an entire team," said Capt. Derek LaPerriere of the Garden City Fire Department, who serves as a team leader for the SAR. "You're getting a



PHOTOS BY JOHN STORMZAND | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Members of the search-and-rescue team practice cutting through concrete during a training session Tuesday.

group of people who train together and respond together. It's a service to the community, and that's what it's all about."

The team was in Plymouth Township Tuesday, training in how to deal with heavy concrete. It's one of several disciplines team members are trained in, and one of the more physically demanding.

Bukis heads the team's structural collapse committee, and is in charge of all their training in that discipline.

"This is physically demanding work," said Bukis, who has been with the Plymouth Community Fire Department 10 years. "There's nothing light about heavy concrete work. I really like the teamwork aspect. It takes guys from all over. You can't do any tasks here by yourself."

Tuesday's training took place at National Concrete Products in Plymouth Township, which donated all the concrete (slabs, pipes, etc.) the team needed to conduct

its training sessions. Partnerships like those, Whitehead said, make the team's job much easier.

"National Concrete has been awesome," Whitehead said. "They gave us what we needed, they put



John LaPenca (left) of Northville and Matt Ream of Livonia team up during search-and-rescue training in Plymouth Township.

it where we needed it, and they did everything they could do to help," Whitehead said. "We couldn't possibly simulate this kind of event without the help of local people like this.'

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PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The hapless Jack, played by Connor Rhoades of Plymouth, with his Mom, Linda Trygg of Westland, and narrator Nick "Ryu" Craig of Ann Arbor, rehearsing a scene from the Spotlight Players' production of 'Into the Woods.'

PLAY

Continued from page A1

less baker and his wife, who set the plot in motion by attempting to reverse a curse on their family in order to have a child.

The characters are "all on quests that begin to intertwine with each other." It's about community, about how "we're not alone," and the words are a metaphor for life, according to McNutt, a big fan of Sondheim.

"Sondheim is a god," she said. "His music has such wonderful messages. The music in this play, in particular, is very challenging."

It's McNutt's presence that drew Szczepanik to the show. The Plymouth High School sophomore, fresh off a role in the Park Players' production of Nine, plays Florinda, one of Cinderella's evil stepsisters.

"I love Miss McNutt,



The Princes of 'Into the Woods' are Tyler Dean and Michael Petrillo.

and she's really fun to work with," said Szcz-epanik, who also played Marty in a Forever After Players production of Grease. "Usually in shows I play the sweet, innocent character, and in this one I get to be mean. (Florinda) is different from anything else I've played."

One of the things that drew McNutt to the production was the ensemble aspect to the cast. Actors have come from theater groups around the area, many from right at home in Plymouth and Canton,

"This is an ensemble piece, which are the kinds of shows I'm drawn to, where everybody has their moment to shine," McNutt said. "There are

no small roles. One of the biggest roles is being played by Christine Kapusky of Canton, who plays the pivotal role of the Baker's Wife. A self-described "Sondheim junkie," Kapusky called the Baker's Wife "one of my dream roles."

"She's a very independent character," said Kapusky, an actress currently traveling with a four-person show titled Tumbledown Town. "(The play) carries a good message about being responsible within your community. You have to look out for each other."

According to McNutt, the actors have learned what the play's characters learn: People have

a common course, come together and find out what they have in common and realize they're not alone.

"It's really a profound message," McNutt said. "Every member of the cast has discovered it really makes us better citizens of the world, you take this journey into the woods, and you come out on the other side changed."

It's delivering that kind of message McNutt missed about being away from the theater. She and former Park Players director Kristen Quesada left at the same time, and the Park has since merged their two groups so that only Park Players exist, though they put on multiple productions at both Canton and Salem High Schools.

But McNutt, who is still a popular drama teacher, yearned to get back on stage.

"I miss being involved," she admitted. "I don't think I could function if I wasn't involved in the arts somehow.'

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PLYMOUTH TOWNSHIP ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the Charter Township of Plymouth, Michigan, Downtown Development Authority (DDA) will accept sealed bids for the following Project:

> STREET LIGHTING MAINTENANCE FOR DDA STREETSCAPE Details are described in the bid Drawings and Specifications.

Bids for the above Project shall be accepted no later than 2:00 PM Local Time, on Monday, April 30, 2012, at the Office of the Clerk, Plymouth Township Hall, 9955 N. Haggerty Road, Plymouth, Michigan 48170-4673, at which time and place all bids will be publicly opened and

General Description of Work: Maintenance on fortyeight (48) decorative street lights and four (4) illuminated street name signs. Services include asneeded repairs and replacement of poles, luminaries and

General Description of Project Area: The decorative street lights are located along Ann Arbor Road, from Eckles Road to Haggerty Road, in Plymouth Township. The illuminated street name signs are located at the intersection of Ann Arbor Road and Haggerty Road in Plymouth Township.

Copies of the bidding documents are available for pick-up only (no mail delivery) at the Office of the Clerk, Plymouth Township Hall, 9955 N. Haggerty Road, Plymouth, Michigan 48170-4673.

Each bid shall be accompanied by a Certified Check in the amount of five hundred dollars (\$500.00), payable to the Charter Township of Plymouth Downtown Development Authority, as security for acceptance of the contract. A bid bond in the Michigan Standard Form issued by an approved surety company may be furnished in lieu of a Certified Check

No bidder may withdraw his/her bid within sixty (60) days after the date set for the opening thereof.

The Township reserves the right to accept any bid, to reject any and all bids in whole or in part, and to waive any defect or irregularity in any bid if it is deemed in the Township's sole discretion to be in the best interest of the Township. The Township does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, or disability in employment or the provision of services.

REQUIREMENTS

- The Contractor shall be duly licensed by the appropriate authorities to perform Work.
- Insurance shall be in accordance with the Charter
- Township of Plymouth insurance requirements. The Contractor must provide references for similar
- The signed contract is not assignable or transferable to any other company without approval of the DDA.

 The term of the Contract is one year and may be
- renewed by written agreement of both parties at least ninety (90) days prior to the expiration date. The Contractor will conform to all applicable federal, state, and local laws.
- The contract award by the DDA must be approved by the Plymouth Township Board of Trustees

ANY INQUIRIES REGARDING THIS BID ARE TO BE DIRECTED TO: Mrs. Jana Radtke,

Community Development Director/Planner Charter Township of Plymouth 9955 N. Haggerty Road Plymouth, MI, 48170-4673 Ph: (734) 414-1453

ALL BIDS MUST BE SUBMITTED TO:

Mr. Joseph Bridgman, Clerk Charter Township of Plymouth 9955 N. Haggerty Road Plymouth, MI 48170-4673

Publish: April 15, 2012

Canton expands cultural celebration

By Darrell Clem Observer Staff Writer

Canton plans to celebrate its cultural and artistic diversity by weaving together musical performances, art shows, stage productions, a historic home tour and other events amid efforts to boost the community's reputation as a vibrant, creative hub of southeast Michigan.

What started as the second annual Canton Acts of Culture Week already has mushroomed into a 10-day event, April 27 through May 6, sponsored by the Canton Commission for Culture, Arts & Heritage.

"It's bursting at the seams," said Jill Engel, executive director of the Partnership for the Arts & Humanities. "We're going to do it every year. It's important that we learn about each other's cultures."

Former commission leader ReGina Shamberger spearheaded last year's debut Canton Acts of Culture, and the group, now chaired by local artist Sharon Dillenbeck. has rolled out myriad ways the community can embrace the latest effort. Some events are free; others are not.

Anchoring the event, the Michigan Philharmonic follows up last year's Bollywood show by performing Asian music during "From Canton To Canton: The Music of China" – acknowledging how this community took its name from the China province, said Nan Washburn, music director and conductor.

The concert happens 7-8:30 p.m. Monday, April 30, at The Village Theater at Cherry Hill, preceded at 6 p.m. by a recep-



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

art in a larger context.

work alongside all the

other kids' work," Mor-

Acts of Culture events

are listed at www.canton-

fun.org, along with ticket

 A weeklong silent auction at The Village The-

information. Among the

ater occurs April 27-

May 5, allowing visitors

es, artwork, golf outings, theater tickets and res-

raise money for the Part-

Humanities. The auction

coinciding with the Bolly-

· Dillenbeck plans to

assemble the art of local

women for a champagne

reception 2-4 p.m. Sun-

day, May 6, at D&M Art

Gate shopping center on Lilley south of Joy. The

Ladies Dillenbeck Exhi-

original watercolors, oils,

bition features for-sale

acrylics, charcoals, pas-

tels and oil pastels. The

• The Park Players The-

atre Co. perform You're A

exhibition continues

through May.

Studio, in the Golden

to bid on hotel packag-

taurant passes to help

nership for the Arts &

raised \$2,300 last year

but was only one day,

wood concert.

Numerous other Canton

They get to see their

gan said.

events:

Amy Morgan (from left), coordinator for Plymouth-Canton Community Schools' visual and performance arts program, and Nan Washburn, conductor from the Michigan Philharmonic, film a Canton cable television segment with host Peg Stevens to promote Canton Acts of Culture Week.

tion and silent auction to raise money to support local arts efforts. The concert also features the children's dance troupe of the Chinese American Cultural Center, student violinists from the Canton Chinese School and Chinese pipa master Mr. Tian. For more information including tickets, go to www. cantonvillagetheater.org or www.michiganphil.org, or call (734) 394-5300 or (734) 451-2112

Another highlight centers on the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools' fourth annual K-12 Art Show, 4-8 p.m. Saturday, April 28, and 1-4 p.m. Sunday, April 29, inside the Plymouth High School cafeteria. It showcases over 2,000 pieces of student artwork from 25 school locations, along with student performances, desserts prepared by the district's culinary arts program, a silent artwork auction and an awards ceremony.

Amy Morgan, the school district's visual and performing arts coordinator, said the art show has been expanded from one day to two this year, another example of the burgeoning Canton Acts of Culture Week.

"It puts the students'

 Tours of the historic Bartlett-Travis House

in Cherry Hill Village are set for 1-4 p.m. April 28, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. April 29, 9:30-11:30 a.m. April 30, May 2 and May 4, and 1-4 p.m. May 5. • Kandee G, a Flori-

Good Man Charlie Brown

7 p.m. April 27-28 at Can-

ton High School.

da-based motivational speaker and radio talk show host, appears at 7:30 a.m. Friday, May 4, for a continental breakfast at The Village Theater. She inspires people and companies to reach their potential.

• The Plymouth Community Arts Council has a benefit including history, art and musical experiences 6-10 p.m. April 27 and 7-10 p.m. April 28.

 Michigan Philharmonic musicians perform "Classical Gas: Music of the 1960s and 1970s" during a wine-tasting event 7:30 p.m. April 28 at Tipping Point Theatre in Northville.

• The Canton Public Library hosts photographer Rick Lieder, author of Step Out Gently, 7 p.m. May 1 in the Purple Room. His book is a study of backyard creatures accompanied by poetry and pictures.

• "A Night on the Town" by Cherry Hill Singers happens 8 p.m. May 4 at The Village Theater and includes some of the best of Broadway.

• The Spotlight Players' Into the Woods billed as a fractured fairy tale involving Cinderella,

Little Red Riding Hood, Prince Charming and a witch who raps - occurs 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. April 27-29 at The Village Theater.

· St. John's Episcopal Church, 574 S. Sheldon in Plymouth, offers "Resounding Art in a Sacred Space." The 7 p.m. May 4 event includes Italian organ virtuoso Eugenio Fagiani performing on the church's Gabriel Kney pipe organ.

 The annual Family Fishing Derby is set for 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. May 5 at Heritage Park, where ponds will be stocked with rainbow trout. It's open only to Canton residents.

• The Canton Concert Band performs what is billed as a European tour spring concert 8 p.m. May 5 at The Village Theater.







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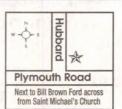
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Local man who lost family to drunk driver inspires Project: Forgive

By Nathan Mueller Staff Writer

Forgiveness.

It is a word one man yearned for and another man knew right away he would grant.

And while it doesn't make sense to many, it makes perfect sense to Gary Weinstein.

Weinstein, of Farmington Hills, who owns Weinstein Jewelers of Novi, is the one who offered up forgiveness, and Thomas Wellinger was the man who needed it.

Tragedy brought these two men together in May 2005 when Wellinger got

IOE08772453

PROJECT: **FORGIVE**

Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, April 15, 2012

Hear Gary Weinstein's story and read about 'Project: Forgive' at www. projectforgive.com.

To donate to the project, visit the website before the April 23 dead-

behind the wheel of his SUV drunk and crashed into the car containing Weinstein's wife Judy and two sons, Alex and Sam.

At the hospital, the doctor gave Weinstein the news they died, and he said in that moment he

realized he was alone. But it was also in that

moment that he realized he had an opportunity.

"When this happened and they were gone, in that instant I realized I was still here ... and there was no reason for me to disappear or run away,' he said. "I had an opportunity in that moment to say I still am strong.

"Even right away for me, forgiveness was present.'

Weinstein even told Wellinger — who was sentenced to 19-30 years for three counts of second-degree murder - as much the only time they

met at the Oakland County Jail. He even posed the question back, asking Wellinger if he could ever forgive himself.

"He was remorseful," Weinstein said.

When asked why he forgave him, Weinstein said there was "no power" in blaming him. He said he is a person who lives in the moment and doesn't hold on to things.

"My expression of love and care for them was complete," he said. "It can be a tough road for loss if it was not complete."

Now Weinstein hopes to help others on that road to forgiveness. And when talking about happiness, Weinstein said it has never been something he has searched out; he comes from it.

"Now I have an opportunity to be the poster child for this conversation," he said.

'Project: Forgive'

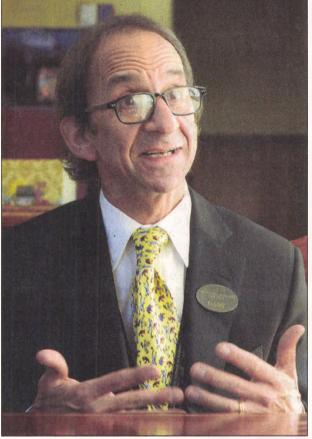
That is where filmmaker and Michigan resident Shawne Duperon comes

Duperon has a unique connection to the story as her children used to baby-sit Weinstein's children and Judy was her husband's business coach. On the other side of the equation, Wellinger was a close family friend.

"I knew in that moment something miraculous was going to come of

this," she said. Now nearly seven years later, that miracle is taking shape through the creation of a movie on forgiveness called "Project: Forgive."

Duperon said Weinstein



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Novi business owner Gary Weinstein tells why he got involved in filmmaker Shawne Duperon's 'Project: Forgive' effort. Weinstein's wife and two sons were killed by an alcohol-impaired driver in 2005.

was the catalyst for the film, which she said will explore and explain forgiveness on a variety of levels. Scott Rosenfelt, who executive produced Home Alone, has signed on to be the co-producer.

A trailer for the film can be found at www. projectforgive.com, and Duperon said they need to raise \$100,000 to fund the campaign. As of Friday, \$71,850 had been raised. Visit the website to donate, before the April 23 deadline.

The budget for the film

is \$1 million, and the goal is to have it completed by the end of the year with a release in the fall of 2013.

"It's my dream come true and my life mission," Duperon said.

For Weinstein, it's all about honoring Judy, Alex and Sam.

"What my family has given me, even in this horrific loss, is to have a voice and make a difference in this world," he

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Secretary of State visits area to promote organ donation

By Ken Abramczyk **Observer Staff Writer**

Cassandra Perry almost lost her sight.

In 2008 the Northville resident was diagnosed with Fuch's dystrophy, a cornea disease that leads to blindness. Her only option was bilateral cornea transplants.

She received the first of two transplants and noticed that a car was purple, not black that she saw during the deterioration of her vision along with the other details of items that she could not see. Perry received two corneas through two eye donors.

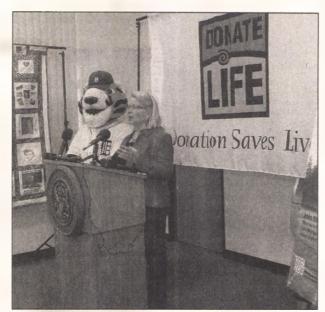
"I just think about what my fate could have been," Perry said through tears. "I could have missed so many things.

"I see more than I should. I appreciate that so very much, I really

Donate Life Month

Perry told her story Wednesday at a press conference at the Livonia Secretary of State office at 17176 Farmington, known as a SUPER!Center, and one of the top Secretary of State offices for organ donor sign-ups. The press conference promoted Donate Life Month and the need for potential organ donors to register, which they can do at any Secretary of State office or at the SOS site online at www.Michigan.gov/sos.

Flanked by Gift of Life Michigan and Michigan Eye Bank officials, along with Detroit Tigers mascot PAWS, Secretary of State Ruth Johnson urged residents to "Join the Team" and sign up to become organ, tissue and eye donors.



Secretary of State Ruth Johnson highlighted the month of April as Donate Life Month at the Secretary of State office on Farmington Road in Livonia. Tiger mascot PAWS also attended the public awareness event.

Johnson said signing up more donors was a top priority for her since she took office 16 months ago. Last year 400,000 people signed up to become donors, a 25 percent increase. The Livonia office alone registered about 35 people a

day, Johnson said. Johnson encouraged staff to ask residents if they would like to register. She has partnered with organ donor advocates, promoted educational efforts and printed reminders on forms. She supported a new Donate Life Month license plate, available this summer.

"One donor can save the lives of eight people and improve the quality of life for 15 more people," Johnson said.

Last year 792 organs were transplanted. So far this year, donors' generosity has led to 118 transplants. As of March 1, 2,973 Michigan patients were waiting for a transaround the state.

"Jai'Wan wants to follow his dream of playing baseball," Johnson said.

Jai'Wan's mother, Cherisse Davis-Harbour, said they wanted to give hope to others who like Jai'Wan, need transplants and encourage organ donation. "He wants to be able to run and to play baseball," she said.

Jai'Wan even wants to name his new kidney, said his mother. "He wants to call it 'Pinocchio' because it will make him a real boy," Davis-Harbour said.

Rich Pietroski, CEO of Gift of Life Michigan, said that organization was appreciative of donors and secretary of state staff who ask residents if they would like to register.

'You can become heroes'

Organ donation "used to start in the Intensive Care Unit," Pietroski said. "Now transplants start right here in this office." He also referenced quilts that were displayed that day at the Secretary of State office.

"The most common word on these quilts is love, the second most common is used to

describe the donors as heroes," Pietroski said. "You can become heroes today by signing up."

Bill Ryan spoke about his daughter Michelle, who 25 years ago realized that she was not registered as a donor when she renewed her driver's license. She drove back to where she renewed her license in Florida, and signed up as a donor.

"Six weeks later, she died in a car accident," Ryan said. "My daughter Michelle became a donor." Ryan now chairs the Transplant Games of America, which will be held July 28-31 at Grand Valley State University.

Approximately 1,400 athletes will participate in 14 sports to bring awareness to the causes, Ryan said.

One of them is Terry Gould of Plymouth.

Gould, 59. was diagnosed with cardiomyopathy and an enlarged heart. He went through three surgeries and needed a ventricular assist device to stay alive.

Transplant Games

"I went into renal failure and received a heart transplant just in time," Gould said.

At the Transplant

Games, he will be swimming in five events and playing volleyball. "I haven't felt this good in 30 years," Gould said.

The Transplant Games help bring awareness to the success stories of organ donations and survival for recipients. Approximately 112,000 Americans are waiting for organ transplants, Gould said. Seven percent die waiting for one.

"It happens every day that someone dies waiting for a transplant," Gould said. "We want people out there to sign up so people like us can live on,"

Because of transplants, Gould's life continues with his wife and five children, and now, four grandchildren. "Without the transplant, I would not have been able to enjoy them,' Gould said of his grandchildren.

Gould has also befriended a family to whom he is forever grateful, that is the family of his donor, a 20-year-old male, the youngest of four brothers. "We celebrate special occasions, the (transplant) games and the years together," Gould said. "They're an inspiration to everyone."











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18 a day die waiting

al statistics, 18 people die

Johnson highlighted the

According to nation-

each day from the lack

of available organs for

public awareness cam-

Jai'Wan Davis Harbour,

he was 7 months old and

needs a kidney. Jai'Wan

will be featured on base-

Secretary of State offices

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11, of Taylor, who has

been on dialysis since

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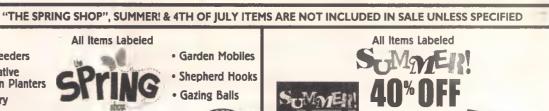
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Canton launches 'May is for Moms' program

To help mothers obtain important information, support and resources to make motherhood an even more enriching experience, Canton Leisure Services is launching its new "May is for Moms!" initiative -- a new series of health, fitness and lifestyle programming kickingoff with the Lessons in Greener Mommyhood workshop on Monday, April 23, taught by local eco-warrior Gina Adams-Levy of Peace, Love and Planet.

Area mothers and their infants are welcome to attend:

• Lessons in Greener Mommyhood, teaching eco-friendly, easily accomplished, sus-



Canton Leisure Services is launching its new 'May is for Moms!' initiative, a new series of health, fitness and lifestyle programming

tainable practices for the home beginning at 10 a.m. on Monday, April 23 in the Summit on the Park Arts II room. The cost is \$14 for residents and \$17 for non-residents. Addi-

tional dates and times are also available.

 Shutterbug Babies Photography Workshops. Beth Hutter of the B&B Photography Studio will share professional tricks for capturing outstanding candid baby photos starting at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, May 1 in the Summit on the Park Professional Development Center. Prices are \$30 for residents and \$36 for non-residents. Additional dates and times this summer are also available.

 Happiest Baby on the Block, a 90-minute class discussing infant sleep and colic-calming techniques led by Dawn Blackburn, RN. Participants will receive a copy of Dr. Harvey Karp's award-winning DVD-a \$15 value. Classes kickoff at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, May 15 in the Arts II room. The cost is \$45 for residents and \$48 for nonresidents. Thousands of

new parent testimonials call this an absolute lifesaver during your baby's first three months! Additional dates and times are also available.

Additional "May is for Moms!" programs include:

• Mother/Son Dance, Canton's Mother's Day tradition at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, May 11 in the Summit on the Park Grand Ballroom. Complimenting the Dance's annual balloon-drop finale are light refreshments and souvenir photos. Semi-formal attire is recommended. Tickets are \$9; children aged two and under are free.

 Become a Coupon Mom, offering tips from cost-cutting experts at

6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, May 22 in the Arts II room. The cost is \$10 for residents and \$12 for nonresidents. This class will pay for itself during your next trip to the grocery

 Make Your Own Baby Food featuring Chef Paul. Chef Paul Penney will cover best preparation, sterilization and storage of homemade baby purees and table food at 6 p.m. on Monday, June 4 in the Summit on the Park Oak room. Prices are \$15 for Summit on the Park members, \$17 for residents and \$23 for non-res-

To register for an activity, or for more information, please visit www. cantonfun.org.

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St. Paul's hosts rain barrel workshop

To celebrate Earth Day, St. Paul's Presbyterian Church in Livonia will hold a rain barrel workshop 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, April 28.

The purpose of the workshop is to teach people how to harvest rainwater using rain barrels. Attendees will be taught how to build a rain barrel from recycled barrels and how to modify their gutter system to attach the rain barrel to it.

All are welcome to attend this free event. The workshop is open to families and all ages are welcome. If attendees wish to purchase a complete rain barrel kit and receive assistance in assembling the kit to completion at the workshop, the cost of the kit is \$55. If attendees just want to purchase a preassembled rain barrel, the cost is \$65.

Preregistration and payment can be made at

www.mirainbarrel.com. St. Paul's is on Five Mile Road one block west of Inkster Road. Call (734) 422-1470 for more infor-

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS THURSDAY, MAY 3, 2012 6:00 P.M.

PLEASE NOTE that the Zoning Board of Appeals will hold its Regular Meeting on Thursday, May 3, 2012 commencing at 6:00 p.m., to consider:

• Application 1490, 15237 Lakewood: The applicant is in an R-1 zoning district and is requesting one variance in accessory structure height. Allowable height is 12 feet; proposed roof height 16 feet, variance requested is 4 feet in roof height.

The meeting will be held at Plymouth Township Hall, 9955 N. Haggerty Road in the Town Hall Meeting Room.

For further information contact Plymouth Township Building Department 734-354-3210.

Publish: April 15, 2012

Do you suffer with "Irritable Bowel Syndrome" (IBS), Colitis or Crohn's Disease?



Greg Kramer, D.C., D.A.A.M.L.P. Diplomat American Academy of Medical Legal Professionals. Studies under nation's leading Chiropractic Neurologist.

Dr. Greg Kramer, DC is holding a Free Seminar

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Wednesday, April 18th at 6 pm

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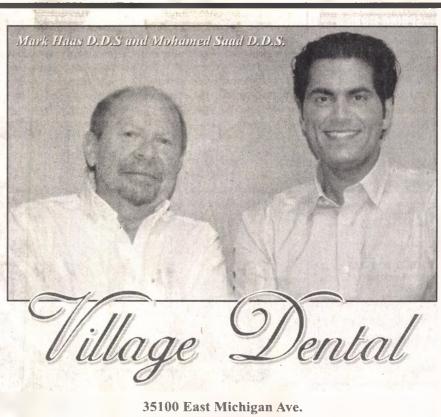
Dr. Kramer's unique approach to supporting "Irritable Bowel Syndrome" & Crohn's

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Dr. Saad received his bachelor's degree from the University of Michigan and went on to earn his doctorate from the University of Michigan School of Dentistry, where he graduated with distinction. While at U of M, he had the honor of being published in the University of Michigan's Alumni Magazine for his professional work for the State of Michigan. He was also senior editor for various dental publications designed to help students excel in their dental licensing examinations.

One of Dr. Saad's primary goals was to be a preeminent dental practitioner with regard to patient comfort. He takes great satisfaction in his ability to provide his patients with a painfree experience. Through collaboration and training with highly recognized cosmetic dentists from around the U.S., Dr. Saad has also developed the skill and artistry required for comprehensive cosmetic makeovers. He is honored to be able to enhance his patients' appearance and provide them with a renewed sense of confidence.

He and I are extremely enthusiastic about working together to provide the community with a new attitude and excitement toward dentistry. I look forward to introducing him to you!

mach Hour ms.

Mark Haas D.D.S.

Accepting new patients

Schoolcraft cooking team hopes to capture regional title today

By Ken Abramczyk Observer Staff Writer

Some of the best student chefs in the Midwest will converge on Schoolcraft College today to show off their knife skills with tournet cuts, and prepare a supreme de volaille a l'ecarlate.

Students will complete chopping and slicing of vegetables to create an oblong, almost footballshaped cut of vegetables, one of several cuts, and during a hot-dish competition, create the classic French chicken dish inspired by Escoffier.

Schoolcraft hosts the American Culinary Federation's Midwestern regional cooking competition of student teams with the hot food competition today. The competition takes place in conjunction with the 2012 ACF Central Regional Conference at the Motor City Casino Hotel, April 14-16. The school also hosted other regional competitions yesterday (Saturday), including Chef of the Year, Pastry Chef of the Year and Student Chef of the Year. Ten teams who have won their Midwestern state's titles will be competing.

The public can attend today's competition at the VisTaTech Center. The winners will be announced Monday at the Motor City Casino. The winning team of the



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Katie Kilanski and Brandon Zarb prepare a trout galantine.

regional competition will advance to the national competition in Orlando in July.

Creating a classic

The student team or Salon team competition consists of three phases: cold-food presentation, skills and cooking, where teams will prepare four portions of a fish starter, salad and dessert of their choice, and the preassigned classical entree from Escoffier: The Complete Guide to the Art of Modern Cookery.

Schoolcraft's team of second-year students consists of Katie Kilanski, who is the team's captain; Tyler Bergquist of Canton; Michelle Collett, Romulus; Brandon Zarb, Milford; and Carla Spicuzzi, West Bloomfield. The team won the state title in February at Oak-

land Community College.

The Schoolcraft team has practiced since January on its dishes with assistance and oversight from Schoolcraft's instructors. Shawn Loving, department chair of the culinary arts department, credited the instructors for their assistance and direction of the students and their success so far. "Every

one of them has had a

part in this," Loving said. Their cold plate display, "River's Treasures," was featured at the Motor City Casino on Friday. The dish featured smoked trout, terrine with walleye, gravlax salmon and gallantine trout, which features a forcemeat cooked sousviede, or under pressure.

Dan Hugelier, instructor and certified master chef, assisted and directed the team with their cold plate of fish.

Bergquist worked with chef-instructor Brian Polcyn on the Great Lakes Walleye appetizer, Col-

2012 SCHOOLCRAFT TEAM MENU

Great Lakes Walleye wrapped in house-made Pancetta on Fennel Palette, Spring Vegetables and Beurre Blanc (Tyler Bergquist under direction of chef-instructor Brian

Artichoke Carpaccio: A Bouquet of Mache, Pea Shoots and Sorrel, Golden Beet Puree, Raw Cashew Nut Butter, Crisp Tomato Tuile, Warm Artichoke Souffle and Lemon Vinaigrette (Michelle Collett under direction of chefinstructor Jeff Gabriel)

Supreme de Volaille a l'ecarlate with Braised Swiss Chard "Two Ways," Tender Onion Sets, New Garden Peas, Fondant Potato Sauce Supreme (Katie Kilanski under direction of chef-instructor Daniel Hugelier)

A Study of Tropical Flavors: A Passion Fruit and Coconut Tart Presented with Caramelized Bananas, Rice Pudding Roll and Tropical Fruit Salad (Carla Spicuzzi under direction of chef-instructor Joe Decker)

lett received instruction and direction from Jeff Gabriel, certified master chef, on the Artichoke Carpaccio salad; Kilanski will create the Supreme de Volaille a l'ecarlate after she worked with Hugelier, and the Tropical Flavors dessert by Spicuzzi under the tutelage of certified master pastry chef Joe Decker.

Kilanski appreciated the assistance from the instructors. "They've given us a lot of time and attention, even during their own time," Kilanski said during a practice on Thursday.

On Sunday, the students will butcher chickens and fish, showing their knife skills in exhibiting small dice, julienne, concasse

and tournet cuts, making pastry cream and dough, and "supreming" or segmenting one orange.

Zarb is the team's alternate, which requires him to know all of the dishes in case one of the team members cannot compete. "He hands us equipment and keeps on track," Bergquist said. "He can step in at any time.'

Students started planning to compete in November. In January, they practiced, sometimes four or five days a week, which has evolved to five or six days a week,

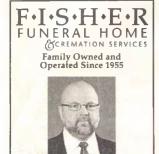
"There's a lot of reps and a lot of practice involved," Zarb said.

> kabramcz@hometownlife.com (313) 222-2591



FRI/SAT LS 12:00.

THREE STOOGES (PG) 11:50, 2:00, 4:25, 6:50, 9:00 O AMERICAN REUNION (R) 11:30, 2:05, 4:35, 7:00, 9:30 FRI/SAT LS 11:55 3D TITANIC (PG-13) \$2.56 PREMIUM PER 30 TICKET 12:10, 4:05, 8:00 MIRROR MIRROR (PG) 11:40, 2:15, 4:40, 7:05, 9:25 3D WRATH OF THE TITANS (PG-13) \$2.50 PREMIUM PER 30 TICKET FRI/SUN-WED 2:35, 4:55, 7:20 FRI/SAT LS 12:00 SAT 4:55, 7:20 TH 2:35 WRATH OF THE TITANS (PG-13) FRI/SUN-WED 12:15, 9:45 THE HUNGER GAMES (PG-13) 12:40, 3:40, 6:40, 9:40 FRI/SAT LS 11:20



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935 Union Lake Road White Lake, MI 48386 248-360-7235

RETIREMENT COMMUNITY | INDEPENDENT AND ASSISTED LIVING

Do homework on a franchise option

By Rick Bloom **Guest Columnist**

Q: Dear Rick: I lost my job about six months ago and my severance is about to end. I've been looking for opportunities and I've been thinking about buying a franchise. They seem to be a good way of starting your own business. I'm not sure which kind to look at or what company. What is your opinion of franchises and do you think they are a good

A: Franchises are a lot like mutual funds. There are some good ones and some really bad ones. There are some franchises that are very fair in their dealings with their investors while there are others who charge high fees and take advantage of their investors. Not all franchises are created the same.

On the whole, I don't have a problem with fran-

chises. It can be a very good way of starting a business. However. they are not nec-**Money Matters** essarily

Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, April 15, 2012

Rick Bloom

option for an entrepreneurial person. The reason is most franchises have a variety of rules and regulations that they want their franchisees follow. Generally, an entrepreneurial individual likes to have more

freedom than a franchise

the best

would allow. For someone who likes the idea of having structure, a franchise can be a very good way of going. A good franchise provides you with the methodology and structure to be suc-

A key ingredient when looking at franchises is how strong is the management behind the franchise. Successful franchises have an entire team behind them to help the franchisees run their business. Some franchises basically have no support team and those are ones I would avoid. I recommend that once you narrow down the type of franchise you want, talk to other franchisees and do some Internet research. In addition, it's not a bad idea to look to the Better Business Bureau for any information they may have on the franchisor (the company). The bottom line is, even before you contact the franchisor, you should have done a fair amount of research.

Once you contact the franchisor they're going to send you a variety of legal documents. Like most legal documents, these are written by lawyers for lawyers. I strongly recommend that you hire an attorney who is familiar with franchises to assist you in understanding the documents. You may be surprised as

to some of the restrictions, fees, and requirements involved in becoming a franchisee. One fee that tends to surprise many people is that some franchises will charge you an advertising fee

based upon your revenue. It is very important to research the franchise that you select. That is where the Internet is a great tool for you. I recognize that there's a lot of misinformation on the Internet, however, there's also a lot of good information that can help you in selecting the right one.

My last piece of advice: Take your time and don't rush into it. A lot of people get overly excited after hearing the sales pitch and the result is the franchise doesn't even come close to meeting expectations. Be patient, ask a lot of questions, and always proceed with caution. Good luck!

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

First Step offers tips on teen dating violence

Teen dating violence can be lethal. First Step, a nonprofit organization in out-Wayne County, brings attention to pervasive teen dating violence and offers tips for communities and parents on how to recognize and

Organizations and communities across the country are rising to the occasion by offering a variety of resources and tools to help teens recognize abusive patterns that may emerge in dating relationships, and take steps to prevent or stop the abuse. Also. parents can raise their awareness of teen dating abuse.

Parents may encounter a number of warning signs that their teen is in an abusive relationship, according to First Step Program Coordinator Desiree Herrick. For example, a child may have fewer friends than before meeting her dating partner, as he may isolate her from friends, outside activities and even her family.

Parents may notice emotional changes in their child, including crying and wanting to be alone. Another red flag is a partner who constantly calls or texts your teen, demanding to know who they are with and where they are. Although your teen may make excuses for this behavior, don't ignore your suspicions.

First Step offers a 24-hour helpline (734-722-6800 or tollfree at 888-453-5900) where teens and parents can receive oneon-one phone support from a trained domestic violence advocate. Also, the National Teen Dating Abuse Helpline is a 24-hour hotline, specifically designed for teens and young adults. It is accessible by phone at (866) 331-9474, or via the Internet at loveisrespect.org.

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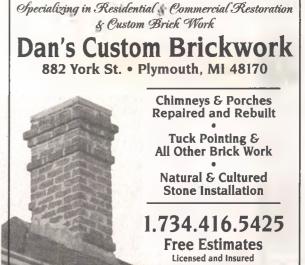
To all residents and other interested parties: Agenda's and Minutes for the Charter Township of Plymouth Board of Trustees Meetings are available for review under the Reference Desk Page of the Township Website: www.plymouthtwp.org . They are also posted in the Clerk's Office at Plymouth Township Hall, 9955 N Haggerty Road Plymouth, Michigan for public perusal.

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: March 15, 2012







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Dr. Khandwala completed his residency in obstetrics and gynecology and fellowship in female pelvic reconstructive surgery at Greater Baltimore Medical Center/

University of Maryland. He has clinical interest in prolapse management, laparoscopic surgery, hysteroscopic surgery and female sexual dysfunction. Visit oakwood.org/salil-khandwala-md to see and hear a variety of interviews with the doctor related to women's health topics.

DATE:

Thursday, May 10, 2012

TIME:

6-8 p.m.

LOCATION:

Oakwood Annapolis Hospital Conference Room 2 33I55 Annapolis Street Wayne, MI 48I84

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A complimentary light dinner will be served.

To register for this FREE event, please call 800.543.WELL (9355)

Seating is limited and registration is required.



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TIM SMITH, EDITOR

tsmith@hometownlife.com 734-469-4128

New-look Chiefs show promise

By Tim Smith Observer Staff Writer

When Tiffany Grubaugh went to Salem High School more than a decade ago, she was a record-setting thrower for the girls track and field

Now she will try to share her secrets for success in shot put and discus with the girls on the Canton Chiefs.

Grubaugh will have plenty of time and encouragement for the entire team, of course, as she embarks on helping the Chiefs improve upon last season's 1-4 record in KLAA South Division dual meets.

The 2000 Salem graduate, who went on to collegiate success at Northern Michigan University and now is owner of Canton-based Fitness and Sports Performance, is still getting a read on the athletes.

Thursday's Plymouth-Canton Educational Park meet will undoubtedly help her in that regard. But she already sees a nucleus of promising athletes.

Senior co-captains Marina Milad (hurdles, 1,600**GIRLS TRACK PREVIEW**

meter relay) and Alena Valetti (sprints) top the list, for what they bring athletically and leadership-wise.

"Marina is like another coach on the track, (a) very hard worker and great athlete," Grubaugh said.

About Valetti, the coach ntends on making sure she is penciled in the lineup in the 100 and 200 sprints, and 400and 800-meter relays. "She is definitely one of the best short sprinters that we have."

Sophomore Bridget Alaniva and junior Emily Lang both will compete in the pole vault. while Alaniva also can help out in the long jump and running events.

Promising newbies

A promising development is how quickly senior Kristen Muir is adapting to track and field. This is her first season coming out for the team, following a stellar, four-year career in volleyball at Canton.

Please see CHIEFS, B4



Canton's Jocelyn Moraw (left) takes the baton from Marina Milad during a recent dual meet. Both are being counted on to help the Chiefs improve on last year's 1-4 record.

Whalers Game 6

The Plymouth Whalers and Kitchener Rangers hook up 7 p.m. Sunday in Ontario for Game 6 of their OHL Western Conference semifinal series no matter what.

The question is whether the Whalers or Rangers will have the chance to clinch. The teams were tied at two games each entering Saturday's Game 5 at Compuware Arena, which took place after this issue of the Observer went to press.

Plymouth lost 5-1 to the Rangers Wednesday, evening the series at 2-2. If a seventh game is needed, it would be played 7 p.m. Tuesday at Compu-

Canton boys hoop camps

The Canton boys basketball program is hosting camps in June for youngsters entering grades five-nine.

• Boys entering ninth grade can sign up for a camp slated for Monday, June 4 through Thursday, June 7 (5-6:30 p.m. daily). Registration is \$50, which includes a T-shirt.

 For boys going into grades five-eight, the camp goes from June 25-28, from 9-11 a.m. each day. The cost to sign up is \$60, also including a T-shirt.

Go to: http://www. facebook.com/cantonchiefsbasketball to get registration forms or contact coach Jimmy Reddy at reddyj@slcs.us.

PREP SOFTBALL PREVIEW — PART 2

Rocks on the rise By Tim Smith **Observer Staff Writer** Oranges grow in the Florida sunshine and it

seems that so do young softball players. Salem varsity softball

coach Bonnie Southerland is enthusiastic about seeing her team open up the 2012 season, particularly after an impressive spring training in Florida. "The team is look-

ing very good after their week in Florida for spring training," Southerland said this week. "Great attitudes and they work well together. We are very excited to get the season under way.'

Weather permitting, the Rocks will do just that in a Monday doubleheader against visiting Dearborn Edsel Ford. They will follow up at 4 p.m. Wednesday in a single game against campus rival Plymouth.

Although the team lost Heidi Schmidt, Kelli Janiczek and Liz Mazorowicz to graduation, Southerland still has a solid group of seniors - nicely complemented by juniors and sophomores now just beginning to hit their stride.

The 2011 Rocks finished 10-9 overall and 3-5 in the KLAA Central Division (third place).

New dimensions

Fourth-year starter and team captain Alexis Powell is the heart and soul of the squad. She will start behind the plate "and has



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Elliott Mitchem throws across the diamond in a game from last season. She will handle third base in 2012 for Salem.

in the league." to this season." Other returning seniors The trio of newcomers include first baseman/ includes sophomores Sam Weiser and Gabby Zott designated hitter Jennifer First, shortstop/outand freshman Maranda fielder Bri Berberet and Armstead. Weiser and Gott "are No. 1 pitcher Alyssa Mea-

extremely hard workers and doing a great job in the outfield. Both have strong arms."

Armstead "has stepped right up and taken charge in the infield," Southerland said, adding that she will get regular playing time at shortstop despite only being a ninth-grader. "It's like she's been

Please see ROCKS, B3

Golf outing

The fifth annual Canton Boys and Girls Basketball Golf Outing is slated for Sunday, June 3, at Fellows Creek Golf Club. A shotgun start will be at 1 p.m.

Included in the \$100 registration fee are 18 holes of golf with a cart, lunch at the turn, dinner and a prizes raffle.

Go to: http://www. facebook.com/cantonchiefsbasketball to get registration forms or contact Jimmy Reddy at reddyj@slcs.us.

MU golf team signs Teer

Madonna University men's golf coach Steve Mato announced Tuesday that he has signed Mott Community College golfer Billy Teer (Grand Blanc) to a letter of intent.

Teer earned allstate honors at Grand Blanc High School and advanced to the state finals in all four of his prep seasons. He helped the Bobcats earn a state championship in 2008 while winning the 2006 and 2007 Big 9 Conference team titles.

'Cats eager to put on their game faces

Plymouth's Lindsay Lutton, shown sliding into third base

in a 2011 game, is one the team's four returning all-confer-

By Tim Smith **Observer Staff Writer**

ence players.

The games begin Wednesday for the Plymouth varsity softball team

If the Wildcats are as sound as they are during workouts and scrimmages, veteran head coach Val Canfield noted, KLAA rivals will find them to be fierce foes.

"We're a perfect practice team and I'm hoping that carries over into (being) a perfect game team," Canfield said. "So we're setting the tone

early in the season and looking forward to this team playing tough."

Plymouth will host Salem at 4 p.m. Wednesday as it looks to follow up a very successful 2011. Last spring, the Wildcats went 19-10-2 overall and shared the KLAA South Division title with Canton (both teams went 9-1).

Canfield said the 2012 'Cats are young, but versatile and experienced.

"I feel we have depth at each position, which

Please see WILDCATS, B3

by far one of the best bats

as low as

gher. "I expect this team to turn heads and impress the other teams," Southerland said. "We are young, but have picked up three players that can really add some new dimensions to the team. "I'm not sure others will quite know what to

expect. I know we are

a strong contender and

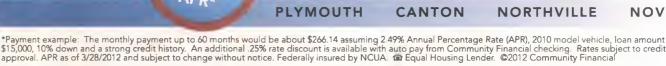
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Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, April 15, 2012



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A. Simion Canton



Thurston



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Observerland swim talent is second to none

FIRST-TEAM INDIVIDUALS

Jason Zhang, 200 free, Salem: Zhang did it all for the Rocks during his junior season, which is why he was named the team's Most Valuable

He capped it all off at the Division 1 finals at Eastern Michigan University's Jones Natatorium.

There he finished 16th in the 100yard backstroke (55.65 seconds) and qualifying in the 200 freestyle, 200 individual medley, 100 free and 50

"Jason Zhang is 'Mister Any Event' for Salem swimming," veteran coach Chuck Olson said. "Whatever event he is asked to compete (in) for the team he has the ability through preparation to deliver with state level results.'

Owner of a 4.16 grade-point average and perfect score on the ACT test, he will be team captain in 2012-13.

Victor Zhang, 200 IM, Canton: The senior capped off one of the best careers by any Canton swimmer.

Zhang was named all-state and All-American for the fourth and second time, respectively, both in the 200 IM. At the D1 finals, he finished third in the 200 IM with a time of 1:50.23. He also was all-state in the 100 backstroke, placing second (50.86) and as part of the sixth-place 400 relay. He won the 200 IM (1:51.65) and 100 butterfly (50.43) at the conference meet, where he also was part of two

winning relays. "Victor's a great competitor and racer," Canton coach Dave Le said. "It was always fun to watch him race. I look forward to see him continue to

do well in college swimming. Eric Gensheimer, 50 free, Farmington-Harrison: Gensheimer had an outstanding senior season, leading the Phoenix to the OAA White Division crown and earning all-state honors. He finished fourth in the 50yard freestyle at the D-1 state meet with a school-record time of 21.53. Gensheimer also scored in the 100 freestyle, taking 13th place (48.19). His best time in that event was 47.53 leading off the 400 freestyle relay. He is the OAA White champion in the 50 and 100, and he also helped the

Phoenix win both freestyle relays. mined swimmer," coach Brian McNeff said. "He came into the season with some specific goals and did what was necessary to achieve them. He worked hard every day and listened to everything (assistant coach) Driska (McCullough) and I told him to work on. He was a great leader of the team and will definitely be missed next

Nick Griwicki, diving, Salem: Griwicki, part of Salem's 1-2 punch in diving with Charlie Dillon, finished 10th at the Division 1 finals with 356.50 points. It was his second straight year in the finals. Following a sixth-place finish (352.80) at the KLAA Kensington Con-

ference meet, the senior co-captain and scholar athlete (3.45 grade-point average) was named to the all-conference first team. He also won Salem's Coaches Award

for contributions to team success. "Nick Griwicki had an outstanding senior year," Olson said. "He's a great teammate and leader.

Adam Liakos, 100 fly, Plymouth: Determination to be the best possible swimmer helped the senior move to the next level for the Wildcats.

"Adam decided to become a complete swimmer at the end of his junior year," Plymouth coach Doug Schade said. "And he worked really hard in the off-season to make sure that he was better than ever coming back for his senior year.

"He certainly accomplished that goal on our team this year. At the D1 prelims, Liakos finished 32nd in the 100 fly (54.56) and 28th as part of the 200 medley relay. Liakos, who is looking to swim at a D2 or D3 college, set school records in the 50 free, 100 fly (53.29) and has the fastest splits in the 400 relay

(23.32) and 200 relay. Nick Leshok, 100 free, N. Farmington: Leshok finished fourth in the 100 freestyle in the Division 2 finals with a personal best of 47.15, which was just shy of Jonathan Kershaw's school record of 46.74. Leshok also placed third in the IM at the same meet with a time of 1:55.28 and did break Karl Kozicki's record (1:56.13). He is the OAA Red champion in the 100 free-

style and was second in the IM. "Nick had a great season, coming off a freshman year when he scored at the state meet to be all-state in two events," coach Mike Harfoot said. "He's just a hard worker. He shows up every day at practice ready to go, looking to improve.

"Nick is a swimming junky. He really is a student of the sport and he really loves it. He's a great kid to coach, and I look forward to two more years with him."

Grant Borregard, 500 free, Farmington-Harrison: Borregard is an outstanding backstroker, but he opted for the 500 freestyle at the state meet. He showed his all-round

2012 ALL-AREA BOYS SWIMMING & DIVING INDIVIDUAL EVENTS

200-yard freestyle: 1. Jason Zhang, jr., Salem; 2. Jake Wasko, soph., North Farming-

200 individual medley: 1. Victor Zhang, sr., Canton; 2. Tyler Roshak, soph., Farmington-Harrison

50 freestyle: 1. Eric Gensheimer, sr., Farmington-Harrison; 2. (tie) Dylan Crompton, sr., Redford Thurston; and Calvin Kopitz, sr., North Farmington.

One-meter diving: 1. Nick Griwicki, sr., Salem; 2. Charlie Dillon, soph., Salem. 100 butterfly: 1. Adam Liakos, sr., Plymouth; 2. Danny McNeece, soph., North Farmington

100 freestyle: 1. Nick Leshok, soph., North Farmington; 2. Brandon Bielicki, sr., Livonia Stevenson 500 freestyle: 1. Grant Borregard, soph., Farmington-Harrison; 2. Jay Jin, sr., Canton. 100 backstroke: 1. John Ferrara, jr., Stevenson; 2. Joey Wakeford, sr., Westland John

100 breaststroke: 1. Jake McNamara, sr., Stevenson; 2. Grant McNamara, soph., Stevenson.

RELAY TEAMS

200-yard medley: 1. Livonia Stevenson (jr. John Ferrara, sr. Jake McNamara, soph. Bradley Bielicki, sr. Brandon Bielicki), 2. Canton (sr. Victor Zhang, sr. Jay Jin, sr. Adrian

Simion, jr. Mike Carlson). 200 freestyle: 1. North Farmington (sr. Calvin Kopitz, sr. Ethan Gell, soph. Jake Wasko, soph. Nick Leshok), 2. Canton (sr. Victor Zhang, sr. Jay Jin, sr. Adrian Simion, jr. Mike Carlson).

400 freestyle: 1. Canton (sr. Victor Zhang, sr. Jay Jin, sr. Adrian Simion, jr. Mike Carlson), 2. North Farmington (sr. Calvin Kopitz, soph. Jake Wasko, soph. Brody Clarke, soph. Nick Leshok)

CO-COACHES OF YEAR

Brian McNeff, Farmington-Harrison; Bob Harding, Westland John Glenn

ability by finishing fifth, setting a school record and swimming an areabest time (4:39.46). The sophomore dropped seven seconds his previous best in the prelims (4:42.25), and he cut another three seconds and moved up three places in the final. Borregard also competed in the IM at the state meet, and he was a key member of the freestyle relays. He is the OAA White champion in the IM and backstroke.

"Grant came prepared to work hard every day," McNeff said. "No matter what I threw at him, he did it. His goal was to be all-state this year and he was. And he did it in an event he didn't have too much experience. He is a great swimmer; I think he still has

a lot more time to drop. John Ferrara, 100 back, Stevenson: The junior took third in the Division 1 state meet's 100 backstroke (51.32) along with an 11th in the 200 IM (1:58.04).

Ferrara added Kensington Con-

ference titles in the 500 freestyle (4:48.37) and 100 backstroke (52.54) "After a very successful sophomore year John continued dropping time all year for us," Stevenson coach Jeff Shoemaker said. "He is a very versatile swimmer and will swim anything when asked. He was an integral part

of all our relays this year. "His year-round training paid off this year as he came into season in good

shape," Ferrara set the school record in the 100 backstroke and ranks among the fastest backstrokers in the nation, which entitles him to All American honors.

"I am really looking forward to watching all the continued success John will have during his senior year," Shoemaker said.

Jake McNamara, 100 breast, Stevenson: The senior placed 10th in the state finals in the 100 breaststroke (59.77) and was also a state qualifier in the 200 IM (2:02.1).

"Jake is a very accomplished state level swimmer," Shoemaker said. "This year he was able to break the 1:00 mark in the 100 breaststroke which puts him on a very short list of

swimmers at Stevenson. At the Kensington Conference meet, McNamara was champion in the 100 breaststroke (1:00.77) and added

fourth in the 200 IM (2:01.97). "His leadership ability and excellent academics made Jake a very well liked and respected captain," Shoemaker said. "Without a doubt Jake will be successful in his future endeavors. His swimming accomplishments made it possible for Jake to get recruited by a number of institutions and he will be able to continue his swimming career

at the collegiate level. **FIRST-TEAM RELAYS** 200 medley, Stevenson: John Ferrara, Jake McNamara, Bradley Bielicki and Brandon Bielicki placed sixth in the Division 1 state finals with a time of 1:37.47 after posting a preliminary

clocking of 1:37.46. Three of the four members --- Ferrara, a junior; Bradley Bielicki, a sophomore, and Brandon Bielicki, a senior and anchor leg - also teamed up with sophomore Grant McNamara for a first in the Kensington Conference meet (1:38.93). "I knew this relay had great poten-

tial at the beginning of the season," Shoemaker said. "The medley consists of all four strokes and we had three of the four legs returning from last year's third-place finish. We lost our butterfly leg of Kellen Schoff and he proved very hard to replace. In the end we went with sophomore Bradley Bielicki and certainly proved himself. John Ferrara, Jake McNamara, and Brandon Bielicki swam the remaining three legs for the second straight year.

"Two of the four members have graduated and will be hard to replace. Using our tradition and hard work, I'm sure we will once again

return with an all-state medley relay."

200 freestyle, North Farmington:

Calvin Kopitz, Ethan Gell, Jake Wasko and Nick Leshok went 1:26.62 in the state final to finish fifth and set a school record. Their time was the fastest in the area. The Raiders were

second in the OAA Red "We got a sense how fast the 200 could go when we swam at MISCA," Harfoot said. "It was the first time it was stacked (with the four best swimmers); it went 1:28 and none of them were rested yet. We were hoping to break the school record (1:28.0) at

state, and we had four guys determined to do that. 400 freestyle, Canton: Before the season began, seniors Victor Zhang, Jin and Adrian Simion and junior Mike Carlson set a lofty goal, coach

Dave Le said. "These four swam together all season and had their sights set on a top-eight finish at the state meet,"

Le noted In the 400 free relay they were successful in that quest, becoming Canton's first ever all-state relay team thanks to a sixth-place finish at the D1 finals at EMU. They clocked in at

But the quartet had plenty of accomplishments during the year, most impressively at the conference meet. They finished first at South Lyon East with a time of 3:12.8 — establishing team, pool and conference records

simultaneously. SECOND-TEAM INDIVIDUALS Jake Wasko, 200 free, N. Farmington: The sophomore finished 16th in the D-2 finals with a 1:49.5 swim, but he posted his best time the previous day in the prelims (1:47.9), which ranks among the best in the area. Wasko also swam the butterfly at

state "Jake is a very hard worker and is very talented," Harfoot said. "He's starting to gain more self-confidence. He doesn't understand how could he can be. He puts in the same hard work as Nick and trains very hard. He came into his own this year. His 200 at the

state meet was just phenomenal." Tyler Roshak, 200 IM, Farmington-Harrison: Roshak was a state qualifier in the IM and swam one of the area's top-10 times. He is the OAA White Division champion in the butterfly and was fourth in the IM. He was a member of the second-place medley relay team and was instrumental in the Phoenix winning the

division title. "Tyler is another hard worker," Mc-Neff said. "I think he even surprised himself at times at what he did this year. He has set some very high goals for what he wants to accomplish in swimming, and he has already started the work to accomplish those goals. His ceiling is very high as to what he

can get done." Dylan Crompton, 50 free, Thurston: The senior closed out his latestarting high school swimming career by becoming one of the most-prolific sprint performers in school history. After not swimming competitively until half-way through his sophomore year, Crompton flourished, combining natural athletic skill with an admirable work ethic. In addition to helping set school relay records, he holds the mark for the 50- and 100-yard freestyle races.

"Dylan was the hardest worker in the pool," said Thurston coach Tom Giummo. "He's a smart swimmer always willing to stay after and work on something new and work to improve himself. What he has done in such a short amount of time was out of this world. He's a great representative of Thurston: an excellent student-athlete who I was proud to have coached." Calvin Kopitz, 50 free, N. Farming-

ton: Kopitz finished ninth in the D-2 state meet with a 21.69 time, which is the second fastest in school history and is close to Matt Zald's record of 21.54. It was the fifth fastest on the final day, but Kopitz was locked in

the consolation heat. In the same meet, he anchored the medley relay in 21.20 and led off the 200 freestyle relay in 21.73. His leadoff time of 48.15 in the 400 relay would have scored in the open 100. In the OAA Red meet, Kopitz was third in the 50 and seventh in the

"Calvin was a good sprinter his freshmen and sophomores years," Harfoot said. "He turned it on last year and turned into a very good sprinter. He put the work in and became an elite sprinter this year.

"He swam year-round for the first time, and it helped him coming into the season. He had a head start and it really paid off for him."

Charlie Dillon, diving, Salem: The sophomore finished 14th in the D1 finals with a mark of 325.50.

At the KLAA conference meet, he took fourth (380.15) and was selected to the all-KLAA second team for his season-long excellence.

Dillon, who carries a 3.24 GPA, also was honored by the team, winning the Most Improved Award.

"Charlie Dillon showed as a sopho-more that hard work and dedication with talent will find success at the D1 state meet," Olson said. "Now, he has the experience and talent to be a strong contender for all-state honors the next two years.

Danny McNeece, 100 fly, N. Farmington: McNeece finished 16th in the butterfly (55.11) at the D-2 state meet, but his prelim time of 53.95 puts him third among the best fliers in the area. He was 11th in the OAA Red. McNeece also swam the IM at state.

"Danny is another hard worker," Harfoot said. "He works on the technical aspect, trying to be as fast as he can. He was a little up and down this year. He went back and forth, so we were really pleased he had a good meet that first day at state and got

into scoring position. Brandon Bielicki, 100 free, Stevenson: The senior was the Spartans' top sprinter this season placing 14th in the Division 1 50 freestyle (22.07) and qualifying in the 100 freestyle (18th

in 48.17). "This year he not only participated, fastest state meets of all time," Shoe-maker said. "He was the anchor on our all-state medley relay (sixth place) and also a member of our scoring 400 freestyle relay (12th place) Bielicki added a fourth in the 100 freestyle (49.65) and a fifth in the 50

freestyle (22.62) at the Kensington Conference meet. "He swam all four years for us and was an exceptional captain this year," Shoemaker added. "He is very powerful in the classroom and without a doubt he will be successful in anything he decides to do. His replacement will be very difficult for

next year." Jay Jin, 500 free, Canton: Versatility enabled the senior to excel in a number of individual events and relays for

the Chiefs. At the D1 finals, he took 14th in the 200 IM (1:58.70), took 39th in the 100 fly and was part of the 200 medley

and 400 free relays. His time of 4:58.10 in the 500 free was fifth-best among Observerland

swimmers. Jin was part of the victorious 200 and 400 free relays at the conference

meet. "He's always willing to do any event that the team needed him to be in," Le said. "He was willing to help some of the younger swimmers on the team with their stroke technique. Joey Wakeford, 100 back, John Glenn: The senior, headed to the University of Michigan, capped a stellar career with a fifth-place finish in the Division 1 state finals in the 100 backstroke (53.66) after going a personal-best 53.27 in the prelims. Wakeford also took a third in the backstroke (55.42) along with a sixth in the 100 butterfly (55.79) at the Kensington Conference meet.

"Joey can swim any event," Glenn coach Bob Harding said. "He led the team to undefeated dual meet season, a first in school history, and first-ever division (KLAA South) crown. As a freshman Joev did not qualify to the state meet, did so as a sophomore, scored as a junior, and earned all-state honors as a senior." Wakeford, the team MVP and twoyear captain, also helped Glenn qualify for the state meet in the 200 freestyle relay (1:31.82) and place fifth in the Kensington Conference meet. Wakeford, who carries a 3.69 gradepoint average, will be attending the University of Michigan next fall. Grant McNamara, 100 breast,

Stevenson: The sophomore was a state qualifier in the 100 breaststroke (1:00.16) where he finished 16th overall. McNamara was also a state qualifier

"Last year Grant had some huge

time drops and was able to qualify

for the state meet as a freshman,

Shoemaker said. "This year Grant

once again had a successful year and

in the 500 freestyle (5:00.42).

made two individual state cuts. Having most his success in the breaststroke, he was also asked to swim the distance events throughout the year." At the Kensington Conference meet, McNamara took third in the 500 freestyle (4:57.94) and added a fourth in the 100 breaststroke (1:02.11). "Grant was our youngest individual

state qualifier and has two more years to swim at Stevenson. We are expecting great things from him in his second half of his high school career SECOND-TEAM RELAYS

200 medley, Canton: The quartet of Zhang, Jin, Simion and Carlson brought skills and leadership to every event they performed individually or as a relay team. According to Le, to help the Chiefs at the conference meet, "both Mike

and Adrian were willing to give up an individual event to swim all three They placed eighth that day with a time of 1:46.18 but eclipsed it at the D1 finals, completing the race in

18th place with a team record time of 1:39.26.
"All four swimmers were very versatile so it took us most of the season to come up with the right combina-

tion," Le added. 200 freestyle, Canton: At the Kensington Conference meet - bookended by record splits by lead-off man Zhang (20.98) and anchor Carlson (21.74) — the Chiefs established pool and conference marks with their first-

place time of 1:28.01. Zhang, Jin, Simion and Carlson turned in "a dominating performance," Le said.

That was the relay team's best time in that event, second only to the 1:26.62 turned in by North Farmington among Observerland squads. 400 freestyle, North Farmington: Kopitz, Wasko, Brody Clarke and Le-shok combined for a 3:13.46 time in the state final, breaking a school record that had stood for two decades. Their time also clinched an all-area

team berth. The same four were third in the OAA Red. "Honestly, we were surprised how fast we went at the state meet." Harfoot said. "We thought, if everything went well we could get down 3:15. All four of them surpassed their

best times and had a good day. "It's not often you get all four relay members to have personal best days together. It just clicked the second day, and they did a tremendous job working as a team and breaking that

school record (3:13.74). **CO-COACHES OF THE YEAR Brian McNeff, Farmington-Har**rison: McNeff led the Phoenix to an outstanding season in his first as head coach. The unified Farmington-Harrison team was undefeated



Brian McNeff Farm.-Harr.

in OAA White Division dual meets and won the all-schools meet to capture the overall championship. The Phoenix placed ninth in the Oakland County meet and 18th in the Division 1 state meet. McNeff has coached the Farmington girls previously, and he

has also coached at Northville High School. Bob Harding, John Glenn: The sixth-year coach guided the Rockets to an undefeated dual meet season (7-0) along with their first-ever KLAA South Division meet championship. Glenn's Joey Wakeford also earned all-state honors in the 100 backstroke and the Rockets' 200 freestyle relay team of Cody Hodges, Dave Vader, Josh Wakeford and Joey Wakeford also qualified for the state meet. Harding, a former swimmer at Eastern Michigan University under



Bob Harding John Glenn

years at Southfield High before moving over to Glenn. "During my six years at John Glenn we have come from a team with only about 15 athletes to a team over 30 members the last three years," Harding

Mike Jones, taught

and coached for 32

said. " In those first two years we won just a handful of meets, but laid a foundation of hard work and determination to become the best athletes and team we could be.

Harding was also named Michigan Interscholastic Swim Coaches Association Zone Coach of the Year in 2010-11.

"Each year the team took on the challenge of the past years' actions," said Harding, who in 1999 earned MISCA's highest honor with the Matt Mann award. "I have had the opportunity to work with many fine men during that time and it is they who have made us what we are as a team today. I again would like to thank them for all they have given."



BEST BOYS SWIM TIMES

200-YARD MEDLEY RELAY Livonia Stevenson 1:37.46 Canton 1:39.26 Salem 1:40.27 North Farmington 1:41.43

Farmington-Harrison 1:42.48 **200 FREESTYLE** Victor Zhang (Canton) 1:44.10

Jason Zhang (Salem) 1:47.83 Jake Wasko (N. Farmington) 1:47.90 Nick Leshok (N. Farmington) 1:47.92 John Ferrara (Stevenson) 1:48.12 Jay Jin (Canton) 1:48.29 Grant Borregard (Farm. Unified) 1:48.45 Josh Wakeford (John Glenn) 1:50.29 Mike Stover (Wayne) 1:51.33 David Olson (Farm. Unified) 1:51.77 **200 INDIVIDUAL MEDLEY**

Victor Zhang (Canton) 1:50.23 Nick Leshok (N. Farmington) 1:55.28 John Ferrara (Stevenson) 1:57.17 Jay Jin (Canton) 1:58.54 Grant Borregard (Farm. Unified) 1:59.11 Jason Zhang (Salem) 2:00.33 Jake McNamara (Stevenson) 2:01.97 Tyler Roshak (Farm. Unified) 2:04.30 Danny McNeece (N. Farmington) 2:05.33 Bradley Bielicki (Stevenson) 2:06.62 **50 FREESTYLE**

Victor Zhang (Canton) 20.98 Eric Gensheimer (Farm. Unified) 21.53 Dylan Crompton (Thurston) 21.68 Calvin Kopitz (N. Farmington) 21.69 Brandon Bielicki (Stevenson) 22.02 Jason Zhang (Salem) 22.02 Mike Carlson (Canton) 22.06 Ethan Gell (N. Farmington) 22.45 Adam Liakos (Plymouth) 22.59 Jerry Bai (Salem) 23.00

ONE-METER DIVING

Charlie Dillon (Salem) 380.15 Nick Griwicki (Salem) 373.20 Ryan Kilgore (Canton) 357.60 Nick Nader (N. Farmington) 316.95 Connor McManus (Plymouth) 296.40 Eric Rathgeber (Stevenson) 278.20 Ainsworth Orr (John Glenn) 272.85 Brian Atiyeh (Stevenson) 272.25 Jay Krebs (Canton) 264.95 Jessee Damesworth (Stevenson) 259.30

100 BUTTERFLY Victor Zhang (Canton) 50.43 Adam Liakos (Plymouth) 53.29 Danny McNeece (N. Farmington) 53.95 Jake Wasko (N. Farmington) 54.05 Jeremy Wellman (Salem) 54.13 lan Landau (N. Farmington) 54.22 Tyler Roshak (Farm. Unified) 54.87 Jay Jin (Canton) 55.00 Luke Crompton (Thurston) 55.12 Joey Wakeford (John Glenn) 55.79

100 FREESTYLE Victor Zhang (Canton) 45.18 Nick Leshok (N. Farmington) 47.15 Eric Gensheimer (Farm. Unified) 47.53 Calvin Kopitz (N. Farmington) 48.15 Brandon Bielicki (Stevenson) 48.17 John Ferrara (Stevenson) 48.41 Dylan Crompton (Thurston) 48.48 Mike Carlson (Canton) 48.87 Jake McNamara (Stevenson) 49.19 Jason Zhang (Salem) 49.24 500 FREESTYLE

Grant Borregard (Farm. Unified) 4:39.46 Victor Zhang (Canton) 4:40.19 John Ferrara (Stevenson) 4:48.37 Grant McNamara (Stevenson) 4:56.08 Jay Jin (Canton) 4:58.10

Jason Zhang (Salem) 4:58.64 Jake Ferguson (John Glenn) 5:00.36 Matt LaPorte (Stevenson) 5:03.72 Mike Stover (Wayne) 5:04.68 Matthew Peters (Farm. Unified) 5:09.84 200 FREESTYLE RELAY

North Farmington 1:26.62 Canton 1:28.01 Farmington-Harrison 1:28.13 Westland John Glenn 1:31.82

Salem 1:31.98 **100 BACKSTROKE** Victor Zhang (Canton) 50.86 John Ferrara (Stevenson) 51.32

Joey Wakeford (Glenn) 53.27 Jeremy Wellman (Salem) 54.55 Jason Zhang (Salem) 54.69 Grant Borregard (Farm, Unified) 55.37 Jay Jin (Canton) 56.25 Adrian Simion (Canton) 56.75 Joe Paris (N. Farmington) 57.16 Cameron Earls (Plymouth) 57.77

100 BREASTSTROKE Jake McNamara (Stevenson) 59.77 Grant McNamara (Stevenson) 1:00.06 Victor Zhang (Canton) 1:00.12 Nick Leshok (N. Farmington) 1:01.52 Turner Solterman (Salem) 1:03.56 Tom O'Donohue (Stevenson) 1:03.79

Jay Jin (Canton) 1:03.84 Drake Veit (Garden City) 1:04.43 Smaran Bhaktawara (Salem) 1:05.23 Ethan Gell (N. Farmington) 1:05.34 400 FREESTYLE RELAY

Canton 3:12.11 North Farmington 3:13.46 Livonia Stevenson 3:14.87 Farmington-Harrison 3:16.88 Salem 3:23.66



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Salem's Madison Koval, shown in this 2011 game, is expected to be one of the heavy hitters in the Rocks lineup this season.

ROCKS

Continued from page B1

there for years. When Maranda and (Emily) Marcero are out there. they've got the double (play) down like no other combo team I've seen."

Marcero is a sophomore and one of the top three pitchers when not playing second.

Another pitcher to watch is sophomore Kristine Zink, the center fielder on days she isn't in the circle.

Southerland has high praise for the 10th-graders, who both impressed in 2011.

"These two are great leaders on the field and know the game," she said. "They have great work ethic and will do what it takes to get the job done.

"Zink when not pitching will be in the outfield and Marcero when not pitching is solid at second base. She is quick, while Zink is fearless."

Extra incentive

The Rocks' lineup will also include yet another player who excelled as

a freshman, sophomore first baseman/outfielder Madison Koval. "Madi has a very powerful and strong bat.

Juniors who return, having shown promise last season, are third baseman Elliott Mitchem, outfielders Lexi Epley and Katie Meade and utility player Megan Johnson.

"Elliott stops everything that comes her way and makes this game look so very easy," the coach said.

Epley and Meade have made strides and Johnson is handy because she can play all infield positions "and even catcher at any given time."

Southerland said the team might have some extra incentive to have a strong season - Salem is hosting districts.

"I can assure you those girls want to be there defending their field," she said. "They are capable of doing some really great things and I think they saw what they can do on their spring training trip."

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Chiefs, Rocks ready to tee off

By Tim Smith Observer Staff Writer

Area boys golf teams will try to parlay promise into results during the 2012 season.

The Canton Chiefs and Salem Rocks are looking to improve in the standings, too.

Last spring, Canton went 3-7 in the KLAA South Division while Salem tallied a 4-6 mark in the KLAA Central.

The Chiefs open up Thursday at the North Farmington Invitational while Salem's opening action comes Monday, April 23 at the East Lansing Invitational.

Following is a look at those two teams (the Plymouth preview will be included in Thursday's Observer). **BOYS GOLF PREVIEW**

Canton

Veteran coach Tom Alles, starting his 18th season with the team, lost Brandon Laabs and Frank Parzynski to graduation.

But a solid group of returnees includes cocaptains Josh Maxam and Alex Champagne, along with Marty Peck and Brent Perry. All are juniors except Maxam, who is a senior.

Joining the squad are two transfers from Novi-Detroit Catholic Central, senior Jon McMillan and junior Tyler McMahan. Freshman Donnie Trosper rounds out the roster.

"I'm very optimistic about our chances this year," Alles said. "I think we can really compete with most teams we will see this season.

"We have some very skilled players and more depth than in the recent past. I'm looking forward to coaching a much improved Chief team."

Salem

The same is true at Salem, with head coach Ryan Nimmerguth optimistic that the team will make a step up in the standings.

Although Josh Perrin graduated, the other key golfers from 2011 are back — seniors Eric Duprey (40.3 average for nine holes; 81 for 18), Brandon Duprey (38.1; 84); junior Brian Patterson (41.1; 79) and sophomore Nick Danis (41.4;

Senior Jake Leib also logged important varsity experience in 2011.

He has an excellent chance for two wide-open varsity spots, but Nimmerguth listed senior returnee David Nikkila as another contender.

Also in the mix for those spots are junior Nate Sass, sophomores Connor Cole and Brady Cole and freshman Jakob Lenders, all new to the team.

Others on the squad are seniors Kyle Eggenberger, Austin Strobridge; junior Kevin Luo; sophomore Noah Hirvela, Josh Eldridge and Jake Sealy.

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WILDCATS

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makes players focus in more on their expectations, Canffeld said

Not much depth is required in the circle, however, because of the presence of junior ace pitcher Elaine Gerou (1.78 ERA, 192 strike-

"She (Gerou) desires to be the best and puts one foot in front of the other and makes it happen," Canfield said.

Gerou, team MVP and one of four returning allconference performers, will be backed up by pitchers Celeste Miller and Mikayela Marciniak, a sophomore and freshman, respectively.

They will pitch either to sophomore Brooke Senkbeil or junior Kayla Rebain, bouncing back from injury.

"I strongly believe without Kayla's arm injury she would have been

on top of the list with all stats," Canfield said. "The good thing is she still has two years with me."

Setting the table

Senkbell, a returning allconference player, batted .404 and will lead off what could be a very potent offensive lineup. She can play third but can also catch and brings smarts and leadership that will help the Wildcats.

The other all-KLAA players from 2011 include sophomore shortstop Lindsay Lutton (.378) and junior second baseman Brianna Giordano (.307). Canfield is enthusiastic about seeing what Lutton and Giordano bring after having excellent seasons last year.

Meanwhile, the middle infield should be in good hands - literally - with Lutton and Giordano.

Promising freshman Brittney Miller is a power-hitting contender for plenty of playing time at third base. Miller was

described by the coach as "the final part of the puzzle, with her we have a full circle in the infield."

At first base will be senior co-captain Karen Rebain, who can provide extra-base pop. She also can play third if needed.

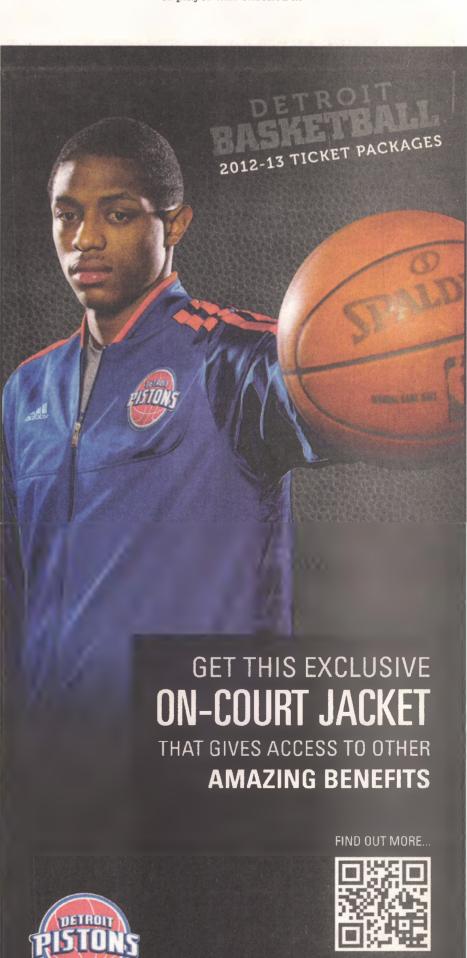
Senior co-captain Irene Pool also is ready to help the cause, filling in at first base and swinging a power bat.

Anchoring the outfield is senior Allison Raylean, who batted .274 last year while catching everything coming her way.

"Allison is a gamer and she would make crucial hits at times for us and with runners in scoring position," Canfield said. "I always have confidence in Allison. I'm expecting a big year for her."

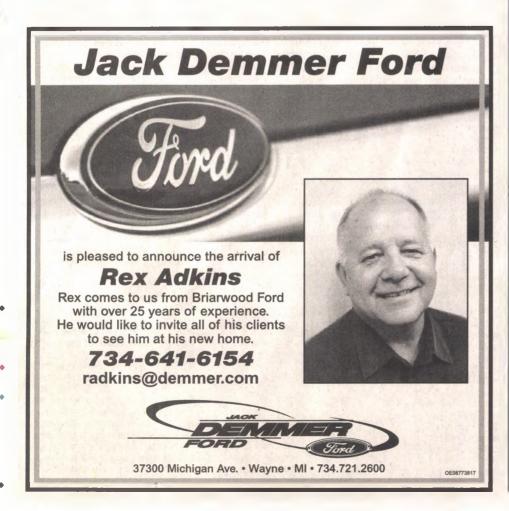
Other outfielders are juniors Lindsey Gryniewicz, Cassidy Hewitt and Alex Lemieux and freshman Alex Rakovitis.

> tsmith@hometownlife.com (734) 469-4128



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Eagles show record-breaking stuff

By Tim Smith Observer Staff Writer

Things already are looking rosy for Plymouth Christian's track and field program as the 2012 season gets into gear.

The recent season-opening dual meet against Royal Oak Shrine provided evidence of that.

Jennifer Lemieux, who coaches both the PCA boys and girls teams (they also compete as a coed squad), noted a new school record set in the 3,200-meter relay team of junior co-captain Karen Windle, freshman Megan McHugh, sophomores Rachel Smith and Terra Crown. They finished in 11:17.

Junior co-captain Megan Lemieux set a personal best by throwing the discus 76-feet, 1-inch good for first place. Crown reset the school

CHIEFS

Continued from page B1

newcomer who can han-

TRACK PREVIEW

Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, April 15, 2012

record by five seconds in the open mile (5:39.2) while Windle, who competed in the Division 4 state finals last year, finished first in the 800meter run.

Rounding out the girls team — which packs plenty of punch for only having seven members will be Leah Dotson and Sydney Carpenter.

Boys excel

Coach Lemieux cited several top showings from boys at Shrine.

Distance runners Jimmy Parks, co-captain Trevor Baloga and Ethan Levack — all state finalists for PCA's cross country team - anchor the 3,200-meter relay, which had an excellent showing in the opening meet. The fourth member of

that relay team is rookie Jacob Bailey.

Stafford threw second in the discus while newcomers Mick Noel and Matt Sumner took 1-2 in the high jump.

Another strong runner is senior sprinter Kurtis McKensie.

"This is one of the largest boys teams in the school's history and every athlete has wonderful gifts from God that we are working hard to develop," Lemieux noted.

To that end, the rest of the team includes cocaptain Robert Stafford, Chase Robinson, Chris Young, Ian Rose, Isaac Middleton, Jacob Nichols, Jayme Putney, Joseph Iacopelli, Nathan Harold, Steven Zomermaand and Torre Crown.

> tsmith@hometownlife.com (734) 469-4128



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Livonia's Max lafrate of the Kitchener Rangers rises up after knocking the Whalers' Rickard Rakell to his knees after a check in Game 3 of the OHL playoff series.

NHL DNA

Ex-Whaler Max lafrate looks like his dad on the ice

By Brad Emons Observer Staff Writer

Max Iafrate's hockey DNA bears some striking similarities to his father Al, who logged 799 regular season games in 12 NHL seasons.

The Livonian, who just turned 18, is a defenseman for the Ontario Hockey League's Kitchener Rangers and wears the same jersey number (34).

Max's listed at 6-feet-2 inches, 220 pounds, while Al was a strapping 6-3, 195-pound prodigy as a 16-year-old when he earned a spot on the 1984 U.S. Olympic hockey team and played in the Winter Games in Sarajevo, Yugoslavia.

Both grew up in the Compuware youth hockey program where young Max spent his first OHL season with the Plymouth Whalers, only to be traded to the Rangers during the offseason in 2011.

Unexpected move

Although the trade caught Max off-guard, he is now thriving on team that is the cradle of blue liners. Facing his ex-team in Round 2 of their OHL, Iafrate scored his second goal of the playoffs in Wednesdays' 5-1 Kitchener win to even the series at 2-2 heading into Saturday night's pivotal Game 5 at Compuware Arena.

"I wasn't expecting it," said Max, who played in 62 Whaler regular season games during the 2010-11 season before getting dealt. "I got a call after the last training camp day and he (Mike Vellucci, the Whalers' head coach and G.M.) just told me they were going to try to move me.

That's how it goes, I guess." Playing for his hometown team appeared to be the perfect fit, but Iafrate is not looking back in his rear-view mirror.

"It wasn't ideal, I guess," Max said "Maybe I wish I went to a different place to help my development out. But I know I'm in the best place to develop as a defenseman in Kitchener, so I'm happy with that."

And Max quickly extinguished any anxieties of being on the opposite side of the ice when going against the Whalers, which has only intensified during the playoffs. "I got over that the first two games playing

here in the regular season ... like the nerves and stuff, and not trying to do too much and getting emotional with the other guys," Max said. "I'm past that."

In 62 OHL regular season games this season, Iafrate scored six goals and added 10 assists while getting only 97 minutes in penalties.

Silver lining

Al Iafrate, who once played for the OHL's Belleville Bulls, believes the trade was a blessing in disguise.

"You walk into Kitchener's arena, and in the rafters you'll see - (Larry) Robinson, (Scott) Stevens. (Paul) Coffey - and soon to be it will be (Ryan) Murphy," said Al, referring to Murphy, a 2011 first-round pick of the Carolina Hurricanes. "It's a breeding ground for defensemen, and me being a player that played

in the Ontario League ... in my opinion, if you're going to walk away from a full college scholarship like he had to a lot of really good schools, why not experience how the fabric of hockey as a Canadian? It always has been and it's been woven into the fabric of their society."

Playing alongside the highly-skilled Murphy has proven to be an added bonus.

Both Max and Murphy are represented by the same agent, Ian Pulver.

"Murph's been my mentor all the time I've been here," Max said. "All the guys have welcomed me nicely, and I'm just watching some great defensemen in front of me play. That's helping me a lot."

The NHL Draft will be in June and Max won't go as high as his father Al did in 1984 (when he was taken fourth overall in the first round by Toronto). But the move to Kitchener has improved his stock. Max is now ranked No. 70 (up from No. 78) among North American skaters that were released recently by the NHL's Central Scouting Bureau final rankings.

"I think anybody that picks him is really going to be happy because there's not a lot of big defensemen that can skate," Al said. "The draft is always a crap shoot. Look a Torey Krug (from Livonia and Michigan State), for instance. There was 30 NHL scouts that passed on him six times and they all still have their jobs. In the last three years there were a lot of defensemen that were drafted that aren't playing."

Krug, a defenseman, signed as a free agent with Boston just two days after MSU was eliminated in the NCAA Tournament.

"In the last four years, there's 20 defensemen drafted that are playing," Al Iafrate said. "He (Krug) hadn't been drafted and actually Chicago and Boston end up bidding for him. The draft's the draft. I think there's golden opportunities to be a free agent ... that's an unbelievable situation."

Best place for now

Getting drafted by an NHL club would be great. But for now, playing in the OHL can't but help Max. He's completing his second year and could potentially play three more seasons in the major junior circuit (including as an overage).

Max attended Stevenson, but is finishing up his high school studies this summer after being home-schooled in Kitchener where he's been able to set his own curriculum and pace of study.

"It's his decision, his life, his dream," said Al, who scored 152 goals and added 311 assists during his NHL career while making two All-Star games. "Make no bones about it, the best 16-to-18 year-olds in the world play in that league. There's not even a league that's close.

"College hockey is great, but they're not 16. The OHL has the lick on college because they get the kids when they're 16. College has wait until they're 18. So if you want to play against the best 16-, -18 and 19-year-olds in the world, the OHL is where it's at.'

Tim Smith contributed to this report.

"She has been training with the distance girls," Grubaugh said. "In our first meet (April 3 against Plymouth) she ran the mile for her first time competitively in her life." All Muir did was win that event with a time of 5:32, which is good enough to qualify for Former Salem track and regionals. "She is going to have a field standout Tiffany big season," Grubaugh Grubaugh is now head added. "We just started coach of Canton's varsity training her with the high girls team. jumpers as well and she looks to have a natural dle just about any event, the coach explained. ability there, too." Senior and German "She would probaexchange student Pia bly excel in any field event that we put her in," Simon also is a promising



Grubaugh said. "Against

Plymouth she already jumped a regional qualifying distance, and I know she go even farther, because we've seen it in practice. Pia is also a good hurdler and short sprinter.'

Two ninth-graders who are quickly fitting in are Jocelyn Moraw and Malina Mandelli.

"Jocelyn will be a standout jumper, hurdler and sprinter and Malina will be great for us in the sprints and short relays." she said.

Grubaugh will not have the services of junior Gabby Williams, unfortunately. Williams will have hip surgery in May and miss the season, the coach said Friday.

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COMMUNITY LIFE

On a mission

Local church members bring friendship, elbow grease to Haiti

By Sharon Dargay O&E Staff Writer

Paul DeNapoli helped build a restroom, painted a church, cemented bricks together and planted fruit trees during trips to the Caribbean the last two years.

The retired Livonia firefighter loved every minute of his adventures, which were spent mostly in manual labor, administering basic health checks to children and making friends with his Haitian hosts.

When he returns next year to the poor island nation, he hopes to take a contingent of members from Redford Aldersgate United Methodist Church with him.

He said the congregation has been a part of the Haiti project in spirit the past two years as he and Aldersgate pastor Rev. Jeff Nelson, first participated in a mission trip and then led one.

"I told the congregation it's not a one-man show. It's we, not just me when we come back to show you what we did as a church to help these people in Hai-

ti and why it's important to continue this project," said DeNapoli. "We're following in the footprints of Jesus and being leaders."

Joining a mission

Nelson was new to Redford Aldersgate when he attended a get-acquainted dinner at Paul and Debbie DeNapoli's Livonia home a few years ago. DeNapoli, aware that the new pastor had spent time in Africa on missions, suggested he go along on the minister's next trip abroad.

"He looked at me and said, okay, set it up. I said, where? He said, I don't care. Pick a spot," DeNapoli recalled the exchange. "I'm the kind of guy who doesn't reinvent the wheel. There was a group getting ready to go back to Haiti. We tagteamed with them on the first trip."

DeNapoli, Nelson and fellow parishioner Dale Archambeau joined a team led by a Methodist church in Wyandotte last year. This year Nelson and DeNapoli solicited members from other local churches to accompany them on a return vis-



Paul DeNapoli of Livonia works on a safety wall in Haiti.

it to Gommiers, a small seaside Haitian village that is home to a Methodist Church and school. The goal was to partner with smaller churches and help them develop their own mission leadership.

"Now we have three churches with experience that can develop a core group of their own parishioners or get other churches to go with them," DeNapoli said.

Two members each from New Beginnings United Methodist Church in Redford, Metropolitan United Methodist Church in Detroit and Calvary United Methodist Church in Ann Arbor joined mission team.

Landing in Haiti

"When we got off the plane the first time, last year, and I saw the kids at the school, I looked at Pastor Jeff and said, I'm hooked. I've got to come back," DeNapoli said.

"The next time I came back, I thought, I'm home. It looked familiar. I knew what to expect. There were workers I had made friends with last year who remembered me. They were glad to see us."

DeNapoli, who is married and the father of two grown children, doesn't consider the mission work a "calling" for himself.

"It's just something I've wanted to do. I spent 27 years on the fire department, where I was always helping people."

Because he has paramedic training, he also worked in a Hatian clinic, taking blood pressures, temperatures and check-



This year's mission group included Rev. Jeff Nelson, (left) Dale Thomas, Paul DeNapoli, Carmen Ziegler, Wendy Roe, Rev. John Pajak, Dale Titus and Rev. Beth Titus. The sign at the Jeremie airport in Haiti says "Welcome to Jeremie, city of poets."

ing pulse rates.
"They have a lot of allergies due to the dust from

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the roads and smoke

because they cook with charcoal," he noted.

Please see MISSION, B6

Location

Southfield

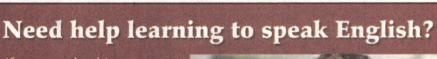
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Stamp collectors gather in Westland for annual show

The West Suburban Stamp Club will present its 43rd annual "Plymouth Show" Saturday-Sunday, April 28-29 at a new, larger location the Hellenic Cultural Center, 36375 Joy Road, in Westland.

The show, which previously was held at Plymouth Central Middle School, will run 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday. Admission and parking are free.

Nearly 40 vendors will offer stamps, covers, cachet covers, and supplies for both new and experienced collectors. The dealers will come from nine states and Canada. A cachet maker's bourse is planned for Saturday and representatives of the United States, United Nations and Nordica postal services will be on hand to sell their current stamp and postal stationary issues.

The "Plymouth Show" is a qualifying national show in the APS "World Series of Philately." The grand award winner will be eligible to compete in the August Champion of Champion exhibition at STAMP-

SHOW 2012 in Sacramento, Calif. and will receive a framed duck drawing by wildlife artist Larry Hillard. In addition to the Grand Award, a reserve grand award, the customary five levels of medals, and numerous special awards will be presented.

A panel of accredited American Philatelic Society (APS) judges will determine the exhibition award levels at the show.

Exhibitors will get a chance to ask judges questions about awards and get help on how to improve their exhibits at 11:30 a.m. Sunday. It's also an opportunity for future exhibitors to learn the ins and outs of

"Stamps in Your Closet" sessions are scheduled from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. both exhibit days. The sessions are patterned after the successful APS national show What's in Your Attic. Experienced collectors and dealers will help identify and provide guidance on a collection's worth.

The show also will offer "how to" classes to small groups of beginning collectors. The young collector will receive the basic collecting tools,

free stamps and tips to start a collection., as well as an invitation to visit the show bourse and attend a club meeting. Classes are scheduled at 11 a.m., 1 p.m. and 2 p.m. Saturday and 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. Sunday. Space is limited. Preregistration is suggested at http://www.thewssc.com/Youth Program.html.

In conjunction with the show, the club will sell a cachet cover with special cancel honoring Owney the Railway Mail Service mascot. Covers are available at the show or by mail for \$3 or \$5 for both show dates. To order by mail send a check or money order plus a No. 10 self-addressed stamped envelope to WSSC, Box 700049, Plymouth, MI, 48170

The West Suburban Stamp Club meets the first and third Friday of each month at the Plymouth Historical Museum at Main and Church streets in Plymouth. Doors open at 7 p.m. and meetings include a social time, a program and 25-lot stamp

For more information visit www. plymouthshow.com.



Wendy Roe plants a fruit tree in honor of her late sister, while the Rev. John Pajak (left) of New Beginnings United Methodist Church in Redford and the Rev. Jeff Nelson of Redford Aldersgate United Methodist Church watch. They and other members of their missionary team planted 150 trees during a trip to Haiti this year.

MISSION

Continued from page B5

In addition to planting fruit trees this year, the mission team built a safety wall — designed to keep children from wandering into the street - in front of the school. They also painted the church.

With no electricity and no modern mixers, volunteers stirred cement on the ground and used a bucket brigade to move it along to the safety wall construction.

"I brought them tools. I gave (a Haitian friend) a hammer. You would have thought I had given him a bar of gold."

Planning is key

DeNapoli said successful mission trip planners iron out all details in advance of travel. That includes finding out exactly what they're expected to accomplish abroad.

"You have to have an understanding of what you're doing and how you can help the people," he said, adding "You're not telling them what to do. They know what needs to be done."

online at hometownlife.com

Beyond the bricks and mortar projects, the mission work is about people at its essence, Nelson noted in a written report to his congregation.

He pointed out that 78 percent of Haitians earn less than \$2 a day, more than two-thirds have no formal jobs and half of primary school-age children don't go to school.

"We don't come to help change Haiti," he wrote. "We can't. We come to help Haitians help Haitians make the changes they want for their country. We are partners."

Although no date is set, DeNapoli and Nelson plan to make a formal presentation to the congregation about the trip. The 44th Detroit Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, May 17-20 at Adrian College, also will include information on mission trips, including projects in Haiti

Guest lecture highlights prayer breakfast Road. Doors open at 6:15 Tickets are still avail-The annual event is

able for the 38th annual Livonia Community Prayer Breakfast on Thursday, May 3.

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LaShawn assists with all paperwork,

easing the burden on families

to residents and families," said

LaShawn. "I spend a lot of time

placing a loved one."

and go over every detail. It's a lot to

handle, especially if it's your first time

Few families are aware that Medicare

percent, then co-pays for days 21 to

100. Depending on whether a patient

pays for the first 20 days at 100

has supplemental insurance, out-

of-pocket expenses could be zero.

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"It all has to be done in a timely

LaShawn encourages the patient to

fashion or families could miss out on

coverage benefits."

and patients. "It can be confusing

Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$10 for students and include a full breakfast and program. Tables of 10 also are available. Ticket orders and information on tables and sponsors are available by calling Sally Butler at (248) 476-9427.

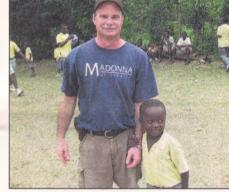
Dr. Paul L. Maier, professor emeritus at Western Michigan University, will be the guest lecturer, with the topic, "How We Got the Bible."

Maier, a graduate of Harvard University and Concordia Seminary, retired in April 2011 after 50 years as one of the most popular professors and experts in ancient history and early Christianity at WMU. He holds a doctor of philosophy degree and also pursued post-graduate studies as a Fulbright scholar at the Universities of Heidelberg, Germany and Basel, Switzerland.

The prayer breakfast also will feature the Tvndale Artists Ensemble under the direction of Dr. Jerry Smith. Scripture readings by local clergy and local leaders along with audience responsive prayer are part of the annual event, which is patterned after the National Prayer Breakfast held annually in Washington, D.C.



Paul DeNapoli of Livonia attracts a young friend while volunteering in Gommier, Haiti.



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ARTHRITIC HANDS

Arthritis of the hands can cause a wide range of effects. A person with osteoarthritis may have hands with bumps on the fingers and digits that are off kilter and distorted but the person may feel little pain and no loss of use of the hands. For example: I care for a patient with advanced osteoarthritis in both hands who still plays the organ for weekly Sunday

In contrast, persons with rheumatoid arthritis may have great difficulty grasping a glass, holding dishes and doing common writing tasks such as signing a check. Many people with rheumatoid arthritis, despite previous training in touch typing, must use a hunt and peck approach to their key pad because of the effect of rheumatoid arthritis on their fingers.

The difference in function between the osteoarthritic hand and a rheumatoid arthritis hand occurs because of the different nature of changes the two conditions create. In osteoarthritic hands the main change is loss of joint function in the digits and knuckles. The hand has sufficient capacity to move

reasonably well despite the loss of full function. In rheumatoid arthritis the joints are inflamed. Not only is the joint damaged but the inflammation causes the joint to react with pain when an action of the finger results in pressure or torque on the joint. The finger may not appear greatly swollen or distorted to an onlooker as the pain response resides deep in the joint. But the pain is there. The pain, not the distorted ioint limits motion.



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Donna Knight, (left) Deana Salhaney, Erin Dillenbeck, Sharon Lee Dillenbeck, Liz Gullikson, Marilyn Meredith and Vivian Hewitt showed their works at the Ladies Dillenbeck Exhibition last year.

Women exhibit art at Canton studio

Sharon Lee Dillenbeck exhibit works by local female artists this month at her Canton art studio.

The 2nd Annual Ladies Dillenbeck Exhibition will run April 28-May 31 at D & M Art Studio, 8691 N. Lilley. An artist's reception is set for 2-4 p.m. Sunday, May 6.

Exhibiting artists include Dillenbeck, her daughters, Erin and Kritin, her sister, Donna Knight, and some of Dillenbeck's award winning students, Marilyn

Meredith, Vivian Hewitt, Elizabeth Gullikson, Rachel Bissonnette and Deana Salhaney. Most pieces will be for sale. The exhibit, open during store hours, will include original watercolors, oils, acrylics, charcoals, pastels and oil pas-

For more information, call Dillenbeck at (734) 453-3710 or e-mail her at dmartist1@aol.com. Order art supplies or register for classes online at www.

Show benefits summer jazz fest

The spring fundraiser for the Michigan Jazz Festival will feature the Gary Schunk Trio Sunday, April 22 at Schoolcraft College in Livonia.

The show, with Schunk on piano, Bill Higgens on drums and Jack Dryden on bass, is set for 3 p.m. in the DiPonio Room in

the VisTaTech Center on campus, located on Haggerty, between Six Mile and Seven Mile.

Schunk was the house pianist at Baker's Keyboard Lounge during the 1970s and early 1980s.

Tickets are \$15 and available in advance. Make check payable to

Michigan Jazz Festival, 20457 Maplewood, Livonia, MI 48152-2022. Enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope. Tickets will be mailed immediately or can be held at the door.

The Michigan Jazz Festival will be held July 15.

Road safety class key

Classroom and online courses for the AARP Driver Safety program are free to Michigan drivers during the month of

The course, which usually costs \$12, helps older drivers learn the new rules of the road and continue to drive safely and

remain independent for as long as possible. HearUSA is offering the classes in honor of Better Hearing and Speech Month. Participants do not have to be AARP members.

Drivers who complete the course may be eligible for auto insurance

discounts.

Local classes will be held at 4:30 p.m. May 16-17 at St. Mary Mercy Hospital, 36475 Five Mile, Livonia. Register by calling (734) 655-8950 or (877) 390-8784 or visit www.aarp.org/drivesafe6 and enter promo code: MICHIGAN.

LUNCHEON RAISES CANCER AWARENESS

See fashions from Saks Fifth Avenue at Mothers, Daughters, Sisters & Friends, Thursday, May 3, at Henry Ford West Bloomfield Hospital 6777 W. Maple, west of Drake.

The event, a fundraiser for the Francee & Benson Ford Jr. Breast Care & Wellness Center at the hospital, will run 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and include a luncheon, bou-

tique shopping and the fashion show.

Over the past eight years, Mothers, Daughters, Sisters and Friends has raised more than \$1.6 million for the Henry Ford fund. The event will showcase amenities at the hospital, including the demonstration kitchen, Vita Wellness Center, the Live Well Shoppe and more.

rine Mark and her daughter Lisa Lis, both of Farmington Hills, and Francee Ford of Birmingham and her mother, Micki Kline of West Bloomfield.

Tickets for the luncheon begin at \$125. Seating is very limited.

To register or further information, visit www.henrvford.com/mothersdaughters or call (313) 874-6138.





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Attorneys J.B. Bieske and Jennifer Alfonsi have 42 years combined experience representing only Social Security disability clients. And they personally meet with all clients and appear personally at all court hearings. Many large firms assign inexperi-enced attorneys to your case. And some of these firms are located thousands of miles away and only fly the attorney in the day of the court hearing. Attorneys Bieske and Alfonsi have

vast experience before local

Michigan judges.



Attorneys Bieske and Alfonsi can often make a winning difference at the application stage. And, if an appeal is necessary they have won several hundred cases before a court date is even

Those denied can appeal on their own but statistics for many years reveal that those represented by attorneys win a much higher percentage of appeals. And attorneys who specialize in Social Security Disability cases win a much higher percentage yet.

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

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.

www.ssdfighter.com

REUNIONS

CENTERLINE

CLASS OF 1977

35-year reunion, 7:30 p.m. Aug. 18 at Ernie's in Clinton Township. \$25 per person. E-mail to clhs1977@hotmail.com.

DEARBORN HEIGHTS ANNAPOLIS

CLASS OF 1982

For information about the 30year 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 CODY**

CLASS OF 1962

Looking for Classmates from January and June graduations for 50th reunion, 6 p.m. Sept. 29, at the Holiday Inn, 17123 Laurel Park Dr. North, Livonia. Call Neal and Barb Gehring at (248) 568-2254; NGBG@comcast.

DETROIT MACKENZIE

CLASS OF 1962

50th reunion, Friday, June 1. For more information e-mail mackenzie1962@gmail.com or phone Mavis (Higgins) Farrand at (734) 675-5675 or Sandy

(Turnbull) Dillaha at (734) 281-

Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, April 15, 2012

FARMINGTON HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1962

The 50th class reunion will be held Saturday, Sept. 22 at Farmington Hills Holiday Inn, 37529 Grand River Ave., Farmington Hills; (248) 477-7800. The \$60 per person cost includes a welcome reception from 2-5 p.m. and an evening dinner dance with cash bar. Cocktails will be at 6 p.m. with dinner at 7 p.m. Reservations deadline is Sept. 1. For more information call Michele Cook Hoffmeyer at (602) 290-6006 or e-mail to russmichele@yahoo.com. Check Classmates and Facebook FHS Class of 62 Reunion pages for more information.

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 5_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, Doris Fugaban Williams at doris 1226@wow-way.com, Lee A Gilligan at ee.gilligan@att.net, Sue Cook at stasselmyer@charter.net, SuzieWright Rogiero at suzierogiero@yahoo.com, Jackie Kalifut at jackieideson@gmail.com or Jeff Fordell at jeffreyfordell@ comcast.net.

LINCOLN PARK HIGH

CLASS OF 1962

50-year reunion for January and June graduates is set for 6 p.m.-midnight, Saturday, Sept. 15, at the Marriott Hotel, located at Six Mile and I-275 in Livonia. For more information or to RSVP e-mail Marilyn Roy Snyder at Marilyn@MarilynJSnyder. com, or call (586) 215-9445.

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.

CLASS OF 1972 40th class reunion planned

for 6:30 p.m. Saturday, May 12 at Mama Mia's restaurant, located on Plymouth Road west of Inkster Road in Livonia. Dinner served at 7 p.m. Advance payment is \$23 per person and includes a two-course dinner with "fixens" and a cash bar. To reserve a spot, send your check payable to Rick Bennett. 42021 Waterwheel, Northville Township, MI 48168. Or pay via PayPal and send to rickbennett@ peoplepc.com

WAYNE MEMORIAL

ALL CLASSES

Wayne High Schools Alumni Association 28th All Class Reunion Banquet will be held 5-10 p.m. Friday, May 18, at Wayne Tree Manor, 35100 Van Born, Wayne. Dinner served at 6 p.m. The organization will honor the class of 1962. For more information call Wanda Boice at (734) 326-777 or www.waynehighalumni@aol.com

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.

Gay couples can plan wedding at April 29 expo

"Celebrate the Power of Love: A Wedding Expo for Same-Sex Couples" returns to Livonia Sunday, April 29, with vendors, 30-minute workshops, film shorts and a special appearance by actors from The Ringwald Theatre in Ferndale.

The expo, presented by Pride Source Media Group, the Detroit Marriott Livonia and Comerica Bank, last year drew 300 guests.

"People came to the event not only to meet with vendors but also to socialize with other attendees. The atmosphere was fun and social and everyone stayed right until the end," stated Julie Emerson, catering sales manager at the Detroit Marriott Livonia.

The hotel initiated the event partnership with Pride Source after it received two inquiries in a month from same-sex couples that had lost confirmed bookings when venue managers discovered their orientation.

The expo will run from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the

hotel, 17100 Laurel Park Drive. Vendors will include caterers, jewelers, salons, photographers, officiants, churches, florists, gift registries, clothiers, printers, . travel agents and entertainers.

Admission is \$10 at the door. A limited number of free passes are available for those who register online at www.pridesource.com.

"Michigan may not let same-sex couples legalize their relationships but we will continue to celebrate and honor them," said Jan Stevenson, Pride Source co-publisher.

"The average American wedding costs \$20,000. If 1,000 metro Detroit same-sex couples got married this year, they could generate \$20 million in additional sales for the businesses smart enough to market to them. You don't have to be a gay business owner to take advantage of that buying power. You just have to respect your customers - and that's good business for anybody."

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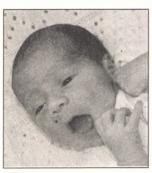
Gulkewicz-Campau

Katherine Gulkewicz and Robert Campau of Royal Oak announce their engagement.

The bride-to-be, daughter of Candace and Michael Gulkewicz of Canton, attended Plymouth-Salem High School and Michigan State University. She is employed by Team Detroit Adver-

Her fiance, son of Colleen Barkham of Oakland Township and Thomas Campau of West Bloomfield, attended Rochester Adams High School and the University of Michigan He is employed by Campbell-Ewald Adver-

A June 2012 wedding is planned in Goodison.



Hudson James Rodriguez

Hudson James Rodriguez was born April 4, 2012 at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital in Ann Arbor.

Hudson joins his parents, Michael and Melissa Rodriguez, and siblings, Caleb, 6, Brooklyn, 4, and Presley, 2, at home

in Superior Township. Proud grandparents are Michael and Mary Ann Dziekan and Israel and Isabel Rodriguez, all of

PATIENTS SELL PLUS-SIZE CLOTHING

Post-operative bariatric patients will sell gently-used, plus-sized clothing from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the South Lobby of St. Mary Mercy Hospital, located at Five Mile and Levan in Livonia.

Sizes will range from 14-32 for women and 40-60 and up to 5XL for men.

"We have about 25 sellers, the lobby will be packed with clothing racks from these sellers," said Paula Magid, bariatric program director, in an e-mail to the Observer. "We had less sellers last year, and could barely fit all of the clothing racks in. The sale is held by the Michigan Bariatric Institute Support Group, and they keep the proceeds, after the costs of running the sale.

"It is an awesome event for MBI and the community."

The Michigan Bariatric Institute offers three options for Bariatric weight loss surgery, performed at St. Mary Mercy Hospital by board certified surgeons. Options are laparoscopic gastric bypass, sleeve gastrectomy and adjustable gastric banding. Bariatric surgery is a laparoscopic surgical approach to treating obesity, resulting in minimal pain, less scarring, shorter hospitalization and recovery

For more information, call the Michigan Bariatric Institute at (877) Why-Weight. It's located in the Marian Professional Building, Suite 311, 14555 Levan, Livonia.

GARDEN & NATURE

Butterflies

"Southeast Michigan Butterfly Association (SEMBA) meets at 7 p.m. Wednesday, April 18, at Nankin Mills Nature Center, 33175 Ann Arbor Trail, Westland. The meeting topic is "Butterfly Garden Enhancements." Participants will learn how to create and install accessories and enhancements for their butterfly gardens.

Admission for non-members is \$3. Questions? Call (734) 326-0578 or visit www. sembabutterfly.com.

English Gardens

 Learn the basics of composting to recycle yard waste into soil at 10 a.m. Saturday, April 21.

Area stores are at 155 N. Maple, Ann Arbor, (734) 332-7900; 22650 Ford Road in Dearborn Heights, (313) 278-4433; 4901 Coolidge Highway, Royal Oak, (248) 280-9500; and 6370 Orchard Lake Road, in West Bloomfield; (248) 851-7506. For information, log onto www.EnglishGardens.com.

Garden seminar

Professional gardener, author, educator and speaker, Janet Macunovich, will lead a free seminar on creating an allergy-friendly garden, 6-

8 p.m. Wednesday, April 25, in Botsford Hospital's Community Room, at the A&E Center, 28050 Grand River Ave., Farmington Hills. She'll offer gardening suggestions and strategies to minimize allergic reactions. Reservations required. Call (877) 477-3621.

Tomato, pepper plants

Wayne County Master

Gardeners will sell heirloom tomato and pepper plants they've grown, 9-11 a.m. May 12 in the News Herald parking lot, One Heritage Drive, Southgate and 9 a.m.-1 p.m. in the Wayne County **Extension Office Parking** lot, 5454 Venoy, Wayne Proceeds from sale help to support community gardens and food pantries in Wayne County. For information, e-mail to mgwwcorg@gmail.com.

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Suddenly passed away

Monday, April 9, 2012, while visiting his daughter and her family in Ashburn, VA. He was 80 years old. Born July 9th, 1931 in East

Tawas, MI, Ken spent most of his

early years living in Detroit, and

spent summers at his grandparent's farm near Cummins, MI. In

the late 1940's, Ken's family moved from Detroit to East Tawas, where he helped his father build and open "The King's

build and open "The King's Market" on US-23, where he

worked during high school. Ken

graduated from East Tawas High

School in 1951, and was drafted

into the Army, where he served

for three years, including an extended tour of duty in Japan.

After discharge from the military,

Ken and his new bride Nancy (Miller) of Tawas Township set-

tled in Detroit. Ken started a dry

cleaning pickup and delivery busi-

ness in Detroit in the early 1950's, going door to door to serve his

customers. A genuine "people per-

son", Ken's positive attitude, wit,

and charm served him well. His

small pickup and delivery service

eventually grew to become 3-Way

Cleaners, with plants and branch

stores serving several Detroit sub-

urban areas. This business ran

successfully under Ken's guid-

ance for over 50 years. In the mid

1960's, Ken and Nancy moved to

Farmington Hills, MI, where they raised their four children. Ken

was always proud of the fact that

his children developed good work

ethics, and often reminded them

of job openings in dry cleaning to

motivate their collegiate studies.

The family spent many summer

weekends at his cottage near

Tawas, often entertaining relatives

and friends. Nancy passed away

in 1998, and Ken retired in 2002

After retirement, he married

Barbara Kendall, a former high

school friend, and moved to

Tawas City. Kenny's first love

was entertaining and engaging with people. He thoroughly

enjoyed life, loved to tell stories,

and had a great number of friends.

Those fortunate enough to know

Ken will always miss him. He was

a 32nd degree Scottish Rite

Freemason, and a former member

of the Redford Jaycees. Ken is

preceded in death by Nancy, his wife of 45 years, and his parent's

Clarence and Ruth King of Tawas

City, MI. He is survived by his 2nd wife Barbara Kendall of

Tawas City, MI. Ken is also sur-

vived by his four children, their

spouses, and eight grandchildren:

Randall and Barbara King, of

Lake Charles, Louisiana (grand-

children: Maggie and Sarah); Karen and Mark Testere of

Ashburn, VA (grandchildren: Alex

and Isabella); Lisa and Anthony

Cortese of Oconomowoc, WI

(grandchildren: Anthony, Joseph,

Vincent, and Michael); Julie

(King) and John Pump of

Portland, OR; sisters: JoAnn

Burrell of East Tawas, MI, and

Dorothy Klenow of Tawas City,

MI. Kendall family: Gregory and

Laura Kendall (Owen) and David

Kendall (Shannon) of Tawas City,

MI. Visitation: Friday, April 13,

2012 from 2pm - 4pm, 6pm - 8pm

at Buresh Funeral Home, 416

Whittemore Street, Tawas City,

MI 48763. Funeral: Saturday,

April 14, 2012, 10am at Christ

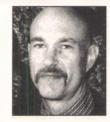
Episcopal Church, 202 W

Westover Street, East Tawas, MI.

Information: 989.362.8191 or

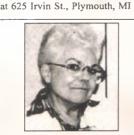
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Thank you to all doctors and care-



ARMSTRONG,

TODD MICHAEL Died March 13, 2012 at his home in Larned, Kansas. He was born February 10, 1967, at Ann Arbor, Michigan, the son of Robert E. Armstrong and Vivian Maureen Clark. Todd grew up in Plymouth, Michigan but had been a resident of Larned, Kansas since 2007. In school he played baseball, basketball and soccer. In the 1990's he was an active marathon runner. He was a graduate of Motech in Detroit, Michigan. He was a machinist by trade, his expertise was in precision diamond wheel grinding. He worked a number of years for Schuff Steel in Phoenix, Arizona, and workd at Golden Valley Coop and Blattner Manufacturing, both of Rozel. Survivors include his mother, Maureen Armstrong, Plymouth, Michigan, dearest brother, Eric Scott Armstrong, Plymouth, Michigan, father, Robert Armstrong, North Palm Beach, Florida, previous wife and friend, Cindy Jack, Pawnee Rock, grandmother, Jean Miller, Pawnee Rock, grandfather, George Clark, Topeka, also uncle Bob Miller, Larned, and last but not least his cat, Pretty Boy. He was preceded in death by maternal grandparents Edward (Bill) and Virginia Miller and parternal grandparents Buryl and Marie Converse Armstrong. An informal memorial service will be held on April 21, 2012, 2pm-5pm at the Michael Brusca residence



(STANLEY) Passed away on April 4th, 2012 Virgie was born in Plymouth Michigan, daughter of Floyd and Mildred Stanley. Virgie grew up in the Northville/Salem area and graduated from Northville High School in Michigan. She atttended elementary school on 6 mile and Angle Rd in Salem Twp. She mar-ried Douglas Bell in 1949 and had four children. Virgie graduated Western Union Technical School and was an Office Manager for Wolverine Machine Products in Holly, Michigan where her family lived for over 20 years. Virgie than moved to Cumberland County, Tennessee in 1994 and was an active member of the Woman's Auxiliary, V.F.W. Post 5025. She was also a volunteer at the Cumberland County Chamber of Commerce and Cumberland County Habitat for Humanity Virgie regularly attended weekly dances at the Disabled American Veterans in Crossville. Virgie is survived by her daughter, Susan McNeill and her husband Larry of Crossville, son Daniel Bell of Fenton, Michigan, son Michael Bell and wife Janet of Gwinn, Michigan. Grandchildren Douglas Bell of Marquette, Michigan and Samantha Bell of Gwinn, Michigan, and Stephani Bell of Northern Michigan. In addition to her parents, Virgie was preceded in death by her loving husband Doug Bell of Farmington, Michigan, her son Stephen Bell of Perrysville, Ohio and her brother Richard Stanley of Dearborn, Michigan, A memorial service will be held on Saturday, May 12, 2012 at 1:00pm from the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home 280 South Main, Plymouth. In lieu of flowers the family requests donations in Virgie's memory be made the local Veteran's Support

schrader-howell.com



CHAPPELL, ROBERT J., JR.

Age 81. April 8, 2012. Beloved hus-band of the late Joyce for 36 years. Loving father of Gary (Joan) Chappell and Deborah (Grady) Burgess. Cherished grandfather of Brandon, Amanda, Christina, Jennifer; and great-grandfather of Dillon Dixon. Bob was a prowd Korean War Army Veteran, and long time member of the following Farmington organizations: Masonic Lodge No. 151, Elks Lodge No. 1986, Area Lodge No. 1986, Area Goodfellows, and Senior Center. Funeral Thursday 10 AM, April 12th at Thayer-Rock Funeral Home, 33603 Grand River Ave. (1 blk. W. of Farmington Rd.), Downtown Farmington. Memorial contributions may be made to Hospice of Michigan or the Shriners Hospitals for Children. www.thayer-rock.com



COLOMBO. **ELIZABETH "BETTY"**

(nee Monaghan) April 12, 2012 Age 98 of Bloomfield Hills, Honorary President for the Foundation for Emotionally Disturbed Children in Pontiac and former member of Bloomfield Hills Country Club. Beloved wife of the late Louis J. Colombo, Jr. for 42 years. Dear mother of Louis J. Colombo, III and the late Alice Finch (George) Grandmother of Sean Finch and Beth Adkins (Paul). She was also a loving great grandmother. Sister of the late Margaret Mesritz. Memorial Mass Wednesday, 11a.m. at Holy Name Church (Chapel), Harmon at 630 Woodland, Birmingham. Visitation at church begins 10:30a.m. Memorial tributes to Marygrove College. A.J. Desmond & Sons (248) 549-0500. View obituary and

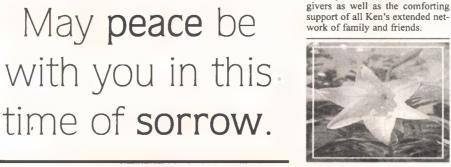
share memories at:

www.DesmondFuneralHome.com JDEMOND SINS



GOOZE,

KATHLEEN ANN April 9, 2012 of Age 52, Beloved daughter of Westland. Mary Lou and the late David Gooze Dear sister of Karen Gooze and Colleen (Ken) Beauvais. Visitation Weds 5-9 PM and Thurs 2-9 PM at Vermeulen Funeral Home, 980 N Newburgh Rd. (btwn Ford & Cherry Hill) Westland. Funeral Service Fri 11 AM at the funeral home. Memorial contributions may be made to the Sarcoma Clinic at the U of M Comprehensive Cancer Center, Office of Development, 2800 Plymouth Rd, Ann Arbor, MI 48109. To share a memory, please visit vermeulenfuneralhome.com



LAHO, GORDON L.

Age 52. Son of Betty and late Ron Laho. Brother of Gail (Kevin) Briney, Ginger, Gwen, Greg & Tim. Uncle of Nicole, Grace and Syndney. Great uncle of Caleb and Caden. Visitation Thursday, April 19th, 3pm until 7pm. Service at Charles R. Step Funeral Home, 18425 Beech Daly (Btwn. 6 & 7 Mile). Contributions to Odyssey Hospice appreciated. Condolences to: www.

charlesstepfuneralhome.com



LAZORKA,

THOMAS "TOM" Age 51 April 10, 2012. Beloved husband of Laurie. Dearest father of Adam, Tyler and Parker. Loving son of the late Ted and Stella Lazorka. Loving son in-law of Bill and Melba Woodby. Dear brother and brother in-law of Ted (Linda) Lazorka, John Lazorka, Dennis Lazorka, Mike (Laurie) (Denise) Lazorka, and Tim Lazorka, Scott (Pegg) Woodby, Don (Pam) Woodby. Dearest uncle and great-uncle of Brad (Cassandra) Lazorka, Mike (Deanna) Lazorka, Colin, Logan, Shelby, Nicholas, Ben, Luke Lazorka, James Lowe, Sara Woodby, Ian Woodby, and Gabriel Rister. Memorial Service Friday, April 20 at 11:00 am. at St. John Neumann Catholic Church 44800 Warren Road, Canton. Followed by a "Celebration of Tom's Life" at Plymouth Cultural Center 3:00 to 7:00 pm, 525 Farmer Street, Plymouth. Memorial contributions may be directed to either "Tom Lazorka for Hockey" P.O. Box 701194 Plymouth MI 48170 Angela Hospice Newburgh Road, Livonia MI 48154. www.angelahospice.org



LEWELLEN, **MILLICENT "MILLY" CHAPMAN**

Age 81, of Bellaire and Plymouth, passed away peacefully, Monday, April 9, 2012, surrounded by her children and siblings, at her daughter's home in Bellaire. She was born December 14, 1930, in Detroit, the daughter of John and Elizabeth (Youngs) Chapman. Detroit and She grew Birmingham. Mill and Milly attended DePauw Universities, where she was a member of Pi Beta Phi Sorority. On November 17, 1951, in Birmingham, she married William (Bill) Lewellen, who preceded her in death in November 2007. While Bill was employed at Cadillac Motor Car Division, they enjoyed many opportunities to travel the world. She was a devoted wife and strong support while the family was relocated a number of times around the coun-Milly enjoyed knitting, needlepoint, reading, gardening, and her pets. She also loved to spend time with her family and was a loving mother and grandmother. She will be remembered for being a sweet lady, always with a smile on her face and a twinkle in her eye. Milly is survived by her children William Jr (Barbara) Lewellen of Arlington Heights, IL, Geoffrey (Kimberly) Lewellen of Waunakee, WI, Julia (Ed) Pietrowicz of Bellaire, brother John P. (Sarah) Chapman of Lansing, sister Gwen Kirby of Clawson, and grandchildren Jennifer (Will) Weidman of Arlington, VA, Christine (Adam) Davis of Fishers, IN. Michelle Lewellen of Waunakee, WI, Lauren Lewellen of Waunakee, WI, and Paul Pietrowicz of Brighton. The family received friends Friday, April 13, from 4 to 7 p.m. at the Bellaire Chapel of Mortensen Funeral homes. Funeral services were held Sat. Apr. 14, 2012 at 1 p.m., also at the funeral home. Interment followed in Lakeview Cemetery, Bellaire. Memorial contributions may be

www.cancerresearch.org Please sign her online guestbook mortensenfuneralhomes.com

directed to either the Alzheimer's

Association www.alz.org or the

Cancer Research Institute



MALIK, ANTHONY Dies at 97. Remembered

with love for a lifetime of

wit, humor, and appreciation of the good things in life, Anthony (Tony) Malik passed away April 7th, Holy Saturday at 11:47 p.m., 2012, in Beverly Hills, Florida. Son of Frank and Mary Malik, Tony outlived his 10 brothers and sisters, with whom he was very close. Tony, an Army veteran of WWII, returned home to begin Malik Heating, a heating and cooling business with brother Carl in Westland, MI. Gifted with many skills, but known and perhaps memorialized most for his talent as gardener extraordinaire; Tony's fruit, vegetable, and flower garden at his Westland, MI home, are remembered fondly by his family and friends with whom he shared not only his life, but also the fruits of his love and labor. Cherished memories and stellar moments of his life, generously recalled by his remaining family as well as his devoted companion, Barbara Slade, will continue to reverberate throughout time. At 97

RYAN, VIRGIL R., JR.

years young, one can only imag-

ine the quality of life Anthony

Malik must have enjoyed.

Livonia, MI (formerly of Pinckney). Age 80, died April 7, 2012 at his home. He was born December 16, 1931 in Pontiac, the late \ and Fannie (Johnson) Ryan Sr. Virgil proudly served his country employed with General Motors as a parts supervisor until his retirement in 1991 and was a member of Community of Christ in Plymouth. On July 28, 2007 Virgil married Karen Miller, she survives. Additional survivors include his children; Debora (Eddy) Ziviski of Brighton, Diane (Garry) Simkiss of Plymouth, Ronald (Pamela) Ryan of Canton and Russell (Wendy) Ryan of Mt. Savage, MD, nine grandchildren and several great grandchildren with more on the way. He is preceded in death by his late wife of 52 years Beverly. A Christian Farewell was held at Community of Christ in Plymouth, MI. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions are suggested to Outreach International, American Diabetes or Community of Christ.

Please leave a Message of Comfort to Virgil's family by calling 877-231-7900 or visit his guestbook at www.borekjennings.com.

PAYING TIRIBUTTE TO THUE ILLUFIE OF YOUR LOVED ONE



ZABORSKY, ROBERT S.

Age 85, of Ann Arbor. Loving husband of Carolyn. Beloved father of John (Anita) Morrison, Pamela (Charles) Warner, and Lisa (Christopher) Seiler. Proud grandfather of David Warner, Amy Warner, Rachel Morrison, Sarah Morrison and Calista Seiler, Dear brother of Eleanor Nicholls. Dear uncle of Jeffrey Even. 35 Year member of Kiwanis Club of Plymouth. Funeral service Saturday 1 PM at Vermeulen Funeral Home, 46401 W. Ann Arbor Rd (btwn Sheldon and Beck), Plymouth. Visitation Friday 2-8 PM. Interment Great National Cemetery in Holly. Memorial contributions may be made to Plymouth Kiwanis Foundation, American Cancer Society.

To share a memory, please visit: vermeulenfuneralhome.com

FACEBOOK: HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

American Cancer Society offers free summer camp

The American Cancer Society is accepting registration for summer camping programs aimed at children and teens.

"The American Cancer Society offers a camping program specifically geared toward accommodating the needs of children who are being treated for cancer, or who are in remission from cancer," stated Kathleen Wilson, program manager for the American Cancer Society, Great Lakes Division. "Our camping program provides the opportunity for these children to simply have fun and enjoy the experience of exercise, recreation and companionship through activities paced to meet the needs of a young cancer patient."

Cancer survivors between 4 and 15 years of age can sign up for one of two camping programs offered free of charge by the organization's Great Lakes Division.

Young Camper's Day is a one-day program for children, 4-6 years old, that is set for Sunday, June 17. Camp Catch-A-Rainbow is a week-long summer camping experience, held June 17-22, for children, ages 7-15. Both the Young Camper's Day and Camp Catch-A-Rainbow programs are held at the YMCA Storer Camps near Jackson, where children have access to activities such as swimming, horseback riding, archery, canoeing, arts and crafts, and more.

Health care professionals are available at the camp 24 hours a day, so most medical treatments,



Youngsters at Camp Catch-A-Rainbow show their camp spirit. The program is offered by the American Cancer Society.

SPECIAL NEEDS CAMPS

Here's a sampling of other camps for children with special medical needs: •Camp Casey, a horseback riding program for children with cancer, is located in Royal Oak offers overnight mini-vacations at dude ranch resorts in Michigan; www.camp-

•The American Diabetes Association runs a camp for youngsters, age 8-16, with diabetes, June 17-29 in Fenton; www.diabetes.org

•The Lions Club Bear Lake Camp in Lapeer offers a camp for deaf and hard-of-hearing children, July 8-14 and a weekend family camp for families with deaf or hard-of-hearing youth, June 29-July 1. A session for first-time campers who are blind and visually impaired will run July 15-21. Camp for lifers is a two-week experience, July 15-28 for blind and visually impaired youth. Camp Dakota, sponsored by the Arthritis Foundation Michigan Chapter will run July 29-Aug. 3; www.bearlakecamp.org.

• The Epilepsy Foundation of Michigan offers Camp Discovery for children and teens with epilepsy, June 24-28 at Sherman Lake YMCA Outdoor Center in Augusta; www. epilepsymichigan.org.

with the exception of radiation therapy, can be done at the camp or at a nearby cancer center.

Registration applications for young cancer patients and survivors with a physician's approval, are accepted through May 28 for both camps. Get a camper application

form by calling the American Cancer Society at (800) 227-2345 or by visiting www.cancer.org/camprainbow.

The camps also need medical and non-medical volunteers, especially male volunteers, to assist onsite. For more information or to get a camp volunteer application, call the Society or visit online.

Camp Catch-A-Rainbow is accredited by the American Camping Association and is licensed through the state of Michigan. The American Cancer Society, Great Lakes Division, serving Indiana and Michigan, funds both camps.

MEDICAL DATEBOOK

April

AUTISM TATTOO

Get an autism-related tat-too this month at American Pride Tattoos and the store will donate \$20 or 20 percent of the cost of the tattoo — whichever is greater — to Autism Speaks. All of the companies stores are participating in the campaign to raise awareness and support those with autism spectrum disorder. Stores are located at 155 E. Commerce in Milford and 27815 Woodward Ave., in Berkley, in addition to Waterford, Clarkston, and

CANCER SCREENING

The Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Center, 4100 John R, south of Warren, north of Mack, in Detroit, will conduct free oral, head and neck cancer screenings, 1:30-4:30 p.m. Friday, April 27. A simple 15-minute screening exam can help determine if further followup is needed to help detect oral, head and neck cancers in their earliest stages. Space is limited to the first 100 who register. Some of the warning signs of oral cancers include a sore in your mouth that doesn't heal or increases in size; lumps or white, red or dark patches in your mouth; persistent pain in your mouth; a lump in your neck or thickening of your cheek; difficulty chewing or swallowing, moving your jaw or tongue, swelling or pain in your jaw; soreness in your throat or feeling that something is caught in your throat; pain around your teeth or loosening of your teeth; numbness in your mouth; changes in your voice or bad breath. Pre-register by 5 p.m. April 26 for screening and complimentary valet parking. Call (800) 527-6266. Onsite registration will be permitted if space is available.

NUTRITION

Annie House, registered dietitian and certified

diabetes educator at Botsford Hospital, will lead the discussion and will provide helpful nutrition tips at the Walk with a Doc free wellness event, noon, Thursday, April 19, at the Heritage Park Nature Center, on the west side of Farmington Road, between 10 Mile and 11 Mile, Farmington Hills. For more information or to register, call (877) 477-3621 and select option 1.

SINUS RELIEF

Dr. Warren L. Brandes, D.O., will present a free community lecture on breakthrough technology that helps those suffering from chronic sinus symptoms, 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 17 at Botsford Hospital's Administration & Education Center Community Room, 28050 Grand River Ave., Farmington Hills. The presentation will include information on balloon sinuplasty. Call (877) 477-3621 and select option 1 for more information or to register for the event.

ST. MARY MERCY

• First-time parents can get the basics of breastfeeding and baby care 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Saturday, April 28 in classrooms 1 and 2 at the hospital. A St. Mary Mercy Hospital pediatrician will discuss infant illness and child immunization. Parents will learn breastfeeding techniques including positioning, pumping, storage and breast care. This class is open to anyone who cares for an infant. Fee is \$50 per couple. Register by calling St. Mary Mercy Hospital's Marian Women's Center at (734) 655-1162, or register online at stmarymercy.org and click on "classes and events." · A blood drive for the American Red Cross will run 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday, April 27 in classrooms 1 and 2 at the hospital. Schedule an appointment at (800) GIVE-LIFE or redcrossblood.org. Walkins will be accepted but appointments are preferred. The hospital is located at 36475 Five Mile, Livonia.



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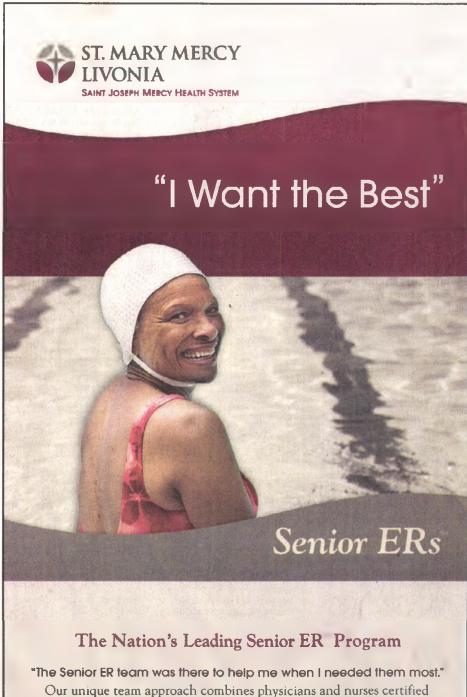
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How - and whom - to ask for a referral

One of the best ways to get a foot in the door with a potential employer is to be recommended by someone who already works there. That may be true, but a referral is no guarantee of an interview, let alone a job offer. In fact, a poorly handled referral can leave you worse off than if you were just another unknown job candidate. Here's how to ask for a referral the right way.

Before You Ask

"It never hurts to ask" is normally a sound principle for job seekers, but it doesn't apply to referrals. Requesting a recommendation from the wrong person, at the wrong time or in the wrong way can do more harm than good. Since most people find it difficult to turn down a request for help, it's your responsibility to make sure that your potential referrer is well-equipped to recommend you and that he is the right person to do so.

The most common problem? Unfamiliarity. "Michelle - er, Melissa – is a close friend and trusted colleague" doesn't exactly make for a ringing endorsement. Before you ask someone for a referral, consider whether you know the person well enough and vice-versa. After all, the two of you are effectively agreeing to tie your professional reputations together. While you don't need to have worked alongside your advocate for years, 15 minutes of conversation at last night's Meetup isn't a sufficient personal history for a convincing recommendation.

Keep in mind that your contact may have her own



reasons for agreeing to refer you that don't necessarily align with your goals. She may be taking advantage of a referral bonus offered by the company or may just have trouble saying no. Be sure your chosen referrer can describe with confidence your qualifications and job fit.

If a hiring manager senses a referral is a shot in the dark, not a genuine endorsement, he might be predisposed against you. And if your referrer is known for making indiscriminate recommendations, your resume might not even get a look.

Your Pre-interview

Whether your potential referrer is an old friend or a more recent contact, don't take the referral for granted. Frame your request with a brief explanation of why you think you'd be a good fit for the company, and send along vour resume.

If the person seems reluctant to vouch for you, take that as a no. And keep in mind that a polite refusal will be better for your career in the long run than an insincere yes, which usually leads to a half-hearted referral.

Once someone has agreed to

refer you, it's your job to provide her with a substantial sense of how you might contribute to the company. Ask to buy your contact lunch to talk about your skills and experience as well as the culture of the firm and your working style. Approach it as you would a casual interview. Soon after your meeting, send a thank-you note. By expressing your appreciation before you know the outcome of the referral, you demonstrate sincere gratitude for the person's time and effort on your behalf. Make sure she understands that you know the referral is no

guarantee of an offer, or even an interview.

Once You're In

If you do get invited for an interview, don't assume that your referrer has provided extensive information about you. Instead, follow the interviewer's lead. If she asks about your history with the person, be honest. Don't exaggerate your relationship with the referrer or lean too hard on it. Now's the time to rely on your own skills and experience, not your connections.

A thoughtfully planned request for a referral can be one of your smartest career moves. But some of the strongest endorsements are the ones you don't ask for. That doesn't mean you should passively wait for one to come along. What it does mean is that you should focus on building up professional relationships, not just converting them into opportunities. So get out there and network in person, keep in touch with old colleagues, and let your friends know you're interested in a new position.

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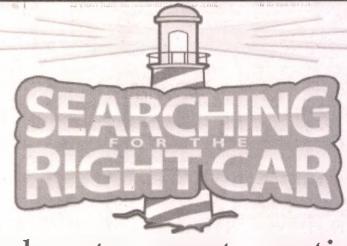
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slangily 49 Runner

Zatopek 50 Non-earthlings 51 Monster-

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8-11 © 2011 UFS, Dist. by Univ. Uclick for UFS

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34 Thailand neighbor 35 Boulevard divider

36 Speck 37 Finds a seat

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appetizer 42 Belgian river 43 Petty off. 44 Mosque official

45 Winged goddess 46 Great

merriment 48 Once named

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Word Search — Parkinson's Disease

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Body Brain Cells

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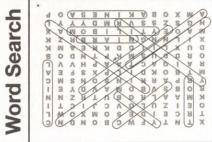
Mobility Movement Neuron

Parkinsons Rigidity **Tremor**

CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE

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CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE



VOLT GETS OFF THE MAT IN MARCH, PREPARES FOR LONG HAUL

Sales of Chevrolet Volt surged in March to a single-month record for General Motors' highprofile extended-range hybrid, as a handful of savvy Chevy dealers - including Serra Chevrolet in Flint -- became increasingly proficient at

peddling the



Dale Buss

And GM appears poised to add one more week to Volt output over the next few months than it had

scheduled. But Volt will remain on a bumpy

path for the foreseeable future. In fact, April is likely to bring a fall-back in sales of Volt at U.S. Chevy dealers from the onemonth-record level of 2,289

sales in March, Alan Batey, vice president of sales for Chevrolet, told me. But in a bit of a welcome turn of events, he said, the sales hiccup during this month will be more a reflection of a balky supply chain unable to keep up with demand for awhile, rather than a persistent lack of buyer enthusiasm.

'You'll see [Volt sales] moderate somewhat this month, and as the supply builds again, you'll see it take off again, Batey said. "It's difficult to gauge exactly, but if we were to hit that [2,289] number again in April, it'd be an unbelievable achievement based on how many are [available] in the market.'

Even after a sales dip in the wake of the government's crashfire investigation of Volt, and after GM's decision last month to suspend output until later this month, GM executives could see a spark of life in Volt's prospects.



A favorite feature of Volt owners is the IP gauge that helps them closely track fuel efficiency.

It was threatened but apparently not snuffed by the political controversy that has surrounded the car's strong connection to President Obama's green-energy initiatives.

Demand in March was beginning to build among dealers and consumers in California for a lower-emissions version of Volt that GM just started manufacturing, so that it could be eligible for singleoccupancy access in carpool lanes and up to \$1,500 in state

Other states also have been adding incentives for Volt purchase. Colorado, for example, recently announced that Volt customers would become eligible for a state tax credit of up to \$6,000 - on top of the federal tax credit ofq \$7,500.

Batey also credited a new suite of TV commercials for Volt that feature testimonials of actual Volt owners and help to

humanize, and demystify, the car's technology.

Meanwhile, a cadre of Chevrolet dealers around the country, and their salespeople, have emerged as effective advocates for a car that is difficult for many consumers to get their arms around. "We've got some really good dealers in the West" and elsewhere "who have gotten after selling Volt and have created momentum," Batey explained. "Some dealers have really become specialized in it and get passionate for it, and they become the places to go for people to buy Volt.'

What's more, overall Volt volumes are still low enough that these few among Chevy's 3,000 dealers can create a significant positive direction for relative sales even though most showrooms still treat Volt as an afterthought, a sideshow, or simply as a lure to get customers to look at gas-powered Chevrolet Cruze and Sonic small cars.

"March was stronger than we'd thought; we were thinking it'd be closer to 1,500 units," Batey said. "But we kept hearing all month that business was good and that it was real demand.'

Only 160 of the March sales total of 2,289 were fleet orders. Much has been made lately of how GM might be able to gild underlying Volt demand by playing around with the booking and reporting of fleet orders, but that certainly didn't appear to be the case in March.

In fact, Batey made the case that Volt may be at the beginning of a sustained, longterm retail groundswell that easily will support the resumption of production later this month. There have been reports in the last 24 hours that GM even plans to add a week of production back to its recently revised factory schedule for Volt, either this month or next to a planned July vacation shutdown.

For April, the supply of new Volts, particularly for the suddenly thirsty California market, won't be enough to sustain sales in the neighborhood of the Marchnumber, Batey said. But every month will bring the two sides of the equation more into sync.

"We're 150 percent behind this, and so are our dealers,' Batey said. "Right now it's not about pushing a particular number of vehicles but about getting supply and demand in balance."

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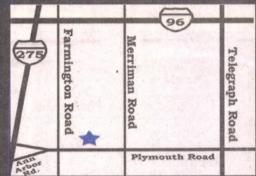


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