



SPORTS PREVIEWS SECTION B

### Food for fire

Plymouth officials are lauding staffers at one local restaurant for opening their grills to displaced residents and firefighters at last week's fire at Lake Pointe Village Apartments in Plymouth Township.

The Salvation Army called several eateries in town and were turned down until dialing the number at E.G. Nick's. When the call came, owner Tony Belli sent over hot pasta and salad.

The move impressed Tony Bruscato, operations director for the Plymouth Downtown Development Author-

ity.
"It's another example of how downtown steps up when called upon to help," Bruscato said.

### **Best weddings**

The Meeting House Grand Ballroom in Plymouth has been honored by being named a recipient of the 2013 Knot Best of Weddings award.

The award is bestowed each year by The Knot wedding magazine, which selects honorees by asking recent brides to rate and review their wedding vendors.

It's the second consecutive year the Meeting House has been voted the winner for the Knot Best of Weddings



patiently for the start of last year's Easter Egg hunt at Plymouth Township Park.

### Egg hunt

The Plymouth Lions Club again hosts its Easter Egg Hunt, starting at 10 a.m. Saturday, March 30, in Plymouth Township Park.

Organizers say parents should bring the kids, their baskets and cameras. The hunt will be divided into age groups 0-3, 4-6, 7-8 and 9-10. There will be a collection box available for hearing aids, eyeglasses and cell phones. Donations are welcome.

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# Chief: Apartment blaze started in a kitchen

**By Matt Jachman** Staff Writer

The fire March 21 that destroyed a building at the Lake Pointe Village Apartments started in an apartment kitchen, but fire officials haven't been able to determine an exact cause.

Chief Mark Wendel of the Plymouth Community Fire Department said the fire investigation was completed Friday and the building turned over to management at the complex.

"We do not think it's a suspi-

cious fire," Wendel said Monday. "We think it's an accidental fire at this point."

The kitchen in question was in a second-floor apartment, the chief said, but investigators couldn't pinpoint an exact location, such as a stove or other appliance, or an exact cause, because of the heavy damage.

No injuries were reported in the fire in the 16-unit building, which brought out the PCFD and firefighters from Livonia, Northville Township and the city of Northville's Plymouth

station. Wendel said there were a total of about 40 firefighters at the scene.

### **Many insured**

Displaced residents have been staying with relatives or at local motels. Wendel said his understanding is that 14 of the 16 families or individuals who had been living in the building had renters insurance.

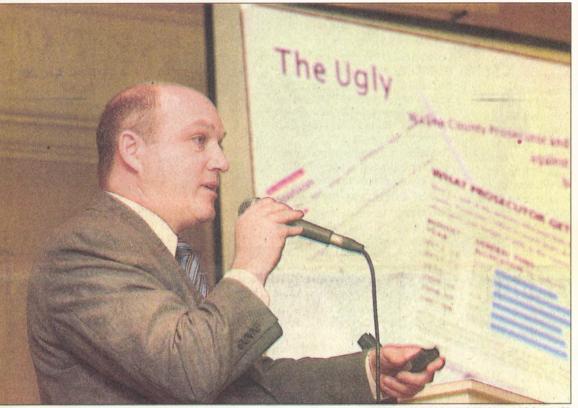
Local agencies, such as the Plymouth Corps of the Salvation

Please see FIRE, A3



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Plymouth Community Fire Department Chief Mark Wendel said this fire that ravaged the Lake Pointe Village Apartments on Wilcox started in a kitchen, but no cause is yet known.



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Wayne County Commissioner Shannon Price talks about how things are going at the county during Wednesday's State of the Community luncheon sponsored by the Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce.

# Plymouth-area leaders talk up future plans

**By Matt Jachman** Staff Writer

Investing in the future through schools, infrastructure and business development was a common theme Wednesday as Plymouth-area leaders spoke about recent accomplishments and projects starting to take shape.

The annual State of the Community remarks, hosted at Plymouth Manor by the Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce, took place during a luncheon for just over 110 peo-

Speakers from Plymouth, Plymouth Township and Wayne County government, plus the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools, emphasized near-term plans that they said bode well for the area's economy and its

County Commissioner Shan-



Plymouth Mayor Dan Dwyer talked about successes in the city during Wednesday's State of the Community luncheon.

non Price, R-Canton Township, kicked off the talks, saying that an "innovative and cool" company is close to agreeing to locate in Plymouth Township, bringing up to 100 jobs. Township Supervisor Richard Reaume and the county's economic development office have been working to land the company, Price said,

and an announcement is expected perhaps as early as next

'It's very innovative and cool - that's all I'm allowed to tell you," Price said.

### Shipping commerce

Price, who also mentioned the county's financial woes - including a budget deficit - said economic development is a "fun" part of his job. Price said he sees great potential in the Detroit/Wayne County Port Authority in developing commerce along the county's Detroit River access, and credited James Amar, his Democratic opponent in the commission race last fall, for bringing his

attention to it. Price also mentioned plans for a new \$400 million rail tunnel between Detroit and Wind-

Please see LEADERS, A3

# **District** leaders push bond3

**By Darrell Clem** Staff Writer

Mere days before Canton voters start receiving their absentee ballots by mail, Plymouth-Canton school officials are ramping up their efforts to win support for a \$114 million bond proposal for a new middle school, improvements to existing buildings, increased spending for classroom technology

and replacement of aging buses. Departing Superintendent Jeremy Hughes, who leaves his job June 30, and new school board Trustee Kim Crouch pitched the plan Tuesday evening during a Canton Township Board of Trustees session that will air on local cable television.

Hughes gave a 30-minute overview of how the 17,685-student school district would spend the money, while Crouch made a much shorter, direct appeal for community support for the May 7 ballot measure.

District officials are scheduled to make a similar presentation April 9 to the Plymouth Township Board of Trustees, Crouch said.

Hughes said the bond proposal would cost the owner of a \$200,000 home about \$410 a year, but he said taxpavers wouldn't feel the pinch because it simply replaces what would have been a decrease in Plymouth-Canton's debt levy.

"This will not increase the tax

Please see BOND, A2

"We see this as putting in their hands an electronic textbook."



**DR. JEREMY HUGHES** Plymouth-Canton Superintendent



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# School board OKs pact with new chief

By Brad Kadrich Staff Writer

The new superintendent for Plymouth-Canton Community Schools is signed, sealed and all but delivered.

The district's Board of Education Tuesday unanimously approved a resolution agreeing to a three-year deal for Michael Meissen, currently the supervisor of school improvement and student achievement for Milwaukee Public Schools in Milwaukee, Wis. (The vote was actually 6-0, with Trustee Mark Horvath absent).

Meissen, chosen over the district's executive director for finance, Brodie Killian, and the board agreed to a contract that pays Meissen \$212,000 a year, plus benefits. The agreement starts July 1 and runs through June 30, 2016.

Observer & Eccentric | Thursday, March 28, 2013

"I've spoken to Dr. Meissen, and he is very excited to get started," board President John Barrett said Tuesday.

Meissen will replace Jeremy Hughes, whose contract expires at the end of June. Hughes has served since taking the job on an interim basis in 2011.

While he doesn't officially start until July 1, Barrett said Meissen has agreed to come to the district for at least a couple of days per month until then to learn the district, meet staff and



Dr. Michael Meissen and the Plymouth-Canton Board of Education have reached agreement on Meissen's three-year contract to become superintendent of Plymouth-Canton Community Schools.

begin the transition process. Meissen was chosen over Killian largely because of the broader experience he's had

in public education. Prior to his current position, Meissen spent six years as the superintendent of the Glenbard Township High School District #87 in Glen Ellyn, Ill. That district has some 9,000 students and serves nine different municipalities.

He's also been a principal at the high school, middle school and grade school levels, as well as having experience as an athletic director.

Meissen and Killian were the only candidates brought back for a second interview. A third candidate, Adrian Public Schools Superintendent Christopher Timmis, withdrew after the first round of interviews.

Meissen earned his bache-

lor's degree in social welfare from the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater in 1981, got his master's in counseling and guidance from the University of Wisconsin in 1983 and earned his Ph.D. in educational administration in December

"I like the fact (Plymouth-Canton) is a district that has a demonstrated record of excellence and wants to continue to achieve greatness," Meissen said after his second interview. "I want to get into a district with a board that wants to continue working toward greatness. This is a really strong district."

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

### BOND

Continued from page A1

rate that people are currently paying for school bonds," Hughes said.

Central 'archaic'

Hughes touted the bond proposal as a way to pay for a new middle school, on Cherry Hill Road west of Canton, to replace aging Central Middle School, and he said the money would allow for new middle school computer labs and an expansion of the district's STEM — Science, Technology, Engineering and Math - academies.

Township Trustee Tom Yack, a former school board trustee, said Central Middle School is in dire need of replacing. "It's old," he said. "It's archaic."

Township Trustee Steven Sneideman, also a former school board member, said he has long hoped for a way to reduce teacher-pupil ratios in classrooms he indicated are too crowded.

"To do that," he said, "we need more classrooms."

Hughes said the bond proposal would boost classroom technology and the district's information technology infrastructure - partly by gradually buying computer devices for every student over the next five years.

Staying competitive "We see this as putting

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in their hands an electronic textbook," Hughes said.

Moreover, building improvements would be made across the district, plus the bond proposal would allow officials to ratchet up their efforts to replace an aging fleet of 130 buses. Middle schools would receive additions except for Discovery, which can accommodate improvements without

expanding the building. Hughes said state aid for schools has remained flat for the last four years. He called the bond proposal necessary to help the district remain competitive.

Crouch, meanwhile, made a short statement simply urging support for the bond proposal.

**Hughes and Crouch** addressed the township board on the same night the Plymouth-Canton school board approved a three-year contract for incoming Superintendent Michael Meissen, currently supervisor of school improvement and student achievement for Milwaukee Public Schools in Wisconsin.

Canton Township Trustee John Anthony said Tuesday he believes Hughes has shown strong leadership during his tenure as Plymouth-Canton superintendent. He commended Hughes for "a tremendous job."

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# Choirs score big at choral festival

The Plymouth-Canton **Educational Park Choirs** earned high marks for their performances at MSVMA District Choral Festival held at Northville High School March

Under the direction of Jennifer Kopp and Valerie Said, five choirs

- Allegro, Dulcissima, Chamber Choir, Madrigal Singers, and Festival Singers - all earned either an Excellent or Superior rating and have been invited to perform at State Choral Festival to be held April 25-26 at Holt High School.

All seven curricular

choirs at P-CEP attended the festival, sponsored by the Michigan School Vocal Music Association. Each choir prepared two contrasting pieces, which were then performed for a panel of three highly respected judges. In addition, each choir was required to complete an

adjudicated sight-reading exercise and a clinic with one of the judges.

The P-CEP Choirs will host a Festival Concert at 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 16, at Salem High School. Each choir will perform their festival music at this concert. Tickets are \$5 and are sold at the door.

"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.

### **BLOOD DRIVE**

Date/Time: Friday, March 29, 7-10:45 a.m., and 2:45-6:45 p.m.

Location: St. Thomas a'Becket Church, 555 S. Lilley in Canton

**Details:** The American Red Cross hosts a blood drive at St. Thomas a'Becket Church in Canton. Appointments can be made, and walk-ins are welcome.

Contact: To make an appointment, call Diane Risko at (313) 549-7052 or email Diane.Risko@redcross.org

### **MUSIC BOOSTERS ENSEMBLE**

Date/Time: Saturday, April 13, 9 a.m.

**Location:** Plymouth High School **Details:** The Plymouth-Canton Music Boosters will be holding their Annual Spring Arts & Crafts Ensemble with more than 100 unique exhibitors. In addition, there will be entertainment provided by student musicians, a raffle, door prizes, concessions and a bake sale. There is a \$2 admission

### **ROAD RALLY**

Date/Time: Saturday, April 27, checkin begins at 3:30 p.m.

Location: Check-in is at Smith

Elementary School, 1298 McKinley in

Details: Registration is now open for the annual Plymouth Newcomers and Neighbors Road Rally. Competing teams race around the city solving puzzles, performing activities, and enjoying an evening on the town. The rally ends at a final dinner party location. The ally begins at 4 p.m., and projected arrival time at final destination is 7:30 p.m. Early-bird registration ends April 1, but participants can still register (for \$25) until April 7.

Contact: Pete and Eileen Ganster at (734) 718–4589 or pganster@comcast.

DRESS SHOPPING

Date/Time: Saturday, April 13, 9 a.m.



### Barbershop buzz

The Impulse Barbershop Quartet will perform at the Plymouth Historical Museum on Friday, April 19 at 7 p.m. the quartet is made up of members from the Harmony Town Chorus of the Wayne Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society. Tenor Allen Holmes, lead Dave Peiffer, bass Frank Adams and baritone Charles Nalbandian make up the quartet that won first place in the Battle of the Barbershop Quartets in Belleville in 2012. Tickets to the show are \$10 in advance or \$15 at the door and can be purchased at the Museum or on the website at www.plymouthhistory.org/events/Impulse-Barbershop-Quartet\_ET711. html?SortBox=201304. Museum doors will open at 6 p.m., the show begins at 7 p.m. Come early to explore the Museum's special exhibit "Made in America," which runs through June 9. The exhibit pays homage to American ingenuity and industry through the centuries. For more information visit the website, or call (734) 455-8940.

to noon

**Location:** Plymouth High School Details: Shoppers can find the "perfect" formal dress, with many long and short dresses from which to choose. There will also be formal shoes and jewelry. Nothing priced higher than \$10. Donations of dresses, jewelry and shoes are accepted from 7 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. weekdays at Plymouth High School.

Contact: lisa.benages@pccsmail.net

### MOM 2 MOM

Date/Time: Saturday, May 4, 8:30 a.m. Location: St. Edith Church, 15089 Newburgh in Livonia

**Details:** St. Edith Church hosts its Mom-2-Mom Sale, with 74 tables of gently-used maternity, baby, and kids' items, a bake sale and refreshments.

Proceeds benefit St. Edith/St. Kenneth

Contact: www.stekmops.org or on Facebook at St. Edith/St. Kenneth Mom-to-Mom Sale

### **CRAFTERS WANTED**

Date/Time: Sept. 6-8, during Fall Festival hours

**Location:** Plymouth

Details: Organizers say it's not to early to send in an application for a booth in the Plymouth Fall Festival Craft Show. The spaces are limited and are filling up quickly. Applications are available on the Craft Show page at www.plymouthfallfestival.com.

**Contact:** For more information contact Colleen Brown craftshow@ plymouthfallfestival.com or (734) 455-

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# Veteran officer is township's newest lieutenant

By Matt Jachman Staff Writer

John Brothers has been waiting two years for his promotion, and his employer, the Plymouth Township Police Department, has been waiting even longer.

But the wait ended this week when Brothers, a 16-year veteran of the department, became its newest lieutenant, following the township Board of Trustees' approval Tuesday evening of the hiring of a third lieutenant. Brothers joins current Lts. Bob Antal and Cal Lauria.

"John's just an all-around great guy, and he'll do an outstanding job and bring value to that post," said his boss, Chief



Brothers, a sergeant for 10 years, has most recently been a day-shift patrol supervisor, and the chief said

Tom Tidering-

management is still discussing how duties will be split with the addition of a third lieutenant.

"I truly thought I was going to 'die on the vine," said Brothers of his promotion eligibility, which was set to expire Friday. "It's new, it's exciting, it's challenging.'

Brothers said he expects to remain a day-shift supervisor for the time being.

Tiderington told trustees Tuesday that he is trying to plan ahead with the addition of a third lieutenant. Retirements among command officers are expected down the road, he said, and the department needs to make a place for Sgt. Todd Siepenko when his three-year stint with the western Wayne County community response team, a unit of officers from several departments that targets dangerous felons, ends later this year. With Siepenko's return, the chief said, the vacancy left by Brothers at the rank of sergeant is not expected to be filled.

In addition, Tiderington said, the expiration Friday of the promotion eligibility list — the lists are good for two years - means the township would have to redo the testing procedure to create a new list for a future promotion, which could cost \$7,000 to \$10,000

"We'd probably end up with the exact same list," Tiderington said.

Brothers, who is married with two children, started with the force in January 1997 after a short stint with the police department in Clarkston. He said his colleagues keep him motivated, and that the 28-year-old department, given recent and expected retirements, is facing major changes.

"We've got a great group of guys — and gals. We're at a

point in the police department that is actually kind of exciting for me," Brothers said. "We're seeing a whole new department, if you will."

The third lieutenant's spot Brothers is taking was authorized by the township board seven years ago but never filled. The annual salary for a township police lieutenant is \$95,000.

The department, currently with 28 sworn officers, is also working to fill two vacancies at the patrol officer level. One vacancy was created with the recent retirement of Ed Gauthier, who had been an officer on the force for 25 years.

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



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Wednesday's State of the Community luncheon drew a sellout crowd to Plymouth Manor.

### **LEADERS**

Continued from page A1

sor, which he said could create 2,000 jobs and bring rail traffic that now crosses the border at Port Huron or Buffalo. That would be good for the township, he said, as much of its undeveloped land has rail access.

The current Detroit-Windsor tunnel can't accommodate doublestacked freight cars, Price said, while a new one would.

Price also announced planned infrastructure improvements closer to home including the refur bishing of restrooms at the county's Riverside and Cass Benton parks, the repaving of Sheldon Road between M-14 and Five Mile and repairs to the Plymouth Road bridge over Hines Drive.

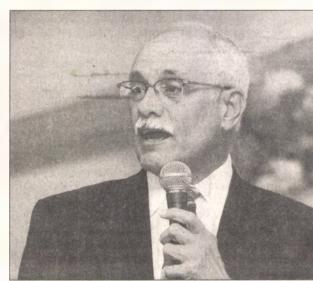
Schools' 'great year'

Jeremy Hughes, superintendent of the Plymouth-Canton schools, said it's been "a really great vear for our school district." Hughes touted the launch of two new programs — the Science, Engineering, Technology and Math (STEM) Academy, plus the International Baccalaureate program within the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park high school complex, plus the introduction of foreign languages at the fourthgrade level and the district being named one of only five advanced-placement honors districts in the state, as examples of forward progress.

Hughes spent a few minutes discussing the district's Tuesday, May 7, ballot proposal for \$114 million in bonds that would, among other things, pay for a new middle school, buy new technology and school buses and pay for facilities maintenance. The new school, designed to replace Central Middle School, would be at Cherry Hill and Canton Center roads. Taxes would not rise, Hughes said, as other debt is being retired.

Hughes illustrated the state funding disparity the district faces with a chart showing some of the better-financed districts, including Bloomfield Hills at more than \$11,800 per student, compared to his district's \$7,134 a student.

"We are at the point now where this dollar has been stretched as far as it can," he said.



Plymouth Township Supervisor Richard Reaume spoke to township issues during the luncheon.



Dr. Jeremy Hughes, Plymouth-Canton Community Schools superintendent, talked about details of the district's upcoming \$114 million bond campaign.

**Teamwork praised** 

Dan Dwyer, the Plymouth mayor, credited the city's employees and leadership, particularly City Manager Paul Sincock, with teamwork and cost-cutting he said helped Plymouth through a very tough time for

local municipalities. "People have a rough view of government these days," Dwyer said. "I am very proud of the fact that we hold ourselves to

a very high standard." Dwyer went over the city commission's goals for the year and indicated progress toward them is being made. He announced the cancellation of the purchase agreement between the city and a local church for its parking lot, and said negotiations with the church would start anew. Increasing the availability of downtown parking is one

of the commission's goals. "One day, before I leave the city commission, we're going to do something about expanding the stock of parking," he

said. Dwyer also mentioned plans to replace an office building on Plymouth Road, east of Mill, with an 80-unit apartment or condominium complex.

**Employer expansion** Reaume, the township

supervisor, spoke last, hurrying through his talk and humorously acknowledging the program had run long. He spoke of the expansions of several township companies, including Robert Bosch LLC, Superior Controls and Johnson Controls, and said two employers with a science and technology focus are showing interest in the township, Algal Scientific and Stanford Research Interna-

tional, a nonprofit. Reaume said the Sheldon Road repaving will begin in August so it won't interfere with the Concours d'Elegance of America, a show of classic and collectible vehicles hosted by the Inn at St. John's. The Concours, on the last weekend in July, will be marking its third year in the town-

"I begged them to start it (road work) after this year's event," Reaume

Amar, a township resident and retired arbitrator who is starting a consulting business, said he liked the program's focus on economic development and job creation.

"Very positive. I thought it was a great presentation," Amar said.

mjachman@hometownlife.com (313) 222-2405

# mom's hair cut 74 years ago A family treasure sat

Canton woman donates

on Caroline Van Gorder's dresser most of her life: An 18-inch lock of her mother's hair that was cut about 74 years ago.

Her mother, Francis Tench, cut the brown and auburn strands around 1939 when Van Gorder was about 10 years old.

"She saved it for me because I am the only daughter; she thought I may want to have it," said Van Gorder, 83, of Canton, adding that she still remembers the moment when her mother cut the hair and gave it to her. Her mother was born in 1898. "I've had it all these years, always wrapped it in tissue on my dresser."

Van Gorder was married for 50 years before her husband, John Donald, passed away in 2002 at age 72. With no children of her own to pass it



Caroline Van Gorder (left), 83, of Canton, donates her mother's hair that was cut about 74 years ago. Van Gorder stands with Trish Tyl, a licensed clinical cosmetologist with the Helen Palmer Image Recovery Center at St. Mary Mercy Hospital.

on to, Van Gorder decided to donate the family heirloom to a cause that would honor her mother's gift.

"I wanted to do something for children or adults who could use it," she said. "That was the

type of person my moth-

er was. If someone could

use something, she would help them."

Her St. Mary Mercy Hospital physician recommended to approach the Helen Palmer Image Recovery Center, a St. Mary Mercy service that specializes in image rehabilitation for cancer patients.

### **FIRE**

Continued from page A1

Army and the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, have been providing assistance and guidance to those displaced because of the fire, but donations from the public are not currently needed, said Laurie Aren, director of family and community ministries at the Plymouth Corps.

Aren said the Salvation Army will ask for donations if and when they are needed.

The fire was reported around 11 a.m. March 21, but Wendel said it had apparently been burning for some time.

"That fire was potentially burning for up to three hours" before it was reported, Wendel said at Tuesday's Plymouth Township Board of

Trustees meeting. Wendel said he was pleased with firefighters' response to the blaze, and with the mutual-aid cooperation. He said it was the largest residential fire

since the restructuring of the PCFD 13 months ago. That move included the layoffs of six firefighters and the closing of Station No. 2, which is near the apartment complex.

"I think the overall incident was handled extremely well," Wendel said. PCFD Lt. Scott Gross was the incident commander, he said.

**Teaching tool** 

Firefighters were at the scene for several hours. The Salvation Army's canteen truck provided drinks and nourishment, the nearby property management company Herriman and Associates ordered 15 pizzas for them and the downtown Plymouth restaurant E.G. Nick's brought in pasta and salad.

Township Supervisor Richard Reaume said fire officials, including in the departments that provided mutual aid, are using the incident as a tool to learn how better to respond to such fires.

Wendel said the building had no overall fire alarm

system, as they were not required at the time it was built, though there may have been individual smoke detectors. Wendel and township officials discussed the possibility of amending the township's fire code to require fire alarms in older apartment buildings.

**Tower fire** 

An earlier township fire, March 13 at the Tower Automotive plant on Plymouth Oaks Boulevard, was due to equip-

ment failure, Wendel said. **Insulating material** between the walls of a giant oven that workers use in a parts-coating process caught fire, and firefighters had to cut into the oven's outer layer in order to extinguish it.

No injuries were reported in that fire, which also involved mutual aid from neighboring depart-

Workers at the Tower plant produce frames for the Jeep Wrangler.

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# Changing course

### Rouge River has gone from open sewer to potential urban water trail

By Kurt Kuban Staff Columnist

f you mention the Rouge River to someone from the Detroit area, the thought might conjure up images of industry, which only makes sense considering the river had been for years synonymous with Ford Motor Company's River Rouge Complex. Affectionately known as The Rouge, the massive factory that became the



cranked instant mobility for the masses Kurt Kuban still casts quite a

world's

largest in

1928 as it

shadow above the lower reaches of our modest little river.

And the Ford factory is not alone. The area between the Ford complex and Zug Island where the Rouge River ultimately runs its course and empties into the Detroit River is an industrial landscape straight from a postapocalyptic, sci-fi movie. It is the very buckle of the Rust Belt — an area where the Rouge River famously caught fire in 1969. It is also the area where the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers paved much of the river channel in a misguided effort to curb flooding back in the 1970s.

Not surprisingly, many people equated the Rouge River with the pollution that despoiled it. That's what happens when a watershed is located in the cradle of the automo-



KURT KUBAN

thing else imaginable).

And sure enough, the

munities that have imple-

improved, including dis-

Fish and aquatic insects

er where they had disap-

Most of the 48 Rouge

joined together to form

of Rouge Communities

(www.allianceofrouge-

has allowed a pooling

of resources to heal the

watershed. For example,

in the city of Wayne, ARC

secured a federal grant

and led the effort last

fall to remove an obso-

lete dam dating back to

the 1930s. With the dam

ing salmon and steelhead, can now move up from

removed, fish, includ-

the Great Lakes all the

way to the headwaters

with greater success.

in Canton Township and

Washtenaw County where

they will be able to spawn

Many Rouge commu-

what a fantastic resource

nities are now realizing

they have in their own

backyards, and there

is an ongoing effort to

reconnect residents to

the river. This movement

is picking up momentum

as the water quality con-

In recent years, for

have hacked away at log-

jams to open up the Low-

er Branch of the Rouge

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solved oxygen levels.

It wasn't that long ago that canoeing on the Rouge River seemed like a pipe dream. However, a number of communities — including Canton Township and Wayne, along with Wayne County Parks — hopes to get a federal grant to designate the Lower Rouge River an urban water trail that would provide 25 miles of canoeing/kayaking, including through this section of Wayne.

bile industry and is home to 1.5 million people.

Observer & Eccentric | Thursday, March 28, 2013

And when you consider the stormwater and sanitary pollution that municipalities all over Wayne and Oakland counties flushed into the river every time there was a thunderstorm, you begin to see how the Rouge River ended up getting listed by the E.P.A. as a Great Lakes AOC - Area of Concern (www.epa.gov/ greatlakes/aoc/rougeriver/index.html). The reality is, for years, much of this urban river system was pretty much off limits to people.

That dubious history, however, shrouds some very positive news about the River Rouge in recent years. There has been a combined effort between the federal government, local municipalities and especially a small

army of dedicated volunteers who have fought for a generation to bring the river back from the brink. Beginning in the 1980s, millions of mostly federal but plenty of local dollars have been spent to curb pollution, especially the sanitary discharges that plagued the river for years (and still do in some places).

Just as encouraging, there has been a successful grassroots effort involved as well. Over the last 25 years, thousands of area residents have volunteered in the annual Rouge Rescue cleanup, led by the group Friends of the Rouge (www.therouge.org). Volunteers have removed a mountain of garbage — everything from cars and shopping carts to liquor bottles (and just about everyer miles. In addition to locals who do paddle the river on occasion, large group trips organized by Friends of the Rouge each fall have proven more and more popular. Last October, for example, a group of more than 50 people participated in the trip, which took them past the dam removal site for the first time. I recently sat in on a

ly in the city of Wayne -

home to a half dozen riv-

meeting with numerous Rouge River stakeholders who agreed to partner up and pursue an "urban waterway" designation for the Lower Branch, which begins in Washtenaw County and generally follows Michigan Avenue through Canton Township, Wayne, Westland, Inkster, and Dearborn before reaching the Detroit River. Despite the fact that there are a half million people living in these communities, the river flows through a wooded corridor that resembles northern Michigan in many places.

The shareholders in this effort - including Dearborn, Canton, Wayne, Wayne County and the Alliance of Rouge Communities - are collaborating to get a grant through the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Urban Waters program. They want to designate the Lower Branch from Canton Township all the way to the Detroit River as an 'Urban Water Trail'.

Riverside Kayak Connection and Heavner Canoe Rental are also on board with the effort. They are located on the opposite ends of the watershed Riverside Kayak Connection is located in Wyandotte near the Detroit River, and Heavner is actually based in Milford in the Huron River watershed (though they do rent canoes on Newburgh Lake in the Rouge watershed). The owners of both establishments see the urban waterway concept as a great way to promote "getting outdoors" but they also recognize the potential to capitalize on people reconnecting with the river. Paddling sports have always been very popular in Michigan. In a watershed of 1.5 million people, a few of them are bound to rent canoes or purchase

kayaks. This urban water trail is nearly 25 miles long, and would allow paddlers a day long journey from Canton to the Detroit River — through sections of peaceful woodlands and past historic structures like Henry Ford's incredible Fairlane Estate, the River Rouge Complex and even Zug Island. Once out in the Detroit River, people will be able to paddle in the shadows of passing freighters plying the waters of the Great Lakes.

online at hometownlife.com

Much work needs to be done to make this possible. The communities need to establish canoe launches along the route, not to mention bathroom facilities and parking. The stakeholders hope to get the grant to do this work. The fact that much of the land is already park land and in public hands makes these tasks much easier.

The biggest struggle will be to open up the logiams along the route - and keep them open. Friends of the Rouge led an expedition on this route two years ago, which I happened to be part of, and we encountered nearly 200 logjams of various sizes. It will take many volunteer hours, and hopefully some work by municipal crews to open up the entire route. With more and more people taking an interest in the Rouge, however, this is

certainly possible. The bottom line is canoeing on the Rouge River is no longer a pipe dream. I recently read an article published in the Detroit Free Press back in 1985 that all but declared the Rouge a dead river. Well, to steal a quote the great Mark Twain, the reports of the Rouge's demise were greatly exaggerated. Yes, people were responsible for nearly killing the river, but they are now leading the charge in its renaissance.

Changing perceptions isn't always easy - especially when you are talking about the Rouge River. But once people start seeing kayaks and canoes moving through their communities, chances are they won't be thinking about all that industry downstream.

Kurt Kuban is community editor of the Northville Record and also covers environmental issues for O&E Media. He welcomes vour feedback at kkuban@ hometownlife.com.

# ATTENTION BOYS, GIRLS,

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A GANNETT COMPANY

### **Proposed Rouge River Water Trail** Dearborn Garden City Westland Canton Twp Inkster Wayne Detroit Rive Lower Branch Rouge River Van Buren

### Dog Scout troop donates canine masks

Julie Benson heard the statistics: Every year approximately 4,000 humans die in house fires and 40,000 family pets are killed, the leading cause of death from fire being asphyxiation.

When Benson, the leader to a local Dog Scout troop, heard this, she knew she wanted to do something with her troop members to take action and help save as many animals as possi-

So, with the help of troop 217 members Melissa Perez of Wayne, Michelle Neu of Taylor and Vickie Lomas

of Walled Lake, Benson

helped collect more than

\$500 in returnable cans and bottles in order to purchase six full canine oxygen mask kits.

"Pets are members of our families, they aren't just pets to the people of my Dog Scouts of America troop," said Benson, a Novi resident who leads Troop 217. "What better way to serve the community than to help pets, throughout the metro Detroit area, that may not have a chance of surviving without the aid of

these masks.' The kits (which contain a large, medium, and small mask) will be distributed to Huron Valley Ambulance, who in turn

will issue to EMS and

local fire houses in Oakland, Wayne and Washtenaw counties.

Benson and fellow troop members will present the canine oxygen mask kits to Eric Fields 10 a.m. Saturday, April 6, at HVA's Plymouth station, located at 1270 Goldsmith in Plymouth.

Dog Scouts of America is a non-profit organization that promotes positive reinforcement training and responsible pet ownership. For more information on Dog Scouts of America visit www.dogscouts.org. Anyone interested in joining the local troop can contact Benson at bensonjulie@earthlink.net.

# PUBLIC SAFETY

# Suspects face trial in crime spree

**By Darrell Clem** Staff Writer

Two Detroit men are facing trial on charges arising from a suburban crime spree that authorities say included an armed robbery inside a Canton Family Dollar store and conspiracy to rob a Westland Cash Advance store.

Eric Anthony Reed, 21, and Raymond Maurice Whatley, 19, could face penalties ranging up to life in prison if they are convicted of a robbery-related spree that police say began Jan. 29 in Taylor and ended when Westland Police captured the suspects Feb. 16.

According to Wayne County Circuit Court documents, Reed and Whatley are charged

with armed robberies in Canton, Taylor and Allen Park and conspiracy to commit another offense in Westland. The two men are jailed with cash bonds totaling over \$500,000.

Reed and Whatley are facing trial after they voluntarily waived their preliminary examinations last Friday in Plymouth 35th District Court, which handled charges from the four communities.

Reed faces trial for additional counts of felony firearm and second-degree criminal sexual conduct out of Canton. Detective Sgt. Dave Schreiner said Reed was accused of fondling a female employee during a robbery that occurred just before 9 p.m. Feb. 6 inside the Family Dollar store on Joy Road near I-275.





"There was inappropriate contact between the suspect and a female in the store," Schreiner said.

Reed and Whatley are accused of seizing cell phones from Family Dollar workers and taking money from the store, Schreiner said.

Westland Police arrested the defendants Feb. 16 after two men arrived outside the Cash Advance store at 208 S. Mer-

**CANTON CRIME WATCH** 

riman. The men had arrived before the store opened, police said, and a male employee refused to open the door for two men described as wearing

'The men left. The teller knew there had been robberies of cash stores, so he decided to go the Chase Bank branch to make a deposit," Westland Police Sgt. Randy Thivierge has said. "While he was at the bank, he saw the suspects' vehicle at a Burger King drivethrough."

The employee got a license plate number and called police as the suspects returned to the business. He again refused to let the suspects in with their hoods up.

Westland Police said the

license plate didn't belong to the car driven by the suspects, who were stopped by police. "The driver didn't have a license and a gun was found in the car," Thivierge said.

Once police had the pair in custody, they were identified as suspects in the Canton robbery.

"One of our dispatchers remembered an article in the Observer from Canton (about an armed robbery)," Westland Police Sgt. Dan Serrano said. "We printed out the photos. One of the suspects was wearing the same clothes he was arrested in."

Staff Writer LeAnne Rogers contributed to this story.

dclem@hometownlife.com I (313) 222-2238 Twitter: @CantonObserver

**Brazen thief** A Canton man said he was astounded when he looked out a window of his home and saw a well-dressed woman stealing a 40-pound lawn jockey from his property on Cherry Hill Road between Beck and Denton.

"It just astonished me," he told the Observer on Tuesday.

The victim said the incident happened on a recent March evening. He said he saw the woman, about 35 years old, pick up the lawn jockey and stagger back to a car and drive off. He said he was even more shocked when he learned she had taken a cast aluminum horse head that had been mounted on a metal post on his deck.

He said the woman drove off in a small black sedan. He said he contacted the Observer so other residents could be on the alert.

### **Gun threats**

A Canton High School resource officer notified police after a female student made what appeared to be threatening remarks about a gun, a police report said.

The incident happened Monday afternoon. During a group discussion about the stresses of high school life, the 17year-old student reportedly said "I wish I could kill them" and indicated she wished she knew where her father kept

his gun, the report said. She was referred to a school resource officer, began crying and said she didn't mean what she had said. Her father was contacted to make sure he properly locks any guns away that he has.

The father indicated that his daughter has been bullied at school and on social media, the police report said.

### **Disgruntled worker**

An employee of a Canton company on Haggerty south of Michigan Avenue contacted police after a fired employee made what was perceived as threatening remarks Saturday afternoon, a police report said.

The 26-year-old worker had earlier argued with other employees in what

led to a scuffle, a police report said. The employee was fired, but before he left he threatened to return with others, the report said.

There was no indication he actually

### Phone scam

A man went to the Canton Police Station last Thursday evening to report he had received a Verizon bill in the mail for activation of five new phones he never bought. He said the bill was

The man contacted the company and was told someone had called in, provided his personal information and opened an account. He told police he cancelled the account and phone numbers, but he wanted to file a formal police report.

### **Identity theft**

A 67-year-old woman who lives on Cavalier, southeast of Saltz and Sheldon, contacted Canton Police last Thursday to report she had been the victim of an apparent identity theft.

She told police that she had received notification from the Internal Revenue Service on two occasions in February that her Social Security number had been used to file a 2012 tax return. The woman hadn't yet filed her taxes.

She notified the IRS, credit report-

ing agencies, banks the Social Security Administration and credit card companies of the incident, along with police.

### Copper stolen

A home on Hartford, northeast of Ford and Lilley roads, was stripped of copper piping after an intruder cut water lines in the basement sometime prior to March 19, a police report said.

A realty company in charge of the home told police the house had been shown because it is on the market. It is believed that a sliding glass door was

The police report indicated 40 feet of copper pipe was stolen.

### Car missing

A 21-year-old resident of Stoneybrooke Park Apartments, southwest of Joy Road and I-275, told police he noticed his black Chrysler 200 was missing from the parking lot Friday night.

He told police he was behind on his payments, but Canton Police had not received any notification that any employee of a company was going to the site to repossess the vehicle, leaving the owner to question if the car had been stolen.

— By Darrell Clem

### PLYMOUTH CRIME WATCH

### **Suspicious substance**

Employees at Comcast, the cable television and communications company with a regional office on Concept Drive in Plymouth Township, reported receiving a suspicious powdery substance in the mail on March 20.

No injuries were reported, and a Plymouth Township Police Department report said the blue material looked like glitter

It had been received through the mail earlier that day, a Comcast security official told police, in an envelope that also contained a blank sheet of paper. There were a name and an East Lansing address on the envelope, but Comcast could not match the name or the address to a customer.

Police could not find a match in their records between the name and the address given, the report said.

Local hazardous waste officials, through the Plymouth Community Fire Department, advised employees who

had contact with the substance to throw it away and wash their hands.

Comcast reported receiving a threat, on average, every two weeks.

### Fraud thwarted

A township woman reported that a credit card of hers had been compromised recently, but that no charges had been made on it. The card was canceled and the woman advised to check her credit report.

The woman told police March 19 that she had received a call from the fraud division at her bank, saying someone with access to the card number, her birthdate and other personal information had inquired about activating it to make purchases during an overseas trip. The bank had apparently flagged the call as suspicious.

The woman filed the police report for followup by the bank's investigative division.

— By Matt Jachman

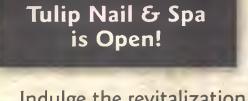


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# Egg hunters' delight!

Observer & Eccentric | Thursday, March 28, 2013

Mother Nature cooperated, and hundreds of youngsters from around the area took advantage Saturday as Canton Township hosted its annual Easter Eggstravaganza in and around Heritage

Kids ages 11 and younger got a chance to meet, and have their pictures taken with, the Easter Bunny, and to hunt for eggs around spacious Heritage Park.

There were animals to pet, and crafts to build and entertainment in the gym at the Summit on the Park, as well as the always-popular egg hunts.



Eager youngsters wait to get the word for the Easter egg hunt attended by hundreds of kids at Heritage Park in Canton.



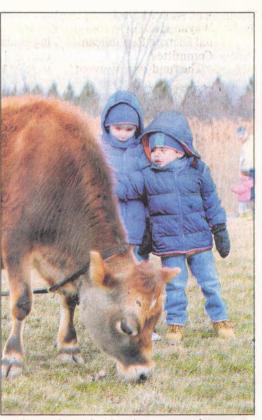
Savanahh Chapman, 7, of Wixom feeds Snoopy, an 8-week-old Nigerian Dwarf Goat at the Eggstravaganza held in Canton.



Harrison Qian, a 4-year-old from Canton, keeps his eyes peeled for Easter eggs that are scattered in the playscape



Mickey, Isabella, Lilah and Logan Mohacst of Livonia enjoy a visit with the Easter Bunny at this year's Easter Eggstravaganza.



Brothers Jake and Gabe Christensen of Canton pet one of the many animals on hand at this years Easter Eggstravaganza held in Canton's

### Hiller's adds new mobility carts to help disabled patrons

that.

cart.com.

By Julie Brown Staff Writer

Heather Piszar of Northville Township used to have a tough time shopping with her 10year-old daughter, Sarah, who has Mowat-Wilson syndrome, which creates mobility limitations. Whenever Heather would go shopping, she would have to push the grocery cart and, at the same time, pull Sarah in her adaptive stroller, which was difficult.

Thanks to Piszar's hard work and the kindness of Hiller's Markets, that's no longer true. Hiller's recently purchased one of the carts for disabled loved ones of customers for each of its seven Michigan stores, making it much easier for Piszar and Sarah, who attends Cooke School in Northville. Hiller's has a Plymouth-area store at 5 Mile



Hiller's Vice President Justin Hiller has made sure that all of his stores have one of the "Caroline's Carts" that patron Heather Piszar utilizes for her daughter Sarah, 10, who has problems riding in a typical grocery cart. The cart, with an attached seat, is capable of safely welcoming a person with disabilities — with its swing-out handles.

and Haggerty.

"It's Hiller's Market that has really taken the initiative. No one made them do this. I was just so impressed by them," said

Heather Piszar. "Hiller's stepped right up and

said 'We want them in our store." Justin Hiller, Hiller's

vice president, said the

per cart, about twice

"I saw an advertisement in a trade magazine," said Hiller. "I think the majority of people just don't think how difficult it is" to shop with a

move was a no-brainer.

"It's just all about the customers," he said. His

dad and grandfather in

the business taught him

The cart was designed

Ann Long, who got a man-

by Alabama mom Drew

instrumental in market-

ing it via www.carolines-

ufacturer and is now

disabled person. Caroline's Carts can

accommodate an adult up to 250 pounds, said Piszar, who is married to Sandor. They have four children.

Hiller said he paid \$850

cart costs. The retail-

er takes on maintenance

responsibility. The cart

has a foot-operated brake.

what a regular grocery

ah. "I'm not the only parent in the community who could benefit from this."

The Caroline's Cart has a harness. Its handles swing open to allow the disabled person to sit facing the shopper, which Piszar said is helpful for

"It's just starting to get

traction now," he said of

the local effort. "It's been

a very positive response.

take advantage of them."

Piszar, who worked for

about a year and a half

on the effort and also

approached other grocers. Her daughter was

diagnosed at age 4 with

the fairly rare disorder,

loves to get outside and

play," Piszar said of Sar-

"She is mobile and she

which causes seizures.

He's heard thanks from

I think there are still

those individuals who

her daughter to be able to see her.

"So that's another

advantage of the cart. I'm just so impressed with this mom designing this," Piszar added.

"I can't tell you how convenient it will be. It's a real blessing, absolutely." Hiller's said to her, "We're going to lead by example. I'm just really touched and impressed

by that statement." The Hiller family bought the Caroline's Carts as part of their philosophy of doing business. Justin Hiller said it wasn't difficult to buy the carts over the phone and have them delivered.

"It's equally important we do good as individuals," the third-generation owner said. "That's what we're trying to do. This is just more about helping our fellow man. We try to help the community as much as we can."

icbrown@hometownlife.com

# World events can't help but influence U.S. markets

By Rick Bloom Guest Columnist

t seems lately that things have been pretty good. Unemployment has dropped, spending has been on the rise and the market keeps moving forward. Then all of a sudden, we hear about a bailout of the Cyprus economy and once again fears about Europe start causing problems in our markets.

Many may be questioning why what happens in Cyprus affects U.S. markets. After all, Cyprus is a very small economy and the bailout was only \$12 billion. Don't get me wrong, \$12 billion is a lot of money, but not when you consider the bailouts of other countries and the bailouts here including that of the auto industry.

The question is why the proposed Cyprus bailout caused a problem. The answer is two-fold.

We no longer live in an American economy; we live in a world economy. What happens in other markets, other economies, affects the United States. Economies around the world are interconnected, so defaults in one part of the world can have a domino effect.

Closer to home, think about how the world economy affects Ford or GM or even a company like Domino's pizza that



Money Matters

Rick Bloom

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That is
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quences spread throughout the world. I also believe that the market's reaction to the Cyprus bailout has to do with the terms of the bailout.

**Taxation uproar** 

One of the terms dealt with the taxation of accounts in Cyprus banks. The tax — as high as 10 percent — was to be levied on all bank accounts, no matter the size. The proposal caused an uproar in Cyprus and around the world, particularly in other European countries. If they can tax bank accounts in Cyprus, what was preventing them from taxing bank accounts in other European nations that may require bailouts? After all, one of the reasons for the bailout is to promote confidence in the financial system. If you start having special taxes on bank accounts, the opposite will happen. People won't have confidence in the banking system and will rush to banks to liquidate their accounts.

To me, this was an obvious reaction and shouldn't have surprised anyone. However, the European regulators were taken aback by the reaction. The head scratcher to me is how they could be surprised at the outrage. However, I'm not sure if anyone believes that. The reaction of investors throughout the European union was they also doubted the proposal.

It would be nice to go back to the old days, when foreign markets had little if any effect on ours. That's a pipedream. The reality is we live in a world economy and everything is interrelated. What happens around the world has a direct impact on our markets and our economy. That is why for years I've been encouraging investors to diversify portfolios to make sure they include international investments, including a portion in emerging markets.

What happens in the far corners of the world has a ripple effect that affects all of us.

Good luck!

**Rick Bloom** is a fee-only financial adviser. His website is www.bloomassetmanagement.com. If you would like Rick to respond to your questions, please email Rick at rick@bloomassetmanagement.com.

# Gov. Nikki Haley to speak at Wayne 11th Republican Dinner

of 10. (Deadline for tick-

ets is April 19). Tick-

South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley will be the featured speaker April 25 at the annual Lincoln Reagan Dinner held by the Wayne 11th Congressional District Republican

Committee.
The fund-raising event

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precinct delegates, as

well as to hear first-hand

the Republican message.

at Laurel Manor, 39000

nia, and is open to the

general public. Doors

open at 5:30 p.m. for a

Private VIP Photo Recep-

tion with the governor; a

social gathering time for

general attendees is at 6 p.m., and the dinner pro-

gram begins at 6:30 p.m.

son or \$700 for a table

Tickets are \$75 per per-

The dinner will be held

Schoolcraft Road, in Livo-

Haley

ets for the VIP Photo Reception are \$150 per person. Inquiries can be handled by emailing chair@wayne11th. com and checking www. wayne11th.com. The goal of the Wayne 11th Congressional District Republican Com-

11th Congressional District Republican Committee is to deliver the Republican message through outreach and grassroots efforts. "We can't only rely on party loyalists for our support," said Paul Cusick, chairman of the Wayne 11th CDRC. "We need to bring our message to the average citizen and enlist their support for our efforts to bring common-sense leadership to this country. This dinner helps us raise the resources needed to get our message out to the general public, especially our vounger voters."

One of the strongest fiscal conservatives in state government, Haley was first elected to represent the 87th District in Lexington County in 2004, as a virtual unknown. In 2008, Rep. Haley was sent back to the State House with 83 percent of the vote – the highest percentage earned by any lawmaker facing a contested South Carolina election that year. She was elected as governor on Nov. 2, 2010.

on Nov. 2, 2010.

Her time in government has been marked by conservative leadership and an unwavering commitment to the taxpayers' bottom line. She has fought wasteful spending at every turn, pushed for smaller, more efficient government, and led the fight for accountability and transparency that, before her arrival, was sorely lacking in the Legislature.

The Wayne 11th Congressional District
Republican Committee
covers the communities
of Canton Township, Livonia, Northville, Northville Township, Plymouth
and Plymouth Township.
Their focus is primarily
on state and local election
efforts.

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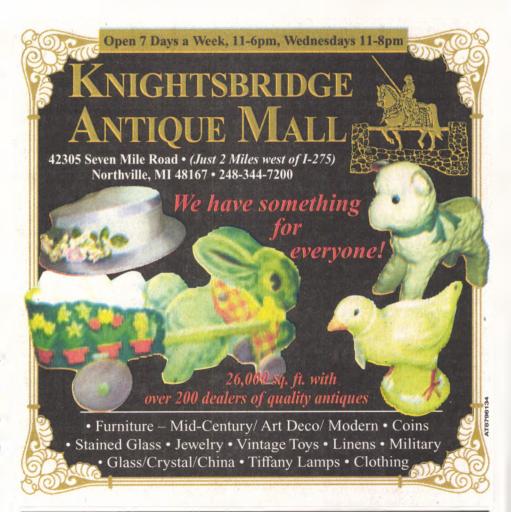
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NPA125653-0009



### Tips for small businesses about using social media

**By Jon Gunnells Guest Columnist** 

'olunteers, marketing managers and small-business owners are always asking me how to find important data about their Facebook fans or simply how to use social networks to drive

With so many social networks and large volumes of data, uncovering insights about your company or organization's fans may seem daunting, but it is actually easier than you think.

1. Find Where Your Targets Are - With more than a billion users, it is safe to assume your key demographic is on Facebook. The problem is, your key demographics may not use Facebook to get information about what you're selling. This is especially true if you are, say, a business-to-business wholesaler of widgets to regional retailers. Find where your target is whether on major networks like Twitter or niche message boards and blogs and work from there.

2. Don't Focus on Fan Counts - The most common mistake brands small and large make is putting too much importance on fans and followers. Large communities are great, but if those fans aren't engaging with your brand, they aren't helping your bottom line. Make it a priority to increase interaction among a core group of followers. It will build lovalty for your brand or product and prove more important, even if your



Tech Savvy

Jon Gunnells

few more likes. 3. Start Small With Metrics - We are in an age of big data and social media

competi-

tor has a

data is something even professionals can get lost in. When looking at You-Tube insights, Facebook insights or measuring conversation volumes, pick a few key numbers to look at. My favorites are impressions, reach and engagement metrics such as comments, video views, or replies. After understanding these key metrics, expand using common sense. Do you need to understand day-to-day increases in video views? Probably not. But it might make sense to look at month-to-month increases in Facebook likes, or the best time to post content.

4. Have A Plan - This might be the most important tip for any small business or non-profit on the social web. If you don't have a set posting schedule or time to engage with your key demographics on message boards or blogs just stop. With social media you are either in or out - there is no halfway. A Twitter account or Facebook page with no new content is like a website with outdated contact information.

5. Use Resources Wisely – There's a reason big companies don't have marketing managers and CEOs running their social pres-

**HOME INSURANCE WITH THE RIGHT** 

LOCATION, LOCATION,

LOCATION.

ence: Social is time-consuming. Small companies may not have the luxury of dedicated social staff and if that's the case, do vour research on Google. Instead of spending a day's time to find the best time to post for your brand, look for research or white papers on Facebook's peak activity time, or key information on your industry.

6. Don't Overwhelm Fans - When considering what and when to post content remember not to overload fans with information they don't need. If you post too much, fans will hide your content making your fan count even less important. Additionally, you can look into Facebook's post level data (by clicking and exporting insights) to see if any specific content has driven fans to unlike or unsubscribe for your page.

7. Have Fun - Social media is a two-way street. Followers and potential followers want to have fun, not listen to constant sales pitches. Try applying the 80-20 rule when posting content. Eighty percent should be topical, conversational, helpful and of added value. The other 20 percent can be what I refer to as "shameless self promotion."

While these tips won't make your brand the next Red Bull or Taco Bell, they will make your social presence more effective and efficient.

Jon Gunnells is a freelance writer and social media planner. Comments or suggestions for future columns? Email Jonathan.Gunnells@



PHOTOS COURTESY PLYMOUTH COMMUNITY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Divas turned out in droves for the chamber's annual Diva Day promotion Saturday. Chamber executive director Wes Graff called the event "a huge success" for local businesses.

# Divas out in force for annual event

By Julie Brown Staff Writer

Jaya Wilson of Canton did some serious shopping during Saturday's Diva Day in downtown Plymouth.

"It's nice," Wilson said, pausing at Basket Kreations on Forest. "Everyone's been so friendly, and the good deals you get.'

Wilson, who also liked the snacks, was shopping for herself, as well as for Easter baskets and birthdays. "Just great stuff," she said. "Even for your puppies. I have two, grandpuppies, I should

The March 23 daylong event, offered by the Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce, featured hot pink feather boas for the first 500 women. "I like to see all the boas," said Wilson, who got one. it fun."

Nearby at Gigi's Mode on Ann Arbor Trail, owner Beverly Whitby was also pleased. "It's been great," Whitby said of Diva Day. "We had the Divas out as soon as we opened the door."

Chamber executive director Wes Graff was pleased with the turnout.

"The day was a huge success for the local businesses," Graff said. "Attendance was muchimproved this year."

The chamber event was later last year, and



Divas of all ages took advantage of the annual Diva Day event.

Whitby liked having it before Easter this year. "These are great," she said. "They always carry us through. The chamber's awesome. Even though it's a little chilly, they (shoppers) still come

Her business has been there nine years. "They're in a buying Divas, who wanted spring color for their wardrobes. "They're ready to have spring hit."

Staffer Chanelle Boucher was busy Saturday at Creatopia on Ann Arbor Trail, where many customers were painting pottery and socializing. "It's been crazy," said Boucher, who's pursuing her master's degree through Bennington College in Vermont. "Feather boas are everywhere."

Creatopia had a 14-person birthday party Saturday, followed by a 12-

person birthday party that day. "We've been packed all day," Boucher said. "Everyone's having a really good time, especially because it's sunny out."

Canton resident Stella Delap owns Basket Kreations and is a fan of Diva Day.

"It's been going really well," Delap said. "It's been wonderful to see all the ladies out and having fun. It's been a great turnout. People can take their time and get to all the

Delap also found women in a shopping mood, including for themselves. "They really help business," she said of such events. "They're expecting to have a good time. It's just so nice to see."

Staffers were tired but happy at TranquiliTea on Ann Arbor Trail. "We are pooped," said owner Colleen Cannon, a Livo nia resident. "At least I'm pooped. Feathers are everywhere."

Chocolate Charmer was a big seller on Diva Day, featuring crushed malted milk balls and tea. The staff also had "Shades of Grey," a play on the books featuring more exotic Earl Grey blends which sold well, too.

"We've been doing fabulous," Cannon said between customers. "It's a really good event.'

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Cheerleading champs

Rage, the junior level 4 team from Plymouth-based Premier Athletics Michigan Extreme traveled recently to the COA Midwest National Championships in Columbus, Ohio, and came home with the best trophies.

### **BUSINESS BRIEFS**

### **New teammate**

Bank of Ann Arbor officials announced Robert Rose has joined its team as Vice President and Senior Loan Officer, serving existing and new business clients out of its Plymouth office.

Rose has more than 28 years of banking experience in providing needs-based busi-



ness banking solutions to businesses and their owners in Wayne, Oakland, Macomb and Livingston counties. He was most recently with

> Citizen's Bank. "(Rose's) focus on customer service and his desire to provide a closer connection for the client with the decision maker in a highly successful and

growth oriented community bank format has brought him to Bank of Ann Arbor," said Tim Marshall, President & CEO, Bank of Ann Arbor. "We are absolutely delighted he's joined the high-performing banking team at our Plymouth office."

Rose holds a bachelor's degree from Albion College. He serves the community through his involvement with the Triumph Home Health Care, Automation Alley, Livonia Chamber, United Way and CYO Coach. Rose and his family live in the Plymouth community.

Rage finished first in its division and was named the Level 4 grand champion. The team finished in the top 10 of 182 competing teams.

Athletes competing for coaches Rachelle Frusti and Kevin Enna included Sarah Bowler, Bethany Caswell, Maddie DeGroff, Caitlin Farrand, Olivia Ferrantino, Gabrielle Georgeson, Olivia Georgeson, Julia Marshall, Megan Matatall, Anna Molnar, Christina Molnar, Payton Olson, Amanda Owsley, Shaylah Pate, Morgan Rosen, Mourgain Shepard, Alexis Smith, Dakota Steffey, Cassidy Tear, Sam Tear and Clare Zgoda.

### Marywood seeks public input

Marywood Nursing Care Center in Livonia has once again been recognized by U.S. News & World Report as one of Michigan's best nursing homes for 2013.

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) continues to rate Marywood a 5-Star facility.

In the rapidly changing landscape of health care today, Marywood is now examining how it can best respond in order to continue offering 5-Star quality care. Guided by its board of directors an effort is under way to solicit ideas, concerns and opinions from various Marywood stakeholders, including the local Livonia community and others living in Southeast Michigan. The input will assist the board in identifying strategic pathways for the next several years.

A brief on-line survey can easily be found on Marywood Nursing Care Center's website: www.marywoodnursingcarecenter.org, just look for the Survey

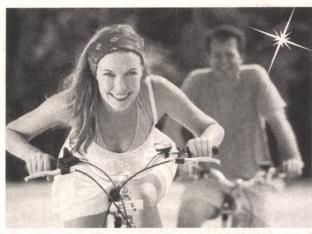
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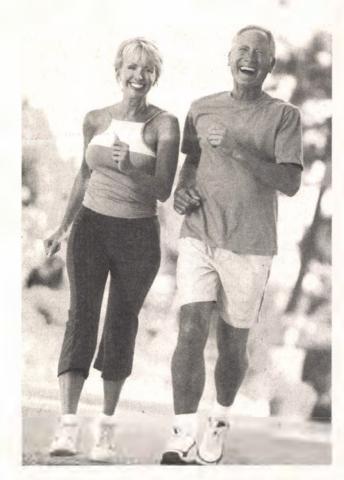
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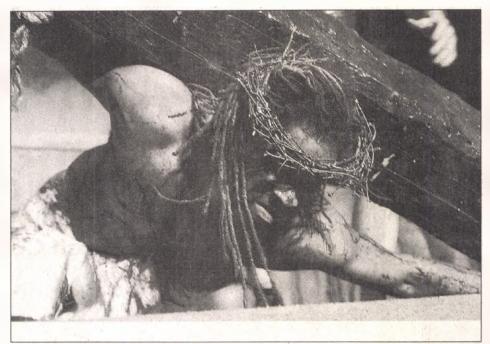
# Rich traditions mark Easter and Passover

The rich traditions of faith and family come together this week with special significance as Christians and Jews around the world celebrate Easter and Passover. They are celebrations filled with the foundation stories that are recounted ritually each year.

For Christians, Easter is about the redemption of people through the sacrifice of Christ and the eternal life given to those who believe in him. Holy Week retells and commemorates Christ's last days on Earth and his resurrection on

Easter Sunday.

For Jews, Passover recounts the remembrance of deliverance and redemption from 400 years of slavery in Egypt and the exodus to the Promised Land. It lasts for eight days and commemorates the sparing of Hebrew families when God punished Egypt by killing the firstborn in every family.



Easter is a celebration of are thousands of years old, but resurrection and redemption. their messages transcend time. Passover celebrates deliver- Even today people from Libya, ance and liberation. The stories Afghanistan and Somalia seek faith offers.

to be saved and to be delivered from oppression.

What would we say or what would do if these two historic events took place today? What would we post on Facebook about them?

Would we like, would we comment, would we share? What would we tweet? Who would get our Instagram?

In this day of being connected 24/7, it is not technology but the words of people we don't know, from a different time and a different place who continue to offer us hope of freedom, renewal, redemption and resurrection.

It is our faith that guides us, and it is that faith that is being renewed this week.

Whether you worship Easter Sunday at a church or are concluding Passover with your family at home, know that those around you are also sharing in the hope and the renewal that

**GUEST COLUMN** 

### Arts play key role in state's economic future

By Jennifer Goulet **Guest Columnist** 

ollaborate. Create. Connect. These themes set the stage at the Governor's Economic Summit in mid-March that strategically engaged business, education and emerging leaders to define approaches aligning Michigan's rich talent supply with the workforce needs of Michigan's employers. As Michigan continues on a strategic pathway of reinvention, we have important decisions to make.

How can we maximize our state's assets in innova-



tion and creativity to equip emerging talent to possess the skills needed by employers today and into the future? What must we do to ensure talent is attracted to live and work in Michigan communities, finding both meaningful career opportunities and a vibrant quality of life?

Studies abound documenting the critical role the arts play in educating our children: not only through arts pro grams like music, theater or dance but

also by incorporating the arts throughout academic curriculum. With inclusion of the arts in education, students gain valuable skills in creative and innovative problem-solving; critical thinking and reasoning; teamwork; and communication. Results for increased academic achievement overall, and especially in subjects like science, math, engineering and technology, a mastery of which is in high demand, have been a proven benefit of integrated arts.

Many of these skills were directly detailed as "projected demand" skills by 2018 at the Governor's Economic Summit. The arts prepare our students to gain these top-ranked skills employers need and ensure a talented workforce for our future. We must engage all

of our assets to prepare our students. And yet, there's much work ahead to guarantee

Michigan's students have access to the arts in their schools and educational experience. The Michigan Arts Education Census, released in September 2012 by ArtServe Michigan and Michigan Youth Arts, confirmed the grim reality that at least 108,000 K thru 12 students in Michigan schools have no access to the

This is in sobering contrast to the notion of equipping our future talent to meet the needs of Michigan's employers for continued economic growth statewide. We must bring this number to "zero" by embracing strategic and collective efforts across public, private and nonprofit sectors to secure a future of equitable access to the arts and creativity for all Michigan

We also can't lose sight of the importance placemaking plays in attracting and retaining talent in Michigan communities. The Summit referenced a study from the Michigan Colleges Foundation indicating placemaking as an important factor in keeping college graduates in Michigan, with 42 percent of graduates citing vibrant communities as a necessity for post-graduate life. The arts contribute significantly to generating that community vibe where the spirit of creativity, innovation and entrepreneurship is valued and nurtured and where creative minds seek to locate and be inspired by their peers.

While the arts are so often perceived as "great to have" but not essential, especially in tight economic times, we must embrace its critical role in equipping tomorrow's talented workforce, creating job and economic opportunities and cultivating a vibrant sense of place in our communities. We urge support of the Governor's recommended \$1 million increase in the state's investment in its arts and cultural assets for FY 2014 - an important step in rebuilding funding to levels more closely aligned with the creative sector's significant return on investment for Michigan. The creative industries must be engaged in the "heavy-lifting" of Michigan's economic development strategies, or we miss the strategic advantage that could lie ahead.

Jennifer Goulet is the president and CEO of ArtServe Michigan. She can be reached at jennifer@artservemichigan.org.

### **COMMUNITY VOICE**

### Which team, the University of Michigan or Michigan State, has the better chance at making it into the Final Four in the NCAA basketball tournament, and why?

We asked this question at the Plymouth District Library.



"I have no idea. I really don't care. The last time I went to a sporting event — and my wife as well --- is when we were in college. I was bored with it then. I'm bored with it now."

John Schmidt Plymouth Township



"I would say Michigan. I would base that on their path, the (teams) they have to face to get there. ... I think they're both going to advance to at least the next round."

**Christine Cummings** Plymouth Township



"I'm saying Michigan State, because I went to Michigan State, and my daughter goes there."

**Mary Krebs** Canton Township



"Well, I'm going to say Michigan. My husband's a big Michigan fan."

> **April Maikowski** Plymouth Township

### **LETTERS**

### Part of the solution

Thinking and asking for alternative ideas to fund roads is a great idea. What are your ideas? People are always critical but offer no solutions. Step up and offer alternatives to raising taxes. Past legislators have always passed their poor choices on to us, the taxpayers. You want representation, you got it with Heise and Colbeck.

Get involved and help them solve our issues. If you're not part of the solution you're part of the problem.

**Andrew Brandt** 

### Canton

Incredible opportunity

My wife, Sally, and I moved to Plymouth in 1972 because of the excellent reputation of the Plymouth-Canton school system. We were not disappointed as both our children received an excellent education and were able to complete advanced

Our grandchildren are now enrolled in our school system. If we are to ensure the high quality of local education, for all our children and grandchildren, we must support the efforts to maintain our facilities.

degrees leading to a professional life.

I am a senior citizen. It is often tempting to say, "I have done enough, it is now their turn." However, building a strong community is a lifelong endeavor. We know the area is facing an uncertain financial future. I have learned that the greatest investment we can make, for the future of our community, is a strong educational system. Our children and our nation will prosper to the extent we provide educational opportunities

Sally and I are strong supporters of

### WHAT DO YOU THINK?

We welcome your Letter to the Editor. Please include vour name, address and phone number for verification. We may edit for clarity, space and content. Submit letters by the following for-

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E-mail: bkadrich@hometownlife.

the May 7 bonding issue proposed by our school board. The bond issue provides an incredible opportunity to make all the proposed enhancements without raising our school taxes above the current rate. Please join us in getting out the yes vote for our children's future.

> **Dennis Bila** former mayor, City of Plymouth

### **EEF thanks**

I had the recent privilege of chairing the Educational Excellence Foundation's annual Wine Tasting and Strolling Dinner Benefit held at the Fox Hills Golf & Banquet Center. l appreciated seeing board members and administrators in attendance as well as many local dignitaries and so many others who attended in support of this worthy cause.

On behalf of our foundation I'd like to recognize some of the local businesses who were instrumental in the success of this event: Our "Land a Deal on Wheels" Dealership sponsors Dick Scott Dodge Chrysler Jeep, Hines Park Lincoln, Lou LaRiche Chevrolet and Victory Honda in Plymouth as well as Tennyson Chevrolet in Livonia, Atchinson Ford in Belleville and Jack Demmer Ford in Wayne for their generous contributions to our

event. In addition, I really appreciate all of the wonderful foods provided and served by the Courthouse Grill, Espresso Elevado, Happy's Pizza, Kilwin's, Red Olive Restaurant, Leo's Coney Island on Five Mile and Sheldon and E.G. Nicks in Plymouth, the Beirut Bakery in Redford, Olga's Kitchen in Canton, Noodles & Company in Livonia, the Dearborn Sausage Company in Dearborn, Sysco Detroit, Fox Hills, Busch's Fresh Market and Diana Woodward and her talented Culinary Arts students.

I especially need to applaud our major event sponsors, Busch's Fresh Markets, Alphagraphics Printing and the Fox Hills Golf & Banquet Center, for their continued support of our

... this was truly a communitydriven event.

From our Gold Sponsors Community Financial, National Home Lending & Canton Soccer to our Silver Sponsors Hugs Hearing Center, Fountain & Hock Dentistry, Skyway Precisions, Monroe Bank & Trust, the Plymouth-Canton Education Association, Plymouth-Canton Board of Education, Neville Financial, Sen. Patrick Colbeck, Title Direct, Kohl's, Rep. Kurt Heise and our Valet Sponsors Keller Williams & Ross Mortgage, they all are all in part responsible for the success of this event.

The proceeds from last year's event were used in a variety of ways to support education in our district.

Jim Harb Plymouth-Canton EEF

# Bentivolio: Government spending out of control

By Ken Abramczyk Staff Writer

The numbers are staggering.

The United States faces a national debt of \$17 trillion. Federal spending for 2013 is estimated at \$3.8 trillion. The sequester budget alone was estimated at \$85 billion.

On Wednesday, U.S. Rep. Kerry Bentivolio highlighted his push to cut government spending and gave a legislative update to a breakfast audience consisting of members of the Livonia Chamber of Commerce at Schoolcraft College.

Bentivolio believes Congressional spending is out of control.

"If we were to pay \$1 trillion off, we have to cut \$500 million each week for four years," Bentivolio said. That amount ---2½ percent — is all that needs to be cut to reach the \$1 trillion, Bentivolio said. "Do you think you could cut 2½ percent from your budget? Sure. Why can't the government?"

Bentivolio said opponents of the cuts say that travelers will wait in longer lines because of fewer TSA agents or police and fire furloughs will



**BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER** 

Congressman Kerry Bentivolio speaks with Livonia architect Ben Tisio.

impact public safety, but Bentivolio believes the number of federal employees can be cut in other areas. "What about the bureaucrats in between?" he asked. "It's amazing how much we are wasting on government programs.'

### **Obamacare will** drive up costs

The Affordable Health Care Act will add to those costs and regulations, he

As an example of gov-

ernment regulation, Bentivolio cited his reindeer ranch. Bentivolio, who used the reindeer to participate in parades over the past 20 years, had the area fenced, but was required by the state to send in an inspection report and pay \$400 each year.

Bentivolio said he inspected his fence "every day" to make sure his investment — his reindeer didn't run away. "And they sent a DNR agent to my house," Bentivolio said. "Unbelievable."

Bentivolio introduced

his first bill in February. which offers small business owners a six-month grace period to correct a violation of federal regulations without penalty, as long as the violation "doesn't threaten or jeopardize human life."

On health care, Bentivolio said even Congress doesn't know what the Affordable Health Care Act will cost. "We know it will raise taxes, and bankrupt the country," Bentivolio said. "Even if taxes go up, we won't be able to pay for it in six years."

Bentivolio compared government health care programs to his days serving in the military when he needed a prescription. It took two days from the pharmacy on the base, when he could have received the prescription within two hours at a local

retail store, he said. One of the attendees asked Bentivolio what he was doing to get his message on government spending to the public. Bentivolio said he created a video on his website to discuss the sequester. "Let's put it in perspective so that everyone can understand it," Bentivolio said.

Bentivolio also has opened an office on Commerce Township near M-5 and Maple Road.

### **Immigration issue**

On immigration, Bentivolio said he expected to tour the Arizona and New Mexico borders in early April to learn more about the immigration issue. Some immigrants cross the border illegally to enjoy the same economic freedoms as Americans, Bentivolio said: "They are still breaking the law."

Some who cross the border illegally try to get benefits, namely Social Security, and even unemployment, Bentivolio said. Government agencies are rated on the number of "customers" they obtain for these benefits.

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On the other hand, workers are needed for jobs in this country, he added. Produce is rotting in the fields of Alabama, New Mexico and Arizona because no workers are available to pick them, Bentivolio said. "We are going to need those workers," Bentivolio said. "My job is to look at the pros and cons."

Attendees at the breakfast agreed with Bentivolio on some of the issues.

Pamela Armon, community director of Oakmont in Livonia, attended the breakfast with another Oakmont employee. "When you live here in Livonia, it's important to know what is going on in Washington," Armon said. On the issues, Armon believed government can't always take care of everyone. "We have a hard time taking care of our own, let alone additional people from another country," she said.

Tom Karabatakis, owner of Promotional Concepts, thought Bentivolio was honest and liked his discussion about regulations. But Karabatakis was also frustrated. "You hear problems but not solutions," Karabatakis said. "You need some action to find some solutions. It's frustrating. Everyone is always talking about the problems. You need someone to sit down and decide to run with it.'

# Council on Aging, Hospice present series

The Plymouth Community Council on Aging and Hospice of Michigan present a series focused on caregivers and those who need hospice ser-

• "Caring for the Caregiver," Thursday, April 4, noon (fitness room)

— This talk will walk caregivers through the caregiver kit Hospice of Michigan has developed. The kit offers caregivers practical suggestions, tools and resources to assist them with care-

• "Have You Had The Talk?" Thursday, April 25, noon (fitness room) -This talk will walk caregivers through the "Have You Had the Talk" kit Hospice of Michigan has developed. The kit offers worksheets, tools and

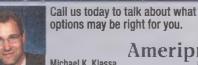
resources to assist clients should they ever need to rely on someone else for medical care and decision making. Officials said the best time to plan and prepare is "when there is no emergency, no crisis, no scrambling.

• "Except for Six," Thursday, May 2, 12:30 p.m. (banquet center) -The one-hour Hospice of Michigan documenta-

ry film "Except for Six" takes a subject Hospice officials said "most of us would rather ignore and humanizes it. It is a reflection on the time of a person's life that everyone must eventually deal with — the end of it."

The Plymouth Cultural Center is located at 525 Farmer in Plymouth. To RSVP, call (734) 453-1234, ext. 236.

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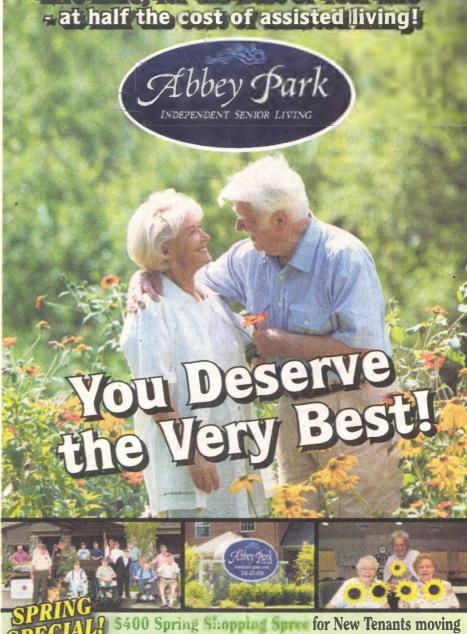
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# SPORTS

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BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

One of the top returnees for Salem's varsity girls soccer team is junior defender Olivia Kaye (No. 8), shown during a 2012 game.

GIRLS SOCCER PREVIEW - PT. 2

# Duhl no stranger to Salem soccer

By Tim Smith Staff Writer

Scott Duhl knows all about the Salem way, first as a first-team all-state player in the 1990s

and then in recent years as an assistant coach to Ed McCarthy.

Duhl also has several years under his belt as a coach within the Salem girls soccer program, most recently in 2010.

That familiarity will help
Duhl as he succeeds Joe Nora
at the helm of the Salem varsity girls soccer team this season,
which began Wednesday night
against Livonia Churchill.

"Taking over for Joe Nora will be very difficult," emphasized Duhl, in a recent e-mail to the *Observer*. "Joe had over 100 career wins and had a lot

of soccer experience both playing and coaching. Joe was also a coach of mine as a youth player growing up in Plymouth-Canton.

"So, being that I coached along side of him and had him as a coach, I have high regard for him and think he did a great job in his tenure."

Duhl, an assistant for McCarthy since 2004, also has plenty of sideline experience with elite club programs. On his resume are stints with the Michigan Wolves (2007 to present), U16 CSA Wolves Academy (2010 to present) and Michigan Bucks semiprofessional men's team (2011, 2012).

Another aspect of Nora's coaching philosophy that Duhl brings is his penchant for getting the most out of what he has on the roster.

Please see SOCCER, B2

## Canton youth grid camps

Several Canton Chiefs football camps are just around the corner.

• From June 10-13 and July 15-18 (5-7:30 p.m. for each Monday-through-Thursday session) is the Canton Football Skills Camp for kids entering grades seven-nine in the fall. Call Canton freshman head coach Rich Mui at (248) 229-2738 for more information.

• The Canton Football Wing T Camp is slated to take place 2-5 p.m. Monday, June 17, and 5-8 p.m. Tuesday, June 18, through Thursday, June 20. It is for players entering grades 10-12. Call Canton varsity head coach Tim Baechler at (734) 455-7691 for more information.

• From Monday, June 24, through Thursday, June 27, (from 9 a.m. to noon each day) will be the Canton Football Fundamental Camp, for youngsters entering grades three-six in the fall. For more information, contact Enza Lanava at (313) 300-1173.

All of the sessions will take place at the Canton High School varsity football field.

# Chiefs score big to help out Kelly's Kidz

'The money we donated is going to do something fantastic for the community. And that is more important than the players receiving a gift at the banquet.'

PAIGE ARESCO,

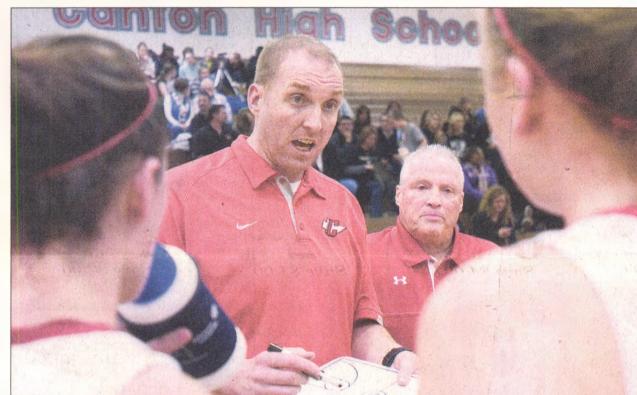
Canton player

By Tim Smith

Stuffing the ball through baskets has nothing over stuffing envelopes to help Kelly's Kidz.

Just ask the Canton varsity girls basketball team, which at Sunday's team banquet donated a check for an undisclosed amount to the local charity — money that will enable as many as eight children with special needs to play baseball in the Miracle League later this year.

"The money we donated is going to do something fantastic for the community," junior forward Paige Aresco emphasized. "And that is more important than the play-



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Here, Canton varsity girls basketball players listen to instruction from their coaches, Brian Samulski and Bob Blohm during a 2012-13 game. The coaches also want their players to be solid citizens off the court, as they demonstrated with a recent donation to Kelly's Kidz.

ers receiving a gift at the banquet."

Aresco and others on the Chiefs already are active in community service, many through the National Honor Society.

In November, noted
Aresco, the varsity team
went to the house of Kel-

ly's Kidz co-founder Kelly Hermann (sister-in-law of Canton girls basketball coach Brian Samulski) to stuff envelopes for their fundraising efforts. The players have done so for the past several years.

This year, it was decided time and money would

be the way to go.

"Kelly's Kidz is such a fantastic organization," Aresco said. "And since we are familiar with them, we thought they would be a perfect charity to donate to."

The team collected money through various

fundraising endeavors as well as through the sale of concessions at home games. Funds were earmarked for Kelly's Kidz instead of for player gifts such as coffee mugs or

Please see DONATION, B4

computer mouse pads.

# League seeks football alums

Full-contact alumni football games are on the way to the Plymouth-Canton area, and Alumni Football USA is on the lookout for past high school players to join the fledgling circuit.

The organization (located at the AlumniFootballUSA.com Web site) is organizing a full-contact football game "representing your old school against a top rival."

According to a press release from media director Christie Rayburn of Alumni Football USA, "These are complete high school rules games. We organize the event and supply all equipment. You supply the greatest hits."

Go to the website listed above or call (866) U-Get-Hit for more information. Only the first 40 players per roster will get to play.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

### Among the best

During the 2012-13 varsity girls bowling season, Plymouth's Emily Fraser (left) is congratulated by teammate Caitlyn Webb after throwing a strike. Both were selected to the All-Observer team, which is profiled on B3.

### **GIRLS TENNIS PREVIEW - PT. 1**

# Tennis coaches see potential

By Tim Smith

Salem's and Canton's varsity girls tennis teams will have a different look in 2013, but coaches remain optimistic for the coming season.

According to Salem coach Lin Ware, the influx of four freshmen to the roster should spark the Rocks — who already feature fourth-year varsity player Ashley Walker

at No. 1 singles.

There's no doubt that
Walker is the key player.
The senior is described
by Ware as "a big hitter
with an all-around game"
who is slated to play
women's tennis at Wayne
State University.

"One of the freshmen we picked up is Chelsea Yu who will move high into the singles lineup," Ware noted. "Chelsea is a



STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Ashley Walker, shown in this file photo, is beginning her fourth season with Salem's varsity girls tennis team.

volleyball player and has been a club tennis player for a number of years." Ware said returning

Please see TENNIS, B3

# Canton girls lacrosse clinics

The sport of girls lacrosse is still growing, and youngsters interested in learning to play the sport have a great opportunity.

The Canton Chiefs girls lacrosse team is hosting lacrosse clinics for elementary and middle school kids on Saturday, April 20.

From 10 a.m. to noon will be the clinic for elementary school students; the middle school clinic will be from noon to 2 p.m. The cost is \$35, with no experience required.

To register, go through Plymouth-Canton Community Education at (734) 416-2937 or go to communityeducation. pccs.k12.mi.us for more information.

### Blazers thaw out, best Churchill

Observer & Eccentric | Thursday, March 28, 2013

**By Brad Emons** Observer Staff Writer

At least the sun was out Friday afternoon despite the lingering winter-like weather conditions and temperatures still hovering below 40.

Livonia Ladywood and host Livonia Churchill, however, were able to launch their 2013 girls soccer season on time.

And it was Ladywood that was basking in the sun following a 2-1 victory over the Chargers as junior Jenna Urso tallied the game-winning goal with only 13:54 remaining off an assist from fellow junior Abigail Pelon.

"This is the second time we've been outside, maybe the third," Ladywood coach Ken Shingledecker said. "We've been inside the whole week, not outside one time. I think they've been in the same boat. This weather has been unbelievable."

The Blazers, coming off a 21-3-2 season, struck first for a 1-0 advantage on senior Domenique Sarnecky's goal, set up from senior defender Liz Danger with just 1:14 to play in the opening half.

"We have a different look to us, obviously,' said Shingledecker, who lost leading scorer Kelly Capoccia (24 goals) and top playmaker Paige Brennan (27 assists) to graduation. "When you take Paige and Kelly out of the equation, it's a different team. We have lots of good players. How they mix together ... we'll wait and see."

The Blazers were missing starting goalkeeper Sara Even and veteran forward DeYana Walker, both whom were out with injuries.

"The possession side of things was spot on," Shingledecker said.

Mike is a 29-year-old

young professional.

He says he's not as smart as his

smartphone - yet.

"Then it's a matter of putting the final touches on things ... you've got to score when you possess the ball like we did. We're going to have to get goals from an abundance of people. It's not going to be one. 'Dom' can do it. And when DeYana is here, she'll do it. And Jenna showed she can do it. We have lots of good players and we just have to take care of business. And they will."

**Keeping it close** 

Churchill was forced to defend its end for most of first half, but the Chargers kept it a onegoal game thanks to the goalkeeping of senior Alexis Tzafaroglou.

"She (Tzafaroglou) made all the right decisions today," Churchill first-year coach Reid Friedrichs said. "She made a lot of great saves by being in the right spot. She made a great save right there at the end by coming out. It was a little unlucky on their game-winner because she made another great decision. If my goalie can make the decisions Alexis makes - putting herself in the right spots all the time - then we're going to be a lot better for it.'

Churchill made a game of it with 17:22 left in the match on junior Kelsey Parrinello's goal from junior Kacie Murray.

But Urso's goal just 3:38 later proved to be the difference.

Whitney Bauriedl, filling in for Even in goal, received solid play from her defense, led by left back Marissa Ozog, a junior.

"I thought Marissa was excellent," Shingledecker said. "She's always a big part of our attack coming out of the back line and I thought she was really, really good

"And (junior) Emily

Huddleston is as a good a midfielder as anybody in the state. I like our team. We've just got to take care of business . and score goals."

Meanwhile, despite very limited practice time outdoors, Friedrichs may have found a starter in sophomore Sediqa Nedam.

"I needed a fast defender," the Churchill coach said, "someone who could start and handle the pressure of a game. ... I was looking for one for days and Sediga plays outside mid and I put her in the center back. When she came out, they (Ladywood) scored and when she came back in they didn't score. She was our best player on the field for us in the first half. She did a great, great job for being in a new position. She's a sophomore and was thrown in the middle because she was needed there and she responded really well. She did great."

Some other Chargers also put in a good work rate as well.

"Kelsey Parrinello played a very good game," Friedrichs said. "Lauren Wynns, the freshman, played well up top, as well as Karly Munroe in the midfield. Rachel Tomassi played well in the back. We did a pretty good job."

Despite the loss, Friedrichs was upbeat about his team's play heading in to two tough road matches this week against Northville (Monday) and Salem (Wednesday).

"For where we've been, we've come a long way," said the Churchill coach, who inherited a 4-10-5 squad from a year ago. "I enjoyed our effort and I was very pleased.'

bemons@hometownlife.com (313) 222-6851



PHOTOS BY RENA LAVERTY

Mitchell Heard (No. 15) of the Plymouth Whalers, shown from earlier this season, is one of many players making offensive contributions in the team's first-round OHL series against Sarnia.

# Whalers one win from sweep

The Plymouth Whalers are within reach of a sweep of their first-round OHL Western Conference playoff series against Sarnia, following Monday's 5-2 victory in Game 3.

Plymouth jumped out to a 2-0 lead at the RBC Centre in Sarnia before the contest was four minutes old with Rickard Rakell and Ryan Hartman finding the range against Sting goalie JP Anderson.

After Sarnia got on the board at 5:57, when Nickolas Latta scored an unassisted goal against Plymouth netminder Alex Nedeljkovic, the Whalers regained a two-goal edge before the period ended.

Making it 3-1 at 10:49 of the first was Stefan Noesen, on a play set up by Cody Payne and Vince Trocheck (three assists).

Hartman's second of the game, from Trocheck and Tom Wilson, opened up a 4-1 lead with 13:05 to play in the middle stanza.

Both teams scored in the third, with Rakell garnering his second marker of the contest at 16:49. Assisting were Noesen and Sebastian Uvira.

Nedeljkovic won for the third straight game against Sarnia, making 19 saves. Anderson stopped 39 of 44 shots directed his

The Whalers will have a chance to sweep the series 7 p.m. Wednesday in Sar-



Ryan Hartman, shown from earlier this season, scored twice for the Plymouth Whalers in Game 3 Monday night against Sarnia.

nia. But if the Sting stave off elimination, the teams will reconvene 7 p.m. Friday at Compuware Arena for Game 5.

Plymouth opened the best-of-7 series with Friday's 11-2 rout at Compuware. On Saturday, the Whalers hung on for a 3-2 home victory before just under 3,000 fans.

Zach Lorentz and Mitchell Heard each had a goal and an assist with Wilson scoring the other goal for

Plymouth.

The contest was 1-1 after 20 minutes before Lorentz and Wilson each scored in the second stanza to make it a 3-1 contest entering the third. A power-play goal by Sarnia's Reid Boucher closed the gap to a goal and Sarnia kept pressing, outshooting the Whalers 13-7 in the frame.

Nedeljkovic held the fort, however, and Sarnia could not send the game to overtime.

### **SOCCER**

Continued from page B1

**High hopes** 

He doesn't expect that to change this spring, as the Rocks look to make some noise in the KLAA Central Division despite being relatively young.

"I have high expectations for the group," Duhl said. "We're going to be a team that at every moment of the game has 11 very capable young women making good choices.

"We might not have a dream team player on the roster, but we have a lot of very good players that want to win and compete at the highest level."

Leading the way on the field will be senior forwards Emily Barfuss and Emma Tardiff, who are both "capable of scoring goals but are very much different how they go about the game. Emi-

Football clinic

The Livonia Steven-

son Youth Football Clinic

for students currently in

grades 2-6 will be from 9

a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Satur-

day, May 18 at the high

ly's energy and ability to beat people off the dribble will cause opponents fits while Emma is a playmaker and more of a target player."

Forward/midfielders Nancy Krutty and Ali Eggenberger, also seniors, are expected to be catalysts as well.

"Both will play critical roles for us if we are going to have any success," Duhl noted.

Other returnees include juniors Olivia Kaye, Taylor Jaaska and Kati Binsfield.

Kaye is Salem's best defender who is an excellent passer and student of the game while Jaaska is poised under pressure while Binsfield is relentless on the pitch.

"All three will play critical roles in the backline, defending and helping build the game as we come forward," he said. Perhaps the team's most

talented player is sophomore Kylie Knight, who

can play in the back or at midfield.

Junior Morgan Siterlet is a solid passer and striker "who we will rely on to cover lots of ground and to play a ton of minutes," Duhl said.

Freshmen with a good chance to make an impact are defender Leah Mossi and midfielder Caroline Simko.

He described Mossi as "fast, composed and a terrific passer" and Simko as a player with the ability "to score from distance as well as make the right pass in the final moment."

Others who Duhl listed as players with potential to help the cause include senior defender/midfielders Sarah Martin and Madie Kummer, juniors Emily Hawks, Beth Miller, Alexa Norman, (goalie) Aly Mann and sophomores Hayley Rodgers and Kaitlyn Pelech.

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school turf field.

### SPORTS ROUNDUP

For more information, e-mail Stevenson varsity football coach Matt Fielder at mfielder@livoniapublicschools.org.

**Gymnastics camp** 

The 2013 Livonia Blue summer gymnastics camp will offer three sessions (four days each) for ages 11-andup from 4-7 p.m. Monday through Friday, June 1720, July 15-18 and Aug. 19-22 at the Churchill **High School gymnastics** room.

The cost is \$70 (one week), \$130 (two weeks) or \$180 (three weeks). The registration dead-

line is Friday, June 7. For more information, e-mail Livonia Blue coach Lisa Broomfield at MissLisa621@yahoo.

Learn more! Visit us online at hometownlife.com

# Girls bowlers on target in the clutch

Caitlyn Webb, Jr., Plymouth: A second individual regional championship in two years provided plenty of evidence that Webb is one of the elite girls bowlers in Observerland. Webb tallied a 1,194 total — including a 276 game — to win the Division 1 individual regional at Super Bowl in Canton, thus qualifying for the D1 individual state finals for the third

year in a row. In Muskegon, Webb's total of 1,175 for six games in the qualifying block enabled her to finish 14th and make it to the Round of 16. There, she came up short 391-378 to Heather Baur of Davision. She also was named to the All-KLAA team.

And the best Webb has to offer could be in her senior season, if her career trajectory of improving each year is any indication.

"I am looking forward to next season and can't wait to see what she will accomplish," coach Tammy Thompson said. "She is an extremely talented bowler. As a coach it is very rewarding when your bowler does well. I am so proud of her.'

Rae'ven Turner, Sr., North Farmington: In her third varsity season, Turner averaged 197.6 in 70 match games with 64 games over 165. She started the season by winning the OAA singles championship. In match play, she defeated all three opponents with games of 233, 257 and 236 without a single open frame.

Turner was the medalist at the Farmington Early-Bird tournament with a 625 series. She was third overall and made the Ladywood

Holiday all-tournament team. Turner, who averaged 196.64 in 33 league games, was 12th in the Oakland County tourney and sixth at the Mercy Invite. Another notable score was the 269 she bowled in a dual match with Royal Oak. Turner also bowled four of the team's top-10, all-time best games and six of the top-10, all-time series.

"Rae'ven has just completed her third season as our anchor bowler and her first season as captain," coach Mike Horner said. "We are so fortunate to have her returning for one more year. She is a tireless worker and has watched her average climb from 165 to 175 and this year to 197. This season marked her second trip to the state finals. With her willingness to work and her dedication to the team, she is poised to have an outstanding senior season.

Kristin Larkins, Sr., Salem: The Rocks' team co-captain capped off an outstanding four-year varsity career, averaging 183 in the KLAA (good for all-conference) and rolling a high game of

At the D1 regionals, Larkins finished fifth with a total score of 1,080 to qualify for the state finals a third consecutive year.

She reached the Round of 16 at the D1 individual finals in Muskegon, where she lost 399-371 to eventual state champion Barbara Lawson of Grand Ledge. Larkins placed fifth in the qualifying block,

rolling a 244 game along the way.
"She was our anchor bowler and handled this tough position with such ease," coach Kathie Hahn said. "She carried herself with such grace and professionalism on the lanes and off. We

wish her only the best in her future. Maria Walawender, Sr., Mercy: Walawender was in the starting lineup for four years and was the Mercy team captain the past two seasons. She averaged 182 in the Catholic League and made the all-Catholic team for the third year in a row. Walawender won the Oakland County championship with an outstanding 673 series that included games of 202, 247 and

In the biggest events of the year — Oakland County, Catholic League, regional and state tournaments, Walawender averaged 189. At the regional, she packed four strikes in a row into the last of six games to move up from 18th to 10th place and qualify for the state finals.

"Coaches Mike and Vicky Kowalski are very proud of Maria's accomplishments, and we thank her for being an outstanding anchor bowler in leading Mercy to a 10-0 record in the Catholic League," Vicky Kowalski said. Olivia Cabildo, Soph., Westland Glenn:

The sophomore posted a 181 average en route to all-KLAA honors and a third-place finish at the regional.



Caitlyn Webb Plymouth

Olivia Cabildo

Sabine Hutter

Ladywood

Tournament.

John Glenn



Rae'ven Turner N. Farmington

Caylin Doran

**Bridget Maul** 

Salem

Cabildo wound up 35th at the Division 1

singles finals, while also earning all-tournament

honors at the Ladywood Holiday Invitational.

She also posted the high game and second

high series at the Plymouth-Canton-Salem

"Olivia came back this year with a lot of

experience," Glenn coach Ralph Cabildo said.

"She is mentally tough when it comes down to

those moments. Her biggest strength is being a team player and trying to pick up the team when things are not going well."

Caylin Doran, Jr., Farmington-Harrison:
Doran, who made the all-area second team last year, had the Oakland Activities Association's

highest average (199) during the past season

improved her season average by six pins to 193. She also bowled 21 games of 200 or better with a high game of 264 and best series of

A three-year varsity letter winner, Doran

477. Doran was voted the team MVB by her

the most decorated girl bowler in Farming-

ton-Harrison program history," coach Dennis Hermani said. "She has bowled anchor for us

teammates and coaches for the second year in

"At her current pace, Caylin will end up being

the last two seasons, and she has clinched many

matches with her heroics in the 10th frame. We

**SECOND TEAM** 

hoth high series

at the Ladywood Holiday Invitational. She also

"Having freshman on the team with a 194 average was a big surprise," Cabildo said. "After

the experience she has had this year, I expect

Julia to come back next year even stronger.

rolled second high series and second high game

are definitely excited to have Caylin back to lead our girls program next season as well."

Julia Huren, Fr., Westland Glenn: The

freshman posted a team-best 194 average

while earning All-KLAA honors.

at the Wayne County Tourney.

and is a two-time, All-OAA selection.

pressure moments and knows how to handle

Farmington-Harr.





**Kristin Larkins** Salem



Maria Walawender Mercy





John Glenn



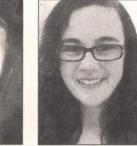
Julia Huren

John Glenn

**Lorissa Willet** Wayne



Wayne



Kira Leach

What makes Julia such a good bowler is her

commitment to bowling year-round. Caity Lenard, Sr., Westland Glenn: The senior captain was the Region 6 champion at Woodhaven Lanes and also earned all-tournament honors at the Valentine's Invitational at Novi Bowl.

Lenard also earned a 46th-place finish at the Division 1 singles finals.

"Caity played such a big part in our success this season," Cabildo said. "Although her average was a 172, she peaked at the right time. Her strongest performance was when she took first at regionals. I'm so proud of the leadership she has brought to this team. Caity plans on bowling at the college level. A coach could not be any prouder of his senior captain.

Sabine Hutter, Jr., Liv. Ladywood: The junior took eighth at the regional and placed 19th at the Division 2 state finals (while sport-

ing a 186 average). Hutter is a two-time state qualifier who also competed as a freshman. She also earned All-Catholic League honors.

Throughout her bowling career Sabine has set goals not only for herself as an individual, but for her team as well and works to achieve

them," Ladywood coach Judy Jaeger said. **Bridget Maul, Sr., Salem:** The senior was the consummate "roll" model, providing guidance for young teammates and also showing them how it's done.

Maul, a scholar athlete, finished with an all-KLAA average of 164 and a high game of 245. At the D1 individual finals in Muskegon, her six-game tally of 1,120 was good for 30th overall. She did finish strong with a 237 in Game 6. The previous week at Super Bowl, her total of 1,045 earned her seventh place to make the cut for the individual finals.

"She was the heart and soul of the team," Hahn said. "She took the freshmen under her wing, constantly helping them with their

'We know whatever Bridget pursues in her future she will do it with 100 percent and suc2012-13 ALL-OBSERVER GIRLS BOWLING FIRST TEAM

FIRST TEAM
Caitlyn Webb, Jr., Plymouth
Rae'ven Turner, Jr., North Farmington
Kristin Larkins, Sr., Salem
Maria Walawender, Sr., Mercy
Olivia Cabildo, Soph., Westland Glenn
Caylin Doran, Jr., Farmington-Harrison
SECOND TEAM
Julia Huren, Fr., Westland Glenn
Caity Lenard, Sr., Westland Glenn
Sabine Hutter, Jr., Liv. Ladywood
Bridget Maul. Sr., Salem

Bridget Maul, Sr., Salem Lorissa Willet, Sr., Wayne Kira Leach, Sr., Wayne THIRD TEAM

Christina O'Harris, Fr., Wayne Christina O'Harris, Fr., Wayne
Charlotte Zimmer, Sr., Canton
Brianna Bailey, Jr., Canton
Ella Kearney, Jr., Farmington-Harrison
Erin Breen, Sr., North Farmington
Emily Fraser, Sr., Plymouth
Veronica Estogoy, Jr., Liv. Ladywood
COACH OF YEAR
Ralph Cabildo, Westland Glenn

HONORABLE MENTION Farmington-Harrison: Dana Iles, Melissa Waun; Plymouth: Megan Blanck; Canton: Jessica Holowicki, Beth Stark; Salem: Rachel Lopez; Mercy: Ashlei Brooks, Hayley Caddell, Arianna Watson; John Glenn: Emily Dietz, Yvette Ayers; Ladywood: Shelby Fielding; North Farmington: Elizabeth Bartram, Hannah Long.

Lorissa Willet, Sr., Wayne: The senior finished fifth in Region 6 with a six-game total of 1,067 and ended up 56th in the state singles qualifying block with a 974.
Willet averaged 168 for the season, including

a high series of 428 and a high game of 247. "Lorissa comes from a family of bowlers," Wayne coach Diane St. Louis said. " Her parents and brother have been big supporters and have attended all of her division matches and tournaments.'

Willet plans to bowl at Schoolcraft College and major in culinary arts with hopes of trans-ferring to the University of Florida."

Kira Leach, Sr., Wayne: The senior placed eighth in Region 6 with a 1,039 total including a high game of 214. Leach also took 31st in the state singles quali-

fying block with a total of 1,119 including a 214 high game. She averaged 165 for the season with a high

series of 413 and a high game of 221.
"Kira will graduate 36th in her class and will be attending Alma College where she'll study elementary education," St. Louis said. "She will also continue to bowl as a member of the Alma

College team. **COACH OF THE YEAR** Ralph Cabildo, Westland Glenn: The firstyear coach guided the Rockets to a perfect 15-0

season along with KLAA Central Division and Division 1 regional titles. The Lady Rockets took fifth



Ralph Cabildo Coach of Year

in the qualifying block at the Division 1 state finals before being eliminated by eventual state champion Davison in the match play quarterfinals. Glenn also captured the

Valentine's Invitational at Novi Bowll and earned seconds at the Ladywood, P-C-S and Wayne County tournaments.

"The thing I tried to do, if

anything, was really getting the girls to become a team," said Cabildo, who also served as a volunteer assistant coach the previous year. "We had talent last year also, but the big thing is the girls becoming a team. That is where our success came from. The mental part of the game is what I stress more than anything."

The 53-year-old Cabildo also is entering his third season as the Glenn varsity girls soccer coach. He also owns RC & DJ Video Productions

# 'Cats rev it up to start season

The Plymouth Wildcats' varsity girls lacrosse team didn't need long to kick things into high gear this season.

After two games, both victories, Plymouth enjoyed a 29-12 edge in scoring over opponents Dexter and North Farmington-Harrison.

On Monday, the Wildcats posted a 7-3 win over the Hawks and

Hurry up if you are a softball

player interested in getting up

ball Clinic will take place Satur-

day, April 13, in the Plymouth

High School gymnasium, 8400

For just \$45 per session,

campers receive lunch, a T-

shirt and FAST instruction for Fundamentals, Agility,

There will be intermediate

The registration deadline is

Friday, March 29. Make checks

payable to Plymouth Wildcats

Softball and mail to Cindy Sen-

kbeil, 7506 Andover Drive, Can-

Girls hoop camps

The Canton High School

girls basketball camp is slated

for 7-8:30 p.m. Monday, June 3,

through Thursday, June 6. It is

for girls entering grades 7-10.

Canton's basketball staff will

oversee the proceedings. The

cost to register is \$60, including

• Meanwhile, girls going into

Speed and Techniques.

and advanced sessions.

ton MI 48187.

a camp T-shirt.

N. Beck Road in Canton.

to speed for the 2013 season. The Plymouth Wildcats Soft-

Sign up for 'Cats

softball clinic

**GIRLS LACROSSE** 

followed up with Tuesday's 22-9 romp over Dexter.

Against the Dreadnaughts, senior captain Haley Swanson scored seven goals while freshman Natalie Nowicki scored six and Ali Holmquist chipped in

Making nine stops for the vic-

tory was goalie Megan Wieloch.

"We were really able to get offense going early," Plymouth head coach Bob Hill said. "We won the majority of the draws and that always leads to scoring chances, which we were able to capitalize on."

In the win over North-Harrison, the big gun was Swanson with five markers (she already has 12 in two games) with Nowicki and Holmquist each registering one goal. Wieloch was stellar in goal with eight

"The first game is the one I am always nervous about," Hill said. "But Haley scored some timely goals and Megan kept us in the game all night. I'm glad to be out of there with a win."

14) and noon-2 p.m. (ages 9-

16), Monday through Thurs-

located at 19800 Mayfield

is \$75 (includes T-shirt).

Street, Livonia.

day, April 1-4, the Jaycee Park,

The cost of the four-day came

The Wolves/Hawks Academy

for boys and girls ages 4-9 will

### **TENNIS**

Continued from page B1

seniors Katie Vena, Julia Meireles and Abi Collingwood will be the top players in the doubles

Others on the squad do bring plenty of club tennis experience.

"While we will be a young team, I think they all have good tennis backgrounds that will keep us competitive in the KLAA," Ware

The Rocks recently tied for first in an indoor doubles tournament, "Midnite Madness" at HVTC.

Salem was scheduled to open the season Wednesday against Livonia Churchill.

Meanwhile, Canton will have a streamlined roster in 2013, but one that coach Barb Lehmann

sees promise in. "The level of skill is a great improvement from last year with Jennifer Ghandour and Caitlin Orr as senior members of the team," noted Lehmann in an e-

mail to the Observer. Returning senior captain and singles player Hannah Ferree will be instrumental to the team's success in the KLAA South - not

only on the court but as a team leader. So will singles player Maddison Johnson, not to mention Ghan-

dour and Orr. "We have a number of juniors that have played all year," Lehmann continued. "Due to the court

play I have seen, it will be one of the best seasons. Lehmann's lineup is still taking shape, with the official open-

er set for April 9 against Wayne Memorial.

**Note:** Preview information about Plymouth will be published in an upcoming issue of the Observer.

### **SPORTS ROUNDUP**

grades 4-7 will have the chance to sign up for the "Hoops" camp set to take place 1-3 p.m. Monday, June 24, through Thursday, June 27, at Canton. Taking part will be the coaching staffs from Plymouth, Salem and Canton. It costs \$60 to sign up, with campers receiving a T-shirt.

For both basketball camps, go to www.communityeducation. pccs.k12.mi.us to sign up.

**Birney scores 3** 

Kylie Birney of Plymouth (Livonia Ladywood) had a multi-goal game Sunday for the University of Detroit Mercy women's lacrosse team, but it wasn't enough in a 12-10 loss to the Winthrop Eagles.

### **MU** baseball postponed

The Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference baseball series between No. 24 Madonna University and Davenport slated for March 23-24 at Ilitch Ballpark has been postponed due to cold temperatures and snow in the forecast.

Per WHAC policy, two of the four games will be made up at a

Madonna has had its first three WHAC series altered due to weather and has been idle since March 9. The Madonna softball team,

10-11 overall, returns to action at 4 p.m. Wednesday when its newly renovated field will be rededicated against non-conference foe Albion College.

### Young gridders sought

The Washtenaw Saints Football Team, of the Christian Athletic League of America, is looking for interested young men (grades 6-12) to join the team for the upcoming 2013 fall sea-

There are no tryouts and everyone will get a chance to compete. Practices start in July and will be run out of Domino's

To be added to the contact list please contact coach John Weisberg at (734) 926-4513 or by email at weisbergjohn@aol.com.

### Soccer camps

The Michigan Wolves/Hawks Soccer Club will stage a spring break boys and girls soccer camp from 9-11 a.m. (ages 6be from 6:15 -7:30 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays, April 8 through May 22, at Jaycee Park. For information, visit michi-

ganwolveshawks.com; or email dbradley1515@sbcglobal.net.

### Steelheaders meet April 2

Captains Dave Engel and Bill Bale of Best Chance Too Charters will be the featured speakers for the Metro West Steelehaders meeting at 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 2, at the Livonia Senior Citizens Center, 15218 Farmington Road.

charter boat fishing for king and coho salmon, steelhead, lake and brown trout. All meetings are open to the public.

Farms in Ann Arbor.

Learn about Lake Michigan

For more information, call

Jim Robertson at (734) 383-

### later date.

### DONATION

Continued from page B1

That check was presented to Hermann at the team's postseason awards banquet. She was there with her 10-yearold daughter Maggie, the inspiration behind the charity. Maggie has cerebral palsy.

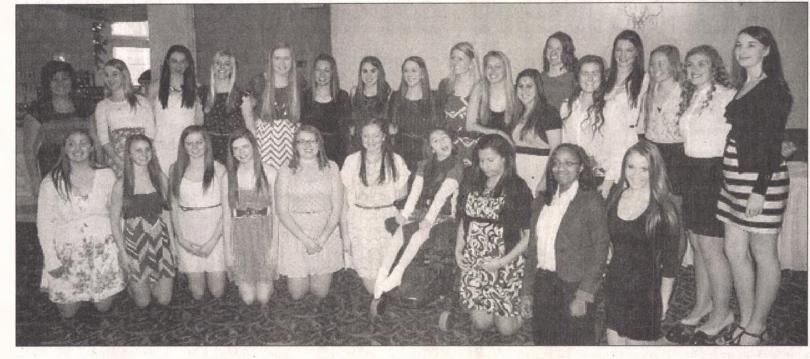
### **More than sports**

"It is really special to know that the money we are donating is going to help multiple families," noted Aresco, adding that the players are fully aware that "there is more to life than just sports. Sometimes student-athletes get so caught up in sports that they forget there are other important aspects of life.'

According to Hermann, the word about Kelly's Kidz and what it does to help families with special needs children continues to grow thanks to such selfless efforts.

(It should be noted that other student-athletes and teams at Plymouth-Canton Educational Park also contribute time to serve Kelly's Kidz.)

"When I spoke at the banquet," Hermann said, "the one thing that I



Canton girls basketball players pose with 10-year-old Maggie Hermann (front row, fourth from right), the inspiration behind Kelly's Kidz. during Sunday's team banquet following donation of a check to the local charity.

notice every year when the players come over is that there always one or two girls that show an interest and begin to ask questions about Maggie. Or why we do what we do.

Observer & Eccentric | Thursday, March 28, 2013

"And it is my belief that it only takes a few to begin to make a difference in the lives of many.'

Kelly's Kidz is a notfor-profit organization run out of her home. Just under \$400,000 has been generated in five years with that money helping nearly 60 families, she said.

As described on the organization's website, Kelly's Kidz was created "to provide financial assistance and resources to physically-impaired children with special needs and to create an opportunity for them to lead the best life" that they can.

"I think a lot of these (basketball players) are touched by the reality that these special needs kids are just like they are," she noted. "They just function in a different way."

Samulski, meanwhile, had high praise for the players and their families.

"I think it's absolutely awesome that the parents and players approached me with this idea about donating to a charity instead of getting each player a small gift at the banquet," Samulski stressed. "I am very fortunate to be coaching at Canton, each year we have outstanding studentathletes in our program and that is because of their upbringing and their outstanding families.

"I think this is a great example of how great our players and parents are. They truly understand

it's not only about basketball but it's also about teaching life lessons and giving back to the community when you can."

For information about Kelly's Kidz, go to www.kellyskidz. net. For information about the Miracle League (which has a field in Plymouth), go to www.miracleleagueofplymouth.org.

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

## Blazers embark on bid for encore

**By Brad Emons Observer Staff Writer** 

The 2012 girls softball season was nothing short of remarkable for one area team - Livonia Ladywood.

The Blazers finished 40-2 and captured their firstever MHSAA state championship when they defeat-

ed Sagi-

naw Swan

Valley, 4-

0, for the

### **GIRLS**

SOFTBALL

Division 2 title. Topping the season in 2013 will be a daunting task for the Blazers, especially after losing four-year pitcher Briana Combs (Cleveland State), Miss Softball and the Michigan Gatorade Player of the Year, along with catcher Allyssa Kashat (Davenport University) and second baseman Carli San Millan (University of

Findlay). But back-up pitcher Lauren Hayes, the hero in last year's state final after Combs went down with a leg injury, will toe the slab full-time this season with the help of returning infielders Celeste Fidge, Haley Lawrence and Andria Gietl.

And sixth-year Ladywood coach Scott Combs has not backed off from putting together another challenging schedule.

"We have scheduled every tough Division 1 team and pitcher that we can find," Combs said. "By tournament time our underclassmen will know our system and strongly contribute."

Next-door neighbors Westland Huron Valley Lutheran (20-5) and Lutheran High Westland (16-16) will now butt heads in the Blue Division of the Michigan Independent Athletic Conference.

Huron Valley, which captured the MIAC Red and Division 4 district titles last season, virtually returns its entire starting lineup led by sophomore pitcher Julie St. John, the MIAC MVP and second-team All-Observer selection.

Lutheran Westland also returns its top two pitchers in sophomore Emily Hahn and junior Lindsey

### **LIVONIA LADYWOOD**

Head coach: Scott Combs, sixth year. League affiliation: Catholic League (Central Division). Last year's overall record:

Titles won last year: Division 2 state, regional, district, Catholic A-B Division, Central Division, Wisconsin Invitational champions.

Notable losses to graduation: Briana Combs (first-team All-Area); Carli San Millan (first-team All-Area); Allyssa Kashat (first-team All-Area); Nicole Payne, Kristin Eisterhold, Brittany DeCamillo, Michelle Nelson.

**Leading returnees:** Celeste Fidge, Sr. 3B (second-team All-Area); Andria Gietl, Sr. 1B (second-team All-Area); Lauren Hayes, Jr. P; Haley Lawrence, Jr. SS; Anna Lewis, Soph. C.

**Promising newcomers** Erica Selakowski, Fr. Inf.; Mary Kate Warner, Fr. C; Rosalyn Price, Fr. P; Rachel Hendrickson, Fr. OF; Alivia Craig, Fr. OF.

Combs' 2013 season outlook: "We won't have as many 1-0 wins as the last four years - we had over 25. We will pitch as a committee. And our hitting lineup, eventually, can be as good or better than our best teams. We have 10 returning letter winners, including all starters at the corner infield spots, along with at least two others who I expect to be there this year. We expect to challenge for the Catholic League and state titles every year and this year no different."

### LUTHERAN WESTLAND

Head coach: Paul Guse, eighth year. League affiliation: Michigan Independent Athletic Conference (Blue Division). Last year's overall record:

Notable losses to graduation: Marissa Hahn (second-team All-Area); Hannah Conley, Erica Killian.

Leading returnees: Sam Roberts, Sr. 1B; Shannon Abbott, Sr. 2B; Aldreanna Fikes, Sr. C; Lindsey Ermert, Jr. P (6-4, 4.54 ERA); Emily Hahn, Soph. P (10-11, 110 Ks, 131 IP); Promising newcomers: To

Guse's 2013 season **outlook:** "The loss of three 4-year starters will be tough to overcome. We have big holes to fill on the left side of the infield, but our pitching should

### **HURON VALLEY LUTHERAN**

Head coach: Eric Ruth, 16th League affiliation: Michigan Independent Athletic Conference (Blue Division) Last year's overall record:

Titles won last year: MIAC Red Division and Division 4 district champs.

Notable losses to gradua-

tion: Meghan Kubinski.

Leading returnees: Julie St. John, Soph. P (second-team All-Area; MIAC MVP); Ashley Hewer, Jr. 1B; Bethany Schaffer, Soph. 2B; Brooke Kuehn, Jr. SS; Jessie Strauch, Soph. 3B (first-team All-MIAC); Lauren Jones, Jr. OF (first-team All-MIAC); Dayna Schroeder, Jr. OF (first-team All-MIAC); Anne St. John, Soph. OF (firstteam All-MIAC); Sarah Setian,

**Promising newcomer:** Madison Ott, Fr. C. Ruth's 2013 season outlook: "We return a great deal of experience from last year's squad. We are in the (MIAC) Blue Division this year, which means we have to come ready to compete every day. We look to grow as a team and improve as we take on a different schedule this year."

### MU softball back home sub-.500

The Madonna University women's softball team split a pair of games March 9 to wind up 8-10 on its spring trip at the Tucson (Ariz.) Invitational Games at Lincoln Park.

Erin Mayes (2-for-4) and Emma Cook each knocked in two runs,

while Bree Crampton pitched a four-hit, complete-game shutout in an 8-0 victory over Purdue North Central (Ind.).

Crampton struck out seven and did not allow a walk in seven innings to even her record at 4-4.

Karleigh Creighton (North Farmington) also added two hits. The loss dropped North Central to 1-3.

In the nightcap, Carly Land held the Crusaders to five hits over seven innings as No. 22-ranked William Penn (Ia.) rolled to an 8-2 win.

Molly Miller went 2for-4 with three RBI

for William Penn (11-6), while Arielle Cox had two hits in a losing cause. Crampton, the losing pitcher, allowed five earned runs on five hits and five walks in 2.2 innings before giving way to Carlee Meek,

who worked the final 3.1

innings.

### Familiar face returns to Madonna

**By Brad Emons** 

Staff Writer

Mark Zathey has come full circle.

No stranger to Madonna University athletics, Zathey played soccer for the Crusaders from 1994-97 and coached the MU women to five straight Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference titles, including a trip to the NAIA Nationals in

The 36-year-old Zathey, a Livonia Churchill High grad, will take over the Madonna men's program, replacing Eric Scott, who resigned Feb. 8 to coach the Albion Col-

lege women's team. "I am excited about this opportunity," said Zathey, who resides in Redford. "This step in my coach-



Zathey

na was very much a second home for me when I was a student-athlete

ney is one

emotional

one. Madon-

that is a very

and later a coach. Both soccer programs have a rich history. "I look forward to the

opportunity to serve the men's program and hope to continue to build upon the shoulders of the previous players and coaches who gave so much to the game."

Under Scott, MU finished 22-24-7 during his three seasons, which included a WHAC playoff championship and an NAIA National Tournament appearance in

"I'm very pleased that we were able to get such a great coach and even better person in Mark," MU athletic director Bryan Rizzo said. "His . roots with Madonna soccer date back to the inception of the program and he has remained a strong supporter of both the men's and women's teams through the years. I'm excited for the future of the program.'

A three-time selection as WHAC Coach of the Year (2002, '04, '05), 21 of Zathey's women's players earned first-team All-WHAC honors.

All five of Zathey's teams were ranked in the NAIA Coaches' top 25 poll at some point during the season with 2005 team landing at No. 8.

Zathey is the women's soccer leader in career wins (71), posting a 71-21-12 mark in his five seasons for a .740 winning percentage.

A member of the firstever MU men's soccer team in 1994 and a two-time team captain, Zathey is a 2000 graduate of Madonna with a degree in history and a certificate in secondary education.

Zathey also earned a masters degree in sports administration from Wayne State and has served as an adjunct instructor at MU.

Zathey was the technical director for the Michigan Rush and the director of the boys Michigan State Youth Soccer Association Olympic Development Program.

### SPORTS ROUNDUP

### **Triple Threat** cagers

Canton-based Triple Threat Training is opening the doors for sixth-grade girls interested in joining T3, a brand new travel basketball team.

Spokesman Dominique Washington said sixthgraders would play in eight to 10 tournaments throughout the local area.

A parent information meeting is slated for 7 p.m. Friday, April 5, at High Velocity (located on Michigan Avenue west of Canton Center Road), where more details about practice times and tournament locations will be presented.

Parents wanting more information can send an email to TripleThreatTrainingMI@ gmail.com or call (734) 341-1336.

### Football coaches

Livonia Franklin is seeking two assistant football coaches for the 2013 season.

Applicants must be able

to demonstrate knowledge and proven ability to train and teach the fundamentals with prior high school coaching experience.

For more information, e-mail Franklin varsity coach Chris Kelbert at ckelbert@livoniapublicschools.org.

### Foul shot contest The third annual Sons

of American Legion Post 32-Livonia Youth Free Throw championship will be from 9 a.m. until noon, Saturday, April 6, at Memorial Church of Christ gymnasium, 35475 Five Mile Road (between Levan and Farmington roads).

First place and runnerup trophies will be awarded, along with door prizes, for the following age groups: 6-and-under, 7-8, 9-10 and 11-12.

The cost is \$5 per participant (payable at registration) will all proceeds going to Blum's Landing, a Michigan bed and breakfast for returning wounded veterans.

Former Grand Valley State and University of Michigan basketball player Jerret Smith will also be making an appear-

For more information, call Charles Wagner at (248) 420-8472.

### Pom pon clinic

The Livonia Stevenson varsity pom pon squad will stage a clinic for grades three through high school from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, April 20 at the high school field-

Included in the \$25 cost is a light snack, CD and Tshirt. (You must be registered by Friday, April 5.)

For more information, email Kelly Sikorski at kelsikorski@sbcglobal.

### Senior softball

A newly formed team in the 65-and-over Western Wayne County Suburban Softball League is seeking slow-pitch players the summer season, which runs from May through

August.

Games will be played at 10 a.m. Mondays and Wednesdays in the Livonia, Canton and Westland areas.

The league is governed by ASA senior slow-pitch rules. A nominal fee will be assessed to cover incidental team and league expenses.

For more information, call Bob Mosher (734) 502-7477 or Doug Curry at (248) 767-0828.

### Steelheads meet

Captains Dave Engel and Bill Bale of Best Chance Too Charters will be the featured speakers for the Metro West Steelehaders meeting at 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 2 at the Livonia Senior Citizens Center, 15218 Farmington Road.

Learn bout Lake Michigan charter boat fishing for king and coho salmon, steelhead, lake and brown trout. All meetings are open to the public.

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

## Egg hunt benefits kids in foster care

**By Sharon Dargay** Staff Writer

Youngsters will hunt for Easter eggs on Good Friday at Newburg United Methodist Church in Livonia, but will give away the goodies connected with their search.

"Basically, I wanted to turn an egg hunt upside down. We tried to give the traditional egg hunt a twist," said Rachel Benton, director of Family and Children's Ministry for the church. "This is something new we're trying out this year. We wanted to offer something for the community ... to celebrate Easter in a meaningful way."

Children will collect plastic eggs and then trade them in for a chance to create a "birthday kit" for a child in foster care at the United Methodist Children's Home in Redford. They'll choose a cake mix, frosting, party supplies, balloons and other components of a birthday celebration. They'll also decorate a gift bag to contain the items.

The church will donate 100 birthday kits to the foster care facility. Benton said the activity helps young participants learn

how to give to others. The egg hunt is one of several events planned during the Easter Fair that will run 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m., March 29, at the church, 36500 Ann Arbor Trail, between Wayne Road and Newburgh.

March

**BETHANY** 

March 30

Send items for the religion calendar to Sha-

Time/Date: 8 p.m.-midnight, Saturday,

Location: Don Hubert VFW Hall, 27345

Details: Bethany, an organization serving

Catholics and other Christians, offers a singles

dance. Tickets are \$13. Beer, wine, pop, snacks

Schoolcraft, east of Inkster, Redford

Time/Date: Now through May 31

and coffee are included

Contact: (586) 264-0284

**CAMP ENROLLMENT** 

ron Dargay at sdargay@hometownlife.com.



Children who egg hunt on Good Friday at Newburg United Methodist Church, will get a chance to build birthday kits for youngsters in foster care. Kits will contain cake mix, frosting and birthday party supplies.

Lunch will be served and children who participate in six activities will receive a small prize and

candy. "We'll have a couple of crafts, cookie decorating, games like bean bag toss," Benton said. "We have an interactive Bible story that will run through the entire event. It starts with Jesus on Palm Sunday and ends with the Resurrection. We tell the story in engaging and age-appropriate ways."

Youngsters will get a chance to participate in the story by waving palms, tasting "Last Supper" bread, and visiting Jesus' tomb.

"It's our hope that they really feel engaged." The fair is aimed at families with infants, toddlers and elementaryaged youngsters and is

RELIGION CALENDAR

open to the community. Benton said the church's pastor chose Good Friday for the fair because families — including those planning to attend Wayne County's annual Marshmallow Drop at nearby Nankin Mill in Westland might be more likely to drive by and drop in.

"It's unconventional, but we thought we'd give it a try. We want people to come and enjoy their time together. Easter is about God's love and the gift of life. Our hope is that by offering this event, families will be able to experience the components of that narrative.'

The church will hold its Good Friday service at 7 p.m.

For more information call (734) 422-0149 or visit www.newburgumc.

Location: Consuming Fire Christian Center,

teens, age 5-15, for its six-week Bible/Home-

Details: The Center is enrolling kids and

work Enrichment Camp that will run July

8-Aug. 16. Full day sessions are \$700 and a

half-day is \$480. Families get a \$25 discount

for added siblings for the full day rate; \$10

fundable \$100 registration fee at the time

of enrollment secures a place at camp. All

tuition must be paid in full by May 31. Cost

includes the registration fee, snacks, materi-

Contact: Melanie Staten or Sylvia Brown at

als for class, tutoring in most subjects and

discount for the half-day rate. A non-re-

31463 Ann Arbor Trail, Westland

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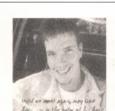
1-800-579-7355 • fax 313-496-4968 • oeobits@hometownlife.com Deadlines: Friday 4:15 p.m. for Sunday • Wednesday 9:45 a.m. for Thursday



**EWING "DALE"** 

March 23, 2013; age 86 of Westand. Beloved husband of the late Gloria. Dear father of Sandra Donald) Holzhazusen, Dwayne Tammy), and Cynthia (Danny) Costantino. Brother of Wayne Grandfather of ten and great grandfather of many. Funeral services from The Uht Funeral Home, Westland, Wednesday loam. Visitation at the funeral nome Tuesday 2-9pm. Burial to ake place at Parkview Memorial Cemetery, Livonia, Michigan. Please view memorial and send ributes at www.uhtfh.com.





RAWLINS. MICHAEL B.

Monroe, Michigan, own of Garden City, Michigan. Born February 23, 1983 died unexpectedly Saturday March 23, 2013 one month after his 30th pirthday. He was a beloved husoand to Kellie and stepfather to Angel, Willie and Destiny. He is also survived by his parents Paul and Debra Rawlins, brother Robert (Holly) and sister Lisa (Tom). He was an amazing Uncle to Allison, Ryan, Keegan and lil Robert. You will forever be in our nearts and prayers. Visitation was Wednesday and will be Thursday, March 28, 2013 12pm until time of service Thursday 2pm at The Ridge Chapel-Martenson Family of Funeral Homes, 2272 West Jefferson, Frenton. Memorial contributions to honor Michael's life may be made payable to DFCU Financial. To share a memory visit

www.martenson.com Marlenson



DR. SEYMOUR EARL

Age 82, of Livonia, Michdied March 22, 2013. Dr. Levine was a retired Lieutenant Colonel in the Air Force and an educator in Livonia Public Schools. Beloved husband for 58 years of Maxine LeVine. Cherished father of lan (Cindy) LeVine, Monica LeVine, Robin Motisi and Peter (fiance Carolyn Davis) LeVine. Proud grandfather of Anthony Motisi and Talia Motisi. Loving brother of Ronald (Doralee) LeVine. Dear brotherin-law of Susan Goldberg and the late Dr. Bertram Goldberg Also survived by Cindy's children, Dr. Carrie (Major Derek Oliver) Preston and Casey Preston, and many loving nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

SERVICES MONDAY, MARCH 25 AT 12;00 P.M. AT IRA KAUFMAN CHAPEL. 248-569-0020

INTERMENT AT GREAT LAKES NATIONAL CEMETERY IN HOLLY.

THE IRA KAUFMAN CHAPEL

### OLESNAVAGE, **JOSEPH**

Joseph Olesnavage, age 92, of Lexington, formerly Birming-ham died Sunday March 24. He is survived by his wife Jeannette (Charlier); 5 sons John (Margaret), Joseph (Sue), Mark (Judy), Paul, and Jim (Terri), and daughters Margery (Tom) Vogel, and Mary Ann (John) Cary. Services were held at 11 AM Wednesday March 27 at St. Denis Catholic Church, Lexington.
Read full obituary at

www.pomeroyfuneralhomes.com



### PAWLAK, ROSEMARY A.

Age 76, March 26, 2013. Beloved wife of the late Alfred Sr. Dear mother of Renee (Paul) Fershee, Toniann (Kim) Taylor, Michael (Kim) and the late Alfred Jr. Mother-in-law of Di-Pawlak. Grandmother of Daniel, Cory, Avory, Benjamin, Connor, Joey and the late Erika. Sister of Joanna McKay. Visitation Friday 3-9 pm with an evening Rosary. Funeral service Saturday 10am at the John N. Santeiu & Son Funeral Home, 1139 N. Inkster Rd., Garden City (Btwn. Ford Rd. & Cherry Hill). www.santeiufuneralhome.com

Santeiu Funeral Home



RIMER, **MARVIN DANIEL** 

Age 85. March 24, 2013.

Marvin was the loving husband of the late Eleanor Rimer (McPhail) for 46 years and the late Dorothy Rimer (Thomas) for 11 years, the dear father of Kenneth (Jan). Daniel (Helene) and Ted and beloved son of the late John and Martha Rimer. He is also survived by his loving grandchildren; Jessica, Kyle, Erin, Sara, Emily and Kelsey, as well as his brother John. Marvin was predeceased by his sister Dolores Sinclair and brothers; Russell and Donald (Tiny) and step brother Roger and brother in law James McPhail. Marvin was a Marine veteran. He was a union carpenter for 65 years. Marvin loved being a Sunday Teacher at Redford Baptist Church for over 50 years. He was a huge Constantine Falcons fan. A memorial visitation will take place on Tues. March 26, 2013 from 5-9pm. A memorial service will be on Wed. March 27, 2013 with Pastor Danny Langley officiating. Both services will take place at the Harry J. Will Funeral Home, 37000 W. Six Mile (East of Newburgh), Livonia, Michigan 48152. Interment will take place at Parkview Cemetery in Livonia. In lieu of flowers, Marvin's family asks that donations be made to Cross Point Meadows Church, Constantine Track/football or I Am

My Brothers Keeper Church of

Detroit. A guest book can be

www.harryjwillfuneralhome.com

signed at

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734.454.0015

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**EVANGELICAL** PRESBYTERIAN

40000 Six Mile Road Northville, Mil 48168 248.374.7400 www.wardchurck.or

Traditional Worship at 8, 9:30 & 11 a.m. Contemporary Worship at 9:30 & 11 a.m. Children's Programs available at 9:30 & 11 a.m. The Traditional Service is broadcast on the radio each week at 11 a.m. on 560 AM

**LUTHERAN CHURCH WISCONSIN SYNOD** 

St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran CHURCH & SCHOOL 17810 FARMINGTON ROAD

WORSHIP SERVICES Sunday: 8:30 A.M. & 11 A.M. Thursday: 6:30 P.M. website: www.stpaulslivonia.org

ST. PETER'S LUTHERAN **CHURCH & SCHOOL** 1343 Penniman , Plymouth Church: (734) 453-3393 School PreK-8: (734) 453-0460 Website: www.splp.org **WORSHIP SERVICES** 

Sunday Worship 9:30am EASTER WEEK SERVICES: Thurs 7pm, Good Fri 1pm, Sat 7pm, Sun 7am & 9:30am

For Information regarding this Directory, please call Sue Sare at 248-437-2011 ext. 247 or e-mail: ssare@hometownlife.com

**LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSOURI SYNOD** 

Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church

14175 Farmington Road, Livonia, Just north of I-96 www.christoursavior.org

Sunday Worship Staffed Nursery Available



Sunday School/Bible Class 9:45 am Early Childhood Center Phone 734-513-8413

Making disciples who share the love of Jesus Christ 734-522-6830

**PRESBYTERIAN** 

Fellowship Presbyterian Church

Adult Sunday: 9:30 - 10:15 a.m. · Worship: 10:30 a.m. Childrens Sunday School: 10:30 a.m. Services held at: Saint Andrews Episcopal Church 16360 Hubbard Road in Livonia · South of Six Mile Road Nursery provided · www.fellowship-presbyterian.org

**EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN** CHURCH IN AMERICA

Antioch

Lutheran Church (248) 626-7906 ww.antiochelca.org

**Holy Week Services** Maundy Thursday 1:00 and 7:30 p.m. Good Friday 7:30 p.m. Easter Vigil Saturday at 7:30 p.m Easter Worship Services

# ENTERTAINMENT

# Power Play

# Local band plays classic rock with high energy, experience

By Sharon Dargay Staff Writer

Mike Smith knows exactly what sets his group, Power Play, apart from other cover bands — showmanship and experience.

"We do more than just stand there and play," said Smith, a Livonia resident. "We do what would be like a 70s rock show, where there is a lot of movement. I play guitar behind my back and we go out and interact with the audience.

"People want to see something that is kind of exciting instead of just a pretty girl in an evening gown and a bunch of overweight, bald guys standing behind her playing. Our band has a younger vibe, even though we're older guys."

Smith began playing guitar at age 9 and has performed with numerous bands over the years. Dave Tatro on bass and Mario Resto on drums, both of Livonia, played together with Resto's brother, Luis, throughout the U.S. and Canada before Smith recruited them for Power Play two years ago. Resto, who plays drums and sings,



Mike Smith, founder of Power Play, rocks out.

composed and produced two CDs and has written music for television, radio and Web projects. April Hudson, vocals, sang with various local bands before joining Power Play a little over a year ago. Smith founded the band five years ago, but didn't find the right mix of performers until Tatro, Resto and

Hudson came along.

"It went through different combinations,"
he said. "The last couple of years we've tried to get the group estab-

lished solidly, with some solid booking, a solid following. We're starting to pick up steam."

Playing at Spree
With his wife, Tama,
in charge of booking
for the band, Power
Play has picked up regular gigs at T.C. Gators
in Canton and Bayside
Sports Grill in Walled
Lake. The group's
spring-summer schedule also includes weddings, country club
appearances, a senior



ville High School, Lakea-Palooza at Grass Lake and a coveted spot in the music line-up on the main stage at Livonia Spree. The band will play the evening of the annual festival's fireworks display.

"Everything is clicking and hopefully it will continue," said Tama, who also assists with managing her husband's carpentry business.

carpentry business.
"We're really excited about Spree. I'm always looking for new opportunities, but the band sells itself once they play somewhere and people see them."

people see them."
She said the band plays mostly classic rock, but includes some current sounds. The set list is an eclectic mix of music by Cee Lo Green, Adele, Stevie Ray Vaughan, Maroon 5, AC/DC, Rolling Stones, Pink, Foo Fighters, Ozzy Osbourne and Dave Mathews, among many others.

"The musicians have been around and are a cut above the rest. They've been in the business a long time. That's what makes them special."

Performing nightly Tama and Mike Smith



Weekdays, April Hudson works with heavy machinery outdoors at Schoolcraft College. On weekends she sings

with Power Play.

Dave Tatro of Livonia plays bass and sings.

met while working at
Jamie's on 7, a popular spot for live music
in Livonia several years
ago. She was a waitress and he played with
a house band called
Undercover.

"We played over 3,000

"We played over 3,000 nights — 300 nights a year for 10 years. That was 1982-92,' Mike Smith recalled. "Those were very formative years for me. We used to have national acts come in from time to time and we got a chance to play as a warm-up for them. When you're playing night after night, that's where you really develop your chops. You learn to work a live audience and read the room. A lot of bands make a set list and never vary from it. But we'll change on the fly. That's something that comes with experience."

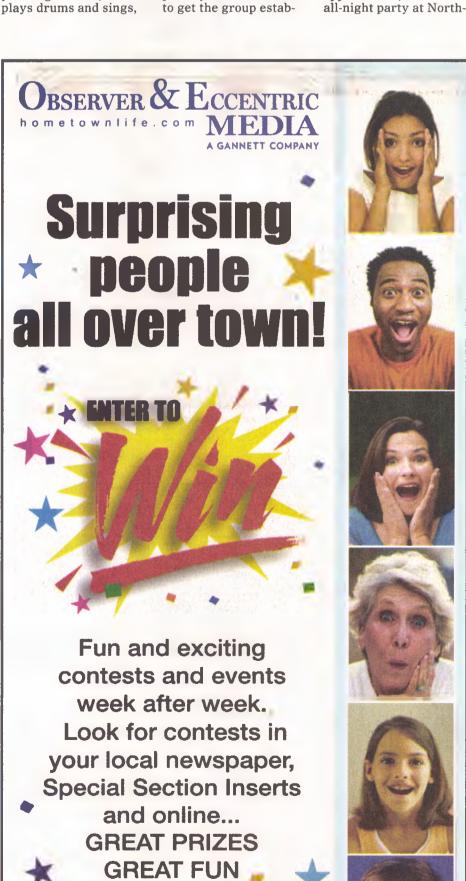
After Smith left
Jamie's, he focused
on family — the couple have three sons —
recording in his home
studio and working in
his carpentry business.

"I just got back into the live (performances) about five years ago. I had kind of dropped out of it," he said. An acquaintance from his years at Jamie's invited him to play with a band. He did, but it didn't take long before he assembled his own group.

"We all get along. I love playing with these guys," said Hudson, whose day job entails snow removal, mowing and other grounds maintenance at Schoolcraft College. She looks forward to their appearance at Livonia Spree because it will introduce the band to "a whole new group of people."

"I'm super excited," she said.

You don't have to wait for Livonia Spree to see Power Play. Catch their act at 9 p.m. Saturday, April 20, at Bayside Sports Grill, 142 E. Walled Lake Drive, in Walled Lake. They also will perform at 9 p.m. Saturday, May 18, at T.C. Gators 42775 Ford Road, Canton.



www.hometownlife.com

### Concert raises funds to feed the hungry

Tom Birchler of Livonia will take the stage at Marian High School in Bloomfield Hills, along with his brothers, Dave, Keith, Jim and John, for the family's "Jammin' to End Famine" concert on April 26.

The concert was inspired by the brothers' father, Don Birchler, who reached out to help others when needed. Proceeds from the concert will pay for food that will be packaged by volunteers at a Kids Against Hunger event in June at Marian.

"All of the Birchlers had our first experiences performing on this very stage back in our high school days," Tom Birchler wrote in a press release. "I remember winning the Marian/Rice talent show there and getting seriously bitten by the performing bug."

The sixth annual concert will start with a pre-concert reception and sweet table in the school auditorium lobby from 7-8 p.m. Music will start at 8 p.m. Marian High School is located at 7225 Lahser.

Performers will include The Paisley Fogg, a 1960s-style rock band, featur-

ing David, Keith and Tom Birchler; The Grunyons, a jazz a Cappela group with John Birchler; and Moose Wampler & the Overdays, a 1950s party rock group, featuring Jim Birchler.

Tickets are \$25 for adults and \$10 for students. They are available at the door or in advance by e-mailing Tom Birchler at tbirchler@mi.rr.com or by calling (248) 722-1830.

Kids Against Hunger works with churches and local nonprofits to package its specially formulated soy casserole for delivery in the US and 40 other countries to feed starving children and their families. Since 2004, volunteers have packaged more than 10 million meals in Michigan. They've been distributed to disaster victims, starving people worldwide and to food shelters in the Great Lakes states. Since 2008, Jammin' to End Famine has raised funds for more than 75,000 of those meals.

For more about Kids Against Hunger, visit www.kidsagainsthungercoalition. com. For more about Jammin' to End Famine, visit www.thepaisleyfogg.com/



The Stray Birds will perform April 12 at Trinity Theatre in Livonia.

### **GET OUT!**

### **Arts Crafts**

### **CITY GALLERY**

Time/Date: Exhibit runs through April 12

**Location:** In the Costick Center lobby, 28600 W. 11 Mile, Farmington Hills

Details: Works by Farmington Hills resident, Bob **Aikins** 

Contact: Aikins at www. AikinsAviationArt.com; (248) 473-1800 for Costick Center

### **DETROIT INSTITUTE OF ARTS**

Time/Dates: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday-Thursday, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Friday; 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday-Sunday

Location: 5200 Woodward, Detroit

Family Sundays: 2 p.m. Sundays; storytelling, performances; free with admission

**Exhibits:** Motor City Muse: Detroit Photographs: Then and Now, through June 16; Shirin Neshat, includes eight video installations and two series of photos, April 7-July 7; printmaking by Ellsworth Kelly, May

24-Sept. 8 Contact: (313) 833-7900,

### www.dia.org **GALLERY@VT**

Time/Date: 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Monday-Friday, through March 26

**Location:** Village Theater at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill Road, Canton

**Details:** Works by the Ann Arbor Fiberarts Guild

Contact: (734) 394-5308 **PLYMOUTH COMMU-**

### **NITY ARTS COUNCIL**

Time/Date: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday-Thursday and during public events, through April

Location: Plymouth Community Arts Council, 774 N. Sheldon, Plymouth

Details: "Spaces & Places," is the PCAC's 4th annual open juried exhibit

Contact: (734) 416-4278 Film

### **PENN THEATRE** Time/Date: 5 p.m. and

7 p.m. Friday-Saturday, March 29-30

**Location:** 760 Penniman Ave., Plymouth Details: "Hop," a 2001

animated film, \$3 Contact: (734) 453-0870; www.penntheatre.com

### **REDFORD THEATRE**

Time/Date: 8 p.m. April 5 and 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. April 6

Location: 17350 Lahser, Detroit

**Details:** Three Stooges Festival, featuring the films "Women Haters," "Movie Maniacs," "Disorder in the Court," "False Alarms," "Mutts to You," and "Three Missing Links," tickets are \$5

Contact: (313) 537-2560; www.redfordtheatre.com

### Music

### **BASELINE FOLK** SOCIETY

Time/Date: Sign up for open mic, 6:15-6:45 p.m.; performances, 7 p.m., the third Saturday of the month.

Location: The JWH Center for the Arts, Plymouth Community Arts Council, 774 N. Sheldon, Plymouth Details: Includes open mic performances along with a featured act. Admission

is \$5. Individual and family

annual memberships also

### are available

Contact: Scott Ludwig at BFSpresident@aol.com or call (734) 453-0869

### **CHAMBER MUSIC** SOCIETY

Time/Date: 8 p.m. Saturday, April 6

Location: Seligman Performing Arts Center, 22305 W. 13 Mile, at Lahser, on the campus of Detroit Country Day, Beverly Hills **Details:** Gryphon Trio will perform music by Haydn, Chan Ka Nin, Christos Hatzis and Mendelssohn. Tickets range from \$30-\$60

Contact: www.Chamber-MusicDetroit.org or (248) 855-6070

### JAZZ AT THE ELKS

Time/Date: 7-10 p.m. last Tuesday of the month except December

Location: Plymouth Elks Lodge #1780, 41700 Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth

Details: There is a \$10 donation at the door which includes hors d'oeuvres. Proceeds from Jazz Elks goes toward special needs and disadvantaged children and veterans

Contact: (734) 453-1780 or e-mail to plymouthelks1780@yahoo.com

### TRINITY HOUSE **THEATRE**

Time/Date: Most shows start at 8 p.m., doors open at 7:30 p.m.

Location: 38840 W. Six Mile, Livonia

Details: Tim Grimm, April 5; Bill Bynum and Company with Robert Stark, April 6. Empty Chair Night with Annie and Rod Capps, Joel Palmer and Bill Edwards, April 7; The Stray Birds with Red Tail Ring, April 12; Antione Dufour, April 13; Derek Webb, April 14; Barzin, April 19; Blue Water Ramblers, April 20. Most shows tickets are \$15, and \$12 for subscribers. Only cash and checks are

accepted Contact: (734) 464-6302

### Something different

### **DETROIT ZOO**

Time/Date: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily

Location: I-696 service drive and Woodward, Royal Oak

Details: Admission is \$11 for adults 15 to 61, \$9 for senior citizens 62 and older, and \$7 for children ages 2 to 14; children under 2 are free

Special program: Frog-Watch training classes for 2013 will be held 1-4:30 p.m. Thursday, March 28, and 1-4:30 p.m. Sunday, April 7, at the Detroit Zoo's Ford Education Center. The "citizen science" program teaches volunteers how to identify frogs and toads by their breeding calls and gather and record data that supports a national network. For more information or to register, e-mail Rebecca Johnson, associate curator of amphibians, at rjohnson@

Bunnyville: The event, from 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Saturday, March 30, will feature treats, games, crafts, live entertainment, animal enrichment, photos with the Easter Bunny, and an egg hunt. Visitors who donate a canned or other non-perishable food item for donation to Gleaners Community Food Bank, will receive a reduced admission price of \$8. Contact: (248) 541-5717

The Farmington Hills-based Chamber Music Society of Detroit will present Gryphon in concert April 6 at the Seligman Center in Beverly Hills.

### Historical

**MARSHMALLOW** 

day, March 29

Westland

participate.

Time/Date: 11 a.m., Fri-

Location: Nankin Mills,

33175 Ann Arbor Trail,

marshmallows will be

Details: More than 20,000

dropped from a helicopter

to thousands of children

below, who scramble to

collect these goodies and

trade them in to receive

a prize. Children will be

divided into age groups,

to ensure that everyone

Contact: (734) 261-1990

has an opportunity to fully

DROP

### **GREENFIELD VILLAGE**

Time/Date: April 27-28, May 4-5 and 11-12 Location: 20900 Oakwood Blvd, Dearborn

Details: Tickets are on sale now for "Day Out with Thomas: The Go Go Thomas Tour 2013," which gives youngsters a chance to climb aboard Thomas the Tank Engine and take a 25-minute ride. The event includes Thomas-related activities, such as storytelling and arts & crafts. Train rides depart every 30 minutes, from 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Tickets are \$11.75 for members. 1 and older and includes free admission to Greenfield Village. Ticket prices for non-members are \$11.75 for children, 1-4; \$27.75 for youth, 5-12; \$33.75 for adults, 13-61; and \$32.75 for seniors, 62 and up

### **PLYMOUTH HISTORICAL MUSEUM**

Time/Date: 1-4 p.m. Wednesday, Friday-Sunday, through June 9

Location: 155 S. Main, Plymouth

Details: New "Made in America" exhibit highlights America's contributions to industry, with a special

emphasis on Michiganmade products. Visitors will find iconic American-made products throughout the Museum's "Main Street," including a 1931 Ford Model A pick-up truck belonging to Margaret Dunning, the Museum's major benefactor. Other notable items include eight pedal cars from the collection of Greg Gladki of Westland. Many more items from the Museum's collections are scattered throughout the exhibit, giving visitors a full sense of American ingenuity. Admission is \$5 for adults and \$2

for students, 6-17 Contact: (734) 455-8940



### **Smashed Potato Bar** Yield: 4 servings

2 pounds potatoes, washed and quartered

½ cup milk, warmed

2 tablespoons unsalted butter

1/2 cup plain yogurt or light sour cream Sea salt and fresh ground pepper to taste

Place potatoes into a soup pot and add water until they are completely covered. Lightly salt water and place over medium high heat. Cook potatoes for 15 to 25 minutes until they are soft, but not falling apart. Carefully drain the water and return them to the pot they were cooked in.

Kids can: Use a potato masher to achieve desired texture, being careful not to work the potatoes too much. They also can add milk, butter and yogurt to mashed potatoes. Stir ingredients to combine. Taste mashed potatoes and season them with salt and pepper. Add any extra flavorings or toppings and serve warm.

Chef Justin's tips: Use a combination of purple, yellow and red potatoes to make multi-colored mashed potatoes. Leave the skin on the potatoes for extra nutrients. Don't over-mash the potatoes; overworking can cause them to become gummy.

Potato Bar toppings:

- Low fat yogurt or low fat sour cream
  - Chives/scallions
  - Cheese
  - Bacon bits
- Fresh herbs
- Sun-dried tomatoes
- Lemon

### **Potato and Green Bean** Salad

Yield: 10 servings

½ pound green beans, washed, ends trimmed and cut into thirds

2 pounds potatoes, washed, peeled and diced large

1/2 cup low-fat mayonnaise 2 lemons, juiced

1/4 cup olive oil

3 bell peppers, seeded and diced small

1 cup fresh parsley, chopped fine 1 red onion, diced small

Sea salt and fresh ground pepper to

Kids can: Snap the ends off the beans and break them into thirds.

Fill medium-sized mixing bowl halfway with ice and

water; set aside. Fill large-sized stock pot 3/4 full with lightly salted water. Bring to rolling boil over medium-high heat. Add green beans to boiling water and let cook for 2 to 3 minutes. Using a hand strainer, remove green beans from boiling water and place into the ice water to stop them from cooking. After the green beans have cooled down, remove them from the ice water and set

Carefully add cut potatoes to same boiling water greens beans were cooked in. Cook potatoes in boiling water for around 15 minutes, depending on size. Once tender, drain and

rinse with cold water. Kids can: In large mixing bowl, combine mayonnaise, lemon juice and olive oil. Stir the mayonnaise mixture to combine. Add all of the rest of the ingredients to the bowl and lightly stir to combine all flavors. Taste and adjust seasoning with salt and pepper. Keep potato salad cold in the refrigerator and stir before serving on favorite greens.



**Mashed Potato Bar** 

# Pass the potatoes, French fries are one of a kid's favorite things to eat. But there's a whole lot more that can be made from delicious, nutritious potatoes. "There are so many different kinds of potatoes that can be flavored in just about any way you like," said



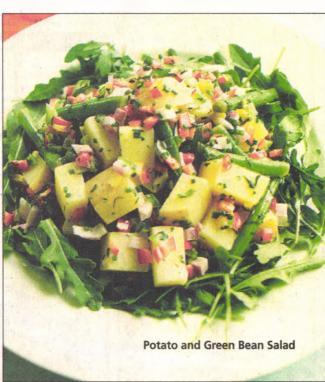
**Chef Justin Timineri** 

Chef Justin Timineri, executive chef and culinary ambassador, Florida Department of Agriculture and

Consumer Services. "Get the kids into the kitchen with you and experiment with making potato dishes the whole family

Potatoes are a good source of potassium (for your muscles and growth), vitamin B6 (to help fight illness and help your nerves function), and fiber (for digestion). Most of the nutrients are right under the skin leave the skin on whenever pos-

You can find more recipes that will have the kids saying, "Pass the potatoes, please!" at http://bit.ly/flpotato.





**Roasted Campfire Pockets** 



### **Roasted Campfire Pockets**

Yield: 4 servings

- 20 fingerling potatoes, sliced thin
- 1 large onion, sliced
- 2 bell peppers, sliced
- 2 cups mushrooms, sliced 2 tablespoons fresh herbs, chopped fine
- (basil, oregano, thyme, rosemary)
- 2 tablespoons olive oil Sea salt and fresh ground pepper to taste

4 skinless, boneless chicken breasts Preheat an outdoor grill for medium-high heat, or an oven at 375°F. In medium sized mixing bowl combine potatoes, onion, bell peppers, mushrooms, herbs and olive oil. Stir ingredients to combine and season lightly with

salt and pepper. Make 4 12- by12-inch squares of aluminum foil and lay them out to be stuffed. Place a chicken breast in the middle of each foil square, and lightly season with salt and pepper. Evenly distribute vegetable mixture on top of each chicken breast. Fold each packet so that a tight seal is formed and all the food

is contained. Grill packets, or bake them in the oven, for 20 to 30 minutes until internal temperature of chicken reaches 165°F. Remove packets from heat and let cool slightly. Open packets carefully as hot steam may rush out.

Kids Can: Help slice veggies and stuff their pockets with their favorites.

### **Homemade Potato Chips**

Yield: 4 servings

4 medium fingerling potatoes,

unpeeled (mixed colors) 1 tablespoon olive oil

Pan release spray Sea salt and fresh ground pepper to taste Additional seasonings (see below)

Special equipment needed: French man-

Preheat oven to 425°F. Rinse and dry potatoes. Slice potatoes as thin as pos-

sible with a mandolin. Place sliced potatoes in medium sized mixing bowl and rinse several times with warm water. Lightly squeeze

and dry potatoes. Kids can: Place sliced potatoes back in a dry mixing bowl and add olive oil. Toss potatoes to make sure they are evenly coated with the oil, using a little more oil if

needed. Lightly spray a cookie sheet with pan release spray. Lay sliced potatoes in a single layer on cookie sheet. Place cookie sheet in oven and bake for 15 to 20 minutes or until golden brown and crispy.

Remove cookie sheet from oven and let cool slightly. Use a thin spatula to remove potato chips from cookie sheet

into a mixing bowl. Kids can: While they are still warm, season chips with their choice of seasoning, a favorite dried spice mix such as Greek, Cajun or barbecue.

- Family Features

FACEBOOK: HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

# In-law suites, storage space among abode buyers' top picks

Purchasing a home is an important life decision, and many factors can influence the home choices buyers make.

The National Association of Realtors 2013 Profile of Buyers' Home Feature Preferences examines the features buyers prefer when it comes to purchasing a home, as well as the differences in preferences when it comes to factors such as region, demographics and household composition. The survey captures buyers who purchased a home between 2010 and

"Deciding where to live comes with a lot of options, but buyers quickly realize that some features are more important than others when it comes to choosing the right house for them," said NAR President Gary Thomas, brokerowner of Evergreen Realty, in Villa Park, Calif. "Buyers need to have a clear idea of what features are important to them and know where they are willing to compromise; in this respect, Realtors can bring buyers home. Realtors visit hundreds of homes with buyers each year, and have a unique understanding of what buyers value in their local markets.'

Geography and demography strongly influence what buyers value in a home. The typical recently purchased home was 1,860 square feet and was built in 1996. Repeat buyers, buyers of new homes, married couples and families with children typically purchased larger homes. Firsttime buyers and single women tended to buy older homes. The typical buyer purchased a home with three bedrooms and two full bathrooms. Slightly over half of the homes purchased were on a single level.

Southerners tend to buy newer homes; they were more likely to want a home less than five years old and in a wooded lot with trees when compared to other regions. Not surprisingly, buyers in the South also placed a higher importance on central air conditioning.

While more than three-fourths -78 percent — of all buyers purchased a home with a garage, garages were more popular among new-home buyers, Mid-

westerners, and suburbanites. Forty-one percent of homes purchased had a basement, but this feature was more popular among buyers in the Midwest and Northeast. Northeastern buyers also value hardwood floors more than people in other regions. Southerners typically bought the largest home at 2,000 square feet. Those in the Northeast followed closely behind with a typical home purchase of 1,850 square feet.

Among buyers 55 and older, 42 percent considered finding a single-level home very important, compared to just 11 percent of buyers under age 35. Single women also placed higher importance on single-level homes, while single men wanted finished basements. Both single men and married couples placed higher importance on new kitchen appliances.

Among all 33 home features in the survey, central air conditioning was the most important to the most buyers; 65 percent of buyers considered this feature very important. The next most important feature was a walk-in closet in the master bedroom; 39 percent of buyers considered this feature very important. Closely behind was having a home that was cable-, satellite TV-, and/or Internet ready, as well as an en-suite master bath-

When it came to actually buying a home, among buyers who considered central AC and cable-, satellite TV-, and/or Internet ready very or somewhat important, 94 percent bought a home with these features. The next most common feature was an eat-in kitchen; 89 percent of buyers who thought this was important purchased a home with an eat-in kitchen. Buyers value some features

so much that they are willing to spend more money to have them. Sixty-nine percent of buyers who did not purchase a home with central AC would be willing to pay feature. Sixty-nine percent of buyers who did not purchase a home with new kitchen appliances would be willing to pay \$1,840 more for a home with this feature. A walk-in closet in the master bedroom was the third most common feature on



which buyers would spend more. Sixty percent of buyers who did not purchase a home with a walkin closet would be willing to pay \$1,350 more for a home with this feature.

The features on which buyers placed the highest dollar value were waterfront properties and homes that were less than five years old. Thirty-two percent of buyers would be willing to pay a median of \$5,420 more for a home on the waterfront, and 40 percent of buyers would be willing to pay a median of \$5,020 more for a home

that was less than five years old. The rooms that buyers were willing to pay the most for were a basement and an in-law suite. Thirty-three percent of buyers would be willing to pay a median of \$3,200 more for a home with a basement, and 20 percent of buyers would be willing to pay a median of \$2,920 more for a home with an in-law suite.

When it came to rooms that buyers want in a home, 55 percent of buyers thought it was very important to have a living room, although buyers in the Northeast placed more importance on a home with a dining room. Buyers aged 55 and older placed more importance on a bedroom on the main level of the house. Buyers aged 35 to 54 placed more importance on a laundry room, while those with children placed more importance on a family room.

The two most common rooms buyers were willing to spend more for were a laundry room and a den/study/home office/ buyers who did not purchase a home with a laundry room would be willing to pay \$1,590 more for a home with this room. Fortyfour percent of buyers who did not purchase a home with a den/ study/home office/library would

be willing to pay \$1,920 more for a home with this room.

Although 97 percent of recent buyers were satisfied with their home purchase, there are always features buyers would like that they don't have, said NAR Vice President of Research Paul Bishop. "Most satisfied homeowners still said they would like more or larger closets and storage space. In addition, nearly half of recent buyers would prefer a larger kitchen, and two out of five would prefer a larger home overall."

Within three months of a home purchase, 53 percent of buyers undertook a home improvement project. The typical buyer spent \$4,550 on various projects. Remodeling the kitchen was the most common home improvement project; 47 percent of buyers undertook a project in the kitchen. Bathrooms were a close second at 44 percent. Forty-one percent of buyers who made home improvements added or replaced lighting, and 37 percent added or replaced appliances soon after becoming a

In October 2012, a sample of households that had purchased any type of residence real estate during 2010 to 2012 and still owned the property was surveyed. The survey sample was drawn from a representative panel of U.S. households monitored and maintained by an established survey research firm. A total of 2,005 qualified households responded to the survey. Households were sampled to meet age and income quotas representative of all home buyers drawn from the 2011 NAR Profile

The 2013 Profile of Buyers' Home Feature Preferences can be ordered by calling (800) 874-6500, or online at www.realtor.org/prodser.nsf/Research. The study costs \$14.95 for NAR members and \$49.95 for nonmembers.

\$200,000

# Co-op has legal status

By Robert Meisner **Guest Columnist** 

Q: Does the co-op have a right to decide who is buying the cooperative shares unlike a condominium?

A: So long as the coop is not violating any laws such as human rights violations, they have the right to determine who will be shareholders with them. Remember that Barbra Streisand and Richard Nixon were denied co-op membership in New



Robert Meisner

because the co-op was concerned about the paparazzi that would be hanging around trying

York

pictures. Of course, the co-op board must exercise sound business judgment and must weigh the fact that the shareholder that is trying to sell will be upset if they nix the sale. On the other hand, the co-op might have a right of

to take

Q: I am wondering if we, as a homeowner, have an obligation to disclose that there was a murder/suicide in the home which we have purchased, assuming we want to sell it. I know that it is of concern to some prospective purchasers. What do you think?

first refusal as well.

A: While each case has to be decided on its facts, and depending upon the individual state's law, in a recent case out of the Pennsylvania Superior Court, the court basically that a murder once occurred in a house falls into the category of homeowner-buyer concerns best left to the term caveat emptor, i.e., let the buyer beware. The decision went beyond considering whether a combined murder/ suicide should be disclosed, essentially holding no psychological defects need to be disclosed because they are not considered under state law. It has also been argued that this court's opinion could apply to such diverse circumstances as a past rape on the property, a sex offender living next door, or even a high crime rate in the neighborhood. In any event, caution being the better part of valor, you may want to consider discussing it with your lawyer before issuing a disclosure statement.

Robert M. Meisner is a lawyer and author of Condominium Operation: Getting Started & Staying on the Right Track, second edition, available for \$9.95 plus \$1 shipping/handling. He also wrote Condo Living: A Survival Guide to Buying, Owning and Selling a Condominium, \$24.95 plus \$5 shipping/ handling. Call (248) 644-4433 or visit bmeisner@ meisner-law.com. This column shouldn't be construed as legal advice.

### HOMES SOLD/REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS-WAYNE COUNTY

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of Nov. 26-30, 2012, at the Wayne County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

7483 Briargate Ct 6869 Bridgemont Dr 39714 Cheviot Rd 2353 Cleveland Way 7379 Corbett Dr 4090 Elizabeth Ave 7429 Emerson Dr 47385 Fairlawn Ct 40210 Finley Dr 44188 Harsdale Dr 411 Innsbrook Dr 1203 Knightsbridge Rd 1475 N Morton Taylor Rd 8228 Newbury Ct S 7224 Peachtree Ct 378 Pleasant Ridge Dr 2006 S Lilley Rd 43930 Saltz Rd	\$180,000 \$391,000 \$127,000 \$127,000 \$195,000 \$180,000 \$113,000 \$113,000 \$164,000 \$157,000 \$323,000 \$150,000 \$560,000 \$560,000 \$259,000 \$291,000 \$255,000 \$75,000
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378 Sylvan Dr 6820 Tiffany Cir 46903 Torrey Hills Ct 46919 Torrey Hills Ct 46989 Torrey Hills Ct 822 Torrey Hills Dr 46836 Wareham GARDEN CITY	\$415,000 \$258,000 \$257,000 \$321,000 \$258,000 \$260,000 \$380,000
32711 Alvin St 2049 Deering St 31454 Dover St 28642 Elmwood St 29105 Hennepin St 31904 Hennepin St 6161 Lathers St 32750 Maplewood St 28509 Marquette St 33746 Marquette St 6736 Schaller St	\$66,000 \$16,000 \$105,000 \$63,000 \$140,000 \$28,000 \$42,000 \$35,000 \$125,000
20005 Angling St 28713 Bayberry Park Dr 8968 Beatrice St 14012 Blackburn St 32904 Bobrich Ct 11861 Cavell St 16266 Fairway St 17900 Fairway St 14308 Farmington Rd 16926 Farmington Rd	\$159,000 \$130,000 \$59,000 \$184,000 \$170,000 \$120,000 \$174,000 \$174,000 \$110,000

258 257 321 258	3,000 3,000 7,000 ,000 3,000 0,000	
\$16 \$105 \$63 \$30 \$140 \$28 \$42	,000 ,000 ,000 ,000 ,000 ,000 ,000 ,00	
\$59 184 170 120 220 174 128	,000 ,000 ,000 ,000 ,000 ,000 ,000	P

\$95,000	1100 Fairground St	\$185,000
\$104,000	9420 Hillcrest Dr	\$300,000
\$190,000	656 Jener Pl	\$405,000
\$72,000	575 Kellogg St	\$245,000
\$125,000	575 N Evergreen St	\$166,000
\$123,000	11798 Parkview Dr	\$193,000
\$123,000	43025 River Bend Dr	\$160,000
\$110,000	986 Roosevelt St	\$240,000
\$156,000	10064 Wolfriver Dr	\$130,000
\$275,000	REDFORD	
\$37,000	26027 Cathedral	\$60,000
\$110,000	14125 Centralia	\$77,000
\$135,000	13520 Dixie	\$41,000
	9094 Fenton	\$50,000
\$242,000	11740 Nathaline	\$38,000
\$134,000	20411 Norborne	\$25,000
\$437,000	13930 Royal Grand	\$74,000
\$225,000	9301 Virgil	\$27,000
\$475,000	WESTLAND	
\$110,000	34129 Arrowhead St	\$67,000
\$146,000	30615 Burlington St	\$60,000
\$255,000	34031 Caseville Ct \$12,0	000
\$74,000	6794 Chirrewa St	\$90,000
\$516,000	7512 Culpepper Ct	\$55,000
	36563 Hiveley St	\$60,000
\$443,000	443 N Sybald St	\$82,000
\$158,000	8410 Rickie Ln	\$80,000
\$90,000	34416 Shellye Ct	\$135,000
123,000	33013 Woodworth Ct	\$50,000
	NID COLLNITY	

44727 Erik Pass

### **HOMES SOLD TRAN** AKLAND COUNTY

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of Nov. 5-9, 2012, at the Oakland County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

- \$172,000
\$310,000
\$280,000
\$139,000
\$248,000
\$475,000
\$270,000
\$525,000
\$1,130,000
\$417,000
\$425,000

**BLOOMFIELD HILLS** 

O/REAL ESTAT
4518 Brightmore Rd 199 Barrington Rd 3741 Thornbrier Way 1245 Whitmore Rd 2493 Wildbrook Run COMMERCE TOWNSHIP 6117 Birchcrest Ln 3252 Edgemere St 1912 Hampshire Ct 4051 Heatherwood Dr 5958 Lochmore Dr FARMINGTON 23091 Lake Way 22736 Power Rd FARMINGTON HILLS 30646 Charleston Ct 30823 Country Ridge Cir 38456 Darbyshire 28900 Drake Rd 30055 Kimberly Ct 29511 Mullane Dr 21437 Riverwalk Ct 21770 Ruth St 21785 S Brandon St

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<b>SACTIONS-C</b>	1
29747 Sierra Point Cir	\$1
29970 Southbrook St	\$1
30901 Woodstream Dr	\$1
Lathrup Village	
18720 Roseland Blvd	- 5
28901 Southfield Rd	\$1
MILFORD	
30782 Artesian Dr	\$2
1220 Old Milford Farms	\$2
312 Riverbend St	\$2
178 Turnberry Ct	\$2
4239 Windmill Farms	\$4
NOVI	
45615 Bristol Cir	\$2
43120 Emerson Way	\$2
21810 Greendale Dr	\$3
44521 Gwinnett Loop	\$1
44543 Gwinnett Loop	\$1
27552 Harrington Way	\$
27568 Harrington Way	1
41617 Monterey Dr	\$1
22854 Penton Rise Ct	\$2

41782 Primrose Dr

27468 Sloan St

\$125,000 \$171,000 \$189,000		· 25317 Sutton Ct 39847 Village Wood Ln 24874 White Plains Dr 28194 Wolcott Dr	\$50,000 \$42,000 \$319,000 \$87,000
\$94,000 \$160,000		SOUTH LYON 25800 Belladonna 1021 Fountain View Cir	\$218,000 \$84,000
\$200,000 \$295,000 \$257,000 \$226,000 \$465,000	*	24351 Glenwood Dr 61130 Saddlecreek Dr 61155 Serene Ct 22950 Valerie St 24790 Valleywood Dr	\$40,000 \$313,000 \$195,000 \$140,000 \$328,000
\$232,000 \$267,000		23311 Cornerstone Village \$57,000	Dr
\$300,000 \$180,000 \$171,000 \$45,000		29295 Murray Crescent Dr 20291 Rodeo Ct 19776 W Nine Mile Rd WHITE LAKE	\$125,000 \$70,000 \$40,000
\$45,000 \$180,000 \$290,000 \$123,000 \$235,000		620 Farnsworth Rd 8498 Huron River Dr 668 Red Bank Dr	\$86,000 \$104,000 \$270,000

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\*Data entry \*Verify proper posting \*Review monthly statements from vendors \*Prepare

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work & software support as needed •Other duties and proj-

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Observer & Eccentric | Thursday, March 28, 2013

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AFI Financial	(877) 234-0600	3.5	0	2.75	0	J/A/F
Ameriplus Mortgage Corp.	(248) 740-2323	3.5	0	2.75	0	J/A
Client Services by Gold Star	(800) 991-9922	3.5	0	2.75	0	J/A/V/F
Co-op Services Credit Union	(734) 466-6113	3.875	0.25	3.125	0	J
Dearborn Federal Savings Bank	(313) 565-3100	3.75	0	3	0	А
Fifth Third Bank	(800) 792-8830	3.625	0	2.75	0	J/A/V/F
Gold Star Mortgage	(888) 293-3477	3.25	1.875	2.375	1.875	J/A/V/F
Group One Mortgage	(248) 282-1602	3.75	0	3.375	0	J/A/V/F
Mortgages by Gold Star	(888) 293-3477	3.125	3.125	2.625	0.25	J/A/V/F
Sierra Pacific Mortgage	(313) 215-1766	3.375	0.75	2.5	0.75	J/A/V/F

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Key to "Other" column - J= Jumbo, A = Arm, V = VA, F = FHA & NR = Not Reported

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- builder-

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Help Wanted - Dental Help Wanted - Medical

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37650 Professio

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**REQUIREMENTS:** 

Demonstrated knowledge of and experience working with legal issues relating to print and on-line operations, including knowledge of state and federal laws that apply to First Amendment protection, the Freedom of Information Act, the Open Meetings Act, etc.

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Must provide own transportation and be able to work a flexible schedule of days and afternoons. Weekends included.

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### CROSSWORD PUZZLER

**ACROSS** 

1 Lomond and Ness

6 Bah! 11 Familiarize with new

material 13 Peace talks

city "That Girl" girl 15 Eurasian

mountains Went first

18 Current rage 19 Full range

20 Previous to 21 Sunflower supporter

23 Taro-root paste

24 Colony members 25 Hurlers' stats

27 Winds around 29 Noon on a sundial

31 Watchdog's warning

32 Puts up

50

DOWN

time

decorated 3 Hot coal

That gentleman

libations 43 Wapiti

44 Got along 46 Slangy pal 47 Cotton gin

35 Forum garb

38 Big rackets

39 Goddess of

dawn

41 Seasonal

name 48 Riverbank

dweller

49 Maude portrayer 50 Little finger

52 Kitchen implement

54 Swamp grass 55 Lawn invaders

1 Idles away

2 Elaborately

5 Comfy

45

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Answer to Previous Puzzle

2011 UFS, Dist. by Univ. Uclick for UFS

6 Genuine

nuisance Tin. in chemistry

8 Name in cosmetics

9 Keeps from happening 10 Stays near the shore

12 Catch using trickery 13 Model-builder's

activity 16 Cookie man

22 Long coats 24 Tire center

26 RSVP word 28 It may be

abstract 30 Form a thought

32 — Jean King 33 Thoughtless 34 Arrange in

order 36 Talk turkey? 37 Had the same

opinion 38 Ocean

trenches 40 Filter in

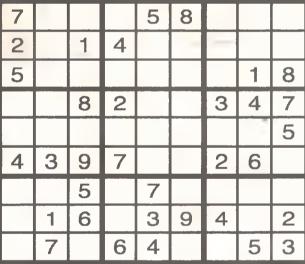
42 Glides aloft 44 Pate de gras

53 Shoe width

45 Selected a card 51 Metric wt.

Check out the "Just Right Crossword Puzzles" books

44



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Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

В

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RELACISUM

FRENCH HORN GUITAR В HARMONICA HARP INSTRUMENT

ACCORDION

BAGPIPE

**BONGO** 

BUGLE

SNARE TAMBORINE TRIANGLE TROMBONE TRUMPET TUBA VIOLA VIOLIN WHISTLE

MARIMBA

MUSICAL

0B0E

ORGAN

PIAN0

**PICCOLO** 

RECORDER

**SAXOPHONE** 

WORDS

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally & diagonally throughout the puzzle.

3

R Ι

### **CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE**

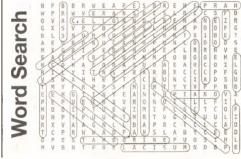
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2 6 4 1 6 8 9 9 Sudoku 6 4 5 7 8 8 9846 9 2 3 8 6 Þ 3 1 Z 2 Þ 3 8 2 9 6 9 8 3 8 2 L 7 Þ 9 9 ε S L 9 Þ Į. 8

> 5 9 8 9

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