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Two downtown bars get closer scrutiny

Police cite incidents that warrant review

By Matt Jachman
Staff Writer

Two downtown Plymouth bars were put on notice Monday as the Plymouth City Commission recommended the renewal of 23 of the city's 24 licenses to sell alcohol by the glass.

Alcohol-related incidents in 2013 that police say stemmed

from the bar 336 Main and the Penn Grill caused the commission to put conditions – quarterly reviews of those establishments – on the license renewal recommendations. The recommendations go to the Michigan Liquor Control Commission, which will discuss the license renewals later this month.

One restaurant, Plymouth Crossing, was recommended for non-renewal over unpaid taxes and water bills, but City Manager Paul Sincock said Wednesday that much of the

balance had been paid since the meeting and that the rest was expected to be paid by a Monday deadline.

Fatal crash

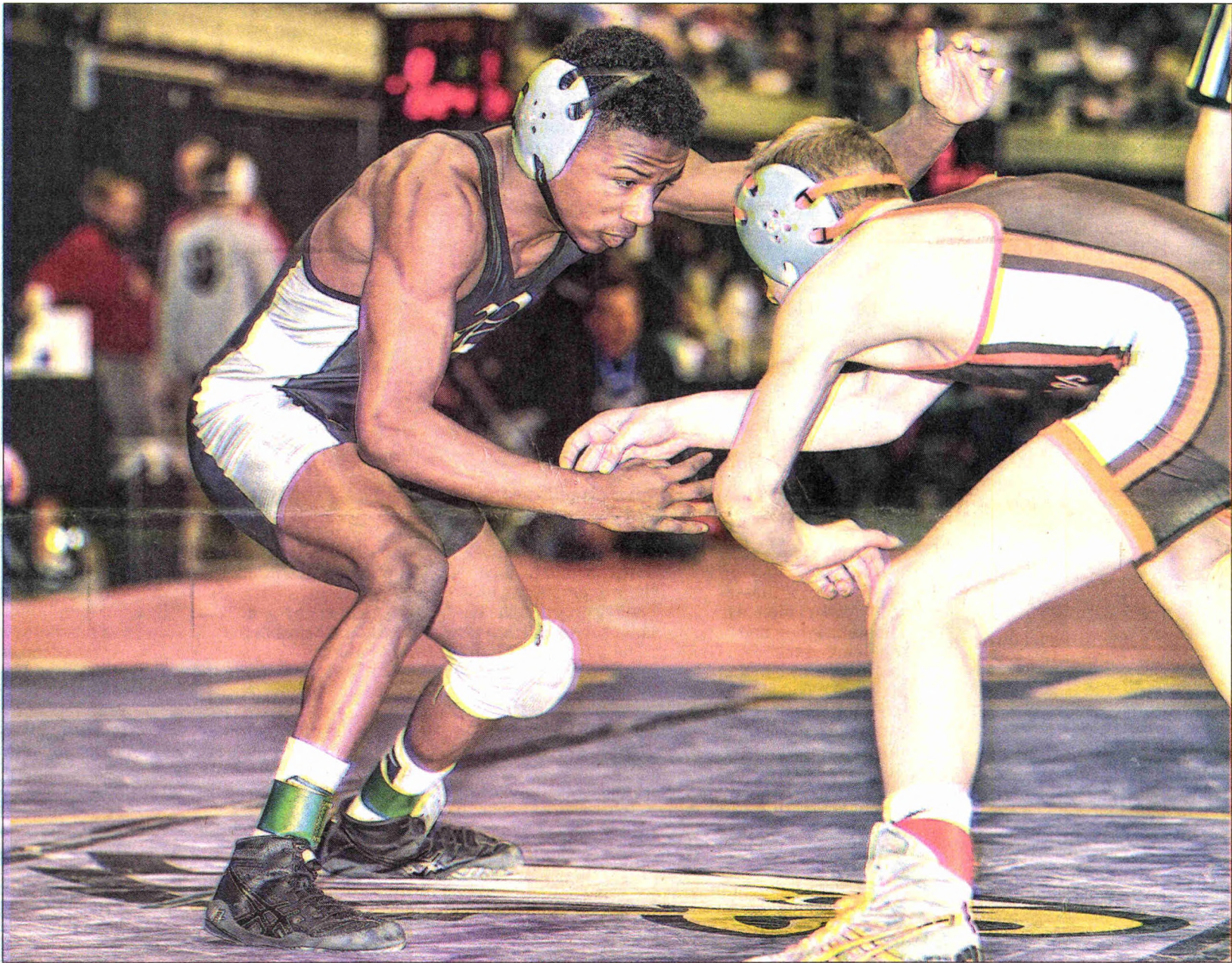
Among the incidents described by Police Chief Al Cox, during Monday's meeting of the commission's Liquor License Review Committee, was a single-vehicle crash last Nov. 28 on Plymouth Road in Washtenaw County that killed the driver and his passenger.

See BARS, Page A2



Alcohol-related incidents in 2013 caused the commission to make quarterly reviews part of liquor license renewals at 336 Main (above) and the Penn Grill.

Palace royalty



Plymouth's Brandon Harris (left) competes in his third-round bout at 112 pounds during the Division 1 wrestling individual state finals at The Palace of Auburn Hills. Harris is one of five Wildcats to earn all-state honors. For more coverage, turn to page B1.
DOUGLAS BARGERSTOCK

3
6

District tops most MEAP scores

Students show decline in only one category

By Brad Kadrich
Staff Writer

If this was the last MEAP test Plymouth-Canton students ever take, they did pretty well with it.

In results released last week for the 18 tests students took in various subjects and age levels, Plymouth-Canton students showed improvement on 10 and held their own in seven others when compared to the average of the previous two years. Only one of the 18 tests showed a drop,

according to Dan Colligan, the district's coordinator for assessment services.

It's the last year for fall MEAP testing, Colligan said. Next year, Colligan said, the state moves to a new assessment, likely the Smarter Balanced Assessment.

"When you look at our scores and compare them to the last few years, 10 of the 18 test scores were higher than where we've been," Colligan said. "We're very happy about that."

Scores in the sixth-grade social studies content area were the only one to drop, falling from 45 percent (to achieve proficient or advanced) in

See MEAP, Page A2

City keeps lid on liquor licenses

Commission votes against approving any new ones

By Matt Jachman
Staff Writer

Prompted by concerns that alcohol-related incidents are taxing public safety resources, Plymouth officials decided Monday to keep the cap on the number of liquor licenses in the city at 24.

The unanimous vote by the Plymouth City Commission came after the annual review of licensed establishments by the commission's Liquor License Review Committee, which

recommended maintaining the cap. The cap limits the number of places licensed to sell alcohol by the glass to 14 in the downtown area and 10 in the rest of the city.

"I think right now, per capita, we are very well served," said Commissioner Ed Hingelberg, an LLRC member.

The decision disappointed George Stefanakis, owner of the Greek Islands Coney Island, who made a pitch for increasing the limit, saying he wants to be able to serve customers beer and wine with their meals.

See LIQUOR, Page A2



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Winter keeps city sidewalk crews busy

By **Matt Jachman**
Staff Writer

Near-record snow accumulation this winter has led the city of Plymouth to hire a contractor to clear sidewalks at properties where the owners have neglected to do so.

Maverick Property Maintenance of Plymouth Township was enlisted about a month ago to temporarily take over sidewalk duties from the Department of

Municipal Services, where workers have been kept busy plowing and salting streets and public lots, repairing water-main breaks and shoveling the sidewalks adjacent to public property, such as parks and city buildings.

So far this winter, said John Buzuvis, the city's community development director, the city has cleared walks at 150 to 200 properties, between Maverick and DMS workers. With more than

80 inches of accumulation, it's been the second-snowiest winter on record in the Detroit area.

Buzuvis said the sidewalk-clearing has led to billings to property owners totaling about \$19,000.

The majority of un-cleared walks are adjacent to residential rather than business properties, he said. Maverick charges the city on a per-lot basis.

City ordinance requires property owners

to have their public sidewalks cleared within 24 hours of a snowfall, though Buzuvis said action by the city is unlikely until at least 36-48 hours have passed. Those who have walks cleared by the city are charged a minimum of \$125 an incident.

City officials see it as a safety issue.

"There are people walking dogs, there are people jogging and still out and about," he said. "Walkability is one of the

things Plymouth is known for."

Buzuvis said word about the sidewalk-clearing requirement is included in tax bills, sent out in email blasts, noted on the city's website and advertised in a local newspaper. Property owners who don't follow through may also get a warning leaflet from an ordinance enforcement officer before the contractor is sent out.

Buzuvis said the program generates a lot of

complaints and follow-up by himself and others at city hall. But the number of complaints about un-shoveled walks is greater, City Manager Paul Sincock said.

Contractors have been hired in the past to help with sidewalk-clearing, Buzuvis said, but mostly for individual heavy snowfalls instead of on an ongoing basis.

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Expo matches vendors with homeowners

By **Brad Kadrich**
Staff Writer

Monika and Matt Miller are about to begin a big kitchen remodel in their Plymouth home.

That's why the former Canton residents were at the Summit on the Park on Sunday, perusing the various vendors and booths at the Home Improvement Expo, the annual fair that gives people a chance to check out vendors from a variety of areas, from roofing to landscaping, from renovations to re-buildings.

The Millers, making their way through the booths with children Cameron and Quinn, were happy with what they saw.

"We're going to start our kitchen project," Monika Miller said. "We thought this might be a good place to look for ideas."

Some 115 vendors set up at the Summit and, despite yet another snowfall that dropped some 3-4 inches of snow on the area, they welcomed a large number of visitors over the two-day expo.

Renee DeVos of the Canton Building Department, which put on the expo, said the weather seemed to have little effect on attendance.

"Saturday was very



Pamela Truskowski of Livonia gets a chair massage from Melissa Davies of Canton-based Brackney Chiropractic.

busy and (early Sunday) is OK," DeVos said Sunday.

"I was a little worried (Saturday) because we went through more (welcome) books than usual. That's a pretty good worry to have."

Among the vendors was Bill Albert, owner of Canton-based Accent Remodeling, Inc. Albert said the expo gives Accent staffers a chance to talk to people right in the community where they do business.

In fact, he said, past customers frequently come by his booth at the expo — he's there every year — and inevitably end up talking to prospective clients.

"It feels real good to know we've got customers who are happy with us," Albert said.

LIQUOR

Continued from Page A1

License sought

"It's not a bar. If they like to have a glass of wine with their dinner or a beer, that's what we're looking for," Stefanakis told the committee. Stefanakis said dinnertime at his restaurant is sometimes slow and that some potential customers leave when they learn Greek Islands doesn't have a license.

But Mayor Dan Dwyer, also an LLRC member, said police resources are already stretched by service

calls of all types, that several other business people have also asked that the limit be raised and that two of the 24 existing licenses haven't even been active, but could result in more police service calls.

"My answer is, not now," Dwyer told Stefanakis. The mayor noted that one of the commission's goals for the year is to add an officer or two to the police force, which is at 15 officers.

Dwyer said city officials are looking for revenue to increase the force.

"Nobody wants to see Plymouth limited by its resources, but that's the reality right now," said

Commissioner Meg Dooley, another committee member.

New additions

Inactive in 2013 was the license held by the Grecian Cafe, at Starkweather and Main, which closed in the fall and will re-open as Aqua, described as a European-inspired restaurant that will serve alcohol. Owner Vitor Nikollbibaj said Monday the opening is at least two weeks away.

Also inactive for most of 2013 was the Rock Bar and Grill on Penniman, which closed in January of last year. The establishment and the license are under new ownership and the former Rock

opened Friday as the Post Local Bistro.

Police Chief Al Cox said his officers made 60 arrests for drunken driving last year, but that other demands on officers' time made it difficult for them to patrol for drunken drivers as frequently as he'd like. Of the 60 drivers arrested, Cox said, 29 fell into the "super drunk" category, in which the blood-alcohol content is .17 or greater.

"I don't believe 60 is anywhere close to what's out there," Cox told the committee.

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MEAP

Continued from Page A1

2011 to 40 percent in 2013. The district's MEAP scores are posted on its website (www.pccs.k12.mi.us).

Colligan said that, while officials are still studying the data to determine why those scores dropped, it likely has to do with the district's emphasis on reading, writing and math as educators prepare for an expected transition to the Michigan Common Core

curriculum.

While district teachers focus on the transition to Common Core, Colligan said the social studies framework hasn't been introduced yet. And even though it dropped, Colligan pointed out that, like the district's scores in every area, the social studies score is above the state average.

"We're still looking for that," Colligan said of the drop in social studies.

"We have focused a lot on reading and math the last couple of years. That has been our primary focus at our elementary

schools. Finding ways to incorporate social studies is something we're always looking to do. We're going to look at our curriculum and try to figure out what we can learn from each other in terms of successful techniques for social studies."

Colligan said the district had some closing of the gaps among its minority students, particularly in areas of reading and writing, though "there's work to do" in math.

"We're working on those numbers," he said.

"I know we saw even growth in math, which means we didn't see evidence the gap is closing in math."

Colligan said district officials are "still analyzing achievement gap numbers."

"We know the broad scores, but we want more details," Colligan said. "We're proud of our teachers and school communities and our students and the work they put in, but there's still work to do."

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BARS

Continued from Page A1

Cox said witnesses and other evidence indicate the men had been drinking at the Penn Grill before the crash; the driver's blood-alcohol content, the chief said, was 0.267, more than three times the legal limit for a driver in Michigan. They had left the bar shortly after 2 a.m., he said, and the crash was discovered about 2:30 a.m.

Another incident involved a driver who crashed a car into a house on Fairgrounds Street in Plymouth early Dec. 31. Cox said his investigation showed the driver and his passenger had been at both 336 Main and the Penn Grill before the crash and had about seven drinks each, some of them quite strong.

Both men were injured. The chief said that,

in his estimation, the fact that the car hit a utility pole before hitting the house probably slowed it down enough to save their lives. No one has been charged in the case; police are awaiting test results from the Michigan State Police laboratory.

'We don't want this'

Billy Farwell, a partner in the Penn Grill, said he and bar employees take measures to see that people are not over-served, but he didn't object to quarterly reviews by the LLRC, to which the Penn Grill has been subject in the past.

"We don't want this," Farwell told the committee, referring to alcohol-related incidents. "As bar owners, we don't want it."

Farwell also contested Cox's findings in the double fatality, saying the men had left the Penn Grill earlier and had been drinking somewhere else before the crash.

"The information I've

gotten says differently," the chief said, inviting Farwell to bring forward any witnesses with conflicting information.

Farwell also said drugs were involved; Cox would not confirm that, and later said drugs would be irrelevant in the scope of a liquor investigation.

Among the other issues discussed was the ejection, last Dec. 22, of unruly patrons at 336 Main. They had been involved in an altercation inside, said Cox, who showed committee members a video of parts of the incident. Some in the ejected group tried violently to get back inside through a rear door, the video showed, but bar security kept them out.

Cox didn't fault 336 Main in the incident, saying the security workers did what they were supposed to do. But the fact that they were occupied with the incident left other parts of the crowded bar unmonitored, he

said.

Dan Johnson, one of the partners at 336 Main, told the LLRC the bar is transitioning into a restaurant and won't be "the last call joint." Johnson and two partners, who also own the Ironwood Grill, took over 336 Main last year.

"We're taking every step that we can take. We want to make this a nice place," said Landon Garrett, another partner.

Mayor Dan Dwyer noted that quarterly reviews had worked at the Plymouth Roc, a bar and restaurant on Ann Arbor Road that had been subject to them. The number of police incidents involving the Roc had dropped significantly, to just two in a year's time, Dwyer said.

"I commend them for, so far, doing what they said they were going to do," the mayor said.

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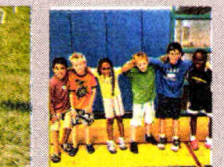
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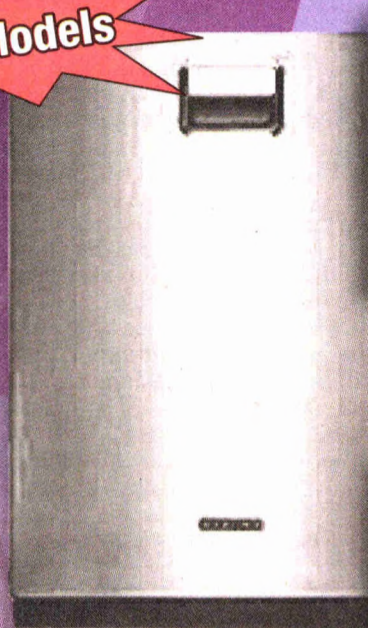
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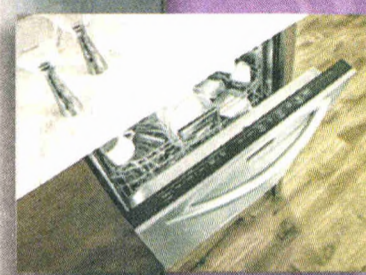
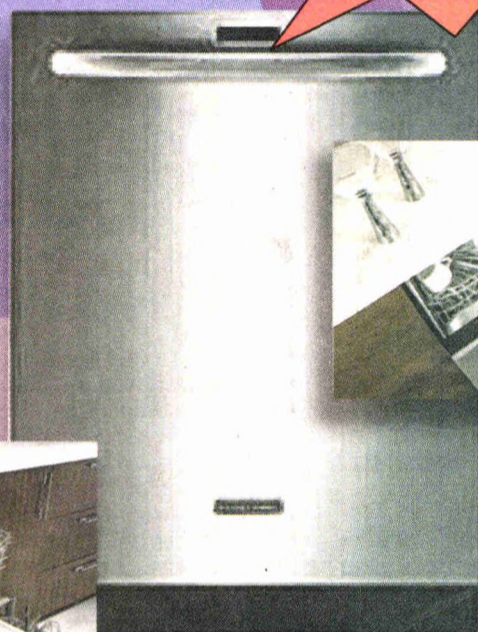
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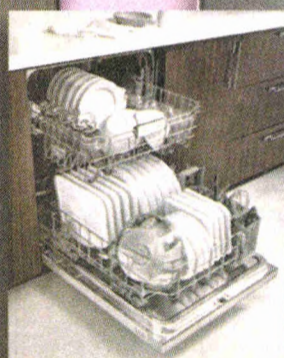
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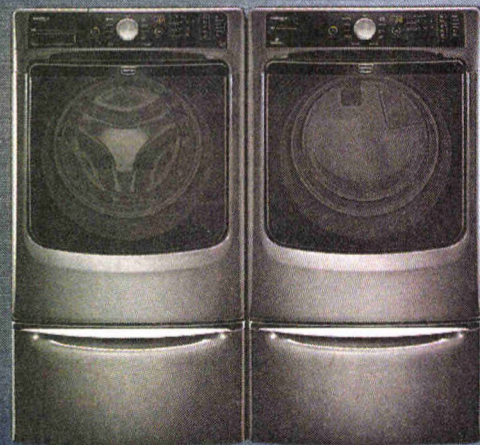
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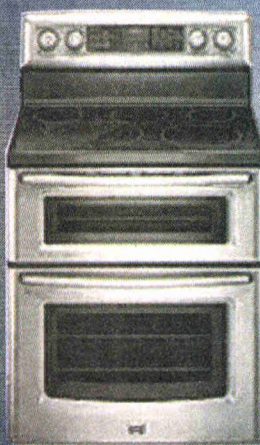


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Bank robbery suspect faces competency hearing

By Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

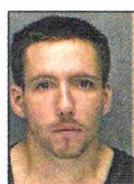
A Canton bank robbery suspect faces a court ruling in April that is expected to determine if he is competent to stand trial on charges he robbed a Comerica branch inside the Kroger store near Canton Center and Ford roads.

Nathan Michael Kuhn, 28, remains jailed as he awaits a ruling, now set for April 18, by

Wayne County Circuit Judge Richard Skutt, who delayed a decision that had been expected Monday.

Skutt also is expected to issue a ruling on whether Kuhn, a convicted felon, should be held criminally responsible for his alleged actions.

Kuhn, described by authorities as a drifter who has lived in Livonia and Westland, was



Kuhn

arrested in a Wayne motel room after the Comerica branch was robbed last Oct. 24 by a man who police say passed a note to a teller, implied he had a gun and demanded money. Detective Sgt. Chad Baugh has said no shots were fired and no one was injured during the robbery.

Kuhn could face penalties ranging up to life in prison if he is convicted as charged. As he

awaits the outcome of his case, he would have to post \$50,000 before he could be released on a \$500,000/10-percent bond.

Canton police had to force their way into a Wayne motel where Kuhn was arrested, Baugh has said. Authorities located him after receiving a tip about his whereabouts.

A not-guilty plea has been placed on Kuhn's record as he awaits trial.

Meanwhile, Skutt has or-

dered Kuhn to stay away from the Kroger store and its employees if he is able to post bond.

Kuhn had been paroled just 11 months prior to his arrest for incidents involving uttering and publishing, after authorities say he forged a check or other financial document.

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CANTON CRIME WATCH

Shots fired

Canton police went to the former Keller & Stein florist site on Michigan Avenue shortly before 1 a.m. Sunday after a woman reported hearing gunshots in the area, a police report said.

The woman said she saw a black vehicle, possibly a GMC Jimmy, stop on Michigan Avenue and then continue westbound from Lilley Road. She believes someone in the vehicle may have fired the shots.

A police report noted there were gunshot holes in a small portion of a building that was still standing following an earlier demolition.

Motel disturbance

A drunken 43-year-old Canton woman was taken to a hospital after police went to America's Best, a motel near Ford and Haggerty, following reports she was causing a ruckus.

Police received a call shortly before 10 p.m. Saturday that a woman staying in a room had been disruptive and was repeatedly calling the front desk for no apparent reason. The motel wanted the suspect removed.

Police learned the woman had three warrants for her arrest, including one felony out of Washtenaw County. Police knocked on the door, but the woman refused to open it, slurring her speech and speaking in incoherent sentences, a police report said.

Police got a key from motel security and got into the room, where the woman was found lying on the bed. She initially told police she had been

raped, then retracted her story only to repeat it again. She couldn't identify a suspect or say when it might have happened, the police report said.

Police took the woman to St. Mary Mercy Hospital in Livonia, where it was learned her blood-alcohol content was 0.50 percent — more than six times the legal limit if she had been driving.

Sex offender violation

A 22-year-old registered sex offender was facing possible charges after police learned he had failed to register a Ford Explorer in a timely manner, a police report said.

The man went to the police station Saturday to register the vehicle, but it was learned he already was past the five-day deadline. The man told police it was a mistake and he has always followed his sex offender registration orders.

The matter was turned over to the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office for review.

Window damaged

A 34-year-old woman notified police to report someone had damaged a window of her residence in College Park Estates, a mobile home community on Mott Road west of Barr, a police report said.

The woman told police she has been having problems with a man. She came home around 6 p.m. Monday and noticed a window of her home had been damaged. Police contacted the suspect, who denied any involvement.

— By Darrell Clem

Man ordered to trial for shooting at officer

By LeAnne Rogers
Staff Writer

Chasing a fleeing suspect through a field, a Romulus Police officer testified last Thursday that he feared for his life when the man suddenly turned to point a gun at him.

"I'm not sure where he pulled the gun from, I hadn't seen anything in his hands," Officer Darryl Nippes said. "He pointed the gun back behind him. He told me 'You best back up.' I drew my service weapon and fired."

Nippes testified during the Westland 18th District Court preliminary examination for Allante Jones, 24, of Ypsilanti, who is facing multiple charges stemming from the incident.

The Feb. 1 incident began about 5:45 p.m. when Nippes and a second officer working road patrol spotted a van driving without headlights near Ecorse and Van Born in Romulus.

Judge Sandra Cicirelli ordered Jones bound over for trial on charges of carrying a concealed weapon, felonious assault, felony firearm, marijuana possession and resisting police. His Wayne County Circuit Court arraignment is set for March 6.

Defense attorney Gerald Evelyn asked for a reduction in the \$50,000 cash bond for Jones, who has been jailed since his arrest, or release on a tether.

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PLYMOUTH CRIME WATCH

Identity fraud reported in township

Police in Plymouth Township received two reports of fraudulent purchases, both made in connection with identity theft, in recent days.

In one, a township man told police Saturday that someone had opened a Dots store credit card in his name and charged it for \$125.99. He received the bill Friday, he said; the man said he had never shopped at a Dots.

Upon calling the bank that issued the card, the man said, he found out that four other store credit cards had been recently opened in his name and charged for nearly \$1,172 worth of merchandise, all at stores in Gahanna, Ohio.

In another incident, a township man reported last month that someone had used his name and Social Security num-

ber to open an account with a cellular phone service provider and buy three phones. The cost of the phones was not noted in a police report. The account was opened in December, the complainant told police, and both a January and a February bill were sent to him.

Fuel theft

Gasoline was reportedly siphoned from two vehicles last week as they sat in the driveway of a house on Grant Drive, in the area of M-14 and Ridge Road.

The fuel theft, from a 2012 Jeep and a 1995 Ford, was discovered the morning of Feb. 27, a police report said. The complainant told police he had heard a noise outside at about 1 a.m., but hadn't looked out.

— By Matt Jachman

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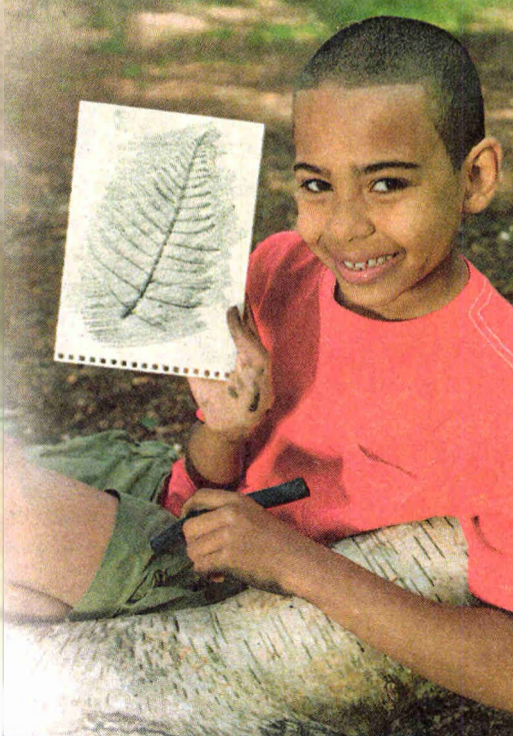


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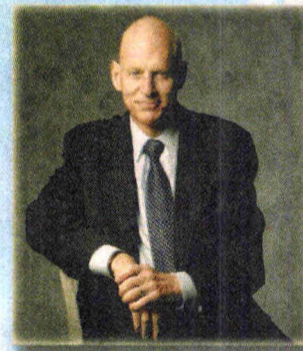


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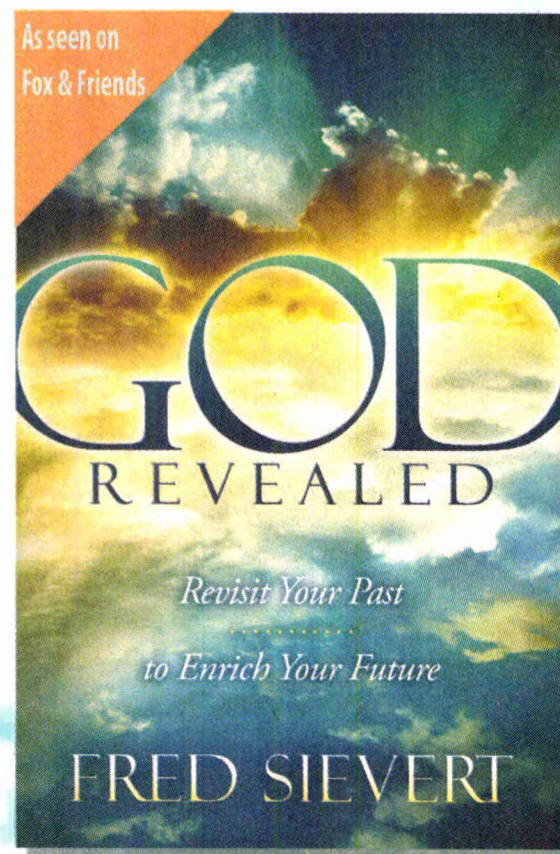


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Canton to honor Olympic skating champions

The local community will get two chances Sunday to honor Olympic ice dancing champions Meryl Davis and Charlie White. Canton Township will honor the pair, who train at the Arctic Edge Ice Arena, in a pair of ceremonies at the Village

Theater at Cherry Hill. The first ceremony takes place 3:30-4 p.m., the second 5-5:30 p.m. Patrons who attend the rallies will have an opportunity to hear Davis and White talk about their Olympic journey. Due to time constraints,

autographs and photo opportunities will not be available. The two presentations will have the same content; Canton officials scheduled to ceremonies to meet an expected huge demand for tickets. Anyone wanting to attend must have a ticket, officials

said. Free tickets will be available at the Summit on the Park, 46000 Summit Parkway, starting at 6 p.m. Thursday, March 6, while supplies last. Tickets will be available on a first-come, first-served basis and are limited to a maximum of four per adult. Patrons are

asked to arrive no earlier than 5 p.m. Tickets will be distributed with the best availability of seating opportunities available to patrons at time of pickup. For additional information, visit www.cantonfun.org or call 734-394-5460.

MDOT engineer: I-96 shutdown pushed back until April 1

By David Veselenak
Staff Writer

Call it an April Fool's Day prank played by Mother Nature.

The shutdown of I-96 through Redford and Livonia that was originally slated to start March 24 has been pushed back one week to April 1 because of the poor weather conditions, Michigan Department of Transportation mobility engineer Aaron Raymond said.

"It's looking more and more like that's the exact date, but weather permitting," said Raymond, who is working on the project through MDOT's temporary Livonia office. "I think a lot of that has to do with the weather."

Raymond said even with the one-week delay, the contractor for the project, Shelby Township-based Dan's Excavating, still expects to wrap up work on the reconstruction on time sometime in October. The decision was made late last week to push back the project, he said.

The wicked weather in metro Detroit this year has led to the second-snowiest winter on record, with almost double the average snowfall and less than 10 inches off the all-time record set in 1881.

Both directions of the freeway will close in April from Telegraph in Redford to Newburgh in Livonia for the nearly \$150 million reconstruction project. The freeway will remain closed until the fall. Sev-



Construction equipment is staged on the I-96 median between I-275 and Newburgh Road. BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

eral bridges will also be worked on, as well as landscaping work along the freeway.

Some preliminary work is already starting before the shutdown occurs. Crews will be out starting Monday working on a widening of the service drive north of Schoolcraft leading to Telegraph. Crews will work and add a temporary lane on the current service drive to accommodate the heavier traffic the road expects to handle when motorists get off the freeway during the shutdown.

The widening will take out some concrete median and remove a curb on the west side of the service drive to northbound Telegraph.

"They're going to take out that curb and flatten the whole area out," Raymond said. "We've done this on other projects and it works really well, letting those people merge right one lane."

The right lane of the north-

bound overpass will be closed starting Monday as well, allowing for merging traffic to easily enter a lane onto northbound Telegraph. That closure, which will reduce the overpass to two lanes going northbound, will also remain in place until the fall.

MDOT has already widened the exit lane at another high-usage area in preparation for the project: crews added an additional lane on the exit ramp from I-275 to Six Mile in Livonia last fall. Like the Telegraph widening, both will be temporary and will revert back to their original configuration after the reconstruction project on the freeway is complete.

Anyone with questions regarding the project is encouraged to contact MDOT via email at MDOT-96fix@michigan.gov.

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Twitter: @DavidVeselenak

Winter Markets move to Summit

Preparations for the last two Canton Winter Farmers Markets are currently under way to move the markets inside the Summit on the Park, 46000 Summit Parkway.

Due to the unpredictable weather conditions this winter, the remaining Winter Farmers Markets will be held indoors from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday, March 9 and April 13 in the banquet area at the Summit on the Park.

A variety of local food growers and producers have signed on to participate in these last Winter Markets. New vendors to check out include Paw-la's Pantry featuring natural, gluten-free dog treats and U.P. Pasties featuring a variety of meat and veggie pasties and pastie sauce. Market regulars will recognize many of their favorite vendors, including: Bobilin Honey; Boyer Meat Processing; Cakes by Penny; Classique Gifts & Bakes; Crunch Granola; Grace Savory & Sweet; intu Specialty Tea; Lula Bre's Sweet Eats; Kapnick Orchards; Prochaska Farms; Sansonetti Sauces; Zingerman's Creamery; JKM Soy Candles; Farmington Soapworks; and Cellar Door Soap. In addition, the Rolling Stoves food truck will be on-site offering delicious lunch options.

Products to look forward to include honey, greens,

apples, cider, frozen berries, apple butter, fudge, baked goods, jams, artisan cheese and bread, granola, blended teas, barbecue sauces, gluten-free baking mixes and baked goods, meats, mustards, marinades, dressings, salsa, canned sauerkraut, popcorn, coffee, dog treats, soy candles and hand-crafted soap.

During the March Market, patrons can learn about the Canton's Healthy U Program from Chef Kristi Zebrowski of Grace Savory & Sweet from 10:30 a.m. to noon, when Zebrowski will be sampling a gluten-free treat (while supplies last).

The Canton Farmers Market will continue to support the Open Door Ministry by collecting pasta at all three Winter Markets. Since pasta is a staple in the Open Door Ministry's weekly food distribution to more than 450 local families in need, Girl Scouts from Cadette Troop 40864, composed of ninth-grade girls from Plymouth-Canton Schools, will also be accepting cash donations; just \$1 can buy 10 boxes of pasta.

For more information about the Canton Farmers Market and its vendors, subscribe to the weekly newsletter at www.cantonfun.org, under the "In the Community" tab or call 734-394-5460.

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ON THE NORTHERN FRONT

Relatives seek out information about 'Detroit's Own' Polar Bears

By Sue Mason
Staff Writer

Michael Grobbel was in his element, talking about the 5,000 U.S. Army soldiers who fought the Bolshevik Red Army on Russian soil during the Russian Civil War in 1918-19, but it was what came after his talk Tuesday evening at the Wayne Public Library that got him excited.

"Now, let's have a look at uniform," Grobbel said, inviting Canton resident Earle Chorbagan to bring up the uniform and dog tags his father Artin wore as a member of the "Detroit's Own" Polar Bears.

"My father was wounded really bad by a dumb-dumb bullet," Chorbagan said. "They're illegal, but they used them. It shattered his forearm and it took him several years to recover."

Many in the audience had a connection to the Polar Bears, a name the men adopted aboard ship on their way home from Russia. They crafted shoulder patches, depicting a white bear on a blue background and stitched them on their uniforms.

"This is one of the early ones that they cut out," Grobbel said, looking at the patch on Chorbagan's uniform. "It's among one of the first ones. This uniform is in remarkably good shape."

Artin Chorbagan was 15 and away at school when Turkish soldiers entered his Armenian village and killed his parents. He was on his own and had to run. Over the course of the next 15 years, he was in Alexandria, Egypt, was a gaucho in Argentina and a cook in Brazil, where he heard he could get U.S. citizenship if he went to the U.S. and joined the Army.

He did that and ended up in the 85th Division that was sent by President Woodrow Wilson to Russia under the pretext of keeping Allied military supplies from falling into the hands of the Bolsheviks and rescuing a stranded Czech legion needed to fight on the Eastern Front.

'Abbreviated' training

The division received "abbreviated" training at Fort Custer near Battle Creek and was sent to England, where 5,000 troops of the 339th Infantry and support units - the 310th Engineers, the 337th Field Hospital and the 337th Ambulance Company - were issued Russian weapons and equipment and sailed for Archangel, a Russian port on the White Sea, 600 miles north of Moscow and 60 miles south of the Arctic Circle. They became the American North Russia Expeditionary Force, which arrived in Russia in September 1918.

"My grandfather was drafted in mid-June and arrived in Battle Creek on June 30," Grobbel said. "The division was sent out on July 14. On July 17, Wilson signed an order sending a limited number of troops to northern Russia."

The group was made up primarily of men from Michigan; the first song the Polar Bears heard as they pulled into port was *Hail to the Victors*, Grobbel said.

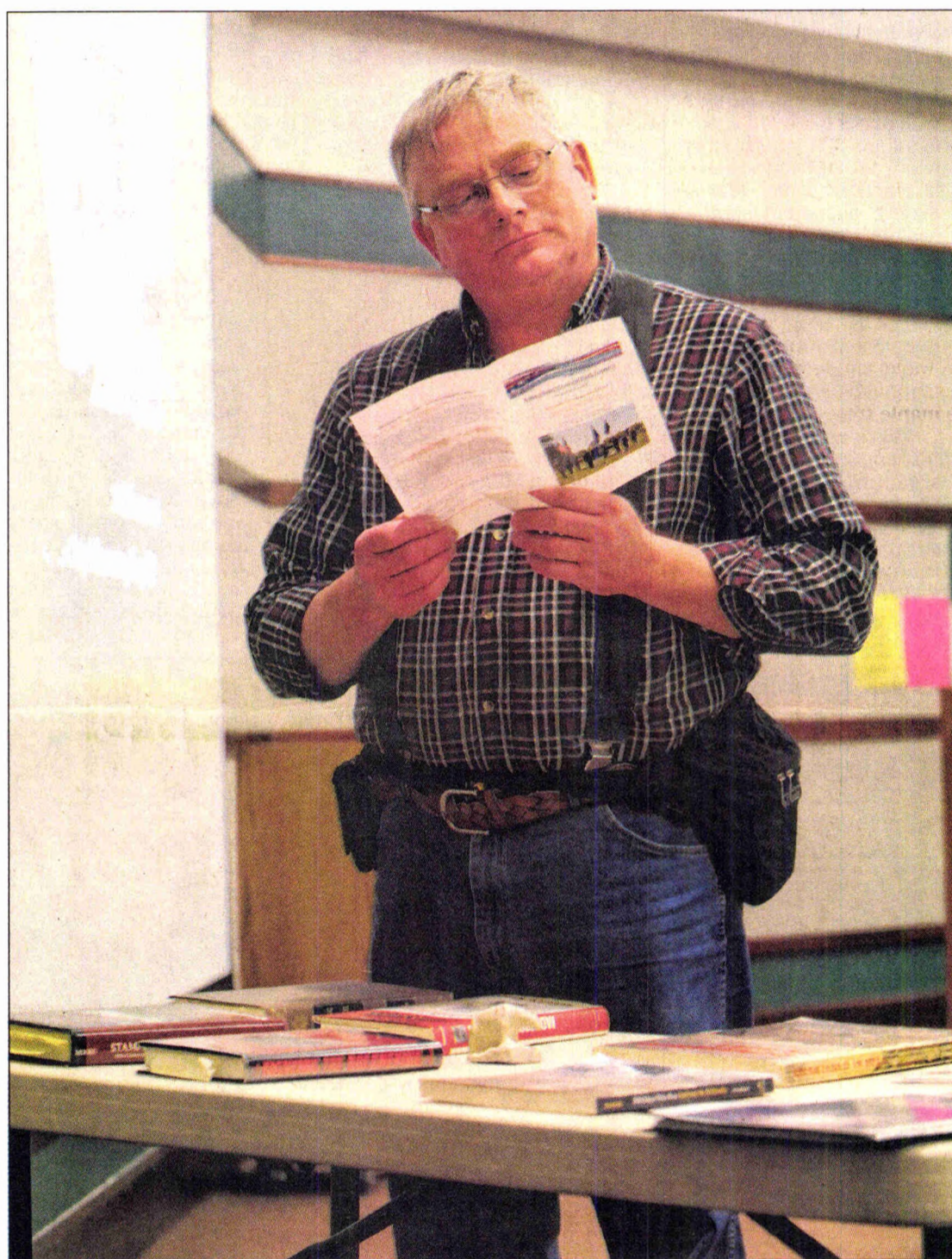
Grobbel's grandfather Clement was in the 339th Company.

"Everyone that followed the 339th started calling them 'Detroit's Own,'" Grobbel said. "When the war was over, people started circulating petitions to bring them home. They raised enough of a ruckus that it was ordered to withdraw them at the earliest possible moment. They set sail for home in June 1919 and arrived in Detroit on July 3, 1919."

For the expeditionary force, which included British, French and Canadian troops and (White) Russian loyalists, the first major battle took place Armistice Day - Nov. 11, 1918 - along the Dvina River. There were other battles at Ninja Gora and Visorka Gora in January 1919, when the Bolsheviks began to push back. In Russia, there were



Polar Bear Memorial President, Mike Grobbel shows off a uniform that belonged to Earle Chorbagan's father Artin. PHOTOS BY TOM BEAUDOIN



Joe Horvath of Wayne looks at the information about the Russian Civil War.



Wayne residents (from left) Cynthia Gordon, Dee and Kerran Ryan check out dog tags from Artin Chorbagan, who fought in Russia as part of the Polar Bears division.

only two season for fighting - the dead of winter, when everything was frozen, and summer.

"It wasn't a very pleasant place, but it got more pleasant when things froze," Grobbel said.

In a letter home, Grobbel's grandfather wrote, "This life is not bad. It's like hunting rabbits on a bigger scale." Another letter pointed out that "the war may be over in France, but it's not over in the wilds of Russia. This isn't the western front. It hardly has no front at all."

In all, 82 Polar Bears were killed and 24 were wounded.

Sixty-eight died of fever and disease and nine of accidental cause. They weren't able to bring all of their dead back. However, those buried in church courtyards in Archangel were disinterred and returned to the United States. They laid in state for a week. In 1929, a search party was sent to Russia and recovered the remains of 59 Polar Bears. Another two dozen remain buried in the forests of northern Russia, Grobbel said.

Inner ring

Those Polar Bears who died in combat are buried in an inner ring around the Polar



Mike Grobbel brought the Linnemann Entrenching Spade that was recovered in 2008 by Alexevy Suhanovsky.

buff, his hobby is taking a metal detector and scouring the forest where the Polar Bears fought. He has unearthed unexploded artillery shells fired on the Railroad Front 91 years ago, a roll of barbed wire, grenades, bullet casings and a portion of a trench shovel that Suhanovsky found in 2008 and sent to Grobbel as a souvenir.

After the war, Artin Chorbagan recuperated in a hospital in Chicago. That's where he met his wife, a high school student visiting the wounded. He was in his 30s; she was 18.

"When he got his citizenship, he decided he wanted an American name, so he picked Harry," Chorbagan said. "He died in 1946. He lived long enough to see two of his sons survive World War II."

Larry Hoelscher of Canton came with Chorbagan to the program. His father Edward served in Russia with the 310th Engineers.

"He said once that he was supposed to get the Silver Star and never got it," Hoelscher said. "I Googled it and found that he did (earn) it, but never got the medal. I think I'll get the medal for my kids."

Renee Washburn of Wayne was there to find out more about the division that her grandfather had served in at the end of World War I. He came from Canada.

"My grandfather was in the 310th, but he didn't talk about it," she said. "He's been gone many, many years, but my dad would go the reunions as a kid."

Doing research

Plymouth resident Heather Connor came to do research. Her grandfather Thomas Connor was in the Polar Bears, although she doesn't know which unit. She brought along a photograph of him in his uniform.

"I know he was assigned to the Polar Bears, but the rest is a mystery," she said. "The family story is that he broke his leg in England. The rumor is he was playing baseball and Babe Ruth before he was (famous) struck him out and broke his leg. I don't know if he made it to Russia, I don't know if he was reassigned."

Connor, who grew up in Westland, is glad she attended the presentation.

"It's so nice to meet other people who are connected to the Polar Bears and get a wealth of information," she said.

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FIND OUT MORE

People who want to know more about "Detroit's Own" can find it at:

» The Polar Bear Memorial Association's website at pbma.grobbel.org

» The University of Michigan Bentley Historical Library - quod.lib.umich.edu/p/polaread/history - which has a digital collection about the group

» Filmmaker Pamela Peak's a two-hour documentary, "Voices of the Never Ending Dawn," which tells the true story of the 339th Infantry Regiment

Bear Memorial monument at White Chapel Cemetery in Troy. Chorbagan's father is buried just outside that inner ring.

The "Detroit's Own" Polar Bear Memorial Association was founded in 1922 because many of the soldiers who served, like Artin Chorbagan, were foreign-born and not eligible for veterans organizations like the VFW and American Legion. Each Memorial Day, a ceremony was held at the monument. The tradition continues today with the help of the association, but few people attend.

In 2001, Grobbel was contacted via the Internet by a Russian named Alexevy Suhanovsky. A Russian Civil War

Cavanagh joins field for Wayne County executive

By Beth Jachman
Staff Writer

State Rep. Phil Cavanagh says he wants to change the culture of Wayne County government

Cavanagh, a Redford resident, officially announced Monday that he's running for Wayne County executive this year.

Saying people have lost faith in Wayne County, Cavanagh said he wants to bring back integrity.

In the past, people have run for office on the promise of jobs and now there are people there who aren't carrying their

weight, he said. "The attitude that public service is an honor in itself," is what he wants to foster, he said.

Cavanagh, who formed an exploratory committee in December, made the announcement at an event in the lobby of the Fisher Building.

He said he was encouraged to run by friends and supporters and touts the experience and relationships built during time spent as a county commissioner and state representative. Cavanagh is serving



Cavanagh

his second term in the Michigan House representing the 10th District, which includes Redford and part of Detroit.

Balancing the budget and dealing with the deficit are among his first priorities.

Money wasted

Many dollars are wasted on county appointees, making it difficult for the county to address problems like plowing snowy roads, Cavanagh said.

"I think it could be leaner," he said.

"If we address that, we are going to be able to hire more workers," Cavanagh said. Cavanagh, 52, joins West-

land Mayor Bill Wild, who announced his candidacy in January, and Wayne County Commissioner Kevin McNamara, son of former Wayne County Executive Ed McNamara, who announced last month, in the race for the seat now held by Robert Ficano.

Ficano has not said whether he intends to seek re-election.

"I think my resume does it," Cavanagh said when asked how he will stand out from his opponents. He points to his work on the mental health board, land banks and Health Choice. "In everything I've been involved in, I tried to make a difference, but also

learned from it," he said.

"I voice out my concerns, even if it's not popular," he added.

He said in his work as state representative, he has also tried to address what is not working in Wayne County, with a bill for distressed communities to help homeowners and a bill to address people buying property from the delinquent tax rolls and then not paying taxes.

"I'm not afraid to fight for what is right. I see Mr. Wild and Mr. McNamara as sitting silent," he said.

"I hope the voters do vet everybody," he added.

Program offers look at tapping maple trees

Wayne County Parks hosts visitors at Cass Benton to see how syrup is made

March is maple-sugaring month in Michigan and Wayne County Parks has a sweet Saturday program available for the entire family March 15 and 22.

Bundle up and join park naturalists for the annual maple-sugaring program at the Cass Benton Park picnic shelter in Northville, where a historic "sugar bush" still exists.

Learn the history of maple sugaring and take a short hike into the woods for an actual tree-tapping demonstration. In celebration of this early spring ritual, the group will enjoy pancakes with the "real thing" afterward.

"The maple-sugaring program is another example of the diversity of activities available to the public through Wayne County Parks," Wayne County Exec-



People need to dress for weather conditions for the Wayne County Parks maple-sugaring program March 15 and 22.

utive Robert Ficano said. "I encourage everyone to see, taste and experience the maple-sugaring program firsthand."

The practice of maple sugaring dates back to when Native Americans taught early settlers how to collect and boil sap during this time of year. The freezing nights and warm sunny days create pressure and force sap out of the maple tree.

The duration of the program is approximately 90 minutes. Register for either March 15 or March 22 and choose a start time of 10 a.m., 11 a.m. or noon.

Dress accordingly, as this is an outdoor program and the

trail may be muddy. All ages are welcome. The program fee is \$6 per child and \$2 per adult for Wayne County residents. Add \$1 per person for non-Wayne County residents.

Advance registration and prepayment is required at the Wayne County Parks office, 33175 Ann Arbor Trail, Westland, or by phone at 734-261-1990. Cash, credit card or check payable to Wayne County Parks is accepted.

Cass Benton Park is located off of Northville Road, north of Six Mile Road. For more information on this or any other Wayne County Parks event, call 734-261-1990 or visit www.parks.waynecounty.com.

W-W school board to hold special meeting to discuss search

The Wayne-Westland school board will have a one-item agenda when it meets Thursday, March 6, in special session: the superintendent search process.

The board will meet at 6 p.m. in the board meeting room at the district's administrative offices.

The board will determine how it wants to go forward in conducting a search for a new superintendent. Current Superintendent Greg Baracy announced in December his plans to retire at the end of his contract, which expires July 1. Baracy is the longest serving superintendent in the district's history. He has been Wayne-Westland's top administrator for 17 years.

The meeting follows a January workshop in which Donna Oser of the Michigan Association of School Boards recommended the board consider a national search, saying that a school district the size of Wayne-Westland is going to attract a "more sophisticated pool of candidates."

However, board Trustee

John Goci has suggested that the board consider delaying appointment of a permanent superintendent until after the November board election.

Four seats - held by Goci, board President Shawna Walker, Secretary Carol Middel and appointed Trustee Charles "Trav" Griffin - will be filled.

Walker, in an interview last month, said the special meeting will be to discuss what was brought up at the workshop.

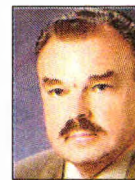
"There were questions about an interim superintendent and, if we decide to go forward, how we will do it and what search firm we will pick," Walker said.

"We need to get the preliminaries out of the way. We as a board need to have a search. It's important that we get started."

Oser has indicated that a superintendent search could take 14-15 weeks to complete.

Wayne-Westland's administrative offices are at 36745 Marquette, west of Wayne Road, Westland.

- By Sue Mason



Baracy

COME WONDER AROUND.

Friday Night Live!
The Alberto Rojo Trio performs traditional Argentinian folk songs, jazz and contemporary improvisations. *Rivera Court, 7 & 8:30 p.m.*

Samurai: Beyond the Sword
Offering a rare opportunity to experience a broad, comprehensive and nuanced picture of Japan's samurai culture, *Samurai: Beyond the Sword* opens this Sunday, March 9. *Through June 1.*

Sunday Music Bar
Miyabi plays traditional Japanese music on the koto, a centuries-old stringed instrument resembling a zither. In conjunction with *Samurai: Beyond the Sword*. *Kresge Court, 1-4 p.m.*

Now On View
Samurai: Beyond the Sword, through June 1.
Tickets at dia.org
Balance of Power: A Throne for an African Prince, through March 16.
Foto Europa: 1840 to Present, through April 27.

General museum admission is free for residents of Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties.

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After two weeks of physical and occupational therapy, Ellen is able to walk more steadily with her walker. "I have never experienced anything like this. Whatever they are doing at Heartland - Canton, they need to keep doing it!"

- Ellen

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PLYMOUTH-CANTON CHAMBER CHAT

Coffee connection

The Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce sponsors its next Coffee Connection, hosted by Ambassador co-chair Deena Heath of Huntington Bank, 8-9 a.m., Thursday, March 13.

Chamber officials called the Coffee Connection a "great way to start your business day. You can enjoy a cup of coffee and breakfast treats while making new connections with other chamber members."

Huntington Bank is located on Five Mile (across from The Inn at St. John's). These events are designed for 20-40 members to meet in a comfortable setting where they can get to know each other. There is no fee to attend this event.

Anyone interested in attending should call Teri at 734-453-1540.

Showcase and Taste

The Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce's 2014 Showcase and Taste of Plymouth is set for April 14 at The Inn at St. John's.

The event generally draws more than 90 exhibitors, including 20 restaurants, and attracts more than 600 people. This year's event will be held in the main ballroom and adjoining garden gallery at the Inn at St. John's.

Major sponsors include Community Financial and Hines Park Lincoln.

The chamber is now taking exhibit space reservations. The cost is \$110 (plus \$10 if you need electricity) and includes a 6- by 3-foot skirted table.

Anyone interested in



Dickey's Barbecue Pit opened recently on Five Mile at the corner of Sheldon near Mother's Pizza. Dickey's provides authentic Texas-style barbecue in a fast casual setting. Kids eat free each Sunday and get free ice cream every day! Cutting the ribbon are owners Adam and Katrina Wilson. They are surrounded by many barbecue enthusiast family members, friends and community supporters.

exhibiting should email teri@plymouthmich.org or call 734-453-1540.

Scholarship fundraising

The Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce and the Canton Chamber of Commerce are starting their fundraising for the Student Citizen Scholarships.

The chambers' Education Committee awards scholarships to up to five students based solely on their community service during their years in high school.

Last year, the chambers were able to offer five students \$1,100 each.

For information on how to donate, call the Plymouth chamber at 734-453-1540 or the Canton chamber at 734-453-4040.

Canton dinner auction

The Canton Chamber of Commerce hosts its annual dinner auction, this year themed "The Luck of the Irish," 6:30-

11:30 p.m. Saturday, March 15, at Burton Manor Banquet & Conference Center, 27777 Schoolcraft, in Livonia.

The event offers the business community a night of networking possibilities while socializing with more than 400 key business people and community leaders. Attendees should come dressed in Irish attire (lots of green). Tickets are \$75 and include strolling dinner, open bar, green beer, entertainment, live auction, raffles and more.

Sponsorship opportunities are available at various levels and include event tickets and sponsorship recognition before, during and after the event. Sponsorships range from \$375 to \$2,500.

Donations are needed for the \$2, \$5 and \$10 raffles, as well as the live auction. This is a great way to show your support for the chamber.

For more information, call the Canton Chamber of Commerce at 734-453-4040.

IT'S YOUR BUSINESS Q&A

Painting couple takes on new challenge

Observer: Tell us about your business, including types of services/products you feature.

ProTect Painters: ProTect Painters features high-quality customer service, paired with high-quality paint, to give homeowners a great experience that lasts.

Observer: How did you first decide to open your business?

ProTect Painters: We have been small business owners for quite some time and we were ready to take on a new challenge in the franchise arena and diversify our holdings. We had some personal connections at the ProTect Painters headquarters in Ann Arbor and, after talking with them, we got very excited about their vision and business system.

Observer: Why did you choose Canton?

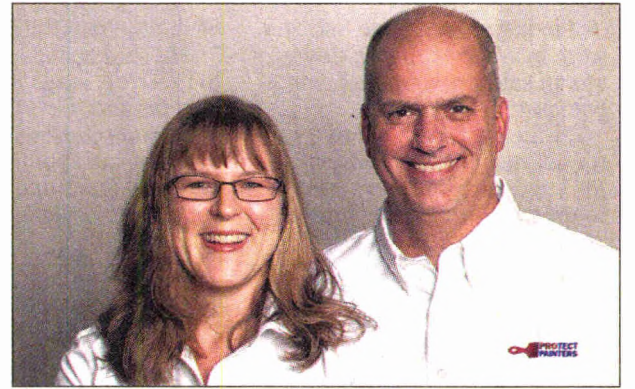
ProTect Painters: We live on the border between Ann Arbor and Canton. Our territory includes parts of both cities. We have become engrained in the Canton community, both personally and professionally, so that helped us to get a good start. We love the area and are excited to serve residents and businesses in Canton and become an integral part of the community.

Observer: What makes your business unique?

ProTect Painters: ProTect Painters is a branch of Service Brands International. SBI has been in the home service industry for decades, successfully operating franchises like Molly Maid, Mr. Handyman and several others. We love the concept that SBI offers — locally owned businesses that have the expertise and backing of a national brand.

Observer: How has it changed since you opened?

ProTect Painters: Since the business is still very new, we're just getting rolling and we're excited at all the new business that has come our way thus far. I think people are sick of winter and are eager to get things done on their houses, so we've been busy right out of the gate.



Mike and Cara Ehringer opened ProTect Painters in Canton earlier this year.

PROTECT PAINTERS

Business name/address: ProTect Painters of Canton and east Ann Arbor, 42015 Ford Road, Suite 118, Canton

Your name and title: Michael and Cara Ehringer, owners

Hometown: Mike was raised in the Ann Arbor area and Cara has lived here for about 20 years

When did you open your business? 2014

Number of employees: During the winter months, ProTect Painters can have a few painting crews on staff to handle indoor painting jobs. As spring turns to summer, the business can grow to have many painting crews ready to tackle any interior or exterior job, residential or commercial. Customers appreciate that we are available to them as we are needed.

Hours of operation: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday or by appointment

Your business specialty: We know that your home is your castle. We strive to work with each home owner individually, bringing the best customer service experience to each job. Our customers are happy and recommend us to their friends.

Phone number and website: 734-985-9153; www.protect-painters.com

Observer: How has the economy affected your business?

ProTect Painters: The ever-changing real estate industry certainly has an impact on the painting industry. We see that some families are staying with their houses longer, so they want a new style to breathe new life into the home. On the other hand, sellers can get top dollar for a house when it is sporting the latest paint colors inside and out. We also see that when homeowners move to a new house, they want to put their personal touch on it through the paint colors in the rooms and/or a new statement on the exterior.

Observer: Any advice for other business owners?

ProTect Painters: Get really good advice from a lot of people. Talk to people who work in the same or similar industries and ask pointed questions. What's the best thing about running this type of business? What's the worst? What challenges do you see in the future for your industry?

Observer: What's in store for the future of your business?

ProTect Painters: As our business grows and expands, we hope to be able to offer more services to our valued customers. We're entrepreneurs at heart, so we're constantly looking at ways to serve our customers in unique and improved ways. We're also considering expanding our territory and bringing in new employees. Job creation is one really important aspect of business ownership to us.

Observer: How do you plan to use the business to give back to the community?

ProTect Painters: We are starting off by sponsoring a Little League team. Our children have participated in youth sports for years and we know how expensive that can be, so we'd like to help out there. In the future, we hope to work with nonprofit organizations to do charitable work by painting and perhaps doing other repairs for those in need.

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- Glass/Crystal/China • Tiffany Lamps • Clothing

PLYMOUTH-CANTON BUSINESS BRIEFS

'Moving' up

Rick Meyer, president of Canton-based DMS Moving Systems, was elected to the board of directors of the American Moving & Storage Association.

Meyer is one of four new board members formally nominated and elected during the national trade association's annual meeting, held this year in San Diego, Calif. His company provides a full range of moving and storage services in the Canton and Bessemer, Ala., areas and offers interstate moving options across the country.

DMS Moving Systems is an agent for Atlas Van Lines and has been certified by AMSA as a Pro-Mover.

Newest lawyer

Foster Swift Collins & Smith announce Seth A. Drucker as a shareholder in the firm's Farmington Hills office as a member of the Commercial Litigation Practice Group. Before joining Foster Swift, he was a partner at Honigman Miller Schwartz and Cohn LLP.

He is a graduate of the Michigan State University College of Electrical Engineering and Wayne State University School of Business Administration. He received his juris doctor from the University of Michigan Law



Drucker



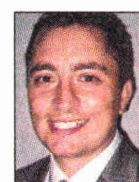
School.

Engineering additions

Hubbell, Roth & Clark, Inc., announced the addition of three new team members — each of whom company officials say "brings individual skills and experience that, collectively, will bolster HRC's ability to deliver outstanding service to its clients in the areas of specialized transportation, railroads and engineering processes."

Jesse Morgan joins the team as a project engineer, bringing his significant experience in Michigan Department of Transportation and municipal road design, including feasibility studies and project scoping for state highway projects. Morgan earned his bachelor's degree in civil engineering from Michigan Technological University.

Kristen (Roth) Paulson joins the team as a graduate engineer II. Paulson has gained national recognition for her expertise in a variety of specialties — including road and utility design, railroad



Morgan



design, bridge design for highways, light rail and commuter rail; airport pavement analysis, construction phasing and maintenance of traffic design. Paulson earned her bachelor's and master's degrees in civil engineering from Michigan Technological University.

Aaron Uranga joins the team as a senior project engineer, lending his substantial experience in planning, design and construction engineering services for a wide variety of municipal engineering projects — including condition analysis and the design of water and wastewater pumping facilities. Uranga earned his master's degree in civil engineering from the University of Michigan, with an emphasis in hydraulics.

"I am delighted to have these three very accomplished professionals join the HRC family," company President George E. Hubbell said. "Their unique talents will be a great addition to our company and will strengthen HRC's capacity to serve our clients even better."

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Kimberly Carnicom, M.A.



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How to do your federal taxes for free

Looking to save money and time when it comes to your taxes? There's a simple way to do your federal taxes and it's all free. The program, called "Free File," does the hard work for you, either through brand-name software or on-line forms. And it's available only at IRS.gov.

A simple way to cut fees

Free File is offered through the Internal Revenue Service by 14 of the nation's leading tax software manufacturers. Nearly 40 million people have used this helpful program and, using the most conservative estimate, they've saved \$1.2 billion in fees.

It's available 24/7, giving you the freedom to decide when and how to do your federal taxes. Plus, the software is user-friendly, offering a familiar Q&A format and the freedom to complete your return at your own pace.

How to sign up

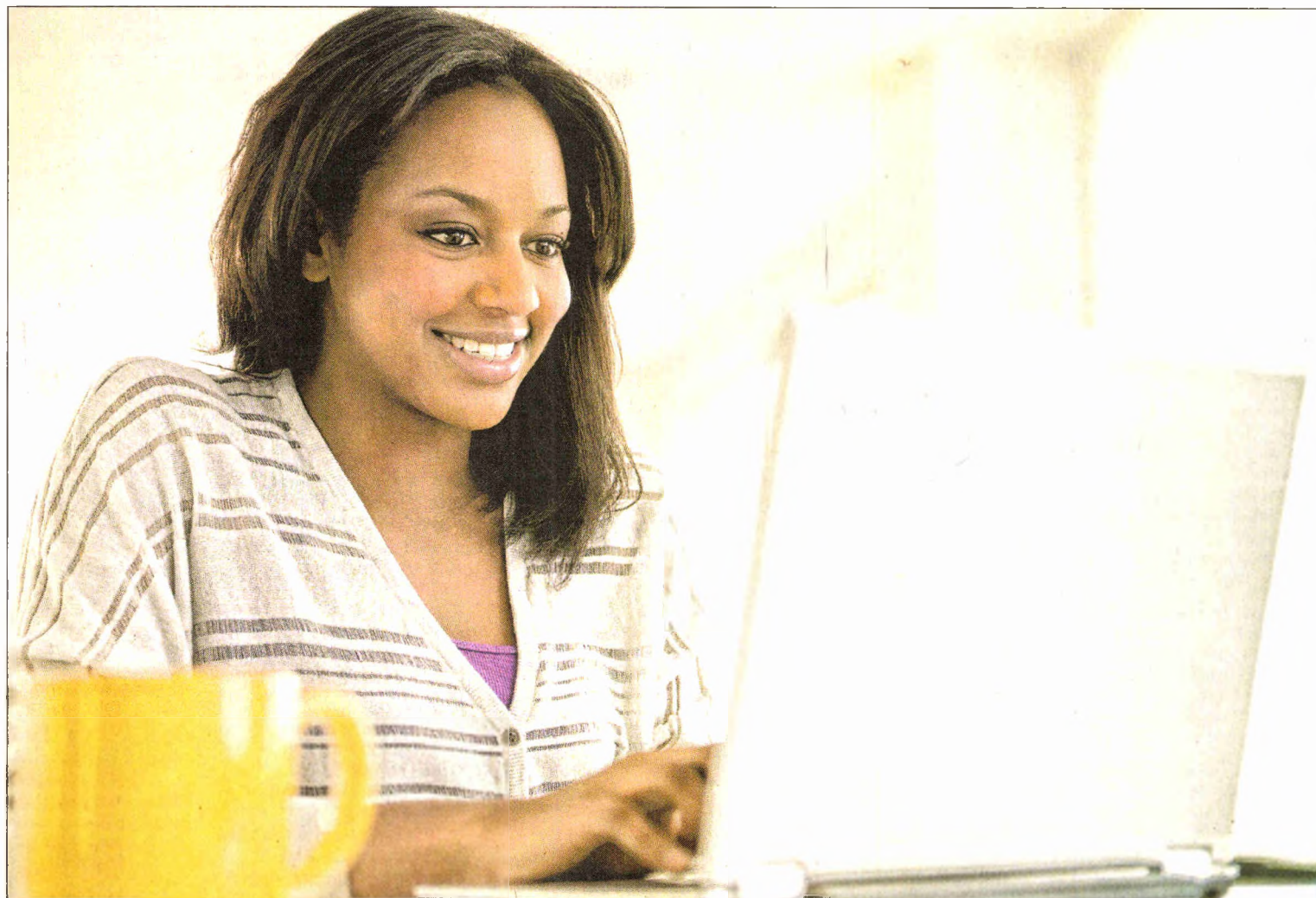
- Here's how you start:
- » Go to www.irs.gov/free-file.
 - » If your income was \$58,000 or less, select the "Start Free File Now" button.
 - » Each of the 14 participating companies has a special offer.
 - » Review the company offers or use the "help me find Free File software" tool.
 - » Select your tax software that matches your situation.
 - » Leave IRS.gov and go to the company's site to begin your taxes.

If your income was more than \$58,000, you can use Free File Fillable Forms, the electronic version of IRS paper forms. Just select the "Free File Fillable Forms" button at www.irs.gov/freefile. This version is best if you are comfortable preparing your own tax return with more limited help.

Remember to always use e-file to file your returns electronically. You'll get your refund faster when you combine e-file and direct deposit.

Use self-help options on IRS.gov

Free File is just one of many self-help options avail-



Free File is offered through the Internal Revenue Service by 14 of the nation's leading tax software manufacturers. GETTY IMAGES | BLEND IMAGES

THE BENEFITS OF freefile Get the facts on doing your federal taxes online for free with IRS Free File.

<p>1.2 BILLION DOLLARS SAVED Free File means what it says: it's free. Free File has saved its users more than a billion dollars in fees.</p>	<p>FREE SOFTWARE The IRS partners with 14 software companies who make their brand-name federal tax prep programs available. Ready when you are, only at irs.gov/freefile.</p>	<p>SECURE TECHNOLOGY Once you select the best match for your needs, you'll be directed to their secure software to get started. Free File uses the latest in secure technology.</p>	<p>EXTRA HELP Free File also offers an expert local site at Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) and Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) programs. Search "VITA" on irs.gov for locations.</p>
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Get started today at IRS.GOV/FREEFILE

able at IRS.gov. Wondering about your refund? Just select "Where's My Refund" to track the status of your refund and get a personalized refund date.

Have a tax law question? Visit the Interactive Tax Assistant, IRS Tax Map or Tax

Trails. You also can find payment options and request an installment payment agreement online. You can even order a summary of a previous tax return. When you have questions, make IRS.gov your first stop.

Materials needed to get started

Keep this as a checklist of the items you will need to file your return. The IRS recommends keeping all tax-related documents for three years, in case of an audit. Tracking income-related documents can help you take full advantage of deductions available to you.

- » A copy of last year's tax return
- » Valid Social Security numbers for yourself, spouse and children
- » All income statements, i.e. W-2 forms from all employers
- » Interest/dividend statements, i.e. 1099 forms
- » Form 1099-G showing any state refunds
- » Unemployment compensation amount

- » Social Security benefits
- » Expense receipts for deductions
- » Day care provider's identifying number

Volunteer income tax assistance

There are 13,000 Volunteer Income Tax Assistance sites nationwide that offer free help to people earning \$52,000 or less. Search "VITA" on IRS.gov for a nearby site.

Tax Counseling for the Elderly, which is operated by AARP Foundation Tax-Aide, offers free help all with priority assistance to people who are age 60 and older. Find a Tax-Aide site at AARP.org or call 888-227-7660. Some VITA/TCE sites even offer Free File.

- Courtesy of Family Features

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They use the most advanced techniques. They're leaders in their field. And they consistently deliver exceptional outcomes.

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RANKED TOP 3 IN MICHIGAN FOR SURGICAL OUTCOMES BY CONSUMER REPORTS

LD-0806177831

PLYMOUTH-CANTON COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Town hall

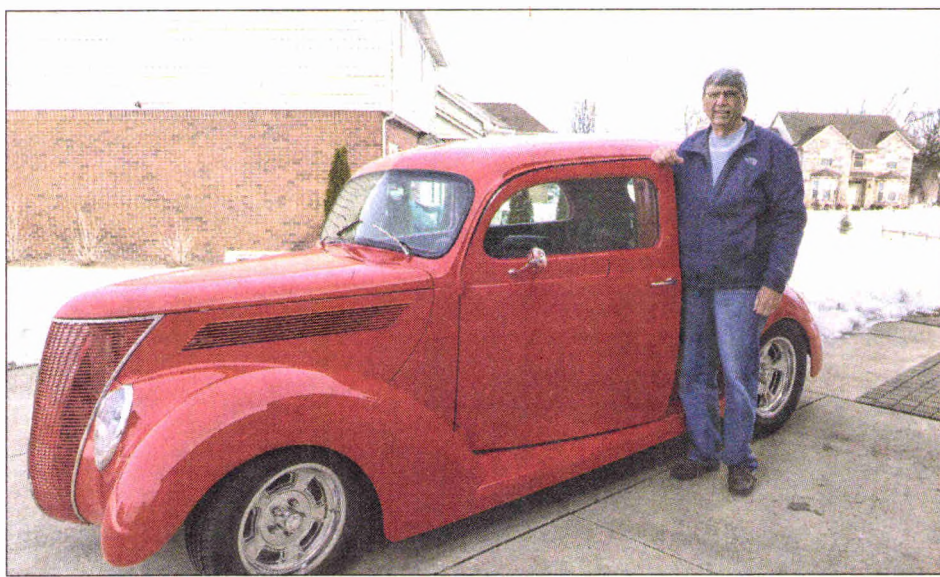
Date/Time: Monday, March 10, 6 p.m.
Location: Canton Public Library, 1200 S. Canton Center, Canton
Details: State Rep. Dian Slavens, D-Canton, hosts a town hall meeting about identity theft. Topics will include charitable scams, reporting scams or problems, and reducing unwanted phone calls and junk mail. Slavens' guests for the event will be Trooper Walt Crider of the Michigan State Police and Susan Peters from the Michigan Senior Brigade.

Heise hours

Date/Times: Monday, May 10, 10-11 a.m. in Canton, noon to 1 p.m. in Northville and 3-4 p.m. in Plymouth
Locations: Parthenon Coney Island, 39910 Ford Road, Canton; Northville District Library, 212 W. Cady, Northville; Plymouth District Library, 223 S. Main, Plymouth
Details: State Rep. Kurt Heise invites local residents to meet with him to share their perspectives and ask questions. Heise is also available to meet with constituents by appointment either in the district or at his Lansing office.
Contact: Residents are invited to call toll free 1-855-REP-KURT or email kurt-heise@house.mi.gov to schedule an appointment.

Price hours

Date/Times: Monday, May 10, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Plymouth; 1:30-3 p.m. in Canton
Locations: Plymouth District Library, 223 S. Main, Plymouth; Canton Public Library, 1200 S. Canton Center, Canton.
Details: Wayne County Commissioner Shannon Price, R-District 10, will be conducting district office hours, allowing constituents the opportunity to discuss matters of concern within the community. "Partici-



On display

Rick Grandke of Canton plans to show his 1937 Ford two-door sedan at Autorama at Cobo Center in Detroit. It runs from noon to 10 p.m. Friday, March 7, from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. Saturday, March 8, and from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Sunday, March 9. Admission at the gate is \$19 for adults, \$5 for children 6-12 and free for children 5 and under. Discount tickets are available at O'Reilly Auto Parts. For more information, go to www.autorama.com.

pation from my constituents is greatly appreciated as this setting is a wonderful opportunity for me to meet and listen closely to their questions and concerns." Price said.
Contact: For more information, contact Michael Mitchell, staff aide to Price, at 313-224-0882.

Harper on vocals, harmonica and didgeridoo, Mike Howe on guitar, James Norris on bass guitar and Greg Saucedo on drums.
Contact: For more information, call 734-453-1780 or email plymouthelks1780@yahoo.com.

Folk music

Date/Time: Saturday, March 15, 7 p.m.
Location: Joanne Winkelman Hulce Center, 774 N. Sheldon, Plymouth
Details: The BaseLine Folk Society will "Celebrate the Emerald Isle" in merriment and song. John Delle-Monache, aka Shawn O'Dell for the night, is a Baseline regular, board member, and performer who will take your Heart to Ireland, at least for one-night. Featured guest is Alex and Maggie Zakem. They

will perform a mix of old and new songs and instrumentals from American and Irish traditional music, including bluegrass, music of the Appalachians and contemporary writers. Tickets are \$5 at the door, including performers.
Contact: Email BaseLine president Scott Ludwig at BFSpresident@aol.com

Night of Hope

Date/Time: March 21, 6:30-11:45 p.m.
Location: The Dearborn Inn, 20301 Oakwood Boulevard, Dearborn
Details: Canton-based Our Hope Holds The Cure is hosting its second annual "A Night Of Hope" formal charity gala, featuring a silent auction, dinner, live entertainment and cake auction officiated by Vic

Faust of WXYZ-TV (Channel 7). Individual tickets are \$150 and tables are \$1,500. Proceeds go directly to the national HHT Foundation.
Contact: Register for tickets or sponsorships at ourhopeholdstheecure.org.

Jazz @ The Elks

Date/Time: Tuesday, March 25, 7-10 p.m.
Location: Plymouth Elks Lodge, 41700 Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth
Details: Jazz @ the Elks happens on the last Tuesday of the month. There is a \$10 donation at the door which includes hors d'oeuvres. On Tuesday, March 25, the Dave Bennett Quartet returns with Dave on clarinet, Doug Cobb on drums, Jeff Kessler on piano and Jeff Pedraz on bass.
Contact: For more information, call 734-453-1780 or email plymouthelks1780@yahoo.com.

YouTube boogie

Date/Time: Sunday, March 16, 3 p.m.
Location: Plymouth District Library, 223 S. Main, Plymouth
Details: The Plymouth District Library welcomes attorney turned boogie, blues and ragtime musician Matthew Ball - "The Boogie Woogie Kid" - for a free, family friendly piano concert. Ball boasts a pedagogical link to Frederic Chopin, having studied classically at Oakland University in Rochester with Dr. Flavio Varani. The performance features classics like *Swanee River*, *Over the Rainbow*, *The Entertainer* and *Bumble Boogie*. Admission is free.
Contact: 734-453-0750.

Rockettes kid clinic

Date/Time: Saturday, March 8, registration starts at 8:30 a.m.
Location: Salem High School gym
Details: The Salem Rockettes Pom Team hosts its annual "Junior Rockettes" Clinic. The clinic is open to kindergarten through eighth grade. "Junior Rockettes" will learn skills and a routine and perform their routine at pick up. "Junior Rockettes" will be invited to perform April 11 at the Rockettes Variety Show. The cost is \$30 to preregister, \$35 at the door. Price includes a T-shirt, poms, snack and drink.
Contact: For more information and registration form, go to www.pompon.salemrocks.com

Mad Hatter Tea

Date/Time: Sunday, March 16, 2 p.m.
Location: Plymouth Historical Museum, corner of Main and Church, Plymouth
Details: The Plymouth Historical Museum's annual "Mad Hatter Tea" features Phyllis Barkey speaking on "Dining at J.L. Hudson's." Barkey's presentation is divided into three parts: Joseph Lowthian Hudson and his magnificent store; dining at Hudson's; shopping at the Grand Dame of Woodward Avenue. The presentation will follow a Victorian-style tea with a twist.

We will be serving several items formerly served at Hudson's, including Maurice Salad and Cheese Bread, along with the Plymouth Historical Museum's signature tea, "Mary's Blend." Guests are encouraged to wear their craziest hat as there will be a door prize awarded. Tickets are \$20 for members and \$25 for non-members, if purchased by March 7; after that date, add \$5 to the price.
Contact: Tickets can be purchased at the museum during open hours or on the museum's website (www.plymouthhistory.org) using Paypal.

United Way meeting

Date/Time: Friday, April 4, 7:30-9 a.m.
Location: Comcast, 41112 Concept Drive, Plymouth
Details: The Plymouth Community United Way holds its 2014 annual Meeting and Awards Presentation sponsored by Comcast. The public is welcome. The morning begins with networking and a continental breakfast followed by the meeting at 8 a.m. The purpose of the meeting is to elect new board members and officers and includes reports on the organization's 2013 finances and programs.
Contact: To RSVP, call Cindy Bumgardner at 734-453-6879, ext. 2, or send email to cindy.bumgardner@pcuw.org by Monday, March 17.

Agent Orange town hall

Date/Time: Saturday, April 26, 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. (registration 8-9 a.m.)
Location: Northville High School, 45700 Six Mile, Northville
Details: Vietnam Veterans Chapter 528 sponsors an Agent Orange Town Hall to inform and register veterans, their families and community, that have been affected by Agent Orange and other dioxins used during the Vietnam War up to the present. The effects of these dioxins are carried in the DNA of the affected person for up to seven generations. The National Academy of Sciences and Veterans Administration has connected Agent Orange and other dioxin exposure during this period, to include 12 diseases, 38 cancers and 20 birth defects. Reservations are required for this event.
Contact: To RSVP or for more information, go to www.VVA528.org.

Schoolcraft open house

Time/date: 5-7:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 12
Location: VisTaTech Center, Schoolcraft College, 18600 Haggerty Road, Livonia
Details: Learn about your new education options in nursing, health information administration, communications and criminal justice through Schoolcraft College and The University of Toledo. Talk with Schoolcraft and University of Toledo advisers in one location at one time.
Contact: www.schoolcraft.edu/SCTOU; 734-462-4426

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Steve's FAMILY DINING

Salmon Steak
 Broiled Cod
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 Shrimp
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 Fish & Chips
 Potato Pancakes
 ...just to name a few!

-LENT SPECIALS-
 Starting This Wednesday & Friday
 Potato Pancakes, Fish & Nalinski or
 Potato Pancakes, Pierogi & Nalinski

2 Locations to Serve You
 40370 Five Mile • Plymouth • 734-420-1500
 15800 Middlebelt • Livonia • 734-425-9800

Hellenic Cultural Center Presents

Lenten Fish Fry Friday

Every Friday During Lent • 4:30-7:30pm

Buffet Includes: Fried / Baked Cod, Fried Calamari, Pasta, Fries, Slaw, Salad, rolls/butter, coffee, tea, or soft drinks.

ADULTS...\$11.50 KIDS Under 11...\$6.50 Under 3...FREE

36375 Joy Road (W. of Wayne Rd.) Westland • 734.525.3550
 Saint Constantine & Saint Helen Church

St. Michael's Parish presents

"ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT" LENTEN FISH FRY

Mar. 7, 14, 21, 28 & Apr. 4, 11
 4:30-7:00 pm

• Full Dinners • Carry-out Available \$8
 • Choice of Hand-dipped Fried or Baked Fresh Atlantic Cod
 Adults: \$9 • Seniors: \$8 • Kids 3-13: \$5 • 3 & Under: FREE

11441 Hubbard Rd., S. of Plymouth Rd. • Livonia • 734-261-1455
 www.livoniastmichael.org

St. Raphael Fish Fry Fridays

Every Friday During Lent Beginning March 7th, 2014

Hours: 4:30-7pm or until dinners are sold out (Good Friday: 3-7pm or until dinners are sold out)

We Serve Hand Battered Premium Icelandic Haddock:

Fish Dinner...\$8.75 Shrimp Dinner...\$8.75
 Fish-Shrimp Combo...\$8.75 Fish Sandwich Plate...\$7.00
 Cheese Pizza
 1 Slice Meal...\$3.00 2 Slice Meal...\$4.00
 Pop...\$1.00 Bottled Water...\$1.00
 Arizona Ice Tea...\$1.50

Dinners include: choice of potato (fries or mashed); cole slaw; roll & butter; and choice of coffee, hot tea or milk (carry out dinners do not include take out beverage).
 No Tax, No Tip Necessary

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 Mon. - Fri. 7am - 9pm • Sat. & Sun. 8am - 9pm
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Hours: Mon.-Thurs. 4-10 pm, Fri.-Sat. 4-11 pm, Sun. Open at 12:30 pm

St. Patrick's Dinner
 Monday March 17
 Corned beef & Cabbage

Lenten Seafood
 Broiled Whitefish on a cedar plank
 Walleye Siciliano Breaded with a red pepper sauce

Friday Fish & Chips
 Hand Dipped & Battered Icelandic Haddock

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Connor Kirkpatrick of New Hudson watches as Victoria Taylor-Sluder, park interpreter, demonstrates the sap-collecting process. PHOTOS BY LAURA COLVIN

Kensington staff shares 'Sweet Story'

Visitors get look at maple history

By Laura Colvin
Staff Writer

Ken Klemczak was at Kensington Metropark in Milford on Saturday to learn about the process of making syrup and sugar from the sap of maple trees.

"I'm going to try it at home," said Klemczak, who owns about six acres of land in Howell. "For me, it's about sustainability. I don't think the foods we're consuming today are very healthy; it's time to get back to the way things used to be."

Klemczak was among dozens who came out during the weekend to learn about "Maple's Sweet Story," a program geared at teaching participants about the process of producing maple syrup from a maple tree.

The program lasts about an hour and begins with an introduction by a park interpreter, who shows participants how to identify a suitable maple tree, as well as how to tap the tree to get the sap running.

Park interpreters present the information in a way that will encourage people to try the process at home.

"It's definitely a home-grown industry," said Victoria Taylor-Sluder, park interpreter. "You really don't need very many trees to make your own syrup."

Although it was a bit cold for sap Saturday — outdoor temps need to be at about 36 degrees before the sap will run — plenty of folks came out to see the process and possibly get a breath of fresh air. In the weeks ahead, when the sap begins to run, other ar-



Clara Penney, 5, of Livonia gets a taste of maple syrup from Chris Williams, park interpreter, as Clara's mom Kristy Penney and brother Isaac Penney, 2, look on.

mas may be in the air as well, as the evaporator steams away to boil the sap into syrup.

"Boiling the sap creates a wonderful smell," Taylor-Sluder said. "It smells like toasted marshmallows out here in the spring."

Real maple syrup products will be available for sale and to sample and visitors can also stop by the French and Native American camp to hear and see how sugaring techniques have changed through-

out the years.

"It's good just to get outside; we've been inside too long this winter," said Kristy Penney of Livonia, who came out with her husband and kids.

"Maple's Sweet Story" takes place at the park from noon to 3 p.m. each Saturday and Sunday in March. Park officials encourage participants to dress for the weather, as the program takes place outdoors.

Registration is not required for the week-

end programs. Cost is \$5 for adults; \$3 for seniors and children 3-12 years old; children younger



George Sluder talks to visitors about 18th century Native American techniques for maple sugaring. LAURA COLVIN

than 3 are free.

A vehicle entry fee is required at all metroparks.

Contact Kensington

Metropark at 248-684-8632.

lcolvin@hometownlife.com
248-390-7396

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED USE OF THE 2014 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT FUNDS MARCH 18, 2014

Notice is hereby given that public hearing concerning the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program will be held by the Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Plymouth at 7:00 PM in the Town Hall Meeting Room of the Plymouth Township Hall located at 9955 N. Haggerty Road on Tuesday, March 18, 2014.

The purpose of the public hearing will be to afford the public the opportunity to place before the board any proposed use of the 2014 CDBG funds.

Preliminary indications from the Wayne County Community Development Block Grant program are that the estimated 2014 funding allocation for the Township will be approximately \$97,102. Wayne County requires that our request for public service projects not exceed 15% of the total allocation. Based on that special requirement the projects are proposed as follows:

ESTIMATED 2014 ALLOCATION BASED ON 15% PUBLIC SERVICE CAP

	Allocation	
PUBLIC SERVICES	\$14,565	
Senior Services	\$7,283	
		Council on Aging \$5,059
		Senior Alliance \$2,224
Senior Transportation	\$7,282	
		Senior Transportation \$7,282
ADMINISTRATION	\$9,710	
		Administration \$9,710
BRICK & MORTAR	\$72,827	
		ADA Township Park Improvements \$72,827
TOTAL ALLOCATION	\$97,102	

If Wayne County Determines after all applications are received that additional funds shall be available for public service projects the proposed allocations shall be as follows:

ESTIMATED 2014 ALLOCATION BASED ON TOWNSHIP PREFERENCE

	Allocation	
PUBLIC SERVICES	\$47,580	
Senior Services	\$11,124	
		Council on Aging \$8,900
		Senior Alliance \$2,224
Senior Transportation	\$33,986	
		Senior Transportation \$33,986
ADMINISTRATION	\$9,710	
		Administration \$9,710
BRICK & MORTAR	\$39,812	
		ADA Township Park Improvements \$39,812
TOTAL ALLOCATION	\$97,102	

The Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Plymouth will determine the use of the 2014 funds upon completion of the public hearing.

Any written comments regarding the proposed use of the 2014 funds should be directed to Susan Vignoe, Solid Waste and Public Service Coordinator, Charter Township of Plymouth, 9955 N. Haggerty Road, Plymouth, MI and must be received by Friday, March 14, 2014.

Nancy Conzelman
Clerk, Charter Township of Plymouth



Park interpreter Chris Williams (left) talks to visitors about the process of producing real maple syrup.

CANTON PREPARATORY HIGH SCHOOL OPEN ENROLLMENT NOTICE

Open enrollment for the 2014-2015 academic school year for 9th - 10th grades ends on Friday, 3/21/2014 at 5 p.m. Applications can be obtained and submitted at www.cantonprep.com, via email at info@cantonprep.com, or via phone at 734-862-8600. Should the number of applications received during open enrollment exceed available seats, a random-selection drawing will be necessary. The drawing, if needed, will be held on Monday, 4/14/2014 at 5:00 p.m. at a location to be announced. Applications received after open enrollment will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis for remaining open seats. Waiting lists will be formed accordingly.

NOTICE OF NONDISCRIMINATORY POLICY AS TO STUDENTS

Canton Preparatory High School admits students of any race, color, and national or ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of intellectual or athletic abilities, measures of achievement or aptitude, disability, status as a handicapped person, homeless status, English proficiency, religion, creed, race, sex, color, or national origin in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies and athletic or other school-administered programs.

OUR VIEWS

Drive smart to handle potholes and protect work crews

You know the roads are getting pretty bad when a recent top news story was about the 20-plus vehicles that blew out tires and damaged rims hitting a pothole on I-96 at Merriman Road in Livonia.

Our wish for warmer weather has brought on a nightmare we don't normally deal with in this time of year - potholes. We've gone from slipping and sliding on snow-covered streets and freeways to bouncing and dodging the cavernous pits that have opened up on paved and dirt roads. They've turned commutes into bone-jarring, teeth-rattling rides and, in some cases, costly repair bills.

Considering the winter we are having, it should come as no surprise that our roads resemble the surface of the moon. The sudden manifestation has come early this year and predictions are it will only get worse.

Potholes happen when snow and ice melt as part of the seasonal freeze-thaw cycle. Cracks let water get below the pavement, which freezes and forces the pavement to rise. As temperatures rise above freezing, a hole develops below the surface and the pavement breaks, forming a pothole.

There's no escaping potholes. Certainly, they can be cleaned out and filled in with a hot or cold patch but, as the name indicates, it's only a patch. Those repairs don't last and are also affected by the freeze-thaw cycle.

The best way of dealing with potholes is to avoid them, but sometimes that's not possible. The only option is to try to minimize the possibility for damage when you strike one.

Michigan motorists in key urban areas pay between \$305 and \$536 annually in unnecessary vehicle repairs due to poor roads, according to a January 2014 report by TRIP, a national transportation research group. According to TRIP, bad roads cost Michigan drivers \$2.3 billion per year in unnecessary vehicle repairs. If you also factor in additional costs related to congestion and safety, that figure rises to \$7.7 billion per year.

The Weather Channel has some tips about dealing with potholes:

» Don't try to "fly" over a pothole by going fast. Most are big enough to do damage even if you're traveling at highway speeds. In fact, the faster your speed, the greater damage the pothole can do.

» Don't tailgate. You have a better chance of dodging the pothole the driver in front of you hit by not riding on his or her bumper.

» Don't brake when hitting a pothole. It's one of the worst things you can do. You want to have the most possible suspension travel over the front wheels when you hit the pothole. That means letting off the brakes the moment before you hit and allowing the car to absorb the blow.

» Be wary of puddles. It may look like water to you, but under that murkiness can be a massive pothole, sometimes large enough to do severe damage to the car.

So how serious are this year's potholes? Last week, Jordan Avgousti @JGoose23 tweeted: "Gonna make an app called Dodge the Potholes. Difficulty levels will be easy, medium, hard, expert and Michigan."

And the Michigan Infrastructure and Transportation Association is again holding its Pothole Pocketbook Contest at justfixtheroads.com/contest. Winners will be announced each week during March and the prizes are up to \$500 toward vehicle repair costs.

The contest is open to all Michigan-licensed drivers, age 18 or older, who have endured vehicle repairs caused by bad roads since January 2014. To enter, drivers must submit a photo or scan of their itemized repair bill at justfixtheroads.com/contest, along with the contact information of their mechanic or body shop to verify the repair. Drivers must also submit photos of their vehicle's damage and (if possible) the specific pothole(s) they hit.

MITA is a leading advocate for increased infrastructure funding in Michigan to save lives and money. According to Lance Binoniemi, MITA vice president of government affairs, the state's extreme weather may be breaking up roads and bridges, but so is a continued decline in adequate funding.

"This contest will help to make things easier for a few lucky motorists, but the only real way to reduce the high cost of bad roads for everyone is for the Legislature to invest in our roads and bridges now to save lives and money," he said.

And while you're watching out for potholes, also keep an eye open for work crews who are out there doing the patching. Give them plenty of leeway and slow down. Certainly it might be an aggravation with the traffic congestion they create, but taking a little extra time to get someplace is a whole lot better than a pain in the pocketbook because of flat tires, bent rims and even damage to the suspension.

You can report potholes on state roads to the Michigan Department of Transportation by calling 888-296-4546. However, MDOT only repairs potholes on state trunk lines - freeways with M, I, or U.S. designations like I-94, M-14, U.S.-10. For potholes on routes other than state trunk lines, contact your county or local unit of government.

What do you think?



Car buffs will head to Autorama at Cobo Center this weekend to see 1,000 chopped, channeled and super painted hot rods and custom cars on display, including this 1956 Chevy 210 owned by Livonia resident David Henwood. What is your favorite car of all time? Email your response to bkadrich@hometownlife.com by noon Monday and it may appear as a letter to the editor in next Thursday's paper. Include your name, address and phone number. (Address and phone number are for verification purposes only.) BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

CVS choice

I think if CVS is going to stop selling tobacco because it's not healthy, then alcohol shouldn't be sold either.

Those who are addicted will find somewhere to purchase it. Myself, I gave those habits up years ago.

Caroline Norwood
Canton

CBO revisited

My letter, "CBO boosts ACA," panned by Dan Timmerman ("Who's lying") and Gerry Wright ("ACA a train wreck"), was about how long-held conservative-Republican myths about Obamacare had been summarily debunked by the recent CBO report even though those same myths were shamelessly being pushed by Republicans in response to that report; things like the ACA was a "job killer" and that the ACA caused runaway deficits, skyrocketing premiums and a bailout for insurers.

Timmerman began with the, "If you like your policy, you can keep it" controversy even though most affected already have, or soon will, obtain affordable coverage. He then introduced Benghazi, a conservative go-to that has been totally dismantled as a scandal in a bi-partisan Senate Intelligence report.

Yes, the attack was tragic but no more tragic than the 13 attacks upon American diplomatic outposts during the Bush administration that saw over 100 die including 22 Americans that passed virtually without mention by the right-wing noise machine and, likely, Timmerman. Neither issue was a topic of the CBO report hence non-sequiturs in this debate.

Timmerman and Wright acquiesced on the "job killer" myth indicating that they thought it a bad thing for people to have the

freedom to decide whether to work more or less hours, quit or retire altogether. It seems that they want people shackled to the job in order to get healthcare rather than having the ability to stay home a little more with the kids, retire early, especially if one is having health challenges, go to school to upgrade skills or start a new business. Shamefully, "Ain't that America!" (Mellencamp).

Both seemed worried that people collecting a subsidy in lieu of working added hours may somehow be un-American. Does that include Mitt Romney, who by his own admission was unemployed laying about with his never-employed wife cashing in on the lavish subsidies afforded by our generous tax code that allow him to haul in millions annually while only paying 14 percent in tax, less than a middle-class working family is apt to pay. Talk about the idle rich.

Curiously both Timmerman and Wright seemed dismayed that the ACA somehow left 31 million uncovered although both seek repeal of the ACA eliminating coverage for 25 million who are now, or will soon be, covered. Somehow in their upside-down humanitarian world 31 million without coverage is worse than 56 million.

Both Timmerman and Wright expressed concern about predictions that employers would shed up to 7 million from insurance plans. Since we are the only OECD nation that ties insurance to employment and our costs are the highest with mediocre outcomes, perhaps severing that bond wouldn't be such a bad idea. And guys, the \$2 trillion price tag for ACA represents a decade long savings of \$130 billion.

Finally, Mr. Wright, predictions in the report are either all guess or all gospel; you can't have it both ways. Also, hypocritically asking me for data is comical. It's

implied that all CBO predictions are backed by data.

Mitch Smith
Canton

Hit for inaction

The Michigan Senate recently passed a supplemental bill that, among other things, would transfer \$100 million for road maintenance. Even though this is just a transfer of funds and other projects shelved, it will be welcomed by the county and local agencies that have been short-changed the past four years.

Six Republican senators voted "no" on the \$360 million bill, among them Sen. Patrick Colbeck. Why, you ask, would he do that? Well, here's the answer in a nutshell.

Last fall, after failing to stop the Medicaid expansion, he led the charge to not give that law immediate effect. Several news sources warned at the time that our state treasury would take a multi-million-dollar hit because of this inaction. Well, the hit is here. The above supplemental bill includes \$73.3 million to pay for Colbeck's and the Tea Party's antics.

I can only surmise that with the election looming, Colbeck doesn't want the voters to see, in black and white, how much it cost us for him to please that front organization, "Americans for Prosperity (for the Rich)."

How many roads could be repaired or how many police officers, firefighters or teachers hired with that \$73.3 million? We will never know. But you can bet your last dollar on this: If even one paragraph of the Medicaid expansion bill would have enriched the Koch Brothers, the DeVos family or other billionaires who fund the Tea Party, it would have taken effect before the gavel fell.

James Huddleston
Canton

GUEST COLUMN

SEMCOG envisions a greener infrastructure in our region

The Southeast Michigan Council of Governments, under the capable leadership of chair Joan Gebhardt, just announced a comprehensive report: The Region's Green Infrastructure Vision.

The voices of key stakeholder groups and the general public helped shape the direction for this vision. I was fortunate to be one of the in-person visioning session participants at the University of Michigan-Dearborn. As a participant from Livonia, I helped in mapping green infrastructure priorities. Results of this intensive outreach revealed that the public highly values protecting and enhancing the top three elements: natural areas, biking/hiking trails and trees along roads and downtown areas.

In terms of specific targets of opportunity to increase green



Joe Neussendorfer

GUEST COLUMNIST

infrastructure (trees, bioswales and other vegetation) SEMCOG reports the priority locations are along rivers and lakes, on major roadways and on vacant property. The visioning sessions each produced maps that identified current and potential future green infrastructure targets of opportunity. These maps will be combined to form a regional map of green infrastructure priorities for southeast Michigan.

The winter 2014 issue of *Semscope* contains comprehensive information on the vision, including best practices reports from several communities. Readers may want to request a copy of this publication to learn more about the initiative. Requests should be made to the SEMCOG website: www.semco.org.

In a related initiative, there is a new rating program that will

further sustainability of public and private horizontal green infrastructure projects covering water, wastewater treatment plants and stormwater runoffs. It is like the LEED program for buildings, but designed for horizontal green infrastructure projects. It is called "Envision" and is a collaboration effort of Harvard University's Institute for Sustainable Infrastructure and three leading infrastructure organizations: the American Society of Civil Engineers, the American Council of Engineering Companies and the American Public Works Association. Readers may obtain more information by visiting the Envision website: www.sustainableinfrastructure.org.

Joe Neussendorfer is an affiliate member of the American Society of Civil Engineers, a 37-year member of the Engineering Society of Detroit and editor of the *My Green Livonia* news service.

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STATE WRESTLING FINALS AT THE PALACE

BEN THERE, DOES THAT



Raising his arms in triumph Saturday at the Palace is Canton's Ben Griffin after winning the state championship at 130 over Howell's Ben Calandrino. PHOTOS BY DOUGLAS BARGERSTOCK

Canton's Griffin rallies for state title; Pantaleo's bid foiled by CC's Amine

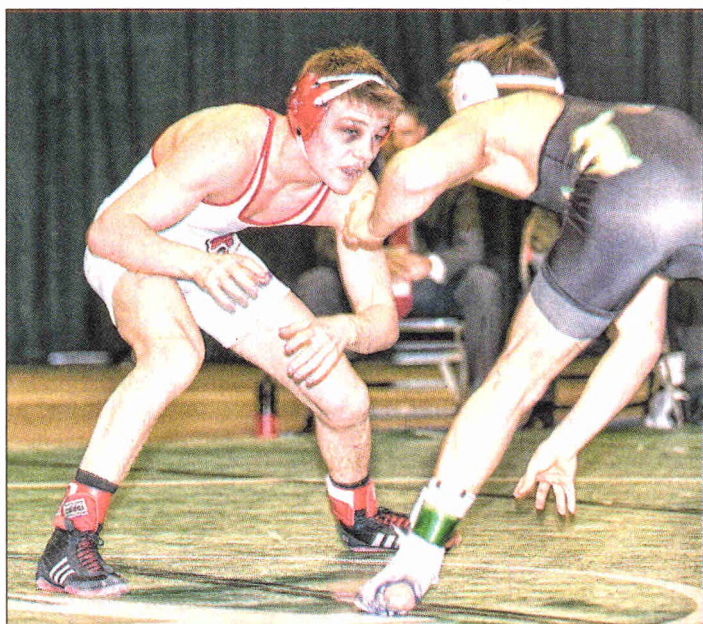
By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Trailing by one point with under 10 seconds left in Saturday's Division 1 championship bout at 130, Canton senior Ben Griffin literally turned it around in the nick of time.

Griffin's stunning reversal against Howell senior Ben Calandrino with seven seconds to go gave him a 2-1 victory at the Palace of Auburn Hills, enabling him to close out his high school career with his first championship. He finished 50-3 for the season.

"I didn't know how much time was left until they broke it and I saw 20 seconds," Griffin said. "But I'm glad I didn't panic, and I went to my bread and butter."

After Griffin got up from under Calandrino's grip and closed out the victory, he jumped up and down on the mat, pumping his arms high into the air. He followed that by leaping into the arms of



Battling it out for the 130-pound championship are Canton's Ben Griffin (left) and Howell's Ben Calandrino.

his coaches, Cory Mancuso and Mike Pantaleo. "He (Griffin) knew what he had to do," Mancuso said. "He's worked hard. He knows more than I do about wrestling, so he was well

prepared and he's a champion."

Griffin added that it was a special moment to prevail over his good friend and future teammate at Eastern Michigan University. "I

couldn't be happier to win the state title against a stud like Ben Calandrino."

Canton's bid for two champions at the individual finals came up short, however.

Senior Alec Pantaleo — taking a 52-0 record into his title bout at 145 against Novi-Detroit Catholic Central's Malik Amine — stunningly was pinned in just 34 seconds.

It was scoreless between Griffin and Calandrino until the second period when the Highlander (who finished 52-2) eked out a point.

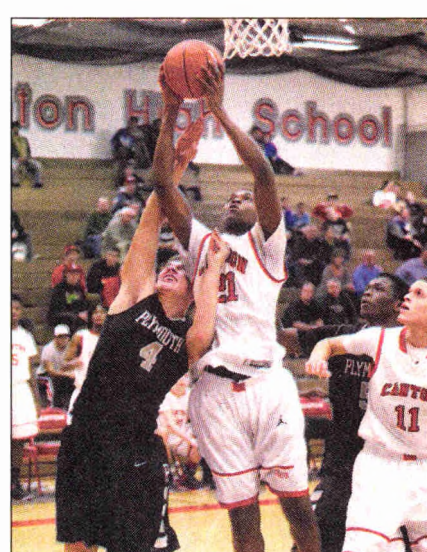
One last shot

That held up almost until its conclusion as each wrestler circled and sparred, looking for a moment to pounce.

Officials resumed the bout with 20 seconds left and Griffin knew he had to make something happen. He did, to the delight of Canton's contingent of teammates, family

See WRESTLING, Page B3

BOYS HOOP DISTRICTS



Canton's Davon Taylor (No. 21), shown from an early season game against Plymouth, was a major thorn in the Wildcats' side Monday. At left is Plymouth's Kevin Justice (No. 4). JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

Chiefs able to hang on

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Nobody wanted to help his team close out Monday's district quarterfinal boys basketball victory more than Canton's Davon Taylor did.

The 6-6 senior forward helped stake the Chiefs to a big lead in the third quarter against Plymouth. But then, he ran into foul trouble and had to sit on the sidelines while the Wildcats began a furious comeback.

Thankfully for Taylor and the Chiefs, he returned in time to make some big defensive stops and connect on five of six free-throw attempts in the final two minutes to give district host Canton a 45-40 victory.

"I had four fouls. I was not trying to get the fifth foul to foul out," said Taylor, who was a force with 18 points and 15 rebounds. "So I was just playing smart, using my head, and (I) came in and knocked down some big free throws."

Back in there

Canton head coach Jimmy Reddy concurred how crucial it was for Taylor to get back into the ballgame. He sat out several minutes in the fourth as Plymouth closed the gap to 39-36 on a put-back by junior Xavier Gardner and a trey by junior Josh Reynolds.

"Davon's a horse for us. When he's on the bench, we're not obviously as good," said Reddy, whose 14-7 team will face Novi-Detroit Catholic Central Wednesday night. "They did make their run when he was sitting out late. It was important that he was able to finish the game for us. Because those free throws he hit were huge."

Plymouth (9-11) nearly forced overtime, however.

The Wildcats (12-23 in free throws for the game) split a pair from the charity stripe that would have made it 41-all with 1:27 to play.

Then with under a half minute remaining, down 42-40, Plymouth lost the ball out of bounds in Canton's end — missing a glorious chance to tie the score. The Wildcats were not

See HOOPS, Page B3

PREP GIRLS GYMNASTICS

Chiefs again win regional

Plymouth finishes 2nd, joins Canton at team finals

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

The Park is becoming the place for high school gymnastics.

Canton — last year's state runners-up — earned a second straight team regional championship Saturday at Plymouth High School while the host Wildcats finished second to also ensure a spot in Friday's finals, which are slated to begin at 2 p.m. at Plymouth.

The Chiefs led with 147.65 points while the Wildcats tallied 142.25 points (a school record).

Canton head coach John Cunningham said his team had two exceptional events (vault, floor exercise) and two others that could use some sprucing up



Canton's Maddie Toal performs her floor exercise routine Saturday. JOHN KEMSKI

before the finals where they will look to finally unseat Grand Ledge as Division 1 champion.

"If we have a four-event good day, we're going to win," Cunningham said.

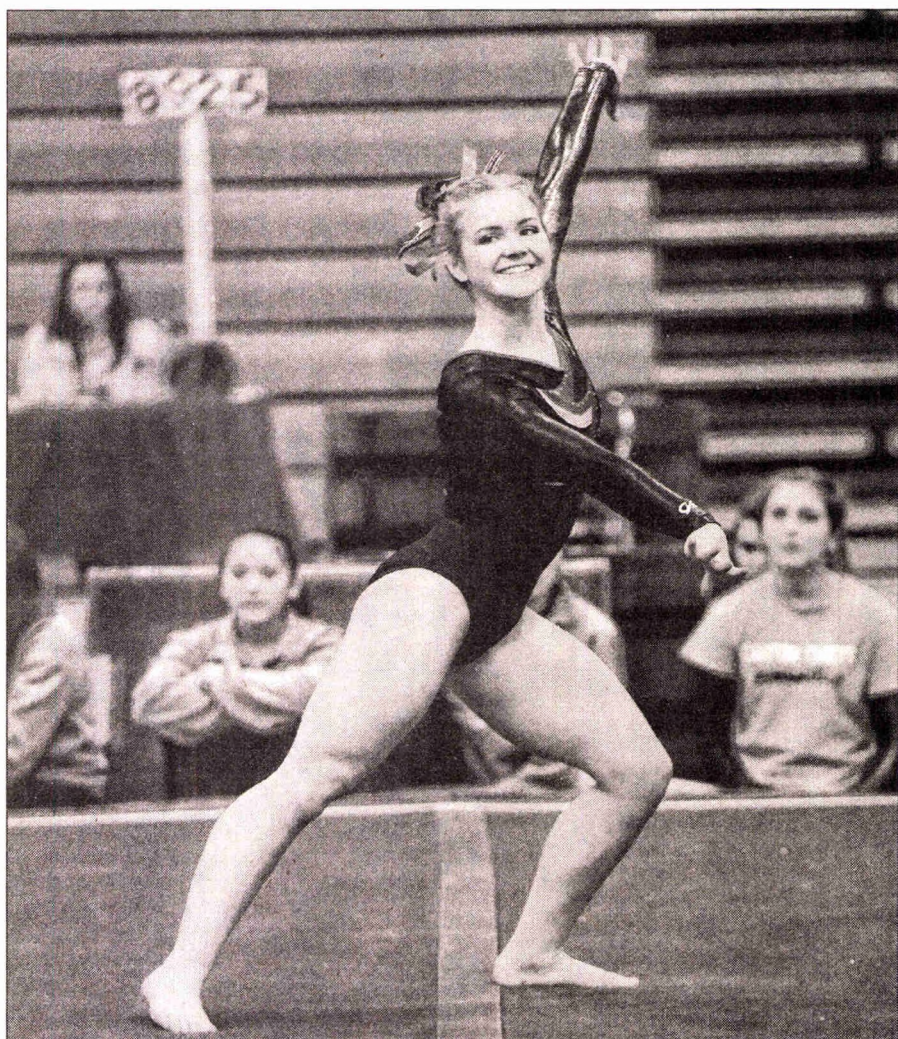
See GYM, Page B2

BACK-TO-BACK 'CATS!



The Plymouth Wildcats celebrate Saturday night at the Dearborn Ice Skating Center after defeating Woodhaven 5-3 for their second consecutive Division 1 regional hockey championship. For the story, please turn to page B4. MICHELLE BAUER

Canton senior Melissa Green finishes with a flourish during her gold-medal winning routine on floor at Saturday's team regionals. JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO



Once again, the Canton Chiefs are team regional gymnastics champions. Canton topped the field Saturday at Plymouth High School and advanced to Friday's team finals. JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

GYM

Continued from Page B1

"If we don't, then somebody can beat us."

Stellar quartet

Spearheading the Chiefs were seniors Melissa Green, Erica Lucas, junior Jocelyn Moraw and sophomore Hailey Hodgson.

Green landed a beautiful vault (9.575) to win that event in Division 1. She also won on floor (9.6) and had the best all-around score in the division (37.550).

"I've been just working really hard this season, especially these last two weeks getting into routines," said Green, about her across-the-board performance. "Every day at every event, I'm just working really hard to push my routines even better."

Moraw compiled a 37.475 all-around score in D1, for second place. She placed first on balance beam with a 9.625 showing.

Lucas and Hodgson tied at the top of the all-around leader board in D2 (35.825) while Lucas won on vault (9.35) and floor (9.225).

Plymouth head coach Pam Yockey said her team displayed the skill and consistency it has all season, led by Katie Salanga's first-place finish in D2 on beam with a school-record score of 9.625.

"It was down to the wire, but everybody hit on their routines today," Yockey said. "They hit the routine average that they've hit all season, nobody had any bad experiences, no low scores and they just nailed it today."

Yockey added that Salanga "had a very solid performance, (has) a good attitude and she just enjoys whatever she does. It's very apparent."

Salem's standout was freshman Alexia Frantzeskakis, who medaled in D1 on all four events as well as the all-around (fifth, 36.425).

Also automatically qualifying was Grosse Pointe United, third with 141.15 points.

A fourth team qualifying from Region 3, Livonia Blue, made the cut as an at-large team, with 140.45 points.

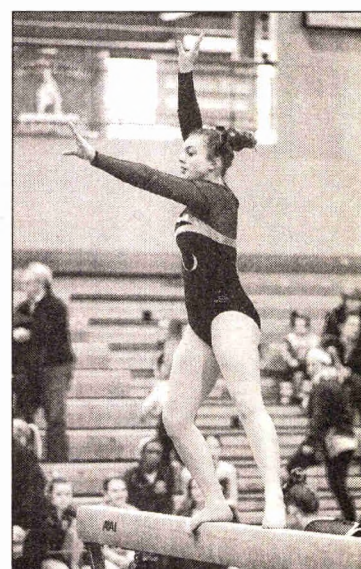
The Michigan High School Athletic Association allows 12 teams into the finals (three from each region) along with the best fourth-place team for a 13-team field — as long as it reaches the 140-point plateau.

In addition, the following from P-CEP teams qualified for the D1 individual finals (Saturday, March 8 at Plymouth):

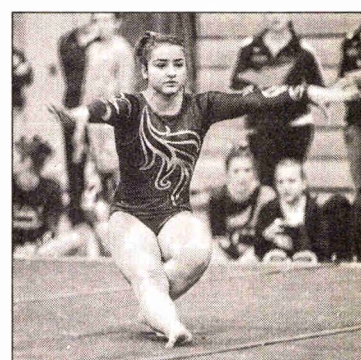
Division 1

Vault: 1. Melissa Green (Canton), 9.575; 4. Jocelyn Moraw (Canton), 9.25; 5. Alexia Frantzeskakis (Salem), 9.10; 6. Rebeca Simu (Plymouth), 9.075; 7. Haley Metz (Plymouth), 9.05; 8. Maddie Toal (Canton), 8.90.

Bars: 2. Moraw (Canton), 9.25; 3. Metz (Plymouth), 9.10; 5. Toal (Canton), 8.875; 6. Green (Canton), 8.85; 7. Frant-



Plymouth's Brenna Connelly goes to work on the balance beam at Saturday's team regionals. JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO



Salem freshman Alexia Frantzeskakis earned Division 1 medals in all individual events plus the all-around at the team regionals. JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

zeskakis (Salem), 8.575; 8. Simu (Plymouth), 8.45.

Beam: 1. Moraw (Canton), 9.625; 2. Green (Canton), 9.525; 3. Frantzeskakis (Salem), 9.30; 4. (tie) Toal (Canton), Stephanie Cox (Canton), 9.050; 6. Simu (Plymouth), 8.925; 8. Metz (Plymouth), 8.60.

Floor: 1. Green (Canton), 9.60; 3. Frantzeskakis (Salem), 9.45; 5. Moraw (Canton), 9.35; 6. Toal (Canton), 9.30; 7. Cox (Canton), 9.275; 8. Metz (Plymouth), 9.075.

All-Around: 1. Green (Canton), 37.550; 2. Moraw (Canton), 37.475; 5. Frantzeskakis (Salem), 36.425; 6. Toal (Canton), 36.125.

Division 2

Vault: 1. Erica Lucas (Canton), 9.35; 2. Kayla Janeveski (Plymouth), 9.05; 3. Samantha Fontana (Plymouth), 9.025; 4. Hailey Hodgson (Canton), 9.0.

Bars: 4. Lucas (Canton), 8.475; 5. Hodgson (Canton), 8.325; 6. Brenna Connelly (Plymouth), 8.3; 7. Molly McSween (Plymouth), 8.275.

Beam: 1. Katie Salanga (Plymouth), 9.625; 2. Hodgson (Canton), 9.3; 6. Lucas (Canton), 8.775; 7. Fontana (Plymouth).

Floor: 1. Lucas (Canton), 9.225; 2. Hodgson (Canton), 9.2; 3. Ellie Bachman (Canton), 9.175; 7. Salanga (Plymouth), 9.025.

All-Around: 1. (tie) Lucas (Canton), Hodgson (Canton), 35.825.

tsmith@hometownlife.com

Canton cast of stalwarts keeps on growing

Green, Moraw, Lucas leading poised Chiefs into team finals

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

With a roster as talented as it is deep, Canton gymnastics coach John Cunningham can't wait for Friday's MHSAA team finals to unfold.

The Chiefs, who were state runners-up to Grand Ledge in 2013, are rolling into this year's finals at Plymouth High School (2 p.m.) fresh off Saturday's regional championship.

"If we have a four-event good day, we're going to win," Cunningham said. "If we don't, then somebody can beat us."

He will have some "good bad" decisions to make this week, however, pertaining to his ultimate lineup for Friday.

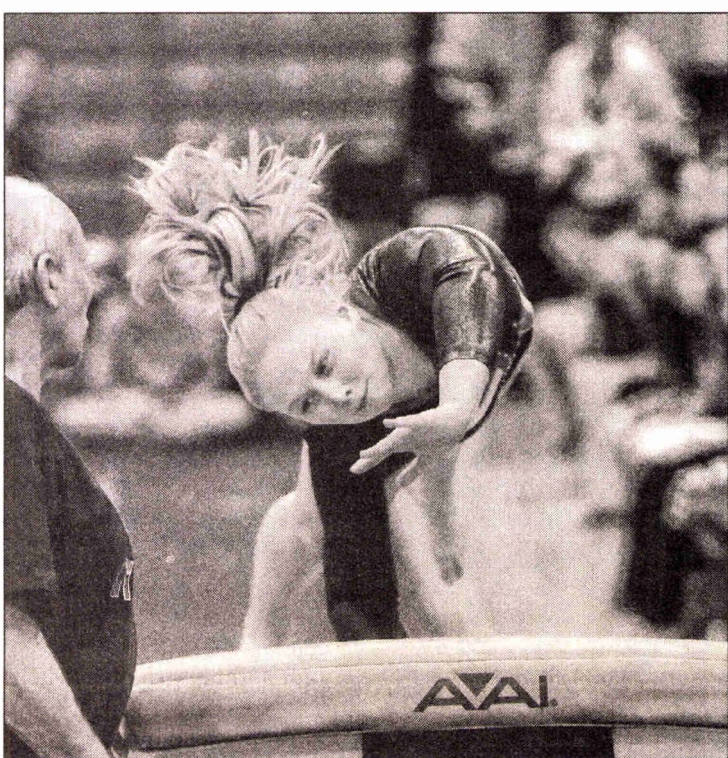
"I have seven girls that score nines," Cunningham said. "On any given day, any one of those seven can be my best girl. And so, to single out any particular one, let's just say I have a wonderful team. I love every one of them and all seven of them deserve to states."

"Now my big problem is picking five on each event. That's going to make my life difficult, but that's a good bad, for sure."

At the top of that list are Division 1 performers Melissa Green, Jocelyn Moraw, Stephanie Cox and Maddie Toal. Joining that group are Division 2's Erica Lucas, Hailey Hodgson and Ellie Bachman.

Saturday, Green won two individual events (vault, 9.575; floor, 9.6) and the all-around (37.550) in D1 while Lucas shared top honors in D2 all-around (35.825). Both are seniors.

"She's one of my seniors and she's been working really hard," said Cunningham, about Green. "She had a late start because she was a diver (on Canton's varsity girls swimming and diving team). When we went to our first meet, she was with a week and a half of practice."



Twisting during another splendid vault routine at team regionals is Canton senior Erica Lucas. JOHN KEMSKI | EXPRESS PHOTO

"And she's been sort of behind all the way as we've gone through the season. But finally, it's coming into form."

Elite focus

Cunningham added that Green is supremely focused at the perfect time of the season, just like last season.

"There were five events, including all-around at state meet last year, Melissa was my only five-event medalist," he noted. "And she's been that good all through her four years. She's just a real exceptional gymnast."

After Green stepped down from the podium for the fifth time Saturday (having medaled in all events plus all-around), she said the team is embracing the challenge to finally top the state charts.

"I feel like we're even stronger this year," Green said. "As a team we're just really close-knit and I'm just really excited for this upcoming week."

Another driven-to-succeed D1 gymnast for the Chiefs (who had another spectacular regular season, winning every KLAAs dual meet) is Moraw, a junior with a mind-over-matter persona.

She limped around the Plymouth gym Saturday with parts of her body wrapped in plastic, but that didn't deter her from medaling across-the-board and taking home the gold medal on beam (9.625).

"I tell you what," said Cunningham, with a hearty chuckle. "Jocelyn's like an old lady. She's got aches and pains and tape and she comes through every time. Her uncle told her last year 'Just suck it up.' And she does. I said do you need a walker after she came off floor?"

"She's banged up, but great vault, great floor, beautiful beam. And she's defending beam champion, D1. We're looking forward to state meet."

And then there's Lucas, who is the defending state champion on vault in D2. At regionals, she medaled in all events and placed first on vault (9.35), floor (9.225) and tied for first with teammate Hodgson in the all-around.

"Erica aspires to be state champion again, I think she can do it," he said. "She certainly has the right attitude."

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MHSAA DIVISION 1 BOWLING FINALS

Glenn's Dietz seizes the day, rules 'state'

Rockets put four in quarterfinals; Canton's Macunovich falls short

By Brad Emons
Staff Writer

And if you think the Westland John Glenn girls bowling team couldn't top themselves following Friday's runner-up finish in the MHSAA Division 1 team competition ... think again.

In Saturday's singles event held at Sunnybrook Lanes in Sterling Heights, the Rockets' made it practically their own intrasquad match as four indi-

vidual state qualifiers all reached the quarterfinals with two of their sophomores squaring off for the coveted title as Emily Dietz defeated teammate Julia Huren in the finals, 396-366.

Dietz, who rolled a two-game set of 194-202 to Huren's 177-189, became the first girls bowler in school history to earn an individual singles title. (In 2011, Glenn's Jordan Hornes captured the boys singles crown).

In the semifinals, Dietz rolled a 259-221-480 to oust Howell's Victoria Clawson, who rolled a 224-221-445. Huren, meanwhile, shot 211-279-490 to eliminate Nicole Mikae-

lian of Macomb Dakota, who recorded a 234-215-449.

Meanwhile, Canton freshman Meghan Macunovich, who the previous weekend won a D1 individual regional championship, did not make it into the Round of 16. She placed 32nd with a tally of 1,151.

In the quarterfinals, it was another Glenn matchup with Huren outting junior Olivia Cabildo, 432-375, while Dietz defeated Renee Spicuzza of Sterling Heights Stevenson by a mere two pins, 391-389.

Glenn junior Jessica Pate also reached the quarterfinals before falling to Clawson by just two pins as well, 412-410.

Getting hot

In the six-game qualifying block, which cuts the field down from 60 to 16 for elimination match play, Dietz was the lowest qualifier among the Glenn contingent. Her six-game total was 1,258, including a high game of 238.

Huren, scoring a 1,339, was second only behind Farmington freshman Candyce Bradley (1,357) in the qualifying block.

Olivia Cabildo was seventh going into the round of 16 with a 1,295 highlighted by a pair of 243 games, while Pate finished ninth with a 1,265, including a 244.

In the round of 16, Dietz

downed Elizabeth Ireland of Utica Eisenhower, 418-409, while Huren toppled Samantha Gainor of Harrison Township L'Anse Creuse North, 504-348.

Cabildo defeated Allison Morris of Ann Arbor Huron (395-381), while Pate stopped Juliana Zaccarella of Monroe, 389-384.

The only other Plymouth-Canton Educational Park bowler competing at Sunnybrook Lanes was Plymouth senior Caitlyn Webb.

She finished with a total of 1,120, good for 41st place.

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D1 INDIVIDUAL WRESTLING FINALS

Palace podium for Plymouth quintet

Individual honors cap team's big season; Salem's Gross also all-stater

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

The headliners Saturday as far as Plymouth-Canton Educational Park wrestlers were concerned were Canton's Ben Griffin and Alec Pantaleo.

Griffin prevailed in his championship bout at the Palace of Auburn Hills while Pantaleo lost his title bid by way of a fall early in the first period. But there were others from the Park who enjoyed a moment on the Division 1 podium at the individual state finals.

The team regional champion Plymouth Wildcats had five all-staters (top eight per weight class) out of their six wrestlers who competed in the three-day tournament.

"It was great to see us get five guys on the podium," Plymouth head coach Quinn Guernsey said. "We wrestled really well on Friday to get on the podium."

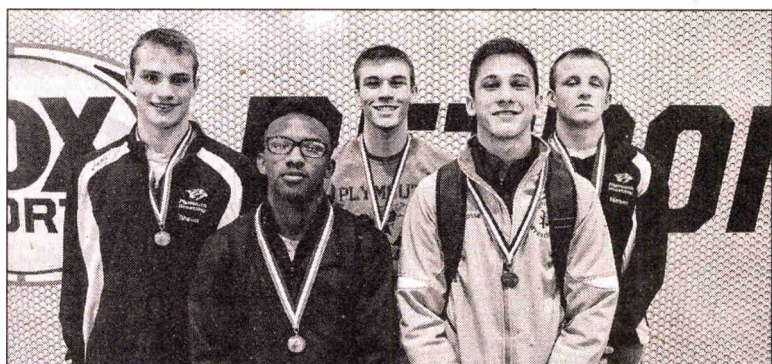
Placing sixth overall were seniors Mohamad Youssef and Joey Shaver, at 119 and 160 pounds, respectively. Shaver earned a 9-8 decision over Grosse Pointe North's Andrew Lock in the quarterfinals.

In eighth place were senior Jon Conn (140, 46-11) and junior Brandon Harris (112, 50-7) while senior Sofus Nielson (37-13) finished seventh in the 145-pound bracket.

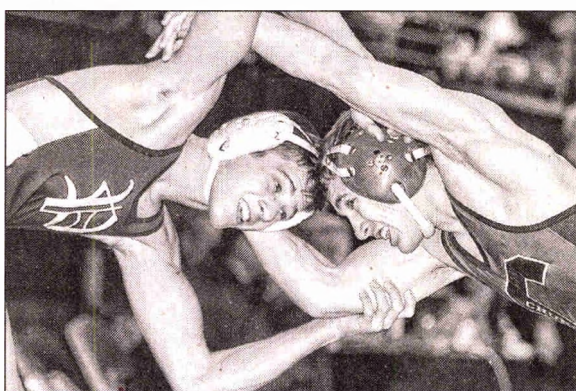
Youssef (52-5) dropped a 6-2 decision to Rockford's Stephen Jendritz in the fifth-place match while Shaver (45-11) was edged 5-4 in his fifth-pound match. Nielson bested Southgate Anderson's Jacob Galogh in the bout for seventh place.

Bounceback bouts

"Joey Shaver had a huge match in the quarterfinals with a great throw at the end of the match to win by a point," Guernsey noted. "Jon Conn and



Plymouth's all-state wrestlers include (from left) Joey Shaver, Brandon Harris, Jon Conn, Mohamad Youssef and Sofus Nielson. All finished in the top eight of their respective weight classes at the Palace. ROB SHAVER



Plymouth's Hussein Youssef (left) wrestles in the fourth round at the Palace. The senior, who surpassed 150 career wins, finished sixth overall at 119. DOUGLAS BARGERSTOCK

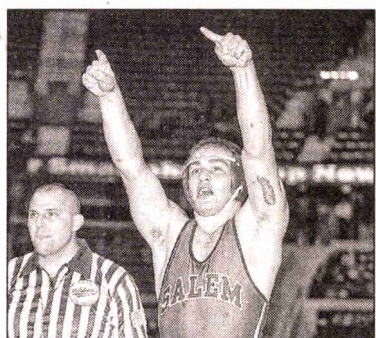
Sofus Nielson also rebounded really nicely after losing first round, by beating two wrestlers who have been ranked higher than them all year.

"Brandon Harris and Mohamad Youssef both came up short in some really good matches in the quarterfinals but were able to rebound nicely to get on the podium."

Salem's lone all-stater was junior Mitchell Gross at 189. He lost his seventh-place match against Walled Lake Central's Alex Sovel to finish his season with a record of 40-8.

Others from the Park were knocked out early, including Plymouth junior Hussein Youssef at 171 (46-11) and Canton's KJ Wooley at 215 (38-12).

"It was great to see Sofus, Jon and Joey all end their senior years with getting on the podium and for Mo to get back there after placing last season," Guernsey said. "We have Bran-

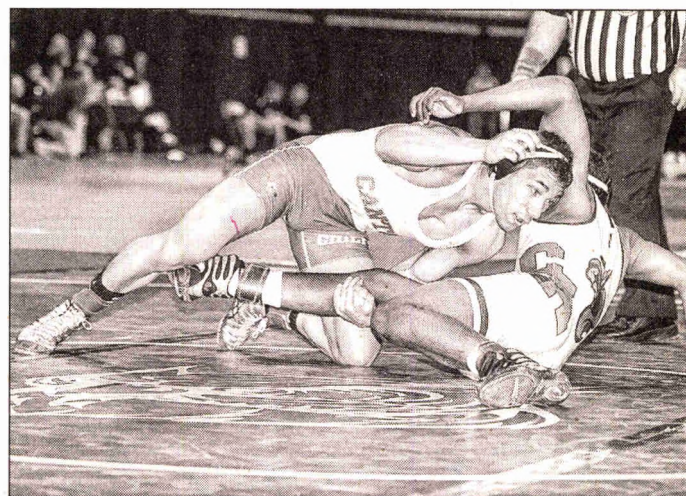


Victorious after his fourth-round win at the Palace is Salem 189-pounder Mitchell Gross. DOUGLAS BARGERSTOCK

don coming back who gave the state champ (Davison's Max Johnson) his best match of the weekend (a 6-3 decision).

"And Hussein Youssef wrestled well in a weight where most of the guys will graduate, giving him a great opportunity to place highly next year."

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Canton senior Alec Pantaleo (left) goes to work during one of his three victories at the Palace. He was defeated in the championship finals at 145. DOUGLAS BARGERSTOCK

WRESTLING

Continued from Page B1

members and fans in the corner of the lower bowl.

"In the last 20 seconds of a match, the key is to keep your composure and hit the move you're the best at," said Griffin, sporting a black right eye sustained at the D1 regionals in Saline. "Mine is the Granby roll or a Peterson. Everything worked out in my favor those last 20 seconds."

He then described his go-to move.

"When he goes to chop your arm on top, you slide your hips out and roll across your shoulders and you catch his leg and it rolls him right to his back," Griffin explained. "Almost didn't get it out there. But you know what? It worked in my favor today and I couldn't be happier."

Pantaleo's day at the Palace didn't work out as well, ending almost as soon as it started.

Amine (34-3), who won the state title at 140 in 2013, wasted no time or movement as he quickly put Pantaleo into a precarious spot.

"He (Pantaleo) got caught in a cradle, (Malik) took advantage of the position," Mancuso said. "He got his hands locked in a cradle and he finished it; that's what great wrestlers do. It was Malik's turn, last time we got the best of him. This time Malik got him."

"They're both going to go on and do great things at the collegiate level and Alec has got nothing to hang his head

about. He's a great wrestler and in my mind he's a champion. It just didn't happen for him today."

Road bump

Pantaleo, who was the 2012 state champion in the 135-pound weight class, will wrestle at the University of Michigan — the place his uncle Joe Pantaleo was a two-time All-American.

According to Mancuso, Saturday's crushing defeat might have kept Alec Pantaleo from his mission for an undefeated senior season and state championship.

But the coach added that it won't deter Pantaleo from going after college wrestling's ultimate prize during his Michigan career.

"There's going to be obstacles," Mancuso stressed. "And this will be a driving factor that pushes him for the next five years in college."

"Be an All-American, this is just a road bump. He's destined for a lot greater things than just this."

Griffin's Palace path to the finals included victories over Mino Trevino (Holt), Derek Humphrey (Davison) and West Bloomfield's Ross Bahro in Friday night's semifinal.

Bahro entered that bout with a 50-0 record.

Pantaleo's victories leading up to the championship bout included wins over Matt Mills (Grand Rapids), Milik Dawkins (Flint Carman-Ainsworth) and Walled Lake Northern's Christian Lauderback in the semifinals.

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PREP WRESTLING

Warriors' Francis earns runner-up finish in D4

Glenn duo, Wayne's Mauldin also grab D1 All-State honors

By Brad Emons
Staff Writer

State champions Jordan Brandon of Westland John Glenn and Jordan Atienza of Livonia Franklin may have stolen the headlines, but there were several other noteworthy area performers at the MHSAA individual wrestling finals held Saturday at the Palace of Auburn Hills.

Not to be outdone was Lutheran High senior Zachary Francis, who earned runner-up honors in the Division 4 at 145 pounds.

Francis made his way to the finals opening with a first-round pin (3:42) Thursday against Pigeon Laker's Mauricio Diaz-Reyes. On Friday, Francis decided Springport's Zeth Caudill in the second round, 12-6, followed by a 4-2 semifinal victory over Darren Decker of Carson City-Crystal.

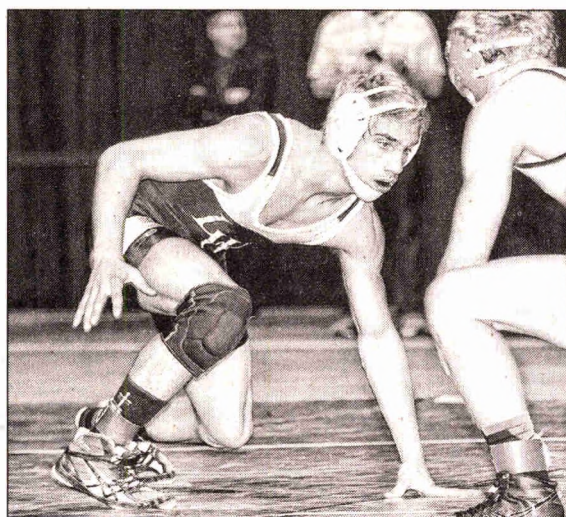
But Hudson Area's J.D. Waters proved to be more than a formidable opponent, as he

improved to 49-10 with a pin in 0:51 seconds over Francis.

Francis, who missed the first half of the season with an injury, finished the year 20-4 overall.

"His semifinal match against Decker from Carson City is the best I've ever seen one of my kids wrestle," Lutheran Westland coach Joe Schmidt said.

"He was solid the whole tournament after I thought he was out for the season with a broken hand. He has had an amazing four years. Waters from Hudson in the finals showed why he is the return-



Lutheran High Westland senior Zach Francis (left) made it all to the finals of the 145-pound class in Division 4. DOUGLAS BARGERSTOCK

ing state champ."

Meanwhile, John Glenn had two other wrestlers earned all-state (top eight) honors led by freshman John Siemasz, who placed third at 103 to finish 55-4 overall, along with

Kevin Huynh, took fourth at 125 to finish 51-6.

Wayne Memorial senior Aaron Mauldin (285) also posted a fifth-place finish to go out 49-8 overall.

GIRLS BASKETBALL REGIONALS

Chiefs upend Holly, await regional final

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

When the going gets tough, Brian Samulski knows he can count on his seniors — and such was the case again Tuesday night.

Canton trailed Holly 27-25 after three quarters in the regional semifinal girls basketball game at West Bloomfield. But the Bronchos — who carried a 22-0 record into the contest — would not score their next point until the final minute, as the Chiefs prevailed 42-33.

Out of their 17 points in the decisive fourth quarter, Samulski said his senior quartet of Paige Aresco, Taylor Hunley, Rachel Winters and Shannon Perry scored all but three.

Aresco led the Chiefs (19-4) with 16 points while Taylor Hunley contributed 12 points and nine rebounds. Winters

(nine points) and Perry (five rebounds) both were solid contributors as Canton moves on to the regional final at 7 p.m. Thursday against Lakeland (13-10).

"Those four, they've got a lot of big-game experience and I thought that helped us in the fourth," Samulski said. "And we really wanted to try to wear Holly down. Their best player's an inside player, and I thought we did a good job of wearing her down as the game went on."

Holly forward Alyssa Copley scored 20 points but was held to four points in the fourth, all in the final minute after the outcome was decided.

Samulski noted a couple turning points down the stretch, including defensive pressure inside against Copley that led to a turnover and a "monster shot" with three minutes left by sophomore guard Natalie

Winters to open up a six-point lead.

In the final minute, Rachel Winters hit all four of her free throws to help clinch the win.

It was a closely contested game most of the way, with Holly up 12-11 after the first quarter and 18-17 at halftime. The Bronchos then outscored Canton 9-8 in the third.

"I didn't really say anything" going into the final frame, Samulski said. "They know it's the fourth quarter, they know it's time."

Samulski said the Chiefs made just seven turnovers. "This time of the year it comes down to can you defend, can you rebound, and can you take care of the ball. And I thought we did a pretty good job of that."

PCA 46, RUDOLF STEINER 25: Plymouth Christian Academy advanced to the Class D regional final at Waterford Our Lady of the Lakes thanks to this Tuesday night victory over Ann Arbor Rudolf Steiner. The Eagles will face Clarkston Everest Collegiate, with tip-off at 7 p.m. Thursday.

HOOPS

Continued from Page B1

even able to get a shot off.

"They made a good read, we were going to wind it down and win it at the buzzer," Soukup said. "That's what we were going to do. We just gave away an opportunity, that's what we did."

Taylor hit a free throw to make it a 43-40 game and Plymouth head coach Mike Soukup called a full timeout with 8.7 seconds left.

On the ensuing play, Reynolds (11 points) could not drain an open jumper near the three-point arc.

Taylor got the rebound, drew a foul, and canned two free throws with 1.5 seconds on the clock to finish off the Wildcats.

Posing a question

"Just think if we would have played that hard the whole game, huh?" Soukup said. "I

guess that's something we still got to work on as next year begins for this group of people, playing hard all the time."

"Just because things aren't going your way doesn't mean you stop playing hard. I think that's the lesson we will hopefully take away from this."

Still, Soukup said he was proud of the way the Wildcats battled. "But we came up just a little bit short, just outgunned a little bit this year."

One Plymouth player who was instrumental in leading the team back from deficits of 24-14 at halftime and 34-17 midway through the third was sophomore Brent Davis (13 points, seven rebounds).

Davis galloped into the paint for a layup-and-one, pulling Plymouth to within 34-24 with 1:40 left in the third.

He then buried a 3-ball from the left wing with under two minutes to play in the fourth, to shave Canton's lead to 41-39 and made a free

throw to make it a 41-40 ballgame.

Plymouth would not get any closer.

"We've had a lot of these one-possession games this year," Reddy said. "So we should be prepared for stuff like this down the stretch and hopefully we finish it like we did tonight on Wednesday night (against CC)."

Reddy also pointed out the contributions of 6-8 senior forward Jordan Nobles, who tallied 11 points.

Nobles, however, hit two jumpers (including a trey) to open the third quarter, helping Canton go up 29-14.

"It's been like the year, a little bit inconsistent, but when we had to score he scored," Reddy said. "I know he made some big shots for us."

PCA WRAPS: Plymouth Christian Academy finished the regular season 5-15 after splitting a pair of games last week. The Eagles lost 80-56 to Grosse Pointe University-Liggett despite 20 points from Jacob Bailey and 15 from Mike Slater. PCA then defeated Birmingham Reeper 56-37, spearheaded by Lucas Albrecht (15 points), Bailey (14 points) and Daniel Jipping (11 rebounds, 11 assists).

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Lackey: Once a Wildcat, always a Wildcat

Plymouth lineman signs with Northern Michigan University

By Tim Smith
Staff Writer

Marquette will have a new big man in town next college football season.

Plymouth senior offensive tackle Jacob Lackey recently signed to play with Division II Northern Michigan University.

The 6-5, 250-pounder can't wait to take on opposing linemen — not to mention the guarantee of cold weather in the Upper Peninsula.

"Very happy; definitely I know it's going to be cold," said Lackey, who hopes to line up at offensive tackle NMU. "But I'm thrilled. I'm thrilled to be able to play football at the next level."

And he'll still be a Wildcat, this time prowling in the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.

Lackey decided to go to NMU without paying the cam-

pus a visit. Several months of conversations with coach Chris Ostrowsky and his staff made him feel good that he would be a welcome addition to the squad.

"It's like eight hours (to Northern Michigan)," Lackey said. "We tried to go on a visit but the Mackinac Bridge was shut down because of wind."

Asked about what his parents (Kevin Lackey and Maureen Cullen) thought about going to a college so far from Plymouth-Canton Educational Park, he conceded his dad was "a little iffy, but my mom was completely supportive because paying for college is a big thing."

Work pays off

Jacob Lackey said he'll go up to Marquette and keep busting it in the weight room to bulk up for GLIAC action. Coming off surgery in Decem-

ber to fix a torn meniscus, he won't want to be hindered when his freshman season rolls around.

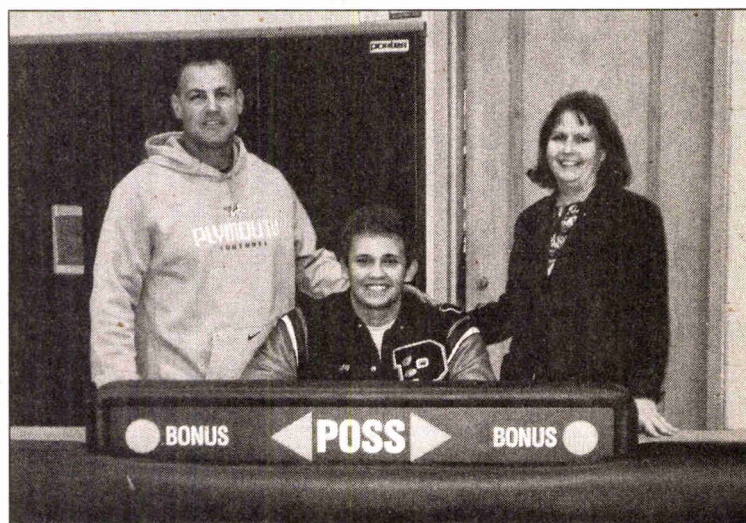
"Oh, they'll want me bigger as the years go on," Lackey said. "I want to get bigger as the years go on, too. Even now, I'm slowly working to my game weight."

His high school coach, Mike Sawchuk, was understandably elated about the signing.

"Jake worked his tail off to get where he is," Sawchuk said. "He is a great character kid that will succeed in whatever he puts his mind to."

"Northern Michigan is a better place now that he will be there. Super proud of him."

Sawchuk witnessed how much Lackey wanted to succeed at Plymouth and is confident Ostrowsky won't be disappointed in the kind of player and person he recruited from the Park. Besides football,



From left, Plymouth football coach Mike Sawchuk, senior offensive lineman Jacob Lackey and Maureen Cullen (Jacob's mom) share Lackey's big moment after he signed with Northern Michigan University.

Lackey (3.1 grade-point average) is favoring business as the degree he will pursue.

Lackey also credited Sawchuk for helping him get to where he's going, even though it's a long way from home.

"He's a great coach," Lackey said. "He definitely prepared me for the next level. I mean, I couldn't have honestly asked for a better coach."

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Plymouth earns another regional crown, CC rematch

The Plymouth Wildcats claimed their second consecutive regional hockey championship Saturday with a 5-3 victory over Woodhaven at the Dearborn Ice Skating Club.

Plymouth advances to the Division 1 state quarterfinals at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday against Novi Detroit Catholic Central at the University of Michigan's Yost Arena. The Shamrocks ended the Wildcats' on the same stage last season.

"It's great to be able to bring two regional titles back to the park, but we believe this regional title is only the start of our journey," said team captain Kyle Bauer, a senior defenseman.

Senior forward Mike Schultz led the Wildcats on Saturday with two goals and one assist. His empty net goal (11th of the season) with six seconds left in regulation squashed Woodhaven's late bid to tie the game.

Plymouth jumped out to a 2-0 lead after one period on goals by Schultz and senior forward John VanDenBeur-

geury (10th of the season) but Woodhaven fought back in a back-and-forth second period.

Warriors forward Craig Yacoune scored on the power-play about eight minutes into the period.

Twenty seconds later, Wildcat defenseman Kyle Melnick made a leaping grab of the puck along the board, dropped it, skated in on goal and fired it home for his second goal of the season.

Woodhaven's Dominic Moore scored on a breakaway with 4:30 left in the second, then Plymouth's Andrew Jossey scored less than a minute later.

It was the junior forward's seventh goal of the season and restored Plymouth's two-goal lead heading into the final period.

The Warriors cut the lead to 4-3 with Alex Robinson's power-play goal 36 seconds into the third period. The Wildcats buckled down defensively in the third period, holding the Warriors to only four third-period shots on goal. Plymouth



Plymouth junior defenseman Andrew Jossey (No. 19) chips the puck past a Woodhaven player Saturday night. MICHELLE BAUER

outshot Woodhaven 37-21 in the game.

Wildcat junior goalie Erik VandenBosch stopped 18 of 21 shots, including a few timely saves on odd-man rushes, to earn his seventh win of the

season. Trevor Monaco stopped 32 of 36 Plymouth shots for Woodhaven (20-7-1).

"No doubt Woodhaven gave us all we could handle (Saturday)," Plymouth head coach

Gerry Vento said. "We knew it was going to be a difficult game, coming off such an emotionally and physically draining game against Salem. The way Woodhaven played only made it more difficult for us."

"At the end of the day the boys did what they had to do, and we won back-to-back regional titles. Like I told them, they should be proud of that accomplishment."

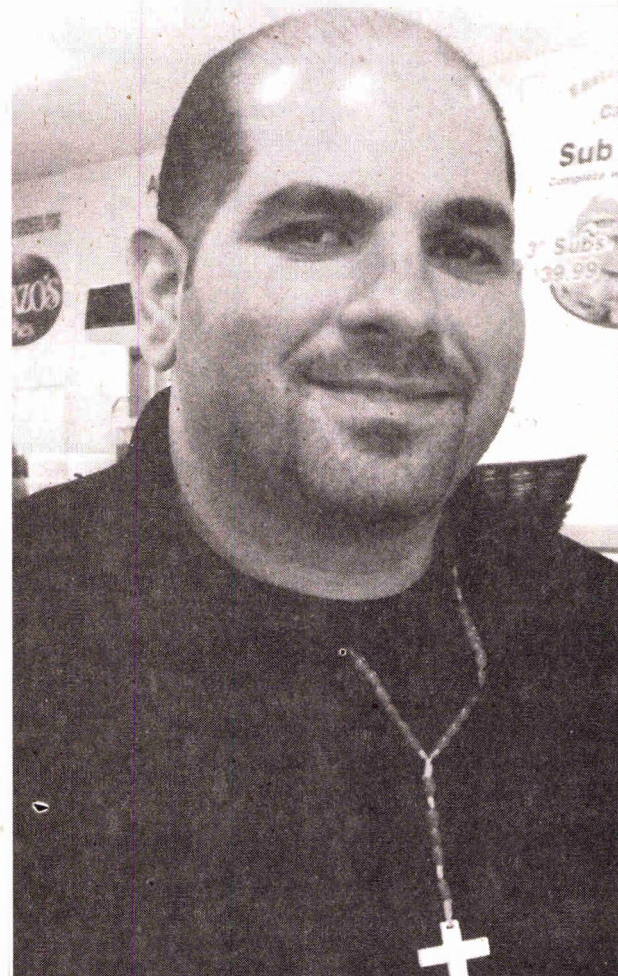
The victory improved the Wildcats' record to 15-9-3. Plymouth's earned at least 15 wins in all three seasons with Vento at the helm.

The team, Vento said, is looking beyond wins and regional titles this year, and expects to be more composed in the quarterfinal rematch against Catholic Central.

"I know the returners want the opportunity to at least improve upon last year's effort," Vento said. "Last year, there was a bit of shock and awe being part of that scene for the first time. That won't be the case this year."

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Whalers' Nedeljkovic, Vilardi key 5-0 win over Spitfires

The Plymouth Whalers Saturday night received two goals and an assist from Francesco Vilardi and a goal and two assists from Matt Mistele en route to a 5-0 victory over the Windsor Spitfires at Compuware Arena.

Besides Vilardi's pair (11-12) and Mistele's single goal (15), the Whalers also got goals from Ryan Hartman (23) and Brook Hiddink (2).

Alex Nedeljkovic stopped 26 Windsor shots to record his first shutout of the season and third in his career.

Plymouth improves to 25-30-0-7 and remains in the eighth and final spot in the Ontario Hockey League Western Conference playoff race. The Whalers are 10 points ahead of Kitchener with



Plymouth Whalers forward Francesco Vilardi scores one of his two goals Saturday night against Windsor at Compuware Arena. RENA LAVERTY | PLYMOUTH WHALERS

seven games remaining for both teams.

Windsor is 36-23-3-0 and is locked in fifth place in the Western Conference playoff race.

The Whalers led, 2-0 after one period and 3-0 after 40 minutes.

Just under 3,000 fans attended the contest.

Plymouth hits the road for its next two games, playing in Erie on Wednesday (6:45 pm, 88.1FM WSDP) and Niagara on Thursday (6:45 pm, 88.1FM WSDP). The Whalers' next home game is Sunday, March 9, against Saginaw at 2 p.m. at Compuware Arena.

WOMEN'S COLLEGE SOFTBALL

Crusaders off and running to 8-3 softball start

It's been a productive spring trip thus far for the Madonna University women's softball team.

The Crusaders, playing 11 games over the first five days, are off to an 8-3 start following a 9-0 victory Tuesday morning over Concordia University (Ill.) in a game played at Chain of Lakes Park in Titusville, Fla.

Winning pitcher Bree Crampton improved to 5-1 with a five-inning perfect game. She struck out 13 and did not walk a batter. The junior has 57 strikeouts in 35 innings and a 0.26 earned run average.

Caitlyn Keuvelaar, the Crusaders' top hitter on the spring trip, went 2-for-3 with three RBI, while Mykian Kish added two hits and three RBI.

Keuvelaar is hitting .419 with one homer and 10 RBI.

Earlier in the day, MU routed Oakland City (Ind.) in five innings as Erin Combs (2-2) threw a five-hitter with Kristen Drabek going 2-for-3 with three RBI.

On Monday, MU played three times and went 3-0 starting with a sweep of a doubleheader against Concordia (Minn.), 13-2 (in five innings) and 5-0.

Erin Mayes went 3-for-4 with two RBI, while Morgan Kaiser and Kayla Rebain (Plymouth) each added two hits to five Combs, who throw a five-hitter, the victory.

In Game Two of the twinbill, Carlee Meek picked up her first win of the year throwing a four-

hitter. Nicole Salloum (Livonia Churchill) knocked in two runs, while Emma Cook added two hits.

MU also downed Oakland City, 4-0, to complete the hat trick as Crampton threw a four-hitter to go along with 14 strikeouts and only one walk.

Kasey Trierweiler, Mayes and Drabek each collected two hits in the win.

On Sunday, MU split a doubleheader with host Embury-Riddle (Fla.), winning the opener, 2-1, while losing the nightcap, 2-1.

Madonna also split on Saturday, with host Warner (Fla.) University taking the first game, 6-0, while falling 5-4 in nine innings in the second game.

Musician plays his 'world blues fusion'

By Sharon Dargay
Staff Writer

Peter Harper is ready to jam, Aboriginal-style.

"It's a piece of wood with a hole in it," said Harper, describing the didgeridoo, an indigenous Australian woodwind instrument he sometimes plays on stage with his blues band, Harper and the Midwest Kind Band. "I was in Australia and a guy there played the didgeridoo. We were doing a blues jam and he brought it around. A didgeridoo is only one note, whatever you play you can't go far with it. But I thought, wow, I love the sound. I rushed back home to put didgeridoo in some of my songs."

Harper, who composes songs, sings, and plays harmonica, took the didgeridoo player on tour with his band for a year and then spent six months learning to play the instrument. He'll have it on hand when Harper and the Midwest Kind Band perform in the Blues@The Elks series, 7-10 p.m. Tuesday, March 11, at Plymouth Elks Lodge #1780, 41700 Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth. Admission is \$5 at the door.

"I love the sound. It has a beautiful drone that's opposite of the harmonica, which is harsh. It's got that warm drone," Harper said. "I still like to rip it up on the harmonica. That is my first baby, but the didgeridoo added to our repertoire."

From Australia to U.S.

Harper was born in England and at age 11 moved with his family to Australia, before landing in Grass Lake, west of Ann Arbor, after his first American tour in 1996. He grew up listening to blues,



Peter Harper includes sounds from the Australian instrument, the didgeridoo, in some of the blues music he performs.

rock and Motown sounds.

"I got into things like Led Zeppelin, Cream. I loved Mudgy Waters, Martha Reeves and the Vandellas. I loved the hell out of Motown."

He played trombone and euphonium at school, and easily learned to play the harmonica.

"All I wanted to do was play in a band. Outside of school I met up with guys who were older than me. They had a

wonderful understanding of music. We started playing and I was 18 when I had my first band. I loved it.

"I started writing my own material. I never wanted to do covers. I studied music. If you have a love of something, you should understand what you're doing," he said, adding that his knowledge of music structure has enabled him to arrange his songs.

In Australia, Harper per-

formed on more than 1,500 commercials for film, radio and television. His harmonica performance has been featured on film sound tracks including *Lightening Jack*, *Elephant Boy*, and *Kuta*. He has performed with the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra, The Beijing Orchestra and has opened for Van Morrison, Canned Heat, John Mayall and others. Several of his songs have been featured on the

television reality series, *Dog The Bounty Hunter*. He has recorded six CDs.

Touring the U.S.

"I was playing in Melbourne in my band and a guy from GM was a big fan of ours. His home was in Detroit. He said, 'You guys should come to Detroit. You guys would be awesome.' He gave us his vehicle and we did our first (U.S.) tour pulling a U-Haul around. It was tough. There was no GPS then and we were just using maps. What an experience. We learned so much touring across the country."

In Detroit, Harper met R.J. Spangler, blues/jazz drummer and a co-founder of the Sun Messengers. The pair often jammed together at Metro Detroit clubs.

"Around that time it was jumping here. You had the Soup Kitchen Saloon and Fifth Avenue Billiards. There were so many places to play here. We thought it was awesome."

He and his wife, Bobbi, settled in Michigan because "the people are the most normal" of any state in the U.S., Harper said.

"I love Michigan. We get a couple of months of nasty weather, but it's part of the excitement. I love the four seasons."

In addition to performing, Harper and his wife, offer workshops in Aboriginal music, art and culture, including didgeridoo. They'll bring their "Australian Didge-ucation" program to the Baldwin Library in Birmingham on July 8.

For more on Blues@The Elks email plymouth-elks1780@yahoo.com or call 734-453-1780. For more on Harper and Midwest Kind, see www.harper.biz.

GET OUT! CALENDAR

ANIMALS

DETROIT ZOO

Time/Date: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. through March 31

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

Details: Admission is \$14 for adults 15-61, \$12 for senior citizens 62 and older, and \$9 for children ages 2-14; children under 2 are free. Parking for cars and vans is \$5. Detroit Zoological Society members get free admission and parking

Contact: 248-541-5717

ART & CRAFTS

CITY GALLERY

Time/Date: Through March 14; open during business hours

Location: Costick Center, 28600 W. 11 Mile, Farmington Hills

Details: The fiber artwork of artist Cynthia Bodene is on exhibit

Contact: 248-473-1856

LIBERTY STREET BREW PUB

Time/Date: Through March 29; open during brew pub hours

Location: In the Upper Hall Gallery at the pub, 149 Liberty, Plymouth

Details: "Open Source" exhibit includes works by Gerardo Antunez, Colin McGorey and Scott Moelich

Contact: 734-207-9600

NORTHVILLE ART HOUSE

Time/Date: Gallery hours, 1-5 p.m. Wednesday-Saturday; opening reception, 6-9 p.m., Friday, March 7; runs through March 29

Location: 215 W. Cady, Northville

Details: "Sustained Patterns: Three Generations of Women Painters" shows works by Ellen Wilt of Ann Arbor, Ellen Moucoulis of Livonia and Natalie Estep of Canton

Call for entries: Submissions due 5 p.m. April 12 for "West of Center," an all-media show that will run June 6-28. Robert Schefman, Foundations Department chair and associate professor at the College for Creative Studies, will jury the show. Cash prizes will be awarded. Applications at www.NorthvilleArtHouse.org

Contact: 248-344-0497; http://www.northvillearts.org

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Time/Date: 2-4 p.m. Saturday, March 15 and 22

Location: Museum of Art, 525 S. State St., Ann Arbor

Details: In this free art-making workshop, families choose one or both projects — a 3D window screen or a mosaic decorated box — inspired by the marble window screens and tile mosaics as seen in the exhibition Doris Duke's Shangri La: Architecture, Landscape and Islamic Art, on view at the museum through May 4. Designed for families with children, 6-12. Workshop will follow a tour of the exhibit

Contact: 734-926-4128

AUDITIONS

BAREFOOT PRODUCTIONS

Time/Date: 7-9 p.m. Monday-Tuesday, March 10-11

Location: 240 N. Main, Plymouth

Details: 5 *Women Wearing the Same Dress* offers roles for five women, portraying ages 21-37 and one man, approximately age 28

Contact: justgobarefoot.com

DANCE

BERMAN CENTER

Time/Date: 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 12

Location: 6600 W. Maple, West Bloomfield, on the campus of the Jewish Community Center of Metropolitan Detroit

Details: Gallim Dance, a New York-based contemporary dance company, performs original work by Andrea Miller. Tickets are \$37 and \$32 for center members

Coming up: Michigan Five: Choreographer Showcase will highlight outstanding and creative dance from University of Michigan, Wayne State University, Oakland University, and Hope College, 8 p.m. Saturday, March 15. Tickets are \$27; \$22 for Jewish Community Center members

Contact: 248-661-1900; www.theberman.org

MUSIC HALL

Time/Date: 8 p.m. Saturday, March 22

Location: 350 Madison, Detroit

Details: "(313) to the (212) A Detroit/New York Choreography Expo" is a dance showcase with works by seven choreographers and dancers from New York City and Detroit; tickets \$20

Contact: 313-887-8501; www.musicall.org

FILM

PENN THEATRE

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Friday, March 7 and Thursday, March 13, 3:45 p.m. and 7 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, March 8-9

Location: 760 Penniman Ave., Plymouth

Details: *The Hobbit: The Desolation of*

Smaug, admission \$3

Contact: 734-453-0870; www.penn-theatre.com

REDFORD THEATRE

Time/Date: 8 p.m. March 14 and 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. March 15

Location: 17360 Lahser, north of Grand River Avenue, Detroit

Details: *The Lady Eve*; \$5

Contact: 313-537-2560

SENATE THEATRE

Time/Date: Doors open 7 p.m., film screens 8 p.m., Saturday, March 8

Location: 6424 Michigan Ave., Detroit

Details: *Chicago*, the 2002 musical film starring Renée Zellweger and Richard Gere; \$5

Contact: 313-894-4100

MUSIC

AMC/GDR THEATERS

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 18 and Wednesday, March 26

Location: AMC/Livonia 20, 19500 Hagerty, Livonia; GDR Canton Cinema, 43555 Ford Road, Canton

Details: Elton John: The Million Dollar Piano, captures John's performance live from The Colosseum at Caesars Palace in Las Vegas, Nev. Tickets \$14-\$15

Contact: www.FathomEvents.com

BASELINE FOLK SOCIETY

Time/Date: Open mic sign up, 6:15-6:45 p.m.; performances 7-9 p.m., the third Saturday of the month through May

Location: The JWH Center for the Arts, Plymouth Community Arts Council, 774 N. Sheldon, Plymouth

Details: Alex and Maggie Zakim, the featured performers on March 15, will perform a mix of American and Irish traditional songs. John Delle-Monache hosts. Open mic musicians may perform two songs, original or cover. Tickets are \$5 at the door. Annual memberships are \$25 for individuals and include free admission.

Contact: Scott Ludwig at BFSpresident@aol.com for additional information

Location: First Methodist Church, 45201 N Territorial, Plymouth

BERMAN CENTER FOR PERFORMING ARTS

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Sunday, March 16

Location: On the campus of the Jewish Community Center, 6600 W. Maple, West Bloomfield

Details: Yale Strom & Hot Pstromi perform klezmer music; tickets \$13, \$10 for Jewish Community Center members

Contact: 248-661-1900

BLUES@THE ELKS

Time/Date: 7-10 p.m. the second Tuesday of the month

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

Details: Harper and Midwest Kind performs on March 11; \$5 donation at the door.

Contact: 734-453-1780

FARMINGTON PLAYERS BARN

Time/Date: 7:30 p.m. March 7-8

Location: 32332 12 Mile, Farmington Hills

Details: Blackthorn band performs, with Tim O'Shea. Tickets are \$19 for adults and \$17 for seniors and students. Buy tickets at the Costick Center, 28600 W. 11 Mile, by calling 248-473-1848 or by visiting recreg.fhgov.com

Contact: 248-473-1856

JAZZ@THE ELKS

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

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

Details: Dave Bennett Quartet with Bennett on clarinet, Doug Cobb on drums, Jeff Kessler on piano and Jeff Pedraz on bass, performs March 25; \$10 donation at the door includes hors d'oeuvres

Contact: 734-453-1780 or email plymouthelks1780@yahoo.com

MICHIGAN PHILHARMONIC

Time/Date: 2 p.m. Sunday, March 9



Andrea Miller is artistic director of Gallim Dance, which will perform March 12 at the Berman Center for the Performing Arts, West Bloomfield.

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: Drive South, March 7; Krista Detor, March 13; Kitty Donohoe, March 14; The Potters Field, March 15; Khalid Hanifi, March 21; Christopher Mark Jones with Steve D'Angelo, March 22; John Batdorf and James Lee Stanley, March 23; Nathan Bell, March 28. Most shows tickets are \$15, and \$12 for subscribers. Only cash and checks accepted.

Contact: 734-464-6302

THEATER

MICHIGAN OPERA THEATRE

Time/Date: 2:30 p.m. Sunday, March 16

Location: 1526 Broadway, Detroit

Details: The Michigan Opera Theatre Children's Chorus will perform *Brundibár*. This family-friendly children's opera, sung in English, tells the story of a brother and sister who join forces with a sparrow, cat and dog to outwit the evil organ grinder, Brundibár. It was performed 55 times by children of the Theresienstadt concentration camp. Holocaust survivor Ela Stein Weissberger played the Cat and will speak to the audience about how art and music inspired her hope for survival. Tickets are \$30 for adults, \$15 for children, 17 and younger

Contact: 313-237-7464 or michiganopera.org

SPOTLIGHT ON YOUTH

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Thursday, March 13, and 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, March 15-16

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

Details: Musical version of *Snow White and the Seven Dwarves* is a light and humorous take on the Grimm classic. Tickets are \$15, available from www.canton-mi.org/villagetheater, by phone at 734-394-5300 or 734-394-5460; or at the box office one hour before the show

Contact: soy@mi.rr.com

STILL GOT IT PLAYERS

Time/Date: 1 p.m. Thursday, March 6, 7 p.m. Friday, March 7, 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Saturday, March 8, and 2 p.m. Sunday, March 9

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

Details: Canton's senior acting troupe presents *The Glee Game*, about a group of over-the-hill friends who are challenged to a charity touch football game against a much younger team. Tickets, \$11-\$15, available at www.canton-mi.org/villagetheater

Contact: 734-394-5300

CELEBRATE

ST. PATRICK'S DAY

WITH CLASSIC BREAD, BEEF RECIPES

Whether you're Irish or not, St. Patrick's Day is a time for Celtic celebrations, so try your luck with a classic like Irish Soda Bread, a popular Irish recipe with a hint of sweetness from cinnamon and raisins.

"Irish Soda Bread gets its name from the fact that it uses baking soda instead of yeast, which means making it is really as simple as mixing the ingredients together and baking it," said Mary Beth Harrington of the McCormick Kitchens. "It's perfect warmed up for an Irish-themed breakfast or dinner and it makes a great hostess gift for St. Paddy's Day parties."

To make Irish Soda Bread muffins, divide dough among 12 greased muffin cups. Bake 20 to 25 minutes or until toothpick comes out clean.

Pair the bread with other hearty St. Patrick's Day classics, such as Shepherd's Pie or Corned Beef and Cabbage. Top the meal off with Leprechaun Lemonade and Paddy's Pudding.

Find more St. Patrick's Day ideas and recipes at www.McCormick.com, www.Facebook.com/McCormickSpices and www.Pinterest.com/mccormickspices.

— Courtesy of Family Features



IRISH SODA BREAD

Makes 16 servings

2½ cups flour
½ cup sugar
2 teaspoons McCormick caraway seed
1½ teaspoons baking powder
¼ teaspoon baking soda
1 teaspoon McCormick cinnamon, ground
½ teaspoon salt
½ cup raisins or currants
1½ cups buttermilk
2 eggs
½ teaspoon McCormick pure vanilla extract

Preheat oven to 350°F. Lightly grease 9-inch round cake pan. Mix flour, sugar, caraway seed, baking powder, baking soda, cinnamon and salt in large bowl. Stir in raisins. Mix buttermilk, eggs and vanilla in medium bowl; stir into dry ingredients. Spread in prepared pan. Bake 45 to 50 minutes or until toothpick inserted in center comes out clean. Cool in pan on wire rack 10 minutes. Remove from pan. Cool completely on wire rack.

CORNED BEEF AND CABBAGE

Serves 8

1 corned beef brisket, trimmed (3 pounds)
1 small onion, quartered
2 tablespoons McCormick Mixed Pickling Spice
1 teaspoon minced garlic
8 small red potatoes
2 cups baby carrots or 8 carrots, peeled and cut into 1½-inch pieces
1 small head cabbage, cored and cut into 8 wedges
2 tablespoons butter, melted
1 teaspoon parsley flakes

1. Place brisket in 6-quart saucepot or Dutch oven. Cover with about 2 quarts water. Add onion, pickling spice and garlic; cover.
2. Bring just to boil. Reduce heat to low; cover and simmer 2 hours. (Do not boil.) Add potatoes and carrots; simmer 30 minutes longer. Add cabbage; simmer 15 minutes longer. Remove brisket and vegetables from saucepot.
3. Slice brisket across the grain. Mix butter and parsley; brush on vegetables



SHEPHERD'S PIE

Serves 6

1 pound ground beef
1 package McCormick Brown Gravy Mix or 1 package of onion gravy mix
1 cup water
4 servings instant mashed potatoes
2 cups frozen peas and carrots, thawed
Parsley flakes, optional

1. Preheat oven to 350°F. Brown ground beef in large nonstick skillet on medium-high heat. Drain fat.
2. Mix Gravy Mix and water in small bowl. Pour over beef. Bring to boil. Add peas and carrots. Reduce heat to low; simmer 5 minutes. Transfer meat mixture to 1½-quart baking dish. Top with mashed potatoes.
3. Bake 30 minutes or until gravy bubbles and potatoes are slightly browned. Sprinkle with parsley, if desired.

PADDY'S PUDDING

Makes 16 ½-cup servings

3½ cups cold milk
1 teaspoon green food color
2 packages (4-serving size each) vanilla instant pudding
1 tub (8 ounces) frozen whipped topping, thawed
1 package (18 ounces) chocolate sandwich cookies, coarsely crushed

1. Pour milk into large bowl. Stir in food color. Add pudding mixes. Beat with wire whisk 2 minutes or until well blended. Let stand 5 minutes. Gently stir in whipped topping.
2. Layer crushed cookies and pudding mixture in 3-quart bowl, beginning and ending with crushed cookies.
3. Refrigerate 1 hour or until ready to serve. Garnish as desired with shamrock candies.

LEPRECHAUN LEMONADE

Serves 6

6 cups prepared lemonade
¼ teaspoon McCormick Raspberry Extract
22 ½ drops green food color

1. Mix all ingredients in pitcher.
2. Serve over ice in beverage glasses.



CITY BITES

Donation to MS Society

Metro Detroit — Edible Arrangements Metro Detroit Group, which includes stores in Plymouth and Farmington, this month will donate \$5 from the sale of each Orange Citrus Blossom arrangement to the National Multiple Sclerosis Society. The Orange Citrus Blossom is a fresh fruit arrangement including orange slices, strawberries, grapes, cantaloupe, and honeydew, with optional chocolate-dipped fruits.

"We thought it was a great

way to help the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, particularly since it is in line with our own proactive year-round community outreach," said Vikki Hardy Brown, president of the Metro Detroit Group. Throughout the year, the Metro Detroit Group donates extra fruit to area food pantries, including Forgotten Harvest.

Bamboo leaf wrapping

Farmington Hills — Zhong Shu Temple's monthly vegetarian cooking class will focus on bamboo leaf-wrapped dumplings, a traditional Chinese

delicacy called Zong Zi. The dumplings are made with sweet rice, brown rice, azuki bean, with a stuffing of vegetarian ground "meat," black mushroom, wood ear, taro root, pumpkin, red date and chestnut. Participants may take home a maximum six dumplings, at \$3 each. They must reserve them in advance by emailing to michigan temple@yahoo.com. The class starts at 10 a.m. Friday, March 7, at the Temple, 23845 Middlebelt.

Maurice Salad and more

Plymouth — Phyllis Barkey will talk about dining at Hudson's department store during the Plymouth Historical Museum's annual "Mad Hatter Tea," 2 p.m. Sunday, March 16, at the museum, 155 S. Main. Barkey's interest and appreciation for Hudson's was rekindled in 2011 when she wrote an article for a magazine publication about Hudson's Mezzanine Tea Room. She's currently working on a Hudson's cookbook. Her presentation will follow a Victorian-style tea

with a twist — signature fare from the Hudson's menu, including Maurice Salad and Cheese Bread. The museum also will serve its "Mary's Blend" tea, a combination of almond and cherry flavors. Guests may wear their craziest hat to be eligible for a door prize. Tickets are \$20 for members and \$25 for nonmembers, if purchased by March 7; after that date, add \$5 to the price. Buy tickets at the museum or visit www.plymouthhistory.org

**RELIGION
CALENDAR**

MARCH

BREAKFAST

Time/Date: 8:30-11:30 a.m. Sunday, March 16
Location: St. Theodore Social Hall, 8200 N. Wayne Road, Westland
Details: French toast, pancakes, ham, sausage, scrambled eggs, apple-sauce, coffee, tea, juice, milk; \$3 adults, \$1.50 children, 2-10
Contact: 734-425-4421

Time/Date: 7:30 p.m. Monday, March 17
Location: Congregation B'nai Moshe, 6600 Drake, West Bloomfield
Details: Violinist Kara Fenyo Bahcall and Pianist Noemi Maczelka will perform works by Hungarian Jewish composer Karoly Goldmark. A kosher dessert reception follows. Tickets are \$12 in advance, \$15 at the door and \$10 for B'nai Moshe members and their guests
Contact: 248-788-0600; www.bnaimoshe.org

Time/Date: 10-11 a.m. Monday, March 10 through April 14
Location: St. John Neumann Parish, 44800 Warren Road, Canton
Details: Joe Mason, certified personal fitness trainer leads a class that includes aerobic movements for warm-up, balance and strength training, high repetitions with light hand weights, followed by yoga-oriented strength and stretch work, abdominal and back exercises and final cool down. \$42 for six weeks
Contact: 734-455-5910

Time/Date: 7-9 p.m. Wednesday, beginning March 12 for five consecutive weeks
Location: St. Michael the Archangel Church, 11441 Hubbard, Livonia
Details: "Grieving with Great Hope" is for anyone who is mourning the loss of a loved one. It is conducted by Good Mourning Ministry, a local Catholic bereavement organization co-founded by John and Sandy O'Shaughnessy. Register through the ministry's website or the church
Contact: 734-261-1455; goodmourningministry.net

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Thursday, March 6
Location: St. Linus Church, 6466 Evangeline, Dearborn Heights
Details: Al Kresta, author/host of the radio show, *Kresta in the Afternoon* on AM 990 WDEO, will talk.
Contact: 313-274-4500

Passages
 Obituaries, Memories & Remembrances

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ANDERSON, JANICE L.

March 1, 2014. Age 65, of Canton. Beloved wife of Loren E. Dearest mother of Timothy (Melinda), Anthony, Amy and the late Laura (Trevor). Dear sister of Vicky (Robert), Kay, and Karyl (Charles). Loving grandmother of Jamie, Eria (Jimmy), Michael, and A.J. (Leandra) and great-grandmother of three. Memorial gathering Saturday 10 a.m. From the L.J. Griffin Funeral Home, 42600 Ford Rd. (W. of Lilley Rd.) until time of Memorial Service at 11 a.m. Memorial contributions may be made to American Heart Association, Heartmini.org. Share a "Memorial Tribute" with the family at griffinfuneralhome.com



GADE, MARJOEY C.

Age 83, of Livonia, passed March 3, 2014. Born in Hopkins, Minnesota, daughter of the late Henry and Clara Pokorny. Loving wife of the late Reidar. Cherished mother of Lisa (Jay) Asquini, Peter (Cindie), Marcus (Wendy) and Desiree Gade. Beloved grandmother of Lina (Todd) Roeser, Carl Asquini, Amanda, and Alexis Gade and great-grandmother of Kate Monroe Roeser. Dear sister of Roger and Jeanne Pokorny and the late Henry and Arlene Pokorny of Hopkins, MN, and sister-in-law of Inger Gade Karlsen of Sandefjord, Norway. Special aunt to many nephews and nieces. Named First Citizen of Livonia in 1981 for her numerous charitable and volunteer activities. Marjoey gave her love and time unselfishly, always putting family and friends first. Memorial service will be held on Saturday, March 8 at 11:00 a.m. at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, 27475 Five Mile Rd., Livonia. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to St. Paul's Presbyterian Church.



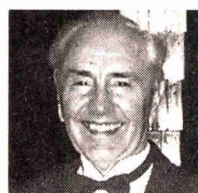
BULL, MARY H.

Age 83, born on February 6, 1931 in Detroit, Michigan, passed away on March 1, 2014 in West Bloomfield, Michigan. Loving wife of Jack Bull for 60 years. Beloved mother of John (Terri Klochko) Bull Jr, Nancy (Aron) Lorenz, James (Denise) Bull, and Molly (Brady) Phillips. Cherished grandmother of Jared Phillips, Emmet Phillips, Madison Lorenz, Jean Klochko-Bull, Grace Klochko-Bull and John R. Bull III. Mary graduated from the University of Michigan at the age of 20 with a major in mathematics. She was a member of the Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority at U of M. Mary and Jack have been lifelong members of Pine Lake Country Club in Orchard Lake. Mary was a Life Member of the Women's District Golf Association of Michigan where she had many close friends and friendly competitors. Mary was an accomplished athlete, enjoying tennis, swimming and skiing in addition to golf. She succeeded in passing this competitive spirit to all of her children and grandchildren. Mary often described herself as "...100 lbs. of fun!" Mary and Jack were avid travelers and were long-time members of the Nomads Travel Group and enjoyed trips all over the world. Mary was a member of Kirk in the Hills Presbyterian Church, where she taught Sunday school. She will be greatly missed by all. Family will receive friends and family at a Celebration of Life Memorial Service on Friday March 7, 2014 beginning at 11:00am at Kirk in the Hills Presbyterian Church, 1340 W. Long Lake Road, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48302. Arrangements entrusted to the Pixley Funeral Home Godhardt-Tomlinson Chapel. Memorials appreciated to the Multiple Myeloma Research Foundation. To share an everlasting memorial please visit: godhardtTomlinsonChapel.com



COURTNEY, DONALD E.

Age 87, March 1, 2014 of Westland. Beloved husband of Beverly and the late Phyllis. Loving father of Carol Courtney and Lea Anne (Charles) Gothard. Proud grandfather of Gregory Gothard and Nicholas (Sarah) Gothard. Great-grandfather of Rachel Gothard. Dear brother of Irvin "Junior" Courtney. Visitation Friday 3-8 p.m. at Vermeulen Funeral Home, 980 N. Newburgh Rd. (between Ford and Cherry Hill), Westland. In state Saturday 10 a.m. until 11 a.m. Funeral Service at Fair Haven Baptist Church, 34850 Marquette, Westland. Internment Union-Udell Cemetery, Ypsilanti. Memorial Contributions may be made to Fair Haven Baptist Church. To share a memory, please visit vermeulenfuneralhome.com



MARTINI, LUIGI

Long-time resident of Farmington Hills, joined our Father in heaven on February 9 after 93 wonderful years of life ... filled with hard work, laughter, and endless love and support to his extended family and friends. He was preceded in death by his cherished wife, Christine, in 2009, after 68 years of marriage, and his sister, Mary Collica, of Royal Oak. He is survived by his daughter, Jeanette, son Ronald (Beckie), six grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren. Luigi was born on August 24, 1920 in Castelliri, Italy, to Emilio and Veneranda Martini. His family immigrated to the United States and settled in the Detroit area when he was 7-years-old. A graduate of Cass Technical High School, Luigi proudly served his country in the U.S. Army from 1945-1947, as part of the Army Medical Corps, 100th Infantry, Battle of Bulge, European theater. Family was Luigi's life and he worked so hard to provide for them. He spent 35-plus years working for Ford Motor Company at the Rouge River complex while also owning a party store. Luigi could fix just about anything, and after retiring, even spent several years as a "Maintenance Manager" of a local office building. Luigi was a founding member of St. Fabian's Catholic Church, as well as an avid dancer, traveler, and member of the 9-hole Friday morning club up until last year. He loved getting the entire family together, whether it be to cruise the Caribbean or make his homemade linguine or gnocchii! The loving legacy of Luigi Martini will live on in every life he touched. A Memorial Service in celebration of Luigi's life will be held March 15 at St. Fabian's Catholic Church in Farmington Hills. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Mercy Home Care & Hospice, 1111 W. Long Lake Rd. Troy, MI 48098.

May you find comfort in family and friends



WEAVER, MARGARET E.

SEOG, DOROTHY BELLE BURK

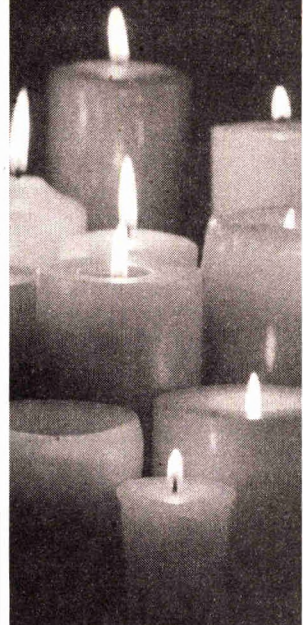
Age 93, of Livonia, Michigan, passed away on March 2, 2014 at Addington Place of Northville, Michigan. She was preceded in death by her husband, Joseph Vincent Seog in 1993; her son, Bruce Howard Seog in 2013; her grandson, William Joseph Seog in 2008; by her brother, Harley "Bur" Burk; and her sister, Wathena May Miller. Surviving are her children, William E. Seog (Wanda), Greg O. Seog, Mark A. Seog, Donna L. Clayton (Joseph Donald), Lori L. Seog; and her loving niece, Wathena Jane (Janie) Ferris. She is also survived by four grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. A visitation with the family will be held at Generations Funeral Services, 29550 Grand River Avenue, Farmington Hills, Michigan 48336, (248) 246-9200 from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 6, 2014. We will miss our mother, friend, and confidant. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Seasons Hospice at 27355 John R. Road, Madison Heights, Michigan 48071, or on-line at: www.seasonsfoundation.org

Age 94, died at Estabrooks Havencrest in White Lake, MI, on January 29, 2014, after a long illness. Beloved mother of Kathryn (Marlborough, MA) and William (Milford, MI), she was a long time resident of Farmington Hills, MI, where she substitute taught at Farmington's High schools and Jr. high schools for over 20 years (1961 to 1985). Born Margaret Estelle Wolfinger in Hagerstown, MD, May 18, 1919, she was the daughter of D. Angle Wolfinger, past District Attorney, Washington County, MD, and Edna (Shilling) Wolfinger, a homemaker. Margaret graduated from the University of Maryland. (B.S. in Physical Education), where she met her husband of 56 years, Harry B. Weaver, (B.S. Engineering). Harry passed away in 2002.

Margaret taught PE in Silver Springs and Baltimore, MD school systems for 13 years, and especially loved coaching girls' basketball and field hockey. Margaret was an avid golfer, gardener and enjoyed traveling with her husband. She had many other hobbies including bridge, sewing and playing piano. In addition to her two children, Kathryn and Bill (Wanda), she is survived by grandchildren Allison Weaver Atkinson, Troy Weaver, Dana Weaver and three great-grandchildren.

A memorial service is planned at Antioch Lutheran Church, 33360 W. 13 Mile Rd., Farmington Hills, MI 48334, on March 8, 2014, at 11:00 am. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to any of the following: Antioch Evangelical Lutheran Church (Youth Ministry), 33360 W. 13 Mile Rd., Farmington Hills, MI 48334; Detroit Public Television, http://www.dptv.org; Gentiva Hospice 25925 Telegraph Road, Suite 102 Southfield, MI 48033

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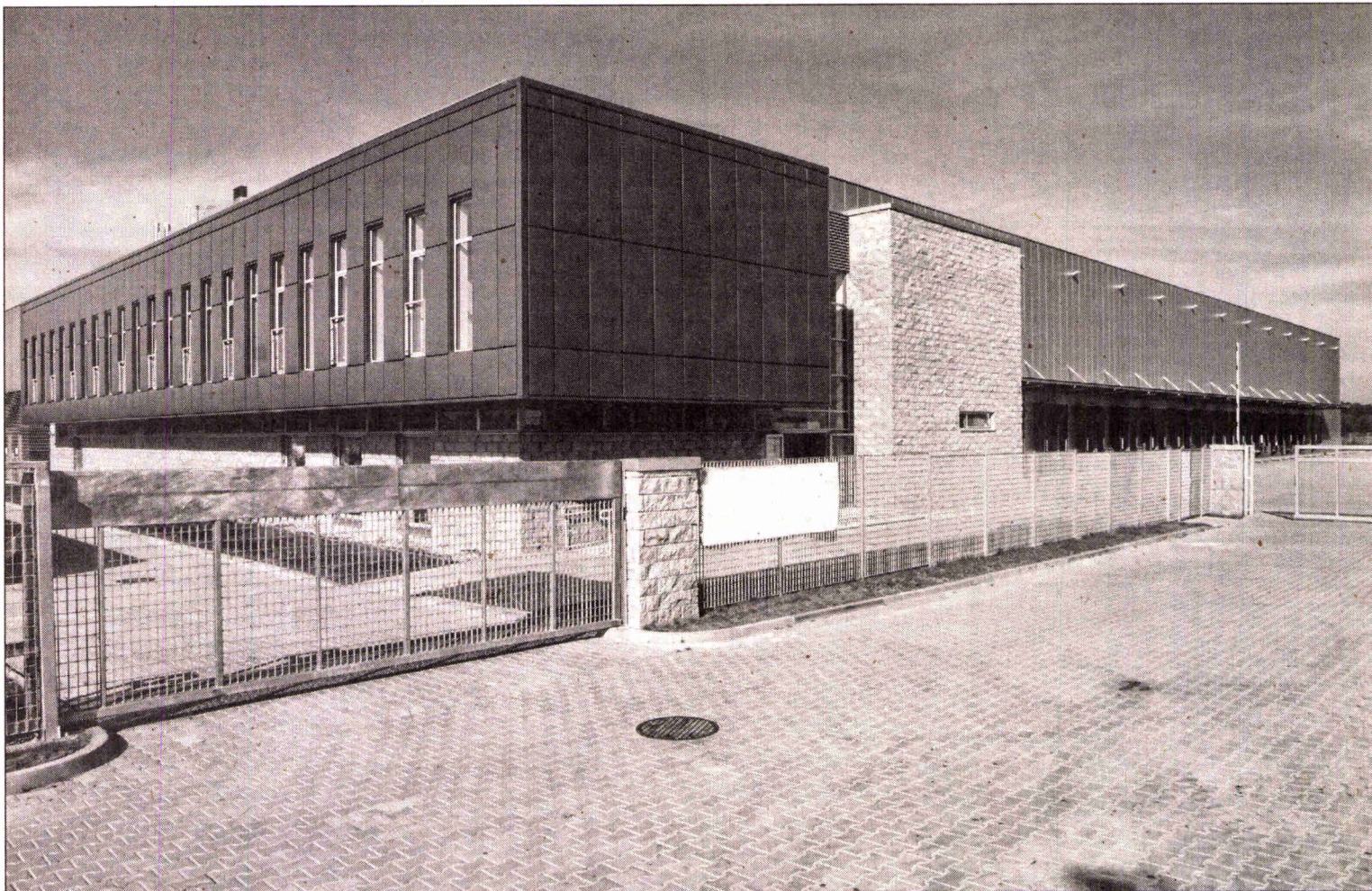
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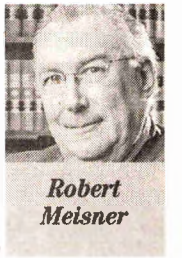


GETTY IMAGES/STOCKPHOTO

Check with lawyer on these pacts

Q: An attorney friend told me that some of these developers, who sell new condominiums, have entered into confidentiality agreements. Can you elaborate on what he meant by that?

A: I presume that what he meant by that is that developers have been sued by condo associations for construction defects and deficiencies and financial irregularities. When a settlement is reached, the parent developer as well as the single entity LLC that probably developed the condominium project want a release from the association of any and all claims and want the terms of the settlement kept confidential, even from the co-owners. While I think that is improper, purchasers of condominiums from these developers working through single entity LLCs will never know about the quality of construction that has occurred, particularly when the same units are constructed in a new project. You are best to consult with an attorney who has knowledge of the litigation history of developers in the Metropolitan Detroit area.



Robert Meisner

Q: Can you give me an update on the development of commercial property in the downtown San Diego area as I am thinking about investing.

A: There are a number of mixed use residential high rises that are being developed including a major development near Seaport Village. There will, of course, be ancillary developments and the residential/commercial community continues to thrive with more residents attempting to get into the downtown area. The rents are extremely high and the sales price of residential structures as well as commercial space continues to rise. There is obviously a limited amount of space near the harbor area and the city continues to be concerned about the obstruction of views by residents with respect to any new construction.

Robert M. Meisner is a lawyer and the author of "Condo Living 2: An Authoritative Guide to Buying, Selling and Operating a Condominium." It is available for \$24.95, plus \$5.55 for tax, shipping and handling. "Condo Living 2" is available in both print and e-book editions. The e-book is available for download through iTunes, Amazon.com, and barnesandnoble.com. He is also the author of "Condominium Operation: Getting Started & Staying on the Right Track," second edition. It is available for \$9.95, plus \$2.20 for tax, shipping and handling. Call 248-644-4433 or visit bmeisner@meisner-law.com. This column shouldn't be construed as legal advice.

INDUSTRY KUDOS FOCUS ON ISSUES ADVOCACY

The Building Owners and Managers Association of Metro Detroit's Government Affairs Committee was recently honored by BOMA International at the 2014 annual Winter Business Meeting and National Issues Conference in Washington, D.C.

During the Board of Governors meeting at the conference, BOMA International recognized BOMA local and state associations for their excellence in grassroots and issues advocacy through the Government Affairs Awards of Recognition Program, popularly known as the "Govies." BOMA/Metro Detroit was recognized in the category of Outstanding Single Government Issue for its work in defending the constitutionality of a Michi-



Paul Magy is the BOMA/Metro Detroit president.

gan state law passed in 2012 that protects commercial real estate loans. In a unanimous decision, the three-judge Michigan Court of Appeals in April 2012 ruled that a lender can only recover the real estate that was mortgaged if a loan goes into default, and may not seek to recover a borrower's personal assets.

The decision in this important case has very significant national ramifications with billions of dollars at stake for the commercial real estate industry around the country. Each year, BOMA Interna-

tional's State Government Affairs Committee acknowledges the work of BOMA local association volunteers in advocacy and education through the Government Affairs Awards of Recognition Program. Awards are bestowed in three categories: Outstanding Government Affairs Committee; Single Government Affairs Issue; and Single Government Affairs Program/Seminar.

For additional information on the BOMA/Metro Detroit Government Affairs Committee, contact Janet Langlois at janglois@bomadet.org or visit www.bomadet.org.

Founded in 1908, BOMA/Metro Detroit is a professional, nonprofit trade association whose nearly 400 members either own or manage commer-

cial real estate, or provide goods and services to the industry. BOMA Michigan members represent organizations managing more than 250 million square feet of office and industrial space, with employees and tenants totaling more than 1.25 million people in Michigan. Michigan members' annual expenditures contribute \$3.2 billion to the state's economy. BOMA of Metro Detroit provides commercial real estate professionals the opportunity to work together for professional growth, advocacy rights, corporate profit, and the benefit of the nine Southeastern Michigan communities it serves. For more information on BOMA and membership, visit www.bomadet.org.

HOMES SOLD/REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS-OAKLAND COUNTY

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of Oct. 14-18, 2013, at the Oakland County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

BEVERLY HILLS	
21700 E Valley Woods Dr	\$375,000
30317 Georgetown Dr	\$327,000
BINGHAM FARMS	
24134 Bingham Pointe Dr	\$285,000
BIRMINGHAM	
264 Catalpa Dr	\$330,000
1159 Chapin Ave	\$367,000
1236 Edgewood Rd	\$600,000
940 Floyd St	\$350,000
447 Hanna St	\$488,000
1361 Holland St	\$505,000
468 Park St	\$305,000
1220 Smith Ave	\$192,000
691 Wallace St	\$550,000
35300 Woodward Ave # 206	\$195,000
BLOOMFIELD HILLS	
1778 Alexander Dr	\$410,000
490 Fox Hills Dr N # 6	\$120,000
490 Fox Hills Dr N # 8	\$118,000
448 Fox Hills Dr S # 7	\$120,000

127 Linda Knls	\$1,035,000
7437 Wing Lake Rd	\$175,000
BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP	
3928 Cottontail Ln	\$499,000
1201 Fox Chase Rd	\$321,000
1845 Golf Ridge Dr	\$117,000
470 Lahser Rd	\$300,000
169 N Glenhurst Dr	\$808,000
3941 Shallow Brook Dr	\$365,000
3566 South Blvd	\$155,000
COMMERCE TOWNSHIP	
3275 Chenoa St	\$180,000
8494 Golfside Dr	\$335,000
5221 Huron Hills Dr	\$232,000
2280 Ivy Hill Dr	\$473,000
2770 Ivy Hill Dr	\$300,000
5336 Lancaster Ln	\$417,000
5040 Parkgate Dr	\$330,000
4487 Treeline Ct	\$300,000
FARMINGTON HILLS	
22028 Albion Ave	\$85,000
38610 Brandmill	\$141,000
25126 Castlereigh Dr	\$220,000
30989 Cedar Creek Dr	\$215,000
38842 Country Cir	\$108,000
30551 Munger Cir	\$120,000
29715 Eldred St	\$54,000
29510 Greenboro St	\$260,000
33661 Heirloom Cir	\$50,000

25450 Hunt Club Blvd	\$260,000
26228 La Muera St	\$207,000
29652 Middlebelt Rd	\$97,000
21305 Oxford Ave	\$108,000
28455 Shadylane Dr	\$125,000
28455 Shadylane Dr	\$55,000
35085 Silver Ridge Ct	\$200,000
22038 Springbrook Ave	\$69,000
27207 Winterset Cir	\$285,000
MILFORD	
917 Atlantic St	\$135,000
844 Byron Dr	\$160,000
545 Half Acre Dr	\$135,000
695 Pointe Ct	\$320,000
3969 Rivendell Ct	\$590,000
1122 Riverstone Cir	\$312,000
NORTHVILLE	
869 Horton St	\$235,000
22267 Lujon Dr	\$78,000
22286 Lujon Dr	\$100,000
42188 Pellston Dr	\$130,000
NOVI	
25963 Clark St	\$385,000
25553 Keenan Ct	\$338,000
51194 Mayfair Ter	\$284,000
24573 Olde Orchard St	\$102,000
30791 Palmer Dr	\$225,000
22339 Peachtree	\$119,000
21778 Picadilly Cir	\$532,000

24355 Surfside Rd	\$230,000
29382 Weston Dr	\$187,000
29386 Weston Dr	\$181,000
29390 Weston Dr	\$193,000
21924 York Mills Cir	\$439,000
SOUTH LYON	
24315 Brentwood Ct	\$340,000
23124 Cheyenne Ct	\$396,000
61423 Dean Dr	\$171,000
58336 Holland Dr	\$70,000
58391 Holland Dr	\$70,000
24653 Padstone Dr	\$78,000
225 W Liberty St	\$139,000
649 Woodland Dr	\$231,000
SOUTHFIELD	
29200 E Chanticleer Dr	\$110,000
30710 Red Maple Ln	\$175,000
25255 Southfield Rd	\$258,000
28895 Streamwood Ln	\$43,000
20203 Westland Dr	\$60,000
WHITE LAKE	
8815 Eastway Dr	\$40,000
8180 High Point Trl	\$38,000
90 Oak Pl	\$38,000
10765 Oxbow Lakeshore Dr	\$508,000
8116 Sequoia Ln	\$166,000
311 Shotwell Ct	\$208,000
747 Woodsedge Ln	\$305,000

HOMES SOLD/REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS-WAYNE COUNTY

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of Nov. 4-8, 2013, at the Wayne County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

CANTON	
6836 Brookshire Dr	\$183,000
48251 Chesterfield Dr S	\$358,000
1686 Christopher Dr	\$111,000
1955 Crowndale Ln	\$375,000
177 Edington Cir	\$160,000
51171 Federal Blvd	\$79,000
41935 Greenwood Dr	\$234,000
48241 Inveraray Rd	\$425,000
1249 Lasalle Rd	\$445,000
492 N Willard Rd	\$164,000
7915 Oxford Dr	\$60,000
43337 Pepperwood St	\$180,000
3894 Ravensfield Dr	\$155,000
1768 S Pennfield Ln	\$87,000
45999 Spinning Wheel Dr	\$245,000
3289 Tall Oak Ln	\$295,000
41808 Wayside Dr	\$170,000
5882 Wedgeway Rd	\$180,000
GARDEN CITY	
30148 Bock St	\$25,000
6149 Cardwell St	\$78,000
30055 John Hawk St	\$70,000
447 Lathers St	\$75,000
29457 Meadow Ln	\$86,000
33615 Rosslyn Ave	\$85,000
27535 Sheridan St	\$115,000
32118 Windsor St	\$142,000

LIVONIA	
12331 Camden St	\$18,000
38231 Donald St	\$145,000
37470 Eagle Dr	\$270,000
18180 Floral St	\$200,000
11221 Garden St	\$80,000
32953 Grennada St	\$190,000
33053 Grennada St	\$180,000
14445 Inkster Rd	\$90,000
36556 Joanne St	\$174,000
33119 Kentucky St	\$139,000
37604 Kingsburn Dr	\$260,000
15282 Middlebelt Rd	\$332,000
16575 Middlebelt Rd	\$38,000
19022 Millburn Ln	\$73,000
30189 Minton St	\$110,000
35410 Minton St	\$136,000
30551 Munger Dr	\$400,000
9210 Newburgh Rd	\$198,000
18562 Norwich Rd	\$125,000
32672 Oakley St	\$127,000
18591 Parklane St	\$180,000
31540 Pembroke St	\$160,000
33732 Pickford St	\$157,000
16241 Ronnie Ln	\$190,000
16208 Southampton St	\$218,000
36321 St Andrews Dr	\$40,000
29620 Wentworth St	\$180,000
28960 Westfield St	\$80,000
18508 Whitby St	\$145,000
NORTHVILLE	
48303 Binghampton Dr	\$557,000
17003 Birchwood Dr	\$320,000
17821 Briar Ridge Ln	\$741,000
17932 Briar Ridge Ln	\$550,000

17247 Crestbrook Dr	\$582,000
17744 Crestbrook Dr	\$660,000
426 East St	\$160,000
19405 Fry Rd	\$324,000
17069 Lochmoor Ct	\$246,000
326 Pennell St	\$185,000
46209 Pinehurst Dr	\$545,000
50054 Teton Ridge Rd	\$703,000
49785 Waterstone Estates Cir	\$550,000
17019 White Haven Dr	\$275,000
PLYMOUTH	
348 Arthur St	\$422,000
46700 Barrington Ct	\$345,000
45885 Denise Dr	\$310,000
11320 Eastside Dr	\$96,000
44558 Erik Pass	\$212,000
10828 Fellows Creek Dr	\$480,000
642 Forest Ave	\$330,000
47671 Katherine Ct	\$730,000
40728 Newport Dr	\$82,000
13971 Oakland Ct	\$400,000
49866 Pointe Xing	\$155,000
373 Red Ryder Dr	\$265,000
9041 S Main St	\$148,000
1347 W Ann Arbor Trl	\$815,000
12401 Woodlands Ct	\$418,000
REDFORD	
13021 Columbia	\$54,000
25525 Deborah	\$95,000
9312 Dixie	\$72,000
19905 Fox	\$49,000
20469 Kinloch	\$48,000
19376 Macarthur	\$50,000
9968 Marion	\$51,000

9968 Marion	\$41,000
16641 Negaunee	\$117,000
24422 Orangelawn	\$40,000
14996 Salem	\$75,000
14394 San Jose	\$45,000
14009 Sarasota	\$80,000
WAYNE	
4802 Biddle St	\$90,000
35624 Brush St	\$22,000
38100 Laurenwood St	\$135,000
4869 Moore St	\$63,000
3036 Rivers Edge Dr	\$76,000
WESTLAND	
1751 Ackley Ave	\$95,000
7416 August Ave	\$106,000
32612 Avondale St	\$54,000
33718 Avondale St	\$118,000
32209 Birchwood St	\$111,000
33713 Chief Ln	\$112,000
37504 Colonial Dr	\$65,000
33443 Fernwood St	\$77,000
35125 Hazelwood St	\$72,000
8614 Ingram St	\$118,000
474 N John Hix St	\$46,000
525 Ravenscrest Ln	\$113,000
1556 S Dowling St	\$96,000
1350 S John Hix St	\$109,000
38388 Saint Joe Dr	\$83,000
773 Summerfield Dr	\$185,000
31810 Tuscola Ct	\$32,000
6223 Twin Oaks	\$130,000
6266 White Oak	\$115,000
2627 Wilshire St	\$113,000

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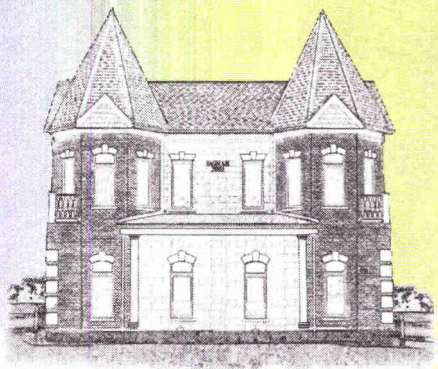
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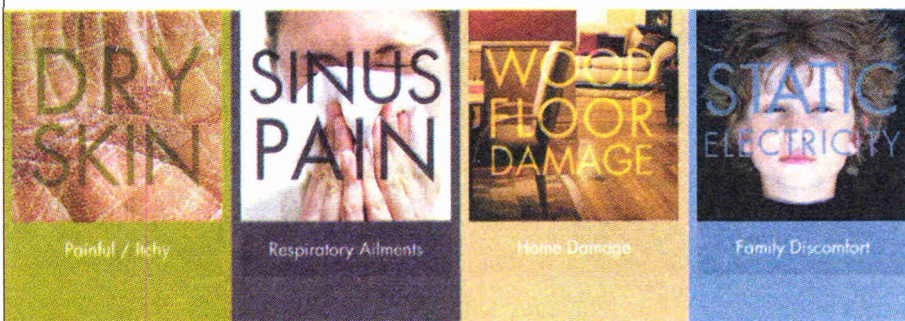
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GET A JUMP ON SPRING!

Hurry, spring! Michiganders have cabin fever and are counting down the days to spring.

We are tired of commuting in snow and sleet. We are tired of those polar vortexes. We are just plain tired of winter.

Spring arrives at 12:57 p.m. Thursday, March 20, and I can't wait for more hours of daylight and warmer temperatures (above freezing for more than a week would be a good start).

Today's *Hometown Life Woman* celebrates the renewal of spring and aims to put readers in a celebratory and festive mood.

We're featuring a story on the area's outstanding women physicians. Read about the passion they have for their



Susan Rosiek

profession and their awesome attitude toward patient care. They are role models for today's middle school and high school students. Read about their accomplishments and why they chose the medical profession.

And don't miss our special section on wedding planning inside today's *Woman*. From gowns and cakes to flowers and rings, check out the stories and advertisements from businesses which have lots to offer brides and grooms to be.

Enjoy Barbara Deyo's column on getting "wedding ready." Deyo, an internationally-acclaimed makeup artist, talks with recent brides who offer their advice on how to prep for the big day.

As always, I welcome your comments and suggestions for future editions.

Susan Rosiek
publisher

srosiek@hometownlife.com

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Milford Attorney Jack W. Bolling loves the historic surroundings of his office now located in a renovated 130-year old home at 334 Union St. in downtown Milford.



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An avid history buff, Milford attorney Jack W. Bolling is passionate about keeping the past alive for future generations.

He is just as interested in preserving your family's legacy by helping you make decisions that will keep your memory alive through your children and grandchildren.

As an estate/legacy planner, Bolling has trademarked his approach to the estate planning process and accompanying legal services as Legacy LifeLines™. This process includes three steps: 1) counseling and plan design; 2) funding of the revocable living trust; and 3) an on-going maintenance plan that is unique to Bolling's practice.

Bolling encourages his clients to think beyond their financial matters and look into their own life's fulfillment by asking themselves questions like: What really matters most to me? What would I really like to accomplish? What legacy do I really want to leave behind?

These important life questions are all the more reason that Bolling has expanded his

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practice to include Medicaid planning.

He believes that estate planning and Medicaid planning go hand in hand.

"Through proper planning, it is possible to provide for your long-term care while preserving assets for you and your loved ones," Bolling said. "Why should you give up something that you've worked your whole life for when your spouse becomes ill?"

Bolling is also an accredited VA attorney and can help people who have either served or whose family member has served in the U.S. military. "There are many veterans' programs available, but you need to know who to ask and what to ask," Bolling said. "I am the person who can help you sort through these issues."

While helping people on a one-to-one basis with their legacy planning, Bolling

reaches an even broader audience as a guest columnist for Gannett Newspapers, including The Milford Times. He is also a guest speaker for many local groups and organizations.

With a deep respect and passion for history, Bolling is pleased that his practice is now housed in a 130-year old Victorian home at 334 Union St. in downtown Milford, which has been renovated to the period of time in which it was built.

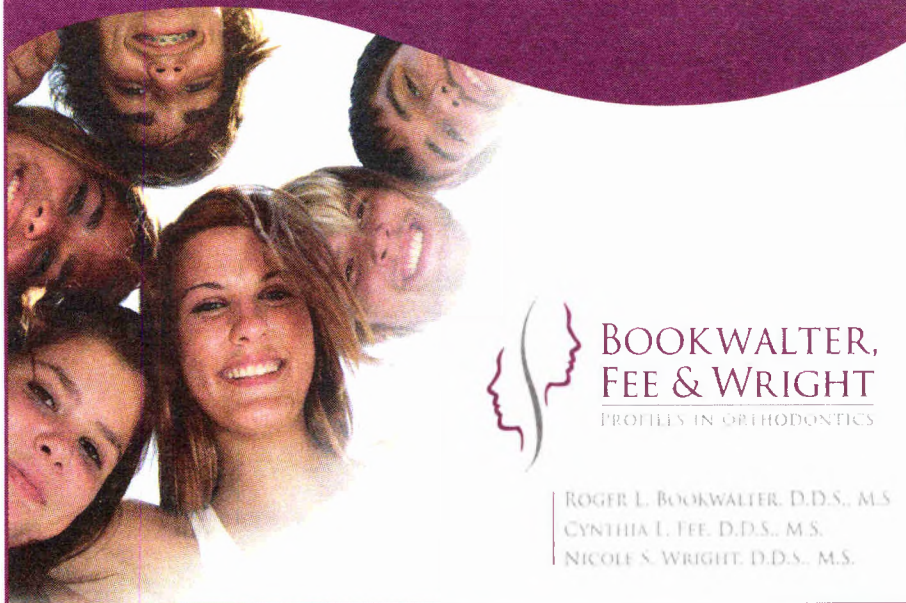
Original pine wood planked floors, a cupola, winding staircases, tall ceiling and etched glass front doors are just a few of the features that drew Bolling to this location in November 2008.

"History comes alive to me while conducting my practice in this historic home," Bolling said. "It gives me a sense of the past and a vision for the future — exactly what I want to bring to my clients."

—By Sally Rummel

Accredited Veterans Affairs Attorney, Member: National Network of Estate Planning Attorneys; National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys; President, Michigan Forum of Estate Planners and the Michigan Conference of Estate Planners

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Building budget offers freedom, security

Recently, I met with a couple who want to retire in 10 years. They asked me to review their current savings to see if their time line was possible. I asked them to bring a breakdown of their assets, monthly expenses, debt and income.

Soon after the meeting began, I asked one of my typical first questions: "Do you live on a budget?" I was not

surprised when they replied they didn't, but they knew "exactly where all their money was going ... they kept track of their spending in their heads."

We reviewed their income and expenses. Monthly expenses totaled \$5,000 and their net monthly income was \$6,000.

I responded: "Great you are living within your means and have a \$1,000-a-month surplus. What are you doing with the surplus income?" They looked at each other and with quiet shock replied: "What do you mean? We have nothing at the end of the month. We live paycheck to paycheck."

At this point, we began the process of figuring out where their money was going. I gave them both a small notebook and asked them to write down everything - every last penny they spend and for what during the next 30 days.

This exercise can be a life-changer. If they are truly interested in getting a grip on their finances, they will complete the month-long exercise. For most people, it's a huge eye-opener when they see how much money they spend without even thinking or knowing about it.

Many people hate the B-word. They believe budgeting will restrict their spending and cut out all the fun in their life. Not true. However, if you go at it with the right attitude, it can give you more freedom and a strong sense of financial security.

It doesn't matter if you're living paycheck to paycheck or earning six figures a year, you need to know where your money is going to plan for the future. Your budget is the foundation of every financial decision you will make.

Budget is vital

Creating a budget is not the most exciting thing, but it is vital to get your financial house in order. It is relatively easy to determine fixed monthly expenses. These can include, but are not limited to, mortgage, utilities, insurance, loans, auto, taxes and other. Don't forget expenses that come once or twice a year.

The harder part is determining variable expenses - groceries, entertainment, gifts and visits to Starbucks to name a few. For most of my clients, the most effective way is to keep a 30-day journal of variable expenses.

After completing this exercise, a client discovered she was spending \$150 a month in specialty coffees, even though she had all the gadgets at home. She didn't give up all purchases, but she reduced it to buying only two coffees a week. She now saves \$125 a month, which she spends on a vacation in the Caribbean every year.

Once you have determined and have totaled fixed and variable expenses, the next step is to look at the difference between total expenses and total monthly income. If the end result shows more income than expenses, you are off to a positive start. This means you can allocate the excess to other areas such as your emergency funds, retirement savings or paying off debt. If your expenses are higher than your income, it means you will need to make some adjustments to your spending habits.

There are plenty of free resources on the Internet to help develop a budget. A simple Excel spreadsheet can make anyone's budgeting process more manageable.

I am dedicated to guiding women though the steps needed to take control of their financial future and prepare for a secure retirement.

My message to area women is that it's time to take care of you. Women spend so much time as caretakers, worrying about how to meet the needs of everyone else. Now it is the time to start focusing on your needs - including your financial needs.

Paula Swain CFP® is a financial consultant at Swain Financial, LLC, 1225 S. Main, Plymouth. Contact her at 734-552-7610. Securities offered through LPL Financial, Member FINRA/SIPC.



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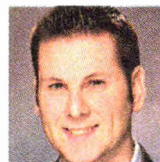
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Tips to protect your private data

The credit card breach at Target is this year's biggest example of consumers' private information falling into the wrong hands. And while Internet users can do very little to prevent the Target-style cyber breach at their preferred retailers, there are many ways to keep private information private.



Jon Gunnells

TECH SAVVY

Here are six tips you can use to keep your personal information (such as passwords, bank account information and Social Security numbers) away from cyber crooks.

1. Protect your wireless network: If you have Wi-Fi in your home, make sure it is password-enabled with a code that is hard for lurkers to crack. Use something with a number, a symbol and a capital letter. A secured network means your neighbors or nearby hackers can't access your private files such as tax returns or banking statements.

2. Be apprehensive of public Wi-Fi: Free wireless Internet is great. Allowing someone access to your mobile device is not. When you use a public wireless signal, others may be able to access your phone. If you have banking or insurance apps on your smart phone, this could be dangerous. But even if you don't, you could be at risk.

One of the worst things a hacker can do is access your email account and change the password. Once a hacker has email access, they have a lifeline to every company you do business with. For example, a hacker could reset your bank account password by having the financial institution email the compromised account.

3. Change passwords often: In addition to creating difficult passwords with capital letters, symbols and numbers, everyone should change their passwords regularly. Cyber criminals have software that can guess at passwords for days and days. Each time you

change a password, it makes their trade more difficult. Another option is using a password safety tool such as LastPass. It lets you create one difficult password. Then LastPass creates passwords for all of your sites. They change regularly, making the code hard to break. All you have to do is remember your LastPass password (you can write it down and hide it in your home).

4. Buy a secure wallet: There are special wallets you can buy online or at select retailers that actually block RFID signals. RFID signals are used by hackers on mobile devices to steal the encrypted information on your credit cards and debit cards. While you are securing your credit cards, remember, gas stations and online purchases are the most likely places for your credit card information to be compromised.

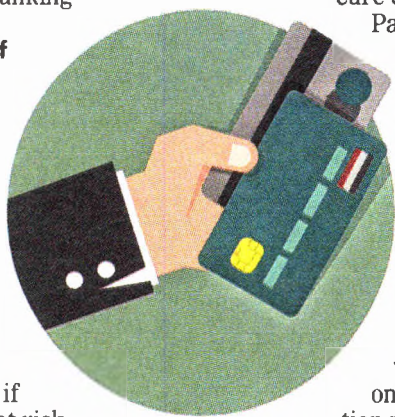
5. Use PayPal or similar services to buy online: As mentioned previously, credit card and debit card information is often stolen after online transactions. You can avoid using credit card or bank information online by using secure digital banks like PayPal or Google Wallet.

These services have been around for years, allowing eBuyers to complete safe transactions.

6. Be careful on social networks: Everyone knows not to tweet that they are on vacation.

But did you know that when you post a photo on Instagram or a vacation picture on Facebook that it could show your location? That's right, location information is often enabled by your smart phone applications and your photos could show that you are out of town without you saying it directly. You can visit the settings tab of any social networking site to edit what your network of friends can see. Or you can wait until you return home to post any pictures.

Jon Gunnells is a freelance writer and social media planner. Comments or suggestions for future columns? Email jonathan.gunnells@gmail.com or follow him on Twitter at @GunnSh0w.



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Expert tips to help you plan the perfect party

Planning the perfect party can seem overwhelming, but a few simple touches can make it a celebration to remember.

To take your next party to the next level, just follow some easy tips from Chris Nease, expert party stylist and editor of the “Celebrations At Home” blog.

Save the dates: With today's hectic schedules, save-the-date notifications are more popular and necessary than ever. A good rule of thumb is to send them six weeks ahead of the party, so guests have plenty of time to save the date on their calendars.

Themes: A theme isn't always necessary, but it almost always makes the party – and party planning – more fun and memorable. “Themes for children's parties are now more sophisticated with a touch of whimsy, while adults are planning party themes based on the personality or interests of the guest of honor,” Nease said.

Decorations: “A growing trend at parties today is a personalized banner featuring photos or decorative elements to reinforce the party theme,” Nease said. And many party hosts are going the DIY route. These banners can easily be designed and printed at home. All it takes is ribbon or twine to tie it all together.

Photos: Sharing photos online is a fun alternative to renting costly photo booths. Just create a group hash tag to share and consolidate photos through a content-sharing service such as Instagram. The hash tag makes it easy to create an online photo album to share with guests as soon as the party ends.

Food: “A gorgeous cake is still the centerpiece of any birthday party, but why not put a twist on a traditional party centerpiece and display a tower of cupcakes,” Nease said.

Look no further than Morton Salt as the inspiration for that cupcake centerpiece. To celebrate the 100th birthday of its iconic Morton Salt Girl, the company has developed a quick and easy Salted Caramel Cinnamon Cupcake recipe for a delicious twist to any birthday party. For more about the Morton Salt Girl and events and promotions planned in 2014 to celebrate her birthday, visit www.mortonsaltgirl100.com.

– Courtesy of Family Features



SALTED CARAMEL CINNAMON CUPCAKES

Servings: 24

1 package of yellow cake mix
Eggs, vegetable oil and water,
per mix instructions

2 teaspoons ground cinnamon

1 can prepared cream cheese frosting (whipped frosting not recommended)

2 teaspoons caramel topping, plus additional for garnish

12 pieces individually wrapped caramels

Morton® Coarse Sea Salt

Heat oven and prepare cake mix as instructed on the box, adding cinnamon with other ingredients. Divide prepared batter evenly among 24 paper-lined muffin cups, filling each cup two-thirds full. Bake cupcakes as instructed on the box. Remove cupcakes from pans and cool completely.

Cut each unwrapped caramel in half lengthwise. Gently press a small amount of Morton® Coarse Sea Salt onto one side of one of the larger surfaces. Set aside.

Combine frosting and caramel topping in a bowl, and pipe frosting into each cupcake. Drizzle additional caramel topping on top of each frosted cupcake and sprinkle lightly with sea salt. Top each cupcake with one piece of salted caramel, salted side facing outward. Serve immediately. Refrigerate any leftover cupcakes.



Rainbow Fruit
& Cheese
Kabobs

FUEL YOUR ACTIVE LIFESTYLE

Simple ways to boost fitness with dairy

Many people are taking advantage of warmer temperatures and increased hours of sunlight to get fit for the fun season ahead. As they do, they'll be looking for ways to fuel their efforts. Enter dairy, a protein powerhouse that provides numerous benefits to active individuals.

More protein per ounce

The perfect addition to snack or meal-time, dairy foods offer a convenient way to add the protein needed to help you achieve your fitness goals. While helping your body build and repair muscle, as well regulate metabolism, it also keeps you satisfied longer. Just one serving of milk, cheese or yogurt provides approximately eight grams of high-quality protein, including all essential amino acids. When it comes to smart snacking, dairy really packs a protein punch.

Protein-packed whey

Whey protein is a high-quality protein found naturally in dairy foods and it provides the nutrients that help promote better health.

Need a helpful way to remember this

beneficial nutrition source? Think "Y-M-C-Whey" when you're looking to fuel your fitness efforts:

» **Y is for Yogurt:** Enjoy this versatile food at any time of day. Double up on protein with Greek yogurt, which often contains twice the amount as regular yogurt.

» **M is for Milk:** Reach for low-fat chocolate milk after exercise. The protein it provides supports healthy muscles and the carbohydrates help refuel you with energy.

» **C is for Cheese:** Grab a slice, wedge or stick when you need something to tide you over between meals. The protein in cheese can curb hunger, which makes it a great tool for weight management.

» **W is for Whey:** Add whey protein powder to your post-workout smoothie or cereal, which can help build and maintain lean muscle.

It's simple to power your fitness goals – whatever they may be – with dairy. Find more nutrition information and recipes to power up at www.dairymakesense.com.

– Courtesy of Family Features

RAINBOW FRUIT & CHEESE KABOBS

Servings: 6

Prep time: 15 minutes

6 straws (8-inches or longer)

6 ounces Monterey cheese, cut into 18 cubes

½ cup strawberry halves

½ cup cantaloupe, cut into ¼-inch cubes

½ cup pineapple, cut into ¼-inch cubes

1 kiwifruit, peeled and cut into 6 pieces

¼ cup blueberries

6 purple grapes

To make a rainbow for each kabob, thread onto a straw a piece of cheese, a strawberry half, a cantaloupe cube, a pineapple cube, another piece of cheese, a piece of kiwi, 2 blueberries, a grape and another piece of cheese. Repeat pattern with remaining straws.

Nutritional information per serving: 135 calories; 9 g fat; 7 g protein; 8 g carbohydrates; 1 g dietary fiber; 25 mg cholesterol; 135 mg sodium; calcium 22 percent of daily value.



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Nutritious HOMEMADE MEALS

for every occasion

Whether you're preparing a quick breakfast for the family, feeding a crowd at dinner or looking for a light lunch for yourself, the key to a delicious, nutritious homemade meal is just minutes away thanks to the canned foods in your pantry.

"Canned fruits and vegetables are a must in my pantry. They are picked and canned at the peak of ripeness, hours after they're harvested, locking in their flavor, freshness and nutrition," says Kelsey Nixon, host of *Kelsey's Essentials* on Cooking Channel. "Having canned fruits and vegetables on hand means a healthy snack, meal or side dish is achievable anytime."

In addition to nutrient-rich staples like tomatoes, corn and beans, Nixon recommends stocking up on ingredients such as canned olives, tuna, artichokes, pumpkin and chiles. These canned foods can elevate the flavors of a dish and breathe new life

into some of your favorite recipes.

Here are some more great tips and delicious recipes from Nixon:

» **Keeping a well-stocked pantry,** or "cantry," will help you avoid unnecessary trips to the grocery store after a long day.

» **Tomato-based canned ingredients,** like diced tomatoes and tomato sauce, are the most versatile when it comes to making a wide variety of recipes like chili, salsa, marinara sauce, soups or casseroles.

» **Canned fruits add** an unexpected twist to savory dishes and can transform recipes in exciting ways. Just add canned peaches to homemade barbecue sauce or canned pineapple to curries and stir-fry recipes for a healthy and flavorful upgrade.

For more information and to learn how you can get cooking with canned foods, visit: www.CansGetYouCooking.com.

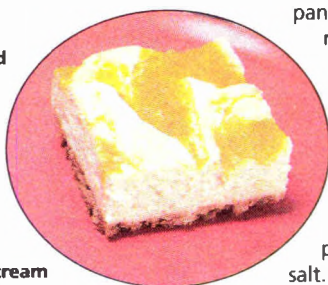
— Courtesy of Family Features

PEACHES AND CREAM CHEESECAKE BARS

Prep Time: 10 minutes
Cook Time: 30 minutes

Serves: 36 bars

- 1 cup almonds, finely chopped
- 1 cup graham cracker crumbs
- ½ cup unsalted butter, softened
- 2 packages (8 ounces each) cream cheese, softened
- 1 can (14 ounces) sweetened condensed milk
- 2 large eggs
- ¼ cup lemon juice
- ½ teaspoon almond extract
- 2½ tablespoons all-purpose flour
- 1 can (8.75 ounces) peaches, drained
- Pinch of salt



Preheat oven to 375°F. Spray 9- by 13-inch pan with non-stick spray. In mixing bowl combine almonds, graham cracker crumbs and butter with fork until combined. Press into bottom of pan. Using hand held or stand mixer, beat cream cheese until smooth and no lumps remain. While mixing, add sweetened condensed milk, eggs, lemon juice, almond extract and flour. Mix until fully combined. Pour over crust. In food processor or blender, puree peaches. Stir in a pinch of salt. Using tablespoon, drop spoonfuls of peach puree over top of cream cheese mixture. Using knife, gently swirl peaches through filling to create marbled look. Bake for 30 minutes or until center is set. Remove from oven and cool to room temperature before transferring to refrigerator to chill through-out. Cut bars and serve chilled.



ARTICHOKE & BEAN SALAD WITH TUNA

Prep Time: 10 minutes

Refrigerate for 45 minutes

Serves: 4

- 2 cups (one 15-ounce can) white northern or cannellini beans, drained and rinsed
- 1 can (15 ounces) artichoke hearts, drained and quartered
- 1 rib celery, finely diced
- 2 tablespoons red onion, finely diced
- 1 can (6 ounces) tuna, drained and flaked
- 3 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil

Juice and zest of 1 lemon

¼ cup chopped fresh parsley

Kosher salt and cracked black pepper

Combine all ingredients in mixing bowl, and season to taste with salt and pepper. Toss gently and refrigerate 45 minutes before serving. Serve salad on bed of mixed greens with crusty bread. Or alternatively, serve salad scooped onto hero roll with arugula.

CHICKEN POZOLE

Prep Time: 20 minutes

Cook Time: 15 minutes

Serves: 4

- 1½ cups of chicken, shredded from a store bought (3- to 4-pound) rotisserie chicken
- 3 tablespoons vegetable oil
- 1 large yellow onion, chopped (about 2 cups)
- 4 garlic cloves, minced
- ¼ teaspoon oregano
- 3 teaspoons ground coriander
- 1½ teaspoons ground cumin
- 1 can (4.5 ounces) chopped green chiles
- ½ (14.5-ounce) can chopped tomatoes
- 1 can (7 ounces) salsa verde
- 2 cans (15 ounces each) hominy, drained
- 2 cans (14 ounces each) low-sodium chicken broth
- Kosher salt and cracked black pepper
- Garnishes (optional)
- 1 red onion, finely chopped
- 1 lime, cut into wedges



- ½ cup cream or sour cream
- Crushed tortilla chips
- ½ cup fresh cilantro leaves, chopped
- Thinly sliced radishes
- 1 avocado, diced

Remove meat from chicken and shred into 1-inch pieces; discard skin and bones. Set aside about 1½ cups of meat for soup; reserve remaining chicken for another use. In large Dutch oven or sauce pot set over medium heat, heat oil. Add onion and cook until translucent and fragrant, about 8 minutes. Add garlic and cook for 3 to 4 more minutes. Add oregano, coriander and cumin, and cook until slightly darkened and fragrant, 2 to 3 minutes. Add green chiles, chopped tomatoes, salsa verde and cook until it just comes to a boil, about 2 minutes. Add hominy and chicken broth and return to a boil. Reduce heat to medium and simmer for at least 10 minutes to allow flavors to develop. Season with salt and pepper. Add shredded chicken and cook until heated through, 3 minutes. To serve, divide among 4 bowls and garnish as desired.

Celebrating excellence

WOMEN PHYSICIANS DISCUSS JOYS, CHALLENGES OF MEDICINE

By Jill Halpin, Contributing Writer

National Doctor's Day, a time to celebrate the contributions of health care professionals, is March 30.

The *Observer & Eccentric* Media readership area is fortunate to host a long list of award-winning hospitals and medical teaching facilities. Here is a look at some of the top female doctors in the area, recognized by hospitals and hospital administrators for their outstanding commitment to patient care.



Dr. Gandhi

Hetal Gandhi

Empowering patients to take charge of their own health is truly a mainstay of Dr. Hetal Gandhi's daily practice.

An internal medicine doctor with St. Mary Mercy Primary Care in Livonia, Gandhi is a firm believer in the importance of patient education.

"As an internist, I think it is very important to listen and make a correct diagnosis. However, when you can empower a patient to take charge of their own health, the outcome is so much better," Gandhi said. "I like to be able to give my patients the tools they need to be in control of their health."

See **WOMEN DOCTORS**, Page 12

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
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
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WOMEN DOCTORS

Continued from Page 11

Born and raised in India, Ghandi attended medical school in Ahmedabad, Gujarat, before relocating to the Detroit area and completing her residency at Wayne State University and the Detroit Medical Center.

A strong interest in dealing with the many different aspects of complex medical conditions initially drew her to internal medicine, she said, and the ability to establish long-term relationships with generations of families has been a focal point of her 16-year practice.

"I treat a wide range of ages and stages – from around 9 or 10 years up to the geriatric stage. It is very satisfying to be able to connect with whole families, even grandparents, and have my patients feel that bond," she said.

Listening to her patients is key, she noted.

"Sometimes a patient will come in with their mind already made up about what the issue might be. But after talking to them and listening carefully about what is going on, we might be able to pick up on something else – an underlying cause that can be caught before it be-

comes a more serious condition," she said. "That is very rewarding."

A resident of Novi and mother to a 9-year-old son, Ghandi said that she believes her experiences as a wife, mother and daughter add to her ability to be empathetic.

"I, too, have aging parents and understand what goes on in families – what the issues are and how issues that affect parents can also touch their children," she said.

"I am grateful to have this perspective," she added.

Tari Stull

As medical director of Breast Health Services at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital in Ann Arbor, Dr. Tari Stull is committed to providing a comprehensive, multi-discipline approach to treating patients.

"I think it is so important that patients don't fractionate their care, getting a biopsy here, surgery there. Once they are in a system, I think it important that they stay in the system to ensure that nothing slips through the cracks," said Stull, who practices out of the Ann

Arbor location as well as St. Joseph Mercy in Brighton.

This patient care philosophy is just one of the reasons that prompted Stull to create a team of doctors that meets regularly to discuss each patient individually when she began overseeing the hospital's breast health program in 2011.

The team approach provides physicians an opportunity to address a variety of issues and provide complete care, Stull noted.

"For instance, we can provide genetic counseling, clinical trials, nutritionist consultations or any other service that they may need, in addition to traditional treatment. We can meet as doctors and make a plan for that patient's care," she said.

Stull was born and raised in the Downriver community of Grosse Ile and attended medical school at Wayne State University, completing a residency at St. Joseph Mercy-Ann Arbor. After serving as a board-certified general surgeon for 13 years, she found herself "being drawn" to breast health.

"I found myself attending the conferences, constantly reading about new devel-



Dr. Stull

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ments” in breast health care, she said. Her interest progressed into a fellowship in breast surgery at Bryn Mawr hospital in Philadelphia.

It is important for women to recognize that “breast care is not just cancer,” she said. “It’s total breast health, from breast pain to cancer, as well as a variety of benign issues.”

A resident of Brighton, Stull and her husband are “parents” to three four-legged creatures: two French Brittany dogs and a newly adopted kitten.

For Stull, her practice is all about providing total patient support.

It is extremely rewarding “when you see the smiles of someone who has come through on the other side of a breast cancer treatment and it’s all good,” she said. Equally rewarding is being able to provide care and support when the news may not be great.

“It is a privilege to share these moments with my patients,” she added.

Kelly Fitzgibbons

The unique opportunity to build relationships across several generations of patients led Dr. Kelly Fitzgibbons to a career as a family practice physician.

Fitzgibbons, of Infinity Primary Care in Livonia and Providence Park in Novi, always knew that she wanted to go into medicine.

“I love people and I like the service aspect. I knew that I wanted to help people,” she said.

In fact, her decision to specialize in family practice was driven by a desire to forge deeper connections with patients.

“I genuinely care and I hope people realize it,” Fitzgibbons said.

Fitzgibbons said that good communication is key. One of the most important pieces of advice she offers her patients is to trust their instincts.

“It is so important for patients to know that if something doesn’t seem right to them – if they are not satisfied with an answer – it is OK to come back and revisit it with your doctor,” she said. “Ask questions. You have to trust yourself.”

A native of the Detroit area, Fitzgibbons, the mother of two sons ages 12 and 10, attended medical school at Wayne State University and completed her residency at Providence Hospital in Southfield.

Fitzgibbons said that she is reminded daily that she made the perfect career choice in family medicine.

“The daily interactions, whether it is someone sending me a baby or graduation picture, are so rewarding.

Maybe it is just being able to sit with someone who is terminal and offer them comfort – these are the blessings of my career,” she said.

“I love my job. I get so much from it. It is constantly reaffirming my faith in people. There are a lot of good people out there and I get to see it behind closed doors,” she added.

The relationships are more than one way, she noted.

“I learn something new from my patients every day, whether it is new ways to be strong or to cope. They are always inspiring,” she said.

Ruth Kamienecki

Dr. Ruth Kamienecki was just 16 years old when she went to a career counselor at her high school expressing an interest in becoming a physician.

“I was told, ‘No, girls don’t become doctors.’ That was the thinking at the time,” she said.

Thankfully, for her patients at Botsford Family Care of Novi and Botsford Hospital in Farmington, Kamienecki proved them wrong.

A graduate of the Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine, she began medical school at age 32, after marrying and while in the process of raising two now-grown sons.

Although she may have originally been discouraged from choosing a profession as a physician, Kamienecki was confident in her choice and pursued her dream, despite the societal constraints of the time.

It is one reason that she has made it a priority to encourage females interested in medicine to follow their aspirations.

“It is so important to me to get the message out that ‘Women can do this,’” she said. “No one should say you can’t.”

She has successfully communicated that message within her own family, inspiring her



Dr. Fitzgibbons

daughter-in-law Kristen Kamienecki to follow her example and attend medical school. Dr. Kristen Kamienecki joined the medical staff of Botsford Hospital as a diagnostic radiologist last year.

It is the aspect of dealing “with whole families” that drew her to specialize in family medicine, Kamienecki said.

“Taking care of a whole family is such an honor. You treat them as kids and as they grow up, you treat their children as well; they become friends. I have the nicest patients,” she said.

Another strong focus of her practice is preventive care.

“I am really big on taking care of things before they become a bigger problem. It’s upsetting when you see someone who hasn’t seen a doctor in a long time and let things go,”

ending up dealing with a situation they could have avoided, she noted.

She prides herself on being upfront and honest with her patients and expects the same from them, she said.

“I always want my patients to feel comfortable enough to talk to me about anything. They need to remember that I am here to help them,” she said.

Interestingly enough, she said, despite breaking barriers as a female in medicine, her patient population is currently about 50 percent male, she said.

“We’re finding that men are just as comfortable with a woman physician as our female patients,” she said.

Anne Fischer

For Dr. Anne Fischer, there is not a day that goes by that she is not “in awe” of her patients.

As chief of pediatric surgery for Beaumont Health System and surgeon-in-chief and professor at the Oakland University William Beaumont School of Medicine, “I am constantly amazed by the beauty of the anatomy of children,” Fischer said.

It is this, combined with the complex challenges of delicate work, which initially drew Fischer into her career as a pediatric surgeon.

“There are so many different components: we are doing some of the most cutting-edge minimally invasive surgeries in very tiny spaces. It is very challenging,” she said.

It is also very rewarding.

The ability to make a difference – not



Dr. Kamienecki

just with one patient, but with entire families for the entirety of their lives – is a very positive process, she noted.

“You start out thinking that the child is your patient. As you work with

their families – those that care for and want the best for the children – you realize that you are really treating them as well. There is an opportunity to make a profound impact,” she said.

A 2013 transplant to Michigan, Fischer was born and raised in North Carolina and attended medical school at Johns Hopkins in Baltimore, where she earned an M.D./Ph.D. degree. Prior to joining Beaumont, Fischer was on staff at Children’s Medical Center of Dallas and the University of Texas Southwestern Department of Surgery. She currently specializes in pediatric oncology, complex congenital anomalies, fetal intervention and minimally invasive surgery.

The field of medicine is changing, she noted.

“It is an extraordinary time in the medicine. You can get personalized medicine and it is done with compassion. As physicians, we have a unique ability now to help eliminate anxiety for kids and their experience can be a positive one,” she said. “We work with families to gain their trust and that feeling is passed on to their child – they trust us.”

Fischer said she knew she was making a difference when the 3-year old-sister of one of her patients who began treatment for a congenital deficiency prenatally came into the office and asked to speak with her.

“When I grow up, I am going to be just like you,” the little girl said.

Greta Branford

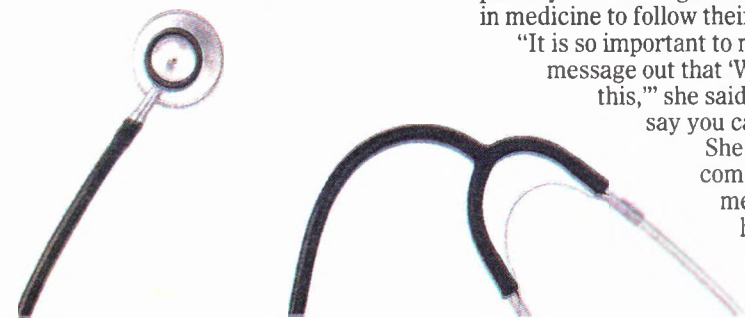
Dr. Greta Branford cherishes many things about her role as doctor of internal medicine and pediatrics at the University of Michigan-Canton office.

However, it is the chance to provide a “voice of reason” for her patients that she most relishes.

“There is so much information out there. I think parents are sometimes overwhelmed with everything they hear – ‘you can’t do that; you have to read this’ – that it can become insanity just trying to sort it all out,” she said.



Dr. Fischer



WOMEN DOCTORS

Continued from Page 13

As a wife and mother of two daughters, ages 10 and 13, Branford has a keen understanding of the struggles of parenting, the Plymouth resident said.

"I have been there and done that and I understand how difficult it can be. I enjoy trying to help my patients understand it all and make sure they are getting the best information available," she said.

Originally from Ohio, Branford attended the University of Cincinnati Medical



Dr. Branford

School, where she also completed her residency in both internal medicine and pediatrics.

"I want to be able to take care of families from birth all the way through in a meaningful way and I like the opportunity to be

able to specialize," she said.

She said she encourages her patients to "trust their gut instincts" and understand that they have part ownership in their care.

"I want my patients to be clear about what they need to help themselves and to reach out when they need me," she said.

Branford feels lucky to be part of a teaching facility that allows her to oversee resident physicians and help them understand the complexities of working with the family as a unit.

"I like to see through the eyes of my residents as they begin to understand how the stresses of one individual affect others, how family members play off each other. It helps to give a complete understanding of the big picture," she said.

Catherine Guido

Dr. Catherine Guido's interest in medicine began at a very young age. It was a natural progression after spending a great deal of time in doctors' offices with her younger sister, left blind because of congenital glaucoma.

"Even as a young child, I can remember being grateful for the quality of care that she received. I always knew that I wanted to give back," said Guido, an internist with North Valley Internal Medicine in Milford and on staff at Huron Valley Sinai Hospital in Commerce Township.

"We spent a lot of time in follow-up.

The continuity of care and relationships that develop over time with the people that cared for my sister made a huge impression on me," Guido said. "I want to provide that for my patients."

A Dearborn native, Guido attended Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine and completed her residency at the Detroit Medical Center.

"You know how they tell you to always have a back-up plan for your career? I didn't. I always knew that it was all I ever wanted to do," she said.

For Guido, it is all about providing care and making a difference in the lives of her patients, who range in age from adolescent to geriatric.

The chance to help others and provide comfort and support is a continual reaffirmation of her career choice, she noted.

Guido recently received a card from the wife of patient who died after a difficult illness.

"To be able to make a difference for someone who is suffering, I just feel so grateful for the chance to help them," Guido said. "Sometimes I can't do the all things that the human body needs, but I can provide the support and guidance and all of the other things that patients require.

"It is the reason that I come to work every day," she added.

Anne Pawlak

Always drawn to science, Dr. Anne Pawlak considers herself lucky to have had a variety of strong females guiding her throughout her career.

For Pawlak, the fires of her interests were stoked in high school. Under the tutelage of an attentive mentor, Sister Bonavita at Livonia's Ladywood High School, she was encouraged to compete successfully in a variety of national and international science fairs.

"It was really where it all began. I was taught study skills and the scientific method, but also that when you want something, you need to go for it," she said. "I was very lucky to have incredibly bright females that were very influential in my life."

Pawlak, a neurologist with the Michigan Institute of Neurological Disorders in Farmington Hills and Garden City and stroke director for Garden City Hospital,



Dr. Guido

grew up in the Detroit area. She attended medical school at Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine, completing her residency at Garden City Hospital.

She chose to specialize in neurology, she said, because of a passion for "puzzle-solving."

"The brain is the command center of the body. It is challenging and exciting. The breakthroughs that are taking place in this field are amazing," she said.

Pawlak prides herself on her ability to bring compassion to her field, specializing in adult neurology, offering complete evaluation and treatment for neurological concerns such as neuro-muscular and movement disorders, multiple sclerosis, dementia and epilepsy.

She advises patients to make sure that they have their story ready to give their physicians and make sure that they give you the time you need to tell it.

"I tell my residents to always listen to their patients. Sometimes we need to stop ourselves from interrupting. Patients will tell you what is wrong with them, you just have to listen," she said. "There are times when we can't give medicine, but we can give compassionate care.

"I feel blessed that I am able to offer that," she added.

Deirdre Mattina

Dr. Deirdre Mattina is focused on care giving and caregivers in her medical practice.

"I tell my patients that it is important to spend time focusing on their own health," said Mattina, a senior staff cardiologist at Henry Ford Hospital in West Bloomfield.

Women are often the caregivers of others and, as a result, often spend little time on themselves, Mattina said.

"Health is an ongoing process and we need to set our own goals. Sometimes our



Dr. Pawlak

health won't be our No. 1 priority, but we still need to remember to take care of ourselves, because when we feel good, we can take care of others," she said.

A New Jersey native, Mattina graduated from Cornell University, taking four years off from school to travel around the world as a professional dancer. She spent some time performing at Tokyo Disneyland and, while on tour with the Radio City Music Hall Rockettes, visited Detroit and met her husband, a Rochester Hills native.

Because of her new Michigan ties, she decided to attend medical school at the University of Michigan, returning east to complete a residency in internal medicine at New York Presbyterian Hospital-Columbia Campus "before returning to the Midwest forever," she said.

The mother of two young children ages 2 and 4, Mattina said she chose to specialize in cardiology in an effort to provide preventive care.

"I am really interested in trying to prevent issues before they occur. It is such a struggle for some and heart disease is still the No. 1 killer of women," she said. "I felt I could make the biggest difference concentrating in cardiac care and the prevention of heart attack, stroke and other diseases pertaining to the vascular system."

She said she is constantly reminded that she chose the right career path.

"I work hard, but it doesn't feel like work when you are doing something that you love," Mattina said.



Dr. Mattina



GETTING WEDDING

READY – the 90-day countdown

By this point, you have reserved your venue, tasted your cake, sent out save the dates, learned the rumba – and played out the big day, in its entirety, in your mind. Now the countdown begins to put your vision into action – and take some time to focus on you so you can be the blushing bride you have always wanted to be.

I talked to area professionals about skin, diet and exercise, as well as went straight to the source with four recent brides to see what they did to get wedding ready.

Every bride wants to glow. And hopefully your makeup artist can achieve that for you. However, the better shape your skin is in, the better your makeup will look.

Regarding skin prep, of course I went to my go-to gal – Karen Edwards, Deyo for face and body's resident esthetician, for her words of wisdom.

Edwards said, "If you have acne, I would start the minute you get engaged. It can take some time – even up to a year – to get your skin straightened out.

"If you have relatively good skin, then I would say a few months beforehand is good. I wouldn't just go and have a facial right before your wedding if you aren't used to having them, especially with someone you don't know," she added.

"That way you know how your skin responds and you won't have any unpleasant surprises. I recommend two or three facials about a month apart, with the last one the week before the wedding.

"The same advice applies for waxing. Don't go get a bikini wax on a whim without ever having had one in the past. You might not be happy on your honeymoon."

Another hot topic is diet. How can you keep your tummy flat in that mermaid dress? How do we keep the tulle from overtaking our torso?

Ilyse Aaron (ilyseaaaron@gmail.com), owner of ROCKITFIT personal training and creator of the IMETHOD Meal Guide, says the secret ingredient is hot lemon water.



*Barbara
Deyo*

"Lemons have anti-inflammatory qualities and are great for boosting the lymphatic system and brightening the skin. Trying to do a quick fix, like a cleanse, is not the answer," Aaron said, adding that "100 percent of my clients who have ever done a cleanse gain the weight back, plus more."

"Instead, increase protein, eat more green leafy vegetables and drink lots of dandelion tea. Oh, and a square of dark chocolate is good for the soul. Preparation for a wedding should be fun, too," she added.

Wedding arms

The ultimate bridal goal is to confidently hold your 20-pound bouquet high – deltoids, biceps and triceps flexing impressively – with nary a quiver.

So how does one get said coveted arms? I talked with certified personal trainer Michael Martelli, owner of Martelli Boxing Fitness (mike@martelliboxingfitness.com) and The Boxing Rink in Troy, who specializes in focus mitt training combined with MMA cardio conditioning exercises to give those arms a fighting chance in that strapless dress.

"Reaching a fitness goal takes hard work, dedication and consistency," Martelli said. "You must commit to training at least three or four days a week. And you must watch your overall caloric intake, so you can actually see the muscles you are



developing.

"I recommend starting out with a professional, so you learn proper technique and posture. Your trainer should be able to put together a routine for you that you can do at home that makes sense to meet your fitness level, goals and expectations.

"My training routines are an overall

Emily Jakacki, a former West Bloomfield resident, now lives in Chicago with husband Tommy.

AMANDA COULON, PURE NORTH PHOTOGRAPHY

See **GETTING READY**, Page 16

GETTING READY

Continued from Page 15

body workout, however it is more focused on upper body and core, which is what most brides are looking for, at least in the short term," he added. "I find more often than not, once they start training, they stick with it. It's addicting."

Makeup advice

And here's my two cents. Three months out, make your eyebrow shaping appointments, along with your facial and waxing appointments. Stop tweezing on your own and let a professional make sure you get your brows wedding ready as well.

I suggest a makeup trial, mainly to make sure you and your artist are on the same page with your wedding look and to eliminate anxiety and time on your wedding day. The more prepared you are, the smoother things will go.

Make sure to assemble your touch-up kit for the day of! After all that clarifying, cardio and kale getting wedding ready, you don't want to be immortalized forever with a shiny

nose.

One last tip: A spray tan is a good idea if you are pale. A tan will help define those newly formed muscles you have been working so hard to build. Again, a trial run is suggested to make sure you like the results. Try the first one about a month prior and, if you love it (and I think you will), get a tan a couple of days before the wedding to ensure all the topical solution is removed to avoid any rub-off on your dress.

So here's what the brides had to say, all of whom I had the honor of being a part of getting wedding ready – from long-time clients like Mackenzie White Riley, whose makeup I've doing since her bat mitzvah 15 years ago, to Emily Jakacki, who trusted me sight unseen on her wedding day from a referral.

Megan Stowers-Riggan

"My 90-day countdown consisted of lots of meetings with The China Closet, Bellsario's, Ray Anthony Photo, Roma Sposa and you Barbara, of course. However, I had the pleasure of being introduced to Mike Martelli four months before my wedding. During our initial conversation and after



Megan Stowers-Riggan of Lake Orion worked with Michael Martelli, owner of Martelli Boxing Fitness, to get her arms "wedding ready." RAY ANTHONY

our first workout, I knew Mike understood my goals and I had complete confidence that he would get my arms 'wedding ready.'

"Mike exceeded my expectations. Currently, I am still training with him because after I complete a session, I am always eager to come back for more – more push-ups, mountain climbers and fun. Working out with Mike was the best thing I ever did." (See photo of Megan for the definition of "wedding arms")

Emily Jakacki

"There is so much to do in the 90 days leading up to your wedding. However, as the bride, you want to make sure you are taking care of yourself. I was focused on daily exercise, mostly yoga and circuit/weight training, with a well-balanced diet. I cut out dairy/cheese (which was not easy), as well as carbs. I ate a lot of lean meats, veggies, whole grains, beans, almonds and drank a lot of water.

"I ultimately didn't lose a lot of weight; my goal was to get my body lean and toned so my dress fit com-

See GETTING READY, Page 18



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GETTING READY

Continued from Page 16

fortably and so I felt great – which I did. It was the best day of my life!”

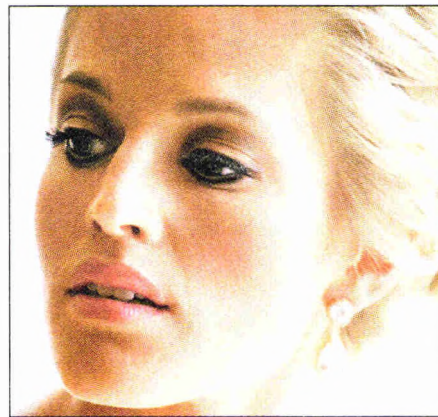
Danielle Gillen

“I feel like so much happens in the 90 days before your wedding, because that’s when your vendors really start focusing on your event, and especially the 60 days before. You’re finalizing all of the details and getting your wedding invitations and seating arrangements organized. It was a whirlwind, but is all worthwhile in the end.

“Sean and I took dancing lessons, so people weren’t bored watching us during our first dance. It turned out to be one of the things we loved the most during the engagement process, because it is actually you and your fiancé spending one-on-one time being together and not to pick out flower arrangements, etc.”

Mackenzie White Riley

“The months leading up to the wedding can be stressful. I think it’s important to take time for yourself. I focused



Danielle Gillen, formerly of Birmingham, lives in Chicago. ARISING IMAGES

on taking time to relax, working out and trying to eat healthy. About the week before, I got my hair colored and had my final makeup trial. (Says Deyo: I have done Mackenzie’s make-up 50-plus times, but what’s one more?)

“However, falling down a flight of stairs and spraining my ankle a week before the wedding was not on the agenda. But my mom went out and bought literally a dozen pairs of shoes to make sure we had something that



Mackenzie White Riley of West Bloomfield.

DAPHNE DOERR PHOTOGRAPHY

would work.

“In the end, the swelling went down and my Jimmy Choo’s fit. I made sure to delegate tasks to people on the wedding day. Thankfully, I had my wedding planner, Dee Dee Hoffman, to take care of pretty much everything for me. And my florist Tom Valentine made my vision come to life.”

Whatever getting wedding ready means to you, trust the pros and enjoy the process. The most important part of the day is saying “I do.” And just think –

when it’s all over, you can eat bread again.

Barbara Deyo, owner of Deyo Studio for face and body is an internationally acclaimed makeup artist, having groomed the faces of Paul McCartney, Bob Seger, Kerrie Washington, Shaun Robinson and Erin Cummings. Deyo has been named Best of the Best by Allure, Hour, Real Detroit and WDIV and making brides beautiful for over 20 years. Deyo Studio is located at 576 N. Old Woodward Ave, 2nd floor in Birmingham. Call 248-203-1222 or visit www.deyostudio.com for more information.

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EXPLORE UNIQUE CAKE FLAVOR COMBINATIONS

A wedding cake is the piece de resistance of the wedding ceremony. Guests anxiously await the unveiling of the cake near the end of the festivities. Modern cakes are showpieces grander in scale than in years past. As bakers and confectioners hone their skills with fondant, butter cream and gum paste even further, the results are often impressive, awe-inspiring cake designs.

While the look of a wedding cake is certainly important, cakes should not only look good, but taste good as well. Vanilla cake with vanilla butter cream frosting was once the gold standard. But today's couples are being more adventurous with their wedding cakes and winning rave reviews from guests along the way.

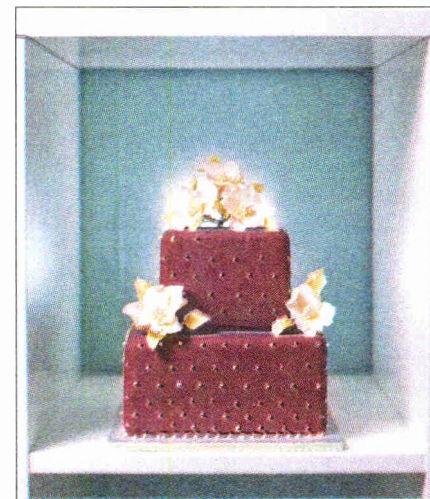
The vast scope of wedding cake flavor choices available to brides and grooms is astonishing. Options may range from the traditional to something adventurous and daring. Keeping in mind that couples will need to please the masses, finding a compromise between plain vanilla and a mocha-chile-coconut surprise is essential. Otherwise, they risk an unpopular flavor and a lot of wasted, expensive cake.

Some couples shy away from more adventurous cakes because they fear something chocolately or not white in color will not be well-suited to a wedding reception. Such couples should keep in mind that any flavor of cake can be hidden beneath layers of pearly white fondant or royal icing. Therefore, the sky is the limit with regard to flavor combinations.

Those who might want to veer from tradition can consider these clever cake combinations.

» **Lemon cake with vanilla butter cream:** Lemons are tart, juicy and refreshing, helping to cleanse the palate after a rich meal. Lemon cake, with its summery feel, is tailor-made for summer weddings. The flavor is popular enough to appeal to many, but just a little different to add an unexpected zip of flavor.

» **Chocolate cake with chocolate ganache and mocha filling:** True chocoholics will be hard-pressed to resist such a decadent flavor profile. Chocolate can be sweet and satis-



Think outside of the cake box when selecting flavors for the centerpiece of the wedding reception.

fying and a welcome change from the vanilla cakes commonly served. For traditionalists, the cake can be covered with a white chocolate ganache. Or couples can ask that the cake be adorned with white sugar roses for an eye-appealing contrast. Chocolate cakes covered with autumn hued flowers go over well at fall weddings.

» **Red velvet cake with cream cheese frosting:** Red velvet cake was once a regionally specific staple, but now has grown steadily in popularity across the country. Red velvet has quickly become the new classic, as its vibrant red coloring offers a shock of something different, while the flavor is mild for those who are not comfortable taking risks. The richness and creaminess of cream cheese is irresistible.

» **White cake with chocolate mousse:** Couples who want a bit of chocolate but do not want to be overwhelmed can select a white cake that is filled with light and rich chocolate mousse. It's the perfect blend of vanilla and chocolate for guests who enjoy both.

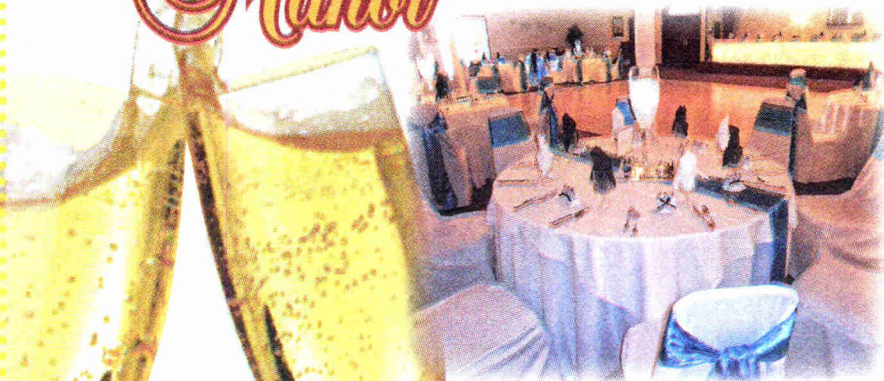
Cakes are a part of many special events, but few cakes are fawned over as much as wedding cakes. Couples can spice things up by choosing a nontraditional flavor combination.

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HOW TO FIND THE RIGHT **BANQUET HALL** FOR YOUR BIG DAY

Planning a wedding is no small feat, as couples are faced with many decisions seemingly from the moment they get engaged right up until they walk down the aisle as man and wife. One of the biggest decisions a couple will make is where to host the reception.

Couples must consider a variety of factors when looking for the right banquet hall to host their reception. The wedding is a celebration and the banquet hall is where the couple and their guests will let their hair down and hopefully enjoy a festive and memorable night. Because the reception is typically the most lengthy portion of a couple's wedding day, it's important to find a place where everyone can be comfortable and enjoy themselves. The following are a few tips for couples looking to find the ideal banquet hall to host their wedding reception.

» **Ask around.** Word-of-mouth is a great way to find the right banquet hall. Ask friends or family members who got hitched in the same town where your ceremony will be if they can recommend a reception site. These friends or family members can provide a behind-the-scenes look at a reception hall, from how accommodating the staff was to how flexible the banquet hall was with regard to pricing to how open the staff was to suggestions. Wedding planning isn't easy, so if friends, family members or coworkers recommend a hassle-free banquet hall, that recommendation can remove a lot of the stress from planning a wedding.

» **Consider the size of the facility.** Some couples prefer an intimate affair with relatively few guests, while others will desire a large wedding party with lots of guests. Couples can find a banquet hall that's capable of catering to small or large wedding parties, but find one that fits your party specifically. If your wedding party is small, then avoid a larger facility that will appear empty. If the party is large, make sure there's adequate room so guests won't feel like they're sitting on top of one another during dinner and dessert.

» **Don't downplay decor.** A banquet hall with an attractive decor is not only aesthetically appealing, but can appeal to a couple's finances as well. Such a hall likely won't need any addi-



The banquet hall is where couples can expect to spend most of their time on their wedding day, so couples should exercise their due diligence to ensure they find an inviting and festive facility.

tional decorations, while a banquet hall that's unadorned and lacks embellishments will – and those decorations can dip into a couple's overall wedding budget. Compare the costs of the more decorated banquet hall with the one that's more plain in appearance, factoring in the cost to decorate the latter, and you might just realize the one with more aesthetic appeal is more affordable in the long run.

» **Prioritize privacy.** Few couples would be open to strangers having easy access to their wedding reception. When shopping for a banquet hall, look for one that gives you and your guests all the privacy you need. Many couples have taken to hosting the entire ceremony at a hotel, which may handle the bulk of the planning and remove the hassle of transportation for out-of-town guests. However, couples considering a hotel should look for one that can promise privacy from other guests at the hotel. The reception room should be secluded from the rest of the hotel so other guests walking by aren't tempted to walk in on the festivities.

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This Flower Bomb dress by Ian Stuart features a strapless sweetheart neckline encrusted with beads and crystals and expertly draped drop waist bodice, leading to an explosion of flowers in tulle and lace on the magnificent skirt. A scattering of petals and leaves trickle down the tulle chapel train. The dress is available at Elizabeth's Bridal Manor in Northville.



SAY 'I DO' IN THE DRESS OF YOUR DREAMS

By **Jill Halpin**
Contributing Writer

If you are planning to attend a wedding this year, chances are good that the bride will not be wearing white.

It has nothing to do with virtue. However, like everything else in fashion these days, tradition is being cast aside in favor of newer, bolder styles.

Wedding dresses in blush, light gold and champagne tones are making their way down the aisle as modern brides look past white and ivory to the color spectrum beyond.

"We're seeing a lot more color for the wedding dress this season. The pale blushes are soft, lovely

and romantic," said Elizabeth Clancy, owner of Elizabeth's Bridal Manor in Northville.

"It's not for everyone," Clancy said. "However, for the bride that wants to be different, it's a beautiful look."

Linda Stencel of B'Ella Bridal in Plymouth and Runaway Bride in Royal Oak agrees that the biggest changes in bridal fashions these days include both color and texture.

"Lace overlays for both the wedding dress and the bridesmaids dresses are very popular and have a beautiful effect. Think lace over champagne or light gold – it is really quite stunning," Stencel said.

See **THE DRESS**, Page 24

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THE DRESS

Continued from Page 22

Lace – always a bridal fashion staple – has been taken to the next level for a more modern appeal, she said.

Texture and lace

“Texture is really big this season, even in lace. Instead of simple, more old-fashioned laces, we’re seeing more involved laser cut laces that bring a lot to the dress in terms of texture,” Stencil said.

“Brides are going more for a *Great Gatsby* feel this year,” said Gina Salaski, owner of Gina’s Bridal in Milford. “They want that bold, ‘30s, art-deco look and feel in terms of laces and concentrated beading.”

Although strapless dresses “still reign,” the experts say, some brides are looking beyond to dresses featuring short, capped sleeves and “key-hole” backs.

According to Salaksi, “illusion” necklines and backs are quite popular and lace continues to be important, as well.

Deep V-cuts, dresses cut very low in

the back, are transformed with a lace overlay or inset, taking a dress from simply sexy to timelessly elegant.

Bridal couture experts are also noticing a change in terms of fabrics.

“Chiffon is becoming quite popular for the spring and summer,” Clancy said. “It is a nice, lightweight alternative to satin. It’s a fabric that is very flowing and graceful.”

Bridesmaids dresses remain popular in the softer colors, but new hues are adding some sophistication.

According to Stencil, a soft shade of mint green is gaining popularity.

“It’s different, it’s unique and it is quite fresh and pretty,” she said.

Clancy said that a “very soft shade of petal pink” has been a popular pick for bridesmaids dresses, with plum tones a popular pick for autumn events.

Options for moms

Mothers of brides also have some new options.

Stencil, who will play the role herself this May when her daughter walks down the aisle, said that “gone are the days of the little jacket over the dress.”

“We are seeing some very atypical dresses, heavily beaded with a modern

fit and flare that are very complimentary,” she said.

Color, or lack of it, also plays a role in contemporary mother of the bride wear. Black, the shade that always conveys instant chic, has arrived.

In fact, Stencil will wear a classic black dress at her own event this spring.

“I have some mothers that say, ‘I would never wear black,’ but I think it is a great choice. I tell mothers to pick something you like, something you would wear to another event,” she said, cautioning mothers not to be stuck in something “just because it matches.”

In addition, she adds, black can be quite a stunning choice, especially if the groomsmen are wearing black jackets.

Jewel tones (eggplant, teal and navy) are also stylish choices for a mother of the bride, Salaski said.

She said she often advises mothers “not to get so hung up” on trying to match the bridal party.

“If the main color of the bridal party is petal pink and it just doesn’t work with your hair or skin tones, by all means pick something else,” she said.

“If you feel beautiful in a dress, it is going to show. That is when others start to take notice and say things like, ‘Wow, she looks stunning.’”

Feel pretty

Another detail not to be forgotten is hair accessories. Clips, complemented with beads and details, are making appearances this season.

Clancy is a firm believer in the importance of a veil.

“A veil is the crowning piece that makes you look like a bride. Without a veil, you’re just another pretty girl in a long gown,” she said.

For a time, Clancy said that many brides were rejecting the veil in favor of a tiara, which she says are currently out of vogue.

“I always told them to try on the veil and 99 percent of the time they kept it,” she said.

However, if you are still clearly intending to make a fashion statement as you walk down the aisle, you are in luck.

Stencil said that she currently stocks a bright blue wedding dress that has garnered some attention from brides to be.

“It is actually quite pretty,” she said.

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WEDDING REGISTRY 101

For engaged couples, it can seem as if there are a million things to accomplish before the big day arrives. One essential piece of the wedding puzzle involves creating a registry that makes it easy for guests to celebrate your union with gifts that reflect your personality as a couple.

Before building your registry

It's no wonder why guests love the ease and simplicity of a gift registry. But many couples may not know where to begin when setting out to create this useful list. Here are some helpful pointers from Macy's to help you get started on creating a perfect wedding registry:

» **Meet with a consultant:** These trained professionals are on site to assist and discuss everything you want and need. It's a good place to start if you have questions on what items to include and what brands are available.

» **Look for special programs:** Some stores offer special features, such as Macy's, whose Dream Fund allows guests to contribute any amount to the ultimate gift card, so the bride and groom can choose what they want.

» **Start early:** Most couples like to register four to six months before their wedding date, which allows more time for choosing items, planning for showers and meeting other deadlines.

» **Register together:** Whether it's in-store, online or both – make a day of it and have fun selecting all the things that will be part of your new life together.

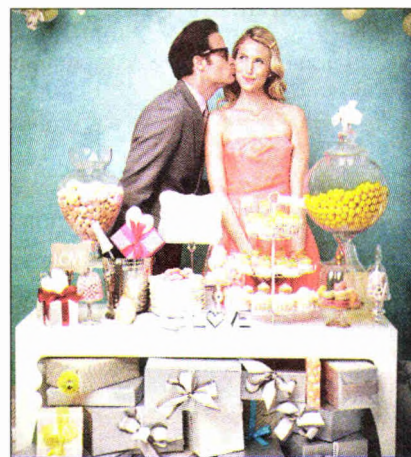
» **Choose different price points:** Guests will appreciate a varied list that has many gift options to fit their personal budget.

» **Create a registry that reflects you:** If you're a laid-back, easygoing couple, consider registering for a more casual dinnerware pattern that you can use every day, then mix in some fancy pieces to use for those special occasions. If you enjoy entertaining, choose a range of serveware and barware.

Making the right choices

With all the things needed to properly stock a home, selecting the right ones can seem daunting. Here are tips to keep in mind while adding to your registry:

» **Select your settings:** A five-piece



Make it easy for guests to select gifts that reflect you as a couple.

setting is meant to serve one person and includes a dinner plate, salad plate, bread and butter plate, tea cup and saucer. If you want to serve eight guests, you will need to register for eight five-piece settings.

» **Factor in some extras:** When registering for drinkware, be sure to register for a few extras in each glass size in case some break down the road.

» **Protect your cutlery:** Be sure to choose a sturdy cutting board to protect your knife blades from chips and cracks. You can keep your cutlery in top condition by registering for a honing steel and knife sharpener.

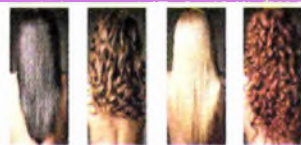
» **Stock up on kitchen must-haves:** When it comes to cookware, make sure to stock up on the essentials. This should include a fry pan, sauté pan, grill pan, sauteuse (round, deep-sided design for sautéing on the stove top or baking in the oven) and a chef's pan.

» **Opt for the basics:** White dinnerware allows you to transform the look of your table year-round by changing the décor and accessories around it. The classic look will be a design that you can appreciate for years to come.

Visit www.macys.com/registry for a registry checklist, helpful tips and more information on Macy's Dream Fund.

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HELPFUL HINTS WHEN CHOOSING **FLORAL** ARRANGEMENTS

Couples must make many decisions when planning their wedding, not the least of which is choosing floral arrangements. Some couples have never had to make choices regarding floral arrangements, so it's understandable if they need some help before making a decision that will likely make a significant impact on the appearance of their weddings.

» **Go with your own style.** Couples should not feel pressured to go with a more traditional style if that's not something that suits them. Instead, choose a style that most appeals to you, be it neutral or bold colors, formal or more casual arrangements and so on. Your style might also reveal a preference for something other than roses, which is perfectly all right. It's your wedding.

» **Stay in-season when possible.** When choosing a floral arrangement, it's important to consider when you'll be getting married and which flowers will be in-season. It's possible to find most floral varieties all year, but if you choose seasonal flowers, you'll likely

pay less and such flowers will be more readily available and durable.

» **Don't go it alone.** The wedding day is going to be busy enough without brides and grooms having to worry about arranging the bouquets. A professional florist, ideally one who has come highly recommended, should be able to work within your budget and produce a visually stunning end product.

» **Consider candles to save money.** Many couples hope for a floral centerpiece at each table, but that can prove costly. If the floral budget is somewhat limited, supplement the centerpieces with candles to save some money. The centerpieces likely won't be as grandiose, but smaller floral arrangements coupled with candles can create a romantic feel.

» **Stick to the budget.** Couples will find it's very easy to go over budget quickly with regard to floral arrangements. But a good florist should be able to work within your budget and produce an arrangement that's visually impressive without costing a fortune.



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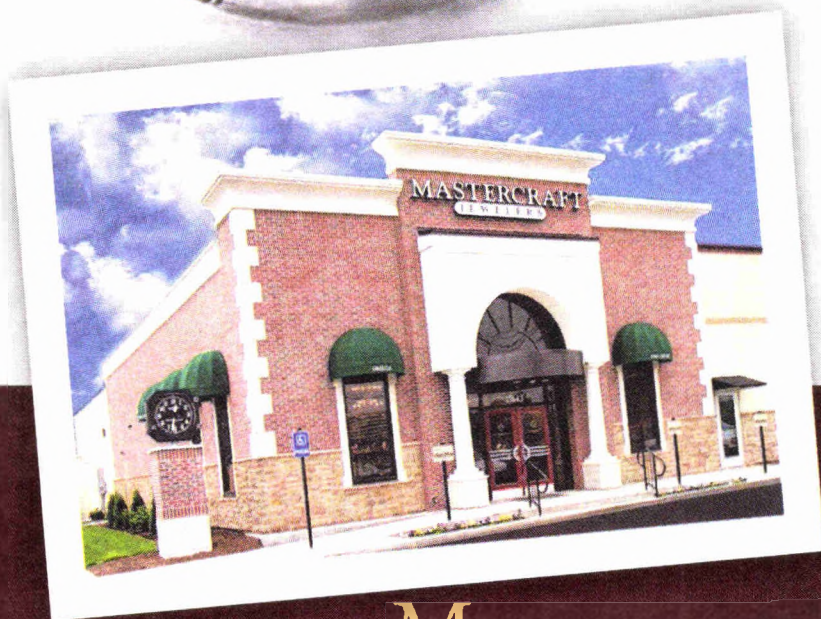
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ENGAGEMENT RING SHOPPING GUIDE



An engagement ring is a large purchase that requires ample forethought. Following some guidelines can yield the results couples desire.

Long before couples stand before an officiant and say, "I do," many make another pledge to each other by getting engaged and agreeing to begin a new life together.

In a 2011 survey by from XO Group, Inc., formerly The Knot Inc., the average engagement ring costs Americans \$5,200. Canadians spend around \$5,000 as well. Considering an engagement ring is typically a once-in-a-lifetime purchase, many men say the high cost is warranted and are even willing to finance the purchase or push their budgets to procure a beautiful ring.

Many engagement rings feature a 1-carat center stone with some smaller stones surrounding, accounting for a 1.4 total carat weight on average. It can take a groom-to-be around three months to find his (and her) ideal

ring, sometimes longer. Considering a ring is such a significant investment, it pays to have some knowledge in gem selection.

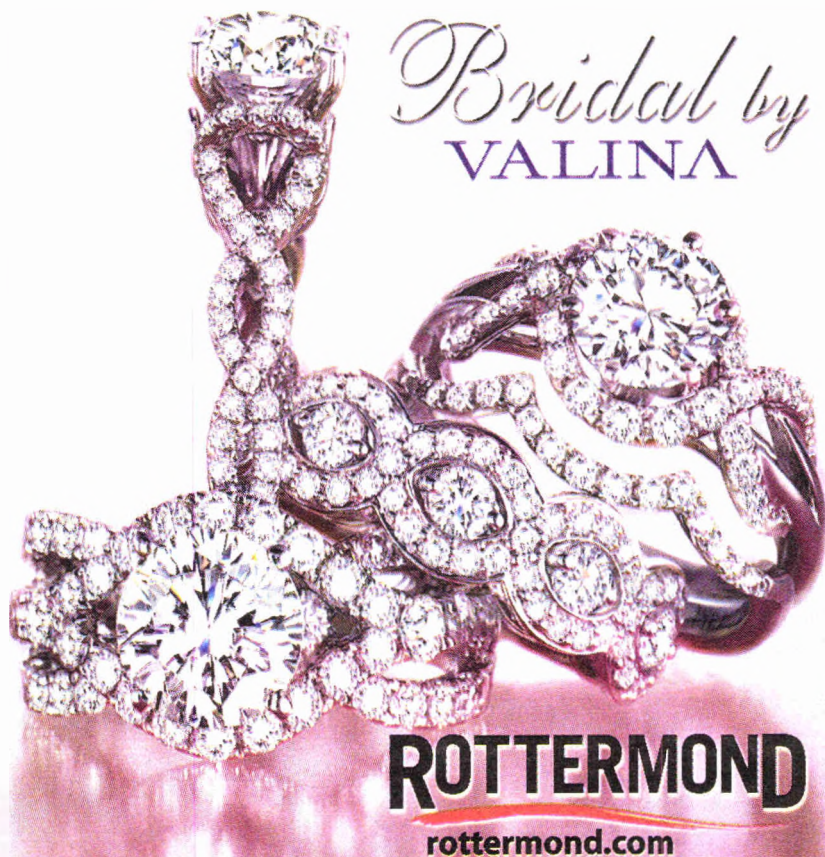
Start by answering a few questions

Having an idea of what you want can help anyone get a better deal, whether one is shopping for a new sofa or an engagement ring. An informed shopper can avoid being taken advantage of or buying something that really isn't worth the asking price.

The 4 C's is a good place for shoppers to get started. Various attributes affect the value, quality and beauty of a diamond.

The 4 C's stand for cut, color, clarity, and carat weight.

The cut refers to the shape of the stone as well as the skill involved in achieving the shape of the facets so that it reflects the



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light brilliantly. The color is designated by the International Gemological Institute. The grading color in a diamond determines how closely a diamond's color approaches colorlessness. The diamond will be assigned a letter grade. The lower the letter in the alphabet, the whiter the stone. Clarity refers to the amount, size, type and location of internal flaws in a diamond, also known as inclusions. The cost of the diamond increases when there are fewer inclusions in the stone. Finally, the carat weight is the size and weight of the stone. The larger the stone, the more pricey it can be.

Another question to ask is which style of ring your girlfriend prefers? Your fiancée-to-be may have a certain setting style and diamond shape preference. It pays to know what she wants, including the type of setting the stone will be encased in. You should also know whether she will be happy with a larger stone that may have some imperfections not easily seen to the naked eye or a smaller, flawless stone.

Know your budget

Many expenses are associated with planning a wedding and some couples

may not want to begin their lives together in debt. This may need to be factored in to the decision-making process. You should go to jewelry stores to price out different styles and see how diamonds compare. This way you will have an accurate idea of just how much rings cost.

Carefully consider your options. Having an intimate knowledge of what your girlfriend will want can help you to narrow down something that is reasonable.

It also pays to understand a jeweler's return policy. Even if you may know what she likes, in the event that the ring doesn't work out, find out if the style can be changed or if you can get a refund or make an exchange.

Other tips for savings success

There are ways to maximize your budget and still end up with a beautiful stone.

» **Ask for a stone** that is slightly less than the next carat, for example 0.9 instead of 1 carat. This nearly indiscernible difference can add up to substantial savings. Experts say the price difference between a 1.90-carat diamond and a 2.0-carat diamond can be as much as \$5,000. Also, choose a

stone that has more surface area, which will make it appear larger even if it does not have as much sparkle.

» **If she prefers** the look of platinum, realize white gold, silver or tungsten are more affordable options and will still give off that silvery hue she desires. Mixed gold colors, including white, pink and yellow, can be unique.

» **Try to buy** a loose diamond. You can inspect the entire stone and then shop around for an acceptable setting. This can save you money in the long run by buying the ring elements separately.

» **Make sure** the store is accredited by the Jewelers of America or is a member of the Gemological Institute of America. This way you know you are buying from a reputable source and the diamonds were acquired ethically.

» **Negotiate the price.** Just because it is jewelry doesn't mean you can't comparison shop and find out if another jeweler will match a competitor's offer. Many stores will be willing to negotiate if it means making a sale.

— Courtesy of Metro Creative Connection

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TIPS WHEN CHOOSING A **HONEYMOON** DESTINATION

As couples cope with the stress of planning a wedding, many begin to see their honeymoons as a time when they can finally unwind and relax without having to worry about seating arrangements, vendor negotiations or the host of other responsibilities that come with planning a wedding. But securing the perfect honeymoon can be nearly as difficult as planning the wedding.

The biggest dilemma couples face when planning a honeymoon is where to spend that first week or so as a married couple. The right locale for a honeymoon varies depending on the couple. Some might prefer a Hawaiian island, while others might find a week spent camping in a national park is more their style. Whatever you and your future spouse's style may be, the following are a few tips to ensure you both have the time of your lives.

» **Decide what you can afford.** The days when the bride's father takes care of the bill for the wedding are largely a thing of the past. Many of today's couples finance their own weddings, which can leave little money left over for the honeymoon. When shopping for a honeymoon destination, know what you can and can't afford. Your honeymoon budget may narrow your options considerably, but it will help you ensure you aren't spending your first trip as a married couple pinching pennies.

» **Play around with the length of your trip.** Many couples aim to spend at least one week on their honeymoons. But one way to save money on the honeymoon or make a more expensive locale more affordable is to reduce the length of your stay. An extra two days in



paradise might break your honeymoon budget, but what about a shorter stay? You will likely want to spend at least five days at your chosen destination, but a five-day trip can prove considerably less expensive than a full week, especially if you arrive and depart on a weekday.

» **Travel in the off-season.** While many couples deserve an immediate getaway after planning and fi-

nancing their weddings, you might get a better deal if you delay your honeymoon until the off-season, when resorts tend to offer more attractive packages after the tourist season has peaked. A honeymoon in the off-season is likely to offer more privacy than one taken during the peak of the season, so you might find such a honeymoon is more romantic. If you do decide to delay your honeymoon, you might still want to plan a short getaway to a nearby locale for a few days after you tie the knot. Even a short trip can help you unwind after all that planning and coordinating.

» **Establish a honeymoon registry.** In addition to who's paying for the wedding, one of the ways in which today's couples are different from those of yesteryear is the fact that many couples now live together before tying the knot. That reality has made the traditional registry somewhat obsolete, as many of today's couples already own their own furniture and already have a fully stocked kitchen. But couples can still have a honeymoon registry, which allows their guests to donate money they would otherwise be spending on a wedding gift to a fund that will be used specifically to fund the couple's honeymoon and any adventures they choose to enjoy on their trip. Guests may even prefer such a registry, as it saves them the trouble of wrapping a gift and carrying it to the wedding while ensuring the happy couple will truly enjoy their gift.

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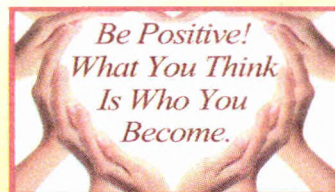
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