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CANTON Observer

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Patterson agrees to seek more student funding

Senator tells district school fund hike would 'be miraculous'

BY TONY BRUSCATO
STAFF WRITER

State Sen. Bruce Patterson told Plymouth-Canton Schools representatives Tuesday he would carry their case for increased school aid funding to the legislature.

However, Patterson also admitted that getting an additional \$18 million for P-CCS will be more than challenging as the state continues to deal with an increasing budget deficit.

"I will do the best I can to serve the Plymouth-Canton school district," Patterson said after a meeting that lasted more than an hour in his Senate chambers. "Michigan is in crisis, people are losing their jobs — we've lost 300,000 jobs in the manufacturing sector — our wages are going down. How can we expect to get more money?"

P-CCS Trustee Dianne Gonzalez, Superintendent Jim Ryan and Assistant Superintendent for Business Services Patricia Brand presented their case to Patterson as to why the district — which is facing a \$7.5 million budget shortfall in the 2007-08 school year — wants an additional \$1,000 per student from its current \$7,410 per-pupil allotment from the state.

Among the issues presented by the trio that sparked Patterson to react were the state-mandated increases in the retirement fund for teachers and unfunded mandates for special education, which costs Plymouth-Canton nearly \$12 million annually.

"Help us with the state retirement system that allows for some people to get full health compensation when they only work five or 10 years," Ryan told Patterson.

As for the special education spending, Brand said Plymouth-Canton is required by law to provide services, even though they aren't funded.

"On an annual basis, we

PLEASE SEE FUNDING, A5



PHOTOS BY TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Walker-Winter first-graders sing 'I Like School' at the blue ribbon ceremony conducted at the Canton school.

Blue Ribbon day

Walker-Winter honored as among state's best

BY SUE MASON
STAFF WRITER

Standing along the wall in the gymnasium at Walker-Winter Elementary in Canton Friday afternoon, Daniel Sparks aimed his digital camera at his son, Edward Wilson, and snapped a picture.

"It makes me so proud to see how happy he is," Sparks said. "School has put a spirit and drive in him. He loves school more than anything. He loves being here."

Sparks was among parents at the Wayne-Westland school Friday to watch state officials honor the school as a 2007 Michigan Blue Ribbon Exemplary School.

The students played a starring role in the ceremony, singing songs like *I Like School* and *School Likes Me* and chanting phrases like "Walker-Winter is our name, education is our game."

They happily followed the directions of State Rep. Marc Corriveau, D-Northville, deafening adults with their shouts of thank you for the gift they've received from the superintendent, principal, teachers and community.

They listened intently to the two winners of the school's blue ribbon essay contest, essays that pointed out the many things there are for students at the school and the help they receive.

"Our school won the Golden Apple, Lighthouse Award and blue



Walker-Winter Elementary Principal Pauline Kouloubertis holds the Michigan Blue Ribbon Exemplary School Award while Wayne-Westland School Superintendent Gregory Baracy holds the framed resolution signed by State Superintendent Mike Flanagan and Kathleen Straus, president of the state Board of Education.

ribbon," wrote Gloria Smith. "Our grades must be good because we won all of these awards."

Shelby Fielding pointed out that kids go to the school everyday and expect to learn, but they all experience a boatload of fun.

"Learning and fun are the same thing at Walker-Winter," she wrote. "That's why Walker-Winter is a blue ribbon school."

Linda Forward of the state Department of Education gave a kid's-style explanation of what all the hoopla was about.

"You have to be a really good school," she said. "You have to do

well and the staff has to do a good job. There are more than 3,000 schools in Michigan, 23 became special schools and you're one of those special schools."

Walker-Winter is the second Wayne-Westland elementary to receive the state blue ribbon honor. Edison Elementary in Westland received the award in 2005.

"It takes all of these people and these boys and girls to make what happened happen here at Walker-Winter," said Principal Pauline Kouloubertis in accepting the

PLEASE SEE RIBBON, A4

St. Joe's announces addition

Construction planned for fall on \$51m project

BY TIFFANY L. PARKS
STAFF WRITER

Saint Joseph Mercy Health System has announced plans to add a 51,000-square-foot addition to its Canton Health Center.

The news of the center's expansion at 1600 Canton Center Road comes just days before Oakwood Healthcare Systems takes a second shot at convincing the Canton Planning Commission to recommend its tentative plans for a medical facility at Beck and Geddes.

Oakwood's plans, which include a 650,000-square-foot hospital, have faced sharp criticism from homeowners adjacent to the proposed site.

Construction for the \$36 million Saint Joseph project is expected to begin in the fall.

The expansion calls for a two-story addition that will house an ambulatory surgery and procedure center, a renovation of the existing building's entrance and lobby area and the upgrading of current imaging technology.

Kathleen Kasperek-Korelis, director of oncology for Saint Joseph, says the health care provider began laying out plans for its extension last summer.

"We had always planned for a second phase," she said. "It's going to be a busy year but an exciting one. We are committed to this project."

The 85,000-square-foot center, which opened in 1998, offers primary and urgent care and specialty practices. The building sits on 15 acres.

Saint Joseph, which has hospitals in Ann Arbor, Saline and Howell, has no immediate plans to turn the Canton site into a full-fledged hospital, Kasperek-Korelis said.

"Our focus is entirely on outpatient care," she said. "We want to have a higher level of specialty care and our goal is to offer every outpatient procedure."

Julie MacDonald, Saint Joseph's chief operating officer, said several factors played into the timing of the proposed expansion.

"Continued growth in the western Wayne region, coupled with rapidly advancing technology have convinced us that now is the time to expand the facility," she said. "Our efforts to expand services at the Canton Health Center reflect our recognition of the community's increasing desire for advanced medical care close to home."

tlparks@hometownlife.com | (734) 459-2700

Be a ball kid for the Detroit Pistons!

The *Observer & Eccentric Newspapers* is offering boys and girls ages 12-16 a chance to be a ball girl or ball boy at an upcoming Detroit Pistons home game at The Palace.

Go to www.hometownlife.com and tell us who's your favorite Piston. The ball girl or ball

boy — selected by random drawing — will receive four tickets (includes the ballperson) to either the Sunday, April 8, Pistons vs. Cleveland Cavaliers game at 1 p.m. or Tuesday, April 17, Pistons vs. Toronto Raptors game at 7:30 p.m. (last home game of the season).

Each ball boy or ball girl will get a chance to rebound with the team before the game, receive Pistons merchandise and have his/her picture taken with a player. There's no purchase necessary.

For entrants under age 13, parents will have to fill out

the online form. Tickets and other information will be mailed to the winners. There's no purchase necessary. Winners must abide by rules and regulations outlined by the Detroit Pistons organization.

Deadline to enter is midnight April 1.



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Number 78



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Coming Sunday in Health



Dr. Michael Roizen tells how to take years off your age

Wine event

Resurrection Catholic Church in Canton sponsors a Wine Event Friday, April 27. This event, hosted by Holiday Market in Canton, will feature 150 wines from around the world, 25 premium beers, and a variety of hors d'oeuvres and desserts. Tickets are \$35 in advance or \$40 at the door. All proceeds will benefit local and international charities. The event takes place 7:30-9:30 p.m. at All Saints Catholic School, 48735 Warren Road in Canton, will be from 7:30pm till 9:30pm. For more information or to purchase tickets contact Holiday Market at (734) 844-2200, Sarah at (734) 667-2287 or e-mail szydeck@aol.com

Handcrafters show

Handcrafters sponsors its 25th-annual Spring Arts and Crafts Show March 30-April 1 in Northville at the Northville Recreation Center at Hillside Middle School on Sheldon at 8 Mile Rd. More than 90 juried artisans will display their talents with such works as floral, jewelry, baskets, wood items, and clothing. Show hours are 6-9 p.m. Friday, March 30, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday, March 31, and 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, April 1. Admission is \$2 (no baby strollers please). For more information, e-mail handcraftersunltd@yahoo.com or call (734) 459-0050.

Creative Day registration

Creative Day Nursery School

on Cherry Hill in Canton is accepting registration for the Fall Creative Day is a developmental school that encourages children to learn at their own pace while promoting social skills through music, art, story time and hands-on activities. Both morning and afternoon classes are available. For more information, call (734) 981-3990 or (734) 981-6470.

Easter Egg hunt

The Plymouth Jaycees host their annual Easter Egg Hunt Saturday, April 7, at Plymouth Township Park, located off Ann Arbor Trail at McClumpha. We will be starting promptly. The hunt starts promptly at 10 a.m., and the Easter Bunny will be available for pictures. Other highlights include a police car and fire engine for youngsters to explore. Participants should bring their baskets, bags and cameras. In case of inclement weather or for more information, call the Jaycee hotline, (734) 453-8407.

Showcase concert

The PCCS Showcase Concert featuring the PCEP Festival Singers takes place 7 p.m. Wednesday, April 4, the Village Theater at Cherry Hill. Tickets are \$6 and may be purchased through the Village Theatre Box Office or Web site at www.canton-mi.org/village-theater. A portion of ticket proceeds benefit the PCEP Choirs.

Antiquing opportunity

There's a friendly group who travels to different locations

once a month to shop and have lunch, and they're looking for more members.

Anyone interested can call Helen at (734) 455-4863.

Design advice

Exclusive Interior Design of Canton will discuss the difference between design and decorating, debunk the myths of design, and offer suggestions for getting started and "do overs" at 7:15 p.m. on Wednesday April 4 at the general meeting of the Canton Newcomers to be held at the Sunflower Clubhouse, 45800 Hanford (west of Canton Center).

Those interested in hearing this advice, enjoying refreshments from TC Gators and Back Home Bakery, meeting the individual meeting sponsor Tutor Time, participating in a raffle benefiting the troops, or signing up for any Newcomers activities are encouraged to attend.

The Newcomers, who will also be holding a Mom 2 Mom Sale on April 21 at Summit on the Park, are a social, civic and charitable organization that hosts adult monthly meetings with speakers of interest/activities along with 20-plus events throughout the month enjoyed by the entire family. You don't have to be "new" to Canton or interior design to attend.

For more information or to request a complimentary newsletter, visit cantonnewcomers.org or call (734) 981-1715.

Spotlight Players

Spotlight Players is presenting the show Children of Eden, April 27-29, May 4-6, 11-12 (Friday and Saturday performances at 8 p.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m.) at the Village Theater, 50400 Cherry Hill Road, Canton. Children of Eden was written by Stephen Schwartz who wrote the music for "Wicked." This musical is based on the first 9-1/2 chapters of the Book of Genesis. Tickets are \$15-\$18. For tickets or information call (734) 394-5460 or visit www.spotlightplayers.net.

Chamber dinner auction

The Canton Chamber of Commerce will hold its annual Dinner Auction from 7 p.m. to midnight on Friday, April 20 at Burton Manor in Livonia. The annual event is the largest fund-raiser for the Canton Chamber of Commerce. "This is always such a fun



Sewing good will

The Juliet Junior Girl Scouts from Workman Elementary School in Canton assembled and sewed this quilt for Project Linus, an organization that provides blankets to seriously ill or traumatized children throughout the country. The quilt squares were custom-made by kindergarteners in Workman Elementary Daisy Girl Scout Troop 454, who artfully designed each custom square for the very special quilt. The 10- and 11-year-old Juliet Junior Girl Scouts measured and cut the fabric, sewed and pressed every single seam and even hand-tied the corners of each square with custom-made embroidery floss ties. Included in the troop are (back, from left) Emily Sawyer and Rachel Harden, who sewed and hand-tied the quilt; (middle, from left) Brenyel Ison, Ava Moulton, Olivia Antal, Kennedy White and Annie Sawyer; and (front, from left) Sierra Scordino, Makenzie Carpenter, Danielle Sullivan, Taylor Boykin, Caroline Fetty, all of whom designed the quilt squares.

event. We have a silent, live, and raffle auction items, entertainment and lots of activities planned throughout the evening," said Chamber President Dianne Cojei. "Canton 500 is this year's theme, which offers a lot of possibilities for all of our race car enthusiasts."

Last year's event drew a record crowd of more than 500 attendees and featured more than 250 prizes from categories such as Home-style, Travel & Entertainment, Sports & Leisure, Electronics, and many more. This year's auction is expected to draw a similar crowd and has already collected many great prizes that will be up for bid. Several of the more popular items include a Detroit Tiger World Series banner, overnight stays in local hotels, jewelry and much more.

Tickets are \$75 per person and are available to the public. Admission includes full buffet dinner, open bar, entertainment and the opportunity to participate in the live silent and raffle auctions. Sponsorship packages that include tickets are available at the Canton Chamber of Commerce office or via e-mail at eventscoordinator@cantonchamber.com. For more information, visit the chamber's Web site at www.cantoncham-

ber.com or contact the chamber at (734) 453-4040.

This year's auction is sponsored by Lou LaRiche Chevrolet and other local businesses.

Grief support group

The Sharing & Caring Coffee Hour is an ongoing grief support group for widows and widowers hosted by Heartland Hospice. The group is held from 10-11 a.m. at Heartland Healthcare Center located at 4701 N. Lilley Road in Canton. The focus of the group is on the later stages of grief, with an emphasis on learning to live with the loss. This group is held the first and third Wednesday of the month and is open to anyone grieving the loss of a spouse. There is no charge to attend.

For additional information, contact Ann Christensen, Heartland Hospice bereavement coordinator, toll-free at (888) 973-1145.

School registration

Registrations are now being accepted at St. Michael Christian School in Canton for the 2007-2008 school year beginning in the fall. The school offers 3-year-old preschool through fifth grade, including a new Young Fives program. Classes are taught by qualified and credentialed teachers. The school strongly supports the development of the whole child in a small class size setting.

For more information, call (734) 459-9720.

Christmas in Action

As part of its annual Action Day, Christmas in Action will be offering free "Rake N' Go" services to elderly, disabled or low-income Canton homeowners on Saturday, April 28. Rake N' Go services will include raking leaves, planting flowers and trimming bushes and shrubs. To be eligible, you must live in Canton and own either a single-family or condominium home.

Christmas in Action is a non-profit organization with chapters throughout the country that have been providing "extreme makeovers" since 1973. In 2004, a Canton chapter was formed and each year with the combined efforts of more than 200 community volunteers, they've provided free repairs to several Canton homes. The repairs range from simple, but critical, plumbing and painting, to putting on a new roof, siding, windows, and pouring new concrete driveways. All repair costs are sponsored entirely through donations from community businesses, churches, schools, civic groups and individuals.

Although the deadline to apply for free home repairs has passed, those interested in applying for a free "Rake N' Go" should call Pat VanDusen at (734) 394-5193.

Canton's CIA Chapter is composed of an eight-member volunteer board and is endorsed by the Canton Board of Trustees. CIA is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and all donations are tax deductible. For more information on CIA, please call (734) 844-8900 or visit www.christmasinactionwayne.com.

Christmas in Action is also looking for volunteers to participate in their April 28 action day.

If you would like to volunteer, please call VanDusen at (734) 394-5193 or e-mail at pvandusen@canton-mi.org.

Radio station tours

Cub Scout and Girl Scout troops can learn first-hand about the behind-the-scenes operation of 88.1-FM, the student radio station for Plymouth-Canton Community Schools (WSDP). WSDP has opened its studio for local scout tours for many years. Scouts tour the studios at Salem High School, learn about the station's history and record a short announcement to air on the radio station. Tours take place in the early evening and last 30 minutes. "I think it's a great chance for the scouts to learn about the station and their parents seem to have a lot of fun, too," station manager Bill Keith said.

Tours can be booked by calling (734) 416-7732.

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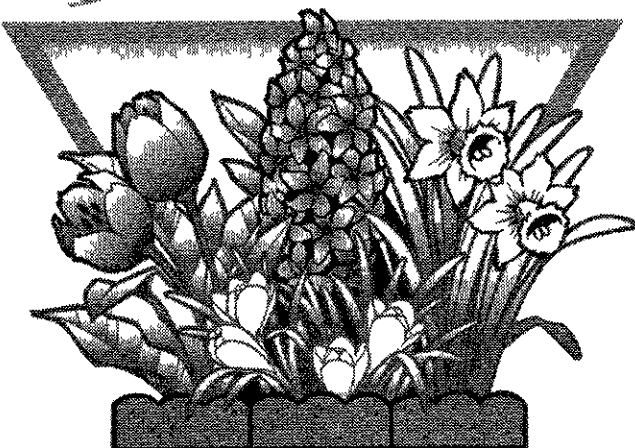
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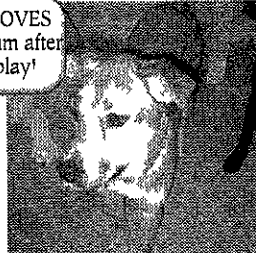
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NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Charter Township of Canton, 1150 Canton Center S. Canton, Michigan, will accept sealed bids at the Office of the Clerk up to 3:00 p.m. Thursday, April 12, 2007, for the following:

INFLATABLE ATTRACTIONS

Bids may be picked up at the Finance and Budget Department on our website at www.cantonmi.org or you may contact Mike Sheppard at 734/394-5225. All bids must be submitted in a sealed envelope clearly marked with the proposal name, company name, address and telephone number and date and time of bid opening. The Township reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals. The Township does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age or disability in employment or the provision of services.

TERRY G. BENNETT, CLERK

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LaJoy legislation looks at raising government's efficiency

BY TIFFANY L. PARKS
STAFF WRITER

The average Michigander sends about \$2,300 to Lansing each year in state taxes.

Chances are, they don't know how each dollar is being spent. Furthermore, if they did know, chances are they wouldn't be happy, according to State Rep. Phil LaJoy, R-Canton.

LaJoy recently put forth a new package of legislation designed to study the efficiency of government and raise accountability.

The main component of the legislation is the creation of a commission to collect data on each function and service provided by state agencies and departments.

Members of the commission, which would include people from the private sector, would be charged with several duties, including producing a report

on how to streamline state services.

Other duties would include identifying duplication and evaluating all mandates currently in statute.

LaJoy said it's long overdue the state should be run more like a corporation.

"There are companies that can tell you how many pencils they have," he said. "You have got to know how every penny is being spent."

LaJoy said he wants the commission to examine whether its wasteful to have thousands of state-owned cars and nearly 20 separate human resources departments.

In 2003, LaJoy sponsored a bill to consolidate the human resources departments of state agencies. It was later vetoed by Governor Jennifer Granholm.

"Each HR director is getting significant compensation," LaJoy said, noting that the

salary for each could top \$100,000. "We owe it to the taxpayers to look internally first before we go to you and ask you to pay more."

When he began asking questions, LaJoy said he couldn't get answers about the total costs to operate certain departments.

"This is common sense to me," said LaJoy, who has 35 years of experience in human resources. "We need to see if we can do better. We have to look everywhere we possibly can to save money."

Although reluctant to give a dollar amount, LaJoy said the new legislation could open the door to significant savings.

"This could save millions," he said. "Absolutely millions. Nothing should be sacred in these times."

tlparks@hometownlife.com
(734) 459-2700

Kiwanis hands out 1,400 dictionaries

Members of the Plymouth-Canton Kiwanis Breakfast Club recently distributed more than 1,400 dictionaries to all third-grade students in the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools, continuing a program that saw a similar number distributed during the 2005-2006 school year.

The club selected the dictionary project as one that would have the broadest affect on youngsters. The dictionary is the students to keep and use throughout the school year and beyond.

Kiwanis members believe reading and reading comprehension are key elements in a child's development and hope by encouraging an interest on the part of students they spend time reading and writing to develop those skills for the future.

According to Linda Cunningham, President of the Kiwanis Club, "We enjoy providing the dictionaries to all the students, and with community support, we will continue this worthwhile project to improve literacy for everyone."

Kiwanis president Linda Cunningham said. Our dictionary distribution was one of the largest single projects of its kind in the State.

In addition to standard definitions, the book also includes, among other things, biographies of the U.S. Presidents, the Declaration of Independence and the Planets.



Tracy Tashman's third graders at Dodson Elementary School were among the recipients of some 1,400 dictionaries provided by the Plymouth-Canton Kiwanis Club. Dan Carr (standing right) is Dodson's principal.

In this day and age of video games and text messaging, it is rewarding to see how the children respond to their dictionary.

"The excitement in the classrooms when the books are distributed is amazing, and then listening and talking to the students about their new gift is very rewarding," Cunningham said.

Club members have received numerous cards and letters from the students and their parents expressing their appreciation.

Going Out Of Business Retirement Sale



Rosy Yeremian Manuel Karjian

The End Of An Era In Canton



The final decision has been made. My father, after 33 years in the Detroit area has decided to retire, so we are conducting a brief Going Out Of Business - Retirement Sale at Rosy's Jewelry Creations. We must liquidate more than one million dollars worth of Diamonds and Fine Jewelry! Everything must be sold. Nothing will be held back during this storewide Going Out of Business - Retirement Sale at Rosy's Jewelry Creations.

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RIBBON

FROM PAGE A1

award "This belongs to all of you in this Wayne-Westland school community"

Wayne-Westland School Superintendent School Greg Baracy told students the ceremony was a "time to celebrate and reflect on the extra contributions you have made to the Walker-Winter family"

Baracy offered praise to the school staff, citing their commitment, dedication and high degree of professionalism to provide students with a world class education

He also praised parents like Sparks for their support and willingness to work with the school staff, telling them that the district can't do it without them

And he heaped praise on the students, citing the hard work and extra time they put in to excel and succeed

"You've all done an excellent job," he said. "You want to continue to work hard and great things will come to you."

The ceremony brought tears to Sparks' eye, who said he was "kind of speechless."

"I think this is really good to make the kids feel they're doing something," he said. "I



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Linda Forward of the Michigan Department of Education explains the blue ribbon award process to Walker-Winter students

think it's awesome that they've made the kids realize how important education is"

smason@hometownlife.com | (734) 953-2112

BY TIFFANY L. PARKS
STAFF WRITER

Attempting to coordinate the schedules of 18 people can be a tiring task, but when the opening notes of the jazz classic, *Strike Up the Band*, fill the room, it becomes worth it.

The Swing City Big Band, an 18-piece performance band specializing in swing music, has been together for a year. They've adopted the Count Basie version of the famous George Gershwin tune as their signature song.

"This has been a lot of work but we have a ton of fun," said James Blough, band director. "We have a wonderful group and I can't say enough about their talent and dedication."

The band has a performance 8 p.m. Saturday at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill.

"Canton has been really open and welcoming to us," said Blough, who lives in the township. "The response has been well."

Blough, who plays the trumpet, has been a part of several groups but said none have been like Swing City.

Composed of men and women of all ages, the band's diversity adds to its charm, Blough said.

"We have everyone from a high school student to old guys like me," he joked. "But

'Swing'ing onto theater stage

Canton performance gives band a chance to play



The Swing City Big Band, an 18-piece performance band that specializes in swing, has a performance at 8 p.m. Saturday at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill.

we're on the same accord (with the music)."

The band started with a core of eight people from the Canton Concert Band. It soon ballooned with the other 10 members.

The group, which plays standard tunes as well as original songs, has done about six shows and already has performances booked for 2008. The group is influenced by the sounds of Woody Herman and Duke Ellington.

"There are not a lot of

groups locally like us," said Terry Jones, the trombone section leader.

"We've gotten a good reception."

Blough, who says the band would eventually like to play all over the state, said the group feeds off the energy from the audience and enjoys playing at the Village Theater because they keep half the stage empty for dancers.

"We learn more each and every time we play," he said.

"When we play 'In the Mood' (by Glenn Miller), people swarm to the dance floor. The gigs are great when we get people who dance a lot."

For more information on the band, log on to http://www.geocities.com/swingcity_bigband/.

Tickets for Saturday's show, which are available at the door, cost \$12.

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12:30 2:45 4:55 7:10 9:25
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MEET THE ROBINSONS (PG)
12:15 2:30 4:45 7:00 9:15
FRI/SAT LS 11:30

HILLS HAVE EYES 2 (R) (11:45) 1:45 3:45 5:45 7:45 9:45 FRI/SAT LS 11:45

REIGN OVER ME (R)
(11:20) 1:55 4:30 7:05 9:50

TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLE (PG)
(11:15) 1:15 3:15 5:15 7:15 9:15
FRI/SAT LS 11:15

SHOOTER (R)
(11:00) 1:40 4:20 7:00 9:40

WILD HOGS (PG-13) 12:50 3:00 5:10 7:20 9:30 FRI/SAT LS 11:35

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Owner Victor West, of Canton is nearly lost among the five foot roses he has for sale at Vanessa s Flowers in Plymouth Township

FUNDING

FROM PAGE A1

absorb nearly \$12 million that s not covered by any funding source,' Brand said. The general education student doesn't get a full foundation allowance behind them because the special needs child demands more, and you legally have to provide more.

It was at that point Patterson believed he had some ammunition to take to his colleagues. "That has real meat and resonance, it's something that may gain some traction," Patterson said. It's a legitimate shortfall in funding that's being born out by other students who suffer.

At one point, Patterson asked, "What number should I be aspiring to get for

Plymouth-Canton Schools?" Brand only took a moment to suggest \$1,000 more per pupil.

It will allow us to put back programs we've had to reduce that has significantly impacted kids, Brand said.

That would put us in parallel with Livonia (\$8,490), Northville (\$8,435), somewhere near Ann Arbor (\$9,619) and even Wayne-Westland (\$7,781).

Patterson never committed to seeking a specific increase, and indicated it would be a victory if he just could keep Plymouth-Canton from any further cuts, such as the \$34 per student being proposed by the Senate. That would save the district \$635,000.

If I was able to hold them harmless, while everyone else took a cut, that would be miraculous, Patterson said.

To the extent I would be able to get them something in addition to what they get now in light of what is looming on the horizon.

"In the grand scheme of things I can't lose sight of the fact that if the revenue estimating conference says we're \$300 million below what's projected, there's no way I will be able to do anything. I have to be prepared for that."

The P-CCS school board earlier met with Rep. Marc Corriveau (D-Northville Township) and Rep. Phil Lajoy (R-Canton Township) about the district's financial plight. Arranging a meeting with Patterson had been more difficult, and was arranged only days before the session in Lansing.

I'm optimistic, Gonzalez said. I think we opened lines

of communication between the school district and Senator Patterson.

Ryan agreed, but admitted the chances of getting more state aid is a slim proposition.

"I'm not overly confident," Ryan said. "I'm more pleased with his receptivity to listen to us."

Lajoy has been working on a bill to give Plymouth-Canton and a handful of other districts an additional \$750 per student.

I'm still working on it," Lajoy said. "It's going slow at this point."

Patterson lamented the fact several years ago he introduced legislation to give Plymouth-Canton Schools \$9,000 per student, when the district's foundation grant was about \$6,000.

I couldn't get a resolution

from the board to support it, so it died, Patterson said.

There were certain members of the school board who nixed it, and said it wasn't enough.

Patterson, who has served four years in the House and is in his fifth year in the Senate, laid out the realities of attempting to pass legislation giving P-CCS more money.

Logic and reason don't necessarily carry the day here," Patterson said.

Whoever can count to 56 in one chamber (House) and 20 in the other (Senate) gets what they want. That's just political reality. As the old saying goes, you don't want to watch sausage or legislation being made because it's ugly."

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(734) 459-2700

5-footers make smelling the roses easy

BY TONY BRUSCATO
STAFF WRITER

For those men who may be in a bit of trouble, Victor West at Vanessa's Flowers may have the sure thing that will get you back in good graces with the special woman in your life.

West received his first shipment of 5-foot, long-stem roses which are sure to get her attention.

"I don't think we'll have too many people who will send their wives a dozen of these roses, but if you want the wow factor," said West of Canton Township, who has owned Vanessa's Flowers on Ann Arbor Road in Plymouth Township for 15 years. "If you were doing an event, it certainly would be a wow statement when somebody walked in."

West orders his flowers from Rob Stogdill, who owns Rokay Floral – a flower wholesaler who sells to retailers – on York Street in Plymouth's Old Village.

I'm the only guy in Michigan bringing them in so far," said Stogdill. The concept and availability have been around for a few years, but no one has sold them until recently.

It takes a long time to produce them, and they are less than 1 percent of all the roses produced, he said. "I'll order one box of 125 roses every other week. That compares to regular-stemmed roses, of which I order 50-100 boxes a week."

For comparison's sake, the novelty roses are 60 inches long, compared to a regular long-stem rose, which is 22-26 inches long.

West, who has sold a few from his front window display, is selling the roses for \$10 each or \$120 a dozen.

They are the Forever Young variety, and will last 10-14 days, West said. "You take care of them the same way you take care of a regular rose. Just don't cut the stems short."

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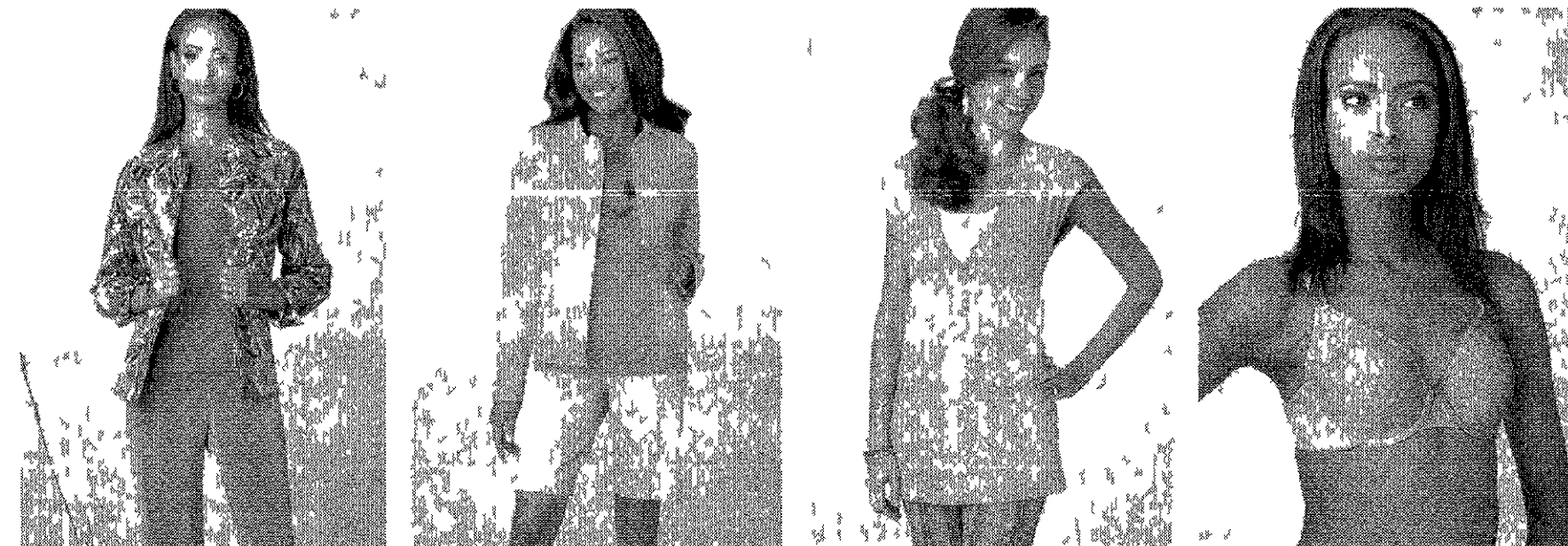
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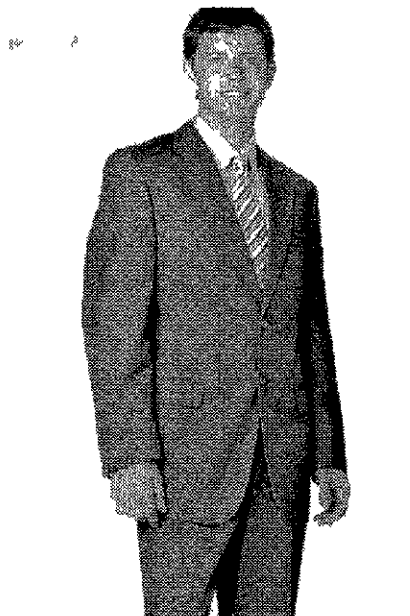
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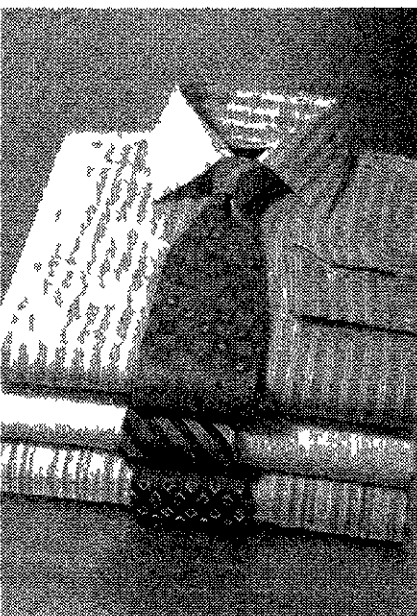
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The Charter Township of Canton will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services such as signers for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting to individuals with disabilities at the meeting/hearing upon two weeks notice to the Charter Township of Canton. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Charter Township of Canton by writing or calling the following:

David Medley, ADA Coordinator
Charter Township of Canton, 1150 S. Canton Center Road
Canton, MI 48188
(734) 394-5260

Publish: March 25 & 29, 2007

OE085199 4

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH CLOSE OF REGISTRATION NOTICE FOR THE TUESDAY, MAY 08, 2007, REGULAR ELECTION

Notice is hereby given that an election will be held in the Charter Township of Plymouth on Tuesday, May 08, 2007, from 7:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m., at which time the following will be voted on:

**PLYMOUTH-CANTON COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF ELECTION; AND**

**SCHOOLCRAFT COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT
COMMUNITY COLLEGE TRUSTEES**

PLEASE NOTE that on April 09, 2007, is the last date to register for the Regular School Election to be held on Tuesday, May 08, 2007. Registration for electors within the Charter Township of Plymouth will be taken at the Office of the Township Clerk, 9955 N. Haggerty Road, or at any Secretary of State Office or state designated agency. The Office of the Clerk is open from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. If a resident is unable to register during those hours, a call to the Clerk's Office can set up a convenient time for the resident. Phone: 734-354-3224.

Marilyn Massengill, CMC
Clerk, Charter Township of Plymouth

Publish: March 29, 2007

OE085507

Charter Township of Canton Board Proceedings- March 20, 2007

A regular study meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Canton held Tuesday, March 20, 2007, at 1150 Canton Center S. Canton, Michigan. Supervisor Yack called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and led the pledge of allegiance. **Roll Call:** Members Present: Kirchgatter, LaJoy, McLaughlin, Yack, Zarbo. Members Absent: Bennett, Caccamo (on military leave). Staff Present: Director Conklin, Jill Tobin, Jon LaFever, Amy Lockmondy, Debbie Bilbrey, Honsowetz, Sean Fletcher, Phil Garcia. **Adoption of Agenda:** Motion by Kirchgatter, seconded by McLaughlin, to approve the agenda. Motion carried by all members present. **STUDY SESSION TOPIC: Item 1. Leisure Service Update: Culture, Arts & Heritage, The Village Theater at Cherry Hill.** Ground breaking May 2003 and opening in September 2004. As part of Canton Leisure Services, the arts and culture receive support from the Leadership Team, Marketing and PR Business Supervisors, Central Services, Summit Staff and Front Desk, with additional assistance from Parks to Public Safety, Maintenance, Recreations Staff, IT Finance, and numerous other Canton Township employees - for the operation of the 30,000 square foot facility, all its programs and activities. **Partners and Collaborators:** Spotlight Players, Ever After Productions, Canton Concert Band, and its ensembles, Orchestra Canton, and the Celebration Youth Orchestra. Plymouth Canton Community Schools, The Canton Cultural Commission. Ushers - currently there are 238 active volunteers. **Canton's Vision for the Arts: Village Theater Fast Facts 2006:** 61,497 visitors. Number of days used - 357. 1,166 total events. **Program Development:** Community Band, Youth Theater, Community Choir, Orchestra Canton, Plymouth Canton Community Schools Destination Theater, Spotlight Players, Regional Performances, Emerging Artist Partnership for the Arts and Humanities, 501(c)(3), Technical Director - 2007 Position with no increase in funding. **Public Art:** Public Art - permanent sculpture by Kenneth Thompson - Canton Community Arch at the corner of Ford and Canton Center Roads. The committee wants to let the public know that the main body of the sculpture will turn a lovely chocolate patina in the next year. Dedication to be held in April. Temporary sculpture exhibition: Joyful Dancer Celebration - April 22, 1:30 p.m. at the Canton Cinema for area dance schools to perform and enjoy a day of celebrating dance during National Dance Week. Registration necessary. Docent tours: **African American History Through Artist Eyes** - a Dr. King committee event funded by The Partnership for the Arts and Humanities, brought over 1,700 PCCS students to the theater in January and February 2007. **Financial support for the arts and culture provided by:** The Partnership for the Arts and Humanities, Inc., State of Michigan, arts and culture grants, Michigan Humanities Council, grants, City of Detroit, Cultural Affairs, grants, Target, Uptown Apartments, Huntington Bank, McCabe Funeral Homes, Bittinger - REMAX Classic, **B.L.O.C.K. - Youth & Teen Center Building Leaders Out of Canton's Kids.** Services offered through the B.L.O.C.K. After School Program, offering door-to-door service from all 5 middle schools. Transportation offered daily to all Outreach Program locations. Continuous shuttles from the B.L.O.C.K. to the Summit and Library Special Events held each and every Friday night throughout the school year. On-site tutoring services and homework help. Canton Express transportation program offered for evenings and weekends. Computer Lab, Video game systems, big screen television, pool tables, kitchen, and study area. Attended by average of 50 youths per day. Total B.L.O.C.K. attendance: First month of operation: 1,333. Year End 2005: 4,296. Total for 2006: 10,380. A Community Effort. Sylvan Learning Centers, Public Safety, High Velocity Sports, Canton Community Foundation, Artic Edge, Growth Works, Inc., National City, Canton Public Library, Mary Kay, Canton Goodfellows, Community Financial Credit Union, Exchange Club of Canton, Starbucks, Boy Scouts of America, IKEA, Youth Investors Club. **Health & Wellness, Progress Over the Years, Creating a Healthy Community, Estimated Costs for Canton Township:** Heart Disease, Obesity, Diabetes, Steps to a Healthier Community, Program Highlight: Canton's 100 days to Health, Senior Health & Wellness, National Senior Health and Fitness Day, Health & Socialization at its peak, Family Exercise, Family Fun. **Canton Community Health Coalition:** Formed in May 2005. Mission: The Canton Community Health Coalition exists to promote physical activity as a way of life in Canton Township. Vision: Active lifestyles and increased accessibility to physical activity will be promoted in our community through special events, programs, policy, and partnerships. Other Partnerships: Arthritis Foundation, A.F.E.P., Tai Chi, A.F.A.P., Juvenile Arthritis Aquatic Program (one of 3 sites in Michigan), Oakwood Healthcare System, Waltonwood at Cherry Hill & Waltonwood at Carriage Park, Canton Community Foundation, Health and Wellness Outreach, Bike Helmet Giveaway, Liberty Fest 2006, The Future of Health & Wellness, Adopting State & National Focus. **Adjourn:** Motion by McLaughlin, supported by Kirchgatter, at 8:45 p.m. to adjourn. Motion carried by all members present. - Thomas J. Yack, Supervisor - Terry G. Bennett, Clerk -

Copies of the complete text of the Board Minutes are available at the office of the Charter Township of Canton, 1150 S. Canton Center Rd., Canton, MI 48188, during regular business hours and can also be accessed through our web site: www.canton.mi.org after Board Approval.
Publish: March 29, 2007

OE085604

Bringing a smile to Grandma

Canton man plans to get running start

BY TIFFANY L. PARKS
STAFF WRITER

Although everyone around him thinks his plan is wacky, Homam Nasser says he has a surefire way to make his grandmother smile.

The 21-year-old plans to run non-stop for 24 hours from his Canton home to his grandmother's Dearborn residence.

"My grandmother is always complaining that I don't visit her enough, but I'll see her a lot of times in one day when I do this," said Nasser, who wants to do his day-long challenge when the weather breaks.

The trek is about 18 miles in each direction, and Nasser expects to run 125 to 150 miles.

Crunching around in the snow on a recent Monday, Nasser said he became a "health nut" after graduating from Dearborn High School in 2003.

"Ninety-eight percent of everyone that I know has told me I'm crazy, but I love challenging myself," he said. The only problem is that he's scar-ing my mom."

Last summer, Nasser attempted to run about 60

miles to Ohio's border. Nearly 15 miles short of his goal, he was stopped by police and ticketed.

"I didn't know it was a civil infraction to run on the highway," Nasser said with a laugh. "I had to have a friend come pick me up."

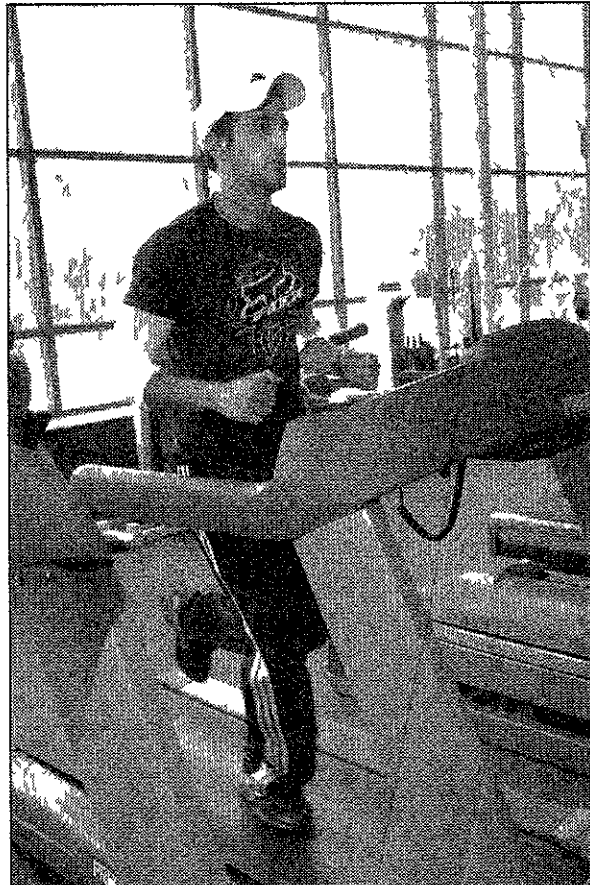
While talking about his upcoming plans, Nasser's mother, Enaam, looks at him with both worry and skepticism in her expression.

"I'm not taking him seriously," she said jokingly, while admitting that she's cautious to jump on board because her son has asthma. "I'll probably call him the whole time to make sure he has his medicine."

In preparation for his run, Nasser has altered his exercise routine to include more lower body work.

"To say that I'm excited is an understatement," said Nasser, who will wear a specialized backpack filled with drinking water. "I know for a fact that I'll be able to do this because half of it is in the mind, anyway."

Nasser, who plans to kiss his grandmother each time he stops at her home, also wants



Homam Nasser trains at the Summit for the 24-hour run he'll make between his Canton home and his grandmother's house in Dearborn.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

to run in the LaSalle Bank Chicago Marathon in October. "I can't wait," he said. "I'm just waiting for the sun to

shine. Maybe next time I will run 48 hours."

tlparks@hometownlife.com | (734) 459-2700

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON NOTICE OF CLOSE OF REGISTRATION MAY 8, 2007 ELECTION

FOR THE

**PLYMOUTH/CANTON COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
VAN BUREN SCHOOL DISTRICT
WAYNE-WESTLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT
SCHOOLCRAFT COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT**

Notice is hereby given that April 9, 2007, is the last day registrations can be accepted in order to be eligible to vote in the above School Elections to be held on Tuesday, May 8, 2007.

Registrations will be accepted at the office of the Canton Township Clerk.

1150 South Canton Center Road, between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Registration can also be made at any Secretary of State Office or State Designated Agency. Persons with special needs who are unable to register in the above mentioned manner are urged to contact the Clerk's Office at 734-394-5120.

Mail-in registrations will be accepted if postmarked by April 9, 2007.

Terry G. Bennett
Clerk

Publish: March 29, 2007

OE085629

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING FY2007 CDBG ACTION PLAN

On April 10, 2007, at 2 p.m. in the Administrative Services Conference Room, first floor Administration Building, 1150 S. Canton Center Road, Canton, Michigan, there will be a public hearing on the FY 2007 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) project proposals. The purpose of the Action Plan is to identify projects and project funding levels for the FY 2007 CDBG program. The funding requests are: First Step \$36,000; Growth Works \$7,040; Neighborhood Legal Services Michigan \$20,500; Wayne Metropolitan Community Action Agency \$3,000; Canton Township Leisure Services handicap accessible athletic equipment purchase \$1,500; Canton Township Volunteer Coordinator \$6,500; HelpSource Teen Parenting \$4,000; HelpSource Adult Day Services \$2,000; Leisure Services Department doors retrofit for handicap access at Summit community center \$30,000; Canton Township Human Services Center building improvements, \$58,760; Affordable Housing Activities (housing rehabilitation and lot purchase) \$170,000; Construction Contingency \$20,000. Not all project proposals are necessarily listed, and not all projects will be approved or funded at the requested amounts. The FY 2007 CDBG allocation is \$374,160. Written comments or requests for information should be directed to Gerald Martin, Community Services Specialist, Finance Department, 1150 S. Canton Center Road, Canton, Michigan 48188, 1699 (734) 394-5194.

Terry Bennett, Clerk

Publish: March 25 and 29, 2007

OE085197

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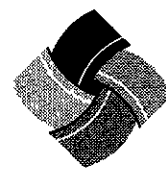
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OUR VIEWS

Child abuse task force is good step

Kudos to the Canton Police Department for attempting to take a proactive approach to a frightening trend that has developed in the township in recent years. As a result of the rising number of child abuse incidents occurring in Canton, the police department is assembling a focus group that will hopefully come up with some solutions to the problem.

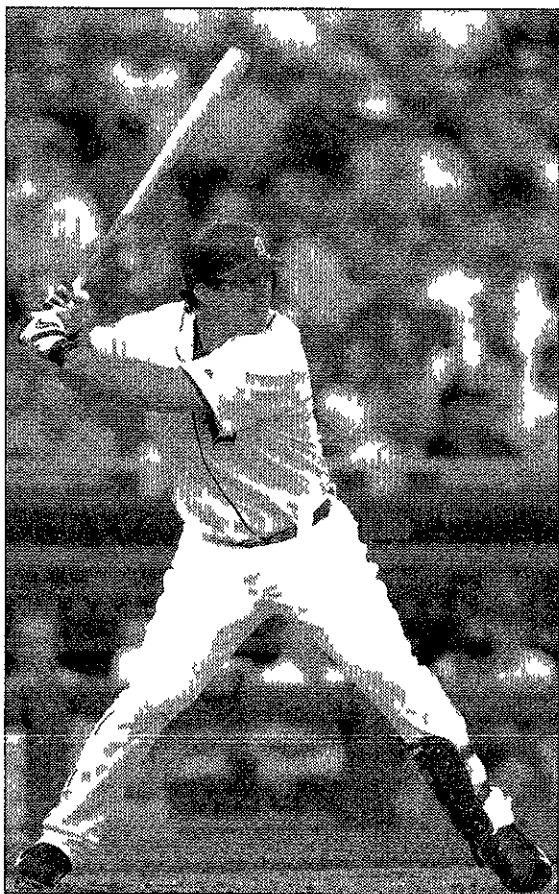
The idea, according to Public Safety Director John Santomauro, is to bring to the table people from all walks of life – public officials, teachers, parents, social workers, anyone who can provide insight on how to stem the problem.

Santomauro said he was shocked to learn of the number of child abuse cases involving children under the age of 2 during the last couple years in Canton. Many of the cases have been high-profile, including a couple instances where the children were actually killed. While the police department has to deal with the cases, he said it ultimately is not a police issue.

It, surprisingly, is also not a socioeconomic issue. Santomauro said the cases have involved families from across the social spectrum – rich, poor and middle class. He feels it is a parenting issue. Ultimately, this problem starts and stops in the home.

While many of the details concerning the task force are still to be determined, the department will offer its first ‘Positive Parenting’ seminar at 6 p.m. Monday, April 23, at Canton’s Summit on the Park. Anyone interested in solving this horrible problem should attend. Because we all have a stake in protecting those who are most vulnerable to violence – our children.

Magglio Ordoñez and the rest of the Detroit Tigers will open the 2007 season Monday against the Toronto Blue Jays at Comerica Park.



Opening Day heralds new season of hope

On Monday afternoon, thousands of people from across metro Detroit will play hooky from work and help the Detroit Tigers kick off what has to be one of the most anticipated baseball seasons around here in two decades.

Opening Day is kind of the unofficial start of summer, even though the weather is oftentimes more winter-like. But there is just something about that crack of the bat, pop of the glove and calls from the vendors selling their peanuts and Cracker Jacks around the stadium that makes one think about warmer weather. They are not called the Boys of Summer for nothing.

Opening Day is always anticipated by baseball fans, but this year, there is a bit of a bonus. The Tigers, fresh off of their improbable run to the World Series, will surely be one of the favorites to get back there again this year. They will not surprise anybody this year as they did in 2006, but that is the price for fielding a quality team – something the club hadn’t done in more than a decade until last year.

There are expectations now, especially from the hometown fans, who were starved for so long. The Tigers proved last year that this is a baseball town. They also showed how a baseball team can bring together a region that is often consumed with petty differences.

So as we get ready to start a new season, let’s give three cheers that the Tigers can repeat the magic of last year. We’re all pulling for you. Bless you, boys!



LETTERS

Review process was smooth

This year our township supervisor, Tom Yack, recognized that with the amount of homes for sale today and falling home prices, more citizens would be filing petitions for a hearing before the Board of Review to reduce their property tax assessment. As a result he appointed a second three man board. Several weeks ago, I was appointed to that second board. Having served in the same capacity in Northville Township I was somewhat experienced with the process of property tax review.

Typically the assessor’s office will schedule Board of Review appointments on Monday and Tuesday and, if necessary, Thursday. Saturday is scheduled for walk-ins. The appointments for all three days filled very quickly. Additional appointments were then scheduled for Wednesday and Friday mornings. The total amount of petitions doubled from approximately 200 in 2006 to 400 in 2007. Each board is now completing the process of making decisions based on the information provided by each taxpayer. These decisions should be in the taxpayers’ hands by this week.

Many citizens accused the board members of raising their taxes. We explained that we were not employed by the township and not part of the assessor’s office – we were simply fellow taxpayers appointed to listen to citizens and review the information provided to the board. If the information which the taxpayer submitted to the board proved that the assessment was in fact too high, the board has the power and authority to reduce the assessment.

Thank you to Mr. Yack for appointing a second board, my fellow board members Anthony Rosati, John Burdziak, Nick Kulka, Gerard Markey and Don Nash for their willingness to serve the township in this volunteer capacity and for their patience in dealing with the public, the staff of the Canton assessor’s office, particularly, Jana Shaw, for the professionalism and courtesy, and lastly to the citizens of Canton Township, most of whom, were extremely well-prepared in their effort to reduce their property taxes.

Jim Malinowski
Canton

Officials need to listen

Isn’t it about time the local government started listening to the citizens of the community? This Oakwood hospital has been proposed before and the issue is we don’t want this hospital in a residential community. Period. We have been told that it was a dead item by the board. Now here it is again.

Please help the local people

Mike O’Malley
Canton

Word means nothing

I am sending this to express my disappointment in the Canton Planning Commission, as well as Tom Yack.

At a Planning Commission meeting back in October that had record attendance, residents expressed their opinions regarding the proposed rezoning and building of a medical campus on the northwest corner of Beck Road and Geddes Road. According to Canton Township’s future land use map, this property is zoned residential. Homeowners who did their homework before purchasing their homes voiced their

outrage at the possible rezoning. After this meeting, Mr. Yack contacted a homeowner and informed her that he would tell the Planning Commission that this was not the right site for such a facility, and Oakwood Health Systems would not get back on the Planning Commission’s agenda.

However, now Canton residents know that Mr. Yack’s words do not really mean a thing, since Oakwood is going to present its improved plan at the April 2 Planning Commission meeting. What happened to ‘this is not the right site for this facility?’ Mr. Yack, you were elected by the residents in Canton and your job is to represent your constituents. Maybe you should attend the April 2 Planning Commission meeting and face your constituents instead of staying home and watching it on television.

Kelli Earles
Canton

No to hospital

Just about a year ago we moved to Canton off Geddes Road and before moving here we did our homework and investigated the surrounding area. We called the city of Canton Planning Department a couple of times to ask about the properties at the corner of Beck and Geddes to find out it was and would stay a Residential site and Singh would be building \$400,000+ homes on that site.

We took that into account in our decision to move here. Now Oakwood Hospital wants to purchase the land for a hospital. It is not the fault of all these homeowners that the housing market is failing in Michigan and Singh cannot find buyers to build his homes.

It is not our fault that in the Detroit Free Press it was written that about 89,000 families have left Michigan and Wayne County is one of the counties severely affected. With so many people leaving this county what is the need for another hospital?

We say ‘NO’ to the proposal and do not want Oakwood in our front yard. We do not want to hear sirens all day and night! We do not want to hear medevac helicopters hovering over our homes and condos. We do not want the traffic and do not want our roads widened to five lanes. We do not want the wildlife destroyed that live in our area. We plan to be at the April 2 Planning Commission meeting to voice our opinion.

Oakwood, you are a great institution and help many people, however, find another piece of property for your hospital!

C. Boulter
Canton

Listen to voters

A Plymouth-Canton Schools bond millage proposal was defeated for the second time in just a year. I’m certain the school superintendent and board will now use scare tactics by listing all the cutbacks due to the proposal’s defeat, and the cutbacks will probably be in areas most citizens want improved. It is sad it has come to this, but many voters who have consistently supported school funding undoubtedly feel these folks need to get the message they need to listen to the voters. Here are some reasons why longtime resident homeowners like myself voted ‘no’ on the proposals.

1. Many students voluntarily gave up half of the summer last year to play football for Plymouth-Canton. Parents had to pay hundreds of dollars for the privilege of helping make a team. There was no regular gym to

meet in. The lighting and lockers were so old and broken apart that some players (including my son) were robbed while they were lifting weights.

When citizens went before the board about this, they were dismissed with a ‘tough luck’ send-off and told they would have to pay to fix the problems themselves. Even in this past week’s local newspaper, when a citizen complained that moving Starkweather could cause a problem, Superintendent Ryan responded to the concern by dismissing it as ‘ridiculous’.

2. Many citizens probably wonder why our tax money was used to buy expensive vacant land in Canton instead of improving the schools we already had. And now the board keeps returning to voters for more money to recover what was spent on the land. Why keep borrowing money when the land could be sold? The rest of us can’t get away with borrowing forever and not using our assets to get out of debt. Why does the school system think it can?

3. The board comes up with these bond proposals every couple of years, and most pass. They indent the community for 20 or 25 years each, and yet they keep coming every other year or so. This may be a wealthy community overall, I don’t know. But I do know that I am trying to live on an income of \$1,800 a month, less than \$22,000 annually. I can’t get away with incessantly going farther into debt. Neither can you, most likely. Why should the schools run themselves that way?

4. I have already raised two children in Plymouth-Canton schools for 22 years and have been a taxpaying homeowner who always supported the schools. Those two children entered college and later dropped out. They didn’t have the math, English or study skills to thrive. I acknowledge my failure in this, but then I didn’t spend most of the day with them, I didn’t earn \$45,000 a year and I didn’t get summers off. And no bond proposal ever passed to finance me.

5. I read that the school board hired and paid a consulting firm to find out why last year’s proposal failed. Not only does that seem like a waste of money that was provided to educate children, but it begs these questions of the board and superintendent: Why not ask us directly, the citizen voters, why we voted the way we did? Why not listen to us when we try to tell you something? Why not spend the money we give you to correct problems instead of planning for future growth? Then come back to us and you might be pleasantly surprised.

Jerry Cross
Plymouth

SHARE YOUR OPINIONS

We welcome your letters to the editor. Please include your name, address and phone number for verification. We ask that your letters be 400 words or less. We may edit for clarity, space and content.

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QUOTABLE

“When you have the fear of the unknown, it’s easier for people to say ‘no’ than ‘yes.’ We think (a hospital) is a plus. Oakwood is really offering a lot and would be an asset to the neighborhood – not a detriment.”

– G. Michael Kahm, vice president of Singh Development, which is trying to sell its residential land at Beck and Geddes

It's time for the school board to lead or get out of the way

I had to chuckle at recent comments in the paper from Plymouth-Canton school board members regarding the recent bond defeat. The stream of excuses and 'spin' on their failure would be truly funny if the situation didn't involve the welfare of our kids.

Upon reflection, my real emotion is disgust when I recognize how the spending policies of our most senior board members have fallen out of touch with the citizens they serve. When the previous Plymouth-Canton school board failed in May 2006, I offered suggestions that would have helped the board and administration save money on consultants and special elections.

I am sad to say that instead of listening to my previous suggestions, the Plymouth-Canton school board has done nearly the opposite. They reacted by spending hundreds of thousands on special elections and pollsters. Instead of listening and trying to better serve constituents, they conceived a stealth election, with a campaign financed by a "Citizens Election Committee" comprised primarily of corporations that would directly benefit from the construction of a new school.

They even turned down an opportunity to openly discuss facts with the League of Women Voters. During the run-up to the election, this board decided to staunchly avoid one fundamental question: How they plan to fund teachers necessary to staff the new schools they intended to build. This board never articulated their strategy, which, I believe, was to get the school built, and then use money from future tax increases to solve the staffing problem.

This approach, more than any other, underestimated the intelligence of voters. The miscalculation resulted in the biggest turnout for a single-issue school election in at least 15 years, and a margin of defeat about three times larger than the prior bond.

The saddest part of the whole saga is that our board has completely squandered an opportunity to reimburse the general fund for property recently purchased in Canton (which the community likely would have supported). Because of a refusal to develop contingency plans, the board is now faced with untenable choices: Either sell the property or permanently divert \$2.5 million away from the general fund, which results in even larger short-term borrowing, larger class sizes, and fewer books.

I feel empathy for the young first-year teachers who will be laid off this summer as a result of this irresponsible 'go for broke' strategy. Our teaching employees continue to do a good job of educating, in spite of a board and administration that refuse to take a leadership role.

Now that yet another bond has failed, I again offer the same five suggestions to the Plymouth-Canton Board of Education:

- Begin actively listening to the community
- Stop treating those with different points of view as enemies of the schools

- Adopt a philosophy that Every child is precious
- Recognize that parents of private-school children are stakeholders too
- Develop a serious financial plan with full transparency

Voters sent the board a strong mandate – budget and spending priorities must change! For the past seven years, the district approach to money problems has been a cycle of laziness. The board complains in public about the lack of state funding and unsympathetic voters – then adopts a budget that spends well beyond what the district takes in.

The same cycle has been repeated for the past five years. (If you don't believe this board is lazy, ask why when faced with a serious structural deficit, they chose to meet for less than one hour during the month of July?)

As a result, our fund balance is nearly gone, and the state is in no position to help. The only hope is to develop a responsible financial plan that balances revenues and expenses. The community deserves a full accounting, including plans on how the schools will be operated in a worst-case scenario.

If I were board president, I'd immediately schedule three hours per meeting to discuss budget issues and schedule additional budget workshops at least one Saturday each month. The budget can't possibly be balanced without a major time commitment. Serious public question and answer time needs to be restored too.

If the board is really interested in building public confidence, all questions from the public should be discussed on the spot and in detail. The problem of poor planning and the resulting lack of public confidence took a long time to create, and it will take a long time to fix. This board should stop ignoring the problem and get to work. The first and most important step in solving any serious problem is to admit you have one.

I know what I am suggesting won't be easy. It's far easier to blame the economy or factors outside your control. Our most senior board members learned lazy behavior from former Superintendent Kathy Booher and have vigorously avoided making tough choices for years. To admit you are part of a problem requires LEADERSHIP. Fixing the problem requires long hours. Implementing solutions will mean tough decisions. Most board members resist long meetings and they don't like saying "NO" to special interest groups.

I hope some of our newer board members will begin taking more of a leadership role. All seven members should realize that the majority of the public has spoken – TWICE. This election was no fluke.

Despite the rhetoric sure to be coming out of the district the next couple of weeks, I now am certain a solid majority agree with me – the children of the Plymouth-Canton school district want and need a board that will quit whining and get to work. I hope that those board members who have demonstrated time after time the unwillingness to internalize the problem will either get the message or get out of the way.

Michael J. Maloney is a former president of the Plymouth-Canton Board of Education.



Michael J. Maloney

LETTERS

Coming to Jesus

Mr. Power,

While I appreciate your thoughtful idea of making teachers and administrators in Michigan state employees, I believe you missed an important point. That is, the likely reason this will never happen has little to do with the MEA, protecting public sector benefits, or the usual hoopla leveled against our schools by conservative commentators.

Quite the contrary, it won't happen because our public schools themselves are at the forefront of the culture war, and, with few exceptions, the culture war is fought almost exclusively at the local level.

Don't buy it? Let me ask a question: What exactly is the job of our local PTAs, school boards, and other school-centered oversight committees? A conservative might cynically say: to raise our taxes.

But the truth has more to do with our community values. Controversies surrounding prayer in schools, disciplinary tactics, attitudes about substance abuse, character education, the proper role of art and music in curriculum, textbook choices and various other cultural concerns exist in every school district, to a greater or lesser extent.

These groups exist to make sure our kids are being taught 'the right things,' not just in math and science, or to compete in the global economy, but culturally as well.

Further, parents who choose to forgo public schools rarely do so because of curriculum or educational concerns, but for cultural reasons – primarily religious. Is there a parent out there who can say (with a straight face) that they chose a private school over PCEP because it offered a greater diversity of curriculum or student society? Please.

Parents almost exclusively choose private schools to 'protect' their children from, what they call 'secular culture.' And I'm not speaking from a position of ignorance here, or as a skeptic. All of my younger siblings (four) attend private, religious schools – and it's not because our public schools aren't teaching math and science well enough.

So, politically speaking, that's the rub. In my opinion, cultural issues are debated in our school districts because diversity exists among individual families. Family to family, township to township, county to county, region to region, state to state and nation to nation, "the way we do things" round here varies.

Thus, in order for Michigan to change, we'll need statewide consensus that our current budgetary crisis is greater than issues as old as Abraham himself. Or, in other words, we'll all need to come to Jesus.

Joe Hawver
Plymouth Township

Which war do they want to end?

I am responding to Hugh Gallagher's article 'If you want to end war, you've got to sing loud,' *Observer & Eccentric*, March 4, 2007.

The first question, which war? The Iraq war or the war on terror? I am not sure any more which war the Democrats want to end.

I think the Democrats, to follow the mandate of the election, must pass a bill to defund the Iraq war and override the president's veto. They must stop talking and just do it.

Then the Democrats must define the world situation when the troops come home from Iraq. No matter how the Democrats define it, we are surrendering Iraq to the terrorists, for the terrorists to create another base of operations.

But it will not end there. There will be the question when we bring the troops home from Afghanistan, and then all around the world, from the war on terror. The terrorists will call it surrender. The Democrats will call it improving our world prestige, and making it safer for Americans.

Neil Karl
Livonia

It's a war on terrorism

Regarding Hugh Gallagher's column 'If you want to end war, you've got to sing loud,' my perspective is that we are in a war against terrorism that is currently being fought in Iraq and not so long ago, was fought in New York City. Perhaps many people support the 'Iraq War' because they feel as I do that the bigger concern is terrorism and the only ones 'singing loud' are the press and the Democrats in office. Thank you for your opinion.

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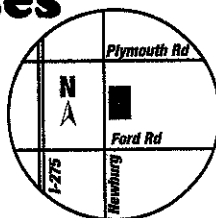
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Playful looking lighters could be deadly

How many times have your children noticed an item in the checkout line of a store or on the counter of a gas station and asked you to buy it for them? If your kids are anything like mine, this has happened plenty of times. But check closely before you agree, because some of the items meant to attract their attention could harm them, as well as other individuals in your home. The items I am speaking about are called novelty lighters, and are being sold



Tom Kiurski

exterior that opened and exposed the mechanism that started a fire are being replaced by a much cooler-looking lighter that entices young children to play with

today, with no age restriction on who can purchase them. These aren't the lighters we saw when we were younger. The rectangular chrome

them. And they fool parents by looking like innocent kids toys. One lighter is shaped like a fancy pen, and it even writes! But when the top is flipped back, a flame shoots out. Another looks like a cellular telephone. When you push the button on top that looks like a retracted antenna, the phone's rings three times and erupts into a two-inch flame. If your child puts it near their face, the results can be devastating. Other lighters shaped like fun toys include one that

looks like a miniature fire extinguisher (ironic, isn't it?), a toy car with wheels that roll, a miniature adjustable wrench, a replica of a motorcycle and one that does a fancy sparkling light show through its clear case before sending fire into the air. I shudder to think how many parents may have purchased these novelty lighters for their children, thinking they were harmless toys, and didn't know of their inherent dangers. Statistics from the

National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) tell us that fireplay is the leading cause of fire deaths among preschool children. Most of the people killed by child-play fires are under six years of age, although the victims of these fires are not limited to the children who play with fire. In many cases, the fatal victims are often younger siblings or playmates of the children who start the fires. With approximately 20 million lighters being sold in the U.S. each year, the

potential for one of these lighters starting a home fire is high. A study suggests that most novelty lighters have a useful life of less than one year, but it only takes one spark to set off a deadly blaze. Thoroughly inspect anything your child asks you to purchase for them. Many of these items are within easy reach of the children near check-outs, and are dangerous. Be safe! Tom Kiurski is a Livonia firefighter.

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2nd Course (Choose One)

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3rd Course (Choose One)

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With shiitake mushrooms dried cherry brandy wine sauce.

Served Yukon mashed potatoes and vegetable. \$17.95

To make reservations at Champagne or Fiamma call

734-416-9340



Marge Masek painted this flower garden. It is one of the works in the Livonia Artists Club Exhibit and Sale Saturday-Sunday, March 31-April 1.

Livonia Artists Club shows work in spring exhibit, sale

The Livonia Artists Club is holding their 46th annual Spring Exhibit and Sale March 31-April 1, in the Atrium of the Livonia Civic Center Library on Five Mile, east of Farmington Road. Hours are 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, and 1-5 p.m. Sunday.

The club has been in existence since 1960. Many of the artist members have been painting for years, but several new artists will be showing their work as well.

This year's exhibit features watercolors, pastels, acrylics, oils, colored pencil, collage, and photography. There will also be live art demonstrations during the show.

The club meets at the Civic Center Library in Livonia the third Monday of the month at 7 p.m. Visitors and aspiring artists are always welcome.

For more information, call Doree Dziobak at (734) 416-1774.

Live trivia – a pursuit of many in area

BY STACY JENKINS
STAFF WRITER

Don't be alarmed to see a haze of steam emitting from a Westland restaurant this Saturday afternoon.

It's only brain power — at full tilt — during the My Trivia Live Championship Round at Marvaso's Italian Grill on Wayne Road at Hunter.

There, 18 teams of four will put their noodle together for the latest craze in trivia to sweep the area's bars and restaurants.

My Trivia Live is an interactive, team trivia game that's played in six rounds. Nothing about it is electronic, so players write their answers and hand them to the Trivia Jockey, or TJ, who reads each question and plays a song while players come up with answers. Teams keep track on a score sheet, which looks like a place mat.

It's interactive, it's something new and different and you have people behind it who really believe in it, said Amy Wells, a trivia jockey. It makes people think and talk.

The game ends with a final question, in which teams may wager zero, or up to all of their points. The top three teams win gift certificates to the participating establishment.

Drew Cabot, of Wayne, a member of Team Dynamite, enjoys playing My Trivia Live.

It's a great time, he said. "You meet great people and you're able to exercise your brain power. It's something different to do."

He likes taking a break from technology during the game, too.

"In this day and age of technology and text messages, I think it's great that we have to manually write out our answers and turn them in," he added.

Eighteen teams joined a five-week league, in which their points were tallied for each week of play. The final round will be at 1 p.m. Saturday at Marvaso's, where the winning team will take home \$200 cash and a \$20 gift certificate to all participating bars and restaurants, a plaque and, of course, bragging rights. A new 10-week league starts April 1.

My Trivia Live, enjoyed by hundreds each week, is the creation of Garden City natives Cathryn Neracher and Scott



TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Debbie Legleitner of Redford, left, and Jerry DeGrood of Canton figure out their answer as they play My Trivia Live at The Coach's Corner in Livonia.

Fowler. They saw a similar game while living in Atlanta.

"We thought this would be something extraordinary to bring to Michigan," Neracher said. "We tweaked what we saw in Atlanta to make it better in Michigan."

While the game is growing in popularity from week to week, Neracher and Fowler want to take it a step further, by offering the game as a fun way to do fund-raisers in the community, private parties, corporate events, even wedding showers. The questions can be tailored to specific people, topics, charities or businesses.

The game started in October at Marvaso's and is now offered at 31 bars and restaurants in Livonia, Westland, Redford, Garden City, Canton, Plymouth, Allen Park, Howell, Highland Township, Detroit, Dearborn Heights, Hamburg

and Whitmore Lake.

"We're extremely excited," said Neracher, who is normally busy practicing law as a criminal defense and personal injury attorney. "It breathes life into these communities."

Fowler continues to run his business, SDI, a security products distribution company, in Atlanta. The couple said they hope to expand My Trivia Live to 300 locations in the Detroit area and even more through out the state.

Since the game is played Sunday through Thursday, the bar owners enjoy the added business.

The game is designed to bring in business during other wise slower time slots, Neracher said. "Our show puts butts in seats for bars."

Fowler focuses on offering a top-quality product to the bars and restaurants.

We need to be partners with

them, he said. "We want it to be mutually beneficial. We want to make sure every show is a good one."

Neracher and Fowler continue to hire TJs, who earn \$60 per 2-hour show. They're always looking for people people, "who have a great personality. They're happy with the staff they've assembled so far."

As this company has grown, these people have stepped up, Fowler said. "There's a lot that goes into it to make sure the bar owners are getting a good product."

Neracher praises her staff, too.

"They're second to none," she said. "They're the most devoted people I've ever worked with in my entire life."

To learn more about My Trivia Live, visit www.mytrivia-live.com.

sjenkins@hometownlife.com | (734) 953-2131

Residents now have until April 30 to file applications

Wayne County Treasurer, Raymond J. Wojtowicz, has extended the previous March 15, 2007, deadline to file an application for a property tax hardship extension until April 30, 2007. Residents should be aware that if their application is approved, this does not give them an exemption from paying property taxes. Instead, anyone receiving a hardship extension will merely be granted up to one extra year to pay his or her delinquent 2004 property taxes. Related fees and penalties will still apply.

In response to the Treasurer's extensive community outreach program using cable, network television, internet broadcasting, radio and letters to churches and community groups as well as up-dates to county and local government officials, the Treasurer has already received

more than 636 applications exceeding the total received in 2006.

The Treasurer believes at least 1,578 owner-occupied properties remain that would likely qualify for hardship consideration. In addition to the continued outreach, in April the Treasurer will attempt to locate and personally serve the property owners to advise of the hardship program.

Anyone who is facing property tax foreclosure due to unpaid delinquent 2004 taxes needs to know that ignoring the tax bill hoping that it will somehow go away is the worst thing to do. What that person needs to do is get some help, and quick. One thing he/she can do right away is contact the Taxpayer Assistance Section of the Wayne County Treasurer's Office.

Taxpayer Assistance can be reached at (313) 224-6105.



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Offer ends March 31st



Everyday Points

Member FDIC. Offer available in MI and Toledo, OH area only. To qualify for this offer you must open a personal checking account at Charter One and be enrolled in Everyday Points by March 31, 2007. Receive 5,000 Everyday Points valued at \$25 if you meet these conditions: enroll in online banking and pay at least three bills from this account by April 30, 2007. Receive 5,000 Everyday Points valued at \$25 if you establish a monthly Steady Save transaction with which you must transfer a minimum of \$10 at least once per month from this account to any of your Charter One Savings or Money Market Accounts (other than a Passbook Savings Account) by April 30, 2007. Offers may be combined with each other but cannot be combined with any other offers. Each \$25 will be awarded in the form of 5,000 Everyday Points and can be used for your reward selection. Existing customers who do not currently use Steady Save or Online Bill Pay may also qualify — see a banker for details. Points are valid for three years from award date and may be redeemed for a gift card to our merchants or merchandise in our Everyday Points catalog, available in branch or online at www.charterone.com. Point redemption values subject to change. \$25 Everyday Points annual membership fee for Green Checking® customers. For Green Checking customers an additional 3,000 points will be credited to your account and can be used to pay the annual membership fee for the first year. Your checking account must be enrolled in Everyday Points at the time the points are used to be eligible. Refer to the Everyday Points catalog for additional terms and conditions. ATM/Debit Card required for online banking. This limited time offer is subject to change and may be withdrawn at any time. All accounts and services are subject to individual approval. See a banker for details.



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If you want to submit an item for the religion calendar fax it to (734) 591 7279 or write Religion Calendar Observer Newspapers 36251 Schoolcraft Livonia MI 48150 The deadline for an announcement to appear in the Thursday edition is noon Monday

MARCH

Lenten concerts

12:35 p.m. Thursday March 29 follows services of Holy Communion which begin at 12:10 p.m. at Mariner's Church 170 East Jefferson at the entrance to the Detroit Windsor Tunnel. Free parking for services in the Ford Underground Garage with entrance on median on Jefferson at Woodward. For information call (313) 259 2206.

Lenten services

St. Michael the Archangel Parish invites everyone to attend Lenten services including Stations of the Cross and Benediction 7 p.m. Fridays during Lent at the church 11441 Hubbard south of Plymouth Road Livonia. Services follow the church's Lenten Fish Fry Dinners and are open to all. For information call (734) 261 1455.

Lenten fish fry

11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday March 30 pick ups at St. Peter Claver Catholic Community Parish Rectory 13305 Grove one block south of McNichols one block east of Schaefer. Detroit Lunch orders call in by 11 a.m. at (313) 342 5292. \$8 catfish dinner \$7 white \$5 catfish sandwich \$4 white.

\$1 for sides of spaghetti coleslaw and green beans.

Depression recovery

Trapped by depression? Depression Recovery Program began 7 p.m. Tuesday March 20 at Cherry Hill Church 33144 Cherry Hill Road Garden City. You can be happy again! Call (734) 673 5917 for more information.

Sunday services

Dan Strength who was installed March 4 as church pastor is leading services at Living Water Church (Pentecostal Church of God) 11663 Arcola one block west of Inkster road on Plymouth road. Sunday School is at 10 a.m. followed by worship at 11 a.m. Bible study takes place 7 p.m. Wednesdays. For more information call (734) 425 6360.

Alpha sessions

Alpha is an opportunity for anyone to explore the Christian faith in a relaxed non-threatening setting over 10 thought-provoking weekly sessions beginning 6:30 p.m. Thursday March 29 at Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church 40000 Six Mile Northville. Includes a free dinner each week. Alpha is a low-key friendly fun and pressure-free class. Free child care available during class. To register call (248) 374 5932 or send e-mail to Margy.Burkhart@wardchurch.org.

Who is he?

The Aerokhanas are flying into town. This group of teenage athletes love getting high, not on drugs, but on AcroSport, a combination of acrobatics and gymnastics. Why do they do these incredible stunts? To get the

attention of thousands of kids across Michigan each year and let them know it's better than getting high on drugs or alcohol. They will be performing 9 p.m. Saturday March 31 at Northville High School gym at 45700 Six Mile west of Sheldon before Beck Northville. This very talented team will also be performing a Youth Impact Dramatic Play on the Life of Christ 7:30 p.m. Friday March 30 in the Metropolitan Adventist Church 15585 Haggerty north of Five Mile Plymouth. For information call (734) 420 4044. There is no charge for performances but a donation will be taken to help defray travel and expenses.

Choral cantata

A New Creation by Rene Clausen 6 p.m. Saturday March 31 at Newburg United Methodist Church 36500 Ann Arbor Trail Livonia. No charge but a free will offering will be taken. A reception follows in the Fellowship Hall. Call (734) 422 0149.

Southern gospel singing

7 p.m. Saturday March 31 at Living Water Church (Pentecostal Church of God) 11663 Arcola one block west of Inkster road on Plymouth road. New pastor Dan Strength invites everyone to enjoy The Journeymen. The only remaining original member of the group Big John Bledsoe is lead singer and a native of Livonia. For more information about the church or the concert by the male quartet call (734) 425 6360.

Bethany together dance

8 p.m. to midnight Saturday March 31 at St. Robert Bellarmine 27101 W

Chicago at Inkster road Redford. Proper attire \$12 admission. For details call (586) 264 0284. Bethany is a Catholic organization under the auspices of the Archdiocese of Detroit office of youth and family and provides peer support to the divorced and separated of all Christian faiths.

Mom to Mom Sale

Tri-City Christian Center in Canton is having their Spring Mom to Mom Sale 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday March 31 at Tri-City 3855 Sheldon Road North of Michigan Avenue Canton. Table rentals are sold to capacity with more than 75 moms selling their kids' clothes, toys, baby equipment, etc. There is a \$1 admission. For information call Pam at (734) 397 0819.

UPCOMING

Holy Week services

8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. Palm/Passion Sunday April 1 7 p.m. Tuesday service of healing prayer April 3 7 p.m. Wednesday Prayer around the Cross April 4 7 p.m. Maundy Thursday Holy Communion April 5 7 p.m. Good Friday Tenebrae April 6 7 p.m. Holy Saturday Easter Vigil April 7 and 7 a.m. 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. Easter Sunday April 8 at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church 39020 Five Mile Livonia Call (734) 464 0211.

Holy Week activities

9:30 a.m. Palm Sunday April 1 children are invited to a festive Sunday school program (the children will lead the parade of palms for 10:30 a.m. worship which begins with a walk through Jerusalem. Maundy Thursday worship 7 p.m. April 5 at St. Matthew's United Methodist Church 30900 Six Mile Livonia call (734) 422 6038. Two Good Friday services April 6 12:30 p.m. at Newburg United Methodist Church 36500 Ann Arbor Trail east of Newburgh road Livonia call (734) 422 0149 and 7:30 p.m. at Redford Aldersgate United Methodist Church 10000 Beech Daly south of Plymouth road call (313) 937 3170 and Easter Sunday April 8 7 a.m. Sunrise worship at Greenmead Historical Park on Newburgh south of Eight Mile Livonia and 10:30 a.m. Easter Celebration at St. Matthew's United Methodist Church 30900 Six Mile Livonia call (734) 422 6038.

Easter concert

The concert features The Ward Chancel Choir and Orchestra. Teen Choir. Praise Bands. Handbells and various ensembles and consists of musical selections of the Easter Season 7 p.m. Sunday April 1 at Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church 40000 Six Mile Northville. No charge. Child care provided up to age 4. For information call (248) 374 7400.

Easter cantata

Once Upon a Cross by Randy Vader. Jay Rouse and Camp Kirkland 4 p.m. Sunday April 1 at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church 39020 Five Mile Livonia Call (734) 464 0211.

Lent and Easter services

In His Steps a six-part sermon series during Lent on Sundays at 10 a.m. to April 1. Holy Thursday 7:30 p.m. April 5 communion is around a great table in the shape of a cross to remember the last meal of Jesus with his disciples. Community Good Friday Service noon April 6 7:30 p.m. Good Friday April 6 an evening service focusing on the Passion Narrative and Jesus' final moments and Easter Sunday Son Rise Service at 8 a.m. Worship Services at 9:15 a.m. and 11 a.m. Sunday school at 9:15 a.m. for children (childcare for four-year-olds and under at both services) April 8 at Nardin Park United Methodist Church 29887 W 11 Mile Farmington Hills Call (248) 476 8860 or visit www.nardinpark.org.

Concerts

4 p.m. Palm Sunday April 1 organ and solo vocal music by Glenn Miller and Judith Zorn. Tickets \$18 \$15 seniors \$12 students and 7:30 p.m. Friday April 6 music and readings for Good Friday by Kirk Chancel Choir (no charge) at Kirk in the Hills 1340 West Long Lake Bloomfield Hills Call (248) 626 2515 ext. 109.

Holy Week services

The Downtown Lutheran German Language Holy Week Worship Service will be held 4 p.m. Palm Sunday April 1 at Historic Trinity Lutheran Church 1345 Gratiot Detroit. Procession of the Palms during each of the three worship services 8:15 a.m. 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. The Sunday School children, each carrying palms, will lead the Procession into the church at 9:30 a.m. and will sing at the beginning of the worship service. Everyone present will receive a blessed palm to take home. Noon Maundy Thursday April 5 Holy Communion service and 7:30 p.m. (Communion) Good Friday April 6 Three Consecutive Good Friday Services beginning at noon with The Rev. Dr. David Eberhard 2:15 p.m. The Symbolic Sealing of the Tomb of Christ and Tenebrae service at 7 p.m. with inspirational candlelight worship service built upon the Seven Words of the Cross. The church was organized in 1850 and has remained in the City of Detroit over the past 153 years. Three Worship Services are held each Sunday 8:15 a.m. 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. Sunday School for all ages is held at 9:15 a.m. For information call (313) 567 3100.

Jesus Unmasked

A sermon series with the Rev. C. Allen Kannappell 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. Sunday April 1 The Crucified God and April 8 The Unconquered at Anglican Church of Livonia in the Livonia YMCA 14255 Stark Road. For more information visit www.hischurch.us.

Holy week services

7:30 p.m. Maundy Thursday April 5 12:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Service of Darkness Good Friday April 6 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Children's Easter Fair Holy Saturday April 7 parents accompany their children through different activity centers such as egg decorating, craft making, cookie decorating, outdoor egg hunt, video of Easter story and more. 8:15 a.m. 9:45 a.m. and 11 a.m. services Easter Sunday April 8 at Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church 14175 Farmington Road north of I-96 Livonia.

Holy week worship

7:30 p.m. Maundy Thursday Liturgy April 5 noon Good Friday April 5 contemplative service and Liturgy of Darkness 7:30 p.m. April 6 7:30 p.m. Holy Saturday Vigil of Easter April 7 and 8 a.m. and 11 a.m. Easter Sunday April 8 at Faith Lutheran Church 30000 Five Mile Livonia Call (734) 421 7249.

Holy week services

7:30 p.m. Maundy Thursday April 5 (Communion) 12:30 p.m. Good Friday April 6 (Service of Words Music and Meditation) Come when you can leave when you wish! Tenebrae Service of Darkness at 8 p.m. Easter Vigil Saturday April 7 at 8 p.m. (The Service of Light) and 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. Festival Services Easter Sunday April 8 at Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA) 30650 Six Mile Livonia Call (734) 427 1414. Regular church services 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. Sundays with Nursery Sunday School during 9:30 a.m. service. Adult Bible Study weekly on Tuesday and Sunday at 11 a.m. Visitors welcome. Visit www.holycrosslivonia.org.

Lenten services

7:30 p.m. Maundy Thursday April 5 noon Good Friday April 6 and 10:30 a.m. Palm Sunday April 1 and Easter Sunday April 8 at Immanuel Lutheran Church 27035 Ann Arbor Trail east of Inkster Road Dearborn Heights Call (313) 278 5755.

Bible study

7 p.m. on the first and third Thursday of each month in the rectory at St. Michael the Archangel Parish 11441 Hubbard south of Plymouth Road Livonia. The current study is the Gospel of St. John. For more information call (734) 261 1455.

Christ on trial

Drama to uncover Biblical evidence that will be analyzed, eye witnesses share accounts of their encounters with Jesus continues 7 p.m. every Wednesday evening during Lent except for Maundy Thursday April 5 when Simon Peter testified concerning Jesus' disruption of social mores at Salem United Church of Christ 33424 Oakland Avenue Farmington Call (248) 474 6880. Christ on Trial examines evidence that demands a verdict: Who is this Jesus for you?

Easter at NorthRidge

Services scheduled 11:15 p.m. 3:15 p.m. 5:15 p.m. and 7:15 p.m. Friday April 6 5:15 p.m. and 7:15 p.m. Saturday April 7 and 9:15 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. Sunday April 8 at NorthRidge Church 49555 North Territorial Plymouth Call (734) 414 7777.

Holy week services

7 p.m. Good Friday April 6 a candlelight service and 9:30 a.m. 10:45 a.m. and 11 a.m. Resurrection Sunday April 8 at Memorial Church of Christ 35475 Five Mile Livonia Call (734) 464 6722.

Good Friday drama

12 p.m. April 6 during Good Friday services from noon to 3 p.m. in the sanctuary at Wayne Westland First United Methodist Church 3 Townsquare (Newberry Street across from the Wayne Post Office). The public is invited. Refreshments follow in the Fellowship Hall. Women of the Cross is about 12 women whose lives were changed by Jesus before his crucifixion.

Women's retreat

Deadline for registration is April 7. Retreat takes place 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday April 21 at Rosedale Gardens Presbyterian Church 960 Hubbard Livonia. Cost is \$25 includes continental breakfast and lunch. For information call (734) 422 0494. Keynote speaker is Rev. Carol Bechtel, professor of Old Testament at Western Theological Seminary in Holland. Retreat features workshops, fellowship, Cokesbury Bookstore.

Monthly dance

8 p.m. to midnight Saturday April 7 at St. Robert Bellarmine 27101 W. Chicago at Inkster road Redford. Cost is \$10. Refreshments included. Doors open at 7:30 p.m. For details call (734) 261 5716. Bethany is a Catholic organization under the auspices of the Archdiocese of Detroit office of youth and family and provides peer support to the divorced and separated of all Christian faiths.

Easter cantata

Riverside Park Church of God invites you to our special Easter Cantata. He Touched Me 10 a.m. Sunday April 8 at the church 11771 Newburgh at Plymouth road Livonia. For information call (734) 464 0990. Please join us for this special drama event and celebrate Easter with

us. We look forward to welcoming you.

Farmington Women Aglow

Meets from 7:30 p.m. (doors open at 6:30 p.m.) on the second Monday of the month in the Visitors Center (old Spicer House) at Heritage Park on Farmington Road between 10 Mile and 11 Mile roads. For more information call Linda Boone at (248) 476 1053.

Preschool registration

Ward Preschool now enrolling children for the 2007-2008 school year. Morning and afternoon sessions available for ages 3, 4 and 5 by Dec. 1. Preschool is at 40000 Six Mile west of Haggerty Northville. Schedule and tuition information can be viewed at www.wardchurch.org. For information call (248) 374 5911 or send e-mail to carol.nowacki@wardchurch.org.

Church members wanted

The Solid Reformed Protestant doctrine and the Authorized (King James) Version of the Bible may finally come together in a new church in your area. If you're interested in this type of preaching and teaching, write to Reformation Revival P.O. Box 6156 Plymouth MI 48170 0156 or send e-mail to www.psalml2verse6@yahoo.com for more information.

Peace pilgrimage

On Monday April 9 a group of religious leaders and people of good will leave metro Detroit headed for the Middle East on an 8-day trip to help bring reconciliation to the children of Abraham. They will be going to support the Middle East Peace Initiative (MEPI), a project of the Universal Peace Federation. The MEPI focuses on bringing peace through the reconciliation of religious leaders. Participants will visit rabbis and imams with the spirit of love, service and dialogue. This is the 20th MEPI pilgrimages to the Middle East in the last four years. If you are a religious leader or person of good will who would like to join the pilgrimage call Edward Taub at (313) 822 5553 or send e-mail to etaub@providenet for an information packet.

Wine tasting

April 13 at the St. Linus Activity Center 6466 Evangeline Dearborn Heights. Admission is a dish of food to pass and \$5 at the door. For details call (313) 996 8644.

Blood drive

8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Sunday April 15 at Nardin Park United Methodist Church 29887 W 11 Mile Farmington Hills Call (248) 476 8860. No appointment necessary.

Retreat for widowed

Deadline is April 20 for Opening New Doors, a retreat for widowed only which takes place April 27-29 at St. John's Retreat Center Plymouth. Speakers and group discussions. Fee is \$140 per person for double, \$160 for single. Call (586) 939 5219 (248) 478 1084 or (586) 566 2557 to register.

Monthly meeting

For Bethany Suburban West Saturday April 21 at Leon's Family Dining 30149 Ford Road on the north side of the second Garden City. All separated, divorced and singles welcome. For details call (734) 513 9479. Bethany is a Catholic organization under the auspices of the Archdiocese of Detroit office of youth and family and provides peer support to the divorced and separated of all Christian faiths.

Herbs of the Bible

Presented by Jane Riddle. Lodi Farms 6:30 p.m. Wednesday April 25 at Faith Lutheran Church 30000 Five Mile Livonia. No charge but call for reservations (734) 421 7259.

Religious leaders breakfast

The Freedom Institute for Economics, Social Justice and Political Empowerment is pleased to announce Dr. Martin Luther King's Executive Staffer and civil rights activist Rev. CT Vivian as keynote speaker for 2007 Religious Leaders Breakfast 8:15 a.m. Thursday April 26 at Cobo Center during Freedom Weekend VI. Vivian, along with local panelists discuss the Political Influence of the Church. Tickets available online at www.freedomweekendinfo at the registration desk at Cobo Center or at the Freedom Institute office by calling (313) 533 3035.

Benefit concert

Vocalist Mark Tisdell and pianist Phylis Bengary perform 8 p.m. Friday April 27 at St. Andrew Catholic Church 1400 Inglewood Rochester. The cost is a free will donation. The annual benefit concert raises funds for Angels Place, a nonprofit providing residential and community-based services for adults and children with developmental disabilities in Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties. Special guest is Barbara Oga, a flutist and instructor at Oakland University. For more information call Barbara Urbel at (248) 350 2203 or send e-mail to burbiel@angelsplace.com.

Hidden Secrets film

Debuts 7 p.m. Monday April 30 a new feature-length movie that explores just how explosive it can be when your past becomes your present. Livonia 201950 Haggerty Livonia and Commerce Township Stadium 14 3033 Springvale Drive Walled Lake. Tickets now available at www.fathomevents.com or at pre-senting theater box offices for \$9. For a complete list of theaters visit the Web site.



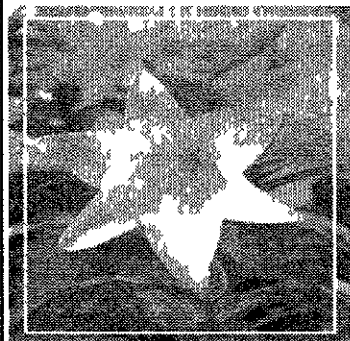
EARL H. LONG

Canton MI Age 82 Services March 25 2007 burial Glen Eden Cemetery Livonia UHT Funeral Home



PAMELA KAY GALOR (nee BUTSKY)

Passed away on Friday March 16 2007 Pamela grew up in Redford Twp. and found love right next door. She leaves behind her husband of 40 years Chester Galor and her four children Adam Paul Lisa and Sandy as well as eight grandchildren Haily Miranda Terra Ryan Nathan Mackenzie Alex and Christopher. She is also survived by four siblings Loretta Carolyn Ronald and Gary and her mother in law Beatrice Foster. Pamela's contagious laugh and outlook on life will be forever missed. With all the love there is the family is holding a memorial service in honor of Pamela on March 30th at Hosanna Tabor Lutheran Church in Redford Twp. at 5:00 p.m. at 9600 Levee Redford MI 48239.



LINDA ELLEN BURRELL

Age 67 of Traverse City died on March 18 2007 at the Munson Medical Center Hospice House. Linda dedicated her life to enriching the experience of children during her career as a teacher and through her numerous philanthropic activities. Linda was born in Detroit on Sept. 3 1939 the daughter of John and Genevieve (Merritt) Chambers. In 1963 she married Donald Burrell with whom she raised two sons. She earned a bachelor's degree in education from Michigan State University and embarked on a career teaching in the Birmingham and Grand Rapids school districts. After time off for the birth of her sons Linda taught at the Livonia Co-Op Nursery school for 23 years while earning a master's degree in early childhood education. At the Livonia Nursery Linda's inspiration and encouragement laid the foundation for many successful academic careers. Upon retiring with her husband to Traverse City, she became active in a number of charitable organizations including Love for Children Pi Beta Phi sorority and PEO. In addition to these activities she belonged to the Presbyterian Church of Traverse City and enjoyed her family and granddaughters, entertaining friends and sunsets on Silver Lake. She is survived by her husband Donald Burrell of Traverse City, sons Scott (Pamela) Burrell of Washington D.C., and Greg (Susan) Burrell of Novi, granddaughters Avery Zoe and Samantha Burrell of Novi and siblings Joan Davis of Tucson AZ Wendy Worley of Chandler AZ and John Chambers of Glendale AZ. Visitation will be held on Friday April 13, from 4 to 7 p.m., at Reynolds Jonkhoff Funeral Home in Traverse City. A memorial service will be held at the Presbyterian Church of Traverse City on Saturday April 14 at 11 a.m. with visitation one hour prior. Dr. Homer Nye and the Rev. Becky Chamberlain will officiate. In lieu of flowers the family requests donations be made to Love for Children c/o The Presbyterian Church of Traverse City, 701 Westminster Road Traverse City, MI 49686 or PEO Chapter EH (Scholarships for Women) c/o Kathy Nolan, 605 N. 11th St. Traverse City, 49684. Kindly share your memories with the family on their online guest book at www.legacy.com/record eagle/.

Arrangements were made with the Reynolds Jonkhoff Funeral Home 305 Sixth Street-Traverse City MI 49684 www.reynolds-jonkhoff.com

VIRGINIA M. HEMENWAY

Passed away on March 24 2007 in Rochester Hills MI after an extended battle with Alzheimer's Disease. She was born on October 9 1925 the daughter of Myron and Laura (Wagner) Retherford in Royal Oak, MI. She married Floyd F. Hemenway April 21 1960 who preceded her in death. Mrs. Hemenway graduated from Eastern Michigan University in 1948 and earned her Master's degree from the University of Bridgeport CT in 1967. She first worked in Physical Therapy. She then found her calling as a physical education teacher at the junior high level in Connecticut public schools where she retired in June 1981. Mrs. Hemenway was an enthusiastic gardener skier and golfer. She enjoyed attending the theater and traveled extensively. One of the highlights of her life was the year she spent in Scotland teaching. During this time she also traveled on the European continent as well as in England. During her working years she would travel throughout the United States in the summertime with her husband and friends. In her later years she traveled to the Galapagos Islands, Alaska, and Morocco. She is survived by her nieces and nephews Joe (Marianne) Juliano Jan (Chris) Blaha Jill Juliano John M. Retherford Colleen Retherford Scott (Kimberly) Retherford and a brother in law J. Gregory Juliano. She was preceded in death by two sisters Gertrude M. (Joe) Juliano, and Kathleen Retherford and one brother John H. (Elizabeth) Retherford. Memorial service has been held A.J. Desmond & Sons 248 362 2500. View obituary and share memories at www.DesmondFuneralHome.com

BILL LLOYD JR.

Age 53 Died Saturday March 24 2007 in White Lake Michigan. Loving husband of Sheila (Gay) Lloyd. Beloved father of Jenna and Bill. Dear son of Bill and Mollie Lloyd. Brother of Doug Lloyd and Susan (Lloyd) Bauldry.

OBITUARY POLICY

The first five billed lines of an obituary are published at no cost. All additional lines will be charged at \$4 per line. You may place a picture of your loved one for an additional cost of only \$6. Symbolic emblems may be included at no cost (example: American Flags, religious symbols, etc.).

Deadlines

Friday 4:30 PM for Sunday
Wednesday Noon for Thursday

Obituaries received after these deadlines will be placed in the next available issue.

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For more information call

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734 953 2070

or Liz Keiser

734 953 2067

or toll free

866-818-7653

ask for Char or Liz

DEP0429373

Birmingham church holds peace, justice conference

The First Presbyterian Church of Birmingham will host a three-day interfaith conference on issues of peace, mission and justice in the Middle East, March 30-31 and April 1, at the church, 1669 West Maple, in Birmingham.

The conference will feature workshops on Middle East history, current events and future prospects for peace and development.

The Rev. Fahed Abu-Akel, former moderator of the 3 million-member Presbyterian Church (USA), will talk about "A New Vision: Hope for Peace in the Middle East," on March 31.

The conference will open 6:30 p.m., Friday, March 30, with an interfaith dinner and panel discussion. Saturday's session includes Rev. Abu-Akel's keynote address at 9:15 a.m., workshops and discussion on Iraq. Rev. Abu-Akel will lead Palm Sunday

Register through the church Web site at www.fpcbirmingham.org or by calling the church office at (248) 644-2040. Fees include: \$20 for the Friday dinner and discussion; \$25 for Saturday, including lunch and continental breakfast; or \$40 for both days' programs. The Saturday program with no meals is \$15. The student fee is \$10 per day.

morning worship at 8:30 and 10 a.m. Sharona Shapiro, Michigan Area Director of the American Jewish Committee, will lead an adult education class on the Jewish/Israeli Viewpoint on Peace in the Middle East, at 11:15 a.m., on Sunday, March 31.

Register through the church Web site at www.fpcbirmingham.org or by calling the church office at (248) 644-2040.

Fees include: \$20 for the Friday dinner and discussion, \$25 for Saturday, including lunch and conti-

mental breakfast, or \$40 for both days' programs. The Saturday program with no meals is \$15. The student fee is \$10 per day.

Participants may attend three workshops on Saturday. Topics include:

■ Life as a Palestinian — Faris Alami, Palestinian emigre, with Rana Khatib of Gaza.

■ The Conflict with Hezbollah/Lebanon: History and Current Events — with Rev. Bill Gepford, retired Presbyterian missionary to Lebanon.

■ Divestiture of investments in the Middle East — Carol Hylkema, chair, Presbyterian Church (USA) Mission Responsibility through Investment (MRTI)/Environmental Justice.

■ Iran — Its Role in Middle East Unrest/Plans for Peace — Ali Moun, MD, Wayne State University School of Medicine.

■ Presbyterian Initiatives to Support Development and Housing in Palestine — Don Mead, Presbyterian Church (USA) Self Development of People, Palestine, and retired professor from Michigan State University's Department of Agricultural Economics.

■ Presbyterian Witness for Peace in the Middle East — Mark Koenig, associate, Peacemaking Resources and Program Development, Presbyterian Peacemaking Program.

■ War and Peace and

Fundamentalism in World Religions — Rev. Hank Borchardt, retired Presbyterian minister.

■ Jewish Voice for Peace: An Alternate View — David Finkel, editor of *Against the Current*, and others from the national office of Jewish Voice for Peace.

■ Peace and Respect: The History of the Baha'i Faith — John Suggs, Chrysler engineer and board member of University Ministry in Higher Education at Oakland University.

■ Interfaith Dialogue in Action: A Trip to the Holy Land — Rev. Fran Hayes, moderator of the Detroit Presbytery and pastor of Littlefield Church, Dearborn, with Donna Gray, Christian Educator of Canton Geneva Presbyterian Church.

■ Oil and the History of Foreign Involvement in the Middle East — Saeed Khan, Wayne State University.

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Spring's arrival has different face based on your locale

Even the stork in the heavens knows its times and the turtledove swallow and crane observe the time of their coming (Jeremiah 8:7)

Each day sunlight dawdles just a bit longer, maple sap drips less, and the county's dirt roads get muddier and hungrier for car swallowing sure signs spring has completed the cyclic journey of life from the south into the Northern Hemisphere. Springs transition will be beautiful and perhaps furious, red sky dawns remind severe weather season looms



Nature's Way

Jonathan Schechter

For the past week I had been backpacking, trail-building, pick swinging, cacti spine-dodging among the mesas and canyons of Penal County, Arizona, in a fiery taste of a desert summer without spring. I was busy being awed by nature's way in a rugged unfor-

giving land that missed a gentle spring transition.

Before the official dawn of spring reached Michigan on the 21st of March our team - constructing a new section of the Arizona Trail - experienced a record-breaking 101 degrees near Superior, Ariz. That was shade. No wonder a malevolent handsome western diamond back rattlesnake - unable to control internal body temperatures in searing heat - slithered into the shade of our US Forest Service cook tent for a mid-afternoon siesta. We coexisted till he slithered off, rodent dreaming perhaps. We dreamed ice water. Those superbly adapted, venom-packed pit vipers, which can be six feet long and thick as your wrist, went from hibernation to full activity in just a matter of days.

Here in Michigan, we'll need a bit more warmth to stir finger-thick garter into their hunt mode. Spring peepers are prey for garter snakes when they emerge from under logs. And as mercury stabilizes in the low 60s our reclusive pit vipers, the area's only venomous snake, the massasauga rattler, will



JONATHAN SCHECHTER

Robins must deal with remnant snow cover in their spring worm hunts

emerge from moist crayfish holes where they hibernated. You don't want to hear about snakes as gifts of spring? I understand.

That ancient phobic feeling that has dwelled in the human psyche since our cave dwelling days still stirs. I felt it too, as I watched that coiled rattler tongue-flick in the desert.

For a change of pace, try visiting my old stomping grounds, the West Bloomfield rookery and witness frog-gulping great blue herons, in all their primordial early spring glory.

The mating melodies of spring peepers, chorus and wood frogs are tuning up in roadside ditches, marshes and wet meadows. But in many communities, where parking lots dominate landscape and small ponds are filled for more parking lots and chemicals and road salts leach into water, expect only silence. Seek else where, while elsewhere still exists.

Nature's best spring moments are everywhere and anywhere. Back in Arizona, a journalist accompanied me on

a cliff scramble a bit east of Tortilla Flats human population six. With a green light from the National Park Service, we entered a Salado cliff dwelling at Tonto National Monument, aware of the Africanized honey bee comb far above us. Turkey vultures soared even higher and (regurgitated) pellet of indigestible parts lay at our feet. Today I smiled as vultures soared over Great Lakes Crossing, riding parking lot-induced thermals. Different habitats, different adaptive behavior, same species.

Canada geese are winging home at night, honking in darkness. And one day soon, graceful sandhill cranes arrive, for all birds know the time of their coming. That is nature's way, even if lawn-loving robins will hunt worms in patches of snow one final time, before winter remnants make a final bow and native spring wildflowers appear in our woodlands.

Jonathan Schechter writes on nature's way. You can reach him at Oaknature@aol.com

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March 30, 2007

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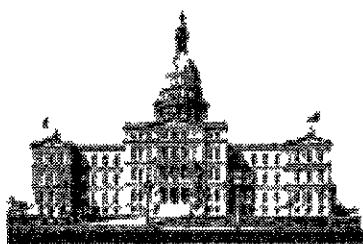
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Check your quarterly reports carefully

Spring is here and another winter is behind us. Many investors will soon receive the first statement of 2007. When you receive the quarterly statement (or any financial statement), the first thing you should do is check it for accuracy.

You need to make sure that the ending balance of your last statement is equal to the beginning balance of the new statement. In addition, if the statement is from a salary deferral program such as a 401(k) plan, you need to make sure your ongoing contributions have been properly credited to your account. Never assume that the statement is right and you are wrong. Banks and other financial institutions make honest mistakes and it is up



Money Matters

Rick Bloom

to us to correct them where necessary.

If you find a mistake, take immediate action to correct it. If the mistake is pursuant to a company retirement plan, contact the plan administrator. If it is a mistake on a brokerage statement or a bank statement, contact the company issuing the statement. If you are not satisfied with the resolution after your initial contact, document your issue by putting it in writing. Be persistent

in attempting to resolve your issue.

This quarter, we did see a pullback in the markets because of what happened in China and the difficulties in the sub-prime mortgage market.

Many may find that an account is lower at the end of the quarter than it was at the beginning of the year.

One of the mistakes investors make is they will adjust their portfolio and rush into things that made money over the first quarter and sell investments that lost money during the first quarter. As far as I am concerned, this is a huge mistake. What happens on a quarterly basis is relatively immaterial. If you attempt to chase returns by constantly going into

what's hot, you almost always will make the wrong decision.

Investing is more than looking into the rearview mirror; it is looking forward. What's hot last quarter may not be hot this quarter. We see this all the time when investors attempt to rotate their portfolio to what they perceive as a hot sector of the economy. Ultimately they end up getting into that sector when the market already had its rise. The key to success is to be patient. Don't be concerned quarter-to-quarter or even year-to-year.

I don't mean you should ignore the performance of your funds or investments because ultimately the only reason you invest money is to make money. What you really

need to do is look at your funds over a two- to three year cycle and judge those investments versus other investments in the same category. In other words, evaluate small cap international funds versus other small cap international funds not versus small cap domestic funds.

If you've been in a fund or an investment for a few years that fund is underperforming other funds in the same category, then a change is needed. It doesn't necessarily mean that you should leave that sector of the economy but rather go into a better performing investment within that sector. We should judge investments on their performance relative to other

similar investments.

Loyalty is a good trait. However, when it comes to investing, we should be loyal to accomplishing our financial goal. When an investor lets emotion dictate their decision, they almost always will make the wrong decision. Our investments don't love us and we shouldn't love them. The only thing we should love about an investment is the financial goals and objectives they help achieve.

Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial adviser. *Observer & Eccentric* readers can submit questions at moneymatters@hometownlife.com. For more information, visit his Web site at www.bloomassetmanagement.com. You can hear him Sundays from noon to 3 p.m. on WDTK AM (1400).

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The owner of Liberty Tax in Livonia, Don Luschas, is dedicated to offering the citizens of Livonia and surrounding communities quality tax service at affordable prices. His team of professionals, which include accountants and a CPA, are friendly and personable who enjoy getting to know the individuals and families they serve in a welcoming and comfortable atmosphere. Coffee, tea, hot chocolate and cookies are always available for clients while their taxes are prepared with competence, proficiency and a smile.

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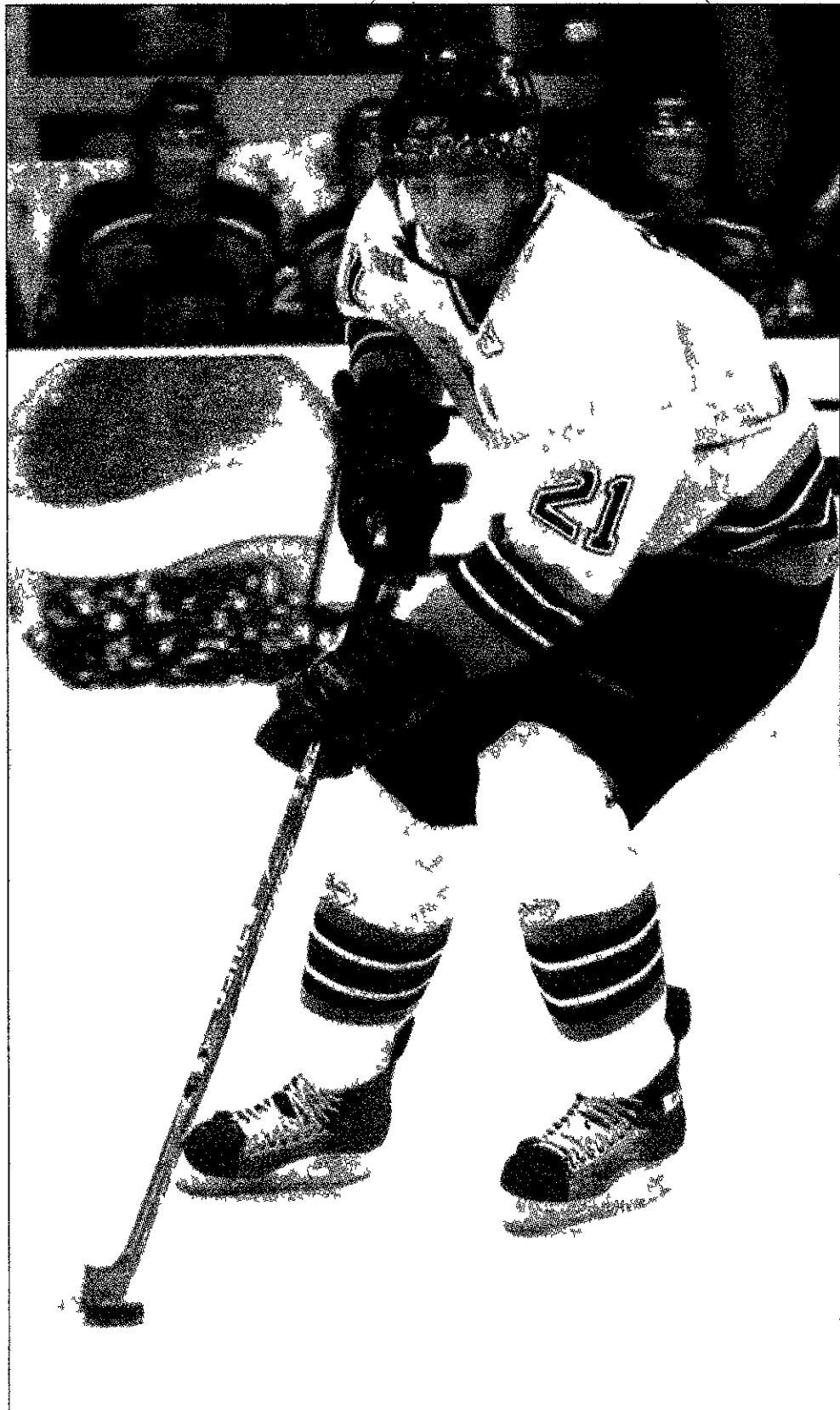
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OHL playoffs: Round 1



Plymouth goalie Michal Neuvirth gets ready to put the squeeze on one of his 34 saves during Tuesday night's OHL playoff game against Guelph. Thanks to Neuvirth's stellar net play, the Whalers won, 7-1.



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Two days after signing a professional contract with the NHL's Columbus Blue Jackets, Plymouth's Tom Sestito registered a hat trick in the Whalers' 7-1 triumph over Guelph Tuesday night.

Weathering the Storm

Sestito notches hat trick
as Whalers cruise, 7-1

BY ED WRIGHT
STAFF WRITER

Following Tuesday night's 7-1 dismantling of Guelph, the Plymouth Whalers are clearly in the driver's seat in their first-round Ontario Hockey League playoffs series with the Storm. And Tom Sestito is clearly the driver. Two nights after signing a professional contract with the Columbus Blue Jackets, Sestito sealed the Storm's fate by delivering a hat trick in a one-sided contest played before 3,276 at the Compuware Sports Arena. Plymouth is now up 3-0 in the best-of-seven series heading into tonight's Game 4 in Guelph. Games 5 and 6, if necessary, will be played Saturday and Sunday nights in Plymouth and Guelph, respectively. The Storm offered plenty of light-

ning and thunder in the opening two games, which were competitive from the opening face-off to the final horn. However, on Tuesday, Guelph put up about as much resistance as a passing shower as the Whalers were never threatened after bolting to a 3-0 first-period lead.

"I think the key tonight was that we came out strong right away," said Sestito, who led the Whalers in goals scored during the regular season. "We started slowly in the first two games. Scoring three goals like we did in the first period really got us going."

Sestito's middle goal was worthy of an ESPN Sportscenter highlight. With the Whalers enjoying a 5-1 lead and a 5-on-3 power play, the rangy 6-foot 5 forward secured a rebound seven feet

PLEASE SEE WHALERS, B4

In pursuit of healthiness

Taping ankles just one part of trainers' workload

BY ED WRIGHT
STAFF WRITER

Student-athletes at the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park would be hurtin' for certain without Tony Bowers, Glenn Edgerton and Lindsay Kokoczka.

The trio — who serve as the all-important athletic trainers at Salem, Canton and Plymouth high schools, respectively — have a seemingly never-ending to-do list that ranges from wrapping ankles to treating serious on-the-field injuries.

One spring minute they may be stabilizing a soccer player's sprained ankle. Ten minutes later they're liable to be jumping into their green Gator transport vehicles to treat a baseball player who's been beaned on the elbow by a wild fastball.

During the winter months, they shuttle between the Park's indoor athletic venues, often arriving at their respective schools at around 1 p.m. and not leaving until the final basketball buzzer sounds around 9 p.m.

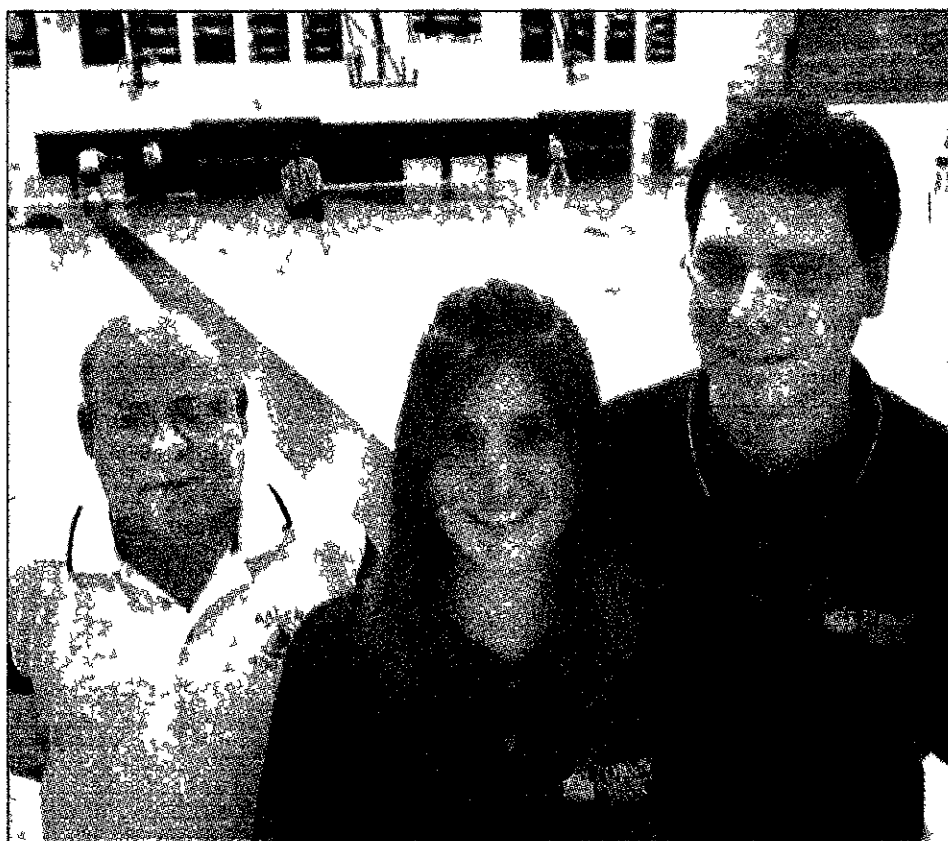
And in the fall, they treat everything from cross-country runners' shin splints to football players' broken bones.

"All three athletic trainers at the 'Park' play a vital role in serving the students athletes, from pre-game preparation to post-game treatment," said Plymouth Athletic Director Terry Sawchuk. "It's a tough, demanding job with all the teams and athletes they treat, but they all do an outstanding job."

TALENTED TRIO

Bowers, the elder statesman of the three with eight years at Salem, is the only trainer employed by the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools. The other two are employees of Plymouth Physical Therapy Specialists (PPTS), which contracts Edgerton and Kokoczka out to the district.

PLEASE SEE TRAINERS, B3



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The Plymouth-Canton Educational Park's staff of three athletic trainers is well-equipped to handle a wide range of injuries as well as the knowledge that can prevent injuries from happening in the first place. Pictured (from left) are Tony Bowers (Salem), Lindsay Kokoczka (Plymouth) and Glenn Edgerton (Canton).

SALUTING ATHLETIC TRAINERS

■ March is "National Athletic Trainers Month," four weeks that are set aside each year by high schools throughout the United States to recognize the professionals who help keep their student athletes healthy.

■ The observance is orchestrated by the National Athletic Trainers' Association (NATA), a professional membership association for certified athletic trainers and others who support the athletic training profession.

■ Founded in 1950, NATA has grown to almost 30,000 members worldwide.

Canton runners take 9th

Canton's boys track team opened its season on Saturday with a ninth-place showing at the 16-team Pioneer Invitational Track Meet at Eastern Michigan University in Ypsilanti.

Northville won the event with 59 points followed by Saline (54), Ann Arbor Pioneer (51), Southfield (47) and White Lake Lakeland (45). The top 10 were rounded out by Pinckney (34), Grand Blanc and Novi Catholic Central (31 each), Canton (20) and Birch Run (17).

The highlight of the day for the Chiefs was senior Eric Thornton's school record-breaking performance of 6 feet, 8 inches in the high jump.

Canton also received a fourth-place effort in the shot put from Nick Moores (48-5) and a fifth-place showing from senior Eric Zech in the 1,600-meter run (4:41.2).

A pair of Canton's senior pole vaulters — Ryan Langdon and Brian Rakovits — both cleared 12 feet even to tie for fifth place in that event.

Closing out the scoring for Canton was its 1,600-meter relay team's sixth-place finish in 3:41.7.

Plymouth placed 11th in the competition with 15 points.

The Chiefs return to action Saturday when they compete in the talent-rich Eastern Michigan University Relays in Ypsilanti. Their first dual meet of the season is set for Tuesday, April 3, when they host Northville at 3:30 p.m.

Sidelines

Baseball clinic

A one-day Plymouth Wildcat Youth Baseball Clinic will be held Saturday, April 21, at the Plymouth High School baseball complex.

Kids in third through eighth grades are invited to the clinic, which is limited to the first 100 registrants. For the \$40 registration fee, kids will receive a camp T-shirt, lunch and instruction on the following topics: hitting (stance, balance, swing plane), mental preparation and plate discipline, base running, infield play (corner and middle), fielding/throwing technique, outfield play, and catcher skills.

There will also be controlled scrimmages and each participant will be entitled to a video analysis of their swing.

If it is raining, the camp will be held in the Plymouth High School gymnasium. Campers will need to bring a baseball glove and wear a baseball hat. Bats are optional.

Offering instruction will be offered by 2007 Plymouth players and coaches. Contact John Nadratowski at (734) 844-3212.

Wrestling fund-raiser

The Canton High School wrestling program will be hosting its 4th Annual Canton Chiefs Wrestling Money Auction on Saturday, April 21, at the Woodlands of Van Buren. The event will run from 6 p.m. to midnight.

The \$100 tickets include dinner, an open bar and a chance to win \$1,000, \$2,000 or \$3,000. There will be a live auction, money boards, a 50/50 drawing, raffles and giveaways.

For more information, call (734) 582-6885.

MU cagers hailed

Madonna University's players D.J. Bridges (Canton) and Martina Franklin (Redford Union) were recently recognized on the 2007 NAIA Division II All-America men's and women's basketball teams, respectively, earning honorable mention honors.

Bridges, a 6-foot-3 junior forward, made first-team All-Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference after averaging 19.8 points and 7.0 rebounds for the 12-19 Crusaders. He is just five points shy of the 1,000 career-point mark.

Franklin, also a junior forward, averaged 17.9 points and 9.3 rebounds for the 15-18 Crusaders, who reached the WHAC tournament championship game. The first-team All-WHAC selection is the school's all-time leader in blocks and already has surpassed the 1,000 career-point mark.

NAIA All-Academic

Madonna University basketball player's Adam Kerfoot (Gaylord St. Mary) and Caryn Inman (Oxford) were named to the Daktronics NAIA All-American Scholar Athlete teams in men's and women's basketball, respectively.

SPORTS BRIEFS

YMCA SOCCER

The Plymouth Family YMCA's spring soccer leagues are forming for children between the age of 4 and 11. Practices begin the week of April 9 and games start Saturday, April 21.

There will be eight practices and seven games. The cost is \$68 for program members or \$85 for community members. All participants will be required to purchase a YMCA youth sports reversible jersey for \$15.

The registration deadline is Wednesday, March 28. If you are interested in participating or coaching your child's team, please call (734) 453-2904 for more details. For more information, visit www.ymcadetroit.org.

The Plymouth Family YMCA is also accepting registrations for its Fall soccer programs, which are filled on a first-come, first-served basis. Number _____

SPRING BREAK CAMPS

High Velocity Sports in Canton will be offering spring break camps April 9-13 for kids between the ages of 5 and 12 years old. The four camps offered will be all-sport, soccer, basketball and craft camp. The instructor-to-child ratio is 1-to-10.

The all-sport camp is offered in full-day (9 a.m. to 4 p.m.) or half-day (9 a.m. to noon or 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.) sessions. The full day fee is \$45 per day while the half-day camp is \$25. Kids will play several sports, including soccer, flag football, basketball, volleyball and dodge ball.

The soccer camp will be offered from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. for kids 5 to 8 years old and noon to 2 p.m. for 9 to 12 year olds. The camp is five days long and the fee is \$125 per child. The camp will focus on improving soccer fundamentals.

The basketball camp is offered from 9 a.m. to noon with a fee of \$125 per participant. The camp is designed for beginner and intermediate players who are between the ages of 5 and 12 and interested in developing basic skills.

The craft camp is for children between the ages of 5 and 12 who would like to show off their creative side. There will be a variety of projects offered each day. The fee is \$30 per day.

which includes all materials.

Early drop-off is \$5 per day and it starts at 7:45 a.m. Late pick-up is also \$5 per day and ends at 5:15 p.m.

For more information on the spring break camps, call (734) HV-SPORT, or visit www.hvsports.com.

IGNITION CAMPS

The Detroit Ignition will be hosting a series of summer soccer camps for youth players. The camps, which will be located throughout metropolitan Detroit, will give young players an opportunity to train with Ignition players as well as members of the Major Indoor Soccer League team's staff.

Designed for kids between the ages of 4 and 18, the camp curriculum will offer a broad spectrum of training — from basic soccer introduction for younger players to advanced training for older players who are looking for both a technical and tactical edge.

Camp instruction will be led by Ignition head coach Mark Pulisic and team members. Instructors will be subject to camp dates and availability, but they may include Jamar Beasley, Jonathan Greenfield, Doug Rice and Danny Waltman.

For locations and schedules of the camps, visit www.detroitignition.com, or call (888) 436-4625. The camps are sponsored by the Hantz Group and the Henry Ford Medical Group.

RUNNING CLUB

Runners are invited to join the Northville (Redford) Road Runners running organization. All levels are welcome.

The club meets at 6:30 p.m. each Tuesday at Northville's Hillside Recreation Center, located off Center Street just south of Eight Mile, and at 6:30 p.m. Thursdays and 9 a.m. Saturdays at the Eight Mile Road entrance to Maybury State Park.

Varying distances are run, ranging from 4-6 miles.

For more information, send an e-mail to Bo@sprauer.com or call Gary Haf at (248) 231-6114.

DETROIT LIONS

FOOTBALL CAMP

The third annual Detroit

Leons Summer Youth Football Camp will be held July 5-8 at Central Middle School in downtown Plymouth. The camp will be held from 8:30 a.m. to noon each day and is open to boys and girls between the ages of 6 and 14 years old.

The \$159 camp fee includes:

- Four days of non contact, fundamental football instruction,
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For more information, call (313) 262-2248.

COACHES: PLEASE

CALL IN RESULTS

The local high school spring sports coaches are encouraged to report all of their teams' results to the Observer so that their players' achievements can be deservedly publicized.

Coaches are encouraged to report the scores whether their team wins or loses, or whether their team is home or on the road.

To report results, either call Observer Sports Editor Ed Wright at (734) 953-2108, e-mail results to edwright@hometownlife.com, or fax results to (734) 591-7279.

OLGC FOOTBALL

The Our Lady of Good Counsel (OLGC) football program will hold its parents meeting for the 2007 season at 7 p.m. on Thursday, March 29, in the OLGC gym, which is at 1151 William St. in Plymouth. OLGC offers teams for boys in third through eighth grades. Families that belong to the following parishes are eligible: OLGC, St. Kenneth, Our Lady of Victory, St. Mary's of Wayne, St. Richard, St. Thomas a Becket, Divine Savior, Resurrection, St. James (third graders only) and St. John Neumann.

Parents of interested players should attend the meeting. Program information and registration materials will be distributed. Contact Kevin Suppelsa at ksuppelsa@wowway.com or (734) 414-8275 or visit www.olgcfotball.net.

Canton grad hurls MU to win

BY TIM SMITH
STAFF WRITER

So far this spring, it's been raining down on Ilitch Ballpark, enough to force Madonna University's baseball team to twice postpone home-opening games.

On Tuesday, with late-afternoon thunderstorms looming, plenty of Crusader runs were all that rained down — at least, until after the 23-2 victory over Rochester (Mich.) was in the books.

Madonna (11-7) came out swinging, scoring runs in each of the first four innings to build a commanding 9-2 advantage over the Warriors. Just for good measure, the Crusaders then put a 12-spot on the scoreboard in the sixth to take a 21-2 margin into the final stages.

The Crusaders belted four homers, two each by sophomore right-fielder Scott Boyer (3-3, five RBI) and junior first baseman John McCracken (2-6, four runs, five RBI). Lacing a pair of doubles was sophomore shortstop Ryan Morrow.

The beneficiary of all the hitting was junior right-hander Carl McDevitt (Canton), who started on the mound and pitched the first five innings. He gave up just two runs and five hits while fanning five. Succeeding him on the

mound were sophomore Joe Kennedy (Belleville), sophomore Ryan Brodowsky (Farmington) senior Mike Hand (Farmington Hills), freshman Pedro Guerrero and freshman Keith Lelli.

For Rochester (4-7), Birmingham Brother Rice alum Jeff Pickens went 2-for-4 and scored a run.

Taking the loss for the Warriors was Joey Watros, who gave up the first nine runs.

All in all, 13 Madonna players contributed to the 19-hit attack. Also with two hits were senior third baseman Gary VanAllen and senior center-fielder Dan Miller.

Other local products with a hit included senior second baseman Matt Humenay (Westland/Livonia Churchill), junior catcher Ryan Powell (Canton), senior right-fielder Tony Luttman (Farmington) and junior left-fielder Mike Cauzillo (West Bloomfield).

Winning weekend

Madonna took two out of three from Spalding (Ky.) University over the weekend at Derby City Field in Louisville.

After splitting a Saturday doubleheader, the Crusaders scored three runs in the top of the ninth to come away with a 6-3 triumph on Sunday.

Junior catcher Garrett Ignasiak (Waterford) delivered

a bases-loaded two-run single to left to break a 3-3 tie and then Luttman followed with an RBI single to center.

Hand pitched two scoreless innings of relief for the victory, but Madonna received a sterling performance from junior right hander and Westland John Glenn alum Will Kennedy to even be in position to win late.

Kennedy pitched seven innings and allowed three runs on seven hits, walking just one and striking out seven. He blanked Spalding from the second through the seventh innings before turning in the eighth.

Collecting two hits each for the Crusaders were Ignasiak, Luttman and McCracken.

On Saturday, homers by freshman catcher Zach Flavin (2-4) and McCracken helped MU to the first-game 7-0 triumph. Combining for the two-hit shutout were junior lefty Eric Wendling (five innings, two hits) and Brodowsky.

Junior right-hander Ryan Bardon was the tough-luck loser in the 3-1 nightcap. He allowed one run and three hits in 5 1/3 innings, but walked six batters.

Madonna took an early 1-0 lead on an RBI double to left-center by Ignasiak, but the Crusaders could only muster four safeties the rest of the way.

MU softball team swept by Bethel

Madonna University's softball team couldn't quite crank up the offense Sunday, dropping a doubleheader to host Bethel (Ind.).

The Crusaders (13-8) lost the opener 1-0, managing just a single in the second inning by sophomore left-fielder Mary Kate Setta. Madonna senior pitcher Shannon Noder deserved a better fate, allowing just one run on four hits in six innings.

Bethel (8-6) then scored four runs in the bottom of the

fifth — with the help of two MU errors — to eke out a 6-4 win in the nightcap.

The Pilots entered the frame down 4-2 but scored an unearned run and then went ahead on a two-run double by designated hitter Brittney Fisher.


Madonna looked good early on, going ahead 3-0 in the fourth on run-scoring singles by sophomore catcher Danielle Richardson (2-for-3) freshman first baseman Catlyn Sidor (Livonia Churchill) and freshman

third baseman Brittney Scero (Canton).

After Bethel answered with two runs to cut MU's lead to 3-2, the Crusaders scored in the top of the fifth on a sacrifice fly by sophomore shortstop Tedi Johnston (2-for-2).

Also tallying two hits each in the game for the Crusaders was junior right-fielder Heather Richardson (Plymouth/Canton).

Madonna is slated to play a doubleheader Saturday (1 p.m.) against visiting Cornerstone.



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18U 4:00-5:30 pm

Ages: 9U-13U
April 1, 2007
9U & 10U 1:00-2:30 pm
11U & 12U 2:30-4:00 pm
13U 4:00-5:30 pm



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TRAINERS

FROM PAGE B1

‘Most of the kids I work with here at Salem really take the time to listen and learn about their injuries so that they can get better faster,’ emphasized Bowers, whose illustrious career has included stunts with the Toledo Mud Hens minor league baseball team, the University of Toledo Athletic Department and at Ferris State University

During some of the longer rehabs I work on, I really get to know a lot of the kids pretty well. What’s nice is that even when they’ve gone away to college or gone on to their careers, they come back and see me. Some of them will say, ‘You know, Tony, I really didn’t believe what you were saying back when I was injured, but now that I look back, I’m glad I listened to you.’”

“Tony has a great rapport with the kids,” said Salem Athletic Director Tom Willette. “The knowledge and experience he brings to our athletic programs are invaluable.”

SATISFYING JOB

Edgerton, who has taught and practiced athletic training, said his job is both fulfilling and challenging at the same time.

“I like being the first person on the scene of an injury,” he said. “I like being able to offer first-hand advice to the athletes and their parents and coaches.”

“The hard part, though, is that I’m only one person and I’m dealing with hundreds of athletes and several sports each season. We have to micromanage in order to give the athletes the attention they need. When there are four or five events going on at the same time — or four or five practices — I have to set up in a centralized location and respond to each one as the need arises.”

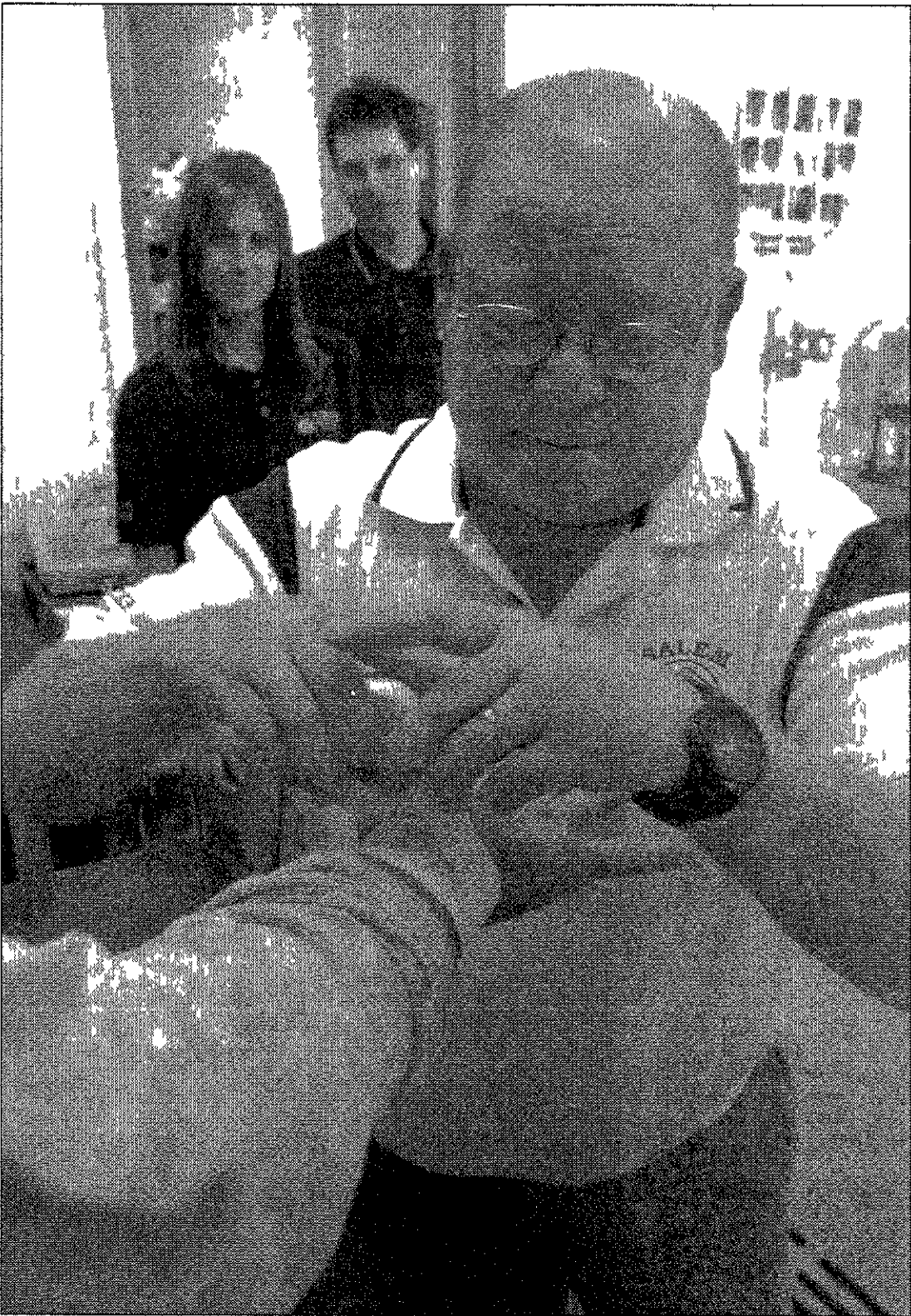
“Glenn has fit in extremely well here,” said Canton Athletic Director Sue Heinzman. “He’s done a great job and all of our coaches and athletes respect him. He’s a very good communicator and he knows what he’s talking about.”

After graduating from the University of Michigan in 2005, Kokoczka headed south to Auburn University, where she served as the trainer for the varsity volleyball team, among other responsibilities.

“I like this job because it gives me the chance to help people get better and feel better,” said Kokoczka, 24. “I had never worked with high school-aged student athletes before, but I really enjoy this job and its responsibilities.”

“We’ve had quite a bit of turnover with athletic trainers here at Plymouth, so it’s nice to have Lindsay here because she gives us some stability,” said Sawchuk. “She’s done a great job here.”

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BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Salem athletic trainer Tony Bowers tapes an athlete's wrist as Plymouth's Lindsay Kokoczka and Canton's Glenn Edgerton look on.

A LOOK AT THE TRAINERS

Name: Tony Bowers
School: Salem
Family: Wife - Cindy; daughters - Brittany 16 and McKenzie 12
Education: Undergraduate and master's degree from the University of Toledo
Career: Has over 20 years of experience in the sports medicine/athletic training profession including stints with the Toledo Mud Hens and University of Toledo Athletics Department

Name: Glenn Edgerton
School: Canton
Family: Wife - Stephanie; children - Andrew 7, and Gabe, 5
Education: Undergraduate degree from Springfield (Mass.) University, master's degree from Northern Michigan University
Career: Served as athletic trainer at Wayne Memorial before coming to Canton, has also taught athletic training classes at Eastern Michigan University and Northern Michigan University

Name: Lindsay Kokoczka
School: Plymouth
Hometown: Jackson
Education: Undergraduate degree from the University of Michigan
Career: Served as the head trainer for the Auburn (Ala.) University varsity volleyball team before moving back to Michigan last year

U.S. Girls Wrestling tourney set for the weekend in Livonia

BY BRAD EMONS
STAFF WRITER

On the heels of the NCAA Division I Men's Wrestling Championships hosted recently at the Palace of Auburn Hills, it's time for another tournament to take center stage for the opposite gender.

Were not talking Wrestlemania at Ford Field, it's the 10th annual U.S. Girls Wrestling Association National Tournament scheduled for Saturday and Sunday at Livonia Churchill High School's main gymnasium.

A field of nearly 700 female wrestlers, elementary through college-age, will compete for national titles in four different divisions.

Competitors will descend upon Livonia from all 50 states, including Hawaii and Alaska.

“It's an incredible atmosphere, it's different in that the competitors are so supportive of each other,” said Charlotte Tripp, who is secretary for the Motown Ladies Wrestling Club.

Wrestling is a family affair for the Tripps, who also belong to the Trojan Wrestling Club at Clarenceville H.S., where son Matthew 11, and Amanda 12 are involved.

Tripp's 9-year-old daughter Jennifer, who attends Grandview Elementary School in Livonia, will compete in the K-5 division at the Nationals.

Following a weigh-in Friday night, competition begins at 9 a.m. Saturday and will continue all day before resuming on Sunday. Admission, which entitles fans with a two-day pass, is \$25.

Churchill, which hosts the high school Observerland Invitational each year, takes over the USGWA Tournament from Lake Orion H.S.

In addition for the Collegiate, Open division, one of the most competitive divisions will be High School (grades 9-12). Titles will also be at stake for Middle School (grades 6-8) and Elementary (K-5).

Two Michiganders, Paige Rife of Fowlerville and Samantha Gorman of Allendale, are ranked No. 1 in their respective weight classes of 152 pounds and 144 respectively, in the High School division.

Also expected to compete at the Nationals is Nicole Woody of Arundel High in Gambrills, Md., the top-ranked 100-pounder who was featured recently in a *Sports Illustrated* article.

At U.S. High Schools, *Sports Illustrated* noted that the number of female wrestlers tripled from 1,629 to 4,975 during the last decade.

Women's wrestling has increased in popularity internationally. It was added as an Olympic sport at the 2000 Summer Games in Athens, Greece.


To register for the USGWA Nationals, visit www.usgwa.com, or e-mail tournament director Kent Bailo at kbailo@tnter.com.

The pre-registration fee is \$40 (or \$50 at the door).

For more information, call Bailo at (248) 627-8066.

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THE WEEK AHEAD

PREP BASEBALL
Saturday March 31
Novi CC at Canton (DH) 11 a.m.

PREP SOFTBALL
Plymouth at A.A. Huron (DH) 4 p.m.

GIRLS SOCCER
Thursday, March 29
South Lyon at Salem 7 p.m.

BOYS TRACK & FIELD
Saturday, March 31
A.A. Huron at Plymouth noon

BOYS TRACK & FIELD
Saturday, March 31
Canton and Plymouth at EMU Relays 10 a.m.

GIRLS TRACK & FIELD
Saturday, March 31
Plymouth at EMU Relays 10 a.m.

BOYS LACROSSE
Friday, March 30
PCS Warriors at Hartland 7 p.m.

BOYS TENNIS
Thursday, March 29
A.A. Gabriel Richard at Plymouth 4 p.m.

MEN'S COLLEGE BASEBALL
Saturday, March 31
Madonna vs. Siena Heights at Ilitch Ballpark (2) 1 p.m.

WOMEN'S COLLEGE SOFTBALL
Saturday, March 31
Madonna vs. Cornerstone at MU University Park (2) 1 p.m.

ONTARIO HOCKEY LEAGUE PLAYOFFS
Thursday, March 29
Whalers at Guelph Storm 7 p.m.

WHALERS VS. GUELPH STORM
Saturday, March 31 (if necessary)
Whalers vs. Guelph Storm at Compuware Arena 7:05 p.m.

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Jackets sign Sestito

On Tuesday, Columbus announced the signing of Plymouth Whalers' left wing Tom Sestito to a three-year entry-level contract.

Sestito was Columbus' third pick (85th overall) in the 2006 Entry Draft.

"It's exciting, but I really haven't thought about it much because I'm trying to focus on helping the Whalers win," said Sestito, moments after Tuesday night's 7-1 victory over Guelph in which he contributed his seventh hat trick of the season. "Columbus still had a year to sign me, so there wasn't a lot of pressure to get things done right away."

Sestito, 19, tallied 42 goals and 22 assists with 135 penalty minutes and a plus-six plus/minus rating in 60 games with Plymouth during the 2006-07 regular season. He led the club and ranked

13th in the OHL in goals, and was tops on the team and eighth in the OHL with 21 power-play goals. He also led the Whalers with four short-handed goals and was sixth on the club in points.

He helped lead Plymouth to a 49-14-2-3 regular-season record, which was tops in the West Division and second in the league.

The 6-5, 212-pound Rome, New York native has appeared in 152 career OHL games with the Whalers, registering 53-35-88, 399 penalty minutes and a +3 plus/minus rating.

He notched 10-10-20 and 176 penalty minutes in 57 games in 2005-06 and added 5-2-7 and 29 penalty minutes in 13 playoff games. Plymouth's roster also includes 2005 Blue Jackets draft pick Jared Boll

Whalers calm Storm in first 2 playoff games

Sean O'Connor's power play goal at 14:24 of the second period snapped a 3-3 tie and the Plymouth Whalers came all the way back from a 3-0 deficit to defeat the Guelph Storm, 5-3, in Game 2 of the best-of-seven Ontario Hockey League Western Conference Quarterfinal game played Sunday night before 3,811 at the Guelph Sports and Entertainment Centre.

The victory extended the Whalers' lead in the series to 2-0.

Dan Collins led the Plymouth attack with two goals, while James Neal, Tom Sestito and O'Connor scored singles. Ryan Pottruff, Jamie Arniel and Drew Doughty replied for Guelph.

After being outshot, 14-4, in the first period, the Whalers rallied to take the game over, outshooting Guelph, 44-14, over the final 40 minutes.

Plymouth outshot Guelph, 48-28, in the game.

Guelph built their 3-0 lead on power plays — Pottruff, roofing a shot from the slot at 10:26 of the first period, Arniel, in tight at the left doorstep at 17:26 of the first period and Doughty, hard shot from the slot at 2:55 of the second period.

Collins started the Plymouth comeback in the second period by scoring twice in the span of 38 seconds — slamming home a rebound from the left wing at 9:05 of the second period and then deflecting Wes Cunningham's point shot from the hashmarks at 9:43.

Neal scored his first of the playoffs to tie the game at 10:57, taking Brett Bellemore's pass from the right point in the Guelph zone and one-timing a shot from the lower rim of the left circle. O'Connor capped good Plymouth pressure on a

power play at 14:24 when he rammed home a rebound from a hard Jared Boll shot from the slot.

Sestito scored the only goal of the third period to close the scoring at 10:42.

PLYMOUTH 3, GUELPH 2 (OT):

Evan Brophey's goal at 2:14 of overtime snapped a 2-2 tie and the Plymouth Whalers came from behind to defeat the Guelph Storm in Game 1 of the OHL first-round playoff series played Saturday night before 2,832 at the Compuware Sports Arena.

Brophey took Chris Terry's pass from center ice and skated over the Guelph blue line.

He took a shot from the top of the left circle that Guelph goaltender Thomas McCollum got a glove on, but the puck trickled over the line.

Daniel Ryder and Sean O'Connor scored the other Plymouth goals. Jamie Arniel

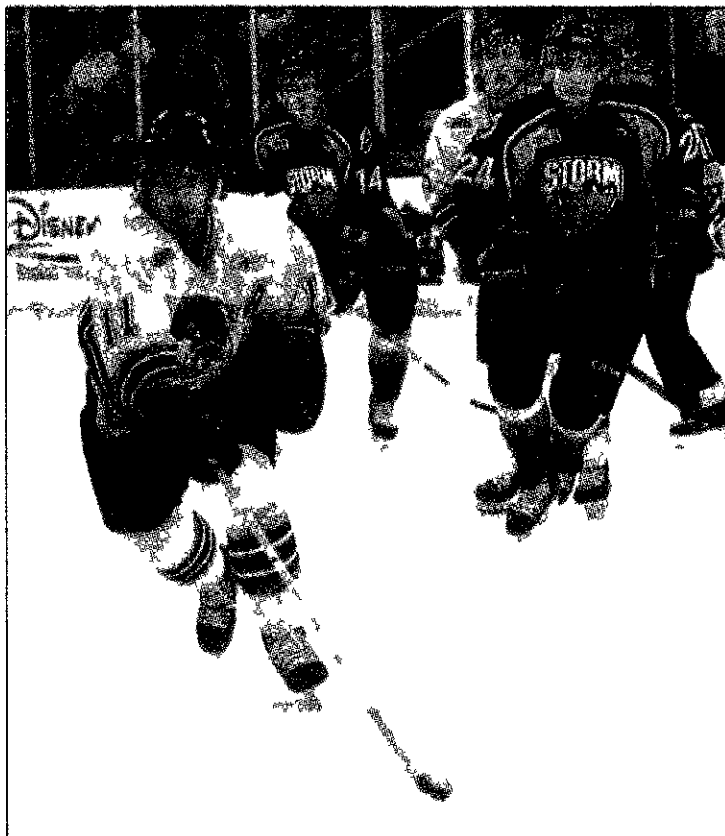
and Matt Kennedy scored for Guelph.

Guelph outshot Plymouth, 34-26, with Whalers goaltender Michal Neuvirth recording his first OHL playoff victory in stopping 32-of-34 shots.

Plymouth (49-14-2-3, 103 points) finished 25 points ahead of Guelph (33-23-3-9, 78 points) in the regular season standings, but the Storm built a 2-1 lead in the first period on goals by Arniel (0:50) and Kennedy (17:05) sandwiched around O'Connor's marker at 10:08.

After a scoreless second period, the Whalers tied the game at 13:21 of the third period when Ryder batted home a rebound out in front of the Guelph goal after McCollum made stops on Dan Collins and James Neal.

That set the stage for Brophey's game-winning goal.



Plymouth's Evan Brophey cruises down a patch of open ice with a pair of Guelph Storm players in hot pursuit during Tuesday night's OHL playoff game at the Compuware Sports Arena. The Whalers won, 7-1, to forge a 3-0 lead in the best-of-seven first-round series.



Plymouth's Joe McCann (23) skates past Guelph's Jamie Arniel during Tuesday night's OHL playoff game at the Compuware Sports Arena. The Whalers won, 7-1.

PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

WHALERS

FROM PAGE B1

in front of the net and flipped a rock back under past Storm goalie Thomas McCollum, much to the delight of the home crowd.

Tom actually works on shots like that in practice," said Plymouth head coach Mike Vellucci. "He's been great for us all year. Whenever he gets the puck in front of the net like he did tonight, he's very dangerous."

The Whalers' penalty-killing unit ranked right up there with Sestito in terms of effectiveness as it snuffed out 11-of-12 short-handed situations. Following a calm and uneventful opening 20 minutes, the overhead scoreboard at Compuware was lit up like a Christmas tree for most of the second and third stanzas during which flashing neon "No vacancy" signs would have been appropriate for the penalty boxes.

"We've worked all year on our penalty-killing and it has shown in the games," said

Vellucci. "The most important thing you need to kill penalties is a great goalie and we have two of them."

Getting the nod between the pipes on Tuesday for Plymouth was Michal Neuvirth, who also started the opener before giving way to Jeremy Smith for Game 2 on Sunday. The Czech Republic native was brilliant, stopping 34-of-35 shots.

Neuvirth's most impressive save came with 2:55 left to play when he stoned a two-on-none Guelph breakaway. Seven seconds later, Sestito scored his third power-play goal of the night to close the scoring.

Desperate times required desperate measures for the Storm 23 seconds into the third period. With a 4-1 deficit looming over their heads, the Guelph coaching staff asked the referees to measure James Neal's stick immediately after he was whistled for a two-minute penalty. If the men in stripes ruled that the stick's curvature was beyond legal limits, the Whalers would have been assessed a second two-minute penalty, giving the Storm a 5-on-3 advantage.

Initially, the referees said the stick was OK. However, after Guelph coach Dave Barr insisted on a re-check, the refs re-measured and ruled that it was an illegal piece of equipment. Unfazed, the Whalers killed off the Storm's two-man advantage.

"I think that fired us up a little bit, especially after we killed the penalties," said Vellucci, referring to stick-gate. "It kind of set the tone for (Guelph), too, because I think

their players realized it was a desperate act and it kind of demoralized them when they didn't get anything out of it."

Plymouth struck first on Jared Boll's off-the-post goal 7:19 into the opening period. He was assisted by Evan Brophey.

Neal doubled the lead to 2-0 when he maneuvered through three Guelph defensemen before back-handing a floater past McCollum with 6:11 left in the opening period.

The Whalers' first-period onslaught continued when Ryan McGinnis scored from Wes Cunningham and Sean O'Connor with just 15:9 seconds left before the intermission.

Guelph sliced its deficit to 3-1 on Rafael Rotter's power-play lamp-lighter with 17:07 to play in the second. However, Sestito subdued any momentum the visitors may have envisioned with a goal off a rebound at the 8:12 mark of the second.

O'Connor (from McGinnis and Dan Collins) and Sestito (two) found the back of the net in the third period.

Plymouth outshot Guelph, 58-35, after getting outshot 12-10 in the opening period.

In celebration of signing his first pro contract, Sestito pledged to take his teammates out to dinner.

"But only after I get my first check," he said, smiling.

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How Szwed it is: Ladywood icer named 'Miss Hockey'

BY BRAD EMONS
STAFF WRITER

When it comes to the water, Livonia Ladywood High's Laura Szwed has both sides of the rink covered

On frozen pond, the senior was honored recently in a banquet held at Livonia's Laurel Manor as Miss Hockey, recognizing the top girls high school hockey player in the state

And when it warms up, she spends her summers on Brendel Lake near her home in White Lake perfecting routines as a barefoot water skier where she competes both nationally and in world competitions

Last September, in 2006 Barefoot Water Ski World Championships held in Adna, Wash. (Lake Silverado), Szwed earned a bronze medal in tricks and fourth in the slalom for a sixth place finish overall. She was also a member of the first-place U.S. Elite Barefoot Water Ski Team.

I like both sports equally, said Szwed. My brother (Kyle) and my dad (Chris) competed (in water skiing). My mother (Pat) roots us on.

The family also had plenty to cheer about this winter as Laura led the Blazers to a 17-3-1 record and a berth in the semifinals of the Michigan High School Girls Hockey League playoffs.

Szwed ended her career (March 8) at Livonia's Edgar Arena with a pair of goals in a 5-2 loss to Bloomfield Hills Kingswood, giving her 42 for the season to go along with 17 assists.

Needless to say, Szwed earned first-team All-State honors along with teammate Brittney Holtz, a senior defenseman, and was one of six considered in the final voting for Miss Hockey.

"I figured I was in the running, but I was really shocked when they announced it," Szwed said.

Szwed, who carries a 3.4 grade point average, plans to continue her hockey career in college. She would like to study



Livonia Ladywood's Laura Szwed was named 'Miss Hockey' earlier this month.

International Business and is leaning toward Utica (NY) College, an NCAA Division III school which offers hockey for women.

Despite standing only 5 feet, 2 inches, Szwed was adept at making big plays when the Blazers needed them the most. In 67 games at Ladywood, Szwed finished her career with 139 goals and 62 assists.

"I just try to use my speed out there, the new Miss Hockey said.

Szwed began playing at age seven and competed on boys teams until a Pee Wee division (age 12) was offered for girls. She decided to attend Ladywood because it had a high school girls hockey program.

"It's sad to be leaving, I really enjoyed playing," she said. "A lot of us have been playing together for three and four years."

There's a huge void that needs to be filled now that Szwed's prep career is over.

"We'll miss her leadership and her two-way style of play," Ladywood coach Bruce Peck said. "She's not tall, but she really knows how to position herself on the ice. She has strong legs. It no doubt comes from the water."

"And she's the nicest person you'll ever meet. She's very humble and team-oriented. She's good in the classroom, very positive, and fun to be around."

Eberhardt perks up at Coffeyville

BY BRAD EMONS
STAFF WRITER

When Barry Eberhardt arrived at Coffeyville Community College (Kan.) in the fall of 2005, men's basketball coach Jay Herkelman believed he had recruited a diamond in the rough.

The only thing he needed to do was to polish up the 6-foot-6 forward from Westland John Glenn High School.

Two years later, Eberhardt has become a gem, leading Coffeyville to a 30-4 record and its fifth berth in six years to the NJCAA Division I National Tournament.

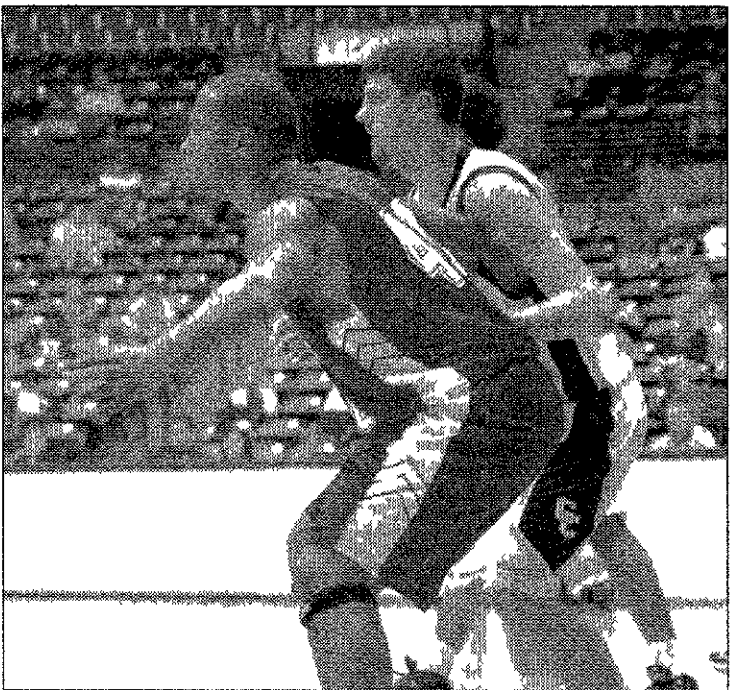
Eberhardt scored 16 points in a 69-61 Region 6 championship game triumph over Barton County CC (Kan.) after tallying 25 in a semifinal victory over Cloud County CC (Kan.). He was named Region 6 tournament MVP and also was selected East Player of the Year in the Kansas Jayhawk CC Conference.

The chiseled 252-pound sophomore power forward is averaging a team-best 18.6 points, while shooting 59 percent from the field, including 40 percent from three-point range. He also pulls down 6.3 rebounds per game.

I had him in an individual workout, and right away I could see he had the touch and could take people off the dribble with his size, said Herkelman, who coached University of Virginia All-America Devin Smith. The body was the first thing. He's 6-6, 252, a guy who can catch the ball, and he was mobile. It's kind of like you had in Karl Malone, a guy who faces up and also finish around the basket.

Eberhardt now finds himself as an NJCAA All-America candidate who is being recruited by a slew of NCAA Division I mid-major schools including Dayton, UNLV, Wichita State, Central Michigan, St. Louis, Bradley and Illinois State to name a few.

Coming out of Glenn, Eberhardt earned All-Observer honors, but he was considered



COFFEYVILLE CC INFORMATION

Westland John Glenn grad Barry Eberhardt has become one of the Midwest's top junior college players at Coffeyville (Kan.).

a highly skilled player with a questionable work ethic bordering on lazy.

"Nate Oats, the coach at Romulus, said Barry had played against them and he called me and believed he had a chance to be a good college player," Herkelman said. "Barry had really good offensive skills and a great feel for the game on the offensive end."

"There's a lot of guys like Barry that can shoot the three or go inside, but don't have the mid-range shot. He can do all three. Those guys are hard to guard. He's a throwback in that regard."

Coffeyville sits in the southwestern corner of the state of Kansas, just down the road from Independence on the border of Oklahoma.

It's rural landscape came almost as a shock for the Inkster native. It proved to be quite an adjustment.

There's acres of farmland, the environment was totally different, Eberhardt said.

There's no traffic, just a slower way of life, a slower pace. I was bored. No movies, no mall, close by. I felt confined. The

only thing you could focus on was basketball and going to school.

Midway through his freshman year, Eberhardt began to buy into Herkelman's program.

And by the end of the season, he was averaging 25 minutes per game, was a pivotal player off the bench, and helped the 33-7 Red Ravens to a Region 6 crown where he was named All-Tourney. Coffeyville wound up with a seventh-place finish in the national tournament.

Early in the year he struggled even though you could see he had a load of talent, Herkelman said. "I couldn't get it out of him and he was not as productive as he could have been."

Then about halfway through our conference play, he started to contribute. We had a nice group of sophomores last year that really worked hard and provided great leadership. We had a 5-7 point guard whose work ethic was unbelievable. Barry saw that. He saw those tendencies and he learned you're not going to be a success because

you're lazy or don't play hard. He finally figured if he played as hard as they did, he could be as good.

Eberhardt's dad, Barry, Sr., played at Orchard Lake St. Mary's College. He has never seen his son play a game live. He's watched tapes.

"He's got to take care of business at home, he's got to work," Barry said. "His game was similar, but he's a left-hander."

Eberhardt's future appears bright. He'll take his five recruiting visits after the nationals and would like to find his way back to a four-year school in the Midwest. But he also remains open-minded.

"It doesn't matter," Eberhardt said. "I'd like to be closer to home, but if it's not, that's the way it goes. All I know is this is what I want to do with my career. This is what I love to do and I want to do something at the next level."

Despite his early struggles, things have worked out for the best.

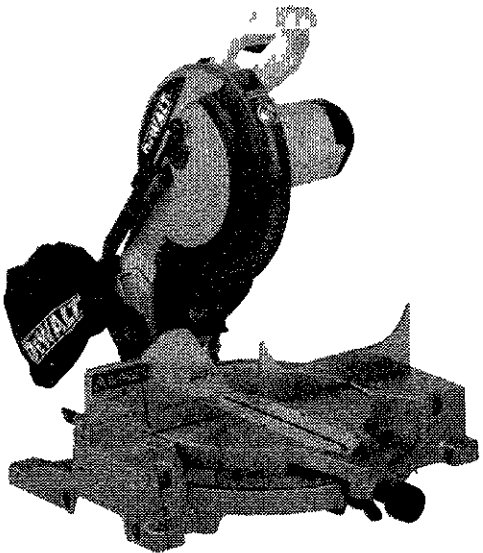
His mom just sent me an e-mail and thanked me for all the things which I did to help him grow," Herkelman said. "I rode him pretty hard starting out, that's probably why he thought about leaving, but his mom said there was no way he was coming back home. She knew he had a bunch of growing up to do and I thought he had a chance in the right program. He started to figure it out."

"The other thing that helped a bunch is that Barry is a great kid. He doesn't have an ego and he's not arrogant to where he didn't want to get better. He's very coachable, just a great kid to coach."

Eberhardt also appreciates what his coach did for him.

He's made me comfortable in this situation," the Glenn grad said. "He gives you to freedom. He has trust in me and I trust him. I also learned you've got to play defense to contribute. He's showed me a lot and helped my game so much."

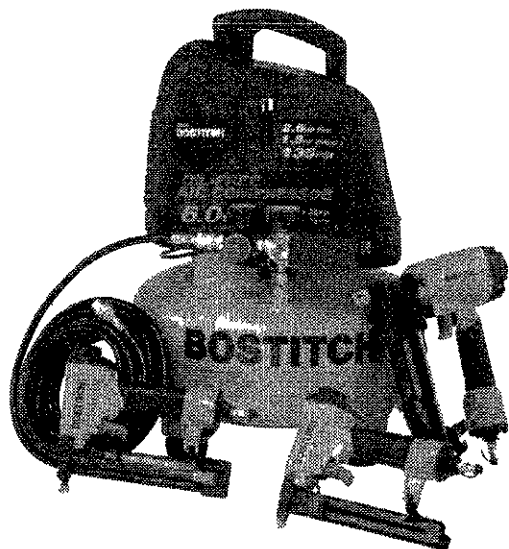
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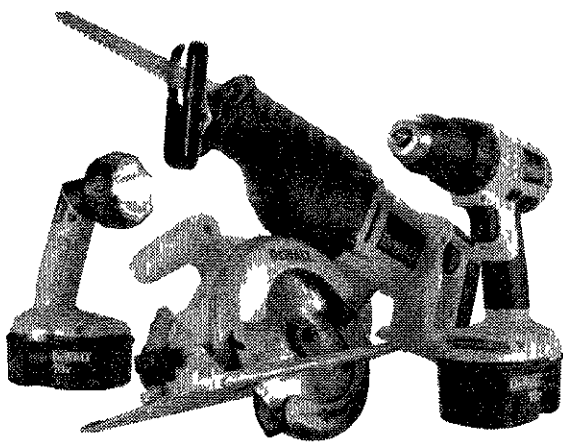
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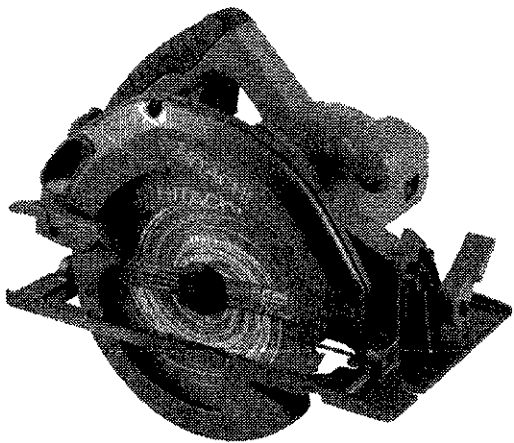
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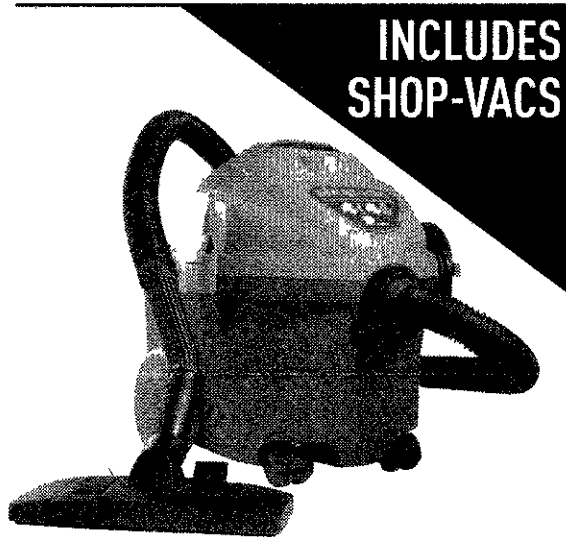
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A	B	I	S	P	A	N	L	P	O
D	F	G	C	A	R	D	S	H	J
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C	Z	A	E	E	K	C	L	U	B
E	D	I	A	M	O	N	D	R	W
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C	Z	A	B	E	K	C	L
D	I	E	A	M	O	N	D
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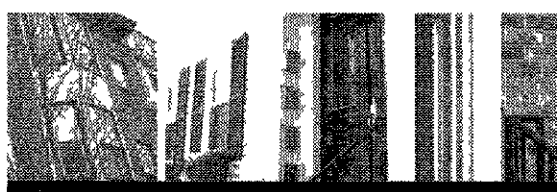
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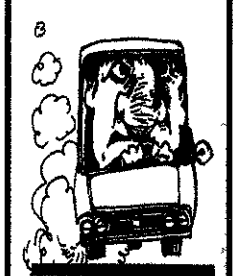
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TAKING OBESITY SERIOUSLY ON BOTH SIDES OF THE DESK



WORKWISE
by Mildred L. Culp

An employee's weight is a very personal matter, but the drive to reduce the cost of health benefits is fueling wellness programs, which seek measurable results. Boston's Virgin Life Care, in a pilot program, found that 84 percent of employees at one of its two pilot sites were obese or overweight. The company's activity-based HealthMiles, which rewards employees with merchandise, motivated up to 40 percent of its 939 total employees to establish a habit of walking up stairs rather than pressing the elevator button. A full 63 percent reduced body fat, some as much as 20 percent. Virgin Life Care anticipates cost savings in reduced absenteeism and decreased medical claims. HealthMiles launched nationally in December.

Is all of this dead serious? The \$3 billion diversified metal processor Worthington Industries, headquartered in Columbus, Ohio, instituted its Healthy Choices Wellness Program. Employees could choose not to enroll and instead pay a modest premium to offset the increasing cost of health benefits. The program's "Tour de Plants" motivated 886 employees to get off their duffs. "10K Steps" inspired 511 to walk progressively up to 10,000 steps per day. The company estimates an

ROI of 2.15 to 1 over a two-year period.

LOSING

Denise Cannon, systems engineer at Capital District Physician's Health Plan Inc. (CDPHP), in Albany, N.Y., testifies to the importance of co-worker support in her Slimdown program drop of 35 pounds and subsequent 15-pound drop from the Fall into Fitness program. She plans to lose 43 more pounds. Her 10-member Slimdown team, inspired by an undefined amount of money and a \$20 registration fee per employee, won first place (\$6,696 for the team). It contributed to a loss of 2,134 tons by a total of 189 employees. However, money wasn't the main motivator. "Our biggest inspiration," she says, "is that one person sent his current weight and his weight goals to the team -- we were shocked -- and 70 percent of the team followed. We graphed our progress, gaining or losing, on a chart and sent it to our team every week. That's where we would talk about what they did and try to change it. Something that worked for me didn't necessarily work for them. We gave each other low-calorie, good-tasting food." One of her favorites, T. Marzetti, found in Price Chopper's fruit aisle, curbs chocolate cravings. Total team loss exceeded a ton. Cannon captained the two winning teams.

Rod Sparks, operations manager at the 77,000-sq. ft. Louisville, Ky., facility of Worthington Industries, started with the company more than 26 years ago, when,

at 23, he weighed around 205 pounds. His sedentary workstyle began while driving a semi. He doesn't recall any discussion of health and well-being at the company in the 1980s. He ballooned. "I had no idea that the company would move us to a healthier lifestyle," he comments.

Inspired by Healthy Choices and four active young sons, Sparks dropped 80 pounds, lowered his blood pressure and his bad cholesterol from 235 to 180. "Worthington constantly provides programs that challenge you and keep you in structure," he says. "It generates communication and conversation among employees. We challenge each other and look out for each other. Some of the guys are competitive." The medical center at headquarters conducts an annual, multi-shift on-site health fair that spouses may attend. While his waistline shrank, his clothing budget expanded. The biggest challenge has been determining when to shop again.

"Family and co-workers supported me," he notes. "I've run a couple of mini-marathons with a friend. That type of support is the foundation. Seeing the guys helps keep me in the right frame of mind." Numerous compliments on the job keep him going, too. He's kept the weight off for about three years.

Bonding continued with the half of Cannon's Slimdown team that helped form the Fall into Fitness team, and



Denise Gannon, systems engineer, with her daughter Alena and Walter, her husband, she comes up a winner.

weight loss continued when co-workers communicated with each other. "We're a large IT department and we've gotten to know people outside of our own team," she remarks. "It's a good team-building thing for work-related things, we already have a rapport. It makes things go better."

(Dr. Mildred L. Culp is an award-winning journalist. Copyright 2007 Passage Media.)

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LAWN MAINTENANCE

Sub contractors needed for residential property in Wayne/Macomb/Oakland & Washtenaw counties. Must be reliable. Have workman's comp. and general liability insurance. Call 973-417-7463

LAWN MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR

Supervise small crew 3+ yrs exp. Must have chauffeur's license. Familiarity with Wayne/Oakland area. Fax resumes (734) 522-0052 or email to clippersoffice@sbglobel.net

LAWN SPRINKLER SERVICE TECHNICIAN

\$9.18/hr (248) 334-1200

Help Wanted-General 5000

LAWN SPRINKLER SERVICE TECHNICIAN

For Landscape company. Minimum 3 years exp. Good driving record a must. (734) 738-0002

LEASING AGENT

F/T for multi property company. Benefits available. Leasing/Customer Service exp. required. May work Saturdays. Please fax resumes to 248-352-2837

LEASING AGENT

Thornberry Apts in West Bloomfield seeking sharp, dependable person to work Sat. 10-4 and Sun. 12-4 to show apts. and help in office. Call 248-661-8440 or fax resume to 248-661-2170

LEASING CONSULTANT

Part time for Canton apt. community. Leasing or sales exp. preferred. Please call (734) 397-1060 or fax resume to (734) 397-0319

Leasing Consultant

Part time
For luxury apartment community in Westland. Fax resume to 734-459-1719

LIFEGUARDS

Now hiring dependable team players for summer positions. Flexible hours, great pay. Call 248-349-5570 or fax/email resume to 248-349-0394. kingsmill@sbglobel.net Attn: Doris

LOAN PROCESSOR

Novi based mortgage company seeking exp. Mortgage Processors. Applicants please fax resume (248) 232-0064 EOE

MAINTENANCE

Exp. worker ext. residential bldg in Novi. Must have administrative & computer skills. Outlook & Word. Fax resume 734-459-0690

MAINTENANCE

Local property management company has all maintenance positions available. Please fax brief resume or qualifications and salary requirements to 248-477-2524. No Phone Calls. Please

MAINTENANCE TECH

Experienced preferred, but not required. Will train the right team player. Fax/email resume Attn: Doris 248-349-0394. kingsmill@sbglobel.net

Help Wanted-General 5000

MAINTENANCE TECH

Wyndchase Townhomes in Canton is seeking a full time experienced maintenance tech. Candidates must have previous apartment maintenance experience and possess own tools. We offer competitive salary, apartment discount opportunities, medical and dental benefits. Fax resume to 734-844-3563 Attn: Fred

Marketing Assistant Associate

Are you clean & neat in appearance? Enjoy working with people? We offer hourly & salary positions. Flexible hrs. Room for advancement. Full or part time positions. If you can start immediately, call Rick Richards at (248) 348-1515

Massage Therapist

Esthetician & Cosmetologist. 444 S. Main St. Plymouth MI 734-455-4407

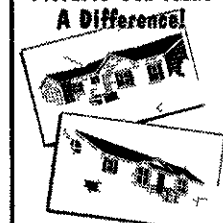
Check us out at

CareerBuilder.com

MECHANIC

For Tow Trucks. Contact: LaTonya Walker at (734) 455-1130

Pictures Can Make A Difference!



1-800-579-SELL(7355)

Observer & Eccentric

MECHANIC, H/D

E and L Transport a Progressive Automotive Transportation Company is seeking full time qualified diesel mechanic/welders. Individual must be qualified in diesel mechanics with experience in diesel truck repair and welding/fabricating. Familiar with hydraulics and heavy duty power trains. Union wages, full benefits and great pension.

APPLICATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED

MON - FRI FROM 9 AM-4 PM or call & ask for Bob 734-420-5310. APPLY IN PERSON AT E & L TRANSPORT 4290 Hamman Road Canton MI 48188 EOE

Help Wanted-General 5000

Mechanics

Swift Transportation
Now Hiring
DIESEL TECHNICIANS
3 years Heavy Tractor Exp. Must have Own Tools & Valid Driver's License. Swift Offers A Competitive Compensation Package. Medical Dental 401k. Must be able to Pass A Drug Screen & Background Check. High School Diploma/GED Required. (EOE M/F)

Contact Pete Mueller at 800-575-9487 Ext 52361

METAL FINISHERS

Livonia facility. 20 immediate openings. Must have exp. drug testing. Days & Afternoon shifts. Sentech Services 7878 Telegraph Taylor MI 48015 Phone 313-299-9825

MORTGAGE ORIGINATORS

Top commission on plus benefits for Top producers. Call Fred at 248-307-3640 or email resume to fred@libertylandng.com

POWERWASHERS NEEDED

Several openings. Must be day/evening & day/evening. Full time days/evening. Good pay with benefits. 734-420-1700

Purchasing Agent

Full time 40 hrs/wk. purchase raw or semi finished materials for mfg. purchase machinery equipment tools parts supplies and services required for operation. Requirements: 2 yrs exp. in mfg. environment. Knowledge of MS Office (Excel). Mail resume to D Cox R&D Enterprises Inc. PO Box 701253 Plymouth MI 48170

QC MANAGER

To apply visit www.rushman.com

RECEPTIONIST

Busy landscape company in the Walled Lake area is looking for an experienced outgoing organized person. Computer exp. req. Good pay & benefit package. Fax resume to 248-669-4984

RESIDENT MANAGER

West Oakland apartment complex seeking friendly customer focused individual or couple for on site management. Exp. and computer skills required. Must be dependable with good communication skills and familiar with all aspects of leasing tenant relations and collections. Fax resume 248-358-3776 or email to daniel@magarcompany.com

SERVICE TECHNICIANS

Swimming Pool Co. Must have exp. Pay & benefits commensurate w/exp. 248-477-7727

SUITE ATTENDANTS

Candlewood Suites is hiring FT Suite Attendants. Please apply in person between 8am & 3pm. 37555 Hills Tech Drive Farmington Hills MI 48331 248-324-0540

TELEMARKETER Exp d

Contract position. Work from home 3-4 days p/week. Phone computer & email req. Excellent pay & bonuses. Email to schedule an interview. nagjobs@flash.net

TRAILER MECHANIC

Exp. preferred. Apply in person. TNT Trailer Sales 5905 Belleville Rd. Belleville

Help Wanted-General 5000

RESIDENTIAL WORKER

Needed at a shelter. Part Time position. Midnights Fri Sat & Mon 3-11:30PM. Mail resume to WCFE Attn: J. Monroe 30600 Michigan Ave. Westland MI 48186

RETAIL SALES CONSULTANT

Livonia/Westland area. Circular Wireless agent seeks highly motivated energetic individuals to join our sales staff. Retail sales experience preferred. Please fax resume 734-641-7112

SAND & FINISH CONTRACTORS

For flooring company. n Wixom. Call 248-668-8505

SEASONAL LABORER (Facilities & Parks)

Accepting applications for the position of Seasonal Laborer \$7.73 per hr. Job description will be complete qualifications will be available on the Canton Township website at www.cantonmi.org or may be viewed at the Canton Township Human Resources Division 1150 S. Canton Center Rd. Canton MI 48188. Applications may also be picked up at the Canton Administration Building Human Resources Division or on the Canton Township application form must be completed in its entirety and on file in the Human Resources Division prior to 4 p.m. April 3, 2007. Faxed or e-mailed applications will not be accepted. The Charter Township of Canton does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age or disability in employment or the provision of services. An Equal Opportunity Employer.

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TRAILER MECHANIC

Exp. preferred. Apply in person. TNT Trailer Sales 5905 Belleville Rd. Belleville

Help Wanted-General 5000

TREE CARE PERSONNEL

Spray Applicators \$13 + depending on experience. Tree Trimmers & Ground Personnel \$9 to \$17+ depending on experience. Must have a valid driver's license with good record. Benefits available. Call Mountain Top Tree Service Northville 248-349-1870

WAITSTAFF

Full time only 21 & over. Apply within only 0 TOOLE S 205 W Fifth Ave. Royal Oak

WINDOW CLEANER WANTED

No exp. necessary. Will train. Full time. Overtime Bonus potential. 734-462-4944

YOUTH PROGRAMS STAFF

The Henry Ford is looking for part time staff 18 yrs/older with 12 yrs exp/equivalent working with school age children. The G.A.M.E. program offered during the school year greets arriving groups and facilitates evening activities. Summer Discovery Camp overnight leaders supervise and facilitate outdoor activities with 6th, 7th & 8th graders spending the night in a tent in Greenfield Village in dorm rooms over six "nights" through the summer. Please apply in person. Lovett Hall 20900 Oakwood Blvd Dearborn MI www.thehenryford.org

Help Wanted-Office 5020

Accounts Receivable Supervisor

Part Time 20 hrs/wk. Issue invoices for materials sold. process payments received. manage collection activities. Requirements: BA in Accounting. Knowledge of MS Office (Excel). Mail resume to D Cox R&D Enterprises Inc. PO Box 701253 Plymouth MI 48170

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Find us on the internet at www.hometownlife.com

Call us at 800-579-SELL (7355)

Help Wanted-Office 5020

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT Full-Time

Need in our Development Department. Salary range is \$30,000-\$32,000/annually based on experience. The successful candidate will possess the following:

*high school diploma or equivalent, some college level business coursework or secretarial training preferred

*minimum 5 yrs. exp. in an executive secretary position

*strong organization oral & written communication skills

*minimum typing speed of 70 wpm

*Ability to take dictation

*proficiency in Word & Excel is required

*PowerPoint is preferred

*ability to manage multiple tasks simultaneously

*organize meetings, coordinate appointments and calendars

*Submits time sheets and coordinates expense records

*Handles requests from staff, volunteers, Trustees, the general public and other entities as necessary

*Performs inquiry functions and generates reports

*Maintains accurate logs, reports and department budgets

CANDIDATE MUST BE A CITY OF DETROIT RESIDENT WITHIN 3 MOS FROM DATE OF HIRE

Please apply by sending your resume to:

The Detroit Institute of Arts Organization Development/Human Resources Dept. 5200 Woodward Ave. Detroit MI 48202 Fax: (313) 833-0343 or email HRJobs@dia.org No later than Friday April 13, 2007 5PM EOE

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

W/ excellent computer phone & people skills required. General office & special projects. Flexible 20 hrs/week. Fax resume w/ salary requirements to C. Curtis Financial 734-844-1410 or Email joel@curtisfinancial.com

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Needed to support landscape retail and small manufacturing firm. Experienced flexible and organized. Fax/email resumes to Detroit Garden Works 248-335-0860 info@detroitgardensworks.com

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

For Troy based non-profit organization. Must have excellent computer, telephone & all office skills. Microsoft Access or Data Base a plus. Please email resumes to detroit2@gmail.com

BOOKKEEPER

Full Charge A/P A/R Quickbooks. Detroit non-profit agency. email resume to jody.wachter@citymission.org



careerbuilder.com™

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HOMETOWNlife.com

Help Wanted-Office Clerical 6020

CLERICAL HELP NEEDED
Manufacturing office Mail resume to HR Dept 32367 W 8 Mile Rd Livonia Ste 152

RECEPTIONIST
Outgoing phone oriented person to help in small Livonia manufacturing co. Must be able to multi task for busy & hectic front office Computer & multi phone line exp. a must Mon-Fri 8-5 Fax resume to (734) 744 2071

RECEPTIONIST / ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Career opportunity that offers advancement within a fast paced growing company. Ideal candidate should possess a minimum of 4 yrs **ADVANCED** Microsoft Office skills. Candidate should have creative marketing skills and the ability to multi task. Responsibilities include answer multi line phone greeting clients typing correspondence filing and general office duties. We offer a state of the art progressive environment a competitive salary and full benefits package.

Mail or fax resume

MOELLER
43938 Plymouth Oaks Blvd
Plymouth MI 48170
Fax (734) 416 2200
www.moellercorp.com

RECEPTIONIST/CLERICAL
For growing business in Wixom. Must have basic accounting skills Excel & Word req. Access a PLUS Fax resume 248 295 2699

SECRETARY
Part time for individual with general secretarial good communication & computer skills. Southfield area. Fax resume to (248) 557 4928 or mail to P.O. Box 760096 Lathrup Village MI 48076

"It's All About Results"
Observer & Eccentric Classifieds!

SECRETARY/BOOKKEEPER
Part Time for property management co. Farmington Hills. Good wages. Fax resume to (248) 851 7414

Help Wanted-Engineering 5030

MECHANICAL DESIGN ENGINEERS
For Automotive & Tier 1 supplier. To design automotive components using **SORC IDEAS UNIGRAPHICS CATIA IGES & PROENGINEER**. Requires Masters (or foreign educational equivalent) in related field or study plus 6 mos. relevant experience. Will accept any equally suitable combination of education training &/or experience which would qualify applicant to perform job duties.

Send resume to **NYX Inc**
36800 Plymouth Rd
Livonia MI 48150
Attn: Human Resources

Help Wanted-Dental 5040

DENTAL RECEPTIONIST
Hiring NOW!! Needed at our Roseville & Southfield locations. Minimum 3 yrs dental exp. computer literate & PPO/HMO knowledge. Excellent salary/benefits. Fax 586 776 9758 or Call 866 869 9445

Help Wanted-Office Clerical 5020

CLERICAL HELP NEEDED
Manufacturing office Mail resume to HR Dept 32367 W 8 Mile Rd Livonia Ste 152

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Help Wanted-Office Clerical 5020

CLERICAL HELP NEEDED
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Help Wanted-Dental 5040

DENTAL & MEDICAL RECRUITMENT
• Orthodontic Asst
• Dental Receptionists
• Dental Assistants
• RNs
• Case Managers
• LPNs
• Respiratory Therapist
• Medical Assistants
• EMTs
• Dental Receptionist
• Nurse Managers
• Psychologists
• Medical Biller
• And more!

If you are looking to place an ad for any of the above positions check out our

DENTAL & MEDICAL RECRUITMENT SECTION

You can place your ad for only \$50/inch (three inch min.) The Observer & Eccentric's Medical & Dental Recruitment Section will publish the last Sunday of each month. Deadline to place an ad in this section prior to the publication date. Contact one of our Representatives for more information or to reserve your space **1-800-579-7355** or email oeads@hometownlife.com

Observer & Eccentric

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Observer & Eccentric

DENTAL HYGIENIST

Part time for Livonia office. Send resumes Observer & Eccentric Box 1515 36251 Schoolcraft Livonia MI 48150

DENTAL HYGIENIST

A team player needed to join our friendly staff 3-4 days/wk. Canton area. Fax resume to 248 458 5370

Dental Insurance/ Appointment Coordinator

Bright enthusiastic person for permanent position with good prospects. Varied & interesting duties. Dental & computer exp. desirable but will train. Right person. Fax resume to 734 425 9190

DENTAL RECEPTIONIST

Full time for progressive Westland Wayne area office. Benefits Exp. necessary. Fax resume to 734 422 5560

Help Wanted-Medical 5060

CAREGIVER

Assisted Living bldg in Northville. Looking for a full/part time afternoon shift. Caregiver. Must be outgoing, reliable and enjoy working with the elderly. Fax resume to 248 344 8184

CASE MANAGER

A growing company is seeking a qualified RN Case Manager for the Detroit area. Requirements include current Michigan RN license and certification as a case manager. Experience with workers compensation and Michigan auto/PIP necessary. We offer competitive wage and benefit package. Interested candidates send resume to hr@fdgroup.com

CHIROPRACTIC OFFICE

Mon-Wed-Fri 1-2 Sat part month. Will train to run the practice area. Complete computer data entry. X-ray must be a happy, energetic people person. Call 734 421 0101

CNA/LPN \$13-\$16

Part time in Home Care Mornings and Contingency. See www.michworks.org >Job Seekers >Job Search >Job Order Number 2546120 and 2549312. Northville

DIRECT CARE STAFF

Needed full or part time. Benefits available \$7.46/hr. to start. Call Debbie 734 524 1361

Help Wanted-Medical 5060

EMT MEDICAL ASSISTANT RESIDENT ASSOCIATE
For beautiful assisted living community. Maintenance position available for 2 days/wk. Please call 734 326 6193

FRONT DESK POSITIONS

Full & Part time West Bloomfield area. Please fax (248) 855 1323

INFUSION ROOM ONCOLOGY NURSE

For established private practice. Mon-Fri. No holidays. Fax resume to 248 324 2444

MEDICAL & DENTAL RECRUITMENT

• RNs
• Case Managers
• Medical Receptionists
• Orthodontic Asst
• LPNs
• Dental Assistants
• Respiratory Therapist
• Medical Assistants
• EMTs
• Dental Receptionist
• Nurse Managers
• Psychologists
• Medical Biller
• And more!

If you are looking to place an ad for any of the above positions check out our

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Observer & Eccentric

MEDICAL ASSISTANT

Full time position for experienced MA in fast paced family practice. References req. Fax resume to 248 474 4224

MEDICAL ASSISTANT

Upbeat hardworker for fast paced 2 Dr internal medicine office in Southfield. EKG, PF, venipuncture etc. Resume & ref's req. Competitive salary. Hrs 7:30-3:30 Mon-Thurs. Wed. Call Leslie 248 559 6585

MEDICAL BILLER

Experience for Southfield neurology office. Fax resume to (248) 358 3425

Medical Receptionist

Full time. Send resume to 43422 West Oaks Drive PMB #167 West MI 48377 3300

MEDICAL RECEPTIONIST ESTHETICIAN &/or MEDICAL ASSISTANT

New Canton Plastic Surgery Office. Must be licensed. Preferably exo but will train. Fax resume (734) 844 5703

NUCLEAR MED TECH

Registered RT for Southfield based mobile diagnostic facility. Excellent pay & benefits. Fax resume to 888 223 7316

PATIENT CARE COORDINATOR/RECEPT

Busy wellness center needs front desk dynamic multi tasker w/ good P/R & computer skills. Insurance exp. helpful. Fax 734 453 9992

CLASSIFIEDS

THAT WORK FOR YOU! **1-800-579-SELL**

PHLEBOTOMY EDUCATION

Classes begin in Apr 1 day a week 5 weeks. Cost \$850 at local hospital (313) 382 3857

Help Wanted-Medical 5060

RN Full or Part Time
Our busy and expanding specialty practice is looking for full and part time RNs. Candidates will preferably have experience in an outpatient setting and must have a drive for outstanding patient care. Competitive wage and benefit package plus no holidays weekends or call. Mail/fax resume current resume w/salary history to Attn: Pat M 30055 Northwestern Hwy Suite L 50 Farmington Hills MI 48334 Fax (248) 737 9287 Email employment@procareersystems.com

RN/LPN/CMA

Part/full time for W Bloomfield allergy practice. Fax resume to 248 626 2248

STRESS TECH

BLS preferred. For Southfield based mobile diagnostic facility. Excellent pay & benefits. Fax resume to 888 223 7316

ULTRASOUND TECH

For Southfield based mobile diagnostic facility. Excellent pay & benefits. Fax resume to 888 223 7316

Help Wanted-Food/Beverage 5060

BARTENDER COCKTAIL SERVER

Experienced only. Canton Bar (734) 487 9770

BARTENDER/COOK

Experience Necessary. Schedules alternate days nights & weekends 21 & over only. Apply in person. Plymouth Pub Ann Arbor Rd & Sheldon No Phone Calls Please!

CHEF

Full time M-F 2 yrs exp. cre ate Plymouth. Fax resume Karl's Cabin 734 455 9987

COOK PART TIME

EVENING 5-10 24 hrs. Fax resume St. Anne's Mead (248) 557 3924

COOKS & WAIT STAFF

Afternoon & Evening Shifts. DOYLE'S TAVERN (734) 207 9656

COOKS

Prefer experienced in all stations. Full and part time. Professional fast paced kitchen located in Nov. Call Mary for an interview appt. 248 345 0982

COUNTER PERSON

Dunk n' Donuts 16 yrs & older. Must be able to work all shifts. \$8/hr. 734 459 5944

OLGA'S KITCHEN

Now Taking Applications Servers & Hosts. Day & night shifts. FT or PT. Apply b/w 2-4 p.m. 3800 Ford Rd. Dearborn MI 48127 313 278 5545

SERVERS

2 servers to go to a martini bar jazz club and fine dining venue. Email resume to sjazz@yahoo.com or Call (248) 417 6280

SERVERS

With exp. For upscale restaurant in Plymouth. Full/Part Time. Apply in person. FIAMMA GRILLE 380 S. Main Or COMPARIS 350 S. Main

Help Wanted-Health & Fitness 5100

PERSONAL TRAINERS
For Fitness Together West Bloomfield & Novi locations. Email resume boosadi@kot.com fitness.together.com

AREA COORDINATORS

NEEDED for High School Exchange Program. Part-time on a contract basis. Call 1-888-448-5437 for additional information or fax resume to (405) 810-8714

COMPUTER TYPESETTER/LAYOUT GRAPHIC DESIGN

Position. Excellent Career Opportunity with stable Company. National Office Products & Printing 405 Astorian Surf St. Maine MI 49783 noppn@sup.net

DRIVERS ACT NOW!

21 CDL-A Drivers Needed *36 43cpm/51 20pm* w/ Lease. NEW Trucks. CDL-A + 3 mos OTR. 800 635 8669

DRIVER BYNUM TRANS

PORT. Qualified drivers needed for Regional & OTR positions. Dedicated, Freight Food grade tanker no hazmat or pumps great benefits competitive pay new equipment 666-GO BYNUM. Need 2 years experience.

FIREFIGHTERS NEEDED

Full and Part-time positions. Paid training. Immediate benefits package 17.34 w/ a H.S. Diploma. 1-800-371 7456 M-F 8-4

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Want to work for a Michigan newspaper? Get a free weekly e-mail list of newspaper positions available. Visit <http://www.michigan-press.org/> subscribe.php

AIRLINES ARE HIRING

Train for high paying Airline Maintenance Career. FAA approved program. Financial aid & qualified job placement assistance. Call Aviation Ins. Institute Maintenance (888) 349 5337

PART TIME HOME BASED

Internet Business. Earn \$500-\$1000/month or more. Flexible hours. Training provided. No investment required. Free details. www.K348.com

ACCOUNT MANAGER

Must have good communication skills. Be self motivated & goal oriented. Fax resume to (734) 422 9005

Help Wanted-Sales 5120

WOW! Internet Cable Phone Job Fair!
When April 4th Where Embassy Suites Hotel 19525 Victoria Parkway Livonia MI Time 3pm - 7pm Position Direct Sales Representative

AN ELITE RESIDENTIAL REAL ESTATE FIRM

Seeks to add a limited number of full time professionals to its highly skilled team of SALES CONSULTANTS. If you would like to be considered visit us at **WeirManuel.com** and choose **Careers** and then **Career Evaluator** to try our on line interactive assessment. We will contact you with the results.

APPOINTMENT SETTER

To work in Showrooms. Full & part time. Hourly + Great Bonus. Unlimited earnings. Must have reliable transportation. Several locations. Call Randy at Majic Window (734) 634 3912

AUTO SALES NEW & USED

CRESTWOOD DODGE (734) 421-5700

Automotive Sales

RALPH THAYER AUTOMOTIVE
Ralph Thayer Automotive of Livonia is looking for 3-4 experienced sales people. Automotive experience and import experience preferred. We are the fastest growing Volkswagen and Mazda dealership in the state and offer the best compensation including car allowance, medical, dental, 401k and bonus structures. Apply in person at 34501 Plymouth Rd. Livonia MI 48150. Or email jeremy.menke@thayerauto.com

AUTOMOTIVE

Gordon Chevrolet has an immediate opening for **SERVICE PORTER**. Apply in person @ 31850 Ford Rd. Garden City MI or call Rick 734 458 5270

CANVASSORS

Michigan's leading window & home improvement co. is looking for sales people in the Canvassing Dept. Looking for motivated hard working & responsible individuals. Hry pay + commission & bonuses. Will train. No exp. necessary. Overtime available. Please call Dave at (734) 634 6575 or James at (734) 334 8979

Earn ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS

each day with tested proven easy to duplicate Three Star Success System that is creating MILLIONAIRES! 24 hour info line 800 887 1897. Change your life. Call now.

Call to place your ad at 1-800-579-SELL(7355)

SALES

Fortune 500 Company Seeking Outside Marketing Reps
One of the nation's leading service providers is looking for highly motivated self starting individuals. No experience required. Full paid training provided. We offer \$440 weekly salary + commission first year potential \$35K+. Medical/Dental/Vision on Paid Vacation. Call Brian at 248 960 1216 or email resume to [brlanschub](mailto:brlanschubert@truemail.com)



Market Place

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LOOK HERE

Personals

Advertise Nationally to approximately 12 million households in North America's best suburbs. Place your classified ad in over 900 suburban newspapers just like this one. Call the Suburban Classified Advertising Network at 888 486 2466 www.suburbannews.org/scan

Call to place your ad at 1-800-579-SELL (7355)

Host an Exchange Student Meet the World! Host a foreign exchange student with EF Foundation on a non-profit organization. Students fully insured and bring their own spending money. Host families provide room, board, and caring environment. Contact 800 44 SHARE!

Happy Ads



If you know this cute boy wish him Happy 70th Birthday. His name is AL. Love his family.

Announcements & Notices

Hockey Tryouts! Canton Crush Girls 19U. Condition on skates/Tryouts April 3 & April 5 9:10-10:30pm. Artie Edge in Canton contact mboliard@aol.com 734 673 0301

Sell it all with Observer & Eccentric 1 800-579-SELL

Announcements & Notices

High school reunions Planning a class reunion? Searching for class members? Classreport.org gives free web space, database, planning tools. www.classreport.org/freespace/

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VIAGRA \$138/50MG Flomax \$27.00 Fosamax \$16.00 Pravastatin \$45.00 Singular \$51.00 Norvasc \$26.00 Advair \$50.00 Vytorin \$10.20 \$63.00. **PRESCRIPTIONS LESS THAN CANADA!** Global Medicines 1 866 634 0720 www.globalmedicines.net



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Antiques/Collectibles

BLOOMFIELD HILLS ANTIQUE JEWELRY & VINTAGE APPAREL SHOW Sat. March 31 10am-5pm at the Birmingham Unitarian Church 3851 Woodward Ave. Admission \$5. Kids under 12 free. 248 646 1047

Find the best garage sales in your O&E Classifieds!

REFRIGERATOR Circa 1926. Frigidaire. Refrigerator for sale. Good condition. Must go! \$700. 248 259 3018

Auction Sales

MARTIN S TOWING Auction April 2 11:00 am 15099 Oakland Highland Park (313) 866 0221

Pontiac 172432 Dodge 231789 Jaguar 860163 Ford 316485 Oldsmobile 104985 Pontiac 732869 Dodge 605269 Ford 179506 Ford 205728 Mazda 124535 Ford B97227

7100 Estate Sales

AMAZING SALE By Everything Goes Fri Sat Mar 30 31 10-4 466 Stephenson Hwy Troy E side N of 14 Mile 10,000 sq ft full of estate furniture & accessories artwork china silver crystal designer furniture clothing fixtures displays & show cases. Two Days Only! All must go! OFFICE 248 855 0053 HOTLINE 248 988 1077

ANNOUNCING AN ESTATE SALE!

In a Mies Van Der Rohe Townhouse Fri Sat Mar 30-31 10-4PM 1329 Nicolet Lafayette Park Downtown Detroit E of I 75 N of Jefferson

The Estate of Irma Wertz Complete household! Traditional furniture dolls antiques & collectibles 2 Baker's racks, teak book case, Mid Century glass tea cart, jewelry, clothing, books. This place is packed full! See you there! **EDMUND FRANK & ASSOC. LIQUIDATORS & APPRAISERS** 313 854 6000

ANOTHER ESTATE SALE BY IRIS

Fri Sat Mar 30 31 10-4PM 1549 Island Lane Bloomfield Hills (take Long Lake 2 lights W of Telegraph to Kirkway go N on Kirkway to Blvd section to Island Lane) Magnificent Home with Treasures Galore • Lg dining table & 10 chairs • Mastercraft table & 2 benches • custom made sofas • oriental bench • oak dresser • antique hunt table • wing chair • dinette set • handsome snooker table • 2 huge pots by Abernathy • 2 oriental urns • several sculptures • oriental Kamona • tons of framed art • mahogany pieces • costume jewelry • oriental rug • too much to mention! **IRIS KAUFMAN 248 628 6335 JAMES ADELSON 248 240 3269** Appraisers & Liquidators for 45 Yrs in Metro Area

CHEVLY & CO ESTATE SALE

15739 Longmeadow Dearborn S of Michigan W of Greenfield March 29 31st 10-4pm Loads of TOOLS, trains, outdoor motor bikes, furniture (734) 753 5083

7100 Estate Sales

DEARBORN 260 Claremont March 30 April 1st 10-4pm 50+ yrs of nice furniture, clothes, household goods, much more! 713 703 1134

DUMAR ESTATE SALE

Fri & Sat Mar 30 31 10-4 Numbers Fri at 9:30 Living room furniture, dining table/leaves/chairs, China cabinet, bedroom furniture, tea set, John Deer riding lawn mower, misc. 22635 Chestnut Tree, Novi North off 9 Mile East of Meadowbrook **SYLVIA 734-961-1625**

FARMINGTON ESTATE SALE BY NANCY

21559 Randall 1 blk E of Merriman N of 8 Mile Thurs Sat March 29 31 10-4 Home & entire contents Furniture, collectible glassware, pottery over 200 dolls, knick knacks, galore, cameras, albums, 1992 Dodge pickup, garage full. 734 525 4603

FARMINGTON HILLS 29644 Highmeadow off Middlebelt S/R3 Fri Sun 10-5 Furniture art etc also 3 bdrm home

GREAT ESTATE SALE

Fri/Sat March 30 31 10-4 165 N Adams Birmingham NW corner of Adams & Maple next to the Mobil station 2 Allante convertibles, low mileage Airplane, car & beer memorabilia, office desks & equipment, paintings, furniture, china, cups & saucers & much, much more! **Barbara Mazer Interiors (BMI) 248 225 9556** visit estatesales.net

NOVI Country Place Condos 41727 Onaway Dr Court F N of 8 Mile W of Meadowbrook Rd March 29th 30th 10-3pm Everything must go!

REDFORD 31 & 41 9 am 3 pm 9589 Leverage Plymouth Rd & Inkster Rd Furniture, clothing, household all goes!

WESTLAND 33312 Melton March 29 31st 10-4 Furniture, bric a brac. Look for signs. jeantiquesales.com

Garage Sales

CANTON

Huge Fund Raiser 6933 Carriage Hills March 29 31 9-5pm S of Warren E of Morton Taylor New Hallmark clothing all sizes furniture & misc. Ram or shine

CANTON MOVING SALE Furniture, Yamaha X350 for parts, pictures, toys, many small items. 44151 Sheridan near Joy/Sheldon Saturday March 31st

COMMERCE Kids Sale March 30 & 31 Hampton Inn Commerce 1/2 off most items Saturday

FERNDALE FREE METHODIST

Church Garage & Bake Sale Sat. March 31st 9am-5pm 1950 Woodward Hgts (9 12 Mile next to Webb School) **CHURCH FUNDRAISER**

Garage Sales

LIVONIA Fundraiser Disabled American Veterans Hall 30905 Plymouth Rd March 29th 31st 9-4pm From A to Z! Incl 5 ton a/c! 734 546 6968

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Sat March 31 9-1pm ST PAUL S CHURCH 27475 Five Mile W of Inkster

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(3) Brown cloth Excellent condition \$25 each 734 354 9586

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PORLY W/6 upholstered chairs Glass table New orig \$700 asking \$475 (734) 895 3240

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Lexington table with leaf & pads 2 arm 6 side chairs & hunt board buffet \$3000 586 739 0857

DINING SET

Pine 48 round pine top with hunter green pedestal 4 captain chairs two 10 leaves \$450 248 620 2861

DINING SET

Antique Oak Dining set 45 round table 4 chairs 2 10 leaves \$375 248 620 2861

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PIANO

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TOOL BOX \$1200 313 917 7877

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MOTORCYCLES WANTED DEAD OR ALIVE Get cash for the New Year! Call 586 727 3697

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RIFLES PISTOLS TOOLS (HAND & POWER) CALL ANYTIME 586 216 6200

Birds & Fish

RAINBOW FEATHERS BIRD FAIR Romulus High School 9650 Wayne Rd Sat March 31 10am-4pm Admission \$3.00 Kids 12 & under free For Info Call Dave 734 422 5981

Cats

CAT NEEDS HOME! Sweet and adorable adult female cat front de clawed spayed with long black hair call Robin 248 895 8010

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FOUND FEMALE DOG

Beagle mix Livonia/Redford @ W Chicago & Inkster 734 891 8925

FOUND CAT

young orange cat Joy/Haggerty area 734 455 4626

FOUND LHASA APSO

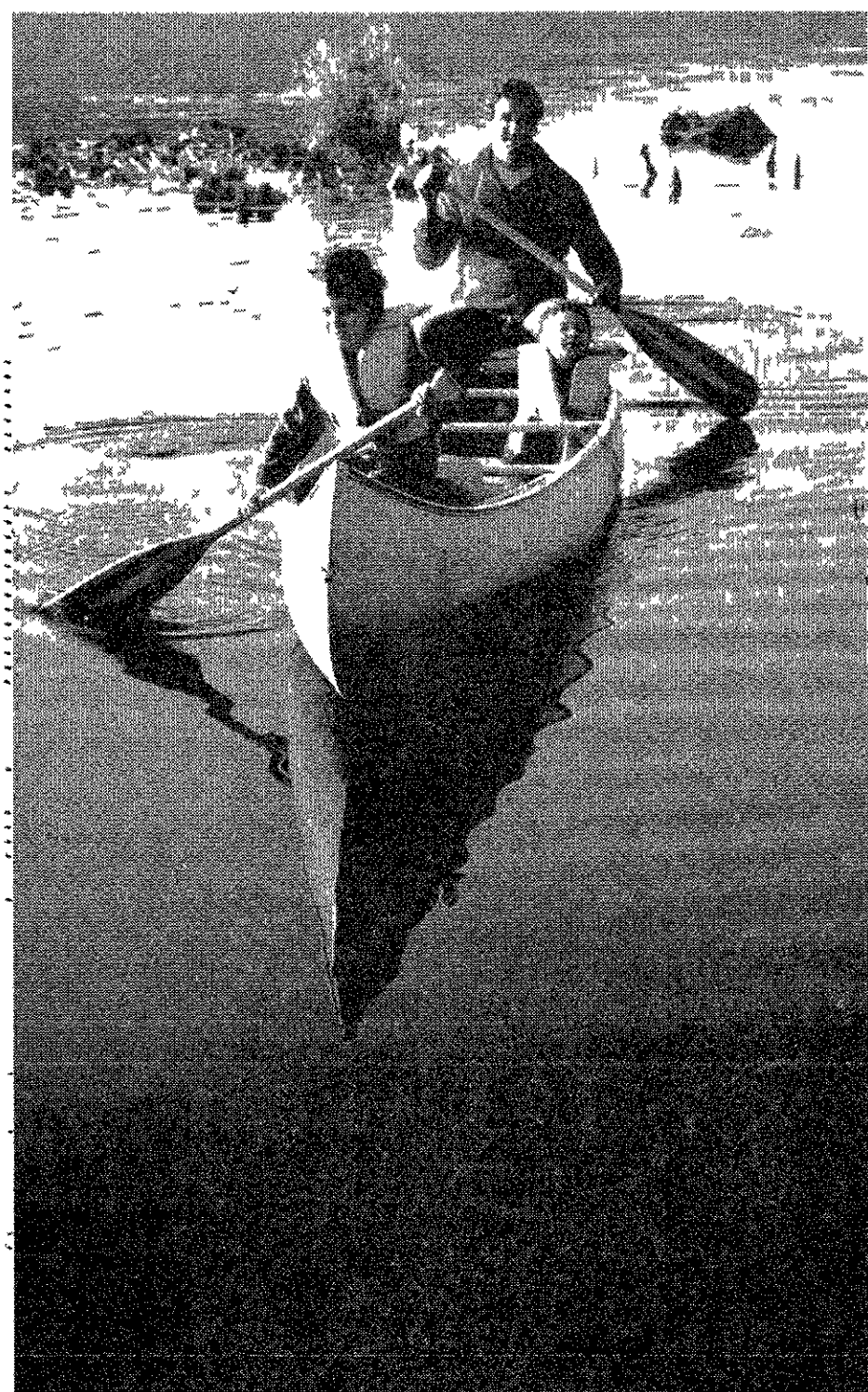
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Lexus Rx400h Sets A High Bar For Luxury Hybrids.

Advertising Feature

CAReport



By Dale Buss



Leave it to Lexus to redefine a category even before competitors have entered it. With its RX400h hybrid, Lexus last year introduced the first hybrid SUV that was available from a true luxury make. But even more interestingly, the RX400h is such a robust vehicle that it immediately began to restate what having a hybrid powertrain was all about. Instead of only providing a way to significantly boost fuel efficiency compared with their traditionally powered counterparts, Lexus made RX400h a better vehicle all the way around than its counterpart RX350. Among other things, the Toyota luxury brand equipped its new mid-size SUV with a big enough internal-combustion engine that drivers benefit from having ample power and experiencing improved performance in a conventional sense – and also get great gas mileage. It just costs them about \$4,000 more for a 2007 RX400h than for an RX350.

There are lots of good things about the RX400h, but let's start with the reason the vehicle exists in the first place: the powertrain. Toyota has demonstrated its innovativeness with hybrid power from the beginning of the trend, starting with its Prius compact. The success of the Prius – and rising gasoline prices – set off a game of leapfrogging among other auto makers, who suddenly rushed to produce hybrid versions of their existing models.

With the RX400h powertrain, Toyota changed the rules yet again on its competition. The vehicle uses an advanced system that combines a 3.3-liter V6 gasoline engine – powerful enough all alone to do the trick with this size vehicle – with a 288-volt nickel-metal battery pack and electric motor generators. The engine and motor generators



Lexus introduced the first hybrid-powered luxury utility vehicle in RX 400h, and the 2007 model builds on its appeal.

combine seamlessly, so the RX400h performs easily up to the standard that has been set by every Lexus SUV before it: plenty of power whenever you need it, delivered smoothly, resulting in another example of the brand's trademark fine ride.

In other words, rather than exacting a penalty from the vehicle's performance for the fact that the RX400h isn't fully internal combustion – and rather than expecting drivers simply to be grateful for the mileage boost – this vehicle actually packs so much punch that you're glad it's a hybrid. The powertrain provides an immediacy in acceleration that is a match for most gas-hogging sports coupes.

At 286 horsepower (38 more than the RX350), RX400h posts an impressive 0-60mph time of just 7.3 seconds (or 7.5 seconds for the all-wheel drive model I drove). That is despite the fact that the hybrid model carries around an extra 300 pounds under the hood because of the extra powertrain equipment. And through it all, RX400h posts an EPA mileage rating of 32 miles a gallon on the highway and 27 in the city. The latter rating is as much as double the city-driving ratings for most V8-powered luxury SUVs.

So if you can afford the \$42,580 sticker price for the RX400h, Lexus makes it worth your while. Of course, as with all Lexus vehicles, there's a lot more to the RX400h than the powertrain. The RX series is styled more distinctively than any other Lexus vehicle, with a severely streamlined

rear end. The 400h actually sports a different front fascia than the RX350, with an additional air intake and round foglamps, as well as LED tail lamps.

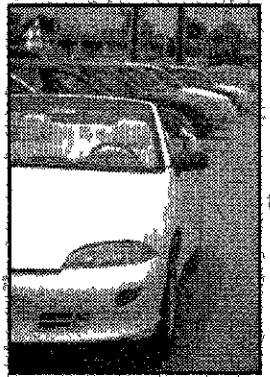
But the taut styling doesn't diminish what the RX400h delivers inside. There's 38 cubic feet of rear cargo capacity that expands to nearly 85 cubic feet with the rear seatbacks folded down, and a gate that is plenty large. I was able to easily slide a new wide-screen TV and a bunch of other goodies from Best Buy into the cargo hold. Of course, there's no third row of seating.

Lexus touches in this vehicle include nice touches of burled-wood-style trim throughout the front, including the gear shift knob. A sensible platform on the floor in front of the center console had a lip so that it could easily hold a purse, say, or maybe even a laptop in place around corners, but the border was shallow so that it didn't get in the way. In the rear compartment, the RX400h sports nearly all the amenities available to the front seats, including a compartment in a center fold-down console, drink holders, and controls for the optional rear-seat DVD player that were sensibly placed on the ceiling along with the screen – instead of in the glove compartment, the front-seat center console, or some other equally inconvenient place that DVD controls so often end up.

With RX400h, Lexus has thrown down an important gauntlet in the growing hybrid trade.

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NEW \$11,564	NEW \$12,145

2007 COBALT PLUS 0% APR

34 Highway Rear spoiler, AM/FM/CD, tilt, air, rear defrost

GM Employee Everyone	
WAS \$13,730	REBATE \$500
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NEW \$12,230	NEW \$12,841

2007 IMPALA LT 100,000 MILE EXTENDED WARRANTY

Fold & flip rear seat, power windows, power locks, tilt, cruise, CD stereo #1380W

\$215 per mo.

36 Month - \$36,000 Miles
\$1250 Down, 1st payment \$215
\$1465 Total Due

2007 EQUINOX LS PLUS 0% APR

5 speed auto trans, mats, pwr wndws & locks, trac control, cruise, AM/FM/CD, keyless, alloy wheels, stabiltrak

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2007 SILVERADO LT PLUS 0% APR

Ext cab V8, 5.3 active fuel mgmt, locking diff, OnStar turn by turn, trlr hitch, air, pwr wndws & locks, body-side moldings, 16" hr wheel, CD/MP3 cruise

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30 Available including Z06's

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NEW \$14,409	NEW \$15,141

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Air cond, windows, locks, tilt, cruise, keyless entry, AM/FM/CD

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WAS \$15,343	REBATE \$500
SPRING CASH \$1,000	SPRING CASH \$1,000
NEW \$13,843	NEW \$14,527

2007 TRAILBLAZER 100,000 MILE EXTENDED WARRANTY

Locking diff, sunroof, 6 disc CD, XM radio, OnStar, power wndws & locks, tilt, cruise, automatic #6622

\$256 per mo.

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\$1791 Total Due

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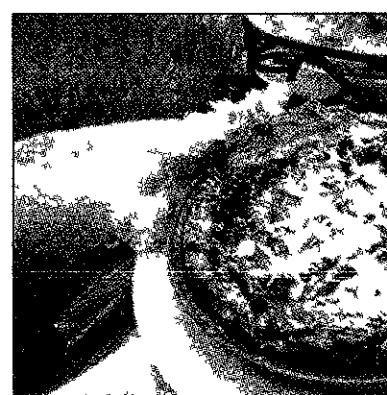
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PHOTOS BY LAWRENCE MCKEE | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

For that spring brunch or Easter meal, try a stuffed roasted pork tenderloin with pecan sugar glaze. For breakfast or brunch, a pear puff pancake with cherry orange sauce (left) sweetens any morning.

Spring into holiday brunches



This pear pancake is topped with cherry orange sauce.

BY KEN ABRAMCZYK
STAFF WRITER

Here comes the sun. And I say, "It's all right," sang George Harrison and the Beatles in *Here Comes the Sun*. The song featured Harrison's warm vocals that made you "feel like ice is slowly melting." And with that warmth and break in the winter chill, spring also brings the traditional holidays and a look to break from the winter fare toward spring holidays and warmer temperatures in April, May and beyond. For Jews, there's Passover (starting at sundown Monday, April 2). For Christians, there's Easter (April 8). Spring is also a time just to gather with friends and

PLEASE SEE BRUNCHES, D3

STUDDED ROASTED CITRUS PORK LOIN WITH PECAN SUGAR GLAZE

1 whole cleaned pork loin

Brine

- 1/2 cup kosher salt
- 1/2 cup brown sugar
- 6 peppercorns
- 1 bay leaf
- 2 quarts warm water

Method for brine: Mix all ingredients. Brine pork overnight or up to 48 hours in stainless steel, plastic or glass container.

Aromatics for studding pork loin

- 2 stalks of celery cut into 4-5 inch planks
- 1 large white onion cut in half and then cut into 1/2 inch strips
- 8-10 whole figs quartered

Method to stud brined pork with aromatic vegetable and dried figs: Place pork loin on cutting board, then randomly pierce slits through the pork loin 2 inches apart with long, thin sharp "slicer style" knife. Randomly stuff celery, onion and figs into alternating slits.

Sauce/Glaze

- 2 cup brown sugar
- 1 cup orange juice or apple cider
- 3 ounces butter
- 1/4 cup molasses
- 1/4 cup corn syrup
- 1/4 cup honey

How to make glaze: Heat all ingredients

PLEASE SEE RECIPES, D3

Make the most of your iPod with these tips

I have no problem paying iTunes \$1.99 for an hour-long episode of, say, *Heroes*. But \$14.99 for Pixar's *Cars*, a movie I already own on DVD? That hardly seems fair.

Indeed, I think Apple should make it possible to copy DVDs straight to an iPod. After all, I did buy the movie, why can't I watch it where I want?

I can, and so can you. You'll need a Windows PC with a DVD drive and a couple of freeware software programs (Mac users should check out HandBrake <http://handbrake.m0k.org>).

The first is DVD Decrypter, which will extract the movie from the DVD to your hard drive.

Next up: Video9a iPod Converter, which, incidentally, is also available for Sony PSPs. This program converts the movie to a format playable on your iPod.

Links to both programs can be found in an online tutorial that also explains the rest of the DVD-to-iPod procedure: <http://tinyurl.com/yvoe4u>



iTunes' free "Learn Along With Sesame" shows aim to teach children important life lessons.

STOCK UP ON SESAME STREET

Apple's iTunes Store is offering six free Sesame Street videos, each designed to teach children an important life lesson.

For instance, *Talk, Listen, Connect* depicts Elmo feeling sad when his dad has to go away – a segment intended to help military families cope with separation. In *A is for Asthma*, Elmo and Rosalita learn what to do if a friend has trouble breathing.

Other segments address subjects like bullying, music and getting ready for school (they're not all downers).

The videos range from 13 to 42 minutes; they're free to download and can be viewed on your PC or iPod. If you're a parent of young children, you'll definitely want to stock up on all six.

To find the shows, launch iTunes and search for "Learn Along With Sesame."

WATCH YOUTUBE VIDEOS

There's some brilliant stuff on YouTube. I'm thinking in particular of OK Go's nifty "treadmill dance" music video, the comedy serials Mr. Dietz and Chad Vader, and the video for Lily Allen's *Smile*.

A handy little program called Ares Tube (<http://tinyurl.com/yjop3c>) turns any YouTube video into an iPod video.

Just copy and paste the video's Web address (the program also supports videos from Google Video, Metacafe and other popular sites) and Ares Tube downloads the file, converts it to the proper format, and queues it in iTunes for immediate syncing to your iPod.

Like all the Web's best stuff, Ares Tube is free.

PLAY MUSIC FROM OTHER STORES

If you bought music from another online store (like Napster, Rhapsody or Yahoo!), you've no doubt discovered that those tunes won't play on your iPod.

That's because of pesky digital rights management (DRM) protections that limit what you can do with songs you bought.

PLEASE SEE BROIDA, D3

DICK PURTAN ON VACATION

Dick Purtan is on vacation this week.

Orchids thrive in any environment

BY MARY KLEMIC
STAFF WRITER

MICHIGAN ORCHID SOCIETY SHOW

What: A display featuring more than 20 exhibits and 500 plants, an information table, free orchid growing classes in the afternoon, and an orchid raffle Sunday afternoon. More than 15 vendors will sell orchids. Plants will be judged on their merit of quality.

When: 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday, March 31; noon to 5 p.m. Sunday, April 1.

Where: Laurel Park Place, 37700 Six Mile at Newburgh in Livonia, just east of the I-275-Six Mile interchange.

Admission: Free.

Information: Call (586) 416-1496 between 10 a.m. and 8 p.m.

Orchids may have an elegant and exotic reputation, but they can be at home in any home. Orchids can be found for any spot in any environment, as they have different humidity, light and heat requirements.

"Anything that you would like would be in an orchid," said Macomb Township resident Betty Clindinning.

"They are probably the most intelligent of plants," she said, referring to the ways they attract the insects they need for pollination – giving off a scent or resembling a butterfly, for example.

Clindinning's home is filled with hundreds of orchids of various types that she grows in her basement under lights.

When they are in bloom, she places them around the house – on tables and kitchen counters.

Some of her orchids, which like it a little

PLEASE SEE ORCHIDS, D2



COURTESY OF BETTY CLINDINNING

Orchids come in many different shapes, some of which will be displayed at the Michigan Orchid Society Palm Sunday Orchid Show this weekend in Livonia. This is the Cattleya Spring Dawn, which has a corsage-like bloom.

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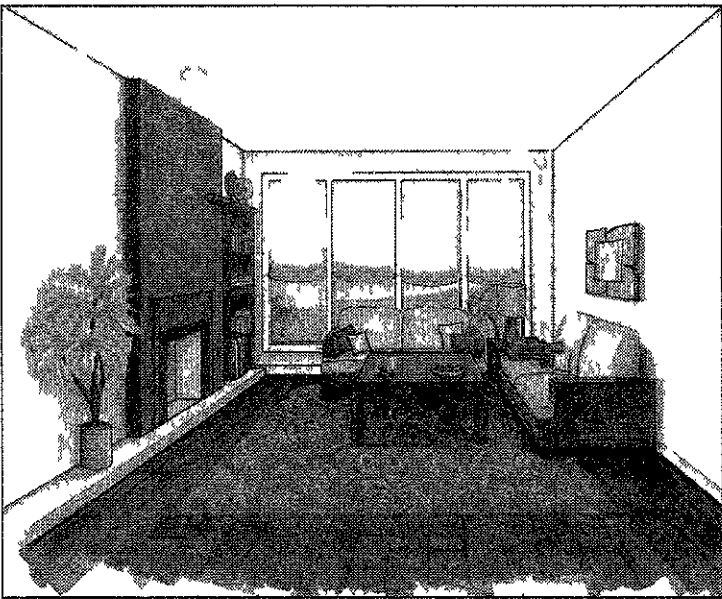
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In her entry in The Ghiordes Knot-ASID Student Creative Space Competition Charlotte Ray used simple furniture to accentuate a rug in a room setting Ray, a student at Eastern Michigan University, was awarded first place

Students use carpets in creative designs

BY MARY KLEMIC
STAFF WRITER

Style magic with carpets was worked again in this year's The Ghiordes Knot-American Society of Interior Designers Student Creative Space Competition

In their entries, design students use furniture accessories and even the outdoors to accentuate the features of rugs in imaginative ways

"I was pleased with the response and the enthusiasm of the students," said Ann Parker, The Ghiordes Knot showroom manager at Michigan Design Center in Troy

This is the 18th year of the competition, which design instructors use as part of their curriculum, Parker said

The contest is an opportunity for students to become educated about rugs, she said

Students in the competition illustrate the use of a carpet in a room setting, making the rug the focal point of the space

The room design is to be set around an actual carpet that is provided by The Ghiordes Knot

The Ghiordes Knot supplies photographs of the rugs

Students may also visit the showroom to see them

A lot of the students came in to see the actual rugs, Parker said

A panel of professional designers, all ASID members, judge the entries

Sixty percent of the judging is on presentation (the student's ability to convey the design within the environment) and 40 percent is on feasibility (the capability of carrying out the design)

The Ghiordes Knot furnishes \$1,000 in prize money \$500 for first place and \$250 for each of two honorable mentions

The winning designs will be displayed at the design center on Student Career Day on March 30

Forty entries were received this year

They came from

Baker College, the College for Creative Studies, Eastern Michigan University, the International Academy of Design and Technology and Western Michigan University

Charlotte Ray of EMU was awarded first place

Agnishukha Choudhuri of EMU and Casey Peavey of WMU were awarded honorable mention

This year, contestants could choose Flowing Coral by Asmara, a handmade carpet in needlepoint stitching with tones of orange, or Floral Spray by Lapchi, an 18th century continental European silk with Asian floral traditions

Ray chose Floral Spray

In her entry, she said she selected "simple and clean" furniture to accentuate the rug, and used a neutral color scheme with red and green accents to balance color in the room and draw more focus to the rug

Choudhuri selected Floral Spray, designing a living space as a study in contrasts

A monochrome color scheme with clean geometric lines and modern furniture draw the eye to the intricate patterns of the rug, Choudhuri wrote

"Its rich colors have center stage within the visual quietness of the room"

Peavey chose Flowing Coral, using natural colors to bring in the outdoors and harmonize with the hues of the rug, and large windows to let in natural light

As the winding coral motif makes flowing movement in the rug, "soft curves in the furniture add movement to the room and straight lines create a sense of stability," Peavey wrote

The interplay of light, color and texture in the rug is replicated through the use of rich colors of greens, yellow-golds, and deep reds"

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Specialists help with cancer treatment

Most appointments I see go in a light-hearted fashion

A dog licks my face repeatedly while getting vaccines and an annual exam, with the worst problems being bad teeth and obesity

I tell the owners to watch the diet, brush the teeth and get the dog more exercise, and they agree with every word I say



About Animals

Dr Brad Davis

there's that little voice saying, "Yeah, right"

Other times the words I speak slam hard into an owner's consciousness, and they become so focused they miss everything I say afterwards

If I tell someone I hear a new heart murmur, they often won't hear another word I say, as the word "murmur" has stunned and scared them to numbness

The ultimate word that does this is "cancer"

People fear cancer so much that historically the word wouldn't be spoken

For most people it remains a mystery, a nebulous ogre waiting to steal life from us or from those we love

In pets, the thought of cancer crushes people for another reason

We think (incorrectly) of cancer as a disease only of the elderly, sparing the youth

More people than ever think of their pets as their children, no matter the pet's age

I have more people calling themselves Mommy or Daddy than ever before

This change in society's view of animals certainly could give some anthropologist a great

research paper, but more importantly here is that more and more people feel like pets are part of the family

When a member of the family gets cancer everyone close to that individual becomes emotionally devastated, even if that family member happens to be an animal

Few things are worse than delivering the news that an aspirate or biopsy has come back as cancerous, and hearing an owner cry

All you can do is try to be strong, try to be understanding, listen and try to help get things moving in the right direction

Some people immediately give up hope, mentioning euthanasia the moment they hear the word

They don't want to pursue the fight

Others become warriors, and will make a promise to never ever lose to this dread disease, or at least to pursue every avenue to make sure it doesn't win easily

OPTIONS

There are a number of options out there

One of them is Dr. Deb A. O'Keefe, staff oncologist at Michigan Veterinary Specialists in Southfield (www.michvet.com)

She is a Diplomate of the College of Veterinary Internal Medicine (ACVIM), in both Internal Medicine and Oncology (the specialty of cancer)

At MVS, veterinary patients can receive cancer care similar to that of human medicine, with chemotherapy, radiation, surgery and even immunotherapy

"The type of treatment recommended is dependent on the type of tumor," O'Keefe said

"Some only need surgery, some need surgery followed by chemotherapy

Some need surgery and radiation therapy, (and) some need only chemotherapy"

"For some patients, there is no successful treatment for their type of tumor so treatment is more directed at quality of life and comfort"

Of course, in veterinary medicine, we often have to look at making things more comfortable a lot sooner than in human medicine

When there's no insurance to help pay for treatments, we have to be practical

"There are some types of cancer treated with oral chemotherapy drugs that are relatively inexpensive and require minimal follow-up," O'Keefe said

"This type of treatment may only be a few hundred dollars"

"Other chemotherapy treatments are \$500-600 per treatment

Surgery can range from \$1,500 to several thousand dollars depending on what needs to be done"

Even though the financial demands might turn out to be less than what was feared, the greater concern I have found people have about going to a cancer specialist would be the side effects of the treatment itself

Years ago I believed that cancer was like being tied to a car that's going over a cliff, pulling you rapidly behind, and that chemo was merely like putting on cleats

It wouldn't stop your fall, but it would break your legs as you get dragged along

That's just not true anymore

"There are potential systemic side effects from chemotherapy - vomiting, decreased appetite (and) diarrhea, but these are much milder than in people and can usually be managed quite easily," O'Keefe said

"Many dogs have no side effects"

Radiation therapy doesn't cause systemic side effects

The effects are only in the treatment field and include hair loss and moist dermatitis (skin irritation)"

HELP

For many pet owners, treating their pet for cancer with an oncologist isn't an option, for financial or emotional reasons

But having the service available can help many other peo-

ple keep their furriest family member around, and happy, for a longer time

The specialists can also help an owner to decide what treatment options are right for their particular case

"People do cancer treatments because they love their pets and want to give them additional good quality of life," O'Keefe said

"The ability of the treatment to do that is dependent on the type of cancer"

"Sometimes the treatment is curative, sometimes it improves their quality of life for one-two years but isn't curative, sometimes it only helps for a few months, (and) sometimes not at all"

"Since the side effects are usually minimal, treatment doesn't usually make the pets worse"

"I would always encourage an owner whose pet has cancer to go for a consult with an oncologist to discuss treatment options

That way any decision they make is based on the most accurate information"

We're very lucky in our area to have so many specialists in so many fields of veterinary medicine, including oncology

Taking the time to talk to an oncologist can give your dog a chance, and can give you some peace of mind, knowing that you've tried to find out about all of your options before making your decision

It is hoped your pet will never face a bad disease like cancer, but if it does, you can find the help you need, and that help will, hopefully, buy a lot of happy time

Which will keep those visits to my clinic happy, and keep my face wet from lots of doggie kisses, which in this case is a very good thing

Dr. Brad Davis is medical director for the VCA Garden City 2085 Inkster Road Garden City 48135

Mail questions or comments there

He also hosts the nationally syndicated radio show *Animal Talk*

Visit www.animaltalkradio.com and write to Brad@animaltalkradio.com

ORCHIDS

FROM PAGE D1

cooler and aren't bothered by direct sun, are grown in front of the door wall in the winter time

Clindinning is program and publicity chairman for the Michigan Orchid Society, which meets in Birmingham

The organization has an annual Palm Sunday show that is one of the largest shows in the Midwest, she said

This year's event, chaired by Diane Burton, will take place this weekend at Laurel Park Place in Livonia, which has hosted it since 1990 (see related item)

Approximately 35,000 species and more than 60,000 hybrids of orchids grow around the world

They are found on every continent except Antarctica, in every country and in every state

Orchids are divided into four types, based on their growing conditions

epiphytes (air plants), which grow mainly on trees, litho-



PHOTOS COURTESY OF BETTY CLINDINNING

This is Sunset Glory

phytes, which cling to rock surfaces, saprophytes, which grow in decaying vegetation on forest floors, and terrestrials, which fix themselves in soil or sand

Orchids can be raised on windowsills, hanging in the air, in a greenhouse or outdoors

Those that grow in the air can be mounted on wires, including wire coat hangers

Special orchid pots allow more air to get to the roots



This is Memoria Martin Orenstein 'Lulu'

good ways to learn about orchids, Clindinning said

Club members like to share advice and experiences, and questions are encouraged

"We're an educational society

That is how we get to introduce new people to the orchids," Clindinning said

For your first orchid, choose a plant that is blooming so you'll know what the flowers look like, members suggest

Phalaenopsis (called the moth orchid because of its appearance), which is easy to grow, is recommended for beginners

The Michigan Orchid Society meets 2:30 p.m. the third Sunday of the month

September through May at First Baptist Church

300 Willets at Bates north of Maple between Southfield Road and Woodward Park free behind the church

Web sites for the MOS and the American Orchid Society are www.miorchids.com and www.orchidweb.org/

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La Tunella in Italy is a charming wine hamlet

Like many wineries in Italy, and in particular Colli Orientali del Friuli in Italy's far north-east, La Tunella experienced transition from tenant farming into the exploding world of high-tech grape growing and winemaking. A brilliant family owner's decision in 1993 to hire a young, energetic and talented winemaker Luigino Zamparo established a long-term program for the wines that expressed the distinct personality of the vineyard, which took on the name of the hamlet where it's located.

TERROIR IN THE EOCENE HILLS

The term terroir may be French but it has assimilated into the language of wine everywhere on the planet. Call it site personality. Each vineyard is different. Owners of La Tunella, the Zorzetig family, wished to discover the site personality of their estate and have it expressed in the wines. Their winemaker Luigino Zamparo has done this. La Tunella covers approximately 175 acres and all the wines carry the Colli Orientali del Friuli appellation, or as Italians refer to it, DOC. Location in the Eocene Hills of the Colli Orientali is the first mark of terroir. Soil is predominantly clay, limestone and sandstone. Red varieties like cabernet franc and refosco like clay. White grape varieties take to limestone. Vines are between four and 25 years old which indicates a balanced age going forward to maintain wine consistency. All these elements speak to smart grape farming and an appreciation for the land that generally results in well above average wines. And that's the case for La Tunella – not your household name in Italian wine producers, but poised to become one. Try them.

WHAT TO BUY FROM LA TUNELLA

2005 Pinot Grigio (\$17) pleases



Focus on Wine
Ray and Eleanor Heald

es with a pleasant floral bouquet and ripe tropical fruit scents, accented by grilled French bread aromas. Flavors mirror the aromas in a wine perfect for antipasti, especially prosciutto. 2005 Tocai Friulano 'Selenese' (\$20) is marked by aromas of wild flowers, pear and almond. Dry and moderately acidic, it's an ideal pairing for pasta dishes and fish. Following an international agreement on proper use of place names, beginning with the 2006 vintage, tocai in the grape name will be dropped for the now recognized friulano. Tocai is now restricted to use with Hungarian wines. 2005 BiancoSesto (\$22) has floral, vanilla and stone fruit aromas leading to similar flavors and a persistent almond note from the friulano grape that constituted half the blend with ribolla gialla. Perfect with white fish. 2004 Refosco dal Peduncolo Rosso (\$24) may be hard to get your tongue around but your palate is soothed with aromas and flavors of black berry, raspberry, fine tobacco and cocoa/chocolate. Expansive with loads of intensity, pair it with a rich beef stew. 2004 Verduzzo Friulano (\$18/500mL) is a superb dessert wine value and delicious as an accompaniment to creme caramel.

Eleanor & Ray Heald are contributing editors for the internationally respected *Quarterly Review of Wines* and *Troy* residents who write about wine, spirits and restaurants for the *Observer & Eccentric Newspapers*. Contact them by e-mail at focusonwine@aol.com.

WINE PICKS

Popularity of Pinot Noir is driving up prices but the following list holds some bargains. The priest is however, the most delicious.

Pick of the Pack: 2004 MacRostie Wildcat Mountain Vineyard \$42

Excellent: 2005 Rodney Strong Russian River Valley \$20
2004 MacRostie Carneros \$28
2005 DeLoach Russian River Valley \$45
2005 Paul Hobbs Russian River Valley \$45

Very good: 2004 Estancia Stonewall Vineyard Santa Lucia Highlands \$25
2004 Estancia Pinnacles Monterey \$25
2004 King Estate Oregon \$26
2005 Whitehaven Marlborough, NZ \$30
2004 MacMurray Sta Rita Hills \$35
2005 Villa Maria Marlborough NZ Reserve \$36
2004 Felton Road Central Otago, NZ \$44
2004 Dutton Goldfield Dutton Ranch-Sanchietti Vineyard Russian River Valley \$55

Good deal: 2005 DeLoach California \$12

If a retailer does not stock a specific wine we recommend ask that it be ordered from the distributor or order it directly from the winery.

BRUNCHES

FROM PAGE D1

family for brunch – a time for bridal and baby showers, wedding rehearsals and Mother's Day. Kelli Lewton, executive chef and owner of 2 Unique Caterers & Event Planners, enjoys the spring, and for her, this spring marks a new beginning as her catering company moved from a church in Bloomfield Hills to a new storefront in Royal Oak.

I like to take something I like to make and make it a little more groovy, Lewton said.

Take the Easter holiday. Many Christians who celebrate enjoy ham and usually serve it. Why not serve a pork loin instead? Lewton asks. Brine it, then score it and stud it with celery, onions or any favorite fruit.

When you brine it, it acts like a ham, Lewton said. It's a way to cure the meat. The brine helps the cut retain moisture and infuse flavor in the meat.

Score the meat randomly (or create a diagonal pattern of several cuts) and add celery, onions,

figs or apples, and you're on your way to a winning meal.

Like latkes for a Passover gathering? Add a little dill to the potato pancake mix – dill's licorice flavor a natural herb for potatoes – fry them, and top with gravlax and sour cream.

Salmon hash works for both holidays. Salmon's rich and full flavor adds depth to the hash. Top with eggs for a great brunch dish.

You like to have them quick and simple, and you like to give it a little extra thought, Lewton said. You like to think out of the box when you're cooking for a spring brunch.

Once the spring holidays pass, seasonal produce will soon be in stock at stores and farmers markets, once the latter open at many venues in April and May.

People get so excited when the temperature hits 50 degrees, Lewton said. You have to think produce. With spring, you're looking for lighter flavors. You're moving away from heavier, denser flavors.

Herbs can include rosemary and thyme, and both are appropriate

all year round, Lewton said. Cilantro and parsley can be used in salads as both are available year round.

Soon you'll start getting the farmers markets opening up, and you'll see the variety coming in, like the lemon verbena and the lemon thyme, Lewton said.

This is the perfect time of year to dig out the waffle iron, dust off some old recipes or try some new ones, and spend a leisurely Sunday afternoon enjoying family and friends with a celebratory homemade brunch, Lewton said.

With just a little prep and planning brunch can prove to be one of your more leisurely enjoyable holiday gatherings.

Kelli Lewton owns 2 Unique Caterers & Event Planners, 4303 Delemere Court, Royal Oak, (248) 549-5242. www.2unique.com. Lewton now teaches classes with Julie Kowalski, principal and Healthy Lifestyle coach from Forget Perfect NOW about healthful whole foods. Classes are scheduled as follows: Healthy Soups and Casseroles 3-6 p.m. April 15. Making Healthy Fast Food 6-9 p.m. April 29. Scrumptious Healthy Desserts 3-6 p.m. May 6. Classes are \$49.

RECIPES

FROM PAGE D1

in heavy bottom sauce pan and simmer on low for 3-4 minutes until all flavors are combined.

How to cook pork loin: Preheat oven to 400° F. Brush pork loin with glaze and sear in 400° F oven for 10 minutes. Reduce heat to 350° F, and continue to roast an additional 25-35 minutes. (Baste pork loin with brown sugar glaze every 8-10 minutes until pork reads 155-160° F).

Let rest for 10 minutes then slice and serve with sauce on the side. Garnish with a bouquet of fresh herbs and toasted pecans.

PEAR PUFF PANCAKE WITH CHERRY ORANGE SAUCE

3 ounces butter
4 pears peeled, pitted and sliced thin
6 eggs
1/4 cups milk
1 cup all purpose flour
4 tablespoons sugar
1 teaspoon vanilla
1/2 teaspoon salt
1 teaspoon cinnamon
4 tablespoons brown sugar

Slice butter into baking dish, add pear slices and place in the oven at 425° F until bubbly and

butter is melted.

Mix remaining ingredients in separate bowl except brown sugar. Pour batter into pan over pears and sprinkle brown sugar on top. Bake for 20-25 minutes until lightly brown and puffy. Ladle cherry orange sauce (see next recipe) over top and sprinkle with toasted almonds or serve sauce on the side.

CHERRY ORANGE SAUCE

1/4 cup orange juice
1 cup frozen Bing cherries
3 tablespoons Grand Marnier (optional)
Zest from 1/2 orange
2 heaping tablespoons cornstarch dissolved in a smidge of water or orange juice

Bring first four ingredients to a simmer over medium-low heat in heavy bottom saucepan. Once ingredients are simmering, reduce heat to low and add cornstarch mixture. Whisk continually over low heat for 3-5 minutes. Ladle over pear puff or serve on the side. (Chef Kelli Lewton suggests sprinkling toasted almond over the top of sauce for garnish. Dish also can be served with maple syrup, dusted with powdered sugar or honey.)

POTATO PANCAKES WITH GRAVLAX AND DILL

1 small yellow onion, peeled and

grated on box grater
3 Yukon Gold potatoes, peeled and grated
1 tablespoon fresh dill, chopped and grated, plus sprigs for garnish
1/2 teaspoon sea salt
Pinch of freshly ground pepper
1 egg white
1/4 cup sour cream
Olive oil cooking spray

Heat oven to 450° F.

Place grated onion in a fine sieve, and press out as much moisture/water as possible. Combine onion and potatoes, chopped dill, salt, pepper, and egg white in a medium bowl, and stir to combine.

Melt butter in heavy bottom sauté pan and form pancakes to desired disk size, drop into hot pan and cook about 1 minute until down side is golden and crispy, then flip and repeat. Bake until golden brown on bottom, about 10 minutes, rotating trays once during cooking. Remove from oven and place on paper towel to blot away extra oil.

Serve pancakes topped with gravlax and a dab of sour cream.

Garnish with dill sprigs. Yields 24-36 petit pancakes.

Recipes courtesy of Kelli Lewton, executive chef and owner of 2 Unique Caterers & Events Planning in Royal Oak.

BROIDA

FROM PAGE D1

Fortunately, there's a fairly easy way around DRM. Just burn the songs to a CD using the store's music-management software (or Windows Media Player), then "rip" the songs with iTunes like you would any audio CD.

Sync your iPod and you're ready to rock and roll. Literally.

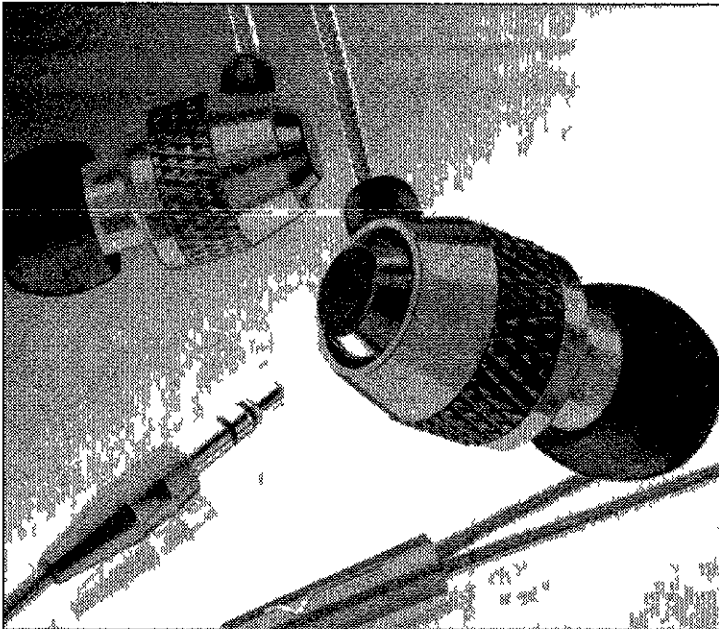
UPGRADE YOUR EARPHONES

OK, this isn't so much a trick as a recommendation. Ditch those uncomfortable Apple earbuds and replace them with V-Moda's ultra-stylish Vibe (vmoda.com).

If you've never tried in-ear earphones, you're missing out. Vibe slips snugly into your ear canal, blocking outside noise and delivering truly outstanding audio.

In fact, the bass response from these earphones greatly exceeds that of pricier sets I've tried, including the Etymotic 6i Isolator and Shure E3c.

They're also way cooler-looking, with a choice of four metallic colors and a sleek, almost industrial design.



V-Moda's stylish Vibe earphones fit snugly in your ear canal, blocking outside noises and rocking your brain.

Vibe comes with silicon fittings in three different sizes, a slick little carrying case, and a rubber cord-management clip that keeps the earphones from getting tangled.

With a list price of \$101, this isn't exactly an impulse buy. However, many online stores carry Vibe for around \$90, and the noise reduction alone is

worth the price of admission. Trust me, you'll love these. Rick Broida writes about computers and technology for the *Observer & Eccentric Newspapers*. Broida of Commerce Township is the co-author of numerous books, including *How to Do Everything with Your Palm Powered Device*, Sixth Edition. He welcomes questions sent to rick.broida@gmail.com.

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Proud mom attends her sons' movie premiere

By Wensdy Von Buskirk

What's it like to be a Hollywood mom? Ask Judith Binder-Trumbull

The Beverly Hills, Mich. resident is the proud mother to four grown boys. Gary is a builder, Lee is pilot.

Mike and Jack make movies. Mike Binder most recently wrote and directed *Reign Over Me*, which opened to critical acclaim on Friday. Jack Binder, the youngest of the siblings, produced the film.

When *Reign Over Me* premiered at the Uptown Palladium in Birmingham on Sunday, March 18, Binder-Trumbull arrived with her son Mike and Adam Sandler, the star of *Reign Over Me*.

"It was just stupendous. I have never seen anything like it in my life, ever," she said. "We went from the Townsend Hotel to the theater and when we pulled up, there were thousands of people waiting in line. The lines were double and triple thick, I couldn't believe it."

The Binder brothers also made *The Upside of Anger* in

2005, starring Kevin Costner, among other projects.

Binder-Trumbull isn't surprised by her sons' success in Tinseltown. She said Mike always had a love for comedy and drive to succeed.

"I always knew he was a genius," she said. "As a very, very little boy, Mike learned how to get laughs."

Binder-Trumbull encouraged Mike to explore his love of comedy. While her sons were growing up, she was a top fund-raiser for the Children's Orthogenic School in Detroit. Celebrities would come to town and perform to raise money for the school, and Binder-Trumbull brought Mike with her to the airport as she picked up comics like Myron Cohen and Richard Pryor.

"We had lunch with Sonny and Cher and Mike just loved meeting them," she said. Later, Binder attended Camp Tamakaw, where Chevy Chase was a counselor.

"In his early years, he was thrown into comedy constantly and the more he loved it, the more he sought it out," Binder-Trumbull explained.

It wasn't always easy for Binder-Trumbull, especially

when it came time for Mike to go to college. Instead, upon graduation from Seaholm High School, Mike announced he was leaving to become a comedian.

"When he was 18, he said, 'Mom, I'm going to Hollywood and off he went with Dave Coulier, who also became successful,'" Binder-Trumbull said.

Binder-Trumbull, who now deals antiques and vintage jewelry, said she saw some of herself in the mother in *Upside of Anger*, played by Joan Allen, who discourages her daughter from being a ballerina.

"It's a little bit about me and what I went through only she has four girls," she said. "I went through divorce and I had the four boys and Mike kept saying he was going to Hollywood and I said he had to go to school. He thought I didn't have faith in him."

In Los Angeles, Mike scored parts in several television shows and films, including *Minority Report*, *Curb Your Enthusiasm* and *Commander in Chief*. He found greater success writing and directing movies.

"He's very deep and he writes very heartfelt stories," she said. "I know his worth and I know

he's going to go far. It's the old story when you want to do something and you put your heart and soul into it; you'll do it."

Mike eventually brought his youngest brother Jack to Los Angeles to work as his producer. Now that he has won hard-earned success and a high profile, he continues to support talent from Metro Detroit. He has used Bob Seger's music in soundtracks, and cast DOC owner Richard Golden's daughter Jessica in a bit part in *Reign Over Me*.

"Mike tries his hardest to use good people and people who are trying to get a start in the business," she said. "He used to work at Birmingham Drugs and at Hunter House as a kid. I got him T-shirts from there and he put them in a movie."

Mike also made sure *Reign Over Me* premiered in Birmingham, as well as New York and Los Angeles, so he could bring his mother to the star-studded event.

"Will we be seeing Binder-Trumbull on the silver screen anytime soon?"

"No, you won't," she said. "Everybody asks me that, but it's not my thing."

pink picks

By Wensdy

Wear It!

Preppy Nautical

DON'T Wear It!

All black — add a dash of color

Kick It!

Steve Madden ballet flats at Macy's

Smell It!

Bill Blass Fragrance, exclusive to Saks Fifth Avenue

Face It!

Dr. LeWinns Private Formula — order free samples @ www.drlewinns.com

Eat It!

Thai Pie at Crust, Birmingham

See It!

Reign Over Me

Tote It!

Michael Kors Pop-Art shopper in white at Nordstrom

Drink It!

Evian — a spa in a bottle

DVD It!

The Departed

TIVO It!

Dancing with the Stars

Read It!

Nature Girl



Hear It!

Carly Simon *Into White*

Do It!

Get your bike ready for spring

Experience It!

Java Jungle in Plymouth with your kids

Reign of stars

Birmingham rolled out the red carpet for the premiere of *Reign Over Me* at The Uptown Palladium on March 18. The movie was written and directed by Birmingham native Mike Binder, and produced by his brother Jack Binder. Below: Photojournalist Linda Solomon of Birmingham joins singer Bob Seger and his wife Nita during the premiere.



LINDA SOLOMON

Above: Judith Binder-Trumbull and Adam Sandler, the star of *Reign Over Me*, at the movie's premiere.



NATHAN CYKERT

list

Detroit Ignition's dance team, The Spark performs at an indoor soccer game. The dancers will hold upcoming dance clinics for youth and teenagers.



Ignition Dance Clinic

Detroit Ignition's dance team The Spark will host a dance clinic on Saturday, March 31 at High Velocity Sports, 46255 Michigan Ave., Canton. Participants will learn dance techniques from members of The Spark, then perform live during an Ignition home game, April 1 at Compuware Sports Arena. Cost is \$55 for dancers ages 13-18 (8 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.), \$40 for dancers ages 7-12 (11 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.). Fee includes lunch, admission to the April 1 game, and discounted tickets for friends and family. Call 1-888-436-GOAL or visit www.detroitignition.com.

fashion

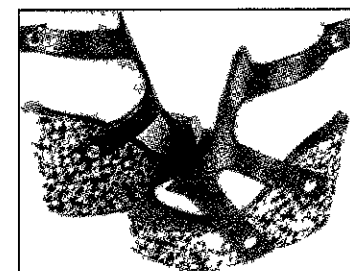
Don't Hold Your Breath

The American Lung Association of Michigan will host "Don't Hold Your Breath" 6 p.m. Friday, March 30 at the Radisson Bloomfield Hills Grand Ballroom. The evening will feature fashion from Prodigy, Royal Oak, and Hershey's West Bloomfield, along with local celebrities and Motown sounds by Inside Out. Indulge in celebrated snacks from Detroit like Coney Island

hot dogs. Better Made potato chips. Faygo and Vernor's. Tickets: \$75. benefit women's lung health. Call (248) 784-2000.

Materialistic Fashion

See head-to-toe creations by three Metro Detroit artists during Materialistic, 5-8 p.m. Friday, March 30 at The Community Arts Gallery, 22635 Woodward Ave. Individual and collaborative works include jewelry by Sarah Kate Burgess, dresses by



Shoes by local designer Tom Carbone will be featured at "Materialistic."

Annica Cuppetelli and shoes by Tom Carbone. The creations will be exhibited and modeled during the event. Call (248) 414-6500.

Contemporary Week @ Saks

Celebrate Spring with Contemporary Week at Saks Fifth Avenue, March 29-April 1. With any contemporary collections purchase of \$350, receive a roof-top Jacuzzi tote filled with fun items from Diane von Furstenberg, Nanette Lepore, Theory, Vince, Marc by Marc Jacobs, Twisted Hearts, D&G, Laundry, BCBG, Rock & Republic, Primp and Walter and more. Call (248) 614-3349.

Foland's Liquidates

Say farewell to a Royal Oak gem and get 20-50 percent off as Foland's hosts a liquidation sale. Save on watches, wedding and engagement rings, gemstones and gifts by Scott Kay, Maurice Lacroix, Fendi, Hidalgo, Louis Hill, Hot Diamonds, Judith Ripka and more. Foland's is at 630 E. 11 Mile Rd. Call (248) 336-6666 or visit www.foland.com.

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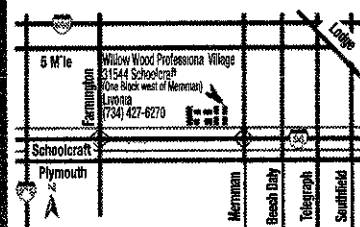


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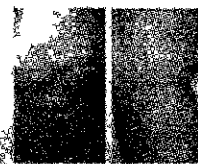
Jeffrey H. Miller, M.D.

Dr. Miller has over 12 years experience in treating venous diseases and has received many honors and awards including being named one of "Detroit's Top Docs" by *Hour Magazine*.

GET A LEG UP ON SUMMER

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