

THURSDAY

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2009

The Observer & Eccentric
Newspapers

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Wireless provider emphasizes exemplary customer service - Strictly Business, A5

CANTON OBSERVER

online at hometownlife.com

What's
hot for
spring

Pink, A9



Connection

Fusion Festival

Orchestra Canton will present its second annual Fusion Festival, "From Canton to Canton — The Music of China," March 28-29 at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill. The annual event featuring partnerships with different local ethnic groups is a cultural collaboration bringing together traditional music from the Far East with



Gao

Western classical music.

On March 28, the main attraction will be erhu (Chinese violin) master George Gao, a former first prize winner in the Beijing National Erhu Competition. He has also toured the U.S., Canada, France, Germany, Denmark, Japan, Taiwan, Hong Kong and China, and been featured as a soloist with the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, Bamberg Symphony Orchestra, Shanghai Symphony Orchestra, Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra and many others.

Tickets for the Saturday concert are \$25 for adults, \$20 for seniors and \$10 for children and can be purchased in person at the Plymouth Symphony office by calling (734) 451-2112, online at www.orchestracanton.org, or at the Village Theater box office one hour before each performance.

In addition to the Saturday concert, Orchestra Canton will host two workshops Sunday, which will be open to the public and free of charge. Gao will teach an erhu workshop, demonstrating the various composition, playing and techniques, along with the Celebration Youth Orchestra at 2 p.m. Sunday, March 29. Local residents will put on a Chinese dance workshop 4-6 p.m.

Polish dancing

The Polish National Alliance Centennial Dancers will be hosting their 29th annual Dance Extravaganza on March 21 at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill. Shows are at 1:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. Ticket cost is \$10.

The PNA Centennial Dancers are children and young adults who have studied Polish dance and customs for up to 15 years. Also performing will be Radomianie Polish Folk Dance and Ensemble, which is a group of adults that continue to celebrate their Polish heritage through dance.

Tickets are available at Simply Polish, 28841 Plymouth Road, Livonia or by calling (734) 266-9995. For more information, e-mail Krsital.Wioncek@drkristalgw@aol.com, director of PNA Centennial Dancers, at DrKristolgw@aol.com.

Officials delay vote on water rate increase

BY TONY BRUSCATO
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Canton residents received a two-week reprieve from a proposed 20-percent water and sewer rate hike when Supervisor Phil LaJoy pulled the item from Tuesday's regular meeting agenda.

Instead, trustees will hold a study session at 7 p.m. Tuesday at Township Hall to learn more about the water and sewer system in Canton and how much it will cost to maintain it. The earliest trustees could vote on a rate hike would be the March 24 meeting.

"We plan on reviewing it again, go over all the information so we make sure we make the right decision, the

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

We'd like to know what you think about Canton's proposal to raise water/sewer rates by 20 percent for the second consecutive year. Send us your opinion by e-mailing Editor Kurt Kuban at kkuban@hometownlife.com or post a comment on our Web site at www.hometownlife.com.

best decision, for all the people of Canton Township," LaJoy said to a handful of residents who showed up at the meeting to discuss the proposed 20-percent increase.

Part of the reason for more discussion is to give the newly elected members of the board — John Anthony,

Syed Taj and Pat Williams — more information about the water and sewer plans in Canton, the costs to maintain the system as well as time to digest it all before deciding a rate increase.

"What we need to do is completely understand all our options," Williams said. "We want to better understand to make sure we are positively making the right decision."

"We're not confident it's the right thing to do right now," he added. "What other options do we have?"

Canton resident Jay Laney said he could accept an increase, but not 20 percent.

"This is the second year in a row that it's 20 percent, and I just don't see how you can justify it year-in and year-out," said Laney, 39. "This isn't the time to

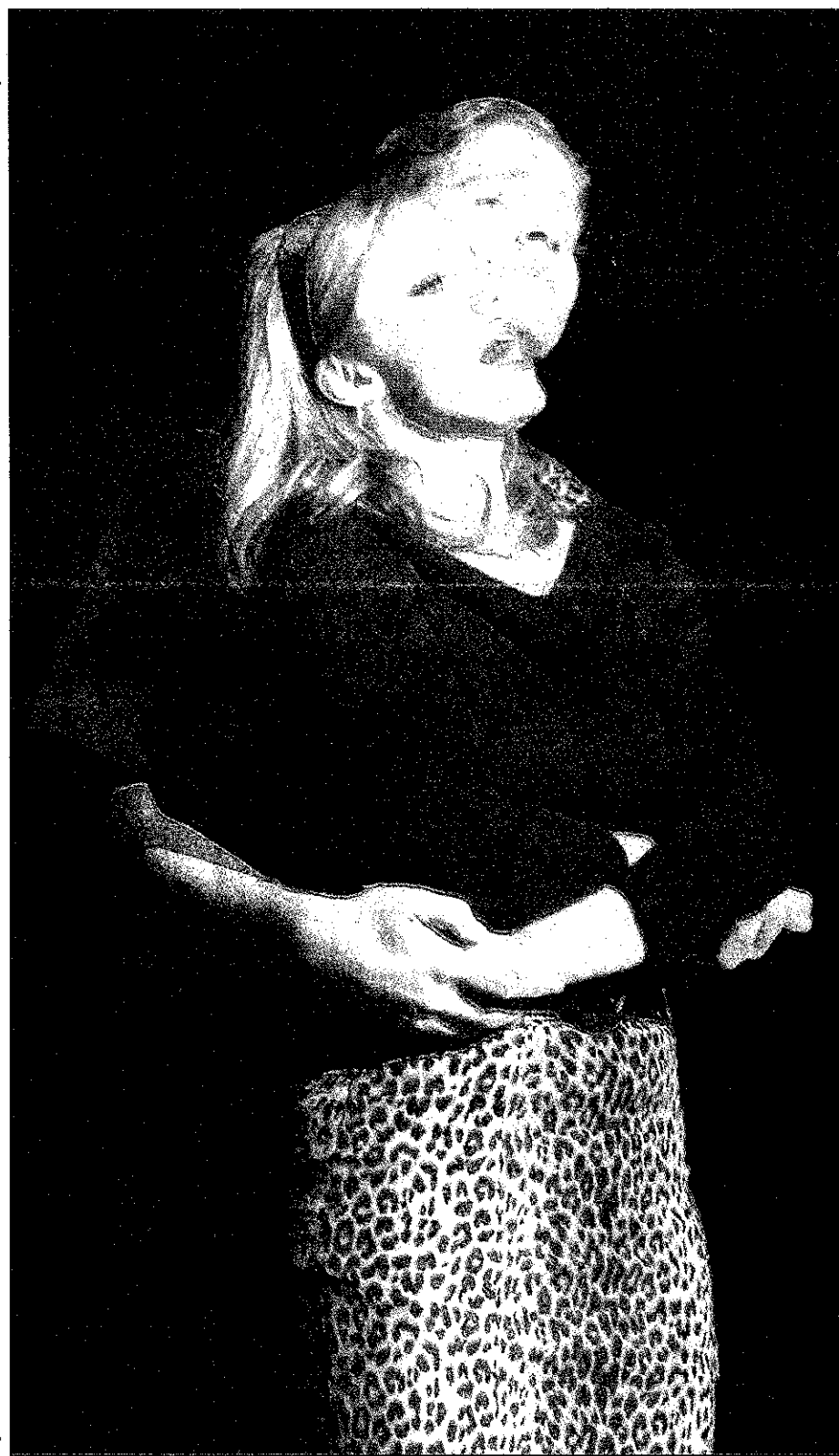
want to fill a bucket of money."

Township Clerk Terry Bennett said she's still not certain if she'll vote for the 20-percent increase or consider a lower rate.

"We have an obligation to go back and confirm that the numbers that are projected are correct," Bennett said. "Nearly 80 percent of our costs are set by somebody else, so we really only have influence on 20 percent of the total bill."

"I'm not comfortable leaving the community in a position where we jeopardize our water system because we can't pay for repairs," she added. "Is that 20 percent? Maybe 'yes' assuming our figures are right."

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PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

'Love Me/Don't,' sung by Mia Topalian and Frankie DiNicola, is one of the songs featured in 'Smokey Joe's Cafe,' being produced by the Park Players the next two weekends.

The 'revue' is in

Park Players take the stage in spring musical

BY BRAD KADRICH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Melissa Bowling, a 17-year-old senior at Salem High School, has done some acting — she was in *Annie Jr.* as a sixth-grader and appeared in *Apple Tree* and *The Crucible* for Second Stage at Canton High School — but she'd never landed a leading role.

So when director Kristen Quesada posted the lineup for the Park Players' production of *Smokey Joe's Cafe*, Bowling didn't get all that excited.

Until she saw the list.

Bowling, the daughter of Sharon and Keith Bowling of Plymouth Township, landed one of the featured vocal roles in the production, which opens tonight (Thursday) and runs this weekend and next at the Gloria Logan Auditorium for the Performing Arts in Salem High School.

"I was ecstatic," said Bowling, who also appeared in last year's production of *Jekyll and Hyde*. "I thought, 'Wow.' I didn't expect to get a lead, because I hadn't gotten a lead before, and there were so many good people auditioning. I was pretty excited."

SMOKEY JOE'S CAFE

■ What: Park Players' production of *Smokey Joe's Cafe*

■ When: March 12-14 and March 20-21; all performances 8 p.m.

■ Where: Gloria Logan Auditorium, Salem High School

■ How much: Tickets are \$12, reserved seating

■ Details: For more information, visit www.parkplayers.org

Bowling is among the 53-member cast of the spring production, which also features 15 crew members and 11 musicians in *The Pit*. It's a musical revue, totally dependent on song and dance to get its message across.

Smokey Joe's Cafe is set in the 1950s and 1960s and features songs written by Jerry Leiber and Mike Stoller, who wrote for musicians of the time such as Peggy Lee, the Drifters and the Coasters. *Smokey Joe's Cafe* opened on Broadway in 1995 and has been nominated for seven Tony Awards.

Please see **PLAYERS, A7**



The Park Players present 'Smokey Joe's Cafe,' which opens Thursday, March 12 at Salem High School's Gloria Logan Auditorium.

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The Swedish express

IKEA Canton, the giant Swedish furniture retailer, unveiled its new 'Destination Shuttle'; earlier this week that will transport people at no cost between Campus Martius Park in downtown Detroit and IKEA, located at 41640 Ford Road. Beginning today, and then for four consecutive days each month during special IKEA or Detroit event weekends, two 40-seat buses will make the round trip between the park and the store every hour from 9 a.m.-10 p.m. The buses will pick up and drop passengers off at the Hard Rock Cafe adjacent to the Park, 45 Monroe Street, and also at IKEA. "A destination shuttle between Campus Martius Park and our IKEA location in Canton not only provides downtown and metro Detroiters with a free mass transit option that affords them hours of entertainment, but it also aligns with IKEA's commitment to people and the environment," said IKEA Canton Store Manager Kelly Frieze. To view the shuttle schedule visit www.ikea-cmpshuttle.com.



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Mom to mom sale

The Canton Newcomers will hold a mom to mom sale from 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m., Saturday, March 28, at Summit on the Park. The sale will feature furniture, baby equipment, children's clothes, books, toys, maternity clothes, games and videos.

Admission is \$1, and 100 percent of proceeds will benefit seniors served by the Area Agency on Aging 1-C, located at 3850 Second Street, Suite #201, Wayne (www.aaalc.org).

For additional information about the sale and the Canton Newcomers, contact Jennifer Manriquez at (734) 844-7675, or visit their Web site at www.cantonnewcomers.org.

Datsyuk jersey contest

Detroit Red Wing Pavel Datsyuk, is on fire again this season. On February 25th he scored his 500th career goal, all of which have been with the Detroit Red Wings. To honor this great achievement the 10 metro Detroit Play It Again Sports stores, including in Canton, are holding a contest, where one lucky customer will win a autographed and framed Datsyuk jersey. The contest runs through Sunday, March 15, coinciding with the annual Play It Again Sports Spring Preseason Sale.

For more information about Play It Again Sports and to find a location near you, visit them on the Web at www.playitagainsports.com.

Preschool open house

Plymouth Children's Nursery, 5825 N. Sheldon Road, will host a co-op preschool open house on Mar. 21 from 10 a.m.-noon. The preschool offers classes for ages 2 1/2 to 5. They now offer a 4 day per week class for young 5's. The school's teachers instruct each child through academic, social, and emotional learning by using a play-based philosophy. For more information, contact Sue Fairchild at (734) 844-0395.

Plymouth football golf outing

The Plymouth Wildcats Football Booster Club will be holding its eight annual Wildcats Football Golf Outing on Saturday, May 30, at Fellows Creek Golf and

Banquet Center in Canton. The outing will be a best ball scramble with a shot gun start at 1 p.m. Players are needed as well as hole sponsors and donated items for a silent auction at the end of the outing.

Registration is \$100 per golfer. You can register by calling Bill Ballelli at (734) 416-9603 or Mike Walsh at (734) 453-6796. For more details, or to become a hole sponsor or auction item donor, go to the Wildcats Web site at www.football.plymouthwildcats.com.

Slavens coffee hour

State Rep. Dian Slavens (D-Canton) is inviting residents to join her at a coffee hour to share their ideas and concerns. The coffee hour will take place 11 a.m.-noon, Monday, March 16 in Belleville at Doyce's Red Beans and Rice, 524 Main Street.

"Talking with our residents about issues that are important to them and their families will help me to better represent our community at the Capitol," Slavens said. "I'm eager to sit down with the residents that I represent in the Michigan House and listen to their ideas and concerns. I know that Michigan is facing tough challenges right now, and I am fighting every day to create more good-paying jobs for our workers and get our economy back on track."

Slavens is also planning upcoming coffee hours on Monday, March 23, from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. at the Canton Big Boy, 45250 Ford Road, and on Monday, March 30, from 11 a.m. to noon in Belleville at Doyce's Red Beans and Rice.

Slavens holds regular coffee hours throughout Canton, Belleville and Van Buren Township. If your business is interested in hosting a coffee hour, please call (888) 347-8021 or send an e-mail to DianSlavens@house.mi.gov.

Bowling fund-raiser

Super Bowl lanes in Canton will be the site of a fund-raiser Saturday to benefit the Penrickton Center for Blind Children, a nonprofit residential and day care agency in Taylor serving blind and multi-disabled children between the ages of 1-12. The



Community service is his middle name

The Canton Rotary Club presented Canton's Bob Boyer (far left) with its second annual Sharing in the Community Award on Monday at Carrabba's in Canton. Boyer, who owns Boyer's Meat Processing, has been active in the community for many years, including with the Lions Club, Canton Chamber of Commerce, and Canton Community Foundation. He has given generously to many causes, including moving and restoring the historic Cady Barn to township-owned property in Cherry Hill Village. Presenting the award to Boyer are Canton Rotary President Ken Beardsley, Rotary District Governor Bruce Goldsen, and last year's recipient Karyl Niemi. "He's done a heck of a lot for this community over the years," said Rotary member Bill Tesen. Boyer said he was "more than overwhelmed" by the recognition.

event is being sponsored by Keller Williams Plymouth and Livonia offices.

The fund-raiser, which costs \$15 for adults and \$8 for children 12 and under, includes two games of bowling, two slices of pizza and one pop per person. Check-in is at 2 p.m. and bowling commences at 3 p.m.

To RSVP, e-mail GLibby@LibbysLand.com or call (734) 459-4700.

Mom-2-Mom sale

St. Thomas a' Becket Church, 555 S. Lilley Road in Canton, will host its annual Mom-2-Mom sale from 9 a.m.-noon, Saturday, March 28. There will be more than 70 tables and 30 racks, as well as a large item room. Admission is \$1. For more information, call (734) 981-1333.

Young Marines fund-raiser

Canton Young Marines, a national non-profit youth service organization, will host its All You Can Eat Pancake Breakfast from 9-noon, Sunday, March 15 at the Wayne AmVets Post 171, 1217 S. Merriman Road, Westland.

Menu will include pancakes, bacon, sausage, assorted fruit,

juice, coffee and milk for \$7.50 per person. Call ahead carry-outs available at (734) 729-8930 and donations are gladly accepted. For more information, please call Sheryl Lamard at (734) 737-9748 and leave a message.

Arts and crafts show

The 5th Annual Plymouth-Canton Marching Band Spring Arts & Crafts Ensemble, which is a juried art and craft exhibition hosted by the Plymouth-Canton Music Boosters, will take place from 9 a.m.-4 p.m., March 14 at Plymouth High School. Exhibitors include makers of handcrafted jewelry, holiday gifts, floral arrangements, purses, wood crafts, glass works, clothing & linens, paintings, painted glass ornaments, and more. In addition to the 100-plus exhibits, there will be food, baked goods, a raffle, and entertainment by local musicians and artists throughout the day. Admittance is \$2.

All proceeds go towards the band and color guard programs at the Plymouth Canton Educational Park. This year in particular, the boosters are working to raise enough funds

to replace the aging semi-trailer used by the Plymouth-Canton Marching Band to transport all the large band instruments to many competitions and events. The trailer has been repaired numerous times and must be replaced for future band seasons.

For more information visit www.pcmb.net/artcraft.

Salvation Army sales

The Salvation Army is sponsoring two major shopping events at the same time: its Mom2Mom and Rummage Sale at its church location at 9451 S. Main, just south of Ann Arbor Road, on Saturday, April 25, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Tables are available for rent for our Mom2Mom Sale which will feature gently used kids clothing and baby items. You can download an application at www.misalplymouth.org or call Cassie in our office at (734) 453-5464.

The Rummage Sale will feature great bargains on gently used clothing, household goods, books, kitchen gear and small appliances. We will also be accepting donations for our rummage sale at the church beginning Monday, April 14 between the hours of 9-11 a.m. and 1:30-4 p.m.

Admission is just a \$1 donation but you can visit our Web site for a coupon for free admission. Great coffee and baked goods will also be available. All proceeds from this day of shopping will benefit The Salvation Army-Plymouth's Tiny Tots Preschool Program and our Women's Ministries program.

Please visit the Web site at www.misalplymouth.org or call us at (734) 453-5464 for more information.

Canton Follies

Destination Theatre, in cooperation with Canton Township, will present the third annual Canton Follies March 12-14 at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill. This year's all new show will be a musical review of one hit wonders of the 50s through 80s. The Canton Follies is a yearly tradition that brings together local singers and dancers from the Canton area. Produced by Pam Rossi, music direction by Kylee Phillips and choreogra-

phy by Craig Nichols.

Tickets are \$15 for general admission, and may be purchased at DestinationTheater.org. Tickets are also available at Canton's Summit on the Park box office, 46000 Summit Parkway, (734) 394-5460.

Charity bowl-a-thon

Seedlings' 22nd Annual Bowl-A-Thon for Braille Books will take place Sunday, March 22, at the Super Bowl Lanes in Canton. This event will help put braille books into the hands of blind children. There will be many great raffle prizes and the bowlers who raise the most pledges will be eligible for top prize packages. The 2009 goal is to buy 25,000 braille books.

Register or pledge a bowler online or download a brochure at www.seedlings.org under the "special events" section. Bowlers will receive three games, lunch, a goody bag, and a free ticket for a chance raffle drawing. Tax-deductible door prize and lane or T-shirt sponsorships are still available to local businesses. Register now and reserve a spot at the event. The registration deadline is March 7, and the minimum donation per bowler is \$50.

Seedlings Braille Books for Children is a non-profit organization in Livonia dedicated to increasing the opportunity for braille literacy by providing high quality, low-cost braille books for blind children. Every \$10 earned at this bowl-a-thon will create one more book. Last year, bowlers raised more than \$23,000 to provide blind children access to popular children's books in braille and to bring them the materials they need to "read and succeed."

For more information, visit www.seedlings.org.

Canton Toastmasters

The Canton Communicators Toastmasters Club, a non-profit group where members learn both communication and leadership skills, meets every Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. at the Canton Coney Island at 8533 Lilley Road, just south of Joy Road, in the Golden Gate Plaza. Visitors are always welcome. For more information, please contact Bonnie at (734) 646-2237.

American Legion meets

The Plymouth American Legion Passage-Gayde Post #391 conducts its monthly meeting the second Thursday of every month at 7:30 p.m. at the Plymouth Knights of Columbus Hall on Mill (next to the railroad tracks) in Plymouth Township.

All interested military veterans should contact Commander Mike O'Malley, (734) 459-7890, for more information.

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Smaller crowds found good deals at Home Improvement Expo

BY TONY BRUSCATO
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Be it the economic conditions or just the fact it rained much of the weekend, the crowds at the Canton Home Improvement Expo held at the Summit were admittedly down.

However, for most vendors it's a numbers game to gain appointments that lead to sales.

"It's a lot slower than it was last year, but we set up 13 appointments today (Saturday) so it was worth our time," said Kelly Sanders of Midwest Construction in Plymouth. "People are being very frugal with their money. Instead of replacing a roof they may just have repairs done, or instead of completely doing a room they may just do a portion of it. It seems more people are deciding to stay in their homes and make them more comfortable, so hopefully that trickles down to us."

Gary McKeever of Ann Arbor was looking to add a sun room or deck to his home. "There's not a better time to



Tom Adamusik of Regal Construction talks with Tim and Elaine Schoening, of Canton, at the Canton Home Improvement Expo over the weekend. In the background, Bob Clark of Four Seasons Sunrooms of Ann Arbor.

buy, everything is on sale," said McKeever. "Contractors need work and they're competing against each other."

Killer Decks representatives said it was slow for them, though Jack Collins agreed with Sanders that people who are staying in their homes are choosing to make them more comfortable.

It was Rick Kiekens fourth

Home Expo displaying his retractable shade systems. "We had good response this year," said Kiekens of Sun and Shade Systems in Canton. "We've gotten 12 people signed up today (Saturday) for appointments, that's more than we've gotten any other year. We always sell two systems out of this show, which more than pays for us being

here."

Canton officials charge \$150 for display booths, making it easier for vendors to recover their expenses.

"We had to forego the Novi show because the cost went up," said Kiekens. "We'd have to sell three or four systems just to pay for it. Here, one system easily pays our expenses for the show."

Chester Daris, Jr. of Oak Park just may be able to afford the new roof he needs, and maybe even a new furnace.

"I think prices have dropped down because they're slow," said Daris. "If you have people working for you there needs to be some work to keep them in their jobs."

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Livonia Public Schools

Open Renowned Academically Talented Program to Out-of-District Students

Twenty seats are open to students across grades 1 through 5 in fall 2009.
Limited Registration window: April 6-20

Livonia Public Schools is opening its Alternative Classrooms for the Academically Talented (ACAT) program to Limited Schools of Choice for the 2009-10 school year.

This program is geared toward academically talented students looking for a specialized learning experience.

Registration will be open from April 6-20 at the Department of Elementary and Special Program, 15125 Farmington Road, Livonia 48154 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

All candidates MUST meet the ACAT selection testing criteria.

For complete information on the application process, visit www.livonia.k12.mi.us or contact Charlotte Worthen, Director of Elementary & Special Programs at 734-744-2589.

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PUBLIC SAFETY

Buckle up

Police to set up safety belt enforcement zones

BY TONY BRUSCATO
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration reports 93.7 percent of Michigan residents used their seat belts in 2007. And while only four other states had higher compliance rates, that was down from 94.3 percent in 2006.

Beginning Saturday and continuing through March 21, Canton police will be conducting several seat belt enforcement zones designed to improve compliance. Paid for by a federal grant, extra patrol officers will be on duty to specifically enforce seat belt use by drivers and passengers.

Canton Police Lt. Scott Hilden said the objective of the special enforcement zones is to increase awareness of — and compliance with — Michigan's safety belt and child passenger safety laws.

"We want to maintain that high level of compliance, but there are still a lot of people



BILL BRESLER/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Canton Police Lt. Scott Hilden said the objective of the special enforcement zones is to increase awareness of — and compliance with — Michigan's safety belt and child passenger safety laws.

who don't use their seat belts," said Hilden. "It's the single most important thing you can do if you get in a traffic acci-

dent. I've been to a thousand motor vehicle accidents in my (17-year) career and the chances of you surviving is much greater with a seat belt than without one."

Michigan's safety belt law allows police officers to stop a motorist solely for not wearing a seat belt in the front seat of a vehicle. Police officers can also stop a motorist if a child age 4 through 15 years old isn't properly restrained, no matter where they are riding in a vehicle. The law also requires all children under the age of 8, or shorter than 4-feet, 9-inches to be properly restrained in an approved child safety seat.

"We really get upset when young children aren't properly belted," Hilden said. "When an adult is making that decision for them and not watching out for their safety it's upsetting to know they don't have the responsibility to protect their children."

Hilden said last year Canton police issued 84 seat belt tickets during grant-funded traffic

details. A violation of the seat belt law will cost you \$65.

Canton Police will also have two officers working a special alcohol enforcement detail on March 17, St. Patrick's Day.

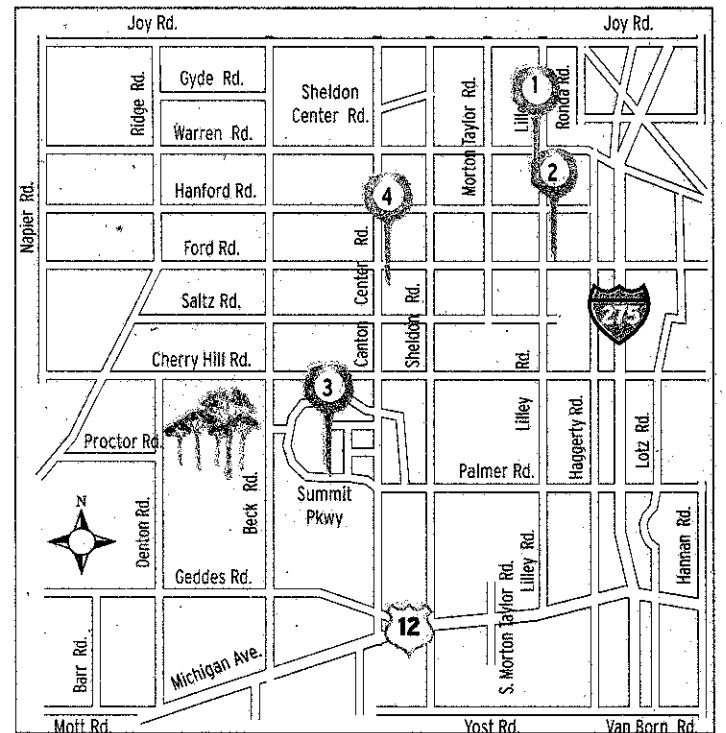
"Historically, St. Patrick's Day is the biggest day for a lot of bars and businesses to sell alcohol," said Hilden. "They start drinking very early, and as the day goes on there are a lot of drunk drivers on the road. So, we want some extra patrols out there with their main function that day to patrol for drunk drivers."

Hilden said Canton police arrested 14 motorists last year for operating while intoxicated (OWI), with three of those on St. Patrick's Day during the federally funded details.

When a motorist is stopped for suspicion of drunk driving, Hilden said officers typically know what to expect.

"The common answer when asked how much they had to drink is 'I only had two beers.'"

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CANTON COP CALLS

Steal stolen from Yazaki

A Canton police officer stopped a pickup truck leaving Yazaki Corp., 6300 N. Haggerty Road, on a Saturday morning to check the safety of a load of steel bars. The driver from Wayne said he was taking the "free steel" to a scrap yard. The man was arrested on a charge of larceny. It was also discovered he was wanted on two warrants in Westland and one in Macomb County.

Price sticker switch

Store employees at Wal-Mart on Ford Road watched as a woman took the \$54.88 sticker off an AM/FM transmitter and replaced it with a sticker from a pair of headphones that cost \$24.88. After she checked out and left the store, the woman was stopped by security who called Canton police. The woman has been charged with retail fraud.

Summit locker room theft

A man reported \$40-\$50 was stolen from his wallet in the men's locker room at Summit on the Park. The victim said he left the wallet in an unlocked locker and when he returned from his workout discovered it missing. He found the wallet in a nearby locker with all the contents except the cash.

Teen steals CDs

A 16-year-old Canton teen was charged with retail fraud for reportedly taking CDs out of the cases and concealing them in his pants while at Meijer on March 4.

Police post warning about rash of thefts from unlocked cars

BY TONY BRUSCATO
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Canton police are reporting an increase in the number of thefts from unlocked vehicles parked outside overnight.

"It's not a rash, but a steady flow every day," said Sgt. Mark Gajeski. "The vehicles are being left unlocked and someone is going through them."

Gajeski said thieves are taking whatever is available, including loose change and sunglasses. In one case, a car was locked but someone broke a window to steal a laptop computer inside the car.

Gajeski did not identify any particular area where the thefts were taking place, but the department did send out an alert to residents through its Silent Alert system.

Police suggest locking cars at night and setting the alarm, if there is one; remove anything of value each night and contacting police with suspicious activity in the neighborhood.

"Don't leave anything in the car that you wouldn't want to give away," said Gajeski. "If you want it, take it out of the car."

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KNOW THE SCORE: Check out the numbers in today's Sports section

Canton Strictly Business

BUSINESS MILESTONES

Oakwood adds new physicians

★ Oakwood Healthcare System (OHS) has added four physicians to its Canton healthcare center, located at 7300 N. Canton Center Road. They are Shari Maxwell, MD, Anaca Froman, MD, Valerie Willis, MD and Jeffery Kane, MD. Maxwell, of Flint, received her medical degree from Wayne State University (WSU) and completed her residency at Henry Ford Hospital Department of Obstetrics/Gynecology. Froman, of Northville, received her medical degree from WSU where she given clinical honors in internal medicine, family medicine and pediatrics. She will be joining the internal medicine division of OHC - Canton. Willis, of Southgate, completed her internal medicine residency at Oakwood Hospital & Medical Center in Dearborn. A graduate of WSU School of Medicine, she will be joining the staff at OHC - Canton. Dr. Kane, of St. Clair Shores, was chief resident of the department of internal medicine at OHMC and was an Internal Medicine Intern of the Year recipient. To make an appointment at Oakwood, visit www.oakwood.org or call (734) 454-8001.

Scrapbooking workshop

Are you looking for time to work on your

★ scrapbook albums or crafting projects? Chrissy Detary of Creative Memories will host a 12 hour scrapbooking workshop for fresh ideas, new techniques and tools available to use. The workshop will take place from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., Saturday, March 21, at Extended Stay America, 2000 Haggerty Road. Cost of the workshop is \$30 per person with lunch and dinner included. There are six hour options available for \$15 per person with one meal. For more information, contact Chrissy Detary at (734) 546-5246 or cdetary@hotmail.com. Must be registered to attend.

Free music lessons

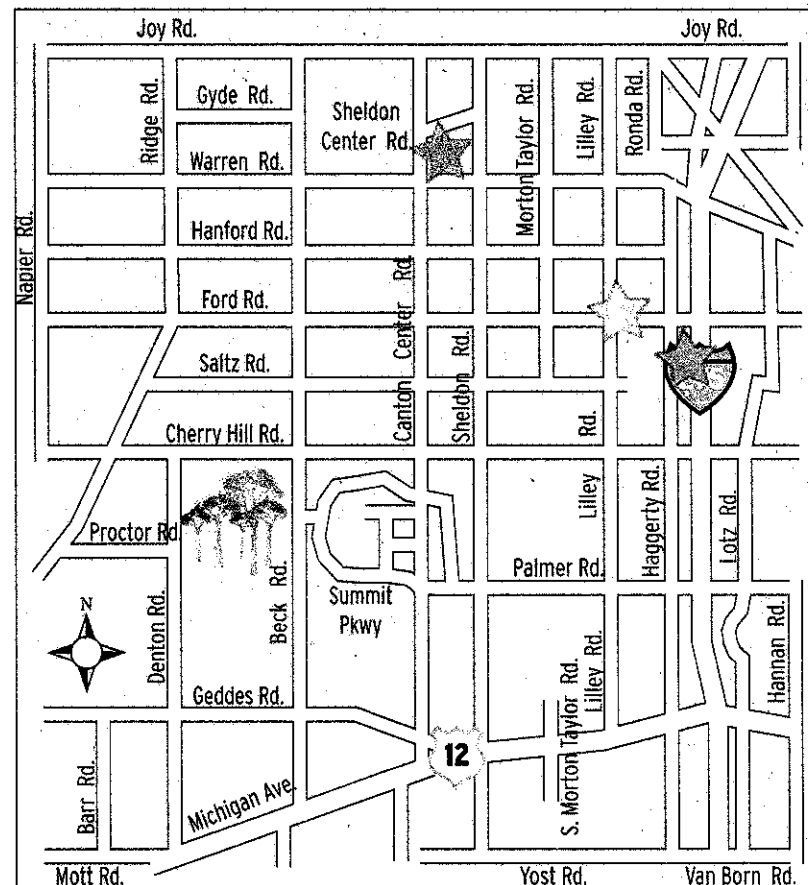
★ Axis Music Academy in Canton (42114 Ford Road) and Metro Detroit Guitar Centers are offering free music lessons to new students. This partnership, which includes Guitar Centers in Southfield, Allen Park, Roseville and Canton, provides free music lessons to any new students purchasing music equipment. Axis Music Academy teaches students of all levels more than 10 instruments with a primary focus on modern guitar, bass, piano, drums, and voice, and a secondary tier of western orchestral and classical instruments. For more information, call Axis at (734) 844-0100 or visit www.axismusic.com.

Harmony and Me classes

Harmony And Me is hosting free Music Together classes for children ages up to five and the adults and care-givers who love them. The 45 minute mixed-age classes feature singing, dancing, and rhythm instrument playing in a family-style class. Free classes will be held on Tuesday, March 17 at 10 a.m. at the Plymouth Play Cafe, Wednesday March 18th at 9:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m., and Thursday March 19 at 9:45 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. in Canton. Reservations are required by calling (248) 489-9330 or on-line at www.HarmonyAndMeKids.com.

Retirement advice

DFCU Financial, Michigan's largest credit union, will present the free seminar "Where Do We Go From Here - Addressing Retirement in Today's Market Realities" at 6:15 p.m., Wednesday, March 18, at the Hyatt Regency hotel in Dearborn. The goal of the seminar is to help people in the community address the critical issues of retirement. The featured speaker will be Steve Vaughn, director of the Jackson Seminar Systems Unit. Reservations are required by calling (313) 322-8394 or outside the local area (888) 336-2700. Ext. 8394, or you can send an e-mail to marc.buchanan@dfcufinancial.com.



IT'S YOUR BUSINESS Q&A

BUSINESS NEWSMAKERS

SEND IT



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Jeff Nielson and Megan Branham of the T-Mobile store on Michigan Avenue in Canton.

Wireless provider emphasizes exemplary customer service

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

Jeff Nielson: T-Mobile is a wireless provider with top of the line handsets including the G1, BlackBerry 8900, and Samsung Behold. Best prices out of major wireless carriers without cutting services.

Observer: What makes your business unique?

Jeff Nielson: My team makes us unique. Five of the six employees are new to the company so we bring experience from all areas of customer service.

Observer: How did you decide to

T-MOBILE

Address: 47188 Michigan Avenue, Canton, MI 48188

Your name: Jeff Nielson, retail store manager

Your hometown: Plymouth

Business opened when?: October 2008

Number of employees: 6

Your business specialty: Pleasing customers

Hours: Monday-Saturday 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Sunday noon to 5 p.m.

Business phone/Web site: (734) 495-3137, www.T-Mobile.com

locate in the Canton community?

Jeff Nielson: T-Mobile picked site. I was recruited from a major home improvement company to run this store.

Observer: Do you have a funny tidbit or story to share with our

readers about your experience so far as a small business owner?

Jeff Nielson: The first couple months were brutal. We would literally go 10 hours and have one customer in the store all day.

We have a very clean store!

CHAMBER CHAT

Chamber auction

The Canton Chamber of Commerce will hold its annual dinner auction on Friday, April 3, 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 event. We have a silent, live, and raffle auction items, entertainment and lots of activities planned throughout the evening" said Dianne Cojei, president of the Canton Chamber of Commerce.

"MASH" is this year's theme, which offers a lot of possibilities for all of our MASH Fans."

Last year's event drew a crowd of more than 400 attendees and featured more than 250 prizes from categories such as home-style, travel and entertainment, sports and leisure, electronics, and many more. This year's auction is expected to draw a similar crowd and has already col-

lected many great prizes that will be up for bid. New this year is a one week stay in a luxury studio suite located in Cabo San Lucas or, a one week oceanfront condo in Myrtle Beach.

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. For more information, please contact the Chamber at (734) 453-4040. This year's Auction is sponsored by Lou LaRiche Chevrolet and other local businesses.

Computer class

The Chamber is offering an "Intro to MS Publisher-Part 2" computer course presented by Canton Computers from 6-9 p.m., Wednesday, March 25. The course will be held at the Canton Chamber of Commerce office located at 45525

Hanford Road in Canton. This is one of many computer training courses that have been scheduled throughout 2009. They are open to Chamber members and to the public.

"The Chamber is proud to offer educational programs to our Chamber members, business owners, employees, and residents of Canton," said Chamber President Dianne Cojei. "We have seen quite a good turn out at these training sessions. The classes we offer are high-quality courses that we feel will help to enrich the Canton business community."

Cost for the seminar is \$25 for Chamber members and \$40 for non-members. Class size is limited; registration will be accepted on a first come, first serve basis. To register, contact the Canton Chamber of Commerce at (734) 453-4040. For more information on the Canton Chamber of Commerce, log onto www.cantonchamber.com.

Physician appointed to AAP

Canton's Daniel A.C. Frattarelli, M.D., who is director of pediatric education for Oakwood Healthcare System (OHS), has been appointed to the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP). He was elected as a chairperson of the AAP National Committee on Drugs, which reviews all aspects of pediatric pharmacology, including drug indications, absorption rates, dosing and use precautions and mode of action as they apply to children. The committee also advises the board of directors in matters related to drug labeling, safety and efficacy for both prescription and over the counter drugs, monitors federal legislation related to the drug approved process, and promotes the need for expanded pediatric drug trials.

A Dearborn native, Frattarelli studied medicine at Michigan State University (MSU) College of Human Medicine and completed his fellowship at the Children's Hospital of Michigan. He was also an assistant professor of pediatrics and clinical pharmacology at Wayne State University.



Frattarelli

Get in on the new Strictly Business page of the *Canton Observer* by sending us your business news, promotions, events or milestones. It's simple. Just e-mail all of the details to Editor Kurt Kuban at kkuban@hometownlife.com and he will take care of the rest. Our new local business page runs each Thursday in your *Canton Observer*. We welcome comments and suggestions, too. We're looking forward to hearing from you.

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Bud Mason

Third time the charm? Search still on for band director

BY BRAD KADRICH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

A few months after finishing 11th in the nation at the national band championships in Indianapolis with an interim director who took the job as a last-minute replacement, the Plymouth-Canton Marching Band still doesn't have a permanent director.

And it doesn't look like they're going to get one any time soon.

Ray Bihun, the school district's executive director for human resources, said two searches have narrowed the field to one candidate, but that in both searches, the final candidate withdrew from consideration.

Bihun said he's been disappointed with the number of candidates, pointing out there were only 14 applicants for the second search. A band as prominent as Plymouth-Canton's — it won a national title in 1999 and is a regular finalist in the national com-

petition — should be drawing more prospects, Bihun said.

The job is being posted a third time.

"We're still looking for candidates," Bihun said Tuesday. "We're a national program. We should be getting people in here."

The posting became necessary last summer, when former director of bands Marc Whitlock stepped down to deal with a family crisis. Martin Montoya, who had served as a part-time assistant with the marching band for three years, took the reins. The band finished third in the state — ending a 14-year reign as state champion — but rebounded to finish 11th at nationals.

That kind of season under those kinds of circumstances look pretty good on a resume, at least to some band parents, some of whom attended Tuesday's school board meeting to ask why Montoya hasn't been handed the job.

"I am concerned the hiring committee has taken a year

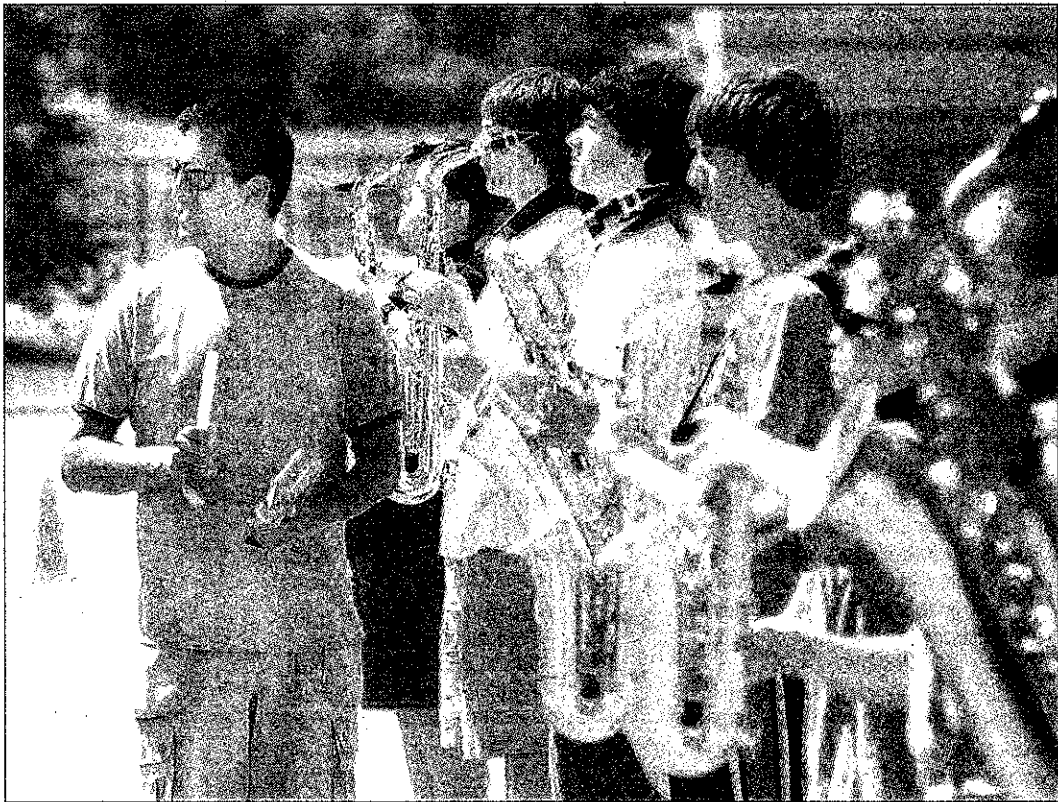
to find us a director ... are we missing what's right in front of our faces in Martin Montoya?" said Lynn Black, who has one daughter who graduated the program and another who is a junior in the color guard.

"He took a partially completed show, finished it and took it to 11th in the nation. He has not only gained the respect of his students, but also of their parents and his co-workers."

Montoya has been a part of both searches — he was one of the top two finalists the first time around, according to Bihun — and would likely be a part of the next search. Bihun wouldn't comment on Montoya's potential to get the job as a full-time gig, citing the confidentiality of the search process.

No timetable has been set for hiring a permanent replacement for Whitlock.

"The process has been ... complicated," said Superintendent Craig Fiegel. "It is being worked on."



Martin Montoya, here keeping time during a band camp drill, replaced Marc Whitlock, who stepped down after five years due to family circumstances, as director of bands for Plymouth-Canton.

Iditarod musher helps keep beloved teacher's memory alive



Mike Suprenant, a musher is this year's Iditarod dog sled race in Alaska, is carrying with him a photo of Angie Lipford, the Discovery Middle School special education teacher who died Jan. 24 after a five-year fight with cancer.

BY TONY BRUSCATO
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Discovery Middle School special education teacher Angie Lipford, who died Jan. 24 after a five-year fight with cancer, loved the Iditarod dog sled race in Alaska.

So, when colleague Amy Trombley visited Alaska a couple of weeks ago and met a musher and his dog team preparing for this year's race, which started this week, her thoughts turned to Lipford.

"While I was talking with Mike Suprenant, the musher, I told him about Angie and how she loved the Iditarod," Trombley said. "One thing

led to another, and Mike is taking a key chain with Angie's picture with him on the race from Anchorage to Nome.

"In thanks of Mike's support, Discovery is supporting one of Mike's lead Iditarod race dogs, Tim, with a \$300 donation, through a fundraiser to be held later this month," she said.

Trombley gives updates to students on the Iditarod race with a special device that tracks Suprenant, giving updates on his location, when he takes breaks and how far he's from the finish line. The first mushers are expected to complete the

Iditarod sometime early next week.

It's not the first time students, parents and staff at Discovery have remembered Lipford. The school recently sold pink shirts, hats and water bottles with "Angie's Angels" printed on them and raised approximately \$1,500 for Lipford's three sons.

Lipford would, no doubt, be proud of her students and all those who helped organize efforts on her behalf.

"I just don't think she realized the following she had," said Trombley. "She's just a well-loved person."

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1/2 Corned Beef Sandwich with a Cup of Soup.....\$5.25

2 piece Fish with 1 Side.....\$5.00

1 piece Chicken Valentino Entree with 2 Sides.....\$5.00

Chicken Strip Dinner with Fries and Slaw.....\$6.00

Early Bird Sides:

Slaw, Cottage Cheese, Mac & Cheese, Vegetable, Cup of Soup, Fries or Mashed Potatoes



MONNI MUST

Pictured are Matthew Darling (left front), Sara Davidson (middle front), Katherine Lucas (front), Buddy's owner and student, Robert Jacobs; Linda Kay Nathan (back left) and Aaron Fenton (back right). Davidson, Lucas, Kay Nathan and Fenton are participating in this month's Dining with the Stars contest.

Dine with yoga stars of metro Detroit

Dining with the Stars sponsored by Buddy's Pizza and the *Observer & Eccentric Newspapers* takes a special twist this month. The winner will dine with the yoga stars of metro Detroit.

The group includes Katherine Lucas, founder of Karma Yoga, Inc.; Sara Davidson, ERYT-500; Aaron E. Fenton (ASHTANGA) Yoga Room; and Linda Kay Nathan of Yoga Shelter.

Tell us in 100 words or less why you want to have

lunch with yoga stars at Buddy's Pizza in Farmington Hills. E-mail your entry to BuddysDiningStars@gmail.com by 5 p.m. Tuesday, March 31.

The contest winner will be treated to a limo ride from Class Plus Limo, a makeover courtesy of Christine from the Beauty Salon in Birmingham, a \$100 gift certificate from Reaver Diamond Co. in Southfield and a dance exhibition by the Fred Astaire Dance Studio in Bloomfield Hills.

Robert Jacobs, owner of Buddy's Pizza and an 18-year student of yoga, says the yoga community played a major role in his recovery from Guillain-Barre syndrome, a rare autoimmune disease which attacks the body's nerves. He used yoga to heal and was supported by the yoga community. His quest for health has expanded into his own business. He created a healthy nine multigrain pizza which will be served at the yoga stars lunch.

P-C marching band seeking future members

The award-winning Plymouth-Canton marching band is hosting a series of informational meetings for students (and their parents) who are interested in joining the 2009 marching band program.

The meeting is designed for existing 8th graders, but is open to any high school student. Interested students

will spend time with the existing marchers, while parents listen to a presentation by the Plymouth Canton Music Boosters on how 8th graders can become a member of the 2009 summer/fall season. Future musicians and color guard members are welcome.

Parents and students are asked to attend one of the following open house meetings at

Plymouth High School (8400 Beck Road, Canton -- enter near the big yellow truck):

■ Wednesday, April 22 at 7 p.m.

■ Thursday, May 7 at 7 p.m.

■ Monday, June 15 at 7 p.m.

For more information, contact Barb Hawkins, new member representative, at (734) 420-5355, or visit www.pcmnb.net.

PLAYERS

FROM PAGE A1

"It's the first revue we've done," Quesada said. "(The songs) are so different from each other, it won't give the audience a chance to get bored. It keeps moving."

Quesada said many people asked her how she's going to top last year's wildly popular production of *Jekyll and Hyde*. Her answer was simple.

"I'm not," she said, smiling. "But it's going to be just as good!"

That's what Salem senior Zack Smith said, too. Smith, 18, appeared in *Jekyll* last year and was Mr. Salk in the Plymouth Community Arts Council's production of *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*. He said the cast of *Smokey Joe's* had great rehearsals.

"I'm kind of nervous," Smith said Monday. "I want the show to go well."

Bowling said at Monday's dress rehearsal the nerves hadn't caught up with her, but she expected they would by the time the curtain went up.

"I haven't gotten there (nervous) yet, but I will," she said, laughing. "You just have to turn it into adrenaline."



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Cory Thomas and Karl Heitman lift Kyle Scanlon in 'D.W. Washburn' at Monday's dress rehearsal.

ST. PETER'S LUTHERAN DAY SCHOOL

OPEN HOUSE

Sunday, March 22, 2009
2:00 to 5:00 pm
Kindergarten through 8th Grade

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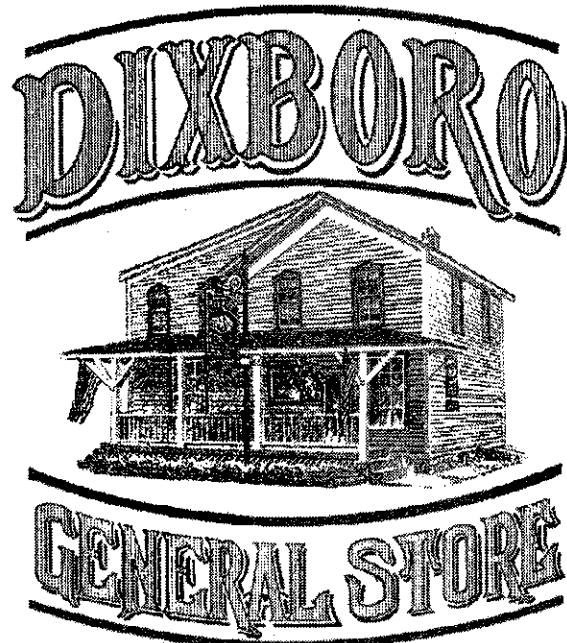
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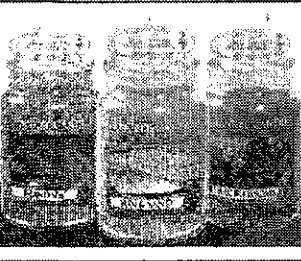
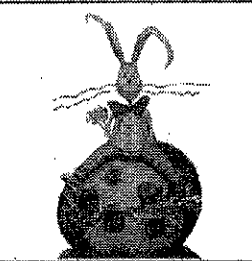
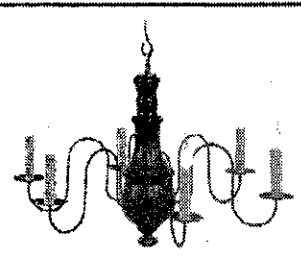
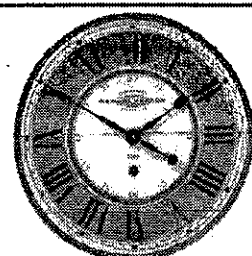
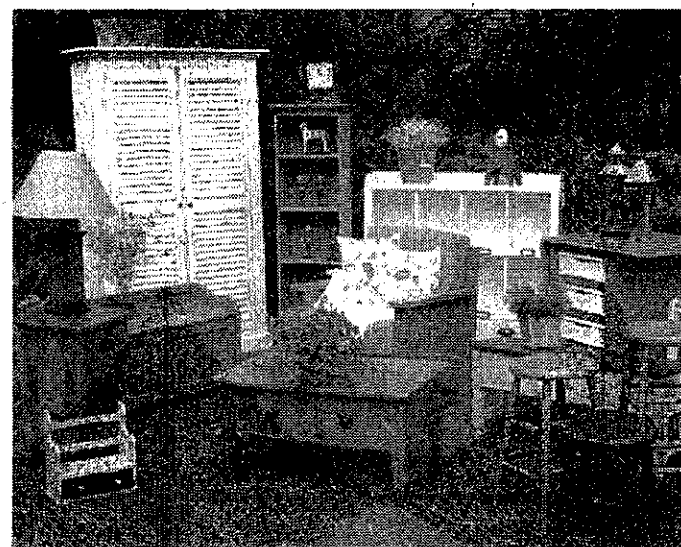


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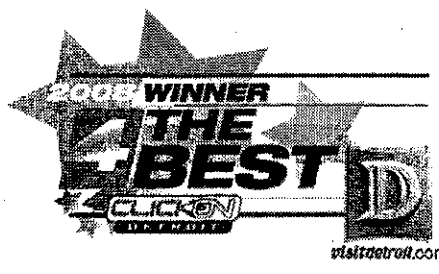
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THURSDAY
March 12
2009

Page A8 (C)
Kurt Kuban, editor
(313) 222-6714
kkuban@hometownlife.com

LOCAL OPINION

online at hometownlife.com



Our fundamental purposes are to enhance the lives of our readers, nurture the hometowns we serve and contribute to the business success of our customers.

OUR VIEWS

LaJoy takes proactive approach to economic development

"We've got it."

That was the message — loud and clear — that Canton Supervisor Phil LaJoy wanted to convey to the community during his first State of the Township address last week at the Village Theater.

While acknowledging the economic storm that is raging all around Canton, and even starting to impact the township's bottom line, LaJoy instead highlighted all the positives in the community. As supervisor, LaJoy recognizes he is Canton's biggest cheerleader, and he did his best to paint an optimistic picture. That's what leadership is all about, especially in dire times.

But there was more than smoke and mirrors in his message. LaJoy discussed some important initiatives that should help Canton stay at the forefront of economic activity in Wayne County and the region.

Along these same lines, Canton's leadership team deserves a lot of credit for making a hard pitch for available federal stimulus money that is coming to the state. While every community would like the federal money, Canton proposed a number of 'shovel ready' projects ready to go, which puts it in a better position to receive the money.

First and foremost, LaJoy announced that Debbie Bilbrey-Honsowetz, formerly of Leisure Services, will take over the role of economic development coordinator. In this new position, Bilbrey-Honsowetz will market Canton to companies wanting to move into the area. She will soon have a new Web site and a team in place to help her get out the message that Canton is a great place to do business.

One of Bilbrey-Honsowetz's priorities will be to sell the Canton community as a prime destination for film companies wanting to take advantage of Michigan's new tax incentives for filming in the state. In fact, according to LaJoy, that effort has already begun with a new online photo database showcasing possible shooting locations, as well as a database of local businesses that could assist in film production, such as builders, caterers, florists, etc. It's not too hard to imagine a film being shot in the quaint Cherry Hill Village, for example (remember the Toyota commercial that was almost shot there a couple years ago).

Canton's leadership is showing it is capable of taking a proactive approach to take advantage of available resources — in this case a state program.

Along these same lines, Canton's leadership team deserves a lot of credit for making a hard pitch for available federal stimulus money that is coming to the state. While every community would like the federal money, Canton proposed a number of "shovel ready" projects ready to go, which puts it in a better position to receive the money.

It has already been announced that Canton is in line for the lion's share of the federal money coming to Wayne County for road projects, something just about every Canton resident will appreciate. Canton has also proposed several other innovative projects that might be eligible for stimulus money, including a \$7.5 million project to convert methane gas at a township landfill into electricity, which could power local businesses at a lower cost than could be offered by DTE.

When LaJoy said at the State of the Township that his administration sees all the economic challenges as "opportunities in disguise," it wasn't just a nice slogan. It's apparent Canton is doing all it can to take advantage of available opportunities.

Join the discussion

What do you think about ...?

Will the Red Wings win the Stanley Cup?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Unsure

Go to hometownlife.com to give us your feedback.

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COMMUNITY VOICE

Asked at the Canton Public Library: What do you think of the Canton Board of Trustee plan to raise water rates by as high as 20 percent?



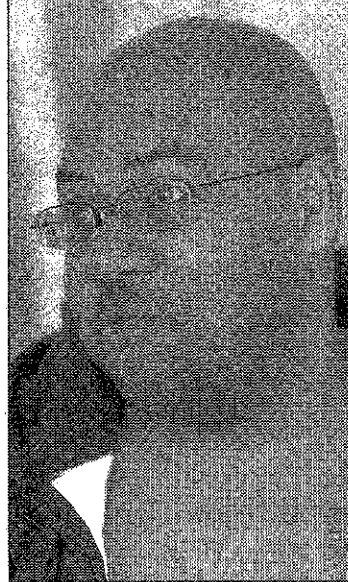
"Like everything else it's going up. You still have to take a bath, drink the water, do the dishes and the laundry."

Brenda McVicker, 39, Canton



"I think it's ridiculous. The city of Detroit rates aren't going up that much."

John Kubiel, 76, Canton



"With the economy, with what's happening today, it's not going to make anything easy. A lot of people are already struggling with jobs and making ends meet."

Craig Kimball, 41, Canton



"I think it stinks. I'm unemployed and any more increase in any bills is a hardship for us. You hardly water your grass now because of the prices."

Robin Barrie, 47, Canton

LETTERS

Join the real world

For shame that the trustees in Canton thought fit to give raises to these non-union individuals who are already receiving inflated salaries. If you add up the salaries of 11 people, it is more than \$1 million. The trustees should be looking at combining departments (for instance, Leisure Services, Recreation and Facilities, and Community Services). Then Canton could offer the new position to any of those three at half the salary. This is reality (this is what is happening out in corporate America).

There are many people who are qualified for these positions who would be happy to make 1/2 to 2/3 what these individuals were making prior to the increase. Taxes are a big issue for residents of Canton in these times, but this does not seem to be an issue with the trustees — the more money the more the trustees can spend. If it is in the budget, it will be spent. Who ever heard of a budget surplus for the next year in Canton?

People in Canton are being laid off, having their salaries cut in half, and having salaries frozen, but the trustees apparently do not care about the economic situation of their constituents. After all, one trustee stated the raises were already in the budget. If we paid these people less perhaps the township could take the responsibility that they should always have had — keeping the roads like the other surrounding towns (clear from snow and fewer pot-holes).

It is unconscionable that the township proceeds as if in a fantasy world. Why didn't they protest when Canton has the highest water fees in the area — more than Westland, Northville, and Plymouth? Why are they so concerned about building new buildings when the old buildings are going empty? Have any of them checked out the strip mall at Lilley and Warren (a large mall where now you can only buy pizza, Chinese food, or get your nails done)?

Personally I think they all need to be recalled.

Karen Krueger
Canton

Open the books

Before the Plymouth-Canton school board begins any budget discussions, they need to open their books to the public. The best and quickest way to do this is to publish the monthly check register online. When I first brought this to the board's attention a year ago, there were only two districts in the state doing this. Now there are more than a dozen.

When I brought it up again this January, I was told that the finance committee has been discussing it. What is there to discuss? This is taxpayer money. Just as taxpayers deserve to know how the banks are spending bailout money, local taxpayers deserve to know how the school district is spending our money.

To take this one step further, and really show the public that the board is in control of the budget rather than the budget being in control of the board, they should once again approve the bills for payment monthly in open board meetings.

The budget discussions this year will again fill with board room with differ-

What do you think?

Mail comments to the Canton Observer, 615 W. Lafayette, Second Level, Detroit, MI 48226 or e-mail to kkuban@hometownlife.com.

ent groups upset at the cuts that must be made. Having the register available online will help in the resulting discussions about where taxpayer money goes.

As a final point, the district continues to emphasize that 90 percent of the budget is "people-related" costs. While it is technically true that 88 percent of the budget is wages and benefits, it is relevant to note that wages account for only 59 percent of the budget while benefits are 29 percent of the budget. That 29 percent translates to \$46 million of the \$156 million budget.

Larry Martin
Plymouth Township

Relay for Life kicks off

Your American Cancer Society has been an active member of the Canton community for many years, offering a number of patient and family services, cancer education and prevention opportunities and lifesaving research. We continue our mission in large part thanks to the help of generous volunteers.

Our Kick-off Party was held on Feb. 19 and was made possible by the generous donations of several local businesses. The food and resources donated by Imagine Theatre, Canton Canopies, Holiday Market, Canton Township, and Community Financial were greatly appreciated. The hard work of the volunteer committee made the night a success. The committee is comprised of a group of citizens that are truly dedicated to the fight against cancer and putting on a wonderful community event. With the challenges of our day-to-day demands, time has become a premium and many people are finding it more difficult to participate in regular community service. The American Cancer Society Relay For Life offers people a chance to participate in a unique event that takes place over one night but that helps cancer patients and caregivers year-round. A short-time commitment has results that are far-reaching and long-lasting.

Plans are under way for the Relay For Life of Canton on May 16-17. Now is the time for individuals, families, organizations, schools, religious groups, corporations and businesses to build a team and join our fight to reduce the burden of cancer here and throughout the U.S.

Learn how you can be part of the American Cancer Society Relay For Life of Canton and get ready to Celebrate, Remember and fight back. Call Kelsey Soper at (248) 663-3441 or visit www.relayforlife.org/cantonmi for more information.

Kelsey Soper
ACS staff partner
Relay For Life of Canton

No bottomless pit

Following upon the governor's recent announcement of her plan to tie gasoline

taxes to a percentage of the price of a gallon of gas along with her stealth plans for various fee increases on vehicle licenses and proposals for toll roads in Michigan, Democrats Marc Corriveau and Dian Slavens were busy building upon her great tone deaf traditions of kicking Michigan while it is down.

A series of bills (HB4071-9) were passed in the State House with every Democrat and one renegade Republican voting aye. Those bills included provisions to give legislative staffers and elected state employees, including state representatives, lifetime health care coverage. This means that these geniuses could be term limited out after six years and still receive taxpayer-paid health care benefits forever. Both Corriveau and Slavens are young so that means, in their cases, for years. Taxpayers may have forgotten that in his first term, Marc Corriveau voted in support of \$1.5 billion in tax and fee increases for Michiganians.

Meanwhile, Michigan is experiencing above 11 percent unemployment according to the latest numbers. I wonder if those more than 11 percent of Michiganians will have lifetime health care coverage? I wonder if they, and we, will continue to be comfortable with more of the costly government boot upon our necks? There is no bottomless pit of money no matter what Corriveau, Slavens, Granholm, and Obama believe.

Mark F. Tooze
Plymouth

McCotter must go

I live in Farmington Hills. We in the 9th District removed the Republican Joe Knollenberg last election and replaced him with a Democrat, Gary Peters. It looks like the next target should be Thaddeus McCotter in the 11th who again has proved that Main Street Americans cannot count on him to represent their interests. He voted against the recovery legislation and has followed the Republican line, supporting the wealthiest of our citizens consistently. Only out of fear did he vote to extend health care to our children. In the past, he has voted against it and supported Bush's veto of the health care for kids act. He has to go in 2010.

Chuck Collins
Farmington Hills

Supports Patterson's AG run

Sen. Bruce Patterson has been my state senator and I am very happy with his commitment to his constituents and the State of Michigan. His experience more than qualifies him for the position of state attorney general and the citizens of Michigan would have an excellent advocate in the AG's office.

My family definitely would support him in this endeavor. I am confident that as AG, Sen. Patterson would not support laws that invade our privacy or mandate behavior and hopefully, he could advise our legislature on these issues.

Janet Richards
Woodhaven

Parisian points out what's hot for spring

Spring runways were awash in brightly-colored and boho-chic styles sure to chase away the winter blues. This season, we can look forward to romantic, feminine clothing paired with bold, dramatic accessories.

Here's a Hot List of spring trends courtesy of Parisian.

Pleasantly Peasant: A peasant blouse is both a must-have trend for this Spring and a wise investment for seasons to come due to its versatility. Touches of beaded embellishment and embroidery make these tops equally fashion-right for a day at the beach or a meeting at the office. Add a stone-coil bracelet or a wooden beaded necklace for a truly boho-chic look.

Petal Power: Spring's fashions are bursting with dainty floral patterns and oversized, art-nouveau flower prints. A summery frock or a pretty blouse in a botanical print would make a smart addition to your wardrobe this year. For just a hint of the trend, don a necklace with a bright daisy pendant or tie a silky, floral scarf in your hair. It's the equivalent of tucking a flower behind your ear.

Fresh Cardigans: Layer up on early spring days by adding a new cardigan to your favorite existing outfit. This spring's lightweight cardigans feature open fronts, ruffles or flutter sleeves. A wrap-cardigan looks fresh in a bold spring hue or a painterly print.

Strappy Sandals: The gladiator sandal is out in full force this spring at Parisian. Black or metallic leather shoes with multiple straps and buckles make an impact with a rich look. The versatility of the strappy gladiator sandals easily takes you from day to night, making it a statement shoe that maximizes your budget.

Dressy Style: A maxi dress is a valuable new staple for your spring wardrobe. It's a comfortable, carefree style that's perfect for warmer weather and they can easily be dressed up with the proper accessories. Another trend to watch for is the jacket dress. These multi-tasking dresses and coordinating jackets go easily from the office to dinner in style.

Bright Lights: One simple way to refresh your look this season

is with brightly-colored shoes and accessories. Focus on candy-colored pumps, flats, handbags, clutches and jewelry alike. Coral, turquoise, orange and yellow will take center stage. If you aren't afraid to stand out, try these shades in a shiny, metallic finish.

Feminine Touches: Romance is in the air, so look for sheer blouses with feminine touches such as ruffles, ruching, pleating, pin-tucking and hints of lace. A ruffle blouse in a neutral color is a wardrobe asset you can pair with a wide-leg trouser or a pencil skirt. Don't be afraid to balance these prim, pretty blouses with a menswear vest, a boyfriend blazer or a snug leather jacket.

Trench Coats: There is something quintessentially spring about a trench coat. Until the temperatures really rise, every woman would be wise to invest in a piece of light outerwear. The trench coat is effortlessly chic and classic — it's a style that faithfully comes back year after year. If you can't see yourself in the tan, double-breasted version, opt for an updated silhouette or an unexpected color.

Cross-Body Bags: One of the hottest trends in handbags is the cross-body bag, which leaves your hands free — perfect for outdoor music festivals, farmer's markets or travel. If you're going to buy one bag this summer, it's smart to choose a bag that can go anywhere. At Parisian, you'll find cross-body bags in a wide array of colors, finishes and styles.

Lightweight Scarves: Right now, you're probably tired of layering on a scarf, hat and gloves to bear the elements, but the spring versions of scarves are lightweight, lovely wardrobe workhorses.

They'll perk up any of your favorite casual ensembles. The current trends in fashion neckwear include inspirational messages, peace signs, fringe, ombre and tie dye. These are the perfect accessories for the breezy days ahead.

The Bon-Ton Stores, Inc. operates Parisian nameplates at Laurel Park Place, Livonia; The Village of Rochester Hills; and the Mall at Partridge Creek, Clinton Township.



Layering is essential as winter turns to spring. Try a bright cascading cardigan like this green one from Fever, \$58, at Parisian.



Chunky wooden and stone Erica Lyons jewelry, \$15-\$50, captures the boho-chic trend for spring. Floral pins, layered necklaces, stretch bracelets and drop earrings are available at Parisian.



Try a new take on the classic trench, like this belted and striped version from Jones New York Signature, \$169, at Parisian. Availability may vary by store.



Choose color when it comes to spring accessories, like this Rampage 'Maria' shoe, \$49, and frame clutches by Rolfs in yellow and aqua, \$28, all at Parisian.

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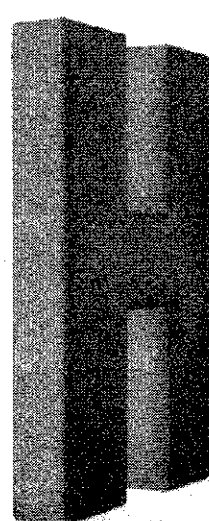
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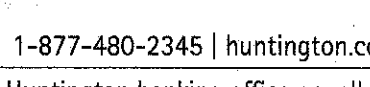
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Bands on the run – PCA, P-CEP musicians take to festival stage

Doddie VandeGiessen figured her Plymouth Christian Academy band would do OK at the Michigan School Band and Orchestra District Festival at Thurston High School in Redford Thursday.

And they did, scoring an overall “2” rating. The thing VandeGiessen was concerned about was her band’s performance in the sight reading phase. But she needn’t have worried, because her charges aced it. “The outstanding thing is they got a ‘1’ in sight reading,” VandeGiessen said. “You have to go in and play music you’ve never seen before. I was worried about that, but they did an excellent job.”

PCA and several Plymouth-Canton Educational Park bands were part of the festival, which is divided into two parts, a concert performance and a sight reading. Ensembles perform before three judges. They are evaluated on tone, intonation, rhythm, technique and interpretation. They receive a letter grade in each of those categories and then receive a division rating based on the predominant letter grades.



Students from the PCEP High School Wind Ensemble perform on Friday.

The combined concert performance and sight reading evaluations determine the final rating. First division is rated superior, second division good, third division average, fourth division below average and fifth division poor.

P-CEP had its wind ensemble and varsity band

under the direction of Amy Boerma at the festival, along with its concert and symphony bands under the direction of Martin Montoya. All four Plymouth-Canton bands scored straight “1s.”

The bands took the stage at Thurston’s newly remodeled state-of-the-

art William F. Weber Auditorium, a venue for which VandeGiessen had high praise.

“They just remodeled it, it was just really wonderful to be able to play in such a nice place,” VandeGiessen said. “We play in the church auditorium, and the acoustics aren’t nearly that good.”



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Plymouth Christian Academy orchestra members Matthew Sumner and Drew Ibach wait in the hallway until their next competition begins. After playing a performance onstage, the orchestra will now be evaluated on sight-reading. They will get an unfamiliar piece of music to play.

County tax bills go out July, December

Each week, Wayne County Treasurer Raymond J. Wojtowicz will answer reader questions about the tax process and property taxes. Wojtowicz reminds taxpayers: “Always remember that your property is your most precious asset. Do not risk losing it for nonpayment of property taxes. If in doubt, ask questions.”

Q: When and how many current real property tax bills will I receive each year?

A: Your local treasurer will send two tax bills each calendar year, a summer tax bill in July and a winter tax bill in December.

If you do not receive a summer and/or winter tax bill, call or visit your local city, township or village treasurer where the property is located and request a tax bill. At the same time, check to make sure the treasurer has your correct mailing name and address.



Ask the Treasurer

Raymond Wojtowicz

Q: When are current property taxes due and when do they become delinquent?

A: Each year, current summer taxes are due, July 1 and the current winter taxes are due, Dec. 1 and are payable to the local treasurer

until the last day in February. According to State law, on March 1 unpaid property taxes become delinquent and are sent to the county treasurer for billing and collection with additional penalties and interest, computed with a 4 percent penalty, and 1 percent interest per month for the first year.

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SECTION B
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Get Out! - your guide to the latest events and entertainment - B7

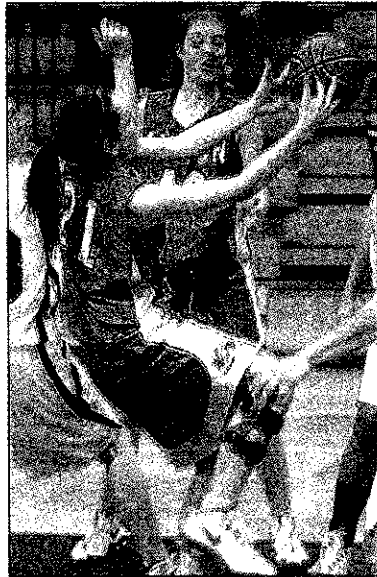
SPORTS, FILTER, FOOD & WINE

HOMETOWN LIFE



Patriots' game: Franklin derails Canton, 46-43

Canton's CarolAnn Sexauer pulls down a rebound as teammate Sara Schmitt looks on during Tuesday night's Class A Regional semifinal contest at Milford High School.



LAWRENCE MCKEE | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The script didn't deviate between KLAAs South Division girls basketball rivals Livonia Franklin and Canton.

With each team winning on the other's team home floor during the regular season by identical 36-33 scores, something had to give in Tuesday's Class A regional semifinal at Milford.

And once again the outcome wasn't decided until the final possession.

This time it was Franklin's turn as the Patriots rode the 20-point, 12-rebound performance of Briauna Taylor to topple the state-ranked Chiefs, 46-43.

Franklin, now 22-3 overall, advances to Thursday's regional championship game to face 16-8 Farmington Hills Mercy, which survived a late Brighton rally to earn a 49-41 triumph. (Game time is 7 p.m. at Milford).

Briauna Taylor and her twin sister Brittany combined for 6-for-6 first-half shooting to stake the Patriots to a 15-3 first-quarter lead.

Canton, meanwhile, shot just 1-of-8 and committed six turnovers.

"The key was our ability to recognize our strengths," Franklin coach Dave McCall. "We knew they'd double team the ball and we had to get the ball in (Williams) Chelsea's hands so they wouldn't be able to double team as much and it worked."

Canton, however, came out during the second quarter with a full-court press and cut the deficit to 23-19 at halftime as sophomore Kari Schmitt scored eight of her 10 points.

"I thought they (Franklin) were the aggressors and we took a step back," Canton coach Brian Samulski said of the opening period. "But to the girls' credit, they got rolling and came back."

Meanwhile, for Franklin it was gut-check time.

"They (Canton) had the momentum," McCall said. "I told them at halftime we had to reach down inside and pull something out. Both (Nicole) Emery and the Taylors were exhausted at halftime. We had ACT (tests) today and a half-

a-day of school. They were out of their routine and it's better when it's a normal schedule. They were fatigued, but I thought we had more in the tank. It was pure will."

Canton took the lead on two occasions in the third quarter on a rebound basket by CarolAnn Sexauer (eight points) and two free throws by Sara Schmitt, but Franklin regained the 33-29 on two free throws by Amanda Borieo.

The fourth quarter turned into a foul shooting contest with both teams in the double bonus.

Two free throws by Kayla Bridges with 6:36 remaining gave the Chiefs a 35-34 advantage, but Franklin answered with six straight

Please see **CANTON, B2**

BOYS MARCH MADNESS TIPS OFF

CC boards 'Cats from postseason

BY ED WRIGHT
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

They crashed the boards in waves of blue, outjumping taller opposing players and outthrusting smaller ones.

And because of their blue-collar effort in Monday night's Class A District 25 opener at Novi High School, Novi Catholic Central's boys basketball team will be punching the time clock once again following its 62-46 victory over Plymouth.

CC, which improved to 15-6, advanced to play Northville in Wednesday's semifinal contest set for 5 p.m. at Novi. Plymouth's once-promising season ended with a 9-12 record following an 8-4 start.

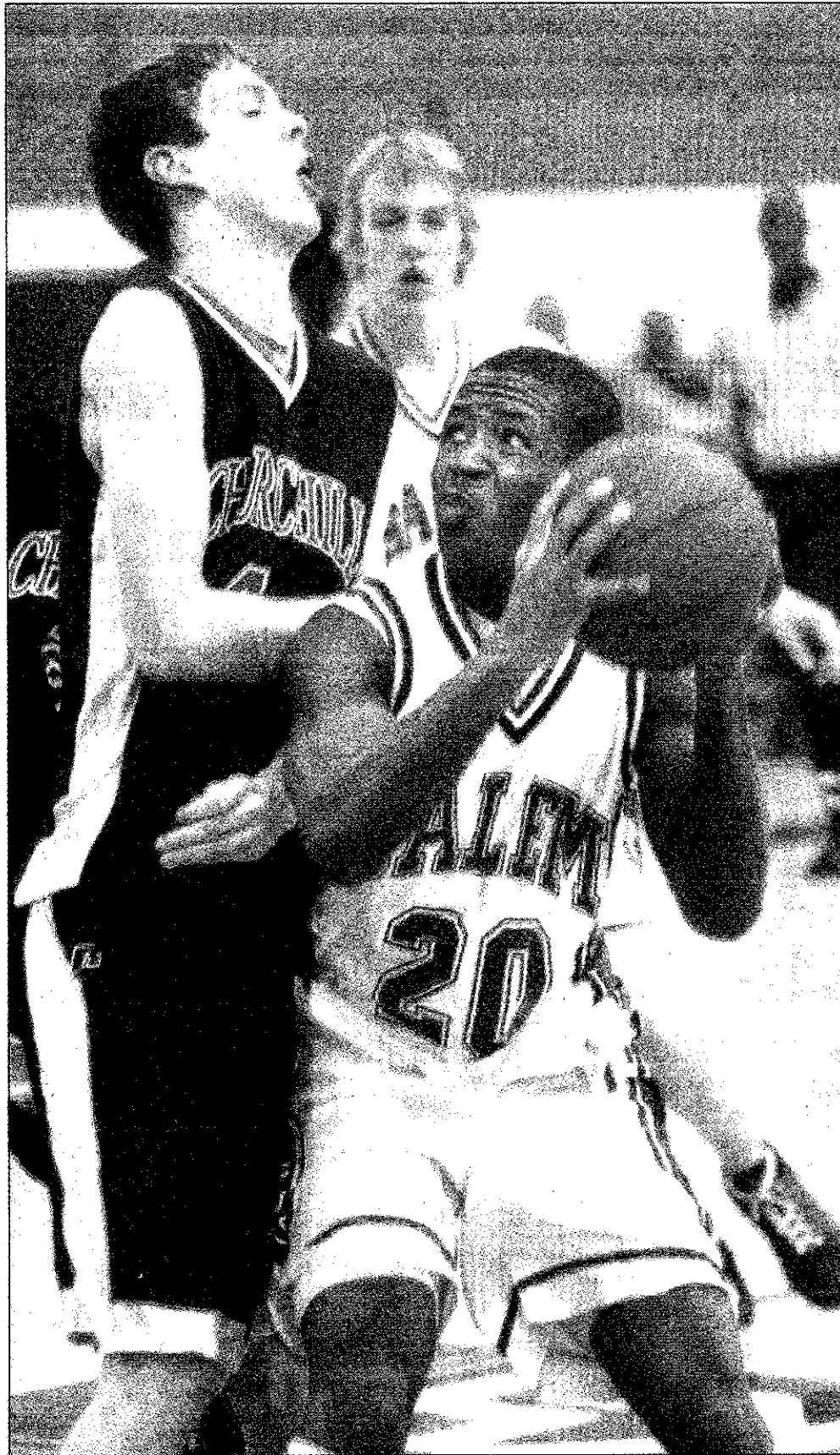
The Shamrocks seized control of the contest in the first half when they out-boarded the Wildcats, 23-8, to take a 37-18 lead into the break. They extended their advantage to 58-34 after three quarters before Plymouth eventually gained ground during garbage time.

Even though CC won the rebounding battle, 40-23, the Shamrocks didn't have a chairman of the boards. It was a committee effort as three players — Matt Doneth, Steve Harding and Jamie Morris — yanked down six caroms each — while another — Tim Dezelski — grabbed five.

The scoring ledger was equally balanced for the winners, who were led by Dezelski's 13. Harding added 12, Morris netted 10 and Brett Smith racked up nine.

Junior guard Alontae McElhane paced the Wildcats

Please see **CC, B2**



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Salem's Anthony Mullins (with ball), pictured above during a game earlier this season, led Salem with 15 points in the Rocks' 60-55 loss to Novi Monday night.

Chris-crossed

Novi's Bellamy knocks out Rocks during crunch time

BY ED WRIGHT
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Fans watching Monday night's Class A District opener between Salem and Novi probably wouldn't have been shocked if ice water had seeped out of the small cut Wildcat guard Chris Bellamy suffered on his right hand early in the third quarter.

The senior captain was so cool, calm and collected during the down-to-the-wire thriller, it appeared as if ice water flowed through his veins.

The tighter and deeper Monday's game drew, the steadier Bellamy seemed to play as he scored 12 of his 25 points in the fourth quarter to help the Wildcats repel the Rocks, 60-55.

Led by Bellamy's 7-for-7 effort in the final stanza, Novi (18-3) drained all 12 of its free throws to advance to Wednesday's semifinal contest against Canton, which drew a first-round bye.

Salem (10-11), which carried a six-game winning streak into the showdown, managed to drain just 5 of 13 attempts from the charity stripe.

"It's nice to have a kid like Chris on your team in tight games like this," said Novi coach Cory Heitsch. "It definitely calms you a little bit having a kid like that stepping to the free-throw line and extending the lead like he did tonight."

Bellamy's four free throws during the final 20 seconds put Salem in two-possession holes.

"He just took the game over at the end and put his team on his shoulders," said Salem coach Bob Brodie, referring to Bellamy. "We tried some different things against him, but he was too quick and slashy. We ended up fouling him and he knocked down the free throws." Based on a pair of double-

digit losses to the Wildcats earlier this season, the Rocks entered the game as prohibitive underdogs. They didn't play like it.

During the game's first 20 minutes, Salem built a 39-34 lead thanks in large part to the inside play of junior center Jake Peterson (who finished with 12 points and nine rebounds) and senior guard Anthony Mullins (team-high 15 points), who consistently sliced his way through the mid-section of the Wildcats' defense.

However, an and-one driving layup by junior guard Jeremy Mims with 3:11 left ignited a 12-0 Wildcat run that didn't end until Salem's Jimmy Dexter drained a jumper at the 5:20 mark of the fourth to bring Salem to within 46-41.

A Bellamy basket with 3:10 to play re-cushioned Novi's advantage to 54-44 before the Rocks made one final push. Salem cut its deficit to three points on three occasions during the final two minutes — the final time on Andrew Daniels' long jumper with 11.3 seconds left to make it 58-55.

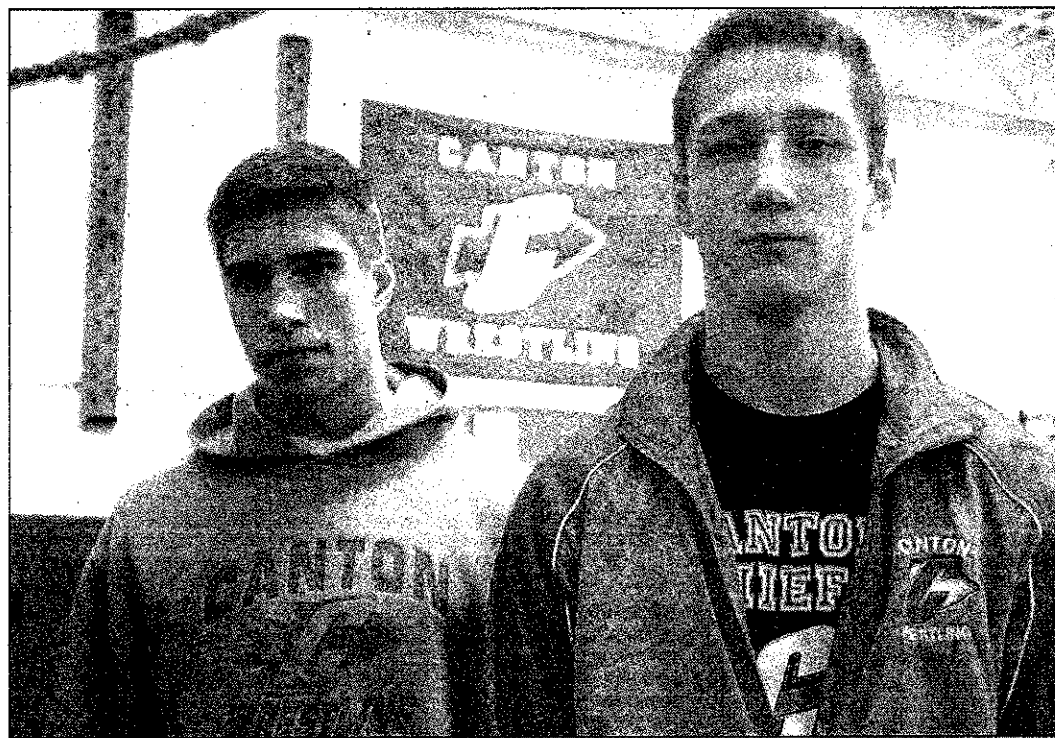
But "Cool Hand" Chris buried a couple free throws with 10 ticks left to close the scoring.

Despite the win, Heitsch wasn't completely please with his team's performance.

"We wouldn't get a gold star for our poise tonight," he said. "I thought we were pretty flat. I don't want to put the entire onus on us. I thought Salem had a lot to do with the way we played tonight. They were a much different team than the one we saw earlier in the season. They were much more focused tonight and they played with a lot more energy."

Brodie gave his team a two-

Please see **ROCKS, B2**



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Canton juniors Brent Winekoff (left) and Donnie Watkins will take a combined record of 107-3 into the Division 1 Individual State Meet, which runs today through Saturday at the Palace of Auburn Hills.

Win/Win situation

Winekoff, Watkins rack up wins at amazing rate

BY ED WRIGHT
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

From the instant the referee first blows his whistle, Canton wrestlers Donnie Watkins and Brent Winekoff stalk their opponents like a spider would stalk a bug caught in its web.

Usually in a matter of seconds, the Chiefs' dynamic duo's foes find themselves on the wrong end of a "Where-did-that-come-from?" maneuver and their priorities quickly switch from winning to trying to survive the first two-minute round without getting pinned.

Like the bugs in the web, not many succeed.

Heading into today's Division 1 individual state meet at the Palace of Auburn Hills, Winekoff is 55-1 and

PALACE PREVIEW

Beginning this morning, seven Plymouth-Canton Educational Park wrestlers — five from Canton and two from Salem — will be competing in the Division 1 Individual State Meet at the Palace of Auburn Hills. The finals will be held beginning Saturday afternoon. For updates on the brackets, visit www.mhsaa.com. Following are the local state-qualifiers and their first-round opponents:

103 pounds: Salem's Nick Kim (34-11) vs. Clarkston's Zak Roberson (31-8);

112 pounds: Canton's Waleed

Faraj (41-11) vs. Holland's Nikolas Leal (39-7);

119 pounds: Canton's Carl Lucke (48-10) vs. Milford's Devin Boria (36-8);

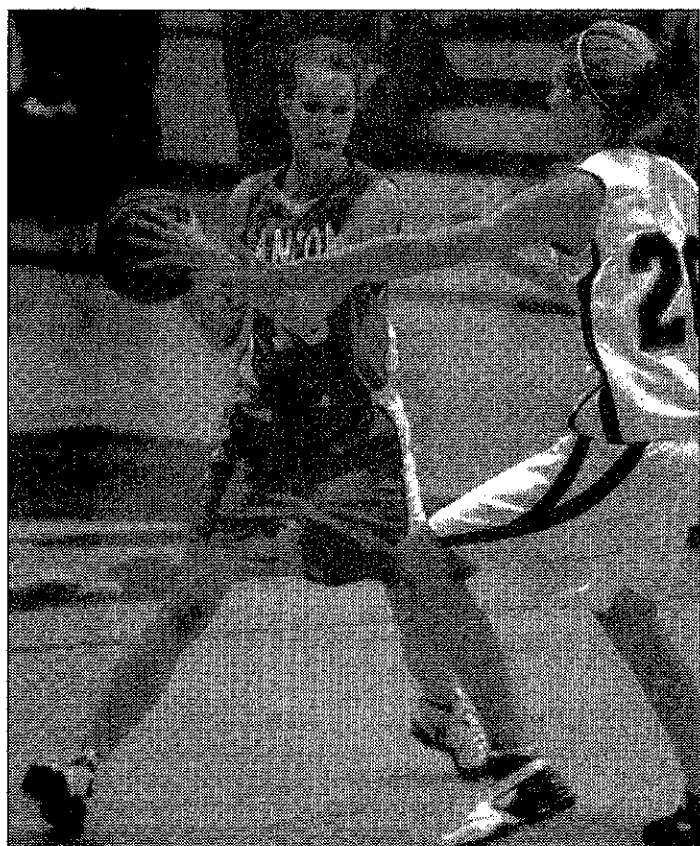
135 pounds: Canton's Donnie Watkins (52-2) vs. Mt. Clemens Lanse Creuse's Clayton Muller (39-11);

145 pounds: Canton's Brent Winekoff (55-1) vs. Hudsonville's Paul Carbone (35-13);

171 pounds: Canton's Keith Zech (38-16) vs. Grand Haven's Chris Lucas (39-5); and

215 pounds: Salem's Sam Lepper (38-8) vs. Rochester Adams' Jason Finney (51-1).

Please see **WRESTLING, B2**



LAWRENCE MCKEE | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Canton's Lindsey Winters prepares to bounce a pass to a teammate during Tuesday night's Class A Regional semifinal loss to Livonia Franklin.

CANTON

FROM PAGE B1

points, including a pair of free throws by Borio to lead 40-35.

Canton pulled to within two twice and appeared to have Franklin on the ropes when Brittany Taylor (eight points) fouled out with 3:10 remaining.

But Emery hit a key outside hoop, her only two of the game, with 2:44 left for a 44-40 lead.

Canton trimmed the deficit to 44-43 on two free throws by Sara Schmitt with exactly a minute left, but Brianna Taylor came through with a pair of free throws with only 14.5 seconds remaining after missing two just 14 seconds earlier to help seal the victory.

Canton's last-ditch attempt missed the mark and Brianna Taylor grabbed the rebound with only 1.4 seconds remaining to end the suspense.

The Chiefs were 19-of-31 from the foul line, while Franklin was 14-of-24.

"We talked about the game coming down to free throws

and the last three minutes," McCall said. "All three games we lost this season we shot terrible at the line."

Canton, meanwhile, shot only 11-of-36 (30.5 percent) from the floor and committed 19 turnovers.

"When it came time and we had opportunities, we couldn't make the plays and just couldn't get over the hump," Samulski said. "They just made more plays when they had them."

"But overall our girls had a great season - 20-3, co-South Division champs and a district championship. They competed all year and we lost three games by three points. They get after it and play hard. That's all you can ask for."

Franklin, meanwhile, will go after its first-ever regional girls basketball title Thursday night.

"We worked our butts off all year long since November 4," McCall said. "I've been tough on them in practice and sometimes they think I've been mean to them, but now they understand why."

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WRESTLING

FROM PAGE B1

ranked No. 1 in the state in the 145-pound weight class according to MichiganGrappler.com. Watkins is 52-2, and ranked No. 2 at 135.

Combined, they have already won close to 300 matches in their high school grappling career — and they are both only juniors.

How's that for a 1-2 punch? "Every time I step on the mat, I'm focused and thinking that no one can beat me," said Watkins, when asked about his competitive mind-set. "I know that if I wrestle hard and wrestle for six minutes, I can beat anybody."

"The first match I lost this season (to Flint Carman-Ainsworth's Josh Goodman), I didn't go out there as focused as I should have been. I kind of just wrestled, and I lost. I've learned from that."

Big part of life

Wrestling is so woven into the fabric of Winekoff's life that he hates to go longer than two weeks without enduring some type of practice or competition. That passion explains why he's "140-something and 16 — I'm not exactly sure" since first pulling on a red-and-white Canton singlet in the fall of 2006.

"I like wrestling because it's both a team and an individual sport," Winekoff said. "I like being able to go out there only having to worry about what I'm doing. But then once my match is over, I enjoy rooting on my teammates. I like the individual and team aspects of wrestling."

Learning from the best

As freshmen, Watkins and Winekoff were fortunate enough to be able to observe how a state champion carries himself. That was the year they shared the Canton wrestling room with eventual unbeaten state champion Corey Phillips, now a sophomore starter for Eastern Michigan University's wrestling program.

"The main thing I learned from Corey was what kind of work ethic he had and how hard he worked in practice to achieve his goals," said Watkins.

"Corey was my drill partner when I was a freshman," Winekoff added. "The way he worked so hard helped me because I didn't have the greatest work ethic back then. He opened my eyes to how hard you have to work if you want to be good."

"He went all out all the time when he wrestled against me in practice and I'm glad he did because every time I wrestled him I got a little bit better."

Battle of titans

The marquee match-ups these days during Canton practices unfold when Watkins and Winekoff go one-on-one.

Given that both are nearly technically flawless and armed with unwavering endurance, their encounters can't help but be entertaining.

"He's bigger and strong than me, so he usually wins," said Watkins. "But it helps to wrestle against him because after I go up against Brent, whoever I face in a match the next day or following week seems a lot lighter and not nearly as strong."

Winekoff said matching up against Watkins is equally beneficial to him.

"Yeah, he's lighter, but he's so quick that it helps me get ready for quick opponents," said Winekoff.

Making the grades

The discipline both athletes practice in the wrestling room day after day spills over into the classroom. Winekoff carries a 3.0 grade-point average while Watkins has chiseled a 3.2 GPA so far.

Several major college wrestling programs have already sent letters of interest to Canton's middle-weight marvels, but neither is close to making a decision on their future.

One thing that is etched squarely in both of the talented young grapplers' minds is the answer to the question they were asked early last week: Will you be satisfied with anything less than a state title on March 14?

They both responded with an unflinching one-word reply: "No."

Corey Phillips would have been proud.

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BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Plymouth's Jordan Jones, pictured during a game earlier this season, and his Wildcats teammates dropped a 62-46 decision to Novi Catholic Central Monday night.

CC

FROM PAGE B1

with 11. Sophomore Justin Moss scored eight while four players — Cliff Buttermore, Mike Nadratowski, Dion Johnson and Brennan Beyer — all added six.

The Shamrocks raced to a 5-0 lead before Plymouth roared back to score the next six — the middle two coming on a put-back slam by Moss, who was trailing the Wildcats' fast break.

Instead of injecting

Plymouth with a dose of momentum, the dunk seemed to pump up the Shamrocks, who answered with an ensuing 24-6 run to put the game away.

Moss added another crowd-pleasing slam with just under five minutes to play in the game, but the athletic 6-6 post player could manage just two other field goals against the Shamrocks' pesky defense.

CC hit on 23 of 34 attempts (67 percent) at the line. Plymouth connected on 8 of their 14 freebies (57.1).

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ROCKS

FROM PAGE B1

thumbs-up review after it dropped its first game in over a month.

"The boys gave us everything they had again tonight, just like they've done for the last seven games," Brodie said. "We got beat by a good basketball team. They beat us by 15 and 16 points the first two times we played them, so to play them this close shows how much we've improved."

"I liked the way we took care of the ball on offense. We dictated the tempo for the most part. Teams like Novi love to run, but we were able to play at our tempo most of the game."

The game was the high school finale for four Salem seniors: Heath Parling, Courtney Frazier, Joe Posler

and Dexter.

"I'm really going to miss that group," Brodie said. "They did a good job of leading us, especially late in the season when we made a run. They never folded the tent."

Dexter netted seven points and five boards in his prep hoop finale while Posler racked up six points and seven rebounds. Parling scored five points — including a huge three with 1:45 to go bring Salem to within 54-51 — and played solid at the point.

Joining Bellamy in double-figures for the winners were Mims (12) and senior captain Nick Brockman, who tossed in 10. Novi hit 23 of 55 field goals (41.8 percent) while Salem knocked down 22 of 53 shots (41.5).

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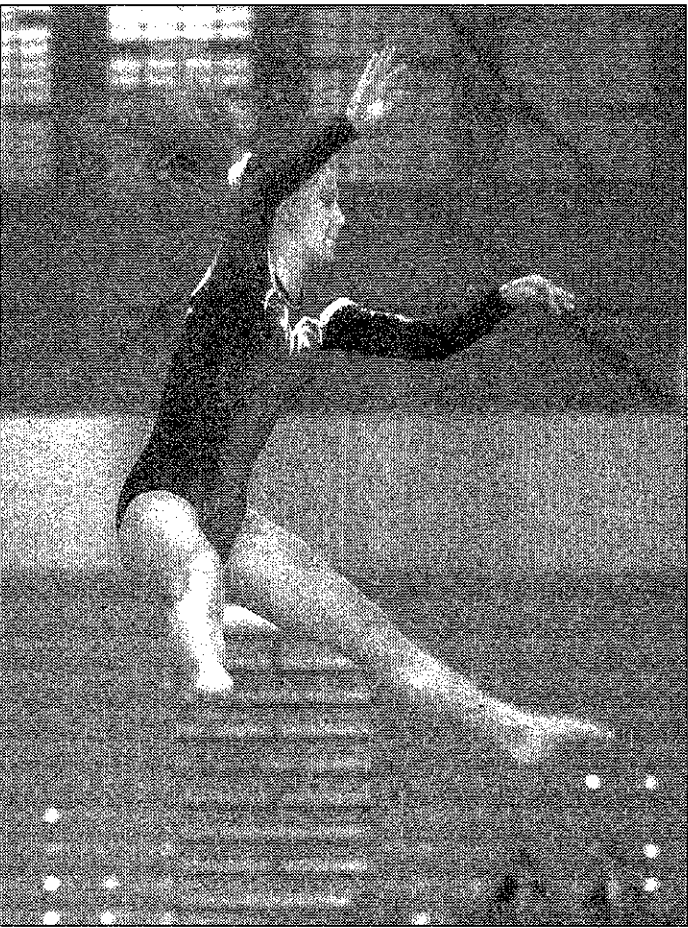
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BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Salem's Nicole Jacobs, pictured in a meet earlier this season, placed second in the Division 2 all-around competition at Saturday's Regional tournament at Plymouth High School.

Canton gymnasts qualify for state

Led by a pair of Division 1 top-10 all-arounders, Canton's impressive streak of state meet appearances will continue in 2009.

The Chiefs placed third at Saturday's Regional meet that was held at Plymouth High School after chalking up 142.050 points. They trailed only Regional champ Livonia Blue (147.350) and Northville (146.050).

Salem placed fourth with 134.425, but missed qualifying for the state meet as team as only the top three finishers are guaranteed berths.

The host Wildcats placed 10th with 71.025 points.

Pacing the Chiefs was sophomore Robyn Piowar, who took third in the all-around with 36.475 points. Piowar's teammate, fellow sophomore Cathy Huang, earned a ninth-place showing in the DI all-around with a 35.875.

Two more Chiefs — Brittany Granowicz and Alex Hamric — placed 10th and 11th, respectively.

The Rocks were bolstered by a solid performance from senior Katie Koetting, a four-year standout who qualified for the individual state meet by placing sixth with a 36.400 all-around score.

Blue's Emily Quint outperformed the all-around field when she registered a 37.775, a half-point more than runner-up Chloe Presley of Northville.

Salem's Nicole Jacobs sparked in Division 2, placing second in the all-around with a score of 35.150, just behind Blue's Laura Nomura, who notched 35.450 points.

Canton's Mallory Hudak was her team's top D2 all-arounder, finishing fourth with 34.625 points.

Hudak won the D2 floor-exercise event with a 9.4.

GYMNASTICS RESULTS

2009 Division 1 Gymnastics Regional Saturday at Plymouth H.S.

FINAL RESULTS: 1. Livonia Blue, 147.350; 2. Northville, 146.050; 3. Canton, 142.050; 4. Salem, 134.425; 5. Grosse Pointe, 134.425; 6. Livonia Red, 133.825; 7. Saline, 133.375; 8. Edsel Ford, 127.750; 9. Trenton, 85.225; 10. Plymouth, 71.025; 11. Adrian, 63.70; 12. Tecumseh, 47.075; 13. Salem "B", 31.250.

INDIVIDUAL RESULTS - LEVEL 1

VAULT: 1. Emily Quint (LB), 9.525; 2. Brittany Janis (LB), 9.4; 3. Cathy Huang (C), 9.35; 4. Robyn Piowar (C), 9.250; 5. Meghan Powers (9.225); 6. Chloe Presley (N), 9.2; 7. (tie) Cassidy Winter (N) and Alicia Dimauro (LB), 9.150; 9. Kelly Chamiga (LB), 9.1; 10. Makenna Pohl (N), 9.0.

UNEVEN PARALLEL BARS: 1. Presley (N), 9.6; 2. Huang (C), 9.50; 3. Quint (LB), 9.35; 4. Katie Koetting (SLM), 9.25; 5. Chamiga (LB), 9.050; 6. (tie) Winter (N) and Piowar (C), 9.0; 8. Pohl (N), 8.850; 9. Janis (LB), 8.8; 10. Dalia Shafie (LB), 8.750.

BALANCE BEAM: 1. Presley (N), 9.575; 2. Powers (LB), 9.525; 3. Quint (LB), 9.225; 4. Winter (N), 9.150; 5. Koetting (SLM), 9.125; 6. Piowar (C), 8.850; 7. Pohl (N), 8.825; 8. Dimauro (LB), 8.725; 9. Janis (LB), 8.7; 10. Chamiga (LB), 8.5.

FLOOR EXERCISE: 1. Quint (LB), 9.675; 2. Koetting (SLM), 9.5; 3. Pohl (N), 9.4; 4. Piowar (C), 9.375; 5. (tie) Presley (N) and Huang (C), 9.35; 7. Janis (LB), 9.3; 8. Chamiga (LB), 9.2; 9. Winter (N), 9.175; 10. Powers (LB), 9.15.

ALL-AROUND: 1. Quint (LB), 37.775; 2. Presley (N), 37.725; 3. Powers (LB), 36.5; 4. Piowar (C) and Winters (N), 36.475; 6.

Koetting (S), 36.4; 7. Janis (LB), 36.2; 8. Pohl (N), 36.075; 9. Huang (C), 35.875; 10. Chamiga (LB), 35.85.

INDIVIDUAL RESULTS - LEVEL 2

VAULT: 1. Laura Nomura (LB), 9.525; 2. Allison Kemp (N), 9.275; 3. Nicole Jacobs (SLM), 8.825; 4. Olivia Stephens (C), 8.775; 5. Deming Wilce (SLN), 8.750; 6. Lauren Patia (LR), 8.650; 7. Sara Behrendt, 8.625; 8. Amy O'Brien (N), 8.6; 9. Mallory Hudak (C), 8.575; 10. (tie) Lauren Krieger (GP), Marina Milad (C), Alex Kiltz (LB), Lauren Martin (C), Cassie Morford (LB), 8.550.

UNEVEN PARALLEL BARS: 1. Nomura (LB), 9.2; 2. Richardt (SLN), 9.0; 3. (tie) Heather Koresky (GP) and Katina St. Pierre (LR), 8.650; 5. (tie) Amy Reynolds (N) and Alex Kiltz (LB), 8.450; 7. (tie) Marisa Markowsky (T), Sammy Ritchart (SLN), Sarah Fentim (GP), 8.3; 10. (tie) Milad (C) and Jordan Toor (SLN), 8.250.

BALANCE BEAM: 1. Lauren Krieger (GP), 9.15; 2. Reynolds (N), 9.050; 3. Jacobs (SLM), 9.0; 4. Hudak (C), 8.6; 5. Allison Kemp (N), 8.575; 6. Jennifer Cichetti (A), 8.550; 7. Markowsky (T), 8.525; 8. Sarah Bridges (LB), 8.425; 9. Julie Davidson (N), 8.35; 10. Martin (C), 8.325.

FLOOR EXERCISE: 1. Hudak (C), 9.4; 2. Jacobs (S), 9.225; 3. Krieger (GP), 9.075; 4. Kemp (N), 9.0; 5. Ritchart (SLN), 8.875; 6. (tie) Nomura (LB), Brooke Pledger (SLN) and Bridges (LB), 8.850; 9. (tie) Reynolds (N) and Brittany Swazy (LB), 8.750.

ALL-AROUND: 1. Nomura (LB), 35.450; 2. Jacobs (S), 35.150; 3. Krieger (GP), 34.975; 4. Hudak (C), 34.625; 5. Reynolds (N), 34.525; 6. Markowsky (T), 33.825; 7. Koresky (GP), 33.525; 8. St. Pierre (LR), 33.425; 9. Pledger (SLN), 33.2; 10. Davidson (N), 33.10.

Grade-A contributor

Canton's Muresan hits books, boards hard

BY ED WRIGHT
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

There may be student-athletes at the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park who are more well-rounded than Canton basketball player George Muresan, but not many.

The Chiefs' 6-foot-2 senior forward not only excels as a reserve post player, he plays the guitar at his church, performs community-service work at the Plymouth Salvation Army and attacks his homework with such vigor that his grade-point average has exceeded the 4.0 mark.

He'd tell you about all his notable accomplishments if he wasn't as modest as he is well-rounded.

"George is just a great kid," said Canton basketball coach Dan Colligan. "I have so much respect for the guy, both for what he does on and off the court."

As a reserve, Muresan's minutes are precious and few most nights. But that hasn't depleted his passion for collecting every non-scoring stat available when he does step onto the hardwood.

"The best parts of my game are probably defense and rebounding," said the soft-spoken Muresan. "My sophomore season, I had the most blocks on the junior varsity."

Power in the paint

Muresan's highlight game of his senior campaign came in an early-season battle against Redford Union.

"It kind of stands out for me because I had two blocks, one



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Canton's George Muresan is an effective rebounder and defender on the court and a stellar student off it.

of which went off the backboard," Muresan said. "It was a low-scoring game, so we needed all the defense we could get."

While he'll never be an offensive force, Muresan has made strides in the rest of his game that have drawn lofty praise from Colligan.

"From his freshman season to now, George is probably our most improved player," said Colligan. "And the reason for that is because he works so hard. He has a tremendous basketball IQ, which makes him so effective when it comes to rebounding and playing defense. Against Churchill, we put him in against one of their 6-6 kids and he did a great job even though he was giving up four inches."

Muresan was born in Romania in 1991. A short time later, he and his family moved

to Canada before settling in Canton when he was seven.

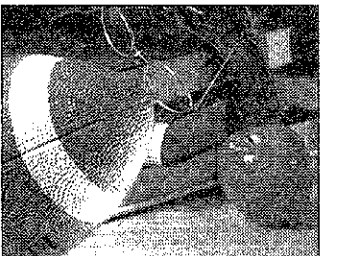
"We moved from Romania because my dad received a better job offer and because they had a communist government," Muresan said. "We went back and visited when I was in middle school. It was interesting."

Honored to help

As a member of the National Honor Society, Muresan has donated at least 24 hours of volunteering time the past two years.

"I've been helping out with computer work in the office of the Salvation Army," he said. "I enjoy it."

When he begins his college career at the University of Michigan in the fall, Muresan will be working toward a degree in computer engineering.



Prep Profile

"Eventually, I'd like to work for Microsoft or Apple — one of the big computer companies," he said.

When asked if his smarts help him during hoop games, Muresan shook his head.

"You don't have a lot of time to think on the basketball court," he said. "Everything happens pretty fast, so you have to act right away."

ewright@hometownlife.com | (734) 578-2767

Whalers lock down Soo, 9-4

After losing Friday night, 9-4, to top-ranked Windsor, the Plymouth Whalers bounced back in a big way on Saturday with an 8-2 victory over Sault Ste. Marie in an Ontario Hockey League played before 3,369 at Compuware Arena.

The win improved Plymouth to 35-25-5-0, good for 75 points and sole possession of fourth place and home ice in the first round of the OHL Western Conference playoffs race, which is scheduled to start in two weeks.

Plymouth is four points ahead of Sarnia (32-25-4-3) and Guelph (32-25-4-2) and two points behind third-place Saginaw (35-23-3-4).

The Whalers were led offensively by their top-scoring line of Matt Caria (three goals and two assists), Chris Terry (one goal, two assists) and Tyler Seguin, who tallied a goal and assist.

Beau Schmitz scored a goal and recorded three assists. Brett Bellemore and AJ Jenks added single goals for Plymouth.

James Livingston and Jake Carrick replied for Sault Ste. Marie.

Special teams played a major role in the Plymouth victory as the Whalers went 5-for-9 on the power play and killed 8-of-9 Soo power plays.

Although Caria scored the only goal of the first period at 2:38 to give Plymouth a 1-0 lead, the Whaler penalty killers were the difference in the first frame and they killed off a continuous five-on-three Soo power play for a span of five minutes midway through the first period.

Goaltender Matt Hackett and defenders Michal Jordan, Joe Gaynor, Schmitz and Bellemore — among others — played key roles during that segment of the game.

"That really set the tone (of the game)," said Plymouth associate coach Joe Stefan. "We were really disappointed with the effort we gave last night (in the loss to Windsor). We wanted to make amends. Our penalty killing has really come on in

the second half of the year. The boys stepped up in the first period and killed off those penalties. The momentum changed and we took off from there."

Whaler penalty killers blocked a lot of shots in front of Hackett.

"I think we did a good job staying in the lanes, so they couldn't shoot the puck and had to pass it," Gaynor said about Plymouth's penalty killing. "We were keeping them to the outside — they weren't getting very many shots. We did what we do best — stay in the lanes and clear the pucks."

Plymouth blew the game open on the power play in the second period after Greyhound veteran Jordan Nolan was given a two-minute minor for instigating and a five-minute major in an altercation with Whalers' RJ Mahalak at 2:26 of the period. Power-play goals by Terry (team-leading 38th of the year at 2:31), Schmitz (3:49), Bellemore (7:07) and Jenks (7:21) extended the Whalers' lead to 5-0. After Livingston scored at 15:19 to cut the Plymouth lead to 5-1, Caria (15:31) and Seguin (18:59) went back to work to give to Whalers a 7-1 lead after 40 minutes.

"Coming out of last night's game, we wanted to redeem ourselves," Caria said. "Our penalty killing was outstanding in the first period. Chris Terry and Tyler Seguin are so gifted offensively, so it comes easy to give them the puck. You go to the net and you know you're either going to get it back or they're going to beat the goalie. Right now, we're working for each other."

With five points Saturday, Caria now has 30 goals and 57 assists, Terry has 38 goals with 51 assists, and Seguin has 21 goals and 42 helpers.

Plymouth — with three games left in the regular season — is off until tonight when it plays in Windsor. Plymouth travels to Sault Ste. Marie on Friday before returning home for the last game of the regular season on Sunday against Sarnia at 2 p.m. at Compuware Arena.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Compuware Arena to host hockey finals

Compuware Arena is hosting MHSAA boys hockey semifinal action today and Friday, and championships all day Saturday with finals starting at 11 a.m., 3 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Prices are \$6 for the semifinals and \$7 for championship Saturday. Fans can purchase a Weekend Pass for \$25.

Local teams still in the hunt include Detroit-Novii Catholic Central and South Lyon in Division 1; Novi, Warren De La Salle and Trenton in Division 2; Dearborn Divine Child, Monroe St. Mary's Catholic Central and Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook-Kingswood in Division 3.

Plymouth Wildcats football golf outing

The Plymouth Wildcats Football Booster Club will be holding its eight annual Wildcats Football Golf Outing on Saturday, May 30, at Fellows Creek Golf and Banquet Center in Canton.

The outing will be a best-ball scramble with a shot-gun start at 1 p.m. Players are needed as well as Hole sponsors and donated items for a silent auction at the end of the outing.


Registration is \$100 per golfer. You can register by calling Bill Ballelli at (734) 416-9603 or Mike Walsh at (734) 453-6796.

For more details, visit the Wildcats' Web site at www.football.plymouth-wildcats.com.



Junior varsity champions

The St. John Neumann Dragons 5th/6th grade junior varsity boys basketball team recently earned the CYO 2008 Division F title with a 9-1 regular season record. Pictured are (front row from left) Gavin McAuliffe, Connor Wingate, Kevin Livingstone, (second row from left) Wesley Weber, Greg Williams, Luke Callahan, Justin Vitez, (third row from left) head coach Angelo Lanava, Nick Lanava, Joe Miazek, Sean Meagher and assistant coach Mike Meagher.



Metro-West STEELHEADERS

24th Annual Sportsman's Banquet

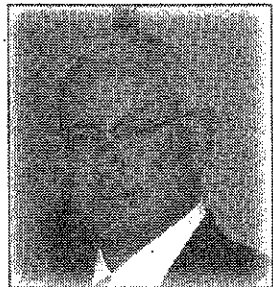
Raffle Items
Detroit River walleye charter
Huron River steelhead charter
Ohio River steelhead guide
Gun raffles
10' canoe
9' kayak
Gun safe
Custom fishing rods & reels
Burt's custom rod holders
Ladies Items
Lures lures lures
and more

March 21, 2009
5:30 pm-11:30 pm
Burton Manor
27777 Schoolcraft Rd. • Livonia
Only \$40 Per Person!!!
• Dinner & Open Bar •
For tickets call Bill King
248-345-3502
MasterCard and Visa Accepted-Tickets at Will Call

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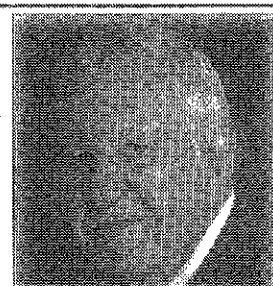
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ROBERT H. HATTLE

Age 57, of Brighton, passed away suddenly on March 6, 2009. Loving husband of Georgette, Beloved father of Geoffrey and Rebecca (Peter) Lechowicz. Dear son of Bernice Hattle and the late Robert Hattle. Devoted brother of William (Deborah), Edward, Stephen, David (Kathleen) and Theresa (Fred) Rothenberger. Also survived by many nieces and nephews. Robert retired from UPS in Livonia. He was a member of the Mustang Club, the Shelby Club of America, St. Patrick Catholic Church in Brighton, treasurer for his homeowners association, and a former Teamster and Union Steward. He loved the outdoors, bike riding, kayaking and hiking were just some of his hobbies. An avid reader and author, he also enjoyed traveling and racing cars. Aside from all that, his greatest joy in life was his family, and he was especially looking forward to being a grandfather for the first time this summer. Funeral services were held on March 10, 2009 from St. Kenneth Catholic Church, Plymouth, Arrangements entrusted to the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home, Plymouth. Share memories at schrader-howell.com.



ROBERT CLYDE KINE

Age 85, of Traverse City, died Friday February 27, 2009 at Munson Medical Center. Robert was born September 7, 1923 in Romulus, MI to the late Charles E. and Marie Kine. He graduated from Romulus High in June of 1945. In 1946 he married Shirley Gayle Thompson in Dearborn. Together they had five wonderful children. Robert honorably served our country in the US Navy during WWII. Then in the US Coast Guard during the Korean Conflict. Robert worked for Star Cutter Company (Elk Rapids Tool and Die) until age 65. After retirement he went to work at Walmart in the Hardware Department. Some of Robert's favorite activities were flying, gardening, golfing, wood-working and he was also an excellent bowler. Robert was a faithful member of The Church of the Living God. Supporting the missionaries were also important to him. Robert's greatest joy was spending time with family and especially his grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Surviving Robert are his children, Sheryl (Mark) Irving, Dale (Carol) Kine, Jon (Wendy) Kine; grandchildren, Nathan (Sarah) Kine, Christel, Heather (Rich) Taylor, Jamison, Megan, Kameron, and Lacey Rose; great-grandchildren, Joe, Caleb, Jacob, Allannah, Ashlyn, Nolan, and Logan; and many nieces, nephews, cousins and friends. Robert is preceded in death by his parents, his wife Shirley, daughters: Paula and Debra Kine, sisters: Isobel Goftry, Gertrude McCullough, and Betty Trych. Funeral Services took place at the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home Saturday, March 7, 2009. Pastor John Shinn officiated. Burial took place at Riverside Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be directed to the Wycliffe Bible Translators.



RUBEN WAYNE MACY

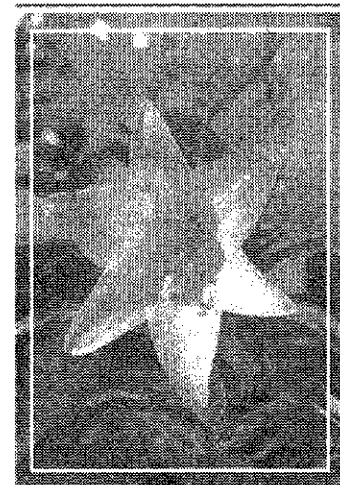
Born April 9, 1923, adopted son of the late Michael and Mary Moskaloff. He entered into eternal rest in the Lord's hands March 6th, 2009 after a long and courageous fight. Wayne was the beloved husband of Margarita (nee Baum) for 63 years. Loving father of Linda (Bob), Robert, and James (Lori). Dear grandfather of Nicole (Dan) Hunter, Brett, Meghan, Sean Macy, and great-grandfather of Macie and Max Hunter. After graduating from Newburgh Academy in N.Y. Wayne enlisted in the Army Air Force in Sept. 1942 and was assigned to the 341st "Blackjack" Fighter Squadron, 348th Fighter Group, 5th Army Air Force, and flew P-47 Thunderbolts and P-51 Mustangs in the Pacific Theater during WWII. Each of his planes was named "The Mad Russian" because of his Russian Heritage. He logged 154 combat missions and was promoted to Captain one month after his 22nd birthday. Battles and Campaigns included New Guinea, Southern Philippines, Luzon, Bismarck Archipelago, Air Offensive Japan, Ryukyu and Western Pacific. Decorations and citations awarded include Air Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters, Philippine Liberation Medal with one Bronze Star, Asiatic-Pacific Theater Ribbon with seven Oak Leaf Clusters, WWII Victory Ribbon, three Overseas Bars and a recommendation for the Distinguished Flying Cross. Upon receiving orders to return to the USA in September 1945, he served in the reserves until 1956. Wayne graduated from the University of Detroit with a degree in Mechanical Engineering and was employed by Detroit Diesel until his retirement. In 2002 with the help of his wife Margarita, Wayne wrote his memoirs of his experiences in WWII. Several of these stories have been published in "The Friends Journal" the quarterly publication of the U.S. Air Force Museum in Dayton, OH. Memberships included: Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church in Livonia, Air Force Museum Foundation at Wright Patterson, American Legion Post 32, EAA, VFW Post 6695, and 43K, Aviation Cadet Association. He also served as a docent at the Yankee Air Museum, and was CO of the 341st Fighter Squadron Association for 10 years. In addition to spending time with family and friends, Wayne enjoyed fishing, photography, drawing, painting, playing cards and flying remote controlled planes. He also enjoyed tinkering on whatever projects he could find around the house. Best memories were spent traveling around the country with Marge. Wayne also had a fondness for all things sweet. Notable favorites being Snickers bars and Awrey's coffee cakes and donuts, as Marge can attest to cleaning up the crumbs after many successful midnight raids. Services will be held at Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church, 14175 Farmington Rd., Livonia, on Saturday, March 14, 2009 with visitation 11 a.m. until the service 12 Noon. Donations in his memory may be made to Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church or the Yankee Air Museum, PO Box 590, Belleville, 48112.

ROBERT D. PESCHKE

Age 87, Of Farmington Hills, MI. Passed away March 8, 2009. Arrangements by THAYER-ROCK Funeral Home, Farmington, MI.

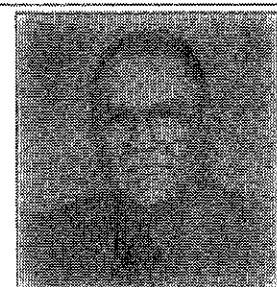
ROBERT P. SHAW

Of Manchester, MI. Age 86, passed away Friday evening, March 6, 2009 at the Chelsea Community Hospital. He was born on June 18, 1922 in New York City, the son of Leon G. and Helene P. (Perreten) Shaw. Robert loved the theatre and always played the part whether it be a special family dinner or directing the community play. He also was a member of the Oakland Community College Orchard Ridge Choir and loved to play the harmonica. Favorite pastimes also were trout fishing, walleye fishing, bowling, softball, and coaching little league. He was a veteran of World War II, serving in the United States Army in the European Theatre. On September 10, 1949 he married Pauline L. Socorelli in New Jersey and she survives. Also surviving are two children, Timothy (Diana) Shaw of Madison, TN and Pamela (Howard) Holmes of Chelsea, and six grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his son, Thomas Shaw. A private memorial service was held on Tuesday at the Stellan-Mitchell Funeral Home in Chelsea with Rev. Kathy Schell officiating. Expressions of sympathy can be made to the Chelsea Community Hospital.



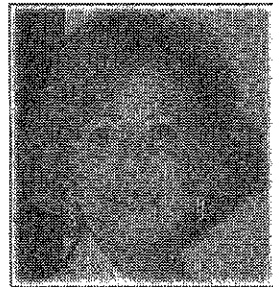
LEIGH ANN TRESTAIN

Age 50, of Thompson's Station, TN passed away Saturday, March 7, 2009. Leigh was a loving daughter, sister, wife, mother, "Granny", friend & animal lover. She attended Thompson's Station Baptist Church. Leigh is survived by her husband of 31 years, Gary Trestain of Thompson's Station, TN; parents, William & Carol Charboneau of Livonia, MI; son, Michael Trestain of Thompson's Station, TN; daughters, Stacy (Andrew) Van Epp of Mason, OH, Dawn (Sevon) Shelton of Spring Hill, TN, Kathryn Trestain of Cincinnati, OH & Kimberly Trestain of Thompson's Station, TN; sisters, Julie (Robert) Warner of Livonia, MI & Amy (Jeffrey) McLean of Redford, MI; five grandchildren and special pets, Buster, Nemo & Oliver. Funeral services will be conducted 12 Noon, Thursday, March 12, 2009 at Spring Hill Memorial Funeral Home, Duane Murray officiating. Memorials may be made to The Muscular Dystrophy Association. Visitation will be 2-8 p.m. Wednesday, and three hours prior to the service at SPRING HILL MEMORIAL FUNERAL HOME, 5239 Main St., Spring Hill, TN 371-486-0059



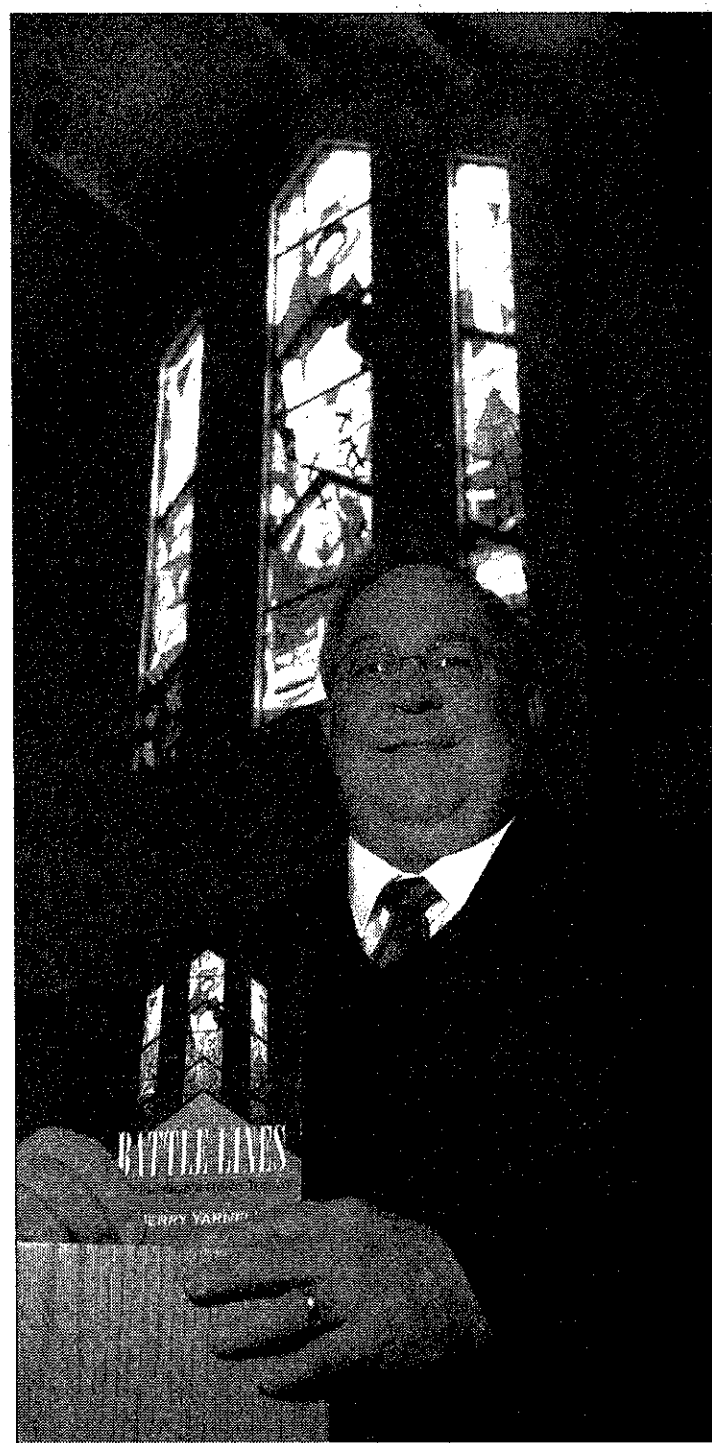
GLEN E. WALKER

Age 78, died Sunday, March 8, 2009, surrounded by family in his home in Grand Blanc, after a courageous 12-year battle with leukemia. Glen was born on July 14, 1930 to Monte Calvin and Cora Mae Walker in Macbeth, West Virginia. Mr. Walker attended Rets Electronics School and God's Bible School in Cincinnati, Ohio. In 1953, he moved his family to the Detroit area, where he worked at Ford Motor Company for 41 years as a Pyrometer Skilled Tradesman. A devoted Christian, he had a great passion for touching souls with gospel music. He organized and sang in several quartets that spread their ministries in nursing homes and prisons, as well as churches. He also served as Minister of Music at several churches. A gifted athlete, Mr. Walker took great joy in coaching his sons and granddaughter in Little League baseball. He is survived by his loving wife of 59 years, Juanita June; children, Rebecca (Roger) Royer, Charles (Shirley) Walker and Randy (Linda) Walker; four grandchildren, Clayton (Sherril), Steven (Andrea), Julie and Brian; as well as four great-grandchildren, Jared, Anthony, Alexis, Sophia, Kaylee and Anderson. He was preceded in death by his sons, Timothy W. Walker and Glen E. Walker, II. A viewing was held Tuesday, March 10, 2009 at the Swartz Funeral Home, 1225 West Hill Road. A Memorial Service was held Wednesday at 12:30 p.m. at Fairhaven Baptist Church, Westland. Dr. Carl Petty, Reverend Dan Loman and Reverend Bob McDonald co-officiated. Mr. Walker will also have services and burial in Madison, West Virginia. Anyone interested in attending is asked to contact the family. Your condolences may be shared with the family at swartzfuneralhomeinc.com.



KATHLEEN HALE WEBB

The Lovely and Talented. November 20, 1942 - March 8, 2009. Of Liberty, Kathleen Hale Webb, beloved wife, mother, sister, grandmother, aunt, and friend passed away Sunday, March 8, 2009, surrounded by her loving family. Kathleen was born on November 20, 1942, 10 months after her sister Lizzy. They had a glorious childhood filled with imaginative and real adventures, admixed with singing, puppet shows, dressing up, and sharing everything. They were the best of friends for a lifetime. Kathleen was a beautiful, loquacious, brilliant, fun loving and witty child. She made friends easily with everyone and pulled her more quiet sister into many wonderful experiences as a result. Kathleen was an avid reader and student of history. She was also a gifted watercolorist as a child. She graduated with honors from East High School and completed a BA degree from the University of Utah in three years with a double major in History and English, Phi Beta Kappa. During her college years, she developed numerous enduring friendships in her sorority, Chi Omega, which gave her many hours of pleasure and comfort over the years. The highlight of her college experience was her courtship with Richard Creer Webb, her lifelong best pal, sweetheart, and dedicated husband. They were married December 18, 1964 in the Salt Lake LDS Temple. Richard was the love of her life, to whom she was fiercely loyal and totally dedicated. They initially lived in France and Germany where Kathleen taught high school history and English while Richard served as an officer in the US Army Signal Corp. They settled in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan in 1968 where they raised their two children, Elizabeth and Rich. Kathleen deeply loved her children to whom she gave unconditional love, laced with fun and humor. Kathleen was active in many activities, including callings in the LDS Church and as Trustee of the Michigan Opera Theater. Kathleen loved to dress up. The Webbs had an active social calendar, at which the 'The Lovely and Talented', as Richard called her, would shine with her sparkling wit and beautiful persona. She had a great sense of humor that left all around her laughing uncontrollably on many occasions. She was also an avid golfer at the Oakland Hills Country Club. Richard and Kathleen also enjoyed horseback riding and skiing, and moved to Liberty, Utah in 2002 to enjoy these activities. They traveled widely including to India, China, Europe and South America. Kathleen's life was defined by her courageous response to lifelong illness. She was struck by a car at age 18 and spent 6 months recovering from a serious brain injury. After being married only 3 years she developed Lupus, which caused her to lose her firstborn son and endure many hospitalizations throughout her life. Despite these travails, she remained buoyant in spirit with intense vigor for life. She was always singing. She refused to ever acknowledge her limitations, even when two strokes took away all of her ability to communicate with language. She had great self confidence and resolve. Even when she was completely unable to speak or read, she continued to attend social activities with her characteristic smile and sparkle. Kathleen was also fearless. Despite weakness and ill health, she went on many horseback riding trips with her husband Richard and was given an award for her tenacity in climbing Grizzly Ridge in the high Uintah Mountains. She and Richard had many joyful hours of fun made possible by Richard's dedicated service to her as her caregiver and cheerleader. To him, she was a hero as well as his sweetheart and best pal. Kathleen is survived by her husband Richard Creer Webb, and two of their three children, Elizabeth Hale Webb Kurucz, and Richard Hale Webb, and three grandchildren. She is also survived by her sister Elizabeth Hale Hammond, brother Michael Richard Hale, sister in law Mickey Lieber Hale, and their families. She was preceded in death by her oldest son, John Edward Webb, her parents Edward Girard and Ruth Hansen Hale, and her brother, Edward Girard VB Hale. Funeral services will be held Thursday, March 12 at 1 p.m. at the Nordic Valley Ward Chapel, 2900 North Highway 162, Eden, Utah. Friends may call at Lindquist's Ogden Mortuary, 3408 Washington Boulevard, Ogden, Utah on Wednesday, March 11 from 6 to 8 p.m. and Thursday, March 12 at the Ward Chapel from 11:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. Interment will be in the Salt Lake City, Utah Cemetery on Friday, March 13 at 11 a.m. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Kathleen's name to the Lupus Foundation of America, www.lupus.org. Send condolences to the family at www.lindquistmortuary.com. Kathleen was one of those rare and special souls who was admired and adored by all who were blessed to know her, and she will be dearly missed.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Pastor Jerry Yarnell stands in front of the stained glass window inspired on the cover of his new book.

Pastor takes on battles in new book

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
O&E STAFF WRITER

When the Rev. Jerry Yarnell was trying to decide whether to answer the call to St. Michael Lutheran Church in Canton his main concern was about moving to the suburbs. He'd heard stories about sinful living there. After meeting with the church's leadership council and praying about the decision he changed his mind and became pastor.

Thirty-years later he writes about the journey in *Battle Lines: Seeing God's Hand Today*. Yarnell, who worked on the book on sabbatical in summer 2007, didn't hold any facts back. Before accepting the position he and his wife Pam had gone to a fellowship meeting of members where excessive drinking and off-color language and jokes were the norm. The book was recently released by Zoe Life Publishing in Canton.

"It was interesting," said Yarnell. "The first Sunday I preached there were 42 adults present. There are now 750 to 800 on Saturday night and Sunday. The book has illustrations of principals of how to live and honor God. I'd always wanted to write a Christian book. The Lord was leading it. How many people live their life without seeing God's hand in their world. I just started writing and asked God to take care of it."

Yarnell uses the spiritual principals found in the Scriptures as he begins to talk about being led to St. Michael Lutheran Church. He grew up in a rural community in central Pennsylvania where his parents took him to church every Sunday. For 10 years he had perfect attendance but after being confirmed at age 14 he quit going.

"It wasn't until my freshman year in college when God became real to me," said Yarnell. "For whatever reason that year instead of going home for Easter I took my young cousin to church in Philadelphia and heard the hymn 'What a Friend We Have in Jesus.' I asked Jesus to be my friend."

After graduating from Rutgers University, he spent the next four years in seminary before becoming associate pastor at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Traverse City for two years.

"I went to intern in Traverse City and was there when I received the call," said Yarnell. "I asked am I doing what God wants me to do? I wasn't fond of coming to suburbia but it was important to help people grow to see God's hand in their lives, what I call the real world. Since I've been here God's answered a lot of prayers. There are testimonies in back of the Book of Miracles happening. We had a girl diagnosed with autism. Her parents had her baptized and the autism disappeared and she now sings in the youth choir. We took a strong pro life stand years ago and never had a child (in the congregation) die in 30 years. When you stand for God, God honors that. It's an example of how God's worked."

Yarnell points to the fact the building has had to expand three times to accommodate members. A small school for pre-K through fifth grade begins teaching values early.

"It's a good thing God's done not me," said Yarnell. "We tend to be Biblically centered. The goal is to have people come to know and live with God. We have everything from grief to divorce support groups, Bible studies, two Sunday schools, a youth program centered around spiritual growth, and foodstuff available for the needy."

Yarnell gives credit to Pam, his wife of 37 years, and daughter Stephanie Lee for helping to get the story out about the church.

"Pam was my chief critic the whole time," said Yarnell. She says she's very proud of him.

"I've probably read the book three times and parts of it more than that," said Pam Yarnell. "For me it was exciting to help him do the book. Our daughter typed most of it. Reading it, it was a lot of what we experienced here. You're here to serve God."

St. Michael Lutheran Church is at 7000 Sheldon, south of Warren, Canton. Worship services are held 5:30 p.m. Saturday, and 8 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. (traditional) and 11 a.m. (contemporary) every Sunday.

For more information, visit www.zoelife.org or call St. Michael Lutheran Church at (734) 459-3333.

lchomin@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-2241

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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.)

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To submit an item for the religion calendar, e-mail Ichomin@hometownlife.com or write: Religion Calendar, Observer Newspapers, 615 W. Lafayette-second level, Detroit, MI 48226, Attn: Linda Chomin. Deadline for an announcement to appear in the Thursday edition is noon Monday.

MARCH

Winter revival
Continues 7 p.m. nightly through Friday, March 13, at Canton Christian Fellowship, 8775 Ronda Drive. The theme is Stop Looking Back, Look to Jesus. Special guest speaker is Tyrell Brown of Morningstar Baptist Church, Richmond, VA. Revival includes power-packed, spirit-filled preaching and teaching that will give you the strength that you need to move past every hindrance in this season. For more information, call (734) 404 2480 or visit www.cantoncf.org.

Sharing made simple
Apologetics for Beginners Continues with "Is the Eucharist just a Symbol?" by nationally-acclaimed apologist and author, Gary Michuta, 7 p.m. Saturday, March 12, in the school at St. Michael the Archangel Parish, 11441 Hubbard at Plymouth Road, between Farmington and Merriman roads, Livonia. For information, call (734) 261-1455, ext 200, or see www.livoniastmichael.org. Presentation focuses on reasons Catholics believe Christ is truly and wholly present in the Eucharist and is open to all those interested.

Prayer vigil
As Christians observe the season of Lent to prepare our hearts and minds for Christ's death on the cross and His glorious resurrection on Easter Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church is opening its doors to the public for a

Prayer Vigil 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Thursday, March 12, at 14175 Farmington Rd. Livonia, north of I-96. People are welcome to come anytime, stay as long as you wish. For more information, visit www.christoursavior.org.

All-you-can-eat fish
The St. Michael the Archangel Parish's "All You Can Eat" Lenten Fish Dinners continues 4:30-7 p.m. March 13, 20, 27, and April 3 in the cafeteria of St. Michael School, 11441 Hubbard, Livonia. Dinners feature hand-dipped fresh Alaskan cod, fried or baked, along with an assortment of side dishes and beverages. Cost, \$8 adults, \$7 seniors, \$4 children ages 3-11, free ages 3 and under. Carryout orders, \$7. Call (734) 261-1455, Ext. 200.

Lenten schedule
St. Michael the Archangel Parish of Livonia invites all members of the community to any and all of its upcoming Lenten activities including Stations of the Cross every Friday in Lent at 7 p.m. followed by Benediction; a Communal Reconciliation service 7 p.m. Monday, March 23; and a special private reconciliation opportunity 2:30-3:30 p.m. and 7-8 p.m. Wednesday, April 1. Holy Thursday features the Mass of the Last Supper at 7 p.m. followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament until 11:30 p.m. Good Friday devotions will begin with Stations of the Cross at 12:15 p.m. followed by the Liturgy of the Passion at 1:30 p.m. An Easter Egg Hunt begins 9 a.m. Holy Saturday followed by Blessing of Food at noon and the Easter Vigil Mass at 8 p.m. Easter Sunday Masses at 8 a.m., 10 a.m., and noon. For more information, call (734) 261-1455 or visit www.livoniastmichael.org.

Ellery concert

Husband and wife singer-songwriters Tasha and Justin Golden perform 8 p.m. Saturday, March 14, at the Universalist Unitarian Church, 25301 Halsted, Farmington Hills. Tickets are \$25, adult and \$15, student at the door; \$5 less in advance. Doors at 7:30 p.m. UUCF is a progressive congregation of men, women and children dedicated to the principles of Unitarian Universalism. Call (248) 478-7272 or visit www.uufarmington.org.

Rush hour concert series
Continues every Tuesday with gathering and refreshments at 5 p.m., concert 5:30-6 p.m., featuring performances by local and national jazz artists at Metropolitan United Methodist Church, 8000 Woodward, Detroit. Free. Visit www.metroumc.org.

Bethany Suburban West activities
■ Sunday, March 15, annual 9 a.m. Lenten Mass, Felician Sister House Chapel, Madonna College Campus, 36600 Schoolcraft, Livonia. Use the Newburgh entrance; breakfast will follow. Call (734) 513-9479.
■ Saturday, March 21, Monthly Breakfast Meeting 9:30 a.m., Leon's, 30149 Ford Road, Garden City. All separated, divorced and singles welcome. Call (734) 513-9479.
Bethany is a Catholic organization under the auspices of the Archdiocese

of the Detroit Office for Family Ministry. Bethany provides spiritual, social and educational assistance through peer-to-peer ministry to the divorced and separated of all Christian faiths.

Lenten vespers services
The Council of Orthodox Christian Churches of Metropolitan Detroit continues 2009 series of Lenten Vespers services 6 p.m. March 15, Sunday of St. Gregory Palamas, at St. Michael Orthodox Church, Redford; March 22, Sunday of the Veneration of the Cross, at St. George Romanian Orthodox Cathedral, Southfield; March 29, Sunday of St. John Climacus, at St. Clement Ohridski Macedonian-Bulgarian Orthodox Church, Dearborn; and April 5, Sunday of St. Mary of Egypt, at St. Thomas Orthodox Church, Farmington Hills. The general public as well as Orthodox Christians is invited to attend. All proceeds will be used for COCC charities and projects. Call (734) 422-0278 or e-mail paschabooks@sbcglobal.net.

Sunday night lights
Riverside Park Church of God presents the non-traditional service designed to touch all the senses, every second and fourth Sunday of the month at 6:30 p.m. at the church, 11771 Newburgh, Livonia. Call (734) 464-0990. Step into the light with relevant messages and modern music within a casual atmosphere.

Dining in the kingdom of God
For five Wednesdays in Lent, St. Aidan will host the series. Luke's Gospel revealed 10 meals that describe different dimensions of the Eucharist. This presentation will be given by St. Aidan's Faith Formation Director, David Conrad, M.A. Theology, 7-9 p.m. March 18, 25, April 1, and April 8. Free. Call (734) 425-5950.

Midweek spiritual enrichment
Two opportunities for spiritual enrichment are available at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, 26701 Joy, each

week on Wednesday and Thursday at 10:30 a.m. Wednesdays is a study/discussion group focused on understanding our relationship with God and that of other religions and the many philosophical and scientific issues that might impact our faith. Thursday group examines early writings not included in the Bible as well as other versions, extensions and controversies concerning Christianity. Led by interim pastor Larry Hoxey. Call (313) 274-3820 for additional information on opportunities.


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FILTER

Etiquette essential to classical music performances

Having played bass guitar in a rock band doesn't qualify me to talk about etiquette at recitals since performers work in a different environment than chamber musicians. Fred Moss, on the



Linda Chomin

other hand, has heard cell phones go off when performing with an orchestra. The clarinetist teaches music appreciation at Schoolcraft College where our

Friday Night Recital Series Committee brings in renowned classical artists.

At a recent meeting about the Avalon String Quartet's performance on March 20, we

reviewed a near catastrophe at the Anton Nel recital in February. A young boy in the front row was taking photographs with a flash, causing the pianist to lose his concentration. Our Recital Series Committee is now looking into printing in the program a protocol written by Scott VanOrnum, an instructor in the college's music department.

Our artistic director Donald Morelock already makes an announcement before each concert to shut off cell phones and not use recording devices.

"There's an enormous amount of concentration required. I heard (violinist) Isaac Stern say one time 'I am thinking all the time when I'm in performance.' There's a lot of thinking going on

similar to an Olympic athlete concentrating and thinking in a very focused way. "In the case of playing recital, the artist is thinking for a very long time. A lot of people don't realize, it's generally very quiet so when something happens like a cell phone goes off or you hear a conversation going because of the nature of the halls which have been designed for maximum acoustic benefit you hear everything and it's jarring."

VanOrnum writes in his classical music performance protocol that everyone in the audience is there for one reason — to listen.

Never chat, shuffle paper or unwrap candy as one woman did at the Livonia Symphony Orchestra concert last Saturday.

"There is a failure to recognize what other people have come for," said Moss. "For a couple of hours you have this little community. It's part of a being a good community member ... For those needing to get up to leave, they should position themselves where they can get up and leave without distraction. It's all about minimizing disruption. I think we're in a day and age that we're accustomed to disruption. We're not accustomed to quiet and focus. We have to retrain our thinking."

Classical music performance protocol is especially important to Anthony Devroye, a member of the Avalon String Quartet. Devroye, a violist, along with cellist Cheng-Hou Lee and violinists Blaise Magniere and Marie Wang have earned international acclaim as "one of the most exciting young string quartets in America" (The Washington Post). When the members aren't perform-

ing in and out of the States, they serve as string quartet-in-residence at Northern Illinois University, where they teach and coach ensembles. This is their third recital at Schoolcraft College.

Quiet is absolutely essential for the program which includes composer Hugo Wolf conjuring up visions of Venetian street musicians in *Italian Serenade*, the veiled emotional content of Schubert's *String Quartet No. 13 in A Minor "Rosamunde"*, and Janacek's vivid and colorful *String Quartet No. 2*.

"The Schoolcraft venue is a nice facility. You feel like you're in someone's living room. It brings you close to the audience," said Devroye. "You can't let up the attention for a single bar or the ensemble risks coming apart. It's important for us not to have any visual or aural distractions. We're excited to have children in the audience but it's important to realize we

can see them as much as we can see them."

Moss says parents should consider whether a recital is developmentally appropriate for a child before buying tickets.

"Asking a really young child who hasn't studied music to sit through a two hour concert is a lot," said Moss. "They should consider shorter and more appropriate concerts. The DSO (Detroit Symphony Orchestra) does wonderful concerts only an hour long. For children and adults people are going to get so much more out of the concert if they listen to the music ahead of time. You could check CDs out of the public libraries ahead of time then our focus is going to be increased because we know what's coming."

Linda Ann Chomin is the health and community life reporter for the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. She can be reached at lchomin@hometownlife.com or (313) 222-2241.

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Workshop

Metro Detroit native Benita "Bonnie" Garvin will return to teach a screenwriting workshop 9 a.m.-5 p.m. March 21-22 at Detroit Marriott Southfield, 27033 Northwestern Hwy. Cost, \$375 (\$325 students) includes continental breakfast. Contact bonniesworkout@sbcglobal.net. Two conflicting dates for the workshop were given in a story last week.

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GET OUT

ART

Art is in Market: New location in Laurel Park Place, 37642 Six Mile Road, Livonia, <http://artisinmarket.blogspot.com>.

Lotus Arts Gallery: Local Artist Exhibit, through March 26, 995 West Ann Arbor Trail, Plymouth (888) 889-4ART, www.lotusartsgallery.com.

Northville Art House: "Creative Minds-Changing Minds," through March 21, "The Persistence of Personal Vision: The College of Creative Studies Illustration Alumni Annual Show," through March 29; DIA Lecture Series; Art History Lecture Series - Art and Artistry of Carl Faberge, March 18, 215 W. Cady, (248) 344-0497, www.northvillearts.org.

AUDITIONS

Drumline Live: Seeking multi-skilled drummers, dancers and singers for future performances, 9:30-11:30 a.m. March 15, **Music Hall Jazz Café**, 350 Madison Ave., Detroit, <http://www.drumlinecasting.com/casting.html>.

Steppingstone Summer Music Academy: Scholarship Auditions for 3-week summer academy, by appointment March 17 and 19, Farmington Hills, (248) 539-1666, www.stepsstoneschool.org.

BENEFITS

Emerald Theatre: St. Jude's Concert for the Children with JoCasta, March 21, Mount Clemens, 6 p.m., 18 and older, \$10, (248) 645-6666, www.ticketmaster.com.

Trinity House Theatre: Floyd King & the Bushwackers, Cats and the Fiddler, and Jill Jack 8 p.m. March 13, \$12-\$15, to benefit Trinity House, 34500 6 Mile Road, Livonia, (734) 464-6302, www.TrinityHouse.ORG.

Village Theatre at Cherry Hill: Ricky Nelson - Remembered with Matthew and Gunnar Nelson, March 27, to benefit New Hope Center for Grief Support, includes champagne, desserts and meet the artists, \$52, (734) 394-5300, www.canton-mi.org/village-theater.

BOOKS/LITERATURE

Max M. Fisher Music Center: An Evening with Maya Angelou, 7:30 p.m. March 18, 3711 Woodward Ave., Detroit, (248) 398-3400, www.detroitssymphony.com.

CLASSICAL

Max M. Fisher Music Center: Beethoven & Debussy, March 12-15; Pops Goes Vegas, March 19-22, 3711 Woodward, Detroit, (313) 576-5111 and online at www.detroitssymphony.com.

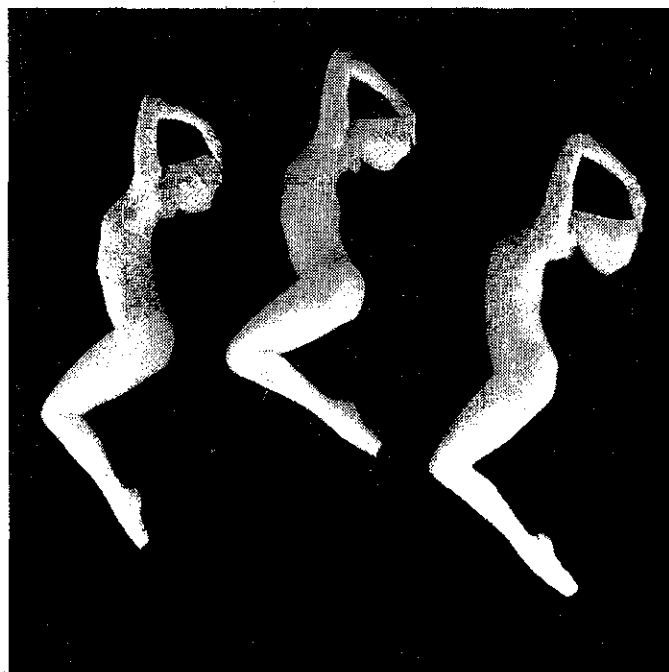
Plymouth Symphony Orchestra: "Fandora for Freedom," 8 p.m. March 14, Ward Presbyterian Church, 40000 Six Mile, Northville; Benefit Concert of the Plymouth Canton Symphony Society, 8 p.m. April 24, Penn Theatre, 760 Penniman, Plymouth, (734) 451-2112, www.plymouthsymphony.org.

Schoolcraft College: Avalon String Quartet, March 20; Cellist Robert de Maine, May 15; \$10, students, \$20 adults, Presentation Room in the VistaTech Center, 18600 Haggerty, Livonia, (734) 462-4403.

COMEDY

Fox Theatre: Ron White, March 14, 2211 Woodward, Detroit, www.ticketmaster.com (248) 433-1515.

Jazz Cafe at Music Hall: "Show Up, And Go Up," 9



Dance of Shadows

The dazzling Momix dance company will perform a "best of 20 years" retrospective 8 p.m. Monday, March 16 at the Music Hall Center of Performing Arts. Blurring the fine line between illusion and reality with mind-blowing inventiveness, Momix fools the naked eye with an amazing array of black-tight illusions, acrobatic choreography and fantastical props. Tickets, \$30-\$50, are available at the Music Hall Box Office, 350 Madison Ave., Detroit; by calling (313) 887-8500; or through ticketmaster.com.

Street, South Lyon, www.thephoenixplayers.org.

FILM

Detroit Film Theatre: "Harvard Beats Yale 29-29," through March 15, Detroit Institute of Arts, 5200 Woodward, Detroit. See www.dia.org/dft or (313) 833-7900.

Heavy Ford IMAX: "Watchmen: The IMAX Experience Rises," "Journey to Mecca," "Under the Sea 3D," 20900 Oakwood Blvd., Dearborn, (313) 271-1570.

Penn Theatre: Hitchcock Month, "Shadow of a Doubt," March 12; "Saboteur," March 19; "To Catch a Thief," March 26, shows at 7 p.m., \$3, 760 Penniman Ave., Plymouth, (734) 453-0870, www.penntheatre.com.

JAZZ

Bakers Keyboard Lounge: Ryan Enderle CD Release party, March 20, 20510 Livernois Ave., Detroit, (313) 345-6300, www.bakerskeyboardlounge.com.

Max M. Fisher Music Center: Blue Note Anniversary Tour, 8 p.m. March 13, 3711 Woodward, Detroit, (313) 576-5111 and online at www.detroitssymphony.com.

p.m. third Thursday of every month, March 19, doors, 8 p.m., open call, free, 350 Madison Ave., Detroit, (313) 887-8532, www.jazzcafe-detroit.com.

Joe's Comedy Club of Livonia: Tracy Smith, through March 14, 6005 Goffredson Road, Plymouth (734) 455-8450, www.KarlsCabin.com, www.minnehahacomedyclub.com.

MotorCity Casino Hotel: Joy Behar, May 16, 2901 Grand River Ave., Detroit, (800) 745-3000, www.MotorCityCasino.com.

CONCERTS

City Theatre: Raphael Saadiq, March 15, inside Hockleytown, 2301 Woodward Ave., Detroit, www.olympiaentertainment.com.

The Fox Theatre: Bill Gaither and his Homecoming Friends, March 12, 2211 Woodward, Detroit, www.ticketmaster.com (248) 433-1515.

Masonic Temple Theatre: Rain, A Tribute to the Beatles, March 19, 500 Temple, Detroit, (248) 645-6666.

MotorCity Casino Hotel: Bret Michaels Rock of Love Bus Tour featuring Dirty Americans, March 13, www.ticketmaster.com, www.motorcitycasino.com.

Royal Oak Music Theatre: Umphrey's McGee, March 12, 318 W. Fourth, Royal Oak, (800) 919-6272, www.royaloakmusictheatre.com.

DANCE

Detroit Dance Collective: The Power of Green, March 13, Michael A. Guido Theater, Ford Community & Performing Arts Center, 15801 Michigan Ave., Dearborn, (313) 943-2354.

Detroit Opera House: "Romeo & Juliet," American Ballet, March 13-15, 1526 Broadway, Detroit, (313) 237-3426, www.michiganopera.org.

Polka Booster Club of America: Dance, March 15, K of C Hall, 7080 Garling Dr., Dearborn Heights, (734) 422-1901.

FAMILY

Canton Cinema: Free Spring Matinee Series, 10 a.m. and 11 a.m. Saturdays, "Madagascar 2," March 14-15, 43555 Ford Road, (734) 844-3456, www.GOTI.com.

Laurel Park Place: Meet-N-Greet with B.O.B. from "Monsters vs. Aliens," 4-6 p.m. March 13, free giveaways, movie pass drawings and photo opps, near food court, 37700 W. Six Mile Road, Livonia.

Marquis Theatre: "Little Mermaid," March 14-April 17, 3711 Woodward, Detroit, (313) 576-5111 and online at www.detroitssymphony.com.

Harmony and Me: Free "Music Together" classes, ages 0-5 and care-givers, singing, dancing, rhythm instruments, March 17, Plymouth Play Cafe, 306 S. Main St., March 18-19, Harmony and Me Studio, 7311 N. Lilley Road, Canton, registration required, (248) 489-9330, www.harmonyandmekids.com.

The Lyon Theatre: "Queen Cinderella," 125 E. Lake

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MORE MUSIC

Building Bar: Monthly Mixer, March 12: YYTD, False City, March 13, Old Dave Showcase, March 14: St. Patrick Day Bash, March 17: Trif Life Showcase, March 19, 15414 Telegraph Rd., Redford, (313) 533-4477, www.bulldrocks.com.

Detroit Institute of Arts: Christine Andreas: 7 & 8:30 p.m., March 13, 5200 Woodward Ave., (313) 833-7900 or see the website at www.dia.org.

Harmonia: Wayne "The Train" Hancock & Whitley Morgan, March 13; Stan Ridgway & Friends (former Wall of Woodoo frontman), March 15; Gaelic Storm, March 20, 22920 Woodward, Ferndale, (248) 544-3030, www.themagicbag.com.

Harmonia: Samantha Crain and the Midnight Shivers, March 15, 4120 Woodward, Detroit.

Token Lounge: Paradime with Marv Won, Danny Brown, Street Justice and Chief, with MTV filming "Made," March 13, 21 and older, 28949 Joy Road, Westland, (734) 513-5030.

Trinity House Theatre: Dick Siegel, March 14, 38840 Six Mile, Livonia, (734) 464-6302, www.trinity-house.org.

MUSEUMS

Detroit Institute of Arts: "American Chronicles: The Art of Norman Rockwell," March 8-May 31; "Master Pieces: Chess Sets from the Dr. George and Vivian Dean Collection" through March 22; Living Chess Game, 7 p.m. March 13, 5200 Woodward, Detroit. Call (313) 833-7900.

Detroit Science Center: "Leonardo Da Vinci: Man, Inventor, Genius," tickets \$13.95 to \$16.95; "Star Trek: The Exhibition," 5020 John R, (313) 577-8400, www.detroitsciencecenter.org.

Plymouth Historical Museum: "In the Presence of Lincoln," through Nov. 4, 155 S. Main St., (734) 455-8940, www.plymouthhistory.org.

OPERA

Hotel St. Regis: Donald Braswell New Beginnings Viewing Party, 8-9 p.m. March 15, during his live broadcast on Detroit Public Television, 3071 West Grand Blvd., Detroit, <http://www.dptv.org/support/boxoffice.shtml>.

Fox Theatre: Il Divo, May 17, 2211 Woodward, Detroit, (248) 433-1515, www.ticketmaster.com.

SOMETHING DIFFERENT

Flodin Park: Free outdoor ice skating, between Morton Taylor and Sheldon on Saltz Road in Canton, (734) 394-5310, www.letsure.canton-mi.org.

Irish Heritage Night: Old fashioned Hooley, March 14, Finnish Cultural Center, 35200 W. 8 Mile Road, Farmington Hills, (734) 754-3404 or (313) 537-3489.

Innate Healing Arts Center: "Welcome Spring Equinox Celebration" featuring New Age music, vibration, healing crystal bowls, community drum circle, vegetarian fare, March 20, \$5, 18700 Woodward Ave., Detroit, (313) 366-2247.

THEATER - COMMUNITY

Destination Theatre: "Canton Follies: One Hit Wonders," March 12-14, Village Theatre at Cherry Hill, 46000 Summit Parkway, Canton, (734) 394-5460.

Fisher Theatre: "Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street," March 17-April 5, 3011 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit, 1-800-982-2787, www.ticketmaster.com, www.broadwayindetroit.com.

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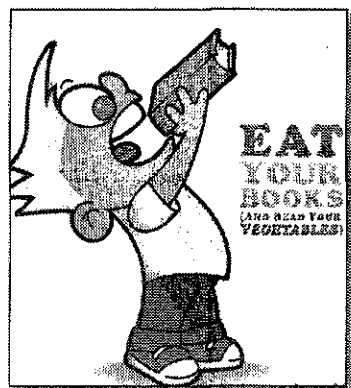
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WESTLAND

Teacher makes music for tweens



Eat Your Books (And Read Your Vegetables), Mr. Seley's debut CD, is available at www.mrseley.com.

BY WENDY VON BUSKIRK
O & E NEWSPAPERS

When vocal music got cancelled at his school, teacher Tom Seley picked up his guitar and took matters into his own hands.

He began staging after school sing-alongs for his third and fourth graders, but soon found good music for that age group is hard to come by.

"There's a lot of Barney and Raffi but that's too young for my kids, and there's the stuff on the radio which is too old for them, so I wrote my own songs," said Seley, who teaches a third and fourth grade split

at Birmingham Covington School.

Seley started writing his own music, and now, the 30-year-old Royal Oak resident takes his sing-alongs on tour, visiting libraries throughout Metro Detroit performing and teaching kids to write their own songs.

He says his music, which parallels the level of complexity in the novels popular with his kids, fills a void for tweens, who want challenging lyrics and themes they can relate to.

"They are ready for more clever word play than the younger kids, who need

something a little more literal. They're ready for songs with more substance," he said. "They like 'High School Musical' and the Jonas Brothers, but even they have so many love songs, they sing them and they love the melodies, but they're not ready to identify with that yet."

Kids respond to Mr. Seley's songs, like "My Fish Ran Away," "Don't Take My Hat," and "The Best Day Ever," along with the title track of his debut CD, "Eat Your Books (And Read Your Vegetables)."

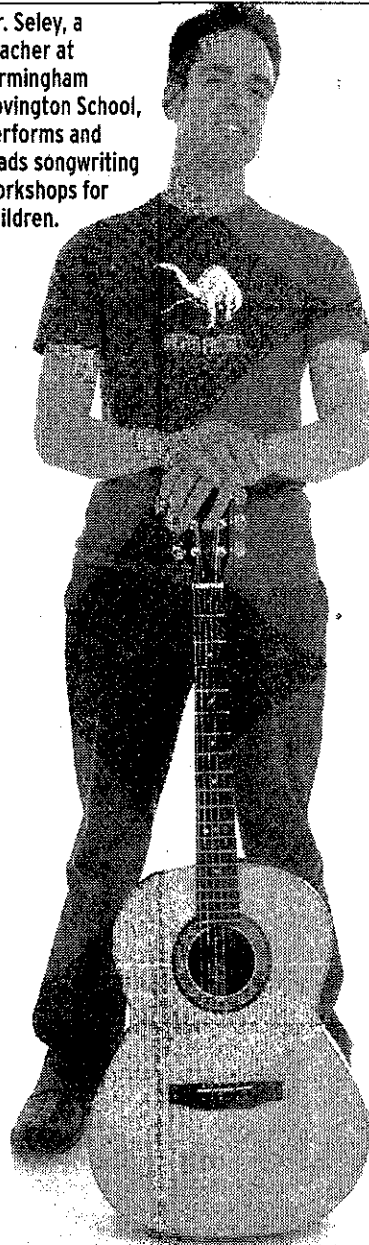
Adults like "You're So Wonderful (You Should Live in a Castle)," he said.

In Seley's songwriting workshops, he starts out with a framework of lyrics, asking students to insert words, then lines, until they have a complete song.

Seley captures the song on portable recording equipment, and later adds instrumentation ranging from electric guitar and drums to piano and ukelele, which he plays himself.

Then, he posts the songs as MP3s on his Web site, www.mrseley.com, for participants to download.

Mr. Seley, a teacher at Birmingham Covington School, performs and leads songwriting workshops for children.



SING-ALONG WITH MR. SELEY

Novi Public Library
2-3 p.m. April 8
45245 W. 10 Mile Road
(248) 349-0720

Clawson Blair Memorial Library
10:30-11:30 a.m. May 16
416 North Main St.
(248) 588-5500

Southfield Public Library
2-3 p.m. May 16 *
26300 Evergreen Road
(248) 796-4200

Farmington Library
2-3 p.m. June 16 *
23500 Liberty St.
(248) 553-0300

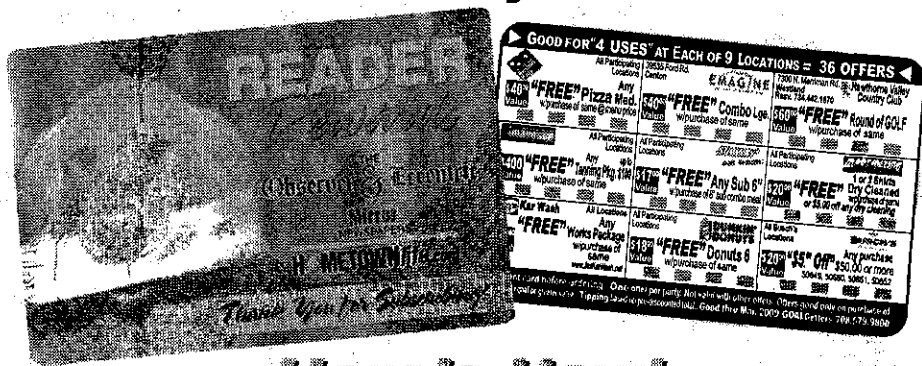
Plymouth District Library
6:30-7:15 p.m. July 7
223 S. Main St.
(734) 453-0750

Milford Memories Festival
12:30-1:15 p.m. Aug. 9
317 Union St.

* Includes "Record-A-Song" session. For more information, visit www.mrseley.com.

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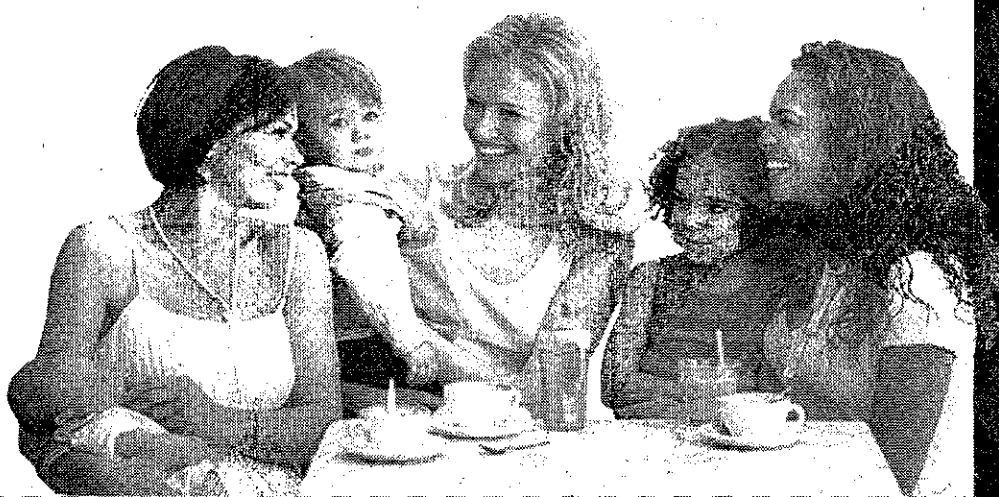
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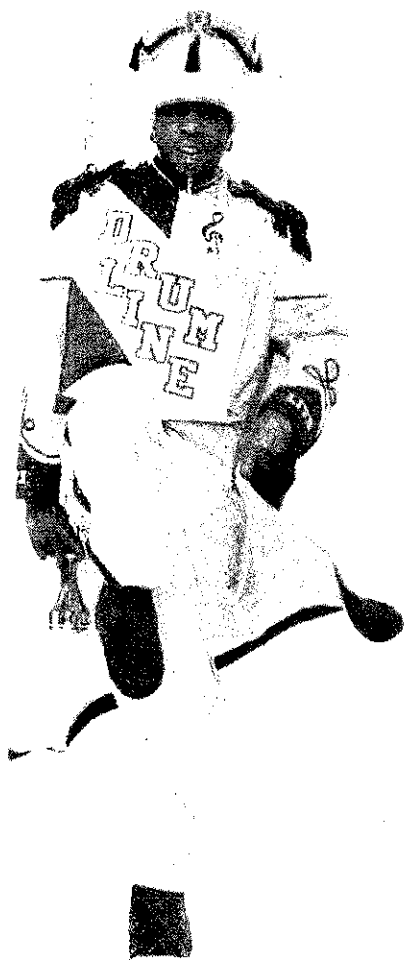
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DRUMLINE Live

More than 40 musicians and dancers from the nation's top historically black college and university marching bands will bring their infectious enthusiasm and athleticism to the Music Hall Center for the Performing Arts, for two shows, 8 p.m. Saturday, March 14 and 3 p.m. Sunday, March 15. DRUMLINE Live brings the music and dance from the movie "Drumline" to the concert stage. Tickets are \$30, \$40 & \$50 available at Music Hall Box Office, 350 Madison Ave., Detroit or Ticketmaster.com. Call (313) 887-8500.



TV Stars Spotlited

Soupy Sales is among seven famous faces featured in "Detroit's Classic TV Personalities," opening at the Detroit Historical Museum on Saturday, March 14. The exhibit celebrates seven of the city's most notable television figures past and present — talk show hosts John Kelly and Marilyn Turner, movie host Bill Kennedy, and anchors Bill Bonds, Amyre Makupson and Emery King. Soupy Sales, early Detroit TV's biggest star, hosted a lunchtime kids show and an evening sketch comedy/live jazz show for adults on WXYZ before moving on to national status. The exhibit continues in the Kresge Gallery through Sept. 6. The museum is located at 5401 Woodward Ave. in Detroit's Cultural Center. Admission is \$6; \$4 for seniors, college students and youth. Call (313) 833-1805 or visit www.detroithistorical.org.



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After waiting all winter long, it's time again to welcome golfers back to the green!

To help get you started, we've created **Tee Time**, your local guide to golf, a weekly page devoted entirely to golf! Readers will get tips from the Golf Association of Michigan each week on how to perfect their swing, the latest equipment and how to make golf enjoyable all season long.

Be sure to contact us about this great opportunity to keep local golfers excited about their sport spring, summer and fall!

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MUSIC

FROM PAGE B8

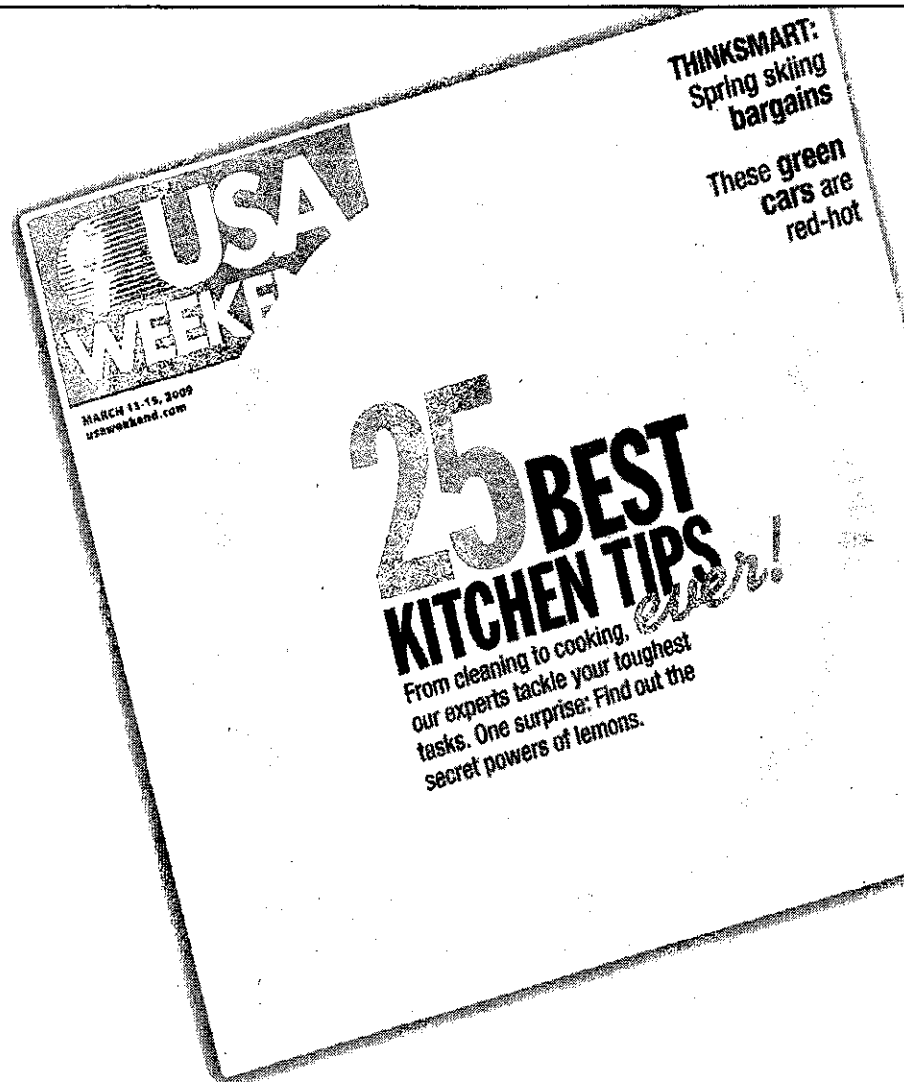
He said songwriting is educational.

"From a teaching standpoint kids in third or fourth grade, when they write a story they want to turn it in right away, not edit it or look at it. When we're writing a song they feel more comfortable going back and reviewing it, cutting out words and syllables for rhyming," he said. "It's unheard of for kids to excited

about editing. It's one of the best ways I found to teach it."

Seley, who grew up in Farmington and graduated from Farmington High School, taught himself guitar and started writing songs in college. It wasn't until he explored the children's music genre that he became so prolific.

"I've been a teacher for a long time and a musician for a long time and all my skills ended up blending together and it turned into something special," he said.



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MAGAZINE

This Sunday in... **OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC** & **MIRROR** NEWSPAPERS

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FOOD & WINE



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Troy-based Crust Pizza & Wine Bar, with locations of Bloomfield Township & Rochester Hills, is now serving Gluten-Free Pizza Crusts.

CRUST PIZZA GOES GLUTEN-FREE

TROY — Troy-based Crust Pizza & Wine Bar, with locations of Bloomfield Township & Rochester Hills, announced it has begun serving Gluten-Free Pizza Crusts.

More than two million people in the U.S. suffer from Celiac Disease, a severe genetic intolerance to gluten, a protein common in wheat, rye and barley. Forty-five percent of Americans exhibit some kind of food allergy or intolerance.

"Pizza is what we do best," said Jon Sherer, Crust Pizza & Wine Bar Owner. "We felt it was important to offer a gluten-free option for our patrons with the same great taste of our signature pizza."

Crust offers pizza, ciabatta sandwiches and salads using fresh ingredients like real Prosciutto di Parma from Italy, Fior de Latte Mozzarella from Wisconsin, Molinari sausages from San Francisco, Maytag Bleu Cheese from California, crushed San Marzano tomatoes and fresh hand-torn basil.

To complement the food, a carefully selected list of over 35 primarily American wines, all priced aggressively to encourage experimenting, sampling and sharing, are available by either the bottle, the six-ounce glass or in a symphony of three, two-ounce samples of a "build your own wine flight."

Visit, www.crustpizza.net.

TASTE OF NORTHVILLE BUSINESS SHOWCASE

NORTHVILLE — Northville's 20th annual Taste of Northville Business Showcase is set for noon-3 p.m. March 14 at Northville High School. The family-friendly showcase will feature interactive exhibits from retail, service and professional businesses with the theme "Fun in the Sun." Over 10 top-rated local restaurants will offer free samples from their menus. There also will be give-aways, raffles, and promotional goodies. Awards are presented for Best Restaurant and Best Business displays as voted by the public. Over 1,200 attendees are expected. Tickets, \$5; \$4 seniors 65 and over; and free for children under 12, are available at the door. The Taste of Northville Business Showcase is sponsored by Buckle Family Chiropractic, Northville Record, Trupp Family Care Chiropractic. Call the Northville Chamber of Commerce at (248) 349-7640 or visit www.northville.org.

RITZ-CARLTON HOSTS COOKING CLASSES

DEARBORN — The Ritz-Carlton, Dearborn will offer an informative series of cooking classes presented by the hotel's culinary team and Leslie Jacobs Associates.

"We are excited to be offering these hands-on classes in our own kitchens" said Chef de Cuisine Alex Garza. "It's a privilege to be able to teach our guests the cooking techniques and tips that will make them a star chef in their very own kitchen."

Participants begin in the kitchen learning to prepare several courses of a specially-themed meal. Then, they are rewarded to a fabulous dinner served with complementing wines. Leslie Jacobs will also share her secrets of a well-dressed table.

Classes are 5:30-8:30 p.m. select Mondays as follows:

- **March 16:** Journey to Spain: Tapas and More
- **April 20:** Contemporary American Classics: Comfort Foods with a Twist
- **May 18:** Cocina Mexicana

CITY BITES

- **June 15:** Chilling and Grilling
 - **Sept. 21:** Classic French Bistro
 - **Oct. 19:** Flavors of Fall: A Michigan Feast
 - **Nov. 16:** Roman Holiday: Italian Favorites
 - **Dec. 7:** Celebrate with Style: The Perfect Party
- Cost is \$120 per class; \$75 for dinner only. The Ritz-Carlton, Dearborn is located at Fairlane Plaza, 300 Town Center Dr. To register call (313) 253-4357, e-mail colin.berens@ritzcarlton.com or visit www.ritzcarlton.com.

POPEYES SERVES UP SEAFOOD TACKLE BOX

REDFORD TOWNSHIP — Popeyes Louisiana Kitchen is bringing hungry guests a taste of the Bayou with an all-time favorite — Butterfly Shrimp. The popular offering comes in a new portable package known as the Seafood Tackle Box.

The Seafood Tackle Box, \$4.99 for a limited time, features eight butterfly shrimp marinated in Louisiana seasonings served on a bed of Cajun battered fries with a biscuit.

Popeyes has 1,905 restaurants in the United States, including 11307 Telegraph Road, Redford Township. Call (313) 537-8093 or visit www.popeyes.com.

BROWN BAG-IT TIPS TO SAVE MONEY

With food costs increasing in an already dire economy, buying lunch can be a budget buster. Brown-bagging it can save you hundreds of dollars a year, and might even help you lose weight if you make good choices. ShopSmart, from the publisher of Consumer Reports, has ideas and tips to pack a delicious lunch

you'll look forward to eating.

- **Breakfast for lunch.** Frittatas are great served cold or warm, and so are slices of quiche.
- **Leafless salads.** A mix of chopped raw vegetables in vinaigrette. Try black beans, corn, diced red peppers, and chopped scallions.
- **Portable pasta.** Mix whole grain pasta with vinaigrette and canned salmon or store-bought meatballs. Carb-watchers can use spaghetti squash, Orzo, or brown rice to make a pseudo pasta salad.
- **Antipasto and dips.** Small bites can be as satisfying as a big sandwich, so pack mozzarella cubes wrapped in roasted red peppers, olives, deviled eggs, salami and roasted almonds.
- **Sandwich substitutes.** Pack wedges of good, flavorful cheese, a crusty whole-grain roll, and some grapes or veggies. Try chicken or egg salad in a hollowed-out tomato, or baked zucchini halves scooped out and filled with chili or other stuffings.
- **Hot and hearty.** Take homemade, canned, or store-bought soup in a wide-mouth thermos. Leftover stews, stir-fries and casseroles stay hot and pack well too.
- **Chip alternatives.** Popcorn or healthy edamame beans are much cheaper than chips from the store. Boiled green soybeans also make for a great late-afternoon pick-me-up.

choices for less than \$20 and is available all the time.

"Everyone has been affected by our nation's struggling economy, which prompted us to create these special menus for those looking for a great meal at a reasonable price," said Wolfgang Puck Grille Executive Chef Marc Djozlija.

Wolfgang's Winter Warm-Up, available through March, lets guests choose one of three dishes for the first course and one of three dishes for the second course. The menu changes weekly, but sample dishes include Pumpkin Ravioli with Crisp Sage and Parmigiano Reggiano; and Grilled Rib Eye Steak with Tuscan Potatoes and Whole Grain Mustard Sauce. The third course is a 12-Layer Chocolate Dobos Torte.

Add a glass of wine with each course for \$20 per person, and choose from Pinot Noir Acacia "A", California, 2006 or Cabernet Sauvignon, Chateau St. Michelle, "Indian Wells," Washington, 2005.

The Tavern Menu includes such choices as Truffled Potato Chips, Ricotta Gnocchi and Smoked Salmon Pizza with Crème Fraiche, Fresh Dill and Black Caviar.

Call (313) 465-1648 or visit www.mgmgranddetroit.com or www.wolfgangpuck.com.

WOLFGANG PUCK GRILLE OFFERS VALUE MENU

DETROIT — Wolfgang Puck Grille at MGM Grand Detroit is offering two new menus for cost-conscious consumers. The Winter Warm-Up menu consists of a three-course tasting for \$35 per person Sunday-Thursday. The new Tavern Menu offers 15

25 wine values for under \$15

On the rise for several years now, global wine consumption, according to a January 2009 report released by the International Wine and Spirit Record, is forecast to continue growing, with the U.S. by 2012 overtaking Italy as the planet's biggest consumer.



Focus on Wine

Ray & Eleanor Heald

Other statistics about wine drinking in the U.S. indicate that consumers, while not giving up drinking wine, are seeking value-priced bottlings and the sweet spot

for these purchases is under \$15. Mindful of both stats, we went hunting for the best quality-price ratio wines available in the metro-Detroit area for \$15 or less.

We tasted more than 100 wines and came up with 25 best bets for 2009.

BEST WHITE WINES

- 2008 Funky Llama Sauvignon Blanc, \$7
- 2007 Funky Llama Chardonnay, \$7
- 2007 Round Hill No Oak Chardonnay, \$8
- 2007 Round Hill Chardonnay, \$8
- 2007 Meridian Chardonnay, \$10
- 2007 Kendall-Jackson Vintner's Reserve Chardonnay, \$12
- 2007 Tormaresca (Puglia) Chardonnay, \$12
- 2007 Dancing Bull Chardonnay, \$12
- 2008 Chakana Sauvignon Blanc, \$12

- 2006 Lost Angel (unoaked), \$13
- 2007 Lost Angel Muscat Canelli, \$13 (great with Thai food)
- 2007 Valle Reale Vigne Nuove Trebbiano, \$13
- 2006 Principi di Butera Insolia, Sicily, \$13

ROSE

- 2008 Chakana Rose of Malbec, \$12

BEST RED WINES

- 2008 Funky Llama Malbec, \$7
 - 2006 Round Hill Cabernet Sauvignon, \$8
 - 2007 McManis Syrah, \$10
 - 2006 Windmill Syrah, \$12
 - 2007 Chakana Syrah, \$12
 - 2007 Tormaresca Neprica (Puglia), \$12
 - 2006 Lange Twins Merlot, \$13
 - 2005 Lost Angel Cabernet Sauvignon, \$13
 - 2006 Lost Angel Mischief Blend, \$13
 - 2006 Valle Reale Vigne Nuove Montepulciano d'Abruzzo, \$14
- Eating out is another time that we're all looking for a wine bargain. Sad to say, most restaurant "house wines," are plonk, but Coastal Vines 2007 Pinot Grigio, \$6, by the glass at Ruby Tuesday is a winner.
- Not all the wines will be available at every retail store, but your favorite retailer can order them for you from the local distributor.

Eleanor & Ray Heald are Contributing Editors for the internationally-respected Quarterly Review of Wines and Troy residents who write about wine for the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. Contact them by e-mail at focusonwine@aol.com.

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(Pizza with one item, additional items charged appropriately)
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Minimum of 3 people • No Groups

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—Sonia Racer-Detroit Free Press

HAPPY HOUR
1/2 OFF

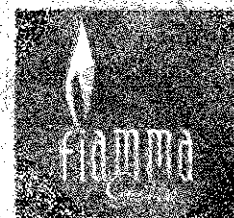
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of Wine
Under \$100



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Champagnes
Under \$100
1/2 OFF
Oysters



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THURSDAY

March 12
2009SECTION C
(*)Julie Brown, editor, (313) 222-6755
jbrown@hometownlife.com

online at hometownlife.com

REAL ESTATE

EMU reaches out to help those facing foreclosure

BY JULIE BROWN
O&E STAFF WRITER

Counselors at Eastern Michigan University started a support group for people going through foreclosure, but found embarrassment over finances limited participation. They chose to go with a different approach.

"We do offer individual counseling services" to those facing foreclosure, said Dr. Perry Francis, EMU coordinator of counseling services in the College of Education/Clinical Suite.

The program was started to help Washtenaw County residents, but has drawn response from Oakland and Wayne residents, all of whom are welcome. Francis, who earned his Ed.D. in counseling, noted the importance of caring for yourself emotionally when facing foreclosure.

"We'd be happy to help anybody," he said of the lack of geographical restrictions. He and colleagues were approached by their county agencies about helping.

"They do need some mental health help," Francis said of the free EMU services, offered by master's students near graduation who are closely supervised by doctoral faculty and licensed professionals. "Everything is confidential, completely confidential."

There hasn't been an overwhelming response yet. "This has been tried in other locations," said Francis, also an associate professor of counseling at EMU. "It's getting them in the door and letting them know we're available."

"It helps provide them with the mental health services they need," he said. People are often raised not to discuss religion, politics or money, so saying "How do I explain to people I'm going through foreclosure?" is tough.

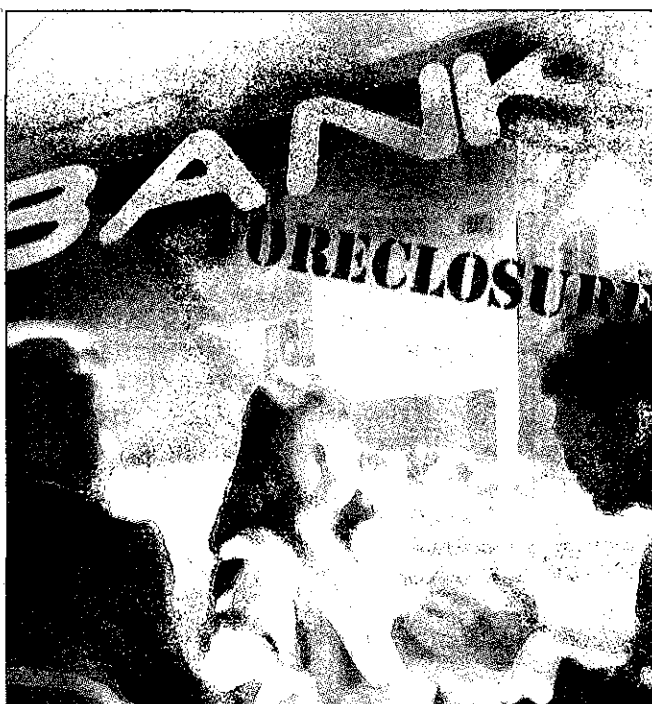
People experience a sense of loss of control, feelings of anger and in extreme cases even thoughts of suicide. Family members, including children, are impacted.

"In some cases, kids have grown up in this place," he said. Relocating to a new school is difficult on children and teens, and parents need to be able to take about that.

"Working with a mental health professional would be beneficial for someone going through this," he said.

The Eastern Michigan University College of Education Counseling Clinic in the Clinical Suite in Porter 135 is offering free counseling to help those who are struggling with financial problems. Staffers can also provide you with referrals to county agencies that will help you work through the foreclosure process and begin the credit rebuilding process.

For more information, call (734) 487-4410 or contact Francis via e-mail at pfrancis@emich.edu. The



Web site is www.emich.edu/coe/clinics.

Francis offered this information for those facing foreclosure and its related stress:

Q: What are some of the common mental health issues a person might face as he/she goes through the foreclosure process?

A: There are many thoughts and feelings that one experiences as they face the prospect of foreclosure. Most common among them are:

Embarrassment: One of the most common thoughts and feelings. Questions like "What will people think of me?" and "How could this happen to me?" are common as well as thinking that you are somehow labeled as a failure.

Isolation: Related to embarrassment, feeling isolated is also a common experience. This is often brought on by not wanting to share with anyone the news that you are struggling financially. As the process moves forward and the stress grows, a person becomes more isolated with the increased burden of this secret.

Loss of Control: We all like to think we are in control of our present and future. When that control is lost, for whatever reason, we feel unsettled and anxious.

Stress: Moving from one's home, even when not in foreclosure, is considered one of the most stressful things we can do. When you have to move due to circumstances beyond your control, it adds to that stress.

Feelings of Failure: Providing a home for yourself and your family is an essential need. When you are faced with the prospect of not being able to fill that need, feelings of failure can overwhelm a person.

Anger & Frustration: As the process moves forward many people become angry at the situation and frustrated. When solutions fail or are no longer available, feelings of

wanting to strike out at something or someone can be experienced.

Depression & Anxiety: When faced with a great loss, many people are confronted with feelings of depression. This is experienced in behaviors like

sleeplessness or sleeping more than normal, loss of appetite or consuming more food

than normal, being "short" or "ill-tempered" with loved ones, loss of motivation and/or energy to do daily tasks, struggle to concentrate on tasks, and increase in use of alcohol or other drugs. With depression and/or foreclosure comes anxiety as seen in behaviors like jumpiness, restlessness, being easily fatigued, and muscle tension.

Thoughts of Suicide: Sometimes overwhelming feelings lead to thoughts of suicide. This is an indication that you need to seek help immediately and should reach out to loved ones and professionals who can offer to help you deal with the loss and pain of foreclosure. Remember, suicide is a permanent solution to a temporary problem.

Q: What can I do to deal with these and other thoughts and feelings?

A: There are several strategies available including:

Seek Social Support: Seek emotional support from those you can depend on. Carrying the heavy burden of stress alone leads to more stress and isolation. Talking with trustworthy people and organizations lightens the load and reduces stress. Take advantage of those social services that are available to help you through the foreclosure process.

Create & Maintain a Routine: Plan your days and weeks. Continue working and taking care of your home. Go to work and continue being as productive as you can. If you are not employed outside the home, create a routine at home and follow it. Change that routine as necessary to maintain your health and well-being. Routine can be comforting and helps fill in down time when you may be pondering or worrying about issues that you cannot control.

Exercise & Eat Right: Go for a walk, ride your bike, or go for a run

as you are able. Exercise has been shown to help elevate mood and battle depression. Proper nutrition also helps maintain a healthy attitude.

Be Kind to Yourself: Millions of Americans are losing their homes for countless different reasons. If you would not judge them as weak or unwise, try not to judge yourself. Realize that you are not judged so much by the house you live in as by your actions as a person. Continue to treat others as you would want them to treat you.

Change Your Thinking from Victim to Survivor: There is great power in seeing yourself as a survivor. It helps you assemble resources needed to support your family and situation. It also helps to create a sense of control over one's destiny.

Seek Professional Help: When your thoughts and feelings are clearly interfering with your normal functioning, it is time to seek out professional help. There are many low-cost mental health support services available, including the Counseling Clinic at Eastern Michigan University, Catholic Social Services, county Mental Health, and the Psychology Clinic at Eastern Michigan University. Many operate on a sliding fee scale. You can also call 2-1-1 (United Way) for a list of agencies in the county and surrounding communities.

Q: What can I do to help my children through this transition?

A: Begin by hugging your children often. Provide information and routine to your children. Children want to know that they are safe, you are safe, and that their lives will be routine. Talk about what is happening by providing them information they can understand. Do not overwhelm them with information that is beyond their comprehension. Other suggestions include spending extra time with them at bedtime, read stories together, allow your children to express their feelings without your losing control of your own feelings, sharing your feelings in appropriate ways, spend extra time with family activities to replace fears with pleasant memories, and involving your children (in appropriate ways) in finding a new place to live.

Q: How do I tell my grown children about what is happening?

A: Depending on your relationship with your grown children, they can be a source of great support. Share information at your comfort level. As with all children, they want to know that you are safe and that you have a plan of action. While it may be embarrassing to admit to your children that you are in financial difficulty, they can offer emotional support in a way that friends may not be able to.

Pros know
Chicago
market

Q: I have always wanted to live in downtown Chicago and am wondering whether the condominium real estate market has softened in regard to purchasing a condominium and/or renting an apartment.

A: Based upon the economic market conditions at the end of 2008, it appears that there is a glut of condominiums and apartments in the Chicago area. However, that does not mean that units are necessarily within a reasonable purchase range. For example, one developer who claims that his

development is the most significant residential development in the world has condominiums selling from \$750,000 to \$40,000,000 overlooking the Chicago skyline and Lake Michigan. If you



Robert Meisner

look at the number of high-rise condominiums that are being constructed along Lakeshore Drive south of downtown, you will recognize that potential bargains are available and that not all of these condominiums will be able to be sold in a reasonable time. Accordingly, the rental market may open up for opportunities particularly on the part of those developers who are not able to liquidate their units as quickly as they would otherwise like. You are best advised to become familiar with a knowledgeable real estate person operating in the downtown Chicago area as well as canvassing the various Chicago newspapers that feature real estate advertisements.

Q: Our management company gave us the names of several lawyers that they recommend. I brought up the name of another prominent attorney and they indicated that they "don't work with him." I asked them why and they didn't give me any plausible reason. What do you think we should do?

A: I think you should find out from the management company why they are not willing to work with that attorney and, better yet, I would contact that attorney directly and find out what his or her relationship has been with that management company and if he or she knows why that management company apparently is blackballing him or her. If the attorney is qualified, you may be best to go with an attorney who is not proverbially "in bed" with the management firm and will be willing to advise you of any irregularities that may occur in the conduct of that management company without fear of losing business and/or a tight knit relationship.

Robert M. Meisner is a lawyer and the author of *Condominium Operation: Getting Started & Staying on the Right Track*, second edition. It is available for \$9.95 plus \$1 shipping and handling. He also wrote *Condo Living: A Survival Guide to Buying, Owning and Selling a Condominium*, available for \$24.95 plus \$5 shipping and handling. For more information, call (248) 644-4433 or visit bmeisner@meisner-associates.com. This column shouldn't be construed as legal advice.

HOMES SOLD

These are the Observer & Eccentric-area residential real estate closings recorded the week of Nov. 17-21, 2008, at the Wayne County Register of Deeds office, plus some from Oakland County. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

Canton

41503 Bedford Dr \$75,000
50537 Coolidge St \$224,000
41415 Copper Creek Dr \$158,000
399 Cornell St \$206,000
1054 Dundee Dr \$189,000
46987 Eastbourne Rd \$293,000
40210 Finley Dr \$157,000
6523 Kennesaw Rd \$360,000
548 McKinley Cir \$270,000
44830 Seabrook Dr \$285,000
788 Sorel Dr \$169,000
48616 Stonebriar Dr \$58,000
48356 Wadebridge Dr \$355,000

Farmington

31831 Grand River Ave \$32,000
33160 Shawwassee Rd \$140,000

Farmington Hills

28850 Bannockburn St \$170,000
21617 Collingham Ave \$30,000
29918 Eldred St \$95,000
36861 Elia Ct \$275,000
22022 Lancrest Ct \$150,000
28810 Lorikay St \$160,000
21798 Lundy Dr \$114,000

Garden City

32511 Brown St \$155,000
6646 Elizabeth St \$126,000
6224 Gilman St \$74,000
6565 Helen St \$102,000
33647 Leona St \$104,000

Livonia

12124 Boston Post St \$103,000
16885 Canterbury St \$290,000
17121 Catherine Ct \$171,000
36778 Curtis Rd \$174,000
18612 Farmington Rd \$110,000
38031 Five Mile Rd \$135,000
17308 Francavilla Dr \$228,000
14700 Gary Ln \$157,000
36509 Jeanne St \$95,000

19466 Norwich Rd

29745 Nottingham Cir \$115,000
36020 Perth St \$175,000
35232 Pinetree St \$125,000
35895 Pinetree St \$152,000
33805 Pondview Cir \$52,000
16720 Riverside St \$140,000
9840 Seltzer St \$114,000
33018 Summers St \$150,000

Milford

2909 Central Blvd \$123,000
267 Heritage Dr \$365,000
1008 Larivee Ln \$354,000
1106 Prince St \$76,000
574 Uphill Rd \$400,000

Northville

44413 Aspen Ridge Dr \$220,000
16203 Brook Trout Ln \$180,000
47153 Dunsany Ct \$240,000
49095 Freestone Dr \$385,000
557 Langfield St \$164,000
39517 Legend Ct \$330,000
515 Linden Ct \$528,000
18782 Marble Head Dr \$53,000
40540 N Northville Trl \$388,000
17635 Northshore Dr \$607,000
47140 Red Oak Dr \$432,000

18820 Valencia St

39458 Village Run Dr \$300,000
17633 White Pine Ct \$220,000
16787 Yellowstone Ct \$500,000
\$135,000

Novi

43500 Algonquin Dr \$193,000
23084 Balcombe \$294,000
21860 Barclay Dr \$405,000
41936 Borchard Dr \$307,000
28122 Carlton Way Dr \$135,000
41698 Chattman St \$190,000
23670 Dunston Rd \$318,000
26366 Fieldstone Dr \$225,000
23589 Hickory Grove Ln \$228,000
28021 Hopkins Dr \$121,000
24626 Olde Orchard St \$58,000
47245 Scarlet Dr S \$205,000
21751 Shadybrook Dr \$251,000
39873 Squire Rd \$260,000
25401 Sutton Ct \$624,000
24715 White Plains Dr \$256,000
22600 Winfield Rd \$209,000

Plymouth

13629 Driftwood Ct \$372,000
605 Jener Pl \$412,000
9024 Marlowe Ave \$463,000
11704 N Haggerty Rd \$130,000

3300,000

\$220,000
\$500,000
\$135,000

51333 Plymouth Ridge Dr

680 S Harvey St \$485,000
47181 Timberwood Dr \$175,000
796 Yorkwood Dr \$350,000
\$90,000

Redford

13910 Fenton \$128,000
15084 Gaylord \$141,000
9944 Kinloch \$90,000
9983 Marion \$35,000
9973 Norborne \$109,000

South Lyon

1100 Fountain View Cir \$115,000
1104 Gentry Dr \$289,000
60401 Nine Mile Rd \$220,000
23499 Prescott Ln E \$381,000

Westland

31555 Alpena Ct \$32,000
33800 Hunter Ave \$137,000
274 Marigold Cir \$100,000
2321 Minerva St \$106,000
936 Mitchell Dr \$169,000
2601 Nichols Ct \$100,000
11776 Shoemaker Dr \$55,000
27747 Trailbrooke Cir \$110,000



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Thursday

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ACROSS

- 1 Comforter
- 6 Dingbat
- 11 Loosens
- 13 Cheese dip
- 14 Easy — pie
- 15 Moneyline network
- 16 Sitcom planet
- 17 Pharaoh's god
- 18 Stick up
- 20 Tenets
- 22 Lisper's problem letter
- 23 Swiss artist
- 25 Hairy insect
- 26 Stew over
- 27 Tiny amounts
- 29 Follows
- 31 Python or wrap
- 33 Catch for speeding
- 34 College unit
- 37 Sierra Club founder
- 40 Vice-squad action
- 41 Weep loudly

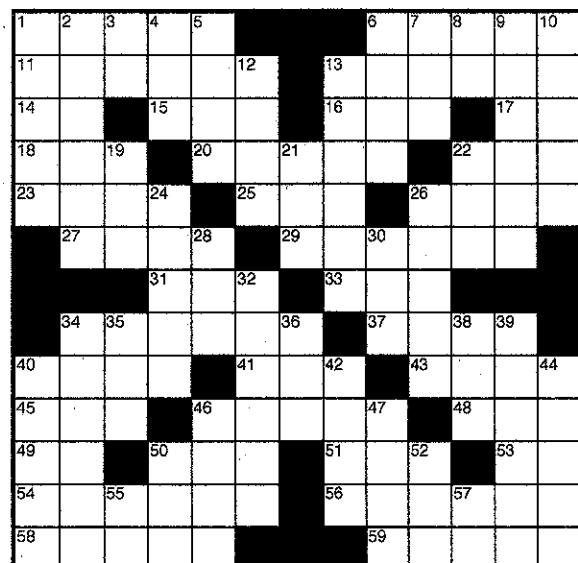
DOWN

- 43 Jeannie portrayer
- 45 Suffix for hero
- 46 Distant
- 48 Stein filler
- 49 Montpelier's st.
- 50 Iron source
- 51 Hawaii's Mauna —
- 53 "—, shucks!"
- 54 Startles
- 56 Kick in
- 58 Bad, bad
- 59 Brown of song
- 59 Candle
- 1 Basic physics particle
- 2 Still on the shelves
- 3 Employee badge
- 4 Rapper Tone —
- 5 Look after
- 6 Myrna played her
- 7 Shirt-pocket stain

Answer to Previous Puzzle

LOBO GOB ALIT
ALEC LIE DASH
MALE OLD ZULU
FALLS CEDED
OYSTER
TASTE ROY VAN
WOES ZEN MOPE
OLE POE DANTE
OODLES
WAXED UNCAP
OVEN HIT OREO
VEND UTE TICK
ERAS EDS SASS

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SUDOKU

				9	1	7		
3	6				7	2	8	5
	7	1			5		9	
		4	2		8		5	
	2		7	1				
8				3				
4		9	7	4	2		3	1
6			5	9	1		2	7

Level: Beginner

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

SEEK AND FIND

FIND THESE WORDS IN THE PUZZLE BELOW.

ARROWHEAD DEAD PUREBRED
BOBSLED HOMESTEAD REDHEAD
BREAD LEAD SHRED
BUNK BED MOPED WOODSHED

THE WORDS READ UP, DOWN AND ACROSS.

A P C B N I P O Y T
E U A I F Q E R H B
V R E D H E A D O U
B E M O P E D M M N
W B O B S L E D E K
B R E A D D A W S B
O E S H R E D L T E
N D W O O D S H E D
E S C U R V L E A D
A R R O W H E A D A

CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE

7	2	4	1	6	9	8	9	1
8	9	9	2	8	7	1	9	4
6	1	8	9	4	8	2	5	7
2	4	7	8	9	6	9	1	8
9	8	8	4	1	7	9	2	6
1	9	6	8	9	2	4	8	7
4	6	9	9	8	8	1	7	2
9	9	7	4	1	4	6	9	8
8	1	7	6	2	9	8	4	9

CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE

A	R	R	O	W	H	E	A	D
B	O	B	S	L	E	D		
E	D							
H	O	M	E	S	T	E	A	D
P	U	R	E	B	R	E	D	
R	E	D	H	E	A	D		
S	H	R	E	D				
W	O	O	D	S	H	E	D	
M	O	P	E	D				
B	E	M	O	P	E	D		
A	R	R	O	W	H	E	A	D
E	S	C	U	R	V	L	E	A
L	E	A	D					
A	R	R	O	W	H	E	A	D

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Canton 3080

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4 bdrm, 2.5 bath, maple kitchen, fresh paint, neutral carpet, bsmt, 3 car garage, & patio. \$299,900 (540SP)

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MOVE IN READY

Great home on a double lot with new carpet, windows, siding, doors, furnace, C/A and granite bath. \$189,900 (975H)

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734-459-6000

Canton 3080

MOVE RIGHT IN
Large rooms, 1st floor laundry, 2 car garage, 3 bdrm, 2.5 bath, & nice landscaping w/pavers. \$195,000 (070NO)

COLDWELL BANKER Preferred, Realtors

734-459-6000

RARE OFFERING

Updated Cape w/3 bdrm, 2 bath, freshly painted. Large LR, FR w/natural fireplace, kitchen w/appliances. \$155,000 (608SO)

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734-459-6000

SPACIOUS RANCH

Beautiful home w/FR, bsmt, 2.5 bath, 2-way fireplace, deck, garage & close to everything. \$179,900 (080WO)

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734-459-6000

Garden City 3170

MAKE AN OFFER

Updated brick ranch, 3 bdrms, fin bsmt, Garage, \$100,000. Century 21 Castelli (734) 525-7900

COLDWELL BANKER Preferred, Realtors

734-459-6000

Garden City 3170

TONS OF UPDATES
Updated kitchen and bath, appliances stay, lots of natural light, part finished basement, and motivated seller! \$49,000 (168GI)

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734-459-6000

UPDATED HOME

Updated ranch on 1/2 acre lot. Honey maple kitchen, Florida Room, bsmt & more. \$149,900 (045JO)

COLDWELL BANKER Preferred, Realtors

734-459-6000

WOW

Huge mechanic's garage, newer roof/windows, 3 bdrm, oversized lot, & also for lease. \$109,900 (453FL)

COLDWELL BANKER Preferred, Realtors

734-459-6000

Livonia 3250

GREAT PRICE

3 bdrm, 3 bath ranch w/FR, Florida Room, large yard, master w/bath, basement & quiet court location. \$140,000 (997SU)

COLDWELL BANKER Preferred, Realtors

734-459-6000

Northville 3260

LOOK NO FURTHER
LR/DR/den, entertaining-sized kitchen, walkout basement, and so much more. \$459,900 (098CA)

COLDWELL BANKER Preferred, Realtors

734-459-6000

IT DOESN'T GET ANY BETTER THAN THIS... Observer & Eccentric Classified!

UPDATED BUNGALOW

3 bdrm, newer roof, large fenced yard, home warranty, & on a quiet tree-lined street. \$114,900 (123SA)

COLDWELL BANKER Preferred, Realtors

734-459-6000

Plymouth 3347

WALK TO DOWNTOWN
Nice ranch w/hardwood floors, kitchen w/appliances, sunroom overlooks backyard. \$99,900 (257HA)

COLDWELL BANKER Preferred, Realtors

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Redford 3350

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3 bdrm, 1.5 bath, updated kitchen, part finished bsmt, 2 car garage, & also available for lease. \$114,900 (999LU)

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2 bed/1 bath fully furnished home with new furnace & new central air, finished basement and one car detached garage. Appliances incl. All this and more for only \$29,500. MLS #28040881, 16636 Wormer Linda Abraham (248) 628-4711

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ATTENTION FIRST TIME HOME BUYERS

32640 Ann Arbor, 3 bdrm, 1.5 bath, newly remodeled, new roof, siding, windows, flooring, oak cabinets, more! 2 car garage, approx 1200 sq. ft. Price reduced \$25,000, \$95,000 firm, \$0 down, \$0 closing cost for qualified buyers, \$7500 tax credit for 1st time home buyers.

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Condos 3720

CANTON: SPARKLING

2-way fireplace in GR & kitchen, windows galore, soaring ceilings, master w/tub, pool & tennis. \$194,900 (639SC)

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WESTLAND - New carpeting throughout, freshly painted, 3 bdrm, 2 bath, C/A, fridge, washer/dryer, dishwasher, disposal, gas furnace/stove, storage shed, large deck-partially covered, 2 car parking. At Westland Meadows. Avail now, \$12,000. (734) 604-8354

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PLYMOUTH - Building for sale on Ann Arbor Rd. 1500 SF oil change (business avail. separately), 1200 SF (leased to auto repair. \$825,000, #2700584)

Bela Sipos 734-669-5813, 734-747-7888 Reinhardt Commercial.

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Put your Money in Property.

1 1/2 wooded acre lot in Holly/Fenton area. Underground electric, gas, cable, paved road, pre-perked. 7 miles from both I-23 & I-75. \$50,000. Call: 734-455-6728

Lease/Option To Buy 3840

WESTLAND

Land Contract Terms. 2 bdrm ranch, 2 car, fenced, \$45,000. Century 21 Dynamic 6900 North Wayne Rd. Ann Honeycutt 734-968-2636

Business Opportunities 3900

WESTLAND HAIR SALON

Fully equipped, 5 chairs, nail & pedicure station, Exc. location. Call for price 734-637-8585.

Business/Professional Building 3910

CANTON: GREAT BUSINESS

Family restaurant w/premium location. Steady income, seats 100, built in 2002. \$80,000 (380HA)

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		30 Yr.	Pts.	15 Yr.	Pts.	Other
1st Choice Mortgage Lending	(734) 459-0782	5	0	4.825	0	J/A
Accurate Mortgage Solutions	(800) 593-1912	5.125	0	4.625	0	J/A
Amaripus Mortgage Corp.	(248) 740-2323	5	0	4.825	0.25	J/A
BRINKS Financial	(800) 785-4755	4.875	0.5	4.5	0.375	J/A/V/F
Client Services by Golden Rule	(800) 991-9822	5	0.25	4.5	0.375	J/A/V/F
Co-op Services Credit Union	(734) 466-6113	5.375	0	5	0	J
Cornerstone Community Financial	(800) 777-6725	5.375	0	4.5	1	J/A/F
Countrywide Home Loans	(800) 641-2384	4.875	2	4.75	2	J/A/V/F
Dearborn Federal Savings Bank	(313) 665-3109	5.125	0	4.375	0	A
DFCU Financial	(800) 739-2770	5.25	2.25	4.75	2.25	J/A
Fifth Third Bank	(800) 792-6850	5.125	0	4.875	0	J/V/F
Gold Star Mortgage	(800) 784-1074	5.125	0	4.625	0	J/A/V/F
Golden Rule Mortgage	(800) 991-9822	5.125	0	4.625	0	J/A/V/F
Group One Mortgage	(248) 282-1602	5.375	0	4.875	0	J/A/V/F
Mortgages by Golden Rule	(800) 991-9822	4.875	0.125	4.25	1	J/A/V/F
Michigan United Mortgage	(810) 844-2222	4.875	0.5	4.375	0.75	J/A
Northtown Financial	(248) 988-8458	5.125	0	4.625	0	J/A/V/F
Shore Mortgage	(800) 678-6663	4.75	2	4.5	2	J/A/V/F

Above information available as of 3/6/09 and subject to change at anytime. Rates are based on a \$200,000

loan with 20% down & credit score of 740 or above. Jumbo rates, specific payment calculations & most current

rates available Fridays after 2:00 P.M. at www.rmcreport.com. Key to "Other" Column - J = Jumbo,

A = Arm, V = VA, F = FHA & NR = Not Reported. All Lenders are Equal Opportunity Lenders.

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Real Estate
For Lease

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Studios, 1, 2 & 3 Bedrooms
Furnished apartments avail.
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Spacious 1 bdrm, C/A,
\$300 security,
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NO APPLICATION FEE
FREE HEAT! 1 bdrm, C/A,
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Luxury 1 & 2 bdrm. Laundry
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\$565-700/mo. 566-254-9511

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Deluxe studio & 1 bedroom,
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Studios, 1, 2 & 3 Bedrooms
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Gorgeous new kitchens
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Very nice 1 bedroom avail,
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and receive
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Annual rent increases apply. Site rent
returns to full market rate in 60 days. *More
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Starting @ \$505
With Move In
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Newly updated 1 & 2 bdrm
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1 & 2 Bdrm Apts. Washer/
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First month free w/approved
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1 bdrm avail, \$580 plus secur-
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Washer/dryer included!
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Studios starting at \$399
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1 Bdrm, \$499;
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Reduced deposit, pets
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wall appl. \$125/wk. Lg. unfur-
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1 bdrm w/appliances.
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WESTLAND
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Westland Estates "WOW"
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No fine print in this ad!
Heat/Water included
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WESTLAND First Month FREE!
1 Bedroom - \$485/mo.
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Hickory Woods Apts.
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MOVES YOU IN!
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1 Bdrm. - \$550
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13th month Free and
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2 Bdrm, 1.5 Bath,
\$565, 936 Sq. Ft.
1 Bdrm, \$490,
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\$200 Security Deposit
Heat and Water Incl
(New residents only)
with approved credit
No Pets, C/A, Vertical
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Appliances include
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1 & 2 bdrm, 2 baths.
Washer & dryer.
Private entrance & balcony
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1st fl., 2 bdrm, 2 bath,
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NOVI - 3 bdrm, 1 bath ranch
condo, C/A, appliances incl
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patio. Pargo carpet & fresh
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2 bath ranch condo. Carport.
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bsmt, garage, A/C, pool. Ford
& Hix area. \$900/mo. Incl.
water. 248-388-2203

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fridge/stove, new carpet &
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\$500/mo. 313-522-4769

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backyard. \$950/mo.
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2 bdrm house with laundry,
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PLYMOUTH - 3 bdrm brick
ranch, 1100 sq. ft., 1.5 bath,
gar, bsmt, fireplace, appl.
\$1250/mo. 734-455-0391

PLYMOUTH 2 bdrm ranch,
kitchen appliances, pets neg-
otiable, \$780/mo.
734-717-3452/ 734-717-7643

PLYMOUTH Spacious 2 bdrm,
1.5 bath w/bsmt. \$700. 233
West Spring, Credit & securi-
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Redford (S), 14353 Mercedes
3 bdrm bungalow, remodeled,
sec 8 ok, safe, \$950/mo +
\$950 sec. (313) 407-9437

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Redford - 7 & Inkster, 18441
Polina, 3 bdrm, basement.
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lot. \$975/mo. (248) 535-2300

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gar., full bsmt, all new, double
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CABINET MAKER & LAMINATOR
Experienced Only
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Help Wanted-General 5000

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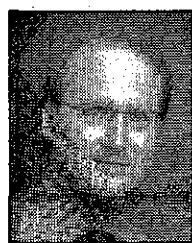
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Some Hybrid Buyers Prefer Luxury Labels, Old Reliables

Advertising Feature

CAReport



By Dale Buss

The hybrid market is ebbing as gasoline prices stay at or near \$2 a gallon, and as the rough economy makes it impractical even for the greenest-minded buyers to justify shelling out another several thousand dollars to buy a hybrid powertrain over what its conventional counterpart would cost.

Nevertheless, the number of available hybrid models is exploding, and the market is fracturing so that there are a handful of different hybrid vehicles available for consideration by buyers with a variety of criteria.

Last week, we looked at genuine fuel-sippers such as the 2010 Ford Fusion and the 2010 Toyota Prius, as well as relatively powerful hybrids such as the GMC Sierra and Chevrolet Tahoe.

This week, in the conclusion of this series, we'll examine three other categories:

Luxury Labels

2009 Cadillac Escalade. This vehicle could well emerge as the poster child for the reasons that Congress and the American people have been holding their noses about bailing out GM. It's a self-indulgent vehicle — also plastered heavily with the word "hybrid" — featuring touches such as power running boards which certainly make it a Cadillac. But why does it bother being a hybrid? The two-wheel-drive model's 20-mpg combined fuel-economy rating is only five miles a gallon better than that of the regular Escalade, and it is tied for the worst hybrid mileage of any

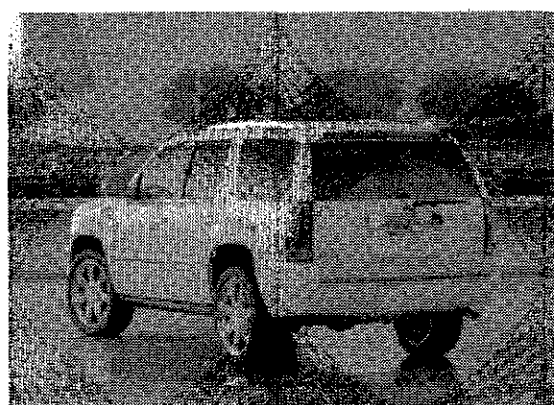
vehicle rated by the EPA. *Base MSRP: About \$72,000.*

2009 Lexus 600h. These economically depressed days may not be the best times for Toyota's luxury division to hope to sell a flagship hybrid. But if you're still, somehow, in the market for a \$100K-plus vehicle, you could do a lot worse. The vehicle features the company's usual exquisite craftsmanship and seamless, taut ride. And it mates a powerful V8 engine with a hybrid powertrain to deliver 12-cylinder performance of European rivals — without devouring all that gasoline. Yet the 600h's mileage is actually worse than its nonhybrid counterpart's! *Base MSRP: About \$106,000.*

2010 BMW X6 ActiveHybrid. This vehicle will be representative of the first wave of German luxury hybrids that will begin arriving in the U.S. market later this year, at the same time that the same brands also are bringing over clean-diesel models to compete with hybrids — theirs and others'. BMW is estimating a 20-percent mileage improvement compared with its standard X6. Within the next two years, also expect to see the BMW 7 Series ActiveHybrid and the Audi Q5 Hybrid. *Base MSRP: Not available.*

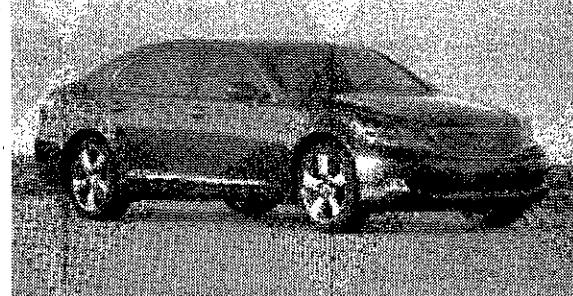
Old Reliables

2009 Ford Escape. This SUV is what passes for an oldie but a goodie in the hybrid business. Ford introduced the first hybrid ute in 2005, and the latest model of Escape is still the mileage champ, at 34 mpg in the city and



The Cadillac Escalade Hybrid gets better mileage, but its amenities are really what stand out.

For more than \$100,000, the Lexus 600h L gives you a 12-cylinder feeling.



31 mpg on the highway. Escape boasts a slightly larger engine than in the previous model and relies on 20 more horsepower. Braking also offers an improved transition between electric- and gasoline-powered modes. *Base MSRP: About \$30,000.*

2009 Toyota Highlander. The hybrid version of this full-size SUV asks buyers to plunk down a remarkable premium over the gas-powered version of more than \$10,000 — which would take about 18 years to repay in gasoline-purchase savings. But its sheer size, and mileage of 27 mpg in the city and 25 on the highway, make it worth consideration if you have SUV needs. Maximum cargo capacity is an ample 94 cubic feet. US News & World Report, at least ranks, it as the most affordable midsize SUV of all types. *Base MSRP: About \$35,000.*

Don't-Look-Now

2009 Chrysler Aspen. The hybrid version of the regular Aspen is disappointingly dull. But that won't be a concern of consumers much longer, because as part of its survival

mode, the company already announced that it plans to discontinue Aspen as well as its sibling Dodge Durango, and their hybrid versions. *Base MSRP: About \$46,000.*

2009 Chevrolet Malibu. The conventional version of the Malibu has been a great success for GM from the time it launched less than two years ago. But the hybrid is a pale imitation, employing a mild-hybrid powertrain that (like its Saturn Aura sibling) generates only a 4-mpg improvement compared with the standard four-cylinder powertrain. *Base MSRP: About \$26,000.*

2009 Nissan Altima. It handles nicely and goes from zero to 60 in 7.5 seconds, fastest of the mainstream hybrid sedans. Yet why bother? Nissan's only hybrid so far doesn't even use its own powertrain technology — it's borrowed from Toyota. And good luck trying to find it around here anyway: The midsize sedan is sold only in California and seven East Coast states. *Base MSRP: About \$27,000.*

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