WATER RATES A'RISIN', A3

THURSDAY April 29, 2010

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KICKERS BATTLE
TO DRAW, B1

OBSERVER OBSERVER

online at hometownlife.com



CANTON CONNECTION

Faith grants

The Plymouth Salvation Army still has funds available under the Faith Stimulus Grant program to help the newly unemployed.

Criteria for the funding are: proof of unemployment (letter of separation, documentation from state, bank statement showing automatic deposit of unemployment funds), and applicants must reside in the Plymouth Salvation Army's service area (Northville, Plymouth, Canton and Belleville).

For more information, e-mail Laurie Aren at laurie_aren@ usc.salvationarmy.org or call the church at (734) 453-5464.

Foster forum

Wayne County Juvenile Court Judge Mark T. Slavens of Canton and Wayne County Juvenile Court Referee Kathleen H. Svoboda will join foster care workers and adoption specialists, foster and adoptive parents and foster and adopted children as panelists for a public meeting Wednesday, May 5, at St. John Neumann Catholic Church in Canton. Doors open at 6:30 p.m.

The purpose of the free event is to provide information to individuals and couples who are thinking about becoming foster and/or adoptive parents. The event is sponsored by the Michigan Children's Law Center.

"The forum is being held because the children's law center believes that loving and caring foster and adoptive parents are critical in providing new beginnings and opportunities for abused and neglected children," said Fred Gruber, Executive Director of the Michigan Children's Law Center.

The Michigan Children's Law Center is a group of attorneys who represent children in neglect and delinquency cases in Wayne County Juvenile Court.

For more information, call Fred Gruber at the Michigan Children's Law Center at (734) 281-1900.

Budget town hall

State Rep. Marc Corriveau, D-Northville, hosts a town hall meeting Thursday, May 6, in Canton, to discuss the state budget, the current state of the economy and how state leaders can work to revitalize Michigan's economy.

The meeting takes place from 7-9 p.m. at the Canton Township Hall Board Room, 1150 Canton Center Road.

Corriveau will be joined by Mitch Bean, director of the nonpartisan House Fiscal Agency. Bean will give a presentation and hold a questionand-answer session with residents.

For more information, residents can call Corriveau's office toll-free at (877) 208-4737 or send an e-mail to MarcCorriveau@house.mi.gov.

Eateries set for smoking ban adjustment

OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Like any bar owner, Domenic Tassielli of Crow's Nest Bar & Grill in Canton wonders how his business will be affected when Michigan's smoking ban in workplaces starts Saturday.

"I think it's natural to be nervous about it," he said Tuesday. "We've never been through this. But after the adjustment period, I think everyone is going to be fine with it."

That said, Tassielli has adopted a proactive stance by inviting the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network to his bar, located on Canton Center between Ford and Warren, for a fund-raiser from 6 p.m. to midnight Saturday — the day the smoking ban takes effect.

"We are absolutely thrilled that he is doing this," said Elizabeth Paruch, a Canton resident, ACS CAN volunteer and breast cancer survivor for more than five years. "We're going to be celebrating that it's the first day Michigan is smokefree in bars, restaurants and other workplaces." To prepare, Crow's Nest has been collecting its patrons' cigarette butts in a five-gallon jug, and Paruch said customers can pay \$1 to estimate the number of butts — yes, they'll be counted — in the container.

Five prizes for the best guesses will be given out, Paruch said, including a \$25 Crow's Nest gift certificate, a free vehicle oil change and three T-shirts that celebrate Michigan's smok-

A portion of Crow's Nest proceeds Saturday also will be donated to ACS CAN, and Paruch said another fund-raiser will allow patrons to donate money and have the names of cancer survivors — or loved ones who have died — on what she called "a wall of hope."

ACS CAN also will accept outright donations, Paruch said, and the night also will include karaoke starting around 9:30 p.m.

Paruch, who lost a brother to cancer, said she and her husband have often patronized Crow's

Please see SMOKING, B3



ILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHE

John Johnson, owner of the Rusty Nail in Canton, enjoys a puff of a Hoya de Monterrey, a fine Honduran cigar. Behind John are John Swanee, Tim Clark and Ted Stein. Johnson won't be able to enjoy the smoke starting Saturday, when a statewide ban on smoking in public places goes into effect.



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Keith Cox, Michael O'Hara and John Lutz break up a concrete driveway at Mary Stretke's house.



Volunteers Halie Woody and Kali Aloisi wait for the rest of the crew to arrive at the worksite. They are students at Westland John Glenn High School.

Christmas comes early

Volunteers spread holiday cheer eight months early

BY DARRELL CLEM OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Canton resident Casteen Armstrong, 89, smiled as a small army of volunteers came to her house Saturday morning to replace windows, clean out her garage, trim trees, paint her bathroom, rake her yard and bust up a section of deteriorating driveway so it could be replaced.

"This is just so wonderful,"

Armstrong said. "I couldn't afford to do all this. I'd just have to let it go, mostly, and do what I could do. This is fabulous."

On their own time, Home Depot employees from eight stores worked alongside other volunteers to fix up Armstrong's home — at no cost to her — during the Canton-based Christmas

in Action of Wayne County program. In all, some 250 volunteers didn't let a little morning rain dampen their efforts to repair 11 homes for elderly or disabled residents who couldn't afford to pay for the work. Using corporate and private donations of materials, money and labor, local Christmas in Action helpers have fixed up 51 houses

Please see CHRISTMAS, A6

Memorial set for teenager killed in crash

BY BRAD KADRICH OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Counselors and social workers were on hand Monday morning as students at the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park were forced to deal with the death of one of their own.

Marie-Kristin Friedow, an 18-year-old senior at Plymouth High School, died Sunday from injuries sustained

in a two-vehicle car crash Sunday afternoon in Canton.

Friedow apparently lost control of her car as she drove west on Michigan Avenue near the I-275



interchange, according to Canton Police Sgt. Mark Gajeski. The driver's side of Friedow's car slammed into the back of a van stopped for a red light. Police said the rain-slicked roadway along that stretch of Michigan Ave., where the speed limit is 55 mph, may have contributed to the crash, Gajeski said.

Friedow died at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital in Ypsilanti. Neither the 15-year-old passenger in her car nor the 45-year-old Belleville resident driving the van were critically injured.

Students were notified Monday morning of the death of Friedow, who had attended Miller Elementary and East

Please see CRASH, A5

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Board wants public input on RESA millage

BY BRAD KADRICH OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

If officials at Wayne RESA want to pass the 1.9-mill school enhancement proposal they've been floating, they might have to do it without the support of the state's third-largest school district.

Plymouth-Canton Board of Education officials Tuesday tabled a vote on a resolution supporting the RESA plan, being proposed to provide a funding source not otherwise available to local school districts, most of whom are bound by the restrictions of 1994's Proposal A.

The supporting resolution was a late addition to Tuesday's agenda, but board members decided — on a 5-2 vote — to table the issue until they could

hear input from district residents.

But it was clear trustees think they have a pretty good idea what voters will think about the RESA millage, which would raise some \$11 million in Plymouth-Canton, though only 60 percent of that — about \$6.9 million — would come back to the district under RESA's dis-

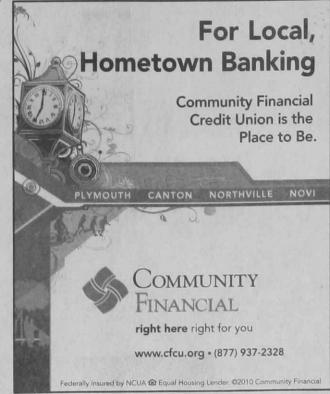
bursement plan.
Two weeks ago, board Vice
President Barry Simescu favored
supporting the proposal, pointing out it's "the only game the
state Legislature is letting us
play." After hearing from people,
though, Simescu now opposes it.

"I had several members of the community contact me, and I found none who supported it," Simescu said. "There are too many negatives here. I think it's the wrong time." RESA needs support from districts representing 51 percent of the county's students to get the proposal on the Aug. 3 primary ballot. At a meeting a couple of weeks ago, officials indicated they needed support from at least two of three large districts — Plymouth-Canton, Livonia or Dearborn — to give the measure a shot. Livonia recently voted not to support it, while Dearborn board members disliked the idea so much they didn't even vote on it.

Plymouth-Canton Trustee Adrienne Davis, the board's newest member, offered a motion to pass the resolution supporting the RESA plan, She said voters should be allowed to decide for themselves.

"For me, it's purely civics,"

Please see MILLAGE, A5



"Around Canton" is designed to announce upcoming events taking place in the community, Items will run on a space-available basis, Send details to bkadrich@hometownlife.com

Open House

St. Michael Christian School, located at 7000 N. Sheldon in Canton, is hosting an open house for the 2010-2011 school year on 6-7:30 p.m. Thursday, May 6.

The school offers preschool and elementary, including Young Fives and all-day kindergarten.

Contact the school office at (734) 459-9720 for more information, or view website at www.st.michael-church.org.

Color guard audition

The Plymouth-Canton Marching Band Color Guard is holding clinics at Plymouth High School from 6-8 p.m. May 10-12 for anyone interested in joining the Fall Guard. Color guard auditions take place Monday, May 17, from 6-8 p.m.

Color guard members use a combination of dance and ath-

letics mixed with use of rifles, sabers, flags, and other props. Auditions are open to any student in the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools grades 9th through 12th.

Observer & Eccentric | Thursday, April 29, 2010

As members of the
Plymouth-Canton Marching
Band, Color Guard members
participate in all competitions
including the Grand National
Band Championships in
Indianapolis in November.

If anyone is interested in further information they can contact Color Guard Director, Jennifer Leseth at Jenifo30@ gmail.com.

Field fund-raiser

Field Elementary's seventh annual Fun Fair takes place 5:30-9 p.m. on May 7 at 1000 S. Haggerty in Canton. The public is welcome, and food and concessions will be available.

Raffle tickets will sell for \$5, and prizes include \$1,000 Visa Gift Card, Small Flat Screen TV, Lap Top, XBox and game bundle and a Digital Camera. Raffle tickets will be available to purchase the evening of the



Extra mile

St. John Neumann Catholic Church in Canton presents 'Going the Extra MYLE' with inspirational speaker Mike Patin Monday through Wednesday, May 17-19, and Friday through Sunday, May 21-23. Sunday presentation is from 2-3:45 p.m. in the afternoon and all other presentations are from 6-7:45 p.m. Patin uses humor, sacred stories, and life experiences to affirm the goodness of God's presence while inviting others to take the next step in the journey with God. The cost of \$6 per person, children 4 and under free, includes hors d'oeuvres as well as materials to use at home to continue the experience. Call ahead at (734) 455-5910 to make a reservation. St. John Neumann is located at 44800 Warren Road between Sheldon and Canton Center in Canton.

event; the drawing takes place at 8:45 p.m. (need not be present to win).

A Silent Auction will be held from 6-8:30 p.m. If you have a business and would like to donate to the Silent Auction, contact Sheila Smith at (734) 637-7891. Ticket drops for opportunities to win themed baskets donated and assembled by each classroom. Tickets are \$1 each or 12 for \$10.

Family events will include a cake walk, pop ring toss, face painting, cash cube, carnival-type games, hospital room, fortune-telling and more. Each child who plays games will win a prize. Wristbands are \$10 at the door or tickets 4 for \$1.

All proceeds to benefit Field Elementary's students, including educational needs (books, classroom equipment, subscriptions, etc) and new playground equipment.

E-waste day

Canton Township and Goodwill Industries of Greater Detroit partner to offer a free electronic waste collection in Canton 8 a.m. to noon Saturday, May 8, at the Canton Division of Public Works Building, 4847 Sheldon in Canton. This free event is open to all Wayne County residents.

Proceeds from recycled materials support Goodwill Industries' job training programs and career services helping residents of Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties secure jobs by overcoming barriers to employment. Goodwill Industries is the only organization solely dedicated to fighting unemployment in Metro Detroit.

Only the following items will be accepted: computer monitors, CPUs, printers, keyboards, mouse devices, cell phones, copiers, scanners and fax machines. No boxes, manuals, software or televisions will be accepted.

Supporters are reminded to remove all sensitive and personal information before donating or recycling electronic equipment. Reformatting hard drives or deleting files from a computer may not be enough. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency provides two fact sheets with information about donating electronic items at www.epa.gov http://www.epa.gov.

All collected materials will be recycled within the United

Historical speaker

The Canton Historical Society hosts its last spring speaker series 7 p.m. Wednesday, May 12, at the Canton Museum, located on Canton Center Road just south of Cherry Hill.

The speaker will be Jeniffer Huff, a Ph.D candidate in modern American history at Ohio State University. The topic will be on multi-district busing plan to desegregate the Detroit Public School students from Detroit. In June 1972 federal district court Judge Stephen J. Roth ruled in favor of multi-district busing. It sparked a controversy throughout metro Detroit.

In "the battle over busing" Huff will examine the controversy on the local level in the late 1960s and early 1970s.

For additional information contact the museum at (734) 397-0088, e-mail cantonhist@comcast.net or visit www.cantonhistoricalsociety.org

CORRECTION

Madonna University will hold its commencement ceremony Sunday, May 2. The wrong date was published in last Sunday's *Observer*.



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Board votes increase in water, sewer rates

BY DARRELL CLEM OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

As expected Tuesday, the Canton Township Board of Trustees voted to support a water-sewer rate hike that will cost an average household an additional \$47.41 every threemonth billing period, or nearly \$190 a year.

But, the decision to raise rates 16.9 percent for an average household using 32,283 gallons of water each quarterly billing cycle came amid more criticism of the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department.

"We have been ripped off the suburbs have been ripped off - for years," Trustee John Anthony said.

His remarks came as the latest rate hike - earlier laid out during three public forums and a township board study session - won approval offset a 15-percent increase from Detroit, pay local maintenance costs and boost the water-sewer fund toward the \$11-million mark, closer to where consultants say it should be.

As a formality, the township board still will have to amend a local ordinance to reflect the rate increase, which takes effect in June.

Some local officials have indicated they are hopeful Detroit's water-sewer operations will continue to become more transparent amid leadership changes. They have said some progress already has been made.

Still, that didn't stop the criticism that continued Tuesday during a township board meeting.

"To my judgment, they've been stealing as much as they can steal," resident Anthony

they have little recourse when Detroit socks the township with a rate hike.

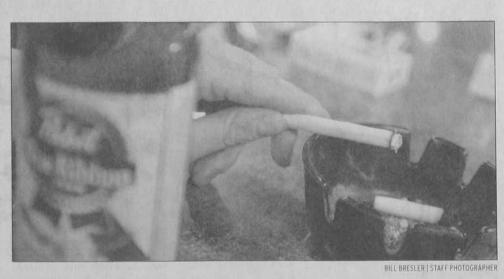
"We're sort of a captive customer, if you will," Trustee Todd Caccamo said.

Supervisor Phil LaJoy recalled a move led years ago by then-state Sen. Laura Toy, R-Livonia, to increase suburban representation in Detroit water-sewer operations.

"We were never able to get that through," he said.

Trustee Syed Taj also pointed to another reason why local rates have become higher. He said Canton didn't increase rates at all in 2004 and 2005 — and approved only a minimal rate hikes in other vears. He said those decisions have forced the township to compensate now with larger

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Some smokers, like Katie Stropes, think they may smoke less when the new law takes effect.

Nest for "the great food," and she had approached Tassielli about a

"He was extremely enthusiastic," she said.

fund-raiser to fight cancer.

eager to help an organization that fights cancer.

munity fund-raisers before, and Tassielli has been promoting the latest event with help from his employees, patrons and the social networking site Facebook. He said he was

Crow's Nest has had com-

"I think everyone has been

touched by it one way or another," he said. "I'm happy to do something.'

For more information about ACS CAN - the nation's leading advocacy organization fighting cancer - go online to www.acscanorg.

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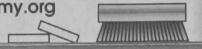
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PUBLIC SAFETY

CRIME WATCH



Thiefs steal, damage during home invasion

A woman who lives at the Crossing of Canton, southeast of Joy Road and I-275, told police she was the victim of a home invasion while she was attending a party in Detroit between midnight and the morning hours of Saturday.

The woman returned to find that several items including jewelry had been taken. She also reported that several items appeared to have been destroyed, such as a pair of eveglasses.

It wasn't clear how the intruder got into the apartment.

Vicodin stolen

2 A woman told police some-one entered her car while it was parked at the Borders bookstore on Ford Road at Morton Taylor between noon and 12:35 p.m. last Thursday.

The woman, who wasn't sure if she had locked the vehicle. said her glove box was open and that someone had taken prescription Vicodin she had left in an area between the front seats

windows rolled down a few

She also said she had left her

Felony warrant

3 Canton police who made a traffic stop for a loud exhaust arrested a female driver who was wanted in Ypsilanti for a felony warrant for uttering and publishing - or writing bad checks.

The traffic stop was made about 10:50 p.m. April 21 on westbound Cherry Hill near Denton. Police arranged to meet Ypsilanti police at Michigan Avenue and Rawsonville, where she was turned over to them.

Dumpster blaze

4 Police responded to reports of a Dumpster fire that Canton firefighters were dousing around 4:15 p.m. Friday near Jefferson and Coolidge in Cherry Hill Village. The Dumpster was fully engulfed in flames before local officials arrived. Residents didn't report seeing any suspicious activity.

- Compiled by Darrell Clem from

Charges filed in Target robbery

BY DARRELL CLEM OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Two men with criminal histories have been charged amid allegations they committed an unarmed robbery and fled from Canton police during an incident that occurred March 28 at the Target store on Michigan Avenue near Beck, authorities said Tuesday.

Two women still are facing lesser charges for the same incident, Detective Sgt. Dave Schreiner said.

The charges stem from a 4 p.m. incident in which police say three suspects went into Target, stuffed merchandise into purses and a backpack, then fled in a car driven by a fourth suspect.

One male suspect punched a security employee in the head and threatened him while fleeing the store, police said.

Authorities in the Ypsilanti area arrested the two men and turned them over to Canton police, Schreiner said. One of

the women was in custody in another community and was facing charges in Canton, and a second female was being sought Tuesday afternoon.

Darryl Lamont Gardner, 31, was arraigned Monday in 35th District Court on charges of unarmed robbery, receiving and concealing stolen property and being a fourth-degree habitual offender, Schreiner said.

Gardner was jailed with a \$100,000 cash bond set by 35th District Judge James Plakas and ordered back in court May 7 for a preliminary examination that will determine whether he should stand trial in Wayne County Circuit Court, according to a district court clerk.

A not-guilty plea was entered for him. If convicted as charged, Gardner could face penalties ranging up to life in prison as a habitual offender.

Gardner's arraignment came six days after 31-yearold parolee James Edward Jackson, accused of driv-

ing the getaway vehicle, was arraigned in 35th District Court on charges of unarmed robbery, fleeing and eluding police, receiving and concealing stolen property, being an accessory after the fact to a felony and being a fourthdegree habitual offender, Schreiner said.

Jackson was jailed with a \$25,000/10 percent bond set by 35th District Magistrate Eric Colthurst and ordered back in court April 30 for a preliminary examination to determine whether he should stand trial, according to the court.

A not-guilty plea also was entered for Jackson. If convicted, he, too, could face penalties ranging up to life in prison as a habitual offender.

The two women still are facing one-year misdemeanor charges in Canton for retail fraud and receiving and concealing stolen property, police said.

Schreiner credited tips received from the public for helping to lead a Canton police authorities said.

detective, Mike Wells, to the defendants.

"He did a good job of taking that tip information, identifying these people and getting them arrested without incident," Schreiner said.

Still, Canton police are asking anyone who witnessed the Target incident to come forward with information. Additional tips may be made by calling the Canton Police Department at (734) 394-5400.

According to the Michigan Department of Corrections, Gardner was released from prison in 2007 after he served over 11 years for assault with intent to go great bodily harm (less than murder) and felony firearms.

Jackson, meanwhile, was paroled last May and has spent time in prison for possession of cocaine and receiving and concealing stolen property. Jackson could be facing additional penalties for a parole violation and would likely not be allowed to post bond,

Police ask for help finding still-missing girl

BY DARRELL CLEM OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Canton police have issued a new call for the public's help in locating a 15-year-old girl reported missing by her foster mother on March 1.

"We're still very much looking for this girl," Detective Sgt. Dave Schreiner said Tuesday, "and we're still asking the public to maintain their attention in looking for her.'

Redford resident Michelle O'Brien said in late March that her daughter, Devon Kroetsch, spent several months in a girls Canton Police Department reports home in Vassar before she was

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Canton Police are still looking for help finding Devon Krotesch. a 15-year-old missing since March 1.

placed in a less-restrictive Canton home she fled nearly two months ago.

O'Brien said her daughter briefly phoned her a few times after she fled the home, saying she was safe but refusing to disclose her whereabouts.

Early on, Canton police released Devon's photo to

the media and received tips indicating the girl had been seen in Ypsilanti, Belleville, Sumpter Township, Redford, Detroit and Waterford.

Authorities investigated those tips and followed up on other leads but, as of Wednesday, the girl hadn't been found.

The Canton Police Department issued a new statement Tuesday, saying it "is continuing to search for Devon and asks for the public's continued support in reporting any information that will assist in bringing about Devon's safe return.

Anyone who has information is urged to call Canton police at (734) 394-5400.

Meanwhile, the Canton Community Foundation has worked with Devon's family to create a reward fund for information leading authorities to

To learn more about the foundation's effort and ways to donate, go online to www. cantonfoundation.org.

Devon was reportedly last seen March 1 at Belleville High School. She didn't return to her foster home that day.

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SINGH. @ &



Middle schools before moving on to Plymouth High School, the newest of the three high schools at the park

Counselors attended all of Friedow's classes Monday to offer support and help with students' grief, But Erin MacGregor, the associate principal at Plymouth High School, was struck by the amount of support that radiated through the building.

"We all knew her in the sense that she was involved in a lot," MacGregor said. "What I have been overwhelmed with today, in a positive sense, is that it's always hard for the kids. But the adults here in the building have been great. There's been an outpouring of support and memories not only from the students, but from the adults who knew her.

"It's always hard," MacGregor added. "But to see that kind of support from everyone ... that was good to

Marie-Kristin Friedow is survived by her parents, Thomas and Christel Friedow, and her sister, Michelle.

Visitation takes place 5-9 p.m. Friday, and again 1-5 p.m. Saturday, at Geneva Presbyterian Church, 5835 N. Sheldon (north of Ford Road), in Canton. The funeral service is 3 p.m. Sunday, May 2, at St. Michael's Lutheran Church, 7000 Sheldon (south of Warren), also in Canton.

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Davis said. 'I don't think it's up to me to get in the way of the public to decide whether to vote it up or down. The public gets to say yes or no.'

But board Treasurer Judy Mardigian said the district has other needs that will have to be considered in the near future - such as what to do with the 100-year-old Central Middle School - and shouldn't ask voters to vote on a measure that would send 40 percent of the money out of the

All Saints open house

All Saints Catholic School in

Canton hosts an open house on

Sunday, May 2, from noon to 3

p.m. At that time visitors will be invited to tour the school,

about their experiences at All

at www.allsaintscs.com and

click on "open house". More

information is also available

by calling the school office at

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meet the faculty and staff, and talk with current students

Saints Catholic School. Check the school's Web site

(734) 459-2490.

Rotary hosts

NEWS BRIEFS

"I don't think it's the right time," Mardigian said. "We're going to have other needs in the community in the short term. I don't want to ask the community to be a donor community. People are still suffering from ... the recession. This just isn't a good time.'

Trustee Dianne Gonzalez, reiterating support she expressed for the millage proposal as the only way to bring money into the district, said she would still favor it, but doesn't think voters share that enthusiasm.

"I'd really be in favor of doing this millage, because

In her book "The New

Frost writes that "Rotary

Youth Exchange is the best

option hands-down," and she

Rotary offering tips for par-

dedicates an entire chapter to

ents, stories from former Youth

Exchange students, and infor-

mation about the benefits and

To learn more about Rotary Youth Exchange and hosting a

student, contact Sue Kowalski at (734) 968-1436, or Bill Tesen

The Canton Place Seniors

hosts a White Elephant and Bake

sale 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Saturday, May 22, in the Community

Room at 44505 Ford Road (cor-

ner of Ford and Sheldon). The

Homemade baked goods

and lunch are available for

purchase. Proceeds benefit the Canton Place Resident

Association.

public is invited to attend.

challenges of the program.

at (734) 844-1374.

White elephants

Global Student," author Maya

don't think it's going to pass.'

RESA officials said they need support by May 18 to get it on the Aug. 3 ballot. Plymouth-Canton officials didn't say when they'd formally hear comments from the community. Their next regular board meeting is 7 p.m. May 10, though they are scheduled

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it's the only game in town," Gonzalez said Tuesday. "I just

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CHRISTMAS FROM PAGE AT

in six years, and chairman Jim Cisek of Canton hopes to expand the program to other communities such as Plymouth and Westland.

Inside Armstrong's home, self-employed painter Mike Remington spruced up a bathroom as he marked his second year with Christmas in Action. Outside, some volunteers used sledgehammers to rip out an old driveway in preparation for a new one, while others hauled debris to a Dumpster provided by Canton Waste Recycling.

"I think it's important to give back to the community that supports us," said Mary Goloback, manager of the Home Depot store near Michigan Avenue and Canton Center.

Across town, 62-year-old Mary Stretke fought back tears as volunteers showed up to start repairing a deteriorating chimney, driveway, a section of aluminum siding, sliding doorwall trim and her brick-and-concrete front porch. They also spread fresh topsoil over her back yard.

Observer & Eccentric | Thursday, April 29, 2010

"This means so much to me, just the fact that all these volunteers would come here and help me," said Stretke, a working yet struggling woman who plans to move her 98-year-old mother to her home. "I don't know how to thank all these wonderful people."

Stretke earlier had received a \$23,000 quote for work she needed done at her house.

"There's no way I would have been able to come up with all that money," she said.

Christmas in Action draws carpenters, plumbers, electricians, painters and other skilled trades workers, along with local students, Canton Township employees, the Plymouth Community United Way and other volunteers who support the program. Shakespeare Services of Garden City, a landscaping and maintenance company, hauled many of the work

materials to the various sites.
Saturday morning, volunteers gathered inside the township administration building before they fanned out across Canton to fix homes.

"It's another great example of government working with



Aileen Paterson rakes leaves at Casteen Armstrong's house.

citizen volunteers to provide a service at no cost," said Abe Vinitski, a Canton Township parks supervisor and Christmas in Action liaison. "It's the community coming together for a bigger cause."

Some homes get extensive repairs, others merely need a little outdoor sprucing up. Those receiving help apply for it and are screened. Christmas in Action is part of a national

program, headquartered in Midland, Texas, that has fixed thousands of homes since it was started in 1972.

Cisek, the local chairman, called Saturday's effort one of the best yet in Canton with at least 250 volunteers.

"It was awesome," he said.
"This has really been one of our best yet."

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PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Canton resident Casteen Armstrong was so thankful to see volunteers replace windows, clean out her garage, trim trees, paint her bathroom, rake her yard and bust up a section of deteriorating driveway so it could be replaced.



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Federal law protects from debt collector excesses

here is no doubt that in the current economic situation many people, particularly those in southeast Michigan, are having difficulties paying their debts.

Unfortunately, many people have had to make hard decisions as to which debt to pay.

The result is many people are being contacted by debt collectors either by the company that is owed the money or private debt col-

Money Matters lection compa-Rick Bloom nies. Although

most people who have not paid their debts are being treated properly, there are some who have been harassed by debt collectors.

Many people are under the mistaken belief that since they owe they have no recourse in dealing with the debt collectors. Not true. Even if there is no issue that the underlying debt is correct, debt collectors cannot harass you. You have

Under the federal Fair Debt Collection Act, debtors have rights. However, in order to enforce them you have to be proactive. Therefore, if you are in a situation where you feel that a debt collector is threatening or harassing, you need to exercise your right.

I encourage everybody to

pay their debts and if they cannot, to work with creditors on a resolution. However, the fact that you do not pay does not give creditors and debt collectors the right to run

Like all federal laws, the Fair Debt Collection Act is somewhat cryptic and difficult to understand. However, there are many places consumers can go to learn more about their rights. One place is www. ftc.gov. In addition, there is a lot of information on the Internet.

Although it is impossible to discuss the entire act in this column, there are certain things that debt collectors are forbidden to do. For example, unless you agree otherwise, a debt collector can only contact you between the hours of 8 a.m. and 9 p.m. If a debt collector is contacting you after 9 p.m. they are in violation of the law. In addition, a debt collector cannot contact you at work or contact your neighbors, friends or family.

Debt collectors are also forbidden to claim they are attorneys (if they are not) or that they work for the government. Neither can a debt collector claim that he/she works for a credit reporting company or by failing to pay your debt you've committed a crime.

I've heard stories where debt collectors claim that if you do not pay the debt they can assess you with interest or additional fees. They cannot.

Unless the original contract that deals with the underlying debt allows this, there are forbidden to assess additional

Many people are saying so what. If they violate my rights what can I do. I am already in debt, therefore, I cannot afford to hire an attorney to enforce my rights. This is where the law helps individuals. Under the Fair Debt Collections Act, if an attorney does take a case and the debtor wins in court, the debt collector must pay your attorney fees. Because of this, more attorneys are starting to specialize in this type of litigation.

If you are harassed or threatened there are attorneys that will take your case knowing that they will be able to collect fees from the collection companies. Last year, there was a 60 percent increase from 2008 on the number of federal lawsuits filed claiming violations of the Fair Debt Collections Act. The bottom line is you have rights and they are enforceable.

If you need the name of an attorney who can handle cases regarding the Fair Debt Collections Act, do not hesitate to contact me. Good luck!

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

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OUR VIEWS

Risk outweighs millage benefit

Minds appear to be changing on the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools Board of Education, and we think that's probably a good thing.

Just a couple of weeks ago, the board seemed poised to back a 1.9-mill school enhancement proposal being floated by Wayne RESA, a measure that would raise more than \$97 million for county districts. With 1994's Proposal A restricting most districts from raising money any other way, RESA officials feel as though this enhancement millage - which only RESA can put on the ballot - is necessar

And Plymouth-Canton board members seemed to agree, pointing out the fact it's highly unlikely state legislators were going to address funding inadequacies in any other substantive manner, particularly in an election year, when raising taxes is proportionately more distasteful to politicians seeking re-election.

But, apparently after hearing from an increasing number of constituents who do not want a millage passed, board members Tuesday decided to table a resolution supporting the millage. Instead, they'll put the item on an agenda and take public comment in an effort to get a better handle on how to deal with the question.

But we have a question of our own: Why wait? Really, how much more input do trustees need? Plymouth-Canton voters turned down bond proposals in both 2006 and 2007, and that was before the hardest part of the economic decline Michigan has seen in the last few years.

Now, faced with being a donor district - only 60 percent of the money raised by the tax in Plymouth-Canton will actually come back to the district; the rest will be distributed to other districts — it seems highly unlikely voters will be in favor of the RESA

Of course, as Superintendent Dr. Craig Fiegel pointed out, RESA only needs districts representing 51 percent of the county's students to support the measure to get it on the Aug. 3 primary ballot. That means Plymouth-Canton voters could wind up paying the tax even if they oppose it here.

Trustee Adrienne Davis might be right - she thinks the voters should get the chance to say "yay" or "nay" for themselves. There's something to be said for that. But the risk of the measure passing and placing a tax burden they don't want on the shoulders of Plymouth-Canton taxpayers doesn't seem

Vote for Goci, levy

On Tuesday, May 4, voters in the Wayne-Westland Community Schools will make two important decisions: who should represent their interests by filling a four-year term on the school board. They also will decide if the district should continue to levy its 18mill nonhomestead property tax.

In the school board race, incumbent John Goci of Westland is being challenged by Karen Wilkie of Wayne for a four-year term on the school board. After interviewing both candidates and reviewing their responses to our written questions, we believe **John Goci** should be re-elected to the school board.

Goci has done well during his first year on the school board. He has shown himself to be a man of his word and stands by his commitment to the children and to seeing that they get the best education. He is not afraid to vote no — as in the closing of six elementary schools and seeking concessions from employees to trim \$19 million from the district

Goci provides an alternative view and a voice to residents who believe they are not being heard by the board. However, if re-elected, we would like to see Goci be more involved. It's easy to say you don't agree; the hard part is offering constructive alterna-

We also urge voters to yes on the renewal of the 18-mill nonhomestead tax levy. It's a win-win situation. The district will continue to receive the \$19.5 million the tax raises and it won't cost primary homeowners a single penny.

Renewal of the nonhomestead tax is a quirk of Proposal A. It is the one piece of the legislation that requires voter approval. Unlike the six mills levied statewide on primary residences, the nonhomestead tax is paid by the owners of commercial, industrial and some personal property. If it isn't renewed the district would have to make drastic cuts to balance its budget

That said, we urge voters to re-elect John Goci to the school board and vote YES on the 18-mill nonhomestead tax renewal in the Tuesday, May 4, school election.

C) GANNETT

Brad Kadrich Community Editor

Susan Rosiek **Executive Editor** / Publisher

Grace Perry Director of Advertising

COMMUNITY VOICE

How do you think the Detroit Tigers will do this season?

We asked this guestion at the Canton Public Library.



"I'm not a baseball fan. I don't follow it. I prefer cricket instead."

Kwabena Asante



"I hope fantastically well. It's exciting."

Betty Kitti Canton



"I don't even know. I go to maybe one game a year (during a fund-raiser) for Children's Hospital in Detroit."

Melissa Medford Romulus



"I think they're going to win their division."

Richard Bonk Westland

LETTERS

Act of kindness

The Mom Prom took place Friday evening at St. Thomas a'Becket Catholic Church. One of the best stories of the night

took place prior to prom at Holiday Market.

I went to Holiday Market to pick up a
few items prior to the start of prom. I was wearing my prom gown from 1988, sneakers, and big '80s hair (I always wear sneakers because I say, "The dress is for prom, the shoes are for mom!") A few people were standing in line ahead of me, saw my outfit and had to ask what was going on.

I explained to them about The Mom Prom and the families for whom we are raising money. The two men in line ahead of me took out their wallets and handed me money for the families in need. I was standing there with a fist full of money.

Canton is truly a wonderful community. This act of kindness from two strangers is a perfect example of the generosity and kindness seen throughout our community. These two strangers heard that a Canton family was in need and they responded in a selfless act of kindness.

I would love to thank those strangers for their generosity.

Betsy Crapps

Shared sacrifice

I am writing to applaud Mr. Donald Zaksek for his courageous op-ed article in the Thursday, April 22, Canton Observer.

As Mr. Zaksek stated, times have changed and we need an aggressive approach to contain the ever-increasing costs to educate our children. I for one whole-heartedly support Mr. Zaksek if he is so inclined to run for a position with our school board. He seems to fully understand that our teachers must reduce their inflated salaries and benefits. This includes elimination of the old defined pension plan that is totally out of touch with what is normally offered and available to the rest of us in private industry today.

If we had men with the fortitude of Mr. Zaksek on the board in the past or present, we undoubtedly would not be in our present situation.

G. Gordon Canton

Thanking McLaughlin

We would like to extend our most sincere thanks to Canton Township Treasurer Melissa McLaughlin and the entire staff of the Canton Township Treasurer's office for their assistance during the past tax season.

Their consistent courtesy and professionalism in providing us and our clients with property tax information was very much appreciated. Their help enable us to file for the Michigan Homestead Credit for our clients who, for a variety of reasons, could not obtain this information themselves.

These are difficult times for many of our neighbors and our township has shown that they truly work for us

The staff of H&R Block Coventry Commons Shopping Center

Tea Party hypocrisy

The Tea Party Rebellion seems very hypocritical. If they truly want a smaller gov-

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

We welcome your Letter to the Editor. Please include your name, address and phone number for verification. We ask your letters be 400 words or less. We may edit for clarity, space and content. Submit letters via the following formats.

Web: www.hometownlife.com

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Blog: You may also let your opinions be heard with your own blog at hometownlife.com. Deadline: Letters must be received by 9 a.m.

Monday to be published in the Thursday edition.

ernment why are they speaking out about the absurdly high cost for the military and the expense of maintaining hundreds of bases around the world even in Germany and Japan?

When did World War II end? Where were they when Bush took a Clinton-era surplus and turned it into record deficits due to irresponsible tax cuts and the foolhardy war with Iraq. I don't hear a single Tea Party follower call for the elimination of Medicare or Social Security, probably because a lot of them are collecting these government benefits. Where are their calls for the privatization of public schools and public roads?

Thaddeus McCotter and his Tea Party movement are very disingenuous and unlike President Obama, lack the courage to tackle some of the most serious problems of our time, like the skyrocketing costs of health care, the energy crisis and our dangerous dependence on foreign oil and climate change, which next to nuclear war may be the greatest threat to ever befall our civilization. If you don't believe me or the president, then ask a scientist.

Maybe McCotter and the Tea Party, comprised of mostly older, white guys, are just a bit unsettled at the changing demographics of this country and the growing power of minorities. I guess after 230 years of older white guys running the country, change is hard to accept.

> Thaddeus J. Hejka Canton

Everywhere a sign

A recent NY Times/CBS poll found Tea Partiers more affluent and more educated than the average American. Apparently physical appearances belie the affluence and the signs, oh, those signs!

According to people like Sarah Palin the "lame stream liberal media," largely owned and operated by wealthy corporate conglomerates that are neither mainstream nor liberal, has inaccurately and unfairly portrayed the "noble" teabagger as an ignorant rube, among other things

If I was a Tea organizer or even a caring participant I might, in the interest of projecting the desired group image, approach those in my midst bearing signs with spelling and or grammatical errors and politely ask them to correct or dispose of the errant placards. After all, I wouldn't want people to think we were dumb.

While I was at it I may also point out to my fellow well-educated demonstrators that our signs fail to project intellectual consistency. Some signs accuse our presi-

dent of being a communist. Others insist Obama is a fascist, or a socialist or even the second coming of Hitler, which would make him a Nazi. Being so well educated, it must be that as a group we are just a little confused. At the risk of being accused of elitism, we have to pick one since these ideologies conflict. After all, I wouldn't want

people to think we were ill-informed. In order to dispel added rumblings about Tea Partiers, as a caring participant or organizer, in the absence of virtually any people of color, I would again suggest that those participating in demonstrations or rallies discard signs that could be interpreted as racist. After all, we wouldn't want people to think that we were racist and that the mere existence of a black man in the White House had more to do with our sudden political activism than the national debt or recently reduced taxes that the same poll said we, as Tea Partiers, think are

As an organizer or caring participant, I would also carefully suggest that demonstrators refrain from endorse watering trees with blood, or taking our country back or pointing out that "we came unarmed, this time" (although some did not). Oddly enough, some people get the idea that such signs suggest violence. After all, we wouldn't want people to think we were violent.

Apparently, Tea Party activists and their organizers either do not care about the images they project or they intend to send most of the messages that most of us are getting. Otherwise, the signs would have been cleaned up long ago.

> Mitch Smith Canton

Changing the focus

In response to the many letters and articles regarding the Tea Party movement, I would like to know how these people can possibly allow themselves to be whipped up into a frenzy by media pundits who are paid millions of dollars to tell them how to act, think and feel.

How can they be duped by millionaires who are paid by special interest groups to constantly repeat the same inaccurate information? Their main goal is to spread fear, hate and paranoia to the uninformed

Why are these people convinced that health insurance reform would destroy our country and create death panels and prison sentences for those who did not purchase health insurance? Why do they feel that insurance companies have the right to deny health care to those who become seriously ill and disabled or increase our premiums at will? By putting the socialist label on any type of regulation or reform, they are tak-

ing the focus off of the real issues. If these Tea Party protesters are really middle class Americans, as they claim to be, I would like to know how they feel about the fact that this year, people in their income bracket paid the lowest amount of taxes in 50 years. Would those who are protesting the payment of taxes like to see America turn into a Third World country, similar to Haiti or Somalia? Is that the Tea Partiers' interpretation of freedom?

Mary Young

Canton

Duo arrested for credit card theft

BY LEANNE ROGERS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Two men, one from Canton and the other from Plymouth, have been arrested by Westland police for using a credit card reported stolen April 20 from a Livonia McDonald's Restaurant.

An ethnic description provided for one suspect helped officers track down the two men.

The incident began when a Westland man said his wallet was lost or stolen at the restaurant on Farmington Road near Seven Mile. The man said he called to cancel a credit card around 10 p.m. and was told that someone had tried to use it earlier at the BP gas station at Wayne and Warren roads.

The man went to the gas station, he said, where he talked to the clerk who reported a young man had tried to use the card. The suspect gave the clerk the victim's driver's license along with the card, telling him it was his father's identification. The clerk wasn't buying it and didn't let the man use the credit card.

The gas station clerk told the detective the suspect had purchased two cartons of cigarettes using a credit card, then attempted to make a second purchase exceeding \$100. That's when the clerk said he asked for identification and stopped the sale.

The suspect and a second man left with the victim's wallet, identification and credit card, the clerk told police. The clerk described the suspects as regular customers.

On April 26, the victim called police and reported being contacted by a man who said he had found the missing wallet and its contents. The caller wanted to arrange a return of the items. The Westland man said someone he believed to be a messenger returned the wallet contents except one credit card and the wallet itself.

The victim had the caller's telephone number, listed to a Canton man. The officer called the Canton man, who told the officer he knew the two men and would have them come to see the officer.

The officer obtained a mugshot of the Canton man and recognized him as the suspect shown on the gas station surveillance video using the credit Later on April 26, the Canton man, 20, and a Plymouth man, 22, came into the station. The Plymouth man works at the McDonald's where the wallet was lost. He told the officer that another customer turned in the wallet but instead of contacting the customer or turning the wallet in, he decided that he and the Canton man should use the credit cards.

The Canton man told the officer he agreed with that account of the incident. He added that he had learned from a friend that police had his photo from the surveillance video.

The gas station clerk had described the Canton man as being Albanian. As a result, an officer who knows several members of the local Albanian community showed the suspects' photographs to one of those individuals. That person said he didn't know the men but the Canton man heard about the photos. The clerk was correct in his description — the Canton man listed his birthplace as Albania.

Both men were charged with fraudulently using a credit card.

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Canton man heads to trial for car break-ins

BY DARRELL CLEM

OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

A Canton man is facing trial in Wayne
County Circuit
Court for breaking into several parked cars in what may seem an unlikely place — near the

Canton Police March
Department
and township administration

Christopher Neil March, 20, has been ordered to stand trial after he voluntarily waived his preliminary examination Friday in 35th District Court — a decision that averted testi-

mony and sent the case to circuit court for disposition.

March was charged following allegations he had gone to the police station and was upset because some of his friends had been arrested for an unrelated incident, police Sgt. Mark Gajeski said. While there, he is accused of breaking into the vehicles.

March could face penalties ranging up to five years in prison if convicted of larceny from a motor vehicle. He could be sentenced to less time if he is found guilty of unlawful use of a motor vehicle, three counts of breaking and entering a vehicle, one count of operating while intoxicated, and committing a felony with a motor vehicle advisory.

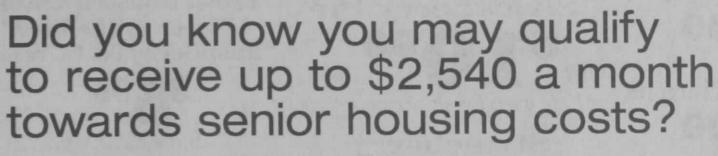
Police also have said March's driver's license could be suspended by the Secretary of State.

According to police, a township worker spotted a suspect entering and exiting several vehicles either owned by Canton Township or its employees.

Authorities said the incidents happened around 3 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 25, but March's preliminary examination had been delayed until last Friday.

The township employee who saw the break-ins quickly notified an on-duty police officer who questioned the suspect and recovered property that had been stolen from a couple of the vehicles.

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SECTION B

HOMETOWN LIFE



Kickers battle to draw

OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The latest chapter of the rivalry between the Salem and Plymouth girls soccer teams Monday night featured solid, back-and-forth action as the squads played to a 1-1 tie.

But the match was marred by injury. With about 32 minutes to go in the second half and the game still scoreless, a direct kick by Salem junior midfielder Kristina Klusek hit a wall of players stationed between her and Plymouth junior goalie Marissa Williams.

As players converged on the loose ball, however, Plymouth senior midfielder Carley McQuiston fell to the turf in agony after a loud, nasty collision with Salem junior defender Lindsey Roy.

Both players were going after the ball, Salem head coach Joe Nora said. However, Roy missed the ball and accidentally kicked McQuiston in the shin. The Wildcat sustained a serious enough (but undisclosed) injury to be transported via ambulance to a nearby hospital.

"It was cleat on bone," Nora said about the accident, which also resulted in a yellow card (10-minute) infraction against Roy.

McQuiston went down and stayed down on the spot, resulting in a long delay before the ambulance arrived.

Making the incident even more difficult is the fact the two girls are good friends during school hours at Plymouth-Canton Educational Park,

Wildcats senior defender Katie Krajewski said the team dug in deep to "win for Carley" and never gave up despite the unfortunate circumstances.

Also injured for Plymouth (4-1-2) with about two minutes remaining was Katelyn Quinlan, a junior defender. Quinlan was carted off the field after sustaining an apparent knee sprain.

TRADING CHANCES

According to Plymouth head coach Jeff Neschich, the injuries cut into his depth and hurt the Wildcats' ability to push the ball late.

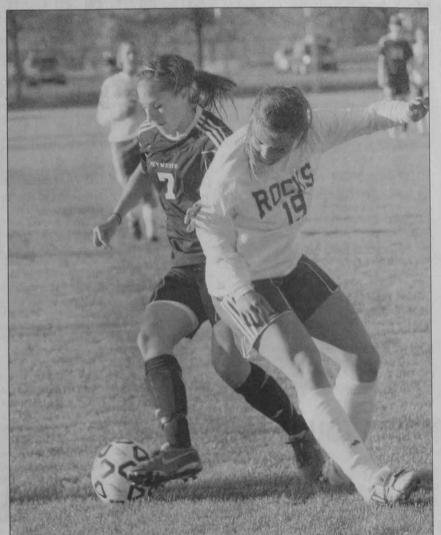
But Neschich praised his players for continuing to battle despite the

"I'm proud of the girls for how they played," he said.

The teams played a scoreless first half and it remained 0-0 as Williams leaped to deflect Klusek's direct kick over the crossbar with about 35 minutes to go.

Then the pumped up Wildcats took a 1-0 lead just four minutes after the McQuiston injury. Junior forward Jennifer Babcock ripped a laser beam of a shot from the right wing, about 20 yards from Salem junior netminder Jamie Hunley, that slammed into

Please see SOCCER, B2



Going all out for possession of the ball Monday night are Plymouth's Katie Krajewski (No. 7) and Salem's Madeleine Vala (No. 19).

Chiefs ride Dunleavy's hot arm, bat to string of wins

OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Canton softball senior Amy Dunleavy continues to dominate opponents both on the mound and at the plate and coach Jim Arnold's Chiefs

keep winning as a result. Dunleavy threw a complete game Monday and gave up just one run as Canton defeated always-tough KLAA rival Northville, 7-1. She also smacked three doubles in three at-bats to key an

11-hit barrage against the Mustangs. Saturday, she pitched a no-hitter and perfect game at the Macomb Softball Classic in Anchor Bay, against Sterling Heights Stevenson (8-0) and Armada

(4-0), respectively. "She has been (dominant)," Arnold said about Dunleavy. "Her pitching has improved tremendously from last year.

PREP SOFTBALL

She has more movement and she's hitting the corners.

"She's just determined as a senior that this is the year she wants to shine."

Canton as a unit also is shining, going 9-0 entering Wednesday's KLAA South twinbîll against Plymouth. Dunleavy's pitching is the glue, but the Chiefs have featured a multi-pronged hitting attack.

In the win against Northville, junior first baseman Kaitlyn Matson went 2-for-4 and drove in four runs with a single in the first and double in the sixth, while junior outfielder Lauren Leskovitz (2-for-3) knocked in two with a single in the first as Canton

built an early 3-0 lead. Junior shortstop CarolAnne Sexauer (2-for-4, double) also enjoyed a multihit game.

"What I'm really impressed about is how the team is staying together," Arnold said. "Everybody knows their role, we're uniting and everybody is hitting exceptionally well.

Saturday against Stevenson, Dunleavy didn't just throw a no-hitter, she went 3-for-4. Also with good games at the plate were Sexauer and Matson (each 2-for-3).

The Chiefs went on to earn a 6-4 win over Macomb L'Anse Creuse North, in a game spotlighted by sophomore Alyssa Boucher. She threw seven innings and gave up three earned runs for the victory, but she also went 3-for-3 in the batting department.

Others helping out with two hits each in the victory were Leskovitz, Sexauer and junior third baseman

Then it was more Dunleavy in the win over Armada, retiring all 21 bat-ters she faced (including seven strike-

Going 2-for-3 and knocking in a run with a triple was junior second baseman Samantha Partain.

SALEM 9, FRANKLIN 3: On Monday, the host Rocks (6-2) took advantage of four Franklin errors in the second inning to score six runs en route to a Kensington Conference crossover win over Livonia Franklin (5-4).

Winning pitcher Briana Lee homered during the six-run surge. She struck out eight, walked none and allowed six hits in six innings.

Franklin sophomore pitcher Tiffany Lamble (4-4) gave up four earned runs on nine hits. She struck out three and walked none.



Canton's Blake Rickert takes on the course in Winter Park, Colo., during the NASTAR Nationals and shows his bronze medal-winning technique.

Young skier on path to success

OBSERVER STAFF WRITER In February, the Rickert fam-

ily of Canton went vacationing out in mountainous Colorado to enjoy some downhill skiing, hot chocolate and the 2010 Winter Olympics on television.

Little did the dad, Rich Rickert, know he'd be bringing his then-10-year-old son Blake back just weeks later to compete in last month's two-day NASTAR Already a veteran of the slopes

at his young age, Plymouth Christian Academy fifth-grader Blake Rickert competed and won the bronze medal in the 9-10 age bracket at the Winter Park Resort in Colorado.

When I took him out there (his wife, Traci, stayed home) it was to just go and enjoy the experience," Rickert recalled. "I told him 'Look, son, if you come in first or you come in last I'm just proud of you for qualifying to come out

Then with astonishment in his voice, Rich laughed and added that "happily and to our surprise he took a bronze medal.'

"... Did we hope he'd do well? Certainly we did," he said. "But

Please see SKIER, B3



The bronze medal won by Blake Rickert certainly was a proud moment for his dad, Rich Rickert (right).

Whalers preparing for post-Seguin era

OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

They may be preparing for summer drive-in movies at Compuware Arena these days, but Mike Vellucci of the Plymouth Whalers can't wait to start next year's hockey

And that enthusiasm comes after a sour last act, an overtime loss to Windsor in Game 4 of the second round of the playoffs to eliminate Plymouth.

Yeah, we ran into the mighty Spits," said Vellucci, longtime president, general manager and coach of the Whalers. "This was supposed to be their year to win it, with all those first-round NHL picks.

"But I think we overachieved a little bit. Nobody was picking us to even do anything at the beginning (of the regular season).

Ironically, the biggest "star" around Compuware in 2009-10 - dynamic center Tyler Seguin — probably won't be back for Vellucci's Ontario Hockey League

"I think it would be a 90-percent chance that he makes it and 10-percent that they'd send him back," said Vellucci about Seguin, expected to be the first or second pick in June's



Hockey League Entry Draft. Vellucci said the top 2009 picks (John Tavares. Victor

Hedman, Matt Duchene) all played this past season in the NHL.

The 18-year-old Seguin (who attends Plymouth High School) and Windsor's Taylor Hall finished tied for the OHL scoring race with 106 points.

EXODUS OF TALENT

Vellucci also will lose several other key players who have (or likely will have) NHL contracts by next sea-

That list includes outstanding goalie Matt Hackett (2.62, 35-10-0-2, four shutouts), forwards AJ Jenks (23-40-63), Phil McRae (16-35-51) and defenseman Michal Jordan (13-19-32 in 41 games). Also gone due to being overage will be defenseman Leo Jenner, forward Joe Gaynor and center Ryan Hayes (OHL Humanitarian of the Year).

But Vellucci likes the younger guys who gained

Please see WHALERS, B4

Academic All-State Chiefs

The Canton Chiefs varsity girls basketball team didn't just get it done on the court. Members also excelled in the classroom, being named an Academic All-State team by the Basketball Coaches Association of Michigan.

Canton players, coached by Brian Samulski, finished with a combined GPA of 3.807, second only among Class A teams to Gibraltar Carlson's 3.892. In 2008-09, the Chiefs were the third-best in overall GPA.

"I think the biggest attribute to winning this award is their work ethic," Samulski said. "They all work just as hard in the classroom as they do on the court."

The Chiefs also were outstanding as a basketball team, making it to the state semifinals at MSU'S Breslin Center.

Saturday baseball clinic

The Plymouth Wildcats Youth Baseball Clinic is set to take place from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Saturday for youngsters in grades 3-8. Registrations at the door will be accepted.

Weather permitting, the camp will be outside at the Plymouth High School Baseball Complex. If it is raining, it will be moved to the gym.

There is only room for 100 campers. For more information, contact John Nadratowski of Plymouth Baseball Boosters at (734) 844-3212. The cost to sign up is \$60.

Run for the Rouge

The annual Run for the Rouge is just around the corner, Saturday, May 8, in

There will be a 5K Single Track Trail Run (beginning at 8 a.m.) with a 5K Family Fun Run/Walk slated for 9:30 a.m.

Both races will take place at the Lower Rouge Recreation Trail of Canton, tion at Connection Church (3855 S. Sheldon Road in Canton).

Proceeds will support Rouge Rescue, an annual river clean up event coordinated throughout the Rouge River watershed by Friends of the Rouge, a nonprofit organization.

To register online, go to www.therouge.org.

Plymouth arid meeting

Next season's Plymouth Wildcats football players and their parents are invited to attend a mandatory meeting slated 6:30-9 p.m. Tuesday in the cafeteria at Plymouth High School.

Head coach Mike Sawchuk and his entire staff will be introduced and parents will receive "all the important paperwork necessary for your studentathlete to participate in the upcoming football season."

Any questions, please contact Sawchuk at (734) 582-5696 or via e-mail at Mike. Sawchuk@pccsmail.net.

CYO fall volleyball

St. John Neumann Catholic Church of Canton is seeking any fourththrough eighth-grade girls interested in playing CYO volleyball this coming fall. All home games will be played in the new state of the art gym that opened in November 2009.

Any member of St. Thomas a'Becket, Resurrection and St. John Neumann churches are eligible to play. The season begins in August and ends in early October. To register, call athletic director Walt Marek at (734) 455-5910.

Rocks win on walk-off single

Observer & Eccentric | Thursday, April 29, 2010

Tate Theisen singled in the bottom of the seventh Monday to enable host Salem to earn a 6-5 victory over Livonia Franklin

Theisen's single followed one by Chris Kordick with the bases loaded to tie the KLAA baseball contest at 5-5. Two walks and an error also helped Salem's winning rally.

Starting pitcher Kordick went the distance for his second win of the season, giving up three earned runs, striking out five and only walking one.

Salem (7-8, 2-4 in the KLAA) banged out 10 hits, with Nick Leventis and Scott Devine each contributing two (with two runs scored each).

Kordick and Theisen drove in two runs while Brad Trublowski tripled and scored

On Saturday, the Rocks split a doubleheader against Milan, Salem lost the opener 6-5, but bounced back to win 5-3 in the nightcap, stopping a three game losing skid

Salem broke a 3-3 tie in the fifth. Devine doubled and Kordick homered to right. Kordick also doubled home Devin Price (RBI single) to

spark a three-run third that also included a run-scoring hit by Theisen.

to go up 3-1.

Eric Lorber pitched four solid innings of relief for his first win of the year, with senior Mike Weingrot blanking Milan in the seventh for the save.

Despite the Game 1 loss, sophomore Matt Constance accounted well for himself by only giving up one earned run in five innings.

Nick Leventis went 3-for-3 while Kordick and Price contributed two hits each.

Strike out cancer

· Salem and Plymouth will square off Saturday, May 8 in a doubleheader. But proceeds from that day's concessions, baked goods sales and a raffle will go to a good cause -

"Strike Out Prostate Cancer." The freshman, junior varsity and varsity teams for both schools will participate with

action slated to begin at 11 a.m. Organizing the event are baseball boosters programs for Salem and Plymouth, and the goal is to raise more than \$1,000 for the cause.

NORTHVILLE 3, CANTON 2: The host Mustangs got off to a 3-0 lead in the first and held on for the KLAA crossover baseball win on Monday.

Canton committed four errors, victimizing starting pitcher Kevin Delapaz (6 innings, 0 earned runs, 7 strikeouts).

Offensive producers for the Chiefs were Andrew Tidwell (1B, RBI) and Bernabie Salinas (2B, run).

PLYMOUTH CHRISTIAN 15, BAPTIST PARK 0: In a fourinning mercy Tuesday, Plymouth Christian Academy pitcher Jon Slater threw a perfect game to highlight the victory against Taylor Baptist

Slater struck out six and chipped in with two hits as the Eagles rolled on offense, too.

Ethan Walker and Matt Dodson each homered, with Dodson also doubling twice and knocking in a total of seven runs.

Josh Johnson collected three hits (including a double) and three RBI while Daniel Slater (double, triple), JR Hope and Matt Hagelin (2 hits each) provided some spark at the plate.

PREP GAME WRAPS



Salem junior attacker Dylan Hatcher (No. 6) works against Canton senior defender Alec Gilo during Monday's boys lacrosse tilt at PCEP.

Boys lacrosse

CANTON 12, SALEM 7: After ripping Walled Lake Central 9-4 on April 23, Salem's varsity boys lacrosse team got off to a strong start early during Monday's matchup against Canton at Plymouth-Canton Educational Park.

The Rocks tallied four goals in the first quarter. But Canton finally started chipping away and turned on the heat in the second half on the way to a 12-7 triumph.

Canton (5-4) was led by cocaptain Jake Underwood, who scored four goals and tallied an assist. Chipping in with two goals each were Matt Rodgers (also I assist), Tim Popp and Trevor Moore (also 1 assist).

Also strong offensively was Riley Hoernschemeyer (1 goal, 2 assists). Chris White scored a goal and senior defenseman Alec Gilo collected a helper, which Dmen rarely get in lacrosse.

Stopping 15 Salem shots for the win was goalie and co-captain Sean Walsh.

Scoring two goals each for the Rocks were Nick Gianini, Steve Haburne and Connor Berlin with Dylan Hatcher

also scoring.

SALEM 9, WLC 4: Meanwhile, on April 23, Hatcher, Haburne and Berlin each registered two goals in the win over the Vikings. Salem played a complete game, with solid ball control and defense.

Also finding the scoresheet with one goal each for the

Rocks were Gianini, Mason Amin and Wes Carr.

Boys golf

SALEM 168, NORTHVILLE 160: Aaron Thompson scored a 40 for nine holes Tuesday as Salem defeated host Northville

at Tanglewood Golf Club. Eric Duprey and Brandon Duprey also had excellent rounds with respective scores of 41 and 43 strokes while Josh Perrin registered a 47. Other Rocks were Brian Patterson (44) and Jake Leib (51).

For the Mustangs, Alex Bernstein and Trevor Grigg shot scores of 40 and 41,

The win improved Salem's record to 1-1 while Northville improved to 3-0.

Plymouth defeats tough Novi squad

On a wind-swept afternoon Monday, Plymouth breezed to a 6-3 KLAA baseball win over state-ranked Novi

Wildcats head coach Bryan Boyd said it was "a big win for us. Novi is state ranked and a perennial powerhouse.'

Plymouth pitcher Harrison Michels was the story. He no hit Novi for 5 2/3 innings and wound up giving up two hits while fanning nine.

As usual junior centerfielder Mike Nadratowski made a clutch defensive play, racing far into the gap in left to flag

down a fly ball that could have tied the game in the seventh. Infielder Ben Wohl also turned a tough hop into a key out.

On the offensive end, Rich Guglielmi (3 hits, 3 RBI) tallied two doubles and a single and could have cleared the fence if not for the strong gusts. Scoring two runs each were Wohl and Phil Emminger (2 hits).

PLYMOUTH 8-7, PINCKNEY 4-12: The Wildcats split a Saturday home twinbill. In the opener, pitcher Andy Dodge scattered seven hits and gave up one

earned run in five innings for his first victory.

Guglielmi had two hits, Jackson Burdette, Wohl and Tyler Goble each scored twice and Ryan Nick drove in two

"We picked up the ball for A.D. (Dodge)," Boyd said. "He did a nice job keeping their hitters off balance

A mistake-filled Game 2 to forget followed, unfortunately. Plymouth did receive productive games from Nadratowski (3B, HR, 2 RBI, 2 runs) and Guglielmi (2 hits).

the top corner of the goal on the far side.

With about 23 minutes remining, Hunley also stopped a long-range scoring bid by junior forward McKenzie Hengish, keeping it a one-goal margin. That enabled the Rocks to even things with 20:56

Quick and agile senior midfielder Taylor Burgoon dribbled up the right side of the pitch before sending a crisp crossing pass across the front of the Plymouth

Racing in from the left side was senior midfielder Abbi Giaier, who headed the ball behind Williams.

Salem had some big chances to score the winner, especially with 8:45 to go when freshman forward Gina Goble drove a shot off the crossbar. Rocks junior defender Jenna Coon set up the play, threading the ball to Goble — above the box in the center of the field. midfielder Katelynn Krause (No. 10).



Looking to get past Plymouth defender Stephanie Dillon (No. 4) on Monday is Salem sophomore

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B3

Campus rivals among favorites **SKIER**

BY BRAD EMONS OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Handicapping Saturday's 40th running of the Observerland Boys Track and Field Relays is going to be as tough as finding a favorite after Eskendereya was scratched from the Kentucky Derby

First, there's defending champion Novi-Detroit Catholic Central, which is gunning for its fifth Observerland title in the 15-school meet which will be hosted by Farmington High.

The Shamrocks, bolstered by their 2009 Division 1 state championship cross country team, will once again be a force to be reckoned with.

Last year's Observerland runner-up, Salem, appears to be another solid choice. But the Rocks took a back seat last week to campus rival Plymouth in the Bolger-Mangan Memorial City Meet.

The Wildcats were led by distance runners Warren Buzzard, Matt Neumann and Joe Porcari, along with hurdler Brandon Piligian.

Salem, meanwhile, will get a boost from its 4 x 400 relay team which has already gone

"I expect us to be in conten-

PLYMOUTH 7, WESTLAND JOHN GLENN 2 April 27 at Plymouth

No. 1 singles: Sarah Mitchell (P) defeated Latina Yacks, 6-1, 6-0: No. 2: Priya Joshi (P)

def. Louissa Villaroman, 6-3, 7-5; No. 3: Lindsay

Stemberger (P) def. Rachael Alholinna, 6-0, 6-1; No. 4: Sara Aulidge (JG) def. Mandy Martin, 6-4

No. 1 doubles: Desiree Clenney-Shannon

McDadden (JG) def. Allison Santon-Lauren Jeong. 7-6(5), 7-6(1): No. 2: Kayla Griffey-Britta Swanson

(P) def. Sabrina Lawrence-Jamatha Johnson, 7-5, 6-3; **No. 3**; Andrea Haidar-Brittany Rose (P)

def. Emily White-Montana Graszak, 6-1, 6-2: No.

Hawkins-Khadiah McCloud, 6-0, 6-0; No. 5: Jahnv

GIRLS TENNIS RESULTS

OBSERVERLAND RELAYS

tion for first place in a number of events, but we would have to have a lot of things fall the right way for us to win the meet as a whole," Salem coach Kyle Meteyer said. "I think we can excel in the throwing relays, the 4 x 400, the high jump relay, and a few others, but we've been hurt lately by injuries and discipline issues.

The main contenders will be Catholic Central and Plymouth, I believe. They're well matched, especially in the distance events.

Livonia Churchill coach Rick Austin, now in his 16th year with the Chargers, has seen a few Observerlands in his time going all the way back to his days as a prep hurdler at his alma mater.

"It looks like Plymouth and Salem have a great opportunity to win with their team depth," he said. "Don't count out Stevenson and a much improved (Livonia) Franklin team either. You've got to be able to score in all of the events to have a strong showing.

"We are work in progress and want to be competitive and score in as many events as

SALEM 8. LIVONIA STEVENSON 1

April 27 at Stevenson No. 1 singles: Allie Carpenter (S) defeated

Laura Gumpper, 5-7, 6-3, 6-3; No. 2: Anna Normar

(S) del. Ashley Benvenuti, 6:0, 6:3; No. 3: Morgan

Spencer (S) del. Taylor Tinham, 6-0, 6-0; No. 4: Kerry MacDonald (S) def. Meyessa Mansour, 6-1, 6-1

No. 1 doubles: Rachel Norman-Ashley Davis

No. 2: Mallory Rojo-Ashley Walker (S) def. Simona Enea-Lexie Ranski, 4-6, 6-0, 6-2, No. 3: Alex Lamb

Olivia Gonzalez (S) del Lauren Arsenault-Allison

Kay, 6:3, 6:2; No. 4: Kathryn Malkowski-Andrea

(LS) del Ewa Zajac-Bansari Patel, 6-2 6-1. No. 5: Emily Simmons-Lindsey Spaulding (S) def. Emily Baumgartner-Kelsey Futrell, 3-6, 7-6(5)

Michele DeBeaudry-Emily Plumley, 6-1, 6-2

whirlwind couple months for the Rickerts, especially Blake, In February, the Rickerts

Cochran.

went to Colorado for a ski vacation, something the family has regularly enjoyed in recent

did I have the expectation he'd

According to Rickert, the

5-foot, 100-pound Blake, now

course with agility required to

11, navigated a giant slalom

"You've got to cut your

quickest line around the

quickest," Rich stressed.

that way.

poles to get to the bottom

"Obviously, you don't want to

because you lose a ton of time

take wide turns on the flags

They also brought home

some memories, since Rich and Blake met three-time

Olympian skier Phil Mahre.

"I don't know if Blake was

more excited about that or I

was," joked Rich about the

I didn't get to do it, he did.

encounter with Mahre. "But

And he got to meet (past and

present Olympians) AJ Kitt,

That experience capped a

Kaylin Richardson, Jimmy

The youngster even got to

briefly ski with Mahre.

get from start to finish.

come back with some hard-

ware? I did not.

MAJOR MEMORIES

But this year's trip packed a little extra wallop: the 2010 Winter Olympics were in full

The Rickerts would tackle the mountain by day and absorb the Olympics by

In between, they'd eat dinner and talk about skiing - the one activity the youngster "truly has a passion for, according to Rich.

The timing of which to be



Blake Rickert (far right) enthusiastically celebrates winning a bronze medal in the 9-10 age bracket at the NASTAR snow ski nationals held late last month in Colorado.

all these downhill events was really unique in terms of how that all (worked) out," Rich

GETTING THE WORD

After returning to Michigan, Blake found out he qualified for the NASTAR event and would get the chance to go back to Colorado for the late-March extravaganza.

"I started him out (mid-2000s) with generic skis, and when we found out he qualified to go out west, Traci and I got pretty excited about it," Rich said. "We said 'Well, let's get him as best prepared as possible to go out there and do the best he can.'

They bought him a pair of Fischer Worldcup slalom skis, about 150 centimeters in

Blake qualified after participating over the past year with Team XLR8, an Alpine racing team based out of Mt. Brighton, which is a NASTAR affiliate.

Despite being a very good skier for several years, being on Team XLR8 honed and refined his racing skills.

Rickert said invitations to take part in the nationals go out to the top three per age group and gender from "any place that runs NASTAR races around the country.

Obviously, Blake was a good choice to go to Colorado as he held his own against "pretty stiff competition" at the NASTAR nationals.

"But you know," Rich said, "if you've got the skills, you've got the skills."

The visit to Winter Park, complete with bronze medal, more than validated the considerable time commitment and expense the Rickerts have THE BLAKE FILE

Who: Blake Rickert, 11, a fifthgrader at Plymouth Christian Academy.

What: He competed and won a bronze medal at the NASTAR Nationals snow ski races in late

Parents: His parents are Richard and Traci Rickert of Canton. Other: Blake is very active at Plymouth Christian, being on the chess and robotics clubs. He also plays basketball at PCA and enjoys golfing in the summer. Hip-hop help: He also is part of an all-boy hip-hop group at Central City Dance in Canton. According to Traci, CCD deserves an assist for Blake's success on the slopes.

"They have been so accommodating with his hip-hop schedule so that he can pursue his dream of competitive snow skiing," she

already put into skiing.

It also bolstered Blake's growing motivation to someday join Mahre and the others as an Olympian skier.

"He aspires to advance in this sport," Rickert said. "He truly loves competing, he loves skiing, I think he would at this stage say yeah.

Blake's parents likely wouldn't object to that big dream. After all, they're right there with him.

"Not every Olympian is from the western Rockies," Rich Rickert concluded. "There's people from Minnesota, Vermont, New Hampshire.

.. hey, someday we'll get one from Michigan, huh?'

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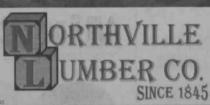
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Crusaders maintain WHAC lead

Observer & Eccentric | Thursday, April 29, 2010

OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Nothing gained, nothing lost Saturday for Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference baseball leader Madonna University.

The Crusaders, 33-7 overall and 11-3 in the WHAC, maintained their two-game lead in the loss column over Indiana Tech by splitting a doubleheader with visiting Aquinas College at Ilitch Ballpark.

Aquinas (21-15, 8-6) took the opener, 7-0, as senior lefthander Joe Welton (6-2) got the victory, allowing just three hits and one walk while striking out seven.

"We knew about him, he's been a good pitcher this year," MU coach Greg Haeger said of Welton. "They had another

left-hander a couple of years ago that gave us fits, so maybe it's the style of their left-handed pitching. But that particular pitcher, he did a great job."

MU starter Jeremy Gooding suffered his first loss in seven decisions. The Livonia native and Dearborn Divine Child grad allowed four earned runs on seven hits and three walks in six innings.

Aquinas, scoring four times in the third inning and three in the seventh, got two hits and two RBI apiece from Andrew Bard and Will Eberle.

Jon Good also knocked in two runs for the Saints. Spencer Sarel had a hit and

walk for MU.

MU senior right-hander John Ballarin (5-1) returned the favor on the mound in the

nightcap against Aquinas, tossing a six-hit shutout in a 4-0 win. The transfer from Eastern Michigan University struck out four and walked only two in seven innings.

"John threw a good game," Haeger said. "He's been doing pretty well for us as of late. He threw a good game, kept the ball low and changed speeds. He gave us a chance to win.'

Ted Toune and Jeff Bultinck each collected two hits for MU, while Matt Kay (Canton), Alex Charles and Brad Lineberry (Plymouth) each knocked in

MU's scheduled twinbill Sunday against Aquinas in Grand Rapids was postponed until Monday due to rain.

bemons@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-6851



Tyler Brown of the Plymouth Whalers (left), shown from a game earlier this season, could return in 2010-11 as an overage player.

SPORTS ROUNDUP

Thunderbirds fastpitch

Thunderbirds Fastpitch Softball is looking for a few more enthusiastic and committed young women who love to play softball.

The organization is comprised of travel teams with players ranging in age from 8 to 19 on 10U through 18U teams. For more information, please contact Ray Barnes (Pres.) at 734-417-1421, or Humaira Afzal (V. Pres.) at thunderbirdsfastpitch@comcast.net.

Michigan Dragons hoops

Parents, it's that time again to register your 5th, 6th, 7th or 8th grader for summer basketball. Go to michigandragons.com and register. The registration period ends on April 16.

Plymouth Y programs

Several spring offerings are being served up by the Plymouth Family YMCA, including:

 Speed and Agility Training, a class to focus on improving your speed (stride length and frequency, starting and stopping ability, sprint form and technique) and agility (the ability to explosively brake, change direction, and accelerate again). Rarely in team sports do you run in a straight line at a fixed pace for a fixed length of time.

The class will improve movements in any direction at any sport, improve foot speed and increase strength and power.

Participants will learn new techniques through drills and play games to put learned skills into use. The class will be taught by an NCAA Division I athlete with a degree in Exercise Science.

 Registrations are being accepted for the Spring Co-Ed Soccer League and Girls' Volleyball League.

Both seasons run through June 12. There will be one practice and one game each week. The cost is \$71 for program members or \$103 for community members. All participants need a YMCA Youth Sports Reversible Jersey (\$15).

• For all programs, contact the Plymouth Family YMCA at (734) 453-2904 or visit www. ymcadetroit.org.

Give 'Pickleball' a try

Plymouth and Canton residents are welcome to sign up for a unique recreational sport being offered by Northville Parks and Recreation pickleball.

The sport combines ping pong and badminton, with a hard paddle used to send the ball over the net. Open pickleball sessions are held at the Northville Recreation Center based out of Hillside Middle School.

Beginner to intermediate play is 1-3 p.m. Mondays and Tuesdays (\$2 per person) and 10 a.m. to 12 noon Wednesdays and Thursdays (\$2). Three courts are available.

Intermediate to advanced play is 12 noon to 3 p.m. Wednesdays (\$3) and 6-8 p.m. Saturdays

Paddles and pickleballs are provided at the center. Call (248) 349-0203 for more informa-

Women's golf league

The City of Livonia Department of Parks and Recreation is offering a 20-week, 18hole women's golf league beginning at 8 a.m. Thursdays, April 29, at Whispering Willows Golf Course.

The fee is \$26 per week (includes greens fees and cart). Non-residents are encouraged to join. For more information, call Alethea Van Gorp

at (734) 604-9020; or e-mail aavg@juno.com.

considerable experience in 2009-10, a season where the Whalers finished 38-27-1-2 for 79 points (4th in the Western Conference) and lost in the second playoff round to Windsor.

And he'll restock the cupboard on Saturday when the OHL draft takes place.

"Are we going to be as deep as we were this year going into it?" Vellucci said. "Probably not, but we can always make some changes

'We'll be young, aggressive. I love our two goaltenders (Scott Wedgewood, new signee Matt Mahalak of Monroe) and I think our D will be maturing."

LOCAL KID SHINES

Expected back on the blueline will be Jay Gilbert, Colin MacDonald and Farmington Hills native Austin Levi - who really opened up Vellucci's eyes in '09-10. Levi was named the team's Most Improved Player.

"He (Levi) has just, from last year to this year, jumped leaps and bounds," Vellucci said. "And in his playoff performance he increased his draft potential, moving up from possibly being a third- or fourth-rounder to being a late sec-

The probable departure of Seguin, Jenks and McRae will leave a gaping hole at the forward

position, however. Where we're really going to need help is up front," he said. "We must make sure we get

some goal scoring. Some returning forwards who Vellucci is going to count on to pick up the offensive slack nclude talented Garrett Meurs (16-18-34), RJ Mahalak (injured much of the year and brother of Matt Mahalak) and Stefan Noesen.

"Some guys playing different roles this year might be called upon to be more productive," Vellucci said.

COACH'S CRITIQUE

He also might be able to bring back speedy forward Tyler Brown (14-25-39) and Robbie Czarnik (17-32-49 in 43 games) as overage players. OHL teams are allowed to have three players who turn 21 during a season.

Tyler Brown could be drafted or possibly signed (as a free agent)," Vellucci said. "But we'd love to have him back as an overage. Robbie Czarnik has been drafted by L.A. and if they don't sign him this year we'd love to have him back as an overage also."

Vellucci said the older players bring stability that is a must for an OHL team to have success.

Meanwhile, he and his assistant coaches Joe Stefan, Brian Sommariva and goalie coach Stan Matwijiw will try to ensure the Whalers do not resemble the "Jekyll-and-Hyde" team they were



Tyler Seguin (against boards) and Ryan Hayes celebrate Seguin's 100th point this past season. Seguin, a force for the Plymouth Whalers, likely will be the first or second choice at June's NHL Entry Draft.

"When we stuck to our game plan we were good," Vellucci emphasized. "Our game plan was (be) hard on the forecheck, very aggressive in all three zones, and compete.

When we started to think we were better than we were, and tried to start playing cute or fancy is when we got into a lot of trouble

Adhering to that game plan also will help Plymouth fare better away from Compuware, another problem area this season (13-18-1-2).

SOLID STRETCH RUN

The Whalers did play with more spit and vinegar after a series of mid-season trades, which brought McRae and winger James Livingston to the Whalers.

Another key midseason pickup was Czarnik, who left the University of Michigan team to join Plymouth. Forward Josh Brittain became a Whaler in late October.

We had a pretty good stretch after the trade deadline and stumbled on the way down," he said. "But if you really look at it, I really believe we overachieved in some sense.'

That, along with an unprecedented international hockey media throng following Seguin as he became a legitimate top NHL prospect, helped attendance swell by about 18 percent at Compuware (2nd highest gain in the OHL).

But the Seguin story somewhat got in the way during the Plymouth-Windsor series, to Vellucci's chagrin.

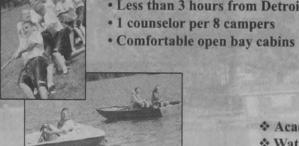
"Everybody was making it a Tyler against Taylor (Hall) thing," he said. "I just think that

almost got bigger than the games.

There probably won't be any of that showbiz stuff around the team in 2010-11. But that doesn't mean the Whalers won't still be compelling to watch.

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SOCIAL SECURIT

Many people are wrongly rejected when they apply for Social Security Disability benefits. Money was taken out of their paychecks for Social Security taxes to ensure that they would receive disability benefits if they could no longer work full-time Sadly, the government denies approximately 60% of those who apply for disability benefits.

The tragedy is that less than half of those persons who are denied benefits file an appeal. Thus, many thousands of people who deserve benefits never receive them

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

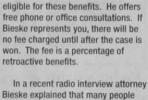
Attorney J.B. Bieske has represented only Social Security Disability clients for over 20 years. That is the only type of law he practices. And, he personally meets with all clients and appears himself at all court hearings. Many large firms assign clients to young associate attorneys with much less



Social Security Disability law Bleske has written a book for attorneys about the subject. He also has been interviewed on various radio and television programs and has given speeches to many groups.

Bieske's office staff consists of paralegals and secretaries who are also highly experienced in assisting him with Social Security Disability cases. And they are extremely helpful in answering questions with regard to the status of clients' cases and administrative procedure

Attorney Bieske welcomes you to call him to determine if you may be



are not even aware that they are eligible for Social Security Disability benefits. These are not the same as Workers' Compensation benefits. It is possible to receive both benefits at the same time. If you have an illness or injury (whether or not related to your work), are under 65 and unable to work full-time you may be eligible Social Security Disability benefits are based on your work record or your deceased spouse's work record (Widow's/Widower's benefits).

Bieske represents clients from all over the state of Michigan. Call him at 1-800-331-3530 for a FREE consultation if you have been denied. Or if you are thinking of possibly of applying for Social Security benefits call him for FREE advice.

www.ssdfighter.com



Strictly Business



Jordan and Jeyda Brown, whose mom, Connie, works for Comcast, were decked out to help on Comcast Cares Day Saturday at the Plymouth call center.

Volunteers gather to help fight hunger

BY BRAD KADRICH OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The food pantry at the Plymouth Salvation Army and hungry families in Chile and Haiti were the big winners Saturday as volunteers gathered at Comcast's Plymouth call center for the company's annual Comcast Cares Day.

Nationwide, more than 55,000 volunteers took part in the annual day of service. But it was the 200 volunteers gathered in Plymouth who made the difference locally, packing more than 12,000 packets of food to be divided between the Plymouth Salvation Army and relief efforts in Chile and

State Rep. Marc Corriveau
(D-Northville) was also on
hand as Comcast partnered
with Kids Against Hunger and
the Kiwanis Club of Colonial
Plymouth to benefit the charities. About two-thirds of the

meals are expected to stay in the local area.

"Comcast is a good community partner and we appreciate the effort," said Laurie Aren, the Plymouth Salvation Army's direct of family and community ministries. "There's a growing need in our community, and projects like this definitely benefit everyone."

Aren said the efforts of Kiwanians - represented by Rob Noel, Tom Todd and Pam Kosteva - were key to the success.

"The Kiwanis Club does a fantastic job," Aren said. "This program is near and dear to their hearts."

Here are some of the statistics Comcast organizers herald about the Comcast Cares Day project:

• A total of 48,000 adult meals were expected to be packaged at the state's four sites

• The 12,000 adult meals per site is the equivalent of some 24,000 meals for children

• Two-third (or about 8,000 meals) will stay in Michigan (36 bags per box = 216 meals); about 36 boxes per local organization.

• The other third of the food will go to Haiti and Chile - where, organizers say, food is so scarce and people are literally dying every day.

"Comcast has a proven track record of giving back to the communities in which our employees reside and work, and this year's Comcast Cares Day efforts will help 24 different organizations across Michigan," said Tom Coughlin, Senior Vice President for Comcast's Michigan Region. "As residents continue to overcome the economic challenges facing our state, I'm grateful to the 2,400 volunteers who will be donating their time to help make a difference.'

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

BUSINESS BRIEFS

What do you think it would be worth to talk to a loved one in the armed services stationed overseas? Maybe Ar

they're in combat; you haven't spoken with them for months; don't know if they are safe? Maybe they are a brother, sister, daughter or son?

What price would you pay for a call like this?

Soldier cell phones

RE/MAX Classic has been able to give service members and their families 3,651 hours of peace of mind, happiness and thankfulness for the efforts of all that are donating old cell phones, chargers, batteries, etc., for recycling into calling cards for soldiers.

The company's 2010 goal: Contribute 5,000 hours of talk-time to the troops.

Each phone recycled provides an hour of talk-time to service personnel overseas.

To help reach the goal, RE/MAX Classic sponsors a Mother's Day collection drive of Cell Phones for Soldiers 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, May 8, at all four locations, including the one at 43435 Joy Road in Canton. Donations are tax-deductible, with donation receipts provided at the time of contribution.

Visit the company's Web site at www.detroitmetroreal-estate.com to read about the cause and register your soldier for a their free calling card. For more information, call (248) 987-8610 or (734) 335-0068.

Hospice Art Dash

The Arbor Hospice Foundation invites art enthusiasts and community members to enjoy an evening of art, wine, food and fun to benefit Arbor Hospice's pediatric hospice care and grief support services. The ninth annual Art Dash event takes place at 7 p.m. on Thursday, May 20, at The Inn at St. John's

Throughout the night, guests will enjoy perusing extraordinary visual works, raffle and auction items, all while making note of their favorite pieces. After dinner

Golf & Conference Center in

Plymouth.

favorite pieces. After dinner, attendees kick off their heels and make a dash for the art piece of their choice. Every couple will go home with a work valued at a minimum of \$250 - the average value of last year's art piece was \$459.

Patron tickets are \$350 (entitles two people to attend and one to "dash"), benefactor tickets are \$500 (entitles two people to attend and one to "dash" plus recognition at the event) and \$1,600 to reserve a table of eight (entitles eight people to attend and four to "dash").

Art Dash also provides a unique opportunity for local artists to showcase their talent to art enthusiasts, while supporting Arbor Hospice's community programs and services. Arbor Hospice is accepting donations of original pieces of art for the event. To purchase tickets or donate art, please contact Arbor Hospice at (734) 794-5122 or visit www. arborhospice.org.

Since 2001, Art Dash has raised more than \$386,000 for The Arbor Hospice Foundation, while raising awareness for the local arts community. Proceeds go directly back into the community to support Arbor Hospice's end-of-life care and grief support services for children, adolescents and adults.

Sponsors of Art Dash include: UPS; Hantz Benefit Services, LLC; Williams, Williams, Rattner & Plunkett, P.C.; The Knickerbocker Group of Raymond James & Associates; REI; Community Financial; Michigan Commerce Bank; and OfficeStar.

Wine tasting

Join Women's Exchange of Washtenaw and meet acclaimed winemaker Laurence Feraud on Friday, May 7, for a wine-tasting happy hour and networking event at the Ann Arbor Art Center from 5–6 p.m. (registration at 4:30).

Feraud founded Domaine du Pegau with her father in 1987, and has more than doubled the acreage of the family business. The vineyard produces 7,000 cases per year of Châteauneuf du Pape, 90 percent for export, and 18 percent to the United States. Attendees will hear Laurence speak about her experience as a woman in a male-dominated field.

The \$16 ticket price (ages 21 and over, please) includes hors d'oeuvres and a taste of Cotes du Rhone Villages Seguret Rouge 2008, Selection Laurence Feraud. Registration (and more information) is available at http://www.event-brite.com/event/640947090. Learn more about Feraud and what other events where she and her wine will be featured at: http://annarborartcenter.org/wf2010/

CHAMBER CHAT



The cast of 'Half Time' includes (from left) Lee Thomas, Lanna Collins, Beth Brooks, Marian Busa and Joanna McKay, along with Robert Pope (seated). The comedy is one of four being presented by the Still Got It Players May 12-15 at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill.

Still Got It

The Spotlight Players senior acting troupe, "Still Got It," presents its spring show May 12-15 at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill in Canton.

The group, featuring actors 50 and older, presents, ""A Celebration of Love, Laughter, Deception and Sports?" with 1 p.m. performances May 12-13, a 7 p.m. show May 14 and 2 and 7 p.m. performances May 15.

The Village Theater is located at 50400 Cherry Hill in Canton. Tickets are \$12 to \$15. For more information call (734) 394-5460 or go online to www.canton-mi.org/villagetheater

Bowling blastoff

Super Bowl of Canton hosts "Michigan Family Fun - Bowling Blastoff" noon to 8 p.m. Saturday, May 1.

The day of fun, celebrating smoke-free Michigan, features 75-cent hot dogs, 75-cent soft drinks, 75-cent french fries and giveaways every hour. Pebbles the Clown will make

an appearance from 2-4 p.m. Registration is required; res-

ervations accepted. Super Bowl of Canton is located at 45100 Ford Road. For more information, call (734) 459-6070.

Texas Hold 'Em

Rose's Restaurant will be hosting a Texas Hold 'em charity event.

Join us at Rose's Restaurant 8 p.m. to 2 a.m. May 13-15. There will be a full service bar, late night menu and a midnight pizza buffet in the lounge.

"This is a great way to support the Canton Chamber of Commerce and have fun while doing it," said Dianne Cojei, president of the Canton Chamber of Commerce.

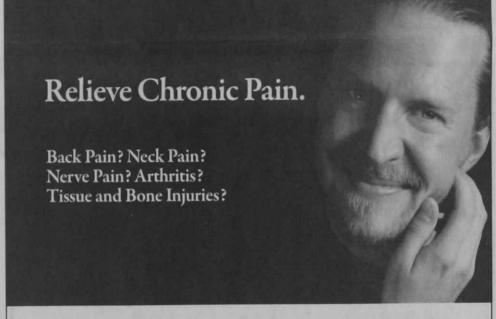
For more information on this event, go to www.cantonchamber.com click on forms & flyers and go to Rose's Restaurant Fundraiser and get all the details.

Also on May 11, from 5-9 p.m., you can turn your pasta into money for the Canton Chamber by printing the flier on the Chamber Web site and presenting it to your server at Rose's Restaurant. The Canton Chamber of Commerce will receive 15 percent of net purchases made that evening. The Canton Chamber of

Commerce is a member driven organization dedicated to stimulating positive business growth, fostering community leadership and acting as an advocate for the business community. For more information on the Canton Chamber of Commerce, log onto www.cantonchamber.com.

Chamber luncheon

The Canton Chamber of Commerce lunch takes place 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, May 5, at Fellows Creek Golf Club, 2936 Lotz, in Canton. Guest speaker is Mike Finney of Ann Arbor SPARK. Cost is \$20 for members (advance registration), \$30 for non-members. Reservations are required, call the chamber office at (734) 453-4040 or e-mail admin@cantonchamber.com. Sponsors are PNC Bank and USANA Health Sciences.



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ENTERTAINMENT

Choral group sings music by master composers

BY SHARON DARGAY OSE STAFF WRITER

The repertoire is challeng-

The rehearsals are demanding - weekly for four months. And the payoff lasts about

an hour each year. But individuals for whom "singing is their quality of life and they are dedicated to it," join the Plymouth Oratorio Society because they enjoy performing classical music, even if it's only at one annual concert, says Richard Ingram, who has directed the choir for four years.

"It's a delightful group of people who come together each week to tackle hard music," he said. "Over 24 years they've built a reputation in the area. It's always fun to be able to work with a community chorus that has the ability to do this kind of music.'

The choral group's 80plus members will sing Ralph Vaughan Williams' Benedicite, Nänie, by Brahms, and Dvorák's Mass in D, at 4:30 p.m., Sunday, May 2, at First United Methodist Church, 45201 N. Territorial, Plymouth. The Michigan Sinfonietta Orchestra will accompany the choir. Bonnie Kidd, Ingram's colleague at Huron High School in Ann Arbor, is the guest soprano soloist. Admission is free, although a free-will offering will be accepted.

Ingram selected the music, which includes two 19th century compositions and one piece from mid-20th century.

"The Vaughan Williams piece has great contrast. It's fast and loud and bombastic, but the middle section when the soprano comes in is very much more subdued," he



Richard Ingram directs the Plymouth Oratorio Society.

The Brahms requiem is sung "mid-tempo" in German. The Mass combines slow and fast movements that make for an "exciting musical experience."

MASTER COMPOSERS Don Pratt, Society business manager, said the classical

repertoire sets the group apart

from other community cho-

"We don't use auditions, which surprises many people. We feel that the music we sing is the audition. Other groups do a lighter style concert, which is okay, but it's just not what we do. The other thing we do is sing with a professional orchestra. They are all professionals and that raises the level of our whole concert.'

Pratt, a retired math teacher from Huron High School, and his wife, Kathy, have sung with the group since it began and have performed at every concert. The upcoming performance is especially signifi-cant because it's dedicated to his late father, Robert Pratt, who conducted the Plymouth Oratorio Society for its first nine years.

Pratt sang under his father's direction in about a dozen different choral groups through the years, including the Plymouth Oratorio Society.

"It was an honor and a privilege every time," he said. Pratt's mother also sang in the Society, his sister, who now lives out of state, has returned three times to sing a solo in concert and his oldest daughter sang for two

"We had seven (family) members off and on who have sung with the Plymouth Oratorio Society. It's a special thing for

FUN, CHALLENGING

Pratt said the Society draws members from as far away as Jackson and Lake Orion. Many also sing in church choirs.

"It all comes to fruition this weekend. You've worked for four months and it's all going to happen on Sunday and will be over in an hour. It's the most fun, hard work you'll ever do," he said.

Ingram described the concert setting as beautiful and the acoustics as superb.

'If any folks have not been inside the First Methodist Church in Plymouth, they are in for a treat," Ingram said.

Visit the group's Web site at www.plymouthoratoriosociety.



Livonia artist, Bonita Collins, shows "structure Series #5." the first place winner in Visual Arts Association of Livonia's annual spring show.

Browse, buy art at annual spring show

Meet winners of the Visual Arts Association of Livonia's annual spring exhibit at an awards presentation from 7-8:30 p.m., Wednesday, May 5, at Livonia City Hall, 33000 Civic Center Drive, at Five Mile east of Farmington Road.

Bonita Collins of Livonia took first place for "Structure Series #5," which will be displayed, along with works by other local artists, from May 4-28 at city hall. Second place winner was Regina Dunne of Northville for "The Runner" and third place went to Ken Blevins of Westland for "Before the Rain."

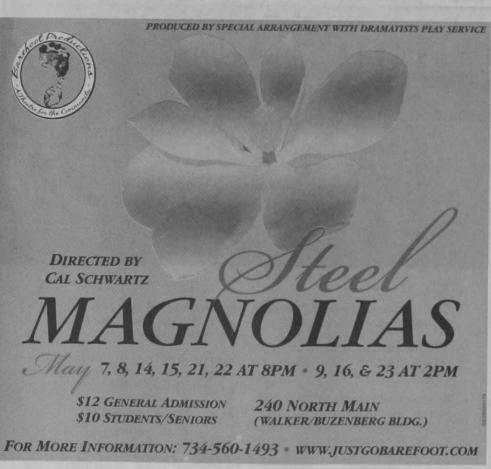
The Visual Arts Association of Livonia is dedicated to advancing knowledge and appreciation of the creative

arts by offering studio classes and annual exhibits. Members meet at 7 p.m. the third Thursday every month, except June, July, and December, in classroom 14 at the Dickinson Center, 18000 Newburgh,

The spring show is open to the public 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday. It includes a variety of works, including sculpture and photography. that are available for purchase.

Robert Schefman, an art professor and chair of the Foundations Department at the College for Creative Studies in Detroit, juried the

For more information about VAAL and its spring show, call (734) 838-1204.









PLYMOUTH CANTON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS PLYMOUTH, MI 48170

SECTION 00010

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Sealed bids for Plymouth Canton Community Schools' Bid Package #28:

SALEM HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM SOUND SYSTEM

REPLACEMENT AND ACOUSTIC SHELLS will be received until 1:00 p.m. local time on Thursday, May 13, 2010 at which time they will be opened and read publicly at Plymouth Canton Community School, E.J. McClendon Educational Center, 454 S. Harvey, Plymouth, Michigan, 48170. Bids received after this time and date will be returned unopened.

Faxed proposals will not be accepted. This Bid Package will consist of a separate sealed bid for the following Bid Divisions:

Bid Division Description

Stage Equipment and Rigging Sound System

Bidding documents prepared by TMP Associates, Inc. will be available for public inspection at the office of the Construction Manager, McCarthy & Smith Inc., 24317 Indoplex Circle, Farmington Hills, MI, 48335; FW Dodge Plan Room, Southfield; Construction Association of Michigan Plan Room, Bloomfield Hills; Daily Construction Reports Plan Room, Detroit; Builders Exchange, Lansing Construction News Service, Grandville; and Reed Construction Data, Novi, MI.

Bidders may obtain one (1) set of bidding documents by contacting the Construction Manager, **McCarthy& Smith Inc.**, at (248) 427-8400. Bids are to be submitted in a sealed envelope supplied by the Construction Manager, McCarthy & Smith Inc. The bid division being bid is to be identified on the outside of the envelope.

All bids should include 2 copies (1 original, 1 copy) of the Proposal

Pricing Form (Section 00300) and the Proposal Execution Form (Section 00400). The Proposal Execution Form provides a space for the bidder to disclose any familial relationship as required by the State of Michigan and this form must be signed and notarized in order for the bid to be accepted.

There will be a pre-bid meeting at 2:00 pm on Wednesday, May 5th in the Salem High School Construction Trailer, located at 46181 Joy Road, Canton, MI 48187. The purpose of the meeting will be to review the bidding requirements, schedule, project scopes of work, and to answer any question that bidders may have. Bidders are strongly encouraged to attend.

Any and all questions in regards to the bidding or the Bid Package Documents should be addressed in writing to the Construction Manager, McCarthy & Smith Inc. Questions or clarifications will be promptly answered and returned to the bidder/bidders.

The Board of Education for the Plymouth Canton Community Schools reserves the right to accept and/or reject all bids, as they judge to be in the best interest of the school district.

This project is to be bid and the work performed at the Prevailing Wage Rates.

> Board of Education Plymouth-Canton Community Schools Nancy Eggenberger, Secretary

Publish: April 29 and May 6, 2010



Spotlight Theatre continues its production of "Oklahoma!" through Sunday, May 2.

Classic musical 'Oklahoma!' on Spotlight stage

The musical Oklahoma! wraps up Sunday, May 2, at the Village Theatre at Cherry Hill in Canton.

The Spotlight Players production features Roy Sexton as Curly, Lauren London as Laurey, Linda Trygg as Aunt Eller, Jesse Brandel as Will Parker, Cathy Skutch as Ado Annie, Robert Doyle as Ali Hakim, Drex Morton as Ike Skidmore, and Mike Cuba as

The musical, which tells the love story of Curly and Laurey, is based on Lynn Rigg's 1931 play, Green Grow the Lilacs. It was the first musical written by the duo of Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein II. It includes such recognizable songs as Oklahoma!, Oh, What a Beautiful Mornin, and People Will Say We're In Love. A year after the Broadway production opened in 1943, Rodgers and Hammerstein won a special Pulitzer Prize for the play. The 1955 film, starring Gordon McRae and Shirley Jones, won an Academy Award.

Barbara Bloom, director and choreographer for the Spotlight production, calls the show "wonderful family entertainment." It

includes familiar songs, "well drawn" characters and a "dream" ballet.

The show is at 8 p.m., Friday-Saturday, April 30 and May 1 and at 2 p.m., Saturday-Sunday, May 1-2, at the theater, 50400 Cherry Hill, Canton. Tickets are \$18 for adults; \$16 for senior citizens and students under 19, available by calling the Village Theater Box Office at (734) 394-5300 or (734) 394-5460; online at www.canton-mi.org/villagetheater; or at the door. For more information about Spotlight Players, call (734) 480-4945 or visit www.spotlightplayersmi.org.

SIMPLY SELF STORAGE

Notice is hereby given that on May 14, 2010 on or after 9:30 a.m. that Simply Self Storage will be offering for sale under the judicial lien Process by Public Auction the following units. The goods to be sold are generally described as household goods. Terms of the sale are preferred cash only but will except debit/credit. Simply Self Storage reserves the right to refuse any and all bids. The sale will be at the following location: 34333 E. Michigan Ave. Wayne MI. 48184 (734)728-8204.

Ed Wilson Rosalind Morgan A200 Ronald Parson Donald Hickman Jr.

Shop Vacs, 2 TV's, 20 boxes, tools Washer, Dresser, Big Screen TV Table Saw, Tools, File cabinet Mattress, Vacuum, Couch

Publish: April 29, 2010

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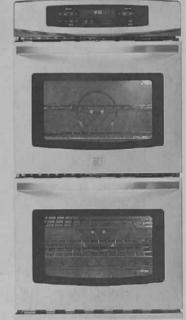
save on all Kenmore® and

plus save on all patio furniture

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when you take an additional 10% OFF regular, sale and clearance prices for all lighting, ceiling fans and fountains 15% off excludes switchplate covers, light bulbs, fountains, lamp shades, mirrors and accessories. Additional 10% off excludes Casablanca, Minka Aire, Monte Carlo Select, Hunter Prestige fans and Kichler online. Offer ends 5/1/10.



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plus 30% OFF all other Kenmore cooking appliances

plus 15% off all other appliances

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STAINMASTER



all furniture on sale 499.99 sale Villa 76" dining table Banana leaf chair. Reg. 199.99 Sale 149.99 Offer ends 5/1/10.



save on all small electrics 299.99 save \$30 KitchenAid* Artisan stand mixer Reg. 329.99 plus your choice bonus attachment slicer/shredder or food grinder with mail-in rebate (a \$49.99 value). Offer ends 5/29/10.



save on SodaStream soda makers 79.99 save \$20

Jet model #5458 Reg. 99.99 149.99 save \$20 Pure model

#8640 Reg. 169.99 4.99 soda mixes

plus free bed frame up to \$59.99 value. plus special financing available See store for details. Offer good thru 5/31/10. Bed frame must be of comparable size to mattress purchase. Offer ends 5/2/10.

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plus special financing available

Free standard local delivery on all mattress sets \$499 or more after \$65 merchandise credit. Outside local

delivery area, customer pays an additional charge. Local delivery area and additional charges vary. Free removal excludes waterbeds.

ee store for details. Offer good thru 5/1/10.

and foundations \$499 or more. Offer ends 5/1/10.

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For installed sales, retainer must be taken between 4/18–5/31/10. Sale must be completed by 6/14/10. Product offer excludes installation, carpet pad and clearance. Installation offer excludes carpet pad.

and installed carpet

30% off

Offers good from 4/29-5/5/10 unless otherwise stated. Valid only at The Great Indoors stores and at www.thegreatindoors.com, Offers exclude Everyday Price items, Exceptional Values and Great Price items, Limited offers and special purchases excluded from raincheck option. The Great Indoors shall not be held liable for errors. CONTRACTORS LICENSE NUMBERS; The following license numbers are held on behalf of The Great Indoors: AZ (Gen. Comm. Contr. Lic. ROC #160177B-1 and Gen. Res. Contr. Lic. ROC #160177B-1; NV (B2 #0054531); NW (B2 #0054531); NW York City (Lic., Number 1119508); VA (Class A Contr. 2705 057009). Services and installation performed by The Great Indoors authorized licensed contractors.

IMPORTANT DEFERRED INTEREST DETAILS (WHEN OFFERED); Interest will be charged to your account from the purchase date if the purchase balance is not paid in full within the promotional period or if you make a late payment. With credit approval, for qualifying purchases made on a Sears card (Sears Commercial One® accounts excluded) Sears Home Improvement Accounts valid on installed sales only. Offer is only valid for consumer accounts in good standing and is subject to change without notice. May not be combined with any other promotional offer. Sears Cards: APRs up to 26.49%, but if your account has a variable APR, the APR is up to 29.99% as of 3/01/10 and may vary. Lower rates may apply. Minimum INTEREST CHARGE: up to \$2. An Annual Membership Fee of up to \$59 may apply. See card agreement for details. Sears cards are issued by HSBC Bank Nevada, N.A.

ART

Lotus Arts Gallery Time/Date: May

Location: 995 West Ann Arbor Trail. downtown Plymouth Details: Exhibit of figurative works, from minimalist and abstract to

detailed Contact: (888) 889-4ART (toll free) or (734) 453-5400

Observer & Eccentric | Thursday, April 29, 2010

Go Comedy! Time/Date: Various show times

Wednesdays thru Sundays Location: 261 E. Nine Mile, Ferndale Details: Improv most nights. Open mic/jam session show for improvisers is 10 p.m. Wednesdays Contact: (248) 327-0575; www.gocom-

JD's House of Comedy

Time/Date: Various show times Wednesday-Saturday evenings Location: 25333 W. 12 Mile, inside Star Theatre complex, Southfield Details: Stand-up shows, 8 p.m.

Thursday and 8 p.m., 10:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday; Apollo amateur night, 8 p.m. Wednesday

Contact: (248) 348-2420 or www.ticketmaster.com

Joey's Comedy Club of Livonia Time/Date: 8 p.m. Mondays, Open Mic; 8 p.m. Tuesdays, Local Legends; 8 p.m. shows Wednesdays, Thursdays; 8 p.m. & 10:30 p.m. Fridays, Saturdays

Location: 36071 Plymouth Road,

Details: Joe Devito, with Bob Cook, April 29-May 1; Erik Griffin with Jeff Dwaskin, May 5-8

Coming up: Comedy for a Cause sponsored by Zonta Club of Western Wayne County, 8 p.m., May 17. Tickets are \$15. Call Sally Randall at (734) 464-3728 Contact: (734) 261-0555, www.kickerscomplex.com

Mark Ridley's Comedy Castle Time/Date: Michael Somerville, April 29-May 1

Location: 269 E. Fourth, Royal Oak Contact: (248) 542-9900, www.comedycastle.com

CONCERTS

Time/Date: Jonatha Brooke. April 29; Down the Line, April 30; Lucciana Costa, May 1; Claire Lynch Band, May 2; Shelby Lynne, May 3; Kaki King, May 5; Pete Seeger tribute, May 6; Crooked Still, May 7; John McCutcheonb, May 8; Sharpe Note Singing, May 9

Location: 316 South Main, Ann Arbor Contact: (734) 763-8587; www.theark.

Detroit Institute of Arts

Time/Date: Friday Night Live concerts, 7 and 8:30 p.m.

Location: 5200 Woodward Ave Contact: (313) 833-7900, www.dia.org

JWH Center for the Arts Time/Date: 6:15-6:45 p.m., open mic

sign up; performances, 7 p.m. Location: 774 N. Sheldon, Plymouth Details: BaseLine Folk Society open mic is for acoustic, folk and traditional musicians. Admission is \$5. BaseLine Folk Society open mic runs every third Saturday of the month through May Contact: Mike Mullen, founder, mjmmullen@yahoo.com

Magic Bag

Time/Dates: Greensky Bluegrass, April 30; The Mega 80's, May 1 and 8; Saw Doctors, May 7; The Stick Men, May 13; Butch Walker & The Black Widows, May 14; Midtown Underground, May 15; The English Beat, May 20 Location: 22920 Woodward, Ferndale

Contact: (248) 544-3030, www. themagicbag.com

Seligman Performing Arts Center Time/Date: 8 p.m., May 15 Location: 22305 West 13 Mile, Beverly

Details: Pianist Yuja Wang performs at this Chamber Music Society of Detroit concert; tickets are \$43-75 Contact: Chamber Music Society of Detroit Ticket Service at (248) 855-6070 or online at www.comehearcmsd. DIO

Trinity House Theater

Time/Date: Bill Isles, April 30; Chris Buhalis, May 1; Mark Erelli with Ralston Bowles, May 6; George Worthmore, May 7; Khalid Hanifi with Timothy Monger, May 8; Bill Mallonee, May 21; Open Land with Jessica Ripka, May 22

Location: 38840 West Six Mile, Livonia Contact: (734) 464-6302, www.trinityhouse.org

FAMILY

Bakers Keyboard Lounge

Time/Dates: 2-5 p.m. Sundays Details: Jazz for Kids Program Location: 20510 Livernois Ave., Detroit Contact: (313) 345-6300, www.bakerskeyboardlounge.com

Detroit Institute of Arts

Time/Dates: 2 p.m. Sundays Details: Target Family Sundays, storytelling, performances, free with admission

Location: 5200 Woodward, Detroit Contact: (313) 833-7900, www.dia.org

Detroit Zoo

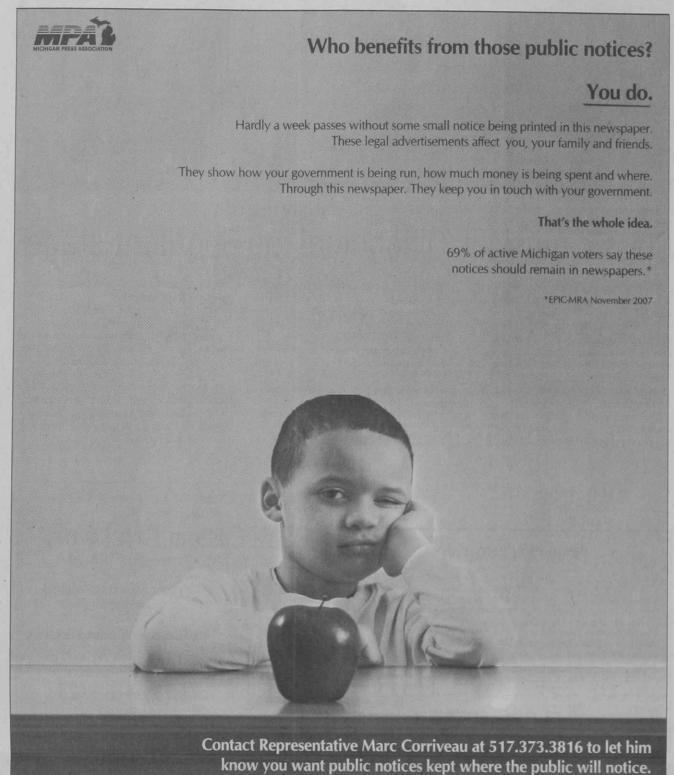
Time/Date: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. through Labor Day

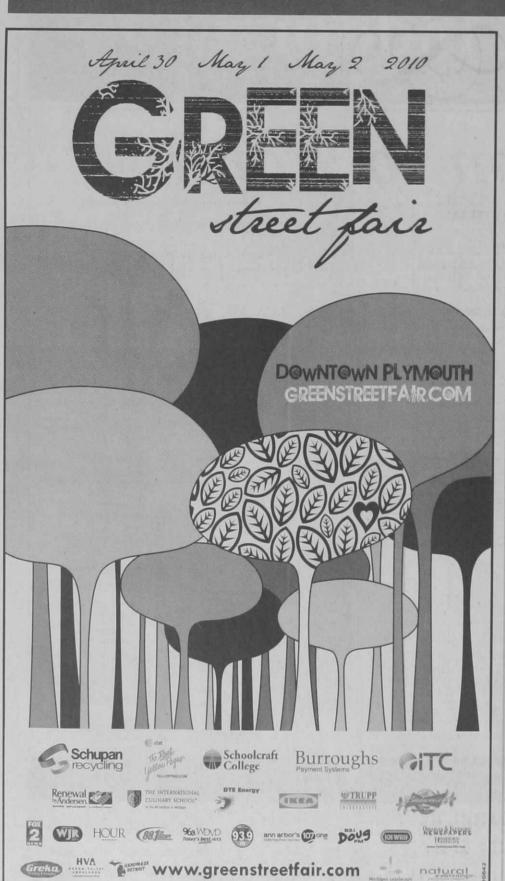
Location: I-696 service drive and Woodward, Royal Oak

Details: Admission is \$11 for adults 15 to 61, \$9 for senior citizens 62 and older, and \$7 for children ages 2 to 14; children under 2 are free. Coming up: Celebrate Mother's Day, 8-

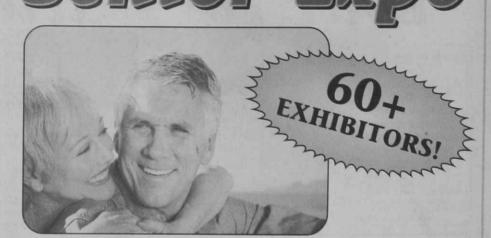
10 a.m., Sunday, May 9, with breakfast

in the Wildlife Interpretive Gallery. The event includes access to the Butterfly and Hummingbird Garden and the opportunity for children to make a special gift for mom. The cost, which includes zoo admission and parking, is \$30 for adults and \$25 for children, 14 and under. The cost for Detrolit Zoological Society members is discounted by \$5. For reservations call (248) 541-5717 and press 3. Contact: (248) 541-5717





The Observer & Eccentric and Hometown Newspapers presents the 7th Annual



Tuesday, May 18, 2010 • 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Schoolcraft College Livonia Campus in the VisTaTech Center Haggerty Road between 6 and 7 Mile Roads

Prizes

Morning Refreshments

Curb-side **Trolley Service**

Call Choya Jordan with your questions at 313-222-2414

Workshops & **Demonstrations:**

- Eye Health Medicare/Medicaid
- Connecting w/Family & Friends online Separating Myths from Truth:
- The Story of Investing
- Dental Health
- Understanding Medicare, product differences HMO vs. PPO
- Strength Training for Seniors
- The Advantages of Memory Screenings • Estate Planning and Elder Law
- · Home Safety and Universal Design
- Why All Seniors Should Buy Gold · Conversation & Coffee: Rome

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Hymn Fest set

Brass, percussion, handbells, organ and 100 voices will come together Sunday, May 2, at Hymn Festival, in St. John Lutheran Church, Farmington Hills. Michael Burkhardt, director of worship and fine arts at Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Livonia, will direct the festival dedicated to the memory of longtime St. John member and music director, Marie Walck. She was a charter member of St. John Lutheran Church and was active in its founding more than 50 years ago. She served as music director, organist, chancel choir director, director of children's and youth choirs and director of handbell choirs. She also was active in many local and ELCA Synod organizations.

The theme of this year's festival is "Rejoicing in the Lamb: An Ecumenical Hymn Festival for God's Resurrection People." Several of the hymns to be performed are arranged by Burkhardt, including Crown Him with Many Crowns, Now the Green Blade Rises and Thine is the Glory.

Internationally known for hymn festivals and for his creative work with children, Burkhardt is in demand as a clinician, recitalist and hymn festival leader throughout the U.S. and abroad. He is author of Part-Singing Global Style, a resource focusing on sequential part-singing techniques in treble arrangements of global pieces, and author of Singing with Understanding, a curriculum utilizing the great hymns, folk songs and spirituals of the Church to share faith stories and to teach the elements of music and worship. He is composer of two settings of the Eucharistic liturgy, A New Song and Missa St. Andrew, as well as organ improvisations, choral octavos and handbell compositions.

Burkhart will direct a mass choir composed of members of several local churches, including St. John Lutheran, Shepherd of the Lakes Lutheran, Redeemer United Methodist, St. Gerald Roman Catholic, King of Kings Lutheran, and Good Shepherd Lutheran.

The audience also will be encouraged to participate.

Admission is free, although a free-will offering will be taken. Refreshments will be provided.

St. John Lutheran Church is on Gill Road, between Grand River Ave. and Freedom Road. For more information call the church at (248) 474-0584. Concert information is also available at stjohn-elca.org and at weslevfishwick.com.



BEVERLY JOYCE BEERBOWER NEE: TIRB

Of Inkster, formerly of Clinton, MI. died April 23 at age 78. Loving moth-er of Wayne (Catherine), Pamela (Cary) Sitarz, Lauren (Rosanne Miller) and Brian (Joann). Gramie of 8 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren. Dear sister of Francis (Mary) Tirb, Betty Patterson, the late: Glen Tirb, Marjorie Patterson and Ruth Snyder. Daughter of the late: Edward Tirb and Dorothy Krall. Surrounded by a large extended family. Visitation: Thurs. April 29th 1-9pm at the Harry J. Will Funeral Home 37000 Six Mile, Livonia, MI 48152. Funeral: Fri, April 30, In-State 10:00am, Service 11:00am with a luncheon to follow at St. Paul Lutheran Church 17810 Farmington, Livonia, MI 48152. Interment: Sat, May 1st in Riverside Cemetery in the Village of Clinton, Michigan. Memorial Donations may be made in Beverly's name to MICOPS.

Please leave the family a message at: www.harryjwillfuneralhome.com



JOSEPH CERNE

Age 94 of Canton, April 26, 2010. Beloved husband of the late Rose. Loving father of Philip (Sandy), Janice (William) Giddings and Mary Ann (Barry) Graham. Proud grandfather of six and great grandfather of six Dear brother of Ann Zrimec. Visitation Thurs. 2-9 PM and Scripture Service 7 PM at Vermeulen Funeral Home, 46401 W. Ann Arbor Rd., Plymouth (Between Sheldon & Beck). In State Fri. 10 AM until 10:30 AM Funeral Mass at St. John Neumann Church, 44800 Warren Rd., Canton. Entombment Glen Eden Memorial Park. To share a memory, please visit: vermeulenfuneralhome.com

ZORA LENORE CROSS

Age 96, of Novi, MI, passed away April 25, 2010. Arrangements by THAYER-ROCK FUNERAL HOME,

ELIZABETH A. DEPETRO

Age 80, of Livonia, passed away April 24, 2010. A memorial service will be held May 1 at Noon at Salem Bible Church. In lieu of flowers donations can be made to Salem Bible Church or Angela Hospice







IRVING DOBIS

April 25, 2010, age 94 of Canton, MI and Venice, FL. Beloved husband of Elinor. Loving father of Craig (Vera), Peggy Ellenwood, and Eric (Linda). Also survived by 13 grandchildren, 10 great-grandchildren, and five grand dogs. Funeral Services were held Wednesday, April 28, 2010. Interment took place at Hillside Cemetery in Belleville. Memorial gifts may be made to St. Jude Children's Hospital.

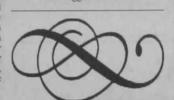


MARY MARGARET DUGGAN

Let the light shine bright on Mary Margaret Duggan, a woman who believed in the rights of women and the right to happiness — her own Declaration of Independence. Mary, who passed away Saturday, April 24 at the age of 81, was the second child born to Michael and Anne Duggan on April 4, 1929, and a loving sister to Dennis, Geraldine and Leona, who have all preceded her in death. Both of Mary's parents emigrated from the war-torn Ireland of the 1920s, and remained especially proud of ish heritage. Since her father her Irish heritage. died young — just a few years after Mary was born — Mary, her older brother, her two younger sisters, and their Mother, had a rough row to hoe. They found shelter in the arms of Detroit's Saint Gregory the Great Parish and with family and friends. Besides being a loving sister and daughter, she was affectionately known to seven nieces and nephews and eight grand nieces and nephews as Aunt Mary. She always made time for them. Mary truly was "there" for her family. The sky was the limit for them, in terms of her doling out time, love and affection for her fifteen "kids."

Mary became quite attached to St. Gregory's very early in life and remained active in the parish with reunions and special masses until she became too ill to participate, many of the friends she made, and she made many friends, came from her continuing St. Gregory experience. She also belonged for many years to Our Lady Queen of Hope parish in Detroit and St. Aidan parish in Livonia. A career accountant who supplemented her high school education with many college classes, Mary spent most of her working life at Birmingham and Oakland Hills country clubs. The latter club landed many top golf tourna-ments and while those always meant a lot of extra work for her and her staff lot of extra work for her and her staff, Mary enjoyed the excitement of the events. In spite of some rough times during the last years of her long tenure at Oakland, Mary remembered the good times and remained very fond of the friends she met at Oakland Hills. Mary Duggan loved her friends and family dearly, and she was proud of the strong work ethic instilled in her primarily by her mother, who she lived with cared for until Anne died in 1987. Despite suffering through and sur-mounting serious illnesses and tremen-dous losses for the last third of her life, Mary remained an extremely positive person. Even in her last hospital stay, which led to her death, she remarked, "I still think life is beautiful." Beloved daughter of the late Anne and late Michael Duggan. Dear sister of the late Dennis Duggan, the late Geraldine (Charles) Wright and the late Leona (Charles) Wright and the late Leona (Frank) Murphy. Loving aunt of Nancy Duggan; Noranne (Eugene) Morin, Timothy Wright; Terrence (Kim Lawton), the late Thomas, John (Dianne), and Michael (Kathy) Murphy. Devoted grand aunt of Rebecca and Maegan Morin; Michael and Angela Wright; Allison and Brendan Lawton, and Francis and Thomas Murphy. Visitation will be held from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m. Friday, April 30th with rosary at 7:30 p.m. at R.G. and G.R. Harris Funeral Home, 15451 Farmington Road, Livonia, 1730 p.m. at R.G. Angel Road, R.G. R.G. and G.R. Harris Funeral Home, 15451 Farmington Road, Livonia, (734) 422-6720. A funeral mass will be held on Saturday May 1 at 11:30 a.m. at St. Aidan's Church with visitation at 11:00 a.m., 17500 Farmington Road, Livonia. Memorials may be directed to the Capuchin Soup Kitchen and The St. Aidan Conference of The Society of St. Vincent de Paul. Please sign online guestbook at www.rogrharris.com.

www.rggrharris.com.





MARIE-KRISTIN FRIEDOW

Age 18 of Plymouth, suddenly April 25, 2010. Loving daughter of Thomas and Christel. Beloved sister of Michelle. Dearest granddaughter of Thea Friedow. Also survived by numerous Friedow. Also survived by numerous aunts, uncles and cousins. Funeral service Sunday 3 PM at St. Michaels Lutheran Church, 7000 Sheldon Road, Canton (at Warren Road). Visitation will be held Friday 5-9PM and Saturday 1-5PM at Geneva Presbyterian Church, 5835 North Sheldon Road, Canton (porth of Ford). In hopper of Marie. (north of Ford). In honor of Marie, Memorial contributions may be made to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) c/o Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), P.O. Box 643700, Pittsburgh PA 15264-3700; or the PCEP Gay-Straight Alliance (GSA), c/o Gretchen Miller, Salem High School, 46181 Joy Road, Canton MI 48187. These organizations were very important to her.
Arrangements by

Vermeulen Funeral Home-Plymouth Telephone 734-459-2250 To share memories please visit: vermeulenfuneralhome.com

OBITUARY POLICY

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

Deadlines: Friday 4:15 PM for Sunday dnesday 9:45 AM for Thursday Obituaries received after these deadli will be placed in the next available is:

e-mail your obit to oeobits@hometownlife.com or fax to: Attn: Obits c/o Char Wilson 313-496-4968

c more information ca Char Wilson 586-826-7082 or Liz Keiser 586-977-7538 800-579-7355

CATHERINE LENA GAUL

Age 96 recently of Gaylord, MI, died Age 96 recently of Gaylord, MI, died Wednesday, April 21, 2010, at Aspen Ridge Care Facility in Gaylord, MI. Catherine was born on May 14, 1913, the second daughter of John Henry and Nellie (Leary) Bush, in Milford, MI. She graduated from Milford High School in 1930 and married her high school sweetheart. Biohard H. Gaul. school sweetheart, Richard H Gaul, July 24, 1936. They moved to Farmington, MI, in 1938, and Dick's job with Cadillac Motor in Detroit. Catherine graduated from the Detroit Conservatory of Music, June, 1941. While in Farmington, 1938-2008, she was a homemaker, mother, and piano teacher to many children. enjoyed playing the piano and organ at home, church, and at silent movies early in her life. Her husband and family were her life and much time was spent with her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. Due to her gentle character and ready smile, she will be missed by all who knew her. She is preceded in death by her husband, Dick and her sister, Zetta. Catherine is survived by her daughter, Marilyn (Robert) Killian of daughter, Marilyn (Robert) Killian of Boyne Falls, and son, Richard (Joan) Gaul of Farmington Hills. Missing her are grandchildren Marcia Monchilov of Gaylord, and Robert Killian of Traverse City, as well as Shelli Connelly of Fenton and Richard Gaul of Waterford, and great grandchildren Mason and Morgan Monchilov, Abigail and Ashley Killian, and Shawn and Josie Connelly, Cremation has taken place. A gathering of family will take place in Milford, May 7. There will be no funeral or visitation times. Her ashes will be buried at the Oak Grove Cemetery, in Milford. Memorials in her name may be directed to the First Presbyterian Church of Farmington, 26165 Farmington Rd., Farmington Hills, 48334 or the Salvation Army.

JOHN THOMAS LOFTUS

Age 63, of Farmington, passed away April 25, 2010. Arrangements by THAYER-ROCK FUNERAL HOME, Farmington, MI.



Your Invitation to Worship

CATHOLIC

ST. ANNE'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH Tridentine Latin Mass

St. Anne's Academy - Grades K-8 38100 Five Mile Road Livonia, MI 48154 • (734) 462-3200

Mass Schedule:
First Fri. 7500 p.m.
First Sat. 11:00 a.m.
Sun. Masses 7:30 & 10:00 a.m.
Confessions Heard Prior to Each Mass Mother of Perpetual Help Devotions Tuesdays at 7:00 P.M. ORGONSE

St Genevieve Roman Catholic Church St. Genevieve School - PreK-8 29015 Jamison • Livonia • 734-427-5220 (East of Middlebelt, between 5 Mile & Jeffries) MASS: Tues. 7 p, Wed., Thurs. 9 a, Sat. 4 p, Sun 11a

St. Maurice Roman Catholic Church 32765 Lyndon • Livonia • 734-522-1616 (between Merriman & Farmington Roads) MASS: Mon. 8:30 a, Fri. 8:30 a, Sat. 6 p, Sun 9a

CHURCHES OF THE NAZARENE

PLYMOUTH CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

46801 W. Ann Arbor Road • (734) 463-1825 Sunday School - 9:45 A.M. Sunday Worship - 11:00 A.M. Sunday Evening - 6:00 P.M. Family Night - Wed. 7:00 P.M. NEW HORIZONS FOR CHILDREN LEARNING CENTER (734) 455-3196

LUTHERAN-ELCA

ST. JOHN

LUTHERAN, ELCA Farmington Hills 23225 Gill Rd 248-474-0584

SATURDAY WORSHIP • 5:30 PM Sunday Worship & Sunday School

9:00 AM TRADITIONAL/CHORAL SERVICE 10:15 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL - ALL AGES 11:15 AM CONTEMPORARY SERVICE NURSERY AVAILABLE
BILL & LAUREN KIRSH-CARR, PASTORS

UNITED METHODIST

Redford Redford
Aldersgate
Flymouth United Methodist 10000 Beech Daly 313-937-3170 30 - Trad. Worship & Sunday School 11:00 - Contemp Family Worship



248-626-3620

Worship: 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. Christian Education for all ages Pastors: Carol J. Johns, Jim Braid, Margo Dexter

PRESBYTERIAN (U.S.A.)

ROSEDALE GARDENS

9601 Hubbard at W. Chicago, Livonia, MI (between Merriman & Farmington Rds.)



(734) 422-0494 Friends in Faith Service 9:00 am Traditional Service 10:30 am

Visit www.rosedalegardens.org For information about our many programs

GREEK **ORTHODOX**

NATIVITY OF THE VIRGIN MARY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH 39851 West Five Mile, Plymouth Twp., MI Sunday Services Matins 8:30 am, Divine Liturgy 10:00 am Rev. Fr. George Vaporis Parish Office 734-420-0131 Office Hours M-F 10:00 am - 2:00 pm www.nativitygochurch.org

PRESBYTERIAN

Fellowship Presbyterian Church Adult Sunday School: 9:30 - 10:15 a.m. · Worship: 10:30 a.m.

Childrens Sunday School: 10:30 a.m. Pastor: Dr. Jimmy McGuire Services held at: Saint Andrews Episcopal Church 16360 Hubbard Road in Livonia • South of Six Mile Road Nursery provided • www.fellowship-presbyterian.org

For Information regarding this Directory, please call Donna Hart at 248-437-2011, Ext. 247 or e-mail: dhart@dnps.com

LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSOURI SYNOD

Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church

nington Road, Livonia Just n 734-522-6830

Sunday Worship 8:30 & 11:00 am - Traditional Staffed Nursery Available



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

Making disciples who share the love of Jesus Christ Senior Pastor: Rev. Dean Davenport Pastors: Robert F. Bayer and Anthony M. Creeden

MISSOURI SYNOD 25630 GRAND RIVER at BEECH DALY 313-532-2266 REDFORD TWP.

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Worship Service 9:15 & 11:00 A.M.

Sunday School 9:15 & 11:00 A.M. Nursery Provided

The Rev. Timothy P. Halboth, Senior Pastor

The Rev. Dr. Victor F. Halboth. Assistant Pastor

EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN



40000 Six Mile Road "fust west of I-275 Northville, MI

248-374-7400 Traditional Worship 8:00, 9:30 & 11:00 A.M. Contemporary Worship

9:30 & 11:00 A.M. Nursery & Sunday School During the 9:30 & 11:00 Hours

Evening Service • 7:00 p.m. Service Broadcast 11:00 A.M. Sunday WRDT-AM 560 The WMUZ Word Station For additional information visit www.wardchurch.org

Risen Christ Lutheran

46250 Ann Arb (734) 453-5252 Worship 8:15 & 10:45 am Sunday School 9:30 • Adult Bible Study 9:30 Nursery Care Available. All are welcome. Come as you are www.risenchrist.info

LUTHERAN CHURCH WISCONSIN SYNOD

ST. PAUL'S EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL 17810 FARMINGTON ROAD.
LIVONIA (734) 261-1360
WORSHIP SERVICES
SUNDAY: 8:30 A.M. & 11:00 A.M.
THURSDAY: 6:30 P.M. website: www.stpaulslivonia.org

CONGREGATIONAL

North Congregational Church 36520 12 Mile Rd.



Farmington Hills (bet. Drake & Halsted) (248) 848-1750

10:30 a.m. Worship & Church School Faith - Freedom-Fellowship

Ministers Dr. Mark P. Jensen Rev. Mary E. Biedron

Celebrate Cinco de Mayo with food fiesta

This Cinco de Mayo, make sure you're prepared to celebrate the Mexican victory over the French at the Battle of Puebla on May 5, 1862. Gather your family on this festive day to enjoy music, dancing and, of course, great Mexican

As you're getting ready for this year's fiesta, keep Mama Ortega in mind. Maria Conception Jacinta Dominguez Ortega, otherwise known as Mama Ortega, raised a family of 13 children with homemade Mexican meals every night. One hundred fifty years later her traditions still live on with Mexican foods from Ortega.

Make some of your own family traditions with great recipes such as Pasta and Grilled Vegetable Salad with Cilantro Dressing, BBQ Chicken Tacos, Taco Casserole or, perhaps, a Frozen Margarita Pie.

To get new ideas on Cinco de Mayo recipes and valuable coupons, visit www.ortega.com.

TACO CASSEROLE

Prep Time: 10 minutes Start to Finish: 30 minutes

Makes: 8 servings

1 pound lean ground beef ½ cup chopped onion

1 bottle (8 ounces) taco sauce

% cup water

1 can (4 ounces) fire-roasted diced green chiles

1 packet (1.25 ounces) taco seasoning mix

1 package (12-count) corn taco shells, broken, divided

2 cups (8 ounces) shredded cheddar

cheese, divided Chopped tomatoes, chopped green

bell pepper, sour cream Preheat oven to 375°F. Grease

11 x 7-inch baking dish.

Cook beef and onion in large skillet over medium heat, stirring occasionally, until beef is browned. Drain and discard

to 4 minutes, stirring occasion-

Bake 20 to 25 minutes or until bubbly and cheese is melted.

PASTA AND GRILLED VEGETABLE SALAD WITH CILANTRO DRESSING

Makes: 6 to 8 servings

1 can (4 ounces) fire-roasted diced green chiles

1/2 cup chopped fresh cilantro

4 cup olive oil

1 tablespoon red wine vinegar

1/2 teaspoon minced garlic Salt and black pepper to taste

Salad 1 red bell pepper, cored, seeded, cut in half

1 green bell pepper, cored, seeded, cut in half

1 medium zucchini, cut lengthwise into thin slices

1 medium yellow squash, cut lengthwise into thin slices

1 large red onion, cut into 1/2-inchthick wedges

1 pound pasta shells or penne, cooked

Stir in taco sauce, water, chiles and seasoning mix; bring to a boil. Reduce heat to low. Cook 3

Layer half of broken taco shells on bottom of prepared baking dish. Cover with half of meat mixture; sprinkle with 1 cup cheese. Repeat layers with remaining ingredients.

Serve with desired toppings

Prep Time: 15 minutes/Start to Finish: 30 minutes

1 jar (16 ounces) vegetable salsa 1/4 cup firmly packed fresh basil, cut

into thin strips

Lettuce leaves (optional)

Combine chiles, cilantro, oil, vinegar and garlic in small bowl. Whisk until well blended Season with salt and pepper to taste. Set aside.

Preheat grill to medium-high heat, about 15 minutes. Lightly brush grill grid with vegetable

Grill bell peppers, zucchini, squash and onion 3 to 5 minutes per side or until fork-tender. Remove vegetables from grill: cut into bite-size pieces.

Toss cooked pasta, salsa, sliced vegetables and basil in large bowl or serving platter. Serve with dressing on lettuce leaves, if desired.



Frozen Margarita Pie

FROZEN MARGARITA PIE

Prep Time: 15 minutes Start to Fin-

Makes: 8 servings

Crust 10 yellow corn taco shells

½ cup (1 stick) butter

½ cup granulated sugar Filling

1 can (14 ounces) sweetened condensed

1/2 cup frozen limeade thawed

2 tablespoons orange juice

1 drop green food coloring

1 cup whipping cream

Lime curls (optional)

Place taco shells in food processor and pulse until evenly ground. Melt butter in medium saucepan over

low heat. Remove from heat. Stir in taco crumbs and sugar until well blended. Press firmly over bottom and up sides of 9-inch pie plate

Place in freezer until firm.

Combine sweetened condensed milk, limeade, orange juice and food coloring in large mixing bowl.

Whip cream until soft peaks form. Fold whipped cream gently into condensed milk mixture until blended. Pour onto prepared

Freeze uncovered, 4 hours or until firm. Let stand 10 minutes before serving. Garnish with lime curls, if desired

Tip: To crush taco shells without a food processor, place them in a resealable plastic food storage bag and run a rolling pin over the shells until they're evenly crushed.

CITY BITES

Got Probiotics? Northville - Test Guernsey Farms Dairy's new line of probiotic milk and its other products at a Taste Fest,

2-4 p.m., Saturday, May I, at the dairy, 21300 Novi Road, between Eight Mile and Nine Mile. Probiotics, known as "good bacteria" help sup-

port healthy digestive and immune systems. Guernsey Farms Dairy teamed with Ganeden Biotech, Inc., maker of the patented probiotic strain, GanedenBC30, to produce the new probioticenhanced line of milk.

Now consumers who enjoy our milk can have the added health benefits of probiotics without having to take a supplement," said Tom Rice, marketing direc-

tor for Guernsey Farms Dairy.
The probiotic milk is available in 2 percent lowfat and skim, and is free of growth hormone. It's available

at the dairy's retail store as well as at Hillers markets, Busch's, Plum Markets, Holiday Markets, Picnic

Basket, and other food retailers.

In addition to milk, Guernsey Farms Dairy pro-

duces half & Half, whip cream, sour cream, chip dip,

donated by the California winery to The Arbor Day Foundation. The winery also is donating a percentage of its profits this year for tree planting.

Louis Johnson, bartender at Antonio's in Farmington Hills, said he suggested the restaurant partner with Tangley and The Arbor Day Foundation.

online at hometownlife.com

McGuire hot fudge, buttermilk, orange juice, yogurt, eggnog and lemonade. www.guernseyfarmsdairy.

Farmington Hills - Celebrate Arbor Day Friday, April

30 with a glass of Tangley Oaks wine at Antonio's

Every glass or bottle of Tangley's chardonnay or

merlot sold at the restaurant, represents one new tree

com; (248) 349-1466.

Wine and trees

Cucina Italiana.

"I thought it was something that was interesting and would inspire people to give back a little," he said,

describing the "One Wine-One Tree" program. Antonio's Cucina Italiana also has restaurants in Dearborn Heights and Canton

For more information, visit www.antoniosrestau-

Where's the Place to Shop for Mother's Day Gifts? You Could Win a NTC Win a \$100 Shopping Spree! Shopping Spree!

NOVI 0



Get the perfect gift for Mom and a chance to win a Shopping Spree for you!

Shop Novi Town Center for Mother's Day gifts from now thru May 9th and you could win one of 5 \$100 Shopping Sprees.

For complete details on our Mother's Day Sweepstakes, visit www.novitowncenter.com

Novi Town Center

26132 Ingersol Drive | Novi, MI 48375 | www.novitowncenter.com

SIMON

Northville Farmers' Market Opening Day is May 6th



Kick off Spring with a visit to the Northville Farmers' Market. Enjoy over 100 stalls of Michigan Made and Michigan Grown Finds.

Presented by:

Every 3rd Thursday is "Chefs at the Market." See local chefs select from the market, create great dishes to sample and receive recipe cards.

Northville Farmers' Market is located on the northwest corner of Sheldon and 7 Mile Rd. in the Northville Downs parking lot.



Thursdays, 8:00 - 3:00pm • May - October

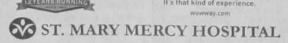
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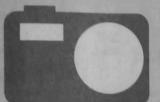


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hometownlife.com



Julie Brown, editor. (313) 222-6755. jcbrown@hometownlife.com

Family's labor helps make Habitat home theirs

BY JULIE BROWN OSE STAFF WRITER

Rashard Sartor of Inkster showed up ready to work on a recent Saturday.

He, wife Maya and their five children in a blended family will soon move into a Habitat for Humanity home on Christine in Westland. They have a baby daughter due June 2, so it's a good thing the home has four bedrooms and two full baths.

"This house is very important," said Sartor, who works with individuals with developmental disabilities, including community mental health. His wife works for the same firm in development of microenterprises, while he's a supervisor.

Their children are Marlyn, 15, Makayla, 11, Katlyn, 10, Callie, 10, Brennan, 7, and baby Madilyne Brooke due in June. The Sartors, like other families who receive Habitat for Humanity of Western Wayne County homes, put in 250 hours of "sweat equity" per adult working on home construction or rehabbing.

"She'll probably come and boss me around," Sartor said with a smile of his wife. They're grateful for Habitat's help, which includes a 0 percent mort-

gage they'll pay back.
"If it wasn't for Habitat I don't know," he said. "It's definitely a blessing. We'll probably have a lot of memories in this home.

That Saturday, volunteers from Geneva Presbyterian Church in Canton were working on the Christine home, believed to have been built around the 1920s and moved from Detroit to Westland. Sue Carlson of Canton, an attorney who practices in Livonia, was Geneva's representative to the Apostles Build, a group of area churches working on Habitat homes.

"We have a number of churches that are a part of that group," said Carlson, whose Saturday crew included eight workers and a lunch volunteer brigade. "It looks like most of the interior

work is painting." There was exterior painting to do as well, along with some cleanup. The porch wasn't structurally sound, so



The Geneva Presbyterian Church of Canton volunteer group worked a recent Saturday on the Westland Habitat for Humanity home A number of other area churches and the city of Westland are also sending volunteers

volunteers were needed for that. Skilled trades work is done by a licensed contractor, Carlson said. "I personally have done a lot of painting." She's helped put in insulation, and noted those who can use a hammer, staple gun and pry bar are always

There's a lot of stuff with a rehab you don't always anticipate," she said. (Habitat also builds a number of new homes for families as part of its Christian ministry.) The Christine house was donated by the city of Westland which also provided money for costs. The affiliate and church group are supervising the build and coordinating volunteers, and paying for needed extra insulation.

Bruce Whittle of Plymouth Township is volunteer site supervisor for the home. He's a retired Ford Motor Co. engineer and has volunteered with Habitat about three years.

Whittle did construction-type work with his dad growing up. "My career with Ford kept me busy. I just want to

The Christine home the Sartors will move into soon is the second Habitat rehab in Westland. "This has come along pretty good," Whittle said. "It had the bones to be a good home." Work began in early January and should wrap up in late April/early



Rashard and Maya Sartor are looking forward to moving into the Westland Habitat for Humanity home with their children.

Whittle tips his hat to fellow volunteer Mike Bush who's done a lot in his absence overseeing work.

Volunteers come in with diverse skills, Whittle said. "A lot of people come to learn how to do things." That ranges from painting to structural

"Sometimes you have to go back and redo some of the work," he said. "Everyone's welcome. Even the kids come," although there are some age restrictions on work.

Barb Fichtenberg of Canton, church relations chair for Habitat, soon arrived. "It's looking good here," said Fichtenberg, a Geneva member and Garden City Hospital medical technologist. "I see the (kitchen) floor is

The 2005 Canton Circle of Faith saw the first such Habitat home built, with congregations joining in from neighboring communities as Habitat work expanded. The Apostles Build includes Ecumenical Work Days, Fichtenberg said, when members of more than one church work side by side.

She likes that, as it's rewarding to meet those from other churches.

Brenda Sprague of Canton, a Geneva member and payroll specialist by profession, said, "This is my first

time" volunteering. "It's important for a family to have a home."

Sprague can do painting and outside work. "I've been wanting to do it so this was the perfect opportunity for me," she said.

For information on donating to or volunteering for Habitat for Humanity of Western Wayne County, call (734) 459-7744 or visit www. habitatwwc.org. Alice Dent is the Plymouth-based affiliate's executive

Churches and others that have scheduled work days thus far are First Presbyterian Church of Plymouth, city of Westland, First Presbyterian Church of Northville, Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church, St. John Neumann Catholic Church and Geneva Presbyterian.

Other churches that are part of the Apostles Build but have not yet scheduled work days include St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Northville, Resurrection Parish, Timothy Lutheran, First United Methodist Church of Plymouth, Our Lady of Victory Church in Northville, St. Michael the Archangel and Meadowbrook Congregational Church.

Ask lawyer open meeting question

Q: The board has, on its own without a note to the members for their input, just levied an assessment to buy insecticide in our community. I am wondering if that action is legal when the welfare of the community is being decided, particularly, since we are concerned about the use of an insecticide.

A: While there is not an Open Meetings Act as it relates



reviewing your condominium documents and/or otherwise reviewing the procedures of your

condominium, it is not possible for me to give you a clear answer. However, to the extent that the board is taking action which could be detrimental to the interests of the co-owners, the co-owners obviously have recourse either politically or legally. You are best to consult with an experienced community association lawyer.

Q: We are seeking your advice because we are in a dispute with the developer and the court has ordered facilitation. One of the options is a retired judge to be a case evaluator. What is your view on that?

A: It is difficult to make a generalization because some ex-judges are excellent facilitators. On the other hand, some ex-judges still treat the facilitation as if they were in court, and, do not adhere to the rules concerning facilitators, express their opinions when that is not part of the job of the facilitator, and, otherwise, sometimes enter into ex-parte communications with the judge of the case. Accordingly, you should be extremely careful in picking an ex-judge as a facilitator as opposed to someone who has gone through facilitative training as is required by attorneys who wish to be appointed by courts in order to be a facilitator.

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-OAKLAND

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of January 11-15, 2010, at the Oakland County Register of Deeds office.

sted below are cities, addr	esses,
nd sales prices.	
Auburn Hills	
16170 Amherst Ave	\$228,000
16255 Amherst Ave	\$120,000
18910 Devonshire St	\$121,000
30360 Woodhaven Ln	\$253,000
Bingham Farms	***************************************
30725 River Crossing St	\$194,000
Birmingham	2121,000
	\$373,000
1505 Emmons Ave	
1067 Kennesaw St	\$308,000
283 Northlawn Blvd	\$205,000
1380 Pierce St	\$267,000
579 Ridgedale Ave	\$400,000
988 Westchester Way	\$525,000
1659 Yosemite Blvd	\$135,000
Bloomfield Hills	
1070 Stratford Ln	\$115,000
Bloomfield Townshi	
1956 E Hammond Lake Dr	\$140,000
4049 Fairlane Dr	\$151,000
	\$235,000
5615 Westwood Ct	3233,000
Clarkston	000 000
5390 Columbia	\$110,000
6116 Crestwood Ct	\$175,000
6190 Mallard Ct	\$245,000
4575 Pelton Rd	\$110,000
8866 Tahoe Dr	\$156,000
Commerce Townshi	p
5597 Starwood Dr	\$197,000
Davisburg	
11098 Chyna Run	\$182,000
5942 Long Point Dr	\$135,000
Farmington	4/10/100
23908 Pickett Ave	\$250,000
Farmington Hills	3530,000
	\$78,000
38900 Country Cir	\$220,000
25816 Hunt Club Blvd	
39100 Lancaster Dr	\$220,000
29034 Ramblewood Dr	\$122,000
30420 W 10 Mile Rd	\$159,000
32252 W 12 Mile Rd	\$54,000
Keego Harbor	
3040 Stapleton Dr	\$75,000
Lake Orion	
89 Creekwood Dr	\$350,000
3901 Long Meadow Ln	\$201,000
168 Schram Ct	\$81,000
1238 Walloon Way	\$215,000
Lathrup Village	
	\$31,000
27384 Evergreen Rd	\$143,000
17344 Rainbow Dr Milford	3143,000
	\$127,000
886 Panorama Dr	\$127,000
Novi	670 000
44850 Bayview Dr	\$70,000
50735 Chesapeake Dr	\$570,000

46 Midway Dr 08 Olde Orchard St 7 Village Wood Ln	\$310,00 \$55,00 \$52,00
land Township	
Lochmoor Ct	\$618.00

766 Lochmoor Ct	\$618.0
	20,0,0
Orchard Lake	
802 Orchard PI	\$240,0
1206 Woodlands Ln	\$319,0
Oxford	
483 Harwood Dr	\$134,0
875 Lakesview Dr	\$123,0
3928 Shoshone Ct	\$225,0
Rochester	
310 Plate St	\$25.0
Rochester Hills	
498 Antler Ct	\$185,0
439 Class Cenal De	\$535

810 Plate St	\$25.0
Rochester Hills	
1498 Antier Ct	\$185.0
1438 Clear Creek Dr	\$535,0
3646 Cone Ave	\$150,0
3458 Connors Dr	\$50,0
2781 Culbertson Ave	\$30,0
308 Gunder Dr	\$188,0
3559 Hogan Cir	\$50.0
1645 Huntington Park	\$95,0
1368 Kingspath Dr	\$285,0
2269 Norton Rd	\$150,0
2021 Oak Leaf Dr	\$185,0
627 Parkland Dr '	\$217,0
2978 Simpson Dr	\$60,0
1460 Stockport Dr	\$172,0
3799 Summit Ct	\$235,0
758 Ten Point Dr	\$210,0
South Lyon	
23760 Spy Glass HI N	\$400.0

\$70,000 424 Whipple St Southfield 19040 Jeanette St 17253 Magnolia Pkwy 29275 Marshall St

22505 Providence Dr 30272 Southfield Rd 29455 Stellamar Dr \$285,000 2449 W Wattles Rd \$160,000 2202 Cameron Cir

1567 Treyborne Cir 450 Woodland Hills Dr Waterford \$73,000 \$193,000 6253 Andersonville Rd 3870 Embarcadero St 1048 Erskine Way 2546 W Walton Blvd West Bloomfield \$200,000 \$555,000 \$185,000 \$185,000 5241 Cedarhurst Dr 4744 Oak Grove Ct 6657 Red Cedar Ln 7384 Spring Oak Ct 7053 Timberview Trl

White Lake

\$234,000

951 Dacea Ct

\$450,000

50545 Langley Dr

Kudos

Coldwell Banker Weir Manuel has been awarded the prestigious Coldwell Banker® President's Award of Honor, given to franchisees who exceeded stringent performance standards in their local markets during the 2009 calendar year.

"Kelly Sweeney, CEO of Coldwell Banker Weir Manuel, along with its sales professionals, are truly deserving of the President's Award of Honor," said Jim Gillespie, president and chief executive officer of Coldwell Banker Real Estate LLC. "They have shown sincere dedication to their customers while representing the highest professional standards, a quality that sets apart Coldwell Banker Weir

Manuel sales professionals from the competition.'

REAL ESTATE BRIEFS

Founded in 1950, Coldwell Banker Weir Manuel is a Birmingham-based real estate broker with 11 offices and more than 400 real estate agents in southeastern Michigan. For more information, visit www.cbweirmanuel.com.

Real Estate Sales and Appraising

Learn about a career in residential real estate. Attend a free one-hour seminar, or shadow a top agent to get an inside feel of the business. Seminars are at noon or 6 p.m. Wednesdays. To reserve a spot, contact Steve Leibhan, Keller Williams Realty International, at

(248) 893-2500, 27555 Executive Drive, Suite 100, Farmington Hills 48331.

Wayne County

Real Estate Investor Association of Wayne County meets monthly on the first Tuesday of each month at the Holiday Inn, 17201 North Line Road, Southgate. At 7 p.m. May 4, speaker will be Georgia Kapsalis, a real estate broker, appraiser and landlord. Also featured is Jonathan Werner, who has been rehabbing properties since age 17. He runs a rental turnkey company.

Fee \$20 for nonmembers, applied to annual membership. For information, call (313) 347-1401 or visit www. reiawaynecounty.org.

HOMES SOLD-WAYNE

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of Jan. 11-15, 2010, at the Wayne County Register of Deeds office. Listed below

re cities, addresses, and	sal	es	
rices.			
Canton			
7705 Alton St		\$154,000	
46464 Hanford Rd		\$179,000	
42330 Jennings Ct		\$150,000	
41989 Metaline Dr		\$167,000	
49019 Northampton Ct		\$30,000	
3924 Ravensfield Dr		\$120,000	
43607 Ryegate St		\$135,000	
45140 Saltz Rd		\$140,000	
49387 Townsend Ct		\$390,000	
5794 Wedgewood Rd		\$155,000	
42582 Woodbridge Dr		\$157,000	
40772 Worthington Rd		\$172,000	
Garden City		A10000	

30855 Barton St 247 Brandt St 31453 Bridge St 29529 Dover St 6608 Gilman St 29916 Hennepin St 29941 Leona Ct

Livonia 9051 Brentwood St 18802 Comstock St 39347 Donald St 37471 Eagle Dr 18181 Floral St 28419 Gita St 36430 Ladywood St 15680 Levan Rd 16070 Noia Dr 15450 Oak Dr 32784 Perth St 31652 Saint Martins St

\$80,000 \$155,000 \$147,000 \$50,000 \$188,000

\$96,000

8971 Wilshire St Northville 16094 Morningside 40800 N Northville Trl

336 Adams St 41341 Crabtree Ln 42499 Lakeland Ct 12002 N Canton Center Rd 8815 Oakview St 10579 Red Maple Dr 307 Red Ryder Dr 48021 Saint Andrews Sq

17729 Delaware Ave 19335 Delaware Ave

\$46,000 \$200,000 \$133,000

\$134,000

20566 Denby 26046 Fordson Hwy 9197 Grayfield 12811 Hemingway \$58,000 \$60,000 \$72,000 14166 Lucerne 18807 Norborne Westland 38525 Avondale St

\$91,000 \$119,000 \$28,000 29243 Brody Ave 38341 Carolon Blvd 243 Ethan Dr 35861 Glen St 39200 Gloucester St 35150 Hazelwood St 31103 Merritt Dr 7910 Nankin Blvd \$68,000 1297 Surrey Hts



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ACROSS

- 1 Oxford tutor
- 4 Leafs through
- 9 ER practice 12 IOU part
- 13 Posh hotel lobbies
- 14 Exploit
- 15 Kudu cousin 17 Singing insect
- 19 Travel prefer-
- ence
- 21 Alphabet ender
- 22 Nourish
- 25 Fails to keep up 29 New Age
- practice 30 Dragon
- of puppetry 32 Part of an
- orange 33 Sapporo sash 35 Stand in good
- 37 Colorful carp
- town
- 38 Ohio college
- 40 Get out fast

44 Busy

non

46 List ender

49 Ballet lake

54 Old cattle town 57 Ms. Thurman 58 Scrapbook item

43 Fish-eating flier

50 U235 phenome-

- 60 Kids' card game
- 61 LP speed
- 62 Did a farm job
- 63 Bilko's rank
- DOWN
- 1 Female rabbit It gives a hoot 3 Comes closer
- to 4 Some tires
- 5 And, to Ovid Hot Springs st.
- 7 Cameron of films
- 8 Overfeed
- 9 Heifer's mouth-
- 16 Pact letters 18 Sharp bark 20 Happy tunes

10 Air-pump

meas.

11 Cheerful color

28 Caught sight of 31 Yields, as

Answer to Previous Puzzle

ZOOMS

SNATES LIELOW LOU MELEE

TEEN VA ERRED

OAT NOEL TOTA AG ELUSTVE UN SLAG STOP ODD

TERRA RN OBEY

BOOTEE MILADY AFR ADDED INA RAY MOANS NAP

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22 Feed the fire

attendee

26 Bering Sea

24 Reunion

bird 27 Library fixture

23 Earth pigment

- 39 Unisex wear 41 Lady's honorific
- 45 Chews on 47 Part of a cabbie's income
- 48 Salmon variety
- 50 Expensive gift 51 Brat
- 52 Newsman Donaldson
- 53 Parent's order
- 55 Crone 56 Sculpture or
- music 59 Lawrence's
- inits.

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LIVONIA (NW) RANCH Brick, Rose Tibbles 734-812-6745 Keller Williams 200 N. Center

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BILLING/INVOICE.

Sunday edition

Thursday edition......

EMAIL.

FAX.

OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC

HOME DELIVERY/CIRCULATION....

Southfield/Lathrup

By Owner SOUTHFIELD Beautiful 2,750 sq. ft. colo-nial home. 4 bdrm, 2.5 baths, hardwood floors.

baths, hardwood floors, marble/tile entrance, full bsmt, C/A, 2 car attached garage. 2 backyard patios (1st patio has gas grill + 2nd patio has awning). Penced in backyard, outside lawn sprinkler system. \$109,500 Call Sam: (248) 372-1114. Call Sam: (248) 372-1114

Classified

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Eccentric office......6200 Metro Pkwy., Sterling Heights, MI 48312 Observer office41304 Concept Drive, Plymouth, MI 48170 Hours8:30 - 5:00 Monday - Friday

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South Lyon

A MUST SEE RANCH! nergy efficient, custo uilt home. 3 bdrm. bath, large great room wit built-ins, full finished bsmt, 2 car gar, main floor laun-dry, large lot. Many extras! \$209,500. Call for appt: 248-437-5639.

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4:30 p.m. Friday

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ANN ARBOR AREA 2.5 acres Call: (248) 559-7430

3720

Condos

Westland

CANTON 1715 Heron Cir. (48187). 2 bdrm, 2.5 baths, totally updated thru-out, hardwood & file floors. Master suite w/spa hot tub. Bsmt, deck, 2 car art. gar. \$120,000, Short Sale approved, agreement can be finalized by April 30th. Open House: Sun, 4-25, 1-4;30pm. Ben Mungai 734-799-1593. CBWM, 177 N. Main, St. 100, Plymouth, MI.

LIVONIA (NW) CONDO

2 bdrm, 2 bath, 1 car attached, finished bsmt, \$119,000. Rose Tibbles: 734-812-6745 Keller Williams Really 200 N. Center

Manufactured Homes 3740



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Cemetery Lots

TWO CEMETERY LOTS In Glen Eden in Livonia Bik 29, Sec 290, graves 3 & 4, Value \$1250ea, Selling for \$900ea, Call: 734-654-6457

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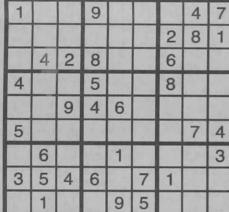
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Here's How It Works: Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure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

FIND THESE WORDS IN THE PUZZLE BELOW.

ASTEROID BLACK HOLE COMET GALAXY

METEOR MOON ORBIT PLANET

PULSAR OUASAR SATELLITE STAR

THE WORDS READ UP, DOWN AND ACROSS.

A	S	T	В	R	Н	0	L	E	A	
D	G	A	L	A	X	Y	D	S	S	
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CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE

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1st Choice Mortgage Lending	(734) 459-0782	4.875	0	4.25	0	J/A	Townson,
Accurate Mortgage Solutions	(800) 593-1912	4.875	0	4.25	0	J/A	
America Financial Group	(248) 974-8087	4.875	0	4.25	0	J/A	
Ameriplus Mortgage Corp.	(248) 740-2323	5	0	4.375	0	J/A	
BRINKS Financial	(800) 785-4755	4.75	0.875	4.25	0	J/A/V/F	l
Client Services by Golden Rule	(800) 991-9922	4.75	1.125	4.125	1	J/A/V/F	ı
Co-op Services Credit Union	(734) 466-6113	5.25	0	4.5	0	J	١
Cornerstone Community Financial	(800) 777-6728	5.25	0	4.5	0	J/A/F	ı
Dearborn Federal Savings Bank	(313) 565-3100	5.25	0	4.625	0	A	ı
Fifth Third Bank	(800) 792-8830	5.25	0	4.5	0,375	J/V/F	ı
Fisrt Michigan Bank	(248) 498-2824	5	. 0	4.25	0.25	J/V/F	١
First State Bank	(800) 372-2205	5.125	0	4.375	0	F	ı
Gold Star Mortgage	(800) 784-1074	4.875	0	4.25	0	J/A/V/F	ı
Golden Rule Mortgage	(800) 991-9922	4.875	0	4.25	0	J/A/V/F	l
Group One Mortgage	(248) 282-1602	5.25	0	4.625	0	J/A/V/F	I
Mac-Clair of Grosse Pointe	(313) 794-9001	5	0	4.375	0	J/A/V/F	I
Mortgages by Golden Bule	(800) 991-9922	4.75	0.875	d 195	-	MARKE	۱

Above Information available as of 4/23/10 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

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Lowest rent, Deluxe 1 & 2 bdrms, quiet, safe, balconies. Call: (313) 386 6720

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PLYMOUTH: Prime location. 1 & 2 bdrm. \$300 Sec. + 1st mo. FREE. Near downtown. Incl. heat. No dogs. 734-455-2635

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LIVONIA; Newly decorated 2 bdrm. 1 bath, appliances, car-

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Montgomery Ward Organ 38 in wide, 45 in high, 22 in deep. Good cond, you pic up. Call: (734) 495-3049

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garage and attic which are collecting dust!

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*4 line minimum, additional lines may be added for extra cost. Limited time special

Huge Collectible Auction 28135 8 Mile at Grand River Sat. 5/1, 1PM, doors open a noon. Sports, movie stars Hummel, Disney & more!

7080

BIRMINGHAM UNITARIAN CHURCH RUMMAGE

begins Thurs., April 29, 30pm-9:30pm with silen auction 6:30-8:30pm; everything half price, Fri., April 30, 10am-2pm; \$5 & \$10 per bag of rummage Sat. May 1st. 9am-noon.

Advertise 1 item of

As little as \$19.99*!

Your item will be advertised in

the paper & online for 2 weeks

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Garage Sales

FARMINGTON FLEA MARKET Sat. & Sun. May 1 & 2, 8am-5pm at Historic Winery 31505 Grand River at Orchard Lake Rd.

FARMINGTON HILLS-GREAT VALUE RUMMAGE SALE

alist Unitaria 25301 Halsted Rd ocated between Grand iver & 11 Mile. THURS. pril 29 and FRIDAY, April 0 9am to 8pm; SAT. May am to Noon.

Lots of great stuff!

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ntiques/Flea Market May 2nd, 7am-4pm lowed. Flat Rock Speedway, 1 mile S. of Flat Rock on Telegraph Road. (734) 782-5220

www.flatrockhistory.org

RUMMAGE SALE Pre-Sale Thurs. April 29, 5-8pm (Adults \$2), Free Admission Fri., Apr. 30, 9am-Apm & Salt, May 1, 9am-noon (½ off sale). Newburgh United Methodist Church, 36500 Ann Arbor Trail Livonia Arbor Trail, Livonia.

7100 Estate Sales

ANOTHER ESTATE SALE BY ENCORE

Apr. 30 & May 1, Fri-Sat. 10-4. Livonia, 38221 Ladywood Ct. Take 5 Mile, 4 blks. W of Newburgh, turn N. on Hix, go 5 blks. Complete Household.

CITY OF PLYMOUTH 287 Irvin, 4/30-5/1; 9-5pm. Furniture, vintage China & linens, crystal, Christmas dec-orations, lamps, Stief bear.

Farmington Hills Estate Sale -All Must Go! April 30 - May 1, 9-4pm. 31000 Oak Valley, Rolling Oaks Sub, S of 14, W of Farmington.

Garage Sales

BIRMINGHAM / BLOOMFIELD Garage Sale, Saturday, May 1 Dam-2pm. Children's books

BIRMINGHAM GARAGE SALE April 30th, 9am-Noon, 634 Vinewood Ave. Antiques, glassware, florals, electronic equip & more!

Huge Garage/Estale Sale.
Apr. 29 & 30, May 1 & 2, 9-4.
42282 Oakland Dr. Off Lilley
Rd., btwn. Cherry Hill &
Palmer. Furniture, clothes,
household items.

CANTON: Windsor Park Subwide Garage Sale 9-5 Thurs. April 29-Sat. May 1 E. of Sheldon to Emerson N. of Warren to Arlington

Detroit-Golf Club Community Sat May 1, 9-5, Sun May 2, 9-5pm. Furniture, housewares, clothing, etc. 17535 Hamilton Rd, Off Poncta Train in Palmer Park area.

FARMINGTON HILLS 4 Family Sale! Wed-Sat, Apri 28-May 1, 10-5pm, 29651 Muirland Dr, N of 13 Mile, W of Orchard Lk, Everything Goes!

GARDEN CITY: Lots of STUFF! Fri-Sun. Apr. 30-May 2, 8-5. Vintage, sporting goods, antiques, toys, furniture & housewares. No early birds, 32128 Kathryn (at Craig)

GARDEN CITY - Tools, house hold items, children's clothes & misc. April 29 - May 1, 11-6pm. 6679 Cadillac, btwn Ford & Warren Ave off Maplewood. LIVONIA: 28447 Cleveland.

Thurs-Sun. 4/29-5/2, Thur-Sat. 9-4pm. Sun. 12:30-4. Small furniture, Pottery Barn home decor, power tools, kids books, garden supplies & lots more

LIVONIA- 29836 Pickford, 7 Mile/Middlebelt, 4/28-5/1; 9 6pm. Furniture, household tems, toys, clothes, & more! LIVONIA: Country Homes

Estates Subwide Garage Sale N. of 5 Mile, btwn. Levan & Newburgh. Thurs-Sat., April 29-May 1, 9am-5pm.

LIVONIA - Off Newburgh, btwn 5 & 6 Mile. Nascar col-lectibles, furniture, log split-ter, electronics & much more!

LIVONIA- Thurs-Sun, 4/29-5/2, 9:00am. 12+households Something for everyone! Benefits KOMEN 3 DAY 32960 6 Mile, E of Farmington Rd.

LIVONIA- WESTERN GOLD ESTATES, 14680 Santa Anitá, 5 Mile/Inkster. 4/28-5/2, 9a-5p. Household items, furniture, adult & baby clothes & toys.

NEW HUDSON- Estate Sale. Fri & Sat., (4/30-5/1) 8-6pm, 26399 Spaulding, btwn 11 & 12 Mile W of Millord Rd. House full of furniture, house-hold items, clothes, garage stuff, tools, etc.

NORTHVILLE All proceeds go to the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society Thursday, Friday & Saturday 4/29 - 5/1, Multi-Saturday 4/29 — 5/1. Multi-Family Garage Sale-Includes snow blower, household goods, small electronics and furniture. 45310 Byrne Dr., Northville Michigan

NORTHVILLE: Thurs. Fri. & Sat. 8-1pm. 48622 Stoneridge Dr. 6 Mile/Beck area. Furniture, household goods, clothes, games, tools, sporting goods. No Early Birds.

PLYMOUTH GARAGE SALE 607 Harding St. 2 blks E of Ann Arbor Rd on the corner of Fairground Park. Fri-Sun April 30-May 2, 9am-5pm.

SOUTH LYON - 4 Families Thurs-Sat, April 29-May 1, 9-3pm 25701 McCrory Lane, off Martindale btwn 10 & 11 Mile SOUTH LYON:

Fishing, Hunting, Tools, Furniture, Electronics, Baby & Toddler Items. Thurs-Sat. 1317 Coach House Lane. Carriage Trace Sub.

SOUTH LYON- Furnishings baby items, '77 Lincoln Continental Towne Car. 13823 Monarch, Windcrest Sub. 5/1 (8-5pm) & 5/2 (9-4pm).

SOUTH LYON- HUGE GARAGE SALE! 4/30-5/1, 8am-3pm. 1021 Carriage Trace Blvd. Lawn equipment, furniture, toys & more!

SOUTH LYON- Huge sale! Thurs., April 29- May 2nd; 24790 Valleywood, Woodwind Glen Condos across fro Tanglewood, N. off 10 Mile.

SOUTH LYON Garage Sale. April 29-May 9-4pm. 1370 Drury Ln, 1 Mile & Pontiao Tr. Furnitur tools, antiques, household items, teen clothing & more! **Garage Sales**

SOUTH LYON- Oakwood Meadows Sub sale. 9643 Daleview, 4/30-5/1. 2 new kayaks, upright piano, Conn organ & much more.

7110

SOUTH LYON-Oakwood neadows Sub Sale- Multiple lomes! Fri-Sun 4/30-5/2, 9-lpm. 10 Mile Rd, approx. 1 nile W of Pontiac Trail.

SOUTH LYON: Tanglewood Subdivision Garage Sale, Fri., April 30-Sun, May 2, 8-4pm. S. side of 10 Mile Rd. Btwn. Milford & Wixom Rd.

WESTLAND 8576 Blackburn (48185) April 30-May 2, 9am-5pm DVDs, Electronics, furnitu Books, Tapes, CDs & more

WESTLAND: Huge Garage Sale, Fri., Sat. & Sun. Apr. 30-May 2, 9-3. Antiques, tools, clothes, household, col-lectibles, furniture, electron-ics, computer programs, etc. 33796 Lacrosse St. On Warren, btwn. Wayne/Venoy. WESTLAND - Lighthouse Indoor/Outdoor Sale

34033 Palmer Rd, btw Wayne & Venoy, April 30 May 9, 9-7pm. Furniture computers, appli, dishes collectibles, jewelry, elec-tronics, leather coats. ALL PROCEEDS TO PURCHASE FOOD FOR THE NEEDY

Moving Sales

MILFORD- 125 Franklin St., 1 blk off Atlantic 5/1-5/2; 9-5pm Furniture, appliances & misc. Rain or shine!

PLYMOUTH- Fri & Sat., (4/30-5/1) 9-5pm. 255 Ann St., behind Central Middle School. Jewelry, Fenton glass, fabric by the yard, glassware, furniture, and more! Also selling vintage Harley Davidson.

SOUTH LYON Moving Sale -April 29-May 2, 9am-5pm, NO EARLY BIRDS!! 1114 Surrey, 48178. Household furniture appliances, tools, holidays kids, crafts.

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40-60, who's looking for commitment, love and laughter. I'm a 47-year-old who's bright, spunky and pretty. Only Jewish men please. 17962317 PLUS-SIZED LADY...

SEARCHING FOR A MAN.

34, 200lbs, sexy single mom, looking for SM, 37+, for friendship and dating leading to LTR. Is this you? Call mel \$\overline{12}\$17234 HI I'm a widowed, white female, 58 years old, dark blonde hair, blue eyes, I wear glasses, I have no kids but have three cats, I enjoy reading, music, old movies, going up north, museums, historical places. I have a good sense of humor and loves to laugh. I am also a very caring and considerate person. \$\mathbb{T}\$137067

SASY SILLY AND SENSITIVE 57-year-old nurse, 55°, medium build, red hair, Christian, very amusing, loves outdoors and animals, ISO honest, loyal gentleman, who loves to laugh and have hun 17328/133 CURVACEOUS
SWF, 47, 57* 155lbs, hazel eyes, dimples, enjoys r&b music, jazz, dancing, dining out, blues, sports. Seeking SBM, 21-42, with almilar interests, for friendship first, possibly more. \$\pi\$285605

SEF, 36, 59°, 1500s, tooking for a SBM, 35-45, who likes movies, dining, concerts, walks in the park, hanging out.

LADY OF QUALITY
SBF, 30-something, 57", laid-back,
down-to-earth, seeks open, honest, loyal, faithful professional man, 35-55, for
LTR. No games, race open. 27310218

TAKE A CHANCE ON ME SWPF, 48, educated, H/W proportionate, seeks educated, professional male, 40-55, NS, with sense of humor. Let's meet for coffee or a drink. \$\mathbb{T}311355\$ SEEKING MR. RIGHT SBF, 37, 55°, nurse, mother of three, Christian values, NS, social drinker, seeks SM, 32-50, race open, with similar values. 17310924

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PBF, 40, looks younger, attractive, independent, loving, caring, enjoys working,
dining out, quiet times at home. Seeking
handsome, well-built, warm-hearted,
considerate WM, 36-43, to share what
life has to offer. TZ298002

SEEKING A REAL MAN watching tv, shopping, visiting fripicnics, taking walks, parks, dhanging out with friends. Looking SB/WM, 29-58. \$\alpha\$314707

ARE YOU OUT THERE?
SBF, 36, 5'4', 166bs, brownbrown, drama-free, disease-free, looking for SW/BM, 35-60, to talk to. I like movies, music, hanging out, travel, having fun. DOWN-TO-EARTH WOMAN
WF, full-figured, auburn hair, looking for a guy who likes books and more intelectual pursulfs. I enjoy jazz and classical music. 45-65. 72321569

HONEST AND CARING Sensitive SWF, 41, 55°, likes Bon Jovi and Van Halen, spaghetti dinners, gar-dening, hockey and baseball, old mov-les, arts and crafts, picnics, reading, Looking for a gentleman, 45-57, race open, for friendship 27318717

open, for friendship \$\frac{1}{2}\$18717

TOTAL LOSER!

I have no looks, no interests, no talent, no LQ, no friends, no job, and haven't dated since 1982! OK, stop laughing and here is the truth. I am a SJPF, 47, 58°, blonde, shapely, bright (advanced degree), fun, caring, passionate, and one of the nicest people you will ever meet. Among other things, I love great conversation, a great sense of humor, and great klasing. Seeking compatible male, late 40s - mid 60s, for permanent best firend and lover, fir temporarily living in Milwaukee but may move to Michigan soon. \$\textit{T324039}\$

Easygoing DWF, early 50s, would like to meet a really nice WM, 50-65, with the same qualities, minimal baggage, to share the ups and downs of life. Seeking possible LTR. 27279171 MUST LOVE GOD
SBF, 56, 572°, full-figured, beautiful, medium complexion, long hair, looking for a nice, young SBCM, 49-55, who is employed, honest, loyal, just an all-around sweet person. \$\mathbf{T}_{328795}\$

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ISO COMPANIONSHIP Attractive, flexible SBF, 63, 54", 105ibs, loves dancing, movies, dining, travet Seeking honest, sincere, independent, humorous gerifeman for friendship, possibly more. 17324468 A RARE LADY
SBF, 56", NS, ND, very humorous,
would love to meet a gentleman, 48-65,
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MEN SEEKING WOMEN TALL ATHLETIC SWM

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joys doing the same things. 17329757 A WALK AND A TALK

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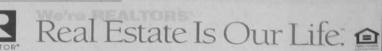
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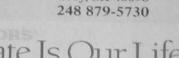
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ALL AUTOMAKERS QUEUING UP TO OFFER 'INFOTAINMENT'

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By Dale Buss

General Motors with OnStar, and Ford with Sync, clearly have established the strongest brands and some of the most advanced technology in the growing automotive "infotainment" sector.

But every car maker has been jumping into this arena, which is increasingly important to car buyers. In doing so, each OEM is dealing with the following factors that are driving the market for infotainment in vehicles:

The demographics of the customer: Unanimously, OEMs see interest in heavily embedded devices and systems such as OnStar, being stronger with older individuals and higher in luxury segments. Conversely, the younger a customer, the more interested he is likely to be in a "tethered" approach like the one Ford is using with Sync, relying mainly on smart phones and other devices consumers already are bringing into vehicles

That is partly because Generations X and Y are much more comfortable with digital hand-held devices than boomers and older generations, and partly because such "decentralized" systems tend to be less expensive, and available in lower-priced vehicles.

There was a reason we launched Sync on Focus instead of a \$60,000 Lincoln, said Ford's Julius Marchwicki, Sync product manager.

The rate of change: Automakers have long had difficulty keeping up with the incredibly fast change of pace in digital technology compared with the relatively slow speed at which new systems and technologies take root in vehicles and with the overall product cycle of cars. But now the tension is getting worse

"We need to become more nimble, because what's happening in consumer electronics in general and the digital lifestyle is impacting people's expectations of what we can do," said Mercedes-Benz's Robert Policano, product manager for its Embrace infotainment system. "Traditionally we've run on a seven- to 10-year product life cycle, but that's an epoch in the consumerelectronics field.

The ubiquity of mobile devices: Seventy percent of mobile-phone use occurs inside vehicles, according to Toyota, so "a responsible OEM" must consider how consumers interact with handsets and other peripherals in the vehicle, said Jon Bucci, vice president of advanced technology for Toyota Motor Sales USA

Yet smart phones - those internetconnected devices such as the iPhone and BlackBerry - at this point comprise only about 20 percent of the mobile-phone market. "So making apps that are for smart phones only is somewhat limiting,"

The tyranny of apps: More and more consumers simply expect to have the capability to use all their favorite web sites and apps on their smart phones in



Infotainment features are growing more popular.

the vehicle even if it isn't safe for them to do so while driving. And if the embedded infotainment system of an automaker in some sense tries to limit these desires, then consumers will favor systems that instead help them - or simply work their fingers over their smart phones without a boost from an on-board system

The resulting challenges to OEMs are profound. "We're trying to make our focus not, How do we avoid reinventing the wheel by recreating systems in the vehicle?' but, 'How can people most effectively use these services?" said Policano of Mercedes-Benz. "If you're talking about Facebook and LinkedIn and other social-networking services, for instance, how do you interact with them in a productive and efficient way while driving?

The question of redundancy: One of the big advantages of a tethered system is that it doesn't require users of on-board infotainment services to subscribe to another wireless service, such as OnStar or Safety Connect.

"As their own devices gain capabilities, consumers can choose to pay for them if they want, and we as Ford don't have to charge them a premium when they bring them into the vehicle," Marchwicki said. "And they can keep the devices and accounts that they already have.'

The robustness of on-board systems: For what safety services promote and offer, they really can't depend on broughtin mobile devices. The reliability of mobile phones, for example, can vary greatly depending on the type of device, the carrier, variances in signal strength according to location, and even interference from within the vehicle.

The role of safety: The issue of how infotainment affects driver and passenger safety is on everyone's lips. There have to be restrictions applied to these applications or we're going to create an environment in the vehicle that is downright irresponsible," said one automaker executive.

Some, for instance, argue that safety concerns remain one significant drawback of Ford's Sync, despite its obvious other advantages. "Directionally, overall, it's better to have a lot information flow through the car where it's accessed and visible to the car rather than having drivers fumble around with different devices," said Brad Stertz, a spokesman for the Volkswagen Group.

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