

THURSDAY February 3, 2011

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

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our redesigned website

Canton faces 10-percent water hike



READERS' RECIPES FOR THE BIG GAME F00D, B8

CONNECTION



State Sen. Patrick Colbeck. R-Canton, speaks at a panel discussion on school reform in Novi.

School reform

During a panel discussion on school reform in Novi, state Sen. Patrick Colbeck called for the need to improve Michigan education.

"The status quo is not preparing our children to be successful in the 21st century," said Colbeck, R-Canton. "We need to face this issue with a determination to provide our students with the best education in the world."

Colbeck is a member of the Senate Education Committee and former charter school board member. The panel was part of the **Board Development Series** sponsored by the Center for Charter Schools at Central Michigan University.

One of the goals of the series is to strengthen educators' ability to provide quality educational programs that prepare students for success in college, work and life.

BY DARRELL CLEM **OBSERVER STAFF WRITER**

Canton would be socked with a 10.3 percent water rate hike under a proposed increase announced Tuesday by the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department.

A similar sewer rate increase also appears likely, though local officials say it could be March before they have precise figures for local water-sewer rates.

The latest proposed water rate hike comes amid mounting criticism of

DWSD, with state Rep. Kurt Heise, R-Plymouth Township, calling for regional control over the embattled department.

John Anthony, a member of the Canton Township Board of Trustees, said Tuesday he supports Heise's plan.

"I think we should have a voice in setting those rates. We need a more efficient way of running that department," Anthony said. "It's a damn crime the way they operate and pass these costs on year after year.'

Canton fared much better than some communities such as Plymouth Township, which could be facing a 40-percent water rate hike under the latest proposal.

Despite preliminary estimates of yet another double-digit increase, Canton Municipal Services Director Tim Faas said local officials aren't expected to have a firm grasp on the scope of a local water-sewer rate hike until early March, after which public forums will be set.

Detroit officials including the water board still have to give the nod to newly proposed water rates, and Faas said Canton officials will have to analyze local costs and water usage before deciding local rates.

Canton, facing its own financial difficulties, has passed rate hikes on to local consumers, including a 16.9percent water-sewer rate increase last year for a typical household.

That meant a typical household using 32,283 gallons of water every three months saw its quarterly bill jump by \$47.41, putting the quarterly price tag at \$328.18. The increase cost an average household nearly \$190

Please see WATER RATES, A5

SNOW DAY



Website to launch new design today

Our website, Hometownlife.com, is scheduled to roll out a new design

this afternoon. The site hosts content for print editions of the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers and Hometown Weeklies.

You'll notice right away that the new design has less clutter and fewer distractions

The new Hometownlife. com is focused on presenting content that is easy to navigate so readers will see more headlines, photos and

That means there is no longer a need to navigate through various communities to find coverage of the people and places that matter most to you - content from the Canton Observer will display right on the homepage of Hometownlife.com.

We've also improved our photo galleries, social media components and the functionality of our reader comments.

We believe you'll like the new and improved Hometownlife.com, but even

Snow photos

Send us your favorite snow day photo! Email bkadrich@ hometownlife.com or go online and post your photo on our Facebook page or use the Get Published feature on our new website at hometownlife.com

Cookie correction

Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan is assuring the public Girl Scouts selling cookies locally will continue to offer all eight varieties of Girl Scout cookies. Loyal customers can expect to find all of their favorite cookies including: Thin Mint, Do-Si-Do, Tagalong, Samoa, Lemon Chalet Creme, Trefoil, Thank U Berry Munch and Dulce de Leche.

"News stories that aired last week have created questions for our volunteers, leaders and customers," said Jan Barker, CEO of GSHOM. "GSHOM has been receiving calls and e-mails from leaders and customers alike concerned about their orders due to these misleading media reports. Girl Scouts are counting on our customers to support girls during the cookie sale because every dollar supports girls locally."

In the Ann Arbor Region of Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan (which includes Plymouth and Canton), girls will begin delivering pre-ordered cookies to customers on Friday, Feb. 4. Cookie booths at large retail stores and other popular locales will open Feb. 4 and run until Feb. 27.

PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Arlington Street residents Paula and Eric Johnson make a team effort to clear snow from the Tuesday night storm. View more photos on page A8 and online at hometownlife.com.

Canton digs out from lighter-than-expected storm

BY DARRELL CLEM **OBSERVER STAFF WRITER**

As a winter storm dumped several inches of snow across metro Detroit, Plymouth resident Terri Barbara climbed in her car and made it to her job at the Canton Target store on Ford Road before 4 a.m. Wednesday.

She spent six hours unloading merchandise from a truck and stocking it on shelves before she returned to her car, scraped away

Please see SNOWSTORM, A6



Andrei Ealovega and his snowblower are up to the snowy challenge. He lives on Arlington in Canton Township.

CROSSWO

HOME & S

OBITUARI





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	AUTOMOTIVE B12	
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videos right on our homepage, Our Top News category features the biggest stories of the day and right below that is a Community News section that displays content according to your reading habits. If you live in Canton, select it from the list of communities and stories about Canton will appear in the Community News section every day.

with the best of design intentions, we might have missed something. So if you are having any issues, have a suggestion or have something to say about the new site, please tell us. You can comment here on this article, send an e-mail to Web Editor Larry Ruehlen at lruehlen@hometownlife.com or talk to us on our Facebook page at Hometownlife.com/ facebook.



The new website has a cleaner design and is faster and easier to navigate.





Kristen Hennessey, director of Food and Nutrition Services for Plymouth-Canton Community Schools, receives the backpack donation from Kiwanis community service chairperson Dennis Heminger.

Backpacks aid families in need

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As the recession continues, more families throughout the area have been impacted to levels never experienced in the past. The Plymouth Canton Community Schools has seen the percentage of families that qualify for food assistance rise from an average of 8 percent to more than 18 percent.

With donations from the community and support from **Gleaners** Community Food Bank, the food service department in the school district is

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putting food into the hands of these families. To assist them, the Kiwanis Club of Canton provided backpacks that are used to provide food for the needy families.

There is an ongoing need for non-perishable foods to support this program. Anyone who would like to help in a food drive or is interested in other methods of supporting families in the community can contact the Kiwanis Club at (734) 981-0460.

"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

Talent show

Band students from the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park have planned a variety talent show for the local community on Friday, Feb. 4, and Saturday, Feb. 5, at Salem High School on Joy Road in Canton. "Variety Is ... " begins at 7 p.m. each evening. Tickets are \$7 for adults, \$5 for students and senior citizens. Children five and under are free. Tickets can be purchased at the door.

The "Variety Is ... " event is a two-night talent show comprised of musicians, comedians, dancers, singers, and musical groups. Each performance group or soloist must audition for the Variety Is ... organizers. The students organize the annual event as part of their concert band curriculum led by director of bands, David Armbruster, with assistance from Sheldon Frazier, associate director of bands. Senior band students have led the student committee volunteers to publicize, audition, and organize the acts as they prepare for the two-night show.

The Music Boosters will kickoff the 2011 fund-raising campaign at "Variety Is..." to help defray the cost of sending over 200 students to New York City in November for the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. The public is encouraged to attend.

New students who wish to participate in the 2011 marching season and travel to New York City to participate in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in November can receive a free ticket to "Variety Is ...' by e-mailing Frazier at Sheldon.frazier@ pccsmail.net.

New member information meetings for the 2011 marching season are scheduled for Tuesday, Feb. 15; Wednesday, March 16; Tuesday, April 5; or Tuesday, May 17 at 7 p.m. in the band room in Plymouth High School. New members and parents only need to attend one of the four sessions.

For more information, visit www.pcmb. net

Guitar heroes

Canton Leisure Services is teaming up with Axis Music Academy, Canton's full service music education resource, to offer classes to "Real Guitar Heroes," so that fans of the Guitar Hero video game can now learn how to play the real thing.

Instead of playing video games, students can get their hands on a real guitar, strumming, picking, and exploring their

AROUND CANTON

talent. These classes are perfect for the absolute beginner who has never played a cord, as well as for guitar students currently taking private lessons or for those already playing another instrument. While no one class teaches everything, "Real Guitar Heroes" is a low-commitment, educational, and fun class where both kids and adults can become their own guitar hero.

In 2004, Axis Music Academy opened in Canton, which houses the Axis Music Institute - Michigan's first and only licensed and certified trade school for music. The Axis Music Academy currently offers a variety of classes that educate, train and develop music talents for all ages and abilities.

"Real Guitar Heroes" classes are at the Summit on the Park, located at 46000 Summit Parkway in Canton. Participants can now register in person at the Summit or online at www.cantonfun.org.

For fees and additional information about "Real Guitar Heroes" classes or additional music instruction, contact Axis Music Academy at (734) 844-0100 or Canton Leisure Services at (734) 394-5460.

Slavens coffee

State Rep. Dian Slavens, D-Canton, invites residents to join her for a cup of coffee and conversation at her upcoming coffee hour 9-10 a.m. Monday, Feb. 7, at the Canton Big Boy, 45250 Ford Road in Canton.

Slavens hosts regular coffee hours and town hall meetings throughout Canton Township, Belleville and Van Buren Township. If your business or organization is interested in hosting an event with Slavens, please call her office tollfree at (888) 347-8021 or e-mail her at DianSlavens@house.mi.gov. Residents also can sign up for Slavens' e-newsletter and take her brief community survey by visiting her website at www.house.mi.gov/ dslavens.

Open house

Plymouth Christian Preschool and Plymouth Christian Academy will host an open house for prospective families 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 10. Parents can meet the teachers, explore the curriculum, and tour the facilities. Check the website at www. plymouthchristian.org for more information on academic, athletic and extracurricular opportunities. PCA is located at 43065 Joy Road in Canton, between Lilley and Morton Taylor Roads.

Valentine gala

Looking for a great way to celebrate

Valentine's Day with that special loved one? The Village Theater at Cherry Hill is the place to be for "All You Need Is Love: A Valentine's Gala To Benefit The Village Theater at Cherry Hill" on Saturday, Feb. 12

The celebration kicks off with a reception at 6:30 p.m. featuring hors d'oeuvres and fine art activities such as body art. face painting and art demonstrations on three easels. Special spiked as well as non-alcoholic versions of love potion punch are included with the ticket. A cash bar will also be available for those 21 and older. The fun continues with bidding on unforgettable items in the silent auction followed by a one-of-a-kind show at 8 p.m. featuring a variety of acts from over 10 local arts group who LOVE what they do.

Featured entertainment includes five-minute performances from Canton Concert Band; The Comic Opera Guild; D&M Art Studio; Forever After Productions; Plymouth Canton Symphony Orchestra; Spotlight Players; Village Theater Ushers; and Village Voices.

General admission tickets are \$25 for adults and \$10 for those 18 and under and can be purchased online at www.cantonvillagetheater.org or by calling (734) 394-5460.

Amarone dinner

Join Vintners Canton Winery for its annual "A is for Amarone" dinner on Feb. 18-19 at the Winery, located at 8515 N. Lilley, in the Golden Gate Shopping Plaza.

Guests will be treated to the opening of the winery's gold medal winning Amarone at this annual celebration of "Amarone" the wine responsible for the first of many gold medals from WineMaker Magazine competition.

The dinner will be catered by A Family Affair Catering and Chef BJ Page. Wines served will be Gold Medal Pinot Grigio, Gold Medal Amarone and the icestyled gold medal winning Bello Bacio (Beautiful Kiss).

Reservations can be made by calling (734) 354-9463.

Damaris scholarship

The Plymouth Community Arts Council will recognize a Plymouth-Canton School district senior who has displayed outstanding abilities in visual arts and plans to continue his/her education in this field with its annual awarding of the Damaris Fine Arts Scholarship.

To download an application, go to: http://www.storytellerdesign.com/ Portals/4/2011Damarisaward.pdf

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LOCAL NEWS

Observer & Eccentric | Thursday, February 3, 2011

Benefit raises money, profile for Gleaners



Emagine Theater owner Paul Glantz and his wife, Mary, applaud the remarks made by DeWayne Wells, president of Gleaners Community Food Bank.



Sandy Houkek gets a Cherry Cosmo from the giant ice sculpture.



Carl and Marsha Tiroux of Northville were at the fund-raiser here with sponsor WCA Appraisal.



Canton Township Supervisor Phil LaJoy (right) talks with Emagine Theater owner Paul Glantz at the Canton Community Foundation fund-raiser.



Gleaners Community Food Bank President DeWayne Wells thanks theater-goers for their support during Sunday's Magical Night With the Stars fund-raiser to benefit Gleaners and the Canton Community Foundation.



Jim Demmer poses with Steve Darr and his wife, Jackie, during the Canton Community Foundation fund-raiser.



Svetoslav Dimov and wife, Zlatina (of Fidelity Bank) pose with Canton Community Foundation President Joan Noricks at Sunday's Magical Night With the Stars fund-raiser.



Nick Bennett (10) and Sydney (7) and Delanie Sielaff (9) belly up to the candy bar at Sunday's fund-raiser.



Sue Bertram, Jen Galofaro and Katie Law, all of Canton, enjoyed the strolling dinner and a movie at Sunday's fund-raiser.

PHOTOS BY ANN ESPINOZA

BY BRAD KADRICH OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Melanie Jones certainly hoped she and her Sunday evening cohort, Felicia Haggerty, would sell enough jewelry to reach their goal of a \$300 contribution to the Canton Community Foundation at the foundation's annual Magical Night With the Stars fund-raiser.

But like most of the 200 or so people there Jones, the marketing whiz for Cantonbased Showroom of Elegance, felt like there was something equally important as the money they were all raising to benefit Gleaners Community Food Bank.

"We care about the community," said Jones, who said Showroom of Elegance owner Linda Robin dedicated 15 percent of Sunday's sales to the foundation. "We wanted to contribute to a great cause. It's an honor to be part of events like this."

Canton Community Foundation Director Joan Noricks appreciates the sentiment, and the help. The event, held at Canton's Emagine Theater for the third straight year, sold out, according to Noricks, who hoped to raise \$10,000 or more (totals weren't yet available).

Some 185 tickets were sold for the event, which featured a VIP cocktail reception, a strolling dinner and dessert, and a free first-run movie. The event was designed not only to raise money for Gleaners, but also to raise the profile of the CCF and, just as importantly, of the food bank.

"They provide the majority of the food distribution for food banks," said Noricks, who pointed out Gleaners supports food banks like Canton's Open Door Ministry and the Plymouth Salvation Army. "You give (Gleaners) \$1 and through their network they can bring so much more food than even direct donations to food banks."

The need is there for Gleaners, which dished out 36.8 million pounds of food last year. In its five-county service area (Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, Livingston and Monroe), Gleaners provides some 80,000 meals *per day*. Benefits like Sunday's make it possible for the food bank's 25,000 volunteers, who put in some 40,000 hours a year, to do the job.

"It's of great benefit ... besides the obvious financial benefit, it's an opportunity to engage the community on issues of hunger," said Gleaners President DeWayne Wells. "Every dollar (contributed) pays for three meals, but every person we can touch, and impress about the needs of the community ... that's all very beneficial."

That's why Paul Glantz has offered up the Emagine for the fund-raiser the last three years. He donates the space to the foundation, and ticketholders get free candy and soft drinks, and they get to see a first-run movie for free.

It's all part of Glantz's desire to give back. More than that, Glantz thinks it's his duty.

"We think there's a responsibility that comes with participating in business in this community ... that's to give back," Glantz said. "It's a privilege to host it. We believe strongly business has to give back to the community."

"Magical Night with the Stars" did just that, turning into an event that befits — and benefits — the foundation.

"This event does so much for the foundation," said Jim Demmer, a CCF board member. "It furthers the cause of the foundation, and it shows not just that we're collecting money, but it shows what we're doing with it."

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Fraud suspect

heads to trial

waives hearing,

BY DARRELL CLEM OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Slapped with criminal charges amid allega-

tions of identity theft, a Detroit man accused of

using a fraudulent credit card to buy gift cards,

clothing and electronics at the Canton Meijer is

Kyle Teron Odum, 26, has

after he voluntarily waived his

right to a preliminary exami-

nation Friday in front of 35th

District Judge James Plakas.

His decision averted courtroom testimony Friday and

been ordered to stand trial

facing trial in Wayne County Circuit Court.

PUBLIC SAFETY hometownlife

Thursday, February 3, 2011

Canton teen among three charged in Westland break-in

BY LEANNE ROGERS OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

A Canton teen is among three men who have been charged with breaking into a Westland building that houses a school program operated by the Redford Union

At 5:30 a.m. Saturday, Westland police responded to an intruder alarm at the Kaselemis Center for Adolescent Day Treatment, 8100 Hubbard.

Officers responding to the school spotted two men breaking into locked classrooms, said Westland police Lt. Michael Matich. Both men fled on foot and were captured nearby, he said.

Home invasion

p.m. Saturday.

Trailer stolen

from Haggerty.

Odum

moved the case to circuit court for disposition. If convicted, Odum could face

penalties ranging up to five years in prison on five counts of identity theft and two counts of using a fraudulent financial transaction device, specifically a credit card.

According to the Wayne County Jail, Odum was released from custody Friday. Canton police said he had initially been jailed with a \$25,000 bond.

Canton authorities arrested Odum after an investigation of identity theft and credit card fraud that occurred from Dec. 30 through Jan. 7 at the Meijer at Ford and Canton Center roads.

Detective Sgt. Dave Schreiner has said thousands of dollars in illegal purchases had been made.

Aside from potential jail time, Odum, if convicted, also could face fines ranging up to \$25,000 for identity theft and \$5,000 for using a fraudulent credit card.

Police arrested Odum amid allegations he used a credit card that had his name on it, but police say the magnetic strip contained someone else's personal information.

Generally, authorities say identity theft has become easier as criminals have become more adept at using technology to steal.

school district.

A woman who lives on Wyndchase, southeast

someone forced open the door of her residence,

went inside, rummaged through several draw-

ers in her bedroom and stole several items. The

incident happened between 11 a.m. and 3:45

The woman told police she was missing

\$6,200 in cash, diamond earrings valued at

* A neighbor told police she had heard a loud

A man notified Canton police after a trailer

located at 7282 N. Haggerty, north of Warren,

The man described the stolen equipment as

ued at \$4,000. It had been parked about 30 feet

a yellow utility trailer with an angled deck, val-

between 5 p.m. Saturday and 11 a.m. Sunday.

was stolen from his 2009 Chevrolet Blazer

while it was parked in front of a business

noise but had a cast on her foot and didn't get

\$2,000 and a watch valued at \$2,000.

up to see what caused the noise.

of Cherry Hill and Haggerty, reported that



"The investigation identified a third suspect who was captured near the school with property from the school," said Matich, adding the stolen items recovered were calculators. "At this point, it seems to be an isolated incident."

Officers from Livonia and Garden City, which brought a police dog, assisted in making

Wilmurth, 19, of Canton, Viktor Nikkali Allen, 21, of Livonia and Livonia.

enhances penalties for a conviction

CRIME WATCH

Copper cut

A man hired by a property owner to check on a vacant house notified Canton police after he found that several feet of copper piping had been cut from a basement water heater.

The incident happened sometime prior to 4 p.m. Monday in the 43100 block of Carlisle Court, northeast of Warren and Morton Taylor roads. A police investigation indicated forced entry was made through a garage door.

Tires swiped

A man told police the tires and rims of his Ford Escape Limited were removed and his vehicle was left on landscaping blocks sometime between 4:30 p.m. Sunday and 6:25 a.m. Monday.

The incident happened in the 41000 block of Maplewood, southeast of Ford and Haggerty.

The lug nuts were found near where the tires and rims had been stolen. A police report indicated that the vehicle's alarm apparently didn't activate during the incident.

The owner told police he learned the tires were missing when he attempted to leave for work. He estimated the value at \$1,600.

\$100,000/10 percent bond. Not guilty pleas were entered for all three defendants who are scheduled for preliminary examiintent, malicious nation in 18th District Court Feb. destruction of property \$1,000-10.

Housed at the Kaselemis Center, Redford Union's Adolescent Day Treatment Program is administered by Redford Union Schools and accepts referrals of students in grades nine-12 from the Garden City, Livonia, Northville, Plymouth-Canton, Redford Union and South Redford school districts.

held in lieu of \$50,000/10 percent

bonds with Allen held in lieu of

Irogers@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-5428

Slashed tire

A man who lives in the 46400 block of Oak Manor Court East, southeast of Warren and Beck, told police the driver side tire of his vehicle was slashed while it was parked in his driveway between 5:30 p.m. Friday and 10 a.m. Saturday.

He told police a similar incident had happened just before Christmas.

Intruder alert

A man who lives in an apartment on Brookepark, southwest of I-275 and Joy Road, told police he came home around 10:45 p.m. last Thursday and found someone trying to go in the front window of his residence.

He described the would-be intruder as a while male, 17 to 20 years old, wearing all black clothing and a hoodie. He said the suspect escaped in a red Ford Escape.

Window smashed

A vehicle parked at the Emagine Theater had a window smashed out by someone who had attempted to steal a radio and GPS unit on Jan. 21, police said.

the great indoors

Are you over 50? Do you have trouble with halos and glare, or trouble driving at night?

REE

CATARACT SCREENING

Devin Wilmuth

20,000 and larceny in a building are Devin Michael

Travis Michael Briggs, 19, also of Allen is also charged as a fourthdegree habitual offender which

based on prior criminal history. Wilmurth and Briggs are being



HAVE A STORY IDEA?

Contact Editor, Brad Kadrich Voice Mail: (313) 222-8899 E-mail: bkadrich@hometownlife.com Comment online at hometownlife.com





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LOCAL NEWS

snow and prepared to return home on roads that, while still slippery, were passable.

"Getting out of my driveway this morning was the worst part," Barbara said. "I just stayed in the ruts on the road, and there was no traffic.

She took Sheldon Road and made the trip within 20 minutes. Her co-worker Kevin Lang spent the same amount of time driving along Cherry Hill Road from Westland.

"It was bad out, but there was nobody else on the roads so it was easy to get here," said Lang, who worked the same shift as Barbara.

A few miles away, U.S. Postal Service letter carrier Kim Blake pulled into the BP gas station at Cherry Hill and Canton Center roads, fueling up her mail truck for a delivery route that was certain to bring challenges.

"It's probably going to be a nightmare," she said, though she had a determined smile on her face.

Blake drove from Westland to her job at the Canton post office around 7 a.m., but that was the easy part compared to the mail-delivery job that faced her later in the morning.

"To be honest, it's hard on your body," she said.

On a day when many people stayed home, workers such as Barbara, Lang and Blake made it to work, often setting out before daybreak even though weather forecasters had warned of blizzard-like conditions.

Across Canton, residents used snow throwers and snowblowers Wednesday to dig out from a storm that, while not as serious as some had predicted, closed schools and brought its share of challenges.

Despite snow-covered roads, Canton authorities reported few problems as many people stayed home. One semitruck jack-knifed at the I-275/Ford Road interchange, and snow-slickened ramps closed for awhile.

Canton police Sgt. Mark Gajeski said no significant weather-related police incidents had otherwise occurred.

Similarly, Canton Fire Department Capt. Tom Lutkenhoff said paramedics had "a couple of medical runs" but nothing out of the ordinary during the storm.

Township Engineer Tom Casari said it appeared Canton had received 5 or 6 inches of snow in most places, and officials and residents waited Wednesday as Wayne County road crews scram-



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Plymouth Canton School District mechanic Mike Meyer repairs the snow blade on one of the district's front-end loaders.



Ed Krzeminski plows a parking lot at Canton High School.

bled to clear roads.

"The roads are snow-covered in a lot of cases," Casari said Wednesday morning. "It's slow going, but there's not much traffic on the roads, and having less traffic has probably helped."

Casari said Canton Center had been plowed, but new snow had blanketed it with a fresh layer.

Kathy Rich, Canton's emergency management planner, said the storm didn't hit Canton as fiercely as weather forecasters had predicted.

"I think things went really well," she said. "Fortunately people take these things seriously, even when they don't pan out to be as bad as expected." Canton Township canceled many

programs and meetings, and Summit on the Park wasn't expected to open until Wednesday afternoon. The library closed Tuesday and Wednesday.

Canton declared a snow emergency from 12:01 a.m. Wednesday through noon Thursday – a move intended to get vehicles off streets so they could be plowed and accessed by emergency vehicles.

Canton Waste Recycling workers were on the job Wednesday picking up garbage, though the weather somewhat slowed their efforts and some residents didn't set their trash out. Due to the snowfall, CWR will allow residents who normally have their garbage and recycling materials picked up on Wednesday to drop them off 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday at CWR's facility, 42100 Van Born Road. Only residents who have curbside pickup on Wednesdays may participate, and valid identification will be checked at the gate.

Township authorities began meeting Monday to make plans for the snowstorm, and Public Safety Director Patrick Nemecek declared before the storm hit that "we're ready.

Across the township, residents swarmed grocery stores and home improvement businesses to stock up on items they might need.

Dan Baxter, store manager of the Kroger store near Ford and Canton Center, said shoppers scooped up bread, eggs, milk, bananas, potatoes, ground beef and chicken - "the standard things from each department." When asked if he had noticed an uptick in business Tuesday, Baxter said "big time" but added, "This is typical for a snowstorm.

Over at The Home Depot at Lotz and Ford, store manager Howard Campbell said customers came in to buy snow throwers and roof rakes.

"I'd say the biggest items are the snow throwers," he said.

Roof rakes also had brisk sales amid fears by homeowners that heavy snowfall could damage their rooftops.

Campbell also said his customers have bought up rock salt, calcium chloride and Morton Safe-T-Pet ice melt, which decreases the chances of pets getting sick if they get it on their paws and then lick it.

Campbell said rock salt is the cheapest way to keep driveways and other areas clear, but it's also the hardest on concrete. He said many customers choose calcium chloride because it is easier on driveways.

"They're buying a ton of it," he said.

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ATER RATES FROM PAGE A1

more over the course of a year. The latest proposal for yet another double-digit increase would, again, cause an increase in Canton's water-sewer bills angering local officials who. have long accused Detroit water-sewer officials of mismanaging a system that serves some 125 communities.

"I think it's way out of line, and I don't think there's any way they can substantiate those cost increases," Anthony said.

Heise, who represents a portion of Canton, has proposed legislation to place DWSD under regional control through a nine-member executive committee with representatives from Detroit, Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties and, on a rotating basis, five water customer communities.

Heise's proposal, strongly opposed by Detroit Mayor Dave Bing and other Detroit officials, comes amid growing criticism after recent indictments alleging former Detroit Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick used the agency to give contracts worth millions of dollars to his friend, Bobby Ferguson. The water department's former director, Victor Mercado, also was indicted.

"The recent indictments show (alleged) corruption and a lack of management," Anthony said, adding that communities and residents cannot continue to absorb double-digit rate hikes.

"I don't think it's fair. I don't think it's equitable," he said. Detroit officials have partly blamed rate hikes on reduced water usage. Although many consumers have cut back on the water they use, DWSD says it still has to generate a certain level of revenue to maintain the system

Township officials, meanwhile, will not vote on watersewer rate hikes until they schedule public forums. Last year, the township board voted on a rate increase in late April.

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Canton police seek Office Max suspect

The Canton Police Department is asking for assistance in the identification of a suspect captured on a surveillance camer photo.

The white male is suspected of stealing a laptop from the Canton Office Max store. He is also a suspect for similar thefts from several metro-Detroit area Office Max stores.

Anyone with information on the identity of the suspect is asked to call the Canton **Police Department** at 734/394-5400. Crime Stoppers will also take anonymous tips at 1-800-SPEAK UP, or online to www.1800speakup.org. Crime Stoppers will pay up to \$1,000 for a tip that leads an arrest.



Canton Police are looking for help identifying this white male suspected of stealing a laptop from the Canton Office Max.





Natalie Zazula, Chris Kordick, Ted Barker and Coach Dale Rumberger celebrate the Miracle League's naming of its home run derby after Rumberger.

Miracle League hits home run with auction

BY MATT JACHMAN **OBSERVER STAFF WRITER**

With a Friday auction event that netted about \$17,000, Plymouth's field of dreams is one step closer to reality. The Miracle League of

Plymouth, which is planning to build a baseball field designed for use by children with disabilities and special needs, is now less than \$80,000 from its goal of \$500,000. Another \$50,000 is pledged to a separate endowment fund that will be used to maintain the ballpark.

"Hopefully this last little bit will take us all the way there," said Deb Madonna, one of the co-chairs of the Miracle League, which is sponsored by the Rotary Club of Plymouth A.M.

Friday's Bids, Bats & Buddies event at the Plymouth Cultural Center drew some 200 people, who bid on everything from a watch from Plymouth's Dearborn Jewelers, to food baskets, bottles of wine and fancy dinners at local restaurants, to Detroit Red Wings tickets.

Dave Bergman, first baseman for the 1984 World Champion Detroit Tigers, appeared at the event, which was sponsored by Sigma Investments and the Costanza family, owners of the Station 885 restaurant in Plymouth.

The auction items included a package with the All-American theme of "baseball, hot dogs, apple pie and Chevrolet," said Madonna: an autographed ball from the near-perfect game pitched by Armando Galarraga, then of the Tigers; a certificate to Leo's Coney Island; an apple pie baked by Chris Kordick, a Salem High School graduate and baseball standout; and a car cleanup and detailing visit to Lou LaRiche Chevrolet. Thrown in at the last minute, Madonna said, was a lithograph of the 1984 Tigers, signed by Bergman.

"The bidding just took off," Madonna said, and the package brought in \$1,500.

Even outside of the donated auction items, the event raised more than \$2,700 in cash and check donations.

Madonna said many people

worked hard to make the event a success. The Miracle League has drawn support from service groups and individuals across the area.

"We're very grateful and very appreciative of what everybody did, the committee, all the people who worked on it," she said.

The Miracle League field is planned for a lot behind Central Middle School in Plymouth. The Plymouth Canton Community Schools is offering the lot through a nocost lease.

A ceremonial groundbreaking is planned for Friday, April 29; Madonna said field construction work could get started shortly after winter weather breaks.

The Miracle League's next big fund-raiser is planned for Thursday, Feb. 17, at the McDonald's on Ann Arbor Road. Miracle League volunteers will be working at the restaurant between 4 p.m. and 7 p.m., and McDonald's will donate a portion of the receipts from those three hours.

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A6 (C)

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LOCAL NEWS

online at hometownlife.com

Partnership pushes sale of rehabilitated housing

BY LEANNE ROGERS **OBSERVER STAFF WRITER**

Blighted and foreclosed homes have been acquired by municipalities and rehabilitated using federal funds, now the push is on to sell the houses.

A home at 1457 Gloria in Westland was one of two homes highlighted as a new partnership of communities, Realtors, lenders and nonprofit groups to sell at least 100 renovated foreclosed homes and newly built homes in 15 Metro Detroit communities kicked off.

The home on Gloria is for sale after being renovated using Neighborhood Stabilization Program funds. Along with funding the repairs, the program requires the home be sold for the renovation costs or the assessed valued, whichever is less, and down payment assistance is available

"I absolutely see the importance of it (NSP). It helps the whole neighborhood - for those who get into a home but also for those living nearby," said Michigan Association of Realtors President Claire Williams, a Canton resident and partner at Remerica Hometown in Plymouth.

Aside from the Norwayne area, Westland Mayor William Wild said homes the city acquired and had renovated through NSP are scattered around the city.

"I think the program has been an incredible success for Westland neighborhoods. I think it has had a stabilizing effect. There is a negative effect, if there are vacant homes in the neighborhood," said Wild.

Shirley and George Lawson turned out for the kickoff at the home on Gloria but they don't have a professional connection - they have purchased a different Westland home acquired and renovated through NSP.



the Neighborhood Stabilization Program which has funded renovations of foreclosed, blighted homes. A private-public partnership is working to promote the sale of 100 homes in the Metro Detroit area.

"We started looking in Canton but it was pricey and we're on a budget. We looked in Westland, Livonia and Redford," said Shirley Lawson, who has lived for three years in a rented Canton townhouse. "It's really nice in Westland. We have family members here. We were prequalified - they gave us a lot of homes to check out."

The Lawsons were a bit taken aback when they started looking at the NSP homes - they were gutted and were a couple of months from work being completed.

"We had been looking for a house. With the economy, we wanted to make sure we can afford it," said Lawson, a retail manager whose husband is retired. "It's a very good program. They are just about done with the house. We're so excited. We are firsttime buyers."

Having lenders participating in this partnership is important. As Westland Community **Development Director Joanne** Inglis commented, one of the biggest challenges facing would-be homebuyers is getting a mortgage.

Two firms hired by Westland to renovate and sell homes through NSP, Home Renewal Systems and Guy Construction, currently have 13 homes available for sale.

'I'm here to demonstrate the importance of the program and what it means to this community. All of our communities that have been hit by foreclosures," said state Sen. Glenn Anderson, D-Westland. "It's the lack of occupants, the loss of taxes and lower property values. Unoccupied homes don't help anyone. A home is the biggest single investment most people make.'

To qualify for an NSP home purchase, a one-person household can make up to \$58,700 with some homes designated for people earning less than \$24,450. A four-person household can make up to \$83,900.

For more information, contact Home Renewal Systems at (866) 996-9754 or Guy Construction, working with National Faith Homebuyers at (313) 255-9500 or (800) 267-6559

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World events influence U.S. economy

ast Friday was one of those days when investors were reminded that markets are volatile.

Many are asking why the market would be spooked

over what is happening in Egypt. After all, Egypt's economy is relatively small and should have minimal **Money Matters** effect on our

markets. All **Rick Bloom** that is true, however. there are

other issues involved which impact the world economy. There are political impli-

cations regarding what is happening in Egypt. Under the Mubarak government, Egypt has been a strategic ally of the United States and the west. If Mubarak is overthrown, who replaces him? What will a new Egypt look like? All of these issues have an impact on the world economy. The obvious impact, and the one that gets the most attention, is the price of oil. Even though Egypt is not a major oil exporter, a disruption in oil delivery via the Suez Canal could cause gas prices to rise. That is coupled with the reality that whenever there is a conflict in the Middle East, oil prices immediately jump.

The world economy and the U.S. economy are struggling to recover and grow again. Higher energy prices

The world economy and the U.S. economy are struggling to recover and grow again. Higher energy prices can stifle that growth. Turmoil and uncertainty in Egypt will cause a spike in oil prices.

can stifle that growth. Turmoil and uncertainty in Egypt will cause a spike in oil prices.

Closer to home, a slowdown in the U.S. and world economy may have severe implications to the recovery of the U.S. auto industry. The auto industry's recovery is fragile and rising energy prices can reverse the gains.

Disruption in shipping along the Suez Canal impact oil as well as other goods. Asian goods are shipped around the world through the Suez Canal. If it is closed to shipping, alternative, more expensive routes would have to be taken. Eventually those costs - higher energy prices - are passed on to consumers around the world. The combination of higher energy prices, plus higher prices for Asian goods, could slow down the worldwide economy. We no longer live in an American economy, we live in a world economy. Disruptions in any part of the world ultimately affect our markets. Investors can't allow greed

or fear to enter into the decision-making process. My advice is to take a waitand-see attitude. After all, no one knows what direction this crisis will take.

It would be nice if investors could time the market, in other words, get out of the market during the crisis and then get back in as things settle down. Unfortunately, they can't. It is impossible to predict market reaction over the short run. We've seen this over the last two years where the U.S. economy has struggled but the U.S. stock markets have done great.

Because it is impossible to consistently predict the market over the short run, I tell investors not to even try, but instead ride out the crisis. That's one of the benefits of having a well-balanced and diversified portfolio.

Investors must recognize that the world economy is becoming more integrated and it's impossible to insulate themselves. Even though short-term volatility can be painful, markets tend to smooth out over the long run. And it is the longterm, patient investor who ultimately achieves his/her goals and objectives. 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.



A7 (CP)

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<u>Entree</u>

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A8

(*)



Residents on Harvey Street in Plymouth clear driveways and sidewalks.





Mike Fisher clears snow from his cars after Tuesday night's storm. He lives on Russell Street in Plymouth Township.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Charlotte Kim takes her dogs, Simba and Shoony. for a morning walk through Canton's Cherry Hill District



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Livonia's iconic Bates Hamburgers is still feeding a few hardy souls at 9:30 p.m. Tuesday.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Cars struggle up the Plymouth Road hill near 35th District Court as Wayne County plows try to keep the road clear of drifting snow.





1



Jonathan Gillispi (Redford) make some extra money shoveling snow for a homeowner on Hope St.

THOMAS BEAUDOIN

Rod Revels (Redford) purchases three shovels from Township True Value Hardware.

LOCAL NEWS

Think it's cold here? Local resident works in Antarctica

BY KAREN SMITH OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

It may be cold and snowy in Livonia, but the wintry weather here is nothing compared with what Churchill High School grad Eric Sokol endured in Antarctica.

Sokol spent two months on the frozen continent doing research on bacterial communities for Virginia Tech, where he earned his doctorate degree.

On Monday, he shared photos and stories of his experience with students at Hillel Day School in Farmington Hills, where his mother, Joanne, is the assistant head of the school.

Sokol, 30, had blogged with the students during his trip, which ended Dec. 28.

Sokol told the students he enjoyed communicating with them. "It's not fun to go on a trip and not get to talk to people," he said.

While it was summer in Antarctica while he was there, the temperature typically hovered around zero at McMerdo Station, where he stayed part of the time. It would drop from minus-50 to minus-70 in wind storms at the field camps in the Dry Valleys, or cold deserts, where Sokol and his team members collected soil samples.

While working at the field camps, Sokol slept in a tent. He would boil water and put it in two water bottles in his sleeping bag to help him stay warm. The camps had a heated hut with a kitchen and electricity generated from solar and wind power.

They used outhouses and sealed up their waste in buckets to be transported back to McMerdo Station - a fact that fascinated the students. "You can't add fertilizer or it will change the ecosystem," he said.

MUMMIFIED SEAL CARCASS

He showed the students a photo of a mummified carcass from a seal that had gotten lost and wandered into the Dry Valleys from the sea ice. It is so cold and dry in the desert, the seal carcass was preserved pretty well, he said.

Travel was by helicopter because there are no roads. During the flight to Antarctica, he lost an entire day going over the international dateline.

Sokol was one of the few

Eric Sokol just returned from Antarctica. He spoke to students at Hillel Day School in Farmington Hills, where his mother, Joanne, is assistant head of the school.

Antarctica. With 95 percent of the continent covered in snow and ice, the deserts are among the few places where there is soil because it's too dry and windy for snow to stick around. The sun never set while he

was there. Life at McMerdo Station, where about 1,200 people live during the summer, was easier. "It was kind of like a college town," he said, adding there are restaurants, a coffeehouse and a wine bar. There are no year-round residents and only a skeletal crew in the winter.

He got to hike on glaciers and enjoyed talking with the geologists there and learning about the history of the continent. Antarctica was first discovered in the 1820s and not explored until the early 20th century.

While there, Sokol found an old smoke signal canister from an earlier explorer.

PIONEER WORK

Fourth-grade teacher Sarah Radner compared Sokol's experience with that of American pioneer Laura Ingalls Wilder.

"He's doing pioneer work in the year 2011," she said, addplaces left that haven't been explored.

Sokol learned how to build a snow dugout for protection in the event he got lost; Wilder lived in an earthen dugout for a time. "The kids were fascinated by that," she said.

Fifth-grader Sam Plotnick, 10, learned something new from Sokol's presentation. "I didn't know there were deserts in Antarctica," he said.

Fifth-grader Rachel Berg, 9, liked hearing about Mount Erebus, the world's southernmost historically active volcano, which overlooks the McMerdo research station and has continuous lava-lake activity. She couldn't believe something so hot could be somewhere so cold

Sokol's mother said her son has inspired students at her school. "Some children became interested in careers in science and began checking out books from the library to see what

possibilities there were," she said. As a child, Eric was always

curious, she said. "When he was about 18 months old, someone gave him two books - a book about whales and another book called Under the Sea, which he insisted on reading with me at least six or seven times a day."

A third-grade teacher at Kennedy Elementary who had a tarantula, lizard and praying matis in an aquarium helped further his interest in science. He graduated in 1998 from

the math/science/computer program at Churchill, where he had "a lot of good teachers," including Julie Tafelski, a new teacher at the time.

He earned his undergraduate degree from the University of Michigan.

Sokol became interested in doing research in Antarctica while a student at Virginia Tech. While there, he helped to write the grant proposal for the

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE OF PERSONAL PROPERTY

But he wants to go back to Now he works as a Antarctica. studying aquatic insects in the

"It was fun," he said. "I like

hiking and I like winter." To read Sokol's blog, go to

http://sokole.blogspot.com/.

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Deadline: 2-25-11



Danielle Portal of Oak Park has a guestion for Eric Sokol.

Everglades, where temperatures soar into the 90s in the summer.

ecologists doing research at

ing that there aren't too many

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Publish: February 3, 2011



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Publish: February 3 & 10, 2011

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SECTION 00010 ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Sealed bids for the Alternative Energy Solutions Projects for Plymouth Canton Community Schools' Bid Package #4 consisting of:

Canton High School ERU & Chiller Replacement

will be received until 10:00 A.M. local time on Tuesday, February 15, 2011 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
BD 105	Concrete Work
BD 107	Steel
BD 109	Roofing
BD 115	Metal Studs & Plaster
BD 120	Painting
BD 142	HVAC
BD 143	Electrical
BD 149	Fencing
BD 183	Scaffolding

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; Builders Exchange, Lansing 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 p.m. on Monday, February 7, 2011 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.

The Canton High School ERU project is to be bid and the work performed at the Davis Bacon Wage Rates. The Chiller Replacement project is to be bid and the work performed at the Michigan Prevailing Wage Rates.

> Board of Education Plymouth-Canton Community Schools Adrienne Davis, Secretary

Publish: January 27 & February 3, 2011

OPINION

THURSDAY, February 3, 2011 PAGE A10 (C)

hometownlife

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



OUR VIEWS Show of faith **Kirpan agreement product** of collaborative talks

When the issue of a Sikh student wearing a kirpan to school arose last month, it had all the earmarks of becoming a nasty, protracted battle, as do so many incidents that mix religion and public education.

Credit the teams at Plymouth-Canton Community Schools and the Sahib Singh Sabha, the Sikh place of worship in Canton, for ensuring it never got ugly.

After the incident came to light in early December, representatives from both the school district and the gurdwara met more than half a dozen times, trying to hammer out an agreement that would ensure the safety of the other students in the schools while not infringing on the religious beliefs of a small portion of the school.

The kirpan became an issue last month when a student was found to be wearing the small, knifelike symbol of Sikh faith. The kirpan in question was dull-bladed and, in the minds of school officials, presented no threat to student safety. After initially allowing the boy to wear it, the district decided it violated the policy against "lookalike" weapons and asked the student to remove it.

The student did so, and the sides immediately began talking about a resolution that protected everybody. District administrators felt a need to educate themselves on the Sikh faith, something they accomplished in a flurry of meetings over some six weeks.

That education was as important to administrators as getting the deal, something by which Sikh leaders were impressed. The talks never became "my way or the highway," though supporters on both sides urged their respective leaders to do just that. But leaders on both sides never gave in to the pressure to "let them sue and let the courts decide," and the result was an agreement that left everyone feeling good.

You have to credit Tejkiran Singh, a member of the conflict resolution committee at the Sahib Singh Sabha, who had the patience to teach school officials about his faith, and the willingness to understand the district's position.

And credit the district team - Deputy Superintendent Ken Jacobs, administrators Dr. Cindy Swift, George Belvitch and Mike Bender, director of community relations Frank Ruggirello, Bentley Elementary School Principal Jerry Meier, and attorney Lorie Steinhauer of Collins & Blaha

COMMUNITY VOICE

Which team do you think will win the Super Bowl - the Green Bay Packers or the Pittsburgh Steelers? Do you want to predict the score?

We asked this guestion at the Canton Public Library.



"Probably Green Bay." Lys Bennett Canton



"Hopefully Green Bay, 27 to 14." **Alex Wernette**



Giants aren't in it." Tom McNamara Canton



"Green Bay, 21 to 17." **Bob Erlenbusch** Plymouth

LETTERS

Porn protection

An open letter to Supervisor LaJoy and the citizens of Canton: Did you read the article in the Jan. 16 issue of the Canton Observer entitled "Library computer policies follow state law?" If not, please do so.

A policy at the Canton library allows patrons to use the Internet to view sites that include sexually explicit content in an adult-only computer room - a practice which is an inappropriate use of a taxpayer-funded facility.

A man who used the library to hunt for a job said he was appalled after he saw others looking at what he labeled pornography. A woman questioned why the library allows patrons to watch "filth" in a building frequented by children, women and others. She raised concerns about whether those watching sexually explicit content on the Internet might pose a threat

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Canton

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.

E-mail: bkadrich@hometownlife.com.

Read or comment online: www.hometownlife.com

Deadline: Letters must be received by 10 a.m. Monday to be published in the Thursday edition.

Blog: You may also let your opinions be heard with your own blog at www.hometownlife.com.

Community wants

I strongly believe that no porn should be provided by public institutions for anyone. I do not believe there is a constitutional right to view porn, anymore than there is a constitutional right to libel or slander. Women and men who produce porn are exploited. Why is that a "good" that anyone has a right to? I do not want my tax dollars used to provide disgusting material to my community.

The rebuttal of the complaint about porn being available in the library was unsigned, as far as I could tell, but that author hid behind the argument that the library board does not want "big brother" telling them what is OK and what is not OK.

Years ago, there was a huge uproar in Canton about porn at the library. The community was ignored. Talk about your "big brother." Sounds to me like those who made this decision think their opinions are more valuable than those of the community. I say, let's find out what the community wants.

for wanting to understand rather than simply demand

The result allows children baptized in the Sikh faith to wear the kirpan sewn into a sheath and hidden beneath clothing, which makes it little different from other religious symbols children wear, such as crosses. And it lets parents continue to feel safe sending their children to school.

The cooperative nature of the talks, and the urgency to get them done, made it a win-win for everyone.

Canton officials take one for team

In a political era when most people don't believe promises made by politicians - much less their willingness to keep them - the Canton Township Board of Trustees did just that last week when they cut their salaries by 5 percent.

The cynical among you may say, "What's the big deal? They're still making boatloads of money at taxpayer expense." You might think it's simply a political ploy to make themselves look good.

But we hear in a lot of places that political leaders rarely expose themselves to the same kinds of sacrifices they expect from their employees. In Canton, they're doing just that.

Treasurer Melissa McLaughlin said it best: "I don't know how we could do otherwise and look employees in the eye."

Is it going to have much of an impact on the budget? Not really. The board is, after all, trying to deal with a projected \$15 million deficit, and pay cuts this year will only generate about \$18,000 in savings (Supervisor Phil LaJoy said that money will go back into the general fund, where it could be designated for a specific purpose).

So it really is largely a symbolic gesture, but what's wrong with that? In union negotiations, the township insisted on concessions. The township imposed the pay cuts on non-union employees. While doing that, trustees pledged to match those concessions in their own paychecks, and now they've done that.

Sure, that still leaves LaJoy (\$109,597) and McLaughlin and Clerk Terry Bennett (\$93,850) at a pretty hefty salary level. You might be hesitant to praise them when they're still making that kind of money, but consider this: The supervisor's salary has dropped nearly 14 percent since 2008, and the clerk/treasurer salaries have fallen 9.5 percent.

Be cynical if you must, but concede this one fact: That's leadership.

Library Director Eva Davis said library offi-

cials chose years ago to follow state law on the issue. The Canton library refused federal dollars and therefore does not have to comply with think restricting to minors is enough protecbroader content-filtering procedures.

Do we want our Canton community to be home to "back alley" porn rooms? I believe we need not put up with the audacity of some that



tion. We need to have accountability and policy changes. What do you think?

Barb Schmid

Fawn Kieliszewski

Canton

Canton

GUEST COLUMN Seeing Lansing from a new perspective

n just my first few weeks in office as a state senator, I have already absorbed a mountain of information detailing how state government operates and how the budget process works. I have combed through hundreds of charts, graphs, analyses and documents in order to have a broader understanding of how our state provides its citizens with services and pays the bills.

As a management consultant, I look



Colbeck

at state government from a different perspective. What I see is an organization that desperately needs the application of sound business principles if we are serious about restructuring our government. We can create a more efficient, effective system that serves

the needs of the people without robbing them blind in the process.

Simply shifting dollars from one pot of money to another, as has been the practice in the past, will not keep the doors of the Capitol open, let alone encourage new job creation and economic development. It's time for a new way of thinking about how government operates, how it serves people and how it pays for itself in the process.

The Senate took the first step toward redefining the way government operates by introducing SB 1, a bill to eliminate the Michigan Business Tax (MBT). This legislation, which I co-sponsored, would scrap a business tax that has hurt businesses already here in Michigan and kept others from locating in the state. Elimination of this tax would provide an opportunity to lower the costs on job providers and open the door to restructuring state government spending in order to bring it in line with revenues.

According to the Mackinac Center for Public Policy, elimination of the MBT without any replacement tax would generate as many as 57,000 new jobs in the first full year of repeal, and 120,900 jobs by 2016.

Currently, the MBT and its attached 22 percent surcharge account for about \$2.2 billion in revenue to the state annually, making up about 15 percent of the General Fund revenues. With the state facing a \$1.8 billion budget gap between spending and expected revenue next year, the state would be looking at an almost \$4 billion shortfall if no replacement tax was put in place. While a seemingly large hurdle, it would be possible to eliminate the MBT and balance the budget through spending cuts and reforms without replacing the tax on job providers.

One suggestion is to adjust the benefits paid to all state, local, school and university government employees to bring them in line with public sectors employees. This move alone could save the state up to \$5.7 billion a year.

Clearly, the bill highlights the need to focus on government spending in addition to reforming our tax structure. We can reign in state spending by evaluating the services that government provides and determining areas where we are getting value for our dollars and areas where we can make improvements. Through prioritization and evaluation of services we can construct a tighter, fiscally responsible budget and lower the costs to taxpayers and businesses.

Part of my role as a management consultant has been to work with troubled organizations to reorganize and restructure their operations and put in place systems and procedures that streamline operations and increase desired outcomes. I believe the same types of business practices can be used to realign Michigan's government.

For example, the Michigan Dashboard (www.Michigan.gov/ MIDashboard) that Governor Snyder has created will measure our state's progress toward reaching key results and will help guide policy decisions. The data provided is a valuable tool in determining effectiveness of services and the true cost of government operations

Each of these factors - changes in how we raise revenue, evaluation and prioritization of services and business management tools that can help reorganize operations - will all contribute to a revitalized economy and streamlined state government operation. It will require a lot of cooperation between the branches of government in order to enact real change but the end result will be a better Michigan for all of its citizens. This is a job I look forward to tackling as both a management consultant and a state senator.

Patrick Colbeck, R-Canton, is the state senator from the 7th District, which includes Plymouth and Canton.

OCAL NEWS





Pastor Bryan Smith of Canton's Geneva Presbyterian Church and Ashraf Beshay

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Egyptian pastor who visited, family safe

BY JULIE BROWN OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

A Presbyterian pastor from Cairo, Egypt, who visited Canton last fall is safe. The Rev. Ashraf Beshay made contact Wednesday with Aileen Wingblad, Milford Times reporter, who had sent a Facebook message to Beshay.

Beshay wrote, "Hi, Aileen. Thanks a lot for you e-mail. We are OK. Thanks God. Please pray for Egypt. Be blessed, Ashraf.'

The Rev. Bryan Smith, pastor of Geneva, said "We are very happy to hear that" upon learning of the family's safety amid political unrest

Smith, a Canton resident, said his church members had worried following an early January church bombing in Alexandria, Egypt. "He's not too far out-

side of that," said Smith of concerns about Christians being persecuted. The issue of Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak's ouster has since overshadowed that.

"They've got a lot going on there," said Smith, adding Internet access was just restored, allowing Beshay to communicate.

Beshay, 38 at the time of his visit last fall, grew up in the Christian faith and lets Americans know that some 10 million people in his native Egypt are Christians.

That's out of a population of some 80 million, Beshay

"It was a wonderful experience for us," Smith said. "I've never had a Middle Eastern pastor with us. It was very helpful for us to learn how to be more supportive."

jcbrown@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-6755

Canton Goodwill gets into 'Super' spirit

BY DARRELL CLEM **OBSERVER STAFF WRITER**

Without choosing sides between the Green Bay Packers and Pittsburgh Steelers, Canton's new flagship resale store for Goodwill Industries of Greater Detroit plans to kick off a Super Bowl event to raise money to create jobs.

Football fans looking for bowls and other household items for a Super Bowl party or other occasions can find what Goodwill officials say will be "super" deals - pun intended - noon to 6 p.m. Sunday inside the store at 41937 Ford Road, between Lilley and Haggerty.

The store, with a sole purpose of supporting job creation, will offer 45 cents off bowls in honor of the 45th Super Bowl. Goodwill also plans to put gold tags honoring a color used by both the Packers and Steelers – on a wide array of gently used and new clothing store is here to help our



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Jeffrey Ukrainec, director of donated goods at the Canton Goodwill store, just wants "to have some fun on Sunday and remind the people of the Detroit area that our new store is here to help our friends and neighbors earn jobs."

marked down to 99 cents. "We are looking to have some fun on Sunday and remind the people of the Detroit area that our new

friends and neighbors earn jobs," Jeff Ukrainec, Goodwill's director of donated goods, said. "We're offering 'super' deals on bowls and clothing as part of the

sale, but we think customers will be especially pleased with the variety of other high-quality items and with our upscale resale experience.

Goodwill's Super Bowl sale will support the organization's employment education and job-training programs, which help unemployed people across metro Detroit.

Goodwill Industries of Greater Detroit opened the Canton store in December, marking the first time in a decade the organization had returned to the retail business

The store has 11,000 square feet of retail space, and officials say it was designed more like an upscale department store rather than a typical resale shop. It has been stocked not only with clothing, but hundreds of other items such as jewelry, purses, shoes, linens, furniture and electronics.

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Livonia

February 10, 2011

Doris Biscoe, former TV News Anchor, may personally attend some of these workshops.⁺

A licensed, authorized representative will be

said during a September-October 2010 visit to Geneva, which hosted him through its denomination. Beshay is a Presbyterian pastor of a church of about 110 people in Cairo.

"I feel at home," he said then of his Canton welcome, his fourth visit to the U.S. "Your hospitality is wonderful, thank you."

He hadn't been aware of the large number of Arabs and Arab-Americans who call Dearborn home.

Beshay, who's married to Nahla and dad to a toddler daughter, grew up in upper Egypt, where more Christians live. The Coptic Church is the largest Christian body in his country.

Beshay is among four missionaries who visited through the denomination's General Assembly, which chooses a different country each visit.

Smith said Wednesday the Canton church was glad to host Beshay and will continue to pray for him and his country.





4

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WHALERS' MAHALAK BLANKS OSHAWA - B2

SECTION B

SPORTS

THURSDAY, February 3, 2011

hometownlife

INSIDE **BUSINESS, B5 FOOD**, **B8**

DUELING TRIBUTE BANDS PLAY AT CANTON VENUE ENTERTAINMENT, B6

CC matmen roll at **Observerland Invite**

BY BRAD EMONS **OBSERVER STAFF WRITER**

To nobody's surprise, Novi-Detroit Catholic Central put on the most dominating display in the 20-year history of the Observerland Invitational wrestling tournament Saturday at Livonia Churchill.

The Shamrocks, defending Division 1 state champs and No. 1-ranked this season, scored a record 336.5 points with Farmington High a distant second with 143.5 followed by Belleville in third with 136.

Plymouth and Salem took seventh and 10th, respectively while Canton did not participate.

CC placed finalists in 11 of the 14 individual weight classes and came away with nine titles to earn its third straight Observerland team title and ninth overall.

"We preached this week attack and use an aggressive style of wrestling," CC coach Mitch Hancock said. "I was happy with the way our guys performed. They were very aggressive and I thought we pushed the pace."

The Shamrocks' Ken Bade (125 pounds) and Alec Mooradian (140) both repeated as Observerland champions.

Other CC weight class winners included Evan Toth (103), Malik Amine (119), Logan Marcicki (130), Drew Garcia (152), Andrew Erickson (160), Kevin Beazley (171) and Miles Trealout (189).

BERRY'S BIG DAY

In the best match of the finals, Plymouth's 112-pound sophomore Trey Berry raised his overall record to 38-6 with a 6-4 decision over CC's Zach Colone.

Berry's late two-pointer in the third period broke a 4-all deadlock and it earned him the vote of the coaches for Lower Weights MVP. He had pinned Colone in a

previous meeting this season, "I knew it was going to be

a little bit tougher and he (Colone) was going to come after me and he was going to go crazy," Berry said. "My strategy was pretty much and go out and get a win, and not to wrestle stupid.

"This is one of the best days I've had this year." Wayne junior Dimitrus Renfroe improved to 37-3 overall and earned the Upper Weights MVP honors with a 12-6 decision over Farmington's Justin Roe.

Please see WRESTLING, B2





Tom Colwell, who has been Berkley's parks and recreation manager for nearly five years now, volunteers as head coach of the Canton-based Michigan Rollin' Pistons Junior Division basketball team. In their inaugural season last year, Colwell led the Pistons to the national semifinals.

'Chair'-men of the boards

Berkley administrator coaches wheelchair hoops in Canton

BY MARTY BUDNER ECCENTRIC STAFF WRITER

Tom Colwell has a passion for basketball. He played in high school and has coached the sport for more than 20 years.

Like most coaches, he stresses the importance of teamwork and fundamentals. Colwell - head coach of the Canton-based Michigan Rollin' Pistons of the National Wheelchair Basketball Association - believes positioning on the court is a major key to success.

"The biggest thing on defense is

Wheelchair players seek support, B2.

it's really the purist form of the game because, to be successful, you need to have the fundamental skills. Huh? Chairs?

Yep, chairs. As in wheelchairs.

Colwell, the Berkley Parks and Recreation manager for nearly five years now, is a volunteer coach in the world of wheelchair basketball. And a highly regarded one at that.

In addition to the Rollin' Pistons, the 42-year-old Minnesota native is an assistant coach for the U.S. Men's



THOMAS BEAUDOIN

Plymouth sophomore Trey Berry (top) captured the Observerland 119pound title with a 6-4 decision over CC's Zach Colone (bottom).

chair position, and on offense it's setting picks (with the chairs)," said Colwell. "Chair movement is so important. As a coach, you really have to focus a lot of your energy on all those little intricate details of where you push, how you push and where you need your chair position to be.

"Then the principles of basketball apply. You have to teach the correct angles to go to the basket to shoot. you need to teach them how to set a pick and offensive plays and what you need to do in transition offensively and defensively.

"There's all sorts of interesting principles that different coaches apply, but it's all based off of a basketball model," he said. "So outside of a chair, it's really the same game. I like the fact that

National Wheelchair Paralympic team which qualified for the world championships in 2009.

Colwell's wife, Noelle, also takes a special interest in wheelchair basketball as she helped launch the Rollin' Pistons franchise two years ago. The Pistons are the third NWBA junior team (high school age players) based out of the Detroit area, with the others being the Junior Michigan Thunderbirds from Southfield the east side's Sterling Heights Challengers.

FROM THE HEART

It's a labor of love for Colwell – a task he speaks of with pride and conviction.

Please see BASKETBALL, B2

It's tipoff time, and Valentino Paige (14) of Canton's Rollin Pistons is ready to lead his team to battle in a recent wheelchair tournament junior game against a team from Grand Rapids.

Bowling teams solid at Town N' Country

BY TIM SMITH OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Three members of Plymouth's varsity boys bowling team rolled scores of better than 450 Monday.

But the hot trio of Kyle Webb, Justin Thompson and Rob Korstjens could not lead the Wildcats to victory over Westland John Glenn.

The Rockets came away with a 17-13 victory at Town N' Country Lanes in Westland. All six Plymouth-Canton Educational Park varsity teams were in action at the bowling alley.

"John Glenn always brings it," Plymouth head coach Tammy Thompson said, with a chuckle.

Plymouth got off to a great start, however, winning the baker games and then outscoring John Glenn 1,138-1,060 in the first regular game.

"That's a high for us for the season," Thompson said. "We just couldn't keep it going. If we would have taken totals and we lost by 39 - we would have won the match."

Plymouth's 954 in Game 2 gave the Wildcats 2,092 pins. But the Rockets totalled 2,121,



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Kristin Larkins of Salem's varsity girls bowling team gets set to release the ball Monday. Her shot went for a strike. Monday's dual match against Northville.

led by a 516-series by Jordan Hornes and a 474-series by Thomas Brusseau.

The Wildcats, however, boasted strong performances from Webb (266-193-459), Justin Thompson (243-215-458) and Korstjens (248-208-456).

Canton's Alex Champagne launches the ball during

"I am very proud of them," Thompson said. "They are working very hard to get ready for regionals."

COMING BACK

Meanwhile, Canton's boys team earned a 19-11 triumph

over Northville, riding the wave of a 10-0 score in the baker games. Top Chiefs included Ryan

Washburn (218-199-417) Andrew Klein (181-210-391)

Please see BOWLING, B3

PREPS ON HOLD

Plymouth boys hockey coach Paul Fassbinder hoped his team would lace them up for Tuesday's scheduled game against Livonia Stevenson

But Fassbinder, as did all other prep coaches and athletic directors in the Plymouth-Canton district and Plymouth Christian Academy, will have plenty of makeup games to schedule thanks to this week's massive snowstorm.

All Tuesday and Wednesday prep events were cancelled due to the blizzard, which was expected to dump at least a foot of snow on metro Detroit.

'Cats lose power in Soo

BY TIM SMITH **OBSERVER STAFF WRITER**

Plymouth's weekend trek to Sault Ste. Marie was a worthwhile experience, even though the results weren't what boys hockey coach Paul Fassbinder hoped for.

Instead, the Wildcats lost 3-1 Friday and 6-3 Saturday to the Soo, dropping to 4-7-6.

Fassbinder said the team "took two on the chin this weekend, but it wasn't for lack of teamwork and effort."

Friday's game boiled down to misfiring on the power play. Plymouth failed to score on all six tries with the extra man.

Scoring the goal was senior defenseman Justin Bauer

BOYS HOCKEY

(from junior forwards Matt Goertz and Richard Mitchell) while senior Michael Justus took the loss in goal.

On Saturday, Plymouth came out strong with a 14-4 edge in shots during the first period. Unfortunately, all the 'Cats could muster was a single goal and Sault Ste. Marie got it going beginning in the second.

Getting the start in net for Plymouth was junior Peyton Wilburn (22 saves). "Peyton played great (but) we gave the Soo too many high-quality scoring opportunities."

Please see HOCKEY, B3

LOCAL SPORTS



PHOTOS BY DAVID REED

Four members of the Rollin' Pistons, including (in white jerseys from left to right) Valentino Paige from Farmington Hills, John McSween from Plymouth, Correy Rossi from Canton (with ball), and Alcides Postma from Plymouth, help lead the team to victory in last weekend's tournament held at Berkley High School.



"For me, I love basketball and I get to coach basketball," said Colwell, who graduated from college with a degree in therapeutic recreation. "But, I think I learn something new from these guys, and their outlook, just about every time I go out there. Just the daily challenges a lot of these guys have to go through just to get ready for school and get dressed. Just all those little things that they do to get ready, and once they come out on the court they're ready to be a kid and they're ready to play.

"The wheelchair is just a mode of transportation. It's pretty amazing," he said. "I certainly get more out of it than I put in. It's my little way of giving back.

The Rollin' Pistons, Thunderbirds and Challengers participated in the Junior Division of a wheelchair tournament held recently at Berkley High School. The tourney was sponsored by the Detroit Diehards, an adult team which is part of the Men's Division 3 bracket of the NWBA.

The Rollin' Pistons, who are affiliated with the Canton Parks and Recreation PISTNS

Canton resident Correy Rossi (21) has been one of the Michigan Rollin' Pistons' leading scorers this season in National Wheelchair Basketball Association play.

squad also includes Alcides Postma (Plymouth), Wahbeh Nusiebeh (Dearborn), Rick Covert (Romulus) and Dan Beasley (Detroit).

"Correy and Valentino are definitely the backbone of the team," said Colwell. "They have done a great job, not only shouldering the responsibility of the team, but teaching the younger kids what they need to do as members of the team."

PROVIDING A FORUM

But, it's not so much the numbers and statistics that keep him motivated. It's helping to provide a forum where his players can prosper and feel good about themselves. The biggest thing for the athletes is, when they are in their schools, they are generally the only one in a wheelchair," said Colwell. "So, when they play basketball it's an opportunity for them to come out and not only get some physical exercise, but it allows them to be part of a team. It gives them some leadership skills, confidence, self-esteem - all those things that come with being part of a team they may not get in school. "I think that's the best part of this, is that they're part of a team and all the great things

that come from learning about losing a game or winning," he said. "Things like sportsmanship and fair play. All that stuff is huge."

Wheelchair coaching also has allowed Colwell to visit places he otherwise might not have considered. Besides his travels to many corners of the United States, his duties with the U.S. National team has taken him to such places as Brazil, Mexico, Canada, England, Cyprus and Australia.

Colwell plans to be with his national team at the 2010

Young Salem grapplers keep fighting

BY TIM SMITH OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Whether or not wrestling teams have success at tournaments always isn't as cut-anddried as looking at the final standings.

Salem head coach Pete Israel's team placed 10th out of 15 at Saturday's annual Observerland Invitational at Livonia Churchill, with 86 points.

For those of you scoring at home, the Rocks came in 250.5 points behind invite champion Novi-Detroit Catholic Central. But Israel instead looked at

some of the intangibles shown by his wrestlers, particularly willingness to never back down or give up.

"The good thing about most my guys is even though they are younger, they have the will to fight it out in matches," Israel said. "As coaches we can tweak the technique. But the willingness to go to battle

WKESI FROM PAGE B1

"He (Renfroe) has been working hard, and to be honest, this performance is what we expected out of him," said Wayne coach Dave Vasiloff, who had three finalists. "He went out there and wrestled to form. He went out there and wrestled great."

In the final match of the day, Stevenson junior Jake Range

> 20th annual **OBSERVERLAND INVITATIONAL** WRESTLING TOURNAMENT Jan. 29 at Livonia Churchill

TEAM STANDINGS: 1. Novi-Detroit Catholic Central, 336.5 points; 2. Farmington, 143.5; 3. Belleville, 136; 4. Wayne Memorial, 117.5; 5. Novi, 109; 6. North Farmington, 106.5; 7. Plymouth, 99.5; 8. Livonia Churchill, 99; 9. Farmington Hills Harrison, 87; 10. Salem, 86; 11. Livonia Stevenson, 8.15; 12. Northville, 69; 13. Redford Union, 35; 14. Garden City, 25; 15. Lutheran High Westland, 13

CHAMPIONSHIP RESULTS

103 pounds: Evan Toth (CC) pinned Jon Locklear (LC), 1:39; 3rd place: Mohamed Youssef (Ply.) and Alex Arble (Salem), double forfeit; 5th place: Jamonty Houze (Bell.) p. Bryan Garland (NF), 0:48.

112: Trey Berry (Ply.) decisioned Zach Colone (CC), 6-4; 3rd: Nimantha Herath (Farm.) dec. Rob Doane (GC), 8-3; 5th: Kyle and fight for wins is key to a program's success."

A handful of Salem performers scored points at the 26th annual invite and others earned points of a different kind with the coach.

"A couple key individuals were out, but a lot of the younger guys stepped up," Israel said. "I was happy with the performance of Justin Boone at 112. Even though the freshman did not place, he showed a willingness to fight."

Earning third-place points were Alex Arble (103) and Austin Rohn (130).

"Alex has been coming on strong since the Williamston Tournament (Jan. 15)," Israel said. "He is a real fighter and developing his technique nicely.

Rohn showed some potential. "With a little more work in the room he might be able to turn it on at the of the season," the coach added.

captured the 285-pound title

Farmington's Majd Mokbel.

CC's dominating perfor-

absence of three of the area's

top three teams that elected

not to attend for the first time

"We have not seen Canton,"

Hancock said. "I was hoping to

see them sometime through-

out the year, but you know

mance was helped by the

in the history of the tour-

nament. One of those was

Canton.

with a 6-1 decision over North

Finishing fourth at 160 was

Tyler Gross, a good showing for a sophomore in the upper weights according to Israel.

"A close overtime match was the difference between the finals and the consolations,' Israel said. "Tyler is really becoming a younger leader for the team.

"I expect good things from him in the next couple of weeks as we head towards the state tournament."

Salem also had two fifthplace showings, by Josh Marhofer (152) and Jacob McCabe (171).

"Josh had some tough matches," Israel noted. "His placing doesn't reflect his ability."

As for McCabe, the coach described him as "a real grinder, pushing opponents until they get in vulnerable situations.

He is seen as another Salem wrestler who could peak at the right time this season.

tsmith@hometownlife.com

coach) does what's best for Canton and you can't disagree with that.

"We'll see those guys in a week-and-a-half or two weeks when the team regionals roll around."

Hancock, however, added that attending Observerland remains a tradition. "We didn't come here to wrestle Canton, we came to the Observerland Tournament because it's a well-run tournament."

(NF), double forfeit.

125: Ken Bade (CC) won by technical fall over Alejandro Albuerne (Novi), 21-6; 3rd: Said Youssef (Ply.) and Manny Govantes (Farm.), double forfeit; 5th: Ivy Riley (Bell.) dec. Evan Doyle (FHH), 10-3

130: Logan Marcicki (CC) p. Andre Sanders (FHH), 1:48; 3rd: Austin Rohn (Salem) and Alec Breckenridge (Ply.) double forfeit; 5th: Corey Davis (LS) and Matthew Aoun (Novi), double forfeit.

135: Brendan Papin (Bell.) dec. Riley Hanson (CC), 10-3; 3rd: Josh Hall (RU) won by tech. fall over Travis Compo (N'ville), 23-7; 5th: Zach Schulz (Farm.) and Samer Shebak (LS), double forfeit.

140: Alec Mooradian (CC) won by tech. fall over James Roberts (FHH), 19-4; 3rd: Beau Bielski (Novi) dec. Jonny Bannoura (LC), 5-4; 5th: Kody Roy (LS) and Mike Rankin (Farm.), double forfeit.

145: Nick Tomski (Farm.) won by major dec. over Jalen Jones (WM), 12-4; 3rd: Mike Josh Marhofer (Salem) and Roderick Howard (RU), double forfeit

160: Andrew Erickson (CC) won by major dec. over John Davis (NF), 13-5; 3rd: Zach Juchartz (Bell.) dec. Tyler Gross (Salem), 5-3; 5th: Martin Kemp (LW) p. Jackson Chalmers (Ply.), 3:18

171: Kevin Beazley (CC) dec. Kevin Miller (NF), 9-3; 3rd: Shames Delahaye (Bell.) dec. Trevor Maresh (N'ville), 4-3; 5th: Jake McCabe (Salem) and Lucas Hofbauer (WM), double forfeit

189: Miles Trealout (CC) p. Mark Tooley (Bell.), 1:56; 3rd: Courtney Drew (NF) dec. Joe Scott (LS), 8-5; 5th: Justin Michael (Novi) and Devin Korzetki (WM), double forfeit.

215: Dimitrus Renfroe (WM) dec. Justin Roe (Farm.), 12-6; 3rd: David Sparling (Novi) p. Dylan Morantes (LC), 2:53; 5th: Jay Peterson (CC) won by injury default over Adam Drucz (GC).

285: Jake Range (LS) dec. Majd Mokbel (NF), 6-1; 3rd: Robert Coe (CC) p. Manny

what? Cory Mancuso (Canton's bemons@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-6851 PREP WRESTLING RESULTS

Department, had a strong tournament showing with three wins in four games. The Pistons defeated the Southfield team, plus teams from Grand Rapids and Cleveland. They lost to the Challengers.

Last year, the Pistons advanced to the national championships held in Denver where they suffered a disappointing overtime loss, 74-71, to a team out of Los Angeles. But, said Colwell, the team graduated some top players from last year and is in a rebuilding stage this season.

The Pistons' top players are Canton resident Correy Rossi and Farmington Hills native Valentino Paige. The Pistons

Paralympic Games in London.

"The biggest difference between wheelchair basketball and ambulatory basketball is obviously the chair," said Colwell. "But, there are the so many other intricate details to the game. Basically, it's played just like NCAA rules. The teams that are successful are the ones that are fundamentally sound and set a good team concept.

"People who haven't seen wheelchair basketball, and are fans of basketball, should really do what they can to check out wheelchair basketball," he says. "It's really something to watch and I think they'll really enjoy it."

Wheelchair players seek support

Wheelchair basketball does not come cheap.

Besides the wheelchair itself, the sport does require a lot of travelling to different tournaments across the country.

For instance, the Cantonbased Michigan Rollin' Pistons advanced to the national tournament last year in Denver. The Pistons eventually lost in the semifinals to a team from Los Angeles.

Head coach Tom Colwell, the Berkley Parks and Recreation Manager, also already has taken his team to Grand Rapids and Ft. Wayne. Upcoming destinations include Nashville for the national regional tournament

BOYS BASKETBALL

Friday, Feb. 4

Salem at Stevenson, 7 p.m.

Canton at Plymouth, 7:30 p.m.

Lutheran Westland at

Ply, Christian, 8:45 p.m

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Friday, Feb. 4

Canton at Plymouth, 6 p.m.

Stevenson vs. Novi, 7 p.m.

Lutheran Westland at

Ply, Christian, 7:15 p.m.

PREP HOCKEY

Friday, Feb. 4

Livonia Franklin vs. Canton

at Arctic Edge, 8:30 p.m.

4

and hopefully a return trip to Denver.

The Pistons participate in the Junior Division of the Midwest Conference of the National Wheelchair **Basketball Association** (NWBA). The Detroit Metro area also has two other Junior Division teams, including the Southfield Junior Michigan Thunderbirds and the Sterling Heights Challengers.

Expenses run high.

While the Pistons have selected fund raisers during the season, they are always looking for sponsors or donations. Expenses not obtained through fund raising efforts are generally picked up by the players themselves.

"We're pretty fortunate that we have three teams in a close area so we can play games against them," says Colwell, who also serves as an assistant coach for the U.S. National Paralympic Wheelchair Basketball Team.

"But, when you're talking about travelling a lot, the whole sponsorship thing is huge and every team out there could use the help, including us," he says. "With that comes hotel stays and wheelchairs cost about \$3,000. It's an expensive thing.

People can make donations on the team web site, or call Colwell at (248) 658-3470.

WOMEN'S COLLEGE

BASKETBALL

Saturday, Feb. 5

Madonna at Concordia, 1 p.m

Gutkowski (N'ville) and Josh Perez (LC), double forfeit.

119: Malik Amine (CC) dec. Kevon Kennerly (Farm.), 8-4; 3rd: Jake Meadows (LC) dec. Ian Stirton (N'ville), 5-3; 5th: Tristan Jarosicwicz (WM) and Jordan Russell

Babicz (CC) dec. Chris Caverly (Novi), 4-0; 5th: Will Herring (Bell.) and Gabe Unick (FHH), double forfeit

152: Drew Garcia (CC) p. Kevin Newborn (WM), 2:34; 3rd: Kyle Lake (FHH) dec. Johnathan Montgomery (N'ville), 11-8; 5th:

Haddad (LC), 1:21; 5th: Jacob Chiles (WM) p. Tyler Styrk (Bell.), 1:13.

Lower weights MVP: Trey Berry 112, Plymouth

Upper weights MVP: Dimitrus Renfroe, 215, Wayne.

Whalers' Mahalak blanks Oshawa

BY TIM SMITH **OBSERVER STAFF WRITER**

Like a good jolt of caffeine in the morning after an allnighter, winger Tyler Brown scored for the weary Plymouth Whalers just 28 seconds into Saturday night's game against Oshawa.

And then it was goalie Matt Mahalak's turn to carry the load for the Whalers, playing their third game in three nights.

Mahalak (Monroe) was brilliant throughout the Ontario Hockey League game, stopping all 36 Generals shots to lead Plymouth to a 4-0 victory at Compuware Arena.

Oshawa (25-14-4-4) really tried to crack the goose egg, hammering Mahalak with 18 shots in the third as the Whalers dealt with heavy legs and heavy pressure.

"We were gassed in the third, we really were," Plymouth head coach Mike Vellucci said. "We played in our own end quite a bit, but we were tired because we played three hard games."

LAST-SECOND SCARE

Mahalak had to earn his first OHL shutout, turning aside several prime scoring chances late in the game as Plymouth had to kill off a 5on-3 Oshawa power play. With seconds to go,

Oshawa's Scott Valentine drilled a shot that Mahalak stopped and the 18-year-old goalie then flashed out a pad to deny Josh Graves' bid to score on the rebound.

When the game finally ended, the Whalers - including another star of the game, older brother RJ Mahalak - mobbed the first-year net-



Plymouth Whalers goalie Matt Mahalak (No. 37) makes one of 36 stops Saturday night against Oshawa at Compuware Arena, earning his first OHL shutout. At right for Plymouth is forward Rickard Rakell (No. 24).

minder while the Compuware crowd of 2,310 stood and cheered.

"There was like six seconds left, a faceoff in our zone," Matt said. "... The shot came through (but) I didn't even see it. I just butterflied, it hit me and the rebound came out.

"I knew there was only a second left and I knew if that (Graves' shot) went in I would have just been crushed.

Mahalak said he "luckily got the pad out there, the horn went off and the celebration started."

As happy as he was for getting that first shutout, Mahalak made sure to give plenty of credit to his teammates.

"The team came out hard and everyone was battling for me," Mahalak said. "... It just felt great to finally get it done."

BROTHER ACT

4

There was no disputing the Three-Star Selection, either.

Matt Mahalak was the first star while his older brother RJ earned the second star with an outstanding all-around game.

RJ Mahalak, also from Monroe, not only assisted on Brown's goal, he scored a key power-play marker at 13:28 of the second to give Plymouth a 3-0 edge.

Winger Garrett Meurs, stationed along the left boards deep in Oshawa territory, held the puck a moment until he could send a crisp pass to Mahalak between the circles.

Mahalak buried a high shot over the glove of Generals goalie Peter Di Salvo (18 saves).

Saturday's win extended Plymouth's recent hot streak to 6-0-0-2 and the Whalers caught Windsor in points (58, although Windsor has three games in hand).

"We just got to worry about ourselves right now, just keep getting points," summed up Vellucci.

Saturday, Feb. 5 Churchill vs, Plymouth at Compuware Arena, 2:10 p.m. Salem at Flint Powers, 3 p.m. **BOYS WRESTLING** Saturday, Feb. 5 KLAA Tourney at Hartland, 9 a.m. Summit Academy Tourney, 9:30 a.i **BOYS SWIMMING & DIVING** Thursday, Feb. 3 Plymouth at Canton, 6:30 p.m. GIRLS GYMNASTICS Thursday, Feb. 3 Livonia Red vs. Canton at Plymouth H.S., 6:30 p.m.

THE WEEK AHEAD

Saturday, Feb. 5 Canton Invitational, 9:30 a.m. PREP BOWLING Thursday, Feb. 3 Salem vs. Northville, Canton vs. John Glenn Plymouth vs. Wayne, 3:30 p.m. at Super Bowl (Canton) Saturday, Feb. 5 Mercy Tournament at Drakeshire, 9 a.m MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Saturday, Feb. 5 Concordia at Madonna, 3 p.m Schoolcraft at Delta College, 3 p.m

Delta College at Schoolcraft, 1 p.m. OHL HOCKEY Thursday, Feb. 3 **Plymouth Whalers** at Sarnia, 7 p.m Friday, Feb. 4 Plymouth Whalers at Kitchener, 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 5 Sarnia vs. Plymouth Whalers at Compuware Arena, 7 p.m.

PREP BOWLING RESULTS

FROM PAGE B1

and Kurt Kowalski (211-174-385).

Co-coach Jim Keppen also noted a 225 game by Alex Champagne and his team's rally in Game 2 to win 981-918

"Our varsity boys came from behind in the second game, which was good to see," Keppen said.

Canton smoked the Mustangs in baker games with a 205-214-419 series, 52 points better than Northville, to win all 10 of those available points.

In regular team games, both teams won a game although Northville outscored Canton 1,942-1,936 in totals.

Salem cruised over Livonia Clarenceville in both the boys and girls varsity matchups, with each ending 28-2.

For the boys, who trounced the Trojans 413-314 in baker games and 1,935-1,779 in regular games, it was another outstanding showing by senior Ryan Clark.

He opened with a 233 and followed it up with a 212 to roll a 445 series.

Kevin Williams (185-204-389), Tyler Foley (203-166-369) and David Nikkila (203-140-343) also chipped in, as did Joe Mirsky with a single game of 206.

Clarenceville's top performer was Sean Diaz, with a 206-221-427 series. Tyler Fox also hit the 200 mark.

Girls recap

Salem's girls varsity squad enjoyed the same level of success, with a 10-0 sweep in baker games followed by an 18-2 edge in regular games.

The Rocks totalled 1,614 points in the latter category,



Fassbinder said. He noted that Plymouth's goal scorers - sophomore forwards Joe Burke, Jordon Lopetrone and freshman forward Mike

Full Bar

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PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Looking to make a spare Monday at Town N' Country Lanes in Westland is Plymouth's Mackenzie Carlson. The Wildcats' girls varsity team defeated Westland John Glenn, 21-9.

surpassing Clarenceville's 1.284.

Individually, Kristin Larkins led Salem with a 386 series, highlighted by a 205 score in Game 2.

"She (Larkins) is coming on strong this year," Salem head coach Kathie Hahn said.

Ashley Kretschmer just missed the 200 mark in her first game (194) and finished with a 359. Clarenceville's Bridget

Moricz had a good outing, with a 170-191-361 series. Plymouth also had a big day on the girls side, with a 21-9 blitzing of John Glenn. Spearheading the Wildcats was a 177 game posted by Ashley Mikolaiczik, a personal best.

The baker game portion of the match was close, with the Wildcats' 272 tally nipping John Glenn's 261. Plymouth

won six of the available 10 points.

Game 1 between the teams also was a nailbiter, although Plymouth prevailed 806-801.

Thanks to a 775-726 win in the second game, Plymouth's total of 1,581 pins was good for 15 points. John Glenn earned five points on a total of 1,527.

But the Rockets' Rachel Miller was the high scorer in the match with a 223-183-406.

Only Canton took it on the chin among the varsity girls squads, dropping a 22.5-7.5 match to Northville.

The varsity girls just ran up against a buzzsaw," Keppen said. "Northville was fantastic today.'

Indeed, the Mustangs took it to the Chiefs in the regular games with an edge of 1,756-1,367.

Brittany Browers rolled a

pair of 200 games for a 420 series while Kristen Muzzilo's 234 in the opener helped set the tone for Northville.

Tyler Foley was one of five members of Salem's varsity

boys bowling team to roll 200 games Monday.

Positives for Canton

included Charlotte Zimmer's team-best 169 game and 325 series. Ashley Cade and Jackie Polaski followed with scores of 260 and 250, respectively.

But Keppen saw some promise in his junior varsity bowlers. He noted a 175 game by Jessica Holowicki (her personal best) and a 165-156-321

series by Beth Stark. "Those were fantastic games by Beth, one of her best series. And on the boys side, Gary Barnett ruled for the JV with

a 252 game. Keppen said Barnett threw nine strikes. Salem's JV boys team fea-

tured freshman Brandon Allison's 224-208-432 series.

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Meanwhile, the Soo cashed in on three of six opportunities with the extra man.

"Obviously if our power play was to bury a couple then the weekend would have been a little different," Fassbinder said.

BOYS DUAL MATCH RESULTS CANTON 19 NORTHVILLE 11

Jan. 31 at Town N'Country (Westland) Canton scorers: Ryan Washburn, 218 199-417; Andrew Klein, 181-210-391; Kurt Kowalski, 211-174-385; Alex Champagne 225; Ross Terrasi, 163; split game, 181. Team totals: 954-981-1,936 (9 points); Baker games: 205-214-419 (10 points).

Northville scorers: Jon Johnson, 256-184-440; Adam Zimmer, 217-180-397; Daniel Jacobi, 186-192-378; Ryan Benoit, 181-193-374; Colton Ma-Wu, 184; split game, 169. Team totals: 1,024-918-1,942 (11 points); Baker games: 199-168-367 (0 points)

Canton's dual match record: 7-3 overall, 5-2 KLAA Central Division; Northville's record: 0-10 overall, 0-7 in Central

WESTLAND JOHN GLENN 17 PLYMOUTH 13

Jan. 31 at Town N'Country (Westland) John Glenn scorers: Jordan Hornes, 249-267-516; Thomas Brusseau, 259-215-474; Tommy Ruark, 195-213-408; John Cleavenger, 179-194-363; Steven White, 173. Team totals: 1,060-1,061-2,121 (11 points); Baker games: 181-215-396 (6 points).

Plymouth scorers: Kyle Webb, 266-193 459; Justin Thompson, 243-215-458; Rob Korstjens, 248-208-456; Eric Thompson, 191 Brandon Congdon, 190; Ryan Riva, 177; Evan Grimme, 161. Team totals: 1.138-954-2.092 (9 points): Baker games: 210-180-390 (4

Glenn's dual match record: 11-0 overall, 8-0 KLAA Central Division; Plymouth's record: 6-4 overall, 4-3 in Central, SALEM 28

LIVONIA CLARENCEVILLE 2

Jan. 31 at Town N'Country (Westland) Salem scorers: Ryan Clark, 233-212-445; Kevin Williams, 185-204-389; Tyler Foley, 203-166-369; David Nikkila, 203-140-343; Joe Mirsky, 206; split game, 183. Team totals: 1,030-905-1,935 (18 points); Baker games: 188-225-413 (10 points)

Clarenceville scorers: Sean Diaz, 206-221-427; Mike Uren, 191-181-372; Tyler Fox, 200-149-349; Brad Martin, 181; Corey Coughlin, 156; split game, 294. Team totals: 902-877-1,779 (2 points); Baker games: 135-179-314 (0 points). Salem's dual match record: 4-6 overall

Clarenceville's record: 2-7 overall.

PCA girls cagers come close

Plymouth Christian couldn't quite pull off two wins in two days, but the Eagles came close.

After the PCA girls basketball team defeated Rochester Hills Lutheran Northwest 43-32 on Friday, the Eagles lost 35-33 to Chandler Park on Saturday afternoon.

Emily Gerulis and Karen Windle each pulled down 12 rebounds and combined

GIRLS DUAL MATCH RESULTS NORTHVILLE 22.5 CANTON 7.5

B3

(CP)

Jan. 31 at Town N'Country (Westland) Northville scorers: Brittany Browers 201-219-420; Kristen Muzzilo, 235-155-390; Haley Ferrario, 143-134-277; Maggie Stewart 241; Lisa Rice, 150; Rachel Beger, 136.5. Team totals: 875-881-1,756 (18.5 points); Baker games: 165-140-305 (4 points)

Canton scorers: Charlotte Zimmer, 156-169-325; Ashley Cade, 136.5-124-260.5; Jackie Polaski, 136-114-250; Brianna Bailey, 156; Allison Fries, 152; Cheryl Cosby, 133; split game, 91. Team totals: 713-654-1,367 (1.5 points); Baker games: 150-164-314 (6 points). Northville's dual match record: 5-5 overall, 4-3 KLAA Central; Canton's record:

6-4 overall, 4-3 in Centra PLYMOUTH 21

WESTLAND JOHN GLENN 9 Jan. 31 at Town N'Country (Westland) Plymouth scorers: Caitlyn Webb, 194-172-366; Tiffani Patterson, 196-150-346; Mackenzie Carlson, 181-135-316; Jessica Cullen, 115-141-256; Ashley Mikolaiczik, 177; Emily Fraser, 120. Team totals: 806-775-1,581 (15 points); Baker games: 154-118-272 (6 points).

John Glenn scorers: Rachel Miller, 223-183-406; Khiry Sparks, 196-165-361; Julianne Ayers, 152-167-319; Yvette Ayers, 118-113-231; Sara Aulidge, 112-98-210, Team totals: 801-726-1,527 (5 points); Baker games: 136-125-261 (4 points).

Plymouth's dual match record: 6-4 overall, 6-3 in KLAA Central; John Glenn's record: 6-5 overall, 5-3 KLAA Central

SALEM 28 LIVONIA CLARENCEVILLE 2 Jan. 31 at Town N'Country (Westland)

Salem scorers: Kristin Larkins, 181-205-386; Ashley Kretschmer, 194-165-359; Bridget Maul, 152-167-319; Meaghan Eldridge, 169-133-302; Micaylin Peltz/Rachel Amodio split game 125-123-248. Team totals: 821-793-1,614 (18 points); Baker games: 181-145-326 (10 points) Clarenceville scorers: Bridget Moricz, 170-191-361; Casey O'Rourke, 155-136-291; Nikki Iuliano, 122-114-236; Natalie Kay-

Flaherty, 128-99-227; Hunter Iuliano, 87 Katie Rogers, 82. Team totals: 657-627-1,284 (2 points); Baker games: 132-135-267 (0 points).

Salem's dual match record: 6-4 overall: Clarenceville's record: 0-9 overall.



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for eight steals as the teams played in a defensive struggle. But no PCA player hit

double-figures, with Brianna Harris tallying nine points. Jenny Malcolm and Bethany Hale each scored seven while Gerulis chipped in with six. The loss dropped the Eagles' record to 9-3 overall.

Schultz - each scored for the first time as a Wildcat.

"The line of Burke, (sophomore Ryan) Theisen and Mike Schultz scored two for us plus created a lot of scoring opportunities," Fassbinder said. "The last three games they have really turned it up."

Burke and Schultz each had a

goal and an assist, while Theisen chipped in with two helpers.

Other point-getters in Saturday's contest included senior forward Chase Zebari and sophomore blueliner Cam Nadell, each earning single assists.

But the Wildcats were again hampered by the power play, which went 0-for-5.

"Something that carried us at the beginning of the season has been a little stale the last month or so."

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CANN	Thursday	7:30 pm	\$25	\$35,000	20 min.	None	\$1,400	in the Detroit
	Friday	1:30 pm 4:30 pm 7:30 pm	\$25 \$25 \$30	\$25,000 \$25,000 \$30,000	20 min. 20 min. 20 min.	None None None	\$1,000 \$1,000 \$1,400	7 Metro Area
	Saturday	1:30 pm 4:30 pm 7:30 pm	\$25 \$25 \$30	\$25,000 \$25,000 \$30,000	20 min. 20 min. 20 min.	None None None	\$1,000 \$1,000 \$1,400	
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Observer & Eccentric | Thursday, February 3, 2011



RUTH BAXTER

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(*)

93, passed away on January 18, 2011 after a prolonged illness. She was the wife of Joseph Baxter (deceased) and loving mother to Michael (Marilyn) of Laurel, Maryland, Jan (Judy) of Charlotte, MI and Mary Fuelling (Dennis) of Canton, MI. She had 11 grandchildren, 20 great-grandchildren and three great, great grandchildren. She was devoted to her family and they are comforted knowing she is with her Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Remembrances can be made in her name to 3for5.org

ANTHONY S. "BUTCH" DELORENZO

Age 70 of Westland. Passed January 30, 2011. Loving father of Anthony (Chandra) Delorenzo. Brother of Mary Delorenzo, Jenny Delorenzo, Jo Delorenzo, Frank (Pat) Delorenzo and Brother Vincent Delorenzo. Brotherin-law Chris Krisciunas. Preceded in death by Nancy Krisciunas. Funeral service Thursday, February 3, 2011 at 1:00 p.m. Querfeld Funeral Home, 1200 Oakwood Blvd., Dearborn

313-561-0002. Visitation will be Wednesday, February 2, from 2-8 pm. www.querfeldfh.com



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 Vednesday 9:45 AM for Thursday

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

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or toll free 800-579-7355 ask for Char or Liz

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SUSAN MARIE FOLTZ

Livonia, MI - Susan Marie Foltz, 66, of Livonia, MI, formerly of Lancaster, OH, died Saturday, January 29, 2011, at St. Mary Mercy Hospital in Livonia, MI. She fought a valiant battle with pancreatic cancer for two years before dying peacefully with family by her Susan was born November 7, 1944, in East Cleveland, Ohio and was the daughter of the late Walter Milton Smoyer and Marjorie Janet Wing. Susan grew up in the Cleveland area, attended Muskingum University in Ohio in the sixties and had a thirty plus year career in banking, mortgage lending & bookeeping in both Ohio, beginning with Farmers & Citizens Bank, and in Michigan, last employed by Plastomer in the Detroit area. In retirement, Susan enjoyed time spent with family at Sand Lake, traveling with her husband, and raising her eight grandkids. Susan was loved and respected by all who knew her and to very end was "the rock" of the family. Lovingly referred to as 'Grams', Susan is survived by her husband Larry Kenneth Foltz of Livonia. MI; and brother Robert Smoyer, and his wife Hazel Smoyer of Chesepeake, VA. She is also survived by daughter Brenda Foltz Williamson, her husband John Edward Williamson & grandchil-dren Nicole, Hanna & Jack; son Daniel Kenneth Foltz, wife Erin Elizabeth Foltz & grandchildren Chloe, Allison, Isabel & Danny, all of Livonia, MI; and son Scott Ogden, wife Lara Berkley, and grandson Calvin of Wilmington, NC, as well as her first husband, Frank Ogden of Leland, NC. A visitation will be held at Harry J. Will Funeral Home at 37000 Six Mile Road, Livonia, MI from 2 pm to 9 pm on Friday February 4, 2011. A memorial service will be held at Harry J. Will Funeral Home from 2 pm to 4 pm, on Saturday, February 5, 2011 with an additional visitation from Noon to 2 pm on Saturday before the memorial. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the American Cancer Society in the name of Susan

Foltz. An online guestbook is available at: www.harryjwillfuneralhome.com.



GEORGINA GERRES

Age 98 of Plymouth, died January 29, 2011. Beloved mother of Jeanette Merrill. Loving grandmother of Jonathan (Kathleen) Merrill and Anne Merrill. Dear great grandmother of Celia, Ian, Tess and Evan Merrill. Georgina exhibited a wonderful zest for life, and was proud to be able to care for herself throughout her lifetime. She was especially pleased when she could spend time with her daughter and great-grandchildren. Private cremation services have been held. To share memories please visit vermeulenfuneralhome.com.



GORDON C. LARZELERE

Age 67 January 30, 2011. Beloved husband of Nancy. Loving father of Matthew (Samantha) and Teresa Larzelere. Dear grandfather of Jake, Cody, Austin, Andrew, and Emily. Brother of Dale, Rick, Jack, Mike, Mary Pierce, and Helen Larzelere. Funeral Service Friday, 12 Noon, at Thayer-Rock Funeral Home, 33603 Grand River Ave. (1 blk. W. of Farmington Rd.), Downtown Farmington. Visitation Thursday 2-8 PM (Knights of Columbus service at 7:30 PM) Memorial contributions may be made to the American Diabetes Association. www.thayer-rock.com





THOMAS J. TATTAN

Age 61 of Northville, January 30, 2011. Beloved husband of Cynthia. Loving father of Jason (Megan). Dear son of Dorothy and the late John. Dear brother of Michael (Debbie), Tim, and Leanne (Mark) Clark. Also leaves several nieces and nephews. Visitation Friday 2-8 PM at Vermeulen Funeral Home, 46401 W. Ann Arbor Rd (btwn Sheldon & Beck) Plymouth. In State Sat. 10 AM until the 10:30 AM Funeral Mass at St. Kenneth Catholic Church, 14951 Haggerty Rd (south of 5 Mile) Entombment Michigan Plymouth. Memorial Park. Memorial contribu-tions may be made to U of M Health System, Section of Thoracic Surgery, To leave a message of condolence or share a memory with the family, please visit vermeulenfuneralhome.com



SHIRLEY ANN WOODRUFF 4/26/1934 - 1/26/2011

Loving wife of the late Donald Woodruff. Proud mother of David (Christine), Gary, Steven (Evelyn), Loretta (Patrick), Martin & Arthur. Grandma of 11: Donald, Michael, Patrick, Marie, Angela, Joshua, Jason, Carrin, David, Kevin & Lil Donald. Great Grandma to 8: Jaydin, Zander, Makenna, Brittany, Dakota, Brittany, Savannah, Elizabeth & Brian. A kind, loving woman to all she met. Full of smiles, joy and laughter! She is already missed but will live on in our

hearts and fondest memories.

Learn about Lutheran Social Services in Redford

The Rev. Dr. John Siefken, a representative for Lutheran Social Services of Michigan, will speak Sunday, Feb. 6 at St. John's Lutheran Church in Redford. He'll talk about "Christ's Servant" at the 10:30 a.m. worship service.

Siefken served for 37 years at Prince of Glory Lutheran Church in Madison Heights, and four years at Immanuel Lutheran in Detroit. He is retired from full-time ministry.

He earned a bachelor's degree from Augustana College in Rock Island, Ill., and received a Master of Divinity degree from Augustana Theological Seminary, graduating Magna Cum Laude for both institutions. He completed a Doctor of Ministry degree from Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago

Siefken serves as a volunteer speaker to assist Rev. Dr. Phil Hemke, who is director of church relations for Lutheran Social Services of Michigan and liaison between the organization and the two Lower Michigan synods of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). The Southeast Michigan Synod, to which St. John's Lutheran in Redford belongs, includes 132 congregations with 62,700 members. The North/West



The Rev. John Siefken will speak Sunday, Feb. 6, at St. John's Lutheran Church, Redford.

Lower Michigan Synod has 130 churches with 52,500 members.

Lutheran Social Services provides a wide variety of services for children and families, senior adults, refugees, and persons with disabilities. It serves individuals, regardless of race, religion or national origin.

St. John's Lutheran Church is located at 13542 Mercedes, Redford.

For more information about the church, call (313) 538-2660 or visit www.sjlcredford. org. For more about Lutheran Social Services visit www.lssm. org.

Story of Job returns to Westland church

director.

The Michigan Concert Choir will present an encore performance of the musical story of Job Sunday, Feb. 13, at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, in Westland.

The original show, written by Maureen Miles of Melvindale premiered last spring at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latterday Saints in Bloomfield Hills and drew audiences at churches in Westland and Grand Rapids. The group even took the musi-

cal to California. "Someone was at the performance here visiting friends and said, how would you like to come out and perform this in San Diego? They all went out," said Susan Mendenhall, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

Miles, a Latter-day Saints member and a music teacher in Lincoln Park schools, began working on a song about her favorite book of the Bible about 20 years ago. She put it away for 10 years and then resumed writing, expanding the song into a concert show that tells the story of Job's respect and love of the Lord through lively music, humor and narration.

The performance starts at 7 p.m. at the church, located at 7575 Hix, between Warren and Joy, Newburgh and I-275.

Admission is free and no reservations are needed.

For more information e-mail comcentials@aol.com.

Westland Stake public affairs



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STRICTLY BUSINESS

Thursday, February 3, 2011

hometownlife

IT'S YOUR BUSINESS Q&A

CHAMBER CHAT

The Canton Chamber's First Friday Club meets 8:30 a.m. Friday, Feb. 4, at the chamber office. It's an opportunity for one-on-one networking in a plus the sponsors. Participants

(734) 453-4040 or e-mail admin@cantonchamber.com,

March luncheon

The Canton Chamber of Commerce will host its March luncheon on Wednesday, March 2, at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill. A buffet lunch will be served beginning at 11:30 a.m., followed by Phil LaJoy's "State of the Township" presentation in the main theater. The cost for the luncheon is \$20 (advance registration), \$25 (at the door) and \$30 (non-members), and includes a full buffet lunch, beverages and dessert. This luncheon is open to

'The chamber is happy to host the 'State of the Township' luncheon with (LaJoy)," said Tracey Rettig, President, Canton Chamber of Commerce. Mr. LaJoy will discuss Canton's goals for 2011 as well as what's happening in the township.

March's luncheon is hosted by the Canton Chamber of Commerce and is proudly sponsored by Durcon, Inc. and PNC Bank. Seating is limited and reservations are needed. To make reservations, contact the Canton Chamber of Commerce at (734) 453-4040. Deadline for reservations is Friday, Feb. 25.

Consumer expo

The Canton Chamber of Commerce and Canton



HAVE A STORY IDEA?

Comment online at hometownlife.com

Contact Editor, Brad Kadrich Voice Mail: (313) 222-8899

E-mail: bkadrich@hometownlife.com

Poker prowess

A ribbon-cutting was held Thursday, Jan. 27, by Trip Kings Poker Room in Canton to celebrate their grand opening. Trip Kings Poker Room is located at 8669 N. Lilley in Canton. Attending this event were charity representatives, employees, Canton Chamber of Commerce members, and local residents.

Downtown Development Authority present the bi-annual Consumer Expo Thursday, Feb. 24, at the Summit on the Park. The expo will be held from 5-7:30 p.m. in the Grand Ballroom.

"The Consumer Expo is an initiative of the Canton Chamber of Commerce and the Canton DDA to encourage the public to get to know their business neighbors," said Tracey Rettig, President, Canton Chamber of Commerce. "The expo is a great opportunity to learn firsthand about the businesses in our community. Attendees have the opportunity to meet local business owners and learn about the great products and services they have to offer."

The Consumer Expo is held twice annually in February and September, and features more than 60 businesses from the community who display their products and services to the public. Participating businesses include banks, insurance, travel agents, pet

services, carpet cleaning, and many more. Each vendor gives away a door prize, admission is free and the expo is open to the public. The Consumer Expo is proudly sponsored by Atchinson Ford Sales, Inc. and Molly Maid.

Home improvement

The Livonia Chamber of Commerce will hold its firstever Home Improvement Show on Saturday, March 26, at Churchill High School, Livonia.

The daylong event will give homeowners ideas and easy access to experts as they research projects for their home.

The chamber is now taking reservations for display space in the show from landscapers, electricians, carpenters, financing consultants, plumbers and other home improvement experts. Prices range from \$100-\$250.

For more details, contact the chamber at (734) 427-2122 or toppa@livonia.org.

After 20 years of corporate life, Darleen Dreeg made the tasty switch to owning Candy Bouquet – making custom arrangements out of candy.

Owner makes tasty career change

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

Candy Bouquet: Candy Bouquets are a delicious alternative to flowers that never fade, die or wilt. Each Candy Bouquet comes in its own designer container filled with delicious candies and gourmet chocolates. I offer arrangements for any occasion: Valentine's Day, Promotion, Get Well Soon, Mother's Day, and "Just Because" to name a few. Or vou can request vour own custom Candy Bouquet. I also can ship to any location. Observer: How did you first decide to open your business?

Candy Bouquet: After 20 years of working in the corporate world I was undecided on what I wanted to do. So I started thinking of my ideal career. I've always wanted to be my own boss

CANDY BOUQUET

Business name and address: Candy Bouquet #6665, 594 Torrington Dr. W., Canton Your name and title: Darlene Dreeg, owner/Candy Bouquet designer Your hometown: Canton **Business opened when?** Oct. 1, 2010 Number of Employees: None at the present time Hours of operation: 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday-Saturday Your business specialty: I make arrangements out of candy Business phone and/or website: (734) 558-3929

business unique?

Candy Bouquet: Candy and flowers have always gone well together. Candy Bouquet offers

6665.shopcandybouquet.com

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

Candy Bouquet: With cupcakes being all the rage Candy Bouquet has created a chocolate ganache cupcake. As a birthday party favor, I put together 20 Candy Bouquet cupcakes with a birthday candle that all the children (and the grown-ups too) were able to take home. Observer: How has the recent economy affected your business?

Candy Bouquet: Luckily everyone still loves to give a little something to family, friends or a business acquaintance just to say "thank you." Because Candy Bouquet offers arrangements that vary in price I am able to accommodate any budget. I don't want to deprive anyone from giving the gift of candy ... it's just too tasty! Observer: Any advice for other

business owners? Candy Bouquet: I believe

First Friday

small group setting. The event is limited to 10 separate businesses should bring business cards, flyers, etc., to share with the group. To make a reservation, call

the public.



and if I could combine that with my love of desserts I would be in job heaven. I researched many businesses and had numerous late night discussions with my husband until I discovered that I could satisfy both wishes by opening up a Candy Bouquet. Observer: Why did you choose Canton?

Candy Bouquet: The wonderful part about Canton is that it has both residential homes and businesses. Candy Bouquet can cater to both of these markets. This makes Canton the ideal location to offer a product where the different designs are endless. Candy is something that everyone loves to receive and it doesn't matter if you're giving it to a friend or to a client.

Observer: What makes your

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Plante Moran partner

Cameron P. McCausland of Canton has joined Plante Moran CRESA, a Southfield, Mich.-based commercial real estate consulting firm, as partner and director of transaction management. In this role, McCausland will be responsible for managing Plante Moran CRESA's growing tenant representation business and supporting corporate real estate activities.

"As the need for tenant-only representation within the commercial real estate industry continues to grow, Cam's deep understanding of the industry and clients' needs will make a direct impact on our distinguished clientele," said Bill Lichwalla, President and CEO of Plante Moran CRESA. "This area of our business continues to grow at a steep pace and Cam's vision, reputation and more than 20 years of industry leadership are a perfect fit with our tenant-only representation model.

Plante Moran CRESA has differentiated itself in a complex

the best of both desires in one breathtaking arrangement. Every bouquet is created by hand and designed just for you. I have numerous bouquets on the website or I can design a Candy Bouquet to fit your "special occasion." Candy Bouquet offers a wide selection of our own highquality signature candies and chocolates. I also offer sugarfree candy and chocolate options.

Observer: How has it changed since you opened?

Candy Bouquet: For the short period of time that I've owned Candy Bouquet the different styles of arrangements that I have put together have become too numerous to mention and I plan on creating more! Observer: Do you have a funny tidbit or story to share with our

that if you enjoy your job it will show in the product that you produce. I love what I'm doing with my career and have never been happier. Always remember how great it feels to have a pleased customer. Their satisfaction not only leads to more referrals, but also to your own individual fulfillment. Observer: What's in store for the future of your business?

Candy Bouquet: More candy! I'm planning on offering more arrangements which in turn gives my customers a greater selection of Candy Bouquet gifts. Also, with prom just around the corner I'm creating a chocolate rose boutonniere. The roses will be offered in a variety of colors to match the girl's dress ... and what boy wouldn't love to receive chocolate.

ActionCOACH Founder and Chairman Brad Sugars presented the award to Lankford during ceremonies at the company's annual conference in Las Vegas. No other coach in the world-wide organization has ever won national honors three year in a row.

"John has distinguished himself in all metrics as achieving the highest levels of measurable growth and market expansion for the executives and companies with whom he works," said Sugars. "Even in this unfavorable economic environment, many of the participants in his programs have achieved double and triple-digit revenue growth. It would be an understatement to say he has earned and deserves this honor."

"Winning this award once was great, but three years in a row is unexpected," said Lankford, 60, a partner at ActionCOACH Pinellas in Florida. "I'm very proud of the work I've done with my clients, and it's the hard work that they put in that really makes the difference."

LIVONIA

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Top business coach

John D. Lankford, a native of Melvindale who has a home in Plymouth, was named North American Associate Coach of the Year for the third consecutive year by ActionCOACH, the world's largest business coaching firm.

ENTERTAINMENT

Thursday, February 3, 2011

Dueling Tribute

Bands play Seger, Rolling Stones tunes at Village Theater in Canton

BY SHARON DARGAY O&E STAFF WRITER

Hollywood Nights versus Brown Sugar? Old Time Rock & Roll and

Miss You? You'll hear music of both Bob Seger and The Rolling Stones Friday, Feb. 11, when two tribute bands battle it out

on the Village Theater stage in Canton. The Dueling Tributes stage

production starts at 8 p.m. at the theater, located 50400 Cherry Hill. Tickets are \$11, available at the door or in advance at the theater box office or by calling (734) 394-5300.

Todd Stoney, drummer for Lookin' Back, the Bob Seger Tribute Band, created the show, and says the duel has nothing to do with competition between his group and Beggar's Banquet, the other tribute band.

"Dueling Tribute came out of dueling pianos," he said, explaining that the two bands will alternate songs as they work their way through their play lists.

"There will be some excitement about going back and forth between bands."

He stresses that the show isn't designed to select the best band or most popular songs. It's not a competition.

"What I want to do with the bands is to find fun things to make the bands interact. There's a lot we can do to make it fun."

Stage lighting and video cameras will add to the excitement.

FORD, RAMPS, BANDS

"I found the Canton Village Theater to be the perfect size. I am trying to stay out of the bars and trying to come up with my own production," Stoney said. "There are a whole lot of tribute bands I'd like to help. We're all struggling."

The bands will share the spotlight with the Ford Explorer, and a vehicle display ramp made by Stoney's company, RampBoss-USA. The ramp, which allows vehicles to tilt easily while on display, has been used

everywhere from the Detroit Opera House and the North American International Auto show to the National Corvette Museum and Hollywood for use in films.

The Ford Explorer recently was named the Motor Trend Truck of the Year.

LOCAL SPONSORSHIP

Lookin' Back, a Bob Seger Tribute Band, will play Feb. 11 at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill in Canton.

Looking for a way to promote both his band and his ramp, Stoney developed the dueling tribute idea and then sought sponsorship help from Jack Demmer Ford in Wayne. Bob Faust, general sales manager, saw it as a creative outreach to the community.

"We wanted to promote the new Explorer and Canton, being one of the larger areas in our market, it was a good fit," Faust said, explaining the auto group's interest in sponsoring the show.

The bands will devote the first hour of the show to the dueling concept. The second half will be all Bob Seger tunes. Stoney said the audience will notice a contrast between how closely they resemble the original rockers. He said Beggar's Banquet's lead singer resembles Mick Jagger's; Lookin' Back doesn't have a Bob Seger look alike.

"We are so not that and they are so trying to do that," he said, describing the tribute performers. "We're not trying to be Bob. We're just taking care of the music.

"I think it will be a very entertaining show."







HAVE A STORY IDEA?

Contact Editor, Sharon Dargay Voice Mail: (313) 222-8883 E-mail: sdargay@hometownlife.com Comment online at hometownlife.com

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ENTERTAINMENT

B7

(*)



Brian Cahalan (left) of Flat Rock, Carol Lipinski of Garden City, Samantha Lowry of Novi and Nathan Corliss of Livonia rehearse a scene from the British farce, "Black Comedy."

Local theater troupe stages British farce

Barefoot Productions lights up the second half of its season with Black Comedy, written by Tony-awarding winning playwright Peter Shaffer, author of Equus and Amadeus.

Set in London 1969, Black Comedy tells the story of Brindsley Miller, a struggling, bohemian artist, who desperately tries to impress his fiancée's father by "borrowing" his neighbor Harold's, posh furniture to glamorize his own shabby flat. Chaos and prat falls ensue when an unexpected power failure jeopardizes all of Brindsley's plans.

Curtain is at 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday Feb. 11-27 and 2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 20 and 27, at the theater, 240 N. Main, Plymouth. Tickets are \$16; students and senior citizens pay \$14.

"We know how much our patrons love comedies and true to Barefoot form, we wanted to deliver on that expectation by choosing a classic British

farce," stated Craig A. Hane, artistic director and founder of **Barefoot Productions.**

The show is very reminiscent of the comic delivery and timing of the Dick Van Dyke Show, a 'live' situation comedy that builds into zany and outrageous mishaps, one greater than the next.

First performed in 1965, Black Comedy featured Maggie Smith, as the elderly neighbor, and Albert Finney as Harold.

Barefoot's cast includes: Rick Berryman of Canton; Brian Cahalan of Flat Rock; Nathan Corliss, Christine Doulette and Mat DeLisle, all of Livonia; Carol Lipinski of Garden City; Samantha Lowry of Novi and a few mystery guests.

"We have a few surprises up our sleeves in casting one of the characters," Hanes said. "We hope our guests will enjoy this extra layer of fun - but I can't tell you more than that."

Romantic evening combines love songs, food, wine

BY SHARON DARGAY O&E STAFF WRITER

If Cupid preferred opera to arrows, you can bet he'd croon a little Verdi.

"La Traviata, it's like opening a faucet and the melody come pouring out," said John Zaretti, president of the Verdi Opera Theatre of Michigan. "Women love Puccini because he not only was a genius, but because of the short of sugary music he wrote for sopranos. But if you're really into opera, Verdi is unequalled.

"If Verdi and Puccini don't stir your passions, then I don't know, you might be made out of stone."

Verdi Opera Theatre of Michigan's third annual Valentine's Day weekend show will include songs by both of the composers, as well as the music of Bizet, Gounod, Leonard Bernstein, George Gershwin, Rodgers and Hammerstein and others.

Concerto d'Amore, starts at 7 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 12 at the Italian American Banquet & Conference Center of Livonia, 39200 Five Mile, Livonia. The dinner program, in cooperation with the Italian American club of Livonia Club Cultural Committee, includes Italian food, wine and beer, along with the program of love songs, duets and ensembles. Tickets are \$45 per person. Reservations are a must, available by calling Zaretti at (734) 552-4236 or by e-mailing verdiopera@comcast.net.

The show will feature sopranos Nicole Greenidge and Elizabeth Pearse; tenor Zeshan Bagewadi; and baritone Branden Hood. All are award winners of the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions-Michigan District/Great Lakes Region. Jean Schneider, pianist for the



Baritone Branden Hood, (left) soprano Nicole Greenidge, and John Zaretti, president of the Verdi Opera Theatre of Michigan, show off a poster for the upcoming Concerto d'Amore at the Italian American Club of Livonia Banquet Center. In addition to Hood and Greenidge, the concert also will feature soprano Elizabeth Pearse, and tenor Zeshan Bagewadi, all award winners of the recent Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions-Michigan District, accompanied at the piano by Jean Schneider.

Michigan Opera Theatre, will accompany the singers.

"This is a concert of love songs from Broadway to opera," Zaretti said. "Even those who are not strictly opera lovers will come. It's a romantic evening of good food and good music, a night of stirring the passions. It's the perfect occasion to treat your sweetheart or yourself."

OPERA OPPORTUNITIES

Zaretti, a Canton resident, co-founded Verdi Opera Theatre of Michigan in 1988 with baritone Dino Valle and Florence Larime, an active concert organizer.

The organization works closely with local symphonies in producing joint concerts and actively nurtures young talent through an annual vocal competition. It has teamed up with the Plymouth Symphony, the Livonia Symphony and Birmingham-Bloomfield Symphony, among others. It will present Irina Mishura in concert April 14 at St. Regis Church in Bloomfield Hills.

The deadline for the annual vocalist competition is Feb. 12. A judging panel will select finalists in early March, with

a final competition, held in the form of a live concert on May 1.

'To help and encourage young people to explore music is really one of our aims," Zaretti said. "There is very little opportunity for young people to explore or challenge themselves, particularly in opera. We have a vocal competition in its 17th year of operation for high school students. The winner gets \$1,000."

For more information about the Verdi Opera Theatre of Michigan, including rules to enter the vocal competition, visit www.verdioperatheatre.com

ART

City Gallery

Time/Date: Through Feb. 23 Location: At the Costick Center, 28600 W. 11 Mile, Farmington Hills Details: Nature photography by artist Cassandra Medley Contact:(248) 473-1856

Northville Art House

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, Livonia Details: Sean Patton, Feb. 2-5; Tony Woods, Feb. 9-12: Louis Katz. Feb. 16-19; Shane Moss, Feb. 23-26; Contact: (734) 261-0555, www. kickerscomplex.com

certs from September through May. Otherwise, admission to each concert is \$5 at the door. Family memberships are \$50 and include monthly concerts Contact: (248) 719-3464 or mjmmullen@yahoo.com The Ark Time/Date: Ann Doyle and

Doug Howell, Feb. 3; Hoots & Hellmouth, Feb. 4; Yiddishe Cup. Feb. 5; Caravan of Thieves, Feb. 7; Kurt Elling, Feb. 8; The Wailers, Feb. 9; The Battlefield Band, Feb. 10; The Kruger Brothers, Feb. 11; Mustard's Retreat, Feb. 12; My Folky Valentine with Annie and Rod Capps and more, Feb. 13; Genticorum, Feb. 15; Buckwheat Zydeco, Feb. 16; The Good Lovelies, Feb. 18; Cheryl Wheeler,

Feb. 20; Bobby Long, Feb. 21; Open

Stage, Feb. 23; The Asylum Street

Spankers, Feb. 24; BreakFest, Feb. 25; Susan Werner, Feb. 26; The Jeremy Kittel Band, Feb. 27; Studebaker John & the Hawks, Feb. 28 Location: 316 South Main, Ann Arbor

Contact: (734) 763-8587; www. theark.org

Seligman Performing Arts Center Time/Date: 8 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 12 Location: Located on the campus of Detroit Country Day School at

Details: "Drumline Live," tickets

Contact: (313) 887-8500

\$30, \$40, \$50

ComeHearCMSD.org

Trinity House Theatre

Time/Date: Motor City Sidestrokers with The Milroys, Feb. 4; Lac La Belle and Orpheum Bell, Feb. 5 ; Unvalentine Show with Jamie Sue Seal, Dave Boutette, John Latini and Andrew Viloch, Feb. 11; Nervous But Excited with The Marvins, Feb. 12; Drew Nelson, Feb. 18; Michael Smith, Feb. 19; Blue Water Ramblers, Feb. 26; The Waymores, March 4 Location: 38840 W. Six Mile, Livonia Contact: (734) 464-6302, www. trinityhouse.org

Jazz @ The Elks

GET OUT!

Time/Date: Feb. 4-19; gallery hours are 1-5 p.m. Wednesday-Saturday, Artist reception 6-9 p.m. Friday, Feb. 4 Location: 215 W. Cady in down-

town Northville Details: 5th Annual Member Exhibition will showcase styles

and mediums of more than 50 artist members Contact: (248) 344-0497

COMEDY

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. gocomedy.net

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.

Mark Ridley's Comedy Castle Time/Date: Michael Malone,

Feb. 3-5; Jeff Caldwell, Feb. 10-12; Rachel Feinstein, Feb. 17-19; Ian Bagg, Feb. 24-26 Location: 269 E. Fourth, Royal Oak Contact: (248) 542-9900, www. comedycastle.com

CONCERTS

Baseline Folk Society Time/Date: Third Saturday of the

month Location: The JWH Center for the Arts, Plymouth Community Arts Council, 774 N. Sheldon, Plymouth Details: Eight "Open-Mic" per-

formances plus a featured group perform. Sign up for open mic from 6:15-6:45 p.m.; show starts at 7 p.m. Individual membership is \$25 and includes monthly con-





11441 Hubbard Rd. (South of Plymouth Rd.) Livonia 734-261-1455 • www.livoniastmichael.org B.....

Time/Date: 7-10:30 p.m., every fourth Tuesday

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

Details: Jazz musicians perform; no cover, but donations accepted. Contact: (734) 453-1780 www. PlymouthElks1780.com

Music Hall

Time/Date: 8 p.m., Thursday-Friday, Feb. 10-11 Location: 350 Madison, Detroit

22305 West 13 Mile, Beverly Hills Details: Orion String Quartet and Windscape perform Bach's "The Art of the Fugue" as a part of the Chamber Music Society of Detroit series. Tickets are \$43-75; \$25 for students

Contact: (248) 855-6070: www.

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HAVE A STORY IDEA?

Contact Editor, Sharon Dargay Voice Mail: (313) 222-8883 E-mail: sdargay@hometownlife.com Comment online at hometownlife.com

Thursday, February 3, 2011

Score big with guests on Super Bowl Sunday

BY SHARON DARGAY O&E STAFF WRITER

Haven't quite pinned down the menu for your big Super Bowl XLV gathering this Sunday?

Don't worry. Observer & Eccentric readers have you covered.

We put out the call for footballwatching fare and received lots of recipes for tasty dips, soups, finger foods and more.

While the Pittsburgh Steelers and the Green Bay Packers battle it out on the field on Feb. 6, you can score big with these wining recipes at home.

Thanks to our kitchen-savvy readers for sharing their Super Bowl food ideas. Enjoy!

JIMMY DEAN PORK DIP

Cheryle McCormick of Plymouth asked for this pork dip recipe after discovering a small town Iowa bank served complimentary samples to customers. "Toe been making it for parties ever since, especially during fall/winter months," McCormick e-mailed the Observer. "It is a hit at parties, especially with guys. Watch it disappear fast."

2 pounds of Jimmy Dean Sausage (1 pound mild, 1 pound hot), cooked and drained

1 onion and 1 stalk of celery chopped and sauteed in butter

- 1 can diced tomatoes with chiles
- 115-ounce can refried beans
- 115-ounce can chili with no beans
- ½ package of taco seasoning
- ½ teaspoon garlic salt
- A few shakes of Worcestershire sauce 2 pounds of Velveeta cheese, cubed

Mix all ingredients in a slow

cooker, then heat through, stirring occasionally. When hot, serve with tortilla chips.

THEM QUARTER THINGS

"I have had this appetizer recipe for years from a party that I attended," wrote Jeanette Foxe of Livonia. "It was a huge hit. I begged for the recipe, as I knew it was a keeper. East to fix ahead of time, quick to put together when your company arrives, and yummy to eat!"

10 English muffins split in half, and then cut each half in quarters. For larger finger food appetizer use muffin halves. If not using



TURKEY AND WHITE BEAN CHILI

Mary Spencer of Northville, the culinary instructor at Scottie's Kitchen in Northville and ABC Warehouse, says she has made this chili recipe for many years and that "everyone who has had it loves it."

1¼ cups great northern beans

6 slices bacon, chopped ½ cup olive oil

1½ cups coarsely chopped onion

1 large yellow pepper, finely chopped 2 small jalapeno peppers, finely chopped

2 cloves garlic, finely chopped 2% pounds ground turkey 3 teaspoons ground cumin % teaspoon thyme 1 tablespoon oregano 2 teaspoons basil 6 cups chicken broth

1½ teaspoon salt

¼ teaspoon ground nutmeg ¼ teaspoon cayenne

2 cups sour cream

Shredded Monterey Jack cheese Reserved chopped bacon

Place beans in a medium saucepan. Add enough warm water to cover beans by 2 inches. Over high heat, bring to a boil; boil for 2 minutes and drain. Repeat twice more. Cover by 2 inches with fresh warm water and allow to stand at room temperature for 1-6 hours.

In a 5-quart Dutch oven, sauté the bacon until crisp, remove bacon and reserve. Add olive oil, heat and add onion and sauté until softened, add yellow pepper, jalapeno pepper and garlic. Saute briefly. Stir in ground turkey a little at a time. Cook until turkey loses its pink color and turns white. Stir in cumin, thyme, oregano and basil. Stir in chicken broth, salt, nutmeg and cayenne. Add drained beans and simmer for 1-1/2 hours or until beans are tender. If liquid evaporates too much add more broth or water. When beans are tender, correct seasoning adding cumin, salt, pepper and nutmeg to taste. Remove chili from stove, add 1/2 cup liquid to 1-2 cups sour cream, then stir this back into the chili. Serve in bowls sprinkled on top with shredded Monterey Jack

immediately, place in plastic bag to keep fresh

Topping:

- 1 cup mayo (do not use Miracle Whip)
- ³/₄ cup grated Parmesan cheese
- 1 anund bacon string cooked and crumbl
- 1 pound bacon, crisp cooked and crumbled
- % cup canned mushroom slices, finely chopped
- % cup green pepper, finely chopped
- ¼ cup onion, finely chopped

Mix together all topping ingredients and chill if not using right away. Spread on English muffin pieces and broil on cookie sheet until bubbling and toasty.

HUMMUS

Vickie Dickieson of Northville previously lived in Dearborn where many restaurants feature Hummus. She "experimented" with several recipes and came up with her own.

"It is possible to buy hummus but it is fairly expensive compared to preparing it yourself. Also it is very healthy!" Dickieson said. She serves hummus with mini pitas or pita crackers.

1 can (15 ounces) of chick peas drained and rinsed in hot water

3 tablespoons fresh lemon juice

2 tablespoons minced onion

1 clove garlic

¼ cup olive oil

¼ cup vegetable oil

- 2 tablespoons sour cream or mayonnaise
- ¼ cup red sweet pepper to add color and taste appeal
- 1. Using a blender mix first four ingredients
- 2. While machine is running add oils
- 3. Add sour cream or mayonnaise and red pepper
- 4. Add salt & fresh ground pepper to taste
- 5. Best if refrigerated at least 4 hours or overnight

BROCCOLI POTATO SOUP

Call it a "souper bowl" party, because that's exactly what Judy and Don Diener of Westland serve during the biggest game of the year.

"At our Super Bowl Party, we make several different types of soup and chilli," Judy e-mailed. "We place the soup or chilli in small round loaves of assorted breads. These bread boats are a hit."

4 tablespoons butter

- 1 cup chopped onion
- ½ cup flour
- 4 cups low sodium chicken broth
- 4 cups fat-free milk
- 16 ounces frozen chopped broccoli
- 2 cups peeled diced potatoes
- 1½ cups shredded cheddar cheese
- 1 teaspoon salt
- ½ teaspoon pepper

Melt butter in large saucepan. Add onion and cook until tender. Add flour, stir until blended. Gradually stir in broth. Heat until slightly thickened. Add milk, broccoli and potatoes. Cook on low heat about 15 minutes or until broccoli and potatoes are tender. Stir in cheese and seasonings.



Celebrating the Pittsburgh Steelers' last Super Bowl victory are Bill Springer, (left) Carolyn Springer, Samantha McGrath, Kay Springer, David and David McGrath. They all live in Canton.

SALSA BEAN SALAD

Linda McNall of Livonia gets rave reviews and many recipe requests for this salad that serves 10-12.

- 2 15-ounce cans black beans, rinsed and drained 1 15-ounce can red kidney beans, rinsed and drained
- 1 15-ounce can garbanzo beans, rinsed and drained
- ½ cup chopped onion
- 1 large green pepper, sliced into thin bite-size strips ¾ cup medium or hot salsa
- % cup non-fat Italian salad dressing
- 1 tablespoon sugar
- ¼ to ½ teaspoon salt
- 1 large tomato, chopped

Combine all beans, onion, and green pepper in a large bowl. Combine salsa, salad dressing, sugar, and salt. Add to the bean mixture, stir lightly. Chill, covered, 4 to 24 hours, stirring often. Stir in tomato just before serving. Serve with nacho chips.

ITALIAN BEEF SANDWICHES

Deborah Chanulak of Canton says this recipe has worked well for her. "Everything can be done in advance and you can enjoy the party."

- 1 4-pound beef sirloin tip roast
- 2 envelopes Italian salad dressing mix
- 2 cups (16 ounces) beef broth
- 2 large Spanish onions cut into ½-inch slices
- 116-ounce jar mild yellow pepper rings undrained
- 3 packages mini sub buns
- Sliced provolone cheese
- Shredded lettuce
- Sliced tomatoes

The night before the game, place the roast and onions in a large slow cooker. Combine salad dressing mix and beef broth. Pour over the roast and onions. Cover and cook on low for 8 hours or until tender. Remove meat, shred with two forks and return to slow cooker. Add jar of pepper rings and heat through. Serve with provolone, lettuce and tomatoes. Serves 20 to 24.

GRANDS! MONKEY BREAD

There are lots of monkey bread recipes available, from orange-flavored to caramel. Amy McGrath of Canton likes this version that uses Pillsbury's Grands biscuits. She says the tasty bread is "kid friendly to make and eat." It makes 12 servings

- % cup sugar
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon

2 cans (16.3 ounces each) Pillsbury® Grands!® Homestyle refrigerated buttermilk biscuits

- % cup chopped walnuts, if desired
- ½ cup raisins, if desired
- 1 cup firmly packed brown sugar
- % cup butter or margarine, melted

1. Heat oven to 350°F. Lightly grease 12-cup fluted tube pan.

2. In large plastic food-storage bag, mix sugar and cinnamon. Separate dough into 16 biscuits; cut each into quarters. Shake in bag to coat. Arrange in pan, adding walnuts and raisins among the biscuit pieces.

3. Mix brown sugar and butter; pour over biscuit pieces.

4. Bake 28 to 32 minutes or until golden brown and no longer doughy in center. Cool in pan 10 minutes. Turn upside down onto serving plate; pull apart to serve. Serve warm. cheese and reserved chopped bacon. If chili is too thin, stir in 2-3 tablespoons white cornmeal before adding sour cream.

BUFFALO CHICKEN DIP

Lauren Romeo of Northville is thinking about including this dip at her Super Bowl Party Sunday at Lake Street Tavern in South Lyon, which she and her mom own. She says the recipe is fool proof, easy to make and a crowd pleaser.

- 1 cup shredded cooked chicken
- 8-ounce bar of cream cheese (softened)
- ³/₄ cup ranch dressing

³/₄ cup Frank's Wing Sauce (or your favorite hot sauce) ¹/₂ cup cheddar cheese

- 1-2 bags of corn chips (I like Tostitos Scoops)
- 1. Preheat oven to 350.

2. Mix cream cheese, ranch dressing and hot sauce together in mixing bowl.

- 3. Add shredded chicken and combine.
- 4. Spray oven-proof baking dish with non-
- stick spray and add mixture.
- 5. Bake 15-20 minutes.
- 6. Remove from oven and sprinkle with cheddar cheese.

7. Put back in oven until dip becomes bubbly and cheese is melted.

8. Serve with tortilla chips and enjoy!

Mike Campbell of Sweet Sass Foods in Livonia, offers these quick snack ideas using Sweet Sass Flavor Sauce:

• Ritz crackers with a spread of cream cheese and a drizzle of Sweet Sass Flavor Sauce. As an option, top with pieces of walnuts

Cooked shrimp dipped in Sweet Sass
 Flavor Sauce

• Big bowl of taco salad: Combine lettuce, cooked hamburger with ½ pack of taco seasoning and Sweet Sass Flavor Sauce, shredded taco cheese and crushed Nacho Cheese Doritos. Drizzle with Sweet Sass Flavor Sauce.

Baked Beans: 4 15-ounce cans of beans (northern beans, black beans, pinto beans and butter beans), 15 ounces of tomato sauce, 1 cup of Sweet Sass Flavor Sauce, 2 tablespoons of molasses, 1 tablespoon of Worcestershire sauce, 1 tablespoon of chili powder, ½ teaspoon of hot pepper sauce. Rinse and drain beans. Mix all ingredients and bake at 375 for 35 minutes. Optional: Add any cooked meat such as bacon or ham. Serve hot or cold.
Chicken & Apple Wrap: Whole grain flat

bread, 2 chicken breasts, 1 Granny Smith

walnuts, Sweet Sass Flavor Sauce.

Flavor Sauce.

apple, 1 red onion, muenster cheese, chopped

lay out flat bread, add sliced chicken, sliced

chopped walnuts and drizzle with Sweet Sass

apple, sliced red onion, muenster cheese,

"As we say at our party. Sass it Up!"

Grill chicken with Sweet Sass Flavor sauce,



Regional fire grant to make communities safer

The National Fire Protection Association's Fire Safety Educational Memorial Fund Committee has selected the Western Wayne County Hazardous Materials Response Team (HMRT) from Livonia as the recipient of the 2011 Warren E. Isman Educational Grant.

"The Western Wayne County HMRT has demonstrated the leadership, communication and training skills needed to effectively mitigate a wide range of hazmat incidents within their region," said Ken Isman, chair of the Warren E. Isman Task Force, a subcommittee of the Fire Safety Educational Memorial Fund Committee and son of the late Chief Warren Isman. "We are very pleased to support their achievements, and help further their efforts in protecting the public."

Award recipients select a conference where they can attend specialized hazardous materials training and education sessions. The selected team has the opportunity to gain knowledge and enhance their ability to excel in this specialized field. The funds from the 2011 Isman Grant will make it possible for the Western Wayne County HMRT to attend the IAFC International Hazardous Materials Response Teams Conference in Baltimore, Md., May 2011. The Western Wayne County HMRT is comprised of 45 members from Mutual Aid Associations fire departments within the Detroit metropolitan area, collectively protecting more than 2.9 million residents. Since becoming one of Michigan's 18 Regional Response Teams (RRT) in 2005, the Western Wayne County HMRT is also responsible for responding to larger incidents, including those involving weapons of mass destruction, with a response area that incorporates the entire state.

The \$5,000 grant is available to any established incident response team from a fire department, police depart-

ment or other public-funded program. Qualified applicants are evaluated on leadership qualities, communication abilities, and must have been trained in accordance with NFPA 472, Standard for Competence of Responders to Hazardous Materials/ Weapons of Mass Destruction Incidents, and NFPA 473, Standard for Competencies for EMS Personnel Responding to Hazardous Materials/ Weapons of Mass Destruction Incidents. The closing date for 2012 applications is Sept. 15, 2011.

Established by the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) following Isman's death in 1991, the grant is named in honor of a man who was known to value training and education. He was the former fire chief in Fairfax County, Virginia, a senior instructor for the University of Maryland Fire Service Extension Program, and author of three firerelated textbooks. Isman served on the IAFC board of directors and was chair of both NFPA's Technical **Committee on Hazardous Materials Response Personnel and IAFC's** Committee on Hazardous Materials. NFPA's Fire Safety Educational Memorial Fund was established in 1992. Upon request of IAFC, NFPA assumed administrative responsibilities of the Isman Grant in 1993.

To make a contribution to the Fire Safety Educational Memorial Fund or for more information regarding the application process, visit NFPA's website or contact Christine Ellis at (617) 984-7244.

NFPA is a worldwide leader in providing fire, electrical, building, and life safety to the public since 1896. The mission of the international nonprofit organization is to reduce the worldwide burden of fire and other hazards on the quality of life by providing and advocating consensus codes and standards, research, training, and education



HOMES SOLD-WAYNE

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of Oct. 18-22, 2010, at the Wayne County Register of Deeds office.

6529 Powderhorn Dr 4068 Sarah Ann Dr 45389 Seabrook Dr 1517 Trinity Rd

14765 Ronnie Lr \$145,000 19190 Sunset St 32498 Washington St \$240,000 \$405,000 19628 Weyher St

26740 Joy Rd 15817 Kinloch 11754 Marion 17476 Olympia

\$135,000 \$104,000

\$45,000

\$60,000 \$67,000

\$22.000

Dog could be aid to disabled

Q: We have a dog in our condominium that we need to assist us in gaining access to certain areas of our condominium which we cannot reach. The association is not willing to allow us to keep the dog on that basis. Do we have any recourse?

A: It all depends on whether your disability is such that it allows you to have a dog perform services for you that

will meet the criteria necessary in order for you to comply with the protection of the Fair Robert Meisner Housing Act. It is

important that you document the disability that you have and get a doctor's opinion letter stating the basis by which you believe you must have the dog in your unit; then present it to the association and if they reject your request, see an attorney or otherwise consider contacting the various state and federal agencies who assist persons who claim improper discrimination.

Q: Our management company insists upon us hiring the same lawyer that they have used at other projects claiming that he is close to their office and works well with them. The board is desirous of considering other attorneys but the managing

Listed below are cities, a prices.		30550 Florence St 32428 Florence St 6733 Henry Ruff Rd 30249 Leona St	Garden City	\$85,000 \$64,000 \$90,000 \$74,000	48326 Binghampton Dr 521 Dubuar St 16924 Lochmoor Cir E	Northville	\$448,000 \$820,000 \$250,000	19435 Poinciana 9902 Rockland 12861 Tecumseh	Westland	\$15,000 \$42,000 \$80,000
Ca 41673 Bedford Dr 50154 Black Horse Ln 3344 Brooklyn Dr 39894 Cheviot Rd 40421 Glen Eagle Ln 4369 Hunters Cir E 45010 Leslie Ln 1651 Mclaine St 3959 Norwich Dr 1601 Nowland Ct 860 Pheasant Woods Dr 6518 Powderhorn Dr	nton \$60,000 \$290,000 \$173,000 \$176,000 \$110,000 \$83,000 \$185,000 \$399,000 \$78,000 \$175,000 \$265,000 \$170,000	861 Radcliff St 29029 Sheridan St 19578 Brentwood St 9130 E Bassett Ct 36160 Fairway Dr 17281 Francavilla Dr 17791 Francavilla Dr 28356 Gita Ct 34147 Grove Dr 14451 Inkster Rd 30189 Minton St 1121 Oxbow St 19517 Parker St	Livonia	\$80,000 \$80,000 \$157,000 \$157,000 \$157,000 \$170,000 \$170,000 \$110,000 \$125,000 \$80,000 \$80,000 \$85,000 \$88,000	42084 Oueen Anne Ct 19907 Schoolhouse Ct 11429 Aspen Dr 44851 Deer Run Rd 9019 Mayflower Dr 11464 Mona Ct 1199 S Sheldon Rd 8994 Tavistock Ct 14160 Terrace Ct 17335 Delaware Ave 24676 Donald 9655 Fenton	Plymouth Redford	\$55,000 \$63,000 \$125,000 \$186,000 \$188,000 \$45,000 \$153,000 \$145,000 \$145,000 \$58,000 \$58,000 \$58,000	27622 Ann Arbor Trl 37140 Baker Dr 7451 Cavell St 37719 Colonial Dr 8263 Creekside Dr 755 Filbert St 38032 Hixford Pl 30119 Julius Blvd 601 Lansdowne Dr 7587 Lathers St 8439 N Henry Ruff Rd 329 Surrey Hts		\$70,000 \$30,000 \$43,000 \$50,000 \$60,000 \$60,000 \$50,000 \$63,000 \$107,000 \$37,000 \$48,000 \$75,000

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of Oct. 18-22, 2010, at the Oakland County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

	Beverly Hills
17344 Locherbie Av	e
32451 Pines Dr	
	Bingham Farms
30835 River Crossin	na St
	Birmingham
1537 Buckingham A	
1205 Emmons Ave	
671 Graefield Ct	
1620 Henrietta St	
1952 Oak Ave	
450 Oak Ave # 103	
the state strength the state	Bloomfield Township
2581 Alveston Dr	are on the termining
3416 Barlyn Ln	

767 Great Oaks Dr 95 Manor Rd 1652 Mark Hopkins Rd 1806 S Hill Blvd 950 S Shady Hollow Cir 1744 Saint Johns Ct 5744 Woodwind Dr **Commerce Township** 2024 Alpha St \$240,000 4032 N Vanstone Dr 5952 Strawberry Cir \$300,000 3371 Tiquewood \$185,000 Farmington 33621 Alta Loma Dr \$630,000 \$250,000 35467 Heritage Ln **Farmington Hills** \$67,000 38400 Chessington 38926 Country Cir \$450,000 28863 Hidden Trl 22122 Lancrest Ct 28838 Lincolnview Dr \$99,000 \$100,000 \$290,000 22270 Ontaga St

25651 Pebble Ct

544 E Fox Hills Dr

HOMES SOLD-OAKLAND

\$40,000

\$519,000 \$565,000

\$213,000

\$110,000

\$209,000

\$215,000

\$324,000

\$145,000

\$210,000 \$276,000

\$200,000

\$160,000 \$85,000

\$109,000

\$47,000

\$147,000

\$108,000

\$85,000

\$190,000

34600 Quaker Valley Rd	\$500,000	28027 Paca		\$152,000
36621 Valley Ridge Dr	\$235,000	47231 Sunnybrook Ln		\$440,000
Milford		S	outh Lyon	
1605 Rowe Rd	\$65,000	800 Huntington Dr		\$225,000
2900 Trilogy Rd	\$43,000	840 Knollwood Cir		\$145,000
177 Turnberry Ct	\$230,000	409 Stryker St		\$40,000
1286 Yellowstone Valley Dr	\$226,000		Southfield	
Novi		27745 Aberdeen St		\$101,000
43379 Ashbury Dr	\$240,000	30146 Brentwood St		\$70,000
41935 Aspen Dr	\$297,000	21300 Frazer Ave		\$18,000
45137 Bartlett Dr	\$346.000	23734 Merrill Ave		\$38,000
44975 Cobblestone	\$276.000	28325 Ranchwood Dr		\$140,000
43176 Emerson Way	\$230,000	30300 Shoreham St		\$104,000
42709 Faulkner Dr	\$225.000	19721 Silver Spring St		\$85,000
22035 Greentree Ln	\$230,000	19810 W 12 Mile Rd'		\$25.000
22801 Heatherbrae Way	\$178,000		White Lake	223,000
			Thite Lake	000 3003
41820 Independence Dr	\$122,000	9933 Burgess Ct		\$235,000
45254 Jacob Dr	\$285,000	8840 Charbane St		\$527,000
40501 Lenox Park Dr	\$218,000	780 Lakeview Dr		\$155,000
40507 Lenox Park Dr	\$228,000	1235 Oxbow Lake Rd		\$66,000
23935 Lynwood Dr	\$161,000	437 Rosario Ln		\$160,000
23651 Maude Lea St	\$113,000			
41151 N Mcmahon Cir	\$119,000			
28025 Paca	\$156,000			

Recognition

Gwen Daubenmeyer, associate broker and team leader at RE/MAX in the Hills, received an unexpected early Christmas present recently when she was named Certified Distressed Property Expert (CDPE) of the Year by the Distressed Property Institute.

CDPE certification means that the holder really knows what they are talking about when discussing short sales and dealing with banks and other mortgage holders on their clients' behalf.

Daubenmeyer achieved her designation in 2008, before the economic downturn truly began to squeeze the property market so she was well-placed to help local people buy and sell homes in unusual market conditions such as these.

She had no idea that she was eligible for any award, let alone the Expert of the Year. "I got a call from their office thanking me for my commitment to helping homeowners in Michigan and they invited me to fly in for their company Christmas party. I assumed that other CDPE holders would also be invited and I had no idea what was happening until they announced my name during their awards presentation.

"I was speechless. There are plenty of agents doing short sales out there, some doing more than I but I believe in 'people over things - every single time'. Customers are very savvy today. When you care more about their situation than a commission then they recognize it - it's a quality that you can't imitate or fake."

REAL ESTATE BRIEFS

Daubenmeyer has been a licensed Realtor since 1985 and has traded through recessions previously but is consciously aware of how the situation has affected Michigan directly.

lves everywhere we can.

If you need more information about buying or selling a home in the Bloomfield Hills area, contact Daubenmeyer or her team at www.gwencanhelp.com or www.theintegrityteam.net or visit their office at 36700 N. Woodward Ave., Suite 100, Bloomfield Hills, MI, 48304.

Tax appeals

Kelly Sweeney, CEO of Coldwell Banker Weir Manuel, will be conducting a property tax appeal seminar Wednesday, Feb. 16, 6:30-9:30 p.m. at The Community House, 380 S. Bates in Birmingham.

Sweeney will educate homeowners on the ins and outs of the property tax appeal process.

Topics will include: Differentiating between State Equalized Value, Capped

Value and Taxable Value •Explanation of the uncapping process

•Breaking down the appeal process at local and state levels

•How to read and interpret property assessment notices for 2011

This is the third year the seminar has been held. R.S.V.P. to events@cbweirmanuel.com.

Career Seminar

There will be a Real Estate Career Seminar 6:30-7:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 17, at

Keller Williams Realty, 40600 Ann Arbor Road, Suite 100, Plymouth. Learn about a free prelicensing course. For more information, contact Lesley Aiello at (734) 459-4700 or laiello@kw.com.

Investors

The Real Estate Investor Association of Wayne County holds monthly meetings the first Tuesday of each month at the Holiday Inn, 17201 Northline Road, Southgate. Entrance fee is \$20 for nonmembers to be applied to annual membership. For information, call (313) 819-0919 or visit www.reiawaynecounty. org. On Tuesday, Feb. 1, the group will host H&R Block. Learn the tax implications of a short sale, foreclosures, home/ office writeoffs and more.

agent who is somewhat brash is insistent upon using this attorney. How can I as a board member dissuade the board otherwise?

A: Show them an article which was written in the **Community Association** Institute's Common Ground in the September/ October 2009 issue wherein we discuss the unholy alliance between many condominium association attorneys and management companies. This management company may desire this attorney for more than just the benefit of the association and I would seriously consider not only looking for a new attorney, but a new management company after you ask whether the lawyer will sue the management company for your association, if necessary, and he or she answers in the negative.

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. Call (248) 644-4433 or visit bmeisner@meisner-associates. com. This column shouldn't be construed as legal advice.

Check us out on the Web at hometownlife. com



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