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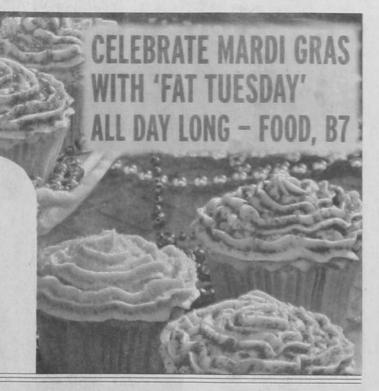
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**FUNDRAISER** TO FEED HUNGRY, A3

## CANTON OBSERVER.

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### CONNECTION

You balance the state budget

**THURSDAY** 

March 3, 2011

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

> Volume 36 Number 72

> > \$1.00

Think you can manage Michigan's public piggy bank better than the politicians?

The Center for Michigan, an Ann Arbor-based think tank, lets you take a crack at balancing the state general fund budget.

Go to www.thecenterformichigan.net and play the budget game.



The Plymouth Community United Way's "Spring Rake-N-Go" is scheduled April 30.

#### Spring rake

The Plymouth Community United Way has scheduled the "Spring Rake-N-Go" event for April 30. Applications are now available for residents in Plymouth and Canton.

Any residents living in Plymouth, Plymouth Township or Canton that own their own home, are elderly (over age 55) or disabled, need repairs to their yard or landscaping and are unable to do these repairs themselves can apply for the program. The deadline for applications is March 18.

For an application, visit the PCUW website at www.plymouthunitedway.org or visit the office at 960 W. Ann Arbor Trail, Suite 2. For additional information, contact Krista at kstrobel@ameritech.net or (734) 453-6879, Ext. 6, or Bobbie Pummill at the Plymouth Community Council on Aging at (734) 453-1234, Ext. 236.

#### Wedding mania

Thanks to a unique and entertaining event hosted by The Showroom of Elegance in Canton, one lucky couple will be able to experience their very own dream wedding.

The "Diamond Wedding Giveaway" campaign is a way for one couple to receive the help they need through local vendors and businesses to experience their "dream wedding." The search for eight couples began March 1, the kickoff for the "Diamond Wedding Giveaway Scavenger Hunt," hosted by The Showroom of Elegance. One of the "Diamond Wedding Giveaway" campaign's primary sponsors, Observer & Eccentric, will feature the winning couple's engagement photo and story.

To be eligible, couples must complete a registration form and either mail or drop off the completed form at The Showroom of Elegance. A full list of Wedding Giveaway rules and the complete application are available online at www. showroomofelegance.com. Applications must be received no later than 6 p.m. March 18.

## LaJoy: Canton set to rebound

BY DARRELL CLEM OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

In a spirited State of the Township address Wednesday afternoon, Supervisor Phil LaJoy touted Canton as a resilient community poised for a rebound after surviving a crushing economy that slashed \$8.6 million from local revenues since 2007.

"I believe Canton is on the way out of it - possibly battered and bruised, but still standing, still providing excellent service as well as an outstanding quality of life for our residents," LaJoy told a large crowd inside the Village Theater at Cherry Hill.

LaJoy cited cost-cutting measures, an influx of new

businesses and a concerted effort to protect community services amid troubling times as reasons Canton will prosper, though he conceded local leaders still face challenges such as costs for retiree pensions, health care and other township debts.

"This challenge is not unique to Canton," LaJoy said, following a Canton Chamber of Commerce luncheon. "Communities all over our state are having to deal with it."

Canton has fared better than many communities because local leaders have been "good stewards of the people's money" by downsizing when possible, running a lean government and, for



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER Township Supervisor Phil LaJoy.

the first time last year, adopting a multiyear budget that revealed a \$15-million deficit looming by 2012, he said.

LaJoy blamed the deficit on a sharp decline in property tax revenues and dwindling state-shared revenue - prob-

Please see REBOUND, A3

## Thrifty safety department still faces challenge

BY DARRELL CLEM OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Despite a slight uptick in crime and medical runs in 2010, Canton's police and fire departments slashed their overtime costs amid a township budget crunch while retaining a high approval rating among residents, a new report shows.

But the two departments, under the umbrella of the Canton Public Safety Department, still face critical decisions as budget woes persist and as local officials

consider ways to become even more efficient, potentially by consolidating services such as 9-1-1 dispatch.

Police and fire officials reviewed last year's efforts and offered a glimpse of issues on the public safety horizon during a Tuesday night session with the sevenmember Canton Township Board of Trustees.

#### STAYING THE COURSE

**Public Safety Director** Patrick Nemecek said the

Please see THRIFTY, A5

### TAKING THE STAGE



The Park Players Theatre Company will present Jean Anouilh's "Antigone" on March 3-5, with performances each day at 7 p.m. and a special matinee performance at 2 p.m. March 5. All performances are located at the Allen DuBois Little Theatre at Canton High School and tickets are \$10. Seating is limited so arrive early. Box office opens one hour before show time. More photos and details can be found by turning to Page A8.

## Rising gas prices frustrate drivers

BY BRAD KADRICH OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Richard Mitchell of Canton only recently bought his Ford Focus, but he's already thinking about selling it.

The reason? Rising gas prices - along with the cost of auto insurance — Mitchell says have priced him right out of his car.

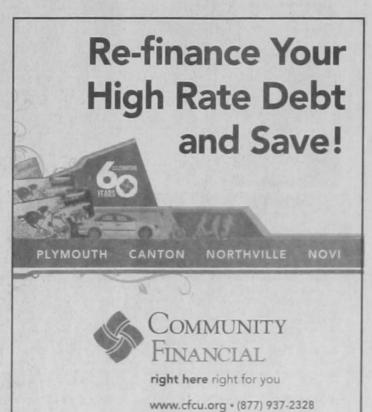
"Nobody is doing anything about this in Washington," said Mitchell, pumping regular unleaded at \$3.45 per gallon at the Mobil station at Cherry Hill and Lilley in Canton. "I don't even drive that much, and

it's still too expensive for me." On Monday, according to AAA's daily fuel gauge, the average price of unleaded regular gas in the metro Detroit area rose to \$3.44 per gallon. That price largely mirrored what prices looked like around Plymouth and Canton, where most prices were in the \$3.99-\$3.45 area (although some stations had it as low as \$3.29).

Unrest in the Middle East was largely perceived, at least locally, as the cause of the spike in gas prices. First it was the protests in Egypt; more recently, it's the unrest in Libya. News reports had leaders in Saudi Arabia pledging to make up for production lost to that unrest to keep oil prices from climbing.

Cathie Kuchen berg wor-

Please see GAS PRICES, A2







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### **GAS PRICES**

Observer & Eccentric | Thursday, March 3, 2011

ries that won't have any effect on prices. She watched as the pump at the Marathon gas station located at the Plymouth Super Center on Ann Arbor Road in Plymouth just kept climbing.

It went past \$20, past \$30 and past \$40, about the point where the tank on her Ford Taurus would have been filled a month or so ago. The pump finally came to rest at \$55.55, at fewer than 17 gallons. She put the nozzle away and shook her

"It's very frustrating," said Kuchenberg, a Plymouth resident. "That's a good \$10 more than it would have been a month ago. It affects everything ... the price of groceries, everything is constantly going up. It's going to affect everyone, because the cost of living is just going to keep going up."

While the cost of living may be going up, the cost of gasoline is definitely rising.

Eddie Saad, a cashier at the Valero station at Ford Road and Haggerty, said the higher gas prices don't seem to be changing customers' buying habits, just their frustration level.

"They're buying the average they've always (bought)," said Saad. "They come in, they pay their \$40 and they complain.

But they have to have their gas." Saad said he feels the customers' pain, because his own perweek gas cost has risen from some \$50 to about \$70.



"I use charge rebate cards," says Karen Daniels, of Canton. "My goal is to not pay for my gas." She's pumping at the Mobil Station on the corner of Warren Road and Sheldon Road.

"I've got to buy my gas, too," he said. "It's not like anyone's giving me a free tank of gas."

Lee Feldkamp of Plymouth Township was much more pragmatic about paying \$3.39 per gallon at the Speedway station at Sheldon and Five Mile in Plymouth Township.

"I figured it was going to happen," Feldkamp said. "Sure, I'd like it to be cheaper, but the national prices are higher. There are a lot of things going on in the world right now."

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



BILL BRESLER I STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Gas prices continued their upward climb at stations like this BP station at Sheldon and Joy Roads in Canton.

## Canton ready for first Culture Week

Canton's first Acts of Culture Week is being held throughout the community May 1-8, to raise awareness and showcase unique facets of the arts in Canton.

Organizers said this week-long celebration will feature a variety of cultural offerings available at various locations throughout the Canton community. This year's theme, "It Takes a Village," will demonstrate the vast talent the community has to offer.

The Canton Commission for Culture,

Arts and Heritage is inviting local organization to participate by letting them know what cultural activities are planned May 1-7, to be included in the Culture Week calendar of events. Do organizations have a performance, poetry reading, gallery exhibition, or other special activity scheduled during the week? Organizers suggest organizations could offer public tours of their facilities.

The goals of Canton's Acts of Culture Week are to showcase community cultural

resources and partnerships; to celebrate diverse culture offerings; raise awareness of arts accessibility; instill an appreciation of local arts organizations; and to promote the arts and heritage in and around the Canton community.

Community members will be encouraged to "sample" the variety of cultural offerings throughout the week. A complete calendar of events will be available at www.cantonfun.org.



Canton's Home Improvement Expo takes place Saturday and Sunday at The Summit in Canton.

### Summit hosts Home Improvement expo

Canton's 10th annual Home Improvement Expo will be held 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, March 5, and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday, March 6, at Canton's Summit on the Park.

Highlights at the 2011 Home Expo will include free parking and refreshments; live broadcasts from special guest stars Murray Gula, Host of "Your Home with Murray Gula" on 1130 WDFN, and Joe Gagnon, "The Appliance Doctor," from 1600 WAAM; how-to workshops on a variety of topics from landscaping to solar energy; a handson children's' project center; live woodcarving demonstrations; and multiple raffles throughout the weekend, including wood projects made by Canton Construction along with the Michigan Regional Council of Carpenters.

Rapid Home Improvement will also

give away a free 1KW Solar Energy System worth \$12,000 to one lucky Expo attendee. In order to win the free system, expo-goers must fill out a raffle ticket at Rapid Home Improvement's exhibitor booth before 3 p.m. on Sunday, March 6.

Anyone planning on attending this year's Expo can stop by a welcome station and pick up a free Expo Advertisement Booklet. The booklet is filled with vendor coupons, a map of the show, workshop schedules and several home improvement tips.

To view a complete list of the vendors, obtain the Expo layout, and download the workshop schedule visit www.canton-mi.org/ homeexpo.aspx. The Expo is free of charge and hosted by Canton's Building and Inspection Services Division, the Chamber of Commerce, and the Observer and Eccentric Newspapers.

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### County hosts Hazardous Waste day

The Wayne County Department of Public Service will be holding a Household Hazardous Waste Collection on Saturday, March 26, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Wayne County Community College District Western Campus, located at 9555 Haggerty Road in Belleville.

This free event is open to Wayne County residents only and, organizers say, is "an excellent opportunity to make your home and environment safe" by properly disposing of waste that is considered toxic, flammable or corrosive.

Examples of acceptable waste being collected include; household paints, stains, dyes, floor wax, floor care products, carpet cleaner, furniture polish, bathroom cleaners, stain

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removers, pharmaceutical waste (non-controlled substances only), solvents, nail polish, glue, fertilizer, lawn and garden chemicals, pesticides, antifreeze, motor oil, gasoline, automotive batteries and dry cell batteries, fluorescent bulbs, fire extinguishers, mercury fever thermometers, smoke detectors, computer monitors, printers, scanners mice, keyboards, cell phones, fax machines, copiers, and televisions.

Only household-generated products from Wayne County residents will be accepted. Items that will not be accepted include; commercial waste, industrial waste, radioactive materials, explosives, ammunition, shock sensitive materials, household trash, 55-gallon drums, refrigerators, microwaves or other appliances, tires, yard waste and concrete. For information on how to dispose of these items, contact the Wayne County Resource Recovery Coordinator at (734) 326-3936.

For more information on the March 26 collection or to obtain a complete list of what will and will not be accepted, call (734) 326-3936 or visit www.waynecounty.com.



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## St. Patty's fundraiser to feed the hungry

BY DARRELL CLEM OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Two area Irish fraternal organizations are inviting the community to celebrate St. Patrick's Day in Canton and help raise money to feed the hungry.

The event, featuring the Kish Celtic Band, the O'Hare Irish Dancers, an Irish trivia contest, photos and a sing-along, is set for 5:30 p.m. to 11 p.m. Saturday, March 12, at St. Thomas a Becket Catholic Church, 555. S. Lilley south of Cherry Hill.

It will raise money for the St. Patrick's Food Pantry in Detroit, which last year provided food to 6,122 households, organizers say.

Barbara Weir, a Canton resident and vice president of the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians Michigan State Board, said tickets are \$20 each in advance or \$25 at the door. They are available at St. Thomas a'Becket or by calling (734) 981-1333.

The event to benefit the food pantry is being sponsored by the Ancient Order of Hibernians Patrick Ryan Division and the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians Elizabeth Fagan Division.

"This is our fourth year that we've had the party," Weir said, "and it's the second year that our proceeds are going to the food pantry."

A traditional Irish corned beef dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m., but those who want an alternate dish may choose a vegetarian lasagna, The event also includes dessert, beer, wine and soft drinks.

Child care will be provided on site. Organizers say the St. Patrick's Food Pantry depends on food and monetary donations from schools, churches, businesses, individuals and organizations to help them feed the area's hungry.

The Ancient Order of Hibernians is an Irish Catholic fraternal organization devoted to promoting Irish culture and works of charity.

The Patrick Ryan and Elizabeth Fagan divisions support many organizations including Project Children, First Step, Habitat for Humanity, the American Cancer Society Relay for Life, local food banks, shelters and families in need.

The Canton-based event comes before the United Irish Societies hosts the 52nd annual Detroit St. Patrick's parade on Sunday, March 13, on Michigan Avenue. The parade begins at 2 p.m. at Michigan and Sixth and ends in front of the Gaelic League. It will feature Mary Sheehy from County Clare, Ireland, as the parade grand marshal.

For more information on the parade, visit www. detroitstpatricksparade.com.

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lems that ushered in employee concessions, cost-cutting measures across all departments and a decision by the Canton Township Board of Trustees to impose a 1.75mill tax increase for police and fire

"It was a difficult decision," he said, "but we firmly believe that it was the right one.

Going forward, LaJoy said Canton needs to broaden its economic base. He touted several companies that moved here last year - W.F. Whelan, a third-party logistics company; Enovate IT, a medical software firm expected to create 160 new jobs over five years; Blue Line Distribution, an Ilitch Holdings company; and Ciena Healthcare, which is building a skilled nursing center near Geddes and Canton Center.

LaJoy also mentioned the second Walmart and other, smaller businesses, yet he said Canton still needs to secure key investments from large and diverse corporations. Moreover, he said efforts are continuing in hopes of luring commercial tenants to Cherry Hill Village, where another round of new housing already has begun.

LaJoy commended "tremendous progress" made by the Canton Downtown Development Authority to improve the appearance of the Ford Road commercial corridor, and he lauded a Shop Canton campaign.

"When we shop with local merchants, we help maintain and create jobs," LaJoy said, citing over 300 businesses along Ford Road.

Borrowing a phrase used by Gov. Rick Snyder in his State of the State address, LaJoy said Canton also is focused on "economic gardening" - an effort to support local businesses and entrepre-

In other efforts, LaJoy said Canton will continue to seek ways to form partnerships and to consolidate services amid hopes of receiving a share of \$200 million in incentive-based revenue-sharing mentioned by Snyder. LaJoy said the community already has made some strides, such as the Canton Public Safety Department's involvement in numerous consortiums.



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Township officials, Chamber members, and business people learn about the state of Canton Township.

LaJoy lauded improvements made across all township departments, and he cited new programs such an ordinance intended to force banks and other property owners to fix up vacant houses. He also said local traffic patterns improved last year with several road projects, such as the widening of Canton Center between Cherry Hill and Palmer.

LaJoy singled out the Village Theater as one of Canton's strong attractions, and he said Canton Leisure Services last year offered more than 350 classes and events to boost the local quality of life. He mentioned new amenities such as a cricket field in Heritage Park and the upcoming opening of a new dog park in May on Denton Road north of Cherry

Looking ahead, LaJoy held out hope for efforts to ensure that Canton and other communities will have a larger voice in water rates, which have soared in recent years. And in closing, he recalled how Canton was featured on the television show Inside Business Report with actor-and-politician Fred Thompson. The segment was called Hidden Gems of Economic

Development, and LaJoy called Canton "a diamond" that shines "the strongest and the brightest."

Canton-based Realtor Nancy Austin commended LaJoy's speech.

"It was quite informative, it moved right along and it was encouraging," she said.

Austin said she applauds local employees for accepting concessions to keep Canton out of the dire financial condition some communities have faced.

Clarice Killian, a 30-year township resident and member of the Canton Newcomers group, said LaJoy "did a great job," and she praised local officials for past prudent spending practices that have allowed Canton, despite tougher times, to maintain services such as the library, police and fire departments and Canton Leisure Services.

Killian said she has confidence in LaJoy and the rest of the Canton Township Board of

"I trust them to do what's best for the Canton community," she

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Chamber of Commerce Director Denise Staffeld took the opportunity to promote the Chamber's 23rd annual dinner auction, "Chamberopoly". It's held at Burton Manor in Livonia on Saturday, April 16.

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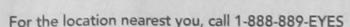
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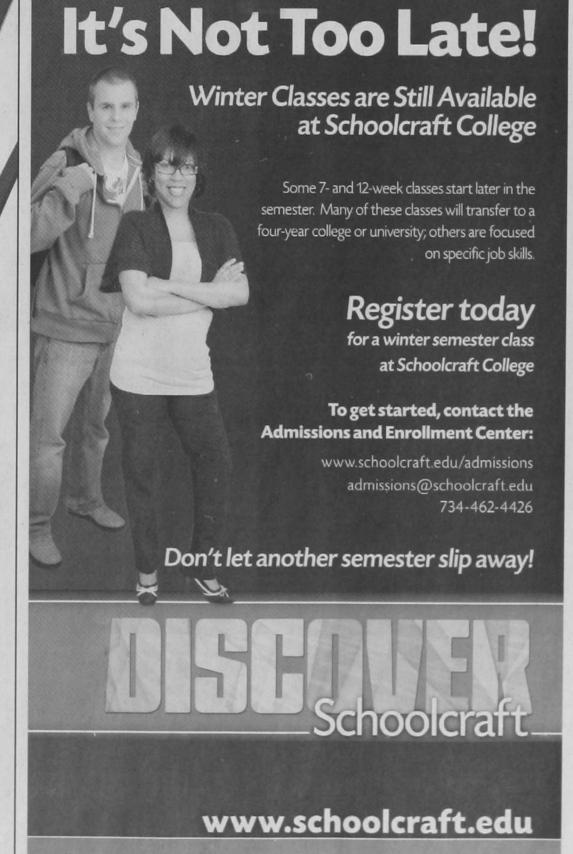
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## PUBLIC SAFETY

Thursday, March 3, 2011

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## **BECOME A FAN TODAY**

## Suspect ordered to trial in Canton bank robbery

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behind on his bills."

authorities "he had fallen

The bank employees fol-

lowed the suspect's orders

fled, reporting that a lone

white male had just robbed

the bank. The workers pro-

vided police with a vehicle

Jahnke allegedly drove

caught in the area between

description and license

east on Hanford from

Lilley and Haggerty,

Schultz has said. Police issued a statement after

Jahnke's Feb. 13 arraign-

ment saying he was cap-

his driveway a short time

after the robbery occurred.

Jahnke was taken into

dent, and Schultz has said

authorities recovered over

faces trial for three counts

of bank robbery, and he has

been released on a \$10,000

personal bond as he awaits

The incident happened

the outcome of his case.

branch was preparing to

shortly after the PNC

close for the day.

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custody without inci-

According to 35th

District Court, Jahnke

\$3,000.

tured as he was pulling into

Canton Center and was

plate number.

and called 9-1-1 after he

BY DARRELL CLEM OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

A Canton man, accused of robbing a local bank as he sought to overcome financial difficulties, has been ordered to stand trial in Wayne County Circuit Court.

Kurt William Jahnke, 58, is facing trial after a 35th District Court clerk said he waived his right to a preliminary exam Friday in front of Judge Michael

Gerou.

Jahnke

could face

penalties



ranging up to life in prison if he

is convicted of robbing the PNC Bank branch on the northwest corner of

Canton Center and Warren roads. A not-guilty plea already had been entered for him prior to his preliminary exam.

Canton police arrested Jahnke shortly after the robbery occurred about 4:45 p.m. Friday, Feb. 11. Police Lt. Mark Schultz has said the unarmed suspect went inside the bank, announced the robbery and demanded money from

three tellers. Police Sgt. Mark Gajeski **CRIME WATCH** 

Identity theft

A Canton woman contacted local police after she learned that a man working in Minnesota had been using her disabled son's Social Security number.

The woman, who lives on Rector southeast of Palmer and Canton Center, told police her 22-year-old son had received a letter from the Social Security Administration saying his disability benefits could be affected by a job he was working in Cold Spring, Minn.

Social Security representatives wanted to meet with the Canton man. However, his mother contacted them and informed them that her son was disabled, unable to work and lives here, not in Minnesota.

She also contacted the company in Minnesota where her son's Social Security number had been used, and she was told the man using it had been an employee

Police in Cold Spring indicated to the Canton woman that they would assist in an investigation into the misuse of her son's Social Security card.

Intruder alert

2 A woman notified police after she heard the front door of her apartment slam while she was in the shower, raising fears of an intruder.

The incident happened about 1:15 p.m. Feb. 23 on Brookepark, southwest of Joy

The woman's friend, who was in a bedroom, also heard the door slam and went to see who might have entered the residence, but didn't see anyone.

The woman who had been in the shower said she checked her residence and told police her keys were missing. She was advised to contact the apartment management to have the locks changed.

The woman told police she had left the front door unlocked, which explained why there had been no signs of forced entry.

Tires slashed

3 A woman who lives on Doubletree, southeast of Warren and Beck, contacted police after she was a repeated victim of tires being slashed on her vehicles during the past month.



The woman reported the tires of her Jeep had been slashed twice - and the tires on her Saturn once.

Heart trouble

A woman who lives in College Park Estates, a mobile home community off Mott east of Ridge, called for help after she was having chest pains - possibly brought on, a police report indicated, by harassing phone calls from her estranged

Paramedics and police went to the woman's home shortly before 9 p.m.

A police report indicated the woman was distraught after she accused her husband of threatening "to snap her neck" and calling her derogatory names.

The woman was advised to get a personal protection order against her estranged husband, who had not been living with her. She also was advised how

to get personal help through First Step, an agency that assists women who are victims of domestic violence.

Garbage dump

5 The Canton Chamber of Commerce of Fice on Hanford west of Canton Center didn't have its well-kept look after an intruder dumped a pile of garbage outside the building over the weekend, according to a police report.

A chamber employee contacted police, resulting in a police report noting that lawn chairs, a bag of garbage and a wood cabinet had been dumped near the chamber office.

A chamber official told police she would arrange to have the debris picked up, but the police report was filed to have the incident on record.

Compiled by Staff Writer Darrell Clem from Canton Police Department reports.



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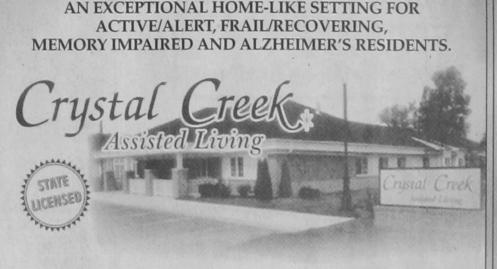
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### Chili fest's record fundraising benefits Habitat for Humanity

OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Amy Tracy had long thought of home ownership as beyond her reach.

That changed in December, when she and son Kamron, 12, moved into a new house in Westland with the help of Habitat for Humanity of Western Wayne County.

Tracy, who runs a child-care center at a social services agency, pays Habitat a zero-interest mortgage for her house, and also put in hundreds of hours of sweat equity in lieu of a down payment, working on Habitat building projects and volunteering at the Great Lakes Regional Chili Cookoff in Plymouth last October.

"That was a fun day," Tracy told members of the local Habitat board of directors on Monday. "I'll be at the next chili cookoff."

#### **HELPING HABITAT**

The nonprofit Great Lakes Regional Chili Inc. is a major contributor to Habitat, raising \$138,000 for the organization

On Monday, the couple behind Great Lakes Regional Chili, Ken and Annette Horn, stopped by the Habitat office to deliver the proceeds from last year's cookoff: \$37,500. It was the most money raised so far through a single Plymouth cookoff, the Horns said.

"Ken and I are thrilled to support such a great charity that in turn attracts the volunteers necessary to enable us to run our event," Annette Horn said.

Habitat was responsible for mobilizing about 170 volunteers, including Tracy, for the last cookoff, said Alice Dent, director at the local Habitat

"It's a major contribution. This is the largest single fundraiser that we've received," Dent said of the check dropped off by the Horns. "We are blessed and honored to participate in this annual event."

#### OFFERING THANKS

For Tracy, who had stopped by the Habitat office with a mortgage payment, Monday's check presentation was an opportunity to thank the Horns and Habitat board members, who had gathered for their



Ken and Annette Horn, organizers of Plymouth's annual Great Lakes Regional Chili Cookoff, present a giant "check" for \$37,500 to Habitat for Humanity of Western Wayne County during a Habitat board meeting on Monday. The Horns had the real check, too; the money was raised during the 15th annual chili cookoff last October. At left is Bharti Washington, who helps organize the chili cookoff's popular motorcycle show.



Habitat for Humanity of Western Wayne County officials and friends celebrate the donation of \$37,500 from Great Lakes Regional Chili Inc. From left are Amy Tracy, a new Habitat homeowner; Larry Carrington, who helps organize the Great Lakes Regional Chili Cookoff's motorcycle exhibition; Alice Dent, director of Habitat for Humanity of Western Wayne County; Bharti Washington, who also helps organize the motorcycle show; local Habitat board members Herb Scott, Marcia Goffney, Andy Emmert (face partially hidden) and Jim Krone; Annette and Ken Horn, who organize Plymouth's annual chili cookoffs; Habitat board president Gil Schuckman; and board member Tom Risi.

monthly meeting.

Tracy, who rented an apartment in Plymouth before buying her house, said the home in Westland has given her and Kamron security, financial stability and a greater sense of optimism for the future.

If Kamron, who is interested in architecture, wants to attend graduate school after college, for example, she'll be in a position as a homeowner to help him do that, Tracy said.

Dent said praised the chili cookoff, calling it an event that brings people together for a good time and a good cause. Despite the state's recessionary economy, she said, the cookoff's fundraising is above what it was when times were better.

"It shows that the giving spirit of Michiganders is still strong," Dent said.

Habitat for Humanity of Western Wayne County has seven building projects scheduled for this year, both new construction and home rehabilitations, Dent said. Habitat volunteers will be working in Redford Township, Westland, Taylor and Romulus.

Habitat budgets about \$80,000 for each new home its volunteers build.

Great Lakes Regional Chili Inc. has contributed to several other charitable and service organizations in its 15-year history, including the Salvation Army, the Make-a-Wish Foundation and the Rainbow Connection.

mjachman@hometownlife.com (313) 222-2405

#### AROUND CANTON

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

#### Wine tasting

The Leadership Canton Alumni's Annual Wine Tasting is Friday, March 4, at Traditions Clubhouse in Canton. The proceeds are split between Goodfellows and the Canton Chamber's Leadership Canton

Tickets are \$40 at the door. For more information, call (734) 394-5188.

#### Coffee with Heise

State Rep. Kurt Heise is sponsoring coffee hours to give residents a convenient opportunity to meet with him locally.

Heise will talk with residents on Friday, March 18, at the Parthenon Coney Island and Restaurant, located at 39910 Ford Road, in

Canton, from 7:30 to 9 a.m. No appointment is necessary.

In addition, Rep. Heise is also available to meet with constituents by appointment either in the district or at his Lansing office. Residents are invited to call toll free 1-855-REPKURT or e-mail kurtheise@house.

#### Montessori open house

mi.gov to schedule an appointment.

Plymouth-Canton Montessori School hosts an open house on Thursday, March 3, for families interested in enrolling children in pre-school or kindergarten programs. Teachers and staff will be on hand from 5:30-7 p.m., to provide classroom tours of the school which is located at 45245 Joy Road in

For additional information about the Open House on March 3 and programs available at PCMS, call 734-459-1550 or visit www. pcmontessori.org.

police and fire departments are "staying the course" by keeping police officers and firefighter paramedics on the street rather than tucked in offices.

"We continue to be very responsive to the community," Nemecek said. "That philosophy will not change as long as I'm here."

With a combined budget of \$26 million, the police and fire departments kept their spending below last year's budget projections while providing public safety services that township Trustee John Anthony called "the finest in the state of Michigan, if not

To be sure, the township board imposed a 1.75-mill tax increase for police and fire services. However, Nemecek said efforts to streamline staffing levels and improve the way the departments do business led last year to a reduction in overtime costs of 30 percent in the fire department and 12 percent for police.

#### **GOOD GRADES**

Once again, over 90 percent of local residents who responded to a survey last year gave both the police and fire departments high marks a rating substantiated by outside agencies such as the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies.

Calls for fire department service rose from 5,816 in

2009 to 6,069 in 2010, due to a higher number of medical runs rather than actual fires. Response time increased by 13 seconds during the same period, averaging five minutes and 34 seconds last year.

Fire Chief Tim Dunn attributed the increase, however slight, to more calls for help and a slowdown caused by construction projects such as the widening of Canton Center Road - a project that occurred within sight of Fire Station No. 1.

The police department, meanwhile, reported 16,864 crimes in 2010, up from 16,686 in 2009 and 13,278 in 2008. The increase mostly stemmed from nonviolent crimes, statistics show, while more violent crimes actually decreased from 1,894 to 1,750 during the same period.

#### STILL SAFE

"Canton continues to be one of the safest communities in the state and elsewhere," Nemecek said.

Among other highlights Tuesday evening:

 Canton and Livonia are continuing to explore the potential for a joint dispatch system, though no decision has been made. Canton also will consider other efforts to share services if feasible.

"We're open to the consolidation model," Supervisor Phil LaJoy said, "but it's got to

· As Michigan municipalities continue to face budget problems, Nemecek said local officials will need to keep a close watch on public safety

mutual aid efforts to ensure they are equitable among communities. Officials want to guard against other communities relying on Canton for aid they can't offer in return.

"This is a very hot topic for us right now," Nemecek said.

• Dunn said 8,096 people attended 273 public education events sponsored last year by the fire department, including fire-prevention efforts in local schools.

· Fire officials have sought to trim costs in numerous ways, such as providing more in-house training of paramedics rather than hiring outside educators.

 Deputy Police Chief Robert Kerr said a cell block expansion in the police department has greatly enhanced the ability to house prisoners — a move officials say has led to a safer environment for inmates and public safety employees.

· Police now have four new portable fingerprint readers in patrol cars - a number that appears certain to grow as the technology becomes more routine for departments. Officers can use the tools in certain circumstances, such as when a suspect has no identification or if officers have strong reason to believe a suspect is

· Nemecek said police will need a plan in place by early 2013 to replace the current radio system. He said local officials have been putting aside 9-1-1 dollars they receive to help pay the tab.

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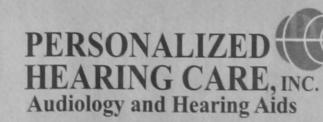
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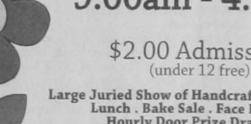
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## STRICTLY BUSINESS

Thursday, March 3, 2011

hometownlife (iii) com

#### HAVE A STORY IDEA?

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

Comment online at hometownlife.com

The 10 metro Detroit area Play It Again Sports

locations, including the one on Ford Road in Canton, are

sponsoring the Children's Leukemia Foundation (CLF) of

meetings and retreats where families can share

All Michigan residents - both children and

adults - who are diagnosed with leukemia, non Hodgkin's lymphoma, multiple myeloma and

other malignant blood, lymphatic system and

CLF of Michigan is partnered with the

bone marrow cancers are eligible to receive the free of charge services of the CLF of Michigan.

Karmanos Cancer Institute and the University

of Michigan Comprehensive Cancer Center in

their challenges and experiences in a compas-

Michigan's Hoops for Hope Campaign for March 2011.

#### IT'S YOUR BUSINESS Q&A



The family-owned D&D Executive Transportation company has been providing airport, business and event transportation since opening in October 2008.

## Service gets travelers where they're going

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

D&D: We offer all different chauffeur services, including limo, sedan and SUV transportation for business, airport and events.

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

D&D: We have been in the transportation business for more than 10 years. For years we have wanted a business of our own, and a few years ago we saw an opportunity to start our own company.

Observer: Why did you choose

D&D: we wanted to have our business in the city we live in. Observer: What makes your business unique?

D&D: We are completely family owned and operated. Observer: How has it changed

#### **D&D EXECUTIVE TRANSPORTATION**

Business name and address: D&D Executive Transportation, 41989 Woodbrook Drive, Canton

Your name and title: Scott Archer, Vice President

Your hometown: Canton Business opened when?: Oct. 1, 2008

Number of Employees: 5

Hours of operation: 24 hours

Your business specialty: Airport, business and event transportation Business phone and/or website: (734) 397-3741 | www.DDExec-Trans.com

since you opened?

D&D: Our three new employees are a son, son-inlaw and daughter-in-law. Observer: Do you have a funny

tidbit or story to share? D&D: Since we are a homebased transportation company,

many times our driveway looks like a car lot. Observer: How has the recent

economy affected your business?

D&D: We have been blessed

to be in a travel business, and people always need to travel. Observer: Any advice for other business owners?

D&D: Make sure you read contracts well before signing. Observer: What's in store for the future of your business?

D&D: We're looking to improve our online availability. We also plan to add new vehicles, including a shuttle

#### and support network for families, with call centers and a community resource by hosting

The 10 metro Detroit area Play It Again

To participate in the campaign, patrons need

Already in progress and running through

Every dollar donated to the Hoops for Hope

"We are overjoyed to help the Children's

The CLF of Michigan offers \$1,000 per year

erings for patients. They are also an assistance

#### Referral workshop

The Canton Chamber of Commerce is offers a Referral Success 202 Workshop 12:30-4:30 p.m. Monday, March 14, at the Canton Chamber of Commerce office building. The Chamber office is located at 45525 Hanford Road in Canton, west of Canton Center Road. This workshop is open to Chamber members and to the public.

Cost for the Workshop is \$99 and is presented by Tim Green, President of Referral Institute of Michigan. The Referral Institute is a training, coaching, and consulting company that offers professionals a systematic way to gain more business by referral. Class size is limited; registration will be accepted on a first come, first serve basis.

To register, contact the Canton Chamber of

#### Chamber auction

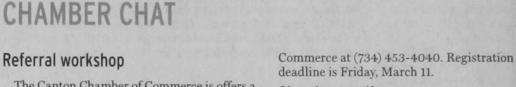
providing aid to families.

sionate environment.

The Canton Chamber of Commerce's annual dinner auction is scheduled for 7 p.m. to midnight Saturday, April 16. Don't miss out on Canton's biggest event of the year. This year's theme is "ChamberOpoly."

Your ticket price of \$75 includes open bar, food stations, Live and Silent Auction, raffles, entertainment and much more. This year's auction includes items such as a vacation condo, Pandora jewelry, sports tickets, golf, restaurant gift certificates, a police car ride-along and other unique items.

For more information contact the Chamber



office at (734) 453-4040.

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#### **BUSINESS BRIEFS**

#### Creative thinking

ArtServe Michigan, Michigan's statewide nonprofit arts-advocacy organization, announced Plymouth resident Dorrie Milan has joined the team as Creative Industries Associate.

Milan will assist in carrying out the policies and programs supporting individual creative practitioners in Michigan.



These programs reach statewide to promote, connect and support the many artists, designers and designmakers working at the forefront of their

respective disciplines and aim to demonstrate the innovative capacities of individual artists and creative practitioners.

With more than 25 years of experience in the business of arts, Milan most recently served as Membership/ Program Coordinator for The Arts Alliance in Ann Arbor, Mich., where she implemented a membership program and coordinated educational and networking events, among other initiatives. Previously a performer and choreographer for various groups in Metro Detroit and an educator in dance for area studios, community outreach programs and community education dance programs, she also has co-owned Curtain Call Dance Studio in Canton, Mich. for the past 11 years.

Milan is a member of the Canton Commission for Arts,

Culture and Heritage, but she formerly has served as president of AMPlifying the Arts - a student group at EMU

- and as a board member for Spotlight Players in Canton.

Milan earned her master's degree in Arts Administration from Eastern Michigan University, where she also earned her bachelor's degree in Dance Education.

#### Caregiver workshop

The Geriatric Care Management Network of Southeast Michigan and the Gerontology Department at Madonna University is hosting a free workshop entitled Difficult Decision Making as Your Loved One Ages: Medical, Legal, & Emotional Aspects on Saturday, March 5, from 8:45 a.m. to 1 p.m. Topics include long term planning, advanced directives, and emotional stress.

Speakers include Dr. Patricia Schmidt, Medical Director of In-House Hospice, Katie Graham, Neighborhood Legal Services of Michigan Elder Law & Advocacy Center, and Peter Ostrow, Director of The Dorothy & Peter Brown Jewish Community Adult Day Care Program.

The workshop takes place in Kresge Hall Room 1316 at Madonna University located at 36600 Schoolcraft in Livonia. Continental breakfast is included. For more information, contact Serving Seniors at 248-375-9125.

#### Friends Ball

Providence Health Foundation 2011 Friends' Ball will be held 6 p.m. Saturday, April 2, at the Garden

Atrium, Southfield Town Center, Southfield. This year, Sister Xavier Ballance, DC, will receive the prestigious Order of Charity award, and Chandrika M. Joshi, MD, and Robert K. Brateman, MD, will be the recipients of this year's Caduceus Society Physician of the Year award.

Proceeds from the 2011 Friends' Ball will support a new Women's Health Initiative, a coordinated, creative strategy to better meet the health needs of women throughout St. John Providence Health System's West Region. The area to be served includes the surrounding communities of Providence Hospital and Medical Center in Southfield and Providence Park Hospital in Novi. This initiative is part of a system-wide effort of St. John Providence Health System committed to developing programs and services to best support the unique needs of women throughout their lifespan in their quest for optimal health - from prevention and general wellness to specific disease treatment and spiritually based, holistic care of chronic health conditions.

The evening will feature an art gallery, a chance to have photos taken in a photo booth and dancing to the sounds of The Paul Keller Orchestra. Cochairs for the event are once again Julie Frost and Charlotte Walker. Tickets are \$250 per person; tables of 10 are available for \$2,000.

To become a corporate sponsor for the event, place an ad in the program book or purchase a ticket, please contact Lorraine Owczarek at (313) 343-7582.

## Have a game plan for how to spend your tax refund

t's that time of year when many taxpayers begin to receive tax refunds from the Internal Revenue Service and the State of Michigan. Most people will put the refund in their checking account and before they know it, it will evaporate.

In these difficult economic times it makes sense to have a game plan on what to do with the refund. I look at tax refunds as a bonus because if you're smart with the money, it'll pay dividends down the road.

My advice for most people is to use the refund to pay down charge card debt. On average, Americans are paying 18.5 percent interest on their charge cards and that is not tax deductible. By paying down charge card debt, you're getting at least an 18.5 percent return on the money. I can't think of any investment that



Rick Bloom

offers that type of guaranteed return. In paying down charge card debt, keep in mind that not all cards are the same. The interest rate can differ dra-Money Matters matically. Basically, the right charge card to pay off is the one with the highest interest rate.

Besides paying down the debt, you will also have the benefit of being able to sleep at night. I've always found that people with less debt seem to be more at ease with their financial situation.

For those lucky enough not to have charge card debt, another great alternative for a tax refund is saving for retirement. If you qualify, you can invest the money in an IRA. Traditional or Roth. If you are maxed out on what you can contribute to IRAs, you can do a Roth conversion. In other words, you can take Traditional IRA money and convert it to the Roth money and use your tax refund to pay the additional taxes.

You can never save too much for retirement. As I've mentioned in the past, retirement is a new concept in the history of mankind and therefore, as you enter retirement you're entering the great unknown. One way to assure yourself of a comfortable retirement is to have sufficient financial resources. That is why I encourage people to use tax refunds to save for their retirement.

A college education for children or grandchildren is another solid

idea for that tax refund. Set up a Michigan Education Savings Plan. After all, with all the budget cutting going on here and around the country, there is no doubt that the cost of a college education will continue to

Anyone who reads this column knows I'm a fan of the Michigan Education Savings Plan (MESP). The beauty of the MESP is it does not take a lot of money to start. In fact, you can start a plan for as low as \$25. Therefore, it doesn't matter what your tax refund is, you can establish an account.

One last consideration for that tax refund is the amount of cash and short-term resources you have available. Every individual needs three to six months of emergency funds living expenses that you keep liquid

in case of emergency. This is a great time to look at your emergency cash needs and if you do not have enough, tax refund can be used to supplement the fund

According to the article I read, tax refunds should be very generous this year. In other words, many people are going to get significant refunds. While it is rare, in this economy, for people to receive bonuses from their employers, that is exactly what a tax refund is. Therefore, be smart with it and make sure you have a game plan to use it wisely. Good luck!

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



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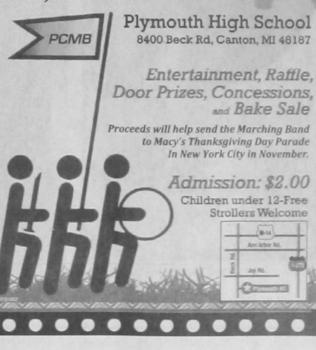


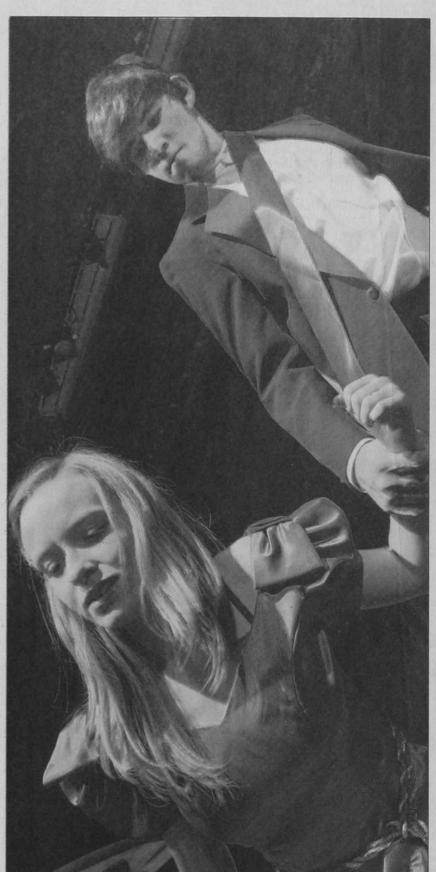




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Observer & Eccentric | Thursday, March 3, 2011

Antigone (Lindsay "Zee" Nicholas) is confronted by Creon (Ryan Bardusch). The play is a metaphor for all of the players in World War II. Creon represents the evil of Nazi Germany, Antigone represents the French Resistance.

## It's Greek to them

#### Park Players take on first-ever tragedy

BY BRAD KADRICH OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

When the Park Players take to the stage this weekend for their presentation of "Antigone," the 12-member cast will be doing something no other Park Players cast has ever done: Perform a Greek tragedy.

And taking center stage for the chal-lenge, which director Paul Bird said is the first performance of its kind for the drama program, will be Lindsay Nicholas and Ryan Bardusch, whom Bird said must carry the load because they're in virtually every scene.

"I looked back over the 40 years of this program and we've never done a Greek tragedy before," Bird said. "It's been quite a challenge. It depends on (Nicholas and Bardusch) because they're the central plot and they're on stage the whole time. They've worked really hard at it; everyone has worked

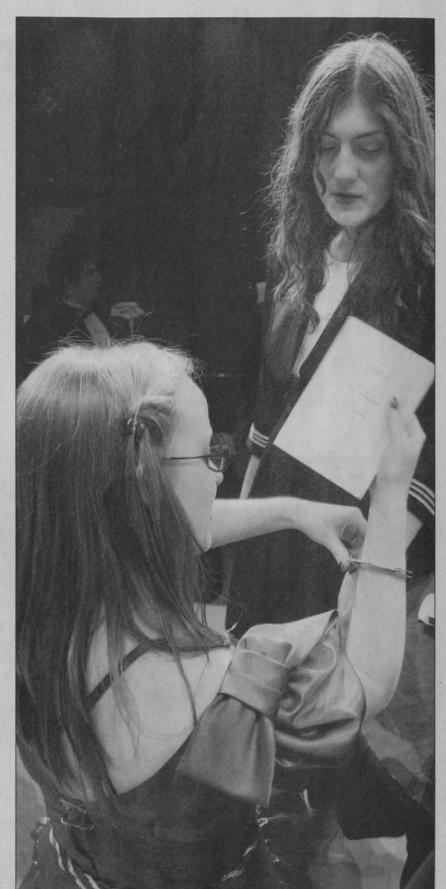
According to Bird, "Antigone" is the story of Antigone's desire to see her brothers, both killed in battle, get a proper burial. However, Creon (Bardusch) has decreed that one brother is to be "left to rot" in the field, and imposes a threat of death on anyone trying to bury him.

"Antigone decides it's her moral duty to bury her brother," Bird said. "That threat of death is the whole crux of the show, Antigone knows she'll be put to death, but she feels it's her moral duty, and she's willing to die for it."

The show plays Thursday, Friday and Saturday (March 3-5) at 7 p.m.; there's also a 2 p.m. matinee Saturday. All performances are at the DuBois

Little Theater in Canton High School. Tickets are \$10.

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



Lindsay "Zee" Nicholas and Meggan Ellis practice their lines for Antigone.



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The Guards – Joe Jonas (Stephen Keller), Nick Jonas (Tommy Fafalios) and Kevin Jonas (Christopher Stephens) – while away the time.



Haemon (lan Crawford) loves Antigone (Lindsay "Zee" Nicholas). She tries to send him away, for she knows she'll be killed for her deeds.



Andrew Milad is a one-man Greek Chorus, narrating, moving the plot along, and cueing the audience on how to react.



Director Paul Bird and Ryan Bardusch go over lines.



Antigone opens Thursday, March 3, and runs Friday, March 4, and Saturday, March 5, all at 7 p.m., with a 2 p.m. matinee Sunday, March 6.

OPINION

never before held public office.

He made no secret, during his

campaign, that he wanted to

it with a flat tax. So I have to

ask: Why is anyone surprised

For at least a generation,

the buzz phrase among many

office-seekers, office-holders

and their supporters has been

that government should be run

like a business. That received

it became expected in many campaigns, and its implica-

wisdom was repeated so often

tions for the state went largely

at Snyder's proposal?

get rid of the MBT and replace



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Steve McFall flies a Blade MCX 2, a beginner's helicopter.

## Love for helicopters helps launch business

BY KEN ABRAMCZYK OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Steve McFall always loved remote control helicopters. As a teenager, he was fasci-

nated by them. McFall wanted one, but they were expensive, so he got a job at the Riders Hobby Shop store on Five Mile at Merriman, saving his money and finally purchasing one for \$1,700 for his 17th birthday.

McFall noticed that people often purchased helicopters from companies in Texas or California, but had to order without seeing the helicopter in person. "You'd see the picture in a magazine, but you never really knew how big it was," McFall said.

McFall also found that parts often would be needed for the inadvertent - and often inevitable - crash.

So he decided that he would open a business, Experience RC, which sells remote control helicopters and parts. It started in his garage in Pinckney in 2009, but it eventually moved into a building owned by his father, who is also named

Steve. His father owns Wayne Craft, an awning business at 13525 Wayne Road, and young Steve occupies space on the second level.

At Riders, McFall, who grew up in South Lyon and Westland, first met Tony Jimenez, who like Steve, enjoyed remote control cars, planes and helicopters.

His new helicopter business gave McFall a chance to hook up with Jimenez, who today is his store manager.

"It's just something we enjoyed," McFall said. "There's nothing like it in the Midwest."

#### FOR FUN AND RESEARCH

McFall sells the helicopters to fathers as gifts to their sons, but he also sells them to universities. "The universities use them for research," McFall said. "The helicopters will be used for camera work, and for physics classes.'

Engineers will fly the helicopters in wind tunnels. But helicopters as a hobby, McFall

"We've shipped to every continent except Antarctica," McFall said. "We've shipped to New Zealand.'

It helps that Jimenez knows Spanish. "He takes care of South America," McFall said.

McFall said the smaller helicopters can fly on a baseball diamond and up and down the street. Some are small enough to be flown inside a home.

The helicopters can be bought assembled or with assembly required using only small screws. They are flown by using a transmitter. Prices on about 50 models range from \$80 to \$3,500. Upgrade kits also can be purchased.

McFall has four full-time employees on staff.

#### 'THIS WILL WORK'

McFall felt the bug to start his helicopter business after he attended Eastern Michigan University and studied business. Starting the business in 2009 during the recession was a risk, McFall acknowledges, but he was confident in his

"This is what we're going to do and this will work," McFall said. "People might stop going out to eat, but they will never

get rid of their toys."

McFall sees that the prices have come down, even though some models go as high as \$3,500 today. He has seen helicopters selling for \$300 or \$400 as opposed to the \$1,700 he paid for a few years ago.

The helicopters get children out from behind the computer and into a hobby that gets them moving around outdoors, McFall said. Owners often join one or several clubs in the area, including the Midwest RC Society, Flying Pilgrims or the Detroit Aeromodelers.

Often the children learn how to fly them faster than their fathers do, McFall said.

The hobby may help generate interest in a career, he adds.

"These kids will be working in the aerospace industry," McFall said. "Our drones came from toy helicopters, from something they will play with in the yard."

"It's a good hobby," McFall said. "It's relaxing and you get a chance to learn. You learn hand-to-eye coordination from flying them."

kabramcz@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-2591

### Snyder lives up to nickname, but his plans spark an outcry

ne Tough Nerd, indeed. Just two months into his term, Gov. Rick Snyder has already lived up to that self-applied label from last year's campaign, issuing a revenue and spending plan for the next fiscal year that's drawing fire from many quarters but that Snyder insists will push Michigan toward the light at the end of a decade-long tun-

nel of economic gloom. To those who have already



been dealing with the fallout of budget-cutting - officials in communities where state aid has been whittled year after year, educators who saw fund-

oncoming train.

Snyder's sweeping plan

cut public education spend-

ing by an average of \$470 a student, take away exemptions

on taxing public and private

pensions, eliminate earned income tax credits for low-

income workers and do away

with a host of tax incentives,

most notably incentives for the

film industry that have turned

the state into a Midwestern

The big winners in this

scheme would be companies

now subject to the Michigan

Business Tax, which Snyder

a reduction in those compa-

ed at \$1.8 billion.

the primrose path.

would banish in favor of a flat

6-percent corporate tax. That's

nies' tax burden that's estimat-

If letters to the editor over

the last two weeks are any

barometer, many apparently

feel Snyder has led them down

But the governor is a busi-

nessman and investor who has

Hollywood.

would scrap statutory revenue

sharing to local communities,

unchallenged. Now we have a governor who is running the state like a business - Snyder says all segments of state governing fall during the previous ment need to prove their value administration - that light, and people across Michigan to coin a phrase, looks like an

are screaming about it. Snyder's budget cuts, his plans to shift the tax burden, if they come to pass, will be painful. Schools and local governments have been in budgetcutting mode for years, laying off, teachers, police officers, firefighters and municipal workers. Snyder's plan would only exacerbate those problems, and it's hard to see how some communities and school districts would stay afloat with

even less revenue. So are the run-governmentlike-a-business assumptions faulty, their attendant budget cuts and tax-burden shifts unjust? Or do they amount to a shared sacrifice that, as Snyder says, will create a more business-friendly environment and result in a more prosperous future?

It looks like we're going to find out.

Matt Jachman is an Observer Newspapers reporter who covers Plymouth and Plymouth Township. He can be reached at (313) 222-2405 or at mjachman@hometownlife.com.

### Band boosters set for spring craft show

The Plymouth-Canton Music handcrafted items will be on Boosters host its annual Spring Arts and Crafts Ensemble on Saturday, March 12. The fundraising event, to be held at Plymouth High School in Canton, is a juried art show produced twice each year by the PCMB to help support the band and color guard programs at the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park.

Over 100 exhibitors with

display at this artistic event. Visitors can expect a high quality show with jewelry, handmade clothing, soaps, artwork, sculptures, floral arrangements, and many spring related items.

Plymouth High School is located at 8400 Beck Road in Canton. The Spring Arts & Craft Ensemble will be held from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. Admission is \$2. Strollers are welcome.

### PCA exhibit features artist from Ferndale

The March exhibit at the Plymouth Community Arts Council features the work of Ferndale artist, Jud Coveyou. The show is a mini-retrospective but mostly all figurative, hence the title: Go Figure.

PCAC officials said the constant from which these paintings were developed is the artist's interest in the human form and the expression created by their placement in space. The colorful oil compositions are deeply expressive evoking a personal response from the viewer.

Coveyou is a graduate of the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. He worked as an art director for Ross Roy Advertising in Detroit for six-

teen years all the while teaching university courses in the evenings. He retired from the Birmingham Public Schools in 2008 and now spends most of his time painting. He has had many one man exhibitions and participated in juried exhibitions throughout the country.

The exhibit can be viewed at the PCAC through March 29. Exhibit hours are Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. A reception for the artist will be held on Saturday, March 5 from 2-4 p.m. The public is welcome. The PCAC is located at 774 N. Sheldon Rd. in Plymouth.

Call (734) 416-4278 for further information.



The March exhibit at the Plymouth Community Arts Council features the work of Ferndale artist, Jud Coveyou. The show is a mini-retrospective but mostly all figurative, hence the title: Go Figure.

### Oscar Contest champion wins Emagine pass

Joe Driscoll of New Hudson was the top winner in the hometownlife.com (Observer & Eccentric/Hometown Newspapers) Oscar Contest.

Driscoll was selected in a random drawing of five contestants who answered all questions and tie-breakers correctly. Driscoll wins an annual pass

for two to Emagine Theaters. Second-place winner in the random drawing was Sherri Brennan of Livonia. She will

receive four movie passes for two to any Emagine Theater.

Other winners included Dionicia Smith of Roseville, Michelle Tery of Clawson and Daniel Lodge of Belleville. Each will receive a move pass for two to Emagine Theaters. Emagine Theaters are located in Canton, Novi, Rochester Hills and Woodhaven. A new Emagine Theater complex is set to open late this summer in Royal Oak.

#### PLYMOUTH-CANTON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

#### NOTICE TO BIDDERS

The Board of Education of the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools invites all interested and qualified companies to submit a bid for food service equipment. Specifications and bid forms are available by contacting Raquel Hunter in the PCCS Business Office at (734) 416-2741. Technical questions should be directed to Kristen Hennessey of the PCCS Food Service Department at (734) 416-2742. Sealed bids are due to the PCCS - E.J. McClendon Educational Center located on 454 S. Harvey, Plymouth, MI on or before 1:00 p.m., Friday, March 18, 2011. The Board of Education reserves the right to accept and/or reject all bids, as they judge to be in the best interest of the school district.

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

Publish: February 24 and March 3, 2011

#### PLYMOUTH-CANTON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

#### NOTICE TO BIDDERS

The Board of Education of the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools invites all interested and qualified companies to submit a proposal for Medical and Prescription Drug Coverage (duplicate current coverage). Specifications and bid forms are available by contacting Nichole Maier, Underwriting Consultant at (248) 430-2789. Technical questions should also be directed to Nichole Maier. Sealed proposals are due to the PCCS - E.J McClendon Educational Center located on 454 S. Harvey, Plymouth, MI on or before 11:00 a.m., Tuesday, March 22, 2011. The Board of Education reserves the right to accept and/or reject all bids, as they judge to be in the best interest of the school

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

Publish: February 24 and March 3, 2011

#### PLYMOUTH CANTON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS PLYMOUTH, MI 48170

#### SECTION 00010 ADVERTISEMENT FOR BID EXTENSION

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, March 8, 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 Division(s):

#### **Bid Division Description** BD 115 Metal Studs & Plaster (Project A only)

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 not be a pre-bid meeting as this is a bid extension

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.

Project A is being funded thru the District's Qualified School Construction Bond and labor rates will be in accordance with Federal Davis Bacon Wage Rates.

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

Publish: February 24 & March 3, 2011

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.

OBSERVE

Brad Kadrich,

Community Editor

Susan Rosiek,

Executive Editor

Director of Advertising

Grace Perry,

**OUR VIEWS** 

## Going down

## Property value loss hurts the community, schools

Property values in Canton Township are continuing to fall.

That is and is not a profound statement. It is in the sense that Canton is such a solid community, with a vibrant arts community, solid leisure services program and a nationally recognized public safety department.

But the lingering effects of the national recession are persistent, and we are far from being out of the grip of the faltering national economy. There are signs of improvement, but they are fragile, and subject to immediate change. The situation in the Middle East, especially with Libya, may have a great impact on the price of oil. Gas is already well over \$3 a gallon and if it goes much higher, it could slow the economy greatly.

The unemployment rate stubbornly remains high, especially in Michigan, where, if you take into account the people who have stopped looking for jobs and thus are not counted in the official figures, it stands at more than 20 percent.

That's near the levels of the Great Depression.

And we could go on and on about Gov. Snyder's budget, which proposes some severe cuts, including a major slash in revenue sharing that could cost \$100,000. That could be offset, according to Finance Director Rick Eva, because the township's constitutionally mandated state-shared revenue is projected to rise from \$4.8 million in 2010 to \$4.9 million this year. Still, township officials have been scrambling to find budget offsets that allow them to continue offering services at levels residents have come to expect.

An even larger slash is coming in state school aid. Snyder's plan cuts \$470 per student from per-pupil funding, an \$8.9 million hit that raises the projected deficit in Plymouth-Canton Community Schools to more than \$15 million.

Given all those factors it's a wonder property values haven't dropped even further. Residential values fell just 1.9 percent in the township (although commercial property values dropped 14 percent and industrial values fell 18).

And as property values have fallen, so has the taxes the owners pay on them. On the surface, that might seem like a good thing. After all, any tax cut would seem welcome.

But there is a price to pay for everything. While taxes go down, so does the revenue. Cutbacks are made, services are reduced, and the quality of life is affected. Ultimately, the decline in values becomes a lose-lose situation for everyone.

The Canton community is far from being unique in this predicament. Nearly every town in the state has experienced a loss of property values, which is why just about every town is cutting back on services and looking for ways to trim their budgets. Numerous cities and school districts are teetering on bankruptcy with no help in sight.

So while it may be tempting to view that lower tax bill with satisfaction, it has to be tempered with the reality that we are paying for that seeming gain.

#### **ONLINE VOICES & VIEWS**



The following are excerpts from readers participating in our online forum for discussing issues, In Your Voices. Find more comments or join the discussion on the Web at hometownlife.com.

• In response to "Film supporters fight incentive cuts,"

Incentives for businesses are probably costing taxpayers MORE than the return the municipalities will reap 10-15 years down the road, IF the business is still IN business. The money tree has gone dormant.

Why is the purchase price for tickets: movies, sporting events, concerts etc. as high as it is? The going rate? Could it be ... 'someone' is paid too much to perform?

momforfour

I would like Mitch Albom, Jeff Daniels and the rest of the uninformed hacks to answer this question: What happens when another state starts offering filmmakers 42 cents on the dollar? Those studios will hightail it out of here and all of the newly employed film professionals will have to follow them out of Michigan. We need to invest in the overall business environment and not flukey industries who can bolt at a moment's notice. The film credits are another failed Granholm program that need to go.

Anyway, anytime you see a Wayne County Commissioner like Gebhardt supporting something, you KNOW it's a waste of taxpayer money.

MikeBlanton

#### **COMMUNITY VOICE**

### With spring just a few weeks away, how do you think the Detroit Tigers will do this year?

We asked this question at the Canton Public Library.



'Bad."

Matthew Roberts
Cantón



"I think they'll do great. I'll be supporting them 100 percent."

Martin Ramirez Canton



"They're going to win, of course."

Cleda Smartt Belleville



"I never watch sports. It's a bunch of men fighting

over a ball."

Glenn Wallis

#### **LETTERS**

#### **Accountable politicians**

"Not just a new perspective but importantly, a fresh and knowledgeable business perspective."

Sen. Pat Colbeck said all the right things to sort this budget mess in Lansing. I have been in the automotive business world in Michigan for 30 years and we operate our business with a dashboard. Dashboards hold people accountable to achieve ever higher levels of success for the business.

Politicians have not been able to do this due to many reasons we can all complain about. I say stand-up and support Pat and Gov. Snyder for taking the risk and the first step by holding themselves as government officials accountable. The citizens of this state should be cheering them on and helping wherever and whenever they can. Dave Bing needs to climb aboard and do the same thing in Detroit.

Let fix this mess and quit complaining about the past! Image that: "Accountable Politicians"?

Andrew Brandt

#### **Understand Constitution**

Although I am not a fan of mandates from the government, I believe our public school systems and some charters have forgot they have the freedom to teach and all the other freedoms in this country because of the Constitution and the intent that it was founded on.

I take particular exception to Mr. Silvester's comment ("Colbeck bill would help create 'Freedom Week," Observer, Feb. 20) as I spoke to his class while I was a candidate. They say that is a core part of their curriculum, which surely did not reflect when I spoke to his students. There were over 100 students in that class and I asked them, "How many of you have read the entire Constitution and The Bill of Rights?" There was a mere handful!

Among those that had read it, I asked what was their perception. They were under the impression it was a living document that in many cases was outdated. I was very disappointed to hear that our schools are not teaching the accurate intent of the Constitution, which was intended to protect the people from an overreaching government. We have the greatest, freest country in the world because of that document. Founded on personal responsibility, liberty and Freedom.

This entitlement society that is being taught and propagated by our school system is disgraceful.

Many McGraw Hill books, which is a staple of our school systems, have been "altered" in the late '70s and '80s, changing the perspective further empowering them to indoctrinate our children.

Whether elected or not, a parent or teacher, all should have a basic accurate understanding of our founding documents. All the more reason to give parents more choices of education to the parents.

**Lori Levi** Canton

#### Freedom week

On Feb. 20, 2011, Canton Observer's Brad Kadrich wrote an article about Sen. Patrick Colbeck's legislation, SB 119, designating the week of Nov. 11, "Celebrate Freedom Week," in honor of Veterans Day.

According to Mr. Kadrich's article, "Colbeck's bill would require public schools to provide instruction on 'the intent, meaning and importance of the U.S. Constitution and the Declaration of Independence." Mr. Kadrich quotes educators from the Plymouth-Canton school district with some comments highly critical of Sen. Colbeck's bill. The article does not say Sen. Colbeck was specifically identifying the Plymouth-Canton school system of doing a poor job, and no doubt school system

#### WHAT DO YOU THINK?

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

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.

was selected for the article as the Senator lives in Canton Township.

As a refugee immigrant, I have tremendous admiration for this country's forefathers' intelligence, knowledge, wisdom and foresight. There are many, many times I have thought about the education that I received, in being able to relate to things that I learned, as they relate to everyday life and what goes on in the local, state and federal

government.

Over the years, I have read, seen news reports of surveys taken of people's knowledge of the Constitution, the Declaration of Independence, other important documents, and current events, with absolute horror of the ignorance, lack of knowledge. In general, people seem to know more about Lindsey Lohan, Paris Hilton and others, who certainly leave a great deal to be desired as role

There have been articles in print and in news reports of curriculum changes by schools and/or school systems of "feel good" classes being offered that target specific groups, including by the Plymouth-Canton school system. As an immigrant and citizen, I am grateful for the educational opportunities made available and for having learned what I needed to know about the United States.

If I were in China, Russia, France, Brazil, Mexico, Yemen, South Africa, or wherever, I would expect to learn that country's history, as well as their language. As I have aged, I have become more and more interested in my family's heritage. On my own, have enjoyed both reading numerous books about and traveling to where I was born.

I do not believe Sen. Colbeck was specifically targeting the Plymouth-Canton school system.

There are times when one cannot see the forest for the trees. As educators, I would expect them to be open-minded and not be so defensive, a good lesson to teach their students.

Michael Hansel Canton Township

#### Reject NEA cuts

The U.S. House of Representatives is on track to cut \$43 million from the National Endowment for the Arts' budget of \$167.5 million. That's a 26-percent cut – the deepest in 16 years!

Our senators should prevent these deep cuts from happening when they take up this legislation at the end of this month.

The arts mass light! According to Americans

The arts mean jobs! According to Americans for the Arts, the nonprofit arts industry generates \$166.2 billion annually in economic activity, supports 5.7 million full-time equivalent jobs in the arts and related industries, and returns \$12.6 billion in federal income taxes. Measured against direct

federal cultural spending of about \$1.4 billion, that's a return of nearly nine to one.

Federal funding for the arts leverages private funding. The NEA requires at least a one-to-one match of federal funds from all grant recipients – a match far exceeded by most grantees. On average, each NEA grant leverages at least seven dollars from other state, local, and private sources.

Private support cannot match the leveraging role of government cultural funding. Please take into consideration what this message means. Many kids find their niche in the arts and giving them an opportunity to succeed is really not a lot to ask.

Heather Cornell Canton

#### Protection not needed

Shortly after millions of Wisconsinites cheered their Green Bay Packers to Super Bowl victory, thousands of cheesehead schoolchildren cheered once more with glee as their schools were shuttered because their teachers were protesting Gov. Scott Walker's anti-union policies and had called in sick en masse.

Gov. Walker, in his 2012 budget proposal, suggested that public employees in Wisconsin should no longer have the right to bargain collectively through labor unions. This upset many public employees in Wisconsin, the first state to allow public employees to unionize, and as many as 40,000 state employees abandoned their posts and descended on the capitol in Madison.

Regardless of my or your own stance on Gov. Walker's policy priorities, we should all be able to agree that needlessly closing public schools is a bad thing that should be avoided. Wisconsin in 2011 isn't the only example of public employee unions depriving the people they serve of vital services. Nearly every year, students somewhere in Michigan experience longer summers because of faculty going on strike. In 1981, FAA air traffic controllers struck and forced airlines to cancel half their flights while military and other personnel took over controlling duties at major airports.

While unions serve an important role in the private sector, protecting workers from abuses by management and guaranteeing reasonable pay and benefits, public employee unions' usefulness is limited because the government has little incentive to take advantage of its employees.

Their missions of making sure public employees "get theirs" runs counter to the missions of public workers themselves, serving the people. Even Franklin Roosevelt recognized this and said that strikes by potentially unionized public employees would be, "unthinkable and intolerable."

Some states, notably Southern ones which usually draw my scorn, do not allow public employee unions and appear to be doing just fine. Their workers are not grossly underpaid, nor are they forced to work long hours in poor conditions. The reason is, even without unions, no politician will ever wear his evil grin and chuckle about how he "stuck it" to firefighters, school teachers, or letter carriers. It would be incredibly unpopular to do so because the people know public employees provide vital services and decent compensation is one way to attract talented workers to productive careers of public service.

We the people respect our fellow citizens who serve us through their government work too much to want to knowingly mistreat them, and our elected officials reflect that. Because their employers are their fellow citizens and not profit hungry men in a board room, public employees do not need the protections afforded by unions.

Andrew Justus Plymouth

#### Observer & Eccentric | Thursday, March 3, 2011

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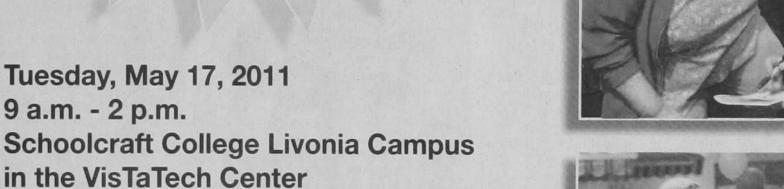
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## Atomic squad finds its niche in collegiate pom

OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

There's a new pom squad in town, and it's already making a name for itself.

The Atomic Collegiate Pom of Southeastern Michigan, based in Garden City, has posted a first-place finish at the Mid-American state competition on Feb. 13. It was only the second time the team competed at a state competition since forming in 2009.

"The big reason they started this is because it was over for us and we didn't want it to be over," said Kristy Adams, a freshman at Schoolcraft College and the member of three state championship teams at Garden City High School. "And our coach decided she didn't want some good poms to go to waste. It's nice to go back and win again."

The team is coached by Westland resident Nikki Foster and Lindsay Sneed of Garden City. Joining them this year are Selina McCale of Garden City, who was on Garden City pom and recently returned home from Michigan State University.

Foster and Sneed have coached the Garden City High School squad for almost 10 years, leading the team to a fifth place in the nation in high kick and five Class A state championships.

#### **DIVERSE GROUP**

Observer & Eccentric | Thursday, March 3, 2011

The team is made of students attending college throughout southeastern Michigan. It started out with 12 mostly ex-Garden City pom team members last year, but has grown 20 members from Canton, Dearborn Heights, Farmington, Garden City, Livonia and Howell this year.

Adams is joined by her sister, Tiffany, and DeAndre Cash, who has moved from the sidelines working with Foster and Sneed at Garden City High School to performing for the team.

"It's difficult for him being on a team doing when he's used to telling a team what to do," said Adams.

Atomic Pom's team members attend college, many have jobs, and more than a third of them volunteer to coach younger



Atomic Pom, which placed first in state competition at Eastern Michigan, has grown to some 20 members from around the area, including Canton.

teams. With such tight schedules, they typically practice between 9:30 p.m. and midnight two-three times a week.

Adams is typical of members, She's attending Schoolcraft full-time, is on the college pom team, and coaches the Garden City Middle School pom team with her older sister. While she really hasn't been away from pom for long, she admits it's harder

for members like her sister, a college senior who has been on the staff at Mid-American Pom but not on a team.

Foster who's been a tough coach at the high school level is more mellow for the collegiate competition. She's more easy going, but still "picky," according to Adams.

#### INTEREST IN TEAM

The team made its first

appearance in competition in 2009, placing second in high kick. This year's championship has former pom members looking to join the team. The collegiate division has an age limit of 24 and members have to take a minimum of six college credit hours. Some team members have returned to school to take classes to qualify for the squad.

"Some people take classes for that reason, and we had one girl who had already graduated form hair school who is taking business classes so she can stay on the team," said Adams. "We've started to be a little more diverse, and now that we've won everyone wants to try out. Everyone wants to be on a winning team."

And winning jives with the team's 2011 state competition motto: "We were brought from many different schools for one reason - to do this as one."

They also credit their good luck to hair bows McCale's mother Mary made with tipping the scales and giving the team a final surge of energy to finish their routine. The

team also prides itself on good sportsmanship that brings out their outstanding showman-

Atomic Pom is sponsored by board members Deb Goodwin, Kathy Adams, Mandy Merlo and Kim Lilley, whose objective is to provide students in community colleges the opportunity to participate and com-

With state competition behind them, the team headed to the Kalahari Indoor Water Park in Sandusky, Ohio, last week to appear as guest performers. They've already been invited aboard Royal Caribbean Cruises in April 2012 to perform a nightly hip hop routine.

pete in the pom/dance arena.

Atomic pom will have tryouts May 2011. Specific dates will be posted this month or in April on the Mid-American Pom website at pompon.com.

"Just being on a team ... it's nice to be able to perform," said Adams. "It's hard on you when you stop, so to be able to do it again is wonderful."

smason@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-6751

## Plymouth teen places first in state scholarship program

Haley Williams didn't have to go to far to find out she was the Distinguished Young Woman of Michigan's Junior

Williams, the Saline Junior Miss, was selected as the winner of the 53rd Michigan's Junior Miss Scholarship Program on Jan. 29 at Saline High School. Fifteen contestants from around the state of Michigan competed for more than \$11,000 in college schol-

This past year, America's Junior Miss underwent a name change. The Junior Miss Scholarship Program for high school senior young women is now Distinguished Young Woman of America.

Williams is the first scholarship winner with the new title.

She received a total of \$3,750 in cash scholarships. She also was the Fitness Award winner, Interview Award winner and Self Expression Award winner. She will represent Michigan at the Distinguished Young Woman of America Scholarship Program in Mobile, Ala., in June. A fully paid two-week trip to Mobile is provided by the Distinguished Young Women of America organization.

Caroline Asiala, Bay County Junior Miss was as first runner up and was awarded \$2,350 in college scholarships. Shelby Turner, Wayne-Westland Junior Miss, was second runner-up and received \$1,050 in college scholarships. Elizabeth Johnson, Plymouth Junior Miss, was third run-



Winning scholarships were Wayne-Westland Junior Miss Shelby Turner, second runner-up (from left), Bay County Junior Miss Caroline Asiala, first runner-up, Haley Williams, Distinguished Young Woman of Michigan's Junior Miss, and Plymouth Junior Miss Elizabeth Johnson, third runner-up.

ner-up and received an \$850 college scholarship.

Other scholarship winners

Maegan Budd, Jackson

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Junior Miss, \$650 Interview Award and Community Service Essay.

· Ashley Poszywak,

Stockbridge Junior Miss, \$450 Scholastics Award.

 Anastacia Washington, Plymouth-Canton Junior Miss, \$450 Self Expression Award.

· Rachel Rochowiak, Dearborn Heights Junior Miss, \$450 Fitness Award.

Junior Miss, \$450 Talent Award. · Michelle Good, Romulus

· Jaycie Giordano, Westland

Junior Miss, \$300 Spirit of Junior Miss Award. · Raleigh Poxson, Irish Hills Junior Miss, the Audience

Choice Award \$100. Anna Marie Pokriefka, Farmington Hills Junior Miss: LeAnn Allan, Detroit Junior Miss; Mariah Austin, Tecumseh Junior Miss, and Caitlin Blankenship, Alpena, Junior Miss were awarded a \$50 Community Service Essay Award. Michigan's Junior Miss Scholarship Program awards college scholarships to young women who have distinguished themselves at school and in their communities. Michigan's Junior Miss Scholarship Program is part of America's Junior Miss Program, now called the Distinguished Young Women of America, which is the largest and oldest scholarship program for high school seniors in the country.

Since America's Junior Miss first began in 1958, more than \$90 million dollars in college scholarships have been awarded. More information about the scholarship program is available at www.ajm.org.



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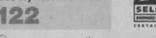








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## SPORTS

THURSDAY, March 3, 2011

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## MEET OUR NEW BEER COLUMNIST

ENTERTAINMENT, BE

# Solid start for Chiefs

BY TIM SMITH OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Kayla Bridges made sure Canton got off on the right foot Monday toward another long, successful postseason run.

The senior forward scored 15 points in the first half to help the Chiefs build a 30-13 half-time lead over Northville in the Class A girls basketball district semifinal.

Bridges wouldn't score in the

### GIRLS BASKETBALL DISTRICT

second half, but it didn't matter. Canton

pretty much held serve from there, earning a 46-32 victory to move on to Wednesday's district semifinal against South Lyon (12-8).

"I thought Kayla came out and really attacked them inside, scoring around the rim," Canton head coach Brian Samulski said. "And if she didn't score she was able to get to the free-throw line and make her free throws. I thought she came out focused and ready."

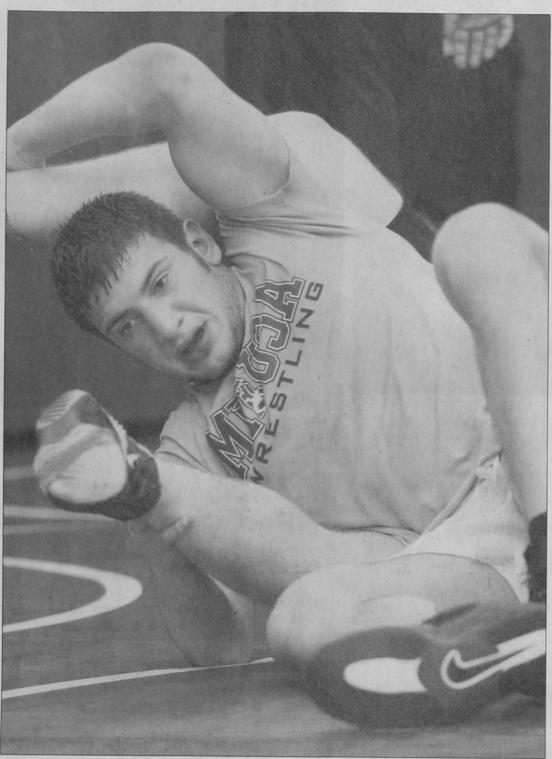
Samulski's team, which improved to 19-2 with the victory, features a talented, experienced and motivated nucleus of which Bridges is an important part of.

But so are senior forwards Kari and Sara Schmitt, senior guard Melanie Pickert and senior forward CarolAnn Sexauer. All were instrumental in Canton's march to the Final Four in 2010.

"I expect all five seniors, they understand this is it for them," Samulski said. "I expect all five of them are going to be focused and ready to wing it every game."

Please see CHIEFS, B3

## Matman on a mission



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Canton senior 189-pounder Anthony Abro spars with assistant coach Brian Brubaker during practice this week. Abro is one of five Chiefs set to compete in the Division 1 individual finals beginning Thursday at The Palace of Auburn Hills.

#### Canton's Abro gears up for finals, shot at 200 career wins

BY TIM SMITH OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Before Anthony Abro steps onto the mat, he likes to get into a zone.

The Canton senior wrestler plugs in some ear buds to an MP3 player and turns up the volume.

"I don't want to really listen to anyone else, or hear the crowd or anything," Abro said earlier this week. "So I just kind of relax before my match and take a deep breath, you know? And listening to music settles me down."

Abro added that he listens to "a lot of country" music to get mentally ready. But winning is the main tune in his repetoire. The 189-pounder is 56-0 this season and has chalked up 196 career victories entering this week's Division 1 state individual finals at The Palace of Auburn Hills.

On Thursday, Abro will take on Walled Lake Central junior Charles Sovel in hopes of winning his 197th bout.

His 196th win — a 5-3 decision over Novi-Detroit Catholic Central nemesis Miles Trealout

Please see WRESTLING, B2

BOYS HOCKEY PRE-REGIONALS



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Salem forward Mark McGee (No. 9) storms in on Plymouth netminder Michael Justus (No. 20) to score the Rocks second goal late in regulation at Novi Ice Arena.

## Rocks score late, stop Wildcats

BY TIM SMITH OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Salem's hockey season hinged on getting past a Plymouth team playing Tuesday night with nothing to lose.

The Rocks ran into all kinds of trouble — primarily Wildcats senior goalie Michael Justus — in the Division I pre-regional game at Novi Ice Arena.

But Salem's own senior netminder, Brandon Price, did not blink in the goaltending dual. Finally, the Rocks broke the scoreless tie midway through the third period and went on to a 3-0 victory.

With 7:34 left, Austin Sartorius centered the

puck to linemate Garrett Paquette in front of Justus and the Plymouth goalie had no chance on the bang-bang play.

"When I see the goalie in the opposite end perform at his best level that makes me want to perform at my best level," said Price, who stopped 21 Plymouth shots. "When they bring their A game I got to bring my A game."

Salem (18-5-2) provided Price with some breathing room with 1:04 remaining when forward Mark McGee scored unassisted just as the Wildcats were trying to pull Justus (29 saves) for an extra attacker.

McGee intercepted an errant clearing pass

Please see ROCKS, B2

### Late goal ousts Canton

BY TIM SMITH OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

After rallying from an early two-goal deficit Tuesday night, Canton could not finish the job in a Division 1 preregional boys hockey game at Novi Ice Arena.

Instead, Northville forward Riley Marotta scored off a faceoff with 4:52 left in regulation, breaking a 2-2 tie and the Chiefs' hearts at the same time.

"Riley Marotta's got great hands, that's all I can say," said Northville head coach Jeff Hatley. "It was right off the draw and he pushed it through."

Marotta one-timed the puck drop toward Canton senior netminder Spencer Craig, and it somehow squirted through the goalie's pads.

"It was just a bad bounce off the faceoff," lamented Canton head coach Jeremy Majszak. "But he played very well for us tonight and all season long."

With their 4-2 victory, the Mustangs will face Salem (who blanked Plymouth 3-0 earlier Tuesday) at 6:30 p.m. Thursday in the pre-regional final.

Whoever wins Thursday will play in the regional final 7 p.m. Saturday at Livonia's Eddie Edgar Arena.

#### TOUGH START

Canton (finishing 16-7-2) never overcame an early 2-0 deficit, as Northville scored two power-play goals before the game was six minutes old.

the game was six minutes of Forward Stephen Champagne pounced on a rebound and jammed it behind Craig with 11:06 left in the opening stanza. The Mustangs scored again when a slap shot from the left point by defenseman Logan Hill had eyes — floating over players into the top right corner of the net. Craig never saw the blast.

Canton — playing without seven players suspended as a result of the Feb. 15 postgame brawl against Plymouth — finally got it going during the second period.

But it still took a while to solve Northville senior goalie David Ketelhut.

During the middle stanza, the Chiefs could not capitalize on a 5-on-3 power play for two full minutes (senior defenseman Jimmy LaFontaine did crank one off the crossbar).

"That could have been a huge turning point for us if we could have just put the puck in the net," Majszak said.

#### BACK TO BACK

Finally, with 57 seconds to go in the period and on another power play, Canton got on the board. LaFontaine took a hard shot from the right half-wall that Ketelhut stopped but couldn't control.

Swooping in to knock in the loose puck was forward Brandon Grilla.

Canton then tied it up at 2-2 with 14:03 left in the third. Defenseman Josh Dickson fed a pass to senior forward Jordan Smith, whose shot from the left circle was stopped.

But forward AJ Rosales pounced on yet another rebound to stuff the puck

Both squads had quality

Please see CANTON, B2

### SIDELINES

Lacrosse tryouts

Plymouth High School girls lacrosse tryouts will be held March 14-18 at Field Elementary School, from 4:30-6:30 p.m. each night.

Those interested in trying out for the first-ever Plymouth-only girls lacrosse team can contact coach Nyquist at snyquist@wowway. com. Plans are to field junior varsity and varsity teams.

#### For girls only

Looking to boost the profile of girls hockey, Canton Arctic Edge hosted the recent "Hockey Night in Canton" featuring the Plymouth-Canton-Salem Penguins.

But that's not all. The arena at 46615 Michigan Ave. near Canton Center welcomes girls for some informal sticks and pucks, between 8-8:50 a.m. Saturdays.

The program carries the point-blank slogan "No Cuts! Boys!" and is just \$5 per participant.

Girls must bring their own equipment or use rental equipment available at Arctic Edge on a first-come, first-served basis.

For more information, call (734) 487-7777 or go to www. arcticarenas.com.

#### **GCYBSA** signups

Greater Canton Youth Baseball Softball Association is holding its registration for spring programs for baseball and softball for girls and boys ages 4-18.

Information and registration can be found at www. gcybsa.com. Registration is open until March 15. Programs include, small ball, T-ball, coach pitch, baseball, softball, competitive and travel leagues.

GCYBSA partners with
Plymouth Township, Canton
Township and Plymouth
Canton Community schools to
provide developmental skill
building baseball and softball
leagues.

#### S'craft men routed

The men's basketball season ended on a losing note Feb. 23 for Schoolcraft College.

Sam Burton scored 18
points and Doug Anderson
added 16 as nationally ranked
Flint Mott Community College,
No. 1 in NJCAA Division II,
rolled to a 92-54 triumph over
the visiting Ocelots.

Mott, which clinched a share of the MCCAA Eastern Conference title, improved to 26-2 overall and 14-1 in the conference. The Bears shot 11of-14 from the foul stripe.

Schoolcraft (9-20, 3-13) got 16 points from Karl Moore. Daniel Hill (Wayne Memorial) added 15 points and nine rebounds, while Zachary Childress chipped in with 14 points.

Schoolcraft, which made 14-of-21 free throws, missed the MCCAA playoffs for the fourth straight year.

#### Abraham adds two

Madonna University women's volleyball coach Jerry Abraham announced the signing of two more players for the 2011 season when he added Cassie Castro of Saline and Kayla Vogel of Hastings to NAIA letters-of-intent.

Castro was a 2010 All-State selection for the Hornets along with being a two-time All-Region and All-Southeastern Conference selection. She was Saline's Defensive Player of the Year two straight seasons.

Vogel earned four varsity letters at Hastings where she amassed 613 kills, 132 solo blocks and 92 ace serves as a senior to earn All-Barry County first-team honors.

in the Plymouth end and then sent his own rebound past Justus. McGee added an empty netter with 21.5 seconds left.

#### DOSE OF CONFIDENCE

"They (Wildcats) came out very strong and kept themselves in the game," McGee said. "In the end it's a big morale builder for us heading into Thursday," a 6:30 pre-regional final against Northville.

The Wildcats (8-9-8) did show a lot of moxie, playing minus eight players suspended due to the recent brawl with Canton.

"They played very well, I give them all the credit in the world," Ossenmacher said. "Shorthanded, they took it to us for points in the game.

"... But our guys found a way to win. Our whole thing is they don't ask how, they ask how

FROM PAGE B1

crack the deadlock

chances the rest of the period,

but the Chiefs were unable to

After the tie-breaker by

Marotta, Canton pulled Craig

for an extra man but could not

set up inside Northville's zone

With 16 seconds to go, Cole

for a quality opportunity.

Brown iced the win for the

Observer & Eccentric | Thursday, March 3, 2011

Plymouth head coach Paul Fassbender praised his team for its overall effort despite tough circumstances.

"Guys were put in situations that they didn't get all year long," Fassbender said. "They got them tonight and they were gassed, they left everything they could out there."

Fassbender mentioned the work turned in by younger players such as Dean Gunther, Joe Burke, Kevin Matusiak, Nate Stemberger, Kyle Bauer, Jordan Lopetrone and Ryan Theisen.

"We had our chances," Fassbender said. "Mike (Justus) played great in net for us and we really played well defensively.

"But we started to show signs of getting tired going into the third.

Plymouth senior co-captain and defenseman Justin Bauer concurred that "in the third period we didn't have as much gas left as we wanted. And they took advantage of it."

Bauer added that the team might have fared better with a full roster, but "that's in the past, we have to keep going. We're kind of mad, but there's nothing we can do about it."

#### **COMING UP BIG**

Although the win wasn't the most artistic one of the year for the Rocks, Ossenmacher said surviving such a game might prove helpful as the postseason continues against the Mustangs.

It won't hurt having Price standing behind Salem's

"Price played really well, he's played well all year for us so it's no surprise," Ossenmacher said. "He's made some big saves in key games. You don't have 18 wins as a goalie in a high school season without playing really well."

tsmith@hometownlife.com



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

did not surprise Hatley, calling him "a warrior. He battles

for our team in there all game

Despite the disappointing

loss, Majszak said it was a very

The Chiefs won their first

KLAA South title, also nabbed

the Lash Cup for head-to-head

supremacy against Salem and

Plymouth and tied a school

record for victories (16).

tsmith@hometownlife.com

successful season.

Watching the action after a Salem goal are Plymouth's Tyler Lazorka (left), Cameron Nadell (No. 18) and Mitch Claggett (No. 10). There was a lot of extra room on the Wildcats bench because of suspensions levied following a Feb. 15 postgame brawl against Canton.

Mustangs with an empty net-

"We had opportunities,"

out of the gate a little bit slow,

and went down and it took us

Northville's Hatley said his

team played well in the first,

second but "we hung tough

there and got it done in the

third period."

ran into penalty trouble in the

The strong play of Ketelhut

a while to start playing our

Majszak said. "... We came

FROM PAGE B1

at the recent individual regionals — propelled him into the finals.

#### **CLOSE TO MILESTONE**

Of course, he has his sights

set on a state championship. "I fell short last year," Abro said. "So hopefully winning it this year would be very cool."

If he does that, he will hit the prestigious 200-win mark.

"I don't give it much thought, but it kind of means a lot," Abro said. "It's kind of cool, you know? It's hard to get over 100 wins, really, there's barely kids with over 50 wins, let alone 200.

"I don't know, I just go out there and wrestle and win. It just adds up.

The success is well-earned. According to Canton wrestling coach Cory Mancuso, nobody works harder than the fourthyear varsity grappler.

"He's better on his feet, he has more than one attack now," Mancuso said about Abro's outstanding 2010-11 season.

According to Abro, Mancuso's instruction and ability to motivate have helped him get over the hump.

"He (Mancuso) is a great technician, a great motivator and he really helps me get mentally ready out there," Abro said. "He just really prepares us physically, too. We know we're in the best shape because of what he makes us

That is a key component to Abro's five-star record.

"I just work real hard in the room," he said. "When I go out there, I know my conditioning's a lot better and I stay in good position against everyone."

#### **OPEN TO CHANGE**

Abro takes each bout as it comes, doing plenty of prep work but keeping his approach fluid for any last-minute strategic changes.

He'll also consider whether the Chiefs are in need of the extra points that come from pins and major decisions.

"If it's like a team aspect, and I need to pick up bonus points for my team, then absolutely I go out there and

#### PREP WRESTLING

Price, Ben Poirier, Ben Griffin and (kneeling) Anthony Abro. Not pictured is Zach Marsh.

Five Canton wrestlers will take part in this week's Division 1 individual finals, including (standing, from left) Braden

#### MHSAA DIVISION 1 INDIVIDUAL FINALS AREA FIRST-ROUND MATCHUPS March 3-5 at Palace of Auburn Hills **DIVISION 1**

140 pounds: Zach Marsh, Jr., Canton (42-8) vs. Carl Nystrom, Sr., Hudsonville (33-13).

145: Jalen Jones, Sr., Wayne Memorial (41-13) vs. Nick Mason, Jr., Novi-

Detroit Catholic Central (35-5). 171: Vince Tkac, Sr., Brighton (54-7) vs. Braden Price, Sr., Canton (20-7); Kameron Jones, Sr., Westland John Glenn (48-10) vs. Kevin Beazley, Jr.,

Novi-Detroit CC (38-5). 189: Anthony Abro, Sr., Canton (56-0) vs. Charles Sovel, Jr., Walled

Lake Central (39-9). 285: Ben Poirier, Sr., Canton (50-3) vs. Kyle Knapp, Jr., Portage Central,

103: Ben Griffin, Fr., Canton (54-1) vs. John Leark, Fr., Caledonia (35-11). 119: John Brown, Sterling Heights Stevenson (47-5) vs. Cody Korpus, Soph., Salem (21-10).

125: Said Youssef, Jr., Plymouth (46-11) vs. Kyle Hill, Jr., Oxford (6-2). 130: Unristopher Brish, Jr., Brighton (51-4) vs. Alec Breckenriage, Soph., Plymouth (34-11).

#### **DIVISION 4**

103 pounds: Zachary Francis, Fr., Lutheran High Westland (36-6) vs. Bill Bentgen, Soph., St. Ignace (31-8).

try to get the pin, attack," Abro said. "But if it's just for myself, I just look to score points, really."

The Chiefs definitely are scoring both with individual wrestlers and as a squad.

Of course, Abro is Exhibit A of how Canton is becoming one of the best programs in the

But he'll have four teammates accompanying him to The Palace, for further proof.

Seniors Ben Poirier (285) and Braden Price (171), junior Zach Marsh (140) and freshman Ben Griffin (103) also are slated to compete beginning Thursday. The finals continue Friday and Saturday.

Other finalists from Plymouth-Canton Educational Park include Plymouth's Said Youssef (125), Alec Breckenridge (130) and Salem's Cody Korpus (119).

You just want to keep it going, year after year," Abro said about the Canton wrestling tradition of excellence. "If you do good one year, you want to top it off the next.'

For Abro, who played football for the Canton Lions as well as the high school's freshman team in 2007, it didn't take long for him to decide on wrestling as his sport of

"I got interested in it around seventh grade," Abro said.

"After football, I just wanted to keep doing something. Then I got pretty good at it and kept doing it."

#### **GIVING BACK**

He also received plenty of encouragement from coaches such as Corey Randolph (now the Tecumseh head coach), Dave Beazley and Mancuso,

among others. Abro said they all helped him nail the physical and mental aspects needed to succeed in wrestling.

"It's 90 percent mental and 10 percent physical," he said. "If you're mentally better than the kid, you're going to beat him. You can be the strongest kid out there, but if you're mentally better than him, you're going to win."

That stance undoubtedly will help Abro master whatever he does after high school, in athletics or other endeavors.

Abro also said he wouldn't mind being a coach someday, to help steer future youngsters down the same path he has

"Hopefully I'll coach or something," he said. "Either as a head coach or an assistant."

But all that is down the road. For now, he'll go to Auburn Hills and turn up the volume.

tsmith@hometownlife.com

### Lady Ocelots win MCCAA crown again

BY BRAD EMONS **OBSERVER STAFF WRITER** 

Winning state championships never gets old for Schoolcraft College women's basketball coach Karen Lafata.

"It keeps me coming back," said the veteran coach, who notched her fifth Michigan

Community College Athletic Association title Saturday at home with a 71-53 triumph over Muskegon CC.

Muskegon (22-8), the Western Conference champions, trailed by only two at halftime, 35-33, and held at four-point advantage, 43-39,

with 13:12 remaining. But that's when the Schoolcraft (27-3) buckled down defensively, holding the Jayhawks to just two field goals over the final 13 minutes while going on a 30-10

Diamond Tolliver, a 5-foot-3 freshman guard from Saginaw High, led all scorers with 20 points, including five triples to go along with four steals.



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**B3** 

## 'Cats ride first-half wave to victory

BY TIM SMITH OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Plymouth parlayed aggressive defense and long-range shooting to defeat campus rival Salem 46-38 in Monday's Class A district quarterfinal girls basketball game at Northville.

With the win, Plymouth (9-12) advanced to Wednesday's district semifinal against KLAA Central Division champion Novi (16-4).

"We defended their perimeter kids and I don't think their inside kids hurt us," Plymouth head coach Bob deBear said. "We just blocked out."

Veteran Salem head coach Fred Thomann, whose team tried to stage a fourth-quarter rally, tipped his cap to the Wildcats.

"In the first half, Plymouth came out and really, really took it to us," Thomann said. "They earned the right to have the score what it was because they played their butts off out there.

"But I thought our kids really came back and demonstrated that they were capable too, so I was very, very proud

Spurred by an 11-1 run spanning parts of the first two frames, the Wildcats built a 23-8 halftime lead.

They enjoyed a 30-14 edge with about three minutes left in the third quarter.

Back-to-back buckets by Salem junior forward Jennifer First (six points) provided the first glimmer of hope for the Rocks since early in the contest. It was 30-18 Plymouth entering the fourth.

Yet despite an 11-point fourth quarter by Salem senior point guard Heidi Schmidt desperately trying to keep the season going - the Rocks just could not overcome the early struggles.

"The second half, this is my last game," Schmidt said. "I tried to take it, tried to help my team. We came back, bat-

Schmidt (15 points) drained a rainbow jumper midway through the fourth to cut the Plymouth lead to 32-27.

#### GOOD IN THE CLUTCH

But then Plymouth senior guard Alex Roberts took some of the air out of the Salem balloon with a clutch trey from the left flank to make it 35-27. It was the fifth triple of the game for the Wildcats.

Salem (9-12) would not get closer than eight points the rest of the game.

"(Junior guard) Kate Watson made a lot of free throws in that second half," deBear said. "And Alex Roberts with a key three on an in-bounds play, I think that stands out."

Watson made six free throws in the fourth and finished with 11 for the game.

Roberts led the Wildcats with 14 points and nine rebounds along with some senior leadership to help the squad get through Salem's late comeback attempt.

"You know for a lot of the girls it was their first district game," Roberts said. "And I wanted them to be confident and everyone stepped up tonight.'

When the Rocks were whittling away at the Plymouth lead, Roberts had a message for her teammates to "stay positive, don't think about the mistakes and just keep looking forward.

Other Plymouth players who made key contributions included freshmen guards Alyssa Dillon (seven points, two steals), Kylie Robb (six points, three assists) and junior forward Alyssa Burris (six points).

According to deBear, the defense of Dillon on Salem's top outside shooter (junior guard Brianna Berberet) was another crucial element to the

"Alyssa Dillon, she's just a great defender," deBear said. She defended their best scorer, Berberet. But we had trouble with Heidi Schmidt."

Berberet managed four points while junior guard Katelyn Krause chipped in with nine points and five rebounds for the Rocks.

Thomann said Schmidt will be sorely missed in 2011-12.

"Heidi's been a fantastic leader for us as a senior this year," Thomann noted. "We're going to really miss her next year, but she's moving on to Eastern (Michigan University) for bigger and better things with her softball care

"We just were really fortunate to have had her in our program for three years."

tsmith@hometownlife.com



Getting in position to grab a rebound Monday night against Northville is Canton senior forward Sara Schmitt (No. 40).

Kari Schmitt led all scorers with 17 points. Both Schmitt twins and Bridges also contributed five rebounds and three steals.

And Sexauer drained a trey in the final minute of the first quarter to extend Canton's

lead to 18-8 after one frame. She scored five points. Also helping Canton's cause with solid playmaking and defense was junior point guard

Robyn Mack. She scored six points and collected five boards along with four assists. Northville (10-11) shaved the deficit to 19-13 with 5:20 to go

in the first half after a bankshot triple by senior Katie Giacomini (seven points).

#### SALTING IT AWAY

That just set up an 11-0 run the rest of the quarter, making it 30-13 at intermission.

Bridges hit all six free throws during that stretch along with a putback layup.

The Mustangs outscored Canton 12-10 in the third, with junior Meredith Williams (eight points) connecting on two treys

But all that did was take eight more minutes off the clock, with the Chiefs still up 40-25 after three.

Canton's opened up a 44-25 lead after baskets from Kari Schmitt and Sexauer started the final stanza.

The closest Northville would get the rest of the way was the 14-point spread at the final buzzer, following a late bucket by senior Sam Sergi.

"It's just one game at a time," Samulski said. "All we were worried about was Northville, now we need to concentrate on

They have a goal out there, but they understand it's one step at a time."

tsmith@hometownlife.com

## Penguins' rally falls short against Port Huron

The Plymouth-Canton-Salem Penguins girls hockey team fell behind 4-0 Saturday against Port Huron and could not overcome that huge deficit, dropping a 5-4 decision at Canton Arctic

Courtney Harris scored two of the Lady Icehawks goals and assisted on another during that early onslaught.

The Penguins cut the deficit to 4-2 in the second period on markers by forward Jennifer Fedon (from

#### **GIRLS HOCKEY**

forward Jenna Carter) and defenseman Sarah Coleman (also from Carter), but Port Huron tacked on the eventual game winner with 3:20 to go in the frame. Scoring an unassisted goal was Morgan Thompson, who beat PCS sophomore goalie Cortny McAdoo on the play.

With just 33 seconds remaining in the period, PCS forward Amanda Heisler

brought the Penguins to within 5-3 and forward Rebecca Majszak (from Coleman) made it a one-goal difference when she scored at 4:02 of the third period.

But PCS could not net the equalizer in the league con-

· On Feb. 22, Heisler's first-period goal (from defenseman Alissa Novak) held up until the third period against Regina at Arctic Edge. But then Rachel Garrity and Sierra Kett found the back of

the PCS net in the final stanza, enough to give Regina a

It was "Senior Night," and Tory Campbell, Coleman, Fedon, Rhianna Fleisher, Heisler, Majszak, Novak and Marissa Sullivan were all

• On Feb. 15, PCS lost 3-1 to visiting Northville. The lone goal for the Penguins was scored in the third period by Coleman, on a play assisted by Heisler and left wing Beth Johnson.

### Plymouth boys qualify for bowling state finals

OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Sparked by a string of 200 games by junior Justin Thompson, the Plymouth varsity boys bowling team captured the Division 1 team regionals held Feb. 25-26.

Thompson rolled a 646 series, with games of 200, 203 and an outstanding 243 as the Wildcats tallied 4,160 points - nipping Westland John Glenn's 4,159. Taking third was Wayne Memorial (4,033). Other Plymouth-Canton Educational Park teams Salem and Canton finishing fourth and fifth, respectively, with tallies of 3,819 and 3,730.

Other top Plymouth bowlers contributing to the regional title were Brandon Congdon (622 series), Rob Korstjens (595) and Eric Thompson

Evan Grimme and Ryan Riva tallied one-game scores of 197 and 180, respectively.

"I am very proud of the boys," said Plymouth head coach Tammy Thompson. whose squad moves on to the team finals. "They have been working very hard all season

and now they are reaping the rewards after overcoming many obstacles.'

For Salem, top individuals included Kevin Williams (587, including a 222 game), Ryan Clark (582) and David Nikkila

Leading bowlers for Canton were Ross Terrasi (565) and Andrew Klein (562)

Clark, Nikkila and Terrasi all qualified for the singles finals.

In the girls regionals, Canton took fifth with 3,243 pins followed by Salem (7th, 3,203) and Plymouth (10th,

But Plymouth's Caitlyn Webb became the first PCEP freshman to qualify for singles with a score of 1,122 for six

Mackenzie Carlson also qualified for the Wildcats with a tally of 1,056.

"This is Mackenzie's second year on the team," Thompson said. "... She has been our anchor for two years and has been a very important part of our team."

Salem's Kristin Larkins and Ashley Kretschmer also qualified for the state singles finals.

## Zhang's records fall at KLAA swim meet

BY BRAD EMONS OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The old adage "Records were made to be broken" repeated itself over and over during Saturday's finals of the Kensington Conference boys swimming and diving meet held at South Lyon East.

In the fastest meet of the young conference's three-year history, eight records tumbled and defending champion Northville ran away with the team title with a whopping 925 points.

Rounding out the top five teams were Novi (658.5), Salem (652), South Lyon Unified (599) and Livonia

Stevenson (562) - all from the KLAA's Central Division along with Northville.

Rounding out the team standings were KLAA South Division teams Canton (429.5), Plymouth (311), Westland John Glenn (220), Livonia Churchill (170), Wayne Memorial (153) and Livonia Franklin (105)

One of the meet's individual standouts was Stevenson senior captain Kellen Schoff, who figured in three new records including the 100-yard butterfly (52.03), 100 backstroke (52.84) and 200 medley relay (1:38.27).

Schoff broke the butterfly mark of 52.90 set last year by Canton's Victor Zhang, who was runner-up in 52.17.

In the 100 backstroke, Schoff also eclipsed Zhang's time of 53.86 set a year ago as did runner-up John Ferrara of Stevenson in 53.35. Schoff, Jake McNamara and

the Ferrara brothers, John and Adam, also established a new standard in the 200 medley relay breaking the mark of 1:39.55 set by South Lyon in Stevenson's 200 freestyle

relay team of Jake McNamara, Brandon Bielicki and Schoff also won in 1:29.16.

That gave Schoff a total of four firsts in the day. Meanwhile, Canton's Victor Zhang shattered the 200 freestyle relay of 1:45.25 set last year by Nate Lunn of Northville with a new clocking of 1:42.57.

Other new records were set by Novi's Joon Chung, 200 individual medley (1:55.94) and 100 breaststroke (59.12), along with Salem's Adam Seroka, 500 freestyle (4:40.41).

Salem's Matt Collingwood also enjoyed a big day winning the 50 freestyle (22.05) and 100 freestyle (48.32). He also teamed up with Jason Zhang, Max Mills and Seroka for a first in the 400 freestyle relay (3:16.97).

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

#### **BOYS SWIMMING & DIVING RESULTS**

KLAA KENSINGTON CONFERENCE **BOYS SWIM MEET** Feb. 25-26 at South Lyon East

FINAL TEAM STANDINGS: 1. Northville, 925 points; 2. Novi, 658.5; 3. Salem, 652; 4. South Lyon Unified, 599.5; 5. Livonia Stevenson, 562; 6. Canton, 429.5; 7. Plymouth, 311; 8. Westland John Glenn, 220.5; 9. Livonia Churchill, 170; 10. Wayne Memorial, 153; 11. Livonia Franklin, 105.

INDIVIDUAL RESULTS (top 8 finishers by A-B finals times) 200-yard medley relay: 1. Stevenson (John Ferrara, Jake McNamara, Kellen, Schoff, Adam Ferrara), 1:38.27 (meet record); 2. Novi (Joon Chung, Jong Min Kim, Tiger Borque, Eugene Song), 1:41.06; 3. Northville (Ryan Winkler, Bofang Zhang, William Greenlee, Dawson Laabs), 1:41.57: 4. Canton, 1:42.45; 5. Salem, 1:43.1; 6. Plymouth, 1:43.51; 7. South Lyon, 1:44.06; 8. John Glenn,

200 freestyle: 1. Victor Zhang (Canton), 1:42.57 (meet record); 2. Adam Seroka

(Salem), 1:42.96; 3. Andrew Ao (Novi), 1:46.88; 4. Travis Vincent (Novi), 1:48.23; 5. Alex Miller (N'ville), 1:48.24; 6. Evan Bischoff (SL), 1:48.75; 7. Johannes Henriksson (N'ville),

1:49.57; 8. Tim Shea (N'ville), 1:49.86. 200 individual medley: 1. Chung (Novi), 1:55.94 (meet record); 2. Jay Jin (Canton), 2:00.42; 3. Zhang (N'ville), 2:00.87; 4. J. Ferrara (LS), 2:01.08; 5. Max Mills (Salem), 2:01.99; 6. Eric Li (Salem), 2:02.33; 7. Alex Jouney (Ply.), 2:03.07; 8. J. McNamara (LS),

50 freestyle: 1. Matt Collingwood (Salem), 22.05; 2.-Miller (N'ville), 22.06; 3. Greenlee (N'ville), 22.45; 4. Song (Novi), 22.78; 5. Winkler (N'ville), 22.92; 6. Brandon Bielicki (LS), 22.93; 7. Nathan Wagner (SL), 23.07; 8. Adam Liakos (Ply.), 23.08.

1-meter diving: 1. Kevin Bain (N'ville), 461.90 points (meet record); 2. Will Price (N'ville), 420.45; 3. Dan Gironza (SL), 414.35; 4. Brendan O'Shea (SL), 345.55; 5. Nick Griwicki (Salem), 344.00; 6. Derek Kim (Novi), 341.95; 7. Alex Canadi (SL), 328.90; 8. Charlie Dillon (Salem), 315.20.

100 butterfly: 1. Kellen Schoff (LS), 52.03 (meet record); 2. Zhang (Canton), 52.17; 3. Greenlee (N'ville), 53.68; 4. Ethan Christensen (Ply.), 55.20; 5. Travis Burgess (SL), 55.32; 6. Tanner Vincent (Novi), 55.9; 7. Jeremy Wellman (Salem), 56.11; 8. Dawson Laabs (N'ville), 57.01.

100 freestyle: 1. Collingwood (Salem), 48.32; 2. Bischoff (SL), 48.5; 3. Winkler (N'ville), 48.82; 4. (tie) Ao (Novi) and Miller (N'ville), 49.31 each; 6. Mike Carlson (Canton), 49.79; 7. Bielicki (LS), 49.96; 8 Chris Kim (N'ville), 50.43.

500 freestyle: 1. Seroka (Salem), 4:40.41 (meet record); 2. Mills (Salem), 4:51.4; 3. Vincent (Novi), 4:53.28; 4. Shea (N'ville), 4:59.24; 5. Henricksson (N'ville), 5:01.81; 6. (tie) Grant McNamara (LS) and John Dunnuck (SL), 5:04.57 each; 8. Austin Hunt (N'ville), 5:05.04

200 freestyle relay: 1. Stevenson (Jake McNamara, A. Ferrara, Brandon Bielicki, Schoff), 1:29.16; 2. Novi (Vincent, Song, Matt

Wright, Ao), 1:30,62; 3. Salem (Collingwood, Bai, Mills, Seroka), 1:30.73; 4. Northville, 1:32.48; 5. South Lyon, 1:32.48; 6. Canton, 1:33.32: 7. John Glenn, 1:34.21: 8. Churchill.

100 backstroke: 1. Schoff (LS), 52.84 (meet record); 2. J. Ferrara (LS), 53.35; 3. Jin (Canton), 54.93; 4. Li (Salem), 56.12; 5. Jason Zhang (Salem), 56.55; 6. Wagner (LS), 57.43; 7. Wellman (Salem), 58.04; 8. Adrian Simion (Canton), 58.29.

100 breaststroke; 1. Chung (Novi), 59.12 (meet record); 2. J. McNamara (LS), 1:01.82; 3. Kim (Novi), 1:02.8; 4. G. McNamara (LS), 1:03.0; 5, Zhang (N'ville), 1:03.14; 6. Dunnuck (SL), 1:03.23; 7. Jouney (Ply.), 1:03.28; 8. David Vincentini (LC), 1:04.66.

400 freestyle relay: 1. Salem (Collingwood, Zhang, Mills, Seroka), 3:16.97; 2. Canton (Mike Carlson, Simion, Jin, Zhang), 3:17.25; 3. Novi (Vincent, Wright, Ao, Chung), 3:17.32; 4. Northville, 3:17.63; 5. South Lyon, 3:24.04; 6. Stevenson, 3:24.35; 7. Plymouth, 3:27.86; 8. John Glenn, 3:38.02.

#### THE WEEK AHEAD

**BOYS BASKETBALL** Thursday, March 3

Canton at KLAA association crossover, 7 p.m. Plymouth at KLAA association crossover, 7 p.m. Salem at KLAA association crossover, 7 p.m. Old Redford at Luth. Westland, 7 p.m. Huron Valley at Birm. Roeper, 7 p.m. mouth Christian at Franklin Road, 7 p.m GIRLS BASKETBALL (DISTRICT TOURNEYS) CLASS A

at NORTHVILLE (Winner advances to the regional semifinals Tuesday, March 8 at Canton vs. Ann Arbor Pioneer district champion.)

CLASS D at WESTLAND HURON VALLEY LUTHERAN Friday, March 4: Championship final, 7 p.m (Winner advances to the regional semifinals

Tuesday, March 8 at Auburn Hills Oakland Christian vs. Birmingham Roeper district BOYS HOCKEY (PRE-REGIONAL DRAWS) at NOVI ICE ARENA

Thursday, March 4: Salem vs. Northville, 6:30 Saturday, March 5 at Livonia's Edgar Arena vs.

**Coming Soon** 

PREP WRESTLING INDIVIDUAL FINALS (at Palace of Auburn Hills) Thursday, March 3: Round 1, 2:15 p.m Friday, March 4: Round 2, 8:30 a.m.; Round 3

11 a.m.; Round 4; 2 p.m.; semifinals, 7 p.m. Saturday, March 5: Round 6, 8:30 a.m. Round 7, 10:10 a.m.; Round 8, 11:30 a.m.; Round 9 finals. BOYS & GIRLS BOWLING (STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS)

Friday-Saturday, March 4-5

Division 1 at M-66 Bowl (Battle Creek), TBA

Div. 2 at Century Lanes (Waterford), TBA.

GIRLS COMPETITIVE CHEER (FINALS at DELTA PLEX-GRAND RAPIDS) Friday, March 4 Saturday, March 5

ONTARIO HOCKEY LEAGUE Friday, March 4 Saginaw vs. Plymouth Whalers at Compuware Arena, 7 p.m. Saturday, March 5 Windsor vs. Plymouth Whalers at Compuware Arena, 7 p.m.

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#### **DELORES BROWN**

Age 79, went to be with the Lord on February 22nd, 2011. Survived by her With beautiful memories, husband Dale and family.

ROSE LOUISE CRENSHAW Age 83, February 27, 2011. Beloved wife of Paul for 62 years. Loving mother of Nancy (Douglas) Berg and the late Paul, Jr. and Jeff Crenshaw. Sister of Edward Bojas. Grandmother of Angie and Paul. Great grandmother of 5. Visitation Thursday 2-9 PM at Harry J. Will Funeral Home 37000 Six Mile Rd. in Livonia. Funeral Friday, in state 10am until time of service at 11am at Grace Lutheran Church 25630 Grand River Ave. in Redford. Interment Cemetery in Livonia. In lieu of flow-

#### ANNE FURMAN

ers contributions may be made to the

American Diabetes Association.

February 28, 2011. Anne was born, Anna Linnea Benson, February 23, 1917 in Bridgeport, CT the daughter precedes her in death. She was a member of St. Paul Lutheran Church in Hamburg and Lakeland Golf and Country Club where she and Lou enjoyed many years of golf and enduring friendships. Her Family...Loving mother of Judy (Kevin) Woods of Dexter and beloved grandmother of and John. Her Farewell...The family will gather with friends on Friday from 5-8 PM at Borek Jennings Funeral Home, Hamburg Chapel. Funeral service will be held at 11 am on Friday March 4, 2011 at St Episcopal Church, 306 N. Division, Ann Arbor, MI with Fr. Alan Gibson officiating. Burial will take place in Hamburg Cemetery. Memorial contributions are suggested to Arbor Hospice. Please leave a Message of

at: www.borekjennings.com.

Brighton, MI. Her Legacy...Died of Swedish immigrants, Carl Johan August and Olga Juliana (Elg) Benson. In June of 1938 she met her husband of 63 years, Louis Furman of Cleveland at a dude ranch in Lake George, New York. They were married April 9, 1939 in Brooklyn, NY. He Abigail, Jonathan and Caitlin. She is preceded in death by her sister, Alice and three brothers, Rudolph, Siegfried Comfort to Anne's family by calling 877-231-7900 or visit her guestbook

> May peace be with you in this time of Jorrow.

#### HARRIET CLEGERN MORGAN

announce the passing on of Harriet Clegern Morgan on February 26, 2011 age 90. Born in Oklahoma in 1920 Wayne Frank Clegern and Katharine McLauchlin Harriet had two brothers William and Wayne and a sister, Frances. Her parents, Brother Bill and sister Frances have preceded her in death. Dedicating her life to education and research, Professor Emeritus Harriet C. Morgan taught science at Schoolcraft College from its opening in 1964 to her retirement in 1990. Harriet served as a of Rosedale Presbyterian Church for 40 years. She was preceded her in death by her son Gregory Wayne Morgan. Her memory will be cherished by her daughter Mary Katharine Morgan; daughter-inlaw Lucille Babcock and husband; and-children, Kyna Morgan-Pearce, Clifford Englehart, Jeffery Englehart and their families; many great-grand-children; brother Wayne Clegern and wife Nancy; and the Clegern clan. Memorial Service: March 5 at Rosedale Gardens Presbyterian Church, 9601 Hubbard St., Livonia. Visitation is at 1p.m. with service to begin at 2 p.m. In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts may be made to Presbyterian

#### **EMILY J. SALVATO**

Age 77, February 27, 2011. Beloved wife of 50 years to Thomas and loving mother of Joey, Gina (Dale) Massy, Kathleen (Mark) Demers, Peter, Tom, Michelle Napolitan, Vince (Michele). vived by 10 grandchildren

www.harryjwillfuneralhome.com

#### CHARLES (CHUCK) **SPANBERGER**

Age 86, of Redford, 2-17-11. Brother of Ethel Grigg, Marilyn Irvine & the late George. Uncle of Kurt Spanberger, Kathy Nichol & others. No services are planned.

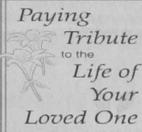
Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home. Paying



#### BARBARA DAVINA STOYE

87, of Traverse City and formerly of the Detroit area, passed away Friday, Feb. 25, 2011, at her home on Old Mission Peninsula, with her family by her side. Barbara was born on May 1923, in Detroit, the daughter of the late George F. and Barbara W. (Leadbetter) James. Barbara attended and graduated from Cooley High School. After attending Wayne State University, Barbara entered Grace Hospital School of Nursing. While at Grace, she met Frederick Deckert Stoye. The two were fixed up on a blind date, which was Valentine's Day 1943. They were married on June 29, 1946, after Frederick graduated from School. After opening his dental practice in Detroit, their first child was born, Laura C. Stoye. She preceded Barbara in death on Feb. 15, 1991. Raising their family (Laura and later their son, Fred D. Stoye Jr.) in Detroit and eventually in Lathrup Village, Barbara worked the local election. belonged to the Lathrup Supper Club and volunteered at Beaumont Hospital. Her other joy was spending summers at the family cottage at Higgins Lake. She will be greatly missed by her husband of almost 65 years Frederick D. Stoye, D.D.S.; her son, Fred D. Stoye Jr., D.D.S., and his wife, Deborah; her five grandchildren, Matthew (Kelly) Cushman, Emily S Stoye, Grant F. (Lydia) Stoye, Jonathan P. Stoye and Ellen E. (Chris) Phillips; one great-grandchild, Olivia S. Cushman, with one on the way and due to arrive to Ellen and Chris Phillips in April; her sister-in-law, Mary Stoye; six nieces and nephews; as well as many other loving family members and friends. Funeral services took place on Tuesday, March 1, 2011, the Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home. Memorial contributions may be directed to Father Fred Foundation or the Higgins Lake Foundation. Please share memories with the family at Barbara's online guestbook at: www.reynolds-jonkhoff.com.

The family is being served by the





#### DANIEL LEE VALENTINE

Passed away on Feb 27, 2011, Age 51 Daniel was an Alumnus of University of Michigan whose passion was food and music. Daniel could be seen enjoying himself working in the yard or improving his household, and enjoyed getting together with his family. He was a loving husband to Laura (nee Beaton); caring father to Amber; step-father to Sarah Jones, step-grandfather to Allen Szabo; and brother to Sharon and James. Daniel was predebrother Thomas. Visitation for Daniel will be on Thursday starting at 2PM until 9PM with the Funeral service starting at 7PM at the Lee-Ellena Funeral Home located at Romeo Plank Macomb, MI 48044 (South of 21 mile). Share memories at www.Lee-EllenaFuneralHome.com

#### In Memory Of



#### In memory of CLINT & DEREK SWINTEK

It's been two years boys, and still we think of you and miss you every single day. And we will love you for always, until we see you again. Aunt Sherry as well as The Swintek/Vinal family

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## Chance meeting leads to concert

How many times can two pianists' paths cross?

Many, says Wes Fishwick, a pianist and organist at St. John Lutheran Church in Farmington Hills.

Fishwick

One Sunday after church, I was having lunch at Luigi's and I noticed several groups of well dressed diners. When I visited their tables to pass out flyers about our concert series at St. John, they informed me that they were from Farmington United Methodist Church and that their organist was Harvey Kahl," Fishwick said. "I almost fell over. Harvey Kahl, who was best man at my wedding ... Harvey Kahl, with whom I taught at Macomb College and with whom I had played two-piano repertoire Harvey Kahl, who was my good friend from college was working at a church about one mile from my church - and both of us east-siders?

"I knew from that moment that we needed to return to concertizing together and that our first performance should be in the Farmington area so that our two churches could participate in the event."

Kahl and Fishwick will present a recital of two piano, four hand repertoire at 4 p.m. Sunday, March 6 at John Lutheran Church 23225 Gill,



Wes Fishwick is organist at St. John Lutheran Church in Farmington Hills. He and friend, Harvey Kahl, organist at First United Methodist Church in Farmington, will perform together on Sunday, March 6.

Farmington Hills.

The Sonata for Two Pianos by Mozart and the Mother Goose Suite by Ravel are the featured works. Other compositions include selected movements from the Suite for Two Pianos by Arensky and the American Dance Suite by Julia

There is no charge for admission, although a free will offering will be taken. Refreshments will be served during intermission. For more information, contact the church office at (248) 474-

#### FRIDAY FISH

Does your church offer a Lenten fish fry? Send us the particulars - serving times, dates, church location, cost, menu choices and church phone number or other contact and will publish the information through Lent in the Observer. Send information to Sharon Dargay at sdargay@hometownlife.com or mail to her at 615 Lafayette, level 2, Detroit, MI 48226. Feel free to include a photo taken at a current or previous fish fry and send in

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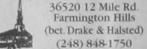
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North Congregational Church



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Ministers

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

## ENTERTAINMENT

Thursday, March 3, 2011

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#### HAVE A STORY IDEA?

Contact Editor Sharon Dargay Voice Mail: (313) 222-8883

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Comment online at hometownlife.com

BY SHARON DARGAY

arol Shaltz of Livonia hopes her Soft Coated Wheaten Terriers, Rory, Maggie and Ella, earn a few points at the Detroit Kennel Club Dog shows this weekend.

But more importantly, Shaltz, an owner, breeder and handler, wants to educate the public.

"To me the most important thing is letting the public meet the breeds," said Shaltz, who has owned soft-coated Wheaten terriers for 22 years and bred and shown them for 15. "When someone calls me for a Wheaton, if I don't feel they are the right family for a Wheaten, I'll tell them no and I'll tell them why. Then I'll tell them to go down to the Detroit Kennel Club show and meet the different breeds."

Shaltz says it's the perfect venue to look at a variety of dogs and meet reputable breeders who screen their breeding dogs for potential health problems. Appropriate testing for a Wheaten, for example, includes a hip x-ray, annual eye tests and complete urinalysis and blood profiles.

"I know the health of the parents, the grandparents and the greatgrandparents," she said, adding that backyard breeders and pet stores generally don't keep track of dog health histories. "A lot of pet stores get puppies from puppy mills and have no clue of what grandpa died of. I always tell people if I don't have puppies when they call, to buy from a reputable dealer and ask questions. I'm here for the life of the puppy and not question is a silly one. Shaltz, who breeds soft-coated Wheaten terriers under the name "Lil' Town Wheatons of Ardnacassa, is vice president of the Motor City Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier Club and is involved with the Ann Arbor Kennel Club's obedience programs.

She enjoys the benched portion of the show as much as the judging because it gives her a chance to talk with visitors about her favorite dog breed.

## Canine time

Check out breeds in the ring and on that bench at Detroit Kennel Club Dog Shows



Terry Seraceno of Farmington Hills and Sassy, one of several golden retrievers who volunteers as a therapy dog.



Maggie earns a ribbon under the guidance of owner-handler Carol Shaltz of Livonia.



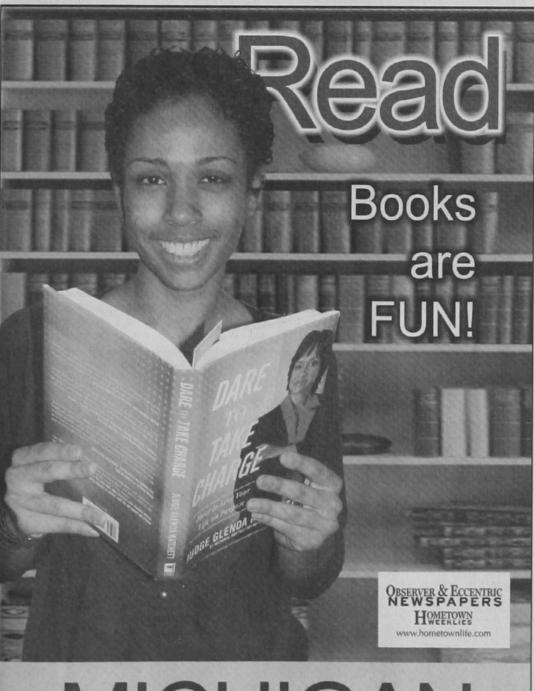
One of Carol Shaltz' soft-coated Wheaten terrier's eyes a treat at home in Livonia.

#### MEETING THE DOGS

"The Detroit Kennel Club Show is a must do. I think it is real important to educate the public. They can get their hands on the dogs and pet them"

Terry Seraceno of Farmington Hills wouldn't have it any other way. Her Golden Retrievers and other canine volunteers at Dr. Paws Pet Assisted Therapy Dogs, love pets,

Please see DOG SHOWS, B6



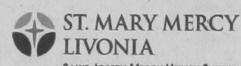
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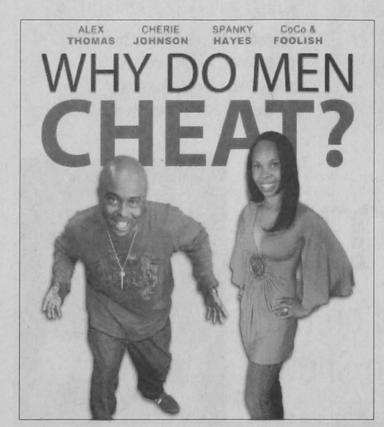
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Observer & Eccentric | Thursday, March 3, 2011

#### Film audition

Real Entertainment Films and KJ Post Productions will hold an open casting call for the film "Why Do Men Cheat" from 4-6 p.m. March 5, at Star Factory, 13305 Capital, Oak Park. Interested parties should come camera ready with a head shot and resume and should be prepared to perform a one minute monologue. If selected, applicants will be interviewed and filmed during the casting call. Male and Female roles ranging from 20-50 years old will be filled. For more information call Janaya Black at (734) 634-3151 or e-mail whydomencheatthemovie@gmail.com.

#### DOG SHOWS FROM PAGE B5

rubs and kisses.

"Come over and pet the therapy dogs. We'll be in a huge area in the corner, away from the noise. Look for the place with the most strollers, with kids lying on the ground and hugging the dogs. It's hilari-

She and a few of Dr. Paws 450 active members and their therapy dogs will be on hand Saturday and Sunday to meet visitors and talk about what it takes to become involved in pet therapy. Seraceno, who works in the staffing division at Botsford Hospital, founded the organization 18 years ago to help relieve stress and bring comfort to hospital patients and health professionals alike. Today the all-volunteer nonprofit serves approximately 110 locations, including hospitals, nursing homes, and libraries where dogs "read" to young-

Potential therapy volunteers can fill out paperwork online at drpaws.org and then bring their dog to Seraceno for assessment. She also plans an informational meeting about Dr. Paws and therapy dogs from 7:30-8 p.m. Thursday, March 10 at Botsford, 28050 Grand River, Farmington Hills. The session will be held

in room 2 East A on the second floor. RSVP at drpawspetther-

"We walk through certain points in the hospital, go into describing an assessment. "I've only had to tell a few people they wouldn't pass. It's because they need to take a refresher

Seraceno also breeds Golden Retrievers under the kennel name Sarabay and shows dogs. She works with the Fort Detroit Golden Retriever Club of Michigan and Retriever Rescue of Michigan.

do their homework before buying a dog by looking at breeds, talking with breeders and obtaining the shows' catalogue.

A variety of breeds and mixed breed dogs will help staff the Dr. Paw's booth dur-

"Pet therapy has boomed in the last few years. I think a lot of it is the stress - I get doctors on their hands and knees (petting the dogs) because they had a rough day or lost a retired and don't know what to do. But they have a beautiful dog. Where else can you go for an hour, have your dog petted and walk out feeling good?"

#### apy@aol.com. No dogs are allowed at the session. TAKING THE TEST rehab, make sure the dog doesn't pull or jump," she said,

course in obedience.

She suggests that individuals

ing the weekend shows.

patient. A lot of people also are and is designed for audience

### New columnist tastes brews from coast to coast

BY SHARON DARGAY **O&E STAFF WRITER** 

Nate Parsons loves hunting for new

"I remember my first craft brew. That was 20 years ago with my wife in Kalamazoo. I had a German wheat beer and I was blown away. I spent a couple of years trying to track that down," said Parsons, the Observer's new beer colum-

"From there it developed more and more into looking for something new and different. Part of the fun is in the

As a software consultant who travels from coast to coast for his job, Parsons covers a lot of territory also tasting new

"I probably travel two to three times a month. It keeps me busy," said Parsons, a former Livonia resident who moved to Northville 10 years ago. He and his wife, Shawn, a teacher in Livonia Schools, have three daughters.

Parsons grew up in Harbor Springs and moved to southeastern Michigan after graduating from Michigan State University with a bachelor's degree in communications.

He admits he's not a beer expert, but he has tasted craft brews at home and abroad, enjoys pairing them with food



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Nate Parsons says the fun of trying new craft beers is in the hunt.

and tracking down local sources for

"Ten years ago we were into wine, but from a monetary standpoint, I don't have \$1,000 for a bottle of wine. Our threshhold is \$20 or \$30. With beer, whatever you find is affordable. You

don't have to pay more than about \$20. If you can find it you can afford it."

Look for Parsons' column, Beer Tracker, in the Observer the first Thursday of every month and in Inspire, which is inserted into the Observer every third Thursday.

## Find Belgian beer in your own back yard

'm not a beer "expert," just a guy who loves really good beer.

My nine to five work takes me all around the U.S. which has given me an opportunity to explore some of the country's finest beer establishments. While the beer community can be a rather tight knit group, its members always are

willing to share an opinion about their favorite subject. In today's market-



Beer tracker

Nate Parsons

place venturing off the beaten path into the realm of craft beer can be a daunting task. Like beauty or art, individual fondness is in the eye (or tastes) of the beholder. My hope for this undertaking is not to educate but to introduce the reader to a variety of great beers from around the world which are available in our own backyard.

I have great affection for Belgian beer. I had an opportunity to visit Belgium in 2008 - a must for beer lovers. One of my favorite beers is Triple Karmeliet.

- Beer Name: Tripel Karmeliet • Brewery: Brouwerij Bosteels
- Country: Buggenhout, Belgium
- · Style: Tripel • ABV: 8.40%
- Glassware: Tulip or Sifter
- · Description: Pours a hazy golden

straw color with a thick two finger head that dissipates after a few minutes. The aroma or nose smells of coriander, apricots, sour apple, and a hint of yeast. The taste is very well balanced, clean yet creamy with medium carbonation. The finish offers no lingering alcohol but rather citrus overtones. A truly enjoyable pour.

· Where to Purchase: Hiller's Market, 425 North Center Street, Northville - 750ml for \$8.49ml; Holiday Market, 520 South Lilley Road, Canton - 750ml

for \$10.00; Brass Mug Party Store, 19213

Newburgh Road, Livonia - 750ml \$9.99. Nate Parsons can be reached at modevin@

## '70s rockers perform at Village Theater

Hear Brandy, Jimmy Loves Mary-Anne and other hits by Looking Glass when the 1970s rock group performs Saturday, March 26 at The Village Theater at Cherry Hill

She show will start at 8 p.m. members of all ages.

in Canton.

"Looking Glass is the type of act that audiences spanning several generations really love," stated Jennifer Tobin, Canton arts coordinator. "The moment you hear the words 'you're a fine girl - what a good wife you will be,' your mind instantly recalls a fond memory that will put you in

web from

virtually

anywhere!

a good mood no matter what your age.

Looking Glass is made up of founding member Elliot Lurie on guitar and Jeff Lehman on keyboards, as well as Roger Noonan on bass and Craig Williams on drums. Recent additions to the group are Gary Penz and Jim Wirth on guitar and keyboards. The group also tours with a three-

piece horn section. The four original members of Looking Glass formed the band in 1969 after meeting at Rutgers University. The group name supposedly came along when they were all sitting around watching Alice in Wonderland and a band member noted "she jumped through the looking glass.

The band recorded Brandy in 1972 based on the name of lead singer Lurie's high school sweetheart 'Randy.' The single reached number one on the Billboard Hot 100 chart, remaining in the top position for one week. After years of playing covers and their originals at frat parties and bars in the New Brunswick, N.J. area, Looking Glass was signed to Epic Records by the legendary Clive Davis.

After the group broke up in 1974, Lurie segued into a career as a music supervisor for film and television. The group reunited in 2005 with three Detroit-area musicians, Jeff Lehman, Craig Williams and Eric Mackey, and began performing again.

Tickets to see Looking Glass are available online at Cantonvillagetheater.org or by calling (734) 394-5460. Reserved seating tickets are \$15 for adults, seniors and students. Group rates for 15 or more individuals are \$12 per ticket. The Village Theater at Cherry Hill is located at 50400 Cherry Hill Road. For more information call (734) 394-5308 or visit Cantonvillagetheater.org.

Wireless Retailer

Activation fee/line: \$35 (\$25 for secondary Family SharePlanlines w/2 yr Agmts) IMPORTANT CONSUMERINFORMATION: Subject to Customer Agm, Calling Plan, rebate form & credit approval. Up to \$175 early termination fee (\$350 for advanced devices) & other charges. Device capabilities: Add'i charges & conditions apply. Offers & coverage, varying by service, not available everywhere. Coverage maps at vzw.com. While supplies last. Shipping charges may apply. Limited time offer. Rebate debit card takes up to 6 wks and expires in 12 months. © 2011 Verizon Wireless





## FOOD

Thursday, March 3, 2011

hometownlife (m) com

#### HAVE A STORY IDEA?

Comment online at hometownlife.com

Contact Editor Sharon Dargay Voice Mail: (313) 222-8883

E-mail: sdargay@hometownlife.com



# Marati Gras Celebrate Mardi Gras with 'Fat Tuesday' all day long

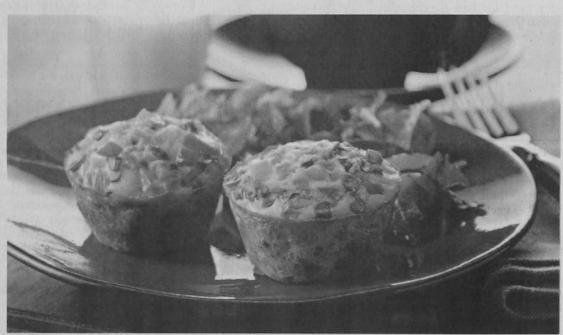
ew Orleans may be the official home of Mardi Gras, but you don't have to live in the Big Easy to enjoy the party. Mardi Gras, or literally, "Fat Tuesday," is the final day of the Carnival celebration, the festive season that occurs before Lent.

While some people associate Mardi Gras with lavish parades and French Quarter parties, food is an integral part of the tradition. In fact, many locals skip the parades and spend time at home feasting with friends and family instead. Join the Fat Tuesday frenzy by throwing your own

John Besh, Louisiana native and nationally acclaimed chef. "It's so easy to bring the fun of Mardi Gras home — wherever you are. Whip up some tasty New Orleans-Style meals, hang up some beads and masks for decoration, then invite folks over for good times all around."

Celebrate like a true New Orleanian by jazzing up an entire day's menu with popular and authentic dishes. Start with a savory brunch, a true Southern tradition. Snack on a creamy dip in the afternoon as you decorate and welcome guests. Then, dish out a traditional New Orleans-Style jambalaya, perfect for a Mardi Gras crowd. Finish the meal with a cupcake version of the official dessert of the Carnival season, the King Cake. Tradition states that whoever found the fava bean or small trinket in their slice of cake was charged with bringing the cake to next year's party. Share the fun with all your

guests by including a fava bean in each cupcake. . These tried-and-true recipes will ensure your party will start a tradition to be celebrated for years to come. For more information on New Orleans-Style cuisine, visit www.facebook.com/



**Dulac Dirty Rice Mini Frittatas** 

#### **DULAC DIRTY RICE MINI FRITTATAS**

Prep Time: 20 minutes | Cook Time: 45 minutes Makes 12 (2 mini frittata) servings

1 pound bulk pork sausage

1 package Zatarain's Dirty Rice Mix, Origi-

¼ cup toasted chopped pecans' 14 eggs, lightly beaten

& cup thinly sliced green onions

¼ cup each chopped red and yellow bell

Cook and stir sausage in large skillet on medium-high heat 5 minutes or until no longer pink. Drain fat. Prepare rice mix as directed on package with sausage. Stir in raisins and pecans.

Preheat oven to 350°F. Spray 2 (12-cup) muffin tins generously with no stick cooking spray. Set aside. Mix eggs and milk in large bowl until well blended. Add onions and bell peppers; mix well. Place 1/4 cup of the rice mixture into each muffin cup. Pour egg mixture evenly into each cup.

Bake 20 minutes or until eggs are set. Run small knife or spatula around each cup to loosen frittatas. Let stand 5 minutes before serving.

#### CARNIVAL JAMBALAYA

Prep Time: 5 minutes

Cook Time: 25 minutes Makes 12 (1-cup) servings

5 cups water

¼ cup oil (optional)

2 packages Zatarain's Jambalaya Mix, Original 1 pound boneless skinless chicken breasts,

1 pound smoked sausage, ¼ inch thick

½ cup sliced green onions (optional) Bring water and oil to boil in large saucepan. Stir in Rice Mixes, chicken and sausage; return to boil. Reduce heat to low; cover and simmer 25 minutes or until

rice is tender. Remove from heat. Let stand 5 minutes. Sprinkle with green onions before serving.

#### RED BEAN AND RICE PARTY DIP

Prep Time: 10 minutes

Cook Time: 40 minutes Makes 60 (2-tablespoon) servings

1 package Zatarain's Red Beans and Rice

2 tablespoons chopped jalapeño peppers

2 packages (8 ounces each) cream cheese,

2 cups (8 ounces) shredded cheddar cheese

Prepare rice mix as directed on package, using 3 cups water instead of 31/4 cups.

Reserve ¼ to ½ cup of the shredded cheese to garnish dip, if desired. Stir remaining ingredients into rice mixture. Place mixture into food processor or blender; cover. Process or blend until

Keep dip warm in a chafing dish or slow cooker, if desired.

#### KING CAKE CUPCAKES

Chef John Besh, Besh Restaurant Group Prep Time: 1 hour Cook Time: 15 minutes Cool Time: 1 hour

Yellow Butter Cake

1/4 pound butter

Yields 10 to 12

% cup sugar 1/4 teaspoon salt

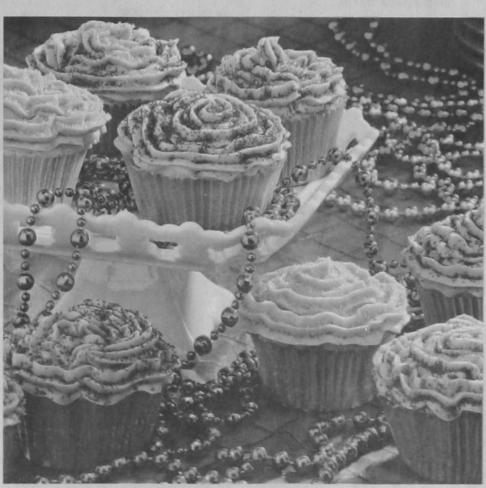
2 large eggs 1¼ cup cake flour

½ tablespoon baking powder % cup milk

1 teaspoon vanilla extract In a mixer at medium speed, cream butter, sugar, and salt together until light and fluffy. Add eggs one at a time while the mixer is running, making sure each egg is totally mixed in before adding another. Beat mixture until light and fluffy, making sure to scrape the sides and bottom of the mixing bowl carefully.

In a separate mixing bowl, combine flour and baking powder using a wire whisk to sift and combine them. In another separate bowl, mix the milk and

Alternate adding wet and dry ingredients to butter mixture, starting and ending with the dry ingredients. Do not over mix, as batter should be thick and fluffy. Spoon into lined cupcake pans, filling each cup about % full. Bake at 350°F for 12 to 14 minutes or until done.



Zatarain's king cake cupcakes with root beer filling and frosting.

Creole Cream Cheese Filling with Root Beer

1 pound softened Creole or regular cream cheese

1/2 cup shortening

¼ pound powdered sugar

¼ teaspoon Zatarain's Root Beer Extract

Dried fava beans (set aside)

Combine shortening and cream cheese in mixer at medium speed and whip with paddle until smooth.

Add powdered sugar and whip until fluffy; mix in root beer extract until well combined.

Root Beer Frosting

1 pound powdered sugar

4 pound butter 1/2 cup shortening

1/4 cup all-purpose flour

4 cup water

Pinch of salt

1 teaspoon Zatarain's Root Beer Extract

Combine all ingredients in bowl of mixer. Beat together at medium speed until light and fluffy.

To assemble cupcakes: Use a 4 teaspoon measuring spoon to scoop out the center of completely cooled cupcakes from

the top to about halfway down. With a piping bag, or plastic bag with the corner snipped

off, fill the hole with filling.

Insert a dried fava bean into filling of each cupcake. Note: fava bean is for decoration only and should not be eaten. Using a star tip and separate piping bag, pipe frosting

starting on the outside, working your way to the center in one continuous motion. Top with green, purple and yellow or gold sprinkles or decorative sugar like on a traditional King Cake.

## REAL ESTATE

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hometownlife com

#### Contact Us

PHONE: (800) 579-SELL (7355) FAX: (313)496-4968 E-MAIL: oeads@hometownlife.com **BILLING QUESTIONS? (313) 222-8748** HOME DELIVERY: (866) 887-2737

CLASSIFIED DEADLINES: SUNDAY EDITION, 4:30 P.M. FRIDAY THURSDAY EDITION, 4:30 P.M. TUESDAY

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

## Going green good for business, environment

Not only can going green save your company money, it can have a positive impact on how your customers perceive your products and services. If you're looking to get a reputational boost from your dedication to the environment, the Better Business Bureau recommends sticking to the truth and not exaggerating your company's impact.

There are many different shades and hues when it comes to being a green company. Some businesses strive to manufacture products that are better for the environment, while others take steps to be greener in daily operations, through measures such as recycling, using carbon offsets and taking steps to save energy.

"Going green can save your company money, especially if you take steps to conserve energy," said Melanie Duquesnel, president and CEO of the Better Business Bureau Serving Eastern Michigan and the Upper Peninsula. "But it can also make your company money as consumers are increasingly looking for products and services that won't be as harmful to the environment."

BBB offers the following advice on promoting your business' greener

•Tell the truth. Few things destroy a company's credibility with consumers faster than false advertising; regardless, some advertisers sometimes stretch the truth when it comes to talking up the eco-friendly qualities of products. When bragging about the shade of your green, as with any advertising or marketing claims, always tell the truth.

·Make concrete claims. An honest advertiser will not make vague statements such as "environmentally friendly" or "sustainable" without



qualification and solid examples to back up the claim. If your packaging is made from recycled paper, then say so. If your company has reduced energy costs, brag about it! Making fuzzy claims, however, can get you into trouble.

 Provide evidence. Consider creative ways of quantifying your company's impact such as: How many hours have your employees volunteered? Who has benefited and how have they benefited from your firm's efforts. How are your products better for the environment?

 Get a stamp of approval. While there is no universal "Good Housekeeping Seal of Approval" for green products, there are independent third-party organizations that will certify your environmentally-friendly statements. Research any third-party carefully before seeking certification through their program. Avoid making claims about certification or seals that might be considered exaggerated or

•Get expert help. As a result of the green-frenzy that has taken over the

country, many new boutique marketing and advertising firms are now specializing in branding companies as environmentally friendly and socially responsible. Getting outside PR help can be expensive. However, the rewards could be substantial in terms of revenue, reputation and goodwill.

For more reliable advice on best business practices and advertising guidelines for your business, as well as other ways to make your business more socially conscious, go to http:// detroit.bbb.org/Business-Resources/.

### Beware of limits on social, rec areas

Q: What is your view or, for that matter, the law's view on withdrawal of privileges to use common recreational and social facilities for nonpayment of assessments in a condominium?

A: It all depends on your condominium documents, but even if your documents give you broad authority, you should be cautious. Withdrawal of privileges to use common recreational and social



Robert Meisner

is not as commonly used as fines or penalties. However, it may be a particularly appropriate response to violations

facilities

of rules governing the use of the common facilities. It has the advantage of not increasing the financial burden of the property owner, who may also be struggling to retain the home. However, withdrawal of privileges to use common areas and facilities is ordinarily limited to facilities that provide amenities rather than necessities. It would be unreasonable to deny access to common facilities that provide ingress or egress, even perhaps utilities or other necessary services to the individual owned property unless the documents so provide. Generally there is a provision that provides that utilities can be denied to a co-owner if he does not pay. However, this is something that you should pass through your attorney for specific advice. Q: Does the State of Michigan allow anyone who

person who recorded it? A: Not to my knowledge, although, if it is a condominium, and a fine is being imposed, the person against whom the violation is being asserted may well have a right to know and crossexamine the person who has made the complaint, and, is afforded other due process under the

Condominium Act.

receives an HOA violation to request the name of the

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@meisnerassociates.com. This column shouldn't be construed as legal advice.

## Seniors should mull move carefully, consider options

re you a senior considering a move from your home in the near future? If you have been in your home for many



Nancy Austin

years, the very idea can be traumatic. There are physical implications. These columns will

address these issues.

Moving stirs feelings of uncertainty, adventure, dread, stress, relief, opportunity, sadness, joy

#### **SENIOR LIVING**

or even excitement. Treasured memories associated with your home may evoke some or many of these emotions. But, how do you know when it is the right time to move

Here are just a few of the important questions to think about to make that

- Do you need equity from your home for
- · Are you able to keep up with the exterior and interior maintenance?
- Are stairs difficult?
- · Are you becoming increasingly dependent on your children, friends and/or neighbors for help?
- · Do you have more space and yard than · Do you want to travel more and worry
- - Is your family suggesting that you should think about a move to something
  - smaller or easier to take care of? · Have your children stopped taking vacations so they can help you?

315 Crystal St

- · Do you drive or need some means of transportation?
- Do you feel lonely and isolated? · So you have serious health issues that
- require specialized care? What are your options? How will it be

accomplished? Who can I depend on for help? All of this and more in future edi-

Seniors Real Estate Specialist Nancy Austin, a Realtor, may be reached at nancyaustin@gmail.com or by calling her at (734) 718-8900.

41065 S McMahon Cir

#### **HOMES SOLD-OAKLAND**

These are residential real estate closings recorded the week of Nov. Registe cities,

32801	) Evergreen Ko
15708	Kirkshire Ave
32483	3 Sheridan Dr
	W Valley Woods Dr
	Birmingham
1884	Banbury St
	lazel St
	Pembroke Rd

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Beverly Hills   S180,000		326 Vailwood Ct 748 Woodcheste Com 3251 Creekview I 5230 Huron Hills 8864 Orrick St
Birmingham Banbury St Jazel St Pembroke Rd	\$136,000 \$85,000 \$239,000	4853 Waldon Wo 1860 Wexport Ln 4795 White Tail (

336 S Adams Rd	\$297,000
Bloomfield	HIIIs
3104 Quarton Rd	\$640,000
320 N Cranbrook Rd	\$320,000
248 Woodwind Dr	\$520,000
Bloomfield To	wnship
4890 Ballantrae Rd	\$234,000
1865 Golf Ridge Dr	\$260,000
4137 Golf Ridge Dr E	\$268,000
326 Vailwood Ct	\$850,000
748 Woodchester Dr	\$389,000
Commerce To	wnship
3251 Creekview Ln	\$350,000
5230 Huron Hills Dr	\$209,000
8864 Orrick St	\$165,000
4853 Waldon Woods Dr	\$220,000
1860 Wexport Ln	\$312,000
4795 White Tail Ct	\$206,000

23296	Longacre Ct
34012	Moore Dr
	Farmington Hills
21447	Archwood Cir
23986	Brookplace Ct
26341	Dundalk St
26362	Kiltarton St
30396	Le Mans Dr
32433	Red Clover Rd
29950	Richmond HI
21329	Robinson St
39255	Silverthorne Bnd
	Franklin
30526	N Greenbriar Rd
	Lathrup Village
27040	Lathrup Blvd
	Milford

	\$240,000	
	\$135,000	22059 Barclay Dr
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	\$150,000	21679 Clover Ln
	\$100,000	24576 Enchanted
	\$185,000	41152 Hollydale
	\$133,000	45655 Irvine Dr
	\$181,000	40175 Ladene Ln
	\$170,000	44428 Midway Dr
	\$225,000	41470 Mission Ln
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27348 Victoria Rd	\$45,00
1921 West Lake Dr	\$117,000
South Lyon	
58651 Carriage Ln	\$70,000
58743 Carriage Ln	\$40.00
1158 Chestnut Ln	\$180.00
58688 Coach Ln	\$270,000
57796 International Dr	\$65,000
22250 Quail Run Cir	\$95.00
	393,000
Southfield	
28233 Berkshire Dr	\$72,00
26412 Franklin Pointe Dr	\$47,000
15801 Providence Dr	\$45,000
29074 Tiffany Dr E	\$38,000
18421 Westland Ave	\$26,000
White Lake	220,00
378 Dakota Ln	\$115,000
	\$214,000
1135 Round Lake Rd	3214,001

#### **HOMES SOLD-WAYNE**

These are residential real estate closings recorded the week 2010, at the Wayne Cour of Deeds office. Listed addresses, and sales pr

Canton	
42647 Addison Ave	
2455 Astoria Blvd	
41677 Bedford Dr	
1986 Century Ct	
6731 Edgewood Rd	
3408 Empire State Dr	
5844 Fairborn Dr	
43504 Gatehouse Ct	
45952 Hanford Rd	
4281 Hunters Cir W	
44701 Leslie Ln	
44561 Meadowcreek Ln	
6493 Norwood Dr	
44262 Postmill Ct	
6492 Raintree Ct	

of Nov. 15-19, nty Register are cities, rices.	1869 Scenic Dr 41033 Southwind Dr 482 Torrington Dr W 44644 Westminister Way 2437 Woodgreen Ct Garden City 37580 Dover St	\$194,000 \$60,000 \$384,000 \$130,000 \$250,000
\$128,000 \$185,000 \$50,000 \$145,000 \$210,000	32205 Ford Rd - 1245 Gilman St 28837 Marquette St 32418 Marquette St <b>Livonia</b> 11683 Alois St	\$185,000 \$90,000 \$8,000 \$94,000
\$205,000 \$300,000 \$197,000 \$165,000 \$65,000 \$173,000	33705 Angeline Ave 15117 Blue Skies St 9020 Brentwood St 15926 Ellen Dr 32833 Fargo St 31627 Fonville St	\$157,000 \$148,000 \$128,000 \$160,000 \$20,000 \$139,000
\$89,000 \$225,000 \$198,000 \$179,000	30942 Greenland St 35034 Grove Dr 10050 Hambleton St 29835 Hillbrook St	\$118,000 \$155,000 \$126,000 \$100,000

42460 Saratoga Rd

9918 Hix Rd
20693 Josie Ct
20690 Laurel Ct
30857 Mayville St
14247 Merriman Rd
9374 Montana St
18789 Nola St
33796 Pickford St
20186 Purlingbrook St
36824 Sunnydale St
11022 Sunset St
18827 Vanderhaven Ln
30783 Westfield St
Northville
17250 Cameron Dr
42198 Farragut Ct
16606 Forest Lake Dr
605 Horton St
46253 Pinehurst Dr
42916 Pond Ct
383 S Wing St
19355 Surrey Ln
16415 Sutters Lane Ct
16997 Sycamore Ct

\$124,000	18000 W Northville Trl
\$60,000	20539 Woodcreek Blvd
\$55,000	Plymouth
\$200,000	48040 Brewster Ct
\$126,000	50425 Cottonwood Ct
\$86,000	11335 Eastside Dr
\$40,000	315 N Mill St
\$150,000	374 Roe St
\$120,000	1199 S Sheldon Rd
\$145,000	41900 Schoolcraft Rd
\$80,000	49966 Standish Ct
\$380,000	46261 Westbriar Ct
\$120,000	Redford
	11365 Brady
\$350,000	25927 Cathedral
\$100,000	14363 Dixie
\$220,000	8917 Fenton
\$110,000	18538 Inkster Rd
\$385,000	19337 Lexington
\$68,000	25522 Lyndon
\$395,000	15929 Negaunee
\$51,000	19933 Norborne
\$250,000	23422 Riverpark
\$239,000	26965 Santa Maria
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\$414,000	13021 Tecumseh Westland	\$60,000
\$232,000	39149 Armstrong Ln	\$90,000
\$300,000	29315 Badelt St	\$97,000
\$82,000	35814 Castlewood Ct	\$53,000
\$150,000	38519 Emerald Ln N	\$130,000
\$121,000	33805 Lacrosse St	\$99,000
\$20,000	523 N Byfield St	\$97,000
\$165,000	5818 N Crown St	\$41,000
\$410,000	443 N Dobson St	\$100,000
\$157,000	8285 Opal Dr	\$30,000
	35821 Oregon St	\$68,000
\$53,000	32018 Ottawa St	\$3,000
\$70,000	8433 Perrin Ave	\$83,000
\$65,000	1731 Regene St	\$42,000
\$83,000	2229 S Christine	\$16,000
\$39,000	34362 Sheridan St	\$87,000
\$62,000	1344 Springer St	\$75,000
\$74,000	1060 Surrey Hts	\$46,000
\$55,000		
\$26,000		
\$44,000		
\$79,000		

#### **REAL ESTATE BRIEFS**

#### 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.

#### Oakland Investors

The Real Estate Investors Association

of Oakland will meet 5:30/9:30 p.m. Thursday, March 10, at Club Venetian, 29310 John R, north of 12 Mile in Madison Heights. Greg Pinneo will speak on how to capitalize on current economic conditions using private and seller financing. He has been a real estate entrepreneur for 33 years. Seminar free to members, \$20 nonmembers. Pinneo will also be teaching a oneday seminar on Saturday, March

12. Call (800) 747 6742. (www. REIAofOakland.com)

#### Career Seminar

Keller Williams Realty will offer a Real Estate Career Seminar 6:30-7:30 p.m. Thursday, March 17, at 40600 Ann Arbor Road, Suite 100, Plymouth. Those attending will learn about the \$50,000 income guarantee and the free pre-licensing

For information, contact Lesley Aiello at (734) 459-4700 or laiello@

#### Real Estate Sales and Appraising

Learn about a career in residential real estate. Attend a free one-hour seminar, or shadow a top agent to get an inside feel of the business. Seminars are at noon or 6 p.m. Wednesdays. To reserve a spot, contact Keller Williams Realty International, at (248) 893-2500, 27555 Executive Drive, Suite 100, Farmington Hills 48331.

#### Seminar on Tuesdays

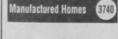
A free Reverse Mortgage Seminar is 6:30 p.m. every Tuesday at Colonial Mortgage Corp., 33919 Plymouth Road, Livonia. No obligation. Learn about reverse mortgages. RSVP with Larry Brady at (800) 260-5484, Ext.

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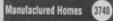
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### CROSSWORD PUZZLER

42 Stockholm carrier 44 Puts it to

47 Plains roamers

sion

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57 Follow the

60 Garfield's

arrival

DOWN

1 Soggy

2 Omani title

3 Big name in

earphones

newspapers 58 S&L offerings

59 Laundry cycle

canine pal 61 Former JFK

56 Sugar-cane

ACROSS

1 Rookie socialite

4 What the hen did

8 Not clothed 12 Latin lover's verb

13 "Hawkeye" Pierce 14 Mob scene

15 Use improperly 17 "Zara" composer 18 Bear down

19 Practically forever 21 Laugh syllable

23 Tara's owner 27 Add brandy 30 Lepton locale

33 Kind of kite 34 Final-sale words

(hyph.) 35 Primary color 36 A kiss in Madrid 37 All dads

Macpherson 39 Two fives

40 Hymn of praise

38 Model -

5 Eiger, for one

4 Expire

6 Groundless The Banana Boat Song (hyph.)

51 From a distance 54 Type of proces-

Answer to Previous Puzzle XACTO KEBAB REASON GALAXY PACER DIT SPOIL DOE SILK ALS AIMS DEAR THESES FOEALT

WAKENS MISC VIVA DON RAHS WOOED LAO OWNER ALL ESE GEN AUGERS DUNDEE

1-8 @ 2011 United Feature Syndicate, Inc.

8 Cheeky 9 Travel choice

summer

16 Volcanic output

SPEAK

10 Harry's pal 11 Monsieur's

realm 24 Foster a felon 25 Ascended

20 - de plume

22 Peer of the

BUSTS

26 Dendrite's partner 27 Bulb's place

28 Between ports 29 Motion picture

31 Util. bill 32 Byron's works

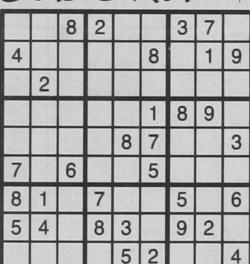
36 Rudimentary 38 Coast Guard

41 Mr. Copland 43 Living quarters 45 Syrup brand 46 Took to court

48 Marsupial pockets 49 Probabilities

50 Plover's dwelling 51 Washboard -

52 Fussy dresser 53 "The Greatest" 55 — chi ch'uan



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Irish

Lamb

Lion

**CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE** 1 8 7 2 8 1 8 8 4

Aries

Basketball

Caesar

Celebrate

Gusts

Ides

1 2 6 9 8 8 4 7 9 8 1 2 7 4 9 5 3 6 786395142 291487653 Sudoku 3 6 4 6 2 1 8 9 7 8 9 7 8 4 8 8 6 1 2 8 9 5 6 4 7 9 4 8 8 1 4 3 7 5

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### MILLENNIAL BUYERS OPT FOR APPS OVER ACCELERATION

Advertising Feature

### **CAReport**





By Dale Buss

There can be no bigger long-term priority for the auto industry in the United States than figuring out the preferences of Millennials, a powerhouse demographic cohort - also known as Generation Y, and Echo Boomers -- that is about the size of the previous most populous: their parents, the baby boomers.

Because Millennials represent such a huge portion of the potential carbuying American public for the next few decades, OEMs must successfully address their needs, wants and turnoffs to convert today's nascent recovery into solid long-term growth.

"They're hugely significant in terms of raw numbers alone," said Sage Marie, Honda's manager of product planning in the United States. "Capturing their business and ensuring their loyalty is crucial for the

But Millennials also have proved to be the first generation to defy the auto-industry marketing wisdom of at least half a century. Now of driving ages from 16 to 33, Millennials tend to be less interested in driving per se or in the traditional attributes of automobiles, especially power, and more interested in the environmental credibility of vehicles and in their emergence as rolling platforms for owners' cell phones, iPods and other

infotainment devices.

"They're less inclined to get a driver's license as soon as they can," said Larry Dominique, Nissan's vice president of advanced and product planning in the United States. "They're looking at vehicles more from a practical than an emotional sense."

Millennials are marked by other differences from preceding generations, too. "They may end up worse than the previous generation from a net-worth standpoint," noted George Rogers, president and CEO of Team Detroit, Ford's advertising consortium. "And they're more socially concerned, about the environmental aspects of vehicles."

Millennials have a technology-first orientation. The entire society is adjusting to Millennials' fierce devotion to electronic connectedness, and automakers are trying to come up with a role for their vehicles that will accommodate the generation's priority and certainly not thwart it.

"They're connected before they get in their car, and when they get in their car, they're worried that all of that has to be put on hold until they get where they're going and they can get reconnected," Marie said.

Ford has that figured out. The company stole a march when it introduced Sync a few years ago, along



Ford will soon introduce the 2012 Focus, aimed at twenty-something consumers.

with Microsoft, because they designed the feature as a flexible interface to supportwhatever mobile devices are brought into the car.

As a result, consumer "take" rates for Sync are as high as nine out of 10 purchases, even in small models such as Ford Focus and Ford Fusion whose reasonable price points reflect their status as somewhat basic transportation. And Ford's biggest gain in market share over the last two years has been among Millennials, said George Pipas, the company's head of U.S. industry analysis.

Styling still matters. But another aspect of Millennials is that they're less involved emotionally with the notion of a vehicle. Millennials also demonstrate less raw enthusiasm for driving than any generation since the popularization of the automobile. The notion of camping out in the parking lot of their local Department of Motor Vehicles office on the eve of their sixteenth birthday, as many of their parents did, is alien to most in the new generation.

Several tendencies of Millennials feed this trend. For one, "teens are able to connect in so many other ways" than physically, through their smart

The 2011 Ford Fiesta has been a big hit with the Millennial generation.



phones, Honda's Marie noted.

Yet, because friends tend to be important to them, Millennials spend a lot of time in vehicles as passengers, not as drivers. "They tend to travel in packs," said Michael Sprague, vice president of marketing for Hyundai in the U.S. This trend has even prompted some American municipalities to pass ordinances regulating how many preadult individuals can be in a vehicle.

And as generations of young people before them, adult Millennials tend to cluster in big cities, where mass transport is usually available. Also, they are entirely comfortable with an innovation newly available with their generation: car-sharing services such as Zipcar.

Yet, as Rogers noted, "There's an emotional aspect to vehicles, of freedom and just getting out and escaping, and that continues to be a fundamental magnet for vehicle purchase." And, he added, "in most metro areas of this country, public transportation remains an inexact science. There remains a real, pragmatic need for vehicles.

We're all just trying to figure out, What is the definition of a vehicle in their lives today?"

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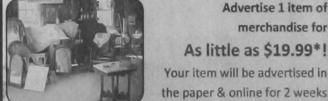
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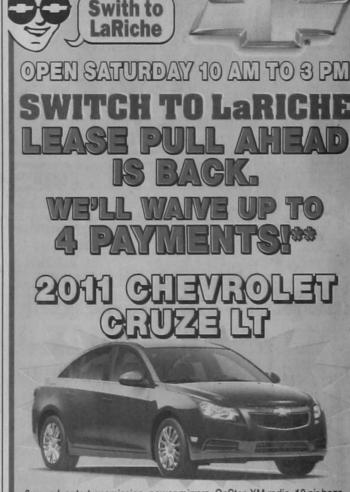


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