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LOCAL NEWS, A5

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THURSDAY

March 24, 2011

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CANTON OBSERVER

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CONNECTION

Mattress pad

Canton's Kristi Schartz stars as The Queen when The Spotlight Players bring the Tony-award winning musical comedy "Once Upon A Mattress" to the Village Theater at Cherry Hill April 8-17.

Schartz is among several Canton actors featured in the play, first brought to the stage in 1959. Other Canton actors in the production include Tim Chanko as Sir Harry, Laura Kitzman as



Kristi Schartz of Canton (right) as Queen Aggravain and John Boufford of Northville as King Sextimus star in The Spotlight Players' production of 'Once Upon a Mattress.'

Princess #12 and Shirley Auty as Emily.

The play runs 8 p.m. April 8; 2 and 8 p.m. April 9; 2 p.m. April 10; 8 p.m. April 15; 2 and 8 p.m. April 16; and 2 p.m. April 17. The Village Theater at Cherry Hill is located at 50400 Cherry Hill in Canton.

Tickets are \$18 for adults, \$16 for seniors and students under 19. Call the box office, (734) 394-5300 or (734) 394-5460 or go online at www.spotlightplayersmi.org

Finest and finances

Due to the February 2011 blizzard, Canton Township Treasurer Melissa McLaughlin's discussion of Canton's finances along with Canton's finest gems has been rescheduled for the Canton Newcomers April 6 adult public meeting.

The meeting takes place at the Sunflower Clubhouse, at 45800 Hanford, at 7:15 p.m. To RSVP or for more information, e-mail Noreen at nrybar@yahoo.com or call (734) 981-0486.

Bug hunt

Friends of the Rouge holds their annual Spring Bug Hunt Saturday, April 30, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Environmental Interpretive Center at the University of Michigan Dearborn campus, 4901 Evergreen Road in Dearborn.

The Spring Bug Hunt helps assess the health of the Rouge River by using a team of volunteers to search for critters in the streambed. Twice a year, teams of volunteers visit sites throughout the headwaters of the watershed and search for mayflies, stoneflies and other aquatic invertebrates. The presence or absence of these streambed creatures reflects the quality of the water and habitat.

No prior experience is necessary but pre-registration must be completed by April 15. To register for the bug hunt, visit www.therouge.com.



Nurturing new work is a love for arts coordinator Jennifer Tobin, who owns a bachelor's degree in theater from West Virginia University.

Stayin' alive

Theater chief's creative side helps arts thrive

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
CORRESPONDENT

Jennifer Tobin is finding a way to keep the arts alive in tough times.

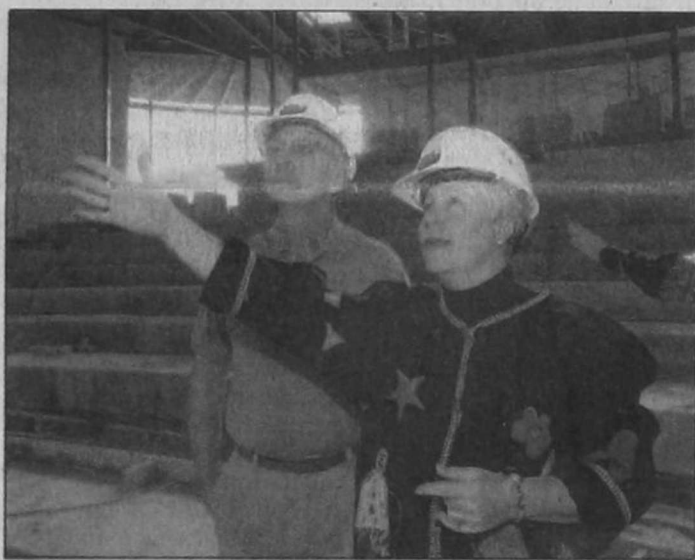
In 2010, one of the darkest years for families financially, the Village Theater of Cherry Hill thrived under Tobin's direction with 300 performances, numerous events and classes, and monthly art exhibits.

By forming partnerships with local theater and musical groups, the Canton resident was able to offer the community a reasonably priced night out close to home.

"It has amazed me we've never been busier, selling more tickets," said Tobin. "I think that speaks about the importance of the arts in people's lives and staying near home as opposed to traveling further and paying more for tickets. Why give up your entertainment?"

Last year, 40,000 audience members enjoyed plays, concerts and the visual arts because Tobin came up with options for arts groups. Percentage splits with performers are key to staying in budget. Canton Township Leisure Services Department owns and operates the theater, but partnerships and resident companies fill the 400-seat theater.

"With every challenge you



Jennifer Tobin (right) explained parts of the new Village Theater to subcommittee member Dan McKane when the theater was being built in 1983.

have to find a creative solution," said Tobin. "We take 35 percent of ticket sales and participation fees instead of paying full rental price. Professional entertainers — instead of hiring them like we did in the beginning — take the risk of ticket sales."

FINDING THE CASH

Like a puzzle, Tobin pieces together the money needed to run the Canton theater. The township is providing a subsidy of \$351,000 for 2011. Revenue of \$402,000 comes from state grants, contributions, charges for

Please see **TOBIN, A2**

THE TOBIN FILE

Who: Jennifer Tobin
What: Executive director, Village Theater at Cherry Hill
Where: Lived in the area since 1994
Family: Husband, Tom; sons Dylan, 25, Stephen, 21, and Chad, 28.
Background: Born in Ft. Knox, Ky.; former director, Plymouth Community Arts Council; bachelor's degree in theater from West Virginia University; did master's work in arts management, theater and dance at Southern Illinois University.

Census shows Canton has 18 percent growth

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Canton's population soared 18.1 percent in the past decade, climbing from 76,366 to 90,173 as the township became Michigan's 11th largest community, newly released Census figures revealed Tuesday.

Supervisor Phil LaJoy cited quality local schools, Canton's image as a safe community, a wide range of housing opportunities and township amenities, such as parks and recreation offerings, as reasons he believes residents flocked here since 2000.

"Those are big factors," he said. "The whole quality of life and the amenities this community has to offer are appealing to many people."

Canton emerged as Michigan's 11th most populated community after ranking 16th a decade ago, bucking population losses in Wayne County and Michigan.

"I think we've grown tremendously, and we have a great community," LaJoy said. "I feel good about it."

REVENUE BOOST

Local leaders say the gains could potentially lead

to a boost in state-shared revenue, though it's not a certainty, and officials hope the momentum could attract new businesses and expand the tax base.

"It's a very positive thing for our community," Canton Finance Director Rick Eva said. "I think this shows that our community is doing the right things to attract people and commerce to Canton."

Canton's 18.1 percent population increase made it one of the fastest-growing communities in Wayne County and the state. By contrast, Wayne County's population dropped nearly 12 percent to 1,820,584 during the past decade while the state's largest city, Detroit, suffered a 25-percent decline to 713,777 people.

Canton Municipal Services Director Tim Faas said the growth could help the township financially by sustaining a favorable bond rating and other factors.

"I think it's a quality of life issue and everything the community brings," Faas said. "It's everything. It's the whole package."

Canton had enjoyed unprecedented growth before

Please see **CENSUS, A3**

Michigan's TOP 20

(by 2010 Population)

1.	Detroit	713,777
2.	Grand Rapids	188,040
3.	Warren	134,056
4.	Sterling Heights	129,699
5.	Ann Arbor	113,934
6.	Lansing	109,563
7.	Flint	102,434
8.	Dearborn	98,153
9.	Livonia	96,942
10.	Clinton Twp.	96,796
11.	CANTON TWP.	90,173
12.	Westland	84,094
13.	Troy	80,980
14.	Farmington Hills	79,740
15.	Macomb Twp.	79,580
16.	Kalamazoo	74,262
17.	Shelby Twp.	73,804
18.	Wyoming	72,125
19.	Southfield	71,739
20.	Waterford Twp.	71,707

Source: U.S. Census

District moves toward interim chief

BY BRAD KADRICH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The Plymouth-Canton Board of Education took the first few steps Tuesday toward bringing in an interim superintendent after listening to a pair of consultants who told them they should do just that.

During a 90-minute special meeting designed to help the board start to figure out what they're looking for in a new superintendent, Michigan

Association of School Board consultants Bob Hamet and Jim Ridders advised board members to hire an interim superintendent.

"I think it would be a challenge, in the middle of March, to pull together a full-blown superintendent search successfully," said Ridders, who said such a search would be at least a 13-week process. "There's a ton of work right on the horizon. I don't think you have 13 weeks to waste. An

interim (superintendent) is probably in your best interest for now."

Hamet and Ridders were on hand to help the board begin to think in terms of what kinds of competencies they want to see in their next superintendent. The consultants talked about developing a transition process and succession planning.

The realities of today's tal-

Please see **INTERIM, A3**

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Snyder plan fuels criticism, curiosity

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Gov. Rick Snyder's proposals for local government employees to pay at least 20 percent of their health insurance premiums and accept lesser retirement plans have fueled criticism and curiosity among Canton union leaders and elected officials. Snyder has called for those changes and other measures, such as consolidating government services, as ways communities can cut expenses and potentially be rewarded with a larger portion of statutory state-shared revenue dollars as Michigan reinvents itself. "Canton Township is looking at all of our options, and I'm pleased that the full-time leadership in Canton Township has been proactive," part-time Trustee Pat Williams said. "They have continued to look for opportunities to best understand what our options are and how we should proceed going forward. "All municipalities are under the

gun in trying to deliver the same services at a lower cost structure, and it's extremely difficult," Williams said. "Something has to give." Though all Canton employees have accepted concessions, the amount they pay toward their insurance premiums ranges from nothing to 10 percent. In most cases, newly hired workers pay 5-10 percent — still far less than Snyder has suggested to help communities slash costs. Police Special Services Lt. Scott Hilden, president of the Canton Command Officers Association, said union members still are trying to digest Snyder's far-reaching proposals. Yet he said efforts to force employees to pay substantially more for health care while accepting reduced pensions could force police officers to work longer years in a high-stress job where age matters. Currently, Canton's police lieutenants, sergeants and officers can retire after 25 years of service, though lieutenants and sergeants also have to

reach the age of 50. "There's a pretty strong argument to make that police work is a young man's job," Hilden said. "The public depends on a police officer to be alert, sharp and on top of their game all the time." Crime-fighting can lead to stress, health problems and even higher suicide rates, Hilden said. "We see things most people never see," he said. "The longer you're in this career, the more it changes you." Efforts to dismantle the benefits a police career offers could lead to a lesser quality of applicants and longer years for officers already on the job, Hilden said. While he said he understands the state's financial crisis, he said decisions about such issues as employee pay levels, pensions and potential consolidation of services shouldn't be forced by the state — but rather left to local communities. Township Supervisor Phil LaJoy said Canton already has initiated

some measures suggested by Snyder, such as sharing services including special law-enforcement task force consortiums, with other communities. Moreover, Canton and Livonia are studying the possibility of combining emergency dispatch services. Canton also has adopted "best practices" — another of Snyder's recommendations. Canton's police department is the largest in Michigan to undergo a rigorous analysis to become accredited by the national Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement. "We kind of feel that we're ahead of the game," LaJoy said. Snyder's plans will mostly require legislative approval, so LaJoy said local officials don't yet know what the final details will be. But he said local communities will continue to face the need to cut costs. "There's got to be some big changes made," he said. "We all know that there are (financial) problems everywhere. There's got to be some tough

decisions made." Meanwhile, state Rep. Dian Slavens, D-Canton, has sharply criticized Snyder for proposing to slash what she said amounts to hundreds of millions of dollars from Michigan schools. She and some of her colleagues have launched an interactive website, www.FightSchoolCuts.com, that shows the potential impact of the cuts. "We hear time and again that education should be our top priority, yet the governor's plan to balance the budget will push our schools and students to the back of the line," Slavens said in a statement. "If we want to move Michigan forward and attract good-paying jobs to our state, we must ensure that our children have the education they need to compete in the 21st century global economy." Slavens said education cuts "will devastate our schools and our children's future and put Michigan's economy at risk."

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Schools: Layoff move offers budget flexibility

BY BRAD KADRICH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Some 50 Plymouth-Canton Community Schools administrators are getting layoff notices this week in a move designed to give the district's leadership flexibility it believes is necessary to deal with a projected \$17 million deficit for the 2011-2012 school year. The Board of Education Tuesday approved a motion allowing the district to send the layoff notices, which are required by the union contract to come 90 days ahead of any potential change in assignment, layoff or elimination of position. "Since we're going through the budget cuts and haven't determined the final (administrative) structure, we have to give these notices," Ray Bihun, the district's human resources czar, told board members Tuesday. "It doesn't mean we're going to lay off 50 administrators. It gives us time to look at it." Bihun and the rest of the administration were asked by board members to give the board some idea of what a restructured administration might look like in the event the district has to use layoffs to get to the \$17 million figure. Initially, only two cuts were offered up — an assistant director and a computer technician — so board members asked for a more comprehensive look. The time is needed, Bihun explained, because if the board

does decide to lay people off, time for a "bumping" process — which would see seniority employees moving into vacated jobs — would be necessary. But trustee Steven Sneiderman balked at the move, complaining the board had been informed of the move just 24 hours before the board meeting, leaving trustees with no time for discussion. Sneiderman tried to move a motion that would have delayed action on the resolution until next week, but the motion died in a 4-3 vote. "It may end up being the right thing to do," Sneiderman said. "(But) I need more information." Board treasurer Judy Mardigian said the district simply doesn't have time to wait. "We've got between \$17 million and \$20 million to cut," she said. "We don't know where we're going to land, and this gives us time. I like the fact this gives us the flexibility to study it some more. This is a prudent way to go." Administrators have to find a way to overcome the budget deficit in time to pass a budget by June 30. Board president John Jackson said the "different times" are forcing the board to act. "We have to change quickly. Based on the amount (of the deficit) we're dealing with, we have to act quickly," Jackson said. "This allows our administration to act."

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TOBIN

FROM PAGE A1

services, and rental fees. Tobin estimates the total operating budget at \$750,000 for the 30,000-square-foot theater and arts education center including the staff of four full-time employees and a dozen or so part-time staffers. Canton's Partnership for the Arts and Humanities gave about \$17,000 in grants. The nonprofit cultural arts organization works in collaboration with the Canton Commission for Culture, Arts and Heritage to encourage the development of arts in the community. "Offering more programming, less support is the smart way to go instead of 50 weeks (of hiring performers)," said Tobin. "We're lean and mean. From the start the idea was for it to be more and more self-sustaining. I'm used to the nonprofit world of if you can't make it, you can't sustain it." Working for nonprofit cultural organizations prepared Tobin for times that called for innovative ideas. Before becoming arts coordinator for the theater in March 2003, she was executive director of the Plymouth Community Arts Council. Tobin joined the PCAC in 1995 when she formed Whistle Stop Players, a children's theater program. Tobin sees children as the future of the arts. At home, she cherishes the sing-alongs with husband Tom and their sons, Dylan, 25, and Stephen, 21, and stepson Chad, 28. All three participated in theater and the arts and studied music when growing up. "When we moved here in 1994 we wanted to live in



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Village Theater director Jennifer Tobin said some 400,000 audience members enjoyed plays, concerts and the visual arts at the Canton theater.

a family-oriented community that valued the arts," said Tobin. "We found Plymouth with the symphony and arts council was full of cultural organizations. The *Observer* is how I found out when moving here about all the arts and culture happening. People still read papers for upcoming concerts and theater. It's the greatest friend to the arts in the community." Born in Ft. Knox, Ky., Tobin grew up in West Virginia. She received a bachelor of fine arts degree in theater at West Virginia University and did master's work in arts management, theater and dance at Southern Illinois University. Over the years, she has done everything from directing and choreographing musicals to

teaching dance, and performing as a singer, actor and dancer in numerous productions. Nurturing new work is a must for Tobin when it comes to the arts. In West Virginia as an arts administrator for the Oglebay Institute, she began a national playwriting contest so it came as no surprise when she put on a festival of new one-act plays by TLC Productions in the Canton theater this past January. "It was exciting because it featured new playwrights. Otherwise there's no place to be produced," said Tobin. "I love encouraging new work."

MENTOR MISSION

Tobin is proud of the resident theater and music groups she mentors at the theater. The Canton Concert Band formed in 2003 with eight members before the theater building was completed. Today, founder Jim Blough directs a total of 60 musicians and a variety of ensembles and bands from flute to brass. Spotlight Players offers opportunities for adults, youth and senior citizens to take to the stage. Their murder mys-

tery dinners sell out. *Snow White*, a trunk play, is a hit with audiences at libraries, schools and children's birthday parties. Forever After Productions offers acting opportunities and summer drama camps for children as does Spotlight on Youth. For those who like to sing only, Forever After offers classes for a youth choir. "Spotlight Players and Forever After feature up to 100 kids in every production they do, allowing all children to have an opportunity at all times." Partnerships with the Plymouth-Canton Symphony Orchestras and its Celebration Youth Orchestra, BeckRidge Chorale, Comic Opera Guild, and the Plymouth Canton Community Schools allow audiences to see a variety of performances including the district's annual showcase. "We split the money of the \$5 ticket with the schools," said Tobin. "The kids get to sit in a real live theater. When my kids did all those programs, I had to sit in a gym or cafeteria. Here children can be seen and heard with perfect lighting and sound. One of the joys of having a theater is to share." Eastern Michigan University professors use the facility every summer to hold musical theater workshops/summer stock for advanced high school and college students as part of 8th Wonder Productions. The theater's own offerings include Canton's International Festival and the annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. production to teach African American history through the arts. The Dr. King event was presented free to 1,600 fifth-grade students from the Plymouth-Canton district. A First Friday Series features jazz, folk, Irish/Celtic, and cabaret performers in the intimate setting of the Biltmore Studio. Monthly exhibits in the theater lobby give artists the chance to show and the community to see work outside of a gallery. "We have an average of 5,000 people coming through a month for classes and performances and happen upon it," said Tobin. "It's a good reason to arrive early or during intermission. The excitement of this place is it is open all year round." Tobin hopes to keep that enthusiasm for the arts alive by appealing to the community. "We'd like to have big sponsors step forward to bring in a performance of a singer or a play on tour, or for people to donate to Partnership for the Arts for Village Theater programming," said Tobin. For more information, visit www.cantonvillagetheater.org.

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Pursuant to state law, Notice is hereby given that a public auction will be held at **STOW & GO SELF STORAGE, 41999 ANN ARBOR ROAD, PLYMOUTH, MI** on April 2, 2011 at 10:00 am, on past due tenants listed below. The entire contents of the following units will be auctioned and sold to the highest bidder on each individual unit. **CASH ONLY! DESCRIPTION IS BRIEF SUMMARY OF ITEMS, MAY OR MAY NOT CONTAIN MORE OR LESS ITEMS.**

- Unit #339 - JAMES ALTER, P.O. BOX 512, DEARBORN HTS., MI 48127**
Lumber, tape player, alarm clock, fax machine, misc. boxes, and other misc. items
- Unit #362 - BARBARA CHOMA, 33836 LYNDON, LIVONIA, MI 48154**
Kitchen table, end tables, entertainment center, floor lamp, desk, dresser, china cabinet, bookcase, wood chairs, rocking chair, fan, mattress, couch, recliner chair, many boxes, and other misc. items.
- Unit #422 - LARRY HELLE, 5620 DUDLEY, DEARBORN HTS., MI 48125**
Bedroom dressers, bed frame, skill saw, vacuum, golf clubs, desk, wires, grinder, misc. tools, "Dish" Satellite Dishes, and other misc. items.
- Unit #448 - MARILYN PAUL, 11532 MORGAN, PLYMOUTH, MI 48170**
Stove, (2) couches, chairs, skis, ski boots, desk, bed frame, misc. boxes, and other misc. items.
- Unit #518/519 - ELIZABETH SISK, 985 HARDING, PLYMOUTH, MI 48170**
Copy machine, exam tables, (2) file cabinets, wooden cabinet, computer equipment, folding metal chairs, swivel chair, misc. boxes, and other misc. items.
- Unit #525 - DANIEL SHEMON, 8098 TILBURY CT., CANTON, MI 48187**
Medical equipment, cabinets, stools, exam tables, coffee tables, luggage, bed sheets, misc. boxes, and other misc. items.
- Unit #581 - MARGARET RYAN, 32600 W. CHICAGO, LIVONIA, MI 48150**
Household goods, baby toys, xmas decorations, folding chairs, books, blower, pictures, misc. boxes, and other misc. items.

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Delightful dancing

planetdance studio of Canton recently won top honors at the 'Countdown Dance Competition' in Waterford. The team consists of 60 members from all the local areas. "I am so very proud of all the dancers for their hard work and dedication. The dancers have worked so hard this year and I can't wait to watch them during the next couple of months," said Jen Toby of planetdance. In July the team will travel to Ocean City, Md., for the national finals. The team won the following awards: Top Mini Duo/Trio, Top Junior Solo, Top Junior Duo/Trio, Top Junior Small Group, Top Junior Large Group, Top Teen Solo, Top Teen Duo/Trio, Top Teen Small Group, Top Teen Large Group, Top Teen Line, Top Senior Solo, Top Senior Duo/Trio, Top Senior Small Group and Top Senior Large Group. The team also had the highest scoring 11 & under and 12 & over routines. planetdance is located at 44314 Cherry Hill in Canton. For information visit www.planetdancestudio.com.

Canton planners pave way for more charters

BY BRAD KADRICH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The Canton Township Planning Commission approved a pair of special land-use permits Monday that pave the way for two new charter schools to be built in Canton.

The approvals set the stage for National Heritage Academies, which already operates Canton Charter Academy and Achieve Academy, to build another high school and a K-8 facility in Canton.

The high school — Canton Preparatory Academy — is expected to be a 56,000-square-foot, 800-student building on Cherry Hill between Canton Center and Beck roads. It will sit within the boundaries of the Plymouth-Community Schools.

The as-yet-unnamed K-8 facility will be built on Palmer, east of Canton Center, within the Wayne-Westland school district boundaries.

NHA attorney Bryan Amann said the company wants to get the K-8 facility up and running in time for the September start of school; they're trying to decide whether to get the high school ready

by then or wait, Amann said.

Although site plan approval for schools is now the purview of the state due to a recent decision by the Michigan Supreme Court, Canton Township planner Jeff Goulet said the township still maintain controls over the land-use when the intended use isn't what the area is zoned for. Canton is one of only a few communities to maintain the special land-use provision.

"We need to make sure public facilities, water/sewer, road infrastructure, etc., is suitable to meet their needs," Goulet said. "It's a non-residential use, and especially in the case of private schools, there's a lot of traffic involved. We have a lot of zoning approval for schools that other communities don't use. It gives us some influence over the way land is being developed."

Amann said Canton's special land-use regulations gives the township "a foothold" on the development of schools that other communities don't have. He said that's good for the township.

"Canton is unique in the state, and it's a great benefit to the community," said Amann, who is from Canton. "We don't have schools as a permitted use (in residential areas), but

we allow them because that's where we think they belong. Canton wins, to be honest, because it requires a client to come in and have a conversation with them."

Concerns over traffic are among the key issues, Goulet said. The charter schools don't provide busing, so there are a lot of students being dropped off and picked up. Goulet said NHA will be responsible, working in conjunction with Wayne County, to make sure roads are widened and turning lanes are deep enough to keep traffic from backing up.

Amann said NHA hopes to break ground on the elementary school in early May and hopes to have the building ready to go for the start of school in September.

"We'll now be working on two tracks, working the state site plan process and working in conjunction with Canton to wrap up the land-use entitlement," Amann said. "Now we know the big blocks are in place, and we have the entitlement in place, we can start detailed engineering and the site-plan process with the state. We're hopeful by early May you'll see some activity on the site."

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CENSUS

FROM PAGE A1

an economic recession brought changes over the last few years. Yet even local officials had underestimated how much the community's population would increase since 2000.

BIGGER BUMP

Faas and Community Planner Jeff Goulet in 2008 had projected Canton would have 88,579 residents in the 2010 Census.

The population of 90,173 "is above our projections," Faas said. "This means we have more residents to share in the costs (of providing services). That's good for everybody."

Canton has consistently ranked among the safest communities of comparable size across Michigan and the United States, according to crime statistics. Local officials and residents also have touted the municipal services and recreation offerings Canton provides.

"It's certainly better to be growing and as vibrant as we are," LaJoy said. "We feel very good about it."

Township Clerk Terry Bennett said she is hopeful the population increase might bring in more federal dollars that get funneled through the state to local communities.

Despite the population growth, Canton has lost \$8.6



million from property taxes and state-shared revenue since 2007, though home values appear to have leveled off after declining only 1.9 percent during the last year. Going forward, local officials hope to maintain

Wayne County
1,820,584 2010 population
Population change from 2000 to 2010 **-11.7%**
Canton Population 2010
90,173 +18.1

Source: U.S. Census

Canton's image as a desirable place to live and do business. "We just have to maintain and keep it a safe, livable community," LaJoy said.

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INTERIM

FROM PAGE A1

ent pool, they pointed out, are that a high percentage of current education leaders are at or nearing retirement age, and the demand for high-performing executive talent is greater than the supply of quality, prepared candidates.

Part of the plan, they said, was identifying an interim chief executive. Plymouth-Canton is currently being run by deputy superintendent Ken Jacobs, who was appointed chief operating officer in November. Jacobs has announced he'll retire shortly after the 2011-12 school year

begins. He's one of several key administrators leaving.

"Come June 30, you will have a leadership vacuum unless you take some action," Ridders said. "You can't wait until June 30 to deal with that. That's the work you ought to be doing now."

To get it done, the consultants said, board members need to identify the qualities they want in both an interim and a permanent superintendent. That's where the board runs into problems, because they haven't yet done that.

The board has been working with another MASB consultant, Mary Kerwin, to define goals for both a new superintendent and for the board itself. It's work that needs to

continue, board members agreed, if the district is to move forward.

"I think if we as a board could agree on competencies, that could be helpful, but we haven't been able to do that," Trustee Nancy Eggenberger said. "At this point, we need an interim, because we haven't been able to figure out how to govern."

Board President John Jackson said the board would look for internal candidates, as well as looking outside the district.

"I think the ideal (candidate) pool would be both," Jackson said. "If there are some (internal) who are nominated, we should look at them. Maybe in the short term we need to look externally."

Bentley Elementary hosts first health fair

Bentley Elementary School will host its first community-wide Health & Wellness Fair 5:30-8:30 p.m. Friday, April 8.

The fair is designed to provide tips on nutrition, exercise, self-care and preventative tips to Bentley's community. More than 25 participants ranging from dentists and optometrists to chiropractors and occupational therapists will take part in the fair.

"The main initiative is to

help curb the obesity rate," said Louise LeBlanc, who is organizing the event. "It was reported recently the obesity rate has tripled and Diabetes has quadrupled since 1980."

The event will include a 20-minute walk/run. Chef Paul Chenney will make an appearance, and there will be dietitians, a representative of the University of Michigan's Diabetes Department and a

representative from Whole Foods on hand. Also taking part will be fitness instructors, personal trainers, soccer clinics and nurses doing blood pressure checks.

"There's no time like the present to get people moving," LeBlanc said. "It takes a village, so we should make it a healthy one."

Bentley Elementary is located at 1100 Sheldon in Canton.

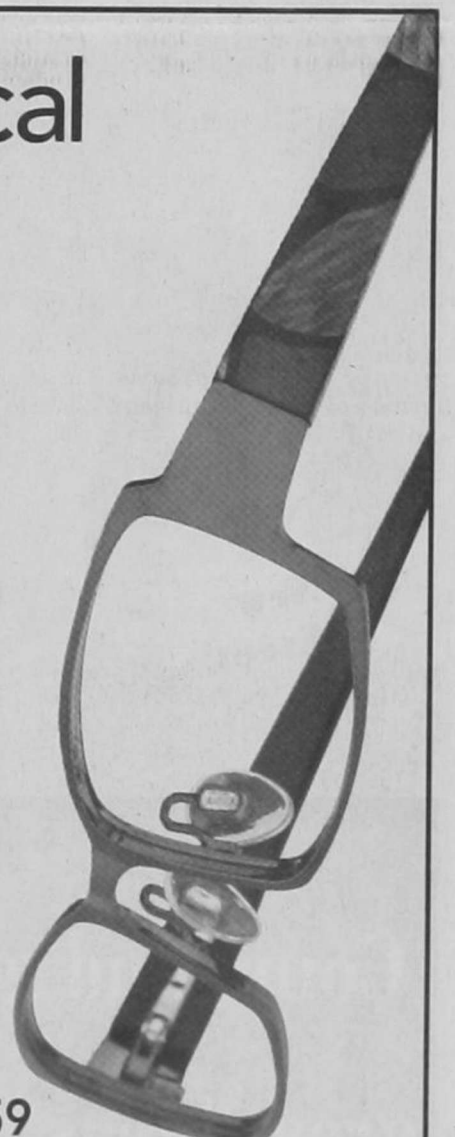
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HAVE A STORY IDEA?

Contact Editor, Brad Kadrich

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Detective cracks real-life movie drama

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Call it *The Mystery of the Missing Movies* — a real-life detective drama that can't be found at the Canton Public Library even though the plot unfolded there.

The opening scene involves a 26-year-old Canton woman accused of finding a lost library card, selecting 64 DVDs worth \$1,300, going to the self-checkout area and taking the materials home in late January.

The ending hasn't been decided, but the defendant could potentially face prison time or hefty fines after Canton Detective Jeremy Quinn, working with library employees, cracked the case.

"Not only did he track down the suspect, he got all the movies back," said Detective Sgt. Dave Schreiner, who heads up Canton's detective bureau.

Library employees learned of the missing movies after they sent a late notice to an alarmed patron who assured them he hadn't checked out 64 DVDs. Rather, he said he had lost his library card.

Without divulging details that might damage the case, Quinn said he obtained from library supervisors the information he needed to track down a suspect, who faces a court hearing in early April on charges of identity theft and larceny by false pretenses.

The defendant could face penalties ranging from probation to fines to five

years in prison, if convicted. Meanwhile, she remains free on a \$5,000 personal bond.

"It's sad that it happened," said Library Director Eva Davis. "The vast majority of our 70,000 patrons use the library appropriately."

A similar incident in western Michigan prompted library officials there to try to recoup money from a patron who had lost a card.

"It never occurred to us to do that," Davis said.

Still, she was quite relieved that Quinn was able to find the DVDs and return them to a library that, like any public entity, has been trying to maintain its level of community service amid shrinking revenues.

Davis said it's not out of line that a patron could check out a large volume of materials.

"It's about trust, and it's about the community sharing," she said. "But, it is a bit of a betrayal when someone does what she did."

Authorities said the incident can serve as a reminder for library patrons to keep track of their cards and to report any that may be lost. The mystery also should provide a warning that such a case has a good chance of being solved — and criminals prosecuted — if a tenacious detective like Quinn gets involved.

"Be aware that people can and will use your library card," he said. "Be aware of where it's at."

Larceny suspects

Canton police nabbed three suspects following reports of larcenies from autos, including one that occurred about 12:30 a.m. Sunday on Wyndchase, southeast of Cherry Hill and Haggerty.

Police received a 9-1-1 call that someone may have tried to steal a car, and an officer in the neighborhood arrived on the scene within 30 seconds. A resident's daughter said she had gone outside, saw the suspects in her father's car and believed they were trying to steal it.

The victim told police he was missing a pair of \$1,200 Cartier glasses from his car.

Police brought a tracking dog to the scene, and officers spotted suspects in the area of Cherry Hill and I-275. Officers eventually caught up with them near Cherry Hill and Lotz and took them into custody without incident.

Police found the Cartier glasses along with other items, including a GPS unit and a laptop computer, that allegedly had been taken during the larcenies. Most of the items have been returned to their owners.

According to a police report, one of the juveniles told an officer the suspects had come from Westland and had been "carhopping" — going from

car to car in attempts to steal from unlocked autos.

Police released the juveniles to the custody of their parents as the investigation was continuing, with possible charges pending.

Taser tussle

Canton police used a Taser to bring a drunken woman under control after she allegedly attacked officers while they were trying to arrest her, a police report said.

The incident happened about 9:45 p.m. Saturday on Annapolis Circle, southeast of Michigan Avenue and Haggerty.

Police had gone to the woman's house to arrest her on a warrant for disorderly conduct and a third offense of operating while intoxicated. She tried to pull the door closed but officers prevented her.

A police report indicated the woman was drunk and began screaming at police, refusing to put on a coat and shoes to accompany them. She lunged at an officer, pushed him in the chest and grabbed his police radio microphone that was clipped to the shoulder of his uniform.

The officer pushed her away and advised her to stop resisting arrest, but she tried to pull him to the ground as another officer finally used a Taser to subdue her. In all, officers had to use the Taser three times to subdue the woman, a police report indicated.

At one point, she kicked an officer in the groin.

Meanwhile, her boyfriend, who had been in a back room of the home, finally came out and tried to calm her. Officers finally got the woman to a patrol car and took her to Oakwood Annapolis Hospital where she was examined and released to their custody.

Chuck E. Cheesed

Police went to the Chuck E. Cheese on Ford Road, east of Lilley, following reports a gold ring may have been taken from a 4-year-old boy by an older man inside the business. The incident happened prior to 4:30 p.m. Saturday.

A woman told police she had gone to the location with her children, her mother and a friend, when her 4-year-old son came to the table from a game room and told her that his ring had been taken by a

man. The child pointed out the man who allegedly took the ring, and the mother confronted him and notified management, but the suspect denied taking it. Police arrived, and the investigation was continuing.

Shattered window

A man notified Canton police after he found a broken window at his residence — damage that appeared to have been done by a BB or pellet gun.

The incident happened between 9 p.m. Sunday and 4 p.m. Monday in the 1400 block of Brookline, northeast of Sheldon and Saltz.

The man said he didn't know any suspect who might have done the damage. None of his neighbors reported any similar incidents.

Warrant arrest

Canton police went to Highlands Drive, southwest of Cherry Hill and Canton Center, to arrest a male suspect wanted on a warrant out of Plymouth Township for third-degree criminal sexual conduct.

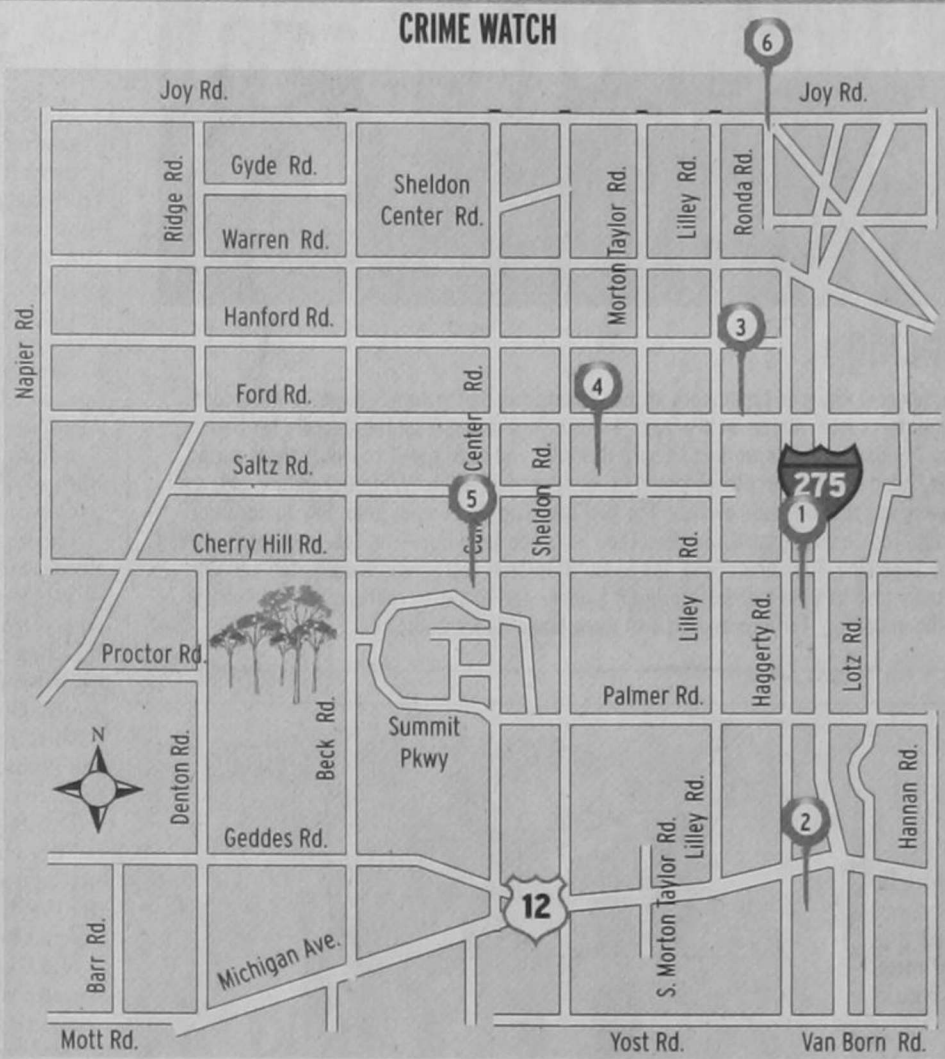
Canton police took the suspect into custody around 5:15 a.m. Saturday and arranged to turn him over to Plymouth Township authorities at Joy and Sheldon roads.

Traffic stop

Police making a routine traffic stop at Joy and Haggerty arrested a passenger after learning he was wanted in Grosse Pointe Park and Hazel Park on warrants for driving with a suspended license.

The traffic stop was made around 11:15 p.m. Sunday. Canton police took the man into custody and arranged to turn him over to Grosse Pointe Park authorities.

— Compiled by Darrell Clem from Canton Police Department reports.



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This show will feature a collection of carpenters, electricians, concrete specialists, roofers, landscape designers, and other home improvement experts.

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Evelyn Moore shows a finished quilt to Rosewitha Mann.

Gift of warmth

Quilts keep wounded troops, children out of the cold

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Wounded or disabled U.S. troops staying in an Ann Arbor-based veterans hospital and impoverished children living in Appalachia may never know it, but they share a group of gift-giving friends right here in Canton.

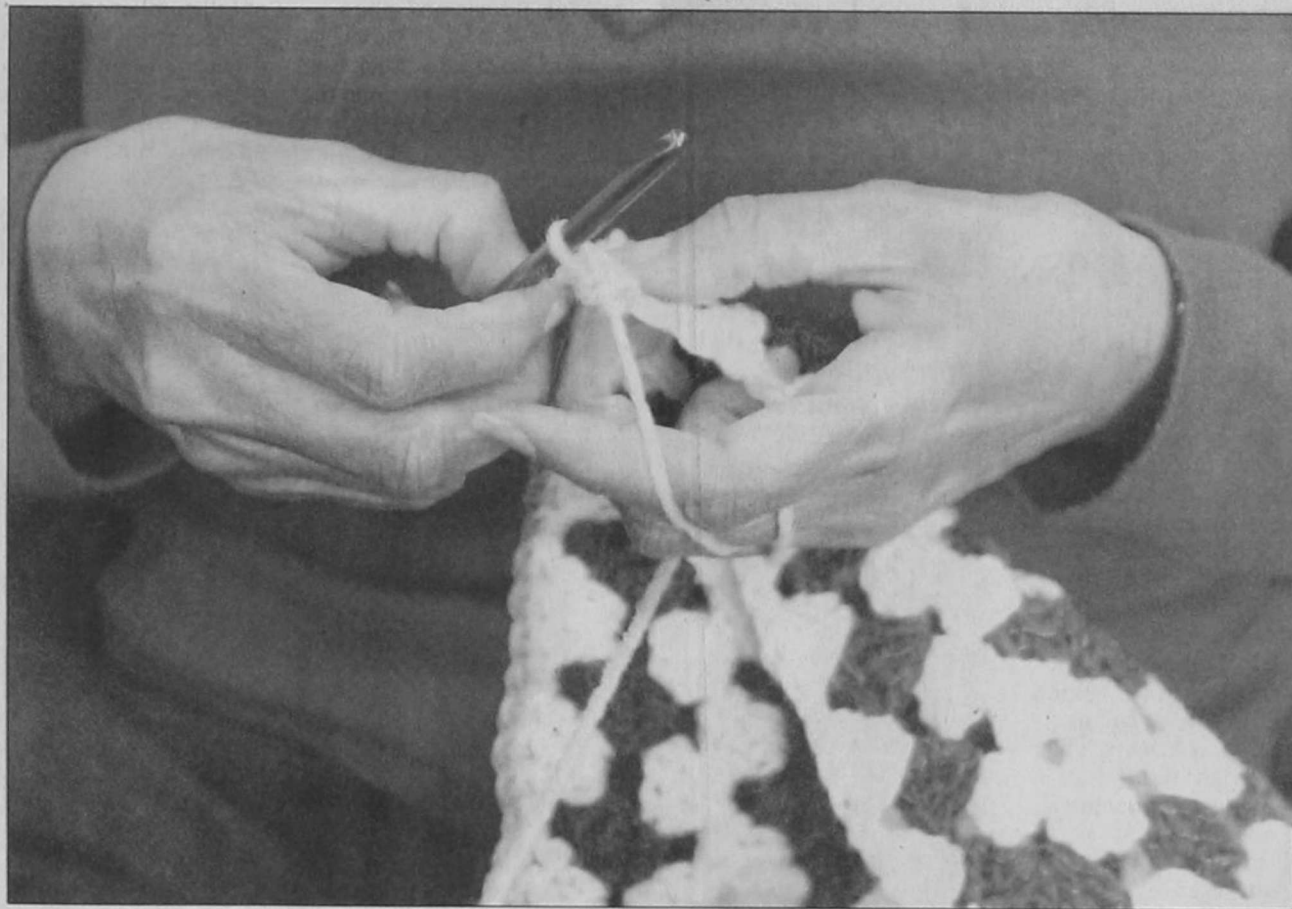
The veterans, along with fellow troops in a Detroit homeless shelter, already have received nearly 100 colorful, handmade afghans to keep them warmer as they rest in bed, along with lap robes to cover their legs as they use their wheelchairs.

Hundreds of miles away, Appalachian children stay warmer in winter after they received hats, mittens and sweaters made by the same group of women who often gather at the Canton Senior Center inside Summit on the Park.

"They're fantastic ladies," said Susan Doughty, Canton Leisure Services senior specialist. "They donate their time, they work hard, they have fun, and I just love them to death."

Kay Micallef, one of the organizers, said the 25-member group formed early last year. They quickly wove their love of crocheting and quilting into a good-deeds project that has made their get-togethers even more meaningful.

"It's like a big family," Micallef said.



Viola Jones works quickly as she makes an afghan that will help someone stay warm.

They send their afghans and lap robes to veterans by Judy Hansel of the Daughters of the American Revolution's Sarah Ann Cochrane

Chapter, which serves the Canton, Plymouth and Novi area.

"It's part of our veterans project," Hansel said. "We've had a lot of

wounded veterans who came back from Iraq and Afghanistan, and they really appreciate the gifts they get."

Some veterans have sent letters by Hansel to the Summit-based women who have painstakingly made the afghans and lap robes.

Phyllis Cable, who attends Resurrection Parish in Canton, became involved with the senior group and, through her church, she helps arrange to send hats, mittens and sweaters to Holy Redeemer Catholic Church in Vanceburg, Ky., which distributes the items to Appalachian children.

The gifts made by the senior women are delivered along with clothing and food donated by local parishioners. Cable said hundreds of school-age children have been helped.

The women who make gifts for veterans and children often buy their own supplies, but they said they would appreciate 8-inch by 8-inch crocheted or knitted squares or four-ply worsted weight yarn to help with their growing project. Micallef said anyone may donate materials at the Canton Senior Center front desk. For more information, call (734) 394-5485.

"They will also take finished afghans," Hansel said.

Cable said those who want information about donating any kind of yarn through the church may call (734) 451-0444.

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Pamela Lemke works on a blanket.



Michele Braidwood crochets squares, Jo Ann Prusit sews the squares into a quilt.

PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



Phyllis Cable (forefront) and Judy Hansel help get blankets and other warm items to those in need.

University presidents hope to lead state's turnaround

BY JILL HALPIN
CORRESPONDENT

Michigan must reinvent itself in order to succeed in the 21st century, and collaboration and innovation will lead the way to success in a global economy.

That was the message delivered by the state's top university officials Monday in Novi.

University of Michigan President Mary Sue Coleman, Michigan State University President Lou Anna Simon and newly appointed Wayne State University President Allan Gilmour joined Mike Finney, CEO of the Michigan Economic Development Corp., and some 100 local business and community leaders to discuss Michigan's future.

The Sheraton in Novi was the site of "Building Businesses and Jobs in Michigan: The Presidents Panel" sponsored by WWJ-AM (950).

"We're not here to talk about how bad the Michigan economy is ... we don't have time for that," Gilmour said. Instead, it's time to focus on accelerating the economy and moving forward, he said.

Harnessing the innovation and talent from Michigan higher education institutions is just one way to do that, said Jeff Mason, executive director of the University Research Corridor, an alliance of U-M, MSU and WSU. Aimed at combining resources and working together to leverage the intellectual capital at the universities and positively impact the state economy, the URC has joined forces to create business engagement centers to encourage entrepreneurship and new enterprise, Mason said.

"These world-class universities are tremendous assets for the state," he added.

The universities are significant drivers of the economy right now and working together to reduce impediments to business for entrepreneurs is vital, said Gilmour, former vice chairman of the Ford Motor Co. Business Engagement Centers created by the universities encourage business growth by offering a variety of services, including marketing and legal advice.



Coleman



Simon



Gilmour



Finney

READY TO HELP

"If you're in business in Michigan, we're ready to help you succeed," Gilmour said, explaining the significance of entrepreneurs having the ability to make the right connections.

Business Engagement Centers such as Ann Arbor Spark and WSU's The Front Door: Tech Town offer those services.

For U-M's Coleman, the focus is on innovation and talent, and the state of Michigan is strong in that area.

A "legacy of the auto industry" is the vast number of highly trained engineers, and the state needs to take advantage of that, she said.

"Within 60 miles of Ann Arbor, there are more per capita engineers than anywhere else in the country," Coleman said, adding, "We have a deep talent pool here and we have to make sure people know about it."

R&D IS KEY

Combining research and development with innovation and talent is another key to Michigan's success in the future, Coleman said. Gilmour agreed.

"The knowledge that comes from research is essential to a dynamic economy," he said.

MSU's Simon explained that budget cuts to higher education proposed by Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder will have a strong impact on research and development, however, universities have already made a big investment in the areas of research and development that will stand.

Simon added that the state of the economy and looming budget cuts are "not a reality we would have chosen."

"The infrastructure is already in place to do innovative work," she added. In addition, the majority of research dollars comes from the federal

government.

There are also federal programs available to help transform R&D products into viable businesses that may offset the budget cuts. Commerce Connect, located in Waterford, offers free assistance in connecting small- and medium-sized business with government service providers. Funded by the U.S. Department of Commerce, Commerce Connect opened a Michigan office in 2009 and "offers assistance in helping generate income, creating jobs and moving business forward," according to Cynthia Slating, commerce specialist and Oakland County resident.

Finney said that despite budget cuts, there are "still many tools available" to move the economy forward. "Innovation will change economic development," he said, citing the shift toward collaboration in research and development.

"Everyone will benefit," he said.

Document locator good gift for loved ones

The ongoing crisis in Japan caused by the earthquake and tsunami, reminds me of the power of Mother Nature. It also reminds me of the Boy Scout motto of "Be Prepared" because we never know what the future will bring.

I recognize that it's impossible to plan for every disaster. However, there are some steps — from a personal financial standpoint — to prepare for an emergency. One step is to prepare a document locator.

It is easy and you don't need a lawyer or a financial advisor. You can easily do it on your own. In addition, it can be as easy as taking pencil to paper. In other words, you don't need to be proficient in technology to have a document locator.

Basically, it is a document that you or your loved ones can access in times of need. It's not during or after a natural disaster when most people will find their document locator most effective.

A document location is most useful when we experience something common to each and every one of us — death.

Ask yourself this question: If something happened and you never make it home today, how easy would it be for your loved ones to access vital information? Where are your important legal docu-



Money Matters
Rick Bloom

ments kept, where are your investments and banking relationships located? Who are your professional advisers? Most of us agree that our families

would have a difficult time finding this information, particularly when they are grieving. A document locator can also save your family a substantial amount of time and aggravation in cases of a family medical emergency.

If you are unable to handle your financial affairs, would your loved ones know whether you have a medical durable power of attorney and if so, where it's located? In times of crisis, making things easier on our families is a true act of love.

You don't need an expensive software program to prepare a document locator. Simply take pencil to paper and list all the professionals you deal with, including attorney, tax adviser, insurance agent and financial adviser. Also list information for investments, bank accounts, credit cards, mortgage and insurance policies. You don't have to list the values of each, just the account numbers and where they are held.

Many people keep their important legal documents in a safety deposit box or a secret place inside their home. Once again, the locator should say where. It's a good idea to have an inventory as to what's in that safety deposit or fire proof box.

My philosophy is, I'd rather have more information on my document locator than less. There are lots of different options available on where to store your document locator. I'm not sure which is the best. The only standard to keep in mind is that your loved ones need access to this document. It may make sense to keep multiple copies — one in your home and one outside.

A document locator is a part of estate planning. And as I've mentioned many times in the past, estate planning is for everyone not just the well-to-do. Therefore, even though the calendar says spring, we all know that Mother Nature has her own calendar. Utilize a not-so-nice Michigan weekend, which we will surely experience in the next month or so, and prepare a document locator.

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.

Canton athlete joins teammates preparing for Special Olympics

As Special Olympics athletes around the world prepare for the largest and most inspiring sporting event of 2011, in less than 100 days, 33-year old David Foust of Canton will be making the trip to Athens, Greece, for Special Olympics World Summer Games ATHENS 2011 to compete in Aquatics.

In order to prepare for global competition, Foust and the rest of Special Olympics Team USA are heading to San Diego State University and nearby venues for a training camp March 27-31.



Canton's David Foust will compete in the aquatics event in the Special Olympics in Athens, Greece, this summer.

Foust has been involved with Special Olympics Michigan since he was in grade school and has participated in bowling, poly hockey, aquatics, softball and basketball. Foust, who works at Holiday Market in Canton as a bagger and in the bottle room, has served as the athlete representative on the Special Olympics Michigan Board of Directors.

Foust has done two Polar Plunges, enjoys reading and talking about television shows and movies.

"It is an honor to be chosen to compete at World Games," Foust said. "It will be very interesting and a chance to meet other athletes from all over the world."

Other athletes and coaches representing Special Olympics Team USA and Michigan include aquatics athlete Sabra Shelton of Stevensville, Molly Hincka of Brighton, aquatics coach Maciej Litkowicz of Clinton Township and golf coach Deb Schultz of Midland.

For Special Olympics Team USA, consisting of 317 athletes and 126 coaches, including management team members, this training camp is the first time many of the Special Olympics athletes will unite with their Special Olympics World Summer Games coach and other athletes from all over the nation who will be joining them on their trip to Athens. The camp will offer a variety of coaches meetings and sport-specific training for athletes in athletics, aquatics, basketball, bocce, bowling, bicycling, equestrian, golf, gymnastics, kayaking, powerlifting, sailing, soccer, softball, tennis and volleyball.

Special Olympics athletes and coaches will participate in a variety of unifying and team-building activities during their time in San Diego. Featured events for the camp include an Opening Ceremony featuring Olympic decathlete and founder of Special Olympics Southern California Rafer Johnson and Closing Ceremony/Greek Night featuring Olympic softball player Amanda Freed. Also during camp, athletes from Special Olympics Team USA will be fitted for their uniforms and have sport-specific photos taken.

For more information on Special Olympics Team USA, visit <http://www.specialolympicsteamusa.org> or find additional information at the Special Olympics World Summer Games official website: <http://www.athens2011.org/en/index.asp>.



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IT'S YOUR BUSINESS Q&A

Music academy helps get students in tune

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

Axis: Lessons for guitar, bass, drums, piano, voice and more. Full-scale classes, private lessons, tech in logic, final cut and pro tools.

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

Axis: Community demand.

Observer: Why did you choose Canton?

Axis: Great community.

Observer: What makes your business unique?

Axis: Professional, modern, standardized and FUN!

Observer: How has it changed since you opened?

Axis: Improved, partnered with Canton Leisure Services.

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

Axis: There are many stories. Learn to rock with Axis!

Observer: How has the recent economy affected your business?

Axis: We reinvented ourselves with a new business system.

Observer: Any advice for other business owners?

Axis: Focus, learn and succeed.

Observer: What's in store for the future of your business?

Axis: Many growth opportunities.



Founder and CEO John Antone opened Axis Music Academy on Ford Road in Canton in 2004.

AXIS MUSIC ACADEMY

Business name and address: Axis Music Academy, 42114 Ford Road, Canton

Your name and title: John Antone, founder and CEO

Your hometown: Royal Oak

Business opened: 2004

Number of Employees: 16

Hours of operation: Monday-Thursday, noon to 9 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Your business specialty: Music instruction; modern music lessons and classes

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How to back up your electronics, data

BY JON GUNNELLS
GUEST COLUMNIST

Last month, users of Google's popular e-mail system, gmail, experienced a service interruption. For one weekend — and, in some cases, longer than that — users lost e-mails saved in their inboxes, sent folders and more.

The service disruption came as a wakeup call to gmail users, many of whom use the reliable service as a filing cabinet for important communication and documents.

Although only a small number of users were impacted by the snafu, the loss of service for even one weekend served as a reminder that not even technology giant Google is perfect. Computer and smartphone users should regularly back up their information.

Here are a few inexpensive ways to keep your documents, e-mails, even multimedia safe and secure:

- **E-mail backup:** There are countless websites and programs that can help you back up the entire contents of your e-mail account, but none may be easier than Mozilla Thunderbird. In less than five minutes, users can configure Thunderbird to back up their gmail, hotmail or other e-mail accounts. The system essentially duplicates each file in your e-mail account, storing it in a secondary location. If your e-mail host goes down like gmail did, your files will still be available.

- **Google storage:** If you already use gmail and Google docs, Google storage is another option to store your larger files or large collections of files. Google offers 20GB of storage for \$5 per year up to 1TB



Biz Tech

Jon Gunnells

of storage for \$256 per year. I wouldn't suggest storing 1TB worth of your life's collection of music, video and tax returns solely on Google, but the site does provide some piece

of mind in case your computer and or external hard drive goes down.

- **External hard drives:** You may already have one and, if not, you've likely heard of them. External hard drives are a terrific storage option for computer users who have multiple computers, or users who require more space than is available on their laptop. CNet.com offers comprehensive reviews for the best and worst external hard drives of all sizes. Don't have the money to purchase an external hard drive? You might already have one and not realize it. You know that expensive XBOX 360 or PS3 that you have lying around? It has plenty of storage — the PS3, for example, can have 250GB of storage per unit or more. It's not the most ideal place to store your music or video, especially if you only use it for gaming — but it is an economical option.

- **DVDs, USB drives:** If you only have a few files to save, burning them to a DVD or saving them to a USB drive are other options. Both types of storage are cheap and you can always save multiple copies of what you need on multiple USB devices or DVDs.

- **Dropbox.com:** Another online storage site that is ideal for storing files that are shared between

non-networked computers or shared between multiple users. With dropbox.com you can save, share and sync all of your folders. Dropbox.com and other online storage sites are ideal for, say, storing things between a work and personal computer.

- **Backing up your Smartphone:** While just about everyone knows about their phones removable storage (mini SD cards, or SD cards), do they actually back it up? Or do they complain about the difficulty of re-entering new numbers and downloading new apps when they get a new phone to replace the old one they dropped in the toilet? Transfer your phone book and other secure information to your computer in case it ever breaks, gets lost or ends up in a body of water. From there you can even store it on a USB drive, an external hard drive, with Google or anywhere you please. For apps, Blackberry even offers a site that keeps tracks of what you've downloaded and purchased in case you lose the copy on your phone. You can find out more at Blackberryappworld.com

Of course there are many other ways to secure your data and information. As long as you are using at least one information backup method, you won't have any problems the next time gmail crashes or you accidentally drop your computer down a flight of stairs.

Jon Gunnells, a Northville Township resident, is a social media planner at a Detroit-based advertising agency. A 2007 graduate of Michigan State University, he holds a B.A. in journalism. He can be reached at jonathan.gunnells@gmail.com. Follow him on Twitter @thegunnsDw.

Partners bring new bagel shop to Canton

Business partners Dennis Griffin and Glenn Nenninger last week introduced Big Apple Bagels to Canton. The restaurant is located at 302 Canton Center.

The new Big Apple Bagels, located in Isabella's Plaza on the northeast corner of Canton Center and Cherry Hill, will be open 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. seven days a week and will initially employ 10 people to support its in-store and catering operations. Uniquely different than other places, Big Apple Bagels makes their bagels and gourmet muffins from scratch daily. The Big Apple Bagels menu spans breakfast sandwiches, gourmet sandwiches, specialty coffees, and smoothies. Walk-ins, phone orders, and fax orders are welcome, and catering is available for breakfast and lunch items.

Griffin and Nenninger are life-long Michigan residents and have been best friends since high school. Griffin, who resides with his wife and children in Dearborn, explained why he and Nenninger were so determined to open a Big Apple Bagels in Canton. "Glenn and I have been investigating business franchise opportunities for many years," he said. "Both of us have strong sales and marketing



Glenn Nenninger (left) and Dennis Griffin are looking forward to welcoming patrons to their new Big Apple Bagels restaurant at 302 Canton Center in Canton.

backgrounds, so we were really tuned into finding a solid brand and high-quality products, with great growth potential. Our location in Canton has proven to be very successful for small entrepreneurial eateries and businesses."

Nenninger, who lives with his wife and children in Livonia, talked about the company's product line and branding success. "We've been so impressed with the success Big Apple Bagels has had with strategically employing three-way branding of the cafes' high-quality offerings—Big Apple Bagels," Nenninger said, "The bagels, muffins, and cof-

fees are strongly established and have been gathering a dedicated following for almost twenty years."

Customers can follow the store on Facebook at facebook.com/BigAppleBagels.Canton.MI

The Canton store is the 30th Big Apple Bagels restaurant to locate in Michigan, but only one of a handful in the Detroit metropolitan area. Griffin, who was previously employed at Team Detroit, and Nenninger, who ran Impatto Custom Marketing in Southfield, have both left their previous companies to put total focus on the success of their new Big Apple Bagels restaurant.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Law leader

Lawrence G. Almeda, a shareholder in the Ann Arbor office of Brinks Hofer Gilson & Lione, one of the largest intellectual property law firms in the U.S., has been named one of Michigan's 25 Leaders in the Law by the legal trade publication Michigan Lawyers Weekly. Almeda, a Canton resident, and his fellow honorees from throughout the state's legal community were celebrated at a recent awards luncheon at the Marriott in Troy.

Almeda, who was a chemical engineer prior to becoming an intellectual property attorney, chairs Brinks' Nanotechnology Group. Brinks Nanotechnology Group helps clients, including Michigan and nationally based



Almeda

FORTUNE 500 companies, academic institutions and small tech start-ups, create, protect and commercialize their innovation. Almeda

also focuses on patent opinions and prosecution in the medical, chemical and mechanical arts and his practice has an emphasis on medical devices, nanomaterials, micro and nanodevices, petroleum and chemical processes, polymers, fuel cells, hybrid engines and polycarbonate glazing systems.

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.

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. Co-chairs 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.

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Public urged to participate in redistricting process

BY KEN ABRAMCZYK
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

With population losses in Detroit and Michigan, Michigan residents can expect to lose one member of the U.S. House of Representatives because the state will lose one Congressional district. Michigan residents can expect new districts to be drawn for the U.S. House, state House and Senate and county commission seats this year now that the official Census figures are out.

Organizers of the Michigan Redistricting Collaborative want to educate voters about the redrawing of the new districts. The collaborative hosted a forum last week at Schoolcraft College in Livonia to inform residents about redistricting laws and how to make the redistricting process more responsive to citizens.

The collaborative is a coalition of nonprofit organizations including the Michigan Nonprofit Association, Common Cause Michigan, the League of Women Voters of Michigan, the Michigan Campaign Finance Network and The Center for Michigan.



Samantha Talbot of Plymouth talks with Jeremy Moss of Southfield.

PHOTOS BY JOHN STORMZAND | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

through grants from The Skilman Foundation and the Kresge Foundation, said Michigan was the only state to lose population in the 2010 Census. That population loss means that Michigan will lose one House seat, falling to 14 seats in the U.S. House of Representatives. In 1950, that number grew to 18.

"We'll have the fewest representatives in the state since 1920," Metzger said.

Other states are either gaining more residents through domestic migration or immigration. Illinois lost more residents than Michigan to domestic migration, but received an influx of immigrants to offset that loss.

Metzger found that Michigan also suffered a net loss of residents to each state when domestic migration was measured between each state, except for Maine. Eight more residents moved to Michigan from Maine than those who moved to Maine from Michigan.

WAYNE COUNTY IS LOSS LEADER

Other population shifts were highlighted by Metzger:

- In Oakland County, the population grew by 110,000 between 1990 and 2000, but in 2010 it grew only by 12,000.
- Wayne County not only leads Michigan in popula-

tion loss, it leads the entire nation. The county is expected to show a loss of 151,402 residents between 2000 and 2010.



Christina Kuo of Common Cause Michigan and Kurt Metzger of Data Driven Detroit discuss issues at the redistricting discussion held at Schoolcraft College.

tion loss, it leads the entire nation. The county is expected to show a loss of 151,402 residents between 2000 and 2010.

•With Detroit losing residents, it is expected that districts currently in Detroit will be redrawn southward and

westward.

Michael McDonald, an associate professor of government and politics at George Mason University, directs the Midwest Mapping Project, which examined the political and racial consequences of applying redistricting criteria to Congressional and state legislative districts in Illinois, Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin. The project used 2000 population data to draw test plans, then evaluated them using presidential election data from that same year.

McDonald said drawing "nicely shaped" districts was difficult, if not impossible, because equal population sized districts cannot be equal geographically-sized. "It is difficult to piece together geographically smaller urban districts with progressively geographically larger suburban rural districts," he said.

Three of four types of congressional test maps favored the Democrats. All eight state Senate and state House types of maps favored the Republicans.

A key to fair redistricting is how to "unpack" the concentration of Democrats living in Wayne County. "Mapping scenarios that respected county boundaries were among those consistently most favorable to Republicans," McDonald said.

NEUTRAL CRITERIA ISN'T NEUTRAL

Following county lines works against minority representation in the state legislature, McDonald said. With the 2000 data, it was possible to draw two additional African-American state Senate districts and 11 additional African-American state House districts by drawing districts resembling the spokes of a wheel. McDonald said it may not be possible to draw those same districts using the 2010 data.

"These neutral criteria are not neutral," McDonald said. "They have political consequences; they have racial consequences."

Christina Kuo, executive director of Common Cause, said the collaborative's goal was to educate the public about the redistricting process. "We're calling for more transparency," Kuo said.

Kuo would like to see redistricting maps placed into the legislation that creates the new districts. Texas and Minnesota are the only states that do that currently, she said.

The process also needs reform, she said. More details to explain redistricting plans need to be revealed. "We need to find out and get an explanation (from lawmakers) on why did you pick this plan. We want something detailed to explain why you split counties," Kuo said.

Transparency and openness will be the big push for the collaborative, Kuo said.

Joan Gebhardt, a member of the League of Women Voters and county commissioner representing Livonia and Westland, said the league works to educate voters and redistricting was one of those issues. "People don't realize the importance of the Census," Gebhardt said, in reference to the Census impact on the new districts.

Gebhardt expects that Livonia will be an interesting district because it is one of Wayne County's largest cities besides Detroit. She was uncertain as to what that might mean for her district, which includes a southern portion of Livonia and the city of Westland.

"Detroit lost so much that (the districts) will be pushed out west, north and south," Gebhardt said. It is possible that districts containing Canton and Northville Township will shrink in size because those communities may have experienced population growth.

"What that means for people in the middle, I don't know," Gebhardt said.

Samantha Talbot, a Plymouth resident and a district director for State Rep. Vicki Barnett, D-Farmington Hills, said she attended to obtain a better understanding of the redistricting process. "I think it's important for everyone to know how it works," Talbot said.

Rosemary Doyle, a member of the League of Women Voters, said she attended to learn more about the process. "I wanted to educate myself and be an educated person," Doyle said.

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'ONLY BITE AT THE APPLE'

Often redistricting depends on the political parties in power, some officials say.

"If there is no partisan balance in the legislature, there is no partisan balance in redistricting," said Keesha Gaskins, senior counsel for the Brennan Center for Justice in New York.

Gaskins said it was important for the public to get involved because this year's redistricting is the "only bite at the apple" for another 10 years.

For citizens to have input, they must have access to software to draft maps, contact local newspapers and testify before lawmakers. "They need to say, 'These are the communities where we live, this is what we care about, and this is what is important to us,'" Gaskins said.

Virginia Martinez, legislative staff attorney for the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund in Chicago, said minority representation can be diluted by drawing a line down the middle of an old district, which is called "cracking."

"Or they 'pack' them so they are in one or two districts when there could have been three or four," Martinez said.

Kurt Metzger, director of Data Driven Detroit, a nonprofit established in 2009

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OUR VIEWS

Let 'em hear Write letters to share budget pain with Lansing

It's a request that's been made many times over the past decade. Plymouth-Canton school officials have frequently urged residents to write lawmakers to let them know the district needs their financial support. It's happened so many times state lawmakers may recognize the return address.

"Oh, it's those folks from Plymouth-Canton again."
"Yeah, it's us and we have a message: Our schools are broken because of your decisions. We can no longer afford to offer a first-class educational program with third-class funding."
For several years, we've heard from Lansing that we need a highly skilled, well-educated workforce to compete in the 21st century, and Plymouth-Canton's 1,100 teachers are perfectly capable of doing just that.

But the 21st century education school districts provide isn't receiving 21st century funding. School districts have been short-changed and as of last year have seen tax dollars set aside for K-12 funding siphoned off to support higher education.

We have heard a lot about how ill-prepared students are who go to college and their need for remedial education, but as we said, it's hard to do more with less. Giving students 21st century technology to learn on costs money, money that isn't flowing from the state to the schools.

In recent weeks, Plymouth-Canton officials have joined the growing list of school district representatives again reminding people the best way to affect what's going on in Lansing is to let those in Lansing know how upset they are. Gov. Rick Snyder's proposed budget is devastating at best, they feel. The cuts in school aid in Plymouth-Canton total \$470 per student. The loss of that funding is largely responsible for the district's projected \$17 million deficit.

The first decade of the 21st century hasn't been an easy one for public education; the second decade is shaping up to be even worse.

Lawmakers and the governor must be told what the impact could be on the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools, if the governor's budget proposal is approved as proposed. We believe the letter writing needs to include more than adults. The students of this district will be impacted directly by what happens. State officials need to hear what they have to say from the simple words of a first-grader to the eloquent writing of a high school senior.

We urge all residents, young and old alike, to write letters ... lots of letters. Let Lansing know their decisions are not in the best interest of Plymouth-Canton students and, for that matter, any K-12 student in this state. Without adequate support, our students will fall behind academically and the reinventing of Michigan economically won't happen.

Encourage love for books

*"You may have tangible wealth untold:
Caskets of jewels and coffers of gold.
Richer than I you can never be -
I had a Mother who read to me."
- from "The Reading Mother" by Strickland Gillilan*

Have you read to a child today?

Plymouth-Canton's public and parochial schools are observing March Is Reading Month by inviting in celebrity readers, tracking the number of minutes students read and celebrating Dr. Seuss's birthday, among other activities.

Study after study has shown the importance of reading to success in school so it's no wonder schools devote an entire month to go above and beyond what they normally do to motivate children to read.

But like almost everything else in life, the example set at home makes an even greater impact.

If you want your child or grandchild to learn how to read well and develop a love for books, you need to read to him or her regularly.

Not only will it help him or her be successful in school, there is nothing quite like the bonding experience that takes place when holding a child on your lap and reading to him or her.

You also need to model reading yourself. You may do a lot of reading for work - e-mails, reports, etc. - but when was the last time you read a book for pleasure and let your child or grandchild see you do it?

Even if you don't have young children at home or grandchildren nearby, you can help foster a love of reading in children.

You can do that by donating gently used books for children, teens and young adults that you no longer have use for to the local library. The library accepts donations of books on an ongoing basis for the Friends of the Library to sell at used book sales three times a year. Parents can purchase books inexpensively to build their children's libraries at home, and the proceeds from the sales go into new materials for the library to circulate.

You can volunteer to tutor a child or adult in reading.

You can attend the Michigan Spring Book Festival April 15-17 at Laurel Park Place mall in Livonia, co-sponsored by the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. The event is aimed at encouraging students to read at least two books per week. Along with writers selling and signing books, there will be several celebrity authors who will speak on the topic of helping youth to overcome adversity by reading and reading often.

Think about what it is you can do to encourage a child to read and then do it - not just during March but every month of the year.

COMMUNITY VOICE

How do you think Gov. Rick Snyder is doing so far?

We asked this question at the Canton Public Library.



"I'm hoping he doesn't get rid of the film incentives. I think we need all the jobs we can get."

Lynn Parks
Canton



"I haven't looked into it that much. It takes a lot of time to get things done in politics. It takes more than a couple months."

Matt Lewis
Canton



"I think it's too early to say anything."

Leonard E. Wegrzyn
Canton



"I think he's doing alright as far as I know."

Kenneth Isiac
Canton

LETTERS



Words still relevant

I was looking over some old photos and newspaper clippings from my childhood in Nashville, TN, when I found the attached copy of "The Metropolitan" - a newsletter from the Metro Government of Nashville - from May of 1964.

We saved it because my mother, Mary Hinkle, was one of the School Mother Patrol Women on the front page. But on page 2 there is an excellent opinion piece written by Nashville's Mayor Beverly Briley entitled "We Depend On LAW."

This short article really sums up what it means to be a citizen of the United States. Almost 50 years later, these words are still completely relevant.

Pamela Erdelen
Canton

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.

Colbeck supports business

On Wednesday, March 9, at the Senate's Committee on Reforms, Restructuring and Reinventing, Sen. Patrick Colbeck supported Senate Bill 165, which eliminates union-only project labor agreements on publicly funded governmental construction projects. Project labor agreements force non-union workers and firms to adhere to collective bargaining agreements and thus discourage them from bidding on these projects.

Eliminating project labor agreements simply opens up the bidding process to all qualified workers and firms, regardless of labor affiliation. Opening up the bidding process results in increased competition which leads to decrease in cost.

During the 2010 general election, two of Sen. Colbeck's biggest platforms were lowering costs to taxpayers and creating job opportunities for Michigan residents. His support of Senate Bill 165 ensures both of these things. Increasing competition in governmental construction will ensure that

taxpayer dollars are spent responsibly and that all workers in Michigan have the opportunity to be able to work on projects funded by their own tax dollars.

As a contractor in Michigan, I would like to commend Sen. Colbeck on his support for Senate Bill 165. Senator Colbeck is supporting policies that will help local businesses by breaking down barriers to job opportunities for local construction and trade workers, reducing construction costs, and saving taxpayer dollars.

Douglas Cryderman
Grosse Ile

Making unpopular choices

Janusz M. Szyszko hits the nail on the head for me in the letter written on March 17.

Especially "... but I am disheartened by all the voices crying for change as long as it doesn't affect them." Our new governor has only been in office three months and is already being raked over the coals. If we are ever to have a chance of getting past this mess, we must ALL be affected. We gave the last governor a second term (chance), way more than she deserved.

Someone has to make some unpopular, but necessary choices, and everyone gets in a tizzy. The more things change, the more they stay the same in this state. Public employees at all levels must get into the 20th century, or they will be out of a job.

Public employees need to contribute their own funds for their retirement. They also need to start contributing to their health care. I am not saying 100 percent, just a contribution like most average American middle class workers have been doing the past 20 years, and me and my wife personally, for our whole careers.

Steve Bracey
Plymouth Township

STAFF COLUMN

Rain is pouring as Plymouth-Canton school district fights budget battle

Mike Maloney and Mark Horvath are right.

The \$17 million deficit facing the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools is a problem that needs to be faced with a sense of urgency, as both former school board presidents pointed out at recent Board of Education meetings.

You can decide whether administrators and school board members are moving with the proper degree of alacrity. You can also decide whether you think Maloney and Horvath are right about one other thing: Whether the board is abdicating its responsibility to the budget to the administration.

I respect the opinions of both Horvath and Maloney, because they earned that by serving in what (in my humble opinion) is the most ignominious job in public service. I even agree with them on the sense of urgency thing, although I respectfully disagree with them on the abdication thing. In every school district I've covered, this is how they do it: The administration comes up with the budget, and the recommendations for

cuts, etc., and then the school board makes the decisions. School board members can't be expected to have the level of knowledge about the inner workings of the district that administrators provide.

And Steven Sneiderman's concern about getting the public involved is a legitimate one; Wednesday's public presentation was a good step in that direction. District officials say there wasn't need to convene more public panels, as was done for last year's budget, because many of the recommendations made by the district's budget committee came from lists garnered last year.

But the real truth is, none of that's going to matter. If Gov. Rick Snyder's proposal to slash a total of \$470 from per-pupil funding goes through, big changes are coming. Closing an elementary school isn't going to do it.

Moving Starkweather isn't going to do it. Cutting the TAG program isn't going to cut it (and don't worry, they aren't going to cut it). Truth be told, all of the recommendations made by the budget committee put together doesn't come close to \$17 million. Theoretically, board members only need to cut about \$7 million or \$8 million from the budget, because the fund balance is pro-

jected to have some \$11 million by the end of the school year.

The problem is, it's never been quite this rainy for school districts. And Maloney was right last week when he pointed out where the big cuts were going to come from: Teachers.

Parents in this school district should get used to the idea there are going to be many fewer teachers next year than the 1,100 the district now employs. The annual ritual of handing out pink slips will go on in April as always. The difference this year is this: The annual ritual of bringing nearly all of them back won't. It's just a prediction, based on observation, but I'm pretty sure it's true.

If you want that not to be the case, you've got your chance to change it. You had a chance at Wednesday's public meeting, and you'll have other chances as the district moves toward its June deadline to pass a budget.

Take advantage of it, and see what you can do to make the rain stop.

Brad Kadrich is editor of the Plymouth and Canton Observers. He can be reached at (313) 222-8899 or via e-mail at bkadrich@hometownlife.com.

Clancy, we miss you very much

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
GUEST COLUMNIST

It's been three weeks since Clancy Callahan, our Irish wolfhound, died. My sister Gwen and I are devastated. He left extra-large paw prints across our hearts. Clancy gave endless love. In dark times when I was laid off from my job, Clancy was there to bring light, hope and happiness. He was an amazing pup and we had been through so much together.

Clancy was born Sept. 19, 2005, with a severe overbite that required extensive dental work during his first year of life. Clancy wasn't fond of seeing the doggie dentist in Dixboro, but tolerated him. Clancy never cared much for obedience school, either, but was a trooper. At four months of age, we started working with the first of three trainers. After successfully completing our six weeks of basic training in Belleville, Gwen and I realized we wanted to continue classes. It was a bonding experience with our big blond boy and we didn't want to give that up.

Next it was on to the K9 Academy in Wayne, where he trotted perfectly in the ring. The problem arose out in the real world. Clancy would see our neighbors, Chris and Rita, and take off without looking back. He was more than 115 pounds at this point and we were no match at the other end of the leash. When he wanted to run somewhere, he went.

We did pass our AKC Canine Good Citizenship exam at the academy and even learned to watch our manners around wheelchairs and IV poles so we could eventually become a therapy dog. Something had to be done, though, about behaving in the real world.

That's when Bonny Wainz of Alternative Canine Training entered our lives. She was used to dealing with behavior problems. Bonny came to our home in Canton and worked with the three of us. Chris and Rita served as decoys as we walked past their house and through the neighborhood. Clancy was a perfect gentleman as he strolled by, his head high in the air trying to sneak a peak at them — but he didn't bolt.

TRAINING SUCCESS

Finally, all of the training paid off. We were able to play with Clancy in our unfenced 1½ acres without him racing next door to visit Chris and Rita. Bonny also worked with us to stop Clancy from "counter surfing." He was just the right height to snatch broccoli and whatever else was on the top of the cupboard as we prepared dinner. Clancy could get snippy if you tried to take food away from him and Bonny helped with this, too.

The three of us eventually were all trained when tragedy struck. Clancy was diagnosed with bone cancer June 14, 2010. Over the weekend he hit his leg on the glider and started limping, so Monday morning we went to see Dr. Kevin Roose, a veterinarian, in downtown Plymouth. It was from him we learned our Clancy would probably never turn 5.

Cancer is still a killer of dogs. Although there have been advances in veterinary medicine since Chopin — our first Irish wolfhound — died of osteosarcoma in 1989, certain types of cancer remain swift and deadly. Amputation and chemotherapy are the traditional options with no guarantee and a high percentage of likelihood that after surgery Clancy would live only a few months. Some 99 percent of the time, the cancer reoccurs in another part of the body.

ALTERNATIVE THERAPY

Dr. Roose suggested we call Dr. Heidi Mier in Dixboro. She had extended the life of another dog with cancer and



Irish wolfhound Clancy Callahan left extra-large paw prints across his owners' hearts.

on our way out we spoke with Brook, her owner. She gave us hope that maybe he could live another year. Clancy had seen Dr. Mier when she was in practice with Dr. Roose. Dr. Mier had returned to school to study Eastern medicine and used Chinese herbs and acupuncture to treat dogs and cats not helped by conventional treatment. We chose a combination of alternative and traditional so Clancy could live out his days happily running, playing and eating like a little horse. And he did. We had so much fun. That's one of the reasons it is so difficult now. Every day is a struggle since Clancy died in his sleep Feb. 23. Only six days earlier, Clancy wasn't limping or showing any sign of pain. We were told the cancer wasn't growing as fast it had been. We took him home that night, but were back the next day and our happy lives ended.

We'll never know exactly why Clancy died. It really doesn't matter. He's not suffering. We don't know how much pain he was in because he never let on. All we know for sure is that we tried to give Clancy the best life possible. He taught us a lesson everyone should learn — to live every day to the fullest and to love each other.

Linda Ann Chomin is a free-lance writer and frequent contributor to the Observer Newspapers. A former staff member, she has written many columns about Clancy since he became a member of the family in December 2005. She lives in Canton Township.

Local students win math scholarships

Several Plymouth-Canton area students were among the winners in the 54th Michigan Mathematics Prize Competition sponsored by the Michigan Section of the Mathematics Association of America.

Among the winners were Canton High School student Bryant Chen, awarded a \$250 scholarship; ICAE student Ankan Bhattacharya, who earned a \$250 scholarship; Salem High School student Peter Su won \$1,500, while fellow Rocks Natasha Consul and

Scott Su each received a \$250 scholarship.

More than \$20,000 in scholarships, ranging from \$250 to \$2,500, is awarded each year. Students take a two-part examination from topics in high school mathematics. Part One consists of 40 multiple-choice questions. This year approximately 10,000 students registered to participate in Part I. The highest 1,000 scores from Part I are then invited to participate in Part II of the competition.

Here students work on five

challenging problems and write their solutions providing full justification and proofs of their claims. These are hand graded by college professors and professional mathematicians. The top 100 students are honored.

Corporations and foundations that have helped fund the scholarships, book awards, and examination administration include Pearson Publishing Company, Saginaw Valley University Bookstore and Colleges and Universities throughout the state of Michigan.

Authors invited to learn business side of writing

The Authors Networking Summit will be held in conjunction with the Michigan Spring Book Festival April 15-17 at Laurel Park Place mall in Livonia.

More than 100 authors and book club members are expected to attend the summit, hosted by The Master Communicator and Associates, a Houston-based company.

The keynote speaker for the summit will be Ladell Graham, founder and builder of Smith Graham & Co., a fixed-income management company with more than \$2.5 billion in assets. He served as president and chief

investment officer of the company, which had a list of clients from the "Who's Who" of the nation's top corporations and municipalities during his tenure. He will be speaking on "The Millionaire Journey."

The summit, "Authorpreneurship," is designed to meet the needs of aspiring authors on the fast track and seasoned authors who want to excel in the business side of writing. The workshops include such topics as: Networking for Authors, Get Off The Pot! How to Stop Procrastinating and Write Your Bestseller in 90

Days, Freelance Writing 101, The Business of Being an Authorpreneur, and Make Money to Make Money. The highlight of the summit will be the Authors Speed Networking Session where authors will spend some face-to-face time with experienced professionals in the writing industry and the Inspirational Writers Breakfast, which will feature Pam Perry, a Michigan native. Sylvia Hubbard, a literary guru, will also be facilitating the Book Club Panel on Sunday.

For more information, go to www.authornetworking-summit.com.

AAUW hosts spring luncheon at Fiamma

Members and friends are invited to The American Association of University Women's spring luncheon, which will be held at Fiamma Grille on April 9, from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

After lunch, participants will be entertained by the Kish Celtic Band.

Entrees include Norwegian

Salmon, Citrus Chicken, and Grilled Vegetable Salad. Included in the meal is desert, bread and butter, salad, coffee, tea and soft drinks. A cash bar will be available. Cost is \$25 per person.

Fiamma Grille is located at 380 S. Main in Plymouth. To make a reservation, contact Shirley Zaetta at (734) 455-

6366 or szaetta@wowway.com. Reservations and checks must be mailed by Saturday April 2.

AAUW is open to all those interested in advancing equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research. Visitors are always welcome.

AAUW hosts prom dress sale April 10-11

The Plymouth-Canton Branch, American Association of University Women, will hold a Prom Dress Sale noon to 4 p.m. Sunday, April 10, and 6-8 p.m. Monday, April 11, at Memorial Elementary School,

30001 Marquette, between Henry Ruff and Middlebelt in Garden City.

"It's girls wanting to share their dresses with other girls," said Shirley Zaetta of AAUW, noting the effort began to help

girls in need. The branch has collected over 100 dresses. "They are in terrific condition," Zaetta said. You may e-mail Zaetta at szaetta@wowway.com for additional information.

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Retired general paves path for military women

BY JOANNE MALISZEWSKI
CORRESPONDENT

Veterans' tales told by her father and grandfather helped set the stage for a 34-year military career capped as Michigan's first woman brigadier general.

Retired earlier this year, Carol Ann Fausone of Canton remains humble and introspective about the 2002 promotion that elevated her to a rank shared by only a handful of women.

But don't expect a hardened soldier. Fausone paved a successful path for women – and men as well – in the military and in her nursing career with a legacy of integrity, leadership and, above all, kindness and humanity.

"Carol Ann's nature is to care for individuals and their well-being, whether as a nurse or as a commanding officer," said her husband Jim Fausone, an attorney who works with veterans at Northville-based Fausone Bohn, LLC. "I believe it is that fundamental trait that led her to rise to the rank of general and to be an officer who the troops were willing to follow. She always understood leadership is not about rank or position, but how you treat people."

Despite a rich resume of accomplishments, Fausone's sense of her place in the world is humbling and inspiring. "It was such a great honor. When I see the flag flying, I am so proud to have served my country," said Carol Fausone.

Fausone's success has its roots in motivation and dedication. Beginning with her father and grandfather's stories, the Ohio native knew the military was for her. Tradition, service and commitment to her family, her country and her



Retired Air Force Brig. Gen. Carol Fausone was Michigan's first female general.

profession have long been her guideposts.

Two years after Fausone graduated from the University of Michigan with a degree in nursing, she received her commission in the U.S. Air Force as a medical officer.

DESIRE TO SERVE

"I just had this yearning. I wanted to serve my country and being a nurse was great," Carol Fausone said.

She had considered the U.S. Navy, but decided the Air Force would give her a greater chance to serve on missions. And it did. Her career has taken her halfway around the world and back. Among her stops were Korea, Honduras, Italy, Germany and the Balkan states.

Her first active-duty assignment was at Fairchild Air Force Base Hospital in Spokane, Wash. As a commissioned officer, she climbed the ranks beginning as a clinic nurse, nursing service coordinator and finally as a nursing education director.

When her active duty service was complete in 1981, Fausone

and her husband returned to Michigan where she joined the Michigan Air National Guard assigned to Selfridge Air National Guard Base.

In 1995, Fausone was selected as the Medical Commander in the 110th Medical Squadron Air National Guard in Battle Creek. Her career includes work at Langley Air Force Base in Virginia as liaison between the Air National Guard and the Air Combat Command for which she provided guidance for medical training, policies and programs. By 2001, she was the assistant to the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs, Force Health Protection & Readiness.

CIVILIAN LIFE

In her civilian life, Fausone's educational career also grew with two masters of sciences degrees, one in nursing, another in administration, both from Madonna University in Livonia. Her military education followed suit and she completed Air War College, Air Command and Staff College and Squadron Officers School.

When appointed brigadier general in 2002, Fausone was the director of nursing for St. Mary Mercy Hospital in Livonia. By 2003, she became the Assistant Adjutant General for Veterans Affairs in the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs in Michigan following her passion representing veterans, and soldiers in all branches of the service, including the Coast Guard.

Policy matters and procedures were a part of her job. But her work was always about the people.

As the stars of a general

were pinned on her shoulders in 2002, Fausone credited her family, colleagues and friends for her success. Anyone who speaks with Fausone even for a short time, must suspect she recalls the names and stories of each person she has ever encountered.

"I followed the values of my mom and dad. You have to be kind to people. You have to work hard. And you have to treat people in the way you want to be treated," she said.

Fausone has maintained consistency in the values that drive her. Accountability and integrity are among her life standards, as is "service above self." Her role in the military was always clear: "It was to take care of our American heroes, those on active duty, in the Guard and our veterans."

Only one list is longer than her resume. It's the names of

the people she helped, mentored or cared for throughout her career. When the news of her recent retirement as brigadier general spread, letters and phone calls poured in.

U.S. Air Force Capt. Michelle Ruehl, who is stationed at the Air Force Academy in Colorado, offered her thanks. "Just as you taught me, I try to inspire young men and women to be relentless in pursuit of their dreams. A young cadet in my classroom may become the future Air Force Chief of Staff – not because I encouraged her, but because you first encouraged me."

Ruehl also captured Fausone's humility. When she moved out of her academy dorm room, a horrified, Ruehl watched as the brigadier general in full dress uniform grabbed the cadet's suitcase

and headed for the elevator. Fausone's response: "There's work to be done. I'm perfectly capable of carrying this suitcase."

Retirement won't stop Fausone. She continues to serve on the University of Michigan School of Nursing Advisory Board, the Madonna Foundation Board and Michigan Paralyzed Veterans of America Advisory Board. "I stay organized. You have to have a management tool box. If I am going to do something, I am going to do it to the best of my ability."

And her mission remains the same. Fausone will continue to help men and women who want a career in the military, and family and friends will always remain a priority. "I wouldn't be here today if it wasn't for my family. Our families are so important to us."

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CELEBRATING ALL THINGS SCOTTISH ENTERTAINMENT, B5

THURSDAY, March 24, 2011

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'Classic' start to lacrosse season

BY TIM SMITH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

With the Saturday sun shining down on the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park football field, boys lacrosse teams from across Michigan were tickled pink to be playing in the Black and Blue Classic.

There were nine squads — and approximately 900 spectators — on hand for the event, which in a former incarnation was called the PCS Classic.

Teams played 25-minute games and no official score was tallied as coaches got the chance to help

players work out the preseason kinks ahead of the start of the real action later this week.

"I think it's really important just so you can kind of evaluate all of your kids," Plymouth head coach Brian Walsh said. "We brought some of our JV kids just to see if they could play at the next level and kind of get a better evaluation on them. So I think it's really important to get the preseason practice in."

Walsh added that going with a 25-minute running clock served as an excellent way to help youngsters get their running shoes wet, so to speak.

"We don't break them into a full game," he noted. "They get used to the 25-minute games and then we build up from there. We start playing our real games Friday."

According to Salem head coach Eric Hoffman, with each team playing four of the shortened games at the Black and Blue Classic, "basically you get a full-game scrimmage" throughout the day.

"We've done well," Hoffman said. "We've got a lot of work to do before the season gets going, but as a whole I've seen a lot of progress."

EARLY ASSESSMENT

Another plus is coaches can see how well the players are learning new schemes and systems.

"We've been trying to work on our offense," Walsh said. "We have a bunch of new attackmen this year."

Making one of the longer trips to PCEP was the Haslett-Williamston combined team, from the Lansing area.

"This has been very good for us," assistant coach Chuck Holton said. "Just to get into some of our schemes, run some of our plays and go up against some good competition."

"This is a good format, you don't wear the players out."

Walsh said Saturday's tourney finale against Haslett-Williamston was the first

Please see **CLASSIC, B3**



Plymouth Whalers goalie Scott Wedgewood gets some defensive help from teammates Michael Whaley (No. 13) and Peter Neal (No. 40) to stymie Guelph forward Richard Panik (No. 25) Saturday night at Compuware Arena.

Whalers hungry to start playoffs

BY TIM SMITH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Fans of the Plymouth Whalers saw a lot more of players such as Peter Neal, Michael Whaley and Adam Restoule then they're used to during Saturday night's game against visiting Guelph.

In Saturday's regular season finale, Plymouth head coach and general manager Mike Vellucci wanted to get more of a look at some of those players while making sure the "veterans" didn't get injured on the eve of the Ontario Hockey League playoffs.

Plymouth fell behind 3-0 at Compuware Arena, clawed back with three unanswered goals to make it 3-3 before giving up a third-period goal to Guelph defenseman Sam Lofquist as the Storm earned a 4-3 victory.

"This game meant nothing for us tonight," Vellucci said. "So why not give some of the other guys the chance to play and gain some ice time and make sure we get no injuries."

The Whalers entered Game 68 knowing they'd be facing Kitchener in the first round of the OHL's Western Conference playoffs. Plymouth (36-26-2-4, 78 points) finished sixth in the conference while the third-seed Rangers had 85 points entering their finale.

"Coming down the stretch we were injured, we had suspensions and played a lot of hockey," Vellucci said. "Tonight, we knew our fate, we knew where we were going to be so I'm not worried about it at all."

Vellucci, whose team opens the playoffs 7:30 p.m. Friday at Kitchener, said several of the younger kids were impressive in their so-called auditions.

"I thought (center Peter) Neal played very well tonight," he said. "I thought (center) Michael Whaley played good tonight. On defense, Dylan MacDonald played good."

It remains to be seen whether any of those players earned spots in the playoff lineup.

Please see **WHALERS, B2**

OPENING ROUND

The Plymouth Whalers will face the Kitchener Rangers in the first round of the Ontario Hockey League playoffs. The series is a best four-of-seven.

Following is the schedule:

Game 1: 7:30 p.m. Friday, at Kitchener.

Game 2: 7 p.m. Saturday, at Plymouth.

Game 3: 7 p.m. Monday, March 28, at Kitchener.

Game 4: 7 p.m. Wednesday, March 30, at Plymouth.

Game 5 (if necessary): 7:30 p.m. Friday, April 1, at Kitchener.

Game 6 (if necessary): 7 p.m. Saturday, April 2, at Plymouth.

Game 7 (if necessary): 7 p.m. Monday, April 4, at Kitchener.

Tickets for Whalers home playoff games can be purchased by calling Compuware Arena, (734) 453-8400, during regular business hours.

SIDELINES

Plymouth softball clinic

The Plymouth High School Varsity Softball team is hosting a softball clinic on March 26 at the Plymouth softball stadium.

Times are 9-11:30 a.m. for advanced players and 12 noon to 2:30 p.m. for beginners and fees are \$40 per person (which includes lunch and a T-shirt).

The deadline to register is March 21. Call (734) 397-2733 or go to plymouthsoftball@gmail.com or http://softball.plymouthwildcats.com/ for more information.

Salem baseball clinic

The Salem High School Varsity Baseball team is having their 20th annual baseball clinic on March 26 and April 2 for ages 7 to 15.

Coach Dale Rumberger and the varsity players run a three-hour session of skill drills and techniques.

The cost to participate is only \$25, which includes a T-shirt, the clinic and a snack.

For more information, send an e-mail to salemrocksbaserball@gmail.com or visit the Web site, www.rocksbaserball.com.

Girls on the Run

Local girls in grades 3-8 are invited to participate in the Girls on the Run after-school program, via the Plymouth Family YMCA.

Girls on the Run is a program that combines training for a 5K event with uplifting, self-esteem enhancing, curriculum-based lessons. Registration for the 10-week spring season begins March 14 and continues through May 25.

Small teams of eight-to-15 girls meet twice a week after school for 75-minute sessions. Trained coaches guide and mentor girls through a fun and inspiring curriculum that includes specific life lessons such as dealing with body image and the media, resisting peer pressure, making healthy decisions and contributing to their community.

At the end of the season, teams design and implement a community service project and complete a non-competitive 5K (3.1 miles) run/walk event with participants, families and friends. This year's New Balance Girls on the Run 5K is set for Saturday, May 21.

For more information, go to www.gotrdsports.org or call director Ashleigh Shiffer at (734) 453-2904.

Berger lifts Bears

Senior forward Kathryn Berger (Livonia Ladywood) helped Washington University in St. Louis (Mo.) earn a runner-up finish in the NCAA Division III women's basketball tournament held last weekend at the Shirk Center in Bloomington, Ill.

Berger poured in 28 points in an 87-77 semifinal victory over No. 7-ranked Illinois Wesleyan.

The 6-foot-1 Berger, named University Athletic Association Athlete of the Week, also notched her team-leading sixth double-double of the season with 11 points an 10 rebounds in a 64-55 loss Saturday to Amherst College (Mass.) in the national championship game.

Berger averaged 19.5 points and eight rebounds per game at the Final Four and was named to the 2011 NCAA Championship All-Tournament Team.

A member of the 2010 Lady Bears national championship team, Berger finishes her career ranked seventh in school history in scoring (1,143 points) and sixth in rebounding (717).



JOHN KEMSKI

Flanked by Siena Heights women's lacrosse coach Cindy Hill (left), Salem senior Katie Meagher signs a scholarship to play on the Saints' first women's lacrosse team beginning in 2011-12.

First impressions She'll help launch lacrosse teams at both Salem and Siena Heights

BY TIM SMITH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Katie Meagher loves playing lacrosse so much that she is becoming quite a trailblazer along the way.

The Salem High School senior is on the first-ever Rocks-only girls lacrosse team, which begins play this week as a remnant of the defunct Plymouth-Canton-Salem combined squad.

And Meagher recently became the first Salem girls lacrosse player to garner a college scholarship to play that

sport — signing on to play with yet another fledgling lacrosse program at Siena Heights University in Adrian.

Women's lacrosse will kick off in the 2011-12 academic year and Meagher will join the Saints and head coach Cindy Hill, who was at Salem for the recent Meagher signing ceremony.

"Katie's going to have to be a four-year captain because as a brand-new team, these kids that are coming in are going to be four-year players," Hill

Please see **LACROSSE, B3**

Confident 'Cats want more

BY TIM SMITH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Advancing to the Division 1 state finals made the 2010 Plymouth varsity girls soccer team a treat to watch.

But Wildcats head coach Jeff Neschich can't wait to see his 2011 team in game action, starting at 7 p.m. Friday against Walled Lake Western in a Kensington Lakes Activities Association crossover.

"I think we will carry over some confidence from that," Neschich said about the '10 team

reaching the finals before losing to Novi in overtime. "With the new players we've added, I think we got a little faster. We'll have a little more speed than last year's team."

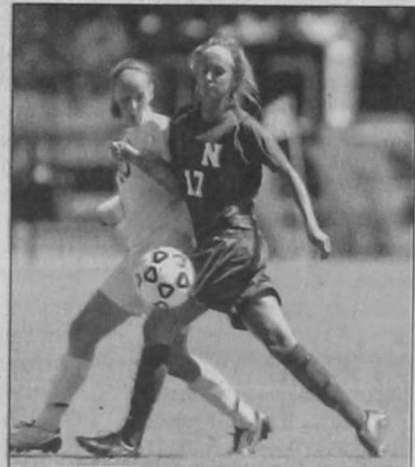
"And in the returning players, there's a real desire to be successful again."

Several of the key returning seniors from the team that went 16-5-4 include goalkeeper Marissa Williams (16 shutouts, 0.50 goals-against average), high-scoring forward McKenzie Hengesh, midfielder Jennifer Babcock and defender Katie Moss.

They aren't the only excellent players back for 2011, either.

There are talented freshmen such as midfielders Alyssa Dillon, Maria Farmer and Jillian Aguirre, defenders Lauren Babcock (Jennifer's sister) and Emily Burkman and goalkeeper Kylie Robb.

Neschich said Williams is showing her usual supreme confidence in



During the 2010 Division 1 state girls soccer final, Plymouth's Zoe Foster (left) gets after it against Novi's Nicki Caruso.

goal.

Anchoring the defense is Moss, who the coach said "brings a lot of poise and confidence to her game and keeps our back line organized."

Moss will be a central defender, with outside defenders such as senior Katelyn Quinlan and juniors Kate Watson and Alyssa Burris also expected to make big contributions.

Sophomore Morgan Klabunde and varsity newcomer Nicole Ineich (a junior) also will see action in the back, as will Lauren Babcock and Burkman.

DEPTH IMPRESSES

"We're going to have some depth this year," Neschich said. "And they're going to be competing hard at practice for playing time."

Please see **SOCCER, B2**



Two top players on the 2010 Plymouth-Canton-Salem girls lacrosse team were Kylie Miller (left) and Sarah Coleman. Although Miller has since graduated, Coleman will be a key member of the new Canton girls team.

LACROSSE

FROM PAGE B1

said. "And I knew Katie fits the type of girl, the type of player that we wanted."

"You know, it's going to help set Siena's tradition. It'll be the first team."

DREAM COMING TRUE

Meagher, an 18-year-old Canton resident who plays defense, said getting the Siena Heights lacrosse scholarship "means a lot. I'm just really thankful that Coach Hill offered me a scholarship. I've always wanted to continue to play in college."

Hill said she met Meagher last fall during an indoor lacrosse tournament in Ann Arbor and quickly realized she had a Siena Heights recruit on her hands.

"I noticed her hustle and teamwork," Hill said. "She has great defensive skills, (is) an all-around great kid and great athlete."

Although Meagher loves basketball (she played on Salem's junior varsity as a sophomore and still coaches girls basketball at Canton's St. John Neumann School), it didn't take much for her to become hooked on lacrosse.

"I thought I just wanted to play another sport to keep active, and then I tried lacrosse one season," she said. "It was kind of a lot like basketball, so I ended up really enjoying it after one season."

"I just really fell in love with the game."

Meagher said the game moves pretty fast, adding with a chuckle, "but I think I can keep up with the pace."

SHE'S READY TO WORK

Also on hand for the scholarship signing ceremony was Salem girls lacrosse head coach Dave Medley and members of Meagher's family — parents Mike and Lynn, sister Alyssa (a Salem junior) and brother Sean, who is an eighth-grader.

"The history of firsts are a repeating theme for her," Medley said. "The two of us have talked about what an honor it is to be the first, the first Salem High School varsity team, one of the first captains of that team."

"She's the first Salem student to sign for a college lacrosse scholarship, then becoming a member of the first women's lacrosse team of a university."

Medley said Meagher's work ethic and attitude are impeccable and should bring continued success at Siena Heights.

"Katie has worked very hard to get to this point and she knows this is a privilege; a privilege that comes with responsibility," Medley said. "I don't believe Katie feels stressed wondering what effort she will have to give on the next level."

"She knows what effort will be expected of her and she will be prepared."

tsmith@hometownlife.com

New era beginning for PCEP girls lacrosse

BY TIM SMITH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

GIRLS LACROSSE PREVIEW

United no more are the girls lacrosse players of Plymouth-Canton Educational Park, and that's considered a good thing.

This week marks the official debut of the three teams that were spun from the defunct Plymouth-Canton-Salem combined team.

With Canton, Plymouth and Salem with varsity and JV teams of their own, coaches are eager to get the new era started.

"Since 2006 we've had the united team (Lady Warriors) on campus and there has been a lot of talk and hype around the team splitting into three teams and having a campus rivalry," Salem head coach Dave Medley said. "So it is finally here and the girls that tried out for this Salem team are very well aware that it is a privilege to be a part of a cross campus rivalry with Canton and Plymouth."

According to Canton's coach, Dave Bower, players are finding out just how exhilarating a sport lacrosse is — and having brand new school teams will only add to the excitement.

"Learning to play the game is fun in and of itself," Bower said. "But excelling at the game requires commitment, dedication and a strong work ethic."

"... My goal for the team is that each and every girl that comes out to play will, at the end of the season, look back and say 'Boy, even though this was tough, I'm glad I played lacrosse this year.'"

Meanwhile, the fledgling Plymouth team is starting the

season amid turmoil, with multiple felony charges levied last week against former coach Stephen J. Nyquist.

But interim co-coaches Michele and Bob Hill are working diligently to prepare the Wildcats for the 2011 season (which begins Friday night at South Lyon).

As of Tuesday, they had not yet finalized the lineup. Look for the Plymouth season preview in an upcoming issue of the Observer.

CANTON OVERVIEW

The Chiefs were scheduled to open the season Wednesday night against Ann Arbor Huron in what Bower said would be the first girls lacrosse match ever played on the turf field at The Park.

"(That's) a real milestone for girls lacrosse, attesting to the rapid growth of the sport" in the Plymouth-Canton district, he emphasized.

Eighteen players from last season's combined team debut with the Chiefs, while another 12 girls joined for a 30-player varsity/JV program.

"Although we are a new team, we have some depth of talent and experience," Bower said.

Fourth-year senior captains Lauren Allard and Sarah Coleman will key the team's midfielders. Allard (15 goals in 2010) will play lacrosse at Indiana Tech next year while Coleman intends to play club hockey at Michigan State.

They will be joined by second-year senior midfielders Catrina Saylor, Jordan Richter, third-year junior Jennifer

Nyberg and senior newcomer Paige Bishop.

On attack, third-year junior Stephanie Bower (27 goals last year) and second-year junior Kaitlyn Allard lead the way with third-year junior Julia Beard and second-year sophomore Annalise Niermann rounding out the lineup.

Third-year players Rebecca Majszak (a senior) and juniors Kristin Larsen and Julie Podorsek will provide sturdy play and leadership on defense.

They will support freshman goalkeeper Becky Lowe, who brings AAA hockey goalie experience.

Several JV players (to be coached by 2006 Salem grad Lauren Medley) also will likely see important minutes on the big team during the season.

Those include: juniors Megan Wherrett, Mariah Tucker, Noor Ameiche, Erin Zaluzek; sophomores Amanda Nowicki, Meredith White, Laura Murphy, Kelly Harris and Cassidy Tucker.

"The past few years the (PCS) team was primarily a running team," Bower said. "But our goal this year is to transform into a passing team that will spread the ball around on offense and play fundamentally sound defense."

"Captains Coleman and Allard embody this style of play, which was the key factor for Allard that attracted the attention of college coaches."

SALEM OVERVIEW

Veteran coach Dave Medley, with assistants Steve Amell and Paul Schrauben, are looking to field a competitive team that will be fundamentally sharp.

"This season will be a challenge, and we will need to focus on doing the simple things we can do, and doing them better than our opponents," Medley explained. "... Our major goal with be trying to excel with simple techniques and the basics, but doing them better than our opponents."

The Rocks will have returning stalwarts in senior goalkeepers Lexie O'Connor and Meaghan Eldridge, although the former will see plenty of time out on the open field.

Eldridge and senior defender Katie Meagher are co-captains who will lead by example.

"I'm looking to all returning players from the united team to become field leaders, helping some of the newbies out," Medley added. "They will want to set the tone on the field by letting our offense do what (opponents') defense will give us."

Sophomore defenders Alissa Amell, Bridget Maul and Leah Schrauben will also be combining efforts to help Salem stay competitive.

"I'm pretty excited about the future and the athletes that have come from basketball, hockey, swimming, soccer and other sports," Medley said. "I look to see their impact in the not so distant future."

"This season is going to have two story lines, how we begin and how we end."

The Rocks are beginning with two games this week. On Wednesday, they visited Tecumseh and follow up with a home game 6:30 p.m. Friday against Waterford.

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JOHN KEMSKI

Salem senior Katie Meagher's coaches and family members were on hand when Katie signed to play women's lacrosse at Siena Heights University. Sitting at the table are Siena Heights coach Cindy Hill (left) and Katie. Standing are (from left) Salem girls lacrosse coach Dave Medley, brother Sean Meagher, sister Alyssa Meagher and parents Lynn and Mike Meagher.

CLASSIC

FROM PAGE B1

time the Wildcats had ever played the team.

"Brand new, don't know what to expect," Walsh added. "That's one of the things I enjoy about this tournament, that we play teams we normally don't play, so it's a good experience to see different teams and see how they play."

Concurring was Hoffman,

noting that the Black and Blue Classic gives players the chance to "go out and play against other players other than yourselves and it's a great opportunity for all the schools involved to practice on their skills and get ready for the upcoming season."

Other teams participating in the event included Canton, Saline, Hartland, Walled Lake Northern, North Farmington-Harrison (combined team) and Tecumseh.

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Crusaders settle for split at IU-Southeast

The No. 17-ranked Madonna University softball team opened a four-day, eight-game in four-day road trip with a split at Indiana University-Southeast by identical 2-1 counts.

The Crusaders, now 15-2 overall, captured the opener before falling in the nightcap for just their second loss of the season at the Koetter Softball Complex.

Senior Ashley Shay (Garden City/Dearborn Divine Child) and sophomore Erica Landess paced the MU offense with two hits each in the doubleheader, while four other Crusaders also posted hits on the day.

Senior Jess Irwin earned her eighth win of the season in the opener, giving up just one hit while striking out seven.

Irwin (8-2) was also tagged with the Game Two loss, giving up one run and two hits in an inning and two-thirds of an inning in relief of junior Hallie Minch (Garden City).

Minch went the first 4-1 innings, scattering five hits while striking out five in taking the no decision.

In the day's opener the Crusaders struck first, tally-

ing a run in the top of the first when Landess scored after the ball off of the bat of freshman Carlee Meek was misplayed allowing Landess to cross the plate for a 1-0 lead.

The Grenadiers tied the Game at 1-1 in the bottom of the second when Kayla Duke doubled home Anne Fowler, who had earlier reached on a Crusader miscue to even the game at 1-1.

MU answered back with another run in the top of the third as Shay doubled with two outs and was brought home on a double by freshman Caitlyn Keuvelaar to go back ahead, 2-1.

From the third inning on, Irwin did not allow a runner past second base and allowed just one base runner over the final four innings of the game for the 2-1 win.

In the nightcap, neither team got on the board until IU-Southeast (10-9) scored a run in the bottom of the fifth when Jade Detzer reached on a one-out double off of Minch and came home on a wild pitch by Irwin, who came on relief of Minch.

Irwin worked out of the jam to allow the Crusaders to even the count at 1-1 in the top of

the sixth.

Landess reached on a fielder's choice to second and after moving to second on a passed ball, came around to score on a Shay double.

IU-Southeast took the lead in the bottom of the sixth for keeps using a Fowler double

and a Rachel Mulvey single.

In the top of the seventh, junior Kiley Thornton drew a one-out walk, but was stranded at first as Bethany Sullivan retired the next two Crusaders to end the game and earn the Grenadiers a split.

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The Plymouth boys lacrosse team gets pumped up to play another match at Saturday's Black and Blue Classic at Plymouth-Canton Educational Park.

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GENE E. LEVENSGOOD
 Age 74, March 15, 2011. Beloved husband of Barbara. Loving father of Mark (Jenny). Proud grandfather of Christian Edward Levensgood. Dear brother of John Levensgood. Preceded in death by son Michael L. Levensgood. Visitation Sunday 12-6 PM and Monday 4-8 PM at Vermeulen Funeral Home, 46401 W. Ann Arbor Rd. (between Sheldon & Beck) Plymouth, MI. Memorial Gathering Tuesday 2-3 PM followed by a Memorial Service at 3:00 PM at First United Methodist Church, 45201 N. Territorial Rd., Plymouth, MI. Memorial Contributions may be made to either of the following: Boy Scout Troop 417, c/o Brookside United Methodist Church; 4000 Francis St., Jackson, MI 49203 or Plymouth First United Methodist Church, 45201 N. Territorial Rd., Plymouth, MI 48170. To share memories please visit: vermeulenfuneralhome.com.



RICHARD THOMAS MURRAY
 Age 80, March 19, 2011, of Garden City. Beloved husband of Peggie. Loving father of Michael (Debbie) Murray and Audie (David) Wacker. Proud grandfather of Brandon, Corey and Shannon. Dear brother of Patricia Hann. Visitation was held Mon., March 21 at Vermeulen Funeral Home, 980 N Newburgh Rd (btwn Ford & Cherry Hill), Westland. Funeral Mass held Wed. at St. Thomas a'Becket Catholic Church, 555 S. Lilley Rd (corner of Cherry Hill), Canton. Memorial Contributions to the Disabled American Veterans would be appreciated. To share a memory, please visit: vermeulenfuneralhome.com

JEAN I. TUJAKA
 Age 86, of Livonia, passed away on March 19, 2011. Loving wife of the late Sigmund. Beloved mother of Judi (Mark) Rippee and Donald Tujaka. Proud grandmother of Dawn (Mark) Bostwick and Alexandra Willey. Great-grandmother of Cole Bostwick. Jean was a devoted homemaker, she also loved traveling, sewing and gardening. Funeral service Thursday 11:00am from the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home, 280 S. Main St., Plymouth. Interment Riverside Cemetery. Memorials may be made to Angela Hospice 14100 Newburgh Rd, Livonia, MI 48154. Share memories at schrader-howell.com



CHARLES VARKOLY
 Age 63, March 18, 2011. Beloved son of Elizabeth (the late Joseph) Varkoly. Loving brother of Stephen (Kathy) and Barbara (the late Steve) Smith. Loving uncle of Kathryn, Christine and Matthew Smith. Nephew of Charles (Mary Lou) Rowe. Charles proudly served his country as Staff Sergeant in the U.S. Marine Corps in Viet Nam and in the Navy. He had a lifelong interest in journalism and was a former editor of the Redford Observer Newspaper. Visitation and services were held at the John N. Santeiu & Son Funeral Home, 1139 Inkster Rd., (between Ford Rd. and Cherry Hill). Interment took place at Great Lakes National Cemetery, Holly, MI. Memorials suggested to the American Legion, Post 396, Garden City or NARSAD. www.santeiufuneralhome.com



GEORGE C. SHOLLACK
 Age 88, of Canton, March 17, 2011. Beloved husband of 51 years to the late Elaine. Loving father of Ron, Cyndee (Bryan) Prieskorn, and Steve (Christina). Dear grandfather of Dawn (Aaron) Zapata, Aaron (Tangie) Prieskorn, Nicholas, Brandon, and Justin Shollack. Dear great grandfather of Levi and Malachi Zapata, Jordan Emily, and Asher Prieskorn. Visitation Wednesday 3-9 PM at Vermeulen Funeral Home, 46401 W. Ann Arbor Rd., (btwn. Sheldon & Beck) Plymouth. In State Thursday, 10:30AM until the 11AM Funeral Service at Trinity Presbyterian Church, 10101 Ann Arbor Road (at Gotfredson), Plymouth. To share a memory, please visit: vermeulenfuneralhome.com

ANN JULIA (PETRINI) LINDAMOOD
 Sept. 16, 1935 ~ Mar. 21, 2011
 Ann was born September 16, 1935 to Aloysius and Mary Petrini in Sharon, PA. She graduated from Sharon High School in 1953 and was an Honors graduate from Catholic University of America in Washington, DC, in 1957, and earned a Masters Degree in Management from Madonna University in Livonia, MI. Ann married Benton Lindamood September 7, 1963 and together raised four daughters: Mary, of Howell, Julia (Daniel) Argonis of Novi, Jane of New York, and Kit of Detroit. She has two grandchildren, Riley and Zachary Argonis, and many nieces and nephews. Ann was an Associate to the Adrian Dominican Sisters and a Spiritual Director. Visitation at MacDonald's Funeral Home, 315 North Michigan Avenue, Howell (517-546-2800) from 3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Thursday, March 24 and from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Friday, March 25 at St. Mary Magdalen Catholic Church, 2201 South Old US 23 HWY, Brighton, MI. Funeral Mass at 11:00 a.m. Friday, March 25, at the church. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Pax Christie USA or to the Adrian Dominican Sisters, 1257 East Siena Heights Drive, Adrian, MI 49221 or to the Church. Please visit the family's online guestbook at: www.macdonaldsfuneralhome.com

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May peace be with you in this time of sorrow.

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OE0865491



Music at Meadowbrook
 The Detroit Handbell Ensemble, a 14-member auditioned concert choir, will perform at 4 p.m. April 10 at Meadowbrook 21355 Meadowbrook Road, between Eight Mile and Nine Mile in Novi. Under the direction of Michael Burkhardt, the Detroit Handbell Ensemble has become known for its creative programming and artistic expression. An afterglow will follow the concert. Tickets are \$8 in advance and \$10 at the door for adults. For students over age 10, tickets are \$4 in advance and \$5 at the door. Children 10 and under are free. For more information or tickets, call the church office at (248)348-7757.

Pastor fields questions about church teachings
 St. Michael the Archangel Parish's learning series, "Why Be Catholic" will switch gears next month and give participants a chance to "Ask the Pastor."
 Church pastor, the Rev. William Tindall, pastoral assistant Sharon Williams and apologist Gary Michuta will answer questions about the Church, its teachings, practices, theology, and rituals at 7 p.m. April 13, in the school cafeteria, 11311 Hubbard, Livonia. The program is open to everyone regardless of religious affiliation.
 For more information call (734) 261-1455, Ext. 200.

Gala needs volunteers
 Organizers of the 75th anniversary celebration at St. Raphael Catholic School in Garden City are seeking volunteers to help with the milestone event.
 The gala fundraiser and anniversary Mass are planned for Saturday, May 21. Archbishop Allen Vigneron will officiate at the worship service.
 The organizing committee meetings are 5:30 p.m. the first Monday of the month, at 31500 Beechwood. Volunteers may attend.
 Information forms are available at the school near the office and in the entrance way at St. Raphael the Archangel Church, 31530 Beechwood. Alumni, parents and students also may share their memories by visiting the school's Facebook page. Visit www.straphael-gc.org for a link to the page. For more information call St. Raphael School at (734) 425-9771 or e-mail to dbrzezinski@straphael-gc.org.

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

ENTERTAINMENT

Thursday, March 24, 2011

hometownlife.com



CONTEST YIELDS BUSHELS OF RECIPES

FOOD, B7

Tartan Day party celebrates Scottish food, dance, music

BY SHARON DARGAY
OSE STAFF WRITER

Marge Sellers loves all things Scottish — the pipes and drums, plaid kilts and dances, the meat pies and poetry.

The Farmington Hills woman also enjoys a good party — called a Ceilidh in Gaelic — as much as the next Scot, but says giving back to the community is as important as celebrating the Scottish culture. That's the main reason she and her husband, Mark, joined the Scottish American Society of Michigan two years ago.

"This group's sole purpose is community, companionship and doing for others and that attracts people like you can't believe," she said. "We've benefitted several groups — the Boys and Girls Club, veterans — members get together and pick out a charity. And it goes beyond that because Scots are known for their ability to hang onto a dollar and put it to good use."

The Society's Tartan Day Ceilidh on Saturday, April 2, in Livonia, will benefit the Alma College Pipe Band, while giving attendees a taste of Scottish culture.

Tartan Day commemorates the signing of the Declaration of Arbroath in 1320, which underscored Scotland's sovereignty over English territorial claims. In 1998, the U.S. Senate declared April 6 National Tartan Day. The U.S. House passed a companion bill a few years later.

"People come from as far away as Midland for Tartan Day," said Franklin Dohanyos, a Royal Oak resi-



Raggle Taggle Band will perform at the Scottish American Society of Michigan's Tartan Day.

dent who founded the Scottish American Society of Michigan. "We always do the Ceilidh on the Saturday closest to Tartan Day.

"There are parties all over the world. Some pubs have Scottish foods or flags. We've got the same entertainment and food. The only thing that's different is that we're going to benefit Alma College. They have a huge Scottish festival over Memorial Day weekend, with pipe bands from all over the Midwest."

CEILIDH FUN

Dohanyos, who has taken bagpipe lessons and occasionally plays for weddings and other events, will perform

on guitar with the Raggle Taggle Band at the Tartan Day Ceilidh. Other performers are the Alma College Pipe Band, the Detroit Caledonian Pipe Band, and Highland Dancers, along with Celtic fiddling and Scottish country dance demonstrations.

The family-friendly event includes a full meal with two meats. Tickets are \$25 for adults and \$15 for children. Doors open at 6 p.m. April 2 at Monaghan's Knights of Columbus, 19801 Farmington Road, Livonia. Ticket deadline is March 31.

"A Ceilidh is a gathering. It's a way for people to get together and have a good time," said Sellers, the Society's parlia-



Members of the Alma College Pipe Band will be on hand at the Scottish American Society of Michigan's annual Tartan Day Ceilidh in Livonia.

mentarian. "You get a chance to see everyone you know and you meet new people. If nothing else we're able to promote

the Scottish culture which is rich and deep and had a big hand in settling this country."

TWO ORGANIZATIONS

She and her husband are members of both the St. Andrews Society of Detroit and the Scottish American Society of Michigan. St. Andrews Society runs a cultural center in Troy and presents the annual Highland Games at Greenmead in Livonia.

Sellers said the newer Society is "a lot less formal" and on a "smaller scale" but is "open to everyone." Scottish American Society Membership and events are open to the public regardless of Scottish lineage.

"You don't have to be Scottish to join. We're more interested in having people of Scottish decent or friends of Scotland," Sellers said. "We do so many fun things. We want as many people to come as possible so they see a little bit of Scotland."

Dohanyos said close to 600 individuals receive the group's e-mail notices and 200 are paid members. The organization started a youth pipe band and plans a mini Highland Games in July during Scottish Days at Canterbury Village in Lake Orion.

"I've had this group for two years and we're having a blast," he said. "Our goal is to become the hub for Scottish activity in Michigan."

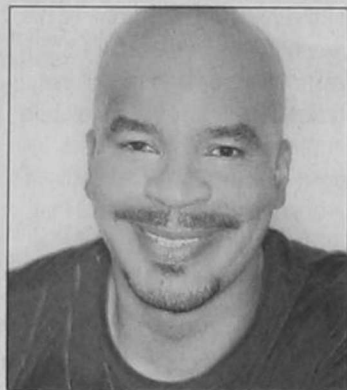
The Scottish American Society of Michigan meets at 3 p.m. generally the third Sunday of the month, at the Commonwealth Club, 30088 Dequindre, Warren. Annual fees are \$20 per household. Visit www.scotsofmichigan.com or call Dohanyos at (248) 399-1101 for tickets or more information.

Laugh all week long at annual comedy fest

Jordan Jones, a stand-up comedian from Canton, is among the "rising comedy artists" who will appear during the fourth annual Garden Fresh Laugh Detroit Comedy Festival, Sunday-Saturday, March 28-April 2 at Mark Ridley's Comedy Castle in Royal Oak.

Jones will perform during the Monday night showcase, along with 10 other comedians and host Auggie Smith. Brian McKim and Traci Skene host the second showcase on Tuesday and Karen Rontowski emcees the third on Wednesday. Eleven up and coming comedians are scheduled to perform each night along with the hosts. Showcases run from 8-10 p.m. each night and cost \$10.

Comedian Lynne Koplitz takes the stage at 8 p.m. Thursday, March 31 and 8 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday, April 1 and 2. Tickets are \$10 for Thursday's



Detroit native David Alan Grier will kick off the seven-day Laugh Detroit Comedy Festival, Sunday, March 27, at the Royal Oak Music Theatre. Nearly 40 top comedians will perform at Mark Ridley's Comedy Castle in Royal Oak, March 28-April 2.

performance and \$18 April 1-2. Koplitz has hosted a special on Comedy Central, and co-stars

with Joan Rivers on We's "Joan Knows Best" television series.

Detroit native David Alan Grier kicks off the festival at 8 p.m. Sunday, March 27, at Royal Oak Music Theatre. Tickets are \$35-\$39.

Bob Saget helps close the festival at 8 p.m. Saturday, April 2, at the Royal Oak Music Theatre. Tickets are \$39.50-\$49.50.

The Royal Oak Music Theatre is located on Fourth, between Washington and Lafayette, in downtown Royal Oak. Get tickets for Gier or Saget at www.royaloakmusictheatre.com; (248) 399-2980.

Mark Ridley's is at the corner of Troy Street and Fourth, two blocks south of 11 Mile, east of Main, in downtown Royal Oak. Visit www.detroitlaugh.com for more information. Get festival tickets at www.comedycastle.com.

Jewish music fest offers classical to hip hop

The annual Jewish Community Center (JCC) Stephen Gottlieb Music Festival is underway with an eclectic mix of musical styles and performers.

The festival runs through Sunday, April 3 at JCC campuses in Oak Park and West Bloomfield. Performances at the West Bloomfield location are held at the new Berman Center for the Performing Arts, a professionally-equipped theater that can accommodate up to 600 individuals.

Proceeds from the music festival will benefit the JCC's Arts, Culture & Education Department.

Here's what's planned through April 3:

Thursday, March 24: Jack Zaiantz, an Ann Arbor area research scientist, will present "The Silver Age of American Jewish Music is Happening Now — And Why We're Missing It," 7 p.m., in Oak Park. Free, but a reservation is required.

Saturday, March 26: David Broza's guitar playing ranges from Flamenco sounds to rock and roll. The Israeli superstar combines the sounds of Israel, Spain and England, 8:30 p.m. in West Bloomfield. Center members, \$30; non-members, \$40.

Sunday, March 27: Mark Bloom merges jazz and Judaism, 2 p.m. in West Bloomfield. Children, \$5; adults, \$7.

Sunday, March 27: A progressive Jewish music showcase includes hip hop and jazz. Performers are V-Love, Diwon, Pitom and Stereo Sinai, 6 p.m. in West Bloomfield. Center members, \$12; non-members, \$15.

Monday, March 28: Elaine Serling sings at a free concert at 1 p.m. in West Bloomfield.

Monday, March 28: Amy Yassinger specializes in jazz, R&B and pop music. She sings at 7 p.m. in

Oak Park. Center members, \$12; non-members, \$15.

Tuesday, March 29: The Klezmatics, America's leading Klezmer band performs at 7 p.m. in West Bloomfield. \$10.

Wednesday, March 30: Elaine Serling repeats her free concert at 1 p.m. in Oak Park.

Thursday, March 31: A local music showcase features Heller, Stayer & Green, Maggid Steve Klaper and David Nefesh, 7 p.m. in West Bloomfield. Center members, \$12; non-members, \$15.

Saturday, April 2: Writer Gary Graff joins forces with Billy Brandt of Grievous Angel and the Mission Band, Martin "Tino" Gross of Howling Diablos and Mark Pasman of WCSX's "Motor City Blues Projects" for commentary and music at 8:30 p.m. in West Bloomfield.

Sunday, April 3: Edward Benyas, conductor and oboe soloist with the Chicago Chamber Orchestra, returns to his native Michigan to direct the first classical chamber orchestra program in the Berman Center for Performing Arts, 11 a.m., in West Bloomfield. A brunch is available at 10 a.m. Concert only is \$18 for center members; \$25 for non-members. Concert and brunch is \$33 for center members and \$40 for non-members.

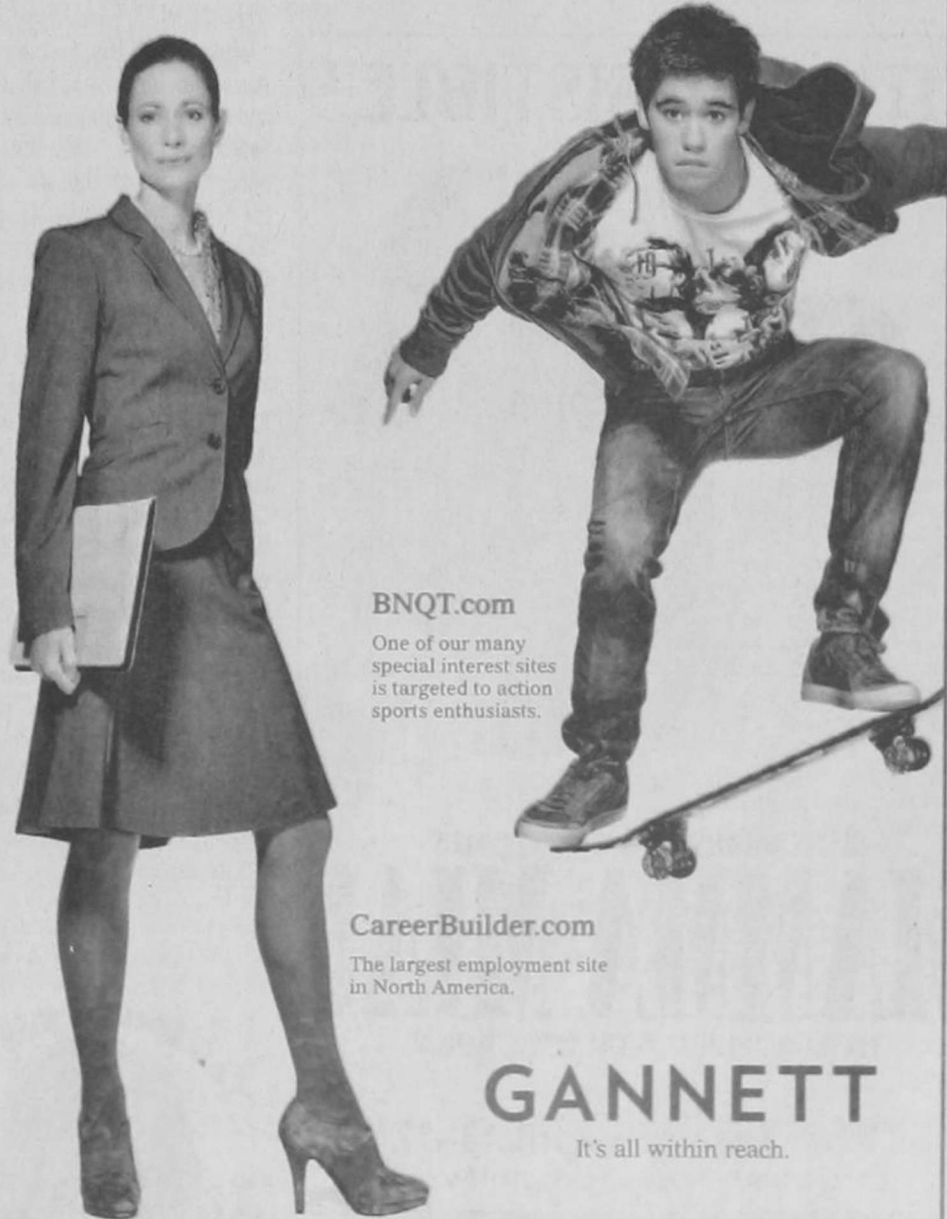
Sunday, April 3: The Michigan Board of Cantors takes a musical romp through Detroit at 7 p.m. in West Bloomfield. \$25 for center members; \$35 for non-members.

The Oak Park campus is located at 15110 W. 10 Mile. The West Bloomfield center is at 6600 W. Maple. For tickets and more information visit www.jccdet.org.

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ART

City Gallery
Time/Date: Through April 8; gallery hours are 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday
Location: In the Costick Center at 28600 W. 11 Mile, Farmington Hills
Details: Work by Stephen Deeb, head of the art department at North Farmington High School
Coming up: Farmington Art Foundation holds its Spring Exhibit and Sale, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Thursday, April 14, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Friday, April 15 and 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, April 16 at the Costick Center. Opening reception, 6 p.m., followed by awards at 6:30 p.m., April 14
Contact: (248) 473-1856

Northville Art House
Time/Date: Through March 26. Hours are 1-5 p.m. Wednesday-Saturday
Location: 215 W. Cady in downtown Northville
Details: Beyond The Blueprint: Architects' Other Art, showcases the works of Metro Detroit artist-architects, including Dennis Michael Jones, a visual artist and educator in Plymouth who continues to balance his architectural work with his art
Contact: (248) 344-0497

Village Theater at Cherry Hill
Time/Date: Through March 29; gallery hours are 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday-Friday
Location: 50400 Cherry Hill, Canton
Details: Pressed flower artwork of Shelley Xie, a self-taught artist and resident of Canton
Contact: (734) 394-5300

COMEDY
Go Comedy!
Time/Date: Various show times Wednesdays thru Sundays
Location: 261 E. Nine Mile, Ferndale
Details: Improv most nights. Open mic/jam session show for improvisers is 10 p.m. Wednesdays
Contact: (248) 327-0575; www.gocomedy.net

JD's House of Comedy
Time/Date: Various show times Wednesday-Saturday evenings
Location: 25333 W. 12 Mile, inside Star Theatre complex, Southfield
Details: Stand-up shows, 8 p.m. Thursday and 8 p.m., 10:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday; Apollo amateur night, 8 p.m. Wednesday
Contact: (248) 348-2420 or www.ticketmaster.com

Joey's Comedy Club of Livonia
Time/Date: 8 p.m. Mondays, open Mic; 8 p.m. Tuesdays, Local Legends; 8 p.m. shows Wednesdays, Thursdays; 8 p.m. & 10:30 p.m. Fridays, Saturdays
Location: 36071 Plymouth Road, Livonia
Details: Mark Sweeney, March 23-26; Chili Challis, March 30-April 2; Chas Elsner, April 6-9; Floyd J.



Beaucoup Blue will perform at 8 p.m. Friday, March 25 at Trinity House Theatre, 38840 W. Six Mile, Livonia.



"Spring Shower" by Shelley Xie is among the works on display this month at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill in Canton.



"Harvard" by Stephen Deeb and other works are on display in Farmington Hills.

Phillips, April 13-16; Mark Poolos, April 20-23; Claude Stewart, April 27-30; Mike Green, May 4-7; Rob Little, May 11-14
Contact: (734) 261-0555, www.kickerscomplex.com

Mark Ridley's Comedy Castle
Time/Date: Erik Griffin, March 24-26; Lynne Koplitz, March 31-April 2; Steve McGrew, April 7-9; Michael Somerville, April 14-16; T.J. Miller, April 21-23; Don Friesen, April 28-30; Kathleen Madigan, May 5-7; John Pinette, May 12-14
Location: 269 E. Fourth, Royal Oak
Stand-up classes: A six-week session with comedian Bill Bushart, meets 1-30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Saturday, beginning April 2. Cost is \$175. Call the Comedy Castle to reserve a spot
Contact: (248) 542-9900, www.comedycastle.com

CONCERTS

The Ark
Time/Date: May Erlewine & Seth Bernard, March 24; The Spring Standards, March 25; NewFound Road, March 26; Madcat, Kane & Maxwell Street, March 27; Steve Poltz, March 28; Dala, March 30; Matt Wertz, March 31
Location: 316 South Main, Ann Arbor
Contact: (734) 763-8587; www.theark.org

Baseline Folk Society
Time/Date: Third Saturday of the month
Location: The JWH Center for the Arts, Plymouth Community Arts Council, 774 N. Sheldon, Plymouth
Details: Eight "open-mic" performances plus a featured group. Sign up for open mic from 6:15-6:45 p.m.; show starts at 7 p.m. Open mic performers may sing two songs. If more than eight performers sign up, a lottery will be held for the eight spots. Individual membership is \$25 and includes monthly concerts from September through May. Otherwise, admission to each concert is \$5 at the door. Family memberships are \$50 and include monthly concerts
Contact: (248) 719-3464 or mjmmullen@yahoo.com

Chamber Music Society of Detroit
Time/Date: Pre-concert talk, 6:45 p.m., concert at 8 p.m. Saturday, March 26
Location: Seligman Performing Arts Center, located on the campus of Detroit Country Day School, 22305 W. 13 Mile, Beverly Hills
Details: This concert marks the debuts of both cellist Zuill Bailey and pianist Piers Lane in metro Detroit and on the Chamber Music Society of Detroit series. They'll play music by Mendelssohn, Schumann, Rachmaninoff and Roberto Sierra. Single tickets range from \$43-75; \$25 for students

Jazz @ The Elks
Time/Date: 7-10:30 p.m., every fourth Tuesday
Location: Plymouth Elks Lodge #1780 at 41700 Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth
Details: Jazz musicians perform; no cover, but donations accepted. Complimentary hors d'oeuvres.
Contact: (734) 453-1780 www.PlymouthElks1780.com

Trinity House Theatre
Time/Date: Beaucoup Blue with Annie and Rod Capps; March 25; Mike Mangione and the Union with The Potter's Field, March 26; Trinity House Theatre Benefit Concert, April 1; Empty Chair Night, April 3; Putnam Smith, April 8, Melissa Greener, April 9; The Choir, April 14; Brooks Williams with Mike Vial, April 15; Tim Eriksen with Nick Schillace, April 16; Songwriters Anonymous Showcase, April 29; Craig Cardiff, April 30
Location: 38840 W. Six Mile, Livonia
Contact: (734) 464-6302, www.trinityhouse.org

Village Theater at Cherry Hill
Time/Date: 8 p.m. Saturday, March 26
Location: 50400 Cherry Hill, Canton
Details: Looking Glass, 8 p.m., March 26; tickets \$15
Coming up: Comic Opera Guild performs "The Grand Duchess of Gerolstein" 8 p.m. April 2 and 2 p.m. April 3; tickets are \$20 for adults and \$17 for seniors and students
Contact: (734) 394-5460; cantonvil-lagetheater.org

Vivace Music Series
Time/Date: 8 p.m., Saturday, April 11
Location: The Birmingham Temple, 28611 W. 12 Mile, Farmington Hills
Details: Eugenia Zukerman will share the stage with Russian/American soprano Svetlana Strezeva and her daughter, pianist, Milana Strezeva. The program will feature music by well known Russian and French composers in folk and classical traditions. Tickets are \$23 general admission and \$20 for senior citizens and students
Contact: Ann Sipher at (248) 661-1348 or Joyce Cheresh at (248) 788-9338

DANCE

Farmington Players Barn
Time/Date: 7 p.m. March 26
Location: 32332 W. 12 Mile, Farmington Hills



Jeff Lehman plays keyboards with Looking Glass, which will perform March 26 in Canton.

Details: Michigan Classic Ballet Company presents "Seasons of Spring." Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$15 for children and senior citizens
Contact: www.michiganclassicballet.org

Music Hall
Time/Date: 8 p.m. April 2, 2 p.m. April 3
Location: 350 Madison, Detroit
Details: Complexions Contemporary Ballet interprets U2 and The Rolling Stones, along with compositions by many Jazz, Gospel and Blues greats. Tickets are \$30, \$40 and \$50
Contact: (313) 887-8500; www.ticketmaster.com

FAMILY

Arab American National Museum
Time/Date: 2-5 p.m. Saturday, April 2
Location: 13624 Michigan Ave., Dearborn
Details: "Spring into Spring" with live butterflies, spring crafts, kid karaoke, cookie decorating, scavenger hunt and more. A pizza feast and sweet seasonal dessert will be served from 2:30-4 p.m. Themed gift basket raffle will be held during the event. Tickets for the raffle are \$1 each. Admission is \$6 for children ordered in advance at www.arabamericanmuseum.org or \$8 at the door; all activities and refreshments are included. Adults admitted free. Adult food tickets will be available for \$2 during the event
Contact: Janice Freij at (313) 624-0203 or jfreij@accesscommunity.org

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

Detroit Institute of Arts
Time/Dates: 2 p.m. Sundays
Details: Target Family Sundays, storytelling, performances, free with admission
Location: 5200 Woodward, Detroit
Contact: (313) 833-7900, www.dia.org

Detroit Zoo
Time/Date: 10 a.m.-4 p.m. daily
Location: I-696 service drive and Woodward, Royal Oak
Details: Admission is \$11 for adults 15 to 61, \$9 for senior citizens 62 and older, and \$7 for children ages 2 to 14; children under 2 are free
Contact: (248) 541-5717

Music Hall
Time/Date: 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Saturday, March 26
Location: 350 Madison Ave., Detroit
Details: Mermaid Theatre of Nova Scotia presents "The Very Hungry Caterpillar and Other Eric Carle Favorites," adapted, directed and designed by Jim Morrow, music by Steven Naylor, and narrated by Gordon Pinsent
Contact: (313) 887-8500

Film
Ann Arbor Film Festival
Time/Date: through March 27
Location: Screenings at the Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty, Ann Arbor; film talks, parties, receptions at various locations in Ann Arbor
Details: Animation, documentary, experimental films, family-friendly

films, feature length works, music video, short films and more.
Contact: (734) 604-4627; view aafilmfest.org for event times and ticket prices

MJR Cinema
Time/Date: Saturday and Sunday through April 3
Location: MJR theaters, including 6601 Allen Road in Allen Park; 15651 Trenton Road in Southgate; and 7501 Highland Road in Waterford
Details: Free children's festival features "Yogi Bear," March 26-27; and "Megamind," April 2-3. Free for children, 12 and under; tickets for parents are \$1 each. Call the theater for show times or check online the Tuesday before the show at mjrtheatres.com
Contact: Call the Allen Park theater at (313) 381-1125; the Southgate theater at (734) 284-FILM (3456); and the Waterford theater at (248) 666-7900

Penn Theater
Time/Date: 7 p.m. and 9:20 p.m. Friday-Saturday, March 25-26 and 4:40 p.m. and 7 p.m. Sunday, March 27
Location: 760 Penniman Ave., Plymouth
Details: "Tron: Legacy," all seats \$3
Coming up: "True Grit," 7 p.m. and 9:05 p.m. Friday-Saturday, April 1-2 and 5 p.m. and 7:05 p.m. Sunday, April 3
Classics: "The Birds," March 24; and "Psycho," March 31. All shows start at 7 p.m. and cost \$3
Contact: (734) 453-0870; www.penntheatre.com

Redford Theatre
Time/Date: 8 p.m. Friday, March 25 and 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Saturday, March 26
Location: 17360 Lahser, just north of Grand River Ave., in Detroit
Details: "Chitty Chitty Bang Bang," Tickets are \$4
Coming up: Three Stooges Festival, 8 p.m. April 8 and 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. April 9; tickets \$5
Contact: (313) 537-2560

MUSEUMS
Charles H. Wright
Time/Date: 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday and 1-5 p.m. Sunday
Location: 315 E. Warren Road, Detroit
Details: The Test: Tuskegee Airmen Project through June 19; Framed Stories: The Art of Carmen Cartiness Johnson and Jerome Wright through April 11. Black Marriage Day enables couples to renew their vows, get valuable insight into strengthening their union, compete against other couples for prizes and dine and dance the night away. The special day is observed Friday-Saturday, March 25-26. Cost to attend all weekend activities including a strolling reception hosted by the Marriage Resource Center of Wayne County on Saturday, March 26 is \$45 per couple. Tickets are \$30 for couples who attend all activities except the strolling reception, and \$25 for couples for just the strolling reception. Call (313) 838-3006 for tickets. Regular museum admission is \$8 for adults, 13-61; and \$5 for youth, 3-12, and seniors, 62 and over. Members and children 2 and under are admitted free
Contact: (313) 494-5800

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-NY Post

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FOOD

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The big apple



Pure Bliss Apple Ginger Scones

Vegan chef, former Detroit Piston to speak at VegFest

Celebrity chef Tal Ronnen and NBA champ John Salley will be among the presenters at VegMichigan's annual vegetarian tastefest and expo, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. March 27, at the Suburban Collection Showplace, 46100 Grand River Ave., in Novi.

Visitors can hear talks on the health, environmental and ethical benefits of a plant-based diet and enjoy tasty vegan cuisine from two dozen local restaurants, along with national brand samples, food demonstrations, exhibits, children's activities, door prizes and more.

"The event is designed to give people real tools and resources for changing their diet for the better," says event chair Wendy Jones.

Last year's VegFest, held in Ferndale, drew more than 2,100 attendees. The 2011 event is expected to draw upwards of 3,000.

Keynote speaker Ronnen is one of the most celebrated vegan chefs working today. In addition to preparing vegan meals for Oprah Winfrey's 21-day vegan cleanse, he catered the vegan wedding of Ellen DeGeneres and Portia de Rossi as well as the first vegan dinner at the U.S. Senate. Chef Tal's new cookbook, *The Conscious Cook*, is a *New York Times* best-seller. He has worked at several of the nation's top vegan restaurants and conducts master vegetarian workshops at Le Cordon Bleu College campuses nationwide. At VegFest, he'll speak and prepare delicious vegan recipes at noon and sign copies of his book.

Salley returns to VegFest, having drawn record-breaking crowds to the event the past two years. Salley follows a vegan diet and believes that this diet choice improved his game and his life. He will speak at 2 p.m.

Other VegFest speakers are Nathan Runkle, executive director of the national Mercy for Animals; Dr. Joel Kahn, corporate director of wellness for Detroit Medical Center Hospitals and director of preventive cardiology and cardiac rehabilitation at DMC Cardiovascular Institute; Jim Corcoran, co-founder of VegMichigan, Plant Peace Daily and VegFund; Harry Pianko, president of VegMichigan; and others. Chef George Vutetakis, author and founding chef of Royal Oak's Inn Season Café, will present a cooking demonstration and tasting. Chef Steven Delidow, culinary wellness representative at Henry Ford West Bloomfield Hospital and Celeste Ivey, proprietor of Patisserie Ci in Southfield, also will demonstrate cooking.

VegFest admission is \$10 at the door; \$5 for students; free for children under 6 and VegMichigan members. Parking is free. For memberships, discounted tickets and information on sponsorship, exhibiting, volunteering or the day's schedule, call VegMichigan at (877) 778-3464 or visit www.vegmichigan.org.

Crunch your way to a healthy heart

CHOCOLATE ALMOND BARK

Created by: Almond Board of California

Yield: 32 servings

- 4 cups sliced California Almonds
- 1/2 cup unsalted butter, softened
- 1 1/2 cups sugar
- 1/2 cup water
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 pound fine-quality bittersweet chocolate
- 1/2 pound fine-quality semi-sweet chocolate
- 3 ounces of milk chocolate or white chocolate (optional)



Chocolate Almond Bark

Preheat oven to 400°F and oil a large baking sheet. Set aside. In a separate large baking pan, spread almonds and toast for 8 minutes or until lightly brown. Cool. In a large heavy saucepan, bring butter, sugar, water, vanilla and salt to a boil over moderate heat, stirring with a wooden spoon. Boil mixture, without stirring, until deep golden color, about 12 minutes. Remove pan from heat and stir in 2 cups of the toasted almonds. Immediately pour onto reserved baking sheet and spread evenly. Refrigerate until set.

Chop chocolate. In a hot double boiler, melt chocolate until smooth. Pour chocolate over cooled almond toffee and spread evenly with a spatula. Sprinkle top with remaining almonds. If desired, drizzle with melted milk or white chocolate for contrast. Chill uncovered until firm, about 1 hour. Break toffee into pieces. Store layered between sheets of parchment paper in an airtight container at cool room temperature, or chilled, up to 1 week.

Nutritional analysis per serving; Serving size: 2 ounces.

Calories: 246; Fiber 2.1 g; Total Fat: 17.5; Cholesterol: 8.2 mg; Saturated Fat: 7.2 g; Sodium: 22.1 mg; Monounsaturated Fat: 5.7 g; Calcium: 45.9 mg; Polyunsaturated Fat: 1.6 g; Magnesium: 42.6 mg; Protein: 4.17; Potassium: 211.5 mg; Carbohydrates: 24.5 g; Vitamin E: 3.2 mg (Total alpha-tocopherol equivalents)

- Courtesy Family Features

Contest yields bushels of recipes

Amateur cooks across the nation scoured magazines, cookbooks and family recipes to draw inspiration for their entries in the Michigan Apple Committee's 3rd Annual Online Recipe Contest.

The Committee awarded prizes to three top winners, as well as three runners-up.

"This is the first time we felt compelled to distinguish three runners-up because the entries were that good," said Holly Whetstone, the Committee's marketing and communications manager.

The organization plans to feature the winning recipes, along with the winners' photos, on future recipe cards distributed at orchards, farm markets, trade shows and select grocery stores.

First place winner is an apple scone recipe; second place is a salad and third place is a pie. Runners-up are desserts and a vegetable-apple side dish.

PURE BLISS APPLE GINGER SCONES

Created by Nadine Mesch of Mount Healthy, Ohio

- 2 cups flour
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 3 teaspoons baking powder
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 6 tablespoons cold butter
- 2 Gala apples, peeled and finely chopped
- 1/2 cup candied ginger, chopped
- 1 egg
- 1/2 cup heavy cream
- 1 1/2 teaspoons lemon zest
- GLAZE:
- 1/4 cup powdered sugar
- 2 tablespoons lemon juice

Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper. In a large mixing bowl combine flour, sugar,

baking powder and salt. Using a cheese grater, grate the cold butter into the flour mixture. Stir. Add chopped Gala apples and candied ginger. In a small bowl mix together the egg, cream and lemon zest. Gently mix into apple mixture. Stir until dough forms. Knead dough six times. Place on parchment paper, form into an 8-inch round. About 1-inch thick. Cut into 8 wedges; separate slightly.

Bake for approximately 15 minutes until just lightly golden. Cool slightly. Combine glaze ingredients, drizzle over scones. Now get ready for PURE BLISS and enjoy.

SKILLET APPLE-CHERRY PIE

Created by Donna Bardocz of Howell
My mom always told me that most everything comes back in style if you wait long enough... my rustic technique of making and baking my apple-cherry pie in an oven-proof cast-iron skillet brings back days gone by. And too, the inside of the pie will surprise and delight with a yummy dumpling-type filling.

Makes 7 to 8 servings.

- Refrigerated pie crust (15-ounce box)
- 1/2 cup dried cherries
- 1/2 cup chopped pecans
- 1/2 cup firmly packed light brown sugar
- 1/4 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1/2 cup (4 tablespoons) unsalted butter
- 1/2 cup firmly packed light brown sugar
- 1/2 cup (4 tablespoons) cherry preserves

4 tart Michigan baking apples, such as Golden Delicious, Gravenstein, Baldwin, Macoun, Northern Spy or Winesap, washed very well

2 tablespoons milk

1 tablespoon granulated sugar (for sprinkling on top)

Preheat the oven to 400 degrees F. Combine the dried cherries, pecans, 1/2 cup brown sugar and cinnamon in a small bowl and set aside.

Select an ovenproof skillet that measures 9 inches across the bottom and 11-12 inches across the top. A cast-iron skillet works well and makes a home-style presentation. Melt the butter in the skillet over medium heat, and then stir in the other 1/2 cup of brown sugar and cherry preserves. When the mixture is bubbling evenly over the surface of the pan — 30 seconds or so — remove pan from the heat.

Do not peel the apples; the peels will help them to hold together. Halve them top to bottom, however, and core each half. A melon baller does a good job. Spoon some of the cherry-walnut mixture into each apple half, compacting it with a finger.

Quickly invert the stuffed apple halves and place them cut side down in the skillet. You should be able to get six or seven around the outside and one in the center. Finely dice the remaining apple half, if left over, and scatter the pieces between the apples. Sprinkle the leftover cherry-nut mixture between the apples.

Between two sheets of waxed paper, converge and roll together both top and bottom pie crusts to form one 12-inch circle. After removing the top sheet of waxed paper, invert the pastry over the apples, center it and peel off the other sheet of paper. Lifting the edge of the pastry, either tuck the edge straight down along the inside of the pan or pinch it to crimp the edge. Poke two large vent holes in the pastry with a paring knife, twisting the knife to enlarge the holes slightly.

Lightly brush the pastry with the milk and sprinkle surface with sugar. Place the pie directly on the center oven rack and bake for 20 minutes. Reduce the oven temperature to 375 degrees and bake until the top crust is golden brown, another 25 minutes.

Transfer the pie to a cooling rack and let cool for at least 30 minutes or to room temperature before serving.

CITY BITES

Burger and a movie

Farmington Hills - Jaws Jumbo Burgers will celebrate Tom Hanks Day by showing Tom Hanks movies noon to 8 p.m. Sunday, March 27 and giving away a \$20 gift certificate to the 50th customer.

Films include Tom Hanks favorites like *Toy Story 1, 2, and 3*, *The Polar Express*, *Forest Gump*, and *Turner and Hooch*. Jaws Jumbo Burgers is located at 29216 Orchard Lake Road, Farmington Hills; (248) 855-2228 or www.jawsjumboburgers.net

Vegan cooking

Plymouth - Dr. Art Weaver, professor emeritus of head and neck cancer surgery at Wayne State University, is the keynote speaker at a presentation on eliminating dairy, meat and fish from the diet.

It runs 2-5 p.m. Sunday, March 27, at Metropolitan SDA Junior Academy Gym, 15585 Haggerty, Plymouth. The seminar will include cooking techniques, tips for prepar-

ing tasty vegetables and recipes, along with a meal.

Cost is a suggested donation of \$15 per person or \$25 per couple. Registration is necessary. Call (248) 349-5683.

Cupcakes for a cause

Plymouth - The Cupcake Station is selling purple cupcakes through Sunday, March 27 to help raise money for the Anita Kaufmann Foundation.

It is donating \$1 from each purple cupcake sold to the Foundation, which educates the public about epilepsy and seizures.

In addition to its downtown Plymouth location, The Cupcake Station has stores at 116 E. Liberty, Ann Arbor and 136 N. Old Woodward, Birmingham.

Fish on Friday

Canton - Fish Fry Fridays are in full swing now through April 22 at the Summit on the Park Banquet Center, located at 46000

Summit Parkway. The all-you-can-eat buffet is served from 5-9 p.m. and includes cod, tilapia; seafood cakes; pasta; fresh vegetables; french fries; coleslaw; soft drinks, coffee and tea. Cost for adults is \$11.95 and for children under 12, \$4.95. Desserts and a full-service bar are available at an additional cost. The dinners are prepared by Summit Gourmet by Continental for dine-in or take-out. Reservations are for parties of eight or more. For more information call (734) 394-5460 or visit www.Cantonfun.org.

More fish

Nationwide - This month, Applebee's restaurants are serving an "All You Can Eat Fish & Chips" special all day every Friday through April 22.

In addition to the Canton location at 43500 Ford Road, Applebee's has restaurants locally at 36475 Warren Road in Westland and 17101 Haggerty, Northville.

REAL ESTATE

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SUNDAY EDITION, 4:30 P.M. FRIDAY
THURSDAY EDITION, 4:30 P.M. TUESDAYJulie Brown, editor, (313) 222-6755
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When vacationing, plan to reduce break-in chances

BY JULIE BROWN
O&E STAFF WRITER

Sgt. Mark Gajeski of the Canton Police Department says most vacationers in his community are pretty good about planning ahead to make a break-in less likely while they're away.

Sometimes, children of vacationers let word slip parents are out of town and there's a break-in, he said. "It's not just a random stranger that happened upon their house."

Common-sense advice can go a long way to making it less likely you'll be a break-in victim as you head out on vacation. Putting lights on timers, available at hardware stores, is a good place to start.

"That's a good one, timers on the lights," Gajeski said. "And vary them." You don't want lights in different rooms all going on and off at the same time.

"Make sure all your doors and windows are locked," he said. You'll need to have mail held and newspaper delivery stopped, or have mail/papers picked up regularly by a trustworthy neighbor.

"If you're leaving this time of year, make arrangements to have your snow removed," Gajeski said. Some residents like to leave a radio or TV on to make the home appear occupied.

"Make sure that someone knows you're gone and has an emergency contact in case something happens to your residence," Gajeski said. You'll want to choose someone trustworthy and be sure he or she can get in touch with you.

Some more generic home safety advice, like not having shrubs obscuring windows, applies as well: "That's more regular day-to-day as opposed to going on vacation, but yeah," the police sergeant said.

If traveling for a long time, he recommends you consider using a safety deposit box at a bank for valuables. At the least, don't leave them in an obvious spot like a jewelry box in a master bedroom.

The Michigan State Police website offers these tips for vacationers to heed before leaving:

• Make your home appear occupied when you go out.



- Leave lights on and the radio playing.
- Keep your garage door closed and locked.
- Use timing devices to turn inside lights on and off.
- If you will be gone several days, arrange to have the mail and papers

stopped or picked up. Half of all home burglaries occur during the day when alert neighbors could spot and report the thieves.

Outside your home, whether you're there or on vacation, state police urge you:

- Trim back shrubbery hiding doors

or windows. Cut back tree limbs that could help a thief climb to second story windows.

• Make sure all porches, entrances, and yards are well lit.

• Maintain the neighborhood. Dark alleys, litter, and rundown areas attract criminals.

Florida condo standards not bad

Q: I have heard about a recent article that was written about how much better or worse than Florida is community association living elsewhere in the country and/or abroad. Do you have any comments about that?

A: While I have not been everywhere in the United States and/or abroad, I

have visited a number of countries in Europe and generally inquire about the community association status in each country, particularly condominiums or similar type developments. I have also had an opportunity to visit community associations in many states in the United States and talk to community association lawyers from many states.

What is particularly interesting is that the same problems that occur in Michigan occur in Florida, California, Texas, Illinois, etc., in that people are basically the same as it relates to community association governance. While it is true that there are more "senior citizens" in Florida that have more time to stand around and watch the contractors and managers do or not do their thing, generally speaking, the issues concerning condominium governance result in the same types of decision making processes on the part of the Board with the same types of problems. In short, I do not think things are much different in Florida than any place else in the country, or for that matter, the world.

Q: The president of our condominium association, who happens to be a doctor, is unwilling to pay any of his contractors a fair wage and got into a fight with his attorney over a legal bill even though the association recouped all of the legal costs from a delinquent co-owner. How do we deal with this director who doesn't seem to want to pay any service vendor, but expects good service?

A: Have the director read materials available on community association governance, as well as remind that director of his or her legal and fiduciary responsibilities to operate in the best interests of the Association, which includes having to spend money on vendors which are necessary to assist the association. It has always been a puzzle to me, in nearly 40 years of practicing community association law, that too many directors think their job is to spend as little money at whatever cost as opposed to improving the operation and organization of the board, and, consequently, the association and at the same time, avoiding potential personal liability for them as directors. This doctor probably doesn't perform house calls either.

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

HOMES SOLD-WAYNE

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of Dec. 6-10, 2010, at the Wayne County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

City	Address	Sale Price	
Canton	41664 Bedford Dr	\$57,000	
	47879 Cardiff Ave	\$82,000	
	6951 E Spring Dr	\$181,000	
	42142 Gloria Dr	\$158,000	
	45632 Holmes Dr	\$205,000	
	2363 Lexington Cir N	\$248,000	
	47870 Pavilion Rd	\$330,000	
	160 Roseland Dr	\$118,000	
	44136 S Umberland Cir	\$165,000	
	43964 Somersett Sq	\$155,000	
	798 Sorel Dr	\$125,000	
	41431 Stafford Ct	\$98,000	
	605 Stonehenge Dr	\$182,000	
	Livonia	14363 Arden St	\$125,000
		15367 Ashurst St	\$144,000
32909 Brookside Cir		\$164,000	
17546 Country Club Dr		\$185,000	
20124 Floral St		\$20,000	
9083 Fremont St		\$95,000	
15170 Garden St		\$58,000	
29457 Grandon St		\$92,000	
15680 Huff St		\$204,000	
11428 Mayfield St		\$130,000	
37538 N Laurel Park Dr		\$110,000	
Northville		46080 Bloomcrest Dr	\$242,000
		19659 Fry Rd	\$67,000
		20312 Lexington Blvd	\$315,000
		47680 Manorwood Dr	\$575,000
	46800 Merion Cir	\$545,000	
	49100 Rainbow Ln S	\$299,000	
	15661 Troon Ct	\$640,000	
	Plymouth	47046 Beechcrest Dr	\$235,000
		44678 Charnwood Dr	\$214,000
		44957 Deer Run Rd	\$238,000
		1656 Gloucester St	\$190,000
		9019 Gregory Ln	\$146,000
		544 Leicester St	\$187,000
		40716 Newport Dr	\$68,000
		51157 Northview	\$225,000
Redford		15934 Dalby	\$48,000
		15065 Delaware Ave	\$95,000
		26840 Dover	\$35,000
		18315 Five Points St	\$3,000
		15596 Gaylord	\$21,000
		25108 Keeler	\$64,000
		15067 Kipke	\$80,000
	9187 Mercedes	\$70,000	
	10060 Mercedes	\$32,000	
	15871 Woodworth	\$57,000	
	11408 Wormer	\$58,000	
	Westland	2709 Second St	\$64,000
		38640 Alma Ln	\$180,000
		941 Barchester St	\$84,000
		34263 Fairchild Dr	\$145,000
8254 Milburn St		\$65,000	
7940 N Willowood St		\$131,000	
38467 Palmer Rd		\$65,000	
29032 Richard Dr		\$19,000	
35348 Sheffield St		\$30,000	

HOMES SOLD-OAKLAND

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of Dec. 6-10, 2010, at the Oakland County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

City	Address	Sale Price			
Farmington	3309 Larosa St	\$76,000			
	3559 Raffwood Dr	\$380,000			
	23790 Gill Rd	\$150,000			
	21329 Larkspur St	\$105,000			
	24089 Tana Ct	\$147,000			
	Farmington Hills	31178 Country Blf	\$49,000		
		24425 Farmington Rd	\$193,000		
		21147 Flanders St	\$45,000		
		22011 Inkster Rd	\$57,000		
		21307 Melrovia Rd	\$230,000		
		24637 Millcreek Dr	\$180,000		
		29916 Muirland Dr	\$202,000		
		30253 Ravenscroft St	\$145,000		
		21434 Rockwell St	\$24,000		
		38163 Southfarm Ln	\$180,000		
20817 Sunnydale St		\$60,000			
36451 Valley Ridge Dr		\$118,000			
37050 Valley Ridge Dr		\$187,000			
30022 W 12 Mile Rd		\$24,000			
37859 Windwood Dr		\$211,000			
Franklin	32667 Haverford Rd	\$270,000			
	30645 N Greenbriar Rd	\$270,000			
	Lathrup Village	28534 Sunset Blvd W	\$125,000		
		Milford	1073 Harvest Valley Dr	\$330,000	
			Novi	50629 Amesburg Dr	\$529,000
				22280 Barclay Dr	\$460,000
				28159 Carlton Way Dr	\$123,000
				41644 Chattman St	\$260,000
				25806 Island Lake Dr	\$435,000
				25946 Island Lake Dr	\$375,000
				40511 Lenox Park Dr	\$229,000
				22750 Mondavi Dr	\$440,000
				23161 Mystic Forest Dr	\$315,000
				45360 Roundview Dr	\$259,000
				41584 Thoreau Rdg	\$290,000
21894 Worcester Dr				\$254,000	
South Lyon				200 Washington St	\$53,000
	Southfield			18765 Addison Dr	\$132,000
		29320 Brooks Ln		\$195,000	
		25057 Champlain Dr # 5h	\$39,000		
		29260 E Chanticleer Dr	\$107,000		
		26300 Franklin Pointe Dr	\$36,000		
		20175 Harbor Ln	\$100,000		
		18220 Nadol Dr	\$84,000		
		27450 Pierce St	\$88,000		
		28815 Red Leaf Ln	\$52,000		
		18920 Silvercrest St	\$90,000		
		30280 Southfield Rd	\$35,000		
		30280 Southfield Rd	\$44,000		
		29071 Tiffany Dr W	\$57,000		
		30045 Wildbrook Dr # 103	\$40,000		
25560 Woodvilla Pl		\$143,000			
White Lake	10220 Cedar Island Rd	\$188,000			
	8560 Cooley Beach Dr	\$84,000			
	1400 Orchard St	\$71,000			
	8565 Pontiac Lake Rd	\$106,000			
	942 Roman Dr	\$120,000			

REAL ESTATE BRIEFS

BIA

• Building Industry Association of Southeastern Michigan (BIA) will sponsor a three-hour Continuing Competency course, required for license renewal for both Builders and Maintenance and Alterations Contractors licenses, on Tuesday, April 12, from 9 a.m. to noon at Association Offices, 2075 Walnut Lake Road, West Bloomfield. For those with licenses issued prior to Jan. 1, 2009, three hours of continuing competency are required each cycle. The instructor, Don Pratt, CGB, CGR, CGP, CAPS, of CECS of Michigan, LLC, will present one hour for each of the required subjects: legal issues, codes, and safety issues. Registration fees

are \$55 for members or guests. For registration information, call (248) 862-1002 or register online at www.builders.org/events.php.

• Apartment Association of Michigan's (AAM) Property Management Council (PMC) will sponsor a seminar for leasing professionals called Leasing 101: The 2011 Tour on Friday, April 15, from 9 a.m. to noon at Association Offices, 2075 Walnut Lake Road, West Bloomfield. Kathleen Mabie of Ann Arbor-based Success On Site will provide guidelines to increase occupancy immediately. Topics to be presented include Competitive Analysis, Closing from Start to Finish, Secure Contacts when they call, hit websites, or send e-mail, Meet and Greet Interface, Follow-up and more. The

entire leasing process will be covered.

Registration fees are \$69 for PMC members, \$79 for AAM or Building Industry Association members and \$99 for guests. For registration information, call (248) 862-1002 or register online at: www.builders.org/events.php.

• Building Industry Association of Southeastern Michigan's (BIA) NAHBR Professional Remodelers Council will hold a three-part seminar series called "Your Master Planned Business" on April 19, June 15 and Oct. 19. The seminars will be presented by Dawn Drozd, business coach and CEO of ClearVision Business Coaching. Part One, to be presented on April 19 is "Measure Twice, Cut Once." Part Two is "Your Master Blueprint" and will

be held on June 15. Part Three is "Project Review" and will be held on Oct. 19.

The April 19 program will begin at 12:30 p.m. with lunch followed by the seminar from 1-2:30 p.m. It will be held at the Ford Conference & Event Center at 1151 Village Road in Dearborn in conjunction with the Pella Pro Expo being held later that day. The June 15 and Oct. 19 programs will each run from noon to 2 p.m., including lunch, at Association Offices, 2075 Walnut Lake Road in West Bloomfield.

Registration fees for members or guests are \$40 per person for each seminar or \$80 per person, if you register for all three seminars. For further information, call (248) 862-1002 or register online at: www.builders.org/events.php.

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<p>New 2011 Ford Edge SE</p> <p>ONLY \$219⁺ PER MO. A/Z Plan 24 mo. lease, \$2,069 due at signing.</p>	<p>New 2011 Ford Fiesta SE</p> <p>ONLY \$129⁺ PER MO. A/Z Plan 24 mo. lease, \$1,594 due at signing.</p>	<p>New 2011 Ford Mustang Coupe</p> <p>ONLY \$229⁺ PER MO. A/Z Plan 24 mo. lease, \$1,972 due at signing.</p>	<p>New 2011 Ford F-150 Super Cab XLT</p> <p>ONLY \$229⁺ PER MO. A/Z Plan 24 mo. lease, \$2,008 due at signing.</p>

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*Add tax, plates, destination, doc fee and acquisition fee. All 24 month leases are 10,500 miles per year with A/Z Plan renewal. Cash due at signing includes \$595 Acquisition Fee. All security deposits waived. Must qualify for RCL/RCO renewal rates and A/Z Plan. Pictures may not represent actual vehicles. See dealer for details. Rebates to dealer including Ford Credit Retail Bonus cash. All security deposits waived. Program ends 4/4/11. **See dealer for details.