

HOW STUDENTS CAN MEET THE CHALLENGE OF THE HEALTH CARE INDUSTRY CLASSIFIED, SECTION C

BRANFORD MARSALIS AND HARRY CONNICK JR. UNCOVER THEIR ROOTS USA WEEKEND



Lotto lightning

William Bobbish of Canton was the first player to claim his \$250,000 from Tuesday's Mega Millions drawing that had nine tickets match five white ball numbers in Michigan.

Bobbish's ticket was sold at Smoker's Express, located at 45156 Ford Road in Canton. The numbers that yielded Bobbish the \$250,000 were the "lucky numbers" he said he's been playing "for years."

Asked what he intends to do with his winnings, Bobbish answered like a quarterback who had just won the Super Bowl: "I'm going to Disney World." He intends to take his six grandchildren along on the trip.



Optimist Oratorical contest gold-medal winner Brittny Baxter with contest host Bill Baumgartner.

Contest winner

The Plymouth Optimist Club held its 38th annual Oratorical Contest March 19, using the subject "How My Optimism Helps Me Overcome Obstacles."

Plymouth Christian Academy student Brittny Baxter was the goldmedal winner, after giving what Optimists said was a "delightful speech that inspired all in the packed audience" at Station 885.

Baxter now competes in the district competition, which could ultimately lead to a \$2,500 scholarship.

Share favorite



House gets behind I-275 plan

By Darrell Clem Observer Staff Writer

Look inside for

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Coupons

In yet another boost to Canton's efforts to fix the I-275/ Ford Road interchange, the state House voted Tuesday to support a resolution calling on the U.S. Department of Transportation to approve funding for the project.

The vote came mere days after Canton Township and the Michigan Department of Transportation submitted to federal officials an \$18 million request for grant dollars to reshape the interchange — a project officials say would create nearly 300 jobs, ease traffic congestion, reduce accidents and improve a key economic corridor of western Wayne County.

"We now have support of the full Michigan Legislature," township Supervisor Phil LaJoy said.

The House vote came after state Rep. Kurt Heise, R-Plymouth, introduced a resolution already approved by the state Senate to support efforts to secure federal dollars through a program called TIGER, Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery. The measure has received bipartisan support.

Local support

Meanwhile, LaJoy and other officials continue to push for a grassroots lobbying effort for the funding. They have asked local motorists fed with up Ford Road traffic congestion to go to www.tiger4canton.com to find ways they can lobby federal officials to approve the grant.

Already, the project has received support from Westland, Livonia, Wayne and the townships of Van Buren, Plymouth and Northville. Other entities favoring the effort include MDOT, the Southeast Michigan

Please see I-275, A5

Prez post 'dream come true' for chamber chief

By Darrell Clem Observer Staff Writer

Calling it "an absolute dream come true for me," former Canton Chamber of Commerce employee Thomas Paden has been chosen as the business organization's new president.

"I can barely find the words to adequately express my

quately express my enthusiasm," he said. Even before he starts his new job April 9, Paden already has confirmed his first priority is working with organizers to ensure "a great success" for the chamber's premier



memory of grandma!

On May 3, Hometown Life Woman will publish "A Salute To Women."

As part of this edition, we invite readers to add your words and photo to this special edition. Tell us about a special memory you have of your grandmother (in 50 words of less, if possible). Share your favorite memory and photograph (jpeg format attached to the e-mail).

E-mail your photo and special memory to bkadrich@hometownlife. com. Be sure to include your first and last name and identify your grandmother with a first and last name, too. Be sure to tell us where you live, and don't forget to provide a daytime phone number where you can be reached.

Then look for your photo and/or memory in the May edition of Hometown Life Woman.

INDEX

Community Life	
Crossword Puzzle	C3
Education	A4
Health	
Homes	
Jobs	C1
Obituaries	B4
Services	C4
Sports	B1
Wheels	C4

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BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Rick Hoffman just might be the world's most ardent fan of KISS. The KISS-themed bathroom of his Canton home is pretty strong proof.

Fan retools bathroom in band's honor

By Jill Halpin Correspondent

There are legions of followers of the 1970s-era glam rock-and-roll band KISS. And then there is Rick Hoffman.

You can call Hoffman, a longtime Canton resident, a fan, but that would be an understatement at best. He is, in his very own words, "the number one KISS fan in the world."

In fact, Hoffman is such a KISS enthusiast that he has devoted a room in his house to the band. He decorated and customized the room: a half-bath on the first floor of his home that has become a shrine to KISS lead singer Gene Simmons and his band mates. It is a sight to behold, complete with a special-order black sink, black toilet and, of course, black light.

However, the black light is not the only light in the room. The bathroom features multiple lighting options including a red light and a regular overhead light as well as customized murals and specially designed handmade plaques featuring busts of KISS band members.

And that is only the beginning.

KISS logo There is also the

There is also the etched mirror with the distinctive KISS band logo, the "KISS Army" logo above the light switch and the clock resembling the cover from KISS' *Destroyer* album, not to mention Simmons's face in his classic pose — tongue out — on the back of the sliding door.

Hoffman is smitten with his creation.

"The best thing about it is that it's been three years and every time I walk in there it's still just so cool," Hoffman said. "It's the best room in the house."

As the owner and operator of Artworks by Red, a custom

Please see KISS, A4

fundraiser, a dinner and auction set for Saturday, April 28, at Livonia's Burton Manor.

Paden's determination and longtime dedication to the Canton chamber catapulted him to the top slot as the organization sought a successor to Tracey Rettig, a former president who resigned last November after less than a year on the job.

Well connected

"We're really excited," chamber board Chair Kim Scartelli said Thursday, confirming Paden's selection. "He comes to us with a lot of experience with the chamber. He's familiar with our operations, and he has a ton of connections in the community."

Scartelli said Paden has the skills and ability to help the chamber, which hopes to boost its membership and find new ways to serve Canton's business community.

"He's got so much experience, he can hit the ground working," she said. "The board felt strongly he was the right candidate to get us back on track in terms of where we need to be. He's seen as a very professional person, and he's well-liked.

"He's a person who can really continue to pull the chamber together and help us grow in the future," Scartelli said. "He's going to be a tremendous asset."

Paden had worked as the chamber's member relations staffer from 2009 to 2011 but, amid what some viewed as a tumultuous year for the organization, he left late last year to become business development coordinator for the Michigan Recreation and Park Association in Lansing.

'Wonderful' choice

Paden's return was hailed by interim President Dianne Cojei, who held the job for a decade before she retired and was replaced during Rettig's 10month stint. Cojei said Paden has had ties beyond the chamber including Canton Township's economic development team and Plymouth-Canton Community Schools.

"I think he's a wonderful choice," she said. "He's so established here.

Please see CHAMBER, A5

AROUND CANTON

Audit shows \$350K energy savings

By Darrell Clem Observer Staff Writer

An audit by Chevron Energy Solutions Co. indicates Canton could potentially save \$354,673 a year by retooling township-owned properties to decrease usage of electricity, water and natural gas.

The findings come from a lengthy report by Chevron after Canton's elected officials paid the company \$34,400 to conduct a months-long study and issue recommendations.

"We looked at everything in the buildings that use energy," said Kenneth Hedrick, Chevron Energy Solution's Troybased senior business development manager, during talks Tuesday with township officials.

Chevron's recommendations come with guarantees Canton can trim costs and use the money to pay off a projected \$4.4 million retooling cost over 15 years, likely by issuing low-interest bonds.

The projects wouldn't strain Canton's cash reserves, Hedrick said. Rather, the energy savings are expected to generate money to pay off the debt.

Moreover, the township would continue to save money long after the energy-conservation projects have been paid off, Hedrick said.

As early as April 10, the Canton Township Board of Trustees is expected to decide whether to move ahead with a lengthy list of projects such as installing energy-efficient lighting, replacing wasteful water-related equipment, switching out aging heating and cooling systems and buying new furnaces for Sheldon School and The B.L.O.C.K., a youth center on Michigan Avenue.

The study also suggests installing two underground wells for Summit on the Park's splash pad and taking the site off the township's water bill. Chevron's far-reaching study involved a Cantonwide analysis of ways to save money.

"It involves almost every township facility," Canton Leisure Services Director Debbie Bilbrey-Honsowetz said.

Township officials also broached the issue of possibly hiring a third-party vendor for natural gas, though such a move wouldn't apply to residential property owners.

Meanwhile, Canton's projected \$354,673 annual savings would come from electric, gas and water costs, which Bilbrey-Honsowetz last September said amounted to nearly \$2.2 million for 2010. The township also is expected to see operational savings of \$8,500, and it could qualify for one-time utility-improvement incentives of \$84,000.

"Those dollars you do what you want with," Hedrick told township officials Tuesday.

Chevron would receive certain fees to oversee the projects, yet Hedrick said Canton would be guaranteed significant savings. He cited a promising track record, saying "97.3 percent of the time we're very accurate in our assessments.'

The project's goals are to reduce energy and operating costs, upgrade Canton's infrastructure and reduce the township's environmental impact.

"I think it's a good program," Canton Municipal Services Director Tim Faas said.

Assuming the township board decides to move ahead, the next step would involve securing financing. After that, Hedrick said, the projects are expected to take an estimated 13 months to complete. Chevron would oversee the work rather than diverting township employees from their normal duties.

> dclem@hometownlife.com (313) 222-2238

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

SLAVENS COFFEE

Date/Time: April 2 and April 16, 5-6 p.m. both days Location: Daydream Cafe, 47192 Michigan Ave., Canton Details: State Rep. Dian Slavens, D-Canton, invites residents to join her for a cup of coffee and conversation at one of her upcoming coffee hours. Slavens hosts regular coffee hours and town hall meetings throughout Canton Township, Belleville and Van Buren Township.

Contact: Call toll free at (888) 347-8021 or send an e-mail to DianSlavens@house.mi.gov with any questions or concerns.

CORRECTION

The map accompanying the story about the potential closing of Gallimore and Fiegel elementary schools in the March 22 Canton Observer should not have depicted East Middle School as being considered for closure. East was part of an earlier scenario the Board of Education had been considering, but has since been removed as a possible target for closing.



Joshua's fundraiser

A spaghetti dinner fundraiser to help pay the medical expenses of Joshua Retherford, a 1-year-old South Lyon boy, will take place from 3-7 p.m., Sunday, March 25, at St. Michael Lutheran Church in Canton (7000 Sheldon Road). Joshua was born with a congenital heart defect known as Hypoplastic Left Heart Syndrome (HLHS), which is characterized by the lack of development of the heart's left ventricle, and the diminished development of the aortic arch. The fundraiser will feature dinner, a silent auction, face painting, music and prizes. Suggested donation is \$20 for adults, and \$5 for children 10 and under.

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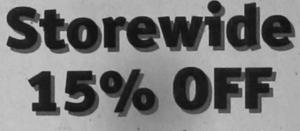
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(C)

A4

KISS Continued from page A1

graphic arts and signage business that provides banners and signs for many area businesses, local schools and sports teams, Hoffman is accustomed to working in creative design.

He said he was moved to refurbish his bathroom a few years ago after visiting a KISSthemed coffee shop in Myrtle Beach, S.C. Hoffman and his wife, Gail, were visiting their son, Donnie, on leave from the military, when they happened upon the KISS Coffeehouse in a popular shopping area in Myrtle Beach. Of course, he said, they were compelled to go inside and look around.

Buying power

"We left a few hours later, \$200 lighter with no coffee," Hoffman said. "But we sure had a lot of KISS memorabilia." However, it was the memory of the coffee shop's bathroom, outfitted in KISS collectibles and souvenirs, that stayed with him after his return to Michigan. It was not long before he knew he wanted to replicate it in his own home.

"It was just so cool," he said.

Gail Hoffman gave the final okay for the project.

"I knew he loved it when we were in Myrtle Beach," she said. "Once we got home, I said, 'You want to do that to our bathroom, don't you?' I told him to go ahead, you only live once."

Educated at Ypsilanti's Eastern Michigan University and Washtenaw Community College in graphic arts and design, Hoffman grew up in Livonia and graduated from Bentley High School. He has lived in the Canton area for the past 18 years. Armed with a lifelong interest in drawing, Hoffman said it took him a few weeks to re-design the bathroom and just another two weeks to finish it.

It was his artistic background coupled with his devotion to rock and roll that led him to undertake the one-of-a-kind KISS bathroom project, he said.

"I've always had an interest in graphic arts, always been good at it," he said. "And I've always loved KISS."

Comfort level

Although it took a little while to get used to it, Gail said she is now completely comfortable with their redecorated bathroom, even if Gene Simmons's face is on the back of the door.

"Sometimes I walk in and shut the door and say, "Whoa, Good Lord, Gene Simmons is right there," she said.

Even though she admits her musical tastes run more to a mellower, softer side, "I'm okay with it now. Some people are shocked that I let him do it, but once they go in and see it, they love it. It's very well done."

"It wouldn't have been my first choice, but if it makes him happy, I'm alright with it," she said. "If it were in our upstairs bathroom it might be another story."

Hoffman is proud his bathroom has become somewhat of a showplace. "Everybody that has

ever seen it loves it," he said.

However, there is one person to whom he would love to show the room: KISS front man Gene Simmons himself.

"Wouldn't it just be great if Gene could see it himself?" he asked.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The KISS-themed bathroom invites you to sit down and rock out.



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Board to consider revamped academy plan

By Brad Kadrich Observer Staff Writer

The Plymouth-Canton Board of Education will consider a retooled proposal Tuesday for three "academy" settings to be added to the district's curriculum.

The reconfigured academy proposal comes after board members were a bit skeptical of the previous proposal put forth by district administrators last week. Dr. Jeremy Hughes, the district's superintendent, went back to the drawing board and presents his new proposal Tuesday.

That'll make Tuesday's meeting a particularly busy one. The board is also expected to vote to close Gallimore and Fiegel elementary schools and repurpose them for other educational opportunities. Under Hughes' new academy proposal, Plymouth-Canton would add an international academy (a prelude to offering an International Baccalaureate program), an arts academy and a STEM (Science, Technology, Math and Engineering) academy.

The plan for a business academy has been dropped.

"We've tightened the plans up a little," Hughes said. "The IB program, I think, is a no-brainer, and there seems to be real interest (within the district) for the STEM."

Deadlines

The IB program is the one with a timing deadline. Administrators must apply for the program by April 1, or be forced to wait until the 2013/14 school year to apply. Barry Simescu and Judy Mardigian, the longest-serving members of the board, expressed an interest in the STEM academy idea, though both felt it could be put off a year while budget numbers get crunched to make it more financially viable.

"I see (STEM) as (having) the big student involvement," said Simescu, who said he agreed with Mardigian the STEM program could be "slid back a year." "There will be more students involved in this one than all the others."

While board members debated the issues, some teachers complained during the public comment portion they weren't included in the discussion for the parameters of the academy, and that the district was trying to rush the academies into the curriculum.

"I don't understand where

we're going in this rush to chase (state) money)," said Joan Pence, a high school science teacher. "I think a fruitful discussion has begun, but I can see a lot of outcomes, and none of them are good in terms of the people (teachers) you need to buy in. We need time to take a look at this."

Hughes said he understands teachers will be important to the process, and said they will be consulted as the plans develop.

"The curriculum when it hits the road has to be teacherdirected and teacher-driven," Hughes said. "I regret some (teachers) feel they were left out, and to some extent they were. We wanted to get a blueprint on paper."

Trustee Sheila Paton, who as a community activist last year talked about the idea of an IB program in the district, said the timing may never be quite right. "I'm really excited about

this," she said. "I've sat through what seemed like always cutting, cutting, cutting. I'd like to see us grow and add something back. My fear is, I don't know if there's ever going to be exactly the right time."

Canton resident Ken Crouch, who has a fourth-grader at Tonda Elementary and a seventh-grader at Pioneer Middle School, said the academies represent the kinds of programs parents are looking-for.

"For a parent who has considered sending his children to a charter school, it's programs like these that we want offered for our children," he said. "It is programming like this parents want to see."

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1-275

Continued from page A1

Council of Governments, the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools and retail giant IKEA, among others.

"I don't know of any-





thing else we could pos- ect y

sibly do to make this happen," LaJoy said Friday.

Lots of reasons

One interchange fix suggests installing two new ramps, or slips, from the southbound I-275 exit ramp at Ford to allow motorists to access Haggerty in either direction without traveling on Ford. It also calls for a northbound service drive along the east side of the interstate, from Cherry Hill to north of Ford Road.

The TIGER applica- • tion cites numerous reasons for the project, aside from traffic safety. Officials say the project would:

• Improve the flow of goods in an area strategically located between Detroit Metro and Willow Run airports, a "major distribution hub for a variety of national and international trucking and logistics companies" such as Canton-based W.F. Whelan.

 Boost industrial and commercial property values.

• Allow a quicker response by first responders to get to accident scenes along I-275 and Ford Road.

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CHAMBER

Continued from page A1

I think he comes here with a love of this community. We definitely want to move forward, and I think he's the person who can do that for us."

Paden, 27, first became involved in the chamber a decade ago when Cojei brought him in for a co-op student internship from the William D. Ford Career Technical Center in the Wayne-Westland school district.

"As a high school student," Paden said, "the with a priceless jumpstart on my professional development, laid the foundation for me to grow into a business professional — and for that I'm forever indebted to the Canton Chamber of

chamber provided me

Commerce." He said his position as president "is a way for me to give back to an organization that has done so much for me and the community."

Before Paden was hired as the chamber's member relations staffer, he was employed five years with Chrysler Corp. as a quality automotive supervisor. Cojei said she will remain as an interim chamber employee to help during Paden's transition.

Paden said he is eager to work alongside chamber members and engage them to move the organization forward.

"These are exciting times for the Canton Chamber of Commerce, with an insightful board of directors and a membership that year in and year out shows their dedication to this organization and community," he said. "The future is very bright."

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12:20, 6:50, 9:40 JOHN CARTER (PG-13) 4:05 PROJECT X (R) FRI-SUN/TH 12:10, 2:15, 9:50 FRI/SAT LS 11:55 3D DR. SEUSS' THE LORAX (PG) 52:59 PREMIUM PER 3D TICKET 11:35, 2:00, 6:40 DR. SEUSS' THE LORAX (PG) 4:15, 9:05 FRI/SAT LS 11:55 ACT OF VALOR (R) DR. SEUSS' 2:15

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EDUCATION

BRAD KADRICH, EDITOR Bkadrich@hometownlife.com (313) 222-8899 FACEBOOK: HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Seminar focuses on brain injuries

By Brad Kadrich Observer Staff Writer

Statistics show some 6 percent of student-athletes can expect to suffer some level of concussion during a given sports season.

With hundreds of high school athletes playing dozens of sports at the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park, district officials figured it was a good idea for athletes, coaches and parents to know what they're looking for. So when officials from Beaumont Hospitals offered to partner with their free concussion screening program, Plymouth-Canton administrators jumped at the chance.

Some 260 winter athletes took part in the first workshop in November, and another 150 spring athletes just completed the seminar over two days this week. The sides hope to do a third session in July to catch football land basketball players.

"It raises awareness to the fact concussions are very serious," said athletic director Sue Heinzman, who owns a master's degree in sports medicine from the United Sports Academy in Alabama. "It used to be a coach would just say, 'Walk it off.' Recent research says multiple concussions have a real effect. You can't just assume if you feel better in an hour that you're OK.

Participants listened to advice from Dr. Neal-Alpiner, who specializes in pediatric physical medicine at Beaumont, then adjourned to the



Nick Troher, 17, a Salem High School senior from Plymouth, checks out information on Beaumont Hospitals' concussion seminar.

computers, where Beaumont officials helped athletes establish a baseline, which will help evaluate cognitive skills should they suffer a head injury down the road.

A concussion, the most common traumatic brain injury in adults and children, is caused by a bump or blow to the head. They range from minor to major and are defined as a change in consciousness, such as loss of memory.

The high number of such injuries, Beaumont officials said, show that sports where there is physical contact are going to come with "consequences."

"We try to show the signs and symptoms. we reinforce a lot of what

coaches teach," said Lori Sheridan, Beaumont's neuroscience administrative manager. "When other athletes experience something, or see a teammate in trouble, they're not afraid to say something."

Heinzman believes in the program enough to have made it mandatory for her coaches. A former college field hockey and softball player at Eastern Michigan University, she also "strongly recommended" student-athletes attend the seminars.

"We strongly suggest that players, especially those in sports that have concussion potential (football, wrestling, etc.), get (screening) done,' said Heinzman. "Parents can certainly decide if

they want their kids to do it, but we strongly recommend it."

Plymouth-Canton is the second district to partner with Beaumont (Royal Oak was the first). Beaumont pays the cost (an estimated \$15,000) through grants and donations. Plymouth-Canton's size (it's the third-largest district in the state) made it an attractive partner for Beaumont, whose doctors, Sheridan said, are committed to helping kids.

"The neurosurgeons and administrators are so committed to this program," Sheridan said. "If we help even one kid, it's worth it. It's the right thing to do."

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SCHOOL BRIEFS

Hess

Scholarship bids

Plymouth-Canton Community Schools and the Plymouth Chamber of Commerce are accepting applications for the Student Citizenship Award scholarship. Nominations from all employees, parents and friends of high school seniors from the Plymouth and Canton area will be accepted before 4 p.m. on Friday, April 13. The \$1,000 scholarship is based on community service only. Grade point average does not play a role in the committee's decision.

The selection committee will pick one student each from Canton, Plymouth, Salem, Starkweather and a non-P-CCS high school for the award. The scholarship application, which is available at the Board of Education office, requires the student to give a one paragraph description of what community service means to them, a onepage bulleted list of the student's community service and a one page testimonial by the person nominating the student for the award.

Author, author

Sports is much more than a win-lose, physical battle between combatants but when properly understood is a way to discover a higher consciousness that leads toward peace and joy.

This is the message given by nationally renowned volleyball coach Jeanne Hess, author of Sportuality: Finding Joy in the Games.

Springing from seeking the true meaning of words, Sportuality continues a conversation about the role of sport in the cultural life of America."

said Hess, a 1976 Salem High School graduate. "The book really explores

sport as a vehicle for personal transformation that causes us to work together for something greater than ourselves. This idea becomes very clear when we discover that the word 'competition' actually means working together rather than against.'

Hess is a nationally renowned volleyball coach whose Kalamazoo College team has finished third or higher in the Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association (MIAA) ten times, ranks in the top 30 alltime among NCAA Division III colleges, and won her 500th career victory in 2011.

Reading fair

March is Reading Month in the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools, and what would March be without a Reading Fair? The purpose of the Reading Fair, which takes place 1:30 p.m. Friday, March 30, at Gallimore Elementary School, is to allow students the opportunity to explore their favorite fiction book in a variety of areas. Students will share their interpretation of the book and this will be displayed with other student works as well.

The Reading Fair is similar to a science fair in that students will share their interpretation of their books on a display board. Judges will have the opportunity to discuss the students' boards with them and provide feedback.



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LOCAL NEWS

First-graders get library lesson

By Darrell Clem Observer Staff Writer

If the typical Canton Public Library patron looks a little younger lately, there's a good reason. Hundreds of Plymouth-Canton area first-grad- some for the first ers time - are descending on the library to play games, peruse books, browse movie shelves, look for video games and explore their own children's department.

It's the library's 21st First-Grade Roundup, and some 900 students are expected in March during an event that coincides with National Reading Month.

It's the first Roundup since Nichole Welz, program specialist for children's, tween and teen services, started her job last fall.

"It's my first, but I'll tell you, seeing the enthusiasm and delight on these kids' faces is inspiring, and the librarians who read the stories and give the tours are, on this day, superstars," Welz said. "The program creates a comfort and confidence in these kids to use the library and ultimately shows them that



A group of Dodson Elementary first-graders share books during their visit to the Canton Public Library.

the library is a fun place to be."

It's a way the library can help to inspire children to read and find a wealth of resources. Moreover, the facility honors Canton's diverse population by offering materials in dozens of languages.

As of Thursday, the library had hosted 624 first-graders from eight schools: Erikkson, Hoban, Dodson, Tonda, Hulsing, All Saints Catholic, Achieve Academy and Plymouth Christian. Welz said employees still expect to welcome more than 250 youngsters from Bentley and Field elementaries and Canton Charter Academy. Anne Heidemann,

department head for children's tween and teen services, said First-Grade Roundup is "a favorite

We have invited all area first-graders into the library every spring for 21 years, and it is always

tradition" at the library.

a lot of fun both for the kids and for the library staff," she said. "Each first-grader who visits gets a library card if they don't already have one, decorates their own bookmarks, takes a tour of the children's library, views a puppet show and checks

out a book.' That's a busy day, indeed, and Heidemann said for some children it's their exposure to a place that has "wonderful resources" for them. "We want every child in the Canton area to know that we welcome them to use all that we have to offer."

For more information on the Canton Public Library, visit www. cantonpl.org or call (734) 397-0999.

> dclem@hometownlife.com (313) 222-2238



A parent chaperone helps first-graders from All Saints Catholic School find a book in the catalog during the March is Reading Month first-grade roundup at the Canton Public Library.



A line of first-graders gets a lesson on how to use the selfcheckout machines at the Canton Public Library.

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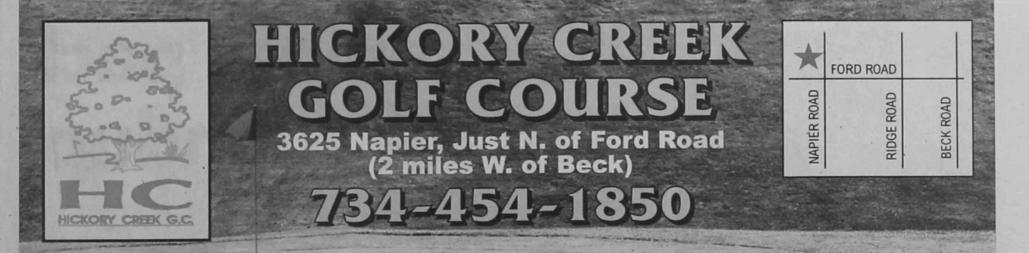


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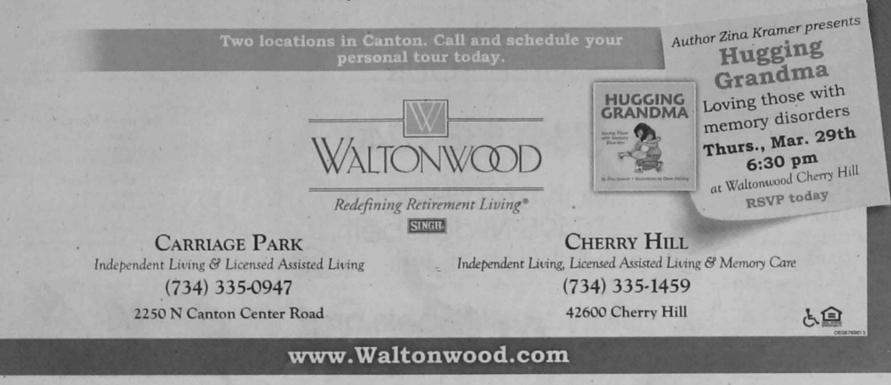


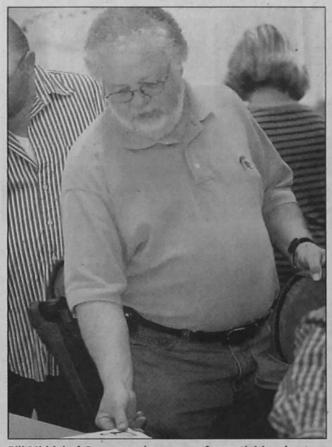
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A10 (C)

Bill Middel of Canton grabs a copy of an activities sheet to put in his backpack. He was at the event with his wife, school board President Carol Middel.

W-W seniors pack 'em for roundup

By Sue Mason Observer Staff Writer

Kindergarten Roundup in the Wayne-Westland Community Schools may be Tuesday, April 3, but for Jackie Wyrybkowski, preparation began months ago.

A secretary in the curriculum department, planning out the parent folders and ordering the T-shirts, backpacks and supplies for the annul roundup is "her baby." "I've done it so long, I

know when to start working on it. I start right after Christmas," Wyrybkowski said. "I do all the ordering."

With a budget of \$15,000, Wyrybkowski orders the backpacks and the crayons, glue sticks, books and activities to help get them ready for their first day of school and T-shirts for youngsters who participate in the roundup. Wyrybkowski made sure there were enough copies of the paperwork for folders that will be given to parents.

"My biggest fear is I'll get the year wrong on the T-shirts," she said, while pitching in to help



Stacks of Crayola Crayons wait to put in the backpacks.

seniors at the Dyer Center assemble the backpacks that will be delivered to the district's elementary schools. "This is the class of 2024."

Members of the seniors club at the Dyer Center volunteer to help with the backpack stuffing. A crowd of more than 20 seniors formed an assembly line at the center Thursday morning, putting eight items in the backpack before "quality control" did a last check and zipped them closed.

"I like volunteering, I like helping," backpacker newbie Pat Gregaine of Westland said. "I've been volunteering for a long time. The school system sponsors us and this is one way we can give back."

Close to 1,200 backpacks were filled and placed in bags to be delivered to the district's 11 elementary schools for the roundup that will be held 9-10 a.m.

Preparations began Wednesday with seniors folding folders to hold registration forms, emergency cards and information about the Champions before and after school program. The seniors also placed address labels on the district's Connections newsletter that contained information about the roundup.

"I think this makes the seniors feel worthwhile, that they have something to offer," center director Mary Browe said. "There's camaraderie and socialization for them. Some people never volunteer, but those who do volunteer feel better about themselves and the return is wonderful. "I've never had a hard time getting volunteers, they're all wonderful," she added.

for school during the summer, according to Aaron Baughman. "We run out every

"We run out every year," he said. "It's fantastic that the seniors have been so supportive of what we ask them to do. You don't see a lot of districts with seniors who are so supportive and they love it."

With a smaller than usual crowd and more than half of the volunteers new, the "quality control" table found themselves falling behind checking the backpacks and zipping them closed, a problem Browe addressed by starting another table.

"Quality control is going to lose their job. They're getting backed up and you know what happens when you're working on an assembly line," Browe said.

The additional help got the backpacks done in just under two hours, although the assembly line for the folders had longer to go.

"I've been doing this for at least eight years, and this is the first time we've had a wall of bags in front of us," Ed Turner said. "I've been doing this every since they started."

According to Wyrybkowski, the instruction department handled the backpacking the first few years.

"We divvied it up among instruction, but after a few years, we decided we needed help," she said.

Phil Lewis of Wayne is



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A majority of the backpacks will be given out at the roundup, but some will be available for children who are registered glad they decided to ask the seniors to help. This is his second year helping. Feeling under the weather with a hip and joint disease, he sat down to set out the bags for seniors to fill.

"I was a walker last year," he said. "I like doing this to help the club, but I like the camaraderie, too."

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Mary Lasek of Westland leads the assembly line of seniors who filled the backpacks.

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The planetdance competition team, which consists of 60 local dancers, recently competed at the 'Countdown Dance Competition' in Waterford.

Dancers excel at competition

The competition team from planetdance in Canton, which consists of 60 local dancers, recently competed at the "Countdown Dance Competition" in Waterford where they took top honors. According to planetdance's Jen Toby, the team placed in several different categories, including top mini solo, top teen solo, top senior solo, top teen duo, top senior trio and several group overall placements.

"I'm beyond proud of all of my dancers and could never thank them enough for their hard work and dedication on and off the dance floor," Toby said. The studio also had several students receive scholarships to California, Toby said.

planetdance is located at 44314 Cherry Hill in Canton. For more information on the studio check out www.planetdancestudio.com.

MILITARY NEWS

Advanced training

Army National Guard Pfc. Michael A. Fortenberry has graduated from the Multiple Launch Rocket System (MLRS) Crewmember Advanced Individual Training course at Fort Sill, Lawton, Okla.

The course is designed to train the crew member in launch operations of various missiles and ammunition in quick strikes during combat. The student was trained to perform maintenance in various launchers and re-supply vehicles and reload ammunition on these type vehicles.

Students were trained to drive, operate, perform maintenance and ammunition re-loading of the M270 self-propelled loader launcher and the ammunition resupply vehicle and trailer. They also learned to mount radio sets in vehicles, cables communication components in vehicle launcher, and operate and perform operator maintenance on communications equipment.

Fortenberry is the son of Lisa Jackson of Canton and Michael A. McClendon of Detroit. He is a 2007 graduate of Mumford High School, Detroit.

Combat trained

• Army National Guard Pvt. Dustin J. Crowley has graduated from Basic Combat Training at Fort Sill, Lawton, Okla.

During the nine weeks of training, the soldier studied the Army mission and received instruction and training exercises in drill and ceremonies, Army history, core values and traditions, military courtesy, military justice, physical fitness, first aid, rifle marksmanship, weapons use, map reading and land navigation, foot marches, armed and unarmed combat, and field maneuvers and tactics.

Crowley is the son of Caroline Crowley of Wyandotte and Joe Crowley of Canton.

The private is a 2007 graduate of Roosevelt High School, Wyandotte.

• Army National Guard Pvt. Dionte K. Miah has graduated from basic combat training at Fort Jackson, Columbia, S.C.

During the nine weeks of training, the soldier studied the Army mission, history, tradition and core values, physical fitness, and received instruction and practice in basic combat skills, military weapons, chemical warfare and bayonet training, drill and ceremony, marching, rifle marksmanship, armed and unarmed combat, map reading, field tactics, military courtesy, military justice system, basic first aid, foot marches, and field training exercises.

Miah is the brother of Oren McWilliam III Canton. He is a 2004 graduate of Mumford High School in Detroit.

Museum hosts 'Mad Hatter' tea

The Plymouth Historical Museum presents tea time at its finest when it hosts its annual Mad Hatter tea 2-4 p.m. Sunday, April 15.

It's the event where ladies where their craziest hats, and where Sue Paulin, a master gardener in northwest Illinois, will present "Contain Yourself: Container Gardening Basics."

Before the presentation, attendees can enjoy delicacies from Fancy Food Catering and the Museum's signature "Mary's Blend" tea — a cherry and almond black tea in honor of Mary Todd Lincoln. This tea is also available for purchase in the museum's store.

Tickets for the Mad Hatter Tea are \$20 for Friends of the Plymouth Historical Museum members and \$25 for nonmembers, if purchased by April 6 (add \$5 to the ticket price after that date). They can be purchased at the Plymouth Historical Museum during open hours, or on the website at http://www.plymouthhistory.org/Events.html using PayPal.

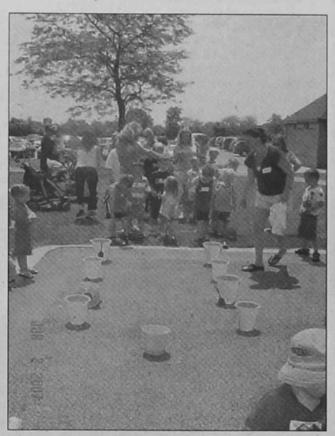
Ticket holders who come early that day are also invited to enjoy the Museum's special exhibit, "Ration Stamps & Bombers: WWII at Home." Ticket holders are also encouraged to wear their craziest hat to the Mad Hatter Tea.

The Plymouth Historical Museum is located at 155 S. Main Street, a block north of downtown Plymouth. Hours are Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday 1-4 p.m. For further information, call (734) 455-8940.





Canton Newcomers celebrate 40th



Canton Newcomers & Neighbors enjoy their annual family picnic. The group marks its 40th anniversary with an April birthday bash.



Card players at Canton Newcomers & Neighbors gather around the Bunko table.

Canton Newcomers and Neighbors, one of the largest social and charitable organizations in Canton, is gearing up to celebrate 40 years of service to the community.

"We are very pleased to have the opportunity to celebrate this hallmark of success," said Canton Newcomers and Neighbors Co-President Vivien Pierson. "Our Birthday Bash on April 4 is a perfect opportunity for those brand new to Canton, already established residents and former members to connect. Everyone is encouraged and welcome to come celebrate with us."

Originally established by homeowners in the Windsor Park subdivision located at Sheldon and Warren Roads, Phyllis Redfern remembers helping organize the group in 1972.

"Back then we didn't have I-275 or even a post office," Redfern recalled. "We had to go to downtown Plymouth or out to the Westland Mall to shop. The only meeting location choices in Canton for our subgroups were the Roman Forum and the Rusty Nail. Our one grocery store was Dennis' Market on Canton Center who still had hitching posts for those that came by horse. It was mostly farm land with gravel roads when Canton Newcomers was first established."

With the rapid influx of new residents to Canton in the 1970s, there was high demand for a local social organization. According to records, members of the Plymouth Newcomer's Club helped Canton start their own club. Men already had the Canton Lion's Club established a few years earlier so women created the Canton Newcomers.

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THE BIG 4-0

What: Canton Newcomers & Neighbors 40th Birthday Bash When: Wednesday, April 4, 7 p.m. Where: Sunflower Clubhouse, 45800 Hanford in Canton Event: Will host a fun

Event: Will host a fun 1970's theme: Carrabba's will provide a treat, the club will present a certificate of appreciation to their season's sponsor, Showroom of Elegance, and Dr. Jyothi Nichana will offer tips on aging gracefully. There is no charge; don't have to be a member to attend. **Contact:** Reserve a spot by contacting Noreen at nrybar@yahoo.com or calling (734) 981-0486.

At the height, there were 300 members who would regularly attend meetings, so school gymnasiums at Gallimore and Miller elementaries had to be used for the monthly general meeting. Because of the continuous flow of new residents into Canton, membership was limited to three years and then members moved onto one of the off-shoot groups.

Today, Canton Newcomers still meets on the first Wednesday nine months a year. The majority of members opt to leave spouses at home and enjoy a "ladies night out." There are also many smaller interest groups that have extra get-togethers to play cards, throw dice for bunko, catch a movie or enjoy a kid's play group. The big difference, according to members, is that residents don't have to be new to Canton to be a member.

Under the current leadership of Co-Presidents Noreen Rybar and Vivien Pierson, the organization expanded to include established residents with unlimited years of membership privileges. With this transition, Canton Newcomers and Neighbors developed a unique niche in the Canton civic arena.

"Due to the loyalty of



Shelley Megge said her father, Jack Walsh, was an inspiration to other cancer patients, having lived 11 years longer than doctors expected. The two drove cancer patients to their treatments as volunteers for Road to Recovery! Now Megge will pick up where her father left off.

Daughter continues dad's legacy as volunteer for cancer patients

By Karen Smith Observer Staff Writer

Nearly two years ago; Livonia resident Jack Walsh decided it was time to act. He had been diagnosed with multiple myeloma, a form of blood cancer nine years prior, and he was so thankful he was still alive that he wanted to do something to give hope to others fighting cancer.

That's when he heard about Road to Recovery, a volunteer-based American Cancer Society program that transports cancer patients to and from treatment. Since Walsh, 67, couldn't always drive due to the medications he was on, he recruited his daughter Shelley Megge to drive and he became the copilot and a friend to those they took to treatment.

Walsh lost his battle to cancer on Feb. 3, but Megge, also of Livonia, plans to continue his legacy as soon as she finishes recovering from knee surgery.

"It's so worth it," she said. "It's awesome; you feel amazing. People are going through so much, and everybody's so grateful."

Megge, 43, plans to take along a letter written by her father to share with each passenger.

'Basically a miracle'

and went."

His doctor at Our Lady of Hope Cancer Center at St. Mary Mercy Hospital had asked Walsh to write a letter to encourage other cancer patients undergoing stem cell transplants. It was that same letter that he would give to cancer patients to read as he and his daughter transported them to and from cancer treatments through Road to Recovery.

'Do the things you enjoy'

The letter reads, in part, "If you have cancer, I wish you the best. Don't worry too much and take one day at a time. Do the things you enjoy; it will make you feel better and take your mind off the cancer. And remember, don't sweat the small stuff."

Now Megge will share that letter with patients she transports with help from her children, Amanda, 23, a student at Eastern Michigan University; Aaron, 20, who's studying to be a paramedic; and Julia, 8, a student at Hoover Elementary.

Megge said she enjoys volunteering for Road to Recovery because it is so flexible. The owner and manager of a Southfield office building, Megge can go onto their web site and choose when she wants to drive patients so it fits within her schedule. She said some trips are just 15 minutes, some are longer. Some are only one way. Volunteers can drive as much or little as they want - even just once every six months. But she's happy to continue driving, and involve her children the way her dad involved her, in order to continue his legacy. "He wanted so much to give people hope," she said. For more information or to volunteer for Road to Recovery, call Andrea Jones at (248) 663-3485 or visit www.cancer.org/ roadtorecoverygl.



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members, Canton Newcomers and Neighbors are a stronger force and more valuable entity for our community than ever before," Canton Town-ship Treasurer Melissa McLaughlin. "Even though membership numbers vary with the housing market, their contribution to the Canton community has consistently increased. The group is definitely a highly valued asset that we count on to deliver a positive influence and contagious friendly spirit.' Canton Newcomers and Neighbors have expanded from just welcoming new residents to reconnecting existing residents and their whole families to the Canton community.

Megge said her father had a rare cancer. "He should have only lived six months to a year." But it wound up being 11 years. "It was basically a miracle."

A stem cell transplant put him in remission for five years, and then medications were able to control the cancer after it came back.

Megge said her father was so positive, many people didn't know he had cancer. "You never would have known when he was in pain; he juşt kept going."

In November, less than two months before he died, he went to Hawaii. "He was never bed-ridden; my dad just went

SOCIAL SECURITY

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In addition to practicing only Social Security disability law attorney Bieske has written a book for attorneys about the subject and has been interviewed on various television programs. Both attorney Bieske and Alfonsi have also been interviewed on radio programs and have given speeches to many groups.

Attorneys Bleske and Alfonsi offer free phone or office consultation. If they represent you, there will be no fee charged until after the case is won. The fee is a percentage of retroactive benefits.

Bieske and Alfonsi represent clients from all over the state of Michigan. Their Livonia office is on Six Mile Road just west of I-275. Their Novi office is located on Haggerty Road just north of 12 Mile Road. Call them at 1-800-331-3530 for a free consultation if you have been denied, or if you are thinking of possibly applying for Social Security benefits.

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Commissioned advisers beholden to someone else

By Rick Bloom Guest Columnist

Q: Dear Rick: My daughter lives out of town and has decided she needs the services of a financial adviser. I've sent her some of your columns so she would have an understanding of who to hire. I understand the difference between a fee adviser and one who works on commissions. I've told her to avoid commission-based financial advisers because of the conflict of interest. What confuses me is the difference between fee-only and fee-based. I'm not sure if it's just a difference in terminology or if there really is a difference. Please explain the difference.

A: First, I do agree with you that commissioned financial advisers do have a conflict of interest. After all, their compensation comes from the products they sell. I believe that when you hire a professional, their loyalty should be to you and only you.

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Money Matters

Rick Bloom

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Fee-based advisers will charge you a fee and at the same time also accept commissions. Sometimes this means that they are double-dipping. They are getting paid from both the client and the product.

What some fee-based advisers do is offset the fees they charge you with any commission they receive. Their view is that handling it that way reduces any conflict of interest. I don't agree. I believe there can, potentially, still be a conflict of interest. After all, what if the commissions are substantially more than the fee that they would charge you? In that situation you may not be paying any fee; you're just paying commissions.

A fee-only adviser receives 100 percent of his/her compensation directly from the client (I should note that my firm, Bloom Asset Management, has always been a fee-only adviser firm). Fee-only advisers do not receive any compensation from any product they may recommend to a client. In that way, there is no conflict of interest.

I believe that when you hire a professional, whether it is a doctor, lawyer or a financial adviser, you want them to be loyal to you, and only to you. That is why for the great majority of people, I recommend a fee-only adviser. Although the industry is changing and more advisers are becoming fee-only advisers, there are still a majority of financial advisers that work on commission. I believe that so many of those advisers are really not advisers but rather, financial salespeople.

There is nothing wrong with salespeople, however, I do believe they create a problem in the financial world. My other problem with commission salespeople is that not only does their compensation come from buying and selling products, but also many times they are compensated for doing nothing.

Many different types of investment products have what are known as trailers. Trailers pay a financial salesperson an ongoing fee for as long as the investor retains the product. In theory, the reason why they are compensated that way is so they can service the client for as long as they hold that product. However, reality is somewhat different. In many situations, the salesperson does nothing. You are paying them high fees and getting nothing in return. What also bugs me about commissions is that in many situations clients do not know what fees they are paying. When fees are undisclosed, they are generally higher than someone should be paying.

The bottom line when it comes to hiring a financial adviser is you have to feel comfortable enough to ask questions. If a financial adviser intimidates you or does not want to answer your questions, you know you're dealing with the wrong person. Good luck!

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



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Easter eats back on tap in Canton



Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, March 25, 2012

The annual Easter Bunny Breakfast and Easter Eggstravaganza events begin at 9 a.m. on Saturday, March 31.

The Easter Bunny is coming to town, and he's bringing pancakes and eggs and lots of fun for the entire family. Canton Leisure Services accordingly invites local families to the annual Easter Bunny Breakfast and Easter Eggstravaganza events beginning at 9 a.m. on Saturday, March 31.

The morning starts with a two-hour buffet of breakfast favorites in the Summit on the Park Grand Ballroom, located at 46000 Summit Parkway in Canton. Participants will enjoy a complete pancake bar, sausage, scrambled eggs, hash browns, fresh fruit, bacon, pastries, juices, milk, coffee and tea, as well as strolling entertainment featuring a visit from the Bunny himself. Pre-registration is required. Tickets are



Leisure Services officials recommend early arrival for the Easter Eggstravaganza, which starts at 10:30 a.m. at the Heritage Park Playground and Splash Pad.

\$15 for ages 13 and up, \$10 for ages 4 to 12, and \$4 for ages 3 and under. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Kids ages 11 and under can also stick around after breakfast for the Easter Eggstravaganza

verizon

which consists of a series of continuous weatherpermitting outdoor Easter egg hunts as well as fun indoor activities including: crafts, games, a special visit from the Easter Bunny, and a puppeteer. Tasty treats can

also be purchased onsite from Daydream Café as well as Cruisin' Custom Coney's

The Easter Eggstravaganza will begin at 10:30 a.m. and run until 12:30 p.m. at the Heritage Park Playground and Splash Pad, located on the east side of the Summit on the Park. No pre-registration is necessary, but entry is \$2 per participant collected onsite; to keep things fun and fair, children will be divided into two age categories. As the Eggstravaganza is traditionally well-attended, guests are encouraged to allow some extra time for parking.

To register for the Easter Bunny Pancake Breakfast or for more information, please visit www.cantonfun.org or call (734) 394-5460.

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it www.planetfitness.com.

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Planet Fitness to donate signup fees to breast cancer research

For the third straight year, Planet Fitness, with locations in Canton, Farmington Hills, Livonia, Southfield, Troy and Westland, will hold a special springtime promotion to raise money for The Breast Cancer Research Foundation.

For every new member who signs up at a Planet Fitness gym from March 26 through April 4th, a \$10 donation will be made to the foundation.

More than 320 Planet Fitness gyms across the country will participate in the nine-day sale.

Hazardous waste day set for April 14

The Wayne County Department of Public Service will be holding accepted. Items that will not be accepted include; commercial waste, indus-

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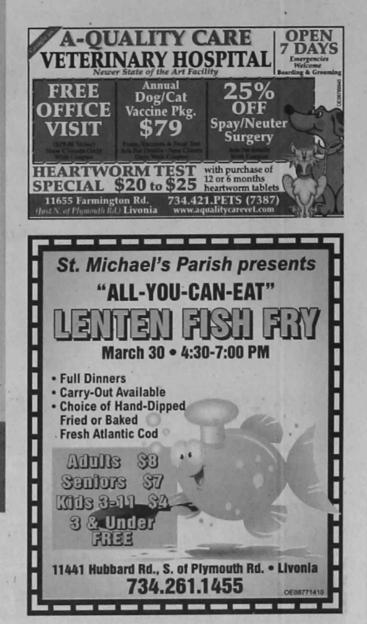
a Household Hazardous Waste Collection on Saturday, April 14, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., at the Romulus Civic Center, located at 11111 Wayne Road.

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

Only household generated products from Wayne County residents will be

trial waste, radioactive materials, explosives, ammunition, shock sensitive materials, household trash, 55-gallon drums, refrigerators, microwaves or other appliances, tires, yard waste and concrete. For information on how to dispose of these items, contact the Wayne County Resource Recovery Coordinator at (734) 326-3936.

For more information on the April 18 collection, please call (734) 326-3936 or visit www.waynecounty.com.





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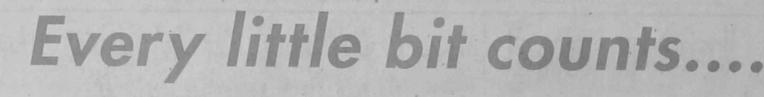
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INSIDE: ALL-AREA BOYS HOCKEY, B4

SUNDAY, MARCH 25, 2012 OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

SPORTS

TIM SMITH, EDITOR tsmith@hometownlife.com 734-469-4128

OHL PLAYOFFS

Rally can't save Whalers

By Tim Smith Observer Staff Writer

With one lightning-fast burst down the middle of the ice late in the second goal, Plymouth Whalers forward Alex Aleardi netted a shorthanded goal to cut Guelph's lead to 3-1 Friday in Game 1 of their OHL first round series.

That play, with 3:38 to go in the second, brought new life inside Compuware Arena, both in the stands and on the Plymouth bench.

But even though the Whalers ramped up the pressure with 21 shots in the third — and with forward J.T. Miller scoring a power-play goal — the early three-goal deficit proved too much as the Storm came away with a 4-2 victory.

"We had 47 shots, their goalie (Toronto prospect Garret Sparks) played really well and they got a couple bounces," Plymouth head coach and general manager Mike Vellucci said. "But I just told the guys, you got to win four games to win a series. It's not college hockey where it's one-game elimination."

The Whalers will look to even the series with a game at Guelph set for 6:30 p.m. Sunday. (Game 3 at Compuware is 7 p.m. Tuesday.)

Aleardi, who tallied 36 goals during the season, said his team now knows what it has to do to take over the bestof-seven Western Conference quarterfinal.

"He's a big goalie, he takes up a lot of space," Aleardi said about Sparks. "But we made him look good tonight. We just got to keep getting to the net. We're going to put pressure on him, he's going to weaken down and we're going to score a lot of goals."

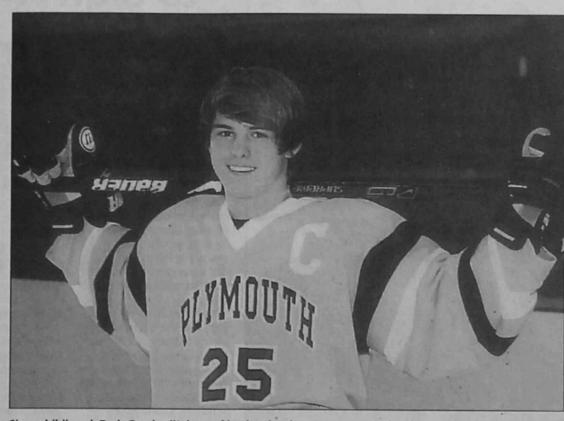
Goal in mind

Aleardi's goal did what he intended it to do, light a fire under his team to climb back from a 3-0 hole. Head down, he steamed full speed down the ice with one thing in mind.

"He (the Guelph defenseman) was skating slow and I just saw the puck kind of sitting there," Aleardi said. "I got a pretty quick pace out there and I thought why not pressure him and make him lose the puck.

"I ended up beating him to the puck and getting the boys going on my goal, shorthanded."

Miller made it 3-2 with 16:42 to play in the third. Forward Mitchell Heard battled along the right-wing boards and



Since childhood, Zach Gambrell's love of hockey has been a constant. The Plymouth senior looks to continue playing the sport — and enjoying it — well into the future.

Zach attack

Passion for hockey's never wavered for Plymouth senior

By Tim Smith Observer Staff Writer

Even when he was little playing with the Plymouth Sharks in a recreational hockey league, coaches saw something special in Zach Gambrell.

"From day one when he was put on a team, Zach played up a year," said his mom, Cheryl Gambrell. "So he played with older boys."

The Plymouth High School senior forward didn't stumble then, or anytime since with a seven-year stint with the Canton Crush travel team leading to a very successful high school career.

Gambrell, a first-team selection to the All-Observer hockey team, finished with the most goals, assists and points in the decade-long existence of the Wildcats.

For the record, Gambrell, 17, finished his prep career with 48 goals, 50 assists and 98 points — in 98 games. "Obviously, I feel pretty great about it," Gambrell said



Plymouth senior forward Zach Gambrell (No. 25) capped off an outstanding high school career in 2011-12, setting new school marks for goals, assists and points.

about his scoring mark. "Personally, I think that's a pretpretty good coaches. It all kind of added up to having a

Coaches call

If you coach one of the spring sports and would like to see a preview of your team in the Observer, please contact Plymouth-Canton sports editor Tim Smith at (734) 469-4128 or send him an email (tsmith@hometownlife.com) as soon as possible. Also follow up with recaps of games, meets and matches once the season begins.

Dolinski lifts WSU tankers

Wayne State University freshman Kaylee Dolinski helped Wayne State University earned the NCAA Division II National Women's Swimming and Diving championship by a single point over Druny University (Neb.) last weekend in Mansfield, Texas.

Dolinski swam the third leg as a member of WSU's first-place 800-yard freestyle relay team and also scored points for the Warriors with a 13th in the 1,000 freestyle (10:17.2) and a 14th in the 1,650 freestyle (17:21.97).

Dolinski, who attends WSU on an academic scholarship, also competed in the 200- and 500 freestyle events.

Dynamo 1st

The Livonia YMCA Dynamo, an under-10 girls soccer team, captured first place with a 7-0-1 record recently during the second session at High Velocity Sports in Canton.

Members of the Dynamo include: Andrea Abramson, McKenna Coury, Allie Fulton, Alexis Gibbons, Mandy Laiacono, Jenna McCann, Olivia Pelles, Julianna Racette, Jada Sabir, Jade Sabir, Abby Woods and Emily Woods. The Dynamo are coached by Laura, Don and Lesley McDougall.

Please see WHALERS, B3

ty great accomplishment. I mean, it's mostly just a lot of hard work and I had some good career.

Please see ZACH, B3

What a Discovery: Middle school cagers go undefeated

By Tim Smith Observer Staff Writer

Given the challenge of being the best, playing smart and working the hardest, Discovery Middle School's boys basketball varsity and junior varsity teams literally followed that blueprint to perfection.

The Canton school's A (varsity) and B (JV) teams each went 8-0 this season, enjoying a combined 16-0 record and first-year head coach Kevin Palmer couldn't have asked for a better debut.

Discovery enjoyed back-to-beat unbeaten seasons for the first time in school history. Enjoying the unprecedented two-year run were co-captains Chris Walls, Julian Ledoux and Beaumont Hoffman. "I was following in the footsteps of a great coach at Discovery, Dave VanWagoner, who built a consistently great basketball program at the school," Palmer noted. "Our group had three qualities that every coach wants in a team: great athletes, a very high basketball IQ and a great work ethic.

"We wanted to be the best team we faced all year, every day in practice and we were."

Please see DISCOVERY, B3



The Discovery Middle School boys basketball champions, who went a combined 16-0 this season, include the following: (front row, from left) Gage Moyers, Noah Haren, Ryan Radwan, Matt Brooks, Julian Ledoux; (middle row, from left) Jason Arnold, Zach Gruczelak, Nate Yaekle, Obi Okoli, Brent Davis, Ben Yaekle; (back row, from left) assistant coach William Hundley, Michael Chang, Chris Walls, Beaumont Hoffman, Javon Vinson, Hunter Thornhill, Jesse Warner, Evan Newel and head coach Kevin Palmer.

Rooney eyes homecoming

Mount St. Mary University (Md.) men's lacrosse co-captain Brendan Rooney (University of Detroit Jesuit) will return for a match beginning at 3 p.m. Saturday against the host University of Michigan in the first-ever meeting between the schools.

Rooney helped the Mountaineers to 2011 NEC and 2010 MAAC conference championships.

The homecoming also features the return of Mountaineer players Conor Carey (Farmington Hills) and John Marsalese (Huntington Woods).

Rooney has appeared in five games for the 2-4 Mountaineers.



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Whalers' Levi 'grateful' to sign NHL contract

By Tim Smith Observer Staff Writer

Ever since defenseman Austin Levi has played for the Plymouth Whalers, he's been witness to a string of teammates making their way to contracts with National Hockey League teams.

At the top of that list, of course, is Boston Bruins standout forward Tyler Seguin, who starred two years for Plymouth and last season won a Stanley Cup his rookie year in the NHL.

Now, the 20-year-old Levi has the chance to have his name added to the list as he inked a three-year, entry-level contract with the Carolina Hurricanes of the NHL. Whalers' goalie Scott Wedgewood subsequently signed a deal with the New Jersey Devils. "A lot of players have

"A lot of players have gone to the NHL from Plymouth," said Levi, following the Whalers' 6-2 loss to Sarnia in the regular-season finale on March 17. "I'm just really grateful for the opportunity and I worked hard for it. "It's good to finally see

it coming to fruition."

Levi, a 6-4, 205-pounder who lived several years with his family in Farmington Hills before moving in 2010 to Canton, added that getting the contract now is a big relief — particularly with the OHL playoffs beginning. Plymouth lost 4-2 Friday night in Game 1 against Guelph (see related story, B1).

"It's really exciting and a big relief to come here before playoff time so I can really focus on what's

DNESS IN MARCH



RENA LAVERTY

Plymouth Whalers defenseman Austin Levi (No. 7) signed an entry-level contract with Carolina of the NHL. Levi is a Canton resident, formerly of Farmington Hills. Pictured in the background is goalie Scott Wedgewood, who also recently inked a deal with the New Jersey Devils.

really important for our team, to win a Memorial Cup," Levi stressed. "So it's exciting but it's a relief to get it out of the way."

This season, Levi's fourth with the OHL Whalers, he scored five goals and 25 assists for 30 points in 64 contests.

Those marks were the second best among Plymouth blueliners in 2011-12, only behind Howell's Beau Schmitz.

The Hurricanes announced last week that they had signed Levi to the contract.

Levi will receive a \$175,000 signing bonus and could make \$525,000 if he makes the NHL club next season. If he is sent to the minors, he will earn \$60,000.

According to Ron Francis, director of hockey operations for the Hurricanes, Levi brings "excellent size and has really come into his own" as a stay-at-home defender. Although Levi would like it best to make the Hurricanes next fall, he said he hopes to at least make the Charlotte farm team in the American Hockey League.

Wedgewood signs

It was announced this week by the New Jersey Devils that netminder Wedgewood came to terms on an entry-level contract. No further details were available, per club policy.

Wedgewood, New Jersey's second choice (third round) and 84th overall selection in the 2010 NHL Entry Draft, joins the organization after spending the past four seasons with the Whalers.

The 6-1, 190-pounder finished the regular season with a 28-10-3 record and 3.02 goals-against average.

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DISCOVERY

Continued from page B1

The proof was on the scoreboard. Discovery scored an average of 47.5 points per game while yielding only 21.5 per contest.

"Our kids were phenomenal this year with their ability and schemes that we taught them," said Palmer, a former high school coach.

"By the end of the season, I felt like our kids could have taken on some high school freshman teams and given them a run for their money

"I don't expect to have another group of players like we had this year to come walking through the door any time soon, which is why I appreci-

ate how lucky I was to get the opportunity to coach such a talented group of players."

Pipeline for PCEP Thirteen eighth graders will move on and play for one of the freshman teams at Plymouth-**Canton Educational Park**

in 2012-13. "There were a lot of very special players on our team that are going to have great high school carriers through the next four years," Palmer emphasized. "But I don't want to single out any individual kids because it took all 18 of them to achieve the record and great season we had." Palmer, helped this season by assistant coach William Hundley, said he can't wait to see how well the players make the transition to the Park over the next four years.

"I'm very excited to watch them move on and see how they develop as high school players under great coaches like coach Brodie at Salem, coach Soukup at Plymouth and coach Reddy at Canton," he added.

Members of the Discovery teams included: Jason Arnold, Matt Brooks, Michael Chang, Brent Davis, Noah Haran, Beaumont Hoffman, Zach Gruczelak, Julian Ledoux. Gage Moyers, Evan Newel. Obi Okoli, Ryan Radwan, Hunter Thornhill, Chris Walls, Jesse War-ner, Javon Vinson, Ben Yaekle and Nate Yaekle.

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PHOTOS BY RENA LAVERTY

Plymouth Whalers forward Alex Aleardi (left) of Farmington Hills is flying high after scoring a spectacular shorthanded goal Friday night against Guelph netminder Garret Sparks in the teams' playoff opener at Compuware Arena. At right for Guelph is defenseman Matthew Finn (No. 4).

Just 1:04 into the sec-

er, Guelph tallied another

goal on the power play, this

The Whalers finally got

MU splits series at Aquinas

one on a long screen shot

by defenseman Andrey

Pedan that sailed over

Wedgewood's blocker.

WHALERS

Continued from page B1

passed the puck to center Andy Bathgate behind the net.

Bathgate then threaded a perfect pass to Miller near the left post for a tap-in marker.

Numerous times after that, Plymouth came close to at least sending the game into overtime.

But Sparks held his ground and Guelph's Francis Menard netted an empty-netter with 21 seconds left to wrap up the win.

Guelph led 1-0 after one period despite being outshot 12-8. A loose puck bounced off a player in front of Plymouth goalie Scott Wedgewood (26 saves) right to Jason Dickinson, who swept it home for the power-play goal.



Plymouth's Alex Aleardi (No. 40, left) scored in the second period, but he and his teammates were stymied throughout the third by Guelph goalie Garret Sparks. Here, the netminder kicks out a shot with Whalers forward Danny Vanderwiel (No. 18) hovering in search of a possible rebound. Also pictured is Guelph's Kyle Pereira (No. 9).

it going thanks to the specond, the Storm doubled the tacular goal by Aleardi, a play started when forward lead to 2-0. Brock McGinn Mitchell Heard chipped banked a shot from behind the net past Wedgewood. the puck out of the Plymouth zone. And three minutes lat-

Unfortunately for the home team and its 2,265 fans, it all proved too little too late.

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ZACH

Continued from page B1

"I think that's a pretty cool little feature to have, I don't think many high school (players) get to break records or anything.'

The scoring record is nice, but he points to something else as the highlight of his Plymouth career.

"It was probably my freshman year," Gambrell said. "We beat Canton both times in the regular season, like 7-3 or something. We were bigtime underdogs, so it was good to beat them.'

This season, playing on a line with Mike Schultz and Joe Burke, he tallied 15 goals and 13 assists for 28 points.

Gives his all

He also was team captain and brought a standard of performance on and off the ice that firstyear Wildcats coach Gerry Vento appreciated.

"As for Zach, besides his obvious skill on the ice, it is his team-first attitude that makes him a special player, which explained why he was our captain," Vento said. "On the ice, his skills were obvious to anyone that watched him play, but his work ethic is what separated him from other

er's 3.1 grade-point average contributed to the Wildcats' All-Academic team award for a cumulative GPA of 3.06. "This is something I am

very proud of as a coach," Vento said.

Although Gambrell's days wearing the black and silver have now concluded, he isn't done with hockey - by any means. This weekend, he is trying out with Team Michigan, a squad of elite senior high school players. A strong showing could land him a spot on the roster for a tournament in Minnesota.

"If I were to make the team and play in the tournament, I definitely think that would doors for me," Gambrell said. "To get a lot more people noticing me and looking at me." Other players from

Plymouth-Canton Educational Park are expected to be at the tryouts, including two other All-Observer first-teamers: Salem forward Mark McGee and Canton goalie Spencer Craig.

'Absolutely," Gambrell said when asked if he would like playing with others from the Park on Team Michigan. "I mean, I played with Mark (with the Crush) before I played high school hockey. So I know Mark from way, way back. It would be fun to play on the same team with him again.

Players usually must go from prep to the NAHL (or similar United States Hockey League) before being considered for college teams.

you cannot go from high school to college," Cheryl said. "You have to go the unless you are superb."

that progression, Justin Abdelkader of the Detroit Red Wings went from Muskegon Mona Shores High School to Cedar Rapids of the USHL before starting at Michigan State in 2005-

"There's one or two (NAHL) teams that have expressed some interest," Gambrell said. "But there's nothing too serious yet. But I'm going to a few camps and trying to get my name out there a little bit more.'

And there is an everpresent ambition Zach's carried since he was on Cheryl and dad Paul Gambrell first began chauffeuring him to early morning Sharks pracal Center.

"Zach's success truly is his excellent love of the game," Cheryl said. "And through his entire hockey career, he does very well because he's out there having a blast. He's having fun.' Whether he's playing NAHL, college or even pickup hockey, that isn't about to change.

nightcap, 3-1.

MU grabbed a temporary 1-0 lead in the fourth when Spencer Sarel knocked in Dan Harder. However, Aquinas scored once in the fifth and twice in the sixth to seize the victory.

Tyler Cotter (Livonia Churchill) led MU's five-hit attack with a pair of safeties.

In contrast, the Crusaders' bats were booming on Saturday when they swept Aquinas, 6-5 and 10-7.

In Saturday's opener, MU built up a 6-0 lead through four innings before withstanding a five-run Aquinas assault in the sixth inning.

tioned by USA Hockey.

"Under most situations, junior level route first,

As an example of

the Sharks at age 4, when tices at Plymouth Cultur-

A Tier II league sanc-

players that may have been just as talented.

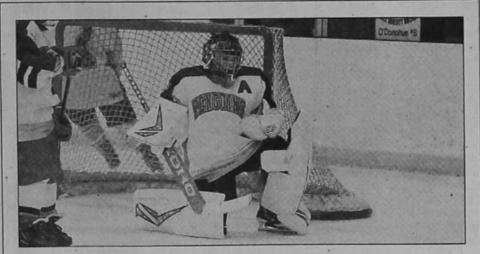
"He never gave less than 100 percent on the ice and at off-ice workouts."

Vento added that Gambrell set a positive example with his academic work, too. The right wing-

He loves it

And players who excel at the high school tournament could very well find themselves knocking on the door of the North American Hockey League - a Junior

tsmith@hometownlife.com (734) 469-4128



Miss Hockey finalist

Kaitlyn Allard, senior goalie and an assistant captain for the PCS Penguins, makes a save during the recent Division 2 state championship victory against Farmington Hills Mercy at Arctic Edge Arena. Allard was a finalist for the annual "Miss Hockey" award, presented by Hockey Weekly. Allard was the only Michigan Metro Girls High School Hockey League player from D2 to be nominated for the honor, but lost out to Claire Boyle of Grosse Pointe South. Penguins head coach Mary Beth Johnson said Allard "had a great season though, ... what an honor." GPS captured the D1 title.



'Cats open lacrosse season

Closing in on the Ann Arbor Huron goal Wednesday night is Plymouth's Emily Lehr (No. 23) as the Wildcats' varsity girls lacrosse team opened the season losing 18-11. At right for Plymouth is Haley Swanson (No. 14). Lehr had a goal while Swanson had three goals and two assists. Leading Plymouth with six goals was Katie Hill, while Shannon Lubin also scored. "We knew going in that Ann Arbor Huron was going to be a tough way to start the season, but I thought our girls eventually settled down and played well in the second half," said Plymouth coach Bob Hill.

against Inst mining Cook, who dropped to 4-1 despite allowing just five hits and zero earned runs in seven innings. Cook struck out seven and walked three. The Crusaders' lone run came in the sixth when Alex Charles tripled and scored on a passed ball

The Madonna University baseball

team opened its home and Wolverine-

Hoosier Athletic Conference schedules

The four-game split left the Crusaders

with a 17-11 overall record and 2-2 mark

in the WHAC. Aquinas left town with

Defensive miscues and a dearth of

timely hitting haunted the Crusaders on

In the opener, Aquinas pushed across

II starter Matthe

the only two runs it would need in the

Sunday when they were swept, 4-1 and

marks of 8-10 and 2-2, respectively.

this past week by splitting four games

against Aquinas College.

3-1, by visiting Aquinas.

MU committed six errors in the nineinning contest.

Garrett Rebain (Plymouth) was the lone MU player with two hits. Aquinas out hit Madonna, 5-4.

Kaleb Ort notched the win for Aquinas after limiting the Crusaders to three hits and one run in 6.1 innings. Ort fanned 12.

Aquinas used a strong pitching performance from Jake Ritsema to win the

Junior All-American Jeremy Gooding (Livonia) earned his second win of the season for MU, going seven solid innings (seven strike outs, eight hits allowed). Randall Stempek retired Aquinas in order in the ninth to earn his third save.

Josh Deeg hit his second home run of the season for MU while Spencer Sarel and Drew Adamiec each drove in two. Nick Kissane and Michael Wood each drove in a pair of runs for Aquinas.

Deeg starred in Saturday's nightcap, throwing a complete-game to earn his second win of the season. He struck out seven and excelled at the plate, ripping four hits and driving in three runs.



Churchill leads All-Area parade

FIRST-TEAM

Spencer Craig, Sr. G, Canton: Talk to any hockey coach and he'll list Craig as one of the best netminders in the state.

The third-year starter didn't hurt his lofty reputation in 2011-12, with a 2.33 goalsagainst average, .899 save percentage and one shutout for the KLAA South Division and Lash Cup champions.

Craig earned all-conference honors for a second consecutive season and was all-state honorable mention.

"Whenever you have Spencer in net you know you have an opportunity to win the game," coach Jeremy Majszak said. "He's just that kind of goalie that can steal games for you and put the team on his back."

Over a two-game stretch against Livonia Churchill and Novi, Craig stopped 74 of 77 shots to lead the Chiefs to a pair of victories.

During Craig's three years with Canton, he put his name in the school record book for most shutouts in a season (five) and career victories by a goalie (36).

"Spencer plans to take his game to the next level next season playing junior hockey," Majszak said.

Jim Lelekatch, Sr. Def., Liv. Churchill: The four-year varsity player and team captain earned both-all-KLAA and Division 1 first-team all-state honors for the 21-7 Chargers, who reached the state quarterfinals.

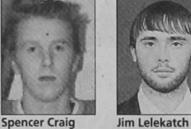
In 28 games, Lelekatch had seven goals and seven assists to go along with a plus-12 rating. He took just four minutes in penalties.

Lelekatch also made Michigan High School Hockey Coaches Association academic all-state team and earned the Chargers' Hobey Baker Character award.

"Jim is a classic example of what hard work can do for your development," Churchill coach Pete Mazzoni said. "He played in every situation - his offensive really developed this year in large part to the work in put in during the offseason. Just a great captain and the definition of a student-athlete.

Nick Proben, Sr. Def., Liv. Churchill: The second-team allstater and three-year varsity player finished the year with five goals and 23 assists for 28 points with a plus-34 rating.

The captain had just eight



Churchill

NF-Harrison

Canton



Chris McDonald Stevenson

Mark McGee, Sr. F, Salem: Talented and hard-working, Salem's team captain and MVP left a legacy that will be tough to surpass. He scored 29 goals and 11 assists for 40 points, earning all-conference and Division 1 first-team all-state honors.

McGee is the first PCEP player ever voted all-state in backto-back seasons, coach Ryan Ossenmacher said.

In his three-year career with the Wildcats, McGee tallied the second-most goals in school history.

"Mark is a model for our future players to follow on how to commit to getting better and doing everything possible to attain that goal," Ossenmacher said.

This spring, McGee is trying out for Team Michigan, and will play in a Midwest tournament of elite high school seniors should he make the squad.

In the fall, he will likely continue playing hockey in the North American Hockey League with the intent of eventually joining a college program.

"I am confident that he will continue to excel because of his abilities and determination," Ossenmacher noted.

Beyond McGee's development as a player the past three years, he has worked to improve his grades, which the coach said he is most proud of.

Zach Gambrell, Sr. F, Plymouth: The fourth-year varsity player scored 15 goals and assisted on 13 others to lead the squad in goals and total points. Those numbers gave him



Nick Proben Churchill



Dominic Lutz Stevenson



2011-12 ALL-OBSERVER BOYS HOCKEY FIRST TEAM

Spencer Craig, Sr. G, Canton Jim Lelekatch, Sr. Def., Liv. Churchill Nick Proben, Sr. Det., Liv. Churchill Jake Otto, Sr. F. Liv. Churchill Mark McGee, Sr. F, Salem Zach Gambrell, Sr. F, Plymouth SECOND TEAM Josh Cliff, Sr. G, Farmington Chris McDonald, Sr. Def., Liv. Stevenson Eric Stanis, Jr. F, NF-Harrison Dominic Lutz, Soph. F, Liv. Stevenson Mike Gambino, Sr. F, Liv. Churchill Duggan Tear, Sr. F, Canton Jared VanValkenburg, Sr. F, NF-Harrison THIRD TEAM Alex Estes, Sr. G, Churchill Justin Brereton, Sr. Def., NF-Harrison Mark Prokes, Sr. Def., Farmington Devin Smythe, Sr. F, Churchill Nate Sink, Sr. F, Stevenson Sean Smiatacz, Sr. F, Plymouth Austin Sartorius, Sr. F, Salem

FOURTH TEAM Richard Guglielmi, Sr. G, Plymouth Michael Manzer, Sr. Def., Salem Reede Burnett, Jr. Def., NF-Harrison Zac Massa, Sr. F, Farmington Derek Ried, Sr. F, NF-Harrison Thomas Ross, Sr. F, Stevenson Brandon Grillo, Sr. F, Canton COACH OF YEAR

Pete Mazzoni, Liv. Churchill HONORABLE MENTION Churchill: Brad Milks, Tommy Carey

Riley Brown, Ben Proben; Franklin: Brian Roulier, Danny Donahue, Tyler Satkowiak; Stevenson: Mario Tomei, Jake Kierdorf, Travis Harvey; Canton: Taylor Baker, Andrew Gorski, Brandon Schlieger, Zach Cox; Plymouth: Dean Gunther, Mitch Claggett, Mike Schultz, Salam, K. J. F. Mike Schultz; Salem: Kyle Eggenberger, Alek Zultowski, Kyle Downey, Evan Patton, Jake Sealy; North-Harrison: Keith Ladouceur, Jake Ladouceur, Stephen Coulter, Kyle Wood; Farmington: Mike Manzo, Cooper McLean, Kyle Gandy.

Farmington's seven victories, and his teammates recognized his important role by giving him the team's highest individual honor. Cliff had a 2.32 GAA and .913 save percentage. "Josh is very deserving of this honor," coach Mark Vellucci said. "He was our team MVP and helped lead the Falcons to a near upset of (top-ranked and eventual Division 2 state champion) Brother Rice in the preregional. "His GAA for a team that had only seven wins was pretty good. His desire to compete day in and day out is something that rubbed off on his teammates."





Salem

grade-point average and is a standout pitcher on the Stevenson baseball team.

"He was a beast on the ice for us this year," Mitchell said. "He logged a ton of ice and was the leader amongst our defensive corp. He was moved to defense last year, so this was basically only his second full year on the blue line and for him to do what he did was truly phenomenal.'

Eric Stanis, Jr. F, North-Harrison: Stanis was the leading scorer for the Flyers, who had a 15-8-2 record while competing in the Oakland Activities Association's top division. The junior forward scored 17 goals and assisted on 19 others.

"He played with a lot of energy, and he was solid in the defensive zone, too," coach Ken Anderson said. "He had a knack for finding the net when he had his chances.

"With 19 assists, he was able to get his linemates some good goals, too. I'm very happy for Eric and Jared (VanValkenburg); they truly deserve this recognition."

Dominic Lutz, Soph. F, Liv. Stevenson: The sophomore led Stevenson in points this season (33) 18 goals and 15 assists in 25 games.

Lutz also led the team in plusminus rating with a plus 16.

"He played and excelled in all situations as a sophomore this past season," Mitchell said. "He worked extremely hard at both ends of the ice not only leading the team in scoring, but most often playing against other teams top lines.'

Lutz, an all-KLAA choice, also tallied the game-winning goal



Zach Gambrell Plymouth Farmington





VanValkenburg **Coach of Year NF-Harrison**

Jared

Tear scored a team-high 17 goals, drew 10 assists and was plus-12 (best on the team) as the Chiefs won their division.

For his efforts, Tear earned all-conference honors and was named the team MVP.

'Duggan really elevated his game this year," Majszak said. "After playing on the third line with a total of around seven points last year he stepped up to fill the void on offense left by graduating seniors.

When the game was tight, with time ticking away, Duggan was your guy on the ice.'

Tear, who has aspirations of playing NAHL hockey later this year, could be counted on in every situation that faced the Chiefs, Majszak continued.

The winger came through on numerous occasions, "whether it was to score a goal, kill a penalty or keep the other team off the board.

Jared VanValkenburg, Sr. F, North-Harrison: He also made a significant contribution to the North-Harrison offense. Van-Valkenburg capped his high school career with 13 goals and 17 assists for the Flyers, who earned the No. 3 seed in the OAA Red Division playoffs. He was second on the team in both categories.

'Jared always seemed to step up in the big games for us and scored some big goals when we needed it," coach Anderson said. "He possesses a great shot. He was unselfish with the puck and got his linemates involved, too.'

COACH OF YEAR Pete Mazzoni, Liv. Churchill:

Churchill

Mike Gambino Canton

minutes in penalties.

"Nick is really a forward playing defense," Mazzoni said. "He developed his defensive game and it helped his offense. He was a guy that we wanted to handle the puck for us. He is a good decision maker and makes a great first pass valuable skills need to play defense."

Jake Otto, Sr. F, Liv. Churchill: The four-year player and team captain earned MHSHCA Division 1 first-team all-state along with all-KLAA honors after racking up 48 points on 18 goals and 30 assists.

Otto posted a staggering plus-43 rating with only four minutes in penalties.

"Jake was the heart-and-soul of our team," Mazzoni said. "He played every situation for us for three years.

"Jake was a great leader and role model for us. Played his best in every game. We moved him to wing this year and his offense took off, without sacrificing his defensive responsibilities."

school career records of 48 goals and 98 points, collected in 98 games for a point-a-game average.

He was the unanimous team MVP, made the All-KLAA team and earned all-state honorable mention honors.

Following graduation, Gambrell is hopeful of playing in the NAHL with an eye on college hockey down the road.

This spring, he is trying out for a squad of elite high school seniors that will compete in a tournament in Minnesota.

"Zach's leadership will be a major void for our team to replace next season," said coach Gerry Vento about his captain. "Rarely do you find (such) a player ... who is never satisfied with his effort and always expects more of himself both at practices and games.

"He certainly left a mark not only on this team, but the program as a whole.'

SECOND-TEAM

Josh Cliff, Sr. G, Farmington: Cliff (6-9-1) had all but one of

Chris McDonald, Sr. Def., Liv. Stevenson: The senior stood out on the blue line for the Spartans and finished the year with three goals and 10 assists.

"Chris was one of our team captains and leaders both onand-off the ice," Stevenson coach David Mitchell said. "He played in all situations - on defense most often against other team's top lines and players. He also saw action on the power play in front of the other teams' net.'

McDonald also earned all-KLAA honors: He carries a 4.17

SPORTS ROUNDUP

in a 6-4 win over Churchill.

"Dominic had a breakout year for us this year," Mitchell said. "He had a year that is pretty special for a sophomore. The future for him is extremely bright. He had an extremely productive year, while many teams keved on him.'

Mike Gambino, Sr. F, Liv. Churchill: The second-team all-stater had 36 points in 28 games with 14 goals and 41 assists to go along with an impressive plus-41 rating.

"Mike made the most of his senior year and capitalized on his opportunity," Mazzoni said of his Most Improved Player. "He has a big time shot, skates hard and was a physical presence for us.

"Mike embraced the concept of two-way hockey and presented many matchup difficulties for our opponents.'

Duggan Tear, Sr. F, Canton: A tireless grinder with a knack around the net, the three-year letter winner was a thorn in the side of KLAA goaltenders all season.

The 12th-year coach guided the Chargers to a 21-7 record and a second straight Division 1 regional title before falling to state runner-up Grosse Pointe North in the quarterfinals.

'We had a locker room full of guys who were committed to the team and did not care who got the credit," Mazzoni said. "It was a special season because many of our players have been in the program for such a long time. It was definitely a year to remember."

Mazzoni, who was also named MHSHCA Division 1 Coach of the Year, boasts a career varsity record of 233-97-41 (including two seasons at Redford Union).

"I want to make sure that our assistant coaches - Dave Higham, Jason Moul and Steve. Greco-get their just due," Mazzoni said. "They are just as much deserving of this as anyone.

"Our administration is very supportive of interscholastic sports. And our support staff allows us to do the things that we want and need to do."

Canton football camps

Football players of all ages have something they can benefit from thanks to a trio of camps being run in mid-late June by the Canton High School football program. All of the camps will take place at the varsity turf stadium at Plymouth-Canton Educational Park. All participants will receive Chiefs football T-shirts.

 Kicking it off from June 11-14 is the "Football Skills Camp," for youngsters entering grades seven-nine. Prospective participants must pre-register by May 21 (\$45), although latecomers to sign up will owe \$55.

Sessions will run from 5-7:30 p.m. and focus on improving fundamentals while learning the Chiefs' football philosophy.

 Next up, June 18-21, is the "Wing T/3-4 Camp" for those going into grades 10-12.

Times are 2-5 p.m. June 18 and 5-8 p.m. June 19-21 with registration fees \$25 (if pre-registered by May 21) and \$30 (for latecomers).

On the agenda will be become a "tough and agile back or an efficient passing and throwing quarterback.'

 Wrapping things off June 25-28 is the "Funda-

mental Football Camp," for kids entering grades three-six. Times are 9 a.m. to noon all four days. Fees to sign up are \$75 (if signed up by June 1) and \$100 for those who register after that date.

Campers will learn about blocking, running, throwing and catching on offense and "proper footwork and techniques" on defense.

For more information, e-mail Enza Lanava of the Canton Chiefs Booster Club at elanava@wowway.com or call her at (313) 300-1173. All checks must be made payable to the Canton Chiefs Football Boosters Club.

AAU openings

The LaZers AAU Girls 16U Elite Basketball Club has openings for the spring / summer season. Varsity level players are sought for the team. Call Coach Z for information at (734) 286-1009 or e-mail him at zgodadominic@sbcglobal.net.

Baseball clinics

Baseball fundamentals are on tap for youngsters looking to improve their skills, at the forthcoming Plymouth Wildcats Youth Baseball Clinic.

Participants in grades 1-8 will receive ageappropriate instruction from 2012 Plymouth varsity baseball coaches and players. Stations will include hitting, pitching, infield, outfield, catching and radar gun readings.

Sessions, in the Plymouth High School gymnasium, will take place: 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday March 17 (for those in grades 1-4); Saturday March 31 (for those in grades 5-8).

The pre-registration cost, which includes snack, is \$20. The fee is \$25 the day of the clinic. Pre-registration is urged, as the camp is limited to 100. Go to www.baseball.plymouthwildcats.com for more information.

Play GCYBSA ball

Registrations are now under way for the Greater Canton Youth Baseball Softball Association's baseball and softball programs.

The GCYBSA offers progressively developmental recreational baseball and softball programs for players age 4-18 from Plymouth and Canton. GCYBSA is also is home to a Competitive League and travel programs (Boys Cardinals, Girls Pride Fast Pitch).

For more information, go to www.gcybsa. com or contact Coralee Ott at (734), 394-5358, via e-mail at cott@cantonmi.org.

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HEALTH

SHARON DARGAY, EDITOR SDARGAY@HOMETOWNLIFE.COM (313) 222-8833 FACEBOOK: HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

To your health: Ten steps to conquering heart disease

You may already know that heart disease is the No. 1 killer in America, and that factors like obesity increase your risk of developing it. But of all the shocking things you know — or believe you know about heart disease, here's the statistic that you might find the most eye-opening: 80 percent of all heart disease is preventable. "It's important that

"It's important that everyone understand as much as possible about heart disease prevention, as 80 percent of heart disease can be avoided," says Dr. Martha Grogan, medical editor-in-chief of the new book Mayo Clinic Healthy Heart for Life!

Heart disease claims the lives of 600,000 Americans each year, and another 12.7 million suffer from heart attacks. One in three women are diagnosed with heart disease and 50 percent of men are at risk of heart attacks before age 65. Those statistics may make you feel like you, too, are in the cross-hairs for developing heart disease. Some lifestyle changes, however, can help you greatly reduce your risks.

In the new book, available now online and in bookstores nationwide, Mayo Clinic experts discuss risk factors for heart disease, how to recognize the symptoms, and what lifestyle steps you can take to help reduce your risk. The catchphrase "Eat 5, Move 10, Sleep 8" sums up the approach Mayo experts advocate to minimize heart disease risks. The slogan reminds you to eat five servings of fruits and vegetables each day,



Diet and exercise are keys to a healthy heart.

do at least 10 minutes of moderately intense physical exercise daily, and get at least eight hours of sleep per night.

In addition, Mayo experts say, 10 simple steps can help you minimize your risk of heart disease. Here's a sampling of the steps that you'll find in the clinic's new heart healthy book:

• Eat healthy — Adopt simple dietary changes such as eating at least five fruits and vegetables each day, switching to whole grains and lean proteins, and eating a healthy breakfast every day.

• Be active — A sedentary lifestyle is as deadly as smoking, experts say. Exercising just 10 minutes a day can deliver significant heart-health benefits. Have trouble sticking with an exercise plan? Finding something you enjoy doing, whether it's playing a sport, running, tai chi, yoga or extreme house cleaning, can help you maintain your commitment to exercising.

 Sleep well — Sleep deprivation has serious health repercussions, including increasing your risk of heart disease. Conversely, getting adequate sleep can actually have a restorative effect on the heart. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says sleep deprivation has become a national public health epidemic. Creating a bedtime routine and a relaxing sleep environment can help you get the

eight hours of sleep per night that your body needs.

• Plan for emergencies - A heart emergency can happen at any time, so it's important to know the warning signs of a problem. Learn to recognize symptoms of a crisis, and act quickly to get medical help.

• Enjoy life — A positive attitude, supportive network of family and friends, and good management of your stress not only improve your heart health, they can improve your overall enjoyment of

life, as well. In addition to offering solid advice and the 10 steps to heart health, the *Mayo Clinic Healthy Heart for Life!* also discusses how the heart functions, what can go wrong, tools for ongoing heart health, and tips on how to keep your whole family heart healthy.

"Following these steps can help you dramatically reduce your risk of heart disease, even though it can't be completely eliminated," Grogan says. "If you've done everything in your power to prevent heart disease or live with it as effectively as possible, then you have, indeed, conquered it."

MEDICAL DATEBOOK

March

GARDEN CITY HOSPITAL

• Get Up and Move, an invigorating exercise program, aims to help you to make an easy transition back to an exercise program or get you started for the first time. It meets at 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. Tuesday, March 27 and Thursday, March 29. Fee is \$30 per month; for more information call (734) 458-3242.

 Learn how to relax, stretch and breathe while creating balance, strength and flexibility for both the body and mind through yoga, 4 p.m. Tuesday, March 27 and 6:30 p.m., Wednesday-Thursday, March 28-29. Wednesday-Thursday classes are held at the Westland Specialty Center, 35600 Central City Parkway, Westland. Tuesday classes meet at the hospital in Garden City. Garden City Hospital is located at 6245 Inkster Road, Garden City.

April

MICHIGAN BARIATRIC

The Michigan Bariatric Institute offers a free educational seminar, from 6-7:30 p.m., April 5 at St. Mary Mercy Hospital, located at 36475 Five Mile in Livonia. For more information call (877) 949-9344.

Ongoing

AQUATIC CLASSES The YMCA of Metropolitan Detroit and the Arthritis Foundation have partnered to offer aquatic classes designed to ease the pain of arthritis. Classes are held 11 a.m.-noon Tuesday and Thursday at the Farmington branch; 1-1:45 p.m. Monday and Wednesday at the Livonia branch; and 2-3 p.m. Wednesday and Friday, at the Birmingham branch. All classes are offered to members and nonmembers of every age and participants do not need to know how to swim to participate. To join, interested individuals can contact their local YMCA branch or visit www.ymcadetroit.org.

ARTHRITIS SUPPORT

2-3:30 p.m. the third Thursday of the month at the Krieger Center, DMC Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital, 1 William Carls Drive, Commerce. Enter the building via the South Garden entrance. Registration not required.

BREAST CANCER SUP-PORT GROUP

Meets 6:30-8 p.m. on the second Tuesday of the month in the Atrium of Our Lady of Hope Cancer Center, St. Mary Mercy Hospital, 36475 Five Mile (use south entrance off Levan Road), Livonia. Call (734) 655-1100, or visit www. stmarymercy.org.

BIPOLAR SUPPORT

Depression Bipolar Support Alliance meets 6:30-8 p.m. the second and fourth Wednesday at Lincoln Behavioral Services Center, 14500 Sheldon Road, Suite 160B, Plymouth. It is accessed through the Plymouth Executive Park driveway north of M-14. It is a self-help group for people suffering from depression and bipolar disorders. Meetings are open also to family members. All DBSA leaders are professionally trained and attend two trainings for every year to update their skills in leading the group. Call Nancy at (734) 536-3457 or Katrina at (734) 837-7700 with questions

CAREGIVERS SUPPORT GROUPS

St. John's Support Group for the Caregivers of Alzheimer's Patients or patients with other forms of dementia meet the first and third Friday of each month at 10 a.m. at St. John's Episcopal Church, 574 S. Sheldon, Plymouth. Respite care will be provided. Call Connie McNutt at (734) 895-1426 for information. Authorized by the Alzheimer's Association.

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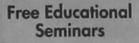
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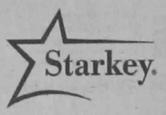
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Whimsical kitten offers a lesson in diversity

By Sharon Dargay O&E Staff Writer

When Lonna Baum wore eyeglasses for the first time in third grade, she felt like a fish out of water.

"I knew how odd I felt walking into class when no one else had them," she said. "I remember I didn't want to put them ______ on and

walk into class with them on.

I didn't

them to see me."

The

memory

never left

Years

later, the

Livonia

resident

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want



Lonna Baum mer of Livonia nev hopes to write her. a book series Ye about "understanding Live differences." resi hop

new book about a myopic kitten will help young readers understand how it feels to be "different."

Monty the Menace tells the story of Monty Katt, one of three kitten siblings, who can't seem to avoid mishaps at home. He becomes a menace to his sisters as he tumbles down stairs, trips over water bowls and sits on their lunch. Mother Katt suspects vision problems and takes her son to the "catometrist" for an exam. He leaves the office wearing glasses and looking "different" --but is no longer a menace because of his corrected vision.

"I want to make them understand it really doesn't make you different ... you're the same you," Baum said. She hopes Monty the Menace,



The cover of "Monty the Menace" shows why the story's main character needs glasses.

which was illustrated by Livonia artist Dave Messing, will be the first in a series of children's books that increase understanding of differences. She's already planning the next story about the Katt family, which will focus on hearing.

The self-published author started toying with the idea of writing a children's book a few years ago while volunteering in a physical disabilities awareness program through the Epilepsy Foundation of Michigan.

Baum, who is married, has two grown children and two grandchildren, worked as a physical therapist at hospitals in Allen Park and Wayne and ran her own private practice in Livonia before retirement.

As a volunteer she talked about vision, hearing and movement disabilities with first and second graders.

"Because of their questions, it made me think about putting things on paper. I wanted to do something pretty universal and not make it too specific or it wouldn't appeal to a wide audience," she said, explaining why she focused on vision and eyeglasses.

She used cats instead of humans as the main characters because animals gave the story a "surreal" quality.

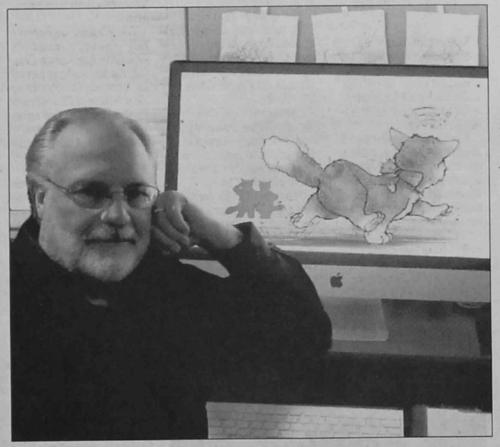
"I love animals. I happen to have two cats," she added. "I knew if I did it with cats I could play with the story a little. It was fun."

Finding an artist

Bringing Messing into the project was "funny fate," she said.

While browsing an art fair, Baum saw a children's book he had illustrated. She remembered that her daughter had taken art lessons from him years earlier.

"I didn't know he was illustrating children's books. He used to have an art store in Livonia." Messing has illustrated several children's books in addition to working as an advertising designer, illustrator, and builder of props and miniatures for film and print. His work has been featured on tele-



Dave Messing of Livonia starts with pencil drawings and then uses a computer to layer colors for each image. That's "Monty" the kitten from "Monty the Menace" on the computer screen behind him.

vision, in print, film and magazines.

Messing said special needs children have always been dear to his heart and that he often receives grateful comments from readers when he draws eyeglasses on a character or places a wheelchair in the scene. "I always thought I'd

have to do it (write a book) on my own if I didn't find someone," he said. "Then Lonna comes along with a book about vision."

Working together

They met at a Panera cafe on a regular basis to mesh words and pictures, finalize details and get the book ready for BookMasters, Inc., the printing firm.

"Dave Messing made the words come to life with a great sense of whimsey," Baum said.

Messing said he enjoyed working with Baum, who gave him free rein to create the images. Each began with a pencil sketch that was transferred to a computer for coloring.

"What's neat is when I read the copy for the first time I picture every page in the group right then," Messing said, explaining his illustration process. "I don't like to peruse it in front of the author. I like to take it home, sit in my studio and read it."

He said he envisions the

book illustrations in order, but then "cherry picks" images as he works.

"Monty ticked all the boxes for me," Messing said. "I knew I could make it funny and I knew it was a book that was needed."

Mom's Choice Awards, an organization that evaluates products and media, including children's picture books, recently awarded *Monty the Menace* a "Gold Medal."

The book costs \$16.95 and is available at amazon.com and barnesandnoble.com, in addition to Baum's website at montythemenace.com. Visit Messing's website at .www.coroflot.com/davemessing.

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Schoolcraft College honors its **Transition Center students**

By Sharon Dargay O&E Staff Writer

Yvonne St. Arno, 53, says she is "shocked" by how much her life has changed since enrolling at Schoolcraft College with the help of its Transition Center.

The Westland woman is studying business administration, while working a part time job in the college marketing department where she handles social media.

"I'm in a different place now. I look back and I'm amazed how my life has changed and the direction it has taken. I don't like to brag, but I'm pret-

ty proud of myself." The college is, too. St. Arno was among the students who were recognized at the Transition Center's annual Spaghetti

Dinner and Wine Glow on March 20. The Transition Center spotlights students who use the program's

resources to achieve success and improvement in their personal lives. Other honorees included Leah Esslinger of Plymouth, a liberal arts student; Kendra Sparks of Livonia; and Peter

Helms of Livonia, a liberal arts student and military veteran who used the Transition Center's

Veterans Services program.

The Center incorporates the services of: Women's Resource Center, Adult Student Services, Veteran's Services and New Student Orientation. Proceeds from the annual dinner benefit scholarships for students and the Transition Center at Schoolcraft College.

St. Arno credits the Transition Center for her return to school after being away from classes for more than 30 years.

"I was fresh out of a divorce after 28 years of marriage," said St. Arno, a 1977 high school graduate from Lutheran High West.

Her lawyer suggested she contact the Transition Center. She was accepted into the program, and started classes after figuring out her preferences.

"They had me take an interest exam. I wasn't sure what I wanted to do."

During her marriage, St. Arno was a stay-at-home mom with two sons.

She said the Transition Center helped ease her way back into class. During her first year at Schoolcraft, she attended support groups that included students from a range of ages and with a variety of experiences.

"It was nice to meet with others. It's a lot different



Kendra Sparks (left) of Livonia, Peter Helms of Livonia, Leah Esslinger of Plymouth and Yvonne St. Arno of Westland are honored at the Schoolcraft College Transition Center annual Spaghetti Dinner and Wine Glow.

being in school when you're in your 50s than it is when you're in high school."

The following year she mentored newcomers at the Transition Center.

"My family has been a support to me. And everyone at Schoolcraft is very

supportive - everyone from the people who pick up the garbage to the president.'

For more information about the Transition Center call (734) 462-4443 or visit www.schoolcraft. edu/transition.

Teens raise funds for hungry children



Joe Beauchamp and Travis Wesenberg collect donations for their team.

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Teens from Newburg United Methodist Church in Livonia recently joined thousands of other youths nationwide by partici-pating in World Vision's 30 Hour Famine,

As part of the Famine, they participated in games and lessons that taught about hunger, poverty, water-borne illnesses and the barriers that keep people from getting enough to eat. The theme for this year's 30 Hour Famine was "Overcome Hunger with Love." By going without food, the 29 Newburg teens got a taste of what the

world's poorest children and families face every day.

According to World Vision, a Christian humanitarian organization dedicated to tackling the causes of poverty and injustice, hunger and preventable diseases claim the lives of 22,000 children every day. More than 1 billion people go hungry every day.

Newburg's participants raised more than \$1,500 in three hours to help end hunger and preventable disease.

Funds raised by the 30 Hour Famine help feed and care for chil-



Megan Robeson, (left) Mitchell Crosby, Cassidy Wesenberg and Monica Weinrauch collect donations at Newburg United Methodist Church for their teams.

dren in need around the globe. A portion of the funds raised assist families in need in the United States. Famine funds contribute to World Vision's response in areas where famine, conflict, and other crises make children vulnerable to hunger and preventable disease. Since 1992, 30 Hour Famine has raised close

to \$140 million. World Vision works in nearly 100 countries, helping approximately 100 million people every year.

For more information about Newburg United Methodist Church visit newburgumc.org; for information about World Vision's 30 Hour Famine, visit 30hourfamine.org.

"There's no place like home, but when that



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Arthritis Today JOSEPH J. WEISS, M.D. RHEUMATOLOGY **18829 Farmington Road** Livonia, Michigan 48152 Phone: (248) 478-7860



To a physician a patient who comes because of knee pain, needs close attention. The "knee pain" requires more delineation beyond being the joint between the hip and the ankle. Around the knee joint are four other structures that are potential sources of pain, and one structure that worries patients but is of little concern medically.

The four sites that because of their proximity to the knee joint cause "knee" pain are: the patellar tendon, the pre-patellar bursa, the anserine bursa and the fibular bursa. When a patient complains of knee pain, and the doctor, on examination, finds the knee normal, the examination will turn to looking at these other four structures

In the evaluation of knee pain, examination forms the basis of diagnosis, as the patient experiences similar "knee pain" whether the cause of pain is from the knee or sites around it. Thus, if the physician finds the knee is normal, his examination will turn to the patellar tendon. If examination and palpation of the tendon does not elicit pain, he will go forward with the same type of assessment to pre-patellar, anserine and fibular bursars.

Usually, this systematic approach brings out the source of the knee pain. With this knowledge, the physician can undertake appropriate treatment

The knee area that causes the patient more concern than the doctor is a Baker's Cyst. It is a bulge in the back of the knee, a result of fluid residing in that area of the knee joint. The Cyst is painless, and rarely causes a problem. However, its presence worries the patient giving the doctor the task of explaining the pest treatment is to ignore it.

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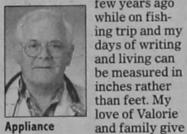
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Life lessons: This column is tough to write

By Joe Gagnon Guest columnist

ome of you know that I came a whisker away from the pearly gates a



few years ago while on fishing trip and my days of writing and living can be measured in inches rather than feet. My

me strength

help as well.

and the prayers

The book I will

Appliance Doctor

Joe Gagnon

publish later this year will tell you the rest of the story. The depression period is over and I concentrate my time on helping others more than ever.

I have always been cautious

about mentioning the many big names I've had the privilege of meeting along the way, but this one deserves his name in this column. He's Shawn Burr, a big fan favorite with the Detroit Red Wings from 1984-95. After telling Scotty Bowman he was too old to coach, he suddenly found himself playing in Florida for a couple of years and then he came aboard the Red Wing Alumni Hockey team.

After his first practice he sat beside me drinking a pop and started telling me about his problems with his new home in the Port Huron area. It was built on some sort of fault line, and coming apart and his new appliances which were top drawer kept breaking down. He used to make fun of me when he would skate by telling me I reminded him of his new refrigerator which wasn't working. Every year Shawn

hosts a huge golf event and has raised tons of dollars for different charities. He is such a giving person and much more gentle that the 200 pounds that used to send opposing players to la la land and there is no one funnier in a dressing room.

Battling cancer

Mitch Albom recently devoted his column to Shawn's serious challenge with cancer today. It started a year ago when he just about didn't make it. He went through all the treatments and the alumni was updated every week with his uplifting jokes and humorous remarks about his will to live and his love for his wife and kids. This time around he will go through the treatments to try and put the big C into remission and then will need a bone marrow transplant. Imagine, he says, "If my wife is a

match I will spend the rest of my life telling myself what to do." See what I mean about his humor? Last summer at a Red Wing golf outing I had a long conversation with Shawn and he told me how lucky he was to recover but he also told me how tough it would be to survive a second go around. He looked at me and said, "Joe, I know what you've been through but I am only in my 40s. It's OK for an old guy like you to go but not fair for me. "He was absolutely right on the button.

The last few days have been spent touring retail appliance stores and getting the feel of what is new in the industry. Last year was an up year pointing to one of two things. Either the economy is improving or the appliances are breaking down prematurely or both. Retailers are feeling pangs of guilt in selling products that

won't last as long as they used to. Some stated that if they tell a shopper that quality is not what it used to be, they may lose that customer to their competition. An appliance sales person wants to please you with a product that many times creates a referral or future sales. L don't think Shawn Burr would take a job today in appliance sales. He has always cared too much for his teammates and loved the hockey fans that filled his heart with pride. If he was writing this column he would come up with a question in closing. Do the tears hitting the keyboard hurt it or just discolor it with the salt content? Stay tuned.

Joe Gagnon can be heard at 8 a.m., Saturdays on WAAM 1600. You can e-mail your problems and questions on appliances to appldr@ twmi.rr.com.

A shocking - but life-saving - tip for you

By Lon Grossman Guest columnist

ow many of you have heard of, or know about Ground Fault Interrupters or **Ground Fault Circuit** Interrupters? (They're also referred to as GFI or GFCI). If your home was built with-



Lon Grossman

similar to a circuit breaker, but more sensitive. They'll sense if someone is getting electrocuted and disconnect the power within 1/40th of a second.

Now.

GFIs are

There are three types of GFIs:

· Circuit breaker combination: Installed in the electrical service box, it protects everything on the circuit.

 Receptacle type: Replaces a regular wall receptacle and when installed, still serves as an outlet but offers the additional protection of the GFI.

· Portable: Generally used by trades people, such as carpenters who use power tools at different job sites.

Once installed, GF's require maintenance. On each interrupter there is a test button. Each month, this button should be pushed to trip the safety device and device reset. Tripping the device cleans oxidation and corrosion on the inside, which can affect its sensitivity and ability to protect.

Basically, what I'm saying is that if you don't trip or press and reset the test buttons monthly the GFIs could become useless and not trip when they're supposed to.

In new home construction, they are required for kitchens, bathrooms, exterior and even garage receptacles.

If your home doesn't have a GFI, install at least one. If you have a swimming pool, all equipment and surrounding plugs should be protected.

If you are not handy, I promise you, any licensed electrician can easily install them for you.

Q: I have a block basement wall and the paint is crumbling off in areas near the floor leaving a white, powdery residue behind. What causes this and how can it be corrected?

A: This is caused by leaking and is called efflorescence. You may not actually see water on the floor because the seepage may be minor and evaporates. Make sure the terrain is sloped away 4 to 6 feet with at least a 1-inch slope. The patio, driveway or walks should also be slightly pitched to direct rainwater away from the house. If you have a sump pump, make sure ground water is draining into it and it is pumping the water out and away from the house.

Q: Our house burned down and was rebuilt on the same lot. Since we moved back we have blue water. We never had this problem before the house burned down, so we feel it is not the water supplied by our water company. When taking a shower or bath the walls of our showers/tubs get a blue/green film on them and although it can be scrubbed off, I find myself scrubbing the showers and tubs a few times a week. We spoke with our builder and plumber since day one and they said this

happens but have never figured out the cause or the cure. Have you ever heard of this?

A: I spoke to David from 4-A Plumbing and he said it sounds as if lead-free flux or leadfree solder was used and-recommends to get a water test done to see if the test results show a lot of lead. I think it may be something else. Check with an electrician and have him inspect to make sure the electrical system is properly grounded 8-feet into the earth as well as all ground connections are secure and proper.

Q: My showerhead used to have good pressure but not anymore. Can it be cleaned?

A: Minerals in your water blocked openings in the shower's head. Put a rag around the head so you won't damage the chrome. Remove

the shower head using a wrench. Hold the neckpiece coming out of the wall, with your hand or a channel lock. Once removed place the shower head in a jar filled with vinegar and let it soak for about two hours. Lightly poke out the spray holes with a safety pin and reinstall. Or, pour the vinegar in a small plastic bag and tape it around the shower head without removing it. Let it soak for a couple of hours.

Lon Grossman is president of Technihouse Inspections Inc., a southeast Michigan residential and commercial inspection company. E-mail your questions to him at drdiy@comcast.net. Call (248) 855-5566. Visit his website www.technihouse. com. Follow Lon's Blog at http://drdiy.wordpress.com/.

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This special edition of Homtetown Life Woman will deliver hyper-local content that women love, including health and fitness, recipes, family advice, money matters and more -PLUS special pages devoted to local women. This special advertorial section will celebrate female business owners, community leaders, government officials, longtime residents, nurses and medical professionals, realtors, insurance and mortgage brokers, teachers and more.

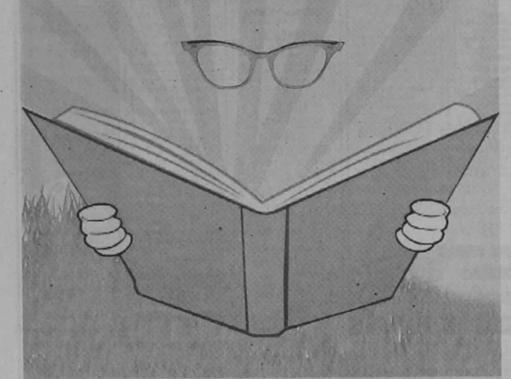


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Spring Book, Arts & Crafts Festival



Artists, authors and artisans from Detroit and across the country will talk about and sell their work at our 2nd annual event. This free fun filled weekend offers classes and workshops on writing, painting, journalism, eBook conversion and more. Local celebrities will read books to children and those who are young at heart. Detroit Reads will have tutoring session for adults "learning to read or reading to learn." Our "Gentle to All Ears" poetry and open mic will delight fans of prose and spoken word.

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DEARBORN HEIGHTS ANNAPOLIS

CLASS OF 1982

For information about the 30-year reunion on Saturday, Oct. 20, at Fr. Patrick O'Kelley Knights of Columbus in Dearborn, visit the "AHS Class of 82" page on Facebook, or contact Diane Goodreau at dianeschofield@sbcglobal. net or (313) 363-0523; Jim Linaras at godofouzo@yahoo.com; or John Zadikian at zman6754@aol.com. DETROIT CODY

CLASS OF 1962

Looking for Classmates from January and June graduations for 50th reunion. 6 p.m. Sept. 29, at the Holiday Inn, 17123 Laurel Park Dr. North, Livonia. Call Neal and Barb Gehring at (248) 568-2254; NGBG@comcast.net.

DETROIT MACKENZIE

CLASS OF 1962

50th reunion, Friday, June 1. For more information e-mail mackenzie1962@ gmail.com or phone Mavis (Higgins) Farrand at (734) 675-5675 or Sandy (Turnbull) Dillaha at (734) 281-8595 FARMINGTON HIGH SCHOOL

CLASS OF 1967

Organizers of the 45th reunion on July 21 are looking for classmates. Send your e-mail address to Susan (Himmelspach) Whittaker at S_whittaker@comcast.net or Fred Gregg at fredge1@comcast.net

REUNIONS

to receive a reunion packet. **GARDEN CITY HIGH SCHOOL EAST CLASSES OF 1968-1973**

Reunion Sept. 22. Looking for classmates. Check out the "Garden City High School (East) Reunion 2012" on face-

book Or e-mail to Cindy Eads Frens at irish4200@hotmail.com, Debi Cassidy Haller at debi.haller@gmail.com, Doris Fugaban Williams at doris1226@wowway.com, Lee A Gilligan at ee.gilligan@ att.net, Sue Cook at stasselmyer@charter. net, SuzieWright Rogiero at suzierogiero@yahoo.com, Jackie Kalifut at jackeideson@gmail.com or Jeff Fordell at jeffreyfordell@comcast.net. LINCOLN PARK HIGH

CLASS OF 1962

50-year reunion for January and June graduates is set for 6 p.m.-midnight, Saturday, Sept. 15, at the Marriott Hotel, located at Six Mile and I-275 in Livonia. For more information or to RSVP e-mail Jean Badoud-Riddell at fictionweaver@ sbcglobal.net, Marilyn Roy Snyder at Marilyn@MarilynJSnyder.com, or Carol Jehle at jehlecarol@yahoo.com NORTHVILLE HIGH SCHOOL

CLASS OF 1971-75

The classes are joining together to celebrate with a reunion on Aug. 4. Reunion organizer's are searching for classmates from those years. Send your name,

address, phone and e-mail to nhs40yearreunion@gmail.com. The organizers will send more details after receiving your information

REDFORD THURSTON HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1962

Looking for classmates for reunion on Sept. 8. Contact: nikkiwestberg@yahoo. com or Sue (Hughes) Morman at (734) 414-9941 for more information.

WAYNE MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL ALL CLASSES

Wayne High Schools Alumni Association 28th All Class Reunion Banquet will be held 5-10 p.m. Friday, May 18 at Wayne Tree Manor, 35100 Van Born, Wayne. Dinner served at 6 p.m. The organization will honor the class of 1962. For more information call Wanda Boice at (734) 326-777 or www.waynehighalumni@aol.com CLASS OF 1957

Looking for classmates for the 55th class reunion to be held May 19. For more information contact Wanda Putman Boice at boice@aol.com or pollygirl219@ aol.com. Or call Richard Smith at (248) 747-6817

CLASS OF 1962

Looking for classmates for 50th class reunion on May 19. E-mail to Judy (Ramsey) Oleson at joleson@sbcglobal. net or call her at (586) 268-1663 or email to Kathy (Quinn) Hayes at bustchr@ aol.com.

BOWL-A-THON HELPS SEND YOUTH TO CAMP

Bowl a few games Sunday, April 29, at Westland Bowl and you'll help abused and neglected children at the same time.

Bowl-A-Thon - with check-in at 1:30 p.m. and bowling at 2 p.m. - aims to raise funds for Royal Family Kids Camp, held July 29-Aug. 3 near Fenton. Royal Family Kids, Inc. is a concentrated program of recreation, education and affirmation to aid in the process of healing the emotional scars of childhood abuse experienced by children involved in the foster care system in Wayne County.

Detroit First Church of the Nazarene in Northville and Northville Christian Assembly sponsor the camp.

Bowlers pay \$20 per person for two games, shoe rental, pizza and soda. There also will be a silent auction room and door prizes. Westland Bowl is located at 5940 N. Wayne Road between Ford and Warren Roads.

Royal Family Kids, Inc. has more than 155 camps scheduled for 2012. Volunteer staff members from throughout metropolitan Detroit help provide a positive, life-changing summer camp experience for some 48 children ages 7-11. The Wayne County Department of Human Services selects the youngsters who attend camp. There is no charge for campers.

The camp budget is met through fundraisers such as the Bowl-A-Thon and from contributions made by local businesses, from grants, and from other donors who share a concern for this population of children.

For more information, e-mail co-director Bethann Parker at parkette@sbcglobal.net.



Milestones

Ring-Aurora

Howard and Jodi Ring of Plymouth announce the engagement of their daughter, Megan, to Peter Aurora. Peter is the son of Martin Aurora Gonzales and Maria Zavaleta de Aurora of Lima Peru.

The bride-elect is a 2004 graduate of Canton High School. She graduated from the University of Michigan Medical School and is a resident at C.S. Mott Children's Hospital in Ann Arbor.

Her fiancé received his doctorate in engineering at the University of Michigan. He is employed by

Kendra Lynn Barich

Kendra Lynn Barich was born Feb. 15, 2012, at **Providence Park Hospital** in Novi

Proud parents are Jenna and Bryan Barich of Novi.

Grandparents are Tom and Julie Howe of Livonia and Mark and Vicki

Barich of Dearborn. Great-grandmother is

Audette-Nason

Catherine Audette and Aaron Nason announce their engagement.

The bride-to-be, daughter of Charlie and Ilene Audette of Farmington Hills, attended Michigan State University and is a marketing project manager at One Reverse Mortgage.

Her fiancé, son of George and Deanna Nason of Clawson, also attended Michigan State University and is a mort-

Smith-Barnauskas

Alexandra Therese Smith of Northville and William Charles Barnauskas of Livonia announce their engagement.

The bride-to-be, daughter of Tim and Cindy Smith of Novi, earned a bachelor of science degree in nursing from Madonna University. She is employed as a labor and delivery nurse at St. Mary Mercy Hospital in Livonia.

son of Bill



Nissan. They plan a May wedding at St. John Chapel in Plymouth.



Ruth Whicker-Dunlap of 29 Palms, Calif.



gage banker for Quicken Loans.

A May 2012 wedding is planned at St. Florian Church in Hamtramck.



GARDEN & NATURE

Butterflies

Southeast Michigan Butterfly Association (SEMBA) meets at 7 p.m. Wednesday, April 18, at Nankin Mills Nature Center, 33175 Ann Arbor Trail, Westland. The meeting topic is "Butterfly Garden Enhancements." Participants will learn how to create and install accessories and enhancements for their butterfly gardens. Admission for non-members is \$3. Questions? Call (734) 326-0578 or visit www. sembabutterfly.com.

English Gardens

Kick off spring with at look at what's new for the garden at the annual Garden Party Weekend, Saturday-Sunday, March 31-April The weekend includes free presentations, refreshments, door prizes and a showcase of new gardening products. Featured presentations are:

· Eight Months of Continuous Color with Janet Macunovich, Advanced Master Gardener, 10 a.m. in Dearborn Heights and 1 p.m. in West Bloomfield, both Saturday, March 31, and noon, April 1 in Royal Oak. Macunovich will talk about extending color in the garden.

. Top 10 tips for A Successful Garden with Detroit News garden columnist Nancy Szerlag, 1 p.m. in Royal Oak and 4 p.m. in West Bloomfield, both March 31 and noon, Sunday, April 1 in Dearborn Heights.

weeds, bare spots and more, Dearborn Heights.

 The Thrills & Spills of Container Gardening with Proven Winners representatives, 10 a.m. in Ann Arbor, 11:30 a.m. in West Bloomfield, 2:30 p.m. in Dearborn Heights, all on March 31 and 1:30 p.m. April 1 in Royal Oak:

 The Beauty of Summer er vander Lans of 2Plant International, 10 a.m. in West Bloomfield, 1 p.m. in Dearborn Heights and 4 p.m. in Royal Oak, all on March 31. • Perennials: Gardening 31 in Ann Arbor and noon,



1-800-579-7355 • fax 313-496-4968 • oeobits@hometownlife.com Deadlines: Friday 4:15 p.m. for Sunday • Wednesday 9:45 a.m. for Thursday

BOUCHER, CECILE

Age 91, March 16, 2012. Loving wife of the late Alfred. Mother of Angela (Jason) Becktold. Grandmother to Geoffrey, Greyson, Greenlea, Gideon and Gaspar. Cecile was an active member of St. Edith Catholic Church. Memorial gathering Thursday, March 22, 2012 from 6-9PM, with a vigil service at 7PM at Fred Wood Funeral Home, 36100 Free Wood Funeral Home, 50100 Five Mile Road (one block East of Levan), Livonia, MI. Mass Saturday, March 24, 2012 10:30AM at St. Edith Catholic Church, 15089 Newburgh Road (South of 5 Mile Road), Livonia, MI. Mergide Road, Livonia, MI. Memorials may be made to The Huron Forest Camp Cedar Ridge, 36208 Freedom Road, Farmington, MI 48335. Please share memories at: Fredwoodfuneralhome.com

CAINCROSS, DENIECE LYNN

Age 53, of New Boston, died March 17, 2012. Born in Lapeer on December 17, 1958, daughter of the late Norma Jean Thomason. Deniece was a Reserve Police Officer with Van Buren Township, and dispatched for Belleville. She was a loving wife and mother who took great pleasure in her family and home. She enjoyed gardening and looking for four leaf clovers. She loved her new "Bumblebee" Camaro. Survived by husband, David, three children, Heather (Yacine) Belkadi of Wixom, Cory of Wayne, and Nicole of Canton, five grandchildren R.J. and Molly Belkadi, Zane Richter, Haley and Logan Brandess. Visitation will be 1-7 PM Sat., March 24, 2012 at Brown Funeral Home, Belleville, with a 7 PM Memorial Service. www.davidcbrownfh.com



FARKAS, LESTER R.

Age 82, formerly of Northville, passed away peacefully in the presence of family on January 5, 2012 in Barrington, IL. Beloved husband of the late Eleanor (Barkiewicz), loving father of the late Leslie (Bryan Fischer) and Drew (Lisa), (Bryan Fischer) and Drew (Lisa), and beloved grandfather of Alec, Kit, Annabelle and Eli. Lester was a star athlete at Central High School in Flint, MI and a US Army veteran, before graduating with a degree in music (violin) from Eastern Michigan. Lester taucht music in the Livania Public taught music in the Livonia Public Schools and conducted the Livonia Youth Symphony, with one of his proudest moments being the direction of that orchestra in a performance of Beethoven's Ninth Symphony. A Memorial for Lester for local famperformance of ily and friends will be held at R.G. G.R. Harris Funeral Home, 15451 Farmington Rd., Livonia, Sunday at 12 p.m. Family will receive visitors from 10:30 a.m. until service. Donations to the Barrington Fine Arts Boosters, at Barrington Fine Arts Department, Barrington High School, 616 W. Main St, Barrington IL, 60010, Attn: Judy Bruce, would be appreciated. Please share a memory of Lester at: www.rggrharris.com



Happy 31st Birthday, Brian March 16, 1981

We love and miss you very much. Love, Your family



HYDE, JOHN

Age 87. Husband of the late Ruth. Beloved father of Bonnie (Conrad) Richards & Debbie Hyde, Loving grandfather of Jonathan (Adriana) & Ryan (Charity) & greatgrandfather of Adelaide, Dear brother of June Fisher. Services were at Charles Step Funeral Home, Redford. Interment Christian Memorial Cemetery. Condolences to CharlesStepFuneralHome.com

May peace be with you in this time of sorrow.



SHIRLEY JANE (NEE BOYT)

died March 8, 2012 in Traverse City, MI. She was born April 11, 1929 to Lillian (Hills) and Frederick Boyt in Detroit, MI. She is survived by her daughter, Elisabeth Kroepel of Newburgh Heights, OH; her son Geoffrey; her sister, JoAnne (Boyt) McCallum of Traverse City; her sister-in-law Gloria (Weitzman) Boyt of Grosse Pointe Woods; nieces, nephews and their fami-lies; friends and relatives. Shirley graduated from Cass Technical High School, earned a Bachelor's degree in Education from Wayne State University, and a degree from the University of the South at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul. She was a lab assistant at Grace Hospital, raised family in Farmington Hills, and after moving to Livonia, where she lived for over 40 years, worked as an educator for Detroit Public Schools until retirement. Shirley was an active member of Faith Lutheran Church, volunteer, union member, and philanthropist. A bon vivant with bright blue eyes and a sparkling smile, she was an avid reader, good cook, and gardener who enjoyed nature, personal fitness, and animals. She was happy to offer encourage-ment and share a cup of coffee. Shirley was a woman of strong character and abiding faith with a creative flair who treasured visits with family and friends. She will live 'on through the lives she touched. We miss her. Contact Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home

SEVONTY, **ABDON JOSEPH**

Passed into God's hands March 11, 2012. He was born July 30, 1910, in Pierz, MN, into a large, hardworking farming family of 13 children. At 16, the entire family moved to Michigan, where he began a long career in the automobile industry, culminating in his retirement at 60 from Chrysler, after 40 yrs. He was a man of great moral charac-ter, strong faith in God, and a tremendous father, grandfather and great-grandfather. He was my role model, both as a child and as role model, both as a child and as an adult. His legacy to his family is beyond measure. With deepest love, respect, and appreciation, we say "thank you." You are home. Your deeds speak volumes to the kind of man you were. Abdon is survived by his beloved doughter langt B. Kotte: two love. daughter Janet B. Korte; two loving grandsons Jeremý and James Korte; four dear great-grandchil-dren Jonathon, Jordan, Joshua and Jamie; and two dear sisters Clarice Wamsganz and Margaret Danko. Abdon is preceeded in death by his beloved wife Simone Sevonty and Ioving son Robert Sevonty. Visitation Friday, March 23, 2012, 2-8 PM, with a Rosary at 7PM at John N. Santeiu & Son Funeral Home, 1139 Inkster Rd. (btwn. Ford Rd. and Cherry Hill). In state Saturday 9am until The Mass of Christian Burial 9:30 AM at St. Mel Catholic Church, 7506 Inkster (just north of Warren), Dearborn Heights, MI. ww.SanteiuFuneralHome.com



STANTON, HAROLD S.

March 16, 2012 Age 86. Loving husband of Joyce. Dear father of Michael (Susan), Mollie Stanton-Fuja (Steve) and Tim (Sharyn). Also survived by six grandchil-dren and three great grandchil-dren. Brother of David and Marshall (Janice). Services were held at First United Methodist Church of Birmingham. Church of Birmingham. Memorial tributes to the hunger project of your choice. A.J. Desmond & Sons 248-549-0500

View obituary and

share memories at:

www.DesmondFuneralHome.com

DESMOND SO



 Top 10 tips for Lawn Care with Ashton Ritchie of Scotts. He'll share his 40 years of experience and answer questions about 10 a.m. March 31 in Royal Oak, noon, April 1 in Ann Arbor and 3 p.m. April 1 in

 All About Hydrangeas, 1 p.m. in Ann Arbor, 2:30 p.m. in Royal Oak and 4 p.m. Dearborn Heights, all on March 31, and 3 p.m., April 1 in West Bloomfield.

Flowering Bulbs with Pietwith Color, 2:30 p.m. March April 1 in West Bloomfield.

and Peggy Barnauskas of Clinton, earned a bachelor of science degree in engineering from Michigan State University. He is employed as a proAutomotive Components Holding in Saline

A June 2012 wedding is planned at Our Lady of Victory Catholic Church in Northville.

Sanchez-Hubbard

Sabrina Sanchez and Scott Patrick Hubbard announce their engagement.

The bride-to-be, daughter of Manuel and Mary-Elizabeth Sanchez of Westland, earned an associate's degree from Schoolcraft College and a bachelor's degree from Wayne State University. She is employed at Tom Holzer Ford in Farmington Hills.

Her fiancé, son of Richard and Alice Hubbard of

Novi. A June 2012 wedding is planned in Westland.

Cavanaugh-Worthing

Catherine Elizabeth Cavanaugh and Eric Nathan Worthing announce their engagement. The bride-to-be, daughter of Michael and Theresa Cavanaugh of Dexter, is a 1998 graduate of Livonia Stevenson High School, a 2003 graduate of Grand Valley State University, and 2008 graduate of Michigan State University's College of Osteopathic Medicine. She is currently employed as a physician.

Her fiancé, son of Mark and Rita Worthing of Brunswick, Maine, is a 2001 graduate of Brunswick High School and a

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Eradico Pest Services in

2005 graduate of Bowdoin College. He is a medical student and will graduate this year from the University of Vermont's College of Medicine.

A September 2012 wedding is planned in Portland, Maine.

• The Basics of Organic Gardening with Greg Brackett, 1:30 p.m. April 1 in Ann Arbor.

• Take Back Your Garden: Stop Deer & Rabbits from Devouring Your Garden, 11:30 a.m. March 31 in Royal Oak and 3 p.m. April 1 in Ann Arbor. Julia Hofley will teach the techniques to keep plants from getting eaten from neighborhood rabbits and deer.

• The Grass Can Be Greener will focus on what you need to keep your lawn looking its best, 1:30 p.m. April 1, in West Bloomfield.

• Wedding Floral Trends with Ron Worth, English Gardens floral designer, 11:30 a.m. March 31, in Dearborn Heights.

 How to Arrange Fresh Flowers Like a Pro, 2:30 p.m. March 31 in West Bloomfield and on April 1 at 1:30 p.m. in Dearborn Heights and 3 p.m. in Royal Oak.

 Planting for Success will teach the secrets to growing a beautiful garden, starting with the planting process, 11:30 a.m. March 31 in Ann Arbor.

 Grow Your Own Vegetables, 4 p.m. March 31 in Ann Arbor.

Area stores are at 155 N. Maple, Ann Arbor, (734) 332-7900; 22650 Ford Road in Dearborn Heights, (313) 278-4433; 4901 Coolidge Highway, Royal Oak, (248) 280-9500; and 6370 Orchard Lake Road, in West Bloomfield; (248) 851-7506. For information, log onto www. EnglishGardens.com.



FISCHER, LESLIE E. (NEE FARKAS)

Age 52, formerly of Northville, passed away peacefully on October 23, 2011 in Waukesha, WI, after a courageous battle with cancer. Beloved wife of Bryan and loving and devoted mother of Alec and Kit. Leslie was the daughter of the late Lester and late Eleanor Farkas, survived by her brother Drew. Leslie was a graduate of Northville High School, attended the Peabody Institute of the John Hopkins University (violin), the University of Michigan (BA History) and Marquette University Law School (JD 1988). She was the champion of the Marquette's 1987 moot court competition and served as an Asst. DA in Rock County, WI. She loved her dogs Fox, Sophie and Teddi and was an active member in the Australian Terrier Club. A Memorial for Leslie for local family and friends will be held at the R.G. & G.R. Harris Funeral Home, 15451 Farmington Rd., Livonia, Sunday at 12 p.m. Family will receive visitors from 10:30 a.m. until service. Donations to HAWS shelter at www.hawspets.org, would be appreciated. Please share a memory of Leslie at:

www.rggrharris.com



at: 231-947-6347 for information.

RISCH, DORIS M.

Age 88, March 20, 2012. Beloved wife of the late Raymond. Dear mother of Richard (Nanette), Kathleen (Karl) Neumaier, Denise (Ron) Muir, Michael (Donna) and the late Thomas (the late Sharron). Grandmother of 12. Great-grandmother of 20. Greatgreat-grandmother of two. Sisterin-law of Dorothy LeVasseur, Frances Markgraff and Josephine Risch. Doris was a longtime vol-unteer at Garden City Hospital. Visitation Thursday 1-9pm, with an evening Rosary at the John N. Santeiu & Son Funeral Home, 1139 Inkster Rd., (between Ford Rd. and Cherry Hill). In state Friday 9am until 10am Mass at St. Dunstan Catholic Church, Belton (2 blocks west of Inkster, 2 blocks south of Ford Rd.) www.santeiufuneralhome.com

THURBER, JOHN A. Age 72, of Birmingham, died peacefully March 19, 2012. Beloved husband of Barbara for 49 years. Loving father of John (Jenny) Thurber and Sarah (Craig) Lindsay. Proud grandfather of Katharine and Andrew Lindsay. Dear brother of Mary Alice Locicero, Frances (Roy) Talmadge, and Jeanne (Robert) Murray. Services have been held.

Memorials appreciated to Capuchin Soup Kitchen or Six Rivers Regional Land Conservancy. Obituary and condolences at: lynchfuneraldirectors.com

VINCENT, **CAROLINE "KELLEY"**

Of Gregory, MI, age 66, died March 19, 2012. Funeral Friday, March 23 at 11:00am at Staffan-Mitchell Funeral Home, Chelsea. Visitation Thursday 2-4 & 6-8pm. www.mitchellfuneral.com







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SECTION C . (*) SUNDAY, MARCH 25, 2012 **OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC**

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Dental Assistant

How students can meet the challenge of the evolving health care industry

Health care reform has expanded access to health care insurance coverage to more than 30 million new patients beginning in 2014, stretching the resources of health care facilities nationwide. Meanwhile, the introduction of new regulations and technological innovations, as well as the rapid adoption of electronic health records (EHRs), have added new layers to an already complex industry.

Health care administration professionals navigate this complicated system from the business side, ensuring that health care delivery processes run smoothly and patients continue to receive quality care. They balance the influx of new patients while maintaining resources.

With the health care industry showing no signs of slowing down, these professionals are in high demand. Health care is the fastest growing sector of the economy, with its professional positions predicted to account for 26 percent of all new jobs created in the United States between 2008 and 2018, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Employment of health care administration professionals, specifically, is expected to increase much faster than the average for all occupations.

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JOBS

Graduates with education in health care policy, information systems, accounting, budgeting and analysis in diverse provider settings will be poised for greater probability of career success.

Some universities now offer degree programs specifically designed for this career track. For example, interested students can now enroll in a bachelor's degree program in Healthcare Administration at DeVry University. The program is broken down into two specializations: Healthcare Informatics and Healthcare Management. Health Informatics students will also experience lab courses that allow them to explore

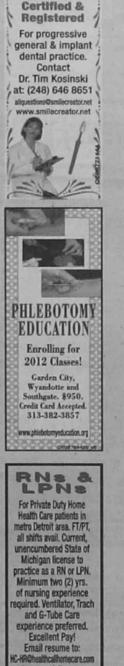
data requirements for gathering and testing, as well as data analysis for decision-making and business intelligence.

"Industry innovations or expansion often lead to job opportunities, and the health care industry is ripe with available positions for graduates with related education," says Joseph York, national dean for the College of Health Sciences, DeVry University. "Healthcare administration degree holders are particularly valuable. They are equipped with the fundamental business analysis and management skills necessary to adapt and succeed when faced with evolving health care challenges.'

The variety of this line of work is appealing to many professionals. From the size of its work settings - from hospitals to health care services companies - to its unique specializations, healthcare administration presents attractive options for each unique professional.

Many industries continue to cut jobs or freeze hiring due to the poor economy, yet the health care industry has remained a beacon of opportunity. Health care administration is one of its most high-growth fields, promising rewarding opportunities for professionals of all ages.

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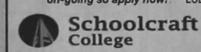
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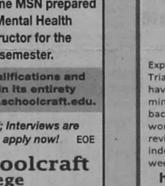
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