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Newspapers

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Town hall

State Rep. Kurt Heise, whose 20th District includes Plymouth and part of Canton, hosts a town hall meeting to help interested residents better understand property taxes and properly build their case for appealing property tax assessments.

The town hall meeting takes place 11 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 26, at the Plymouth Township Town Hall, 9955 N. Haggerty in Plymouth. Mark Avery, founder of overtaxedproperty.com, will also speak. Residents will receive information on property taxes, along with step-by-step instructions and tips for how to build an appeal.

For more information call Heise's office toll free at (855) REPKURT or e-mail kurt.heise@house.mi.gov.

United Way meets

The Plymouth Community United Way hosts its 2011 annual meeting 7:30-9 a.m. Friday, March 4, at the Comcast offices located at 4112 Concept Drive in Plymouth Township.

The public is welcome and encouraged to attend. Those in attendance will enjoy a continental breakfast and networking with business associates and agency representatives. The meeting will begin promptly at 8 a.m. and will include reports on the PCUW 2010 finances and programs. Campaign chairman Mark Evenson will also recognize key contributors and special awardees.

Anyone interested in attending the meeting needs to RSVP to Betty at (734) 453-6879, Ext. 2, by Feb. 25.

Community forum

The University of Michigan Depression Center returns to the Plymouth District Library on Tuesday, Feb. 22, at 7 p.m. with vital information on later-life depression. Sara Wright, clinical Lecturer in the Department of Psychiatry, presents a brief overview of the latest research on later-life depression, including strategies for prevention, diagnosis and treatment.

Registration is requested and can be made by contacting the library at (734) 453-0750, Ext. 4, or online at plymouthlibrary.org.

Pension tax gets mixed reviews

BY MATT JACHMAN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Gov. Rick Snyder wants to tax private pensions under about \$45,000, and Bill Mahoney is all right — well, maybe just OK — with that.

"I would be one of those people," said Mahoney, who continues to work even as he receives a pension from Ford Motor Co. "I think it's time. You've got to bite the bullet."

He added: "I'd rather keep every dime I have."

Mahoney spoke Friday outside the U.S. Postal Service station in downtown Plymouth, where people who receive pensions, or who hope to one day, had a variety of reactions to Snyder's plan to tax them, part of a budget and revenue



Gov. Rick Snyder (right) was a popular attraction at a campaign stop at Plymouth's Panera Bread, but his first budget plan drew mixed reaction here.

Please see **PENSION, A6**

City and township both lose funding under Snyder's plan

BY MATT JACHMAN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The city of Plymouth stands to lose a good chunk of revenue under Gov. Rick Snyder's budget plan, but Mayor Dan Dwyer says he won't be singing the blues.

"We always expected to take a huge cut, and we've already made plans to absorb that," said Dwyer on Friday. "I know we won't raise taxes. I know that."

Snyder, in the state budget proposal he announced Thursday, would do away with revenue sharing to local communities that's called for by state statute. Plymouth is due to receive nearly \$151,000 in such aid this fiscal year; if Snyder's plan is adopted, that money would go away for the next fiscal year.

Please see **FUNDING, A6**



'We Love Shakespeare: A Learning Partnership of Elementary and High School Scholars' was submitted by Cyndi Burnstein, Salem High School Honors Shakespeare Seminar Teacher, and Jayne Burnstein, a Bird School first-grade teacher.

A solid Foundation

EEF celebrates 25 years of supporting local schools

BY BRAD KADRICH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Carole Sweet remembers being one of the first people to receive a grant from the fledgling Educational Excellence Foundation in 1987.

She can't remember exactly which of the many plays her students put on for other elementary students the grant paid for, but she does know the grant helped the EEF do exactly what it was founded two years earlier to do: Fund projects that enhance teaching and learning in Plymouth-Canton Community Schools.

It's a mission the EEF has been fulfilling since its inception in 1985 with a 7 a.m. meeting at the old Mayflower Hotel in downtown Plymouth. In the beginning, it was about enhancing educational programs; in today's economy, it has become more of a budget enhancer, but the mission is still clear.

WINE TIME

What: Educational Excellence Foundation 25th Anniversary Wine Tasting

When: 7-9:30 p.m. Friday, March 4

Where: VisTaTech Center at Schoolcraft College

Why: It's a fundraising event for the EEF, the nonprofit established in 1985 to enhance educational opportunities in the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools. The event will feature food, drink (including seven wineries) and entertainment provided by performing arts students from the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park.

How much: Tickets are \$25, and can be purchased at the E.J. McClendon Education Center or at any Busch's Market.

Details: Call Carole Kody at (734) 416-2718.

"EEF provides district stakeholders — parents, teachers, business leaders and citizens — an opportunity to help children reach their fullest potential," said Carole Kody, who has served as executive director of the EEF since 2000. "In the current climate, (it seems) EEF exists to enrich education in Plymouth-Canton schools beyond the limits imposed by state and federal funding."

SILVER BELLS

The EEF celebrates 25 years of maintaining that mission with its silver-anniversary wine tasting event March 4 at Schoolcraft College's VisTaTech Center. The event will feature food, drink (including seven wineries) and entertainment provided by performing arts students from the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park.

Please see **EEF, A5**

Colbeck bill would help create 'Freedom Week'

BY BRAD KADRICH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Freshman state Sen. Patrick Colbeck thinks public school students need more of an education in this country's system of government and in the U.S. Constitution, and he's introduced legislation that, if passed, would require it.

Colbeck's SB 119 would designate the week surrounding Veterans Day (Nov. 11) as "Celebrate Freedom Week." As part of that observance, Colbeck's bill would require public schools to provide instruction on "the intent, meaning and importance of the U.S. Constitution and the Declaration of Independence."

"We're graduating students from schools who have no appreciation ... or knowledge of our system of government," said Colbeck,



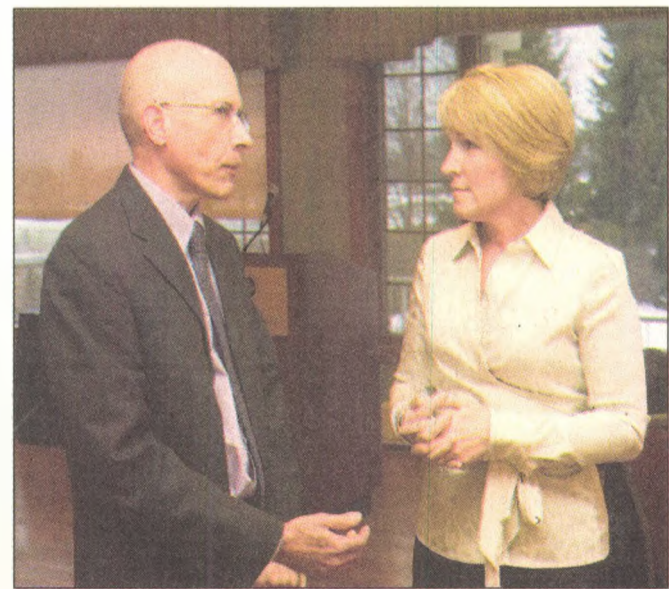
Colbeck

a Canton Republican, in introducing the legislation. "The majority of students do not know we declared our independence from Great Britain, or that we're actually a Republic form of government and not a democracy."

Colbeck said Celebrate Freedom Week would "give all of our students a time to reflect on the Constitutional rights our service members fight to protect and the historical context in which these rights were proclaimed."

But teachers and administrators for Plymouth-Canton Community Schools, the largest school district in Colbeck's Senate district and the third-largest in the state,

Please see **FREEDOM, A5**



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Sharing stories

Growth Works Executive Director Dale Yagiela and Wayne County Commissioner Laura Cox talk before the annual Growth Works dinner, which recognizes youngsters who've overcome adversity to succeed. For the story, please turn to page A7.



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

Bipolar support

The non-profit Depression Bipolar Support Alliance of Metro Detroit is offering support group meetings by trained leaders twice a month. The meetings take place the second and fourth Wednesday of each month from 6:30-8 p.m. in the Lincoln Behavioral Services Office, 14500 Sheldon Road, Suite 160B, located off Plymouth Executive Park Dr. north of M-14. The DBSA is a self-help group of those diagnosed with bipolar disorder or depression whose mission is to provide support, hope and education to individuals diagnosed with depression and bipolar disorders, their families and friends.

More information is available on the group's website at www.dbsa-metrodetroit.org or you can call Bob, (248) 689-6110, or Nancy, (734) 536-3457.

Bridal show

Rawlinson Photography and Elegant Invitations host a bridal show 1-4 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 20, at the Plymouth Cultural Center (525 Farmer).

Vendor booths will include Plymouth businesses specializing in invitations, flowers, disc jockeys, hair salons, party rental, favors, photography, apparel, gifts, reception venues and bakeries.

Free registration on their website www.plymouthbridalshow.com.

Preschool parents

Plymouth-Canton Community Schools Early Childhood Programs will host a Preschool Parent Information Meeting on Wednesday, March 2, at 7 p.m. at Discovery Middle School, 45083 Hanford Road, Canton. Learn about our 2011-12 preschool class options, meet the staff, and pick up enrollment materials.

For more information, please call the Early Childhood Office at 734-416-6190 or visit our website at:

web.pccs.k12.mi.us/earlychildhood.

Elder law lawyer

James P. Lampertius, a specialist in elder law and the principal of the law firm Lampertius & Associates, will speak to the St. John's Support Group for the Caregivers of Alzheimer's patients on Friday, March 4, at St. John's Episcopal Church in Plymouth.

Lampertius graduated from the University of Detroit, the University of Michigan Law School and is certified as a Specialist in Aging with the Wayne State University Institute of Gerontology. His practice specializes in issues concerning estate planning, estate tax, special needs planning and education advocacy.

Lampertius will cover the legal and financial facts that need to be faced when one has to place a loved one in a nursing home—a topic that faces the caregiver of most dementia patients sooner or later. The meeting will begin at 10 a.m. and end at noon. Free respite care is provided for the caregivers' loved ones. St. John's Episcopal church is located at 574 South Sheldon Road in Plymouth. This meeting is open to all caregivers of patients with some form of dementia.

Call the church office, (734) 453-0190 for directions.

Appealing taxes

Campaign for Liberty presents "Appealing Your Property Tax" with guest speaker Jerry Vorva, a Realtor and a former member of both the State House of Representatives and the Plymouth City Commission, 7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 22, in the Freedom Room at the Canton Administration Building, 1150 S. Canton Center, in Canton.

Vorva will talk about inaccurate property assessments and how residents can fight back using the appeals process to potentially reduce your property tax. During his service as state Representative, Vorva wrote some of Michigan's real estate laws. He is also a leader in a current legal battle to force governments to respect taxpayers rights.



Pom prowess

The Salem Varsity Rockettes pom and dance team performed recently in Orlando, Fla., at Disney World's Wide World of Sports Complex for their annual nationals trip. The girls competed in the Large Varsity division at UDA's National Dance Team Championship, placing in finals for Large Varsity Jazz and semi-finals for Large Varsity Pom. Head coach is Kaithlin Fettes, who along with choreographers Laura Thorp and Liz Hynes of Elite Dance Force in Canton said they were "very proud of the team."

Band booster craft show

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

Over 100 exhibitors with handcrafted items will be on display at this artistic event. Visitors can expect a high quality show with jewelry, handmade clothing, soaps, artwork, sculptures, floral arrangements, and many spring related items.

Plymouth High School is located at 8400 Beck Road in Canton. The Spring Arts & Craft Ensemble will be held from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. In addition to over 100 exhibits, there will be food, door prizes, a raffle, and entertainment by marching and concert band musicians throughout the day. Admission is \$2. Strollers are welcome.

"The Arts & Craft Ensembles are two of the most successful fundraisers we host each year," said Erin Babcock, president of the

2011 Plymouth-Canton Music Boosters. "The money raised at this event will help send the 200-member Marching Band to the 2011 Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York City. We're hopeful the community will come out and support our kids by visiting our craft show."

Hip-hop fundraiser

Metro Dance Company is hosting a hip hop benefit "Dance From the Heart" to raise funds for The Miracle League of Plymouth. The event is open for anyone ages 8 to adult, regardless of experience, and will be held at Metro Dance Company in Plymouth 1-4 p.m. Saturday, March 19.

Registration for the event is underway. Hip hop classes are \$15 per student with 100 percent of the proceeds donated to The Miracle League of Plymouth. Anyone interested in the event can contact Metro Dance Company at (734) 207-8970 or by e-mail at info@MetroDanceCompany.com.

"We wanted to hold this fundraiser because it directly benefits some very special children in our community," said Metro Dance director Kristie Wylar. "Our goal is to raise as much money as possible to help these children and their families enjoy good times together."

Euchre euphoria

The Canton Lions Club is calling all euchre players in southeast Michigan to play in the first Euchre Tournament Saturday, March 12, at the Elks Club, 41700 Ann Arbor Road in Plymouth.

The doors open at 6 p.m. and play begins at 7 p.m. Awards will be given to the top four players with the highest scores.

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Prostate Cancer

Prostate cancer is cancer that grows in the prostate gland. The cause is unknown. Prostate cancer is the third most common cause of death from cancer in men of all ages and is the most common cause of death from cancer in men over 75 years old.

With the advent of PSA testing, most prostate cancers are now found before they cause symptoms. These symptoms can be associated with prostate cancer, but they are more likely to be associated with non-cancerous conditions.

- Urinary hesitancy
- Urinary dribbling
- Urinary retention
- Pain with urination
- Pain with ejaculation
- Lower back pain
- Pain with bowel movement

Additional symptoms that may be associated with Prostate Cancer are:

- Excessive urination at night
- Hematuria (blood in the urine)
- Bone pain or tenderness
- Unintentional weight loss
- Incontinence
- Abdominal pain
- Anemia
- Lethargy

If you are suffering from any of these symptoms, consult a physician. If prostate cancer is found a biopsy or bone scan may be done to determine treatment. Chemotherapy radiation or surgery are all treatment options. For more information or to make an appointment call...

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Players can pre-register by March 10 for \$20 payable at the door by e-mailing lionsclubeu-chre@yahoo.com. Contact Linda Obrec at (734) 945-6685 for more information.

New exhibit

A new exhibit at the Plymouth Community Arts Council features contemporary mixed media by Livonia artist, Barbara Gibson. A graduate of the University of Michigan with a Masters of Fine Art, the artist has enjoyed a career that has spanned more than 35 years.

Experienced in ceramics, printmaking, sculpture and welding, she originally made her living as a clay artist. It was through clay that she came to see herself as a process person. The more steps to the creation, the more passion she has for it. She has many forms of firing and uses her welding knowledge to create dyes for extruders. This led to the formation of large wall pieces.

The current exhibit melds clay, metal and print making. Barbara Gibson has always been entranced by rhythmic patterns in the world. Hence the process pieces in this exhibit are called "Rhythms."

The exhibit can be viewed at the PCAC through Feb. 28. Exhibit hours are Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. A reception for the artist will be held on Thursday, Feb. 24, from 7-9 p.m. The public is most welcome. The PCAC is located at 774 N. Sheldon Rd. in Plymouth. Call (734) 416-4278 for further information.

Mom to Mom

Bentley Elementary School hosts its PTO Mom-2-Mom Sale 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, March 5, at the school, located at 1100 S. Sheldon in Canton.

Proceeds from the event will benefit the PTO and Bentley students, with the hope, organizers say, to be used for future playground equipment and classroom grants at the school.

Entry fee is \$1; strollers allowed after 11 a.m. Table fee is \$15, and there are still a few available.

For more information, call Christine Wegrzyn at (734) 331-2160 or e-mail rcwegrzyn@gmail.com

Prom dresses

The Plymouth Canton AAUW Prom Dress Sale takes place noon to 4 p.m. Sunday, April 10, and 6-8 p.m. Monday, April 11, at Memorial Elementary School, 3001 Marquette, Garden City (between Henry Ruff and Middlebelt).

The sale is to provide prom dresses for girls who are not able to afford them in this economic climate. AAUW thanks all those who have contributed and will continue accepting donations through March 31. Accessories such as purses, and jewelry are also welcome.

AAUW volunteers will pick up contributions or donors can bring them to any meeting.

To arrange for pick up, e-mail or call S. Zaetta at szaetta@wowway.com (734-455-6366), K. Bellows at KiggityKate83@aol.com (734-421-8807) or E. Nelson at genelson1c@att.net (734-981-4938).

Sagear scholarship

The Rotary Club of Plymouth A.M. is striving to recognize a Plymouth-Canton School District High School Senior who has overcome adversity with its annual Sandra Sagear Rotary Scholarship.

Club officials are looking for students who have displayed courage, perseverance, spirit, and creativity in succeeding in achieving an education, despite a physical, mental or emotional barrier. They have also shown an appreciation of others and a commitment to their community. The recipient of this award will receive a scholarship.

The award is named after Sandra Sagear, a 1969 graduate of the original Plymouth High School who imagined and believed she could succeed as she lived everyday with Polio. To download an application, go to: <http://www.storytellerdesign.com/Portals/4/2011ApplicationScholarRotary.pdf>.

Call for artists

The Plymouth Community Arts Council announces its second annual open art exhibition, Pure Art of Michigan, to be held in April. Artists are invited to submit work that highlights the unique beauty of our state.

Works will be accepted in all media except sculpture. There will be a \$10 fee for up to two entries of reasonable size. Paintings must be framed and ready for hanging and clearly identified and priced on the back. Final selections will be made by the exhibition committee.

The drop off day for exhibit consideration is Monday, March 28, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Pure Art of Michigan runs from April 1-30.

The Plymouth Community Arts Council is located at 774 N. Sheldon Rd. in Plymouth. For further information, contact Nancy Pilon at (734) 455-4681, (nanpilon@yahoo.com) or Tamara Trudelle at the PCAC at (734) 416-4278, tamara@plymoutharts.com.

Damaris scholarship

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

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

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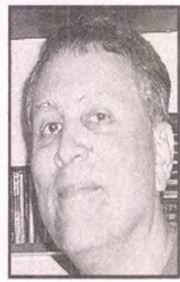
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Buick Regal Cxl Turbo Provides European Feel In An American Nameplate

AdvertisingFeature

CAReport



By Dave Menard
For Avanti NewsFeatures
Fracassa News Group



If Buick is looking to get away from its previous image as a car for older folks, the Regal CXL turbo is a good place to start.

So you're looking for something with turbocharged power, a sport suspension and a dash of European luxury thrown in? So the first brand that comes to your mind is Buick, right? No? Well, you're not alone. Known for years as a stodgy brand of cars you looked at if you couldn't afford a Cadillac, Buick has really changed their image over the last several years. Their vehicles have gotten younger and more hip, and cars like the 2011 Regal CXL Turbo are leading the way.

Designed in Europe, and based on the Opel Insignia, the Regal has the feel of a European sedan, with some Buick touches. The lines are sleek and aggressive; the fenders are flared to wrap around the tires, and the abbreviated rear deck has the European sedan look. The Regal turbo, only offered in the CXL trim line, comes with dual bright exhaust tips, fog lamps, dual heated outside mirrors, and 18-inch painted alloy wheels. High-intensity discharge headlamps and 19-inch wheels are optional. The trademark waterfall grille lets you know you're in a Buick.

Inside, if you didn't see the tri-shield Buick logo in center of the steering wheel, I'm not sure you'd be able to tell that you're not inside a European sport sedan. The interior lines flow nicely, including a center stalk containing the climate and audio system that sits at a 30-degree angle. The instrument panel is nicely laid-

out and features a driver information system; all the controls are all within easy reach. The interior also features Kibo wood trim.

The standard leather seats are power-adjustable and are comfortable while providing good support. The leather-wrapped steering wheel contains controls for the audio system. There's a good amount of room up front, and the 60/40 rear seats fold down.

The Regal comes with a host of standard features, including dual-zone climate control, cruise control, tilt steering column, power windows and locks, remote keyless entry, and ultra-sonic rear park assist.

The standard audio system is an AM/FM/CD system with seven speakers, a USB port, Bluetooth, and satellite radio (with a 3-month subscription). You can upgrade to a nine-speaker system that includes a navigation system. It's part of a package that includes the HID-headlamps, 19-inch wheels, power sunroof and rear seat-mounted airbags. That package will run you almost \$6000.

As with all General Motors vehicles, six months of OnStar is standard with the Regal. With OnStar, you can make and receive calls hands-free, get updated vehicle diagnostics, ask for directions or restaurant recommendations, or summon emergency help at the touch of a button. The system also automatically calls for

assistance in the event airbags are deployed.

The Regal turbo is powered by a 2.0-liter, four-cylinder turbo engine. Rated at 220 horsepower and 258 lb.-ft. of torque, the engine gives you some good jump off the line. The engine is mated with either a six-speed automatic or a six-speed manual transmission. If you opt for the automatic, you can still manually run thru the gears, if you choose to. EPA rates the milage as 20 mpg in city and 32 on the highway with the manual; the automatic is rated at 18/28, and premium fuel is recommended (although not required) for the turbo engine.

The Regal drives and handles very well. The front suspension is an independent MacPherson system with dual-path mounting, specifically-tuned coil springs, stabilizer bar and continuous damping control. The rear system is a four-link independent system with stabilizer bar and continuous damping control. The ride is comfortable and the Regal holds the road well, thanks to standard traction control.

The rack-and-pinion power steering system make the Regal easy to maneuver and it's easy to park.

The Regal comes with all the expected airbags, including head side curtain

airbags. Anti-lock brakes are standard, as are a tire-pressure monitoring system, and a passenger airbag sensor.

It's getting harder to define just what an American car really is. Designed in Germany, with an engine made in the U.S. and a transmission put together in China, the final assembly point is in Russelsheim, Germany. So is this Buick and American car? More of an American car than a Toyota, Nissan or Mazda that's assembled in the U.S.? You tell me, because I'm not sure.

At any rate, the Regal CXL turbo starts at a little over \$28,700. Add the package described above with the navigation system, 19-inch wheels, sunroof and HID-headlamps, and you're at around \$35,000.

If Buick is looking to get away from its previous image as a car for older folks, the Regal CXL turbo is a good place to start.

Write Avanti NewsFeatures auto critic Dave Menard at Avanti1054@aol.com.

2011 Buick Regal CXL turbo

Vehicle class: mid-size sedan.
Power: 2.0-liter four-cylinder turbo automatic.
Mileage: 18 city/28 highway.
Where built: Russelheim, Germany.
Base price: \$28,745.
Price as tested: \$35,380.

OE087303676

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<p>New 2011 Ford Edge SE FWD</p> <p>WAS \$27,995 ONLY \$219* PER MO. <small>A/Z Plan 24 mo. lease, \$2,069 due at signing.</small></p>	<p>New 2011 Ford Ranger Pickup</p> <p>WAS \$18,755 ONLY \$249* PER MO. <small>A/Z Plan 36 mo. lease, \$3,083 due at signing.</small></p>	<p>New 2011 Ford Escape XLT FWD</p> <p>WAS \$24,775 ONLY \$179* PER MO. <small>A/Z Plan 24 mo. lease, \$2,009 due at signing.</small></p>	<p>New 2011 Ford Explorer "ALL NEW DESIGN"</p> <p>WAS \$29,310 ONLY \$274* PER MO. <small>A/Z Plan 36 mo. lease, \$3,194 due at signing.</small></p>	<p>New 2011 Ford F-150 Super Cab XLT 4X4</p> <p>WAS \$40,470 ONLY \$344* PER MO. <small>Sign & Drive, \$0 due at signing. A/Z Plan 36 mo. lease. UP TO \$7,000 IN SAVINGS!</small></p>

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Contemporary Furniture: All in excel cond. Bedroom, sofa, office and wall unit. Call: (248) 855-5152
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MISC ITEMS: Kirby vacuum, Armoire, country oak furniture, linens, misc. Plymouth. 734-414-1579
MISCELLANEOUS: Refrigerator \$95; Large Fridge \$125; Gas Dryer \$85; Twin box spring \$15; Shower glass door 27x31 \$10; 50's retro fridge \$85; Upright freezer \$175; Motorola Bluetooth \$10; Samsung car phone \$5. 248-465-0262
SOFA AND LOVESAT Tan, 4 months old, Art Van. must sell, \$500/best. 248-549-2913, 313-303-4936
Miscellaneous For Sale **7800**
ADULT PULL-UPS, DIAPERS & PADS, Hoyer Lift, diabetic shakes, wall art & sculptures, lots more! (248) 541-2230
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Children's School Desk Attached chair & desk type. Good Condition. 248-437-0347
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Sign & Drive \$152* mo
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2011 ESCAPE XLT
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2011 EDGE SE
SIRIUS Satellite Radio, Convenience Package, Reverse Sensing, Ford MyKey

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2011 FOCUS SE
Automatic, SIRIUS Satellite Radio, Pwr Windows, Ford MyKey

36 Month Lease \$0 Due at Signing
Sign & Drive \$159* mo
10,500 MILES PER YEAR. RCL LOYALTY ELIGIBLE WITH ALL FORD INCENTIVES TO DEALER. WITH APPROVED CREDIT. SECURITY DEPOSIT WAIVED. A/Z PLAN. PLUS TAX, TITLE, DOC & LICENSE FEES. ENDS 2/28/11

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Ameriplus Mortgage Corp.	(248) 740-2323	4.875	0.25	4.25	0.25	J/A
BRINKS Financial Group	(800) 785-4755	4.75	0.5	3.875	1.25	J/A/V/F
Client Services by Golden Rule	(800) 991-9922	4.75	0.5	4	0.5	J/A/V/F
Co-op Services Credit Union	(734) 466-6113	5.375	0	4.625	0	J
Dearborn Federal Savings Bank	(313) 565-3100	5	0	4.5	0	A
Fifth Third Bank	(800) 792-8830	5	0	4.375	0.375	J/V/F
First Michigan Bank	(248) 498-2824	5	0	4.375	0	J/V/F
First State Bank	(800) 372-2205	5	1	4.25	1	J/F
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Group One Mortgage	(248) 282-1602	5.125	0	4.5	0	J/A/V/F
Mortgages by Golden Rule	(800) 991-9922	4.625	1.625	3.875	1.25	J/A/V/F

Above Information available as of 2/11/11 and subject to change at anytime. Rates are based on a \$200,000 loan with 20% down & credit score of 740 or above. Jumbo rates, specific payment calculations & most current rates available Fridays after 2:00 P.M. at www.rmreport.com. Key to "Other" Column - J = Jumbo, A = Arm, V = VA, F = FHA & NR = Not Reported. All Lenders are Equal Opportunity Lenders. Lenders to participate call (734) 922-3032 / © 2011 Residential Mortgage Consultants, Inc., All Rights Reserved



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Help Wanted-Medical 5060

MEDICAL BILLER
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Help Wanted-Medical 5060

Resident Health Services Director-RN
Seeking an experienced RN in a licensed home for aged located in West Bloomfield. Experience in long term care, geriatrics and/or dementia care preferred. Candidate must possess good organization and leadership. Exc. benefit package. Contact Barbara Giles Fax 248-661-1628 or Email: bgiles@jsiml.org

Help Wanted-Medical 5060

Scheduling Coordinator
Insurance service firm providing medical assessments, seeking scheduling coordinator. Medical background in disability preferred. Professionalism, organizational skills, and positive attitude required. hr_mis@yahoo.com Or fax (248) 356-6757

Help Wanted-Medical 5060

ULTRASOUND TECH FULL-TIME
Needed for Southfield imaging facility. Experience required. Cross-training in general, vascular and echo preferred. Competitive pay and benefits. Email resume to: careers@diagnosticmanagementservices.com

Help Wanted-Medical 5060

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Education/Instruction 5000

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Business Opportunities 6740

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Sunday PUZZLE CORNER

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

ACROSS

- 1 I, for Wolfgang
- 4 Cut of meat
- 8 Slangy goodbye
- 12 Electrical unit
- 13 Port near Kilauaea
- 14 "Who Made Who" rockers
- 15 Arcade games of yore
- 17 Index
- 18 Gray-green shrubs
- 19 Sticker
- 21 Schmoose
- 23 Frat letter
- 27 Herr's spouse
- 30 Univ. marchers
- 33 "Futureworld" name
- 34 Soft pluggage
- 35 Late actress Mary
- 36 Young lady of Sp.
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- 39 Hardy dairymaid
- 40 Hot-tub wood
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- 51 "Hercules" TV spinoff
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- 57 At the center of
- 58 British inc.
- 59 Parched
- 60 Pay dirt
- 61 Bad-mouth

- DOWN**
- 1 Bratty kids
 - 2 "Wool" on clay sheep
 - 3 —Kong
 - 4 Tibet's capital
 - 5 Van Gogh medium
 - 6 Misfortunes
 - 7 Wine's bouquet
 - 8 Shyway lily

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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Level: Beginner

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Help Wanted-General 5000

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New position opened in our Set-up/Display Dept. Within our pollution Control Team \$15/Start

No experience required, we will train. Benefits, vacation pay and paid field training. Call Mon. or Tues. to set up interview at 248-623-1419

Help Wanted-General 5000

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See full details/apply online at careerbuilder.com
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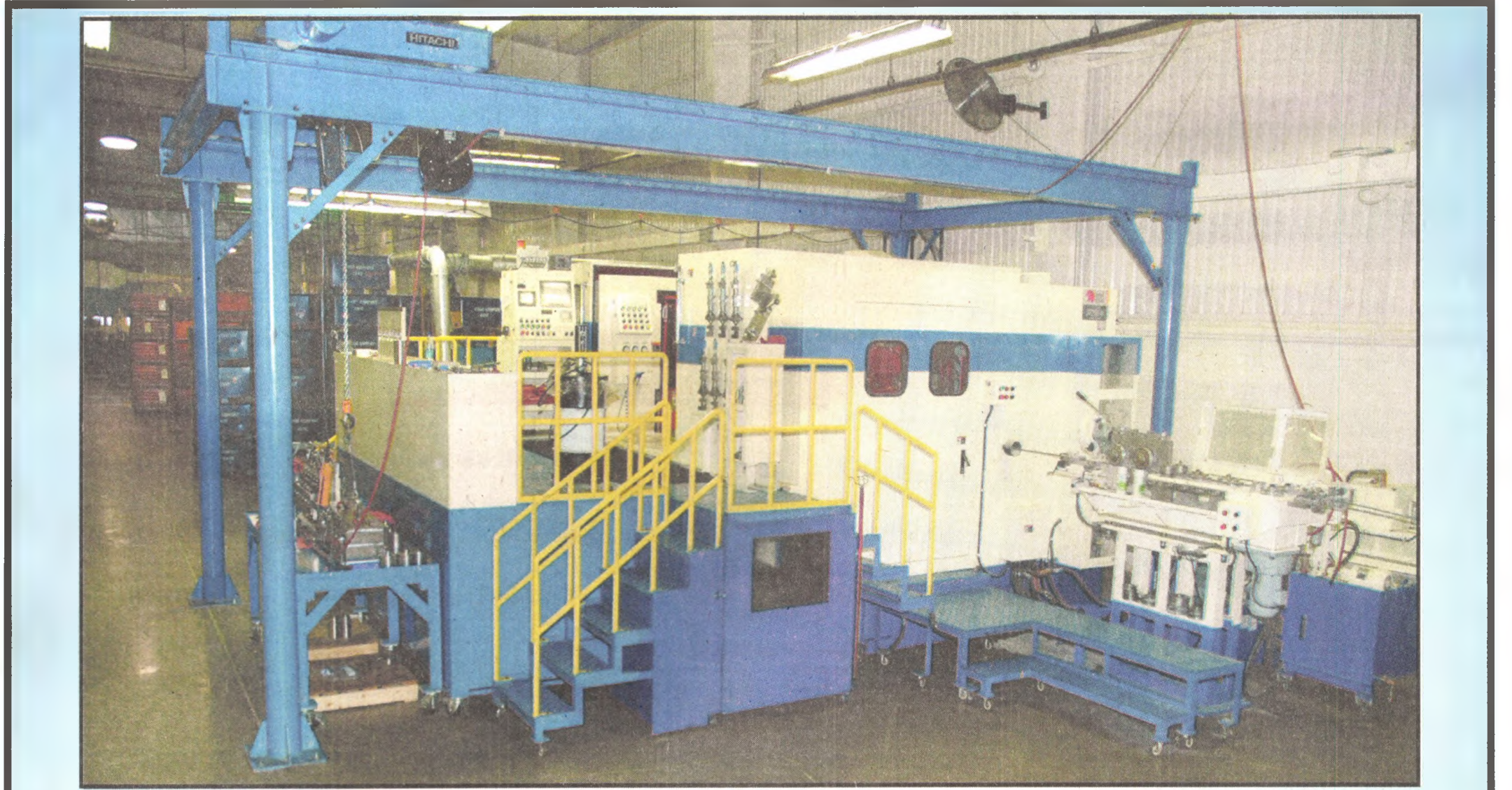
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PLUMBER - For residential repair. Must be licensed, good driver. Apply in person, 16606 Grand River, 48227

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 Thursday Edition, 4:30 p.m. Tuesday
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hometownlife.com

Sunday, February 20, 2011

Your Nonverbal Communication Can Wreck Your Interview

Selena Dehne, JIST Publishing

Giving a limp handshake, letting your eyes wander and fidgeting are just a few of the subtle blunders that can botch your success in a job interview. Although you may have been unaware you were doing these things, interviewers who pick up on negative nonverbal communication are likely to doubt your fit for the job.

Nonverbal communication can be judged just as much, and sometimes even more harshly, than the responses you give to questions you're asked during interviews. It can even be the single factor that helps hiring managers decide between you and another candidate when you're both equally qualified for the job. That's why it's so important to be mindful about your posture, facial expression and other behaviors.

"The most important idea is to project confidence and professionalism," says Heather Krasna, author of "Jobs That Matter: Find a Stable, Fulfilling Career in Public Service."

"If you find yourself becoming very nervous about interviewing, realize that this is normal.

Practice interviewing in front of a mirror, on video or with a friend or career coach until you feel a bit more comfortable," she suggests.

In her book, Krasna offers the following tips for ensuring positive, appropriate and polite nonverbal communication:

Handshake: A firm handshake is considered a sign of confidence. Take the other person's hand in your right hand (don't use both hands), so that the space between your thumb and first finger touches theirs. Give a firm, but not crushing squeeze, and shake the person's hand up and down slightly, once. If you have sweaty hands, be sure to dry them before your interview.

Posture and physical distance: When sitting in a chair, sit up straight or lean forward slightly (don't slouch). If you will be crossing your legs, do it so that one knee is stacked on top of the other or cross your ankles. (Do

not cross your legs so that one foot is on top of your other knee.) Alternatively, keep both feet on the floor. Do not stretch your legs out in front of you or sit with your legs spread far apart -- it looks too casual. When standing near someone, about three feet of distance is standard in most parts of the United States. Standing

closer than this can be quite uncomfortable for others. **Arms and hands:** You can "talk with your hands" to some extent, but do not do so to the point of distracting your interviewer.

Sitting with your arms crossed in front of you can look defensive. Instead, try to have a more open posture. Don't fidget, play with your hair or pen, or bite your nails!

Eye contact: Look in the eyes of the person interviewing you. Looking down or away frequently gives a message of not being confident or being confused. Rolling your eyes up is considered a sign of disrespect. Don't stare intensely at the interviewer; just look him or her

in the eye as much as possible. **Facial expression:** Smiling is an important way of showing that you are a friendly individual and that you are enthusiastic about the position. Smile at the beginning and the end of the interview at a minimum. This can't be emphasized enough -- I know several people for whom lack of smiling was a major barrier to employment.

Mirroring: You can also take note of the posture and expressions of your interviewer, and adopt some of his or her tone. Be careful, though -- even if an interviewer is quite friendly and casual, that does not mean you should be too casual. It is still a professional job interview.

In addition to these tips, Krasna gives international job seekers a reminder: "Nonverbal communication is quite culturally defined," she says. "If you are interviewing across cultures, be sure to know what is expected of you."

Selena Dehne is a career writer for JIST Publishing who shares the latest occupational, career and job search information available with job seekers and career changers. She is also the author of JIST's Job Search and Career Blog. Follow her on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/SelenaDehne>.



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HEALTH

Sunday, February 20, 2011

hometownlife.com

HAVE A STORY IDEA?

Contact Editor, Sharon Dargay

Voice Mail: (313) 222-8883

E-mail: sdargay@hometownlife.com

Comment online at hometownlife.com

Milliner tips hat to The Pink Fund

The Pink Fund will receive 25 percent of the proceeds from sales of "Femme Fedora" hats and "pack-able" pink hats designed by milliner Gena Conti.

The Pink Fund gives financial assistance to those who have undergone breast cancer treatment. It was founded by Molly MacDonald, a working mother of five who underwent cancer treatment.

"Women with breast cancer have enough on their minds, yet all too often they also are worried about money and the financial burdens of battling the disease," MacDonald stated. "What I have learned from my own situation, and confirmed by other women in treatment, is that the financial fallout from breast cancer causes stress that often is as devastating as the disease. I founded The Pink Fund to help women in treatment so they could focus their mental and emotional energy on healing and recovery."

Proceeds from the Conti-designed

hats will help The Pink Fund continue to make direct payments for rent, COBRA, car and utilities on behalf of families in need.

Both the The Pink Fund Femme Fedora and The Pink Fund Pack-Able are made from hot pink velour felt. The designs are trimmed with black gros-grain ribbon band and a matching bow at the side. They also are available in pastel pink for an additional fee.

Because each hat is a custom made, they are available 3-4 weeks from ordering. Rush orders also are available.

The Pink Fund "Femme Fedora" retails for \$195 (plus state sales tax, packing & shipping). The Pink Fund "Pack-Able" is \$165 (plus state sales tax, packing & shipping). Find details at goo.gl/WPA7G. Gena Conti Handmade Millinery is located at 2732 Biddlem, in Wyandotte. To order, Call Gena Conti Millinery at (734) 284-3417 or e-mail to thepinkfundhats@genaconti.com and provide exact head measurements.



A portion of sales of Femme Fedora by Gena Conti will benefit The Pink Fund.

Millinery is returnable for alteration only. Refunds are not available. To learn how to measure one's size, visit www.genaconti.com/Measuring.htm on the web.

Learn more about The Pink Fund at www.thepinkfund.org.

Colorectal cancer curable with early diagnosis, care

March is National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month and the good news is colon cancer cases have been steadily decreasing the past two decades. The bad news? It remains the third most common cancer in both men and women.

It's a preventable disease with a 90 percent survival rate when diagnosed early. It's a beatable cancer, but you have to get screened.

Last year, an estimated 102,900 Americans were diagnosed with colon cancer and 91 percent of cases were diagnosed in individuals age 50 or older. In Hispanic or Latino men and women, colon cancer is the second most commonly diagnosed cancer. This fact is alarming, because early stage colon cancer usually does not have symptoms. Screening is often the only way to determine a diagnosis before it's too late.

"If we diagnose it early enough, it is curable," stated Martha Trout, Director of Health Initiatives for Out State Michigan for the American Cancer Society Great Lakes Division. "If we're doing adequate screening in our communities, we don't need to have a disparity in the incidence of colon cancer and death rates."

So why aren't more people getting screened? According

to American Cancer Society research, the top seven reasons people say they aren't getting screened for colon cancer are:

- They don't think it will happen to them.
- They don't understand the benefits of getting screened.
- They are afraid or embarrassed to get screened.
- They don't have time to go in for a screening.
- They believe they can't afford a screening.
- They don't know where to go to get screened.
- And they say their doctor never talked to them about it.

"Bottom line, getting screened for colon cancer can save your life," Trout said. "Colon cancer is one of only two cancers that can be prevented through screening. It almost always starts with a small growth that can be removed before becoming cancerous through screening. If you are 50 or older, talk to your doctor about getting screened, even if you have no symptoms."

Men and women at average risk for colon cancer should begin screenings at age 50, and before age 50 if there is a strong family history of the disease. For more information call (800) 227-2345, anytime, day or night, or visit cancer.org.

MEDICAL DATEBOOK

FEBRUARY

Fibromyalgia Support

Helping Our Pain & Exhaustion, (HOPE) a non-profit organization for Fibromyalgia Awareness and Education offers a support group for spouses and families, 7-9 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 23, at the Farmington Hills Public Library, 32737 W. 12 Mile, Farmington Hills.

The purpose of the group is to inform and support spouses and families of those who have fibromyalgia. The spouses support group will alternate monthly with the patient support group. Patient Support Group will meet Wednesday, March 30 at the same location.

The fee is a \$3 donation to cover the

cost of the room. For more information call (248) 344-0896.

Having a baby

St. Mary Mercy Hospital offers a childbirth education class called, "Let's Get Ready to Have a Baby." This is a five-week program, 7-9 p.m. Mondays, Feb. 28-April 4, in classrooms 1 and 2. The class is based on the "Lamaze Method" and includes exercise, relaxation, breathing techniques and comfort measures to assist expectant moms through the different stages of labor. Classes also include information on anesthesia options, medication, nutrition, family adjustment and the importance of the support person's role. It enhances confidence and joy of the birthing experience. The class is open

to expectant parents, not just those delivering at St. Mary Mercy Hospital. There is a fee of \$75 per couple, and registration is required. Call (734) 655-1162 for more information, or to register

MARCH

Bariatric surgery

The Michigan Bariatric Institute presents educational seminars from 6-8 p.m. Thursdays, March 3 and April 7 at St. Mary Mercy Livonia, 36475 Five Mile, Livonia. Dr. Tallal Zeni, director of Minimally Invasive and Bariatric Surgery, and Dr. Jacob Roberts, a bariatric surgeon, will make presentations. For more information, call the

Michigan Bariatric Institute at (877) WHY WEIGHT.

Infant care

St. Mary Mercy Hospital offers "Getting to Know Your Newborn and Caring for the Sick Infant" from 6:30-9:30 p.m., Thursday, March 3, in Classroom 1 at the hospital, located at 36475 Five Mile, Livonia. This one-day class will teach new parents the basic characteristics and needs of a newborn, including diapering, bathing, feeding, growth and development patterns. In addition to baby basics the class also will include how to recognize when a baby is sick. Car seat and home safety will also be covered. Fee is \$55. To register, call (734) 655-1162 or visit stmarymercy.org.



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stjoeshealth.org

Choose an air duct cleaner wisely

For the past few years I have continually received phone calls from an air duct cleaning company and the message is always the same. "We are in your area this week and are offering a special on air duct cleaning. We can do the job for \$49.95 and all you have to do to set up an appointment is hit 1 on your telephone." Needless to say, I have never set up an appointment



Appliance Doctor

Joe Gagnon

because I firmly believe and know that this company is a complete rip-off. Chris Hansen did a long story on *Dateline NBC* last month. You can if you go to msnbc.msn.com, click on the "Hansen Files," and watch this two-part story. They send out a coupon advertising a price of \$49.95 to clean your ducts and once they are in your home, the price can quickly jump to over \$500 or even \$1,000. They do not clean the air ducts properly and the end result is the air is much more polluted than before they started the work. They target the seniors. Once enough complaints are compiled against them, they move out of their location, change names and begin to

operate as a new business. I've been asked a few thousand times if cleaning of air ducts in a home is a necessary task to be performed and the reply is always affirmative. The American Lung Association tells us that indoor air is now more polluted than outdoor air. For those who suffer allergies, watery eyes, headaches etc. it might just be the thing you should have done. New homes as well as older homes should be cleaned. The first thing they install on new homes is the duct work from the furnace throughout the house. There are a lot of waxed papered sandwiches and the like dropped into the registers. Sawdust, chunks of drywall and construction debris

are just swept into these openings, without concern of how it will affect the air circulating in the house. The Air Duct Cleaning Association NADCA.COM tries very hard to ensure that standards are followed by all their members. They have yearly training for members and introductions of new state of the art equipment and membership is not granted to just anyone. To do the job properly, they will take three to four hours in your home, give you before and after pictures of the inside condition of your duct work and a guarantee that they did it correctly. Joe Gagnon can be heard at 8 a.m., Saturdays on WAAM 1600 and Sundays at 2 p.m. on WDTK 1400. You can e-mail him at appldr@twm1rr.com

MILESTONES



Augustin and Hilda Matzo of Canton on their wedding day.

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY

Augustin and Hilda (Cupor) Matzo of Canton celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary Feb. 11. They were married in 1961 in Whiting, Ind. The couple have lived in the Canton area for 42 years. Their children are Rebecca, Deborah, Dianna, and Amanda. They also have 14 grandchildren. Augustin is retired from Ford Motor Company. Hilda worked for Weast Financial

Management. They're both active in their church, Resurrection, in Canton, bridge club and with their grandchildren. Hilda enjoys quilting and watching the Detroit Pistons. Augustin plays violin and enjoys watching football. The couple celebrated their milestone anniversary at the Inn at St. Johns, in Plymouth.



Passages

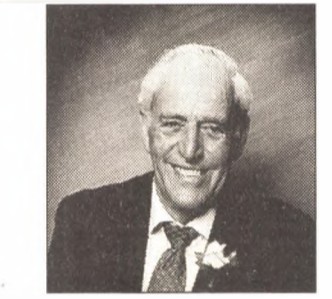
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BOB RODRIGUEZ

Of Attica, Mi (formerly of Westland); age 57; died Monday, February 14, 2011; Surviving wife, Debbie Rodriguez of Attica; children, David (Amanda Hoke) Rodriguez of Lake Orion, Sgt. John Rodriguez of New Orleans, LA, and Rene Rodriguez of Attica; grandson, Mason; parents, Robert and Arlene Rodriguez of Westland; grandmother, Aurora Rodriguez of Westland; siblings, Lori (David) Hollinger of Canton, Mark (Lisa) Rodriguez of Westland and Lisa (Jim) Soulliere of South Lyon; mother-in-law, Barb Magel of Fife Lake; and his sister-in-law, Cindy (Bob) Magel of Fife Lake. Bob is also survived by many nieces and nephews. Preceded in death by grandparents, Rose and Louis Torri and Juan Rodriguez; and his father-in-law, David Magel. Bob graduated from Livonia Franklin High School, class of 1971. He married Debbie Magel on January 28, 1978 in Detroit. Bob was a senior sales manager with X Bar Automation in Troy for many years. Bob loved hunting, fishing, golf and was an avid bowler. Memorial contributions may be made to Great Lakes Cancer Center, Lapeer or the American Red Cross. Services were Thursday February 17th in Lapeer, Mi.



LAWRENCE A. MARTIN

Beloved husband and father, age 90. Wife Cynthia, children Larry Martin (Marilyn), Judy Halter, Harry Moir (deceased), Kathleen Scarcelli, Joseph Martin (Kate), Annette Grzyb (Steve), Kim Hodge. Eleven grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren. Sadly missed by all. Visitation on Thursday, from 2-9pm. Services will be held 11am Friday. RG & GR Harris Funeral Home, Garden City.

GAIL L. WELCH

Age 61 of Howell, passed away at her home Sunday, February 13, 2011. She was born September 14, 1949 in Detroit, MI, the daughter of Richard J. and Joanne L. (Luers) Hennessy. Beloved wife of John whom she married in 1968 in Livonia. Dear mother of John (Dawn) Welch, Jr. of Cumming, GA, and Brian (Becky) Welch of Howell. Dear grandmother of six; also survived by her mother, Joanne of Howell and siblings, Rick (Denise) Hennessy of Grand Rapids, Christina (Tom) Rose of Livonia, Joanie (Tom) Econom of Howell, Paul Hennessy of Howell and Mark (Tara) Hennessy of Midland. Memorial services will be Saturday, February 26 at 11 a.m. (visitation 10 - 11 a.m.) at St. John Catholic Church, 2099 Hacker Road, Howell. Memorial contributions may be made to St. John Catholic Church Building Fund. Arrangements by MacDonald's Funeral Home, Howell (517-546-2800). Please visit the family's online guestbook at www.macdonaldsfuneralhome.com

MICHAEL E. CANDELA

February 12, 2011. Age 39. Beloved son of Frank (Chris) Candela and Cindy Candela. Loving grandson of Dolores Felice. Dear brother of Marianne (David) Smelewski. Beloved uncle of Joy, Evan, Nico, Pearson, Jade, Madison, Lia, Desmond and Rosa. Nephew of Vincent (Nancy) Candela, Janice (the late John) Felice, Ken (Ann) Felice and loving cousin to many. Michael was an active member of the Livonia Jaycees. Visitation will be Wednesday February 16, 2011 from 4-9pm at Harry J. Will Funeral Home located at 37000 Six Mile Rd., Livonia and Thursday February 17, 2011 from 1-9 pm with Scripture Service at 7pm. Funeral Service will be Friday February 18 at Our Lady of Victory, 770 Thayer Blvd., Northville. Instate begins at 9:30 am; Mass will follow at 10am. Donations can be made to the Leukemia and Lymphoma Foundation of Michigan or to the family to set up a trust in honor of Michael. www.harryjwillfuneralhome.com

DOROTHY BURKE

Age 76 of Livonia. Beloved wife of Gerald. Loving mother of Luke, Rose (Laran) Lerner, Laura, Brian and Paul (Cheryl). Proud grandma of Marc, Shauna, Joy, Kevin, Heather, Holly, Jason, Emma, Trevor and Eddie. Dearest sister of Joseph (Pat) Schutz. Visitation will be held at Fred Wood Funeral Home-Rice Chapel 36100 5 Mile Rd, Livonia (E. of Levan) Friday 2-9pm Scripture Friday 7:00pm. Funeral Service will be Saturday at St. Edith Catholic Church 15089 Newburgh Rd. Livonia Instate 10:00am Mass 10:30am. Memorial contributions may be made to Angela Hospice. Please visit on-line guestbook fredwoodfuneralhome.com

MONICA ANN NISTAL

August 23, 1961- February 14, 2011. Monica was a long term resident of Plymouth before moving to North Carolina where she died at the age of 49. Monica was a beloved daughter, sister, Aunt and friend to many around her. She is survived by her parents, Miguel and Frances Nistal, Her brother Miguel Nistal and his wife Sandy, Her sister Maria Heningsburg and her husband Andrew, her nephews; Miguel, Dominic, Maxwell, Jacob and Joshua and her niece Nicole. She is remembered by many loving family members and friends. The memorial service will be held March 5, 2011 at 11:00 am with visitation beginning at 10:30. Risen Christ Lutheran Church, 46250 Ann Arbor Rd., Plymouth, MI 48170. In lieu of flowers the family has asked that donations be sent in memory of Monica Nistal to: St. Joseph Indian School, PO Box 100, Chamberlain, SD 57325

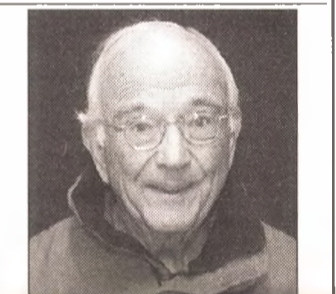
LOUISE I. HAYMAKER

Age 99, of Farmington Hills, MI. Passed away February 14, 2011. Arrangements by Thayer-Rock Funeral Home, Farmington.



RAY HARRY WITT

Founder of CMI International, Inc. died at the age of 82 on February 6, 2011 in West Bloomfield with his family at his side. A native of Cincinnati, Ohio, Mr. Witt moved to Michigan as a teenager and was a graduate of the Muskegon Junior College. He went on to receive a Bachelor of Science in Metallurgy from Case Institute of Technology in Cleveland, Ohio, now known as Case Western Reserve. He was a recipient of one of the first Foundry Educational Foundation Scholarships. Through the years, Mr. Witt continued his active association with both Case and the Foundry Educational Foundation and, in May 1984, he was presented with an Honorary Doctorate degree from Case Western Reserve for his contributions to and advancement of metallurgical and foundry education and programs. The school's Metallurgical Modeling and Research Laboratory is named after him. Mr. Witt began his career in 1947 as an apprentice at the C.W.C. Foundry. In 1952, he became Sales Manager for Cadillac Malleable Iron Company where he remained until 1957, when he established his own company, Ray H. Witt Industries. He later purchased his former employer. In 1960, Mr. Witt founded Cast Metal Industries, Inc., which Ray H. Witt Industries was merged into in 1974. In 1983, the corporate name was changed to CMI International, Inc. in order to better reflect the more diverse and global activities of the company. CMI became one of the largest independent suppliers of machined and assembled, cast and molded products to the automotive and light truck industries, with operations in many states, Mexico and Norway. It was a leader in its industry, known for its investment in technology that utilized the most advanced computer-aided design and engineering and manufacturing hardware and software. In 1999, CMI was sold to Hayes Lemmerz International, Inc. Ray Witt was the past President of the American Foundrymen's Society (AFS), the Ductile Iron Society, the Foundry Education Foundation (FEF) and the Iron Casting Society. He received a Gold Medal Award from AFS in 2003. "Ray was considered one of the giants of our industry," commented John Jorstad, an AFS Director and former CMI consultant. "He was dearly loved by those who had the honor to work for and with him." Mr. Witt was named Michigan Master Entrepreneur of the Year in 1997 and in 1999 Worcester Polytechnic Institute renamed their Aluminum Casting Research Laboratory the ACRL - Ray H. Witt Metalcasting Center. Mr. Witt is survived by his three daughters: Susy Petros, Judy Witt, and Mary (David) Hawkins, five grandsons and two great-grandsons. A Memorial Service celebrating his life and achievements will be held at a later date. Donations in his memory can be made to the Foundry Education Foundation (www.fefinc.org) or www.SimpleFuneralsInMichigan.com



RICHARD EMMETT THALACKER

Died on February 13, 2011 as a result of complications from leukemia at age 74. Dick is a 1954 graduate of Birmingham High School and the Engineering School of the U of Rochester, N.Y. Working within Detrex Chemical Corporation, Dick was the equipment division Plant Manager in Bowling Green, Ky., General Manager of Pacific Industrial Furnace Company, and retired as a Vice-President in Detroit. He served as President of Industrial Heating Equipment Association. An avid gardener and skier, Dick was a certified instructor for the Professional Ski Instructors of America. He was Ski Patrol Director at Mt. Brighton and received numerous awards: Outstanding Patrol Representative, Insignia Award, Meritorious Service Award, Lifetime Achievement Award and Silver Merit Star. Further, he served on the National Board of the National Ski Patrol. Known for his exceptional attitude and unselfish support, Dick was recognized with a Governor's Service Award for outstanding service to Michigan citizens. He is survived by his wife, Brenda, sons Dwight, Daniel (Tina), daughter Cynthia McFadden and grandchildren, Krystal, Keith and Nick Thalacker. Memorial contributions may be made to the National Ski Patrol at Mt. Brighton or the University of Michigan hematology/oncology department. A memorial service is being planned for March, 2011 with arrangements through Keehn Funeral Home, Brighton.

70TH ANNIVERSARY

Sam and Mary Mininni met in August 1940, married three months later and are still in love today.

The Livonia couple celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary Nov. 16, 2010.

For Sam, 90, it was love at first sight when he met his future wife through a mutual friend. The couple dated, accompanied by chaperones, and got engaged after Sam asked Mary's parents for their blessing.

Sam, a U.S. Army veteran, is a former truck driver who spent his days behind the wheel of 18-wheelers for 33 years. Mary, 88, retired in 1980 after 23 years as head baker at Fordson High School in Dearborn. Both are active with family, volunteering and family. Sam has been a ranger at Idyl Wild Golf Course for 10 years. He also enjoys his Lincoln, a car he dreamed of owning for many years and now drives.

Mary volunteers in the surgical waiting room at Henry Ford Hospital Fairlane and enjoys sewing, reading and baking.

The Mininnis, who moved from Dearborn to Livonia 14 years ago, attend St. Edith Catholic Church.

They have four children, 11 grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren, most of whom live in Livonia and Dearborn Heights. Five of the great-grandchildren attend Livonia schools and five grandchildren, along with a son-in-law, teach in the district.

Family members gather Sunday evenings for coffee and dessert, a tradition that began years ago. Mary says the great-grandchildren have helped to keep them feeling young.

David Mitchell, one of their 11 grandchildren, calls them "probably the two more genuine, caring individuals that I know."

"Livonia is a better place with them living here ... that is for sure!"

BRYCE JOSEPH ARRIVES

Bryce Joseph Bennett was born Jan. 23, 2011, at St. Mary Mercy Hospital, Livonia. He weighed 8 pounds, 6 ounces and measured 21 inches.

Proud parents are Rebecca and John Bennett of Livonia. Grandparents are John and Sandy Bennett of Livonia and Greg and Janet Guiboro of Dearborn.



Bryce Joseph Bennett

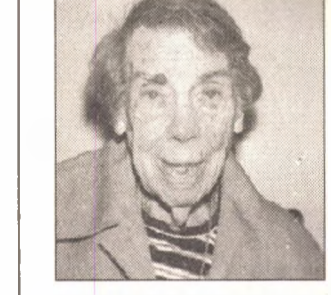
MARY ELYSE ARRIVES

Mary Elyse Philbrick was born Dec. 20, 2010, at Miles Memorial Hospital in Damariscotta, Maine.

Mary Elyse joins parents, Karen and Jeff Philbrick, and big sister, Allison Claire, 2, at home in Alna, Maine.

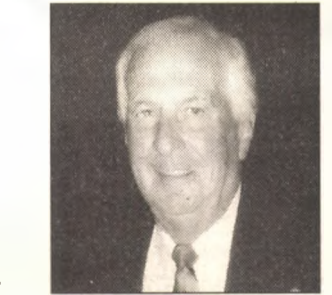
Grandparents are Jeni and Lyle Avery of South Lyon. Great-grandmother is Aurilla Steele of Plymouth.

May You Find Comfort in Family & Friends



LAURA GERHARD

Was born 8/2/1911 and passed away on 2/11/2011. She was a resident of Livonia, Mi. Laura is survived by her children: Rudolph Gerhard and Roland Gerhard (Maxine), 6 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren. Laura was preceded in death by her husband Carl W. Gerhard in 1958. A memorial service in Laura's memory will be held at a later date.



ROBERT F. RETICH

"The Perfect Gentleman". Born: December 27, 1932. Passed suddenly, yet peaceful, in his sleep February 5, 2011. Most loving husband of Kathy, celebrating 55 years of marriage. Gracious father of Cindy Alexander, John (deceased) and Diane Powers (Ward). Bob was most proud of his role as grandfather to Christina, Andrea, Jackie, Stephanie, Bobby, Jeremy, Jonnie, Blair and Mackenzie. Great grandfather of Ella Rose. Beloved brother of Jeanett (deceased), Florence Emerson and John. Memorial service February 25, 2011 at St. James Catholic Church 46325 Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI 48374. 11:00 am mass and memorial lunch immediately following. Bob loved his time working with Bridgepointe Non-profit servicing the school children in SW Detroit. In lieu of flowers please consider Bridgepointe Nonprofit: P.O. Box 435 Northville, MI 48167. Bob was loved and honored by many because he loved and honored us all!

MARJORIE "MAGGIE" DUDRA

She will be missed. Age 84, February 14, 2011. Loving wife of Benedict Dudra and the late Merritt Peck. Beloved mother of Donna Jones and Mabel (Bob) Buckholz. Stepmother of Carol (John) Schuman and Kathy (Tom) Jones. Grandmother of Joshua Jones and Merritt (Bree) Buckholz. Great grandmother of two loving families. Visitation Friday 4-9pm and funeral service Saturday 11am at the Harry J. Will Funeral Home, 37000 W. Six Mile, Livonia. Memorials may be made to the Penrickton Center for Blind Children. www.harryjwillfuneralhome.com

OBITUARY POLICY

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

Deadlines:
 Friday 4:15 PM for Sunday
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RELIGION

FROM PAGE B7

"Boundaries" for MOPSnext
Contact: Rebekah Creeden at (734) 524-0283 for MOPS and Susan Wagner at (248) 478-3643 for MOPS
Dunning Park Bible Chapel
Time/Date: 9:30-11:30 a.m., first and third Tuesdays
Location: 24800 West Chicago Road, Redford
Details: MOPS is a place where moms can build friendships, receive mothering support, practical help and spiritual hope
Contact: Amy at (313) 937-3084 or Kristen at (734) 542-0767

Pet-friendly service
Time/Date: 1 p.m., Sunday
Location: Dunk N Dogs, 27911 Five Mile, Livonia
Details: All Creatures ULC sponsors the service which is conducted in an informal setting. Pet blessings are available after the service. All Creatures ULC describes the gathering as non-denominational and Christian. Water is available for dogs
Contact: (313) 563-0162

Prayer
Nardin Park United Methodist Church
Time/Date: 7 p.m. Wednesday
Location: 29887 W. 11 Mile, Farmington Hills
Details: Participate in an open time of praying silently and aloud together as well as responding to personal requests
Contact: (248) 476-8860

St. Edith Church
Time/Date: 7 p.m. Thursday
Location: 15089 Newburgh, Livonia.
 Enter through the back of the church
Details: Music, singing, prayer
Contact: Grace at (734) 464-1896, Shirley at (734) 464-3656, or Geri at (734) 464-8906

St. Michael Lutheran Church
Time/Date: 6-7 a.m. Monday-Friday
Location: 7000 Sheldon, Canton
Details: Praying silently or aloud together; prayer requests welcomed
Contact: (734) 459-3333
St. Michael's Church of Livonia

Time/Date: 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. third Wednesday
Location: Corner of Plymouth and Hubbard roads, Livonia
Details: Parish prayer and Eucharistic Adoration. Benediction service follows. (734) 261-1455

Senior citizens
Riverside Park Church of God
Time/Date: 11:30 a.m., third Thursdays
Location: 11771 Newburgh, Livonia
Details: Senior adults, age 50 and over, enjoy social interaction and food during time together
Contact: (734) 464-0990

Singles
First Presbyterian Church
Time/Date: Thursdays 7:30-7:45 p.m. social time, 7:45-8 p.m. opening, 8-9 p.m. program
Location: 200 E. Main St., Northville
Details: Single Place Ministry; cost is \$5
Contact: (248) 349-0911 or visit www.singleplace.org

Steve's Family Restaurant
Time/Date: 9 a.m. second and fourth Thursday
Location: 15800 Middlebelt, 1/4 mile north of Five Mile, Livonia
Details: Widowed men of all ages may attend the Widowed Friends Men's breakfast. This is an informal "peer" group where men have an opportunity to meet with others who are ready to help cope or become involved in the other social activities offered by Widowed Friends.
Contact: (313) 534-0399

Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church
Time/Date: 11:30 a.m., Sunday
Location: 40000 Six Mile, Northville
Details: Single Point Ministries, for 30 and up, offers fellowship. Coffee, doughnuts, conversation
Contact: (248) 374-5920

Song Circle
Congregation Beth Ahm
Time/Date: Noon to 12:30 p.m., every Shabbat
Location: 5075 W. Maple, West Bloomfield
Details: Sing zemirot (traditional Shabbat songs) and celebrate Kiddush following morning ser-

vices. Lyrics are provided in transliteration as well as the original Hebrew.
Contact: (248) 737-1931 or e-mail nancyellen879@att.net.

Support
Detroit World Outreach
Time/Date: 7-8:30 p.m. Tuesday
Location: 23800 W. Chicago, Redford; room 202
Details: Addiction No More offers support for addictive behavior problems, drugs, alcohol, overeating, gambling
Contact: (313) 255-2222, Ext. 244

Farmington Hills Baptist Church
Time/Date: 7-9 p.m., second Tuesday of the month except January, July and August
Location: 28301 Middlebelt, between 12 Mile and 13 Mile in Farmington Hills
Details: Western Oakland Parkinson Support Group
Contact: (248) 433-1011

Merriman Road Baptist Church
Time/Date: 1-3 p.m., second and fourth Thursday
Location: 2055 Merriman, Garden City
Details: Metro Fibro-Myalgia support group meets; donations
Contact: www.metrofibrogroup.com; or call Lucy with questions at (734) 462-1768

REUNION CALENDAR

Belleville High School Class of 1971
 Planning 40th reunion in 2011. Seeking classmates and contact information. E-mail BHS.1971@yahoo.com. If on Facebook join the group by searching BHS reunion 1971 40th sign up site; also on CLASSMATES/REUNIONS.

Dearborn Fordson Class of 1971
 The 40th reunion is planned for Saturday, Aug. 6, 2011 at Laurel Manor in Livonia. Tickets are on sale now for \$52 per person for dinner and open bar. Send a check payable to Fordson '71 Reunion to 16124 Golfview, Livonia, MI 48154. For more information go to Facebook, Classmates.com or the Web page at Fordson71Reunion.com.

Dearborn Heights Robichaud Class of 1961
 50th class reunion Sept. 24, 2011 at the Dearborn Hills Golf Course. All classes are welcome as Robichaud

High School also celebrates its 50th anniversary. Contact Bill Haskin at billsmustangs@msn.com; (734)595-4927 or Nancy at woloni@aol.com; (248) 529-6461.

Detroit Cody Class of 1961
 50th reunion Aug. 27, 2011, at Hellenic Banquet Center, Westland. Seeking classmates and contact information. E-mail codycomet6@gmail.com. Or call Connie Callear Majeske at (734) 425-7094 or Bernie Lekki Grudzien at (734) 522-3167.

Detroit Mackenzie June Class of 1961
 50th reunion will be Saturday, Oct. 29, 2011. For more information e-mail Ivanerian@msn.com or phone Joanne (Poloway) Glance at (734) 878-6543.

Class of 1962
 Planning class reunion in 2012. Seeking classmates and contact information. E-mail the committee at mackenzie1962@gmail.com.

Ladywood High School Class of 1961
 Planning a 50th reunion in 2011. Seeking classmates and contact information. E-mail sandymacg@aol.com or call Sandy Phillips O'Leary (734) 453-0783 and leave a message if voice mail picks up.

Livonia Bentley Class of 1961
 Holding a 50th class reunion Sept. 16-17. To register, call Donald Bruner, (734) 524-0979 or e-mail dbruner@twmi.rr.com.

Livonia Franklin Class of 1966
 45th high school reunion, Oct. 7-9. Contact Larry Ruzsas at lruzsas187264m@comcast.net or Diane Kujath-Pishalski at dianepishalski@bex.net.

Rosary High School Class of 1966
 Planning 45th reunion in July, of 2011. Seeking classmates and contact information. E-mail Pam at Taffttoo@aol.com

KNOW THE SCORE
 check out the numbers in today's **SPORTS** section

PLANNING COMMISSION NOTICE CITY OF PLYMOUTH, MICHIGAN CITY HALL, 201 S. MAIN WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9, 2011 7:00 PM (734) 453-1234

Site Plan Approval:
 SP11-01 Interior Renovation for Restaurant, Second Floor 447 Forest Zoned: B-2, Central Business Applicant: Blake Kolo

All interested persons are invited to attend.

In accordance with the Americans with disabilities Act, the City of Plymouth will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting/hearing, to individuals with disabilities. Requests for auxiliary aids or services may be made by writing or calling the following:

Maureen Brodie, ADA Coordinator
 201 S. Main Street
 Plymouth, MI 48170
 (734) 453-1234, Ext. 206

Publish: February 20, 2011

CE08730776 2x4

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH NOTICE OF HEARING ASSESSMENT BOARD OF REVIEW

NOTICE OF HEARING given that the Plymouth Township Board of Review will meet on the following dates and times:

Hearings are by appointment, please call 354-3269, between 8 am and 4:30 pm for an appointment.

Tuesday, March 8	9 am - Noon	Organizational Meeting
Monday, March 14	2 pm - 5 pm 6 pm - 9 pm	Hearings by Appointment Hearings by Appointment
Wednesday, March 16	9 am - Noon 2 pm - 5 pm	Hearings by Appointment Hearings by Appointment
Thursday, March 17	9 am - Noon	Hearings by Appointment
Saturday, March 19	9 am - 11 am	First Come - First Served

Other hearing dates and times may be scheduled as needed.

All persons protesting their assessment must complete petitions prior to appearing before the Board. A personal appearance is not required. Written protests to the Board of Review must be received by mail or delivered in person to the Assessing office by the close of business on Friday, March 25, 2011 at 4:30 pm.

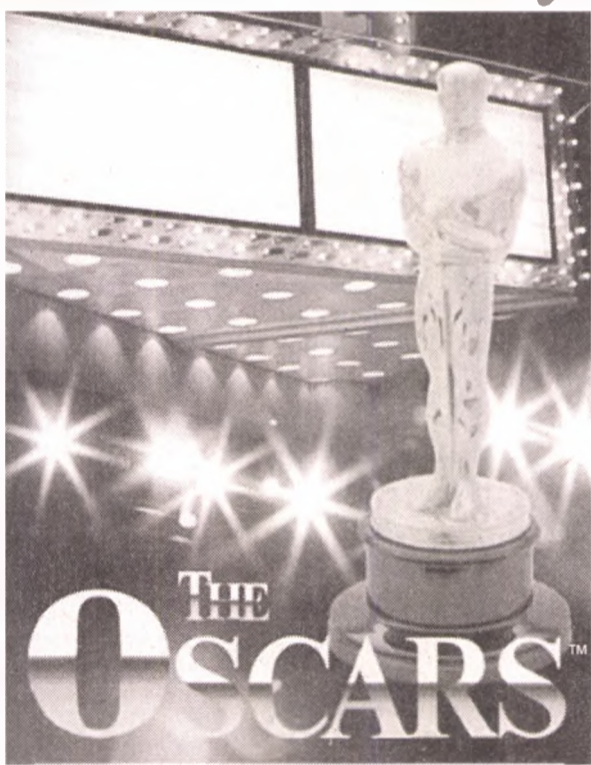
The Board of Review will be held in the Board Meeting Room of Plymouth Township Hall, 9955 N. Haggerty Road, Plymouth, MI 48170.

Please come prepared as a ten (10) minute time limit before the Board of Review will be strictly adhered to.

Publish: February 20, 24, and 27, 2011

CE08729814 2x5.5

Think you know who will win an OSCAR™ this year?



Choose correctly and YOU could win!

Go to www.hometownlife.com to enter. Correctly identify the top 7 Oscar™ categories and you could win one of the following prizes:

- 1st Place: 12 month movie pass for two to Emagine Theatre
- 2nd Place: 4 movie passes

Correctly Identify the Top 7 Categories.

The person with the most correct answers wins!

- Best Picture
- Actor in a Leading Role
- Actress in a Leading Role
- Animated Feature Film
- Actor in a Supporting Role
- Actress in a Supporting Role
- Director

- Tie Breaker Categories:**
- Music (original score)
 - Documentary Feature

Novi Emagine Theatre Features The Best of 2010 Academy Award™ Nominated Films:

- One day pass (\$35)**
5 films plus a large popcorn with refills (Feb. 11 - Feb. 17)
- Two day pass (\$60):**
10 films plus a large popcorn with refills (Feb. 18 - Feb. 24)

For further info and show times call 248-468-2990 ext. 1 or go to www.emagine-entertainment.com

Join us to watch the Academy Awards* at our new Rochester Hills location

All entries must be received by Saturday, February 26, 2011 at 11:59 p.m. to be considered. Sponsored by Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, Hometown Newspapers and EMAGINE

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NEWSPAPERS OBSERVER
www.hometownlife.com

ATTENTION!

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SIGN UP NOW!

8th Annual

Spring Senior Expo

Tuesday, May 17, 2011
9 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Schoolcraft College Livonia Campus
in the VisTaTech Center

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- **Web Presence**
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- **Expo table**

For more information about this event and to reserve your space, please contact:

Choya Jordan
313.222.2414
Fax: 313.496.5305
email:cbjordan@hometownlife.com



SPECIAL OFFER!

Customers who submit form and register by 3/11/11 will be offered the early bird special rate!

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Customers can call Choya Jordan for details and pricing (313) 222-2414, email cbjordan@hometownlife.com or fax 313-496-5305. Forms can be obtained from Choya Jordan.

ACT FAST!
For a limited time only!

RELIGION CALENDAR

Send calendar items to Sharon Dargay at sdargay@hometownlife.com. Feel free to include relevant photos as attached jpgs. Or mail items to Sharon Dargay, The Observer, 615 Lafayette, level 2, Detroit, MI 48226.

FEB. 20-24

Breakfast
Time/Date: 8:30 a.m. to noon, Sunday, Feb. 20
Location: St. Theodore Social Hall, 8200 N. Wayne Road, Westland
Details: All you can eat pancake & French toast breakfast includes pancakes; French toast; ham; sausage; scrambled eggs, applesauce; coffee; tea; juice; milk. Sponsored by the St. Theodore Men's Club: \$3 adults; \$1.50 children, ages 2-10
Contact: (734) 425-4421

Extreme Makeover
Time/Date: 6:30 p.m. Wednesday-Saturday, Feb. 23-26 and 11 a.m. Sunday, Feb. 27
Location: The Salvation Army, 9451 Main, Plymouth
Details: Majors Joe and Lois Wheeler lead a series of workshops aimed at helping individuals achieve a spiritual "makeover." Topics are: "Move that Bus," Feb. 23; "Bible Characterization of Moses," Feb. 24; "Extreme Makeover of the Mind," Feb. 25; "Extreme Makeover of the Past," Feb. 26. The Sunday session is morning worship. A light dinner will be served at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday-Friday
Contact: (734) 453-5464

FEB. 25-MARCH 2

Mass for widowed
Time/Date: 2:30 p.m. Feb. 27
Location: St. Columban Church, 1775 Melton, between Woodward and Coolidge, north of 14 Mile, Birmingham
Details: Presented by Widowed Friends, a peer group in the Archdiocese of Detroit. The widowed celebrate Mass together and meet and mingle in a safe setting afterward. Refreshments served during the fellowship.

Contact: Gerry at (586) 795-0477 or visit www.widowedfriends.org
Reconciliation workshop
Time/Date: 2 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 26
Location: Trinity Church, 34500 Six Mile, west of Farmington Road, Livonia
Details: Bishop Augustin Ahimana of Rwanda will share his experiences during and after Rwandan genocide. He will show the necessity of forgiving and being forgiven. Participants will learn the importance of forgiveness in their lives. Lunch will be served. A free will offering will be accepted. No charge for the workshop
Contact: (734) 367-0422

Tax preparation
Time/Date: 1:30-5:30 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 27
Location: Faith Bible Church, 34541 5 Mile, Livonia
Details: Free tax preparation service directed by Jeff Conolly, an accounting services professional
Contact: (734) 464-7990

ONGOING

AWANA
Time/Date: 6:30-8 p.m., Wednesdays
Location: Faith Bible Church, 23414 Orchard Lake Road, Farmington Hills
Details: AWANA program for children from kindergarten-fifth grade
Contact: (248) 426-0096

Classes/study
Emmanuel Lutheran Church
Time/Date: 7-8 p.m., second Monday of the month
Location: 34567 Seven Mile, between Farmington and Newburgh roads, Livonia
Details: Open Arms Bible class for adults with developmental disabilities and special needs. Includes songs, Bible lessons, crafts and activities, prayer, snacks and fun.
Contact: Pastor Scott Sessler at (734) 673-2485 or e-mail to pastorscott@emmanuel-livonia.org
Faith Bible Church
Time/Date: 9:45-10:45 a.m. Sundays through May 8

Location: 34541 5 Mile, Livonia
Details: "Four Views of the End Times" adult study
Also ongoing: "Life's Healing Choices" Study Group, 6 p.m., fourth Sunday through September is for men and women who want freedom from hurts, hang-ups and habits
Contact: (734) 464-7990
Men's Bible study
Time/Date: Breakfast at 7 a.m. and study at 8 a.m.
Location: Kirby's Coney Island, 21200 Haggerty, Northville Township
Contact: John Shulenberg at (734) 464-9491
New Life Community Church
Time/Date: Jobs seminar, 8-9 a.m., Fridays; reading program for

students in grades K-12 and martial arts instruction, both at 10 a.m., Sundays
Location: 42200 Tyler, Belleville
Contact: (734) 846-4615
Nicole's Revival
Time/Date: 10:30 a.m., Monday-Friday
Location: YWCA Northwest Branch, 25940 Grand River, west of Beech Daly, Redford
Details: KJV Scripture Reading, Communion and Prayer
Contact: (313) 531-1234
Our Lady of Loretto
Time/Date: 6:30-7:30 p.m. Monday
Location: Six Mile and Beech Daly, Redford
Details: Scripture study
Contact: (313) 534-9000
Ward Presbyterian

Time/Date: 7 p.m., Mondays
Location: Room A101, 40000 W. Six Mile, Northville
Details: Learner's Bible study is held
Contact: (248) 374-5920
Clothing bank
Canton Christian Fellowship
Time/Date: 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., fourth Saturday and 5-6:30 p.m., second Wednesday
Location: 41711 Joy, between Lilley and Haggerty
Details: Canton Christian Fellowship Clothing Bank offers free clothing (men, women and children) for those in need
Contact: (734) 404-2480, visit www.CantonCF.org or send e-mail to info@cantoncf.org
Food Bank
New Hope Church
Time/Date: 5-7 p.m., every Friday

by appointment only
Location: is 44815 Cherry Hill, Canton
Contact: Call pastor Ranay Brown to schedule an appointment at (734) 270-2528.
Moms
Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church
Time/Date: 9:30-11:30 a.m., second Tuesday, MOPS; 7-8:30 p.m., first and third Thursday, MOPNext. Both programs run through May
Location: 14175 Farmington Road, Livonia
Details: Mothers of Preschoolers is aimed at mothers of infants through kindergartners; MOPNext supports mothers of school-aged children. The theme will be "Momology - The Art & Science of Mothering" for MOPS and

Please see RELIGION, B9

**CITY OF PLYMOUTH
 2011 MARCH BOARD OF REVIEW**

The City of Plymouth Board of Review will be conducting the 2011 March Board of Review and will convene in the City Commission Conference Room, 201 S. Main Street, Plymouth, MI 48170.

The regular Board of Review schedule is as follows:

Tuesday, March 8, 2011 ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING 3:00 pm
 Wednesday, March 9, 2011 from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
 Thursday, March 10, 2011 from 3:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
 Tuesday, March 15, 2011 from 3:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
 Monday, March 21, 2011 from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Other hearing dates and times may be scheduled as needed. Hearings are by appointments only. COMPLETED 2011 BOARD OF REVIEW PETITIONS ARE NECESSARY, and must be submitted to the Front Office located on the First Floor of City Hall, prior to your appointment. The "Deadline" for submitting petitions for all persons wishing to appeal in person before the Board of Review is Monday, March 21, 2011.

A resident or non-resident taxpayer may file a petition with the Board of Review without the requirement of a personal appearance by the taxpayer or a representative. An agent must have written authority to represent the owner. Written petitions must be received by Monday, March 21, 2011 by 3:00 p.m. Postmarks are not accepted.

Copies of the notices stating the dates and times of the meetings will be posted and published in the local newspaper.

All Board of Review Meetings are open meetings in compliance with the "Open Meetings Act".

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Assessor's Office at 734-453-1234, ext. 253 or 252.

Linda J. Langmesser, CMC
 City Clerk

Publish: February 17, 20 and 24, 2011 OE08728747 2x6

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING
 CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH
 PROPOSED NEW PAVILION AT PLYMOUTH TOWNSHIP PARK**

PROPOSED ACTION: A PUBLIC MEETING WILL BE HELD REGARDING THE PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW PAVILION AT PLYMOUTH TOWNSHIP PARK

DATE OF HEARING: Monday, March 7, 2011
TIME OF HEARING: 2:00 PM to 3:30 PM
PLACE OF HEARING: Plymouth Township Hall, 9955 N. Haggerty Road

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Charter Township of Plymouth, Wayne County, Michigan, will hold a public meeting for the purpose of considering the construction of a new pavilion to be located near the baseball diamonds at Plymouth Township Park. The proposed pavilion will include a fireplace, picnic tables, restrooms, drinking fountain, equipment storage area and a barrier-free walking path connected to the baseball diamonds parking lot.

The purpose of the meeting is to provide the general public with the opportunity to make any comments or recommendations regarding the proposed construction of the new pavilion. At 7:00 PM on Tuesday, March 8, 2011 the Township Board of Trustees will consider the Land and Water Conservation Fund grant application to finance the proposed pavilion.

PLEASE TAKE NOTE: The Charter Township of Plymouth will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at all Township meetings to individuals with disabilities at the meetings/hearings upon one week notice to the Charter Township of Plymouth by writing or calling the Supervisor's Office, 9955 N. Haggerty Rd., Plymouth, MI 48170. Phone 734-354-3201. TDD users: 800-849-3777 (Michigan Relay Service).

**JANA PRITCHARD
 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR/PLANNER**

Publish: February 20, 2011 OE08730541 2x6

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Resident



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ADOPT OR FOSTER A GREYHEART GREYHOUND

Sadie and Cuddles are the featured adoptable Greyhounds from Greyheart Greyhound Rescue & Adoption. Here's what Jackie Bowen, public relations director for the group, says about them:

Sadie, 3, is a lovely little girl. She's quiet but still loves to play. Cuddles is a beautiful black Greyhound who loves to cuddle and is waiting for the right family to come along.

For more information on adopting Sadie or Cuddles, call Greyheart Greyhound Rescue & Adoption at (866) 438-4739 or visit www.greyheart.org.

What if you're not quite ready for a permanent commitment but want to reach out to a homeless pup, like Sadie or Cuddles, and help them become adoptable?

Consider fostering. Bowen says fostering a Greyhound gives you the opportunity to help a dog learn to be a pet. You'll watch them experience grass, a soft bed, stairs and other objects that most dogs take for granted for the first time at your home.

"It's much like baby-proofing your house for the first few weeks. Put an X on the doorwall with masking



Sadie



Cuddles

tape to prevent them from attempting to run through it," she explained. "These dogs haven't experienced anything except a kennel, a turn out pen and a track." Fostering a former racer takes patience, but can be rewarding as the dog blossoms into a trusting pet. They'll thrive with positive reinforcement.

"Greyhounds aren't necessarily used to a gentle, comforting hand and fostering gives you the opportunity to teach them that not all hands are bad and that someone can pet you and love you without the worry of negative consequences," Bowen noted.

"You can watch the transformation from an underweight dog with ticks and

fleas to a beautiful streamlined Greyhound whose eyes will melt your heart and whose gentle spirit will make you thrilled with your decision to take them into your home."

"Sometimes a Greyhound will come to you as a 'spook.' These pups are so special because they are extremely scared and in need of your love and quiet support. Sometimes it will take months for a spook to decide that it's safe to join the family. Often they will spend the first several months in a bedroom or somewhere they feel safe and come out only for food and potty breaks. They will eventually come around when they finally decide you are not going to harm them. They generally take a little longer to adopt."

Watching a dog pick up a toy and play with it for the first time — and discover it is a toy — can be a heart-melting experience for the foster family. It may even be one reason why families "fail" at fostering and decide to adopt.

"Maybe it's the way that they settled in with the resident family dog. Sometimes they are just absolutely Velcro dogs and you know that they need you so badly and you cannot let them go," Bowen said. "If you do decide to fail fostering 101, you have to realize that there is one less Greyhound taken from the track but one more added to your family."



Advice, please, on my furry foster

Lola doesn't bark much. But she sent a message loud and clear when she ripped the cover and chewed the spine of my new, haven't-read-it-yet book on dog training secrets from the folks at Best Friends Animal Sanctuary, about two weeks after I brought her into my home last November.

My new foster dog had been a timid girl at the local shelter, but seemed to gain confidence quickly as she settled in with me and my dog, Hunter, an Akita-German Shepherd mix.

The day she nibbled on my book collection, destroyed magazines, and gnawed on plastic DVD covers, I had left her out of her crate at home with Hunter while I ran a few errands.

Did I mention she also cracked the DVD *Home Alone*?

This spunky spaniel-hound mix hasn't been the same since. She's a ball of energy outdoors and always ready for a game of tug with Hunter or Frisbee toss with me. But inside the house, she's too timid to venture much past her dog bed. In fact, if given the choice, she'd stay inside her crate most of the day.

Skittish inside; playful outside.

I could use a few pointers on getting her past her fears.

Watch for my posts on Hometownlife.com's Facebook page.

I'll be looking for your advice there, too.

- Sharon Dargay



Dennis Przesmyk tosses boxes of Girl Scout cookies to Chad Domanski. The Corrigan Van Lines guys helped unload 4,000 cases of cookies from two trucks earlier this month at the Eddie Edgar Arena in Livonia. Troops stocked up on the cookies for sale through mid-March.

COOKIES

FROM PAGE B5

ology or another science at Michigan State University next year, says she inherited her sales ability from her mom and her knack for math and science from her dad, Roger.

"I've been influenced by my parents with my social skills," she said. "I'm a people person. I like being around people and the people who buy cookies are always nice."

PRODUCT KNOWLEDGE

Jackie said her daughter's genuine interest in the product helps sell it. KT's favorite are Tagalongs. Her mother likes Samoas and her dad

likes Thin Mints. They freeze some cookies to eat later in the year, sometimes combining Thin Mints with ice cream or dabbling frosting on the Trefoils.

KT's parents taught her the value of commitment and tenacity when she was young.

"I'm in sales and it's a big deal to hit a goal. But you don't stop. You keep pushing on and see how high you can get it," Jackie said, adding that she told KT "My commitment is that I'll put into it as much as you do. I'll help you as much as you help yourself. It's like a matching mom fund."

Next year KT will attain a lifetime membership in Girl Scouts. Jackie said she'll continue some involvement in cookie sales while her daughter is at college.

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

DECREASING MEDICATION
 At times, a doctor has a pleasant problem. In treating a patient with rheumatoid arthritis, the time may come when the patient is experiencing little joint pain and able to undertake activities with few or no restrictions. The question arises on how much medication does the patient now need?
 There is no obvious way to answer that question. No blood test can show that the patient has improved to a point that lowering or discontinuing medication is in order. The only way to proceed is to decrease the drugs the patient uses and follow the results.
 However, the doctor will not just stop the medication. In most instances a patient with rheumatoid arthritis is taking two or more drugs. The most common combination is methotrexate, plus an anti-TNF such as Enbrel, and a nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory medication such as Motrin.
 The doctor makes a decision as to which drug to decrease first, based on the medication most likely to cause serious side effects. In the medication example above, decreasing methotrexate would be a good place to start. If the patient was on 6 tabs a week, the doctor might go down to four a week, keep all other medications the same, and watch the patient for 6 weeks to 2 months. If the person maintained a good status, then the doctor would decrease the dose again by one or two tablets.
 The principle is to decrease dosage slowly, focus on one drug at a time, and have both doctor and patient observe the results to assess if the lower dose results in a return to illness or a sustained well being.
 The process of decreasing medication is slow, but no other way is as certain.

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The Observer & Eccentric and Buddy's Pizza presents
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 Share your good news with our readers and you could win dinner for four at Buddy's Pizza (any metro area location dine-in or carryout).

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers and Buddy's Pizza are partnering to make sure good news is recognized and rewarded! We want you to share good news stories - from your school, your business, your place of work, your neighborhood, your family.

Tell us about that uplifting event, person or other that made you smile and feel good. Tell us about the good things going in your community and we'll share them with readers.

Email your GOOD NEWS (include a photograph too if that helps to tell your story) to: goodnews@hometownlife.com.

Tell us your story in 150 words or less (attach photos in a jpg format as large as possible and be sure to identify everyone in the photo).

Deadline is the last day of each month.

COMMUNITY LIFE

Sunday, February 20, 2011

hometownlife.com



PHOTO GALLERIES

hometownlife.com

10,000 boxes of cookies

Top seller hopes to wrap up senior year of Scouting in style

BY SHARON DARGAY
OGE STAFF WRITER

KT HitesLareau is one sharp cookie.

She knows her product. She understands sales. She's tenacious.

And you can find her from 3-7 p.m. every day through March 20 just east of Beech Daly on Seven Mile in Redford peddling Tagalongs, Think Mints and Samoas.

"We have a drive-through cookie booth and we have cases and cases of cookies in our car," said KT, a 12-year Girl Scout and member of Troop 43534 in the Southeastern Michigan Council. "We're there every day, no matter if it's raining or snowing or cold."

She wears a patch-studded Girl Scout vest over a parka and dons boots to keep out the elements. Her mom, Jackie Lareau, keeps her company and actively helps with sales as customers drive in and out of the parking lot where they've set up shop for four years to sell Girl Scout cookies. They decorate the area, which is near Jackie's sewing store, with flags and cookie box "totem poles."

"Between Valentine's Day and St. Paddy's Day, Girl Scout cookies is what I do," KT said. "I love cookie sales, product sales in general. I do, I really do like the cookies."

It's no wonder the 17-year-old Redford Union High School senior earned honors — and prizes — last year as top cookie seller in her council and came in second place in sales the two previous years. She sold approximately 800 boxes as an eighth grader and more than quadrupled the amount the fol-



KT HitesLareau of Redford sells Girl Scout cookies, with help from her mom, Jackie Lareau, just east of Seven Mile and Beech Daly.

MEET THE COOKIES

- Trefoils:** Light shortbread
 - Lemon Chalet Cremes:** Vanilla sandwich with a hint of cinnamon-ginger spice and a zesty lemon creme filling
 - Thank you Berry Much:** Hearty cookies sweetened with white fudge chips. Cranberries deliver a tartness and crispy rice gives it crunch
 - Thin Mints:** Classic thin wafer covered with chocolate coating. Made with natural peppermint
 - Samoas:** Vanilla cookies covered with caramel, rolled in toasted coconut and striped with chocolate coating
 - Tagalongs:** Cookies topped with creamy peanut butter and covered with a chocolate coating
 - Dulce de Leche:** Sweet, bite-sized cookies contain milk caramel chips
 - Do-Si-Dos:** Crispy oatmeal cookies with creamy peanut butter filling
- Cost: \$3.50 per box

lowing year when she established a drive-through sales area. That year she earned a trip to Cedar Point Amusement Park and a portable DVD player. The following year she received a digital camera and trip to Frankenmuth. Last year she sold 6,115 boxes of cookies, and netted a day at Michigan Adventure in Muskegon, along with other sales incentives.

"My goal is 10,000 this year. It's

my last year in Scouts and I want to go out with a bang. I want to sell as many as possible," KT said.

ALWAYS SELLING

Jackie has the cookies on hand at her store and KT sells some at school. They sell the most at their daily cookie booth, although they've also conducted transactions while on the road. "No matter where she goes, she's got cookies in

the back seat," KT said, describing her mom's car. "There are cookie flags on the windows. We've had people stop us when we're driving to church and people roll their windows down and say, 'Do you have any Thin Mints?' We always have Thin Mints. We've pulled into a parking lot and sold them."

KT, who plans to study microbi-

Please see **COOKIES, B6**

Girl Scout Cookies: They're everywhere

The Heart of Michigan council, which includes Plymouth and Canton troops, is wrapping up sales at cookie booths this week. Troops in the Girl Scouts of Southeastern Michigan council just started selling and will staff booths through mid-March. They cost \$3.50 a box and can be frozen or used to make other desserts. Watch for recipes on the Observer's food page Thursday, Feb. 24.

This is just one week's worth of booths in a smattering of western Wayne locations. For more, visit www.gssem.org or www.gshom.org.

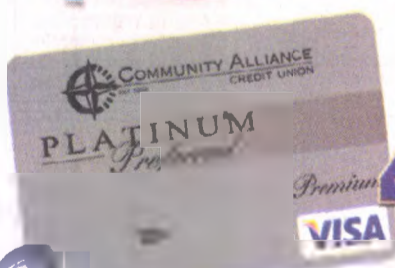
- Acc Hardware, 132 Merriman, Westland: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Feb. 20, 26-27; 5-8 p.m. Feb. 25; 5-9 p.m. Feb. 25
- Blockbuster, 45211 Cherry Hill Road, Canton: 5-9 p.m. Feb. 25
- Dollar Tree, 13400 Middlebelt, Livonia: 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Feb. 20; 5-9 p.m. Feb. 25; 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Feb. 26; 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Feb. 27
- Dollar Tree, 33330 Plymouth Road, Livonia: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Feb. 25; 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Feb. 26
- Eddie Edgar Ice Arena, 33841 Lyndon, Livonia: 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Feb. 20, 26-27
- Family Video, 37405 Ann Arbor Road, Livonia: 10 a.m.-7 p.m., Feb. 20
- Heartland Market, 34414, Westland: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Feb. 20, 26-27
- Hiller's, 15455 Haggerty, Plymouth: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Feb. 20, 26-27; 4-8 p.m. Feb. 25
- Holiday Market, 520 S. Lilley, Canton: 9-11 a.m. Feb. 22; 6-8 p.m. Feb. 25; 1-5 p.m., Feb. 27
- Kroger, 1905 N. Canton Center, Canton: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Feb. 20; 2-5 p.m., Feb. 26; 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Feb. 27
- Kroger, 7350 Middlebelt, Westland: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Feb. 20, 26-27; 5-9 p.m. Feb. 25
- Kroger, 44525 Ann Arbor Road West, Plymouth: 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Feb. 20; 4-7 p.m. Feb. 22, 24; 4-8 p.m. Feb. 25; 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Feb. 26-27
- Kroger, 5866 Middlebelt, Garden City: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Feb. 20, 26-27; 5-9 p.m. Feb. 25
- Larry's Foodland, 33151 Plymouth Road, Livonia: 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Feb. 26-27
- Party City, 29350 Plymouth Road, Livonia: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Feb. 20 and 27; 5-9 p.m. Feb. 25; 9 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. Feb. 26
- Walmart, 29555 Plymouth Road, Livonia: 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Feb. 20, 26-27
- Walmart-Canton, 39500 Ford Road, Canton: 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Feb. 20, 26-27
- Westborn Market, 14925 Middlebelt, Livonia: 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Feb. 20, 27; and noon to 8 p.m. Feb. 26.

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'It's just a relief knowing where I'm going and everything. It's exciting that it's all happening.'

MELANIE PICKERT, Canton senior

Pickert excited about playing soccer at Iowa

BY TIM SMITH OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

There's a good chunk of her senior year yet to go, but Canton's Melanie Pickert is pumped up about a collegiate soccer career.

Pickert recently signed her national letter of intent to play soccer at the University of Iowa. "It's just a relief knowing where I'm going and everything," Pickert said. "It's exciting that it's all happening."

She has excelled as a midfielder/defender for the Chiefs and is being counted on by Iowa head coach Ron Rainey for more of the same.

"He said I'll be playing in the back somewhere, like midfield in," Pickert said. "Hopefully that will have an impact and he said I'll get playing time."

In a press release, Rainey cited Pickert's strong play as team captain of the 2007 and 2008 Michigan Hawks club teams — winners of State Cup Championships.

"She is a strong athlete who can win balls in the air while also controlling a back line," Rainey said. "Her international experience will help her compete for time right away."

Pickert is a veteran of the Region II ODP US Girls Youth Soccer program.

MICHIGAN CONNECTION The daughter of Keith and Mary Pickert will be rejoining former Hawks teammates Katie Brown and Jordan Rakas at the Iowa City university.

On hand for her signing ceremony were members of her family (her parents, sister Emilie and brother Nathan) as



Canton senior Melanie Pickert (seated) signs her letter of intent to play soccer at the University of Iowa. There for the big moment were (standing, from left) Canton girls basketball coach Brian Samulski, new Canton girls soccer coach Jeannine Reddy, dad Keith Pickert, sister Emilie Pickert, mom Mary Pickert, brother Nathan Pickert and George Tomasso, the Chiefs' former girls soccer coach.

well as her former and future soccer coaches at Canton during her outstanding prep career — George Tomasso and Jeannine Reddy, respectively.

Meanwhile, Brian Samulski, head coach of the Canton girls basketball team that Pickert is a key member of, also witnessed the event.

"I think that's awesome," Samulski said. "Pick's a great athlete, I couldn't be happier for her."

"I'm excited to watch her go to Iowa and have a great soccer career."

Samulski added that Pickert has "been just an outstanding student-athlete here at Canton and we look forward to watching her continue to be a great student-athlete at Iowa."

Although Pickert said her experiences at Canton have helped her to compete and be a leader, playing on an ultra-competitive club team hastened her

development. "High school I think helped me more along the lines of leading the team and organizing the back line," she added.

"Organizing the line in front of me and everything. I think that helped me. But club is a more competitive atmosphere."

But the next step is something she can't wait to take. "Oh yeah, I cannot wait to go to college."

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Wayne girls capture division bowling title

Chalk up a division title for the Wayne Memorial girls bowling squad.

The Lady Zebras clinched the KLA A Central Thursday at the expense of rival Westland John Glenn, 20-10, in a match at Town 'N Country Lanes.

Wayne, which improved to 11-4 and 9-3 in the KLA A Central, received a sterling performance from Stephani O'Harris, who rolled a two-game set of 216-268-484.

Plymouth, Salem, John Glenn and Northville tied for third place in the division, with records of 7-5.

also earned a 20-10 triumph Thursday over KLA A Central champ John Glenn as Tony Lave (203-248-451) and Elliot Arnold (244-217-451) led the upset win at Town 'N Country Lanes.

Zach Huffman also added a 239 as the Zebras improved to 12-3 overall and 9-3 in the Central, while avenging a 20-10 setback to the Rockets earlier this season.

State-ranked Glenn (13-2, 10-2) was led by Jordan Hornes (268-195-453) and John Cleavenger (210-205-415).

Plymouth (9-5, 7-4) and Salem (8-6, 7-4) are tied for third place.

Girls Dual Match Results

PLYMOUTH 26 CANTON 4 Feb. 14 at Novi Bowl Plymouth scorers: Mackenzie Carlson, 202-187-389; Caitlyn Webb, 164-209-373; Tiffani Patterson, 138-143-281; Jessica Cullen, 130-148-278; Ashley Mikelaiczik, 148; Emily Fraser, 125. Team totals: 759-835-1,594 (16 points); Baker games: 144-161-305 (10 points).

Canton scorers: Charlotte Zimmer, 173-178-351; Jackie Polaski, 132-162-294; split game, 105-119-224; Allison Fries, 182; Ashley Cade, 170; Brianna Bailey, 117; Cheryl Cosby, 105. Team totals: 685-758-1,443 (4 points); Baker games: 113-122-235 (0 points).

Boys Dual Match Results

PLYMOUTH 18 CANTON 12 Feb. 14 at Novi Bowl Plymouth scorers: Brandon Congdon, 246-189-435; Evan Grimme, 213-186-399; Justin Thompson, 188-204-392; Rob Korstjens, 194-171-365; Eric Thompson, 212; split game, 158. Team totals: 999-962-1,961 (8 points); Baker games: 226-194-420 (10 points).

Canton scorers: Ross Terrasi, 254-205-459; Casey Bindas, 237-190-427; Alex Champagne, 196-176-372; split game, 157-176-333; Kurt Kowalski, 244; Ryan Washburn, 160. Team totals: 1,088-907-1,995 (12 points); Baker games: 181-183-364 (0 points).

Wayne boys turn tables

The Wayne Memorial boys

Livonia Blue nips Canton

The Canton gymnastics team, still depleted by illness and injuries, dropped a 139.1-135.925 dual meet Wednesday to host Livonia Blue.

There were several bright spots for the Chiefs, however, who looked to capture the KLA A championship this weekend.

Erica Lucas had a strong meet, winning on vault (9.2) and taking third on balance beam (8.8) and fourth on uneven bars (8.45). Alex Fideler was victorious on floor exercise with a 9.35 score. She also took fifths on vault (8.5) and bars (8.5).

Melissa Green (second on floor, 9.1; fifth on beam, 8.65) and Ayan Lewis (second on bars, 8.55) were other Canton contributors.

Guide to Employment advertisement with various job listings including Banking, Drivers, International Logistics Specialist, Mentor Program Specialist, Summer Seasonal Positions Available, Receptionist & File Clerk, Motorcyle Sales, Dental, Teacher's Aide, Warehouse Delivery Personnel, Admin Asst, and Sales Reps.

Canton stopped by CC machine

BY TIM SMITH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Following Wednesday's Division 1 boys wrestling finals, undefeated Canton senior Anthony Abro and Novi-Detroit Catholic Central head coach Mitch Hancock exchanged congratulations in a show of mutual respect.

Abro earned the 193rd victory of his stellar high school career against the No. 1-ranked Shamrocks while Catholic Central put a 63-13 licking on the host Chiefs — who earlier Wednesday routed Livonia Franklin, 69-9.

"They're so good, everyone in their lineup," said Abro, who was bumped up to 215 pounds instead of his customary 189-pound slot. "That room just makes you better."

Abro earned a hard-fought 14-6 major decision over Jay Peterson to stem the Shamrocks' tide after the defending D1 state champions pinned the first six Canton opponents they saw.

Catholic Central was up 36-0 at the time Abro and Peterson squared off.

Abro — who coach Cory Mancuso didn't want going up against CC 189-pounder Miles Trealout, because they likely will face each other anyway at Saturday's D1 individual regionals — said he wasn't thinking about his streak.

He just wanted to stop the Shamrocks' momentum. Throwing Peterson down like a football linebacker, Abro briefly achieved his goal.

"What really was on my mind was to go out there and get some points on the board for my team," Abro said. "And, to get some momentum for my team."

Canton senior Ben Poirer, usually in the 215-pound slot, then wrestled against Robert Coe in the heavyweight bout and grinded out a 9-4 victory to make it 36-7 and 103-pounder Ben Griffin won via a void.

CREAM OF THE CROP

Other than that, No. 8-ranked Canton (27-6) was victimized 10 times by CC pins. Four of those were completed in less than one minute.

"They're obviously the best team in the state, no surprise there," Mancuso said. "We knew it was going to be a tough one. They're still a better program than us right now."

"They have an All-American coach in Mitch Hancock. The kids go there to wrestle, they want to be there."

But Mancuso said his district champion team, minus key wrestlers Zach Marsh and Braden Price (due to illnesses), hung in there as tough as possible — especially Abro and Poirer.

"We needed to get him (Abro) a win tonight, he's closing in on 200," said Mancuso, about bumping Abro to 215.

And about Poirer, the coach

PREP WRESTLING

added that "Ben's one of our better wrestlers, he's ranked in the state. That was a good win for him."

Hancock said his team's fast start against Canton (CC earlier defeated Dearborn Fordson in the semifinals, 63-12) was by design and part of the collective mindset to not take anything for granted.

"I knew it was going to be a challenge, Canton is a strong program and Cory Mancuso is doing an excellent job," Hancock said. "I told the kids to be aggressive and get after it."

"Nobody's going to roll over because we're Catholic Central High School."

ULTIMATE STRATEGY

About the slew of pins, Hancock said it follows the longtime blueprint for success established by legendary CC coach Mike Rodriguez.

"Our guys are pinning machines, the ultimate goal is to pin your opponent," Hancock emphasized. "We preach that, that's something Coach Rodriguez preached for years" both for momentum's sake and bonus points.

Earlier Wednesday, Canton dominated Franklin in the semifinals.

Several Chiefs enjoyed quick pins against the district-winning Patriots (23-7), who were without three starters due to various bumps and bruises.

Canton 112-pounder Richard DeMarois pinned Austin Steele in 55 seconds, Abro needed just 31 seconds to pin Matt Horne at 189 and Robbie Lincoln (at 215) finished his bout with Tyler Gerhard in just 14 seconds.

Not in the Franklin lineup were Jordan Atienza (125), Steve Tuyo (130) and Alan Steele (160), who hopefully will be able to participate in Saturday's individual districts hosted by Plymouth.

"Going into it, we knew we'd have a tough match against Canton," Franklin assistant coach Josh Billiau said. "It'd be even tougher against CC, we don't have the guns to take on CC."

"So we gave them another day to rest it up and make sure they're ready for their individual goals."

Billiau conceded that the Patriots decided to sacrifice a chance for a team regional title in order to ensure success at the individual regionals.

"We kind of sacrificed the team for that," he explained. "But at this point, we know what we can achieve with our individuals and our team isn't really where it needs to be to take on the top of the state."

Canton pretty much found out the same thing a little later Wednesday night.

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Rocks peaking at right time

BY TIM SMITH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Although Salem lost the coveted Lash Cup and KLLA South Division boys hockey title by the slimmest of margins, the Rocks are rolling toward the state playoffs.

On Monday, No. 6-ranked Salem knocked off Brighton 3-2 — the first time in team history that the Rocks defeated the Bulldogs, head coach Ryan Ossenmacher said.

Salem (15-5-2, 7-3-1 KLLA South) followed that up with a 4-1 Senior Night win Tuesday over Walled Lake Northern. Both wins were at Plymouth Cultural Center.

"It was a must-win in order to give us a chance at the division title and our guys rose to the challenge," Ossenmacher said about the win over Brighton. "(It was a) complete team effort."

Hopes for that division crown were dashed Tuesday night, however when Canton blanked Plymouth to finish 7-2-2.

The Rocks scored twice in the second period against Brighton, with Garrett Berg assisting on markers from Ryan Quigley and Michael Manser (on the power play).

In the third, Berg scored a power-play goal that turned out to be the eventual winner.

"Garrett Berg played an outstanding game. He was in on every goal and excellent in our 'D' zone," Ossenmacher said.

Goalie Brandon Price also played a key role. "He made more than a few game-changing saves," the coach said.

Single assists were collected by Mark



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Salem forward Ryan Quigley (No. 7), shown from an earlier game, scored the hat trick Tuesday against Walled Lake Northern.

McGee and Nick Hayes.

Against Northern, Quigley scored a hat trick and assisted on McGee's first-period goal as the Rocks were dominant.

Salem outshot the Knights by a 45-20 margin.

"Every line stepped up today and played very well, one of our more complete games in a few weeks," Ossenmacher said. "Ryan Quigley scored a natural hat trick, a nice accomplishment for a senior on Senior Night."

Other seniors include Berg, Price, Hayes, Matt Downey, Michael Hochkins, Connor Berlin, Wesley Carr, Maxx Coral and Andy Magee.

Salem was set to compete in Saturday's KLLA tournament at Canton Arctic Edge and will host Rochester Stoney Creek at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday.

tsmith@hometownlife.com

Whalers lose grip on lead

Plymouth scored four consecutive goals in the third period to seemingly take control of a pivotal OHL game at Windsor Friday night. A victory would have pushed the Whalers ahead of the Spitfires and into fourth place in the Western Conference.

But just 15 seconds after Whalers forward Tyler Brown scored an unassisted shorthanded goal to give Plymouth a 5-3 lead, the Spitfires answered with a tally by Jeff Brown at 14:04. Then Ryan Ellis and Taylor Carnevale scored twice within a 2:28 span to suddenly swing the game Windsor's way.

The Spitfires — who scored on four of nine shots in the period — closed out a 7-5 victory at WFCU Centre with an empty netter, and in the process opened up a

67-to-64 edge in points.

Both teams have played 55 games and will meet for a rematch 7 p.m. Saturday at Computware Arena.

Plymouth bounced back from a 3-1 deficit after two frames, with Jamie Devane's power-play goal at 3:42 getting the rally going.

Stefan Noesen's 28th of the season tied the game at 3-3 with 14:36 remaining and Garrett Meurs broke the deadlock at 10:36 (with Noesen assisting).

Tyler Brown then registered his 22nd goal to give Plymouth a two-goal spread with only 6:11 left.

That obviously woke up the Spitfires, however, who improved to 31-19-2-3. The loss dropped Plymouth's ledger to 30-21-1-3.

PREP WRESTLING RESULTS

MHSAA TEAM REGIONAL WRESTLING RESULTS

DIVISION 1

Feb. 16 at CANTON (Championship final)

CATHOLIC CENTRAL 63, CANTON 13

140 pounds: Alec Mooradian (Catholic Central) p. Brad Babcock, 0:16; 145: Nick Mason (CC) p. Dominick Murphy, 1:47; 152: Drew Garcia (CC) p. Pat Murphy, 0:27; 160: Andrew Erickson (CC) p. Matt Suppelsa, 1:23; 171: Kevin Beazley (CC) p. Jevon Hill, 0:27; 189: Miles Trealout (CC) p. Ken Wooley, 0:35; 215: Anthony Abro (Canton) won by major decision over Jay Peterson, 14-6; 285: Ben Poirer (Canton) decisioned Robert Coe, 9-4; 103: Ben Griffin (Canton) won by void; 112: Malik Amine (CC) dec. Richard DeMarois, 6-0; 119: T.J. Fagan (CC) p. Austin Pilmer, 1:51; 125: Ken Bade (CC) p. Kyle Polaski, 1:50; 130: Logan Marcicki (CC) p. Marc Pryzbylski, 1:27; 135: Riley Hanson (CC) p. Westin Price, 1:03.

Canton's dual match record: 27-6 overall.

(Semifinal match)

CANTON 69, LIVONIA FRANKLIN 9

135: Westin Price (C) pinned Tyler Solnikowski, 1:49; 140: Bret Thrushman (LF) decisioned Brad Babcock, 10-9; 145: Josh Hatfield (LF) p. Nick Paul, 4:59; 152: Pat Murphy (C) p. Alex Cook, 3:39; 160: Matt Suppelsa (C) won by void; 171: Braden Price (C) won by void; 189: Anthony Abro (C) p. Matt Horne, 0:31; 215: Robbie Lincoln (C) p. Tyler Gerhard, 0:14; 285: Allan Beckman (C) p. Steve Cook, 2:32; 103: Ben Griffin (C) won by major decision over Jake Newa, 17-4; 112: Richard DeMarois (C) p. Austin Steele, 0:58; 119: Alec Pantaleo (C) p. Ken Steele, 3:12; 125: Ryan Siegler (C) p. Anthony Berrelez, 5:45; 130: Marc Pryzbylski (C) won by void.

Dual match records: Canton, 27-5 overall; Franklin, 23-7 overall.

Other semifinal match: Catholic Central 63, Dearborn Fordson 12.

SUSPENSIONS

FROM PAGE B1

But he questioned his team receiving as many suspensions as Canton, because he maintained that the Chiefs were far more involved in the scrum.

"I went and found video for them (district officials) to look at," Fassbender said. "I think if any general person looks at the video, as I've had many people do — students, teachers, faculty there at that building, other hockey coaches."

"Hands down there are more red jerseys than white jerseys in the scrum."

Zolkowski, however, said there was no "discussion or consideration of equalizing" the number of suspensions.

"We looked at each incident that we saw and dealt with the individuals involved based on that player's behavior," he explained.

NO CONTROL

Majszak rebutted Fassbender's claims of unfair distribution of suspensions in a Friday e-mail to the *Observer*.

"My team was getting on the ice to celebrate a divisional championship, this team's second in team history," Majszak said. "... something that is unfortunately getting completely overlooked."

He stressed that on-ice officials could have stepped in sooner to stop the incident from escalating.

"In review of numerous videos from different angles, there are only two fights that emerge and then a lot of grabbing and wrestling," Majszak said. "My disappointment is that in review of the video, the initial fights that break out go on for 15 seconds before any referees decide to jump in."

Majszak also offered that most players on both teams "were not involved whatsoever."

Fassbender, meanwhile, also lambasted the game's officials for losing control of the game.

The third period, in particular, featured numerous scrums and altercations that led up to what happened after the final buzzer.

"The reason it got out of control is because if you warn and warn and warn and never follow through on your warnings," Fassbender stressed. "... if you don't kick guys off the ice, give them penalties, whatever it takes, you lose control of the game."

CHANCE TO SHINE

Both teams will participate shorthanded in Saturday's KLLA tournament at Canton Arctic Edge.

"We want to get to 8-8-8, which we will if we get two more wins," Fassbender said. "I think we can do that with the 13 or 15 guys we have."

"As far as the playoffs, you never know what's going to happen. The odds are pretty stacked against us, the hill got a lot steeper over the last two days."

According to Fassbender, the suspensions will give younger players an opportunity for meaningful minutes on the varsity team.

"The bright side of all of this, it creates opportunities for some of the kids that don't get ice time," he said. "Is it going to be hard? Yeah, it's going to be hard."

"Are they ready for this? Not yet. But it's going to be a good thing for them."

Fassbender said he still has 15 skaters and one goaltender, enough for three forward lines and three defensive pairings.

"We have 16 or 17 players still eligible and we were extremely deep all season with talent," Majszak noted. "In times like these players will step up and play into the role that we need them too and I'm perfectly confident our players will do that."

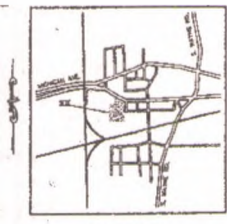
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CITY OF WAYNE NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS

The City of Wayne will hold the following two public hearings to consider a request to rezone property east of Wayne Industries, 36253 Michigan Avenue East from B-5 Business Concentrated to IND-2 Heavy Industrial.

Reference #55-013-06-0315-007 (western portion, est. 3 acres)
#55-013-06-0315-008 (outlot, 0.68 acre)

- 1) Planning Commission Tuesday, March 8, 2011, 7:00 P.M. City Hall Council Chambers, 3355 S. Wayne Rd., Wayne, MI 48184
- 2) City Council, Tuesday, March 15, 2011, 8:00 P.M. City Hall Council Chambers, 3355 S. Wayne Rd., Wayne, MI 48184



The proposed text and any maps may be examined or written comments may be submitted at the City Clerk's Office during business hours (10:00 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. Monday through Thursday). Members of the public may appear at the public hearings in person or by counsel. At the conclusion of its public hearing, the Planning Commission may make a recommendation to City Council. At the conclusion of its public hearing, the City Council — provided it has received a recommendation from the Planning Commission — will consider and may take action on this matter.

Matthew K. Miller
City Clerk

Publish: February 20, 2011

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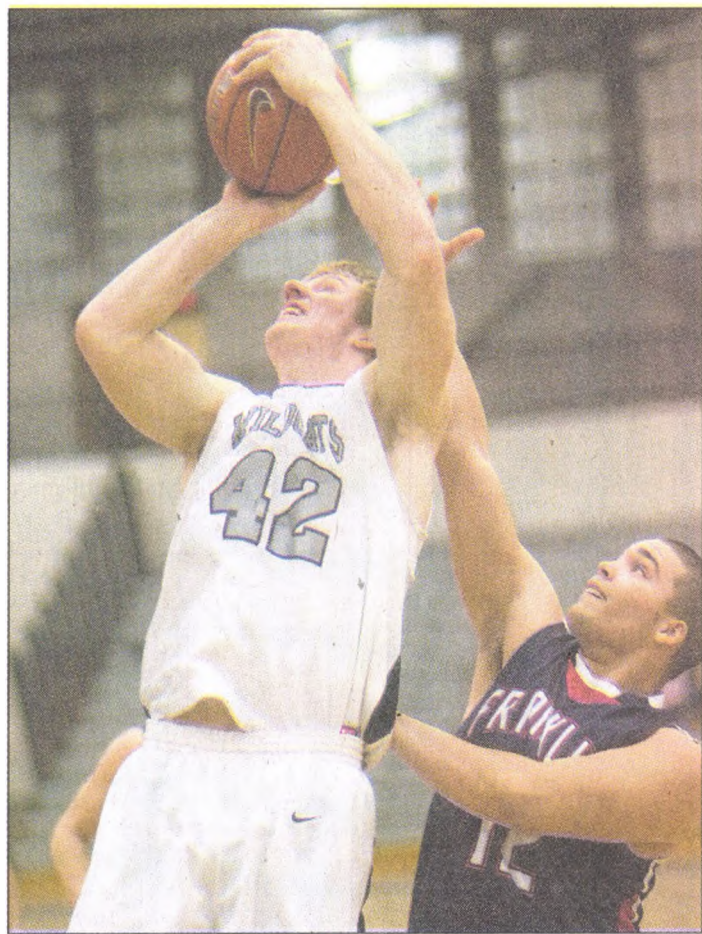
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SALEM
FROM PAGE B1

"We didn't do a great job of contesting the shots," Reddy said. "We didn't do a great job of hedging on screens. Their shooters got open, and credit to them they knocked them down."
 "They were six-for-six on threes in the second half, and you're not going to win against good teams when you give up that."
 Canton senior point guard Dietrich Lever II scored 10 of his 19 points in the first half, helping the KLAA South co-champion Chiefs forge leads of 14-9 after one quarter and 25-17 at the break.
CHANGE OF PACE
 But as urged on by Brodie, the Rocks were noticeably quicker and made life miserable for Lever, junior forward Paul Baumgart (14 points) and the rest of the Canton squad.
 "I thought the first half we did a good job of moving the ball and getting some easy scores around the rim and kicking it out for open threes," Reddy said. "But in the second half we didn't move it as well. That had something to do with Salem's pressure."
 Salem's comeback began with about four minutes to play in the third and Canton up 31-26.
 Sophomore forward Chris Dierker (12 points, six rebounds) hit a trey from beyond the top of the arc to close the gap to 31-30 with about 2:45 left.
 After Canton missed on an inside shot, it was Bettner's turn. His 3-ball from the right flank put Salem up 33-31.
 Two putbacks by senior center Ethan Walsh (nine points) kept the Chiefs at bay, and



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

One of Plymouth's key performers Thursday night was senior Brennen Beyer (No. 42), shown from a game earlier this season against Livonia Franklin.

Salem carried a 38-36 edge into the fourth.
BACK-AND-FORTH
 The teams traded leads for the first four minutes of the final frame.
 Canton junior guard Kyle Adams (eight points) buried a trey from the right side to give the Chiefs a 41-40 lead. Later in the frame he hit another triple to put Canton up by a 46-44 score.
 "Kyle's been playing good, this last month he's been solid defensively, especially," Reddy said. "And now he's starting to knock down open threes, which we need."
 "I can't say enough about

him coming around."
 After Lever missed the front end of a 1-and-1, Salem went up 48-46 after baskets from senior forward Zinoviy Pelekh (12 points) and Dierker.
 A key offensive rebound of a missed free throw by Canton junior forward Terrell Sewell (six boards) led to Baumgart's basket from inside the key to even the game at 48-48 with 2:15 left.
 The Rocks regained the lead again — this time when junior forward Tyler Stewart (12 points) connected on a trey from the left corner — and never relinquished it again.
 tsmith@hometownlife.com

CHIEFS
FROM PAGE B1

defense was good and we rebounded well. We pushed the ball and attacked the rim.
 "... We're at the point now where these guys know every game means something."
 Schmitt led Canton with 16 points, nine rebounds and five steals.
 Bridges drained 10 free throws among her 14 points and senior forward Sara Schmitt (six boards, three steals) also helped the cause.
 Jordan York led Stevenson with 10 points. Contributing seven was Charlesann Roy while senior forward Monika Rudis was active at both ends. She scored six and led the Spartans with 11 rebounds.
 "She's one of our seniors and she's been a great surprise this year," Knoph said. "She wasn't somebody we thought would step into a starting role and she's strong every game."
 Three quick fouls against senior Stevenson center Kristen Balhorn also helped pave the way to the bucket for the Chiefs. "She's usually a strong presence inside," Knoph said.
 Other Canton players to contribute included senior guard CarolAnn Sexauer (nine points, including Canton's only trey of the night) and senior guard Melanie Pickert, who tallied five points and played stellar defense.
 "The key is our defense and getting after people," Samulski said. "For the most part, 28 points (against), that's not bad."

Salem prevails
 Also on Friday night, Salem edged host Plymouth 23-22 in a KLAA tournament consolation girls basketball game.
 "We played a wide-open, run-and-gun game," joked Salem head coach Fred Thomann, whose squad improved to 7-11.
 Thomann then said the contest "was really an intense, competitive game" that came down to the wire.
 The Rocks trailed 7-4 after one frame before

turning an 11-2 second quarter into a 15-9 halftime lead. Plymouth closed the gap to 22-19 going into the final stanza, but neither team could manage much offense in the fourth.
 "It was one of those games where nobody could score," Plymouth head coach Bob deBear said. "But they had one more than us, so that's all that counts."
 Salem sophomore forward Breanne Beaver had a strong game, scoring seven points and grabbing 16 rebounds.
 Chipping in offensively for the Rocks were Heidi Schmidt (five points), Katelyn Krause and Jennifer First (four each).
 The Wildcats (7-11) were paced by Kylie Robb's seven-point night. Alex Roberts and Kate Watson each scored five.
 Both squads continue tournament play on Tuesday. Salem hosts Walled Lake Central while Plymouth visits Northville.
PCA stays hot
 The title march of Plymouth Christian Academy continued with Tuesday's 42-17 romp over Allen Park Inter-City Baptist.
 PCA (14-3 overall, 9-1 in the Michigan Independent Athletic Conference) jumped out to a 15-6 lead after one and controlled play throughout.
 Head coach Carol Gerulis benefited from the hot shooting of Brianna Harris (14 points) and Bethany Hale (nine points), who tallied four and three triples, respectively.
 Jenny Malcolm scored six points and led PCA with seven rebounds. Emily Gerulis also had a good game on the glass, pulling down six boards to go along with four points.
 Karen Windle (six points, three steals) also chipped in.
 "The kids played a good game tonight," Carol Gerulis said. "We played very good defense as a team tonight."
 PCA visited Grosse Pointe University-Liggett Friday night, but results were not available as of press time.
 tsmith@hometownlife.com

COLLEGE BASEBALL PREVIEW

Pitching: Still name of game
 Crusaders boast Plymouth-Canton flavor as 2011 campaign begins

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The weather forecast this weekend for Dayton Tenn. seems favorable — temperatures anywhere from mid-60s to mid-50s, some sun and maybe an occasional shower.
 That's where the Madonna University baseball team opens its season with a four-game set followed by a 10-day trip starting March 4 in Phoenix, Ariz.
 Greg Haeger, entering his 15th season as the Crusaders' coach, will try and top last year's school-record 48-11 campaign which included a trip to the NAIA regionals in Riverside, Calif.

Like most teams Haeger puts on the field, he said "It all comes down to pitching."
 "Last year's pitching staff was a pretty good one," Haeger said. "So we do return three of the five guys who were in our rotation last year so it's always nice having those returning guys back."
 The Crusaders will definitely miss Kyle Bolton, who went 8-1, and John Ballarin, who finished 6-2 with a 3.30 earned run average.
 But those graduation losses should be diminished with the return of three solid starters — juniors Robert Fraser (Westland John Glenn) and Tom Hansen, along with sophomore Jeremy Gooding (Livonia/Dearborn Divine Child).

"Losing those two guys hurts, but having those three guys back is nice," Haeger said.
 Gooding led the Crusaders in wins (10-1) to go along with a 2.39 ERA en route to All-Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference honors after transferring from Saginaw Valley State.
 "Jeremy was kind of the big surprise last year as a freshman," Haeger said. "He's been throwing the ball very well. Has had two pretty live appearances in the cages recently."
 Meanwhile, Fraser went 7-1 with a team-best 1.71 ERA, while Hansen, a left-hander, finished 6-2 with a 3.23 ERA.
 "Fraser is coming back from a little bit of a sore arm," Haeger said. "He had a really nice year for us last year, a great ERA, and pitched well for us."

"Hansen's had two very successful years for us the last two years and was able to hold onto a spot in the rotation."
 Reliever Andy Omilian, a redshirt junior from Plymouth (Detroit Catholic Central), also returns in his mop-up role after leading the team last season in appearances (18).
 Four others also could make an impact on the mound including two redshirt freshman — Aaron Saarela and Tyler Schofield — along with junior college transfer Austin Delmotte and Erik Wright (Canton), a transfer from Saginaw Valley.

"We redshirted two very talented freshmen last year," Haeger said. "Aaron has been throwing great. We've seen upper 80s (MPH) from him, which is nice to see. Wright is another good left-hander and has opportunities to do well."
 Delmotte, a native of Romeo, might be the Crusaders' hardest thrower after playing two seasons at Patrick Henry (Md.) Community College.
 "He is up to 92-93," Haeger said. "Success is always based on pitching. We don't have a lot in terms of numbers, but we have a lot of potential. We're going to be counting on quite a few new kids this year. The team could round out into a very good team."

SOLID BEHIND DISH
 MU's catching duties will be split between senior Tarik Khasawneh (Canton) and red-shirt junior Drew Adamiec. "The catching situation is probably the most concrete on



MADONNA UNIVERSITY SPORTS INFORMATION PHOTO

Madonna University outfielder Matt Kay, a product of Canton High School, looks to continue the fine offense he showed in 2010.



Omilian



Haeger

this team defensively," Haeger said. "Unfortunately, Donny Holland, who played quite a bit as a freshman last year, is out for the year (labrum surgery). He had been battling through it for awhile and finally had to have the surgery.
 "We're fortunate we have Tairk Khasawneh and Drew Adamiec. A senior and a junior who have been around the block. They have nine years experience between those. They're two very good kids who know how to catch the staff. We're happy with that."
 The WHAC regular season champions return six infielders led senior second baseman Jeff Bultinck, who hit .368 with four homers and 32 RBI.
 Also returning is senior shortstop Mike Gansser (.288) and junior redshirt utilityman Billy Hardin III (.314), a Livonia native.
 "Jeff started just about every game, he has a stranglehold on that spot," Haeger said. "Mike played a lot of shortstop last year and Billy played all over the place. He played short, third and DH'd. He has a little bit of a sore arm right now."
 Sophomores Spencer Sarel (.360) and Brad Lineberry (.351) both earned time last year at third base.
 Lineberry, a Plymouth High grad, will move over the first.
 "Spencer had a real nice year for us last year offensively and so did Brad," Haeger said. "Tim Duffy, a senior, didn't get a lot of opportunities, but he'll be back at first."
 Two freshman, Victor Barron (Fowlerville and Ryan Lech (L'Anse Creuse North) both fit into the infield equation as well.
 "Defensively we're still working on them, but they can swing the bat," Haeger said. "We like our infield."

The opportunity is out there for each of them."
 Junior Dan Harder (.321, six homers) has the inside track at left field, while redshirt senior Dan Stoney (Canton) and St. Clair County CC transfer Phil Celeski (Novi) also figure in the mix.
 "Dan Harder has some pop in his bat," Haeger said. "Those guys will see some time. Alex (Charles), Steve (Pelletier) and Danny (Stoney) have a lot of opportunities to get left and center field taken care of."
 But offensive numbers could be drastically down this season for all of college baseball.
 "They changed our bats," Haeger said. "We weren't using them in the fall. We were using the old bats or wood in the fall. As we get these new bats in, it's tough. It's tough to read a ball off the bat in a net. You just don't know. You don't know who's squaring up the ball the most."
 The new bats are referred as BBCOR (ball-bat coefficient of restitution).
 "They've taken the trampoline effect out of the bat from aluminum and make them more like wood," the MU coach added. "Different sounds as far as what coaches and players are used to. It sounds like a really bad aluminum bat."
 "We're not going to see these 450 foot home runs anymore. We're going to see a ball play off the bat much more like wood. Maybe not just like wood, but similar to what you find in a wood bat in terms of distance or exit velocities."

TRACK RECORD
 Haeger is anxious to get outdoors and see how his team adapts to the bat change.
 "We don't know what they do with these bats," he said. "For every college coach like me who hasn't been outside... Tennessee, for us, is a huge learning experience and how it will change and how many will go small ball baseball. A lot of variables going into the season right now."
 Haeger's track record speaks for itself. He is 435-305-3 in 14 seasons with five WHAC regular season, four WHAC tournament and one NAIA Region VIII title to his credit.
 "We want to make sure we're prepared," said MU coach, who has guided the Crusaders to two straight NAIA tourney berths. "We're not a small ball baseball team. That's not me or what my (assistant) coaches are about. We've always been a doubles and steal base program with some home runs. I don't know if I could live with myself to bunt them over. I've talked to a lot of coaches from across the country and a lot of people say the ball just doesn't fly anymore."
 "Earl Weaver ball in college has been gone for a little bit. But we'll see."

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Chiefs cruise, tournament final next

BY TIM SMITH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Having done the expected with Friday's 51-28 trouncing of Livonia Stevenson, the KLAA title is within reach for Canton's varsity girls basketball team.

The host Chiefs will face Westland John Glenn at 7 p.m. Tuesday (at Canton) in a battle of 16-2 teams to determine the KLAA tournament winner.

"Now they get a chance to play for the conference championship Tuesday night versus John Glenn," Canton head coach Brian Samulski said. "So we get another shot to play them, which is good because they're a good team."

What happened Friday went pretty much true to script.

Even Spartans head coach Jennifer Knoph knew her team faced a huge task in the second-round KLAA tournament matchup

"We knew what we were up against," said Knoph, whose team dropped to 12-6 overall. "We talked all week about how winning last week and winning Tuesday was putting us up against the strongest competition in the KLAA."

But Knoph said she was proud of how her team "didn't hang their heads" after Canton's 21-0 run in the second blew the game open.

TOUGH TO STOP

The Spartans could not answer the Chiefs constant defensive pressure, which resulted in numerous turnovers and transition buckets.

Senior forwards Kayla Bridges and Kari Schmitt — with a string of layups and finger rolls — scored 16 points during the second-quarter blitz.

The Chiefs built a 35-11 halftime lead and were up 47-17 with eight minutes to play.

"I thought our focus was good tonight," Samulski said. "Our

Please see **CHIEFS, B2**



Canton's Kari Schmitt (No. 25) eludes Livonia Stevenson defenders Kristen Balhorn (No. 41) and Jorden York (No. 12) on Friday. In the background for the Chiefs is Kayla Bridges.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

'What I hope all of the members of our community take away from this, is our absolute intolerance for the type of behavior that went on at the ice arena last Tuesday.'

BILL ZOLKOWSKI, PCEP principal

Hockey fight nets dozen suspensions

BY TIM SMITH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Plymouth boys hockey coach Paul Fassbender Thursday night confirmed that six of his players and six Canton players were suspended for their roles in Tuesday night's postgame brawl.

The players are serving a two-day suspension from school, and will miss the remaining games of the regular season as well as the first two state playoff games.

They will be permitted to return to practice on Monday, Feb. 28, but will not be allowed to play in that week's pre-district tournament at Novi.

Fassbender said Plymouth-Canton Educational Park Principal Bill Zolkowski levied the suspensions after reviewing videotapes of the melee and meeting with building principals, athletic directors and coaches in a Wednesday morning meeting.

The Wildcats and Chiefs brawled at the conclusion of Tuesday's KLAA South matchup at Compuware Arena. Canton won 2-0 to clinch the division.

According to Zolkowski on Friday, the suspensions were based on enforcing the district's code of conduct.

"What I hope all of the members of our community take away from this," Zolkowski emphasized, "is our absolute intolerance for the type of behavior that went on at the ice arena last Tuesday."

"We must all remember that co-curricular activities are a privilege, extra opportunities that the district provides, that are intended to augment the academic offerings of the school day."

A RARITY

Fassbender said the brawl was the first of its kind "in the 10, 12 years that Plymouth, Canton and Salem (hockey) have been around."

"So it's really not a thing that's boiling up, or a thing that's causing problems," Fassbender added. "There's one incident, one time in 12 years."

He and Canton head coach Jeremy Majszak are friends who play in the same men's league, and there is no bad blood between them.

"We talk to each other," Fassbender said. "We talk advice and strategy about other teams to each other and we still do."

Fassbender said players "did learn a lesson, even the ones that participated in it."

Please see **SUSPENSIONS, B3**

Salem rallies past Canton in KLAA tourney tilt

BY TIM SMITH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The Salem varsity boys basketball team dialed up the defensive intensity in the second half Thursday at Canton and the offense followed suit.

After trailing 25-17 at halftime, Salem head coach Bob Brodie talked to his team about changing how the KLAA tournament first-round game was developing.

"At halftime I said we got to change the tempo of this game," Brodie said. "Canton is controlling the whole tempo, they're doing whatever they want to do out there. And we can't let that happen."

"... We got to crank the tempo up a little bit, we got to get after it, especially at the defensive end. When you get after it at the defensive end, your offense starts picking up."

With Salem canning six of six three-point shots in the second half — three of them by junior guard Grant Bettner — the Rocks tallied 41 points after the intermission to earn a 58-50 victory.

Salem (12-5) now will visit Livonia Stevenson (17-1) at 7 p.m. Monday for a second-round game. Another win there would give the Rocks a chance to claim the association tournament for the first time since 2002 (when it was the WLAA).

"We've got good tradition at Salem and we just hope we get another opportunity to put another banner on the wall," Brodie said.

The 12-5 Chiefs will drop down to the consolation bracket for the remainder of the tourney.

"It's disappointing to be out," noted Canton head coach Jimmy Reddy. "When you're in a championship situation, a tournament situation, you want to keep playing. You want to survive and advance. We didn't do it tonight."

IN THE CLUTCH

All three of Bettner's treys were crucial. Two helped Salem regain the lead in the see-saw affair, and his third, with 1:15 left, opened up a 54-50 advantage.

"We work on a lot of drills, to get us shooting some clutch shots," said Bettner, who scored 11 points. "Like at practice, we (simulate) playing with three seconds left, looking for our last shot."

"And that was kind of the scenario we were in. Time wasn't running out, but we needed a shot in the clutch. I took it, and hit it."

Reddy said his defenders did not do enough to hinder Salem's jump shooters in the second half.

Please see **SALEM, B2**



Senior forward Zinoviy Pelek, shown from a game earlier this season, was one of four Salem players to score double figures Thursday against Canton.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

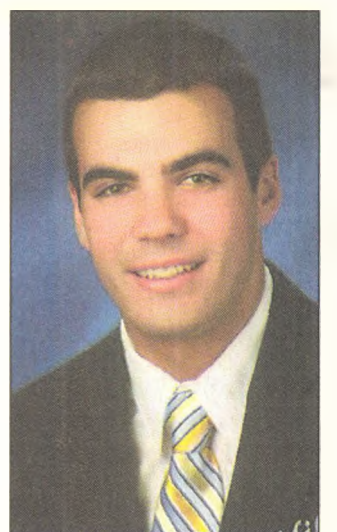


MIKE NADRATOWSKI

Who: Mike Nadratowski, senior captain of Plymouth varsity boys basketball team.

Miscellany: The 17-year-old Nadratowski, whose parents are Kim and John Nadratowski, carries a 3.67 grade-point average. He also is captain of the Wildcats' baseball team. Athletic honors include earning all-conference last year for basketball and baseball as well as selection as an Observer All-Area player. He has signed a letter of intent to attend Grand Valley State University on a baseball scholarship.

Captain's job: "The job of a captain is to communicate to your teammates in a positive way, to set a good example when you put on the uniform and stay confident even if things aren't going your way. It also means to set a good example in the classroom and on the court."



Leadership style: "My style of leadership is that I work on knowing when to be supportive and positive to my teammates, but also know when to be hard on them a little bit and try and make them better."

Why him? "I believe my teammates and coaches chose me to be a captain because I know how to play the game with confidence and my teammates know that I have their back on the court."

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Symphony tops off season with 'brassy' finale

The Plymouth Symphony will culminate their regular season concerts with a finale organizers say is "big, bold, brassy and breathtaking" 7:30 p.m. Saturday, March 5, at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill in Canton.

The visual arts will take center-stage as the orchestra performs Mussorgsky's masterpiece, "Pictures at an Exhibition," which was composed around themes based on the composer's artist friend, Viktor Hartmann including the beautiful and familiar, the "Great Gates of Kiev" based on his paintings of the façade of the entrance for the City of Kiev.

Continuing the artist theme of the concert, the orchestra will perform a World Premier of Katherine Hoover's work, "J.M.W. Turner; Impressions," based on the lush landscapes of English painter, J. M. W. Turner. Katherine Hoover will be attending this world premier of her work and will be a part of the On-Stage Presentation with Conductor Nan Washburn prior to the



Hoover

concert.

Throughout the performances of both pieces the artwork will be illuminated on the scrim as the orchestra performs each piece.

"Katherine Hoover is an extraordinary composer. She has a wide and fascinating vocabulary which she uses with enormous skill. Her music is fresh and individual," said John Corigliano.

Hoover resides in New York, where she maintains an active career as composer, conductor, and flutist. She is the recipi-

ent of a National Endowment Composer's Fellowship and many other awards, including an Academy of Arts and Letters Academy Award in Composition.

Hoover attended the Eastman School of Music and holds a Masters in Music Theory from the Manhattan School, where she taught for years. Hoover has also attended the Conductors Institute and has led performances in Wisconsin, West Virginia, New York, and Pennsylvania. The commissioning, rehearsing, and premiere of her Dances and Variations at Kennedy Center are the subject of an Emmy-winning documentary, called New Music, by Deborah Novak.

The concert is sponsored by The Partnership for the Arts and Humanities in Canton and the Bank of Ann Arbor. Tickets are \$25 for adults, \$20 for seniors, and \$10 for students.

For tickets and information please call 734-451-2112 or online www.plymouthsymphony.com.



The Plymouth Symphony closes its regular season with a 'big, brassy' finale March 5 at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill in Canton.

Credit unions jump-start savings with grand prize

The changing economy has put great emphasis on personal financial education and the benefits of saving. Community Financial Credit Union is one of 36 Michigan credit unions that are offering the innovative Save to Win program that gives members what organizers call "an exciting reason to save" - a grand prize of \$100,000 - and teaches them how regular deposits can put them on the path toward building wealth.

"Our credit union is excited to offer this innovative program to our members," CFCU CEO Bill Lawton said. "We are committed to helping our members save money and work their way out of debt. Save to Win gives a good incentive to learn the value of saving and

how just a little each month can add up."

Here's how Save to Win works: Members open a one-year share certificate with an initial deposit of at least \$25. Then, every time they deposit \$25 they earn another entry into monthly drawings and a grand prize drawing. At the end of every month, prizes totaling \$4,000 will be awarded to Save to Win account holders who continue to save. The prize entries will also be entered into the grand prize drawing of \$100,000, to be awarded in January 2012.

Research from the pilot year of Save to Win showed that the product is helping people save, according to credit union officials. About 27 percent of

Save to Win account holders reported having \$2,000 or less in financial assets prior to opening the Save to Win account, and 60 percent said they regularly spent money on the lottery or gambling.

To see the official rules of the Save to Win product, go to www.cfcu.org/savetowin.

Headquartered in Plymouth, Mich., membership and is open to anyone who lives, works, worships, volunteers or attends school in the Michigan cities, townships or counties of Plymouth, Canton, Northville, Novi, Alpena, Otsego and Montmorency.

For more information, visit the credit union web site at www.cfcu.org or call (734) 453-1200 or (877) 937-2328, toll free.

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Livonia students celebrate success of Cell Phones for Soldiers

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
CORRESPONDENT

The free Little Caesars pizza was definitely a hit with students at Churchill High School Thursday afternoon.

Churchill students were rewarded with the pizza for collecting the most cell phones for soldiers in December in a competition with Franklin and Stevenson high schools. Students in Livonia Public Schools collected 3,000 cell phones at the district's 24 schools.

Holmes Middle School won the middle school competition and will have pizza parties for 900 students Feb. 23-25.

The prize was the Pizza Party courtesy of the GM Military Discount Program, Chevrolet, Little Caesars Pizza, and 99.5 WYCD Detroit's Country radio station (CBS Radio).

REACHING OUT

"I love pizza" was the first thing out of Megan McDonald's mouth as she sat with students from the leadership classes. For them, it was a jubilant occasion and everyone was proud of the accomplishment.

"It was a good experience," said McDonald, a senior. "It's reaching out to the community and showing our support."

McDonald was one of the Churchill students who wrote Christmas cards to Michigan-based troops overseas and enclosed a pre-paid phone card as part of the green initiative. The used phones collected by Livonia students were recycled and proceeds used to purchase prepaid cards worth 180,000 minutes.

"We wanted to tell them we appreciate them," said McDonald.

Founded in 2004, Cell Phones for Soldiers was the idea of Robbie and Brittany Bergquist, then 12 and 13 years old. Based in Massachusetts, the nonprofit organization has provided U.S. service men and women with more than 90 million minutes



Parent Georgi Ryktarsyk and student Derek Goeglein prepare for the lunch crowd Thursday at Churchill High School's pizza party.

of free talk time.

Locally, the cell phone drive evolved from the GM Military program that provides discounts on vehicles to active and reserve soldiers.

"Livonia has a high concentration of military families. That's why we chose it," said Linda Stouffer, marketing manager of Vehicle Purchase Programs for GM. "We wanted to find a way to give back to the military. We know how important it is for them to keep in contact with their families."

Stouffer would like to challenge other districts to hold a used cell phone drive for soldiers. She was amazed at the number of phones collected by Livonia students. The drives have netted more than 30,000 cells from around country.

"LPS represents 10 percent of that," said Stouffer as she watched a steady stream of



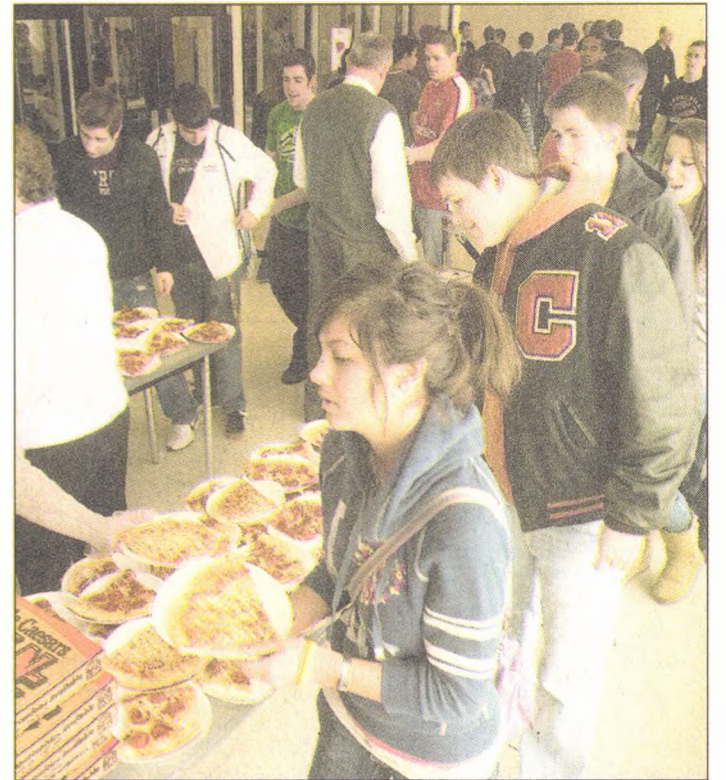
About 600 kids pass through the line.

students pass in front of her with their pizza.

PARENTS HELP TOO

Georgi Ryktarski, a mother and member of the PTSA,

and student Derek Goeglein had been stacking pizza boxes before the lunch rush began and still were busy. Ryktarski was one of 10 PTSA volunteers. She thought it was



Tracey Van De Ven and Keith Chartrand pick up some pizza for lunch.

"important to help the students" whenever she and her husband could.

Churchill Principal Joe Anderson was happy for the PTSA's help. He was worried about how they were going to serve 2,100 kids, but the staff came up with a plan to give students different color tickets for each of the parties that were held on three consecutive days. A total of 358 pizzas were consumed at Churchill.

"It's a great recognition for kids to be rewarded for doing something nice," said Anderson. "Our students already know how important it is to help others. I wasn't surprised they won."

Little Caesars stores began supporting Cell Phones for Soldiers in March 2010. Since the partnership began, customers have donated more than 24,000 phones.

BUILDING COMMUNITY

Assistant Principal Marsha Byrd said the Cell Phones for Soldiers drive "was a good way to build community and

make it a smaller world, and for students to be exposed to different aspects of life like businesses and military. It was good for students to see the impact of working together. It's been wonderful. Everybody worked together."

"It was something we could actually do instead of contributing money," said Stephen Charnley, a senior.

Student activities director Karla Halvangis helped by promoting the cell phone drive. "I tried to play up the competition between the schools."

"And we crushed Stevenson and Franklin," added senior Tom Windle. "We always like to beat them. Our canned food drive we collected 39,412 cans for Goodfellows."

For information about Cell Phones for Soldiers, visit www.cellphonesforsoldiers.com, or www.facebook.com/JoinCellPhonesforSoldiers. Local school districts can contact linda.stouffer@GM.com if they are interested in holding a district-wide school drive.



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Wayne Metro holds Walk for Warmth

Heat for your home in the winter is one of life's basic needs for families living in Michigan. However, the need is often overlooked.

This winter, thousands of out-Wayne County families are struggling to keep warm under blankets and coats because they can't afford heat for their homes.

Stepping in to fill the gap is the Wayne Metropolitan Community Action Agency which is holding its 15th annual Walk for Warmth Saturday, Feb. 26, at the Westland Shopping Center at Wayne and Warren roads in Westland.

One hundred percent of the money raised will go to help families in need, people faced with making the choice to feed their family or heat

their homes. Last year, Wayne Metro helped more than 1,000 people with utility assistance payments and still couldn't meet the demand for services.

The Walk for Warmth will be 9 a.m. to noon. People can get involved by forming a team and collecting pledges. Team information and pledge sheets are available online at www.waynemetrolife.org or by calling (734) 246-2280, Ext. 123.

Awards will be given to the youth and adult teams with the highest amount of pledges, biggest team of walkers, best team name and most team spirit. The individual that raises the most money over \$1,000 will win the Grand Prize Boyne Highlands Lodging and Lift or Golf Package. Grand

Prize Package includes one night's hotel lodging for two in the Main Lodge at Boyne Highlands Resort and one-day unlimited lift tickets for two or one round of golf for two on choice of four Boyne Highlands golf courses.

Hundreds of people will walk to raise funds for Wayne Metro's Emergency Utility Assistance Programs. The first 300 participants to pledge \$15 or more will receive an official 2011 Walk for Warmth T-Shirt. The walk is a fun event for the entire family and includes a DJ, entertainment, face painting, door prizes and great shopping.

For more information visit the website at www.waynemetrolife.org or call (734) 246-2280, Ext. 123.



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The scouts, including Angela Delaflor, earned their World Thinking Day patch.

Friends of the Rouge gather river stories

Friends of the Rouge, a local non-profit organization dedicated to the restoration and stewardship of the Rouge River, is celebrating its 25th anniversary with an array of activities throughout 2011.

And he celebration is open to the public.

"One way we are celebrating our 25th anniversary is through our special blog," said Cyndi Ross, the River Restoration Program Manager for the Friends. "We are collecting

stories from people about their experiences with Friends of the Rouge and about the Rouge River in general."

People who have an interesting story that they would like to share with others about time spent along the river or participating in a Friends of the Rouge activity can submit it by e-mailing riverrestoration@therouge.org with the subject line "story."

Stories submitted through the regular mail also are being accepted and can be mailed to

4901 Evergreen Road, 220 ASC, Dearborn, MI 48128. Accounts of river experiences can be read on the groups' special blog, "Celebrating 25 years" at friendsoftherouge.wordpress.com/.

The mission of the Friends of the Rouge is to promote the restoration and stewardship of the Rouge River ecosystem through education, citizen involvement and other collaborative efforts, for the purpose of improving the quality of life for the people, plants, and animals of the watershed.

Girl Scouts think globally

A local Brownies Girl Scout troop thought about their counterparts halfway around the world Tuesday.

Troop No. 43732 celebrated World Thinking Day at Grant Elementary School by making jump ropes for a troop in the Philippines.

The 27-member troop was part of a group of about 100 Girl Scouts at Grant who participated with various activities, including learning to use chopsticks, learning the Girl Scout Promise in a new language and helping other Girl Scouts.

World Thinking Day is part of the global action theme of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts, based on the United Nation's Millennium Development Goals, which aim to improve the lives of the world's poorest people, according to the Girl Scout's Web site.

"It's for Girl Scouts around the world to think about each other," said Delores Muller, Scout leader for the Brownie troop. Muller said there are 10 million Girl Scouts in 115 countries. Muller said this year's theme for World Thinking Day was "empowering girls to change our world."

At Grant Elementary, Muller's troop gathered to listen to a local elected official discuss empowerment in government. Councilwoman Maureen Miller Brosnan talked about the need for more women in government, pointing to the fact that only eight women have served on the Livonia City Council in the city's 60-year history.

The girls also learned about courage and determination, as Muller asked them about doing things that took courage.

The Scouts also learned about countries like



Scouts (clockwise from lower left) Faith Burger, Kelli Johnson, Emily O'Sullivan, Kati Thomas, Krunali Werton, and adult leader Alison Domzalski work on assembling a jump rope.

Bolivia and the Philippines and helping others in those countries.

Muller, who recently became a U.S. citizen, discussed how she decided to help out The Lingap Center, a Filipino orphanage built through funds raised by a Jackson, Mich., man. Muller raised \$1,000 on a website calling for donations to assist the center.

On Tuesday, the girls created jump ropes for a Girl Scouts troop at that orphanage. The Brownies also played a quiz game, and recited the Girl Scout Promise with Brosnan, saying it in Spanish, following Muller's lead.

The girls earned badges for their efforts that day.

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Wayne County announces e-waste collection dates

Do you have a collection of old electronic devices at home that you want to get rid of but don't want to put in the trash because of environmental concerns?

Wayne County's Department of Public Services can help you solve this problem.

Wayne County in conjunction with Vintage Tech Recyclers Inc. and local communities has scheduled several Electronic Waste (e-waste) collections, where residents can drop off their old electronic waste free of charge. Items that will be accepted for recycling include such items as computers, TVs, CRT monitors, LCD monitors, keyboards and mice, laptop computers, printers, fax machines, copiers, VCRs, DVD players, microwaves, stereos, speakers, computer parts, telephones, cell phones, game consoles, miscellaneous cables, mp3 players.

No other household appliances will be accepted.

The collections have been scheduled for:

- Saturday, Feb. 26, at the Riverview Land Preserve, 20863 Grange Road, Riverview.
- Saturday, March 19, in the parking lot of the Town Center, 9215 Joseph Compau, Hamtramck.
- Saturday, April 2, at the Redford Township DPS, 12200 Beech Daly, Redford.
- Saturday, April 16, 2011 at the Henry Ford Centennial Library, 16301 Michigan Ave., Dearborn.
- Saturday, May 7, at the Canton Township DPW, 4847 Sheldon, Canton Township.

The e-waste collections run from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. and are open to Wayne County residents and small businesses with 10 or fewer employees. The Hamtramck collection is 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Wayne County's Department of Public Services also has scheduled its first two countywide Household Hazardous Waste collections for this year.

The two collections are scheduled for Saturday, March 26, at the Wayne County Community College District, Western Campus, 9555 Haggerty, Belleville, and Saturday, June 18, at Henry Ford Community College located at 5101 Evergreen, Dearborn.

The household hazardous waste collections run from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. and are open to Wayne County residents only.

The collections are designed to accept unwanted household chemicals for proper disposal. Items that will be accepted include household paints, stains, floor-care items, furniture polish, bathroom cleaners, lawn and garden chemicals, antifreeze, fluorescent light bulbs, old computers and TVs. Pharmaceutical waste (non-controlled substances only) and medical sharps in puncture-proof containers will also be accepted.

All waste must be from residential sources.

For more information about the collections, call the Wayne County Resource Recovery coordinator at (734) 326-3936.

W-W puts \$14 million price tag on revenue loss

BY SUE MASON
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Wayne-Westland school officials are wondering what Gov. Rick Snyder means about putting real money in the right places. By their calculation, the budget proposal he presented to state lawmakers Thursday, Wayne-Westland will lose more than \$14 million.

"This huge, this is a shock," said school Superintendent Greg Baracy. "We're in crisis mode. We had no idea that it would be this bad."

The governor has proposed cutting state school aid by an additional \$300. When coupled with this year's \$170 cut, it will mean a loss of \$5.9 million for the district. He also stripped the Wayne-Westland language out of the budget, erasing \$6.1 million the district has received in lieu of millage disallowed when Proposal A was enacted.

Those losses, coupled with an increase in the state retirement rate to 24.46 percent, which will cost more than \$2 million, leave the district facing a funding cut of \$1,140 per student.

"We've been hit extremely hard and once again we're being hit harder than any other district in the state because of the Wayne-Westland language," said Baracy. "Today was extremely bad news for us."

The governor's budget includes nearly \$8.8 billion in funding for schools' basic operations, down \$564 million from the current fiscal year. It



THOMAS BEAUDOIN

Wayne-Westland School Superintendent Greg Baracy said of the governor's plan to cut school funding: "This huge, this is a shock. We're in crisis mode. We had no idea that it would be this bad."

also includes shifting an estimated \$422 million surplus in the School Aid Fund to pay for community colleges, rather than take the money from the general fund.

To offset the state funding reductions, the governor has

recommended districts continue to seek economies of scale for non-instructional services. A 10 percent savings in non-instructional services would yield \$300 million statewide and increased employee participation in the costs of health

insurance could save an additional \$300 million.

Wayne-Westland has been doing that. It closed six elementary schools last year and reconfigured the elementary program to save \$5 million and an additional \$5 million in employee wage freezes and concessions. Baracy, his cabinet, the administrative unions and several employee groups agreed, but the district has yet to reach an agreement on concessions in health care and a wage freeze with three unions, including its largest, the Wayne-Westland Education Association.

The concessions being sought include one-year wage and step freezes and an increase in health care co-pays, and for the teachers, not reducing class sizes by one student in 2010-11. The concessions would save the district an additional \$3.8 million.

If the governor's budget proposal goes through as presented, the loss will erase the district's \$5.5 million fund balance. School officials will have to sit down and analyze the budget proposal to see if it does what the governor said it will do, Baracy said.

"I don't know how districts across the state can endure a \$470 per student cut," he said. "We're aware that this is the toughest economic times since the Great Depression, and we understand that we all have to share in the sacrifices, but how is \$1,141 a fair share of the sacrifices. We'll have to see where this takes us."

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'Red, White & Tuna' director is having a blast

BY BARRY CUTLER
CORRESPONDENT

You may not know Maggie Gilkes (pronounced like "milks" but with a "G") but you have likely seen her work.

It's the big welcome sign that beckons for your attention outside the Farmington Players Barn on 12 Mile in Farmington Hills. Gilkes is the person who braves the cold to blast the message inviting you to stop in and see a show. You might call her the Barn's "official sign changer."

This time, she's proud to display the hilarious comedy she's now directing in her hometown, *Red White & Tuna*.

Two talented actors, Frank Markus of Royal Oak and Michael Schachenbauer of Plymouth opened the show Friday, Feb. 11, and they continue to stun audiences with their versatility and comic timing.

They portray 20 characters, both men and women, in the fictional town of Tuna, Texas. The play runs through March 5. It's just one part of a popular *Tuna* series, and the third *Tuna* production Gilkes has directed for the Farmington Players. Tickets are available at farmingtonplayers.org or at the box office (248) 553-2955.

"Tuna has everyday people that make you want to go and find this fictional place for yourself," said Gilkes. "Our actors do not portray them as anything else but real people with hearts and souls."

LABOR OF LOVE

Gilkes has been pouring her own heart and soul into the Barn since 1988 when she worked props for *The Butler Did It*.

"I made my husband and kids come to see the show and told them that every time the curtain was closed, I was on stage," says Gilkes.

She admits shyness kept her away from the Barn for a long time. (Anyone who knows her would find that impossible



PHOTOS BY JAN CARTWRIGHT

Maggie Gilkes of Farmington Hills always has her handy painting tools at the Players Barn.

to believe). But Gilkes finally mustered up enough courage to walk in and look around. She was quickly hooked.

"Margaret loves theater," said her husband, Dave Gilkes, who calls her a "valuable asset to the Barn." She has certainly embraced that reputation in the past 23 years, performing every task imaginable, from parking cars and running lights, to stage managing, producing, acting and directing. She has even sat on the theater's Board of Directors. Each job is strictly volunteer and hard work for the woman who spends odd hours earning a living as a dealer at Greektown Casino.

These days you would be hard pressed to find a show

Gilkes hasn't touched — with her paintbrush. She shines as a talented set designer and often colors the floor before every production. Simply put, theater is in her blood and she's all too happy to share that with her family.

"Community Theater is a wonderful way for families to do things," said Gilkes. "Our daughter Katie came to the Barn with us all the time, she was 12 (when she started) and loved it. My grandkids can do no wrong, if they love the arts that would be great."

You may not know Maggie Gilkes, but she's someone you should meet. So when you see that sign outside the Farmington Players Barn for



Maggie Gilkes works with — and laughs with — Frank Markus, Michael Smith and Michael Schachenbauer (of Plymouth) behind the scenes.



Maggie Gilkes of Farmington Hills fixes Frank Markus's wig, so he can play one of the many characters in the Farmington Players production of 'Red, White and Tuna.'

Red White & Tuna, stop on by for some nonstop laughter and a chance to say "hi." Don't be shy.

Remaining shows:
• Sunday matinee, Feb. 20, at 2 p.m.

• Friday, Feb. 25, at 8 p.m.
• Saturday, Feb. 26, at 8 p.m.
• Sunday matinee, Feb. 27, at 2 p.m.
• Thursday, March 3, at 8 p.m. (Thrifty Thursday)
• Friday, March 4, at 8 p.m.

• Saturday, March 5, at 8 p.m.
The Farmington Players Barn is located at 32332 W. 12 Mile, Farmington Hills on the north side of 12 Mile, halfway between Orchard Lake and Farmington Road.

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Installment payment plan from IRS can help

Q: Dear Rick: Last year, I sold my summer home Up North. It was a short sale. When I was getting my tax materials organized, a friend told me I had to pay taxes on the amount of the mortgage that was forgiven. It is my understanding that I don't have to pay taxes on this. If I had to pay taxes, it would probably cost over \$10,000 which I do not have. Hopefully, you can tell me that I don't have to pay taxes. If I have to, what should I do?

A: Unfortunately, I have some bad news. In general, forgiveness of a debt is a taxable event. Where you are confused is in regards to an exception to the law which was implemented a few years ago. Because of the real estate crisis a number of years ago, a law was passed which excluded forgiveness of a mortgage from taxes. The exception, however, applied only to your primary residence. Therefore, for the great majority of people, when they do a short sale and it is on the primary residence, the debt is excluded from taxes.

In your situation, since this was not your primary property, you are required to pay the taxes.

I know, it sounds strange, but forgiveness of debt is considered a taxable event. For example, if you were forgiven \$50,000 of mortgage debt from the short sale, that money would be taxed as ordinary income. Unfortunately, the \$50,000 is added to your other income so you could be thrown into a higher tax bracket.

Many taxpayers run into the situation where after they complete their return, they cannot afford to pay their taxes. Too many taxpayers decide not to file a return. This is a mistake. Whether you can afford to pay, I recom-



Money Matters

Rick Bloom

commend you file your return on time. If you don't, not only will you have to pay interest, but you could also be hit with substantial penalties.

Filing on time, whether you can afford to pay the taxes, will always leave you in a better position to deal with the IRS.

For individuals who owe money, the IRS has become easier to deal with. For example, you can request to go on an installment plan by filing Form 9465 with your tax return. This form is used if you cannot pay what you owe the IRS within 120 days. Generally, you can request a payment plan for up to five years. By implementing the plan there will be interest, but there will not be penalties.

Download the form by visiting the IRS website at www.irs.gov. The IRS will get back to you about your installment plan within a relatively short time.

One last note, I generally recommend that when you deal with the IRS for such things as requesting a payment plan or dealing with past taxes, it makes sense to have a professional assist you. That doesn't mean that you can't complete the form yourself, because you can. However, it's just a matter of good business to have an expert make sure that you have dotted all the I's and crossed all the T's. 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 website at www.bloomassetmanagement.com.

Growth Works lauds youth who overcome

BY JULIE BROWN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Youth who have overcome substance abuse or school/family discipline problems were among honorees Feb. 17 at the 22nd annual Awards Dinner of Plymouth-based Growth Works.

"I think they're kids that have worked hard on making changes in their lives and done some really important things," said Dale Yagiela, executive director of Growth Works.

The dinner shines a light on kids who've overcome obstacles. "It's very important, I think. It's also good for the community and my staff to be able to celebrate this as well," Yagiela said of the evening.

Three board members — Marsha Bianconi of Westland, Tom Fielder of Belleville and John Nepiuk of Canton — were also honored for milestone years of service. A Community Award for efforts aimed at improving the lives of young people went to Sgt. Kirk Oswald of the Garden City Police Department.

Among young people, Charles Dalton of Redford was lauded for special achievement and outstanding efforts over the last year in Aftercare & Residential Treatment.

Dalton wrote in the dinner program, "Now, since I am living a positive healthy life now I am attending college and graduating from high school in June. I am starting college in the fall. Growth Works and staff could be a higher power to me. That's what Growth Works means to me."

Alexis Swanson of Romulus, James Emerick III of Southgate and Jamey Cosby of Canton were honored for special achievement and outstanding effort over the past year in Community Intervention & Treatment.

Cosby has re-established a relationship with her mother as well as embracing the fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous. She also has a foundation



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Growth Works honorees Brooklyn Rager, Alexis Swanson, James Emerick III, Jamey Cosby and Charles Dalton.

developed with her father.

Brooklyn Rager of Livonia was honored for special achievement and outstanding efforts over the last year in the Western Wayne Care Management Organization. She and her mother have improved their relationship, Rager will graduate from high school this June and plans to attend college in the fall.

Sgt. Oswald has been instrumental in participating on the WWC MO Garden City Community Team for the past nine years. Its goal is to help prevent juveniles from continuing their delinquent activity and assist them to become productive members of the community.

Oswald has been with the Garden City Police Department since 1998 and is currently the day shift patrol supervisor.

Growth Works is a private, nonprofit organization serving youth and families in Western Wayne County since 1970. Its services include adolescent drug treatment and juvenile justice services. The annual Awards Dinner is set aside to look back at the previous year and honor the achieve-

ments of young people and parents the agency works with. Community members whose efforts have improved their lives are also recognized.

Among board members recognized, Marsha Bianconi is the executive director of the Conference of Western Wayne, a public policy consortium of 18 western Wayne County communities. The CWW works on public service, public safety and water quality issues the member communities have in common. She brings the perspective of local governmental officials to the GW Board of Directors. She has been instrumental in making the partnership between the CWW and GW effective in providing CMO services. Bianconi also serves on the Wayne-Westland Community Team that supports WWC MO youth re-entering the community from residential placement.

John Nepiuk is the Growth Works board treasurer. His interest in improving the quality of behavioral health services is a driving force in his involvement with Growth Works. Nepiuk was formerly with Ford Motor Co., working

on major finance and information systems technology. He continues to work on major projects with EDS. He brings a strong business presence to the GW board, particularly in the areas of finance, information technology and employee compensation.

Tom Fielder is a former teacher, coach, school principal and mayor. He assumed the chair of the WWC MO Advisory Body in 2000 when he was mayor of Belleville and on the executive board of the CWW. Fielder's dedication to the needs of "challenged youth" has kept him actively engaged in the oversight of GW's at risk programming and CMO operations. He also chairs the Southwest Community Team that supports WWC MO youth re-entering the community from residential placement.

Right now, such recognition of youth and adults who help them is especially important, Yagiela said. The agency is faced with new ways of doing things with fewer resources.

"To know that we still can be effective and it matters is very important," Yagiela said.

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The Health Care Association of Michigan (HCAM) would like to congratulate Four Seasons Nursing Center's recent CITATION FREE SURVEY.

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Staff with a team-approach makes admitting effortless at Four Seasons Rehabilitation & Nursing

Debra Labadie and Jill Taylor work as a team to help families understand the admissions process. Labadie is director of the department, Taylor, the admissions nurse. Both recommend families tour facilities they are considering. Four Seasons offers short and long-term care, is a Medicare and Medicaid provider, and accepts private insurance as well.

"If you decide you want your loved one here, let discharge planners at the hospital know or the social worker at another nursing home," said Labadie.



(L to R) Debra Labadie and Jill Taylor

A resident of another nursing home asked to be moved to Four Seasons because of its size. The facility is large, accommodates 180 patients and has long, wide hallways for walking and socializing.

"You should make your decision based on needs," said Labadie. "We make sure we properly meet the resident's needs."

Labadie educates families about Four Seasons' services such as 24-hour nursing care, in-house dialysis for end stage renal disease (including tracheostomy patients), respiratory therapy, a secured dementia unit, cardiac rehabilitation, and physical, occupational and speech therapies. In-wall oxygen and suction were recently installed in patient rooms.

"We're a skilled nursing facility," said Taylor, an R.N. (registered nurse). "We make sure they're medically acceptable, for our Memory Care Unit that they have no aggressive behaviors, that they're more a wander risk."

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PPN steps in to help with monument to Revolutionary War soldier

BY MATT JACHMAN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The Plymouth Preservation Network, a nonprofit dedicated to protecting the area's historical legacy, has stepped up to honor a Revolutionary War soldier whose remains are thought to be buried in Plymouth.

The PPN has a fund-raiser scheduled for 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. Friday, March 11, at Canton Coney Island, 8533 North Lilley, at Joy Road, Canton Township. Customers should



Pappas

bring a flier from the Hoisington Memorial Fund, and 25 percent of the day's proceeds from those who use the flier will be dedicated to the nonprofit fund.

Titus Hoisington was a teenage member of local militias in Vermont during the Revolutionary War years of 1778 and 1780. He moved to Panama (now Salem) Township in Michigan

late in life, and died in 1841 in his late 70s.

Research by Garry Packard, who has studied several Plymouth-area cemeteries, indicates Hoisington is among those whose remains lie near the First Presbyterian Church in Plymouth, where there was a cemetery, called "The Hill," in the 1800s. Many, but not all, of those buried there were later moved to Riverside Cemetery.

Hoisington is the only soldier from the Revolutionary War era thought to be buried in the area.

Plymouth resident John Pappas, who spearheaded a fund drive in the 1980s for a memorial to local Vietnam-era veterans, is raising money to build and install a memorial to Hoisington on First Presbyterian Church grounds.

"This is going to be a real jewel for Plymouth," he said.

The fund-raising goal is \$6,000; a downpayment of nearly \$950 is due to Simpson Granite shortly. Dedication of the memorial is planned for the Fourth of July.

Hoisington is the sixth great-

grandfather, on her father's side, of Patty Roberts of East Lansing. Her husband Mike, a firefighter paramedic in a neighboring community, had been researching the family tree and, independent of Packard, found the family's connection to Hoisington.

To print out the coupon needed for the March 11 fundraiser at Canton Coney Island, go to the website www.plymouthpreservation.org/3-11-fundraiser.pdf.

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Schools brace for deep budget hole

BY BRAD KADRICH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

It's not like the financial picture for Plymouth-Canton Community Schools officials was rosy before Gov. Rick Snyder announced his budget plan Thursday.

But Snyder's plan — which includes taking \$400 million from the school aid fund to finance community colleges and a \$470 per-student cut in foundation funding — has administrators scrambling to figure out how to fill a hole in their budget estimated now at some \$15.9 million.

District administration had already built in a reduction of some \$341 due to the loss of federal stimulus money and other one-time funding that has propped up recent budgets. Still, the governor's plan adds some \$3.5 million to the projected deficit.

"We were assuming the \$170 decrease (from last year) would carry over, and we took away all the one-time funding," said James Larson-Shidler, the district's assistant superintendent for business services. "Based on what (Snyder's) been saying, we had indications this was the direction he was going, and we started planning for it."

While that planning began in earnest with budget committee meetings in late November, the full Board



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

State Rep. Kurt Heise said of Gov. Rick Snyder's first budget plan: "Everyone agrees we have to do things differently."

of Education will meet with administration for a parameter-setting session March 9. As the budget planning process gets started, parents are concerned the district will have to make cuts that reach all the way into classrooms, something they've thus far largely been able to avoid.

"I know one approach previously used by the board was to ask departments how they would cut 10 percent each year, but you can't do that approach consistently or you just make everything thin," said Stephanie Goecke, a Plymouth resident with two children in the district. "Whomever creates the next

budget will have to consider ways to keep core programs strong. Sometimes it is better to do fewer things if you still do them well."

State Rep. Kurt Heise, R-Plymouth Township, while noncommittal on his support for the education cut, said the Legislature will "do our due diligence on the budget," but said "everybody's in agreement we've got to do something different."

"It's going to be very tough on school districts around the state that are already on the edge," Heise said. "Schools must keep money in the classrooms."

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PENSION

FROM PAGE A1

package for 2011-12 that was announced Thursday. The plan will be under discussion in the state House of Representatives and Senate; Snyder has asked lawmakers to finalize a budget by the end of May.

"I don't feel great about it," Judy Hudson, a lawyer from Plymouth, said of the removing the exemptions on taxing pensions. She said she understands the need to raise money to fix budget problems, but isn't sure retired people receiving pensions under \$45,000 should have them taxed.

"For a lot of people, older people living on a fixed income, they just don't need any burden," she said.

Besides, Hudson added, employers have been moving away from pensions in recent years, as more introduce so-called defined contribution plans, such as 401(k) plans. That could mean the revenue from a pension tax will diminish as the years pass, she said.

FUNDING

FROM PAGE A1

Dwyer says he's unfazed. The city's general-fund budget is just over \$7 million.

"We're going to get more efficient and still provide qual-

"The young people today, they don't even expect pensions anyway," said Hudson, who has her own law practice but anticipates a pension from her career with another firm.

Mike Taylor of Plymouth Township said Snyder "had some good ideas in there," but he didn't like the part about taxing pensions.

"It's going to force some of the pensioners to move," and the state will lose the revenue anyway, Taylor said.

Michigan is one of just three states that exempts most or all pension income from taxation.

Currently, retirees are not taxed on the first \$45,120 of their company pensions (the threshold is \$90,240 for married couples filing jointly), and pensions for retired public employees, such as teachers and police officers, are not taxed by the state. Snyder's plan would remove those exemptions, and pensions "would be taxable from dollar one," said Terry Stanton, a spokesman in state Treasurer Andy Dillon's office.

The move would raise an estimated \$900,000 annually.

Social Security income is not currently taxed by the state, nor would it be under Snyder's plan, Stanton said.

Mahoney, the Ford retiree, said Snyder's revenue plan has an upside in its reduction of business taxes. Snyder wants to scrap the Michigan Business Tax, which has been criticized as burdensome and overly complex, and replace it with a flat 6-percent tax for companies that have public or private stock.

"If they make it more attractive, more businesses come here ... revenue goes up," Mahoney said.

Ken Currie of Plymouth Township also likes Snyder's push for lower corporate taxes, and said the size of state government needs to shrink.

Currie, who also receives a pension, said he could live with it being taxed.

"The state is in desperate shape, and if you want to be a resident of the state" and use services, you need to help pay the way, he said. "Obviously, not everyone's going to like it."

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ity services," the mayor said.

He used firefighting and emergency medical services as an example: The city is planning to leave the Plymouth Community Fire Department, which also serves Plymouth Township, at the end of the year. The city currently pays around \$1 million annually toward the department, and officials working on alternatives, for both firefighting and emergency medical response, that would save the city money.

Snyder's plan wouldn't affect the revenue sharing guaranteed by the state constitution, which is estimated at

\$577,000 for this fiscal year.

Dwyer said he welcomes the governor's proposal to make some future state aid an incentive dependent on each community's ability to increase efficiencies and adopt so-called best practices.

"If he makes it competitive, hell, we're ready for that," Dwyer said. "I'd put the city of Plymouth up against anybody."

In Plymouth Township, statutory revenue sharing is estimated at only \$2,699 for the current fiscal year. That would go away under Snyder's budget. The township's statutory revenue sharing has been cut dramatically over several recent years.

"We're going to continue to make cuts," said Supervisor Richard Reaume, who did not offer specifics.

However, the township's share of constitutional revenue sharing for this state fiscal year is estimated at more than \$1.7 million. The township's general-fund budget totals about \$12.7 million this year.

"The focus is on jobs," Heise said. "The business climate in this state is going to be fundamentally transformed."

Wes Graff, executive director of the Plymouth Area Chamber of Commerce, also endorsed the proposal to axe the MBT, which he said would affect mainly larger firms.

Graff also gave thumbs-up to a proposed tax revision he said would benefit smaller businesses: Snyder seeks to have smaller firms pay taxes through their owners' income taxes and not burden them with an additional business tax, Graff said.

"He's definitely on the right track with all of this," Graff said.

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11:15, 1:45, 4:15, 6:55, 9:25
FRI/SAT LS 11:55

UNKNOWN (PG-13)
11:00, 1:30, 4:20, 7:00, 9:35
FRI/SAT LS 12:00

BIG MOMMAS LIKE FATHER, LIKE SON (PG-13)
12:00, 2:25, 4:45, 7:10, 9:40
FRI/SAT LS 12:00

GNOME AND JULIET (G)
11:10, 1:15, 3:15, 5:15, 7:15, 9:15
FRI/SAT LS 11:15

3D JUSTIN BIEBER: NEVER SAY NEVER (G)
\$2.50 PREMIUM PER 3D TICKET
11:20, 2:00, 4:25, 6:45, 9:00
FRI/SAT LS 11:20

THE EAGLE (PG-13)
11:50, 2:20, 4:50, 7:20, 9:50
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11:40, 2:15, 4:40, 7:05, 9:30
FRI/SAT LS 11:50

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EEF

FROM PAGE A1

Organizers said the generosity of Schoolcraft College, where former Plymouth-Canton Community Schools Superintendent Jim Ryan is now on staff, and of Busch's Markets, which agreed to be a ticket-selling destination and coordinated with wine merchants to donate the wine for the event.

"(Schoolcraft) was able to be quite generous with the hall, and Busch's is being quite generous not only in donating the wine but in providing a service (ticket sales) that is very helpful to us," said Scott Ragland, who is chairing the anniversary event for the EEF. "I don't know that we'd have been able to pull it off without either of them."

And while the EEF obviously hopes the event is successful from a fundraising standpoint — "That is what we're formed to do," Ragland pointed out — officials obviously believe there's much to celebrate.

The original vision came about 30 years ago, according to EEF long-timers, from a parent of kids (John Lore) in the district who, at the time was president of the Michigan Colleges Foundation and felt "those of us in public education needed to do something similar."

"In the initial years, it suffered a little bit because administrators and new board members didn't understand what it was all about," said Steve Harper, a former Board of Education member who is currently the EEF's treasurer. "It was viewed more as a glorified PTO. It began to evolve into something more signifi-



The annual P-CCS Open golf outing is a huge fundraiser for the Educational Excellence Foundation.

cant, and began to fulfill the original vision."

It took the foundation two years to be able to start funding grants, and in 1987 handed out more than \$2,200 to teachers, the smallest of which (\$117.45) went to Sweet, then a fifth-grade teacher at Gallimore Elementary School.

Over the years, the EEF has handed out more than \$200,000 in scholarships, more than \$300,000 in classroom grants and more than \$200,000 for summer academies designed to teach students who fall behind in reading and math.

Kody, whose triplets started in Plymouth-Canton's Plus Preschool,

went to Isbister Elementary and are now eighth-graders at West Middle School, said she's got a "unique position" of being not only an employee but a stakeholder in the district.

FOUNDATION EVOLVES

She said the EEF has evolved over the years. When Kody, who moved to Canton with her husband in 1996, first started, she said, the EEF supported classroom enhancement grants, summer academies and acted as the fiduciary adviser for scholarship funds.

"Now we develop partnerships with community members, organizations and businesses," Kody said. "We provide opportunities for com-

munity involvement. We manage and administer PTO and booster group funds. We manage endowed funds to support grants, projects and scholarship funds. We facilitate donations from those who want to contribute, make a difference or leave a legacy. We have an investment policy and conservatively manage the funds that have come into the organization."

And they do it all well enough that Sweet, who retired in 1995, went to the EEF five years ago to establish a \$50,000 endowment that funds grants to teachers who taught at Gallimore and scholarships to students who did their learning there.

Everything is funneled through the EEF back to Sweet, who makes the final decisions on everything. "I loved teaching, so I wanted to do something nice for teachers and the kids," Sweet said. "It made me feel good, and it would do something nice for my students. I was able to do it, and I wanted to do it."

That's the value of having the foundation in the district. According to Kody, it's an independent, community-based nonprofit existing "solely to benefit Plymouth-Canton Community Schools."

"It's been supporting excellence in education for 25 years," Kody said. "We are the one true vehicle for charitable giving to the school district. We are committed to helping all Plymouth-Canton Community Schools' students achieve their highest potential by attracting, managing and distributing charitable gifts to support educational excellence."

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FREEDOM

FROM PAGE A1

said those tenets are already taught in public schools.

In fact, they said, federal law requires schools to teach the U.S. Constitution on Sept. 17, which is Constitution Day. Those lessons aren't just a one-time thing, officials pointed out, but part of yearlong teaching.

"It's not something we teach for just a week," said Kay Elaster, the district's social studies curriculum coordinator. "It's part of what we teach all semester, all year."

Colbeck said public schools "owe it to our students and our posterity" to encourage students to appreciate "not only the contents of our founding documents but also the reasons why these documents are captured in the form that they are."

"Freedom is not free," Colbeck said. "It not only requires the service our men and women in the armed services, it requires vigilance in the classroom to instill an appreciation for our system of government if that system is to continue for future generations."

Darrin Silvester, a social studies teacher who teaches government at Salem High School, said all of those values are taught as part of the district's core curriculum. He criticized Colbeck as "one more legislator who has no clue about education trying to tell educators how to teach."

"If I were to teach lessons in freedom and liberty, I strongly believe (Colbeck) would think I'm trying to indoctrinate children with a view contrary to what his would be," Silvester said. "It's one more example of someone who believes, because he was elected, he knows what he's talking about. I don't think any of them (legislators) have a clue."

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BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Matt Watroba (right, with Robert Jones) will be dealing at the WSDP record show Saturday, Feb. 26.

Radio host deals at WSDP record show

Matt Watroba will participate as a dealer at the 88.1FM Record/CD/Music Memorabilia Show on Saturday, Feb. 26, at Salem High School. The show runs 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Salem High School Cafeteria.

Watroba will be selling much of his large collection of music. He was a long time public radio host in the Detroit area on WDET and WEMU. His collection spans many genres including folk, country, American, bluegrass and blues.

He currently hosts the Sing Out Radio Magazine, Wednesdays at 11 a.m. on WSDP 88.1-FM. The syndicated show is also heard on stations across the country. He also is a folk music artist and he serves as an announcer

and producer for Folkalley.com and WKSU at Kent State University.

"We're excited to have Matt participating in our show," said Bill Keith, Station Manager of WSDP. "He is a wonderful addition to our great line up of dealers. I can't wait to see the music he has for sale."

Collectors who attend the 88.1-FM Record Show will find thousands of vinyl records, CDs, import only releases, 45s, T-shirts, posters, and other collectibles. The music will span many genres including rock, jazz, pop, country, r&b and folk. The show will also feature special giveaways and door prizes.

Tickets are \$3, \$5 for early admission between 9 and 10 a.m., and free for Canton, Plymouth and Salem stu-

dents. Ticket proceeds will benefit WSDP, and will help the station to continue serving the community with unique programming and broadcast training for students.

Dealer tables are also still available for \$30 for an eight-foot table. Interested dealers can contact the station at (734) 416-7732 or by e-mail at bill.keith@pccsmail.net

Salem High School is located at 46181 Joy Rd., at the corner of Joy and Canton Center in Canton, Michigan.

WSDP is staffed by students at Canton, Plymouth and Salem High Schools. The station has been serving the community since Feb. 14, 1972. More about the station can be found at www.881TheEscape.com.

ON CAMPUS

Grand Valley

Sarah M. Thomas of Canton was named to the Dean's List at Grand Valley State University. She earned at least 12 grade-point credits at an average of 3.5 or higher.

Thomas is a sophomore at Grand Valley. She was on the dean's list the last three semesters including this one. She is the daughter of Tim and Donna Thomas of Canton.

Spring Arbor

Lauren Valentine of Plymouth made the Spring Arbor University Fall 2010 Academic Honors List

The Academic Honors List recognizes full-time students who have received a grade point average of 3.7 or higher for the semester. Part-time students must receive a 3.7 GPA for the semester and carry a cumulative 3.7 GPA.

Spring Arbor University is a private, four-year Christian liberal arts university located eight miles west of Jackson, Mich. With total enrollment around 4,200, the University

is affiliated with the Free Methodist Church of North America and is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission.

Valentine, a senior majoring in Language Arts-Elementary, is the daughter of John and Marcia Valentine.

Northern Michigan

Several local students made the Dean's List for the Fall 2010 semester at Northern Michigan University.

Qualifying with a grade-point average of 4.0 were Ashley Olson of Canton and Bethany Grysko of Plymouth.

Qualifying with a GPA of 3.25-3.99 were Bryanne Bellovary, Zachary Fairchild, Andrew Lane and Amy Markey of Canton and Nathan Bachert, Katherine Bedenis, Zaenger Doyle, Lukasz Kokoszka, Samantha McPartlin, Rachel Pawlowski and Kaitlyn Salo of Plymouth.

Olivet College

A total of 315 students have been named to the Olivet College fall semester Dean's

List.

To make the Dean's List, a student must be full-time and earn a grade point average of 3.5 or higher.

Among those making the list were Lindsey Winters of Plymouth and Anthony Pomerson of Canton.

Albion College

Local student Joseph Thomas has been accepted into the Albion College Institute for Premedical Professions and Health Sciences.

The Healthcare Institute assists students from all academic disciplines in exploring and preparing for graduate study and employment in medicine, health services and administration. In addition, the Institute sponsors guest speakers and other activities for the entire campus.

Joseph Thomas is a member of the Prentiss M. Brown Honors Program. He is the son of Patrick Thomas of Plymouth and Nina Thomas of Belleville and a graduate of Plymouth-Canton High School.

SCHOOL BRIEFS

GEMS registration

Middle School girls interested in participating in the 2011 Girls Excel in Math and Science (GEMS) need to register by Feb. 28.

The half-day event, which takes place on Saturday, April 2, at Plymouth High School, is \$20 for a student/parent pair (no fee for free/reduced lunch students). Registration flyers are available at P-CCS middle schools and on the district website at www.pccs.k12.mi.us

GEMS is a conference for middle school girls focused on careers involving math and science. The middle school years are seen as decisive for girls choosing challenging math and science courses in high school. This conference showcases some of the career paths open to girls with strong math and

science backgrounds. Plymouth-Canton Community Schools and Livonia Public Schools host the conference. Any student in the Plymouth-Canton community, including those in the non-public schools, is eligible to attend.

For additional information, call Megan Fenech at (734) 416-3010, or e-mail megan.fenech@pccsmail.net.

Preschool open house

Plymouth-Canton Community Schools Early Childhood Programs will have Open House at their preschool sites on Tuesday, March 8, and Thursday, March 10, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Call the Early Childhood Office for specific locations or visit the website at web.pccs.k12.mi.us/earlychildhood.



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SOCIAL SECURITY

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

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

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

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



eligible for these benefits. He offers free phone or office consultations. If Bieske represents you, there will be no fee charged until after the case is won. The fee is a percentage of retroactive benefits.

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

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

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BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Wayne County Commissioner Kevin McNamara hopes to protect youth programs but make them more cost-effective as he chairs the new Youth Services Committee.

McNamara chairs youth issue panel

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Saying the brunt of county budget cuts has fallen on children, Wayne County Commissioner Kevin McNamara will chair a new Youth Services Committee amid hopes of protecting programs aimed at helping troubled youngsters and rescuing them from a potential life of crime and jail.

McNamara, D-Canton, said county and state funding for a wide array of youth programs and services already has been slashed from \$225 million to \$200 million within the last two years, and he fears deeper cuts could loom as the county continues to face declining revenues.

"I think it's important to get in front of this problem before we lose good programs," he said Thursday.

McNamara is spearheading the Youth Services Committee in hopes of finding cost-effective ways to protect foster care, Head Start, alternative work programs, youth-assistance services, Growth Works, indigent child care, court-diversion efforts and the juvenile justice system. He said the safety net designed to protect children's health and safety is at risk.

McNamara said the vast majority of local youths who get in trouble succeed at reversing their behavior if they get the early intervention and help they need for truancy, drug and alcohol use, loitering, retail fraud and other problems.

Jim Hand, a youth probation officer at 35th District Court in Plymouth, said first-time offenders benefit from diversion programs such as a so-called teen court — a jury of peers in Plymouth-Canton schools that can impose counseling, community service and other punishment. Youths who stay out of trouble keep their record clean.

"It makes a huge difference," Hand said. "If you don't have

these kinds of programs, it's possible for children to slip through the cracks."

Hand said taxpayers ultimately pay less money for diversion programs and other proactive efforts than they would if unruly behavior is ignored, potentially leading to incarceration in juvenile facilities and, eventually, adult prison.

McNamara said Canton, Plymouth and several other Wayne County communities already benefit from a multi-pronged effort by local police, court probation officers and Growth Works to assess problems and find the appropriate help for youngsters.

"They get tag-teamed by these people," he said.

Those efforts cost as little as \$65 a day for a troubled youngster, compared to a price tag he said can potentially reach \$600 a day for a teen who ends up in the juvenile justice system.

McNamara conceded that, amid declining revenues, youth programs compete for funding alongside Wayne County jails, the prosecutor's office and other critical departments and services. But he said taxpayers can face a more costly tab if youth problems are ignored.

Gov. Rick Snyder, in his first State of the State address in January, said communities need to find smarter ways to combine their resources and provide a wide array of services at all levels of government.

Last year, some county officials had indicated support for trimming five juvenile justice care management organizations, or CMOs, to two, with a projected savings of \$9.6 million. However, the county ultimately backed away from the proposal.

However, McNamara said for every \$1 the county slashes from its youth-services budget, it loses \$1 in combined state and federal funding — a situation he said only deepens problems for youth programs. He hopes county officials can reach an accord with the state.

Best in class

Plymouth McDonald's manager honored with prestigious award

BY MATT JACHMAN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Peggy Sikora gets a little choked up when she talks about her career at McDonald's, where she's gone from teenage crew member to one of an elite class of managers recognized as the best in the business.

Sikora, the general manager of the McDonald's on Ann Arbor Road in Plymouth, is a winner of the 2010 Ray Kroc award, which honors just 1 percent of the managers at the thousands of McDonald's in the U.S. Sikora is one of just 141 managers across the country, including five in Michigan, to receive the award.

"She's committed to her employees and her management team and she's very committed to the customers she serves," said Sikora's supervisor, Jason Breitner, who nominated her for the Kroc award, named for the late founder of the fast-food chain.

"Sikora has 'exceptional' leadership skills and 'a passion for motivating her people,'" improved both dine-in and drive-through sales at her restaurant, is involved in the community, especially in helping local schools with fundraisers, and her restaurant gets high marks for quality, service and cleanliness, Breitner said.

For her part, Sikora, of Belleville, praises the McDonald's system.

'BEST THING I COULD'VE DONE'

"They're just great with their people. The training is by far the best in the industry," said Sikora, who has twice attended McDonald's famous Hamburger University to learn about team-building, business development, hiring, training and decision-making. "McDonald's has just taught me to have the best leadership skills a person could ask for."

Sikora grew up in Redford Township and started her



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Peggy Sikora's McDonald's career has taken her from teenage crew member to one of an elite class of managers recognized as the best in the business.

career in 1992 as a crew member at the McDonald's at Five Mile and Middlebelt.

"I had no idea what I was getting into," she said. "It was the best thing I could've done in my entire life."

At 18, she was promoted to shift manager, and she's worked at several other McDonald's before landing in Plymouth about 10 years ago.

Sikora now oversees three assistant managers, seven shift managers and 70 crew members. She's said she's motivated by a strong work ethic and the pride she takes in doing a good job.

"I can't walk out the door if I see a line of customers," she said.

"The saying at McDonald's is, 'You've got ketchup in your blood,'" said Suzanne Sudek, a McDonald's marketing manager.

RECORD-SETTING

The Plymouth location has won several company awards during Sikora's tenure, includ-

ing Outstanding Restaurant in 2004 and 2006. Last April, it set a statewide McDonald's record for drive-through sales, serving 162 vehicles in an hour during breakfast with its two-lane drive-through operation.

"I know that I have helped build the business here," Sikora said. She prides herself on learning the names of regular customers, including a group of six to eight men who gather nearly every morning and call themselves the Knights of the Round Table.

Breitner, her supervisor, said she also helps him with his work overseeing five McDonald's in the area, and helps the regional group of about 30 restaurants of which those five are a part. She stepped up last year when Breitner took a three-month leave of absence, he said.

Sikora will travel to McDonald's headquarters in the Chicago area in April to formally receive her award and

have dinner with other winners and corporate executives.

NEW LOOK FOR RESTAURANT

Sikora's Ray Kroc award comes during the McDonald's grand reopening after major interior renovations, during which the dine-in portion of the restaurant was closed for about six weeks. The restaurant reopened on Dec. 31; formal ceremonies were held last month.

The interior now features new seating, a new color scheme, two television sets installed at a snack-bar-type seating area, and additional electrical outlets for customers using laptop computers.

It was the first remodeling since 1999; the location dates from the 1970s.

"We're constantly looking to keep current and contemporary with our stores," Sudek said.

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