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MOTORCYCLES
PUBLIC SAFETY, PAGE A4**

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FOOD, B7

THURSDAY
February 10, 2011

The Observer & Eccentric
Newspapers

Volume 36
Number 66

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CAFE
**CANTON
OBSERVER**

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CONNECTION
Valentine gala

The Village Theater at Cherry Hill is the site for the Valentine's Gala Saturday. Refreshments start flowing around 6:30 p.m., including drinks and strolling appetizers, followed by 8 p.m. love-



Dorrie Milan, Geoff Kinde and Patty Dunn are ready for Saturday's Valentine's Gala at the Village Theater.

themed performances by a variety of the Village Theater's resident arts groups. The evening is capped off with dessert and an afterglow.

Tickets are \$25 for adults, \$10 for youth 18 and younger. They're available online at www.cantonvillage.com or by calling (734) 394-5300.

Bee cause

Beekeeping classes begin Saturday, Feb. 12, with a second class to be scheduled in March. Students get to learn about bees and/or beekeeping from bee enthusiast Bob Jastrzebski.

Call Bob the Bee Guy at (734) 745-2185 for details on times and location, or visit his website at www.bobolinhoney.com.

Math whizzes

Five students from the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park rank in the top 100 math students in the State of Michigan.

The finalists are Plymouth High School student Brett Jia, Salem High School students Natasha Counsel, Peter Su and Scott Su, and Canton High School student Bryant Chen.

These students have qualified as finalists on Part II of the 54th Michigan Mathematics Prize Competition. This is the greatest number of students P-CEP has ever had finish in the top 100.

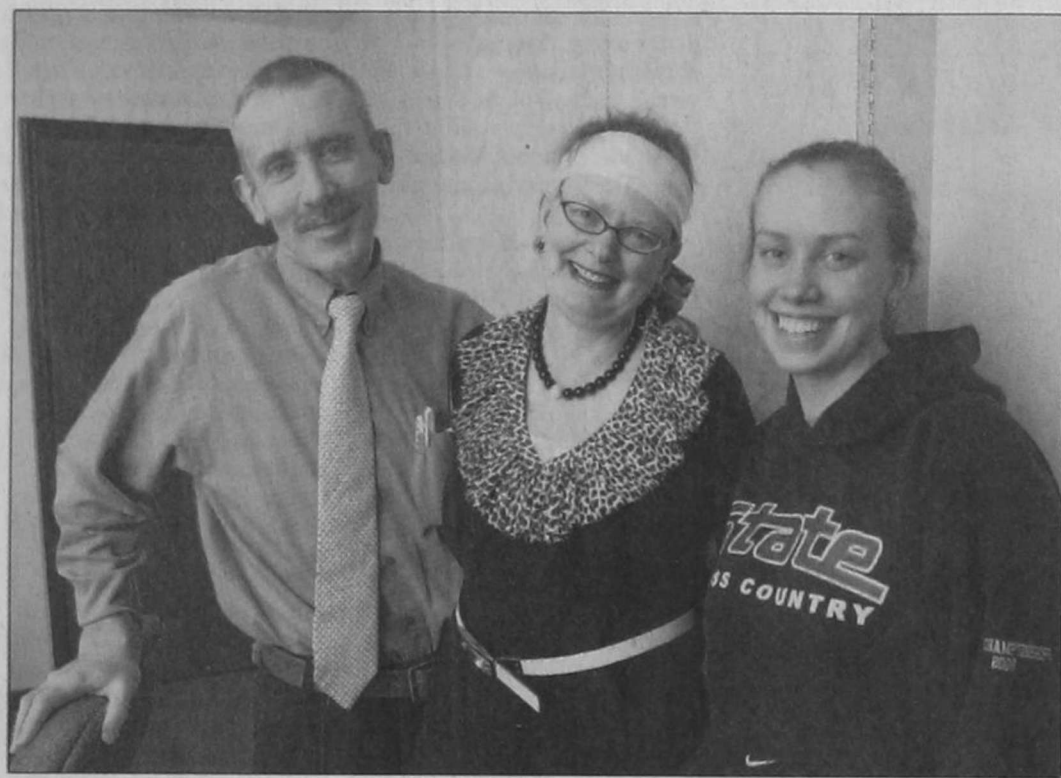
The exam consists of 40 multiple-choice questions involving topics from high school mathematics. From approximately 10,000 participants in Part I, the top 1,000 students are invited to take Part II of the MMPC. These students work on five challenging problems and write their solutions providing full justification and proof of their claims.

The students with the top 100 scores in the two parts of the competition are honored at an awards program. Approximately \$32,000 in scholarships ranging from \$500 to \$2,600 is awarded each year.

Euchre euphoria

The Canton Lions Club is calling all euchre players in south-east 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. Players can pre-register by March 10 for \$20 payable at the door by e-mailing lionsclubeuchre@yahoo.com. Contact Linda Obrec at (734) 945-6685 for more information.



Michael and Rachel McCormack will run the Chicago marathon, cheered on along the sidelines by daughter Becky.

Racing against time

Brain cancer patient determined to make marathon

BY BRAD KADRICH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Rachel McCormack is determined to run the Chicago Marathon in October, though there's one thing that might keep her from accomplishing that goal. She might not live that long. McCormack, a 52-year-old Canton resident, was diagnosed in May 2010 with Stage IV brain cancer, a disease doctors have told her — and she has finally accepted — is going to claim her life. And while there's some question as to when (she was given four-24 months at the time of the diagnosis), there's no question how much McCormack is going to let that prognosis determine what she does with whatever time she has left: Not at all.

"I decided that, even though my tumor will eventually end my life, I won't let it destroy my spirit," McCormack said. "I could easily let it take over my whole life, and at times it does. (But) I'm not going to let it dictate everything in my life."

McCormack, who with her husband owns MicroMax Inc., a software engineer-



Rachel McCormack of Canton hopes to run in the Chicago Marathon in October despite the Stage IV brain cancer from which she's suffering.

ing firm that designs and tests embedded control systems for the auto industry, decided she wanted to run the Chicago Marathon, which is scheduled for Oct. 9. She'd run the Free Press marathon in the early 1990s and had subsequently decided she'd run another when she reached her 50s.

RUNNING TO HELP

McCormack is determined to run in Chicago because

HELPING RACHEL

What: Rachel McCormack of Canton

What else: She's running the Chicago Marathon to benefit the American Brain Tumor Association

Why: The marathon benefits cancer research; McCormack is a Stage IV brain cancer patient

When: October 2011

How to help: She's already passed her minimum donation goal (\$800), but hopes to hit \$5,000. Help her at <http://hope.abta.org/goto/rachelmccormack> or at www.abta.org.

the marathon benefits the American Brain Tumor Association. She hasn't run one since 1993 and she's a little concerned about whether she can get herself in shape to do it.

"If I follow the regimen I found online, I think I'd be able to do it," McCormack said. "It's about your mental attitude and determination. You have to finish what you set out to do."

Please see **MARATHON, A5**

State toughens test standards

BY BRAD KADRICH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The State Board of Education's decision to toughen the standards for passing state standardized tests will have an impact even in districts such as Plymouth-Canton, students of which routinely outperform state and Wayne County averages, by raising the cut scores used to determine proficiency.

The new cut scores for test such as MEAP and the Michigan Merit Exam — the scores the state uses to determine whether a student is proficient in a given subject

— are still being worked out and are set to go into effect for the 2011-12 school year. That doesn't give local educators much time to make adjustments to keep their students proficient. And without significant improvement, schools could fall below Adequate Yearly Progress, the standard set in the federal No Child Left Behind Act.

"Because AYP is based on MEAP and MME results, there most likely would be fewer schools making AYP," said Mike Bender, Plymouth-Canton's director of secondary education.

"There's no question scores in Plymouth-Canton will be

lower, and a number of our schools will not make AYP as a result," he said.

According to Bender, the state looked at 2009 standardized results statewide, then recalculated them using potential new cut scores.

Bender explained that in the past districts that might have had 95 percent of their students proficient in third-grade math might see that number drop to 34 percent under the new model.

Because Plymouth-Canton scores have been largely in the 90-percent range for many

Please see **TEST, A3**

Crumbling road set for big fix

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

One of Canton's worst roads — the dreaded two-lane stretch where Sheldon Center curves off from Canton Center and becomes a pothole-plagued challenge all the way north to Joy Road — will get a \$5.2 million makeover starting this year.

Area residents and workers who drive along the crumbling road say relief is desperately needed. Just ask Chris Joiner, a Claymore Drive father of three who said he drives on Sheldon Center about four times a day.

"It's in horrible condition," Joiner said Monday morning, leaving the neighborhood Subway shop. "I thought I blew a tire out this morning."

Luckily he didn't, but Joiner and others are eager to see the one-mile stretch of road reconstructed, paved and widened from two lanes to five.

"I think it would be great for businesses here," said Brandon Barnett, who works for the neighborhood Cottage Inn Pizza shop. "It would be making progress. I know the road is in bad shape."

Wayne County, which is spearheading the project, is expected to award a contract by May or June. Canton Municipal Services Director Tim Faas said work could begin by mid-summer, though it likely will not be finished until late 2012 and will face a seasonal shutdown next winter.

"How much of it they will get done (this year) is really

the big question," Faas said.

BROAD SCOPE

The project will be broader in scope than the widening last year of Canton Center between Cherry Hill and Palmer. Consider why:

- A small east-west connector that runs between Sheldon Center and Sheldon Road will be widened from two lanes to three to accommodate a new traffic configuration.

- A small north-south stretch of road — just south of where Sheldon meets Sheldon Center — will be removed and transformed into green space. As a result, traffic on northbound Sheldon will be routed over to Sheldon Center a little sooner.

- In a decision to improve safety, a traffic light near Gallimore Elementary will be moved further south to Sheldon Center and the east-west connector, easing traffic congestion around the school.

"Right now traffic backs up right at the school, and pedestrian traffic isn't good, either," Faas said. "It will be reworked so that it's safer for the students, the parents and the buses."

TRAFFIC ISSUES

Plymouth-Canton school officials have long supported the road project, saying it will usher in vast improvements in traffic patterns near the school.

To be sure, Faas said, the Sheldon Center project is

Please see **ROAD, A3**



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Potentially dangerous potholes will be a thing of the past when Sheldon Center is rebuilt in a project expected to get started in spring.

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

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).

Children's nursery

The Plymouth Children's Nursery Cooperative Preschool hosts an open house for prospective families from 1-3 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 13. Parents and their children are welcome to visit and meet the teachers, learn about the

curriculum and tour the facility. Visit www.plymouthnursery.org for information regarding our preschool classes for 3 year olds, 4-5 year olds and Bilingual Spanish program for children ages 4-6 (enrichment for Kindergarten's). PCN Cooperative Preschool is located at 5825 N. Sheldon Road, on the west side of Sheldon Road, just north of Ford Road. Our preschool is across from the shopping center with "Dollar Tree." Parking is in front of Geneva Presbyterian Church.

To set up individual tours or for more information, call (734) 455-6250.

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>

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>



Band medals

Students from the Discovery Middle School Band participated in the Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association's District Solo and Ensemble Festival at Livonia Franklin High School. The festival was comprised of nearly 70 middle schools from the area with nearly 2,000 students participating. Twenty-eight Discovery Middle School Band students earned top honors, with each and every student earning medals of distinction, in either the superior or excellent categories. The student honorees include Prasanna Alavandi, Jenny Juterbock, Tiffany Askew, Bronson Knowles, Sydney Berquist, Alex LaForest, Mayuri Bharathan, Meghan Meredith, Lauren Bird, Anastasia Piwko, Alyssa Burke, Riley Reed, Gwen Carey, Emily Robledo, Ammar Chishti, Andy Shue, Sasha deBorchgrave, Jack Sutton, Eric Dorais, Zach Tinglan, Natalie George, Annika Topelian, Monique Gifford, Max Wilkinson, Rikuo Hasegawa, George Zhou, Te'Ahn Horton and Jacob Zygmunt.

Guitar heroes

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

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

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

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

Amarone dinner

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

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

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

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

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Canton replaces worn vehicles

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER



Nemecek

reason behind everything we buy."

Township-owned cars, including 24 police patrol cars, typically are driven to the 100,000-mile mark or longer before they are replaced. Nemecek said used cars are typically auctioned off with proceeds returning to local coffers.

Canton Municipal Services Director Tim Faas said the Michigan Municipal Risk Management Authority — a public-entity self-insurance pool that provides coverage to communities across Michigan — recommends replacing most vehicles, especially police patrol cars, by 100,000 miles.

"It's always been our objective to get as much useful life out of our vehicles as possible," Faas said.

By comparison, Michigan State Police usually replaces vehicles between 60,000 and 70,000 miles, while the International Association of

Chiefs of Police indicates that, on average, most police cars are driven to the 70,800-mile mark, local officials say.

The five new public safety vehicles will be purchased this year following a vote Tuesday by the Canton Township Board of Trustees.

Here's a closer look at what the township is buying through a state purchasing program:

- Three police patrol Ford Crown Victoria's will be bought for a total cost of \$62,661. Nemecek said they will replace vehicles with 120,870 miles, 101,900 miles and 99,930 miles, though the mileage will increase by the time replacement vehicles arrive.

- One fire administration Crown Victoria will be bought for \$20,644, replacing an older model which Nemecek said has about 127,000 miles.

- One police detective bureau vehicle, a 2000 Jeep Cherokee with 112,000 miles, will be replaced with a Ford Taurus for \$23,217.

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PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Chris Joiner lives in the neighborhood and travels Sheldon Center multiple times each day.

ROAD

FROM PAGE A1

expected to bring its share of construction-zone traffic problems. However, Wayne County road crews are hopeful of maintaining traffic in both directions along the north-south road, and Faas said officials are asking motorists, residents and businesses to remain patient while the project is in progress.

The project will not force any businesses to shut down or relocate, though Faas said some driveways may be altered.

Wayne County is paying the bulk of the project, estimated at \$5.2 million. Canton's share amounts to \$957,000 — money local officials set aside in 2008 in an intersection improvement fund.

Amid declining revenues, money for that fund has since been cut off, meaning the Sheldon Center project will likely be the last major road project to receive dollars from



Sheldon Center will be widened from two to five lanes.

that fund.

To accommodate the project, Canton also has chosen a contractor to lower about 100 feet of a 20-inch-wide water main that crosses under the Willow Creek.

Though construction efforts are expected to plague the area for more than a year, residents such as Joiner say they welcome the project.

"I'm glad it's coming — very glad," he said.

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Brandon Barnett, working at Cottage Inn Pizza, looks forward to the road improvement.

Building chief draws high praise

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER



Weyer

implementing new rules intended to force banks and other property owners to fix up vacant, foreclosed homes, and issuing

permits for everything from signs to fences.

Weyer oversees a staff of 10 employees — a number that shrank as Canton's rapid growth waned amid an economic recession. Through prosperous times and challenging years, local officials say Weyer's dedication to protecting this community's interests never faltered.

"John has led the Building and Inspection Services Division staff of the Municipal Services Department for the vast majority of Canton's rapid-growth years," MSD Director Tim Faas said. "More recently, John and his staff have transitioned to the 'new normal' in the development business.

"Throughout all of his career," Faas said, "John has effectively managed an incredible volume of work — all the time ensuring code compliance and delivering a high degree of customer service."

Weyer's award as Outstanding Building Official came as a committee of his peers singled him out among similar officials in Wayne, Oakland, Macomb and St. Clair counties.

Weyer was hired in Canton in 1986 as a deputy building official. Prior to that, he had a construction background and worked for a commercial home-building company. He and wife Lisa, an executive assistant in the Canton Municipal Services Department, live in Canton, have two grown children and two grandchildren.

Weyer said his job has allowed him to interact with local residents, Canton employees and township officials — all while striving to protect the community's interests as its building official. The nature of his position has, at times, drawn the ire of builders and residents who were upset that they had to pay more money to fix a building-related problem.

Weyer takes it all in stride.

"I always try to be open-minded and fair," he said, and ultimately it's his job to address building-related issues. "It's a matter of safety."

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TEST

FROM PAGE A1

of the district's scores, Bender said, the drop in proficiency "likely would be similar for us."

The state is responding to a push by the U.S. Department of Education to make sure students are better-positioned for success when they go on to college and the working world.

It's a push local officials support, even though it will make success harder to deter-

mine, even in a district like Plymouth-Canton, where for the first time last year all schools made AYP.

"The bottom line is they're hoping to raise expectations, raise the level of academic rigor so our students are even stronger as they finish grade 12," Bender said.

"We want our kids to be well-positioned, not only to excel within our state, but also if they choose to move outside the state, we want them to be well-positioned to succeed."

The higher cut scores will

make it a challenge for teachers to get students proficient. The new standards, local officials said, will raise the "sense of urgency" to strengthen student skills.

"We have to make sure we're ever more focused on the content of our curriculum and, more importantly, on (teaching) strategies," said Cindy Swift, Plymouth-Canton's assistant superintendent for instruction.

"Are we giving students every chance to learn what they need to learn? It's a challenge," Swift said.

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BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Video cameras and audio equipment, already the norm on patrol cars, will be mounted on police motorcycles — a decision local officials say can protect officers against any false claims made by unruly, angry motorists who happen to get pulled over.

Canton police add video cameras to motorcycles

BY DARRELL CLEM
 OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

When four Canton police officers rev up their Harley-Davidsons and head out on the highway looking for law-breakers, they'll have a new crime-fighting tool on their side.

Video cameras and audio equipment, already the norm on patrol cars, will be mounted on police motorcycles — a decision local officials say can protect officers against any false claims made by unruly, angry motorists who happen to get pulled over.

"It helps us in liability cases, and it helps us in court with traffic stops," Public Safety

Director Patrick Nemecek said.

Motorcycle police officers account for less than 10 percent of Canton's police force, yet they have over 20 percent of the department's traffic stops. Last year alone, Harley officers stopped 4,375 motorists.

Now, those officers will have the same video protection as their patrol car counterparts after the Canton Township Board of Trustees voted Tuesday to spend \$19,262 to buy the equipment from a company, L3 Mobile-Vision, that has become the sole provider of so-called Cyclevision cameras.

Township Supervisor Phil

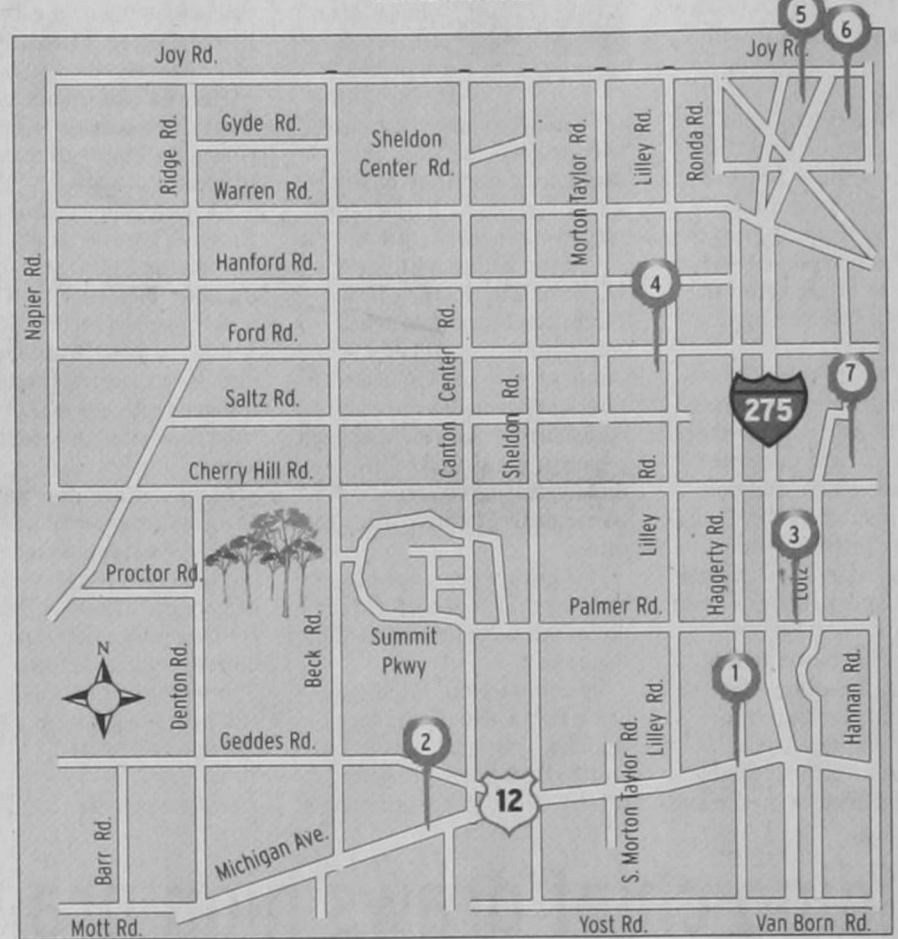
LaJoy said the motorcycle cameras potentially could save the township money by recording traffic stops and protecting officers against potentially false accusations that they overstepped their authority. LaJoy said the officers typically ride their motorcycles eight months of the year.

Though all of the township's patrol cars already have the video equipment, Nemecek said the same tools previously hadn't been available for motorcycle units.

"We've been waiting for the technology to catch up with the motorcycles," he said.

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CRIME WATCH



Cash grab

1 A man told police he was inside the Marathon gas station at Michigan Avenue and Haggerty when a suspect grabbed a \$10 bill out of his hand and fled.

The incident happened about 2 p.m. Sunday. The man told police the suspect went to a brown Ford Focus parked at a gas pump, got into the passenger side and fled east on Michigan Avenue with the driver.

The suspect was described as a black male wearing a black leather jacket with red lettering.

Theft attempt

2 Police went to the Home Depot store on Michigan

Avenue west of Canton Center following reports that a man had struggled with a loss prevention employee after he was caught trying to steal several items of merchandise.

The incident happened shortly after 2:30 p.m. Friday, and the suspect, who had a prior retail fraud conviction, was arrested on suspicion of first-degree retail fraud.

Police said a small bag of marijuana also was found on him.

The Home Depot employee told police he usually works at the Dearborn store but was in Canton when he noticed the suspect from an earlier incident at the Dearborn store. He said he watched him take merchandise and conceal it in his clothing.

The employee told police he approached the suspect, who resisted him. The employee forced the suspect to the ground and handcuffed him until police arrived.

Car invasion

3 A man who lives on Bluesprings Court, northwest of Palmer and Lotz, reported to police that someone had rummaged through two of his cars, including one that was parked in his garage.

He said the incident happened during the morning hours Saturday.

The man told police he had gone to bed and parked his 2006 Acura in his driveway. He said he woke up the next morning to find someone had gone through it.

The man also noticed his garage door had been raised and that someone had gone through a 2005 Mercury Mountaineer parked inside the garage.

He said nothing appeared to be missing from either vehicle.

Gators gotcha

4 Canton police arrested a man for larceny in a building and possession of a stolen credit card following an incident that happened shortly after 10:30 p.m. Sunday at T.C. Gators, a bar on Ford Road west of Lilley.

Police received a call after a man was seen rummaging through an employee's unattended purse, according to a police report.

A witness told police he saw the man going through the woman's purse. The suspect was confronted after the victim's cell phone fell out of his pocket.

Police arrived, searched the suspect and found the victim's credit card in his pocket. He initially tried to tell police the card belonged to another woman he had given a ride the previous night. He said she left it in his car, not realizing the credit card's owner was actually a T.C. Gator employee who was on the job at the time, the police report said.

The man denied going through anyone's purse, but he was arrested after police found the credit card on him.

Monte Carlo make-off

5 A man told Canton police his 2007 Chevrolet Monte Carlo was stolen while it was parked near his apartment on Brookepark, southwest of I-275 and Joy Road, sometime Monday.

The man said he believed he locked the car and later noticed it missing when he went outside to go for a walk. He said his mother had the only set of spare keys, and he had checked with her to confirm she didn't take the car.

Chevy swiped

6 A woman who lives on Honeycomb, southeast of I-275 and Joy Road, told police she woke up last Friday morning and realized someone had stolen her car, a Chevy HHR. She said she had heard her dog bark the night before, which she said is normal when someone is in the hallway outside her apartment.

The woman told police she believes she left her keys on the table, though she wasn't completely sure.

Vehicle vanishing

7 A woman who left her 2004 Dodge Caravan running on Cherry Hill Pointe, northeast of Lotz and Cherry Hill, said someone stole it while she went inside her house to shut a garage door and lock her front door.

She came out and found the vehicle missing, along with a purse that had credit cards and a cell phone in it.

The incident happened about 10:45 a.m. last Thursday.

— Compiled by Darrell Clem from Canton Police Department reports

the great indoors

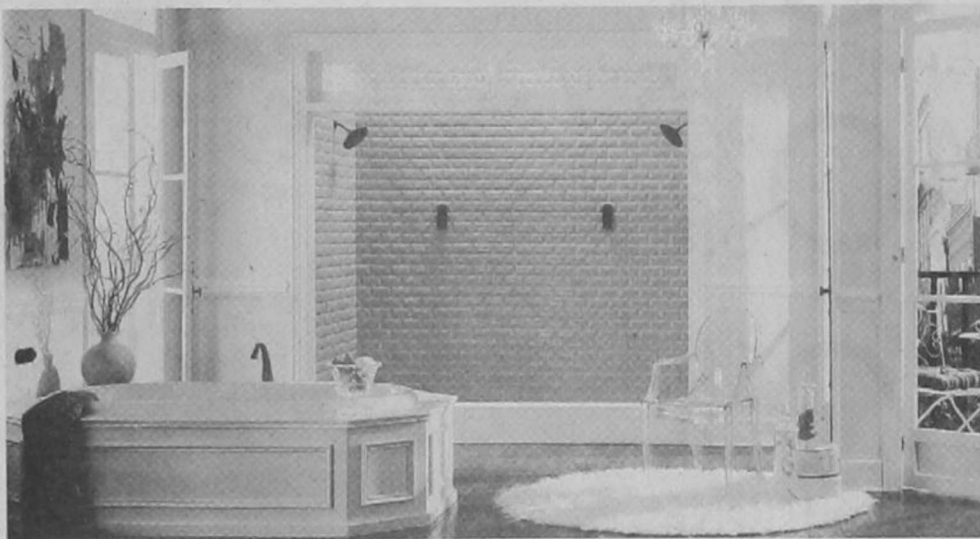
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MARATHON

FROM PAGE A1

The biggest question is time. McCormack was diagnosed in May 2010 after her primary care physician set her up for an MRI following some mysterious weight loss, which to that point, she said, had been her only real symptom.

The test, done at the University of Michigan, confirmed the diagnosis, which was then delivered to her by a less-than-delicate doctor who told her simply, "You have a brain tumor and it's going to cause your death."

"That was pretty awful," McCormack recalled. "Since then, everything in my life has changed. It's all upside down. I have a lot of adjustments to make."

Doctors attacked the tumor with surgery, which she said removed "90 percent of the cancerous tissue," but left some "tentacles" behind. She's done radiation and chemo since but doctors, she said, seem less than optimistic that much has improved.

BRINGING IN HELP

Her hands don't work like they used to, so the knitting, crocheting and other handicrafts she enjoyed aren't possible. Her vision has been affected — she can't see colors as well — so she can't do the jigsaw puzzles she liked to do. Riding a motorcycle is out of the question.

"I bought one two years ago, and I was just getting good at it when this happened," she said, showing a rueful smile.

She can't see well enough to avoid things like potholes, so her husband, 54-year-old Mike McCormack, is also training to run the marathon with her, as will a sister.

She can't work like she used to, so daughter Becky gave up her job in the insurance industry to come home and help run the family business, something



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPH

Rachel McCormack was diagnosed with a Stage IV brain tumor in May 2010, a diagnosis she said "turned my life upside down."

she'd worked at in the past. It was a necessary move, with her parents worried about keeping the business going, but one that still brings a nagging guilt for McCormack.

"I hate that she had to give up her job ... having her here is a huge help to me," McCormack said. "I was worried about how we were going to keep the business going if I wasn't able to make it."

It's a guilt Becky McCormack said she understands, but is totally unnecessary.

WHO'S THE BOSS?

"It's a good job to have and it's nice to be back here to help out," Becky McCormack said. "I like being here ... I'm only 22, so if I want another job, I'm sure I can get one. I don't have to have the 'dream job' right now."

Becky, who ran cross coun-

try at Canton High School (as did sister Sarah, a 2003 grad) and at Michigan State, will sit out the Chicago marathon, instead cheering on "Team McCormack" from the sidelines. Rachel's husband, Mike, isn't as lucky. He agreed to run the marathon with his wife.

"She talked about it, and it was a snowball effect, and all of a sudden *we* were doing it," Mike McCormack said with a smile.

The McCormacks have been training — Rachel recently did more than three miles on the treadmill, her longest stint yet — and her resolve is as strong as ever.

"I'm going to show (the tumor) I can do things a healthy person can do, even though I'm no longer a healthy person," she said. "I'm going to show it who's boss."

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

NEWS BRIEFS

Open house

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

Scholarships available

Community Financial Credit Union, in collaboration with the Community Foundation of Plymouth (CFP) and the Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation (AAACF), will be awarding 11 scholarships worth \$1,000 each in April.

Applications can only be made online by going to <http://scholarships.egrant.org>, creating an account and logging in. Follow the instructions carefully and read the guidelines for the "Community Financial Margaret Dunning and George Lawton Scholarships." Those who qualify can complete just one application to be considered for both scholarships.

One of the eligibility requirements is that the scholarship applicant must have had an account at Community Financial for at least six months. An application, transcripts

and two letters of recommendation must be submitted online, and four copies of this information must be mailed to Community Financial, attention: Debbie Dunbar, 500 S. Harvey, Plymouth, MI 48170 and received by March 4.

Genealogy workshop

On Saturday, March 5, the Plymouth Historical Museum will hold the first in a series of genealogical workshops to help family historians of all levels research their 19th-century American ancestors.

The workshops all contain topics relating to Civil War era research, in commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the beginning of the Civil War. The first workshop features Curt Witcher, a popular genealogical lecturer on the local, state, and national level. He is the Genealogy Center Manager of the Allen County Public Library in Fort Wayne, Ind.

The workshop begins at 9:30 a.m. and will end at 3:30 p.m. The \$50 fee includes the four lectures, lunch, and the option of touring the Museum's special exhibit, "Rediscovering the Civil War," during lunch and the afternoon break. Tickets are available at the Plymouth Historical Museum or on its website at www.plymouthhistory.org/Events.html.

The Plymouth Historical Museum is located at 155 S. Main Street in downtown Plymouth.

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IT'S YOUR BUSINESS Q&A

Center shoots for Pilates perfection

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

Infinity Health: Infinity Health, LLC, offers a multitude of fitness services. The Pilates mat classes offer an hour class using Pilates principles and equipment such as foam rollers, magic circles, weighted balls, bands, straps, gliding discs, mini-balls, large stability balls, and newly added- weighted hula hoop. Also offered are private one-on-one sessions in Pilates mat, and Pilates reformer. The reformer is an exercise machine offering spring resistance and over 500 exercises to help strengthen every aspect of your core muscles and limbs. Special private training is also offered for specific orthopedic issues including postural pain, low back and neck pain, injury rehabilitation and more.

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

Infinity Health: After working in the physical therapy field since 1985 I wanted to branch out on my own and leave the constraints of the clinical setting behind to offer a more comprehensive and long term solution to my clients for strengthening and pain control. I had seen how Pilates had worked to strengthen the core, deep spinal muscles and to correct postural problems so that clients could say goodbye to their back pain. I went for the specialized training and created Infinity Health, LLC.

Observer: Why did you choose Canton?

Infinity Health: I live in Canton with my husband and 2 children. I saw that there was a need for affordable Pilates that focused on smaller class sizes and accommodating clients with orthopedic problems.

Observer: What makes your business unique?

Infinity Health: It offers anyone, any age, with most any physical problem



Donna Gambino (center) works with 68-year-old Pauli Green and Green's daughter, 34-year-old Shannon Beehler.

the ability to take a fitness class. I am able to modify exercises using the props provided, so there are no excuses for not exercising or doing Pilates. The biggest excuse I hear from people for not exercising is "I can't do that because I have back pain."

Observer: How has it changed since you opened?

Infinity Health: My business has grown from one class to 4-5 mat classes and several hours of private and reformer training per week. I also added fitness publishing to my list of accomplishments and have authored 2 fitness books, "On a Roll @ Home, Home Exercises for Core Strength and Massage on the Foam Roller" and "Age Perfected Pilates, Mat Exercises to Improve Posture, Strength and Movement," which have given my clients the ability to take their workouts into their homes.

Observer: How has the recent economy affected your business?

Infinity Health: Studios where I have taught have had to close due to foreclosures. I have had to relocate, sometimes on short notice. Great small businesses have had to close their doors because of foreclosures and banks taking

INFINITY HEALTH

Business name and address: Infinity Health, LLC, 43411 Joy, Canton

Your name and title: Donna Gambino, licensed physical therapist/certified Pilates instructor

Your hometown: Canton

Business opened when? 2001

Number of Employees: Sole proprietorship

Hours of operation: Monday-Saturday, class times vary, individual sessions by appointment

Your business specialty: Pilates group classes, private-personal and Pilates training, education & fitness workshops, seminars for clients and professionals, and fitness publishing.

Business phone and/or website: (734) 377-1055 | www.infinityhealth.org; youtube channel: infinityhealthmi

over their rental spaces and increasing fees. It has motivated me to find new creative ways to market my business and keep clients coming back.

Observer: Any advice for other business owners?

Infinity Health: Stay focused on what your main purpose in starting your business was. Be open to any creative voice that tells you to TRY something new.

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

Infinity Health: I would love to write another book. I think it's very rewarding to reach so many people and deliver your message. I also have a fitness equipment invention that I am working on for use in the Pilates mat classes. I would love to find a way to bring that to the public, and hopefully in the future offer a location where all my services can be offered in one place.

New shareholder

The Mannik & Smith Group, Inc., announced Walter J. Bolt has been named a shareholder in the firm.

Bolt, who joined MSG over 13 years ago and currently serves as Vice President for MSG's Michigan geoenvironmental operations, has over 20 years of environmental consulting experience.



Bolt

He has helped expand the firm's state-wide presence and has served as both Senior Project Manager and Vice President on a variety of high profile private and government projects. He is a Certified Professional Geologist, Certified Underground Storage Tank Professional and an S-4 Michigan Licensed Water Distribution Operator.

Bolt received his master's degree in physical geography from Eastern Michigan University. MSG is a regionally based consulting firm that has grown to include five local Michigan offices in Canton, Detroit, Lansing, Monroe, and Traverse City. Founded in 1955, MSG is committed to providing quality civil, geoenvironmental, transportation, surveying, and construction services.

Hot rod heaven

The 59th Annual Meguiar's Autorama, Presented by O'Reilly Auto Parts, is revved up and ready to roar into Cobo Center in Detroit Feb. 25-27. The show features the

hottest hot rods, custom cars and '50s classics in the country and attracts visitors from across the U.S.

Local car enthusiasts scheduled to take part include:

- Tommy Jackson of Canton will show his 2002 Pontiac Grand Am, in silver.
- Randy Mason of Canton will show his 1995 Dodge Dakota.

- Jason Price of Canton will show his multi-colored 1999 Pontiac Grand Am.

- R. Ramsey of Canton will show his 1958 Chevy Corvette in black.

- Joe Shenkel of Canton will show his 2001 Ford Taurus in purple and white.
- Matt Walczak of Canton will show his 2001 Ford Explorer.

- Michael Louis Stanford of Plymouth will show his 2006 Ford Expedition in pearl white.

- Robert Lemon of Plymouth will show his 1965 Plymouth Satellite in burgundy.

The annual winter ritual brings the most devout gearheads and just plain curious folks, up close and personal, with over 1,000 exhibits of chopped, channeled, dumped and decked hot rods, custom cars, trucks, vans and motorcycles of the past and present.

This year's show features award winning customs from across the country including the radical custom car, Scythe, presented by Galpin Auto Sports; Dennis Lil' Daddy Roth's Streetnik Bandit, the Goodguys Hot Rod of the Year; The Downtown Brown '30 Ford, and The 6 Pack, wild custom from the cover of Mini Truckin' Magazine.

CHAMBER CHAT

March luncheon

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

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



LaJoy

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

Consumer expo

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

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

to meet local business owners and learn about the great products and services they have to offer."

The Consumer Expo is held twice annually in February and September, and features more than 60 businesses from the community who display their products and services to the public. Participating businesses include banks, insurance, travel agents, pet services, carpet cleaning, and many more. Each vendor gives away a door prize, admission is free and the expo is open to the public. The Consumer Expo is proudly sponsored by Atchinson Ford Sales, Inc. and Molly Maid.

Franchising seminar

The Canton Chamber of Commerce hosts a franchising seminar, "Franchising is More Than Burgers, Shakes and Fries," in the chamber board room 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, Feb. 19. Cost is \$5 per person. Reservations are required and can be made by calling the chamber, (734) 453-4040.

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Have you ever noticed that at least once a year, if not more, some winter storm is going to be the worst storm in history? The way some media were talking about the last storm you would think that we were getting close to Armageddon. There is no doubt that Tuesday's and Wednesday's storm was a reminder that this is winter in Michigan.

I bring this up because it is important to remember that in our media-driven world, it is not unusual for certain stories to get hyped. This includes weather and just about everything else in our society — including stories regarding money.

Investors can't afford to focus on stories the media chooses to hype.



Money Matters

Rick Bloom

Whether it is the story regarding Egypt or the Dow at 12,000, investors must stay the course. Don't get caught up in the media hype, because all too often the hype is greater than the reality. The recent storm prediction is a perfect example. Yes, there was a storm but it certainly wasn't the worst of all times.

The storm also should be a reminder to all to make sure that when it comes to our homes we protect ourselves. There are a couple of things every-

one needs to do every so often. The first is a video inventory of your home. If there was some sort of disaster and your home did suffer losses, could you recreate what you lost and, more importantly, can you prove it to the insurance company?

If you have artwork or other types of collectibles, pay particular attention to them, including video taping appraisals and receipts. Of course, don't forget to talk your way through the video and highlight certain items. Remember, the purpose of the video is to document what you have for your own needs, as well as the insurance company.

When the video is complete, keep a copy in a fireproof box or off location.

Then, if there is some sort of disaster at your home, your video will be protected.

Another issue is homeowners insurance. Sit down with your agent and review your policy. Your current policy may have certain coverage that you no longer need. In addition, check with an agent to make sure your home is properly insured. With home values plummeting here and throughout the country over the last few years, your home may be overinsured. Therefore, an adjustment in your policy may be necessary.

It's also wise, from time to time, to consider competitively shopping your policy around to determine whether you have the best policy at the most

cost-effective price. We live in a competitive world so take advantage of it. Shop your homeowner's policy on-line, through your credit union or your existing agent.

Before you know it we won't be talking about winter storms, but rather spring and summer storms. It's Michigan, so we never know what the weather will be. That's why it is always important to be prepared and protect our home, no matter what the season. 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.

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Savannah Luke, Brodie Saincome, Sam Pennock, Everett Buchanan and classmates learn the song 'We Shall Overcome.'

Students see African-American history through artists' eyes

BY BRAD KADRICH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

It was hard to tell who was having more fun, master drummer Kevin Collins or the fifth-grade students he was entertaining at Canton's Village Theater at Cherry Hill Tuesday.

Collins, a musician for more than 40 of his 51 years, was one of a trio of performers brought in to help Plymouth-Canton Community Schools fifth-graders to see African-American history through the eyes of artists in a field trip to the Village Theater, a trip many of them were making for the first time.

It was part of a four-day excursion that saw students from all 16 of Plymouth-Canton's elementary schools take part in the interactive assembly.

While folk musician Matt Watroba and fellow musician Robert Jones, also a pastor, used their talent to demonstrate how music from different cultures have blended to create the American experience, it was Collins who had feet stomping and students clapping at the end of each session.

"It gives you so much energy," Collins said of seeing the students get so caught up. "You see them laughing together and being together. It makes me feel proud. You have different cultures, and we're all on this Earth together. We must come forward together to make one nation."

NEW VENUE

The venue was also an integral part of the effectiveness of the presentation. The 400-seat theater allowed four classes of students to get the message at once.

"It's not (learning from) a book, it's not in a classroom," said Jill Engel, director of the Partnership for the Arts and Humanities, one of the sponsors of the program. "There are probably lots of kids who've never been to a theater before. It's a fabulous experience."

While Collins used a variety of drums and a bell to demonstrate how messages were sent and how music was used throughout history, Watroba and Jones continued an act they first put together in the late 1980s, one they take around to schools around the state and the country to show how music has crossed cultural and chronological borders to help unite cultures.

Their musical trip took them from the beginnings of slavery through the civil rights movement and showed them how music was used to help slaves escape in the underground railroad, and how non-violent protesters used it to move their agenda in the 1960s.

When they first came up with the program, Jones — a blues musician — and folk musician Watroba noticed similarities in their music. They bring those similarities out during the program, showing how the same three chords and the same five notes can be found at the base of music ranging from slavery songs in the 1800s to music used by followers of Dr. Martin Luther King.

"The different kinds of music are like the branches on a tree," Watroba told the students. "If you trace it to the roots, you find more similarities than differences."

ART AND MUSIC

While the program was heavily influenced by music, Jones, who is also an artist, took some time to show how pictures can be used, with their varying shades and colors, to tell a story, too.

"You guys are the next generation of artists," Jones told students. "You have to give yourself permission to draw the world the way you see it. No one sees the world the way you do."

Watroba noted music throughout the years helped foster an environment where his best friend — Jones — can be an African-American, something not possible decades ago.

"In our lifetime, a black man and a white man singing up here together would have been against the law," Watroba noted. "So when I celebrate Black History Month, it's because now I can have my best friend based on his character, and not on the color of his skin."

The students left impressed.

"It showed us all the different instruments and how different music came to be that music," said 10-year-old Brooke McCaffrey, a Dodson Elementary fifth-grader. "It was really cool."



Kevin Collins and students make joyful noise on drums.



Master drummer Kevin Collins pumps up the crowd of students.



Matt Watroba and Robert Jones bring history to life with music.



The Rev. Robert Jones wails on harmonica.

PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER
STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

One of a kind: Tony Chrome debuts custom bike at swap meet

BY SUE MASON
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

What do you call a motorcycle big enough to accommodate a 260 mm rear tire?

If you're Tony Lamantia, you call it a "Fat Ass Bagger." That's the name he's given his newest creation, an amazing one-of-a-kind bike that has an air bag system, allowing it to sit on the ground.

The owner of Tony Chrome Customs in Westland, Lamantia will be displaying the bike at Giant Motorcycle Swap Meet Sunday, Feb. 13, at the Suburban Collection Showplace in Novi.

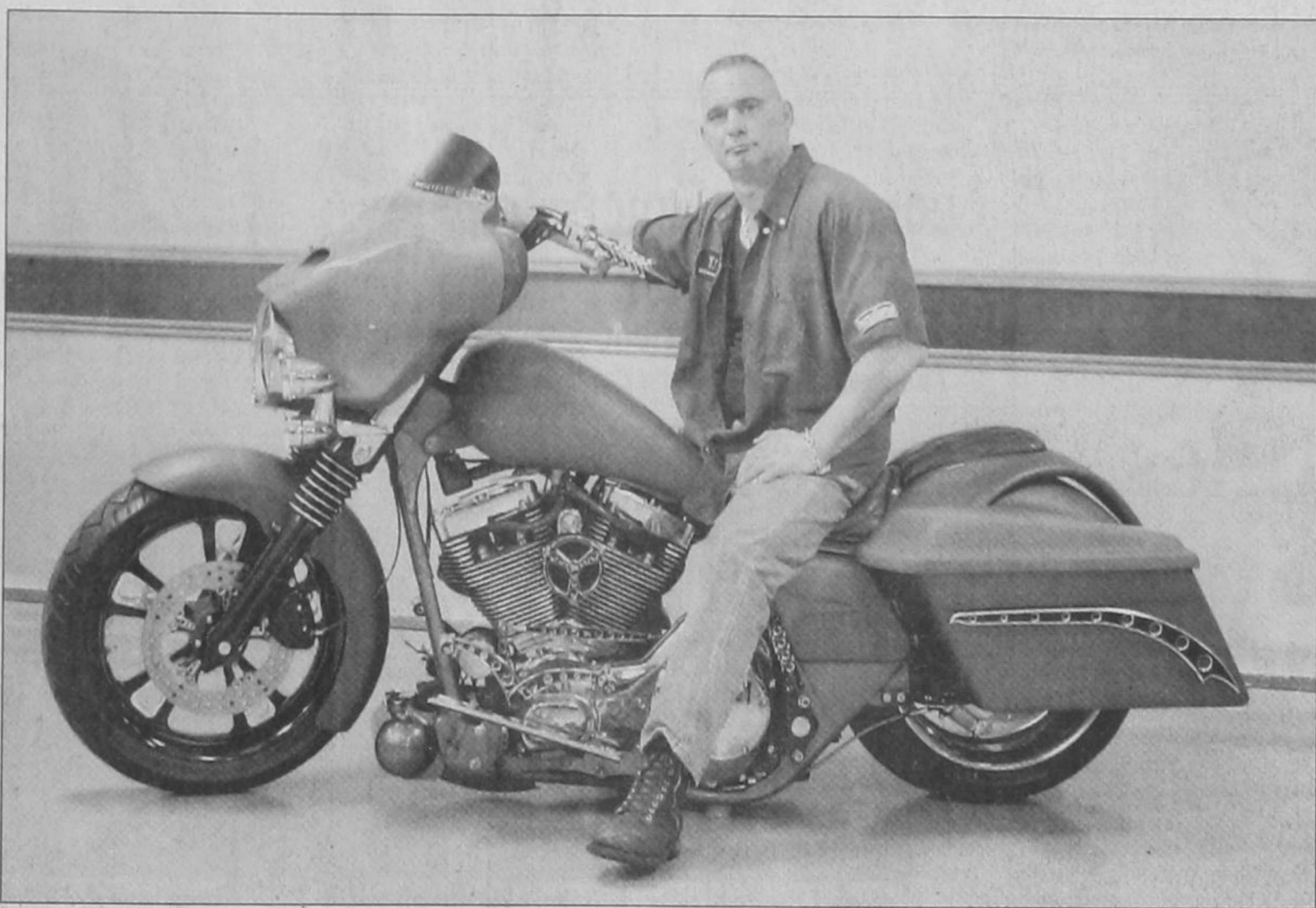
"It's a neat bike, it has a lot of bells and whistles," said the Canton resident.

The bike started out as a Harley Davidson Electra Glide Standard that was stripped down to the frame which, along with its swing arm was widened six inches to allow for a 260mm rear tire. Lamantia fabricated fenders, the seat pan and gas tank in his shop as well as designed the airbag air suspension and installed air in the front forks that lets the bike drop to the pavement.

"There's no kickstand, it rests on its frame," said Lamantia.

He also installed two-inch wider saddle bags with remote control actuators that let him open and close them remotely. The bike also features a 95-cubic-inch Harley Davidson twin cam motor, full digital instrumentation, stereo and a custom two-into-one exhaust system.

The bike took 2½ years to build and Lamantia admits that the hardest part was find-



Tony Lamantia of Tony Chrome Customs of Westland shows off his newest creation, the 'Fat Ass Bagger' that will debut at this weekend's Giant Motorcycle Swap Meet in Novi.

ing spots for all the electricals once he put in the air bag. Now that it's done — pin-stripping and graphics were added this week — it's ready for the show circuit.

The bike will debut at Giant Motorcycle Swap Meet Sunday, then Lamantia plans to take it on the road to local bike shows, including an appearance in Autorama Extreme later this

month, in Florida and the annual Sturgis Motorcycle Rally in Sturgis, S.D.

Lamantia has been "tinkering with bikes" a long time. He built his first dirt bike when he was 12 years old. He did a stint with cars in high school, got back into bikes "later in life" and finished building his first Harley from the ground up in 2001. He earned his nickname when he

put as much chrome as he could on his first bike.

"They called me Tony Chrome and it stuck, there's people who don't know I have another name," he said. "They call the operator looking for Tony Chrome's number."

He started his business in an industrial park in Westland in 2005 and sells hard to find Harley V-Twin products. He

still works full time at the Ford Motor Co.'s Saline plant and does a lot of the bike work out of his garage.

The swap meet is the Midwest's largest collection of motorcycle vendors under one roof, offering "everything for rider or machine."

"With nearly one out of every four bikers in the U.S. living in Michigan and its four border

SWAP MEET DETAILS

What: Giant Motorcycle Swap Meet

Time/Date: 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 13

Location: Suburban Collection Showplace, 46100 Grand River Ave., Novi

Details: The swap meet will feature the largest collection of motorcycle vendors under one roof in the Midwest. Cyclists attending will see new 2011 bikes as well as used bikes — street, dirt, metric, touring, cruising, trikes, choppers, custom bikes, and trailers.

Tickets: Admission is \$10 for adults and \$3 for ages 6-12. Parking is \$5. People who want to skip the lines and get in 30 minutes earlier can buy them in advance online at www.motorcycleswap.com

Contact: For information on the swap meet, call (800) 968-4242.

states, the nine swap meets we sponsor give bikers the chance to be around other bikers and to support the economic interests that are vital to keeping the industry strong," said event organizer Chad Dutmers. "We love to showcase Michigan-made bike builders and suppliers as much as possible. Our bread and butter is the Michigan biker."

To find out more about Tony Chrome Customs and Tony Lamantia visit his website at tonychromecustoms.com.

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

'Red, White & Tuna' is unique challenge for local actors

BY FRANK MARKUS
CORRESPONDENT

In case you haven't noticed, there are way more actors in the world than there are paying jobs for them.

Among the large subset of actors forced to give their craft away for free in community theater is a particularly masochistic minority willing to learn and portray not one character, not a schizophrenic two, but 10 different persons and their personalities and peculiarities.

Playwrights Jaston Williams, Joe Sears, and Ed Howard have been taking care of this lunatic fringe of the acting community for a quarter-century with their series of four plays depicting life in Tuna, Texas, the fictitious third smallest town in the Lone Star State, as seen through the eyes of its lovable and laughable citizenry.

Each show casts two male actors portraying 20 goofball Tunans, male and female. As you can imagine, the flow of the play hinges on the ability of the actors to swiftly and convincingly change from one character to another. These changes involve not only

costumes and wigs, but also voices, mannerisms, and affectations — from a ready-to-pop first-time mother-to-be, to her surly but artistic twin brother, to the prim and proper town busy-body and presumptive reunion queen, for example.

Given no more than 10 seconds to a minute for most changes, the show is equal parts comic timing and carefully choreographed costume changes. Costume ensembles are sewn together and rigged with rear-entry Velcro closures, and then to ensure they go on without a hitch, two dedicated dressers commit to working the entire run of the show and take a curtain call at the end of each performance.

THE 'TUNA BUG'

How does one get bitten by the *Tuna* bug? Well, this Midwestern Yankee spent 10 formative years growing up in Memphis, Tennessee. We never spoke "southern" at home, but my middle sister and I quickly developed an ear for accents and could faithfully mimic or pass for anyone from an urban old-money Memphis sophisticate, to a Beale Street bluesman, to a "south of the border" rural Mississippian.



TOM BIGWOOD

Michael Schacherbauer, left, from Plymouth, and Frank Markus, of Royal Oak, play 20 different characters in the Farmington Players production of 'Red, White and Tuna,' opening Feb. 11 at the Players Barn in Farmington Hills.

This was a useless skill in my professional career as a mechanical engineer turned auto-writer (my current day job is as technical director of *Motor Trend* magazine), but it proved an invaluable way to earn big laughs in Southfield

SRO Productions' performance of *Greater Tuna*. That first installment in the four-play series introduced us to the dysfunctional denizens of West Texas' quirkiest town, from the animal-rights advocate and one-man Humane Society

'TUNA' ON STAGE

What: Farmington Players present 'Red, White and Tuna'

Where: The Farmington Players Barn is located at 32332 W. 12 Mile, north side, between Orchard Lake and Farmington Road.

When: 8 p.m. Feb. 11-12, 2 p.m. Feb. 13; 8 p.m. Feb. 18-19; 2 p.m. Feb. 20; 8 p.m. Feb. 25-26; 2 p.m. Feb. 27; 8 p.m. March 3-5.

Who: The cast features Michael Schacherbauer of Plymouth and Frank Markus, of Royal Oak.

Tickets: available at both www.farmingtonplayers.org and the box office at (248) 553-2955. Adults: \$15; Senior discount: \$2 off only on Senior Sunday, Feb. 13; Students \$2 off any performance; Thrifty Thursday \$2 off of the March 3 performance; Group discounts \$2 off any show with a group of 10 or more people.

Petey Fisk, to harried matriarch Bertha Bumiller, to recidivist convict Reverend Sturgis Spikes, to pre-owned-arms dealer Didi Snavelly — proprietress of Didi's Used Weapons ("If we can't kill it, it's immortal").

The popularity of *Greater Tuna* led to its sequel *A Tuna Christmas*, with action centered on the town gearing up for its annual yard-display contest and Christmas pageant.

The third show, *Red, White,*

and Tuna, has just been released to community theaters, and the Farmington Players Barn Theater (32332 West Twelve Mile Rd., Farmington Hills) is staging the play's southeast Michigan premiere in a four-week run that opens Feb. 11 and runs through March 5. The production is sponsored by Tarnow Doors of Farmington Hills and tickets are now available at the box office (248) 553-2955 or at farmingtonplayers.org.

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734-459-4821

The personal goods stored therein by the following may include, but are not limited to general household, furniture, boxes, clothes, and appliances.

C97 Labaron Hunt -	General Household, Furniture, Boxes, Clothes & Appliances
E196 Claud Stopchinski -	General Household, Furniture, Boxes, Clothes & Appliances

Purchases must be made with cash only and paid at the time of sale. All goods are sold as is and must be removed at the time of purchase. Extra Space Storage reserves the right to bid. Sale is subject to adjournment.

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OUR VIEWS

More than Valentines

Feb. 14 is day to consider organ donation

It seems like we can't have a day of the year without having something recognized on that day. A few examples are Flag Day June 14, Patriots Day Sept. 11, Veterans Day Nov. 11 and Boy Scout Day Feb. 8.

Some of these observances are recognizable and easy to remember. Fourth of July, Christmas and New Year's and Valentine's Day come to mind. There are others that just have us shaking our head in amazement, days such as Wave All Your Fingers at Your Neighbor Day on Feb. 7 or Name Your Car Day on Oct. 2.

There are some important observances that go unnoticed. While most people will be giving out Valentine's on Monday, Feb. 14, the thousands of people waiting for an organ transplant will be hoping someone will take a moment to observe National Organ Donor Day.

National Organ Donor Day encourages people to sign up to donate their organs. That simple act may save a life. On average, 17 Michigan residents have organ transplants every week. However, the supply of organs available doesn't come close to meeting the demand. This state has about 3,000 people on the waiting list. That number is 100,000 nationwide, according to Gift of Life Michigan.

Organ donation is a vital need. You can donate both deceased and living organs. Sure, it is uncomfortable to think of your own death, especially an early one, but organ donation affords you the opportunity to save up to eight lives. Each tissue donor can improve the lives of up to 50 people.

According to Gift of Life Michigan:

- Nearly 10,000 Michigan patients have received a life-saving organ transplant in the last 10 years.
- Cornea transplants have been successful for more than 100 years and organ transplants have worked for more than 50.
- There is no age limit for donation.
- Donation doesn't cost the donor or the donor's family anything.
- Last year, 289 organ donors provided 786 organs to waiting recipients in Michigan. A record 1,067 people became tissue donors.

Life affords a few opportunities to share the gift of life. Being an organ donor means giving the gift of extending a life, letting families have time with loved ones, especially infants and toddlers.

In Michigan in 2010, organ donations resulted in 786 transplants and saved hundreds of lives. Transplants so far in 2011 total 62. And 2,955 patients were waiting for a transplant as of Feb. 1, including 2,424 kidney, 312 liver, 61 lung, 55 kidney/pancreas, 79 heart, 10 pancreas, eight kidney/liver and one liver/heart

The topic of organ donation now and in death is something that you may not want to discuss; however, it is an important one that could literally help to save a number of lives. Michigan residents no longer sign the back of their Michigan driver's license to indicate their wish to be an organ and tissue donor. Instead, they join the Michigan Organ Donor Registry and receive a red heart logo for their license or state ID.

We encourage you to consider becoming an organ donor. Think about giving some of the gift of a second chance at living. Do it before you love your pet (Feb. 20), take your dog for a walk (Feb. 22) or have some chips and salsa on National Tortilla Chip Day (Feb. 24).

Take a moment to look into to become an organ donor. You can get more information about organ donation on the Gift of Life website, www.giftoflifemichigan.org. If it takes you more than a day to make up your mind, not to worry. April is Organ Donation Month.

ONLINE VOICES & VIEWS



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

- In response to "Diaper Dandy: Canton mom finds a way to change the world,"

"Great work, Marybeth. God bless you for the things that you are doing to help those less fortunate."

FinnegansPop

- In response to "Poker room could be jackpot for charities,"

"The dealers at this room are terrible, and the guy that runs the place is perhaps the biggest jerk I've ever met in my life - and after having worked 12 years in retail, I've met a LOT of jerks. If you're going to play poker, pick any room BUT this one. Even Northville has better dealers."

ekdioko

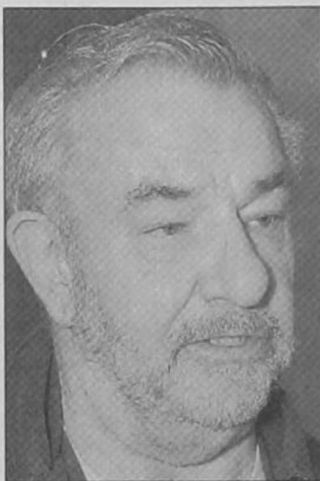
"Only 50% goes to Charities ... if he was in it for the charities more than that should be donated ... what a scam!"

crazycantokids

COMMUNITY VOICE

Gov. Rick Snyder has proposed an end to item pricing. Do you think item pricing should be kept or ended?

We asked this question at the Canton post office.



"I support the item pricing. I like to see the price of things. A lot of times when I go to the register I find mistakes."

Edward Stevens
Canton



"I don't like the idea of ending it. I'm in a hurry, so I like to see the price."

Yolanda Kwelose
Canton



"I'd like to keep it. I don't feel strongly about it, but I'd rather have it than not."

Joshua Dyal
Canton



"I think it should be kept. The prices on the shelf aren't always accurate, and sometimes there's no price on the shelf. There are too many discrepancies."

Sherita Billingslea-Peoples
Canton

LETTERS

Water vote

It would be interested to know which commissioners voted and how (on the water vote). That said, let the people decide. This issue is the right issue to be decided by popular vote. We have voted on casinos, taxes for the Detroit Zoo and changes to our state constitution.

Yet, each citizen needs water - let everyone vote on this important subject.

Clare Barwick
Canton

Fast and loose

It would seem that all one need do to discover what is at the root of all of the economic problems that we face is to read the editorial section of one of the two largest newspapers in the state or tune to one of the strongest A.M. radio stations in the Midwest broadcasting from Detroit's Fisher Building.

The culprit, according to most of the columnists, editors and talk show hosts from these media outlets, is, of course, unions that represent workers in both the public and private sectors. Recently the most convenient target has been those "greedy" public sector unions who are allegedly responsible for the \$1.8 billion deficit now facing Michigan.

But two years ago it was the "greedy" auto-workers that were drawing fire for single-handedly rendering the Big 3 uncompetitive with

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

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

E-mail: bkadrich@hometownlife.com.

Read or comment online:
www.hometownlife.com

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

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

lavish contracts, rife with high wages and benefits, "forced" upon the auto companies causing the industry to collapse. Both assumptions are barely, if at all, true. However, these media outlets say little about greed on Wall Street or the greed of CEOs which now command gaudy salaries that are often hundreds of times that of the least paid worker they employ.

Both union types will have to adjust expectations for the short-term, reflecting the down-

turn, but neither caused this debacle. Lack of regulation and Wall Street greed caused the great collapse. However, the basic underlying problems that the United States and the people of Michigan have been facing are a lack of demand for products brought on by several decades of flat or declining real wages and eight years with virtually no employment growth.

The Tea Party would have us believe rising taxes are the problem, but that is no more true than saying the deficit is at fault. Taxes haven't been rising. Taxes as a percentage of GDP are at about 20 percent and have been in much of the post-WW II era, except during the Bush43 and Reagan administrations when ill-advised tax cuts caused deficits to explode. For the wealthy, the tax climate has never been better, at least in modern times. As far as the deficit goes, ask yourself how you are being damaged by it.

The conservative media outlets who have been attacking labor are the same elements that would have you believe that "death panels" exist, that the insurance company regulation brought on by the ACA is "government-run" health care and that Social Security with \$2.6 trillion in assets is bankrupt. With a history of playing fast and loose with the truth, why are they to be believed in this case? They are not.

Mitch Smith
Canton

Use facts in talk about the kirpan issue

When you're talking about freedom of religion, particularly when it comes to how that freedom is practiced and expressed in public schools, there are going to be a lot of strong opinions on either side.

When the issue of a Sikh student wearing his kirpan to school first broke in December, Plymouth-Canton Community Schools officials recognized a firestorm was headed their way, no matter what they did. Force the kid to remove the kirpan, and you're making him abandon his faith. Allow the kirpan, and suddenly you're "catering" to a religious belief many think violates the separation of church and state.

I've got no problem with anyone who thinks either thing. This is about value systems and beliefs, and not imposing yours on me nor mine on you. All opinions are valid, not just the ones who happen to agree with me.

Unfortunately, that's not true for everyone. And even more unfortunately, many of the opinions being expressed on the kirpan issue are based only loosely - if at all - in fact.

And not all of them are rational. I saw a clipping of the first story I wrote on this subject, from a December paper, mailed to the school district with messages scrawled in black magic marker on both sides. The messages, which of course were unsigned, featured the heavy use of the "f" word and suggested

if the "\$@%& Muslims don't like it, they can go back to their \$@%&! country" (that is paraphrased, obviously, because this is a family newspaper).

There are a couple of problems with that kind of argument, first and foremost the fact you can't have a rational discussion with irrational thought. But also, and this is likely most important, the student in question *isn't a Muslim*. And the student in question was born here, which means the United States *is* his country.

That argument makes me wonder whether the author of the note has ever read the words inscribed on the Statue of Liberty or heard the story of the Mayflower.

The biggest complaint seems to be that the district's decision to let this young man continue wearing his kirpan - with all of the restrictions that come with it - violates the provision in the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution against the separation of church and state.

The problem is this: No such demand for separation exists. Here's what the amendment says: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances."

It was meant to keep government from establishing or imposing a particular religion, and to stop government from preventing the practice of religion.

Now, I'm not a constitutional scholar and there will undoubtedly be people

who disagree with me here (why should this issue be any different, after all?), but the compromise reached between the district and Sikh leaders seems eminently fair to me. The kirpan must be dull, it can barely be two inches long, it must be sewn into its sheath (and therefore unremovable) and it must be hidden beneath the clothing.

If you think that's bending over backward and "giving in," as some opponents suggest in e-mails and on the blogosphere, consider this: What restrictions are made on the wearing of St. Christopher's medals, crosses or crucifixes? The answer, according to district officials, is a nice, round number: Zero.

Some of the other complaints: "My kid can't even pray, and this kid gets to wear a weapon?" (not true, Muslim students are seen praying to Mecca and other children are free to say a prayer at their desk if they wish); or "My child can't even say the Pledge of Allegiance because it has 'God' in it" (also not true; district officials point out the Pledge is said at elementary schools before the morning announcements).

There's no question the safety of students should be the preeminent concern for district officials, and there's no question it is. The agreement reached on the kirpan renders it no more dangerous than the other religious symbols about which no one seems to be complaining.

Feel free to disagree.

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

W-W board fills board vacancy

BY SUE MASON
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER



Hayton

schools," said Hayton. "I made plans to do this year and when this opened up, I decided to become available."

Hayton has lived in Westland for 20 years. Married, he is the father of two children who attend middle school and high school in Wayne-Westland. He has a master of business administration degree from Eastern Michigan University and is working on his master of public administration degree. He has been a state employee for almost 13 years and currently works in the Department of Technology, Management and Budget.

In interviewing for the appointment, Hayton said the district offers pretty good schooling "and I'd like to see it stay that way." He wants to see the district be proactive in making changes to prepare for the sudden loss of revenue and that

"with more communication," the district will get through it without a lot of problems.

"The role of the school board is to set the direction, the vision for the school district and the overall tone of how it operates," he added. "The big issue looking ahead is along the lines of the economy and what we try to do to save money but not at the expense of the students."

He would like to see the district devise a way for parents to know what their children's homework assignments are so they can help their children succeed, and possibly use a blog to connect with parents.

"Generally, I think our students get a good education," he said. "The teachers go out of their way to assist the students."

Thirteen residents had submitted letters of intent for the appointment, however, the board only interviewed 11. Lori Mireles-Smith withdrew just before the interviews and Aja Lavander was a no show.

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

The Wayne-Westland school board Monday evening tapped a quality assurance analyst with the state of Michigan to fill a vacant board seat.

Jeffrey Hayton of Westland was the lone candidate of 11 that were interviewed by the board at the public meeting to garner enough votes to win the seat. Trustees John Goci, Carol Middel, Skip Monit and Cindy Schofield cast votes for Hayton, giving him the necessary minimum four votes needed.

"It feels good," said Hayton. "I'm kind of surprised, happy and excited."

The Westland resident will serve the remaining 143 days of the term of Martha Pitsenbarger, who resigned last month. He also has filed to be on the May 3 school election ballot when two four-year terms, including Monit's seat, will be filled by voters.

"I wanted to get a little more involved in the

Eight candidates file for W-W school election

BY SUE MASON
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

A veteran Wayne-Westland school board member is weighing his options after finding out late Tuesday that his name will not appear on the ballot in the May 3 school election.

Skip Monit, the current school board president, was notified Tuesday by Westland City Clerk Eileen DeHart Schoof that he did not have the required number of signatures on nominating petitions that he had turned into the Wayne city clerk.

"I'm still in total shock," said Monit, a Wayne resident. "I'm pretty stunned, embarrassed, the whole gamut of emotions."

Monit, who had planned to seek a fourth term on the school board, said the problems from bad information he received from the Wayne city clerk who gave him the wrong number of signatures needed to qualify for the election. Monit submitted five more than what he had been told, but was still 10 short.

Monit could run as a write-in candidate, but as of Wednesday morning, he "wasn't sure what I want to do."

Making it to the ballot were eight Wayne and Westland resident, seven of whom were

interviewed Monday evening for an appointment to fill a vacancy on the school.

Those residents who will be on the May 3 ballot are:

• Jeffrey Hayton of Westland, a quality assurance analyst with the state Department of Technology, Management and Budget, who was appointed to serve the remainder of a school board term that expires June 30.

• Thomas Buckalew of Wayne, a retired Wayne-Westland teacher who said he had been thinking about a run for the school board for about four-five years. "I understand the district is facing a number of economic issues, I understand the district is in financial trouble and I'm deeply concerned," he said. "I understand the issues and would like to contribute to the solutions."

• Scott Davis of Westland, the general manager of Value City Furniture in Westland. Davis decided to campaign for a school board seat to "give back to the community and have a voice in his children's education."

• Carolyn Byndas of Westland, a business unit controller with SKF Bearings. She is seeking a seat on the board because she feels she "has a lot to give back to the communi-

ty" and that with her financial background, she has "so much input" she can give.

• Andrea Clawson of Westland, who finds the school board process interesting and believes she can "provide information and guidance to the district and the community."

• Charles "Trav" Griffin, a former Westland city council member and mayor and a retired UniServ director with the Michigan Education Association. Griffin said he has "a passion for education" and now wants "to get back involved in the community."

• Pamela Prough of Westland, who is the general manager of My Lady's Florist who decided to run for election after researching the appointment. She said "a well-educated citizenry provides for a stronger community and stronger economy."

• Harold Dunn of Westland, a retired automotive engineer and veteran campaigner who has sought election to the Westland City Council, state House of Representatives and U.S. Congress in the past.

Two four-year terms will be filled in the election. Candidates have until 4 p.m. Friday, Feb. 11, to withdraw from the election.

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Ficano touts successes in county address

BY LEANNE ROGERS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Economic development and job creation, successes and plans dominated Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano's ninth State of the County address Tuesday evening.

A term that came up several times was leveraged collaboration. Ficano cited the county's Mortgage Foreclosure Prevention Program which has helped more than 4,000 Wayne County families and saved more than 1,100 homes.

"My team created this program, which quickly became a national model, and we eventually shared it with the United Way," he said. "Now, families all over southeastern Michigan can simply dial 2-1-1 to get the best help available, at no cost. This is what my team does. This is leveraged collaboration."

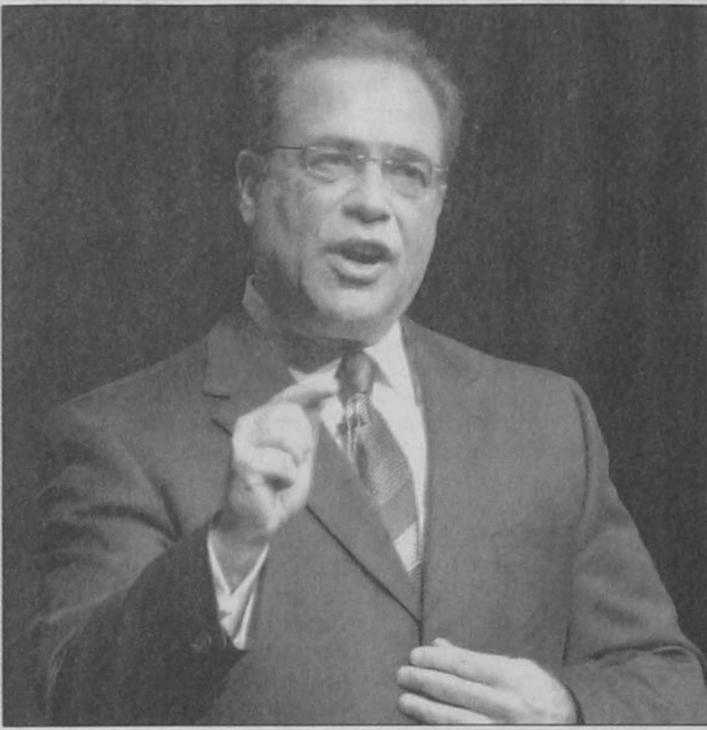
To cut bureaucracy and red tape, Ficano proposed the concept of cross designation, which would allow the lead government to take on all the responsibility and liability and handle everything from inspections to permitting.

"If we're truly serious about government reform, we need to be able to give each other full cross designation on projects so that we can cut through the red tape and get things done," said Ficano.

As an example, Ficano noted Detroit Mayor Dave Bing accepted the county's offer to help knock down abandoned buildings in the city to help clean up blight. In 45 business days, the partnership was able to knock down 453 abandoned structures, exceeding the goal of 450.

"But perhaps more importantly we gained knowledge. We figured out how to demolish a structure in six weeks instead of six months," said Ficano. "And we figured out how to do it for \$5,000 per structure instead of \$10,000. But we can do it even faster and cheaper."

Another partnership cited



FILE PHOTO

Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano made his 2011 State of the County address from the Guardian Building Tuesday night.

by Ficano was the ongoing remediation and restoration of Westland's Central City Park, which had been owned by the county.

In two years since the county's economic development department was reorganized and renamed, Ficano said \$5 billion in new investment commitments have been brought to the county.

County government itself is also going through changes, Ficano said, adding that six years ago efforts began to right-size staff, cutting costs, reducing spending and making smart investments to be more efficient and environmentally friendly.

"Unfortunately, not everyone has been willing to share the sacrifice, and I've been put in a position where I've had to make some very tough calls," said Ficano, referring to problems with union negotiations and a lawsuit over funding for Wayne County Circuit Court.

The approximately 45-minute address, carried live on radio and a webcast, was well received by the invited audience that included state and county officials.

"We've had a lot of success in Wayne County creating jobs, but we have a long way to go," said Wayne County Commissioner Diane Webb, D-Garden City. "I like the idea of collaboration. We are facing tough times in Wayne County, as are all governments. Difficult decisions will have to be made."

With new commission Chairman Gary Woronchak, Webb said she hopes to see the type collaboration Ficano talked about taking place internally within county government.

Instead of focusing on the county's budget, which has an accumulated deficit of over \$200 million, Wayne County Commissioner Joan Gebhardt, D-Livonia, said she appreciated Ficano talking about opportunities.

"It was a positive take, talking about Detroit and the other municipalities working together with the county," said Gebhardt. "He gave credit to a lot of people and his team. I liked that it wasn't all I, I, I."

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EMILIANA SANDOVAL the Detroit Free Press

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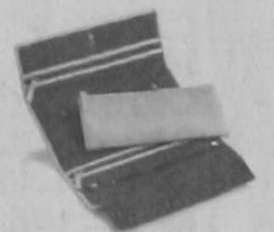
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CANTON GRAPPLERS CAN'T DETHRONE HARTLAND

SIDELINES Seguin to face Wings

BY TIM SMITH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

KLAA TITLE QUAD

Cory Mancuso and his Canton boys wrestling team couldn't quite meet the goal of knocking Hartland off the KLAA throne.

In Monday's championship dual meet at Canton, the Eagles won the KLAA first-place quad for the third straight time since the league's formation.

An early 19-0 hole proved too much for the Chiefs (24-5), who lost 37-23 and now look ahead to Thursday's Division 1 team districts hosted by Salem.

"(There's) no margin for error at all, they (Eagles) know how to win," said

Mancuso, following the title matchup. "We had to have our best night and we didn't do it."

"Their guys are solid all the way through, they know how to wrestle as a team. When it's their weaker guys against our studs, they know how not to get pinned. We're not at their level yet."

Canton's state-ranked wrestlers couldn't win via pin, which would have chalked up bonus points and helped make up the huge early deficit.

Undefeated Anthony Abro (189) ground out a 3-2 decision over Matt Ostermiller and 215-pounder Ben

Poirer defeated Nick Long 7-4.

According to 171-pounder Braden Price, a 4-2 winner over Hartland's Justin Charneski, it can be a mental and physical grind to go up against Hartland's unwavering lineup.

"They've got a tough, solid lineup all the way through, from 103 to heavy," Price said. "They're the best because they don't have any holes."

"There's not one guy that's a blow-off match, they don't have anybody that you can just go out there and know you're going to get a pin with."

SETTING THE TONE

Perhaps the telltale bout of the Canton-Hartland tilt was the opener between the Chiefs consistently solid

Zach Marsh and Mitchel Thomas in the 140 weight class.

Thomas, after jumping out to a 7-2 lead, warded off Marsh's frantic comeback in the third period and won 7-6.

"That was probably the biggest match of the night, it set the tone," Mancuso said.

Hartland veteran head coach Todd Cheney said Thomas' win "was a big momentum swing for us" and was the springboard to the early 19-point advantage.

"We knew the next three matches after that we had a great shot at winning," Cheney said. "So it put us up 19-0. That was a great start for us."

Please see **WRESTLING, B2**

Former Plymouth Whalers star Tyler Seguin returns to play Sunday afternoon in metro Detroit.

But Seguin won't be skating at Compuware Arena. He will be lacing them up for the NHL's Boston Bruins for a 12:30 p.m. game at Joe Louis Arena against the Detroit Red Wings.

Seguin tallied 106 points in 2009-10 for the Whalers, earning him a share of the OHL scoring title. He then was selected second in the NHL Entry Draft by Boston.

As a rookie, he has eight goals and nine assists for 17 points in 51 contests.

Sunday's game is slated to be shown on NBC (Channel 4 in the Detroit area).

Canton invite

With top gymnast Robyn Piwowar sidelined by the flu bug, Canton managed to finish third at Saturday's Canton Invitational behind Grand Lodge and Troy Athens.

Alex Fideler and Ayana Lewis each scored three nines out of their four events to pace the Chiefs.

Other solid performers included Erica Lucas (second on vault), Brooke Granowicz, Kali Pierce and Melissa Green (all scoring nines and high eights in all events).

Little League signups

Spring registration is around the corner for the Plymouth/Canton Little League. Online registration is available at www.ply.canll.com and there will be a walk-in signup session, noon to 4 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 19, at Plaza Lanes in Plymouth.

Available leagues include the following: T-ball, ages 5-6; Machine Pitch, ages 7-8; Minor Division, ages 8-10; Major Division, ages 10-12; and Junior Division, ages 13-14.

Visit the website listed above for additional information.

Salem lacrosse meeting

There will be an informational meeting for all Salem girls interested in playing varsity lacrosse, 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 17, at the high school's library (Room W2122, second floor).

Both parents and students should attend to obtain information for tryouts, and fees for the season. This will be the first season Salem will field its own varsity team after the split of the PCS United team. Further information may be obtained by visiting www.eteamz.com/Salemrocksgirlslacrosse.

For girls only

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

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

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

Girls must bring their own equipment or use rental equipment available at Arctic Edge on a first-come, first-served basis. For more information, call (734) 487-7777 or go to www.arcticarenas.com.

S'craft men edged

Free throws were the difference Saturday as host Delta College staged off the Schoolcraft College men's basketball team, 86-83, in an MCCA Eastern Conference game. Karl Moore scored 25 points, grabbed five rebounds and had two blocks for the Ocelots, who slipped to 8-15 overall, 2-8 in the conference.

Sparks fly on 'Senior Night'

BY TIM SMITH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The final home regular season performance in the Canton career of point guard Dietrich Lever II didn't exactly go as planned Tuesday night.

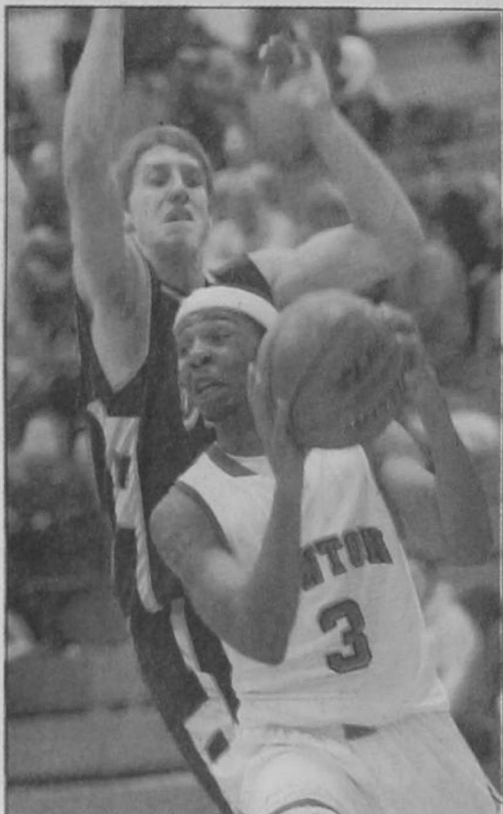
Lever did score 21 points and contributed five steals as the Chiefs knocked off Livonia Franklin, 55-28 on "Senior Night."

But the Ferris State-bound point guard — honored before the game for scoring 1,000 career points for Canton — wasn't around for the final buzzer.

Lever was ejected early in the fourth quarter along with Patriots forward Deion Grubbs following a physical altercation under one of the baskets.

According to Canton head coach Jimmy Reddy, "He (Lever) got fouled hard at the rim and kind of retaliated and they kicked both guys out."

Please see **BOYS HOOP, B2**



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Canton's Dietrich Lever II (No. 3) played the final home regular season game of his prep career Tuesday.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Shown during a game earlier this season is PCS Penguins defenseman Alissa Novak, who opened the scoring Tuesday night against Farmington Hills Mercy.

Penguins survive penalty parade

BY TIM SMITH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Throughout most of the final two periods Tuesday night, the Plymouth-Canton-Salem Penguins girls hockey team played short-handed against Farmington Hills Mercy.

A wide discrepancy in penalty calls — Mercy enjoyed five straight power plays — kept the Marlins in the game at Canton Arctic Edge.

But strong penalty killing led by senior defenseman and co-captain Sarah Coleman and excellent goaltending by tiny sophomore Cortny McAdoo helped the Penguins hang on for a 3-2 conference victory.

"A lot of the calls were unfair, very lopsided with the amount of penalties," lamented Penguins head coach Mary Beth Johnson. "But they (her players) fought through it and played a great game. They deserved to win the game tonight."

Coleman, junior defenseman Emily Bullock and senior blueliner Alissa Novak keyed a strong PK that helped the Penguins kill off four straight penalties in the middle stanza.

"It was pretty rough because we only have three D right now, because we have a lot of girls out that are sick," Coleman said. "So, we had to rotate as often as we could, ... we tried to stay in control of the puck and not just throw it away."

"We had to keep our heads together so that we didn't retaliate on them."

SETTLING THINGS DOWN

Mercy trailed 3-0 after two frames but then pulled closer with a power-play goal 33 seconds into the third period by forward Madeline McClain.

The Marlins made it 3-2 with 2:36 left. Referees were calling

another penalty against PCS when defenseman Lauren Hensick beat McAdoo.

At that point, Johnson called her team to the boards for a timeout. "I just wanted them to settle down, we kind of got a little rattled after the two goals."

That strategy worked, helped by a Mercy penalty with 1:09 remaining while the Marlins goalie was pulled for an extra attacker.

In what amounted to 5-on-5 hockey, McAdoo needed to come up tall right until the final horn. She blocked in-close tries by McClain and forward Morgan DeBrincat, the latter coming with 8.3 seconds to go.

"Cortny really came through for us," Johnson said. "She plays big in big games. I know I can always count on her."

McAdoo, who stopped 23 of 25

Please see **GIRLS HOCKEY, B3**

'Shocks & Saves'



Whalers game, events promote heart health

The Plymouth Whalers are excited to celebrate Valentine's Day and the American Red Cross's Go Red! fight against heart disease campaign by bringing awareness to heart health at Saturday's "Shocks & Saves Game."

While the Whalers play the Owen Sound Attack at 7 p.m., there will be numerous other activities leading up to and throughout the game, including a meet-and-greet with some of the Whalers, charity hockey game, CPR training course, fun games for kids and free sports physicals for kids 18-and-under.

Here is a rundown of events:
• **Skaters to Walters:** 5:30-7:30 p.m. Thursday at bd's in Canton (42089 Ford east of Lilley). The Whalers will be guest grillers and wait on customers, while fans can learn the benefits of eating heart healthy food.

Scheduled to appear during the first hour will be Tyler Brown, Mitchell Heard, Garrett Meurs, Beau Schmitz, Dario Trutmann and James Livingston. During the second hour, Colin MacDonald, Austin Levi, RJ Mahalak, Rickard Rakell, Scott Wedgewood and Peter Neal will participate.

• **Shocks & Saves Charity Hockey Game:** On Saturday, from 4:30-5:30, Providence Hospital doctors and members of the Novi police and fire departments will square off. Tickets are just \$11 and are also good for the Whalers game; \$4 from every ticket will be donated to the Providence Pediatric Charity. Ticket buyers are asked to mention "Shocks & Saves" when ordering in advance at the box office.

Please see **WHALERS, B3**

Salem eyes next goal

BY TIM SMITH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Salem's varsity girls basketball team needed to win Tuesday night against South Lyon to have a chance to at least have a shot at earning a share of the KLAA Central title.

A victory would have set up a Thursday night showdown with host Novi in a makeup game.

But a combination of cold shooting and solid defense from the Lions foiled that plan, as Salem lost 34-23.

With the defeat, the Rocks take a record of 6-8 overall and 5-3 in the Central to Novi — sporting a record of 12-1 and 6-1 entering Tuesday night's game against Livonia

Stevenson. Results from the Novi-Stevenson game were not yet available.

"Even if we beat them they're up a game," Salem veteran coach Fred Thomann said. "Realistically, we can't win the division."

"Now, the goal is to be the highest seed (for the KLAA conference tournament) we can be."

Eighteen Salem turnovers were part of the problem Tuesday. So was payback, as a determined South Lyon team wanted to make up for an early season loss to the Rocks. "We beat South Lyon at

Please see **GIRLS HOOP, B2**



What a Force!

The Plymouth-Canton Force sixth grade Red basketball team won its third consecutive tournament without a loss this season...

Chiefs third at KLAA tournament

BY BRAD EMONS OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

It was a photo finish for the team title in Saturday's Kensington Lakes Activities Association wrestling tournament hosted by Hartland.

Canton placed third with 179 and rounding out the top ten were: Howell (159), Livonia Franklin (128), Livonia Churchill (113), South Lyon (96), Wayne Memorial (92.5), Westland John Glenn (91.5) and Walled Lake Central (75.5) rounding out the top ten.

Churchill boasted two individual champions in seniors Jacob Meadows (119 pounds) and Jonny Bannoura (140). Meadows, the fourth seed, upset top seed Keith Boldt of Hartland in the semifinals with an 8-4 decision followed by a 4-3 victory in the finals over third seed Gabe Martinez of Franklin.

Franklin's Steve Tuyo held serve as the top seed when he captured the 130-pound crown with a 24-7 technical fall over Brighton's Christopher Brish.

Tuyo looked as good as he's looked all year, Franklin coach Dave Chiola said. "If he wrestles like this the next few weeks, he's going to be tough to beat."

Individual results: 103 pounds: Benjamin Griffin (Canton) dec. Jordan Amine (Brighton) 5-2; 3rd place: Kyle Gillies (Glenn) def. Logan Crandall (S. Lyon), no score available; 5th: Nate Hughes (Hartland) dec. Devin Acker (Kettering) 5-3; 7th: Eric Gerber (Lakeland) pinned Mohamed Youseff (Ply.) 1:37; 112: Austin Eicher (Hartland) dec. Tyler Foley (S.L. East) 4-2; 3rd: Dan Martinez (Franklin) dec. Richard Demario (Canton) 4-3; 5th: Jackson Pizzo (Brighton) dec. Richard Poole (Milford) 8-7; 7th: Brandon Calima (Lakeland) dec. Quinn Depraw (Glenn), 4-3; 119: Jacob Meadows (Churchill) dec. Gabe Martinez (Franklin) 4-3; 3rd: Alec Pantaleo (Canton) dec. Keith Boldt (Hartland) 10-3; 5th: Ian Stirtion (N.ville) dec. Evan Yezbeck (W.L. Western), 8-5; 7th: Daniel Koenig (Brighton) dec. Giddian Albuerna (Novi), 7-0; 125: Alex Calandrino (Howell) dec. Evan Hoshaw (Brighton) 9-2; 3rd: Jordan Atienza (Franklin) dec. Ross Kantola (Hartland) 5-3; 5th: Said Youseff (Ply.) dec. Montell Walkins (Kettering) 7-3; 7th: Alejandro Albuerna (Novi) dec. Keshav Patel (Canton), 11-4; 130: Steve Tuyo (Franklin) won by technical fall over Christopher Brish (Brighton) 24-7; 3rd: Alec

Breckenridge (Ply.) won by tech. fall over Ryan Foley (S. Lyon East), 16-0; 5th: Ray Stambaugh (Kettering) dec. Justin Rollins (Hartland), 8-0; 7th: Corey Davis (Stevenson) dec. Devon Adams (Wayne), 8-6; 135: Joe Johnson (S. Lyon) won by major dec. over Keith Kooperman (Brighton) 11-2; 3rd: Gabe Costanzo (W.L. Western) def. Hayden Hughes (Howell), 4-2; 5th: Travis Campio (N.ville) dec. Samer Shebak (Stevenson), 3-1; 7th: Matthew Aoun (Novi) dec. Austin Rohn (Salem), 8-2; 140: Jonny Bannoura (Churchill) dec. Zach Marsh (Canton) 3-1; 3rd: Aaron Calderon (Brighton) dec. Sam Hier (S. Lyon), 11-9; 5th: Mitchell Thomas (Hartland) p. Kody Roy (Stevenson), 1:58; 7th: Avery Opperman (Franklin) def. Beau Bielski (Novi), no score available; 145: Chase Snider (Hartland) p. Jalen Jones (Wayne), 2:55; 3rd: Carson Whaley (Grand Blanc) dec. Patrick Kern (W.L. Western), 5-0; 5th: Keyondray Sangster (Mott) dec. Frank Martin (W.L. Central), 4-2; 7th: Justin Ploff (Brighton) p. Keven Wacker (Glenn), 3:10; 152: John Julien (Hartland) dec. Andrew White (Brighton), 12-5; 3rd: Kyle Marion (W.L. Central) def. Brenden Kemper (Grand Blanc), no score available; 5th: Chad Czenneski (Howell) p. Collin Anglin (S. Lyon), 1:37; 7th: Kevin Newborn (Wayne) won by major dec. over Joshua Marhofer (Salem), 11-1; 160: Chad Hunt (Hartland) dec. Nick Zakovich (W.L. Central), 10-6; 3rd: Troy Roof (Howell) p. Danny Croft (Glenn), 3:55; 5th: Jordan Maschke (Brighton) p. Ryan Grubb (Milford) 2:51; 7th: Samuel Ekamem (Wayne) dec. Tyler Gross (Salem), 5-4; 171: Brandon Hill (Brighton) dec. Anthony Patrillo (Howell), 10-3; 3rd: Justin Charneski (Hartland) dec. Braden Price (Canton), 6-3; 5th: Cameron Jones (Glenn) dec. Matt Roos (Franklin), 2-1; 7th: Jake Haddad (S.L. East) dec. Trevor Maresh (N.ville), 2-1; 189: Anthony Abro (Canton) dec. Matt Ostermiller (Hartland), 8-4; 3rd: David Sparling (Novi) dec. Vince Tkac (Brighton), 4-2; 5th: Josh Visel (Pinckney) def. Charles Sovel (W.L. Central), no score available; 7th: Durim Gega (S. Lyon) dec. Alex O'Connor (Franklin), 2-0; 215: Kurt Alder (Brighton) dec. Dimitrus Renfro (Wayne), 6-1; 3rd: Alex Sokoli (Lakeland) dec. Nick Long (Hartland), 4-2; 5th: Dillon Morantes (Churchill) dec. Daulton Aurthur (Kettering), 6-4; 7th: Mitch Faulkner (Howell) def. Robert Lincoln (Canton), no score available; 285: Ben Poirier (Canton) dec. Jacob Range (Stevenson), 11-6; 3rd: Cameron Englund (Howell) won by major dec. over Jonathan Stine (Pinckney), 13-5; 5th: Derrick Campbell (Glenn) dec. Nick Denney (W.L. Western), 3-2; 7th: Joey Traeye (Kettering) def. Omar Haymour (Franklin), no score available.

PREP WRESTLING RESULTS

KLAA FIRST-PLACE TEAM QUAD MEET (Monday, Feb. 7 at Canton H.S.) HARTLAND 37, CANTON 23 103 pounds: Ben Griffin (C) won by tech. fall over Nate Hughes, 23-8; 112: Austin Eicher (H) dec. Richard DeMarois (C), 5-1; 119: Alex Pantaleo (C) major decision over Justin Rollins (H), 16-5; 125: Keith Boldt (H) pinned Ryan Siegler (C), 1:51; 130: Ross Kantola (H) dec. Mark Pryzbyski (C), 7-3; 135: Alex Eimers (C) p. Devon Chahut (H), 0:39; 140: Mitchell Thomas (H) dec. Zach Marsh (C), 7-6; 145: Chase Snider (H) maj. dec. Julia Salata (C), 24-11; 152: Chad Hunt (H) p. Patrick Murphy (C), 1:25; 160: Chad Max (H) p. Ryan Graczyk (C), 1:53; 171: Braden Price (C) dec. Justin Charneski (H), 4-2; 189: Anthony Abro (C) dec. Matt Ostermiller (H), 3-2; 215: Ben Poirier (C) dec. Nick Long (H), 7-4; 285: Phil Roland (H) p. Robbie Lincoln (C), 4:22; Hartland's dual meet record: 25-2; Canton's record: 24-5.

CANTON 50, NOVI 19 103 pounds: Ben Griffin (C) pinned Dan DeNova (N), 1:08; 112: Richard DeMarois (C) p. Andrew Park (N), 1:28; 119: Alex Pantaleo (C) major decision over Giddiani Albuerna (N), 12-4; 125: Alejandro Albuerna (N) maj. dec. Ryan Siegler (C), 14-5; 130: Mark Pryzbyski (C) maj. dec. Shahabang Sidhu (N), 18-3; 135: Alex Eimers (C) dec. Matt Aoun (N), 8-7; 140: Zach Marsh (C) p. Carston Cook (N), 4:28; 145: Beau Bielski (N) dec. Julia Salata (C), 7-1; 152: Derrick Becker (N) p. Patrick Murphy (C), 0:52; 160: Jevon Hill (C) p. Chris Caverly (N), 0:41; 171: Braden Price (C) p. Jake Dobras (N), 3:53; 189: Anthony Abro (C) maj. dec. Justin Michael (N), 26-11; 215: Ben Poirier (C) dec. David Sparling (N), 11-8; 285: Robbie Lincoln (C) p. Chris Nally (N), 3:20; Canton's record: 24-4; Novi's record: 14-5.

WRESTLING FROM PAGE B1

Hartland (25-2) did win the 145, 152 and 160 bouts — the latter two by first-period falls. Price then got the Chiefs on the scoreboard, followed by the hard-fought decision victories scored by Abro and Poirer. Another key matchup proved to be the heavyweight bout between Canton's Robbie Lincoln and Hartland's Phil Roland. Lincoln, actually a 215-pounder slotted as a heavy-weight, held on to a 1-0 lead until late in the second period. But the taller and bigger Roland, in his first varsity bout, rallied to take a 3-1 lead into the third and subsequently pinned his opponent in 4:22 for six crucial points. That made it 25-8; had Lincoln won via decision, Canton would have crept back to within 19-11. "Our guy's not a true heavy-weight, he's bumping up," Mancuso said. "But he just keeps coming. He was just outsized today. Robbie wrestles with a lot of heart. He's really become a good wrestler." Cheney called the victory by Roland as "huge, and huge for his confidence, too. When you're putting a kid in a big dual meet like that right out of the gate it's like 'OK, here we go kid.'" The Chiefs' fleeting hopes were bolstered by a tech fall scored by 103-pounder Ben Griffin (over Nate Hughes) and a major decision at 119 by Alec Pantaleo (over Justin Rollins). Both Griffin and Pantaleo are state-ranked as freshmen. However, Keith Boldt pinned Canton's Ryan Siegler in 1:51 to nab the 125-pound matchup and put the dual meet out of reach for Mancuso's squad. Canton's lone pin of the meet took place in the final match-up, when Alex Eimers needed just 39 seconds to bring down Devon Chahut at 135.

STARTING STRONG Canton and Hartland reached the championship match after breezing past opening matches against Novi and Waterford Kettering, respectively. The Chiefs knocked off Novi by a 50-19 count and Hartland rolled all over the Captains, 77-3. According to Wildcats head coach Brad Huss, he was proud of the way several of his wrestlers competed hard after being bumped up a weight class. In particular, he noted wins by Beau Bielski (7-1 at 145) and Chris Caverly (by pin at 160) and a gallant bid by David Sparling at 215. Sparling gave Poirer all he could handle, finally losing an 11-8 decision. "I thought we wrestled well," Huss said. "Our style, we try to be aggressive. We knew it would be a little bit of an upset for us to beat them."

Huss said his team needed to garner bonus points and at the same time stay in bouts. "We told them ahead of time, we got to pin them... (and) we got to stay off our back," Huss said. "For the most part, we did that." They're just a little bit better than us right now, it's pretty much that simple. Novi defeated Kettering 72-6 in the consolation match to improve to 16-5 entering the team districts. Canton now will look to shake off the loss at D1 districts, slated to get started 5 p.m. Thursday at Salem. The Chiefs will face Plymouth and the winner will go up against the winner of the Salem-Livonia Churchill matchup.

BOYS HOOP FROM PAGE B1

Lever's ejection didn't stop the Chiefs from improving to 10-4 overall and 7-1 in the KLAA South (good for a first-place tie with Plymouth). Canton led 18-6 after one quarter and 28-11 at halftime, keyed by the strong play of Lever and junior forward Paul Baumgart (22 points, nine rebounds, four blocks). "I thought our first half was really good defensively, we held them to 11 (points), created some turnovers so we got some easy baskets," Reddy said. The coach also noted a bounce-back game by Baumgart, who was held scoreless Friday night in a win at Plymouth. "He had a real tough night on Friday and he came back and was big," Reddy said. "I thought he was really good early... He rebounded, he scored around the rim for us and did a nice job." Top scorers for Franklin (4-10, 3-5) were senior forward Tino Thomas (six points), junior guard Tommy Smith and sophomore guard Jake Erme (five points each). Other seniors honored Tuesday night were forward Cody Sheeler (five boards) and guard Ben Spreitzer. The Chiefs were helped out by junior guard Kyle Adams (eight rebounds) and junior forward Terrell Sewell (five

boards). Now Reddy's team will visit Livonia Churchill and Westland John Glenn on Thursday and Friday, respectively. The game with Churchill is a makeup prompted by last week's snowstorm. "If we win them both we'll be division champs," Reddy said. "Whether we share it with Plymouth or not, we got to take care of our own business." PLYMOUTH 46, JOHN GLENN 39: In a KLAA South boys basketball match Tuesday night, visiting Plymouth parlayed a strong second half into victory over Westland John Glenn. The Wildcats, who led 23-16 at halftime despite what coach Mike Soukup called a tentative performance, pulled away from the Rockets with scoring edges of 11-5 and 19-11 in the third and fourth quarters, respectively. Mike Nadratowski paced Plymouth (10-4, 7-1) with 14 points, while Brennen Beyer had a double-double (12 points, 14 rebounds). Other solid contributors for the Wildcats included Pat Salo (12 points), Marcus Odum (eight points, six boards) and Jake Morris (six boards and strong defense). For John Glenn (9-5, 5-3), Aaveon Simmons scored 13 points. Tallying eight points each were Nick Daniels and Brett Hudy.

GIRLS HOOP FROM PAGE B1

their gym early (this season) by four," Thomann said. "They came in ready to play and they got it done." "Now we've got to go to Novi and play against them and the only loss they've had was to us early in the year." South Lyon (8-7, 5-4) led 18-15 at halftime, but the Rocks could only muster four points in each of the final two quarters. "I thought we didn't shoot the ball very well tonight, and I didn't think we rebounded the ball very well tonight," he said. "But, I thought we were still in the game, right up until almost the middle of the fourth quarter." "We had the opportunity, we just didn't make shots." Thomann did praise the play of point guard Heidi Schmidt (six points) and forward Breanne Beaver (six points, 11 rebounds). Guard Bri Berberet scored nine points to lead Salem. CANTON 53, LIVONIA FRANKLIN 37: The KLAA South-leading Chiefs kept on rolling Tuesday night with this win over the host Patriots. It was the 100th victory

in the Canton career of head coach Brian Samulski. Canton (12-2, 8-0) led 19-9 after one frame, 29-21 at halftime and broke the game open in the third, outscoring Livonia Franklin 15-6. Leading the Chiefs with 18 points and 11 rebounds was Sara Schmitt. Also in double figures were Kayla Bridges (13 points) and Kari Schmitt (10 points). Chelsea Williams and Amanda Borioe scored 16 and 12 points, respectively, for Franklin (7-7, 4-4). "We got off to a good first quarter," Samulski said. "In the second quarter we had to fight through a little adversity but we hung in there and got it done." "And I thought we defended really well in the third quarter and held them to six points." Samulski said his team committed too many fouls in the first half due to reaching and lunging in steal attempts. "I thought we cleaned that up in the second half." As evidence, although Franklin went 14-for-14 from the free-throw line, the Patriots only had four chances in the second half.



One of Salem's bright spots Tuesday was senior point guard Heidi Schmidt (No. 40), pictured in a recent game. At left is Plymouth's Kate Watson.

Novi Town Center advertisement for Valentine's Day. Text includes: 'We've Made Valentine's Day Shopping Even Sweeter for you!', 'Free Chocolates with every \$30 purchase!', 'Shop & Dine with Gift Chocolates!', 'Shop for your sweetheart's Valentine's Day gift at Novi Town Center and, wherever you spend \$30 or more, you'll receive a deliciously sweet gift from Chocolate's by Renee when you do (and while supplies last)'. Includes address: 26132 Ingersol Drive, Novi, MI 48375.

Buddy's Restaurant Pizzeria advertisement. Text includes: 'Now Offering DETROIT'S ORIGINAL GLUTEN-FREE SQUARE PIZZA', 'NEW! Enjoy your favorite toppings on our Multi-Grain Crust A "thinner" crust featuring 9 grains', 'Celebrate Valentine's Day with Buddy's!', 'Detroit 313-892-9001, Farmington Hills 248-855-4600, Pointe Plaza 313-884-7400, Warren 586-574-9200, Auburn Hills 248-276-9040, Bloomfield 248-645-0300, Livonia 734-261-3550, Dearborn 313-562-5900, Royal Oak 248-549-8000', 'Join our Email Club at www.buddypizza.com!', '\$3.00 OFF 8 Square Pizza', '\$2.00 OFF Family Sized Salad', '\$1.00 OFF 4 Square Pizza', '10% OFF Pasta, Salad or Veggie Tray'.

ENTERTAINMENT

Thursday, February 10, 2011

hometownlife.com

HAVE A STORY IDEA?

Contact Editor Sharon Dargay

Voice Mail: (313) 222-8883

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Ladies, start your brushes

Artists will race to finish their canvases at Canton fund-raiser

BY SHARON DARGAY
O&E STAFF WRITER

Sharon Dillenbeck says she is known as the "fastest" brush in the west.

But even a professional artist with 30 years experience behind the easel, like Dillenbeck, needs more than a few minutes to create a masterpiece.

She and two other artists, Janisse Lahti Larsson and Marilyn Meredith, will get about 90 minutes to work on their canvases before taking the stage for a five-minute "Paint Off!" Saturday, Feb. 12 at the Village Theater in Canton.

"I'm not painting it totally on stage. There would be no way for us to do any of that," said Dillenbeck, the owner of D&M Art Studio in Canton. "We're doing some pre-painting."

The Paint Off! is a part of Village Theater's love-themed fund-raiser, "All You Need Is Love." It will include hors d'oeuvres, desserts, a silent auction and five-minute performances by several music and drama groups in the community. The Paint Off! will give visual artists a chance to shine alongside the performing groups.

Dillenbeck will represent her art studio; Larsson will paint on behalf of the Partnership for Arts and Humanities; and Meredith will make the Three Cities Art Club proud.

Jill Engel, the Partnership's executive director, will emcee the Paint Off!, getting the audience involved in the excitement and asking ticket-holders to vote on the best of the three 30-by-40-inch canvases.

"It needed to be something exciting for our act," Engel said. "Each of the three is going to start their painting during the welcome reception, but complete it on stage. All three paintings have to do with love."

ON VIEW

All of the artists are experienced in creating art for an audience, although Larsson has taken the fine art entertainment concept to a new level. She offers a service, called "Paint the Night" and regularly works at weddings and other events. For a fee she sets up her easel, table and chair and finishes a painting of the subject's choice. She'll create a rose in acrylics during the Paint Off!

Dillenbeck, inspired by a Norman Rockwell exhibit she saw in Brooklyn, N.Y., asked photographer Allen Brooks, a member of Three Cities Art Club in Canton to produce a valentine image for her.

"He set up a girl and a little boy handing a valentine to her and produced this fabulous piece that I am literally painting from, just like Norman Rockwell would have done," Dillenbeck said.

She plans to wear a costume — long, white painter's smock and beret — while working on the Village Theater stage.

"We're kind of the home of performance art," she added, describing D&M Art Studio. "We do the chalk art in downtown Plymouth and Canton and we have painted live people into art. We like a challenge."

NEW CHALLENGE

Meredith, who is president of the Three Cities Art Club, will paint John Lennon's portrait in his "Sgt. Pepper" attire.

Creating art on stage and within a time limit is new to Meredith, who paints outdoors with other Three Cities members at summer concerts in Canton.

"During Relay for Life we paint pillars. We take master works of art and transpose



Photographer Allen Brooks of Livonia, a member of Three Cities Art Club, took this Norman Rockwell-like image, which Canton artist Sharon Dillenbeck will use as a basis for her painting during the Paint Off! Saturday, Feb. 12 at the Village Theater. That's Sean Ryan and Brooks' daughter, Gaby, in the photo.



Cathy Vettese of Three Cities Art Club paints outdoors during the 2010 Relay for Life in Canton. Club members are used to painting in front of an audience at both the Relay and at summer concerts in the park. Marilyn Meredith will represent the club when she completes a canvass on stage Feb. 12 at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill.

it onto this four-sided pillar. That happens in front of the crowds that go by," she noted. "This (Paint Off!) is something brand new."

Dillenbeck is the only painter working in

ALL YOU NEED IS LOVE

What: A love-themed sampling of cultural arts in Canton

When: 6:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 12

Where: Village Theater at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill, Canton

What: A fund-raiser for the theater, "All You Need Is Love" will include hors d'oeuvres, body art, face painting and art demonstrations on three easels, spiked and non-alcoholic versions of love potion punch, silent auction and brief performances by Canton Concert Band, The Comic Opera Guild, D&M Art Studio, Forever After Productions, Plymouth Canton Symphony Orchestra, Beckridge Chorale's Village Voices, Spotlight Players, and Village Theater Ushers. Paint Off! will feature three painters finishing love-themed paintings on stage. An afterglow will include desserts presented by the theater's ushers. Tickets are \$25 for adults and \$10 for those 18 and under

Contact: www.cantonvillagetheater.org or (734) 394-5460

oils, which take longer to dry than acrylic paints. She isn't worried about the result.

"If it doesn't turn out 100 percent, that's okay. If you make a mistake, all you need is love."



John Latini performs in the sixth annual The Un-Valentine Show, Friday, Feb. 11 at Trinity House Theatre, Livonia.

Singers deliver twisted, funny 'un-valentines' in Livonia

"The Un-Valentine's Show; Songs And Tales Of Unforgiveness, Heartbreak, Dysfunction And Revenge" reveals the funny and twisted unhappy side of love at 8 p.m., Friday, Feb. 11, at Trinity House Theatre in Livonia.

John Latini, Dave Boutette, Jamie-Sue Seal and Andre Villoch will perform.

Latini is the winner of the 2008 and 2009 Detroit Blues Challenge. He's a singer/songwriter, musician, and a consummate Barnum & Bailey-style entertainer, as well as a musical chameleon. Whether he's singing one of the old jazz standards, leading a folksy sing-along, belting out the blues, or quoting from the classic rock catalog, his unique style makes every song his own. His delivery can be packed with emotion, mischievous or silly, but it is always heartfelt.

Boutette's Midwest is full of passion, humor and grace. Influenced by songwriters that span from Chuck Berry to Paul Westerberg, he documents the trips and triumphs of life between the coasts. Before stepping out on his own, Boutette spent ten years with the Detroit-based The Junk Monkeys. The band toured the nation relentlessly, supporting acts such as the Goo Goo Dolls and Hootie and the Blowfish, while recording under the Warner Bros./Metal Blade

label from 1990-93. Boutette's latest CD is called *The Piccolo Heart*.

Villoch has performed in Michigan and Indiana as a musician, actor, and comedian for years. While studying at Ball State University he worked as a writer, actor, director, and troupe musician in the university's comedy troupe Absolunacy, where he was voted Member of the Year in 1997. After Absolunacy, he went on to work with the professional comedy troupes Charlemagne and the Concrete Ballet and The Collective as the primary musical force for each. After leaving Ball State Villoch moved to northern Michigan to join some of his favorite folk and rock acts in a lively and intimate music scene.

Seal has played American roots rock for more than five years. Her albums (with the Radio Town Flyers), *Fly Away*, and *Free*, received airplay on close to 100 Americana and roots programs across the nation, as well as medium and heavy rotation on small market commercial country stations.

All four musicians will perform songs that are humorous and focus on love's downside.

Admission is \$15 for non-members and \$12 for members. The Trinity House Theatre is located at 38840 W. Six Mile; (734) 464-6302.

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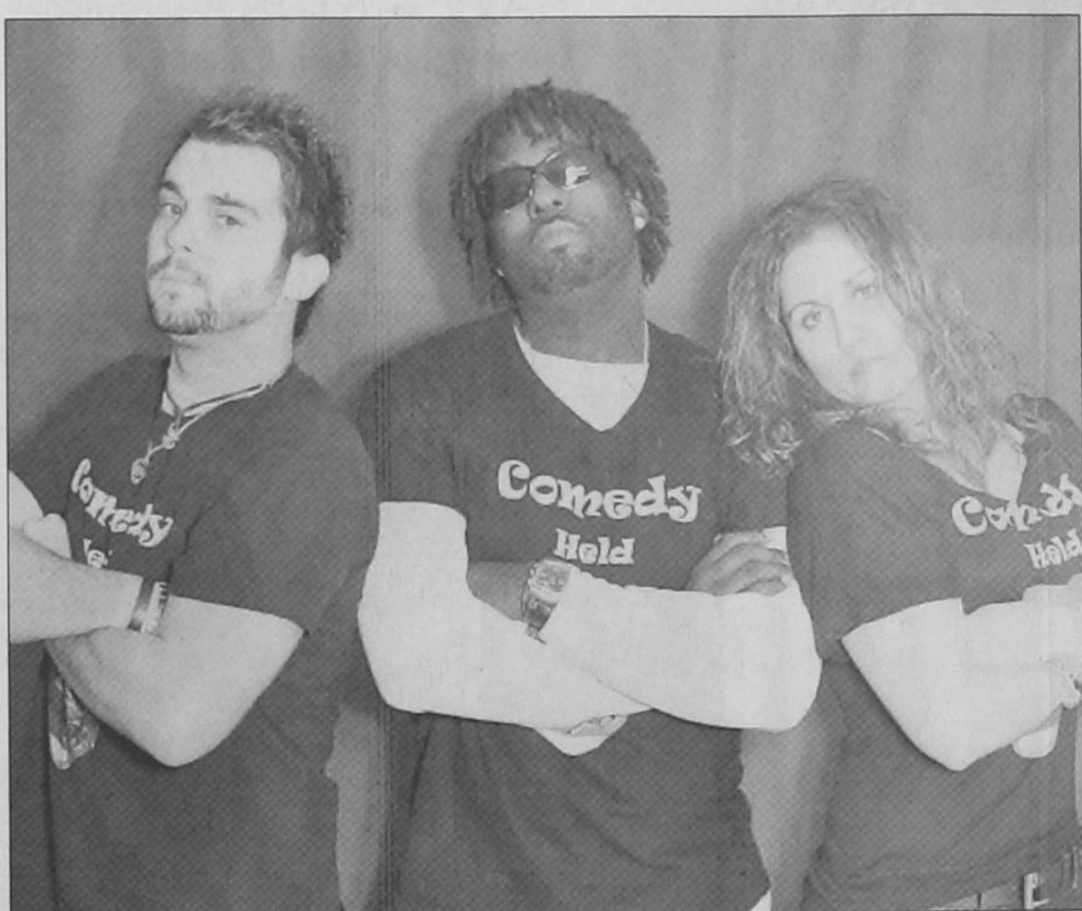
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Comedy Held Hostage is Jarred Kreger (left), Ch'llian Thomas and Susan Coletti. The standup comedians will perform Friday-Saturday, Feb. 11-12, at Riverside Theatre in Ypsilanti.

Stand-up comedy trio films documentary

BY SHARON DARGAY
O&E STAFF WRITER

Heckle Comedy Held Hostage and you might end up becoming the stand-up comedy troupe's punch line.

"At the end of the show we tease the audience. It's one thing that sets us apart," said Jarred Kreger of Westland, explaining how he, Ch'llian Thomas of Detroit and Susan Coletti of Harrison Township use improvised heckling to turn the table on the audience at the end of their shows.

They'll perform at 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Feb. 11-12 at Riverside Arts Center, 76 N. Huron, Ypsilanti. Tickets are \$10, available in advance by calling (734) 612-4332.

The stand-up comedians joined forces a year and a half ago, maintaining their individual routines, but performing as a group under the Comedy Held Hostage title.

"We've done every comedy club in Michigan and sold out every show," Kreger said. "Now that they know us, we can come in and they know they can't restrict us. They know we'll give a good show. It's nice to have that bit of reputation."

They took on the Comedy

Held Hostage title as a response to the restrictions and rules comedians face at some performance venues. It also signals their intent to resist unreasonable club requirements, such as dress codes or prohibitions on subject matter.

"The audience doesn't know it, but comedy club owners sometimes give comics rules. We want to be 100 percent honest and truthful about what we put out there," Coletti said.

COMEDY DVD

They've filmed their experiences both at the microphone and behind the stage while touring clubs throughout the Midwest. They'll wrap up the film project at their shows this weekend in Ypsilanti. They plan to enter the documentary into festivals and hope it will offer some leverage in landing a national college tour.

"When you become a stand-up, there's a hierarchy at the clubs from open mic to emcee, feature and headliner. It could take years to go from one level to the next," Coletti said, adding that beyond the clubs, gigs may include colleges, casinos, theater, television and ulti-

mately, film.

"We want to bypass the comedy club scene and have a national college tour."

DIFFERENT STYLES

Coletti, who describes herself as "Queen Latifah meets Lucille Ball," and Thomas met seven years ago in a stand-up comedy class at Mark Ridley's Comedy Castle in Royal Oak.

"Jarred talks more about his life and his comedy is physical, too. Ch'llian has a dry sense of humor, but at the same time is clever, with a funny twist," she said.

Kreger, the seventh of nine children in a "big Irish Catholic" family, pokes fun at himself and his upbringing, which included paying his way through Divine Child High School.

He started doing stand-up comedy two years ago after a friend suggested he give it a try.

"My first show was at a theater in Farmington. My second was in the U of M Dearborn cafeteria with Hal Sparks. I got lucky performing with some (big) names," he said.

Kreger honed his material at open mic nights and won a competition at Joey's Comedy Club before joining Comedy Held Hostage.

"I spent a while not knowing what I wanted to do. I've fallen into something that I really love."

ART

City Gallery

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

Northville Art House

Time/Date: Through Feb. 19; gallery hours are 1-5 p.m. Wednesday-Saturday.
Location: 215 W. Cady in downtown Northville
Details: 5th Annual Member Exhibition will showcase styles and mediums of more than 50 artist members
Contact: (248) 344-0497

COMEDY

Go Comedy!

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

JD's House of Comedy

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

Joey's Comedy Club of Livonia

Time/Date: 8 p.m. Mondays, open Mic, 8 p.m. Tuesdays, Local Legends; 8 p.m. shows Wednesdays, Thursdays; 8 p.m. & 10:30 p.m. Fridays, Saturdays
Location: 36071 Plymouth Road, Livonia
Details: Tony Woods, through Feb. 12; Louis Katz, Feb. 16-19; Shane Moss, Feb. 23-26;
Contact: (734) 261-0555, www.kickerscomplex.com

Mark Ridley's Comedy Castle

Time/Date: Jeff Caldwell, Feb. 10-12; Rachel Feinstein, Feb. 17-19; Ian Bagg, Feb. 24-26
Location: 269 E. Fourth, Royal Oak
Special show: 7-10 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 10 with "clean comic," Jeff Caldwell. The evening benefits Friendship House and Camp Lael and includes a silent auction. Admission is \$30
Contact: (248) 542-9900, www.comedycastle.com

CONCERTS

The Ark

Time/Date: The Battlefield Band, Feb. 10; The Kruger Brothers, Feb. 11; Mustard's Retreat, Feb. 12; My Folky Valentine with Annie and Rod Capps

GET OUT!



"Lochaven Winter" by Cassandra Medley. Her nature photography is on exhibit at the City Gallery in Farmington Hills.



"Mark," graphite on pencil, by Mary Williams of Westland, is on display at Northville Art House.

and more, Feb. 13; Genticorum, Feb. 15; Buckwheat Zydeco, Feb. 16; The Good Lovelies, Feb. 18; Cheryl Wheeler, Feb. 20; Bobby Long, Feb. 21; Open Stage, Feb. 23; The Asylum Street Spankers, Feb. 24; BreakFest, Feb. 25; Susan Werner, Feb. 26; The Jeremy Kittel Band, Feb. 27; Studebaker John & the Hawks, Feb. 28

Location: 316 South Main, Ann Arbor
Contact: (734) 763-8587; www.theark.org

Baseline Folk Society

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

Jazz @ The Elks

Time/Date: 7-10:30 p.m., every fourth Tuesday
Location: Plymouth Elks Lodge #1780 at 41700 Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth
Details: Jazz musicians perform; no cover, but donations accepted. The show on Feb. 22 features the George (Sax) Benson Quartet with George Benson on sax, Tom Brown on drums, Dan Pliskow on bass, and Cliff Monear on keyboard. Complimentary hors d'oeuvres
Contact: (734) 453-1780 www.PlymouthElks1780.com

Music Hall

Time/Date: 8 p.m., Thursday-Friday, Feb. 10-11
Location: 350 Madison, Detroit
Details: "Drumline Live," tickets \$30, \$40, \$50
Contact: (313) 887-8500

Seligman Performing Arts Center

Time/Date: 8 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 12
Location: Located on the campus of Detroit Country Day School at 22305 West 13 Mile, Beverly Hills
Details: Orion String Quartet and Windscape perform Bach's "The Art of the Fugue" as a part of the Chamber Music Society of Detroit series. Tickets are \$43-75; \$25 for students
Contact: (248) 855-6070; www.ComeHearCMSD.org

Schoolcraft College

Time/Date: 8 p.m. Friday, Feb. 25
Location: The Presentation Room at the VisTaTech Center on campus, located at 18600 Haggerty, Livonia
Details: Yehonatan Berick on violin and Pauline Martin on piano; \$20 general admission, \$10 for students. Get tickets online at www.scboxoffice.com; in person at the Schoolcraft College Bookstore, 8:30 a.m.-7 p.m. Monday-Thursday and 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Friday; and by call-



Vanessa Sawson is Celimene and Andrew Papa is Alceste in the Hilberry Theatre company production of "The Misanthrope."

ing (734) 462-4409

Contact: (734) 462-4403

Trinity House Theatre

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

Village Theater at Cherry Hill

Time/Date: 6:30 p.m. welcome reception, 8 p.m. love themed variety show, 9:15 p.m. dessert reception, Saturday, Feb. 12
Location: 50400 Cherry Hill, Canton
Details: "All You Need Is Love," a gala to benefit the theater, will include the Plymouth Canton Symphony Orchestra, Spotlight Players, Village Theater Ushers, Comic Opera Guild, Canton Concert Band, Forever After Productions, D & M Art Studio, Three Cities Art Club, The Partnership for the Arts and Humanities and BeckRidge Chorale's Village Voices. Tickets are \$25 for adults and \$10 for age 18 and under
Contact: www.cantonvillagetheater.org or (734) 394-5300

Woodward Corridor Musicians

Time/Date: 3 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 6
Location: Congregational Church of Birmingham, 1000 Cranbrook, Bloomfield Hills
Details: Chamber music concert titled "Introvert...Extrovert." Tickets are \$10 for adults; students K-12 are free. Tickets are available at the door.
Contact: (248) 546-5818 or LFDean@aol.com.

DANCE

Polka Booster Club of America

Time/Date: Doors open 1 p.m., dancing from 2-6 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 20
Location: Msgr. Hunt K of C Hall, 7080 Garling Dr., Dearborn Heights
Details: Freddie Ziwich and his International Sound Machine and Band; admission is \$13 and includes wine, beer and pop. Snacks are allowed but no BYOB. Tickets available at the door or in advance
Contact: Terry at (734) 422-1901 or Joanna at (313) 561-8389

FAMILY

Bakers Keyboard Lounge

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

Detroit Institute of Arts

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

Detroit Zoo

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

Music Hall

Time/Date: 4 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 13
Location: 350 Madison Ave., Detroit
Details: Black Violin consists of Kev Marcus and Wil b, two classically-trained musicians, who along with their DJ, TK, create a mix of classical and hip hop music for kids. Tickets are \$10 for children, \$20 for adults. Get tickets from ticketmaster.com or the Music Hall box office

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CHRIS PARENTE, CW-TV/DENVER

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FOOD

Thursday, February 10, 2011

hometownlife.com

HAVE A STORY IDEA?

Contact Editor Sharon Dargay

Voice Mail: (313) 222-8883

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Comment online at hometownlife.com

Tasty ways to ♥ your heart

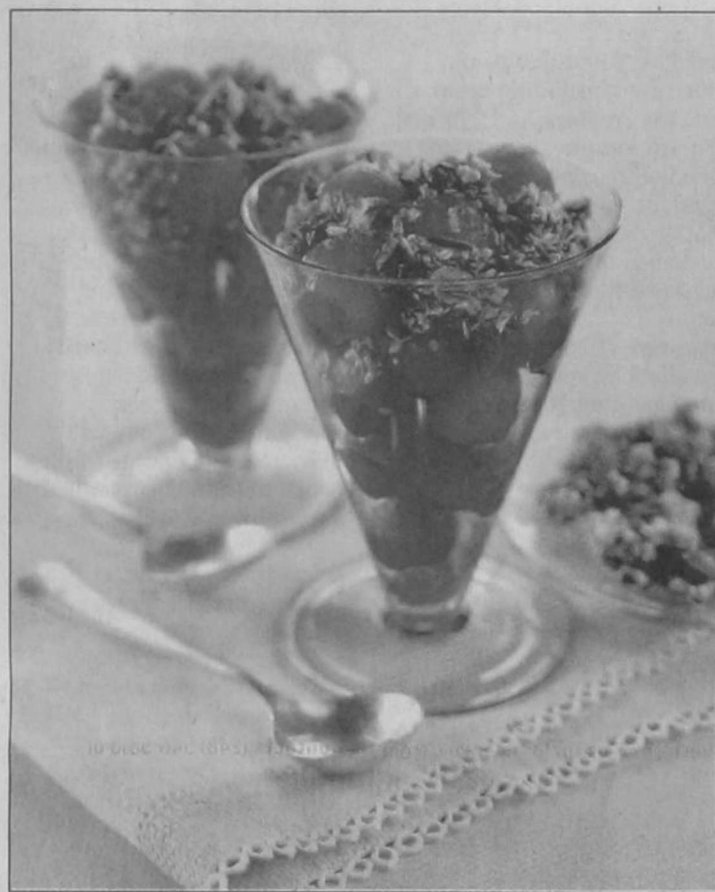


Valentine's Day naturally brings thoughts of hearts, flowers, sweetness and love. But did you know that it also falls during American Heart Month? A perfect time to start taking care of your heart and the hearts of the ones you love.

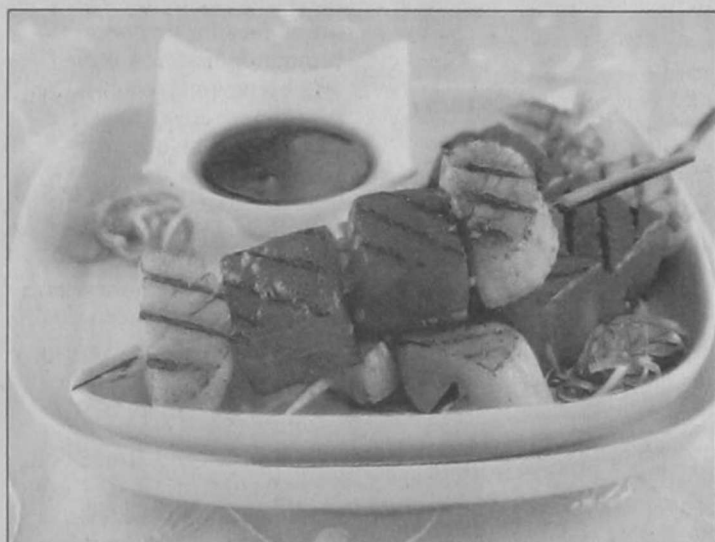
You might think that a heart-healthy diet is boring or flavorless. Actually, eating for your heart can add a lot of flavor, and some of it may come from surprising sources — such as watermelon.

Eating watermelon can help maintain cardiovascular health. That's because the amino acid called citrulline in watermelon increases free arginine which helps maintain blood flow, the arteries, and overall cardiovascular function.

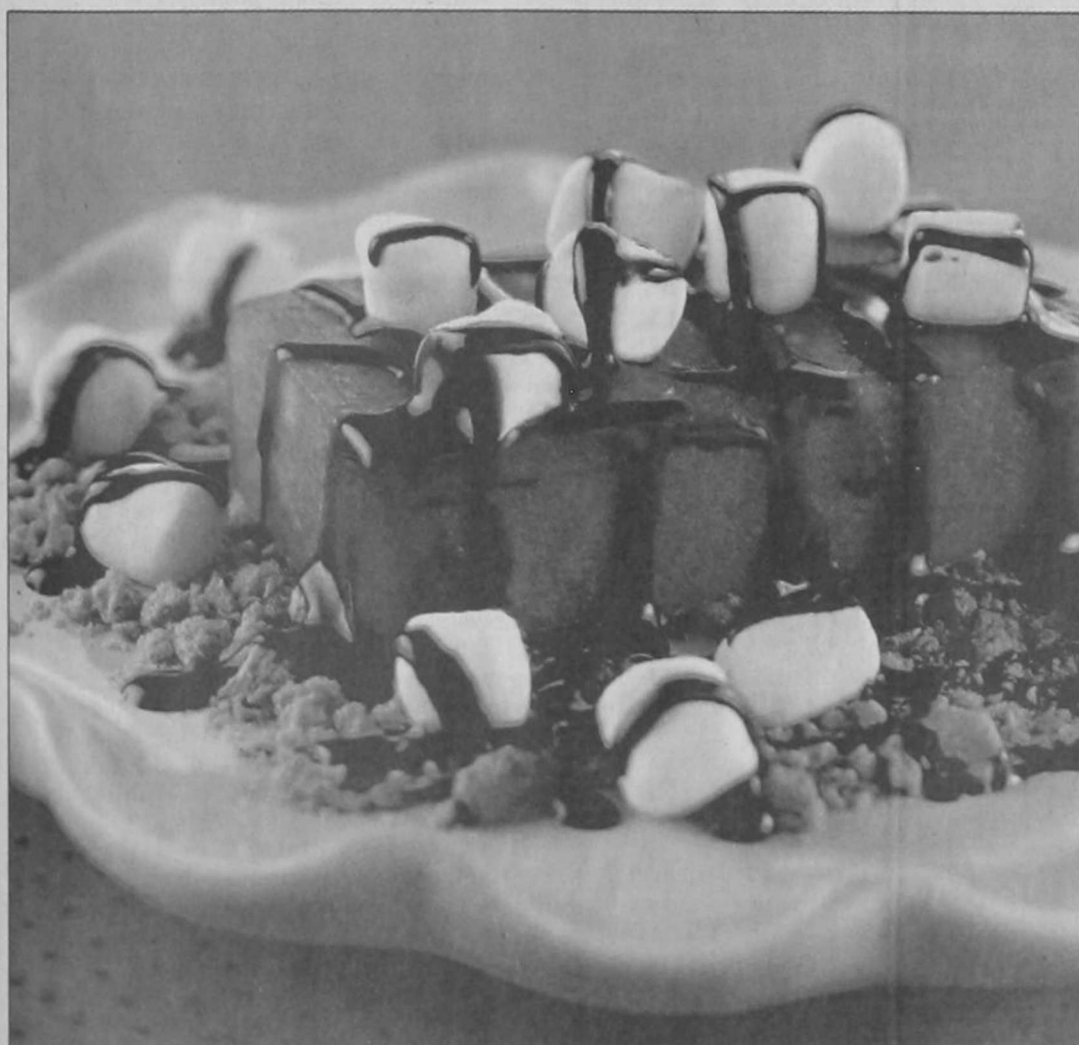
To get more scrumptious recipes like these, and to learn more about the heart benefits of watermelon, visit www.watermelon.org.



Watermelon Oat Crumble



Grilled Scallops and Watermelon Mini Kebabs



Watermelon S'mores



Use heart-shaped and circular cookie cutters to shape a variety of watermelon treats.

WATERMELON OAT CRUMBLE

Serves 6 to 8

- 2 cups rolled or quick cook oats
- ½ cup light brown sugar
- ½ cup honey
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1 cup chopped pecans
- 6 cups watermelon balls

Toss the oats, sugar, honey, cinnamon and pecans until mixed well. Spread into an even layer on a parchment paper-lined cookie sheet. Bake in pre-heated 300°F oven until golden brown. Turn off oven leaving the tray in for an additional 10 to 15 minutes. Remove and cool. Break into crumbles. Arrange the watermelon balls in 6 to 8 small bowls or wide stemmed glasses and top with the oat crumble.

WATERMELON S'MORES

Serves 4

- 1 cup graham cracker crumbs
- ½ cup melted dark chocolate chips
- 4 2 x 4 x 1-inch-thick rectangles of seedless watermelon
- 1 cup mini marshmallows

Sprinkle the graham cracker crumbs over the center of 4 plates. Drizzle ¼ of the dark chocolate over the crumbs. Place a watermelon rectangle over the crumbs and chocolate on each plate. Drizzle ¼ of the dark chocolate over the watermelon. Sprinkle the marshmallows over the watermelon and drizzle the remaining chocolate over the marshmallows.

GRILLED SCALLOPS AND WATERMELON MINI KEBABS

- 12 sea scallops
- 4 cups boiling vegetable or chicken broth
- 24 1 x 1-inch watermelon cubes
- ¼ cup soy sauce
- 1 tablespoon sesame oil
- 1 tablespoon minced garlic
- 1 tablespoon fresh minced ginger

Cut the scallops into halves across the diameter to create half-moon shapes. Place them in a heatproof casserole dish in a single layer. Pour the boiling clear broth over the scallops and let them poach for 5 minutes. Drain and cool the scallops. On each skewer alternate 1 half-moon scallop, then 2 watermelon cubes, then another half-moon scallop. Mix together the soy sauce, sesame oil, garlic and ginger and brush the kebabs as they are grilled over a medium hot grill for about 90 seconds per side turning once. Serve warm. Serves 12 as an appetizer.

— Courtesy Family Features

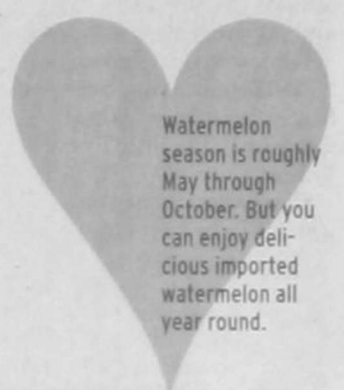
HEART-HEALTHY EATING PLAN

The DASH eating plan (Dietary Approaches to Stop Hypertension) is a highly recommended diet that has been proven to lower blood pressure. It's been endorsed by:

- The National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (one of the National Institutes of Health, of the US Department of Health and Human Services)
- The American Heart Association
- The Dietary Guidelines for Americans
- US guidelines for treatment of high blood pressure

And new research has shown that following the DASH diet over time will reduce the risk of stroke and heart disease, as well as kidney stones. The benefits of the DASH diet have also been seen in teens with hypertension.

Learn more at www.dashdiet.org.



Watermelon season is roughly May through October. But you can enjoy delicious imported watermelon all year round.

Welcome Boys and Girls!

This month's contest features:
My pet is SPECIAL!
 Share with us how special your pet is.

OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC NEWSPAPERS

www.hometownlife.com

HOMETOWN WEEKLIES

Scoop's Hound Dog Highlights!

Hey kids!

Send us a picture or a story of why your pet is **SPECIAL to YOU!**

Youth ages 7 - 13 are invited to send a letter or a photo of why your pet is special. Scoop will pick lucky winners from entries received:

Valentine's Contest

My Pet is Special

Share how special your pet is with Scoop!

Youth Name: _____

Youth Age: _____

Youth Community: _____

Parent's information to contact winning entry:
 (Phone, email, home address)

Selected winners will have their name, age, hometown, photo and entry published in the next Scoop Hound Dog Highlights.

Send your entries for the My Special Pet Contest to:

Scoop the Newshound
c/o: Michele Austin
41304 Concept Drive
Plymouth, MI 48170

Deadline for submissions: 02/28/11

Everyone who enters will receive a letter from Scoop and a small gift!

Lucky winners from last month's contest



Tejas Maire
 Age: 7 1/2
 Farmington Hills
 1. Practice math everyday
 2. Eat healthy
 3. Collect box tops for school



Hanna Shurtz
 Age: 10
 Ferndale
 1. Play my violin for senior citizens
 2. Grow a big fruit and flower garden
 3. Get a fish tank for guppies



Christian Charette
 Age: 7
 Livonia
 1. Encourage kids to like school
 2. Give clothes and shoes to the poor
 3. Work with an animal shelter

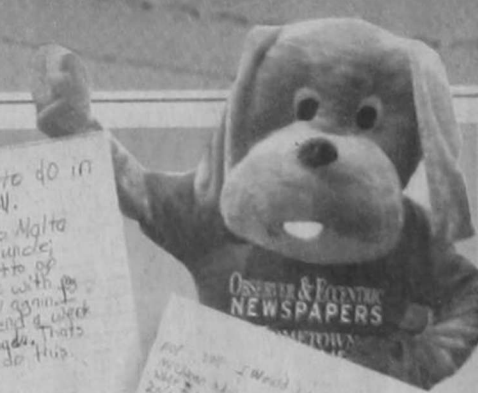


Caroline Loder
 Age: 8
 Livonia
 1. Ride a unicycle without help
 2. Play the guitar better on Guitar Hero
 3. Walk more than 8 miles in the summer

what I plan to do in 2011.
 1. Go to Malta to see my Grandma
 2. Go to Michigan Adventure
 3. Spend a week with my cousin in Canada

Abigail Said
 Age: 9 1/2
 Westland
 1. Go to Malta to see my Grandma
 2. Go to Michigan Adventure
 3. Spend a week with my cousin in Canada

Noah Said
 Age: 12
 Westland
 1. Go to Malta to see my Grandma
 2. Go to Michigan Adventure
 3. Go to Frankenmuth



Send in your letter and photo, you may win a spot on Scoop's Hound Dog Highlight page!

Scoop, the newshound, will be offering contests on a monthly basis. Look for Scoop's Hound Dog Highlights page monthly in this newspaper!