

THURSDAY
March 11,
2010

The Observer & Eccentric
Newspapers

Volume 35
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CANTON OBSERVER

online at hometownlife.com



Open rehearsal appeals to families - Filter, B6

CONNECTION

Dragon tix

The Observer & Eccentric/Hometown Newspapers will be giving away five family four-packs to the advanced screening of *How To Train Your Dragon* 11 a.m. Saturday, March 20, at the AMC Livonia.

How To Train Your Dragon is set in the mythical world of burly Vikings and wild dragons, and based on the book by Cressida Cowell. The action comedy tells the story of Hiccup, a Viking teenager who doesn't exactly fit in with his tribe's longstanding tradition of heroic dragon slayers.

The movie will be shown in IMAX-3D. Go to hometownlife.com to enter the contest.



Anyone planning on walking the Michigan 3-Day for the Cure gets a chance to find out what to wear at a kick-off event March 20 in Novi.

Walk kick-off

Saturday, March 20, marks the 24-week training kick off for local Susan G. Komen 3-Day for the Cure walkers.

Registered Michigan 3-Day for the Cure walkers - and anyone interested in walking - can get started at the event, which will feature staffers from New Balance conducting a footwear seminar and hosting a fashion show displaying the proper apparel to wear during the three-day, 60-mile journey.

The event takes place 9 a.m. to noon at Twelve Mile Crossing at Fountain Walk, 44175 W. Twelve Mile in Novi. Registration is still open for the 2010 walk. For more information, visit The3day.org

Brandon speaks

David Brandon, the new athletic director at the University of Michigan, will be the speaker at Canton's Economic Club luncheon on Wednesday, April 7. The luncheon will be held at the Summit on the Park and begins at 11:30 a.m.

The Economic Club hosts semi-annual luncheons. The luncheons were developed with the purpose of introducing Canton's business and professional sector to leaders in the areas of manufacturing, government, entertainment, health care and economics.

The luncheon is open to anyone who wishes to attend. The cost is \$20. Reservations are required and can be made by calling (734) 394-5185.



ANN ESPINOZA

Magical night

Hannah (from left), Riley, Sydney and Delanie Sielaff of Milan posed for photos with Elvis tribute artist Don "Tulsa" McLean at Sunday's "Magical Night with the Stars" event sponsored by the Canton Community Foundation at the Emagine Theater in Canton. The event allowed participants to walk the red carpet, pose with celebrities and watch the annual awards show on the big screen. For more photos and the story, please turn to Page A3.

Homeowners march on township review board

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Like hundreds of Canton homeowners, laid-off Yazaki designer Mark Logan believes the tax assessment on his house is too high.

Armed with real estate research he did on homes sales, Logan, 53, appeared Monday afternoon before the Canton Township Board of Review as it began a weeklong process of hearing appeals from homeowners seeking a deeper cut on their property taxes.

Logan and more than 300 other homeowners are expected to file appeals after receiving assessment notices the township mailed out in late February.

"I believe they did not lower my assessment enough according to the research I have done," Logan said, after making his pitch to a Board of Review that considers appeals and notifies homeowners of its rulings.

Using sales data, Canton's assessing staff lowered the tax-

'I believe they did not lower my assessment enough according to the research I have done.'

MARK LOGAN, Canton homeowner

able value of Logan's home from \$103,750 last year to \$100,340 for 2010 - a \$3,400 drop he said isn't enough considering falling property values.

Logan said he estimated his taxable value even lower at \$92,500. Now, he is hoping for a favorable outcome from the Board of Review.

Pointing to the township's figures, Logan said he should expect to be able to sell his

house for \$200,680, or twice its taxable value. "I'd be lucky to get \$170,000," he said.

Canton Assessor Doug Shaw estimated that more than 300 homeowners will appeal their assessments - a number he said would mark a 20-25 percent drop from last year. He said fewer appeals are expected because virtually every hom-

Please see **REVIEW, A6**

Dad: Officer 'always wanted' to be a cop

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

As slain Jackson Police Officer James Bonneau was growing up in Canton, he seemed destined for a career in law enforcement.

"This is what he always wanted to do from early in life," his father, Marc Bonneau of Canton, said Tuesday after his 26-year-old son was shot and killed while responding to a domestic dispute in Blackman Township. "Police work just fascinated him."

Blackman Township Officer Darrin McIntosh also was shot during the incident and was recovering in a hospital.

As Marc Bonneau and wife Amy grieved over their son's death in the line of duty, the father offered a suggestion for how he hopes James Bonneau will be remembered.

"I'd like to say as a hero," Marc Bonneau said, "but he was also just a good-natured, kind man. He had the biggest heart. He was just a joy."

The father reflected on James Bonneau's childhood in Canton, saying his son was active in Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, Little League baseball and high school wrestling.

Marc Bonneau recalled how his son played with G.I. Joes and always seemed intent on a law-enforcement career so he could help others. After graduating in 2002 from Canton High School, James Bonneau studied criminal justice at Schoolcraft College and Eastern Michigan University.

He applied for police jobs across the nation, but he wanted to stay in his home state of Michigan. He landed a job with the Jackson City Police Department about three years ago.

"We were fortunate to have him so close to us," his father, a Michigan State Police forensic technician, said. "This is really hard for us, but it was a joy having him for as long as we did."

Lt. Steven Rand of the Jackson County Sheriff's Department said the two officers were shot about 12:20 a.m. Tuesday, prompting return fire that killed 63-year-old Elvin Potts inside his home on Mitchell Street in Jackson.

Earlier, Potts had gone with a revolver to an apartment where authorities believe his estranged wife lived, and he had threatened to shoot up her place. Potts reportedly had been drinking.

Potts had left by the time Blackman Township authorities arrived, so they went to his house on Mitchell Street and called for Jackson city officers to meet them there, Rand said.

"They went to the door, something went wrong and the next thing you know, they were calling for help and shots were being fired," Rand said.

Potts fired several shots from his revolver, fatally wounding Bonneau and injuring McIntosh, who



James Bonneau

Please see **OFFICER, A7**

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Hate crime coalition drawing praise

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Canton is drawing accolades for creating a coalition to combat hate crimes and to offer support to residents who may become targets of violence simply because of their race, cultural heritage, sexual orientation or other factors.

Canton Police Lt. Todd Mutchler has initiated the Canton Response To Hate Crimes Coalition as a proactive measure and not in response to a specific incident.

"I think it's definitely a good thing," Michigan Department of Civil Rights spokesman Harold Core said. "When there are people in the community who want to express hate or intolerance, the community itself has to speak louder than those who want to voice that hate or intolerance."

Mutchler has assembled a 14-member coalition represented by local police and fire departments, residents, Plymouth-Canton Community Schools, the NAACP Western Wayne County Branch, the gay-rights Triangle Foundation, Beacon Hill Church

and the Michigan Department of Civil Rights, among others.

Mutchler said the purpose is to send a message that hate crimes "will not be tolerated" in Canton, a community whose population continues to become more diverse.

According to FBI statistics for 2008, Michigan ranked fourth in reported hate crimes in the United States with 560 incidents, surpassed only by California, New Jersey and New York. However, Core said the state's high ranking may partly be traced to better reporting by victims and law enforcement agencies.

Canton's coalition, formed in October, already has made strides by developing a response plan that not only seeks to combat hate crimes, but also to educate the community and mentor both victims and perpetrators during the healing process, Mutchler said.

Canton ranks among the safest communities of comparable size in the United States, and Mutchler said efforts to form a hate-crimes coalition "falls

Please see **HATE CRIMES, A7**

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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

Little Lambs open house

Little Lambs Christian Preschool hosting its open house on 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, March 13.

Registration is now taking place for the 2010-2011 school year. The open house provides parents with an opportunity to visit the facility, meet the staff and learn about the program which includes the Handwriting Without Tears and Hands on Bible curriculums.

The school offers both social and academic programs for 3 year olds to young 5's with a low student/teacher ratio.

LLCP is located at 8500 N. Morton Taylor, just south of Joy Road.

For more information call (734) 414-7792 or visit the Web site at www.pbplymouth.org/littlelambs

Mom-to-mom

The Plymouth Canton Mothers of Multiples host their semi-annual Mom-to-Mom Sale 8:30 a.m. to noon Saturday,

March 13 at West Middle School, 44401 Ann Arbor Trail (at Sheldon) in Plymouth.

The event features department-style shopping (grouped by boy or girl, then by size), spring and summer boys and girls clothing (newborn to size 10), sets for twins and triplets and multiples items, clothes, toys, baby gear, strollers, maternity clothes and a bake sale.

Admission is \$1, cash only, all sales are final (no strollers before 10 a.m.). For more information, e-mail pcmom@hotmail.com

Camp fair

Busy parents looking for a unique summer camp experience for their child or teen once school is out shouldn't miss Canton Leisure Services Annual Camp Fair on Saturday, March 13, 2010 from 10 a.m. to noon at the Summit on the Park, located at 46000 Summit Parkway. Stop in the Grand Ballroom to learn about the wide array of camps that will provide a diverse and fun array of activities for your child throughout the summer.

Parents are encouraged to bring their children to this free event. Don't miss this one-stop shopping opportunity for busy parents to plan a super summer



On display

The artworks of Plymouth Artist Tony Roko are on display at The Village Theater at Cherry Hill through March 29 in the Gallery@VT. Known for his bold and expressive art, this self-taught artist began his art career while working at Ford's Wayne Assembly Plant in vehicle production. Roko's works are intended to promote a harsh realism. The Gallery@VT is free and open to the public 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Monday-Friday and during public performances at the theater. For more information about this latest exhibition, visit cantonvillagetheater.org or call 734/394-5300.

for preschool children, youth, and teens. Enter one of the free raffles, enjoy some delicious treats, and take a turn on an

inflatable bouncer. Children can even try Nintendo Wii, or get their face painted courtesy of D&M Art Studio.

Many camps will fill up quickly. For more information on Canton Leisure Services Annual Camp Fair, visit www.cantonfun.org or call (734) 394-5460.

'Action' item

Area residents get a chance to lend a helping hand and volunteer for this year's Christmas in Action event Saturday, April 24. Both skilled and unskilled volunteers are needed to help provide repairs to needy seniors' homes in the Canton community from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Skilled services needed include, but are not limited to electricians, carpenters, plumbers, roofers, and others. Unskilled volunteers are needed for cleaning, yard work, and painting.

The day will start with registration from 7:30-9 a.m., and a continental breakfast at the Canton Administration Building, 1150 S. Canton Center Road. Volunteers will then be shuttled to assigned homes and are encouraged to bring brooms, rakes, and shovels marked with their name, in addition to work gloves. Lunch will be provided. For more information on

Christmas in Action and the clean-up event scheduled for April 24, call (734) 394-5191 or visit cantonfun.org.

Damaris scholars

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 the \$1,000 Damaris Fine Arts Award.

Students' artwork will be judged on its originality, creativity, and use of material. Artwork will be professionally juried.

Applications will be accepted April 27-30, the work will be juried April 30-May 3, and the Damaris Fine Arts Award will be announced May 4.

Applications can be downloaded at: www.storytellerdesign.com/DamarisAward.pdf Contact Tamara Trudelle at the PCAC, (734) 416-4278 to make an appointment to submit application and portfolio.

For more information, contact Debra Madonna, (734) 377-0914, clarion@storytellerdesign.com.

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Red carpet ride

Oscar event raises cash for food bank

BY BRAD KADRICH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

While Steve Martin and Alec Baldwin were welcoming guests to Hollywood's biggest party Sunday — the 2010 Academy Awards — tons of folks were strolling the red carpet thousands of miles away at Canton's own Oscar shindig.

Canton's annual "Magical Night with the Stars" event drew enthusiastic crowds eager to walk the red carpet, have their photos taken with Oscar and enjoy a night of Hollywood entertainment without ever leaving the township.

Some 150 people turned out to watch party with Oscar at Canton's Emagine Theater.

"We had another great time," said Canton Community Foundation President Joan Noricks. "How often do you get to go out and do something like that, take over a theater, eat all the popcorn you want, schmooze with your friends. It's a unique event."

The event, sponsored by the Canton Community Foundation, benefited Gleaners Community Food Bank, an organization that last year gave more than 30 million pounds of food to soup kitchens, shelters and pantries across southeast Michigan, including Canton-based Open Door Ministry. The event raised some \$5,000, according to Noricks.

"We wanted to help Gleaners because the food need is so great," citing a need that has grown as area families have lost jobs amid a grueling economic recession. "We've had a close relationship with Open Door Ministry, and the majority of their food comes from Gleaners."

Open Door Ministry, Noricks pointed out, has already seen a 48-percent increase in demand (the ministry serviced some 53,000 people in 2009). Other local beneficiaries of Gleaners include First Step, the Plymouth Salvation Army and Trinity Presbyterian Church, which also offers a monthly food bank.

"It's scary to know there's that much hunger in this area," Noricks said. "That's why we chose Gleaners. We're seeing the demand going up, and the foundation thinks it's really important we pay attention to what kind of need is in the community."



Bob Boyer and Sandy Konarske played Frankenstein and his bride at Sunday's Oscar Night event at the Emagine Theater.



James Demmer of Jack Demmer Automotive Group and the chairman of the Canton Community Foundation, speaks to the crowd in front of the big Oscar statue.



Jim and Madelyn Cosens of Plymouth walked the red carpet at the Canton Community Foundation's Oscar Night event at the Emagine Theater.



Tina Smith and Mike Brownley of Canton pose with Oscar.

PHOTOS BY ANN ESPINOZA

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PUBLIC SAFETY

Canton chase suspects Intruder hides, spends night in Target bound over for trial

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Two defendants charged in separate high-speed chases that started in Canton are facing trial in Wayne County Circuit Court. Robert Joseph McPartlin, 35, is facing trial for an incident that began about 2:30 a.m. Feb. 18 near I-275 and Michigan Avenue and ended in Oakland County, where authorities say he was captured after Michigan State Police used a tire-deflating device.

Brandon Merrill Henton, 23, is facing trial for a chase that began around midnight Feb. 17 near Michigan Avenue and Belleville Road, ending at a Van Buren Township house where authorities said they had to use a Taser to subdue him.

McPartlin was arrested amid accusations he led police on a high-speed chase after Canton officers tried to stop a 1999 Ford Mustang for a broken taillight and later learned that the car had been stolen from the White Castle on Ford Road in Canton, police Sgt. Mark Gajeski has said.

Canton police chased the Mustang toward Oakland County, where other authorities picked up the chase and ultimately stopped the car by using a tire-deflating device, Gajeski said.

McPartlin was ordered to stand trial following a two-day preliminary examination that ended Monday in 35th District Court. He was charged with unlawful driving away a motor vehicle, receiving and concealing stolen property, fleeing and eluding police, and being a fourth-degree habitual offender.



McPartlin



Henton

McPartlin, jailed on a \$250,000 cash bond, could face penalties ranging up to five years in prison if convicted, although he could potentially face an even stiffer sentence if found guilty as a habitual offender.

Gajeski has said the stolen Mustang was eventually stopped in the area of White Lake and Lake Grove roads in Oakland County.

Henton, meanwhile, was arrested following allegations he was driving a Mitsubishi Eclipse when he led authorities from Canton to Van Buren Township after officers tried to stop him for speeding, Gajeski has said.

Police used a Taser to subdue him after he resisted arrest, Gajeski said.

Henton, who was jailed with a \$10,000 cash bond, was ordered to stand trial after he waived his preliminary examination last Friday in 35th District Court. He could face penalties ranging up to five years in prison if convicted of fleeing a police officer and resisting a police officer.

Not-guilty pleas had been entered for McPartlin and Henton at the time of their arraignments in 35th District Court.

dclcm@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-2238

A man who told Canton police he is homeless and alcoholic apparently spent the night inside the Target store on Ford Road west of Morton Taylor Road after he hid inside a bathroom until the store closed, according to police reports.

A frightened employee phoned police after she arrived at the store shortly before 3:30 a.m. Monday and noticed a suspicious man in the front of the store. She had locked the doors after she entered.

Police searched the store and found the man sitting at a computer desk with a bottle of Listerine mouthwash on the floor near his feet. With a pistol drawn, an officer approached the man and ordered him to the floor.

Police said the man had a strong odor of alcohol, and he told them he drank from the Listerine bottle. He initially told them he had entered the store to apply for a job, but said he wasn't sure when he had entered.

The man was taken to Oakwood Hospital, where police said he was admitted for alcohol poisoning.

Further investigation revealed the man had entered the store Sunday evening and hid in a bathroom until closing. He had later tried to leave but couldn't because the doors were locked.

The man was cited for being a disorderly person and for simple larceny.

Disorderly conduct

A man was admitted to a hospital for mental evaluation after police said he was seen acting strangely outside the Meijer store on Ford Road east of Canton Center around 12:30 p.m. Monday.



The man at first denied he had any weapons, drugs or alcohol, but police ultimately found a pair of brass knuckles and were told by the suspect he was carrying them because he "had a beef" with some other men, according to police reports.

Police arrested the man for possession of a dangerous weapon in a motor vehicle.

Window damage

A Canton man contacted police after he noticed the back passenger side window of his Honda Odyssey had been smashed and cracked sometime between 6:30 p.m. and 9 p.m. last Thursday.

The incident happened on Cranbury Court, northwest of Warren and Lilley.

Police checked the area and found another car that had a cracked window. A police report indicated the damage had been done by a BB/pellet gun.

Loose dogs

A man was arrested for an outstanding warrant after Canton police initially went to his house on a report that he was allowing his dogs to run loose, according to a police report.

The incident happened about 3:30 p.m. on Old Michigan, southeast of Michigan Avenue and Haggerty, police said.

When police arrived, the man denied letting his dogs run loose. A background check was run on the man, who was then arrested for an outstanding warrant for operating a vehicle while intoxicated, third offense. The man was turned over to Michigan State Police.

Compiled by staff writer Darrell Clem from Canton Police Department reports.

A woman phoned police to say she had seen the man walking through the Meijer parking lot, stumbling and brushing up against vehicles. She said he then walked toward the doors to the pharmacy area and slept briefly on an outdoor bench.

Police arrived, noticed the man was drunk and said he tried at one point to open a bottle of liquor with his mouth. Police said the same man had been in custody the day before for being drunk and disorderly.

Police patted the man down and found two bottles of liquor in his waistband. He was initially arrested for being disorderly and then taken to a hospital, where he was admitted for mental evaluation.

Storage heist

A man contacted police after noticing that a stor-

age unit on Joy Road east of Haggerty was missing several items that belong to the Livonia Rotary Club, according to a police report.

The man told police several items appeared out of place and that an Easter Bunny suit was missing, along with several clear plastic tote bags.

The man told police the incident was believed to have happened between 12:01 a.m. March 3 and 11 a.m. March 4.

Speed demon

Canton police on patrol stopped a motorist after noticing a vehicle traveling at a high rate of speed on Cherry Hill, just east of Haggerty, about 2:55 a.m. March 3.

Officers driving eastbound on Cherry Hill noticed the car traveling westbound, so they turned around and stopped the driver.

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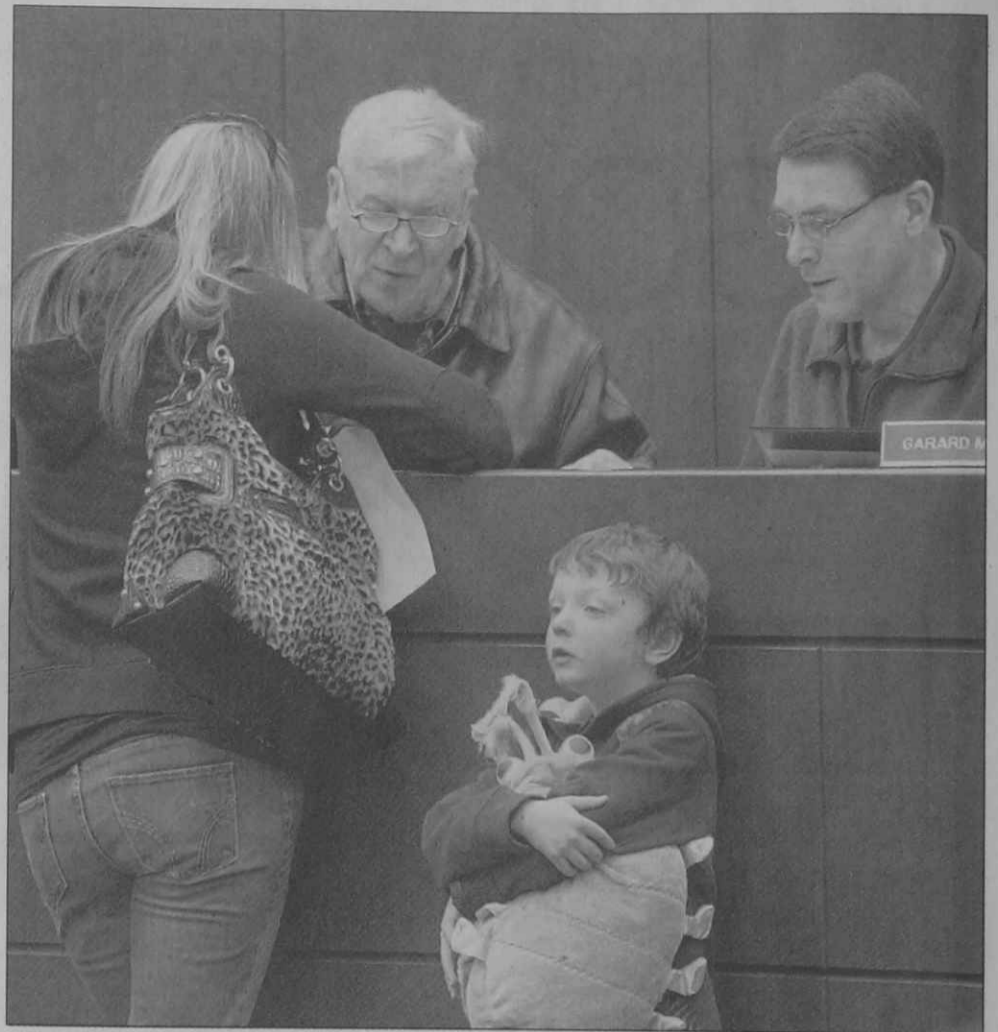


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BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Heidi Moser speaks with Board of Review members Donald Nash and Garard Markey. Five-year-old Xavier Gosser waits for mom to finish her presentation.

REVIEW

FROM PAGE A1

owner has seen tax relief this year.

Although Logan has appealed his assessment, he still commended the township for the way it has handled the process, saying, "Canton has treated me with courtesy, respect and professionalism."

Shaw said one of his goals is for homeowners to be comfortable with the process — even if they aren't thrilled with their assessment notices.

By Monday afternoon, Board of Review secretary Courtney Dugger said the

number of homeowners coming in to appeal their assessments had dropped off since the morning. Tuesday evening, lines had formed again.

Homeowners who aren't satisfied with Board of Review decisions may file an appeal with the Michigan Tax Tribunal in Lansing.

Logan, meanwhile, took issue with the state for not allowing "distressed" properties, such as foreclosures, in calculating property assessments. Even though those properties can skew sales data, Logan said he still believes they should be factored in to some extent.

Township officials have said residential property values, overall, fell nearly 10 percent

during the last year as the housing market continued to reel from an economic recession.

Supervisor Phil LaJoy has said Canton is poised to lose \$5.2 million in revenues for a two-year period ending in 2011 — the majority of it from declining property taxes.

So, while homeowners will see property tax relief, township officials will be left scrambling to absorb the losses. Already, certain vacant jobs haven't been filled, and LaJoy said Canton has initiated a long-range budget-planning process to prepare for what may come.

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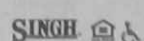
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Without service tax, school cut is \$265

BY BRAD KADRICH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

State Reps. Marc Corriveau, (D-Northville), and Dian Slavens, (D-Canton), dropped by Tuesday's Plymouth-Canton Community Schools Board of Education meeting and did a variation on "good cop, bad cop."

"We're here with sort of a good news, bad news thing," Corriveau told the board.

Slavens proceeded to present the board with a resolution applauding them for their work in recognition of School Board Recognition Month. That was the good news.

Corriveau got to play "bad cop," delivering the news that, unless Gov. Jennifer Granholm's plan to spread the sales tax to services not currently subject to the tax is approved and generates the \$554 million she said it would deliver, public schools are expected to take a \$260 per-student cut in their state foundation grant.

"Michigan is still facing tough times, and your job isn't going to get any easier," Corriveau told board members.

Without the projected windfall, the school aid fund would fall approximately \$415 short, according to numbers presented by Corriveau. That projects to the \$260 slice in per-pupil funding.

"That's the number this board should plug into its calculators," Corriveau said.

The \$260 cut would be in the 2010/2011 school-year budget and would come on top of the \$165 the governor shaved off for the 2009/10 school year. That would mean Plymouth-Canton, which lost some \$3 million this year, would drop another nearly \$5 million in 2010/2011.

The news came as no surprise to Plymouth-Canton administrators, who built in a \$268 cut for 2010/11 based on information delivered at a conference in January, according to Jim Larson-Shidler, the district's assistant superintendent for business.

"The good news is that's what we put in our budget," said school board president Steven Sneiderman. "We're hoping that changes, but ..."

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HATE CRIMES

FROM PAGE A1

within that umbrella" of working to protect that reputation.

He said more than 20 hate groups have been identified in Michigan, and the coalition's goal has been to develop a response plan should potential problems arise here.

Hate crimes may involve an act as simple yet disturbing as scrawling racist words on cars, but also may entail burning crosses in yards or violent attacks. Core called it encouraging that communities such as Canton are taking the issue seriously and adopting proactive measures.

"Advocates for inclusion and diversity really have to be proactive, and I think this is definitely a positive," he said. "Canton or any community that builds these kinds of coalitions will benefit by sending a message of tolerance and inclusion."

Core said such efforts may even have economic benefits, because companies view proactive communities as desirable.

Canton Public Safety Director Patrick Nemecek has commended Mutchler for initiating Canton's hate crimes coalition, whose mission statement supports "the dignity of the individual" and pledges to "work together to secure the right of every person in the Canton community to be free from hate crimes and/or bias-motivated incidents."

The mission statement notes that the coalition will serve as a liaison between law enforcement, community groups, schools, faith-based organizations and the Canton community at large — partly by providing education. Canton Library Director Eva Davis already has offered the library as a place for education programs.

Mutchler talked about the coalition to Canton's elected officials during a study session last week, and officials such as Treasurer Melissa McLaughlin lauded the effort.

"I think this is a remarkably good idea," she said.

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OFFICER

FROM PAGE A1

underwent surgery and was expected to survive.

Bonneau, who had received commendations for his police work, was shot in the chest even though Rand said he was wearing a bullet-proof vest. Rand indicated that vests aren't always fully impenetrable.

"Officer Bonneau did everything right," Rand said.

McIntosh was shot in the leg, he said.

Bonneau had strong ties to the Canton community. Local officials said his grandfather, Robert Shefferly, formerly served on the Canton Township Board of Trustees from 1988 to 2004.

Canton Public Safety Director Patrick Nemecek also said Bonneau's sister once worked as an intern in the township police department's records bureau.

"This family has a lot of deep ties to Canton," Nemecek said. "We're going to offer any services and any support we can to the family."

Nemecek recalled how difficult it was when Canton lost one of its own police officers, Gordon "Lew" Stevens, in the line of duty in July 2003. Stevens was killed when he stopped to investigate an abandoned vehicle and his patrol car was struck from behind.

"We've been through this," Nemecek said, adding that local police offer their condolences to the Bonneau family.

"We consider them part of the Canton family," he said.

Visitation for Bonneau will be 1-9 p.m. today (Thursday) at L.J. Griffin Funeral Home, 42600 Ford Road, in Canton. Services will be at 10 a.m. Friday at St. Michael Lutheran Church, 7000 Sheldon Road, in Canton.

Bonneau's survivors include his sister, Emily (Rene) Bonneau-Rocha; brother Peter Bonneau; grandparents Jane Bonneau and Robert and Lorraine Shefferly; and his special friend, Rachael Maloney. Bonneau was preceded in death by grandfather David Bonneau.

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LOCAL OPINION

online at hometownlife.com



Our fundamental purposes are to enhance the lives of our readers, nurture the hometowns we serve and contribute to the business success of our customers.

OUR VIEWS

Conversation, not panel, is needed on high school course

If anything came out of the huge attendance figures at Tuesday's Plymouth-Canton Board of Education meeting, it's the idea that a conversation needs to be had as the district moves to implement its newest social studies course.

The question is this: How best to accomplish that?

At the center of the debate is the district's first course in African-American history and culture. The course, developed by Salem High School social studies teacher Carrie Chobanian, is designed to examine African-American history from around 1890 to the present. Students will "revisit key themes," such as empowerment, community, identity, the role of the church, citizenship, entrepreneurship, oppression and cultural expression, according to the course description.

It's a potentially politically charged course, as all discussion of racial conditions in this country can be. The board felt the best way to have that discussion was to empanel an advisory committee, a seven- to 12-member panel, at least a third of the membership of which would represent the African-American community.

The concern among some is that the course include the African-American perspective, and not just be a class about African-American history taught from a Caucasian perspective. And board members are right. As the course is developed, whomever develops it, input from experts — other teachers, historians, parents, members of the African-American community — should absolutely be sought.

But that can be handled in a variety of other ways. A host of guest speakers can be used. Chobanian had spoken to people at the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History in Detroit about ways for students to work down there to gain that perspective, though nothing had been solidified because the course hadn't yet been approved.

Establishing an advisory committee to provide input on class materials and make recommendations on the direction and potential changes in the course steps outside the board's responsibility. Like the class itself, the advisory committee formed by the board — on which the board will have approval authority over one-third of its members — is a first-of-its-kind panel in the district. The only other piece of the curriculum with such a committee is the sex education course, and that committee is required by law.

While we understand the teachers' discontent over the formation of the advisory committee, we don't believe it indicates any mistrust or lack of belief in the quality of the district's teachers.

Rather, we think the inclusion of this panel is an overreaction to concerns raised over the potential sensitivity of the course. The safeguards the board seeks to put in place already exist in a variety of other forms. Parents have access to teachers and administrators. Administrators — experts in the education of children — will oversee the content.

The fact the language in the committee structure was softened from "oversight" to "advisory," and a panel that would "make changes" lightened to "recommend changes" doesn't change the perception the board seeks to control the class. It doesn't embrace the spirit of the board's general attitude: Eyes in, fingers out.

Do we think establishing the advisory committee is an exercise in control for the board? Of course not. We don't believe it starts a "slippery slope" effect that will have the board overseeing the next new math course, for instance.

Social studies teacher Darrin Silvester spoke to the board at its Feb. 23 meeting, and said considering new curriculum is about risk and trust, and urged the board to trust its teachers. To be sure, we don't think the advisory committee is necessary. But trust goes both ways.

Maybe the two sides should remember that, and let the conversation begin.

COMMUNITY VOICE

Do you support or oppose a ban on texting while driving?

We asked this question at the Canton Public Library.



"I support it. It's distracting, and there are already enough distractions on the roads without using your eyes and hands to do something else."

John VanHouten
Canton



"I support it. Nobody should text while driving."

Sue McCabe
Canton



"I definitely think it should be banned, for sure."

Shelly Stackhouse
Canton



"It should be banned because it causes accidents."

Mario Benedetti
Belleville

LETTERS

Be counted

Michigan, like other northern states, has plenty of "snowbirds" — that is, residents who travel to warmer climates during the winter months. In this census year, it is critical that the snowbirds who call Michigan their usual residence answer the census form in their home state of Michigan.

Why is this important? Because Michigan can lose up to \$200 million in federal funds per year (\$2 billion per decade!) and may also lose a seat in the US House if snowbirds are not included in the Michigan census.

The League of Women Voters, a partner of the Census 2010 Complete Count Committee, offers this solution: Snowbirds receiving a census form at their winter retreat should enter "0" for the number of people living at their winter address and then write only these words, "Usual residence elsewhere" so the person reading the form understands why "0" was entered.

When they return to Michigan, they can fill out the census form that was delivered to their Michigan address OR wait until a census worker visits them at their Michigan home. There is no penalty for having a census worker make a home visit.

Census forms are delivered to households, not to individuals. The form does not ask where you live, nor is there a place on the form to indicate a primary address if you respond to the form from your winter retreat. Every U.S. resident should be counted by the census once, at the residence where they live most of the year.

Counting Michigan snowbirds as residents of another state reduces Michigan's political influence in Congress, reduces the level of federal funding received by state and local agencies, and reduces the accuracy of the census data.

Help Michigan be counted correctly! Please circulate this information to your snowbird friends so that Michigan can receive all the resources it deserves!

Paula Bowman, President
League of Women Voters of NW Wayne County

What's in a name?

The article described controversy over the "African-American History & Culture" course, the district's first course on "African-American History." The heart of the controversy, I believe, lies in the name.

I've seen first-hand the educational weakness of many of America's youth — they don't know many of the facts of American or the world history. History happened. It is facts. The history as to "why" events happened depends on your viewpoint, then and now.

It's important to understand history, but it's a fair statement to say that everyone who acted in history acted out of a conviction that they were doing what was right at that time. If we want to teach a part of history as not just facts, but facts which must include the historical viewpoints, then of course WWII history must include the then views of Nazis and Communists.

As shown on a recent news show, in

1939 Madison Square Garden was filled with an American Nazi Party rally — there were two sides then, to what we see as only one side now. If all history courses include detailed teaching on viewpoints of the events, especially what we now think of them, not much in the way of facts will be taught. It will be more a political course than a history course.

A participant in the discussion on the Plymouth-Canton course "was a little disturbed to hear a white teacher discuss an African-American course that was written completely from a white perspective." If it truly is a history course, as I (and Webster) understand the meaning of history, I'd suggest there are no perspectives on the facts.

Facts are facts, including the perspectives then. Any black or white perspectives now are not necessarily those of then. If it is an African-American Culture History course, then it is a course with one point of view, prepared by whatever historians, black or white, who can determine factually the African-American views at that time in history, and their evolution until now.

If anyone believes the facts in the text are wrong, challenge them. If it is a course on current Black-American views of their cultural past, then it likely needs a Black-American author, but that is not, strictly speaking, a history class.

What is the course title? What are you teaching?

Tom Salapatek
Canton

ONLINE VOICES & VIEWS

Here's a look at what readers are saying about stories on our Web site, www.hometownlife.com:

• In response to the story, "Here comes the sun as solar dispute settled:"

desi2008 wrote:
"Is this really victory? Fourteen months fighting a legal battle with your neighborhood association to install solar panels on your own property? How many hours, how much distress, lost time with family, lost wages did he incur to win the right to spend \$5,000 on solar panels. Yes, this is still America, and a sorry condition it is being reduced to with over-reaching, litigation happy neighborhood associations."

"How many people would be discouraged by such prolonged agony of lawsuits, and not even bother with green solutions? As a businessman, each lost hour is lost wages to me. I certainly can't afford to waste my time fighting such battles with the authorities. FOURTEEN MONTHS? That's a crying shame!"

B757blaine wrote:
"I am one of Mr. Hall's neighbors in the sub and I fully support him in his quest for energy conservation. The homeowners association overstepped on this one. His system was not an eyesore and did not detract from the overall appearance of the neighborhood. Last time I checked, this was still America — and you

should have the right to upgrade your own property as you see fit!"

• In response to the story, "Social studies course stirs controversy:"

Got-It wrote:
"Try as you may to speak for Ms. Davis, she does not share your opinion that a "white" (Caucasian) teacher has the ability to teach the course, even with proper training. Ms. Davis's quotes, "If you have not experienced discrimination, how can you teach it?" and "... There is a perspective to the African-American experience that the Caucasian perspective can't bring."

"I... voted for Ms. Davis in an effort to bring diversity to the School Board but, in reflection of her comments made will not do so again. I think her viewpoint is too blunt, myopic and perpetuates the stagnated racial tensions which have burdened SE Metro-Detroit for far too long."

vickishields wrote:
"I'm Vicki Shields and I developed the curriculum for Ann Arbor Pioneer's African American Cultural Humanities (AC) and I have been having some awesome dialogue with Chobanian as she prepared to go after putting this course in place. Both sides have made some very valid points, but my fear is that you are not hearing what is behind Ms. Davis' opinion. The irony is you are doing exactly what she fears will be done if the class

is taught by someone White. Whether or not someone White can teach it is a valid concern. Just because someone is "nice", "hard-working" or even proposed and developed the course doesn't mean that they can automatically teach the African American experience and that's a fact. Does a White teacher have the ability, yes, with proper training. I must say that I was pleased with what I saw so far, but there are some things that are part of cultures and ethnicities that are not in books and need to be shared from that group's perspective."

awareness2010 wrote:
"There is much history and foundation that is acquired by family history/experience that is not found at a library, textbook, etc. For ex. An African American History class should never start at 1815's. Our history does not start at slavery. This will only further stir up already escalating racial problems within the Park. At this point in time, we need someone that can teach with the sensitivity and strong voice to assist with many questions/confusion that is happening with our kids being African American living in a white community. I am sure that any teacher can instruct/ repeat from a textbook, research etc., But we all know the best teacher is one that is experienced in that subject. This class is a major step to helping us with the escalating racial tensions within the park. Having a white American teach a class on slavery, etc. is not the right answer especially to high school students."

CANTON
OBSERVER



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SPORTS, FILTER, FOOD

SECTION B
(CP)

HOMETOWN LIFE



Tim Smith, editor (313) 222-2637
tsmith@hometownlife.com

Salem can't stop Lever

BY TIM SMITH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

BOYS DISTRICTS

It's too bad Monday's Canton-Salem Class A boys basketball district quarterfinal was a late afternoon tilt.

Canton junior guard Dietrich Lever deserved prime time for his spectacular all-around performance, the main reason why the Chiefs (15-6) ousted campus rival Salem 54-42 at Novi High School.

With an exhilarating mix of finger rolls and coast-to-coast layups, Lever scored 28 points — including 10 of his team's 12 in the second quarter. Lever also collected six assists and drove the Rocks crazy with seven steals.

Even with the game well in hand, Lever didn't stop.

He nearly jumped into Salem's bench to steal the ball and then had the presence of mind to — while suspended in mid air — blindly loft the ball over his head to a teammate to keep the play alive.

"I was just playing, I wanted to win, we haven't gotten past first round in a while at Canton," Lever said. "I just

played my hardest to win the game and everything was going in so I just kept going.

"My adrenaline wouldn't let me stop."

MULTI-DIMENSIONAL

Both coaches were definitely impressed by what they saw out of Lever.

"(He's) very instinctive, he's played a lot of basketball, he knows the game and he's got a feel for it," said Canton head coach Jimmy Reddy. "So a play like that (along the side-lines) is just, ... that's something he does already."

Reddy said Lever's speed, tenacity and pressure on the ball not only forced a number of turnovers and steals "he created shots by getting steals and transition points, whether he was scoring or someone else was scoring."

Please see **DISTRICTS, B2**



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Canton's Dietrich Lever (No. 3) goes to the Salem rack Monday night in Class A district boys basketball action at Novi. Trying in vain to stop him is Plymouth's Devonta Riley.

GYMNASTICS

Finals next for Canton

BY TIM SMITH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Coach John Cunningham always knew this year's Canton girls gymnastics team was a special group.

But following his team's regional championship on Saturday, he knows it's "a special year" for the squad.

"This is only the second time in Canton gymnastics where we have gotten both conference and regional championships the same year," said Cunningham, following the Chiefs' win at the Canton-hosted regional with 144.775 points. The last occasion was in 1996.

Finishing second behind Canton was nemesis Northville (140.875) and Livonia Blue (140.0).

Next up for Cunningham and the Chiefs is Friday's team state finals in Rockford (near Grand Rapids). Six team members then will compete in Saturday's individual finals.

"On Friday you give all you can for the team and Saturday it's all about you," Cunningham said. "That's going to be cool, too. But we're preparing for both."

Cunningham noted that Canton will need to "pick off" one of three top teams Friday to make the pre-season goal of at least a third-place finish.

Please see **FINALS, B2**

Chiefs grapplers place at individual state finals

BY TIM SMITH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Although Friday's Division 1 individual state wrestling finals did not produce a champion for Canton, head coach Cory Mancuso was proud of what his contingent did accomplish at the Palace of Auburn Hills.

Four of his six participants were state placers, and at the top of the list were seniors Brent Winekoff — who finished second (silver medal) at 152 — and Donnie Watkins, again taking third at 140.

"Brent's goal was to win this tournament, but sometimes things don't always go your way," Mancuso said.

"The great thing for Brent is that he is going on to wrestle at college where he will set new goals for himself and have the opportunity to reach them."

Winekoff lost for the first time after 60 consecutive wins in the 152 final against East Kentwood's Deshawn Nelson. Even then, it was a very close 7-6 decision.

Watkins (55-4 for the season) won his first two bouts before dropping a 10-2 major decision to Clarkston's Matt Dietz.

"He was disappointed that he was not able to finish his career as a state champion, but being a four-time state placer is a great accomplishment," Mancuso said. "I was very proud of

him to come back and finish third after losing in the semifinals to the eventual champion (Dietz)."

Also wrestling his way to the medals podium was junior Anthony Abro, who took fourth place at 189 to finish the season 62-4.

Please see **WRESTLING, B2**

This swimmer's all business

BY TIM SMITH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

If you see Ryan Boes at Friday's Division 1 boys swimming state meet, there won't be a giant "S" on his red swim cap.

But the 17-year-old Canton senior will have an almost super-human kind of day, competing at the Holland Aquatic Center with his Chiefs teammates and then rushing back to metropolitan Detroit later that day for a DECA business and marketing state competition.

"I'm pretty much going to have to hop out of the pool, get a shirt and tie on, get my suit on and get ready to drive the three hours to Dearborn," Boes said, smiling.

Boes, a co-captain with the swim team, will compete about 12:30 p.m. Friday in his event (200-yard medley relay) and — with help from the Boes Chauffeur Service (actually parents Amy and Tim) — he'll make

it back by 4 p.m. for the DECA states.

There, he will do a role play in front of judges, showing how well he can apply concepts learned this year in Canton's DECA chapter (where he is vice president) to real world business and marketing situations.

"The real kicker will be if we make the finals in swimming," Boes said. "Then I'll actually need to go to Dearborn and do my DECA event and then go back to Holland (by noon Saturday)."

According to Ryan, he and his parents started trying to determine how to fit everything in as soon as the swim team qualified for the state meet.

"We really sat down after I made them both and found out they were on the same weekend and kind of figured it out," he said, noting that swimming at the start of the meet helped immensely in being able to map it out.

ABLE TO DO BOTH

An event later on might have required Boes to "pick and choose" between swimming and DECA. "I think God was looking out for me."

But Amy Boes had no qualms that if anybody could figure it out it would be her second of three sons, because Ryan "can manage his time better than anyone I know. He plots everything down, he just can do it all."

Older brother Chad (a junior at Central Michigan) and younger brother Michael (a sophomore at Canton) are the same way, she said. There is one difference between the boys; Ryan is the only one to not play football at Canton.

"He wanted to go a different way, he found his niche in swimming," said Amy Boes, adding that it is a rare combination. "In his sophomore year he got into this DECA, and it's all for sales

Please see **BOES, B4**



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Canton senior Ryan Boes doesn't seem to mind carrying a heavy load, which includes varsity swimming, DECA, National Honor Society and a part-time job.

GIRLS HOCKEY

Penguins: D2 champs

BY TIM SMITH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

If Port Huron is a powerhouse girls hockey team, the Plymouth-Canton-Salem Penguins pulled the plug Saturday night at St. Clair Shores Arena.

Freshman goalie Cortny McAdoo's outstanding effort helped get the Penguins through regulation of the Division 2 Michigan Metro Girls Hockey League playoff final. And then, senior defenseman Jordyn Moore's goal at 6:33 of overtime finished a 1-0 shocker over the D2 regular season champion Lady Icehawks.

The victory advanced PCS (13-9) up the rung into the Division 1 play-

Please see **PENGUINS, B3**

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Despite loss, Penguins getting noticed

BY TIM SMITH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Hot on the heels of the biggest game in team history, the Plymouth-Canton-Salem Penguins took Cranbrook-Kingswood down to the wire Tuesday in a Division 1 state girls hockey playoff quarterfinal.

But unlike Saturday night, when the Penguins edged Port Huron to win the D2 playoffs, the magic ran out at Detroit City Arena as the Cranes skated to a 2-1 victory.

Cranbrook-Kingswood (19-3) built an early 2-0 lead but had to hang on over the final two periods while PCS peppered goalie Colleen Jacoby — outstanding with 33 saves.

With freshman goalie Cortny McAdoo (20 saves) pulled for the extra attacker, the Penguins finally got on the board with just 44 seconds remaining.

A shot from the left point by senior defenseman Jordyn Moore was stopped by Jacoby, as was a rebound try by forward Jenny Fedon. Finally, senior defenseman Shauna Siebert swept the puck in while falling to the ice.

PCS (13-10) was unable to threaten for the equalizer after that.

"We had a little bit of a slow start and that kind of hurt us at the end of the game," said Johnson, finishing her first year as coach in excellent fashion. "If we had 17-minute periods it probably would have been another story."

"We really took it to them starting the middle of the second period and just ran out of time."

Cranbrook-Kingswood opened the scoring in the Michigan Metro Girls Hockey League contest with about eight minutes to go in the first. Sydney Sakwa finished a centering feed from

Caley Chelios.

Sakwa then batted in a rebound just 24 seconds into the second period for a 2-0 Cranes lead.

But that seemed to wake up the Penguins, who wound up firing 19 shots on Jacoby — who displayed a quick glove hand all night.

Siebert was outstanding, with a handful of top-quality shots that she just could not get past the goalie.

"All three of the seniors (Moore, Siebert, defenseman Kara Bongiovanni) played a fantastic game," Johnson added. "I think they realized this could be the last game and they went all out and they proved to everybody they deserved to be here and it wasn't a fluke."

Bongiovanni arrived at the arena on crutches after injuring her foot late in the upset win over Port Huron at St. Clair Shores Arena, but still managed to compete.

"She played very well for not being 100 percent," Johnson said.

In the third period, the Penguins continued to press Jacoby while their goaltender, McAdoo, kept the score close with a sparkling glove save against Sakwa with about three minutes to go.

The Penguins, by winning the D2 playoffs, moved up into the D1 single-elimination tournament. Both the championship and strong showing against Cranbrook-Kingswood bodes well for the future of the program.

"I've already gotten a few e-mails from girls who are interested," Johnson said. "... that big win on Saturday will go a long way for us I think in the history of the Penguins."

tsmith@hometownlife.com



The Plymouth-Canton Unified girls figure skating team has excelled at several competitions this season. The team, including skaters from Canton, Plymouth and Salem high schools, includes (listed alphabetically): Summar Abdelnour, Samantha Amado, Caitlin Baumer, Emily Buck, Danielle Cecil, Danielle Desilets, Alex Feschchenko, Kylie Hakala, Reagan Hurley, Natalie Jordan, Pooja Kamani, Amy Kolarik, Katie Kowalski, Lauren Larsen, Shelby Locklear, Stephanie Lyle, Alexa Macari, Lindsay Magaldi, Alli Morrison, Amelia Peer, Ellita Perez, Amanda Pinko, Diane Postel, Leah Przytulski, Valeria Reyna, Breanna Schnur, Brooke Siepierski, Madison Smith, Lauren Taylor, Freya Thodesen-Kasparian and Marissa Ziegler. Co-coaches are Barb Miller and Suzie Smith with Ellen Kolarik the manager/advisor.

Unified figure skaters making strides

Could there be some future Olympian figure skaters in the making?

A first-place finish by the B Team in spins highlighted an all-around fine showing by the Plymouth-Canton Unified girls figure skating team on Feb. 17 at Farmington Hills Ice Arena.

Plymouth-Canton brought three sub-teams (A, B, C) to the competition, representing girls with different levels of expertise.

Those teams did as follows: A Team (moves, 2nd; jumps, 5th; spins, 7th), B Team (moves, 4th; jumps, 8th; spins, 1st); C Team (moves, 5th; jumps, 5th; spins, 2nd).

Final standings were determined by a combined score of those three elements for all three sub-teams.

Team A and C tied for third and second

place, respectively (both with Hartland) while Team B finished fourth.

Skaters from Canton, Plymouth and Salem high schools comprise the unified team, coached by Noreen Desilets.

The skaters showed steady improvement from the first competition in December.

Earlier in the season, at the second District 3 competition, Plymouth-Canton's A Team had excellent performances in moves (2nd place) and jumps (4th), helping it finish in a fourth place tie with Ann Arbor Huron.

Meanwhile, the B Team's first-place showing in spins highlighted its overall second place finish. The sub-team also took second in the moves category.

Plymouth-Canton's co-coaches are Barb Miller and Suzie Smith with important help from manager/advisor Ellen Kolarik.



It was a happy scene Saturday night for the Plymouth-Canton-Salem Penguins girls hockey team, following a 1-0 overtime win against Port Huron in the Division 2 playoff final. Recording the shutout was freshman goalie Cortny McAdoo (front and center).

PENGUINS

FROM PAGE B1

offs, which began Tuesday night at Detroit City Arena. (Cranbrook-Kingswood edged the Penguins 2-1, see related story.)

First-year head coach Mary Beth Johnson said her team was up to the challenge of facing Port Huron — a team that romped PCS 7-0 early in the year.

She pointed to how her team defeated Detroit Country Day on Thursday in the D2 semifinal, despite McAdoo being sick. Backup goalie Ellexus Montoya (only one previous game all season) stepped in and the Penguins prevailed

8-3.

"Nothing has been easy for us this year, but the girls have proved that they can take on adversity and pull through as a stronger team," said Johnson, whose coaching leadership turned the program around. "Having Ellexus play in net Thursday night was the best thing that could have happened to this team."

"The girls knew what had to be done to win the game against Country Day with our backup goalie in net."

Then with a nothing-to-lose attitude Saturday night, and the diminutive McAdoo playing flawlessly in net, the Penguins never gave in to the Lady Icehawks (who came into the game with a 19-1 record).

McAdoo made 25 shots, including several in the closing

seconds of regulation, displaying the poise of a junior or senior.

That led to the winner. Defenseman Shauna Siebert sent a pass over to Moore, who cut across the front of the goal and roofed the puck over the Port Huron goaltender's right shoulder.

When Moore hit the twine with her shot, Johnson said gloves and sticks flew into the air and her players celebrated in a big pile in the middle of the ice.

Johnson pointed to an excellent penalty kill, spearheaded by Mallory Rojo, as instrumental in the victory. The Penguins were called for four penalties, while Port Huron only needed to kill off one.

tsmith@hometownlife.com

Whalers tune up as playoffs near

The Plymouth Whalers came into last weekend determined to get into good habits and set up positive momentum for the playoffs. Mission accomplished.

The Whalers defeated the Saginaw Spirit, 4-0, in an Ontario Hockey League game played before a sellout crowd of 3,662 Saturday night at Compuware Arena. On Friday, Plymouth shut out the Sault Ste. Marie Greyhounds, 3-0.

Plymouth improves to 38-25-0-2, good for 78 points and fourth place in the Western Conference playoff race. The Whalers have a five-point lead on fifth-place Sault Ste. Marie (34-25-1-4, 73 points) for the final playoff spot that assures home ice in the first round of the upcoming OHL playoffs.

Plymouth goalie Matt Hackett stopped 31 shots for his second straight shutout while Tyler Brown (13th), Austin Levi (3rd), Austin Mattson (3rd) and Robbie Czarnik (15th) scored for the Whalers, with Czarnik adding two assists and Tyler Seguin three assists in the victory. (Seguin scored on Friday for his 100th point of the season.)

"I've never done this before," Hackett said about consecutive shutouts. "Tonight was the same thing as last night — our D did their job and that made my job easy."

While Hackett and the Plymouth blue liners did their job, the Whalers offense

pelted Saginaw goaltender Tadeas Galansky with 51 shots.

Galansky played well and the Whalers finally took a 1-0 lead at 14:39 when Czarnik went wide right wing in the Saginaw zone and snapped a shot towards the net, where Brown redirected the puck over Galansky's shoulder.

"I saw Czarnik wheeling into the (offensive) zone," Brown said of his goal. "Using my speed, I went across the middle and made sure I took away the D. So I crashed the net and tried to screen the goalie."

Plymouth took a 2-0 lead at 14:41 of the second period with an excellent elemental play. Center AJ Jenks — who excelled on face offs — won a draw in the Saginaw zone from Jordan Skellett and sent the puck quickly to the right point to Levi, who wired a shot over Galansky's shoulder at 14:41.

The Whalers kept coming and scored at 17:21 of the second period to take a 3-0 lead. Seguin moved to the high slot and took a shot on Galansky, who made the save with traffic in front of him. Mattson tapped home the rebound just outside the Saginaw blue crease. Plymouth led, 3-0, after forty minutes of play.

Czarnik scored the only goal of the third period, tapping home a rebound from the left side of the Saginaw net for his third goal of the weekend at 15th of the year.

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Canton Strictly Business

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Guest speaker

Chris Hall, president of Canton-based RepairClinic.com, an online appliance parts retailer, has been invited to speak on the topic of "Ethics and Entrepreneurship," Wednesday, March 17, at 5:30 p.m. in Room 114 at the College of Business, Eastern Michigan University for the annual Ethos Week event.

"I feel very strongly about this topic," said Hall, who believes in personal integrity and strives to implement those values at RepairClinic. "There will always be plenty of opportunities to take the easy, unethical path, but you have to go out of your way to maintain integrity in today's business environment."

In his speech at Eastern Michigan, he will elaborate on the ethical challenges facing today's entrepreneurs as they navigate a tough economy, sharing from his own experience as an entrepreneur for the last 10 years.

Retooling America

On April 5-6, Sensible Business of Canton hosts a "Retooling America Initiative" at its Training Facility in Westland.

The purpose of Retooling America Initiative is to help displaced workers find success in gaining employment in a challenging market. The goal is to prepare candidates to meet potential employers as well as to gain access to counseling and services hosted by Sensible Business Consulting Group, LLC. This workshop is FREE to assist displaced workers in



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Chris Hall, president of RepairClinic.com, speaks this week at Eastern Michigan University.

job placement.

The initiative goes 9 a.m. to noon both days, and features:

- **Innovative Resume Writing:**

In this course, clients learn what a resume is, what the acceptable formats are, the importance of action words, how to narrow career objectives by efficient job source tools, how to prepare a "scannable" resume, the importance of removing "digital dirt" and how to write an effective cover letter. Students also learn the importance of first impressions, how to create job tracking tools, and how to research salary requirement information.

- **Value of Self-Promotion:** In this course, clients learn how to create a 30-second value statement, how to portray a healthy self image, how to be assertive, and how to enhance self esteem.

- **Interview Techniques:** In this course, students discover

the true purpose of an interview, learn to differentiate between Behavior Based and Traditional interview questions, how to prepare, and "do's and don'ts" that could mean the difference between getting hired and being passed over.

- **Networking:** In this course, students learn the benefits of networking, how to prepare for networking, the perfect time to network and proper etiquette. Students are also introduced to the impact of personal online networking. Whether in cyber space, on the golf course, at the bar or at the mall, our clients will understand how to meet, greet, and grow their perspective business through interpersonal interaction.

Sensible Business Consulting Group's training site is located at 36660 Cherry Hill in Westland. Visit www.sensible-business.org or contact (734) 620-9461 for more information.

Five-year-old Sydney Hamilton and her mom, Nichole Hamilton, meet Canton Waste Recycling's talking trash can. He's a pretty friendly guy, for a trash can.



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Home expo draws vendors, crowds

BY BRAD KADRICH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

When Dean Varton's dad ran the family's heating and cooling business, his customers were mostly word-of-mouth and his marketing instincts were more "old-school."

When dad retired and turned over the family business, Dean decided to take things in a new direction. So, for the first time in more than 30 years in Canton, Varton Heating and Cooling was at the semi-annual Home Improvement Expo. And the expo helped enough the business was back last weekend.

"Dad was old-school, we're more the new generation," Dean Varton said Saturday, pointing out the business now has a Google directory and a larger Internet presence. "We're trying to see where to best spend our marketing money. Last year, the expo was successful, and hopefully this year's will be, too."

The Expo, hosted by Canton's Building and Inspection Services Division, the Chamber of Commerce, and the Observer and Eccentric Newspapers, drew more than 120 vendors, a fact that brought Gary Trader of Canton out on a gorgeous Saturday afternoon.

"We're just looking for someone to do some cement work and a roof," Traer said. "We found one, and we're going to get an estimate."

Canton Township officials said some 5,000 people strolled through the Summit on the Park over the two-day expo, up some 20 percent from the usual attendance. Workshops sponsored by Home Depot and others were popular attractions, and the presence of three radio stations over the two-day event



Pete Dryovage, owner of Michigan Pete Landscaping, talks with Bob Genna of Canton.



Bob Boutet of Canton learns about kitchen remodeling options from Darrell Smith of GraniteClad.

provided extra exposure. A solar display by Mechanical Energy Systems of Canton was also popular.

"A few people said they heard about it on the radio and decided to come over to the event," said John Weyer, Canton's building official. "The workshops were well-attended, and we got a lot of good comments about the solar display."

Greg Barnett of Barnett Roofing & Siding, Inc., a mainstay at the expo since its inception, said he expected another good bump from the company's presence.

"We get a lot of business from it," Barnett said. "It's a

good opportunity to get leads and turn them into sales."

It's not just locals who benefit from the expo. Best Cellar, a basement waterproofing and refinishing firm from Milbury, Ohio, had one of the more than 140 tables at the expo.

"We go to all of the home shows, RV shows, gun shows ... wherever there's a crowd," said Marrie Whited, who does marketing at various shows for the company. "This company has an A+ certification through the Better Business Bureau, and we get a lot of business at shows like these because of that reputation."

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CANTON CHAMBER CHAT

Annual auction

The Canton Chamber of Commerce announces its annual Dinner Auction, to be held Saturday, April 17, at Burton Manor in Livonia. The annual event is the largest fund-raiser for the Canton Chamber of Commerce.

"This is always such a fun event. We have Silent, Live, and Raffle auction items, entertainment and lots of activities planned throughout the evening," said Dianne Cojei, president, Canton Chamber of Commerce. "Take Me out to the Ball Game" is this year's theme, which offers a lot of possibilities for all of our Baseball Fans."

Last year's event drew a crowd of over 400 attendees and featured over 250 prizes from categories such as Home-style, Travel & Entertainment, Sports & Leisure, Electronics, and many more. This year's auction is expected to draw a similar crowd and has already

collected many great prizes that will be up for bid. New in 2010, a "Detroit Tiger Suite" comes with 18 tickets and 3 parking passes. Also up for auction is 2 airline tickets to anywhere in the continental United States American Airlines flies.

The auction will also feature special guest, former Detroit Tigers pitcher Dave Rozema, who pitched for the Tigers from 1977 through the 1984 World Series.

The Canton Chamber Auction takes place April 17 at Burton Manor in Livonia from 7 p.m. to midnight. Tickets are \$75 per person and are available to the public; admission includes full buffet dinner, open bar, entertainment, and the opportunity to participate in the Live, Silent, and Raffle auctions. For more information, please contact the chamber at (734) 453-4040. This year's auction is sponsored by Jack Demmer Ford, Inc. and other local businesses.

Guide advertising

The Visitor Guide publication is being redesigned to serve the visiting public, Canton residents, and shoppers from neighboring communities, and it will come out twice a year.

The Spring/Summer guide will be in homes May 2010. If you are interested in being part of the Shop Canton Guide please contact Sherrie Pryor at (734) 740.0606 or e-mail spryor@newmoonvisions.net

Customers will hold on to this portable full color 6-by-9 pocket magazine. It will include a full color fold-out map of all color blocks, restaurant guide and coupons. It will be delivered to 30,000 Canton Homes as well as 30,000 homes in neighboring communities. We will increase the total print run to 80,000. It will also be available in hotels, visitor rest areas, Canton Township and Canton Chamber of Commerce. Deadline for advertising is March 15.

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W.E.L.S.

Open rehearsal appeals to families

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Elizabeth and Lisa seem content to perched on the same chair as their mother Kristin Hoy while she rehearsed with the Schoolcraft College Jazz Ensemble.

At six years old, the twins aren't quite ready to sit quietly through a concert, so Family Night, held Monday, March 8, was the perfect way for Kristin and her husband Bob to introduce them to the music. Elizabeth was especially thrilled about "mom letting me come."

"I wanted to share my love of music with my children, for them to meet my friends, to see what mommy does," said Kristin Hoy of Farmington.

"At a concert they have to behave themselves but here they can roam around until 7:30 when I take them home for bedtime," said Bob Hoy.

Lisa and Elizabeth ran around excitedly until jazz band director Riccardo Selva took command of the evening's open rehearsal. Once he started to speak, the girls respected the hush that came over the room. This was the last time the ensemble would practice before performing at the Collage Concert 8 p.m. Saturday, March 13, in the VisTaTech Center on the Livonia campus.

"Tonight we opened regular rehearsal for show and tell," said Selva, director of jazz studies at the college. "We have grandparents and parents who want their children to experience the music. We have lawyers, teachers, manufacturing workers, all affected positively by a music teacher and they're still playing."

MUSIC MINISTRY

Selva started playing saxophone at age 12. He continues to teach and perform after earning his Doctor of Music degree in saxophone performance from Northwestern University in Illinois in 2003. He has years of experience in music ministry and wrote his dissertation on the Saxophone in Sacred Music. Selva taught woodwinds and coordinated the band program at Our Lady of Humility School in Illinois before moving back to Michigan. His goal is to expand the jazz studies program and attract more credit students along with those from continuing education.

On March 24, Selva plays saxophone as part of the



Collin Richter (right) of Canton rehearses alongside his trumpet teacher Bill Steele of Plymouth. In the background is Tim Kalvaitis of Livonia.

PHOTOS BY RENA LAVERTY



Riccardo Selva directs the Schoolcraft College Jazz Ensemble open rehearsal on Monday night in the Forum building on campus.



Lisa (left) and her twin sister Elizabeth Hoy look on as their mother Kristin rehearses with the Schoolcraft College Jazz Ensemble. On the right is Nino Biundo.



Nino Biundo talks with Elizabeth Hoy of Farmington at Family Night.

faculty spotlighted in the Noon Recital Series in the Presentation Room of the VisTaTech Center.

"The jazz ensemble opens up doors. It's a great opportunity," said Selva. "In April we're going to record student arrangements at Studio A in Dearborn and have our Up Jump Spring Concert, and in July play the Michigan Jazz Festival."

BLUES COMPOSITION

Selva composes music as well and encourages students to do the same. Ron Toth,

trombone, wrote "Blues for Nate" for his grandson who was born with a heart defect. Surgeons at C.S. Mott's Children's Hospital were able to correct the problem. One part of the piece mimics the heartbeat.

"Blues is because when he was born he turned blue," said Toth. A West Bloomfield resident, Toth's played with the jazz band 10 years. "Rick encouraged my composition. I love music, love jazz. As an amateur musician I enjoy the band because of the selections — Stan Kenton, Count Basie, Thad Jones."

Travis Strickland finds it refreshing not to play trumpet in a symphonic setting. The 19-year-old South Lyon musician is taking jazz

ensemble as a credit class. He's played trumpet since he was in fourth grade in Vermont.

"It's fun," said Strickland. "You get to play with certain styles."

SIDE BY SIDE

Collin Richter, 15, was sitting in on the rehearsal at the invitation of Bill Steele, his trumpet teacher and member of the jazz ensemble. Steele sat next to the Canton High School student and whispered instructions about playing the music.

"He was excited about coming," said Richter's father, Steve. "He was in marching band at East Middle School and joined the jazz band at Canton." Tim Kalvaitis espe-

cially likes the selections he's able to play on his trumpet. The electrical engineer joined the band last September. He's played trumpet since 1976 when he was in sixth grade in a Pinckney school.

"I moved back from the East Coast after 20 years looking for someplace to play," said Kalvaitis of Livonia. "I like the music, like to play. The concert band or classical is a different style of music. This is Big Band."

ON SAXOPHONE

Nino Biundo, an automotive engineer, was in a downriver community band when he heard the jazz ensemble needed a saxophone. Biundo began playing the instrument when he was in fourth grade in 1988. He travels every Monday night from Taylor just to rehearse with the band.

"Jazz is more free, artistic as far as your interpretation of the music," said Biundo who has two children, ages 4 1/2 and 3. They are still too young to come to Family Night but Biundo believes it's important to expose children to the music.

"It's good to get kids involved at an early age to get hooked," Biundo said.

Before long it was 7:30 p.m. But before the Hoy girls

left Selva asked them if they liked mom's solo. He showed them the difference between a baritone sax and the tenor their mother was playing. They giggled when Selva asked the trombone to play a long, gliding note characteristic of the instrument.

"Kristin was excited to have her daughters come," Selva said. "She e-mailed me they were fascinated with watching and listening and seeing the band in action. They were really inspired to play an instrument. Kids don't have the opportunity to sit next to a musician playing professionally, to experience real people playing real instruments and a lot of schools don't even have jazz programs."

The Schoolcraft College Jazz Ensemble performs at the Collage Concert 8 p.m. Saturday, March 13. Selections include *Manteca* and *Birk's Works* by Dizzy Gillespie, *Tickletoe* by Lester Young, and *Watermelon Man* by Herbie Hancock.

Tickets are \$8 adults, \$5 students with ID, \$3 children under age 12 and senior citizens.

For more information about the Schoolcraft College Jazz Ensemble, e-mail rselva@schoolcraft.edu or call Selva at (847) 721-7299.

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ART

Lotus Arts Gallery
Location: 995 West Ann Arbor Trail, downtown Plymouth
Details: 3rd annual Michigan Local Artist Exhibit runs through March; includes the works of 18 local artists. Meet the artists and enjoy complimentary hors d'oeuvres and beverages, 6-9 p.m., Friday, March 12
Contact: (888) 889-4ART (toll free) or (734)453-5400

Northville Art House
Time/Date: Through March 21
Location: 215 W. Cady, Northville
Details: "Under the Influence" exhibit showcasing the influential artistic relationship between teachers and students at the Center for Creative Studies in Detroit. The exhibit illustrates that art is not done in a vacuum
Coming up: Dollmaking class taught by Charlie Patricolo, 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., April 24-25. The two-day class costs \$100, along with a \$10 kit fee. Registration is available now
Contact: (248) 344-0497 or visit www.northvillearts.org

Village Theater at Cherry Hill
Time/Date: 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., Monday-Friday, through March 29
Location: 50400 Cherry Hill Road, Canton
Details: Works by Plymouth resident and self-taught artist Tony Roko on display
Contact: (734) 394-5300

AUDITIONS

University of Detroit Mercy
Time/Date: 7 p.m., March 29
Location: 4001 W. McNichols, Detroit; in Studio 164 in Reno Hall
Details: Non-equity auditions for the theater's 2010-2011, 40th season. Provide a recent headshot, resume and two monologues: one classical and one modern. RSVP at the theater's Facebook page; search "UDM Theatre Company" on Facebook
Contact: Greg Grobis at grobisg@udmercy.edu or at (313) 993-3273

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

Ford Community & Performing Art Center
Time/Date: 6 p.m. and 9:30 p.m., Saturday, March 13
Location: 15801 Michigan Ave. at Greenfield, Dearborn
Details: Michigan Lesbian and Gay Comedyfest with Jessica Kirson, Gloria Bigelow, Jamie Pierce and Roxanna Ward; tickets \$30 in advance and \$30 at the door
Contact: www.comedyfest.org, (313) 537-7000

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: Sheila Kay, March 10-13; Jay Black, March 17-20; Myq Kaplan, March 24-27
Contact: (734) 261-0555, www.kickercomplex.com

Mark Ridley's Comedy Castle
Time/Date: Brooklyn native Brian Soolaro, March 11-13; Bret Ernst, who appeared in the movie "Beer League," and hosted MTVs "Wrestling Society X," March 18-20
Location: 269 E. Fourth, Royal Oak
Contact: (248) 542-9900, www.comedycastle.com

CONCERTS

The Ark
Time/Date: Caravan of Thieves, (gypsy jazz) March 11; Joe Henry, (mixed genre) March 12; Justin Roberts & The Not Ready for Naptime Players, (rock music for kids) March 13; The Band of Heathens (country and Americana) March 13; Lehto & Wright



"Chloe" by Tony Roko. The Plymouth artist is showing his works through March 29 at The Village Theater at Cherry Hill, in Canton.

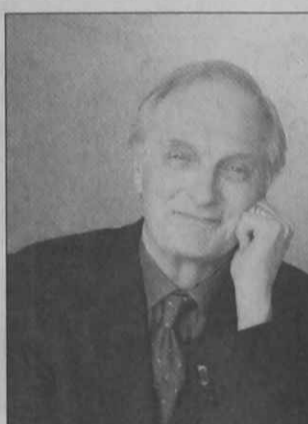
(folk rock) March 14
Location: 316 South Main, Ann Arbor
Contact: (734) 763-8587; www.theark.org

Detroit Institute of Arts
Time/Date: Friday Night Live concerts, 7 and 8:30 p.m.
Location: 5200 Woodward Ave
Contact: (313) 833-7900, www.dia.org

JWH Center for the Arts
Time/Date: 6:15-6:45 p.m., open mic sign up; performances, 7 p.m.
Location: 774 N. Sheldon, Plymouth
Details: BaseLine Folk Society open mic is for acoustic, folk and traditional musicians. Admission is \$5. BaseLine Folk Society open mic runs every third Saturday of the month through May
Contact: Mike Mullen, founder, mjmmullen@yahoo.com

Magic Bag
Time/Dates: The Mega 80's, March 12, 20; Satin Peaches, The Fake Take, March 19; The Killer Flamingos, March 26
Location: 22920 Woodward, Ferndale
Contact: (248) 544-3030, www.themagicbag.com

Music Hall Center for Performing Arts
Time/Date: 8:30 p.m. and 10:30 p.m., Friday-Saturday, March 12-13
Location: 350 Madison Ave., Detroit
Details: Wilson "Chembo" Corniel Jr. & his Latin Jazz Quintet play the "Jazz Cafe"; tickets are \$27 (plus \$3 preservation fee) available at Music Hall Box Office or at www.ticketmaster.com
Contact: (313) 887-8500



Actor Alan Alda will be on hand with violinist Arnold Steinhardt March 20 at Seligman Performing Arts Center, in Beverly Hills.

Seligman Performing Arts Center
Time/Date: 8 p.m., March 20
Location: 22305 West 13 Mile, on the campus of Detroit Country Day School, Beverly Hills
Details: Violinist Arnold Steinhardt will be joined by actor Alan Alda for an evening of conversation and performance entitled "A Celebration of the Bach Chaconne." The discussion and concert is presented by the Chamber Music Society of Detroit. Tickets are \$43 - \$75; students \$25

Coming up: The Chamber Music Society of Detroit presents Steven Isserlis, on cello and Dénes Várjon, on piano, 8 p.m., March 27, in a program that consists of sonatas by composers Barber, Dohnanyi, Schumann and Chopin. Tickets

range from \$43-\$75; students pay \$25

Contact: (248) 855-6070
Plymouth Coffee Bean Company
Time/Date: Spotlight on female performers, hosted by Jeni Lee, March 13; Steve Mullan & Scott P. & Mike Bermudaz, March 14; The Skinny Raccoons, with Justin Erion, March 20
Location: 884 Pennington Avenue, Plymouth
Contact: (734) 454-0178

Schoolcraft College
Time/Date: 8 p.m., Friday, March 19
Location: Presentation Room at VisTaTech Center on the campus, located at 18600 Haggerty, Livonia
Details: Emmanuelle Boisvert on violin and Pauline Martin on piano perform music by Beethoven, Bloch, Grieg and Corelli; admission \$20, \$10 for students
Contact: Schoolcraft Book store at (734) 462-4409 or www.scbox-office.com

Token Lounge
Time/Date: Noon-2 a.m., Wednesday, March 17
Location: 28949 Joy Road in Westland
Details: St. Patrick's Day bash with Parade The Gorilla Funk Mob, Hush, Street Justice, U Stylez, Abrasive Method, Mu, Phathom, Cancer, Pony Boy and Knox Money. Also on hand will be DJ AMF, DJ PDog and DJ K-Fresh to provide sounds from the turntables all night. Token Lounge will be transformed into "Pair O'Dimes" Irish Pub and will offer Irish cooking and bagpipes. Cover is \$5; 21 and older are welcome
Contact: www.thetokenlounge.com

Trinity House Theater
Time/Date: Michael McDermott with John D. Lamb, 8 p.m., March 12, tickets \$15, \$12 for subscribers; Jill Jack with Luke Brindley, 8 p.m. March 13, tickets \$15, \$12 for members; Brooks Williams and Beaucoup Blue, 8 p.m. March 19, tickets \$15, \$12 for subscribers; Annie and Rod Capps, 8 p.m., March 20, tickets \$15, \$12 for subscribers; Gemini, 8 p.m., March 27, tickets \$15, \$12 for subscribers
Location: 38840 West Six Mile, Livonia

Contact: (734) 464-6302, www.trinityhouse.org

Village Theater at Cherry Hill
Time/Date: 7:30 p.m., Saturday, March 13
Location: 50400 Cherry Hill Road in Canton
Details: "Tchaikovsky Spectacular" featuring guest composer Kristin Kuster. The orchestra will perform Tchaikovsky's "Symphony No. 5" and will play side-by-side with students of the Celebration Youth Orchestra on William Walton's "Crown Imperial March." Rounding out the evening will be a command performance of Kuster's, "Iron Diamond," which was commissioned by the Symphony for its 60th anniversary in 2005. Tickets are \$25 for adults, \$20 for seniors and \$10 for students
Contact: For tickets, contact the Symphony office at 774 N. Sheldon, in the Plymouth Arts Center; (734) 451-2112 or online at www.plymouthsymphony.org.

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. to 4 p.m. through March
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. Wild Winter Weekends offer crafts, entertainment, educational experiences March 6-7
Contact: (248) 541-5717

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Celebrate St. Paddy's Day with traditional Irish fare

BY SHARON DARGAY
O&E STAFF WRITER

St. Patrick's Day lasts just 24 hours but Sam Khashan, co-owner of Sean O'Callaghan's pub in downtown Plymouth, has been planning for months.

"There's a lot of prep that goes on — the band, the staffing — but it's what we do," says Khashan, who co-owns the business with his brother, Kevin. "We're a true Victorian Irish pub."

"Tomorrow we're having a mural painted on the window. The staff has St. Patrick's Day T-shirts. We're getting geared up."

They have to be ready by 7 a.m., Wednesday, March 17 when the tavern opens, four hours earlier than usual.

"We do it every year and believe it or not people are standing outside the door, ready to go. By 11 a.m. and noon, a line starts to form outdoors."

The que starts even earlier at Claddagh Irish Pub in Livonia. "We will be open at 6 a.m. and will serve beer beginning at 7 a.m.," said George Barker, manager.

Radio station 97.1 The Ticket will kick off activities by broadcasting its morning show on site. A live band, Belfast Gin, from Kalamazoo will perform at 11 a.m.

"They're just wonderful," Barker described the band, adding that other Irish music performers are slated for Friday-Saturday, March 12-13.

Marlarkey's in Westland won't open quite as early as some other establishments, but is expanding its space to accommodate all the entertainment it will offer on St. Patrick's Day.

"Blackjack, a local rock band will be on at 9:30 p.m. We're opening the building next door for that," said Megan Dettore, Marlarkey's manager. "Then on the regular side of the bar, we'll have DJ Larry D. He'll be on at 7:30 p.m."



Afternoon entertainment includes bagpipers, Irish dancers and duelling pianos.

Dettore said the tavern tried opening one year at 7 a.m., but found a 9 a.m. start works best.

"We usually have a line outside the door, but not until around 11 a.m.," she added.

Here's more about the St. Patrick's Day celebration at a sampling of area pubs:

• Sean O'Callaghan's Pub, 821 Penniman, Plymouth, (734) 459-6666: Breakfast will be available in the morning, including Scotch eggs, a variety of breakfast sandwiches and a corned beef dish. A limited menu, featuring Irish dishes, will be available in the afternoon and evening.

The Galway Celts, a band from Ireland, will perform Saturday-Sunday, March 13-14, as well as on St. Patrick's Day. The first 100 customers in the door on March 17 will receive a raffle ticket for the pub's "Pot o' Gold" contest. Five prizes will be given away at 10 a.m. The first is \$500.

• The Claddagh Irish Pub, 17800 Haggerty, Livonia; (734) 542-8141: Breakfast will be served until 10 a.m. The tavern's Irish menu will be available after 10 a.m.

• Marlarkey's, 35750 Warren Road, Westland; (734) 421-0746: The pub will serve Irish

stew, corned beef and cabbage, corned beef sandwiches and turkey sandwiches and will feature green beer, along with Irish beers.

• John Cowley & Sons Irish Pub & Restaurant, 33338 Grand River Ave., Farmington; (248) 474-5941: The pub will open at 10 a.m. and feature music by Shawn Riley Band from noon-5 p.m. and "Free Beer: from 6 p.m.-midnight. Admittance is restricted to age 21 and above.

The special menu includes Cowley's Potato Soup, potato skins, Irish spring rolls, crispy chicken salad, chicken tenders, The Cowley Burger, chicken sandwich, hot corned beef sandwich, fish and chips and corned beef and cabbage, served from 11 a.m.-10 p.m. or while supplies last.

• Doyle's Irish Tavern, 860 Fralick, Plymouth; (734) 207-9656: The pub will open at 10 a.m., with a menu featuring bangers and mash, corned beef and cabbage and Irish stew. Bagpipers will perform.

• O'Malley's Bar & Grill, 15231 Farmington Road, Livonia; (734) 427-7775: Opens at 9 a.m. and will serve Irish fare, including corned beef and cabbage, shepherds pie, and Irish stew. Breakfast also will be available. Bagpipers and Irish dancers will perform.

St. Patrick's Day Cooking: Save a Pint for the Kitchen

St. Patrick's Day celebrations are filled with dancing, green decorations, and Irish food and beer. This year, try something new and save a pint for the kitchen.

Traditional St. Paddy's Day favorites, like Irish stout and corned beef and cabbage, can be combined to make a delicious dish even better. Because beer pairs so well with beef, it's only natural to cook with beer.

"Beer adds great flavor to the corned beef brisket, and can be used in other slow-cooked or braised dishes also," says Dave Zino, executive chef for the National Cattlemen's Beef Association.

Braising and stewing are excellent cooking methods when preparing beef such as pot roast, brisket and beef for stew. Typically, you'll want to start by browning the meat in a bit of oil to caramelize and bring out rich beef flavors. However, corned beef brisket does not require browning.

Braising is used with large cuts of beef that are cooked whole, like corned beef brisket. When braising, the meat is simmered slowly in 1/2 to 2 cups of liquid such as beer or water to ensure moist and fork-tender results, for about 3 to 3 1/2 hours, depending on the size of the roast.

Stewing works best with cubes of beef. When stewing, the cubed meat is simmered for about 1 1/2 hours to 2 1/2 hours in enough liquid to cover the meat and other ingredients such as vegetables, resulting in fork-tender meat and a delicious broth.

Chef Dave also notes beer can serve as a substitute in many recipes. "Beer can also be used in place of wine in recipes and is especially good in beef stews and chilis," he says.

For mealtime inspiration and more beef cooking techniques, flavor pairings, storage guidelines and cooking tips, visit BeefItsWhatsforDinner.com.

CORNEBEEF WITH RED CURRANT-MUSTARD SAUCE

Total recipe time: 6 to 10 hours
Makes 6 to 8 servings

- 1 boneless corned beef brisket with seasoning packet (2 1/2 to 3 pounds)
- 3 ribs celery, cut into 3-inch pieces
- 2 medium onions, cut into quarters
- 2 1/2 cups water, divided
- 1 bottle (12 ounces) beer
- 1 pound green cabbage, cut into thin wedges
- 1 pound red-skinned potatoes, cut into 2-inch pieces
- 6 to 8 baby carrots, trimmed, or 4 medium carrots, cut crosswise into thirds
- 2 tablespoons butter, melted
- Chopped fresh parsley (optional)

- Red Currant-Mustard Sauce
- 1 jar (12 ounces) red currant jelly
- 3 tablespoons country Dijon-style mustard



Celebrate St. Patrick's Day with corned beef.

1. Place celery and onions in 4 1/2- to 5 1/2-quart slow cooker; top with corned beef brisket. Sprinkle contents of seasoning packet over brisket. Add 2 cups water and one bottle of beer. Cover; cook on high 6 to 7 hours, or on low 9 to 10 hours, or until brisket is fork-tender. No stirring is necessary during cooking.
2. Meanwhile, place cabbage, potatoes and carrots in 2 1/2-quart microwave-safe dish; add remaining 1/2 cup water. Cover; microwave on high 15 to 18 minutes or until vegetables are tender, stirring or rearranging once. Drain; remove and discard cores from cabbage wedges. Add butter; season with salt and pepper, as desired. Toss to coat; keep warm.
3. Prepare Red Currant-Mustard Sauce. Place jelly in medium microwave-safe bowl. Cover; microwave on high 1 1/2 to 2 minutes or until melted, stirring once. Whisk in mustard. Cover; microwave on high 30 seconds. Stir; keep warm.
4. Remove brisket and carve diagonally across the grain into thin slices. Serve with vegetables and sauce. Garnish with parsley, if desired.

Story courtesy Family Features; recipe from The Beef Checkoff

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- U.S. Secret Service
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