

APRIL 2011

GRAND RAPIDS Family

WEST MICHIGAN'S NO. 1 SOURCE

TEACHING STUDENTS
THE MEANING OF GREEN

RECYCLING MATTERS

FEVER CONTROL

GR'S BEST
FAMILY CALENDAR

KIM LAVINE
'MOMMY MILLIONAIRE'

Making sense

Mom Makeover:
Movin' and groovin'

FREE
TAKE ONE

All kids

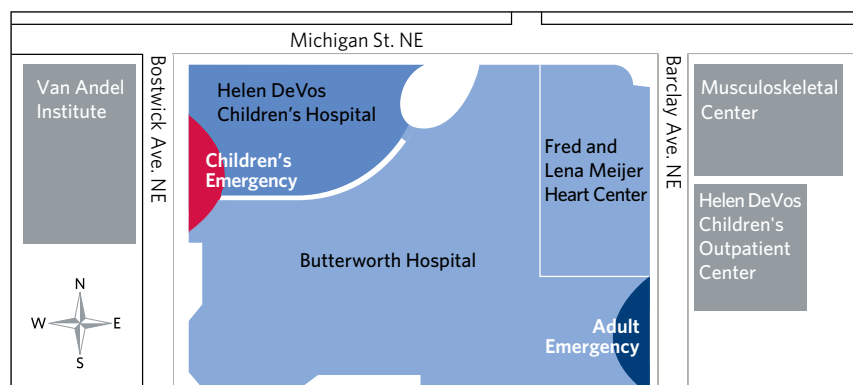
All the time



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Color Matters

As a family, make a commitment to eat healthy.



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It's important to not only eat the recommended five servings of fruits and vegetables a day, but also make sure they range in color. Below explains how different colors benefit your overall health.

Red—Helps maintain a healthy heart and urinary tract, increases memory function, and lowers the risk for some cancers.

Yellow/Orange—Helps maintain a healthy heart, improves vision, strengthens your immune system, and lowers the risk for some cancers.

Blue/Purple—Helps maintain urinary tract, increases memory function, promotes healthy aging, and lowers the risk of some cancers.

Green—Helps maintain vision, strengthens bones and teeth, and lowers the risk of some cancers.

White/Tan/Brown—Helps maintain a healthy heart, decreases cholesterol, and lowers the risk of some cancers.

How to pick Fruits & Vegetables

Here are things to look for when picking common fruits and veggies when grocery shopping:

Apples: Choose firm, shiny, smooth-skinned apples with intact stems. Apples should smell fresh, not musty.

Oranges: Choose oranges with firm, smooth skins, that are heavy for their size.

Bananas: Choose bananas that are slightly green on the stem and tip. They should also be firm and without bruises.

Grapes: Choose plump, firm fruits that are firmly attached to the stem.

Kiwi: Choose slightly firm fruit with rough, fuzzy skin.

Peach: Choose peaches with firm, fuzzy skins that yield to gentle pressure. Avoid blemishes.

Limes: Choose limes with smooth, shiny skin, that are heavy for their size.

Broccoli: Choose odorless heads with tight, bluish-green florets.

Carrots: Choose well-shaped, smooth, firm, crisp carrots with deep color and non-wilted green tops. Avoid soft, wilted or split carrots.

Mushrooms: Choose well shaped mushrooms with firm texture. Avoid spots and slime.

Tomatoes: Choose tomatoes with bright, shiny skins and firm flesh.

Sweet Corn: Choose ears with green husks, fresh silks and tight rows of kernels.

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- Guaranteed same-day appointments.
- Nurse advice line available 24 hours a day.
- Open 365 days a year.

It's time to start living life, having fun, and being healthy as a family! Call Grand Valley Health Plan today and ask how to join.

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Spring is here!

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Gardens & Sculpture Park
MeijerGardens.org



Think Spring!

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shopgoodwill.com

Goodwill accepts material donations at all Goodwill Store locations and five Attended Donation Centers:

Goodwill Store Locations:

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54th Street	Lowell
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Big Rapids	Plainfield
Division Avenue	Standale
Greenville	Outlet Center
Rockford (Spring 2011)	

Attended Donation Centers:

Caledonia
Cascade
Jenison
Grandville
Hudsonville

goodwill industries

goodwillgr.org

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COVER PHOTOGRAPHY BY JOHNNY QUIRIN OF KIM LAVINE AND HER SONS DYLAN, MIDDLE, AND RYAN.



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taking notes

BY CAROLE VALADE

Experience the power of spring

Community pride in environmental sustainability and sensitivity should never be taken for granted.

The snowstorms and face-chapping winds of winter were old news by February, and we still had March to go.

So it is with greater appreciation in this North Country that we greet April and its growing landscape of green. Opening the windows to hear birds chirp and sniff the first fragrance of spring flowers provides a mental, emotional and energy lift.

I can't imagine life without experiencing such natural beauty, but Earth Day gives us pause to do just that.

The Grand Rapids area takes great pride in the fact that it is home to more Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design buildings per capita than any other place in the country. Families can take pride (and find relief) in the fact that many of those LEED buildings are local schools, including those whose histories have been preserved despite huge renovations: Reuse has equal importance in protecting the environment.

Until this generation, such was not the case. Lead and asbestos abatement efforts have demonstrated the sad fact that generations of school children were unknowingly exposed to health-threatening toxins. Given that history, Grand Rapids Family is pleased to provide a report regarding how local schools are

providing opportunities to learn about being eco-friendly, including using the buildings themselves to teach those lessons.

One can hope that such environmental sensitivity is a concept our children will simply assume as a way of life throughout their lifetime.

It has been almost 50 years since the book "Silent Spring" was published, and while it was the change agent for the world, it has taken intense efforts to bring communities to a place that can be called "sustainable." Certainly, the Millennials and their elder siblings have driven such efforts — with their questions and their wallets. As I walk among the butterflies at the Frederik Meijer Gardens exhibit, these delicate creatures from around the world are reminders of how far we've come in those 50 years.

Economic analysts consider eco-friendly projects and the education effort to be one of long-term economic impact. Kent County's new single-stream recycling facility at 977 Wealthy St. SW in Grand Rapids is heralded for giving area residents recycling alternatives without the time hassle of having to separate paper from plastic and other recyclable materials. But the facility's Education Center is given equal weight — and is likely to be a well-used "tour-



MICHAEL BUCK

ist" stop by parents and their children. Perhaps one of the most fascinating aspects of the tour is the lineup of products that are now made from recycled material, and what any child imagines after being given the food for thought.

The Center opened in August last year, and even though it was only operational in the last half of 2010, Kent County Recycling Center leaders reported the facility processed 33 percent more refuse than in 2009, and in half the time of the old facility. It also is worth noting that the facility was completed ahead of its construction schedule, and under budget.

This generation has come a long way from "Silent Spring," but we must remember that we can't take it for granted.

GRF

Carole

We want to hear from you!

We welcome letters to the editor. Letters must be signed and include the writer's name, address and phone number. Please send letters in care of: Editor, Grand Rapids Family Magazine, 549 Ottawa Ave. NW, Grand Rapids MI 49503, or fax 459-4800, or e-mail grfletters@geminipub.com. Letters may be edited for clarity or space.

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CHILDREN'S PLAY

GRAND RAPIDS CIVIC THEATRE

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By Joseph Robinette,
Adapted from the book by E.B. White

"It is not often someone comes along that's a true friend and good writer. Charlotte was both."

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front

*Things we
thought you'd
want to know*



COURTESY AMICUS PUBLIC RELATIONS

Baby Knows: Staying snug and warm

SPRING IN MICHIGAN often means cool weather, but cabin fever is running high and families just need to get out of the house to enjoy the outdoors.

And if baby is coming along, that means the hassle of packing extra blankets to insulate and stabilize the baby carrier while mom or dad bulks up on outerwear.

Now, there's a product that eliminates much of that hassle and keeps baby warm and comfy, too.

The Peekaru is a Polartec fleece vest worn by a parent that fully zips over any baby carrier, including slings, mei-tais, wraps and Baby Bjorns. Parents put the Peekaru over the baby in the baby carrier, slide the baby's head through the head opening, and everyone is ready for a long walk on a cool day.

The Peekaru comes in sizes that fit men and women and is available in several colors.

Learn more at www.togetherbe.com.

Recycling center has an educational bent

LOOKING FOR SOMETHING TO DO over spring break? Take a cue from local Scouts and investigate recycling right here in Grand Rapids.

The Kent County Recycling and Education Center plans to celebrate Earth Day 2011 with a special event involving area Scouts in first through sixth grades. Together with the Grand Rapids Public Museum and the Kent County Parks Department, the Recycling and Education Center will explore the "Past, Present and Future of Trash and Recycling in Grand Rapids."

To learn about the "past," Scouts will roll up their sleeves as part of a community project with the county Parks Department at the former Butterworth Landfill site. For a glimpse at the future, the Department of Public Works will offer a tour of the new, state-of-the-art recycling facility with a hands-on activity.

"We're empowering kids to ... be that leader in their home," said Kristen Wieland, a recovery resource specialist with the county.

She hopes that teaching children to recycle the right way will prompt their families to do the same. Wieland said the goal

is to make a long-term impact on kids and the environment, so that "when they grow up, they'll think that recycling is just a way of life — that there's no other way to do it than to recycle."

*"We're empowering kids to ... be that leader in their home."
— Kristen Wieland*

The new recycling center, 977 Wealthy St. SW, opened its doors to materials and tours alike last summer. Creating an educational space was one of the top priorities in planning the facility, Wieland said.

"It's great to have the facility there, but if no one can come and learn about it, then we're missing a big component," she said.

The community is responding with growing interest. School groups regularly tour the center, but recently more community groups have come to visit. "Adults, foster care homes, retirement villages and all kinds of people are interested

in what we are doing there," Wieland said.

The hour-long presentation starts in the classroom. The discussion on recycling is followed by a tour, where the high-tech sorting equipment can be observed in action. Visitors can examine samples of glass and plastics and learn about the products they will become.

To reserve a free group tour, call (616) 336-4371, or for more information, visit www.recyclekent.org. — Katie Brown



Kristen Wieland leads lectures at the recycling center.



COURTESY KATIE BROWN

JOHNNY QUIRIN

lines

FOR THOSE ABOUT TO ROCK, WE SALUTE YOU!

Did your kids like Jack Black in “School of Rock”? Does your son or daughter dream of playing on stage in front of a mosh pit? Is their secret crush Angus Young?

Answer yes to any or all of these questions, and your child is a candidate for St. Cecilia Music Center’s Rock Camp Spring Break Escape, April 2-8.

Organized and created by The Outer Vibe, a popular rock group in West Michigan, Rock Camp goes deeper than just teaching kids how to perform a wicked guitar solo.

The event, which is for budding musicians ages 12-18, immerses kids in the practical activities required to become a successful band. Topics include stage presence, crowd interaction, building a fan base, social media, event marketing and the gear required for both live and studio settings.

For skeptical parents, consider this: Members of The Outer Vibe all either have or are pursuing college degrees, ranging from associate’s to master’s degrees.

“It’s very educational for the kids,” said Sally Zarafonetis, a spokesperson for St. Cecilia Music Center. “The (band members) really know what they are doing.”

Campers must have some experience in electric guitar, bass, keyboard, drum set or vocal. Bands will be formed at the beginning of the week, which will culminate in an April 10

concert at The Intersection, a downtown Grand Rapids nightclub.

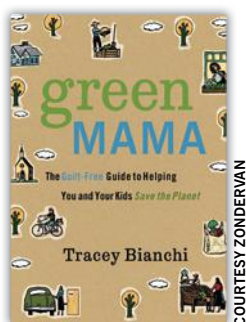
Cost is \$140 (slightly less for St. Cecilia Music Center youth ensemble students or children whose parents are SCMC donors at the member level or higher).

Organizers are planning to host a similar camp this summer if the spring break event fills up. For more information, contact the SCMC at (616) 459-2224.



COURTESY ST. CECILIA MUSIC CENTER

“IT’S VERY EDUCATIONAL FOR THE KIDS. “THE (BAND MEMBERS) REALLY KNOW WHAT THEY ARE DOING.”
— SALLY ZARAFONETIS



COURTESY ZONDERVAN

READ IT NOW

Most of us would like to live a more environmentally conscious lifestyle, but with so much information out there, how do you get started?

One place would be Tracey Bianchi’s “**Green Mama: The Guilt-Free Guide to Helping You and Your Kids Save the Planet**” (Zondervan,

\$12.99).

Bianchi’s motivations for becoming a “green mama” are decidedly Christian, but anyone would find the advice she offers helpful.

The book contains practical tips and ideas on topics such as recycling, reducing your family’s consumption

and determining whether the products you buy contain things that are harmful to your health.

Though Bianchi is obviously passionate about saving the planet, her advice comes without guilt or judgment; she advocates looking at your family’s habits and making small

changes that fit with your lifestyle.

With its easy-to-read, humorous style and helpful resource guide, this book will have you and your family “going green” in no time.

— *Tammy Schneider is a collection development librarian at Kent District Library.*

What makes your child tick?

Called Kidtelligent, the online resource helps parents identify their child's personality and capabilities and then determine the appropriate paths to success in school, sports and life.

The program's key is a comprehensive online "Insights Survey" that provides a research-based personality report on a child's preferences, strengths and challenges so they can more effectively achieve success and navigate life's ups and downs in a way that fits them best.

"Every parent wants the best for their child, but many struggle to understand how they can most effectively help their child succeed in all areas of life," said Roger Jansen, Ph.D., president and co-founder.

"Kidtelligent was designed to take some of the guesswork out of parenting by providing parents with insights into their child's natural preferences and strengths, and data-driven advice on how to leverage those strengths, while also providing answers on how to address common challenges all children face. It's all about helping kids thrive."

The program was developed specifically for ages 7-13 by a team of experts in childhood development, psychology and education. Cost is \$24.99 annually and includes reports that are written by experts in personality types and education along with personalized advice and an individualized plan for working with your child. For more information, visit www.kidtelligent.com.

WOULDN'T IT BE NICE if children came with a personalized road map for success in key areas like school, relationships, athletics and home life?

While that obviously doesn't occur, there is a group of childhood development professionals in Grand Rapids who are pouring more than 30 years of clinical data and personality research into a real-world application they hope will provide similar results.



COURTESY ISTOCKPHOTO.COM/
MAREK ULIASZ

HAVE YOU HEARD?

New moms automatically have something in common with each other, which is exactly the premise behind the Holland-based group **Moms in Tow**. Who better to understand your situation than another new mother? Jenny White, who formed the group after the birth of her first son, said the mission is to provide new moms and moms-to-be with an opportunity to meet others for social events, attend healthy and educational activities and find great discounts. "There are many amazing local businesses and resources available to young moms. My goal is to inform moms of these services and to help them save money along the way," White said. www.momsintow.com

Move over Iron Man, Spider-Man and Batman, the world's first environmentally conscious superhero is offering kids action-packed adventure and a chance to help save the environment. Captain Planet is arriving just in time for Earth Day, and he and his friends, the Planeteers, will do battle with a series of eco-villains out to destroy the world. If that sounds like the type of eco-action that will interest your child, check out "Captain Planet and the Planeteers:

Season One" on DVD, available in stores April 19. And check out the website for fun online activities.

www.turner.com/planet

Kind of like a Webkin with an eco-conscience, the **Treefie** from Marai Toys keeps kids occupied and the planet breathing, all at the same time. Treefies are collectible plush toys that are small and easy to carry. They also can be registered online, where owners can learn all about their new toy — and

about the environment, energy, animals and other topics in a simple and fun way. Plus, for every Treefie purchased, a tree is planted in the new owner's honor. Treefies come in a variety of choices, including lions, sharks and ferrets, and are available at amazon.com for \$5.99. (www.treefies.com)

Remember that old campsite favorite, the Spork? It's that handy eating utensil with a spoon on one end and a fork on the other, with one of the fork tines serrated to act as a knife. Who would have thought the latest adaptation from Light My Fire, the **Spork Little**, would be aimed at kids? The serrated edge has been removed and the size and shape have been



COURTESY ASYLUM
PUBLIC RELATIONS
adapted to infants and small children.

The Spork Little is both rounder and thicker to make it easier for small hands to hold. The new design, available in several colors, is small enough for moms to carry in their purse during impromptu trips to the park and, yes, it even comes in handy on camping trips. It's available on amazon.com or see www.lightmyfireusa.com.

If you've heard something worth sharing with West Michigan families, contact Grand Rapids Family Magazine at www.grfamily.org.



COURTESY SHOUT! FACTORY



COURTESY JOHN FERRARO

HEALTHY VENDING FOR HEALTHY STUDENTS

A candy bar and a soda is no way for a young dancer to prepare for a class, but that was often the case for students at the School of the Grand Rapids Ballet Company.

Pressed for time, students often arrive directly from school and grab what they can from the Ballet's vending machines. In the past, the snack choices were less than healthy.

"The parents of our dance students asked for better quality, healthier food for their children," said John Ferraro, production and facility manager for Grand Rapids Ballet. "Of course, we fully support that. Our new

interim artistic director, Patricia Barker, insisted that we commit ourselves to advocating healthy food choices by eliminating unhealthy snack offerings."

Enter Jim Raybourn and his new business venture, Fresh Healthy Vending. The machines, which also are in place at Walker Ice and Fitness, RiverTown Sports and Griff's Ice House, offer a rotating selection of 100 percent natural juices, vegetables and fruits, smoothies and yogurts, as well as hundreds of natural and organic snacks.

"Fresh Healthy Vending snacks are very popular with the students because they taste

good," said Ferraro.

Raybourn said he's pleased that students are enjoying the offerings and eating healthier.

"I looked at a lot of businesses and chose Fresh Healthy Vending because I want to feel good about what I'm doing professionally," he said. "I'm a healthy eater ... plus, I'm a dad and care about what my daughter eats, and I know that every parent does."

To see all the Fresh Healthy Vending product offerings and learn more about the business, visit www.freshhealthyvending.com.

Keeping life in perspective

‘Mommy Millionaire’ Kim Lavine spreads the entrepreneurial gospel to women across the country.

To hear Kim Lavine tell it, her house probably looks like a dump. She doesn't care.

Lavine, a Grand Haven resident, is the bestselling author of “Mommy Millionaire” and “The Mommy Manifesto,” president and CEO of Mommy Millionaire Business Coaching, and owner of multi-media company Mommy Millionaire Media and Green Daisy, a lifestyle brand focused on “balancing life with love.”

“I have 10 rules on how to be a good mom and be successful in business,” said Lavine. “Number one: Do not apologize for being a mom. If you have to bring your kids to a meeting, bring them to the meeting. And another rule is to resolve to burn down your house after five years, because cleaning is the first thing to go.”

Lavine offers this advice in jest. But she's serious when it comes to striking a balance between a successful career and being a good mother to her children, Dylan, 14 and Ryan, 12.

A published author, noted speaker, tireless advocate for women entrepreneurs and successful financier, Lavine measures her accomplishments in the simplest of terms.

“At the end of the day, my success as a mother is based on how happy and successful my children are, not how clean my house is.”

With Dylan being a school geography bee champ, published author and aspiring U.S. Marine, and Ryan landing multiple spots on the school honor roll, Lavine is comfortable with both roles.

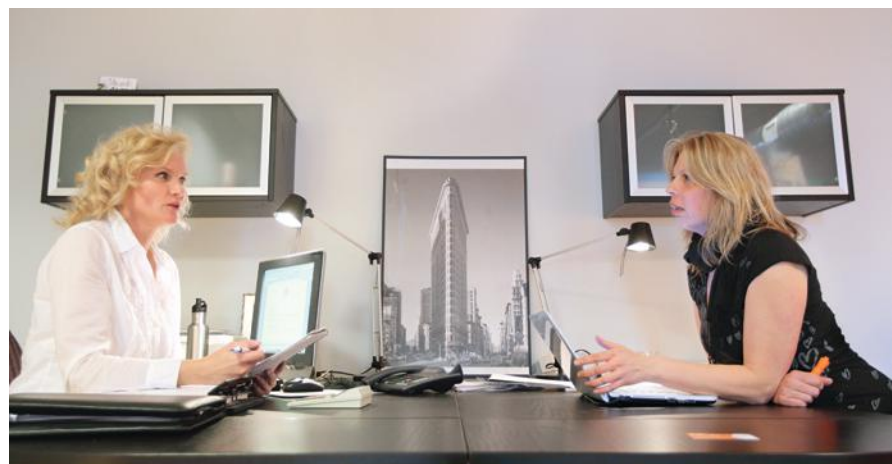
She scoffs at the people who say you can't have it all, but she offers a word of caution: “You can have it all if you keep your priorities straight. It shouldn't drive you insane to do it. Sometimes I think balance is equal parts of controlled chaos.”

Lavine spends much of her time spreading the entrepreneurial gospel to women across the country. She can cite numerous statistics off the top of her head — 48 percent of business owners



Kim Lavine has no problems bringing her sons Dylan, middle, and Ryan to work after school, where they begin their homework for the day.

JOHNNY QUIRIN



JOHNNY QUIRIN

Kim Lavine and her creative director, Rebecca Klobucher, discuss how best to use the office space at H.O.M.E.

in this country are women; only 4 percent of investment capital goes to women; women are starting businesses at twice the rate of men — and she seems to have a real-life example for women who are facing any business situation.

But her key piece of advice to all entrepreneurs is this: “The only failure, to me, is quitting. And I never quit. If you've got to take apart your business (to start over), don't use a scalpel — use an axe!”

Lavine entered the business world in 2002, producing cornmeal-filled pillows/stuffed animals called Wuvits. By 2009, she had reinvented herself numerous times and settled into the media industry. Her latest venture is housed in the former Grand Haven Armory, a business incubator space called H.O.M.E.

“It stands for Home Office for Mom Entrepreneurs,” Lavine explained. “I've seen people with much bigger ideas than mine fail, because they quit after the first failure. I've seen so many women who didn't even try to make it. I think women are being penalized by family is-

sues. They have to take care of the kids, get them off to school, whatever.

“I want them to be able to come here and consult with me. We do classes. We do networking. Business is first and foremost about relationships, but most entrepreneurs don't have a support system. That's what we are.

“You have to carve out some space that is your own. It's hard to stay focused on business when at any moment you can have your kid walk in and say, ‘Make me some chocolate milk.’”

In October, Lavine will take her message to the big stage. She is organizing the Private Equity Summit in Hollywood and hopes to persuade the “private equity elite” and their \$100 million in capital to invest in high-profit, fast-growth women-owned businesses.

“There is \$20 billion in angel capital available, and that doesn't even include venture capital. Investors are getting 30 percent returns. We have got to educate women on how to negotiate this.” **GRF**

Tim Gortsema is managing editor of Grand Rapids Family Magazine.

The truth about fever and a parent's role

Not every fever is dangerous, but parents need to look for signs and know how to treat them.

Many parents bring their children to the Helen DeVos Children's Hospital emergency department for high fever. It is important to know not all fevers need be of concern. However, you should bring your child in to the doctor or ED if: You have an infant under 2 months who has a fever; your child's fever persists, even after two days with fever reducers; you feel worried or need a second opinion; your child has a productive cough, persistent vomiting, stiff neck, localized pain, painful urination, parched mouth, is listless, overly sleepy or is not taking liquids.

Here are three pieces of advice for handling a child's fever:

Learn more about fevers before your child gets one. Excellent guides are available online that describe specifically what to watch for and when to seek medical attention versus treating symptoms at home. HelenDeVosChildrens.org is a good resource. Look at the Should I Call the Doctor feature.

How you treat your child is dependent on age. For children under 2 months, a fever is 100.3 degrees when taken by rectum. If a child under 2 months of age has a fever, consult your pediatrician before treating. For children 3-6 months, we recommend using acetaminophen as directed on the label. For 6 months and older, alternate ibuprofen and acetaminophen and follow label directions.

Infants and young children have a higher risk of dehydration. Always offer children fluids, no matter their age, but be especially careful that very young children do not become dehydrated. All fluids that they will consume are good — Jell-O, Popsicles, water, juice,

Pedialyte and even ice chips.

If you follow these recommendations but the fever persists and you are preparing to bring him or her to the ED, consider the following:

Give your child appropriate fever reducers before bringing your child to the ED. Some parents avoid doing this because they want us to see how bad the fever is, but they should not wait. A child's visit to the ED will be easier if they don't have the discomfort associated with fever. In fact, when children come to the ED with a fever, we give fever reducers even before the doctor sees them so the physical exam will go better.

It can take a while to identify the fever's cause. We sometimes see parents who are distressed when we send them home without medicine. However, sometimes the cause of a fever takes a while to present itself and sometimes it is OK for a child to have a fever. For instance, we might X-ray a child for a lung infection, take a urine sample or check their blood, yet still not see anything that is readily treatable. If the fever persists and the child returns a day or so later, we sometimes find a cause for the fever. In these cases, some parents might assume we missed something on the first visit, but this is not necessarily the case.

Children get better sooner when

Children get better sooner when



The most important thing you can do is know your child well and understand how your child copes with fever or illness, then share that information with your health care provider.

parents partner with us. Illness, fevers and treatment are sometimes a "process." It would be nice if every time a patient has a symptom, we could always identify the cause; however, it doesn't work that way. We count on partnering with parents and see ourselves as consultants who can help evaluate the seriousness of the fever and hopefully determine its cause. If we don't find a cause during the ED visit, we will talk about what to watch for at home and ask parents to return or seek help from the primary care doctor.

Most importantly, trust your in-

stincts and take cues from your child. If a parent says to us "something's not right," we value that and listen. Some kids feel miserable when they have a fever, but others keep playing and remain content, so the most important thing you can do is know your child well and understand how your child copes with fever or illness, then share that information with your health care provider.

GRF
Cynthia Norman, BSN, RN, CEN, is a pediatric emergency department nurse manager at Helen DeVos Children's Hospital.

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Bryn Angell, right, a sixth-grader at the Zoo School, learns about a painted turtle. At far right, Tiffany Gonzalez, Jack Kane, Leah Singleton and River Couturier, from left to right, work with the school's salmon tank.



BY MARY TIMMER | PHOTOGRAPHY BY JOHNNY QUIRIN

Greening of the schools takes a team effort

AREA SCHOOLS ARE TEACHING KIDS ABOUT BEING KIND TO THE ENVIRONMENT — IN THE CLASSROOM AND BY EXAMPLE.

Since the 1962 publication of “Silent Spring” and its near-apocalyptic predictions for our planet, the world has been striving to stem a continued degrading of the environment.

The passing of the National Environmental Policy Act in 1969 along with the Clean Air Act and the establishment of Earth Day predated the creation of the National Environmental Education Act to encourage and fund environmental education for students in K-12.

Grand Rapids-area schools are taking that mission to heart, teaching their students about the environment not only in

the classroom but also by example.

In its “Grade Level Content Expectations,” the state of Michigan mandates that K-8 students learn about natural resources, effects of environmental change, and conservation/sustainability practices. Locally, many schools go beyond the minimum requirements and make environmental studies the central theme of core instruction.

In the Grand Rapids Public Schools, three schools for sixth-graders center their entire curriculum on nature and the environment. The Zoo School, Blandford School and the Center for Economicology offer students the opportunity to take their learning outside for

a year of core academics tied to nature.

C.A. Frost Environmental Science Academy goes a few steps further, offering K-8 education for the environmental enthusiast.

“Our motto is ‘no child left inside,’” said Rick Noel, principal of the academy. “As (students) learn about sustainability, we’re creating a heart of compassion and caring for the planet we live on.”

The students participate in camping trips that become longer and more extensive with each grade level. When the rest of the world celebrates Earth Day, the academy celebrates Earth Week, taking apart and recycling electronics and appliances that might otherwise end

up in local landfills. Every core class is taught with an eye toward the environment and a goal of sustainability, Noel said. The school also has an “e-team” of educators developing new curriculum.

Noel sees other advantages to a program that gives students hands-on experiences. “While learning takes place in the classroom, it applies out of doors,” he said. “It fits the needs of children to move. Research shows that a child’s engagement in the process ensures their success in school.”

While C.A. Frost offers the most grade levels of environmentally centered education, other area school districts also have “gone green.”



Above from left, C.A. Frost School students Phillip Gillard, Marley Florez and Aubrey Doucette build a birdhouse. At right, students Jorge Gomez, left, and Hunter Brinkert disassemble a computer as part of Recycling Week activities in Greg Petersen's class.

Forest Hills Public Schools' Goodwillie Environmental School for fifth- and sixth-graders has been awarded LEED certification for its energy-efficient and environmentally friendly building. Dedicated to using the outdoors as a "living classroom," the school strives to foster in its students a deep love of nature and an environmental sensitivity. Goodwillie integrates its curriculum with an environmental theme, gives students

practical experience with environmental action projects, and allows them the opportunity to study wind-generated energy with the school's wind turbine.

Forest Hills Northern High School has a student-run Environmental Club whose members recycle paper, plastics, metal and glass at home, and recycle the office paper at the school. Students also have volunteered their time to clear brush at Howard Christensen Nature

Center each spring, and raise funds to adopt rainforest acreage.

At Thornapple Elementary, another Forest Hills school, fourth-graders meet for E-Club each month to work on projects benefiting the environment. The club, now in its ninth year, endorses the 4Rs: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Rethink.



Club members also lead the school's Earth Day celebration each year.

Central Woodlands, a Forest Hills school for fifth- and sixth-graders, was recently awarded a Green School Cer-

tificate for participating in 10 or more ongoing activities or events supporting environmental education and practices. The school also boasts an Energy Star Award from the U.S. Department of Energy due to its high energy efficiency rating.

At Kentwood Public Schools, administrators use environmental learning centers along with spring and fall camping trips to tie classroom lessons to the natural world.

In practice, KPS discourages waste by using resources such as computer notebooks and whiteboards that help students and teachers avoid copy machine use. The lunchrooms and classrooms make use of recycling bins — a Kentwood Student Council initiative.

"As a community, we started to identify what we could do to save energy and resources," said Todd Bell, plant services director. "People are much more aware of our environment and are much more willing to participate in programs."

Bell estimates the district is currently saving up to 20 percent on heating bills and energy costs due to updated heating systems and a building management system that automatically lowers the temperature and turns off lights during non-school hours.

GRF

Mary Timmer is a freelance writer based on Zeeland.



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HOME IS WHERE THE SCHOOL IS



Above, Jazmyne Fuentes participates in a science lesson in the kitchen with her son, Jasper, as they study different substances to see if they contain acid. Below, Fuentes reads about art with Jasper and daughter Ruby.

Home schooling still stirs debate
but most believe the process is headed
in right direction. BY **PAUL R. KOPENKOSKEY**

PHOTOGRAPHY BY **JOHNNY QUIRIN**

THE KINDERGARTEN TEACHER'S reaction remains etched in Mary Lou Bredeweg's memory, even though the hullabaloo over her daughter's educational well-being happened nearly 30 years ago.

It was 1983 and Bredeweg had announced her intentions to educate her daughter, Kari, at home when the new school year began. The teacher, at a Christian elementary school in Zeeland, promptly informed the school's principal. He, in turn, reported Bredeweg to the Michigan Department of Education, which demanded that she and her husband, Al, abandon the idea of educating their daughter at home and enroll her at an accredited school.

That didn't sit right with the Bredewegs. They hired an attorney who wrote a letter to the state education department arguing their right to instruct their daughter at home.

Mary Lou considers herself fortunate. The Michigan Department of Education relented. But the controversy didn't stop there. Bredeweg remembers encountering her share of naysayers at her church at a time when home schooling was still finding its educational footing in Michigan.

"There was quite a bit of skepticism from people who challenged us," said Bredeweg, who went on to teach six more of her children at home. "They would ask how our children were going to get along socially. That was the big question."

TIME SOFTENS CONTROVERSY

Time has quelled much, but not all, of the stigma that hounds parents who



The Home School Building hosts a number of activities for children. From left, music teacher Janice Carlson works with budding instrumentalists; kindergartner Caleb Losch plays a game of cards in the gym while waiting for his sister to finish class; senior Kristin Jager and sophomore Lauren Bradt read while they wait for Octet Group practice; and fifth-grader Sophia Schmidt practices as a color guard for the marching band.



elect to educate their children at home.

What may have helped bring home schooling into the mainstream was a 1993 Michigan Supreme Court ruling that determined parents had the right to educate their children at home if it was for religious reasons. The state's high court acted following the jury conviction of Mark and Chris DeJonge, in Ottawa County District Court, for violating the compulsory education law by instructing their children at home without the aid of state-certified teachers.

The high court's ruling only went so far, however. Parents who wanted to home educate their children without religious reasons were still required to find a certified teacher.

That changed three years later when then-Gov. John Engler signed a law that said all parents and legal guardians had a fundamental right to home-school their children. The proviso was that parents must use an "organized educational program" in reading, spelling, mathematics, science, history, civics, literature, writing and English grammar.

Today, Michigan is a fairly friendly state to home education, said Jan Ellis, spokeswoman for the state Department of Education.

WHY PARENTS HOME SCHOOL

One way to gauge home education's popularity is the diverse curriculums that have sprouted, such as what the Homeschool World website lists at www.homeschool.com/groups/MI.html. The site indexes the Web addresses and synopses of seminars, support groups, potlucks, sports, academic and artistic programs scattered throughout the state. Many, but not all, tout themselves as biblically based or "Christ-centered."

Clearly, there is no single reason parents elect to home-school their children. Some desire to provide home-based religious or moral instruction. Others are concerned about the school environment, including safety, drugs and negative peer pressure. Still others are dissatisfied with the academic instruction, while some simply want a nontraditional approach to education.

Then there are parents like David and Jazmyne Fuentes, who educate their children Jasper, 10, and Ruby, 8, in their home in Eastown. The idea of home education caught Jazmyne's attention while living in Boston. She visited friends who had three children under age 10 who were home-schooled. She was impressed by how deftly the

youngsters interacted with adults.

"I was impressed with how mature the kids were," said Fuentes. "They related so well with me as an adult by carrying on an engaging conversation."

Working for two textbook publishers in Boston as a writer and proofreader exposed Fuentes to education in general and schoolbooks in particular.

"It ended up not being mysterious to me how to fulfill national education standards," said Fuentes.

Fuentes uses retired University of Virginia English professor Eric Hirsch's Core Knowledge Series, which teaches both reading skills and a range of background knowledge so children gain a contextual understanding of what they are reading.

Fuentes said she feels home schooling doesn't tether her children to a hard-and-fast timetable that traditional schools follow. She likes an "inquiring" approach to education.

"Home schooling allows you to go exploring," said Fuentes. "You start talking about math and that may fuel a discussion on other subjects that can lead to field trips. I want to feed their curiosity."

Fuentes said she doesn't care for the negative effects peer pressure and bul-

HOME SCHOOL BUILDING SUPPLEMENTS AND SUPPORTS ACADEMICS, SOCIAL LIFE

Even the most ardent home educator may be stumped by a math problem or science project once in a while. And most parents don't have room in their homes to accommodate a marching band or stage a play.

That's why many parents gravitate to the Home School Building, considered by many to be an oasis of tutorial support in academics, performing arts and music.

Built in 1998, the Home School Building,

at 5625 Burlingame Ave. SW in Wyoming, hosts some 1,000-plus students each week through supplemental classes offered by a number of independent home education associations in West Michigan.

And what the associations offer is sizeable. They range from to-be-expected tutoring services in geography, mathematics and early childhood essentials, to clubs and field trips, foreign languages, academics, sports, music,

drama, art and even driver's training.

Although Christian in its orientation, the HSB is open to families of different faiths or none at all, said Catherine Potgeter, HSB operations director.

"A positive addition to home education is what we sell," said Potgeter. "While we are a Christian organization, we also have an outreach ministry that does not preclude anybody. Our commitment is to help the par-

ent, help that child. If a family is atheist, they still will be met with help and respect as we would any family."

The 35,000-square-foot HSB includes 10 classrooms, three tutoring rooms, computer labs with 20 workstations, a gymnasium, resource center/library, fenced-in playground, lounge and offices.



lying might have on her children.

"I feel, at 43 years old, I am more wise than a group of 10- and 8-year-olds who are giving a lot of messages to my kids on what's important, what's hot and what's valuable," Fuentes said. "Those values I would rather come from me and my husband than a friend who's 8 years old."

REGISTRATION NOT REQUIRED

Parents so far are not required to register their children with the state, so it's uncertain how many home educate their children, said the MDE's Ellis. For the 2010-11 school year, there are 403 registered home schools educating 739 students in Michigan. The exception to the registration exemption is when parents request support services from their public school district, such as special education, band, physical or speech therapy, Ellis said.

Nationwide, an estimated 1.5 million children were taught in the home in 2009, an increase of 75 percent since 1999, according to the U.S. Department of Education.

"There are probably thousands home-schooled in Michigan, but there's no way to collect that (data) because it's not mandated," said Ellis.

This doesn't mean some school districts in Michigan are attempting to exceed the law's grasp, said Dewitt Black, senior counsel for the Purcellville, Va.-based Home School Legal Defense Association, a nonprofit advocacy organization that defends "the constitutional right of parents to direct the education of their children and to protect family freedoms," according to its website.

Parents pay HSLDA \$115 in annual membership dues to iron out any legal issues they may have with school districts or state-mandated requirements with which they disagree. Membership numbers 85,000 families in all 50 states and the District of Columbia — 3,400 of

them in Michigan.

Black said he considers Michigan one of the more favorable states for home schooling. But that doesn't mean HSLDA lets its guard down, said Black.

It has dealt with then-Gov. Jennifer Granholm signing a law that raised the age of compulsory school attendance from 16 to 18, affecting children who turn age 11 and older after Dec. 1, 2009. Black said the law does allow for an opt-out provision for families who elect to not be subject to the compulsory attendance law beyond the age of 16.

Another legal issue is the state board of education's consideration of a requirement that home-school parents be required to register with the state to determine their number and the curriculum they are using.

Among Black's concerns are that state officials propose to ensure parents are qualified to teach their children, that students are administered state tests to determine their academic achievement, that the time of instruction is the same as that required of public school students, and that curriculum information is reported to the local school districts in which the parents live.

Black counters there are no particular home-school deficiencies that require a remedy from the state.

"Every year we monitor legislation introduced to various states, and every year there are bills to make home schooling more restrictive or change compulsory attendance age, so we're involved in legislative process," said Black.

The Michigan Legislature has the final say in mandating curriculum requirements, Ellis said.

STATE BOARD WEIGHS IN

Michigan Board of Education President John Austin said he is aware that the possibility of more government regulation rankles some parents who educate their children.

He sees the prospect of home-schoolers registering with the state as no less problematic than what public and private schools already do.

"Our assumption, which is incomplete at this time, is it appears home schooling is an effective route and a good choice for many families, and we want to do nothing to discourage that," said Austin. "We also want to make sure no kids are falling through the cracks and not equipped with the skills and knowledge at any step of the road."

Austin said the state has a vested interest in ensuring all children in Michigan receive an education that will prepare them to enroll in secondary school and work in a field that will enable the United States to compete in a global economy.

"We would be abdicating our responsibility if we did not examine a little more closely how many, where and what kind of education these young people are getting," said Austin.

"Over the months ahead, we're going to be organizing a dialogue with the home-school community, and examine our policies and practices and procedures, and look at what other states do and what other ways can we understand better home-school education that may result in some ideas.

"We don't know what the answers are, but we're interested in finding the right answers and working with the home school community as we pursue them."

GRF

Paul R. Kopenkoskey is a freelance writer in Grand Rapids.

COLLEGES TREAT HOME-SCHOOLED KIDS THE SAME

Students who have been educated at home usually don't have extra hurdles to clear to gain entrance into college, said Jodi Chycinski, Grand Valley State University's admissions director.

Most often, parents have followed a home-school organization's curriculum that provides a transcript — a record of every grade a student earned in high school that produces a cumulative grade point average.

"They don't look any different than a traditional high school's transcript," said Chycinski.

Of the 3,534 freshmen who enrolled last fall at GVSU, 11 were home-school graduates.

Parents who did not use an organization's curriculum are required to produce a document that confirms which subjects the home-educated student studied and how they determined their son or daughter did when learning the material.

And then, as with all students seeking admission to a college, home-educated students must take one of two standardized tests that determine readiness for college: the ACT or SAT Reasoning Test, formerly known as the Scholastic Aptitude Test and Scholastic Assessment Test.

"Because we use a combination of scores — meaning transcripts and standardized test scores — we feel we can do a pretty good job of making admissions," said Chycinski.



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Lee & Birch, 50 Louis St. NW, Grand Rapids, (616) 233-4001

Products: "Ava" straight leg jeans by Citizens of Humanity, \$162; shirt by Bobi, \$40; necklace by Fresh Metal, \$65.

Moving in the right direction

This makeover mom's active lifestyle demands special considerations.

By Melissa Black • Photography by Alissa Lane

When your 4-year-old makes clothing choices for you because it's too stressful to figure out what to wear on your own — that's when you know you need a little nudge in the fashion department.

After dealing with her husband, two daughters and a career, there is precious little time for pampering.

"I never really do anything for myself," said Ingrid Johnson, an assistant professor in the Movement Science Department at Grand Valley State University. "I think about my kids, and work takes up a lot of time."

Her job sends her from the workout area to the classroom to interacting with professionals — often all at the same time.

"You get self-conscious about how you change. I still picture myself in my 20s, and I have to come to terms with that," said Johnson.

This working mom, who claims to have "no fashion sense" but who stays true to her workout sessions coupled with her athletic occupation, has a great figure, but needed to learn how to accent it with up-to-date clothing choices.

A trip to women's clothing boutique Lee & Birch on Louis Street SW in downtown Grand Rapids was the perfect place for the makeover to begin. Broaching the subject of skinny jeans, Johnson made her dislike known. Yet as soon as she tried a pair on, she fell in love.

"She came into the store layered up with loose-fitting clothes, and we got her comfortable in more fitted styles that really show off her great physique," said Katie Watts of Lee & Birch. A coral top with ruched sleeves added a cheerful note. A floral necklace by Fresh Metal was the perfect accessory.

"It's important to have at least a few



Above, Ingrid Johnson and her daughters Simone, 10, and Neve, 5, enjoy sledding outside their home. At left, the "before" photo. Below left, make-up stylist Ann Van Dyken works with Johnson to create a look that can be accomplished in five minutes.



"You get self-conscious about how you change. I still picture myself in my 20s, and I have to come to terms with that."

— Ingrid Johnson



funky, unique accessories that really stand out," Watts said. "A fun necklace like this one can really modernize a wardrobe with hardly any effort."

The next step on the makeover journey led to Cheeky Strut Salon on Grandville Avenue SW in Grand Rapids, where owner Kaite Lyn Christoffersen asked a simple question: "When was the last time you loved your hair and what did you love about it?"

After a discussion about eliminating gray hair and finding a low-maintenance yet high-fashion style, Christoffersen suggested a combination of highlights and lowlights.

"The color will be a healthy, warm glow that riches up the natural tone," Christoffersen said.

She also suggested adding soft layers so Johnson's hair would have a "sway to it when she moves her head."

Make-up stylist Ann Van Dyken

stepped in with tips on making it out the door in five minutes, a must for a busy professional mother. She focused on mascara, lip-gloss and Stila Sheer Color Tinted Moisturizer, found locally at Smooch Beauty Boutique.

"It's going to be hard to go back to work tomorrow," said Johnson after her transformation and photo shoot. "I feel young and fresh."

Her family and friends validated that assessment.

"I continue to get comments at work from students and co-workers about my new hairstyle," she said, laughing. "The ladies who work in the office call it my L'Oréal hair, and they make me flip it around!"

GRF

Melissa Black is a freelance writer for Gemini Publications based in Grand Rapids.



BY DIANNA STAMPFLER

Families will savor Michigan's Culinary Capital — the Grand Traverse region

When it comes to the Traverse City area, there's a full menu of activities to keep families busy — and well fed. With the recent explosion of culinary tourism, this region has quickly moved to the top of the heap as one of Michigan's premier foodie destinations...and that means good eats for adults and children alike!

The Traverse City Convention & Visitors Bureau offers a self-guided foodie tour brochure, available free at their visitor center downtown. As you tour along, you can meet and chat with the butchers and bakers, fishermen and chefs, artisan cheesemakers and candymakers, whose creations have helped turn Traverse City into a food paradise. Sample delectable chocolates, smell fresh-baked bread, taste warm cherry or apple pies, savor a glass of locally made cider. The brochure is also available online at www.VisitTraverseCity.com.

The Tall Ship Manitou returns to the waters of Grand Traverse Bay this season with its ever-popular Moomers Ice Cream Sails. Held every Monday and Friday afternoons (3-5pm sail), the whole family is invited out for a glorious sail on the bay and the best ice cream in Northern Michigan. During the sail, each passenger will

choose from five flavors — including the very special "Tall Ship Manitou". Sails start in May and run through September 2. Cost is \$40 per adult and \$20 per child. www.tallshipsailing.com

Of course, you can also stop by Moomers (located about five miles out of town) where you can sample from among 100 mouth-watering flavors. Moomers was actually voted #1 scoop of Ice cream in America on "Good Morning America!" a few years ago, so a visit here is a must on any family itinerary! www.moomers.com

Black Star Farms in Suttons Bay is a true agricultural destination. Here, families can visit at the petting farm and then go inside to snack on locally-grown fruits and veggies, dipped in a tasty Raclette cheese spread made on-site by Leelanau Cheese. Wood-fired pizzas are also a family favorite. www.blackstarfarms.com

Over at Cherry Republic in Glen Arbor, the kids and adults alike will enjoy the "Great Hall of the Republic" which boasts more than 100 products for sampling and purchasing. Start the morning at the café with a cherry granola parfait, or a cherry berry yogurt smoothie. The Tractor Tracks Fudge Shop is Northern Michigan's only fudge kitchen dedicated

to making as many types of cherry fudge as can be imagined. Be sure to grab a Boomchunka cookie and a bottle of soda — True Cherry, Cheery Ginger Ale, Boom Chugga Lugga,



Cherry Cream Soda or Cherry Root Bear — for the road. www.cherryrepublic.com

Other popular family-friendly eateries in the area include House of Doggs, Don's Drive-In, Sleder's Family Tavern, Pangea's Pizza, Bud's in Interlochen, Grand Traverse Pie Company, Camp Critter Bar & Grill inside

Great Wolf Lodge and the old fashioned soda fountain at The Cherry Stop.

When it comes to summer farm markets, some of the best are found in the Traverse Bay region. Both the City Market, held on the platform at the Traverse City Railway Station, and the Sara Hardy Downtown Farmers Market, are held on Wednesdays and Saturdays; the Village at Grand Traverse Commons holds its market on Fridays; the Streamside Farm Market is held on Saturdays in Acme.

Interlochen holds a farmers market on Sundays at Earth and Hearth. In Leelanau County markets are held in Glen Arbor on Tuesdays; Leland on Thursdays; and Empire and Suttons Bay on Saturdays.

Then, of course, there are the actual farm visits — where trips to places like Hoxsie's in Acme, Gallaghers Farm Market & Bakery in Traverse City, Buchan's Blueberry Hill in Traverse City, Kilcherman's Antique Apple Orchard in Northport and Rennie Orchards provide bushels of family fun!

When it comes to locally-grown, the Traverse City area is a cornucopia of fruits and vegetables — many of which are celebrated at annual festivals.

Get into the spear-it, May 20-21, at the Empire Asparagus Festival. This entire lakeshore village is green with envy over the arrival of the asparagus season — celebrating with dinners, games, parade and more. www.empi rechamber.com

As the world's largest producer of tart cherries, Traverse City proudly boasts the title of the "Cherry Capital of the World" and is home to the National Cherry Festival, planned this year for July 2-9. Children's events include the Cherry Teddy Bear Tea, Bubble Gum Blow, Cherry Pie Eating Contest and much more. www.cherry festival.org

Did you know that Grand Traverse Resort in Acme is home to the famous Dylan's Candy Bar (one of only six in the world)? This magical candy emporium is filled with color, music, fun, candy and gifts of all kinds. Without question, the 1300-square-foot store makes Willy Wonka jealous with an 18-foot Chocolate Wall; 21 flavors/ colors of M&M's®; 24 flavors of Jelly Belly® jelly beans; a 100-bin bulk candy display; an 8-foot Chocolate Bar Tree with more than 700 signature chocolate bars; and three 7-foot Lollipop Trees, each with 200 lollipops in a variety of flavors and colors!

Other resort amenities include kid's menus in all restaurants, Kid's

Night Out, Cub House Daycare, the 15,000-square-foot Indoor Water Playground and the Shores Beach Club — including Saturday night bonfires between Memorial Day and Labor Day. A variety of packages are available including the "Family Fun Package" details of which can be found online at www.grandtraverse resort.com.

As you look for a place to call home while touring the region's diverse culinary offerings — as well as recreational activities and other destinations in the Greater Traverse City Area — you'll find dozens of unique lodging options available with Visit Up North Vacation Rentals. Whether you're entertaining a group of 2 or 20, are interested in beachfront or riverfront access, want a place in the city or country, you're sure to find just what you're looking for with Visit Up North Vacation Rentals. Search their website at www.visitupnorth.com.

REGIONAL INFORMATION
Traverse City CVB
800-940-1120
www.VisitTraverseCity.com

Travel Michigan
888-78-GREAT
www.Michigan.org

Unforgettable "Up North," Vacations

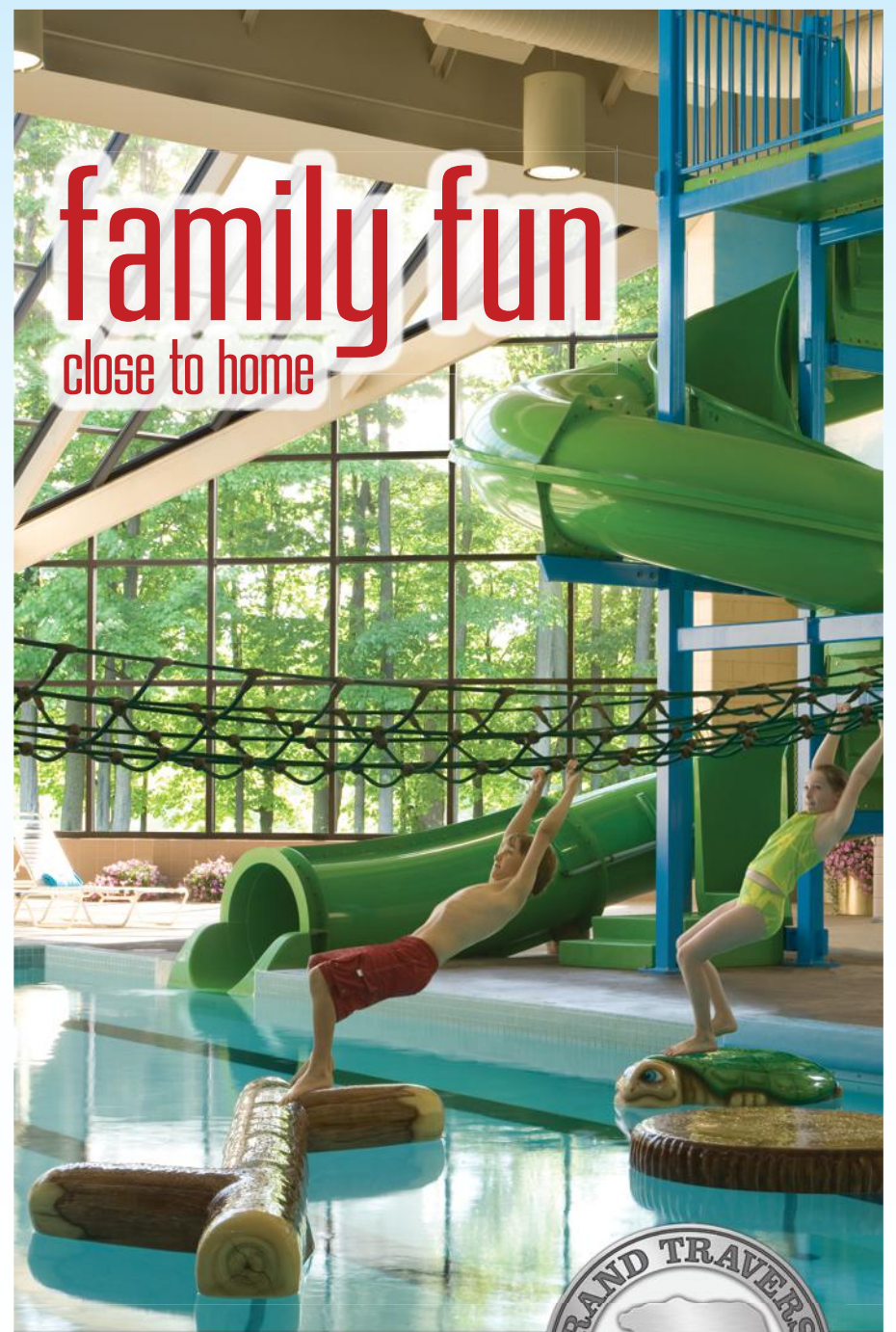
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*in Traverse City
 and surrounding areas*



(800) 901-8922

www.visitupnorth.com



Grand Traverse Resort & Spa offers something for the whole family! Our Family Fun Package starts at only \$286, and includes: two nights stay, welcome amenity, access to our newly renovated indoor water playground, kids 12 and under eat free in Sweetwater American Bistro, 20% off coupon to Tumbleweeds children's store, 1 in-room movie or video game and candy from Dylan's Candy Bar. Call or see our website for more details.

*Subject to availability. Certain restrictions apply.

grandtraverseresort.com
800-748-0303



Owned & Operated by the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa & Chippewa Indians

What's happening in April? family

GRAND RAPIDS FAMILY MAGAZINE is pleased to provide this extensive list of area events. Commonly requested venue and ticket outlet information is at the end of listing.

Kidstuff

ALL DAY WITH THE ARTS

Apr - Grand Rapids Art Museum offers family programming every Sat, with art-making activities, family activity guides and garden room art stations. April theme: Underwater Worlds. Kid-friendly tours 11 am and 1 pm. Free with admission.

CALL FOR ARTISTS

Apr - Lowell Area Arts Council invites artists 13 and older to submit art for Going Green: Blending Art and Nature exhibition Jun 7-Jul 16. Art should celebrate the environment, recycling and ways our society is going green. Artwork drop-off dates May 31-Jun 3. More info: 897-8545 or www.lowellartscouncil.org.

CAMP CURIOSITY REGISTRATION

Apr - Grand Rapids Public Museum offers half-day and full-day summer camps with themes such as Fossil Hunters; Life of a Knight; Slimy

Science; Victorian Girls; Kites, Planes & Rockets; and Be a Broadcaster. Register at 456-3977 or www.grmuseum.org.

DEANNA'S PLAYHOUSE

Apr - 15,000-square-foot play environment includes art room, imagination village, performing arts stage, music room, infant-parent area, café and more. 10 am-3 pm Mon-Sat. 11172 Adams St, Holland, (800) 577-7661, www.deannaspplayhouse.com. \$5.

FINE ART FOR KIDS

Apr - Cynthia Hagedorn's studio offers themed fine art time for kids. 194½ S River Ave, Holland, www.cynthiahagedorn.com.

GRAND RAPIDS CHILDREN'S MUSEUM

Apr - Apr 7, Art at Heart, a free interactive art experience. Thru Apr 18, Open Wide for Dental Health. Thru Jun 5, Izzy's World of Shapes. Permanent exhibits include Mercantile Wee Bank, Spin Table, Buzzy Beehive, Mom and Pop Store, Funstruction. Toddler Tue for ages 3 and under (10 am-noon). Thu Family Nights (5-8 pm) \$1.50 admission. 9:30 am-5 pm Tue-Sat, until 8 pm Thu, noon-5 pm Sun, closed Mon. \$6.50, under 2 free. 22 Sheldon Ave NE, 235-4726, www.grcm.org.

GRCT CLASS REGISTRATION

Apr - GR Civic Theatre is registering students for spring classes that begin Apr 11. 222-6654 or www.grct.org/education.

GR PUBLIC LIBRARIES

Apr - Literacy classes for babies, toddlers and kids include storytelling, music, dramatic play and art activities. Special events include Mark Newman: Sooper Yooper and Meet Jonathan Rand, author of "American Chillers," "Michigan Chillers," "Freddie Fernortner: Fearless Fourth Grader" and the "Adventure Club" series. Times and locations vary. Complete schedules at any branch or www.grpl.org. Free.

GYMCO

Apr - Apr 1-8, Gytime half-day and full-day camps. Apr 4 and Apr 6, Kids Day Away. Apr 16, Bar Clinic. Apr 23, Super Hero Training. Apr 30, Cartwheel Clinic. Gymco Sports, 2360 Camelot Ridge Ct SE, 956-0586, www.gymco.com.

HOP SCOTCH CHILDREN'S STORE

Apr - Free events every Mon, 10:30 am. Apr 4, Ceramic Art with Prints and Printsess. Apr 11, story time and book signing with author/illustrator Amy Young. Apr 18, story time and book

signing with author/illustrator Leslie Helakoski. Apr 25, Animals Among Us, Earth Day celebration with Blandford Nature Center. 963 Cherry St SE, 233-4008, www.hopscotchstore.com.

KENT DISTRICT LIBRARIES

Apr - Story times for young children, plus Magical Creatures, Max and Ruby Party, Going Green, Lego Party, spring break activities and Ruff Readers. Teen programs include Gaming and Manga. See www.kdl.org for dates and locations.

KINDERMUSIK

Apr - Playgroup for ages 2-4 with music, stories, crafts and snack. 9-11:30 am or 12:30-3 pm every Wed. \$63 for four weeks (450-6995 or kindermusikwithtrish@gmail.com).

SMALL TALK FOR KIDS

Apr - Language classes in Spanish, Mandarin Chinese or French at six locations for up to age 5. \$195 (990-2591, www.smalltalkforkids.com).

STORY TIME WITH A TWIST

Apr - Caledonia Dance Center hosts free preschool story times with music, dance, rhymes, instruments, finger plays and more. 9:30-10 am Mon. 131½ E Main St, Caledonia, 891-1606, www.caledonidancecenter.com.

STORY TIME WITH THE MIGHTY WURLITZER

Apr - Storybook characters and animals are brought to life through the tweets, whistles, wheezes and bangs of the Mighty Wurlitzer Organ. Every Mon at 10:30 am, 11:15 am and noon. Public Museum. Free with admission.

HOPE COLLEGE JUNIOR VISIT DAYS

Apr 1, 8, 15 - Prospective college students and families can tour campus, attend classes and receive information; complimentary lunch in dining hall. Pre-registration requested (616-395-7850 or www.hope.edu/admissions/visit). 8:30 am. Maas Conference Center, 11th St and Columbia Ave, Holland. Free.

FIRST SATURDAY FOR KIDS

Apr 2 - Literary Life Bookstore hosts a kids storytime and bookmark craft. 11 am. 758 Wealthy St SE, 458-8418, www.literarylifebokstore.com.

UICA SPRING ART CAMPS

Apr 4-7 - Urban Institute for Contemporary Arts offers spring break camps such as Young Digital Film Makers, Exploring Ceramics, Green Fashion Design and Make It With Mosaic for ages 7-12. 41 Sheldon Blvd SE, 454-7000, www.uica.org.

GOING TO THE DOGS

THE SIXTH ANNUAL WEST MICHIGAN PET EXPO

promises something for all animal lovers during its two-day run, April 2-3, at the DeltaPlex.

Featured attractions this year include Mutts Gone Nuts and JUMP! The Ultimate Dog Show, as well as local entertainment from Blandford Nature Center's Wild Animals. There are two entertainment stages featuring shows and pet seminars each day.

The event, billed as the longest running and best attended pet expo in Michigan, also features a live petting zoo, more than 60 pet-related vendors offering products and services, and an onsite adoption area from which visitors can take pets home the same day. The adoption area is staffed by a number of West Michigan area animal shelters and rescues.

The show, which is sponsored by radio station Star 105.7, runs 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday, and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday. Admission is \$6 for adults, \$4 for children 5-12 and free for those under 5. *See Special Events*



COURTESY ISTOCKPHOTO.COM/
ERIC ISSELEE

dates



COURTESY ISTOCKPHOTO.COM/SVEMIR (LEFT); JAN RYSAVY (CENTER); CAROL GERING (RIGHT)

editor's picks

SPRING BREAK AT GRAM

Apr 4-8 - Drop-in art activities for kids. 10 am-3 pm. GR Art Museum. Free with admission.

SPRING BREAK ZOOBILEE

Apr 4-8 - Kids activities, keeper features and lots of fun. 11 am-3 pm. John Ball Zoo, 1300 W Fulton St, 336-4300, www.johnballzoosociety.org. Free with admission: \$5 adults and seniors over 62, \$4 kids 3-13, kids 2 and under free.

SPRING BREAK AT PUBLIC MUSEUM

Apr 4-9 - GR Public Museum has activities and craft stations focusing on Healthy Bodies. Noon-4 pm.

"AQUATIC ADVENTURES OF JOHNNY STARFISH AND THE MERMAIDS"

Apr 5-9 - Grand Rapids Ballet Company presents a spring break event just for kids, featuring a brand new ballet, pre-show activities and an up-close look at costumes. 11 am activities, 11:30 performance Tue-Sat; also 1 pm activities, 1:30 performance Fri and Sat. \$5 (454-4771).

AMERICAN GIRL PARTY

Apr 12 - Party for moms and daughters (6 and older) with crafts, history-focused game, snacks and doll parade. 6:30-8 pm. Home School Building, 5625 Burlingame Ave SW, Wyoming. Registration required. \$5 per child (616-532-9422, ext 6, or resourcecenter@homeschoolbuilding.org).

CLUB AQ

Apr 14-15 - High school seniors can spend a night on Aquinas College campus, participate in campus activities and explore academic options. Registration: 732-4460 or www.aquinas.edu.

FLOOD THE FIVE COMMUNICATIONS CONFERENCE

Apr 15-16 - Local ICC chapter presents information about thinking, speaking and connecting with audiences. 3-9 pm Apr 15 for ages 6-19 (\$25). 9 am-3 pm Apr 16 for ages 11-19 (\$75). Freedom Christian Schools, Hudsonville. 669-3534 or www.instituteforculturalcommunicators.org/floodthefive.

"CHARLOTTE'S WEB"

Apr 22-May 1 - GR Civic Theatre presents story about friendship between a pig and a spider. 7 pm, 2 pm Sun. 30 N Division Ave. \$8-\$14 (Civic box office or Star Tickets). www.grct.org.

EASTER EGG HUNT

Apr 23 - Kids up to age 10 can hunt for more than 5,000 Easter eggs filled with candy and prizes in Central Park, downtown Grand Haven. 11 am. Free.

www.grfamily.com

Sports

WEST MICHIGAN WHITECAPS

Apr - Professional minor league baseball team, member of the Midwest League and Class A affiliate of the Detroit Tigers, kicks off the season. Home games: Apr 10 vs Lansing Lugnuts. Apr 11-14 vs Great Lakes Loons. Apr 18-20 vs Fort Wayne TinCaps. Apr 21-23 and Apr 29-30 vs Lansing Lugnuts. Game times vary. Fifth Third Ballpark, Comstock Park. \$6-\$13 (800-CAPS-WIN, www.whitecaps-baseball.com).

USA JUDO YOUTH AND SCHOLASTIC NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Apr 2-3 - Athletes ages 6-19 compete. 9 am-8 pm Sat, 9 am-end of competition Sun. DeVos Place. \$12 adults, \$8 kids 9-12, under 8 free; \$20 two-day adult pass.

GRAND RAPIDS GRIFFINS

Apr 8 - Grand Rapids' American Hockey League team, primary affiliate of the Detroit Red Wings, plays the season's last home game against Abbotsford Heat. 7 pm. Van Andel Arena. \$13-\$30 (Van Andel box office, Meijer or Star Tickets). www.griffinshockey.com.

TOWN CRIER RACE

Apr 16 - 5K and 10K run around bike path/woods and historic Saugatuck, plus kids fun run. 9 am 10K, 9:15 am kids race, 10 am 5K. More info: (269) 857-1626 or saugatuckdouglas.com/towncrier/.

CALVIN 5K SPRING CLASSIC

Apr 30 - Area chapters of the Calvin Alumni Association host a run/walk and family fun run. Entry fees go toward student scholarships. 9 am race. Spoelhof Fieldhouse Complex, Calvin College. \$25 before Apr 28, \$30 Apr 28 or after, \$18 students. 526-6142, www.calvin.edu/classic.

Special Events

WEST MICHIGAN PET EXPO

Apr 2-3 - Sixth annual STAR 105.7 event with pet-related vendors displaying goods and services, animal entertainment, seminars, onsite adoption, petting zoo and more. 10 am-7 pm Sat, 11 am-5 pm Sun. DeltaPlex, 2500 Turner Ave. \$6 general admission, \$4 children 12 and under, 5 and under free.

GEM AND MINERAL SHOW

Apr 7-9 - Indian Mounds Rock & Mineral Club hosts 36th annual show. Mineral specimens, meteorites, micromounts, crystals, stone bads, carvings, jewelry, fossils, and a 58-million-year-

GRAB YOUR BASKETS

and put on your bonnets because it's time for **Easter egg hunts** throughout West Michigan. This year, Easter Sunday falls on April 24. Check with your local township or city offices, or in some cases school districts, to determine times and days. For example, Grand Haven will host its annual hunt featuring 5,000 eggs filled with candy and prizes at 11 a.m. April 23 in downtown's Central Park. Most of these events are free for children up to age 10. See Kidstuff. 🍷

Numerous events

celebrate Planet

Earth this month.

For those who really want to get their hands dirty, Grand Rapids Community College is raising awareness by helping clean assigned

areas of downtown Grand Rapids

Friday, April 15. Register via e-

mail to kcaveryl@grcc.edu. Grand Haven

hosts an **Earth Day parade and fair** April 16 in

the downtown area, with events beginning at noon. Grand Rapids' John Ball Zoo celebrates Earth Day with its **Party for The Planet** April 16, featuring programs about saving the world's resources. In a slight variation on the theme, Grand Rapids Public Museum celebrates Earth Day and International Astronomy Day with **Earth and Sky Day**, April 30. See Special Events.

🍷 You can get your groove on with beginner and intermediate tango lessons by joining the **GR Tango** community at Richard App Gallery, 910 Cherry St. SE. Lessons are an hour and a half every Thursday evening, followed by an hour of free practice. Visit www.grtango.org for more information. See Lectures & Workshops. 🍷 Children ages 7-12 who are home for

Spring Break April 4-7 might want to take advantage of a variety of "camps" being offered by Urban Institute for Contemporary Arts. Participants can explore digital filmmaking, ceramics, "green" fashion design and mosaic art. Visit www.uica.org. Other Spring Break options include events at the Grand Rapids Art Museum, John Ball Zoo, Grand Rapids Public Museum and Grand Rapids Ballet Company. See Kidstuff. 🍷 Put on your walking shoes and support a good cause. The **Walk for Autism Awareness** begins at noon, Sunday, April 17, at Kuyper College (www.autismsupportofkentcounty.org), and the annual March of Dimes **March For Babies** takes place in Caledonia, Holland, Kalamazoo and Muskegon at various times and places (www.marchforbabies.org). See Special Events.



JOHNNY GUINN

family dates

old sculptured crocodile on loan from The Science Museum of Minnesota. 9:30 am-9 pm. Rogers Plaza Town Center, Wyoming. Free.

EAT, DRINK, BE MERRY

Apr 9 - St. Cecilia Music Center hosts a benefit with wine tasting, hors-d'oeuvres and silent auction. 6:30 pm. 24 Ransom NE. \$50 (459-2224 or www.scmc-online.org).

EUCHRE PARTY

Apr 9 - GR Women's Chorus hosts euchre tournament fundraiser, with cash bar, music and snacks. 7 pm, doors open 6:30 pm. Casino Club of GR, 3260 Salerno Drive NE (near Plainfield and I-96). \$20. www.grwc.org.

WOMEN OF ACHIEVEMENT AND COURAGE

Apr 12 - Michigan Women's Foundation honors women who have made significant contributions through business, community service and/or philanthropy. Cecile Cave Fehsenfeld and Terri Lynn Land are honored. 11:30 am registration, noon-1:30 pm luncheon and program. Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park. \$75 (313-640-1028, ext 204). www.meijergardens.org.

HOMETOWN HEROES

Apr 14 - American Red Cross of Greater GR honors local individuals or organizations that have acted bravely in time of need or dedicated their life to charitable service and caring for others. 6 pm. Goei Center, 818 Butterworth St SW. \$100 (456-8661, ext 8999, or www.redcrossgr.org).

MEL TROTTER MINISTRIES BANQUET

Apr 14 - Fundraiser with dinner and entertainment supports the homeless and people in rehab programs. 6:30 pm punch bowl, 7 pm dinner. DeVos Place. \$50 (454-8249, ext 223, or rhonda.vandyk@meltrotter.org).

EARTH DAY CLEANUP

Apr 15 - GRCC raises awareness by cleaning assigned areas in downtown GR. 10 am-4 pm. Registration: <http://bit.ly/cHt4GW> or kcaverly@grcc.edu.

SECOND BEST SALE

Apr 15 - First United Methodist Church holds a rummage sale with more than 2,000 gently used items. 9 am-4:30 pm. 227 E Fulton St. www.grandrapidsfumc.org.

AFTERNOON OF FASHION AND TEA

Apr 15-16 - Guided tour of Victorian-era Voigt home, plus tea and sweets in the dining room. Reservations required (456-3977). 1-2:30 pm. Voigt House, 115 College Ave SE, 456-4600, www.grmuseum.org. \$12, \$10 members.

CHILLY BLUES

Apr 15-16 - Grand Haven's 17th annual Chili Cook-Off and Blues Festival. Venues include Kirby House, Theatre Bar, The Grand, The Dee-Lite and others. Chili registration and prep begins 10 am Sat at Snug Harbor; contest begins at noon. 1-6 pm live music, 3 pm chili judging. www.haborrestaurants.com.

GIRLFRIENDS STAYCATION

Apr 15-16 - Downtown Rockford businesses (39 of them) offer girlfriend fun with free samples, specials, prizes and pampering. 5-9 pm Fri, 10 am-5 pm Sat. See Heart of Rockford Facebook page for details.

EARTH DAY PARADE AND FAIR

Apr 16 - Grand Haven parade begins at noon at Franklin St parking lot south of the courthouse and goes to Earth Day Fair at Grand Haven Community Center. Conservation groups, businesses

and community organizations highlight green practices and products, plus music, food and games. Central Park, Washington St, Grand Haven. Noon-4 pm. www.wetland-watch.org.

EVERYTHING SALE

Apr 16 - Vendors sell toys, books, jewelry, clothes, outdoor items, crafts, baked goods and more. 9 am-3 pm. Home School Building gym, 5625 Burlingame Ave SW, Wyoming. \$1, children 12 and under free.

PARTY FOR THE PLANET

Apr 16 - Celebrate Earth Day at John Ball Zoo and learn ways to save the world's resources. Plus music, talks, animal demonstrations, giveaways and drive-up recycling. 10 am-3 pm. 1300 W Fulton St, 336-4300, www.johnballzoosociety.org. \$5 adults, \$4 kids 3-13, kids 2 and under free.

WALK FOR AUTISM AWARENESS

Apr 17 - Autism Support of Kent County's 2.5K walk includes activities for all ages, live music

and Community Resource Fair. Noon-3 pm, walk begins 1 pm. Kuyper College, 3333 East Beltline Ave NE. 752-8577, www.autismsupportofkentcounty.org.

STORY SPINNERS

Apr 19 - Folk tales and original stories for all ages. 7 pm. Terraces of Maple Creek, 2000 32nd St. www.storyspinners.net. Free.

NOTO'S CHARITY WINE FEST

Apr 29 - Noto's Old World Italian Dining presents more than 300 international wines, gourmet cuisine, live entertainment, culinary auction and a raffle to benefit The American Culinary Federation of Greater GR and other local nonprofits. 7 pm general, 6 pm VIP. Noto's, 6600 28th St SE. General admission: \$50 in advance (493-6686 or www.notosoldworld.com), \$60 at door. VIP tickets: \$100/\$110.

EARTH AND SKY DAY

Apr 30 - Grand Rapids Public Museum celebrates Earth Day and International Astronomy

Day with spaced-themed crafts, telescopic observation posts, demonstrations and live sky show in the planetarium. 11 am-4 pm. Free with admission (see Museums & Attractions).

MARCH FOR BABIES

Apr 30 - March of Dimes annual local walk in Grand Rapids (Caledonia). Also Apr 16 in Holland and May 7 in Kalamazoo and Muskegon. Registration and start times vary; see www.marchforbabies.org or www.marchofdimes.com/Michigan.

QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

Apr 30 - Nelis' Dutch Village celebrates the Dutch queen's birthday and its season opening with games and activities. 10 am-6 pm. 12350 James St, Holland. Admission, including attractions, rides, presentations and movies: \$10 adults, \$9 seniors, \$7 children 3-15. (800) 285-7177, www.dutchvillage.com.

ALLEGAN ANTIQUE MARKET

Apr 30-May 1 - 400 exhibitors rain or shine. 10 am-5 pm Sat, 8 am-3 pm Sun. Allegan County Fairgrounds, 150 Allegan County Fair Dr, Allegan. 735-3333.

WEST MICHIGAN SMALL MUSEUMS TOUR

Apr 30-May 1 - Twenty-two small museums along the Flat River, Grand River and Thornapple River conduct special tours. Many will have exhibits commemorating the 150th anniversary of the Civil War. 11 am-5 pm. For details see www.commoncorners.com/images/springintoast2011.pdf.

Music

AQUINAS COLLEGE CONCERTS

Apr - 7:30 pm Apr 2, An Evening with the French Romantics. 7:30 pm Apr 7, Spring Jazz Night. 3 pm Apr 10, Spring Music Department Concert. 7:30 pm Apr 14, Grand Rapids Jazz Orchestra with Paul Brewer. 7:30 pm Apr 27, New Dimensions Percussion Plus. All events free. Locations vary; see www.aquinas.edu/music/events.html.

CALVIN COLLEGE CONCERTS

Apr - 10:30 am Apr 2, Community Symphony. 7:30 pm Apr 7 and Apr 19, Chamber Winds. 7:30 pm Apr 10, Campus Choir. 3 pm Apr 17, Gospel Choir. 7 pm Apr 26, High School Honor Orchestra Festival. 7:30 pm Apr 29, Women's Chorale. 3 pm Apr 30, Wind Ensemble. 8 pm Apr 30, Oratorio Society presents "Gloria in Excelsis Deo" (\$22-\$30). Calvin FAC. Concerts free unless noted. Tickets available at box office or 526-6282.

FRIDAY NIGHTS AT GRAM

Apr - Grand Rapids Art Museum hosts live music, social games, gallery talks, cash bar and dinner options 5-9 pm every Fri. April theme: poetry. See website for details. \$5 nonmembers, members free. www.artmuseumgr.org.

THE INTERSECTION

Apr - Nightclub hosts local and national music. Apr 2, Mega 80s. Apr 5, Ha Ha Tonka. Apr 7, Mimosa. Apr 8, AP Tour. Apr 9, Dead Against CD Release WSG Fled Five. Apr 10, Outer Vibe Presents: Rock Camp! Apr 16, Mega 80s. Apr 23, Frontiers: A Tribute to Journey. Apr 29, Colt Ford. Apr 30, Mega 80s. See website for updates. Ticket prices vary (Beat Goes On, Purple East, Vertigo Music, Intersection box office or Ticketmaster). 133 Grandville Ave SW. www.sectionlive.com.

FINDING ART ANYWHERE

The Lowell Area Arts Council is looking for artists to participate in its **Going Green: Blending Art & Nature** exhibition. The event, which emphasizes the sustainability of art and environmental responsibility, is open to artists 13 and older. The works should celebrate the environment, recycling and ways society is going green.

Works will be on display June 7-July 16, but artists need to drop off their work at the Arts Council building, 149 S. Hudson St., between May 31 and June 3.

The exhibition is part of a larger initiative planned by LAAC. In addition to the show, mini-workshops are planned for June that will cover creating rain gardens, composting, floral arrangements, raw food preparation and herbal gardening. There also will be presentations on disposing of toxic materials and using earth-friendly products.

For more information, e-mail info@lowellartscouncil.org, call (616) 897-8545 or visit www.lowellartscouncil.org.

See *Kidstuff*

JOHNNY QUIRIN

family dates

This show's a gem!

WHAT BETTER WAY TO RECOGNIZE Planet Earth than a show dedicated to items drawn from it?

Indian Mounds Rock & Mineral Club is presenting its 36th annual Gem & Mineral Show April 7-9 at Rogers Plaza Town Center on 28th Street SW in Grand Rapids.

Featured will be scores of mineral specimens, meteorites, micromounts, crystals, stone beads, carvings, jewelry and fossils. Dealers will buy and sell items throughout the show.

Of special interest is a 12-foot sculptured crocodile on loan from the Science Museum of Minnesota.



The show, which runs 9:30 a.m.-9 p.m. each day, also features museum quality exhibits, rock identification seminars, a club sale, a children's table and numerous demonstrations.

Admission and parking are free. For more information, visit www.indianmoundsrockclub.com.

See Special Events

MUSIC AT MID-DAY

Apr - Free concerts 12:15-12:45 pm every Tue. Apr 5, Verlyn Schultz & friends. Apr 12, Carol McNally, organ. Apr 19, Grandville 8th Grade Jazz Band. Apr 26, David Wells, trombone. Park Congregational Church, 10 E Park Place NE. www.parkchurchgr.org.

ONE TRICK PONY CONCERTS

Apr - Restaurant offers live music at 8 pm. Apr 2, Lazy Blue Tunas. Apr 7, Amy Speace. Apr 16, Mid-Life Crisis. Apr 23, Dennie Middleton and D-Rad. Apr 30, Nobody's Darlin'. See website for updates. One Trick Pony, 136 E Fulton St. www.onetrick.biz.

"INSPIRED BY MOZART"

Thru Apr 2 - GR Symphony's Rising Stars presents music by Sibelius, Mozart and Kevin Puts, with Bella Hristova on violin. 7 pm Thu, 8 pm Fri and Sat. DeWitt Auditorium, Zeeland East High School. \$18-\$28 (Symphony and DeVos Place box offices or Ticketmaster). www.grsymphony.org.

GR CHOIR OF MEN AND BOYS

Apr 1 - Music and readings for the Lent and Easter season with guest director Andrew Nethsingha. 7 pm. Cathedral of St Andrew, 265 Sheldon SE. Free-will offering.

"MOZART AND SIBELIUS"

Apr 1 - GR Symphony Coffee Classics concert featuring Mozart's Symphony No. 29 and Sibelius' "Swan of Tuonela." 10 am. Royce Auditorium, St. Cecilia Music Center. \$10 (Symphony and DeVos Place box offices or Ticketmaster). www.grsymphony.org.

BOB SEGER AND THE SILVER BULLET BAND

Apr 2 - Classic rock concert with hits such as "Night Moves" and "Old Time Rock and Roll." 8 pm. Van Andel Arena. \$72.50 (Van Andel and DeVos Place box offices or Ticketmaster).

SACRED SOUNDS OF ST. MARK'S

Apr 3 - Grand Valley Baroque performs music by Henry Purcell and Vivaldi. 5 pm. St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 134 N Division Ave. www.stmarksgr.org. Free.

HAT TRICK SERIES

Apr 4, 18 - WYCE 88.1 presents concerts that raise money for a local nonprofit. Apr 4, Boulder Acoustic Society. Apr 18, Adrian Legg. 7 pm. One Trick Pony, 136 E Fulton St. Donations accepted. www.wyce.org.

"CELTIC WOMAN: SONGS FROM THE HEART"

Apr 5 - Female vocalists and violinists perform. 7:30 pm. Van Andel Arena. \$32.50-\$67.50 (Van Andel and DeVos Place box offices or Ticketmaster).

FARM MUSEUM JAM NIGHT

Apr 5, 19 - Bring your guitar, fiddle or other non-electric instrument. Singers and listeners welcome. 6-9 pm, doors open 5 pm. Coopersville Farm Museum, 375 Main St, Coopersville. Free with admission (\$4). www.coopersvillefarmmuseum.org.

TAIZE SUNG PRAYER SERVICE

Apr 6 - Taize worship consists of repeated choruses, often accompanied by instruments, vocal solos. 7 pm. First United Methodist Church, 227 E Fulton St. www.grandrapidsfumc.org.

ACOUSTIC EVENING WITH MATISYAHU

Apr 7 - Calvin College presents a concert with Orthodox Jewish hip hop artist from New York. 9 pm. Calvin FAC. \$25 (Calvin box office, 526-6282 or at door).

FESTIVAL OF FAITH AND MUSIC

Apr 7-9 - Calvin College presents lectures, workshops, interviews and live music, including Jon Foreman of Switchfoot, Shara Worden of My Brightest Diamond, John Darnielle of Mountain Goats. Covenant FAC. www.calvin.edu/go/ffm.

MAJIC CONCERT SERIES

Apr 8 - Musical Arts for Justice in the Community hosts Kurt Ellenberger with Utake and Claire Vangelisti. 7 pm. Bethlehem Church Sanctuary, 250 Commerce Ave SW. \$10 suggested donation; proceeds benefit GR Coalition to End Homelessness. www.grmajic.org.

ALLEY DOOR CLUB

Apr 8, 17 - Jazz, blues and folk music in down-

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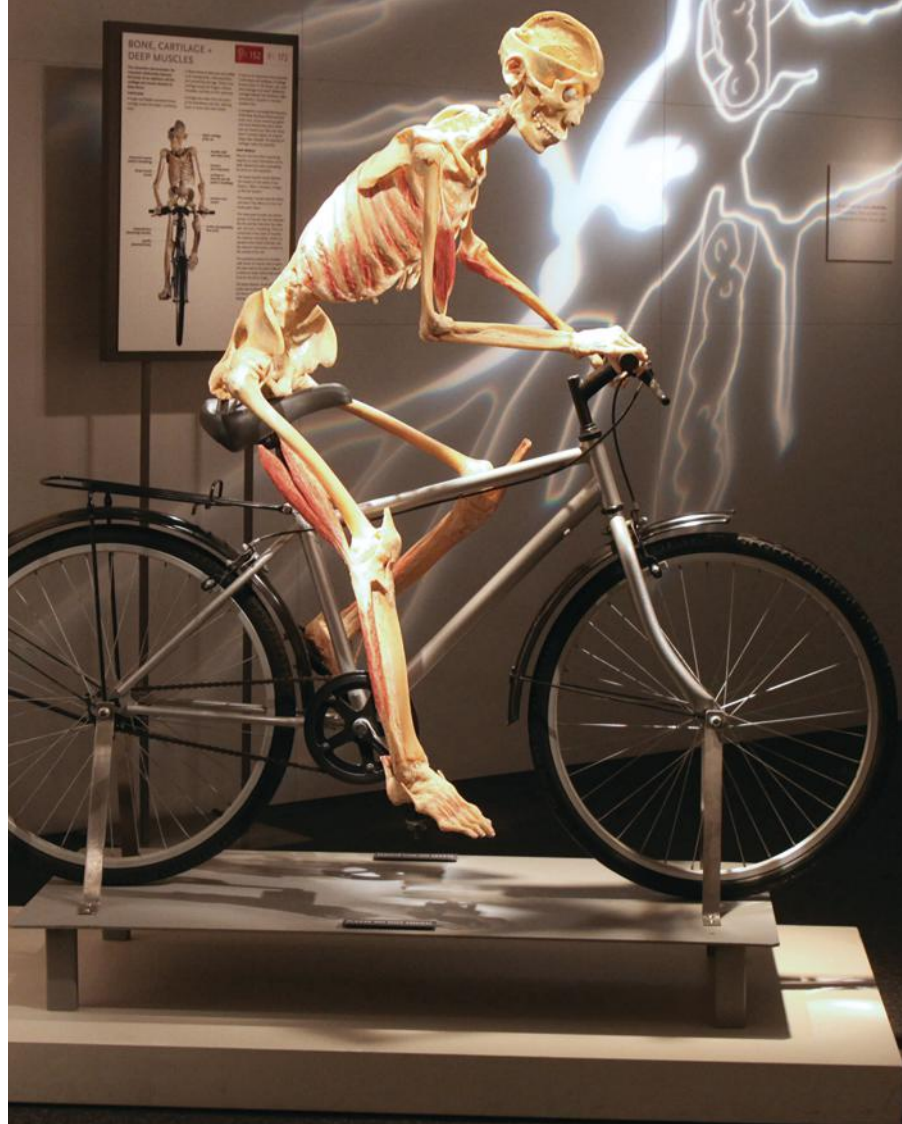
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family dates

town Muskegon 2nd and 4th Fri. 7-10 pm Apr 8, Day Break 7, Motown and blues. 3-6 pm Apr 17, Carl Webb Band, dance music. Frauenthal Theatre. \$6 at door or in advance (231-727-8001).

ACOUSTIC SATURDAY NIGHTS

Apr 9, 16, 30 - Grand River Folk Arts Society hosts singers and songwriters. Apr 9, Curtis and Loretta. Apr 16, Michael Peter Smith. Apr 30, Annual Spring Fundraiser with Cherry Blossom Ramblers and Kerfunken. 8 pm. Wealthy St Theater, 1130 Wealthy St SE. \$12 adults, \$10 students/seniors, \$9 members, \$3 children (at door). www.grfolkarts.org.

JUBAL BRASS CONCERT

Apr 10 - Amateur and semi-professional brass players present classical compositions, hymn arrangements and contemporary praise pieces. 6 pm. Blythefield CRC, 6350 Kuttshill Dr, Rockford. Free. www.jubalbrass.org.

JIM BRICKMAN

Apr 12 - GR Symphony's Symphonic Boom concert features pianist Jim Brickman. 7:30 pm. DeVos Performance Hall. \$42-\$90 (Grand Rapids Symphony and DeVos Place box offices or Ticketmaster). www.grsymphony.org.

DAVID FINCKEL AND WU HAN

Apr 14 - St. Cecilia's Classical Series hosts cellist David Finckel of Emerson String Quartet and pianist Wu Han. 7:30 pm. St. Cecilia Music Center. \$30-\$35 adults, \$10 students; pre-concert wine and appetizer reception \$15 (459-2224). www.scmc-online.org.

PAUL THORN BAND

Apr 15 - Pepsi Max Concert Series presents roots rock concert. 7 pm, doors open 6 pm. Fifth Third Ballpark. \$22 (at door).

"BEETHOVEN AND BLUE JEANS"

Apr 15-16 - West Michigan Symphony presents Rossini's overture to "The Thieving Magpie," Jennifer Higdon's "On a Wire" concerto and Beethoven's Symphony No. 7. 7:30 pm. Frauenthal Theater, Muskegon. \$10-\$35 (Frauenthal box office or Star Tickets).

MIGHTY WURLITZER CONCERTS

Apr 15-16 - Organ concert with guest musician Donnie Rankin. 7-9 pm Fri, 2-4 pm Sat. Public Museum. \$10 adults, \$5 children; \$8/\$4 members (456-3977, www.grmuseum.org or at front desk).

"TWO DONS AND DVORAK"

Apr 15-16 - Grand Rapids Symphony brings the stories of Don Giovanni and Don Quixote to life, plus a bohemian symphony from Dvorak. 8 pm. DeVos Performance Hall. \$28-\$77 (Symphony and DeVos Place box offices or Ticketmaster). www.grsymphony.org.

"AN AMERICAN EXPERIENCE"

Apr 16 - North American Choral Company's spring concert, with adult singers, high school and middle school choirs accompanied by R&B/rock band Hey Marco. 7:30 pm. Creston High School Auditorium, 1720 Plainfield Ave NE. \$8 adults, \$4 students (774-9268, www.thechoralcompany.com).

GROOVEWALK

Apr 16 - Walk or take the GrooveXpress to hear 11 bands in different locations in downtown Holland. Drink specials at each venue. 9 pm-1 am. www.groovewalk.com for locations. \$10 in advance or \$15 at door.

HOLLAND SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Apr 16 - Classics III concert includes Ravel's Mother Goose Suite, Chopin's Piano Concerto No. 1 and Respighi's "Pines of Rome." 7:30 pm. Zeeland East HS. \$17 adults, \$14 seniors, \$5 students. www.hollandsymphony.org.

JAZZ VESPERS

Apr 16 - Live jazz with Steve Talaga and Mind's Eye. 6 pm. First United Methodist Church, 227 E Fulton St. www.grandrapidsfmc.org. Free.

MUSICAL MOODS 63

Apr 16 - Grand Rapids Community College student instrumental and choral ensembles and select soloists in a collage concert. Proceeds benefit Albert P. Smith music scholarship endowment fund. 7:30 pm. St. Cecilia Royce Auditorium. \$12 adults, \$8 students and seniors. www.grcc.edu/music.

METROPOLITAN CHOIR OF PRAISE

Apr 17 - Spring concert. 7:30 pm. Plymouth Heights CRC, 1800 Plymouth Ave SE. Freewill offering. www.metropolitanchoir.org.

JAZZ GUMBO

Apr 18 - West Michigan Jazz Society presents cabaret concerts every third Monday. 6:30-8:30 pm. Kopper Top Guest House, 639 Stocking Ave NW. \$12 includes gumbo or chili; other food available. Cash bar.

JEFF BECK

Apr 19 - World-famous guitarist performs. 8 pm. DeVos Performance Hall. \$29.50-\$55 (Van Andel and DeVos Place box offices or Ticketmaster).

"ARISE MY LOVE EASTER TOUR"

Apr 20 - Muskegon Rescue Mission holds sixth annual concert featuring NewSong, 33 Miles and Jonny Diaz. 7 pm. Orchard View Auditorium, Muskegon. \$10-\$15 (800-585-3737 or Star Tickets). www.musekgonmission.org.

JACKSON BROWNE

Apr 21 - Singer-songwriter performs solo acoustic concert. 7:30 pm. DeVos Performance Hall. \$29.50-\$79.50 (Van Andel and DeVos Place box offices or Ticketmaster).

"WIND SOLOISTS OF NEW YORK"

Apr 21 - Muskegon Community Concert Association presents a classical concert. 7:30 pm. Frauenthal Theater, Muskegon. \$18 (Frauenthal box office or Star Tickets).

THE DECEMBERISTS

Apr 25 - Calvin College presents indie folk rock band with Justin Towne Earle. 8 pm. Calvin Spoelhof Center. \$35 (Calvin box office, 526-6282, or at door).

BREATHE OWL BREATHE

Apr 29 - Calvin College presents Michigan-based folk and indie rock trio. 8 pm. Ladies Literary Club, 61 Sheldon Blvd SE. \$10 (Calvin box office, 526-6282 or at door).

"RICKY NELSON REMEMBERED"

Apr 29 - Nelson's twin sons pay tribute to their father's music. 7:30 pm. Van Singel FAC. \$39.50 adults, \$22.50 students (878-6800, www.vsfac.com).

HAYDN'S "MASS IN TIME OF WAR"

Apr 30 - Concert by the Holland Chorale. 7:30 pm. Zeeland Performing Arts Center. \$17 adults, \$14 seniors, \$5 students. www.hollandchorale.org.

family dates



Art

SMART MULTIMEDIA ART FESTIVAL

Apr 4-8 - Multimedia artwork, lectures and panel discussions on topics related to the exhibition in multiple locations. Sponsored by West Michigan galleries, colleges and art institutions. Free. www.openconceptgallery.org.

ARTS COUNCIL OF GREATER GRAND RAPIDS

Apr - Thru Apr 8, exhibition by local artist T'Alyne centers on Michigan's fresh water. Reception 5-6:30 Apr 6 (RSVP by Apr 1), 459-2787, ext 12). 532 Ottawa Ave NW, www.artsggr.org.

BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

Apr - Thru May 31, Musical Arts for Justice in the Community presents paintings by Vivian Visser. 250 Commerce Ave SW, 456-1741, www.grmajic.org.

BYRNEBOEHM GALLERY

Apr - Thru Apr 30, Face to Face, paintings by Rebecca Green and Aneka Ingold. 959 Lake Dr SE, 336-0209, www.byrneboehmgallery.com.

CALVIN CENTER ART GALLERY

Apr - Thru Apr 30, Light on New Netherland and The Marginalia Archive: Molly Springfield. Calvin College Covenant FAC, 1795 Knollcrest Circle SE, 526-6271, www.calvin.edu/centerartgallery.

CASCADE GALLERY

Apr - Apr 12-Jun 11, The Civil War: A 150th

Anniversary Exhibition. 2840 Thornapple River Dr SE at Cascade Rd, 949-4056.

DEPREE GALLERY

Apr - Apr 8-May 8, Graduating Senior Art Show. Hope College, Holland, (616) 395-7500, www.hope.edu.

DESIGN QUEST GALLERY

Apr - Thru May 1, Furniture Competition. 4181 28th St SE, 940-0131, www.d2d2d2.com.

FIRE AND WATER GALLERY

Apr - Thru Apr 30, Janet Johnson, watercolors. 219 W Main St, Lowell, 890-1879, www.fire-and-water-art.com.

FOREST HILLS FINE ARTS CENTER

Apr - Apr 14-May 11, FHPS Student Exhibit; reception 6-7:30 pm Apr 21. 7:30 pm Apr 21 Fashion Show. 600 Forest Hill Ave SE, 493-8965, www.fhfineartscenter.com.

FREDERIK MEIJER GARDENS & SCULPTURE PARK

Apr - Thru May 8, Jim Dine: Sculpture. Permanent exhibits include more than 100 world-class sculptures indoors and in the 30-acre park. See Museums & Attractions.

GAINEY GALLERY

Apr - Thru Apr 27, Rich Francisco; reception 2-3:30 pm Apr 24. Van Singel Fine Arts Center, 8500 Burlingame SW, Byron Center, (616) 878-6800, www.vsfac.com.

GALLERY UPTOWN

Apr - Apr 1-30, Darlene Dewald Johnson and guests; reception 5:30-8 pm Apr 1. 201 Washington Ave, Grand Haven, (616) 846-5460, www.galleryuptown.net.

GRAND RAPIDS ART MUSEUM

Apr - Thru May 22, Ladislav Hanka: Meditations on Michigan's Land, Lakes and Rivers. Apr 15-Aug 14, Birds of America: Audubon Prints from Shelburne Museum. Apr 29-May 1, Art in Bloom; member reception 6-7:30 pm Apr 28. 10 am-5 pm Tue, Wed, Thu and Sat; 10 am-9 pm Fri; noon-5 pm Sun; closed Mon. General admission: \$8 adults, \$7 seniors/students with ID, \$5 children 6-17, 5 and under free. 101 Monroe Center, 831-1000, www.artmuseumgr.org.

GVSU ARTISTS

Apr - Thru Apr 29, Cyril Lixenburg: Selections from the Print and Drawing Cabinet, Kirkhof Center, Allendale campus. Also, Grand Valley State University Print and Drawing Cabinet: A Decade of Collecting, Pew campus, downtown

Grand Rapids. www.gvsu.edu/artgallery.

HOLLAND AREA ARTS COUNCIL

Apr - Thru Apr 30, High School Juried Exhibit and Juror's Exhibit. 150 E 8th St, Holland, (616) 396-3278, www.hollandarts.org.

HOLLAND MUSEUM

Apr - Thru May 22, The Cat Under the Hat: The Secret Art of Dr Seuss. Dutch Galleries exhibit 17th- to 20th-century Dutch paintings and cultural objects. See Museums & Attractions.

INNER CITY CHRISTIAN FEDERATION

Apr - Thru Apr 14, West Michigan Eight exhibit, accomplished painters from the GR and Muskegon areas (Larry Blovits, Jack Brouwer, Carl Forslund, Collin Fry, Jon McDonald, Jim Markle, Armand Merizon and Chris Stoeffel Overvoorde). 9 am-5 pm Mon-Fri. ICCF, 920 Cherry St SE.

KALAMAZOO INSTITUTE OF ARTS

Apr - Thru Apr 10, Familiar Surroundings. Thru Apr 17, The Wyeths: America's Artists. Thru Apr 24, Ukiyo-E Redux: Contemporary Japanese Prints. Interactive gallery for kids. 10 am-5 pm Tue-Sat, noon-5 pm Sun, closed Mon. \$8 adults; \$6 students, seniors; \$4 members. 314 S Park St, Kalamazoo, (269) 349-7775, www.kiarts.org.

LOWELL AREA ARTS COUNCIL

Apr - Thru Apr 8, West Michigan Regional Competition. Apr 19-May 5, Middle and High School Student Art Exhibition; reception 5:30-7 pm Apr 19. 149 S Hudson St, Lowell, 897-8545, www.lowellartscouncil.org.



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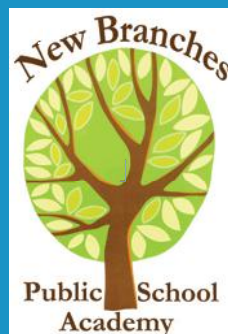
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Stage

COMEDY MONDAYS

Apr - Dog Story Theater presents improv, stand-up, sketches, films, music, puppets, magic, one-act plays at 8 and 9 pm and a free, open improv jam at 10 pm. 7 Jefferson Ave SE. \$5. www.dogstorytheater.com.

DR GRINS COMEDY CLUB

Apr - Stand-up comedians perform 9 pm Thu, 8 pm and 10:30 pm Fri and Sat. Mar 31-Apr 2 Mark Curry. Apr 7-9 David Crowe. See website for updates. The BOB, 20 Monroe Ave NW. \$5 Thu, \$10 Fri and Sat (356-2000, www.thebob.com).

"THE SWEETEST SWING IN BASEBALL"

Thru Apr 2 - Actors' Theatre presents the story of a struggling artist who ends up in a mental ward and doesn't want to leave. 8 pm. Spectrum Theater, 160 Fountain St NE. \$24 adults, \$20 students and seniors (234-3946). www.actors theatregrandrapids.org.

"THE BRAGGART SOLDIER"

Apr 1-10 - Grand Valley State University Theatre presents comedy about a vain soldier who believes all men want to be him and all women find him irresistible. 7:30 pm, 2 pm Sun. Louis Armstrong Theatre, PAC, Allendale campus. \$12 adults, \$10 seniors, \$6 students (GVSU box office, 616-331-2300 or Star Tickets). www.gvsu.edu/theatre.

RIVER CITY IMPROV

Apr 2, 16 - Calvin College alumni improv team weaves skits, games and songs with audience suggestions. 7:33 pm (doors open 6:30 pm). Ladies Literary Club, 61 Sheldon Blvd SE. \$8 (at door or Calvin box office). www.rivercityimprov.com.

"HAMLET"

Apr 7-16 - Calvin Theatre Company presents Shakespeare's play. 7:30 pm. Calvin Lab Theatre, Calvin College. \$9 Thu, \$10 Fri and Sat, \$5 students (Calvin box office, 526-6282).

"HIS GIRL FRIDAY"

Apr 7-17 - Cornerstone University presents the story of a Chicago newspaper editor who is about to lose his ace reporter and former wife. 7:30 pm, 2:30 pm Sun. Matthews Auditorium, 3000 Leonard St NE. \$12 adults, \$10 students and seniors (254-1663 or www.cornerstone.edu/theatre/).

STUDENT-DIRECTED ONE ACTS

Apr 14-16 - Presented by GRCC Play-ers. 8 pm. Lab space/black box-Room 201. Tickets TBD (234-3946). www.grcc.edu/theater.

"GONE MISSING"

Apr 15-21 - Hope College presents a play investigating how things get lost and how the impact can extend far beyond the meaning of the object. 8 pm. DeWitt Studio Theatre, Hope College, Holland. \$7 adults, \$4 seniors and students (Hope College DeVos ticket office or 616-395-7890). www.hope.edu.

MUSKEGON MUSEUM OF ART

Apr - Thru Apr 10, Primal Inspirations/Contemporary Artifacts. Thru Apr 17, Expressions 2011: 29th Annual Muskegon Area Student Art Exhibition. Thru May 1, Jest for Fun: Playful Works from the Permanent Collection. Apr 14-Jun 26, Horsepower: Images of Horses from the Permanent Collection. Apr 28-Jul 31, Flippers, Buzzers and Bells: Pinball Machines from a Michigan Collector. Noon-4:30 pm Sun; closed Mon and Tue; 10 am-4:30 pm Wed, Fri and Sat; 10 am-8 pm Thu. \$5 adults (Thu free); members, students, kids under 17 free. 296 W Webster Ave, Muskegon, (231) 720-2570, www.muskegonartmuseum.org.

OPEN CONCEPT GALLERY

Apr - Apr 4-8, Smart Multimedia Art Festival. 50 Louis St NW. www.openconceptgallery.org.

RIVERTOWN ARTISTS GUILD

Apr - Thru Apr 9, Sara Pearson, and opening Apr 9, Gene Sampson, Walker Library, 4293 Remembrance Rd. Apr 1-30, Diane Houle and Pauline Zadvinskas, EGR Library, 746 Lakeside Dr. Opening Apr 16, Loretta Sailors and Kacey Cornwell, Wyoming Library, 3350 Michael St.

TERRYBERRY GALLERY

Apr - Apr 1-30 Perceptions ... Misconceptions ... by Marguerite Erlandson; reception 5:30-8 pm Apr 8. Lower floor, St Cecilia Music Center, 24 Ransom Ave NE, 459-2224, www.scmsonline.org.

UICA

Apr - Apr 15-May 15, Associations, work by UICA's Visual Arts Committee and more than 25 invited artists. Urban Institute for Contemporary Art, 41 Sheldon Blvd SE, 454-7000, www.uica.org.

Film

CELEBRATING THE CLASSICS

Apr - Film reviewer John Douglas introduces the Tue and Thu 3 pm and 5:45 pm screenings of Hollywood classic films, which show at 12:15 pm, 3 pm and 5:45 pm Tue and Thu, plus Sat and Sun matinees (check website for times). Mar 29-Apr 3, "Whatever Happened to Baby Jane." Apr 5-10, "The Wizard of Oz." Celebration Cinema North, 2121 Celebration Dr NE. \$4. www.celebrationcinema.com/classics.

UICA

Apr - Urban Institute for Contemporary Art shows independent, foreign and documentary films. Call for schedule. \$4-\$7 (454-7000, www.uica.org). Also: 2:30 pm Apr 17, Chiaroscuro Foreign Film Series, Women Behind the Cameras: "The Day I Became a Woman" and "Public Museum" (free).

"THE ILLUSIONIST"

Apr 4-9 - Knickerbocker Spring Film Series presents this film about a French illusionist who travels to Scotland and meets a young woman. 7:30 pm. Knickerbocker Theatre, 86 E Eighth St, Holland. \$6 adults, \$5 students and senior citizens.

BANFF FILM FESTIVAL

Apr 6 - Calvin College presents a festival of short films about outdoor sports from Banff, Canada. 7 pm. Calvin FAC. \$10 (at door or 526-6282).



family dates

"THE DEATH OF ZUKASKY"

Apr 21-23 - Cornerstone University's student-directed show about three sales associates who vie for their dead supervisor's job. 7:30 pm, 2:30 pm Sat. Matthews Auditorium, 3000 Leonard NE. \$12 adults, \$10 students and seniors (254-1663 or www.cornerstone.edu/theatre/).

"TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD"

Apr 21-May 14 - Master Arts Theatre presents the story of a young girl and the turmoil as her lawyer father defends a young Negro wrongfully accused of a crime. 7:30 pm Thu-Sat, 2 pm Sat. Master Arts Theatre, 75 77th St SW. \$15 adults, \$13 seniors and students (455-1001, www.masterarts.org).

"PYGMALION"

Apr 22-30 - Central Park Players present George Bernard Shaw's comedy about a British phonetics professor who wagers he can transform a cockney flower girl into a lady of breeding. 8 pm, 2 pm Sat. Grand Haven Community Center, 421 Columbus St, Grand Haven. Tickets TBD (616-971-1329). www.centralparkplayers.org.

"JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT"

Apr 28-May 1 - Muskegon Civic Theatre presents the musical about Jacob's favorite son and his coat of many colors. 7:30 pm, 3 pm Sun. Frauenthal Theater, Muskegon. Thu and Sun: \$18 adults, \$16 seniors and students. Fri and Sat: \$20/\$18 (Frauenthal box office or Star Tickets). www.muskegoncivictheatre.org.

"BITTER FRIENDS"

Apr 28-May 8 - Jewish Theatre Grand Rapids presents a drama that confronts US/Israeli issues and examines the conflict of divided loyalties experienced by modern Jews. 8 pm, 3 pm Sun. Spectrum Theater, 160 Fountain St NE. \$18 adults, \$15 seniors, \$5 students (Spectrum Theater box office or 234-3946). www.jtgr.org.

"THE BARBER OF SEVILLE"

Apr 29-30 - Opera Grand Rapids presents Rossini's comedy about a young girl and her suitors. 7:30 pm. DeVos Performance Hall. \$20-\$94 (Van Andel and DeVos Place box offices or Ticketmaster).

Museums & Attractions

AIR ZOO

Apr - More than 50 rare aircraft, plus exhibits and educational activities, full-motion flight

simulators, 4-D Missions Theater, Magic Planet, Space Ball, Zero G, Michigan Space Science Center. 9 am-5 pm Mon-Sat, noon-5 pm Sun. 6151 Portage Road, Portage, (269) 382-6555, www.airzoo.org. See website for admission prices.

BINDER PARK ZOO

Apr - Opens for season Apr 22. Animals are exhibited in natural, lush forest setting, including 50-acre Wild Africa exhibit. 9 am-5 pm Mon-Fri, 9 am-6 pm Sat, 11 am-6 pm Sun. Tickets TBD. 7400 Division Drive, Battle Creek, 269-979-1351, www.binderparkzoo.org.

BLANDFORD NATURE CENTER

Apr - This month: 2 pm Apr 2 Michigan: Mittenful of Riches (\$3). 7-8:30 pm Apr 7 Frogging Night Hike (\$3). 143 acres of diverse ecosystems, trails, natural history exhibits, Heritage Buildings (log cabin, blacksmith shop, one-room schoolhouse). Interpretive Center open 9 am-5 pm Mon-Fri. Trails open daily dawn to dusk. 1715 Hillburn Ave NW, 735-6240, www.blandfordnaturecenter.org. Free.

CAPPON & SETTLERS HOUSE MUSEUMS

Apr - Restored Cappon House is the Italianate Victorian home of Holland's first mayor. Tiny Settlers House recalls hardships of early settlers. Noon-4 pm Fri and Sat. For admission prices, see Holland Museum. Cappon House, 228 W 9th St, Holland. Settlers House, 190 W 9th St, Holland, (616) 392-6740, www.hollandmuseum.org.

COOPERSVILLE FARM MUSEUM

Apr - Thru April, Dolls of Our Lives exhibit. Spring petting zoo 10 am-2 pm every Sat (\$3, members and children under 3 free). Regular exhibits include tractors from 1930 to present, eclipse windmill, 100-year-old barns, interactive kids area. 10 am-2 pm Tue, Thu and Sat. \$4 adults, \$3 seniors, \$2 children 3-18, under 3 free. 375 Main St, Coopersville, 997-8555, www.coopersvillefarmmuseum.org.

COOPERSVILLE & MARNE RAILWAY

Apr - Restored 1920s-era railway features 80-minute Bunny Train ride starring the Easter Bunny, Wacky Duck, Lucky Lamb and a story-telling princess. 11 am and 2 pm Apr 2 and Apr 9; 11 am, 1 pm and 3 pm Apr 16 and Apr 23; 1 pm and 3 pm Apr 3, Apr 10, Apr 17 and Apr 24. \$14.50 adults, \$13.50 seniors 60 and over, \$11.50 kids 2-12, under 2 free. Regular Sat excursion rides begin Apr 30 at 11 am and 1 pm. \$10.50 adults, \$9.50 seniors 60 and over, \$7.50 ages 2-12, under 2 free. 311 Danforth St, Coopersville, 997-7000 (for advance



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tickets), www.coopersvilleandmarne.org.

DEGRAAF NATURE CENTER

Apr - Apr 27-May 1, Exploring for Birds at the Straits of Mackinaw to Whitefish Point: Michigan Audubon Road Trip (\$595). 18-acre preserve includes Interpretive Center, indoor pond, animals, SkyWatch (images of earth and the universe) and more than 240 plant species. Trails open daily dawn to dusk. 9 am-5 pm Tue-Fri, 10 am-5 pm Sat, closed Sun, Mon and holidays. 600 Graafschap Rd, Holland, (616) 355-1057, www.degraaf.org. Free.

FREDERIK MEIJER GARDENS & SCULPTURE PARK

Apr - Thru Apr 30, Butterflies Are Blooming features hundreds of butterflies and moths (more than 40 species) flying freely in the conservatory. New this year: Other indoor gardens will feature butterflies in various stages of metamorphosis, including caterpillars and cocoons. Outdoor exhibits include Children's Garden, Michigan's Farm Garden, 30-acre sculpture park, boardwalk nature trail, tram tours, themed gardens. Indoors has sculpture galleries, tropical conservatory, carnivorous plant house, Victorian garden, café and gift shops. 9 am-5 pm Mon-Sat, 9 am-9 pm Tue, 11 am-5 pm Sun. \$12 adults, \$9 seniors and students with IDs, \$6 ages 5-13, \$4 ages 3-4. 1000 East Beltline Ave NE, 957-1580, www.meijergardens.org.

GERALD R. FORD MUSEUM

Apr - Thru Jun 17, The American Soldier: A Photographic Tribute to Soldiers and Marines from the Civil War to Iraq. Permanent exhibits include The 1970s, An Overview; video history of the Watergate scandal; replica of the White House Oval Office; New Mood at the White House, a holographic presentation. 9 am-5 pm daily. \$7 adults, \$6 seniors, \$5 college students, \$3 kids 6-18, 5 and under free. 303 Pearl St NW, 254-0400, www.fordlibrarymuseum.org.

HOLLAND MUSEUM

Apr - Cultural attractions from the "old country" and exhibits that explore local history. I Spy Adventure and activities in Mark's Room for children. 10 am-5 pm Mon, Wed-Sat. \$7 adults, \$6 seniors, \$4 students, children 5 and under free, members free. 31 W 10th St, Holland, (888) 200-9123, www.hollandmuseum.org.

JOHN BALL ZOO

Apr - See Party for the Planet in Special Events and Spring Break Zoobilee in Kidstuff. Attractions include colubus monkeys, New Guinea baboons, ring-tailed lemurs, Lions of Lake Man-yara, penguins, Komodo dragon, Mokomboso Valley chimps, Spider Monkey Island and Living Shores Aquarium. 10 am-4 pm daily. \$5 adults and seniors over 62, \$4 kids 3-13, kids 2 and under free. 1300 W Fulton St, 336-4300, www.johnballzoosociety.org.

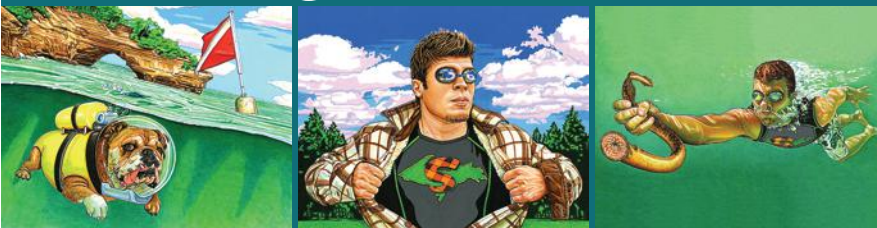
KALAMAZOO NATURE CENTER

Apr - 1,100 acres of forests, prairies and wetlands. 9 am-5 pm Apr 16 Earth Day Celebration. Apr 4-12 Spring Break Family Programs. 9 am-5 pm Mon-Sat, 1-5 pm Sun. \$6 adults, \$5 seniors 55 and over, \$4 children 4-13, children under 4 free. 700 N Westnedge Ave, Kalamazoo, (269) 381-1574, www.naturecenter.org.

KALAMAZOO VALLEY MUSEUM

Apr - Thru Apr 10, Michigan Eats: Regional Culture Through Food. Thru May 30, Playing with Time. Apr 16-Aug 21, Go Figure. Permanent exhibits include simulated mission to space, 2,300-year-old mummy and Science in Motion. See website for planetarium shows (\$3)

Rescuing the Great Lakes




SUPERHERO BILLY COOPER has no superpowers or special abilities. But the fictional character created by writer Mark Newman and the late artist Mark Heckman does everything in his power to protect the waters of the Great Lakes from invasive species.

The message in their book, "Sooper Yooper: Environmental Defender," is that anybody can be a superhero when it comes to saving the planet.

Newman, an editor and photojournalist, will talk April 19 at the Grand Rapids Public Library about the creative process behind the book and his collaboration with Heckman, who died last May from non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. Heckman attracted attention to numerous environmental and social issues by producing dozens of creative billboards that appeared across the country.

Newman visits schools and museums with a show-and-tell presentation detailing the story of the Great Lakes and the hidden dangers of invasive species.

For more information, visit www.sooperyooper.com. See [Lectures & Workshops](#)



COURTESY THUNDER BAY PRESS

and activities. 9 am-5 pm Mon-Thu and Sat, 9 am-9 pm Fri, 1-5 pm Sun. 230 N Rose St, Kalamazoo, (800) 772-3370, www.kalamazoo-museum.org. Free.

LAKE SHORE MUSEUM CENTER

Apr - Exhibits include Michigan Through the Depths of Time; Body Works: It's All Up to You; Habitats and Food Webs; Science Center; and Voices of Muskegon. 9:30 am-4:30 pm Mon-Fri, noon-4 pm Sat-Sun. 430 W Clay, Muskegon, (231) 722-0278, www.muskegonmuseum.org. Free.

LOWELL AREA HISTORICAL MUSEUM

Apr - Exhibits about Lowell history, and a Victorian parlor, dining room and porch. 1-4 pm Tue, Sat and Sun, 1-8 pm Thu. \$3 adults, \$1.50 children 5-17, under 5 free, families \$10 max. 325 W Main St, 897-7688, www.lowellmuseum.org.

MEYER MAY HOUSE

Apr - Frank Lloyd Wright 1909 prairie-style house restored by Steelcase in 1986-87 features many original furnishings. Open for guided tours 10 am-2 pm Tue and Thu, 1-5 pm Sun (last tour begins one hour prior to closing). 450 Madison Ave SE, 246-4821, meyermayhouse.steelcase.com. Free.

PUBLIC MUSEUM

Apr - Thru May 1, Bodies Revealed, human skeletal, muscular, nervous, digestive, respiratory, reproductive and circulatory systems (\$15 adults, \$14 seniors, \$10 children; includes general admission). 6-9 pm Apr 13, Life Drawing Night. Also see Earth and Sky Day in Special Events and Spring Break at the Public Museum in Kidstuff. Permanent exhibits include: Streets of Old Grand Rapids; Newcomers, The People of This Place; Anishinabek, The People of This

Place; 1928 carousel (\$1). 9 am-5 pm Mon, Wed-Sat, 9 am-8 pm Tue, noon-5 pm Sun; open until 9 pm Apr 1-9 and Apr 25-28. \$8 adults, \$7 seniors, \$3 ages 3-17. Van Andel Museum Center, 272 Pearl St NW, 456-3977, www.grmuseum.org.

ROGER B. CHAFFEE PLANETARIUM

Apr - State-of-the-art, 3-D, Digistar-powered shows. 2 pm daily, 7 pm and 8 pm Tue, 1 pm Sat and Sun, "Our Bodies in Space," museum admission plus \$3. 3 pm Sat and Sun "Under Starlit Skies," free with admission. Saturdays thru Apr 30, laser light shows: 9 pm "Wish You Were Here" by Pink Floyd, and 10 pm Rush: Greatest Hits. Van Andel Museum Center (see Public Museum).

TRI-CITIES HISTORICAL MUSEUM

Apr - Exhibits include train depot, Michigan Logging and Early Pioneers. 9:30 am-5 pm Tue-Fri, 12:30-5 pm Sat and Sun. 200 Washington Ave, Grand Haven, 842-0700, www.tri-citiesmuseum.org. Free.

VEEN OBSERVATORY

Apr - Astronomical observatory owned and operated by Grand Rapids Amateur Astronomical Association. Public viewing: 9-11:30 pm Apr 30, Saturn and Deep-Sky Objects, weather permitting (call 897-7065 for updates). \$3 adults, \$2 kids 5-17, children under 5 free. 3308 Kissing Rock Ave SE, Lowell, www.graaa.org.

Lectures & Workshops

BABY BELOVED CLASSES

Apr - 6 pm Apr 13, Breastfeeding: Getting

a Strong Start (\$25). 10 am Apr 16, Green Clean (\$6). Noon Apr 16, Nursing Mothers Write Your Own Journal Workshop (free). Registration required. Baby Beloved, 555 Midtowne St NE, Ste 100, 977-5683, www.babybelovedinc.com.

ENHANCEFITNESS

Apr - Senior Neighbors fitness program increases strength and endurance and improves balance. Varying times and locations. (616) 233-0283 or www.seniornighbors.org. \$2 suggested donation.

GRAND RIVER FOLK ARTS SOCIETY

Apr - Dance instruction events. 7:30 pm Apr 1, First Friday Dance with caller Laurie Petrievalle, 5th St Hall, 701 5th St NW, \$8 adults, \$7 students/seniors, \$6 members. 7 pm Apr 8, Second Friday International Folk Dance, Wealthy Theatre, 1130 Wealthy St SE, \$5. 7 pm Apr 22, 4th Friday Contra Dance with music jams, 5th St Hall, 701 5th St NW, \$6. www.grfolkarts.org.

GRAND VALLEY ARTISTS

Apr - 7:30 pm Apr 7, Artist Critique Night. 7:30 pm Apr 14, Program Night. Free and open to public. GVA Gallery, 1345 Monroe Ave NW, Ste 130, www.grandvalleyartists.com.

GR PUBLIC LIBRARIES

Apr - Programs include: adult computer classes, Money Smart 2011, Vermicomposting, Container Gardening, book clubs and kids activities (see Kidstuff). Complete schedule at GRPL Main Library, 111 Library St NE, or www.grpl.org. Free.

GR TANGO

Apr - Beginner and intermediate dance lessons 8-9:30 pm every Thu, followed by free practice 9:30-10:30 pm. Richard App Gallery, 910 Cherry St SE, www.grtango.org. \$12 drop-in.

KENT DISTRICT LIBRARIES

Apr - Programs include book discussions, computer classes, Early Childhood Essentials and kids activities (see Kidstuff). www.kdl.org.

TOPICS IN HEALTH CARE

Apr 2, 19 - Grand Rapids Public Museum presents lectures and discussions: 1 pm Apr 2, "An EMT's Role in Health Care" including an ambulance tour by Life EMS Ambulance from noon-1 pm. 7 pm Apr 19, "Reconstructive Plastic Surgery" by Dr. Douglas Leppink, Centre for Plastic Surgery. Free with admission. www.grmuseum.org.

CHINESE MEDICINE AND WOMEN'S HEALTH

Apr 5 - Women's City Club presents Dr Zhiqun Zhou from Saint Mary's Hospital. Also, Dr Glena Quarnstrom, Grand Valley State University, introduces and demonstrates Tai Chi. 11 am coffee; oriental lunch and program to follow. 254 E Fulton St. \$17 (reservations required: 459-3321).

SUCCESSFUL GARDENER SERIES

Apr 5-May 5 - Meijer Gardens presents gardening talks including: best plants for shade gardens; newest varieties of annuals, perennials and tropical plants; irrigation and fertilizing; time- and money-saving gardening; container gardens; edible gardens; designing outdoor spaces; pruning and more. Times vary. Pre-registration required: www.meijergardens.org/education. \$21 adults, \$18 members. Two classes/one evening: \$35 adults, \$30 members.

DANCEgr

Apr 9 - Nightclub two-step dance lesson fol-

www.grfamily.com

family dates

lowed by social dance that includes East and West Coast swing, salsa, tango, waltz, cha cha, rumba, foxtrot and more. 7-8 pm lesson, 8-11 pm dance. Women's City Club, 254 E Fulton St, www.dancegr.com. \$10 lesson, \$11 dance, \$16 both.

SECRETS FOR SUCCESSFUL MARRIAGE

Apr 9, 16 - How to grow your relationship in preparation for marriage. 8:30 am-12:30 pm. Pine Rest Postma Center, 300 68th St SE, Cutlerville. \$100/couple (455-5279). www.pinerest.org.

"HAIRSPRAY" AUDITIONS

Apr 10-11 - Grand Rapids Civic Theatre auditions for production Jun 10-26. 7-9 pm. 30 N Division Ave. Schedule appointments at 222-6654 or www.grct.org/audition.

FOUNDATION FOR WELLNESS PROFESSIONALS

Apr 12 - Free community workshop on trigger point massage. 6 pm. 4150 East Beltline Ave NE, Ste 4. Reservations: 447-9888. Seating limited to 30.

AQUINAS WEGE SPEAKER SERIES

Apr 15 - Chris Palmer, environmental film producer. Includes refreshments and book signing. 4 pm. Aquinas PAC. Free.

DYSLEXIA SEMINAR

Apr 19 - New Chapter Learning offers info on thinking style, learning differences and gifts of visual thinkers. 6 pm. Grandville Middle School, Room 200, 3535 Wilson Ave SW, Grandville. Registration: 534-1385. www.newchapterlearning.net. Free.

NOURISHING WAYS OF WEST MICHIGAN

Apr 19 - "Real Food for Autism: Learn What's Missing from Gluten-Free Diets" by Dan Corrigan. 7-8:30 pm. St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 134 N Division Ave, www.nourishingways.org. Free.

SECCHIA GARDEN LECTURE

Apr 19 - Meijer Gardens presents "Best Perennials and Grasses for

Year-Round Drama" with Adrian Bloom. 7 pm. \$12 adults, members free (975-3144 or skilroy@meijergardens.org).

GVSU DISTINGUISHED ACADEMIC LECTURER

Apr 21 - "The Next 50 Years in the U.S." by Ken Burns, documentary filmmaker. 7 pm. Eberhard Center, GVSU Pew Campus. Free. www.gvsu.edu/anniversary.

POETRY CELEBRATION

Apr 21 - Literary Life Bookstore hosts champagne celebration to introduce winners of third annual LitLife Poetry Contest; includes poetry readings by winners and judge John Rybicki. 7 pm. 758 Wealthy St SE, 458-8418, www.literarylifebkstore.com.

GR AUDUBON CLUB

Apr 25 - "Big Bend National Park" by wildlife photographer Maria Bajema. 7 pm social, 7:30 pm presentation. GR Theological Seminary Auditorium, Cornerstone University, 3000 Leonard St NE. Free. www.glsa.org/grac.

GOLF PRO MARK WILSON

Apr 26 - Women's City Club hosts educational and fun program for golfers and non-golfers from head golf pro at Watermark Country Club. 5 pm social hour, 6 pm dinner, 7:30 pm program. 254 E Fulton St. \$28 (reservations required: 459-3321).

PASSPORT TO ADVENTURE

Apr 27 - "Discovering the Dutch" by Sandy Mortimer. 7:30 pm. Covenant FAC, Calvin College. \$5 adults, \$2.50 students (Calvin box office or 526-6282).



FILE PHOTO

VENUE INFORMATION

VENUES

Aquinas Performing Arts Center, 1607 Robinson Road SE, 456-6566

The DeltaPlex Entertainment & Expo Center, 2500 Turner Ave. NW, 364-9000, www.deltaplex.com

DeVos Place (DeVos Performance Hall), 303 Monroe Ave. NW, 742-6600, www.devosplace.org

Forest Hills Fine Arts Center, 600 Forest Hill Ave., 493-8966, www.fhfineartscenter.com

Frauenthal Theater, 425 W. Western Ave., Muskegon, (231) 722-9750, www.frauenthal.info

Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park, 1000 East Beltline Ave. NE, 957-1580 (main), 975-3147 (class registration line), www.meijergardens.org

Grand Rapids Art Museum (GRAM), 101 Monroe Center, 831-1000, www.artmuseumgr.org

Grand Rapids Civic Theatre, 30 N. Division Ave., 222-6650, www.grct.org

Public Museum, 272 Pearl St. NW, 456-3977, www.grmuseum.org

St. Cecilia Music Center, 24 Ransom Ave. NE, 459-2224, www.scmsonline.org

Spectrum Theater, 160 Fountain St. NE, 234-3946

Urban Institute for Contemporary Arts (UICA), 41 Sheldon Blvd. SE, 454-7000 (film hotline 454-3994), www.uica.org

Van Andel Arena, 130 W. Fulton St., 742-6600, www.vanandelarena.com

Van Singel Fine Arts Center, 8500 Burlingame Ave. SW, Byron Center, 878-6800, www.vsfac.com

TICKET OUTLETS

Grand Rapids Symphony office, 300 Ottawa Ave. NW, Suite 100, 454-9451, www.grsymphony.org

Star Tickets, (800) 585-3737, www.startickets.com

Ticketmaster, (800) 745-3000, www.ticketmaster.com

LIST YOUR EVENT

Calendar items must be submitted two months prior to the magazine issue date. Please send submissions for the **June** calendar no later than **April 15**. E-mail caleditor@geminipub.com, fax (616) 459-4800 or mail to Grand Rapids Family Magazine, 549 Ottawa Ave. NW, Suite 201, Grand Rapids, MI 49503.

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 Sat., April 9 at 11am & 2pm
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 Sat., April 16 at 11am, 1 & 3pm
 Sun., April 17 at 1pm & 3pm
 Sat., April 23 at 11am, 1 & 3pm

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Treating the Earth well and benefits of recycling

April means warm weather is just around the corner (really!) and that Earth Day is upon us. We asked some of the sixth-graders in John Fordney's class at the Zoo School for tips about respecting the planet and recycling. Here is what they had to say.



Ryan Jacobsen, age 12: It can help with landfills. It helps with our resources.



Mykailah Siggers, age 11: There are three bins, and you have to recycle your trash in the right bin. They then become reusable.



Brenda Gutierrez, age 12: The benefits of recycling are that there is not a lot of trash. If we recycle, we can probably get other people to recycle.



Nick Magnan, age 11: There isn't as much trash lying around on the ground, so when you walk around outside, you don't have as much sticking to your shoes.

What are the benefits of recycling?



Jonathan Medendorp, age 11: I recycle and sometimes we compost. We put fruits and vegetables into the soil. It will help plants grow bigger and better.



Libby Pozza, age 12: We try not to drive a lot. We try to ride our bikes when we go get ice cream. We turn off the lights and TV when we are not there.

What do you do to treat the Earth nice?



Tiffany Gonzalez, age 11: I pick up trash when I go out and I try to recycle it. I respect the trees like they are my family. They are nature and they do need to be respected.



Ani Benison, age 10: I recycle a lot and I try to get my mom and dad to use reusable (grocery) bags.

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