

Life

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WEDNESDAY | FEB. 24, 2010

SECTION C

PLAN ON IT

NOTE IT

REAL 'COMPANION': See "A Prairie Home Companion" live at the Fox Theatre at 5:45 p.m. Saturday. Info: 484-5656 or www.ticketmaster.com.

INSIDE:

2C CELIA RIVENBARK:

Science fairs aren't my parental cup of tea.

2C DENTIST:

1 in 5 kids don't get adequate annual dental care.

TOMORROW:

What's On

The slate of 2010 films has its fair share of sequels and remakes of beloved Reagan-era oldies.

NEWSMAKERS:

2C GUEST LIST:

Jay Leno will be reclaiming "The Tonight Show" with help from Sarah Palin, Lindsey Vonn and Jamie Foxx. They will be among Leno's guests next week when he returns as host of NBC's late-night show. Foxx, Olympic skier Vonn and musical guest Brad Paisley will appear on Monday. Palin is scheduled for Tuesday, along with Olympic snowboarder Shaun White. Other guests set for Leno's first week include Olympic champion Apolo Anton Ohno, Avril Lavigne, and Matthew McConaughey.

» More celebrity news inside, 2C



Vonn

Kids can audition for 'Dragonsong'

All-of-us Express Children's Theatre is holding auditions for its upcoming production of "Dragonsong."

The theater is looking for 25 to 35 youth ages 9 to 18; previous experience is not required.

Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing, 333-2580, ext. 32, www.cityofeastlansing.com/allofus

6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Thursday and Friday and 10 a.m. to noon Saturday

Festival will help Haitians in need

Michigan State University will host a Haitian and Caribbean Festival on Friday, featuring cultural performances by student groups and Caribbean musical ensembles. All proceeds will go toward earthquake relief in Haiti.

MSU Auditorium Building, corner of Auditorium Road and Farm Lane, East Lansing, www.msu.edu/~carib

7 p.m. Friday, \$15, free for MSU students

Make your Web site address super scary

www.shadyurl.com

We aren't sure what practical use ShadyURL has, but its premise — "Don't just shorten your URL, make it suspicious and frightening" — is hilarious. Turn, for example, www.facebook.com into http://5z8.info/pirate-anything_g2p8v_banned-in-the-US.

Just want to make Web site addresses shorter, not scarier? Check out www.tinyurl.com.

on line

WWW.LSJ.COM: Search our complete calendar listings online • NEED TO REACH US? 267.1392 or life@lsj.com

■ Darien Stevie bag by Kate Spade, \$365 at www.katespade.com.

»

» Olsenboye stone-washed cotton crossbody, \$24 at JCPenney.

» Hold Stud-Y shopper, \$298 at www.betseyjohnson.com.

» Converse One Star double zipper gusset tote, \$34.99 at Target.

» Cotton crocheted Habanero crossbody bag, \$36 at www.roxy.com.

» Clipa, The instant handbag hanger, \$19.99-\$29.99, www.clipa.us

& BIG Roomy

You don't have to leave your stuff behind to be fashionable this year

GANNETT This season's bags are big strapping things, large enough to hold your physical goods and cute enough to meet your emotional needs. They also go beyond black and white, so grab a few to add colorful touches to your outfits.

CLIPA THAT HANDBAG

Handbags should never be set on the floor, or so says the old Latin superstition. Your money will simply disappear. Perhaps a more compelling reason to keep your purse up high is the issue of sanitation. Why would you put such an important, often expensive, item on a nasty dirty floor? Prevent contact with germs, water and dirt with a purse hook. The Clipa is a handy little gadget that hooks onto a table, counter, stroller, stall wall, or chair. It's simple. Hook it to the table, hook your purse to it. Able to hold up to 45 pounds, it works great for diaper bags when there are no hooks close by. The manufacturer designed the hook to double as a fashion bracelet. Although weighing in at 2 oz., it will take some getting used to. The spring loaded bangle also clips securely to your bag when not in use. Available at amazon.com

it

Whatever it is, it's here

MUST SEE IT

Winter Olympics

3-5 p.m., 8-11:30 p.m., 12:05-1:30 a.m., NBC.

The men's hockey tournament reaches its quarterfinals today. NBC has the USA game at 3 p.m.; CNBC has the others at 7:30 p.m. 10 p.m. and midnight.

There's no figure-skating — the women go for gold Thursday — so NBC's prime time can focus elsewhere. That includes the men's 500-meter, short-track competition; it also includes the gold-medal finals for women's bobsled.

There's also a lot of skiing, subject to weather — the women's giant slalom, the gold-medal finals for women's freestyle aerials. Then latenight brings women's speedskating, including the gold-medal finals for the short-track, 3,000-meter relay.

TELEVISION

» Read Mike Hughes' musings and more at www.mikehughes.tv.

» Complete television listings, Page 3C

'IDOL Vs Olympics'

» Powered by Lindsey Vonn's dramatic victory on the slopes last Wednesday, the games averaged 30.1 million total viewers during the 9-10 p.m. hour, pushing Fox's singing contest down to an unusually low 18.4 million, according to the Nielsen Co.

30.1

million viewers watched Vancouver coverage Wednesday



East Lansing's Ryan Miller

Dogs can tweet too

Mattel taps into social media craze with Puppy Tweets (sort of)

ANDREA CHANG
MCT News Service

Twitter Inc. has gone to the dogs.

Tapping into the social media craze, toy giant Mattel Inc. is preparing to release Puppy Tweets, a high-tech toy that will allow dogs to publicize their everyday activities on Twitter via a sound and motion sensor.

Attached to a dog's collar, the plastic tag randomly generates one of 500 canned tweets when it detects barking or movement and automatically posts an update to Fido's own Twitter page.

A round of woofing could lead to a tweet of "I bark because I miss you.



There, I said it. Now hurry home." A frenzied run through the backyard might garner "I finally caught that tail I've been chasing, and . . . OOUUUCHH!"

But before you begin to drool over the prospect of having your own Dug, the animated dog from Disney-Pixar's "Up" whose translator collar allowed him to talk, Mattel executives caution that the toy is just a toy.



PUPPY TWEETS \$29.99

» It's expected to hit toy stores and pet shops nationwide in the fall.

Unlike advanced pet gadgets such as GPS tracking collars that keep tabs on roaming cats, the technology behind Puppy Tweets is simply sending out random messages triggered by movement or sound.

So even though Fido's device may be tweeting about tracking a squirrel, he could actually be digging a hole or scratching himself. And that might be a letdown for people hoping for the real thing.

"I mean, really what

SEE PUPPY | Page 5C