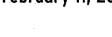


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SUNDAY February 11, 2007



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Observer Bobberver

MDOT sees the light for Ridge intersection

BY BRAD KADRICH STAFF WRITER

One would think Kim Del Col, upon learning the Michigan Department of Transportation had finally agreed to put a permanent, full traffic signal at the intersection of Ann Arbor Road and Ridge, would jump for joy.

Instead Del Col, who has helped lead the fight for the light since her daughter was badly hurt in an accident at that intersection two years ago, could only muster an "I'll believe it when I see it" reaction.

The problem, she said, is the light should have been there all along, especially when MDOT put it up on a temporary basis during last year's M-14 construction project.

"I'm glad we're finally there," Del Col said. "I'll be happy when it's functioning, but in the meantime we still have the same (traffic) frustrations, the same problems we had two years ago when my daughter had her accident. I'll get excited when it's fully functional and up and running."

Apparently, after years of alternate-

ly hearing local officials demanding, cajoling, begging and pleading, MDOT has agreed to give everyone what they want - a permanent traffic light at that intersection.

After conducting a traffic study, Michigan Department of Transportation officials agreed a full traffic signal is warranted at the intersection, which Plymouth Township Police have said is one of the township's most dangerous.

MDOT spokesman Michael Budai said the study showed the signal was warranted based on three conditions: A minimum four-hour warrant volume for Ridge; the intersection's accident history; and with the improvement to the intersection, the overall improvement of traffic flow for the intersection.

"That last one wasn't really a warrant for the light, but it was an item of concern." Budai said.

The decision comes after the efforts of more than 600 residents who signed an online petition on the Web site of state Sen. Bruce Patterson (R-Canton Township), who worked with Plymouth Township officials and

MDOT to make the light happen.

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"I could see by the response of my -... constituents that this was an important safety issue," Patterson said in a ... statement released Wednesday. "We took all the right steps in securing the. permanent traffic signal. I commend MDOT for their due diligence and am pleased that the signal will be installed as soon as possible. It just goes to show you that the system does work.'

MDOT officials said the signal will

PLEASE SEE LIGHT, A5

Commission eyes \$8M in road repairs

BY TONY BRUSCATO STAFF WRITER

Plymouth city engineers have identified \$8.2 million in road and infrastructure repairs over the next five years, with an additional \$4.2 million in future street improvements.

Now all the City Commission has to do is figure out how to pay for them.

Commissioners want to continue he road improvement program



Reaction mixed to Granholm's budget plan

BY TONY BRUSCATO STAFF WRITER

Whether or not you agree Gov. Jennifer Granholm should impose a 2-percent tax on services such as hair cuts, car repairs or baseball tickets, there is one opinion that everyone seems to agree with, and that's no one really wants to pay more taxes.

"I'm a Democrat, but I don't like taxes," said Denny

but have no money in the coffers. The fund commissioners set up with \$12 million in bonds voters approved in 1996 to pave all 32 miles of roads in the city over a 20year period is out of money, with only half the streets improved.

Mayor Dan Dwyer has made it a goal to determine by the end of March whether the City Commission will ask voters to approve a road millage, most likely in November, to repave city streets. Commissioners are also expected to receive information from Finance Director Mark Christiansen at the Feb. 19 regular meeting on alternatives to a millage, which could include paying for construction costs from the general fund budget, or a special assess ment program.

Among the projects at the top of the list, should funding become available, are Sheridan from Sheldon to McKinley, McKinley between Ann Arbor Trail and Sheridan, Arthur from William to Junction and the section of Auburn from Penniman to Junction.

George Smith, a retired teacher who has lived in his Auburn Street home since 1971, said his street certainly could use a makeover.

"When they repaved it last time, they patched it and then had to come back the next year because the company did a poor job," Smith said. "I would like it done ... but they're doing the best they can." .

While Smith noted he'd like his street paved, he's willing to wait if it means passing another millage.

"The way the economy is right now it will never pass," Smith said. "I put an addition on the house last year and my taxes almost tripled. I

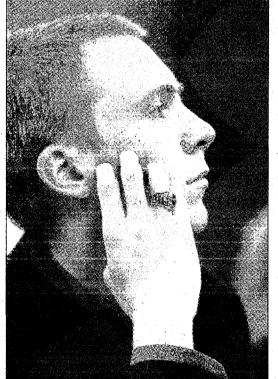
PLEASE SEE ROADS, A5

PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Sarah Aitken addresses the legislature during a mock legislative session at Plymouth Christian Academy Thursday.

Students learn legislative lessons

Mock legislature teaches issues not 'black and white'



Representative Matt Saagman listens to a speaker defending the proposed bill banning embryonic stem cell research.

BY TIFFANY L. PARKS STAFF WRITER

After one student rose from her seat and passionately justified the need for a no-smoking rule in public restaurants, another teen got up and fiercely argued against the proposed ban.

"It's your constitutional responsibility to protect your constituents," the first teenager said as she rolled out second-hand smoke statistics.

Obviously, her classmates agreed because they voted to outlaw smoking in public restaurants.

Role playing as members of Michigan's House of Representatives, around 50 students at Plymouth Christian Academy participated in a mock legislative session Thursday night.

The students, dressed in business suits, ties and high heels, were divided into political parties and sat primly in their seats -- until a bill was passed. Depending on their opinion, each time a vote

was taken, some students would yell "woo hoo" and cheer while others grumbled in disappointment.

'Whoa, that's high drama there, folks," James Muffett told the group of students.

Muffett, who served as the House speaker, is the president of Student Statesmanship Institute, and facilitated the two-day program that led to the mock session.

Designed to tie leadership and civics together,

PLEASE SEE MOCK, A4

Wheeler of Canton Township, owner of Denny's Service Center at the corner of Starkweather and Pearl in Plymouth's Old Village.

Wheeler's customers will have to pay a 2-percent tax on car repairs if the measure is passed by the Legislature. However, that being said, Wheeler said he's willing to do his fair share to help Granholm out of the state's budget predicament.

What makes this a worthwhile tax to me is the fact she has done some serious cutting, and says we can't make it," Wheeler, 55, said. "If you're in business, you've been there.

When you have people moving out of state as fast as they are and you have houses up for sale and foreclosures because there are no jobs, property taxes and sales taxes will be down," he said. "I think it's a legitimate need, but I don't like it. It's one of those necessary evils."

Julie Oguinn, who does the accounting for her husband's business, Oguinn's Lawn and Landscaping in Salem Township, said it's not the tax she's concerned about.

"I want to find out if we have to charge it," said Oguinn, outside the downtown Plymouth post office. Then, it will require a lot more paperwork for small businesses. That takes time and effort to track, and it will take the state time to track, which could cost them money."

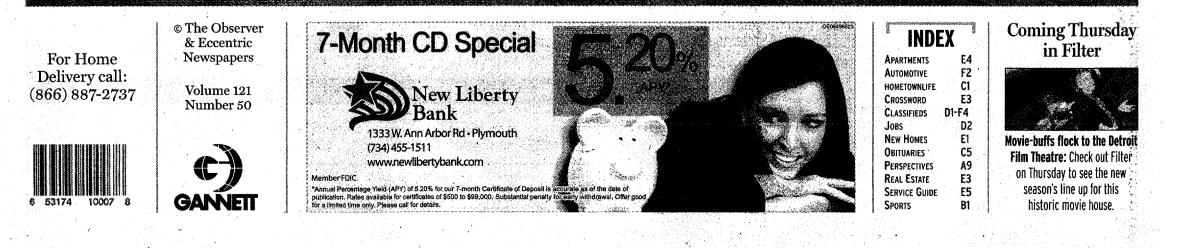
However, Kathy Stasa of Plymouth Township, shopping along Forest Avenue in downtown Plymouth, said Granholm needs to look elsewhere to reduce the budget deficit.

'I'm not in favor of it because I think it's an unnecessary - and possibly unfair - way to reduce the deficit," Stasa said. "She should look at other areas, possibly some cutbacks in the school budget. I say that because we go to a private school, and we're paying taxes for public as well as our children's private education."

It doesn't appear Stasa will get her way, as Granholm is proposing a \$178 per-pupil increase in the state foundation grant for public schools. According to Patricia Brand, the district's assistant superintendent for business services, the increase would give Plymouth-Canton an additional \$3.4 million.

However, according to Brand, the money isn't enough to cover increasing costs.

The per-pupil increase still leaves us \$63 short of increases in utilities, health care and if they don't change the current retirement system," said Brand.



Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, February 11, 2007

Bowl for Braille

Chris Edmonds and the WNIC celebrity bowling team will join Seedlings' 20th annual "Bowl for Braille Books" bowl-a-thon on Sunday, March 11, at Super Bowl Lanes in Canton.

The event will help the Livonia-based nonprofit raise money to help reach its 2007 goal of putting 24,000 braille books into the hands of blind children.

Bowlers who raise the most pledges will be eligible for the four top prize packages, including two round-trip tickets on Southwest Airlines; bed and breakfast at the Townsend Hotel in Birmingham; an entertainment/dinner for two package at Fleming's Prime Steakhouse & Wine Bar; or an Ann Arbor get-away with a \$250 shopping spree at Briarwood Mall and night at the Weber's Inn.

Bowlers get three games, lunch, gift bags, a prize drawing and raffle items. Registration deadline is March 2 and minimum donation or pledges per bowler is \$50.

Seedlings Braille Books for Children provides high-quality braille books for blind children and parents worldwide, with every \$10 earned at the bowla-thon making another book possible.

For registration information or more information, call (734) 427-8552 or download a bowling brochure on Seedlings' Web site, www.seedlings.org. Tax-deductible door prize and lane sponsorships are still available to local businesses.

Academy open house

Plans for the fourth year of Cross Bridge Academy, a nonprofit school for children with autism and other severe language impairments, are well underway. The school is the product of the combined effort of a group of dedicated parents and caring professionals to develop an academic curriculum for children with moder-

ate to severe autism. ^{*} The school hosts an open house 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 21 at Geneva Presbyterian Church, on Sheldon Road in Canton.

The Cross Bridge Academy curriculum has been carefully researched and incorporates the highly successful Association Method, intense Sensory Integration therapy and Speech and Language therapy. Social skill development is woven into each day, as children move from individual to group learning sessions.

As a result of the children's academic success, the Cross Bridge Academy curriculum has been expanded to include Social Studies and Science.

Classroom size is limited to five children per class, with teachers specially trained in the Association Method. There are two teaching assistants per class. A full-time Occupational Therapist specially trained in Sensory Integration provides two hours per week of individual therapy, plus one day a week of in-class consultation to help transfer newly learned skills to an academic environment. A language program specifically designed for Cross Bridge Academy is implemented weekly by a certified speech pathologist.

To register, call Lorraine Zaksek at (734) 455-6232.

Math prize finalists Six students from the

Plymouth-Canton Educational Park rank in the top 100 math students in the state of Michigan. The students, Canton High sophomore Willa Chen, Junior Wenxin (Kevin) Zhu, and sophomore Nikita Consul, Plymouth High junior Ted Wakar and Salem High School sophomore Surya Nagaraja and freshman Jason Yu, have qualified on Part II of the Fiftieth Michigan **Mathematics** Prize Competition (MMPC).

This exam consists of 40 multiple-choice questions

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Walk-ins

Welcome





BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Water damage

Gerry Visel of Cornwell Pool & Patio takes a break from cleaning up water that leaked from a frozen pipe. Luckily for Visel, much of Cornwell's Christmas merchandise was packed away and patio furniture is designed for exposure to the elements.

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

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

Band meetings

The Plymouth-Canton Marching Band, named Bands of America Regional Champions for 2006 and a BOA Finalist at Grand Nationals in Indianapolis, hosts a series of informational meetings for students and parents who are interested in joining the 2007 Marching Band program.

The meeting is designed for incoming eighth-graders, but is open to any high school student. Interested students will

spend time with the existing marchers enjoying pizza, while parents listen to a presentation by the Plymouth Canton Music Boosters on how 8th graders can become a member of the award-winning marching band for the 2007 summer/fall season.

Parents and students are asked to attend one of the following Open House meetings set for 7:15 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 13, in room 401 at Plymouth High School; or 7:15 p.m. Wednesday, March 21 in the Plymouth High school band room.

Plymouth High School is located at 8400 Beck Road. For more information, call 9734) 582-5500.

Art exhibit

Award-winning poet and photographer Cheryl A. Martin of Canton has juried into the Anton Art Center's Michigan Annual XXXIII show which opens Friday and runs through March 2 in Mt. Clemens. Her piece of art titled "Westland's Camel" is a part of the exhibit.

Anyone who would like to contact her regarding this

PLYMOUTH-CANTON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS NOTICE TO BIDDERS

The Board of Education of the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools invites all interested and qualified companies to submit a bid for School Bus Tires. Specifications and bid forms are available by contacting Dan Phillips in the PCCS Purchasing Department at (734) 416-2746. Technical questions can be directed to Kurt Miles of the PCCS Transportation Department at 734-416-Sealed bids are due to the E.J McClendon Educational 3040. Center (attn: Bus Tire Bid), 454 S. Harvey, Plymouth, MI 48187 on or before 2:30 p.m., Friday, February 23, 2007. The Board of Education reserves the right to accept and/or reject all bids, as they judge to be in the best interest of the school district.

exhibit, or upcoming classes she's offering at the Cherry Hill Village Theatre, can call (734) 397-1626, or register for them at (734) 394-5460. Her Introduction to Writing Children's Stories, and Writing Your Life Story/Family History classes are open for enrollment.

She's also willing to talk to anyone interested in a copy of her commemorative poem, "From Farmland To Ikea," which she penned for the Canton Newcomer's 35th Birthday Celebration, held Wednesday.

Arts-crafts ensemble

The Plymouth-Canton Music Boosters hosts its annual Spring Arts and Crafts Ensemble 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, March 10.

All non-jewelers, including artists, photographers, and crafters who hand-craft their own items, are invited to submit an application to exhibit at the third annual event to be held at Canton High School in Canton, Mich. The iuried art event is produced each year by the PCMB to assist the music programs at the Plymouth-Canton **Education Park.**

Artists and crafters who are interested in applying for consideration to exhibit should visit www.pcmb.net/artcraft to download an application and submit with photos as soon as possible. Only 100 exhibitors will be permitted to exhibit at this artistic event. Jewelry makers need not apply, as the show quota for jewelers has been met. Over 1,500 attendees are expected at the Spring Arts & Crafts Ensemble.

Canton High School is located at 8415 Canton Center Road in Canton. In addition to over 100 exhibits, there will be food, a raffle, and entertainment by local musicians and artists throughout the day. Admission is \$2.

Snow shoveling

The Plymouth Community Council on Aging is looking for volunteers to help seniors with

snow shoveling. Volunteers can contact Bobbie Pummill, program coordinator for the **Plymouth Community Council** on Aging at (734) 453-1234, ext. 236.

Wedding workshop

A unique Wedding Workshop has been designed so couples-to-be can enjoy a stress-free wedding by spending only 90 minutes now at a roundtable with the experts they need to hear from.

The workshop is arranged like speed dating, or musical chairs, but it's all about meeting experts who can help plan.

The opportunity begins 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 22, in the Meeting House Grand Ballroom, just south of Ann Arbor Trail at 499 S. Main in downtown Plymouth. The workshop is free to those who make reservations in advance by calling (734) 416-5100. Tickets at the door will be \$10. Light hors d'oeuvres and refreshments will be provided. For more information visit www.MHGB.com

The panel of experts include photography, florist, DJ, videography, wedding cakes, reception facilities, honeymoon travel, bridal accessories, chair covers and engraving.

Seating is limited. For information, or to reserve your spot, call 734-416-5100 or visit www.mhgb.com

Caregiver support group

Monthly meetings are held the first Monday of the month from 7-8:30 p.m. at the Plymouth Library. These meeting provide support,* information and encouragements to caregivers who are caring for a spouse, parent or others.

The group will help family and friends deal with their emotions, learn about resources and meet others who are going through similar experiences.

First-time participants should call Chris Goldberg, (313) 359-0736 or e-mail at cgoldberg@awbs.org

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You have until April 15, 2007 to make your 2006 Individual Retirement Account (IRA) investment, and now is a great time to set up your 2007 account. Consult your tax advisor to determine if an IRA is right for you. Then, visit Community Financial for the insured investment vehicle that fits your specific situation.



NCUA National Credit Union Administration, a U.S. Government Agency. Your savings federally insured to at least \$100,000 and backed by the full faith and credit of the United States Government. Image Your savings also privately insured up to an additional \$250,000 by Excess Share Insurance Corporation (ESI). ESI is a subsidiary of American Share Insurance. Image Advantage Corporation (ESI). ESI is a subsidiary of American Share Insurance.

LOCAL NEWS

New Plymouth fitness center offers four-minute workout that gets results

BY TONY BRUSCATO STAFF WRITER

www.hometownlife.com

Health experts recommend exercising an hour or more a day to lose weight and remain healthy.

But, for some, spending time at the gym walking the treadmill, using the elliptical machine or lifting weights is more a chore than fun. And those New Year's resolution workouts at the fitness center in January and February can easily fade by March and April.

However, Parker Whitaker, owner of ROM Fitness Studio on Forest Avenue in downtown Plymouth, said you can skip the drive to the gym, spending hours a week exercising, because all it takes is four minutes a day. And, you don't even have to shower afterward.

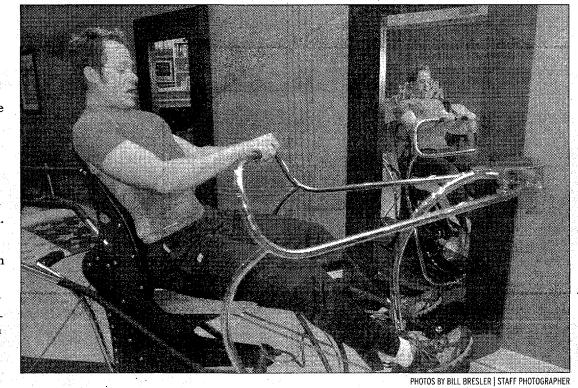
Whitaker said his ROM resistance, cardio and stretching apparatus is designed and engineered to provide a complete upper- or lower-body workout in less time than it takes to change clothes at the gym

"The old theory is you had to do 45 minutes to get heart-vascular health, but the new studies show that's not true," said Whitaker. "Actually, high intensity training, which is what this falls under, is much more conducive to a healthy heart than long-duration cardio because it develops the lungs. And lung capacity is actually the key factor in heart health.

The four minutes (on the ROM) is the equivalent of doing 45 minutes of cardio, 35 minutes of weight training and 20 minutes of stretching," he said.

Trading in 60 minutes or more of exercise for just four minutes a day was enticing to Diane Bancroft of Canton Township, who began working out in the office-like exercise studio in July.

"That's why I come here, because I hate gyms and organized exercise," Bancroft said. "When you get here, you already know you'll be working hard for those four minutes



J. Parker Whitaker works his upper body during a workout at ROM Fitness in Plymouth.



J. Parker Whitaker describes his experience with the four-minute workout.

ate, if nothing else the pure energy level you get. I've seen fantastic results.

The ROM machines have both upper body and lower body stations, However, Whitaker said despite it being only a four-minute workout. he recommends doing the lower body one day, the upper body the next, and continuing the cycle for five or six days.

Theresa Beaver of Canton also liked the idea of a fourminute workout when she started working out at ROM Fitness in September.

"By the time you fit the structured routine of a fitness center, changing clothes and joining class, you've lost an

is a breeze, Beaver said, "It's the best four minutes you'll ever hate."

Beaver said she used to get winded walking up flights of stairs, but that's not the case now.

"I have more energy, and the body is repositioning to more desirable locations," Beaver said jokingly. "I'm very happy, otherwise I wouldn't keep coming.

"A lot of exercises become routine and you don't push yourself as hard," she said. "But, here, you reach a level and you push yourself to the next level."

Whitaker said even he needed to be convinced about the ROM fitness machines before investing \$30,000 for two machines, much more than what it costs for a treadmill or elliptical machine.

"I struggled with my weight, having dieted when I was 10 years old," Whitaker said. "But, the machine - along with eat-

ing five meals a day absolutely changed my life. 1 wouldn't start something so out-of-the-box if I didn't know it worked.

"The machine meets your sistance, instead of you

ty, at two minutes you're looking at the clock."

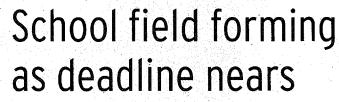
Jason Loverich began showing up at ROM Fitness because it was close to where his daughter takes dance lessons. Loverich, a marathon runner, only goes three days a week, but does both the upper and lower body exercises those days.

Loverich said even after the eight-minute workout, he hardly breaks a sweat, making it easy to go in before work or during lunch time because you don't have to go home and take a shower.

"I could probably come in my business clothes and then go to work," Loverich said. "At my job, I go into boiler rooms that are 110 degrees and I sweat worse in there than I do here.

"This is great if someone is trying to get into exercising," he said. "It's great because it can be as challenging as you want it to be."

tbruscato@hometownlife.com | (734) 459-2700



BY TONY BRUSCATO STAFF WRITER

As the Tuesday deadline looms for candidates to file petitions to run for the Plymouth-Canton Schools Board of Education, two challengers have emerged for the May 8 election in which voters will fill two, four-year seats.

Canton Township residents Nancy Eggenberger and Bruce Coldys each paid a \$100 filing fee instead of filing petitions with at least 40 valid signatures.

Incumbent Richard Ham-Kucharski said he will pay the \$100 filing fee in seeking his second term. It is believed that board vice president Mark Slavens will also seek reelection.

Eggenberger, who has cochaired the last two bond proposals and is president of the Community School Council, said her passion for education prompted her to seek a board seat.

'I thought it would be better to run when my kids are in school because it makes me more aware of what's going on," said Eggenberger, 48, who has two daughters at Plymouth High School and a son in seventh grade at Pioneer Middle School.

"I think the district is moving in a good direction, but there are challenges," she said, "like funding and how we are going to keep the quality of education we have now and keep it going. There's also going to be a superintendent search, and that's going to be very important.

Ĉoldys said in his 28 years in public schools he's been a union president, substitute teacher and building custodian, as well as a child care worker.

"It's going to be very difficult for Plymouth-Canton to maintain an excellent

reputation in the face of funding issues and Proposal A," Coldys, 53, said. "I believe with my background, I've already got the knowledge of how all the components in the district work."

Ham-Kucharski, who has a son at Gallimore Elementary, said it's no secret the budget will be the top priority in the coming years.

"I want to be there to help move forward and try to keep the district in a cost-efficient and fully functional path," Ham-Kucharski, 34, said. "I'd been hoping we could have made more cuts to get us out of the situation we're in this year and pending years. We need to find alternative methods in balancing our budget.

"But, there are plenty of other projects, like improving our alternative high school programs at Starkweather, if the bond passes, and it moves to Central (Middle School)," he said. "The latest MEAP scores in the elementary, middle and high schools were high, but we really need to find ways to help students who are struggling in the middle of the spectrum."

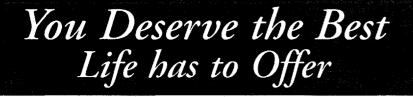
Petitions can be obtained from the clerk's offices in Plymouth, Plymouth Township and Canton Township. The petitions, or a \$100 filing fee, must be turned in to the Plymouth Township clerk's office by 4 p.m. Tuesday. Those who file have until 4 p.m. Friday, Feb. 16 to withdraw their name from the ballot.

District residents who want to participate in the school board election have through April,9 to register with the clerk's office in the community in which they live.

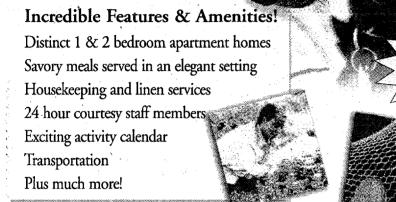
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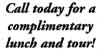


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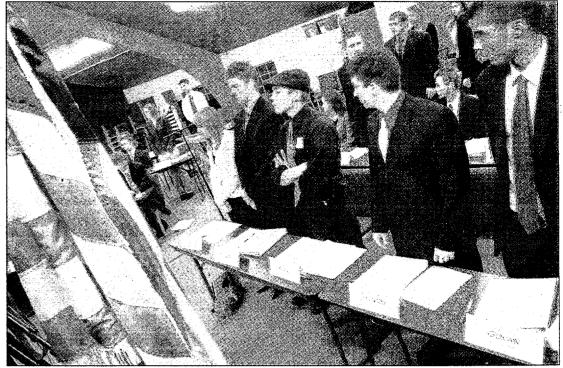
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Got Game? Yep, got scores, too.



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The mock legislature votes on the bill to ban embryonic stem cell research. The bill passed with a strong majority.

MOCK FROM PAGE A1

ments starting

\$999

the Biblical training program features bills from previous house sessions in the state.

Muffett told the students that lawmakers often have to "choose between individual liberties and social responsibility" while adding that legislative matters aren't always black and white.

"It requires thought, dialogue and listening," he said. Charlotte Daly, 17, argued the need to display religious writings, such as the 10 commandments, in public buildings saying society has

shunned its beginnings. "We have become convinced there is no place for religion in the public arena," she said. "Religious writings are valuable pieces of history."

Daly's opposition, senior Melissa Rich, 17, pointed to a scripture in the book of the Matthew as a reason not to display religious writings.

"The government clearly cannot favor one religion over the other," she said, adding that opening the door for the items such as the 10 Commandments would lead to the display of

FLAGSTAR BANK



Representative Russell Rudzis listens to the debate.

hateful or racist material. The measure to display the

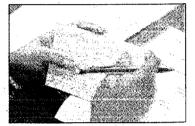
writings passed by a slim margin. Bekki Nill of Novi said she

was floored by the students perspectives on controversial issues.

"I thought this was amazing," she said. "It was a great learning experience for the kids."

Nill's son, a high school senior, participated in the event. Muffett, who prayed at the conclusion of the event, told

the students that faith has relevance to every area of life. said "You have something to give you)

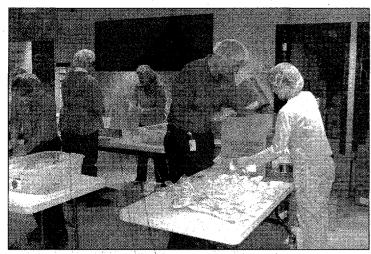


Rep. Brooke Harris checks her notes before speaking against a bill banning embryonic stem cell research.

as Christians to society," he said. "I pray (at least one of you) goes into public service."



GRAND OPENING



Bill Lawton and Natalie McLaughlin, Community Financial's Education Partnership Coordinator, package completed meals while Michelle Richards and Kathleen Hinchcliff, Community Financial employees, prepare them in the background.

Laptop donation aids **Kiwanis Club program**

Hunger or how to get involved,

contact Kiwanis representative

Lee Harrison at (734) 416-6055.

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50% off

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Sizes S-XL. Orig. \$18-\$36, sale \$9-\$18.

Knit tops by Susan Lawrence, SHLOMO,

Long known for its support of area non-profits and events, including the Music in the Air series, Fourth of July Parade, and Plymouth Symphony Orchestra in Plymouth, the Victorian Festival in downtown Northville, and Relay for Life in Canton, Community Financial has now donated a state-of-the-art laptop projector to the Kiwanis Club of Colonial Plymouth.

Community Financial's CEO, Bill Lawton, a member of Kiwanis who also serves on the board of the Plymouth Community Arts Council and **Community Financial's** Scholarship fund, anticipates the donated equipment will help with the promotion and coordination of Kiwanis projects, in particular their collaboration with Kids Against Hunger (KAH), a national non-profit agency which aims to ameliorate malnutrition in poverty-stricken areas of the United States, Central America, Asia, and Africa,

With similar missions, both of which entail changing the world one child at a time, the collaboration was a easy fit, and the Colonial Kiwanis Club's four year involvement with KAH has yielded great returns," Lawton said.

With the assistance of local church groups, elementary, middle and high-school students and businesses - including Community Financial throughout the area, combined efforts have produced more than 250,000 nutritionally balanced meals for export to hun-

LIGHT

FROM PAGE A1

be installed as part of the safety project scheduled to begin this spring. The light will be installed as part of a total intersection improvement program which will include center-turn lanes, through lanes and right-only lanes.

Plymouth Township Supervisor Richard Reaume said township officials convinced MDOT to move up work on those improvements, originally scheduled to be done in late 2008, to spring 2007.

He said MDOT is paying for the improvements, the contracts for which, Reaume said, are in the bidding process. "We're delighted," Reaume said. "It's a dangerous intersection. Our residents have

had to avoid it. We thought the traffic counts justified it, we know the danger of the intersection justified it, and now

the study shows the light is warranted."

The intersection currently has a flashing signal that flashes yellow for traffic on Ann Arbor Road and red for Ridge traffic. The flashing signal was returned at the end of last year's M-14 construction, during a portion of which a full traffic signal was in place.

MDOT officials said at the time the flashing signal would be returned because previous studies didn't warrant a full signal, but agreed to conduct another study at the conclusion of M-14 construction.

That's where Del Col's frustration bubbles over.

"It still makes absolutely no sense to me it was OK to have that light there functioning while there was extra traffic for M-14 (construction)," she said. "We still have the same problems, maybe less cars, but the same issues. The kids still have to get out of there safely to get to school. I don't understand why they can't use it now while they're doing the improvements."

Budai said before the improvements can be done to the intersection, some utility poles in the area will have to be moved, meaning the light probably will have to come down temporarily. Aside from that, he said, the intersection doesn't currently meet design standards.

"The way the intersection is set up, if one vehicle stops to make the left turn onto Ridge in either direction, all traffic stops behind it," he said. "During peak times especially, that can cause quite a problem."

Reaume said now that the light is going up, township officials would work on the next goal: lowering the speed limit from the current 55 mph.

'We'd like to see it drop to 45 in that area," Reaume said. "That would allow our citizens to get in and out of those subdivisions without having to risk accident and injury."

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ROADS

FROM PAGE A1

figure I'm paying my share, but I'm not getting any more services.

A5

(P)

The proposed infrastructure repair program only identifies specific projects over the next five years, with no time frame for the remaining roads.

"Many communities do a five-year projection, and constantly update it," said Shawn Keough, vice president of WadeTrim, a municipal engineering consulting firm in Taylor. "It's a nice, foreseeable future, one you can get your hands around. We could project longer, but it would likely change.'

Keough noted most of the roads in the five-year plan "are either bad or poor."

Six of the seven city commissioners have publicly endorsed a continuation of the road millage.

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LOCAL NEWS

Local book store contest taps into Harry Potter mania

BY TIFFANY L. PARKS STAFF WRITER

Those hoping to win the final book in the Harry Potter series are being asked to do their best Annie Leibovitz impression for a photo competition.

As The Page Turns, an online bookstore based in Canton, is participating in the Get Caught Reading 2007 Photo Contest.

Whether you capture your children, parents or neighbors, the goal is to catch someone reading and snap a photograph.

The competition is designed to encourage reading, said Nicole Jackson, the owner of the online bookstore.

We're going for the America's Funniest Home Videos feel," she said. "We want people to have fun and be creative."

The first place winner will snag a copy of Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows. The muchawaited tale, which will be released July 21, is the last piece

of author J.K. Rowling's Harry Potter puzzle.

Jackson said she's unsure if the winner will be able to get their hands on a copy before the release date.

"I don't want to make any promises," she said.

The second-place winner will get a canvas book bag with a character imprint and the third-place prize is a wrist band that says: Open a Book Open a Mind."

In addition to the local contest, all entries will be entered in a regional contest that includes participants in Indiana, Illinois and Ohio.

The regional competition is being sponsored by the Great Lakes Booksellers Association. Submissions will be accepted through March 30.

For details, call Jackson at (734) 812-1045 or log onto www.getcaughtreadingphotocontest.com.

tlparks@hometownlife.com | (734) 459-2700

New owners of Scoopy's excited to be in Canton

BY TIFFANY L. PARKS STAFF WRITER

Susan and Craig Primeau have discovered the secret to upping their cool factor with their grandchildren – they buy ice cream shops.

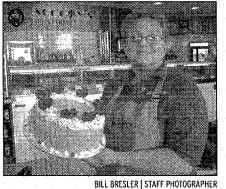
The couple has owned an ice cream shop in Trenton for the past seven years and recently became the owners of Scoopy's Ice Cream and Deli at the corner of Hanford and Canton Center roads.

"Our grandchildren love this," Susan Primeau said. "They think it's so cool."

The Trenton residents, who got into the ice cream business after their daughter began working at a Baskin-Robbins, went back and forth with each other about buying in Canton.

"We saw an ad in the paper (for Scoopy's) last summer, but we were right in the middle of our busy season so we decided not to look into it," Primeau said. "But then the second time we saw an ad, I told my husband that we should take another look at it and he said, 'Are you crazy?' but here we are."

The Primeaus are the fourth owners of the 1,200-square-foot shop.



Susan Primeau, the new owner of Scoopy's Ice Cream and Deli, displays an ice cream cake ready for Valentine's Day.

"We did our homework beforehand to make sure this was the right opportunity for us," Primeau said. "This is a tough business to be in.'

In addition to the challenge of selling products in the winter that are typically associated with warmer months, Primeau said rocky economic climates make it hard for some people to justify having frozen treats.

"When families have to (streamline) their budgets, there's not

always money left over for ice cream," she said. "But we've been fine so far. Everybody that walks in is so happy to see this place open again."

With more than 40 varieties of ice cream serving as a temptation, Primeau bangs her fist on a table in mock anger when asked if she still indulges in her own products.

"Everyday," she said, breathing out a long sigh. "I really thought I would be sick of ice cream by now but I eat some everyday."

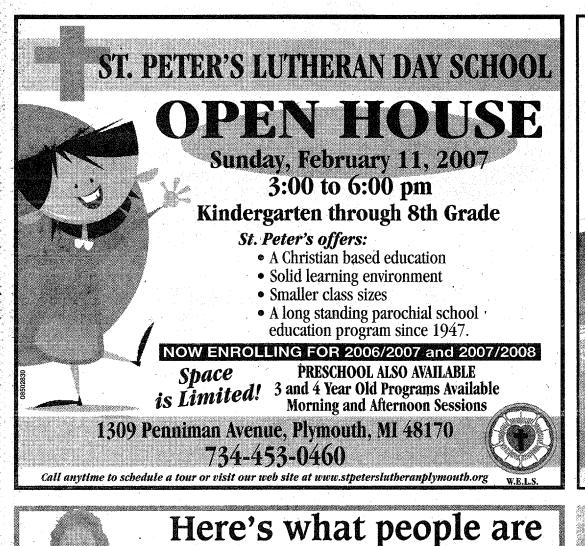
Joking that her grandchildren, ages 2, 3 and 5, already have summer jobs lined up for their teenage years, Primeau said when she and her husband retire, their two daughters will take the reins of their ice cream operations.

'We will always be a family business," she said.

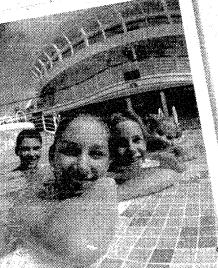
Scoopy's which offers lunch delivery for its soups, salads and sandwiches, sells Stroh's ice creams, homemade waffle cones, cakes, pies and ice cream cakes.

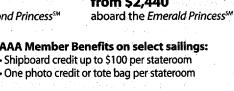
"We really like being in Canton and are very excited for (Spring)," Primeau said.

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"After losing weight, my energy level has increased, my confidence has soared and my back problems have virtually disappeared. I love who I see in the mirror"

"I feel more like the woman my husband married 26 years QZO. ^D

LEA firom Livonia lost 51 pounds!

HOLLY from Canton, who lost 30 pounds! "I feel more confident and happy, and my husband gives me 'the look' more."

SANDY from Canton, who lost 46 pounds!



"The experience was nothing but positive. I'm only mad at myself for not doing it sooner." DAVID from Canton, who lost 40 pounds!

"I felt energized and the weight I lost came off on schedule and has stayed off." SUE from Canton, who lost 20 pounds!

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www.hometownlife.com

The Plymouth District Library offers the following programs during February: CONSTRUCTION **UPDATES** - Completion of the Youth area is drawing nearer. Check out the latest developments on the Library's renovation project by going to plymouthlibrary.org and click-

ing on the Building Blog. Current project updates and photos will take you behind the scenes

GREAT BOOKS, Monday, Feb. 19, 7 p.m. – The discussion group is open to anyone who is curious and willing to work with others in developing an understanding and appreciation of great literature. For further information, contact group facilitator Karen Berrie at (734) 453-2454. To learn more about The Great Books Foundation, go to

http://www.greatbooks.org/ WRITING MY LIFE STORY: A SENIOR WRIT-ING GROUP, Tuesday, Feb. 20, 4 p.m. – Seniors can share and preserve their life stories with the guidance of Plymouth author, Jane Saylor. No previous writing experience or advance registration is required.

YOUR POETRY GROUP, Sunday, Feb. 11, 1:30-3:30 p.m. - Round-table readings of poems, your own or by others, are held on the second Sunday of the month. Reader's discretion of language is asked in the works read. For more information, contact Don Hewlett. (313) 272-3548, or donhewlett@aol.com

BASEBALL ISN'T JUST BASEBALL - IT'S A METAPHOR FOR LIFE, An afternoon with authors Robert Samaras and Raymond Rolak, Sunday, Feb. 11, 2 p.m. – The Library concludes this special baseball series, "Hot Stove League: Professors of Baseball share their love of America's pastime" with these Detroiters. Robert Samaras, EdD, former coach of the Wayne State University baseball team, will talk about such varied topics as "The one-run game: pathway to pennant" and humanistic psychology in baseball coaching. Raymond Rolak, former director of the City of Detroit 3,000 member PaR Baseball School, will present "Different Universes: A comparative look at competitive and recreational baseball. Register for this free program by calling the Reader's Advisory Desk at (734) 453-0750, Ext. 4 or online at plymouthlibrary.org. This program is made possible

you will too. Plymouth resident Mike Best leads a lively discussion each month for adults and children over the age of 6. No registration is required. For more information contact (734) 459-BEST or starmikebest@comcast.net

■ CONTEMPORARY BOOKS DISCUSSION, Wednesday, Feb. 21, 7:30 p.m. Members of this book discussion group are invited to read The Memory Keeper's Daughter by Kim Edwards. Copies of this book are available at the circulation desk. New members are welcome at any time. For further information, please call Sue Patterson at the library, (734) 453-0750, or email spatterson@plymouthlibrary.org

ALL ABOUT OSCAR, Thursday, Feb. 22, 7 p.m. -Lawrence Jeziak, film instructor at Oakland Community College and former film critic, will deliver a light but thoughtful examination of this year's Academy Award nominations. Novices as well as film buffs will learn about the essence of cinema and the history of the fickle finger of Oscar. Register for this free program by calling the Reader's Advisory Desk, (734) 453-0750, Ext. 4 or online at plymouthlibrary.org

NEEDLECRAFTERS MEETING, Monday, Feb. 26, 7 p.m. – Knitters, quilters, needlepointers are all invited to attend this informal group gathering. Lessons are not provided, but ideas exchanged among attendees. No registration required. Bring your latest project!

BROWN BAG BOOK DISCUSSION, Wednesday, Feb. 28, noon – This month's discussion invites members to read Rebecca by Daphne DuMaurier. Copies of this book are available at the circulation desk. Bring a lunch; beverages are provided. For more information about Brown Bag Books, ask at the Reader's Advisory Desk, call Linda Pride at the Library, (734) 453-0750, Ext. 206, or e-mail lpride@plymouthlibrary.org

Youth programs

LAP SIT STORYTIME, Monday, Feb. 12, 10 a.m. and 11 a.m.; Saturday, Feb. 17, 10 a.m. — This 15-minute program is designed for the very young - babies ages 6-24 months and their caregivers. No older siblings please. Registration is required - call Reader's Advisory Desk at (734) 453-0750, Ext. 4.

STORMY SURPRISES: WEATHER GOES

Advisory Desk at (734) 453-Registration is required as space is limited - call the ■ WINTER MOVIE, Reader's Advisory Desk at Wednesday, Feb. 21, 2 p.m. -(734) 453-0750, ext. 4.

Come in from the cold and have a laugh while you enjoy How to Eat Fried Worms. This movie is rated PG and intended for children ages 5-12. No registration is required.

0750, Ext. 4.

■ BABY PLAY, Monday, Feb. 26, 10 a.m. and 11 a.m. -This fun program is for babies ages 6-24 months. Baby Play is a less formal companion to our Lapsit program. Babies and caregivers listen to a story, followed by play with developmentally appropriate toys and interaction with other children. Registration is not required for Baby Play.

Teen program

KNITTING KNIT WITS, Wednesdays, Feb. 21, 7 p.m. Join other teens and volunteer Judy Gwozdek in making squares for blankets for a charity to be selected or just bring your own knitting and have fun. If you don't know how to knit – come along anyway -Judy will teach you how.

BOOKS & BAGELS, Tuesday, Feb. 13, 4 p.m. -Teens are invited to read Night Hoops by Carl Deuker. While trying to prove that he is good enough to be on his high school's varsity basketball team, Nick must also deal with his parents' divorce and the erratic behavior of a troubled classmate and neighbor. Register at Reader's Advisory, (734) 453-0750, Ext. 4.

TEEN VOLUNTEER TRAINING, Thursday, Feb. 15, 7 p.m. — There are many volunteer opportunities available for Plymouth teens; attend this training session and learn more.

WINTER BREAK MOVIE BREAK, Tuesday, Feb. 20, 6:30 p.m. – Grab your friends and catch a flick at the Library. Afterwards, check out some DVDs to get you through the rest of Winter Break. No registration is required.

You need to know this

All Teen Zone programs are FREE - it costs you nothing to participate.

The Friends of the Plymouth District Library provide FREE refreshments for every teen program.

All the info you need about our teen programs can be found at plymouthlibrary.org/ya.ht

Computer training These free computer

@ THE LIBRARY

10 a.m. to 1 p.m. – High

school students will teach

account using Hotmail or

training in Microsoft Office

products (such as Word or

other software programs in

BASIC INTERNET

8, 7 p.m. – This class for

computer users learn the

the World Wide Web.

basics of using the Internet.

Participants should be com-

fortable with the Microsoft

Windows basics and using a

mouse. Training is based on

the hardware and software

■ BEGINNING EMAIL,

Learn how to create a free e-

Hotmail in this one-session

email messages on that

11:30 a.m. - Students will

document. The class covers

ADVANCED EMAIL,

Monday, Feb. 26, 2 p.m. -

learn how to use an e-mail

Tuesday, Feb. 27, 3:30 p.m.

knowledge base by learning

Build on your MS Word

insert symbols and more.

sites for this class.

have Yahoo or Hotmail

account

ing this class.

for all.

available in the Library.

Monday, Feb. 12, 2 p.m. -

this drop-in class.

Plymouth residents to use a

mouse, Windows 95/98, the

A7

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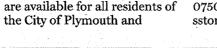
vith the generous support of the Friends of the Plymouth District Library.

WORLD WAR II PER-SPECTIVES, Tuesday, Feb. 13, 7 p.m. – Patrick Ignani returns to address The Pacific Theater: A Clash of Races and Cultures. He will examine the cultural differences between Japan and the United States that caused the war in the Pacific to evolve into a bitter racial and ethnic struggle. Register for this free program by phone, (734) 453-0750, Ext. 4 or on-line at plymouthlibrary.org

STARS, MOONS AND PLANETS, Monday, Feb. 19, 7 p.m. - He loves the skies and after this informal gathering,

WILD, Saturday, Feb. 17, 11 a.m. - This program is part of our continuing Family and Science Reading series. In conjunction with the University of Michigan Exhibit Museum, it is designed specifically for children 6-12 and their parents - a parent or caregiver must accompany each participant. Registration is limited to 30 children - call (734) 453-0750, Ext. 4.

MARDI GRAS, Tuesday, Feb. 20, 2 p.m. – All children - winter breakers and homeschoolers - will enjoy this program celebrating Fat Tuesday. This program is for children ages 5-12 -no younger siblings please. Registration begins



act Susan Stoney, (734 0750, Ext. 242 or sstoney@plymouthlibrary.org











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SUNDAY PERSPECTIVES

More options are available for socially responsible investment

When it comes to investing, I have some pretty strong beliefs in how the money should be invested. I do not want to invest in companies that do not have a good environmental record. Do you have any suggestions on how I should invest my money?

Lori The type of investments you want to look for are typically referred to as socially responsible. In the past, it was difficult for investors to invest in a socially responsible manner, as there were only a few investment options available. In addition, these investment options often underperformed the market. However, that is no longer the case. Socially responsible investing has matured and now there are many good viable investment alternatives.



Socially responsible investing has become a very broad area. Therefore, anyone who is looking at being a socially responsible investor needs first to determine what they consider socially responsible. As an example, there are some mutual funds that are socially responsible in the fact that they will only

Matters Rick

Bloom

invest in companies that have good environmental records, while other funds define socially responsible as companies that do not have interest in alcohol, tobacco or the gaming industry.

When you invest in a socially responsible manner, it is important that you do not forget the basics of investing and that is you need to look at the performance of the investment along with cost and fees. In the past, a socially responsible investor was always willing to give up return to accomplish their social goals. However, that is no longer necessary. Socially responsible investors can invest in investments that have solid returns.

The best Web site I know of to search for socially responsible investments is www.socialfunds.com. This site is very educational and has a wealth of information regarding socially responsible investing.

My recommendation is that you use this site as a guide to help you build a balanced and diversified portfolio. Good luck!

I heard that it is possible to receive your credit report for free. Is this true and if it is, do you know where I should go?

Carlos

You are correct that you can receive your credit report for free. A couple of years ago, pursuant to the Fair and Accurate Transaction Act, individuals are now allowed to obtain free copies of their credit reports from each of the major credit bureaus once a year. To request a free copy of

Socially responsible investing has matured and now there are many good viable investment alternatives.

your credit report, all you need to do is either go to www.annualcreditreport.com or call (877) 22-9228.

There are three major credit reporting agencies: Equifax, TransUnion and Experian. You are entitled to one free credit report from each of these companies every 12 months. My recommendation is that you do not request a free credit report from each of these companies at the same time. I think it makes sense to spread the receipt of your credit report out throughout the vear.

I have seen many advertisements on the internet and on TV regarding free credit reports. Unfortunately, there are strings attached with most of these offers. The only agencies authorized under the Fair and Accurate Transaction Act to provide free credit reports are listed above. All the other organizations are going to have some strings attached.

If you find that there are errors on your credit report, then it is important that you do something. Under the Fair Credit Reporting Act, you and I as individuals have rights to have incorrect information on are reports corrected, however, it is a frustrating process. My belief is that it is worth going through the frustration because in today's world credit reports are just not used just to determine whether you can borrow and the cost of borrowing or not, but also they have other effects. As an example, credit reports are now used by employers in determining whether someone should receive a job and also by automobile insurance companies to determine your premiums. Therefore, I believe it is important to review your credit report on a regular basis to make sure it is accurate.

If you are looking for more information regarding your credit report and correcting it, a great place to go is the Federal Trade Commission's Web site. Its Web site, www.ftc.gov, is an excellent resource.

One last note — when you receive your credit report, it does not include your credit score. Many of us over the last few years have become familiar with our credit score, which is typically between 300 and 900. The free credit report through www.annualcreditreport.com does not offer this service. Good luck!

Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial adviser. Observer & *Eccentric* readers can submit questions at moneymatters@hometownlife.com. For more information. visit his Web site at www.bloomassetmanagement.com. You can hear Rick from noon to 3 p.m. Sundays on WDTK-AM (1400).

Here are some warming thoughts about the chill

Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, February 11, 2007

ow cold is it?

It's so cold, the car windshield deicer fluid froze.

It's so cold, the heating wires on the back window of the car won't melt the

It's so cold, the wispy thin layer of snow on the sidewalk won't disappear under the "heat" of the mid-day sun.

Have you noticed that it's cold out latelv?

I like the cold way better than I like the heat. When it's cold out, I still feel like moving, even if it's just to generate some

personal heat. But when it's hot, I just lay around

like a lizard. But this is beyond cold. This is kind of like what you would encounter on Mars. Of course, this is being written Wednesday, when the temperature is all of 16 degrees. By the time you read this Sunday, it is expected to be a balmy

26 degrees. And the freeze of the early part of the week will likely

just be a bitter memory. We in Michigan are pretty inured to the

cold. I know many people who actually find ways to have fun outside - skiing, skating, snowmobiling and with other forms of madness. I even know of a certain naturalist/columnist who went kayaking in the Au Sable River last week and claims he had a great time.

Dementia takes on many forms. But even we have limits. I have noticed

that people begin acting weirdly as it gets colder. They move funny. They dart in front of cars and plow over anything in their way. I saw this at Oakland Mall in the depths of the deep freeze blast, when I nearly ran over several people in the parking lot who paid absolutely no attention to the rolling cars. This is especially dangerous, because drivers seem to be affected by the cold as well.

Even drivers are in a hurry to get out of the cold. They appear to be more rude than usual lately.

I might draw a lesson from this to stay away from the malls and shop in downtown Birmingham, which makes no pretext of offering shelter from the frost, except inside the stores.

This has been a strange winter. Until recently, the temperatures were fairly mild and I was beginning to think that

But even we have limits. I have noticed that people begin acting weirdly as it gets colder. They move funny. They dart in front of cars and plow over anything in their way. I saw this at Oakland Mall in the depths of the deep freeze blast, when I nearly ran over several people in the parking lot who paid absolutely no attention to the rolling cars. This is especially dangerous, because drivers seem to be affected by the cold as well.

(*)

maybe there was something to this whole global warming controversy.

I have yet to see Al Gore's movie about global warming and I doubt that I ever will, but I have seen The Day the Earth Froze (great), Ice Age (blah), The Frozen Dead (terrific), The Day After Tomorrow (dreadful) and Nanook of the North (too good for my taste), so I know just how serious the cold can be.

But we're all pretty tough around here, so after three or four really cold days most people seem to adjust and pay little heed to the frost that forms on the inside of the windows. Pedestrians again watch where they are walking and drivers are back to their usual level of vileness.

It's likely the worst is behind us. This is February, well on the way toward spring. No wayward volcanoes have spewed up clouds of sun-blocking smoke and even North Korea doesn't seem hell-bent on creating a nuclear winter anymore.

Now we can sit back and anxiously await what the weeks and months ahead have to offer — the arrival of an astronomical gas bill, the sweltering heat of summer and the promise of perhaps an even colder winter heading into next year.

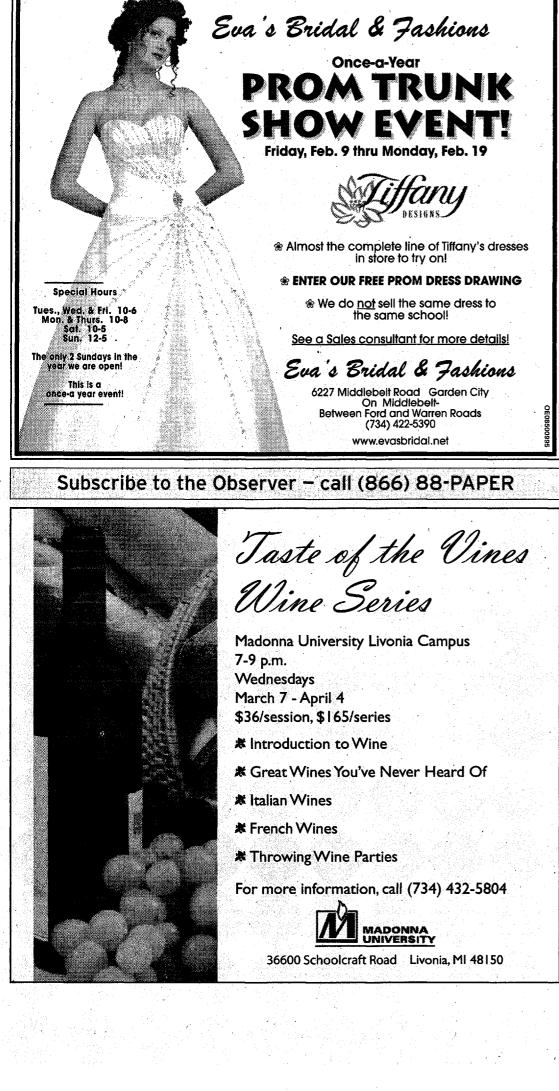
On that cheery thought, I am going to put on my coat, run to my car outside, which groans when I start it in the cold, head home and crank up the furnace so the oil company executives can buy even bigger yachts.

Happy sailing!

Greg Kowalski is editor of the Birmingham Eccentric. He can be reached at (248) 901-2570 or by e-mail at gkowalski@hometownlife.com.



Grea Kowalski



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COUNTY NEWS

Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, February 11, 2007

Ficano confident a Cobo compromise is possible

BY JOE BAUMAN STAFF WRITER

A10

(*)

Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano expressed optimism Friday that he and Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson can find middle ground on a financing plan to expand Cobo Center in Detroit.

Saying he and his Oakland counterpoint were more in agreement on a plan for Cobo than it may appear, Ficano said he was hopeful that a blending of the two proposals would result in a "workable solution."

* I believe our operating model works, and Brooks has said he supports the concept of



Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano.

having a new, regional authority own and operate the facility,"

Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson.

Ficano said. "It's the funding that is the sticking part."

Ficano said he agrees with Patterson that the private sector and the state of Michigan should help finance the project.

"We continue to talk with the various stakeholders, the auto dealers, the Big Three automakers, the governor's office," he said. "The funding plans put forth by Brooks are difficult because they don't recognize the sense of urgency we face in getting this done to secure the future of the North American International Auto Show."

In his State of the County address Wednesday, Patterson said he could not support Ficano's plan to extend the tricounty hotel-motel and liquor taxes to 2037 to cover the estimated \$425 million expansion.

Instead, Patterson offered five alternative funding proposals, three of which would expand casino-style gambling in the state. A fourth plan would add a \$1.50 surcharge on flights either arriving or transferring at Metro Airport, while a fifth would divert a portion of existing cigarette taxes that now go exclusively to Wayne County.

Patterson acknowledged the need to expand Cobo, and that a larger center would be good for the entire region.

Still, he said he is tired of funding solutions only being thrust upon residents living in Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties. And that is a major problem with the Ficano plan.

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"Why is it always Wayne, Oakland, Macomb? That paradigm goes back to the end of World War II," he said. "Let's talk about other counties that have come of age." Ficano said he believed if

Ficano said he believed if additional funding sources can be brought into the mix, he may be able to get Patterson to budge on extending the liquor tax.

"We need to get our staffs working together on this outside of the public forum," he said. "We all agree Cobo needs to be expanded for the benefit of the entire region. We need to move forward and soon."

College Goal Sunday helps students get college cash

Today has been designated as College Goal Sunday. The statewide public awareness campaign, now in its fourth year, encourages students to apply for federal financial aid no later than March 1. In general, the earlier students apply for the aid, the better their chances at receiving it.

To help make that happen, College Goal Sunday volunteers at 27 Michigan locations will be on hand to help students 2-4 p.m. fill out the free Application For Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), a form many find confusing. The program will be held at Schoolcraft College, Eastern Michigan University and Wayne State University.

Too many students who don't fill out the FAFSA end up paying more for college than they should or just not going to college at all.

College Goal Sunday, coordinated by the nonprofit, Lansing-based Partnership for Learning, is making a difference. According to new data from the Michigan Department of Treasury, the program has contributed to a 9 percent increase in the number of students who filled out the FAFSA between 2002 and 2005 – the program's second year. An impressive 22 percent

more students during that same period also filled out their FAFSAs before March 1.

"We're helping more Michigan families get money for college," said Bryan Taylor, president of the Partnership. "Waiting to fill out the FAFSA is like flushing money down the drain."

College Goal Sunday program coordinators and volunteers want to sustain that upward trend. There are five new locations and nearly 100 more volunteers than in 2006. These locations span the state, from Wayne State University in Detroit and Lake Michigan College in Benton Harbor, to Bay de Noc Community College in Escanaba and Lake Superior State University in Sault Ste. Marie. (Information and locations are available at www.MICollegeGoal.org or at 1-800-832-2464.)

Volunteers will be ready to help students take the first big step toward college degrees. The FAFSA is the most important document used to decide who gets what scholarships and loans. High school seniors still uncertain about going to college should still complete the FAFSA now, so they can get aid later if they need it.

Parents or students participating in College Goal Sunday need to bring their families' completed 2006 IRS 1040 tax return if possible, or their W-2 and 1099 tax documents. Students younger than age 23 should bring a parent or guardian.

Participants will have a chance to enter to win a \$50 Barnes & Noble gift card, one of 10 individual \$200 scholarships or one \$1,000 scholarship. Wayne County's Department of Environment is hosting a household hazardous waste collection for

Wayne County will host household

hazardous waste collection

county residents. The collection is designed to accept unwanted household chemicals for proper disposal and electronics (i.e. computer monitors, printers, scanners, keyboards, cell phones, fax machines, and TVs) for recycling from residents.

The collection will be held with cooperation from Sumpter Township and is scheduled for 8 a.m. to 2 p.m Saturday, March 31, and will be held at the Sumpter Township DPS located behind the Sumpter Township Police Station at 23501 Sumpter Road.

Items that will be accepted include household paints, stains, floor care

items, furniture polish, bathroom cleaners, lawn and garden chemicals, antifreeze, and old computers.

We will also again be accepting used tires for recycling with a limit of 10 passenger tires per vehicle. In addition, residents are encouraged to bring in mercury fever thermometers for disposal, Mercury is a toxic substance and can cause serious health effects if released into a home or the environment.

Residents who bring in a mercury thermometer will be given a safe mercury-free digital thermometer as replacement.

For more information, please contact Wayne County's Resource Recovery Coordinator at (734) 326-3936.







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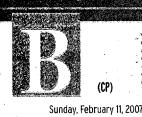
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The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

www.hometownlife.com

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Sawchuk named new Plymouth grid coach

BY ED WRIGHT STAFF WRITER

Plymouth's new head football coach needed no introduction when he met with his team for the first time Wednesday afternoon.

That's because the Wildcats' newest gridiron leader is Mike Sawchuk, who has served as the program's assistant head coach and defensive coordinator since its inception in the fall of 2002.

The 39-year-old Sawchuk has an extensive coaching portfolio in addition to his five-year tenure at Plymouth. He's also held high-ranking assistant positions at Naples (Fla.) High School, Colon High School and Olivet College.

Sawchuk succeeds Jay Blaylock, who resigned last month.

"I'm extremely excited about this opportunity," said Sawchuk, who teaches health and physical education at Plymouth. "I've been here since the program was started, so I'm excited to be able to pick up where Jay left off. I was Jay's right-hand man, so we learned a lot from each other the past five years."

Sawchuk said he wants to retain the entire Plymouth coaching staff that finished the 2006 season.

"We have a very good group of young coaches and I'd like to have them all back," he said. Sawchuk is the younger brother of

Plymouth Athletic Director Terry

Sawchuk, who dismissed himself from the hiring process once Mike Sawchuk applied. A committee that included Plymouth Principal Mike Bee, booster club officials, players and current assistant coaches made the final decision, according to Terry Sawchuk.

"Jay Blaylock went to bat for Mike to get the job, so that tells you a lot about the kind of respect Mike has in the school," said Terry Sawchuk. "Mike's a great coach who will demand discipline and demand that the kids work hard. He will also work hard to make sure his football players are good citizens and good students."

Mike Sawchuk said he will continue to utilize a 4-3 defense.

"Defense wins championships, but you have to move the ball, too," he said. "I'd like to be able to throw the ball more than we have in the past, but with the weather you get in Michigan, you'd better be able to run it, too."

Thirty-one people — some from as far away as Florida, Nevada and Idaho applied for the job, according to Terry Sawchuk.

Mike Sawchuk and his family — wife, Lisa, and son, Terrance Gordon — reside in Canton Township. Terrance Gordon was named after Mike and Terry's late father, legendary Detroit Red Wings goaltender Terry Sawchuk.

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ANDY RUBENSTEIN

Mike Sawchuk was named Plymouth's new head football coach Wednesday. The 39-year-old Canton resident served as the Wildcats' assistant head coach and defensive coordinator for the past five years.

FLIGHT OF THE PENGUINS

Team chemistry, loads of talent help PCS icers soar to unbeaten record

BY ED WRIGHT STAFF WRITER

If you thought Disney's Mighty Ducks were fun, entertaining and successful, you should check out Plymouth-Canton-Salem's powerful Penguins, who are writing a real-life script that is receiving rave reviews in the world of high school girls hockey.

One year after knocking on the door of a state championship, the Penguins are showing signs that this may be the year they skate right through the door.

Following Tuesday night's impressive 5-2 victory over Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook-Kingswood, the Penguins were 13-0-2, which gave them a three-point lead over runner-up Livonia Ladywood in the Michigan Metro High School Girls Hockey League. Thanks to a balanced roster filled with flashy skaters, know-theirrole defensemen and an "I-can'tbelieve-she-just-made-that-save!" goalie, the team has outscored its opponents 79-18.



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Roberts' late heroics pace Wildcats' win

BY ED WRIGHT STAFF WRITER

A few verses of AC/DC's "Back in Black" were played during a first-quarter break in Friday night's basketball game between Plymouth and Walled Lake Western.

"Comeback in Black" would have been more appropriate as far as the Wildcats were concerned.

On "Senior Night," black-and-white-clad Plymouth erased a seven-point deficit in the final 1:22 to stun the visiting Warriors, 44-43, in a key Wortow Lobo

PREP HOOP

Western Lakes Activities Association Western Division contest for both teams.

Junior guard Brandon Roberts was the hero for the winners as he scored six points — three on a long triple and three on an old-fashioned threepoint play — in the final 43.1 seconds The victory improved Plymouth's record to 5-10 overall and 2-6 in the division. More importantly, it kept its hopes alive for a WLAA post-season tournament berth. The top four teams in the WLAA's Lakes and Western divisions qualify for the tournament. Through Friday night's games, Northville (8-0) and Canton (7-1) had already clinched spots while Wayne (3-4), Western (3-4) and Plymouth (2-6) were battling for the final two berths. Sean Armstrong's triple from the deep corner gave Western a seemingly comfortable 43-36 advantage with 1:22 left. That's when Roberts turned a somewhat quiet evening into an unforgettable one. His three-pointer from the corner with 43.1

Last year, the Penguins advanced to the state final before falling to Grosse Pointe South.

Under the guidance of first-year coach Eric Mink, the Penguins have fun together off the ice and work hard once they step on it, which was evident during Wednesday afternoon's spirited practice at Canton's Arctic Edge Ice Arena when they Plymouth-Canton-Salem's potent No. 1 line consists of (left to right) Katie Zimmerman, Adrienne Cercone and Sarah Manner. Zimmerman, a sophomore, has led the team in scoring the past two years.

hustled through a one-hour-plus practice like there was no tomorrow.

"We work really hard at practice and everybody's personalities seem to click, both on and off the ice," said junior captain Stephanie Matusiak, when asked for the key to the team's success. "When you get along as well as we do off the ice, it's easy to play well together on it.

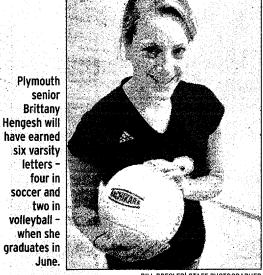
"Even though we have girls from all three schools, a lot of days we meet at one of the schools and eat

PLEASE SEE PENGUINS, B4



The PCS Penguins are led by a strong group of captains and a solid coaching staff. Pictured (from the left) are Kristin Callahan, Adrienne Cercone, Amy Coleman, Keely Kowalski, head coach Eric Mink, Stephanie Matusiak, assistant coach Shawn Rowley and assistant coach Lori Callahan.

PLEASE SEE HOOP, B2



Hengesh nets success in volleyball and soccer

BY ED WRIGHT Staff Writer

Brittany Hengesh does some of her best work around nets.

In particular, the ones in the middle of volleyball courts and at the end of soccer fields.

Hengesh, a senior, is one of the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park's top two-sport athletes. For seven months of the year, she's a highly respected stopper for the Wildcats' varsity squad as well as various summer travel teams.

From November through March, she's a middle hitter for the Plymouth volleyball team, which soared last year but has settled in at around .500 this season.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER around .500 this sea



By the time she graduates in June, Hengesh will have compiled six varsity letters in the two sports — four in soccer and two in volleyball. "I've been playing soc-

leyball, so that's probably my favorite of the two," she said. "I started playing volleyball in seventh grade, but I didn't start learning a lot about the sport until my freshman year here when I started going to camps at Madonna and Michigan State.

"The thing I like the best about volleyball is that it's really intense. Even the smallest mistake can give the other team a point."

STEPPING RIGHT IN

Hengesh's introduction to big-time high school varsity volleyball came last January when she earned a start against one of the best teams in the state.

"Jeanine Moise, our top hitter, was injured, so I got to start against Livonia Churchill, which had a very good team," she said. "We ended up losing, but we took them to four or five games." Despite her inexperience. Hangeeb hung

Despite her inexperience, Hengesh hung tough with the Chargers' two dynamic front-row players: Lauren Krupsky and Kyndra Abron. "We lost four or five seniors off last year's

team, so we're very young this year," she said.

PLEASE SEE HENGESH, B4



B2 (CP) Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, February 11, 2007

LOCAL SPORTS

remaining cut the Wildcats' deficit to 43-39. Fourteen seconds later, Plymouth junior guard Chris Daniels' drive through the lane made it 43-41. Following a missed Western free throw, Plymouth grabbed the rebound, advanced the ball down court and put it in the hands of

Roberts, who started in the corner, drove to within 12 feet of the basket, drew contact, then swished a hanging floater. He then drained the free throw to make it 44-43.

The Warriors dribbled past half court before calling a timeout with 7.8 ticks left. They then gave the ball to guard Darryl Warthen, who dribbled the clock down to 00.2 before calling another TO.

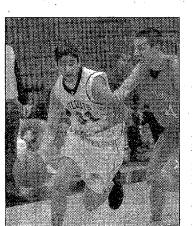
When play resumed, the Warriors' sideline inbounds pass bounced high off the rim and the buzzer sounded after it was touched by a player.

Daniels, whose playing time was slim prior to this week, had a huge game for the Wildcats, contributing a game-high 12 points with six rebounds, three assists and two steals. Roberts finished with 11 points and six boards; junior center Jake Hager added nine points and seven caroms, while Navraj Sandhu chipped in with eight points and six rebounds.

"Chris started for the first time all season (Thursday night against Northville) and he didn't do a whole lot," said Plymouth coach Tom Van Wagoner. "But tonight he brought it and laid it all out there for us. He really got it done at both ends of the court."

Van Wagoner said he and cocoach Jason Maschke wanted Roberts to take the clutch shots down the stretch.

"Brandon's been known to make a big shot or two for us in the past," said Van Wagoner. "On the game-winner, he made a



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Plymouth's Navraj Sandhu (31), pictured above in a game earlier this season, scored eight points in the Wildcats' 44-43 victory over Walled Lake Western Friday night.

good step-through move, sold the fake and finished it."

Junior guard Ricky Arlen led Western with 10 points. Armstrong and Tony Morgan both twined eight.

The Warriors surged to a 9-0 lead during the game's opening four minutes. They extended their advantage to 16-4 at the end of the first quarter.

Led by Hager, Roberts and Sandhu, the Wildcats roared back in the second quarter and trailed just 21-19 at the half. Plymouth's first lead of the night came 50 seconds into the third quarter when Daniels' fast-break layup put the Wildcats up, 22-21.

Seniors Nick Boyd and Wes Shelton, who were honored during a pre-game ceremony before the game along with fellow senior Kulraj Sandhu, received rare starts. Shelton scored a pair of key baskets late in the third quarter and early in the fourth to help the Wildcats maintain a slim lead.

Kulraj Sandhu did not play due to illness. Plymouth connected on 7-of-12

free throws. Western canned 7of-10 shots from the line.

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Canton cagers hold on to edge Zebras

BY ED WRIGHT STAFF WRITER

Several Canton basketball players were feeling under the weather prior to Friday night's game at Wayne Memorial.

But it was the Zebras who were ill following the game – a 50-46 Chief victory.

The win was a pivotal one for Canton (9-5 overall and 6-1 in the WLAA's Western Division), which remained just one game behind unbeaten Northville in the battle for the division title. The two teams meet next Friday in the conference regular-season finale.

"I was concerned going into tonight's game because Steve (Paye) was out, and Neal Sharma and Ryan Langdon were feeling sick," said Canton coach Charlie Paye. "Neal left practice yesterday, but both he and Ryan fought threw their sickness and gave us some great minutes.

"Eric Thornton, Ryan Waidmann, Josh Butler and Caleb Larner all played well tonight, too."

Waidmann led the Chiefs with 14 points and six rebounds.

He was also 8-of-9 from the free-throw line. Thornton finished with 11 points nine coming on three threes — and five blocks, while Sharma contributed seven points and seven rebounds. Langdon added six points and Larner chipped in with four.

The Zebras were paced by Jeremy Lovelady's 14. Mike Lee, Wayne's leading scorer

heading into he contest, was held to 11 by Butler. "We only had 10 turnovers, which helped," said Paye. "That's been the key to our turnaround this year — we're taking care of the ball better and we're shooting better than we were earlier in the season."

Canton led 15-11 after one quarter and 26-19 at the half, however, the hosts stormed back to nab a 35-33 lead with eight minutes to play.

Canton sank 12-of-13 free throws. W.L. CENTRAL 53, SALEM 44:

W.L. CENTRAL 55, SALEM 44: One quarter of solid basketball wasn't enough for Salem Friday night in its crucial Western Lakes Activities Association Lakes Division contest at Walled Lake Central.

The Rocks surged to a 20-9 lead after one quarter, but ended up falling to the resurgent Vikings. Salem dropped to 8-7 overall and 5-3 in the Lakes while Central improved to 4-3 in the division.

Westland John Glenn clinched first place in the division thanks to Friday night's victory over Walled Lake Northern.

Salem trailed 28-27 at the half and 40-37 with eight minutes to play. "We came out of the blocks fast and focused," said Salem

coach Bob Brodie. "We didn't play real well Thursday night, so we wanted to make sure we were prepared better tonight. The kids did a nice job in the first quarter, but we just couldn't sustain it.

"They trapped us harder in the second quarter and we threw the ball away a few times. On the defensive end, we committed too many fouls."

Grant Stone, Brian Baumgart and J.P. Truesdell paced the Rocks with eight points. Eric Peterson and Matt Guldan led the winners with 13 points each.

The Rocks struggled from the free-throw line, sinking just 9-of-21 attempts. Central, on the other hand, was red hot, making 16-of-22 charity tosses.

CANTON AGAPE 69, FRANKLIN RD. 46: On Friday, the Wolverines raced to a 13-6 first-quarter lead and never looked back as they improved their record to 10-3 overall and 5-0 in the Michigan Independent Athletic Conference's Red Division.

Jack Anleitner paced the winners' balanced attack with 19 points and six assists. Also excelling for Agape were Terrell Pierce (17 points and 13 rebounds) and Ty Majeski (13 points).

Josh Mansfield led Franklin Road with 12 points.

"The key to the win was that we had more balance and depth for them," said Agape coach Keith Anleitner. "We mixed up our defenses and kept them out of their rhythm."

SALEM 33, W.L. NORTHERN 30: The Rocks improved to 8-6 overall and 5-2 in the WLAA's Lakes Division in a game made up from Tuesday night's weather-delayed contest. The Knights slipped to 4-10 and 1-6, respectively.

"We played well defensively tonight," said Salem coach Bob Brodie. "We did a lot of trapping in the second half and we did a good job on their best player, Ryan Bahnmiller.

"Offensively, it was like there was a lid on the basket for both teams." The Rocks' leading scorer

was reserve guard Mike

Marek, who netted 10 points, six coming from a pair of threes. Dan Cassidy chipped in with five points.

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"Our bench did a great job," Brodie said. "Marek really gave us a spark and Tyler Jeleniewski did a nice job taking care of the ball when he was in there."

Northern led 11-8 after one quarter and 18-16 at the break. The Rocks took a 23-21 advantage into the final eight minutes.

Steve Knurick led the Knights with eight points. Bahnmiller was held to a season-low six.

Salem drained 6-of-10 free throws. Northern was 5-of-11 from the charity stripe.

NORTHVILLE 68, PLYMOUTH 45: On Thursday in Northville, the Mustangs led from wireto-wire to improve their record to 13-1 overall and 7-0 in the WLAA's Western Division. The Wildcats slipped to 4-10 and 1-6, respectively.

Brandon Roberts paced Plymouth with 15 points. Navraj Sandhu also played well, chipping in with 13.

Alvin Storrs sparked the winners with 33 points.

"Storrs did pretty much whatever he wanted to do tonight, especially in the first half when he had 20," said Plymouth coach Tom Van Wagoner.

Northville led 18-11 after one quarter, 38-26 at the half and 53-26 with eight minutes to play. The Wildcats went scoreless in the third quarter. The Mustangs outrebounded the Wildcats, 25-15.

Plymouth made just 1-of-7 free throws while Northville went 12-of-15 from the stripe. Northville drained six triples.

Western blocks Chief spikers in 3 games

Plagued by an uncharacteristically high number of errors, the Canton volleyball team dropped a Western Lakes Activities Association Western Division match to Walled Lake Western Wednesday night, 25-22, 25-18 and 25-22.

serving errors throughout the match," said Canton coach Jen Barnes. "We just can't afford to make as many errors as we are against strong teams.

"We did put up a great fight at the end of the third game we had a rally of four points sion all of the time.

Topping the Chiefs' statistical ledger were Marie Martin (six kills and five blocks), Jordan Kielty (six kills and eight digs), Ellie Kenny (six kills) and Kacy Moran (23 assists and 15 digs).



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The setback dropped the Chiefs' division record to 3-4. "We started out well, but continued to make too many when Western had game point — and we made some great plays. We just need to find a way to play with that aggresCanton returns to action Monday when it hosts Wayne Memorial in a 7 p.m. match in the Phase III gymnasium.





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LOCAL SPORTS

WALT DMOCH

-B3 (CP)

Plymouth goaltender lauded

Plymouth Whalers goaltender Michal Neuvirth has been named the Ontario Hockey League's "Goaltender of the Month" for January.

Neuvirth posted a 1.29 goals-against average and a 0.960 save percentage in nine games for the Whalers. Neuvirth went 7-1-0-0 and posted three shutouts during the month.

Neuvirth had two of the shutouts in back-to-back games. The first was a 5-0 victory over the Owen Sound Attack on New Year's Day and the second was a 3-0 win in



Plymouth Whalers goalie Michal Neuvirth was named the Ontario Hockey League's "Goaltender of the Month" for January. The net-minder has been a key cog in the team's surge to first place in the OHL's Western Division.

London over the Knights on Jan. 5.

Neuvirth's shutout streak reached 164:18 and was the second longest in Whalers history behind Rob Zepp's 182:13 streak from Jan. 21-29, 2000. Neuvirth's final shutout of

the month was on Jan. 27,

when he made 42 saves to blank Sault Ste. Marie 6-0 and was named first star of the game.

The native of the Czech Republic currently leads the OHL with an 0.930 save percentage and is second in the league with four shutouts.

Olympic legend Gardner inspires Canton wrestlers

BY ED WRIGHT STAFF WRITER

Canton's wrestling team received a boost of inspiration from a wrestling legend prior to Thursday night's Western Lakes Activities Association cross-over match against visiting Livonia Churchill.

Olympic gold medal-winning heavyweight Rulon Gardner, now a motivational speaker and author, pumped up the Chiefs with a rousing speech a short time before the match. Canton then went out on "Senior Night" and rolled over the Chargers, 47-15, to improve to 24-3 overall and 5-1 in the WLAA.

Gardner won a gold medal at the 2000 Olympic Games when he beat previously unbeaten Russian Aleksandr Karelin, 1-0, in what is considered the "Miracle on the Mat." In 2004, he captured a bronze medal not long after having

PREP WRESTLING

one of his toes amputated following a snowmobile accident. "Rulon was in the state to

make another speech this morning and he was gracious enough to come over and talk to the team," said Canton coach Casey Randolph. "We didn't tell the team he was coming, so it was a nice surprise for them. He talked about overcoming obstacles in wrestling and in life, and about pushing through adversity. He's a great motivator."

Randolph was especially pleased with the performances of 130-pound sophomore Josh Hurst and 145-pound senior Jo Sanders.

"Josh was losing, 4-3, going into the third period, but he got a reversal in the last 20 seconds to pull out the win," Randolph said of Hurst. "He's been working his tail off, so it

SWIM RESULTS

was nice to see him get a win in front of the home crowd. "Jo was tied at 1-1 in over-

time and he got a takedown. It was a great win for him, especially since it came on 'Senior Night."

Canton seniors Corey Phillips and Donnie Laramie recorded their 194th and 110th career victories, respectively. CANTON 47 LIVONIA CHURCHILL 15 Thursday at Canton

140 pounds: Corey Phillips (C) pinned Josh Gustitus in 1:04; 145: Jo Sanders (C) decisioned Dan Small, 3-1, in overtime; 152: Kiel Price (C) dec. Allan Fransten, 7-2; 160: Brian Ziemba (LC) dec. Brian Brubaker, 9-3; 171: J.J. Vandenvosche (LC) pinned Adam Powers in 1:57; 189: Dan Wanshon (C) won by major decision, 12-4, over Curtis Castlebury; 215: Jon Webster (C) dec. John Shekell, 4-0; 285: Donnie Laramie (C) pinned Mark Parrash in 44 seconds; 103: Donnie Watkins (C) pinned Brian Bashaw in 46 seconds; 112: Carl Lucke (C) dec. Matt Hecksel, 4-2; 119: Andrew Murray (LC) pinned Adam Fleishmann in 5:35; 125: Steve Cox (C) pinned Tim Hecksel in 2:55: 130: Josh Hurst (C) dec. Adam Rowe, 5-4; 135: Brent Winekoff (C) won by major decision, 11-2, over J.P. Gaffke.

Whalers double up Attack, 6-3

The Plymouth Whalers led from start to finish with six different goal scorers in a 6-3 victory over the Owen Sound Attack in an Ontario Hockey League game played Friday night at the Compuware Sports Arena.

Dan Collins (21st), Tom Sestito (team-leading 32nd), James Neal (26th), Chris Terry (13th) Sean O'Connor (15th) and Jared Boll (21st) all scored for the winners, who improved to 36-13-1-2. Trevor Lewis, Marcus Carroll and Howie Martin scored for Owen Sound, which fell to 24-24-3-

The Whalers remain 11 points ahead of second-place Saginaw (31-19-0-2) in the OHL's Western Division.

Plymouth led 3-1 after one period and 5-2 after forty minutes.

Collins' goal got things rolling 45 seconds into the contest. It followed a heavy hit by Neal on an Owen Sound defender at the right wing. Owen Sound outshot

Plymouth, 39-33. Whalers goalie Michal Neuvirth raised his record to 21-7-1-1. The Whalers travel to

Windsor on Sunday to take on the Spitfires. The opening faceoff is set for 7:05 p.m.

LaJoie's two goals lead Chief icers to win

need to stay out of the box

because it's hurting our team."

CHURCHILL 6, SALEM 4: State-

ranked Livonia Churchill (15-2,

6-0) stormed back from an early

beat the Rocks (7-10-2, 2-3-1) in

a WLAA-Lakes Division game at

Salem's bus arrived an hour

because of time constraints, the

minute periods with no intermis

game was reduced to three 13-

late for the 6 p.m. start and

Edgar Arena.

third period deficit Wednesday to

period.

Alex LaJoie had a pair of goals Friday, including the game-winner at 7:18 of the final period, along with an assist as Canton downed host Livonia Franklin (3-16, 1-5), 4-2, in a WLAA-Western Division game played at Edgar Arena.

Anthony Bonnet and Brad Barath added goals for the Chiefs, who scored three times in `the final period.

Zane Birchler made 25 saves for Canton, while Austin Mesler had 12 for Franklin.

Devon Bower scored both goals for the Patriots, including a goal with 43 seconds left in the opening period from Ben Kubiak and Rvan Hudie to make it 1-1. Bower's goal at 5:47 of the final period from Jordan Chisholm made it 2-all. Franklin took a total of 15 penalties, including 11 in the final

goal at 5:13 of the final period "Canton played a good game, tied the game at 4-all. Steve they played consistently and Greco then scored the game-winstayed out of the (penalty) box," ner at 7:34 from Kyle Burke and Franklin coach Terry Jobbitt said. Kody Strong. Dustin Wischmeyer scored "Our guys have got to realize they

twice for Churchill, including an empty netter with just 13 seconds remaining to seal the win. Tony Ross and Burke also notched goals in the win.

"I think the late start helped their (Salem's) guys and hindered us," Churchill coach Pete Mazzoni said. "But we showed a lot of resolve and did not panic. We stuck together when we were down two goals early in the third period."

Churchill outshot the Rocks

W.L. CENTRAL 77 Thursday at Salem Miceli, Mike Wilson, Brad Nedrow, Sean Chen, Cameron Dunn, Jason Williams),

(S), 2:08.15. **200 IM:** 1. David Olson (S), 2:15.26; 2. Stan Chen (S), 2:17.50; 3. Brad Nedrow (WLC),

Riley (WLC), 24.77; 3. Jason Williams (S),

points; 2. Kevin Smith (S), 148.25; 3. Joe Nodge (WLC), 126.95. 100 butterfly: 1. Nick Leone (S), 57.52; 2.

1:02.83. 100 freestyle: 1. Jon Babb (S), 53.42; 2.

500 freestyle: 1. Stan Chen (S), 5:32.03; 2. Tory Tederington (WLC), 5:37.30; 3. Mike Wilson (WLC), 5:37.70.

Plymouth's Mike Conger won the 500-yard freestyle event at Thursday night's duel meet against WLAA-leading Northville. The Wildcats lost the meet, 133-53. Details of the contest were not available as of Friday night's deadline. 1:01.58; 2. Ryan Miceli (WLC), 1:04.58; 3.

Matt Jannette (WLC), 1:09.46. 100 breaststroke: 1. Mike Wilson (WLC), 1:10.69; 2. Nathan Spala (S), 1:10.82; 3. David Olson (S), 1:13.29 400 freestyle relay: 1. Salem (Nick Leone.

Jon Babb. Matt Underhill, Stan Chen), 3:32.51; 2. W.L. Central (Brad Nedrow, Matt Jannette, Ben Baumgarten, Sean Riley), 3:46.53; 3. Salem (Nick Hoffmeyer, Joe De Tassanyi, Jimmy Crabill, Doug Fransioli), 4:03.32.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

200 freestyle: 1. Nick Leone (S), 1:51.74; 2. Matt Underhill (S), 1:58.92; 3. Doug Fransioli

2:17.53.

Jason Williams, Jon Babb, Nick Leone), 1:36.59; 2. W.L. Central (Matt Jannette, Ben Baumgarten, Mike Wilson, Rvan Miceli) 1:44.36: 3. Salem (Casev Olson, Joe De Tassanyi, Kevin Smith, Jimmy Crabill), 1:46.49

SALEM 106 200-yard medley relay: 1. W.L. Central (Ryan Riley), 1:51.01; 2. Salem (Matt Underhill, Stan 1:51.14; 3. Salem (Jimmy Crabill, David Olson, Casey Olson, Nathan Spala), 1:56.72.

50 freestyle: 1. Jon Babb (S), 24.22; 2. Sean

25.03 1-meter diving: 1. Matt Funni (WLC), 153.35

Brad Nedrow (WLC), 3. Ryan Miceli (WLC),

200 freestyle relay: 1. Salem (David Olson

Silver lining in defeat

100 backstroke: 1. Matt Underhill (S),

Sean Riley (WLC), 53.54; 3. Ben Baumgarten

BOYS BASKETBALL Monday, Feb. 12 PCA at Southfield Christian, 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 13 Canton at Livonia Franklin, 7 p.m. Plymouth at Wayne Memorial, 7 p.m. Huron Valley at Canton Agape at Garden City United Christian, 7 p.m. Westland John Glenn at Salem, 7 p.m. Friday, Feb. 16 Northville at Canton, 7 p.m. Plymouth at Livonia Franklin, 7 p.m. PCA at Inter-City Baptist, 7:30 p.m. Salem at Livonia Churchill, 7 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 17 Light & Life at Canton Agape at Calvary Christian, 7:15 p.m PREP VOLLEYBALL Monday, Feb. 12 Wayne Memorial at Canton, 7 p.m. W.L. Western at Plymouth, 7 p.m. Southfield Christian at PCA, 7 p.m

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12:00, 2:25, 7:20 STOMP THE VARD (PG-13) NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM (PG) (11:15) 1:35, 4:00, 6:30, 0:00

COUPON

DRINK

RI/SAT LS 11:20

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sion. The Rocks built a 4-2 lead on goals by Nate Werda, who scored twice, along with Joel Cheesman and Steve Heisler. Garrett Miencier's unassisted

THE WEEK AHEAD

30-15, as Aaron Crouse and Scott Lewan split the goaltending duties for the Chargers. Ralph Aspenwall went all the way in goal for Salem.

Friday, Feb. 16

PREP WRESTLING

at Salem, 5 p.m.

Saturday, Feb. 17

Canton, Plymouth and Salem at Div. 1 Individual District at Saline, TBA

Saturday, Feb. 10 **WLAA Conference Meet**

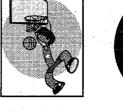
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GIRLS GYMNASTICS

Tuesday, Feb. 13 Quad meet at Canton, 7 p.m.

Thursday, Feb. 15

Salem at Walled Lake, 7 p.m.



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(1/4 mile East of Sheldon Rd.)

Leagues Available: Minor League 7-10 Major League 11-12 Junior League 13-14

League is open to all Plymouth Canton residents Proof of residency and birth certificate to register

Salem at W.L. Central, 7 p.m Tuesday, Feb. 13 Canton Agape at Lutheran South, 5 p.m Livonia Franklin at Plymouth at Compuware Sports Arena, 7 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 14 Canton at Livonia Franklin, 7 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 14 Plymouth at Wayne Memorial, 7 p.m. Canton, Plymouth and Saler Westland John Glenn at Salem, 7 p.m. at Div. 1 Team District

Thursday, Feb. 15 Washtenaw Christian at Canton Agapa at Calvary Christian, 7:30 p.m. Inter-City Baptist at PCA, 7 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 17 Canton at Ladywood Invite, 9 a.m. PREP HOCKEY Tuesday, Feb. 13 Canton at Plymouth, at Compuware Sports Arena, 8 p.m.

Wednesday, Feb. 14 Brighton at Plymouth, 7 p.m.

1309 Penniman Ave. • Plymouth

1:00 pm to 5:00 pm

www.cantonlittleleague.net or info@cantonlittleleague.net

Ann Arbor at PCS Penguins at Arctic Edge Ice Arena, 6:30 p.m W.L. Central at Salem at Plymouth Cultural Center, 7:30 p.m.

HENGESH

(CP)

84

FROM PAGE B1 "It's a great group of girls though.

CLOSE CALL

With one false step on the night of Jan. 17, Hengesh's short-term athletic future took a threatening turn for the worse.

Early in the Wildcats' match against Canton, Hengesh soared high for a kill, but she landed awkwardly and felt a sickening pain in her knee. Moments after she was carried off the court, the senior captain heard the words every athlete dreads.

"My knee swelled up right away, so our trainer thought it might be a meniscus injury," Hengesh remembered. "Thankfully, it was just a strain and I only missed two or three matches. At the time, I was thinking about college and whether or not I'd still be able to play soccer.

"It was tough sitting on the bench and watching while I was out. During the time I had to sit out, it made me appreciate how much I enjoyed competing in sports."

DEFENSIVE SPECIALIST

Hengesh has been the starting stopper for the Wildcats' girls soccer team since her freshman year and her talents on the pitch have earned her an athletic scholarship to Olivet Nazerene University, an NAIA college located in Bourbannais, Ill. She also received interest from a couple Michigan colleges who wanted her to play volleyball at the next level, but soccer won out.

"Except for when I'm playing volleyball, I play soccer pretty much year-round," said Hengesh. "When I was on the varsity soccer team my freshman year it was nice because there was only a sophomore

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Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, February 11, 2007

ED HENGESH

Brittany Hengesh has been a starter for the Plymouth soccer team since her freshman season. She has earned an athletic scholarship at Olivet Nazerene University in Bourbannis, 111.

class ahead of me, so most of us were at the same level.

"Things are looking promising for us this season. We have a lot of talented players back and we have a couple transfers from (Livonia) Ladywood."

Hengesh's academic skills are on a par with her athletic attributes. A 3.4 student, she plans on eventually pursuing a career in athletic training. "I think it would be cool to work as a trainer at a high school," she said.

ANOTHER HENGESH

While the Plymouth athletics program will take a hit when Hengesh graduates this summer, it will be replenished in the fall when Brittany's younger sister, McKenzie, will start her freshman year at the high school.

"She plays volleyball and soccer like me, and she's pretty good, too," the elder Hengesh said. "It will be fun coming back and watching her play."

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MAKE US YOUR

OFF! We will make your night!

PENGUINS

FROM PAGE BI

lunch together. We get together a lot during the off-season and have fun, too."

CLOSE-KNIT CREW

The team has used activities like pasta parties, sleepovers and charitable fund-raisers to overcome the three-school obstacle that may cause disharmony on less-stable squads.

"I think that coming from three different schools actually makes us pull together and unite more than some other teams," said junior captain Amy Coleman. "We've had our rough times like all teams do, but we've

Mink, who was an assistant for last year's head coach, Lori Callahan, said the Penguins' success is the result of a combination of factors, including solid team chemistry and flat-out talent.

"We have really good team speed," said Mink. "I think it would be hard to find a team in skaters as we do. We move the egos on this team."

Mink said an early-season 5-5 tie against Ladywood helped propel the Penguins in the right direction.

We were down 3-0 early in the game, but the girls didn't quit," he said. "They fought back, got the point and gained a lot of confidence from that because



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Members of the Plymouth-Canton-Salem Penguins warm up at the Arctic Edge Ice Arena prior to Monday's practice.

she's just a sophomore. The

Songer, a former travel player

who is a savvy passer and slick

The team's league-leading

ly half of its opponents, is

Kowalski, who recorded 10

"Kristie is awesome," said

makes some of the saves she

need them the most. I don't

Coleman. "I don't know how she

does. She pulls some of them out

know where we'd be without her."

at the very last second when we

shutouts last season.

defense, which has shut out near-

anchored by junior goalie Kristie

puck-handler.

team's offense has also received a

boost from first-year player Nikki

QUESTIONABLE FUTURE

While the Penguins' present is as shiny as a just-Zambonied ice surface, a storm cloud hangs over their future. In April, the MMHSGHL coaches will meet and vote on whether the team has to split up into two or three squads. past two seasons despite the fact

"Every two years the league's coaches meet and discuss what to do with some of the unified teams," said Mink. "There seems to be some animosity towards us because we're unified and we're successful. The Walled Lakes are unified, but they're not doing as

well, so there's no talk about splitting them up. My gut feeling is that eventually we're going to have to split up into two or three teams, but it's going to be hard because we don't cut players now and we only had 22 girls come out this year."

Matusiak said the Penguins are aware of the controversy, but try to focus on their task at have - winning games.

"We try to stay positive and we don't talk a lot about them splitting us up next year, but I know everybody thinks about it," she said. "It's pretty sad that the rest. of the league can't handle us. It's not like we're cutting players.

Yes, we've been successful, but we have some amazing skaters and some not-so-amazing skaters. It's not like we have all All-Stars."

"We barely have enough players for one team, so I don't know how they could split us up," added Coleman. "But if it does happen, it would be great if we could win the championship in our last year together."

That would be an accomplishment even the Mighty Ducks would stand up and cheer.

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rest PRESENTS financial WORK EVE





everybody considered Ladywood as the team to beat back then." Offensively, the Penguins are pulled together really well." paced by the No. 1 line of Katie Zimmerman, Adrienne Cercone and Matusiak. The slick-skating Zimmerman has led the team in scoring the

our league that has as many good puck well, too. There are no huge

TIE THAT BINDS



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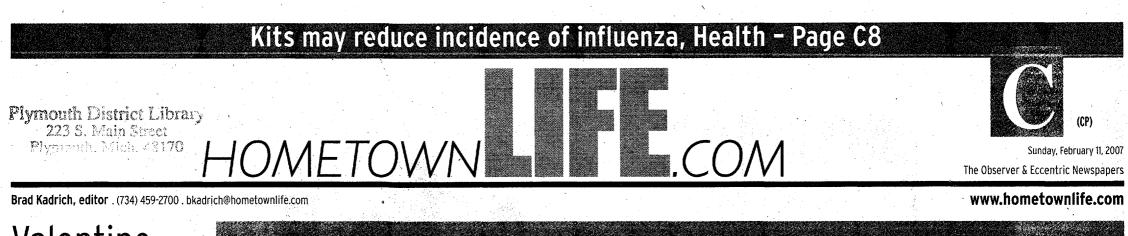
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Valentine dinner not a diet-killer

f you plan to share a romantic dinner for Valentine's Day with your sweetheart, you can do it without compromising your diet.

Almost all major restaurant chains have their menus online and many include nutritional information. CalorieKing.com and NutritionalData.com are great sources for nutritional information for individual foods and restaurants. Take a few minutes before you go out to use the Web to help you make a healthy choice ahead of time.

WHEN YOU GET THERE

■ Order salad dressings and other sauces on the side. This way, you have control over how much or how



 When ordering grilled fish or vegetables, ask that the food either be grilled without butter or oil, or prepared "light," with little oil or butter.
 When ordering pasta dishes, look

for tomato-based

Aubuchon

sauces rather than cream-based sauces. Tomato-based sauces are much lower in fat and calories. In addition, the tomato/marinara sauce can count as a vegetable!

Drink water, diet soda, or unsweetened tea or coffee instead of regular soda or alcoholic beverages. This will save a lot of calories each day.

■ Share a dessert with a friend. Half the dessert equals half the calories.

Share an appetizer. Same rule as above applies.

■ When having soup, keep in mind cream-based soups are higher in fat and calories than other soups. Soup serves as a great appetizer to a meal, or as an entree. Most soups are low in calories and will fill you up, so you eat less.

■ Order steamed vegetables as a side dish instead of starch.

2 Straight to the heart



PHOTOS BY LAWRENCE MCKEE | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Deborah Slobin (left) and her mother, Irene Slobin (center), help couples find true love through their business, Irene and Deborah's Old Fashioned Matchmaking Service. Client Andrea Caplan recommends the service to anyone who doesn't have time to search for love themselves.

Matchmakers help Cupid's arrows find their mark

BY SARA CALLENDER STAFF WRITER

Irene Slobin calls it intuition. Her daughter, Deborah Slobin, says it's magic.

Whatever the definition, the West Bloomfield residents have successfully set up hundreds of couples through their business, Irene & Deborah's Old Fashioned Matchmaking Service.

"Sometimes when you meet a person, you know who'll they match up with," Deborah said. "My mom is phenomenal at it. There's really no way to describe it, but it works. Basically, we love people."



■ Ask for salsa with a baked potato instead of sour cream, butter, cheese, or bacon. Salsa is low in calories and a healthy alternative with a lot of spice

lot of spice. ■ Stop eating when you are full listen to the cues your body gives you. ■ Order sandwiches with mustard

a Order sandwiches with mustard rather than mayonnaise or "special sauce." Mustard adds flavor with virtually no calories.

Take half of your meal home. The second half can serve as a second meal! (Two meals for the price of one: What a deal!)

■ If you want to eat less, order an appetizer and a salad, as your meal.

■ If you have a choice of side dishes, opt for baked potato or steamed vegetables rather than french fries. Even if choices are not listed, ask your server to substitute vegetables or a baked potato for french fries.

■ Look for items on the menu that are baked, grilled, dry-sautéed, broiled, poached, or steamed. These cooking techniques use less fat in the food preparation and are generally lower in calories.

■ Don't be afraid to ask for special low-calorie or low-fat preparation of a mean item. The restaurant industry is one of hospitality and customer choice. They aim to please.

Plain bread or yeast rolls are relatively low in fat and calories. It's the butter and oil you add that increases the fat and calories.

■ Choose entrees with fruits and vegetables as key ingredients. Enjoy the flavors they offer. Fruits and vegetables are a good source of dietary fiber as well as of many vitamins and minerals.

Choose foods made with whole grains.

ENJOY

Focus on the company and enjoy every bite. Food is wonderful and is meant to be enjoyed. Food is just food. It's how we use it that effects our weight and how we feel about food and weight. It's not the enemy. Learn to feel your hunger.

Listening to your body will help you eat whatever you want and not gain weight.

Linda Aubuchon is the owner of Diet Center of Canton, a provider of personalized weight loss solutions. She can be reached via e-mail at Linda@DietCenterofCanton.com or by phone at (734) 414-9200. The dating service is "old-fashioned" because the pair doesn't use computer programs to make matches. Instead, they field telephone calls then meet their clients in person for lunch or coffee.

"We want to know who you are first," Irene said. "We want to get to know the soul of the person." Clients are a microcosm of soci-

PLEASE SEE HEART, C3

West Bloomfield resident Andrea Caplan (center) gets advice from matchmakers Deborah and Irene Slobin.

'Sometimes when you meet a person, you know who'll they match up with. My mom is phenomenal at it. There's really no way to describe it, but it works. Basically, we love people.' Deborah Slobin

Indulge in favorite cookies of U.S. presidents at tea

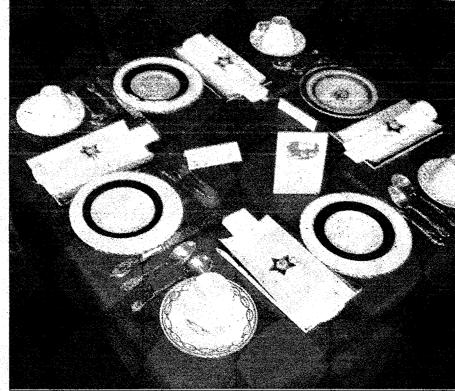
BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN STAFF WRITER

Did you know former President Jimmy Carter's favorite cookies were Pecan Squares or that George Washington often requested crab bisque during his years at the White House? Guests at a Presidential Tea will not only have the opportunity to taste these favorites, but take home a booklet with the recipes. The afternoon of delights takes place in the Alexander Blue House at Greenmead Historical Park 3-5 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 24.

Tickets are \$25 and sold only in advance. Proceeds go to restore and preserve Greenmead. Purchased by the city of Livonia in 1976, the historic site is home to 20 buildings in which early residents lived, shopped and attended church. It is divided into two sections – one reflecting the 1850s, the other the early 1920s. For tickets to the tea or more information, call (248) 477-7375.

The menu includes tea sandwiches, desserts, tea, and scones with either blueberries and cherries or cranberries in keeping with the red, white and blue theme.

"We're featuring presidential favorite cookies and compiled a variety of four to five different cook-



Guests will enjoy sitting at tables set with presidential china and a red, white and blue theme.

ies," said Linda Wiacek, recreation supervisor at Greenmead. "We have about 25 favorite recipes. We've been collecting them over the years. The Jimmy Carter Pecan Squares we love them so much we serve them at every tea. They were introduced as Pecan Diamonds by the White House pastry chef Harry Haller and became a favorite of the family."

Greenmead began presenting teas in the historical setting in 2004.

"Our teas are very popular," said Wiacek. "We're really kind of fussy. We use real china, silver and little fancy covered dishes on the table set with red and blue linens with white napkins. There's a good selection of presidential china at each table, and a presidential exhibit of photos, prints, posters.

"In keeping with the theme our speaker is Sandi Knollenberg, wife of U.S. Rep. Joe Knollenberg. She's been involved in first ladies' luncheons and will be able to talk about various White House experiences over the years."

As a thank you for coming to the tea, guests will be given the booklet with favorite recipes and fun facts about U.S. presidents.

"We have recipes for Chewy Macaroons from Lyndon Johnson; McKinley, who purchased the Alaskan territories, we have his Ice Box Cookies. The Lincoln cookies are not real pretty looking but oh, my gosh, they're delicious."

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AROUND TOWN

Princess ball

C2

The Northville Parks and Recreation Department hosts the Princess Ball 3-5 p.m. or 6-8 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 24, for girls ages 3 and older and their dads. The event takes place at the Recreation Center at Hillside, 700 W. Baseline in Northville. Register by going to the parks and recreation office, 700 W. Baseline. Cost is \$10, and each little princess gets a gift bag, cookies and crafts. For more information, call Cheryl Mudd, (248) 349-0203, Ext. 1411.

Bocce for bucks

Visiting Nurse Association of Southeast Michigan's signature fund-raising event, Bocce for Bucks III, sponsored by Complete Infusion Services, offers patrons an opportunity to receive professional instruction on the sport from World Cup Bocce players. The event takes place 2-6 p.m. Sunday, April

22, at the Palazzo di Bocce in Orion Township. Bocce for Bucks III features an afternoon of indoor bocce ball tournament play, ideal for families and people of all ages, an Italian buffet, silent

auction and much more. No prior experience or equipment needed. Dress is casual and prizes will be awarded to the top teams. New this year is a private benefactor reception to be held 6 p.m. Sunday, March 25, at Park West Gallery in Southfield. Funds raised will help provide an innovative, life-saving system - VNA's TeleHomecare program, used by VNA to educate and empower patients by checking their health between home visits. Tickets are available with the following benefits: \$100 Guest ticket · Receives bocce play, Italian buffet dinner, beer,wine, desserts, silent auction and exit gift; \$150 Patron ticket - Receives all of the above plus expert bocce instruction from World Cup Bocce Players one-hour prior to event start; and. \$200 Benefactor ticket - Receives all of the above plus invitation to Private Benefactor Reception. For sponsorship, advertising or ticket information for Bocce for Bucks III, call (248) 967-8324 or visit vna.org.

Indian culture

The 2007 Wayne State University's Indian Students Association Culture Show takes place 7 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 17 at the Ford Community and Performing Arts Center, 15801 Michigan Ave., in Dearborn. Tickets are \$10 and \$12 and may be obtained by emailing wsuisa@gmail.com with the number of tickets you would like. For more information, call Milind Gandhi (586) 438-0528. Genealogical societies

■ The Western Wayne County Genealogical Society will be meeting earlier this month due to city schedule changes. The group meets from 6:30-9 p.m. Monday, Feb. 12, at Livonia's Civic Park Senior Center, 15218 Farmington. A two-hour workshop will feature a beginner's table, scanning, publishing family book and various ethnic research aides. Those with a brick wall query should e-mail in advance to

www.rootsweb.com/~miwwcgs putting February Workshop in the subject line. Visit the Web site for further information or call Margie at (734) 522-4050.

The Irish Genealogical Society of Michigan

presents a program titled "Using City Directories to Find Your Irish," Saturday, Feb. 17. Kathleen LaBudie-Szakall will show the importance of directories, how they can pinpoint when people came to an area, when they married and died, names of children and much more. LaBudie-Szakall is an Ontario resident and is very active in the Bruce/Grey Co. Branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society and in the Polish Genealogical Society. The meeting starts at 1:30 p.m. at the Gaelic League/Irish American Club in Detroit. The club is located at 2068 Michigan Ave. (four blocks west of Tiger Stadium). Fenced-in parking is available behind the building. The program is open to the public free of charge. For more information, call Michael Brautigan, (734) 454-3495.

Ewald scholarship

The H.T. Ewald Foundation is accepting applications for its 2007 scholarship program. Completed application must be postmarked by March 1, 2007. To be eligible one must be a graduating high school student living in Metro Detroit and entering college full-time in the fall. Scholarship recipients are chosen based on their overall scholarship record, leadership abilities. community work, character and financial need. To apply one must send in an official H.T. Ewald Foundation Scholarship application, three or more letters of recommendation, a photograph, a minimum of 500-word autobiography and a complete high school transcript. Scholarships are awarded yearly in early August. The scholarship awards range from \$500 to \$3,500 and the amount is based on the financial need of the recipient. The number of scholarships awarded varies every year. The scholarships are renewable for up to four years. For an application or more information, call the H.T. Ewald Foundation office at (313) 821-1278.

Climb Detroit

Registration has begun for the first Climb Detroit fund-raiser to benefit the American Lung Association of Michigan. The event, a stair climb up 70 flights at the Marriott Detroit at the Renaissance Center, Michigan's tallest building, takes place Sunday, Feb. 25. Registration is at 7:30 a.m.; the climb starts at 8:30 a.m. Climbers will be awarded by age group and fastest time. Pre-registration required by Feb. 20. Cost of the climb is \$35, with an additional fund-raising minimum of \$65 for the full climb and \$45 for the half-climb. To register, visit www.climbdetroit.org or call the ALAM office, (248) 784-2026.

Winter garage sale

Sts. Peter & Paul Romanian Orthodox Church Ladies Auxiliary hostst its seventh-annual Winter Garage Sale 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. (with a bag sale 3-4 p.m.) Saturday, Feb. 24 at Sts. Peter & Paul Banquet Hall, 750 N. Beech Daly (between Ford Rd. & Cherry Hill) in Dearborn Heights. For more information visit www.spproc.org

Egg-citing science

Crack Open "EGG-citing" Science at the Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum's March Sciencepalooza Saturday, March 3 and Sunday, March 4. For March's Sciencepalooza, visitors can "egg-splore" the many uses of the egg. Sciencepalooza is a special themed event held the first weekend of every month at the Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum. Sciencepalooza activi-

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

ty hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and noon-4 p.m. Sunday. The museum is open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Saturday and noon-5 p.m. Sunday. Call (734) 995-5439 for more information. **Waste to Watts**

The Ann Arbor Hands-on Museum has extended the Waste to Watts exhibition through summer of 2007 due to popular demand. Waste to Watts shows how new environmentally friendly technology can turn our trash into electricity. Developed by Landfill Energy Systems of Wixom, Michigan, this one-of-a-kind exhibit demonstrates how methane gas recovery from landfills can be used as an alternative energy source, ultimately reducing our dependency on other fuels. Hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Saturday, noon to 5 p.m. Sunday. For information, visit www.aahom.org or call (734) 995-5439.

VNA seeks volunteers

The Visiting Nurse Association of Southeast Michiganis hospice program needs compassionate volunteers to comfort and support patients' at the end of life in Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties. In as little as two-to-four hours per week, volunteers can provide companionship, write a memoir, provide respite for family members or provide office support. A free 15-hour comprehensive

training program is provided. The next training session is Feb. 17 and 24 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. All training takes place at the Visiting Nurse Association of Southeast Michigan headquarters at 25900 Greenfield Road, Suite 600. For more information or to register, call (800) 882-5720, Ext.

8361 or visit www.vna.org

Card party/luncheon

Victoria Chapter #290, OES, Livonia Masonic Temple hosts a card party/luncheon noon-3 p.m. the second Tuesday of each month. Admission is \$6; event features table prizes and door prizes. The temple is located at 27705 W. Seven Mile in Livonia. For more information, call (734) 459-6063.

Hospice training

Heartland Hospice is looking for caring and dedicated people with an interest in serving terminally ill patients and their families in Washtenaw, western Wayne, Monroe and Livingston counties. Volunteers provide a variety of services including companionship, light housekeeping, errand running, grief support and clerical services. For more information, contact volunteer coordinator Candice Jones, (888) 973-1145.

Literacy Council tutors

The Community Literacy Council (CLC) is looking for volunteer tutors in Western Wayne County to help adults improve their reading, writing and communication skills. The CLC will provide training to interested volunteers. Previous experience or a bachelor's degree is not required. The council will provide free training and materials, and then match you with an adult student in your area. Call (734) 416-4906 for more information. **Toastmasters meet**

Do you have a fear of public speaking? Do you need to do presentations at work and don't know where to start? Or are you terrified of the thought of standing in front of a group of people to present that report? If you answered "yes" to any of these questions, then Toastmasters is for you! Canton Communicators Club meets every Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. at the Canton Coney Island on Lilley, just south of Joy, in the Golden Gate Plaza. For additional information, contact Bonnie at (734) 646-2237.

Grief support

New Hope Center for Grief Support is a Christianbased bereavement outreach and resource center located in Northville. Age appropriate groups for widows and widowers are provided in various locations in southeastern Michigan including groups for young widows and widowers and their children between the ages of 4 through the teen years. Groups for parents who have lost a child, adults who have lost a parent, pet loss, and other specialized groups are offered at various times of the year. All services for adults and children are offered at no cost to the participants. If you are grieving or know someone who is, please call the office at (248) 348-0115 for further information about services provided by New Hope Center for Grief Support, or visit www.newhopecenter.net.*

CLUBS

Rotary A.M.

The Plymouth Rotary Club of Plymouth A.M. meets at 7 a.m. every Tuesday at the Plymouth Cultural Center, 525 Farmer. New members are always welcome. Contact Mark Hammar, president, Rotary Club of Plymouth A.M., by calling (734) 455-6620.

Canton Newcomers

The Canton Newcomers meet the first Wednesday of each month (September-May) for an adult evening of socializing, a speaker or an activity. Additionally, the group hosts more than 20 events during the month including Book Club, Bunko, Playgroups, Creative Kids, Ladies Day and Night Out, Scrapbooking, Walking and many more. Request a complimentary newsletter at cantonnewcomers.org or call Jennifer at (734) 981-1715. You don't have to be "new" to be a Newcomer!

Kiwanis Club

The Plymouth-Canton Kiwanis Club meets every Tuesday at 7:15 a.m. at the Plymouth Cultural Center on Farmer Street. The Club invites you to their morning meetings to discuss community projects and activities. Be part of the solution and not just a spectator. For more information, call (734) 981-0460 or see the Web site (www.pckiwanis.org).

Plymouth Newcomers

Plymouth Newcomers & Neighbors playgroups for children ages 0-5 meet several times during the week at member homes and occasional special events. Come meet new parents while your kids meet their own new friends! For details, contact Janet Keller at (734) 451-1840 or robertplusjanet@aol.com

Fibromyalgia/Chronic Fatigue

The Great Lakes Fibromyalgia and Chronic Fatigue Syndrome Association will meet 1-3 p.m. on the first Thursday of each month at Merriman Road Baptist Church on Merriman south of Ford. There will be a guest speaker at each meeting and a variety of topics will be covered. There is no membership fee but a small donation will be accepted. For information call Lucy Rowley 734-462-1768

www.hometownlife.com

MOPS meet

MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers) meets twice monthly from September-May, for moms and their children, newborn-kindergarten, at Lakepointe Bible Church in Plymouth. For more information, call Crystal Johnson, (734) 459-1861. **Mosaic**

MOSAIC is a group where Moms come together to be refreshed and equipped for the important task of mothering. It presents speakers on child and family issues, has small-group discussion time, crafts and brunch. Child care is provided. It meets at Plymouth Baptist Church, 42021 Ann Arbor Trail, on the first and third Tuesday mornings of each month, September to May. Contact Resha at (734) 207-0658 or resha@juno.com **Moms Club**

Moms Club of Livonia-S/Plymouth, Canton and Westland offers a variety of activities for stay-athome moms and their children. For more details, call Birthe at (734) 458-8143 or Kimberly at (248)

231-6120. DAR

The Sarah Ann Cochrane Chapter-Daughters of the American Revolution meets the third Monday of each month except January, July and August. A group with ancesters who fought in American Revolution. Members participate in community work involving veterans' hospitals, schools and community service. Call (734) 420-2775 for further information.

German/American Club of Plymouth Meets on the third Thursday of the month at the Knights of Columbus Hall, located at 39100 Schoolcraft Brad, Plymouth, Call Mary Ana at

Schoolcraft Road, Plymouth. Call Mary Ann at (734) 420-0857 for further information. American Legion

■ Beasley-Zalesny Post 112 meets at the 1.0.0,F. Hall on the third Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m. All veterans that served during any of the wars are eligible. Contact (734) 459-7324 for further information.

■ The Plymouth American Legion Passage-Gayde Post #391 conducts its monthly meeting the second Thursday of every month at 7:30 p.m. at the Plymouth Knights of Columbus Hall on Mill (next to the railroad tracks) in Plymouth Township. All interested military veterans should contact Commander Mike O'Malley, (734) 459-7890, for more information.

Women's Farm and Garden Club-Plymouth Meets every second Monday of each month

from September through June. Persons interested in joining may contact club president Linda Coughlin at (734) 459-7478. Plymouth-Canton Civitan Club

Looking for energetic new members to participate in community service projects. This club meets the first Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Plymouth Salvation Army Building on Main Street. The third Thursday is a dinner meeting with a speaker. Call (734) 981-7259 for further information.

Mothers & More

The Wayne County chapter of Mothers & More meets twice a month in Plymouth. Call (866) 841-9140, Ext. 4329, or visit Web site mothersandmore63@onebox.com.



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Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, February 11, 2007

(CP)

HEART FROM PAGE C1

ety - blue-collar workers, doctors, attorneys and models – ranging from their 20s to 80s.

They'll find matches for anyone, but there's one condition: Clients have to be looking for a committed relationship. A couple they helped recently may get engaged on Valentine's Day and the matchmakers are hoping the answer is yes.

"We're not about casual relationships," Deborah said. "You can go on the Internet for that. We want to help people who are looking for love. We want to eliminate those serial daters."

For the first year, the clients have Irene and Deborah's undying attention. They make suggestions for dates, take them shopping for new clothes, help them pick out birthday gifts and just lend an ear.

And since dating can be intimidating, they set up dinners and other social events to break the ice.

"Many of our clients just got divorced and haven't dated in a long time,' Deborah said. "We're kind of like their coaches. They become like family to us. The worst thing that can happen is they end up with some new friends."

Joe, a Farmington Hills oral surgeon (whose last name we're withholding) is one of those clients who'd recently been divorced and wasn't really looking to date. When he moved into an apartment, his name ended up on a list of new tenants, from which it was plucked by the Slobins.

Irene Slobin got Joe on the phone, and he couldn't get off.

"At the time, I was opening a new practice, I was really busy, I have two teenagers." said Joe, who has dental practices in Sterling Heights and Livonia. "I really wasn't looking to date, and I told her so. I didn't want to be rude, but I didn't want to waste her time.

Irene Slobin kept Joe on the phone, talking about himself, for about an hour. At the end of the conversation, she'd talked him into having dinner with her and Deborah.

"I thought, "what the heck,

them for dinner, and we just talked and they seemed very genuine."

Likewise, Kim (whose last name we're also withholding at her request), a Canton resident, found the Slobins to be genuine. Irene had left a message on Kim's mother's answering machine, and Kim's mom encouraged Kim to return the call.

Kim blew it off for a couple of months before making the call, then agreed to meet Irene and Deborah, whose service she found to be unique. Kim said the Slobins do what they say they're going to do, going so far as to baby-sit Kim's children so she could go on a date.

"They key thing is it's like nothing close to any other service out there," she said. people. I've never seen anything like it. Irene is like a Yenta or something.'

Matchmaking isn't new for Irene. She made her first match at age 13.

"My friend and I decided that my sister and her cousin looked good together, so we set them up," Irene said. "I got a brother-in-law and two beautiful nephews out of it." Since then, there have been about 400 marriages and

1,000 children born from her matches.

couples later divorced.

married was 85. And she recently attended the wedding of a client who got married for the first time at age 65.

"You can find love at any age," Deborah said. "Sometimes you need help

The help worked for Joe and Kim. After several dates that didn't click, the couple went out on one that did. Now, there may be wedding bells in the future.

"I'm pretty sure we both feel the same way, that we're compatible with each other, and we've fallen in love with each other," Joe said of their new love. "We'll probably get married. I'm not sure when, but I know I have no interest in dating someone else. It's working out great, and I'm very thankful."

3969 or (248) 747-2005.

"They're really genuine, good

Irene said only 10 of those

The oldest client to get

finding it.'

For more information, call (248) 538-

Ushers club expands pancake breakfasts

The Ushers Club of St. Michael the Archangel Parish in Livonia has long been a vibrant and dynamic part of community life in Livonia's first and oldest parish. Composed of about 60 men, the club has grown steadily over the years and sponsors a number of successful on-going projects that benefit the church and school including their All-You-Can-Eat Family Pancake Breakfast.

refills everyone's juice.

In honor of the parish's

75th anniversary celebration, the group decided to expand the pancake breakfast from four times per year to once a month on the third Sunday. They also opted to expand their menu into a full breakfast buffet featuring not only pancakes, but scrambled eggs, bacon, sausage, hash browns, juice, milk, coffee, and tea. They also extended their serving hours from 8:30 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. to accommodate even greater numbers of parishioners and

hungry passers-by.

According to current Usher's Club president, Jim Majk, the group is serving an average of nearly 400 breakfasts per month. The event is geared to families and offers reasonable pricing of \$5 per person, \$3 for children under age 12, and \$15 per family regardless of number or appetite size.

"This is such a great group of guys to work with," said Jim Majk. "The breakfast project started in the early

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1970's and has been overseen most of that time by our current chairman, Tom Boyer."

Boyer, Doug Wohlberg and Floyd Virant were instrumental in starting the breakfasts more than 30 years ago and continue to be active parish members today.

The breakfasts are open to all. Everyone is more than welcome to stop by St. Michael's School cafeteria on Hubbard, south of Plymouth. road on the third Sunday of each month.

Workshop offers advice on wedding planning

A Wedding Workshop has been designed so couples-to-be can enjoy a stress-free wedding by spending only 90 minutes now at a roundtable with planning experts.

The workshop, arranged like speed dating or musical chairs, begins at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 22, in the Meeting House Grand Ballroom, 499 S. Main, south of Ann Arbor Trail, Plymouth. The workshop is free to those who make reservations in advance by calling (734)

hors d'oeuvres and refreshments will be provided.

Seating is limited. For more information, visit www.mhgb.com.

"We are very excited about an entirely new concept in wedding planning called the wedding workshop. It is designed around the concept of speed dating only this interaction is between brides and grooms and wedding professionals," said Randy Lorenz. "Every 10 minutes brides and grooms will move from one expert to the next. Along the way, our experts will reveal pearls of

wisdom gained through years of experience in the wedding business."

The panel includes experts on photography, flower, D.J., videography, wedding cakes, reception facilities, honeymoon travel, bridal accessories, chair covers, and engraving.

The consultants not only offer tips on how to better plan and prepare for the wedding but also give advice on how to save money and reduce expenses.

As an added bonus, each couple will



Patrick Maher and sons Owen, 10, Emery, 8, Aaron, 6, and Ian 4, enjoy St. Michael's Ushers Club Family Pancake Breakfasts while mom, Julie (not pictured),

I don't have anything to lose," Joe recalled. "I met

scallender@home (248) 901-2577

¥16-5100. Tickets at the door will be \$10. Light

receive a free engagement onoto from Rawlinson Photography.

@ THE LIBRARY

Every week the Plymouth District Library staff provides the library's list of best-sellers based on the number of requests for titles by library patrons. The books are available by placing a request with the library at (734) 453-0750 or on-line at plymouthlibrary.org

FICTION

- 1. "Plum Lovin" Janet Evanovich
- 2. "For One More Day," Mitch Albom
- 3. "Cross," James Patterson
- 4. "The Hunters," W.E.B. Griffin 5. "The Castle in the Forest," Norman Mailer

NON-FICTION

- 1. "The Audacity of Hope," Barack Obama
- 2. "Palestine Peace Not Apartheid," Jimmy

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Carter 3. "The Innocent Man," John Grisham

4. "Marley & Me," John Grogan

5. "What a Party!" Terry McAuliffe with Steve Kettmann

PARENT'S CHOICE

NEW CHILDREN'S PICTURE BOOKS

1. "Pancakes for Supper," Anne Isaacs 2. "Something About Hensley's," Patricia

Polacco 3. "Tool Box Twins," Lola Schaefer

4. "When Owen's Mom Breathed Fire," Pija Lindenbaum

5. "Where's My Darling Daughter," Mij Kelly

You could be the winner of OS(AR (ONTEST Choose the winners, win prizes!

The nominees have been announced, and the fun begins. You don't have much time to view as many Oscar contenders as possible and then cast your predictions to us.

Those who choose the winners will be eligible to have their names entered in a random drawing for:

• GRAND PRIZE: "Season Pass for 2" to Emagine Theatres

EMAG/NE

• 2nd and 3rd PRIZES: 4 tickets to "Riverdance" at the Fox Theatre on March 16 at the Fox Theatre

Entry deadline is Friday, February 23.

The 79th Annual Academy Awards airs Sunday, February. 25. Enter online at:

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Or snall mail your entry to:

Enter 24/7 online @ hometownlife.com

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Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, February 11, 2007

Valentine tea, tic-tac-toe create memories

BY DONNA KENSKE

As a fifty something Grandmother there are so many times I wish my daughters were still small children.

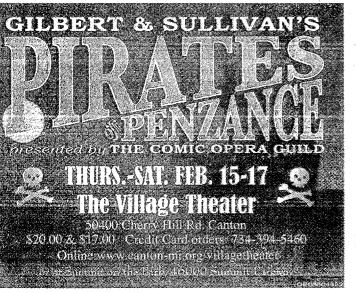
I was one of those crazy mothers who became thrilled when there was a snow day. After all, just think of all the projects we could do together as I was fortunate enough to be able to work from home when our daughters were small.

I watch my daughter Angela trying to juggle her time between being a wife, mother of three beautiful children -Anthony, 7, Emily, 6, and 4year-old Olivia Rose - and working at Oakwood Hospital as an ER ward secretary.

My grandchildren have been brought up with real tea parties consisting of hot tea, sandwiches and a sweet. We use the china tea set I bought for Emily's second birthday. This tradition has become one that I hope they will remember for many years to come.

You see, the inner child in me still wants to play. While I was looking through a Holiday magazine my eyes locked onto one page. There it was. The perfect project to do with the kids....an edible tic-tac-toe board! I quickly thought of the next holiday, Valentines Day perfect.

My mind swirled with ideas, how would I set the table, what to serve and of course the invitations, this was going to be such fun. Each child received his or her own invitation to the party including an R.S.V.P.





From left, Meghan Earles, 6, and Emily McGriff, 6, decorate cookies as part of the Valentine party held by Donna Kenske for her grandchildren and their friends.

Grandma; along with my phone number (it's never too early to learn the basics). I also included two neighbor children Meghan, 6, and Conner, 4, to add to the fun. With each response call I got more and more excited. This was going to be great!

I became giddy with anticipation of the upcoming party. Visions of sugar cookie tic-tactoe boards danced in my head. I found a small heart shaped cookie cutter and a small letter X cookie cutter, just the right size. I enlisted the help of my daughter Kimberly to make the cookies. Her decorated sugar cookies put Martha Stewart to shame

Thoughts of my grandson Anthony when he was only 3 years old kept coming into my mind. Whenever he came over and saw that I was working on a craft project without him he would say "Grandma, why didn't you call me? You know I love Arts and Craps!"

OK, back to the story.

The children arrived to see the wire pink and lavender hearts coming down in spirals from the ceiling fan. A pink tablecloth adorned the table with pink and lavender hearts on the paper plates, along with red napkins of course. They dined on heart shaped sandwiches, fresh vegetables (placed on clear plates with white heart shaped doilies), small red bowls at each place setting with ranch dip (to avoid double dipping) and a punch bowl with Hawaiian Punch, 7-Up, a few scoops of Sherbet and lots of red heart shaped ice cubes, made from the Hawaiian Punch, made the

perfect drink. For dessert heart shaped brownies and peppermint ice cream.

After lunch we cleared the table and I brought out the small cookies, red, white and pink royal icing that were in individual squeeze bottles and tiny little edible hearts and red jimmies. I demonstrated how to squeeze the icing onto the cookie and dip it into the red sprinkles.

That's all it took for them to eagerly start their decorating. I watched with amazement at the sharing, each one choosing different colors and styles. Some decorated the entire cookie while others chose to outline the cookie before dipping them.

Next I "glued" the large sugar cookie (6-inches x 6inches) to a red foiled cardboard, which would become the game board. Starting with the youngest child first, I made a single horizontal line onto the cookie and instructed them to place M & Ms onto the icing.

By the second line they begged to know what they were making, but I didn't cave in. Then I made two vertical lines in the center. "It's the letter H right? That's what we're making;" with a quick response of "an H only has one line in it." "I know, I know, it's a ladder, that's it right?" Suddenly it hit me. As I looked around the table I saw five fantastic young minds working independently and yet together trying to solve the mystery of our project. Sweet innocence. They are our future.

Maybe one day they may think back and remember all of the fun we had at that Valentine Luncheon in 2007. I know I will carry this memory forever.

Donna Kenske lives in Canton.

Bowling benefit to raise money for 3-day breast cancer walk

Mary Probelski of Livonia, will be holding a fund-raiser 2-5 p.m. Saturday, April 14, at Merri-Bowl Lanes, 30950 Five Mile, Livonia, to raise money for the Michigan Breast Cancer 3-Day

Probelski is joining thousands of other dedicated women and men for the Michigan Breast Cancer 3-Day 60-mile walk benefiting Susan G. Komen for the Cure and the National Philanthropic Trust Breast Cancer Fund. In order to participate, each walker must train for the event and commit to raising a minimum of \$2,200.

"Many walkers raise more than the minimum. In fact, event organizers report the

average amount raised is \$2,900," said Mary Probelski. "With this fund-raiser, I hope to exceed my fund-raising goal. I know with Komen for the Cure and the National Philanthropic Trust as beneficiaries, I'm helping to ensure funding is available for important research and community outreach programs."

www.hometownlife.com

Cost is \$20 and includes three games of bowling (9 pin/ No Tap), shoes, pizza, drinks and prizes. Guests can also participate in 50/50 and Men's and Women's High Game. For information, call (248) 933-9970.

Breast Cancer merchandise will also be sold by The Cancer Angel Network.

Seminars offer free career planning advice

Henry Ford Community College's University Transfer, Advising and Career Counseling Center will host free 50-minute seminars designed to address key issues for successful career planning.

The Career Planning Seminars will be held from 9:10 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. Monday, Feb. 19; 1:10 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 20; 10:10 a.m. and 4:10 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 21; and 9:40 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 22, in Room 121 of the Learning Resources Center on the main campus at 5101 Evergreen, Dearborn.

During the seminars, HFCC counselors will discuss strategies for developing a sound career path, including choosing a major, exploring duties and responsibilities related to specific careers, matching areas of personal interest and skills to existing careers, examining local and national employment trends as well as evaluating potential income and education requirements for specific career choices.

No advance reservation is required. The seminars are open to the public and HFCC students are encouraged to attend.

For more information, contact HFCC counselor Jerry Olszewski at (313) 845-9752 or send e-mail to jerry@hfcc.edu. For more information about HFCC, visit www.hfcc.edu or call (800) 585-HFCC (4322).



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PLYMOUTH-CANTON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS NOTICE TO BIDDERS

The Board of Education of the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools invites all interested and qualified companies to submit a Bid for Site-work at Pioneer Middle School along with Eriksson, Farrand, Fiegel, Hoben, and Hulsing Elementary Schools. Bidding documents prepared by TMP Associates, Inc. will be available for public inspection at the office of the Construction Manager, McCarthy & Smith Inc., 24317 Indoplex Circle, Farmington Hills, MI, 48335; FW Dodge Plan Room, Southfield; Construction Association of Michigan Plan Room, Bloomfield Hills; Daily Construction Reports Plan Room, Detroit; Builders Exchange, Grand Rapids; Construction News Service, Grandville; and Reed Construction Data, Novi, MI.

There will be a pre-bid meeting at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, February 13, 2007 at the Pioneer Middle School project trailer, located at 46081 Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth, MI 48170. The purpose of the meeting will be to review the bidding requirements, schedule, project scopes of work, and to answer any question that bidders may have. Bidders are strongly encouraged to attend.

Each bid shall be accompanied by a Bid Security in the amount of five (5) percent of the amount of the bid, payable to the Plymouth Canton Community Schools, as a guarantee that if the proposal is accepted, the bidder will execute the contract and file the required bonds within ten (10) days after notice of award of contract. Bid securities may be in the form of a Bid Bond or Certified Check.

Bids are to be submitted in a sealed envelope supplied by the Construction Manager, McCarthy & Smith Inc. with the corresponding bid division identified on the outside of the envelope. All submissions should include 1 original and 1 copy and the Proposal Execution Form provides a space for the bidder to disclose any familial relationship as required by the State of Michigan and this form must be signed and notarized in order for the bid to be accepted. Bids are due to the PCCS E.J McClendon Educational Center on or before 1:00 p.m., Wednesday, February 28, 2007 where they will be opened and read publicly. These projects are to be bid and the work performed at the Prevailing Wage Rates. For additional information, phone Dan Phillips, Assistant Director of Finance & Purchasing at (734) 416-2746. The Board of Education reserves the right to accept and/or reject all bids, as they judge to be in the best interest of the school district.

> Board of Education Plymouth-Canton Community Schools JUDY MARDIGIAN, Šecretary

Get on the ball. Read today's coverage

PLYMOUTH-CANTON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

The Board of Education of the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools invites all interested and qualified companies to submit a bid for School Bus Parts. Specifications and bid forms are available by contacting Dan Phillips in the PCCS Purchasing Department at (734) 416-2746. Technical questions can be directed to Kurt Miles of the PCCS Transportation Department at 734-416-3040. Sealed bids are due to the E.J McClendon Educational Center (attn: Bus Parts Bid), 454 S. Harvey, Plymouth, MI 48187 on or before 2:00 p.m., Friday, February 23, 2007. The Board of Education reserves the right to accept and/or reject all bids, as they judge to be in the best interest of the school district.

> **Board of Education** Plymouth-Canton Community Schools JUDY MARDIGIAN, Secretary

PLYMOUTH DISTRICT LIBRARY **PUBLIC NOTICE**

The Plymouth District Library Board will hold its REGULAR February meeting Tuesday, February 20, 2007 at 7:30 p.m. at 223 S. Main Street, Plymouth, Michigan 48170.

The Plymouth District Library will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audio tape of printed materials being considered at the meeting, to individuals with disabilities at the meeting/hearing upon seven (7) days notice to the Plymouth District Library. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Plymouth District Library by writing or calling the following:

> Barbara Kraft, Library Secretary * Plymouth District Library 223 S. Main Street Plymouth, MI 48170 734-453-0750 X217

Publish: February 11, 2007

Publish: February 4 & 11, 2007

Publish: February 4 & 11, 2007

www.hometownlife.com

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, February 11, 2007

ENGAGEMENT

Babcock-Schweer

Tracy and Dorothy Babcock of Livonia announce the engagement of their son, Jacob Spence, to Kendra Annette Scweer of Bolivar, Missouri.

The prospective groom is a graduate of Livonia Churchill High School, as well as the University of Michigan-Dearborn. He is currently employed by Power Brite of Michigan.

Stinebaughs celebrate 50th anniversary

Chuck and Barbara Stinebaugh of Plymouth are celebrating 50 years of marriage.

They were married Jan. 19, 1957, at St. Paul's Methodist Church in Tiffin, Ohio.

Chuck and Barbara moved to Michigan in 1963 where Chuck worked for Ford Motor Co. for 34 years. In addition to raising a family, Barb had a 25 year career with NBD (Chase).

They are actively involved, and have been members of the First United Methodist Church of Plymouth since 1966.

The Stinebaughs have have three children: Karen (Brian) Stemberger, Steven (Carmen)

Bouren-Carbott

2006, at St. James Catholic

Church in Ferndale with the

Rev. Charles Fox officiating.

The bride is the daughter of

David and Bridget Carbott of

2002 graduate of Michigan

The groom is the son of Al

and Pam Bouren of Oxford. He

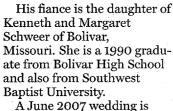
Orion High School and a 1999

State University. She is

at Children's Hospital in

is a 1995 graduate of Lake

Detroit.



planned at Weller's in Saline, Mi. They will honeymoon is

Savannah, Ga.



As space permits, the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers print, without charge, announcements of class reunions. Send the information to Reunions, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48170. Please include the date of the reunion, one contact person, and a telephone number

Bishop Borgess Class of 1987

A 20-year reunion, Sept. 15, 2007, at the Livonia Marriott. Contact borgess87@hotmail.com for more information.

CLASS REUNIONS

Garden City High School Class of 1987

Searching for all class of '87 Alumni for a 20-year reunion. Need to find current information on alumni (name, address, phone, email, etc.). Contact GCHSClassof87reunion@comcast.net or call Sheryll (Pietryka) Catton at (734)

367-0898. Ladywood High School

Class of 1967

A 40-year reunion in planned for June 9-10, 2007. Headquarters at Courtyard by Marriott, Laurel Park, Livonia. Call Liz at (248)681-7768 or email

LHS67@comcast.net for further information

C5 (*)

Livonia Churchill Classes of 1971-2007

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Obituaries, Memorials, Remembrances

1-800-579-7355 💠 fax: 734-953-2232

e-mail: oeobits@hometownlife.com

Alumni Summer Bash 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, June 16, Nankin Mills Park, Ann Arbor Trail and Hines Drive. No fees but accepting donations. All proceeds over and above costs are being donated to the Western Wayne Skill Center. For more information, call Chris (Don) Nicholson at (734)658-5296 or

Chris@ChurchillAlumni.com or Gayle Napolitano Nicholson at (734)728-0393 or Gayle@ChurchillAlumni.com.

ANNIVERSARY



Stinebaugh and Scott Stinebaugh, and six grandchildren

The Stinebaughs are enjoying the fruits of retirement. They enjoy being with their grandchildren, walks together,

family gatherings, antique hunting, gardening, car shows, and traveling.

They celebrated this "golden" occasion with their family at No. 6 Chop House in

THOMAS L. BOYNE

Age 87, October 18, 1919-February 6, 2007. Hinsdale, IL resident, formerly of Plymouth, MI. Veteran WWII Marine Corp. beloved husband

of Lorraine; loving father of Thomas J. (Elaine) Boyne, Ronald A. (Judy) Boyne, Gail A. (Paul) Meeks, Gary A. (Carol) Boyne and Janet M. (David) Doty; dear grandfather David, Karen, Taylor, Garrett, Morgan, Mackenzie and Samantha. Memorial Funeral Mass will be held Friday, February 9th, 12 noon at Notre Dame Church, Chicago Ave and Norfolk, Claredon Hills, IL 60514. Private interment will be held prior to memorial mass at Ascension Cemetery Libertyville, IL in lieu of flowers memorials appreciated to American Cancer Society, 1801 S. Meyers Rd., Suite 100, Oakbrook, IL, 60181. Arrangements by Gibbons Elliston Funeral Home, Hinsdale. 630-323-0275

LEONARD RAINFORD CARR

(Carol). Loving grandfather of Sarah, Allison, Melissa, Colleen, Casey, Courtney, Cari & Clare. Great grand-

father of Ayanna, Kyle, Isaiah, Xavier & Emerson. Born September 12, 1914 in Hamilton, Ontario. He was a

WWII Veteran in the United States

Navy. Leonard was a retired Tool & Die Maker. He was an avid golfer and

bowler, winning a Gold Medal for bowling in the Senior Olympics.

RICHARD HAYLE

COLENSO

west Florida", and "The Popcorn Boy"

Age 93 of Naples, FL. Also

known as "Dirty Dick from Solomon Creek", "The Oldest Bar Back in South-

(Brad)

February 8, 2007, age 92, of

Redford Township. Beloved husband of Alice for 63

years. Dear father of Leslye

Martin, Tom (Carol) & Tim



MARGARET C. COWLEY "Bunny"

Age 83, of Farmington, formerly of Detroit. Died Feb. 6, 2007 at home. Born June 19, 1923 in Yonkers, NY where she resided until moving to Detroit in 1950. She was employed at GM Detroit Diesel from 1951 until retirement in 1980 as an Executive and Administrative Secretary Assistant. Was first female to be named "Captain" for the Boy Scouts of America membership drive. In 1986, was appointed on the Tax Board of Review for the City of Detroit by Councilman Jack Kelley. Served on the Board for eight years until Jack Kelly retired from the Council in 1993. Also, was part time hostess for the Detroit Red Wings in the Olympia Club. She was a Volunteer for the Detroit Grand Prix for six years, which included being a supervisor for Information Systems, A former resident of North Rosedale Park in Detroit, and was a member of the North Rosedale Civic Association, member of the North Rosedale Park Women's Club, and the North Rosedale Park Players and Bowlerettes. She was a marvelous entertainer and enjoyed her family and countless friends. Wife of the deceased (1995) William F. Cowley. Mother of Barbara (the deceased Larry) Dowell, & Carole (Joel) Layne. Grandmother of Wayne County Sheriff Brian (Carmen) Boyd, Colleen (Jason) Brasgalla, Michael & Marty Layne. Great-Grandmother of Jordan & Matthew Boyd & Lauren & Ashley Brasgalla. Sister of Thomas Stankey of Indianapolis & the deceased Edward (Eileen) & Robert (deceased) and Dolores Stankey. Also leaves many nieces, nephews & friends. Services were held Saturday at Charles Step Funeral Home, 18425 Beech Daly. Interment Monday Memorial Ceme-tery. Parkview Donations to Michigan Humane Society Appreciated.

EDWARD F. "ED/MIKE" SPRING

Age 58. February 7, 2007. Passed away at home on Wednesday after a courageous 3 1/2 year battle with cancer. Ed was the beloved husband of Marie for almost 25 years and the loving father of Laura. He is survived by a wonderful and loving family which includes his mother and stepfather Jane and John Ryba of Cass City, brother Richard (Debbie) Spring, nicces Megan and Katelyn of Manchester, and sister Karen (Mike Hadley) Spring of Commerce Twp., nephew Jeremy Kay and niece Jessica Kay. Ed retired from Blue Cross after 37 years in 2005 and went to work at Wright and Filippis- a job he truly loved. Ed was loved and respected by countless friends and colleagues and will be missed for his good humor and always optimistic outlook. The family ask that memorial gifts be made in his name to U of M Comprehensive Cancer Center (Kidney Cancer Research). Funeral Monday 11 AM at THAYER-ROCK FUNERAL HOME, 33603 Grand River Ave., downtown Farmington (1 blk W. of Farmington Rd.) Visitation Sunday 2-8 PM. www.thayer-rock.com





Age 86, of St. Petersburg, FL, died January 31, 2007 at the Hospice House Woodside

in Pinellas Park, FL. Bob was born in Pittsburgh, PA. and moved to Detroit, MI at an early age. He was a graduate of the Henry Ford Trade School. While serving in the U.S. Army during World War II, he received the Bronze Star. After a 40year career as a tool and die maker

WEDDING

Matthew Bouren of Lake State University. He is Orion and Jennifer Carbott of Livonia were married Nov. 11,

The bride was attended by Natalie Merkle, maid of honor; Jessica Munger, maid of honor; Renee Thompson; Kaitie Pittel; Zoe Stavridis; Molly O'Connell; Livonia. She is a 1997 graduate of Ladywood High School and a Shelly Bouren, bridesmaids; Megan Bouren, flower girl; and, Miranda Bouren, flower employed as a clinical dietitian girl.

The groom was attended by Mike Bouren, best man; Chad Warren, best man; Michael Carbott; Steve Larned; Stefan Crane; Jeremy Michael; Mark Becker, groomsmen; and, Jake



Bouren, ring bearer. San Marino Club in Troy.

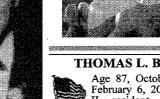
BIRTHS

Novi.

graduate of Saginaw Valley employed at MJB Roofing, a family-owned and operated

business.

A reception was held the



to the Observer

How to submit

announcements

Local engagement, wedding, anniversary and birth announcements run in the Sunday editions of the Observer.

There is no charge to submit an announcement.

To obtain a copy of our forms for engagements, weddings, anniversaries and births email Hugh Gallagher at hgallagher@hometown-

life.com. Or send the following information to Hugh Gallagher, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia MI 48150:

For engagement announcements, include:

Names, addresses and cities for the bride, groom and both sets of parents

Where bride and groom attended (or attend) high school and college and years graduated

Where bride and groom are employed Wedding date

Wedding location Daytime phone num-

ber and e-mail address in case we have any questions. For wedding announce-

ments, include:

- All of the above, plus
- Clergy's name
- Names and cities of
- all attendants
- Reception location

Honeymoon location ■ City where couple will

reside Please send photos in a vertical format. If you are e-mailing a photograph,

please send it as a "jpeg." Photographs may be picked up after publication; or enclose a selfaddressed, stamped envelope. If you have questions regarding your announcement, call (734) 953-2149.

Nathan James Sharpe Jason and Lupe Sharpe of Livonia announce the birth of

their son, Nathan James, on Dec. 23, 2006. He was born at Providence

Hospital in Southfield. He weighed 8 pounds, 9 ounces at birth. Nathan has a big brother,

Andrew Butler, 12. His grandparents are Sandra

Blake of Brighton and Karl and Terri Sharpe of Livonia.

Aidan Jesse Biewer

Jeremy and Jessica (Potas) Biewer announce the birth of their son, Aidan Jesse Biewer, on Dec.27. 2006 at Advocate Lutheran General Hospital in Park Ridge, Illinois. Aidan weighed 8 pounds, 5 ounces and was 20.5 inches long at birth.

Jessica is a graduate of Clarenceville High School and Western Michigan University. Jeremy graduated from the University of Illinois. Aidan's grandparents are Felix and Judith Potas of

Livonia and Edythe Biewer of

MISC. SINGLES

Ballroom Dancing to a live band every

Saturday 8:30-11 p.m. at the Livonia Civic

Center, 15218 Farmington Road, Livonia.

Admission: guest/\$6, associates/\$5.50,

members/\$5. Dress: Ladies - date style

more information, call Joe Castrodale

Holiday dance, 7-10:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec.

10, Roma Banquet Hall, 32550 Cherry Hill

Road, Garden City. Doors open at 5 p.m.,

dinner at 5:45 p.m. Formal attire recom-

mended but Sunday best will do. Tickets

\$26 members and associates, \$29 guests.

For information or reservations, call Joe

BETHANY SUBURBAN WEST

Saturday, Feb. 17, at Leon's Family Dining.

30149 Ford Road, south side in Garden

Castrodale, (248)968-5197.

Breakfast meeting

clothes, gentlemen - jackets and ties, for

Moon-dusters

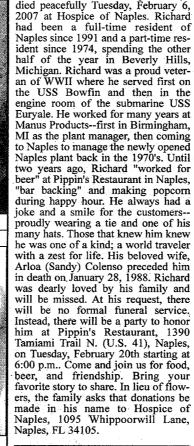
(248) 968-5197.

City. All separated, divorced and singles welcome. For details, call Kathy M. at

Annual Mass for Divorced and Separated 2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 25, at St. Linus Church, 6466 Evangeline, Dearborn Heights, Light dinner to follow, For details, call Michele at (313)996-8644.

Join our E-mail list at www.mspsc.com

Anytime 6:30-9:30 p.m. Meets at the Mai Lounge at Drakeshire Lanes, 35000 Grand River Ave. just east of Drake Road in Farmington Hills. Cash bar and reason able priced dinner is also available off the menu. \$5/members, \$6/non-members.



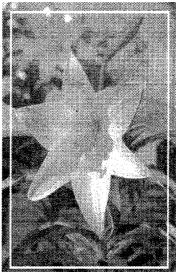
ALLEN MONROE DUNHAM

Age 92, died January 21, 2007 at home with family. He is survived by his wife, Carmel Rith and four children, Roselyn, Carl, Joyce (Arthur), and Marie. He is also survived by 12 grandchildren and 26 great-grandchildren. His life was celebrated February 4, 2007 at a family memorial.



BLONDENE L. MAYNARD

Age 85, February 9, 2007, of Commerce Twp., Formerly of Garden City. Beloved wife of the late James. Loving mother of Gail (Kenneth) Shier, Sharon (Louis) Wallace, Denethia (Skip) Smith, Pamela (David) Durocher and Jamie (John) Nuzman. Sister of the late Ray Bragg. Also survived by nine grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. Funeral Service at the R.G. & G.R. Harris Funeral Home, 15451 Farmington Rd., Livonia, Monday at 1 PM. Visitation Sunday from 12-9 PM. Memorial contributions may be directed to the C.S. Mott Children's Hospital, Attn: Child and Family Life, 301 E. Liberty, Ann Arbor, MI., 48104-2251. Please sign the online guestbook at www.rggrharris.com.



Age 82, of Stuart, FL. passed away February 5th, 2007 at Martin Memorial February Hospital South, Stuart. Born in Jackson, Michigan, Dick has resided in Stuart for over 25 years, moving here from Birmingham, Michigan. He was a U.S. Navy veteran of WW II where he was a Lt. JG on PT Boats. Dick was the Senior Partner in the Law Firm, Poling, McGaw & Poling, P.C. in Troy, Michigan for 57 years. He was a member of Mariner Sands Chapel, in Stuart, Past President of Birmingham country Club, Birmingham, MI. Past President of Mariner Sands Golf & Country Club, Stuart, past Chairman of Brighton Hospital, Brighton, MI. & received his 50 year pin from The Michigan Bar Association. Surviving is his wife Audrey L. Poling, of Stuart. His son, Richard B. Poling, J. O. Boun. Lyon, MI. His 3 daughters, Ridgley A. "Mimi" Poling, of Plainfield, IL. Carolyn L. Scheffler, of Troy, MI. Nancy L., Poling, of West His son, Richard B. Poling, Jr. of South Nancy L., Poling, of West Bloomfield,MI. His 4 stepsons: Scott Bradley, of Spokane,WA. Dr. Craig Bradley, of Seven Villages, PA. Kurt Bradley, of Spring, TX. Timothy Griswold, of Birmingham, MI. His stepdaughter: Deborah Martin, of Jupiter,FL. His brother: Daniel Y. Poling, of Boulder City, NV. and is also survived by 11 grandchildren. Memorial Contributions can be made to The Mariner Sands Foundation, Stuart,FL. SERVICES: A Celebration of Dick's life will be held on Sat. February, 17th,2007 at 11 AM in the Chapel of Mariner Sands with Dr. officiating Robert Bedingfield, officiating Internment will be in Mariner Sands Garden's. Arrangements are under the direction of Martin Funeral Home & Crematory, Stuart.

with the auto industry, Bob and his wife, Mary, were co-founders and benefactors of Community Living Centers in Farmington, MI. He was a member of the Henry Ford Trade School Alumni Association as well as an alumnus of St. Gregory High School. Predeceased by his wife of 5' years, Mary (Watson), he is survived by his three daughters, Beth Campbell, (Doug, died-2002) Brewster, Mass., Bonnie Reilly, (Dennis) St. Petersburg, and Sue Wagner, San Antonio, Texas; two sons, Anthony Peter and James Robert (Kathleen), both of Farming-ton; a brother, Jack (Julie), South Lyon, MI.; 11 grandchildren; 14 greatgrandchildren; and many nieces and nephews. A memorial Mass was held at The Cathedral of St. Jude in St. Petersburg. Donations can be made to Community Living Centers, 33235 Grand River, Farmington, MI 48336 (248) 478-0870.

JAMES W. WEBB

Age 62 of Prescott formerly of Westland passed away Wednesday at St. Mary's Medical Center in Saginaw. Services will be held 2:00 p.m., Sunday, February 11th at the Sisson Funeral Home in Gladwin. Friends may call at the funeral home on Saturday from 2-8 p.m.. Memorials may be made to the family.



SINGLES

(734)513-9479.

METROPOLITAN SINGLE PROFESSIONAL

for special events. Information (248) 544 6445. Office (248) 851-9919 Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Euchre

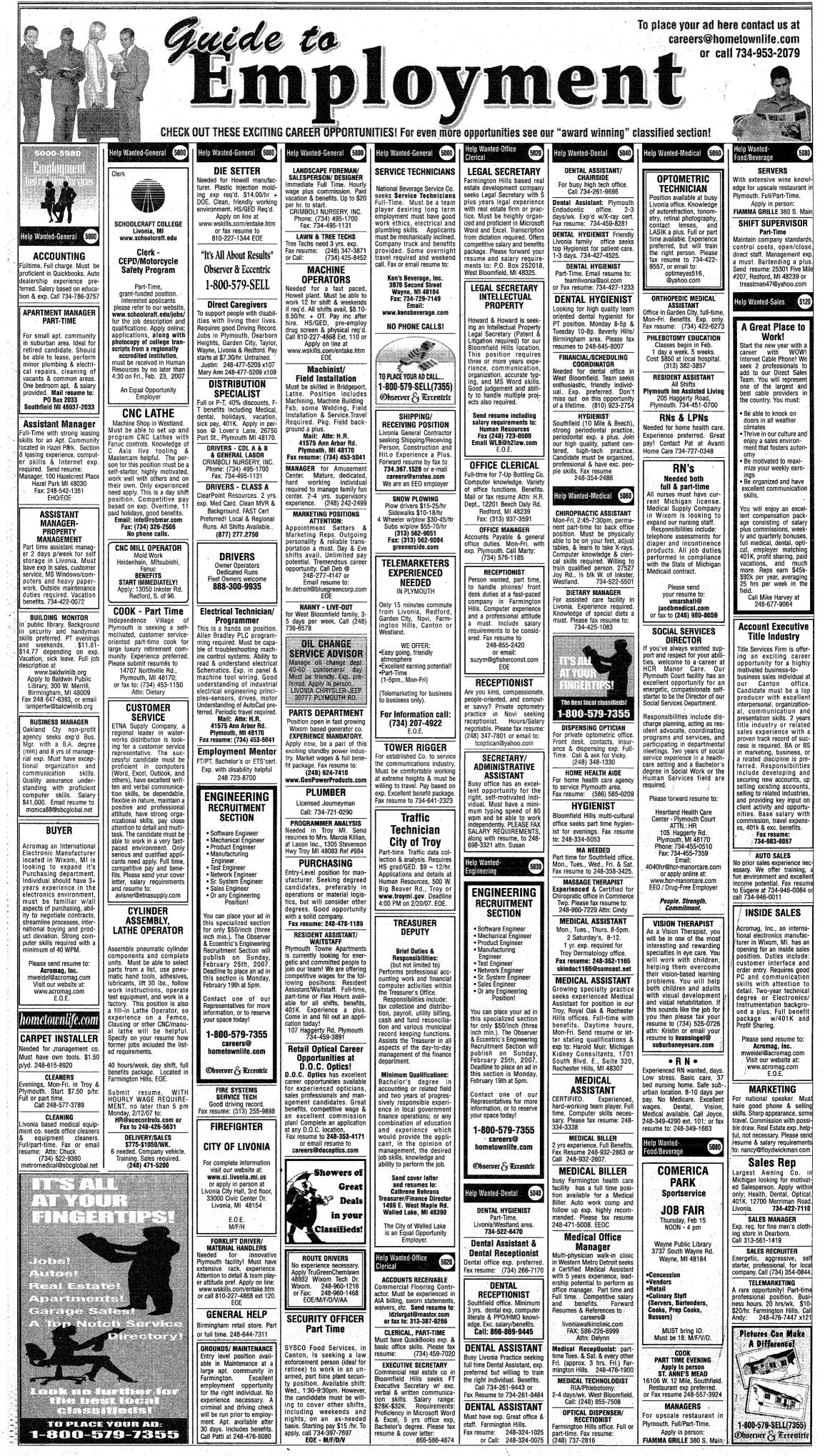
Morton Grove, Illinois. Great grandparents are Mary Potas of Southfield and Ruth W. Klein of Glenview,

RICHARD B. "Dick" POLING

Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, February 11, 2007

C6

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HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Take the stairs and aid American Lung Association research

Caleb Mitchell easily climbs the 170-step stairs during his Saturday workouts at Bloomer Park in Rochester Hills.

On Sunday, Feb. 25, he'll add 70 flights to his regimen. Mitchell is among the teams

Mitchell is among the teams and individuals that have signed up for the American Lung Association of Michigan's Climb Detroit, a fund-raiser that may tax even the toughest of athletes as they race to the top of the Marriott Detroit at the Renaissance Center, Michigan's tallest building.

"I'm just going to do it. I have friends at work and they're going to join in," said Mitchell, an adventure race athlete who has competed his way across Michigan and Ohio.

Adventure racing entails many different sporting activities, such as road biking, mountain biking, hiking, boating, canoeing and more. It doesn't generally include climbing stairs in tall urban buildings.

"If you stay active and do 10-15 hours a week and really focus on the core disciplines, you can pretty much do anything," he said, unfazed by the stair challenge. "I did two marathons last week and I'm not a runner by any stretch of the imagination. Just stay active and have realistic goals."

If a 70-story climb seems unrealistic, competitors can opt for a 40-story climb. The cost to participate is \$35, with a fund-raising minimum of \$65 for the full climb and \$45 for the half climb. Those who raise \$100 or more, including the registration fee, will earn a commemorative Climb Detroit shirt.

Climbers also will be award-

ed by age group and fastest time. Team awards will go to the fastest team, highest fundraising team, most clever team name and most spirited team. Participants must pre-regis-

ter by Feb. 20. Start times will be assigned a week before the event. Registration will start at 7:30 a.m. on climb day, with the first competitors starting at 8:30 a.m.

Jeff Watters, who runs an outdoor exercise session on Saturdays in Rochester, as well as Monday-Friday boot camps in downtown Birmingham, will lead free workout sessions for registered participants before the climb.

Register for the climb by calling the American Lung Association of Michigan office at (248) 784-2026 or visit www.climbdetroit.org.



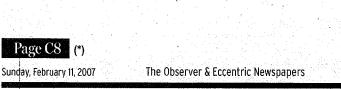
JOHN STORMZAND | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHE

Caleb Mitchell reaches the top of the 170-step staircase at Bloomer Park in Rochester Hills. Jeff Watters, (left) who runs a 90-minute year-round exercise program at the park, suggested Mitchell and others run the stairs three times. Mitchell, of Madison Heights, plans to compete in the upcoming American Lung Association stair climb at the Renaissance Center in Detroit.









Infection protection

Hugh Gallagher, editor . (734) 953-2149 . hgallagher@hometownlife.com

Kits may reduce incidence of influenza

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN STAFF WRITER

Lyne Appel Downing isn't waiting until the height of flu season to safeguard her family. In late October, she purchased an infection protection kit consisting of 10 masks, seven sanitizing hand wipes and seven sets of synthetic gloves for under \$10 while grocery shopping.

The Birmingham mother of one is doing everything possible to keep her family well especially during influenza season, and so far it's working. When daughter Kasey became sick in late December, she and husband, Keith, wore masks around the house so as not to catch the virus. A certified personal trainer and yoga instructor, Appel Downing believes in a healthy body and mind. She takes vitamins and supplements, and is always proactive when it comes to health.

After Kasey carried home six pages of prevention tips for the flu and pandemics from her thirdgrade classroom at Harlan Elementary, Appel Downing began researching the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Web site (www.cdc.gov) for information on infection protection.

"Just yesterday I was running around the house and heard my daughter hacking," said Appel Downing, 52. "I got our wipes and began wiping everything down. My daughter thinks it's funny so she put on the mask and put one on the dog, but I say better safe than sorry. If one is sick why should three be sick."

UNIVERSITY STUDY

Dr. Arnold Monto has no early indication if masks and hand sanitizers in the kits reduce the incidence of influenza but by 2008 the results should be in from a two-year study funded by the CDC to determine the components' effectiveness. In October 2006, 2,000 students living in the close



Lyne Appel Downing and daughter Kasey, 8, use infection protection kits in their Birmingham home.

... My daughter thinks it's funny so she put on the mask and put one on the dog, but I say better safe than sorry. If one is sick why should three be sick. Lynn Appel Downing Birmingham

confines of University of Michigan dormitories were divided into three clusters. One group of participants is wearing masks and using hand sanitizers. The second wears only masks. The third takes neither precaution to prevent influenza.

"The idea came about for national policy reasons," said Monto, professor of epidemiology, University of Michigan School of Public Health. "The CDC would like to have answers about some of these questions for flu and pandemics. In case of flu, we have vaccines and antivirals. In case of a pandemic we won't have vaccines so it's important to know if nonpharmaceutical interventions like closing schools could contain the virus. It's possible kits may help. Some studies of hand sanitizers have shown a reduction in respiratory infections. People wear masks in Asia, but we really have no idea whether regular surgical masks work. We know that the high level masks used in the SARS outbreak worked but were in short supply."

www.hometownlife.com

The CDC would like to be prepared in case of a pandemic whether caused by a common influenza strain or H5N1 (avian flu). At this point, the bird flu (H5N1) has not mutated and cannot be transferred from human to human. Barring a virus mutation, a person must be in close contact with an infected bird to acquire H5N1.

Some people actually live in the same building with chickens in Vietnam where cases of H5N1 have been reported. That's why Dana Marra took along a mask when she traveled to Vietnam on business for her adoption agency Adoption Options Worldwide. The Troy woman purchased masks not only to avoid contracting H5N1, but to protect herself from the chemicals she uses to clean her home.

"In Vietnam, the mode of transportation is a moped and they wear the masks while driving and walking," said Marra. "I found the masks cut down on being ill. I'm trying to do more preventive, live a healthier lifestyle, eat a healthy diet, exercise. I'm fighting every step of the way, trying to be aware of the environment in general."

PLANNING AHEAD

Janet Green purchased a kit after Appel Downing told her the product might help prevent the body aches, muscle soreness, congestion and cough a virus causes.

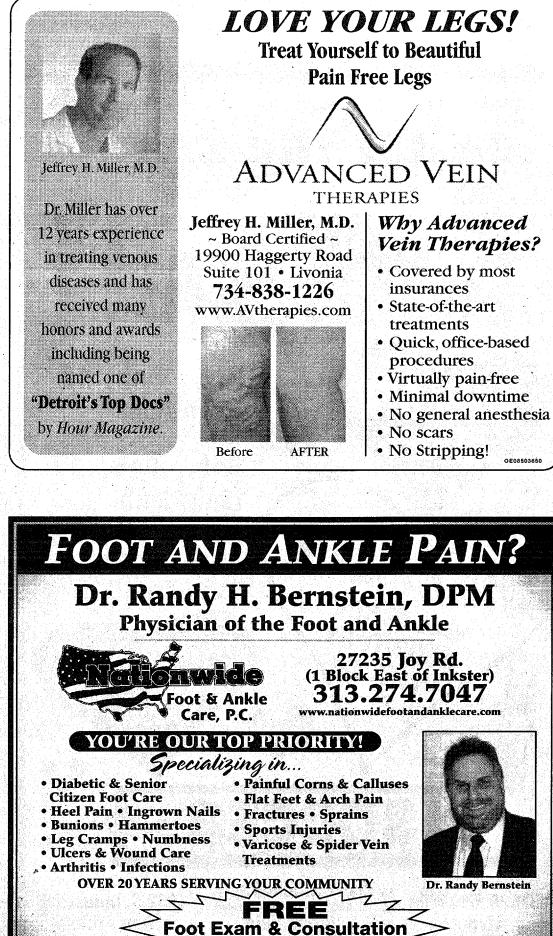
We had talked about the flu, especially the bird flu because I live on a lake and we have a lot of birds and swans," said Green, 59, of Bloomfield Hills. "One of the birds hit one of our windows and my husband had to pick it up. After I went and purchased the kit. We're all responsible for our own health. I believe in having a strong immune system. I take vitamins, work out with a personal trainer. Prevention is the best medicine and being aware of your surroundings. My mom is 85 and we're always running around and using bathrooms when we do our shopping. We both use the wipes. When I go into a bathroom I use the sleeve of my coat to open the door and I always wash my hands.

Hand washing is one of the most important ways to prevent the spread of infections, says Dr. Roger Ajluni Jr., a Beaumont physician who treats patients in a Livonia office. Ajluni's first suggestion is to vaccinate against the illness. Neither Appel Downing, Green or Marra received flu shots. Ajluni has noticed a resistance by some of his internal medicine patients to the vaccine because of a fear of side effects. Ajluni estimates only about 5 percent of those receiving the vaccine suffer from mild flu-like symptoms that last eight to 24 hours.

Regardless of whether individuals received the

PLEASE SEE FLU KITS, NEXT PAGE

Go Red For Women Luncheon Thursday, February 15



Excludes X-Rays, Lab Tests, & Treatment

BOARD CERTIFIED IN FOOT SURGERY • FELLOW, AMERICAN COLLEGE OF FOOT & ANKLE SURGEONS

Detroit Marriott Renaissance Center 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Educational Workshops Health Screenings Inside/Outside Makeovers **Fashion Show** Silent Auction

Presenting Sponsors





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Observer & Eccentric

HOUR Detroit

WJBK - FM

WNIC - FM

NEWSPAPERS



The American Heart Association's annual **GO RED FOR WOMEN LUNCHEON** highlights women and their heart health on Thursday, Feb. 15, at the Renaissance Center Marriott Hotel in Downtown

Detroit. Keynote speaker and Emmy award winning actress Tracey Conway tops off a morning of seminars, screenings, and a silent auction beginning at 9 a.m. Emceed by Lila Lazarus of FOX 2, the luncheon and fashion show begin at noon.

The Red Dress tour, presented by Deloitte, will also be on display featuring items from national and local celebrities including Dr. Maya Angelou, Oprah Winfrey, Vanna White and actresses Jackie Zemen and Kristen Bell.

Call 248-827-4214 or visit www.americanheart.org/detroitgoesred

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HEALTH

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Too much cardio can be harmful

Jim from Canton e-mails asking for the pluses and minuses of a cardio workout.

Jim, there is no doubt that a good cardio workout is a cornerstone of an effective weight loss program. But, if you are trying to build muscles, don't overdo it!

One of the main culprits in muscle loss can be over-dieting. It suppresses hormones like thyroid and testosterone. But overdoing cardio workouts can be even more damaging than over-dieting when it comes to hormone suppression! If you do too much cardio, you are essentially lowering hormone levels that allow you to build muscle and burn fat.. That is why too much cardio can be a dead end, causing dramatic loss of muscle mass! A good rule of thumb is to try to get in four 45-minute cardio sessions a week. If you go over that your muscle building goals might be compromised. Jill from Warren e-mails and is looking for a new aerobic exercise to improve her workout routine.

Jill, you might want to kickbox your way to better health! A non-contact kickboxing routine is sufficient to improve physical

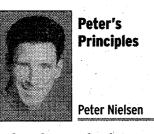
FLU KITS

FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

vaccine or are taking non-pharmaceutical preventive measures, it appears to be a mild influenza season so far. Beaumont Hospital has recorded only 140 confirmed cases of Influenza (A and B) since November. Flu cases usually don't peak until February and March, however.

"The masks certainly don't hurt, but whether they're necessary it's questionable," said Ajluni, of Bloomfield Hills. "Someone with a compromised immune system and taking care of someone with the flu, it's important they don't sneeze on you. A child might not be able to do that. If you aren't immune compromised you might not need the gloves or mask,"

Like Appel Downing, Marra



and cardiovascular fitness. A recent study looked at a group of women weighing an average of 135 pounds. It utilized four kickboxing routines: Upper body jabs, lower body kicks, a combination of jabs and kicks, plus a conditioning routine. That routine consisted of jumping jacks and simulated rope jumping. Participants burned the most calories performing a combination of kicks and jabs. Calories were burned at a rate of 6.5 to 8 calories per minute, totaling 450 calories an hour! That is the equivalent to an hour of jogging.

If you have a health or fitness question you would like answered in the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, email Peter through his Web site at www.peternielsen.com. Contact him at Peter Nielsen's Personal Training Club in West Bloomfield or Nielsen's Town Center Health Club in Southfield.

and Green, Ajluni believes in eating healthy, exercising and not smoking to keep the immune system strong. So far neither his wife or 6- and 8-year old children have had the flu. All of them received the influenza vaccine.

STAYING WELL

"The vaccine is recommended on a community wide basis (for public health)," said Ajluni. "It takes a couple of weeks to go into effect. It's kind of a gradual effectiveness. It's never 100 percent too late although it's ideal to get it in early to mid-fall to be best covered.

"If you're already sick, cover the mouth when coughing, sneezing. If there's someone in the house with flu you can take an anti-flu or virus medication."

Ichomin@hometownlife.com | (734) 953-2145

Give chocolate this Valentine's Day

With Valentine's Day around the corner, the thought of romance is in the air. One way of expressing your feelings is with chocolate. Let's face it, people of all ages love chocolate. They love it as a way of celebrating special occasions and expressing those romantic feelings all year long.

In the past few years, scientific studies have also looked at ways chocolate can improve health. Can something that tastes so good be good for you? Denise Holmes, R.D., a nutrition and diabetes educator at Botsford Hospital says, "Dark chocolate and cocoa powder provide flavinoids that have heart healthy properties and may improve cholesterol levels. It has also been shown to improve people's mood by boosting the brain chemistry that makes you feel good."

Chocolate's reputation as an aphrodisiac originated in South America over 1,500 years ago when it was thought to have mystical and aphrodisiac qualities by both the Mayan and Aztec cultures. Legend says that Aztec emperor, Montezuma, drank 50 cups of chocolate a day to enhance his appeal to women. Holmes says, "In most recent years, doctors and nutrition experts have only begun to realize the possible health benefits of chocolate. Eating chocolate triggers a similar reaction that occurs naturally in our bodies when we are happy, in love, feeling passionate or even lustful.

Chocolate contains stearic acid, a saturated fat that has a neutral effect on cholesterol unlike many other sat-

If you have pets make sure

n If you require prescription

you have a back up food and

you run out or can't get out.

medications, have a small

réserve in case you run out.

when Michigan and parts of

the Midwest were hit with a

Remember three summers ago

total power outage that literal-

ly shut down everything. Along

with back-up medications, it's

always a smart idea to have a

list of all medications, dosages

and names of your physicians

readily available in the event

you need emergency medical

make sure the outer layer of

clothing is tightly woven and

reduce body-heat loss caused

preferably wind resistant to

by wind. Using wool, silk or

poly-propylene as the inner

layers of clothing will hold

ers maximizes warmth.

more body heat than cotton.

And remember dressing in lay-

Don't shovel snow. This

dangerous for anyone especial-

ly in extreme weather, but the

For more information about

type of physical exertion is

elderly simply should not

attempt it for any reason.

Comfort Keepers and their

locations in Rochester Hills

fortkeepers.com.

and Plymouth, visit www.com-

If you must go outdoors,

assistance.

water supply for them in case

urated fats that raise LDL cholesterol (bad cholesterol).

C9

(*)

Holmes suggests indulging in more expensive chocolates which provide a richer flavor and a smooth delight to your taste buds, and the price may curb your indulgence.

Moderation is key. Work with a registered dietitian to set up an individualized plan to incorporate chocolate into a balanced and healthy diet.

Share it with someone you love and enjoy! Botsford Hospital's new medical model fitness center, The Botsford Center for Health Improvement will be distributing chocolate covered strawberries to "treat your sweetheart" for all members during Member Appreciation Day on Feb. 14. For more information, visit www.botsford.org.

Seniors need to take care in cold weather Can

In addition to being a fire haz-

ard, space heaters may also

increase the risk of carbon

monoxide poisoning.

When winter temperatures drop below normal staying warm and safe is a challenge, especially for the elderly. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and Comfort Keepers have provided guidelines for those still living independently. By preparing a senior's home for the winter months and taking the necessary safety precautions, the risk of weather-related accidents and health problems can

be reduced. Anyone with an elderly family member or friend should create a plan in advance in case an emergency arises. It is recommended that elderly persons who are unable to take care of themselves or prepare for extreme cold-weather conditions, stay with family members, go to available shelter facilities or call a company that provides in-home services for seniors in these situations.

Stay in touch with neighbors and have a Buddy Plan in place or arrange for someone to check in on you particularly if you live alone, and specifically during extreme weather conditions.

■ If you must use a space heater, do not place it within three feet of anything that may catch on fire such as drapes, furniture or bedding, and never cover your space heater.

d Considering all of the potential dangers of using space heaters, consider alternative solutions if at all possible.
Consistently check the temperature inside the home. Older adults often make less body heat because of a slower metabolism and less physical activity. When a senior is over

age 65, it is important to check home temperatures often and set them to feel comfortable, especially during severely cold weather.

Eat nutritiously and stock food that can be prepared without electricity in case of a power outage. Eating well-balanced meals will help seniors stay warmer. Do not drink alcohol or caffeinate which causes body temperatures to drop more rapidly (regardless of age). Have nutritious, canned goods and non-perishable foods on hand (tuna, etc) in case the power fails, and don't forget to have a manuallyoperated can opener.

Keep an emergency supply of water stored in clean containers or purchase bottled water (allow one gallon a day per person) in case water pipes freeze and/or rupture.

Camp designed for kids with Crohn's, colitis

The Crohn's & Colitis Foundation of America, Michigan Chapter (CCFA) will host its sixth annual Camp Oasis July 15-21 at a new location, Camp Copneconic in Fenton. The camp provides children ages seven to 17 who have Crohn's disease or ulcerative colitis with an opportunity to enjoy a traditional camping experience in a setting specially suited for their needs. This year's camp will last an extra day.

At Camp Oasis, campers will enjoy a wide range of activities, including music and theater, swimming, aqua jump, canoeing and kayaking, archery and sports, arts and crafts, games, nature discovery, and team challenge courses. Built with the highest of safety standards, these challenging and shared experiences develop the strongest of friendships.

The Crohn's & Colitis Foundation of America is a non-profit, voluntary health organization dedicated to improving the quality of life for persons with Crohn's disease or ulcerative colitis. Known collectively as inflammatory bowel diseases (IBD), these chronic digestive disorders affect as many as one million Americans.

Registration forms for campers ages seven to 17 and for volunteer counselors are now available online at michigan.ccfa.org. For more information, or to have application information mailed, send email to michigan@ccfa.org or call (248) 737-0900.

FEBRUARY

Fund-raiser

Dr. Jason Lawlor, Livonia Back To Health Chiropractic Clinic Director, will perform all first day services for new patients, which includes a consultation, exam, any necessary x-rays and a report of findings for a minimum donation of \$10 from Feb. 12-16. All money raised will go directly to Seedlings Braille Books for Children, a nonprofit organization providing high quality, low cost children's literature in Braille.For an appointment, call (734) 432-7071.

Volunteers wanted

Child Abuse and Neglect Council of Oakland County is holding a Seeds of Hope lunch and tour at CARE House and inviting potential volunteers to attend noon to 1 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 13, at CARE House, 44765 Woodward, north of Square Lake Road, Pontiac. For information, call (248) 332-7173. There is no charge. The organization is seeking volunteers to assist with the children and families it serves.

MS support group

Family and friends of those with MS (multiple sclerosis) are invited to

attend a new support group held at 7 p.m. on the first Tuesday of each month, at Botsford Hospital's A & E building in Farmington. For directions call Sue at (248) 231-1136.

Divorce support group

Group discussion 7-9 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 13, attorney Patricia Kasody- Coyle will also be available to answer questions in a private setting on a first come, first served basis, in the Women's Resource Center at Schoolcraft College, 18600 Haggerty, between Six and Seven Mile, Livonia. For more information, call (734) 462-4443.

Blood drives

The Suburban Collection will host an expansive effort to encourage metro Detroiters to give the gift of life this Valentine's Day, Wednesday, Feb. 14 by donating blood from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Suburban Chevrolet Cadillac Saab Hummer, 3515 Jackson, Ann Arbor; 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. at Saturn of Troy, 1790 Maplelawn, and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Suburban Ford of Sterling Heights 800 Country Lane, Suburban Ford of Waterford 5900 Highland Road, and Suburban Honda, 25100 Haggerty, Farmington Hills.

MEDICAL DATEBOOK

The Red Cross is appealing to all individuals to donate blood and is particularly interested in Type O-negative blood, the universal blood donor type, since it can be transfused to anyone in cases of emergencies. Anyone at least 17 years of age, weighing 110 pounds or more and in good health may be eligible to donate blood. Log on to www.givelife.org and enter 'suburban' for the sponsor code to make an appointment.

Go red luncheon

Go Red for Women Luncheon Feb. 15, at the Marriott Renaissance Center to raise funds for education and research. For more information, call (248) 827-4214 or visit www.americanheart.org. Ladies night out

St. Mary Mercy Hospital is hosting the presentation Women & Heart Disease: An Equal Opportunity Killer 7-9 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 15, from 7 - 9 p.m. in the hospital's auditorium, 36475 Five Mile, Livonia. The speaker is Sanjeev Vaishampayan, MD, director, Non-Invasive Cardiology, St. Mary Mercy Hospital. Bone density and blood pressure screenings will also be offered from 6-7 p.m., as well as prizes and refreshments. Learn about common

WANT PRINTS FOR

FRIENDS AND FAMILY?

heart diseases, cardiovascular risk factors, diagnosis and treatment options. Registration required. No charge, but a \$5 goodwill donation is requested to benefit Marian Women's Center Programs. To register or for more information, call (734) 655-1182. **Health program**

Your Emotions On Food presentation 7 p.m. Friday, Feb.16, learn medical and nutritional information at the Counseling and Integrative Wellness Center, 28222 Franklin, Southfield. No charge. Call Donna Harber at (248) 355-2191 with inquiries. \$15 Body Analysis also available. Emotional based yoga class. All are wel-

come including those who are not flexible and who have had injuries. Free introductory class offered Friday, Feb. 16. Call (248) 355-3977 for information. Panel discussion

On the historical, cultural, social and ethical implications of the exhibit Our Body: The Universe Within with the Michigan State University Center for Ethics and Humanities in the Life Sciences 7 p.m. Friday, Feb. 16, at the Detroit Science Center. Admission is free with paid general admission. RSVP required, send email to events@sciencedetroit.org.

Museum hours will be extended to 10 p.m. to allow event attendees an opportunity to view the exhibition either before or after presentation.

Our Body: The Universe Within is an educational exhibition comprised of actual human bodies and organs. Tickets to the exhibit are \$24.95 for adults, \$22.95 for seniors, \$19.95 children. Science Center general admission is free with the purchase of a ticket to the exhibit. Children ages 12 and under must be accompanied by adult. Visitors may add IMAX Dome Theatre film The Human Body for an additional \$3 for adults, \$2 children and seniors with purchase of an exhibit ticket. Advance tickets on sale at www.detroitsciencecenter.org or call (313) 577-8400.

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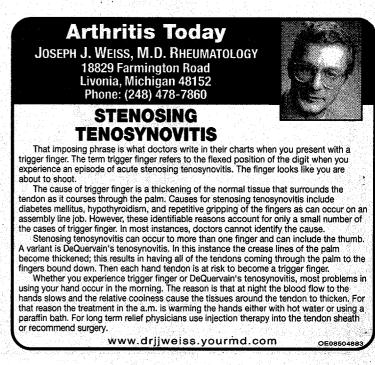
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Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, February 11, 2007

Outdoor adventure

Fitness pro will take you out of your comfort zone and into the fresh winter air

BY SHARON DARGAY COMMUNITY LIFE EDITOR

C10 (*)

Never mind that the temperature hovered around a frostbiting zero degrees.

Or that a blustery wind made it feel more like Antarctica than Rochester Hills.

Or that snow — and in some places, ice — covered every stair, trail and hill.

The 15 or so men and women who gathered on a recent Saturday morning at Bloomer Park didn't care much about wind chills and degree stats. They were on a 90-minute adventure to work out and work up a sweat outdoors.

"Once you try it, it grows on you," said Lisa Litinas of Rochester Hills. "I like running the trails. It's so pretty back there."

The 46-year-old woman said she was a "couch potato" until she arranged for professional trainer, Jeff Watters, to lead an exercise boot camp at her place of employment, Eisbrenner Public Relations, in Troy. Now Litinas attends the exercise sessions at work and Watters' Saturday Adventure in the Rochester Hills park.

"It's a craving. I just have to have it," she said.

Watters, a Ferndale resident, runs two urban boot camps yearround on the streets and in a parking deck in downtown Birmingham, where he builds exercise routines around available "equipment." That might include stairwells, park benches or planters.

"You find ways to use different things for resistance. You learn to make do with what you have," Watters explained. "I see a tot lot and to me it looks like a miniature gym."

EXERCISE IMPROVISING

He brings that same mentality to his Saturday class at Bloomer: A picnic table or fallen tree might assist with push-ups and other strength-building exercises; the park's bike velodrome becomes an impromptu climbing wall; the playground is perfect for pullups. The routine changes from week-to-week depending on the weather, participants' needs and conditions at the park. If it's dry, he might include a bit of mountain biking. Snowy? Everyone might spend some time walking in snowshoes.

"My wife and I are real big on the whole outdoor thing. We love to take other people out to experience the things we love to do," Watters said. "We encourage people to try new things.

"Where the boot camp is just focused on exercise, Adventure Saturday is exercise, but we try to employ different disciplines that we can't do in the city. It's a good way to try things that you may not even know are involved in an adventure race. Once you realize you've done it, you might be more apt to try something new."

By using a mix of exercise and adventure race activities on Saturday, he also draws an assortment of people. Some, like Maggie Surma of Royal Oak, attend Watters' Birmingham boot camp during the week. Others, like Gary Harrington, 52, of Waterford, only participate in Watters' Saturday session or his free Wednesday night boot camp, but also participate in adventure racing with groups like Infiterra Sports and Tailwind Enterprises.

Adventure races can last anywhere from a few hours to several days and include biking, hiking, running, canoeing, orientation work with a compass, rappelling, kayaking — any sport activity the participant does under his own power — in a team format.

"What I like about it is Jeff improvises and you're outside. I like being outside, in the woods," Harrington said.

Surma, 27 and her cousin, Natalie Vujovich, 26, of Rochester Hills, signed up for week day boot camp last year to get in shape for their upcoming weddings. They religiously attend the Saturday Adventure sessions.

"It started out as motivation for my wedding. But now I want to continue because it has proven to me what I can do," Surma said.

"You get addicted," Vujovich noted. "I never ran the mile in gym class and a few weeks ago he had us run two miles and I made it all the way. I started crying. It's been amazing. You work at your own level and never feel pressured. It just takes a few times to get into it. What I love about this is that it is never boring."

Watters may tailor some activities to specific members if he knows they have an upcoming race, but beginners aren't expected to keep up with long-time participants. One person may run the 170-step staircase at Bloomer three times; someone else might try it only once.

"People do what they can, as long as they do more than the last time," Watters said. He asks participants to try a bit harder each session. But he also teaches them to listen to their bodies and rest or warm up when necessary. He builds a fire in the stone shelter at the park and encourages participants to dress in layers:

"The thing that's neat about this is that it's hard to get up and get going in the winter when it's cold out. Once I get out into the fresh air, I feel so much more invigorated than if I had gone to the gym," Watters noted.

Even Rob Moroni, 43, of Bingham Farms, who "doesn't really like exercise" prefers running a park trail in the bracing winter air to the treadmill at a gym.

"I was looking for something that might engage me. It really does," said Moroni, who won a year's worth of Watters' boot camp by bidding on a silent auction at a charity event.

"In six months I've gained weight, but it's all muscle."

For more information on Watters' Saturday Adventure or his Motor City Bootcamp, visit www.jeffwatters.com.



PHOTOS BY JOHN STORMZAND | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

www.hometownlife.com

Exercise aficionados work out despite freezing temperatures at Bloomer Park in Rochester Hills. They use picnic tables for arm-strengthening movements.

ADVENTURE SATURDAY

What: Outdoor fitness classes When: 8:30-10 a.m., every Saturday, year round

Where: Bloomer Park, located at John R and Bloomer, north of Avon, in Rochester Hills

Cost: \$15 per session if not enrolled in any Motor City Bootcamp program; \$10 for those registered with an approved race organization or enrolled in a Motor City Bootcamp program

Other programs:

Motor City Bootcamp is an outdoor fitness program that meets at 5:30 a.m. Monday through Friday or 6:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday in the Chester Street parking deck in downtown Birmingham. Cost ranges from \$25 for drop-in to \$225 for the initial monthlong session. See www.jeffwatters.com for other prices or call (248) 320-5705

Moosejaw is a free outdoor, 90-minute boot camp that meets at 6:30 p.m. every other Wednesday at Moosejaw, 34288 Woodward in Birmingham



Gary Harrington of Waterford warms his hands over a fire in the pavilion at Bloomer Park, in Rochester Hills, after exercising in the snow.



Adventure Saturday participants get exercise moving a picnic table at Bloomer Park in Rochester Hills. They use the table for other strength moves as well.



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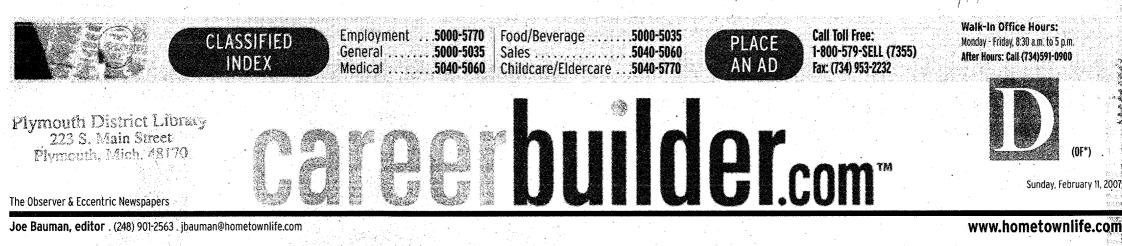


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Students explore careers in sports/entertainment marketing

Michigan DECA, a student marketing group, is based at Eastern Michigan University in Ypsilanti. More than 1,400 high school students met there Jan. 11-12 for the district conference and competition

The students were given sports and entertainment marketing as their topic. Their project required them to develop and present a plan to promote ticket sales for an amusement park in the fall. Students who excel have a chance to move on to the next round of competition

Chris Pollum, conference planner for Michigan DECA and EMU staffer, was a key person in putting the district conference together.

"Sports and entertainment just happened to be one of several areas our students can compete in," he said. The goal is to teach marketing skills to students.

"They were all high school students, mostly juniors and seniors," Pollum said of the over 1,400 total, 700 each day, who attended. That conference was one of eight Michigan DECA will do around the state this year.

The students competed for the state conference March 16-17.

"It gives students the opportunity to interact with business professionals," Pollum said. "It gives them a unique opportunity to demonstrate their skills." Students can learn about marketing and careers before investing four years in college, Pollum said.

Local schools represented Jan. 11-12 include: Belleville High, Garden City,

Livonia Churchill, Franklin, Stevenson and Career-Technical, Plymouth-Canton, Redford Union, Wayne-Westland and others.

"We have events with apparel and accessories, travel and tourism. Basically they're giving a case study situation." Students prepare a presentation to make to the judge.

Michigan DECA has some 7,500 members, and more than 2,500 of those and their advisers will meet March 16-17 for the state Career Development Conference at the Hyatt Regency Dearborn. Students will then go on to international competition in Orlando, Fla., in April.

'We'll take about 600 students to Orlando," he said.

There is a DECA college division not administered out of his office; some Eastern students work in the office as employees.

"We re looking for business professionals to come judge on March 16 and 17." Additional information is available by calling (734) 487-3322 or online at mideca.org

At the Dearborn event next month, judges will evaluate students in role playing, economic concepts, customer service, hospitality, e-commerce, food service management and market research.

DECA is an international association of high school and college students studying marketing, management and entrepreneurship in business, finance, hospitality and marketing sales and service.

By Julie Brown



The Michigan Distributive Education Clubs of America, which is based at EMU, hosted some 1,400 high school marketing education students for its district conference and competition Jan. 11-12. DECA judge Jeff McGee of Ann Arbor (left) interviews John James, a Hartland High School sophomore, while judge Marian Dorantes, a University of Michigan Spanish professor (center left), meets with Scott Hanover, a sophomore from Hartland High School.

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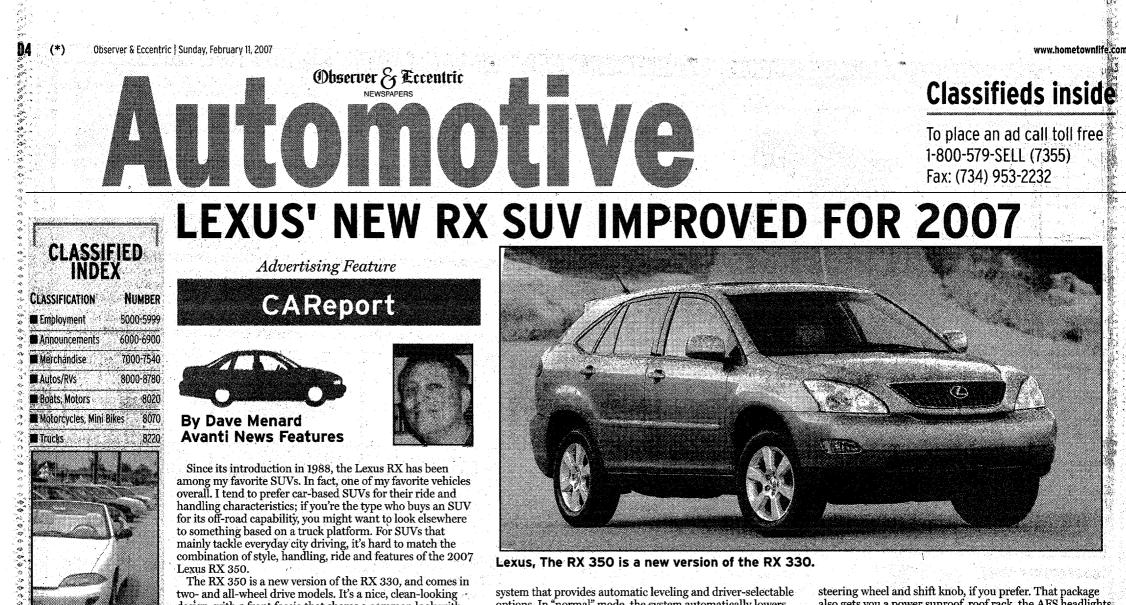


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design, with a front fascia that shares a common look with other Lexus vehicles, complete with the Lexus logo inset into It's got a nice tapered roofline that flows into the power rear liftgate. 17-inch aluminum alloy wheels are standard; 18inch aluminum alloy wheels are offered as a \$495 option. A full-size spare, fog lamps, daytime running lights and color-keyed, power heated outside mirrors are included, as well. The high-intensity headlights can include an optional

and direction to determine when cornering is about to happen and swivels the headlights in that direction for better illumination. You can switch this feature off, if you don't like

Lexus has given the RX 350 more power than the RX 330 it replaces, and it delivers a little better fuel economy, too. It's powered by a 3.5-liter, four-cam, 24-valve V6 engine with dual variable valve timing, rated at 270 horsepower and 251 lb.-ft. of torque. It's more than enough to move this midsize SUV; the two-wheel drive version goes 0-60 in 7.3 seconds (7.4 for the AWD).

Completing the powertrain is a five-speed, electronicallycontrolled automatic transmission, and it shifts smoothly and quietly. The AWD version of the RX 350 has a viscous limited-slip differential that works with the traction control system to evenly distribute power to both axles with a constant 50/50 front-to-rear power split.

The test vehicle was a two-wheel drive version, so I can't give you a first-hand account of how it works, but based on past driving experience I'm willing to bet it'll give you a smooth and controlled ride.

Both versions of the RX 350 come with Vehicle Stability Control which helps in cornering and with sharp turns. The front suspension is a MacPherson strut system with coil springs and in the rear, it's a dual-link MacPherson strut system with coil springs. You can order an air suspension

options. In "normal" mode, the system automatically lowers the vehicle by 0.3 inches at speeds over 62 mph for better ride quality. In the "low" mode, the RX 350 is lowered by 0.6 inches to enhance handling, while the "high" mode raises the ground clearance by 1.2 inches for driving over rough surfaces at speeds under 30 mph. The test vehicle didn't have this option, but I'm not sure how much better ride and handling would be with it, anyway. It's already pretty good.

Power-assisted, rack-and-pinion steering is standard and a fairly tight turning circle means it's easy to park and maneuver. Four-wheel anti-lock brakes are standard, as well, and include Brake Assist. This system attempts to determine if a driver is attempting an emergency braking. If the system determines not enough pressure is being applied to the brake pedal, it will increase the brake pressure itself until the driver releases the brake pedal.

This is one of the many safety features of the RX 350. Also included are advanced driver and passenger air bags, a driver's knee airbag, and front-seat-mounted side airbags. Side curtain airbags are standard and include a roll sensor. Inside, Lexus has loaded the RX 350 with luxury items. The leather power seats are comfortable and easy to adjust. The instrument panel consists of round analog gauges, with a tachometer to the left and fuel and temperature gauges to the right of the speedometer. The center stalk holds the climate control system, the audio system and the LCD screen that serves those functions. The screen will display trip information, your maintenance schedule, average speed and fuel consumption and outside temperature. That screen also holds the optional navigation system with back-up camera. The navigation system is fairly easy to use, and while you may not need it to get around town, the back-up camera is a great feature to have. You can't be too careful, especially with **SUVs**

The cabin features wood trim all around, including the steering wheel, although you can order a leather-trimmed

steering wheel and shift knob, if you prefer. That package also gets you a power sunroof, roof rack, the AFS headlights, and power tilt/telescoping steering column (a manual one is standard).

Automatic dual-zone climate control is standard, as are auto on/off headlights, a programmable garage door opener. power windows, keyless entry, and power rear door. The standard audio system is an AM/FM/cassette/six-disc CD changer with eight speakers and it's pretty good. You car add a Mark Levinson "premium package" audio system that includes 11 speakers and 210 watts of power. A rear-seat

DVD entertainment system is also available. There's plenty of passenger room in the RX 350. Leg and shoulder room are very good. The rear seats fold down for more storage and there are three storage compartments under the cargo area floor.

The 2007 RX 350 starts at \$37,400. Add the 18-inch wheels, navigation system, premium package that includes the sunroof, roof rack AFS headlights, and leather trim and you're looking at about \$44,200.

Overall, the RX 350 gives you a pretty good package of features, ride, handling and comfort. If you're looking for a mid-size luxury SUV this is a good place to start.

2007 Lexus RX 350 Vehicle class: Special purpose SUV. Power: V6 engine. Mileage: 20 city / 25 highway (2WD), 19/24 (AWD). Where built: Kyushu, Japan. Base price: \$37,400. Price as tested: \$45,183.

Dave Menard covers the auto beat for Avanti NewsFeatures. Write him at avanti1054@aol.com mail to: avanti1054@aol.com or autodave@bellsouth.net. mail to: autodave@bellsouth.net. @2006, Fracassa Communications.





Selecting a countertop you can count on

(NAPSI) — Increasingly, homeowners are finding they can give a home a new look by updating one or two key elements in the kitchen.

New countertops, for instance, can dramatically transform the look of any kitchen. By choosing from a wide variety of materials such as granite, quartz, solid surface and laminate, homeowners are sure to find a countertop that fits their lifestyle and budget perfectly.

It is important for homeowners to determine the look they want to achieve before they begin. It's also essential for homeowners to know that the key to great-looking countertops and a well-polished kitchen is reliable, professional installation.

Professional installers ensure that the correct measurements are taken from the beginning. Additionally, licensed professionals can answer questions about warranties and maintenance techniques.

To help make the countertop selection and installation process a success from beginning to end, below are five tips from The Home Depot Home Services:

n Countertop Selection. Homeowners should research their options and identify the look they are trying to achieve beforehand. Homeowners might consider granite for a more traditional look and colored quartz for a more retro atmosphere.

Shoppers might also consider maintenance. For example, countertop surfaces such as Silestone[®] use materials that are scratch- and stain-resistant, making them virtually maintenance-free. Silestone is the first countertop with Microban (built-in anti-microbial product protection). Granite, with the exception of Stonemark[®], needs to be resealed occasionally, and marble can stain.

Initial Store Visit. Bring



Experts say one key to having a great-looking countertop and a well-polished kitchen is reliable, professional installation.

measurements from existing countertop areas, plus design ideas for any layout changes or additions being considered.

■ In-Home Template. Once the new countertop material has been selected, a certified countertop installer will visit to verify measurements and create a template of the new countertop. (The template is the blueprint used to fabricate the custom countertop.) The installer will review seam placement and edges.

■ Professional Installation. After the countertops are fabricated and inspected, the installer will set up a convenient time for installation. When the countertops arrive, it's important for homeowners to personally inspect them to make sure that they are in perfect condition.

■ Final Walk-Through. After installation, the installer will explain care, maintenance and warranties. This is the time to ask any last-minute questions or address concerns about the countertops.

For more information, go to homedepot.com/install or visit a local store.

A good workout just steps away at Royal Oak lofts

The fully equipped fitness center at SkyLofts MarketSquare in Royal Oak simplifies New Year's resolutions for residents, as loft resident Erin Bialas, 30, recently discovered.

Bialas met with trainer Art Little from Royal Oak's Fitness Unlimited to identify her fitness goals and develop an improvement plan. There they found an array of equipment that Little said could meet everyone's needs. The gym includes an elliptical machine, two cycles, two treadmills, a rowing machine, hand weights and a Nautilus machine that especially impressed Little.

"There's no excuse now not to work out," she said.

A mirrored wall aids accuracy and a flatscreen TV helps pass the time. Dropped hand weights won't be able to dent the specially cushioned recycled rubber floor, although the rubber coating on the ends of the weights already offers protection.

"We expected very active buyers in this building and in this market, and felt that a well-equipped fitness center would be an important amenity," said development manager Nico Schultz.

Schultz said the developers also considered the needs of residents with special mobility needs when choosing and placing the equipment.

While Bialas likes the sociability and encouragement of cardio exercise classes, she said she appreciates the fitness center's elliptical machine on days when time or weather prevents her from getting to class.

Bialas, a guidance counselor at Detroit School of Arts, moved into SkyLofts MarketSquare a year ago. She went to college at Loyola University in Chicago, where she came to appreciate the style and convenience of loft living.

"I like the restaurants," she said of Royal Oak, "and I love that I can get a drink or a cup of coffee just steps away." The MarketSquare location is just two blocks off Main Street. "It's close to everything, but far enough away at 2 a.m. when the bars let out," she said.

SUNDAY FEATURED HOMES



NEW HOMES

Diverse Citation has many floor plan options

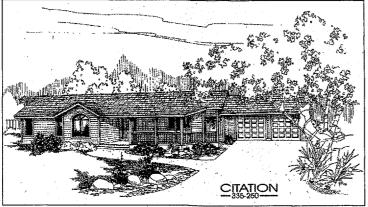
The 2,826-square-foot Citation (335-250) presents a modern floor design incorporating several features into an admirable residence. This is a home that can easily fill the needs of many diverse family situations. For those that wish to entertain, the formal dining room is a real showcase. An arched opening frames this good-sized room. Your guests will appreciate the cabinets that adorn the front two corners and the arched displays decorating the rear corners.

E2

(*)

Any meal will be enhanced by these elegant surroundings. For food preparation, the Citation boasts a walkthrough kitchen that is sure to please the cook in the household. There is plenty of space here, with a center island, double ovens and a roomy pantry. For a breakfast get-together, or an informal coffee klatch, a wide nook is adjacent to the kitchen.

The master suite is not only isolated for privacy, it has numerous amenities. There is personal access to a Ushaped back deck and spa, broad sleeping area, a large walk-in closet and a private bathroom. The two secondary



bedrooms, on the opposite side of the house, share a full bathroom and linen closet. Both bedrooms are sizable and open to the combination library/study. This room, containing handy bookshelves and a built-in desk to hold your PC, creates a positive atmosphere for any school children in the home.

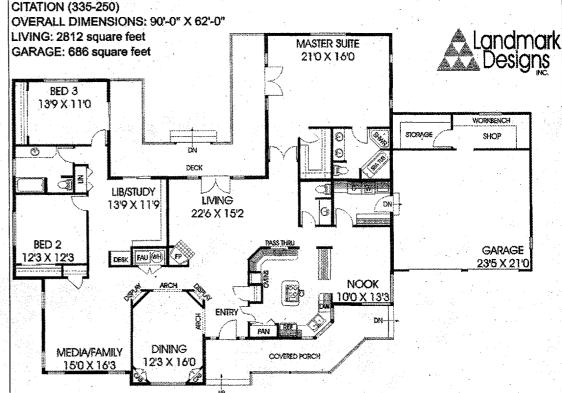
Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, February 11, 2007

There are two communal gathering places in the Citation. The central living room is quite spacious and is amply warmed by the big corner fireplace. In summer weather, open the French doors leading to the deck. To the front of the house, the media/family room is the perfect place to set up the

television and VCR. Add some popcorn and a good movie to assure an enjoyable evening.

Passage from the house to the two-car garage is through the conveniently located utility room. Inside the garage, the hobbyist in the family will be thrilled with the enclosed shop. A built-in workbench and extra storage area makes this a place where many contented hours can be spent pursuing a favorite pastime.

For a study plan of the CITATION (335-250), send \$15 to Landmark Designs, 33127 Saginaw Road E., Cottage Grove, OR 97424 or call (800) 562-1151. Be sure to specify plan name and



number. Compact discs, with search functions are free of charge to help you search our portfolio for your dream home (\$5 shipping and handling will apply). Or you may order or search online at www.ldiplans.com.



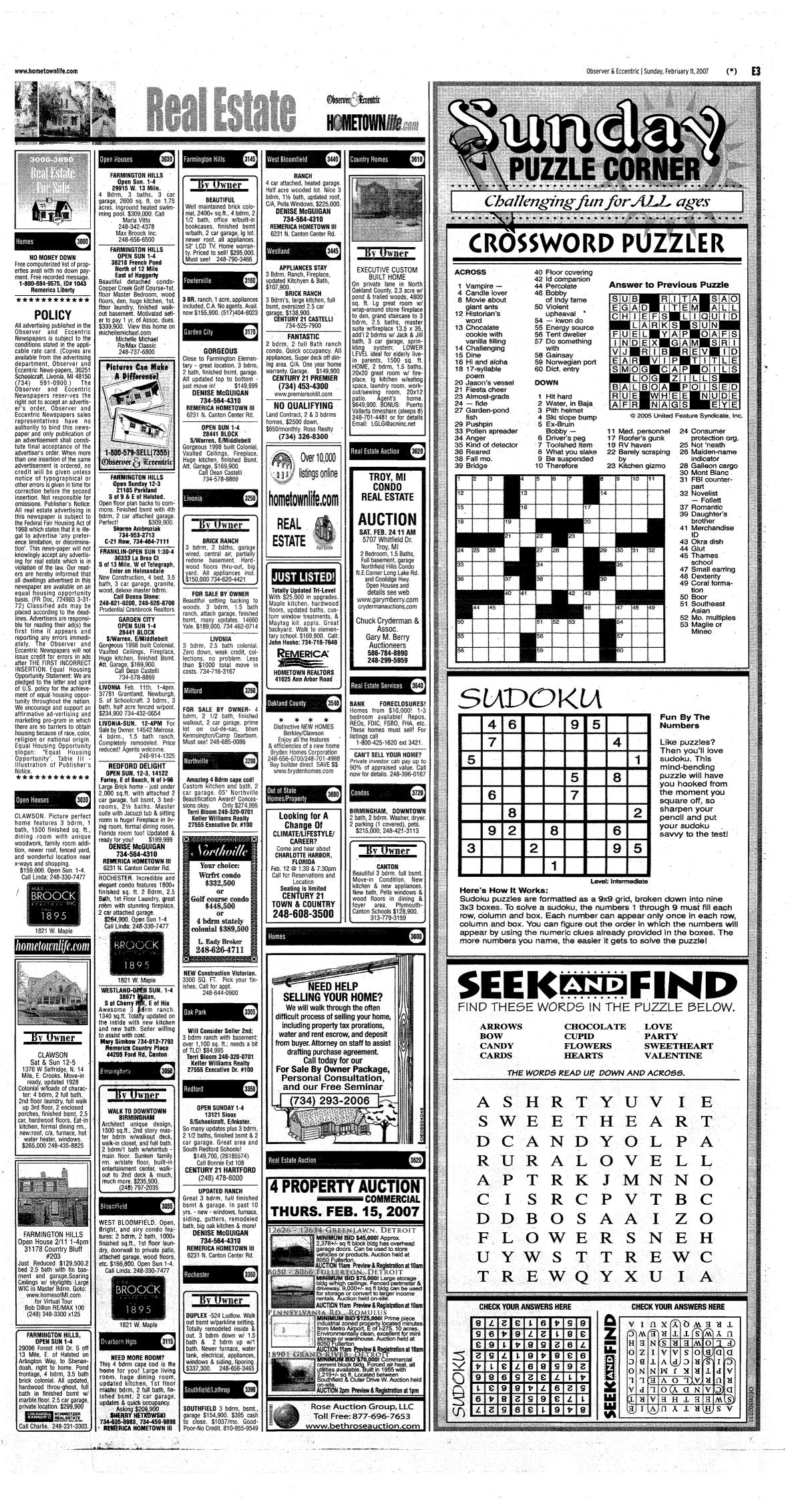
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	Anarimante	Apartments/	Apartments/	Apartmonto					
	Apartments/ Unfurnished	Unfurnished 4000	Unfurnished 4000	Apartments/ Unfurnished	Condos/Townhouses 4020	Homes For Rent 4050	Homes For Rent 4050	Homes For Rent 4050	Rooms For Rent 4140
	PLYMOUTH Lakefront Apt. 1	Southfield			ROCHESTER- Downtown.	DEARBORN HTS 2 bdrm,	LIVONIA- Ranch, 3 bdrm, 1.5	WESTLAND Cherry Hill &	TRIPLE A DELUXE MOTEL
	bdrm, 2nd floor of house. Private entrance. Kitchen, liv-	TWO GREAT SOUTHFIELD LOCATIONS!	WESTLAND	WESTLAND WOODS Country Court and Village	Townhouse. Updated 2 bdrm, heat & water incl. Fitness cen-	updated, fenced, bsmt, pets ok, garage. \$875. Option avail.	bath, completely remodeled, new 2.5 car garage & appli-	Wayne Rd. 3 bdrm brick ranch, c/a, fenced, 1.5 car, freshly	A/C, Jacuzzi in rooms, maid service, HBO. Low daily/wkly
	ing room, bath. Great loca-	Spacious One bedroom apt.	Blue Garden	1 and 2 bedrooms, lots of amenities including inter-	ter \$850/mo. 248-219-2386	313-999-6728 rachway.com	ances. Beauty in a great	painted. References required.	rates. Sunrise Inn 734-427-1300
	tion. Call: 248-467-4844	homes from \$595. Just min- utes from I-696, I-96, M-10	Apartments	com or private entry,	SOUTH LYON 2 bdrm:, 2 bath,	DETROIT 8075 Westwood,	neighborhood. \$1350/mó. 734-968-3911	\$950/mo 734-223-4939	Tel-96 Inn 313-535-4100
	PLYMOUTH MCCOOL APARTMENTS	and M-39. Come visit your new home today! Features include:	Apts from \$520*	cathedral ceilings, walk-in closets plus free storage,	w/Florida room, carport. Nice complex, lower unit. \$795/mo.	Joy & Evergreen. 3 bedroom ranch, basement, garage. Sec.	LIVONIA Rent/option to buy 3	WESTLAND Duplex 2 Bsmt w/3rd bedroom, fenced yard,	Royal Inn 248-544-1575 Fairlane 248-347-9999
	Spacious 1& 2 Bdrms	Free water	MOVE IN SPECIAL	picturesque Courtyards and sparkling pool. Just	Agent - 248-437-1549	8 ok, 734-664-1884	bdrm, exc. cond. 1000 sq. ft., extra lg. 2.5 car, fenced yd.,	private driveway. Pets ok 750/mo. 734-576-3434	Relax Inn 734-595-9990
	Heat included Assigned Parking	 Fully equipped kitchens On site laundry 	DELUXE UNITS FOR	minutes from highways,	Duplexes 4030	DETROIT- 8454 Stout Joy & Evergreen, Sharp & Clean, 3	c/a, \$950/mo. 734-612-6991	WESTLAND Ford/I-275 area. 3	Halls/Buildings 4200
	Walking distance to downtown Plymouth	 Carport 24 hour service 	BASIC UNIT PRICE SECURITY	walking Distance to major grocery shopping plaza.		bedroom, basement, garage . \$625 mo.	LIVONIA Rent or rent to own. All new inside. Perfect 3	bdrm. 1.5 bath, brick ranch	Louis Multi Dumono Room
	2 MONTHS FREE	Please Call:	DEPOSIT \$200	Call today for great Specials! (734) 721-0500	GARDEN CITY -Newer con- struction. 3 bedroom, 1500	12043 Minock, Plymouth &	bdrm., fenced yard, garage,	w/bsmt, carpet, C/A. Clean. No pets. \$900/mo. 734-591-9163	Large Multi Purpose Room. Can be used for sporting,
	on 1 bdrm's* Located on the corner of	248-557-1582, 586-754-7816	• HEAT/ WATER INCL.		sq. ft. 2 baths. Sect 8 ok. \$1050/mo. Paul	Evergreen, 2 bdrm. bsmt., garage.\$525/mo.	\$995+ deposit. 734-525-8646. PLYMOUTH-2 bedroom	WESTLAND Livonia Schools.	events, basketball, etc. Day & Eve. rentals, 734-564-8402
	Sheldon & N. Territorial 1 Bedroom from \$531/month	SOUTHFIELD	CLUBHOUSE PET WELCOME	WOONSOCKET Rhode Island 5 Room, sun parlor, bath,	734-812-2044	248-476-6498	ranch. Stove and fridge. Pets	2 bdrm, all appliances, c/a, updated kitchen, hardwood.	SPACE FOR LEASE Within St.
·	*w/14 mos. lease Call for details	TWYCKINGHAM	MODEL UNIT	cabinets, floor all new. Hook- up, no utilities. \$800. Near	LIVONIA 2 bdrm. Appliances,	FARMINGTON- 22773 Violet, Orhcard Lk/Grandriver, Clean	negotiable. \$775/mo. Call: 734-717-7643, 734-717-3452	\$750/mo. 734-658-6936	community 3600-4500 sq. ft. Zoned for Adult Day Care
	734-582-9656	VALLEY	Spacious 1 and 2	Woonsocket hospital. 1-401-301-2573	\$750/ mo. first, last + sec. dep. required. Non-smoking,	2 bdrm, bsmt. \$950/mo. 0 dep. Call Tom: 248-739-1180	PLYMOUTH 3 bdrm, ranch	WHITE LAKE- One Month Free! 3Bdrm, 2 Bath from \$699, \$99	Call Jeff (734) 564-8402
	PLYMOUTH Park Manor Apts	APARTMENTS	bdrm apartments with Balcony.		no pets. 313-407-7870	FARMINGTON HILLS -1 bdrm,	w/bsmt, . C/A. All appliances. Super clean. Immediate.	Sec Dep, Pet Friendly, Up to	Office/Retail Space For 4220
	- Move in special! 2 bdrm non- smoking \$560. Includes heat	\$199 Security Deposit	Cherry Hill near	Apartments/ Furnished	NORWAYNE 2 & 3 bdrm. Custom kitchen, laundry, car-	fenced, fireplace. \$400/mo. \$900 move-in. 28618 Grayling,	\$1095. 734-718-3495	1,800 Sq. Ft! Call Stacey @ Sun Homes 888-790-5034	Rent/Lease
	& water. No pets. 1 parking space per apt. 734-454-9274	(On Approved Credit)	Merriman	PLYMOUTH 1 bdrm., kitchen	peting, deck, garage, fenced. From \$569. 313-475-8309	rear house. 248-882-7078	PLYMOUTH, 4 bdrm, 1.5 bath colonial, 1600 sq.ft. with par-	Skyline/Clayton Retailer	BLOOMFIELD HILLS- exec. office. 290 or 170 sq.ft. office
		Large 1 bedroom units	Call for Details* 734-729-2242	& utensils, washer / dryer, utilities incl. \$850/mo. 3 mo.	NORWAYNE - 3 bdrm, new	FARMINGTON HILLS 2 bdrm, 2 bath, updated kitchen,	tially finished bsmt, 2 car garage, fenced yard. All appli-	Lakefront/Waterfront 4060	services avail. 77 E. Long Lake Rd 248-540-8323
	PLYMOUTH PRINCETON COURT	Intercom and		min. 734-416-5100	appliances incl. Section 8 okay, references required.	bsmt.,storage, 2 carports,	ances stay. \$1,475/mo.	Homes Rental	FARMINGTON HILLS
	1 Bedrooms	alarm system	Maatland	Condos/Townhouses 4020	\$750/mo. (313) 424-2384	pool/clubhouse. \$1200/mo. D&HProperties-248-888-9133	Agent: Jim, (734) 765-1081	WHITMORE LAKE Chalet Rent to own w/slip, remodeled. 3	Hamilton Business Center Executive suites starting at
	Control your own heat Ranch style/private entry	Close to Lodge and 696	Westland EHO Hawthorne Club	Condust Townhouses	PLYMOUTH Clean 2 bdrm, family room, w/garage. Heat/	FARMINGTON HILLS 3 bdrm,	PLYMOUTH - DOWNTOWN 2 bdrm + office, appliances,	bdrm. 2 bath, 1 car \$1550/mo. w/1 yr. option \$225,900. Cash	\$350/mo. T-1 internet availal- ble, Flexible lease terms.
	- Call for details:	(248) 357-1925	Apartments	BELLEVILLE - Lease /option to buy. 2 bdrm, 2 full bath, all	water incl. No smoking/pet.	1 1/2 bath, fireplace, 1294 sq.ft., 2 car attached. N of 13	enclosed porch, small pets. \$995 + util. 734-453-8375	offer \$219,500. 734-320-1706	248-324-3600
	(734) 459-6640 EHO		LIMITED TIME!	appliances incl. \$875/mo. No	\$800. 734-459-7549	Mile. \$1400/mo 248-477-5184	PLYMOUTH Old Village. 1	Mahila Hama Daniala	LATHRUP VILLAGE-
	Plymouth	THINK YOU WON'T	Rents as low as	dogs. Call: (734) 667-3107 BIRMINGHAM, DOWNTOWN	WAYNE - 2 bdrm, bsmt, din- ing room, C/A, stove & refrig-	FARMINGTON HILLS 3 bdrm, 2 bath, family room,	bdrm, 1 bath, 1 car, fireplace, washer/dryer. \$650/month +	Mobile Home Rentals 4070	Excellent office space suitable to home health care, account
	SHELDON PARK	THINK AGAIN!	\$499 Plus	2 bath, 2 bdrm. Washer, dryer.	erator, completely remodeled. \$720mo., \$1000 security. No	garage, bsmt, c/a, stove/ fridge NO PETS, \$1075.	sec. 1 yr. lease 734-459-0474	CANTON - We have homes for	ing, professional offices for
	APARTMENTS	New Homes for Rent!	1 MONTH FREE!	2 parking (1 covered), Pets. \$1400/mo, 248-421-3113	pets. Lawn maintenance included. 734-427-7545	248-763-1294	PLYMOUTH TOWNSHIP 3 bdrm, 1.5 bath, fireplace,	rent. Pets welcome. Call Sandy at Sun Homes for details at:	any other uses, very attractive rent, all utilities included. Call:
	Spacious 1 & 2 bdrms.		LIMITED AVAILABILITY	BIRMINGHAM, DOWNTOWN	WAYNE	FARMINGTON HILLS Beautiful	large fenced yd. Avail. immed.	(888) 304-8941 Exclusive	248-569-9511 LIVONIA 1200 sq.ft. furnished.
	C/A. Carport. Pool. From \$565	\$975mo.	CALL NOW!	Gorgeous 1,000 sqft. Granite in kitchen & bath, hardwood	Downtown area off Mich. Ave. Spacious 2 bdrm, all remod-	executive home in excellent neighborhood. \$2800/mo.	\$1095/mo. (248) 735-5464	Skyline/Clayton Retailer	Private entrance & restroom.
	50% off 1st 3 Months	3 & 4 BEDROOMS!	(866) 262-3697 Merriman Rd. Btwn	floors. \$1525. 248-877-3261	eled w/appliances, electric &	248-489-5905, 248-497-9951	REDFORD 18603 Norborne, very nice updated 3 bedroom,	Vacation 4110	Office supply storage avail, \$950 + util. 734-536-1408
	W/good credit! Call: (734) 453-8811	EZ Financing for	Ann Arbor Tr. &	BLOOMFIELD TWP 1600 sq.ft. 2 bdrm, 1 den, 2.5 baths,	water incl. basement & garage. \$650/mo. go to:	FARMINGTON HILLS - Large, nicely finished, 3 bdrm, 2 bath,	appliances, garage. \$1100/mo. Section 8 OK. 248-224-3838	Resort/Rentals	LIVONIA - 5 Mile/ Farmington
		all types of credit!	Warren Rd. www.cmiproperties.net	attached 2 car. Atrium off kitchen, fireplace, C/A, finished	www.usrentallistings.com/ 3723 and/or call:	bsmt, quiet neighborhood, \$1100/mo. 248-489-5905	REDFORD- 2 bdrm, finished	/	2 rm. office w/ windows, 2nd floor. 330 sq. ft. \$455 mo.
	Plymouth	Novi 888-251-4353 RESTRICTIONS APPLY	a di a comproportiona not	bsmt, pool, tennis. No pets.	Ken W. 734-454-9211 ext. 308	FERNDALE- Updated 3 bdrm.	bsmt, fenced yard, 19345 Indian, N/7, E/Inkster. Sec 8	Harbor Springs Bed & Breakfast	Utilities incl. 734-422-2321
	Spectacular Rates	Offer Expires 2-28-07	Westland Park Apts.	\$1300/mo. 248-853-0821 CANTON - Lease to own. New	Westland - 2 bdrm, Full bsmt.	family/dining room, bsmt, appliances. Wood floors.	ok. \$700/mo. 248-344-8712	Exceptional Winter Specials	LIVONIA High Tech offices for rent, various sq. ft. avail.
	Starting At \$549		RENT A	luxury condo. 2 bdrm. finished	Clean, neat. Quiet neighbor- hood. Immediate occupancy.	\$875/mo. + sec 313-999-4540	REDFORD, 3 bdrm, 1 bath home on corner lot, big yard	www.kimberly countryestate.com	Near I-96 & 275. For more details. John - 734-462-0770
	FREE HEAT Newly Upgraded	WAYNE -1 bdrm, very safe area, ideal for retirees, gound	2 BDRM.	bsmt, 2 car garage, gorgeous clubhouse. 734-216-1933	From \$645/mo. Credit check. Call Jamie: 734-721-8111	GARDEN CITY Sharp 3 bedrom Bungalow,	1400 sq. ft. w/ wet bar.	231-526-7646	NORTHVILLE DOWNTOWN.
	1 & 2 Bedrooms	floor, newly decorated, water &heat incl. Close to 7-11.		CLAWSON/ROYAL OAK	WESTLAND/ NORWAYNE Du-	All appliances stay, Call:	\$1000/mo. Could be \$0 down or rent to own. 734-521-0235		Executive Office Suites Flexible Lease Terms.
	Plymouth Manor	\$440/mo. 2488796540	FOR THE	Broadacre at Manitou – N.	plex & Quad unit, 2 bdrm.	Dave Classon (734)776-2976	REDFORD 3 bdrm. c/a, 2 car,	Living Quarters To 4120 Share	248-347-6811
	Plymouth House	WAYNE A \$0 MOVE-IN! Michigan/Merriman, 1 bdrm,	SAME	of 14 Mile, E. off Crooks. WOW! Must see these	Clean. Remodeled kitchen. Under\$560 734-416-9799	HUNTINGTON WOODS	finished bsmt., S. Redford Schools. Sect 8 ok. \$1150/mo		
	Close to downtown Plymouth!	newly updated. Free heat & water. \$485/mo.734-459-1160	RATE AS A	beautifully updated 2 bdrm., 1.5 bath townhomes		3 bdrm, 1.5 bath, 1400 sq.ft., fenced yard, pets OK.	248-252-0006	DETROIT (Redford border) Mature woman looking for 2	
	734-455-3880 www.yorkcommunities.com	WESTLAND - 1 & 2 bdrm, 2	1 BDRM.	with custom moldings & paint, bsmts., private	Flats 4040	\$1500/mo. 248-752-4016	REDFORD 3 Bedroom Alum. ranch, bsmt., \$825 mo. 20587	roommates. \$400/mo. per room, incl. utliities, not phone.	nn
		baths, Washer/Dryer, Private Entrance & Balcony.		paint, bsmts., private yards, carports. Check out our 19'x12' master bed-	FARMINGTON HILLS- Total	INKSTER- Remodeled 3 bdrm brick ranch, utility rm, imme-	Kinloch, 8 Mile & Beech. 248-476-6498	313-506-6678 313-727-2712	
	Norman Adda Al Constant Constant	734-459-1711 EHO	\$575	room! \$925 /mo. EHO	privacy in this 2 bdrm upper flat. Lg family room, dining	diate occupancy, option to buy available. \$600, 248-788-1823	REDFORD	LIVONIA Female to share with same. Full house privileges.	
	REDFORD - 1 BDRM	For the best sut-	Security Deposit \$200	The Beneicke Group (248) 642-8686	room. Appliances. \$750 & sec. Sep. utilities. 248-470-4309	LEASE OR BUY	3 Bedroom, SECTION 8 APPROVED, 16601 Ryland,	\$575 (mo to mo)+ security incl. utilities. 734 425-9592	
	FIRST MONTH FREE \$99 Security Deposit*	For the best auto classifications check	2 Bedroom, 1.5 bath		ROYAL OAK / BERKLEY	6811 Whitenine Dr. 4 hdrm	Call: 248-408-1112	LIVONIA -Livonia Mall area,	PLYMOUTH DOWNTOWN
	Incl: central air, private storage, walk-in closets.	out the Observer & Eccentric Newspaper.	936 sq. ft. 1 Bedroom	FARMINGTON HILLS 1 Bedroom., bath, carport,	2 bdrm Lower Flat, bath, laun- dry facilities, bsmt. Immediate	quad, 3 bath, 2,450 sq. ft. \$20,000 down on land con- tract. Or LEASE at \$2100/best	REDFORD 5 & Beech. Newer 3 bdrm. New paint, carpet,	single male will share 3 bdrm home. \$380 incl. utilities.	Office Space For Lease
	2 bdrm also available.	Eccentric Newspaper. "It's all about RESULTS!"	728 sq. ft. \$575	balcony. \$750 plus security.	Occupancy. Tree lined neigh- borhood. Gas/ Water incl.	offer. 517-351-5993, Keller	windows, bath. No pets. \$700	Call: 313-613-1552	Affordable rates for Prime location! Several units rang-
	(313) 937-3319 EHO *Some restrictions apply	RESULTS!	Heat/Water	248-808-3163	\$775/ Mo. 313-805-5484	Williams Realty 888-881-1200	mo. + security. 734-717-4510	NORTHVILLE - Private bath,	ing from 400 - 1200sq.ft. Monthly Rents From \$575-
			Included (New residents only	LAKE ORION Atwater Commons Condo. 2 bdrm, 2 full	Homes For Rent 4050	LIVONIA 20925 Metroview - 2 Bed-	REDFORD Brick 3 bdrm bun- galow, bsmt, garage, 1200 sq.	walk-in closet. Non-smoking. Mo. to mo. Female only. Avail.	\$1100. Call: (888) 877-3786
	SOUTH LYON Country setting 2 bdrm, nice size w/stove &	WESTLAND 1 bdrm carriage house. Newly remodeled, Quiet	with approved credit) 1 year lease.	bath, den, 1 car, \$975/mo. Avail May 1st. 248-627-9214	4000	rooms, bath, laundry facili- ties. Lovely home on 2	ft., Rent/option to buy. \$950/mo. 313-515-1100	now! \$500. 248-505-0645	REDFORD- 3,032 sq. ft. office
	fridge, separate entrance, parking. \$600+ util. 248-353-	neighborhood. Water incl. No	Very clean apartments	LIVONIA - 2 bdrm, 1400 sg.ft.,	AFFORDABLE	acres! Walk to Founders	REDFORD- Sharp 3 bdrm	PLYMOUTH 1600 sq. ft. home, room with	space, private entrance; Tele-
	9010 ext. 11	pets. \$575. 734-721-1959 pm WESTLAND-2 bdrm. 1.5 bath,	Excellent maintenance Central air, intercom	bsmt, freshly painted, appli- ances, immediate occupancy,	LEASE-OPTIONS All areas-All price ranges.	Park. Stove & fridge, wash- er/dryer and Free water!	brick, bsmt, 2 car garage, din- ing room, option to buy avail.	access to house. \$425/mo. Call mornings.734-262-5500	graph & W. Chicago area. Very low rent. Call: 248-855-9676
	SOUTH LYON MEADOWS OF SOUTH LYON	close to all schools. Washer &	Appliances include dish- washer and more.	\$850/mo. 734-276-0503	(734) 915-1016	Immediate Occupancy. Call for appointment. \$900	\$850, 248-788-1823	547 Hornings.754-202-0500	Southfield-MEDICAL OFFICE
	2 & 3 bdrm, starting at \$750. Laundry. Pet friendly.	dryer hook-up. \$600 + sec. deposit. Call: (248) 892-0262	No pets MonFri. 9-6, Sat. 12-4	LIVONIA (6 & Newburgh area) 1450 sq. ft. upper condo. 2	red key	248-476-6792	ROCHESTER-DOWNTOWN Must see! 3 bdrm, bsmt, all	Rooms For Rent 4140	Northwestern hwy. Call Tom
	248-767-4207	Westland	(734) 729-6636	bdrm., 2 bath, remodeled. C/A, all appliances, no pets.	HOMES	LIVONIA 3 Bdrm, 1 bath, 2.5	appliances, fireplace, garage,	FARMINGTON HILLS	Brusseau 248-559-2579 x164
			5	\$995/mo. 248-719-5680	BERKLEY - DOWNTOWN	car garage, fenced yard. All appliances. Recently updated.	\$1100/mo. 248-666-6049 ROYAL OAK & SOUTHFIELD-	Kitchen and	Garage/Mini Storage 4300
	SOUTH LYON	AFFORDABLE		LIVONIA Beautiful 3 bdrm, 3 bath, 2 level spacious 2,225	Upper flat, 1 bdrm, 700 sq.ft., very clean, stove & refrigera-	\$900/mo. (734) 564-3951	2 bdrm, hardwood floors,	Washer/dryer. NO PETS \$295+utilities.	PLYMOUTH Garage for stor-
	WOW!!	RENT STARTING	Westland	sq. ft. at 6 & Newburgh Rd.	tor, \$630/mo. 734-276-0503	LIVONIA 3 bdrm, 1 bath brick ranch,	appliances. Large yard. 248-388-6853.	Call 248-835-9895	age. Spacious w/overhead door. 248467-4844
	As Low As	At \$499	THE "NEW" WESTERN	Laurel Woods, \$1500/mo. 734-748-1866 734-216-2615	BIRMINGHAM 3 bdrm ranch. 2 bath, great room, fireplace,	garage, \$795/mo. Sec. 8 okay. Agent, Ron: (734) 844-6587	WAYNE- Immaculate 2 bdrm,	GARDEN CITY bdrm, bath, kitchen & laundry access, non-	Box Cox Mathematica Cox
	\$510/MO \$199 SEC DEP.	ORCHARDS OF	HILLS	NORTHVILLE, 3 bdrm town- house w/ office. Resort style	new hardwood floors. Full bsmt, 2 car garage. Built	LIVONIA - 3 bdrm, 1 bath	c/a, all appliances, finished bsmt, garage. \$850/mo. +	smoking & drinking. \$100/wk., \$100 sec. 734-522-9876	Lease/Option To Buy 4580
	(on approved credit)	• 1 & 2 Bedroom plans	NEW MANAGEMENT	amenities. Heat/ water incl.	1985. \$1290 248-252-3863	home w/ garage & bsmt. Good cond., good area.	dep. 734-728-3227	GARDEN CITY Sleeping room,	LIVONIA-LEASE OPTION
	Call today before	 Playground Area 	Updated Apartments \$99 SEC. DEP.	\$1275. Agent, 954-643-4760	Canton	\$800/mo. Could be \$0 down or rent to own. 734-521-0235	WAYNE - Sharp 3 bdrm, fin- ished bsmt, immediate occu-	furnished. Non-drinker. Work- ing male. \$90/wk, security.	Bruise credit, Bankruptcy Okay Several homes available
	they are gone! KENSINGTON PARK	Pool & Clubhouse Carport Included	1 MONTH FREE	Northvilie-Downtown Condo On Fairbrook. 2 bdrm, 1 bath, No-smoking \$800 /mo +	HOMES FOR RENT "LOW MOVE-IN COST"	LIVONIA 3 bdrm. brick ranch,	pancy, option to buy available. \$850, 248-788-1823	734-731-2657, 734-427-2778	Very Nice area. call for house details and let us know what
	IN ACTINITIES FOR MARKED F	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	1 Rdrm \$565	r wu*suckaa, \$800 /m∩ ∔		1 0 hath +000 4 fat-	1. · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		



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