

## BY TONY BRUSCATO STAFF WRITER

Trade missions to China by Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano have resulted in the creation of a partnership between Plymouth-Canton Community Schools and one of China's top high schools, which could eventually lead to academic and cultural exchange programs.

The Plymouth-Canton Board of Education has approved a partnership with the number one school attached to Central China Normal University in Wuhan, China, that could possibly lead to exchange programs for students and teachers on both sides of the globe.

"We look at this as a tremendous opportunity for our district," said Mike Bender, director of secondary education for PCCS. "One of the partnership ideas is to communicate with students in China by e-mailing and using our distance learning lab. We also envision, over time, educational exchanges to learn about each other's culture, educational approaches and programming.

"The advantages for us is

Mulu Birru, the executive director of Wayne County's Department of Economic Development, said the mayor of Wuhan – a city of 8.5 million people – is considered the "education mayor because he loves education."

between schools, Chinese city

"I personally visited the school in Wuhan twice," Birru said. "They have a very modern building with new classrooms and dormitories, and the best kids attend the school. The high school is connected to a university in Wuhan, and literally 100 percent of the students go on to universities."

Birru said Plymouth-Canton was chosen to participate in the partnership because of the growing Chinese population in the area. Ficano was also instrumental in attracting the Tempo Group – which has 27 factories in China – to purchase a 480,000-squarefoot building on Michigan Avenue near Beck in Canton Township that houses a handful of research and development jobs.

"We just thought it was a good connection," Birru said.

Birru said the school partnership is in the early stages, but he envisions a wide-ranging scope of international activities. "Students from here could go to China to learn Chinese in the schools, exchanges of teachers, pen pal arrangements and competition in sports like basketball and soccer," Birru said. "We could



Cora Barsegian can't yet tell if a recent slump in the dry cleaning business is a result of the Sheldon Road project.

# **Business not booming**

Sheldon closure having negative effect on retailers

#### BY BRAD KADRICH STAFF WRITER

When Wayne County officials closed Sheldon Road at the CSX railroad tracks last month for the start of the two-year underpass project, they figured people would find their way around the construction and continue to patronize businesses in the area.

And while there is some evidence to suggest that's happening, there's no question the road closure is having a negative impact on retailers, particularly those just north of the project.

Connie Burnett, the head cashier at Leo's Coney Island at Five Mile and Sheldon, has worked at the restaurant for eight years. She said the road closure is costing the restaurant valuable business. And while it has kept some people from the north at Leo's end of town, business is still off.

"Everyone who used to go to Ann Arbor Road for lunch can't, so that makes up for it," Burnett said. "But the people on the other side (of the project)

lot of canned goods do the trick.

staffers know that's not enough.

Belleville.

Pantry needs dry

goods, boxed foods

BY BRAD KADRICH

STAFF WRITER

Man cannot live on bread alone, nor, apparently, will a

That's why the folks at the Plymouth Salvation Army

are hoping for a spike in donations of dry goods - boxed

foods of all sorts - to fill out the food pantry they use to

help needy people in Plymouth, Canton, Northville and

Canned goods are in high supply, but Salvation Army

PLEASE SEE PANTRY, A6



Tom Hoffer and Igor Mishulin work for Perceptron, north of the railroad tracks and they both live in northern suburbs so the road closing has little effect on them.

can't get to us, so it's hurting a little." Sheldon will be closed nearly two years while Wayne County contractors construct the underpass designed to ease traffic congestion caused by trains in the area. Most locals are detouring around the area using Beck Road, but the impact is still being felt on both

sides of the construction. Also contributing is the weather, which had been balmy for this time of Sheldon water main scheduled for testing, A4.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

year, but has recently assumed its normal Michigan charateristics.

Cora Barsegian, the manager at Lorey Cleaners, said she's already lost at least one customer who decided not to fight his way around the construction. She also said the time of year might be playing a role in a definite decrease in business. While she's done some large orders for places like Ilmor Engineering, and the cleaners still gets a lot of customers from Northville, she said business has definitely fallen off.

"I can't tell for sure if it's the (Sheldon) closing or the time of year," Barsegian said: "This last week, we've been very slow. I don't know what it is, but we are down."

Not everyone is feeling the pinch. At the Inn at St. John's, for instance, business continues to be brisk. While patronage of its new Five restaurant is down, the rest of the inn's business —

## PLEASE SEE SHELDON, A4

learning another culture," he said. "As we move into a global society, there is tremendous benefit in learning other cultures, languages and customs. As our society changes, we want to make sure our students are prepared for the future."

PLEASE SEE CHINA, A6

# Chamber board supports bond

#### BY TONY BRUSCATO STAFF WRITER

The Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce has endorsed the Plymouth-Canton Schools \$62.1 million bond issue being put before voters Feb. 27.

The Board of Directors voted to support the bond proposal at its Thursday meeting after a push from Bill Pratt, who sits on the chamber's education committee.

"The school board and the district has this one right," Pratt said. "They're asking for things they absolutely need to maintain the high quality of the school system.

"The problem they ran into with the last (September 2006) bond was asking for things that were amenities, that weren't totally necessary," he said.

Pratt said he understands the state is financially challenged from layoffs and cutbacks by business and industry, and asking residents to vote for a tax increase isn't necessarily popular.

"But, sometimes you have to bite the bullet," Pratt said. "What they are asking the voters to pay is relatively small based on what they are going to get for it."

According to the district, if the bond passes it will require a tax increase of .6 mills, costing an average homeowner – with a market value of \$275,000 – \$83 a year.

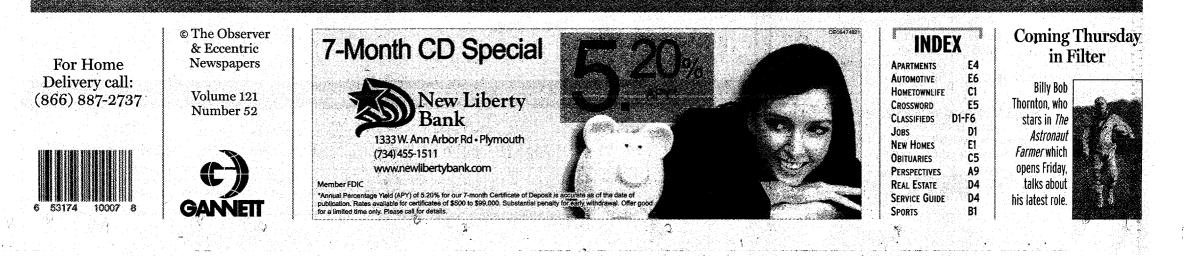
Major features of the bond include:

■ Building a new middle school in Canton Township to replace Central Middle School in Plymouth, and reimbursing the general fund for the cost to purchase the land.

■ Remodeling Central for the district's alternative education program, which is currently housed at Starkweather Education Center.

Adding additional classrooms at Pioneer Middle School,

PLEASE SEE CHAMBER, AG





BILL BRESLER | STAFF, PHOTOGRAPHER

The Salvation Army's Tammy Moyer checks the dwindling supply of dry/boxed foods in the emergency pantry. The pantry needs pastas, instant potatoes, dry boxed soups, oatmeal, etc.

# LOCAL NEWS

Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, February 18, 2007

**Growth Works a lifeline for young people** 

BY JULIE BROWN STAFF WRITER

Growth Works has a proud tradition of serving young people in the Plymouth-Canton community and beyond, helping in such areas as substance abuse and behavior problems. Students, volunteers and others who make it all possible gathered Thursday at Fox Hills Country Club west of Plymouth for the organization's 18th-annual recognition dinner.

When youth David Grassley first came to Growth Works, he didn't think he belonged there. "Growth Works was very beneficial to me," he said at the awards dinner.

Grassley, now enrolled at Northville High School, was earlier expelled from Canton High School. He and his mom appreciate Growth Works and shared that at the dinner.

"I think it'll help me out forever with my decisionmaking skills," said Grassley, who also thanked his parents. "You guys did a lot for me and I'd really like to thank you."

This year's honorees include:

Lisa Fikany of Grosse Pointe, Care Management Organization, community, Ennis Center for Children Detroit

Sarah Kingsley of Grosse Pointe, CMO, community,

**Ennis Center for Children** Detroit Marsha Bianconi of

Westland, CMO, community, Services of Vassar, Mich., executive director for accepting. Conference of Western Wayne-Livonia.

"I am truly honored," Bianconi said. "It has been a privilege to work with these people. I can't tell you how dedicated the staff of Growth Works is."

🖬 Garrett Hren, CMO, youth, Dearborn

 Antwon Jackson, CMO, youth, Romulus

Johnathan Woodrum, CMO, youth, Romulus

Rob Olson, chemical dependency, youth, Canton

David Smith, CD, youth, Livonia David Grassley, Youth

Assistance Program, youth, formerly of Canton

Orby Huffman, Pioneer Work & Learn GED, formerly of Belleville

🔳 Braeden Wilson, Schoolcraft GED, formerly of Van Buren

James Cobb, Schoolcraft GED, Northville

Hannah Rissman,

- Schoolcraft GED, Dearborn Justin Cain, attended
- Schoolcraft, Dearborn Frank Hubert, attended
- Schoolcraft, Romulus

Schoolcraft, Canton

Westland

Services, community, Novi -R.E. Wollack, president and CEO of Wolverine Human

Dale Yagiela, Growth works executive director, gave a brief overview of services, noting the CMO handled some 600 young people court-referred from 17 western Wayne communities. The **Conference of Western** Wayne is a close partner in that, he said.

There's also a new residential program in chemical dependency for adolescent males. "This is a real step forward," Yagiela said, also noting the ongoing success of adult outpatient treatment.

There's school support for the South Redford and Inkster districts, as well as space shared with other agencies in the Canton Human Services Center and the Schoolcraft College "Links to Success" which helps young people continue schooling.

Yagiela lauded Growth Works board members, including Stephen Harper, current president, who's served 25 years on the board.

Young people from Growth Works not receiving awards were also invited to the Fox Hills dinner, and Yagiela said he'd like to see them honored next year and beyond. "That's the challenge that you guys face," he said.

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

# Symphony ready for 61st season finale

The Plymouth Symphony Orchestra presents the fifth and final concert of their 61st "Music for All Time" season, under award-winning music director and conductor Nan Harrison Washburn, with "Spring Fling!," featuring guest composer Elinor Armer and guest narrator Gloria Logan.

The concert takes place 8 p.m. Saturday, March 10, at the Penn Theatre in downtown Plymouth.

Celebrating spring, romance and just plain fun are the themes of the actionpacked season finale, "Spring Fling!" Center-stage will be a performance of the beloved 20th century masterpiece, Appalachian Spring, by Aaron Copland.

On the lighter side, the work by Elinor Armer is The Great Instrument of the Geggerets. Written in 1989, "Geggerets" is a collaborative composition with science fiction writer Ursula K. Le Guin. In addition to the more conventional



musical instruments are two harmonicas and a bicycle wheel along with an array of "theatrics" from the orchestra players. Rounding out the program are two favorites on the topic of love: the seductive Bacchanale from "Samson & Delila" by Saint Saëns, and Tchaikovsky's Romeo and Juliet Overture.

Prior to the performance, patrons are invited to hear a special on-stage talk at 7:15 p.m. featuring Washburn and composer Elinor Armer. The chat serves as a special introduction and a chance to ask questions about the evening's musical program. A post-show reception will be held at Gem

Asset Management for major donors to the PSO.

www.hometownlife.com

The concert is sponsored by LaSalle Bank. It is also supported by the Plymouth Symphony League and the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs, a partner agency of the National Endowment for the Arts.

Tickets for all PSO season subscription concerts are \$20 for adults, \$18 for seniors and free for students through 12th grade. Groups of 10 or more receive a 10percent discount. Tickets for PSO performances can now be purchased using the symphony's secure On-line Box Office on its Web site at www.plymouthsymphony.org

Tickets may also be obtained by contacting the **Plymouth Canton** Symphony Society office by phone at (734) 451-2112, by fax at (734) 451-3458, by email at info@plymouthsymphony.org or in person at 470 Forest Avenue, Suite 18, Plymouth.

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## **CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH** NOTICE OF HEARING ASSESSMENT BOARD OF REVIEW

NOTICE OF HEARING given that the Plymouth Township Board of Review will meet on the following dates and times:

Hearings are by appointment, please call 354-3269, between 8 am and 4:30 pm for an appointment.

· · · ·		
Tuesday, March 6	9 am - Noon 2 pm - 5 pm	Organizational Meeting Hearings by Appointment
Monday, March 12	2 p m - 5 pm 6 pm - 9 pm	Hearings by Appointment Hearings by Appointment
Wednesday, March 14	9 am - Noon 2 pm - 5 pm	Hearings by Appointment Hearings by Appointment
Saturday, March 17	9 am - 11 am	First Come - First Served

Other hearing dates and times may be scheduled as needed.

All persons protesting their assessment must complete petitions prior to appearing before the Board. A personal appearance is not required. Appeals by mail will be accepted if received by March 23, 2007.

The Board of Review will be held in the Board Meeting Room of



#### Notice is hereby given that the City of Plymouth, Michigan will accept sealed bids until 2:00 p.m., Monday, February 26, 2007. The bid opening will take place at 2:00 p.m., Monday, February 26, 2007 at Plymouth City Hall, 201 S. Main Street, Plymouth, Michigan for the following:

## **DDA Summer 2007 Publication Printing**

Specifications and bid documents are available in the City Manager's Office, at City Hall, 201 S. Main Street, Plymouth, 48170 during normal business hours. You may also download a copy of the documentation from the City's web site at: http:// www.ci.plymouth.mi.us.

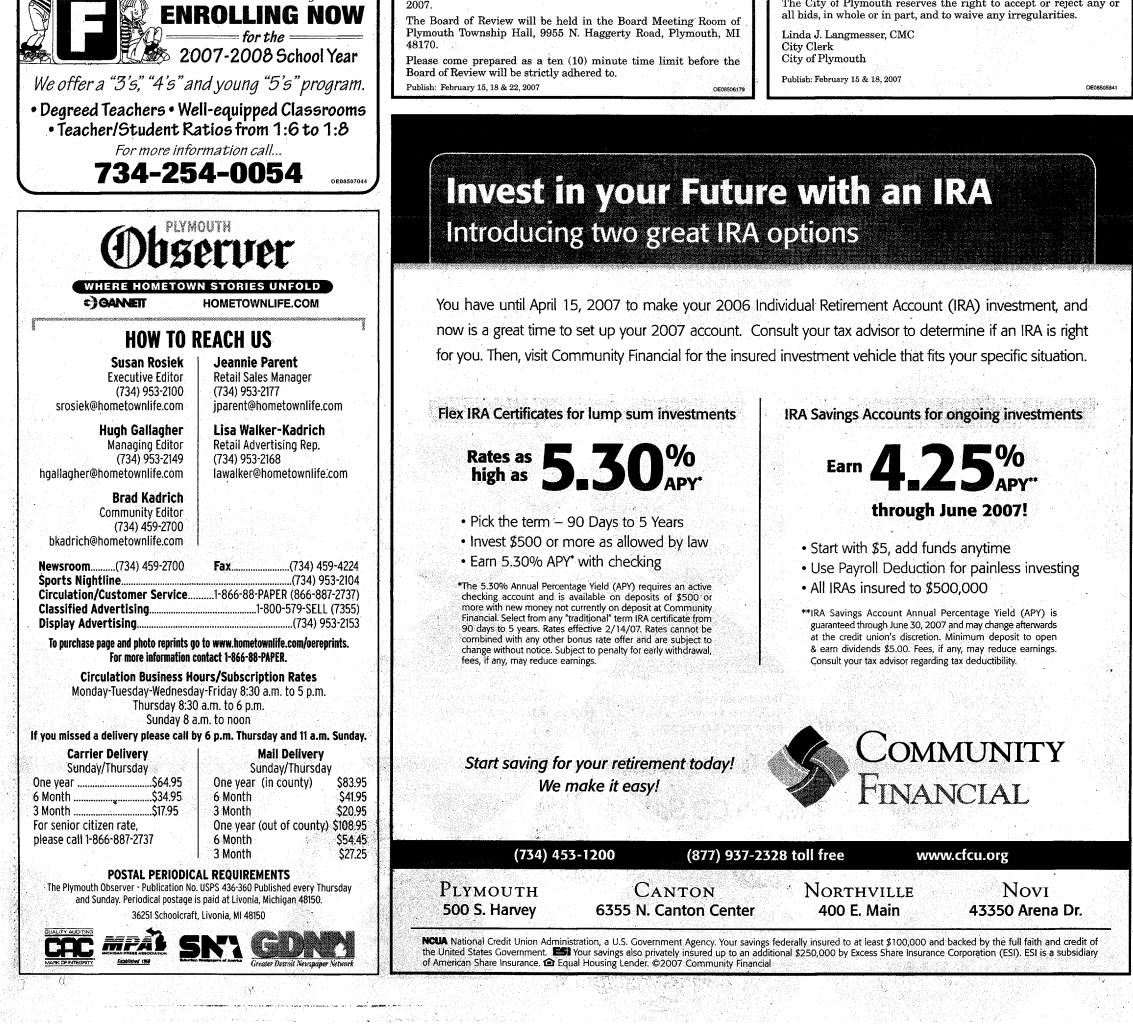
Questions regarding this bid should be directed to the Downtown Development Authority at dda@ci.plymouth.mi.us or (734) 455-1453.

The City of Plymouth reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids, in whole or in part, and to waive any irregularities.

TAX PROBLEMS? Never Talk to The IRS.
Ik to Tax Resolution Specialists of Michigan.• Offer in Compromise• Remove Liens/Levies• Penalty Abatement• Audit Representation• File Old Returns• Innocent Spouse Relief• Installment Payments• Payroll/Sales Tax Relief
Call (248) 985-HELP (4357) for a FREE consultation Tax Resolution Specialists of Michigan Member of American Society of IRS Problem Solvers
Fun Factory Preschool
45201 N. Territorial Road • Plymouth

- Brad Hickman, attended
- Chris Lewis, attended Schoolcraft, formerly of
- Wolverine Human

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# Trash pickup

www.hometownlife.com

Plymouth Township officials have announced there will not be a delay in the collection of trash caused by the President's Day holiday Monday, Feb. 19.

Residents are still being asked to place items at the curb by 7 a.m. on regularly scheduled collection days.

# Swimming scholarship

The James W. Franklin Scholarship Fund provides \$1,000 for graduates of Plymouth-Canton Community Schools who participated in an organized swimming program during high school.

The scholarship application is available in the high school counseling offices or on-line at www.JamesWFranklin.com. Applications for this year's award are due March 1, with the award being announced at the annual Honors Convocation in May.

# Texas Hold'em benefit

The Plymouth/Canton Airport Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA#113) is hosting a charity Texas Hold'em Poker Tournament on Saturday, Feb. 24 to support its aviation education and scholarship programs.

There is a \$60 fee to participate. Top prize will be \$500-\$1000, and there will be a scaled payout to top 20 percent of players. Registration begins at 2 p.m., with a 3 p.m. state time.

For more information visit www.eaa113.org

# 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 moderate 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.

# Symons scholarships

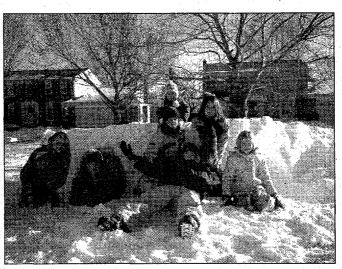
The P-CEP Choir Boosters announce the Darlene Symons Memorial Scholarships, a pair of \$500 scholarships open to PCEP graduates from 2006 or earlier with a minimum of 2 years in PCEP choir program. Applicants must be currently enrolled in a college-vocal music education or performance program. A letter of recommendation from college instructor is required.

The Darlene Symons Memorial Scholarships are administered through the Canton Community Foundation Scholarship Program. The scholarship program, which began in 1990 and awarded \$4,000 to nine students, has grown steadily over the years. Since the program began, local students have received more than \$360,000 toward their education.

Local businesses and organizations, as well as philanthropic individuals, continue to sponsor and support these various scholarships because the need for them is so great. Last -year alone CCF received 130 scholarship applications for 34 awards.

This year CCF offers Canton Township, Plymouth and Plymouth Township residents access to 35 scholarships totaling \$35,300. The scholarships are available to graduating high-school seniors, current

# **PLYMOUTH PIPELINE**



# Snow play

These enterprising children didn't waste the snow day given them by Mother Nature earlier this week. According to interested observers, the children, all from Plymouth, spent nearly the entire day, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., building this snow fort. Building the fort were (on top) Jordan Belanger, (from left) Anna Spangler, Tyler Lazorka, Ryan Tiderington, Brooke Belanger and Kristi Belanger, and (in front) Collin Belanger.

college students, and to nontraditional students (adults who are pursuing their degrees for the first time or after an extended absence). The 2007-2008 Scholarship Application is available on our homepage at www.cantonfoundation.org. Applications are due March 2, 2007 by 5p.m. to the Foundation office.

# Women's health program

Henry Ford Medical Center-Plymouth offers a free program on women's health, featuring Shari Maxwell, M.D., for an informative and intimate look at issues surrounding women's health.

Maxwell, an obstetric-gynecologist at Henry Ford, will discuss topics such as birth control, fibroids, incontinence and menopause. She will also address issues surrounding abnormal pap smears and the importance of yearly screenings.

The event takes place 5:30-7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 27, at Henry Ford Medical Center-Plymouth, 14300 Beck Road. Light refreshments will be served.

For further information and to register call 1-800-HENRY-FORD (1-800-436-7936).

# **Barefoot auditions**

Barefoot Productions, Plymouth's newest theatre for the community, announces auditions for "An Evening of Mystery," two one-act murder mysteries (*The Real Inspector Hound* by Tom Stoppard and *An Inspector Answers* by Phillip Norman Hart).

Auditions take place 7-9 p.m. Feb. 26-27 at the Book Cellar & Café, 840 W. Ann Arbor Trail in downtown Plymouth. Roles are available for six men and three women (mid-20s-mid-60s). Actors must provide resumé and head shot, do a prepared monologue and cold reading. Performance dates for the plays are April 26-29.

For more information, visit the Barefoot Productions Web site at www.justgobarefoot.com or

call (734) 582-9688. 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

the exhibit. Anyone who would like to contact her regarding this 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.

"Westland's Camel" is a part of

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.

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# 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 juried 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

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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

# Living safely

The Plymouth Community Council on Aging hosts a living safely/fall prevention seminar 10:45-11:45 a.m. Monday, Feb. 19 at the Plymouth Cultural Center, 525 Farmer, in Plymouth.

Participants will learn some tips from certified therapists on how to avoid some of the most common injuries and illnesses that affect the senior population. The class is sponsored by Heartland Plymouth Court.

Call (734) 453-1234, Ext. 236 to sign up.

# DAR meeting

The Daughters of the American Revolution of Northville/Plymouth meet 10:30 a.m. Monday, Feb. 19 at the Plymouth District Library on Main in downtown Plymouth. The program includes the

Good Citizen Reception. For more information, call (734) 459-4764.



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LOCAL NEWS

#### www.hometownlife.com

# SHELDON

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largely conferences and meetings — is doing well. "It was a bigger problem when M-14 was closed, because



people coming from Detroit and Ann Arbor had a harder time getting to us," said Tawnya Johnson, St. John's director of sales. "It certainly has an impact on local people, particularly coming to our restaurant. We have alternate directions up on our Web site, but most of them already know a way to get around it. "If the print to M 14 had

"If the exits to M-14 had been closed (for the railroad project), it would have been a huge problem," Johnson added. "With the exits remaining open during the process, that's a huge benefit to us."

But not all businesses are feeling that good about it. At Leo's, business is still pretty good, but it isn't what it used to be. Burnett, the head cashier, said the difference is obvious during peak times.

"Rush hour is probably about 75 percent of what it used to be," she said. "We used to have a line out the door. Now, that's pretty rare."

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



The end of a recent workday on the Sheldon underpass project, which is causing problems for businesses in the area.

# Sheldon water main scheduled for testing

#### BY TONY BRUSCATO STAFF WRITER

A temporary water main, part of the Sheldon Road underpass project, will be tested for several days beginning Saturday, March 3. If all goes well, city residents

won't notice a thing.

"We fully anticipate it will be a success," City Manager Paul Sincock said. "Engineers from the city and Plymouth Township have been meeting an a fairly regular basis on procedures and protocol, so we don't anticipate any problems."

During the testing, city residents will be getting water supplied by Plymouth Township, instead of the city of Detroit.

"Currently, the city of Plymouth gets its water supply from two connections from the city of Detroit water system," Sincock said. "With the temporary setup, we will be serviced by three connections through Plymouth Township, which also gets its water from Detroit." The city's two connections are located at Sheldon Road and Goldsmith and Sheldon near Ann Arbor Road. The temporary water connections will be located at North Territorial, west of Sheldon; Plymouth and Haggerty; and Sheldon, north of Ann Arbor Road.

The test is designed to make certain the computer model works, that the temporary connections can be operable for three weeks in April when a new 36-inch water main is installed as part of the project.

During a town hall meeting concerning the Sheldon Road underpass project in November at the Plymouth Cultural Center, Assistant County Executive Alan Helmkamp said they don't foresee any problems with the test, but they won't be certain until it's completed.

Sincock said residents will be able to tell if the test goes as planned.

"They pretty much should not notice anything (water pressure problems) if everything goes as planned," Sincock said.





PRINCESS CRUISES

escape completely.





Do you have a son/daughter who will be five years old on or before December 1, 2007, the eligible age to begin kindergarten next September? If so, please participate in our kindergarten "sign-up" effort that is being conducted in each of our six elementary buildings beginning Monday, February 19, and continuing through Friday, February 23, 2007. Please contact the elementary school in your attendance area during this time periox to place your child's name on the list for kindergarten next year. If you are not sure of your attendance area, please call the administration building at (734) 697-9123, ext. 209. After signing up



you and your child will be invited to a "Kindergarten Open House" to be scheduled between Monday, March 12 and Friday, March 16, 2007.

We have been in the business of educating children since 1827. We understand that making the right choice for your child by selecting the correct kindergarten program can make all the difference. Van Buren Public Schools offer:

- Caring teachers with no waiting list to enroll.
- All Van Buren Public Schools are accredited by the North Central Association (NCA) and met Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) under the No Child Left Behind legislation.
- Before and after school, latchkey, quality care program (fee-based).

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- Art, music, and physical education opportunities for elementary students within Van Buren Public Schools.
- A well-balanced, rigorous curriculum that emphasizes literacy, mathematics, science, and technology.
- A curriculum that encourages personal and social development.
- Free, in-district transportation.

Please contact the administration building at (734) 697-9123, ext. 209 for further information.





# LOCAL NEWS

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 clicking 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

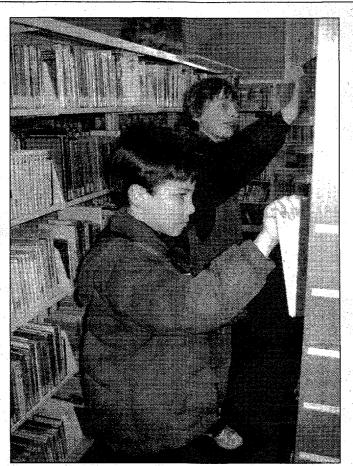
http://www.greatbooks.org/ WRITING MY LIFE STORY: A SENIOR WRITING GROUP, Tuesday, Feb. 20, 4 p.m. - Seniors can share and preserve their life stories with the guidance of Plymouth author, Jane Saylor. No previous writing experience or advance registration is required.

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

# **@ THE LIBRARY**



# Winter break

The Bernardi brothers of Northville - John Paul, 8, and Anthony, 11 spent part of their snow day at the Plymouth District Library last Wednesday. Kids out of school for winter break this week will have the opportunity to do the same thing, with programs including movies, video games, a Mardi Gras and a knitting club. To register for all events, call the Reader's Advisory Desk, (734) 453-0750, Ext. 4.

FIRE RUNS

ful 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

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 February 6 at the Reader's Advisory Desk at (734) 453-0750, Ext. 4.

WINTER MOVIE, Wednesday, Feb. 21, 2 p.m. -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.

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.

■ 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 classes are available for all residents of the City of Plymouth and Plymouth Township. Registration is required as space is limited - call the Reader's Advisory Desk at (734) 453-0750, ext. 4.

ADVANCED EMAIL, Monday, Feb. 26, 2 p.m. - For Plymouth patrons who have Yahoo or Hotmail accounts, you will learn how to create an address book and signature file. Tell electronic junk mail good bye – you will learn how to use an e-mail filter to get rid of it once and for all.

# R

Baffy, 66, died Feb. 13. John F. Brogan Jr. Brogan, 60, formerly of Livonia, died Feb. 11.

**Charles Reed Collins** 

John Baffy

Collins, 26, of Livonia, died Feb. 9. **Georgina P. Connell** 

Connell, 88, of Plymouth, died Feb. 14. н Edward J. Hahn Jr.

Hahn, 95, of Birmingham, died Feb. 13.

**Donald K. Hoffman** Hoffman, 90, of Plymouth, died Feb. 14.

# DEATHS

**Margie Anne Hoegy** Hoegy, 57, formerly of Livonia, died Feb. 15.

(P)

# **Dorothy Jean Phillips**

Phillips, 77, formerly of Birmingham, died Feb. 15.

Larry Jared Pilkinton Pilkinton, 68, of Redford Township,

died. **Robert Pollock** Pollock, 92, of Birmingham, died Feb.

13.

Complete paid obituaries can be found inside today's newspaper in Passages on page C5.



The Plymouth Community

Fire Department responded to the following runs from Feb. 74 13:

Tuesday, Feb. 13 — Residential rescue runs on Cherry, on Village, on Irvin and on Northville Road; vehicle accident with wash-down on Ann Arbor Road west of Sheldon; vehicle accidents on northbound I-275 over I-96, at Ann Arbor Trail and Sheldon, on southbound I-275 at I-96 and on Jib.

Monday, Feb. 12 Industrial rescue runs on Halvard and on General Drive; investigations on Plymouth Road and Van Buren; commercial rescue run on Port; vehicle accident at Joy and Haggerty; residential rescue runs on Eastside, on Judson, on Dewey

Sunday, Feb. 11 – Vehicle accident with wash-down at Ann Arbor Road and Haggerty; downed wires on Brookline; rescue run to a public building/school on Main; residential rescue runs on Northville Road and on Academy.

and on Burroughs.

Saturday, Feb. 10 -Commercial rescue run on Ann Arbor Trail; residential rescue run on Powell; rescue run on Main; rescue run to a public building/school on Haggerty; special run on 5 Mile.

Friday, Feb. 9 – Investigation on Jackson; commercial rescue run on Main; residential rescue run on A Drive. Thursday, Feb. 8 -

Residential rescue runs on Northview, on Northern and

Your choice of 2 sides, soup, salad, potatoes, vegetables. Must purchase 2 beverages.

valid with other offers

OE0850062

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new medical breakthrough that has proven

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Back Pain Without Drugs Or Surgery!" call

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lines are busy, visit: www.midischerniation.com

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Westland

rescue run on 5 Mile. Wednesday, Feb. 7 – Vehicle accident on Ann Arbor. Road west of I-275; residential rescue runs on Buckingham,

on N. Territorial; commercial

commerical rescue run on Concept; mutual-aid given fire and rescue run on Innsbrook in Northville; mutual aid given



# **CONTINUED FROM A1**

#### www.hometownlife.com

# CHINA FROM PAGE A1

(P)

A6

have cultural exchanges, with students here and there staying with families. And, hopefully, Plymouth-Canton will adopt the introduction of the Chinese language in their curriculum."

Yichong Li, a senior at Plymouth-Canton Educational Park from Nanjing, China, has been living with her host family in Canton since August. She said in China classes are from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m., but believes it's harder for teens in America because they have to go to school and also hold part-time jobs. Li said a formal exchange between PCCS and one in Wuhan would be beneficial to students on both sides of the Pacific.

"I think it's a great idea," Li said. "I've enjoyed my exchange year so far, learning about the differences between American and Chinese education and culture.

"An exchange program with China might help us to get more connected with the world, and more opportunities," she said. "It can help build a bridge of understanding between the two countries."

Ficano said Wuhan is a good sister region for Wayne County because it also has a manufacturing base.

"During our trade missions they encouraged economics, but they also talked about exposure for youngsters so they start to become familiar with China and its economics and culture," Ficano said. "The Chinese government has indicated they have scholarship money for students."

Ficano said as a result of the trade missions, Wayne County is ahead of the curve in attracting business to and from China.

"We don't want to make the same mistake we did with Japan," Ficano said. "Toyota came to the U.S. and located everywhere but in Michigan. It's a chain migration, and if we can get companies to locate here, others will follow." Bender said the district is

excited about the possibilities. "We would like Plymouth-Canton Schools to be a destination for residents of Wuhan, China, and Wayne County feels the same way," Bender said. "That's why we're building on the strength of a business partnership, cultural exchanges, economic benefits, the whole package."

# FROM PAGE A1

"I've got tons of canned goods," said Tammy Moyer, the Salvation Army's pantry director. "I can't give people three bags of canned goods. They can't make meals out of that.'

The Salvation Army depends on the generosity of others to fill out the pantry shelves, from which they help needy families from throughout their service area. Families of four or fewer get three bags of groceries at a time - designed to be enough food for two weeks at a time while larger families get six bags.

Moyer said she's doling out between 15-20 bags every week. It gets a little worse, she said, every time one of the automakers announces still more layoffs.

"Every time we hear of a layoff, it seems to affect the little companies just as much," Moyer said. "Then we get the people from the big companies who need help, too.'

While there's meat in the freezer and plenty of canned goods, the dry goods seem to be the anomaly. For instance, there's plenty of syrup, but not

Hours: Open



While the Plymouth Salvation Army has plenty of canned goods, the dry-good section of their pantry is nearly empty.

enough pancake mix. There's lots of canned vegetables, but few instant mashed potatoes. The pantry is in need of, among other things, macaroni and cheese, Rice-A-Roni, instant rice, soup, instant potatoes, stuffing, cake mixes, popcorn, pancake mixes, scalloped potatoes, oatmeal, crackers, Hamburger Helper, peanut butter and jelly, instant gelatin

and pudding mixes, powdered soft drinks, sugar and cereal. "You can't make a day's worth of meals using only canned peas and corn," said

Kelly Boelter, the Salvation Army's public relations coordinator. "If we have Hamburger Helper, instant rice, instant mashed potatoes ... they can make a meal out of that."

In addition to the food, toiletries such as feminine hygiene products, deodorant, shaving cream, shampoo and conditioner, toothpaste, toothbrushes, tissues, toilet paper, paper towels, bar soap, laundry detergent, dish soap Pine-Sol and diapers are also needed.

The number of families using the pantry increases as the state's economy continues to struggle. Bill Moritz, the Salvation Army's director of social services, points to an easy target - the economy - as the cause for the increase in need. The Plymouth-Canton area is replete with auto-related companies, many of whom have had to cut the number of workers.

**BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER** 

It's a recipe for need, according to Moritz.

'Layoffs have been terrible." he said. "Half of these are autorelated. The auto industry struggles, and it trickles down."

CHAMBER

## FROM PAGE A1

Salem High School and Field Elementary.

Constructing a gymnasium at Field Elementary.

Purchasing 13 new school buses.

Creating safety improvements, including security cameras at Plymouth-Canton **Education Park.** 

Academic related updates to comply with state imposed graduation requirements. **Chamber President Jim** Vermeulen said the business group decided about a year ago to be more vocal in expressing opinions on some political issues.

We're not a political organization, by any means, but we hope the chamber opinion is important to the community

Vermeulen said. "We always risk offending someone, and it might be best to remain quiet, but that would be shirking a responsibility that as a chamber we have to the community. What's good for the community helps attracts residents, and as the community prospers, so does business."

Canton Chamber of **Commerce President Dianne** Cojei said she was a bit surprised that the Plymouth chamber was taking a position on the issue, but she said it wasn't unusual. She is aware of other chambers, including in Farmington and Dearborn, where chambers are active in the local political process.

"If you really want to be an informational source and represent the business community, you can't win by endorsing a political issue, because vou're always going to tick somebody off," she said. "We feel we're an

informational source. We don't take positions on political issues. We might provide information about a political issue, but we don't endorse. I don't think we've ever had a political action committee."

Superintendent Jim Ryan is a member of the Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce board, but did not have input in the education committee's recommendation, nor was he a part of the board discussion on the bond.

"They've always been receptive about information on school bond issues, but have always stopped short of making any endorsement," Ryan said. "Even if they would have said 'no' (to the bond), they need to take a leadership role because they are business leaders and opinion leaders in the community."

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## CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH AND CITY OF PLYMOUTH NOTICE OF ELECTION PLYMOUTH-CANTON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS SPECIAL ELECTION TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2007

# SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT BOND PROPOSITION

Notice is hereby given that an election will be held in the Charter Township of Plymouth and in the City of Plymouth, Wayne County, Michigan, on Tuesday, February 27, 2007, from 7:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m., at which time a School Improvement Bond Proposition will be voted on/The proposition reads as follows:

Shall the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools, Counties of Wayne and Washtenaw, State of Michigan, borrow the sum of not to exceed Sixty-Two Million One Hundred Thousand and 00/100 (\$62,100,000) Dollars and issue its general obligation unlimited tax bonds therefor, in one or more series, for the purpose of paying for the cost of the following:

Erecting, equipping and furnishing a new middle school building and acquiring, preparing, developing and improving the site for a new middle school building;

Erecting, equipping and furnishing additions to school buildings and preparing, developing and improving sites for additions to school buildings;

Remodeling, re-equipping, re-furnishing school buildings and other facilities, preparing, developing and improving sites at school buildings and other facilities, and purchasing school buses; and

Equipping and re-equipping school buildings for technology systems and equipment?

The maximum number of years the bonds may be outstanding, exclusive of refunding, is not more than twenty-five (25) years; the estimated millage that will be levied to pay the proposed bonds in the first year is 0.60 mills (which is equal to \$0.60 per \$1,000 of taxable value); and the estimated simple average annual millage that will be required to retire the bonds over twenty-five (25) years is 0.53 mills annually (0.53 per \$1,000 of taxable value).

If approved by the voters the bonds will be guaranteed by the State of Michigan under Section 16 of Article IX of the State Constitution of 1963, as amended. If the School District borrows from the State of Michigan to pay debt service on the bonds under the State of Michigan's guarantee the School District may be required to levy debt mills beyond the term of the bonds to repay the State of Michigan.

(Pursuant to State law, expenditure of bond proceeds must be audited, and the proceeds cannot be used for teacher, administrator or employee salaries, repair or maintenance costs or other operating expenses.)

NO

525 Farmer St

650 Church St

Polling locations are as follows for the Plymouth Township and for the City of Plymouth:

YES

## CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH

Precinct	<b>1</b>	Farrand School	41400 Greenbriar
Precinct	2	Friendship Station	42375 Schoolcraft
Precinct	3	Allen School	11100 Haggerty Road
Precinct	4	Township Clerk's Office	42350 Ann Arbor Road
Precinct	5	Bird School	220 N. Sheldon Road
Precinct	6	West Middle School	44401 Ann Arbor Trail
Precinct	7	LivingWord Church	46500 N. Territorial Road
Precinct	8	St. Kenneth's Catholic Church	14951 Haggerty Road
Precinct	9	Church of the Nazarêne	45801 Ann Arbor Road
Precinct	10	Fiegel School	39750 Joy Road
Precinct	11	First Baptist Church	45000 N. Territorial
Precinct	12	Pioneer Middle School	<sup>4</sup> 46081 Ann Arbor Road
Precincts	13 & 16	Risen Christ Lutheran Church	46250 Ann Arbor Road
Precinct	14	Isbister School	, 9300 Canton Center Road
Precinct	15	First United Methodist Church	45201 N. Territorial Road
Precinct	17	NorthRidge Church	49555 N. Territorial Road

1,2&4 Precincts **Cultural** Center Precincts 3 **Central Middle School** 

Applications for absentee ballots for Plymouth Township registered voters may be obtained at the Plymouth Township Clerk's Office, 9955 N. Haggerty Road, during regular business bours, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (354-3224 or 354-3228) and for the City of Plymouth registered voters absentee ballots may be obtained at the City Clerk's Office, 201 S. Main St. 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (453-1234 x 234). Absentee ballots will be delivered to qualified absentee voters, in person at both Clerks' Offices from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., on Saturday, February 24. On Monday, February 26, qualified voters/shall receive their ballots and vote them in the respective Clerk's Office until 4:00 p.m.

Marilyn Massengill, Clerk Charter Township of Plymouth Linda Langmesser, Clerk City of Plymouth Publish: February 18, 2007

# **COUNTY NEWS**

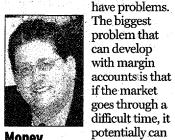
# **Buying stocks on margin** can be a dangerous gamble

## It was recently recommended to me that I buy some stocks on margin. I'm not exactly sure what that means. Can you help me?

www.hometownlife.com

When you buy an investment on margin, you basically are borrowing money in order to purchase an investment. The collateral for the loan is your investment account. The theory behind margining is that you can increase your purchasing power by buying more shares of an investment.

If that investment goes up, you certainly will do well. On the other hand, if that investment takes a downturn, then you can



Money **Matters** 

**Rick Bloom** 

longer sufficient and thus you can receive what is known as a margin call.

mean that the

collateral sup-

porting the

margin is no

A margin call is where your collateral is no longer sufficient to cover your loan and you have to provide additional collateral. If you do not provide additional collateral, the brokerage house can sell the underlying security without your permission.

In fact, in most of the margin disclosure forms that you are required to sign, the brokerage house does not even have to notify you that your collateral has gone down and it can sell your collateral without your permission. Furthermore, it can choose to sell any security in your account without your permission. This can cause severe adverse tax consequences, because it can choose to sell an investment that causes you to recognize shortterm gains.

For the great majority of people, I am not a fan of margining and I do not recommend it. I believe margining is a form of gambling and that is something that people should not do with their portfolios.

It is also important to recognize that when you margin your account, it is not free. You are paying interest on the margin loan from the brokerage firm. When you factor in the cost of margining and recognize the fact that markets are volatile and anything can happen, I do not recommend margin investing for the great majority of people. As

far as I am concerned, when you margin an account, you lose control of your portfolio and that is something that investors should never do. My advice is not to margin your account.

#### I recently found an old stock certificate from a company that I purchased over 30 years ago. How would I determine if this has any value?

There are two ways that this stock certificate can have some value to you. The first is, the company can still be in business and even though it is an old certificate, it is still valid. My first recommendation is to determine whether the company is still listed on the stock exchange. I recommend that you use the Internet to search for the company. If you cannot find any information about the company, you may wish to hire a company to do the search for you. One company that does searches is Stock Search International, (800) 537-4523, www.stocksearchintl.com. This company, for a small fee, will research a company for you and let you know if it is still in business. Furthermore, the company can assist you if it turns out that the stock has value.

Even if the company does not exist, you may find out that the old stock certificate has value. Over the last few years, old stocks certificates have become a collectible. Many people now buy and sell old stock certificates and, in some cases, the stock certificate itself is worth more than the underlying value of the shares represented on the certificate.

There are many companies that buy and sell old certificates on the Internet. Stock Search International is one of them. In addition, I recommend you consider eBay, which has numerous old stock certificates listed for sale.

Never should an investor throw out an old stock certificate without checking its value. It may be a surprise to you how much some of these old stock certificates are worth. Therefore, if you find an old stock certificate, not only should you look to see if the underlying company is still in existence and if there is any value, but also never forget to look at the value of the certificate itself.

# 5 candidates run for 3 Schoolcraft board seats

#### BY HUGH GALLAGHER STAFF WRITER

Five candidates will compete for three seats on the Schoolcraft Board of Trustees in the May 8 school election.

Mary Breen and Brian Broderick will seek re-election to new six-year terms. Joan Gebhardt, who was appointed in December to replace Kevin McNamara, will run for a new term. McNamara left the board after being elected to the Wayne County Board of Commissioners.

Seeking election to the board for the first time are Canton attorney James Fausone and Ron Randall of Livonia, retired Schoolcraft College registrar.

Fausone is a partner in the law firm Fausone Bohn with offices in Northville. He has interviewed for open slots on the board twice, including last fall to replace McNamara.

"I decided to get into the race

because increasing college attendance is more important than ever," Fausone said. "We need to make college accessible, affordable, relevant and rigorous for those wishing to go to college at a community college.

Fausone has an engineering degree from the University of Michigan and a law degree from Gonzaga University. He has served on numerous professional and community boards and organizations. He said he brings something different from other members on the board.

"The real world pace is different than academic pace," he said.

He said he would nudge the administration toward that faster pace.

Randall retired from Schoolcraft in 2001 after working at the college for 33 years.

"I bring a lot of knowledge about the history and culture of the college," he said.

He said the area's economic problems have created a record number of new students at Schoolcraft.

A7

(\*)

"I think they are planning for the growth with the new health building," Randall said. "It's important not to overbuild. When the economic conditions get settled, we don't want to have too much space."

He said the college's new Biomedical Technology Center was needed to meet a demand in that area.

Randall was interviewed in December to replace McNamara. Broderick has served on the board

since 1995. "I've enjoyed the service I've been

able to give to the college and community," Broderick said. "A lot of exciting things have been happening at community colleges."

Breen has served on the Schoolcraft board since 1983.

# Volunteers sought for annual frog and toad survey

Friends of the Rouge is seeking volunteers for the 10th Annual Rouge River Watershed Frog and Toad Survey.

Volunteers need no prior experience but must attend one two-hour training workshop and learn eight breeding calls from a cd that is provided. All materials are provided. Surveys are conducted independently on damp warm evenings, several times a month beginning in March and ending in July. This is a simple

presence/absence survey in which participants identify what species are calling. Survey locations must be within the Rouge River Watershed in wetlands.

The survey is a fun opportunity to spend time with family and friends outdoors learning about local wildlife. Families, students, seniors,

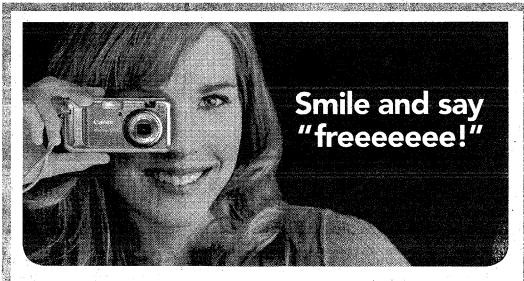
and others are encouraged to sign up. Pre-registration for workshops is required by calling (313)792-9621 or emailing picoordinator@therouge.org. Please provide your full name, address, phone and e-mail and which workshop you would like to attend. Workshops are:

10 a.m. to noon Saturday March 3, at Farmington Hills City Council Chambers,

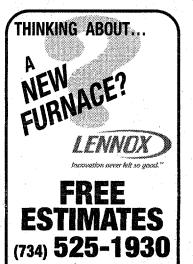
31555, 11 Mile Road, Farmington Hills.

7-9 p.m. Thursday, March 8, at E.L. Johnson Nature Center, 3325 Franklin Road, Bloomfield Hills.

7-9 p.m. Thursday March 15, at Canton Summit on the Park, Walnut Room, 46000 Summit Parkway, Canton. 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, March 17, at Northville Township Hall, 44405 Six Mile Road, Northville.



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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).

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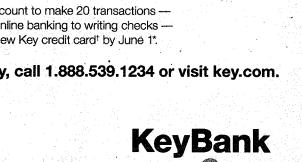
To get your free digital camera, open a new Key personal checking account between February 17 and March 30 and either:

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OR

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\* Free Checking only applies to a Key Express Free Checking account. You must open a Key Express Free Checking (this is the basic banking account in NY) or any other personal checking account between February 17, 2007 and March 30, 2007 and complete other requirements as indicated above. Automated payments excludes Key Bill Pay and debit card automated payments. You will receive your camera by July 31, 2007. Offer available only to individuals without an existing personal checking account at KeyBank as of February 16, 2007. Employees of KeyBank, Its affiliates and subsidiaries are not eligible for this offer. Limit one free camera per individual. Offer valid while supplies last. The value of the camera will be reported on Form 1099-INT. If you close your account within 180 days of account opening, you will be charged a \$25 account early closure fee. Other miscellaneous charges may apply. Accounts overdrawn or closed as of June 1, 2007 are not eligible for this offer. Accounts titled as Trust Accounts, Non-Individual, Estate, and No Access are excluded from eligibility. You must have a U.S. mailing address on June 1, 2007 to be eligible. The digital camera model shipped may differ from the digital camera model shown. Offer is subject to cancellation without notice, and cannot be combined with any other offer

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# LOCAL NEWS

Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, February 18, 2007

# Marriage proposal helps keep romance alive at Nieman Marcus

**BY MEGAN PENNEFATHER** STAFE WRITER

A8

(P)

It's not every day five tuxedoed men serenade a woman on the third floor of Nieman Marcus at Somerset Collection in Troy.

It's not every day a 68year-old man in full Scottish clan garb rides the escalator up to the third floor of Nieman Marcus and proposes to said woman on Valentine's Day.

But Canton resident James MacDonald would tell you that it's not every day you meet a woman like his fiancee, Trish Blackman. That's why, amid bemused

co-workers and Nieman Marcus customers Wednesday afternoon, MacDonald proposed marriage to 64-year-old Blackman, his girlfriend of several months.

Yes, she accepted on the

Cruise



The Bath City Boyz members Chuck Murray (from left) of Ortonville, Jeff Spires of Clarkston, Tom Blackstone of Rochester Hills, Bob McCaffrey of Oxford and Mike Green of Auburn Hills helped Canton resident James MacDonald (second from right) propose to girlfriend Trish Blackman (far right) of Waterford at Nieman Marcus on Valentine's Day.

spot. "He's like that," she beamed after having a diamond ring slipped on her finger. "He's so romantic." Blackman, who's worked at Nieman Marcus for six years, met MacDonald over the Internet.

MacDonald joined four singles' Web sites, perused profiles of hundreds of

women, called about 60 or so, met about 32 of them, and settled on one.

The 68-year-old is glad he was so thorough.

"She was the top of the pack," said MacDonald. "We had a lot of things in common. We talked for hours each night."

He knew a good thing when he saw it, so he hired the barbershop quartet called The Bath City Bovz. part of the Guardians of Harmony barbershop association, and planned his proposal.

MacDonald not only planned the proposal, he already planned the wedding: The couple will be married July 27 at St. Conan's Kirk in Loch Awe, Scotland.

Blackman's co-workers were as surprised as the bride-to-be, and nearly as thrilled.

# 4-H offers teens entrepreneurs club

Youth ages 14-19, who are interested in being their own boss, want to learn how to start their own business, want to gain leadership skills and enhance their resume, and enjoy making new friends are invited to a March 12 informational meeting of the 4-H Future Entrepreneurs Club.

Michigan State University **Extension of Wayne County** recently was awarded a participation in a pilot program of "Kids to Entrepreneurs." The program is designed provide fun, educational activities to increase the awareness of financial literacy and entrepreneurial education, to empower youth to utilize the skills they learn to develop their own business, and to develop youth entrepreneurial leaders to strengthen Michigan's economic future.

The meeting will be at the Western Wavne County Extension office in the RESA Annex at 5454 Venoy Road, Wayne.

The 4-H Future

Entrepreneurs will create their own business plan to present at a business expo at Exploration Days at Michigan State University in 2008.

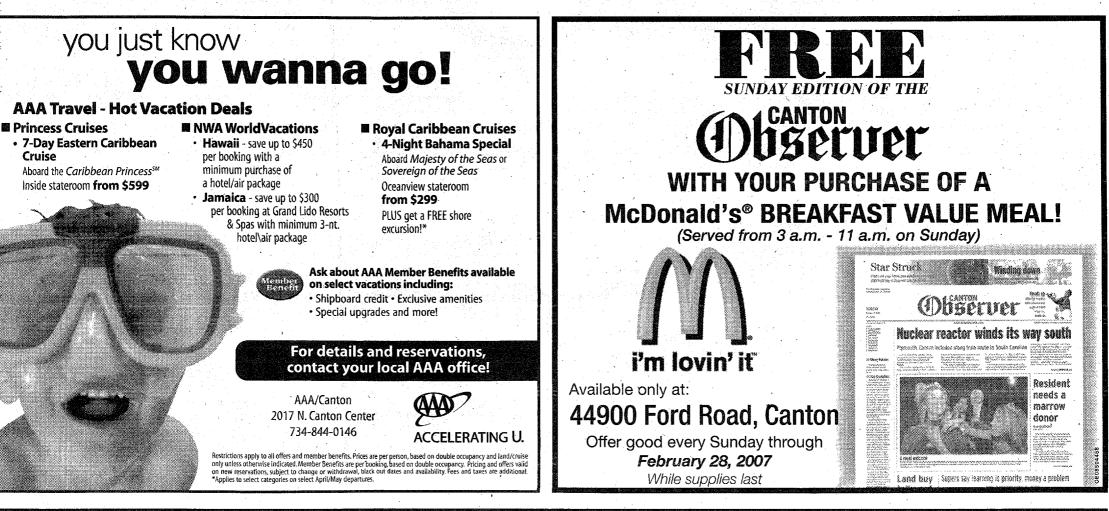
Youth interested in the 4-H Future Entrepreneurs Club can contact Wavne County 4-H Educator Laurie Rivetto at (734) 727-7236 to find out more information or to sign up for this first meeting.

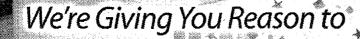
Michigan State University Extension helps people improve their lives through an educational process that applies knowledge to critical issues, needs and opportunities.

Educators in each of Michigan's 83 counties take Michigan State University research and curriculum and use it to build strong programs and experiences for community members.

The 4-H program provides youth with non-formal, educational opportunities in leadership, citizenship and life skills to help them thrive in a changing and complex society.

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# SUNDAY PERSPECTIVES

Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, February 18, 2007

# College admission counseling essential in helping students

<sup>®</sup>he counselor's office was an oasis at high school.

Soft classical music, subdued lighting and a hushed atmosphere were a stage setting for the counselor to do his job - to remind us that it was a tough world out there and we were just not working up to our potential.

It would have been impossible for any of us to emulate the counselor. The word was, no doubt spread by the counselor that he had graduated



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high school at 12 or 14, had a college degree by 16 and a doctorate by 21. It was just too exhausting for any of us to equal. And in any case, in our neighborhood, only about 25-30 percent of the students would pursue a college degree (at least right out of high school). This was a time when there

**Hugh Gallagher** 

were lots of good, high paying jobs in the auto industry, in construction and in many other fields that didn't require a college degree. Of course, there was also a war going on and a college deferment could

keep the draft at bay. But preparing the students at my school for the college admissions juggernaut was a small part of the counselor's job.

Today it would seem that college admissions would be a primary concern for high school counselors as fewer and fewer jobs are available without some post-high school education. But Patrick O'Connor, director of college counseling at Roeper School and past president of the Michigan Association of College Admission Counseling, believes more needs to be done to train high school counselors.

"Many veteran high school counselors came out of their M.A. programs with no formal training in college counseling at all, and some newer counselors were exposed to only three-five hours of training in a variety of courses centered on other topics - only to discover the need for more training in college counseling once they became employed counselors, working with Michigan students," O'Connor wrote in an e-mail.

The association is supporting legislation that would require that all new seventh-12th-grade counselors complete a separate course in the college selection process before they can be hired by a public school district. Freshman state Rep. Chuck Moss, R-Birmingham, is sponsoring the legislation.

O'Connor argues that recent changes in state expectations make it critical that counselors fully understand the college application process. The state has mandated graduation requirements and the MEAP has been replaced for high school students with the ACT.

O'Connor said that with the strong emphasis on students pursuing postsecondary education, it

Today it would seem that college admissions would be a primary concern for high school counselors as fewer and fewer jobs are available without some post-high school education.

is important that high school counselors be able "to hit the ground running" with the careful counseling that makes for a successful college application.

O'Connor said counselors are often overburdened, with a 671-1 ratio of students to counselors, the sixth highest in the country.

"Many high schools are telling representatives from colleges they can come to the schools or visit with students at lunch in the cafeteria," O'Connor said.

But that doesn't help students deal with the complex issues of student financing, preparing a written autobiography, understanding what colleges expect in terms of extracurricular and volunteer activities and receiving a realistic assessment of a college's selectivity and where the student's test scores and grades fall for particular colleges. It also doesn't help a student find just the right kind of college for his/her skills and personality - big state university, small private college, community college.

"Michigan teachers, parents and students deserve better," O'Connor said.

O'Connor isn't critical of high school counselors, he says Michigan has good counselors who can only become better with this crucial part of their training. And, he believes, this is another important piece of the jigsaw puzzle that will make Michigan's schools more competitive and competent in preparing students for higher education.

"Michigan is blessed to have good college counseling occurring at the high school level now, but the time has come to raise the quality to an even higher level," he wrote in his e-mail. "By passing the Michigan Merit Curriculum and the Michigan Merit Exam (including the ACT), the state legislature is helping our students prepare for college. By passing the Michigan Promise, the state legislature is helping our students pay for college. By passing this legislation, the state legislature will be helping our students make the best decisions about college, by providing Michigan students and families with the best prepared college counselors in the nation."

It's a tough world out there and students need all the help they can get to work up to their full potential.

Hugh Gallagher is the managing editor of the Observer Newspapers. He can be reached by e-mail at hgallagher@oe.homecomm.net or by phone at (734) 953-2149.

# If Metroparks were lost, would anyone replace them?

ugh Gallagher's workmanlike article of Jan. 28 on "Metroparks for the People" reminded me of a favorite parlor game I like to play.

Gallagher reported on the history of the Huron Clinton Metropolitan Authority by Cynthia Furlong Reynolds. It's the story of how a few visionaries, headed by Henry S. Curtis and Harlow O. Whittemore, had the foresight to preserve some of the rivers, forests, mead-

ows and lakes in the Huron

and Clinton river valleys. Even during the Great Depression of the '30s, they saw that the ecosystem could be befouled and might disappear through the intrusion of development. They put together a five-county authority and a small property tax proposal that today has resulted in 13

metroparks from Mount Clemens to Pontiac to Ann Arbor to

Brownstown. Motorized traffic is kept to a minimum. Fees are low. Nature is as unspoiled as it could be in the 21st century. Fishing is better, I swear, in Kent Lake than in many lakes "up north." On hikes, my late friend Doug Funke kept lists of different kinds of animals and birds he spotted. In middle age, he had a childlike joy about the metroparks.

The game I mentioned is: If it were destroyed, could it be re-created? In it, you discuss various major institutions and whether they could be re-constructed in today's environmental and governmental climate.

Take the Detroit Institute of Arts. If a meteor or a terrorist's bomb hit, the art of a world-class institution would be cinders. It couldn't be restored. In the regime of Mayor Young, the city backed away from funding it, leaving it to the tender mercies of Gov. John Engler and the state.

I doubt that the state would provide the millions to build a new one. More likely, private funds would put up a museum of modern art elsewhere. The DIA and its baroque masterworks would be gone.

On the other hand, if the auditorium housing the Detroit Symphony Orchestra were hit, another symphony could be formed, in time. Another auditorium could be built, and sheet music rented. Again, the locale might be changed, but the region would again have what we uppity types call "good music."

Got the idea?

The state Capitol building would be difficult. All sorts of records and research would be gone. When it was restored in the 1980s,

Our state parks are under fearsome attack by a self-styled "think tank" called the Mackinac Center. It would like to sell off a goodly number of parks to private owners and use the proceeds to develop the remaining parks with lodges and many resort amenities.

A9

(\*)

our leaders re-created a lot of the original glasswork and paneling.

Most importantly, they kept an open atmosphere, where people could visit public servants' offices and committee hearing rooms. You can chat with the governor in the corridor. It's accessible.

I have a hunch that a new capitol building would be full of electronic devices and walls where you have to pass through a metal detector, just like the Oakland courthouse or a Detroit public school. In other words, a functional building would replace it, but the security industry would run amok and spoil it for visitors.

Our state parks are under fearsome attack by a self-styled "think tank" called the Mackinac Center. It would like to sell off a goodly number of parks to private owners and use the proceeds to develop the remaining parks with lodges and many resort amenities. As for the remaining campsites, the more desirable ones and the more popular dates would be auctioned off to the highest bidders. A working-class family looking for a cheap vacation close to nature would have to take the hind spigot, so to speak.

If a tornado two miles wide, like the one that hit on April 1947 from Canadian, Texas, to Woodward, Okla., were to rip at 200 mph up the Clinton and Huron river valleys, it would devastate the 13 metroparks.

Could they be reclaimed? Leaders like Henry Curtis and Harlow Whittemore, if they emerged, would be met with jeers of "job killer" when they promoted a remedial property tax. Private property owners would move in their stakes, the way they often reclaimed abandoned railroad beds to keep hikers and cyclists from using them. Townships would scream for a chance to embellish their tax base.

The visionaries of the 1930s succeeded, but my sad bet is that southeastern Michigan couldn't do it again. Bless the visionaries and the metroparks.

**Tim Richard** is retired from this newspaper. He can be reached at trichard@bearlake-net.com.

**Tim Richard** 

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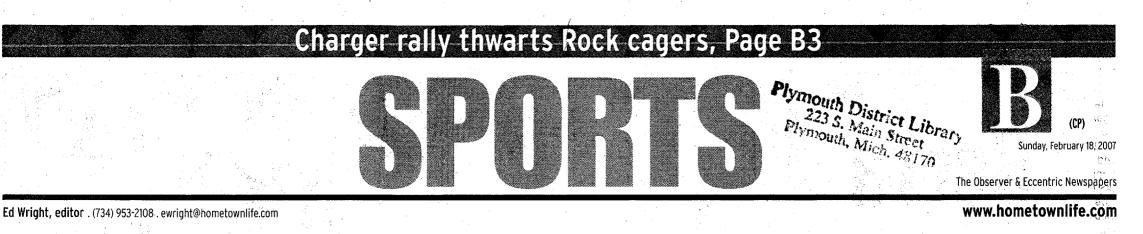
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# Canton wrestlers win 3rd straight District title

WLAA basketball hits homestretch -

#### BY ED WRIGHT STAFF WRITER

Canton's performance at the Division 1 District wrestling tournament Thursday night at Salem mirrored most of Chief standout Corey Phillips' matches: machine-like and never really in doubt.

The Chiefs captured their third consecutive District title by ousting the host Rocks, 44-15, in the semifinal before dismantling an undermanned Plymouth squad, 62-12, in the championship tilt. Canton will take its 26-4 record into

Wednesday's talent-stocked DI Regional

at Saline. If the Chiefs can knock off Saline in its firstround Regional match, they will tangle with either Livonia Franklin or Novi Catholic Central for the program's second straight trip to the state finals in Battle Creek.

Phillips "Without downgrading the other programs, we're at the point now where we expect to win district titles," said Canton coach Casey Randolph. "We look at tonight as the first step toward our goal of getting to the state finals. That's where we set our sights and I think it's within our reach.

"It feels good because we've won three in a row now and before we got here Canton had never won a district title. Having a program at a level where we expect to win is a nice feeling. It's fun to watch the confidence level of the kids rise to the occasion."

Randolph said he's eagerly anticipating Wednesday's intensity-filled showdown.

"If everything falls into place, it should be a great Regional," he emphasized. "Livonia Franklin should go into it as heavily favored because they beat us earlier in the year. I think both teams — Canton and Livonia Franklin — would love to see a rematch. Our programs have a love-hate relationship as far as the rivalry goes.

"I think we both respect each other as coaches and we respect each other's program, but once we get on the mat, we're as competitive as you can be."

Sparked by junior Jeremy Epley's 9-2 win over Kiel Price at 152 pounds, the Rocks actually led the Chiefs, 12-9, after five matches. However, back-to-back con-

PLEASE SEE WRESTLING, B2

# **Zoned out** Northville's stingy 'D' quiets Canton

# BY ED WRIGHT

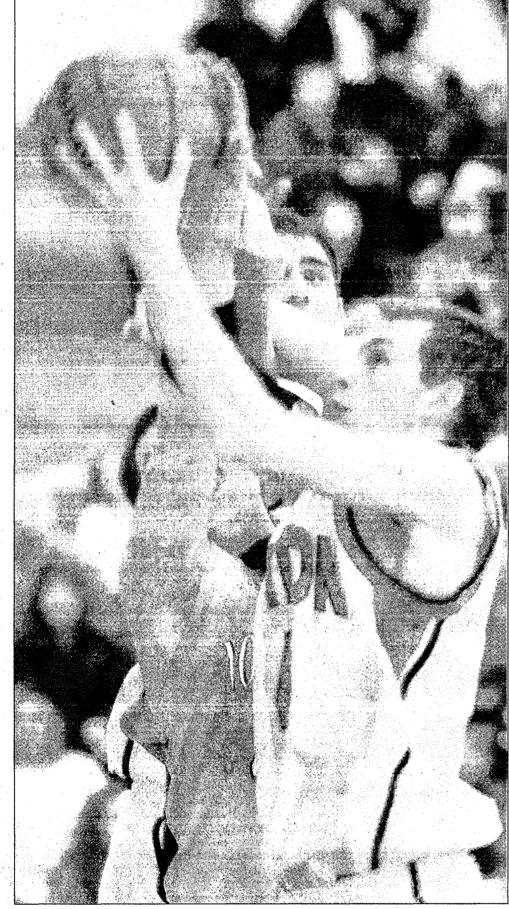
The Northville basketball team's motto the past two years has been "In Alvin We Trust," in reference to alleverything guard Alvin Storrs.

During Friday night's critical victory over Canton, the Mustangs' catchphrase was more like "With Defense We Win."

In a game that determined the regular-season champion of the Western Lakes Activities Association's Western Division, the Mustangs' zone defense played a starring role in their 39-31 triumph over the Chiefs.

Penetrating Northville's zone which features five players 6-foot-2 or taller with long, active arms — was about as easy as maneuvering an SUV through a forest of long-branched oak trees.

"We played hard and we held them to 39 points, which is probably about



# Brackets set for WLAA's net tourney

BY ED WRIGHT STAFF WRITER

If it's anything like the just-completed regular season, the 2007 Western Lakes Activities Association boys basketball tournament promises to be a dandy.

The brackets were filled Friday night following the completion of league games. Western Division champion Northville and Lakes Division winner Westland John Glenn — both of whom went 10-0 in the league — secured the two No. 1 seeds.

Tuesday night's opening-round contests will pit the Mustangs against No. 4 seed Livonia Stevenson (3-7) and No. 2 seed Walled Lake Central (7-3) against No. 3 Wayne Memorial (6-4) on one side of the brackets.

The other side will feature No. 3



# Ignition camps

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12

The Detroit Ignition will be hosting a series of summer soccer camps for youth players. The camps, which will be located throughout metropolitan Detroit, will give young players an opportunity to train with Ignition players as well as members of the Major Indoor Soccer League team's staff.

Designed for kids between the ages of 4 and 18, the camp curriculum will offer a broad spectrum of training – from basic soccer introduction for younger players to advanced training for older players who are looking for both a technical and tactical edge.

Camp instruction will be led by Ignition head coach Mark Pulisic and team members. Instructors will be subject to camp dates and availability, but they may include Jamar Beasley; Jonathan Greenfield, Doug Rice and Danny Waltman.

For locations and schedules of the camps, visit

www.detroitignition.com; or call (888) 436-4625. The camps are sponsored by the Hantz Group and the Henry Ford Medical

15 or 16 points below their season average, but, obviously, we just couldn't score," lamented Canton coach Charlie Paye. "It's the best zone defense we've faced this year, by far. They're just so long and they're very aggressive in their zone. And when we did get the ball into Waid (6-7 senior center Ryan Waidmann), there were two Northville players on him like that.

"We were getting pretty good looks, we just didn't finish."

Čanton connected on just 9-of-39 shots from the field (23 percent). The Chiefs managed to make more than two shots in just one quarter — the third, when it went 4-for-12.

Canton also struggled from the freethrow line where it went 9-for-17 (52.9 percent).

The victory padded the Mustangs' record to 16-1 and 10-0 in division. Northville is now 36-2 over the past two seasons, losing only to Salem earlier this year and to Novi Catholic Central in last year's Class A District opener.

- Canton slipped to 11-6 overall and 8-2 in the division.
- Storrs was his usual productive self,

PLEASE SÉE CANTON, B3

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Canton's Ryan Langdon battles for a rebound during Friday night's game against Northville. The Mustangs won, 39-31, to clinch first place in the Western Lakes Activities Association's Western Division.

seed Salem (5-5) against No. 2 Canton (8-2) and No. 4 Walled Lake Western (3-7) against the top-seeded Rockets.

All first-round games are slated for 7 p.m. at the site of the higher-seeded team.

The semifinal round will be played Friday at 7 p.m. at the schools with the better seeds.

The championship game is slated for 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 28, at Plymouth High School. The title match-up will be preceded by the third-place game at 5:30 p.m. and the WLAA awards presentation, which will take place just prior to the final game.

Northville is the defending champion. The Mustangs captured the 2006 title thanks to Alvin Storrs' Plymouth gymnasium record 36 points.

Plymouth, Walled Lake Northern, Livonia Churchill and Livonia Franklin will all participate in a round-robin loser's bracket format. Each team will play the other three teams once. Tuesday night's opener will pit Plymouth at Walled Lake Northern and Franklin at Churchill.

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# Through thick and thin Rocks learned plenty from 20-loss 04-05 season

#### BY ED WRIGHT STAFF WRITER

Feel-good Kodak moments were few and far between for the 2004-05 Salem boys basketball team, which led the league in hustle points, but set a school record for losses.

Two years later, however, it's evident that the dark cloud that followed that 1-20 squad around like an ominous shadow had a five-tiered silver lining.

The silver linings' names are Mike Marek, Kevin Burleigh, Brian Baumgart, J.P. Truesdell and Jierah Dixon, all of whom not only endured the 20-loss campaign, but learned some valuable lessons from it.

# TOUGH TO SWALLOW

The fivesome all got their first taste of high school varsity basketball that season as sophomores, and it was at times a bitter-tasting pill. But like a slow-acting medicine, the dues the players paid two years ago are paying dividends this year.

"That was a tough year all around, from battling in practices with the seniors to losing all those games," remembered Truesdell, the Rocks' current starting power forward. "But the varsity experience we all got playing that year has helped us a lot. It also helped build team unity because the five of us have all played three years together on varsity."

# SUPER ROLE PLAYERS

While not one of the abovelisted seniors would be considered a star of this year's turnaround season — the Rocks' eight wins are more than they notched the two previous years combined — they've each made major contributions to the program's renaissance.

Dixon calmly stroked a game-winning jumper at the buzzer to lead the Rocks to an opening-night victory over Redford Union.

Baumgart has evolved into a

PLEASE SEE SALEM, B3



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The Salem basketball team's turnaround this season has been due in large part to the play of its five three-year varsity players: (pictured clockwise from far left) Kevin Burleigh, J.P. Truesdell, Brian Baumgart, Jierah Dixon and Mike Marek. Group. Soccer champs

The Michigan Santos '90 U17 girls soccer team has recently registered for division championships spots in the final games in the T-Bays Classic and River City Classic tournaments. The squad is currently ranked 11th in the state and in the top 175 in the Midwest.

The team consists of: Carlee Barackman (Plymouth), Emily Baracy (Canton), Bernie Fisher (Redford), Lindsey Jewett (Plymouth), Rachel Kain (Canton), Kris Klema (Dearborn), Amanda Krause (Plymouth), Chelsea Leblanc (Plymouth), Jill Lidster (Canton), Jen Michalek (Plymouth), Alex Noland (Dearborn), Hannah Mills (Plymouth), Aranda Phare (Westland), Jessica Raftary (Dearborn), Jill Slabey (Canton), Sara. Stanislawski (Plymouth) and Danielle Thoe (Plymouth).

The team is coached by Jim Zurawski, Jim Mills and Randy Phare.

# Beach party fund-raiser

The Plymouth Wildcat Beach Party Fund-raiser to raise funds for the Plymouth High School athletic programs will be held from 6 p.m. to midnight Saturday, March 24, at the VFW Hall, located at 1055 S. Wayne Road im Westland.

The night will be highlighted by a reverse draw, down that will award \$1,000 to the first-prize, winner, \$500 to secondand \$250 to third. Last year over \$10,000 in prizes were given away. Tickets, which cost \$40 a piece, can be purchased at the Plymouth High School Athletic Office.

# LOCAL SPORTS

#### www.hometownlife.com

Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, February 18, 2007

**B2** 

(CP)

ANDY RUBENSTEIN

Salem's David Olson, pictured above in a meet earlier this year, turned in a stellar performance on "Senior Night" Tuesday in the Rocks' victory over Plymouth.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Plymouth's Dan Stoscup, pictured above in a meet earlier this year, helped lead the Wildcats to a third-place finish in the 200-medley relay during Tuesday's meet against Salem.

# **SWIM RESULTS**

#### SALEM 104 **PLYMOUTH 82 Tuesday at Salem**

200-yard medley relay: 1. Salem (Matt Underhill, Stan Chen, Nick Leone, Jason Williams), 1:46.16; 2. Plymouth (Mike Conger, Kyle Dull, Paul Snyder, Chris Wilson), 1:49.19: 3. Plymouth (Ben Ambrose, Dan Stoscup, Jack Distel, Peter Nolan), 1:58.22. 200 freestyle: 1. Nick Leone (S), 1:55.04; 2. Jason Oldani (P), 2:03.83; 3. Joe Eudy (P),

2:05.45 200 IM: 1. Mike Conger (P), 2:09.58; 2. David Olson (S), 2:15.03: 3, Stan Chen (S), 2:20.74, 50 freestyle: 1. Jason Williams (S), 23.88; 2. Jon Babb (S), 24.11: 3. Chris Wilson (P). 24.60

1-meter diving: 1. Kevin Smith (S), 148.25 points; 2. Kyle Wilkenson (P), 138.95; 3. Gus Mady (S), 104.90.

100 butterfly: 1. Nick Leone (S), 57.99; 2. David Olson (S), 1:01.98; 3. Jack Distel (P), 1:06.65.

100 freestyle: 1. Jon Babb (S), 53.65; 2. Chris Wilson (P), 54.38; 3. Jason Williams (S), 54.64.

500 freestyle: 1. Matt Underhill (S), 5:08.76; 2. Mike Conger (P), 5:14.23; 3. Doug Fransioli (S), 5:40.38.

200 freestyle relay: 1. Salem (Jon Babb, Stan Chen, David Olson, Jason Williams), 1:36.33; 2. Plymouth (Ben Ambrose, Kyle Dull, Joe Eudy, Peter Nolan), 1:40.12; 3. Plymouth (Tony McLaughlin, Jack Gruszczynski, Paul

Snyder Jason Oldani), 1:47.04. 100 backstroke: 1. Matt Underhill (S), 1:02.13;

2. Ben Ambrose (P), 1:06.43; 3. Jimmy Crabill (S). 1:06.94

100 breaststroke: 1. Stan Chen (S), 1:10.34; 2. Kyle Dull (P), 1:12.03; 3. Tony McLaughlin (P), 1:12.45 400 freestyle relay: 1. Salem (Nick Leone, Jon Babb, David Olson, Matt Underhill), 3:34.57; 2. Plymouth (Chris Wilson, Peter Nolan, Ethan Weiner, Mike Conger), 3:45.26; 3. Plymouth (Joe Eudy, Jason Oldani, Jack



Canton's 135-pound Brent Winekoff (top), pictured above in a match earlier this season, notched a pair of wins in the Chiefs' Division 1 District title-clinching performance Wednesday night at Salem.

# WRESTLING

# FROM PAGE B1

vincing victories from heavyweight Luke Konsitzke (pin) and 103-pound Donnie Watkins (technical fall) ignited a 23-0 Chief outburst that sealed the semi-final win.

Joining Konsitzke and Watkins in the winner's circle for Canton were Brian Brubaker (160), Dan Wanshon (189), Carl Lucke (112), Phil Rollinger (119), Steve Cox (125), Brent Winekoff (135), Phillips (140) and Joe

Sanders (152). Epley, Sam Lepper (171), Hussein Ajami (215) and Alex Kemp (130) earned wins for the Rocks.

> **CANTON 44** SALEM 15 **Division 1 District Semi-final**

Thursday at Salem 152 pounds: Jeremy Épley (S) dec. Kiel Price, 9-2; 160: Brian Brubaker (C) dec. Austin Root, 8-2; 171: Sam Lepper (S) dec Adam Powers, 13-12; 189: Dan Wanshon (C) pinned Blake Abbey in 3:07; 215: Hussein Ajami (S) pinned Jon Webster in 3:04; 285: uke Konsitzke (C) pinned Chase moore in 1:10; 103: Donnie Watkins (C) won by technical fall, 17-2, over Karl Allan: 112: Carl Lucke (C) dec. Kevin Bennet, 10-4; 119: Phil

"I thought we had a few guys wrestle well, especially Sam Lepper," said Salem coach Greg Woochuk. "Sam's been beaten up a lot this season, but he's been competitive and stayed positive through everything. It was nice to see him hang in there and get a win tonight." The loss ended the Rocks' sea-

son at 7-10.

Six of the Chiefs' 11 individual victories against the Wildcats came via pins and three others were the result of voids. Notching pins for the winners were Brubaker, heavyweight Donnie Laramie, Watkins, Cox, Winekoff and Phillips. Wanshon won on a technical fall (16-1) while Jon Webster earned a 6-4 decision at 215.

WRESTLING RESULTS

3:34; 125: Steve Cox (C) dec. Nick Steiger, 6-2; 130: Alex Kemp (S) dec. Josh Hurst, 4-2; 135: Brent Winekoff (C) won by major deci-sion over Kevin Hayter, 19-9; 140: Corey Phillips (C) won by technical fall, 15-0, over Johannes Olind; 145: Joe Sanders (C) dec. Mike Rasak, 9-3. DUAL-MEET RECORDS: Canton, 26-3; Salem 7-10.

> CANTON 62 PLYMOUTH 12 **Division 1 District Final** Thursday at Salem

Plymouth's points came from Vince Darolfi's pin at 171, Ben Kosmalski's 7-6 overtime victory over Jeremy Fillipelli at 119 and Anthony Favot's 9-5 triumph at 130. "Brent Winekoff has been

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

tough as nails for us all season," said Randolph. "To win 35 matches as a freshman at 130 and 135 is quite an accomplishment because he's had to face a lot of quality opponents.

"I thought Joe Sanders and Brian Brubaker wrestled well, too. Brian had to win a wrestleoff earlier today in wrestling class, then he goes out and wins twice tonight. That shows a lot of character."

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## Scarantino in 3:40; 171: Vince Darolfi (P) pinned Adam Powers in 1:54; 189: Dan Wanshon (C) won by technical fall, 16-1, over Davey; 215: Jon Webster (C) dec. Pomerson, 6-1: 285: Donnie Laramie (C) pinned Frantz in 32 seconds; 103: Johnson (C) won by void: 112: Donnie Watkins (C) pinned Santino Besco in 2:46; 119: Ben Kosmalski (P) dec. Jeremy Fillipelli, 7-6 in overtime; 125: Steve Cox (C) pinned Neville in 2:30; 130: Favot (P) dec. Josh Hurst, 9-5; 135: Brent Winekoff (C) pinned Barackman in 2:54; 140: Zeidan (C) won by void; 145: Corey Phillips (C) pinned Rogers in 1:10; 152: Jo Sanders (C) won by

THE WEEK AHEAD

**BOYS BASKETBALL** 

**WLAA Tournament** Tuesday, Feb. 20 **First-round games** A) Stevenson at Northville, 7 p.m. B) Wayne at W.L. Central, 7 p.m. C) Salem at Canton, 7 p.m.

D) W.L. Western at John Glenn, 7 p.m.

Friday, Feb. 23

Semi-final games

A winner vs. B winner, 7 p.m.

C winner vs. D winner, 7 p.m.

Wednedsay, Feb. 28 Championship game, 7:30 p.m.

at Plymouth High School

Loser's Bracket games

Tuesday, Feb. 20

Plymouth at W.L. Northern, 7 p.m.

# Red wings alumni game to benefit mentor program

On Sunday, March 18, The Detroit Red Wings Alumni will take the ice at the Compuware Sports Arena in Plymouth Township against the Oakland County Public Safety All-Stars, a team of police, fire officers from across the county and Meltdown 'The BIG Unit" from WRIF.

The 4:30 p.m. game is to benefit Mentor Connection, a mentoring program of Jewish Family Service (JFS).

Tickets for the game are \$10 per person in advance, or \$12 at the door. The evening also includes a clinic for children beforehand and a dinner recep-

tion with the Red Wings Alumni afterwards.

Tickets for the clinic and dinner are \$10 and \$12, respectively. Space at both events is limited. For more information, or to purchase tickets call Lindsay Leder, 248-592-2309, or email lleder@jfsdetroit.org.

The hockey game is a Friend Raiser for Mentor Connection, with a goal of increased awareness of the program while recruiting new mentors.

Mentor Connection brings together young people from across Oakland County who can benefit from encouragement and

attention from caring adults who can provide that support through structured mentoring

Distel, Paul Snyder), 3:52.39.

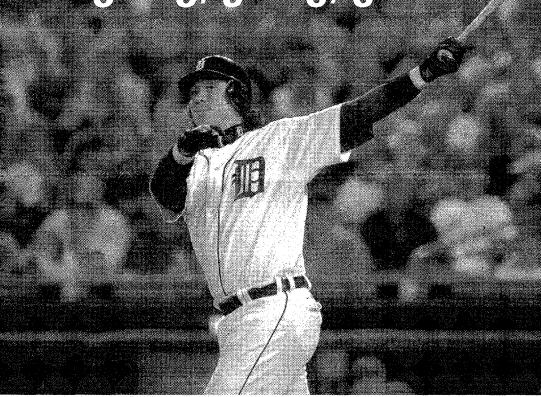
relationships. In 2006, Mentor Connection served 98 children. Mentor Connection is a program of JFS that has offices in

West Bloomfield and Oak Park. JFS provides social and mental health services to adults, chil-

dren and families. Areas of focus include parent and child concerns, adoption, blended family issues, grief counseling, addiction recovery services, and domestic abuse/dating violence counseling and shelter.

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# AMERICAN LEAGUE CHAMPIONS 05

# **Canton spikers** hitting stride

Canton's volleyball team may their offense off of serve be peaking at the right time.

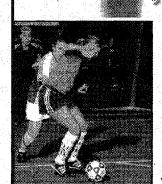
With the Western Lakes Activities Association league tournament and Division 1 District play looming, the Chiefs played perhaps their most complete match Thursday night when they swept Livonia Franklin - 25-14, 25-19 and 25-23 - in a make-up of Wednesday night's snowed-out contest.

The victory improved Canton's record to 8-13-6 overall and 5-4 in the WLAA's Western Division.

"We played with confidence and looked relaxed the entire night, no matter what the score was," said Canton coach Jen Barnes. "Our serving was back again tonight as we had a total of 14 aces. We've worked a lot on serving to locations and aggressive serves, and it's starting to pay off. We're getting aces and making it difficult for the other teams to run

# Winter 3 Soccer at

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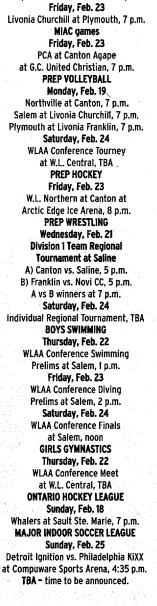
Pacing the Chiefs' victory were Kacy Moran (six kills, four aces and 14 assists), Jordan Kielty (seven kills), Marie Martin (seven blocks, three kills) and Hannah Mills (16 digs).

The Chiefs will host Northville Monday night at 7 p.m. in the Phase III gymnasium.

# **'CATS ROLL**

Plymouth's volleyball team improved to 17-17-4 overall and 3-6 in the WLAA's Western Division with a threegame sweep of Wayne Memorial Thursday night: 25-20, 25-19 and 25-13.

The Wildcats received strong performances from Chelsey Quinlan (eight kills and 11 digs), Rachel Heaton (16 digs and six kills) and Brittany Hengesh (eight kills and four blocks).



Please recycle

# LOCAL SPORTS

# **Charger rally thwarts Rock cagers**

Livonia Churchill dug itself out of an early hole and rallied to post a thrilling 58-56 overtime victory over visiting Salem Friday night.

www.hometownlife.com

The Chargers trailed by as many as eight in the opening half before cutting their deficit to 50-47 with seconds to play. That's when guard Andrew Vagnetti buried an NBA-length three-point shot to send the game into the extra session.

Led by the inside play of Ryan Rosenick, Nick Seger and Brad Evans, the Chargers never trailed in the overtime to improve their record to 7-10 overall and 3-7 in the Western Lakes Activities Association's Lakes Division. Salem slipped to 8-9 and 5-5, respectively.

"Salem physically beat us up in the first half," said Churchill coach Jim Solak. "But those three guys - Ryan, Nick and Brad - attacked the glass and rebounded much better in the second half and in the overtime. That was the key for us. "We played them tough the last time at their place. We hadn't been playing well, so I was extremely happy with the win tonight. Salem is a big, strong team and we were able to muscle up and hang on for 🕁 the win.'

The Rocks rode a red-hot perimeter game to a 28-22 halftime advantage.

"We made several threes in the first half, but that's a tough way to live," said Salem coach Bob Brodie. "They just outhustled us in the second half."

Rosenick led the winners with 22 points and 10 boards. Evans added 12 while Vagnetti contributed 10. Juniors Grant Stone and Ross Davis both netted 14 points for the Rocks.

Churchill drained 12-of-18 free throws while Salem went 8-of-12 from the charity stripe. The Rocks will open the

WLAA conference tournament on Tuesday at Canton. Churchill will take on Livonia Franklin in a loser's bracket contest. Both games are set to

TOM HAWLEY | STAFE PHOTOGRAPHER

Plymouth Christian Academy junior guard Trevor Zinn, pictured above during a game earlier this season, scored a team-high 21 points in the Eagles' 55-54 loss to Allen Park Inter-City Baptist.

tip off at 7 p.m.

INTER-CITY BAPTIST 55, PCA 54: On Friday in Allen Park, the Eagles battled the Chargers to wire before falling at the end.

Junior guard Trevor Zinn shined for PCA, netting 21 points. Matt Saagman also played well, contributing 13.

Jeff Yunk paced the winners with 16 points. Nick Packwood scored all 12 of his points in the first half.

"This was probably our best game of the year," said PCA coach Dave Yost. "We were trailing most of the fourth quarter, but we made a nice comeback. We had some opportunities down the stretch, but we missed some key free throws."

With his team trailing 55-51, PCA's Justin Govan drained a triple with a second left.

However, the Eagles could not regain possession of the ball. PCA netted just 7-of-17 free

throws. The Chargers drained 12-of-21 from the charity stripe.

Inter-City led 14-13 after one quarter before the visiting Eagles fought back to knot the game at 26-all at the half. The Chargers carried a 40-35 advantage into the final stanza.

PCA played the final three minutes without Zinn, who fouled out.

"They beat us by 30-something the first time we played them, so this shows how much better we've been playing lately," said Yost.

The Eagles return to action Friday when they take on Canton Agape Christian. The game will be played at Garden City United Christian Church.

# SALEM FROM PAGE B1

top-notch rebounder and interior defensive player.

The blue-collar Truesdell epitomizes the word "hustle" and often accumulates more floor burns than points.

Burleigh is one of the team's most reliable guards off the bench and possibly its best ball-handler.

And the lightning-quick Marek frustrates opposing guards with his in-your-face defense and an occasional net-finding bomb from beyond the three-point arc.

"When they were all sophomores, I saw that they had the talent to play on the varsity and I thought they'd all fit into our team chemistry as well," said Salem coach Bob Brodie. "We had some seniors coming back and some juniors coming up who had some talent, but I knew they needed somé help, so I figured I'd bring the sophomores along and improve them for the future.

"I had tried this before with individual players, but I had

never done it with this many players for such a long time. In the past, I may have jockeyed five or six players up and down between the junior varsity and the varsity, but this group stayed up on varsity continuously."

Looking back, Brodie considers his experiment a bona fide success.

"This group has improved every year since their sophomore season - both individually and as a team," he said. "And our record shows that. We went from one win their sophomore season to six last season to eight this year so far. "A lot of it has to do with the

experience they got their sophomore year. If they didn't have three years of varsity experience right now, they might not be quite as effective as they've been for us."

# **EXTRA EFFORT**

What does Marek remember most about that brutal 04-05 campaign?

'The double practices," he said, without hesitation. "We'd practice with the varsity and the junior varsity, which was tough. I remember how tired

# I'd be when I got home from practice.

"I also remember how competitive the varsity practices were. We had to bust our butts in practice every day because we were battling the seniors for playing time and they didn't want to give it up."

(CP)

Marek said the loss-afterheartbreaking-loss routine gave him a new perspective on things.

"More than anything, it made me appreciate our wins this season," he said. "I know we've only won eight games, which may not seem like a lot, but to us it's a very good year, a lot of improvement."

"The practices were battles," Burleigh agreed. "The seniors didn't want to give up their spots to the sophomores, so they battled us all the way. It was very, very competitive, but it definitely made us all better players."

And, as a result, there have been a lot more feel-good Kodak moments for the Rocks this season.

And, more importantly, a lot more wins.

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Jeong's late FT's propel 'Cats

#### BY ED WRIGHT STAFF WRITER

Livonia Franklin's cheering section tested Plymouth junior guard Dan Jeong's concentration during the final seconds of Friday night's Western Lakes Activities Association contest in the Patriots' gym.

He passed the test with flying colors.

With the game tied at 53-all and 10 ticks left on the clock, Jeong blocked out the fans' noise and drained the decisive free throws in the Wildcats' 55-53 victory.

"Dan's one of those players you like to see at the line in situations like that," said Plymouth coach Tom Van Wagoner. "He's proven to be a pretty clutch shooter when he was on the JV team last year and this season on varsity."

Plymouth improved to 6-11 overall and 3-7 in the WLAA's

Western Division, but barely missed qualifying for the conference's post-season tournament. The Wildcats tied Walled Lake Western for fourth place in the division, but lost out in the tie-breaking system, which came down to point differential in the teams' two meetings this season.

Brandon Roberts paced the winners with 17 points. Jeong finished with 12 and junior guard Andy Price contributed six (two triples) off the bench.

Tyler Canyock led Franklin with 15 points while Ryan Matthey added 12. Sophomore Gary Cobb netted eight points, including a pair of monster slams that electrified the crowd.

Shortly after Jeong's free throws, Matthey was fouled on a drive to the basket. He missed the front end of a one-and-one and a Patriot last-second tip-in also missed the mark.

Plymouth overcame a 13-11 first-quarter deficit by draining five triples in the second stanza to carry a 28-24 lead heading into the third quarter. Franklin inched to within 42-40 with eight minutes to play.

Van Wagoner praised the play of reserves Kulraj Sandhu and Wes Shelton, both of whom gave the Wildcats several productive minutes.

The Wildcats were nearly perfect from the free-throw line, hitting 10-of-11. The Patriots, on the other hand, struggled at the charity stripe, twining just 11-of-22.

Both teams will compete in the WLAA's losers' bracket play beginning Tuesday night when Plymouth travels to Walled Lake Northern and Franklin visits crosstown rival Livonia Churchill. Both games are slated to tip-off at 7 p.m.

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scoring 22 points. The 6-1 guard seemed to amp up his

game whenever the Chiefs would threaten to seize the momentum.

Paye praised the play of his senior guard, Josh Butler, who he said made Storrs work for most of his points.

"I think Josh does as good of a job defensively on Storrs as anybody," said Paye. "Even when Storrs posts up, Josh uses his strength to make it tough for him to score."

Other than Storrs, senior forward Bret Spencer (seven points) was the only Mustang to score more than four. Spencer's biggest make was a triple with 2:18 to play that put his team up 34-27.

Junior forward Neil Sharma accounted for more than half of the Chiefs' offense as he netted 16, including a pair of threes. Waidmann, who had to battle double teams all night, finished with six points and eight boards.

Canton played without starting senior forward Steve Paye, who sat out with a sprained ankle.

"We definitely missed Steve's strength inside and his rebounding," said Paye. "He's been averaging about 10 points and six rebounds the past few games, so it would have helped to have him in there. Hopefully, he's ready for the (WLAA) tournament next week."

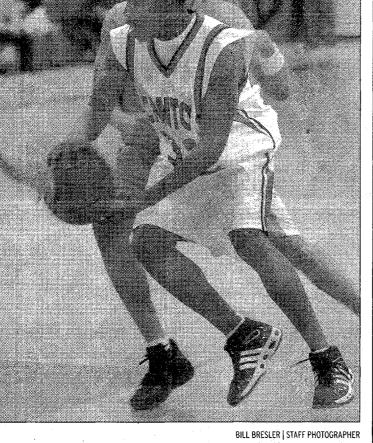
Northville led 10-4 after a defense-dominated first quarter in which both teams' offenses tried to solve their opponents' defense.

The Mustangs led 15-11 at the break and 25-21 with eight minutes to play.

Canton's only lead of the night came with 3:22 remaining in the third quarter when Sharma buried a long threepointer to make it 20-18. Storrs answered, however, by scoring the next 11 points. When the dust had settled from his shooting spree, the Mustangs led 29-23 with 4:40 left.

Two Sharma free throws brought Canton to within 34-29 with 1:24 remaining, but Storrs re-upped the lead to seven with a pair of free throws with 35 seconds to go.

Both teams took care of the ball. Canton registered 13



Canton's Josh Butler attempts to dribble around Northville's Alvin Storrs during Friday night's 39-31 Mustang win.

turnovers while Northville had 11 miscues.

Northville junior forward David Burke has a stellar defensive game, blocking four shots. Storrs also shined at the defensive end, recording six steals.

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# LOCAL SPORTS

**B4** (CP) Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, February 18, 2007



BILL BRESLER I STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Canton's J.P. LaFontaine (left), pictured above in a game earlier this season, was one of the catalysts of the Chiefs' recent three-game winning streak.

# Red-hot Chief icers fall to Western

### BY ED WRIGHT STAFF WRITER

Friday night's 6-1 loss to Walled Lake Western aside, the Canton hockey team has offset a rough start to the season with a recent victory surge.

The Chiefs had reeled off a season-best three-game winning streak heading into the setback to the Warriors. Leading the charge has been the No. 1 line of Alex Lajoie, Brad Barath and J.P. LaFontaine, who have been the primary catalysts in the team's 8-12-2 season.

"I told the guys after the game tonight to not let one loss ruin some very good things that have been going on the past couple of weeks,' said Canton coach Dan Abraham. "Because of the hard work its been putting in, this team has been playing much better than it did earli-

# 'I told the guys after the game tonight to not let one loss ruin some verv good things that have been going on the past couple of weeks."

# Canton coach Dan Abraham

Barath (two), Clark Albers and Justin Ward, the Chiefs upended WLAA Western Division leader Plymouth, 4-3, on Tuesday night. The Wildcats knotted the contest at 3-3 with a goal 5:16 into the final period, but Barath tallied the unassisted gamewinner with just 4:55 remaining.

"Our power play has been very good during our threegame winning streak," said Abraham. "We've scored quite a few power-play goals and we've been getting good goal-

their fourth straight win on Friday when Barath lit the lamp just 20 seconds after the opening face-off. However, the host Warriors tied the game at 1-all later in the period before scoring two more goals in the second to ice the win.

"I think we were a little too high going into the game," said Abraham. "Their goalie was pretty good, but we didn't test him like we should have.'

Prior to the victory over Plymouth, the Chiefs ousted Livonia Franklin, 4-2, and Redford Unified, 4-1.

Birchler got the win in both games. Anthony Bonnett, Lajoie (two) and Barath tallied goals in the win over the Patriots.

Canton, which is 4-4 in the WLAA, will host Walled Lake Northern in a league crossover game Friday night at the Arctic Edge Ice Arena in Canton Township.

# **SPORTS BRIEFS CANTON LEISURE SERVICES**

The MRPA Hoop Shoot basketball skills competition will be held Feb. 24 at the Summit on the Park in Canton Township. The event, which will be sponsored by Canton Leisure Services, is free and open to all boys and girls between the ages of 8 and 15.

The "hot shot" format give players 60 seconds to score points from various locations on the court. Certificates and ribbons will be given to all participants. Winners will advance to the

area competition for a chance to compete at the Palace of Auburn Hills.

Check-in begins at 8:30 a.m. and the contest will start promptly at 9 a.m.Call (734) 483-5600. A 3-on-3 youth basketball tournament will be sponsored by

Canton Leisure Services on Feb. 24 at the Summit on the Park in Canton Township. Boys and girls divisions will be

set up for grades 3-4, 5-6 and 7-8. Awards will be presented for division winners and runners-up.

All games will be officiated and teams are guaranteed two games. Only one representative from, each team is needed to register.

Registration ends at 9:30 a.m. For more information, call (734) 483-5600.

Pre-season tennis camp for prospective members of the 2007 during winter break at the Huron

camp are: Monday, Feb. 19, from 1:30-3:30 p.m.; Wednesday, Feb. 21, from 1-3 p.m.; and Thursday, Feb. 22, from 1-3 p.m.

The cost is \$82 for all three sessions or \$29 per day.

To register, call (734) 662-5514. The classes are limited to 10 play-

ers from each school. **RUNNING CLUB** Runners are invited to join the Northville (Redford) Road

Runners running organization. All levels are welcome. The club meets at 6:30 p.m.

each Tuesday at Northville's Hillside Recreation Center, located off Center Street just south of Eight Mile, and at 6:30 p.m. Thursdays and 9 a.m. Saturdays at the Eight Mile Road entrance to Maybury State Park.

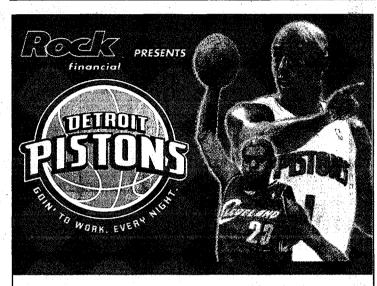
Varying distances are run, ranging from 4-6 miles.



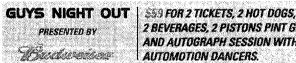
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# Shark attack

The Plymouth-Canton Sharks hockey recently completed an incredible streak of success by capturing a state-wide championship in Holland. Pictured (front row from left) are Nick Danis, Steven Sisolak, Hunter Oatman, Eric VandenBosch, Dillon Knight, (middle row from left) Jack Gifford, Michael Hampo, Andrew Angell, Jack Marentic, Nicholas Glud, Chris Knight, Jack Spencer, Lucas Winkler, Josh Kramer, Cameron O'Donnell, (back row from left) assistant coach Jeff Marentic, head coach Gary Winkler, assistant coach Gary Danis and assistant coach Dave Kramer.



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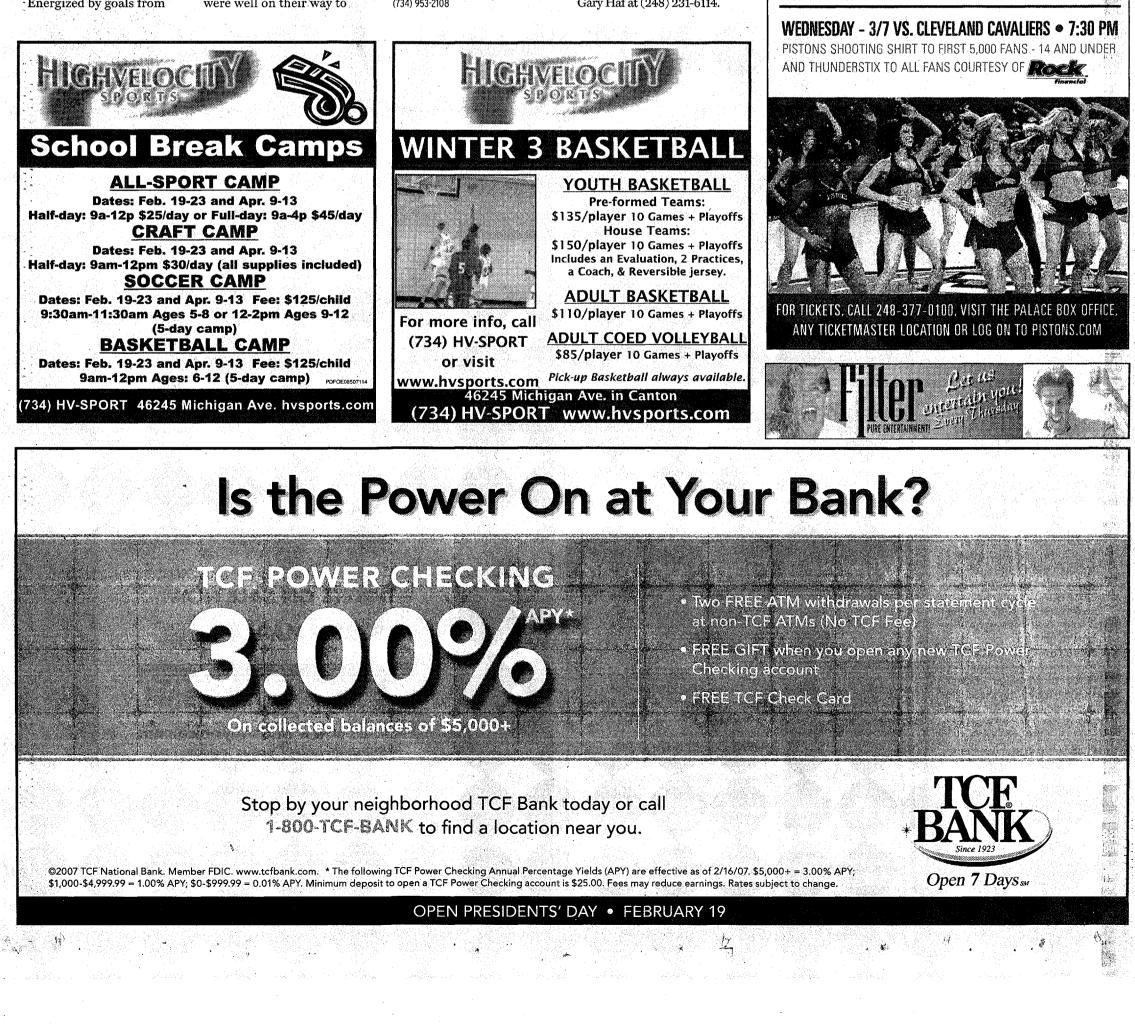
Valley Tennis Club in Ann Arbor. The dates and times of the

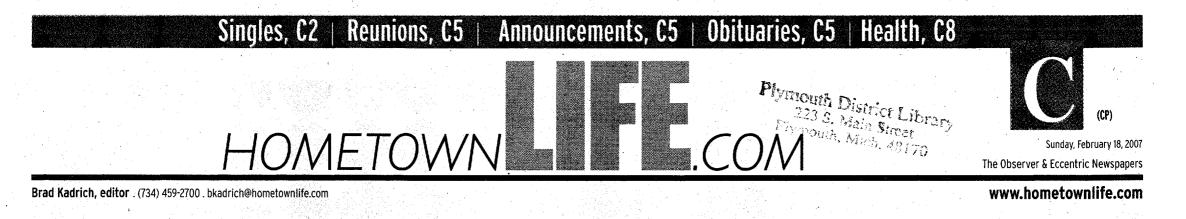
er in the season. This is a very hard-working team." ·Energized by goals from

tending out of Zane Birchler.' It appeared as if the Chiefs were well on their way to

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For more information, send an e-mail to Bo@sprauer.com or call Gary Haf at (248) 231-6114.





# Comic books can be beneficial

The only thing that my 8-year-old son will read is comic books. Each week, his father takes him to a store that only sells comic books and he gets new ones. He reads and re-reads them, puts them into plastic baggies and keeps them in a special box. My worry is that when I was a child, my mother told me that it had been proven that comic books lead to psychological problems. My husband thinks that I am completely wrong. What do you know about the link between comic books and

On

Terry

**Parenting** 

Wilamowski

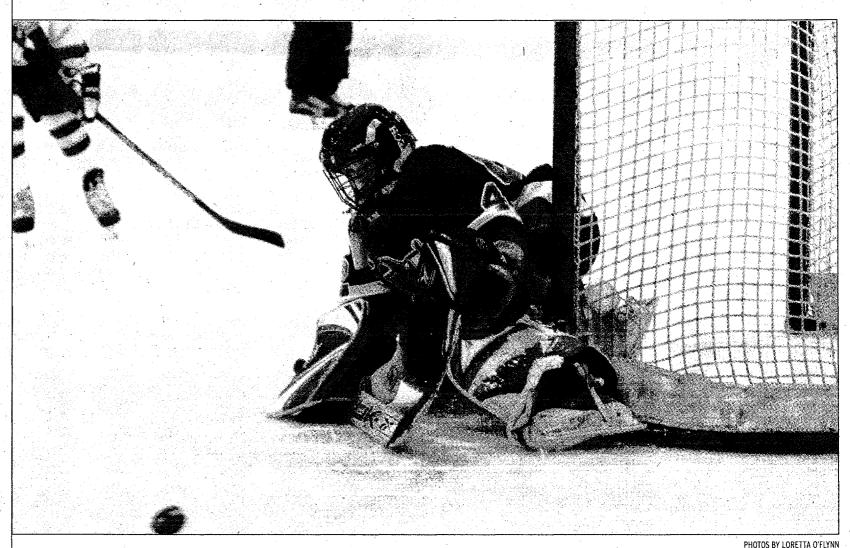
psychological problems? Sue, via e-mail

The "research" that your mother was referring to was probably from a book in the 1950s called *Seduction of the Innocent* by a psychologist named Fredric Wertham. In this work, the whole comic industry was blamed for the increase in juvenile delinquency and crime. Despite the author's assertions, there had been no actual research or findings that served as the basis for his conclusions. In the time

since this book, which caused quite a stir in its day, no connection between comic books and psychological or social difficulties have been discovered.

In fact, it is my opinion that reading comic books can actually be beneficial. Comic books promote the joys of reading, a feat that is not always easy to achieve. Secondly, they often tell fantastical stories with moralities of right and wrong and stimulate the imagination in ways that other mediums may not. Also, they provide an opportunity for children to develop organizational skills and a sense of responsibility (your son's collection seems to be well cared for). Finally, it sounds like the weekly trips to the comic store are a good bonding opportunity for your son and his father.

Of course, like any activity that your children want to undertake, parental guidance is necessary. Comic books, like movies and video games, are rated based on content. While many think of this medium as child focused, certain titles are for mature readers only. If you have any doubts, talk to the store employees, they can help you monitor the books that your son reads. When all is said and done, your son is excited about reading and this will stay with him if and when he loses interest in the "funny books."



Jackson Lytle, Plymouth Killer Sharks goalie, keeps an eye on the puck as it passes the net.

IN THE GAME Hockey players overcome heart defects



My two-and-a-half-year-old daughter is a pack rat. She saves every scrap of paper, every broken toy, every stick and leaf that she finds in the back yard. Whenever I try to get her to throw this trash away, she cries and begs me to let her keep it. I guess that I'm just a big softy because I always seem to give in. Is my daughter Obsessive Compulsive? Why does she want to keep this junk? How can I get her room clean when there is so much clutter? Help!

#### Diane, via e-mail.

Well, Diane, the first thing that we need to establish is that the things that you or I might call "trash" and "junk" are "treasures" to your daughter. She has assigned value to these things and as such, they have become part of her. When you suggest (or command or plead or...) that she get rid of them, it causes her emotional distress. Think about how you would respond if someone had asked you to throw away your wedding photos or your prized Beanie Babies. Her distress is real.

Believe it or not, her pack-ratting behavior is not all that uncommon. It is just one of the many ways that children cope with the many stressors of their daily environment. Every child lives in a world that is almost completely beyond their understanding and control. This is a fundamental fact of childhood. As she grows, she will learn new coping devices and leave older ones behind. Most children do this in one form or another. Pacifiers, special blankets, favorite stuffed animals, superhero capes, etc. are all different types of these coping mechanisms. And all of these, like your daughter's pack-ratting, are completely within the normal range and, at this time, do not suggest the presence of Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder. Now, let's see what we can do to reduce the clutter. If you have been a regular reader of this column, you are probably familiar with my fondness for choices. This is another instance that I think will be best served by careful use of options. For example, the next time your daughter wants to bring in several items from the yard (yes, I know that this will probably be months from now, but bear with me), allow her to keep as many items as will fit into a shoebox. If she cannot fit all of the items in, let her decide which items to remove from her collection and which to include. In this way, her eollection can change and grow, but the limit will be set by the container. To make this even more special, the shoebox can, and should, be decorated in the style of your daughter's choosing.

The key is to not make it a power struggle. Allow her to choose whichever items she wants, as long as they fit into the box. This should help to reduce the overall presence of clutter as well as to convince your daughter that you respect her (and her collection). As time passes, she will move on to other things, but you may find it difficult to get rid of this treasure box.

Terry M. Wilamowski is a therapist specializing in the treatment of children, adolescents and families at Heron Ridge Associates in Plymouth. Questions and comments can be sent to terrywilamowski@yahoo.com.

#### BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN STAFF WRITER

The Birmingham Titans lost the district peewee hockey game to the Plymouth Killer Sharks in late January, but both of the teams' goalies were winners. Their mothers never thought Patrick Adams and

'Thirty years ago survival was far less. Not enough children have survived to know what to expect. There may be complications they might not be aware of. We need to stay involved.' Michele Lytle

Mother of Jackson Lytle

Jackson Lytle would survive open heart surgery let alone play a variety of sports one day. The boys seem less interested in talking about early health problems than their time on the ice. "It was a fun game,"

said Patrick Adams, a sixth-grade student at Detroit Country Day School. When the 11year-old Birmingham boy isn't deflecting goals, he's on a tennis court or

baseball diamond.

Lytle is too busy playing hockey, baseball and drums to even think about the congenital heart defect he was born with until a fellow player asks, what's that on your chest? His mother, Michele, thinks the answer that follows is more common than believed. According to the Congenital Heart Information Network (tchin.org), it's estimated that one in 100 children born Even though Jackson Lytle (left) and Patrick Adams play for opposing peewee hockey teams, the boys have a lot in common. They recently met again after a game at Birmingham Ice Arena.

in the U.S. every year has a malformed heart. Jackson's scar is from open heart surgery the 12-year-old Plymouth boy underwent at 28 hours old for a rare defect known as Total Anomolus Pulmonary Venous Return. Jackson's older sister Megan was born with the same condition.

"Jackson was 2 or 3 when I wanted to find two children in a family with heart defects. There aren't a lot of children older than Megan because the technology didn't exist to repair it," said Michele Lytle, who went on the Internet looking for a support

PLEASE SEE PLAYERS, C3

# Catholic nun honored for years of service

#### BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN STAFF WRITER

Sister Rose Marie Kujawa is all smiles even though she's still fighting jet lag after an 18-hour flight from the Far East. The president of Madonna University returned last Sunday afternoon from a 15-day trip to present master of business administration degrees to 60 students in China as part of the Livonia-based university's international program. As academic dean, Kujawa was instrumental in paying the way for international studies and the export of Madonna's graduate program to



Sister Rose Marie Kujawa

Taiwan in 1989. The accomplishment is one of the reasons Kujawa, a Felician nun, is being honored at the Michigan Business and Professional Association's 11th annual Women and Leadership in the Workplace Conference and Awards Luncheon, from 7:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursday, March 1, at Burton Manor in Livonia. Kujawa won the award for the education category.

"I was very honored when informed about the award a month ago," said Kujawa, 64. "We've obviously accomplished a great deal at Madonna University, but don't expect to be recognized."

A 1966 graduate and mathematics major of Madonna University, Kujawa became its sixth president in 2001. Some 25 years earlier, she developed and taught the first computer courses there, 'I was very honored when informed about the award a month ago. We've obviously accomplished a great deal at Madonna University, but don't expect to be recognized.'

Sister Rose Marie Kujawa Madonna University president

but considers the international program one of her greatest achievements. Over the years, she has visited more than 25 countries to build ongoing educational relationships with England, France, Poland, Lithuania, Spain, Mexico, Egypt, Lebanon, Taiwan, China, and Japan.

<sup>®</sup>In China, we had a reunion of 120 graduates.

One had just been elected governor in one of the provinces in southern China," Kujawa said. "We have over 400 graduates in mainland China, over" 600 students graduated in Taiwan.

"It's very interesting. Once you get to be known in the area, they spread the word (about the pro-

PLEASE SEE HONOR, C4

# **COMMUNITY CALENDAR**

# Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, February 18, 2007

# **AROUND TOWN**

## **Princess ball**

(CP)

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

## **Eat for Education**

"Eat for Education" Taste Fest with Silent Auction will be hosted by Academic Pathways Cooperative Preschool, at 30330 Schoolcraft Road in Livonia, 6-8:30 p.m. Saturday, March 10. Tickets are \$10, as a fund-raiser for the school. Local restaurants and bakeries will serve signature dishes, while the auction features hotel packages/weekend getaways/spa packages, etc. (734) 261-9540 or visit academicpathways.tripod.com.

### Genealogical society

The Livingston County Genealogical Society meets March 1 at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, 1041 W. Grand River in Howell, with a help session starting at 6 p.m. and the meeting at 7 p.m. Guest speaker Richard Hutchins, a Fowlerville author, will talk about "Howell Goes to War." The public is invited. For more information, call Margaret Bowland, (810) 227-7745.

#### Grief support series

Heartland Hospice offers a five-week series, "Living with Grief," beginning Thursday, March 1 through March 29, from 5:30-7 p.m. This program is a series of weekly sessions offering insights and coping skills for an adult's journey through grief. This free series will be held at the Heartland Hospice office, 3840 Packard, Ste. 260, in Ann Arbor, and is open to anyone in the community. For more information or to register, contact Ann Christensen, bereavement coordinator, (734) 973-1145.

## Academic Pathways preschool Academic Pathways Cooperative

Preschool, at 30330 Schoolcraft in Livonia, will host an open house form 1-3 p.m. Tuesday, March 6. Enroll in classes Tuesday and Thursday mornings for 3-year-olds, and Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings for 4vear-olds. Potty training not required: certified teacher. (734) 459-6689 or visit academicpathways.tripod.com. Lenten fish fry

St. Sebastian Catholic Church, 20700 Colgate in Dearborn Heights, hosts its annual all-you-can-eat Lenten Fish Fry 4-7 p.m. Feb. 23-April 6. The event features baked and fried fish, macaroni and cheese, spaghetti, cole slaw and dessert. Cost is \$8.50 for adults, \$4.75

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. **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



# **Choral magic**

On Saturday, Feb. 10, the Plymouth-Canton High Schools Madrigal Choir and Chamber Choir achieved a "1" rating at the MSVMA High School Solo and Ensemble Festival. With this rating these ladies and young men will progress to the State Solo and Ensemble Festival which takes place March 30-31. These two groups will also combine and perform as the Festival Singers during the District Choral Festival on March 1 at Northville High School. Soloists Maggie Burr, Sandy Nahra and Lucy Han also received first division ratings during this weekend's festival.

activity 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 Michigan's 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

#### 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 Christian-based 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 arieving 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

www.hometownlife.com

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 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 smallgroup 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-at-home 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 Road, Plymouth. Call Mary Ann at (734) 420-0857 for further information.

## American Legion

Beasley-Zalesny Post 112 meets at the I.O.O.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-

for children under 12. For more information, call (313) 562-5356. Bocce for bucks

Visiting Nurse Association of · Southeast Michigan's signature fundraising event, Bocce for Bucks III, sponsored by Complete Infusion \* Services, offers patrons an opportuni- ty 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

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

training session is 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Feb. 24. 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

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

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.

# On Golden Pond BY ERNEST THOMPSON

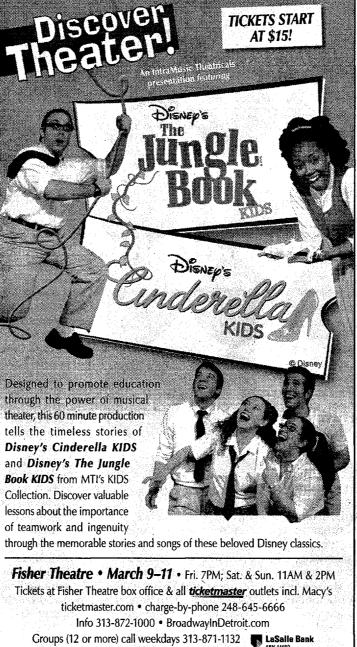
THE THEATREINSEMBLE PRESENTS

This moving tale of generations colliding during a family's visit to its lakeside cottage recently ended a successful Broadway revival and is this year's subscriber's choice. Directed by John Manfredi, Meadow Brook's awardwinning director of Driving Miss Daisy.

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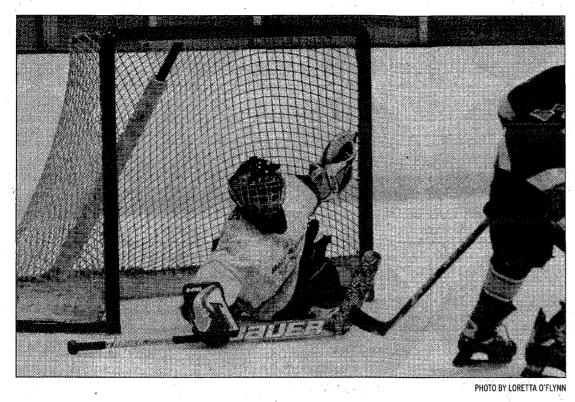


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Patrick Adams in action as goalie for the Birmingham Titans.

# PLAYERS **FROM PAGE C1**

www.hometownlife.com

group and found Patrick's mother, Maureen Adams. Patrick's Atrial Septal Defect wasn't rare, but the two women connected.

"Patrick's pediatric cardiologist referred us to U of M for a certain procedure that was in Phase 2 of clinical trials," said Maureen Adams. "I couldn't find any information on it that's when I hooked up with the Internet group and learned what questions to ask. We chose not to have the experimental procedure and instead went with regular open heart surgery,"

As part of an informal local support group, the two mothers shared their knowledge about congenital heart defects, but hadn't physically seen each other since 2000 when Gov. John Engler signed a procla-

mation to declare Feb. 14 **Congenital Heart Defect** Awareness Day. Then the women learned their sons would be facing each other on the ice.

"We're so fortunate to have two healthy young men," said Michele Lytle.

Both women continue to participate in e-mail discussions on tchin.org. The Children's Congenital Heart Information Network is a national organization that provides educational information, support, financial assistance, and resources for families of children with congenital heart defects and acquired heart disease, adults with CHD, and the professionals who work with them.

"Thirty years ago survival was far less," said Lytle. "Not enough children have survived to know what to expect. There may be complications they might not be aware of. We need to stay involved."

Woodworkers show off projects

"We sent letters, e-mails and faxes to include congenital heart defects in a proclamation to declare February American Heart Month by George W. Bush in 2004," added Maureen Adams. "It's about awareness. After the hockey game one of Patrick's teammates said he had the same surgery. We didn't know that until the hockey

game." "The subject usually doesn't come up unless they're inswimsuits," said Lytle, "yet it is the number one defect."

This spring, Jackson, 12, is joining the track team at West Middle School in Plymouth. He'd like to stay in touch with Patrick who was 3 years old when he underwent open heart surgery

"It felt kind of weird meeting him," said Jackson. "I didn't know him, but I think I knew him."

Ichomin@hometownlife.com (734) 953-2145

# **AFD Foundation** scholarships

Two students from Canton and one from Plymouth were among recipients of \$1,500 scholarships announced by the Associated Food and Petroleum Dealers.

Kurtis Edelbrock of Plymouth is a sophomore attending the University of Michigan-Dearborn majoring in political science and philosophy. A Salem High School graduate, he was two-time winner of the Michigan Association of Broadcasters annual competition. His scholarship was submitted by **Professional Insurance** Planners of Farmington Hills; his sponsor is D&B Grocers Wholesale of Livonia. He is the son of David and Robin Edelbrock of Plymouth.

Timothy Finch of Canton is a sophomore attending the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor majoring in biology. A Canton High School graduate, where he received the 4.0 Award of Merit, he served as treasurer and secretary of the Canton Student Congress. His

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

# **ON CAMPUS**

scholarship was submitted and sponsored by Frito-Lay of Plymouth. He is the son of Frank and Kathy Finch of Canton.

Amruta Mundade of Canton is a senior at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor majoring in anthropology with a sub-concentration in medical anthropology. A Salem High School graduate, where she was ranked first of 615 students, she was student council president and played on the tennis and volleyball teams. At U-M, she is among the top 15 percent in her class. Her scholarship was submitted by Farmer Jack of Taylor and her sponsor is Kar's Nuts of Madison Heights. She is the daughter of Avinash and Sarla Mundade of Canton.

# Hillsdale College

James Burns, a junior accounting major at Hillsdale College, was named to the Dean's List for the 2006 fall semester.

Burns is the son of Stephen and Amy Burns of Plymouth. He is a 2004 graduate of Catholic Central High School.

# **@ THE LIBRARY**

3. "The Alexandria Link," Steve Berry 4. "Cross," James Patterson 5. "Hannibal Rising," **Thomas Harris** 

# **NON-FICTION**

1. "The Audacity of Hope," Barack Obama 2. "Born on a Blue Day," Daniel Tammet 3. "Palestine Peace Not Apartheid," Jimmy Carter 4. "The Innocent Man," John Grisham 5. "Power, Faith and

# Lake Superior State University

C3

(CP)

Two students from Canton and one from Plymouth were among students named to the Dean's List for the fall 2006 semester at Lake Superior State University in Sault Ste. Marie. To make the list, students must achieve a 3.5 grade-point average for the semester on a 4.0 scale.

The two Canton students were junior biology major Peter Bonneau and freshman criminal justice major Kara Klupacs.

Brian Tetreau, a sophomore from Plymouth majoring in criminal justice, also made the list.

# **Howe Military School**

Cadet Melvin Sillmon, an 11th-grader at Howe Military School in Howe, Ind., and the son of Anna and Melvin Sillmon of Plymouth, made the Headmaster's List by attaining at least a 3.0 B average in his studies in a college prep curriculum. Sillmon has attended Howe Military School since January 2006.

Fantasy," Michael Oren

## **PARENT'S CHOICE**

# **NEW CHILDREN'S PICTURE** BOOKS

1. "Estelle Takes a Bath," Jill Esbaum

- 2. "The Most Precious
- Thing," Gill Lewis
- 3. "Brave Bitsy and the Bear," Angela McAllister
- 4. "Tickets to Ride," Mark Rogalski
- 5. "The Prince's Bedtime," Joanne Oppenheim



The Michigan Woodworkers Guild holds its 25th annual Showcase of Custom Woodworking Show noon to 5 p.m. Sunday, March 11, at the **Livonia Senior Activities** Center, 15218 Farmington

Canada will exhibit their woodworking projects. This is not a craft show. Wood projects built from various types of wood and depicting furniture from different time periods

will be on display.

# ultimate goal.

Established as a nonprofit organization in 1981, the Michigan Woodworkers Guild is comprised of more than 300 men and women woodworkers. Anyone wishing to join the Guild and learn more abou woodworking is encouraged to attend the show. For more information, call (313) 278-2150 or send e-mail to sanchezart@aol.com.

Koad, between Schoolcraft (1 96) and Five Mile, Livonia. Parking and admission are free.

Woodworkers from Michigan, the midwest and

The wide range of tools that Guild members use such as scroll saws, lathes, routers, table saws, band saws, and high speed hand carving tools help artisans achieve their

# An Artful Affair RENAISSANCE

Plymouth Community Arts Council's

# College presents female version of 'The Odd Couple'

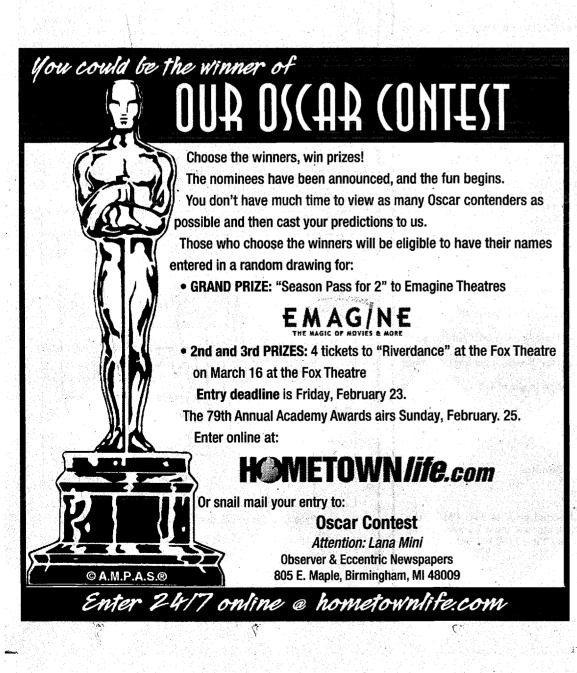
Michael Fisher of Garden City and Matthew Vortruba of Redford are playing their parts to make the Henry Ford Community College Theater program production of The Odd Couple a hit.

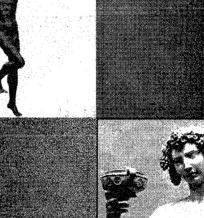
The curtain rises on the female version of Neil Simon's comedy Thursday-Sunday, Feb. 22-25, and March 1-4, at Adray Auditorium in the MacKenzie Fine Arts Center

on HFCC's main campus, 5101 Evergreen, Dearborn. Show times are 8 p.m. Thursday-Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday. Tickets are \$8 for adults

and \$5 for students. For information or ticket reservations, call (313) 845-9817.

Fisher plays Manolo. Vortruba of Redford is production assistant who also is in charge of lighting. According to Brian Tarasiewicz, the show's director, the female version of The Odd Couple follows the same premise as the original with the divorcing, depressed neat-freak Florence moving in with the confident yet messy, beer-drinking, sports-loving Olive and conflict, hilarity and nuttiness ensue.











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Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, February 18, 2007

HONOR

## FROM PAGE C1

gram) themselves. In Taiwan, one of the first graduates was a community organizer who was able to get a \$1 million grant. There are many fine things like that that have happened."

A service learning exchange program allowed students to learn practical skills in schools and hospitals in Mexico, as well as observe, understand and appreciate the culture. One of the values of the Felician nuns, who follow the teachings of St. Francis, is to have a respect for all people.

Through the Service Learning program, students participate in a variety of ways in the community. The program teaches them that they can make a difference by providing services such as after-school tutoring at All Saints Parish in southwest Detroit.

"I truly believe students should not be educated for the sake of personal development only," Kujawa said.

"I hope through the Service

Learning program they see the opportunity to be of service in a new way prior to attending Madonna University."

Madonna University is not only growing programs around the world, but on campus in Livonia. In 2009, the new Science and Media Center opens north of the administration building to accommodate not only recently instituted programs of forensic and environmental science, but Madonna Magazine, a cable show that gives media students real life experience, whether behind the camera or on set. It will be one of the first green buildings to be built in Livonia.

"We have our own international world here in Livonia with over 200 students from 43 countries. It makes a difference for students to ask questions of those from Nigeria or Japan," Kujawa said.

"One of the accomplishments is the growth over the 30 years I've been here. It went from a college of barely 1,000 students in the '70s to 4,600 today with 70 undergraduate programs, 25 master level choices and we're giving serious consideration to doctoral programs," said Kujawa, who in 1991 chaired the committee for Madonna to become a university.

"My vision is clearly aligned with Madonna University to continue to be a strong, quality university, not only serving southeast Michigan, but continue to affect people from all countries, wherever we're called to serve."

Along with Kujawa, the event recognizes other women leaders, including Sandra Pierce, president and CEO, Charter One Bank; Terri Lynn Land, Michigan Secretary of State; Cynthia Taueg, vice president of Community Health and Senior Services, St. John Health System; Desiree Cooper, columnist, Detroit Free Press; and Shirley Stancato, president, New Detroit, Inc. Mary Jo Pulte of Uno Chicago Grill in southwest Michigan receives the Small Business Achievement Award.

Tickets for the event are \$75 for MBPA members, \$95 for non-members, and include workshops and luncheon.

For information or to register, or for sponsorship and advertising opportunities, call (888) 277-6464, ext. 149, or visit www.michbusiness.org. Group discounts available for the event.

Edward Deeb is especially excited about the theme of this year's event — Taking Care of You, Takes Care of Business. Workshops include yoga, a panel discussion on women taking control of their careers, and maintaining wellness and balance. Last year, about 650 women attended the event.

"People take better care of their cars then themselves," said Deeb, CEO and president of Michigan Business and Professional Association and Michigan Food and Beverage Association, and a Bloomfield Hills resident.

"The whole thing is to be sure the women are healthy and run the gamut. New this year is an interactive session between the workshops on restoring balance — The Yoga Connection. I think the women are going to love to see how they can relax and be better prepared to do their jobs."

Ichomin@hometownlife.com (734) 953-2145

## CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON ACCESS TO PUBLIC MEETINGS

The Charter Township of Canton will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting, to individuals with disabilities at the meeting/hearing upon two weeks notice to the Charter Township of Canton. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Charter Township of Canton by writing or calling the following:

David Medley, ADA Coordinator Charter Township of Canton, 1150 S. Canton Center Road Canton, MI 48188 (734) 394-5260

Publish: Feb. 4 & 18, 2007

# CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS AGENDA MARCH 8, 2007

Notice is hereby given that there will be a meeting of the Zoning Board of Appeals THURSDAY, MARCH 8, 2007 AT 7:00 PM. The meeting will be held in the Board Room at the Township Administration Building located at 1150 S. CANTON CENTER ROAD, CANTON, MI 48188. The following Agenda will be discussed:

Pledge of Allegiance to the flag

# SINGLES

# MISC. SINGLES

#### **Moon-dusters**

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 clothes, gentlemen - jackets and ties. for more information, call Joe Castrodale (248) 968-5197.

# **BETHANY SUBURBAN WEST**

# 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.

# METROPOLITAN SINGLE PROFESSIONALS

Join our E-mail list at www.mspsc.com for special events. Information (248) 544-6445. Office (248) 851-9919 Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Euchre

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

# Volleyball

Anytime 6:45-9:45 p.m. Drop-in volleyball in the gym and fieldhouse of the Bloomfield Hills Middle School, 4200 Quarton Road, west of Telegraph. Cost is \$6. In the park, Farmington Hills, anytime 6:30 p.m. to dusk. Heritage Park, Farmington Road, between 10 Mile and 11 Mile. Cost \$2.

# **PARENTS' WITHOUT PARTNERS**

#### Monthly dance

The Wayne-Westland chapter of Parents Without Partners sponsors a singles dance on the second Saturday of every month at the Dearborn Elks Club at 25000 Michigan Ave. 9 p.m.-1 a.m. Disc jockey, cash bar. \$6 members, \$8 nonmembers. Public invited. Information, Pat, (248) 478-8977, or Diana, (734) 751-7386.

# SINGLE POINT MINISTRIES

Single Point Ministries of Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church is at 40000 Six Mile Road, the corner of Six Mile and Haggerty, in Northville. Sunday Fellowship

Meet at 11:30 a.m. every Sunday in Knox Hall for fellowship and encouragement. Coffee, doughnuts, conversation and Christ are always present. For more information, call the SPM office at (248) 374-5920.

#### Bible Studies-Prayer Nights Learner's Bible Study - 7 p.m.

Mondays in Room A101. Men's Bible Study \_ 6:30 a.m. Wednesdays in the Single Adult Ministries office.

<u>CITY OF PLYMOUTH</u> <u>2007 MARCH</u> BOARD OF REVIEW SESSIONS

The City of Plymouth will be conducting the 2007 March Board of Review and will convene in the City Commission Chambers, 201 S. Main Street, Plymouth, MI 48170, for an Organizational Meeting on Tuesday, March 6, 2007 from 9:00 a. to 9:30 a.m. and appointments scheduled as follows:

The regular Board of Review schedule:

Tuesday, March 6, 2007 from 9:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Thursday, March 8, 2007 from 3:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Monday, March 12, 2007 from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Tuesday, March 13, 2007 from 3:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Thursday, March 15, 2007 from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Other hearing dates and times may be scheduled as needed. Hearings are by appointment only. COMPLETED 2007 BOARD OF REVIEW PETITIONS ARE NECESSARY and must be submitted to the Front Office located on the First Floor of City Hall, prior to your appointment. The "Deadline" for submitting petitions for all persons wishing to appeal in person before the Board of Review is Wednesday, March 14, 2007 by 4:30 p.m.

A resident or non-resident taxpayer may file a petition with the Board of Review without the requirement of a personal appearance by the taxpayer or a representative. An agent must have written

# CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS THURSDAY, MARCH 1, 2007

#### 6:00 P.M.

PLEASE NOTE that the Zoning Board of Appeals will hold its Regular Meeting on Thursday, March 1, 2007 commencing at 6:00 p.m., to consider size and placement variances for a sign requested by Bosch, 15000 Haggerty, Plymouth Township: and a request for a two foot variance for a six foot high fence at 40562 Pinetree Drive. The meeting will be held at Plymouth Township Hall, 9955 N. Haggerty Road in the Town Hall Meeting Room.

For further information contact Plymouth Township Building Department at 734-354-3208.

Publish: February 18, 2007

# PLANNING COMMISSION CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON, WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN.

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** pursuant to Michigan Public Act 110 of 2006, of the State of Michigan, as amended, and pursuant to the Zoning Ordinance of the Charter Township of Canton that the Planning Commission of the Charter Township of Canton will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, March 5, 2007, in the *First Floor Meeting Room of the Canton Township Administration Building, 1150 S. Canton Center Road at 7:00 p.m.* on the following proposed amendment to the Zoning Ordinance: www.hometownlife.com

<b>T-MOBILE</b>	ZONING	ORDINANO	CE TEXT	AMENDMENT
CONSIDER	REQUEST	TO AMEND	THE CANI	ON TOWNSHIP
ZONING C	RDINANCE	AMENDIN	G SECTIO	NS 6.02S AND
11.02B REL	ATIVE TO A	ALLOWING (	CELL TOW	ERS IN THE R-1
THROUGH	<b>R-5 ZONIN</b>	J DISTRICTS	AS A SPEC	IAL LAND USE.
mooun		DISTINCIS	monuo	

Written comments addressed to the Planning Commission should be received at the Canton Township Administration Building, 1150 Canton Center S., prior to Thursday, March 1, 2007 in order to be included in the materials submitted for review.

Vic Gustafson, Chairman

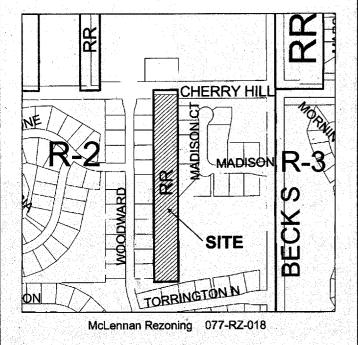
Publish: February 18, 2007

PLANNING COMMISSION CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON, WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Michigan Public Act 110 of 2006, of the State of Michigan, as amended, and pursuant to the Zoning Ordinance of the Charter Township of Canton that the Planning Commission of the Charter Township of Canton will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, March 5, 2007 in the *First Floor Meeting Room of the Canton Township Administration Building, 1150 S. Canton Center Road at 7:00 p.m.* on the following proposed amendment to the Zoning Ordinance:

**MCLENNAN REZONING** - CONSIDER REQUEST TO REZONE PARCEL NO. 077 99 0002 000 (47675 CHERRY HILL) FROM RR, RURAL RESIDENTIAL TO R-2, SINGLE-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL. Property is located south of Cherry Hill and west of Beck Road.



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Written comments addressed to the Planning Commission should be received at the Canton Township Administration Building, 1150 Canton Center S. prior to Thursday, March 1, 2007 in order to be included in the materials submitted for review.

Vic Gustafson, Chairman

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Publish: February 18, 2007

Roll Call: Randy Blaylock, Jim Cisek, Cathy Johnson, Vicki Welty and Steven Johnson.

Acceptance of Agenda

- William and Jennifer Moore, 47500 Hanford, Canton, MI 48187 for residential property located at same address, north side of Hanford between Beck and Ridge Roads, appealing Zoning Ordinance, Article 26.00, Section 26.02, side yard setbacks. Zone R-1 Parcel 029 02 0006 301 (Building)
- 2. Bryan L. Amann of Bryan L. Amann PLLC, 355 Nort Canton Center Road,
- Canton, MI 48187 representing Whitehall Realty Co., of Del Taco, 27750 Middlebelt Road, Suite 100, Farmington Hills, MI 48334 for commercial property located at southeast corner of Ford Road and Oakview Drive, south side of Ford Road between Oakview and Morton Taylor Roads, appealing Zoning Ordinance Article 6.00, Section 6.10 variance from required 100ft setback from residential, and Article 4.00, Section 4.01, number of stacking spaces for drive-through restaurant. Zone C-2/CBD overlav
  - Parcel 057 99 0001 008
  - (Planning)

3. Bryan L. Amann of Bryan L. Amann PLLC, 355 North Canton Center

Road, Canton, MI 48187 representing Fairways West Neighbors, LLC

201 Woodward, Canton, MI 48188 for residential property located at

south side of Cherry Hill Road between Beck and Denton Roads, appealing

Zoning Ordinance Article 26.00, Section 26.02 b, lot dimensions.

(lot width to depth ratio)

Zone Parent Parcel currently RR, Lots are R-2

- Parcels 077 99 0002 000 (Parent Parcel)
  - 077 02 0291 000 (Lot #291)
  - 077 02 0292 000 (Lot #292) 077 02 0293 000 (Lot #293)
  - 077 02 0294 000 (Lot #293)
  - 077 02 0296 000 (Lot # 296)

(Planning)

4. Curtis G. Griffis II of Lighthouse Construction, 6623 Lafountaine Drive,

Plainwell, MI 49080 representing Paul Switzer of Texas Corral Grill and

Saloon, 1001 White Hawk Drive, Crown Point, IN 46307 for commercial

Property located at 43750 Ford Road north side of Ford Road between

Sheldon and Morton Taylor Roads, appealing Zoning Ordinance Article

6.00, Section 6.10 E.6.e, relative to use of L.E.D. lighting on the

building. Zone C-2

- Parcel 040 99 0004 702
- (Planning)

Approval of the JANUARY 11, 2007 Minutes

Written comments need to be submitted prior to 5:00 PM on the date of the hearing. All written comments must be sent to the Charter Township of Canton, Clerk's Office, 1150 S. Canton Center Rd., Canton, MI 48188.

Publish February 18, 2007

si		authority to represent the owner. Written petitions must be submitted by Wednesday, March 14, 2007 by 4:30 p.m.
		Copies of the notices stating the dates and times of the meetings will be posted and published in the local newspaper
II s, . s, .		All Board of Review meetings are open meetings in compliance with the "Open Meetings Act".
2,		If you have any questions or concerns, please contact 734-453-1234, ext. 253 or 252.
		Linda J. Langmesser, CMC City Clerk Publish: February 15, 18 & 25, 2007
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of		n an
n at		PLANNING COMMISSION
h or		CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
n 1,		PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE FUTURE LAND USE MAP
s		OF THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON, WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN.
		NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Public Act 263 of 2001 of the State of Michigan, as amended, and pursuant to the
		Comprehensive Plan of the Charter Township of Canton that the Planning Commission of the Charter Township will hold a Public
h		Hearing on Monday, March 5, 2007 in the First Floor Meeting
		Room of the Canton Township Administration Building, 1150 S. Canton Center Road at 7:00 p.m. on the following proposed
st		amendment to the Future Land Use Map of the Comprehensive Plan:
у		PLYMOUTH/CANTON SCHOOL FUTURE LAND USE
n		AMENDMENT - CONSIDER REQUEST TO AMEND THE FUTURE LAND USE MAP FROM COMMUNITY FACILITIES TO
ot		VERY LOW DENSITY RESIDENTIAL FOR PARCEL NO. 017 99 0009 001. Property is located south of Joy Road and west of Beck
5 A		Road.
		Written comments addressed to the Planning Commission should be received at the Canton Township Administration Building, 1150
		Canton Center S. prior to Thursday, March 1, 2007 in order to be included in the materials submitted for review.
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Plymouth/Canton School MLUP 006-MLP-004

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Publish: February 4 and 18, 2007

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VIC GUSTAFSON, Chairman

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REUNIONS

www.hometownlife.com

#### Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, February 18, 2007

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.

## REUNIONS

## **Berkley High School** Class of 1987

A 20-year reunion in planned for Nov. 24, 2007. Looking for all current contact info for alumni from class of 1987. Contact Kim (DeWilde) Everingham at (734)422-0087 or e-mail info to kimsliasophia@gmail.com. Reunion website is www.BHSreunion1987.com for further information and details. Bishop Borgess

## Class of 1987

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

## Class of 1977

- A 30-year reunion, Friday, Aug. 3 to Sunday, Aug. 5, 2007. Contact Val Schulte (Wrenbeck) at msugrad81@cox.net with your current
- address and phone number.

# **Dearborn Edsel Ford**

Class of 1967

- A 40-year reunion 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 4, 2007, at Doubletree Hotel, Dearborn. Hors d'oeuvres and cash bar, approximately \$35. For information. call Cheryl Riske Brown at (313)336-
- 0192 or e-mail efhs67@yahoo.com **Detroit Chadsey** Class of 1957
- A 50th Reunion is being planned for



## **Brama-Ward**

Melissa Brama and Chad Ward were married Nov. 4, 2006, on the beach at sunset at the Sunset Beach Resort in Nassau, Bahamas. The ceremony was officiated by the Rev. **Dianne** Coverley The bride is the daughter of Cindy Briody of Garden City. She is a 1999 graduate of Wayne Memorial High School and attended Grand Valley State University. She is an assistant manager at the Cracker Barrel Restaurant in Kokomo, Ind. The groom is the son of Sam and Sherry Ward of Rossville. Ind. He is a graduate of Grand Valley State University. He is an assistant manager at the Cracker Barrel Restaurant in West Lafayette, Ind. Maid of honor was Chad's, sister and Melissa's best friend Renae Ward. Best Man was Matt Toth, Chad's best friend from college. At dinner at Luciano's of Chicago in Nassau immediately followed the wedding attended by family members. The couple will honeymoon at a later date.

Sept. 29, at Weber's Inn in Ann Arbor. Looking for January, June and Summer '57 graduates. If interested in attending or know of the whereabouts of other classmates, contact Pat Gorski-Zielinski, (989) 366-9288. **Detroit Cody** 

# Class of 1957

A 50th reunion at the Embassy Suites, Livonia Oct. 5. 2007. Cost is \$90 per person, complete with dinner, open bar, memory book, CD, champagne toast and much more. This invitation is to all 50s' graduates. Deadline is June 25. Call 800-859-9502 or email loret@wideopenwest for details. Cost is \$90.00 per person, complete with dinner, open bar, memory book, cham-

pagne toast and much more. **Detroit Cooley** 

## Classes of 1967, 1968

- Reunion 6:30 p.m. Saturday, Sep. 29, 2007, at Laurel Manor, Livonia. Discounted tickets before March 1. Contact Dave Junguist at (810)667-9131, Website www.geocities.com/cooleyreunions67. All classmates are encouraged to register for inclusion in memory book at www.classreport.org/usa/mi/detroit/co
- oley/1967 **Detroit Denby**

## Class of 1957

A 50th reunion is planned for Sept. 7, 8, and 9, 2007, at the Thomas Edison Inn. Port Huron, Seeking lost graduates, January/June classes. If you are not vet on the mailing list, please email maroonfowl@aol.com or call (248) 642-0249. **Detroit Henry Ford** 

#### Class of 1967

A 40th reunion will be held 6:30-11:30 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 8, at Laurel Manor Special Event Center in Livonia.

Seeking January, June and summer graduates from 1967. For information, call Ellen (Neihoff) VanderRoest at (248)684-7705 or email chuckandelvan@comcast.net.

#### **Detroit Holy Redeemer** Class of 1957

A 50-year reunion. Oct. 12, 2007, at O'Kelley KofC Council, Dearborn. In interested in attending or know the whereabouts or former classmates, contact John Duff at oliverlynn@aol.com or phone (734)261-

#### 3346 **Detroit Mackenzie**

Class of 1957 Looking for graduates to attend a reunion scheduled for Oct. 19, 2007. Call Eleanor at (734)425-8278. **Detroit Western** 

#### Class of 1962

A 45-year reunion will be held in September 2007. Seeking information on classmates from that year. All other classes welcome. Contact Judy Hull Rakowski at (734) 459-3832 or Judy Spiro Scranton at ilscranton@vahoo.com **Detroit Southwestern** 

#### Class of 1957

A 50-year reunion is being planned for September 2007. Looking for January and June graduates. If interested in attending or know of the whereabouts of other classmates, contact Angie (Conz) Maccani at (313) 532-4379 or Ken Suski at (313) 291-5450. **Epiphany Grade School** 

#### Class of 1966

A 40-year reunion is in the planning stages for the summer of 2006. Contact Dorothy at (248) 477-9478 or dzsnyder@hotmail.com. Ferndale Lincoln High **Class of 1947 January and June** 60th class reunion, Aug. 3, 4 and 5 at The Hilton Hotel on Crooks Road in Troy. For information or details contact : Treva (Powell)Hamill, 248-667-1601, bobtrev9@aol.com or, Dick Reising, 248-623-9060, dreisings@sbcglobal.net

# **Fordson High School**

Class of 1969 Planning a reunion for 2007. Please

contact Kathy Nisun at (248) 363-5679 or e-mail: Kayninilu@aol.com or Kathy Shoebridge @ Klivingston@nucore.com 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.

#### **Grosse Pointe North** Class of 1991

Call (800) 677-7800, visit www.taylorreunions.com or e-mail: info@tavlorreunions.com.

### 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@com-

#### cast.net for further information. **Livonia Bentley High School**

Class of 1957

A 50th reunion Saturday, June 9, at St. Mary's Cultural Center, 18100

Merriman Road, Livonia, Doors open 6 p.m.. dinner at 6:30. Cost \$45 per person due May 1. For information, call Janice Sue Fernandez, (734)427-1288. **Livonia Churchill** 

## Classes of 1971-2007

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. Livonia Franklin

# Class of 1969

A reunion is in the pre-planning stages for 2007. For more information, contact Kathy Nisun at (248) 363-5679 or e-mail: Kayninilu@aol.com. **Our Lady of Sorrows** 

# Class of 1966

Aug. 17, 18 and 19. For more information, call Pat Ormsby LaPlante at (248)476-0634.

## **Redford Thurston High School** Classes of 1957, 1958

A 50-year reunion is planned with several events Sept. 14-16 at Embassy Suites, Livonia. For information, contact Ron Beller at (989)652-9724 or email at Admiral741@yahoo.com or Marian Keegan Hierholzer at (248)349-2697 or e-mail at Mamia@comcast.net

**Roseville High School** 

# Class of 1956 A 50th reunion in fall of 2006. The

reunion committee is searching for classmates. For information, call Shirley at (586) 677-2709; Alice at (586) 792-7757 or e-mail at alijune1939@scbglobal.net or thehermans2002@comcast.net.

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# **Royal Oak Dondero High School** Class of June-Jan. of 1959

Seeking classmates for Aug. 4 reunion. Include name, address and email address to: Jean (Elliotte) Palmer 248-435-7875, TJPalmer73@aol.com, or Mike Soule 248-853-7483. Southeastern (Detroit)

# Class of 1987

A 20-year reunion is being planned for summer 2007. Looking for graduates of June 1987. If interested in attending or know of whereabouts of graduates, contact Terri Banks-Faison at (313)220-4769 or tntfaison@aol.com

# Southfield High School

#### Class of 1977 A 30th Reunion on Sunday, Sept. 2, 2007. For further information, contact MDurz@aol.com or IleneSilvermanAbrinSHS1977@com-

cast.net

#### St. Anthony Elementary All classes

Jassages

Obituaries, Memorials, Remembrances

1-800-579-7355 🔹 fax: 734-953-2232 e-mail: oeobits@hometownlife.com

Reunion on Oct. 6, 2007 for the Detroit school at 25th and Vernor. Email mrkf4yahoo.com or call (734)995-9243 for further details and to give your contact information.



# JOHN BAFFY

Age 66, February 13, 2007. Beloved husband of Judith for 40 years, loving father of William (Kelly) and Robert (Jennifer), proud grandfather of Christopher. Survived by two sisters and many nieces and nephews. Former youth hockey coach and avid golfer. Private services were held February 16. Memorial donations to Angela Hospice.

# **CHARLES REED COLLINS**

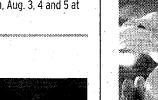
of Livonia died at his home, Friday, February 9, 2007. Charles, beloved son of Dr. Elwood R. and Linda R. Collins, was born November 13, 1970 in Detroit. Charles is survived by his parents, sisters Dr. Janice Collins, Miss Leslie Collins and Dr. Karen Collins-Grady (Dr. Jeff Grady) and nieces and nephews Alexandra, Spencer, Eleanor, Olivia, Bennett and Avery. Services were held at the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home of Plymouth with interment to take place at the family plot in Bad Axe. Memorials may be made to Disabled American Veterans, Veterans of Foreign Wars or the American Legion of Livonia, Post 32, 3918 Newburgh Rd., Livonia, MI 48150.



#### EDWARD J. HAHN, JR. February 13, 2007 Age 95 of Beloved husband of Birmingham. Nora and the late Marion. Brother of the late Eleanor Rich. Also survived by

# **DOROTHY JEAN PHILLIPS**

Of Brighton, formerly of Birmingham. Passed away Thursday, February 15, 2007 at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital. Ann Arbor. She was born on March 19. 1929 in Bay City, Michigan, a daugh ter of John Littlejohn and Bernadine (Sterling) Philip. She moved to Brighton in 2003. Prior to 2003 she had been a resident of Birmingham for 30 years. Miss Phillips was raised in Bay City. Miss Phillips was the owner of the Village Snack Shop in Birmingham for many years. Miss Phillips is survived by her sister; Helen R. Jones of Brighton. Dear aunt of two nieces, two great-nieces and two greatnephews and three great-great-nieces. Private family services will be held at a later date. Memorial contributions in Miss Phillips name are suggested to the American Red Cross, Livingston County Chapter, 1372 W. Grand River, Howell, Michigan 48843.



# ANNOUNCEMENTS



# **Rutecki-Daintv**

William Rutecki of LaVerne, Calif., and Barbara Rutecki of Plymouth announce the engagement of their daughter, Nicole Geneva Rutecki of East Lansing, to Ryan James Dainty of Mishawaka, Ind. The bride-to-be is a 2006 graduate of Michigan State University and is currently teaching in East Lansing. The prospective groom is the son of Jim and Helen Dainty of Cookerville, Ind. He is a 2004 graduate of the University of Tennessee. He is a master of divinity student at the University of Notre Dame. An Aug. 4 wedding is planned at Our Lady of Good **Counsel Church in Plymouth** followed by a reception a Plymouth Manor. The couple will make their home in South Bend, Ind.



They will make their home in Rossville Indiana.



## **Natalie Irene McCall**

Duane and Lynette McCall of Canton announce the birth of their daughter, Natalie Irene McCall, on Jan. 23, 2007, at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital in Ann Arbor.

Natalie weighed 8 pounds, 12 ounces at birth and 21 inches long.

She has a sister, Abby Elizabeth.

Grandparents are Duane and Jill McCall of Dearborn Heights, Emily Clarke of Waterford and Ron and Joanne Clarke of Lake Orion.

Great-grandparents are Emery and Elizabeth Weiss of Mt. Clemens, Myril Lehtinen of Waterford and Bud and Mary Lou Elenbaum of Pigeon.

# 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@hometownlife.com. Or send the following information to Hugh Gallagher, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia MI 48150: For engagement announce-

ments, 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 number and
- e-mail address in case we have any questions. For wedding announcements,

include: ■ All of the above, plus

Clergy's name

- Names and cities of all atten-
- dants

Reception location

Honeymoon location

■ City where couple will reside If you have questions regarding your announcement, call (734) 953 - 2149.

Smith-Rider Gerrard and Stephanie Smith of Canton announce the engagement of their daughter, Jennifer Smith, to Chad Rider of Canton.

The bride-to-be graduated from Plymouth-Canton Schools. She received a doctor of pharmacy degree from the University of Michigan in 2003. She is employed as a pharmacist at Busch's Pharmacy in Saline.

The prospective groom in the son of Nina Rider of South Lyon. He is a graduate of South Lyon schools. He received master of science degree in information systems management from Lawrence Technological University in 2001. He is employed as an MIS manager for Kalitta Air in Ypsilanti. A wedding is planned for

March 2 at St. Thomas 'a Becket in Canton. The couple will make their

home in Canton.



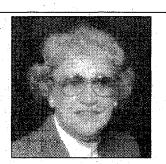
# **Ellen Grace Tomlinson**

Jeff and Kelly Tomlinson of Florence, Ky., announce the birth of their daughter, Ellen Grace, on Dec. 4, 2007. The Tomlinsons are former residents of Livonia.

Grandparents are John and Luanne Woodley of Livonia, Len and Cindy Gallagher of Clarkston and Mark and Monica Tomlinson of Plymouth.

Great-grandparents are Pat Hope of Livonia, Ilsa deArmas of Redfore and Pat Cardinal of Livonia.





#### **GEORGINA P. CONNELL**

Age 88, of Plymouth, passed away February 14, 2007. Born June 28,1918 in Nova Halifax, Scotia.

Georgina moved to the Plymouth community in 1979. Retired from the Ford Motor Company as a registered nurse. Served as a flight nurse during WWII in the Army Air Corp. Member of Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church in Plymouth . Georgina loved to travel and her travels took her around the world. She also enjoyed the theatre and opera. She was extremely close to and proud of her large, extended family of brothers, sisters nieces, and nephews. She is survived by her sister Phyllis Robinson Feddis; her loving nieces and nephews and their extended families, as well as her sisters-in-law Jessie Brinson and Jean Brinson, brother-in-law Edward David and many dear friends. She was preceded in death by her husband James; her sisters Alma Maher, Lucille David, Theresa Luberto; and her brothers Adolph ("Bus"), Lenwood, Martin, and James Brinson. Funeral service was held Saturday at Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church, 47650 North Territorial Rd., Plymouth. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be sent to The Penrickton Center for Blind Children, 26530 Eureka Rd., Taylor, MI 48180-9990 or to Angela Hospice, 14100 Newburgh Rd., Livonia, MI 48154-5010. Arrangements were entrusted to Schrader-Howell Funeral Home, 280 South Main St., Plymouth.

many nieces and nephews. Services have been held. In lieu of flowers family suggests memorial tributes to the Hospice charity of donor's choice. A.J. Desmond & Sons (248) 549-0500. View obituary and share memories at www.DesmondFuneralHome.com

# MARGIE ANNE HOEGY

Feb. 15, 2007 (as a result of an auto accident). Age 67, of Grass Lake, formerly of Livonia. Beloved wife of the late Louis; Loving mother of Melissa (Dan) Bass; Proud Nana of Abigail; Dear Sister of Beverly (Ted) Regal Ron (Margo) Traub, Bonnie (Mike) Tyler, and Donna (John) Asher; Loving aunt of seven nieces and five nephews. Visitation Tuesday, 3-9pm Vermeulen Funeral Home, 46401 W. Ann Arbor Rd., Plymouth (btwn Sheldon and Beck). In State Wednesday, 10am until 11am. Funeral service at Fa-Ho-Lo Camp and Conference Center Chapel, Grass Lake. To leave a message of condolence, please see:

vermeulenfuneralhome.com

## **DONALD K. HOFFMAN**

Age 90, February 14, 2007. Army veteran of World War II. A resident of Plymouth for over 60 years and member of Newburg United Methodist Church for over 50 years. Survived by his wife of 66 years Mary. Dear father of Sharon (Richard) Waack and Terry Holt and the late Donna Holt. Also leaves five grandchildren, four great-grandchildren and one sister. Visitation at the Schrader-Howell Funeral home, 280 South Main Street, Plymouth. A Memorial Service will be held on Saturday, February 24, 2007 at 2PM from Newburg United

Methodist Church, 36500 Ann Arbor

Trail, Livonia.



In Memory of **GRACE A. LAWRENCE** Oct. 25, 1919 - Feb. 19, 1997

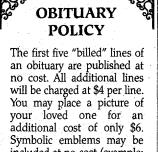
The years go by ... yet in my heart you shall remain forever young. Somehow ... with you the dew and the stars are wondrous things. The dragonflies have fairy wings. Flowers look upon you when you are near and the voice of the turtle rings in my ear.

Loving Wife, Mother and Grandmother

## **ROBERT POLLOCK**

Age 92 and lifelong resident of Birmingham, died on February 13, 2007 at Mercy

Bellbrook Assisted Living in Rochester, Mr. Pollock was born on April 23, 1914 to the late Victor M. and Ethel M. (Meraw) Pollock. Mr. Pollock worked for the Detroit Edison Company, retiring in 1979 after 45 years of service. He is a veteran of World War II where he served in the Army. Mr. Pollock was a member of Holy Name Church and was one of the founding parishioners. Mr. Pollock is survived by his daughters, Kathleen Mary (Larry A.) McCurdy and Susan JoAnn (Carl H.) Schmidt; grandchildren, Kimberlee Sue (Timothy J.) Easterday, John Michael McCurdy, Melissa JoAnn (George J.) Zeeff, Carl Robert, Elisabeth Anne, and Emily Elisabeth Schmidt; Greatgrandchildren, Evelyn R. McCurdy and Gaia Arielle McCurdy. He is preceded in death by his wife, JoAnn irginia (nee Howell) and brother, Phillip M. Pollock. Funeral was held at Holy Name Church, 630 Harmon, Birmingham, Friday Interment at Holy 10:30am. Sepulchre Cemetery, Southfield. Arrangements were entrusted to Lynch & Sons Funeral Directors.



included at no cost (example:-American Flags, religious symbols, etc.) **Deadlines:** Friday 4:30 PM for Sunday Wednesday Noon for Thursday Obituaries received after these deadlines will be placed in the next available issue

e-mail your obit to oeobits@hometownlife.com or fax to: Attn: Obits c/o Charolette Wilson 734-953-2232 For more information call: **Charolette Wilson** 734-953-2070 or Liz Keiser 734-953-2067 or toll free 866-818-7653

ask for Char or Liz

OE08428379

Love, Steve and your entire family

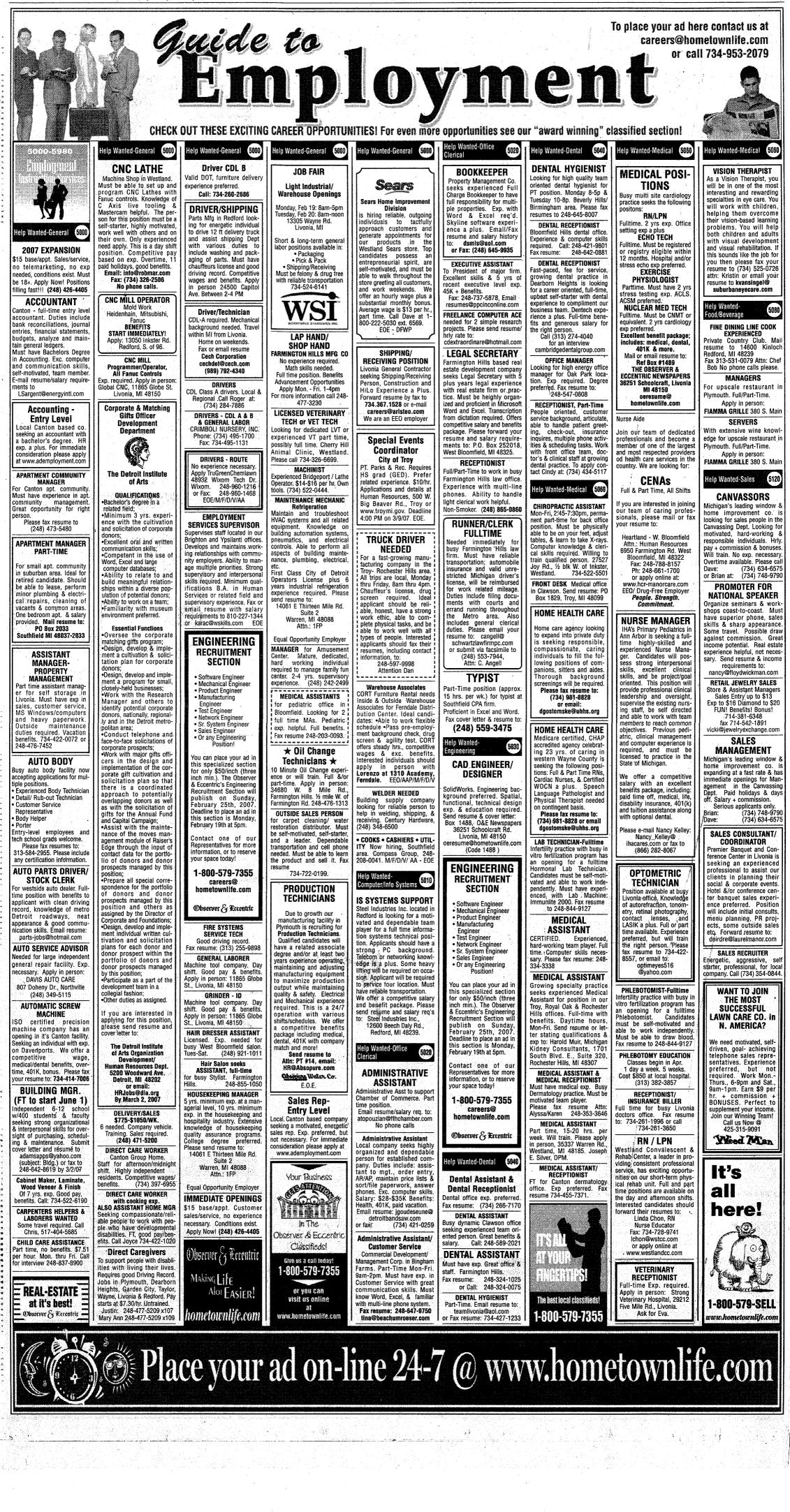


Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, February 18, 2007

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# March is Brain Injury Author tells kids to set goals for success

# Awareness Month

arch 1 marks the beginning of Brain Injury Awareness Month in the United States.

www.hometownlife.com

In Michigan, a kick-off rally will be held at our State Capitol Building in Lansing.

Michigan is the only known state to hold a kick-off rally and it is more than a little known secret that we have been doing so for eight consecutive years!

This year's rally will be the Eighth Annual conducted by our own Farmington Hills "Therapy Choir." This unique group of men and women are recovering from traumatic brain injuries, which are often accompanied with mental illness and substance abuse problems.

The Therapy Choir has been removing the stigma of these words for all audiences, far and wide, for the past nine years. The choir is headquartered at Broe Rehabilitation Services, Inc. in Farmington Hills which has serviced thousands of brain injured individuals over the past 20 years.

The choir has given over 145 free performances for our community and neighboring communities to increase awareness and break the silence about traumatic brain injuries and the related problems which occur every 21 seconds in America.

This year's rally will be cosponsored by Farmington Hills State Rep. Aldo Vagnozzi and State Sen. Gilda Jacobs. The rally takes place on Wednesday Feb. 28 from noon to 1 p.m. in the beautiful Atrium of our State Capitol. It is free and open to the public. A "Fill the Atrium" campaign may occur with our Farmington First Methodist Church whereby interested folks might share transportation or perhaps a bus. (Call Volunteer Voice Coordinator Terrye Mock at (248) 505-3951 for informa-



tion). The church, you know, donated their choir robes to the choir when it began in 1997.

Word has come to us that 60-80 percent of our wounded military returning from Iraq have traumatic brain injuries. The Therapy Choir's new goal is to open its membership to veterans and their families and allow the military to use our choir to raise awareness about this epidemic and need for treatment providers beyond our VA system.

Do think seriously about attending this rally and learning more about traumatic brain injury which is so prevalent in our youth (through sports and abuse), in teens (through violence and drugs and drinking), in adults (through motor vehicle accidents and violence) and in our elderly (through falls and accidents). These are the chief causes. Prevention is the chief cure.

Also know that The Therapy Choir has opened its membership to all in our community through its Volunteer Voices Program. Anyone with or without a disability is welcome to join-up with us. We are a therapy choir and no singing ability is required! We are advocating education, awareness, and inspiration on our continuing "Tour of Hope."

**Len McCulloch** is a Diplomate of the American Psychotherapy Association. He is the creator and Director of The Therapy Choir. He is credentialed in mental health, brain injury, substance abuse and social work. For information call him at (248) 474-2763 ext. 22.

### BY SHARON DARGAY COMMUNITY LIFE EDITOR

Larry Cole, of Farmington, became an author last year to keep kids from falling "through the cracks" and turning into adults on "a fast track to nowhere."

"I thought if I could get to those kids earlier, I could get them on the right track and make their lives better. I'd write a series of short stories, make the print larger and add extra space between the lines. It'd be an easy read." The story portion of his paperback, Don't Blame Me!, runs only 100 pages, but packs in concepts about goalsetting, organization, and overcoming obstacles. He also includes pages of motivational quotes ("Great ideas need landing gear as well as wings"), rules for success and a photo gallery of "champions." His "Goal Tender," a score sheet for keeping track of chores and goals, is inserted into every book.

Cole, who coached Little League baseball for many years and works as an airline captain, says he strongly believes in the need for children and teens to set and achieve small, realistic goals that might be stepping stones to larger goals. He taught his son to set goals at an early age. The 26-year-old is finishing his law school degree.

"Put a big goal in front of you and you'll look at it very day. It will be overwhelming and you'll say, 'No way can I do that.' But put the big goal aside and put baby steps in front and you achieve the first one. You're a little closer now and the big goal is possible."

His short stories each illustrate how.

There's Rudy, the aspiring actor, who is too shy to audition. The school drama teacher helps him overcome his fears by guiding him through baby steps. After reading a script out loud to her, he musters the courage to meet new people each day, eventually speaking to small groups and then large groups. Joey, the aspiring baseball player, needed to improve hitting, catching and throwing before he'd earn a spot on a team at the playground. "Instead of trying to improve on everything at once, he'd focus on one phase of the game at a time," Cole wrote. The boy watched baseball, read about technique and then practiced until he strengthened all of his skills and eventually made the team.

"The goal has to be written down and there has to be a deadline. Without a deadline a goal is just a wish," Cole said. "A goal is a goal, even if it's a selfish goal, like 'I want a new sweater." You still have to work to achieve it. Once they become a part of your daily life, goals become routine."

# **ADULTS NEED GOALS**

Cole stresses that goal-setting early in life can lead to a happier, more fulfilling adulthood. Without goals, even adults flounder. He tells the story of a copilot, Buzz, who had "settled into a comfortable rut" at his job, not bothering to achieve beyond his

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Author and airline pilot Larry Cole of Farmington.

co-pilot rating. Buzz wasn't prepared when his employer offered to test him for the pilot rank. He failed, but the airline gave him a month to study and re-take the test. Cole helped him set goals and eventually Buzz passed the test. They also worked on Buzz's pompous attitude toward other workers, using the same minigoal method.

"He wouldn't talk to people," Cole said, adding that Buzz didn't know the name of the hangar janitor he saw every day. "And then I pointed out to him that throughout his career as a captain he would meet many people," Cole wrote. "All are significant. They deserve your attention and kindness, even if all you do is smile and say hello."

Cole has sold his books primarily through craft fairs and through his Web site, www.dontblamelarry.com.

Don't Blame Me! costs \$9.95 and is published by Ferne Press.





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Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, February 18, 2007

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

Page C8

Sunday, February 18, 2007

# Pedophiles offer Warnings Psychotherapist talks with sexual offenders

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

## BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN STAFF WRITFR

No one disputes psychotherapist Dan O'Neil's comment that sex offenders are never cured. Five out of the eight men attending O'Neil's Monday night group therapy session are pedophiles.

These men will be the first to tell you there isn't a day goes by that they don't struggle to overcome their urges. They're here because they were court ordered, but say they want help after realizing the damage they've done to children. Most of them have been in therapy with O'Neil for about one year. Initially, all minimized the harm they caused their victims.

Ted went into his 15-year-old daughter's bedroom one night to fondle her breasts. He received two years probation and a mandate to complete O'Neil's Sex Offenders Treatment Program at the Birmingham Maple Clinic, an outpatient therapeutic resource for individuals and families in Troy. Here, the men pull no punches during the session as they try to expose the reasons for their behaviors.

O'Neil has to eventually put a stop to their interrogation of Bill, a newcomer. The 38-year-old man says he was jailed for a year because of a letter he wrote to his 14-year-old niece, but won't reveal the contents. Ten years earlier, he served time for another sexual assault. The men want to know the details so they can help him understand that the victims will have to deal with issues of trust, fear, anger and confusion for the rest of their lives. Only then can he begin to change. But do pedophiles really change?

Eric says, it's a lifelong process. He asks is a druggie cured, an alcoholic?

O'Neil says the re-offending rate is low with therapy, but there is no solid method, not even chemical or surgical castration, for changing or stopping pedophiles from fantasizing about children. There are more than 500,000 sexual offenders in the U.S. according the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (www.missingkids.com). O'Neil says about 60 percent of them live in communities under supervision such as probation or parole.

Jack has to remember daily to assess his thoughts and actions. That's why the men feel it's important for parents to listen to their tips so that children don't become victims of a pedophile. When Jack asks Ted what he would tell mothers to keep their children safe, he says to trust their intuition.

When O'Neil began working with disturbed children in 1975, he discovered a high percentage had been sexually assaulted within their family. He says, "incest is underreported. Yet with treatment, the rate of re-offense is only about five percent. If a father assaults his daughter one time, touches her breast and it's not reported, he's going to do it



Psychotherapist Dan O'Neil talks with pedophiles as part of the Sex Offenders Treatment Program at Birmingham Maple Clinic.

# again and go farther."

O'Neil sees a number of men who have assaulted a son or daughter. He believes "anyone who has ever touched a child in a sexual manner is a pedophile." About 90 percent are situational offenders — a child care worker, father, stepfather, a father's bowling partner. He says they don't have a healthy adult relationship and are looking for a friend or buddy then sexualize the relationship. Sometimes their judgment is clouded by anger and not having control. Sexually assaulting the child gives them power. O'Neil says these men are the bulk of sexual offenders, not strangers or preferential pedophiles fixated on children.

"My daughter blamed herself, me and her mom," Ted said. "If they suspect something, I would tell them to protect their kids. My wife knew and did very little."

Ted admits he would have denied his actions even if his wife had confronted him, but it might have stopped him from sexually assaulting his daughter again. Communication is key to preventing and detecting sexual assault in children. Over and over, the men repeated that parents should listen to their kids. Rarely will a child make up a story about a sexual assault, O'Neil said. Moms should at least consider the assault occurred.

www.hometownlife.com

When the 11- and 13-year-old daughters of Keith's girlfriend told their mother he'd sexually assaulted them, she didn't believe it even though she'd been molested by her father. O'Neil said denial is not unusual. When a child is sexually assaulted "they can develop a blind spot as an adult and have to be especially vigilant. They may seek out these kind of guys that are predators if not resolved through therapy or by breaking the secret."

PLEASE SEE WARNINGS, C9

# Mature Lifestyle

If your business or organization serves seniors you'll want to be part of this exciting event!

FOR THE YOUNG AT HEART

TUESDAY, MAY 22, 2007 9 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Schoolcraft College Livonia Campus in the VisTaTech Center Haggerty Road between 6 and 7 Mile Roads

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- PRINT ADVERTISING: Ad in our special Mature Lifestyle section distributed on Thursday, May 17, 2007
- EXHIBITOR LISTING on the center spread of Mature Lifestyle section and newspaper promotion of the event during April and May, 2007.
- FOOD: Continental breakfast plus two boxed lunches for exhibitors.

For more information about this popular Expo and to reserve your exhibit space, contact: Frank Cibor, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers Classified Manager 734-953-2176 or fcibor@hometownlife.com

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# Tips for keeping children safe

Psychotherapist Dan O'Neil says parents have to remain vigilant even though reports of sexual assaults have dropped significantly in the last 10 years. Whether it's due to longer periods of incarceration, treatment, the institution of the sex offender registry, or better education of children, pedophiles are still out there. He estimates about 20 percent of sexual offenders are women.

"You can't spot a pedophile," said O'Neil who runs the Sex Offenders Treatment Program at the Birmingham Maple Clinic in Troy. "They come in all colors. I'd worry when they're taking a kid out to dinner usually alone. They pick timid kids, kids who are needy, some with problems at home.

"I'm always suspicious of males who are always around kids. I used to be an elementary school teacher. I've had predators who were teachers. Pedophiles don't look weird. They can be effeminate or masculine, can act like a pervert or be very religious. Everybody's a suspect."

The Jacob Wetterling Foundation offers tips on keeping your child safe on its Web site www.jwf.org. Here are a few of them:

Talk about family rules. Tell your children not to go with any adult who asks for their help. Adults should ask other adults for help, not children. Most of the people in the world are good, but some are not. Stay away from dangerous situations and behaviors, not certain kinds of people just because they're strangers. A child is most likely to be sexually exploited by someone they know or have seen.

Reassure and regularly communicate with your children at all stages of their lives. Communicating only in times of crisis doesn't encourage children to come forward with needs and concerns in everyday situations.

Tell a child if they're separated from a parent or caregiver in the mall or anywhere else to find a mom who has children and tell her they're lost. Never leave the building with anyone except a parent or caregiver.

Report any unusual activity that you witness related to children or adults. If your intuition tells you something is odd or wrong, it probably is. Trust your instincts and tell your kids to do the same. To prevent risky situations look for these red flags.

Adults who want to spend time with your child in isolated situations

Children who suddenly withdraw from other children and want to spend more of their time with a particular adult

Children who are receiving unexplained gifts, cell phones, event tickets, clothes, etc.

Adults who take children to special places where they do not take other children or adults

Adults who spend long periods of time alone with a particular child in private place (ex. long trips, overnights, secluded parks/buildings)

# WARNINGS

FROM PAGE C8

The young girls told a counselor at school. Keith, his girlfriend and her two daughters were all cuddling in bed when he rubbed the inner thigh and kissed the belly of one child then stroked the bottom of the other. O'Neil says it's important to set boundaries. Even the very youngest of children should sleep in their own bed. And all children should be given instructions about good and bad touch.

Mark inappropriately touched the private areas of his 15-year-old stepdaughter. He is one of the men who says he's changed.

"I came here with a 'me' mentality," Mark said. "(The sessions) opened up my eyes."

"It's putting myself into somebody's shoes, knowing it can cause pain, so I can feel what they feel so my anger isn't channeled the wrong way," said Eric, who blames his mother and childhood bullies for his exhibitionism. He was overweight as a child, so he targeted kids the same age as those who bullied him earlier in life. His mother created a lot of anger in him by constantly beating him up mentally. Through treatment, he "found out a low percentage of sexual crimes are about sex."

Eric says he's not a pedophile and has a relationship with a woman. He was convicted of indecent exposure. Before that, he "had investigated kiddie porn." He tells parents not to let children go into a public bathroom alone.

"I followed him into the bathroom and exposed myself. I didn't believe I was hurting anybody, never touched anybody," Eric said.

Darrin, who raped a woman in Las Vegas, asks if Eric were a father at what age would he let him go to the bathroom by himself. Fifteen was the wrong answer. O'Neil mentioned the case of 15-year-old boy who was raped in a bathroom the week before.

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

# 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

> loss program. But, overdo it!

> > culprits in muscle loss can be over-

Peter Nielsen workouts can be even more damag-

ing than over-dieting when it comes to hormone suppression! If you do too much cardio, you

Dealing with Unexpected Loss presented by

Michigan 2:30-4:30 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 18, at

Nardin Park United Methodist Church, 29887

W. 11 Mile, Farmington Hills. To register, call

(248) 474-4701. Cost \$10 if your church does

not hold a subscription. Focus is how care-

givers can provide a sense of hope in the

Michele Schoel, physical therapist, begins a

Sunday, Feb. 18, at Astarte Yoga Studio, 21894

is \$55 for series, \$10 prepaid per class, or \$11

www.feldenkrais.com/method for details on

Feldenkrais or call Schoel at (248) 752-0661.

Free orientation for St. Mary Mercy Hospital's

Health Management Resources (HMR) weight

management program noon to 1 p.m. Monday,

Stark. The program includes in-depth lifestyle

education, personal coaching and medically

supervised treatment. To register, call (734)

The Detroit-Wayne County Community Mental

Health Agency will sponsor a suicide preven-

Youthville Detroit, 7375 Woodward, Detroit.

Forum focuses on suicide awareness, inter-

vention, and education for youth ages 13-19

and features a clinical specialist, a young per-

tion forum 10 a.m. Monday, Feb. 19, at

655-1783. HMR orientations are also held

weekly at the hospital.

Suicide prevention forum

Feb. 19, at the Livonia Family YMCA, 14255

per class on walk-in basis. Visit

Farmington, one block south of Nine Mile. Cost

six-weeks of Feldenkrais classes 6-7 p.m.

healing relations with care-receivers.

Samaritan Counseling Center of Southeastern

Workshop

Feldenkrais class

HMR program

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 noncontact kickboxing routine is sufficient to improve physical and cardiovascular fitness.

A recent study looked at a group of women weighing an average of

# MEDICAL DATEBOOK

son who attempted suicide and has been in recovery, and activities to help equip youth against suicidal feelings and behaviors. The event is free. Youth under 11 years old must be accompanied by adult to participate. Suicide is responsible for some 200 deaths each year in Wayne County and is the third leading cause of death for 10- to 19-year-olds in Michigan. For suicide intervention, crisis counseling or information about mental health services, call (800) 241-4949.

Half hour to health

Dr. Daniel Laframboise, chiropractor, presents the Half Hour to Health Workshops at 6:15 p.m., in his office at 18444 Farmington Road, Livonia, Feb. 20 topic is How to Make Your Spine Seven Times Stronger, Feb. 27th How to Increase Your Immune System 300-percent, and March 6 The Best Kept Health Secret. Receive new information on health breakthroughs that can change your life, like how to harness three times more of your natural energy and much more. No charge. Seating limited. To register, call (248) 474-5252.

Cultural competency program Deadline for registration is Feb. 20 for the Oakwood Healthcare System Transcultural Strategic Taskforce seminar on cultural competency 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday, March 7, at Henry Ford Community College, 5101 Evergreen, Dearborn. The event is open to physicians and health care professionals and features best practices for culturally and linquistically appropriate care. Featured speaker Robert Like, MD, is a leader in delivery of patient centered, culturally competent care from the Robert Wood Johnson Medical School. Registration fee \$125, \$75 Oakwood

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.

C9

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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, e-mail 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.

staff and physicians. To register, call (800) 543.WELL:

#### Thyroid/Adrenal Ailments

6 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 21, Dr. Carol Fischer, D.C., presents Fixing Thyroid/Adrenal Ailments Naturally, at the Alfred Noble Library, Livonia. Do you have cold hands/feet, tired all the time, weight issues or depressed? Discover simple, natural solutions. No charge. To register, call (734) 425-8588.

# Quilt exhibit

Jacquelyn Johnson-Dawson displays lively, colorful quilts based on stories of life: love, joy, music, art, illness and death, the public is cordially invited to attend an artist's reception 6:30-8 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 21, at the Nancy Fox Art Gallery in the Assarian Cancer Center, 47601 Grand River, Novi. Show continues to April 30. Gallery is open Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Providence Center for the Healing Arts, located in the Assarian Cancer Center, provides a variety of programs to promote emotional, mental and spiritual well-being for cancer patients, their families and the community. For more information, contact Lori Taylor at (248) 465-5455 or send e-mail to Lorraine.Taylor@providencestjohnhealth.org.

## **Body connection classes**

Prenatal Yoga, sprinkled with Nutrition, series begins Friday mornings, Feb. 23; **Diabetes Connection - Education and** Support, Thursday late afternoons beginning March 1, at Body Connection, Royal Oak. For more information, cost or to register, call (248) 390-4150 or visit www.bodyconnectionnia.com.

FEBRUARY

dieting. It suppresses hormones Peter's like thyroid and **Principles** testosterone. But overdoing cardio

an effective weight if you are trying to build muscles, don't

One of the main

# Tips to prevent frostbite when temperatures drop

Due to recent sub-zero temperatures, the University of Michigan Trauma Burn Center has seen an increase in serious cases of frostbite and frostbiterelated injuries. Frostbite is damage to the skin and underlying tissues caused by prolonged exposure to extreme cold.

"The most commonly affected areas are ears, nose, cheeks, hands and feet." says Pamela Pucci, a registered nurse educator, U-M Trauma Burn Center. "Children, the elderly and those not dressed for extremely cold temperatures as well as those with poor circulation are at a greater risk."

Pucci urges anyone who must be outside for longer than 20 minutes at a time to exercise extreme caution and offers these simple steps to prevent frostbite.

Dress in warm layers with a waterproof outer layer and boots as well as scarves, hats and gloves.

Avoid getting wet and remove any wet clothing immediately.

Drink plenty of water and

eat regularly.

Avoid alcohol, smoking and caffeine as these can lower resistance to frostbite.

When traveling, monitor fuel levels closely and always keep blankets, shovels, matches, and other emergency supplies in vehicle.

"Wind chill has been a factor in a number of the frostbite cases we've seen in the past week," said Pucci. "Wind can cause frostbite to set in much more quickly so extra caution should be exercised on windy days."

Frostbite, which can affect the skin in as little as 20 minutes, causes loss of feeling and color to the affected area. If you detect symptoms of frostbite, do not rub or massage the affected area as this may produce further tissue injury. Instead, run warm - not hot water over affected areas if you suspect you have frostbite. If skin has a white tint and no sensation, seek immediate medical attention. For more information, call (734) 396-9666 or visit www.traumaburn.org.

# Breast cancer patients wanted for acupuncture study

Henry Ford Hospital is conducting a study to test the effectiveness of acupuncture for reducing hot flashes experienced by breast cancer patients receiving hormonal therapy. Researchers hope that the traditional Chinese practice leads to a new treatment option for patients.

"This study has the potential to dramatically decrease the incidence of hot flashes in hormone-treated breast cancer patients," said radiation oncologist Eleanor Walker M.D., the study's lead investigator.

"An alternative form of treatment with minimal or no side effects is needed to improve the quality of life for these patients."

As part of the study, Walker works with acupuncturist Beth Kohn. Patients can choose to participate in the study at Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit or the Henry Ford Medical Center, Novi.

'This study has the potential to dramatically decrease the incidence of hot flashes in hormonetreated breast cancer patients.'

Dr. Eleanor Walker Henry Ford Hospital

Breast cancer patients who are treated with chemotherapy and/or hormonal therapy commonly experience hot flashes and other symptoms of premature menopause. An estimated 65-percent of breast cancer patients experience hot flashes, and in many cases the symptoms are severe.

Hormone replacement therapy - estrogen and progestin is used to treat hot flashes in many women. However, HRT is not used in breast cancer patients who have hot flashes because of evidence that it

poses a high risk of cancer recurrence. Walker said, the antidepres-

sant drug Effexor is one of the most common therapies for treating hot flashes in breast cancer patients. Prozac and Paxil also have shown to be effective. These drugs work to control various neurotransmitters in the brain, some of which are believed to be associated with hot flashes. including opioids. Acupuncture releases endorphins in the body that may affect opioid levels. But many breast cancer patients don't take Effexor either because of its side effects - sexual dysfunction and nausea among them - or because they don't want more medication on top of what they're already receiving, Walker said.

Seventy of the 140 patients enrolled in the two-year study will be randomly assigned to receive acupuncture for 12 weeks. The other

half will receive Effexor over the same time period. Data will be collected at quarterly intervals in the first year. Researchers will test the effectiveness of acupuncture for reducing hot flashes and if it has fewer side effects than Effexor.

Eligible participants are pre- or postmenopausal breast cancer patients receiving hormonal therapy with either the anti-estrogen drug . tamoxifen or arimidex, patients who experience 14 hot flashes a week, patients who completed chemotherapy, and patients on hormonal therapy for at least four weeks.

Henry Ford researchers Walker, Robert Levine, Ph.D., and Alba Rodriguez, Ph.D. were awarded a \$250,000 grant from the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation to conduct the study.

To enroll in the trial, call (313) 916-3938.

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# **Arthritis Today**

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# FIBROMYALGIA **IN WINTER**

Winter compounds the problems of living with fibromyalgia. The cold, limited daylight, the grey landscape, the burden of boots and overcoats, the worry whether the car wil

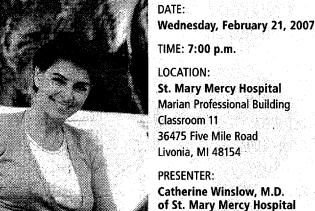
start, or the road will turn icy and dangerous, affects all of us. If you have fibromyalgia, the effect doubles. Winter does more than heighten your concerns and deepens any tendency to becoming depressed. Winter also brings an additional obstacle to your exercise program.

In fibromyalgia, daily exercise program. In fibromyalgia, daily exercise is as important as any medication; some physicians rank exercise as the treatment of choice. In winter, you face snow, cold and ice that can make a walk around the block impossible. In Michigan, road conditions can change suddenly for the worse, making the gym or pool dangerous to access. Putting a treadmill in your basement often represents an alternative too bleak to consider.

An escape to Florida, Arizona, California or the Caribbean is ideal but unrealistic. Instead, you are left to make do until mid March. Then Michigan generates sufficient warmth and heat to allow you to return to a regimen of daily exercise and an inviting environment.

One way to prevent a worsening of your condition now is to fill your weekend with as many activities as possible. Put on hold the idea that the weekend is a time you must catch up on chores and responsibilities. If winter is no joy, you need to find joy in winter.

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# **Elegant competitor**

Bloomfield woman preparing to defend her world champion ballroom dance title

## **BY SHARON DARGAY** COMMUNITY LIFE EDITOR

C10 (\*)

In rehab nursing, Kay Ford is known as "the velvet hammer" because of her thorough, get-it-done demeanor.

But on the ballroom dance floor, Ford is smooth as silk, whether quick-stepping in 2 1/2-inch heels, gliding to the Viennese waltz or making precise, dramatic tango moves.

"I'm a competitive person with myself and a perfectionist," said Ford, who will be 69 in March, the same month in which she will defend her world championship title in International Standard ballroom dancing. "I'm very dedicated to learning and that's different than just going out and dancing. It's a way of life. I'm serious about it.

"I wanted to be a dancer all my life."

Although she danced ballet on pointe and took a little tap when she was growing up in the Saginaw area, she put her dreams on hold to major in broadcasting at Michigan State, marry her husband, Robert, raise three children, take on a second career in nursing at age 32, attain a master's degree and start her own rehab nursing business, working with patients injured in vehicular accidents, their insurance carriers and doctors.

While still maintaining her nursing caseload, Ford, now a grandmother, started ballroom dancing 15 years ago and has steadily moved through its ranks from bronze to gold level, winning titles along the way. She dances in pro-am competitions with her teachers, Igor Litvinov, Professional International Standard champion, and John Abrams, fourtime U.S. American Rhythm dance runner-up.

# FOUR STYLES

Ford competes in two of the four ballroom dance styles: International Standard and American Ballroom. American

# **MICHIGAN DANCE CHALLENGE**

Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, February 18, 2007

What: Kay Ford of Bloomfield Hills will defend her title in the International Standard senior division of this ballroom dance competition

When: Sessions at 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. Thursday, March 29; 9 a.m., noon, 1 p.m., and 7:30 p.m. Friday, March 30; 9:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. Saturday, March 31.

Where: Hyatt Regency in Dearborn.

Tickets: \$15 for daytime sessions on Thursday, Friday and Saturday and for Thursday evening session; \$30 Friday evening and \$40 Saturday evening

Order tickets: Send a cashier's check or money order made payable to Michigan Dance Challenge, to P.O. Box 2177, Royal Oak, MI 48068. For more information, call (248) 561-7711. e-mail markbrock@comcast.net or visit www.michigandancechallenge.com.

Rhythm and International Latin are the other two categories. The international styles came from Europe and are the forerunners of American ballroom

Litvinov, who lives in New Jersey and competes professionally with Yulia Ivleva, coaches Ford in International Standard, which consists of tango, waltz, foxtrot, Viennese waltz and quickstep. Abrams dances with Lena Sidyelnikova out of the studio he co-owns in Milwaukee, Wisc., and teaches Ford American Smooth ballroom, which includes tango, waltz, foxtrot and Viennese waltz. She's also working with him on lifts.

"Oh my God, it's like flying. The first time I did one was last June. I had so much fun. I did little bitty lifts and now I have to do big ones. I have to trust him. I don't have any fear. He's very strong," Ford said.

"John flies here from Milwaukee and that's how I've been able to do American ballroom. He comes in once a month and I take 15 lessons from him. He has a theater production in Wisconsin in June and I'm going to be a stripper. We're trying to get me away from being this sophisticated standard dancer. We're even talking about perhaps doing a rap because we're trying to get me to be very different.

"Igor thinks that John's teachings are getting me to be more theatrical."

# LONG-DISTANCE DANCER

Every month, Ford flies to New York and then drives to New Jersey to meet with Litvinov and Ivleva. During her 2 1/2-day stay, she takes 15 lessons. At home, she practices without a partner and studies her homework.

"There are 42 steps to learn in just the waltz alone," Ford says, showing a dance pattern Yulia had drawn for her. "They gave me three like this with the name of the step, the sequence, the alignment. You can see it's a very scientific thing."

They also quiz her about dance, asking questions about weight distribution for particular moves and proper foot placement.

"I was honored when they accepted me," she said. "It's a lot of work to have an out-oftown student. You've got to have resources, motivation and be able to sustain it. Now they are trying to save me money by

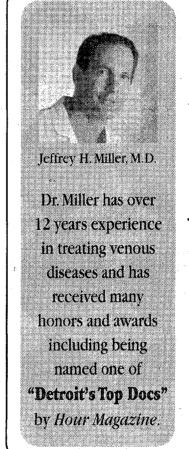
meeting me at the airport. It's very expensive to dance with two different men, but I'm able to do 15 lessons, five without stopping, because I'm physically pretty conditioned. The one gift I have is energy."

# IN SHAPE

Abrams has encouraged Ford to begin stretching exercises to help with flexibility during lifts. Litvinov wants her to incorporate some ballet into her dance practice.

"If I could, I'd be a walker. I like to walk, especially if I have to think about problems with my patients," she said, adding that discipline, consistency, proper eating and "visualization of being a winner" are essential to success in competitive dance.

"Avoid high-sugar foods, get rest, avoid caffeine and stay steady. You have to have endurance. And if you can't see yourself winning, you're not going to."

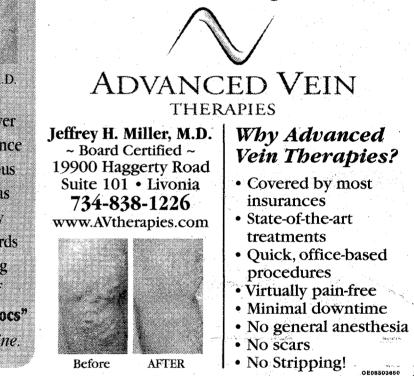




www.hometownlife.com

Kay Ford, 68,

of Bloomfield







# Community colleges help job seekers make right moves

# BY JULIE BROWN

Four-year colleges and universities aren't the only ones to offer career services to students and alumni. Community colleges are eager to help as well.

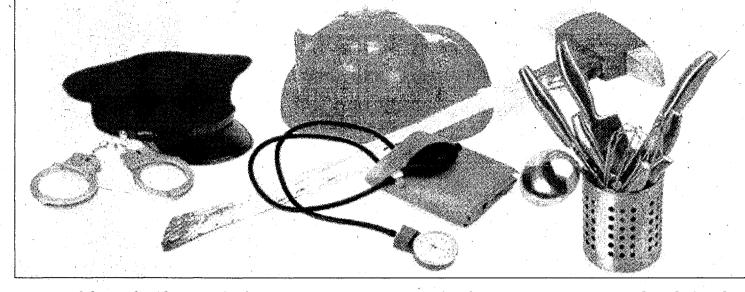
At Schoolcraft College in Livonia, Elaine Gerarge helps students and grads with resumes and finding jobs. She's the coordinator of student employment services in the Career and Transfer Center, based at the McDowell Center on campus.

Schoolcraft also has three part-time career counselors who see students weekdays on an appointment basis. For more, start online at www.schoolcraft.edu or call the Career and Transfer Center at (734) 462-4421.

Job fairs are among ways Schoolcraft students and grads learn about employment opportunities. Students in culinary arts, nursing and related fields, and public safety do particularly well.

"Our culinary people are highly sought after," said Gerarge, noting the center has printed and online information on such things as salaries and job outlook.

"We try to match up the



resumes and the people with those jobs," she said. The career counselors are booked up, busy with appointments in which they talk to applicants about what they're looking for, and use testing.

"I see students on a walk-in basis," Gerarge said. She talks with them on how to e-mail or fax a resume. "We also talk about job interviews, how to interview."

There's The Perfect Interview at Schoolcraft, in which students and alumni work on an interactive computer program to "interview" for a job at various levels.

"It gives you feedback as to why the employer is asking these questions," she said. The Perfect Interview is popular with job seekers, who can play it back for feedback which they can keep.

"It's very difficult," Gerarge said of the current job placement outlook in many fields. There may be 20-30 students for one position. "The competition is so tough," said Gerarge, who places students both on campus and off in jobs to build resumes.

The career counselors do

some work in the private sector, but Schoolcraft's main focus is on students and alumni. Entrylevel jobs are sought, "an

internship, anything we can to get them started in their field." Employers with job openings are encouraged to contact both Schoolcraft and Oakland Community College, which also offers career services to current students and alumni.

All five OCC campuses have career services, said George Cartsonis, college spokesman. "All of the campuses offer courses in career planning," he said. Some students don't yet have clear career aims. "They come here to explore so those courses are very useful to them," Cartsonis added.

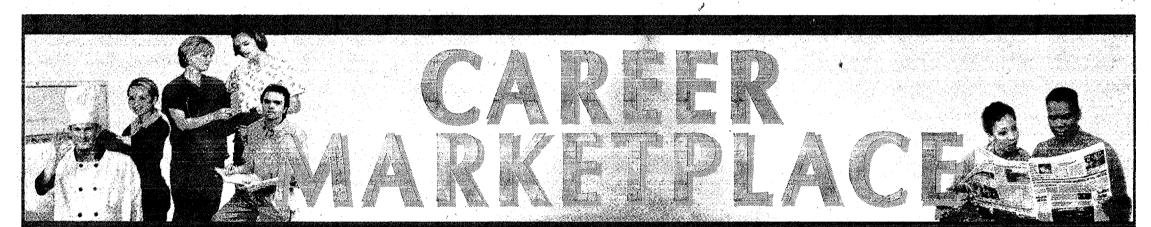
OCC's centralized career office is at the Auburn Hills campus under Willie Lloyd, director of placement services/cooperative education. Students and alumni get help with the job search, Lloyd said, including resumes and interviewing strategies. Like Schoolcraft, OCC has job listings, theirs at www.oaklandcc.edu/placement, from which a job seeker or employer can navigate. The general phone number is (248) 232-4147.

"There are some of our occupations that do extremely well regardless of what's happening in the economy," Lloyd said. The auto industry remains poor in terms of jobs, but culinary arts does well as do other fields.

"Our allied health programs do extremely well," Lloyd said, citing nursing, dental hygiene, X-ray technicians, ultrasound and related fields. Some who are displaced from the auto industry are looking to move into health care. Public safety is also strong at OCC.

OCC serves primarily students and alumni, but the Web site's accessible to outsiders and recently had some 470 job postings, mostly in the tricounty area. Lloyd finds some are surprised at the scope of career services offered by two-year schools.

"I think in some regard they, are." Not all students are just out of high school and some hold bachelor's or even graduate degrees. The average age of an OCC student is around 30, he said, and many have a strong sense of career direction and wish to enhance their skills.



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Or any Engineering info@atlantismortgage.com Hotel &/or conference cen tables, & learn to take X-rays. Computer knowledge & clerior Fax resume 248-985-2410 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia MI 48150 ter banquet sales experi Must be able to draw blood ence preferred. Position will include initial consults Position! Check us out at: 5120 **Ballroom Dance** Help Wanted-Sales Fax resume to 248-844-9127 cal skills required. Willing to oeresume@ Responsibilities are diverse train qualified person. 27527 Joy Rd., ½ blk W. of Inkster, Westland. 734-522-5501 Lessons careerbuilder.com You can place your ad in hometownlife.com menu planning, PR proj PHLEBOTOMY EDUCATION and include: • Support Chief Financial this specialized section for only \$50/inch (three ects, some outside sales 248-719-2277 Classes begin in Apr. 1 day a week. 5 weeks. Cost \$850 at local hospital. Forward resume to: A CAREER IN Medical Receptionist **TRUCK DRIVER** Officer • Extensive Power Point inch min.). The Observer & Eccentric's Engineering deirdre@laurelmanor.com Full-Time. Send resume to: 43422 West Oaks Drive, PMB 5610 **REAL ESTATE! Divorce Services** NEEDED **HOME HEALTH CARE** (313) 382-3857 presentation preparation Scheduling/coordinating Recruitment Section will **All Real Estate** SALES RECRUITER For a fast-growing manu #167, Novi, MI 48377-3300 publish on Sunday February 25th, 2007 Energetic, aggressive, starter, professional, for self facturing company in the Troy- Rochester Hills area. All trips are local, Monday **COMPANIES ARE** DIVORCE Home care agency looking Sell it all with appointments Nurse Aide loca NOT THE SAME Managing and coordinating Deadline to place an ad i to expand into private duty \$75.00 **Observer & Eccentric** company, Call (734) 354-0844 is seeking responsible, f you are serious about his section is Monday calendars for executives Join our team of dedicated CS&R 734-425-1074 thru Friday, 8am thru 4pm. Chauffeur's license, drug 1-800-579-SELL compassionate, caring individuals to fill the folentering the business and profession of Real Arranging all aspects of on-February 19th at 5pm. professionals and become a SALES site and off-site group member of one of the largest screen required. Idea s/Leoa meetings (space, catering, technology, transportation, lowing positions of com-5700 applicant should be reli-able, honest, have a strong Contact one of ou **RECEPTIONIST**/ Estate Sales, you owe it To be eligible for this position, you must have and most respected providers to yourself to inves-Representatives for more panions, sitters and aides od health care services in the country. We are looking for: INSURANCE BILLER Full time for busy Livonia tigate why we are #1 in the market place and materials, etc.) nformation, or to reserve Fhorough background work ethic, able to comprior success calling on **DIVORCE, DRUNK DRIVING** Making all travel arrangeour space today! creenings will be required presidents/decision mak plete physical tasks, and be doctors office. Fax resume \$0 down. Call Attorney Gonta to: 734-261-1996 or call 734-261-3650 able to work well with all ments Please fax resume to: best suited to insure 15 years experience 800-551-8122, Redford, MI CENAs ers of small to medium your success. Call ALISSA NEAD @ Organizing/maintaining 1-800-579-7355 (734) 981-8828 types of people. Interested applicants should fax their sized companies, in a highly competitive mar-Full & Part Time, All Shifts computer & manual or email: careers@ files/records This position requires strong dgostomske@uhhs.org RN / LPN (734) 459-6000 ket, where your service was among the most resumes, including contact hometownlife.com If you are interested in joining Business Opportunities (5740 information, to: 248-597-9998 Westland Convalescent & 0B our team of caring profesorganizational and communi-LILLIAN SANDERSON Rehab Center, a leader in pro-viding consistent professional expensive You must cation skills, EXTREME atten-HOME HEALTH CARE sionals, please mail or fax Attention Dan Observer & Eccentric @ (734) 392-6000 ave strong closing skills "Attention" Stop reading ads and start making CEO tion to detail, prioritization of your resume to: Medicare certified, CHAF service, has exciting opportube a relentless conflicting needs & strong follow-up skills. Excellent computer skills reg (MS VIDEO SURVEILLANCE SPECIALIST

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Administrative Asst to support Chamber of Commerce. Part time position. Email resume/salary req. to: atopouzian@ffhchamber.com No phone calls

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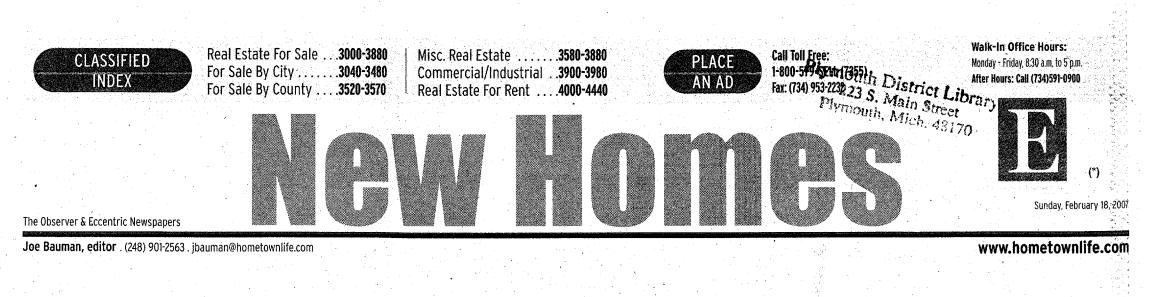




Mail:







# Curb appeal-conscious homeowners' side with vinyl

(NAPSI) — Americans are spending more than \$200 billion on home remodeling projects each year, according to the National Association of Home Builders. This figure continues to climb as homeowners invest more in home improvements that increase curb appeal and boost real estate value.

Among the top priorities on homeowners' to-do lists is upgrading exterior cladding. In fact, siding replacement is an affordable project that comes with a high return. More popular than wood or aluminum, vinyl is the material of choice for re-siding projects, and many say for good reason. Vinyl is tough to beat for sheer endurance. It requires far less maintenance than more traditional materials and is now available in an unmatched variety of styles and colors. It can complement any style of house including Ranch, Victorian, Arts and Crafts or any other while maintaining the home's architectural integrity.

Nevertheless, the number one reason homeowners and homebuyers seek vinyl-clad homes is low maintenance. Painting and general upkeep of wood can be laborious and expensive. Vinyl siding retains its attractive appearance over the years with no need for painting or refinishing. And the up-front costs of vinyl siding won't break the bank as traditional materials can.

When selecting vinyl siding, first ask building professionals which manufacturer they prefer. The best bet is to choose siding made by trusted companies that have a history of producing highquality products. Next, choose a style and color that best suit your home and neighborhood.

Some of the newer offerings to be aware of include shake-style vinyl siding and insulated vinyl siding. Cedar Impressions® is a popular option by longtime manu-



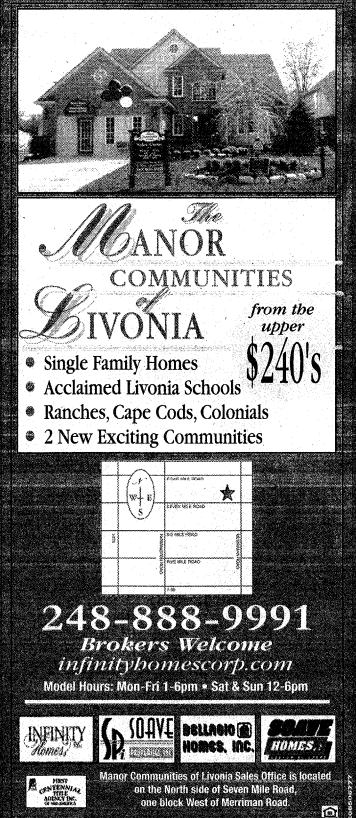
For more information on vinyl siding, visit www.certainteed.com or call (800) 782-8777.

facturer CertainTeed. Molded from real cedar shingles, it has a natural wood texture that lasts for years and a low-gloss finish that comes in a broad range of colors. Plus, it's virtually maintenance free and never needs painting. Insulated vinyl siding is also peaking hompowners' interest. In addition to the easy-care vinyl construction, it provides a firm wall of protection against wind and weather. It also has added durability that guards against everyday mishaps.

For more information on vinyl siding, visit www.certainteed.com or call (800) 782-8777.

When selecting vinyl siding, first ask building professionals which manufacturer they prefer. The best bet is to choose siding made by trusted companies that have a history of producing high-quality products. Next, choose a style and color that best suit your home and neighborhood.

# SUNDAY FEATURED HOMES







# New Affordable Homes with Luxury Features in Westland

Danny Veri couldn't believe it when he saw that a household income of about \$40,000 could move into Covington Estates. "This is just an incredible value", said Veri, a partner in Livonia Builders who teamed up w/Tim Breault of Breault Construction to build a "neighborhood within a neighborhood" at John Hix & Palmer.

Covington Estates consists of 57 homes in 3 available floor plans priced in the \$170,000s. "11 units sold the first week & we are expecting to sell out in the next couple of weeks" Veri said. "Since then we have just 7 lots left."

The Brookstone Colonial boasts over 1,600 sq ft & has 4 bedrooms, 2.5 baths. The Brookstone 2 Colonial is 1,624 sq ft w/4 bedrooms, 2.5 baths. The 3rd plan, The Covington, 1,600 sq ft ranch has 3 bedrooms, 2 baths.

Veri said buyers will be amazed at the home's affordability when they see the standard features built into the homes. Oak floors are used in the foyer, kitchen, nook and powder room. Granite countertops, Merillat cabinets, Delta faucets, double bowl stainless steel sink & tile comprise some of the kitchen and bath amenities. Ceramic tile is in both laundry rooms and baths. Ceiling lights illuminate the nighttime chambers. Oversized premium trim and interior doors are used as well as a 90% efficient Comfort Maker furnace, high efficiency 40 gal. hot water tank & R-30 attic insulation. Exterior is "100 percent maintenance free." The ranch & 1st floor of the 2 colonials are all brick. The 2nd floor of colonials is finished in vinyl siding. Overhangs on all 3 models are either aluminum or vinyl trim. Pella vinyl windows & glass block on basement windows finish each home. Standard features include sod, limestone address block, sidewalks, streetlights, city water & sewer. Coach lights outside garage lends to a clear view of the home & garage in the nighttime.

Covington Estates is in Wayne-Westland Community Schools & is nestled between 2 existing subs where home values are in upper \$200,000's, Veri said. "We're walking distance to the school & Fellow's Creek Golf Course is just around the corner," he said, adding Mich. Ave is 1.5 miles away & close proximity to I-275 & local home improvement stores.

Veri said he can't get over the affordability of the homes. "We are working on slim margins. The main theme to this project was creating affordable housing. With full time employment, making about \$19 an hour, you can buy a house w/these features." Veri worked w/in-house mortgage lender, Mortgage Concepts & came up w/no money down, 30-year fixed rate mortgage, which includes no closing costs, taxes & insurance for about \$1,450/month.

It's a phenomenal deal for a 1st time buyer or someone looking for more sq footage. There's nothing under \$200,000 w/outstanding features subdivision-wise in the Westland area. An independent appraiser was hired & shows value of the homes at \$240,000. That's a 30% instant equity before moving in. We are working on the same type of product and value in other communities.

Call Danny Veri at 313-586-2559

# **NEW HOMES**

Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, February 18, 2007

# Enjoy the country charm of the Stewartstonian

An old-fashioned covered front porch; brick trim and shake roof reveal the country charm of the good-looking Stewartstonian (336-080). This well proportioned 2,418 square foot beauty has an open floor design that places the common areas in the center and the sleeping quarters at opposite ends. There is a clear advantage to this arrangement for families with older children living at home, or empty nesters that expect to have frequent. overnight guests. Overall privacy is maintained by everyone, while gathering spots afford places for family interaction.

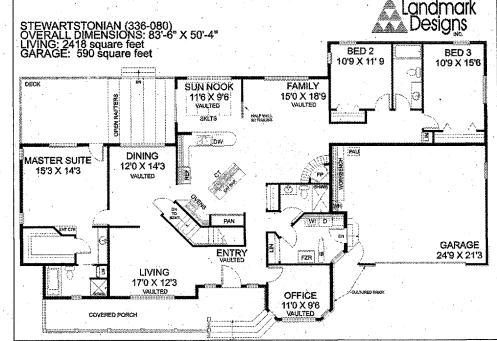
E2 (\*)

To the left of the vaulted entry, the vaulted living room and a large dining room are partitioned by a half-wall that adds to the spacious feeling throughout this plan. The walk-through kitchen is centrally located, a fact that the cook in the family will surely appreciate. The dining room is on one side of the kitchen, while a vaulted sun nook on the other side will enhance any casual meal. In addition to the usual built-in appliances, the kitchen features an island cook top with eating bar and grill, double ovens and pantry. A half-wall with railing separates the nook from a nicesized family room with vaulted ceiling and corner fireplace.

The isolated master suite is quite roomy, with personal access to the back deck, TV shelf, large walk-in closet and private bathroom with separate tub and shower along with linen storage. A full bathroom divides the other two bedrooms and each has ample closet space. Empty nesters might want to use one for guest accommodations and the other as a den or TV room.

Extending from the front of the Stewartstonian, a small home office is available for keeping track of household accounts on your PC. A huge utility room with linen storage, built-in ironing board and room for a freezer lead into the garage. Here a workbench has been installed for tackling all those do-it-yourself projects.

For a study plan of the STEW-ARTSTONIAN (336-080), send \$15.00, to Landmark Designs, 33127 Saginaw Rd. E., Cottage Grove, OR 97424 or call 1-800-562-1151. Be sure to specify plan name and number. Compact disks, with search functions are free of charge, to help you search our portfolio for you dream home (\$5.00 shipping and handling will apply).



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LIVONIA - Great 3 BR Livonia Ranch! Home Features Oversized 2 Car Attached Garag, Huge Lot W/ Privacy Fence & Custom Deck, Vinyl Windows, New Pergo Flooring. Seller Willing To Assist With Closing Costs! Call Gary DeGrandchamp or visit www.garydegrandchamp.com. \$134,900 A19118 313-530-8376



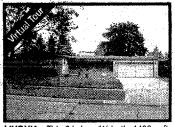
PLYMOUTH - Newer plymouth colonial on corner lot. Open colonial w/fr w/vault



LIVONIA - Major updates have been donewndws, furn, a/c, cop plumb, all hrdwd floor have been refinished, fresh neutral paint. The house is in need of a few of your finishing touches. Screened in back porch, and a fenced-in dog run, too! 1 yr home warranty. Call Jim Donohoe. \$164,900 \$28580 \$313-570-5511



**HAMBURG** - Amazing house & fantastic private lot. Like new cini in cntry sub w/lrg



LIVONIA - This 3 bdrm, 1½ bath, 1400 sqft, brick ranch has it all. Featues and updates inc: open flr pln w/ cath ceiling, remod kitchen, new wndws, skylight, gr w/ a fp. Deck overlooks a landscaped, treed, fenced yd. Call Mike Judge.

\$198,900 G33038 734-591-9200, ext 155



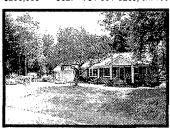
PONTIAC - Just like new construction. Taken to the studs & new from there.



- Dan Elsea, President, Brokerage Services

CANTON - Hanch condo, heutral colors, spacious fir pln w/ cath ceilings. Door wall to deck, Upgraded kit w/ Irg pantry. Mstr ste w/ bath and wic. All appl stay; full bsmnt. Call Mike Judge.

\$206,000 C327 734-591-9200, ext 155



FARMINGTON HILLS - On just shy of one acre. This is truly country in the city.



LIVONIA - Attractive 1600 sqft ranch has many new updates: beautiful oak kit w/ loads of cab and counter space, newer furn, c/a, roof and wndws. Lrg fr; attached garage, fenced and Indscpd yd. Call Mike Judge.

\$177.000 M15233 734-591-9200, ext 155



**REDFORD** - Picket fence paradise! Country bung. features dbl. lot, picket

# RealEstateOne.com



LIVONIA - 3 bdrm brick ranch w/ 1238 sqft. Updates inc: roof, windows, doors painted t/o and carpet. Fin basement, landscpd and fenced yd. The sub has its own swim club. A short walk to elementary school. Call Mike Judge.



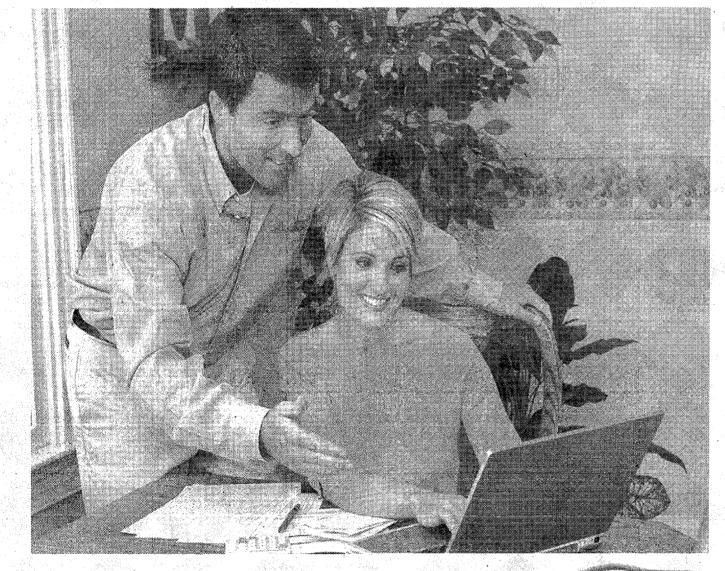


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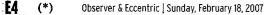
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E5

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Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, February 18, 2007

**E6** (\*) Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, February 18, 2007



Plymouth District Library 223 S. Main Street Plymouth, Mich. 481700bserver & Eccentric | Sunday, February 18, 2007

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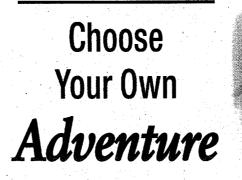
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- 4. Learn how to pick up your messages - we'll let you know when new ones have arrived!

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- Chat with local singles right now. Call 248-397-0123 to learn more
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#### SOUND LIKE YOU SWF, 44, easygoing, loves the outdoors, eeks romantic and passionate man for LTR. 2170340

ONE GOOD WOMAN BBW, SWF, attractive, compassionate, down-to-earth. Enjoys movies, comedies, long walks, romantic evenings and more. Seeking employed SM, 38-55, to do and share things together. Must like pets.

LET'S TALK SOMETIME SWF, 38, mother, enjoys Harleys, rock-n-roll, good talks, classic cars, sports, amusement parks, casinos, meeting new people. Seeking outgoing, sweet, fun man w/spon-taneous streak to share new adventures with. 23962910

# TAKE ME GOLFING Tidy SWF, 60, enjoys fine dining, traveling. Seeking golfer, best friend, confidante, 58-70, widower a plus. Honesty, trust, a must to make a relationship work. 27976914

TRUE FRIENDSHIP WiAF, 62, 5', 100lbs, enjoys gardening, dogs, cats, cooking, dining out, travel. Seeking kind, caring, honest, SW/AM, 55-70, slim, with understanding of asian cul-ture, for friendship first, maybe more later. **2**139934

RIGHT HERE WAITING SBF, 36, 57", full-figured, would like to meet a hard-working SBM, 36-50, for sharing of conversations, dates, fun and more. **2**155646

# **IRISH GIRL**

SF, 59, 5'6", seeking SWM, 59+, N/S, irish a+, respectful, honest and sociable, for companionship on my 60th birthday and more. Let's celebrate. 2165289 PETITE, BLUE-EYED LADY

Are you, 55-65, N/S, D/D-free? looking for a companion, someone who enjoys holding hands, long conversations about every-thing, laughter, cider mills and dinner dances? Call! Me: SWF 60, 27169652

LOOKING FOR ME ? Affectionate, sincere SWF, 63, 5'2", dark hair and eyes, employed part-time, enjoys travel, movies, dining out, more. ISO tall, active, open-minded, lovable man to share a little fun, possibly romance. 2959193

**GREAT TIMES AHEAD** SWF, 66, 5'6", 130lbs, great SOH, N/S, enjoys life, dining, dancing, music, rent movies, quiet times. Seeking SW/HM, 67-75, N/S

HERE LAM Warm, insightful; creative SBF, 53, enjoys

Ready to meet great new people?

music, cooking, art shows, gardening, going out, woodland walks, and the finer things in life. ISO like-minded SM. Sound like you? 2161883 THE ONE

**IHE ONE** 5'10", 51-year-old DWF, seeking long-term meaningful relationship with honest, caring WM, with good morals. I am a BBW, 300lbs+, N/S, light-drinker, drug-free, clean, and straight. **T** 956929

# GET TO KNOW ME

Loving, open-minded SBF, 60, 145lbs, attractive, enjoys music, dining, concerts, travel, ISO honest, compassionate SM, 57-65, N/S. Possible LTR. 2963760

# MEN SEEKING WOMEN

WORTH THE CALL SM, 46, active and fun, enjoys snowmobiling, 4-wheeling, hinting, quiet ties in , movies, drinks more. Looking for an easygoing, fun-loving, open-minded woman to share these. 27168638

NICE GUY SWM, 66, 5'6", 150lbs, manufacturers' representative, Libra, N/S, works out, enjoys movies, restaurants, and summer festivals. Seeking SWF, 50-65, N/S. Shirley, please call back. **17**708126

**ENJOYS GOING TO CHURCH** SBM, 27, 6', 173lbs, N/D, N/kids, slim build, brown complexion, glasses, likes movies, long walks, Jeşus, cooking, music, bowling, mexican food, shyness, seeks SB/HF, 25-28, N/S, for friendship, possible romance. **13**980453

SOUND LIKE YOU? SM, 40s, 5'7", employed, no kids, well-built, sociable, enjoys nights on the town good food, good company, movies, cuddling and romance. Seeking nice, fun-loving, sincere lady to share something special. 2168094

LET ME LOVE YOU WiWM, 54, 5'11", 240lbs, retired, homeowner, smoker, very easygoing, likes sculp-turing, bike riding, outdoors, traveling, hold-ing hands. Seeking SWF, 40-60, average build, employed, honest, affectionate, for dating, friendship maybe more. 2161249

HUGGABLE TEDDY BEAR SWM, 6', medium built, independent, N/S, seeks SF, 22-50, N/S, slim-average built,

# GIVE ME A TRY

call

1.800.

506.5115

GIVE ME A THY SM, 44, educated, open-minded, em-ployed, hard-working, looking for SF, to get to know, share fun times. I enjoy hanging w/friends, bungee jumping, flying planes, RC plane models, much more. Interested? 72166071

www.hometownlife.com

NEW TO AREA

SWM, 36, 6'5", athletic build, dark blond/blue, enjoys sports, outdoors, music, movies, cooking and more. Seeking creative, fun lady with an open mind and heart to share friendship and fun. 2140690

LOVE COMFORT LAUGHTER SWM, 49, 5'9", 195lbs, is nuts about nature, enjoys the outdoors, fishing, etc. Seeks compatible SWF, to have and hold. **T**992943

HOPE TO HEAR FROM YOU SBM, 44, 5'9", 150lbs, father, enjoys gour-met cooking, beach walks, sunshine, soft rock, much more. Seeking a loving, happy lady to share the special times in life. 27151943

SHARP Easygoing SBM, 39, enjoys movies, music, long drives, gourmet tea, live music, much more. Seeking spontaneous SWF, 37-50; for friendship good times, good talks and maybe more. 20152047

GOT TIME? SBM, 46, 6'3", average build, seeks downto-earth, gentle, honest SF, 35-55, for din-ner dates, good conversation, walks in the park, or just hanging out watching a good movie. 2154257

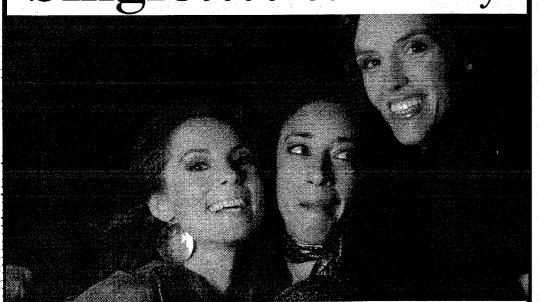
**ROMANTIC & ATTRACTIVE** 

DWM, 60, 5'11", 190lbs, seeks nice-looking lady to help share each others heart, and lifes daily adventures. 2146279 LONELY & READY

SWM, 49, average build, Italian, heart of gold, Virgo, IVS, seeks WF, 45-55, with a nice build, ready for LTR. Serious replies only. Redford Area. **13**860305

TAKE A LOOK DWM, 46, 5'9", blonde/hazel, N/S, occa-sional drinker, likes movies, music, dining out, bowling and the simple things. Seeking a SWF, 35-45, slender, with similar interests, for phone conversations and more **2**163984 ARE YOU MY LADY? SBM, 24, 6'3", N/S, D/D-free, seeks a

# ingle...: So are they!



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Free Ads: Free ads placed in this section are not guaranteed to run every week. Be sure to renew your ad frequently to keep it fresh. Guidelines: Personals are for adults 18 or over seeking monogamous relationships. To ensure your safety, carefully screen all responses and have first meetings occur in a public place. This publication reserves the right to edit, revise, or reject any advertisement at any time at its sole discretion and assumes no responsibility for the content of or replies to any ad. Not all ads have corresponding

voice messages. To review our complete guidelines, call (617) 425-2636

# WOMEN SEEKING MEN

TAKE A CHANCE DWF, 43, 5'8", red/brown, H/W proportionate, student, mom, goal-oriented, caring, loves family, quiet compassionate moments, time w/someone special, Seeking caring, child-friendly man to share life an all it's little pleasures. 27160138

SEEKING SPECIAL GENT DWF, 63, attractive, well-dressed, sincere, loving, optimistic, likes, theater, travel, fitness Wishing to meet a nonsmoking WM, 58-70, for possible romance. 2630808

**CLASSY BRUNETTE** Beautiful, model-type, head turner, SWF, 47. 5'5". degreed, successful entrepreneur, world-traveled, privileged lifestyle. Relocating to Illinois from Michigan. Seeking highly discriminating, degreed professional SWM, 45-62, N/S, with cultural interests, fit, affectionate, 2165475

FRIENDS FIRST SBF, 37, 5'6", black/brown, easygoing, Aries, N/S, enjoys bike riding, long walks, travel, and cooking. Seeking WM, 30-50, N/S, for fun. 2933970.

WANTED: TALL, CLASSY MALE I am in my early 60s, 5'2", brown/brown, I enjoy dancing, outdoors, and travel. Seeking a companion, 60-70, and maybe a relationship. Please call. 2982305

IS IT YOU? SWF, 56, tall, trim, seeks hard-working or retired, conservative SWM, 5'11"+, 58-65, with good values, educated, no tattoos. drugs, or games please. 2138981

# MAYBE US?

SF, 42, blonde/blue, leggy, loves all types of music, dancing, movies, nature road trips, dining and simple fun. ISO easygoing, lov-ing guy to share talks, good times, friendship and more. 2132593

PERSONABLE AND SPECIAL SWF, retired, talented, fun-loving, attrac tive, 132lbs, 5'5", blonde, seeks wellgroomed gentleman, 65+, to share life and enjoy each other's company. 22891247

a service of people people

WHERE ARE YOU? Very attractive, sexy SBPF, 35, 5'2", medi-

um build, enjoys dining out, jazz, plays ISO SBM, 40-52, commitment-minded and sincere, for LTR. 2950732 **ONLY TIME WILL TELL** 

SWF, 40, 5', N/S, with big blue eyes enjoys camping, fishing walking and going to church. Seeks a W/HM, 28-48, with similar interests, for companionship,

Loving, youthful SBF, 57, trim, shapely, very attractive, energetic, happy, enjoys dining, travel, amusement parks, the outdoors, fe tivals, nature, family-friends, theater, more Seeking like-minded gentleman to share these. 2121526

**GREAT CATCH** 

Attractive, youthful widow, 68, 5'3", 135lbs, brunette/brown, shapely, N/S seeks WM, 55-70, prefers N/S, in Livingston county or Oakland county areas for LTR, w/variety of interests. Seeks relationship/companionship and more. 2111193

READ THIS AD!

SWF, 61, N/S, homebody, enjoys cuddling, scary movies and antiques, searching for a SWM, 52+, with various interest and qualities. 27164114

I LISTEN WITH MY HEART Attractive DWF, late 40s, Cancer, N/S, seeks special, no games WM, 45+, N/S, for caring, quality committed relationship. Let's create sparks and watch them fly. **26**39272

LOOKING 4 GENTLEMAN Attractive, professional, educated WF, 55, 5'2", slim, N/S. Interest include movies, concerts, comedy clubs, jazz, dancing, dining out, family ties. Seeking WM, 48-55, HWP, for lasting, loving LTR. 2973365

FIND ME Attractive SAF, 49, N/S, 5' 3", 110lbs, slim build, seeks WM, 45-56, N/S, for friendship, and more. 2113901

59 YEARS OLD ENTREPRENEUR Pretty, charming SWF, successful, kind, compassionate, lots of fun, looking for her knight in shining armor. Any sincere, cau-casian gentlemen, 55-80, please respond. Hopefully we'll be each others soul mates. 1592074

#### FORMER MODEL

SWF, 50, 5'6", slender, intelligence, creativ-ity, passion for music and dancing. Seeks partner 38-50, who is attractive and fit, to share this interests and more. 27600106 LOOKING FOR YOU

Attractive SWF, Catholic, 59, N/S, 5' 6", good shape, seeks WM, 53-70, N/S, who enjoys golf, movies, theater, dining, long walks, church, and much more. 2124235 SOULMATE SEARCH

Slim, attractive, 57-yr-old JF looking for her soulmate, any sincere, successful JM, between the ages of 54-64, please respond. 2589875

#### FRIENDS FIRST

WIWF, 68, 5'6", 145lbs, healthy, honest, happy, likes comedy films, country cooking. Looking for outdoorsy, active man affection-ate and warm-hearted, to share the good things in life. 2139719 **ARE YOU THE ONE?** SBF, 56, BBW, loves jazz, concerts, movies, travel, walks, great conversation. Seeking commitment-minded, mature, lov-

ing man with similar interests for possible LTR. 2140023

ARE YOU MY MATCH?

SBF, 34, 5'5", average, likes relaxing at home watching movies, seeking a SBM, 34-50, professional, outgoing and likes to have a lot of fun. **17**166214

HI EVERYONE SF, 18, seeks nice, easygoing guy who knows how to have fun, and knows how to treat a lady. Friendhsip first. 2142588

SEEKING A LADY? SBF, 56, 5'4", 110lbs, slim build, Sagittarius, smoker, honest, sincere, retired, enjoys movies, concerts, travel, park walks, seeks man, 45-70, similar, for friendship, possible romance. 2118410

DO YOU LIKE CHOCOLATE? SBF, 54, 5'9", N/S, with great personality likes walking holding hands, playing intellectual board games and Jazz music. Seeks SM, 50+, with similar interests, for companionship, romance, possible ltr. **a**155558

d/d-free, must be trust-worthy, honest and mature, for companionship, romance and more. 2148763

SERIOUS-MINDED GENTLEMAN SBCM, 47, N/S, hard-worker, marriage-minded, seeking a woman, 35-55, who's compassionate, down-to-earth, christian a+, and enjoys the simple things in life. No head games. 2165969

#### CALL ME

SBM, 41, 6'1", 170lbs, truck driver, looking for a nice, sexy, youthful lady to get to know, chill with, share some fun times in life. 2170237

#### JOIN ME?

SBM, 46, enjoys all types of food, relaxing at home, cuddling watching a movies, nice talks. Seeking a special lady to share special times. 27171013 HARD-WORKING DAD

SM, 35, looking for fun-loving SF, 18-40, N/S, who knows how to enjoy life, to get to know, share good times and then who knows. 2162699

A SPECIAL GUY DWM, 56, 5'10", handsome and secure, seeks honest S/DWF, w/sense of humor, who enjoys travel, candlelight dinner plays, dancing, concerts, boating, and movies. Friendship/LTR. 2269646

#### SEEKING SOMEONE REAL

SM, 21, 5'9", brown complexion, intelli-gent, independent, seeking B/AF, 24-33, intelligent, who knows what she wants out of life. 20164113

ALL POSSIBILITIES SWM, 42, N/S, plays the guitar, looking to meet a W/AF, 30-45, to spend quality time with, watch a movie, go on walks, share fun and more. 12:164517

#### A VERY SHY.

40 y/o WM, 6', tattoo artist, dark/blue, very strong, funny, would like to meet a woman, 21+, honest, confident and attractive, for friendship, romance, possible LTR. 2165607

DO YOU LIKE OLDER GUYS? Handsome BM, 38, N/S, seeking a laid-back SF, 18-25, N/S, petite, 5'5"+, who likes music, jokes and being romanced. **2163616** 

MAN WITH CUTE DIMPLES Friendly, affectionate, warm, respectful BM, 43, N/S, in search of a easygoing, honest, active woman, with God in he heart, hwp, for friendship, romance and more. No head games/drama. 2165436 SINGER SEEKS SINGER

SWM, 52, in shape, sober, enjoys singing karaoke, playing guitar, animals, the simple things. Seeking SF, 30-45, in shape, no kids, and a good country singing voice for friendship, more. 27168597

#### WORTH IT

SM, 76, 5'10", 180lbs, dark hair, enjoys boating, travel, a good night out on the town. Seeking like-minded lady to share these. 2169523

#### **HI LADIES**

Sweet, genuine SBM, 38, 6', 320lbs , goodlooking, warm smile, enjoys writing, reading, drawing, music and much more. Seeking real, fun, open-minded lady to share the good times. **12**152105 CROTCH ROCKET

Attractive SBM, 6', 220lbs, N/S, occasional drinker, 40-ish, family-oriented, likes dinner movies, going to the gym, crotch rocket motorcycles, bike nights. Seeking SF, 25-40, HWP, for friendship, possible LTR. **B**822912

SWF, 24-33, slender, attractive, honest, easygoing, fun, active, for friendship, romance and exploring life together. **2165682** 

TALL, MUSCULAR SWM 47, 6'2", 205lbs, athletic, part time personal trainer, brown/blue, degreed, outgo ing personality, enjoys outdoors, working out, new activities, seeking friendly SF, age/location open. 2531308

#### SERIOUS WOMAN WANTED

SBM, 46, looking for that special persona for LTR, someone who enjoys walks, movies, sporting events, cuddling at home. Please be shapely, independent and know what you want in life. 2692418 WORTH A CALL

SWM, 48, '6', 175lbs, N/S, homeowner hard-working; easygoing, honest, secure enjoys motorcycling, hunting, the outdoors. Seeking honest, secure, attractive slim/fit woman, 25-50, N/S, D/D-free. **33**956910

#### LOVE COMFORT LAUGHTER

SWM, 49, 5'9", 195lbs, is nuts about nature, enjoys the outdoors, fishing, etc. Seeks compatible SWF, to have and hold. **2**114846

#### ANGEL WANTED

SBPM, 32 5'7", great SQH, enjoys movies and cooking. Seeking female, 4'-5'6", for fun times, romance, possible long-term relationship, age/race open. All call returned. 27171644

# CALL ME SOMETIME

Self-employed SM, 51, 5'11", 177lbs, blue eyes, loves enjoys motorcycles, the outdoors, travel, cooking, music from modern rock to motown, and much more. ISO, affectionate, honest SF, slim-medium build. Friendship/LTR? 2146467

**READY WITH A SMILE** Cute Italian male, 55, 6'2", 240lbs, N/S, shaved head/glasses, loves photography, comedy shows and making people laugh. Seeking a SWF, 40-55, N/S, to make her smile. **1** 

TAKE A LOOK FOR YOURSELF Employed, sincere, respectful SM, 27 well-built, attractive, looking for down-toearth, shapely, attractive, sweet woman with good attitude and nice smile to share the good times in life. 27169916

THIS ONE'S FOR YOU SWM, 52, seeks SWF, 36-54, fun-loving, commitment-minded, happy and sociable to share concerts, sporting events, travel nature walks, camping, simple fun. Interested? 27166300

SEARCHING FOR LADY LOVE SM, 51, 5'11", 185lbs, enjoys the outdoors, boating, dining out, music, long walks, etc. Seeking honest, caring SF, who enjoys same activities, for companionship, friendship and romance. 12146012

FRIEND AND CONFIDANT SWM, 74, active, educated; financially-secure, seeking a nice woman. Join me for dining, dancing, and classical music. I'm a good listener, and would love to hear from you! \$\pi139382

#### SERIOUS

SWM, 71, N/S, widowed, 5' 8", 150lbs, young at heart, enjoys outdoors, cooking, dining out, traveling, seeks slim, petite female, 62-70, N/S. 2118483 THE BASICS

SWM, 66, 5'9", slim build, youthful, 160lbs, seeks WF, 40-61, N/S, for friendship, possible romance. 2116789

# **OPEN DOORS**

SWM, 60, 5'6", long wavy/blue, masculine build, lumberjack, likes the outdoors and physical activities, seeks a SWF, 57-65, N/S, slender, fit, for companionship and more. 2165259

0215

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romance and more. 2161341 COULD YOU BE THE ONE?



(\*) Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, February 18, 2007

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# ACADIA HELPS GMC CROSS OVER TO WOO DISCERNING SUV DRIVERS

Advertising Feature

# CAReport

Automotive



# By Kevin Koloian Avanti News Features

The all-new 2007 Acadia is GMC's addition to the fastest-growing vehicle segment in the United States – the crossover SUV.

The crossover SUV is automakers gift to younger parents who want the space and capability of a minivan, but don't want the soccer-mom stigma that is associated with it. It also attracts car buyers who seek power similar to a full-size SUV without the jerky handling of one.

That said, GMC is late to the crossover party. The Acadia is in direct competition with the well-established Chrysler Pacifica, Honda Pilot and Mazda CX-9 as well as its own cousin, the new Saturn Outlook.

However, it's an area GMC executives feel they have to enter to follow the trend of the ever-changing auto market.

"Acadia is a natural extension of the GMC brand," said John Larson, Pontiac-GMC general manager. "Its combination of smooth, responsive ride and handling and SUV versatility embodies GMC's Professional Grade philosophy. Acadia is a great-looking vehicle that will attract customers who've never visited a GMC showroom."

The Acadia features athletic styling with the signature raked GMC grille and dual halogen projector headlamps. The design is made sportier by a rear spoiler, polished aluminum roof rails, large 18-inch wheels and dual exhaust with chrome tips.

The Acadia shares its unibody platform with the Saturn Outlook and Buick Enclave, and is placed right in the middle of those two as far as size. The eightpassenger Acadia has a 267-horsepower V6 engine mated to a six-speed automatic.

This combo gives the Acadia an impressive 18 miles per gallon in the city and 24 mpg on the highway.

Its base model, priced at \$29,495, is a front-wheel drive. Pay around \$2,000 more and there's an all-wheeldrive system that varies power between the front and rear wheels, depending on vehicle speed and road conditions.

"The responsive, precisely tuned chassis provides the driving experience of a smaller vehicle," Larson said.



The all-new 2007 Acadia is GMC's addition to the fastest-growing vehicle segment in the United States - the crossover SUV.

"And Acadia's aerodynamic design, efficient V6 and the new six-speed automatic work together to provide efficiency."

If you need to tow a jet ski or snowmobile, there's the optional \$425 trailer package that can tow up to 4,500 pounds.

The Acadia comes with the standard set of airbags that are now the norm on crossover SUVs. There are dual front airbags for the driver and passenger, seat sidemounted front-row airbags and full-length curtain airbags for all three rows of passengers. Additionally, first-row seat belts are designed to take up any slack and hold passengers in place as soon as a crash occurs.

Before you get yourself into a situation where the airbags need to be deployed, the Acadia's dynamic safety features are designed to protect passengers before a crash as well as during and after one.

The Acadia's strong structure and four-wheel independent suspension system enhance safety by providing a car-like, stable ride and superb handling. Four-wheel anti-lock brakes a StabiliTrak electronic stability control system, which helps prevent rollovers; and GM's tire pressure monitoring system are standard.

Also standard is OnStar Generation 7, which incorporates the Advanced Automatic Crash Notification system. If a crash activates an air bag, the OnStar system automatically notifies an OnStar advisor, who immediately calls the vehicle or emergency help. The Acadia also is equipped with OnStar Turn-by-Turn Navigation, a GPS navigation system that tells the driver directions via voice instructions.

There are three rows of seats in two configurations: standard second-row captain's chairs for two passengers, or an available split/folding second-row bench that seats three. GM says the rear, third-row bench seats three passengers. But it's a little cramped back there for adults. It should be enough room for three children, though.

And to make it easier to stow-and-go the kids there's the Acadia Smart Slide feature standard. With a pull of a latch the second-row seats slide flat and forward to provide a wide enough space for passengers entering and exiting the third row.

The Acadia surprisingly boasts more usable space than GMC's traditional full-size truck, the Yukon. Whether you order the bench or the captain's chairs, the center row seats can easily be stowed for maximum cargo space.

You can utilize 20 cubic feet of space with the third row in place and 117 cubic feet with the second and third rows both down. Many other SUVs and crossovers cannot come close to matching this load capacity.

But by having customers pay \$45,000 for a fully loaded Acadia, GMC is competing on shaky ground with some smaller luxury trucks, such as the Mercedes ML 350 and Volvo XC 90.

Kevin Koloian covers the auto beat for Avanti NewsFeatures. Write him at mailto:kevinkoloian@excite.com

2007 GMC ACADIA Vehicle class: Crossover SUV. Power: V6 engine. Mileage: 18 city / 24 highway. Where built: Lansing, Mich. Base price: \$29,495.

OE0850703



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