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PLYMOUTH Observer

SUNDAY
January 13, 2008

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PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The ice flew last year when Oakland Community College instructors Doug Danhs and Brian Beland carved with chainsaws at the Plymouth International Ice Sculpture Spectacular. This year's event is set for Jan. 25-27.

Downtown on ice

Plymouth gearing up to carve out a good time

BY TONY BRUSCATO
STAFF WRITER

Hundreds of thousands of pounds of ice will be delivered and carved in downtown Plymouth for the 26th Plymouth International Ice Sculpture Spectacular, set for Jan. 25-27.

The 330-pound blocks of ice will be designed into more than 100 sculptures by college and high school students, as well as professionals from as far away as Japan.

On the first night, carvings will be lighted for the first

time. Saturday and Sunday will also feature woodcarving demonstrations in Kellogg Park. Also Sunday, there will be an interactive snowshoe demonstration as well as live reindeer.

The festivities actually begin Jan. 20 with a Kick-Off Fund-raiser at E.G. Nicks in Plymouth, a wine tasting, cordials, beer and food event for \$35 per person. The event is scheduled 8-11 p.m.

"It's designed for people who want to help the non-profit Ice Spectacular, but can't contribute hundreds of

dollars," said Mike Watts, the event organizer, who noted last year's first-ever fund-raiser netted \$1,500.

Despite a slow economy, Watts said he expects money raised for the Ice Spectacular to exceed last year's \$120,000 budget by about \$15,000.

"We've been able to get a couple of significant new contributors," said Ron Loiselle, president of the Ice Spectacular board. "A lot of new sources of cash will translate into bringing more ice and carvings to the festival."

Loiselle said companies giving \$5,000 sponsorships include Master Automatic in Plymouth Township, Chrysler-Jeep Superstores and Charter One Bank. AT&T contributed \$4,000. And, Environmental Quality in Plymouth Township has a \$3,500 sponsorship.

The *Observer* & *Eccentric* donated \$10,000 in advertising, while WOW Cable is contributing \$7,500 in cable air time.

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

Tenants moving in at retail complex

BY BRAD KADRICH
STAFF WRITER

Several tenants have already gotten the keys to their building, and several others are on the hook as developers continue to fill space in the retail development known as Plymouth Towne Center at Ann Arbor Road and Haggerty.

And, while officials won't specify a particular chain, they say negotiations are heating up with a grocery store to anchor the development.

"We feel we're very close to securing a grocery as the anchor tenant," said Christopher Lynn of Paramount Real Estate Services, LLC, which represents the developer, Bacall Development. Lynn declined to name the grocer. According to Lynn, Paramount is also in "close negotiations" with a national Mexican "food fast" concept, and a regional dry cleaner.

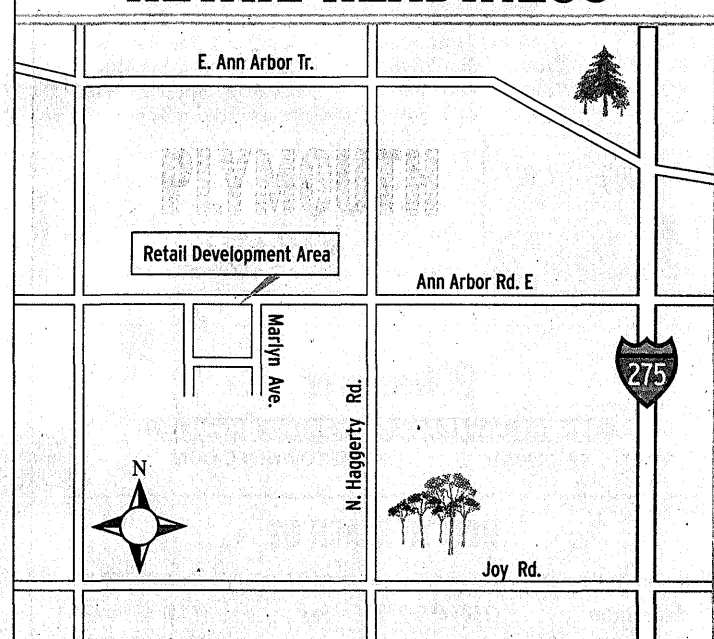
Meanwhile, two restaurants – Leo's Coney Island and Grand Traverse Pie Company – received their space Dec. 1 and, according to Lynn, should be open in late February or early March.

Three other tenants – Sprint, Batteries Plus and Anytime Fitness, a 24-hour fitness club – were expected to get their space this week, with openings coming in February, according to Lynn.

Anytime Fitness is developing a 4,500-square-foot co-ed exercise facility that will be open 24/7. The club plans to open for business in February 2008 and is currently offering pre-opening memberships at a discounted price.

"Anytime Fitness offers a convenient and affordable exercise option for the area," said James Cox, club manager. "We believe our 24-hour fitness club will be a great addition to the Plymouth community and the Plymouth Towne Center mall."

RETAIL READINESS



Daughters back after fruitless search for dad

BY TONY BRUSCATO
STAFF WRITER

Search efforts in Hawaii by two sisters to find their 67-year-old father from Salem Township, missing since Dec. 5 in the mountains of Mauna Kea when a blizzard dumped a foot of snow while he was hiking, produced more questions and dwindling hope as they pray their father is surviving somewhere in the mostly thick brush and lava-rock terrain.

Bridget Wallman, 43, of

Please see **MISSING, A4**



Brian Murphy, shown here in the last known photo of him taken in Hawaii, has been missing since Dec. 5.

Search firm to vet candidates

BY TONY BRUSCATO
STAFF WRITER

The search firm sorting through applications for the Plymouth-Canton Schools superintendent opening will interview several more candidates at Detroit Metropolitan Airport Monday before giving its recommendations to the Board of Education.

And, what is becoming more clear, the next superintendent of PCCS most likely will set back the cost-cutting district more money than is currently being paid outgoing superintendent Jim Ryan.

"We have four or five we're enthused about, and we're flying in a few for interviews

WHAT THEY MAKE

Here's a look at what some school districts pay their superintendents:

District	Students	Salary
Detroit	109,474	\$280,000
Utica	29,575	\$194,400
Grand Rapids	20,064	\$190,000
Ply-Cnt	18,808	\$161,000
Livonia	17,713	\$147,649
Wayne-Westland	13,477	\$173,000
Northville	6,928	\$135,896
Farmington	12,132	\$175,535

on Monday," said Roger Garvelink, senior consultant for Hazard, Young, Attea & Associates of Glenview, Ill. "We have a number of candidates who are very strong, and if we can agree upon salary I think the board will be pleased with our top candidates."

Garvelink said there are 19 applications, including seven from Michigan and four from Illinois. There are two from Florida, and one each from Indiana, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Maryland, Massachusetts and Missouri. And, according to

Garvelink, most are already making more than

Please see **SEARCH, A8**

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Warming Homes and Hearts

The Heat and Warmth Fund (THAW) is a nonprofit organization established to provide low-income families with energy assistance during crisis. For the 2006-2007 heating season, THAW distributed more than \$9,528,000 in energy assistance to more than 8,600 household in Michigan.

*See branch for complete details. NCUA Your savings federally insured to at least \$100,000 and backed by the full faith and credit of the United States Government. Equal Housing Lender. ©2008 Community Financial

For every new checking account opened in January 2008, Community Financial will contribute \$10.00 to THAW*



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Coming Thursday in filter



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Internet marketing meeting

Residents and small-business owners from Plymouth will learn strategies and techniques to raise their Google rankings and increase traffic to their Web sites during an interactive workshop 6-8:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 12 (networking begins at 5:30) at the Plymouth District Library.

Internet Marketing expert Corey Perlman will discuss low cost strategies such as using eNewsletters, Press Releases and Blogs to create more buzz about the business and bring more visitors through the door. The workshop will be conducted in a simple, easy-to-understand presentation Perlman promises to be fun, entertaining and extremely beneficial.

Before creating the Small Business eBoot Camp, Perlman spent three years with the e-Commerce division of General Motors where he visited 37 cities throughout the country providing one-day seminars to GM dealership personnel. He left GM in 2002 to help build an internet start-up, InfoAlly.com, which was recently acquired in 2005.

Anyone interested in learning more about the upcoming workshop, contact Sherrie Pryor from the Downtown Development Authority at (734) 455-1453. The cost for DDA businesses is \$20 per person, for businesses located outside the DDA District, the cost is \$39 per person. Attendees are encouraged to bring a laptop computer.

Lacrosse fund-raiser

Plymouth, Canton and Salem boys lacrosse is having a fund-raiser with Pizza Hut on Tuesday, Jan. 15 from 4-9 p.m. You must present a coupon with your order and the teams will earn 20 percent of all sales. You may dine in, carry-out, or get delivery. The coupon can be found on the lacrosse Web site at www.pcslacrosse.com. Pizza Hut is located at 1425 Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth. For more information, call (734) 459-2110.

Antique radio show

The Plymouth Historical Museum will host "Antique Radio Road Show" 1-3 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 19.

Antique radio expert Mark Oppat will give a presentation on collecting and the history of radios, focusing on the radios as both useful and artistic objects for the home, then and now. Brands like Zenith, Philco, RCA, Atwater-Kent, Detrola, and others will be mentioned. Oppat will bring many examples of collectable radios as well as printed materials for reference, and a hand-out for attendees showing the main types of radios through the years.

Those attending are encouraged to bring their radios (or pictures or brand and model number) if the radio is too large to number for a free evaluation and information on selling or repairing their radio. Harry Daniels, an expert on crank-type phonographs, will also be available to answer questions regarding those types of players.

Tickets for the event are \$10 and can be purchased in advance at the Plymouth Historical Museum, 155 S. Main Street, Plymouth, or online through Paypal at www.plymouthhistory.org. Tickets will also be sold the day of the event at the Museum. For more information, call (734) 455-8940.

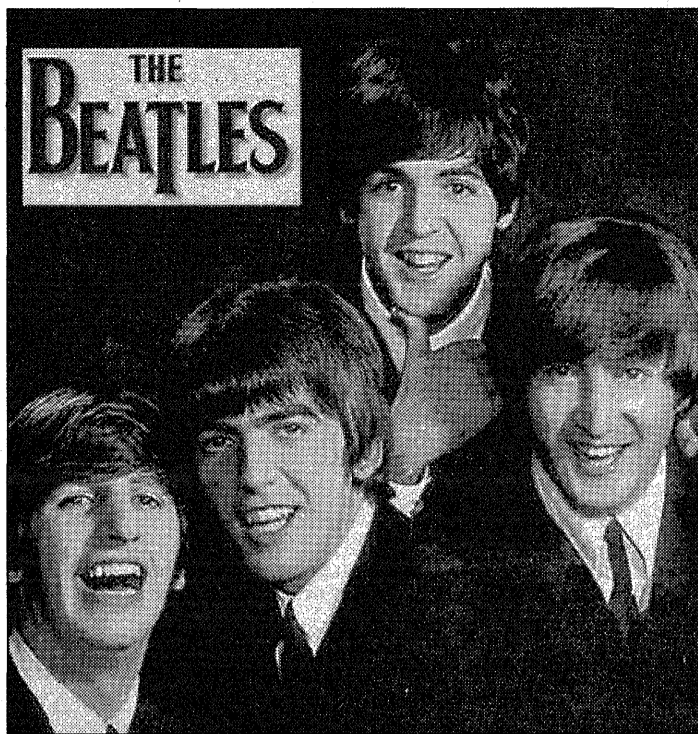
Plymouth postcards

Jill Andra Young, owner of Jill Andra Young Photography in downtown Plymouth, has just released a series of six images of Downtown Plymouth in Winter as postcards.

"I wanted to produce something that would capture to look and charm of the downtown area," Young said.

The current series of images concentrates on Kellogg Park in the winter. The postcards should prove to be popular with visitors and residents alike, looking to send an image of Plymouth to friends and family. The post cards show some of the downtown landmarks, the Penn Theater, the Guenther Clock, the Wilcox house, Main Street, The Mayflower Center and of course the Park. Young also plans to put the images on other merchandise like mugs and tote bags.

The post cards are available at Jill Andra Young Photography on Penniman, Wiltse's Community Pharmacy



Symphony plays the Beatles

The Plymouth Canton Symphony Society, under award-winning music director and conductor Nan Washburn, presents a special benefit concert, "A Beatles Blast!" 8 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 21 at the Penn Theatre in downtown Plymouth. A substantial ensemble of PSO musicians are donating their services to help support the numerous music education programs the PCSS brings to the Plymouth, Canton and Northville communities. The concert will feature classic rock-n-roll, symphonic style, featuring plenty of "Fab Four" songs, tunes by Simon & Garfunkel, the Beach Boys, Barry Manilow, and Billy Joel. The concert is sponsored by New Liberty Bank and Hines Park Lincoln Mercury. New Liberty Bank and Lotus Arts Gallery host a pre-concert cocktail party at Lotus Arts Gallery at 6:30-7:30 PM. Tickets are \$100 per person, with a 10% discount for groups of eight or more, and are 100-percent tax deductible. Tickets may be purchased by phone at (734) 451-2112, at the secure on-line box office at www.plymouthsymphony.org or in person at 470 Forest Avenue, Suite 18, Plymouth.

on Main, Michigan Made and More on Ann Arbor Trail, Native West on Ann Arbor Trail and Andy's Hallmark on Forest.

BPW meeting

The Plymouth Business and Professional Women conduct their monthly meeting at the Plymouth Crossing 6 p.m. Monday, Jan. 21. Help to welcome Jennifer Eichenberg who will speak about "Women as Facilitative Leaders." Jennifer works with individuals, teams and organizations who want to improve performance and build stronger relationships.

Call Joanne Delaney at (734) 455-5171 to make a reservation.

Newcomers' wine tasting

Plymouth Newcomers & Neighbors hosts their annual Wine Tasting Mixer 7-9:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 2, at the Plymouth Community Arts

Council located at 774 N. Sheldon in Plymouth.

The event offers a chance to meet others in the community while sampling a variety of wines and light appetizers. You don't have to be a wine connoisseur to join in on the fun - simply bring a bottle of wine and be ready for a casual evening of wine tasting.

Special guest band Fox Creek Underground will perform during the evening. This eclectic women's folk band features Plymouth resident Tiffany Baker (fiddle and mandolin) and Grosse Pointe Park residents Nancy Combs (guitar and vocals), Miriam Engstrom (guitar and vocals), and Maurya Kay (lead vocals).

The event is open to the public (age 21 and over). Once you RSVP, you will be notified by e-mail whether to bring a bottle of Chardonnay or Cabernet

Sauvignon.

For more information or to RSVP contact Eileen Ganster by Jan. 30 at programming@plymouthnewcomers.com or by phone at (734) 737-0385.

Maybury docents

Officials at Maybury Farm in Northville are interested in people who can serve as docents (guides) to the school children at Maybury Farm.

The farm offers school children programming about animals and animal care; dairy, maple syruping, plants, food and planting Mondays through Fridays beginning in March.

Most of the programs are in the morning; however, there are a few in the afternoons. Each class takes approximately one hour. There is a full training session and materials.

These programs are geared for children from pre-school through middle school. Officials need 10 people who could help the farm staff with these programs.

Anyone with a particular interest or who would just like to help can contact Kathy at (248) 374-0200, Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m.

Tractor and horse team drivers are always needed to assist the farm staff at Maybury Farm. If you are available Monday through Friday, usually mornings, contact Phil at (248) 374-0200.

Home cookin'

Newburg Church missions committee is sponsoring a home-cooked Swiss steak dinner with all the fixin's Friday, Jan. 25.

Proceeds will go to housing the homeless. Tickets are \$8 for adults and \$4 for children.

Mac-n-cheese will be available for kids. Dinner will be served from 4:30-7 p.m. Then stay if you like and play board games or cards. Come and feel at home with a home-style dinner at Newburg Church. Carry-out will be available.

Donations accepted. Tickets will be available Jan. 6-20 in the office at 36500 Ann Arbor Trail, Livonia, (734) 422-0149.

Fife & Drum alumni

The Plymouth Fife & Drum Corps is in the process of compiling alumni information to reach out to our alumni members regarding future events and performances.

If you are a Plymouth Fife & Drum Corps alumni, please forward your contact information (name, phone number, e-mail address) to our Alumni

Director, Robin Leclerc (rleclerc@wideopenwest.com)

Council on Aging

Plymouth Community Council on Aging presents The Heinzman School of Irish Dance and also a presentation by Jane Saylor, "Writing Skills," Jan. 14, 1:30-3 p.m., at the Plymouth Cultural Center. Refreshments will be served. Call (734) 453-1234, Ext. 236 for information.

Stroke Screenings by Life Line, hosted by the Council on Aging, will be held Friday, Jan. 18, at the Plymouth Township Friendship Station. Pre-registration is required. Call to schedule appointments for screenings at (800) 324-1851. Screenings available are Stroke Screen/Carotid Artery \$45, Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Screening \$45, Peripheral Arterial Disease Screening \$45, Osteoporosis Screening \$35 or all four (4) screenings for \$129.

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Garden Club

Beneath frosty autumn carpets, the gardens are awaiting their future displays for 2008. Trailwood Garden Club of Plymouth is looking for gardeners in the Plymouth area for its annual Garden Walk taking place next June. Over the years, all manner of gardens have delighted visitors, ranging from compact city gardens to watery, wildflower, herb, cutting, and expansive country gardens.

Anyone interested in opening their special garden can contact Georgia Randinitis at (734) 459-7146 or Marilyn Detmer at (734) 454-4625.

Anyone interested in opening their special garden can contact Georgia Randinitis at (734) 459-7146 or Marilyn Detmer at (734) 454-4625.

Cruise for the arts

Patrons can help the arts thrive in the community and cruise the Caribbean at the same time.

The first Plymouth Community Cruise, sponsored by the Plymouth Rotary A.M., is scheduled March 22-29, a seven-day cruise of the western Caribbean. Ports of Call (round trip from Ft. Lauderdale) include Ocho Rios, Jamaica; Georgetown, Grand Cayman; Cozumel, Mexico; Princess Cays, Bahamas; and two days at sea.

Prices start at \$969 per person, and a \$200 per-cabin contribution will be made in the cruiser's name to the Plymouth Canton Symphony Society upon return.

For reservations and more information, contact Kathy or Kate at Carlson Wagonlit Travel, (734) 455-5810.

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Local political activist works hard to get Clinton elected

Local voters head to the polls

With the focus - especially for Republicans - on Tuesday's Michigan presidential primary, many voters are wondering: Where do we vote?

In the City of Plymouth, it's fairly easy: Precinct 3 voters cast ballots in the Central Middle School annex gym; precincts 1, 2 and 4 vote at the Plymouth Cultural Center.

Plymouth Township voters cast ballots in one of 17 places:

- Precinct 1 - Farrand Elementary School, 41400 Greenbriar
- Precinct 2 - Friendship Station, 42375 Schoolcraft
- Precincts 3 & 4 - Plymouth Township Hall, 9955 N. Haggerty
- Precinct 5 - Bird Elementary School, 220 N. Sheldon
- Precinct 6 - West Middle School, 44401 Ann Arbor Trail
- Precinct 7 - Living Word Church, 46500 N. Territorial
- Precinct 8 - St. Kenneth Catholic Church, 14951 Haggerty
- Precinct 9 - Church of

the Nazarene, 45801 Ann Arbor Road

- Precinct 10 - Fiegel Elementary School, 39750 Joy
- Precinct 11 - First Baptist Church, 45000 N. Territorial
- Precinct 12 - Pioneer Middle School, 46081 Ann Arbor Road
- Precincts 13 & 16 - Risen Christ Lutheran Church, 46250 Ann Arbor Road
- Precinct 14 - Isbister Elementary School, 9300 N. Canton Center
- Precinct 15 - First United Methodist Church, 45201 N. Territorial
- Precinct 17 - NorthRidge Church, 49555 N. Territorial

The battle on the Republican primary ballot is expected to be between Arizona Sen. John McCain and native son and former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney. Former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee also campaigned in Michigan. New York Sen. Hillary Clinton is the only top-tier Democrat on the primary ballot.

BY KURT KUBAN
STAFF WRITER

Canton's Brandon Hynes' support for Sen. Hillary Clinton has taken him a long way from home.

With the Michigan presidential primary just days away, Hynes, 20, won't be with other voters heading to the polls in his hometown on Tuesday to cast a vote for the former First Lady. That's because on Tuesday, he will be in Nevada, where he has been working since Dec. 17 to drum up votes for Sen. Clinton leading up to the Jan. 19 Nevada Democratic caucus.

Hynes, who ran and lost in 2006 for the Plymouth-Canton School Board, says he was actually the first person in Canton to cast an absentee ballot in the Michigan primary. Despite his respect for Democrats Barack Obama and John Edwards, Hynes decided fairly early he was going to throw his support behind Hillary.

For most people, supporting a candidate means voting for that candidate. Not for Hynes, who has been quite active with the Michigan Democratic Party for several years. He contacted Clinton's campaign team, and told them he wanted to go to work for her. So they

sent him to Nevada, where he is regional volunteer coordinator in west Las Vegas. He has been spending his time recruiting volunteers and knocking on doors to drum up support for Clinton.

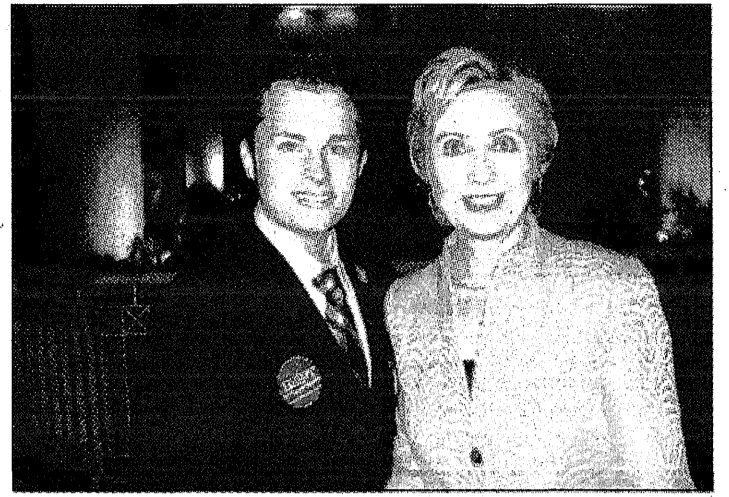
"Hillary's experience and demonstrative record of change makes her the best candidate," said Hynes. "I like Barack Obama and John Edwards, who are both saying they are the candidates of change. It's another thing to look at 35 years of change, which is the case of Hillary. She has the record of change. She is change."

Hynes, who is a junior studying social work at Wayne State University, is currently the president of the Michigan Federation of College Democrats.

In addition to his own school board campaign, he has worked on a number of other campaigns, including Maureen Miller Brosnan's failed mayoral bid in Livonia and Mark Slavens' state senate run.

He believes Clinton's bid to become the Democratic nominee and ultimately president will be more successful. He believes she's a shoo-in in Michigan, because she is the only major name on the Democratic ballot.

"We're very confident in victory," he said.



Canton's Brandon Hynes, who is active in the Michigan Democratic Party, is working for Hillary Clinton's campaign in Nevada.

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Police are looking for a suspect described as a lone black male in connection with the robbery of the Mobil gas station at Ann Arbor Road and Sheldon Friday morning.

Thief robs Mobil station

BY BRAD KADRICH
STAFF WRITER

Police are looking for a lone black male they suspect in the armed robbery of the Mobil Gas Station at Ann Arbor Road and Sheldon early Friday morning.

And, according to police, finding him might mean solving other robberies in the area.

The Plymouth Township robbery happened around 1 a.m. Friday, when the suspect, carrying what police described as a small-caliber, semi-automatic handgun, approached the cashier and said, "Give me the money."

According to police, the suspect took the cash, left the building and fled south into an adjacent neighborhood.

No one was harmed during

the robbery.

The suspect was described as a black male of unknown age, approximately 5-feet-7 to 5-feet-9 inches tall, medium build, wearing a black knit hat, a black half-mask and a big, fluffy black jacket.

Plymouth Township Police Detective Ryan Krebs said police are investigating the possibility the suspect was involved in other robberies in the western Wayne and Washtenaw county area.

"The description is consistent with other robberies that have been happening in neighboring jurisdictions," Krebs said.

Anyone with information about the incident can call Krebs at (734) 354-3245.

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

MISSING

FROM PAGE A1

Canton and Kelly Seelbinder, 40, of Kalamazoo flew to Hawaii Dec. 26 to help organize additional search efforts after six days of searching by Hawaiian authorities failed to produce any clues in the disappearance of Brian Murphy. They were joined on the trip by Wallman's sister-in-law, Sarah O'Hare of Plymouth.

"We met with the rescue people on Thursday (Dec. 27) and they said they would reignite the search effort because we were there and wanted to find him," said Seelbinder, a 1985 graduate of Canton High School. "There were lots of areas they felt they searched, but there are so many cracks and crevices and boulders and big bushes that make it really difficult. I wanted to search where it wasn't obvious, a place where he might keep warm or hide out if he was hurt."

The sisters put an ad in the local newspaper, offering a reward in hopes of attracting volunteers to help. Seelbinder said 24 showed up the first day, 18 the second and 15 the third.

Early indications were Murphy planned to hike to the summit of Mauna Kea, which is 13,796 feet. However, he may have been discouraged when he checked into the Mauna Kea Visitor Information Station, which is at about 9,000 feet, before his hike. Murphy may have changed his plans and decided to take a shorter walk, possibly getting caught in a less severe storm at the lower altitudes. Seelbinder said her father was wearing khaki shorts, a T-shirt, and tennis shoes without socks in temperatures that reached about 80 degrees.

"It definitely was dangerous in certain areas, some of the bushes were as large as my dining room, with most of it volcanic rock," Seelbinder said. "They had already searched 64 square miles, which is prob-



Sarah O'Hare, Kelly Seelbinder and Bridget Wallman gather near Mauna Kea Ice Age Natural Area Reserve, ready to begin the search for Brian Murphy. Wallman and Seelbinder are Murphy's daughters; O'Hare is Wallman's sister-in-law.

ably an eighth of the area. He could be anywhere if he's hurt."

The problem for searchers is knowing exactly where Murphy planned to hike. His daughters know he was in good enough shape to hike the mountain. He'd been invited to the 1968 Olympic trials to compete in the decathlon, was track and cross country coach at the old Garden City East High School in the 1970s and was a ski instructor and avid downhill skier.

"Just the enormity, it would be happenstance if we found him," said Wallman after spending about a week in Hawaii. "It took two days to search one square mile. It's so frustrating."

"Everybody was so wonderful and super helpful," she said. "You're blown away by the fact volunteers came out; one man on his vacation from Florida helped search, and firemen who came on their days off. You knew they wanted to find him and help give us closure."

Hawaiian authorities, who told the sisters it's the first time anyone has gone miss-

ing on Mauna Kea, say they will continue the search for Murphy when the snow melts.

Murphy, a retired safety engineer who was contracted to work on the new MGM Grand Casino in Detroit, is the oldest of six children who grew up in Milwaukee. He later moved to Livonia, where the girls mainly grew up and went to school. The family moved to a 14-acre parcel in Salem Township, and the girls attended Plymouth-Canton Educational Park.

Karen Maurino, 58, of Dearborn has known Murphy for 14 years and accompanied him on many trips, including the one to Hawaii. After touring the island by car the previous day, Maurino decided to spend time at the beach while Murphy went hiking.

"It's been like a nightmare," said Maurino, who wasn't sure until the next morning her companion was listed as missing. "There was a big storm that day and they said on the news the roads were closed. I was in total shock when I was told he was on the mountain because I knew how bad the storm was."

"He knew everything about survival, so it's hard to understand this," she said. "He's loved and will be missed by a lot of people."

Wallman said it's difficult at times not having some kind of closure.

"But, I'm satisfied he's somewhere on the mountain," she said, referring to Murphy's love of the outdoors. "One thing I found out was a lot of people knew my dad and enjoyed doing things with him."

Seelbinder said she's talked to several psychics, who tell her Murphy is still alive, maybe in a cave, and has access to water.

"He's so tough and strong-willed and optimistic, if anyone could survive it would be my dad," said Seelbinder. "I'm not giving up, I keep praying for a miracle."

But, she's also prepared in case the miracle doesn't happen.

"He's a very spiritual man, and I'll get to see him in Heaven, if that's his time," she said.

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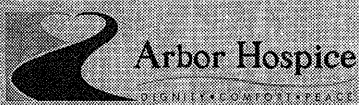
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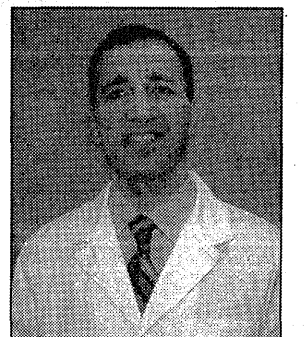
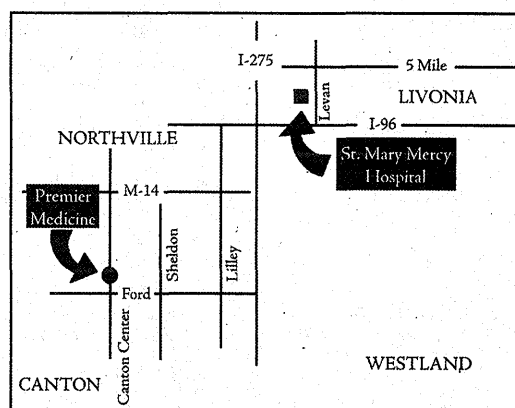
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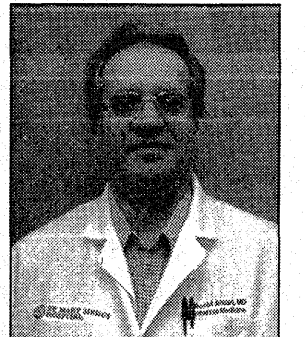
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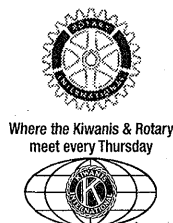


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Large Caesar Salad

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All white meat extra

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Chicken Cacciatore.....13.45

Boneless breast of chicken simmered in a savory wine and tomato sauce with green peppers, onions and mushrooms. Served on bow-tie pasta with one side dish.

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	THU. 17	CANUCKS	7:30 PM
	WED. 30	COYOTES	7:30 PM
FEB	FRI. 1	AVALANCHE	7:30 PM
	THU. 7	KINGS	7:30 PM
	SUN. 10	DUCKS	TBA
	FRI. 15	BLUE JACKETS	7:30 PM
MAR	FRI. 15	SHARKS	7:30 PM
	WED. 5	BLUES	7:30 PM
	SUN. 9	PREDATORS	TBA
	TUE. 11	BLACKHAWKS	7:30 PM
	THU. 13	STARS	7:30 PM
	SAT. 15	PREDATORS	1:00 PM
	WED. 19	BLUE JACKETS	7:30 PM
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Equity-index annuity provides tax-deferred investment option

I just received a settlement from a lawsuit for about \$90,000. I have a very specific goal for this money. I bought property Up North a number of years ago on a land contract and I have a balloon payment in seven years. I want to use this money to pay off that land contract. I want to be very conservative with this money and, therefore, I am considering either a CD or an annuity. I am 60 years old and I expect to retire in about five years. What would you recommend?

I lean towards an annuity — an equity-index annuity vs. a traditional fixed annuity for a number of factors. The first is the time frame you have to achieve your goals. By investing in a no-load quality equity-index annuity you will have more money at the end of the seven years than if you invested into a CD.

The second reason is taxes. Although I have always been a believer that you never let the tax tail wag the dog and that you should do things that make good economic sense, that doesn't mean you forget about the tax consequences.

In a CD you will pay taxes on the interest on a year-by-year basis. Since you are working, I am making the assumption that you are in the highest brackets. On the other hand, the equity-index annuity grows tax deferred. You only



Money Matters
Rick Bloom

pay taxes when you withdraw the money. It would be doubtful that in seven years, when you are not working, that you will be in a higher tax bracket.

Equity-index annuities are like mutual funds — some good, some bad. They are not all the same and you have to be careful.

Some equity-index annuities have high fees thus making it difficult for investors to make money. One of the problems with annuities is companies have many different types of annuity products. It's not unusual for an annuity company to offer a half dozen or so different types of equity-index annuities. Unfortunately, in most cases, only a few make sense for investors.

The majority of annuities are sold through representatives of the company. Individuals cannot purchase them directly.

One of the first issues is to deal with an individual you trust. You may also consider dealing with someone who specializes in equity-index annuities. There are a lot of nuances and different ways you can structure an equity-index annuity and you want

someone who understands the differences between different products.

I recommend Jim Hutton from Hutton Financial, (800) 870-4444.

Another important issue to consider is the time period. Just about every annuity program requires a time period similar to CDs. However, the typical period of time for an annuity is longer than in a CD. In most cases, I recommend a five to seven-year period for the equity-index annuity. I am not a big fan of annuities that require a 10-15-year commitment period. Unfortunately, many people who sell annuities tend to encourage investors to lock up for longer periods of time so they can receive higher commissions.

One of the many changes that have occurred for equity-index annuities is the expanded index options. For example, Jackson National, a Michigan-based company, now has an equity-index product that offers U.S. large and small company stocks as well as international companies. This product allows an investor to have a diversified portfolio. Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial adviser. Observer & Eccentric readers can submit questions at moneymatters@hometownlife.com. For more information, visit Rick's Web site at www.bloomassetmanagement.com. You can hear Rick noon to 3 p.m. Sundays on WDTK 1400 AM.

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Jury visits Poole's Canton home during murder trial

BY TIFFANY L. PARKS
STAFF WRITER

The Canton woman accused of killing her foster daughter went home Thursday — but it wasn't for long.

The jury in the Carol Poole murder trial, along with Poole herself, briefly visited her Emily Court home to view the second-story balcony that 2-year-old Allison Newman fell over. They also viewed the toddler's bedroom and a bathroom.

Judge Ulysses W. Boykin ruled Wednesday that Poole didn't have to be shackled or handcuffed during the visit because she hasn't exhibited a violent nature.

Poole, 42, is charged with

felony murder, involuntary manslaughter and first-degree child abuse in the September 2006 death of Allison.

The township woman told police that she was playing a game of "whirlybird" with Allison when the child arched her back, fell from her grasp and went over the balcony.

Her lawyer, Mark Satawa, has admitted that Poole made mistakes in not taking the girl to a hospital immediately and for initially lying to police about how the girl was injured.

Poole, who got custody of Allison in January 2006, has been blasted by Wayne County Assistant Prosecutor Jerry Dorsey IV for giving the police multiple stories for the child's

injuries. He also said that her claims that Allison would bang her head against her bed while sleeping are fabricated.

After the state's first witness, a former employee of the day care Allison attended, testified that she saw scratches all over Allison, the center's assistant director, Cami Pierce, testified that Poole was a great mother and that she and Allison seemed like a healthy mother and daughter.

"She was a wonderful mother. I saw her everyday with Allison," she said.

When shown a picture of Allison, Pierce, along with Poole and her husband, Alan, began crying.

Another former day care worker, Cheryl Majeske, said

she witnessed "fishy" scratches and bruises on the toddler but wouldn't go so far as to say that the girl was being abused.

"Something wasn't right," she said, adding that Poole explained away a few of the bruises by saying that Allison had hit her head in the bed. "(But) I would say she was (a good mom)."

The Pooles' former nanny, who cared for the couple's newborn foster son, testified she never saw Allison being abused but did question Poole about a bruise on the child's forehead.

Despite calling the bruise "different," the former nanny said Poole was "one of the most loving mothers I've ever seen," adding that she was patient

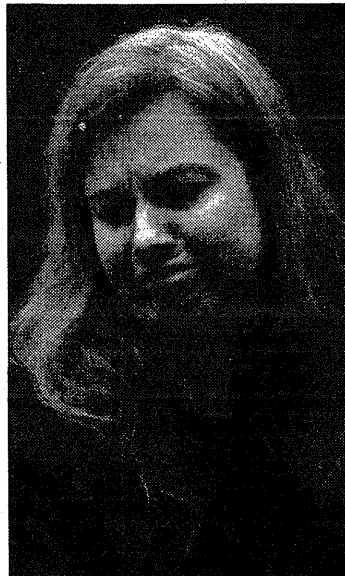
with the little girl the defense called "dramatic."

Allison's paternal grandfather, Ken Newman, called the proceedings a "dog-and-pony show" and said he was waiting for more facts about the night Allison died.

The toddler's father, Kenneth Newman, said he is anticipating a guilty verdict.

"My family has gone through a lot of emotions and suffering and we have been praying," he said. "We believe Mrs. Poole killed our baby and we hope and believe justice will be served."

If convicted of murder, Poole could be sentenced to life in prison.



Carol Poole reacts to seeing her husband in the courtroom.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

AROUND TOWN

Financial Peace University

Kirk of Our Savior in Westland hosts a free preview 6 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 10, (baby-sitting will be available) to allow families to review the Dave Ramsey Financial Peace University Program. Dave Ramsey is a personal money management expert and a popular radio personality, author of the New York Times best-sellers *The Total Money Makeover*, *Financial Peace* and *More Than Enough*. Ramsey knows first-hand what financial peace means in his own life after having had a multi-million dollar business and then losing it all. Those interested in following the dynamic program will have an opportunity to sign up and purchase a 13-week seminar the night of Feb. 10. For those who purchase the program, it will begin 7-9 p.m. Monday, Feb. 25, and run for 13 weeks. For more information, contact Bonnie at (734) 994-0569 or see the Dave Ramsey Web site at www.daveramsey.com

Suicide Loss Support Group

New Hope Center for Grief Support is offering an ongoing support group for those who have lost a loved one to suicide. This monthly group meets 7-9 p.m. on the second Thursday and fourth Monday of each month at the First United Methodist Church in Northville located at 777 W. Eight Mile Road. No registration is necessary for this monthly drop-in support group. For further information about this group or about the many other free, age and loss specific groups offered for children,



Handbells are ringin'

The Detroit Handbell Ensemble plays concert 4 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 10, at First United Methodist Church in Plymouth (45201 N. Territorial just east of Beck). The Ensemble performs with over 120 handbells and handchimes, five octaves of each. The 14-member ensemble, under the direction of Susan Berry, includes musicians from all over the greater metropolitan Detroit area. The concert will feature a variety of music, including a joint performance with the First United Methodist Festival Bells and organist Marcia Van Oyen. Admission is free; a free-will offering will be received. For further information, call (734) 453-5280.

teens, and adults, please call New Hope Center for Grief Support at 248-348-0115 and visit us at www.newhopecenter.net

Apply for scholarships

The 41st annual Court of St. Brigid Scholarship Program, sponsored by the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Rose Kennedy Division, offers educational scholarships to winners, who must be Irish, Catholic and between the ages of 17 and 22. The program is Saturday, Feb. 16, at the AOH hall

in Detroit. Contact Maureen Kelley at (734) 632-0334 or visit www.detroit-rish.org. Apply by Feb. 9.

Gardeners meet

The Gardeners of Northville and Novi meet the second Tuesday of the month September through May at 6:30 p.m. Locations rotate between Novi Civic Center and the Northville Library. Visitors are welcome. For more information, call (248) 231-2334 or visit our Web site www.gardeners-northville-novi.org

Travel clinics

When traveling to a foreign country, a vaccination and travel consultation could be just as important as a passport. From diseases you may have already heard of such as hepatitis, to the more exotic illnesses like Japanese encephalitis, Visiting Nurse Association of Southeast Michigan's TravelWise Travel Clinic can provide the vaccinations and information you need to consider. This new service from VNA provides inoculations for many common diseases including influenza, pneumonia, meningitis, tetanus and diphtheria, in addition to vaccinations specific to your travel destinations such as hepatitis A and B and typhoid. Additionally, VNA is a certified provider of the yellow fever vaccine. In order to prepare for VNA's travel consultation, individuals should bring their anticipated travel dates, itinerary and lodging plans. Past immunization records and a list of allergies and current medications will also help. For appointments, cost, on-site clinics and general information, contact the VNA TravelWise Travel Clinic at (248) 967-8755 or visit www.vna.org.

Heartland Hospice

Heartland Hospice, located in Southfield and serving the tri-county area, is looking for caring and compassionate individuals to register for volunteer training. Evening and daytime classes are available for anyone interested in being a support person for clients and their families during their end-of-life journey. Office support is also needed. To register, call Mary, (800) 770-9859.

PLYMOUTH-CANTON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS NOTICE TO BIDDERS

The Board of Education of the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools invites all interested and qualified companies to submit a **Bid for the Remodeling of Canton High School**. Bidding documents prepared by TMP Associates, Inc. will be available for public inspection at the office of the Construction Manager, McCarthy & Smith Inc., 24317 Indoplex Circle, Farmington Hills, MI, 48335; (248)-427-8400; FW Dodge Plan Room, Southfield; Construction Association of Michigan Plan Room, Bloomfield Hills; Daily Construction Reports Plan Room, Detroit; and the Builders Exchange, Lansing.

Bid Division descriptions include: 103:Selective Demolition / 104:Foundations & Flatwork / 106:Masonry / 107:Steel / 108:Carpentry/General Trades / 109:Roofing / 110:Metal Siding / 113: Hollow Metal Frames, Doors, Wood Doors, & Hardware / 114:Aluminum Windows/Entrances/Glass & Glazing / 115:Metal Studs, Drywall IFS / 117:Acoustical Treatments / 118:Carpet & VCT Flooring / 120:Painting / 120A:Electrostatic Painting / 121:Visual Display Signs / 128:Pre-Manufactured Casework / 129:Science Casework / 130:Window Treatments / 134:Stage Curtains / 140:Plumbing / 142:HVAC / 143:Electrical / 149:Fencing

A pre-bid meeting will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 17, 2008 at Canton High School located at 8415 Canton Center Road, Canton, Michigan 48187. Bidders are STRONGLY encouraged to attend. Bids are to be submitted in a sealed envelope supplied by the Construction Manager, McCarthy & Smith Inc. with the corresponding bid division identified on the outside of the envelope. All submissions should include 2 bid copies (1 original, 1 copy) and a valid familial disclosure statement. **Bids are due to the PCCS E.J. McClendon Educational Center on or before 2:00 p.m., Tuesday, January 29, 2008** where they will be opened and read publicly. For additional information, phone Dan Phillips, Assistant Director of Finance & Purchasing at (734) 416-2746. The Board of Education reserves the right to accept and/or reject all bids, as they judge to be in the best interest of the school district.

Board of Education
Plymouth-Canton Community Schools
STEVEN SNEIDEMAN, Secretary

Publish: January 6 and 13, 2008

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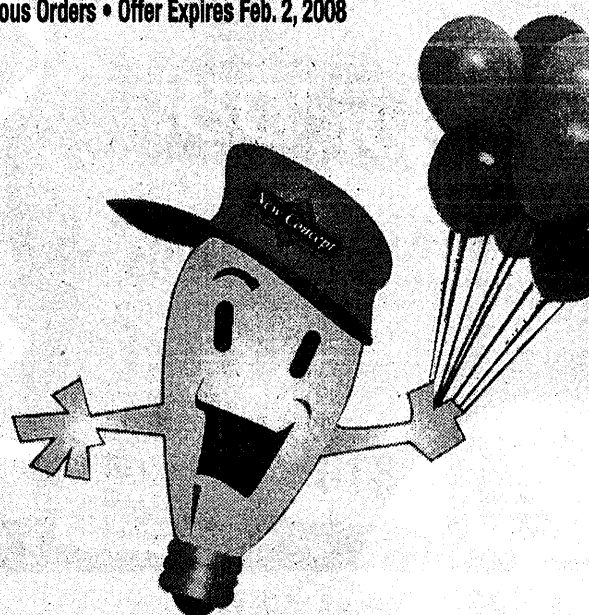
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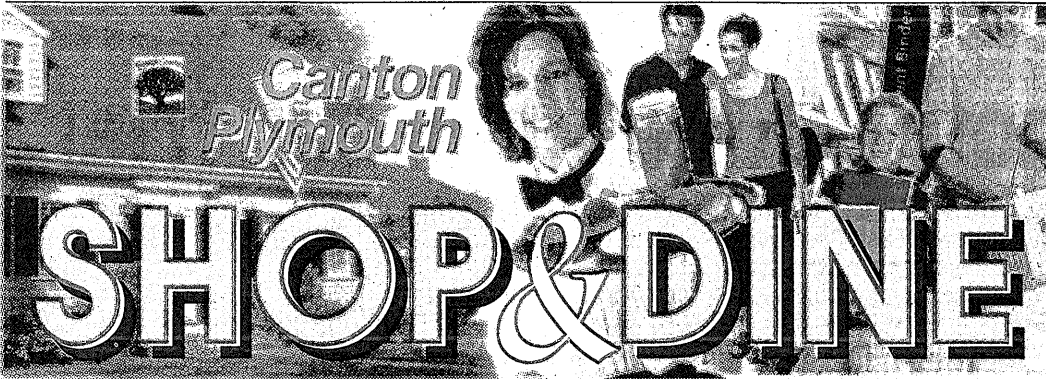
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Andrea S. Vivian, D.D.S.

SENIOR TOOTH LOSS' LINK WITH DEMENTIA

Recent research links elderly tooth loss with more than a three-fold greater risk for memory problems and dementia. This may best be explained by the possibility that people with cognitive impairment take worse care of their teeth. On the other hand, it is also possible that dental disease causes prolonged inflammation and infection in the mouth, which may alter some factors in the blood that could cause problems in the brain. In addition, lost teeth may lead to altered diets, which could cause vitamin deficiencies and other problems that affect the brain. Until the exact cause and effect are determined, it is essential that elderly individuals receive proper dental care just like children and younger adults.

We know how important it is to you that the people who take care of your dental needs be well-informed, knowledgeable, highly skilled, and caring and compassionate. Our promise to you, then, is that our office will provide you with dental care of the highest quality, based on sound medical modalities, using the most appropriate procedures, and utilizing extremely qualified staff members. Comprehensive dental care for you and your family is available at 496 W. Ann Arbor Trail, Ste. 201, Plymouth. (1 blk. E. of Kellogg Park). Keep on top of your dental health by calling 734-453-9413.

P.S. Perhaps the best reason to address dental concerns as we age is to be sure that we can eat a well-balanced diet without the restrictions of poor oral health.



'Animal Guy' Nelson Pearson wowed 57 first-graders at All Saints Catholic School in Canton with his menagerie of creatures from around the world.

Creatures featured

Students get up-close look at wildlife

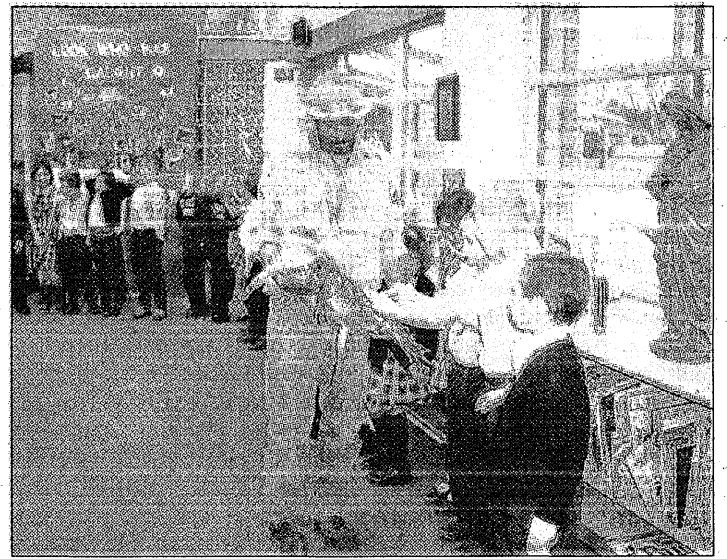
BY LAURIE MAKAREWICZ
CORRESPONDENT

Fifty-seven first-graders at All Saints Catholic School in Canton traveled around the world, meeting creatures from almost every continent, without even leaving their school's library as biologist Nelson Pearson shared with them his love of animals.

Also known as "The Animal Guy," Pearson has been entertaining and educating children of all ages since 1993 with his unique collection of animals as part of his Wildlife Safari program. While at All Saints, Pearson told a story of an adventurous bunny who hopped beyond the forest and discovered other continents. With each new region, the bunny made friends along the way.

With each twist and turn of his story, Pearson would produce a tamed critter for all the children to see. He began with an Eagle owl, whose 4-foot wing span impressed the delighted group.

Next, an Australian rodent known as a Sugar Glider leapt off a walking stick, flying through the air before landing safely in a basket, drawing cheers from the children. An African tortoise, a collection of millipedes, a South American Three-Banded Armadillo, an Australian Mara, and a three-foot American alligator followed before Nelson ended his show with a fuzzy, Lion-Headed rabbit.



First-graders at All Saints got a kick out of the Animal Guy's creatures, including this alligator.

The children watched in amazement as the armadillo rolled itself into a ball and the marsupial rodent-like Mara sniffed its way around the library. The children also were allowed to pet some of the animals as Pearson cradled each creature and walked among the children.

Some weren't too sure of the alligator, especially when Pearson pretended to wrestle with it, but all adored the unusual rabbit which many thought looked very much like a Webkinz.

Luke Anderson, 6, thought the alligator "was cool" while classmate Olivia Kositz, 6, "definitely liked the bunny better because it was so fuzzy."

Pearson said the rabbit is quite rare. The breed was

introduced in Europe about 12 years ago and only recently has been made available in the United States by breeders, he said.

The children walked away from the in-school field trip learning many new facts, including recognizing the difference between a turtle and a tortoise (the latter generally doesn't swim), the ability of an owl to turn its head around in almost a complete circle, as well as where desert animals look to find water (they dig up plant roots), to name a few.

For Pearson, he said it's another wonderful opportunity to share his animals and tell their individual stories to others. For the children, it was yet another memorable day in first grade.



Students and teachers alike got up-close-and-personal with the Animal Guy's creatures.

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SEARCH

FROM PAGE A1

Ryan's top salary of \$161,000. Ryan, who is officially retired and working this year as part of an emeritus program as a contract employee, is being paid \$131,000. Garvelink declined to comment when asked if there were any internal candidates.

"Several applicants are already beyond \$200,000, with one from the top of my list in a district about a third of the size of Plymouth-Canton," said

Garvelink. "It's hard for the public to understand that to bring in a new superintendent you'll most likely pay more than the person in the job who has served so well. But, that's the market we're in."

Board vice president Barry Simescu isn't too surprised by Garvelink's assessment.

"I don't think there's too much question Jim's been a bargain," Simescu said. "If we look to other districts in the area, he's on the low end of the compensation scale."

Trustee Dianne Gonzalez is aware it will most likely cost the district more to hire a new

CEO, but believes it's a price the district will have to pay.

"Finances are always a concern, and we're already taking a hard look at the budget," Gonzalez said. "If a good person comes along and we need to make arrangements in the budget so we can hire that person, we're going to have to make it work."

Garvelink said he will "recommend five or six candidates the board should interview" at a meeting scheduled Jan. 21.

Ryan, who is expected to give up his seat at future board meetings to Superintendent Pro-Tem Ken Jacobs, retires Feb. 28.

OUR VIEWS

Voters don't need pollsters to vote

There is an important lesson to be learned from the New Hampshire primary, held last Tuesday. That lesson has more to do with how John McCain and Hillary Clinton topped the list of candidates than with the candidates themselves.

That lesson clearly showed that it's not pollsters or the polls themselves who elect candidates. It's individual voters who listen to everything said and then make up their own minds without having someone tell them what to do.

Voters can do likewise Tuesday, Jan. 15, in Michigan, at least for those who choose to vote Republican, where all the candidates are listed on the ballot.

On the Democratic side, many candidates, like Barack Obama, have chosen not to be on the ballot. Others have dropped out of the race, while some politicians are encouraging Democrats to vote "uncommitted."

That lesson clearly showed that it's not pollsters or the polls themselves who elect candidates. It's individual voters who listen to everything said and then make up their own minds without having someone tell them what to do.

If you decide to be part of the political process come Tuesday, here are some things you should know.

First, only those who are registered to vote by Dec. 17, 2007, may vote.

Second, this is a partisan primary, meaning you will be asked to choose either a Democratic or Republican ballot. There is no opportunity to vote as an independent, but you also don't have to be a registered Republican or Democrat to vote. Voting in the primary does not register you as a member of that party.

Third, the Michigan Secretary of State's office cautions that, if you actually write in a candidate's name, your ballot will be tossed out. That's because no candidates filed with that office for write-in status by the deadline.

Fourth, voters once again must show picture identification, or sign a statement saying they don't have it. This is the same voter ID law requirement as was first used in the November 2006 general election.

Fifth, the deadline has passed for requesting an absentee ballot. However, qualified absentee voters have until 4 p.m. Monday, Jan. 14, to cast a ballot in person at their local municipal clerk's office.

Sixth, for other questions regarding the election, visit the Michigan Voter Information Center at www.michigan.gov/vote, or contact your local clerk's office.

That's about it. Voters can show that, in Michigan's primary they can show their own mind by casting a ballot Tuesday.

COMMUNITY CORNER

With the auto show coming this month, are you in the market for a new car?



"I just bought one, a Chrysler Sebring, and I love it."

- Ursula Cecile, 69
Canton Township



"I've got a 2006 Taurus, so I don't think I'll be purchasing a new car."

- Cynthia Lattin, 77
Plymouth Township



"I could possibly be, and if I was going to it would be a GM to support America."

- Donna DeLong, 45
Durand



"I'm in the market for a new car with a lower payment than my Chevy Trailblazer."

- Cynthia Moyer, 47
Plymouth

LETTERS

Flip a coin in primary

Please vote Jan. 15 in the State-of-Michigan-taxpayer-paid U.S. Presidential primary for the Democratic and Republican parties.

How should you vote? We'll get to that in a minute.

First, let's point out that the publicly-funded election is actually the property of the two major political parties in our state. They picked who you can vote for. And whether you take a ballot for the Republicans or for the Democrats will be told only to the two parties - who supposedly cannot tell anyone else. (If you believe your ballot will be a secret, then you'll want to invest in the new Disney-theme-Casino currently being planned for the soon-to-be-privatized historic St. John's Seminary at Sheldon Road and M-14 in Plymouth).

The legislators - Democrats and Republican party members every one of them - voted to have taxpayers spend upwards of \$10 million to hold these primary elections for their two parties. They'll then use the voters' primary infor-

mation (that is, which party ballot you take) for future marketing purposes. Add to this outrage: the Michigan Supreme Court ruled this private marketing ploy was constitutional. (You probably won't be surprised when you recall that those Supreme justices were all nominated by these same two political parties).

This \$10 million plus primary idea comes from the same fiscally-reckless state representatives and senators who nearly shut down state government until they invented "a service tax on palm readers and balloon-o-grams" (as Thomas Lynch described it in The New York Times).

As voters, what can we do about this arrogance on the part of the parties and their lapdog legislators?

We could skip voting - as many political pundits believe will happen to the great majority of Michigan voters.

But no voting would only play further into the parties' "kingmaker" arrogance. The chair of the Michigan Democrats has issued "instructions" for voting the Democratic ballot which essentially urges voting "non committed." (He means "trust me" to pick the delegates voting for

the Presidential candidates). Doesn't this defeat the whole idea of taxpayers paying to hold his primary in the first place?

Everyone should vote. But how do we do that without jeopardizing our voters primacy?

Flip a coin. When we get to the precinct, we take out a coin and flip it in front of the election clerks. Then ask for whichever ballot the coin flip dictates and use it to vote for "the least-likely to succeed." Later in the year, we'll stat receiving campaign literature and phone calls from the party for which we voted - proving that the parties never had any intention of keeping our ballot's partisanship secret.

To further register our disgust with this public-paid debacle, we send that same coin to our state legislator. Imagine if all of us Michigan voters did that. Would the state representatives and senators then get the voters' point that we do not want to declare our partisanship any more than for whom we actually vote?

To answer that question: flip a coin!

W. Edward Wendover
retired Michigan newspaper publisher

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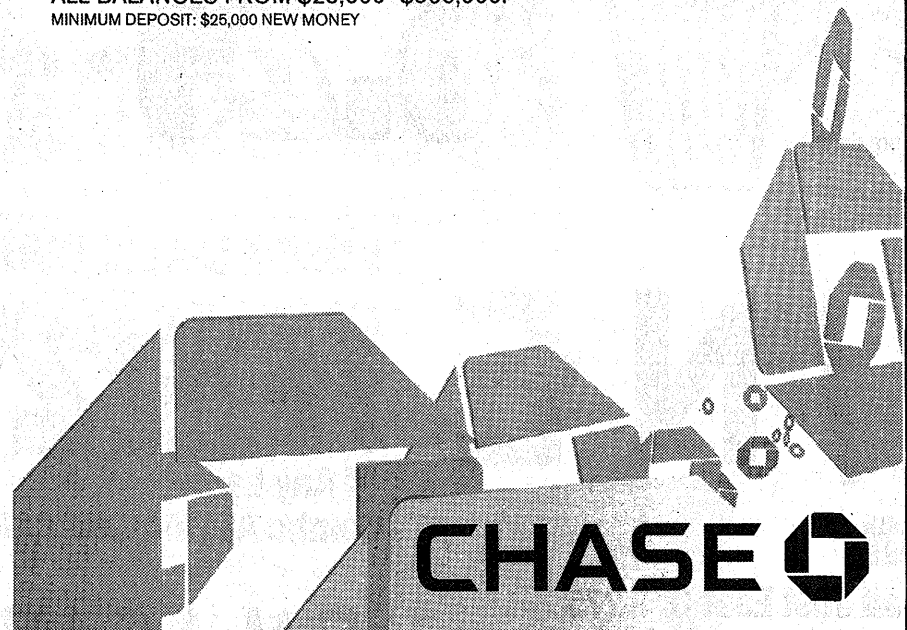
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New church builds from ground up, after division at Ward

BY ALEX LUNDBERG
STAFF WRITER

A new church is slowly building itself up, its members and pastor shaking off the past as they create their new worship community.

Fellowship Presbyterian Church, formed earlier this year, has asked Dr. James McGuire of Novi to be its first full-time pastor. He has accepted and is officiating at Sunday morning services for the church, which meets at Madonna University.

McGuire recently was the head pastor at Ward Presbyterian Church in Northville, but internal politics drove him out of that congregation, into court, and led to the new church.



McGuire

Livonia, Ward's church session (elected governing body) asked McGuire to leave and a separation agreement was worked out in June of 2006. He said the usual reasons for getting rid of a pastor (immorality, impropriety) were missing.

Both men said the issue was over church attendance and the desire of some that those numbers rise more than they had been. Engebretson said the move

to oust McGuire was one of the driving forces behind he and others leaving Ward and creating the new church.

McGuire decided to take the agreement and leave the church. By December of that year, forces within Ward Presbyterian had issued a challenge to the separation agreement, deeming it excessive. After much deliberation about what course of action to take, Engebretson said McGuire decided to seek legal recourse rather than go through Christian arbitration. Late in October, a circuit court judge told the church to make things right.

"The judge ruled that Ward had to pay everything they owed in the agreement plus interest," Engebretson

said. "They also had to pay his attorney fees, everything in a lump sum."

The sum turned out to be more than \$335,000, plus more than \$33,000 for attorney's fees. The church sent McGuire a letter apologizing for not acting "in ways that would have been more Christ-like."

"We apologize to you where our actions have caused you to feel disrespected and unloved," the letter read. "We ask you to forgive us for actions that have caused hurt, stress and anxiety to you and your family."

Ward Presbyterian Church Clerk of Session Norman Richards said transitions were always difficult and that the church wishes

McGuire the best. Beyond that, he said he would not comment on McGuire leaving the church or the court case that followed.

He's settled into his new church, but the burden of what happened hung over him for a long time.

"I was so beat up, I was not of a mind to get reinvolved with a new church," McGuire said. "I began to worship with them and it felt right. There was a good spirit, a lot of old friends and that's what I needed to heal. When the position was offered I was glad to take it."

McGuire said he's in a rare place right now as his congregation is made up of people who've decided to go a whole new way.

McGuire said anyone can

walk into an established church, but it takes people with energy and a willingness to sacrifice to start a new church from the ground up. Normally, a new church is created as an offshoot of an established congregation, this one started in basements.

"They've got a willingness to share their passions with each other and form a new church," he said. "To do that, you need to have a pioneering spirit."

Fellowship Presbyterian Church meets for regular worship at 10:30 a.m. Sundays at Kresge Hall at Madonna University. There are Sunday school classes at 9:30 a.m.

alundberg@hometownlife.com
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Local woman wins Miss India crown

Richa (Antara) Gangopadhyay, a 21-year-old senior studying dietetics and nutrition at Michigan State University, was crowned as the 2007 Miss India USA at a glittering event held at the Royal Albert's Palace in New Jersey on Dec. 28.

Gangopadhyay, a Northville resident, competed with 23 contestants from across the nation and will now represent the United States of America in the Miss India USA World contest to be held in Johannesburg, South Africa, Feb. 23.

Contestants were judged in four categories: Indian traditional wear, western gown, talent and question/answer. Gangopadhyay's confident and warm introduction during the Indian traditional wear round - "I am Richa Gangopadhyay from Michigan, a state known for its cold weather, but warm-hearted people" - won audience applause.

For the talent segment she performed a unique combina-



Richa (Antara) Gangopadhyay, daughter of Plymouth Community Arts Council executive director Paula Gangopadhyay, was crowned as the 2007 Miss India USA at a glittering event held at the Royal Albert's Palace in New Jersey.

tion of instrumental piece on the violin and a feet-tapping Bollywood dance. She composed the intricate notations of India's national song, "Vande Mataram" on the violin herself.

In the question-answer

round for the top five, her simple yet meaningful answer to the question once again touched the judges. She was asked, "What is the most significant accomplishment of your life and why?"

Gangopadhyay pointed out she started her own 'Future Links' tutoring program for at-risk kids in an urban school district (Lansing) when she mobilized more than 20 of her high school (Okemos High School) friends to tutor needy children for four consecutive years from 9th-12th grade. It was a very rewarding experience to help needy kids with education."

She is the daughter of Paula and Dr. Paul (Utpal) Gangopadhyay of Northville. Paula Gangopadhyay is currently the executive director of the Plymouth Community Arts Council but will be joining The Henry Ford this month as their new director of Education.

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PIRATES WHO DON'T DO ANYTHING: A VEGGIE TALES MOVIE (G)
11:05, 1:05, 3:05, 5:05, 7:05, 9:05
FRI/SAT LS 11:05

THE BUCKET LIST (PG-13)
12:45, 3:00, 5:15, 7:30, 9:45

JUNG (PG-13)
12:25, 2:40, 4:55, 7:10, 9:25
FRI/SAT LS 11:40

NATIONAL TREASURE: BOOK OF SECRETS (PG)
11:00, 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00

ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS (PG)
12:00, 2:15, 4:40, 6:50, 9:00
FRI/SAT LS 11:10

I AM LEGEND (PG-13)
11:25, 1:55, 4:25, 7:00, 9:30
FRI/SAT LS 12:00

ENCHANTED (PG)
11:15, 1:40, 4:00, 6:45, 9:10
FRI/SAT LS 11:35

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Sunday, January 13, 2008

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

Ed Wright, editor . (734) 953-2108 . ewright@hometownlife.com

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Plymouth vs. Canton Week

Chiefs rise to 'D' occasion against 'Cats

BY ED WRIGHT
STAFF WRITER

A few hours after he blew out the candles on his 18th birthday cake, Canton's Neil Sharma extinguished any chances Plymouth had of constructing a second-half comeback Friday night.

The senior swingman netted a game-high 20 points and 14 rebounds to lead the Chiefs to a defense-dominated 43-27 victory over the Wildcats in a game played in the Plymouth High School gymnasium.

Sharma did the majority of his damage from the free throw line, where he connected on 11-of-14 attempts.

The win snapped a three-game losing

streak for the Chiefs, who improved to 4-5 overall and 1-3 in the Western Lakes Activities Association's Western Division. The Wildcats fell to 2-7 and 1-3, respectively.

While impressed with Sharma's strong night, Canton coach Dan Colligan was most pleased with his team's effort at the defensive end of the court.

"We hadn't been playing good defense lately — we'd given up more than 60 the past couple of games," the first-year head coach said. "We made it a point in practice to play better defense and they went out

tonight and did it.

"I thought Brody Coplai did a nice job of going out and taking charge of guarding Brandon Roberts, who is one of the best guards in the league. He did a nice job of containing Brandon."

Senior guard Navraj Sandhu led the Wildcats with 15 points. Roberts was held to a season-low five.

"We were out of rhythm on a lot of our shots tonight," lamented Plymouth coach Tom Van Wagoner. "That, combined with the fact that we didn't get to the line much, hurt us."

"I thought we played well defensively. If you can't win when you give up only 43 points, it's not because you're not playing

good defense."

Canton led 7-6 after one quarter and 16-10 at the half. The Chiefs extended their advantage to 25-18 after three quarters before outscoring their hosts 18-9 over the final eight minutes.

Sharma drained six of his free throws in the fourth quarter. Canton was on fire from the line throughout the game, hitting 18-of-23 attempts. Plymouth made half of their eight freebies.

The most telling number of the night for the Wildcats was 17.8. That's the percentage of field goals the 'Cats made on 56 attempts.

ewright@hometownlife.com | (734) 953-2108

Sidelines

Mid-winter camps

High Velocity Sports will offer mid-winter break camps for boys and girls between the ages of 5 and 12 years old Feb. 11-15. The camps include soccer, all-sport, craft and basketball.

The soccer camp is offered Monday-Friday from 1-3 p.m. Coaches will focus on basic skill development. Each day will include some scrimmage time. The cost is \$125 for the week.

The all-sport camp will be offered by the day in half-day (9 a.m.-noon or 1-4 p.m.) and full-day (9 a.m. - 4 p.m.) options. The camp will feature an array of sports like soccer, flag football, basketball and dodge ball.

The cost is \$25 per day for half-day campers and \$45 per day for full-day participants.

The craft camp will also be offered by the day (9 a.m.-noon). Kids will make fun crafts to take home. The cost is \$30 per day and includes all supplies.

The basketball camp is offered Monday-Friday (10 a.m.-noon). Campers will work on shooting, dribbling, passing, defensive and offensive drills, and ball handling. Each day will include some scrimmage time. The cost is \$125 for the week.

For more information, visit www.hvsports.com or call (734) HV-SPORT.

Soccer sign-ups

Registration is open for the Canton Soccer Club recreational leagues until February 1. Registration is available online only at www.cantonsoccerclub.com.

- The available leagues are:
- U5 Kick-Start Program (born July 31, 20003 to Aug. 1, 2002);
 - U6-U8 House Program (born July 31, 2002 to Aug. 1, 1999); and
 - U9-U18 GLSL (born July 31, 1999 to Aug. 1, 1989).

The Canton Soccer Club is one of the top clubs in Michigan and hosts one of the largest tournaments in the United States. It benefits the Canton community as a training ground for skill development, self-confidence, teamwork, sportsmanship and community pride.

For more information, please visit the Web site and click on "Leagues." For more information, call (734) 480-7046 or send an e-mail to office@cantonsoccerclub.com.

Shaak-led 'Cats nip Chiefs in OT

BY ED WRIGHT
STAFF WRITER

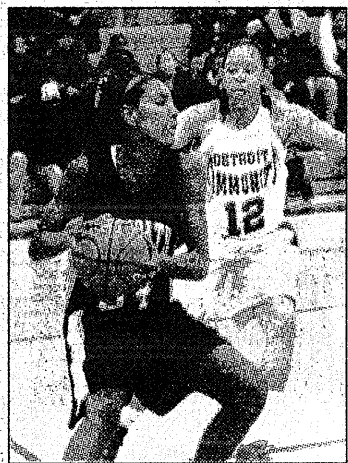
Canton's girls basketball team overcame a five-point halftime deficit, 15 turnovers and some serious foul trouble Friday night against Plymouth.

But the Chiefs couldn't withstand a late-game "Shaak" attack.

Plymouth junior forward Shaakira Haywood, who is affectionately called "Shaak" by her teammates and coaches, registered 18 points and 12 rebounds to lead the visiting Wildcats to a suspense-filled 40-39 overtime victory in the Phase III gymnasium.

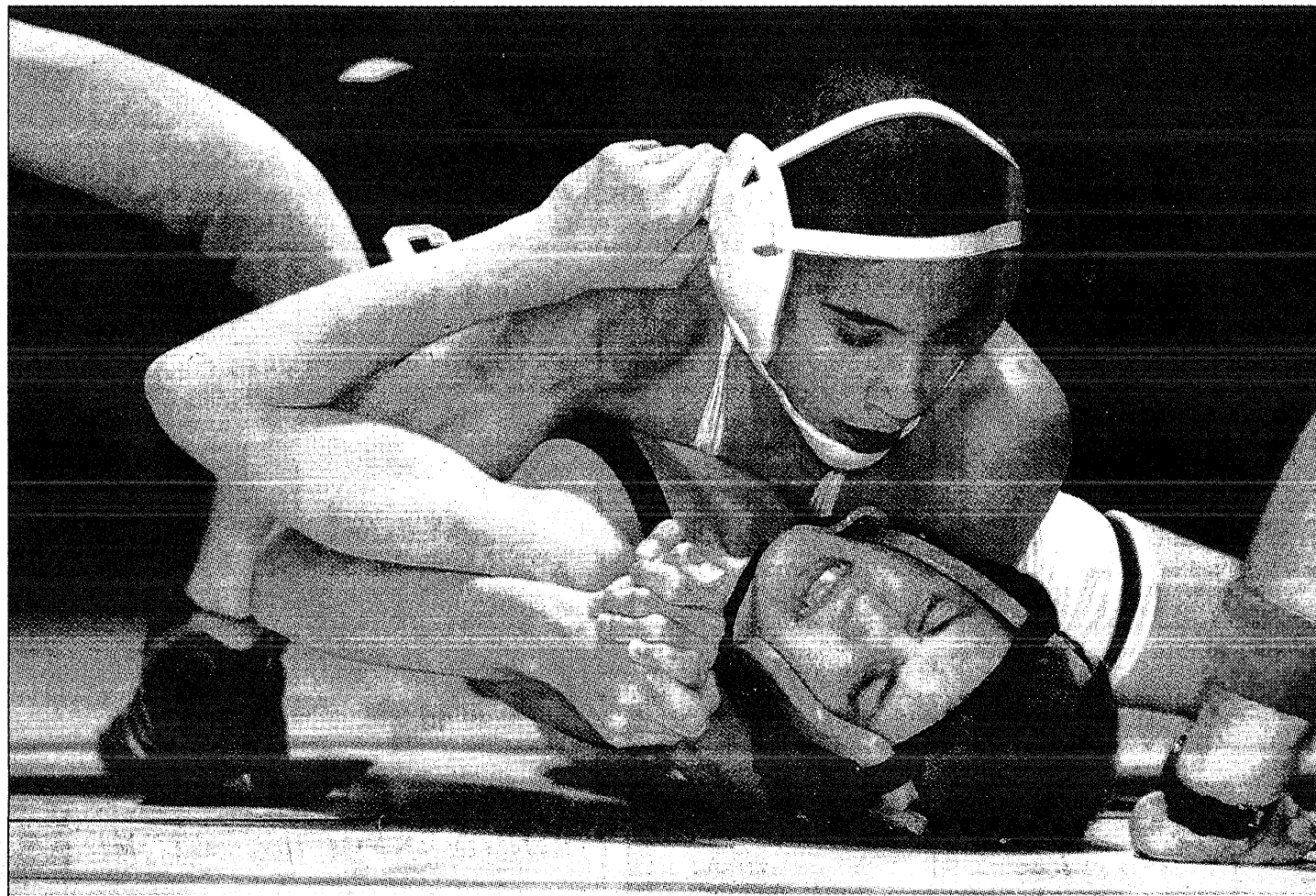
The game hung in the balance until Canton's Marie Martin stepped to the free throw line with a half second left and Plymouth leading 40-38.

Please see **WILDCATS, B2**



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Plymouth's Shaakira Haywood, pictured above in a game earlier this season, tallied 18 points and 12 rebounds in the Wildcats' 40-39 victory over Canton Friday night.



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Canton's Waleed Faraj gets the upper-hand against Plymouth's Jim Ahearn in a 103-pound match Thursday night. Faraj recorded one of 10 Chief pins in their 64-11 victory.

PIN-POINT PRECISION

Chief grapplers turn back Plymouth, 64-11

BY ED WRIGHT
STAFF WRITER

It was so loud during Canton's wrestling match against visiting Plymouth Thursday night that you couldn't hear a pin drop.

But there were plenty of pins to be seen — 10 to be exact, all by the Chiefs.

Wrestling in front of a revved up home crowd and underneath an illuminating spotlight, the Chiefs registered falls in all but two of the first dozen matches on the way to dominating their cross-campus rivals, 64-11.

Six of the pins occurred in the first period and three of them took 41 sec-

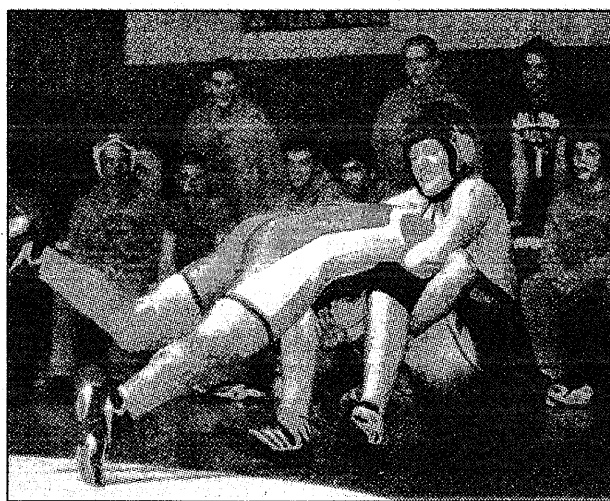
onds or less.

The Chiefs fed off their fans and each other's enthusiasm, according to Canton coach Casey Randolph.

"In an environment like this — the loud crowd, the spotlight, wrestling against our close rivals — the kids really get excited for each other," said Randolph. "It's really cool because wrestling is such a close-knit family and when you have a night like this, it's electrifying. This environment enhanced things 10-fold."

Senior Adam Powers ignited the Chiefs' pin-fest when he secured Alex

Please see **WRESTLING, B3**



Canton's Adam Powers drives Plymouth's Alex Winn off the mat during the 189-pound match Thursday night.

Whalers split with Sting, Spirit

Jamie Arniel registered a hat trick and Steve Ferry and Steven Stamkos added single goals as the Sarnia Sting defeated the Plymouth Whalers, 5-1, Friday night in an Ontario Hockey League game played before a sellout crowd of 4,839 at the Sarnia Sports and Entertainment Centre.

Sarnia is now 22-17-1-0, good for 45 points and fourth place in the OHL West; Plymouth is now 22-14-2-2, good for 48 points and third place in the OHL West.

Stamkos opened the scoring with his team-leading 31st goal of the season and fourth in three games against Plymouth at 10:54 of the first period.

Sarnia scored three unanswered goals in the second period to stretch its advantage to 4-0. Ferry scored his third goal of the season at 5:36 of the

second period with a shot from the left point. Arniel took over offensively for Sarnia from that point, deflecting Ryan Wilson's point shot on the left wing lip of the Plymouth crease at 7:52 and then tucking a hard shot from the right circle over Jeremy Smith's shoulder and under the cross bar at 15:19.

Vern Cooper scored the lone Plymouth goal at 10:56 of the third period on a Whalers power play when his shot from the right circle went five-hole through Sarnia goaltender Andrew Perugini for his ninth marker of the season.

Plymouth head coach Greg Stefan pulled Smith for the extra attacker with 2:30 remaining in regulation, but Arniel scored on the Plymouth empty net with 1:06 remaining.

Ryan Hayes made his Plymouth debut in the game and

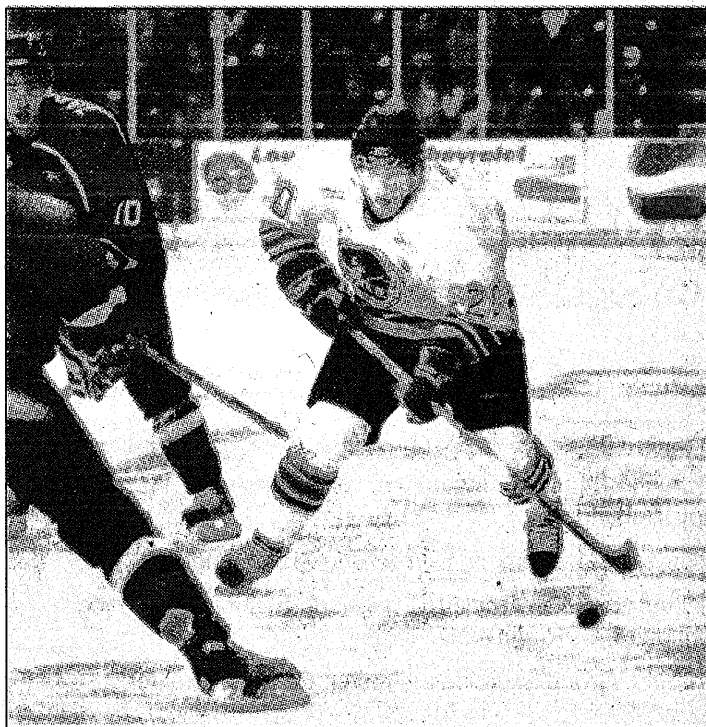
showed offensive skill as advertised. The former Boston College skater hit the goal post on a shot from the right wing late in the first period in his best scoring chance of the game.

PLYMOUTH 4, SAGINAW 2: On Wednesday in Saginaw, Chris Terry scored a pair of goals in the first period, Joe Gaynor and Kaine Geldart added single goals in the second period and Matt Hackett stopped 31-of-33 shots as the Whalers doubled-up the Spirit before a crowd of 2,718 at the Dow Event Center.

Jack Combs (28) and Ryan McDonough (25) scored second period goals for Saginaw.

Plymouth held a clear territorial edge in the first period, outshooting Saginaw 14-6. Terry gave Plymouth a 1-0 lead at 7:58 of the first period when he

Please see **WHALERS, B2**

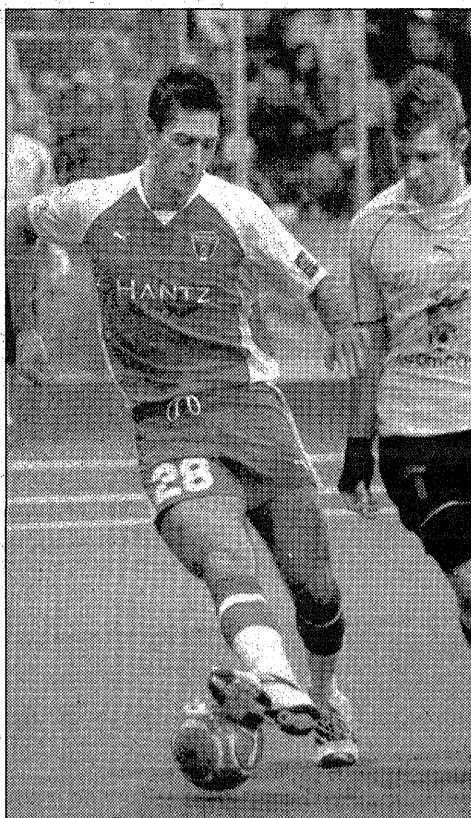


BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Plymouth Whalers forward Chris Terry, pictured in a game earlier this season, netted a pair of goals in his team's 4-2 victory over Saginaw Wednesday night. On Friday, the Whalers fell to Sarnia, 5-1.

First and foremost

Detroit's Jonathan Greenfield (left), pictured above in a game earlier this season, scored his 28th goal of the season Friday night in the Ignition's 12-4 victory over Chicago. The win kept Detroit (10-4) in a first-place deadlock with Milwaukee in the Major Indoor Soccer League. Kyt Selaidopoulos (2), Jamar Beasley (2) and Ryan Mack also found the back of the net for the winners. Danny Waltman made 15 saves to earn the win in net for the Ignition.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Davis leads Rock cagers to top of Lakes Division

BY ED WRIGHT
STAFF WRITER

A mid-season battle between Salem and Walled Lake Northern for supremacy in the WLAAs Lakes Division wasn't a battle for very long.

Sparked by an inspired team-wide defensive effort and a double-double from junior forward Chelsea Davis, the Rocks surged to a 19-5 halftime lead before locking down a 33-20 victory in a game that saw both teams start the night with 3-0 divisional records.

The triumph improved Salem's overall mark to 9-2 while the Knights slipped to 7-4.

"They only scored five points in the first half tonight, so our defense was very sound," said Salem coach Fred Thomann. "They had a little

GIRLS PREP HOOP

run in the second half, but we weathered the storm."

Northern cut its deficit to 23-15 after three quarters, but the Rocks rebounded by taking the fourth, 10-5.

Sara Stone had a strong night, posting eight points and eight rebounds. Brett deBear added five points and Victoria Brotz chipped in with four.

Salem's leading scorer Alaya Mitchell didn't score, but she did dish out four first-quarter assists.

Salem hit 6-of-8 free throws. Northern was 6-of-11 from the line.

The Rocks committed just 11 turnovers against the Knights' game-long full-court press.

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WILDCATS

FROM PAGE B1

The senior forward swished the first pressure-packed free throw, but the second rimmed out and into the hands of Plymouth's Kelsi Robinson.

While Haywood's contributions were plentiful the entire night, none exceeded the old-fashioned three-point play she executed with 40.7 seconds left.

With her team trailing 36-33, Haywood snatched teammate Alex Roberts' missed free throw and converted the shot while getting fouled by the Chiefs' best player, Baylee Hollowell. She calmly drained the free throw, which turned out to be the final pre-overtime point, to deadlock the game at 36-36.

The foul was extra-costly for Canton because it was Hollowell's fifth.

The victory was a pivotal one for Plymouth, which improved to 5-6 overall and 2-2 in the Western Lakes Activities Association's Western Division. The Chiefs fell to 3-8 and 1-3, respectively.

"Shaak did a great job of staying active the entire game tonight," said Plymouth coach Richelle Reilly. "We knew she had a quickness advantage on Baylee, but not necessarily a strength advantage."

"She did a nice job of staying active on the boards from the opening tip until she fouled out at the end. And that basket and free throw she made at the end of regulation were huge."

Canton coach Brian Samulski praised his team's effort.

"I feel bad for the kids — they worked their tails off," said Samulski. "It just came down to we needed to get one more loose ball, one more box out on a rebound or make one more shot."

"I was proud of the way the kids stepped up and hung in there during the overtime after Baylee fouled out. We competed right down to the end."

Troi Davis had a productive night from the perimeter for the Wildcats as she tallied 10 points. Two of her three-point baskets were launched from NBA range.

Roberts netted just three points, but she skied for nine

rebounds, three on the offensive end.

Sophomore guard Kaylie Martin paced the Chiefs with 14 points and five rebounds.

Despite finding net on every shot she attempted, Hollowell was held to a season-low eight points, although she did pull down a team-high 12 boards.

"We knew we had to limit Baylee's touches because she's such a skilled player when she gets the ball inside," said Reilly. "Shaak did a good job of limiting Baylee's offensive rebounds as well as keeping the ball out of her hands."

Marie Martin and Plymouth's Stacey Klonowski both added five points and five rebounds for their respective teams.

Plymouth led 18-13 at the half, but Canton fought back to cut its deficit to 25-23 after three quarters.

The Chiefs' biggest lead of the night came with 2:55 left in regulation when Hollowell's inside bank shot made it 35-30.

Klonowski made one free throw with 1:55 to go and Robinson converted a layup following a steal to bring the 'Cats to within 35-33 with 1:05 on the clock.

Canton's Leslie Weisz nailed 1-of-2 free throws with 58 ticks to go to make it 36-33, but Haywood followed with her three-point play 19 seconds later to tie it up.

Canton freshman Kayla Bridges' 12-foot jumper to win it at the buzzer was blocked by Haywood.

A Kaylie Martin jumper gave Canton a 38-36 advantage 15 seconds into the OT, but Plymouth regained the lead, 40-38, thanks to four free throws from three different players.

Klonowski rebounded a Weisz miss with 3.5 seconds left, but she stepped out of bounds, giving the Chiefs one more chance.

Following a time out, Kaylie Martin was short on a jumper, but Marie Martin rebounded it and was fouled on the putback.

The Wildcats hit 13-of-49 shots from the field (26.5 percent) and 10-of-27 free throws (37.0). The Chiefs were 16-of-55 from the floor (29.0) and 7-of-11 (63.6) from the charity stripe.

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WHALERS

FROM PAGE B1

accepted Joe McCann's pass from the right wing and beat Spirit goaltender Ryan Daniels with a one-timer from the left circle at 7:58. Terry scored his second of the night and team-leading 28th of the year at

13:31 when he banked a shot from the right goal line off a Saginaw defender's skate and past Daniels.

Saginaw picked up their play perceptibly in the second period, but the Whalers took a 3-0 lead at 9:17 of the period on good work by the line of McCann, Gaynor and Brett Valliquette when they kept the

play alive deep in the Saginaw zone and Gaynor banked a shot from the left boards off Daniels for his third goal of the season. Saginaw cut into the Plymouth lead when Combs scored on a penalty shot at 10:45 and McDonough deflected Nick Crawford's point shot at 12:36.

But the Whalers came right

back to re-establish a two-goal lead at 4-2 on a power play at 13:11 when Geldart tipped A.J. Jenks' shot from the right circle past Daniels for his eighth goal of the season.

The third period was scoreless. Saginaw outshot Plymouth, 33-30.

Hackett won his third game over the last seven days.



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PURSUANT TO 15 USC §1692 YOU ARE HEREBY INFORMED THAT THIS IS AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT A DEBT AND THAT ANY INFORMATION THAT YOU PROVIDE MAY BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. MORTGAGE SALE - Default has been made in the condition of a mortgage made by Miguel Roldan and Lisa L. Roldan Husband and Wife to BENEFICIAL MICHIGAN INC by a mortgage dated February 13, 2007 and recorded on February 16, 2007 in Liber 45991 on Page 338-343, Wayne County Records Michigan on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of One Hundred Twenty-Four Thousand Five Hundred Eighty-Four and 13/100 Dollars (\$124,584.13) including interest at 8.97% per annum. Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public vendue, immediately inside the Southerly or Jefferson Avenue Entrance to the Coleman A. Young Municipal Center in the City of Detroit, Wayne County Michigan at 1:00 pm. on February 7, 2008. Said premises are situated in the City of Melvindale, County of Wayne State of Michigan, and are described as: Lot 316, Kaiers Fort Boulevard Subdivision, as recorded in Liber 42, Page 92 of plats, Wayne County Records. The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with 1948CL 600.3241 a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale. Dated: December 27, 2007 Michael M. Grand, Esq. GRAND & GRAND PLLC 31731 Northwestern Hwy., #151 Farmington Hills, MI 48334 (248) 538-3737 72082 ASAP# 961673 01/06/2008, 01/13/2008, 01/20/2008, 01/27/2008

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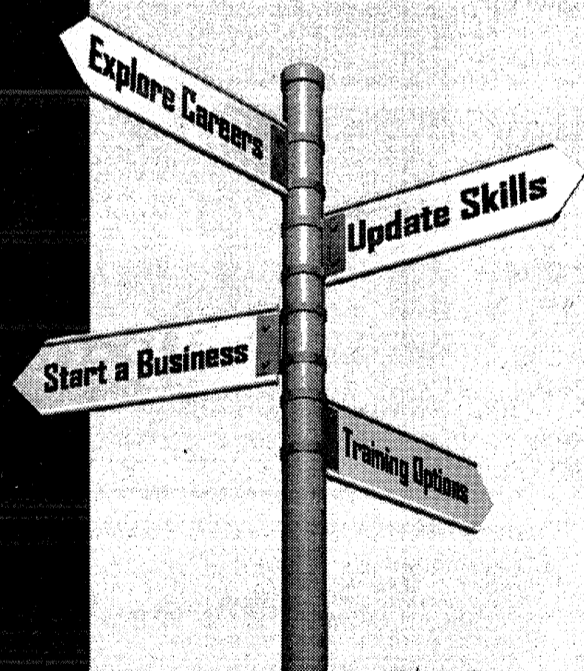
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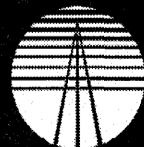
5:30-7:30 p.m.

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- Physical Fitness Careers: Group Exercise Instructor, Personal Trainer
- Corporate Training

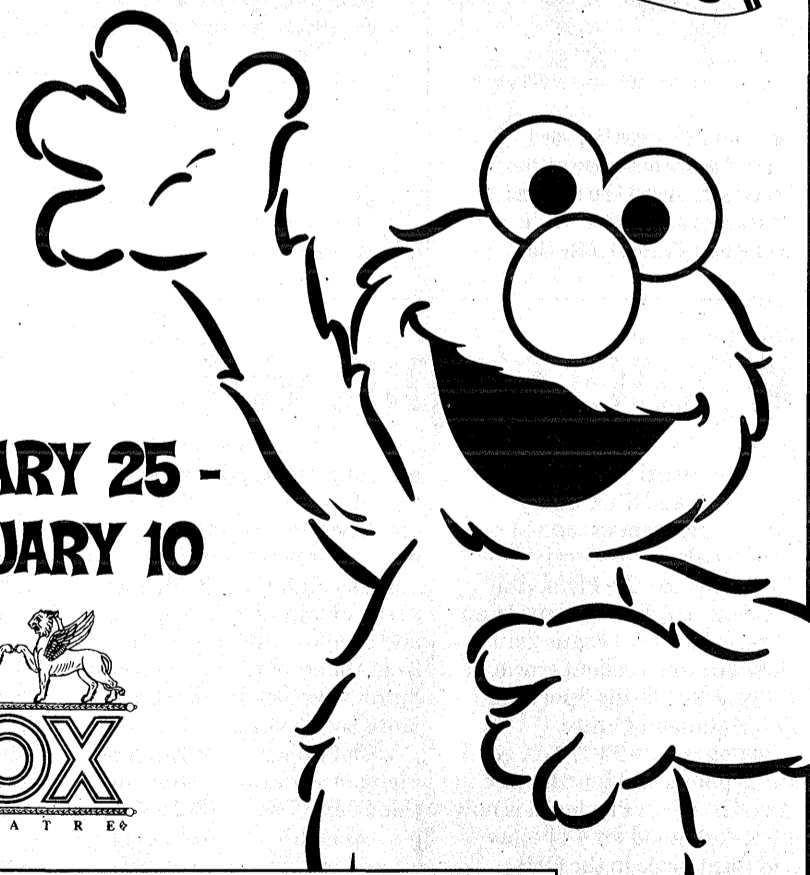
Light refreshments will be served.



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WRESTLING

FROM PAGE B1

Winn's shoulder blades to the mat 2:16 into the match-opening 189-pound contest.

The Wildcats sliced their deficit to 6-3 when senior Vince Darolfi decisioned sophomore Tyler Bourcier 7-4 in a hard-fought 215-pound showdown.

"Darolfi's their best wrestler, so even though Tyler didn't win, at the same time he didn't allow them to get a lot of momentum back," said Randolph. "Tyler's a scrapper and he gives people fits. He needs a little refining, but he's going to be very good. He did exactly what we were looking for from him tonight."

The Chiefs put the match away by pinning their next five opponents on the heels of Darolfi's win.

Heavyweight Dan Wanshon, who normally wrestles at 215, sparked the avalanche with a 38-second pin of Anthony Pomerson to make it 12-3.

Waleed Faraj (103), Connor Johnson (112), Carl Lucke (119) and Donnie Watkins (125) followed in Wanshon's footsteps with falls of their own.

"I thought Connor Johnson's win at 112 was a big one," said Randolph. "He's really starting to come into his own and gain confidence in what he's doing."

Plymouth's Dylan Spicher momentarily stopped the onslaught with a convincing 18-2 technical fall triumph over Mitch Wolski at 130, however, the Chiefs swept the next four on pins from Steve Cox (135), Brent Winekoff (140), Anthony Abro (145) and Keith Zech (152) to pad their lead to 60-8.

Cox's triumph was the 100th in his illustrious high school career.

Plymouth's Vince Rizzo earned an exciting 11-8 win over Mitch Kuchenberg at 160 before Rodger Kropp capped the night with an 16-7 victory over Derek Davy at 171.

CANTON 64 PLYMOUTH 11
Thursday at Canton
189 pounds: Adam Powers (C) pinned Alex Winn in 3:16.
215: Vince Darolfi (P) decisioned Tyler Bourcier, 7-4.
285: Dan Wanshon (C) pinned Anthony Pomerson in 38 seconds.
103: Waleed Faraj (C) pinned James Ahearn in 1:05.
112: Connor Johnson (C) pinned Brett Echols in 30 seconds.
119: Carl Lucke (C) pinned Nick Rizzo in 1:13.
125: Donnie Watkins (C) pinned Steve D'Annunzio in 2:45.
130: Dylan Spicher (P) won by technical fall over Mitch Wolski, 18-2.
135: Steve Cox (C) pinned Anthony Favot in 1:22.
140: Brent Winekoff (C) pinned Brandon Crowther in 3:00.
145: Anthony Abro (C) pinned Alex Saunders in 41 seconds.
152: Keith Zech (C) pinned Robert Barackman in 5:12.
160: Vince Rizzo (P) dec. Mitch Kuchenberg, 11-8.
171: Rodger Kropp (C) won by major decision over Derek Davy, 16-7.

Salem swimmers rock Western

If Thursday night's meet at Walled Lake Western is any indication, 2008 is going to be a splash for the Salem boys swimming and diving team.

The Rocks dominated the host Warriors, 118-65, by placing first in eight of the 12 events.

A trio of Rocks — Adam Seroka, Sida Chen and Nathan Spala — each won a pair of individual races while also contributing to Salem's victory in the meet-capping 400-yard freestyle relay.

Seroka touched first in the 200 freestyle (1:51.34) and 500 freestyle (4:59.20); Chen captured the 200 IM (2:15.64) and 100 butterfly (1:00.49) while Spala took gold in the 100 freestyle (54.45) and 100 breaststroke (1:09.16).

Salem other individual winner was diver Kevin Smith, who won the 1-meter event with 188.80 points.

SALEM 118 W.L. WESTERN 65
THURSDAY AT WESTERN
200-yard medley relay: 1. Western (Andrew Garcia, Jason Sherbel, Rizzart Stafa, Zack Rashid), 1:53.44; 2. Salem (Matt Collingwood, Nathan Spala, Sida Chen, Kevin Smith), 1:53.76; 3. Salem (Nick Hoffmeyer, Kory Dondzalla, Cameron Dunn, Paul Cherewick), 1:59.67.
200 freestyle: 1. Adam Seroka (S), 1:51.34; 2. Max Mills (S), 2:06.69; 3. Josh Wood (W), 2:07.18.
200 IM: 1. Sida Chen (S), 2:15.64; 2. Rizzart Stafa (W), 2:22.37; 3. Joe DeFassanyi (S), 2:23.03.
50 freestyle: 1. Jason Sherbel (W), 24.10; 2. Casey Olson (S), 25.34; 3. Paul Cherewick (S), 26.35.
1-meter diving: 1. Kevin Smith (S), 188.80 points; 2. Scott Klein (W), 146.50; 3. Paul Krutty (S), 117.
100 butterfly: 1. Sida Chen (S), 1:00.49; 2. Rizzart Stafa (W), 1:04.31; 3. Cameron Dunn (S), 1:06.56.
100 freestyle: 1. Nathan Spala (S), 54.45; 2. Joe DeFassanyi (S), 56.87; 3. Nick Hoffmeyer (S), 56.94.
500 freestyle: 1. Adam Seroka (S), 4:59.20; 2. Max Mills (S), 5:41.56; 3. Josh Wood (W), 5:43.04.
200 freestyle relay: 1. Western (Jason Sherbel, Zack Rashid, Josh Wood, Danny Ware), 1:43.88; 2. Salem (Cameron Dunn, Casey Olson, Joe DeFassanyi, Kevin Smith), 1:45.03; 3. Salem (Chad Newton, Paul Cherewick, Tom Patterson, Daniel Kuang), 1:50.75.
100 backstroke: 1. Andrew Garcia (W), 1:05.14; 2. Nick Hoffmeyer (S), 1:06.25; 3. Matt Collingwood (S), 1:07.97.
100 breaststroke: 1. Nathan Spala (S), 1:09.16; 2. Jason Sherbel (W), 1:10.96; 3. Eric Schendel (S), 1:14.91.
400 freestyle relay: 1. Salem (Adam Seroka, Sida Chen, Matt Collingwood, Nathan Spala), 3:39.17; 2. Western (Rizzart Stafa, Josh Wood, Danny Ware, Andrew Garcia), 3:59.32; 3. Salem (Joe DeFassanyi, Max Mills, Troy Kerchen, Nick Hoffmeyer), 4:02.78.



Stingrays are No. 1

The '98 Plymouth Stingrays Squirt A travel hockey team placed first in the Metro Detroit Regional Silver Sticks tournament Dec. 7-9 by skating to a 5-0 record against many of the top teams in the state. The performance earned the Stingrays a berth in the International Silver Sticks tournament in Toronto later this month. The top-seeded Stingrays defeated the No. 2-seeded Allen Park Huskies, 2-1, in the title game. Pictured (front row from left) are Trevor McManus, Kevin Onofrio, (second row from left) Riley Brass, Bailey Thompson, Nick Beers, Anthony Solack, Cody Burke, (third row from left) Keeghan Howdeshell, Ryan Radwan, Carson Pakula, Brendan Guziak, Evan Newell, William Borrows, David Kiers, (fourth row from left) C.J. Regula, Chase Danol, (back row from left) Robby Reilly, Steve Borke, Dave Brass, Russ Borrows and Ray Danol.

Posler's double-double leads Rock cagers over Knights

BY ED WRIGHT
STAFF WRITER

Throughout the 2007-08 season Salem boys basketball coach Bob Brodie has been looking for a third scorer to complement his 1-2 punch of Grant Stone and Ross Davis.

He finally found it Friday night at Walled Lake Northern. Junior forward Joe Posler exploded for 17 points and 12 rebounds to lead the Rocks to a much-needed 57-38 victory over the Knights.

The win broke a two-game Salem losing streak and lifted the Rocks' record to 3-6 overall and 1-3 in the Western Lakes Activities Association's Lakes Division. The Knights fell to 0-9 and 0-4, respectively.

"The thing I was most impressed with was that even though Joe ran the middle of our offense against their pressure all night, he didn't have one turnover," said Brodie. "He did a great job of taking care of the ball and scoring when he had the opportunities."

Davis sparked, too, netting 12 points and a Ben Wallace-like 17 rebounds.

"Ross was a fanatic on the boards tonight," said Brodie. Stone was held to nine points, but he did an outstanding job of distributing the ball against Northern's game-long full-court pressure, Brodie stressed.

"Grant did a nice job of giving the ball up when he had to tonight," said Brodie. "Overall, I

was very happy with our offensive balance.

"Our bench played much better tonight, too. We didn't lose anything when we put the bench guys in tonight."

Brodie said he could live with his team's 30 turnovers.

"It doesn't bother me because they Northern was pressing full-court the entire game," said Brodie. "You're going to get that because there are going to be a lot of deflections and there are naturally more possessions. We turned it over 29 times against Churchill last week and they were only pressing for a half. That's when it bothers me."

Salem led 19-7 after one quarter and was never threatened thereafter pulling away to a 30-19 halftime lead and 43-26 lead after three quarters.

CANTON AGAPE 53, FRANKLIN ROAD 37: On Friday at Agape, the Wolverines were led by Ty Majeski's 17-point night. Joel Ruffin also sparked for the winners, contributing 13 points and 10 boards, while Terrell Pierce added 13 points.

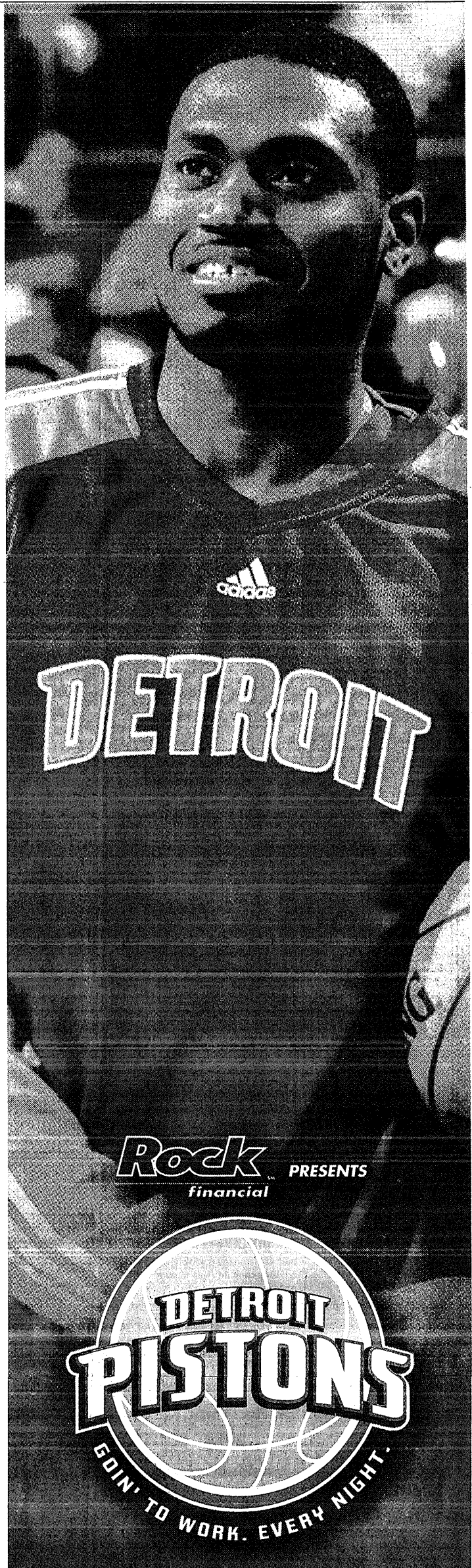
Dave Mansfield led Franklin Road with 13 points.

Agape led 11-6 after one quarter, 23-19 at the half and 38-31 with eight minutes to go. The Wolverines put the win on ice by outscoring Franklin Road 15-6 in the fourth.

The victory improved Agape to 4-4 overall and 2-0 in the Michigan Independent Athletic Conference. Franklin Road dropped to 4-3 and 11, respectively.

THE WEEK AHEAD

BOYS BASKETBALL
Tuesday, Jan. 15
Agape at Huron Valley Lutheran, 7 p.m.
PCA at Oakland Christian, 7 p.m.
Livonia Stevenson at Salem, 7 p.m.
Wayne Memorial at Plymouth, 7 p.m.
W.L. Western at Canton, 7 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 18
John Glenn at Salem, 7 p.m.
Plymouth at Livonia Franklin, 7 p.m.
Northville at Canton, 7 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 19
Agape at Baptist Park, 2:30 p.m.
PCA at Parkway Christian, 8:30 p.m.
GIRLS BASKETBALL
Monday, Jan. 14
Agape at Redford Covenant, 6 p.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 15
Oakland Christian at PCA, 7 p.m.
Salem at Livonia Stevenson, 7 p.m.
Plymouth at Wayne Memorial, 7 p.m.
Canton at W.L. Western, 7 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 18
Agape at Baptist Park, 7 p.m.
PCA at Parkway Christian, 7 p.m.
Salem at John Glenn, 7 p.m.
Livonia Franklin at Plymouth, 7 p.m.
Canton at Northville, 7 p.m.
PREP HOCKEY
Tuesday, Jan. 15
W.L. Northern at Salem at Plymouth Cultural Center, 7:30 p.m.
Livonia Churchill at Plymouth at Compuware Arena, 5:30 p.m.
Wednesday, Jan. 16
Canton at Livonia Franklin at Edgar Arena, 8 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 18
Livonia Churchill at Salem at Plymouth Cultural Center, 8:30 p.m.
Riverview Richard at Canton at Arctic Edge, 8 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 19
Plymouth at Northville at Novi Ice Arena, 6 p.m.
PREP WRESTLING
Thursday, Jan. 17
W.L. Central at Salem, 6:30 p.m.
Plymouth at Livonia Franklin, 6:30 p.m.
Canton at W.L. Western, 6:30 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 19
Salem at Williamston Invite, 8:30 a.m.
BOYS SWIMMING & DIVING
Thursday, Jan. 17
Salem at Livonia Stevenson, 7 p.m.
Wayne Memorial at Plymouth at Canton, 7 p.m.
Canton at Northville, 7 p.m.
GYMNASTICS
Wednesday, Jan. 16
Saline at Salem at Plymouth H.S., 7 p.m.
Thursday, Jan. 17
Northville at Canton at Plymouth H.S., 7 p.m.
Plymouth at Brighton, 7 p.m.



JANUARY GAMES AT THE PALACE

LADIES' NIGHT OUT

2 Tickets, 2 Passes to a Pistons Player
Autograph Signing, 2 Pistons Martini Glasses
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vs. RAPTORS

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• Rip Hamilton Poster to first 10,000 fans courtesy of Belle Tire

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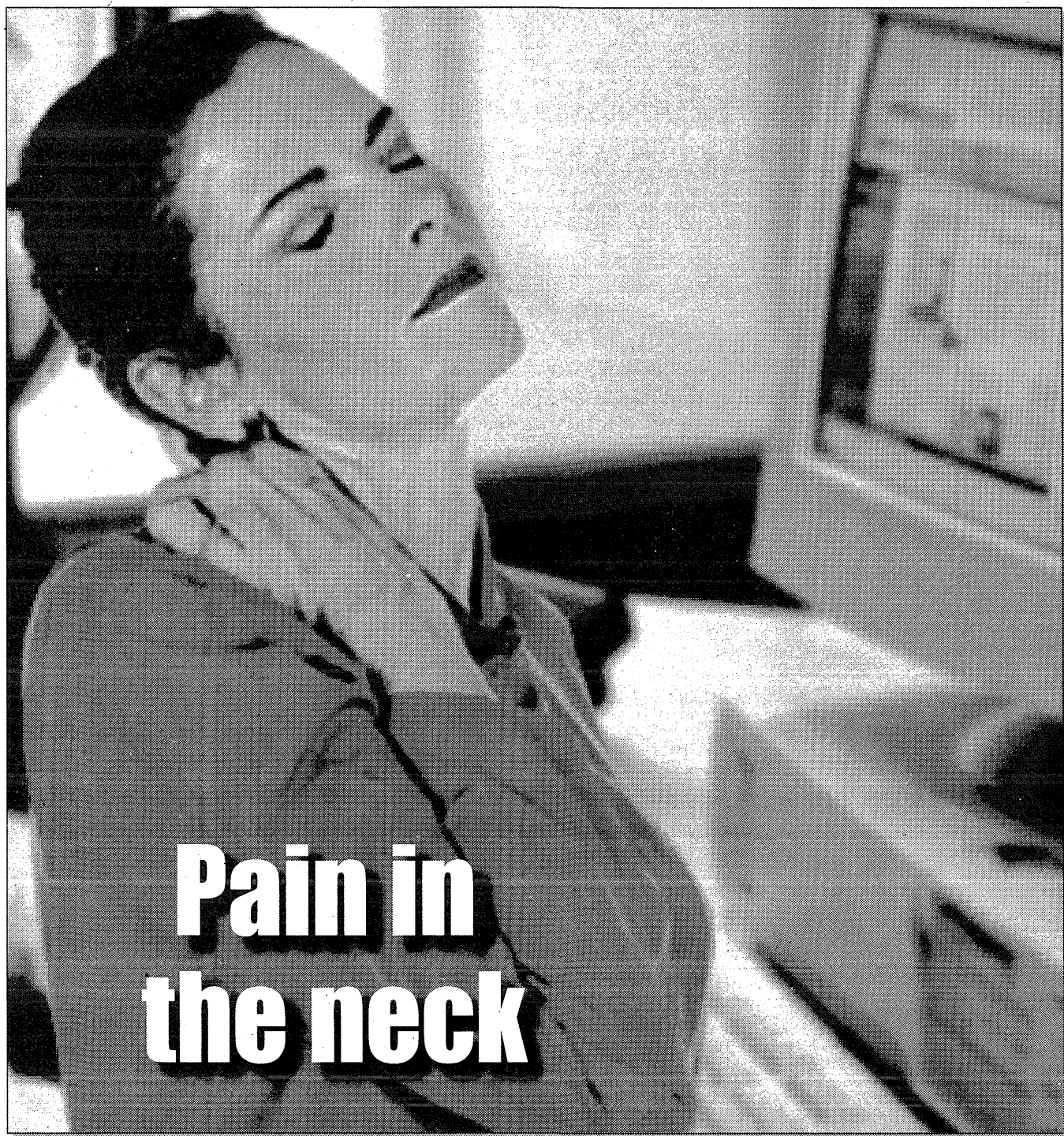
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Pain in the neck

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
 STAFF WRITER

Find relief online for computer-related pain

Rob Tworek started thinking about a way to help people in offices everywhere after more and more of his physical therapy patients were mentioning the stiffness in their necks and backs from working at a computer.

First came the e-book, *How To Avoid That Pain in the Neck at the Office*, and shortly after the Web site which offers exercises to do while at the keyboard (www.officecoachplus.com).

So far, Tworek's had visitors from more than 60 countries.

The *Pain in the Neck* e-book and Web site provide streaming video of a model performing exercises to relieve the discomfort but warns users to seek medical attention when there is severe, continuous neck pain lasting a week or more; pain, numbness and tingling that radiates to the arms or legs, and muscle weakness.

"I gave them exercises when you can't get away from your computer. They want relief now," said Tworek, a physical therapist for St. John Providence Health System and Heartland Rehabilitation. "The problem is when you start getting discomfort you need to break up that activity."

"At a computer you want people moving around, getting up and down out of their chair, but it's usually a static position. Even if you use the best posture over time those muscles will have a tendency to fatigue. It's advisable every hour to

21-DAY EXERCISE WORKSHOP

What: Physical therapist Rob Tworek leads a one-hour session featuring exercises and a discussion about starting and maintaining a program
When: 1 p.m. Saturdays, Jan. 26, at the Livonia Recreation Center, 15100 Hubbard; Feb. 9, at Costick Activities Center, 28600 11 Mile, Farmington Hills; and Feb. 23, at the Ford Community & Performing Arts Center, 15801 Michigan Ave., Dearborn
Cost: \$25 in advance, \$29 at the door. To pre-register, call (313) 244-8048 or send e-mail to 21dejs@officecoachplus.com.



Rob Tworek hopes his Web site helps people around the world relieve the neck and pain discomfort caused by working at a computer for extended periods.

take a break, to get up and do movement. As soon as you enter the Web site you're prompted to get moving."

The Web site and e-book offer simple movements to prevent neck or low back injury before medical treatment is required.

"I wanted to make it convenient for people," said Tworek of Livonia. "The Web site is set up as a resource. They can go to the stretch pages follow these along and work out the stiffness."

Lisse Egler first tried the exercises after a physi-

cal therapist friend told her about the Web site. A mechanical engineer in the automotive industry, the South Lyon resident uses the movements whenever her muscles feel tight.

"On the Web site there's lots of stretching that I wouldn't have known to do before," said Egler. "I like the exercises because they can be done at work at your desk. I like that they have a little video with Liz (the model). That helps me a lot. It's good to have that visual."

After initially doing the suggested movements, Egler

progressed to Tworek's Three Day Exercise Jump Start. The program helps prevent and reduce neck and low back pain caused by extended periods of time at a computer. All that's needed is a stationary chair and two optional weights (one for each hand), either books, bottled waters or hand weights.

"It helped me get back into moving on a regular basis," said Egler. "I felt comfortable, I wouldn't be overstraining myself or my heart."

Tworek is expanding the exercise jump start to 21 days in time for people to start moving on a regular basis in the new year.

The program is intended for anyone who spends most of their workday at a computer or simply wants to exercise. The American Physical Therapy Association, American Heart Association and the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention recommend 30 minutes of activity five days per week.

"It's a 30-minute workout for 21 days straight and by then you have established a habit of exercising," said Tworek, who is giving one-hour workshops on the new program beginning in late January and early February at the Livonia Recreation Center and Costick Activities Center in Farmington Hills.

"Once they build the habit they want to keep on going with it. It allows them staying power at the computer."

lchomin@hometownlife.com
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MEDICAL DATEBOOK

JANUARY

Health classes

Heartsaver AED 6-9 p.m. Jan. 14, Feb. 11, at Mission Health Medical Center, 37595 Seven Mile, Livonia. Cost is \$55. This is a course for non-health care providers and/or individuals who need to learn basic CPR and AED for non-health care work requirements. Call (888) 440-7325 to register or for information or visit www.stjohn.org.

CPR Family and Friends: for Infants-Part 1 is scheduled 6-7:30 p.m. Feb. 14 (\$25), for non-health care providers ages 12 and older who want to learn basic CPR and foreign body removal (choking) techniques for infants. CPR Family and Friends for Adults/Children-Part 2, 7:45-9:15 p.m. Feb. 14 (\$25), for non-health care providers ages 12 and older.

Baby Care Basics. Call for schedule of classes. Cost is \$20 per couple. This class provides practical information about bathing, feeding, safety, health care and more. New this year, a baby doctor, will be joining the baby care class to give you more information about your infant and infant/baby care.

Lung cancer workshop

Deadline to register is Friday, Jan. 18 for the American Lung Association of Michigan workshop 2-4 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 23, at Weisburg Cancer Center, 31995 Northwestern, Farmington Hills. No charge. To register, call (248) 784-2000. The newly updated workshop will be presented by Dr. Antoinette Wozniak of the Karmanos Cancer Institute and includes information on current lung cancer treatments, strategies for symptom/side effect management and tools for survivorship. Lung cancer patients, friends and family members are welcome to learn how to build a more proactive relationship with their health care team. Free booklets about lung cancer treatment and care will be provided.

Fibromyalgia lecture 7-9 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 22, at the Farmington Community Library, 32737 W. 12 Mile, Farmington Hills. Please RSVP if you will be attending a few days before the lecture to smo23915@aol.com or call (248) 344-0896. Admission is \$5 to help pay for cost of room. April Vallarand, Ph.D. from Wayne State University School of nursing, will speak on medications for chronic pain/Fibromyalgia including the newest medications available for Fibromyalgia. This will be an opportunity to ask your questions on the medications you may be on or thinking of asking your physician to prescribe.

Grand opening

St. Mary Mercy Hospital physician, Nabil Suliman, is opening Premier Medicine by offering free cholesterol, blood sugar, and blood pressure checks, refreshments, giveaways and a chance to meet the staff noon to 2 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 22, at 5958 Canton Center Rd., Suite 200, north of Ford Rd., Canton. Premier Medicine is a primary care provider that also offers urgent care services. The physicians are also available to make homebound visits for those unable to reach their office. For information, call (734) 454-5454 or visit www.premiermedicine.com.

Divorce support group

Legal aspects of divorce 7-9 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 22, with Laura Reyes Kopack, attorney with Brashear, Tangora law firm. Kopack presents an overview of the process of divorce including information on property settlements, custody, child support, visitation, spousal support, etc., in the Women's Resource Center (Room 225) of the McDowell Center, Schoolcraft College, 18600 Haggerty, Livonia. Call (734) 462-4443.

Thyroid cancer support

The support group is free and open to all thyroid cancer patients and survivors as well as their family members and friends, and meets monthly. The next group takes place 7-8:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 23, at 1641 Charlevoix Drive, Troy, MI 48065. For more information, call Gwynne at (248) 740-9759. This support group is a local chapter of a National non-profit organization http://www.thyca.org.

Organic foods workshop

The difference between organic and conventional foods with Dr. William Karl, D.C. 7 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 23, at the Livonia Civic Center Library, 32777 Five Mile. To reserve a seat, call (734) 425-8588.

Joint replacement seminars

To educate the community about joint replacement options Thursday, Jan. 24, at the Center for Joint Replacement at St. Mary Mercy Hospital, 36475 Five Mile at Levan, Livonia. No charge. To register or for information, call (734) 655-2400.

Sharing & Caring

Reducing cancer risk one meal at a time with registered dietician Betty Boscarino, 7-9 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 24, in Classroom 3-4, Area D on the ground floor at Beaumont Troy. Sharing & Caring offers education and support programs for breast cancer survivors.

All are welcome. For more information, call (248) 551-8586. For possible schedule changes, call (248) 551-8588 prior to meeting.

Think trim classes

Give up dieting and find out why willpower or deprivation never work. Instead, change your thinking about food and learn how to develop a healthy approach to eating and exercise. You won't have to give up the foods you love and you will acquire skills to be trim and healthy for a lifetime. Classes take place 7-9 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 24, at Macomb Community College, 44575 Garfield, Clinton Township (\$29); 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, Jan. 26 and 7-9 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 6, at Madonna University, 36600 Schoolcraft, Livonia (\$27), and 7-9 p.m. Wednesday, March 5, at The Community House, 380 S. Bates, Birmingham (\$24). Presented by Lorraine Stefano, A.C.S.W. For details, call (248) 828-7333 or visit thinktrim.com.

Free yoga classes

Astarte Yoga is offering free weekend classes in honor of Yoga Awareness Day (Jan. 26), at Astarte Yoga, 21894 Farmington Rd., Farmington. For information, call (248) 427-0550. The sessions take place 9:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. Friday, Jan. 25 (Level 1-2); 8:45 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 26 (Level 1); 10 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 26 (Gentle); 11:30 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 26 (Level 2), and 2 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 27 (Level 1).

Medical research is now confirming what those who practice yoga have been reporting for decades. Studies have demonstrated that practicing yoga postures (asanas), meditation or a combination of both reduced pain for those with cancer, multiple sclerosis, autoimmune diseases and chronic conditions such as hypertension, arthritis, asthma, and carpal tunnel syndrome among others.

Hospice benefit

Internationally renowned and award winning photographer Linda Solomon will be a special guest at A Grand Night for Hospice XX, a black tie extravaganza with an Enchanted Evening theme, Saturday, Jan. 26, at The Ritz-Carlton, Dearborn. The annual event hosted by The Women's Committee for Hospice Care (WHC), a nonprofit organization that raises money and grants funds for nonprofit hospices in Macomb, Oakland and Wayne counties. Tickets \$300 patron, \$500 benefactor. For information, call (248) 680-7150, or visit www.wchcinc.org. For information about corporate ticket rates and tables, call Susan Kiltie at (248) 359-1167.

SAD forum

Depression: Seasons and Reasons, a closer look at Seasonal Affective Disorder 7-8:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 29, at the Plymouth District Library, 223 S. Main. No charge. To register, call (734) 453-0750, Ext. 4, or online at plymouthlibrary.org. The program is a joint effort with the University of Michigan Comprehensive Depression Center and features an overview of the latest SAD research with Dr. Melvin McGinnis, a psychiatrist and professor of bipolar disorder and depression at the U-M center. His presentation will be followed by a panel discussion with Dr. J. Todd Arndt, director of the U-M Behavioral Sleep Medicine Program, and Dr. Neera Ghaziuddin, assistant professor of psychiatry.

Workshop series

Teens Using Drugs: What To Know and What To Do, an ongoing series, will be presented by Ronald Harrison, SW, in the St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Education Center, Classroom EC4, 5305 Elliott Drive, Ypsilanti.

Part One: What To Know, runs 7:30-9 p.m. Tuesdays, Feb. 5 and March 4, and provides information on understanding and recognizing teen substance abuse problems. Part One is repeated every first Tuesday of each month, from October through June. Part Two: What To Do, will be presented 7:30-9 p.m. Tuesdays, Jan. 15 and Feb. 12, and provides information on what should and should not be done when a teen substance abuse problem is suspected or identified, and will include a recovering teen speaker. Part Two is repeated every second Tuesday of each month, from October through June each year. The workshops are free and open to the public. Parents, other family members, teens, and people who work with teens are all welcome. Free literature about alcohol/other drugs and teens is provided. For more information, call (734) 973-7892, send e-mail to jessa@med.umich.edu or visit www.teensusingdrugs. There will be a special presentation of this two-part series in Howell on Wednesday March 19, (part 1) and Wednesday March 19, (part 2), 7:30-9 p.m. at Saint Joseph Mercy Livingston Hospital, 620 Byron Road, Howell. Registration is requested but not required for these presentations only; For information, visit Web site or call (517) 545-6213.

Hospital seeking patients for study to regrow lung tissue

Henry Ford Hospital is seeking patients for a new treatment option that shows promise for regrowing lung tissue in emphysema patients.

Emphysema is a debilitating lung disease caused in large part by years of smoking.

It is the fourth leading cause of death in the U.S. Patients suffer from shortness of breath, coughing and limited exertion because their lungs are less elastic, cutting off oxygen to the bloodstream.

Several treatment options exist to relieve and prevent complications including lung

volume reduction surgery and transplantation.

"This is the first emphysema study that will use computed tomography (CT) scans as well as standard lung function tests to measure participants' lung function," said Paul Kvale, a Henry Ford pulmonologist and lead study investigator. "CT scans can assess the extent of tissue damage in the lungs and whether the study drug is making a difference."

Eligible participants in the two-year study will be randomly selected to receive either a placebo or gamma-specific reti-

noid agonist, a new drug that in earlier studies has shown to effectively regrow lung tissue.

The study is open to former smokers who have not smoked for the past year, were diagnosed with emphysema, are age 45 and older, and have a history of smoking more than 10 packs of cigarettes a year.

Eligible participants will receive medication, undergo various testing procedures and make 15 office visits, all free, during the study.

To enroll or for more information, call (800) 996-0206.

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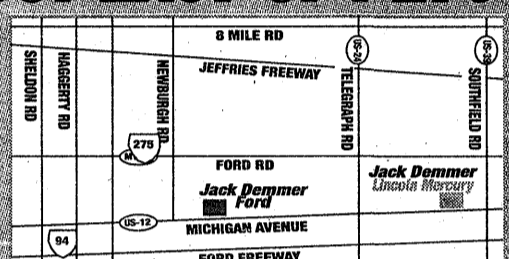


2008 TAURUS LIMITED
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\$152** **\$218**** **\$262**** Per Mo.
2 Year Pre-Pay Lease \$5875

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Privileges of being a grown-up

When Sophia came downstairs 45 minutes after I'd tucked her in the other night, her worst fears were confirmed: Everything fun happens after she goes to bed.

Because my husband Don and I had eaten a late lunch, we'd passed on dinner with the kids, choosing instead to indulge in a late-night snack. Sophia left her room to complain of a sore throat and caught us pigging out in front of *Family Guy*. Yes, Sophia, it's true. After their kids are in bed, mommies and daddies eat popcorn and ice cream and watch cartoons.

"It's not fair," she groused as we escorted her back upstairs. "I can't wait to be a grown-up."

I remember feeling exactly the same way when I was her age. Long after my 8-year-old self was supposed to be asleep, I'd spy down the stairwell at my parents laughing with friends over eucyre, sipping drinks from fancy glasses and snacking on — no fair! — homemade Chex Mix.

I had a plastic Holly Hobbie purse that couldn't fit more than a handful of change and my Bonnie Bell lip gloss. My mother's MacGyver-like handbag held everything a person could want or need. In addition to safety pins and tissues, she carried lipsticks I couldn't wear until I was 14, Doublemint I couldn't chew because of my braces and shopping lists devoid of the very items that I personally would have put at the top, such as Twinkies and Faygo. I especially craved the delicious power Mom held when she cruised the grocery aisles to determine whether we'd be eating meatloaf or tuna noodle casserole for dinner that night.

Now, of course, I know better. I've come to discover that although grown-ups do occasionally have fun after the kids go to bed, those precious few hours before we collapse ourselves are filled mostly with the mundane and the essential. We're whooping it up with laundry, bills, work deadlines and, these days, everything necessary to ensure that our sugarpum-dreaming darlings have a magical Christmas.

I laugh hardest these days at my childhood jealousy over Mom's dinner-planning privilege. It's not so much fun, I now realize, to come up with new and different ways to meet your children's nutritional needs when the only foods they're passionate about are pizza and PB&J. The other day, looking to mix things up a bit, I dared to pull out my mom's old meatloaf recipe. Mind you, Don abhors meatloaf. But he'd never tried this particular recipe, I reasoned, so maybe it would change his mind!

The last time I'd made the dish was 5½ years ago, when I was eight months pregnant with Jackson. Don was leaving on a business trip and, craving some comfort food, I decided to take advantage of my husband's absence to make a meal I wouldn't think of serving him. Perhaps I chopped the onion a bit too vigorously, because it was right around then that I felt my first contraction. Luckily, my frantic call to Don's cell phone caught him before he stepped on the plane, and cold meatloaf sandwiches hit the spot two days

Please see **KAVANAGH, C2**



Mom's the Word

Rebecca Kavanagh



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Ro Lambert of Farmington Hills arranges one of her tassled home accessories. She also creates sterling silver and 14K gold filled jewelry with gemstones, cultured pearls and Swarovski crystals.

365-day art fair

Co-op gallery offers work by local artists

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
STAFF WRITER

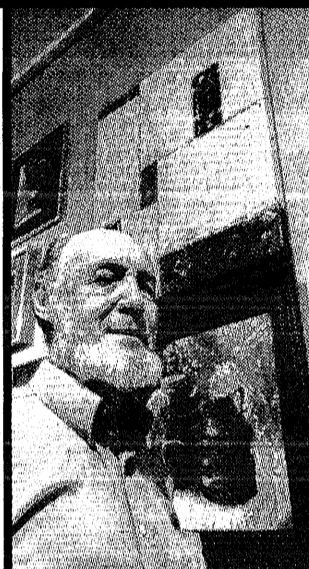
James Ritchie likes to call the gallery at Laurel Park Place mall a year round art fair. The 18 artists make it possible for the cooperative to offer paintings, ceramics, photography and jewelry 365 days a year by each working 30 hours a month.

Debbie La Pratt came up with the idea to share the rent and hours after signing a lease to open Art-is-in-Market in the mall in Livonia two years ago.

"I get over 300 hours of exposure a month," said James Ritchie, a Westland photographer whose images range from classic cars to the last night game at Tiger stadium. "The gallery's open seven days a week and I don't have to be here."

The customers seem to be as enthusiastic about the concept. When La Pratt first opened she planned to only

Please see **GALLERY, C3**



Anthony DeCesco of Redford started painting 14 years ago after taking a class at Schoolcraft College.



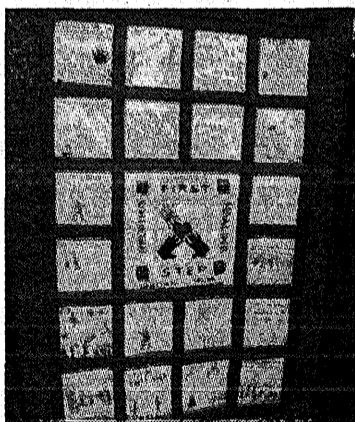
Elizabeth Walther of Plymouth exhibits jewelry, scarves, and whimsical salt and pepper shakers. Walther studied printmaking and ceramics during and after college.



Debbie La Pratt came up with the idea to open a cooperative gallery. Her clay architectural work is in the background.

Events to raise funds for First Step

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
STAFF WRITER



Children in First Step's Art Expressions Program created this quilt. First Step helps children cope with their problems through art.

It's hard for Rachel S. to explain why she stayed in an abusive relationship so long. Family and friends saw warning signs years before the couple married. It wasn't until after Rachel became pregnant that her eyes opened to the controlling and erratic behavior which included outbursts of anger.

"He would yell, throw things or get sarcastic. The twins were 7 months old when he swiped everything off the table while I was feeding them," said Rachel

S. "I was cleaning my daughter's room when he kicked her crayon box and chair and then grabbed me by the arms and threw me against the wall."

Rachel didn't call 911. Instead she fled to her parents' home. A few days later her ob/gyn handed her First Step's card. It took Rachel two to three days to call the hotline for the agency that helps survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault.

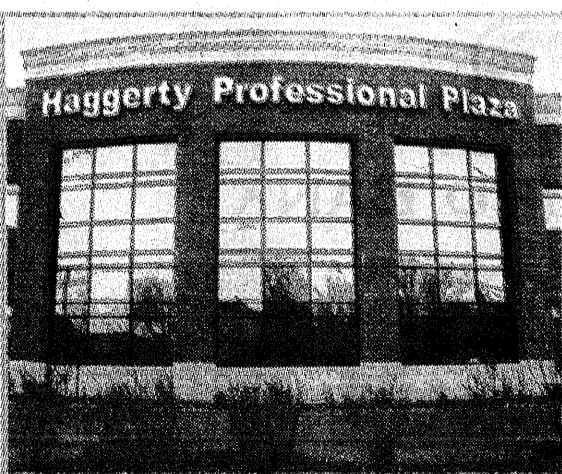
Although she's been divorced since March 2006, Rachel still visits the Plymouth office every couple of weeks. She continues

Please see **FIRST STEP, C2**

FIRST STEP FUND-RAISERS

18th annual Charity Ball: Presented by Brian Duggan 7:30 p.m. to 1:30 a.m. Feb. 8, at Burton Manor, 27777 Schoolcraft, west of Inkster, Livonia. Featuring Steve King & The Dittlies, a casino, celebrity impersonators, hors d'oeuvres, and pizza. Tickets \$45 in advance. No sales at door. Call (734) 422-4333 or visit www.firststepcharitydance.org.

Chocolate Fantasy Ball: Includes presentation of the Westland Athena Award Saturday, Feb. 16, at the New Hawthorne Valley Country Club, 7300 Merriman, north of Warren, Westland. Tickets \$60 per person, \$100 a couple, call (734) 467-9113, (734) 261-3680 or visit www.womenofwestland.com. Cocktails at 6 p.m., 7:30 p.m. award presentation to an individual who's excelled in their business or profession, contributed time and talent to help others, and assisted women in realizing their full leadership potential. Event features strolling supper, silent auction, dancing, and 80-foot chocolate fantasy dessert table by Mary Denning Cake Shoppe.



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KAVANAGH

FROM PAGE C1

later when we all returned as a family of four.

I told the kids that story as I was chopping the onions for this more recent loaf, and I also assured them that I'd loved this recipe as a kid when their grandma made it weekly. All of this emotional seasoning made them, and Don, really want to like dinner, bless their hearts.

Nobody did. Oh sure, they all gamely chewed that first bite. But after I celebrated the initial chorus of "mmm," and after I pledged to make meatloaf once a week from now on, I noticed that everyone was concentrating a lot of eating energy on their potatoes and corn. Don cleaned his plate, but confessed to me later that it took Herculean effort. Sophia and Jack stopped at one bite, and apologized profusely for not liking this treasured meal.

It's OK, I assured them. I can handle it; I'm a grown-up.

Rebecca Kavanagh is a Farmington Hills writer and mother of two. Contact her at momsthewordcolumn@gmail.com.

FIRST STEP

FROM PAGE C1

to turn her life around. This semester Rachel resumes classes to earn a degree in social work at Schoolcraft College. In the future she hopes to help people on an individual basis but for now she is speaking to groups to increase awareness about the women and children whose lives turn into nightmares at the hands of an abuser.

"There are still a lot of misconceptions out there, still a lot of stereotypes that it happens to underprivileged women, that it's always physical," said Rachel. "There's a lot of mental intimidation. People would say why don't you leave. You get worn down. It becomes normal. It's important for people to talk about it even if you tell one other person. Don't ignore intuition or gut feelings you have and don't stay for your kids. I didn't know how I was going to do it. You learn to use your resources. You find out you're not alone and it's not always people who are married. Teenagers need to be aware.

It's possible to start over. It's scary, hard but home is all what you make it."

Thanks to First Step Rachel and her three young children are living in a small apartment far from the abusive environment. Their new life wouldn't have been possible without the programs of First Step. That's why fundraisers like Brian Duggan's charity dance on Feb. 8, and the Women of Westland's Chocolate Fantasy Ball on Feb. 16, are so important. The money goes to support the shelter program for those fleeing their homes; counseling services at First Step offices in Plymouth, Redford and Taylor, and a 24-hour help line for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault at (734) 459-5900, toll free (888) 453-5900.

"We don't have a big fundraising staff. When you have an outside group that select us it expands the number of people we can reach and provide these essential, critical services," said Theresa Bizoe, an associate director of First Step.

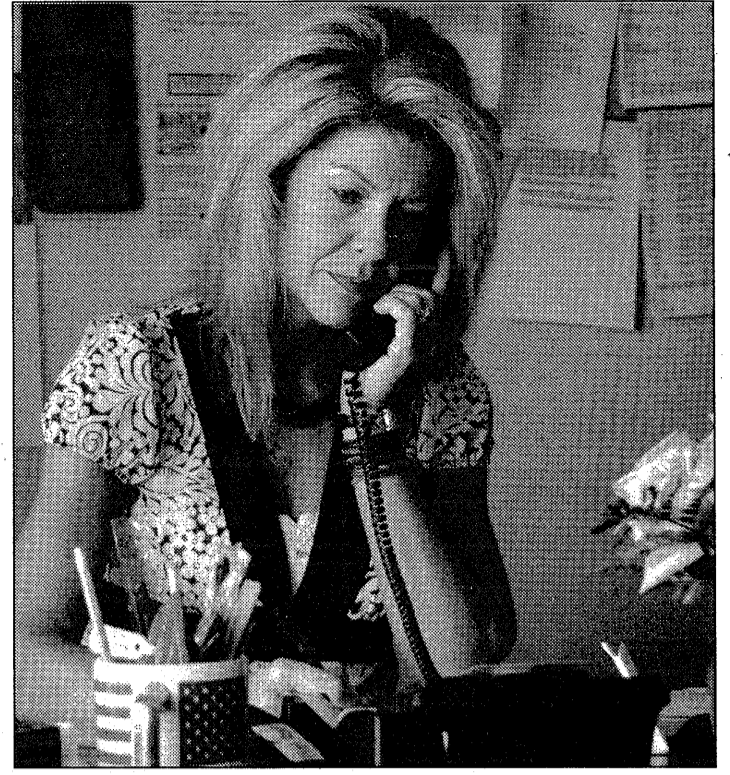
"We have trained counselors

available and it is confidential," added Amy Youngquist, First Step associate director. "You don't have to be a survivor. We get calls from concerned family members, teachers to help the one they're concerned about."

Laura C. received counseling as a teenager when her mother decided to leave an abusive marriage. Laura recently graduated and plans to help others as a police officer.

"My dad always had a real bad temper. We started going to First Step because my mom didn't want us to think it was OK," said Laura C. "What I learned was how to interact and talk to kids in those situations to calm them down. One of the things that stands out the most is First Step had a ton of toys in the waiting area. I always keep stickers and coloring books in the back of the car. That was one of the best things about First Step that it was child friendly."

While many in the community know First Step as a shelter or refuge from domestic violence, the agency also runs a sexual assault program with



Carrie Madison is a First Step special projects volunteer.

prevention and intervention services.

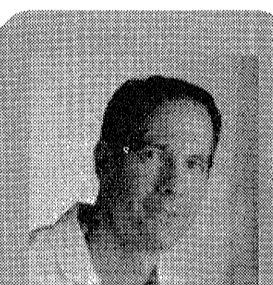
"We see a lot of young women," said Youngquist. "The 15-24 range is a crucial time, a very risky time for teens. They become victims of sexual assault a lot of times

with people that they know. According to the FBI 1 in 4 women, and 1 in 7 men will be victimized by sexual assault during their lifetime."

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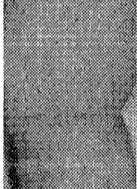
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GALLERY

FROM PAGE C1

operate the gallery through the Christmas holiday.

"People begged us please don't leave. They liked the Michigan concept featuring local artists," said La Pratt of Sterling Heights. "I signed up for another three months then six months and then a year. Customers can always meet an artist and not a salesperson and it gives people who don't do art shows a spot to have their work."

La Pratt annually exhibits her clay architectural work on Detroit landmarks at the Ann Arbor State Street Art Fair; Art & Apples, Rochester, and Arts, Beats and Eats.

"We offer everything from \$6 for a tiny night light to \$700 for a large painting," said La Pratt. "I think we have something for everybody in everybody's price range and artists will actually go to a person's home and hang their art work."

Each member of the cooperative has different reasons for belonging. Bev Ellis gets "great satisfaction when people like her work." At age 84 the Farmington Hills jeweler is the oldest artist in the gallery. She taught in Farmington Hills schools from 1960 to 1986. She also has work at Clothes Encounter in downtown Farmington.

Tony DeCesco of Redford hasn't stopped painting since he took his first class at Schoolcraft College 14 years ago. He also exhibits his acrylic and oil paintings at Native

West in Plymouth.

Like DeCesco and Ritchie, Ro Lambert says the gallery lets customers know about the sterling silver and 14K gold filled jewelry she creates with gemstones, cultured pearls and Swarovski crystals. She does have a showroom in her Farmington Hills home that's open by appointment only to view her fiber tassels for hanging on doorknobs or tying back curtains.

Barb Teubert, who owns Barn Antiques in Northville, displays jewelry at the gallery. Annie Johnston of Northville embellished jackets and handbags.

"What I like about it is coming into contact with other artists," said Alan Casadei of Livonia, who does abstract painting and makes clocks out of 45 RPM records. "I like talking to them about different venues for art. They can guide you to which ones to do, which ones not to do, even where to buy supplies."

Susan Crespo couldn't keep with the demand for her wreaths, swags and centerpieces this holiday season. The award-winning designer has been in the gallery 1 1/2 years.

"I'm doing wonderful here," said Crespo of Farmington Hills. "It's a fun place to work. We all like the same things. You get a whole different perspective."

"It spurs your creativity. You get ideas looking at everything," said Elizabeth Walther of Plymouth.

Walther crafts whimsical clay salt and pepper shakers as well as jewelry and scarves. She is a member of the Greater Ann Arbor Quilt Guild and has shown work

at the Ann Arbor Art Center.

Ann Hofman hopes viewers get inspiration from the spiritual images which can be seen in her photographs of clouds. Her series, Divine Faces of God, were not manipulated.

"My goal is to bring people back to God, to the Divine, to appreciate God's presence on earth through nature," said Hofman of Farmington Hills. Hofman graduated from the College for Creative Studies in 2006. She has displayed work in a New Mexico gallery; Scatter Joy Gallery of Faith, a local moveable gallery; Art in the Corridor in Farmington Hills, the Scarab Club, and Our Town exhibition. She also does encaustic paintings with beeswax.

"While I was at CCS my instructors wanted me to show God's presence with symbols. As a Catholic for me that was really hard. I took some clouds in and my instructor wanted me to stick with the clouds," said Hofman. "My senior thesis was on clouds. One is a photo of God sitting upon a throne in the clouds. There are multiple images within each photo. I get different reactions from everyone related to their beliefs. It's kind of in the eyes of the beholder."

For more information, call the gallery at (734) 432-9177.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

James Ritchie (left back), Anthony DeCesco, Annie Johnston, Debbie La Pratt, Ann Hofman, Susan Crespo, Ro Lambert, and Elizabeth Walthers (front row left), Bev Ellis, and Barbara Teubert stand in front of the Art-is-in-Market gallery at Laurel Park Place Mall in Livonia. The glass walls showcase the paintings, photographs and jewelry, attracting shoppers passing by.

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The iritis can occur months or years before the back and joint pain of ankylosing spondylitis appears.

Individuals with forms of inflammatory bowel disease such as Crohn's or ulcerative colitis will often experience recurrent swelling of the knees or ankles. The arthritis may come on years before the bowel problem, or the bowel disease may be present for years before the individual notes the onset of recurrent knee swelling.

The theory for these associations between arthritis and other organ involvement is that the joints and these other sites share a common antigen. Therefore an attack on the joint by an antibody will lead to a similar assault on the eye because the eye has the same or a similar antibody-attracting site as the joint.

What remains unexplained is why a time lag occurs between the first attack say in the eye with iritis, and the much later appearance of joint inflammation in the back and sacro-iliac joints.

The doctor's role is to ask the seemingly unrelated questions such as when you first felt back pain or noted an isolated red eye. Knowing these associations allows him to make a timely diagnosis and institute therapy appropriate for the fundamental problem.

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Chorus to hold open auditions

The Farmington Community Chorus will hold open auditions for new members 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 15, at the Costick Center, 28600 W. 11 Mile, east of Middlebelt, Farmington Hills. All voice parts are welcome. Singers must be at least 19 years of age.

The Farmington Community Chorus, directed by Steve SeGraves and accompanied by

assistant director Susan Garr, is now in its 28th year. The 75-voice mixed chorus is composed of singers from throughout the metro Detroit area. The group rehearses 7:30-9:30 p.m. Tuesdays at the Costick Center. Beginning in January, the chorus will rehearse a new repertoire of music for their 28th annual spring concert on May 9-10. These concerts will

feature the musical theme "a day in the life" and will include several Beatles tunes as well as music by Stephen Sondheim, Stevie Wonder and many other composers and arrangers of jazz, pop and classical vocal music.

For more information, call manager Kathy Hall at (248) 471-4516 or visit www.farmingtonchorus.com.

Dinner dance features culinary extravaganza

The Italian American Club of Livonia presents its 13th annual Dinner Dance Sunday, Jan. 27, at the Italian American Banquet & Conference Center, 39200 Five Mile in Livonia.

Tickets are \$50 with proceeds to benefit the St. Louis Center, a nonprofit residential community for people with

developmental disabilities. Deadline for reservations is Jan. 18. Call Gianna Prokop at (866) 990-1ABC or Joe Yekulis at (734) 475-8430.

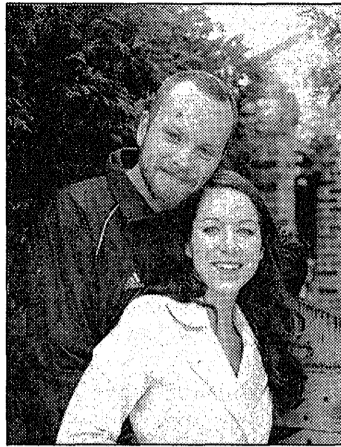
The 2008 event includes a Culinary Extravaganza with appetizers and desserts provided by area restaurants, delis and specialty shops. A sit-down

dinner follows. The day begins at noon with Mass followed by a social gathering. The sit-down dinner is at 2:30 p.m.

The Verdi Opera Theatre of Michigan performs arias at 3:30 p.m.

The afternoon ends with dancing to live music from 4-6 p.m.

ENGAGEMENTS



Henry-O'Donnell
Nancy Robertson and Dean Henry of Livonia announce the engagement of their daughter, Erin R. Henry, to Kevin O'Donnell, son of Robert and Terry O'Donnell of Indianapolis.

Henry graduated from Livonia Franklin in 2001 and holds a bachelor's degree from Michigan State University. She is the Development Manager at the Capital Area Humane Society in Lansing.

O'Donnell graduated valedictorian of Broad Ripple High School, Indianapolis in 2002. He graduated with a bachelor of arts and bachelor of science degree from Michigan State University and will attend graduate school for sports administration with plans to coach collegiate football.

Their wedding is planned for June at the MSU Alumni Chapel.

Walsh-Lusk

Richard and Diane Walsh of Redford announce the engagement of their daughter, Stephanie Walsh, to Jeffrey Lusk, son of Ronald Lusk of Milford and Julie Clingman of Frankfort, Mich.

The bride-to-be graduated from Mercy High School in 1996 and from Eastern Michigan University in 2001. She is employed at Stout, Risius, Ross as marketing coordinator.

The future groom is a 1988 graduate of Clarenceville High School. He is employed at Ace Sprinkler Co. as a journeyman sprinkler fitter.

A May wedding is planned for St. Valentine Church in Redford, followed by a recep-



tion at Glen Oaks Country Club in Farmington Hills. The Rev. Charles Fox will officiate.

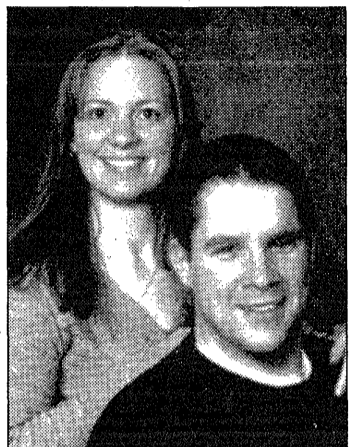
The couple will honeymoon in the Caribbean and make their residence in Redford.

Wright-Hamp

Robert and Dorothy Wright of Westland announce the engagement of their daughter, Kimberly Wright, to Jason Hamp, son of Jerry Hamp of Lake Odessa and the late Barbara Hamp.

The bride-to-be is a graduate of Schoolcraft College and is accounts manager at HPM Sharnoa Inc.

The future groom is a graduate of Michigan Tech University and is a packaging designer with Nissan Technical Center North America.



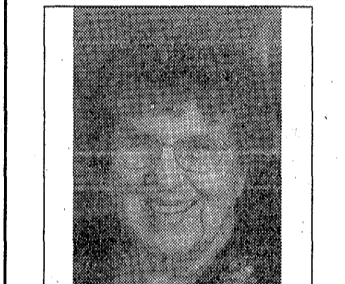
A Sept. 26, 2009, wedding is planned.



Passages

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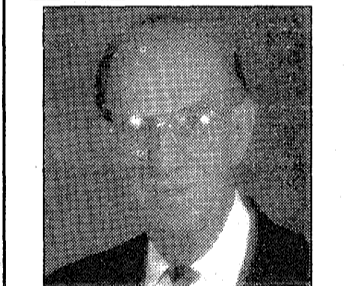
MARIANNE ALBERT
January 8, 2008 Beloved wife of Roy Albert, AIA. Dear mother of Joanne Walle (James), Peter (Mary Jo) and Paul. Grandmother of Patrick, Michael, Mary, Peter, Theresa, Anna and Steven. Services were held Saturday at Our Lady Queen of Martyrs Church. Memorial tributes: Right to Life-Lifespan, 29200 Vassar St., Ste 545, Livonia, MI 48152 or Mother & Unborn Baby Care, 27330 Southfield Rd., Lathrup Village, MI 48076. A.J. Desmond & Sons 248-549-0500. View obituary and share memories at: www.DesmondFuneralHome.com



J. MYLES BECKLEY-AMAYA
Suddenly, January 5, 2008 in Costa Rica after a horseback riding accident. Age 5, of Bloomfield Hills. JK student at St. Regis School. A loving son, brother, grandson, nephew, friend and classmate. "Myles had smiles for everyone." Extraordinary son of Jay and Virginia. Dearest brother of Theresa Pearl and Casey Renee. Grandson of Yvonne and Lou, and John and Janet. Nephew of Dawn and Gordon, Carol, Kate and Dave, Lola and Darryl, Pilar and Reinier, Abel, Nathaniel and Lady, Sheila, Walter, Bernie, Celia, Lucy, Michael, Olga and dear Tia Winnie. Family will receive friends at A.J. Desmond & Sons (Vasu, Rodgers & Connell Chapel), 32515 Woodward Ave. (btwn 13-14 Mile) Sunday 1-8pm. Scripture service and sharing of memories 7pm. Funeral Mass Monday 10:00am at St. Regis, 3695 Lincoln Dr., Bloomfield Hills. Visitation begins at church 9:30am. In lieu of flowers, the family would love support for the SMyles Scholarship Fund at St. Regis School, 3691 Lincoln Dr., Bloomfield Hills 48301. The SMyles Fund will provide a tuition scholarship to St. Regis each year and send the Ice Cream truck to a Raider football practice every season. Myles made everyone happy. We want to continue his work of doing for others. View obituary and share memories at: www.DesmondFuneralHome.com



SISTER MARY ANGELA SCHNEIDER, RSM
Sister of Mercy, Educator (Farmington Hills, MI) - Sister Mary Angela Schneider, RSM, a Sister of Mercy for 53 years, died on January 9, 2008 at St. Joseph Mercy-Oakland. She was 71. Born in Detroit to George and Angela (Steger) Schneider on July 11, 1936, she was named Mary Angela at her baptism in St. Gregory's Church. Her primary education was at St. Mary of Redford followed by graduation from Our Lady of Mercy High School in June 1954. In September of that year she joined the Sisters of Mercy at their motherhouse in Detroit and the following year received the name, Sister Mary George Ann at her formal reception into the religious community. After a five-year period of religious and professional preparation she made perpetual vows on August 16, 1960. Sister Mary Angela earned a bachelor's degree from Mercy College of Detroit and a master's degree in education from St. Xavier College, Chicago. Her many years of teaching were divided among Michigan catholic schools in Berkley, Temperance, Dearborn, Ludington, Hemlock, Detroit, Belding, and Remus. She also taught at St. John's School, Independence, Iowa and served as a pastoral minister at Our Lady of Mercy Hospital, Dyer, Indiana. Other pastoral ministries included St. Richard's Parish, Westland, St. Gertrude's Retirement Center, Grand Rapids and McAuley Center, Farmington Hills. In 1996, when her health no longer permitted active ministry, she retired to McAuley Center. There she assisted other Sisters as a volunteer, reading to them and praying with them. Sister Mary Angela is remembered for her gentle presence, her genuine interest in others and her devotion to prayer. She enjoyed reading and music, especially singing for she was gifted with a "perfect pitch" soprano voice. She is survived by her brothers, Richard (Inaam) of Hickory, North Carolina; George (Angela) of Buffalo Grove, Illinois, her sister, Janet (Robert) Joyce of West Redding, Connecticut, several nieces and nephews, many friends and her Mercy community. A welcoming service took place on January 11, 2008 at 3pm at McAuley Center, 28750 W. Eleven Mile Road, Farmington Hills, followed by a remembrance service at 7 pm. The Mass of Resurrection was celebrated in McAuley Center's Sacred Heart Chapel on January 12, 2008 at 10:30 am, with burial in Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, Southfield. McCabe Funeral Home, Farmington Hills is in charge of arrangements. Memorial contributions may be made to the Sisters of Mercy Ministry Fund, 29000 W. Eleven Mile Road, Farmington Hills, MI, 48336.



MARCUS "AI" ALPHONSE
Age 83, passed January 8, 2008. Beloved husband of Marie Estelle. Dear father of Michael (Connie) DePalo, Ralph, Pamela (Roger), Paul (Karen), Amy (David) Rectenwal. Loving grandfather of Krysten, Gina, Alyssa, Adam, Lauren, Justin, Paul, Meghan Anthony, Dominic, Carly, Maria, Kristen, David and Robert. Brother of Walter Marcus. Uncle of Mildred (Frank) Macek, William (Mary Lou) Brose and Ted (Jeanne) Markowski. Great-uncle of Billy Brose. Mr. Marcus, founder and President of Marcus Management, retired in 1992 after 24 years with the company. A funeral mass was held at St. James with entombment in Holy Sepulchre Cemetery. Donations can be made to St. Jude Children's Hospital. On-line sympathy message at: www.obrienwilliamsfuneralhome.com

ROBERT C. SMITH
West Bloomfield, January 8, 2008. Husband of Bette. Funeral Mass Monday, January 14, 11am at St. Hugo of the Hills Church. View obituary and share memories at: www.DesmondFuneralHome.com



BARBARA UNDERWOOD
Age 84 December 21, 2007. Beloved wife of the late Arthur. Loving mother of Peggy (Stefan) Marenich, Nancy Randall and Barbara J. Underwood. Grandmother of Andrew Borromeo. Sister of Leigh B. (Hannelore) Dennison. Sister-in-law of Barbara U. Mullin. Memorial Service to be held Saturday, January 19th, at the Village Players, 34660 Woodward, Birmingham (two blocks south of Maple on the east side of Woodward), visitation 10am until time of memorial at 11am. Memorials appreciated to Cranbrook Hospice Care, 281 Enterprise Court, #300, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302. Arrangements entrusted to Lynch & Sons Funeral Directors, 248-435-0660. Obituary and condolences at: lynchfuneraldirectors.com

ROBERT C. SMITH
West Bloomfield, January 8, 2008. Husband of Bette. Funeral Mass Monday, January 14, 11am at St. Hugo of the Hills Church. View obituary and share memories at: www.DesmondFuneralHome.com

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WEDDINGS

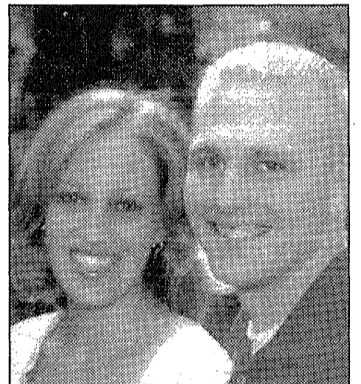
McDonnell-Van Patten

Mary and Bernie McDonnell of Livonia announce the engagement of their daughter, Marti McDonnell, to Brad Van Patten, son and Jeannine and Gary Van Patten on Litchfield.

The bride-to-be is a 2001 graduate of Mercy High School and a 2005 graduate of St. Mary's College in Notre Dame, Ind. She currently teaches sixth grade at St. Edith School in Livonia.

The future groom is a 1997 graduate of Litchfield High School and a 2002 graduate of Michigan State University. He is a financial analyst at Robert Bosch Corp.

A May wedding is planned for St. Edith Church in Livonia.



Huff-Fry

Nicole Marie Huff and Joseph Hanley Fry of Redford were wed Dec. 28, 2007, in Ocala, Fla.

The bride is the daughter of John and Janet Huff of Somerset, Ky., and Redford. She is a 2002 college graduate and is currently a full-time mother of two children.

The groom is the son of the late C. Thomas Fry and Marcia and Jim Reimer of Waterford, and Munitih, Mich. He is a 2005 graduate of the University of Detroit Mercy. He is employed by the Department of Homeland

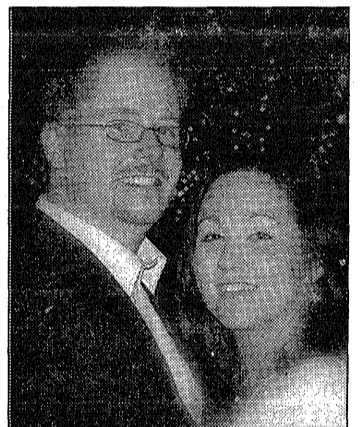
Security, Immigration and Customs Enforcement in Detroit.

The ceremony was officiated by the bride's aunt, Barbara McGreal.

The bride's mother Janet Huff gave her away. The bride's daughter, Alexis Huff, was the maid of honor and flower girl.

The bride and groom's son, Cole Fry, was the best man and ring bearer.

The bride's maternal grandmother hosted a dinner with cake and a champagne toast, followed by a carriage ride for the bride, groom and their children.



The couple is planning a honeymoon cruise. They will make their home in Redford.

Kendra-Catanzarite

Leslie Michelle Kendra and Dominic Francis Catanzarite were united in marriage at 5 p.m. Friday, June 29, 2007, at St. John's Chapel in Plymouth. The Rev. Robert Humitz officiated the ceremony.

Parents of the couple are Mitchell and Mary Joan Kendra of Livonia and Robert and Kathy Catanzarite of Livonia. Her father, Mitchell Kendra, gave the bride away.

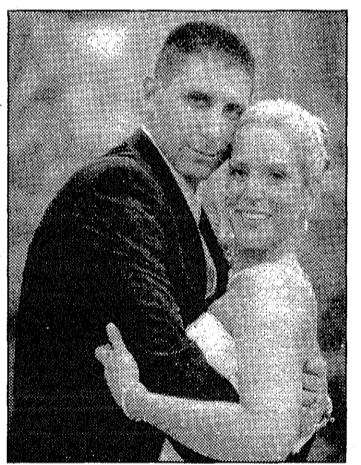
Attending as matrons of honor, were Dina S. Tudor, sister of the bride and Marissa Testa, longtime friend of the bride. Bridesmaids were Kelli Kennedy, Amy Donaldson, Candice Tudor, niece of the bride, Sarah Lott, Ellen Talos, Kelly Modrezski and Leslie

Hinkle, sister of the groom.

Attending as best man was Darren Catanzarite, brother of the groom. Groomsmen were David Proctor, Eddie Souler, Tom Tudor, brother-in-law of the bride, Thomas Tudor, nephew of the bride, and Josh Hinkle, brother-in-law of the groom.

Following the ceremony, the bride's parents were hosts of a reception at the Grand Ballroom at St. John's Conference Center in Plymouth. The groom's parents entertained the wedding party, friends and family members with a rehearsal dinner at Karl's Cabin in Plymouth.

The couple honeymooned in Orlando, Fla., at Disney World. They currently reside



in Huntington Beach, Calif, where Dominic is a junior high school science teacher and Leslie teaches junior high English and currently working toward her master's degree.

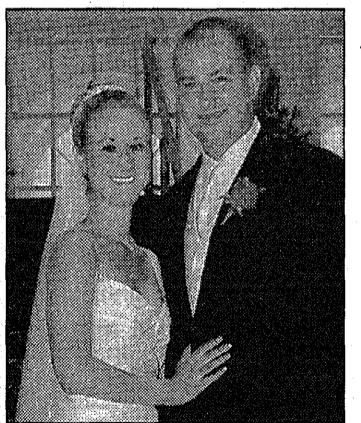
Markowski-Ellis

Amy Beth Markowski of Livonia and Jason Joel Ellis of Dryden were married Sept. 8, 2007, at Sunset Pointe at the Polynesian Resort in Disney World with the Rev. Jack Day officiating. A reception was held a week later at the Thomas Edison Inn in Port Huron.

The bride is the daughter of Walter and Christine Markowski of Livonia. The groom is the son of Walter and Cindy Ellis of Dryden.

The bride was attended by maid of honor Marilyn Holcombe and bridesmaid Stacey Kemp. The groom was attended by best man Brian Ellis and groomsmen Pete Holcombe.

The couple honeymooned in Disney World. They are marking their home in Livonia.



Spaghetti dinner to fund music scholarships

Come enjoy a spaghetti dinner and help support the Music Scholarship Program that the Livonia Civic Chorus sponsors every year for local students.

The fund-raiser takes place 6:30-10 p.m. Friday, Jan. 18, at

St. Matthew's United Methodist Church, 30900 Six Mile, Livonia.

Tickets are \$10 adults, \$8 seniors and children. Please bring a canned good for the church's pantry. Scholarship supporters will also have the opportunity to

chase tickets for raffle baskets and 50/50 raffles.

Be part of the fun and entertainment for the evening with a Karaoke twist.

For tickets, call Kelly at (734) 377-1745.

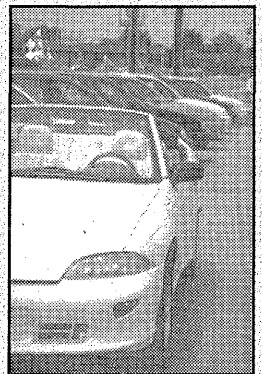
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2008 Dodge Caliber SRT 4 offers great performance, at an affordable price

Advertising Feature

CAReport



By Dave Menard
Avanti News Features

Is there such a thing as an "entry-level" performance car? Is it possible to get a fun-to-drive performance car at a price that won't break your wallet? Dodge thinks so, and offers the 2008 Caliber SRT 4 as proof.

The Caliber SRT 4 (SRT stands for "Street and Racing Technology") is a five-door vehicle, and my first thought when I saw it was that it's the Dodge Charger's little brother.

The front fascia features functional brake cooling ducts and a larger grille opening. The hood features a functional air scoop for better underhood cooling. A large integrated spoiler above the rear glass is tuned for smoother air flow and lift reduction. The headlamps wrap from the grille to the fender and fog lamps are included, as well.

The rear features an integrated spoiler and 19-inch aluminum wheels are standard (chrome-clad wheels are optional). It's a sharp, tough-looking package.

The interior is nicely done, as well. The "alloy silver" finish instrument panel is well laid-out and includes a tachometer and coolant temperature gauge, and there's a turbo gauge on the far left of the dash.

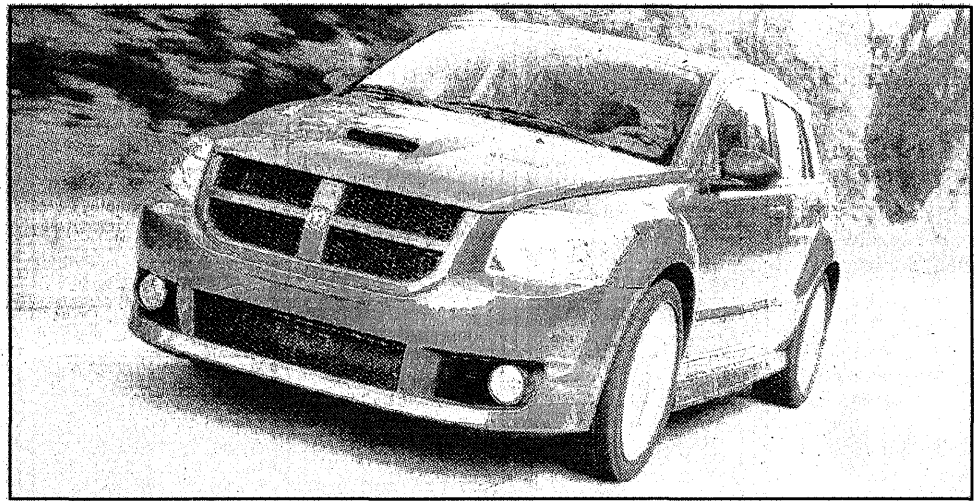
The alloy silver finish extends to the shift bezel, and bright aluminum pedal pads feature rubber studs for enhanced grip.

An optional Reconfigurable Display is available, with "performance pages" that provide lateral and longitudinal G-force, one-eighth-mile and one-quarter-mile acceleration time and speed, 0-60 mph time and braking distance.

The interior offers some cool features, and I mean that literally. Above the glove compartment is what Dodge calls a "chill zone." It's a compartment that will hold up to four bottles or cans of your favorite beverage, and the compartment is cooled by air from the air conditioner.

The center console holds a flip up compartment to hold a cell phone or mp3 player. There are plenty of cupholders and other storage areas built in, and there is a power outlet available, as well.

The seats feature "performance fabric," whatever that is, and provide very good support. The seats can only be adjusted manually, though. The passenger seat can be



The new Caliber SRT 4 looks like the Dodge Charger's smaller sibling.

folded forward to create a table-like surface. And 60/40 rear seats are available that can also be folded flat, giving you a good amount of cargo space.

Of course, if you'd prefer to carry passengers in the rear seating area, you can. While I wouldn't want to go cross country in the back seat, for normal driving distances there's enough room for two adults in the back. In the front, there's plenty of leg- and headroom.

The Caliber SRT 4 comes with air conditioning; a tilt-steering column; a leather-wrapped steering wheel; rear window defroster; a theft-deterrent system; keyless entry; power windows, locks and mirrors; and cruise control. A power sunroof is available as an option.

The standard audio system is an AM/FM/CD system with a jack for an auxiliary source, like an mp3 player, and four speakers. You can upgrade to a Kicker high-performance audio system that includes 13 speakers in seven locations, and is powered by a 322-watt amplifier and 200-watt subwoofer.

So much for the aesthetics - how does it drive? Actually, it's fun to drive. The standard powerplant for the SRT 4 is a 2.4-liter, 4-cylinder, turbocharged DOHC engine that features variable-valve timing and an intake manifold design with flow control valves.

It'll give you amazing power for a 4 cylinder. It's rated at 285 horsepower and 265 lb.-ft. of torque -- enough to get you blazin' off the line; 0-60 mph performance checks in at under six seconds. It's EPA-rated at 21, 26 mpg and you will need premium fuel.

It has a 6-speed manual transmission that is a breeze to shift when you're accelerating, but I found downshifting to be tricky. I had to engage in gear-hunting as the Caliber sometimes seemed to want to select a different gear than I did. Overall, though, going through the gears can be a lot of fun if you consider yourself to be even a little bit of an auto enthusiast type.

Ride and handling is a mixed bag. The ride can be rough, but the Caliber's handling is excellent. The front suspension is an independent MacPherson strut system, with coil-over-spring gas-charged shocks and stabilizer bar. In the rear, it's a multi-link independent system with coil springs, link-type stabilizer bar and gas-charged shocks.

Electronic Stability Program is standard. It's a nice system for a compact car. Rough roads will jar you a little, but the ride is smooth and quiet at highway speeds.

Power-assisted rack-and-pinion steering is standard, and the turning circle is tight enough for quick U-turns (don't ask me how I know that; I won't tell you!) and for easy parking.

The SRT 4 Caliber comes with anti-lock 4-wheel disc brakes, which are excellent, and side-window curtain airbags. Side front seat airbags are optional.

The 2008 Dodge Caliber SRT 4 starts at about \$22,500. Add the sunroof and upgraded performance tires and you're at about \$24,000 -- not bad for a performance car.

There's a lot to like about the 2008 Dodge Caliber SRT 4. You'll get excellent performance, handling and braking, a sharp-looking interior and nice exterior styling, as well.

And if you're looking to dip your toe in the performance pool, this might be a good way to get your feet wet.

Auto critic Dave Menard is senior editor of Avanti NewsFeatures. Write to him at autodave@bellsouth.net. Distributed by Fracassa News Group. ©2008, Fracassa Communications LLC.

2008 Dodge Caliber SRT 4.
Vehicle class: Compact car.
Power: 2.4 liter turbocharged 4-cylinder engine.
Mileage: 21/26 mpg (premium fuel).
Where built: Belvidere, Ill.
Base price: \$22,435.
Price as tested: \$23,990.

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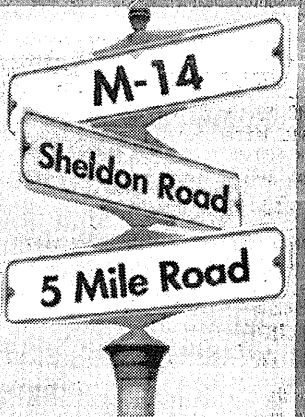
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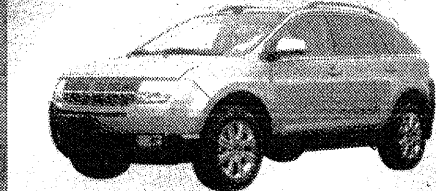
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 <p>2008 ESCAPE XLT Stock #8T9233</p> <p>24 Mo Lease \$2000 Down \$215 per mo \$2530 Due At Signing</p>	 <p>2008 EDGE SEL Stock #8T3023</p> <p>24 Mo Lease \$2000 Down \$216 per mo \$2592 Due At Signing</p>
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New Homes

D (*)

Sunday, January 13, 2008

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

Julie Brown, editor . (734) 953-2111 . jcbrown@hometownlife.com

www.hometownlife.com

Keeping up with this Jones farmhouse is a breeze

Compact, the Jones Farm (D8011) is a farmhouse designed in the old sense of the word. It has shutters around the windows, barn-styled doors on the garage, a front covered porch, and the simplistic lines of the old farmhouses of our ancestors.

Crossing the covered porch, the front door opens into the entry facing the great room. On the left side is the formal dining room, separated from the great room by a dividing wall. On the left wall is a long built-in hutch, ideal for displaying family heirloom

dishes, and the crystal of yesteryear.

A half bath is between the dining room and the living room. Backing up to the half bath is the pantry and a storage closet.

The kitchen is long and open to the living room and nook. The cabinets run down the entire outside wall, ending in a built-in desk. It gives an extreme amount of storage area. The island in the middle ties the kitchen to the living room. A see-through fireplace from the great room is visible from the kitchen and adds warmth to the rooms. The nook is in its own alcove, with a door opening out the backyard.

The great room is open and yet cozy with the see-through fireplace bathing the room in a warm glow. There are numerous windows in the back of the room that bathe the room in natural light. A stairway going upstairs and also to the optional unfinished 1,158 square foot basement is at edge of the great room.

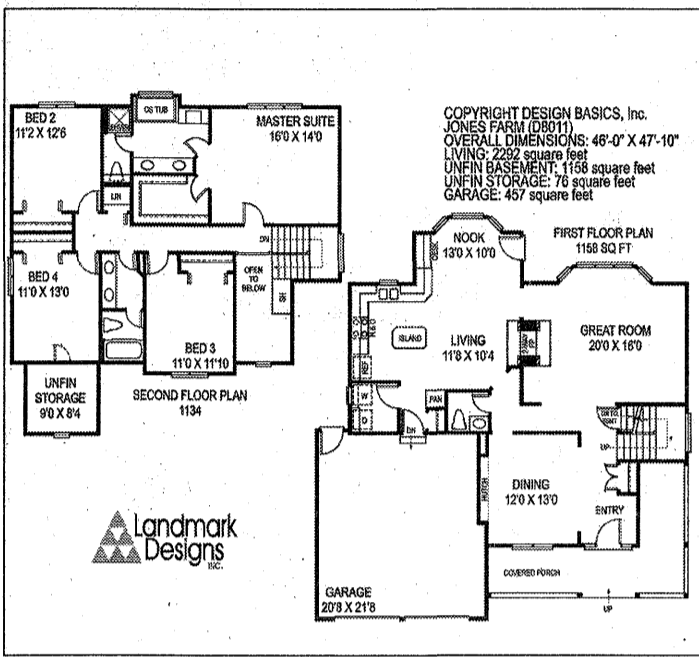


All the bedrooms are located on the second floor. The master suite is in the rear with a large master bath. An oversized tub and a shower, with dual sinks grace the master bath, with a large walk-in closet adjacent. Bedrooms 2, 3, and 4 all have wall closets, large windows for extra light, and share a full bath with a tub and dual sinks. Off bedroom 4 is an optional unfinished storage room.

This plan is so traditionally a farmhouse that it stands out in its simplicity. It would be ideal for a large family, and with the basement, more bedrooms, a game room, and bathrooms could be added.

For a study plan of the JONES FARM (D8011), send \$15 to Landmark Designs, 33127 Saginaw Rd. E., Cottage Grove, OR 97424 or call (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 your dream home (\$5 shipping and handling will apply). Or you may order or search online at www.ldiplans.com. Save 15 percent on construction plans using the code (1.OE48) online, mailing, or calling (800) 562-1151.



BRIEFS

BIA

■ Building Industry Association of Southeastern Michigan (BIA) presents Green Built Training from 9-10:20 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 23, at 879 Benjamin in Troy, in a Green Built certified home built by Wake-Pratt Construction Co. In this first of five trainings, Chris Pratt of Wake-Pratt Construction discusses the technical and sales aspects of Building Green using materials and methods that result in Green Built certification.

Building Green offers a change from selling cost per square foot to making an environmental statement. The training is free for BIA members. Advance registration is required. For registration information, call (248) 862-1008.

■ Building Industry Association of Southeastern Michigan (BIA) kicks off the Sales and Marketing Council (SMC) programs for 2008 with a Roundtable Discussion, "You're At A Networking Event ... Now What?" on

Wednesday, Jan. 30, from 8:30-10:30 a.m. at BIA headquarters, 30375 Northwestern Highway, Suite 100 in Farmington Hills. Kirk Armstrong of Gerry Weinberg & Associates will lead the discussion focused on how to get a conversation transitioned into your business without appearing needy or offensive. Registration fees are \$10 for SMC members, \$20 for BIA members and \$45 for guests. For registration information, call (248) 862-1033.

■ Building Industry Association of

Southeastern Michigan (BIA) and its Remodelers Council (RC) will present a Negotiating Skills seminar, at BIA headquarters, 30375 Northwestern Highway, Suite 100, in Farmington Hills on Thursday, Jan. 31, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. The seminar is part of the Certified Graduate Remodelor (CGR) series and counts toward CGR, Certified Graduate Associate (CGA) and Graduate Master Builder (GMB) designations.

Chuck Breidenstein, CAPS, of

Builder Professional Services Group Inc. will present methods and strategies to negotiate with customers, employees, subcontractors, suppliers and government officials. Participants will gain confidence in these skills through role-playing following lectures and exercises. Registration fees are \$155 for Remodelers Council members, \$175 for BIA members and \$200 for guests. For registration information, call (248) 862-1033.

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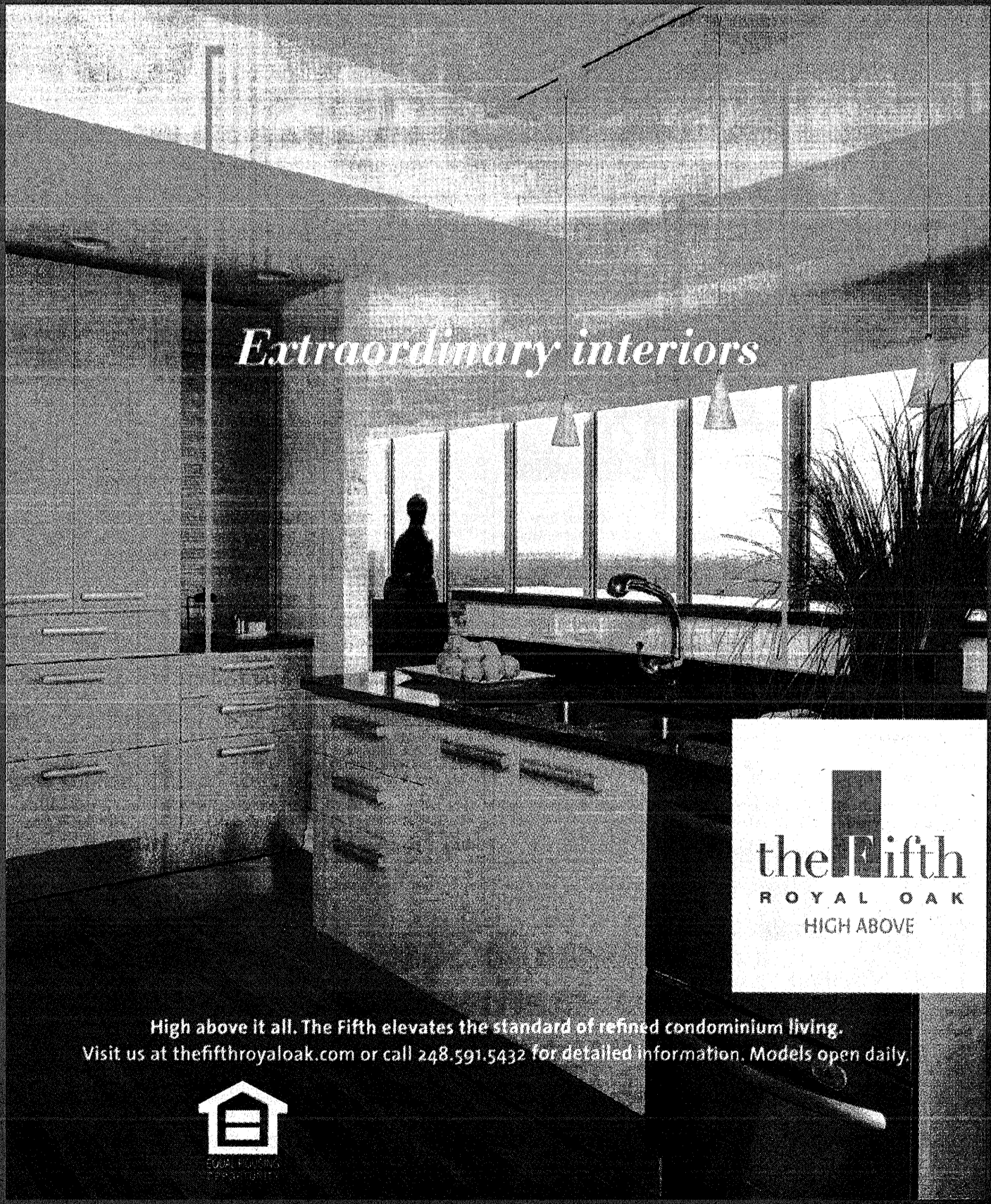
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\$139*	\$182*	\$199*
24 Mo. LEASE	24 Mo. LEASE	39 Mo. LEASE



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\$2000 TOTAL DUE	\$1000 TOTAL DUE	\$0 DUE
\$216*	\$258*	\$289*
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\$2000 TOTAL DUE	\$1000 TOTAL DUE	\$0 DUE
\$144	\$169*	\$196*
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Moonroof, Satellite Radio, auto trans, air.

ALL NEW DESIGN!

Built with pride in the USA!

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NEW 2008 TAURUS SEL

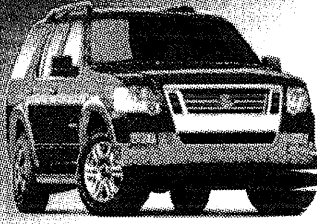


ABS, side air bags, traction control, V6, safety canopy system.

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06 E150 PASSENGER.....14,450	05 ESCAPE XLT 4X4.....13,950
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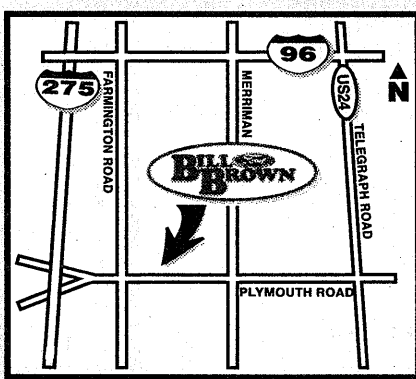
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