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SUNDAY
February 17, 2008

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Now they're cookin'

Tasting brings slice of Italy to Plymouth

BY BRAD KADRICH
STAFF WRITER

When Carey Gary retired from teaching school and went looking for a way to fulfill her retirement present — a trip to Italy — she found "Cooking with Dawn" owner Dawn Bause, who sponsors trips to Italy twice a year.

When Bause, a local cookbook author, was looking for someone to host a cooking class/olive-oil tasting, she thought of 932 Penniman, a downtown Plymouth bed-and-breakfast run by Carey and her husband, Jon, and it seemed like a made-in-heaven.

Or maybe heaven's kitchen. "I thought it would be a terrific thing to do," Carey Gary said. "It's a chance to do something different. It was exciting when I got to see (guest chef Alvise Ballarin) and I thought people here would love him."

That's why some 16 people, mostly women, were at 932 Penniman recently for "A Taste of Venice," which featured Ballarin, the executive chef from the Trattoria Laguna in Venice. It's the restaurant Bause takes her groups to when they travel to Italy.

Ballarin makes the trip to the U.S. every February, while Trattoria Laguna is closed for the month.

The idea, according to Bause, is to show people gourmet cooking is easier than people realize.

"A movement (toward healthier eating) in the U.S. probably got going with Martha Stewart," said Bause, author of *Romance Begins in the Kitchen*. "This class shows the simplicity, how easy gourmet cooking can be."

For the Plymouth class, Ballarin brought an assortment of Italian olive oils and aged balsamic vinegars for his signature tasting din-



Alvise Ballarin removes appetizer pizzas from the oven.

ners titled "The Joys of Cooking with Italian Olive Oils and Aged Balsamic Vinegars." Ballarin incorporated the oils and vinegars into the evening's dishes.

"The class isn't so much to teach people how to cook as much as it's about seeing how it tastes after you've cooked it," Bause said. "Every place we go, people are saying, 'We can't believe the flavor of this.'"

Judy Brown of Novi was among the 16 people at 932 Penniman for the tasting, and was glad to be there.

"I thought it sounded like a fun, exciting 'girls' night out,'" Brown said. "And, we learned something in the process."

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



Sandra Moran, Judy Brown and Lisa Boland enjoy appetizers and wine.

'We don't feed him raw meat'

Neighbors object to pit bull's presence

BY TONY BRUSCATO
STAFF WRITER

By his owner's account, Gage — a 2-year-old, 90-plus-pound red nose pit bull — is everything man's best friend is supposed to be.

"People automatically stereotype him because he's a pit bull, but he's the biggest baby in the world," said Angel Edie, 25, who along with her fiancé Kyle Kosmyna, 23, and their three children (8, 6 and 4 months) moved to a home on Jenner Street near downtown Plymouth this week. "The kids pull on his ears and tail and he's fine with it. The only time he barks is when someone comes to the door. And when we tell him to go to his room (cage), he will."

However, a week before Edie and her family moved, their future neighbors turned in petitions with nearly 100 signatures to the Plymouth City Commission seeking an ordinance that would ban pit bulls or animals bred for fighting.

"One of the central themes is they have been bred to fight for thousands of years," said Chris Schneider, who lives next to Edie and Kosmyna. "Often times, even after years and years of being with the family and having a good relationship with the family, they've

Please see **DOG, A6**



Gage sits with his family; Mom Angel Edie, sons Tristan and Tyler Cook, and daughter, Jaylyn Kosmyna.

moms

O&E moms site is moving: Come join us on the Web

Looking for a new pediatrician in your neighborhood? Fed up with your tween's instant messaging? Or are you trying to find the best place to teach your teen to parallel park?

MotorCityMoms.com is the place for you! Through a new partnership with the *Detroit Free Press*, the *Observer & Eccentric Newspapers* are joining efforts to bring this Web site to you.

You'll find all sorts of great things to do in your community, plenty to talk about and you'll meet other women just like you in the area. Plus, we've got lots of contests and promotions to offer up. Right now, we're giving away tickets to *High School Musical On Ice* at The Palace of Auburn Hills.

So check us out, and let me know what you think of our growing community. See you online!

— Kristen Jordan Shamus is editor of MotorCityMoms.com. She can be reached at (313) 222-5997 or kshamus@MotorCityMoms.com.

Wilcox house center of demolition debate



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The Plymouth Preservation Network wants to raise funds to preserve the Wilcox House as a downtown landmark. The current owner says he has no plans to demolish it.

BY TONY BRUSCATO
STAFF WRITER

The owner of the home known as the Wilcox House across from Kellogg Park says he has no intention of tearing down the 107-year-old historic landmark in downtown Plymouth.

However, members of the Plymouth Preservation Network aren't convinced, and will meet 7 p.m. Tuesday at the Plymouth Historical Museum to strategize on how to restore the Queen Anne Victorian home built in 1901 by Markham Air Rifle Company mogul William Markham for his secretary-turned-mistress.

"Just the fact it's (demolition) has crossed his mind raises a red flag to anyone who loves this house," said Wendy Harless, PPN chair. "It's an important

Sultors have interest in Wilcox property, A6.

part of Plymouth's history and needs to be saved. Our No. 1 goal is to get people involved and come up with funding to save the house."

The urgency to save the Wilcox House — the property was owned by the family of Jack Wilcox from 1911 to 2000 — comes after an inquiry by the attorney of D&P Ventures of Detroit, which owns the two acres of land at the corner of Penniman and Union, on the process to seek a demolition permit.

While owner Stan Dickson won't admit it was a veiled threat, he did concede to being perturbed the Plymouth Historic District Commission sent him an eight-page letter outlining code violations that

Please see **WILCOX, A6**

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Coming Thursday
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The Center for Creative Studies features more than one 1,000 pieces of art by local artists.

Marching band meeting

The Plymouth-Canton Marching Band, Bands of America Regional Champions for 2007 and a BOA Finalist at Grand Nationals in Indianapolis, hosts a series of informational meetings for students and parents interested in joining the 2008 Marching Band program.

The meeting, set for 7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 19, in the Plymouth High School Band Room, is designed for incoming eighth-graders, but is open to any high school student. Interested students will spend time with the existing marchers, while parents listen to a presentation by the Plymouth Canton Music Boosters on how 8th graders can become a member of the award-winning marching band for the 2008 summer/fall season.

For more information, call Marc Whitlock, Director of Bands, (734) 582-5666.

Tiny Tots Preschool

The Salvation Army Tiny Tots Preschool hosts a parent-only informational meeting for fall classes 7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 26, at The Salvation Army building, 9451 S. Main St. in Plymouth.

Registration is \$35 and will be accepted that night. Tiny Tots is a Christian-based preschool program for children ages 3-5.

For more information, call (734) 453-5464.

Toxic toys

Labor officials, lawmakers and experts take part in a Toxic Toy Town Hall Meeting 6 p.m. Monday, Feb. 25, at the Plymouth Community Church of Christ.

Free toy testing will be available (limit three toys per person). The event is free and open to the public. Plymouth Community Church of Christ is located at 12401 Ridge in Plymouth.

For more information or to RSVP, contact Laura Russell, Clean Water Action, (734) 222-6347 or lrussello@cleanwater.org; Mike Shriberg, Ecology Center, (734) 761-3186, Ext. 108 or mikes@ecocenter.org; or Sue Browne, Blue Green Alliance, (269) 945-4443 or sbrowne@usw.org

Child seat clinic

The Plymouth Township Police Department hosts a free Child Safety Seat clinic 10 a.m. Saturday, March 8, at

the Plymouth Township Police Department, located at 9955 N. Haggerty.

The inspections will be by "appointment only," and limited space is available. If you would like to have your child's seat inspected by a national certified Child Passenger Safety Technician, make an appointment by calling Officer Jamie Senkbeil at (734) 354-3232.

Money management seminar

Homeowners struggling with mounting debt wanting to protect their homes from mortgage delinquency and foreclosure are being encouraged to attend a free money management seminar 6:30-8 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 26, at the Plymouth District Library, located at 223 S. Main Street in Plymouth.

Community Financial, GreenPath Debt Solutions and Plymouth Community United Way are teaming up to educate homeowners about how to protect their money and their mortgages.

Natalie McLaughlin, the credit union's senior education partnership coordinator, will lead the workshop. Other presenters include Ken Kollar, asset protection manager for Community Financial; David Barnett, community relations and educational specialist for GreenPath Debt Solutions; and Beth Luke, community relations and educational specialist for ACCEL Members Financial Services.

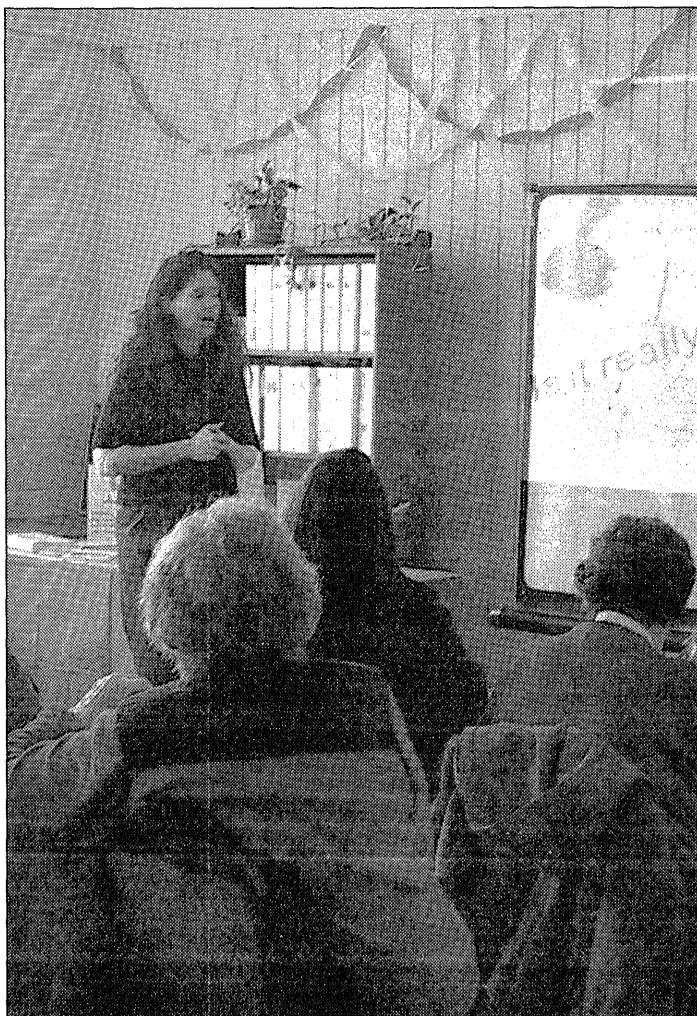
Attendees will not be required to share personal financial information at the seminar, which is free to the public. For those seeking additional assistance after the seminar, there will be an opportunity to schedule free personal appointments to review your current mortgage, credit score and report, and to obtain financial counseling.

To ensure adequate seating, reservations are recommended by calling Betty Nolan of the Plymouth Community United Way at (734) 453-6879, Ext. 2.

Bowling fund-raiser

The Plymouth A.M. Rotary hosts a bowling fund-raiser for the Tanger School Playground and other Rotary projects Sunday, Feb. 24, at Super Bowl, 45100 Ford Road in Canton.

Check-in begins at 2:30 p.m., with bowling to start at 3 p.m. Cost is \$15 per adults, \$12 per youth, and includes



Heart healthy

Women of all ages gathered in the Plymouth DDA Office and explored the Downtown District recently for the American Heart Association's God Red for Women event, which included a presentation by guest speaker Lisa McDowell, chief clinical nutritionist for St. Joseph Mercy Health System, who spoke about eating for heart health, followed by a rousing question and answer session. Visitors tasted heart-healthy foods from downtown vendors such as Boul' Artisan Bakery, Compari's on the Park, Panera Bread, Sweet Afton Tea Room and Edible Arrangements, and had their vital signs taken by a nurse and participated GoRedforWomen.org's heart health check. "It was a really great turnout," said DDA assistant operations director John Buzuvis. "Heart disease is the No. 1 killer of women in the US, and it was really great to see so many people come out to support such a great cause."

two games of nine-pin, no-tap bowling, two slices of pizza and Cosmic Lights. Shoe rental available for 99 cents. A 50/50 raffle and door prizes will also be available.

For advance tickets or more information, call Super Bowl, (734) 459-6070; Tom Sweeney, (734) 679-6300; or e-mail Dawn Ham-Kucharski at alexsmoom@comcast.net

Lacrosse fund-raiser

The Plymouth, Canton, and Salem boys lacrosse teams are having a fund-raiser with Canton Coney Island (8533 North Lilley Road in Canton) on Tuesday, Feb. 19 from 4-9 p.m. If you present the lacrosse coupon with your order, the teams will earn 20 percent of the sales between 4-9 p.m. The coupon can be found at www.pcslacrosse.com.

The Plymouth High lacrosse team is holding a parent/player meeting on Wednesday, Feb. 20 at 7 p.m. in room 401 at Plymouth High School. For more information contact Cindy Martin at crsm1@comcast.net or (734) 981-4416.

Lincoln roundtable

The Abraham Lincoln Civil War Round Table hosts Dr. Martin Herschock with his presentation, "We Know No Party Until This Contest Is Over."

The meeting takes place 8 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 21, at the Plymouth Township Hall, 9955 N. Haggerty just north of Ann Arbor Rd. The public is invited, admission is free. For more information, call (734) 451-7998.

Charity bowlathon

Join WNIC celebrities at Seedlings' 21st Annual Bowlathon for Braille Books Sunday, March 9, at the Super Bowl Lanes in Canton sponsored by Foresters, Community Choice Credit Union and St. Mary Mercy Hospital.

This event will help put braille books into the hands of blind children. There will be many great raffle prizes and the bowlers who raise the most pledges will be eligible for top prize packages. Help bring the gift of literacy to blind children and reach the 2008 goal

of 25,000 braille books.

New this year on Seedlings' Web site is on-line pledging and registration. Visit www.seedlings.org under "special events" to register or pledge a registered bowler or download a brochure. Registration deadline is March 1, and the minimum donation or pledges per bowler is \$50. Bowlers will receive three games, lunch, gift bags, and a free ticket for a chance raffle drawing. Tax-deductible door prize and lane or T-shirt sponsorships are still available to local businesses. Register now and reserve a spot at the event.

Mosaic Mothers

MOSAIC Mothers' Group meets on the first and third Tuesday mornings of each month through May 6. Speakers, food, discussion time, social activities. Childcare provided.

Contact Plymouth Baptist Church for more information, (734) 453-5534.

Easter cheer

As a community service project, a handful of Plymouth Newcomers & Neighbors teens have volunteered to assemble Easter baskets in hopes of bringing lots of cheer to those children in need.

During the month of February they will be collecting items to create Easter Baskets for children at a local abuse shelter. They are hoping to make 50 baskets and are in need of the following items: Cellophane for wrapping, Easter grass, basket fillers for both boys and girls ages 3-17 and bubbles, CDs, candy, chalk, cars, lotions, nail polish, Pokemon cards, etc.

E-mail Michelle Hill at mhill@schoolcraft.edu to let her know what items you wish to donate by Feb. 28. The baskets will be assembled Sunday, March 2.

Speaking easy

Are you afraid to speak in public? Ease the fear by attending a free introductory session of Motor City Speak Easy club, a chartered club of Toastmaster's International. Meetings are held the second and fourth Monday of the month, from 7 to 8:30 p.m., at St. Johns Episcopal Church, 574 S. Sheldon Road, just north of Ann Arbor Road, in Plymouth.

The meeting involves impromptu speaking by members and volunteers as well as planned speeches by Toastmasters. We welcome guests and invite new members. For more information, please call Karen at (734) 425-4181 or Crefo at (248) 374-0501.

Civitan essays

The Plymouth-Canton Civitan Club sponsors its

annual essay contest with first-, second- and third-place winners winning \$500, \$300 and \$200, respectively.

Any student under 21 who is enrolled as a full-time student in any high school - public, private or parochial - in the Plymouth-Canton School District can compete.

The topic this year is: "Today, there are 6.7 billion people living on the planet Earth. Over 300 million live in the United States alone. In such a crowded world, do the actions of one individual matter? Can the one have an impact on the many - for good or for bad? Is there any point in policing our own actions when there are so many other people counteracting our gains? If it's possible to make a significant change, how could one person go about doing it?"

Fall festival

The Plymouth Fall Festival is accepting applications for its Craft Show that takes place during the Fall Festival, scheduled for Sept. 5-7. Ten-by-ten foot spots will be \$75 per day or \$200 for the three-day weekend.

Applications are available to download at www.plymouthfallfestival.com or for more information call Colleen Brown at (734) 455-1614.

Businesses interested in participating in the Plymouth Fall Festival Sept. 5-7 may sponsor the entertainment venues, or have a booth downtown during the festival. Sponsorships can include ads in the Fall Festival Guide, banners on the stage, and many other great ways to get exposure for your business.

Visit www.plymouthfallfestival.com for application forms or call Colleen Brown at (734) 455-1614.

School of music

The Plymouth Salvation Army's School of Music begins its spring session Feb. 26.

The sessions are one-hour group lessons, ages 7-adult, piano and guitar and run 6:30-7:30 p.m. Session costs, including materials, are \$75 for piano students, \$50 for guitar students (students must provide the guitar). Group sizes are small, keyboards are provided, headphones allow time for practice, the piano session will be for 14 weeks, with a piano recital June 3. The guitar session runs nine weeks ending April 30.

For more information and to register, call (734) 453-5464.

DAR meets

The Daughters of the American Revolution Northville/Plymouth/Livonia meet 10:30 a.m. Monday, Feb. 18, at the Plymouth District Library in downtown Plymouth.

The meeting is the chapter's Good Citizen Reception. Guest speaker will be 20th District Rep. Marc Corriveau, D-Northville.

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

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- JUMPER (PG-13)
 12:30, 2:45, 5:00, 7:35, 9:45
 FRISAT LS 11:50
- DEFINITELY, MAYBE (PG-13)
 11:00, 1:40, 4:20, 7:00, 9:40
- WELCOME HOME ROSCOE JENKINS (PG-13)
 11:20, 1:55, 4:40, 7:15, 9:50
- THERE WILL BE BLOOD (R)
 12:00, 3:15, 6:30, 9:45
- THE EYE (PG-13)
 7:05, 9:20
- FRISAT LS 11:35
- 27 DRESSES (PG-13)
 11:45, 2:10, 4:35, 7:00, 9:25
- FRISAT LS 11:50
- THE BUCKET LIST (PG-13)
 4:55, 7:10
- JUNO (PG-13)
 12:25, 2:40, 9:30
- FRISAT LS 11:45
- ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS (PG)
 12:00, 2:15, 4:30

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Inside the operating room

Teamwork, advances awe visitors to St. Mary Mercy

BY ALEX LUNDBERG
STAFF WRITER

Caterers and legislator's aides, CEOs and correspondents got a firsthand look, and a very close one at that, at how a hospital operating room really runs Tuesday morning in the Healthcare Partnership Program at St. Mary Mercy Hospital.

Volunteers got to shadow doctors that morning, watching them perform various procedures, as part of a program designed to educate people about the inner workings of the most private of public buildings.

Jennifer Kennedy, marketing and public relations manager, said the program, launched in 2001, is there to inform.

"We want to educate the community about what we do," she said. "Not everyone gets to see so far inside the hospital. We're trying to encourage a dialog between the community and the hospital, to show off our resources."

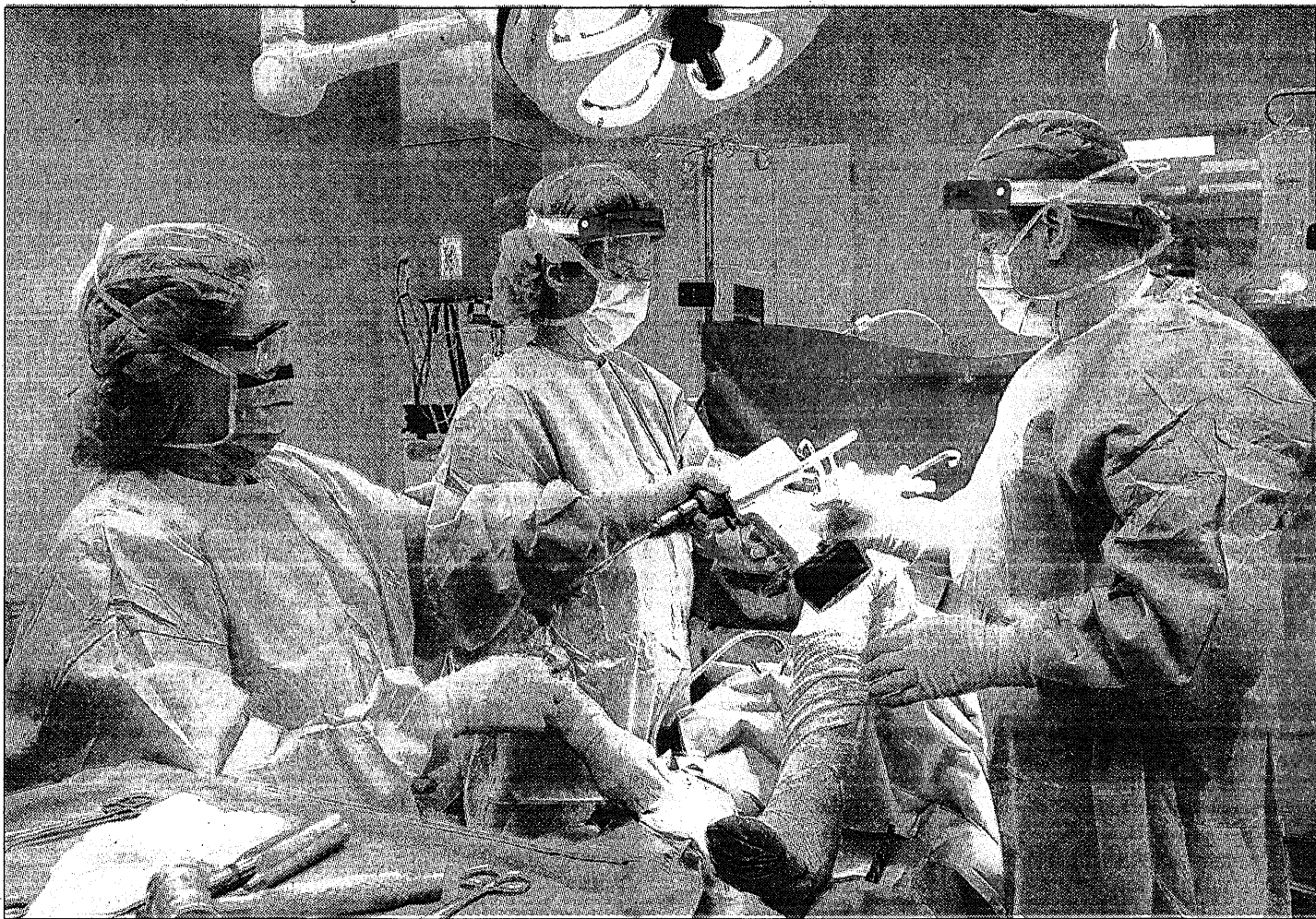
In one of the hospital's operating rooms, Dr. Jeffrey Mendelson discussed the generalities of joint replacement surgery while replacing a hip and a knee. The procedures are necessarily violent — even elderly bones are hard — but the conditions the procedures are designed to alleviate are no less brutal.

"Over time, cartilage erodes and bone starts rubbing against bone," he said. "It's painful."

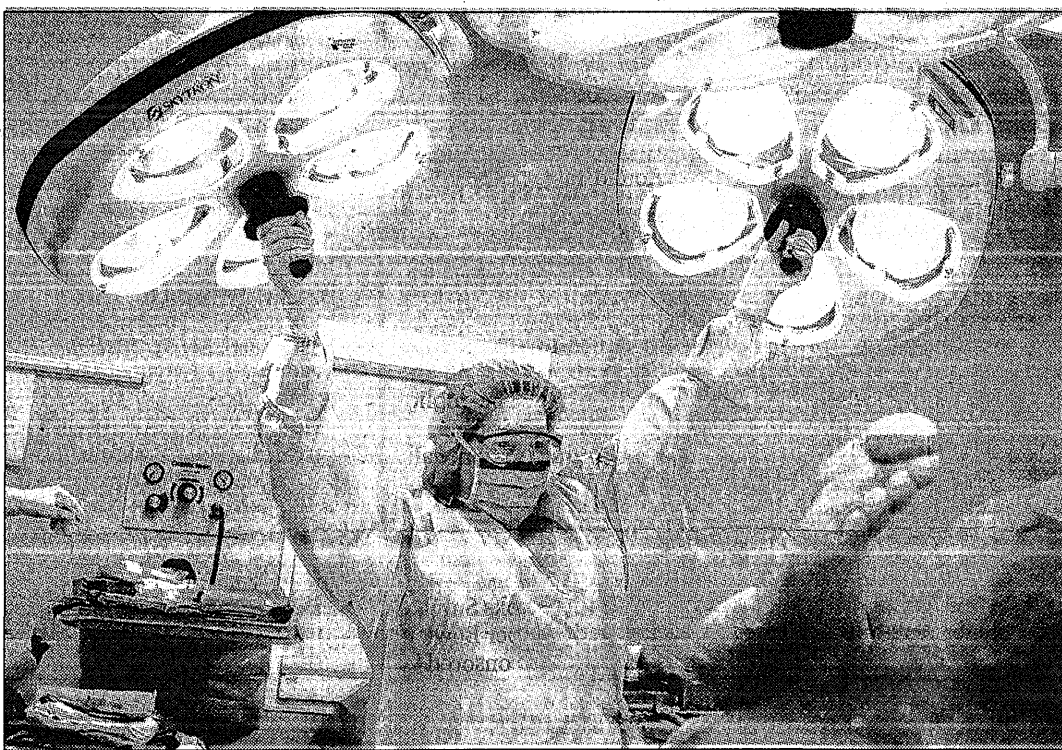
Osteoarthritis, the loss of cartilage due to wear, is something that virtually everyone will face given a long enough life. No one knows what causes it.

"All of the treatments are based on replacement," Mendelson said. "We don't know how to prevent it. Inflammatory arthritis, like rheumatoid or lupus, can be managed. It's a miracle, the alteration in those conditions. Those diseases are extremely well-controlled."

The process of removing a natural joint and replacing it with a construction of titanium and plastic has become fairly routine, a near one-hour process. The plastics are new, the machining of the parts is extremely fine and the replace-



Surgical technician June Mathews hands a drill to Dr. Jeffrey Mendelson, as he and physician's assistant Lisa Hynnar fit a knee replacement to the patient at St. Mary Mercy Hospital.



June Mathews, a surgical technician, adjusts the lighting for surgery.

ment parts can be expected to last for the life of the patient. What's amazing, given

all of the work that is done with drills, saws and hammers, is that the patients were

expected to be walking in the afternoon.

Livonian Ron Reinke, a former parks superintendent with the city, also took part in the program and visited the hospital's cardiology department. He was floored by the abilities he saw on display.

"The skill the doctor possessed to run a wire from the patient's leg to view and eliminate a blockage was amazing," he said. "I was also impressed by the teamwork of the team the doctor had around him."

Chico Rodriguez saw a man's back being repaired.

"They were pouring cement into the vertebrae," he said. "It reminded me of people working construction, pouring concrete into a pillar. It was amazing, they were doing it by monitor."

Since the inception of the program in 2001, 110 participants have visited the hospital. The program is offered three times a year.

alundberg@hometownlife.com | (734) 953-2109

School board set to make its decision

BY TONY BRUSCATO
STAFF WRITER

The Plymouth-Canton Schools Board of Education is expected to make one of two decisions Tuesday night as it considers who will succeed Jim Ryan as superintendent.

The board will decide whether either of the two finalists — Paul Kadri, 42, the superintendent of the Neshaminy school district in Langhorne, Pa., which consists of 9,200 students; or Craig Fiegel, 52, the superintendent of Evergreen Park Elementary School District 124 in Evergreen Park, Ill., which has 1,900 students — is worthy of further consideration.

If the board isn't impressed enough with either candidate, the second option would be to suspend the search and have interim superintendent Ken Jacobs continue in the position until the board decides to reopen the search.

"We still have some final things to do, including reference checks, before we make a final decision," said Judy Mardigian, board president. "The question is do we have someone to lead the district into the future, with finances and academics our biggest priorities."

"If the answer is 'no,'" she added, "we always have a Plan B, Ken Jacobs, who is very knowledgeable about the district. I think we will be in good hands either way."


The school board meets Tuesday at 7 p.m. at the E.J. McClendon Educational Center, 454 S. Harvey in Plymouth.

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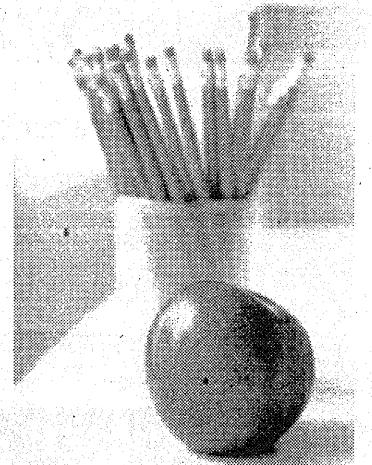
Speaker-Sharon Goodsell, MEd, RN, CDE

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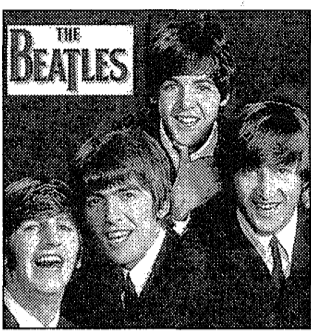
The Plymouth Canton Symphony Society, under award-winning Music Director and Conductor Nan Washburn, presents a special benefit concert, "A Beatles Blast!" 8 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 21, at the historic Penn Theatre in downtown Plymouth.

A substantial ensemble of Plymouth Symphony Orchestra musicians - with the newly-minted moniker "Friends of the Plymouth Symphony Orchestra" - are donating their services to help support the numerous music education programs the PCSS brings to the Plymouth, Canton and Northville communities.

Proceeds from the concert will help raise funds to keep these programs going strong. Concert goers will hear classic Rock & Roll, symphonic style, featuring plenty of "Fab Four" songs.

The concert is sponsored by New Liberty Bank and Hines Park Lincoln Mercury, with additional support from the Plymouth Symphony League, the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs, the National Endowment for the Arts, and from the dedicated support of donors and patrons.

New Liberty Bank and



Beatles publicity photo for first visit to the U.S., 1964.

Lotus Arts Gallery will host a pre-concert cocktail party at Lotus Arts Gallery at 6:30-7:30 p.m. The purchase of a ticket also automatically enters patrons for a chance to win a collection of valuable CD box sets of the featured musicians and a \$500 savings bond from New Liberty Bank.

Tickets are \$100 per person, with a 10-percent discount for groups of eight or more, and are 100-percent tax deductible due to the donation of services. Tickets may be purchased by contacting the Plymouth Canton Symphony Society office by phone at (734) 451-2112, by visiting the secure on-line Box Office on the symphony's Web site at www.plymouthsymphony.org or in person at 470 Forest Avenue, Suite 18, in Plymouth.

Man accused in burning of girl headed to trial

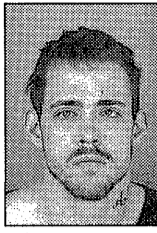
BY KURT KUBAN
STAFF WRITER

District Court Judge Mike Gerou ordered Willis Jacob Adams bound over for trial on child abuse charges Friday, after prosecutors provided compelling evidence that he put his live-in girlfriend's 3-year-old daughter into a scalding hot bath and burned her.

The most damning evidence was the testimony given by the girl's 8-year-old sister, who was home at the time the burns occurred, which was sometime in early January. According to the sister, Adams put the girl in the bath after she had soiled her pants because of a case of diarrhea.

"She was fussing and splashing," the third-grader said about her sister. "She was crying loudly."

The girl's testimony also contradicted statements that Adams and the girl's mother, Ann Plass, provided to police and doctors at University of Michigan Hospital, where they took their daughter several weeks after she suffered the burns only after Child Protective Services visited the



Adams

home and told them to do so. Adams allegedly told doctors and police that the girl got into the bath by herself and never cried.

The sister also testified that Adams told her not to tell anyone about the incident.

"He told me not to tell anyone or I would get in trouble, and I would be taken away by Protective Services," said the girl, who also added that Adams threatened her with physical violence.

It is the policy of the *Observer & Eccentric Newspapers* not to name minors involved in the case.

The 25-year-old Adams, who was arrested Feb. 7, is charged with first-degree child abuse, a 15-year felony; second-degree child abuse, a 4-year felony; and habitual offender II, which will enhance his sentence to 1.5 times the sentence amount, if he is found guilty. According to Wayne County Assistant Prosecutor Lora Weingarden,

Adams was convicted of a felony in 2005.

Child Protective Services removed both girls, as well as their 6-year-old sister, from the couple's mobile home near I-275 and Michigan Avenue. Neither Adams nor Plass are allowed to have contact with them.

University of Michigan pediatric physician Dr. Leena Dev also testified Friday. She examined the girl on Jan. 23, the day after Adams and Plass brought her to the emergency room for her burns.

Dev said the girl's buttocks and the back of her upper thighs were raw and blistered, and she considered it a serious injury. She also interviewed the parents, and said the injuries were not consistent with the story that the child got into the bath on her own.

"She would've had injuries to her feet or lower legs," said Dev, who has testified in dozens of child abuse cases.

Dev said the child was most likely cradled over hot water, and had her buttocks submerged, which is why that was the only area to be burned.

Defense attorney Matthew Evans told Gerou there wasn't enough evidence to hold his client, and that it was likely the burns were a result of some cleaning agents Adams had used in the tub about a half hour before the girl used it.

Weingarden got Plass to admit she lied to Child Protective Services, which learned of the girl's injuries by an anonymous tip, when she told them she had taken her daughter to Oakwood Hospital after the burns occurred. Plass admitted the first medical treatment the girl received was when she was taken to U-M Hospital - roughly three weeks after the incident.

Weingarden said the girl's injuries were clearly child abuse. "He had a motive to do this," she said. "She had diarrhea, and he had to clean it, which isn't a pleasant job. So he was angry. He intentionally dumped this child in the tub."

Adams, who is being held in Wayne County Jail on a \$10,000 cash bond, will be arraigned in circuit court in Detroit on Feb. 29.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

AROUND TOWN

Special-needs play sessions

The Arc of Northwest Wayne County's Lekotek Program offers unique play sessions, toy loans and a play library of nearly 2000 toys for children with developmental disabilities. Children through 12 years of age can enjoy play activities led by a certified

Lekotek play leader who will introduce toys and play ideas to the child while encouraging him or her to take charge of their play and interact with others. Play sessions are always centered on the child with a developmental disability and focus on the child's play abilities while keeping the child's enjoyment as the primary goal. Parents, siblings, caregivers

and friends are invited and encouraged to join in the fun! For more information, please contact Lana Richardson, Lekotek Play Leader/Special Projects Assistant, at (313) 532-8524 or visit us on the web www.thearcnw.org.

Call for choreographers

The Ann Arbor Civic Ballet is searching for choreographers from throughout Michigan to showcase their original pieces in the second annual Dance Michigan performance. AACB seeks all types of dance styles from classical ballet to modern dance set to music from Classical composers to Top Forty and everything in between. The performance will take place on Saturday, April 19, at the Saline High School Ellen Ewing Center for the Performing Arts, featuring an 1,100-seat auditorium with full-fly tower, green room, scene shop and dressing rooms. For more information on participating in the showcase or sponsoring Dance Michigan visit www.annarborcivicalballet.com or contact Mary Combi at (734) 668-8066

or mcombi@comcast.net

Daytime book group

The American Association of University Women (AAUW) hosts a Daytime Book Group 10 a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 20, to discuss "Thunderstruck," by Erik Larson. Daytime Book Group is an interest group of the Northville/Novi Branch of the AAUW. If you would like to join us please contact Carol Popp (734) 464-1947 or e-mail northvillenoviaauw@yahoo.com for more information.

Great Decisions

The Northville/Novi AAUW Great Decisions group meets 1:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 21. E-mail Karen Bunting buntingk@comcast.net to attend. New members welcome. Great Decisions is a Interest Group of the Northville/Novi Branch of the American Association of University Women. We will discuss the concept of foreign aid and its transformation with new forms of assistance, new donors, and new ways of measuring success.

Observer

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CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON ACCESS TO PUBLIC MEETINGS

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

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

Publish: February 17 & 24, 2008

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CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH NOTICE OF HEARING ASSESSMENT BOARD OF REVIEW

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

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

Tuesday, March 4	9 am - Noon Organizational Meeting
	2 pm - 5 pm Hearings by Appointment
Monday, March 10	2 pm - 5 pm Hearings by Appointment
	6 pm - 9 pm Hearings by Appointment
Wednesday, March 12	9 am - Noon Hearings by Appointment
	2 pm - 5 pm Hearings by Appointment
Saturday, March 15	9 am - 11 am First Come - First Served

Other hearing dates and times may be scheduled as needed.

All persons protesting their assessment must complete petitions prior to appearing before the Board. A personal appearance is not required. Appeals by mail will be accepted if received by March 21, 2008.

The Board of Review will be held in the Board Meeting Room of Plymouth Township Hall, 9955 N. Haggerty Road, Plymouth, MI 48170.

Please come prepared as a ten (10) minute time limit before the Board of Review will be strictly adhered to.

Publish: February 14, 17 & 21, 2008

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060858902

Business views vary on stimulus money impact

Retailers hope you'll come shopping with checks

BY JULIE BROWN
STAFF WRITER

Local retailers have their eye on the rebate checks due to taxpayers this spring, although not all think they'll make a big difference.

Kate Rosevear, owner of Carlson Wagonlit Travel in Plymouth, didn't expect a big rush the day after the president's signature came through.

"In truth, my business is doing fine," Rosevear said. "I had a good year last year. A lot of my colleagues had a good year."

She gets a lot of baby boomers whose kids are now through college, meaning they have some disposable income. "They're young enough to travel," she said.

Buyouts from local employers have also boosted the

travel business for Rosevear and others.

Talk of the rebates — expected by May and to range from \$300 to \$1,200 — came up Thursday morning at Laurel Park Place in Livonia among mall walkers.

"I'm going to buy a brand new TV if it's made in the United States," said Mel Karfis of Livonia, a retired construction ironworker. His wife noted few such TVs are now.

Jack Morrison of Plymouth Township, retired from brick sales, had no immediate purchases in mind. "Probably just put it in the bank, I guess," said Morrison, adding he doesn't know how much he'll get. "I think maybe I'll pay my income tax."

Over at Bill Brown Ford in Livonia, sales manager Mike Schrieber was pleased.

"Business is pretty good," Schrieber said. "Any money that's put in the hands of people that live in this area is good for the economy in general."

He thinks customers mulling a car purchase but cautious about a down payment or making payments "will now have that little extra to work with." Those concerned about property values will buy American, the sales manager added.

"It allows them to make some of those purchases they've been dreaming about," Schrieber said.

Westland Floor Covering owner Richard Strausbaugh said this is their normal slower season, with January normal and February thus far slower. "We're hoping the final figures aren't too bad" for February, he said.

"I sure hope so," Strausbaugh said when asked if the rebates will boost business. He plans to offer 110 percent to customers who come in to spend rebate checks. "We're

definitely going to help the economy, personally," he said of his family, noting a TV purchase is in the works.

"I would imagine there's a pent-up demand for goods," Strausbaugh said. "I would hope it would help our business." Westland Floor Covering will mark its 48th anniversary this year.

Tracey Pawlowski owns Back Home Bakery in Canton. "I know personally ours is going in the bank," she said of the family's check, citing the volatile economy. "That money is our padding" in case her husband loses his job.

Pawlowski would like to take a vacation, but isn't rushing to make plans. "The beauty is everybody has a birthday, thank God," she said of business at Back Home Bakery.

Pawlowski, who grew up in Garden City, was a "jumper" with her sister for UPS this past holiday season, helping deliver packages. The women saw a lot of vacant, foreclosed homes, and an eviction. That was hard for her to

watch, and Pawlowski said even losing a business wouldn't be as bad. She hopes people hang on to their money, "just to help themselves."

Laura Van Vliet, owner of Eva's Bridal & Fashions in Garden City, is pleased with what she views as "a windfall" for customers.

"We were just discussing that. It certainly couldn't hurt us," said Van Vliet, who wouldn't want people to ignore mortgage payments but is hoping for increased business. Her store has moderate prices, which she said will help.

"Right now, we're into

proms." Eva's Bridal & Fashions also has bridal and mother of the bride dresses, said the owner, who's a member of the National Federation of Independent Businesses.

That group anticipates help from the stimulus money. "It will be a little extra cash," said Van Vliet. "I would think they would" spend.

"I really feel that people are going to hang onto the money for emergencies," said Mary Jo Mullen, executive director for the Redford Township Chamber of Commerce. "I don't think they're going to go out and buy."

Excelsior Energy Fund still a good investment after management change

Dear Rick: I received notice that Excelsior Funds has become Columbia Funds. I know you recommend Excelsior. I am curious about your thoughts now that it is Columbia.

I have liked the Excelsior Energy & Natural Resources Fund (UMESX). A number of years ago, I did some research and I confirmed



Money Matters

Rick Bloom

that a natural resource fund does belong in a portfolio. This allows an investor to further diversify and also to provide some hedge against rising energy prices.

The Excelsior Energy & Natural Resources Fund has been managed for more than 10 years by Mike Hoover. Members of the Investment Committee at my firm had the opportunity to discuss the changes happening with the company with representatives from Excelsior. They have been assured there will be no fundamental changes to

the fund and that Hoover will continue to manage the portfolio.

The Excelsior Energy & Natural Resources Fund has been very good and for current investors, I recommend they stay put. Despite having a difficult year so far, if you look at the fund's long-term track record, it has been very productive.

The Columbia Funds are managed by Columbia Management, which is the investment management division of Bank of America. Columbia Management, for the last number of years, has been aggressive in acquiring different mutual fund companies. In some cases, it has merged and consolidated funds. It has also acquired a fund company and left some of the funds as is.

Although I continue to like the Excelsior Energy & Natural Resources Fund, I will judge it like I do all other funds, based on performance over the long term. If other things occur such as defections from the portfolio management team, I will reconsider my opinion. That being said, my present recommendation is keep the fund.

Dear Rick: I've always done my own tax return. I am getting to the point where it's getting too difficult to do on my own. Should I buy a software package or should I hire a professional?

I agree that tax returns have become more complex. If you are going to attempt to do your tax return on your own, use a software package such as Turbo Tax or Tax Cut. It makes preparing your return much easier and eliminates mathematical errors. If you file a return with mathematical errors, the IRS will take closer scrutiny of your tax return and that is something none of us want.

For filers who do not want to do their own tax return or have a complicated situation — such as they own a business or they have income in more than one state — it makes sense to hire a professional.

Just because someone knows how to prepare tax returns does not make him or her a professional. If you are having your return professionally prepared, spend a few extra dollars and make sure you are dealing with a professional

— someone who is dedicated to keeping current on the tax law changes and who is available to assist you on any issues throughout the year with regard to your tax return.

As a taxpayer, you are responsible for your return — whether you prepare it, use a software package or hire a professional.

As I have mentioned in previous columns, there is a program where you can obtain free software and do your return for free.

The IRS has partnered with many software companies to offer this service. To see if you qualify, visit the IRS Web site, www.irs.gov and click on "free file."

It is important to remember that tax returns, like everything in our society, have become more complex. So don't be stubborn. If you need help, hire a professional.

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 from noon to 3 p.m. Sundays on WDTK-AM (1400).

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DOG

FROM PAGE A1

attacked and killed their own owners and children."

Schneider met Gage briefly before the family moved in.

"The dog was friendly, it jumped on my fence and I pet the animal," Schneider told the commission. "Research says the friendliest of the dogs have been known to turn."

Mayor Phil Pursell said city officials are keeping a watchful eye on an Arkansas federal court case which tests the constitutionality of a local ordinance banning specific breeds of dogs before making any alterations to the current city ordinance, which reads that "vicious" dogs can't roam at large and have to be secured on their own property.

"We can make ordinances all day long, but if they don't stand up in court they won't do you, or us, any good," Pursell said.

"We live in Plymouth for a reason, so we can let our kids play and be safe," said Nicole Wassel, a neighbor on Jenner. "An ordinance isn't going to stop him in the middle of summer, when the screen door is open, and this dog runs out because he sees my daughter

WEB TALK

What readers said on the Web about this issue:

■ "This is ridiculous! If they ban pit bulls then they should also ban other breeds that are considered dangerous; Dobermans, Rottweilers, German shepherds, American bulldogs and the list goes on. Or better yet how about banning all dogs in Plymouth, you never know little Fifi might just turn on you!"

■ "Any dog can be trained to be vicious."

on her tricycle that made a funny noise. We're going to be locked in our home because they have this potentially dangerous dog."

Kosmyna said they took precautions when purchasing Gage from a breeder in California, making certain his bloodline was not that of a fighter.

"If the community has a problem with him, I'll invite them all over to meet him, he's very well tempered," said Kosmyna. "He's my family dog, man's best friend. I don't feed him raw meat and blood."

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Suitors have interest in Wilcox property

BY TONY BRUSCATO
STAFF WRITER

The owner of the Wilcox property in downtown Plymouth says he's received inquiries from investors who are interested in buying the 107-year-old home, as well as the entire two-acre site at Penniman and Union.

"There're some people looking at the house very seriously, more than one," said Stan Dickson, who declined to reveal any suitors. "It would

be for commercial purposes.

"There are some members of the committee (Plymouth Preservation Network) who have approached me individually about doing something with the home. I'm willing to do a joint venture or partnership. I'm willing to be creative."

Despite an inquiry to city officials about demolishing the house built in 1903, Dickson said he has no plans to raze the historic home.

"I have no intentions, unequivocally and categori-

cally, to tear it down at the present time," said Dickson. "Things could change in the future, but I'm not even there."

Dickson, whose plans for a condominium project on the property fell through several years ago, said he's had offers from investors for the entire site.

"I have one on my desk right now," said Dickson. "I get offers all the time, but this is a written offer from a credible source for a sum of money worth considering."

Dickson said the property is on the market for \$4.5 million, but the offer is "obviously less" than what he's seeking.

Wendy Harless, chairperson of the Plymouth Preservation Network, said Dickson wants \$1.4 million just for the house. "Many other historic homes are in better shape and sell for \$700-\$750,000," she said. "However, Mr. Dickson believes it's worth more because of its location."

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WILCOX

FROM PAGE A1

need to be upgraded.

"The house may not look great on the inside or outside, but I believe I've made the necessary repairs structurally so the house is preserved," said Dickson. "Why do cosmetic changes when someone who buys the building will most likely change them?"

Dickson, whose East Jefferson office is located in Detroit's oldest building — Trowbridge House, named after Detroit's first mayor — said preservationists shouldn't be worried about the fate of the century-old house.

"I'm no more interested in tearing down the Wilcox House more than you have in tearing down your own home," Dickson said. "I own the oldest building in Detroit, so I do have a sensitivity to historic structures."

Among the items listed by the Historic District Commission as needing attention are repairs to the chimney, replacement of gutters and downspouts, replacement of broken glass and removal of loose and chipped paint.

"In general, the condition of the house is deteriorating," said Harless. "We had a structural engineer go through it in August, who said the home is in good shape for its age. Things need to be addressed

before they become problems.

"The code is something every homeowner has to abide by," she said. "It's not like he's being singled out."

Harless said PPN will be looking to find investors who will help secure the future of the Wilcox House.

"We're very interested to see if we can find investors, similar to what the Friends of the Penn have done to save the Penn Theatre," added Harless. "They found a group of investors who purchased the building, but let the nonprofit group run it, and raise money to maintain it and keep it in good shape."

"We want to find that one idea that will generate enough income to pay the taxes on

the property and keep up with maintenance," she said. "Something that benefits the community so everyone can use it, such as for events, weddings, corporate events or even offices."

Harless also said destroying the Wilcox House would be another lost landmark in Plymouth's history.

"With the loss of the Masonic Temple and the Mayflower Hotel, the land around Kellogg Park is changing," Harless said. "If we lose another historic structure, we'll look just like any other community. We'll be losing an identity that makes us special and unique."

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**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON
INVITATION TO BID**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Charter Township of Canton, 1150 Canton Center S., Canton, Michigan will accept sealed bids at the Office of the Clerk up to 3:00 pm, Thursday, February 28, 2008 for the following:

**2008 SITE IMPROVEMENTS
COPPER CREEK CONDOMINIUMS**

The removal of 4,900 square yards of existing 7-inch concrete pavement with integral curb and gutter and replacing with 8-inch concrete pavement, excavation and subsurface drainage improvements including 1,700 feet of underdrain, drainage structure adjustments, sidewalk repairs, restoration and related work.

Bid documents are available to pick up at Canton Township Hall, Engineering - 2nd Floor, 1150 S. Canton Center Road, Canton, MI 48188. A nonrefundable fee of \$40.00 will be charged for the bid packet. A 5% bid bond will be required.

Bid Documents are on file for review at Canton Township Hall - Engineering 2nd Floor, Construction Association of Michigan, Reed Construction Data, McGraw Hill Construction Dodge, and Construction News Service of Michigan, Inc.

The Township does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age or disability in employment or the provision of services.

The Township reserves the right to reject any or all bids, in whole or in part, and accept only the bid deemed to be in the best interest of the Township.

TERRY G. BENNETT, CLERK

Publish: February 14 & 17, 2008
CE08585769-2/5

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON
NOTICE TO PUBLIC
BOARD OF REVIEW APPOINTMENTS**

Notice is hereby given by the undersigned, Terry G. Bennett, Clerk of the Charter Township of Canton, County of Wayne, State of Michigan to all residents of the Charter Township of Canton: that all persons protesting their assessment must complete petitions prior to appearing before the Board. A personal appearance is not required. All petitions must be received in the Assessor's office by March 14, 2008 at 12:00 p.m.

The Board of Review will be held in the Canton Township Hall on the first floor, at 1150 S. Canton Center Road. Entry into the building can be accessed through the front doors of Township Hall. Please come prepared, as an eight (8) minute limit before the Board will be strictly adhered to.

The Following is the schedule for March Board of Review:

Tuesday, March 4, 2008	Organizational Meeting -- 4:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m. (No Appointments)
Monday, March 10, 2008	Hearings from 9:00 a.m. -- 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Appointments Only)
Tuesday, March 11, 2008	Hearings from 1:00 p.m. -- 5:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. (Appointments Only)
Wednesday, March 12, 2008	Hearings from 1:00 p.m. -- 5:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. (Appointments Only)
Thursday, March 13, 2008	Hearings from 9:00 a.m. -- 12:00 p.m. (Appointment Only)
Friday, March 14, 2008Z	Hearings from 9:00 a.m. -- 12:00 p.m. (Appointment Only)

Please be advised entry the building on Tuesday, March 11th after 5:00p.m. and Wednesday, March 12th after 5:00p.m. can only be accessed through the front entrance of the Township hall.

If you have any questions, please contact the Assessor's office directly at (734) 394-5111.

TERRY G. BENNETT, CLERK
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Publish: February 21 & 24, 2008
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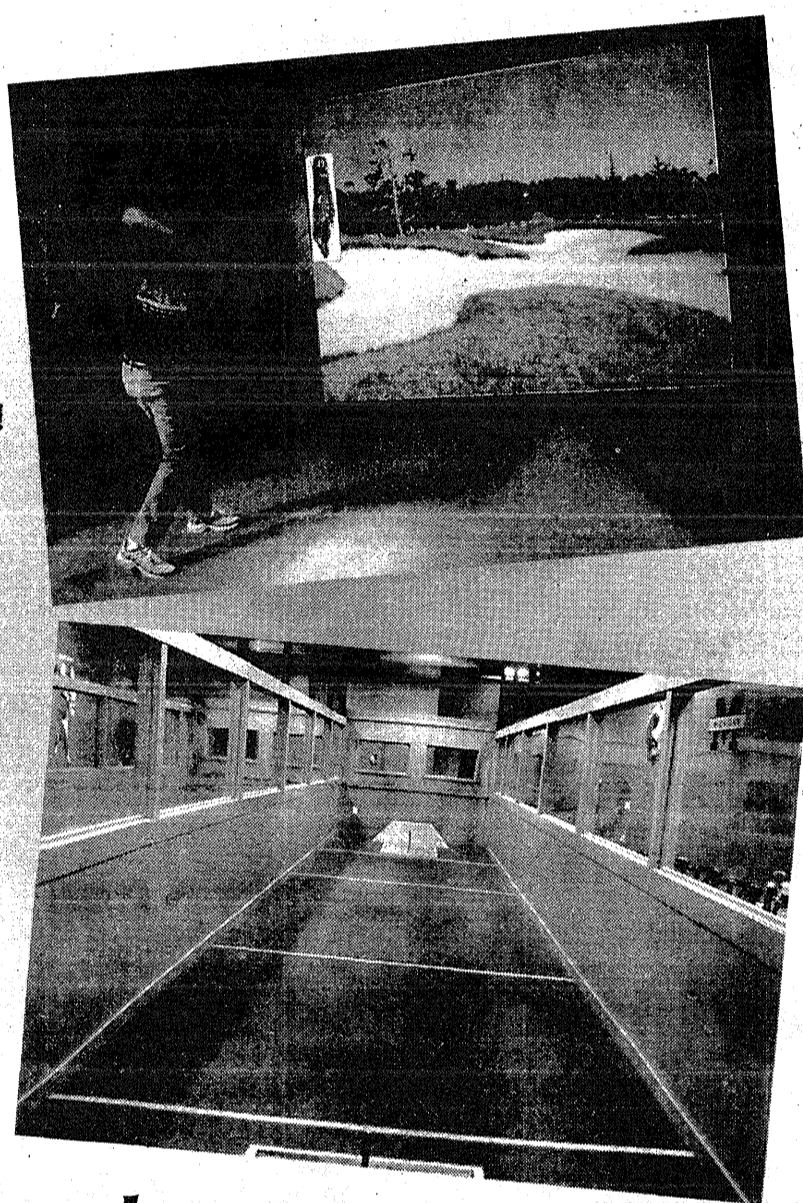
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Similar to a highway bridge spanning two embankments to connect a roadway gap, a dental bridge replaces missing teeth with prosthetic teeth (known as the "pontic") that span the gap between remaining healthy teeth on either side. One important function of the dental bridge is preventing the adjacent teeth from drifting into the empty space. The teeth to which a fixed bridge is attached are called "abutment teeth." In most cases, these abutment teeth must be prepared to accept the bridge. If they are reasonably healthy and free of large fillings, the dentist may recommend a resin-bonded bridge, which reduced the amount of necessary preparation by fusing the pontic to metal bands that are bonded to the abutment teeth.

If one or more of your teeth have been lost to damage or decay, prompt attention with bridges, partials, implants, or other methods of repair will prevent additional, perhaps bigger and more painful problems later on. Visit your dentist on a regular basis, and practice good home oral hygiene. It will pay off in the long run. If you don't have a family dentist at this time, we invite you to 496 W. Ann Arbor Trail, Ste. 201, Plymouth, (1 blk. E. of Kellogg Park). We have convenient office hours by appointment. Call 734-453-9413.

P.S. A "cantilever bridge" is used when there are healthy teeth (to which the bridge may be attached) on only one side of the gap, and the area is under less stress.



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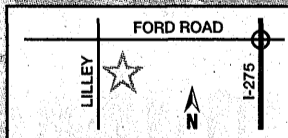


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OUR VIEWS

Diversity of current candidates shows how far we've come

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness."
— Declaration of Independence

With Presidents Day being observed Monday, we couldn't help but think about the current presidential race and reflect on how far we have come as a country.

Never before in U.S. history has a more diverse group of candidates been seriously considered by voters for the highest office in the land.

The candidates, including Mitt Romney, a Mormon who recently dropped out of the race, have varied in age, religion, race and gender.

The Nov. 4 election may see America electing its first woman president or its first black president since its founding more than 232 years ago.

Even voters who don't agree with Hillary Rodham Clinton's or Barack Obama's political platforms must admit we've come a long way in recent decades toward truly believing one of our core founding truths: That all men (people) are created equal.

It wasn't until 1920 that women won the right to vote. And it was even later, in 1964, that the Civil Rights Act was passed outlawing discrimination based on race, color and religion.

Now a woman and a black, who even has support from Southern states, are the top two contenders for the Democratic nomination.

Of course, one area remains where the playing field is not yet equal. It takes money — millions — to run for president. The diverse group of candidates does not include one pauper.

But Presidents Day is a good time to celebrate how far we have come — and it's been a long way, baby.

Never before in U.S. history has a more diverse group of candidates been seriously considered by voters for the highest office in the land. ... The Nov. 4 election may see America electing its first woman president or its first black president since its founding more than 232 years ago.

Gift of Life thanks

On behalf of Gift of Life Michigan, I would like to thank the *Plymouth Observer* for publishing Brad Kadrich's timely and heartfelt article, "Changing lives After death," Feb. 10.

This piece, written with compassion and precision, captured the emotions and healing experienced by the Mitsch family when their daughter Jessica became a donor after her tragic car accident. We thank Brad for eloquently educating readers about organ and tissue donation.

It's easier than ever for residents to add their name to the Michigan Organ Donor Registry and receive a heart sticker for the front of their driver's license or state ID card by visiting www.giftoflifemichigan.org or by calling (800) 482-4881. Thank you for encouraging your readers to make the commitment to be a hero by signing up on the Michigan Organ Donor Registry.

Tammie Havermah
public education director
Gift of Life Michigan

Dangerous intersection

What a wonderful article on Jessica Mitsch, the nursing student who was killed at the intersection of Ann Arbor Road and Gotfredson.

The year before the accident, there was yet another fatality at the same corner. Between the Washtenaw County Road Commission supervisors and the people who set the speed limits, it's easy to see why our roads are a mess and why we have so many accidents, including the two fatalities, two years in a row at the same place at the end of my road.

The powers that be are using the 85th percentile rule which does not take into effect neighborhoods in rural areas like mine where we have to take our lives in our hands every time we get the newspaper and the mail, slow down to turn onto our road off of Ann Arbor Road or, God forbid, take a walk down the country road.

Want a sign replaced that warns about the "hidden driveway?" Nope, "not warranted." Need a light at the

intersection where two drivers have been killed two years in a row? Nope, "not warranted."

The 85th percentile rule assumes people will drive prudently and adjust their speeds according to the driving conditions. Uh huh. I've been here 19 years and can tell you otherwise. People DO NOT adjust their speed for the conditions — we have people backing out of driveways, people going to get the mail and their newspapers, kids returning home from school, deer crossing the roads, neighbors turning INTO driveways, neighbors walking across the street, not to mention slowing down for icy and snowy conditions.

The National Institute for Highway Safety has this to say about it: "Are speed limits based on the 85th percentile traffic speed appropriate?"

"It has been argued that measuring the speed distribution of a roadway and then setting the speed limit so that 85 percent of motorists would be in compliance reduces the need for enforcement and, at the same time, reduces crash risk by narrowing variation among vehicle speeds. However, numerous studies of travel speeds on rural interstate highways have shown that 85th percentile speeds increased when speed limits were raised to 65 mph and then continued increasing.

"The 85th percentile is not a stationary point. It is rather a moving target that increases when speed limits are raised. If speed limits are raised to meet a current 85th percentile speed, a higher new 85th percentile speed will soon result."

And, "Some claim that higher speed limits would reduce crashes." Is this true? No. Advocates of higher speed limits have claimed that research on speed variation indicates faster speeds are not hazardous. They cite David Solomon's research from the mid-1950s that seems to show an increase in crash likelihood among drivers traveling slower than the average speed and a minimum of crashes at 5-10 mph above the average speed. However, the speeds of the crash-involved drivers in these studies were based on self-reports.

It is well-known that drivers exceeding speed limits are likely to deliberately

underestimate their speeds. Such underestimation can account for much of the apparent under-involvement of moderately high-speed drivers in crashes. Later research found that simply removing the crashes involving intersections and turning maneuvers eliminated the exaggerated overinvolvement of slower drivers in crashes. More important, the Solomon research addressed only speed variation, not speed limits.

Raising speed limits increases speed variance as well as average speeds. Higher speed limits encourage motorists already driving fast to travel faster, while many drivers who choose to drive at lower speeds may not increase their speeds when limits are raised."

Sandra Suarez
Plymouth

Superdelegates disenfranchise voters

As a reasonably intelligent senior — my academic credentials are somewhere between a G.E.D. and a Ph.D. — and having passed Civics 101 during the building of the Great Pyramid, and just when I was beginning to fathom the RNC/DNC-controlled gobbledygook of the Electoral Kindergarten, a new and further bastardization of the system envisioned by the founders has ratched up my political quandary. As the King said: "It's a puzzlement!"

Now we're told that if the Clinton-Obama race becomes inconclusive, another anomalous, mind-boggling, quixotic political obfuscation called superdelegates will decide the nominee. Who are these supers? Ostensibly they're a coven of 800 super wise, contemplative Merlins, i.e., party big shots and a smorgasbord of unknown political lackeys, who will tell us who our choice is. Gawd! And to think we used to make jokes about the Soviets' one-candidate system!

If anyone still believes the "Your vote counts" mantra, I have \$1 each shares in Dubai's manmade island paradise. Given P.T. Barnum's famous prognostication, I expect a tsunami-level sales bonanza.

William Carruth
Royal Oak

OPEN
Presidents Day
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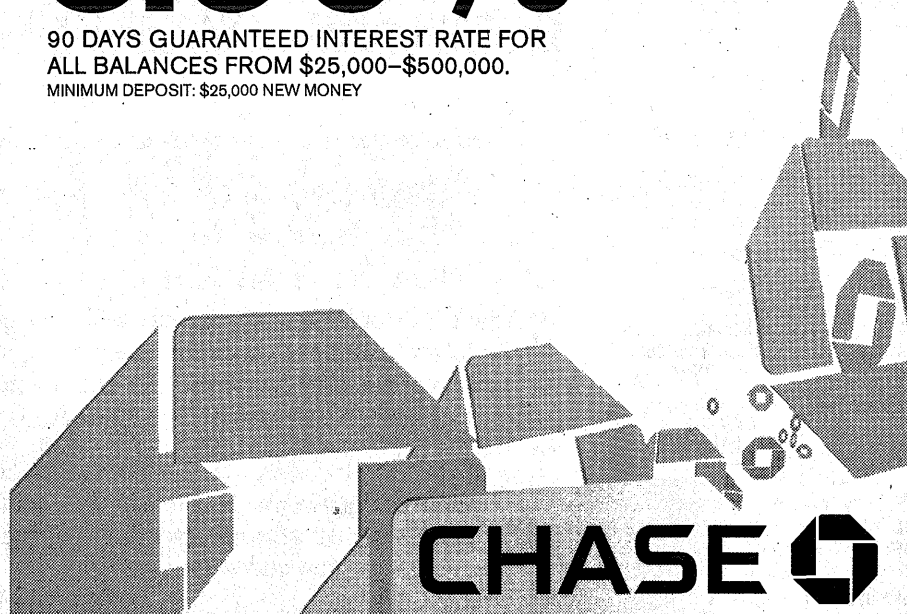
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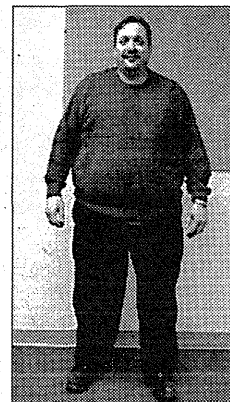
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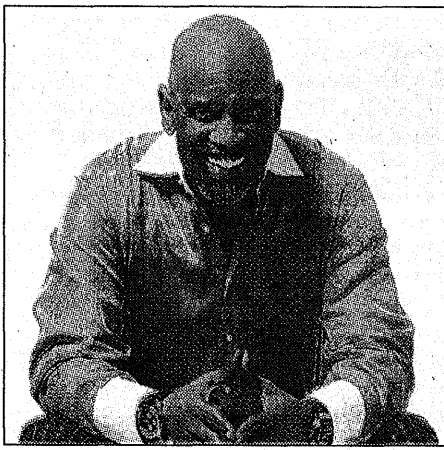
Meet Dr. Zeni and other successful bariatric patients who will share their success stories, answer your questions and give you the life-saving information you need to know.

'Pursuit of Happiness' author speaks at Music Hall Feb. 28

Christopher Gardner, who inspired the movie *The Pursuit of Happiness* comes to Detroit to share his inspirational "rags-to-riches" story 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 28, at Detroit's Music Hall Center. Gardner will discuss his struggles of being homeless and his incredible journey to becoming the CEO and owner of Christopher Gardner International Holdings.

Unfortunate circumstances left Gardner and his toddler son homeless on the streets of San Francisco in the early 1980s. A man driving a red Ferrari became the major turning point in Gardner's life. He realized what he wanted for his and his son's future and what it would take to get there. As a father first, and a businessman second, Gardner's story is one of overcoming obstacles, facing the daunting task of balancing life's responsibilities, and ultimately succeeding.

Despite not possessing any connections or a college degree, Gardner, who wanted to be a stockbroker, managed to earn a place in the Dean Witter Reynold's training program and was offered a position there in 1981. Gardner spent time at Bear



Christopher Gardner, who's story inspired the movie "The Pursuit of Happiness."

Stearns & Co. from 1983 to 1987, eventually becoming the top earner in San Francisco and later in New York. Gardner left in 1987 to establish Gardner Rich & Company, Inc., which has since expanded into Christopher Gardner International Holdings. Gardner's bestselling autobiography, *The Pursuit of Happiness*, recalls this remarkable journey and is also the inspiration behind the movie

starring Will Smith.

African American Family Magazine's Distinguished Speakers Series presents America's most intellectual, inspirational and informative speakers who engage broad-based audiences by addressing issues such as history, race, literature, economics and education. The series has had notables, such as the late Coretta Scott King, author and poet Maya Angelou, Nobel Laureate and Pulitzer Prize recipient Toni Morrison, Sheila Johnson, the world's first black female billionaire and, most recently, former President Bill Clinton.

"The Pursuit of Happiness: Meet the Real Christopher Gardner" is produced by African American Family Magazine. This event is also sponsored by DTE Energy Foundation, Fifth Third Bank, Central Michigan University, McDonald's, the Michigan Economic Development Corporation, Metro Parent Magazine, International Black Expo, Inc., WMXD 92.3 and Warner, Norcross and Judd. Partial proceeds from this event will benefit The Yes Foundation, a local 501c3 nonprofit organization that works to promote literacy in Detroit.

High school students: Film a PSA video, win

The *Observer & Eccentric* and *Mirror Newspapers* are teaming up with Buddy's Pizza to sponsor a public service announcement video contest for high school students.

The winning team will receive \$1,000 to be divided among the participating students.

Schools throughout the tri-county area are invited to produce a 30-second PSA video focusing on teen issues.

"The contest will give high school students an opportunity to send a powerful message that impacts their peers and the community on topics including, but not limited to; the dangers of tobacco, alcohol, drugs, bullying, cyber-bullying and violence," said Marcy Brontman of Buddy's.

Completed student PSA videos are due by midnight Tuesday, April 1. They will stay on the Buddy's Web site throughout April for the public to view and vote for their favorite video. Detroit media professionals will select the winner from the top 10 public favorites.

Student teams interested in participating should e-mail or fax their school name, student project manager and name of high school adviser with address, telephone and e-mail contact to Buddy's Pizza, Attn: Michelle at (248) 855-6329 or mlawton@buddyspizza.com by 5 p.m. Monday, Feb. 25.

CONTEST RULES

Each video must include some representation of Buddy's Pizza and the *Observer & Eccentric* or *Mirror Newspapers* (i.e.: filmed at a Buddy's Pizza location,

Buddy's logo in video, *Observer & Eccentric* and/or *Mirror Newspaper* visible at some point in video). Also included must be the tagline "Sometimes you just need some Buddy's... Seriously!"

Entries received after deadline will be disqualified.

A school team (one per high school) entering the contest must have a school staff member to supervise the project. No copyrighted audio or video materials will be allowed. Only public domain and royalty free music is allowed. No obscenities, vulgarity or lurid material will be permitted and disqualification will be at the discretion of the judges.

All entries become the legal property of Buddy's Pizza to utilize at their sole discretion and will not be returned. Entry in the contest constitutes permission to use winner's video without additional compensation.

Each school can submit only one video for judging. Release forms must be filled out and signed by all participants, on-air and voice-over talent used in the video.

For more information on uploading submitted videos to YouTube and a complete list of rules, contact Michelle Lawton at (248) 855-6222, Ext. 212, or via e-mail at mlawton@buddyspizza.com or Brontman at (248) 626-0250 or visit Buddy's on the Web at www.buddyspizza.com.

Student teams must save their original video. The top 10 selected by viewers from the online poll must submit a high quality version for final judging. Winners will be contacted for further instructions.

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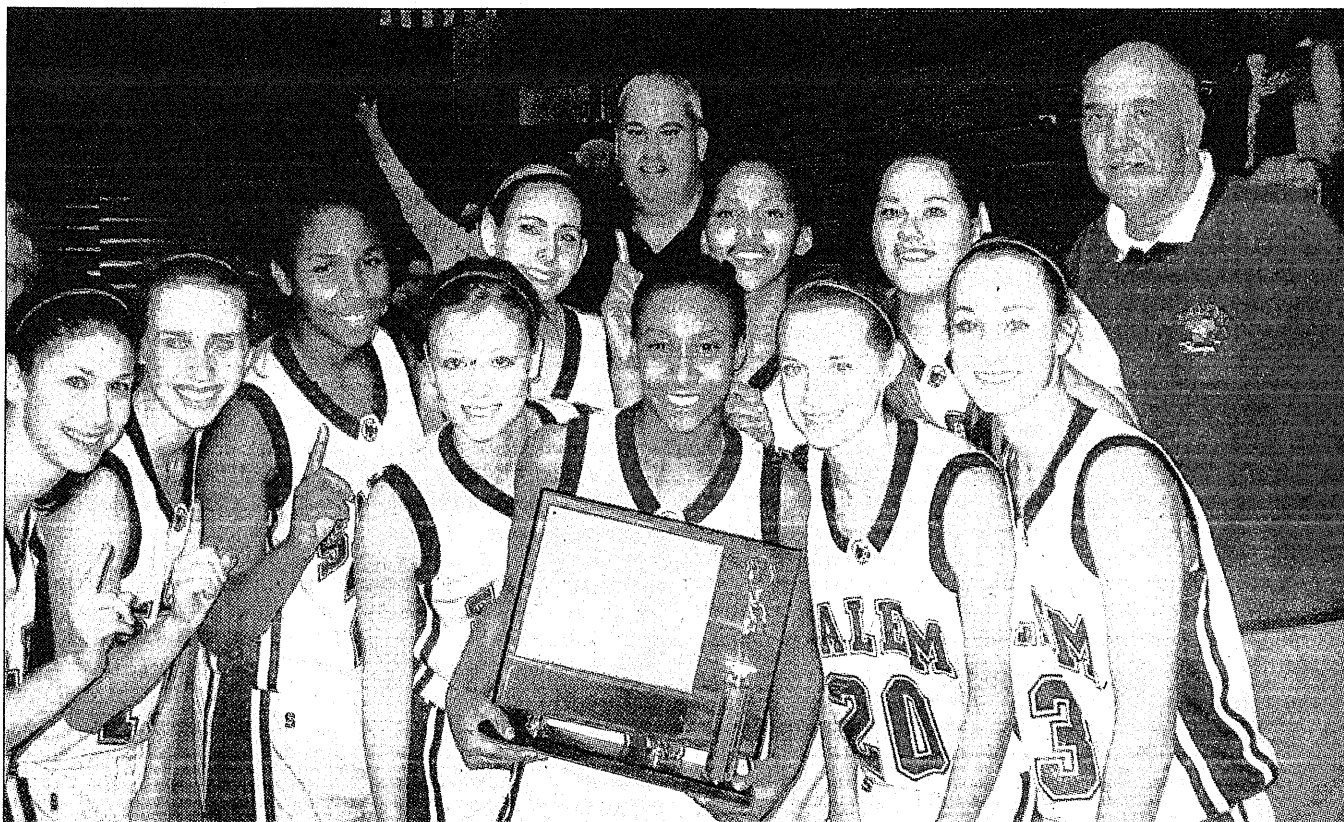
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WLAAC Championship Game: Salem 38, Western 36



Salem's basketball team earned its first WLAAC championship trophy since 2004 Thursday night when it knocked off Walled Lake Western, 38-36, on Alaya Mitchell's last-second shot. Mitchell is pictured holding the hardware.

Game-winning shot was one for the ages

I can see it now, 50-some years down the road, Salem senior point guard Alaya Mitchell will sit down in her rocking chair, a grand child on each knee, and proceed to tell them about Valentine's Day 2008 — the night she banked in a 1-in-a-million shot to beat Walled Lake Western in the WLAAC championship game.

She'll tell them how the clock was ticking down perilously close to 0:00, her team was behind by one point and when she finally pulled up to launch a shot after a court-length rush with the ball, three Western players surrounded her so tightly that it was a wonder she could see the rim through their outstretched arms, let alone throw a ball through it from 14 feet away.

She'll tell them how one of the Warriors bumped her, knocked her off balance, and how she — with so much on the line — somehow managed to push off with one foot and release a shot that skimmed off the backboard and through the net from such a ridiculous angle that it's amazing the ball didn't hit the side of the backboard.

Timeless story

As her grand kids' eyes grow to the size of quarters, she'll tell them how the gym suddenly grew library-esque quiet as everyone looked at the refs to see what they would call.

And how when the trailing man in stripes extended his index finger and made the motion of a ball going down into a hoop before mouthing the words "Count it," her ecstatic teammates gave her a group hug she'll never forget.

Never give up

Alaya will conclude the story with a lesson in perseverance.

She'll tell her grand kids how she

Please see **WRIGHT, B2**



Ed Wright

Sidelines

District hoop

All three P-CEP boys basketball teams will be participating in the Class A District tournament at Novi High School that will run Monday through Friday, Feb. 25-29.

The tournament will open on the 25th with Plymouth squaring off against Salem in a 5 p.m. game. Novi will take on Canton in the second game of the double-header, which is set to tip off at 7 p.m.

On Wednesday, Feb. 27, Novi Catholic Central will play the winner of the Plymouth-Salem contest at 5 p.m. Northville will then play the winner of the Novi-Canton game at 7 p.m. on the 27th.

The championship match-up is set for Feb. 29 at 7 p.m.

The District champ will advance to a Regional tournament the following week at Walled Lake Northern High School.

Basketball winners

Canton's Summit on the Park hosted the MRPA Hoop Shoot competition and a 3-on-3 tournament on Feb. 9.

The winners of the Hoop Shoot were: Zack Gruczelak (boys 8-9), Mike Montgomery (boys 10-11), Scott Gring (boys 12-13), Ashwin Kumar (boys 14-15) and Nina Chen (girls 10-11).

The 3-on-3 champions were:

■ Boys grades three-four: the All-Stars (Obi Okoli, Christopher English, Preetam Shokar and Amanjot Sanghe);

■ Boys grades five-six: the Wolves (Viet Nguyen, Jim Fiscus, Andrew Stevens, Joey Hewitt); and

■ Boys grades seven-eight: the Canton Lions (Devin Slominski, Scott Gring, Mike Boes and Nate Sass).

Golf leagues forming

Golf leagues are currently forming at Canton's Pheasant Run Golf Club, located at 46500 Summit Parkway.

Pheasant Run will create leagues or it will accept already-developed leagues.

All levels of ability are encouraged to enroll.

Among the available openings are mornings; afternoons between 3-5 p.m. from Monday through Thursday; and Sunday evenings.

For more information, call (734) 397-6460 or visit www.leisure.canton-mi.org.

THEY'RE NO. 1!

Rocks win conference title on Mitchell's 1-in-a-million shot

BY ED WRIGHT
STAFF WRITER

Thursday night's WLAAC girls basketball championship game was decided by a shot you'd normally only see on YouTube, SportsCenter or in your dreams.

With her team trailing Walled Lake Western, 36-35, and less than two seconds left, a triple-teamed Alaya Mitchell banked in a near-miraculous 14-foot, off-balance, off-the-wrong-foot jumper while getting fouled to give Salem the lead with 1.5 ticks left.

Mitchell hit the ensuing free throw and the Warriors failed to get off a final shot as the Rocks won, 38-36, to capture their first WLAAC tournament championship since 2004.

"It all happened like it was in slow motion," Mitchell recounted a few moments after her game-winning effort. "Everything was going crazy in my head. I can't even tell you how excited I was when I saw the ball go in."

"It was kind of like a play I'd do on the playground."

Tanya Meftah hit the front end of a 1-and-1 free throw opportunity to put the Warriors up 36-35 with nine seconds left. Her second attempt bounced off the rim and into the hands of Salem's Chelsea Davis, who called a heads-up time out while leaning out of bounds.

Salem coach Fred Thomann then drew up a play that put the ball in Mitchell's hands.

"First of all, it was a great

time-out call by Chelsea Davis," Thomann said. "We wanted to get the ball to 'Mitch', get two shooters spotted up and two rebounders stationed down low in case the shot missed. If 'Mitch' was covered, the play called for her to give it up to one of the other two shooters."

"But, of course," Thomann said, smiling, "we all knew 'Mitch' wasn't about to give it up."

Western coach Dave Walther said his team couldn't have defended the play any better than it did.

"We knew Mitchell would get the ball, so we rotated over to her," said Walther. "We figured she'd either take it herself

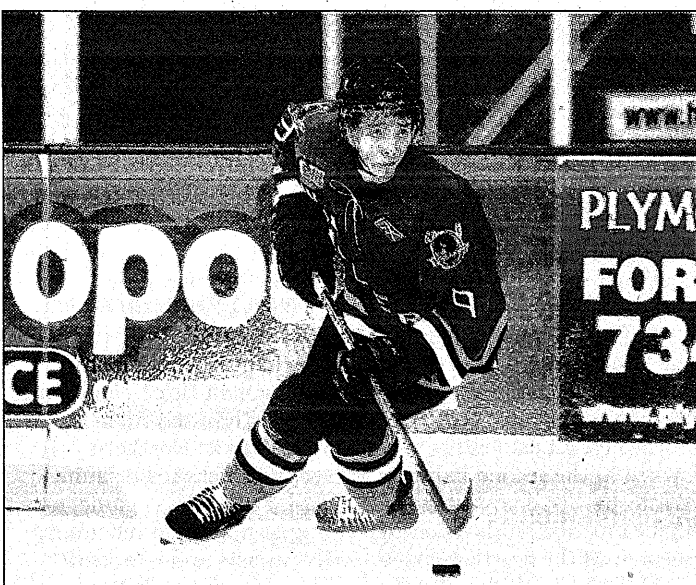
Please see **ROCKS, B2**

FEBRUARY FRENZY

All three P-CEP girls basketball teams will open Class A District play Monday night at Livonia Ladywood High School. Following is the schedule:

- Monday, 6 p.m. - Canton vs. Ladywood; 7:30 p.m. - Salem vs. Plymouth;
- Wednesday, 6 p.m. Canton-Ladywood winner vs. Northville; 7:30 p.m. - Salem-Plymouth winner vs. Novi;
- Friday, 7 p.m. - Championship game.

Please see **WRIGHT, B2**



Plymouth Whalers forward Vern Cooper is making the most of his increased ice time this season as he's picked up 14 goals and 14 assists through the team's first 53 games.

Waswanipi's finest

Cooper has traveled great distances in search of OHL success

BY ED WRIGHT
STAFF WRITER

Vern Cooper is listed at 5-foot-9 and 176 pounds in the Plymouth Whalers' official team program, but he's a lot bigger than that in his hometown of Waswanipi, Quebec.

How big? The top link on the village's official Web page reads, "Vern Cooper: OHL Champ."

Click on the link and you'll find a series of photos taken after the Whalers won last year's Ontario Hockey League championship in Sudbury, Ont., which, coincidentally,

is the city Cooper's family relocated to when he was 10.

One of the link's photos shows a broadly smiling Cooper hugging his parents. It's hard to tell what's greater in the snapshot: Cooper's joy or his parents' pride.

The 17-year-old quicker-than-lightning skater has earned near-legend status in Waswanipi — and near-celebrity status in Sudbury — because he's a tough, fast-moving forward who can zip around bigger defensemen like the roadrunner zips past the coyote — and because he's as likeable as he is talented.

"You can't walk down a street in

Sudbury with Vern without somebody recognizing him," said Pete Krupsky, the Whalers' director of communications. "He's a very popular figure there."

Cooper is flourishing in his second year with the Whalers. After serving as a self-described "fourth-line energy player" last season, he's racked up 14 goals and 11 assists through Friday night's win over Saginaw.

"I had kind of a rough first half, but I've been picking it up lately," he said. "I'm on the PP (power play) and

Please see **COOPER, B2**

Stone tips scales Rocks' favor in 20T thriller

BY ED WRIGHT
STAFF WRITER

If you like dramatic, buzzer-beating shots and down-to-the-wire excitement, the Salem gymnasium was the place to be Friday night.

The host Rocks outlasted Plymouth, 74-72, in a double-overtime marathon that wasn't decided until a Wildcat long three-point attempt fell just short at the buzzer.

"It was like two gladiators going to battle all night," said Salem coach Bob Brodie, whose team improved to 9-10. "They'd land a punch and we'd counter. Both teams played very well. It was just a matter of who ended

up with the ball last."

The game-winning points came on an offensive put-back by Salem senior Grant Stone, who finished with a career-best-tying 36 points.

Plymouth slipped to 7-12. Plymouth led 11-8 after one quarter and 25-24 at the intermission.

The Wildcats extended their advantage to 43-38 with eight minutes to play, however, the Rocks rebounded to grab a 56-53 lead with the final seconds ticking down when Plymouth's Brandon Roberts picked up a loose ball following a mad scramble and calmly banked in a triple at the buzzer to send the game in the first overtime.

Salem trailed 63-61 during the closing seconds of the first OT when senior forward Ross Davis drained a turn-around jumper from the top of the key to force another four-minute period.

Davis finished with 15 points for the winners and junior forward Courtney Frazier added eight points.

Stone led all rebounders with 15 boards.

Roberts had a sensational night for the Wildcats as he poured in 25 points. Other key contributors included Garrett Rebain (15 points), Navraj Sandhu (14) and freshman Justin Moss (13).

The Rocks connected on 9-

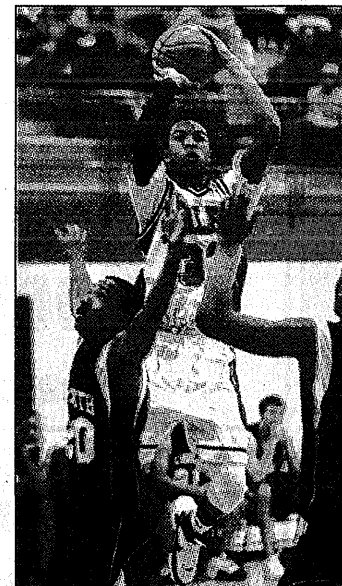
of-17 free throws (52.9 percent) while the Wildcats swished 15-of-31 (48.3) from the charity stripe.

The same two teams met Feb. 7 at Plymouth with the Wildcats coming out with a 56-52 victory.

They'll meet again in the first round of the Class A District tournament on Monday, Feb. 25, at 5 p.m. at Novi High School.

The Rocks and Wildcats will conclude their regular season Tuesday night against opponents that were not determined as of Friday night's Observer deadline.

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Salem's Grant Stone takes aim at two of the 36 points he scored in Friday night's 74-72 double-overtime victory over Plymouth.

GYMNASTICS RESULTS

CANTON 134.95
WALLED LAKE WESTERN/NORTHERN 130.85
WEDNESDAY AT WALLED LAKE
VAULT: 1. Robyn Piowar (C), 9.25; 2. Hannah Saarinen (WLWN), 9.15; 3. Cathy Huang (C), 8.95; 4. Kiley Tobel (WLWN), 8.55; 5. Mallory Hudak (C), 8.5; 6. Shannon Slayton (WLWN), 8.4.
UNEVEN BARS: 1. Hannah Saarinen (WLWN), 9.15; 2. Robyn Piowar (C), 8.65; 3. Cathy Huang (C), 8.45; 4. Shannon Slayton (WLWN), 7.95; 5. (tie) Kiley Tobel (C) and Kiley Tobel (WLWN), 7.9.
BALANCE BEAM: 1. Hannah Saarinen (WLWN), 9.15; 2. Robyn Piowar (C), 8.2; 3. (tie) Kiley Tobel (C) and Shannon Slayton (WLWN), 8.05; 5. Cathy Huang (C), 7.85; 6. Mallory Hudak (C), 7.8.
FLOOR EXERCISE: 1. Mallory Hudak (C), 9.55; 2. Robyn Piowar (C), 9.1; 3. Shannon Slayton (WLWN), 9.05; 4. Kiley Tobel (C), 8.4; 5. Hannah Saarinen (WLWN), 8.75; 6. Cathy Huang (C), 8.5.
CANTON'S ALL-AROUND SCORES: Robyn Piowar, 35.20; Mallory Hudak, 33.80; Cathy Huang, 33.75.

CANTON 134.95
WALLED LAKE CENTRAL 123.05
WEDNESDAY AT WALLED LAKE
VAULT: 1. Robyn Piowar (C), 9.25; 2. Taylor Heredyk (WLC), 9.2; 3. Cathy Huang (C), 8.95; 4. Mallory Hudak (C), 8.5; 5. Tatiana Palafox (WLC), 8.35; 6. (tie) Katelyn Rutherford (C), Kate Carroll (C) and Callie Zahul (WLC), 8.3.
UNEVEN BARS: 1. Robyn Piowar (C), 8.65; 2. (tie) Tatiana Palafox (WLC) and Taylor Heredyk (WLC), 8.55; 4. Cathy Huang (C), 8.45; 5. Kiley Pierce (C), 7.9; 6. Kate Carroll (C), 7.7.
BALANCE BEAM: 1. Robyn Piowar (C), 8.2; 2. Kiley Pierce (C), 8.05; 3. Taylor Heredyk (WLC), 7.95; 4. Cathy Huang (C), 7.85; 5. Mallory Hudak (C), 7.6; 6. Tatiana Palafox (WLC), 7.5.
FLOOR EXERCISE: 1. Mallory Hudak (C), 9.55; 2. Robyn Piowar (C), 9.1; 3. Tatiana Palafox (WLC), 8.85; 4. Cathy Huang (C), 8.5; 5. Kiley Pierce (C), 8.4; 6. (tie) Taylor Heredyk (WLC) and Callie Zahul (WLC), 8.2.
CANTON'S ALL-AROUND SCORES: Robyn Piowar, 35.20; Mallory Hudak, 33.80; Cathy Huang, 33.75.

Chief cagers hold off late Northern rally

Canton repelled a valiant fourth-quarter comeback by Walled Lake Northern and went on to post a 58-51 victory Friday night in the Chiefs' Phase III gymnasium.

The Knights erased all but one point of an 11-point deficit in final four minutes before the Chiefs turned in some clutch plays down the stretch.

The win improved Canton's record to 6-13. Northern slipped to 4-15.

Senior forward William Tidwell led Canton with 14 points and eight rebounds. Also excelling for the winners were juniors Dan Stoney (12 points and eight boards) and Joel Schwiebert, who netted eight points and six rebounds.

Leroy Jackson led Northern with 23 points - 16 of which came in the fourth quarter.

"Our inside guys played a fantas-

BOYS PREP HOOP

tic game," said Canton coach Dan Colligan. "We knew we had to get the ball inside to win tonight and they guys did a phenomenal job of doing that."

"Even though Leroy Jackson finished with 23, the guys who were guarding him - Kyle Biega, Kierre Daniels and Don Haron - did a great job defensively on him holding him to seven points through three quarters."

Canton roared to an 18-7 first-quarter lead and 28-16 halftime advantage. The Knights cut their deficit to 37-30 with eight minutes to play.

Canton made 17-of-27 free throws (62.9 percent) while Northern was 9-of-10 from the stripe.

CANTON AGAPE 78, MACOMB CHRISTIAN 54: On Friday at Ypsilanti Calvary Christian, the Wolverines earned an impressive victory on "Homecoming."

The win improved Agape's record to 12-6 overall and 6-2 in the Michigan Independent Athletic Conference's Red Division. Macomb slipped to 6-12 and 2-6, respectively.

The Wolverines will battle for first place in the division with fellow co-leader Novi Franklin Road Christian Tuesday night at 7 p.m. in the Warriors' gym.

The winners broke open a tight contest by outscoring Macomb 29-13 in the second quarter.

"We started pressing in the first quarter and I wasn't pleased how effective it was, so we switched to a man and a zone," explained Agape coach Keith Anleitner. "I sat down

my starters for a while after the first quarter and put the reserves in and I think it motivated the starters to play harder because when they got back in the game they really played well."

Ty Majeski led the homecoming triumph with 25 points. Mark Mullett added a career-high 23 points (15 of which were the result of five three-pointers). Donald Mullett chipped in with 10 and Jared Miller netted nine points and eight rebounds.

"Ty got a lot of his points on fast-break lay-ups - he plays very well in the open court," said Anleitner.

Agape led 47-29 at the half and 66-43 with eight minutes left.

Joel Battjes paced Macomb with 21 points. Agape connected on 7-of-11 free throws (63.6 percent) while Macomb netted 6-of-14 free-bies (43.0).

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COOPER
 FROM PAGE B1

PK (penalty kill) teams now, so I'm getting more opportunities to score and help the team."

His accomplishments are widely followed in Waswanipi, a hockey-loving Cree community of close to 1,200 residents located in central Quebec.

"Everybody is into hockey up there," said Cooper, who noted his hometown is a 16-hour drive from Plymouth. "Hockey is pretty much all there is to do where I grew up."

"A lot of good players have come out of Waswanipi, but most of them end up going back because they get homesick. I think a lot of people have respected me because I've been able to battle through it and keep going."

Cooper laced on his first pair of ice skates at the fearless age of 3.

Before too long, he was battling for loose pucks with his older brothers.

"My brothers were actually very good hockey players; they had a lot of potential," said Cooper. "They helped me a lot when I was younger."

Cooper has been able to overcome his less-than-Chris-Chelios-like stature with a skill that can't be taught.

"I guess my speed has had a lot to do with my success," he said,

modestly. "I'm able to get around the bigger defensemen because I'm a little quicker than they are."

A student at Starkweather School in Plymouth, Cooper said the dual responsibilities of student/OHL player can get demanding at times.

"Probably the toughest part is when we're traveling because I still have to take care of my school work along with playing hockey," he said. "Just because we're on the road doesn't mean I can stop concentrating on my school work."

Cooper emulated former NHL star Pavel Bure as a kid.

"I always admired his speed and skill, plus he's a smaller guy like myself," said Cooper.

Cooper is already working toward improving his chances of getting drafted by an NHL team when he's eligible in June of 2009.

"My parents have hired a trainer for me, so I work very hard at off-ice stuff during the summers," he said.

When he gets back to Waswanipi during the off-season, Cooper enjoys playing golf with his brothers and accompanying his relatives on hunting excursions.

"I've never shot at anything yet, but I've been with people who have shot bear and moose," he said.

With his impressive combination of speed, determination and savvy instincts, it may not be too long before Cooper is taking a serious shot at stardom.

Whalers double-up Saginaw

Veteran Joe McCann netted a power-play goal and an assist to lead the Plymouth Whalers to a 4-2 victory over the Saginaw Spirit in an Ontario Hockey League game played Friday night before 3,613 at the Dow Event Center in Saginaw.

The Whalers won their second straight game and are now 31-21-2-2, good for 66 points and third place in the OHL West. Plymouth is currently the fifth seed in the OHL's Western Conference playoff race. Saginaw is now 26-22-4-2, good for 58 points and fifth place in the OHL West.

Besides McCann's 11th net-finder of the season, Patrick Lee (10th), Andrew Fournier (32nd) and Monroe's R.J. Mahalak (2nd) scored for Plymouth. Adam Comrie (7th) and Chris Chappell (12th) replied for Saginaw.

Plymouth won the battle of special teams, going 2-for-5 on the power play, scoring a short-handed goal and killing off all five Saginaw power plays.

Plymouth played the game without suspended defensemen Leo Jenner and Jozef Sladok; and injured defense-

man Josh Bemis. To fill the vacancies on the blue line, the Whalers called up Anthony Donati from the London Jr. Knights and utilized McCann on defense. In addition, the Whalers were without right wing Ryan Hayes and head coach Greg Stefan, both suspended Feb. 10 due to fighting in the Whalers' 7-4 loss in Kingston.

The Whalers took a 1-0 lead on a power play at 7:12 of the first period when McCann tapped home a rebound from the left wing after Christian Steingraber's point shot was stopped by Saginaw goaltender Ryan Daniels. Saginaw tied the game at 14:12 when Comrie ripped a shot from the left point over the shoulder of Plymouth goaltender Jeremy Smith.

Plymouth took a 2-1 lead on another power play goal at 17:25 when Lee tapped home a loose puck in the Saginaw crease area.

Fournier gave the Whalers a 3-1 lead on a short handed goal with ten seconds left in the first period when Chris Terry skated hard right wing to the Spirit goal line and fed Fournier out in front.

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ROCKS
 FROM PAGE B1

or pick-and-pop it to Davis, because she's a pretty good shooter.

"We rotated over to her well and I thought we might get a travel call, but the ref saw it differently."

Salem closed its regular season with an 18-2 mark and plenty of momentum heading into Monday night's Class District opener against Plymouth.

Western will take a 17-3 record into next week's Class A District tournament.

"When we started the season, I thought we'd be decent, but I didn't know if we'd get this far," said Davis, who was the Rocks' MVP for the first 31 minutes and 58 seconds Thursday night. "Winning this proves that we've gotten better as the season has gone on and that we're playing together as a team."

Davis finished with 16 points and eight rebounds.

Drawing double- and sometimes triple-teams, Mitchell had a sub-par shooting night before her dramatic difference-maker as she connected on just 3-of-21 shots and 3-of-5 free throws for 11 points.

Sophomore Sara Stone added nine points and 10 rebounds for the Rocks.

The Warriors' scoring ledger was as balanced as the Walled Lake Northern gymnasium floor the game was played on: Carly Zeitlin and Chelsea Hunter both contributed eight points; Meftah added seven; and Melanie Wilkerson and Lauren Williams both chipped in with four.

"The girls played great - they did everything I asked them to do," said Walthers. "They really sold out for this game. Salem is especially tough to guard, especially because we were out-sized. We had some rebounding issues that hurt us."

Western jumped out to a 13-10 first-quarter lead before the Rocks battled back to deadlock the game at 21-all at the half.

The biggest lead either team owned in the second half was Western's 31-26 advantage that came during the opening seconds of the fourth quarter on Meftah's back-door layup.

The Warriors grabbed a 35-32 lead with 2:51 left on a nifty up-and-under post move by Zeitlin.

Davis countered with a basket 30 seconds later to bring her team to within 35-34.

The Rocks drew even at 35-35 thanks to a Mitchell free throw with 10.7 ticks left. Meftah was then fouled with nine seconds to go to set up the dramatic conclusion.

Salem hit 14-of-44 field goals (31.8 percent) and 7-of-12 free throws (58.3). Western connected on 14-of-39 shots from the field (35.8) and 7-of-11 freebies (63.8).

Both teams turned the ball over 13 times.

"I'm especially happy for 'Mitch' tonight," said Thomann, referring to his lone senior. "It's the first time she's won this tournament as a varsity player."

"Western has a heck of a team. They were 17-2 coming in and they played right with us. And they play hard - oh my, do they play hard."

LIVONIA FRANKLIN 45, W.L. NORTHERN 24: The Patriots won handily in the WLAA tournament third-place game played Thursday night at Walled Lake Northern.

Junior forward Brianna Taylor had a huge game, netting 14 points, 16 rebounds, five assists and five steals. Her twin sister, Brittany, also shined, contributing 16 points, five rebounds and five steals. Ashley Price chipped in with seven boards and Seneca Scott added six points.

Brittany Gibson led the Knights with seven points.

Franklin (16-4) led 12-2 after one quarter, 22-8 at the half and 34-16 with eight minutes to play.

WRIGHT
 FROM PAGE B1

couldn't buy a basket for most of the game that night - how the ball seemed to sit on the rim so many times before deciding to fall the wrong way off it.

Then she'll tell them that despite the fact the basketball gods were frowning on her for most of that night, she didn't

give in, didn't get down.

And how when her coach drew up the final play for her, she wanted the ball more than she's ever wanted it before.

She'll tell them to always keep their chin up, no matter what, because *their* team will be counting on them - just like her team was counting on her on Valentine's Day night, 2008.

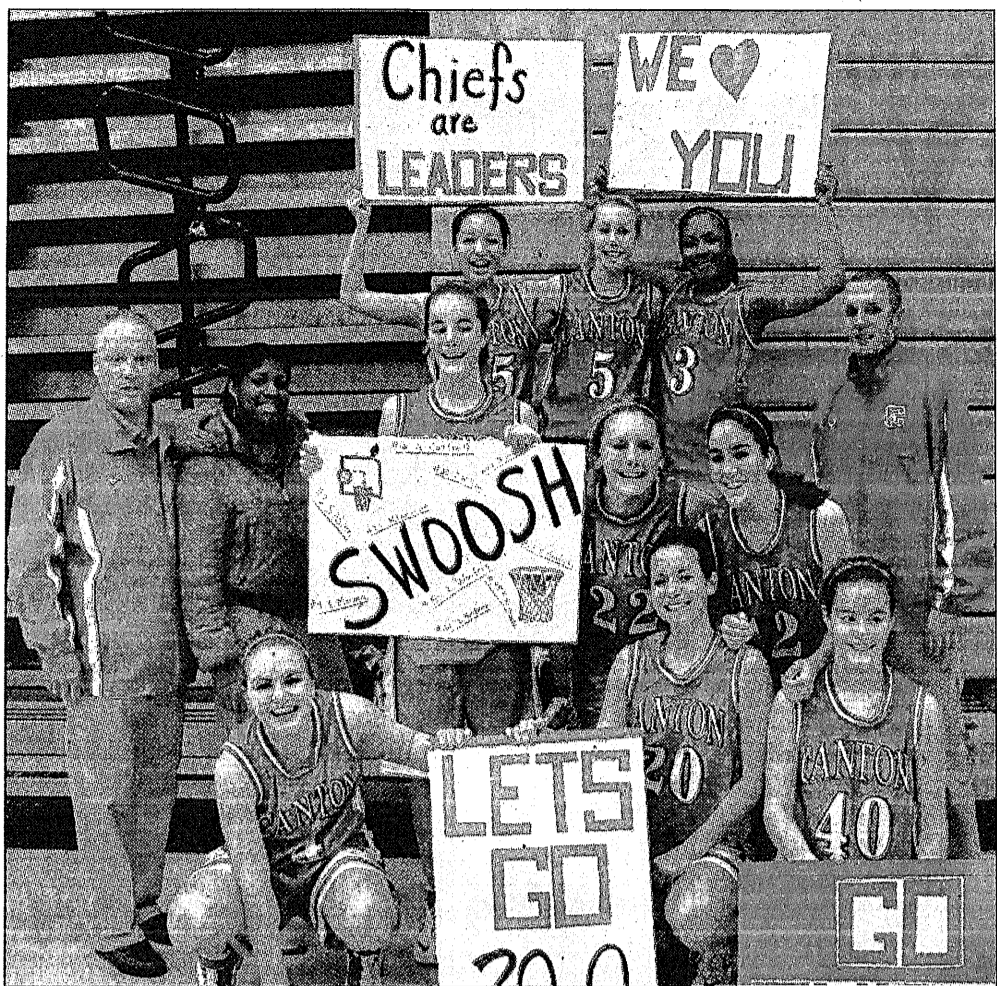
And I can see it now - her

grand kids will jump off her lap, grab their basketballs and run to the door that leads to the drive-way hoop court.

"Wait for me," she'll say, before picking up another basketball and spinning it on her finger as she follows them out the door.

Ed Wright is the Sports Editor for the Plymouth and Canton Observers. He can be reached at (734) 953-2108 or ewright@hometownlife.com.

Visit us online at hometownlife.com

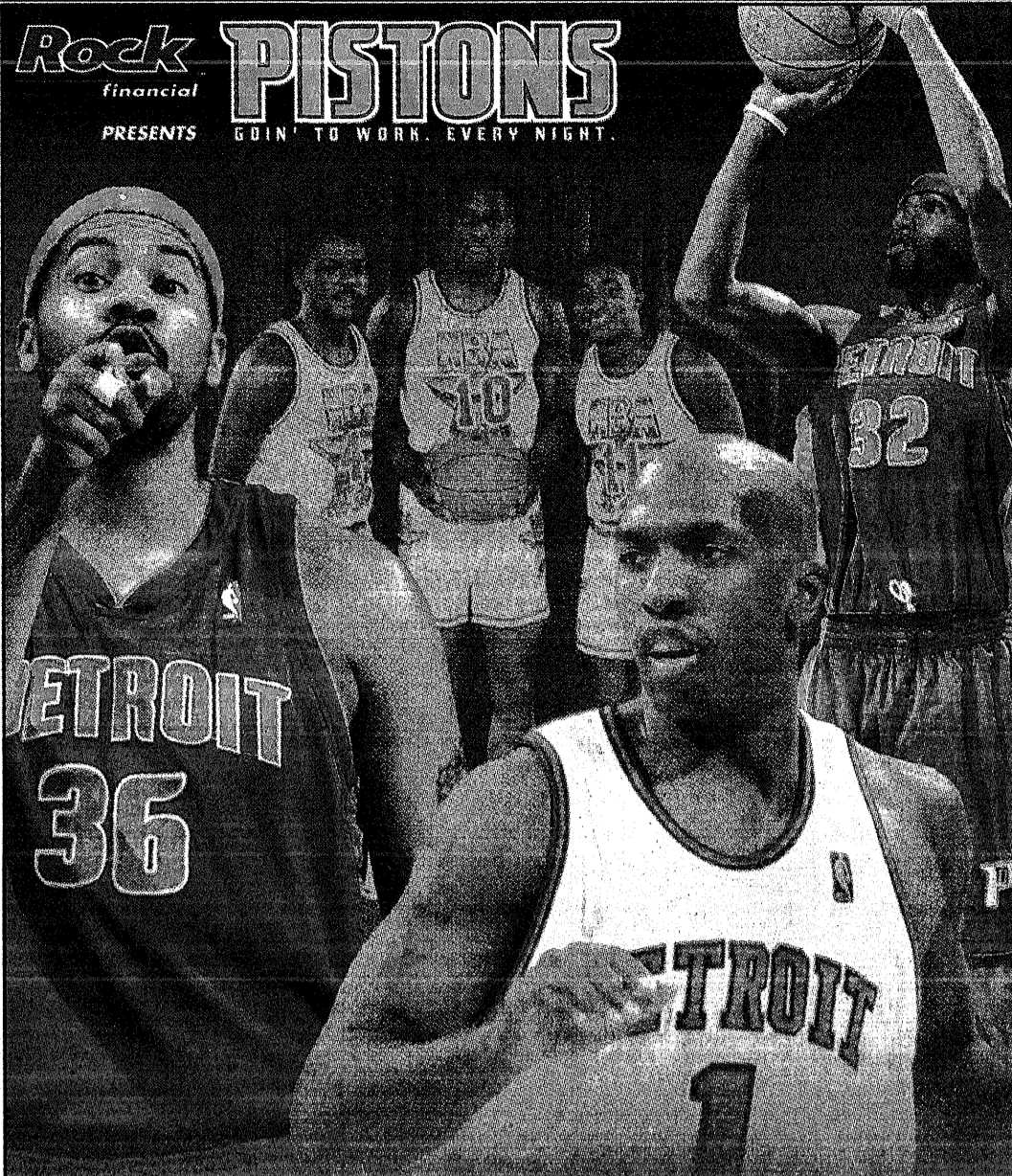


Perfection personified

Canton's junior varsity girls basketball team completed a 20-0 season Monday against Livonia Stevenson. Pictured are (top row from left) Yuki Krolicki, Lindsey Winters, Shelby Nolen, (middle row from left) head coach Bob Blohm, Ciara Williams, Kari Schmitt, Laura Kushner, Alyssa Cottrell, assistant coach Jason Priebe, (front row from left) Lauren Macuga, Kelly Larimore and Sara Schmitt.

SWIM RESULTS

SALEM 110 WALLED LAKE CENTRAL 76
THURSDAY AT SALEM
200-yard medley relay: 1. Salem (Matt Collingwood, Sida Chen, Cameron Dunn, Nathan Spala), 1:50.58; 2. Central (Ryan Miceli, Ben Baumgarten, Tyler James, Garrett Leidich), 1:52.26; 3. Central (George Smolkin, John Molnar, Cory Casagrande, Tyler Esmacher), 1:57.44.
200 freestyle: 1. Adam Seroka (S), 1:54.63; 2. Sean Riley (WLC), 2:00.33; 3. Max Mills (S), 2:06.19.
200 IM: 1. Sida Chen (S), 2:13.33; 2. Ryan Miceli (WLC), 2:21.73; 3. Cory Casagrande (WLC), 2:24.25.
50 freestyle: 1. Nathan Spala (S), 24.78; 2. Paul Cherewick (S), 25.16; 3. Garrett Leidich (WLC), 25.62.
1-meter diving: 1. Kevin Smith (S), 171.50 points; 2. Tyler Esmacher (WLC), 147.35; 3. Paul Krutty (S), 140.45.
100 butterfly: 1. Sida Chen (S), 58.40; 2. Ryan Miceli (WLC), 1:00.28; 3. Cameron Dunn (S), 1:01.95.
100 freestyle: 1. Adam Seroka (S), 51.27; 2. Ben Baumgarten (WLC), 51.78; 3. Sean Riley (WLC), 52.64.
500 freestyle: 1. Matt Collingwood (S), 5:17.34; 2. Max Mills (S), 5:26.52; 3. Tory Tederington (WLC), 5:36.06.
200 freestyle relay: 1. Salem (Nathan Spala, Sida Chen, Joe DeFassanyi, Adam Seroka), 1:38.04; 2. Central (Tyler Esmacher, Matt Jannette, Garrett Leidich, Sean Riley), 1:42.11; 3. Central (Artur Stepanov, Tyler James, Dan Montgomery, Matt Funni), 1:45.77.
100 backstroke: 1. Nick Hoffmeyer (S), 1:03.59; 2. George Smolkin (WLC), 1:07.73; 3. Alex Suriano (S), 1:08.09.
100 breaststroke: 1. Ben Baumgarten (WLC), 1:11.34; 2. Eric Schendel (S), 1:14.99; 3. John Molnar (WLC), 1:15.33.
400 freestyle relay: 1. Salem (Adam Seroka, Casey Olson, Matt Collingwood, Nathan Spala), 3:38.04; 2. Central (Cory Casagrande, Ryan Miceli, Sean Riley, Ben Baumgarten), 3:49.32; 3. Salem (Max Mills, Chad Newton, Alex Suriano, Nick Hoffmeyer), 3:57.55.



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 • Pistons Travel Mug to first 7,500 fans courtesy of Avis Car Rental

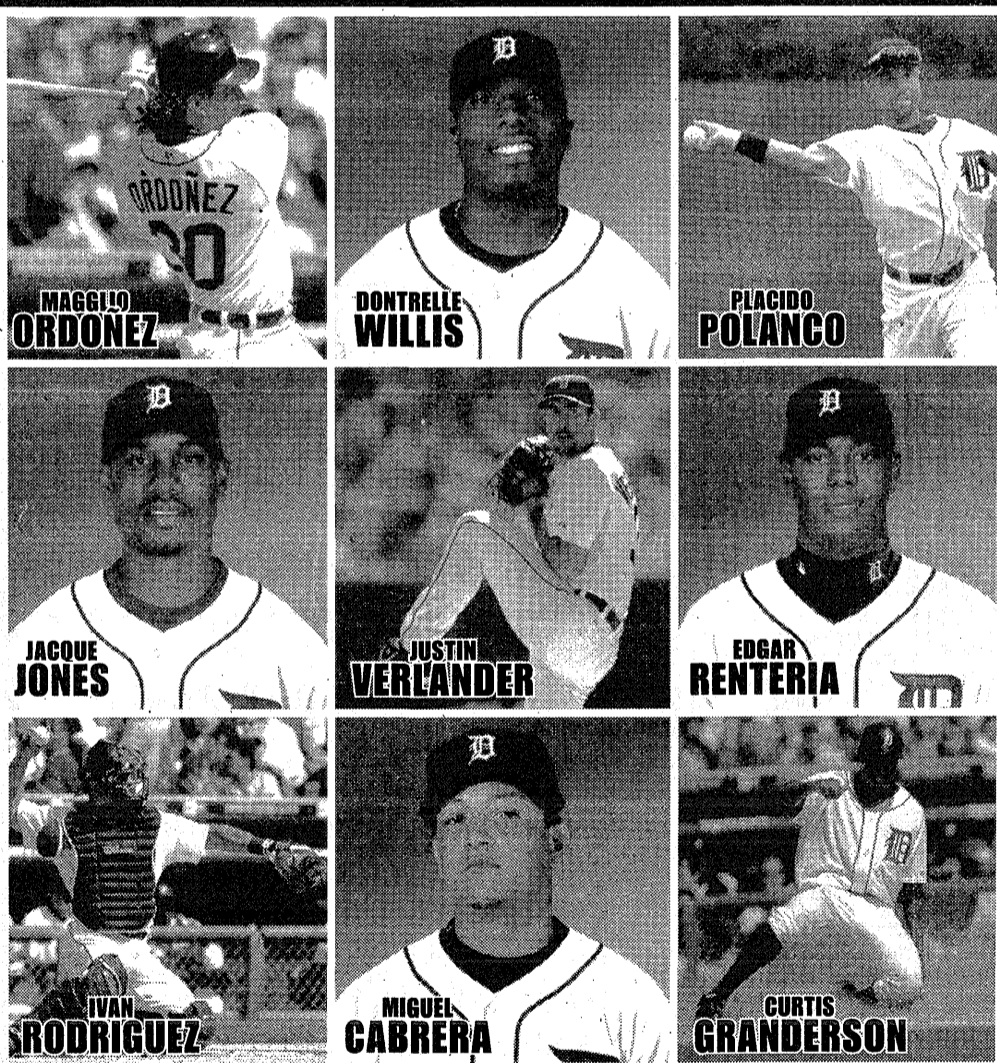
FRI, 2/22 • 8 PM vs. MILWAUKEE BUCKS
 • Pistons 50 Seasons Commemorative Poster to first 7,500 fans courtesy of Big Rock Chophouse

TUE, 3/4 • 7:30 PM vs. SEATTLE SONICS
 • Hooper Cell Phone Holder to first 7,500 fans courtesy of MediLodge Rehabilitation

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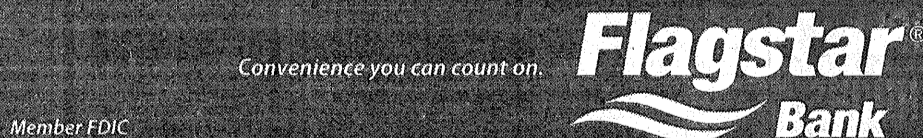


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PKD: A life-threatening disease

Genetic disorder topic of educational seminar

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
STAFF WRITER

Alexis Alati looks like any 3-year-old ballerina except for her distended belly. The protrusion is the only clue the Troy girl is suffering with PKD, a life-threatening genetic disorder that causes fluid-filled cysts to grow on the kidneys.

While there is no cure for polycystic kidney disease and dialysis or transplant are the only treatments available for 50 percent of patients who eventually develop renal failure, research is ongoing. Once a year, Alexis and mother Melony travel to the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Md., to participate in a study. As of now Alexis' kidneys are fully functioning, but she has developed cysts on her liver as well.

"Her belly is distended because organs are twice their size," said Melony Alati. "Very early on we kept thinking something was wrong because her belly was so big. As a baby she would teeter on her belly."

Alexis' distended belly wasn't the only symptom when she was diagnosed at 9 months old. Her blood pres-

sure zoomed to 160/130, and she was anemic and fussy. At the time Alati and her husband, Rob, knew nothing about the disease until calling the PKD Foundation which provides funding for research and patient education.

SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

On Saturday, March 8, four University of Michigan experts discuss PKD and the latest findings at a seminar presented by the Detroit Chapter of the PKD Foundation at Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak. According to the Foundation, PKD is one of the most common, life-threatening diseases affecting more people than Down syndrome, cystic fibrosis, muscular dystrophy, and sickle cell anemia combined. About 600,000 American children and adults live with the disease, 12.5 million people worldwide.

Rick Covault's been tested twice for PKD although to date has developed none of the symptoms which include constant or intermittent pain in the back or blood in the urine. Covault's mother died in September from complications of the disease at age 71. Patricia Covault was

45 when first diagnosed, a year older than Covault is now. After developing renal failure 10 years ago she was on dialysis five years before receiving a kidney transplant at the University of Michigan Hospital in Ann Arbor.

'A CHALLENGE'

"It's a challenge that every family member has to deal with if you have a history of PKD," said Covault of Canton. "What's interesting about PKD is there are two versions, adult ADPKD (autosomal dominant), children ARPKD (autosomal recessive). With the adult version you typically don't find out you have the disease until later in the life. With the children's version, babies are born at birth with cysts on the kidney that restrict the ability for the kidney to filter the blood."

Dr. Ben Margolis is convinced scientists are close to finding a treatment. Margolis is one of the speakers at the March 8 seminar along with Drs. Diane Cibrik, Silas Norman and Crystal Gadegebu.

"We know the genes for the two types. I'm optimistic about treatment as we understand more about it.

PKD EDUCATIONAL SEMINAR

What: Learn about polycystic kidney disease from University of Michigan experts

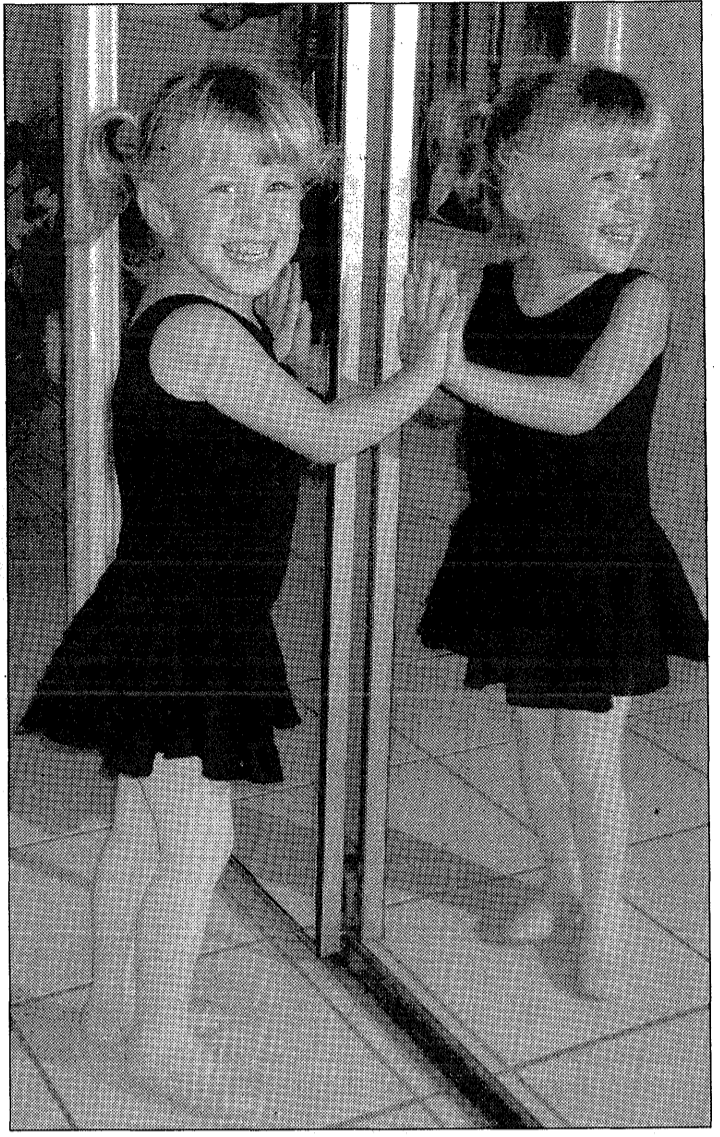
When: 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, March 8

Where: Administration Building first floor auditorium, Beaumont Hospital, 3601 W. 13 Mile, Royal Oak

RSVP: Call (248) 761-9944 or send e-mail to Kathryn.Glynn@cambridge-na.com. No charge and open to the public.

There are drugs in trials on the PKD Web site," said Margolis, a scientist and professor of internal medicine and biological chemistry at the University of Michigan where he is "looking at the structure in the cell cilia (a hair-like sensory antennae) that seem to be defective and cause the cell to divide too much" creating the cysts. He serves on the national PKD Foundation's Scientific Advisory Board.

"PKD was first described in 1757 when people first realized people could die. For many years we didn't understand much and had theories about what was going on. We were studying a lot of mice and figuring



Alexis Alati of Troy is suffering with PKD, a life-threatening kidney disease. The only outward clue is her distended belly.

out what genes were wrong. Today there are many new treatments being tested and we're hopeful one of these will be effective in slowing this disease, not a cure but

something to slow the progression." For more information, visit www.pkdcure.org.

lchomin@hometownlife.com

MEDICAL DATEBOOK

FEBRUARY

Childbirth education classes

Let's Get Ready To Have a Baby 7-9 p.m. Mondays, Feb. 18 to March 17, or Wednesdays, Feb. 20 to March 19, at St. Mary Mercy Hospital, 36475 Five Mile at Levan, Livonia. Please use south entrance, off of Levan Road. There is a fee. Registration required. Call (734) 655-1162. Learn what to expect during pregnancy, labor and delivery. Classes are based on the Lamaze Method and include exercise, relaxation, breathing techniques and comfort measures to assist moms through labor. Classes include information on anesthesia options, medication, nutrition, family adjustment.

Intervention workshop

A free presentation by internationally-known intervention specialists Jeff and Debra Jay 7:30-9 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 19, at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Education Center, 5305 Elliott Drive, Ypsilanti. For more details, call Dawn Farm at (734) 485-8725 or visit www.dawnfarm.org. The Jays describe their effective model for intervention with addicted loved ones. Learn how "Love First" is the way to help people find recovery.

Say goodnight to insomnia

Deadline for registration is Feb. 21 for class 6:30-8:30 p.m. Tuesdays, Feb. 26 and March 4, at Farmington Community School, 30415 Shawwassee. Cost is \$45. To register, call (248) 489-3333. If you have difficulty falling asleep, staying asleep, or waking refreshed, join health coach Sandy Baumann to analyze your daily routines to uncover common sleep robbers and implement simple ways to create a sleep-promoting bedroom. Discover 20 sleep-enhancing strategies to try at home and learn about 8 natural sleep supplements.

Asperger's lecture series

Nick Dubin, a national speaker and author who was diagnosed with Asperger's syndrome in 2004, conducts workshops on topics related to Asperger's syndrome 2-5 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 21 (Teaching to the Asperger's Spectrum: One Size Does Not Fit All) at the Judson Center, 4410 W. 13 Mile and Greenfield, Royal Oak. Each workshop costs \$39. This program is approved by the Michigan Social Work Continuing Education Collaborative for Continuing Education Clock Hours. For information, visit www.judson-center.org or call (248) 837-2047.

Heart smart cooking clinics

In recognition of National Heart Month and the launch of

its trans fat-free menu. Entrée Vous of Canton, Northville and Troy are raising money for the local American Heart Association throughout February. The locations are hosting Heart Smart Cooking Clinics and dark chocolate tastings 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 21 (includes a couple's date night and costs \$48) and 11 a.m. Friday, Feb. 22, at Entrée Vous of Troy, 1969 W. Maple, Cambridge Crossings Shops. For \$30, each participant receives chocolate sampling and a lunch or dinner, your choice of one entrée (\$25 value) to assemble and take home and a demonstration of low-fat cooking ingredients and recipes. The AHA's presenting information, activity kits and checking blood pressure. Donations to the AHA can be made in the local kitchen or online at <http://honor.americanheart.org/goto/entrevous-cares>. To register for clinic, contact Entrée Vous location.

Tai Chi for Arthritis

St. Mary Mercy Hospital is offering fitness classes in Tai Chi, an ancient Chinese discipline combining agile steps, joint-friendly movement, relaxed breathing, and mental challenge to promote mobility and well-being 6:30-7:30 p.m. Mondays, Feb. 25 to March 31, (classes also available on Fridays) in the hospital's Classroom 10 on the 4th Floor of the Marian Professional Building at 36475 Five Mile at Levan, Livonia. Please use Five Mile entrance. Registration required, call (734) 655-8950. Enrollment limited. A registration fee payable to St. Mary Mercy Hospital is required prior to first class.

Divorce support group

Gaining financial control of your divorce and how to plan for your future with Jacqueline Gold-Rosesler 7-9 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 26 in the Women's Resource Center (room 225) of the McDowell Center, Schoolcraft College, 18600 Haggerty, Livonia. Call (734) 462-4443.

Families in Action program

Presented by the National Alliance on Mental Illness the 10 week educational program is designed specifically for any individual with a loved one that has been diagnosed with a mental illness. The two hour weekly sessions cover topics relative to mental illness, facilitated by family members trained by NAMI-Michigan. Sessions begin 7-9 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 27, at St. Regis School Campus, 3695 Lincoln Rd. (1/2 Mile and Lahser), Bloomfield Hills. Cost \$20 per person, \$30 a couple. Call Mary Ellen, (248) 348-7196, or send e-mail to mejudd@comcast.net.

Health fair to offer free heart screenings for women

Each year, nearly twice as many women die of cardiovascular disease than from all forms of cancer combined. The good news is that in most cases, heart disease can be prevented by making simple lifestyle changes.

"The bad news is that heart disease kills one out of three American women," said Dr. Jennifer Jones, interventional cardiologist at the Detroit Medical Center's Harper University Hospital. "The good news is that women can lower their risk of heart disease by up to 82 percent by eating smarter, exercising and not smoking. Providing heart health screenings so that women can learn about their personal risk factors and how to reduce them is a key step in prevention and treatment."

Women in the metro Detroit area can get screened to learn about their heart disease risk factors and to receive a plan on how to reduce them when the Sister to Sister Foundation, a national non-profit based in Washington D.C., presents its National Women's Heart Health Fair 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday, Feb. 29, at the General

Motors Wintergarden in the Detroit Renaissance Center.

The fair kicks off with the Strides for Sisters Walk led by Peter Nielsen in the GM Wintergarden and features free heart health screenings with on-the-spot results and counseling from Detroit Medical Center experts. Women will learn about their cholesterol, triglycerides, blood glucose levels, blood pressure, Body Mass Index, waist circumference, and family health history from the screenings. The Health Fair also features presentations by medical experts including a keynote by Jones as well as demonstrations by experts on nutrition, fitness, stress reduction, and smoking cessation, all of which are designed to help women adopt a heart-healthy lifestyle. The Fair includes heart-healthy cooking demonstrations by Seldom Blues, Andiamo and Creative Gourmet, and fitness demonstrations by Curves, Tom Spring of Cardiovascular Training Specialists, and the Rehabilitation Institute of Michigan.

The Fair also features a wide

range of exhibitors as well as prizes and giveaways. The first 1,000 women screened at the fair will receive a certificate for a free bracelet from Miner's Den jewelers. To pre-register and for a schedule, visit www.sistertosister.org/fairst/detroit.php or call Donna Darrow at (877) 628-4257.

In 2007, Sister to Sister Heart Health Fairs throughout the United States screened almost 10,000 women, of which more than 40-percent found out they had two or more risk factors for heart disease. A significant number of these women were not aware that they were at risk for heart disease prior to the screening.

The Sister to Sister Heart Health Fairs occur annually across the nation. The Sister to Sister Foundation is a non-profit organization dedicated to preventing heart disease among women through free cardiac screenings. In addition, Sister to Sister provides women with resources to increase awareness about heart disease, to encourage healthy lifestyles, and to reduce risk factors for heart disease.

Reducing child's risk: Health of heart boosted by breast-feeding

Melissa from Sylvan Lake is pregnant and debating whether or not to breast-feed. She is wondering how good it is for her baby.

Melissa, studies have shown breast-feeding can reduce your child's risk of ear, stomach or intestinal infections, allergies and high blood pressure. Now a brand new study says breast-feeding may actually be good for your baby's heart too. A study of almost 1,000 people found those who were breast-fed were 55 percent less likely to develop high cholesterol and had a lower BMI (body mass index). Those two factors can significantly reduce the risk of heart disease and stroke. That being said, breast-feeding is a personal choice that each



Peter's Principles
Peter Nielsen

new mother must make for herself. Tammy from Walled Lake e-mails that she heard some spices could help fight cancer. Is this true?

Studies have suggested curcumin, the yellowish component in turmeric that gives curry its flavor, can suppress tumors. Experts even believe curry may help people become less prone to cancer. The problem is that curcumin loses its anticancer attributes quickly when ingested.

Now scientists have developed two new synthetic versions of the curry ingredient to hopefully help fight cancer. They tested it already in mice with colorectal cancer and found it worked! In fact, it enhanced cancer-fighting abilities by up to 30 times greater than natural curcumin. They are now testing how it will work fighting other cancers.

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

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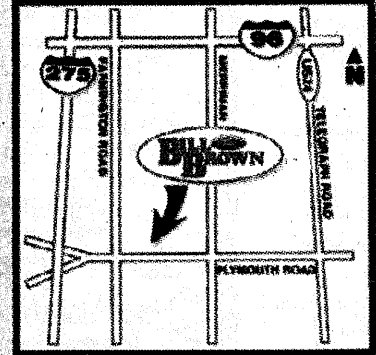
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Finding happiness in turbulent times

Times are tough in our neighborhood, in neighboring neighborhoods, and in neighborhoods across the country. Locally, news of Big Three employee buyouts has become so commonplace that it seldom commands headline status anymore. GM's latest attrition effort extends to 46,000 workers; or rather, 46,000 families feeling betrayed, despondent, displaced, and desperately in search of alternative employment.



Donna Rockwell

Metro-Detroiter's hearts and minds are numb with job loss overload. Of course, this is also a national problem: the U.S. economy lost 17,000 jobs in January, the worst in over four years. Atlanta-based Home Depot recently announced a layoff of 500 of its 5,000 corporate employees, blaming current belt-tightening trends in customer spending. Starbucks, for goodness' sake, says it is dumping plans to open hundreds of stores, and even closing some.

From penny stocks to blue chips, companies are reporting earnings below expectations, and businesses across the board are reassessing projections downward; many businesses, small and large, are falling victim to the overwhelming undertow of this turbulent economic tide. As the word "recession" grows from a murmur to a roar, many Americans are finding themselves in need of fiscal and emotional life preservers.

On a personal level, it is depressing driving past empty storefronts, "For Sale" signs, and banners promising future developments, only to realize that years have passed and no buildings have yet risen on that spot. Evidence lies all around us: our area is in an economic funk. On grey days, a turnaround can seem improbable. But, on those beautiful, cold, crisp Michigan days, when the snow glistens in the bright yellow sun, you dare to believe in a comeback.

In State House offices, and planning committees across the state, leaders are exploring ways to engage new industries in innovative ways in order to lure capital back to our state. A thriving local economy is necessary to support our family-oriented, quintessential Middle American lifestyle, something surely worth fighting for. And there is reason to be optimistic that somewhere on the horizon a recovery awaits. Meanwhile, though, how can we get through this difficult time and still live happy, fulfilling lives? If we give in to a pervasive sense of melancholy, in the end, what good will that do?

It has become a cliché: the only constant is change. Though we know it, we still try and hold onto what we want to be true, rather than acknowledging what is true. Human beings are very resistant to change. That is why the fear of job loss is so deeply felt; it is beyond our control. While situations like retraining or relocation seem burdensome, they do, at least, allow us a hand in our own destiny, so important for self-esteem. By examining the link between reality and what we wish were true, we discover, in the intersection of these two points, how to stay grounded in this ever-changing world.

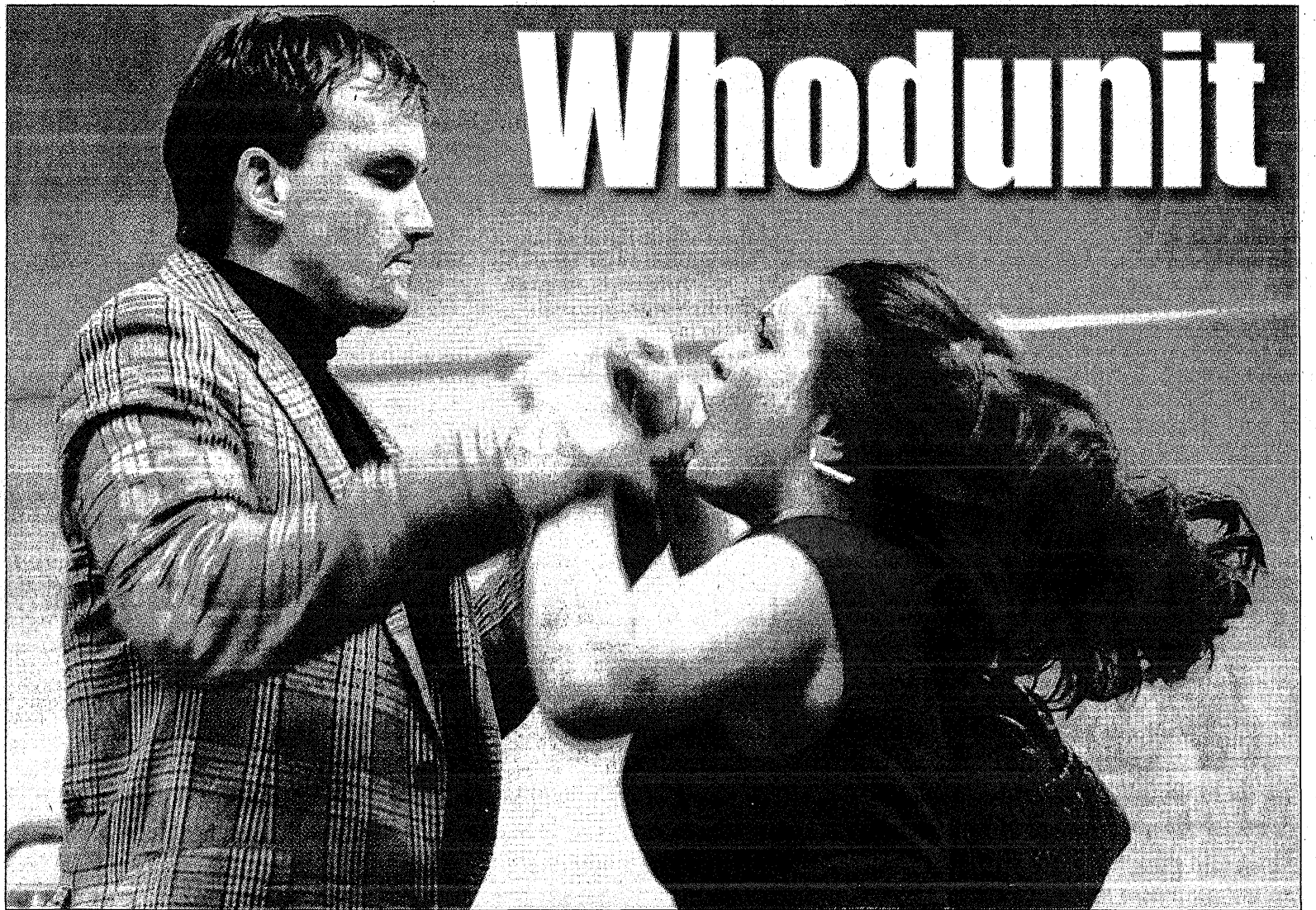
No matter how much fear we generate, it will not help us escape from the places in which we find ourselves: out of work, looking for work, or contemplating moving to find work. After spending a certain period thinking "what if," and "how did this happen," it might be time to make a plan.

Start by looking realistically at the way things are. Decide what you need to do to take care of yourself and your family. Hold to no limits or parameters; simply imagine the best-case scenario for your life and your family members' lives. With no restraints, envision how, together as a family, you could make this life-view come true. Chart out the small, manageable steps you could take to bring this plan to fruition. Think outside the box. By taking tiny steps, one day at a time, and not taking "no" for an answer — from others or yourself — life becomes a creative process as you build a new future. By making a plan and taking the steps to realize that plan, we reclaim ownership of our lives from a corporate conglomerate that may have held us under its spell, dependent and afraid.

Belief-in-self is the best way to break this spell. It is a cure for the affliction of fear, and a way to stay personally and professionally motivated. The Declaration of Independence proclaims as self-evident, "that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."

For information on ways to cope with job loss, and emotional, physical, financial, and career suggestions during work transition, go to the Michigan School of Professional Psychology Web site: www.mispp.edu and search: resource folder.

Donna Rockwell, Psy.D., is a professor and the Community Outreach Public Relations Liaison at the Michigan School of Professional Psychology in Farmington Hills.



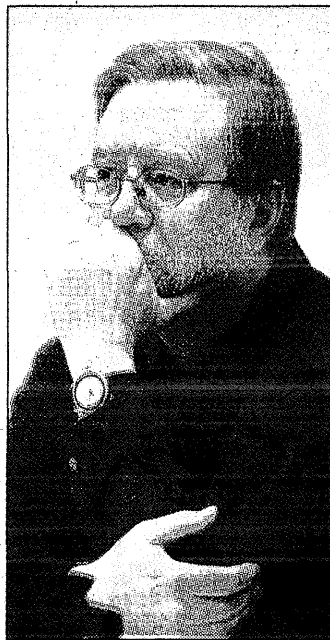
David Matthews' (Drew Martin) plans to seduce Monica Welles (Kori Bielaniec) fail and their argument turns violent.

PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



The playwright's young assistant Sally Bean (played by Wendy Ascione) turns away after a cold greeting from Karen Daniels (Meg daPonte).

Playwright Alex Dennison (played by Steve Sedore) introduces his new play to Karen Daniels (Meg daPonte), Lloyd Andrews (Joe Cone), Leo Gibbs (Richard Holland), and David Matthews (Drew Martin).



Director Mike Cuba watches intently as the actors run through their lines.

Spotlight Players invite audience to solve crime

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
STAFF WRITER

The dialogue comes on like rapid fire once Steve Sedore pulls the revolver out of his briefcase at the beginning of the play. This is only a run-through, but the actors already have their lines down pat three weeks before Spotlight Players open *Rehearsal for Murder* Feb. 22, at The Village Theater of Cherry Hill in Canton.

Director Mike Cuba says the mystery will keep the audience guessing as to who murdered the fiancée of the lead character played by Sedore. Playwright Alex Dennison has gathered the producer, director and actors from his show that flopped one year ago. It is the anniversary of Monica Welles' death which was ruled a suicide. Dennison is determined to

Please see **WHODUNIT, C3**

REHEARSAL FOR MURDER

What: A murder mystery
When: 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Feb. 22-23, Feb. 29 and March 1, March 7-8, and 2 p.m. Sunday, March 2 and 9
Where: The Village Theater at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill at Ridge, Canton
Tickets: \$18 adult, \$16 youth/seniors age 60 plus, and \$15 for groups of 15 or more, and available at (734) 394-5460, www.spotlightplayers.net, and the box office one hour before performance.

Meet the First Ladies at Presidential Tea

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
STAFF WRITER

Sarah Polk was her husband James' biggest adviser long before Hillary Clinton proposed a national health care program during her husband's administration. In this election year, Linda Wiacek thought it would be interesting to hear more about the wives from the wives so she invited the Petticoat Ladies to don their Victorian dress for a Presidential Tea Saturday, Feb. 23, at Greenmead Historical Park in Livonia.

Jackie Zopff of Plymouth performs as Polk, Debbie Eleson as Mary Todd Lincoln, Gini Miles as Julia Grant, and Gail Smalley as Ida McKinley. A total of nine women form the Petticoat Ladies who began giving presentations at Victorian Teas in 2003 as members of Garden City Presbyterian Church. Any donations they receive go back to the church. In addition to Presidential wives, they portray Women of the Old West, Vaudeville, and Mothers of Invention as well as Cranks and Charmers through history. Polk was First Lady in the mid 1800s when she came up with the idea of playing Hail to the Chief whenever the president walked into the room.

"Each researches our own history through books, the Internet," said Gail Smalley of Garden City. "There



Denise Salo (left front), Jackie Zopff, Wanda Jarvis, Louise Salvatore, and Debbie Eleson (back row), Gail Smalley, Vera Siefers, Rita Gibbs, and Gini Miles perform around town as the Petticoat Ladies. On Saturday, Feb. 23, Zopff, Eleson, Miles, and Smalley take on the roles of former First Ladies for the Presidential Tea at Greenmead Historical Park in Livonia.

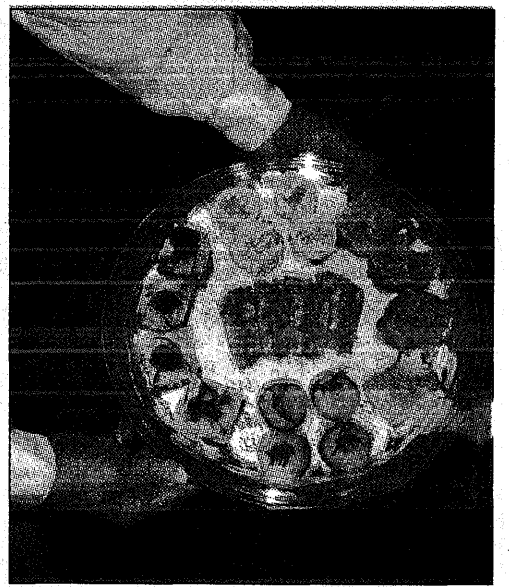
are a lot of behind the scene things we found out. Ida McKinley was an epileptic. It's something they didn't talk about back then. She lost both her children, was practically an invalid and her and her husband became the center of each other's lives."

In addition to listening to the former First Ladies and enjoying crab bisque, tea sandwiches and scones, guests will be treated to favorite cookies of the presidents. Afterwards guests receive a booklet with the recipes including one for Abraham

Lincoln's fruit cookies made with currants, raisins and walnuts.

"We'll have George Washington's Jumbals made with butter, sugar, salt and orange rind, a recipe from over 200 years ago when they didn't have all the ingredients we have today," said Linda Wiacek, Greenmead's recreation supervisor. "George W. Bush's Cowboy Cookies is more of a modern cookie and like a chocolate chip dough with oatmeal and pecans."

Please see **TEA, C3**



Finger sandwiches are some of the delights on the menu at the Presidential Tea.

PRESIDENTIAL TEA

When: 3-5 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 23
Where: Alexander Blue House at Greenmead Historical Park, 20501 Newburgh, south of Eight Mile, Livonia
Tickets: \$25, advance sales only. All proceeds used to preserve and restore Greenmead.
For reservations, call (248) 477-7375

Concert shows off music faculty's talents

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
STAFF WRITER

Barbara Wiltsie agrees with Linette Popoff-Parks that in order to have a successful music program Madonna University faculty need to strut their stuff. On Friday Feb. 22, voice, piano, harp, flute, and guitar teachers take to the stage in Kresge Hall for their annual Faculty Allegro Series concert.

Popoff-Parks accompanies Wiltsie, one of Sopranos Three! along with Kimberley Dolanski and Karin White. As part of the voice faculty, Wiltsie directs The Lyric Theatre, a performance group composed of students and community members. They are currently rehearsing the updated version of *Godspell*

FACULTY ALLEGRO SERIES

When: Concert begins 7:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 22
Where: Kresge Hall, Madonna University, 36600 Schoolcraft at Levan, Livonia
Tickets: \$10 general admission, \$5 faculty, student and staff. For information, call (734) 432-5709

for April 12-13 performances. "We need as active performers to show our students what they need to strive for and how to handle themselves in a performance situation," said Barbara Wiltsie who recently performed at The Village Theater at Cherry Hill in Canton in November with Act II, a Broadway quartet. Wiltsie formerly toured with Michigan Opera Theatre.

Sopranos Three! is part of the Michigan Arts & Humanity directory performers booked throughout the state. They have selected to sing a trio from *Der Rosenkavalier* by Strauss, *Three Little Maids from School* (The Mikado), and *Bosom Buddies* (Mame).

"We're all trained in classical music as well as some Broadway. We mix operatic solos, duets, trios from opera to Broadway," said Wiltsie of Royal Oak. "We're giving them a little flavor of the three styles we do."

Popoff-Parks is proud of the diverse backgrounds of the faculty in the music department of which she is chairwoman. In addition to three piano teachers including Popoff-Parks, the faculty

provides instruction in voice, flute, classical guitar, clarinet, trumpet, violin, cello, and harp. Dave Wagner, WRCJ radio's early morning classical music host, teaches organ.

"We also offer a music management major. As part of the program students do internships. This semester we have students working with Plymouth Symphony Orchestra and WRCJ radio station. They get experience and learn to serve the community which an important component of our music program," said Popoff-Parks of Plymouth. "Music is really a service career. Performers are providing an opportunity for people to enjoy music whether they're church majors, in education or management,



Kimberley Dolanski, Barbara Wiltsie, Karin White, and Linette Popoff-Parks enjoy a few laughs while rehearsing for the Madonna University faculty concert.

or preparing to work in arts organizations which also provide services to communities. "I think the faculty concert is a good service for students and community. Music is an art to be communicated. You

don't just do it in a vacuum, you share. Music is only alive when it's being performed live."

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Arthritis Today

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DOING NOTHING

Most of the time, this column discusses the diagnosis and treatment of bone and joint conditions. By repeatedly discussing medications and options of care, I may create a wrong expectation: That for every condition there is a treatment.

However, in arthritis that rule doesn't hold. Instances occur when you will see a doctor and he will decide to wait and watch. That can happen when you had an injection and you are not responding as both you and the doctor have expected. Waiting is reasonable when you are under treatment for polymyalgia, and you still ache. The doctor may feel it is in order to give the patient a further chance rather than change you to an even higher prednisone dose.

Waiting may be reasonable when you continue to ache and the diagnosis is uncertain, but the doctor has determined that delay will bring on impairment. However, watching what happens may reveal, in time, a feature that explains the problem.

Remember every treatment brings side effects and risks. And keep in mind that the body has a wide array of responses to fight an invasion of its integrity. Doctors learn to respect that aspect of medical practice.

When a physician examines and talks with you, and does not prescribe or change a medication nor order laboratory tests or x-rays, do not feel disappointed. That appointment was important.

Using restraint is just as valuable as forging forward, observing rather than intervening remains good medicine.

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Deanna received crowns and bridges and used Dream Dentistry to alleviate her fears. "Parkside was the miracle I had been waiting for," she says. "I felt no pain and I was never afraid!"

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Deanna recommended Parkside Dental Team to all her family and friends and advises, "If you're suffering from dental pain, don't wait another minute. Give Parkside Dental Team a chance!"

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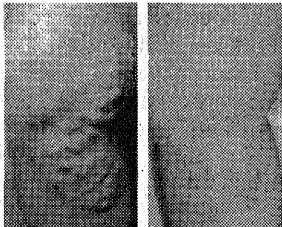


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Dr. Miller has over 12 years experience in treating venous diseases and has received many honors and awards including being named one of "Detroit's Top Docs" by Hour Magazine.

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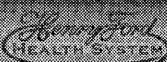
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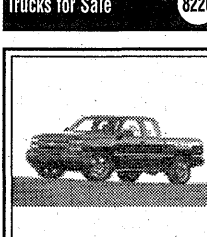
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CD/Fully Loaded/20K Miles

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4.0. leather, moon, low mi

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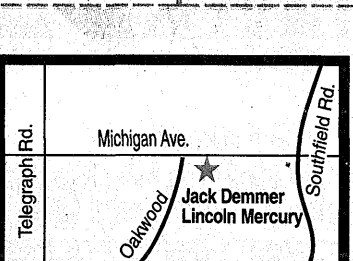
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New Homes

D (*)

Sunday, February 17, 2008

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

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

www.hometownlife.com

New Affordable Homes With Luxury Features In Westland In The \$140's!

Danny Veri couldn't believe it when he crunched the numbers and saw a family with a household income of about \$40,000 could move into a home in Brookfield Village.

"This is just an incredible value," said Veri, a partner in Livonia Builders who teamed up with Tim Breault of Breault Homes to build the "neighborhood within a neighborhood" bounded by John Hix and Cherry Hill in Westland.

Brookfield Estates consists of 63 homes with 4 available floor plans starting in the \$140,000's.

"We set out to build affordable housing with exceptional standard features and people are responding. In just over 12 months we have sold approximately 80 homes

with theme features."

The Baymont, a colonial, measures 1250 square feet and boasts 3 bedrooms, 1.5 baths, a great room, and a second floor laundry for only \$148,900.

The Regency is a 3 bedroom, 2 bath ranch with a formal dining room, a great room, a first floor laundry, and starts at just \$159,900.

Veri said buyers can choose from different elevations for the colonials.

The average lot size for the homes is 60 x 120. There are many lots that are larger and lots that are back to a thick wooded area. "It's a very inviting neighborhood," he said. Each home has an attached 2 car garage and full basement.

Veri said buyers will be even more amazed at

the the homes' affordability when they see the upgrades and extra amenities he and Breault have built into the homes.

Guests are welcomed into the foyer by site finished oak floors which are also used in the kitchen and nook. Granite countertops, Merillat cabinets, designer pullout faucet, and undermount double bowl stainless steel sink comprise just some of the kitchen's amenities.

The cabinetry and Delta faucets are carried into the ceramic-tiled bathrooms with the powder rooms featuring a pedestal sink and oak floors.

Ceramic tile is also used in the laundry rooms and carpeting covers the great room, dining room, and bedrooms where ceiling lights illuminate the nighttime chambers.

Each room is surrounded by 4 1/4 inch thick baseboard moldings and 3-inch door casing moldings finish out the two-panel interior smooth finish doors.

The homes are protected by a 90 percent efficient Comfort Maker furnace, a high-efficiency 40-gallon hot water tank, and R-30 insulation in the attic.

Options include a fireplace, air

conditioning, skylights, and sprinkler system.

Veri said the exterior is "100 percent maintenance-free".

The ranch is completely brick as is the first floor of the two colonials. The second floor of the colonials is finished in vinyl siding. Overhangs on all three models are either aluminum or vinyl trim.

Pella vinyl windows as well as glass block on the basement windows finish each home.

Other accoutrements include a limestone address block, sod, sidewalks and city water and sewer.

Coach lights outside the garage lend to the aesthetics as well as a clear view of the home and garage in the nighttime hours.

The homes also come with a one-year warranty.

Brookfield Estates is on the Canton border and very close to Ford Road shopping. It is in the Wayne/Westland school district and is nestled in Brookfield Village, an existing subdivision where home values range in the mid to upper \$200,000's, Veri said.

Ford Road is a mere mile away and in close proximity is I-275 and local home improvement stores.

Veri said he can't get

over the affordability of the homes.

"We worked on slim margins to keep working", he said "The main theme to this whole project was creating affordable housing with luxury features. With an hourly wage of \$19 per hour for household income, you can buy a house with all these features."

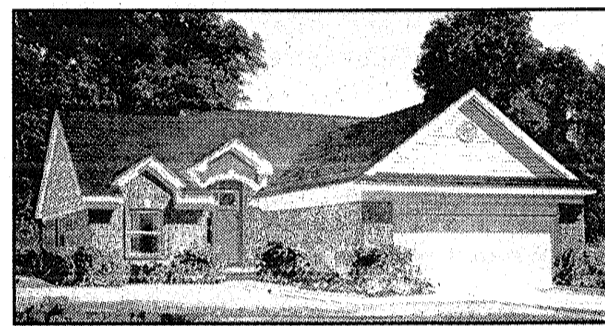
Veri worked with his in-house mortgage lender, Mortgage Concepts, and came up with a 5% down, 30-year fixed rate mortgage plan which includes taxes and insurance for about

\$1200 a month.

"We even have a program that has no out-of-pocket closing costs," he said. "It's just a phenomenal deal for a first time home buyer or someone looking for more square footage."

"There's just nothing under \$250,000 with all of these outstanding features subdivision-wise in the Westland area."

Model homes are under construction. Call Danny Veri for brochure info at (313) 586-2559 or (734) 397-9140, or email him at dannyveri@sbcglobal.net.



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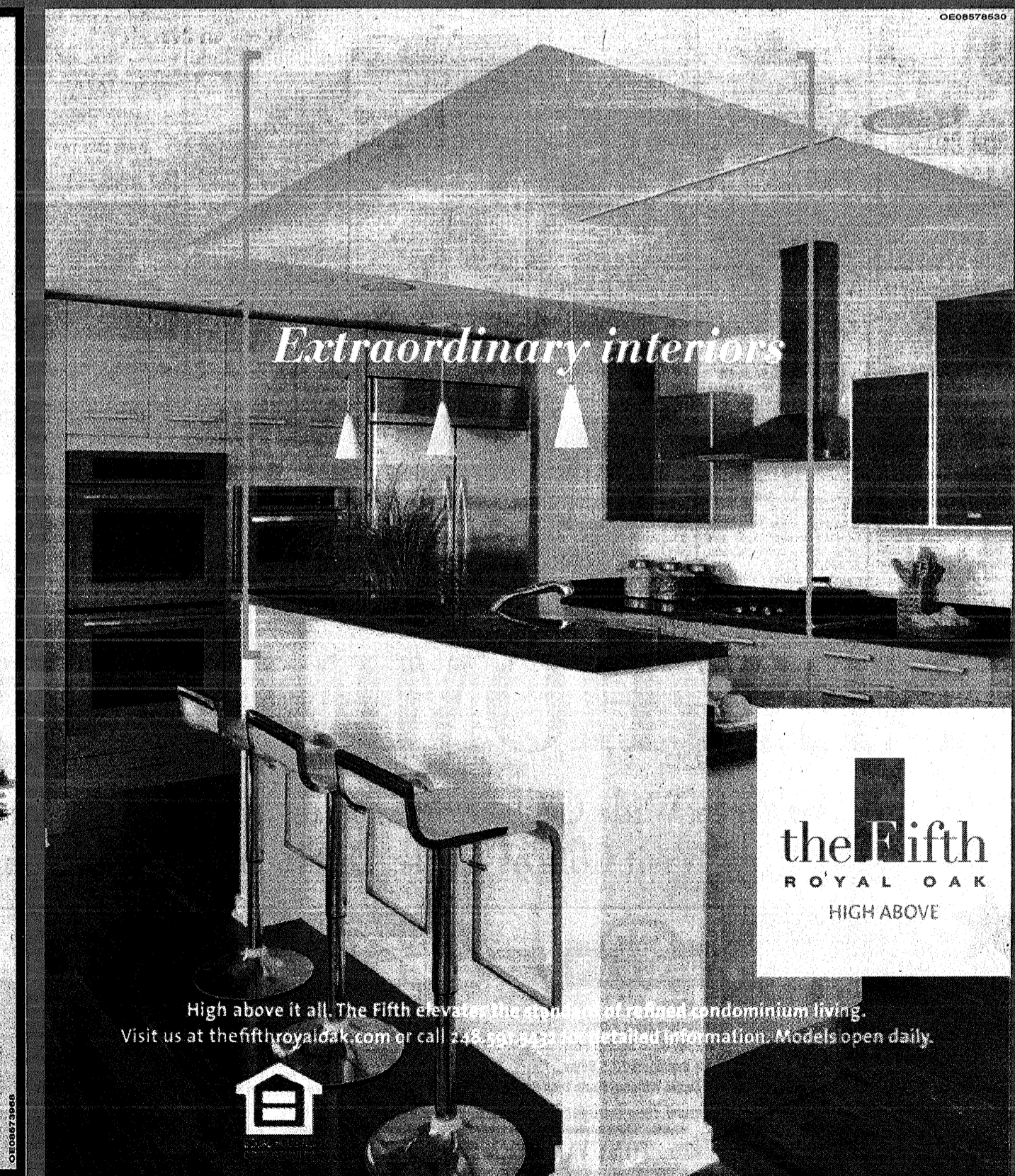
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CENTURY 21 TODAY

COMMERCIAL TWP
Beautifully maintained custom built home. Hardwood floors in 2 story foyer & dream granite island kitchen, nook w/maple cabinets & premium appliances. Master bdrm has private bath w/jetted tub.
\$450,000 MLS 27197737
(248) 855-2000
CENTURY 21 TODAY

DEARBORN Hgts **3115**
WELL-MAINTAINED
3 bdrm brick ranch w/newer roof, windows & furnace. Large eat-in kitchen w/door-walk to patio. Spacious open bsmt. All appliances are included. 1035 sq. ft. \$150,000 MLS 27186451
(248) 855-2000
CENTURY 21 TODAY

DETROIT **3120**
3 bdrm, 1 bath, bsmt., garage, fenced, new roof. \$95,000
313-531-0718

Farmington **3140**
THREE BDRM, 2 BATH
brick ranch within walking distance of downtown Farmington. Updated kitchen, newer roof, garage, windows & carpeting. Furnace 1 yr old. Family room w/fireplace.
\$184,900 MLS 27161905
(734) 462-9800
CENTURY 21 TODAY

Farmington Hills

BRICK RANCH
w/private backyard! Refinished wood floors in hall, bdrms & living room. Remodeled master. Updated kitchen w/oak cabinets, ceramic floor, Corian counters. 700+ sq. ft. deck w/above ground pool. \$159,900 MLS #28016025
(248) 855-2000
CENTURY 21 TODAY

HUGE CUSTOM BUILT
sprawling 3 bdrm brick ranch w/2-car side entry garage, 3 full baths, 1st floor laundry. Spacious master suite! Huge family room & library. Home sits on hillside lot. \$215,000 MLS 28004701
(248) 855-2000
CENTURY 21 TODAY

Beautiful Ranch!
Updated top to bottom! 3 bdrm, 2 bath, garage & finished bsmt. Walk to school & playground!
DENISE MCGUIGAN
734-357-2032
REMERICA HOMETOWN III
6231 N. Canton Center Rd.
Highland **3210**

THREE BDRM, 2.5 BATH.
Great room w/fireplace. Kitchen w/large eat in area. Master suite w/walk in closet, full bath w/jetted tub. 3 car garage.
\$295,000
MLS 28016900
(734) 462-9800
CENTURY 21 TODAY

BEAUTIFUL CUSTOM BUILT HOME
10 rooms, Quad level brick, 2.5 garage. 33' x72 cement drive way. 20 x30 spa addition w/family rm. Will sell-Lease-Land Contract or Rent. Will take late model motor home for my equity. Must See! Private owner. Call:
734-768-5757

EXTENSIVE UPDATES
in this 3 bdrm, 2 bath brick ranch. Updates include: kitchen, all appliances, ceramic tile floor, windows, doors, roof, siding, plumbing & more! 2 car garage.
\$195,500 MLS 27138287
(734) 462-9800
CENTURY 21 TODAY

GREAT FLOOR PLAN
Large Kitchen, 1.5 Baths, Finished Bsmt. \$129,900.
CENTURY 21-CASTELLI
734-525-7900

UPDATED COLONIAL,
all the right features w/master bath, formal dining, family room w/fireplace. \$229,900
MLS 28018687
(734) 462-9800
CENTURY 21 TODAY

FOUR BDRM
3 1/2 bath 1998 colonial. 3,000 sq. ft. & finished daylight bsmt. 3 car garage. Over \$70k in updates & upgrades.
\$429,900 MLS 27054506
(734) 462-9800
CENTURY 21 TODAY

NORTHVILLE TWP.
Charming colonial, 4 bdrm, great 30 x 18 kitchen, 2 natural fireplaces, sun porch, wonderful picturesque grounds, \$549,000 MLS 26170333
(734) 462-9800
CENTURY 21 TODAY

Novi **3290**
LOVELY COLONIAL.
Over 2500 sq. ft. kitchen w/granite island & hardwood floors. 21 x 12 master suite w/walk in closet. Huge finished bsmt w/Berber carpet. Family room w/fireplace. Deck & gazebo. All appliances & 1 yr warranty included.
\$298,900 #28017449
(248) 360-9100
CENTURY 21 TODAY

MOVE IN READY
colonial w/2-story foyer, vaulted ceilings in living room, updated island kitchen w/granite counters. Library, large master bdrm w/walk in closet & private bath, walkout lower level. 1st floor laundry.
\$339,900 MLS 27082154
(248) 855-2000
CENTURY 21 TODAY

Oak Park **3305**
SPACIOUS 3 BDRM,
1.5 bath brick ranch w/2 car attached garage on quiet cul-de-sac. Updated electric & furnace. 1st floor laundry. 2 car attached garage. Close to everything!
\$179,900 (27151248)
(248) 647-8888
CENTURY 21 TODAY

Walled Lake **3420**
NICELY UPDATED
4 bdrm ranch on large cul-de-sac location. New kitchen, ceramic floor, master bath, oversized attached garage.
\$159,900 MLS 28018953
(734) 462-9800
CENTURY 21 TODAY

West Bloomfield **3440**
BEAUTIFUL 3 BDRM,
2.5 bath home. 2 story great room w/gas fireplace & hardwood floors throughout. Master bdrm bath & walk-in closet. Eat-in kitchen w/all appliances. Beach & lake privileges on Cass Lake.
\$260,000 MLS 28001088
(248) 855-2000
CENTURY 21 TODAY

Custom Home
w/3 car garage. Glass stairways rails to bridge overlooking great room. Kitchen w/large island & many cabinets. Master w.2 walk-in closets & luxurious bath.
\$520,000 MLS 27104174
(248) 855-2000
CENTURY 21 TODAY

Plymouth

By Owner
8898 Corinne, S/ Ann Arbor Rd, W/ Main St. Great family home, 1 mile from downtown Kellogg Park. This ranch style features 2300 sq. ft., huge great home, cathedral ceiling, skylites, stone fireplace, hot tub with new deck, 3 bdrm, 1st floor laundry. (734) 459-7192

Builder Lowest
blowout price! Just appraised at 175K! Brand new, quality built, on a quiet paved street. Large open floor plan, great kitchen, 3 large bdrms, 1.5 baths attached 2 car garage, full bsmt. \$144,900
MLS 27224313
(313) 538-2000
CENTURY 21 TODAY

Updated and
extras in this beautiful 1100 sq. ft. brick ranch, 3 bdrm, fully finished carpeted bsmt. All appliances stay. Newer roof & furnace. 2 car garage. Patio.
\$129,900 MLS 27209245
(313) 538-2000
CENTURY 21 TODAY

Beautifully Maintained
3 bdrm ranch. Updates include: furnace, CA, roof, vinyl windows, kitchen, fresh paint. Hardwood floors. Sprinklers. Brick paver patio.
\$155,000 (27201069)
(248) 647-8888
CENTURY 21 TODAY

Dramatic Price
reduction! More than a starter home! 3 bdrm, all appliances included, master bdrm w/wood floor & walk-in closet, new roof. Oversized garage.
\$135,000 (27202676)
(248) 647-8888
CENTURY 21 TODAY

Lathrup Village
Price slashed! 3 bdrm, 2 bath Cape w/loads of charm! Oak floors, cove ceilings, fresh paint. Living room w/fireplace. Updated kitchen w/all appliances. Family room, newer CA, roof. \$159,900 (28019599)
(248) 647-8888
CENTURY 21 TODAY

Southfield
3 bdrm, 1.5 bath brick colonial offers family room w/fireplace, oak kitchen, living room, hardwood floors, vinyl windows. Two doorwalks to patio & backyard. Attached garage. \$149,900 (27109186)
(248) 647-8888
CENTURY 21 TODAY

Southfield
Completely remodeled, beautiful & spacious 4 bdrm, 2.5 bath home. Newer roof, windows, CA, carpet, deck, more! 2 car attached garage.
\$229,000 (27149211)
(248) 647-8888
CENTURY 21 TODAY

Southfield
Delightful 4 bdrm, 3.5 bath colonial in Cranbrook Village. Birmingham schools. All appliances. New cherry kitchen. Remodeled top to bottom in '05!
\$239,000 (27116543)
(248) 647-8888
CENTURY 21 TODAY

White Lake Twp
Beautifully decorated 4 bdrm, 3.5 bath home located in Huron Valley School district. Features office, 2nd floor laundry, 3 car garage & finished bsmt. \$269,900
MLS 27215658
(248) 673-2211
CENTURY 21 TODAY

White Lake Twp
Gorgeous 4 bdrm, 2.5 bath home located on over 2.5 acres of woods. Features 2 story foyer, custom designed hardwood floors, gourmet kitchen, stone fireplace and dining room. \$334,900
MLS 27206754
(248) 673-2211
CENTURY 21 TODAY

Wixom-Commerce **3480**
3 BR.RANCH 1.5 bath, 2.5 car, finished w/og, lg. lot w/wk. priv. \$169,000 248-624-5199

Genesee County **3500**
DAVISON TWP
New construction at its finest. Beautiful 4 bdrm, 3.5 bath home located in Davison School district. Sun filled great room w/2 way fireplace. Library, dining room, daylight bsmt. \$700,000
MLS 26164314
(248) 673-2211
CENTURY 21 TODAY

West Bloomfield

FOUR BDRM HOME,
heart of Potomac Village. Newer kitchen w/white cabinets + appliances. Large family room off kitchen w/natural fireplace. Doorwalk off kitchen to large deck for entertaining. Finished bsmt for more room for storage. \$259,900 #27193843
(248) 360-9100
CENTURY 21 TODAY

HOUSE PERFECT!
Updated. Fresh paint. Professionally decorated. Finished bsmt w/wet bar + bath. Lush landscape w/winground pool. Popular neighborhood. Walled Lake schools. Spectacular home. Must see, you won't be disappointed! \$369,900 #27184926
(248) 360-9100
CENTURY 21 TODAY

Updated Ranch!
Remodeled kitchen w/new appliances. Ceramic floors, oak cabinets Updated bath w/granite & tile. Extra living space in finished bsmt. 2 1/2 car garage w/workshop. New electric (06) furnace (05). MOVE IN READY! Lake privileges all sports lake, \$169,900 #28016152
(248) 360-9100
CENTURY 21 TODAY

Westland **3445**
RANCH BEAUTY
3 bdrms, full bsmt, updated & ready for you. Walk to Hamilton Elementary from home on dead-end street. All newer appliances stay, new carpet & paint too!
DENISE MCGUIGAN
734-564-4310
REMERICA HOMETOWN III
6231 N. Canton Center Rd.

Westland
All the updates have been done for you, just move right into this meticulously maintained 3 bedroom, 2 bath brick ranch in Westland Schools. \$135,000. #2713715
Laurie Buys
734-658-7158, 734-665-0300
Charles Reinhart Co. Realtors

White Lake **3450**
ALL SPORTS MAIN
lakefront, 4 bdrm, 3 bath. Custom built quad. Large family room w/fireplace. Formal living room & dining room. Updated kitchen w/island, all appliances. Master suite w/door walk + balcony. Large custom deck Huron Valley schools. \$329,900 #27141544
(248) 360-9100
CENTURY 21 TODAY

Wayne County **3570**
RIVER ROUGE
Brick home w/bay window, covered ceilings & arched entryways. CA fireplace, some wood floors, basement w/dry bar, 3-season room. Garage, brick patio, gardens.
\$85,000 #2712728
Tanya Hill
734-330-4310, 734-665-0300
Charles Reinhart Co. Realtors

Real Estate Auction **3620**
Real Estate Auction
8508 SILVER LAKE ROAD, LINDEN
3BR 3BA 2,163sqft+/-, OPENING BID: \$25,000
604 W WASHINGTON, HOWELL
3BR 1BA 1,334sqft+/-, OPENING BID: \$1,000
662 RED OAKS DR, HOWELL
2BR 1BA 1,056sqft+/-, OPENING BID: \$1,000
\$1,000 Properties Sell: 8:00am Thu. Feb. 21 at 8508 SILVER LAKE RD, LINDEN
Homes are open Sat or Sun before sale day, visit williamsauction.com for details or call 800-801-8003. Other properties selling online only.

CONDO **3720**
CANTON
Charming upper ranch unit. Open floor plan, large master bdrm w/walk in closet. Laundry in unit. Great location. \$90,000 MLS 28015786
(734) 462-9800
CENTURY 21 TODAY

COMMERCIAL TWP
Great location, 2 bdrm, 2 bath condo w/all the special touches to move in & no work required. Low maintenance fee. \$165,000 ML 28017697
(734) 462-9800
CENTURY 21 TODAY

LIVONIA RANCH
Spacious 1370 sq.ft., first floor in prime Laurel Park area. Two large bdrms. updates include: newer carpet, paint, furnace & central air. Huge living room with dining room, 17 ft screened-in patio, neutral decor. Move-in cond. Clubhouse with pool & exercise room. Competitively priced at \$115,000.
CALL DAN MULLAN
RE/MAX 100
800-799-9770

REDFORD CONDO
Gorgeous condo unit w/new furniture. Kitchen has refrigerator, new stove & hood fan, new dishes, pots & pans. Spacious master has closet space galore. Laundry & storage in bsmt. Carport. \$45,000
MLS 28011482
(313) 538-2000
CENTURY 21 TODAY

Macomb County **3530**
MACOMB TWP
Beautiful 3 bdrm, 2.5 bath home. Kitchen w/2 level island overlooking breakfast room w/bay window. Fireplace in great room, French doors to den. Professionally landscaped. \$249,900
MLS 27072102
(248) 673-2211
CENTURY 21 TODAY

Oakland County **3540**
INDEPENDENCE TWP
Vacation all year long in this wooded hilltop home w/breathtaking views. Deluxe bath w/Jacuzzi, private balcony w/hot tub & new carpet. Finished walkout. All appliances stay. \$239,900
MLS 27152029
(248) 855-2000
CENTURY 21 TODAY

Macomb County

ROYAL OAK
Many special features in this updated end unit. 2 bdrm, 1.5 bath condo. Extra windows provide natural sunlight! Living room w/fireplace. Fresh paint. Living room. Pool. \$158,500 (27193306)
(248) 647-8888
CENTURY 21 TODAY

WESTLAND \$10,000 Towards closing. \$10,000 garage, bsmt, living rm., 2 story. \$160,000. Call: 248-932-9350 ext. 19.

Manufactured Homes **3740**
GUARANTEED FINANCING ON BEAUTIFUL COMMUNITY OWNED HOMES!!
Call Mel @ (734) 454-4660
*Limited time offer through April 1, 2008
Certain conditions will apply.

PONTIAC
4 bdrm, 2.5 bath ranch. Brazilian cherry hardwood floors, cathedral ceilings, ceramic in kitchen & foyer. Finished bsmt, 2 car attached garage & brick paved patio. \$210,000 MLS 27225709
(248) 673-2211
CENTURY 21 TODAY

PONTIAC
Private lakefront. 4 bdrm, 2 bath home located on cul-de-sac. Large kitchen w/oak cabinets, door walk off of dining room leads to large deck overlooking Crystal Lake. \$159,900 MLS 27195326
(248) 673-2211
CENTURY 21 TODAY

WOLVERINE LAKE
Best value on lake. Main lake view. Very quiet location 241 acre all sports Wolverine Lake. Price reflects need for minor repairs & updating. Owner wants this property sold! 1 year warranty included. \$289,000 #27225404
(248) 360-9100
CENTURY 21 TODAY

Wayne County **3570**
RIVER ROUGE
Brick home w/bay window, covered ceilings & arched entryways. CA fireplace, some wood floors, basement w/dry bar, 3-season room. Garage, brick patio, gardens.
\$85,000 #2712728
Tanya Hill
734-330-4310, 734-665-0300
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MLS 28011482
(313) 538-2000
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MACOMB TWP
Beautiful 3 bdrm, 2.5 bath home. Kitchen w/2 level island overlooking breakfast room w/bay window. Fireplace in great room, French doors to den. Professionally landscaped. \$249,900
MLS 27072102
(248) 673-2211
CENTURY 21 TODAY

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Vacation all year long in this wooded hilltop home w/breathtaking views. Deluxe bath w/Jacuzzi, private balcony w/hot tub & new carpet. Finished walkout. All appliances stay. \$239,900
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Condos

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PONTIAC
4 bdrm, 2.5 bath ranch. Brazilian cherry hardwood floors, cathedral ceilings, ceramic in kitchen & foyer. Finished bsmt, 2 car attached garage & brick paved patio. \$210,000 MLS 27225709
(248) 673-2211
CENTURY 21 TODAY

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CENTURY 21 TODAY

Time Share

TIMESHARE!!! Tired of fees? Call Buyatimeshare.com to sell, rent or buy a timeshare. Get FREE info today & get cash at closing! Call Now!
1-866-708-9690

LEASE/OPTION TO BUY **3840**

LIVONIA VALLEYWOOD CONDOS
2 bdrm, 2 bath, 2 carports, pool. \$875/mo. Incl gas & water. \$89,900. 734-260-4386

Mortgage/Land Contracts **3850**

SENIORS 62+ No more house payments or rent. Get home with equity. (517) 294-7606.

Cemetery Lots **3880**

WESTLAND - Cadillac Memorial Garden West
2 Spaces, \$260 for both, in Garden of Miracles. Call Sue, 734-330-1660

WESTLAND Cadillac Memorial Gardens: 2 plots, 2 vaults, 1 dbl. plaque. List \$6,800, will sell for \$4,200. 517-788-5334

Business/Professional Building **3910**

LIVONIA
Gorgeous 3600 sq.ft. stand alone office bldg. Buy/lease,

• Visit royaloakford.com • Visit royaloakford.com • Visit royaloakford.com • Visit royaloakford.com

PRESIDENTS DAY SALE

★ JUST ANNOUNCED ★ ALL NEW PROGRAMS!

YOU'VE WAITED! THEY'RE HERE! DRIVE TODAY!

EARLY BIRD SPECIAL
Get out NOW!
No Matter where you leased it!

EARLY BIRD SPECIAL
Get out NOW!
No Matter where you leased it!



ALL NEW 2008 FUSION SE

ABS, PW/PL, 6-airbag protection, 6-disc CD/MP3, pwr seats, steering wheel radio control.

\$2000 TOTAL DUE	\$1000 TOTAL DUE	\$0 DUE
\$156*	\$199*	\$215*
24 Mo. LEASE	24 Mo. LEASE	39 Mo. LEASE



ALL NEW 2008 EDGE SE

Front, side & canopy air bags, MP3 ready, V6, pwr windows/locks, 17" alum wheels, tilt, cruise.

\$500 OWNER LOYALTY REBATE*

\$2000 TOTAL DUE	\$1000 TOTAL DUE	\$0 DUE
\$216*	\$258*	\$289*
24 Mo. LEASE	24 Mo. LEASE	39 Mo. LEASE



ALL NEW 2008 FOCUS SE

Auto, air, pwr windows/locks, tilt, cruise, front, side & canopy air bags and much more!

\$2000 TOTAL DUE	\$1000 TOTAL DUE	\$0 DUE
\$125*	\$159*	\$188*
24 Mo. LEASE	36 Mo. LEASE	39 Mo. LEASE



ALL NEW 2008 ESCAPE XLT

Moonroof, Satellite Radio, auto trans, air. **ALL NEW DESIGN!**

Built with pride in the USA!

\$2000 TOTAL DUE	\$1000 TOTAL DUE	\$0 DUE
\$196*	\$229*	\$259*
24 Mo. LEASE	36 Mo. LEASE	39 Mo. LEASE



NEW 2008 TAURUS LIMITED

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

Safest Vehicle in the USA!

\$2000 TOTAL DUE	\$1000 TOTAL DUE	\$0 DUE
\$216*	\$265*	\$288*
24 Mo. LEASE	24 Mo. LEASE	39 Mo. LEASE



ALL NEW 2008 EXPLORER XLT

AM/FM/CD, pwr windows, pwr locks, tilt, alloy wheels, safety canopy w/side air bag.

#1 SUV in the USA!

\$2000 TOTAL DUE	\$1000 TOTAL DUE	\$0 DUE
\$196*	\$234*	\$265*
24 Mo. LEASE	24 Mo. LEASE	39 Mo. LEASE



NEW 2008 F150 XLT SC 4X4

Trailer tow pkg, stereo CD, Americas Work Horse!

\$500 OWNER LOYALTY REBATE*

\$2000 TOTAL DUE
\$169*
24 Mo. LEASE



NEW 2008 TAURUS X

4 wheel ABS, 263 HP V6, personal safety system, traction control.

SAFEST 7 PASSENGER CROSSOVER IN AMERICA!

\$2000 TOTAL DUE	\$1000 TOTAL DUE	\$0 DUE
\$259*	\$303*	\$333*
24 Mo. LEASE	24 Mo. LEASE	39 Mo. LEASE

30 to choose from...



2007 TAURUS*

\$10,950



SPECIAL PURCHASE!

USED CAR BLOWOUT

WE BUY CARS! ALL MAKES, ALL MODELS!

TRUCK/VAN/SUV

03 VUE AWD V6.....10,950	06 FREESTAR SE.....11,450
03 RANGER EDGE.....11,450	06 TOWN & COUNTRY.....12,950
06 JEEP LIBERTY SPORT 4X4.....12,950	05 FREESTAR LTD.....14,450
02 LAND ROVER HSE.....12,950	05 GRAND CHEROKEE LARDEDO.....14,450
05 HONDA CRV.....13,950	06 E150 CARGO VAN.....15,550
04 ENVOY 4X4.....13,950	05 EXPLORER LIMITED.....16,450
06 ESCAPE LTD.....14,450	07 ESCAPE XLT 4X4.....16,950
06 E350 12 PASSENGER VAN.....14,450	06 EXPLORER XLT 4X4.....16,950
05 EXPLORER XLT 4X4.....14,450	05 EXPLORER E.B. 4X4.....16,950
07 GRAND CHEROKEE 4X4.....16,950	07 EXPLORER E.B.....21,950
05 F150 CREW CAB XLT 4X4.....18,950	05 ESCALADE AWD.....25,950
07 EXPLORER E.B.....19,450	06 F250 CREW CAB.....26,950
04 F350 SUPER CAB.....24,950	08 F350 CREW CAB 4X4.....36,950

'08 GRAND PRIX
Factory warranty, LOADED!
ONLY \$15,950

'02 THUNDERBIRD CONVERTIBLE
RED, leather, LOADED!
Low, Low Miles!
ONLY \$24,950

CARS! CARS!

06 CHEVY AVEO.....7,950	04 TAURUS SE.....8,450
01 GRAND MARQUIS LS.....7,950	03 GRAND MARQUIS GS.....8,950
06 COBALT.....9,450	05 FOCUS ZX4.....8,950
03 MONTE CARLO LS.....9,450	04 MAZDA 3.....10,950
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