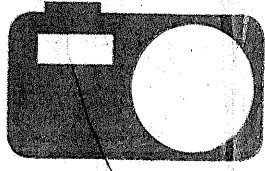


**PHOTO GALLERIES**

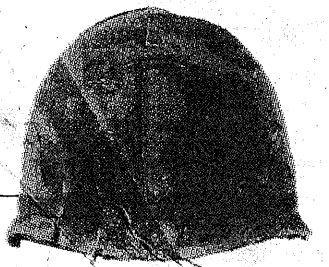


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**THE WAR CONTINUES**

Psychotherapist looking to start support group for veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder.



- Health, B5

**SUNDAY**  
March 16, 2008

**PLYMOUTH Observer**

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**Egg hunt a victim of charter revocation**

**BY BRAD KADRICH**  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Normally, Tim Fedewa and his band of happy helpers from among the Plymouth Jaycees would have spent this day (Sunday) making sure kids of all ages enjoyed the annual Jaycees' Easter Egg Hunt at Plymouth Township Park.

There's no need for such effort this year, because the hunt didn't happen at all after the Plymouth Jaycees had their charter revoked due to lack of membership.

Officials from the Michigan Jaycees made the decision in December to revoke after watching the Plymouth chapter struggle for years to stay above the required 20 members.

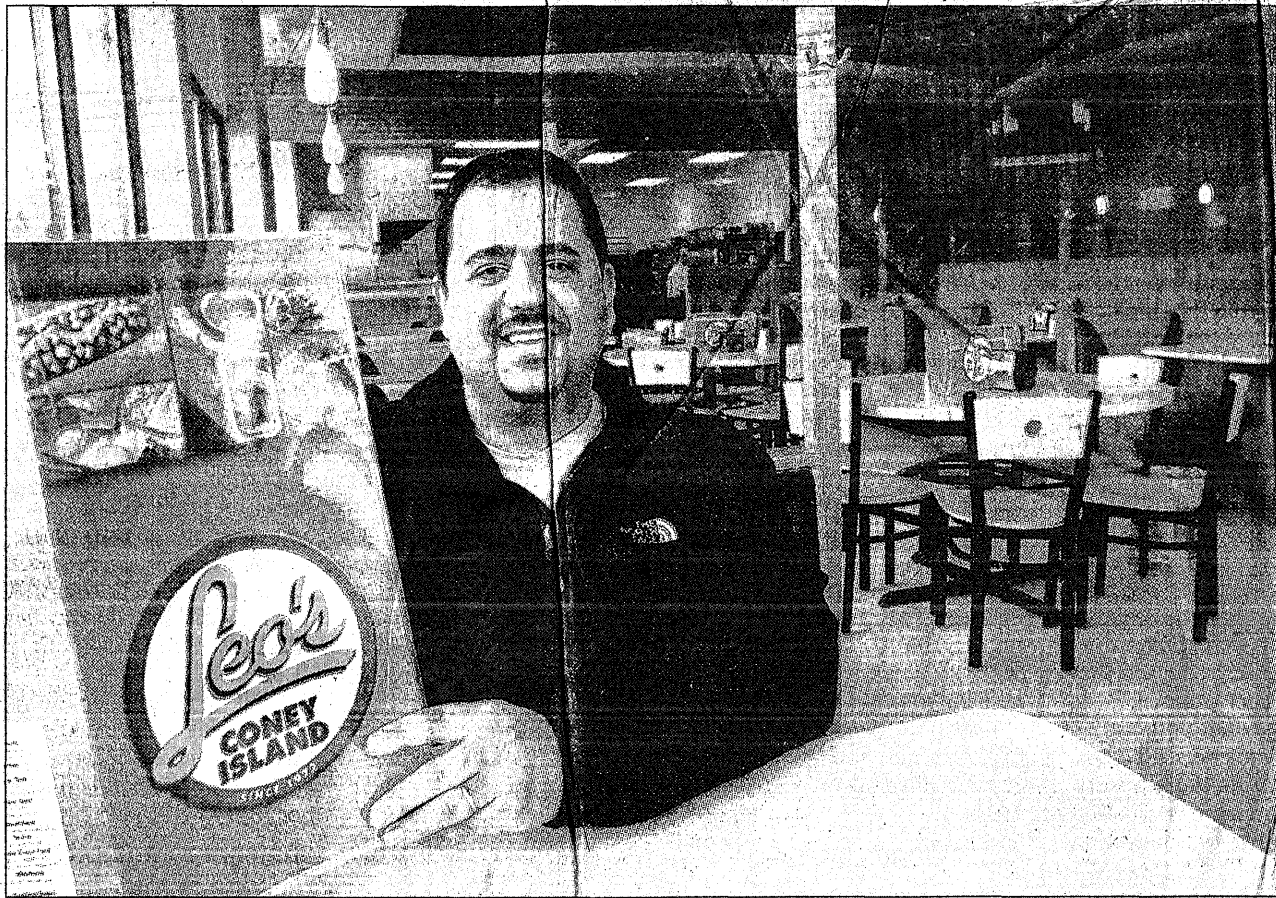
Michigan Jaycees President Brian Coker didn't return calls seeking comment.

"They obviously don't want a two-person chapter," said Fedewa, former president of the Plymouth Jaycees. "Plymouth has been struggling as far as membership the last couple of years. We've flirted around the magic number of 20. We dipped below that last year, and a couple of people tried to organize a recruiting drive that never really took off."

Fedewa said the struggles have gone on since at least 2005, with the chapter dropping below the 20-member requirement, going on probation from the state, then adding a couple of names to the roster to get it back above water.

According to Fedewa, the chapter was placed on proba-

Please see **JAYCEES, A10**



Ken Vlahadamis opened the newest Leo's Wednesday, the first business opening in the new Plymouth Towne Center retail complex.

**Up and running**  
Coney first shop to open in retail center

**BY BRAD KADRICH**  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Ken Vlahadamis has finally come home.

Vlahadamis, already the owner of three Leo's Coney Island restaurants north of here, opened his fourth in Plymouth Township's new Plymouth Towne Center Wednesday, marking the long-awaited homecoming for the Livonia restaurateur.

Leo's became the first business in the center to open its doors, about a month earlier than expected.

"We just got it done quicker," said Vlahadamis. "(The township) helped us a lot getting going early."

Vlahadamis partners with Leo's

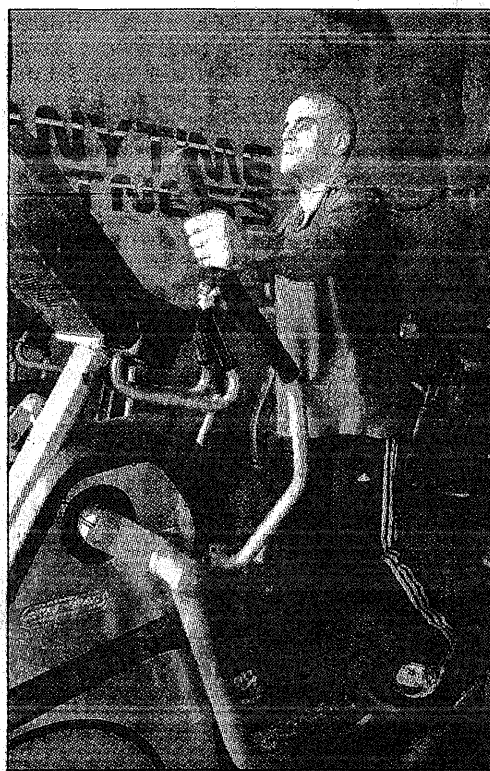
owner Leo Stassinopoulous with similar eateries in Royal Oak, Clarkston and Grand Blanc. He'd been looking for an opportunity closer to home, and when the Plymouth Towne Center became an option, Vlahadamis took it.

It helps that the warehouse that services all of Stassinopoulous' stores is only minutes away on General Drive.

"For some reason I started (along) I-75 and kept going north," Vlahadamis said with a smile. "I've always wanted to open something close to the house."

Vlahadamis has been interested in the restaurant business since his childhood days, when he'd ride along on a delivery route

Please see **RETAIL, A10**



Owners hope to open Anytime Fitness, a 24-hour full service gym, this week. Trainer Rick Burnett tries an elliptical trainer.

**Pit bull issue back on agenda**

**BY TONY BRUSCATO**  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

These days, Kyle Kosmyna walks his dog, Gage, downtown with plenty of notice. According to Kosmyna, many people walk up to him and engage in conversation when they see his 2-year-old, 90-pound red nose pit bull.

"I walk him every day downtown with no problems, and people stop to pet him and say how beautiful he is," Kosmyna said.

The controversy surrounding Kosmyna and his pit bull has subsided a bit, but could heat up Monday when the Plymouth City Commission considers options on a vicious dog ordinance.

About a month ago, before Kosmyna and his family moved into a rental home on Jenner, 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.

A second petition calling for a requirement that pit bulls and/or other types of dogs bred for fighting be spayed or neutered, contained within a six-foot secured privacy fence and be leashed when in public had 13 signatures.

After the first couple of weeks, Kosmyna said the controversy has quieted in his neighborhood.

"We say 'hi' (to the neighbors), but nothing above and beyond that," Kosmyna said. "We're going to do something about the fence, and I'm checking with the city to make sure it's legal."

"I've gotten a whole bunch of e-mails from people telling me to keep going and don't let them stop raising your dog and family," he added.

City Manager Paul Sincoc said the issue has been a "hot potato" and not only in Plymouth.

"We've had letters and e-mails from all across the country on this issue," Sincoc said. "We've had the whole range, from ban the pit bulls to leave the dogs alone. People are very passionate."

Mayor Phil Pursell said city attorney Bob Marzano will give commissioners a number of options at Monday's regular commission meeting.

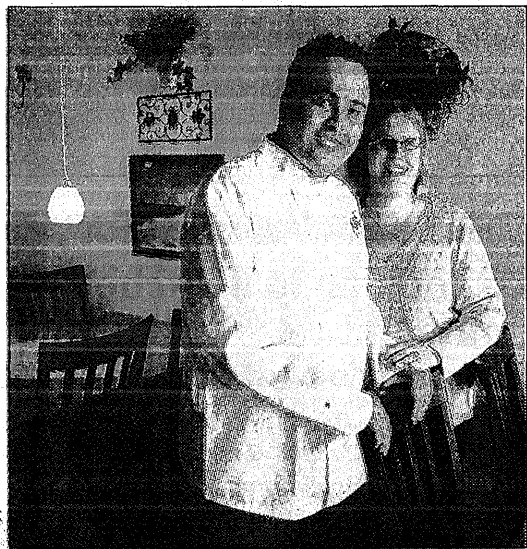
"Whatever the will of the commission, but I would hope it wouldn't be breed specific because I would want to cover any dog that is a nuisance, vicious or dangerous," Pursell said. "This issue seems to be ruled by emotion, and understandably so because there are small children living on the street."

If the City Commission develops a change to the current ordinance, two public hearings are required before it's enacted.

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**Owners finally bid bon voyage to Bon Homme**



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Husband and wife team Angel and Jennifer Silva-Gomez, who recently opened Mariachi in Canton, have purchased Cafe Bon Homme in downtown Plymouth.

**BY TONY BRUSCATO**  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

At this time last year, Greg and Susan Goodman of Plymouth thought they were on their way to retirement in northern Michigan.

The Goodmans believed they had a deal to sell Cafe Bon Homme, their five-star restaurant on Penniman Avenue in downtown Plymouth. However, two days before the closing, the deal to turn the restaurant into an appetizer eatery went south and the Goodmans remained in business, putting off retirement.

The restaurant, which has been a destination for nearly 23 years, looks like it will change hands in the coming months as the owners of the Mexican restaurant Mariachi in Canton

Township plan to take over soon and change the menu.

"It looks like it's going to happen," Greg Goodman said. "However, having seen this movie once before, I'm reticent to do an Irish jig."

Angel Silva, who owns Mariachi, said he hopes to be in by Cinco de Mayo (May 5).

"My original plan was to open first in Plymouth, but I found this location in Canton (in the Centre Village Shopping Center at Ford and Canton Center) and saw an opportunity," Silva said.

"We know there's a Mexican restaurant already in Plymouth (Zapata's on Ann Arbor Trail), but we'll have a liquor license, have live mariachi on the weekends and will have a patio in the back for outside seating."

Silva said his Canton res-

taurant seats 104 patrons, and expects the Plymouth location to serve 180.

"It will be the same menu, just a different location," Silva said. Meanwhile, Goodman said retirement appears to be near at hand.

"My wife and I were on the fence as to whether we would go down this road again, or get back to operating as normal," Goodman said. "Once you've made up a mind set leading you in one direction, you tend to want to start that journey."

"We do feel strongly about Plymouth, and it's not the easiest thing to make the leap," he added. "But life goes on and sometimes you just have to embrace it. It's been a good, long run."

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Number 60



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**INDEX**

APARTMENTS	D3
AUTOMOTIVE	C11
HEALTH	B5
HOMETOWNLIFE	C1
JOBS	C8
NEW HOMES	D1
OBITUARIES	C6
OPINION	A11
REAL ESTATE	D2
SPORTS	B1

**Coming Thursday in filter**



Choir performance

The St. John's Episcopal Choir will perform Heinrich Schütz's "Seven Last Words from the Cross," one of the masterpieces of the Baroque era, for Good Friday 7 p.m. March 21.

This is a dramatic setting of Jesus' final words before his death, interpreted through the voices of the choir and soloists. Come join St. John's to reflect on the Passion of Christ through this incredible work of sacred musical art.

St. John's Episcopal Church is located at 574 S. Sheldon in Plymouth. For information, contact Scott Elsholz, (734) 474-5551, Ext. 16.

Shroud of Turin Exhibit

Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church in Plymouth will host an exhibit on The Shroud of Turin this coming Holy Week.

Held by numerous scholars including theologians, scientists, forensic pathologists, historians, archeologists and millions of the faithful to be the actual burial cloth of Jesus, this replica exhibit including displays and video will be available for self-guided viewing. Please note: Due to the subject matter, children under the age of 15 must be accompanied by an adult.

Exhibit Schedule for Monday, March 17 through Easter Sunday, March 23: Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of Holy Week, 8-10 a.m. and 4-8 p.m.; Holy Thursday, 9 a.m. to noon, 4-7 and 9-11:30 p.m.; Good Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Holy Saturday, noon to 8 p.m.; and Easter Sunday, 7 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Our Lady of Good Counsel Church is located at 47650 N. Territorial (at the northwest corner of Beck one block south of the Beck Road exit on M-14). For directions and map, visit the parish Web site at www.olgcparrish.net. The exhibit will be held in the parish social hall on the lower level. For more information, phone the parish offices at (734) 453-0326 or (734) 459-0893.

Comedy Night

To all Inspiring Comedians, think you're funny? Got your act together? Let us be the

judge. Looking for Comedians for a Comedy Night at the Cherry Hill Village Theater in Canton June 7 (TV audience material only).

Some appreciation prizes will be awarded based on tickets sales. The event is being sponsored by the Plymouth High School Football Booster club and all proceeds will benefit the Plymouth High School football program.

If you are interested in participating as a comic, or in attending, contact Tiffany at (313) 300-7620 or e-mail ekj90@sbcglobal.net

New Morning auction

New Morning School conducts its 32nd annual auction Saturday, April 5, at Laurel Manor in Livonia. The Roaring 20s will come alive for jaspers and flappers alike!

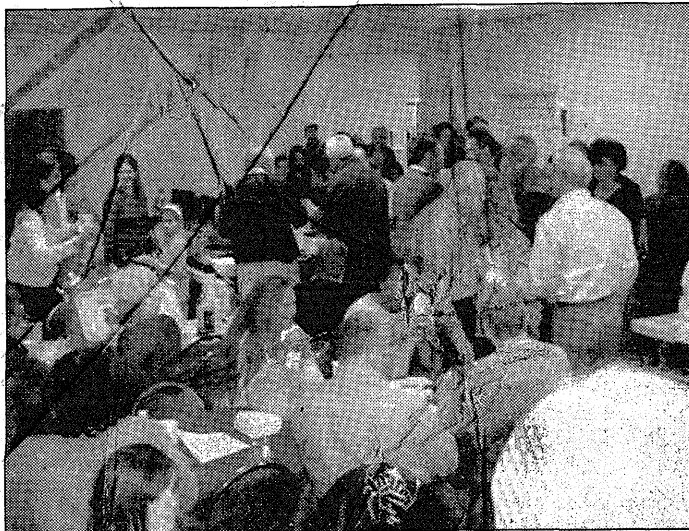
Enjoy an elegant meal with open bar, and peruse the hundreds of offerings in our silent auction. Then, get ready to bid on the exciting packages in the live auction. Experience the excitement of bidding unique items such as getaways to Malta, Florida, and Toronto; luxury ski & golf trips; local spa packages; fine jewelry; and a one-of-a-kind package to Beverly Hills, California that includes a deluxe stay at the Beverly Wilshire Hotel, dining and celebrity sighting at Spago, and tickets to see Dr. Phil.

The huge silent auction features something for everyone, from sports memorabilia to children's items, electronics, original artwork, home improvement packages, and more. Step into our Speakeasy and enjoy a specialty martini bar, live music, and learn to dance the Charleston.

The local community is welcome to attend. Call (734) 420-3331 to purchase tickets by phone or visit www.newmorningschool.com for more information. Tickets are \$75 per person which includes seated dinner, dessert, open bar, and the silent and live auction portions of the evening.

Fall festival

The Plymouth Fall Festival is accepting applications for its Craft Show that takes place during the Fall Festival, scheduled for Sept.



Cooking up some help

Some 200 guests recently attended when the Keller Williams Realty Plymouth Market Center hosted a Chili Cook off fund-raiser which raised \$4,986 to donate toward medication and chemotherapy costs for Greg Borowiak, grandson of one of their agents, Marge Tack. "I couldn't be more proud of the hard work our KW Cares Committee and our agents did to help raise almost \$5,000 for Greg. I am blessed to lead such a fantastic team of caring agents," says Team Leader Mike Workman. As soon as the Plymouth Market Center heard Greg needed help the KW Cares Committee including Ray Velasco, Marge Tack, Jim Buettner, Melissa Sambone and Ann Waight mobilized. Sponsors donated door prizes and 25 agents and staff donated batches of their best chili. An estimated 200 guests came through the office over the three-hour event.

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.

Miller Woods meeting

The annual business meeting for the Friends of Miller Woods is scheduled for 7 p.m. Thursday, March 20, at the Plymouth District Library.

The public is invited to attend. Come celebrate the first day of Spring by learning more about Miller Woods, a natural treasure with historical significance in Plymouth Township.

Notre Dame choir

The renowned choir of Notre Dame students will perform a concert of Sacred Music at 8 p.m. Friday, April

4, at Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish. The Choir ministers at the 10 a.m. Solemn Mass at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart on the Notre Dame campus. This Mass is televised live worldwide on DirecTV weekly.

The Choir performs a repertoire of a cappella and accompanied sacred songs from the Renaissance through the 20th Century. In recognition of the Liturgical

Choir's special ministry, Pope John Paul II extended his apostolic blessing to it in a 1989 trip to Rome.

The Choir has appeared internationally at cities in Spain and France over the last several years and annually performs on a U.S. tour.

Tickets for the concerts are available after Mass the weekend of March 29-30. Tickets are also available at the OLCG Church office or by contacting Brian Broderick at (734) 416-9865. Ticket prices are \$5 for students, \$8 for seniors and \$10 for adults.

Sagear scholarship

Students wanting to apply for the Sagear-Rotary Scholarship have until April 1 to get in their applications.

The Rotary Club of Plymouth A.M. is striving to recognize a Plymouth-Canton School District High

School Senior who has overcome adversity. We are looking for students who have displayed courage, perseverance, spirit, and creativity in succeeding in achieving an education, despite a physical, mental or emotional barrier. They have also shown an appreciation of others and a commitment to their community.

The recipient of this award will receive a \$500 scholarship. This award is named after Sandra Sagear a 1969 graduate of the original Plymouth High School who imagined and believed she could succeed as she lived everyday with Polio.

Information and applications on the Sagear-Rotary Scholarship are posted at www.storytellerdesign.com/SagearRotaryScholarship.pdf. Applications should be returned to Debra Madonna, Rotary Club of Plymouth A.M., 40200 Pinetree, Plymouth, MI 48170. The award will be announced April 25.

Feed the need

PBJ Outreach Inc. is sponsoring a Super Slamm'n Spaghetti Jam 5-8 p.m. Saturday, April 5 (following 4 p.m. Mass) at Our Lady of Good Counsel Church Social Hall (47650 N. Territorial), Plymouth.

Enjoy a fun family night including spaghetti dinner, cash bar, activities for kids, and raffle/door prizes. All proceeds go toward the Peanut Butter and Jelly Ministry which provides food on a weekly basis to brothers and sisters in Detroit's Cass Corridor.

Tickets cost \$7 for adults, \$3 kids (age 3-12), under 3 eat free. For tickets/info return please contact Linda Barterian at 734-459-0771.

Damaris scholarship

The Plymouth Community Arts Council will recognize a Plymouth-Canton School district senior who has displayed outstanding abilities in visual arts and plans to continue his/her education in this field with the 2008 Damaris Fine Arts Award.

The Damaris Application is posted at www.arts-culturelink.com/damarisaward.pdf. Applications will be accepted March 24-April 4. Artwork will be judged April 5-11, and the \$600 award will be announced April 21.

Students artwork will be judged on its originality, creativity, and use of material. Artwork will be professionally Juried by Dennis Jones, Architect, Artist, Sculptor. The Damaris Fine Arts Award was established in

memory of Damaris (Dee) Schulte by her family: husband, Dick, sons, Philip and Mike. Dee, an artist in her own right, had a Bachelor's Degree in Art and a Master's Degree in Art Education. This award honors Dee as an artist and recognizes the dedication and many contributions she made to the Plymouth Community Arts Council.

LWV scholarship

The League of Women Voters of Northwest Wayne County will award a \$1,500 scholarship in June to a qualified United States citizen, male or female, college undergraduate. Applicants need to meet the following criteria: Reside in Canton, Garden City, Livonia, Northville, Plymouth, Redford, Wayne or Westland; attend a Michigan college or university; major in government, political science or public policy; and be entering the third year of undergraduate studies.

Additional information can be found, and the application can be downloaded, from the league's Web site at www.lwvww.org. Click on 2008 Scholarship Application. Applications must be postmarked by April 18.

Gettysburg trip

The Plymouth Historical Society sponsors a field trip to Gettysburg, Pa., May 15-18, to see the site of the largest battle of the American Civil War. The new Gettysburg Museum & Visitors Center will open in April with state-of-the-art exhibits and interactive displays.

The fully escorted trip includes a motor coach round-trip ride from Plymouth to Gettysburg, three nights at America's Best Value Inn (located within three blocks of the battlefield), three breakfasts, two lunches, and three dinners. Mail-in reservation forms can be obtained at the Plymouth Historical Museum during open hours, or call the local trip coordinator, Dan Packer, at (734) 420-4439. The form, along with additional information, is also available on the museum's Web site at http://www.plymouthhistory.org/Events.html.

DAR meets

The Daughters of the American Revolution, Northville/Plymouth chapter, meet Monday, March 17, for a noon sandwich luncheon at the Northville District Library.

The program will be on the DAR American Indians Committee and Indians of Southeast Michigan. For more information, call (734) 459-4764.

CASH FOR OLD GOLD advertisement for Plymouth Jewelry & Gifts. Text includes: Gold prices are soaring! Stop in for a free estimate for your old gold, antique rings, worn jewelry, and anytime jewelry or gold item that you no longer need. Cash paid immediately. All transactions are completely confidential. Come in any time. 620 Starkweather Old Village • Plymouth 734-453-1860

Newcomers Welcome Service advertisement. Text includes: Making New Neighbors Feel At Home Since 1960! Get to know Canton and Plymouth with our FREE Welcome Packet. Call Linda Today at 734-718-9095 or visit our website at www.a2newcomers.com

BARNETT Roofing and Siding Inc. advertisement. Text includes: RESIDENTIAL • COMMERCIAL. Certaineed Select Shingle Roofer. Duro-Last Elite Roofer Award Winner. Professional Roofer Advisory Council. Family Owned and Operated for Over 45 Years. 41700 Michigan Ave. • Canton • 734-397-8122

Observer HOW TO REACH US advertisement. Text includes: Home Delivery/Customer Service . 1-866-88-PAPER (866-887-2737) Newsroom .....(734) 459-2700 Fax .....(734) 459-4224 Sports Nightline .....(734) 953-2104 Classified Advertising .....1-800-579-SELL (7355) Display Advertising .....(734) 953-2153

Crystal Creek Assisted Living advertisement. Text includes: An exceptional home-like setting for Active/Alert, Memory Impaired, Frail/Recovering and Alzheimer's residents. 24 Hour Professional Staffing. Private/Semi Private/Barrier Free. 3 Home Cooked Meals A Day. On Call Nurse Practitioner. Planned Activities. Wander Secured/Enclosed Courtyard. Medication Management. Daily Housekeeping & Laundry. Incontinence Management. Beauty & Barber Shop. CANTON (734) 453-3203 8121 Lilley, Located between Joy & Warren Roads

Embassy Suites Hotel advertisement for Easter Brunch. Text includes: Can't stand the thought of cooking in a kitchen for hours over the family's Easter meal? Want to try something fun but just don't know where to go? We invite you to join us for Easter Brunch, Sunday March, 23, 2008 at the Embassy Suites Hotel Livonia. Adults: \$26.95 Children 6-12 years: \$13.95 Children 5 & Under: Free. Seating at: 11:00 AM - Noon - 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM Make your reservation today 734.462.6000



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Plymouth Police Officer Tom Koval (center) accepts his award from Fox 2 news anchor Ron Savage and MADD's Ne'chole McClendon.

## MADD honors Plymouth officer

Plymouth Police Officer Tom Koval was among 31 law enforcement officers honored Thursday by Mothers Against Drunk Drivers at its annual Lifesavers Luncheon at Burton Manor in Livonia for dedication in keeping drunks off the road.

Koval, who has been on the Plymouth department for two years, was nominated by Police Chief Wayne Carroll, who noted Koval has the second-highest total of drunk-driving arrests in the department, behind only 20-year veteran Kevin Chumney.

"We chose him for the award for coming out of the gate that way," Carroll said. "He's a good cop. He's a hard-worker, he's well-rounded, he fits real well with the way we police here in Plymouth."

According to luncheon sponsor Terry Cochran, the Lifesavers Luncheon "celebrates police officers who are committed to making roadways safer by removing and arresting drunken drivers."

### THE KOVAL FILE

- Who: Plymouth Police Officer Tom Koval
- What: Honored by Mothers Against Drunk Driving for his work arresting drunk drivers
- About him: Two-year officer, 28 years old, works mostly overnight shift, had second-most drunk driving arrests in department
- What they're saying: "He's a good cop. He's a hard-worker, he's well-rounded, he fits real well with the way we police here in Plymouth," said Police Chief Wayne Carroll.

Cochran, attorney and senior partner of Cochran, Foley & Associates of Livonia, is a long-time supporter of MADD who displays the MADD logo on his firm's Web site. He said honored officers are "committed to making our roadways safer by removing and arresting drunken drivers

in our communities."

"The innocents get injured for life or killed when a drunk driver runs a red light, goes the wrong way on a freeway, or runs down a bicyclist on the shoulder of the roadway," Cochran said. "I fully understand why innocent victims, and family members of the innocent, become absolutely outraged when their loved ones are killed or injured for life by the careless, thoughtless act of a drunk driver. Justice demands far more than this and we want to honor those police officers who share the commitment to bring justice to drunk drivers."

Koval said keeping drunk drivers off the road is a priority.

"It's not just Plymouth, we're finding many come from all over the adjoining communities," said Koval, 28, who mainly works the overnight shift. "Our issue is when you have a little too much to drink, we can't have you on the road."

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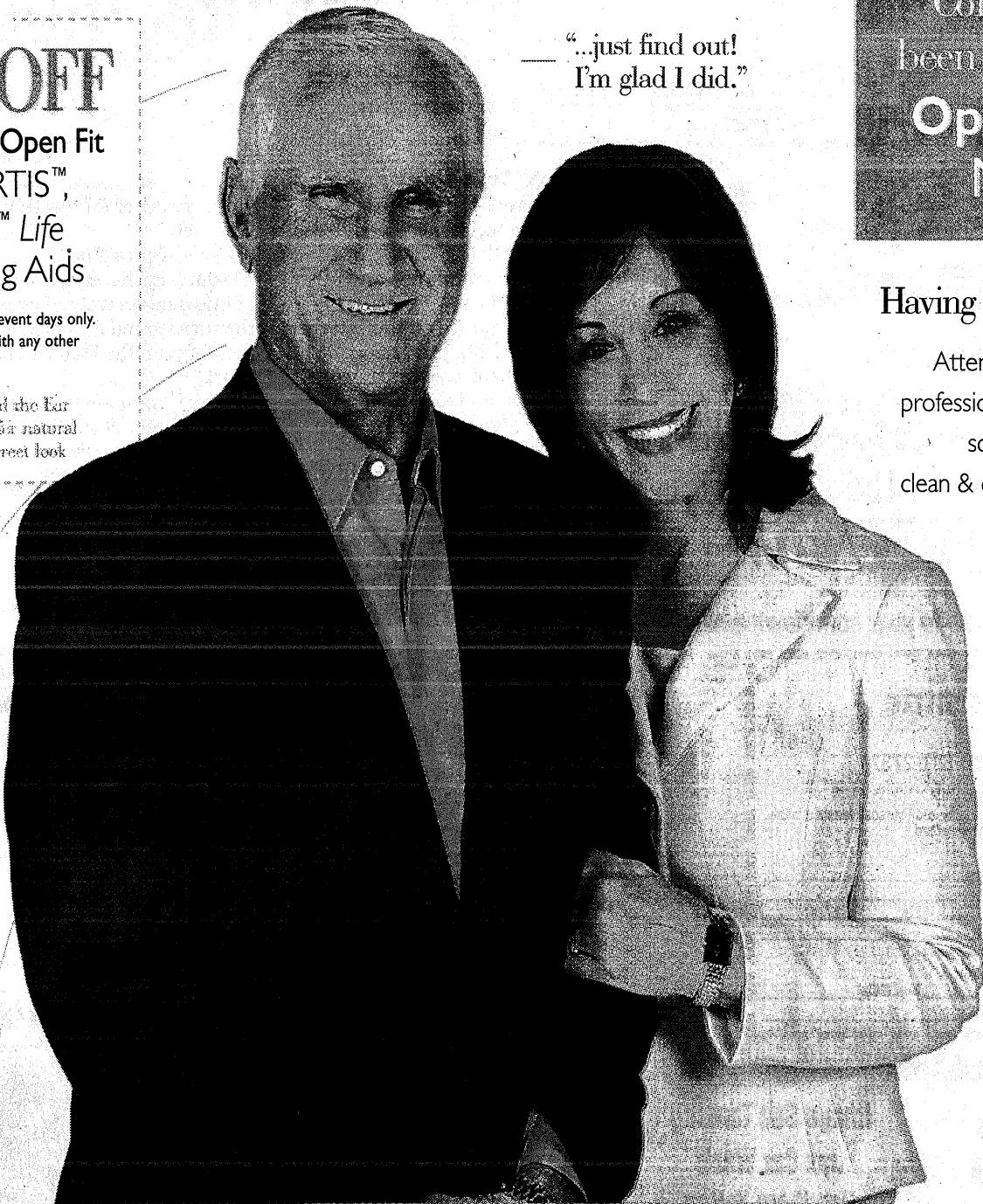
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— and his wife Mary Anne



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March 18<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup>

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No cost or obligation, but SPACE IS LIMITED! Please note: Coach Shula will not be in attendance at the event.

# Seminars educate veterans on benefits

BY DARRELL CLEM  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

They may have fought in different wars and served in various branches of the military, but all veterans may be entitled to certain benefits and not even realize it.

A new veterans group and two Lansing legislators hope to change that.

The Westland Veterans Association, state Rep. Richard LeBlanc, D-Westland, and state Sen. Glenn Anderson, D-Westland, will sponsor a pair of informational seminars in April for area veterans, not just those from the sponsors' hometown.

"Our goal is to provide an avenue for veterans to learn what they're entitled to and the various types of benefits they can apply for," said Vietnam veteran Kenneth Mehl, who chairs the Westland Veterans Association. "We have reason to believe that a lot of veterans don't know what's entitled to them or what benefits may be available to them."

The sessions will be at 9:30 a.m. Saturday, April 19, at the Harris-Keher VFW Post 3323 on Wayne Road south of Cherry Hill,

and at 1:30 p.m. on the same day at the Stanley Romanowski VFW Post 6896 on Joy Road east of Middlebelt.

Seating will be limited. To sign up, call Mehl at (734) 261-5955, Tony Wager at (734) 637-7992 or Joe Tebor at (734) 377-8329. Veterans expect large crowds at both seminars.

"Other cities have sponsored these seminars and the seating has been full," Mehl said.

The Westland Veterans Association became an offshoot of a group that worked on bringing The Moving Wall — a smaller version of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. — to the Westland Summer Festival in 2006.

The group hopes to educate veterans about benefits they may receive.

"This might sound morbid, but some people don't know that every veteran (and spouse) can apply to be buried in a national cemetery," Mehl said, "and we have one in Holly."

If the April 19 seminars prove successful, he said, it's possible another one may be scheduled in the fall.

dclem@hometownlife.com | (734) 953-2110

## AROUND TOWN

### Crop for a Cure

An all day scrapbooking event, Crop for a Cure, will be held 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday, March 29, in the gymnasium at the Maplewood Community Center, 31735 Maplewood, west of Merriman, Garden City. The cost is \$35 per person and includes lunch, dinner, beverages and snacks. Pay by March 20 and receive five free prize tickets for a raffle of scrapbooking and non-scrapbooking related merchandise. A Close to My Heart consultant will be on site with some cash-and-carry stock and limited supplies for purchase. Registration fee is non-refundable. First come, first serve. For more information, call Dawn Downer at (734) 502-4277 or contact her by e-mail at downd@comcast.net. All proceeds will benefit the 2008 Michigan 3-Day Breast Cancer Walk.

### Mom2Mom sale

The Livonia YMCA will host a Mom2Mom Sale, 2-5 p.m., Sunday, March 30, at the YMCA, 14255 Stark Road, just north of Schoolcraft. Tables are still available by calling Jean at (734) 261-2161 or (248) 615-1080. There will be a large item room, with furniture and baby equipment and a bake sale and hot dogs for sale to benefit the YMCA. Admission is \$1. Strollers are allowed after 3 p.m.

### 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

### Suicide Loss Support Group

New Hope Center for Grief Support is offering an ongoing support group for those who have lost a loved one to suicide. This monthly group meets 7-9 p.m. on the second Thursday and fourth Monday of each month at the First United Methodist Church in Northville located at 777 W. Eight Mile Road. No registration is necessary for this monthly drop-in support group. For further information about this group or about the many other free, age and loss specific groups offered for children, teens, and adults, please call New Hope Center for Grief Support at 248-348-0115 and visit us at www.newhopecenter.net

### Gardeners meet

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

### Heartland Hospice

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

### Card party/luncheon

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

### Hospice training

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### Literacy Council tutors

The Community Literacy Council (CLC) is looking for volunteer tutors

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

### Toastmasters meet

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

### Grief support

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

### Post Polio Clinic

Easily fatigued? New, inexplicable physical complaints? History of paralytic or non-paralytic polio? Contact the Post Polio Clinic, 13850 E. 12 Mile, Warren, or call (586) 778-4505. The clinic sponsors support group meetings the fourth Saturday of every month (March through October) at 4328 Livernois in Troy. For more information you can also call (734) 765-8384.

## CLUBS

### Rotary A.M.

The Plymouth Rotary Club of Plymouth A.M. meets at 7 a.m. every Tuesday at the Plymouth Cultural Center, 525 Farmer. New members are always welcome. Contact Beth Stewart, president, Rotary Club of Plymouth A.M., by calling (734) 420-4094.

### 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.

## Gardeners meet

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### Canton Newcomers

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

### Kiwanis Club

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

### Plymouth Newcomers

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

### Fibromyalgia/Chronic Fatigue

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

### MOPS meet

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

### Mosaic

MOSAIC is a group where Moms come together to be refreshed and equipped for the important task of mothering. It presents speakers on child and family issues, has small-group discussion time, crafts and brunch. Child care is provided. It meets at Plymouth Baptist Church, 42021 Ann Arbor Trail, on the first and third Tuesday mornings of each month, September to May. Contact Plymouth Baptist Church for more information, 734-453-5534

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## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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## City streams meeting video

BY TONY BRUSCATO  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

It's "Must See TV On Demand" in Plymouth. New technology installed at Plymouth City Hall now allows for city commission and other televised meetings to be digitally streamed on the Internet. The advantage is residents, and others worldwide, won't have to be tied to their television sets at certain times to view city meetings.

"We recently upgraded the technology of our video systems to all digital, making broadcast on the Web and future pod casts of meetings available," said Noah Allor, video producer for meetings at City Hall.

According to Tom Alexandris, the city's director of information technologies, the turnaround for putting meetings on the Web will be short.

"City Commission meeting videos should be posted to the Web site within one or two days of the meeting taking place," said Alexandris.

The March 3 meeting was the first to be posted on the Web at www.ci.plymouth.mi.us. Click on Document Center at the top of the tool bar and then click on Meeting Video.

City of Plymouth meetings are televised on both Wide Open West (WOW) - Channel 10 - on Wednesday and Friday at 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. In addition, they are also aired on Comcast - Channel 18 - on Wednesday at 9 p.m.

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# Local cyclist will ride across country to help fund MS research

BY TIFFANY L. PARKS  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Eric Bloom can't cure his wife's multiple sclerosis but he can ride his bicycle from California to Georgia in an effort to help fight the disease.

Bloom, 58, of Canton is participating in Fast America South, a coast-to-coast bike ride offered by America By Bicycle. The ride will begin April 21 in Costa Mesa, California and ends 29 days later in Savannah, Georgia.

With the combination of this project and another one, the Bike MS ride, Bloom has set a goal of raising \$3,000 for the National MS Society. His wife, Patricia, was diagnosed with MS in 1997.

"Although she is in remission, she continues to struggle with the effects of MS," Bloom said. "Since Pat was diagnosed, I figured this would be a good way to raise funds to help her and anyone else."

According to the National MS Society, MS is a chronic, often disabling disease that attacks the central nervous system. The advancement and severity of the condition is unpredictable and varies by individual.

Bloom, who retired from Ford Motor Company in 2007, began his MS fund raising efforts in 2004 when he joined "Team Ford" and participated in his first Bike MS ride, which is organized through the MS society.

"I decided that this was what I was going to do to help," he said, adding that he's been in training for the 2,900-mile Fast America South venture for months.

Patricia Bloom, 51, said living with MS has been challenging but that she's grateful to be in remission. "When I was first diagnosed, I was crying and angry and thinking 'Why



Eric Bloom has been training five days a week preparing for his cross country ride.

me? But I have gone on to accept it and learn everything I can about MS," she said, while recalling the day she temporarily lost her eyesight and another day that she couldn't get out of bed. "Keeping active and having a positive frame of mind does wonders."

Patricia Bloom said she's proud of her husband raising money to fund research.

"The bike rides were something that he always aspired to do, so I told him to go for it," she said.

Eric Bloom raised \$880 for the MS society last year.

The Fast America South ride will cycle through nine states and includes 25 days of riding nearly 120 miles per day and two rest days.

Bloom, who will complete the ride on May 17, will set out for the less-intense West Michigan Bike MS ride from May 31-June 1.

"Having the time to do this is one of the advantages of being retired," he said. "This is a cause that I believe in."

For more information or to make a donation, visit [www.nationalMSociety.org/goto/Eric.Bloom](http://www.nationalMSociety.org/goto/Eric.Bloom)

[tlparks@hometownlife.com](mailto:tlparks@hometownlife.com)  
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- Oakland Mall (inside main entrance, next to food court)
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## Have lunch or dinner with Trudi Daniels of WRIF

Buddy's Pizza and the *Observer & Eccentric Newspapers* are back for a second season of Dining with the Stars.

This month's lucky winner will have lunch or dinner with Trudi Daniels, the popular news host of the *Drew & Mike* show on WRIF-FM (101.1).

To enter the contest, tell us in 100 words or less why you want to dine at Buddy's with Trudi Daniels. E-mail your entry to [BuddysDiningStars@gmail.com](mailto:BuddysDiningStars@gmail.com) by midnight Saturday, March 22.

Daniels, the recipient of *Hour* magazine's Sexiest Voice Contest and the recent host of the WRIF Rock Girl Competition, describes herself as a wife and mom who enjoys inline skating and scuba diving. She's a certified open water scuba diver just back from sunny Mexico.

Her favorite music? "I still love Stevie Ray (Vaughan) — he's immortal — the (Red Hot) Chili Peppers and, of course, my iPod is crammed with AC/DC! Favorite new album is *Stadium Arcadium* and best new song, *Worldwide Suicide*," Daniels said.

This month's lucky winner will be treated to a limo ride to Buddy's by All Class Transportation & Limousine Services, a \$100 gift certificate



Enter to win lunch or dinner with WRIF-FM's Trudi Daniels.

to the Reaver Diamond Co. in Southfield, a makeover by Utopia Salon in Northville and a dance exhibition courtesy of Fred Astaire Dance Studio in Bloomfield Hills.

In addition, Buddy's will make a \$500 donation to The Salvation Army in Daniels name.

Buddy's Pizza reviews all entries for "Dining With The Stars" and selects the top four to five "fan" letters. The star featured for the month makes the final selection.

## International investments should be 20 percent of portfolio

Dear Rick: I presently use a financial adviser and I am not sure he is doing a good job. My accounts are down



Money Matters  
Rick Bloom

substantially this year. My present portfolio has less than 5 percent in international investments. Do you think this is enough? I am a long-term, moderate risk investor.

It is not surprising that your accounts are down this year. The market — since last October — has been difficult and it's not surprising your account has taken a hit. Just because your account is lower than it was at the beginning of the year doesn't mean your adviser is doing a bad job.

However, I do believe your exposure in international investments is a little light.

We do not live in an American economy, we live in a world economy. Ford and General Motors, cross country borders like you and I cross city lines. In fact, last year General Motors sold more cars abroad than they did in the United States. Ford has more employees abroad than

they do here. We live in an ever-changing world and I believe for an investor to have a well-balanced and diversified portfolio, he or she must have a significant amount of international exposure. My recommendation is at least 20 percent in international investments. It is important to diversify into different asset classes, large companies, both growth and value; small companies, growth and value; international real estate and emerging market funds.

I cannot stress enough how important it is for investors to have well-balanced and diversified portfolios. This is a strategy that will be successful over the long run.

Dear Rick: I am a relatively new investor. My question to you is I just received a proxy statement from one of the mutual funds. My gut instinct is just to throw it away. What do you think?

I recognize that proxy statements can be confusing and seem somewhat meaningless, however, they are not. It is first important to understand why companies send out proxy statements. As a shareholder in a mutual fund you are a part owner of the fund. Because of that you have rights as to how that mutual fund is managed. Therefore,

when you receive a proxy statement it is seeking your vote on certain aspects of how the business of the mutual fund is handled. A proxy statement can be to approve the actions of the board of directors, to elect members of the board or even to raise fees. I believe that you can learn a lot about your mutual fund by reading the proxy statement.

For the average individual it is difficult to analyze and understand some of the issues that are being voted upon. However, one issue that is important to understand is whether the mutual fund company is trying to raise fees. My general view is that whenever a mutual fund company wants to raise fees the answer is no. Unless the mutual fund company can provide a compelling reason I will always vote against higher fees. Too many mutual fund companies want to raise fees in order to pad their pockets and not to improve the return to their investors.

Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial adviser. Observer & Eccentric readers can submit questions at [moneymatters@hometownlife.com](mailto:moneymatters@hometownlife.com). For more information, visit Rick's Web site at [www.bloomassetmanagement.com](http://www.bloomassetmanagement.com). You can hear Rick noon to 3 p.m. Sundays on WDTK 1400 AM.

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## Professor to discuss art history

With the help of a grant from the Livonia Arts Commission, VAAL (Visual Arts Association of Livonia), is hosting an art history event with Richard Rubinfeld 7 p.m. Thursday, March 20, at the Livonia Civic Center Library Auditorium, 32777 Five Mile, east of Farmington Rd. The public is invited.

Rubinfeld will be presenting art history in a humorous way to make it fun and interactive with the audience.

This will not only be of inter-

est to artists, but to anyone interested in art. It could be a wonderful introduction to art history for the novice, or a fun-filled evening for all.

Rubinfeld received his bachelor of arts in fine art from Hofstra University in 1970, his master's in history of art at Ohio State University in 1972, and a doctorate from the Latter Institution in 1985.

Since 1986, he has been a professor of art at Eastern Michigan University where he teaches courses on modern and

contemporary art, Renaissance art, and the history of photography.

Active in the university's studies abroad program, he has taught classes in France, Italy, Spain, England, and Greece.

In May 2007, he was co-leader of a study tour in Paris. Funded by an Andrew Mellon grant in 1990, he was a contributor to Duncan Phillips: The Eye of a Collector, the first major catalogue for the Phillips Collection in Washington, D.C.

Treat Yourself

and your family to something fun.

Hippity-hoppity Easter's on it's way!

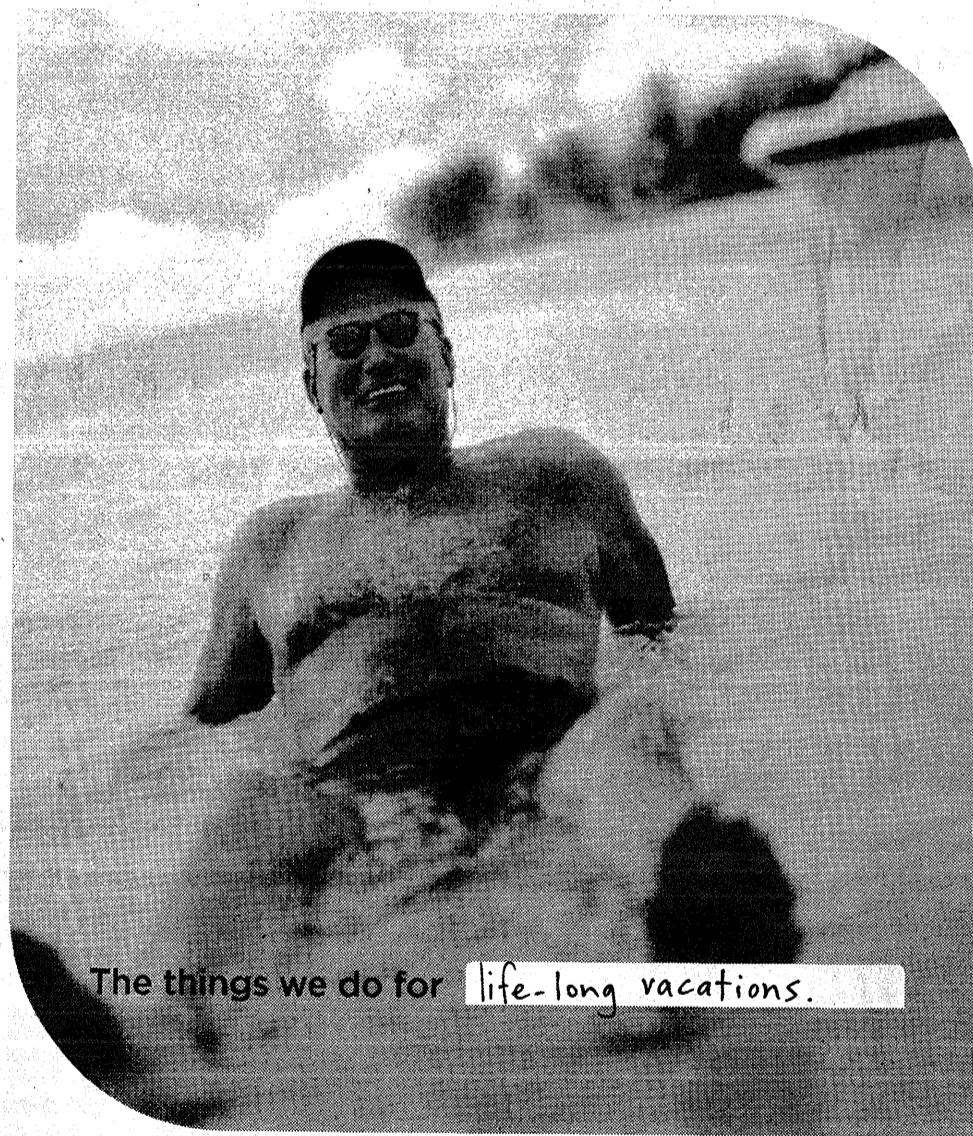
Visit the Easter Bunny at Laurel Park Place from March 1st through March 22nd. Various Photo Packages available.

Visit [www.laurelparkplace.com](http://www.laurelparkplace.com) for further details.

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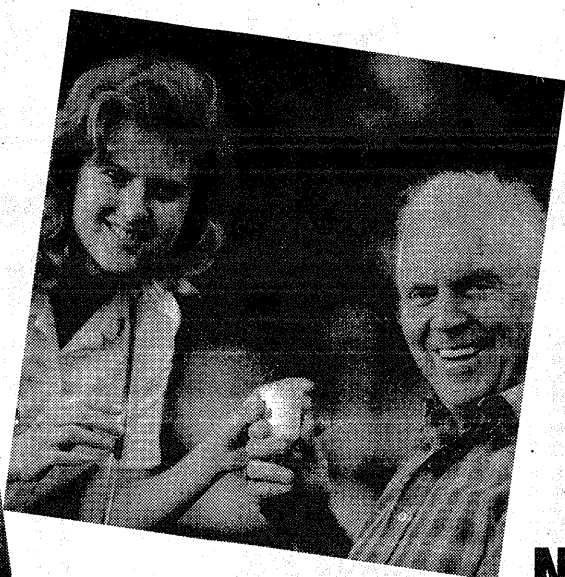
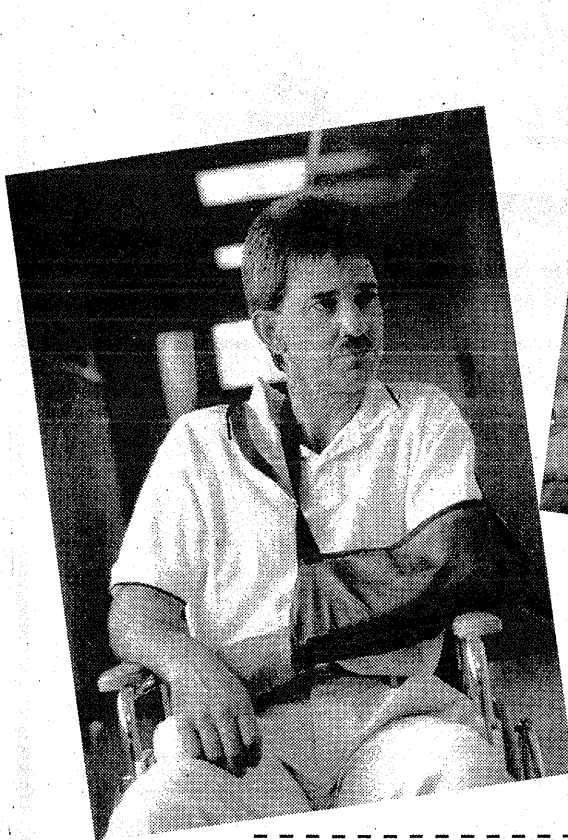
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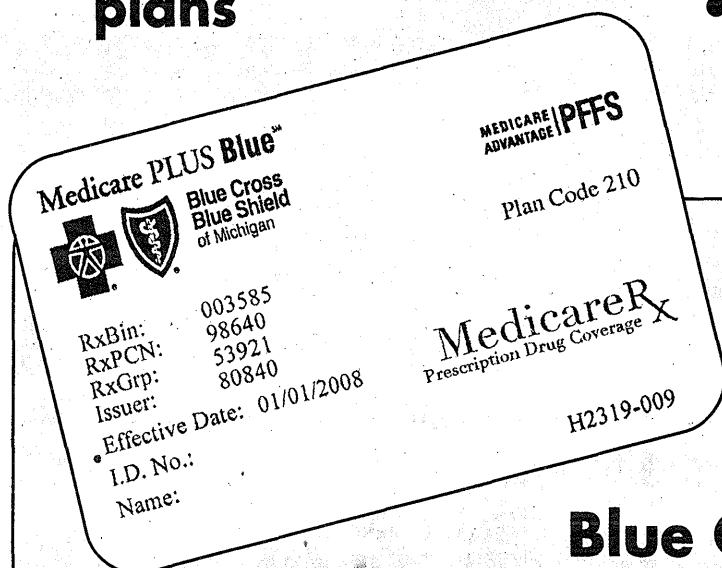
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# Independent 'mad at both parties' challenges McCotter

BY HUGH GALLAGHER  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Ted McAvoy is mad at both major political parties. "I think they've failed the American people," he said. "We prop them up after they have failed. Political parties maintain their own agendas, not ours."

That's why McAvoy is running as an independent in the contest for the 11th District Congressional seat. Incumbent Republican Thaddeus McCotter is seeking a fourth term. Former Novi City Manager Ed Kreiwall and Tom Spencer, a minister and Air Force veteran, are competing for the Democratic nomination.

McAvoy, 30, who works in private security, was inspired by the longshot run of Texas Congressman Ron Paul in the Republican presidential primaries. McAvoy saw Paul in a rally last October and became involved in his campaign.

"What he said made sense about our economy and our foreign policy," McAvoy said. "What really set me in tone to get involved in politics was seeing so many young people there and they were as inspired as I was."

McAvoy, who served in the U.S. Army, said he is opposed to the war in Iraq and McCotter's foreign policy positions.

## AT A GLANCE

**Candidate:** Ted McAvoy  
**Age:** 30  
**Party:** Independent  
**Residence:** Highland  
**Occupation:** Private security in a hospital  
**Marital status:** Divorced, father of 4-year-old daughter  
**Education:** Huron Valley High School  
**Military Service:** 8 years, U.S. Army and Army Reserve  
**Web site:** www.tedmavoyforcongress.com

"He supports our foreign policy, the war, maintaining our empire, deployments in Kosovo, Bosnia," McAvoy said. "When you see a man say it's OK to spend all these billions of dollars on people overseas, then turn around and oppose sCHIP. I didn't agree with everything in sCHIP but fundamentally I thought it was the right thing to do at this time in our history."

McCotter voted against expanding coverage when the state Children's Health Insurance Program came up for renewal last year.

McAvoy said he served in Kosovo during Bill Clinton's administration and said a short term mission there has stretched into years of

involvement. "I think for many years we had global influence that was positive. We were viewed as positive," he said. "We've passed over the threshold where we are trying to force people to live how we want them to live. Once you do that you lose credibility and that's what we are doing in all these nations."

He said the United States would be better off providing an example to the world and helping countries in need. He said Cuba is an example of diplomatic failure.

"I don't think we should do anything to help the regime down there, but does anyone seriously think that if we had free trade, with our influence on their economy, that he (Fidel Castro) would have stayed in power all these years," he said.

McAvoy said he shares some of Ron Paul's libertarian views, but not all.

"With Ron Paul, I agree with what he says on the federal level. States should be deciding a lot of these issues themselves and shouldn't be dictated to by Washington," McAvoy said. "We have a few differences. I think the government has an obligation to educate. Children are our future. That's something I'll stand by forever."

For McAvoy the No. 1 issue for Michigan is "unfair trade

practices." "I think a lot of these politicians who are saying your old jobs are gone and get a new one are wrong. That job was here for 70 years, why is it not here now," he said. "If we attack these unfair trade policies, it will come back."

He said raising taxes is not the answer, but he is opposed to making the Bush tax cuts permanent when they expire.

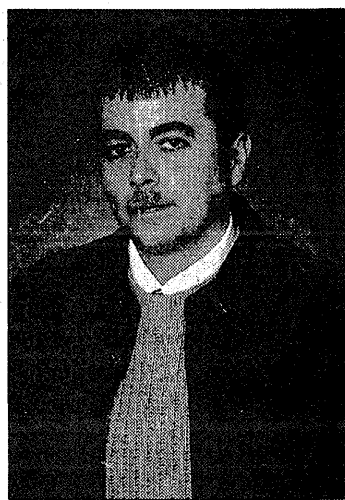
"It's unfair. The only way I would support a tax increase or decrease is if it's fair," he said.

"It's hard to say how you would vote or not because of the way legislation is written. In the current form, no, I wouldn't support it."

On immigration, McAvoy said it is a pressing issue. He said he supports a program that would bring forward people to be documented and issued short-term work visas. He said he is opposed to allowing illegal aliens to become citizens, but he also opposes rounding up people and deporting them, which he said would be impractical.

On health care, McAvoy said he is opposed to a government health program but favors some government assistance to low-income families to pay for private health insurance.

McAvoy realizes his chances of being elected are slim.



TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Ted McAvoy is running as an independent for the 11th Congressional seat.

# Annual Marshmallow Drop is March 21

It's a proven fact, at least in Wayne County, that when marshmallows begin falling from the sky, it's time for fun! Kids from all over will have the chance to turn in marshmallows for a prize at Wayne County Parks Marshmallow Drop 2008.

This year the fun is on Good Friday, March 21, at two

Wayne County Parks locations: Elizabeth Park in Trenton at 9 a.m. and Nankin Mills in Westland at 11 a.m.

Over 20,000 marshmallows will be dropped from a helicopter to the delight of hundreds of eager children, who will scramble to collect these goodies during the county's

24th Annual Marshmallow Drop. Children will be divided into groups based on age, to ensure that everyone has an opportunity to participate fully.

The Wayne County Parks Marshmallow Drop is co-sponsored by ITC Holdings, WNIC Radio, Motor City Moms and Fox 2.

Elizabeth Park is located on Jefferson, east of I-75 and south of West Road in Trenton.

Nankin Mills is located on Hines Drive just east of Ann Arbor Trail in Westland.

For additional information on this or any other Wayne County Parks event, call (734) 261-1990.

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**RETAIL**  
FROM PAGE A10

with his father, who delivered baked goods and other items to restaurants.

As a high schooler, he said, he'd skip lunch at school and duck out to the Senate Coney Island to eat. He hopes to build that kind of loyal clientele at Leo's.

**'COMMUNITY PLACE'**

"We want to build a strong community place," Vlahadamis said. "We want to get the kids and the families in here. We want to run a lot of dinner specials, with good prices, and good Greek foods. Everything we do here is done in house ... all homemade food."

Vlahadamis thinks the location will be a good one, on Ann Arbor Road just west of Haggerty. The restaurant, he said, should be able to draw on both residential and business traffic.

"(Ann Arbor Road/Haggerty) sees maybe 30,000 cars a day, so there's a lot of traffic," Vlahadamis said. "There are a lot of residential, lot of businesses ... it's a strong area."

Although Leo's may shift to a 24-hour operation on week-ends in the future, for now Vlahadamis is keeping the eatery open 5 a.m. to 10 p.m. seven days a week.

"We may go to 24 hours, that hasn't been decided yet," he said. "They seem to have a good night life around here."

For now, Leo's is the only store open in the center, built on some 16 acres adjacent to the new township hall.



There is space for more construction, but the first businesses in the retail complex are opening.

Anytime Fitness is expected to open its 4,500-square-foot co-ed exercise facility next week, with Sprint (April 2) and Batteries Plus (around April 10) to follow shortly.

**SPACE REMAINS**

Christopher Lynn of Paramount Real Estate Services, LLC, which represents the landlord, Plymouth Associates LLC, said only "a couple" of the 16 spaces built so far are unaccounted for. "Most of them either have

leases or signed letters of intent," said Lynn.

While there's still no deal for an anchor tenant — the landlord is hoping for a grocer, though discussions still haven't landed one — Lynn said he is still hopeful an anchor will be found.

The development is also expected to land a coffee-house. According to James Anulewicz, Director of Public Services for Plymouth Township, both Starbucks and Tim Horton's have shown

interest. Both chains already have one Plymouth location — Starbucks on Ann Arbor Trail at Main and Tim Horton's at Plymouth Road and Mill.

Anulewicz also said improvements — such as landscaping — to the site are coming along.

"By the end of May, (builders) anticipate all improvements will be in place," Anulewicz told the Board of Trustees Tuesday.

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

**JAYCEES**  
FROM PAGE A1

tion several times, including a final effort that was supposed to end in October, but which the state extended until December to give Plymouth more time.

It didn't work. "The chapter would sign up a couple of people who would keep it going in the short term," Fedewa said. "After doing that for a couple of years and not seeing anything take root ... the chapter essentially had been on life-support for so long, there were a few people who decided it might be better to let the charter be revoked and then start it up again."

The Plymouth Jaycees formed in the 1950s and, at their heyday, included some 200 members. As the chapter struggled to maintain membership the last couple of years, Fedewa said, names would be added as a stopgap measure. Finally, he admitted, that no longer seemed plausible.

"It was decided that another last-ditch effort to put a couple names on the roster didn't make sense," Fedewa said. "After a while, you run out of names."

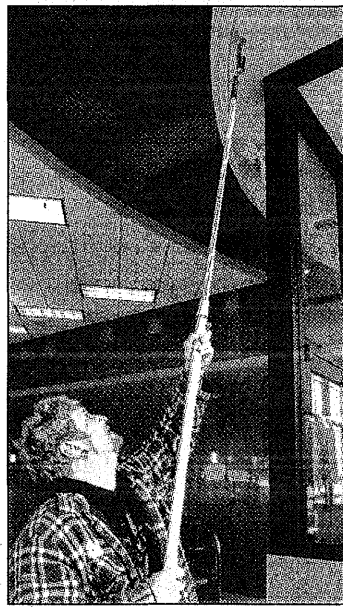
Once the charter is revoked, the chapter has a year to get it revived. Former president Don McDurmon will lead that charge.

McDurmon didn't return calls, but Fedewa said the chapter decided this was the best course of action.

"After years of membership struggles, it was decided it was better to fold up shop, at least temporarily," Fedewa said. "Hopefully, we'll come back bigger and stronger."

Anyone interested in more information about the Plymouth Jaycees can call the Jaycee Hotline at (734) 453-8407.

bkadrich@hometownlife.com



Jason Nikou of Centurion Painting touches up a few spots in the new Leo's Coney Island.

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**WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT ORAL CANCER**

Were you aware that oral cancer is the sixth most common cancer in men, the fourteenth most common cancer in women, and that the fatality rate for oral cancer is higher than that for cervical cancer, Hodgkin's disease, and skin cancer? These facts point out the importance of having the dentist perform regular oral-cancer screenings.

While there are several types of oral cancer, about 90% are squamous cell cancers, which usually appear as crusted or scaly patches on the skin, with a red, inflamed base, a growing tumor, or a non-healing ulcer. With this in mind, have all lumps on your lips, inside your cheeks, or anywhere else inside your mouth checked by the dentist as soon as possible.

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OUR VIEWS

## St. Patrick's Day, Holy Week have rare convergence

Sure, it's a fine mess we have this year.

St. Patrick won't be celebrated on his revered day, March 17, at least not with a Mass in a Roman Catholic Church.

This year St. Patrick's Day falls during Holy Week, a time set aside in the church calendar to prepare for Easter, the highest holy day of the year. The last time this happened was 1940 and it won't happen again, praise be, until 2160.

Several events were rescheduled. Most Holy Trinity Church, the mother church of Detroit's Irish community in Corktown, held a Mass March 14. In Ireland, Dublin held its celebration March 15.

St. Patrick, bishop that he was, would surely understand.

The Detroit Archdiocese reminded those who chose to celebrate March 14 that they'd be doing so without the usual corned beef, as Catholics must refrain from eating meat on Fridays during Lent. There was no such prohibition against having a Guinness, however.

Of course, Holy Week will not deter all celebrations. The Detroit St. Patrick's Day Parade will march down Michigan Avenue today, which is also Palm Sunday.

Though it's a rare convergence, the coming together of these two days seems appropriate.

Both St. Patrick's Day and Palm Sunday are celebrations of sincere religious beliefs. Christianity has been a foundation for the Irish in Ireland and throughout the world for more than 1,500 years. Palm Sunday, for all Christians, is the beginning of Jesus' last days with his entry into Jerusalem.

It is a time of contemplation on the meaning of faith, suffering, death and rebirth. The Irish have a close relationship with all those subjects.

**Of course, Holy Week will not deter all celebrations. The Detroit St. Patrick's Day Parade will march down Michigan Avenue today, which is also Palm Sunday.**

### Editorial misleading

The opinion of your article ("Don't misplace blame for bad news on taxes," *Observer*, March 6) that the voters are responsible for their property tax increases even though home values have gone down is not correct, misleading and does not tell the whole story because a few important facts have been left out:

1. Proposal A amended the Michigan Constitution to require that property is to be assessed at 50 percent of the usual selling price, known as True Cash Value.

2. Taxable value of a property can increase only if it is lower than assessed value.

These facts are confusing and your article just compounds the confusion. So let's clarify them in terms that people can understand. The people of Michigan should expect that their assessed property values are to be a reflection of actual sales prices from comparable neighborhood homes. So, based on the decline of actual home sales prices over the last two years, assessed values should have dropped to or below their taxable value.

When the taxable value is no longer greater than the assessed value, the inflation rate or 5 percent, whichever is lower, is not allowed to be applied. When the tax rate is not applied, the taxable value cannot be increased and your taxes should not go up.

This is what the voters approved and they expect our legislators and assessing process to apply these rules fairly. But this is not happening. Assessments in past years have increased at much higher levels than what you can sell your house for and have not come down to actual sales levels as we have experienced in the last two years, i.e., record drops in home prices and record levels of foreclosures.

The assessing process is further unfairly applied against the property owners in two additional ways: 1. Foreclosure home sales are omitted from the assessment process. Why? I don't know ... but I do know that foreclosures are a true indicator of home sales in my neighborhood and across Michigan. 2. The assessor will tell you that a new "2003 assessment book" is now being used to assess older homes

LETTERS

as if they were built in 2003. I don't understand this either, but I do know that if my home was built in 1980 and I put a coat of paint on it ... my home is still 28 years old and not 5 years old.

We voted for fair interpretation and implementation of Proposal A, but we are not getting what we voted for. This is not a "quirk of the state's tax system" that voters approved. Our state, county and local government have found ways to circumvent the intent of the Prop A and the voter, to apply unfair assessment practices to fuel their bloated out-of-control budgets.

If you don't believe this, consider the Plymouth Township trustees voting themselves an exorbitant raise when jobs are leaving the state and the community, young people are leaving the state to find jobs, income tax increases are forced upon us by out of control irresponsible legislators, in addition to the record drop in home sales prices.

These outrageous salary increases and out-of-control spending are indicative of this state's fiscal dysfunction and drives the necessity for unfair creative tax increases. Voters did not inflict this property tax ripoff on themselves!

Dan Holton  
Plymouth Township

### Stamp out rubber-stampers

When George W. Bush took office, he complained that oil was at \$31/barrel from the Clinton administration. In Bush's eight-year tenure, he and his Republican followers (McCotter) in Congress have raised our oil prices to \$104/barrel.

My son-in-law is a truck driver and for every 10-cent raise in diesel fuel, 1,000 trucking companies are now closing their doors. This is all happening while oil companies are enjoying more tax breaks and obscene record profits.

McCotter also obviously gerrymandered the districts before he ran for Congress, making it difficult for other parties to run against him — he denies it because he is McCotter!

Newspapers, like the *Observer*, practice the unspoken rule that the incumbent is the one they endorse, unless they've broken a major law publicly. The Democratic Party (DNC) needs to quit looking for candidates based on

their ability to raise millions and help those progressive candidates that will strongly take a stand and say no more!

So *Observer*, don't discount candidates just because they haven't been backed by millions of dollars in funding. DNC, you need to help candidates that will fight this administration and McCotter! We need to stand up for oil companies raping our pockets, political finance reform, media reform and 'business as usual' reform in the DNC. We need to stand up and say that we can vote in a candidate that will change the mess that McCotter and his cronies have gotten us into!

If you are mad as hell and want to change this, you need to vote Republican rubber-stampers like Thaddeus McCotter out! Help out the candidates running against him right away — we can change this!

P.Pondell  
Canton

### Invest in renewable energy

Michigan desperately needs energy legislation to install more efficient use — the best bet per dollar spent — and spark investment in renewables. Both will create good jobs here and stop the hemorrhage of billions of dollars a year for out of state coal.

Far cheaper in the long run than coal or nuclear, renewable energy is our only real hope of achieving energy independence and mitigating the effects of global warming.

Renewables are an investment in a bright and secure future; their value as energy is far greater than any fossil fuel or nuclear option can ever be.

A process called Integrated Resource Planning (IRP), which measures the real and sometimes hidden life-cycle costs of each alternative, is the only way to ensure consumers the most benefit for their dollars.

Current legislation in the House is close to fulfilling the promise of energy efficiency and renewables by requiring IRPs. Don't be duped by utility skills like Cox: Coal and nuclear will cost you far more, even if they don't kill your kids ... slowly.

Phil Shepard  
professor emeritus, Michigan State University

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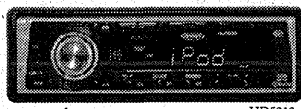
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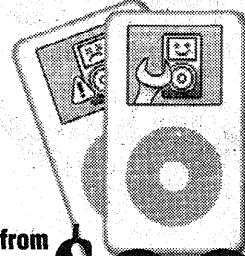
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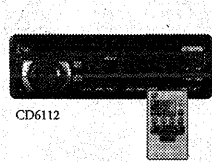
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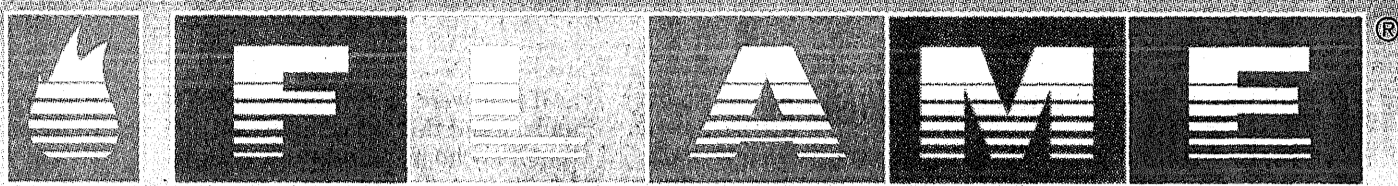
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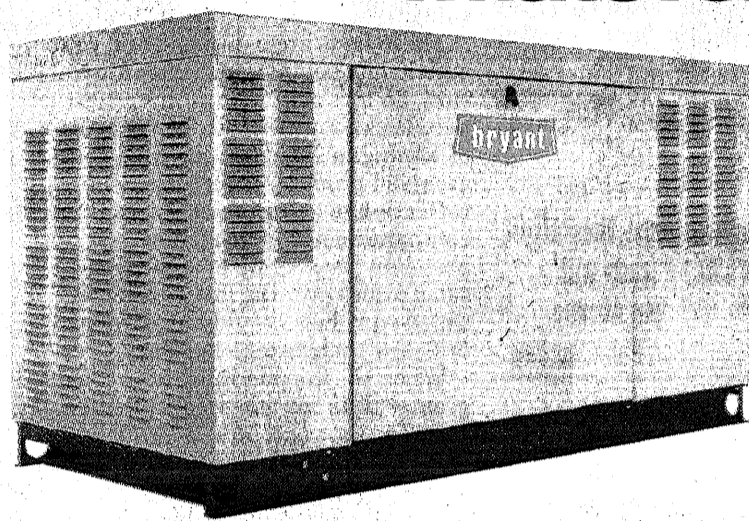
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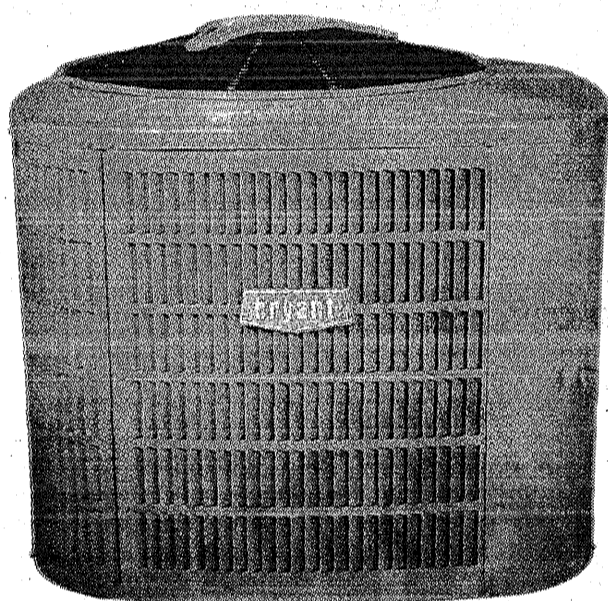
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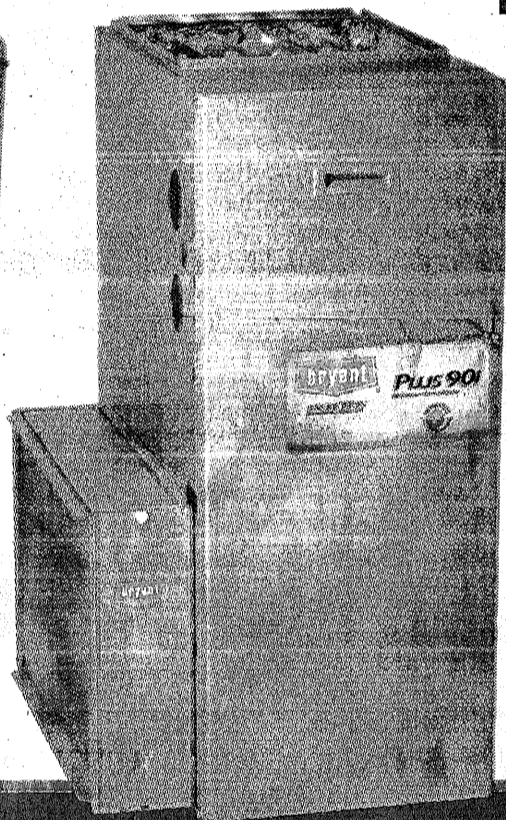
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# SPORTS

**B** (CP)

Sunday, March 16, 2008

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

Ed Wright, editor . (734) 953-2108 . [ewright@hometownlife.com](mailto:ewright@hometownlife.com)

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## Ignition 18, Orlando 2



Detroit Ignition forward Hewerton cocks his leg seconds before scoring his 16th goal of the season Friday night against Orlando. Hewerton scored a hat trick in the Ignition's 18-2 victory.

### FLIPPIN' GOOD

Hewerton's dazzling play leads MISL-leading Detroit over Sharks

BY ED WRIGHT  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Wearing the color of money, the Detroit Ignition played as good as gold Friday night against visiting Orlando.

Sporting its once-a-year green threads in the spirit of fast-approaching St. Patrick's Day, the normally red-clad Ignition submerg the Sharks, 18-2, behind an offensive onslaught led by Hewerton (hat trick) and a sterling defensive effort anchored by back-up goalie Tomer Chencinski.

Detroit's sixth-straight victory improved its record to 18-7 and vaulted it into first place — at least temporarily — ahead of 17-7 Milwaukee.

The Wave can forge another first-place tie Sunday afternoon when it hosts New Jersey.

Detroit's next game is March 22 at California.

"Sometimes you can look at a team's record (Orlando entered the game with a 3-24 mark) and get a little sloppy, but I thought we did a good job of finishing and we defended well, for the

most part," said Detroit coach Bob Lilley.

"These kinds of games are tough to play sometimes when the other team has nothing to lose. One thing I'll point out to our forwards during our tape session is that we can't give the ball away like we were doing tonight. If you do that against good teams in the playoffs, they'll make you pay."

The Sharks actually bit first Friday, grabbing a 2-0 lead on Miodrag Djerisilo's goal 15 seconds into the contest, but the wound proved to be only superficial.

Jamar Beasley deadlocked the contest at 2-all when his hard shot from a few feet inside the three-point line dinged the cross-bar before dropping just beyond the goal-line.

Detroit grabbed the lead for good 5:35 later when Ze Roberto stuffed in his own rebound past Orlando net-minder Antonio Iriarte.

Sandwiched between the two Detroit goals were a pair of sen-

Please see **IGNITION, B3**



Hewerton celebrates one of his three goals Friday night with a crowd-pleasing 360-degree flip.

PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

#### AND DOWN THE STRETCH THEY COME...

The final few weeks of the 2007-08 Major Indoor Soccer League season promise to be exciting as three teams are within two games of first place. Following are the front-runners' remaining schedules:

■ **Detroit Ignition (18-7):** March 22 - @ California; March 28 - New Jersey; March 30 - @ Milwaukee; April 4 - Milwaukee; April 5 - @ Baltimore.

■ **Milwaukee Wave (17-7):** March 16 - New Jersey; March 23 - @ Orlando; March 29 - @ Philadelphia; March 30 - Detroit; April 4 - @ Detroit; April 5 - Monterrey.

■ **Baltimore Blast (15-9):** March 16 - @ California; March 22 - @ Chicago; March 27 - @ Monterrey; March 29 - Chicago; April 4 - @ New Jersey; April 5 - Detroit.

## Greyhounds outshoot Whalers, 5-2

Dustin Jeffrey and Brandon Biggers both tallied two goals to lead Sault Ste. Marie to a 5-2 victory over the visiting Plymouth Whalers Friday night in an Ontario Hockey League game played before 4,657 at the Steelback Centre.

Jeffrey, who also notched a pair of assists, earned the nod as the game's first star.

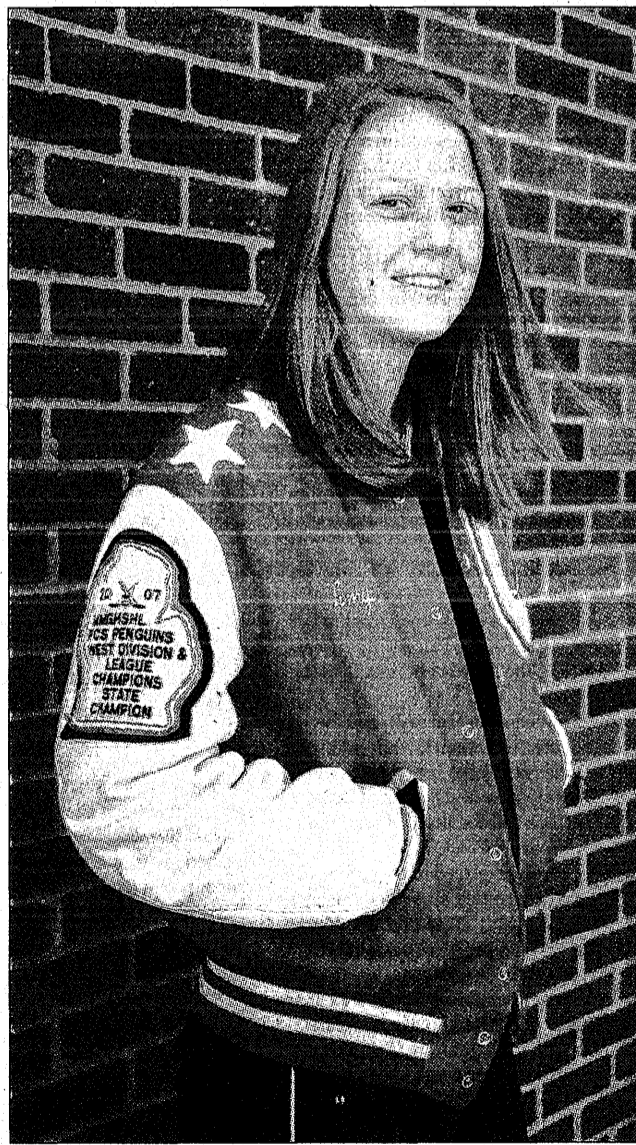
The loss dropped the Whalers' record to 34-28-2-3 heading into Saturday's home contest against Sarnia (results will be posted on [www.hometownlife.com](http://www.hometownlife.com) Monday night).

The Greyhounds struck first when Biggers lit the lamp with a short-hander at the 4:22 mark of the first period.

Joe McCann knotted things up at 1-all just over five minutes later off an assist from Patrick Lee.

The Soo then took charge with three unanswered net-finders to make it 4-1 before Brett Bellemore stopped the bleeding for Plymouth with a power-play goal 4:37 into the third period.

Kyle Gajewski earned the victory in net by stopping 28 shots. Matt Hackett and Kyle Jendra shared time between the pipes for the Whalers.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Amy Coleman, a senior at Canton High School, recently finished a stellar four-year high school hockey career with the Plymouth-Canton-Salem Penguins.

## Coleman earns high marks for dedication and defense

BY ED WRIGHT  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Amy Coleman gave the popular hockey term "stay-at-home defenseman" a refreshing new twist back in November.

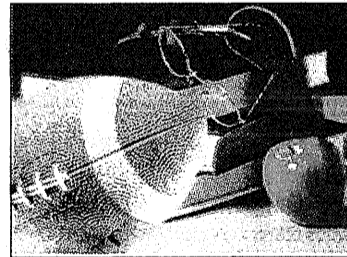
When several of her teammates from the defending state champion Plymouth-Canton-Salem Penguins girls hockey team opted to play for a travel team prior to the 2007-08 campaign, Coleman — one of the team's most dependable defensemen — chose to stay home, so to speak, and finish her prep hockey career where it started.

Although the decision didn't result in a net-ful of victories — the young and inexperienced team finished 5-14 — it was one that garnered a ton of respect from those who matter the most to the personable senior captain.

"Amy was a great leader for this team this year," said PCS coach Lori Callahan. "She's very dependable — one of those girls you can always count on to help in whatever way she can."

"She's a very committed person. When some of the other girls from last year's team left, she helped recruit new players from the schools."

"We started a new award this



Prep Profile

year call the 'Inspirational Leader' award and Amy won the first one. It was well-deserved."

#### Not even tempted

Like her departed teammates — many of whom made up the core of last year's title team — Coleman said she received offers from travel teams last fall, but changing uniforms didn't enter her mind.

"This team is part of my family," she said, when asked why she decided to stay. "Being around the team since the very beginning, I knew and respected the hard work everyone put into making the Penguins what they are today. I owed it to those people who fought to get this team going to stay with it."

"There was no way I could walk out on them and I couldn't give

Please see **COLEMAN, B6**

## Sidelines

### Randolph honored

Canton wrestling coach Casey Randolph was recently named a Division 1 "Regional Coach of the Year" by the Michigan Wrestling Association. It is the third time in the past four years Randolph has received the honor.

Under Randolph's guidance, the Chiefs racked up several accolades this season, including championship efforts at the Observerland Tournament, the Western Lakes Activities Association Wrestling Championships as well as District and Regional titles.

The Chiefs advanced to the state wrestling finals in Battle Creek for the second time in three seasons and also sent six wrestlers to the Division 1 individual state meet.

### Schmitt nominated for DAC award

Canton senior swimmer Allison Schmitt is one of 12 finalists for the Detroit Athletic Club's Michigan High School Athlete of the Year.

Last fall, Schmitt capped a spectacular high school swimming career by placing first in a pair of events at the Division 1 state championship meet.

She will compete for a spot on the 2008 USA Olympic Team in July.

Winners of the award will be announced during the annual Dodge National Athletic Awards, which will be held at the DAC on May 12.

The honor is awarded not only for athletic ability, but also for the academic and humanitarian efforts of high school student athletes.

### Baseball showcase

Precision Baseball in Canton will host a ShowcaseU camp on Monday, March 24, for high school baseball players 14 years old and older.

For a \$175 fee, ShowcaseU develops a profile for each player that includes video of the athlete in action, a person bio, photos, game stats, camp evaluation and more.

College coaches can then search for players that fit their program's needs on [www.showcaseu.com](http://www.showcaseu.com).

A three-hour block of time has been set aside for pitchers and catchers from 1-4 p.m. Position players will go from 4-7 p.m.

Registration is limited to 25 players per session.

To reserve a spot, visit [www.showcaseu.com](http://www.showcaseu.com).

Precision Baseball is located at 7835 Market St. in Canton.



**IGNITION**

FROM PAGE B1

sational stops by Chencinski, who was making just his fourth start of the season.

"I thought Tomer played very well," said Lilley. "They pressured him some early on and he did well on his feet. Danny (Waltman) has had a great season, so he's our No. 1 guy, but it's nice to see Tomer play well because he's only an injury away from being the guy."

Detroit carried a 6-2 edge into the first-quarter break after Hewerton clothes-lined a missile to Kyt Selaidopoulos, who one-timed the orange sphere past the over-matched Iriarte.

Hewerton (pronounced Ever-ton) put on a show in the second period when he scored twice to extend the Ignition's lead to 10-2. His second tally of the stanza with 3:16 left before halftime was struck so hard, Iriarte probably heard it before he saw it.

The Ignition sealed the deal in the third period with four two-pointers — two from Doug Rice, and one each from Ryan Mack and Hewerton.

Detroit's second goal of the period epitomized the Sharks' inaugural season. Orlando defender Anthony Santiago sent what appeared to be a soft pass back to Iriarte, but the ball eluded the goalie and rolled into the net for an own-goal.

Neither team scored in the fourth quarter.

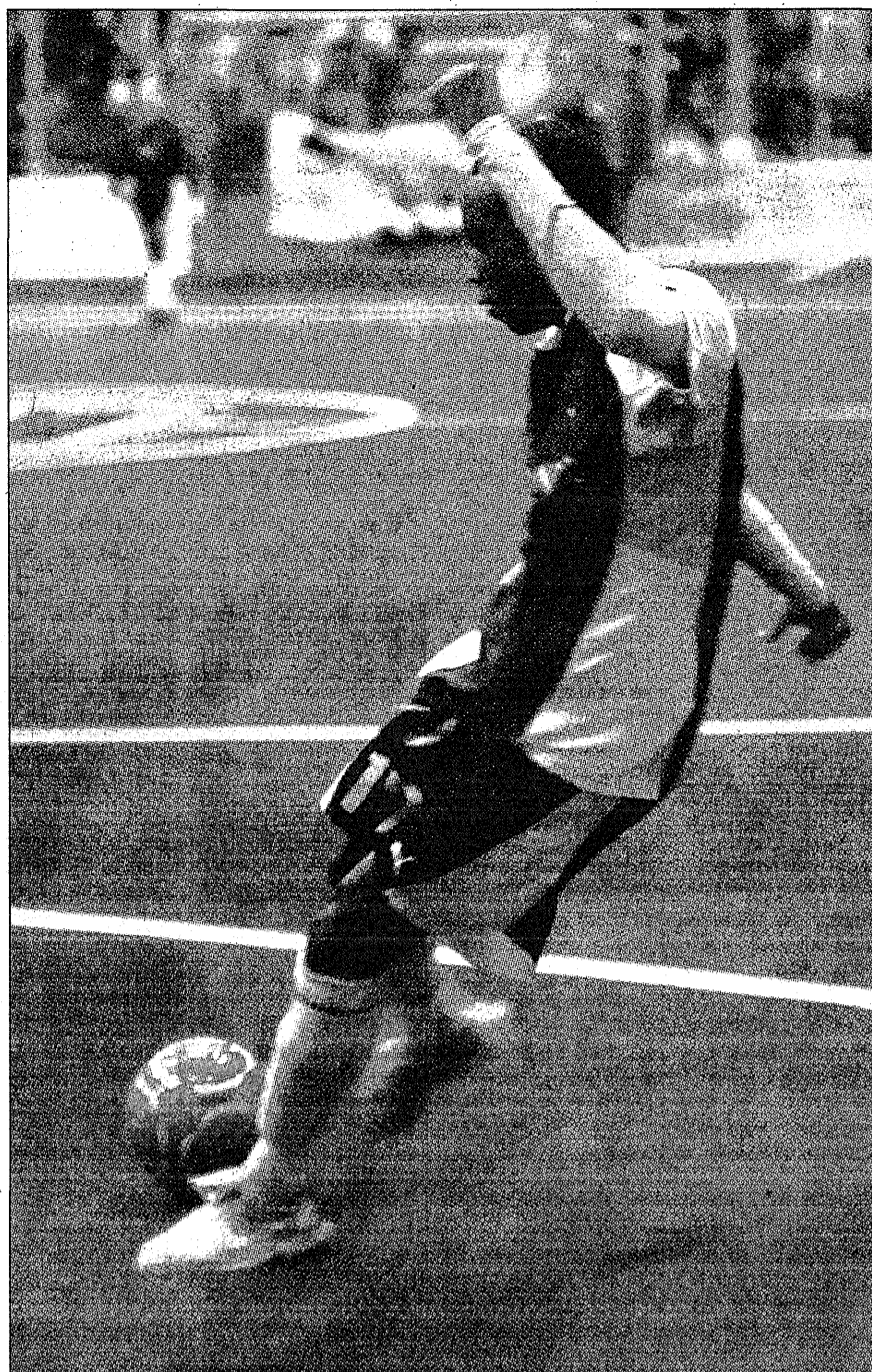
"Orlando was pretty competitive game in and game out early in the year," Lilley said. "Now that we're in the later stages of the season, they've had some injuries plus they're out of the playoff chase, so they're struggling."

"The thing is, though, if they're level or leading after the first quarter, it does wonders for their confidence. That's why it was important we scored when we did in the first quarter."

Detroit outshot Orlando, 34-17.

The Ignition's green jerseys were auctioned off to the highest bidders following the game.

"I like 'em, but I don't think we're going to change colors any time soon," Lilley quipped. "As long as we keep winning, I don't care what color we wear."



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Detroit Ignition forward Jamar Beasley had a goal and an assist in Friday night's 18-2 romp over Orlando.

**SPORTS BRIEFS**

**OLGC football**

The Our Lady of Good Counsel football program will hold its parents' meeting for the 2008 season at 7 p.m. Thursday, April 3, at the OLGC Church Social Hall, which is located at 47650 N. Territorial in Plymouth Township.

OLGC offers opportunities for boys in third through eighth grades to play football this fall. Students attending OLGC, All Saints and St. Mary's of Wayne Catholic schools are eligible.

Also, families that belong to the following parishes are eligible: OLGC; St. Kenneth, St. Mary's of Wayne, St. Richard, St. Thomas a' Becket, Divine Savior, Resurrection, and St. John Neumann.

Parents of new and veteran players should plan to attend

this meeting. A new registration will be in place for this season.

For further information, contact Maria Conrado at mconrado@wowway.com or (734) 416-8935.

**Softball Showcase**

The Paramount Scouting Bureau and National Scouting Report will host the Motor City Showcase Friday, July 4, as part of the Paramount Softball Showcase Series.

The showcase, which begins at 10 a.m., will be held at Victory Park in Canton.

Professional scouts will rate all players with the top players receiving invitations to play in a national showcase.

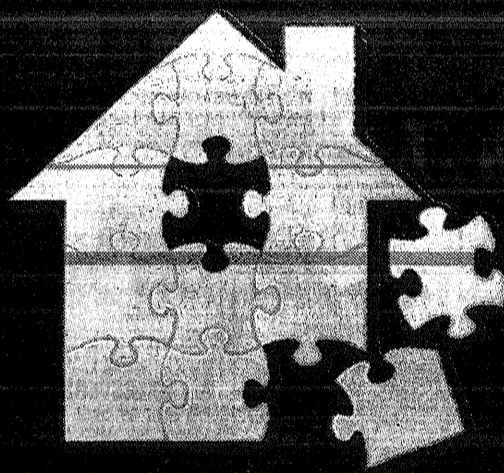
A college recruiting session will follow the showcase.

Contact Steve LaMay at (248) 249-0129 or slamay@nsr-inc.com.

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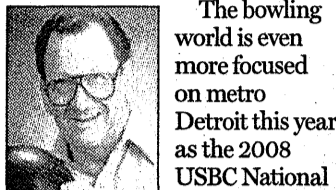






# Detroit area to be the hub of bowling action in 2008

As stated in the immediate past Ten Pin Alley column, the upcoming 2008 U.S. Bowling Congress Women's Championships are coming to our area April 10 through July 6, with 50,000 expected to participate.



Ten Pin Alley  
Al Harrison

several different bowling centers in the Detroit area.

The USBC Youth Open will be July 7-15 at Skape Lanes in Taylor. The USBC Gold competition follows July 5-11 at Sunnybrook Lanes in Sterling Heights; July 5-9, at Sterling Lanes in Sterling Heights and Century Bowl in Waterford.

The USBC Pepsi Tournament will be July 14-16 at Sunnybrook, while the Adult/Youth tournament is slated for July 7-10 at Taylor Lanes in Taylor.

Attendance numbers are not yet available, but the events will draw youth bowlers from all over the USA.

The Pepsi tourney also draws bowlers from many other countries.

Many of the competitors will be here with their families and the numbers of total visitors combined with the women's tournament will be huge and the economic impact on this area will be like a much needed shot in the

arm. The women will be going for cash prizes, while the kids will be shooting for scholarship money only.

For local bowlers, these tournaments present an opportunity to bowl in top level competition without the added cost of travel.

The Detroit area certainly has enough talent in great numbers to enjoy the thrill of victory as many of our local bowlers, both women and youth are going to give it their best shot.

The regular Men's USBC Open championships are currently under way in Albuquerque, N.M. with the Detroit-area Lodge Lanes squad, led by Mitch Jabczynski, currently in first place in the team category with a total of 3,172 pins.

Mitch's teammates are Bob Jawor, Keith Runyan, Steve Szabina and John Gaines. They will have to wait it out until the tournament ends in July.

Of course, they were also lucky enough to be in a warm and sunny place while the rest of us enjoy this wintry weather.

I wonder if they make any of those bowling bags with ski runners instead of wheels, or at least interchangeable.

Oak Lanes in Westland was a perfect condition for Jerry Krupinski of Dearborn Heights as he recorded a series of 696, which is not bad for a 185 average bowler.

Mathematically speaking, he was 140 over average for the three games of 243-229-224 and that also adds up to an award from USBC for a 140 over-average series.

Nice going, Jerry, keep it up and the higher your average goes, the harder it will get to do it again.

Al Harrison is a resident of Southfield and a member of the Bowling Writers Association of America. He can be reached by email at: tenpinalley@sbcglobal.net



## Shark attack

The Plymouth Sharks U8 girls soccer team recently captured first place in the U8 Division 1 Winter 2 session at High Velocity Sports in Canton with a 6-1-1 record. The team consists of Morgan Abb, Julia Arapoff, Kara Hug, Deanna Hunt, Alyssa Knight, Gabriella Mazzuca, Olivia Pahl, Madelyn Rush, Chloe Russo, Alyssa Scott, Meghan Sullivan and Clara Wall. The team is coached by Gerry Hug and Terry Rush.

## COLEMAN

FROM PAGE B1

up something I went so far with. Besides, the Penguins had a state championship to defend and I wasn't about to miss out on that."

### Late skater

Coleman didn't pull on her first official hockey jersey until the eighth grade when she skated for the Ann Arbor Cougars.

"I always thought it looked interesting and I wanted to try it out," she said. "I remember having a difficult time stopping in the beginning. My coach would always yell at me for not being aggressive enough, which is something I no longer have a problem with."

During each year of the Penguins' short existence, there has always been a Coleman on the roster.

Amy's older sister, Lauren, played on the inaugural team and her younger sister, Sarah — who played as a freshman this season — will carry on the Coleman tradition the next three seasons.

"Not only have the Penguins turned into my family," Amy Coleman noted, "but by family has turned into the Penguins."

### More than wins

Coleman said she learned some valuable lessons during the recently completed five-win season.

"Honestly, I thought it was going to be harder than it was," she said, referring to the mass exodus of top-notch Penguins. "We were left with a lot of first-year players, but after an undefeated season last year, it reminded me that winning isn't everything."

"We were forced to work out our problems rather than just cover them up with yet another win, which strengthened the team unity and made this year one of my favorites."

Coleman, who was named 2nd Team All-State last week, excels in the class room as well as the rink as she has compiled a spectacular 3.97 grade-point average.

Her future holds a promising collegiate stay at Michigan State University, where she plans on majoring in Elementary Physical Education.

"I chose that because I love being active and love to work with little kids," she said. "Being an elementary gym teacher wouldn't be a job at all — it would be a dream come true."

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### SPORTS BRIEFS

#### Fellows Creek fund-raiser

The Friends of Fellows Creek and Canton Leisure Services are offering a unique opportunity to create a lasting tribute to friends or family members by purchasing a commemorative bench or brick paver at Fellows Creek Golf Club.

Personalized benches and brick pavers will be placed in a pathway around Fellows Creek Golf Club, which is located at 2936 S. Lotz Road in Canton.

Each paver is 4-by-8 inches in size and can include up to three lines of inscription with 14 characters per line, including spaces.

Brick pavers can be purchased for \$100 and are 100 percent tax deductible.

The program was initiated by the Friends of Fellows Creek, a group of residents dedicated to the preservation and improvement of Fellows Creek Golf Club.

Proceeds from the program will go toward improvements at Fellows Creek.

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## It's the love, not spanking, that matters

I wanted to write to you to let you know that not every parent that spansks their child is an abuser. I have NEVER abused my children even though I have spanked them. Maybe this is not correct to say now but I still believe that it's true. My children have all grown up to be fine people and I know that it's because they had parents that loved them enough to spank them when they needed it. I enjoy your articles each month but I just had to write this to let you know that I disagree with you on this point. Thank you.

Thank you for this letter. I appreciate the fact that you felt compelled to write and let me know your feelings on this subject. And I respect your opinion and have no doubt that you have been a wonderful and loving parent. However, let me address the points that you have raised.



Chat Room

Terry Wilamowski

To begin, I agree that the successes that your children have made in life are a direct reflection of the kind of upbringing that they have experienced. If they were given a healthy dose of love, respect, and support then the odds of their personal success and happiness are increased. I have no doubt that this was the case in your household. However, let's be clear, the love that you provided was the important factor and not the spankings that were administered.

As was discussed in last month's column, spanking, as a form of behavior management, is not all that effective as a means of promoting the positive qualities and traits that are essential to success and happiness. So, the happiness and success that your grown children enjoy can only be attributed to the support and guidance that were provided and not to the spankings that were given. I would guess that if they had never been spanked, they would have still turned out fine. On the other hand, if they were never given the positive time and interactions, their current lives would be much different.

Secondly, I do not agree with the notion that your children "needed" a spanking. I believe that the idea that needs to be promoted is that there are times in every person's life in which they, child or adult, need guidance or correction. The forms of this corrective action are varied and are highly dependent on the situation as well as the individual. Logic dictates that such a corrective measure will be selected on the basis of its effectiveness as well as its potential costs. As we have discussed in past columns, spanking falls short for both these criteria. As such, can a spanking ever be truly necessary? Finally, I respect your opinion and do not believe that you have abused your children by spanking them. I believe that you have always done what you have felt was best for your children. This includes spanking. However, my point is that there are so many other forms of behavior modification available that are not associated with the same amount of potential for misuse or come equipped with such a plethora of hidden costs.

My daughter is in the sixth grade and refuses to get her ears pierced. She would rather wear clip-ons than get the real thing. I don't understand this. I have waited for years to take her to do this and feel disappointed each time she gets to the store and backs out at the last minute. I feel like a failure as a mother. What will it take for me to get her to do this? I feel that this is a developmental milestone that she is not reaching. Am I wrong?

Relax. Your daughter will get her ears pierced if and when she's ready and not one minute before. It is not so unusual for kids to resist something that they feel pressured about. And there is little doubt that your daughter feels pressured to get this procedure done.

Why is this so important to you? Why do you put so much time and effort into this matter? From your letter, it almost sounds as if you are using this as some sort of measurement of your parenting or your daughter's maturity (a developmental milestone?). If she gets her ears pierced then you both pass but if she doesn't... then what?

My guess is that your daughter is a wonderful young woman with many talents and qualities. I suggest that you focus more on these and less on the trivial ones such as how many holes are poked into her earlobes.

However, her reluctance to get pierced needs to be addressed calmly and with respect. Many girls, and boys, are concerned with the amount and intensity of pain associated with ear piercing. Her fears need to be heard and respected. Her decision needs to be solicited and respected. In short, her ears her decision. Respect it.

Terry Wilamowski is a clinical therapist at Heron Ridge Associates in Plymouth. Questions can be sent to terrywilamowski@yahoo.com.

## Painting of the Shamrocks



Organizations like the Fraternal Order of United Irishmen turned Michigan Avenue green for the St. Patrick's Day Parade last year.

## St. Patrick's parade a half-century tradition

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN  
STAFF WRITER

**M**ichael Riordan was just a boy when his mother, Bridget, and father, Jeremiah, shared fond stories of her uncle Father Patrick O'Sullivan, the pastor who led a small parade through the neighborhood surrounding St. Monica Catholic Church on Heyden Street in 1956. The St. Patrick's Day celebration began with Mass and ended with a party in the parish hall.

"My parents came to America (from County Kerry) in the early 1950s. Ireland's booming now, but back then there was nothing," said Riordan of Plymouth. "They were the typical immigrant story. My father worked for the gas company. My mother was a domestic. Everything was church- and faith-centered. They marched around the church there. Parades weren't a big deal. In Ireland it was always a holy day of obligation. Back then the Irish went to their parish priest for needs. In the late '40s and early '50s they always had celebrations with nice invitations, the Irish at St. Monica's on the edge of the Brightmoor area."

The church's parade was just the beginning of St. Patrick's Day celebrations to come. Each year the crowds grew and by 1959 the United Irish Societies gathered together their clubs and organizations to build upon the tradition, which originated in Detroit in the 1800s but disappeared after the turn of the century. The UIS parade was held in Dearborn and then moved to Detroit. Marchers made their

Please see SHAMROCKS, C2.



The Court of St. Brigid (Chelsea O'Donnell, left, Kelley Carey and Queen Maura Mulcahy) and Maid of Erin Kate Bryan and her court (Megan Henahan and Brianna Devlin) march in the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Detroit on March 16.



Sophia Urban of Livonia (left); Mary Riordan, Plymouth, and Maura Corrigan, Justice of the Michigan Supreme Court, attended last year's brunch presented by the Incorporated Society of Irish-American Lawyers before the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Detroit. The girls performed step dancing for the crowd.

## After a lifetime of writing, Garden City man publishes 1st novels

BY SUSAN ROSIEK  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Jim Falk grew up writing. At age 14, using an old Underwood typewriter, he and a friend would write short stories. Later he wrote for newspapers and radio, covering police beats in Pennsylvania and Ohio. Then it was writing for Goodyear and Chrysler in their public relations and consumer affairs departments.

Jim and Becky Falk moved to Garden City in 1969 where they raised six boys. Needless to say, family kept Falk busy. He put his writing on hold but never gave up on his

dream to write a novel. He played trumpet in concert and big bands throughout the metro area and for 17 years made the drive north to Interlochen Music Camp where five of his six sons attended.

Now at age 77, Falk has written and published two mystery novels. The first, *The Pen Pal Murders*, was released last month. The second, *The Sitting Duck*, will be in bookstores later this year.

**MURDER AND MAYHEM**  
*The Pen Pal Murders*, a thriller, features homemaker

Please see FALK, C2.

### THE FALK FILE



Jim Falk, 77, has published two mysteries.

four years in the Marines 1948 to 1952 during which he played football. It got him an athletic scholarship to Westminster College where he met his wife, Becky.

**Age:** 77  
**Hometown:** Has lived in Garden City since June 1969.  
**Education:** B.A. in journalism; M.A. in communications. Spent

**Career:** Newspapers, radio and public relations. Retired from Chrysler Corp. in 1981.

**Family:** Wife Miriam (Becky) is a registered nurse (retired). Sons, Tim, Peter, Sam, Steve and Ben. Sam, Steve and Peter attended Garden City High School. Tim attended Cranbrook and has a bachelor's degree from the University of Michigan. He works for Peter who owns a construction business. Sam graduated from Lawrence Tech, and is a partner in a cell phone company. Ben attended Catholic Central and graduated from U-M. He lives

and works in Brooklyn, N.Y. Steve graduated from Schoolcraft and works for Merck & Co. Inc., a global pharmaceutical company. Oldest son, Tom, died in 1969.  
**Music:** Played trumpet in metro area concert and big bands - including The Swing Shift, led by Detroit advertising executive Bill Brenneman. Also played with the Bob Hopkins Big Band. Falk studied music at Henry Ford Community College and played with a big band from the college which performed at the Montreux Jazz Festival in Switzerland in 1998.





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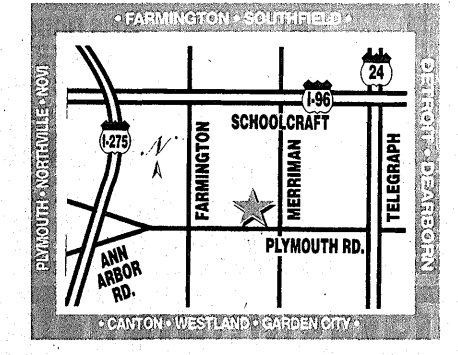
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P245/65R17 BSW A/T tires, fir mats, color-key carpet, illuminated visors 17" machined alum wheels, auto lamp headlamps, keyless entry w/ keypad, 4.0L SOHC V6 engine, 5-spd auto O/D trans, 6180 lb. GVW, adjust pedals, ultrasonic reverse sensing. Stock #81588

**39 Month Lease** **\$301\*** Per Mo. \$0 Cash due at signing

**2008 LINCOLN MKZ**

3.5L V6 Duratec eng, 6 speed automatic transmission, fog lamps, message center, side air curtain, wood trim, leather and more. Stock #81578

**39 Month Lease** **\$338\*** Per Mo. \$0 Cash due at signing

**2008 MERCURY MARINER**

2.3L Duratec X-4 eng., 4 spd auto trans, 6 CD/MP3, moon & tune, Sat. radio, speed control, fog lamps, priv, glass, roof rack w/crossbars & much more. Stock #81537

**39 Month Lease** **\$251\*** Per Mo. \$0 Cash due at signing

**2008 LINCOLN MKX**

3.5L V6 engine, auto trans, ultimate pkg, includes 18" chrome-clad alum wheels, adaptive headlamps, power liftgate, reverse sensing system, SYNC voice activated system, more. Stock #81530

**39 Month Lease** **\$446\*** Per Mo. \$0 Cash due at signing

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