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PLYMOUTH Observer

SUNDAY
March 23, 2008

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Symphony taps familiar face for top post

BY TONY BRUSCATO
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The Plymouth Canton Symphony Society turned to the former director of the Plymouth Historical Museum to bring stability to an organization that has undergone four leadership changes in the last nine years.

The PCSS board voted unanimously Wednesday night to hire Beth Stewart, whose 18 years as the director of the historical museum was as big a factor as her successes in fund-raising, grant writing and development of educational and volunteer programs.

"The board was impressed with her commitment to the Plymouth-Canton area," said Steve Alexandrowski of Plymouth, PCSS president. "Her non-profit experience is exceptional and her community knowledge and contacts are

simply amazing. Beth already has a deep knowledge of our organization because in her role as director of the historical museum she did a lot of collaboration with us."

Alexandrowski said the PCSS's main goals this year for Stewart are to build the volunteer base and increase individual giving.

"Those are the two areas where we're struggling with right now," Alexandrowski said. "We're doing great with corporate giving and fantastic with grants. But our individual giving is still pretty small."

Stewart, who is expected to begin working in June and take over when current executive director Jennifer Philpot-Munson leaves, will earn \$29,000 annually.

"It's a real honor and privilege to represent one of the most wonderful symphony orchestras in southeast Michigan," said Stewart, who resides in Plymouth

Township. "I hope I can help them grow and expand their audience, funding base and volunteer corps."

"Jennifer leaves some big shoes to fill, but I hope to carry on where she leaves off," added Stewart. "And, I look forward to working with Nan (Washburn), who I think is one of the premier symphony orchestra conductors in the country."

Alexandrowski said the symphony board considered "a couple of other people, but we didn't go very far down that road."

According to Alexandrowski, Stewart will begin work with an organization that's in good financial shape.

"We're strong this year," Alexandrowski said. "Last year was different, we had almost no grants, they just disappeared. But, we were able to replace them this year and we should finish the fiscal year (June 30) in the black."



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Beth Stewart (right), shown here with Gov. Jennifer Granholm, has been hired as the new executive director of the Plymouth Canton Symphony Orchestra.

3

Working hard for 'wascally wabbits'

Rabbit sanctuary aims at online grants to renovate

BY TONY BRUSCATO
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

What may have started as a hare-brain idea by the Midwest Rabbit Rescue & Rehoming in Plymouth could turn out to be a really eggs-ellent brainstorm worth \$1 million.

The Extreme Shelter Makeover through ZooToo.org is not unlike the more infamous Extreme Makeover on television Sunday nights, except it's a contest for pet shelters. And, readers can help the rabbit rescue, housed in a warehouse on Holbrook Street in Old Village, receive an extreme makeover worth up to \$1 million by voting online.

"It certainly isn't the Taj Mahal around here, but we get by," said Debbie Toundaia of Northville Township, who volunteers at the rescue. "We had a paint job this summer that isn't finished. Everything we do is volunteer and donation based, and we do a lot of fund-raisers."

Midwest Rabbit Rescue & Rehoming has received enough points from online voters to be among the top 20 nationwide.

"Every shelter in the top 20 gets a \$5,000 award," said Toundaia. "Then they visit each of the top 20 shelters and decide who is the neediest for a makeover. We need people to keep voting online for us to keep in the top 20 and have a chance."

Readers can register to vote for Midwest Rabbit Rescue & Rehoming at www.zootoo.com/register/referrer/midwestrabbitr. Type in Zip Code 48170 to find the local shelter. The contest concludes March 31.

The Plymouth shelter was started two years ago by Dominique Moroz of Northville Township, who rescued her first rabbit when she was 8 years old. Moroz operated the shelter in her home, but then decided to open a larger facility.

"It became obvious there were a lot of people who wanted to become involved



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Dominique Moroz runs the Midwest Rabbit Rescue & Rehoming shelter in Plymouth.

Please see **WABBITS, A4**

Police seek help naming new canine

BY BRAD KADRICH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The Plymouth Township Police Department filled the human half of its new canine team recently, naming 10-year veteran Steve Albrecht to the position.

Now, the department is looking for helping naming the canine half — literally.

Albrecht, who replaces Sgt. Steve Cheston, will pick up the department's new canine April 6 from Vonderhaus Kennels in Ohio. But the German shepherd — which replaces long-time canine Hogan, retired earlier this year — is going to need a name.

That's where Plymouth Township youngsters come in.

Albrecht and department officials are sponsoring a canine naming contest, open to students kindergarten through fifth grade.

"I thought it would be a good idea to get the kids involved," said Albrecht, who spent a year on a police department near Saginaw before moving to Plymouth Township 10 years ago. "It gets them excited, and when they see the dog, they know they had a hand in naming him. The dog belongs to the community, not just the department."

Aside from the residency requirement, the criteria are easy: pick a name, draw and color a picture of a police officer and a dog, and send it in. The picture, Albrecht said, will be used as a tie-breaker in case multiple kids suggest the same name.

As for the names, Albrecht would like to see suggestions in keeping with a law enforcement theme. While names such as "Fido," "Rover" or "Fifi" are fine for household pets, he said, the department's canine should have a name befitting the position.

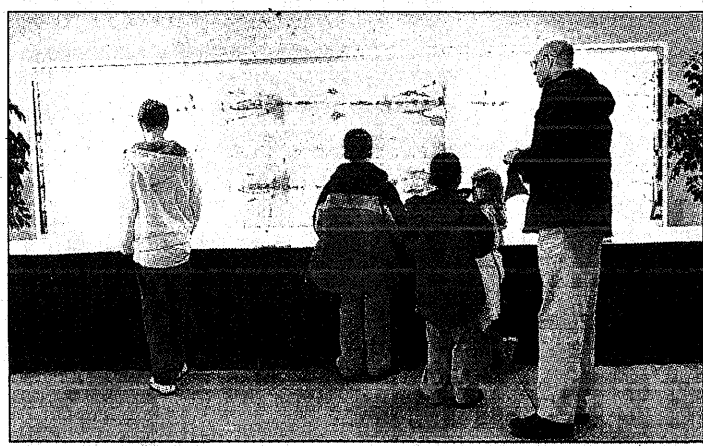
"Maybe something like 'Smokey' or 'Bandit,' something like that," Albrecht said, smiling.

Grand prize for the contest is a pizza party for the winning student's entire classroom. Entries must be postmarked by April 2. Parents can find entry forms on the township Web site, www.plymouthtwp.org (go to "departments," then "police," then "forms.")

They should be mailed (or dropped off) in care of Albrecht to the Plymouth Township Police Department, 9955 N. Haggerty, Plymouth, MI 48170.

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

Visitors drawn to Shroud of Turin exhibit



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Our Lady of Good Counsel displays a replica of the Shroud of Turin.

BY BRAD KADRICH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Eileen Pawlik admitted some of the pictures in the Shroud of Turin exhibit, on display during Holy Week at Our Lady of Good Counsel, were a little bothersome.

But the graphic nature of the photos wasn't enough to stop Eileen, 11, from touring the exhibit with her mom, Lynn, and 8-year-old sister Erin.

"Some of the pictures bothered me, because they're a little sad," Eileen said. "But it was interesting."

The traveling exhibit, which contains a replica of the Shroud of Turin, which believers say is the actual

burial cloth of Jesus, drew hundreds of visitors to O.L.G.C., according to Pam Haase, a volunteer who also sits on the church's Religious Formation Committee.

The exhibit also contains photos depicting what some scientists believe are the wounds suffered by the man in the cloth, wounds they say closely follow the story of Christ's crucifixion.

The graphic nature of some of the photography prompted church officials to say children under 15 years of age had to be accompanied by an adult.

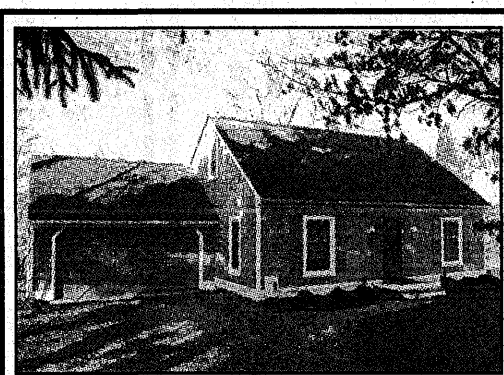
"(Visitors) are coming from all over Michigan, singles groups, other

Please see **SHROUD, A6**

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Volume 122 Number 62



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Coming Thursday in filter



Ring of Fire: Johnny Cash's legend lives on when the Broadway musical hits The Palace.

Comedy Night

To all aspiring 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

Moonlight madness

The downtown Plymouth merchants present the Moonlight Madness Spring Sale on Friday, April 4, and Saturday, April 5. Sale begins at 6 p.m. Friday, with more sales on Saturday.

Downtown Plymouth features a wide variety of specialty shops and galleries that will be offering special discounts and bargains during the annual Spring Sale.

Contact the Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce at (734) 453-1540 for more information.

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 on unique items such as getaways to Malta, Florida, and Toronto; luxury ski & golf trips; local spa packages; fine jewelry; and a one-of-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 to 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.

Tigers tickets and a bus

The Plymouth Historical Museum is selling tickets to the Detroit Tigers vs. Los Angeles Angels baseball game at Comerica Park on Friday, April 25.

The tickets are in the upper deck behind the first-base dugout. A luxury coach will pick up fans at the Plymouth Historical Museum, 155 S. Main Street, Plymouth, at 5 p.m., with a 5:15 p.m. departure for the ballpark. The game starts at 7:05 p.m.

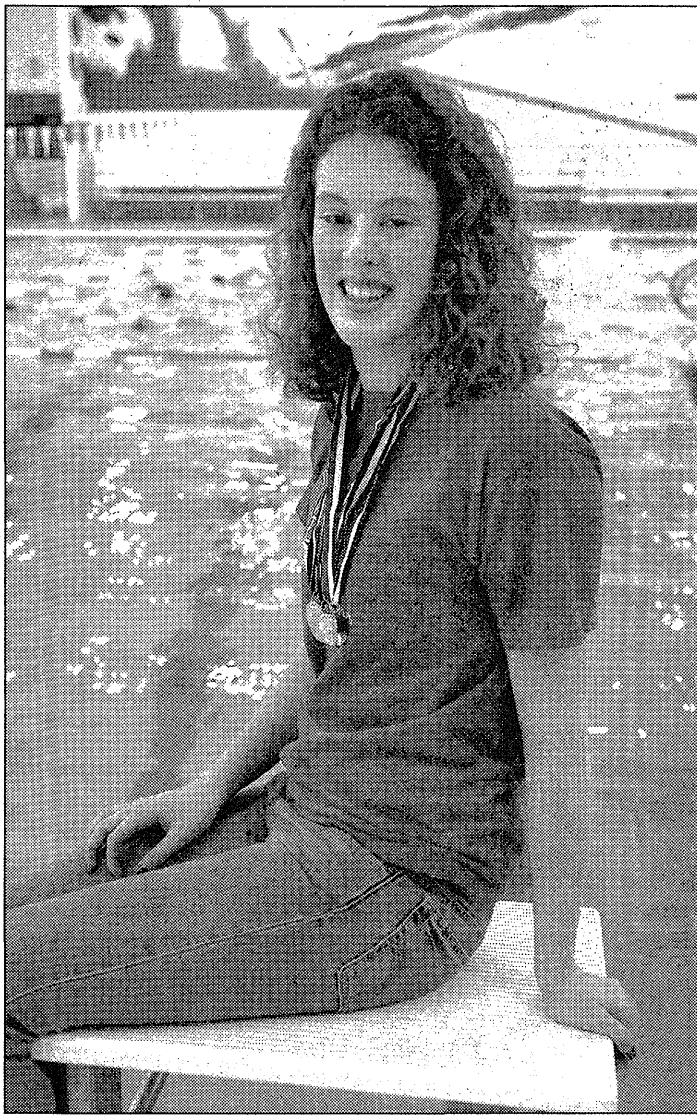
The coach will leave for Plymouth shortly after the game ends. The \$35 ticket price includes one upper deck seat and a round-trip coach ride to the ballpark and back from the Museum. Tickets are at a premium this year at Comerica Park, so be sure to get your tickets and transportation from the Plymouth Historical Museum.

The Museum's hours are 1-4 p.m. Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. There may be someone in the administrative offices on Mondays and Thursdays, but call 734-455-8940 before coming to the Museum on those days. Tickets can also be purchased through PayPal from the Museum's Web site at http://www.plymouthhistory.org/Events.html

Child seat inspections

The Plymouth Township Police Department offers Child Safety Seat Inspections 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, April 12, at the police station, 9955 N. Haggerty. Inspections are by appointment only.

For more information or to schedule an appointment, con-



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Well-earned recognition

Canton High senior Allison Schmitt, who capped an extraordinary high school swimming career by placing first in the 200- and 500-yard freestyle events at the Division 1 state meet at Eastern Michigan University, has been named one of the nominees for the Detroit Athletic Club's Michigan High School Athlete of the Year Award. This honor is awarded not only for athletic ability, but also for the academic and humanitarian efforts of high school student athletes.

Each year six female and six male athletes are nominated to receive this honor. Winners of the 2008 Michigan High School Athlete of the Year Award will be announced during the annual Dodge National Athletic Awards, which will be held at the DAC on Monday, May 12. The program will be televised by WDIV Channel 4 and later broadcast by Comcast around the state.

tact Officer Jamie Senkbeil, (734) 354-3232.

Scrapbook event

Creative Memories hosts a National Scrapbook Day event 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Saturday, April 19, at the Holiday Inn Express in Canton.

The event provides a chance to spend the day completing album pages, as well as get a look at the newest products and techniques from Creative Memories.

Cost is \$40 per person. The Holiday Inn Express is located

at 3950 Lotz in Canton. For more information or to register for the event contact Chrissy Detary, senior consultant with Creative Memories, (734) 454-4321.

Appreciation breakfast

The annual Teacher & Staff Appreciation Breakfast, designed to honor those at Salem, Canton and Plymouth High Schools, is set for 6 a.m. Tuesday, May 6, at each of the respective schools.

Organizers are in great need of breakfast casseroles, potato

dishes, fruit bowls, baked goods, breakfast meats or monetary donations.

Anyone interested in making any type of a donation should contact one of the following chairpersons as soon as possible: Salem High School, Suzanne Zabowski, sunique7@aol.com; Canton High School, Sue Boeve, sboeve@dmc.org; or Plymouth High School, Kathy Craig, kathyrcraig13@aol.com

Fall festival

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

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

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

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

Corriveau coffee hour

State Rep. Marc Corriveau, D-Northville, invites residents to talk over a cup of coffee during an evening coffee hour at Parthenon Coney Island and Restaurant 6 p.m. Monday, March 31.

Parthenon Coney Island and Restaurant is located at 39910 Ford Road in Canton Township.

Corriveau holds coffee hours, office hours and other events throughout the 20th District to talk with as many residents as possible about any issues or concerns. If your business or organization would like to schedule an event with Corriveau, please contact his office at (877) 20TH-REP (208-4737).

Corriveau also holds regular office hours three times a month: the first Monday of every month at the Wayne Public Library; the first Friday

of every month at Northville City Hall; and the third Monday of every month at the Plymouth District Library. All office hours are from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Girls on the run

The Plymouth Family YMCA and Plymouth-Canton Community Education have partnered to bring Girls on the Run to five area elementary schools. The 10-week character building program focuses on experiential learning through running and teaches very specific and well-defined social and personal skills. The program culminates in a non-competitive 5K race event which gives the girls a chance to shine and feel an overwhelming sense of accomplishment.

The \$95 program fee includes after school meetings twice a week with trained volunteer coaches, a healthy snack each day, program T-shirt, water bottle, and entry into the 5K event. All girls grade three through five are welcome but register quickly as space is limited. Spots are still available at Workman, Bentley and Allen Elementary Schools. Participants can register at the Plymouth Family YMCA located at 248 S Union.

For more information on Girls on the Run, please contact Jenny Roszel at (734) 453-2904, jroszel@ymcamedetroit.org or visit the official Web site at www.girlsontherun.org

Feed the need

PBJ Outreach Inc. is sponsoring a Super Slammin' 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/information please contact Linda Barterian at (734) 459-0771.

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KNOW THE SCORE check out the numbers in today's SPORTS section. Includes a small photo of a man in a white tank top.

CORRECTION The editorial in the Thursday, March 20, Observer should have said Plymouth-Canton Board of Education Trustee Dianne Gonzalez voted in favor of the contract for new superintendent Craig Fiegel. The vote was unanimous.

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The Great Lakes Regional Chili Cook-Off, run by Annette and Ken Horn, recently donated \$30,900 to Habitat for Humanity.

High school freshman's blog makes a case against McCotter

BY HUGH GALLAGHER
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Remember the year 2008. That's when you should be seeing some bright green bumper stickers that say "Fitz 28."

That's when Sean Fitzpatrick will be constitutionally old enough to run for president.

Meanwhile, the 14-year-old Canton High School freshman is working hard to bring down a congressman.

While young people are often accused of being politically apathetic, Fitzpatrick of Plymouth is a fervent political blogger who maintains the Mad at Thad blog site www.madatthad.blogspot.com. Its purpose is to make the case against U.S. Rep. Thaddeus McCotter, R-Livonia, who is expected to run for re-election to the 11th District seat.

On Monday, St. Patrick's Day, Sean came to the *Observer* in a cap decorated with a shamrock and a vivid green Obama for president T-shirt.

"I've always been interested in politics and I saw at the time there wasn't anything about McCotter and he was the local representative," Sean said.

Politics has always been discussed at the Fitzpatrick dinner table.

"My father is really into it and so is my grandmother," he said. "I guess the 2004 election I really started to get into it."

Sean's father, Patrick, said his son's interest came early and evolved over time.

"When he was very young, when he was in first grade he used to wear a suit to school and said he was going to be president," Patrick Fitzpatrick said. "He also created a bumper sticker for himself that said Fitz 28."



Fitzpatrick

Over the years, Sean has developed strong liberal views.

"I think the government has a responsibility to help its people," he said.

"I look at President Bush, who is not too popular even in Plymouth, and that's because his policies aim to help the rich, where I support policies that help the poor and middle class, like FDR and the New Deal."

For Sean, McCotter represents everything he opposes.

"He supports the war which is still the No. 1 issue," he said. "His economic policies are right in line with George Bush and Ronald Reagan. The trickle down effect that he believes in strongly I don't think has proven to work. In general he doesn't seem to represent the interest of his constituents."

So at least once a week Sean posts something on his blog site — a commentary or news about the campaigns of Democratic candidates Tom Spencer and Ed Kriewall or links to other liberal and anti-McCotter sites. His comments show a political acumen beyond his years.

He said he enjoys the political gamesmanship. In the presidential election he was originally a John Edwards supporter but then switched to Barack Obama when Edwards dropped out.

"Obama has quite a few policies for open government. The one thing I was iffy about Edwards was his initial support for the war. I thought Obama was the strongest candidate, now that Edwards is out, in opposing the war from the beginning," Sean said.

He's been closely following

the controversy over counting the Michigan and Florida primary results.

"I think the best scenario, and I don't think it's all that likely, is a caucus in Michigan paid for by the candidates and primary in Florida," he said. "What I think will actually end up happening is that they'll split Michigan 50-50 and count the Florida results at a half a vote a delegate, which would leave a 19-vote advantage to Clinton, which I think Obama would find acceptable."

Sean said he hopes to go to law school on his way to a political career.

"I'd love to be a senator, a congressman or even a speechwriter some day," he said.

He agrees that most students aren't as interested in politics as he is but says they do know the issues.

"I usually bring it up and we get into a debate," he said. "We take one side of the argument or the other and talk about it until we're not getting anywhere or have a consensus. I'm in the mainstream as my friends go. But I have a couple Republican friends."

One Republican he hasn't met is his nemesis and fellow Irish-American Thaddeus McCotter, but he's looking forward to a meeting.

"I'm on the radio station at school and he does fund-raisers for them. I hope to meet him, I hear he's a nice guy, but that's not going to change my mind," he said.

And while he hasn't decided which of the two Democratic candidates to support, he'll continue to make his case against the war, the Republican Party and McCotter at his blog site.

hgallagher@hometownlife.com
(734) 953-2149

Home, sweet home

Chili donation helps Habitat build a house

BY TONY BRUSCATO
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Annette and Ken Horn of Plymouth Township raised enough money to construct half-a-home for Habitat for Humanity Wayne County when they delivered the non-profit group a \$30,900 check at the its Plymouth offices this week.

The money was raised from the Great Lakes Regional Chili Cook-off held each fall in downtown Plymouth — a chili and salsa competition, a restaurant chili challenge and a motorcycle bike show — and is far and above the \$20,874 raised last year.

Annette Horn said the 2007 event was the largest in 12 years with over 25,000 in attendance and more than 6,000 motorcycles. More than \$150,000 has been donated to local charities over the dozen years.

"Even though we are in hard economic times, we're getting more sponsorships because businesses want to promote themselves and be at this event," said Horn. "They have a lot of fun and it's all for charity."

"It's fantastic, absolutely incredible, to be able to organize it in the town I love and have it held with local groups," added Horn. "It's very rewarding."

Michael Sage, president of the affiliate based in Plymouth, said the one-day cook-off raises about half a sponsorship for homes that cost \$80,000 to build.

"We have certain big events throughout the year, and the Chili Cook-off is one of them," said Sage. "It's become a staple of our affiliate. Not everyone is a builder, so some folks take advantage of the day to volunteer and help Habitat."

Alice Dent of Canton Township, the executive direc-

tor of Habitat for Humanity Wayne County, said it's encouraging more sponsors are on board to help raise enough money to build four or five homes this summer.

"We're meeting more and more people who just want to help us," said Dent. "Michiganders are really stepping up despite the depressed economy."

One of those sponsors is BMW Motorcycles of Southeast Michigan in Canton which participated in the Chili Cook-off for the first time last fall.

"We gave a \$2,500 sponsorship and also sponsored the charity ride that which drew about 70 riders," said John Horner, owner of the motorcycle shop. "It gave us a chance to give something back to the community, and gave riders a chance to do something good."

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PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Officials from Midwest Rabbit Rescue & Rehome are trying to get an online grant that would allow them to refurbish the facility, located in Old Village.

Ex-teacher likely headed to trial in sex abuse case

BY TIFFANY L. PARKS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Without more information, a Third Circuit Court judge decided Tuesday he would not offer a Cobbs ruling in the case of Stephanie Ann Stein, a Canton woman and former Plymouth Christian Academy teacher accused of having a sexual relationship with a former student.

Judge David Groner was asked by Stein's attorney to make a Cobbs decision — an offer of a possible jail sentence if Stein pleads guilty to the four charges against her — but will instead consult with the court's chief judge about the direction of the case.

"He wants to know where does the case go from here," said Wayne County Assistant Prosecutor Lora Weingarden, who added that the judge's decision isn't a win for the defense or the prosecution. "I don't think it means anything one way or the other."

Todd Flood, Stein's attorney, said he respects Groner's decision and added that he expects the case to move on to a trial.

"(Stein) is holding up as best as she can under the circumstances," he said. "We are still maintaining our innocence."

According to police, Stein, 32, had an eight-month relationship with a 15-year-old boy that she had previously taught at PCA, located on Joy Road in Canton.

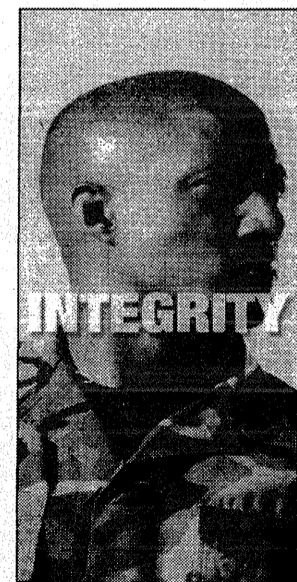
The boy, who has testified that he pursued the romance, is no longer a student at the academy. Stein resigned from her part-time teaching position in June.

The mother of two, who allegedly had sex with the boy at his house, her mother's house and at a hotel, has been charged with two counts of third-degree criminal sexual conduct, each a 15-year felony; one count of using the Internet to communicate with a minor to commit a crime, a four-year felony; and one count of distributing obscene material of a sexual nature to a minor, a two-year felony.

Weingarden said Stein previously rejected a deal from the state to serve 30 months to 15 years in prison if she pleaded guilty to one count of third-degree criminal sexual conduct. According to state sentencing guidelines, Stein could be sentenced to nearly five years to almost eight years if she pleads guilty to all the charges.

Stein's next court date has been set for April 2 and Weingarden said she would like to see some movement in the case.

"This has dragged on long enough," she said.



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WABBITS

FROM PAGE A1

in it," said Moroz. "It's nice to have a place that belongs to everyone, where everybody could volunteer at their own level."

The shelter has about 100 volunteers who help care for the 150 rabbits for the non-profit organization that's licensed by the Department of Agriculture. The annual budget is about \$17,000.

"These are all domestic rabbits, they cannot live out in the wild," said Moroz. "They are mostly show bunnies, like at fairs, and their owners don't

want them anymore. We also get some from people who have lost their homes and want to find a no-kill shelter. And, we take strays and rabbits from other shelters.

"We want families to come here to find out if this is the pet for them," she said. "And if not, they can still come and spend time here. Our bottom line is not to get you to buy a rabbit, but enjoy them and learn about them."

Moroz said if her group wins the complete makeover, she'd like to purchase new rabbit pens, install a new floor and add screen doors to keep the flies out.

"My pipe dream is to rent the unit next door for a confer-

ence center to offer lectures and hold our own events," said Moroz. "While we are a shelter, we are also about education."

Just like dogs and cats, rabbits need to be spayed and neutered to make them good house pets.

"As a pet, rabbits are in between a cat and a dog," said Toundaian. "Cats are independent and don't want anything to do with you. A dog is like 'hello, I'm here.' A rabbit is in-between."

The Midwest Rabbit Rescue & Rehome is at 882 N. Holbrook in Plymouth. The telephone number is (734) 912-7976.

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Callan Gavigan, 15, of Northville volunteers time at the rabbit shelter.

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CITY OF PLYMOUTH ORDINANCE NO. 2008-1 Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control Ordinance

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 34, ENVIRONMENT, IN THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF PLYMOUTH, BY AMENDING THE FOLLOWING SECTIONS:

CHAPTER 34, ENVIRONMENT, ARTICLE IV, SOIL EROSION AND SEDIMENTATION CONTROL

THE CITY OF PLYMOUTH ORDAINS:

Section 1. Modify the Ordinance by amending the following Article and Sections.

Chapter 34, Environment, Section 34-126, Adoption of Rules by Reference, is hereby deleted and the following paragraph substituted therefore:

Sec. 34-126 Adoption of rules by reference.
Part 91 Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act and the Administrative Rules promulgated under Part 91 hereby are adopted by reference. A copy of Part 91 and the Rules are on file at the office of the Building Department of the City. Each and all of the regulations, provisions, penalties, conditions and terms of such rules and regulations are hereby referred to, adopted and made part hereof as if fully set out in this article.

Section 2. Modify the Ordinance by amending the following Article and Sections.

Chapter 34, Environment, Section 34-127, Municipal Enforcing Agency, is hereby deleted and the following paragraph substituted therefore:

Sec. 34-127. Municipal Enforcing Agency.
The Building Department of the city shall become the Municipal Enforcing agency in regard to Part 91, Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended (Part 91), being 324.9101 et seq. of the Michigan Compiled Laws and the Administrative Rules promulgated by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality as amended, within the municipal limits of the city.

Section 3. Rights and Duties.

Rights and Duties which have matured, penalties which have incurred, proceedings which have begun and prosecution for violations of law occurring before the effective date of this ordinance are not affected or abated by this ordinance.

Section 4. Validity

Should any section, clause or paragraph of this ordinance be declared by a Court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, the same will not affect the validity of the ordinance as a whole or part therefore, other than the part declared invalid.

Section 5. Ordinances Repealed.

All other ordinances inconsistent with the provisions of this ordinance are to the extent of such inconsistencies hereby repealed.

Section 6. Effective Date.

This ordinance shall become effective one day after publication.

Introduced: March 3, 2008 Published: March 23, 2008
Enacted: March 17, 2008 Effective: March 24, 2008

Phil Pursell Linda Langmesser, CMC
Mayor City Clerk

Publish: March 23, 2008

OE08592791-26.5

SEMCOG at 40

Organization brings 7-county area together to plan for future

BY HUGH GALLAGHER
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Intergovernmental cooperation, bipartisan consensus and research-backed decision making may be today's cutting-edge ideas, but according to Paul Tait they've been business as usual for the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments since 1968.

SEMCOG is celebrating its 40th anniversary as the organization that brings more than 150 units of government together to plan and build for the future.

"It came out of a study by a committee of 100 influential private and public sector leaders in the region who had looked at the need for voluntary regional cooperation," said Tait, SEMCOG's executive director. "Recognizing by working together, each unit of government could make better decisions for themselves and there are just some things that go beyond the boundaries of one community."

SEMCOG serves two primary roles. It is a research organization providing critical data on population, development, shifting demographics and land use. It is also mandated by the federal government to handle planning and allocation of federal transportation funding, implementation of the Clean Air Act and the Clean Water Act.

SEMCOG is a voluntary organization of governments. The seven county governments of southeast Michigan — Livingston, Macomb, Monroe, Oakland, St. Clair, Washtenaw and Wayne — are all members. Cities, townships, villages and school districts throughout the region are also invited to be members.

SETS TRANSPORTATION AGENDA

"In the area of transportation, we're designated as a metropolitan planning organization," Tait said. "We do the long-range planning for roads and bridges in the region. With that responsibility in a major metro community like ours, the elected officials in SEMCOG are actually making the decision on what federal and major state dollars are spent in southeast Michigan."

That's approaching a billion dollars a year."

As part of their transportation responsibility, SEMCOG prepares an annual 25-year transportation plan. The agency is now working on projections for the year 2035.

"That sets the long range frame of the whole transportation system," Tait said. "What kind of projects are we going to have, how much are we going to spend on maintenance and rebuilding versus relieving congestion versus transit."

SEMCOG also develops a four-year transportation improvement program.

"If the Michigan Department of Transportation or road commissions in one of the communities wants to build or rebuild a road, if that's not in our plan, it's not going to happen to get the federal money," Tait said.

SEMCOG has also been supportive of mass transit. Tait said that in the '70s, SEMCOG had drawn up some elaborate plans for mass transit but "didn't have a clue how to pay for it."

"Most of our transit dollars are replacing buses and that's important. Maintaining a core bus system is important in getting people to where they need to be," he said.

SEMCOG has received money to develop some form of mass transit between Detroit and Ann Arbor. Tait said early studies didn't look promising for funding such a project.

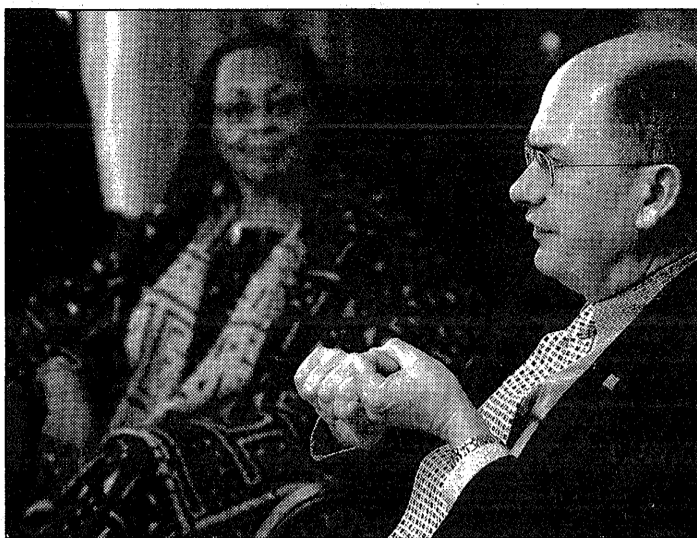
The decision was to use existing heavy rail lines owned by Norfolk Southern. The plan is to have Amtrak operate a commuter train with eight to 15 runs a day.

Transportation planning also helps communities decide other issues, such as where to build schools or senior centers.

"We do forecasts with federal transportation money so we know what the future looks like 25 years in the future, but individual members use that forecast by community to say what will my school system need, where are the kids going to be," Tait said.

SOLID RESEARCH

Mary Blackmon, a trustee of Wayne County's Regional Educational Services Agency, is vice chair and chair-



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Mary Blackmon, vice chair of SEMCOG and a trustee and Wayne RESA, and Paul Tait, executive director of SEMCOG, discuss the organization's many roles.

elect of SEMCOG. She sees SEMCOG's research as a way to bring opposing sides together.

"Relationships are built with good research, good data that helped move us from contentious areas a while ago to where we are today, a better working relationship with all of our constituencies," she said. "It's been a long, hard road but built on trust and good research."

SEMCOG is known to the public for such programs as RideShare and Ozone Action days, which support the organization's role in transportation and air quality.

Blackmon said programs like Ozone Action Days and water quality programs have been adopted by area schools are part of their curriculum.

Another area that draws public attention is SEMCOG's regular population updates, which are often at variance with the U.S. Census Bureau. Tait said SEMCOG begins with the federal 10-year census and then uses different methodology to estimate regional population.

Tait and Blackmon said that unlike other public bodies, the SEMCOG assembly and execu-

tive committee do not engage in the usual contentious political debates. The members are all elected officials.

"It is gratifying to work for a board that comes together to discuss issues," Tait said. "Yes, everyone has a Democrat or a Republican hat or a local community hat, but it's much more about issues. We don't get into the stranglehold the legislature was in trying to work out last year's budget."

SEMCOG has also taken a leadership position in encouraging more intergovernmental cooperation.

SEMCOG is in the process of hiring a person to work full time working with communities on cooperative ventures. SEMCOG also advocates at the state and federal level with offices in Lansing and Washington.

In June, Blackmon will assume the chair position for the coming year from current chair William T. Roberts, mayor of Walled Lake. At that time, SEMCOG will formally mark its 40th anniversary at the annual General Assembly at The Henry Ford.

hgallagher@hometownlife.com
(734) 953-2149

SEMCOG stats

Founded: 1968

Members: 7 southeast Michigan counties: Livingston, Macomb, Monroe, Oakland, St. Clair, Washtenaw and Wayne; 146 townships, cities, villages and educational units of government.

Annual budget: 2007-08, \$12,090,344; 2008-2009, \$11,078,730. Two-thirds from federal transportation money, about \$2 million from local dues and the rest from state grants and contracts.

Staff: 80.

Executive director: Paul Tait

Chairperson: William T. Roberts, mayor, city of Walled Lake

Chair-elect: Mary Blackmon, trustee, Wayne County Regional Education Service Agency.

Outreach: RideShare, to encourage car pooling; Ozone Action Days, to alert residents when air pollution levels are high; Taubman Scholarship, supports executive training for public officials at Harvard.

Communication: SEMscope, quarterly publication; newsletter, printed biweekly; Web site www.semco.org

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Michigan women fought for vote long before suffrage act passed

Michigan women may be seething about their votes not counting in the January primary election, but some may not realize that women's votes have counted in elections since 1919, a year before women nationwide were finally given the right to vote in a presidential election.

Since March is Women's History Month, and this is an election year, it seems appropriate to look back on the struggle for women's suffrage.

Michigan was the second state to ratify the 19th Amendment, which became law Aug. 26, 1920. The amendment states, "The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex."

But Michigan women began the fight for this right in 1846, when Ernestine Rose addressed the state Legislature about the need for women to be able to vote. The Legislature was not impressed. Other attempts were made over the years, but times were different and many men did not understand the need for women to vote.

Limited success was achieved in 1867 when women taxpayers were allowed to vote in school elections; in 1881 the privilege was extended to parents and guardians of school-age children. In 1893, the Michigan Legislature passed a municipal suffrage bill, but when the new law was tested, it was protested all the way to the Michigan Supreme Court.

That court decided the Legislature had no right to "create a new class of voters"

FOR WOMEN VOTERS				FO	
Act 256, PAWS, APR. 1917					
NAME	RESIDENCE	STREET AND NUMBER OR DESCRIPTION OF LOCALITY OF RESIDENCE	1918	1919	V O
Month	Day	Year	Mar	Apr	May
Eda M.		1033 W. River Park			
Joanna L. Mac		223 S. Main St.			
Phoebe E. Patterson		207 West River Park			

This register of women voters from the village of Plymouth is on record at the Plymouth Historical Museum.



Postcards from the Past

Elizabeth Kelley Kerstens

and declared the law unconstitutional. Michigan held a constitutional convention in 1907-08 in which women's suffrage was defeated, but women paying taxes could vote in elections concerning local tax

and bond issues.

Organizations both for and against women's suffrage were created in the state over the years. In 1870, the Michigan State Woman Suffrage Association was formed in Battle Creek, but it fizzled in 1874 when a woman suffrage amendment was defeated in the legislature. In 1884, the Michigan Equal Suffrage Association was formed in Flint. It was responsible for pushing the Legislature to consider several constitutional changes that were defeated over the ensuing two decades.

The Michigan Association Opposed to Equal Suffrage, which included a large percentage of women, was formed in 1913. This group claimed that women would suffer physically if given the right



Plymouth women, including Phoebe Patterson (above), registered for their first election, to choose village commissioners, in March 1919.

to vote, and that the privilege would also be detrimental to the home, the state and the nation.

In 1917, when the U.S. entered World War I, Michigan Governor Albert Sleeper signed a bill that granted women the right to vote in presidential elections. A state constitutional amendment granting that right was approved by voters in 1918 and women first cast ballots for statewide offices in 1919.

Plymouth women joined

their sisters at the polls in 1919. The first election in the village of Plymouth that women could vote in was to elect village commissioners, and was held on March 10. According to the Plymouth Mail of March 14, 1919, of the 221 women who had registered to vote, only 74 actually cast their ballots.

One of the women who registered, and voted, was Mrs. Phoebe Ely Patterson, who lived on Ann Arbor Trail near the railroad tracks. At the time, Patterson was 62 and a grandmother. A month later, in April 1919, she became the first woman justice of the peace in Michigan. Patterson served as a Plymouth Township justice of the peace for nearly 12 years, until her death in January 1917. Her tenure was not without controversy, when a Detroit lawyer challenged her right to hold office, claiming that "a woman's services, thoughts, and actions are the property of her husband."

Patterson won the case and was held in high regard throughout her tenure.

Elizabeth Kelley Kerstens is executive director of the Plymouth Historical Museum. She can be reached at (734) 455-8940.



TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Three-year-old Aymu Dazai of Plymouth gives the Easter Bunny a kiss on the nose with a little help from dad Masahiko as they wait for the marshmallows to fall during the annual Marshmallow Drop at Nankin Mills Park in Westland.

Marshmallow magic

Children of all ages gather for Easter time ritual

"We're going to go over the rules today. This event is not competitive, there is not a grand prize. You only need one marshmallow to receive a treat. Please do not eat the marshmallows."

With that assurance from the stage set up at Nankin Mills Park, parents and grandparents herded hundreds of children from toddlers to teens Friday toward a restraining rope for the 24th Annual Wayne County Marshmallow Drop.

Eager eyes looked up to the sky where a helicopter circled in a continuous loop.

But that helicopter was a tease owned by one of the day's sponsors, Fox2 TV.

The real helicopter, the one loaded with fluffy, gooey, magical marshmallows was still out of view.

Meanwhile, hundreds of cars line Hines Drive and families trudged some distance in the chilly weather toward to the park. Parents snapped photos of their children with the Easter Bunny.

Jessica Smith brought her two children all the way from Howell to visit her sister Jennifer Meyers of Westland. Nicky Smith was confident he'd get a marshmallow. His sister Danielle had a little

For a gallery of Marshmallow Drop photos see our Web site at www.hometownlife.com.

apprehension.

"I think lots of marshmallows are going to come crashing down on us," she said.

Wayne County Executive Bob Ficano officially launched the event and also put in a plug for his alma mater Michigan State in the NCAA basketball tournament, "Go Green on Saturday Night."

More than 20,000 marshmallows were dropped in three shifts, starting with the under 4 set.

"OK, everyone, 4 and under please go to the front of the line. Please do not run until the marshmallows have all hit the ground."

All eyes looked to the sky as the helicopter came into sight, flew off and then returned flying low above the trees. The marshmallows were released and the littlest children and their adult companions charged across the field squealing with delight.

The Drop was co-sponsored by ITC Holdings, WNIC Radio, Motor City Moms and Fox 2.

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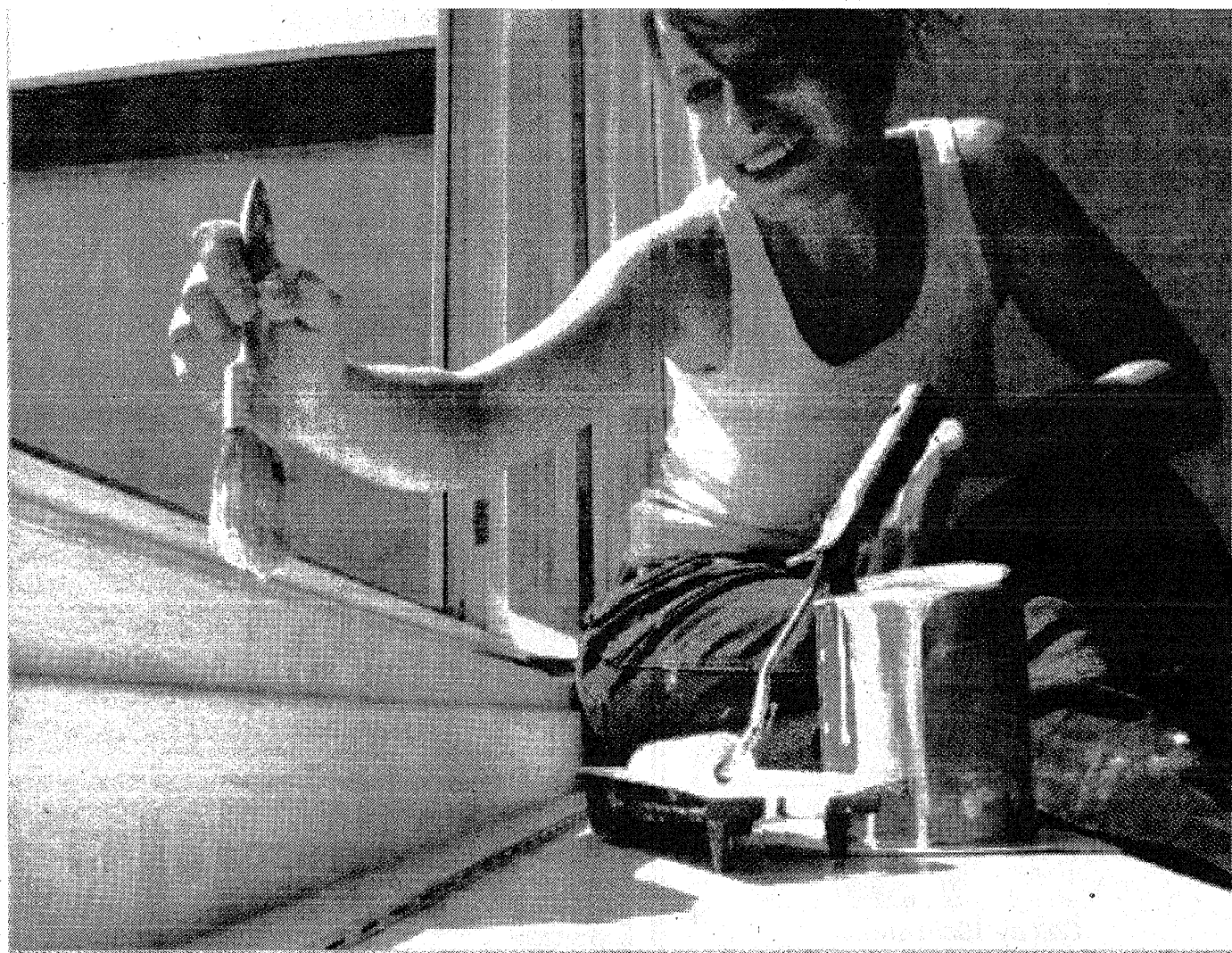
FROM PAGE A1

churches, parents with their children," Haase said. "The exhibit is very moving and powerful. It's been overwhelm-

ingly received."

Lynn Pawlik was happy to have taken her daughters, even though they rushed through it a little bit.

"The pictures are a little graphic, but they're so telling," Pawlik said. "It reminds me of the *Passion of the Christ* movie."



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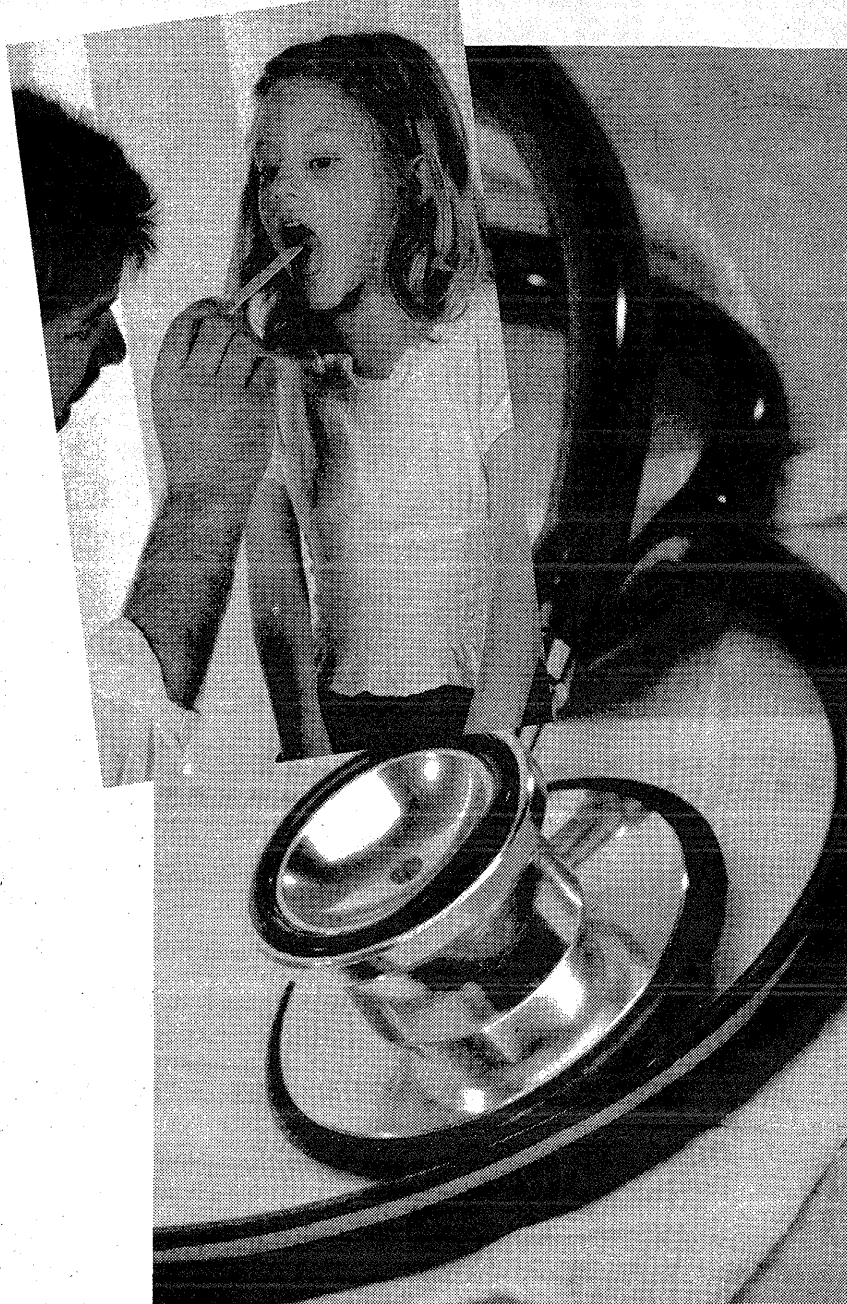
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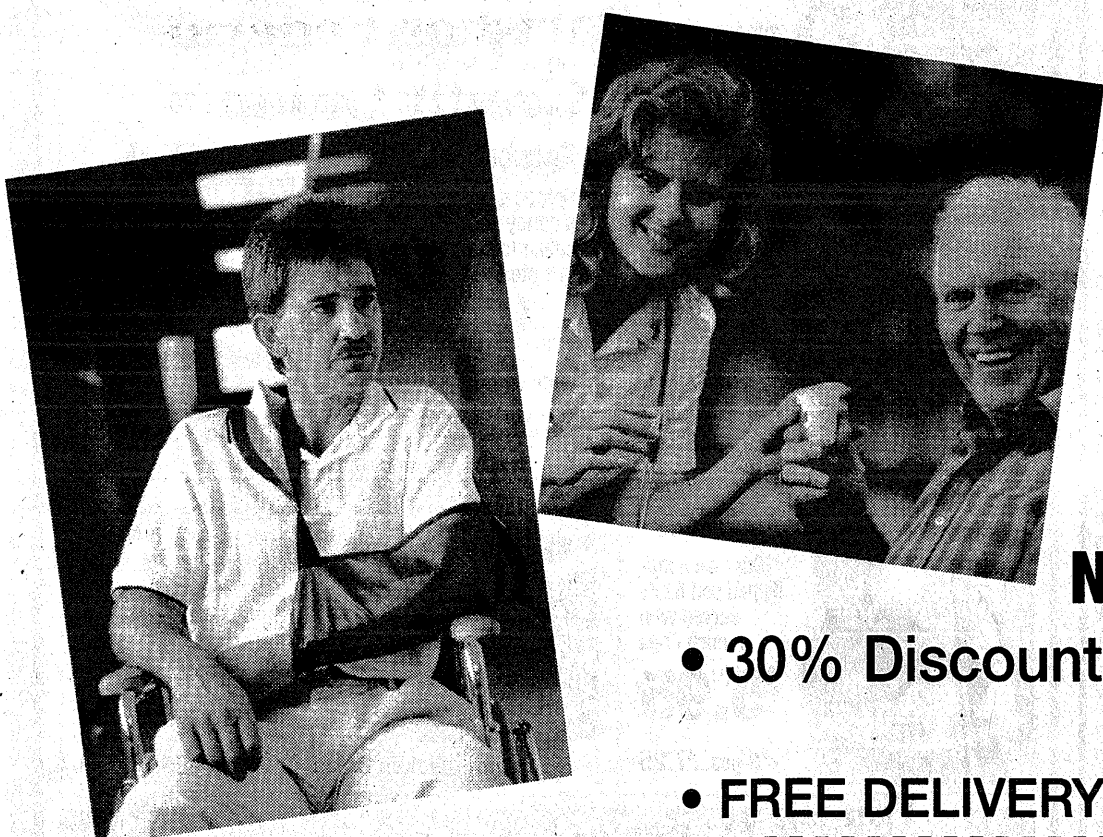
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Michigan Eye Doctor Helps Legally Blind

Dr. Sheldon Smith fits special glasses to help those with macular degeneration and other eye conditions keep reading and driving.

By Elena Lombardi

Most of us take things like reading, watching TV or playing cards for granted. But poor vision from conditions like macular degeneration, glaucoma, diabetes or cataracts makes these tasks difficult or even impossible. When people have insufficient vision to do the things they want to do, they have low vision.

Today Michigan Optometrist Dr. Sheldon Smith has the answers many of these people have been seeking. Dr. Smith, a Low Vision Specialist, helps people with these types of eye diseases see better. A Fellow of the International Academy of Low Vision Specialists, Dr. Smith is one of a select group of doctors serving the visually impaired.

"People don't know there are experienced doctors who can help them with specialized low vision care," says Dr. Smith. "Many people are told by their own doctors that nothing more can be done for their eye condition, but there are ways to improve vision" says Dr. Smith. "We fit special devices to help patients meet their various visual goals."

Patients often end up using weak, clumsy hand-held magnifiers trying to help themselves see better. Conversely, Dr. Smith prescribes hands-free devices that are easier to use. "We use the same telescopic devices surgeons

use during operations," says Dr. Smith. "That's how powerful and convenient they are.

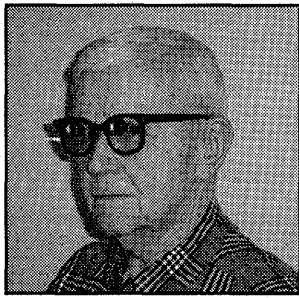
Special prismatic reading glasses and microscopes help make reading a little easier. Telescopic glasses primarily focus on distance objects like TV, passing neighbors or scenery. Telescopes can also be adapted to closer tasks like playing cards or computers. "Telescopes can even help people meet the driver vision requirement" Dr. Smith explained.

Michigan is one of 46 states that allow bioptic telescopic glasses for driving.

Mr. Leo Hakola, age 85 of Livonia, Michigan saw Dr. Smith last May.

Macular degeneration, cataract, stroke and double vision were causing reading and driving problems. Dr. Smith prescribed a complete low vision system which included telescopic glasses for driving and special prismatic glasses for reading. The entire cost was \$2789. Leo said "the telescopic driving glasses really help me see traffic lights and street signs down the block. And reading is much easier and single now with these special reading glasses. I am glad I found you, Dr. Smith."

In addition to the spectacle vision aids, Dr. Smith offers training to help people accomplish their daily activities. Visual aids help patients use their remaining vision to its fullest capacity while rehabilitative training improves the patient's



Leo Hakola wearing telescopic driving glasses

ability to carry out necessary independent activities. And of course safeguarding present vision levels is crucial. Sun filters and nutritional supplements can improve vision and prevent further loss.

"Each patient has a unique amount of vision and their own goals," says Dr. Smith. "I am committed to helping patients do what matters most to them and improving their quality of life."

Special reading glasses start at \$600 and custom telescopes can cost from \$1800 to \$2,500.

If you or someone you know is struggling with their vision, call Dr. Smith to find out how low vision care can help. There is help available. You just need to know where to find it.

You can reach Dr. Smith and Suburban Low Vision of Michigan at

1-877-677-2020.

Dr. Smith has offices in Livonia, Warren, Shelby Township and the Lansing area.

Visit Suburban Low Vision of Michigan at suburbaneyecare.com or find out more about the International Academy of Low Vision Specialists at ialvs.com.

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Some patients are concerned about the prospect of enduring discomfort in the dental chair. When dentists block pain with injections of local anesthesia, they not only deaden the pain-sensing nerve cells, they block all nerve cells. As a result, patients may experience temporary numbness and muscle weakness, which causes drooling.

In an effort to address this side effect, researchers have been investigating a way to target only the pain-sensing nerve cells while avoiding the neurons responsible for muscle movement and touch sensations. According to this research, injections of the active ingredient found in chili peppers (capsaicin), which is a derivative of the common local anesthetic lidocaine, solely target the pain-sensing neurons. This finding could lead to improved future pain-blocking techniques.

There are many methods available in dentistry today to help reduce a patient's anxiety and enhance comfort during treatment. Having confidence and trust in your dentist is also an important aspect of feeling at ease at dental visits. If it has been awhile since your last checkup, we are welcoming new patients and invite you to call us at **734-453-9413** for an appointment. Or stop by **496 W. Ann Arbor Trail, Ste. 201, Plymouth**, and say hello, and make your appointment in person. We always enjoy meeting new patients.

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OUR VIEWS

Easter message is one of hope meant for all

It's Easter Sunday, and Christians worldwide are celebrating the resurrection of Jesus Christ more than 2,000 years ago.

Believers are gathering in churches adorned with white lilies to hear trumpets blare, choirs sing and pastors proclaim that, through faith in Jesus, they too will live eternally in Heaven.

It's a message of hope for a world that, at times, seems hopeless.

Christians believe that their life on earth is fleeting compared to the life they'll live forever in Heaven, where there are no problems of any kind, including sickness, pain and death.

It gives them that joy and peace that surpass understanding to face the trials of their daily lives, knowing those trials are only temporary.

It also gives them the hope, when they lose a spouse, child, parent or friend, that they'll see their loved one again in Heaven, where they'll be together forever.

The story of Jesus, God's son, rising from the grave after dying on a cross to take the punishment for the sins of everyone has been retold every year since that first Easter morning.

It's a story first shared by the women visiting Jesus' empty tomb and his disciples who, fearful for their own lives immediately following his crucifixion, courageously went to their own deaths to spread it to the first-century world.

It's a story recorded in the Bible for every generation since — a message of hope meant for all people for all time.

Christians believe that their life on earth is fleeting compared to the life they'll live forever in Heaven, where there are no problems of any kind, including sickness, pain and death.

Let jury decide

I would like to know why The Observer has turned into the PR agent for Letkemann.

First, and most egregious, The Observer broadcasts a page one headline implying that Letkemann is innocent.

After reading the article below the attention-drawing headline, it turns out this is only about trying to pressure the prosecutor into dropping the first degree murder charge and instead making it second degree murder. What a crock!

Why is this so important that it has to be put on page one as a headline? Are you trying to unduly influence the jury and the prosecutor?

Next we are constantly getting letters to the editor implying that poor Letkemann is being railroaded since he apparently is still charged with first-degree murder.

I am not an attorney, but the last I heard, lie detector tests (and their results) are not allowed in court. Apparently the courts do not allow lie detector tests since they are not reliable.

The trial can determine if Letkemann should be charged with first-degree murder. The prosecutor may have additional evidence showing that a first-degree murder charge is warranted. Let the court and the jury decide.

Bill Piner
Plymouth Township

Don't repeat Vietnam in Iraq

Kurt Kuban recently "wordsmithed"

a column titled "Don't forget about our soldiers in debate on Iraq." Here's a news flash: Only the military is fighting the war on terror (called within the military the "long war"), while America is at the mall.

The American people are oblivious to this war, being fought thousands of miles away, similar to the country in the 1960s during the Vietnam War. I fought there Feb. 1967- Feb. 1968 with the 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) as an infantryman, and furthermore spent 20 years in the military as a infantry soldier (combined active and reserve duty in the 1960s, 70s, 80s and 90s) with a 10 year break in service.

Kuban wrote, "However, if you want to get a glimpse into what their lives have been like, do yourself a favor and rent the movie, No End in Sight." This is like all the couch potato soldiers that saw Saving Private Ryan and feel they know what war is all about. No way Jose! If Hollywood truly wanted its audience to experience war it would use special effects like strapping you into you seat, filling the theater with the smells and odors of war and then use maximum use of the old 3-D effects to drive home war and its effects.

The Detroit newspapers recently stated that since March 19, 2003 some 3,987 military personnel had died in the war. How many more die is unknown. That's the price the country pays when politicians commit the nation's treasure to war. The military doesn't differentiate between a "good" war and a "bad" war. It's just plain war!

Roger L. Kehrier
Plymouth

Column made good point

Kurt Kuban's column ("Don't forget about our soldiers in debate on Iraq," March 13) was well written. I do agree with the things he wrote, wishing that I could assemble words to express myself as well as he has. He presents good points and covers one hell of a lot of areas in the article, looking back as well to the future, not praising Trustee Todd Caccamo, but doing him justice in his endeavor to help those serving in Iraq. We should be very concerned about the number of lives lost, wasted by some counts, as well as those who will live the remainder of their lives minus limbs and/or with everlasting scars both physically and emotionally.

However, I do personally question if a change in American leadership will bring change in our Iraq intervention just as I question whether change will take place in Detroit with new leadership (if by some miracle that happens). Aging has definitely contributed to the degree of pessimism I bear.

Ron DePentu
Canton

GOVERNMENT CONTACTS

Gov. Jennifer M. Granholm

Send correspondence to P.O. Box 30013, Lansing, MI 48909, or call Constituent Services at (517) 335-7858. The fax number is (517) 335-6863.

State Sen. Bruce Patterson, R-Canton

Contact him by mail at P.O. Box 30036, Lansing, MI, 48909; by phone at (517) 373-7350; toll-free at (866) 262-7307; or by e-mail at senbpatterson@senate.michigan.gov.

State Rep. Marc Corriveau, D-Northville

Contact him by mail at P.O. Box 30014, Lansing, MI 48909-7514; by phone at (517) 373-3816; or by e-mail at MarcCorriveau@house.mi.gov.

Plymouth Mayor Dan Dwyer

Call him through City Hall at (734) 453-1234 or send an e-mail via the city Web site at www.ci.plymouth.mi.us.

mi.us.

Plymouth Township Supervisor Richard Reaume

Send correspondence to him at Plymouth Township Hall, 9955 N. Haggerty, Plymouth, MI 48170. Call his office at (734) 354-3200. E-mails can be sent via the township's Web site at www.plymouthtp.org.

U.S. Sen. Carl Levin

His Washington, D.C. mailing address is 269 Russell Office Building, U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510-2202. Call him at (202) 224-6221. The fax number is (202) 224-1388. He also has offices in Patrick V. McNamara Federal Building, 477 Michigan Ave., Room 1860, in Detroit. The local phone number is (313) 226-6020, TTY (800) 851-0030 and fax at (313) 226-6948. He also has a Web site - levin.senate.gov.

U.S. Sen. Debbie Stabenow

In Washington, D.C., the address is 133 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510. Call her there at (202) 224-4822, TTY (202) 224-2066, or e-mail her at senator@stabenow.senate.gov. In Detroit, her office is at 243 W. Congress, Suite 550. Call (313) 961-4330. She also has a Web site - stabenow.senate.gov.

U.S. Rep. Thaddeus McCotter

His Washington, D.C., mailing address is 1632 Longworth House Office Building, Washington D.C. 20515. Call him at (202) 225-8171 or send a fax by dialing (202) 225-2667. His district office is at 17197 N. Laurel Park Drive, Suite 161, Livonia, MI 48152. Call him at (734) 632-0314 or send a fax at (734) 632-0373. He also has an Web site - mccotter.house.gov.

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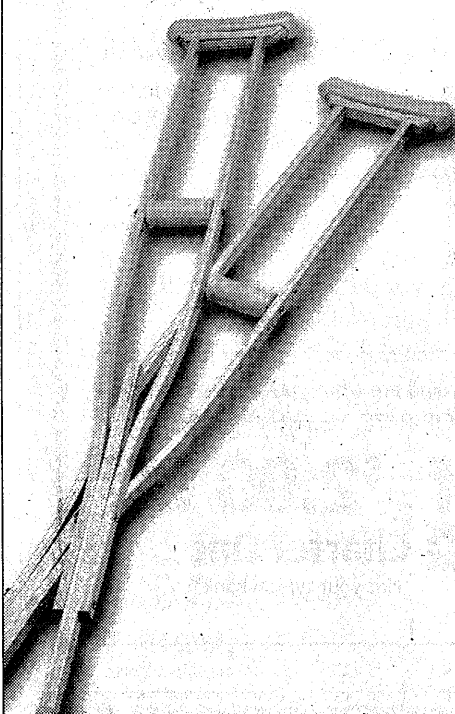


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Single mother should make statutory will first priority

Dear Rick: I am a single mother with a young child. I have not saved for college nor for my retirement and I have no will or life insurance. I can't afford to do everything at once. What is more important?

Since you have a young child it is important to do some estate planning. The Michigan Statutory Will, which is free, should fit your situation. You can get a copy at most public libraries or download one from my Web site at www.bloomassetmanagement.com, just click on "forms."

The most important issue is who is going to raise your child if something happens to you. This person is known as the guardian. Another important consideration in your Will is the choice of personal representative, the individual in charge of closing up the final affairs of your life.



Money Matters
Rick Bloom

There is no problem with naming the same person as guardian and personal representative. In order to protect your child if something happens to you it is important to have some life insurance. I recommend term insurance which is the least expensive. There are a variety of Web sites where you can shop for term insurance or if you would like to deal with someone locally, I recommend Mark Orechkin of the Orechkin Agency in Southfield, (248) 356-8820. I recommend at least a 20-year term life policy. College is expensive and it will take a while to save

enough for your child's education. However, you don't necessarily have to save enough for his/her entire education but rather to have some resources to supplement any financial assistance your child may receive. I recommend the Michigan Education Savings Plan (MESP). All money invested in the MESP grows tax-free. In addition, you can deduct your contribution on your state tax return. What makes the MESP so good is it only takes \$25 to begin a program. The MESP can set up an automatic investment program to withdraw money from your checking account on a regular basis. The key is to save on a regular basis. You would be surprised at how fast your money will grow once you begin a saving program. There are a variety of

different investment options within the MESP and in your situation I would recommend one of the age-based programs. And while saving for your child's college education you also should begin saving for retirement. I recommend a Roth IRA which allows money to grow on a tax-free basis. In your situation, I recommend the T. Rowe Spectrum Growth Fund, (800) 638-5660, www.troweprice.com. The fund allows you set up an automatic investment program for a \$50 minimum. Once again, you'd be surprised how fast your money can grow once you begin to invest on a regular basis. I know it can be a daunting challenge to get and keep your financial house in order. Keep the focus on what you can do from today on to make your

situation better. Keep in mind, the first step is the hardest. **Dear Rick: I don't own a house. I live in an apartment and all my investments have beneficiaries. I went to a seminar and was told I need a living trust. Why would I need a living trust if all my money avoids probate?** There are a couple reasons why you may need a living trust. If you're in a situation where you have a large estate and you have a spouse, then even though your assets avoid probate they may not avoid estate taxes upon both you and your spouse's death. For individuals with large estates, a living trust can be the most effective vehicle to avoid estate taxes. The other reason is if you wish to control your assets upon your death. If your beneficiaries are young or cannot handle their inheritance you may wish to control your money past

your death. A living trust is the most effective vehicle. For example, if your beneficiaries were teenagers, you may not want them to receive their inheritance in a lump sum at age 18. Through the use of a living trust you can spread that money out for as long as you choose. I do believe living trusts are sometimes oversold. They are not for everyone. However, living trusts can be an effective vehicle to reduce or eliminate estate taxes, avoid probate and to control your money past your death. **Rick Bloom** is a fee-only financial adviser. Observer & Eccentric readers can submit questions at moneyatters@hometownlife.com. For more information, visit Rick's Web site at www.bloomassetmanagement.com. You can hear Rick noon to 3 p.m. Sundays on WDTK 1400 AM.

KNOW THE SCORE
check out the numbers in today's **SPORTS** section

Culinary gala April 5 to benefit Schoolcraft scholarships

The Art of Fine Dining will be experienced by those in attendance at this year's VisTa Gala on Saturday, April 5. Patrons of this annual event will have the opportunity for an intimate look inside Schoolcraft College's six state-of-the-art culinary kitchens while mingling with world-class culinary chefs and instructors.

Guests will also enjoy a meal of adventuresome cuisine featuring Montreal beef with caramelized onion and roadhouse barbecue sauce; smoked cod cake with wilted greens and mustard aioli; wood grilled rack of lamb with rosemary sauce; sushi; sea bass, rock shrimp and lobster in light pastry with chervil, glazed cucumber and caviar sauce;

corn and shrimp bisque; pan-seared Hudson Valley duck foie gras and more. Of course, the perennial favorite, "Grand Pastry Display," and assorted chocolate desserts will top off the menu. All dishes are prepared by the award-winning Schoolcraft culinary arts students, under the supervision of Executive and Certified Master Chefs. Tickets are \$150 per person, \$90 of which is tax deductible. All proceeds will assist in funding scholarships

for culinary art students at Schoolcraft College. The optional black-tie event will be held at the VisTaTech Center on the college's Livonia campus on Haggerty Road between Six and Seven Mile Roads. Complimentary valet parking will be provided. The evening's festivities will include: 6:30 p.m., Wine and Hors d'oeuvres; Complimentary Photos (available until 9:30 p.m.); Silent Auction bidding begins.

7:30 p.m., Plated Salad and Welcome. 8 p.m., Strolling Dinner through the American Harvest Restaurant and the production, charcuterie, bake shop, pastry and demonstration kitchens; Silent Auction bidding continues. 9:30 p.m., Dessert Buffet; Silent Auction winners announced. To order tickets or for more information call (734) 462-4518 or visit www.schoolcraft.edu/foundation.

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SPORTS

B (CP)

Sunday, March 23, 2008

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

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

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Kitchener drops Whalers in Game 1

The Kitchener Rangers validated their No. 1 seed in the 2008 Ontario Hockey League playoffs Friday night in their Game 1 quarterfinal match-up against defending OHL champion Plymouth.

The Rangers struck early and often in their 9-2 triumph over the Whalers before a crowd of 6,132 at the Kitchener Memorial Auditorium. Game 2 was set for Saturday night at Compuware Arena in Plymouth Township.

Kitchener, which earned the top seed by racking up 53 regular-season victories, scored four goals in both the first and second periods and never looked back. Nick Spaling, Justin Azevedo and Matt Halischuk did

OHL PLAYOFFS

most of the damage for the winners, combining for 14 points. Halischuk exploded for two goals and three assists, Spaling contributed a hat trick and an assist while Azevedo notched a trio of helpers.

Ben Shutron, Yannick Weber and Nazem Kadri also lit the lamp for the Rangers.

Chris Terry and Patrick Lee scored the Whalers' goals.

Kitchener's special teams shined as the Rangers scored on 5-of-10 power-play opportunities. Plymouth, on the other hand, cashed in on just 1-of-8 man-advantage situations.

Steve Mason made 25 saves between the pipes for the Rangers.

Plymouth's Jeremy Smith, who missed the previous two weeks with an injury, stopped 38 shots.

Kitchener outshot Plymouth, 47-27. The biggest shots-on-goal differential came in the first period when the Rangers unleashed 24 shots compared to the Whalers' eight.

Terry's goal came with 7:40 left in the opening period and his team trailing, 3-0. He was assisted by Smith.

Lee's lamp-lighter came with 5:21 to play in the game and the Rangers holding a commanding 9-1 advantage.

Tyler G. Brown and Christian Steingraber assisted.

2008 PCEP Lacrosse report



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Pictured (from left) are representatives of the four P-CEP lacrosse teams that will take the field in early April (or whenever the snow melts): Justin Scott (Canton), Mark Paponetti (Salem), Laura Hahn (Plymouth-Canton-Salem Lady Warriors) and Connor Martin (Plymouth).

LAX-PLOSION

Sport's appeal reflected in growing number of teams

BY ED WRIGHT
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Sticks in hand, close to 30 fully uniformed members of the Salem boys lacrosse team jogged at a steady pace along a sidewalk that runs parallel to Ann Arbor Road one afternoon earlier this week.

Ten years ago, the sight of that many lacrosse players together in southeastern Michigan would have been shocking, given that the sport was almost exclusively an East Coast activity.

Nowadays, seeing high school-aged kids playing lacrosse is a common

occurrence as the sport has imbedded itself into the area's sports culture much like soccer did in the early-80s.

This spring, the number of Michigan High School Athletic Association-sanctioned teams at the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park has quadrupled compared to last season.

Each of the three PCEP schools will have its own boys team — Plymouth, Canton and Salem fielded one unified team previously — and the PCS girls unified team has officially joined the ranks of the MHSAA following two years as a club sport.

The LAX-plosion doesn't surprise

Plymouth coach Mike Costello.

"I think it's become popular with kids simply because of the nature of the game," said Costello, who served as the PCS Warriors head coach since the team's inception in 2003. "It's fast-paced, it takes a lot of skill and it's fun to play. I've always said that all it takes is for someone to watch a game for five minutes before they're hooked."

First-year Canton coach Kevin Riley said lacrosse has caught on because it's a hybrid of several other popular sports.

Please see **LACROSSE, B6**

Sidelines

Recruiting workshop

Velocity Sports Performance in Canton has been selected as the Michigan host site of the Tom Lemming Prep Football Tour, which includes a "College Recruiting 101" workshop that will guide parents and student-athletes through the importance of establishing athletic and academic goals, setting realistic expectations and seeking opportunities at the college level.

Lemming is considered one of the leaders in college-football recruiting.

The featured speaker will be Bob Chmiel, a National Collegiate Scouting Association recruiting analyst and the former director of football operations and assistant football coach at the University of Notre Dame.

The event will be held Sunday, April 6, from 9-10 a.m. at Velocity Sports Performance, which is located at 46615 Michigan Ave. in Canton.

Space is limited, so interested attendees must RSVP by calling Julie Thayer at (888) 333-6846 (ext. 7439).

For more information, visit www.tomlemming-football.com.

NBA 'Skills Challenge' winner

Plymouth resident Caleb Hunter placed first in 7-8-year-old division in the Detroit Regional portion of the Junior NBA Skills Challenge.

The competition was held recently at the Palace of Auburn Hills.

Hunter's score of 32.13 will be ranked nationally against the other 25 first-place finishers in each NBA market. He could earn a chance to advance to the national finals set for Orlando, Fla., in May.

The competition includes a time-based, half-court obstacle course that demonstrates fundamental basketball skills.

Approximately 42,000 youngsters participated nationwide.

OLGC football

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

OLGC offers teams for boys in third through eighth grades. Students attending OLGC, All Saints and St. Mary's of Wayne Catholic schools are eligible along with families that belong to the following parishes: OLGC, St. Kenneth, St. Mary's of Wayne, St. Richard, St. Thomas a Becket, Divine Savior, Resurrection and St. John Neumann.

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



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Canton's Jessie Murray was recently named the recipient of the "Michigan Senior Gymnast of the Year" award.

Canton gymnast wins coveted award

BY ED WRIGHT
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Earlier this month, Canton gymnast Jessie Murray was judged on a scale that went well beyond the normal 1-10 range.

And the scores she received from members of the Michigan High School Gymnastics Coaches and Judges Association were off-the-charts fantastic.

Following the Division 1 state meet at Plymouth High School on March 8, Murray was presented with the prestigious "Kim Rennolds Memorial Michigan Senior Gymnast of the Year Award," which is presented annually by the MHSGCJA to the athlete who possesses both outstanding skills and enviable character.

The award is named after Rennolds, a former Canton standout gymnast who was one of 105 people who died aboard ValuJet Flight 592, which crashed into the Florida Everglades on May 11, 1996.

Along with a plaque, Murray received a \$500 college scholarship to the university of her choice.

"Typically, this award doesn't go to the best gymnast in the state, but to someone who is the best ambassador for the sport," said Canton coach John Cunningham. "It's based on gymnastics performance, leadership qualities and academics."

"Jessie is truly someone to be emulated. This could have been a difficult year for her as we graduated seven seniors last year, many of whom she was very close

friends with. But she handled what could have been a very tough situation very well and became an outstanding leader for our team.

"Jessie was our only senior and the other girls really looked up to her — both in the gym and away from it. She was truly deserving of this award."

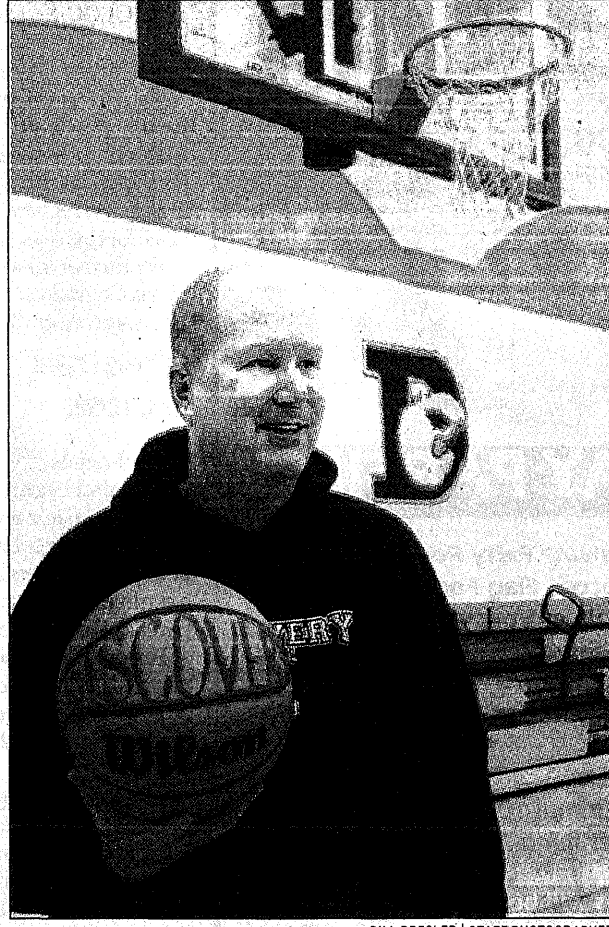
Canton's Kara Ahern won the award in 2006.

Murray, a captain, placed ninth in the all-around at Division 1 state meet with 36,700 points.

Her best performance came on the balance beam when she tied for sixth with Troy Athens' Michelle Mather.

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

During his five seasons as head coach of the Discovery Middle School boys basketball teams, Dave Van Wagoner has chalked up a 78-2 record.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Discovery-ing greatness

Local middle school has built an amazing hoop record

BY ED WRIGHT
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

One way to tell you're basketball program has reached elite status is that whenever an opponent beats you, they break out into a wild victory celebration seconds after the final buzzer sounds.

Case in point: the Discovery Middle School basketball team.

"After one team beat us, you would have thought they had won the World Series," said Discovery coach Dave Van Wagoner, smiling.

It's hard to blame players for getting giddy after conquering Discovery, considering the feat has proven to be almost as difficult as winning the Mega-Millions Lottery.

In the five seasons Van Wagoner has coached the

Eagles' "A" and "B" squads (he missed the 2004 and 2005 seasons to coach basketball at Plymouth High School), Discovery has registered a remarkable 78-2 record.

The "A" and "B" teams each play eight games a year — two each against the other four middle schools in the Plymouth-Canton school district. The "A" team is comparable to a high school varsity squad while the "B" is similar to a JV-level contingent.

Discovery's .975 winning percentage under Van Wagoner's guidance is something that would make the Harlem Globetrotters envious.

What's the veteran strategist's secret to success?

"First of all, we have great administrators here," said Van Wagoner, who has served two five-years stints (1980-85 and

1990-95) as the head coach at Canton High School. "I've also been lucky enough to get really good kids — both on the court and off — come out for my teams."

Van Wagoner listed a couple of on-the-court keys to the Eagles' dominance.

"Middle school kids don't have quite the attention span that high school kids have, so I try to keep things simple," he said. "I've learned over the years to have very structured practices so that every minute is used constructively. There's no 'goof-off' time."

"We don't run any set plays on offense and we work on defense probably 80 percent of each practice. We press the entire game. Our saying is, 'As soon as the other team steps

Please see **DISCOVERY, B2**



The Discovery Middle School "A" and "B" boys basketball teams combined to go 16-0 during the recently completed 2008 campaign. Pictured (front row from left) are Mike Kennedy, Josh Mayberry, Donte Fox, K.J. Malone, Kevin Buford, Marcus Houston, Steve Murphy, Mike Himmelsbach, (top row from left) coach Dave Van Wagoner, Andrew Klenk, Parker Adams, Gavin Carney, Clay Behrman, Ryan Jankowski, Devin McMillian, Derek O'Flynn, Tyler Stewart and Marcus Oden.

DISCOVERY

FROM PAGE B1

off the bus, we start pressing." If you think defeating the Eagles is tough, you should try making it through the program's ultra-competitive tryout system. As the saying goes, only the strong survive. "There's usually about 115 kids who try out for the two teams, and we only keep about 18 (for both teams combined), so it's not easy," said Van Wagoner. "The hardest part of the job for me is looking a kid in the eye and telling him he's been cut, so I'll keep as many as 20 some years." Van Wagoner said quite a few exceptional hoopsters who have been cut at Discovery

have gone on to enjoy stellar high school basketball careers. "And they always come back and tell me about it," he said, laughing. Among the stars who have lifted the Eagles into their own galaxy are Dominique Washington, who led Discovery's inaugural team to an unblemished record, and Ryan Waidmann, who led Canton to a pair of Class A District titles before moving on to play at Madonna University. "Dominique is probably the best eighth-grader I've ever coached," Van Wagoner revealed. "He had good size with guard skills. He helped the school get off to a good start." Discovery's roundball success has not gone unnoticed by the school's student body.

"Our gym seats about 300," said Van Wagoner. "Most of the games, the bleachers are filled and there are anywhere from 40 to 70 people seated in charis along the opposite sideline. "Except for some of the big high school rivalry games, some days we'll get as big of crowds as the varsity teams at Plymouth, Canton and Salem." While the success has been nice, Van Wagoner admitted his joy of coaching goes deeper than the layer of victories his teams have compiled. "The most important thing is that the kids are learning and having fun," he said. "At this level — no, really at every level — kids should have fun playing basketball and my players have fun." ewright@hometownlife.com | (734) 953-2108

Madonna softball team heats up in AZ

BY TIM SMITH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

COLLEGE PREVIEW

A hot start in Arizona isn't fooling Al White. The veteran Madonna University softball coach, although satisfied with an 8-4 record at the Tucson Invitational, isn't getting carried away about the 2008 season just yet. "We're about where we thought we would be," said White, noting his 14-player team is thin on numbers and college experience. "The infield is playing very well and our pitching is doing well." At the top of the list at pitcher is senior lefty Liz Ballinger, who went 15-7 with a 2.95 ERA for the 2007 Crusaders (34-16, 14-6 in the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference).

In Arizona, Ballinger, who is overcoming an arm injury, won three of five decisions in Arizona, including a complete-game 13-3 win over Minot State. Complementing Ballinger in the circle this year will be freshmen Jessica Irwin and Michelle Henning, who also had success during the western swing. "We are going to go as far as our pitching will take us," White emphasized. "We have two freshmen pitchers. Jess Irwin has been outstanding so far as has Michelle Henning. Both threw well in Arizona for us." White said it would be tough for the team to overcome another injury to Ballinger, noting that "if she goes down for the season, it's going to hurt us. "She is coming off of

her injury and surgery and her arm is a little sore right now. (But) she threw a lot for us out in Arizona. ... She should be all right, but that is still a question mark."

AROUND THE HORN

Helping out the pitching staff is a solid, young infield featuring sophomore first baseman and Livonia Churchill product Caitlyn Sidor (.400, 4 homers, 31 RBI in 2007) at first and sophomore second baseman and Canton alum Brittney Scero (.337) at second. Junior catcher Danielle Richardson (.321), smooth-fielding junior shortstop Tedi Johnston (.292, 5 homers) and freshman third baseman Kelly Lesko of Trenton round out the infield lineup. "Defensively we aren't going to get much better than what we have right now," White noted. "Tedi and Danielle are going to lead us on the field." He really has high hopes for Lesko, who swings from the left side of the plate. "Kelly has been outstanding at third so far." Backing up Richardson behind the plate will be freshman Ashley Shay, a Garden City native who graduated from Dearborn Divine Child. Shay's versatility could help her see time playing somewhere in the infield, too. Senior infielder Christina Finch (.259) also brings a veteran presence that is generally lacking with the squad. Meanwhile, White said his outfielders are inexperienced

and might struggle at the beginning of the season. He does have juniors Kathleen Smiley (Walled Lake Western) and Mary Kate Setta, who batted .235 and .228, respectively last season. Other flycatchers vying for playing time include sophomore Rachael Kethe and freshman Tara LaMilza (who can also play infield). One area that White is taking a wait-and-see approach is at the plate, with younger players still making the adjustment from high school. "We have to hit."

INTERRUPTION

Although White likes the makeup of his team, he might have to wait a little while to see it on the field again. Madonna — which had games this weekend in Ohio cancelled by inclement weather — is scheduled to open the home season 3 p.m. Wednesday against Spring Arbor at University Field. But he is well aware of the cold, snowy weather that is still hitting southeast Michigan. "If we had some blow torches to melt the snow it might be a different story and we'd be excited," he added. "But the way it looks now we might not get back out onto the field until the end of March when we head down to Kentucky, and (we) might not get to play at home the entire month. "It's tough to go back into the gym and be indoors after playing 12 games outside and not getting to play for maybe two or three weeks now." tsmith@hometownlife.com



Sharp-shooting Mercury

The Mercury captured the girls CEBL B League title March 18. Pictured are (front row from left) Emily Sawyer, Chelsea Janice, Makenzie Hagan, Danielle Saleem, Carly Clark, Lauren Fette, (back row from left) coach Deb Janice, Taylor Hunley and coach Bruce Fette. Mercury, girls CEBL B League team, who won Tuesday night's (March 18th) Championship game.

MU spikers sign yet another prized recruit

VOLLEYBALL

The 11-time defending Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference women's volleyball champion Madonna University added another piece to its 2008 puzzle last week when head coach Jerry Abraham announced the signing of Allen Park Cabrini High standout Karie Altman. Abraham's fall recruiting class now includes Altman, Canton's Marie Martin and Wyandotte's Megan Fricke. "Karie is a quality, all-around athlete," Abraham said. "Our staff has liked her from the first time we saw her. In the front row, she is a terminating type of attacker who can hit from antenna to antenna. "She has the speed, agility and the court sense to hit out of the middle or come from the outside and attack as well.

She plays the game like one of our past all-Americans, Caryn Inman." Altman, a 6-foot middle and outside hitter from Taylor, has earned four volleyball letters during her time with the Monarchs. This season she helped lead her squad to the Catholic League C-D Division championship en route to being named All-Catholic, All-District, All-Region, All-State and for the third straight year to News Herald Downriver Dream Team. Altman has also earned a trio of letters on the basketball court, helping Cabrini to another Catholic League title this winter and to a state semifinal

appearance in the MHSAA tournament two weeks ago. She is also a standout on the softball diamond, helping Cabrini to back-to-back state championships and wrapping up the 2007 season with a perfect 35-0 record. "Karie has a whip for an arm and plays with a great deal of intensity," added Abraham. "In high school she was also a standout defensive back row player who never came out of the game. She is the kind of player who makes everyone around her better and we can not wait to start working with her this fall." MU, which earned its sixth straight trip to the NAIA National Tournament this season, returns 12 letter winners from a squad that finished 35-12 overall in 2007.

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.

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. Call (734) 728-1300.

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Tigers vs Twins
Monday, April 14, 7:05
FREE Ordoñez Batting Title Mini-Bat to first 10,000 fans, courtesy of Little Caesars.

Tigers vs Rangers
Tuesday, April 22, 7:05
Wednesday, April 23, 7:05
Motown Night
Thursday, April 24, 1:05

Tigers vs Angels
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Saturday, April 26, 3:55
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Aerobics can ease fibromyalgia

Jill from Eastpointe suffers from Fibromyalgia and wants tips for leading a fuller life.

Jill, almost 4 million Americans suffer from Fibromyalgia (also known as FM). FM patients have unexplained whole body muscle and joint pain. The symptoms can include chronic fatigue, muscle pain, impaired sleep patterns, and morning stiffness.

Treatments for FM include pain relief and helping the patients sleep, but exercise can also help people with the condition. They should begin with low impact aerobics and stretching activities like yoga or tai chi. After for weeks of aerobics, it should be okay to begin a weight program. Doctors think it is likely that FM is a metabolic problem and exercise is ideal for boosting the metabolism.

Walt from Rochester emails for tips on reducing arthritis pain that do not require medication. Walt, it is a simple fact of life. Chances are you will develop some form of arthritis if you live long enough! Osteoarthritis is caused by wear and tear on the joints and runs in many families. It is particularly common if you have had a previous injury or have a weight problem. Faced with the painful condition, most people avoid exercise and unnecessary activity. That, however, is a big mistake. Exercise strengthens muscles and in turn takes the pressure off joints!

People with arthritis should do exercises that help with flexibility and posture. Start off gradually with non-weight bearing exercises like water aerobics and work your way up to walking.

Also, be sure to check with your doctor or personal fitness trainer for the program that is right for you.

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

Lupus

One woman's battle with the autoimmune disease

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
OGE STAFF WRITER

Joscelyn Derene Knight tried to ignore the pain in her leg. She thought maybe the fatigue was from the split shifts she was working. Then Knight started having headaches that wouldn't go away.

Her sister, Ethel, encouraged her to make an appointment with a doctor, but Knight never expected a diagnosis of lupus. That was 1984 and she was in her early 20s. Back then Knight didn't know anything about the autoimmune disease which causes inflammation of tissues in the body. After having undergone a kidney transplant, hip and knee replacement surgeries, five years of dialysis, and a number of emergencies that left her and caregiver sister Constance spending many a night in a hospital, she decided to write *Lupus ... It Takes a Family* from Rosedog Books. Knight's goal is to help other families struggling with the disease.

"It was a nightmare," said Knight of Redford. "I wrote the book for therapy. It was so traumatic and long. I wrote the book to get a lot of this off of me."

"I would lose control of my legs. I came from a family of eight girls and two boys. Just getting through one day was the biggest challenge. It was extremely painful. You had to depend on God and your support, my mom and dad and Constance."

SYMPTOMS VARY

Dr. Robert S. Michaels has read Knight's book from cover to cover. The nephrologist began treating kidney diseases more than 30 years ago and says Knight's descriptions of her experiences reflect those of many of his lupus patients although every patient is different. Symptoms range from joint pain to skin rash, hair loss, fatigue, loss of appetite, swelling in the legs, and a butterfly rash depending on whether the disease affects only the skin or is systemic. Complications include an increased risk for blood clotting and accelerating cardiovascular disease.

"Lupus is a disease that affects multiple organs. The lung, the heart, the kidneys, all need to be assessed to see how lupus affects each system," said Michaels, chief of nephrology at the Detroit Medical Center's Sinai-Grace Hospital.

Michaels says to develop a treatment strategy it takes a team of physicians including a rheumatologist, nephrologist, internist, and in Knight's case a transplant specialist. Knight has the systemic type of lupus.

"Nephritis is the kidney disease from lupus. We have medications that can prevent them from needing dialysis. Sometimes lupus can destroy the kidneys," said Michaels of Nephron Associates in Southfield. Michaels is on staff at Providence Hospital in Southfield.

"The current approach is to use steroids with the addition of immunosuppressant therapy which usually consists of cyclosporin, CellCept which have made a great difference for kidney survival before transplant. I look at treating lupus as protecting the kidney from the body rejecting it before transplant so maybe transplant can be prevented."



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Joscelyn Derene Knight (left) and her sister, Constance Broner-Knight, pose in their Redford home where Joscelyn wrote her book on lupus. Constance was Joscelyn's caregiver as she battled the autoimmune disease.

GETTING BETTER

Treatment for lupus has vastly improved from 50 years ago, says Dr. W. Joseph McCune, director of the lupus clinic in the University of Michigan Health System. McCune has been treating lupus patients for more than 20 years. He is a professor in the department of internal medicine and associate chief for clinical programs, division of rheumatology at U-M.

"Our experience has been that lupus has been detected a little bit earlier in the past decade than previously and has been treated a little bit more quickly with medical regimens that have gradually improved so overall the outlook for patients has been improving," said McCune. "In the first half of the 20th century before introduction of cortisone and prednisone patients could not be adequately treated. In the 1950s cortisone and prednisone were introduced and then subsequently immunosuppressants. The last half of the 20th century is characterized by refinement of medications most of which had been in use for some years. In the past 10 years there have been trials ongoing of new and novel biologic agents, drugs made in such a way that they're tailored to specific aspects of immune response. There are many promising drugs being tried."

"We're learning how to identify and treat lupus better. Each five to 10 years we get better. We're living in a decade when about 10 treatments will be tried. In the 1990s many new therapies were developed for rheumatoid arthritis, biologic agents. This research has now been going on with lupus."

For the last five years, McCune and Emily Somers, Ph.D., have been in the midst of research to determine the prevalence of lupus in Washtenaw and Wayne counties as part of the MiLES Project funded by the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention. "Previous estimates have suggested that approximately nine out of 10 patients are women. One out of every 2,000 Caucasian and one in 500 African American women

'We're learning how to identify and treat lupus better. Each five to 10 years we get better. We're living in a decade when about 10 treatments will be tried. In the 1990s many new therapies were developed for rheumatoid arthritis, biologic agents. This research has now been going on with lupus.'

DR. W. JOSEPH MCCUNE, director of the lupus clinic in the University of Michigan Health System

may be affected by lupus. The study is designed to confirm this estimate," said McCune. "I think we're going to find out there's more lupus than people expect."

SUPPORT'S THERE

While there is no cure for lupus, there is treatment and support. An inaugural walk for the Lupus Foundation of America will be held in May to raise funds for research and support for patients and their families. Call (419) 423-9313 or visit www.lupus.org to learn more about the disease.

The Foundation is among the lupus organizations, including Michigan/Indiana Lupus Alliance and Alliance for Lupus Research, to provide support and research funding.

"We provide support and education as well, support in the form of support groups," said Bob Scherger, president of the northwest Ohio and Michigan region of the Lupus Foundation of America. "Our goal is to grow, that as complicated as the disease people can come together and share what their success of dealing with the disease until a cure is found. That's the best medicine until a cure is found."

Knight received her younger sister Sandy's kidney in 2000 at U-M. Knight has been in clinical remission ever since ever but the disease could reactivate at any time.

For more information about Knight's book, visit www.rosedogbooks.com.

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

Expert warns about the dangers of sun

As Old Man Winter continues his grip on Michigan, many people have winter vacation plans to a warmer climate or Spring Break getaway. This is a good time to remind adults and children to practice sun safety - whether they're in the Bahamas in March or Traverse City in July.

"Skin cancer is the most common form of cancer in the United States," said Henry Lim, M.D., chair of Dermatology at Henry Ford Hospital, "and most skin cancer are related to exposure to the sun."

More than one million skin cancers are diagnosed annually, and one in five Americans will develop skin cancer.

"Everyone should be able to enjoy the sun. But with a little common sense and some practical sun safety tips, people can protect themselves while playing outdoors and reduce their risk of developing skin cancer,"

said Lim who recommends these sun safety tips for people of any age when outdoors:

Use a broad-spectrum sunscreen with a sunscreen protection factor (SPF) of 15 or higher.

Sunscreen is designed to protect against ultraviolet B rays, which cause sunburn. Reapply frequently.

Wear protective clothing such as sunglasses and a wide-brimmed hat as well as pants and a long-sleeved shirt.

Seek shade when appropriate. The sun's rays are most intense between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.

Avoid tanning beds. The UV light from these and the sun causes skin cancer and wrinkling.

Check your birthday suit on your birthday. See a dermatologist if something on the skin is changing, growing or bleeding. Skin cancer is treatable when caught early.

MEDICAL DATEBOOK

MARCH

The C Club
Reclaim, Reshape & Renew the New You for Conquerors workshop presented by The C Club for Cancer Conquerors 4-6 p.m. Monday, March 24, at Shrine Conference Center, 29130 Woodward, Royal Oak. Cost \$20, includes signed copy of *Me, Myself and Why?* The Secrets to Navigating Change by Lisa Mininni, founder of The C Club. Visit www.theclub.org, call (734) 223-3938, or send e-mail to info@excellerateassociates.com.

Divorce support group
Learning to love after divorce, Lisa Pasbjerg discuss the new science of happiness, what researchers have learned that can make us happy and how it applies to your life, she will also present strategies to help you build assertiveness skills and self esteem needed to love yourself and your new life 7-9 p.m. Tuesday, March 25, in the Women's Resource Center (room 225) of the McDowell Center, Schoolcraft College, 18600 Haggerty, Livonia. Call (734) 462-4443.

Health seminar
Dr. Judith Reichman will be in Detroit 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 26, to host a digestive health seminar at the Gem Theatre, 333 Madison St., during a pre-show event before the performance of *Menopause the Musical* which begins at 8 p.m. For tickets, call (313) 963-9800.



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Forgiveness issue can be complicated

It is common for people to speak of forgiveness, especially in couple relationships. It either should happen or should not. People speak about it and expect it to be there at will — when, in fact, forgiveness can be a long and complicated process. Even spiritually forgiveness gets misused. The Bible, both Hebrew and Christian versions, describes a God of forgiveness; Jesus promises it. So when we want it, it should be available. And it should be OK for us not to forgive if we don't want to.

It is true that forgiveness is an individual decision. But is has some aspects to it, I was reminded about in some reading I did recently, that I want to share. The Smalley Center and several other authors point to being able to forgive and to let go of past hurts as a critical tool for a marriage relationship. Additionally, being able to forgive is a way to keep you healthy both emotionally and physically. There are healthy aspects to forgiveness. If you hold on to old hurts, disappointments, petty annoyances, betrayals, insensitivity and anger, you are wasting both your time and your energy. Nursing a perceived hurt can eventually make it in to something more — hate and extreme bitterness. Lack of forgiveness can wear you down. Additionally, being unforgiving is not good for either your physical or your mental well being.

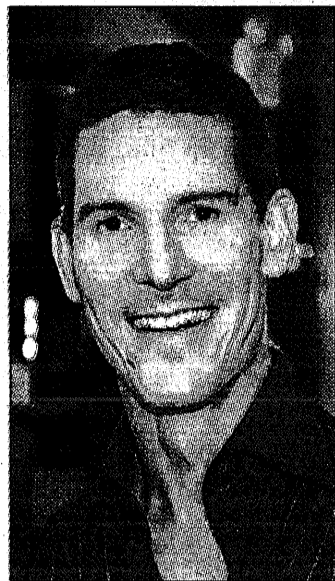
Here are some steps one author has for how to forgive.
Be open.
Make a decision to forgive your spouse.
When images of the betrayal or hurt flash in your mind, think of a calming place or do something to distract yourself from dwelling on those thoughts.
Don't throw an error or mistake back in your spouse's face at a later date.
William Menninger wrote (in *The Process of Forgiveness*): "Forgiveness, then, is not forgetting. It is not condoning or absolving. Neither is it pretending nor something done for the sake of the offender. It is not a thing we just do by a brutal act of the will. It does not entail a loss of identity, of specialness, or of face. It does not release the offenders from obligations they may or may not recognize. An understanding of these things will go a long way towards helping people enter into the forgiveness process."

Engaging in the tough process of forgiveness can give you and your partner more of a chance of a greater and healthier relationship.

Dr. Paul J. Melrose is executive director of the Samaritan Counseling Center of SE Michigan. He can be reached at www.paulmelrose.com or at (248) 474-4701. The Staff of the Samaritan Counseling Center can be reached at www.samaritancounselingmichigan.com or at (248) 474-4701.

Chat Room
Paul Melrose

'An amazing American talent'



Peter Soronen



Jody Soronen

BY STACY JENKINS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Peter Soronen gowns featured in charity auction

His fashions are donned by red carpet divas; they grace the covers of fashion magazines and they've even been spotted on a first lady hopeful on the campaign trail.

Distinctive in style and classic femininity, the pieces created by Peter Soronen are timeless, bold and not just for the skinny girls, said Ellen Carey, owner of New York-based Seedhouse, a talent publicity firm. "His designs give the lift, form and shape to areas of your body that you may not have seen in awhile," said Carey, noting the intricate inside work, including Victorian corset-inspired boning and seaming craft work.

The chic, always flattering designs have been worn by many celebrities, including Sarah Jessica Parker, Reese Witherspoon, Hilary Swank, Tina Fey, Jennifer Lopez, Jessica Lang and Eva Longoria. Brooke Shields' co-stars on the new TV hit series *Lipstick Jungle* wore Soronen's designs in the series premiere and in the promotional material for the show.

A Soronen suit was spotted recently on Michelle Obama as she took the stage with her husband, presidential hopeful Barack Obama at a campaign rally, said Carey.

Tender, in Birmingham, exclusively carries Soronen's designs. His spring collection is now available at Tender, a boutique that supports up and coming talent, said Carey.

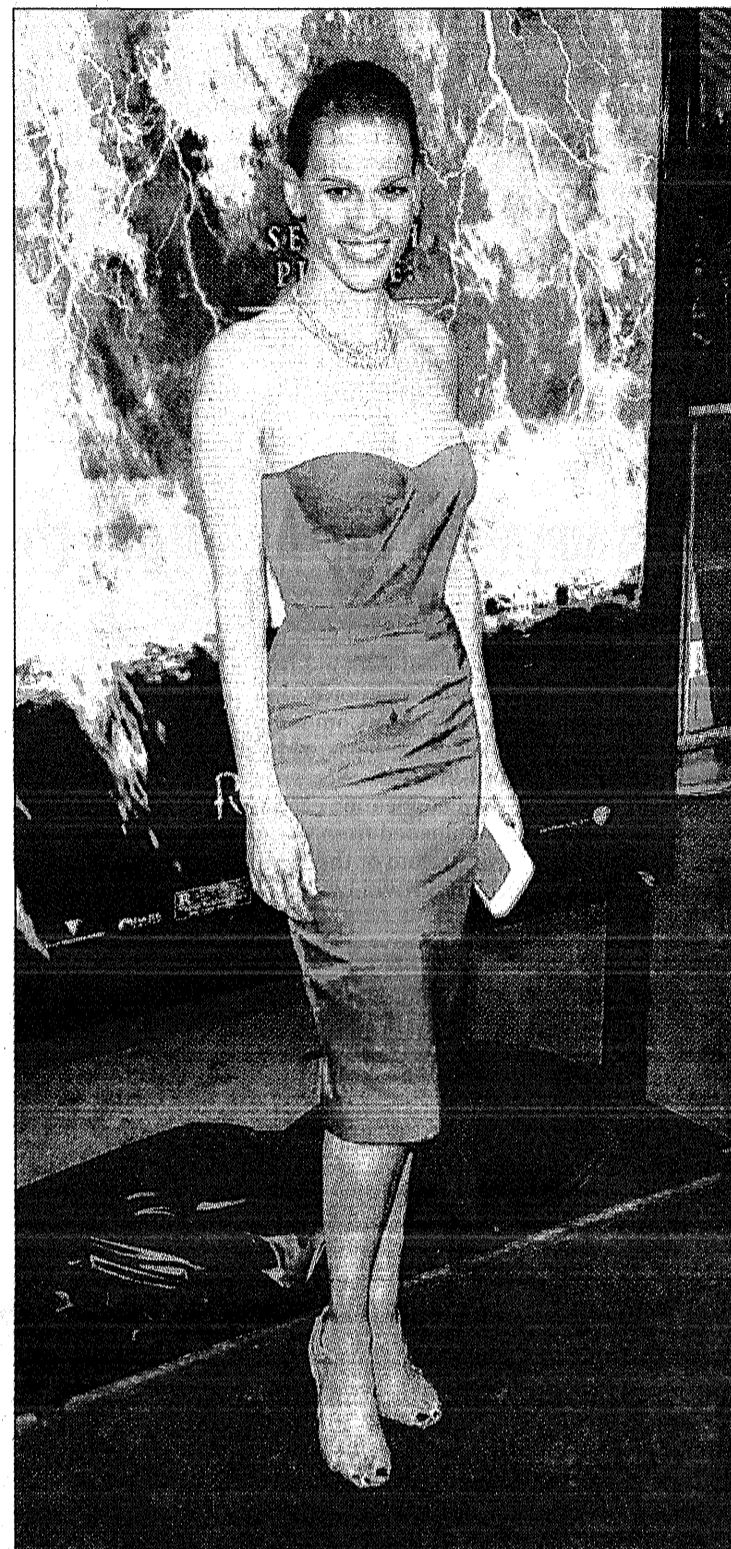
"(Tender owner) Karen Daskas' forward thinking has made him known in the city where he was born," said Carey. "They support new talents, and I think that's amazing."

Soronen, a Farmington Hills native, has donated seven dresses, of varying sizes, to a special event honoring his mother, Jody Soronen, an active member of the community and former Farmington Hills mayor who lost her battle with cancer in 2005.

Please see AUCTION, C3



Sarah Jessica Parker, in a Peter Soronen gown.



Hilary Swank sports a hot cherry red dress by Peter Soronen.



Michelle Obama purchased this Peter Soronen suit at a shop in Chicago.

PHOTO COURTESY OF SEEDHOUSE

Christine Hinkle has created a sizeable endowed scholarship fund to provide scholarships for students at Schoolcraft College.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Northville woman's gift to fund Schoolcraft scholarships

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Christine Hinkle lives simply, but comfortably in an apartment surrounded by cuddly stuffed bears, crafts and her cat, Casper. Her frugal lifestyle is one of the reasons the 86-year-old Northville woman was able to present a sizable estate gift to the Schoolcraft College Foundation.

The endowed scholarship fund

was announced Tuesday, March 18, during a spaghetti dinner and wine glow to raise money for the college's Women's Resource Center which provides help to men and women preparing to enter or re-enter the workforce.

Hinkle first learned about the center through Dorothy Gay, a friend who volunteered there. WRC offers support programs and scholarships for those in financial need.

The college will begin awarding the Hinkle-funded scholarships to students enrolling in classes for the fall 2008 semester. After it's fully funded, the Hinkle estate gift will be the largest scholarship fund in the college's history and one day could provide 30 full tuition scholarships each academic year.

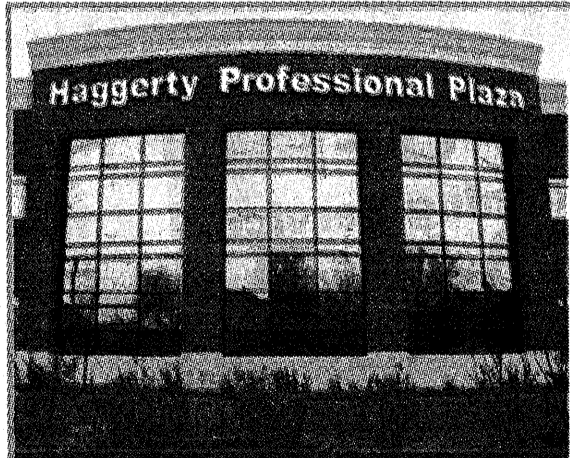
The Schoolcraft College district includes the public school districts of Clarenceville, Garden City, Livonia, Northville, Plymouth-

Canton, and part of Novi but draws students from all over.

"I would like to inspire people if they're able financially to inspire these young people so good minds don't go to waste," said Hinkle. "Being local they can stay at home and find out what they want to do."

Hinkle says her late husband, Lawrence, was a firm believer in education. He was an attorney who

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Spaghetti dinner to raise money for medical bills

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

It's tough for Rick VanOver to ask for help, but since falling and breaking his hip last October the 59-year old Livonia man's incurred an estimated \$60,000 in medical debt.

Friends are coming together to help the out-of-work welder by putting on a spaghetti dinner fund-raiser 3-7 p.m. Sunday, April 6, at the Wolverine Sports and Conservation Club, 27531 Grand River, one block west of Inkster Road in Livonia.

Tickets are \$10 for adults (in advance), \$3 for children age 10 and under; \$12 adults (at the door), \$5 children age 10 and under.

For more information, call Heidi at (248) 420-0495 or Diane Hamilton (248) 231-4269.

"Rick has no health insurance," said Hamilton, a friend. "Back in October when his fall

happened he went in for emergency surgery and resulted in over \$20,000 in bills. He had three pins inserted and his leg did not heal. It cost over \$30,000 for a total hip replacement in January. He could not put any weight on his leg, but now he's getting around on a walker and four-pronged cane. It will probably be about four months before he can even think about going back to work."

VanOver is presently receiving therapy three days a week while Hamilton and daughter Heidi Ray organize the fund-raiser with the help of family, friends and local businesses.

"It was my daughter's idea," said Hamilton of Livonia. "Her and I both worked together thinking even if with got a few people together it would help.

"It will be a spaghetti dinner cooked by an Italian friend of my daughter. We have people who have donated the noodles - Value Center and my uncle Robert Savage, and rolls being

donated by Leon's Family Restaurant in Livonia."

Ram's Horn in Livonia is donating salad along with Toarmina's Pizza on Seven Mile near Inkster Road.

An Ernie Harwell autographed baseball is just one of the donations given for the silent auction. Tickets to the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, Detroit Science Center, Detroit Tigers, and Toledo Mudhens, and Century Bowling are among the items up for bid along with wrestling memorabilia, hair styling baskets and gift certificates.

"Rick's very touched by the whole thing. We've gotten quite a few donations," said Hamilton. "Wolverine Sports & Conservation donated their bingo hall. We're having a 50/50 raffle, face painting and a bake sale. Rick might make some pies. He's itching to help some, but just can't be on his feet very long."

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



Members of Merriman Student Ministries from Merriman Road Baptist Church in Garden City competed in the Area Teens Involved event at Emmanuel Baptist Church in Flint on Feb. 23. The students continue to the regional level of competition to be held April 19.

Students to go on to regional competition

Merriman Road Baptist Church in Garden City sent 20 students to compete in the Area Teens Involved event at Emmanuel Baptist Church in Flint on Saturday Feb. 23.

The event is sponsored by Word of Life Fellowship to encourage youth in Christian service.

Members of Merriman Student Ministries prepared in categories including large and small vocal groups, male and female soloists, instrumentalists, dramas, special

presentation, and preaching. Qualified students continue to the next level of competition, the regional event, which will be held April 19. All of the Merriman students qualified for this next level of competition.

"We're encouraging our students to be devoted to the Lord and serve the community by using their gifts," said Associate Pastor Jeff Buchholz. "This venue gives them the opportunity to discover their gifts." Participant Nick

Walters prepared for preaching, large vocal group, and drama. Asked about the full day event he said, "Its fun to put your talents to a good use and this event was very encouraging."

Merriman Road Baptist Church has an active youth program with many opportunities for fellowship, training, and ministry for students in 7-12th grades. The church is located at 2055 Merriman. For information, call (734) 421-0472.

Exhibitors wanted for Art from the Heart

The Livonia Arts Commission is looking for artists for its third annual Art from the Heart show 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, June 14-15, on the grounds of Livonia City Hall at Farmington Rd. and Five Mile.

The events was formerly known as Art in the Village

and was held at Greenmead Historical Park in Livonia.

For more information, call Livonia's Community Resources Department at (734) 466-2540.

An application can also be downloaded from www.artsinlivonia.com or the city's Web site at www.ci.livonia.mi.us.

Admission to the annual event is free and shuttle service provided.

Additional activities and services include arts and crafts fun for children, package pickup and delivery, hourly raffles, entertainment, a sidewalk chalk-drawing contest, and food.

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Collectible toy show comes to Livonia

Winross Collectors Club of America, Michigan Chapter presents its' Spring 2008 Collectible Show 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday, March 30, at the Monaghan K of C Hall, 19801

Farmington Road, Livonia. Admission is \$3, children under age 12 free.

For information, call (586) 795-8281 or (248) 363-9495. The show features vendors with collectible and die cast

toys, Hot Wheels, model car kits, promos, action figures, sci-fi, and Matchbox.

Winross is a national club that specializes in collecting American-made 1/64th scale dies cast trucks.

Recital spotlights traditional Polish, novelty dancing

The PRCUA (Polish Roman Catholic Union of America) Tetry Dancers are holding a recital 3 p.m. Saturday, April 12, at Crestwood High School, 1501 Beech Daly, Dearborn Heights.

The afternoon spotlights traditional Polish dancing and lively novelty dances.

Tickets are \$6 in advance, \$8 at the door. For information, call (313) 274-0183.

Golden Agers mark anniversary

The Golden Agers, a senior citizen group that operates under a theme of "sharing, caring and concern for others," is marking its 35th anniversary this year.

A special celebration marking the occasion will be at 11 a.m. Monday, April 21, at the Memorial Church of Christ, 35475 Five Mile. Main speakers are the Rev. Mark McGilvrey of Memorial Church of Christ and the Rev. Todd Lackie of Kenwood Church.

Music and other special events will be presented by Joel Paul. The Golden Agers began back in 1973 at Kenwood Church of Christ, where members met for 19 years. Other churches began joining these meetings and soon the group included people from 20 different communities representing three different counties.

Led by Ralph Congdon, members gather monthly, except during the summer, for fellowship, lunch, entertainment and outreach projects. They send monthly contributions to a senior retirement home called Great Lakes Christian Homes in Holt, Michigan. Members also donate craft items for a fall boutique, where funds raised are used for the residents.

Golden Agers also show their spirit by helping the American Legion with pop can rings, which are redeemed for medical equipment for hospitalized children, and performing outreach for the Lutheran Senior City in Columbus, Ohio; the Detroit Rescue Mission; American Cancer Foundation; and others.

Lunch entertainment, over the years, has included the Livonia Police Department Canine Unit, Livonia Firefighters, Silver Strings Dulcimer Society, Holmes Middle School Choir, Great Lakes Lighthouse-keepers Association, Spirit of Detroit Chorus of Sweet Adelines, USS Enterprise Exhibit and others.

The group invites all retired people to join them during their monthly gatherings on the third Monday of every month from September through May at the church.

For more details about the celebration or the group, call (734) 353-6722.

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GIFT

FROM PAGE C1

graduated from Wayne State University. She worked her way up to management during a 40-year career with an insurance company. Hinkle said they lived on his salary and she put her money in the bank and bought bonds. She retired from the Wausau office in Southfield in 1986. Since then she's stayed active by keeping her hands busy with crafts, basket making and painting, and volunteering with the Northville Historical Society and Northville Library. They had no children.

VALUE OF EDUCATION

"He was very interested in investing. I'm doing this on his behalf also. Education was very important to him," said Hinkle of her husband who died in 1996. She moved to Independence Village in Northville not long after losing her partner of nearly 49 years.

The Hinkles' longtime C.P.A. and financial adviser, Richard Gillikan, suggested the Schoolcraft College Foundation about eight months ago when Christine was trying to decide where the couple's estate would go after her death. Joanne Kwasiuk, an associate of Gillikan, has been working with the Foundation to create the Hinkle endowed scholarship fund.

Kwasiuk's been helping Hinkle ever since she encountered problems applying for Social Security. Hinkle was turned down because she wasn't a citizen. She never knew that her family immigrated to America from Scotland when Hinkle was 9 months old. Her mother died when she was 14 and never told her. She had to wait five years before she was able to take the test to become a citizen.

"I became close with her" (Christine), took her shopping. She got to know my girls," said Kwasiuk, an accountant who lives in Livonia. "I think the estate gift is wonderful, the whole idea of it helping people who wouldn't otherwise go to college. I think it's amazing.



Christine Hinkle attended the Women's Resource Center spaghetti dinner Tuesday night where it was announced she created a major endowed scholarship fund for students in financial need.

Especially since I have two girls, age 16 and 12. My oldest is thinking of Schoolcraft for the first year because it's local and inexpensive.

"The Foundation created a plan and worked with her (Hinkle's) estate attorney. You can have it just tuition but hers is all inclusive, it includes the recipient's children."

GIVING WAYS

According to John Walsh, executive director of development and governmental relations and Foundation board member, Hinkle is typical of the donors who support the college for years before deciding to develop an estate plan.

"She started with small gifts and attending different events which is the traditional path for our donors. They start by coming to a culinary extravaganza or taking a community ed course," said Walsh of Hinkle, who's taken classes at the college as a senior citizen. "The story is great because she is an ordinary person, not born to great wealth. She and her husband worked hard and saved their money. She's trying to give it away in a way that's meaningful for the future. She wants everyone to know anyone can do this. This type of gift permits us to help students

to attend school. Very often it makes a difference between whether or not a student can even attend here.

"We have a \$10 million endowed balance in the Foundation. Her estate plan allows us to grant more scholarships to more needy students only on interest earned. That means it will be perpetual."

Walsh suggests anyone considering leaving their estate to the foundation consult an attorney or financial adviser "so they're not jeopardizing their future." For more information about setting up an

endowed scholarship fund, call the Schoolcraft College Foundation office at (734) 462-4455 and ask for Walsh or Jason Valente, director of development.

"Nationally the trend is people are doing more estate planning gifts because the federal government had made it worth their while," said Walsh. "There's a great deal of wealth accumulated by baby boomers who are now thinking about their estate and tax advantageous rulings."

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AUCTION

FROM PAGE C1

The dresses will be showcased in The Celebration of Creativity fashion show and luncheon event at 11:30 a.m., Saturday, April 5, at Oakland Community College, Orchard Ridge Campus in Farmington Hills.

Each dress will be up for auction, with proceeds to benefit the Farmington Area Arts Commission, an organization that was close to Jody Soronen's heart.

Peter Soronen said he's happy to participate, in honor of his mother.

"When they approached me about it, I thought it would be a great way to give back to the community that I left so long ago," said Soronen, who lives in New York.

Guests will enjoy lunch from the award-winning OCC Culinary Institute, live harp music, and a silent auction.

Peter Soronen will be on hand to pay tribute to his mother, who served as chair of the Michigan Municipal League Legislative Committee, and executive director of the Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce. She was active with the Farmington Community Arts Council, the Farmington Founders Festival and many other organizations.

Her son's interest in fashion design began in Farmington Public Schools and contin-

ued at Oakland Community College, where he took his first pattern design class. His career started in Chicago in the early 1990s, where he found his niche in turning corsets into garments.

He designed wedding gowns and evening attire, carving out his own distinct style with every piece. Soon, his business grew and moved to New York City, where his prolific work includes seasonal collections and runway shows.

"He is so successful in a difficult economy — he's truly an amazing American talent," said Carey.

Besides visiting Tender on Maple in downtown Birmingham, his creations may be seen at www.petersoronen.com.

Rita Dilanian of Farmington Hills said she's excited to present this event to the public and that she's grateful for Soronen's involvement and his generosity.

"We're all so proud of him," she said. "He's a good person to offer us all of these gowns."

The fashion show models include: Miss Oakland County Samantha Steckloff, Marianne Carolan, Kristi Bowden, Erica Huyck, Diane Sarkisian and Susie Ellwood. Celebration of Creativity tickets are \$45 and may be purchased at the Costick Center, 28600 W. 11 Mile, or by calling (248) 473-1848.

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Second, always bend down, not over. When an object is on the floor or pots are on a lower shelf, kneel to reach the object or the pots. If getting up from the kneeling position is difficult for you, then part of the task of kneeling includes finding a chair or ledge to help you raise yourself up.

Third, as much as possible sleep on your back and side, not on your stomach. When you sleep on your stomach, you accentuate the lordotic curve the greatest support; being on your stomach puts the lordotic curve at its maximum strain.

Fourth, stand and walk with good posture; your stomach should be even with your chest, and your ear lobes should be even with your collar bone. This posture puts the least stress on your low back, and uses intra abdominal pressure rather than back muscle contracture to hold you upright.

Fifth, take regular exercise, whether it is walking, swimming, or going on a treadmill, bike or track. For your back muscles to keep flexible and strong, you need to keep your body flexible and strong. After age 60, consider exercise as medicine; you need to take it once a day, every day.

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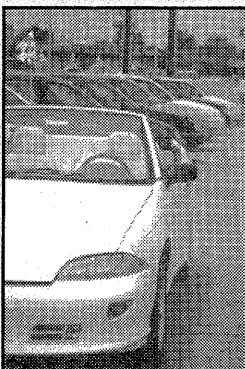
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2008 Land Rover LR2 HSE, at home on-and off-road

Advertising Feature

CAReport



By Dave Menard
Avanti News Features



So many SUVs are sold to people who have no intention of using them for anything resembling "sport." I have to admit I would be one of them. I'm not an off-roader, so an SUV's off-road capabilities don't matter to me much on a personal level. On a professional level, though, I know there are lots of you who want something you can take off-road, as well as look good on city streets. If that describes you, I'd advise you to take a good look at the 2008 Land Rover LR2 HSE.

Simply put, the LR2 seems equally at home no matter where you drive it. It's an impressive-looking SUV, with a clamshell bonnet, stepped roof, and wraparound headlights (with headlight washers). The headlights are available as either halogen lights, or High Intensity Discharge projector lamps, with Adaptive Front Lighting - which allow the lights to swivel with the direction of travel - available as part of an optional lighting package (\$1,050). Eighteen-inch aluminum alloy wheels are standard, as are front and rear fog lamps.

Inside, the cabin is functional with a touch of elegance. Instrumentation includes a tachometer and coolant temperature gauge; there's a driver's information center in the middle of the instrument panel, as well. The leather-wrapped steering wheel also features audio controls and the cruise control switches.

The standard leather seats are comfortable and provide excellent support, even during long trips. The seats are six-way power adjustable, including height-adjustable. Driving position is excellent, and rear seat passengers enjoy an excellent view, thanks to the "stadium seating" design, which places rear passengers at a slightly higher elevation than those in the front seat.

There's plenty of room in the LR2, both for cargo and for people. Total luggage volume is almost 60 cubic feet with the rear seats folded forward and 26.7 cubic feet when the seats are raised. The rear cargo area features a reversible load floor cover; one side is carpet for those items you might not want to scratch, while the other side is a water-resistance surface on the other for sports equipment or things that might otherwise get the carpet dirty.

The roof line is high enough for tall drivers, and there's



The 2008 Land Rover LR2 HSE. A capable performer no matter the terrain.

a lot of leg and shoulder room, as well. The standard power tilt-and-slid sunroof with sunblinds provides nice natural light for the cabin during the day. Visibility is excellent, thanks to the liberal use of glass.

The LR2 comes with some nice standard features. Power windows, rear park distance control, dual-zone automatic climate control, cruise control and the above-mentioned sunroof are all standard.

The standard audio system is an AM/FM/CD system with eight speakers and a subwoofer. For \$3,500, you can upgrade to a system that features Dolby Pro-Logic II 7.1 Surround Sound, upgraded amplifier, 14 speakers, sub-woofer, six-disc in-dash CD changer, rear seat audio controls, satellite radio, Bluetooth connectivity, and integrated navigation system.

Both the upgraded audio and navigation systems are excellent; the navigation system is clear and easy to use (with a nice feature that allows you to turn off the voice guidance system, if you like), and the sound system is one of the best out there.

There is a Cold Climate Package offered as an option. This \$700 package gets you a heated front windshield, heated front row seats and heated windshield washer jets.

I'll admit I didn't go off-road with the LR2, so I can't give you a first hand account of how it would do off-road, but I can tell you that on city streets and long highways, the LR2 is a joy to drive, and I don't say that about a lot of SUVs.

The ride is excellent for an all-wheel drive vehicle, and it's fairly easy to handle. You can choose for four different Terrain Response settings to get the right driving environment for you: General Driving; Grass/Gravel/Snow, Mud/Ruts, and Sand. Each provides different responses from the gearbox, engine, chassis and center coupling to maximize traction as necessary.

Dynamic Stability Control, Hill Descent Control and

Electronic Traction control are part of the LR2's drive system, as well, allowing it to adapt to various driving conditions.

The LR2 is powered by 3.2-liter, 24-valve, in-line, 6-cylinder engine. It's rated at 230 horsepower and 234 lb.-ft. of torque. It gets you get under way fairly quickly, with a 0-60 time of 8.4 seconds. Mileage is respectable for an all-wheel drive vehicle - 16 mpg in the city and 23 on the highway.

The engine is mated with a six-speed automatic transmission. You can choose a driving mode that fits your needs: sport or normal. You can also shift the gears yourself, if you like, using the LR2's Command-Shift mode. I wouldn't bother; the automatic gear selections suit everyday driving just fine.

Anti-lock brakes are standard and they are excellent. The LR2 also comes with dual-threshold driver and front passenger airbags, driver's knee airbag, side-impact airbag for driver and front seat passenger and side-curtain airbags for first- and second-row occupants.

The 2008 Land Rover LR2 HSE starts at a little over \$35,000. Add the Cold Climate Package, Lighting Package, and the upgraded audio/navigation system and you're close to \$41,000. Not bad really for an all-wheel drive SUV you can really take just about anywhere.

Maybe next time I will.

Dave Menard can be reached at Avanti1054@aol.com

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per mo

\$2,025 Due at Signing

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GALLON**



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per mo

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MILES PER
GALLON**



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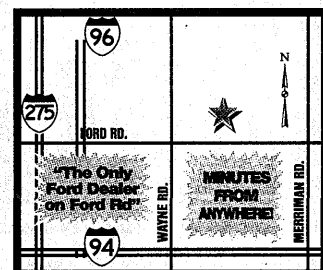
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New Homes



Sunday, March 23, 2008

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

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

www.hometownlife.com

What, me worry? Newman offers gracious living with ease

The unique V-shape of the Newman (D1689) uses the front entry area with the various rooflines above as accents to draw the eyes of the beholder. The large fireplace chimney in the rear also lends eye appeal to the façade. A large three-car garage faces the left side while all the bedrooms face the left side.

Columns support the cov-

ered stoop entry into the Newman. Once inside the arched entry opens into a large, spacious great room. To the left of the entry is an open dining room with taller ceilings. Behind the angular wall of the dining room is the utility with a door opening into the garage. Adjacent is a half bath and closet.

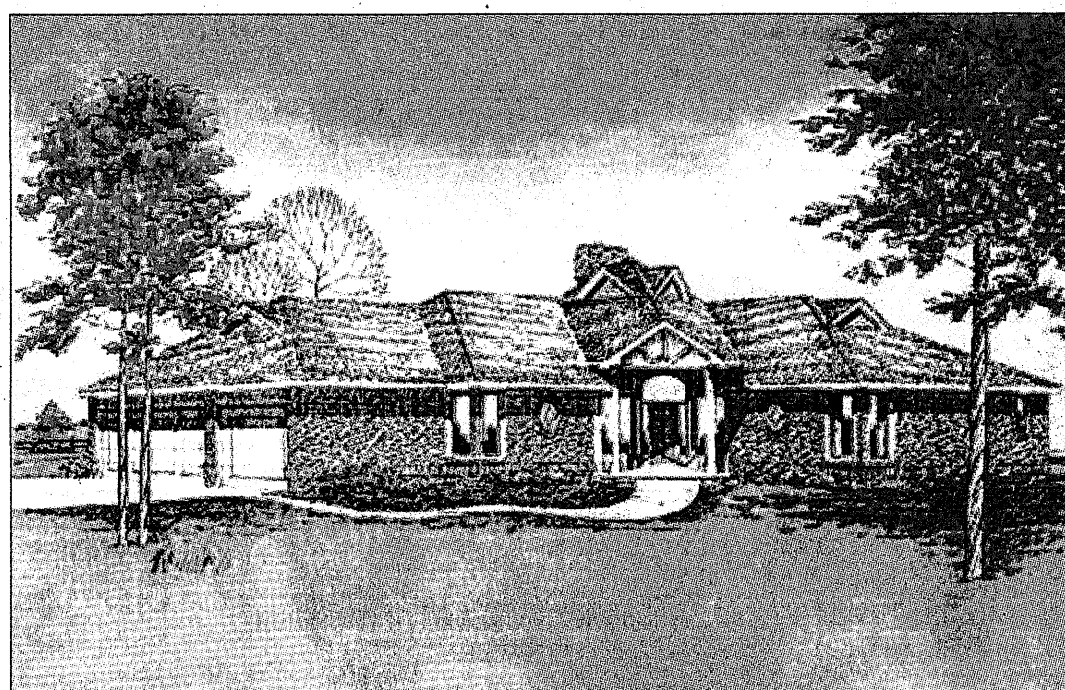
The corner kitchen has an island in the middle while

cabinets and appliances line the wall in a C-shape. Over the sink is a garden window. A corner walk-in pantry is convenient to the door to the garage for ease of putting groceries away. Separating the kitchen/nook from the great room is a built-in desk on the wall to the stairs to the unfinished basement.

Twelve-foot ceilings, a fireplace centered in the V, and windows lining both sides, accent the beautiful great room. A covered deck with roof louvers over the windows adds to the charm of the room. There are column posts near the entry and a corner post off the stairs for support and to add to the room's decor.

The right side of the Newman is devoted to the bedrooms. The master suite is on the outside wall. French doors open into the main suite while a full master bath is in the rear corner. A raised spa tub is separated from the shower by glass blocks, while his and her sinks are opposite. A large walk-in closet with shelves is adjacent to the sinks.

Bedrooms 2 and 3 are fac-



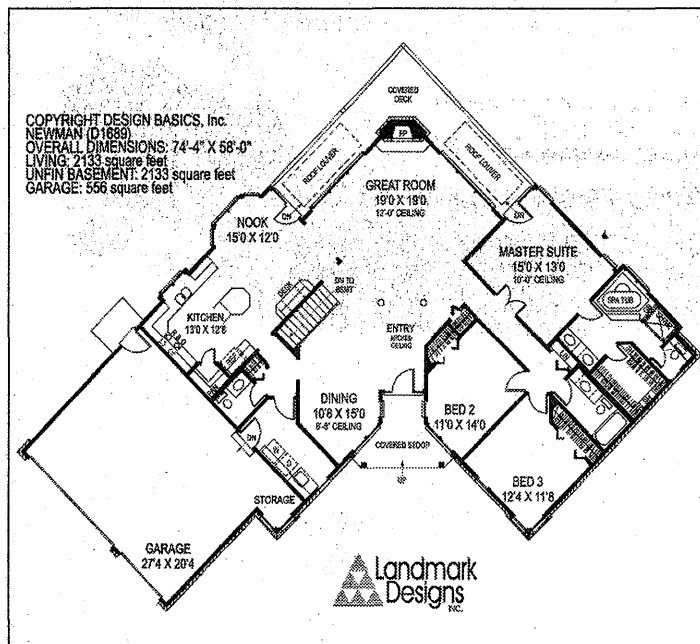
ing the front of the home. Each has wall closets and bedroom 3 has a special set of windows in the front corner. Convenient to both bedrooms is a full bath with a tub.

This wonderfully unique 2,133-square-foot home would lend itself to the family that likes to entertain. The openness of the great room

and the dining room would be ideal for the large family gathering or the gathering of friends for the holidays.

For a study plan of the NEWMAN (D1689), send \$15 to Landmark Designs, 33127 Saginaw Rd. E., Cottage Grove, OR 97424 or call (800) 562-1151. Be sure to specify plan name and number. Compact disks, with

search functions are free of charge, to help you search our portfolio for your dream home (\$5 shipping and handling will apply). Or you may order or search online at www.ldiplans.com. Save 15 percent on construction plans using the code (LOE48) online, mailing, or calling (800) 562-1151.



Oakland Builders

Get the help you need to start and maintain a successful business with an eight-hour comprehensive seminar offered by Henry Ford Community College in cooperation with Oakland Builders Education Seminars. The seminar is scheduled for Tuesday/Thursday, March 25 & 27, from 6-10 p.m. at Henry Ford Community College, Dearborn Heights Campus, 22586 Ann Arbor Trail, Dearborn Heights.

This seminar is designed to help make sense of and remove the unknowns of purchasing, starting and maintaining a successful business. The cost of the seminar is \$105 for residents plus \$20 for the course textbook. Pre-registration with payment is preferred as classes may cancel. Call Henry Ford Community College at (313) 317-1500 to register Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. On-site registration with payment is acceptable.

BIA

Building Industry Association of Southeastern Michigan (BIA) and its NAHBR Professional Remodelers will present the ABCs of Remodeling for all interested homeowners. The event will take place at Doyle Center, 7275 Wing Lake Road in Bloomfield Hills on Tuesday, April 1, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. and is free to everyone. The Center is located just west of Telegraph and north off 14 Mile. Homeowners will have an opportunity to speak directly with remodelers and to providers of related services. A panel of experts will discuss what homeowners need to know about major and minor remodeling for improvement projects such as kitchens and baths, home additions and insurance repairs. Also included will be information on energy efficiency, cost and financing and how to hire a professional contractor.

The panel of experts includes Mark Renn of H.J. Oldenkamp, John Maloney of BOA Construction, Don Pratt of Wake-Pratt Construction, Patty Shea of Shea Company Construction, Tim Smith of Countrywide Bank, FSB, Mike Gordon, A.I.A., of Moiseev/Gordon Architects and Don Bourdeau of Al Bourdeau Insurance. Each expert is a member of BIA and its NAHBR Professional Remodelers Council.

Exhibitors will be on hand to show their remodeling products and services, includ-

ing Advance Plumbing & Heating Supply, Affordable Spaces/Four Seasons, Andersen Windows, Carnovale Associates, Closets Plus, Inc., Hinkson Construction Co., Michigan Shelf Distributors, Newmyer Remodeling and Shea Company Construction.

The event is free to everyone. For further information, call the Association, (248) 862-1008.

Building Industry Association of Southeastern Michigan (BIA) and Construction Association of Michigan (CAM) present The Southeast Michigan Residential & Commercial Construction Safety Training Workshop on Thursday, April 3, from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Total Sports Complex, 30990 Wixom Road in Wixom.

The seminar will include how to deal with fall protection, trenching, rigging, masonry, aerial lift, fire protection, scaffolding, asbestos awareness and more.

Registration is \$75 per person. After March 25, registration is payable at the door only and is \$90 per person. To register, call Joe Forgue at (248) 972-1141 or Sheila Denstaedt at (248) 862-1033. To register online, visit www.cam-online.com or www.builders.org

Building Industry Association of Southeastern Michigan (BIA) presents Green Built Training on Wednesday, April 9, from 9-10:30 a.m. at 879 Benjamin, Troy. This house built by Wake-Pratt Construction is on the east side of Crooks Road, north of Square Lake Road.

In this first of five trainings, Chris Pratt of Wake-Pratt Construction discusses the technical and sales aspects of Building Green using materials and methods that result in Green Built® certification. Building Green offers a change from selling cost per square foot to making an environmental statement. Training is free for BIA members. Advance registration is required. For registration information, call (248) 862-1008.

Building Industry Association of Southeastern Michigan (BIA) will sponsor a Certified Graduate "Design Build" course on Tuesday, April 15, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at BIA headquarters, 30375 Northwestern Highway, Suite 100, in Farmington Hills.

Chuck Breidenstein, CAPS of Builders Professional Services Group, will teach techniques that lead to a well managed, full service build-



The Building Industry Association of Southeastern Michigan will present the ABCs of remodeling for homeowners from 6:30-8:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 1, in Bloomfield Hills.

ing or remodeling business with increased profits and maximized customer satisfaction. He will also discuss the benefits of implementing a design/build strategy and how to make it successful.

Registration fees are \$155 for NAHBR Professional Remodeler members, \$175 for BIA members and \$200 for guests. For registration information, call (248) 862-1033.

Building Industry Association of Southeastern Michigan (BIA) and its Sales & Marketing Council (SMC) will present "Selling to the CAPS Generation, the New Gen X" (Certified Aging-In-Place) on Wednesday, April 16, from 8:30-10:30 a.m. at BIA headquarters, 30375 Northwestern Highway, Suite 100 in Farmington Hills.

Chuck Breidenstein, CAPS, of Builders Professional Services Group, will instruct attendees on how to communicate and interact with this exciting and evolving population and how to do business with one of the fastest growing market segments. Registration fees are \$15 for SMC members, \$25 for BIA or Apartment Association of Michigan members and \$50 for guests. For registration information, call (248) 862-1033.

BRIEFS

Management Council (PMC) will sponsor a professional maintenance course on "Pool Chemistry and Maintenance" on Thursday, April 17, from 8 a.m. to noon at Wilmar Offices, 23975 Research Drive, Farmington Hills.

Wilmar staff will instruct attendees in aspects of pool chemistry, filtration, circulation, routine cleaning, daily testing and chemical maintenance. Fees are \$45 per person. For registration information, call (248) 862-1033.

Apartment Association of Michigan's (AAM) Property Management Council (PMC) will sponsor a "Leasing 101: The 2008 Tour" seminar on Friday, April 25, from 9 a.m. to noon at AAM headquarters, 30375 Northwestern Highway, Suite 100, in Farmington Hills. Led by Kathleen Mabie of Success on Site, the seminar will cover competitive analysis of what is being sold, setting up the close, telephone techniques, Internet and e-mail and meet-greet information. The seminar is valuable for newly hired leasing personnel as well as seasoned ones. Registration fees are \$69 for PMC members, \$79 for AAM or Building Industry Association of Southeastern Michigan members and \$99 for guests. For registration information, call (248) 862-1033.

'Tools of the Trade'

Real estate author, speaker and expert forecaster Stefan Swanepoel will present his visionary "Top 10 Trends" for 2008 as Realcomp II Ltd. hosts its annual "Tools of the Trade" Expo, Thursday April 10, from 9 a.m. to 3:35 p.m. at the Ford Conference and



Stefan Swanepoel

Event Center in Dearborn. Swanepoel will serve as the Expo's keynote speaker.

Free and open to all Michigan Realtors and support personnel, the all-day, Big Top-themed event will also feature presentations, technological displays and more than 50 exhibitors sharing industry innovations. A catered lunch will be served by Opus to Go.

"Each year, the Expo provides Michigan Realtors with a comprehensive forum for networking as well as discovering new resources and information designed to enhance their business and ability to

serve their customers," said Karen Kage, CEO of Realcomp II Ltd. "As attendance for our event continues to grow, we are looking forward to more than 1,000 Realtors joining us this year. 'Tools of the Trade,' we are quite happy to say, has truly become one of Michigan real estate's most anticipated events."

To register for the Expo or to obtain information, visit online at: www.RealcompExpo.com.

Broker Summit

The Michigan Association of Realtors will host its sixth annual Broker Summit Conference on April 15-16. The event will be held at the Hyatt Regency in Dearborn.

The 2008 Broker Summit will feature industry speaker Dr. Lawrence Yun, chief economist and senior vice president of Research for the National Association of Realtors. Also highlighting the event will be John Tuccillo, author of *The Eight New Rules of Real Estate*; Sherry Chris, president and CEO of Better Homes and Gardens Real Estate; Steve Harney, industry leader in real estate agent training; Greg McClelland, counsel to the Michigan Association of Realtors; Kelly Myers, of McClelland & Anderson, LLP; Nancy Haynes, director of Fair Housing Center of West Michigan; and Brian Westrin, MAR manager of Legal Affairs. An expert legal panel and MAR update are also scheduled. For more information, visit the MAR web site at <http://www.mirealtors.com/brokersummit/2008.html> or contact Joe Kras at (800) 454-7842.

Parade of Staged Homes

The second annual Parade of Staged Homes Event will be held 1-4 p.m. Sunday, May 4. Proceeds of the event benefit Ronald McDonald House of Detroit. Its purpose is to showcase exceptional houses and the Realtors who understand how to use home staging as a marketing tool, as well as provide an opportunity for the public to meet Accredited Home Staging Professionals that are helping to market and ultimately sell houses quickly in the Detroit metro area. Those who are interested in finding a quality home or learning about the staging process to sell their properties are encouraged to attend. Houses can be located by going to www.paradeofstagedhomes.com for map and addresses. Admission is free.

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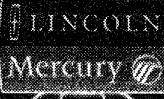
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Signature

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2008 MERCURY MILAN



5 speed auto transmission, 2.3L 14 engine, P205/60R16 all season tires, interior trim metal auto pkg, 16" aluminum wheels, Stock #81583

\$187* Per Mo. \$0 Cash due at signing

2008 MERCURY SABLE



6 speed automatic transmission, 3.5L V6 Duratec engine, P215/60R17 BSW tires, SYNC system, reverse sensing & cargo mgmt. Stock #81191

\$267* Per Mo. \$0 Cash due at signing

2008 MERCURY MOUNTAINEER



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-sp auto O/D trans, 6180 lb. GVW, adjust pedals, ultrasonic reverse sensing. Stock #81588

\$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

\$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

\$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

\$433* Per Mo. \$0 Cash due at signing

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2008 FUSION SE

2.3L 14 eng., 5-speed auto trans, P205/60R16 all season tires, air, speed/tilt wheel, pwr/WL, perimeter anti-theft system, 1st & 2nd row air curtains, fog lamps, 6-way power seat. Stock #82163.

24 Month Lease
\$127* Per Mo. \$2500 Due At Signing
WAS \$20,535

NOW \$16,517*

FORD MAKES 1ST PAYMENT

2008 TAURUS SEL

illum. entry, power windows, locks, seats, speed control, tilt, anti-lock brakes, keyless, CD and more. Stock #81192.

24 Month Lease
\$183* Per Mo. \$2500 due at signing
WAS \$23,995

NOW \$17,677*

FORD MAKES 1ST PAYMENT

2008 EXPLORER XLT

4.0L SOHC, 5-speed auto OD trans, conven. group, cast alum whls, auto lamp headlights, and much, much more. Stock #81320.

24 Month Lease
\$228* Per Mo. \$2500 due at signing
WAS \$26,740

NOW \$20,707*

FORD MAKES 1ST PAYMENT

2008 FOCUS 4 DR SE

Auto, air, aluminum wheels, power windows & locks, 15" alum wheels, remote keyless, anti-lock brakes message center. Stock #81082.

24 Month Lease
\$143* Per Mo. \$2500 Due At Signing
WAS \$17,195

NOW \$14,123*

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4 to choose

2008 MUSTANG SHELBY'S

4 to choose

NOW \$27,057*

FORD MAKES 1ST PAYMENT

2008 F150 S. CAB XLT 4x4

5.4 V8, 11m. slip axle, 7700 GVW, 4-tow & go, 17" alum wheels, fog lamps & much more. Stock #82133.

24 Month Lease
\$234* Per Mo. \$2500 due at signing
WAS \$35,855

NOW \$27,057*

FORD MAKES 1ST PAYMENT

2008 ESCAPE XLT

Privacy glass, PW-PL, power seat, fog lamps, auto headlamps, tilt, speed control, AM/FM CD, moonroof, sat. radio, conv. group. Stock #82016.

24 Month Lease
\$185* Per Mo. \$2500 Due At Signing
WAS \$23,255

NOW \$18,954*

FORD MAKES 1ST PAYMENT

2008 EDGE SE

17" aluminum wheels, power windows & locks, privacy glass, speed control, tilt, front & side impact air bags. Stock #81751.

24 Month Lease
\$191* Per Mo. \$2500 due at signing
WAS \$26,035

NOW \$21,545*

FORD MAKES 1ST PAYMENT

2008 TAURUS LIMITED

Leather, 18" aluminum wheels, heated dual power seats, 6-disc CD, auto temp control air, anti theft, auto headlamps, power windows and locks, power mirrors and more. Stock #80535.

24 Month Lease
\$196* Per Mo. \$2500 due at signing
WAS \$27,595

NOW \$20,810*

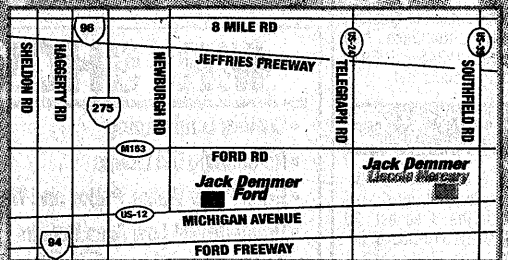
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