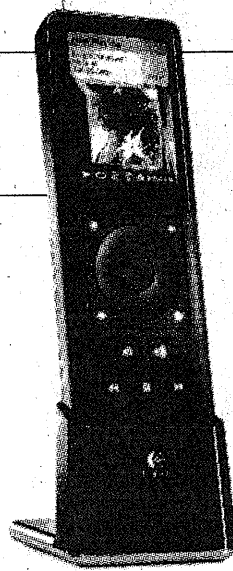


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Westland teen pleads guilty in beheading

BY BRAD KADRICH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Alexander Letkemann, the 18-year-old from Westland accused of helping kill a River Rouge man in November, has accepted a plea to a charge of second-degree murder in the case.

Letkemann, who was scheduled to go to trial on first-degree murder and mutilation of a corpse charges Monday, pleaded guilty to the lesser charge in Wayne County Circuit Court Tuesday.

The agreement includes sentences of 20-30 years on the second-degree murder charge and 10 years on the mutilation charge. The sentences would run concurrently. A felony murder charge, dismissed at a preliminary hearing in 35th District Court but reinstated by Wayne County Circuit Court Judge Annette



Orlewicz

Berry, will be dismissed when the plea becomes official at Letkemann's April 23 sentencing, court officials said.

Both Maria Miller, a spokeswoman for the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office, and Letkemann's attorney, Raymond Cassar, declined to comment, citing a gag order imposed by Berry in the case.

Letkemann and Jean Pierre Orlewicz were arrested two days after the Nov. 7 murder of Daniel Sorensen and charged with killing him in the garage of Orlewicz's grandfather's Canton Township home. Police say the pair then beheaded Sorensen and dumped his body in a Northville Township field, burning it to try to

mask identification. The head was then thrown into the Rouge River, from where it was recovered a few days later.

Orlewicz is scheduled to go on trial on first-degree murder, felony murder and mutilation of a corpse charges Monday. But Berry this week dealt a blow to the self-defense strategy Orlewicz attorney James Thomas said he would use when she refused to admit evidence about Sorensen's past behavior.

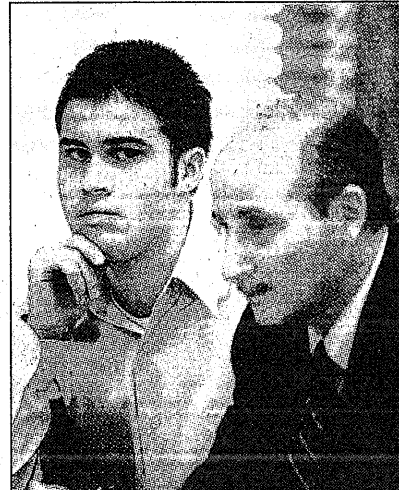
In court documents, Thomas has portrayed Sorensen as a violent person, trying to admit into evidence personal protection orders taken out against Sorensen by individuals not involved in the murder case.

Orlewicz's attorneys were seeking to have those PPOs introduced into evidence, along with details of Sorensen's 2001 conviction for sec-

ond-degree criminal sexual conduct and details of the victim's Myspace page, which included various pictures of weapons, illegal narcotics, images from the Al Pacino movie *Scarface*, and "profane descriptions" of Sorensen's occupation.

In a written ruling issued Monday, Berry said the defendants "had no prior knowledge" of the PPOs ... none of the PPOs related to alleged conduct between the deceased and the defendants. Therefore the said PPOs are too remote to be relevant."

There is no indication whether part of Letkemann's plea agreement includes testifying against Orlewicz. However, Orlewicz's self-defense strategy could be an interesting tactic, considering written and taped statements Letkemann gave Canton



Alexander Letkemann (left) of Westland, shown here at his preliminary hearing with attorney Raymond Cassar, accepted a plea to second-degree murder Monday in the death of Daniel Sorensen.

Please see **GUILTY, A3**

Going 'dark' at the Park

'Jekyll' a departure from usual lighter fare for Players

BY BRAD KADRICH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Salem High School sophomore Clare Cavicchio just smiled when she was asked how her mother reacted to the role Clare will play in this weekend's Park Players Production of *Jekyll & Hyde*.

"My mom was not excited," Clare said with a chuckle.

That's because Cavicchio will play the prostitute Lucy when the Players take to the stage of the Gloria Logan Auditorium at Salem High School tonight (Thursday) for the opening night performance.

Cavicchio's mom is "cool with it now," which is good for the young actress, taking to the stage with a challenging role in her first production of any kind.

"It's fun to let go and play someone so completely different from who I am," said Cavicchio. "I get to be completely crazy."

An evocative tale of the epic battle between good and evil, *Jekyll & Hyde* is based on Robert Louis Stevenson's classic story about a brilliant doctor whose experiments with human personality create a murderous counterpart. Convinced the cure for his father's mental illness lies in the separation of Man's evil nature from his good, Dr. Henry Jekyll unwittingly unleashes his own dark side, wreaking havoc in the streets of late 19th century London as the savage, maniacal Edward Hyde.

It is, according to director Kristen Quesada, quite a departure from the lighter fare usually served up by the Park Players.

"We haven't done a 'dark' show since I've been here, and the music is beautiful," Quesada said. "We usually do happy shows with a lot of jazz squares (dances). There aren't any jazz squares in



Clare Cavicchio plays Lucy, a lady of the night threatened by Jekyll, played by Brandon Verdi.

PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

ON STAGE

What: Park Players production of 'Jekyll & Hyde'

When: 8 p.m. April 3-5, April 11-12

Where: Gloria Logan Auditorium, Salem High School

Who: Brandon Verdi as Jekyll and Hyde, Mia Topalian as Emma, Clare Cavicchio as Lucy

How much: Tickets \$12 or two for \$20, on sale one hour before curtain

this one."

Salem High School senior Brandon Verdi, a veteran of every Park Players production through his high school career, takes on the dual lead role. After playing the town minister in last year's production of *Footloose*, playing Jekyll and Hyde will be a bit more of a character stretch for the 18-



Emma, played by Mia Topalian, is betrothed to Jekyll, played by Brandon Verdi. Her father, Sir Danvers, played by Colin Lazorka, is worried about his daughter. John Utterson, played by Kendall Persons, is concerned about Jekyll, his best friend.

year-old actor.

"I like it because (Jekyll and Hyde) are so different, there's such a gap there," Verdi said. "On

the one hand, I get to be really evil, which is so different from my

Please see **STAGE, A4**

Signs, Web site up to help businesses hurt by underpass

BY TONY BRUSCATO
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Wayne County officials have fulfilled their promises to promote retail businesses which are suffering financially because of the underpass project that has closed Sheldon Road for the past 15 months, estranging them from customers who are forced to take inconvenient, roundabout routes to their establishments.

Assistant Wayne County Executive Alan Helmkamp said two 5-by-10-foot orange signs have been erected along Five Mile, on each side of Sheldon, reminding motorists of the dozen businesses along Sheldon that are open. And, the county's Technology Department has developed a special Web site which lists the three dozen businesses in the affected area, some of which are promoting coupons to entice customers. The new Web site is www.sheldon5mile.com.

"We wanted the businesses to know we're not unsympathetic to the impact and felt it was just the right thing to do," said Helmkamp.

While business owners will take any free advertising they can get, most believe it's too little, too late for them to avoid major financial losses. What they really want is for Sheldon to be open, and the sooner the better.

"Not really," was Mark Behm's answer when asked if the billboards and Web sites will help his Rio Wraps eatery. "People know the shopping center is open, it's a matter of if they want to take the detour to get here. I have customers who used to come here two-three times a week who now come once a week because they don't want to deal with the road closing."

"I don't think anybody in this center expected to hurt as much as it has," he said. "We're down 40 percent from when the project started in January last year and our expenses have not dropped a penny."

Elaine Miller, owner of General Nutrition Center, said the orange signs aren't helping her business.

"That sign doesn't do anything for me, it's directing people to the Sheldon side of the strip," said Miller. "What would really give me some relief if they opened a lane or two during the remainder of construction. If it extends past this year, I don't know what will eventually happen."

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Coming Sunday in Health



Walk focuses attention on Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis



Bill Bresler | Staff Photographer
 Brian Frydl, who operates That's Awesome women's boutique on Main Street, called January and February the 'slowest January and February we've had in the 2 1/2 years we've been open.'

Retailers eye spring sale to revive business

BY TONY BRUSCATO
 OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Hope springs eternal. And, for downtown Plymouth merchants, hope and spring go hand-in-hand as they anticipate downtown streets crowded with shoppers. The Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce is holding its annual Moonlight Madness sale Friday and Saturday, and after a sluggish

winter most merchants are ready for warmer weather to increase downtown foot traffic — i.e. potential customers — strolling outside their stores. "This is by far the slowest January and February we've had in the 2 1/2 years we've been open," said Brian Frydl, who operates That's Awesome women's boutique on Main Street. "The few days the weather was nice in the last three or four weeks have been

very good days for business. It's no secret that we're supported downtown by the local foot traffic." Frydl, who along with his wife, Rachelle, also own Salon Awesome, said business at the five-year-old hair salon is down, too. Chamber retail chair Sandy Marulis, owner of Michigan Made, said the annual spring sale event is designed to get people back to walking the sidewalks of downtown Plymouth after a long winter's break.

shop on Forest Avenue. "We've been up each month this year," Ball said. "I made some changes in my stock, and I look for things that aren't over-the-top expensive and are going to last. I've been here for over 30 years and have seen things go up and down," she added. "I don't know that I couldn't be doing even better, but I know that I just can't stay the same and expect to do better."

"We understand winter is a slow time for downtown because it's tough to walk in freezing temperatures to shop," Marulis said. "The sale is to help get people downtown to recognize what we have in town. There are always new stores opening."

Marulis said February was the worst month ever for Michigan Made, partly due to the cold and snowy weather. "I think this year was worse because of the weather, but we're holding our own," Marulis said. "People really enjoy the small-town atmosphere, but when the weather is cold and uncomfortable, it loses its appeal."

Hands On Leather owner Nancy Ball is looking for the spring sale and warmer weather to be an enhancement to what has been a successful winter for her leather goods

"This street is hopping," Ball said. "With the restaurants, bars and retail, we've got as nice a mix as I've ever seen on Forest Avenue."

With his prime location on the southwest corner of Main Street and Ann Arbor Trail, Kal Jabara said it's more the economy than foot traffic that's affected the bottom line at Parkside Gallery.

"It's not the traffic, it's spending," Jabara said. "We had a lot of people come in during the ice festival (in January), but sales were down from last year."

"We're a victim of the economy; when people do buy, they're spending less," he added. "We're dealing with 7 percent unemployment, foreclosures at record highs. We've got to deal with the facts, but at some point this has to turn around."

The Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce Moonlight Madness runs 6-9 p.m., later for some stores, Friday; and from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday.

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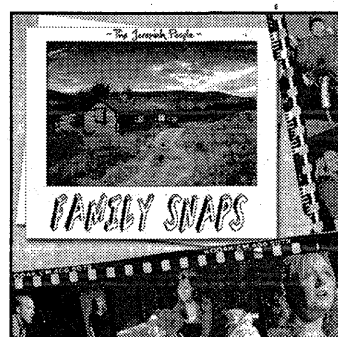
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Sandy Wright serves her customers on the first day of her closing sale at Village Shopkeeper.

PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

'The time has come'

Shopkeeper owner recognizes 'it's time to retire'

BY TONY BRUSCATO
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

After 12 years of selling Amish-made furniture on Forest Avenue, the Village Shopkeeper is closing shop. Owner Sandy Wright is holding a close-out sale in her 7,000-square-foot store until everything is gone. After that, Wright said, it's time for family and friends.

"It's just time to retire," said Wright. "I've got wonderful family and grandchildren and we've got a place in California, I'm just ready to relax a little bit and retire from retail and get on with the next period of my life."

Wright said closing the store, which opened in just a corner of what was at the time an indoor mini-mall, will be bittersweet.

"It's been wonderful being

here in Plymouth with a lot of people I've known forever," Wright said. "I have wonderful customers who have bought from room to room to room; I'll miss my staff... and that daily interaction with all of them."

"Over the years we've developed a relationship with over 80 different families that make the furniture on their property, and some in their barns," she said. "Until a couple of years ago, my husband (Lou) and I used to go once a month from farm to farm to pick up all the furniture and pack it in moving blankets and transport it back. I do miss that because then I got to see them and chat with them."

On Wednesday - the first day of the sale - long-time customers Joan Kasparian and Penny Fuller of Southfield

loaded their four-door Lincoln with several hundred dollars worth of furniture and other goods.

"We're so sad they're closing, we just love this store," said Kasparian. "We're buying everything we can think of for gifts and for ourselves."

"The store is unique and they have a lot of different things," she said. "For their prices you can't beat the quality of furniture."

Wright said while her store will be gone, she plans to spend a lot of time around Plymouth.

"I'm from Plymouth, my husband is from Plymouth, my parents are from Plymouth and my grandfather owned a business in Old Village in the early 1900s," said Wright. "We never got out of town."

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Sandy Wright puts aside a piece of furniture for a customer. After owning Village Shopkeeper for 12 years, Wright will retire to spend more time with family.

Lions hit streets in White Cane drive

While the Detroit Lions are getting ready for the April 26 NFL draft, the Plymouth Lions plan to be just as busy that weekend.

The Plymouth Lions Club is set for its annual White Cane Drive, scheduled for Friday and Saturday, April 25-26, on the streets of the Plymouth community.

Lions Club members will be manning major intersections around the community 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on each of those days and collecting donations from passing motorists. They will be easily identifiable by their bright yellow jackets and aprons with the purple Lions Club Logo.

According to 2008 White Cane Chairman Douglas Hincker, this year's drive will be successful if local residents can find it in their hearts to dig a little bit deeper and share their limited funds in a struggling economy.

"If a lot of people just give a small amount, we can still meet our objective to help the handicapped and disadvantaged residents of our area," said Hincker.

The Plymouth Lions Club has been in existence for 60 years and is part of Lions International, the largest service organization in the world with 1.3 million members worldwide.

Local projects supported by the Plymouth Lions club include free white canes for the visually impaired, access ramps for the handicapped, collection and recycling of used eyeglasses, cell phones and hearing aids, Quest substance abuse program in the community middle schools, purchase and distribution of CCTV readers for the visually impaired, Plymouth Community Band, college scholarships for high school seniors in the Plymouth Community Schools and playground equipment/gathering benches and rest room facilities in Plymouth Lions Park and Kellogg Park.

Anyone with questions or who would like to assist the Plymouth Lions Club in this year's fund-raising effort can contact Hincker, c/o Plymouth Lions Club, P.O. Box 701159, Plymouth, Michigan 48170-0960.

MURDER

FROM PAGE A1

police in the days following the murder.

In a taped statement, Letkemann said Orlewicz lured Sorensen into his grandfather's Canton Township garage and killed him there.

In the statement, Letkemann

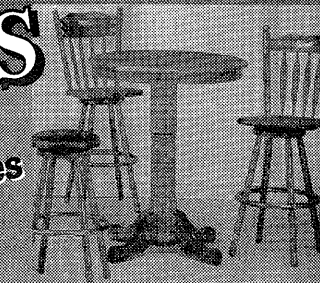

said he led the procession into the garage, followed by Sorensen, with Orlewicz in the rear. Orlewicz, Letkemann said in the statement, stabbed Sorensen from behind.

The statement can't be used against Orlewicz, but could provide some insight into what Letkemann might say if called to the stand.

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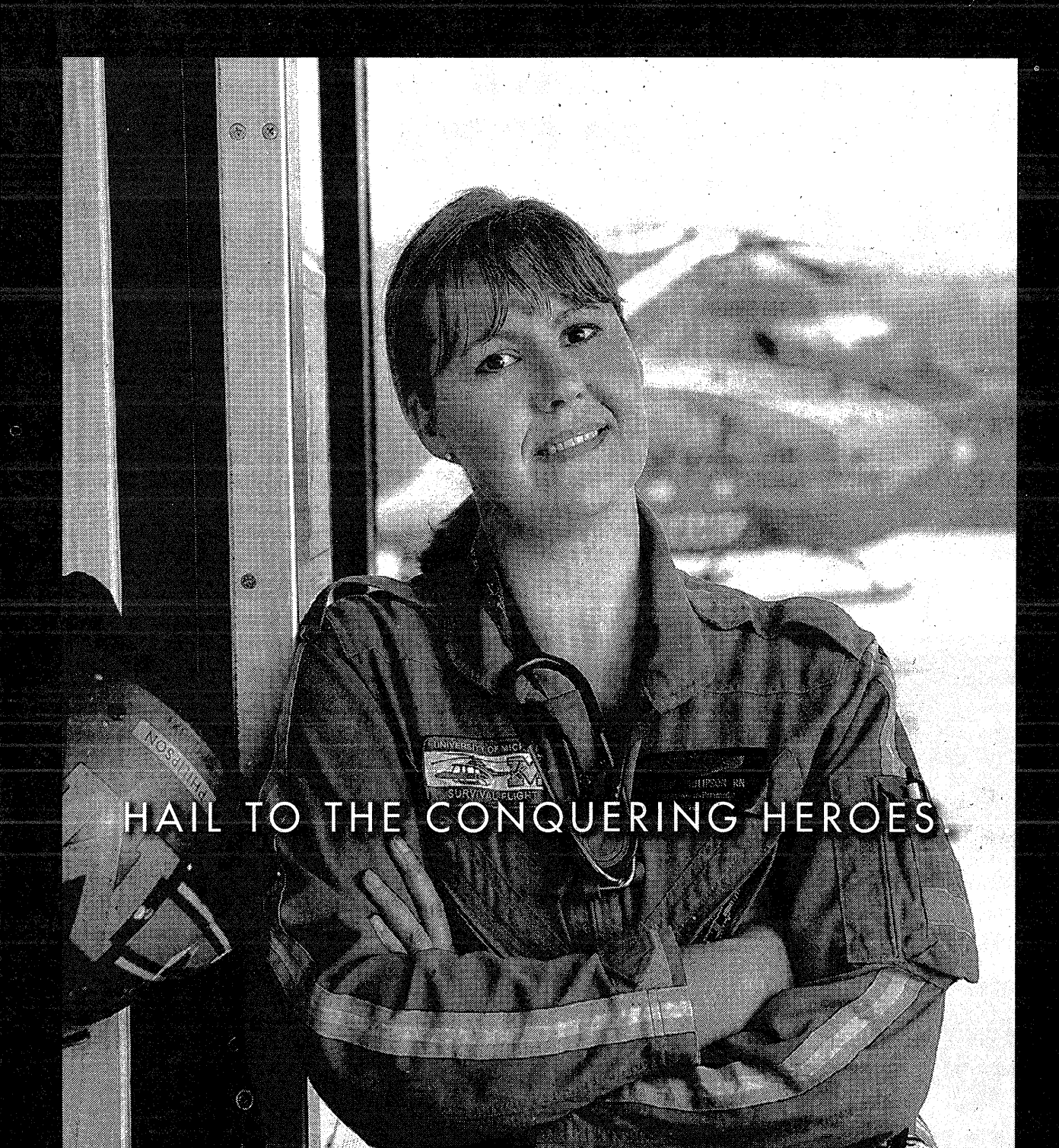
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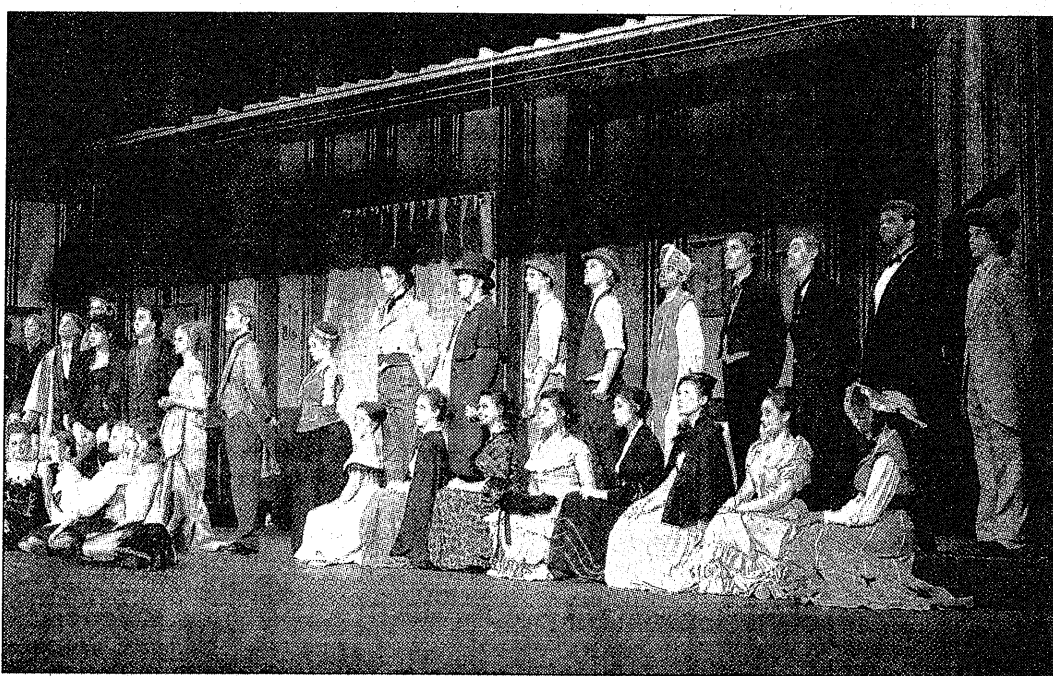
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PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Some 100 students, including 49 in the cast, are responsible for the spring production of 'Jekyll & Hyde.'

STAGE
FROM PAGE A1

personality, and I get to play the good, too. It's a marvelous duality."

Playing both characters was a huge challenge for the veteran, particularly in the confrontation scene, when both characters are on stage at the same time.

"It changes the entire character of the scene," Verdi said. "I'm singing while I'm changing, so it's a difficult challenge."

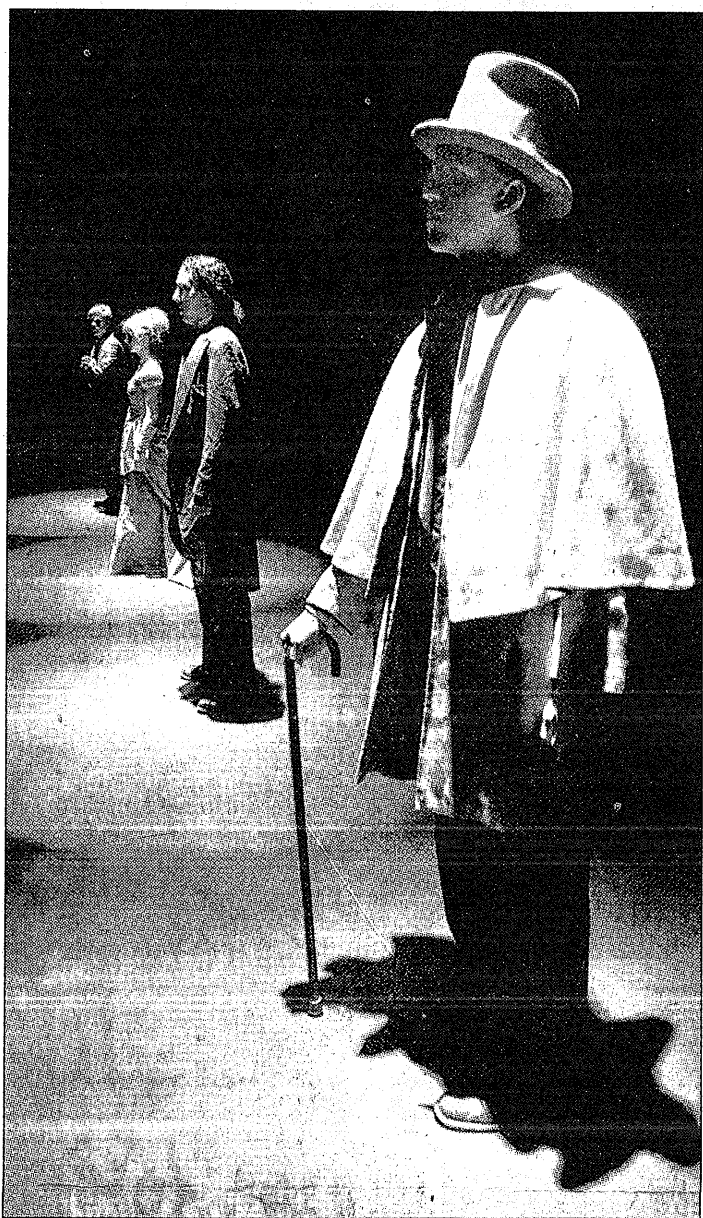
Canton High School sophomore Mia Topalian, 16, plays Emma, the fiancée/love interest of Dr. Jekyll. She said the character's belief in the good in people drew her to the role.

"I like Emma's faith in people, which is rare," Topalian said. "I don't think a lot of people have that."

The 49-member cast and some 50 other members, including the orchestra, have been rehearsing since January. They did three hours a day, four days a week until recently, when rehearsals intensified.

The final production is a tribute to the strength of the students, said Cathy Depentu, who will direct the orchestra.

"This is the strongest, most ego-less group of actors I've ever worked with," Depentu said. "It's a fabulously dark show."



'Jekyll and Hyde' opens tonight (Thursday, April 3) in the Gloria Logan Theater at Salem High School.

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AROUND TOWN

Lincoln/Reagan Dinner April 17
The Wayne 11th Congressional District Republican Committee will host Saul Anuzis, Michigan party chairman, and Senate Majority Leader Mike Bishop (keynote speaker) at its annual Lincoln/Reagan Dinner at 7 p.m. Thursday, April 17, at Laurel Manor, 39000 Schoolcraft. Cash bar reception begins at 6 p.m. Dinner is \$50 per person, \$90 per couple, or \$450 for table of 10. Call 248-474-3525 for menu choice and reservations by April 11.

Leadership Training Conference
On Friday, May 2, the American Association of University Women will hold a Leadership Conference at the Metro Detroit Airport Marriott from 5-10 p.m. The conference is open to anyone who is interested in honing their leadership skills. The cost is \$20 and the registration deadline is April 15. The keynote speaker for the evening will be Jim Hunter, best selling author of Servant Leadership and 28-year veteran speaker on all things leadership. Mr. Hunter will discuss developing leadership skills and maintaining your enthusiasm. He will share his expertise in building relationships and trust. He says, "By committing to and following certain principles, the group becomes a remarkably effective decision-making body, cohesively working together toward goals identified as being for the common good." AAUW staff member Lecia Imbery will discuss leadership challenges: learning to run a meeting in a friendly, cordial manner; finding ways to encourage volunteerism and collaboration; staying committed to the mission; delegating tasks and responsibilities; follow through. The fee includes an hors d'oeuvres reception and a coffee and dessert afterward. For a registration form contact AAUW of Michigan Vice President Sharon Belobraidich at (734) 453-5009 or at belo_sharon@earthlink.net or Northville-Novi Branch Co-President Joyce Murdock at (734) 207-1942 or at tmurdock215517M@comcast.net

It's Post Time!
The Hemophilia Foundation of Michigan is presenting present Derby for Dreams charity fund-raiser 3-6 p.m. Saturday, May 3, at Fox Hills Golf and Conference Center in Plymouth. Net proceeds of this event support HFM's programs and services for those in the bleeding disorders community. This fun-filled event takes place on 2008 from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the Michigan. Tickets are \$25 per person or \$40 per couple and

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

include an afternoon of thoroughbred horse racing projected on a big screen TV. A buffet of southern food and "Funny Money" to place one bet on each race are included. A cash bar will be offered. Each race is professionally called with a photo finish ending. As an added bonus, beginning at 5 p.m., the 134th running of the Kentucky Derby will be telecast live. Everyone is invited to Dress for the Derby! Ladies, a prize will be awarded for the best Derby hat! We invite you to participate in this exciting event. For more information, call Dawn Evans at (800) 482-3041 or register online at www.hfmich.org.

Explore Eastern
Eastern Michigan University's Explore Eastern program is a great way for high school students and transfer students to learn about EMU and how an EMU education can launch their future careers. The next Explore Eastern program is scheduled Saturday, April 5, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., at the EMU Student Center, 900 Oakwood Street, EMU's main campus in Ypsilanti. The event is free. The program provides students with an opportunity to meet with representatives from various academic programs, housing, dining, career services, financial aid, scholarships and other areas. Campus tours of a classroom building, the Halle Library, the Olds-Robb Recreation and Intramural Building, and a residence hall room run every 15 minutes. All students attending Explore Eastern will be able to apply for admission, free of charge - a \$20 savings. One high school senior who enrolls at EMU will receive 12 free credit hours of in-state equivalent tuition. One transfer student who enrolls will receive six free credit hours of in-state equivalent tuition. To register for Explore Eastern or for more information, go to <http://www.emich.edu/explore/>

Call for choreographers

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

www.annarbortcivicalballet.com or contact Mary Combi at (734) 668-8066 or mcombi@comcast.net

Suicide Loss Support Group

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

Gardeners meet

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

Heartland Hospice

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

Hospice training

Heartland Hospice is looking for caring and dedicated people with an interest in serving terminally ill patients and their families in Washtenaw, western Wayne, Monroe and Livingston counties. Volunteers provide a variety of services including companionship, light housekeeping, errand running, grief support and clerical services. For more information, contact volunteer coordinator Candice Jones, (888) 973-1145.

Literacy Council tutors

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

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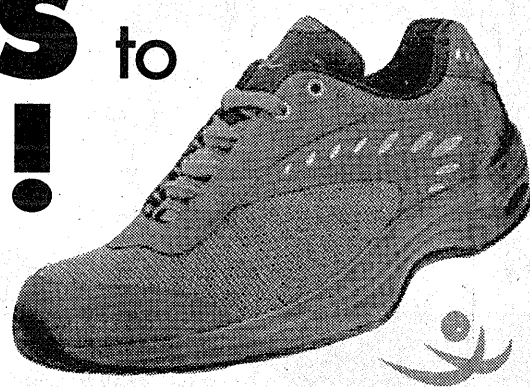
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PREMIER ATHLETICS **MICHIGAN**

Livonia attorney joins race for 11th Congressional District seat

BY HUGH GALLAGHER
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Livonia attorney Joseph Larkin helped the Livonia Knights Mites Hockey team find a way to win as an assistant coach.

"Last season we won the league championship and the Silver Stick regional," he said. "It was a great season, a lot of fun."

Larkin, a Democrat, is confident he can continue those winning ways in his bid to unseat incumbent U.S. Rep. Thaddeus McCotter, R-Livonia, in the 11th Congressional District.

"I've been an attorney for 20 years now. I've learned what it means to represent people and I don't believe that Mr. McCotter is representing the people of the 11th District at this time. He is not hearing what their issues are," Larkin said.

Larkin is expected to face former Novi city manager Ed Kreiwall in the Democratic August primary. Tom Spencer, a Methodist lay minister and Air Force veteran, has withdrawn from the race and offered his support to Larkin.

"He's got connections, name and I didn't have either. I didn't have much of a chance," Spencer said Tuesday.

He called Larkin a "progressive" and a "people person."

Larkin is the nephew of Carol Larkin, chair of the 11th



TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Joseph Larkin will run in the Democratic primary against Ed Kreiwall. The winner would face incumbent Thaddeus McCotter in the November election.

District Democrats, and Jim Larkin, a Garden City school board member. He said his aunt and uncle were unaware that he was entering the race. Ted McAvoy of Highland has announced as an independent candidate.

WAR STAND AN ISSUE

Like Kreiwall and Spencer, Larkin is critical of McCotter's support for the war in Iraq.

"We have lost too many American fighting men and women there, now over 4,000 and that doesn't include the multitude of men and women coming back with physical

LARKIN FILE

Age: 43
Residence: Livonia
Marital status: Divorced, no children.
Education: bachelor's degree in political science, University of Michigan; juris doctorate, University of Michigan.
Profession: attorney, 19 years, Larkin Legal Services, Livonia.
Member: Michigan Association for Justice, Catholic Lawyers Society of Michigan, Livonia Bar Association, Knights of Columbus.
Volunteer: Groups feeding homeless and elderly at St. Patrick Senior Center, St. Aloysius, St. Dominic, St. Maurice, St. Edith, Focus:HOPE.
Church: St. Edith, Livonia
Other: Assistant coach Livonia Knights Mites Hockey
Web site: larkinleadership.com

and mental injuries," Larkin said. "He is not looking at the fact that we are spending approximately \$100 billion a year in that war and his desire is to remain there indefinitely."

Larkin said he supports a "practical and prudent" removal of U.S. troops.

"Bottom line, I would rely upon military advice that as a lay person I am not privy to, military not political, Bush and McCotter make decisions based on politics," he said.

Larkin said the government has not been treating veterans with the respect and support they deserve.

"We should spare no expense when our veterans come home from war," he said.

On the domestic side, Larkin said the Bush administration has been too focused on bailing out banks and investment institutions rather than helping people facing foreclosure.

"What can be done to help those people?" he said. "Every person who goes into foreclosure results in your house and my house declining in value. That's what I'm looking at."

Larkin said he supports laws that would penalize lenders who do not follow good

business practices.

"Those people who have lost their jobs through no fault of their own should be given every opportunity to stay in their home. If they are not given those opportunities, foreclosures affect every one of us," he said.

Larkin said trade agreements can be a good thing for consumers, but that the North American Free Trade Agreement and others have hurt the economy and sent jobs overseas to countries that do not have the same worker and environmental protections that the U.S. has.

"If we invite products in from countries that do not provide the same protections, we are not playing on an even playing field. That's what I want with any trade agreement," he said. "The American economy has the best, the smartest, the most productive workers in the world, but when they are not allowed to compete on an even playing field, they are at a disadvantage."

Larkin said existing immigration laws need to be more vigorously enforced.

"My family came from immigrants, I have nothing against immigrants, but I am for legal immigration," he said. "That's the only way it should occur."

On the energy issue, Larkin is a strong supporter of hydrogen cell technology as one way to reduce dependence on foreign oil but not the only way.

"My desire is to rely upon scientists to tell us what are the best avenues to go, so it is not just the hydrogen fuel cell," he said. "I'm for biomass, I'm for solar, I'm for wind, I'm for hydro. I want to spend American investment in any of those areas."

He said more immediately using E85 ethanol would be a good way to cut down on oil importation.

PRO-LIFE CONCERNS

Tom Spencer said the only issue on which he parts company with Larkin is abortion. Larkin is anti-abortion. He said he doesn't see the abortion issue as a factor as it is the Senate that confirms Supreme Court appointments. But he said he thinks McCotter's pro-life position is inconsistent.

"It seems the only area he's concerned about pro-life is when you're in the womb and not when you come out of the womb," he said. "For example, he voted against extension of health care benefits for poor children. That is an area where I absolutely would have voted yes."

Larkin is collecting petition signatures before the May 13 filing deadline. He said he would be willing to debate Kreiwall in the primary campaign and McCotter in the general election campaign.

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Notre Dame choir

The renowned choir of Notre Dame students will perform a concert of Sacred Music at 8 p.m. Friday, April 4, at Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish. The Choir ministers at the 10 a.m. Solemn Mass at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart on the Notre Dame campus. This Mass is televised live worldwide on DirecTV weekly. The Choir performs a repertoire of a cappella and accompanied sacred songs from the Renaissance through the 20th Century. In recognition of the Liturgical Choir's special ministry, Pope John Paul II extended his apostolic blessing to it in a 1989 trip to Rome. The Choir has appeared internationally at cities in Spain and France over the last several years and annually performs on a U.S. tour.

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

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.

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, kathycraig13@aol.com

Top volunteers

The Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce is looking for nominations for the 2008 Volunteers of the Year.

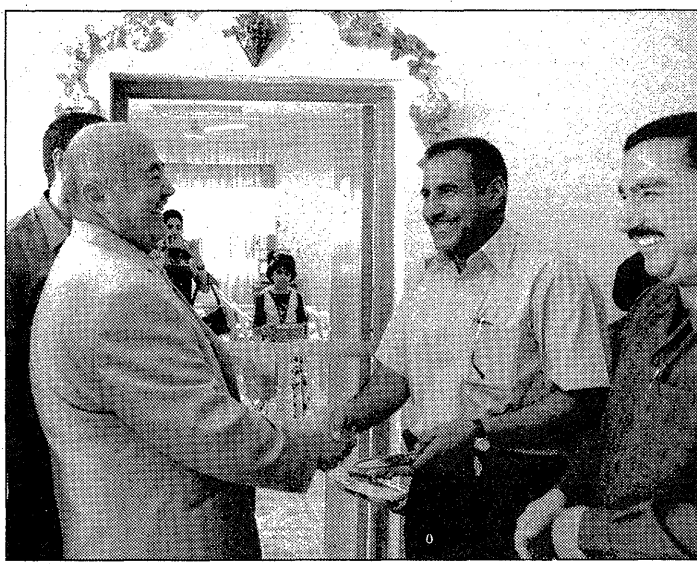
Plymouth service clubs can nominate their outstanding volunteer by filling out a nomination form available through the Chamber of Commerce. The nominees will then be honored at the Showcase and Taste of Plymouth on Monday, May 12, at The Inn at St. John's.

Nominations should be forwarded to the Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce, 850 W. Ann Arbor Trail. The deadline to be included is April 18.

For more information, call (734) 453-1540.

Mom-2-Mom sale

The Plymouth-Canton Mothers of Multiples hosts a Mom-to-Mom Sale 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, April 12, at the Knights of Columbus hall, 19801 Farmington (between 7 and 8 Mile roads) in Livonia.



SGT. JEROME BISHOP

Now open in Baghdad

Plymouth native Ramse Jiddou (left) shakes the hand of a local leader at the ribbon-cutting ceremony for a new internet cafe March 23 in Taji, located northwest of Baghdad. The internet cafe is part of a civic center which also has a store, a kitchen and a sewing center. Jiddou serves as a bicultural and bilingual adviser with the embedded Provincial Reconstruction Team-Baghdad 5, assigned to the 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team 'Warrior,' 25th Infantry Division, Multi-National Division-Baghdad.

The sale will feature a bake sale and clothing and baby gear. It'll be department-style shopping featuring infant/kids clothing (preemie to 5T), spring and summer items, lots of multiples items/sets, toys and baby gear and maternity items for moms-to-be.

Admission is \$1; all sales are cash-only and final, no strollers before 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

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

Ernest Hemingway exhibit

The Plymouth Community Arts Council presents 'Up North with the Hemingways', a traveling exhibit companion to The Great Michigan Read, which focuses on the influence that Northern Michigan had on Ernest Hemingway and his Nick Adams Stories.

The touring exhibit includes references to original artifacts about Ernest Hemingway's life, and his writings, that pertain to his time in Northern Michigan. The Great Michigan Read was launched in July 2007 by the Michigan Humanities Council, to help address the decline in reading literature.

The exhibit can be viewed through April 14, Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. A Gala Open House

will be held Saturday, April 5, from 6-8 p.m. at the Plymouth Community Arts Council, 774 N. Sheldon Road, Plymouth.

The exhibit and gala are open to the public and free of charge. Additional information about the exhibit is available at (734) 416-4278.

Colored pencil exhibit

During the month of April, Lotus Arts Gallery will be hosting "Michigan Colored Pencil 2008," a juried colored pencil exhibition sponsored by the Colored Pencil Society of America District Chapter #104, featuring 100-percent colored pencil works of artists in the Great Lakes region.

The public is invited to view the exhibition and meet the artists at the opening reception on Saturday, April 5, from 6-8 p.m. Enjoy complimentary light hors d'oeuvres and beverages and conversations with the artists. Awards for best works in the exhibit will be presented at 7 p.m. Lotus Arts Gallery is located at 995 West Ann Arbor Trail (corner of Ann Arbor Trail and Harvey Street) in downtown Plymouth.

The exhibition will be on display April 1-25. The public is welcome to view the exhibit during gallery hours between 11 a.m. and 6 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday. If you have any questions, or for more information, please contact the gallery toll free at (888) 889-4ART or at (734) 453-5400.

First Step event

First Step and The Plymouth Coffee Bean are taking part in recognizing April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month. During this month, The Plymouth Coffee Bean and First Step will be joining with people throughout the state and the nation to focus the public's attention on this important issue.

The Plymouth Coffee Bean hosts the sixth-annual Coffee Bean Event coordinated by Jessica Klein and First Step, Saturday, April 26 at 6:30 p.m.. Join us with a great cup of coffee and community as we hear from local bands; Tristan and Mary, from Just Jill; The Next Romantic; and Fallsway Downs. The event starts with a candlelight vigil. Following will be the musical performances, coffee, and great company. All proceeds will go to First Step of Plymouth and Safe House of Ann Arbor.

At First Step, over 360 victims of sexual assault and their friends and fam-

ily received services last year alone.

For more information on Sexual Assault Awareness Month, contact First Step at 734/416-1111 during business hours. If you or someone that you know has been sexually assaulted, confidential help is available 24-hours a day, seven days a week at (888) 453-5900.

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.

Cruisers walking

The PCCA Cruisers Walking Club brings community seniors together to enjoy a low-impact form of exercise.

The group meets at the Plymouth Township Park at 9 a.m. Thursdays from May through October, to walk together on the fitness walking trails.

Call the Plymouth Community Council on Aging, (734) 453-1234, for more information.

DAR meets

The Daughters of the American Revolution/Sarah Ann Cochrane Chapter of Northville/Plymouth meet for their annual meeting noon Monday, April 21, at Mill Race Village, Cady Inn, Northville.

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

Charter Township of Canton Board Proceedings- March 25, 2008

A regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Canton was held Tuesday, March 25, 2008, at 1150 Canton Center S., Canton, Michigan. Supervisor Yack called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. **Roll Call:** Members Present: Bennett, Kirchgatter, LaJoy, McLaughlin, Yack, Zarbo. Members Absent: Caccamo. Staff Present: Director Eva, Executive Director Santomauro, Director Conklin, Director Faas. **Adoption of Agenda:** Motion approved. **Approval of Minutes:** Approved Board Study Minutes of March 4, 2008. Approved Board Minutes of March 11, 2008. Payment of Bills. **RECOGNITION:** 1. **RECOGNITION OF JEANETTE THOMAS:** Approved **PUBLIC HEARING:** Item 1. Opened the public hearing at 7:06 p.m. Approved. Closed the public hearing at 7:07 p.m. Approved. Adopt the resolution approving application of Summittech Engineering, Inc. Industrial Facilities Exemption Certificate for Personal Property. Approved. **Item 2.** Opened the public hearing at 7:09 p.m. Approved. Close the public hearing at 7:13 p.m. Approved. Adopt the resolution approving application of Takao American Corp. Industrial Facilities Exemption Certificate for Personal Property. Approved. **CONSENT CALENDAR:** Item 1. Set the Public Hearing date for April 22, 2008 to consider JLM Restaurant, Inc. request to transfer ownership of escrowed 2007 Class C Licensed Business, with Sunday Sales Permit, Outdoor Service (1 area) and Official Permit (Food), from NAN, Inc. located at 6600 N. Canton Center, Canton, Michigan, 48187, Canton Township, Wayne County; Requesting a New Dance-Entertainment Permit. Approved. **Item 2.** Adopt the resolution No. 4 for the Copper Creek Special Assessment District for Road Repairs, sidewalk and sign installation SAD No. 2006-1. Approved. **Item 3.** Adopt the resolution for Severe Weather Awareness Week, April 6-12, 2008. Approved. **GENERAL CALENDAR:** Item 1. Approve the replacement of the Continuing Part-Time Clerk assigned to the DDA with a Full-Time Clerk I/II. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Bennett, LaJoy, McLaughlin, Yack, Zarbo. Nays: Kirchgatter. Approved. **Item 2.** Award the construction of the High Velocity Sports Complex Parking Lot and the reconstruction of the Pheasant Run Golf Course Parking Lot plus miscellaneous parking lot repairs on other township owned parking lots to Best Asphalt, Inc in the amount of \$174,990 plus a contingency of \$15,700 for a total amount not to exceed \$190,690, and further authorize that separate purchase orders to the Mannik & Smith Group for \$18,500 and to Michael L. Priest & Associates, Inc for \$2,750 be created. Approved. Approve the budget amendment for this project: Community Improvement Fund Increase Revenues Approved. Approve the budget amendment for this project. Approved. **Item 3.** Award a contract for construction of the Denton Road sanitary relief sewer. Approved. **Item 4.** Award a contract to Suburban Oil Co. to provide Canton's 2008 dust control program. Approved. **Item 5.** Authorize the emergency repair of the 1995 Vector 2100 sewer cleaner. Approved. **Item 6.** Award a contract for the Fisheries Habitat Plan Study for the Detention Basin Enhancements Grant Project. Approved. **Item 7.** Adopt the resolution on maintenance with Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) for the plantings around the "Welcome Signs" located along Michigan Avenue near Hannan and Denton Roads. Approved. **Item 8.** Award a contract to Heaney General Contractors for completion of the Lower Rouge Trail Amenities. Approved. **Item 9.** Approve the purchase of the Ready Buckle Seat Restraint System for patrol vehicles. Approved. **Item 10.** Approve the tuition expenditure for three captains to attend the School of Fire Staff and Command at Eastern Michigan University. Approved. **Item 11.** Approve the purchase of (1) one vehicle for Building & Inspection Services Division at a cost of \$21,632.00 (Account # 101-371-977-0000) through the Macomb County Cooperative Purchasing Program from Signature Ford, Perry, MI. Amend the purchase of (1) one vehicle for Building & Inspection Services Division at a cost of \$17,203.50 (Account # 101-371-977-0000) for a Ford Escape. Approved. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Bennett, Kirchgatter, McLaughlin, Yack, Zarbo. Nays: LaJoy. **Item 12.** Purchase a 2008 GMC Sierra 1500, 4x2 Extended Cab, 6.5' Box, TC10553 from Red Holman Pontiac GMC. Approved. **Item 13.** Award the purchase of 2 full-size work trucks. Approved. **Item 14.** Authorize the purchase order for a 2008 GMC Savana 12 Passenger Van with Red Holman GMC. Approved. **Item 15.** Approve the increase of purchase order number 68935 for bulk salt from Wayne County, Divisions of Roads. Approved. **Item 16.** Authorize the contract for carnival attractions at the 2008 Liberty Fest and Fall Festival and approve the extension of the Liberty Fest contract to 2009 contingent on a successful 2008 Liberty Fest with an opt out clause for both parties to be executed prior to July 14, 2008, with Skerbeck Brothers Shows, Inc. Approved. **OTHER:** Study session on Recycle Pilot, Water Rates Study and Elected Compensation Tuesday, April 1, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. in the Administration Building, 1st Floor, Board Room, 1150 Canton Center S., Canton, Michigan. **ADJOURN:** Adjourned at 8:40 p.m. Approved. - Thomas J. Yack, Supervisor - Terry G. Bennett, Clerk -

Copies of the complete text of the Board Minutes are available at the office of the Charter Township of Canton, 1150 S. Canton Center Rd., Canton, MI 48188, during regular business hours and can also be accessed through our web site www.canton-mi.org after Board Approval.

Publish: April 3, 2008

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CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON ACCESS TO PUBLIC MEETINGS

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

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

Publish: April 3, 10 & 17, 2008

0E08593988 - 2x15

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON INVITATION TO BID

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Charter Township of Canton, 1150 Canton Center S, Canton, Michigan will accept sealed bids at the Office of the Clerk up to 3:00 p.m. Thursday, April 17, 2008 for the following:

FELLOWS CREEK GOLF COURSE - GOLF CARS

Bids may be picked up at the Finance and Budget Department, on our website at www.canton-mi.org, or you may contact Mike Sheppard at: 734/394-5225. All bids must be submitted in a sealed envelope clearly marked with the proposal name, company name, address and telephone number and date and time of bid opening. The Township reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals. The Township does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age or disability in employment or the provision of services.

TERRY G. BENNETT, CLERK

Publish: April 3, 2008

0E08594370 - 2x3

EXTRA SPACE STORAGE

Notice is hereby given that on Monday, April 21st, 2008 @ 12:00 PM (Noon), Tate & Co. Auctioneers, Executive Administrator for Extra Space Storage, will be offering for sale under that judicial lien process by public auction, the following storage units. The goods to be sold are generally described as household goods. The terms of the sale will be cash only. Extra Space Storage reserves the right to refuse any and all bids. The sale will be at the following location: EXTRA SPACE STORAGE, 6729 N. CANTON CENTER RD., CANTON, MI 48187 AT 12:00 PM.

Ray Schultz D157 10x10 1 Bowflex, approx 20 Boxes of misc. household goods, approx 3 totes of misc. household goods, 2 bar stools, 1 CRT Television, 1 Vacuum, 1 Guitar Case, 1 Wood Chest of Drawers, 1 plastic Chest, Queen Size Bed/Box Springs/Frame, Steel Shelving Unit, Case of CD's, Misc. Household Goods. Circular Saw, 6ft Aluminum Ladder, Wooden Buffet Table, 15+ totes of misc. household goods/collectables, 100+ boxes of misc. household goods and collectables.

Publish: April 3 and April 10, 2008

0E08594372 - 2x15

CANTON POLICE DEPARTMENT 1150 S. CANTON CENTER RD. CANTON, MI 48188

The following vehicles have been deemed abandoned and will be sold at public auction, April 8, 2008 at 10:00 AM. The auction will be held at Westland Car Care Towing, 6375 Hix Rd., Westland, MI. 48185. The vehicles will be sold as is, starting bid is for towing and storage.

YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	BODY	VIN#
1999	Suzuki	Gr. Vitara	4 Dr	JS3TD62V3X4113300
1998	Dodge	Ram	Van	2B7HB11Y0WK102414
2001	Saturn	L200	4 Dr	1G8JU52F01Y552036
1984	Ford	F-150	P/U	1FTDF15Y3ELA93767
1996	Ford	Escort	2 Dr	3FASP11J5TR155526
1986	Ford	Tempo	2 Dr	1FABP19X4GK129731
1992	Oldsmobile	Achieva	2 Dr	1G3NL14DONM450683
1986	Ford	F-350	P/U	2FDJF37H4GCA68090
1988	Lincoln	Mark 7	4 Dr	1LNBM93E0JY648543
1999	Ford	Crn Vic	4 Dr	2FAFP74W9XX151286
2001	Chrysler	Sebring	2 Dr	4C3AG52H61E079262
1992	Volvo		4 Dr	YV1J8S707N3074731
1986	Ford	Pick Up	P/U	1FTCF15N2GNA56590

Publish: April 3 & 6, 2008

0E08594938 - 2x3

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

CONSIDERATION OF JLM RESTAURANT, INC. REQUESTING TO TRANSFER OWNERSHIP OF ESCROWED 2007 CLASS C LICENSED BUSINESS, WITH SUNDAY SALES PERMIT, OUTDOOR SERVICE (1 AREA) AND OFFICIAL PERMIT (FOOD), FROM NAN, INC. LOCATED AT 6600 N. CANTON CENTER, CANTON, MICHIGAN, 48187, CANTON TOWNSHIP, WAYNE COUNTY; REQUESTING A NEW DANCE-ENTERTAINMENT PERMIT.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Act 184 of the Public Acts of 1943 of the State of Michigan, as amended, and pursuant to Liquor License Ordinance, Chapter 6, Article II of the Charter Township of Canton, that the Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Canton will hold a **Public Hearing on Tuesday, April 22, 2008**, in the Township Administration Building, Board Room, 1150 South Canton Center Road, Canton, Michigan at 7:00 p.m. for the following purpose:

To hear and for testimony to consider and recommend an action to the Michigan Liquor License Commission of the request of JLM Restaurant, Inc. requesting to transfer ownership escrowed 2007 Class C Licensed Business, with Sunday Sales Permit, Outdoor Service (1 area) and Official Permit (food), from NAN, Inc. located at 6600 N. Canton Center Road, Canton, Michigan, Canton Township, Wayne County; requesting a new dance-entertainment permit.

All interested citizens are encouraged to attend and will be offered an opportunity at said hearing to voice any comments they may have regarding this request. Written comments may also be submitted to the Township Clerk's Office at 1150 South Canton Center Road, Canton MI 48188 prior to the hearing date.

Terry G. Bennett, Canton Clerk

Publish: April 3, 2008

0E08592748 - 2x15

File your past federal tax returns now, you'll feel better

A recent Internal Revenue Service press release states there are \$1.2 billion worth of unclaimed tax refunds for more than 1 million people who failed to file their 2004 tax return. There are approximately 47,000 Michigan residents who would be entitled to nearly \$600 million in tax refunds if they filed their return. To receive the money, you must file your return by April 15, 2008. After April 15, your refund goes to the U.S. Treasury. You still have a few weeks to file your return and receive a refund from 2004.

Unfortunately, when it comes to taxes, there is always a caveat. If you file your 2004 tax return and are entitled to a refund, the IRS may not



Money Matters
Rick Bloom

send it if you have not filed your 2005 or 2006 returns. Also, individuals who have not filed tax returns may not receive their economic stimulus tax rebate from the government until the past returns have been filed. There is always a sense of anxiety for people who have not filed past tax returns. They are worried that the IRS or the state of Michigan will catch up with them. The best way to remove the anxiety

is to file past tax returns. Even if you owe money, it is better to file the return — even though it's late — than to have the state or the IRS contact you. Both are easier to deal with when you voluntarily come forth. The IRS, in particular, is much easier to deal with in waiving penalties or structuring a payment plan when you voluntarily file.

Over the years, I've dealt with individuals who have not filed returns for a number of years and then eventually come clean. They all said they felt a sense of relief, even though many of them owed taxes, interest and penalties.

One note regarding tax refunds. I recently met with someone who

had an extension for their 2006 tax return and filed in October 2007. They have not received their refund and their assumption was since they filed for an extension, the refund would be delayed. My advice is to be proactive. Go to the IRS Web site (www.irs.gov) and click on "Where's my refund?" By entering some basic information, you can check the status of your refund.

In this case, the IRS had a wrong address. The taxpayer corrected the address and received the refund.

Although many are currently filing tax returns, a lot of taxpayers receive an extension. It is important to remember that while extensions are automatic, the extension to pay

any tax owed is not. If you owe the IRS money, you pay now rather than later. If you do not, you can be forced to pay interest and penalties.

I am often asked whether extensions increase the risk of an audit. The answer is no. What increases the risk of audit is not filing an accurate return — not including certain information or mathematical errors, those mistakes increase your risk of audit.

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

IRISH FLUTE PLAYER ON TAP

Seamus Tansey, the King of the Concert Flute, performs at 8 p.m. Friday, April 4, at The Gaelic League, 2068 Michigan Ave., Detroit.

The cost is a \$15 donation. For more information, call (313) 537-3489.

Tansey has won the All-Ireland competition multiple times. He's made appearances on Irish national television since the 1950s. Tansey grew up in the west of Ireland in the 1940s and '50s when economic times were hard and food was rationed. Tansey realized early that he was one of the privileged inheritors of a mythical and magical legacy.

Tansey is an accomplished traditional ballad singer, poet, author, and verse speaker as well as story teller in the ancient Irish tradition.

Women to Work helps job hunters

The Women to Work program at JVS will hold an informational meeting 9-11 a.m. Tuesday, April 29, at its offices, 29699 Southfield Road, north of 12 Mile in Southfield.

Judy Richmond, Women to Work coordinator, said, "This is a program designed for women who are highly motivated to enter or re-enter the workforce." The women will be able to begin employment immediately, she said.

There are no geographical restrictions, she said of the program, which includes women who've been home caring for family members. The program following the informational meeting will consist of 10 sessions, starting May 6, 9 a.m. to noon Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Response has been good, with a lot of women from Livonia and Canton area signing up for past sessions, she's

found. Women to Work covers resumes, interviews, job search, stress management, "identifying interests and aptitudes."

Also covered are personal style, and opportunities to meet with employers directly. If you plan to participate, call Richmond at (248) 233-4232 in advance to register for the

informational meeting registration.

There is no cost, with Charter One covering costs for participants.

The program will cover "Success in the Workplace" on how to maintain employment as well, she said. "My groups are bigger than ever." She's had 16, compared to eight-10 in the past. "Obviously, it's a sign of the times." There are also more professionals, with two attorneys in the last group.

"It's also a way for people to prepare themselves as fully as they can for a successful job search," she said.

-By Julie Brown

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Past President Recognition
5:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m., Motor City Casino

Friday, June 13, 2008
EWI Detroit-Windsor Annual Fundraiser
Detroit Historical Museum

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OUR VIEWS

Beat the clock and get on ballot

It's a little more than a month before the May 13 filing deadline for the Plymouth Township Board of Trustees election and already a dozen people have pulled petitions for one of the seven spots.

But, as is the case with Jell-O, there's always room for more.

In case you're new to the township political scene, here's a little Township 101 for you: The board is made up of three full-time elected officials — the supervisor, clerk and treasurer, and four part-time trustees. They're elected to four-year terms and are responsible for the governance of the township.

Of the 12 people who had pulled petitions as of Monday morning, four are incumbents — Supervisor Richard Reaume, Treasurer Ron Edwards and Trustees Steven Mann and Charles Curmi. Clerk Marilyn Massengill has said she won't seek re-election and trustees Bob Doroshewitz and Kay Arnold have yet to pull petitions, though most observers expect both to run.

The other eight names are an eclectic group, including former trustees Abe Munfakh and K.C. Mueller. None have said yet which office they'll seek; they're not required to reveal that information until they start seeking petition signatures.

What's in it for you if you run? We believe it's a sense of ownership, a sense of community you'd be fulfilling. We like to believe that sense of wanting to help make their hometown better is what drives the people who decide to put themselves on the line.

But, just in case you're wondering, there's also the salary: Starting in 2009, the supervisor will make \$98,454 per year, the clerk and treasurer \$91,378 and the part-time trustees \$11,400.

Filling a board is like filling any job: The bigger the candidate pool, the more choices you have, the better it is. We're sure there are people out there who have debated a run for office but have yet to decide when to go out on that limb.

We give you one piece of advice: There's no time like the present.

Filling a board is like filling any job: The bigger the candidate pool, the more choices you have, the better it is. We're sure there are people out there who have debated a run for office but have yet to decide when to go out on that limb. We give you one piece of advice: There's no time like the present.

Focus:HOPE marks 40 years of service

For 40 years, Focus:HOPE has proven the wisdom of that venerable Chinese saying, "Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day. Teach a man to fish and you feed him for a lifetime."

The Detroit organization grew from the ruins of the 1967 Detroit race riot. The Rev. William Cunningham and Eleanor Josaitis co-founded Focus:HOPE with a dream of bringing the area's black and white residents together for a brighter future.

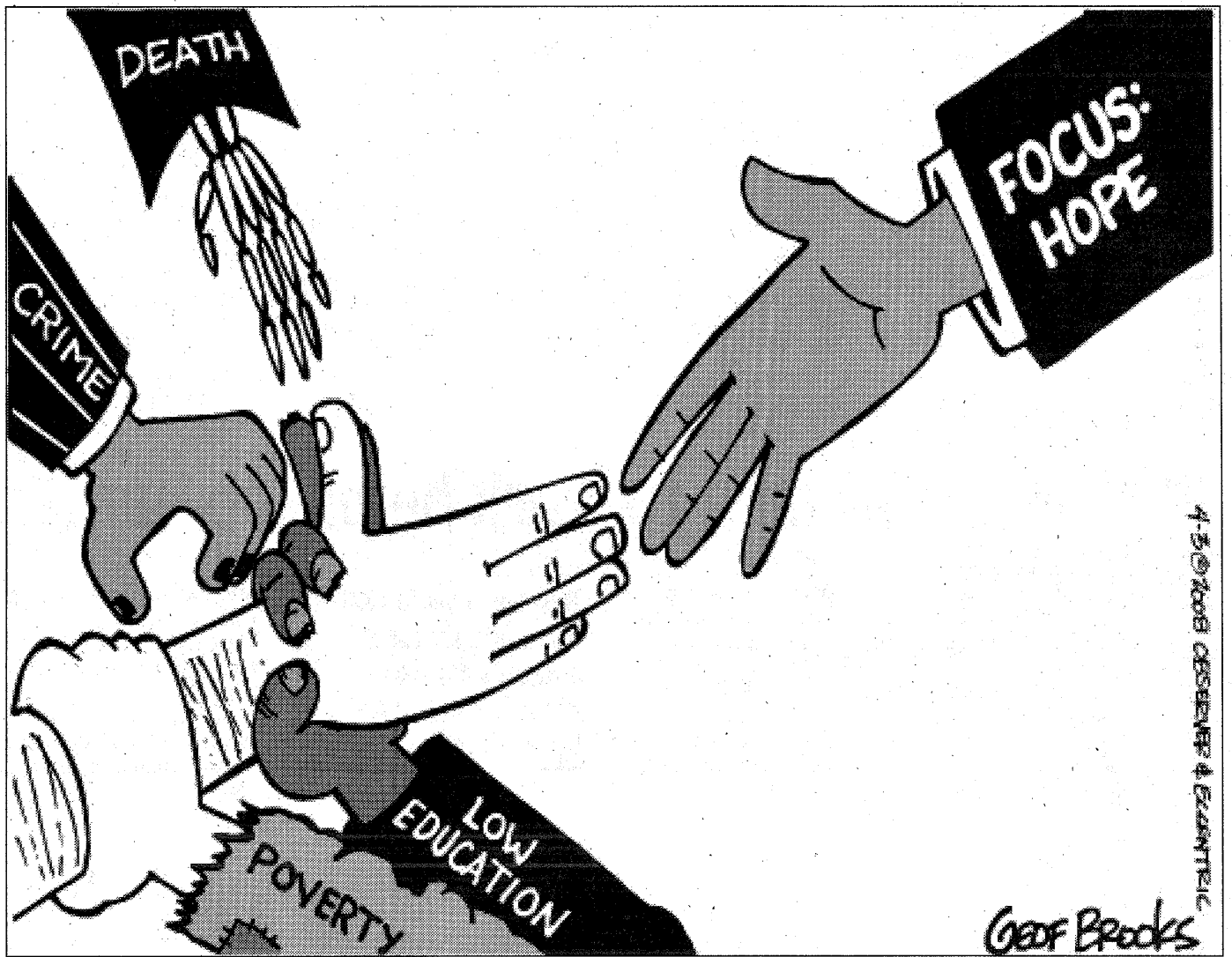
The organization's mission statement says it best: "Recognizing the dignity and beauty of every person, we pledge intelligent and practical action to overcome racism, poverty and injustice. And to build a metropolitan community where all people may live in freedom, harmony, trust and affection. Black and white, yellow, brown and red from Detroit and its suburbs of every economic status, national origin and religious persuasion we join in this covenant."

The key words are practical and intelligent — a hand up, not just a handout. In addition to providing food for the needy and a child care center, Focus:HOPE provides an educational opportunity through numerous programs that provide training, from helping high school graduates upgrade their skills to a state-of-the-art machinist training program to working with local universities to provide a degree program in engineering.

Father Cunningham died in 1997. Later that same year, a devastating tornado ripped through the organization's Oakman Boulevard campus, causing more than \$18 million in damage.

But with support from Detroit's business community, Josaitis and the Focus:HOPE board and staff persevered. They continue to offer help and hope to people from throughout metro Detroit.

We salute Josaitis and the organization she helped found and build. It is a bright beacon toward a better future for our community.



LETTERS

Health care reform needed

National health care is all the talk of this presidential election. It seems the "one payer," "single provider" or "Canadian style" system is the rage. There are several problems with these systems that need to be addressed.

We need to keep in mind that health care and health insurance are two complementary systems that must be kept separate. You don't make an insurance claim to do the regular oil change on your car; you just pay for it out of your pocket because it's a predictable maintenance cost just like a yearly physical. But you would file a claim if you were in an accident because accidents are unpredictable. This is "risk management" and you don't buy your auto insurance at the gas pump.

The private, for-profit insurance industry has done a good job at risk management and competition among many companies will keep costs down and efficiency up. The exception is national disasters like a hurricane, where the federal government must step in.

Lastly, if abortion services are any part of national health care reform the whole thing will be torpedoed.

Health care reform should include:

- Tax-free Health Savings Accounts of \$5,000 that each person would use first to control costs of their own health.

- Compulsory medical insurance with caps through employers or groups like credit unions and trade organizations.

- State and federal catastrophic insurance for long-term or very expensive care like cancer or multiple sclerosis that exceed the insurance caps.

- Every insurance company and medical provider would take on an equal proportion of the number of people that cannot afford or are unable to get insurance or medical care to spread the risk fairly.

- Specialized and expert medical courts to hear insurance and malpractice complaints.

- Mandatory yearly physicals or all government assistance, tax refunds, employment or benefits would be withheld.

- No abortion services except in the strict case of saving the life of the mother.

We don't want the government making health care decisions for us so we must step up and bear the cost and responsibility ourselves.

Frank Kalinski
Livonia

Become a blood donor

In the past I have written editorials about a wide variety of things — teachers, sports, politics, our park, the great kids in our program and many other things.

However, today I am writing about something else very important. Did you know that you are able to give blood every 56 days? Well, you can. Did you know that almost every week there is a shortage of blood needed to save lives? Did you know that you can help? Well, here is how you can.

I try and give blood every 56 days. Why? Because I want to. I think about the people that are injured in accidents

and need OUR BLOOD. I am 0 negative.

And whenever I am around my 56 days, someone calls me and reminds me. This past Friday they were so low with stored blood, the shelves were almost empty. We all can make a difference. If you call 10 people and those 10 people call ... Well, you know where I am going with this. We can all help.

The best way to do this is to call and set up an appointment. You can walk in, but believe me, I have been doing this for a long time, call and set it up. The number is pretty easy, (800) GIVE-LIFE or you can call (888) 288-2525.

I know some people hate needles, I know I do. As many times as I have been around I have been on a pin cushion. It hurts for a minute, and then you sit back and relax, bring a book or newspaper, but the best thing is to bring yourself.

If you have a computer, e-mail friends. If you work for a big business — heck, even a small business — spread the word. Like I said, if everyone can tell 10 people and so on then I could be writing about different things to make your day. So help make the day of those that need it and make that call. Thanks.

Bud Somerville
Westland

Part-time Legislature

A citizen from birth and a proud Michigander, I'm proactive in the campaign to put a part-time Legislature initiative on the November ballot. The reasons are many.

Michigan does not need and cannot afford 148 lawmakers for 9.6 million citizens. California has 120 for 33 million citizens. Ours are the second highest paid, after California, and Michigan is only one of four states with a full-time Legislature.

But more dire, more disturbing and, sadly, more prophetic for the future, is the disquieting and appalling indifference of many who are eligible to vote, to let their voices be heard, by the simple act of signing a petition but don't! Many have signed: It's the don'ts and won'ts to whom this article is addressed.

Why? Some responses: "I don't believe Michigan is one of only four states with a full-time Legislature" (from an academic); "The part-time thing is just another Internet scam"; "I don't trust Lansing"; "I'm not interested"; "I've heard this song before." Many responses are laced with vulgar military expressions not fit to print. They all tell a story, a story of cynicism, skepticism and distrust: they smell a rat!

Many feel disenfranchised; they don't trust politicians; they believe they've been "snowed" by party rhetoric and — most of all — Michigan's economy is negatively affecting them while Lansing generates more hot air, useless tax proposals and spurious press releases. I share many of these feelings. But I also believe that "We the People" still has meaning if "We the People" act in concert and demand better government in Michigan. Signing a petition is a step toward that goal.

Michiganians did not just fall off the turnip truck, and most know

they're getting "the treatment" from Lansing. Wanna get even? Get off your duff and sign. The computer-savvy can get the whole story at: www.TurnMichiganAround.com and/or www.Reformmichigan.gov

William Carruth
Royal Oak

Helping workers

If you're a younger worker, retirement probably seems like a lifetime away. In fact, you may wonder if your contributions to Social Security, deducted from your paycheck, actually cover you for anything right now.

By working in a job covered by Social Security, you automatically get disability and survivor insurance protection. A worker under age 24 who pays Social Security taxes for just 1 1/2 years is covered. A worker under age 31 who pays Social Security taxes for half the time elapsed since age 21 is also covered.

If you're like most workers, you probably don't have private long-term disability insurance. But you do have disability protection through Social Security, which will provide benefits to you and your family, if you become disabled. About three in 10 of today's 20-year-olds will become disabled before reaching age 67, so it could happen to you. The average disability benefit paid to a worker with a spouse and two children in 2008 is about \$1,690 a month.

Social Security also provides survivors benefits. It is a sad truth that about one of seven young Americans can expect to die before reaching age 67. Social Security's survivors insurance pays an average monthly benefit in 2008 of \$2,243 for a spouse and two children of a young worker with average wages who dies.

It's good to think ahead to retirement, but Social Security is more than that. It provides you and your family with protection now.

For more information on how Social Security protects younger and older Americans alike, visit our Web site at www.socialsecurity.gov or call us at (800) 772-1213 or TTY (800) 325-0778.

Frances Heimes-Savickis,
public affairs specialist
Social Security Administration

SHARE YOUR OPINIONS

We welcome your letters to the editor. Please include your name, address and phone number for verification. We ask that your letters be 400 words or less. We may edit for clarity, space and content.

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QUOTABLE

"We're doing some renovating of the ceiling and carpeting, and are replacing the old equipment ... Yet, we're trying to maintain the history of the place, we haven't knocked off the old wallpaper and the murals. The menu will be different, but there will be an awful lot on the menu from the last 20 years ... The previous owner said the bakery was too hard to run, but we felt a lot of people came because of the bakery."

- Doug Read, new owner of Cozy Cafe, on restoring the downtown eatery's ambiance

PLYMOUTH
Observer

GANNETT

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Richard Aginjan - Publisher Emeritus

Our fundamental purposes are to enhance the lives of our readers, nurture the hometowns we serve and contribute to the business success of our customers.

Local land bank shows promise in Flint's rocky real estate market

Every dark cloud has a silver lining — or so we need to hope. One thing we know is that we've got so many dark clouds these days in Michigan, that it is vitally important to seek out any silver linings which might help balance out the gloom and doom.

And one has been discovered shining proudly in ... Flint, of all places. For the last few years, there has been a horse race between Flint and Detroit for the title of Michigan's Grimmiest Urban Area. If anything, Flint might be in worse shape. According to statistics from the U.S. Department of Labor, unemployment in the Flint metropolitan area is 9.5 percent, nearly tops in the nation and worse than Detroit's 8.2 percent.

Unemployment just in the city of Flint was far worse still — 16.6 percent in January. Not surprisingly, the city has had persistent trouble balancing its budget. Things got so bad in 2002 that the state had to take over the city and send in a receiver, or emergency financial manager to resolve the accumulated \$35 million deficit.

These days, things are not much better.

Enter Dan Kildee, the Genesee County treasurer. At 46, he's an imposing but youthful figure who looks very much like the big kid who used to be a defenseman for his high school hockey team.

The Kildee family is prominent in Genesee County politics. His uncle, Dale, has represented the area in the U.S. Congress since 1977. Dan started early — very early. He was elected to the Flint Board of Education at age 18, and then served as chair of the Genesee County Commission until he was elected county treasurer in 1996.

He's also become something of a national celebrity for having managed a remarkably successful "land bank" to control Flint's vacant properties, flight blight and stimulate urban redevelopment.

The credit crunch and mortgage meltdown hit distressed communities especially hard. In Genesee County, there are around 5,000 homes in foreclosure, out of a total of 170,000 houses.

National statistics suggest that when a house is foreclosed, other houses on the block lose 1 percent of their value each month and the neighborhood crime rate goes up by around 2 percent. Unoccupied homes don't pay taxes to sustain city services, while they cost taxpayers money to board them up against vandals and cut and clean up overgrown yards.

Enter local land banks. They buy distressed properties on the cheap and either demolish them or rehab and resell them. According to Kildee, "The properties that are foreclosed are often perfectly good houses. Left to their own devices, the mortgage companies and the

banks often will choose to dump them on the market, liquidate their investment and walk away from a damaged community."

Kildee says his land bank has negotiated to buy 184 Fannie Mae (Federal National Mortgage Association) owned houses under foreclosure in Flint for \$34,000. But their appraised value is \$3.8 million. "If we take a long-term view, we can rehabilitate and resell these properties, returning them to the city's housing stock and fighting the kind of blight that comes with lots of foreclosures."

Profits from the resold houses are used to finance further land bank activities. And putting such a long-term player into the local real estate market prevents speculators from buying and "flipping" houses and perpetuating neighborhood blight.

This is not penny-ante stuff. Since it was started in 2002, the Flint land bank has demolished 800 rundown houses and built 200 single-family homes and apartments. This year, it will spend around \$30 million, much of it from private investors, in renovating two historic hotels in downtown Flint. "If this kind of stuff works in Flint, which has to be one of the worst-off real estate markets in the country, it can work anywhere," Kildee said.

More to the point, Kildee's land bank represents an innovative way for government to solve problems by aligning what it does with market forces. "The land bank represents a better way government should operate," Kildee said. "Too often, governments are only interested in increasing tax revenues. Instead, we're interested in restoring equity value for homeowners, in stabilizing the local real estate market, in reducing blight and redeveloping the community."

Kildee has received a fair amount of notoriety for his work with the land bank. He was featured in a recent article in the *Wall Street Journal*, and he's been invited to teach at Harvard and MIT and advise communities all around the country.

There are already rumblings from Democrats statewide that he might be a formidable candidate for governor in 2010. For now, however, he wants to stay focused on the enormous task before him.

"At the end of the day, we've got to realize that government needs to work with the economic system rather than against it," Kildee said. "A land bank like ours is a terrific, common-sense way to help communities."

And when it works as well as his apparently does, it represents an innovative and much-needed glittering silver lining in the storm system that has been pounding Michigan for years.

Phil Power is founder and president of The Center for Michigan, a think tank which based in Ann Arbor. The opinions expressed here are Power's and do not represent official views of The Center. Power welcomes reader comment at ppower@thecenterformichigan.net.



Phil Power

Government must be more transparent on spending

Supreme Court Justice Louis Brandeis once said that "sunshine is the best anti-septic."

He's absolutely correct.

That attitude has been the inspiration for Michigan's Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and the Open Meetings Act (OMA). The inspiration behind this legislation is simple: the more informed citizens are, the better equipped they will be to make decisions in their day-to-day lives. And the more trust they will have in their government. That's especially true when it comes to information regarding citizens' hard-earned tax dollars.

That is why I recently announced that my office is the first in state government to provide detailed information on how our tax dollars are being spent. We have done this by establishing a new page on our Web site (www.michigan.gov/ag) called "Track Your Taxes."

"Track Your Taxes" enables anyone in Michigan to go online and learn about the expenditures by the Attorney General's office. The 15 pages of information list the following categories: equipment, rent, contracts, salaries, wages and insurance and fringe benefits.

By clicking on the line titled "Service Contracts," citizens can learn about every single contract our department has entered into, including legal services such as Special Assistant Attorneys General and expert witnesses.

For example, citizens will now be able to go online and look at the name of the vendor, the type of service being provided, the term of contract, the amount of the contract, how much has been spent and how much is still outstanding on each and every contract.

I am pleased that consumer advocate Ralph Nader has joined me in urging Gov. (Jennifer) Granholm to take the next step and make our state agency and department spending as open and transparent as possible.

The State of Michigan has made a modest first step in this direction by providing some information on the Department of Management and Budget's Web site. But the information provided is far from thorough.

What transparency requires is a detailed listing of all expenditures, so citizens can see down to the item where their hard-earned tax dollars are going.

An example of what Michigan should strive for is the state of Missouri's site, which can be found by going to www.mapyourtaxes.mo.gov. A handful of other states have already created comprehensive, searchable databases detailing how their tax dollars are spent.

Even the federal government has made important progress on this issue. As a result of legislation sponsored by Sen. Barack Obama of Illinois and Tom Coburn of Oklahoma, the federal government has launched www.usaspending.gov to allow transparency in federal spending.

Why can't Michigan be a leader when it comes to transparency and open government? After all, we were one of the first states in the nation to adopt the Freedom of Information Act and the Open Meetings Act.

State Rep. Jack Hoogendyk has introduced legislation to create a Web site that provides information on state expenditures. I urge readers to contact your state senator and representative and encourage them to support this effort at open government.

Providing all of Michigan's citizens with access to all government expenditures is the FOIA and OMA of the 21st century. And it's the ultimate in consumer protection. As every family struggling to make ends meet knows, you'll never get a handle on your budget until you first know where the money goes. That is precisely what my effort to detail government spending sets out to accomplish.

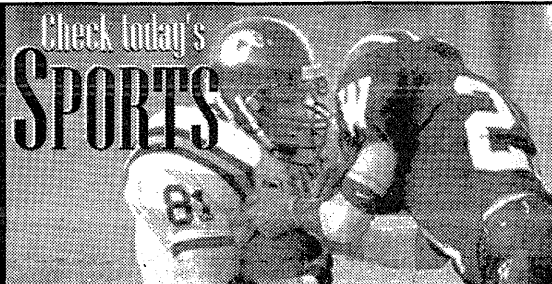
My hope is that once the State of Michigan adopts transparency in spending and makes all expenditures available online, the practice will then spread to local units of government such as cities and counties, even local school boards and county road commissions.

There's no reason why Michigan can't be a national leader in providing our citizens with easy, online access to all state government expenditures. This week, Sunshine Week, is the perfect time to follow the wisdom of Supreme Court Justice Louis Brandeis and let the sun shine in on government spending, so everyone can follow the money.

Mike Cox is the Michigan attorney general. He lives in Livonia.



Mike Cox



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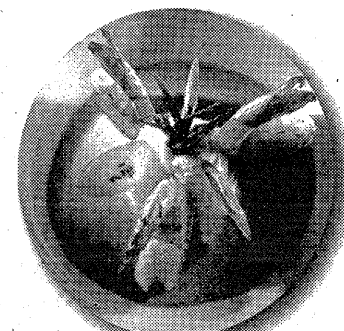
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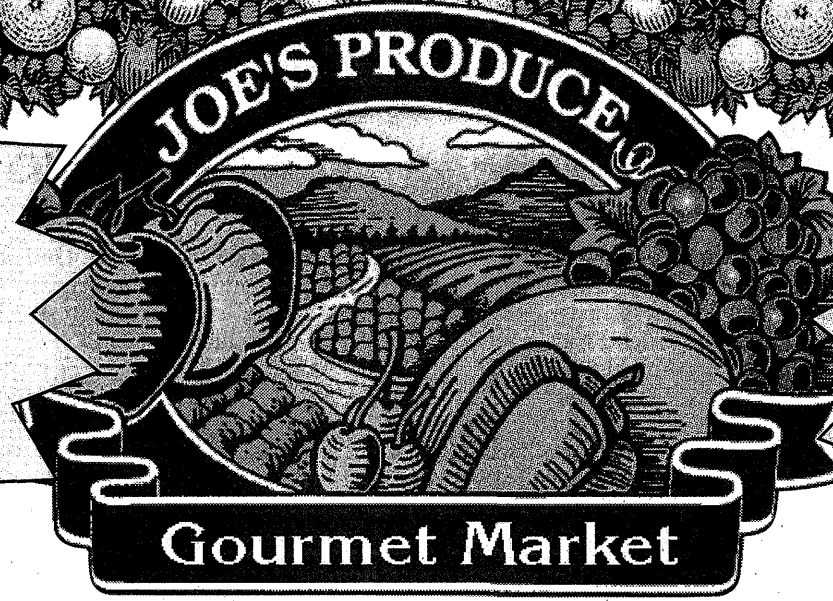
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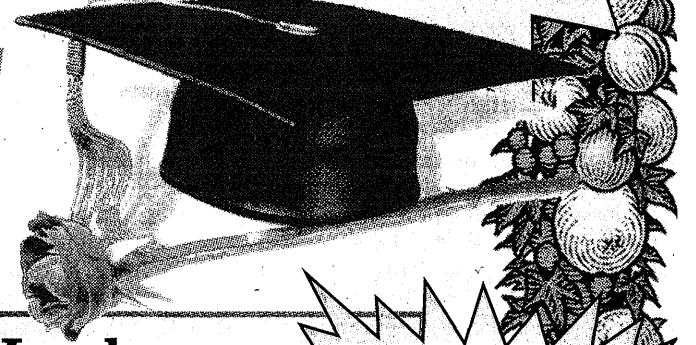


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SPORTS

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(CP)

Thursday, April 3, 2008

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

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

www.hometownlife.com

Striking image: Lady bowlers headed to Canton

Canton will become a bowling mecca for tens of thousands of women when the United States Bowling Congress conducts three of its major championships — the USBC Women's Championships, USBC Queens and USBC Senior Queens — beginning this month at Super Bowl Lanes.

Beginning April 10, the first of 7,330 five-player teams (nearly 40,000 bowlers) will descend upon Super Bowl for the Women's Championships.

Bowlers from all 50 states and several foreign countries will compete in five-player team, doubles and singles competition in

five average divisions.

The official opening ceremonies for the Women's Championships will take place at Super Bowl on April 10 at 7 p.m.

The Women's Championships, which is the national championship for women's bowling, will run for 88 consecutive days and will conclude on July 6.

Making its first visit to metropolitan Detroit since 1953, the Women's Championships is the highlight of the bowling season for thousands of USBC women members.

It's a vacation as well as the opportunity to compete in one of the sport's most prestig-

ious tournaments.

From a convention and tourism perspective, the influx of approximately 600 bowlers plus family and friends each day is expected to provide an estimated economic boost of approximately \$40 million to the Detroit area over the course of the event.

"This marks our third trip to Detroit and we're looking forward to sharing our sport and this event with the Detroit community," USBC Vice President of Tournaments Jack Mordini said. "As one of the great bowling cities in the world, the participants will not only experience that tradition but also all the Detroit area has to offer."

Conducted for the first time in 1916 as the Women's International Bowling Congress Tournament, the Women's Championships is widely recognized as the largest participatory sporting event in the world for women.

The Women's Championships had previously been held in Detroit on two other occasions, 1928 and 1953.

The prize fund for the Women's Championships is expected to exceed \$2 million.

Regular USBC Women's Championships

Please see **BOWLERS, B3**

Sidelines

Two Whalers sign

The Albany River Rats announced Monday that they have signed Plymouth Whalers players and Carolina Hurricanes draft picks Chris Terry and Brett Bellemore to amateur tryout agreements.

Terry, 18, was drafted by Carolina in the fifth round (132nd overall) of the 2007 NHL Entry Draft. The Brampton, Ontario, native exploded for a career year in 2007-08, his third with the Whalers, leading his team in points (101), goals (44), assists (57), games played (68) and plus/minus (plus-12).

Bellemore, 19, was Carolina's next pick (sixth round, 162nd overall) in the same 2007 NHL Entry Draft. The Windsor, Ontario, native enjoyed the best offensive season of his three-year junior career, scoring a career-high 24 points (six goals, 18 assists), which ranked 10th best on Plymouth's scoring ledger, while recording 70 penalty minutes.

Bellemore — a 6-foot-4, 194-pound defenseman — had five assists in 20 playoff games during the Whalers' 2007 OHL Championship run and tallied on assist in the 2007 Memorial Cup tournament.

Volleyball camp

The annual Plymouth High School Volleyball Camp will be held Monday through Wednesday, July 28-30, in the school's gymnasium.

The camp will run daily from 1-4 p.m. The camp is designed for girls in fifth through 10th grade (as of fall 2008).

The cost is \$65. For more information, contact Kelly McCausland at mccausk@taylor.k12.mi.us.

Special Olympics power lifting

The Plymouth/Canton Power Lifters would like to invite all Special Olympic power lifters to an invitational tournament on Saturday, April 19, at Northville High School, located at 45700 Six Mile in Northville.

Athletes may participate in bench press, dead lift, squat and the combination (bench and dead lift).

A meal will be provided for the athletes and coaches. For more information about the tournament, contact Kathy Siarto at (313) 613-5801 or siarto@sbcglobal.net.

All teams need to arrive by 10:30 a.m. The tournament will begin at 11 a.m. with the weigh-in. Lifting will begin as soon as the separation of divisions is completed.

There will be no charge for this tournament.

SURF'S UP

Wave outlasts Ignition, 18-12, in hard-fought dual of MISL's elite

If there's a silver lining woven into Detroit 18-12 setback to Milwaukee Sunday afternoon in a clash that featured the Major Indoor Soccer League's two best teams, it's that the Ignition won't have to wait long to gain a dose of redemption.

The Ignition can redeem itself Friday night when it hosts the Wave in a regular season-closing contest set to kick off at 7:30 p.m. at Compuware Arena in Plymouth Township.

The two teams are jostling for the No. 1 seed in the MISL playoffs that are set to begin later this month.

Milwaukee seized sole possession of first place in the MISL with Sunday's triumph as both clubs entered the game with 20-7 records.

Playing before a packed house Sunday at U.S. Cellular Arena, the Ignition struck first when

Playing before a packed house Sunday at U.S. Cellular Arena, the Ignition struck first when Jamar Beasley recorded his 30th goal of the season 30 seconds into the contest when he headed the ball into the back of the net to give his team a 2-0 advantage.

Jamar Beasley recorded his 30th goal of the season 30 seconds into the contest when he headed the ball into the back of the net to give his team a 2-0 advantage.

The locals doubled their lead to 4-0 seven minutes

later when Josh Rife followed suit and used his noggin to direct the ball past the Wave's netminder. Former Madonna University star Worth Sampson was credited with the assist.

The game had all the makings of an Ignition run-away when Detroit's Hewerton Moreira scored off a helper from Droo Callahan to extend the Ignition's lead to 6-0.

The hosts' rally commenced midway through the second period when Brett Wiesner slipped a shot past Detroit goalkeeper Danny Waltman.

The Ignition countered less than three minutes later when Kyt Selaidopoulos lit up the scoreboard with a two-pointer to make it 8-2 at the half.

The goal was Selaidopoulos' 50th of his storied MISL career.

Milwaukee came out with feet ablazin' in the third stanza as it went on an 11-0 run to seize a commanding 13-8 lead. Troy Dusosky (two), Michael King, Jonathan Santos and Greg Howes all scored during the onslaught that carried over to the early stages of the fourth quarter.

Hewerton trimmed the Ignition's deficit to 13-10 with a two-pointer at 3:18 of the fourth off an assist from Matt Johnson and Jonathan Greenfield brought the visitors to within 13-12 five minutes later.

However, Milwaukee closed the game with a 5-0 run to secure a hold on first place.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Detroit Ignition mid-fielder Josh Rife, pictured above in a game earlier this season, scored a goal in the team's 18-12 setback to Milwaukee Sunday afternoon. The Ignition has earned a bye in the first round of the Major Indoor Soccer League playoffs.

DETROIT TO HOST MISL PLAYOFF GAME

The Detroit Ignition will host Game 2 of the 2008 Major Indoor Soccer League Championship Series semifinal round on Sunday, April 20, at Compuware Arena, the club announced earlier this week.

The opening kick for the game against a

yet-to-be-determined opponent will be 4:35 p.m.

The 2008 MISL Championship Series will include six of the nine MISL teams and will consist of three rounds. The quarterfinal round is set for April 11-13, the semifinals will unfold April 18-20 and

the Championship Series Final will be played April 26 at U.S. Cellular Arena in Milwaukee.

The Ignition clinched a first-round bye with its victory over the New Jersey Ironmen on March 28 and will move directly to the semifinal round.

Plymouth lacrosse team wins opener

BY ED WRIGHT
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Judging by its first official game Tuesday night, squaring off against the first-year Plymouth boys lacrosse team will not be a laughing matter this season — even on April Fool's Day.

The Wildcats proved that with gusto as they trounced visiting Ypsilanti, 15-3, before a chilled but enthusiastic crowd at the PCEP varsity stadium.

The wind-swept encounter was the season opener for both squads — and the ground-breaking match for the winners, who jumped to a 12-1 half-time advantage and never looked back.

"We played well on the offensive end," said coach Mike Costello. "Ball movement was good

Please see **LACROSSE, B4**



WALT DMOCH

Plymouth Whalers head coach Greg Stefan (right) congratulated Kaine Geldart on winning the "Labatt Blue Collar Player of the Year" award at Monday's team banquet at Ginopolis on the Ice restaurant. A fan favorite, Geldart notched 13 goals and 25 assists in 68 games.

Whalers honored at awards banquet

The Plymouth Whalers put the icing on a successful 2007-08 season Monday night with a banquet held at Ginopolis on the Ice restaurant in Plymouth Township.

Chris Terry was voted the team's most valuable player after leading the Whalers in scoring with 44 goals and 57 assists in 68 games. Terry, who is currently playing with Albany of the American Hockey League, was a plus-12 in the telling plus/minus category.

Other awards presented during Monday's banquet were:

■ **Defenseman of the Year:** Brett Bellemore, a veteran defenseman and Carolina Hurricanes draftee who was often paired against the top lines in the Ontario Hockey League. Bellemore, who netted six goals and 18 assists, is currently playing with Terry for Albany of the AHL.

■ **Humanitarian of the Year:** Wes Cunningham, a

Please see **WHALERS, B4**

Forecast is sunny for deep, talented Wildcats this season

Weather or not, PCA and Agape ready for season

BY ED WRIGHT
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

If the Plymouth baseball team ends up at the northernmost point in the Western Lakes Activities Association's Western Division standings this season, it can point to last week's trek south as a catalyst for the ascension.

Early last week, the Wildcats and their coaching staff boarded a bus and traveled to Orlando, Fla., for a spring training-type trip that was void of actual games but stocked with practice and team-bonding activities.

"It was an awesome experience for our entire team," said Plymouth coach Chuck Adams, whose squad registered a school-best record of 18-15-1 in 2007. "Along with being able to practice four days outside in 80-degree weather, we did a lot of fun things like go to a Tigers game, the beach and to a water park."

"The best thing about the trip was that everybody got to know each other away from the field, so it was a great bonding experience. It's something I'd like to do every year."

Speaking of 80-degree weather, the Wildcats finished on a hot note last year as they advanced to the Division 1 District title game at Livonia Stevenson before dropping a heart-breaking decision to Livonia Churchill.

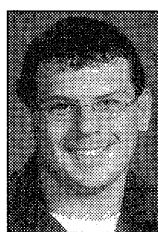
Although Plymouth lost four key pieces of that squad to graduation — Matt Barrera, Ben Kosmalki, Ryan Valle and Tyler Locklear — it returns the nucleus of a potent line-up and hard-throwing pitching staff.

"The team has looked decent so far," Adams said. "We have quite a few key players returning and we're adding a few younger kids to the mix."

"Our main focus this spring



Harvey



Priebe

PREP BASEBALL PREVIEW

ond are senior Kyle Sanders, who is doubling as a member of the Wildcats' golf team, and Cliff Buttermore, a junior who is expected to be one of the team's top hurlers.

Junior Brad Lineberry will serve the dual role of starting shortstop and ace of the pitching staff. When Lineberry's on the mound, Matt Skubik will handle the duties at short.

Skubik will also see time at third base along with juniors Travis Mewton and Ryan Spencer.

The Wildcats' outfield will be anchored by center fielder Ronnie Goble, a three-year varsity player who wields a powerful left-handed swing.

"He's really looked comfortable at the plate this spring," said Adams. "Ronnie provides us with a lot of leadership. I'm looking for him to have a break-out season."

Goble will be flanked in left field by either junior Michael Rose or Dan Nadratowski; and in right by Harvey. Senior Kyle Traver, a lefty, will spell Goble in center on occasion and pitch.

Providing the Wildcats with talented depth will be Jake Gilbert, Craig Czajkowski, Alex Minch and Kelly Waite.

Adams predicted the WLA's Western Division will be a dog fight from Day 1.

"I think every team in the division is strong enough to finish first," he said. "You have to come to play every day. I feel we'll be right in the mix if we get consistent pitching."

Weather permitting, the Wildcats open the 2008 campaign Saturday in a double-header at Ypsilanti. The opening pitch of the first game is set for 11 a.m.

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

BY ED WRIGHT
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

PREP BASEBALL PREVIEW

With the 2008 season approaching faster than a Justin Verlander fastball, "Take Me Out to the Ballgame" has been replaced by "Raindrops Keep Fallin' on My Head" as far as the two local Division 4 baseball teams are concerned.

Due to one of the coldest and wettest Marchs in memory — Al Gore's global warming theory must be taking the year off — both Canton Agape Christian and Plymouth Christian Academy have been limited to preparing for the upcoming campaign in their respective gyms, which has been a particularly frustrating predicament for the Wolverines, whose facility is less than full-sized.

But the brutal weather hasn't put a damper on the teams' enthusiasm nor their optimism.

Following are previews of the PCA and Agape baseball teams, both of which enjoyed successful campaigns in 2007.

PLYMOUTH CHRISTIAN

The Eagles will be guided this season by first-year head coach Joe Bottorff, who succeeds Kurt Johnston.

When faced with the dilemma of coaching baseball or golf — boys golf was switched from fall to spring this season due to the MHSAA's court-mandated gender-equity ruling — Johnston chose the links over the diamonds.

Ironically, Johnston has a son, Josh, who is playing baseball and golfing for the Eagles this spring.

Bottorff is no stranger to the Eagles' baseball program as he has served as an assistant coach at the school for the past three years.

"We're looking good so far," said Bottorff. "We have 12 players on the team: three seniors, four juniors, two sophomores and three freshmen."

"We have seven really strong hitters and two very good pitchers. I think our biggest strength is all the experienced players we have back."

The Eagles will be led by a pair

of senior captains: Trevor Zinn, the team's mound ace and a sure-handed shortstop; and Charles Cane, who can play third and short equally well.

"Trevor probably throws in the low-80s and he has a very good curveball," said Bottorff. Offensively, he's our lead-off hitter and he's an on-base machine. If I had to guess, I'd say he had about a .700 on-base percentage last year.

"Charles has a very lively arm, so we're going to see how he does pitching this year. He's a solid, all-around player."

Junior Reid Barber — the Eagles' starting center fielder — will serve as one of the team's chaplains this season along with junior Kevin Bottorff, Joe's son. The role requires leading prayer before and after games. "Reid is very good at getting to just about every ball that's hit out there," Bottorff said. "Just when you think it's by him, he tracks it down some how."

Kevin Bottorff and junior Brent Zinn, Trevor's brother, will share catching duties. Brent Zinn will also be the Eagles' closer and play some middle infield, while Bottorff is slated to play second base when he's not catching.

"Brent has a cannon for an arm," said Bottorff. "Kevin is our No. 2 hitter. He's good at getting his bat on the ball and moving runners along."

Splitting first-base duties will be senior Mitch Geracz, who, like Johnston is playing golf as well as baseball, and freshman Jonathan Slater, who has also been slotted as the team's No. 2 pitcher.

Adding depth to the Eagles' talented roster are junior Josh Lowman, a promising infielder, David Baum, the team's No. 3 starting pitcher and an outfielder; Josh Johnston, a left-fielder and the squad's best base-runner; and the estimation of Bottorff; and a pair of freshmen — A.J. Smith and Matt Hagelin.

AGAPE

The Wolverines are coming off

a season during which they finished second in the very competitive MIAC Red Division to Novi Franklin Road.

"The team is looking pretty good so far," noted second-year coach Dan DeWitt. "We don't have a lot of numbers, but we were very young last year, so another year of experience will help a lot."

DeWitt listed two tangibles when asked about the team's strengths.

"We have good depth pitching-wise and we have a fast team," he said.

Seniors Jared Miller and Brandon Pierson have been voted captains by their peers.

"Jared is one of the hardest-throwers in our league," said DeWitt. "He was dominant on the mound. Offensively, he's very fast and will be our No. 2 hitter."

When he's not pitching, Miller will handle the shortstop chores. Like Miller, Pierson will pitch and play short.

"Brandon is just a good, all-around baseball player," said DeWitt. "Baseball is his sport; he has great instincts for the game. He can do it all — hit, run the bases and catch the ball."

Senior Daniel Walker will be handling the catching duties for the Wolverines.

"Daniel is very solid behind the plate and he's our clean-up hitter," DeWitt said.

The starting infield consists of sophomore first baseman Cameron LeRoy, senior second baseman Ty Majeski, either Miller or Pierson at shortstop, and sophomore Ethan Walker at third base.

Among those in the outfield mix are senior Kevin Reith, junior Justin Benbow, senior Mark Mullett, sophomore Josiah Wyatt and eighth-grader Jacob Walker.

"Our top goal is to try to win the MIAC Red," said DeWitt. "After that, it's try to win the District."

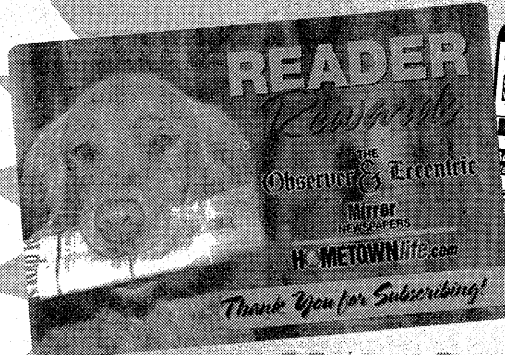
Weather permitting, the Wolverines will open this afternoon at Southfield Christian.

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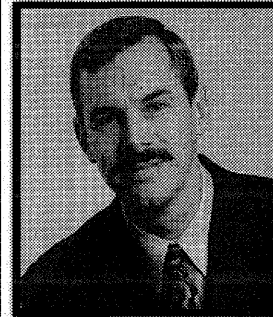
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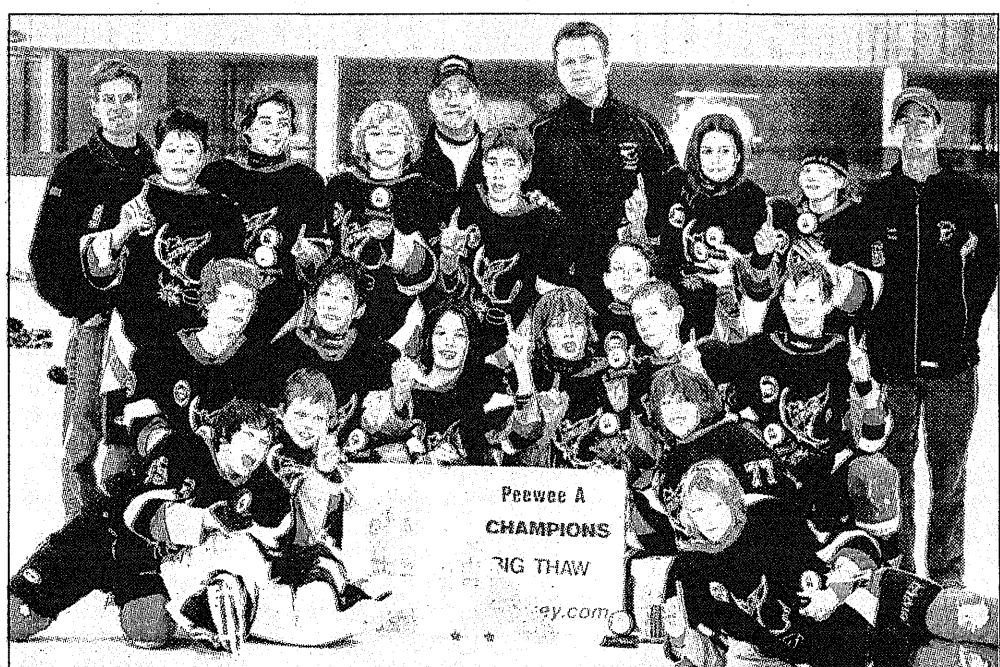
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Spectacular Stingrays

The Plymouth Stingrays 96 Peewee A travel hockey team won the Big Bear Spring Thaw Tournament in Chelsea on March 9. The Stingrays capped a successful season by upending the Cleveland Warriors in the title game, 3-1. Pictured are (back row from left) coach Troy Pick, Jared Ring, Conner Browne, Hunter Schlamp, head coach Matt Zink, Colin Pietron, coach Chris Ring, Kristi Zink, Kelsey Crow, coach Blair Thompson, (bottom row from left) Ryan Frazer, Corey Smith, Zach Shepherd, Lucas Winkler, Christian Flack, Jason Newel, John VanDenBourgeury, Spencer Thompson, Jeremy Onofrio, Bryce Verpoort and Kyle Hysong. The team's managers are Jason Smith and Rick Pietron.

Depth not an issue for Rock runners

BY ED WRIGHT
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The Salem boys track-and-field team will be coming at opponents in waves this season — literally.

Third-year coach Kyle Meteyer will be overseeing one of the largest contingents in Observerland — if not the state — as his roster is stocked with 116 athletes.

"The school district only allows us one bus, so we're going to have to shuttle the kids back and forth to our three away dual meets," said Meteyer, whose team came on strong last season after a rough start. "The nice thing about having this many kids on the team is that you're more likely to find a diamond in the rough. The only negative is that with only five coaches, it's hard to give everyone enough attention at practice."

The Rocks are hoping to pick up where they left off toward the latter part of 2007 when they placed first at the North Farmington Raider Relays.

PREP TRACK & FIELD PREVIEW

Their JV squad also placed first at an event hosted by Farmington Hills Harrison. "We improved a lot last year and met a lot of our goals," said Meteyer. "No. 1, we wanted a winning record and we did that."

"Most of our kids are back from last year's team, especially in the field events and distance events, so I'm optimistic."

Six Rocks will serve as leadership-providing 'captains' as well point-producers this spring: Kevin deBear, Justin Kane and Craig Cowing — all proven distance runners; Courtney Frazier, the only junior captain, who is an accomplished thrower and sprinter; Stephan Telenko, a four-year letter-winner in the 200- and 400-meter runs; and Mike Giles, a stellar 110-meter hurdler.

"Kevin deBear is coming off a great cross country season and he really worked hard in

the off season to get better," said Meteyer. "All of the other captains are both outstanding leaders and athletes."

Other key competitors who are expected to take the Rocks to great heights this season are Scott O'Connor, who set a school freshman record in the 300-meter hurdles last year; Dana Baltazar and Ed Merhi, sophomore throwers who will combine with Frazier to give the Rocks depth in that department; and junior Jace Bearden, who is one of the Western Lakes Activities Association's best high and long jumpers.

"Jace was very good last year and he attended a camp at Michigan State last summer that helped him get even better," said Meteyer.

One of the team's top newcomers is junior sprinter Anthony Mullins, who was a standout on the Salem football and basketball teams.

The Rocks open the 2008 campaign Thursday at Livonia Franklin.

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THE WEEK AHEAD

PREP BASEBALL
THURSDAY, APRIL 3
Agape at Southfield Christian, 4:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, APRIL 4
PCA at Lutheran Westland, 4:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, APRIL 5
Plymouth at Ypsilanti (DH), 11 a.m.
Agape at Urban Lutheran, 1 p.m.

PREP SOFTBALL
THURSDAY, APRIL 3
Agape at Southfield Christian, 4:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, APRIL 4
PCA at Lutheran Westland, 4:30 p.m.
Riverview Gabriel Richard at Agape, 4 p.m.

BOYS AND GIRLS TRACK & FIELD
THURSDAY, APRIL 3
Livonia Stevenson at Canton, 3:30 p.m.

W.L. Central at Plymouth at Plymouth JV Stadium, 3:30 p.m.
Salem at Livonia Franklin, 3:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, APRIL 5
Canton and Plymouth at A.A. Pioneer Invite at Eastern Michigan University, 10 a.m.
PCA at Lakeview Invite, 9 a.m.

GIRLS SOCCER

FRIDAY, APRIL 4
PCA at Lutheran Westland, 4:30 p.m.
Livonia Stevenson at Canton, 5:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, APRIL 5
Southfield Christian at PCA, 11 a.m.

PREP LACROSSE
THURSDAY, APRIL 3
Canton at Grosse Ile, 7 p.m.

FRIDAY, APRIL 4
A.A. Huron at Salem at JV Stadium, 6 p.m.
Rochester at PCS Lady Warriors at JV Stadium, 8 p.m.

GIRLS TENNIS
SATURDAY, APRIL 5
Salem at Troy Invite, 8 a.m.

MEN'S COLLEGE BASEBALL
THURSDAY, APRIL 3
Rochester at Madonna, 2 p.m.

SATURDAY, APRIL 5
Madonna at St. Xavier, II, (2), 1 p.m.

SUNDAY, APRIL 6
Madonna at St. Xavier, (2), 1 p.m.

WOMEN'S COLLEGE SOFTBALL
THURSDAY, APRIL 3
Madonna at Siena Heights (2), 4 p.m.

FRIDAY, APRIL 4
Cornerstone at Madonna (2), 4 p.m.

SATURDAY, APRIL 5
Aquinas College at Madonna (2), 1 p.m.

BOWLERS

FROM PAGE B1

competition will be suspended for five days when the world's best women bowlers compete in the USBC Queens April 26-30. As one of the most demanding events in professional bowling, an expected field of 300 bowlers will compete for a \$200,000 prize fund and \$30,000 first prize.

Competition consists of traditional qualifying and double-elimination match play at Super Bowl, which determines the five players who will compete in the stepladder finals April 30 at Skore Lanes in Taylor. The finals will be telecast live by ESPN2 April 30 at 7 p.m.

The USBC Queens, along with the U.S. Women's Open, are the only major women's bowling events still remaining after the Professional Women's Bowling Association (PWBA) ceased operations in 2003.

Conducted concurrently with the Queens, the 9th annual USBC Senior Queens will be held at Skore Lanes. The Senior Queens features approximately 150 of the world's top women players 50 years and older.

Rocks, Chiefs make points at EMU Huron River Relays

BY ED WRIGHT
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The Salem and Canton boys track-and-field teams provided a sneak preview of their 2008 seasons Saturday at the 32-team Eastern Michigan University Huron River Relays.

While neither team turned in a top-10 performance in the talent-rich event, athletes from both local contingents did themselves proud in their respective competitions.

Salem placed 20th with 14 points — one-half point more than the 21st-place Chiefs.

The Rocks were paced by junior Jace Bearden, who placed second in the high

jump with a leap of 6 feet, 4 inches, and fifth in the long jump with a height of 20 feet, 5-and-a-quarter inches.

Sophomore Ed Merhi also medaled for coach Kyle Meteyer's squad, finishing fifth in the shot put with a heave of 46 feet even.

Canton had one individual and four relays turn in top-10 showings.

Senior pole vaulter Chris McGinnis tied for fifth in his event with a vault of 12 feet even.

Three Canton relay squads picked up eighth-place points: the distance relay quartet of Kyle Clinton, Tim Belcher, Josh Hurst and Duncan Spitz; the shuttle hurdles four-

some of Sheriff Hassanien, McGinnis, Nick Turnbull and Tim Belcher; and the 1,600-meter relay unit of Hassanien, Keith Zech, Belcher and Scott Zech.

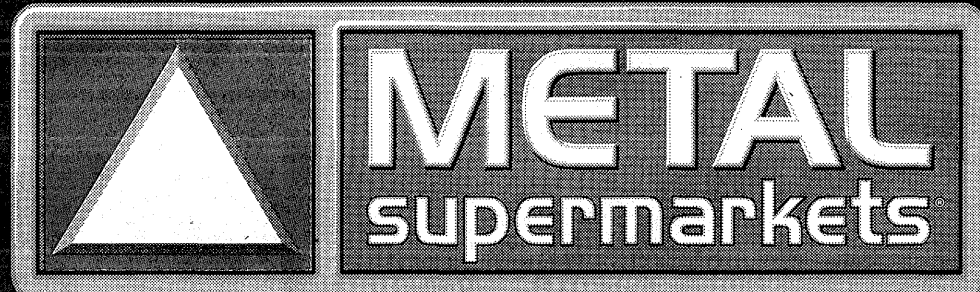
Rounding out the Chiefs' point-producers was the 10th-place sprint-medley contingent of Hassanien, Jordan Wisniewski, Belcher and Scott Zech.

Salem and Canton open their 2008 dual-meet seasons this afternoon. The Rocks will travel to Franklin while the Chiefs will host powerful Livonia Stevenson.

Both competitions are slated to begin at 3:30 p.m.

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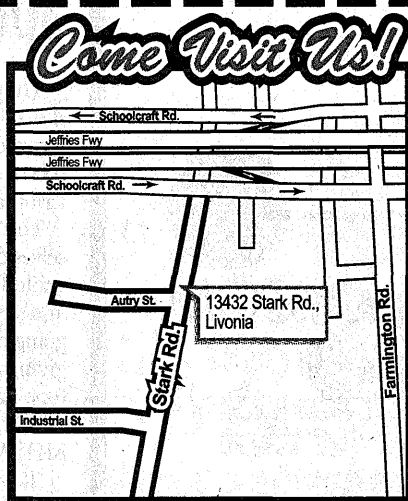
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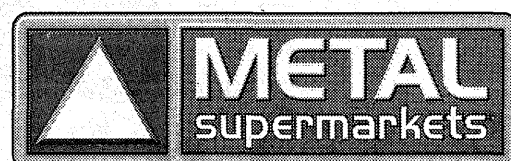
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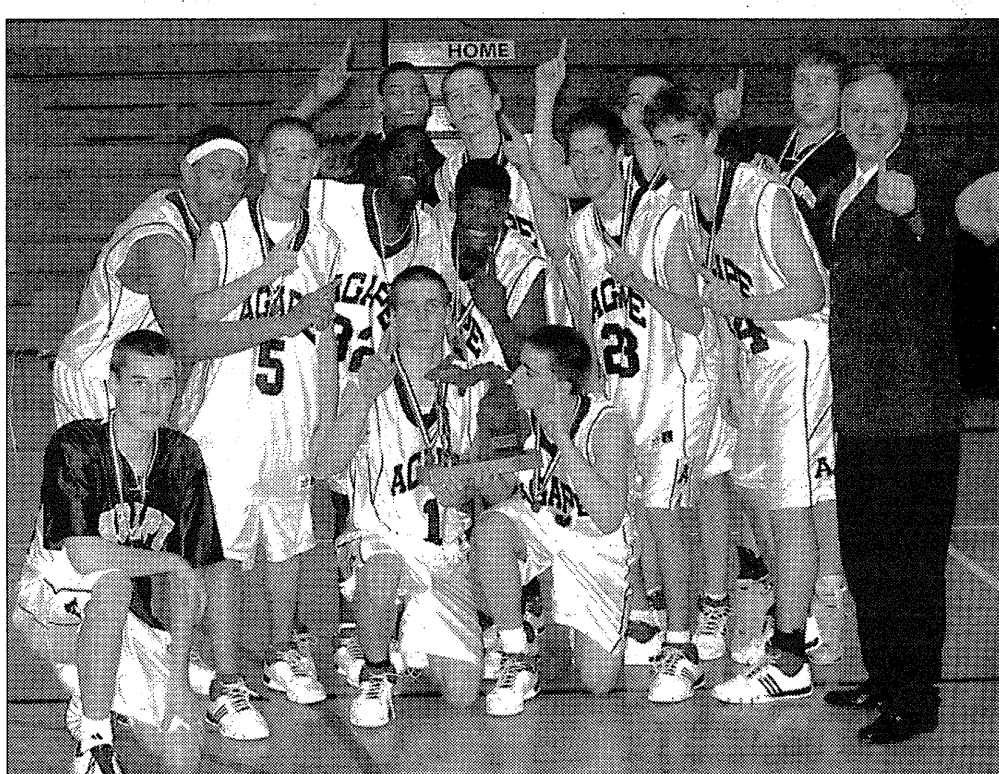
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Thundersharks prevail

The Plymouth Thundersharks Squirt hockey team captured the Little Caesar's Patrick Division championship at Joe Louis Arena March 15 by out-skating Port Huron, 5-2. Team members were born in 1997 and 1998. Pictured are (front row) goalie Michael Hampo, (second row from left) Jack Gifford, Brendan Kansier, Brendan Enszer, Stephen Doroba, Joseph Medonis, Max Kummer, Austin Currier, Megan Brace, (third row from left) Mitchell Gonzales, Andrew Posa, Brian Ward, Nicholas Mancini, David Cook, Billy Kansier, Amanda Hoehn, (back row from left) assistant coach Chris Hoehn, head coach Rick Ward, assistant coach Richard Hampo and assistant coach Lee Cook.



That championship season

The Canton Agape boys basketball team captured the school's first District championship in February as well as taking first place in the Michigan Independent Athletic Conference's Red Division. Pictured following the District title win over Allen Park Inter-City Baptist are (back row from left) Joel Ruffin, Kevin Reith, Temi Olojo, Justin Benbow, Jared Miller, Terrell Pierce, Brandon Pierson, Donald Mullett, Daniel Walker, Cameron LeRoy, coach Keith Anleitner, (front row from left) Ethan Walker, Ty Majeski and Mark Mullett.

WHALERS

FROM PAGE B1

veteran defenseman who has been active in the Whalers' community relations efforts for the past three seasons. Cunningham notched six goals and 43 assists in 55 games.

■ **Rookie of the Year:** Michal Jordan, who was acquired by the Whalers from Windsor in November. Jordan became an integral part of the Whalers' blue-line group, scoring six goals and dishing out 22 assists. Jordan is expected to be selected in the National Hockey League Entry Draft this summer in Ottawa.

■ **Labatt Blue Collar Player of the Year:** Kaine Geldart, who scored a career-high 13 goals to go along with 25 assists and 99 penalty minutes. Plymouth fans loved Geldart's grit, work ethic and never-say-die attitude.

■ **Unsung Player of the Year:** Andrew Fournier, the captain who enjoyed his best offensive season with 35 goals and 40 assists. Fournier is now playing with Norfolk of the American Hockey League.

■ **Most Improved Player of the Year:** Joe Gaynor, a solid defensive forward who received extended ice time for the first time in his career. Gaynor scored a career-high nine goals with 10 assists in 66 games.

■ **Academic Player of the Year:** A.J. Jenks, whose intelligent play on the ice carried over to the classroom. Jenks, who is ranked 20th by the NHL's Central Scouting Bureau, registered 26 goals and 29 assists in 68 games.

■ **Alice Iafrate Award as Overage Player of the Year:** Andrew Fournier. The award was voted on by the Whalers' off-ice officials.

The Whalers' Booster Club awards were presented to Terry (Player of the Year), Patrick Lee (Player of the month of March), Wes Cunningham (Fan Favorite), Geldart (Grinder of the Year) and Josh Bemis (Scholastic Player of the Year).

LACROSSE

FROM PAGE B1

and I was pleased at the jump we had early. Defensively, we communicated and scrapped after the ground balls."

While impressed with his team's effort, Costello said the showing was far from perfect.

"We had too many penalties — we need to be more disciplined," he said. "Fortunately, they weren't able to take advantage of our mistakes. The guys really competed; they were excited to play and it was great to be able to clear our bench and play everyone who was healthy."

The team's historical first goal was registered by junior Connor Martin, who found the back of the net 3:40 into the contest.

Pat Downey and Ryan Renault (two) also recorded first-period net-finders to give the 'Cats a 4-0 edge after one stanza.

Following an eight-goal second period, Plymouth scored twice in the third as Downey and his younger brother, Conor, scored.

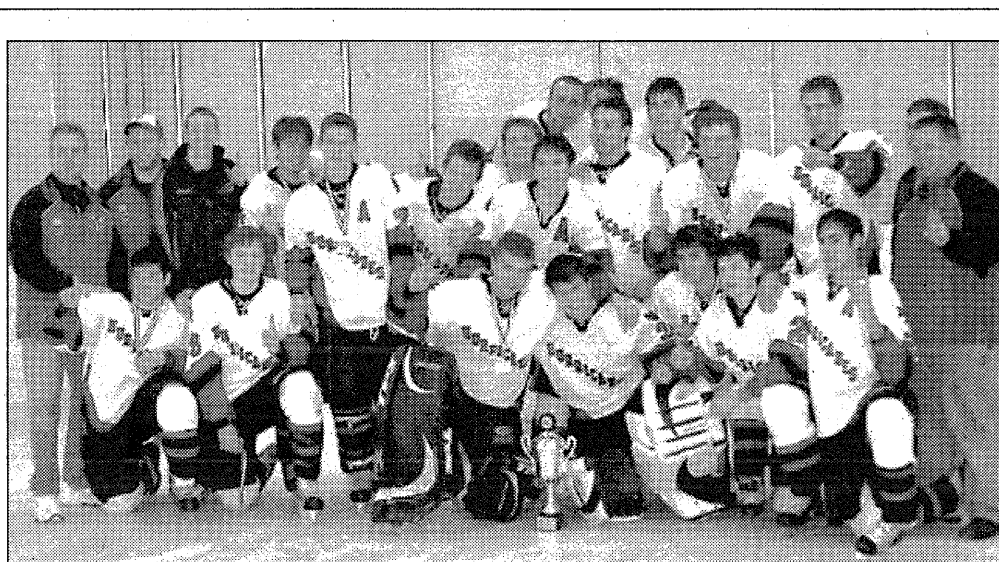
Patrick Miller netted the victors' lone fourth-period goal.

Renault led Plymouth with five goals and one assist. Martin and John Olevnik added four points each while Norm Freda and Scott Darel each scored once.

Pat Smiatcz and Jack Distel were credited with assists.

Plymouth dominated in the faceoff category, winning 9-of-12.

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Hurricanes pack strong 'wins'

The Michigan Hurricanes Midget AA hockey team was crowned champion of the Rock and Roll Cup held March 15-16 in Cleveland. The Hurricanes went undefeated in the tournament, beating teams from New York, Pennsylvania and Ohio. The team consists of: Dan Barzart, Ryan Carusi, Nathen Evans, Zack Feher, Mike Haburne, Justin Hoomaia, Will Hunter, Rick Lorenz, Kyle Masiarczyk, Joel Mattana, John Maurer, Ian O'Malley, Kyle Pankow, Nick Pelon, Alex Piku, Ronnie Pluszczynski, Travis Satkowiak, Matt Soulliere, and Kurt Zdanowski. The team is coached by Lee McCarty, Steve Yarber, Rick Lorenz and Joe Satkowiak.

SPORTS SHORTS

Plymouth Wildcat baseball camp

The Plymouth High School baseball team will be hosting its annual Spring Training Baseball Camp Saturday, April 26, from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the school's baseball complex.

The camp is open to the first 100 kids in grades third through eighth that register. The fee is \$50, which includes a camp T-shirt and lunch.

The camp is designed for aspiring young players who are looking to improve their skills for the 2008 season and beyond. It will focus on age-appropriate skill development in a positive, fun and learning environment.

Camp attendees will receive instruction from the Plymouth coaching staff and players.

Among the topics covered will be mental preparation and plate discipline; base running; and infield and outfield play.

There will also be controlled scrimmage games.

For more information, call John Nadratowski at (734) 844-3212.

'Y' soccer

The Plymouth Family YMCA is accepting registrations for Spring Soccer for children between the ages of 4 and 11.

Practices begin the week of April 7 and games start Saturday, April 19.

There will be eight practices and seven games. The fee is \$70 for program members or \$102 for community members.

All participants will need to purchase a YMCA youth sports reversible jersey for \$15. The registration deadline is March 31.

If you are interested in participating or coaching your child's team, call (734) 453-2904 for more details or visit out www.ymcadetroit.org.

OLGC football

The Our Lady of Good Counsel football program will hold its parents' meeting for the 2008 season tonight at 7 p.m. 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 commemorative benches or brick pavers at Fellows Creek Golf Club.

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.

Northville Recreation

Following are leagues offered this spring and summer by the Northville Parks & Recreation Department:

■ **Adult women's and co-ed softball leagues** are set to begin Tuesday, May 6. The entry fee is \$445 per team for an 11-game schedule.

■ **An adult open morning softball league** will commence the week of June 16. The proposed game times are 8:30 a.m. Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday (game day has yet to be determined). The entry fee is \$445 per team for an 11-game schedule (based on an eight-team league).

■ **A men's spring basketball league** is set to tip off April 21 (approximate).

Games will be played on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.

The per-team entry fee is \$375 for eight games.

For more information on all of the leagues, call (248) 449-9947.

Spartan kickers outlast T-storms and T-Birds

Thunder and lightning wasn't the only thing that scared off Dearborn Edsel Ford in its girls soccer opener Monday night at Livonia Stevenson.

The Thunderbirds found themselves down 5-0 after 20 minutes, waited through one weather delay and signaled to officials they were going home after a second delay giving the Spartans a forfeit victory. Each inclement weather delay is 30 minutes as mandated under MHSAA rules.

"It was little bit of a weird situation," Stevenson coach Chris Pinta said. "Their coach evidently didn't want to wait around after the sec-

ond delay. He said they were going home. Even though it was still raining, there was no thunder or lightning."

Sophomore Molly McConnell notched a hat trick for the Spartans, scoring at the 3-minute mark, 14 minutes and 17 minutes (from Taleen Mergian).

Alex Harbowy also scored from Mergian at the 10-minute mark, while Brittany Hoot buried Rachel Stevens' free kick at the 20-minute mark to complete the scoring. Stevenson goalkeeper Rachel Simari did not face a shot during the opening half in posting the shutout.

PLY. CHRISTIAN 5, WAYNE 3. Senior captain Whitney Jacobs' hat trick was not enough Tuesday as host Wayne Memorial (0-2) dropped a non-league encounter to Plymouth Christian Academy.

Jacobs, who has four goals on the year, got an assist on the first goal from sophomore sister Alicia Jacobs. Her second goal was unassisted, while senior captain and defender Danielle Borg assisted on the third.

It was 3-2 in favor of PCA at halftime.

FERNDALE 3, WAYNE 1. In the season opener Monday evening, the host Eagles prevailed against Wayne Memorial in a game stopped with 11 minutes remaining due to lightning. Ferndale led 2-1 at halftime scoring with only four seconds left after Wayne senior captain Whitney Jacobs tied it only 17 seconds earlier off an assist from junior Brittany DeJack.

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Above Information available as of 3/28/08 and subject to change at anytime. Rates are based on a \$200,000 loan with 20% down & credit score of 720 or above. Jumbo rates, specific payment calculations & most current rates available Fridays after 2:00 P.M. at www.mcreport.com. Key to "Other" Column - J = Jumbo, A = Arm, V = VA, F = FHA & NR = Not Reported. All Lenders are Equal Opportunity Lenders. © Copyright 2008 Residential Mortgage Consultants, Inc., All Rights Reserved

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HOMES SOLD

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of Dec. 10-14, 2007, at the Wayne County Register of Deeds office, plus some from Oakland County. Listed below are cities, addresses and sales prices.

21539 Chestnut Ln 24049 Merrilyn Ct	\$168,000 \$185,000	45223 Bartlett Dr 25951 Creek Xing	\$150,000 \$259,000
Farmington Hills			
37800 Carson St 37273 Chesapeake Rd 30724 Club House Ln 28436 Lake Park Dr 38448 Lynwood Ct 32165 W 12 Mile Rd	\$150,000 \$417,000 \$245,000 \$257,000 \$170,000 \$152,000	11699 Landers Dr 365 Roe St 1175 Sutherland St 12302 Wendover Dr 395 Windmill Dr 802 York St	\$350,000 \$172,000 \$275,000 \$100,000 \$180,000 \$118,000
Livonia			
8936 Brentwood St 16911 Doris St 37701 Northland St 19365 Norwiche Rd 29424 Oakley St 17420 Rexwood St 39169 Ross St 14141 Woodside St	\$133,000 \$415,000 \$200,000 \$230,000 \$150,000 \$180,000 \$113,000 \$147,000	20523 Centralia 15971 Fox 17142 Kinloch 18481 Wakenden 15719 Wormer	\$85,000 \$114,000 \$82,000 \$112,000 \$155,000
Northville			
17001 Algonquin Dr 44677 Broadmoor Cir N 18644 Clairmont Cir W 22206 Lujan Dr	\$390,000 \$463,000 \$157,000 \$470,000	26586 Blackwood Ct 23755 Prescott Ln E 305 Stryker St	\$337,000 \$358,000 \$55,000
Westland			
		33112 Creston St 28030 Eton St	\$80,000 \$40,000

BRIEFS

FROM PAGE C1

procedures, sample test questions and test-taking strategies. Registration fees are \$200 per person. For registration information, call (248) 862-1033.

■ Building Industry Association of Southeastern Michigan (BIA) will sponsor a lien law seminar on Wednesday, April 30, from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at BIA headquarters, 30375 Northwestern Highway, Suite 100, in Farmington Hills.

Marty Burnstein, of the Law Offices of Marty Burnstein, will discuss "What's New in Michigan Construction Lien Law and Lien Procedures." Registration fees are \$75 for BIA members and \$125 for guests. For registration information, call (248) 862-1003.

■ Apartment Association of Michigan's (AAM) Property 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 several aspects of proper pool chemistry, filtration, circulation, routine cleaning, daily testing and chemical maintenance. Registration 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 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 more 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.



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 FARMINGTON HILLS \$740,000 Custom Built Cape Cod on Priv. .95 Acre. 4 BR, 4 BA & 3 Half BA. Extra Rm in Fin W/O Bsmt w/Bar! FF Mstr, Lg Deck, 3 Car Side Entry Gar & Many Updates! MLS# 28013758 248-347-3050	 FARMINGTON HILLS \$240,000 NOW TAKING OFFERS! Picture perfect w/stunning wooded views. Open fir plan w/hardwood, skylights, loads of windows, 2-sided FP & finished walkout! MLS# 28037265 248-360-1425	 LIVONIA \$209,900 Excellent location backing to woods. Kitchen w/cherry cabinetry & lrg brkfst kn. Hwd flring, very neutral decor t/o. Sunroom, pool & basketball crt. MLS# 28043147 248-347-3050	 LIVONIA \$170,000 CLASSIC 3 bedroom, 1.5 bath brick ranch. Hardwood, new carpet, new kitchen & appliances, vinyl windows, finished bsmt, 2-car gar. MOVE-IN-MINT!! MLS# 28030210 248-360-1425	 LIVONIA \$155,000 Estate Sale! Many Updates Incl Kit, BAs, Paint & More! Sidewalks in Sub, Fenced Backyard w/2 Car Det Gar, P. Fin Bsmt & Deck. Imm Occ! All M/d Approx. MLS# 28011777 48-347-3050	 MILFORD \$294,900 Walk to Milford! \$294,900 built in 2003, 2882 sq. ft. + 1784 LL. 4 BR 2.5 BAs. library, loft, bonus rm, maple kitchen, wood flrs + 9' ceilings throughout. MLS# 28034166 248-347-3050
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 NOVI \$369,900 3 BR 2.5 BA condo loaded w/features! Chef's delight kit w/gran, ss appls, cherry cabs & hwd. Open fir plan w/2 story lr w/pt & fin ll w/spare rm & wet bar. MLS# 28025291 248-347-3050	 NOVI \$225,000 Totally Updated Colonial! Remod kit & ba, new vinyl siding, roof, furn, c/a, paver walk & patio, landscaping & more. PFin Bsmt. Clubhouse & Pool in Sub. MLS# 28046673 248-347-3050	 NOVI \$217,000 Welcome Home! Lovely colonial w/updated kitchen & baths, new Pella windows, newer roof & finished basement. Master suite bath & WIC. Great Location. MLS# 28047115 248-646-1800	 NOVI \$165,000 DETACHED CONDO! Maples of Novi 3 bedroom w/updated kitchen, full basement & 2-car garage. Backs to wooded glen. Pretty and Private! MLS# 28000870 248-360-1425	 OCEOLA \$223,900 Open floor plan! 4 BR, office/5th BR, 3.5 BA, FF mstr w/whirlpool, sep shower & dual sinks. Fin W/O, heated ingrnd pl, fin gar, fenced yd & low Twp. taxes. MLS# 28042511 248-347-3050	 SALEM \$800,000 8 Acre Estate! Wrap-Around Porch, Pond/Wetlands, Ingrnd Pool w/Waterfall, 4 Car Gar & Barn! Fieldstone Fp in FR, FF Mstr w/let Tub, Circ Dr & Sprinklers. MLS# 28043069 248-347-3050
 SALEM \$99,990 Best Value in Area! Brand new septic system, reverse osmosis h2o filter recently updated roof, ntrl gas, furn & new electric hvhw. Over 1 acre, Home Warr! MLS# 27205634 248-347-3050	 SHELBY \$150,000 Better than new! 2005 built prem end unit. Cherry hwd, corian cntrs, mpt cabs & cust window treatments! Mstr w/sitting area & WIC. Heated 2 car gar. MLS# 28049676 248-347-3050	 SOUTHFIELD \$199,869 Great Priced! 4 BR Brkch Ranch over 2200 sq ft w/2 Full & 2 Half BAs, 2 Car Att Gar, LR/DR Combo, FR w/Nat Flg & Drwl to Patio. Fin Bsmt w/Wet Bar. MLS# 28047391 248-347-3050	 WATERFORD \$200,000 ALL-SPORTS LAKE BOAT DOCKING! Plus this stunning newer home w/hardwood floors, vaulted ceilings, beautiful kitchen & sexy master suite. Sweet! MLS# 28047968 248-360-1425	 WATERFORD \$84,900 Unbelievable Price! 2 BRs 1.5 BAs, Gar & Fin Bsmt. Best Price in Waterford. New Crpt, Windows, Hwd, Appls, Roof, Paint & 5 BA. Deck w/Privacy Fence. MLS# 28047304 248-347-3050	 WEST BLOOMFIELD \$225,000 ALL-SPORTS LAKE DOCKING!!! Westacres is the storybook neighborhood you've dreamed of w/private playground, clubhouse, beach, boat docking & more. MLS# 28047952 248-360-1425



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PLUS: Stainless steel refrigerator, stove, micro & sink • kitchen cupboards • 2nd drapes • wood blinds • old washed bedroom furniture • sectional couch • chair & side chairs • white wash dining room set • iron work, large & small area rugs • fab. large picture from children's hospital • old movie star photos • candlesticks • king mattress & box • log bar stools • cabinets • large screen TVs • outdoor cement figures • PLUS: PLUS: 6 month old front load Maytag washer & dryer • outdoor furniture & wood swing set • bikes • toys • refrigerator • garage misc. • loaded kitchen • women's shoes & purses (some old) • old costume jewelry • diamonds & gold jewelry • plus tons of household items.
ATTN: Bring your old gold, jewelry or scrap & I'll buy it, or you can trade for merchandise.
NEXT WEEK: 6000 sq. ft. home on Pine Lake loaded with incredible antiques & furniture (Always Give the Best Deals!)

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248-705-9665
Friday - Saturday
April 4 & 5, 10-4
6393 MALVERN DR.
TRIVY
North of Square Lake Rd. East off Adams Rd.
Mahogany furniture incl. secretary, tables, & 2 bedroom sets, Jacobean dining sets, china, Fostoria, Hull, Quimper, Shawnee, 50's glass, oriental rugs; records jewelry, tools, vintage linens, & much more!
For directions, photos, & a complete list of contents, visit aomestatesales.com

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Observer & Eccentric

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ANOTHER ESTATE SALE BY IRIS
Thurs., April 3, 12-6pm
Fri.-Sat., April 4-5
10am-4pm
4696 West Walton, Waterford, MI, 48309
(take Telegraph N. to Dixie, go W. on Dixie to Sashabaw, turn N. to Walton, turn W. on Walton to address)
SENSATIONAL SALE! MotorCity Casino & Hotels - Furniture & Fixtures For Sale!
• 50 upholstered lounge chairs • 40 dining tables • 160 luxury dining chairs • beautiful lighting fixtures • lots of framed art • lots of brand new custom bolts of fabric • neon MotorCity signs • Much more!
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ANOTHER GREAT HUNTINGTON WOODS ESTATE SALE!
By Everything Goes
Fri-Sat, April 4-5, 10-4
25139 E. Roy Court, 48070
N. off 10 Mile, W. of Scotia Mahogany: dining table & 8 chairs, buffet & china, console piano, bdrm set. Antiques: Victorian hbk tree & chest, chairs & chandeliers. Seating & table groups, appliances, vintage clothing, china & silver, great accessories, rugs, artwork, much more!
Info: 248-988-1077
Cash for scrap, unwanted gold, jewelry & watches.

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DUMAR ESTATE SALE
Fri & Sat, April 4 & 5, 9-9:30
90 year old, complete household. Bedroom/living room furniture. Patient lift. 40's Deco Bedroom set/dining table/chairs/china cabinet. Victorian walnut carved chest, needlepoint bench, child's Windsor rocker/books, china head doll, lots of glass and hand painted china, misc.
2280 Manning, Farmington Take Farmington Rd. N. of 9 Mile to Slocum, right to Manning, right.

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LIVONIA 16590 Wayne, S. of 6 mile, E. of Levan, Fri-Sat, 9:30-4pm. Old books and records, leather furniture, office supplies, dining & bedroom set, Marx train, kitchenware, washer & dryer.

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PACKED ESTATE SALE WHITE LAKE
Hunting, Fishing, Tools, Appliances, Exercise:
April 4-5, 10-4
7380 Capti Drive
S. of M-59, off Bogie Lake Rd
americanaestatesales.com
details 248-739-4197

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ROCHESTER HILLS:
2192 Avoncrest Dr (Off Old Perch Rd S. of Walton) FRI-SUN 9-5. Car, Fenton Glass Collectibles.
586 228 9090
pics: actionestates.com

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UTICA-ESTATE SALE Fri. & Sat., April 4 & 5, 10-5pm.
45078 Deepwood Ct., Oakhill Apts. From M-39, exit Mound Rd., head north to W. Utica Rd., 1/2 mile down on your left turn into complex then, turn right on W. Oakhill Blvd, left on Deepwood Ct. Bldg #48. Everything must go. leather and wood furniture, dishes, woman clothing, costume jewelry, electronics, coffee table, bedroom, dining set, lamps, collectibles and art work. Cash only please.

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WESTLAND April 3, 4, & 5, 10-4. 34042 Fountain Blvd., In Holiday park on Wayne Rd. btwn. Joy & Warren). Whole house. No early birds.

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Garage Sales 7110

FERDALE ANNUAL CHURCH RUMMAGE SALE - Saturday, April 5, 9am-5pm. Ferndale Free Methodist Church 1950 Woodward Heights, Ferndale, MI 48220

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LIVONIA 14961 Bassett 5 mile & Knolston right to Bassett. April 5, 9-8pm. Tools, clothing, electrical supplies, furniture, miscellaneous.

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APPLIANCES
Like new. Will sell at best offer. 313-952-2033

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DRYER Whirlpool, electric, extra large capacity, hardly used, white, \$225.
(734) 421-5407

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NOVI BOOK SALE - 1000 books April 4-5, 9-3pm.
21978 Greentree, Novi, S off 9 Mile, W. of Haggerty.

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MOVING SALES 7130

GARDEN CITY Selling the house except the beds!! Any reasonable offer!
734-237-4023

7100 Estate Sales 7100

Household Goods 7160

BEDROOM SET - Thomasville king sleigh bed, solid pine w/wrought iron accents, large chest of drawers & night stand, \$555. Two gray 6 drawer chests \$100/each.
248-541-2230

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BEDROOM SET - King size frame, 2 dressers, armoire, 2 night stands, 2 lamps, sold oak, 7 yrs old. ex. cond. \$5000.
248-380-0075

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BEDROOM SET Girls', antique yellow, double bed, dresser with hutch, desk, chair, nightstand. \$300. 313-410-3920

7100 Estate Sales 7100

CANTON 4527 Shoreview, Meadow Villages sub, Geddes & Beck. Sofa & Loveseat, Pennsylvania House, solid blue print - \$250. TV Armoire, Coffee Table, Broyhill Chery. 734-560-3569

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COHLER BATH FIXTURES
Installed, never used, light blue. \$450/ best. leave message at: 313-534-4264

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DOOR Feather River Front Door, Leaded Glass, Rough Opening 38 x 87. Brand new. \$600. 248-320-0557

7100 Estate Sales 7100

FURNITURE - Sofa, 72" skirted, muted tones, quality, like new, \$350. Brass/glass 22" square Hammary bunching tables (2) \$125 each/\$200 pair.
248-661-2747

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SIZE M BABY GRAND
Black, comes with adjustable leather bench. 248-535-2760

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Rainbow Playset
Sunshine Castle
5 years old. \$1500.
Troy - 248-320-0557

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AKC Standard Poodle puppies. \$400. 989-734-3391
mollyspreciouspoodles.com

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Call: (248) 625-9562

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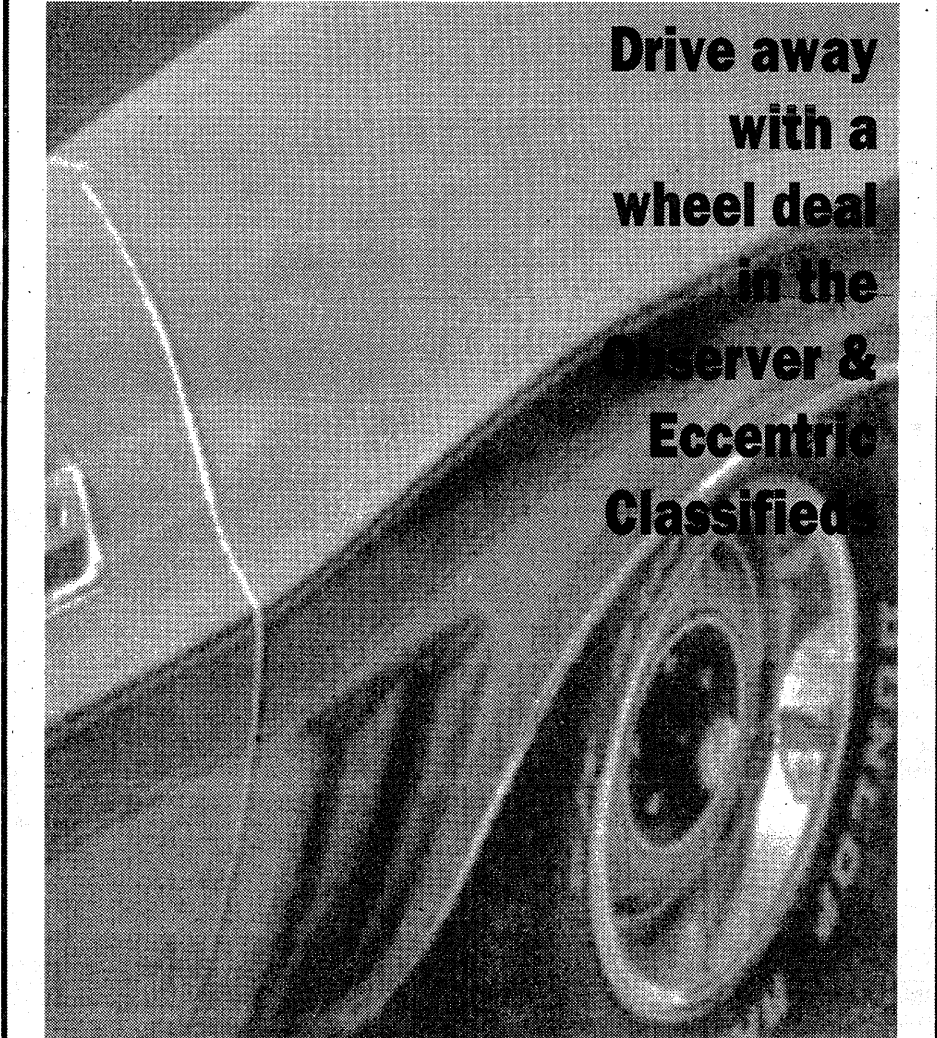
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4x4, V-8, crew cab, black, matching hard tonneau cover, 33K, JBL stereo CD, extra clean, \$23,880.

SATURN of PLYMOUTH (734) 453-7890

DODGE CARAVAN SE 2003, one owner, \$8,895. DICK SCOTT DODGE PLYMOUTH (734) 451-2110

DODGE GRAND CARAVAN 2006, stow & go, loaded, low miles, \$14,988. DICK SCOTT DODGE PLYMOUTH (734) 451-2110

FORD FREESTAR SE 2006, 7 passenger, rear air, \$10,900 Stk# P20300 DEALER (734) 524-1264

MERCURY VILLAGE 1999
Sport, 7 passenger, rear air, \$4,500. Stk# 8T3117A DEALER (734) 524-1264

NISSAN QUEST 2004, gray, DVD, Nav, \$13,995. Bob Jeannotte Pontiac (734) 453-2500

OLDS SILHOUETTE 2002, burgundy, one owner, only \$5,995. Bob Jeannotte Pontiac (734) 453-2500

PONTIAC MONTANA 1999, low miles, very clean, vacation time! \$5,495. Bob Jeannotte Pontiac (734) 453-2500

PONTIAC MONTANA 7
passenger, leather, loaded, rear heat/air, sharp! Only \$9,950. JOHN ROGIN BUICK 734-525-0900

TOYOTA SIENNA CE 2004, \$13,998. AVIS FORD (248) 355-7515

CHEVY SILVERADO 2007
3 to choose from. Starting at \$22,950 Lou LaRiche Chevrolet 888-372-9836

CHEVY SILVERADO 1500
2001 Extended cab, 4.3 automatic, excel cond, \$6,800. 248-207-0843, 248-442-7343

CHEVY SILVERADO 2007
3 to choose from. Starting at \$22,950 Lou LaRiche Chevrolet 888-372-9836

CHEVY SILVERADO 1500
2001 Extended cab, 4.3 automatic, excel cond, \$6,800. 248-207-0843, 248-442-7343

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3 to choose from. Starting at \$22,950 Lou LaRiche Chevrolet 888-372-9836

CHEVY SILVERADO 1500
2001 Extended cab, 4.3 automatic, excel cond, \$6,800. 248-207-0843, 248-442-7343

AVIS Does What Others CAN'T!
You're Approved For The Auto YOU Want GUARANTEED! Call For Details ASK FOR MR. SCOTT (248) 355-7515 AVIS FORD

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AVIS Does What Others CAN'T!
You're Approved For The Auto YOU Want GUARANTEED! Call For Details ASK FOR MR. SCOTT (248) 355-7515 AVIS FORD

Sports Utility

CHRYSLER PACIFICA 2005, cloth, 3 row seats, one owner, \$14,988. DICK SCOTT DODGE PLYMOUTH (734) 451-2110

CHRYSLER PACIFICA TOURING FWD, White, only 36K, loaded. Extra clean! \$12,900.

SATURN of PLYMOUTH (734) 453-7890

FORD ESCAPE LIMITED 2005, 3K, \$16,498. AVIS FORD (248) 355-7515

FORD ESCAPE LTD 2005, 23K, loaded, one owner, extra clean, priced to sell, \$14,900.

SATURN of PLYMOUTH (734) 453-7890

FORD ESCAPE XLT 2005, \$9,998. AVIS FORD (248) 355-7515

FORD ESCAPE XLT 2005, loaded, certified, \$11,940. Stk# P20391 DEALER (734) 524-1264

FORD ESCAPE XLT 2008, 4x4, save thousands off new, \$19,770. Stk# P20405 DEALER (734) 524-1264

FORD ESCAPE 2005
You can buy this little Hummer want to be. \$89 down, \$131 Mo. TYME AUTO 734-455-5566

FORD EXPEDITION EL LIMITED 2007, all options, 4x4, \$35,998. AVIS FORD (248) 355-7515

FORD EXPEDITION XLT 1999, leather, 4x4, \$8,998. AVIS FORD (248) 355-7515

FORD EXPEDITION XLT 2003
4x4, \$14,998. AVIS FORD (248) 355-7515

FORD EXPEDITION XLT 2007
4x4, DVD, \$24,998. AVIS FORD (248) 355-7515

FORD EXPLORER 2002
4 dr. 4x4, V-8, loaded, \$9,940. Stk# 8T6095A DEALER (734) 524-1264

FORD EXPLORER 2004
Sport Trac, 10K, \$14,998. AVIS FORD (248) 355-7515

FORD EXPLORER SPORT 2002
4x4, \$8,498. AVIS FORD (248) 355-7515

FORD EXPLORER SPORT, 2003
Very low miles, \$721 below Black book. Only \$99 down will start your credit on this one. TYME AUTO 734-455-5566

FORD EXPLORER XLT 2005
4x4, full power, \$13,940. Stk# P20391 DEALER (734) 524-1264

GMC ENVOY XL 2003, one owner, sunroof, leather, burgundy, only \$9,995. Bob Jeannotte Pontiac (734) 453-2500

GMC TAHOE, 1999, 4WD
Bet you'd pay \$2,500 for this one, well you can't have it. It's \$5,500 TYME AUTO 734-455-5566

GMC YUKON SLT 1999
Leather, loaded, low miles, \$10,995. Lou LaRiche Chevrolet 888-372-9836

GMC YUKON XL SLT 2003, white, leather, power moon, 45K, \$17,995. Bob Jeannotte Pontiac (734) 453-2500

LINCOLN AVIATOR 2003, AWD, \$13,998. AVIS FORD (248) 355-7515

LINCOLN NAVIGATOR 2007
Ultimate, AWD, \$40,998. AVIS FORD (248) 355-7515

MAZDA CX-7 SPORT 2007, \$19,998. AVIS FORD (248) 355-7515

MERCURY MARINER 2006
Hybrid, navigation, \$23,998. AVIS FORD (248) 355-7515

MERCURY MARINER 2007, 6K, \$16,798. AVIS FORD (248) 355-7515

MERCURY MOUNTAINEER 2007, 4WD, \$19,998. AVIS FORD (248) 355-7515

MERCURY MOUNTAINEER 2007, premium AWD, moonroof, leather, navigation, only \$22,950. E-Z Finance JOHN ROGIN BUICK 734-525-0900

SATURN OUTLOOK XE 2007, white, 13K one owner, like new, \$26,590.

SATURN of PLYMOUTH (734) 453-7890

SATURN VUE 2003-2007, 8 to choose, starting at \$7,890.

SATURN of PLYMOUTH (734) 453-7890

Sports Utility

SATURN VUE 2007
Hybrid, white, 21K one owner, extra clean, as new. Won't last long, \$20,900.

SATURN of PLYMOUTH (734) 453-7890

SUBARU LEGACY 1999
Outback LTD Wagon, loaded, auto, silver, exc cond., 103K, \$7,855.

SATURN of PLYMOUTH (734) 453-7890

TOYOTA ARUNNER SR5 2002
4x4, auto, air, loaded, save, EZ finance, only \$9,950. JOHN ROGIN BUICK 734-525-0900

BMW 2001 3 Series
4 dr. \$9,998. AVIS FORD (248) 355-7515

BMW 325i 2003, low miles, exc cond., must see, \$15,540.

SATURN of PLYMOUTH (734) 453-7890

CENTURY 2004, loaded, only 6,500 miles, like new, full power, fully loaded, sharp. JOHN ROGIN BUICK 734-525-0900

LACROSSE CXS 2007, 10 to choose, leather, loaded, low miles, some moonroofs, from \$17,950. 100,000 mi warr. JOHN ROGIN BUICK 734-525-0900

LUCERNE CXI 2006, V-8 blue, loaded, \$20,495. Bob Jeannotte Pontiac (734) 453-2500

LUCERNE CXS 2007, 6 to choose, leather, loaded, low miles, from \$20,950. JOHN ROGIN BUICK 734-525-0900

PARK AVENUE 1999, moon, loaded, \$4,995. Bob Jeannotte Pontiac (734) 453-2500

SEBRING 2004
Convertible, low miles, extra clean, \$11,895. DICK SCOTT DODGE PLYMOUTH (734) 451-2110

AVENGERS 2008, 3 to choose, low miles, \$14,488. DICK SCOTT DODGE PLYMOUTH (734) 451-2110

CALIBER 2007, 3 to choose, low miles, \$12,695. DICK SCOTT DODGE PLYMOUTH (734) 451-2110

DEVILLE 2005, 3 to choose, leather, moonroof, fully loaded, low miles, from \$20,950. JOHN ROGIN BUICK 734-525-0900

DTS 2001, black, low miles, very nice! \$13,495. Bob Jeannotte Pontiac (734) 453-2500

ELDORADO 1996, great shape! Black, runs great, \$5,995. Bob Jeannotte Pontiac (734) 453-2500

CAMARO SS 2002
35th Anniversary, auto, 10,746 actual one owner miles, never in snow or rain, "Rare find", \$22,900.

SATURN of PLYMOUTH (734) 453-7890

CAVALIER 2005
4 dr., pl/pw, white, auto, \$8,495. Bob Jeannotte Pontiac (734) 453-2500

COBALT 2006
4 dr., black, great gas saver, \$8,895. DICK SCOTT DODGE PLYMOUTH (734) 451-2110

April is Michigan wine month

Did you know that of 14,500 vineyard acres, Michigan has 1,800 acres devoted to wine grapes, making it the eighth state in wine grape production? In the last 10 years, Michigan vineyard area has increased more than 60 percent.



Focus on Wine
Ray & Eleanor Heald

Annually, Michigan's more than 50 commercial wineries produce over 375,000 cases of wine, ranking it 13th in the nation for wine production and attracting a million visitors who generate an estimated \$8.6 million in wine-related tourism. The wine and grape industry contributes about \$800 million annually to Michigan's economy.

Of the classic European varieties, a.k.a. vitis vinifera, Riesling is the most widely planted white variety and Pinot Noir, the most widely planted red in the state. In 2007, Michigan wines were awarded 800 medals at national and international competitions.

VINTAGE 2007

Michigan is already heralded for its Riesling wines - dry, semi-dry and late harvest dessert styles. However, Michigan's producers could not be happier with the early assessment of its red wines from last year's harvest. "Some 2007 reds," says Black Star Farms winemaker Lee Lutes, "are better than 2005."

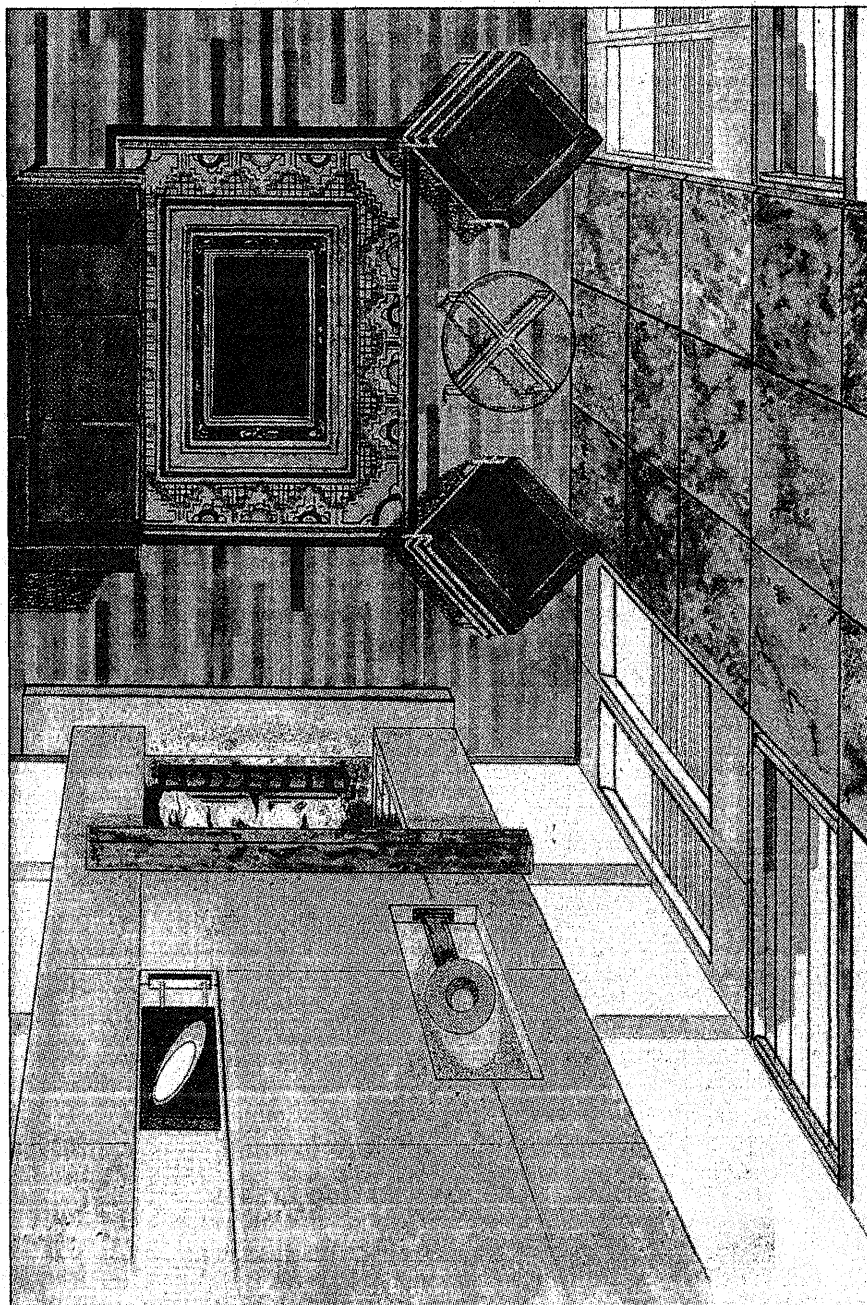
The 2007 white wines will begin to see release this month, but the reds are at least a year away. From the 2005 vintage, though, try cabernet franc, merlot and pinot noir. If you're bored with chardonnay, try one from Michigan, they're crisp and not nearly as pumped with oak.

MORE WINERIES TO OPEN

This year, six new wineries are slated to open. They include Krolczyk Cellars in Freesoil, Clay Avenue Cellars in Muskegon, Rose Valley Winery in Rose City, Two Lads Winery on Old Mission Peninsula, and in Lake Leelanau Forty-Five North and Circa Winery. These bring the state's winery total to 56.

"Sales of Michigan wines grew more than 14 percent in 2007," reports Michigan Grape & Wine Industry Council's Linda Jones. "Overall state wine sales from all global points of origin were up 3.4 percent." Jones also noted that to kick off Michigan Wine Month,

Please see **WINE, D2**



Diane Murphy Krupa won the 19th Annual Ghiordes Knot Creative Space Competition at the Michigan Design Center in Troy with her "Temple Carvings." Krupa, of Flat Rock, is a student at Eastern Michigan University's School of Engineering Technology.

Top designs

Students design rooms around rugs

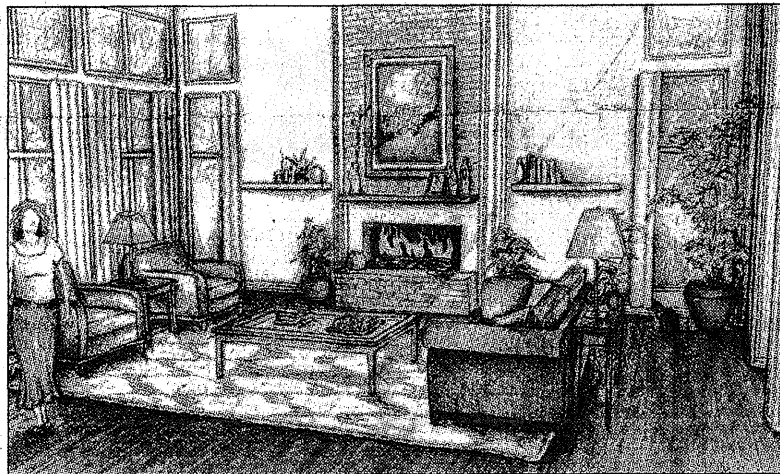
BY KEN ABRAMCZYK
STAFF WRITER

A rug is like a palette, says Rhoda Goldman.

"Rugs are like a piece of art on the floor," said the showroom manager of Ghiordes Knot in Troy. From that, designers can choose wall colors, draperies and furniture for clients seeking a new look for their homes.

Design students received a practice session for the working world with rugs in the 19th Annual Ghiordes Knot Creative Space Competition. Goldman said 57 students from seven Michigan schools, colleges and universities participated.

The students illustrate the rug as a focal point in the room, and interpret the rugs provided by Ghiordes Knot. This year's rugs were Timor by Asmara, a needle-point carpet, and Temple Carvings by Inner Asia, a Tibetan trellis. The entries were judged March 20 by a panel of professional



Casey Hooley of Grand Rapids, a student at Kendall College Art & Design, won an honorable mention in the competition with her Timor rug design.

designers, who are American Society of Interior Designers members.

"A lot of the instructors, who are also ASID members, use it as a classroom project," Goldman said. "Two of the judges said how good it is that in this computer day and age, that (these students) could use the graph paper for a client, instead of the CAD program."

The winner was Diane Murphy Krupa, a student of Eastern Michigan University's School of Engineering and Technology, for her use of Temple Carvings. In her entry's Inspiration Statement, Krupa wrote: "Temple Carvings is an intricately woven jewel. The

rug's rich hues, floral motif and rhythmic geometry all help lend a sense of timelessness to the space."

She also wrote: "An intriguing harmony between the fluid motion of the rug's rich colors is reflected by the natural beauty of the state accent wall. This sets the stage for a savvy, sophisticated setting."

Runners-up received honorable mention awards. They were Casey Hooley of Grand Rapids, a student at Kendall College of Art and Design; and Lara Carlson, of Howell and a student at EMU, for their Timor rug interpretations.

The winner will receive \$400;

Please see **DESIGN, D2**

New wireless gadget streams music from your PC to any room in the house

Question: I have a large music library on my PC. My stereo is located in a different room. How can I stream music from one to the other?



Tech Savvy
Rick Broida

Answer: If you've got \$1,000 to spare, get yourself a Sonos Digital Music System (sonos.com), one of my all-time favorite gadgets. Too rich for your blood? For about \$400 you can get the next best thing: Logitech's new Squeezebox Duet (logitech.com). Like the Sonos, this nifty kit combines a wireless receiver that connects to your stereo

(or a set of powered speakers) and an iPod-like remote that controls playback.

Logitech's software can stream just about any kind of audio files on your PC, including songs in your iTunes library. The exception is DRM-protected tracks, such as those you've purchased from the iTunes Store or Zune Marketplace.

The Squeezebox can also connect to a wide variety of Internet music services, including Rhapsody, Pandora, and Shoutcast. Some of them require subscriptions, but others are free. I particularly like RadioTime, which lets you stream live radio from stations around the world.

It's a pretty cool product,

though I did encounter a few setup hassles. What's more, the Squeezebox requires your PC to remain on at all times if you want to play your music collection. You'll also need to have a Wi-Fi router in the house.

If you don't mind being tethered to your TV, the Apple TV (apple.com/appletv) accomplishes the same music-streaming magic (though only with iTunes libraries) and costs even less (\$229). It does video, too.

Question: What are RSS feeds, and why should I bother with them?

Answer: RSS stands for Really Simple Syndication, but you can think of it as a way

Please see **TECH, D2**



Logitech's Squeezebox Duet streams your music library and Internet music to nearly any room in the house.

Accents

Garden party

English Gardens will host its Annual Garden Party Weekend on Saturday, April 5 and Sunday, April 6. The weekend kicks off the annual gardening season and features free gardening presentations, refreshments and a look at what's new for 2008.

The event is free, open to the public and held at all seven English Gardens stores in Ann Arbor, Clinton Twp., Dearborn Heights, Eastpointe, Royal Oak/Troy, West Bloomfield, and its newest location in Brighton.

More than 25 topics ranging from perennials to container gardening to earth-friendly gardening, will be presented, including a presentation by Janet Macunovich, co-founder and senior instructor of the Michigan School of Gardening with Color Schemes in the Garden, 1 p.m. Saturday, April 5 in Royal Oak and Season-Long Color with Perennials, 3 p.m. Sunday, April 6 in West Bloomfield.

English Gardens is located at 4901 Coolidge Highway, Royal Oak. Call (248) 280-9500 and 6370 Orchard Lake Road, West Bloomfield (248) 851-7506.

CHARITY ASSISTED

Variety, the children's charity, has created a new "Learning Lunch" series, a new program designed to provide women in the community with speakers on topics important to them, while raising funds to support children of the region.

The premiere event is a Table Tops Luncheon at 11 a.m. April 16 at the Pine Lake Country Club, 3300 Pine Lake Road in Orchard Lake. The event highlights beautifully designed and decorated tables and will also feature a presentation by Karen Carroll, editor of *Southern Accents* magazine.

Carroll is a frequent lecturer on entertaining and home design and, in addition to her role as editor of *Southern Accents*, wrote *Entertaining with Southern Style*, as well as contributed to the books *Accents on Accessories* and *Southern Style*.

Event co-chairs Karen DeKoker and Lisa Petrella have also planned a special preview for benefactors the night before. Carroll will be featured at "Supper with Southern Accents" at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 15 at the home of Lisa and Ennio Petrella.

Ticket prices for Variety's Table Tops Luncheon are: Friend, \$75, or a table of eight, \$600; Patron, \$125, or a table of eight, \$1,000; or Benefactor, \$175, or a table of eight \$1,400. To purchase tickets or for more information, call Variety at (248) 258-5511.

DAHLIA DAY

The Michigan Dahlia Association sponsors Dahlia Day to assist dahlia growers and would-be growers to prepare for the 2008 growing season. Learn about taking dahlias from storage; dividing clumps; starting tubers indoors; preparing your garden soil; planting, feeding and spraying, and more.

The event is free and scheduled 2-4:30 p.m. Sunday, April 6, in the upstairs meeting rooms at the Taylor Sportsplex, 13333 Telegraph (between Eureka and Northline roads in Taylor).

FARMINGTON GARDEN CLUB

Learn about growing geraniums with John Wendland, retired groundskeeper of Oakland University and head of the Meadowbrook Estate Greenhouse at the monthly meeting of the Farmington Garden Club, at noon April 7. Wendland discusses the geranium's history, culture and varieties at the Spicer House in Heritage Park, Farmington Road between 10 and 11 Mile roads. Guests are welcome.

Call (248) 626-6322 or visit www.farmingtongardenclub.com for information.

Vibrations are a problem with new washers

Consumers probably complain the most about vibrations in today's new washers.

With all the laundry rooms moved to the first and second floors you can bet your bottom dollar that "walking" washing machines are a huge problem.

Clothes washers were designed to operate on a solid floor, like cement. Today's washers have a spin speed that is much faster than machines of old. The positive of this high speed is a laundry load that comes out with very little water in the clothes and a much quicker drying time in the clothes dryer, which in effect saves energy. But, if the laundry room floor is not as solid as the Rock of Gibraltar, you may end up with a washer that moves several inches or even feet during its operation.

The following e-mail really threw me a curve but in the end, the consumer gave me the answer to his problem.

Jim wrote: "Our washer likes to take walks during the spin cycle. It shakes and the machine has actually walked 3 to 4 inches at times. I have tried everything from re-adjusting the load to making

sure the machine was level. I have checked the feet to make sure they are set. Do you have any suggestions for me?"

Jim enclosed his phone number in his e-mail, which made it easy to have a lengthy discussion, and allowed me to ask several questions. I made sure to point out that the legs should be brought up as close to the washer frame as possible as this helps to give the washer more stability. I asked all the pertinent questions to make sure I covered all the bases before I started asking about the floor in his first floor laundry room.

He told me that the laundry room and kitchen area floors were constructed with 2 inches of cement. He had Italian Marble imported from Italy to lie over the cement and his floors were as solid a foundation as can be created. I agreed and ran out of questions and solutions.

Then Jim mentioned the washer sits on a pedestal and the light bulb came on in my head. I remembered the appliance dealer who started selling these pedestals to homeowners who didn't like bending down when using their front load washers and how many of these customers were complaining about their washer moving all over the place.

In many cases all he did was remove the pedestal and the problem was solved. I am awaiting a new e-mail from

Jim and I'll bet money his problem is taken care of.

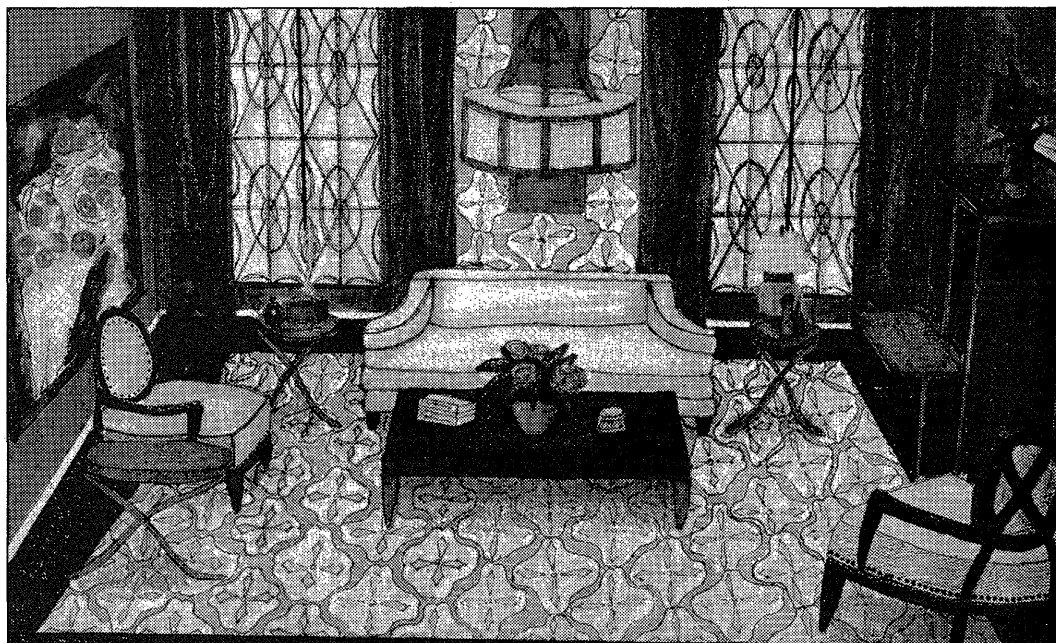
The pedestal was created when the new front loader hit the market 10 years ago.

People were concerned that it might be a pain in the back to bend over when using the washer. (The pedestal) also proved to be extra profit for appliance dealers across the country.) There is no doubt that it makes laundry easier but it would be wise for a shopper who buys one to have the dealer agree to a refund on the pedestal if the washer should rock and roll.

You might even think about purchasing a new top loader, which have spin speeds as quick as the front loaders.

In the old days when I had a complaint on a vibrating clothes washer that was in a first or second floor laundry room I visited the home and move the washer to the garage floor. I would tell the customer that if it shakes in the garage "I will give you a brand new washer." It never happened, folks! The washing machine belongs in the basement. Stay tuned.

Joe Gagnon can be heard at 8 a.m. Saturdays on WAAM 1600. His phone number is (734) 971-1600 Ext. 28. Do you have a question about an appliance or have a problem with one? E-mail it to kabramcz@hometownlife.com and it will be forwarded to Joe Gagnon.



Lara Carlson of Howell, a student at Eastern Michigan University, also won an honorable mention.

DESIGN

FROM PAGE D1

the two honorable mentions get \$200 each.

The winning designs will be displayed on April 4, which is

also Michigan Design Center's Student Careers Day.

Students also learned about the rugs at Ghiordes. Some even came to the showroom, others used a catalog with photos to study the rugs.

"Those students are so interested in being at the Michigan

Design Center," Goldman said.

"It gives them a nice sense of what's going on in the world of design. From the showroom, they can see what is available, from contemporary to antiques."

kabramcz@hometownlife.com

WINE

FROM PAGE D1

the Council is launching a redesigned website at www.michiganwines.com.

This month, the new 48-page 2008 Michigan Wine Country magazine will be released. It contains maps and touring information. You can request a complimentary copy on the website above or contact the Council at (517)241-1207.

CELEBRATORY EVENTS

A number of wine events are being held this month around the state:

■ April 5 Sandhill Crane Vineyards kicks off Michigan Wine Month with new wine releases and hors d'oeuvres. Log on to www.sandhillcranevineyards.com.

■ April 12 Cooking with Wine Seminar at Cherry Creek Cellars www.cherry-creekwine.com.

■ April 19-20 Celebrate Michigan Wines on the Leelanau and Old Mission Peninsulas www.lpwines.com or www.wineriesofoldmission.com.

MICHIGAN WINE PICKS

BUBBLES, BUBBLES, BUBBLES and in this category, the following L. MAWBY sparkling wines from Leelanau Peninsula are hard to beat: Blanc de Blanc \$18, Blanc de Noir \$18 and our very favorite Talisman \$30.

Table Wines:

- 2005 St. Julian St. J Merlot, Lake Michigan Shore \$10
- 2006 Black Star Farms Arcturos Pinot Gris, Old Mission Peninsula \$13.50
- 2006 St. Julian St. J Riesling, Lake Michigan Shore \$15
- 2006 Black Star Farms Arcturos Dry Riesling, Old Mission Peninsula \$15.50
- 2006 Black Star Farms Arcturos "three block lot" Merlot, Leelanau Peninsula \$25
- 2006 Brys Estate Artisan Series Pinot Noir, Old Mission Peninsula \$40

Note: Due to the surge in popularity of Michigan wines, some of the suggested wines may be sold out. Get your bid in at the winery via their wine club for 2007. You won't be sorry.

If a retailer does not stock a specific wine we recommend, order it direct from the winery.

sion.com.

■ April 19-20 Michigan Wine Celebration sponsored by the Southeast Michigan Pioneer Wine Trail www.pioneerwinetrail.com.

■ April 25-27 Chef's Challenge at Shanty Creek Resort www.shantycreek.com.

Eleanor & Ray Heald are contributing editors for the internationally-respected Quarterly Review of Wines and Troy residents who write about wine and spirits for the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. Contact them by e-mail at fucusonwine@aol.com.

GARDEN CALENDAR

If you have an item for the garden calendar, please submit it at least two weeks prior to the event to Ken Abramczyk at kabramcz@hometownlife.com.

Vendors Sought

Vendors who sell fruits, vegetables, flowers, plants, herbs, organic produce, honey, maple syrup, candles, soaps and other natural products are being sought for this year's Southfield Farmers' Market, open 7 a.m.-4 p.m. Thursdays June 5- late October outside the Millennium Centre, 15600 J.L. Hudson Drive. Call (248) 796-5196 to apply.

Learn botanical plant names

Demystify those confusing plant names and learn to pronounce those Greek and Latin names of plants, instructed by Elynn Meyers, horticulturist and instructor at Lansing Community College, 10-11:30 a.m. April 5, Hidden Lake Gardens, 6280 W. Munger (M50), Tipton (517) 431-2060.

Michigan Wildflower Presentation
Susan Charette, perennial department manager at Goldner Walsh Nursery, explores the wild side of spring and

beauty of Michigan wildflowers, 11 a.m. April 12, free, Goldner Walsh Nursery, 559 Orchard Lake Rd., Pontiac, call (248) 332-6430 to reserve a place.

The Community House

A series of classes dedicated to the greening of America, issues and solutions for improving the environment; Going Green, (native plants, water saving principles, lower pesticide use), 7:30-9 p.m. April 15 or 10-11:30 a.m. April 17; Landscaping for a Healthy River, 7-8 p.m. April 17; Nature Near You, 1-2:30 p.m. April 21; Spending Lean on Building Green, 7-9 p.m. April 23; Residential Rain Gardens, 7-8:30 p.m. May 1; 380 S. Bates, Birmingham call (248) 644-5832 to register, or visit online at www.communityhouse.org.

The Community House Garden Club

"New Plants That Thrive in Our Climate" with George Papadellis, owner of Telly's Greenhouse, who will conduct a presentation that will help you prepare your spring and summer gardens by using new plants that thrive in our climate, 7 p.m. April 21, The Community House, 380 South

Bates Street, Birmingham. The public is invited. Reservations are not necessary. A \$5 donation is requested at the door or \$20 for garden club membership. Call (248) 594-6410.

More Garden, Less Lawn

David Michener, associate curator, University of Michigan Botanical Gardens and Nichols Arboretum, on redoing the garden, presented by The Village Gardeners of Lathrup Village, 6:30-8:30 p.m. April 21, Community Room of the Lathrup Village Municipal Building, 27400 Southfield Road, 3 blocks north of I-696, visit <http://lvgardeners.home.comcast.net> or call Susan Arneson (248-443-1703) or Nancy Bacinski (248-569-6548).

British Floral Artist

Friends of Art & Flowers at the Detroit Institute of Arts present Jane Packer: Colour lecture and demonstration 10:30 a.m. May 7, DIA Lecture Hall, lecture and luncheon \$50, lecture only \$25, book signing to follow, for reservations, call (313) 833-4005, www.dia.org, for information, call (313) 833-1717.

HOME CALENDAR

Cranbrook Seeks Docents

Historic Cranbrook House seeks docents to conduct tours of the 1908 home. Choose eight-week training sessions Tuesday evenings or Wednesday mornings beginning March 4. Separate sessions will be held for Garden docents

only. The four season runs from May through October. Cranbrook House and Gardens Auxiliary also welcomes volunteers for estate gardening, greenhouse management, the Wildflower Rescue Program and Gatehouse admissions center. Call (248) 645-3149.

The Birmingham Showhouse

"An ideal home created from a woman's perspective," Sept. 18-21, benefits Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute, sponsored by Wellington Chase Homes and Michigan Design Center, also open Sept. 25-28, 4,580-square-foot English Arts and Crafts style, developed by women with products exclusively from MDC, visit michigandesign.com or Showhouse Web site at birminghamshowhouse.com.

TECH

FROM PAGE D1

to digest lots of information quickly and easily.

Most Web sites that regularly publish new content (think news outlets, blogs, and so on) make their content available via RSS "feeds."

By using a "feed reader," you can peruse the latest content from your favorite sites under one roof, instead of jumping from one site to another.

A feed reader can be a stand-alone program or a Web site. I'm partial to Google Reader (google.com/reader), which makes it a snap to "subscribe" to any site that has an RSS feed.

Just look for the little orange RSS icon, which for Firefox users appears on the right side of the Web address bar. Internet Explorer 7 users will find it on the toolbar near the right side of the screen.

Within Google Reader you can browse new content from each site, organize subscriptions into folders, "star" interesting items for later reference, e-mail items to friends, and, of course (this being a Google product), search your subscription content.

Like most Google goodies, Reader costs nothing to use, so you should definitely give it a try. Using a feed reader may seem a little awkward at first, but I guarantee it'll save you time over the long run.

Question: Is there a program that can save me from having to type the same phrases over and over?

Answer: There are several. One of my favorites is PhraseExpress for Windows (phraseexpress.com), an auto-complete utility that automatically inserts text when you type an abbreviation or hit a hotkey.

For example, suppose you

often end your e-mails with, "Thanks for your time. I look forward to hearing from you." With PhraseExpress, you could simply type "tft," and the program would automatically insert the full text in its place.

The software works in any application. It includes a global spell-check feature and a clipboard history tool (which stores all recent clipboard entries, not just the most recent one). It can even import existing AutoCorrect entries from Word, then use them across all applications.

It's hard to believe such a robust utility is a freebie, but it's true: PhraseExpress doesn't cost a penny.

Rick Broida writes about computers and technology for the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. Broida, of Commerce Township, also writes the CheapSkate blog for CNET (blogs.cnet.com/cheap skate). He welcomes questions sent to rick.broida@gmail.com.

LAWN WAKE-UP

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FOOD CALENDAR

If you have an item for the food calendar, please submit it at least two weeks prior to the event to Ken Abramczyk, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham 48009, e-mail kabramcz@hometownlife.com, or fax (248) 644-1314.

Vino Mania
Wine tasting, wine games, food and live jazz band, proceeds benefit Children's Health and Wellness in Oakland County, 7:30-10 p.m. April 3,

\$60, The Community House, 380 S. Bates, Birmingham (248) 644-5832, www.communityhouse.com.

Healthy Eating Made Easy
Learn how to cook gourmet yet healthy meals with Michigan Health coach Cheryl Heppard and chef Matt Schellig, the first and third Thursdays of every month. Learn about Greek foods April 3 and 17; May 1 add 15 is vegan, located at Aunt Olives, 525 N. Old Woodward in Birmingham, classes

are 6:30-8:30 p.m., \$50 per person, for more info. and to pre-register call (248) 592-0869 or visit www.MichiganHealthCoach.com

Great American Meatout
Events encourage people to go meatless for the day and explore a plant-based diet, noon-5 p.m. April 13, Ferndale High School, 881 Pinecrest (south of Nine Mile Road, west of Woodward), \$10 adults, \$5

students, free to children under 6 and VegMichigan members, call www.VegMichigan.org, 877-778-3464.

Learn at Lunch
Create meals from the pantry with spring soup, pan-seared salmon and a trio of sauces, quick corn pudding and free-form fruit pies, \$8 materials fee payable in class, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. April 14, 380 South Bates Street, Birmingham, (248) 644-5832, or online at www.communityhouse.com.

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SCHOOLCRAFT COLLEGE

NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED 2008-09 BUDGET

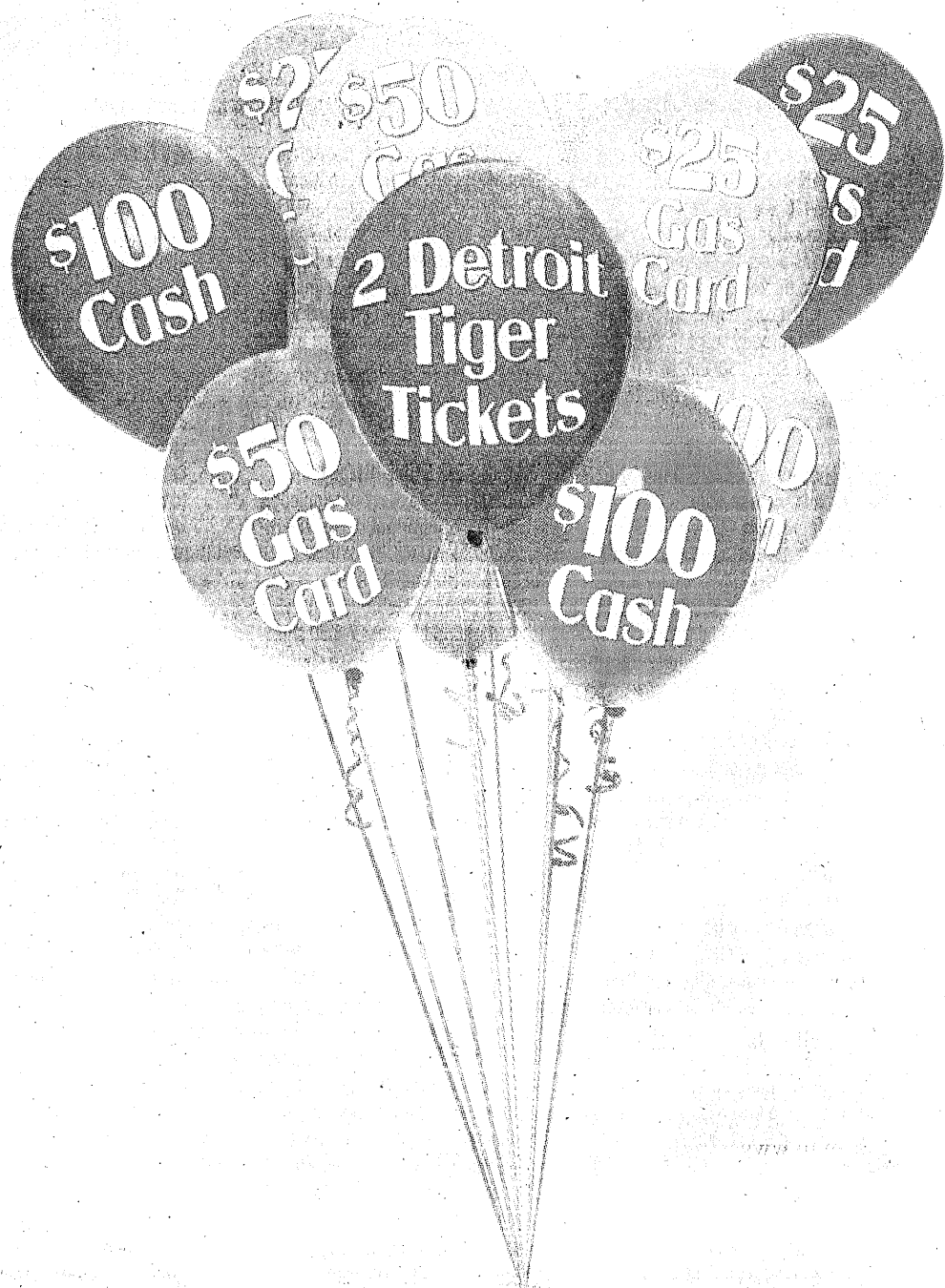
In compliance with "Act No. 43," State of Michigan Public Act of 1963, and "Act No. 2," State of Michigan Public Act of 1968 ("Section 16" of the Uniform Budgeting and Accounting Act), Schoolcraft College publishes this notification of a public hearing on the proposed 2008-09 College budget. This hearing is to take place at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 23, 2008, at the Grote Administration Center, 18600 Haggerty Road, Livonia, Michigan. A copy of the proposed budget is available for public inspection at the above address during normal business hours.

The property tax millage rate proposed to be levied to support the proposed budget will be a subject of this hearing.

Jill F. O'Sullivan
Vice President and Chief Financial Officer

Publish: April 3, 2008

New & Used Vehicle Loans

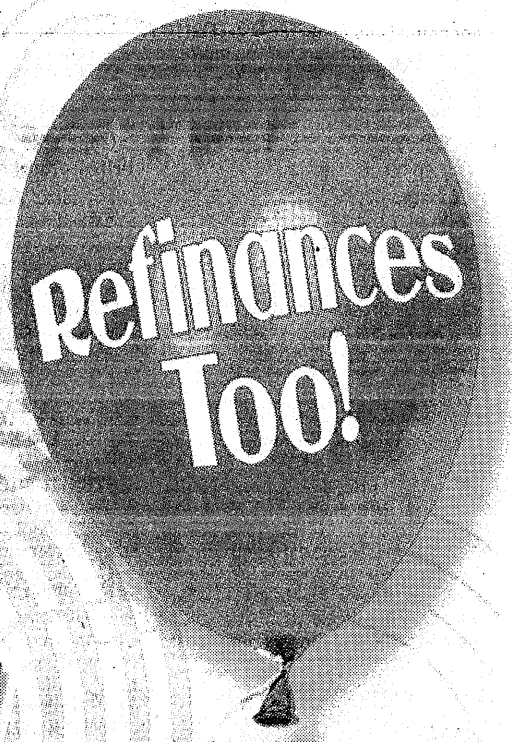


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RELIGION CALENDAR

If you want to submit an item for the religion calendar, fax it to (734) 591-7279 or write: Religion Calendar, Observer Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150. Deadline for an announcement to appear in the Thursday edition is noon Monday.

APRIL

Spaghetti dinner
PBJ Outreach Inc. (www.pbjoutreach.org) sponsors a Super Slamin' 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. Fun family night includes spaghetti dinner, cash bar, activities for kids, and raffle/door prizes. All proceeds go to the Peanut Butter and Jelly Ministry which provides food on a weekly basis to our brothers and sisters in Detroit's Cass Corridor. Tickets \$7 adults, \$3 ages 3-12, under age 3 free. For tickets, call Linda Barterian at (734) 459-0771.

Mom to Mom sale
Connection Church (formerly Tri-City Christian) is having their Spring Mom to Mom Sale 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, April 5, at 3855 Sheldon, north of Michigan Ave., Canton. For details, send e-mail to mom2mom-sale@yahoo.com. Table rentals sold to capacity with over 75 moms selling their kids' clothes, toys, baby equipment, etc. Admission \$1.

Bethany Suburban West
All separated, divorced and singles welcome. For details, call Kathy (734) 513-9479. Monthly dance 8 p.m. to midnight Saturday, April 5, at St. Robert Bellarmine, 27101 W. Chicago at Inkster Rd., Redford. Cost \$10, refreshments included. Doors open at 7:30 p.m. DJ is Dick Gerathy. Call Diane for information (734) 261-5716.

Clothing bank
Canton Christian Fellowship Clothing Bank is open 10 a.m. to noon on the fourth Saturday of every month at the church, 8775 Ronda Drive, south of Joy, between Haggerty and Lilley. The Clothing Bank is open to everyone who is in need of new or like-new clothing.

Donations accepted. For information, call (734) 404-2480 or visit www.CantonCF.org.

Seekers of spiritual intelligence
Beacon Hill Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) explores the multi-faceted theme of spiritual intelligence during the 1 p.m. Sunday worship service in April at St. Michael Lutheran Church Chapel, 7000 N. Sheldon, south of Warren, Canton (enter through the south double doors next to the play area) For information, call (313) 402-6900 or (313) 806-PRAY, send e-mail to beaconhillccdoc@aol.com.

Reformed Protestant services
The doctrines and teachings of solid, Reformed Protestantism are preached by Rev. Sean Humby 3:30 p.m. Sundays at the Detroit Preaching Station of the Free Church of Scotland (Continuing), at Cherry Hill School, 50440 Cherry Hill, corner of Ridge, Canton. For information, call (734) 402-7186, send e-mail to sean.humby@att.net, or visit www.members.aol.com/rsiworship/detroit.html.

Vacation Bible School
Registration begins April 7 for Vacation Bible School to run July 14-18, at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 39020 Five Mile, Livonia. Call (734) 464-0211.

Vespers
Council of Orthodox Christian Churches of Metropolitan Detroit services continue Sundays April 6, at Holy Trinity Orthodox Church, Detroit, and April 13, at St. Petka Serbian Orthodox Church, Troy. General public as well as Orthodox Christians invited. Proceeds used for COCC charities and projects. Bring nonperishable packaged food for donation to Orthodox parish food pantries for needy in metro area. For information, call Richard Shebib (734) 422-0278 or send e-mail to pascha-books@sbcglobal.net.

Family snaps
Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church host the musical drama presented by the Jeremiah People 7 p.m. Sunday, April 6, at the church, 40000 W. Six Mile, Northville. The dramatic comedy

is about family relationships and friends with a focus that touches the many facets of being a family in the 21st century. No charge, child care provided through age 4. For details, call (248) 374-7400.

The Petticoat Ladies
Meet Sarah Polk, Mary Todd Lincoln, Julia Grant and Ida McKinley at a presentation 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 15, at Faith Lutheran Church, 30000 Five Mile, west of Middlebelt, Livonia. No charge but reservations requested. Call (734) 421-7249 by April 11.

Open house
4-7 p.m. Friday, April 12, open house with silent auction to celebrate completion of the conversion of St. John's Episcopal Church Rectory into a new multi-purpose, handicap accessible youth house, 574 S. Sheldon, Plymouth. For information, call (734) 453-0190 or visit www.stjohnsplymouth.org.

Bethany Suburban West
All separated, divorced and singles welcome. Sequence Tournament (board games) 7:30-10 p.m. Friday, April 12, at the St. Linus Annex across from the doors of the Church. Call (734) 513-9479, or Michele (313) 996-8644. Monthly breakfast 9:30 a.m. Saturday April 19, at Leon's Family Dining 30149 Ford Road, south side (next to Tim Horton's), Garden City. For details, call Kathy, (734) 513-9479.

Men's conference
Put Out into the Deep: Brothers in Christ Standing Together Saturday, April 12, at University of Detroit Mercy's Calihan Hall, Detroit. Sponsored by the Archdiocese of Detroit, the conference doors open at 7 a.m. followed by a day of speakers and Eucharistic celebration, concludes at 4 p.m. For information, visit www.christschosen.com.

Mom-to-Mom sale
9 a.m. to noon Saturday, April 12, in the church gym and classrooms at St. Thomas a' Becket, 555 S. Lilley, Canton, phone (734) 981-1333. Check Web site for details, kirstemoline.com/mom-2mom.html. Over 70 tables and racks of great finds for babies, toddlers and

kids. Several Large Item Rooms full of strollers, cribs, car seats, exersaucers, large toys, etc. Admission \$1. Those shopping with strollers will be admitted after 10 a.m.

Celebrating families
After 5 p.m. Mass Saturday, April 12, and after 7:30 a.m., 9:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. Masses Sunday, April 13, in the Monsignor Alex Brunett Activity Center at St. Aidan Catholic Church, 17500 Farmington Rd., Livonia. Call (734) 425-5950. View large LEGO displays, watch short movies on joys and struggle of Catholic family living, browse Catholic bookstore's display, supervised LEGO play area for the kids. No charge.

Pancake breakfast
8:30-11 a.m. Sunday, April 13, in the activity center at St. Aidan's Church, 17500 Farmington Road, north of Six Mile, Livonia. Cost is \$4 adults, \$4 children age 10 and under.

Rummage sale
Donations accepted 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and 6-9 p.m. Monday-Wednesday, April 14-16; Congregational Pre-Sale 7-9 p.m. Thursday, April 17; Public Rummage Sale 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday, April 18, and 9:30 a.m. to noon (\$2 bag sale) Saturday, April 19, at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 39020 Five Mile, Livonia. Call (734) 464-0211.

Holy Cow rummage sale
Pre-sale noon to 4 p.m. and 5-8 p.m. Thursday, April 17 (cost is \$3); 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday, April 18, and 9:30 a.m. to noon Saturday, April 19, at St. John's Episcopal Church, 574 S. Sheldon, Plymouth. For more information, call (734) 453-0190 or visit www.stjohnsplymouth.org.

Evening of evangelization
The Archdiocese of Detroit's Office for Evangelization invites all area Catholics to join Rev. Alex Kratz of the Archdiocesan Mobile Evangelization Team 7-9:30 p.m. Friday, April 18, at St. Michael the Archangel Church, 11441 Hubbard, south of Plymouth Rd., Livonia. The evening will begin with a Holy Hour, followed by small-ground discussions, teaching, and fellowship. The series continues on May 9, and then resumes Sept. 19, and runs through December. All interested Catholics welcome. Call (734) 261-1455, Ext. 200.

Mom2Mom
9 a.m. to noon Saturday, April 19, at Garden City First United Methodist Church. Admission \$1. Tables still available for \$20. Call Rhonda at (734) 795-6921 for more information.

Sisters in Christ
Women's conference 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, April 19, at St. James Presbyterian Church, 25350 W. Six Mile, east of Beech Daly, Redford. Cost is \$40 pre-conference registration, \$50 at door. Call (313) 534-7730.

Day of Reflection
Bethany Central Board is offering a Day of Reflection hosted by the Rochester Bethany 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, April 19, at St. Andrew's Catholic Church. This Mini Conference will have two topics: Social Security Benefits for Divorced People and the Catholic Annulment Process. There is no cost for conference and lunch will be served. For details, call Audrey (248) 613-5461.

Pax Christi conference
8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Saturday, April 19, at Christo Rey Church, Lansing. Theme focuses on bringing an end to racism. Registration fee \$40 until April 12, \$45 after, visit www.paxchristi.org, send e-mail to TirakPaxMI@aol.com or call (517) 482-2558.

UPCOMING
Spring fund-raiser
10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, May 3, at Cherry Hill United Methodist Church, 321 S. Ridge Rd., south of Cherry Hill, Canton. A variety of vendors will be displaying and selling products. No admission fee. Refreshments and Bake Sale available. For information, call (734) 495-0035.

Clothing bank
Canton Christian Fellowship Clothing Bank is open 10 a.m. to noon on the fourth Saturday of every month at the church, 8775 Ronda Drive, south of Joy, between Haggerty and Lilley. The Clothing Bank is open to everyone in the community who is in need of new or like-new clothing. Donations are also accepted. For information, call (734) 404-2480 or visit www.CantonCF.org.

Bethany Suburban West
Monthly Dance 8 p.m. to midnight Saturday May 3, at St. Robert Bellarmine, 27101 W. Chicago at Inkster Rd., Redford. Cost \$10. Doors open 7:30 p.m. Call (734) 261-5716. Cinco d'Mayo/Game Night 7:30-10 p.m. Friday May 9, at the St. Linus Annex across from the doors of the Church. Call (734) 513-9479 or (313) 996-8644. Cost will be either a snack, dessert for at least 10 people or a couple of large bottles of pop (regular and diet) or \$5 and we will supply the paper products and the coffee. Monthly Breakfast Meeting 9:30 a.m. Saturday May 17, at Leon's 30149 Ford Rd., Garden City. All separated, divorced and singles welcome; for details call (734) 513-9479. Bethany Together Dance 8 p.m. to midnight Saturday, May 31, Don Hubert V.F.W. Hall, 27345 Schoolcraft (I-96 service drive), east of Inkster Rd., Redford. Admission \$15. For infor-

mation, call (586) 264-0284.

Father Kern award dinner
In honor of the Rev. Clement Kern Thursday, May 8 (6 p.m. reception and silent auction, 7 p.m. dinner, 8 p.m. award ceremony). Tickets \$100. For information and reservations, call (248) 666-1194.

ONGOING

Single Place Ministry
Single Place Ministry continues to meet Thursdays 7:30-7:45 p.m. for social time, 7:45-8 p.m. opening, 8-9 p.m. program, at First Presbyterian Church, 200 E. Main St., Northville. Call (248) 349-0911 or visit www.single-place.org. Cost is \$5.

Prince of Peace Church
Recovery, Inc., meets at 10 a.m., every Wednesday at the church, Walnut Lake Road and Green, West Bloomfield. Recovery, Inc., is an international, non-profit, self-help community based service organization that helps people with nervous and emotional disorders reduce their suffering and improve their quality of life. Call Martha Paul at (248) 682-9362 or e-mail her at marthapaul@sbcglobal.net.

Sunday services
Come to hear about the love of Jesus Christ for you 8:15 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. Sundays at Faith Lutheran Church, 30000 Five Mile, west of Middlebelt, Livonia. For information, visit www.livonfaith.org.

Tai chi and strength classes
Orchard United Methodist Church is hosting a Tai Chi class 7-8:30 p.m. Mondays in the Mac at the church, 30450 Farmington Road, Farmington Hills. The cost per class is \$10 or \$40 prepaid for five classes. The strength class takes place 9:30-10:30 a.m. Monday and Wednesday. Cost is \$5 per class. Drops in welcome. For information, call (248) 626-3620 or visit www.orchardumc.org.

Church offerings
Riverside Park Church of God, Sunday worship is at 10 a.m., Wednesday bible classes (child through adult) at 7 p.m. Youth outings held monthly. The senior group (age 50 plus) has lunch together every month. The men get together for breakfast the first Saturday of the month plus we offer choir practice for all singers. All visitors welcome. The church is at 11771 Newburgh at Plymouth Road, Livonia. Call (734) 464-0990 for details.

Church services
Want a unique church experience? Join in Sunday mornings at 10 a.m. for a service that will lift your entire family, but be prepared for what will happen after just one service at Riverside Park Church of God, 11771 Newburgh (corner of Plymouth Road), Livonia. Call (734) 464-0990 for information.

Thursday fellowship dinner
All are welcome, 6 p.m. dinners catered by The Cookie Lady, Susan Navarro, at St. James Presbyterian Church, 25350 W. Six Mile, Redford. Cost is \$6. Call (313) 534-7730.

Thrift store
Open Wednesdays 9:30-11:30 a.m. and Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at St. James Presbyterian Church, 25350 W. Six Mile, Redford. Call (313) 534-7730.

Tai Chi class
Orchard United Methodist Church (30450 Farmington Road, Farmington Hills) is hosting a Tai Chi Class by Sam Purdy, Wu Style Tai Chi. This meditative form of Martial Arts is great for reducing stress and is great for over-all health memory and balance. Everyone is welcome from beginning to experienced participants at any time. Classes began 7-8:30 p.m. Jan. 14, and continue every Monday thereafter. Cost per class depends on number of participants. For information or to reserve your space, call (248) 701-1587 or (248) 626-3620. Visit www.orchardumc.org for updates.

Living Water series
Mark McGilvrey leads a 10-week video series called H2O starting 6:30 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 13, in Memorial Church of Christ, 35475 Five Mile, Livonia. Call (734) 464-6722. The group is open to men and women who would like to review the basic teachings of Jesus who claimed to be living water.

Couple prayer series
St. Colette Church, 17600 Newburgh, Livonia, is offering a Couple Prayer Series (www.coupleprayer.org) for married or engaged couple, began 7-9 p.m. Friday, Jan. 4, in the Activity Center Hall. For registration information, call Mary Ellen at (734) 464-4435.

ENDOW
St. Michael the Archangel Parish of Livonia hosts two different sessions of the Archdiocese of Detroit's ENDOW program, a continuing women's study group focused on the dignity of women of all ages and faiths. Based on Pope John Paul II's Letter to Women, the group meets 9:30 a.m. Thursdays (began Jan. 10). The second session is called Different Times, Abiding Dignity and deals with a woman's inherent dignity at all stages of her life from 0 to 100. The group meets 9:30 a.m. Tuesdays (began Jan. 8). Both groups meet in the convent basement meeting room. Women of all ages and faiths welcome. There is a \$60 charge for materials, but no woman will be turned away because of inability to pay. Register by calling (734) 261-1455, Ext. 207 or online at www.endowonline.com. St. Michael's complex is at 11441

Hubbard, south of Plymouth Road, Livonia.

ENDOW
Educating on the Nature and Dignity of Women sessions 7-9 p.m. Thursdays, to March 6, (explores Pope John Paul II's Mulleris Dignitatem - On the Dignity and Vocation of Women), in Bixmal Hall church building at St. Aidan Catholic Church, 17500 Farmington Rd., Livonia. Second session is 7-9 p.m. Mondays to March 3, (explores Pope John Paul II's Letter to Women), in conference room in parish office. Registration required for both sessions. \$60 for materials for each session. Contact Michele Schmidt at (734) 367-0353 or send e-mail to mtschmidt@sbcglobal.net.

Day of service
Began in January, a Day of Service and Spirituality will be made available by the Capuchin Soup Kitchen and the Solanus Casey Center. The purpose of the day is to serve, to meet, and to have one's faith grow. The day allows groups to help at the Capuchin Services Center and dine with guests at the Capuchin Soup Kitchen.

A tour of the Earth Works urban garden, which provides six tons of produce each season, will also be made available. The day concludes with a self-guided tour of the Solanus Casey Center, a spirituality center dedicated to the Capuchin friar who is credited with miraculous cures and valued for his wise and compassionate counsel. The minimum age is 7th grade and the maximum size of the group is 30. The day starts at 8:30 a.m. and ends at 2:30 p.m. There is no cost. Lunch included. For information, send e-mail to crane@thecapuchins.org. To learn more about the Capuchin Soup Kitchen, visit www.cskdetroit.org.

New schedule
9 a.m. Sunday school for all ages and Faith Forum, 10 a.m. Worship Service with Communion and nursery, at Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA), 30650 Six Mile, Livonia. All visitors welcome. For more information, call (734) 427-1414 or visit www.holycrosslivonia.org.

Worship Service
10:30 a.m. Sunday, Adult Bible Class at 9:30 a.m., Children's Sunday School during worship at 10:30 a.m., at Immanuel Lutheran Church, 27035 Ann Arbor Trail, Dearborn Heights. For more information, call (313) 278-5755.

Worship
Sundays: 10 a.m. Worship Service with nursery, 9 a.m. Sunday School for tots through high school and Adult Faith Forum at Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA), 30650 Six Mile, Livonia. Call (734) 427-1414 or visit www.holycrosslivonia.org. Visitors welcome.

Sunday worship
The early service for the Anglican Church of Livonia is at 7:45 a.m. at Trinity Church, 34500 Six Mile, west of Farmington Road and next to Stevenson High School, Livonia. The 10 a.m. service (with Sunday School) will continue to be at the Livonia YMCA at 14255 Stark Road, between Lyndon and the I-96 service drive.

Worship service
10:45 a.m. Sundays, Adult Sunday School at 9:30 a.m., Children's Sunday School during worship, Youth Group 5-7 p.m. and Catechism for Grown-ups 5:30-6:30 p.m., at Trinity Church of Livonia, 34500 Six Mile. For information, call (734) 425-2800.

F.I.R.E. ministries
With them scripture, He shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire (Luke 3:16), is organizing in Livonia at Living Water Church, 11663 Arcola in the Inkster and Plymouth roads area at 7 p.m. Fridays under the leadership of Luke Willis. F.I.R.E. Ministries. For more information, call (734) 425-6360.

New worship schedule
Regular church service 10 a.m. Sundays with Communion and Nursery, 9 a.m. Sunday School for all ages and Faith Forum, at Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA), 30650 Six Mile, Livonia. Call (734) 427-1414. All visitors welcome. Visit www.holycross-livonia.org.

Sunday worship
11 a.m. Sunday worship service, 9:30 a.m. Sunday school, 7 p.m. Wednesday Bible Study, at Good Shepherd Reformed Church, 6500 N. Wayne Road at Hunter, Westland. For information, call (734) 721-0800.

Worship services
10 a.m. Sundays Divine Liturgy followed by a fellowship/coffee time, at Holy Transfiguration Orthodox Church, 36075 W. Seven Mile, between Newburgh and Wayne roads, Livonia. Church school for children and adults begins at 9 a.m. Sunday. Vespers are celebrated 5 p.m. Saturdays. Visitors are always welcome. For more information, call (248) 476-3432 (church), (248) 477-4712 (rectory) or Web site at www.orthodoxlivonia.org.

Pancake breakfasts
The Ushers' Club of St. Michael the Archangel Parish in Livonia continue their 30-year tradition of all-you-can-eat pancake breakfasts on the third Sunday of each month from 8:30 a.m. to noon. The breakfasts are served in the school cafeteria at 11441 Hubbard, south of Plymouth Road. Adults, \$5; children ages 4-11, \$3; children under age 3, free; and family (2 adults and all children), \$15. Everyone is welcome.



Passages

Obituaries, Memorials, Remembrances

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ARLENE RICE FREDRICK
Born May 28, 1936, died March 26, 2008. Daughter of the late Dr. & Mrs. Carol H. Rice of Bloomfield Hills. Survived by husband Ronald, daughter Nancy Sue Harrison, son Louis Vaccaro, grandsons Anthony and Nicholas Vaccaro and step-sons Craig, Stefan and Scott Fredrick. Memorial service at 1pm on Saturday, April 26, at Birmingham Unitarian Church, 38651 Woodward Ave., Birmingham, MI.

DAVID DEMPSEY
Age 70, March 30, 2008. He is survived by his beloved wife Leona "Lee" and loving step-children Laurie (Andy), Karen (Mark), David, Jeff and Sean (Tara); grandchildren Christie (Steve), Dan, Corey, Jordan and Jenna; four great-grandchildren and brother John (Sally). Services were held. Memorials to St. Mary Magdalen Church. Arrangements by Santeiu and Son.

DONNA MARIE HARRINGTON
March 28, 2008, age 53, of Royal Oak. Beloved daughter of Donald and the late Monica. Dear sister of Robert, Rosemary Bloomer (Thomas) and the late Gloriana Bailey. Dear aunt of Olivia, Adam and Kathryn Bloomer. Funeral Mass was held at National Shrine of the Little Flower. Memorial tributes to Mercy High School, 29300 W. Eleven Mile Rd., Farmington Hills, MI 48336. A.J. Desmond & Sons, 248-549-0500. View obituary and share memories at: www.DesmondFuneralHome.com



ELAINE E. HUNTLEY
March 19, 2008, Age 73. Beloved wife of Charles R. for 52 1/2 years. Loving mother of Ronald, Jane (Gary) Cracknell, Janet (Darryl) Stewart, Grandmother of Heather, Ashley, Chelsea and Mallory. Sister of Henry (Mary) Kolehmainen, Theodore (Jo Anne) Kolehmainen and Ellen (Gary) Wood. Services were March 22, 2008. Uht Funeral Home with interment at Michigan Memorial Park, Flat Rock.

PATRICK A. KALAFUT
Age 55, March 29, 2008. Beloved brother of Ann, Bob and Theodore (Sharon). Uncle of Angela, Theodore and Kevin. Preceded in death by his parents Theodore and Marie, and his brother James. He will be dearly missed by all. Services were held. Arrangements by Santeiu and Son. Memorials suggested to American Cancer Society.

GENEVIEVE A. GROSS
Age 89, of Westland, passed away March 30, 2008. Dear mother of Maxine Lofgren, Sharon (Ken) Cotter, Marjorie (Bob) Ritter, Frank Gross and Gene (Phyllis) Gross. 21 grandchildren, 39 great-grandchildren and six great-great-grandchildren, sister Aleatha Meyer and brother Algie Nutt also survive. Preceded in death by five children, Stuart Gross, Robert Gross, James J. Gross, Bonnie Gross and Rosella Gross. Funeral 12 noon on Saturday at the Vermeulen Funeral Home, 980 N. Newburg Road (between Ford and Cherry Hill), Westland. Interment at Michigan Memorial Park. Visitation Friday from 2-9pm. Memorial contributions may be made to Hospice of Central Michigan. To view obituary or share memories log on to: www.vermeulenfuneralhome.com

LEOFA FISHBACK (FLODQUIST)
Age 92, March 31, 2008. Beloved wife of Fred. Dear mother of David (Grace) Flodquist, Barbara (Bruno) Ettore and the late Jeanette Foley. Also leaves six grandchildren, fourteen great grandchildren and four great great grandchildren. Sister of Mona Darby, Gerri Tyler, Maxine Muoio, James Sutherland and the late Mary Dillon, Glenn Sutherland and Dan Sutherland. Funeral services were held Thursday at the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home of Plymouth. Contributions suggested to Plymouth Baptist Church. Share your special thoughts and memories at schrader-howell.com.

LUCILLE ALLEN
Born March 29, 1918 in Strandquist, MN. Passed into eternal life on March 19, 2008. She leaves to mourn one sister, Mildred Drake, one step son Jerry Allen and nieces and nephews. A committal and burial service will be held at Riverside Cemetery, Main Street, S. of Haggerty in Plymouth on Monday, April 7, 2008 at 1 p.m. A memorial mass will be celebrated on Monday, May 5, 2008 at 10 am at Our Lady of Good Counsel Church, 47650 North Territorial Road at Beck, Plymouth. Share your thoughts and special memories at www.schrader-howell.com

RAYMOND E. GROENING
Age 93, of Holland, died Thursday, March 27, 2008. He was a veteran of the Navy serving during WWII. Surviving are children; Judith Ann and Donald Meyer of San Dimas, CA. Douglas and Barbara Groening of Holland 6 Grandchildren. 11 Great grandchildren. Sister, Mrs. Burns (Doris) Mc Kinley of Holland; Sister-in-law, Mrs. Herb (Dorothy) Smith of Lansing. Several nieces and nephews. Funeral services will be 1:00 p.m. Wednesday, April 2 at Restlawn Memorial Gardens. Memorial contributions may be given to Haven Park Christian Nursing Home. Arrangements by Notier Ver Lee Langeland Funeral Chapel. An online registry is available at: www.notierverleelangeland.com

RANDA LEE KIRK
Age 65, of Kill Devil Hills, NC, passed away March 29, 2008 at her residence. She was born in Heron Lake, MN and was the daughter of Merriell Jeppesen the late Walter H. Randolph. Mrs. Kirk is survived by her husband of 44 years, Craig Kirk, of the residence. Mrs. Kirk will be remembered as a beautiful, loving mother and wife. She was active in volunteer work, including probation work and key involvement with a women's resource center. She is survived by two sons, Darren V. Kirk and wife, Valerie of Wixom, MI and Glen R. Kirk of Grandy, NC. She is also survived by her two sisters, Bonita Randolph and Lonita Randolph as well as one brother, Ricky Randolph of Colorado, and six grandchildren. A memorial service is planned for a later date at Warren Road Light and Life Church in Westland, MI. Twiford Colony Chapel, Manteo is assisting the family with arrangements. To sign online register visit: www.twifordfh.com

May You Find Comfort in Family & Friends

OBITUARY POLICY

The first five "billed" lines of an obituary are published at no cost. All additional lines will be charged at \$4 per line. You may place a picture of your loved one for an additional cost of only \$6. Symbolic emblems may be included at no cost (example: American Flags, religious symbols, etc.)

Deadlines:
Friday 4:15 PM for Sunday
Wednesday 9:45 AM for Thursday

Obituaries received after these deadlines will be placed in the next available issue.

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or fax to:
Attn: Obits c/o Charolette Wilson
734-953-2232

For more information call:
Charolette Wilson
734-953-2070
or Liz Keiser
734-953-2067

or toll free
866-818-7653
ask for Char or Liz

081951982



Brenda Josee (left) and Nancy Moser speak at the Sisters in Christ conference April 19, at St. James Presbyterian Church in Redford. The two open the conference wearing lacy dresses and bouffant petticoats as they take an entertaining look at what it means to be a Sister in Christ.

Women to gather as sisters in Christ April 19

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Sandy Bousquette and Lois Cifaldi are on a mission to not only put on a conference to inspire Christian women, but draw on the power of numbers.

They believe if local churches unite, more good works could be accomplished.

On Saturday, April 19, they're inviting all Sisters in Christ to hear speakers Brenda Josee and Nancy Moser at St. James Presbyterian Church in Redford, where Bousquette's husband is pastor.

Josee and Moser celebrate sisterhood and talk about how a woman can discover God's plan for her life.

Bousquette and Cifaldi foresee a future built on helping others. The two originally met at Redford Union High School, where both work. Over time they developed a friendship and

SISTERS IN CHRIST

What: A nondenominational conference of women featuring Brenda Josee and Nancy Moser (www.sistercircles.com or www.nancymoser.com)

When: 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, April 19

Where: St. James Presbyterian Church, 25350 W. Six Mile, between Beech Daly and Five Points, Redford

Cost: \$40 pre-register, \$50 at the door; call (313) 537-7649 (Sandy) or (313) 410-8134 (Lois) after 3 p.m.

began sharing books. Cifaldi likes to read Christian books by Moser. The God-filled fictional stories ring true to life to her.

Cifaldi began reading Christian novels quite awhile ago and has read nearly every one of Moser's books. She finds them so inspirational that

she began sharing them with members of St. Robert Bellarmine, where she attends church. So many people were interested in sharing their messages that the Heart to Heart book club was founded.

"Sandy and I hope the goal of the conference is to have all the churches who come to have a contact person to do projects in our community, to help a mission in Haiti, every church who wanted to be part of it," said Cifaldi of Redford. "One group could buy books for a classroom. A community of churches could buy books for a whole school. We're hoping to get more people involved in doing God's work."

The team of Moser and Josee encourage women to band together and form Sister Circles to find their strengths. When Bousquette and Cifaldi decided to present the nondenominational conference, they split up the work. Bousquette made con-

nections with all of the Presbyterian churches. Together they sent flyers to Redford churches who showed interest. To date they've probably invited women from 100 churches.

"God has given each of us special gifts and talent, whether you're 16 or 96, that each can discover what their talents are and what God wants us to do," Bousquette said. "Together we can accomplish wonderful things. We hope this conference empowers women to look deeper into themselves."

"There's a lot of need in this community. We want to work with the Redford Interfaith Relief Program that runs a food bank and directs families to different sources for help. We can donate some time to the pantry and help fill the baskets they bring in."

lchomin@hometownlife.com
(734) 953-2145

Your Invitation To Worship

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NEW HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH

33640 Michigan Ave. • Wayne, MI
(Between Wayne Rd. & Merriman Rd.)
(734) 728-2180
Virgil Humes, Pastor



Saturday Evening Worship 6:00 p.m.
Sunday Worship 7:30 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. • Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Wednesday Praise Service 6:00 p.m. • Wednesday Children, Youth and Adult Bible Study 7:00-8:30 p.m.

UNITED METHODIST

Clarenceville United Methodist

20300 Middlebelt Rd. • Livonia
248-474-3444
Pastor: Beth Librande
Worship Service 9:30 AM
Sunday School 11:00 AM
Nursery Provided

Redford Aldersgate United Methodist

2 blocks South of Plymouth
10000 Beech Daly
313-937-3170
9:30 - Trad. Worship & Sun. Sch.
11:00 - Contemp. Family Worship
www.redfordaldersgate.org

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Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church

14175 Farmington Road, Livonia Just north of I-96
734-522-6830

Sunday Worship
8:30 & 11:00 am - Traditional
Staffed Nursery Available



Sunday/Bible Class
9:45 am
Early Childhood Center
Phone 734-513-8413

Making disciples who share the love of Jesus Christ
Pastors: Robert F. Bayer and Anthony M. Creeden

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ST. ANNE'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

Immemorial Latin Mass
Approved by Pope St. Pius V in 1570
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5 Blocks E. of Telegraph • (313) 534-2121

Mass Schedule:
First Fri. 7:00 p.m.
First Sat. 11:00 a.m.
Sun. Masses 7:30 & 10:00 a.m.
Confessions Heard Prior to Each Mass
Mother of Perpetual Help Devotions
Tuesdays at 7:00 P.M.

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FAITH COVENANT CHURCH

14 Mile Road and Drake, Farmington Hills
(248) 661-9191
Sunday Worship
9:15 a.m. Contemporary
11:00 a.m. Traditional
Child Care provided for all services
Youth Groups • Adult Small Groups

"More than Sunday Services"

Worship Services
9:00 & 11:15 a.m.
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"Open Hearts, Minds & Doors"
36500 Ann Arbor Trail
between Wayne & Newburgh Rds.
734-422-0149
Worship Service and
Sunday School
9:15 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.
Rev. Marsha M. Woolley
Visit our website: www.newburgumc.org

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25630 GRAND RIVER at BEECH DALY
313-532-2266 REDFORD TWP.
Worship Service
9:15 & 11:00 A.M.
Sunday School
9:15 & 11:00 A.M.
Nursery Provided
The Rev. Timothy P. Halboth, Senior Pastor
The Rev. Dr. Victor F. Halboth, Assistant Pastor

HOSANNA-TABOR LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

9600 Levee • So. Redford • 313-937-2424
"Vacancy Pastor - Rev. Carl Rookrohn"
Sunday Morning Worship
8:30 & 11:00 a.m.
Education Hour 9:45 a.m.
Christian School
Pre-Kindergarten-8th Grade
For more information call
313-937-2233

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST

St. Genevieve Roman Catholic Church

St. Genevieve School - PreK-8
29015 Jamison • Livonia • 734-427-5220
(East of Middlebelt, between 5 Mile & Jeffries)
MASS: Tues. 7 p, Wed., Thurs. 9 a,
Sat. 4 p, Sun 11a

St. Maurice Roman Catholic Church

32765 Lyndon • Livonia • 734-522-1616
(between Merriman & Farmington Roads)
MASS: Mon. 8:30 a, Fri. 8:30 a,
Sat. 6 p, Sun 9a

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Casual, Contemporary, Excellent Children's Program
Meets at Franklin H.S. in Livonia on Joy Road
(Between Merriman and Middlebelt Roads)
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734-425-1174
Join us for coffee, bagels and donuts after the service!

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www.rosedalegardens.org
Chapel Worship Service
9:00 am
Traditional Service
10:30 am
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Northville, MI
248-374-7400
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Contemporary Worship
9:00 A.M.
Nursery & Sunday School During All Morning Worship Services
Evening Service • 7:00 p.m.
Service Broadcast
11:00 A.M. Sunday
WRDT-AM 560
The WMUZ Word Station
For additional information visit www.wardchurch.org

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David W. Martin, Pastor
46250 Ann Arbor Road • Plymouth
(1 Mile W. of Sheldon)
(734) 453-5252
Worship 8:15 & 10:45 am
Sunday School 9:30 am
Adult Bible Study 9:30 am
Nursery Care Available
www.risenchrist.info

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Sunday Worship - 11:00 A.M.
Sunday Evening - 6:00 P.M.
Family Night - Wed. 7:00 P.M.
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33144 Cherry Hill, Garden City, MI 48135
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Pastor: Eddie Petreca
Meetings on Saturdays for:
Early Morning Bible & Health Class-8 a.m.
Worship Service-English-9:30 a.m.
Bible Studies English & Spanish
(All Ages) 11:00 a.m.
Wednesdays:
Prayer Meeting-7 p.m.

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE

First Church of Christ, Scientist, Plymouth
1100 W. Ann Arbor Trail, Plymouth, MI
734-453-0970
Sunday Service 10:30 a.m.
Sunday School 10:30 a.m.
Wed. Evening Testimony Meeting 7:30 p.m.
Reading Room located at church
Saturday 12:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m.
734-453-0970

St. James Presbyterian Church, USA

25350 West Six Mile Rd.
Redford (313) 534-7730
Sunday Worship Service - 10:00 A.M., Sunday School - 10:15 A.M., Thursday Dinners - 6:00 P.M., Thrift Store every Sat. 10am-2pm
Nursery Care Provided • Handicapped Accessible
Rev. Paul S. Bousquette

LUTHERAN CHURCH WISCONSIN SYNOD

ST. PAUL'S EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

17810 FARMINGTON ROAD,
LIVONIA (734) 261-1360
SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES
8:30 A.M. & 11:00 A.M.
website: www.stpaulslivonia.org

PRESBYTERIAN

Fellowship Presbyterian Church
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m. • Worship: 10:30 a.m.
Pastor: Dr. Jimmy McGuire
Services held at: Madonna University's Kresge Hall
36600 Schoolcraft Road • Livonia
Parking lot is on N.W. corner of Levan & Schoolcraft • Nursery provided

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

Timothy Lutheran Church
A Reconciling in Christ Congregation
8820 Wayne Rd.
(Between Ann Arbor Trail & Joy Road)
Livonia • 427-2290
Jill Hegdal, Pastor
10:00 a.m. Family Worship
(Nursery Available)

For Church Directory changes and information regarding advertising in this directory, please call Donna Hart (734) 953-2153 the Friday before publication.

To mail copy: The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150 or Fax to (734) 953-2121

pink

pink picks

By Wendy

Wear It!
A hoodie under a blazer
— with the hood out

DON'T Wear It!
Head-to-toe denim

Tote It!
Santi
ruched
satin
clutch

Kick It!
KORS
Michael
Kors
Danger cut-
out wedges

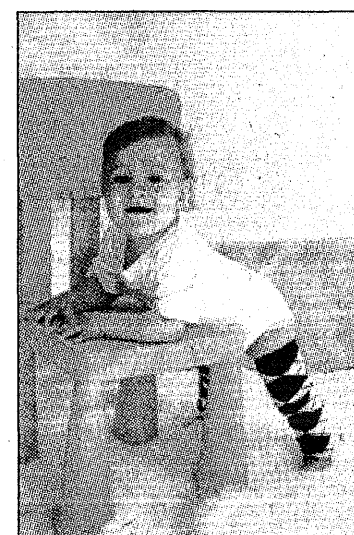
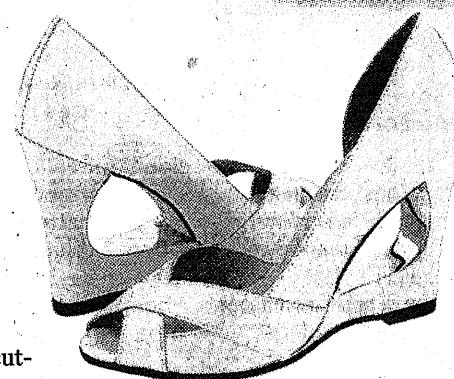
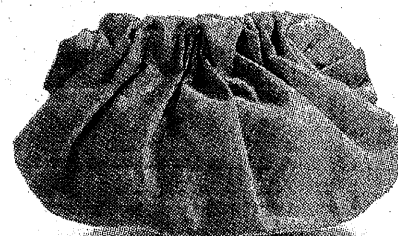
Baby It!
BabyLegs
leg warmers

See It!
Leatherheads

TIVO It!
Reno 911

DVD It!
Grace Is Gone

Eat It!
Amici's Pizza, Birmingham



Drink It!
150 wines
under
\$25 at
WineStyles
in Livonia

Read It!
Girls in
Trucks by
Katie Crouch

Click It!
HairMixer.
com

Play It!
Settlers of
Catan

Do It!
Bring a friend to
Bra-vo
Intimates,

Royal Oak, and get a \$10 gift card — \$20 April 7-12



Artwork by Piet Paris — composed of spray paint, collage, watercolor and more — adorns Saks catalogs, shopping bags and stores nationwide during the Want It! campaign.

Gotta have it!

Saks offers style edited for spring

BY WENDSY VON BUSKIRK
O&E STAFF WRITER

Want to know what you gotta have for a hip spring and summer?

Just stop by Saks Fifth Avenue through April 13.

Saks Fifth Avenue stores nationwide, including Michigan's location at the Somerset Collection in Troy, are offering a great grasp of the season's hottest trends during their annual Want It! campaign.

This year, Want It! highlights eight hot items for women: Bangles, Chic Shoulder Bag, Florals, Luminous Face, Maxi Dress, Slide, Tunic and Vibrant Color.

Cheryl Hall Lindsey, director of fashion, special events and public relations for Saks Fifth Avenue Somerset, said Vibrant Color is her favorite trend, and one every woman can wear.

"I am a big fan of resisting wearing black all the time," she said. "Color allows you to make an entrance, to create a signature, and to choose not only what you like, but what's most

WANT IT! FOR SPRING

For Her:
Bangles
Chic Shoulder Bag
Florals
Luminous Face
Maxi Dress
Slide
Tunic
Vibrant Color

For Him:
Contrast Collar and Cuffs
Hoodie
Light Grey Suits
Nylon
Suitable Supplements

flattering on you."

She also said the tunic is being reinterpreted in lots of fresh ways for Spring 2008 — with bubble hems and smocking — to be worn over jeans or skinny pants, or as a short mini-dress. "It's a very versatile shape that can add a new twist to your wardrobe, and can complement just about any figure type," she said.

WANT IT! TREND PRESENTATION

What: Saks Fifth Avenue and Alzheimer's Association Greater Michigan Chapter present this fashionable fund raiser highlighting the season's hottest styles.

When: 6 p.m. Thursday, April 10

Where: Armani Collezioni on Two Saks Fifth Avenue, Somerset

Collection: Troy
Reservations: \$75 includes cocktails, hors d'oeuvres and a \$25 Saks Fifth Avenue Gift Card redeemable through Sunday, April 13.

RSVP: (248) 996-1048 or Marilyn.Jacobson@alz.org

The easiest way to update your wardrobe for a stylish spring is with accessories. Hall said, like a chic shoulder bag in a fun, bright shade, a great high heel slide in an accent color, or an armful of bangles.

Or, try a pretty floral. "Wear it in a crisp posy print shirtwaist, a rose garden cocktail dress, a daisy patch tunic — pick the flower power that's best for you," she said.

Saks shoppers will take their purchases home in bags adorned with artwork by Piet Paris, whose signature illustrations embody the Want It! campaign throughout catalogs and stores this month.

As a catwalk illustrator for one of the biggest newspapers in the Netherlands, Paris has learned to sit at the end of

runways and capture fashions in just a few quick strokes.

For Want It!, he brought some of New York City's most famous landmarks — the Chrysler Building, Guggenheim and New York Stock Exchange — to life, personalized in the latest styles.

"I'm a fashion illustrator so it was kind of an unusual question for me to make buildings fashionable, but for the first time in my life I tried to create a Guggenheim fashion dress," Paris told PINK.

"I tend to see everything in a fashion perspective, even if I draw a lemon or a wine bottle, so that's how I saw New York. Maybe shoppers in Detroit can see everything in a more fashionable way through this campaign."

Tea Time: Boutique welcomes spring trends in style

There aren't many places where shopping actually feels like playing dress up. But Excelsior Couture offers just that sort of whimsical fashion-forward atmosphere.

Patti Brock-Sklar opened the friendly Pleasant Ridge boutique in 1994 with the intention of promoting individuality and personal style through fashion.

On April 6, she'll continue a decade-long tradition of hosting a spring tea to draw new and faithful shoppers into the store, 23900 Woodward Avenue. For the first time, she's added a fashion show.

"We wanted to showcase our spring fashions, accessories and footwear using our own beautiful customers as models," said Brock-Sklar. "We will highlight the fact that Excelsior offers a wide range of sizes to a wide range of clients. Our models range from 13 years old

to 84 years old, and from size 2 to size 12."

As metro Detroiters anxiously await warmer temperatures, it's the perfect time to scout spring and summer fashion trends. Brock-Sklar said accessories like a great new handbag and a summer scarf can update any wardrobe. Handbags, in any size, can offer a pop of color needed this time of year. And a scarf accent, paired simply with jeans and a tee shirt, adds a European flair. "We have new things that come in everyday, all year long," said Brock-Sklar.

She considers her customers "anything but typical" and said: "I believe they either already have an individual sense of style or are looking to expand their fashion statement." All are welcome at this special spring event. Excelsior will offer tea from noon to 4 p.m. and the fashion show begins at 1:30 p.m. on Sunday.

Brock-Sklar considers personal service a priority and something that sets Excelsior Couture apart from other area shops. As a Ferndale resident and Royal Oak native, she



Patti Brock-Sklar will host a fashion show and tea April 6 at her Pleasant Ridge shop, Excelsior Couture.

chose the shop's corner location, tucked along Woodward near I-696, more than 15 years ago and remained involved in the community. The store caters to both men and women. Brock-Sklar said she hasn't forgotten "the men in our lives" and offers everything from

suits and shirts to pants and shoes — making Excelsior a "really wonderful shopping experience." Shoppers can see for themselves this weekend. For more information, call (248) 547-5333.

scasola@hometownlife.com

Malls & Mainstreets

If you have an item for the Malls & Main Streets calendar, please submit it at least two weeks prior to the event to Wendy Von Buskirk at wvonb@hometownlife.com.

fashion show 5-7 p.m. April 5, featuring 30 teen cancer survivors in the latest fashions. Supper included. Gilda's Club is located 3517 Rochester Road. Visit www.gildasclubdetroit.org.

Kohl's Opens Canton Store

CANTON — Kohl's will officially open its Canton store at 47250 Michigan Ave., April 9. The new location will create approximately 150 jobs, and will feature glass showcase windows at each entrance, redesigned Juniors' and Intimates departments, enhanced fitting rooms with lounge areas and updated restrooms and checkout stations. To celebrate, Kohl's will offer grand opening sales with special prices on well known exclusive brands like Simply Vera Vera Wang, ELLE, Chaps and Food Network, as well as Levi's, Carter's and Cuisinart. Visit www.kohls.com.

Moonlight Madness Sale

PLYMOUTH — Downtown Plymouth merchants will present the Moonlight Madness Spring Sale April 4-5. Beginning at 6 p.m. Friday, a wide variety of specialty shops and galleries will offer discounts and bargains. Call (734) 453-1540.

Gilda's Club Fashion Show

ROYAL OAK — Gilda's Club and Queen for a Day have teamed up to host a

Parisian's Goodwill Sale
Parisian stores in Rochester Hills, Livonia and Clinton Township will accept donations of clean, gently used clothing through April 7 to benefit Goodwill Industries. Customers will receive one coupon toward the purchase of new merchandise for each item donated.

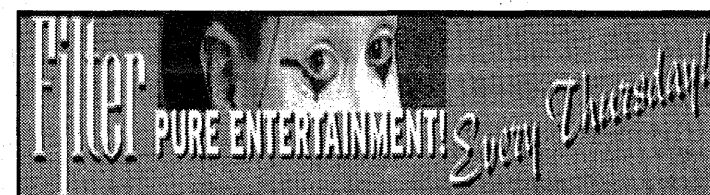
End of Winter Sale
LIVONIA — Handratty's Holidays is reducing everything in their store by 25 percent April 8-12, excluding Dept. 56, Mother's Day and Father's Day cards. Handratty's offers a wide selection of Christmas, Halloween, Thanksgiving, Easter, and St. Patrick's Day merchandise, along with Colonial Candles and Baker's Bits, 33485 W. 8 Mile Road, (248) 426-0018.

Charity Shopping Event
The Chaldean Ladies of Charity will host their annual Shopping Extravaganza 6:30-9:30 p.m. April 10 at Shenandoah Country Club. Tickets, \$25/CALC members, \$30/non members include appetizers and benefit CALC. Call (248) 352-5018 or visit www.calconline.com.



Stephanie Casola

pers into the store, 23900 Woodward Avenue. For the first time, she's added a fashion show.



Call now for a complimentary special report "The truth about Varicose & Spider vein therapies: What every patient must know!"

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