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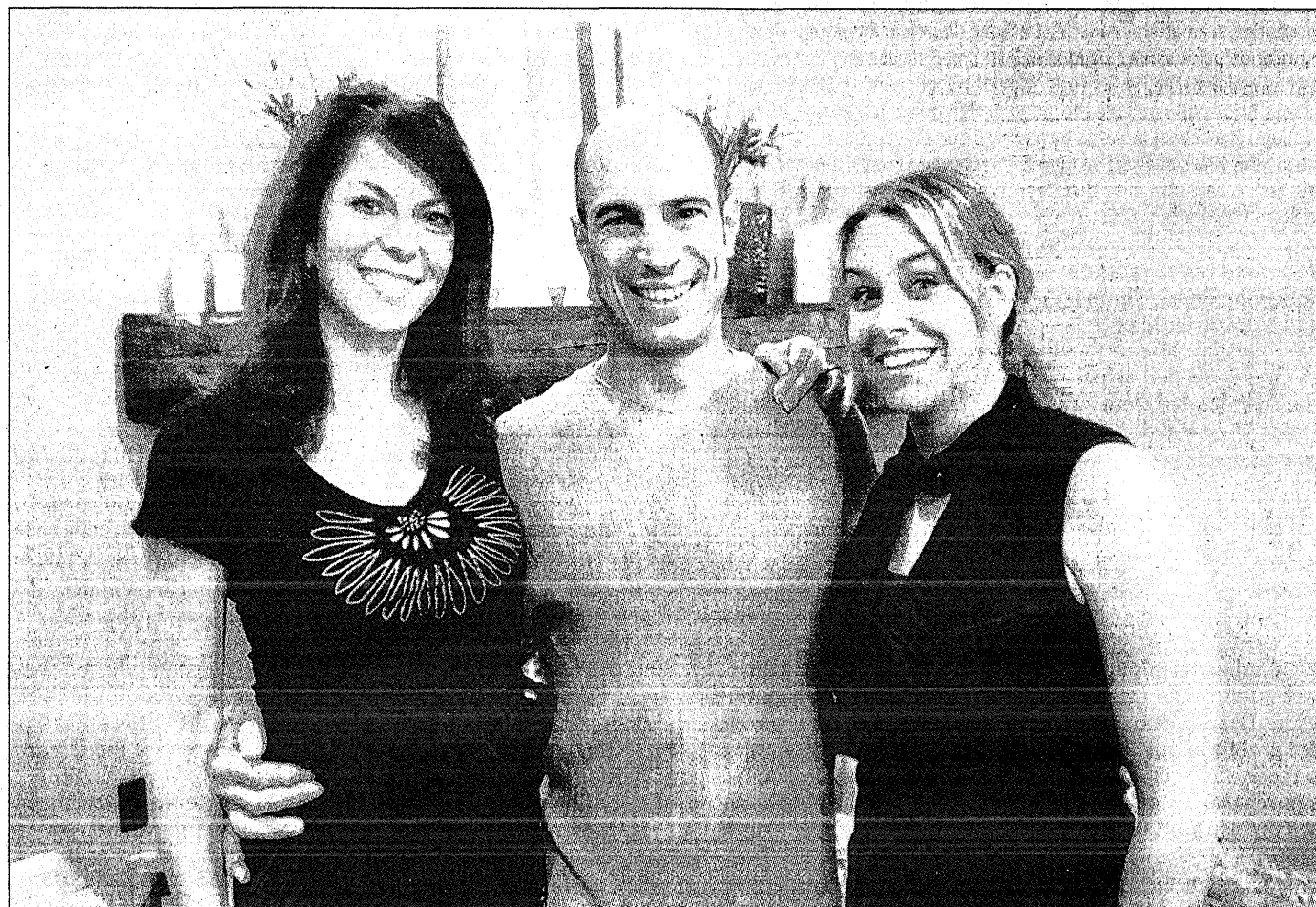


SUNDAY
January 18, 2009

PLYMOUTH Observer

75 cents WINNERS OF STATE AND NATIONAL AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE

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Sheri and Brent Rieli and partner Jenna Osgood opened the new yoga studio on Forest Avenue in Plymouth.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Focus on flexibility

Yoga studio opens with adaptable daily schedule

BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

As owners of the newest addition to downtown Plymouth, the Plymouth Yoga Room, Brent and Sheri Rieli and Jenna Osgood had a single goal in mind - to share the benefits they have gained from the practice of yoga with all those willing to try it.

While teaching yoga in a sports club setting in Novi, Sheri Rieli met Osgood, first as a student. She and her husband

had long pondered the possibility of opening their own studio, and realized Osgood shared the same goal.

Soon enough all three of them were "walking the streets of Plymouth" in search of the right location. By the end of September, they discovered a spot at 474 Forest that suited their vision. They began laying floorboards, tiling a shower room, choosing soothing earthy colors and re-forming arch-framed doorways

Please see **YOGA, A5**

PLYMOUTH YOGA ROOM

- What: Plymouth Yoga Room
- Where: 474 Forest, Plymouth
- Features: Child care center, pampering changing rooms and a vast open yoga room
- Rates: Vary from \$15 per class to \$119 per month, with a year commitment.
- Contact: For updates, classes or more info, visit the Web site at www.plymouthyogastudio.com.

Newest judge takes seat on bench

BY TONY BRUSCATO
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Jim Plakas has practiced law as an attorney for 23 years, some of it in 35th District Court in Plymouth.

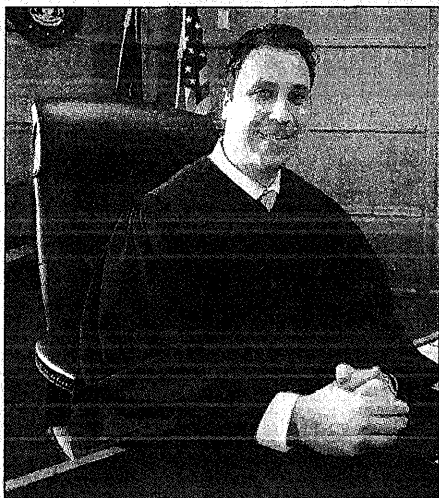
However, as he walked into familiar surroundings Jan. 2, Plakas underwent a life-changing experience - his first day on the other side of the bench after being elected to be one of three judges who preside over the court.

"I put on my robe and walked into the courtroom ... it was such a surreal experience," Plakas, 41, said. "And when the day was done, I wanted more of it."

While attending several days at "judges school," Plakas learned the basics of his new job.

"There was a long list of things never to do as a judge," Plakas said. "Everything we do is a reflection of every other judge on the bench, not only 35th District Court but throughout the state. We represent our communities and families. It's an overwhelming thought, for sure."

Plakas will be on the 35th District Court bench - which represents the Plymouths, Northvilles and Canton



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Judge James Plakas takes his seat on the 35th District Court.

Township - for the next six years. He was elected to the position held by former Judge John MacDonald, who retired at the first of the year. Before starting his new job, Plakas spent several days on the bench learning with MacDonald.

"I sat a lot next to Judge MacDonald

during his final three weeks and he was a tremendous help," said Plakas. "He was very good at what he did and I learned a lot by his side. What I really noticed was how many of the attorneys wanted to thank him for his service and being so good at what he did. It hit home to observe that."

Plakas said he also spent many hours talking with 35th District Court Chief Judge Ron Lowe about what to expect. However, like anyone else starting a new job, there's a lot to learn.

"Typically felony (preliminary) exams are more nerve-wracking because they're serious offenses ... and I had one my first day," Plakas said. "Ten minutes later I had a walk-in arraignment. You definitely have to juggle a lot of balls at one time."

"It was an out-of-body experience, everything sounded muffled," admitted Plakas about his first day on the bench. "It was a bit overwhelming, but there wasn't a second I was nervous. I said from day one this is what I want to do for the rest of my life."

tbruscato@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-2637

Hiller's butts out of cigarette business

Every January, quitting smoking is a New Year's resolution many Americans make. This month, Jim Hiller, CEO of Hiller's Markets decided to help them out.

Hiller's, a local, family-owned company, has made a resolution of its own - to cease selling cigarettes at all of its seven stores, including its Plymouth location.

"I've agonized over this decision," Hiller said. "My personal beliefs are intertwined in my business ethos and to continue to sell cigarettes runs contrary to my personal commitment to this community and its future. I recognize that if you don't start somewhere, you can't impact the greater good at all."

The decision comes with a significant financial impact, since Hiller's does some \$250,000 in tobacco sales. Store officials expect to lose some customers, but hope to gain others.

"There's a lot to lose," said Lynne Schreiber, the chain's director of PR and marketing. "But (Hiller) is doing what he thinks is the right thing."

Hiller said he recognizes

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Did Hiller's make the right decision to stop selling cigarettes? E-mail your opinions to bkadrich@hometownlife.com.

there are other products for sale in his stores that can be considered vices or unhealthy products, but in his opinion cigarettes aren't only dangerous to those who smoke them.

Hiller's officials point out research indicates exposure to secondhand smoke has been linked to respiratory infections, hospitalization and AIDS deaths in babies. In the United States, 21 million children live with smokers. Studies show that as many as 75 percent of American children have detectable levels of nicotine in the bloodstream.

"The effects spread far beyond those who choose to smoke - the effects of cigarette smoke can kill people who live and work with smokers," Hiller said. "Despite the right of those who choose to smoke, I will not make Hiller's a fellow traveler."

Dem's bill aims at auto sales hike

BY TONY BRUSCATO
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

State Rep. Marc Coriveau (D-Northville) plans to re-introduce legislation he hopes will help boost Michigan's economy and improve the bottom line of auto manufacturers and their dealers, as well as save consumers money.

Coriveau's bill - originally introduced in April 2007 - could save consumers \$100 million in sales tax.

For example, if a new car costs \$20,000 and the dealer is giving the customer \$10,000 for a trade-in, the 6-percent sales tax would only be paid on \$10,000. Instead of paying \$1,200 in sales tax for the new vehicle, the customer would only pay \$600.

"It helps the consumer, dealer and manufacturer," said Coriveau, whose 20th House District includes a slice of east Canton along I-275, Plymouth and Plymouth Township. "Very rarely do you get to help all three segments. It's certainly a hit on the state treasury, but moving vehicles is our lifeline."

According to some estimates, the state would take a \$100 million hit in the budget.

"Some things you can't afford to do," Coriveau said. "I'm looking for something to

turn Michigan around. We can't sit on our hands and hope it will turn around on its own."

Coriveau said he will introduce the legislation to the House Tax Committee as soon as committee chairs are positioned. At that point, there will be testimony on the legislation, followed - Coriveau hopes - by a vote to send the bill to the House floor.

Jim Schebil of Fox Hills Chrysler-Jeep in Plymouth Township said the legislation would put Michigan on par with most other states.

"We're one of the few states that has tax on the whole car and then you get nothing for your trade-in," Schebil said. "You've already paid sales tax on the trade-in. It would also help the auto dealers take in more trade-ins. You've got to stimulate the economy and put more money in people's hand, and this is a good way to do it."

In 2007, Coriveau's bill made it to the House floor, but that's as far as it got.

"There are a lot of hurdles to get over," Coriveau said. "If it passes the House, it goes to the Senate, where it starts all over."

"We have to do something to get people into the showrooms to buy cars," he added. "If we're not selling cars, that's a problem."

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Warming Homes and Hearts

The Heat and Warmth Fund (THAW) is a nonprofit organization established to provide low-income families with energy assistance during crisis. For the 2007-2008 heating season, THAW distributed more than \$10,928,000 in energy assistance to more than 8,600 households in Michigan.

*See branch for complete details. NCUA Your savings federally insured to at least \$250,000 and backed by the full faith and credit of the United States Government. Equal Housing Lender. ©2009 Community Financial.

For every new checking account opened in January 2009, Community Financial will contribute \$10.00 to THAW.*



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Coming Thursday in filter



Chill out at the 2009 Plymouth Ice Sculpture Spectacular

"Around Plymouth" is designed to announce upcoming events taking place in the community. Items will run on a space-available basis. Send details to bkadrich@hometownlife.com

Kiwanis euchre party

The Plymouth Canton Kiwanis Breakfast Club is sponsoring a euchre party to fight off the winter doldrums Saturday, Jan. 24, at the VFW Post 7575 at 33011 Ford Road in Garden City. All proceeds of the event will support community wide service programs such as their dictionary project that provides a personal dictionary to all third graders in Plymouth Canton Community Schools. The entry fee is only \$10 with sign-in at 7 p.m. and games beginning at 7:30 p.m. There will be lots of prizes and a cash bar with refreshments available for purchase. Call Debby at 734-282-2340 or e-mail at dtorzy@hotmail.com to register or to get more information. Walk-ins are also welcome.

Comedy for a cause

An evening designed to benefit Barefoot Productions, Plymouth's only live theater company, Thursday, Feb. 5, at Joey's Comedy Club, 36071 Plymouth Road in Livonia. Doors open at 7:30 p.m., the show starts at 8 p.m. (you must be 21 or older to attend). Cost is \$15 per person, and tickets can be purchased at www.ticketleap.com or calling (734) 334-0564. Joey's requires a \$5 or two-drink minimum. The ticket also provides a 25-percent discount for dinner at Kicker's. Show tickets must be purchased in advance. The event also includes a 50-50 drawing. For more information contact Scott at (734) 334-0564 or Scedra3@yahoo.com

Council on Aging

The Plymouth Community Council on Aging hosts a free health screening 12:30-3:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 19, at the Plymouth Cultural Center. This will be for persons 60 years and older. Screening and testing will include Vital Signs/Blood Pressure/Blood Sugar, Urinalysis/Cholesterol Blood Count/Hemocult/Hearing/Vision and Flu Shots. Bring your physician's name, health history, current medications and your Medicare Card. RSVP to (734) 453-1234, Ext. 236.

OLGC open house

Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish School has invited area families to join students and staff for a special open house celebration 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 25. The open house begins Catholic Schools Week, a time when the students highlight their many activities of service and civic responsibility. All are welcome to share in the celebrations of the day, which will include a showcase of the school's science fair competition, musical programs, special student clubs, extra-curricular activities and after-school care. Registration information will be available. Registrations for the 2009/10 school year are due Feb. 1. OLGC School offers an accredited Catholic education for children in kindergarten through eighth grade. More information can be found at http://school.olgeparish.net

Senior party fund-raisers

The PCEP Senior Party Committee is inviting diners to dine out for "a wonderful cause," supporting the senior party by dining out at one (or more) of the area restaurants which have agreed to donate 20 percent of the purchases made during a specific time and date. Fund-raisers take place at



Eagle achievement

Boy Scout troop 1537 in Plymouth recently conducted an Eagle Scout Court of Honor during which Alexander Magee and Nicholas Jenner were elevated to the rank of Eagle Scout. The court featured presentations by state Rep. Marc Corriveau and Detroit Area Council Scout Executive Rick Williamson, and the keynote address by Judge Ron Lowe of the 35th District Court. To achieve the Eagle Scout rank a scout must plan and execute a project of significant contribution to the community. Nick's project was to clean and repaint portions of the interior of Becky's House, the Senior High Youth group meeting area at St. Kenneth's Catholic Church in Plymouth. He also cleaned the exterior siding, weeded and trimmed shrubs and flower beds, and placed mulch in the flower beds. Alex designed, built and landscaped an outdoor brick patio outside the video production classroom at Plymouth High School. The school benefits by having a suitable outdoor setting to film news and interviews and still be near the classroom production and editing facility. Nick is now attending U-M Dearborn and Alex is attending Bowling Green State University in Ohio.

the following restaurants on the following dates: Thursday, Feb. 12 at Caravel; Max & Erma's, Tuesday, March 10, all day, a flyer is needed, which can be downloaded from our web site. They will donate 20 percent of their profits to the senior party; Monday, April 6 at Palermo's; and Thursday, May 7, also at Palermo's. All restaurants are on Ford Road in Canton. Detail information and a flyer is available at http://web.pccs.k12.mi.us/pcep/pages/classof2009/senior-party09.htm (this flyer must be presented at time of purchase for us to receive 20% credit of your purchase). Visit the committee's blog at http://pcep09seniorparty.blogspot.com/ or its Web page at http://web.pccs.k12.mi.us/pcep/pages/classof2009/

senior-party09.htm To volunteer or for questions, contact pcep-senior-party@comcast.net **Grief to New Hope** Ward Presbyterian Church is sponsoring an eight week grief workshop, From Grief to New Hope, beginning Feb. 9. This free workshop is open to the community and will be presented by Plymouth's Cathy Clough, Director of New Hope Center for Grief Support. Each session will begin with a presentation about one aspect of grief followed by small group participation led by trained facilitators. Attendees will be placed in groups with others who have had similar losses. The workshop will meet for eight consecutive Monday nights from 7-8:45 p.m. at Ward Church

located on 6 Mile & Haggerty Roads in Northville. For registration information call Barb at Ward Presbyterian Church at 248-374-5943. For information about other age and loss specific grief support groups offered by New Hope Center for Grief Support call 248-348-0115.

Ladies' night

New Hope Center for Grief Support in cooperation with Carolyn Dicomio of Arbonne, Carol Massey of Cookie Lee Jewelry, and Carol Clark of Margo's Salon will be hosting a Ladies Night at Pulte Home's Arcadia Ridge Villas in Northville 7-10 p.m. Friday, Jan. 23. Join us for makeup tips, beautiful jewelry, massages and facials. Refreshments will also be served and music will be provided by Lew Perrotta of BEAT CRAZY. Cost is \$30 per lady at the door. The Model Condo is located at 49285 Freestone Drive, Northville, MI 48168. Enter on Arcadia Lane off of Ridge Road between Five and Six Mile Road. To RSVP call New Hope at (248) 348-0115 or e-mail at griefhelp@newhope-center.net by Jan. 21.

Free ballet classes

Metro Dance Company is offering a free Beginning Adult Ballet class 3:30-4:45 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 31. This class will focus on the basics of ballet including barre and center work and is perfect for the novice dancer or the dancer looking to refresh their skills. Contact the studio at (734) 207-8970 or info@MetroDanceCompany.com for more information. **Financial seminar** Catholic Parishes Federal Credit Union sponsors a free financial seminar, Keeping Your Deposits Safe, 10-11 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 24, at its Plymouth branch, 8817 Sheldon. Learn how the National

Credit Union Share Insurance Fund (an agency of the Federal Government) protects your deposits, what limits are in place, and how you can maximize your options. To RSVP call (734) 432-0212, Ext. 301. Light refreshments and handouts provided.

Genealogical Society meets

The Western Wayne County Genealogical Society meets Monday, Jan. 19, at the Livonia Senior Center, 15218 Farmington Road in Livonia. The main speaker, following the 7:30 p.m. business meeting, will be the Petticoat Ladies. Their topic will be "Mothers of Invention." This spirited group of ladies will enlighten us on what women had to go through in Victorian times. The 6:30 p.m. program will be an After the Holidays Social to visit and catch up with each other's genealogy fun. Have a brick wall? See if our members can help. The meetings are open to the public. Guests are always welcomed. For further information, visit the Society's Web site @ www.rootsweb.com/~miwwcgs/

Saturdays @ The Penn

The Plymouth Community Arts Council and the Plymouth Canton Symphony Society present Saturdays at The Penn @ noon. The next old-fashioned variety shows for children and families is Feb. 7, with special musical host Guy Louis and Chataqua Express and special guest performer Like Water Drume and Dance. The announcer is Timothy Thompson. Tickets cost \$3 and may be purchased the day of the show. Doors open at 11:15 a.m. at the Penn Theatre, 760 Penniman in Plymouth. To purchase tickets before the concert or for more information on group purchases, contact Deb Madonna at (734) 377-0914. Visit www.PennSaturdays.com for more information.

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HOTEL FOR DOGS (PG)
11:45, 2:05, 4:25, 6:45, 9:05
FRI/SAT LS 11:25

MY BLOODY VALENTINE 3D (R)
12:10, 2:30, 4:50, 7:05, 9:25
FRI/SAT LS 11:45

DEFIANCE (R)
12:50, 3:45, 6:40, 9:35

BRIDE WARS (PG)
11:00, 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 9:50
FRI/SAT LS 12:00

GRAN TORINO (R)
11:40, 2:15, 4:45, 7:15, 9:45

BEDTIME STORIES (PG)
FRI-TUE/TH 12:00, 2:20, 4:35, 6:55, 9:15
WED 12:00, 2:20, 4:35

MARLEY & ME (PG)
11:00, 1:40, 4:20, 7:00, 9:40

YES MAN (PG-13)
FRI/SAT LS 11:30

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Penn Theatre gets ready for its closeup

BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

A landmark perched in downtown Plymouth is about to get the ultimate makeover. The historic Penn Theatre's marquee will soon undergo a renovation meant to return it to its original glory. According to Executive Director Ellen Elliott, the Friends of the Penn non-profit organization has secured a grant worth \$10,000 from the Wilcox Foundation which will allow work to begin.

"The marquee will be replaced and returned to its 1941 appearance," she said. "It's going to be amazing."

The entire project is set to cost \$90,000, so the non-profit will be busy with fund-raising efforts throughout the year. "We've already got people donating," said Elliott.

She said the neighborhood theater is much more than just a building in Plymouth. She called it "a big part of people's lives," including her own. "I spent so much time there as a kid, and as a teenager," Elliott said.

That sentiment rings true for many patrons. By restoring the theater and keeping it open, the Friends of the Penn aim to preserve the experience as well as a slice of history.

Elliott said most residents and even employees are so used to the theater, they don't notice it right away that the sign looks "tired." She said it has been "run into by trucks" and is about 67 years old. The original marquee was much more colorful, with vibrant orange, yellow and burgundy. If all goes as planned, movie-goers will see the sign restored to that gleaming state by fall.

"It's in the design stage," said Elliott. After a long process of seeking companies, all across the country, that might be able to complete the work at a reasonable price, the



The Friends of the Penn are trying to raise money to restore the marquee of downtown Plymouth's Penn Theatre to its colorful 1941 form.

ROMANCE CLASSICS

- What: Romance Month Classics
- Showtimes: 7 p.m. Thursdays in February
- Films: Feb. 5 - "Romeo & Juliet;" Feb. 12 - "From Here to Eternity;" Feb. 19 - "To Have and Have Not;" Feb. 26 - "Love in the Afternoon"
- Where: Penn Theatre, 760 Penniman, downtown Plymouth
- Tickets: \$3, call (734) 453-0870 or visit www.penntheatre.com
- More information: Free passes available at Basket Kreations, Creatopia Paint it Yourself Pottery, Hands On Leather and Kemnitz Candies

Friends of the Penn accepted a bid from Wagner Electric Sign Company based in Ohio. The group had narrowed bids down to two companies in the

Midwest but Wagner jumped above the competition having exhibited experience working with both the Fox Theatre in Detroit and the Michigan Theatre in Ann Arbor.

"It put them right at the top," said Elliott, who has served as executive director since 2005.

Over the summer months the marquee will be completely removed from the building, but by fall the project is expected to be complete. Movies will still be showing inside.

In fact, the Penn Theatre is offering a valentine to the community, with a month devoted to Romance classics. Every Thursday in February patrons will be treated to a beloved film, from *Romeo & Juliet* to *From Here to Eternity*.

Another gift, the Plymouth Downtown Development Authority initiated a program offering a limited number

of free passes to these films. They are available at specified area businesses. "It does increase foot traffic to those businesses," said Elliott.

She chooses the films based on patron's requests, as well

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Presented by
Andrea S. Vivian, D.D.S.

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To some extent, the porcelain veneers that dentists often use to cover chipped, broken, misshapen, stained, or discolored front teeth are similar to the artificial nails that manicurists use to cover problem fingernails. The primary difference is, of course, that the veneers used on teeth consist of thin shells of porcelain that are carefully placed over damaged or misshapen teeth. The procedure involves removal of a thin layer of the affected tooth's outer surface, after which impressions are taken that are used to create veneers that will fit precisely. During the next appointment, the veneers are fitted, permanently bonded in place, and shaped. The result is a newly surfaced tooth with an extremely durable material that closely mimics enamel.

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as considering those that were quite popular when they were originally released. She also looks to screen movies that even avid movie-goers might've missed the first time around.

Romance Month made its debut in 2007 and was well-received, Elliott said. Like other classic programs, she noted, "it adds to the nostalgia of the historic aspects of the theatre."

Arthritis Today

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CARING FOR YOUR KNEES IN WINTER

Your knees in winter are like your furnace heater. If a breakdown is likely to occur, it will come when the weather is at its worst, when the knee, like the furnace, is under the most strain.

At this time of year, the best way to protect knees is to wear the best possible gear for your feet. The greatest threat to your knees is a slip and/or a fall. A sudden change in footing can cause a torque that strains knee ligaments and menisci, or results in a fall that can cause a knee bone bruise or fracture. While it is not always possible to stay indoors in bad weather, it is possible, even necessary, that if you venture outside, you wear proper shoes or boots. Your footwear should give you maximum traction up and down slippery steps or unexpected patches of ice, and keep your toes warm if you may be outside for an extended time.

You should use utmost caution in your initial steps outside. No matter how great the need to hurry, take the first steps slowly. Give both your feet and your face the chance to become acclimated to wind and freezing temperature. If you have knee arthritis and know those joints are less than best for an unexpected turn or slip, start out with a cane. To ensure solid support, be sure the cane has a large rubber tip, or even better, is a four prong cane.

In sum, the best way to care for your knees in winter is to look after your feet.

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GEMS boosts girls' interest in math, science

BY JULIE BROWN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

If you've got a daughter interested in a math/science career, be sure to mark Saturday, March 21, on your calendar.

That's the day the Plymouth-Canton and Livonia school districts will present the Girls Excel in Math and Science (GEMS) Conference for fifth- through eighth-graders, 7:45 a.m. to noon at Plymouth High School.

"It's a marvelous day to see all those parents and their girls," said Janet Kahan, K-12 math and science coordinator for the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools. "We get great evaluations."

This is the 13th GEMS Conference, although it's now done every other year, Kahan said, so it dates back some 20 years. Kahan and other organizers are heartened to see how concerned parents are about daughters' futures.

"It's a different era than when I grew up," she said.

You can download the registration form at www.pccs.k12.mi.us. Information is on the Livonia district Web site at www.livonia.k12.mi.us as well, and Livonia's coordinating registration for the event at Plymouth High, on Beck in Canton.

Kahan tips her hat to the Plymouth-Canton Branch of the American Association of University Women, in on GEMS since its inception with volunteers and financial help. Also helping with speakers and funding is Community Financial Credit Union.

"There was a concern not enough girls were going on to take the challenging math and science courses," Kahan said. "Over time, that's changed."

More young women now take Advanced Placement higher math like pre-calculus and calculus, as well as probability and statistics. Their numbers are higher in honors biology and physics, but educators remain concerned.

"There's still a concern that girls are not equally represented." Middle school years are critical for girls making decisions, so educators hope to expose them to a variety of rewarding careers.

"We may help them keep those doors open longer," she said.

Keynote speaker March 21 will be Jennifer Aurdant, an assistant professor of biochemistry at Kettering University in Flint. She's younger, and GEMS organizers hope to show girls that having a family and career can work.

"We've been trying to move it around the community," said Kahan, citing past keynote speakers such as a General Motors vice president and Lear auto supplier staffer.

The conference, for which girls will register with a parent, will include breakfast followed by choices of two 50-minute sessions. Those range from the water cycle to managing a cougar population to forensics.

"The girls and their parents get to make choices when they register," she said. The fee is \$20 per pair (girl and parent), waived if the girl is getting free or reduced price school lunches.

The day will feature the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park high school Robotics Team, with GEMS girls taking turns driving robots. That will be followed by two role model sessions, with such professions as engineer, physician, museum curator and math teacher.

There will be a panel of University of Michigan undergraduate women in science and engineering for the role model sessions.

Last year, 160 students signed up. "We're hoping to do as well or better," said Kahan, who appreciates the LPS co-sponsorship again this year. "Teachers from Livonia are also offering role model sessions."

Boys can attend, as can students from nonpublic and other area school districts. For more information, contact Janet Kahan at (734) 416-3010 or by e-mail at kahanj@pccs.k12.mi.us.

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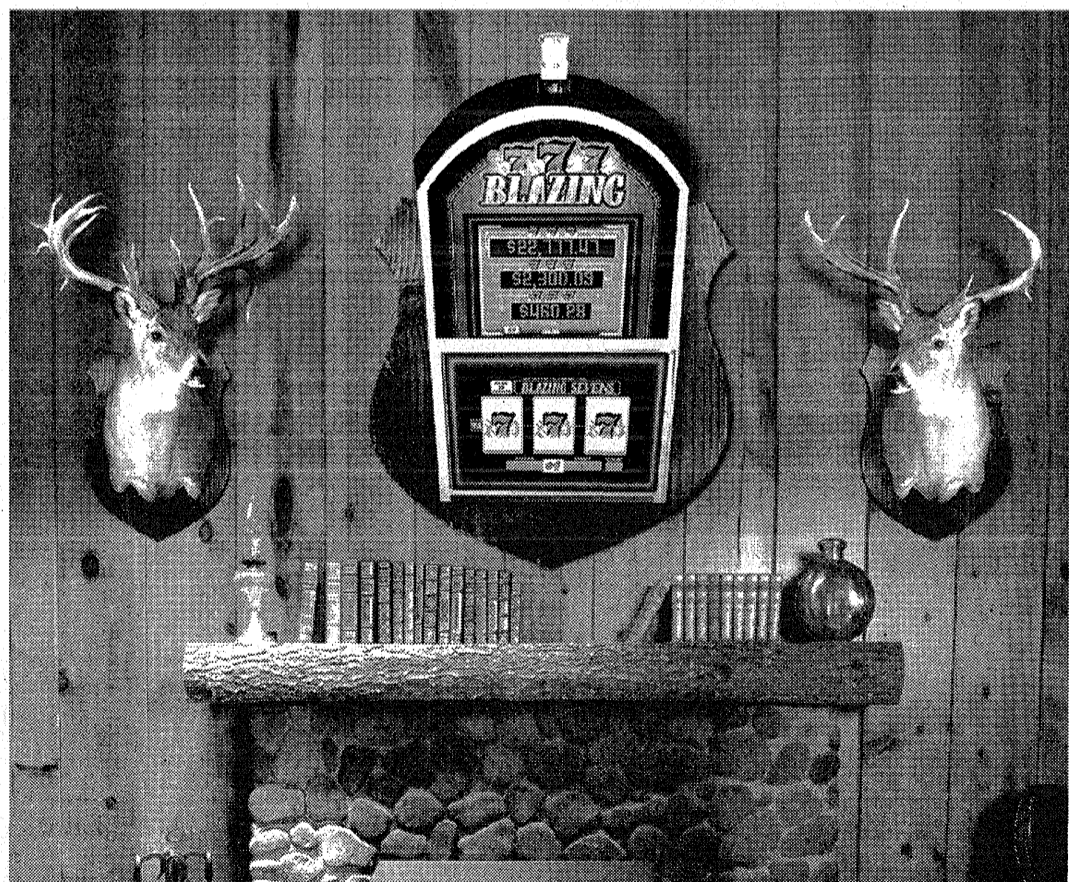
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YOGA

FROM PAGE A1

within the 2,700-foot space. Though Rieli said they initially considered opening the studio in Milford - her hometown - Plymouth seemed more accessible to multiple communities. And there was nothing else like it around.

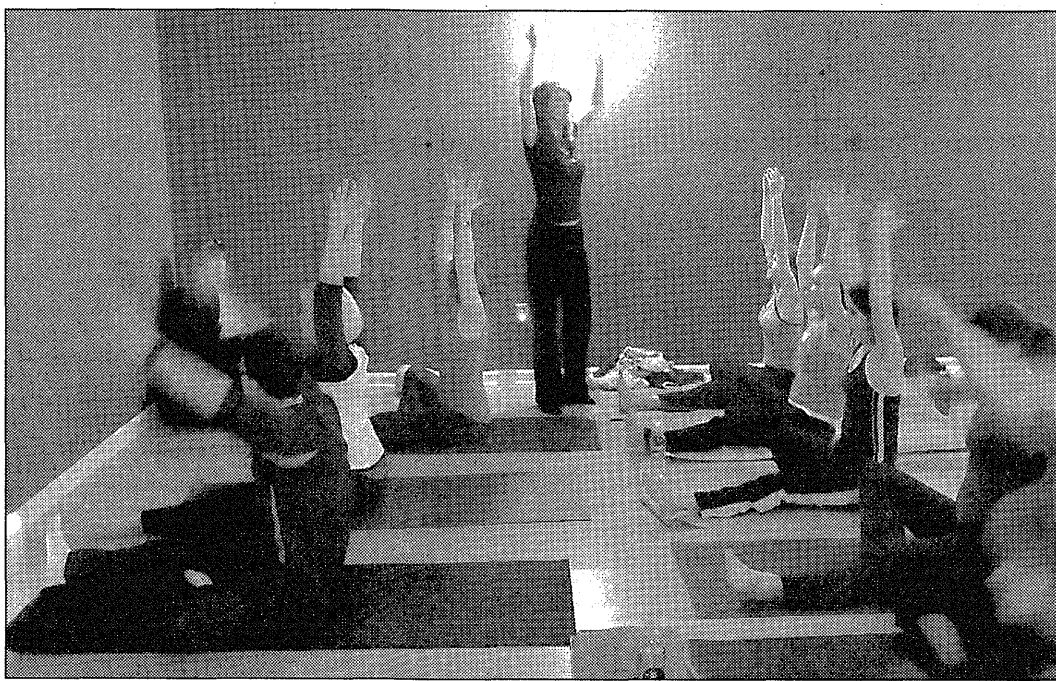
"It's such a great town," she said. Osgood, who is married to Detroit Red Wing Chris Osgood, lives in Plymouth and grew up in nearby Westland. She was more than familiar with the terrain, and convinced a studio would benefit the community.

Walking into Plymouth Yoga Room one can't help but leave worries outside. The inviting space offers a roaring fireplace in the front room and a long hall that leads to a bright child-care center, pampering changing rooms and the centerpiece, a vast open yoga room.

"We wanted a warm, relaxing atmosphere," said Rieli. "We created a place where you can go after yoga and drink a tea."

Rather than rush in and out for classes, the owners envisioned an escape for their clientele. They chose to offer child care to allow parents the freedom to take classes with their children nearby. The service is offered from 8:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. and from 4:30-7 p.m. daily.

Plymouth Yoga Room officially opened Wednesday offering a full five days of free classes while they place the finishing touches on the business. "My husband and I were



Sheri Rieli leads the class at the new yoga studio.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

ready to teach," said Rieli. And teach they will. There are a total of five instructors. The Plymouth Yoga Room offers 32 classes a week, highlighting three types of yoga: the slower paced Better Backs/Slow Flow, a shorter version of Yoga's primary series called Short Form Ashtanga, and Vinyasa, a very vigorous class which involves heat. Classes catered to beginners and the advanced.

"I wanted to share everything I get out of yoga," said Osgood, who handles merchandising for the Plymouth Yoga Room. She stocks the front room with clothing, mats, candles, teas, any item that can contribute to a relaxed experience. Her focus is on comfort and style, and she favors brands like Love This

Life, which encourage people to "let go of the little anxieties and really experience life."

Osgood believes offering the practice of yoga is beneficial for everyone. The owners are considering adding children's yoga classes, lunchtime classes for busy professionals and partner yoga. "Yoga is a practice," Osgood said. "There is always somewhere to go."

Rieli said there is no better time to take up the practice of yoga than now, when everyone is concerned about jobs and the economy. The benefits go far beyond the physical to mental and emotional, she said. Rieli hopes people will "come to Plymouth Yoga Room for an hour and let go of the anxiety and stress."

Osgood and Rieli agreed they would not have been able to open the studio so quickly without the help of friends and family. In appreciation for all the support, they held a private, first class on Tuesday night for all those involved. It was enough to bring Rieli to tears, she said. "It was so emotional."

Vallanore Semma, a Farmington Hills resident, welcomes visitors at the front desk. She said she's happy to be part of the studio's opening. "I think it's great for the community," she said. "They put so much hard work into it." "We want everyone to have a great experience here," Rieli said. A grand opening celebration is being planned for February.

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Q: Dear Rick: With the auto show in town and the car companies needing all the help they can get, I decided to buy a new car. What factors should I consider in deciding whether to buy or to lease a car?

A: I think what you are doing is great, and I hope more people around the country decide to buy cars

from the "Big Three."

The decision whether to buy or lease a car is based upon two major factors how long you plan to own your car and how many miles you drive on an annual basis.

My general rule is if you plan to buy a new car every three years or less, leasing is the way to go. If you plan keep the car for more than four

years, buying it makes more sense.

If you drive more than 15,000-18,000 miles a year, leasing generally becomes too expensive for most people.

If you decide to buy a car, the next issue is whether to pay cash or to finance the purchase. Considering interest rates and tax consequences (unless you can get inexpensive

financing, generally under 3 percent) I recommend paying cash for the car. However, if you don't have cash available then you would have to obtain financing.

Whether you buy or lease it, it is important to shop around and get the best deal possible not only on price but financing options. One of the mistakes people make when they lease

is they assume they can't receive competitive bids. This is not the case. Not only can you shop the car at different dealerships, but there also are other institutions such as credit unions that do leasing.

In shopping for leased cars, it is important to consider monthly payments as well as other terms of the agreement such as security deposits, early

termination fees and excess mile charges.

Many people do not understand that leasing a car is simply renting that automobile for a period of time. The lease payment is the depreciation on the vehicle. Because you are leasing the car for a set period of time, you are able to drive a more expensive car for a lower price. In fact, that is one of the main advantages of leasing. However, leasing does offer other advantages such as driving newer automobiles and not having to worry about reselling a used car.

Purchasing a car also has its advantages such as the car belongs to you and, thus, when you decide to sell the car, you will get some of your money back. In addition, you can lower your cost of driving by extending the length of time you own your car.

I am often asked which is better, buying or leasing. There is no correct answer. The key is what is best for an individual situation. My advice is that prior to obtaining a car you should know how it will be purchased before you visit the dealerships. Knowing how you will finance the purchase prior to even looking at the automobile itself will help you focus on making the right decision.



Money Matters
Rick Bloom

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

Secretary of State closed for King holiday

All branch offices of the Secretary of State's office will be closed Monday in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

The Department of State mails notices to motorists 45 days before their driver's license or license plates expire to give them ample time to renew. Licenses and plates that expire on a day when state offices are closed, such as holidays or weekend, can be renewed the following day without penalty.

Motorists renewing license plates can avoid the trip to branch offices and do business by mail or if eligible by Internet of touch-tone telephone. Easy to follow instructions can be found with the renewal notice. License plate tabs will arrive by mail within seven business days.

With the exception of holidays, branch offices are open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. On Wednesdays, most offices are open from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. with those in city centers open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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Local woman headed to D.C. to celebrate beginning of new era

BY KURT KUBAN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Canton's Natalie Mosher, a politically active Democrat, was overjoyed last November when Barack Obama was elected president. She knew immediately that she wanted to part of history when Obama is sworn in as the 44th president Tuesday.

Unfortunately, she tried for months to get tickets to the swearing-in ceremony without any luck.

"I was told to contact my congressman, which I did, and was told those tickets were a hot commodity and they went very fast," Mosher said.

That didn't stop her quest to be part of the festivities.

Mosher, who is a self-employed consultant for the nonprofit sector, was able to obtain tickets for the ritzy Michigan State Society's inaugural gala, which will take place Tuesday evening at the Smithsonian's Museum of African-American History. Most of the state's major political players are expected to attend, including both Republicans and Democrats. And she expects to get as close as she can to the swearing-in ceremony during the afternoon.

Mosher and her husband, Bob, along with her sister and brother-in-law, jumped in the car early Friday morning and headed to D.C. for what she is sure will be a major moment in America's history, as the first African-American president is sworn in.

"We just want to be there," she said. "I'm so excited to be going."

The biggest problem for the Moshers was finding a place to stay. Before moving back to the area about four years ago, the couple, who have been married 42 years, recently lived in Alexandria, Va., which is close to Washington. They contacted an old neighbor, who told them the going rate for rooms during the inauguration is about \$5,000 a night, but he would cut them a break by charging them \$2,500.

Instead, the Moshers leaned on their son, who owns a condo in D.C., not far away from the Mall area where Obama will be sworn in.

"He could have made a lot of money by renting out the condo, but he agreed to let us stay there. He is going to stay with a friend while we are in town. It really worked out perfect for us, because we can literally walk to the Capitol,"



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Canton's Natalie Mosher is in Washington D.C. and will be attending the inauguration on Tuesday.

she said.

In addition to being the association president at the Ravines of Canton subdivision, Mosher is very active in the community, helping out on food drives and coat drives, and she served on Canton's Board of Review until recently. She said she is very excited

about an Obama presidency.

"I'm very optimistic, especially with the way he is engaging people from the grassroots level. I'm impressed with his transparency and honesty," she said. "He's really reaching out. That's what I value in my life. He's going to govern in a much different way."

Watch Obama inauguration on big screen with 450 friends

BY KURT KUBAN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Tickets to President-elect Barack Obama's swearing-in ceremony Tuesday in the nation's capital are hard or next to impossible to come by. If you are among the disappointed people who would like to go but are unable to, Emagine Theater in Canton may be offering the next best thing.

As part of a promotion by MSNBC and Screenvision, Emagine Canton will be showing MSNBC coverage of the inauguration live.

Ruth Daniels, vice president of sales and marketing, said the coverage will be shown in its largest theater, which seats 450 people.

"It will be a lot of fun. We're really excited," she said.

Coverage of the event begins at 11 a.m. and runs through 3 p.m.

To obtain a ticket, you

must log onto <http://msnbc-events.com> and enter your e-mail information, as well as the theater location. If you are awarded a ticket, you will receive an e-mail. Admission is free but is first come, first serve and tickets are no guarantee of admission.

Daniels has no idea how many people will attend the event, though she does expect some people to show up without tickets. She said the theater will try to accommodate everyone.

"We've never done anything like this before, so we don't know what to expect," Daniels said. "But I know everyone is very excited and interested (about the inauguration). It could be a full house."

Daniels said doors will open about 9:30 a.m.

For more information, visit the MSNBC Web site or call the theater at (734) 721-3456.

AROUND PLYMOUTH

PLAV members

PLAV Post #166, located at 39375 Amrhein in Livonia (at the southeastern corner of Amrhein and Eckles) is seeking new veteran members (the first year is offered free).

The Post meeting is the second Monday of every month (except July and August) and begins at 7:30 p.m. with a light lunch that follows the meeting. Those interested are welcome; contact Sr Vice Cmdr/Adj Roger L. Kehrier, (734) 453-2031.

PCAC offerings

The Plymouth Community Arts Council brings back its camp program for children ages 5-12. The mid-winter camp runs Feb. 23-27, the spring break camp is April 13-17, and the PCAC offers snow-day camps when Plymouth-Canton school offi-

cial call a snow day due to inclement weather. All camps run 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The PCAC offers Girl Scout programs, with workshops for badges including ceramics and clay, theatre, Her Story and colors and shapes.

There are drop-in art classes with Pam Grossman. The drawing-based class takes place Mondays and Wednesdays, while the youth (ages 6-19) classes are offered Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

Potttery A-Z with Jeff Burda is offered in six-week sessions for children ages 6-12, on Saturdays Jan. 24-Feb. 28, March 7-April 11, April 25-May 30.

All camps and classes are held at the Joanne Winkleman Hulce Center for the Arts, 774 N. Sheldon in Plymouth. To register for these programs stop in at the PCAC or call

(734) 416-4278. More information on all programs is available at the PCAC Web site, www.plymoutharts.com

Prison Family Support Group

Do you have a family member currently serving time in prison, a subject that you can't easily discuss with just anyone? Now, there's a place for help - for conversation - for understanding of what you are going through.

Hope-4-Healing is a free on-going support group for those who have loved ones in prison, providing a safe place to talk about it, share with and learn from others. The group meets the second Monday of every month beginning in January 2009 at Kirk of Our Savior Presbyterian Church, 36660 Cherry Hill, in Westland.

For additional information, contact Bonnie at (734) 646-2237 or e-mail

hope4healing@rocketmail.com

Entertainment books

The Plymouth Symphony League is launching their 2009 Greater Detroit Area Entertainment Book Sale. For \$20, buyers get coupons that will save money on a variety of entertainment activities like Plymouth Symphony Orchestra concerts, attractions like the Henry Ford Museum and Greenfield Village, specialty stores, and fine and casual restaurants all over the area.

For a limited time only, with each purchase of a 2009 Entertainment book, customers will receive a 2008 book free (while supplies last). The 2009 edition of the Entertainment Book also includes a Platinum section, featuring special discount certificates for the "best of the best"

restaurants in Metro Detroit, including Plymouth's own Ernesto's and the Whitney restaurant in Detroit.

Help the arts thrive in your community and get your books at the Plymouth Symphony Office by calling (734) 451-2112, Tue-Fri, 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The BeckRidge Chorale is selling 2009 Entertainment Books to raise funds to support local charities and to provide vocal music scholarships to talented local high school students.

The book features 2-for-1 and 50-percent discounts for shows, restaurants, sporting events, hotel stays, air fare, car rentals and other things. The special fund-raising price is \$20, and anyone who buys a 2009 book now gets a 2008 book free.

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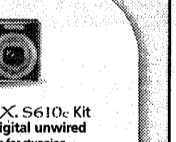
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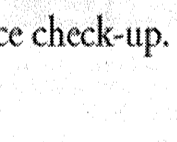
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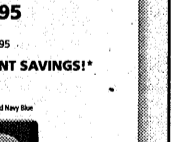
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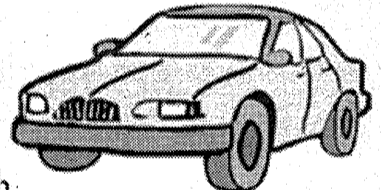
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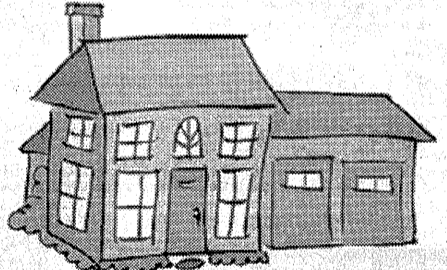
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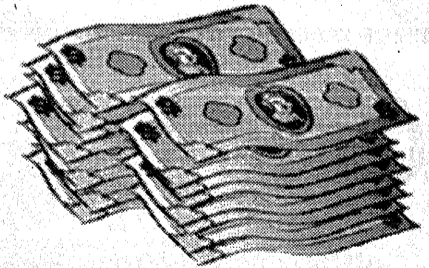


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David Rouse, right, cuts Connie Maschke's hair for a donation to Locks of Love. Fellow barber Wally Hill, left, watches and Northville VFW Ladies' Auxiliary Betty Burkacki is at center. All will assist the VFW in their fourth annual 'Hair Cut Day for Cancer and AIDS Research' on Sunday.

JOHN HEIDER | NORTHVILLE RECORD

VFW Haircut Day slated this Sunday

BY PAM FLEMING
STAFF WRITER

If it's time for a trim, come to the "VFW Haircut Day for Cancer and AIDS Research" in downtown Northville today. The fund-raiser will take

place from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 4012, 438 S. Main St., just north of Seven Mile Road. This is the fourth year for the event.

The barbers that are involved are from Jack's Barber Shop, 111 E. Dunlap St., in downtown Northville and Northville Barbers, 545 Seven Mile Road. The barbers will donate their time for this worthy cause.

Haircuts will be \$12 for men, women and children.

"Everyone has been touched by cancer in one way or the other," said Betty Burkacki of the VFW Post 4012 Ladies Auxiliary, event chairperson.

Raffle tickets will also be sold during the event for gift certificates from local merchants, including a sports basket, dinner basket and ladies basket.

Two local restaurants are also participating in the fund-raiser. Chili's Restaurant at Haggerty and Eight Mile roads will donate 10 percent of diners' total bills back to the event on Monday, Jan. 19. Applebee's Restaurant at Six Mile and Haggerty roads will donate 20 percent of diners' bills on Monday, Jan. 26.

The restaurants will require coupons from the VFW for the money to go to the fund-raiser. For more information about the event or the coupons, call Burkacki at a (734) 891-3921 or pick some up at the Northville VFW Post after noon on Sunday.

In the first three years, the event has raised a total of \$7,268 for cancer and AIDS research.

"With the support of the community, we are hoping to meet our goal," Burkacki said.

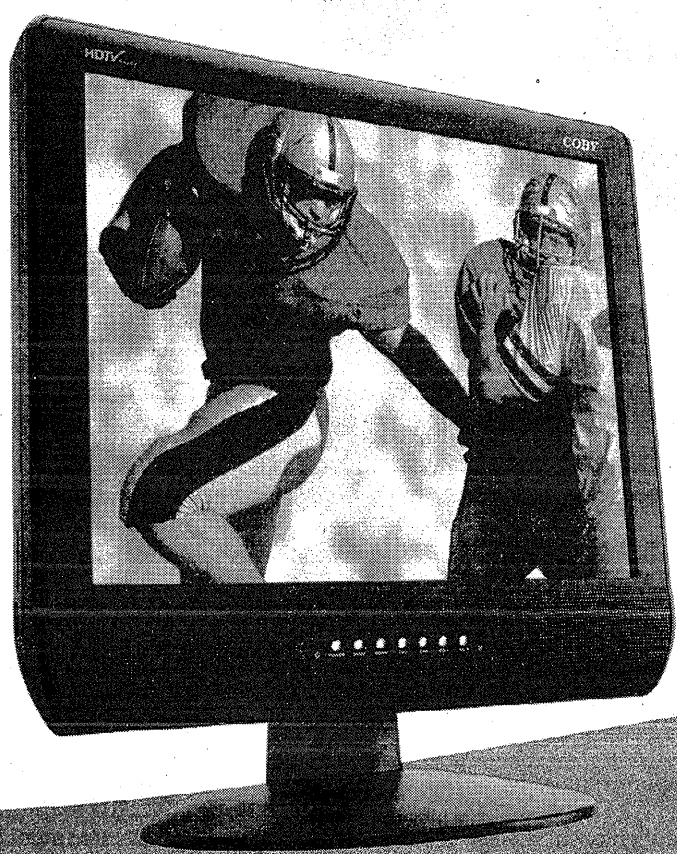
The event began when the VFW post asked local barber Dave Rouse if he would donate his hair-cutting services for the cause, and he said it would be a pleasure. The first year, Rouse shaved one VFW member's head, two beards, some mustaches men had had for several years, and cut 55 heads of hair. This year, the two local barbers have agreed to have their heads shaved for the cause.

"We have placed jars for donations in both of the local barber shops," Burkacki said. Wally Hill, a VFW member and barber, as well as another veteran have agreed to lose their hair, beard and mustache if \$1,000 is collected by Sunday.

"We are well on our way," Burkacki said. Barbers ask that those coming in for a haircut arrive at the fund-raiser with clean hair.

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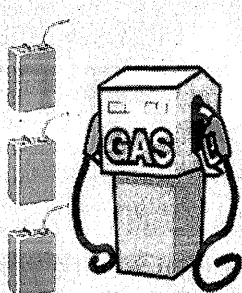
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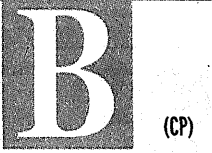
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SPORTS



Sunday, January 18, 2009

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

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

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Plymouth icers power past Canton, 7-3

BY ED WRIGHT
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Thirty minutes of powerful play by the Plymouth hockey team nearly got wiped out by the granddaddy of all power plays Friday night at the Arctic Edge Arena.

The Wildcats surged to a 5-0 lead against state-ranked and once-beaten Canton before the Chiefs took advantage of a late second period five-minute major penalty to storm back to within 5-3.

In the end, the Wildcats managed to regain their composure and post a 7-3 triumph — and learn some valuable lessons along the way.

"If you give a good team like Canton a five-minute power-play because of a bad penalty, they're going to make you pay," said Plymouth coach Paul Fassbender. "We have a good team, but we're

young and we're prone to mental lapses like we had tonight. Hopefully, we learned from it."

The win improved Plymouth's record to 9-5-1. Canton dropped to 10-2-1.

The Wildcats have now defeated two top 10 teams and lost 1-0 to a third (Northville).

The Wildcats led 2-0 after one period thanks to Tyler Sanders' short-handed net-finder from Ryan Renault and Renault's power-play goal that was assisted by Pat Smiatacz and Chris Merrill.

Plymouth built a seemingly insurmountable cushion with three second-period goals from John Deal (from John Maurer and Mitch Martin), Taylor Currier (from Deal and Martin) and Smiatacz, who was assisted by Renault and Ryan Cigile.

But Canton answered with a trio of power-play goals during

the opening moments of the third stanza.

The first came from Donny Barlow, who was assisted by Bryan Davison.

Canton's Nick Tomilenko then revived the Chiefs with back-to-back goals, the second of which came with a five-on-three advantage.

Mark Barath assisted on Tomilenko's first goal while Barlow and A.J. Rosales picked up helpers on his second.

Just as the contest's momentum started taking on a red tint, the pendulum swung back toward the Wildcats thanks to third-period goals from Kyle Callahan (from Zach Gambrell) and Evan Swieczkowski, who was assisted by Sanders.

Plymouth outshot Canton 22-16

Please see **HOCKEY, B3**



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Plymouth's Kyle Callahan, pictured in a game earlier this season, scored the Wildcats' sixth goal in their 7-3 triumph over Canton Friday night.

Sidelines

Hoop Shoot

Canton Leisure Services is sponsoring the 2009 MRPA Hoop Shoot basketball skills competition on Monday, Jan. 19, at the Summit on the Park.

Registration for the free event begins at 11 a.m. with the event tipping off at 11:30 a.m.

The Hoop Shoot is open to boys and girls between the ages of 8 and 15. Winners will advance to area competitions as a representative of the Canton Community. Certificates and ribbons will be available to participants.

Players will have 60 seconds to score points from various locations on the court.

Participants may pre-register or register on-site the day of the event.

For more information, call (734) 483-5600.

Rockers reunion

The Detroit Ignition will host a "Detroit Rockers Reunion Night" this afternoon during the Ignition's Xtreme Soccer League match against the Milwaukee Wave. The game kicks off at 4:35 p.m.

Alumni of the Rockers, Neon and Safari will be taking the field for the first ball kick. Each player participating in the reunion will be recognized during halftime with an honorary Ignition jersey with their name and former uniform number.

Among the former indoor soccer stars slated to attend are: Dennis Brose, Andy Chapman, Bryan "Goose" Finnerty, Lars Richters, Dominic Scicluna and Brian Tinnion.

Steelers sign-ups

The Plymouth-Canton Steelers junior football program will be holding open registration for all rookie players and cheerleaders Jan. 31 beginning at 9 a.m.

If you are interested your child, visit www.plymouthcantonsteelers.com.

Prep bowling feats

A couple of student-athletes are making names for themselves in the inaugural season of the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park's competitive bowling teams. Competing in a match against the Walled Lake schools earlier this month, Canton's Andrew Kline rolled a 300 game against Walled Lake Northern at Wonderland Lanes in Commerce.

Salem's Ryan Clark nearly matched the feat as he registered a 299.

Cliff Notes

Wildcats pass Salem test on Buttermore's 22

BY ED WRIGHT
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

At least one thing is certain in the wake of Cliff Buttermore's one-year hiatus from high school basketball: He hasn't lost his touch.

The senior guard, whose shooting stroke is as smooth as his last name, exploded for 22 points — 15 the result of five beyond-the-arc bombs — to lead Plymouth to a 54-45 road victory over Salem.

Buttermore didn't play last year, but you never would have guessed it by the display he put on Friday night in the Rocks' gym.

"Cliff had a great outside shot when he played for our junior varsity team in tenth grade," remembered Plymouth coach Tom Van Wagoner. "You could just tell he was a pure shooter."

"Tonight he made a bunch of clutch shots at key points in the game. It seemed like every time we rotated the ball to him, he was squared up and ready to shoot."

The Wildcats' third straight victory improved their record to 4-2 while the Rocks fell to 2-4.

Salem owned a 26-21 halftime lead thanks in large part to the inside play of senior Joe Posler, who scored all but two of his

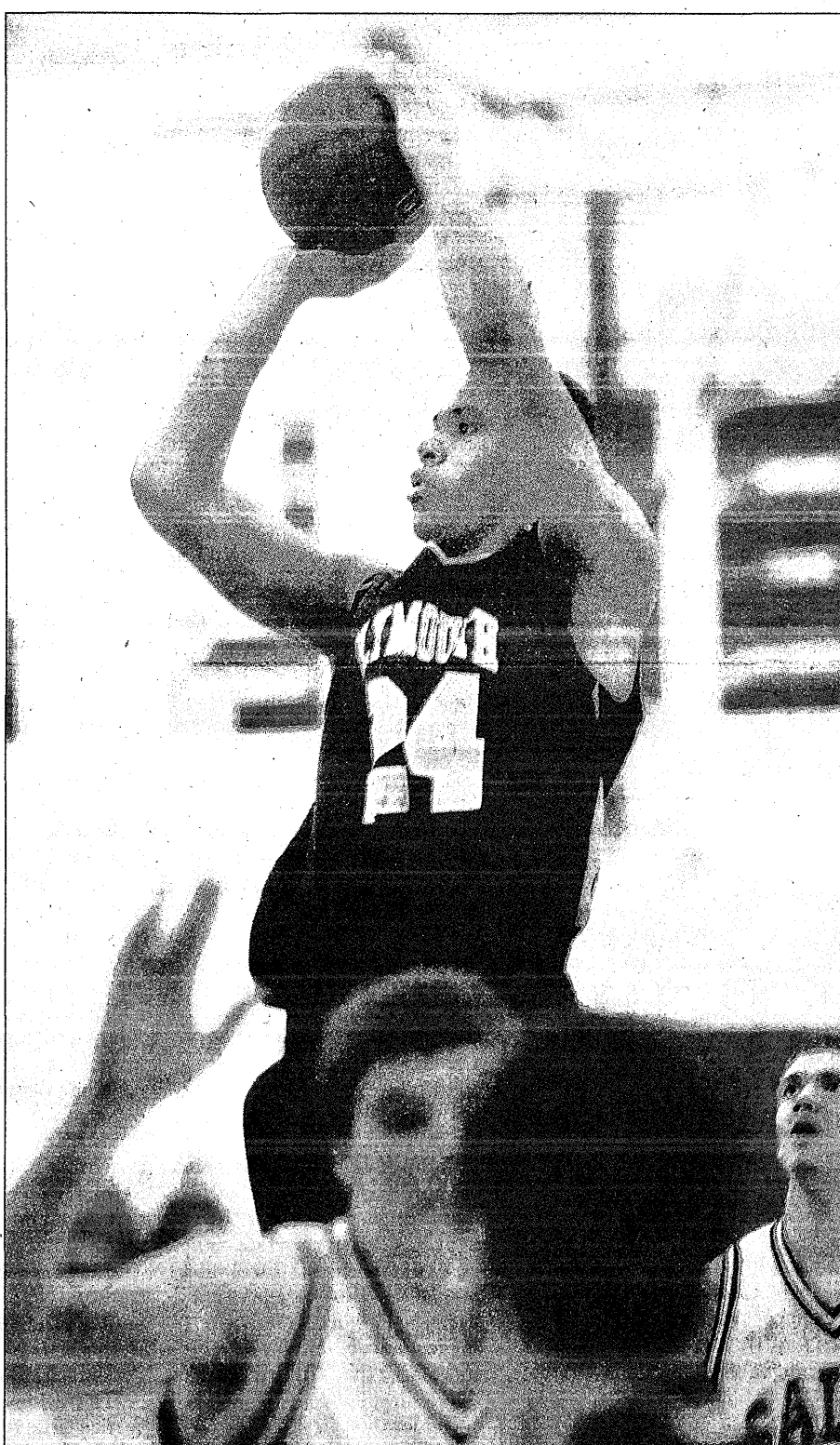
"Tonight he made a bunch of clutch shots at key points in the game. It seemed like every time we rotated the ball to him, he was squared up and ready to shoot."

Ready, willing and — most of all — able. The Wildcats' third straight victory improved their record to 4-2 while the Rocks fell to 2-4.

Salem owned a 26-21 halftime lead thanks in large part to the inside play of senior Joe Posler, who scored all but two of his 15 points during the first 16 minutes.

"We did a nice job of defending their inside players in the first half, which was our game plan," said Salem coach Bob Brodie. "Offensively, we shared the ball well. Joe had 13 points and Anthony Mullins had three

Please see **CATS, B3**



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Plymouth's Justin Moss elevates above the Salem defense to score two of his 12 points in the Wildcats' 54-45 victory over the Rocks.

Novi boys cagers sink Chiefs, 70-56

BY ED WRIGHT
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Poor defense and worse free-throw shooting added up to trouble for Canton's boys basketball team Friday night at Novi.

The host Wildcats handed the Chiefs a 70-56 setback to

BOYS PREP HOOP improve to 5-1. Canton's record is now even at 3-3.

"Defensively, you can't give up 70 points and expect to win too many games," lamented Canton coach Dan Colligan. "We have to do a better job at the free throw line, too."

Canton connected on just 5 of 17 free throws, an issue that was magnified by the Wildcats' 8-for-11 night at the line.

Novi never trailed after building a 15-6 first-quarter lead. Canton trimmed its deficit to 30-26 at the intermission, but Novi padded its cushion to 46-39 with eight minutes to play.

Sophomore guard Dietrich Lever paced the Chiefs with 15 points. Kyle Biega added 10 and Kevin Weisz chipped in with nine. Kierre Daniels had a productive night off the bench, tallying seven points and a team-high nine rebounds.

Canton couldn't contain Novi's Chris Bellamy, who poured in 26 points.

"They did a good job of moving the ball on offense and taking good shots," Colligan said of Novi. "They executed their offense well."

ewright@hometownlife.com

Goodbye, purrr-fection

'Cats knock Chiefs from unbeaten ranks

BY ED WRIGHT
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Canton's impressive string of season-opening victories was finally snapped Friday night by the steady hand of Novi's Caroline Johnson.

Johnson scored nine of her team-high 11 points in the fourth quarter to lead the Wildcats to a 37-33 triumph in Canton's Phase III gymnasium.

Novi improved to 5-3 while the Chiefs fell to 7-1.

"The kids battled and played hard," said Canton coach Brian Samulski. "We took the lead with five minutes to go and they stayed in their two-three zone. Looking back, I probably should have forced them to come out of their zone, but I didn't."

"Our zone attack wasn't great tonight, which is my fault."

That's something we need to work on more in practice."

Sara Schmitt led Canton with 10 points. Kari Schmitt added nine points and nine rebounds, and CarolAnn Sexauer contributed six points and six boards.

The game was deadlocked at 7-all after one quarter before the Wildcats seized a 20-17 halftime lead.

Novi maintained a three-point edge — 26-23 — with eight minutes to play.

More than half the Chiefs' points came from the free-throw line, where they sank 17 of 25 attempts (68 percent). The Wildcats made 12 of 20 free throws.

"Novi has a solid team," Samulski said. "Hopefully we can learn something from this and move on."

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BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Canton's Sara Schmitt dribbles around Novi's Kelsey Masserant during Friday night's 37-33 Wildcat win. Schmitt finished with 10 points in the Chiefs' first loss of the season.

Davis' heroics lift Rocks to 2-point victory

BY ED WRIGHT
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Carrying around the heavy burden of serious foul trouble for more than half a basketball game can make many players tentative and ineffective.

Thank goodness for Salem's girls basketball team Chelsea Davis isn't one of those players.

Despite getting whistled for her third foul midway through the first quarter and her fourth with 6:26 left in Friday night's cross-campus battle at Plymouth, Davis sparkled, netting a team high 15 points in the Rocks' 42-40 triumph.

The senior forward's biggest basket came with 18.1 seconds left when she calmly drained a 17-foot step-back jumper to break a 40-all deadlock.

"Honestly, I didn't know how much time was on the clock — I thought there was more — I was open

Please see **ROCKS, B2**

ROCKS
FROM PAGE B1

and I hoped it went it," said Davis, reflecting on her game-winner. "I haven't been playing that well lately, so it felt good to make a big shot."

The victory was a much-needed one for the Rocks, who improved to 2-5 heading into the start of KLAAs Central Division play next week.

The Wildcats, who led by seven early in the final quarter, dropped to 2-6. Half of their setbacks have been last-minute heart-breakers.

"The girls are playing hard right down to the wire every game," said first-year Plymouth coach Ted Sturdivant. "That's what we're preaching and they've been very competitive. Our biggest problems tonight were the inability to defend Salem's pick-and-roll down the stretch and we didn't finish some of our good looks at the basket."

Senior Victoria Brotz, Salem's most potent perimeter threat, tallied 11 points. Sara Stone contributed eight points and seven rebounds — the same number of boards Davis collected.

"I thought our defensive inten-

sity in the second half was pretty doggone good," said Salem coach Fred Thomann, when asked about the keys to his team's win. "I thought we moved the ball better in the second half, too."

"This was a big victory for us. Hopefully, it gets us back on track."

Kelsi Robinson paced the Wildcats' attack with 14 points, 12 of which came in the first half when she led her team to a 25-21 lead.

Robinson brought the first-half curtain down in dramatic fashion when she beat the buzzer with a long triple — her third of the contest.

Plymouth's Shaakira Haywood was her usually productive self, adding nine points and eight rebounds while getting Davis in foul trouble with her motor's-always-running style of play.

"Before the game, I told myself, 'Don't get in foul trouble, don't get in foul trouble,' but it's hard not to against Shaakira because she's so athletic and spinning off you and stuff," said Davis.

Plymouth extended its advantage to 38-31 19 seconds into the fourth quarter, but Salem's defense clamped down and didn't allow one fourth-quarter field goal.

The Rocks' comeback was

ignited with 7:11 left when Brotz swished a pair of free throws. Twenty-six seconds later, Stone separated herself from a defender with a slick spin move near the free throw line then deposited a layup to make it 38-35.

The Wildcats' final points of the night came with 6:26 to play when Haywood nailed to free throws to put her team ahead 40-35.

Salem knotted the game at 40-all on a Davis basket and free throw and a Brotz driving left-handed layup with 1:09 to play.

After Plymouth missed the front end of a 1-and-1 free throw opportunity with 57.4 seconds remaining, Stone grabbed the rebound to set the stage for Davis' late heroics.

Haywood was fouled with fourth-tenths-of-a-second on the clock. Her first free throw hit the rim. Needing two points to tie, she banked the second one off the backboard in an effort to try a game-tying putback, but Salem was given possession because the ball did not hit the rim.

Salem was 17-of-46 from field (36.9 percent) and 7-of-10 from the free-throw line. Plymouth hit 12 of 31 field goals (38.7) and 12 of 17 from the charity stripe (70.5).

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Strong nucleus buoys Chief swimmers' hopes

BY ED WRIGHT
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The future is bright for the Canton boys swimming and diving team as all but four members of last year's third-place division squad return for second-year head coach David Le.

"We're looking pretty good," said Le. "I expect us to do well and compete for the (KLAAs South) division title. Hopefully, we can finish in the top three or four in the conference and have quite a few state qualifiers."

The Chiefs will be led by senior captains Richard Zhang, who has already qualified for the state meet in the 200 freestyle, Jordan Gorzalski, a freestyle specialist, and Eddie Koelzer, who can swim whatever event the team needs him to, Le said.

"We have three outstanding, hard-working captains," said Le. "Their hard work wears off on the rest of the team."

The remainder of the Chiefs' senior class consists of Matt Figlewicz, the team's top diver; Rick Peters, a sprinter; four-year athlete Akhilesh Menawat, who excels in the freestyle events; diver Nick Austin and Alex Malilsky, a German foreign-exchange student.

Canton's top junior is Brandon Tolinski, who does his best work in the 200 freestyle, 100 freestyle and 100 butterfly races.

"Brandon works very hard in practice," raved Le. "His knowl-

BOYS SWIMMING PREVIEWS

SALEM

edge of swimming and what it takes to succeed has really improved the past couple of years. He understands now that it's more than just swimming laps. He understands the technical aspects of the sport."

Among the team's top underclassmen are sophomore Chris Krebs, who swims the 200 freestyle, 200 individual medley and 100 backstroke; and fabulous freshmen Jay Jin, who "can swim everything," according to Le, and Victor Zhang, who has already joined his older brother, Richard, as a state-qualifier.

PLYMOUTH

The Wildcats feature solid depth in all strokes, said veteran coach Doug Schade.

"We will be led by seniors Dan Stoscup, Paul Snyder and Kyle Dull," said Schade. "Junior who will make a significant impact will be Chris Wilson, Adam Wing, Ethan Weiner, Jack Gruczynski and Kyle Wilkenson."

Schade has high expectations for his sophomore class, which includes Ethan Christenson, Alex Juney, Peter Burns and Zack Koch.

"They should all score points for our team this season," Schade said of his 10th-graders.

"We should compete for the South Division title and possibly return a couple of relays and individuals to the state meet," Schade concluded.

The Rocks' youthful squad will be led by Adam Seroka, one of most-accomplished sophomores in the state.

The 10th-grader placed ninth in the 200 individual medley event at the 2008 Division 1 state meet as a freshman — and he's far from reached his potential, Salem coach Chuck Olson said.


"Adam is a hard worker and he has a lot of talent," said Olson. "I expect a lot more out of him this season. He's already made his state cuts in the 200 free, the 200 IM, and the 500 and 100 free."

The Rocks are loaded with talented underclassmen, but their roster is dotted with just three seniors: Joe deTassanyi, who has earned the role of captain along with Seroka and junior Alex Suriano; Dan Kuang, a freestyler, and diver Alex Porambo.

"We had some good swims at the Rock Kilgore meet last week, but we still have a long way to go," said Olson. "We have a strong sophomore class and a few freshmen who can help us right away."

Among the sophomores Olson is counting on are Matt Collingwood and Max Mills. The freshmen class is headed by Noah Santer, who is already earning points for the Rocks.

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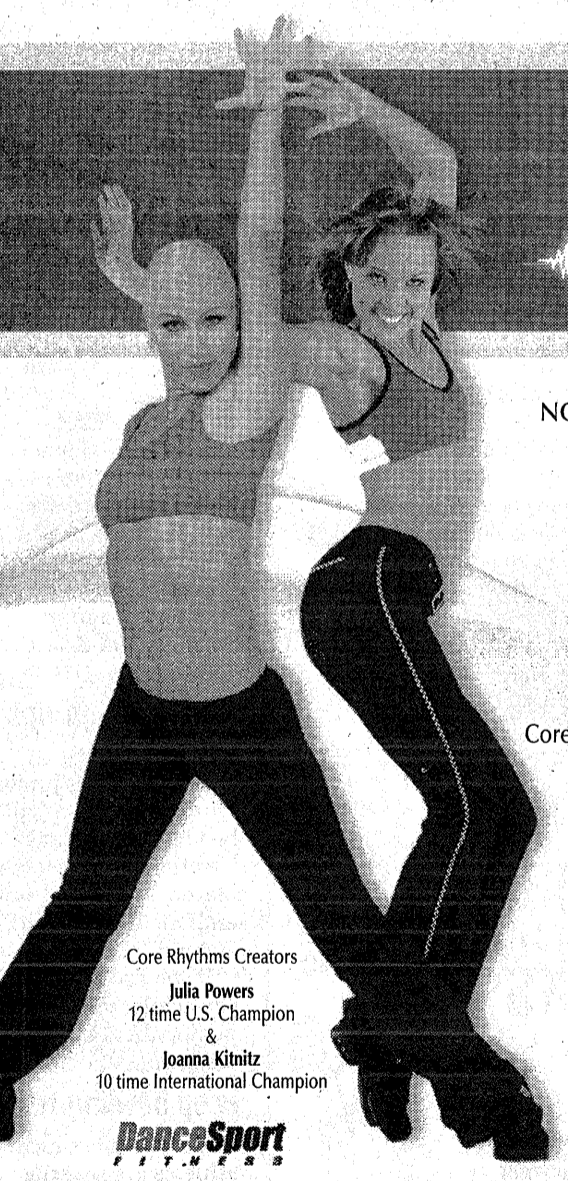
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Spartan swimmers find fast lane against Rocks

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

It's still relatively early in the boys swim season, but Livonia Stevenson coach Jeff Shoemaker and Salem coach Chuck Olson are starting to get better read on their teams.

As expected, state-ranked Stevenson rolled to a 117-69 dual-meet victory Thursday night over the host Rocks as senior Chris Behler figured in four first-place finishes.

Stevenson is now 3-2 overall after starting out the season with dual meet wins last month over Monroe and Beverly Hills Detroit Country Day before losing last week to the state's top-two ranked teams in Division 1, Ann Arbor Pioneer and Saline.

"I think we're on track — but we have good days and bad days," Shoemaker said. "We're ranked sixth in the state right now (in Division 1). I feel we can be top four, but we've got to prove it. Northville is our biggest adversary. We have a meet with them in three weeks (Thursday, Feb. 5 at home)."

Behler took firsts in the 500 yard freestyle (23:44) and 100 butterfly (57:52).

He also anchored the first-place 200 medley relay team (1:43.1), which also included Kellen Schoff, Joey Wingett and Michael Cruce.

The quartet of Behler, Aaren Marecki, Ryan Scott and Cruce also captured the 200 freestyle relay in 1:32.3.

Other Stevenson individual firsts came from Jeff Kinsvater, 1-meter diving (221.40 points); Kellen Schoff, 100 freestyle (50:18); and Wingett, 100 breaststroke (1:03:95).

Stevenson's 400 freestyle relay team is Cruce, Marecki, Charles Turlo and Kellen Schoff also emerged victorious.

"We need a couple more state cuts," Shoemaker said. "We've got all our relay cuts. We have a big senior group. To be in the top five at state the key is that all three relays have to score."

Salem, despite slipping to 0-2 on the year, had some noteworthy performers led by returning state placer Adam Seroka, who captured the 200 individual medley (2:00.84) and 100 backstroke (56:57).

Max Mills took the 200 freestyle (1:57.54) and Noah Santer placed first in the 500 freestyle (5:03.57), each edging Stevenson's Daniel Schoff.

"They (Stevenson) were pretty nice to us tonight," Salem coach Chuck Olson said. "We're just looking forward and we'll keep getting better. We just have to figure out who can do what and where."

Salem was coming off its annual Rock-Kilgore

Invitational on Saturday where the top-ranked teams in Division 1 (Pioneer) and Division 2 (Zeeland) finished one-two followed by Stevenson, Northville, Salem and Canton.

"We've got a lot of ninth- and 10th-graders — only three seniors," Olson said. "(Adam) Seroka, who is a sophomore, is doing well. And (Noah) Santer, who won the 500 freestyle, is only a ninth grader."

"(Matthew) Collingwood has qualified (for state) in the 500 free. We made him swim the 50 and 100 freestyles tonight — He hasn't qualified yet for the 200 freestyle and sprints aren't really his events, but we're working on his starts and coming off the walls."

Stevenson, meanwhile, is the favorite to win the KLAAs Kensington Conference title this year, but the Spartans will face some stiff competition in their own (Central) division (the Central).

Before joining the KLAAs for the 2008-09 season, Stevenson won last year's final Western Lakes Activities Association meet.

"Stevenson is still the clear-cut favorite," Olson said. "Then Northville is the next best. And South Lyon (Unified) just defeated Novi, and had a good meet."

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SWIM RESULTS

LIVONIA STEVENSON 117
SALEM 69
Jan. 15 at Salem
200-yard medley relay: 1. Stevenson (Kellen Schoff, Joey Wingett, Michael Cruce, Chris Behler), 1:43.1; 2. Stevenson, 1:47.13; 3. Salem, 1:48.58.
200 freestyle: 1. Max Mills (Salem), 1:57.54; 2. 2. Daniel Schoff (LS), 1:58.02; 3. Brandon Bielicki (LS), 2:00.82.
200 individual medley: 1. Adam Seroka (Salem), 2:00.84; 2. Charles Turlo (LS), 2:08.96; 3. Bielicki (LS), 2:15.28.
50 freestyle: 1. Behler (LS), 23:44; 2. Cruce

(LS), 23:6; 3. Matthew Collingwood (Salem), 23:62.
1-meter diving: 1. Jeff Kinsvater (LS), 221.40 points; 2. Joseph Rudelic (Salem), 168.15; 3. Jack Beaudoin (LS), 150.60.
100 butterfly: 1. Behler (LS), 57:52; 2. Noah Santer (Salem), 57:56; 3. Jeremy Wellman (Salem), 1:00:78.
100 freestyle: 1. K. Schoff (LS), 50:18; 2. Collingwood (Salem), 50:75; 3. Aaren Marecki (LS), 51:68.
500 freestyle: 1. Santer (Salem), 5:03:57; 2. D. Schoff (LS), 5:03:73; 3. Mills (Salem), 5:09:09.

200 freestyle relay: 1. Stevenson (Behler, Marecki, Ryan Scott, Cruce), 1:32.3; 2. Stevenson, 1:38.44; 3. Stevenson, 1:42.18.
100 backstroke: 1. Seroka (Salem), 56:57; 2. K. Schoff (LS), 56:82; 3. Bielicki (LS), 1:00:91.
100 breaststroke: 1. Wingett (LS), 1:03:95; 2. Turlo (LS), 1:06:09; 3. Joe deTassanyi (Salem), 1:11:27.
400 freestyle relay: 1. Stevenson (Cruce, Marecki, Turlo, K. Schoff), 3:25:14; 2. Salem, 3:28:85; 3. Stevenson, 3:35:78.
Dual meet records: Stevenson, 3-2 overall, 1-0 KLAAs Central Division; Salem, 0-2 overall, 0-1 KLAAs Central.

Whalers chew up Barrie, 5-3

Plymouth Whalers head coach Mike Vellucci has waited two months to get his full lineup on the ice at one time. Friday night, he saw the full effect as the Whalers defeated Barrie, 5-3, in an Ontario Hockey League game played at Compuware Arena.

Plymouth's two-game winning streak pushed the Whalers' record to 20-19-4-0 and 14-8-2-0 since Vellucci returned behind the bench on Nov. 10. Plymouth moved into a tie

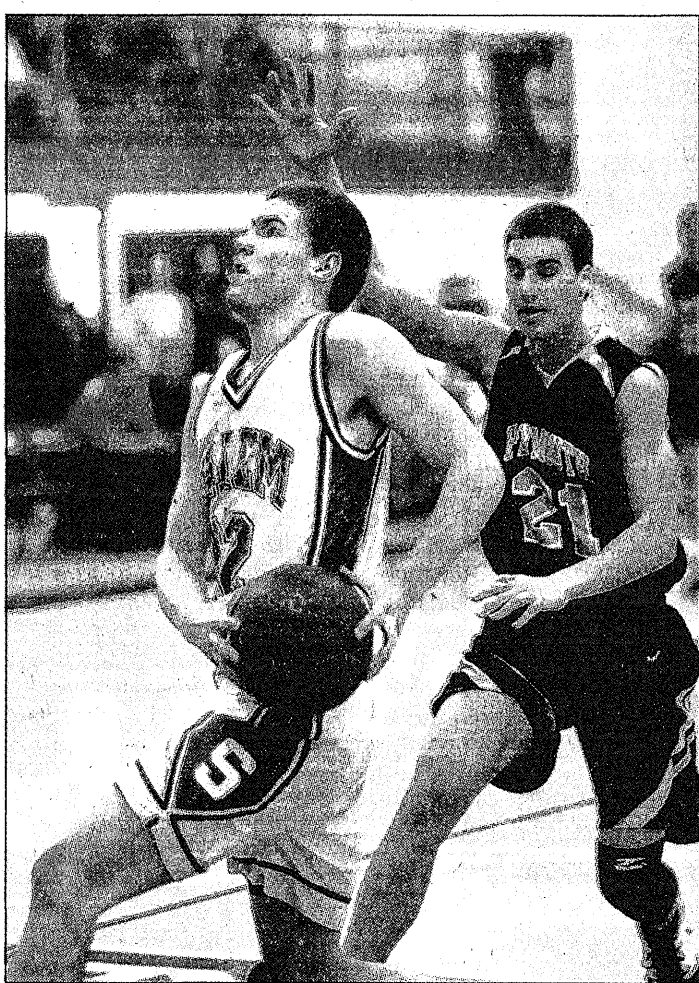
with Erie (21-20-2-0) for sixth place in the tight Western Conference race. Plymouth and Erie both have 44 points, two points ahead of Owen Sound (16-17-6-4).

"I like our team — (in fact), I like it a lot," Vellucci said earlier this week. "We haven't had a healthy lineup for the last two months and the day I took over, (captain) Chris Terry had mononucleosis. So we had his injury and other injuries (Tyler G. Brown, Scott Fletcher) and

other guys out of the lineup." Terry — who also missed three weeks with a sprained shoulder — came back tonight and recorded a goal (team-leading 20th of the season) and two assists.

Matt Hackett stopped 30-of-33 shots and Ryan Hayes potted his 14th and 15th goals of the campaign.

Tyler Seguin added a goal and an assist and Kaine Geldart scored his ninth lamp-lighter for Plymouth.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Salem's Joe Posler drives to the basket for two of his 15 points in Friday's 54-45 loss to Plymouth.

'CATS

FROM PAGE B1

threes in the second quarter. And we were limiting them to one shot.

"In the second half, we committed too many turnovers against their zone. We were shooting too quickly and we weren't making good decisions with the ball."

Plymouth seized the lead for good in the third quarter, outscoring its hosts 20-13 to claim a 41-39 edge. The Wildcats won the fourth stanza, 13-6.

Sophomore Justin Moss complemented Buttermore's perimeter fireworks with 12 interior points for the winners.

Van Wagoner also praised the play of Marquee Taylor, who contributed five points; Brad Lineberry, who added seven, and Brennen Beyer, who led all rebounders with 10.

Posler's 15 points and Mullins' 12 topped the Rocks' scoring ledger.

Plymouth connected on 13 of 19 free throws (68.4 percent). Salem knocked down 5 of 8 freebies (62.5).

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HOCKEY

FROM PAGE B1

over the first two periods.

One of the primary catalysts of Plymouth's early lead was goalie Michael Justus, who turned in a spectacular effort between the pipes.

Zane Birchler started in goal for the Chiefs.

SALEM 8, FRANKLIN 0: On Friday, Mario Macari's goal with 11:40 left in the final period gave the host Rocks (6-

6-3, 2-5-2) the KLAA South Division mercy rule triumph over Livonia Franklin (0-10, 0-8) at the Plymouth Cultural Center.

Salem led 1-0 after one period and put it away with six second-period goals.

Ryan Quigley tallied a pair of goals in the win, while David Russell and Kurt Driscoll each contributed a goal and assist.

Patrick Patin and Nick Gennety also scored goals, while Josh Jarvela had two

assists. Other assists went to Kyle Zinks, Sam Ott, Kyle Powell and Steve Haburne.

Junior goalie Andy Sensoli posted the shutout in goal for the Rocks.

Matt Slinder and Brandon Hawkins tended goal for the Patriots.

CANTON 6, FRANKLIN 3: A.J. Rosales and Ryan Lash each tallied a pair of goals Wednesday in a KLAA matchup as the Chiefs (10-1-1, 5-1-1) earned the South Division victory over host

Livonia Franklin (0-9, 0-7) at Edgar Arena.

Trent Taylor and Nick Tomilenko also tallied goals for Canton, which led 3-0 after one period before Franklin cut the deficit to 5-3 after two.

Jordan Chisholm had a pair of goals and assist for the Patriots. Tyler Barnes tallied the other goal, while Robbie Ringe and Connor Jelonek also drew assists.

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**PLYMOUTH-CANTON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
NOTICE TO BIDDERS**

The Board of Education of the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools invites all interested and qualified companies to submit a **Bid for Bid Packet #21: Remodeling Projects at Bentley & Tonda Elementary Schools along with the Administration, Transportation, and Curriculum Buildings.** Bidding documents prepared by TMP Associates, Inc. will be available for public inspection and pick-up (1 set per company) at the office of the Construction Manager, McCarthy & Smith Inc., 24317 Indoplex Circle, Farmington Hills, MI, 48335; (248)-427-8400. They can also be viewed at; FW Dodge Plan Room, Southfield; Construction Association of Michigan Plan Room, Bloomfield Hills; Daily Construction Reports Plan Room, Detroit; and the Builders Exchange, Lansing.

Bid Division descriptions include: 103:Selective Demolition / 104:Flatwork / 106:Masonry / 107:Steel / 108:Carpentry/General Trades / 109:Roofing / 114:Aluminum Windows/ Entrances/Glass & Glazing / 117:Acoustical Treatments / 118:Carpet, Resilient Flooring, & Hard Tile / 120:Painting / 130:Window Treatments / 135:Overhead Doors / 140:Plumbing / 142:HVAC / 143:Electrical.

A pre-bid meeting will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Monday, January 19, 2009 at the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools Board Office located at 454 South Harvey, Plymouth, MI 48170. Bidders are STRONGLY encouraged to attend. Any and all questions in regards to the bidding or the Project Documents should be addressed in writing and faxed to the Construction Manager, McCarthy & Smith Inc. Questions or clarifications will be promptly answered and returned to the bidder/bidders.

Bids are to be submitted in a sealed envelope supplied by the Construction Manager, McCarthy & Smith Inc. with the corresponding bid division identified on the outside of the envelope. All submissions should include 2 bid copies (1 original, 1 copy), a valid familial disclosure statement, and a Bid Security in the amount of five (5) percent of the amount of the bid. Bids are due to the PCCS E.J. McClendon Educational Center on or before 2:00 p.m., Thursday, January 29, 2009 where they will be opened and read publicly. Faxed bids will not be accepted. For additional information, phone Dan Phillips, Assistant Director of Finance & Purchasing at (734) 416-2746. The Board of Education reserves the right to accept and/or reject all bids, as they judge to be in the best interest of the school district.

Board of Education
Plymouth-Canton Community Schools
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Integritytds.com

DRIVER - Local Delivery
For commercial door distributor. Applicant must have a valid drivers license. Chauffers license a plus but not required.
Fax resume to 734-422-9488

DRIVERS: TOW TRUCK
Full-Time, Experience, afternoon shift. Contact Walter or Karen: 734-455-1130

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DRIVER - TOW TRUCK
Heavy Duty, CDL, Full-Time, Weekdays.
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LEASING CONSULTANT
For Suburban apt. complex. Candidate should be outgoing & results driven. Previous leasing & marketing exp. a must. Weekend hrs. required.
Fax resumes to: 248-471-0003 - EOE

MANAGER for large Suburban apt. complex. Candidate should be creative & ambitious w/marketing. Must be results-driven. Prior exp. managing daily operations of conventional property a must. Please fax resume: 248-471-0003 - E.O.E.

Help Wanted-General 5000
Director of the Autism Collaborative Center at Eastern Michigan University

The Autism Collaborative Center is a new, interdisciplinary, community collaboration whose mission is to serve families with autism throughout Lower Michigan. The Center is a training site for students in eight EMU professional disciplines, the majority of which are students at the Masters or Doctoral level. The Center serves families with autism through unique programs and services that are accessible to all. The Center is a major research site into research into evidence based intervention practices in the treatment and care of individuals with autism and their families.

This full time position will be responsible for all administrative functions and supervision, program and policy development, program and personnel evaluation, community relations, negotiations of working agreements with collaborative agencies, advisory board development, fundraising and donor relationships. This person will work closely with the EMU Project Director on coordination of the Center within the larger EMU context.

Qualifications: Master's degree required and experience in one or more of the following: non-profit leadership, health administration, educational leadership, entrepreneurship, clinic administration.

Please submit cover letter and resume to: Posting #APAA0911 Eastern Michigan University, 202 Boone Hall, Ypsilanti, MI 48197.

Review of applications will begin on 2-6-09 and continue until the position is filled. Inquiries about the Autism Collaborative Center can be directed to Dr. Pamela Lemerand, Project Director of the Autism Collaborative Center at pamelalemerand@emich.edu

Eastern Michigan University
EOE

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Heavy Duty, CDL, Full-Time, Weekdays.
(734) 713-0527

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DRIVER - Local Delivery
For commercial door distributor. Applicant must have a valid drivers license. Chauffers license a plus but not required.
Fax resume to 734-422-9488

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DRIVER - TOW TRUCK
Heavy Duty, CDL, Full-Time, Weekdays.
(734) 713-0527

Help Wanted-General 5000
Design Engineer
Auburn Hills, MI. Engineer & developer, using CATIA, vehicle light vt steel front seat adjuster (manual & power) & rear seat structural systems to meet automobile rearward/frontal impact performance & energy management requirements. Eval & select grades of steel/new materials such as carbon reinforced plastics for seating system components. Ensure product design intent, FMVSS 207/210 crash-test & Euro-NCAP compliance. Mech. Engr. 6 mos exp in job or in Alternate Occupation Engr. 6 mos Alt Occ exp must incl selection of light weight steel, carbon-reinforced plastics & other materials for components, of front seat adjuster systems & rear seat structures to meet automobile rearward/frontal impact performance & energy mgmt rqmts, which may be concurrent w/related occupation exp. Email resume: personnel.detroit@bros.com Ref# 2659

HAIR STYLIST
Rent a chair for \$175/wk. Canton. (313) 550-4927

Housekeeping/Janitorial
Dining Services Management Company has immediate openings for PART-TIME janitorial cleaners at a Detroit College. Floor care experience a plus. Friendly, energetic, customer service oriented individuals need only to apply. Must be able to work evenings & weekends.
Please call Sherry or Dana at: (313) 927-1871 Ext. 1871

Plumbing Inspector
City of Troy EOE
Req. HS grad. Must be current MI-registered Plumbing Inspector or have 2yrs journey-level plumbing exp. \$47,489 to \$59,362
Applications accepted until 1/30/09
Applications available at:
Human Resources
500 W. Big Beaver Rd., Troy or
www.troymi.gov

Printing
Growing Livonia bindery has a full time entry level position for a helper to get on the job training on 2nd shift machines. 1st and 2nd shift available. Benefits offered. Motivated individuals call for interview, Mon-Fri, 9-4
734-425-7500

PRODUCTION TECHNICIANS
Premiere bottled water manufacturer has openings for **Production Techns** at our facility located in Plymouth.

Qualified candidates will have a related associate degree and/or at least 2 yrs. of hands on exp. operating, maintaining and adjusting manufacturing equipment to maximize production output while maintaining quality and safety. This is a 24/7 operation with various shifts/schedules. We offer a competitive benefits package including Medical Insurance with Health Savings Accounts, Dental, Life Insurance, 401k with company match and more!

Requirements for position:
• Associates/Technical Degree equivalent
• educational/military exp. or 2 yrs. in high speed filling & packaging environment
• Basic Mechanical & Electrical skills required
• Basic Computer Literacy
• Maximize production output
• Assure high quality standards & follow GMP's
• Ability to lift 50 pounds repetitively

Interested candidates please email resume to: hr25@coconfidential.com E.O.E.

MARKETING ASSISTANT
We're an established senior living company since 1945 looking to expand our sales team in our Westland and Redford locations. We need two individuals, part time, who are enthusiastic with high energy. The qualified applicants will enjoy sales, excel in building relationships and will be comfortable giving presentations to small groups. Experience in sales with excellent customer service skills is required. Benefits available.
For consideration please send your resume to: jease@pvm.org; or 32001 Cherry Hill Road Westland, MI 48186 No phone calls please

OPTICIAN
Full-Time, Exp'd. Optician position in our new Wayne office. Excellent benefits & compensation package.
Fax resume to SVS Vision 586-464-1452

Personal Trainer/Fitness Consultant
Detroit Athletic Club seeking qualified personal trainer to work with members in state-of-the-art facility. Must have: nationally accredited certifications; CPR, degree in health-related field. Full-time, afternoons/early evenings. Benefits, secure on-site parking, meals. Submit resume via fax: (313) 963-5995 or email: humanresources@thedac.com

ADMINISTRATOR/SUPERVISOR
PT, Evenings. Call for appt. 248-559-0200

ASSISTANT TO OFFICE MANAGER
Part-Time/Full-Time for reconstruction co. Must have computer/people skills. Potential for advancement.
Fax resume: 248-477-1777

BOOKKEEPER, PT for general contractor near Long Lk/Woodward for AP & other duties. Flexible schedule, 24-28 hrs/wk (at least 4 days) during normal working hrs of 8-5. Preference to individual with Construction background & Timberline exp. Must have exp with Microsoft, Excel & Word. Email resume: jjohnston@synerggroup.biz

BOOKKEEPER/OFFICE MANAGER, Full-Time
Must be familiar with Quick-Book & payroll, Plymouth.
Fax resume: (734) 453-9978

LEGAL SECRETARY
Westland law firm. Must have divorce exp. Email resume: divorcecourtme1@gmail.com

RECEPTIONIST Part-Time
\$8/hr. Email resume to: patd@jmsassoc.com or fax: 248-489-4127

RECEPTIONIST, Part-Time
fast paced, outstanding customer service, professional phone presence. 734-713-0529

RECEPTIONIST- PT
Livonia
Real Estate Company
Evenings & Weekends
\$8.00/hr.
The responsibilities include answering calls, settling appointments on multi-line phone, welcoming guests, providing clerical support. Computer proficiency and strong organizational/communication skills required.
Email resume to: livonia@realestateone.com Or fax 734-953-7343

Sales Greeter
Career minded individual needed for part-time 12 hrs/wk to assist in the office of an attractive Condominium Development in Southfield.
Fax resume: 248-358-3779

Help Wanted-General 5000
WAREHOUSE CLERK
Fast paced medical supply company in Plymouth needs a highly organized, detail oriented person with good people skills and computer experience for our distribution team. In this position you will need to coordinate requests and prepare inventory for surgical procedures. This is full time with benefits. Send resume and compensation requirements to applicant@osteokinetics.com

WAREHOUSE PERSON
Commercial door distributor looking for a qualified warehouse person. Applicant must have a valid drivers license and the ability to lift 50+ lbs.
Fax resume to 734-422-9488

Help Wanted-Office Clerical
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
Part-Time Position. Ideal candidate will have a minimum of 5 yrs. exp. Candidate must be able to perform in a fast paced, flexible environment. Proficiency in Word, Excel and database programs are job necessities. If you are organized with excellent oral and written communication skills, can work with minimal supervision and comfortable with all levels of management, either fax: 248-879-2430 or email resume: submissions@haymanco.com

ADMINISTRATOR/SUPERVISOR
PT, Evenings. Call for appt. 248-559-0200

ASSISTANT TO OFFICE MANAGER
Part-Time/Full-Time for reconstruction co. Must have computer/people skills. Potential for advancement.
Fax resume: 248-477-1777

BOOKKEEPER, PT for general contractor near Long Lk/Woodward for AP & other duties. Flexible schedule, 24-28 hrs/wk (at least 4 days) during normal working hrs of 8-5. Preference to individual with Construction background & Timberline exp. Must have exp with Microsoft, Excel & Word. Email resume: jjohnston@synerggroup.biz

BOOKKEEPER/OFFICE MANAGER, Full-Time
Must be familiar with Quick-Book & payroll, Plymouth.
Fax resume: (734) 453-9978

LEGAL SECRETARY
Westland law firm. Must have divorce exp. Email resume: divorcecourtme1@gmail.com

RECEPTIONIST Part-Time
\$8/hr. Email resume to: patd@jmsassoc.com or fax: 248-489-4127

RECEPTIONIST, Part-Time
fast paced, outstanding customer service, professional phone presence. 734-713-0529

RECEPTIONIST- PT
Livonia
Real Estate Company
Evenings & Weekends
\$8.00/hr.
The responsibilities include answering calls, settling appointments on multi-line phone, welcoming guests, providing clerical support. Computer proficiency and strong organizational/communication skills required.
Email resume to: livonia@realestateone.com Or fax 734-953-7343

Sales Greeter
Career minded individual needed for part-time 12 hrs/wk to assist in the office of an attractive Condominium Development in Southfield.
Fax resume: 248-358-3779

Help Wanted-General 5000
DENTAL ASSISTANT
Part-Time. Skilled. Dependable. Personable. Canton: 734-981-2880

DENTAL ASSISTANT
Exp'd. Westland office. Part-Time or Full-Time. Fax resume: 734-425-7675

DENTAL ASSISTANT
Experienced, motivated individual to handle all phases of general dentistry. Call Ann: (248) 543-7070

DENTAL ASSISTANT
For Westland office. Full-Time, dental exp. req. Please Fax, Attn: Loretta (734) 722-5192

DENTAL HYGIENIST
Beverly Hills Office. Strong Perio skills for Thurs. Fax: 248-642-4678

Dental Laboratory front desk person needed. Mon-Fri Livonia area. 35+ hours. Must have computer skills and dental knowledge. Job requires ability to multi task. Fax resume 1-734-427-8831

DENTAL PRACTICE ADMINISTRATOR
Full-Time. Needed for premier office in Ann Arbor. Minimum 5 yrs. exp., salary based on exp. & education. \$35,000-\$50,000. Excellent benefit package. Please send resume to: mhaldids@aol.com or Employment Application 24 Frank Lloyd Wright Dr. PO Box 326
Ann Arbor MI 48106

ORTHODONTIC CHAIRSIDE ASSISTANT
For our high-quality, fun, orthodontic practice. 3 or 4 days/wk. Experience preferred. Call: 734-981-2444

Help Wanted-Medical 5000
Attn: HHA's
Health Partners is seeking experienced caregivers for nice private duty home care cases. Great pay/benefits. Call Maria at: 800-969-7723

ATTN: NURSES
Premier Health Care Management is seeking a FT Nurse (preferably RN) to add to our Beaumont Hospital liaison program assisting with the admission process from hospital to nursing home. Individuals must have excellent assessment, communication and computer skills. Nursing home experience is preferred.

Interested candidates please fax your resume to Lisa Gantz at (248) 645-1902 or email to Premier.Jobs@yahoo.com

CHIROPRACTIC ASSISTANT
PT position. Mon, Wed, Fri. 2:45-7:30pm; Sat. 8:45-1:30 pm. Must be highly motivated, well organized and possess ability to multi task. Willing to train the right person. 27527 Joy Rd., 1/2 blk. W of Inkster Rd. 734-522-5501

MEDICAL ASSISTANT
Needed for patient friendly office. Experienced, dependable, motivated, flexible hours. Fax resume to: 248-203-0441

MEDICAL ASSISTANT
Part-time for internal medicine office. Exp. preferred. Paid vacation. Resume: 990 W. Ann Arbor Trail, Suite 104, Plymouth, MI 48170.

Medical Biller
2+ yrs. exp. Must be proficient in physician billing, CPT & ICD-9 coding, dependable. Full-Time/Benefits. Email: gpressley@psb.net

Help Wanted-Dental 5040
MEDICAL BILLER
Experienced needed for a growing billing company. Fax resume to: (248) 331-1701

MEDICAL BILLERS
Full-time positions. Minimum 1 yr. exp. Troy location (248) 641-1440 x112

NURSE/MEDICAL ASSISTANT
Part-Time for OB/GYN practice in Livonia/Westland area. OB/GYN experience only. Email resume to: adm01308@aol.com

PHARMACY TECHNICIAN
FT-PT. Must have retail pharmacy exp. Certified preferred. High volume, great support staff. Great pay, plus many benefits. Immediate openings. Warren Prescriptions 32910 Middlebelt Rd. Farmington Hills 248-855-1177

PHLEBOTOMY EDUCATION
Saturday accelerated classes beginning in February, 10-4pm. Garden City; \$925. Incl. book. (313) 382-3857

SITE MANAGERS FULL-TIME
Experienced Site Managers for a busy, personal care company in Livonia. Good communications skills, management experience a must, as well as, strong background of working with senior citizens. Please fax resume to: 586-751-2917

Help Wanted-Food/Beverage 5000
HOTELS & CARRY-OUT ORDER TAKER
Positions available for mature, dependable person. Apply in person, no calls. Comparis, 350 S. Main St., Plymouth.

WAITSTAFF FT & PT, DAY & NIGHT
Apply at: Starting Gate 135 N. Center St., Northville

Help Wanted-Sales 5120
SALES - Lawn Care
Training provided. Some sales exp. needed. Hourly plus commission. FT & PT. Contact Ryan at 248-541-5296 or email: employment@turf-tenders.com

Education/Instruction 5600
NEW YEAR, NEW CAREER!
Short term career programs in Medical Billing/Coding, Pharmacy Technology and Computer Training including Microsoft Certification programs begin soon at New Horizons CLC-Livonia/Troy Call: 1-866-307-1436 Financing options and Job Placement assistance available-Grants accepted. VA Training provider. Associate member of MI Works.

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Hugh Gallagher, editor (313) 222-8730 hgallagher@hometownlife.com

Gaming for good

Program makes therapy play for children with autism

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
O & E STAFF WRITER

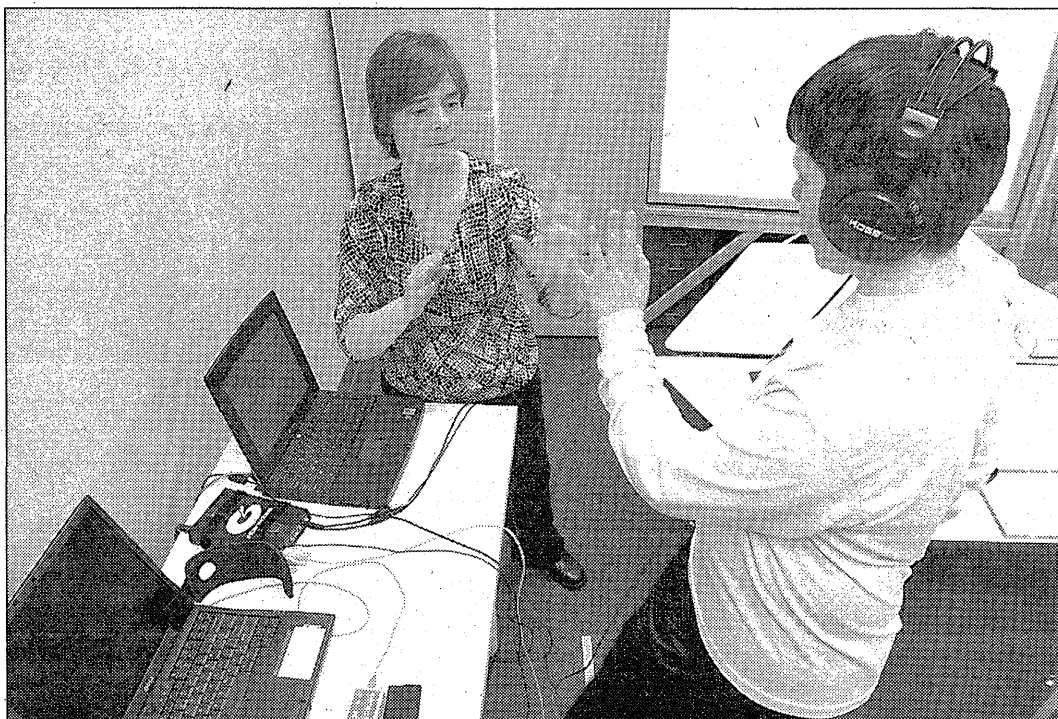
Matthew Cripps lifts his arm nearly in sync with the box on the screen. Only a few months ago the 12-year-old Livonia boy had trouble raising his hands to the top of his head, then occupational therapist Teresa Garland introduced Core:Tx into their twice-weekly sessions. The tool made work play for Matthew, who has a high-functioning form of autism.

Core:Tx, a software and hardware system, trains the brain by visually tracking movement through a sensor on the wrist. After two months of using the game-like program the sixth grade student was able to wash his hair independently, a task his mother never thought possible.

"I've seen improvements in dressing himself," said Shawne Cripps. "He has problems with buttons and zippers. He's doing better synchronizing arms and legs in swimming. He's more socially aware, wanting to get involved with kids. He's starting to initiate conversations. He usually hangs around in the background."

Shawne Cripps first knew something was wrong with Matthew's development at 18 months when he didn't speak.

Diagnosed with autism at age 2 1/2, Matthew is no stranger to occupational and speech therapy. He started working with Garland last May to resolve a number of issues including running into objects and people. As with many autistic children he was unaware of his personal space until visiting Garland at Brain



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Teresa Garland works with Matthew Cripps to improve motor planning and sequencing processes through the Interactive Metronome program at Building Bridges in Plymouth. Motor planning and sequencing are critical to functions ranging from walking to organizing sentences.

Tune-ups, her Ann Arbor business, and Building Bridges in Plymouth. Since that time he has gained two years of age functionality in his arms.

"Children with autism don't always know where the arms and legs are in space. Core tracks his arms for him," said Garland of Plymouth. "Matthew also has a wide gait. We're now trying to retrain his hip muscles so they do their job correctly."

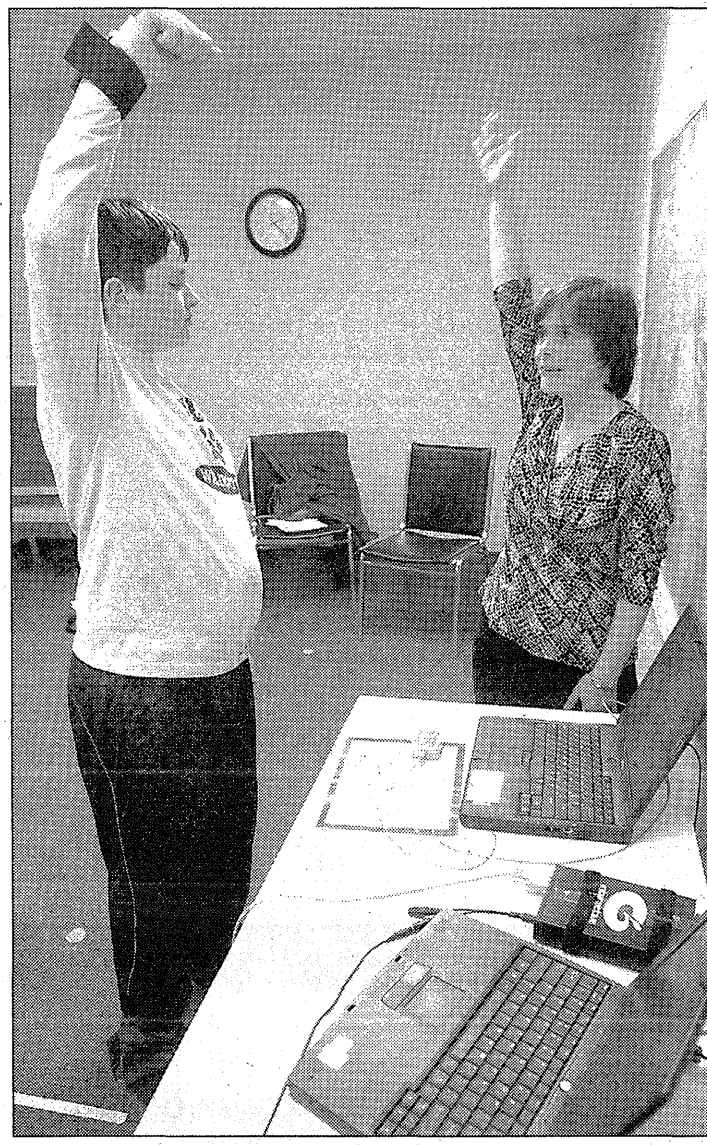
Garland originally challenged Matthew with exercises provided by Interactive Metronome, another computer-based game. On Tuesday she demonstrated the program at Building Bridges, a therapy

center for children with developmental disabilities. The green circles on the screen indicate Matthew's ability to match the beat to the sound he hears through headphones. Metronome uses a hand trigger to improve motor planning and sequencing processes. Motor planning and sequencing are critical to functions ranging from walking to organizing sentences.

"Metronome helps regulate time in the primitive part of the brain that feeds everything from movement to thinking to senses," said Garland. "Timing in the brain is a very critical component in our ability to do everything. Metronome gets the

brain in tune and the body working. With 11- and 12-year-old kids with autism Metronome wakes them up enough to get them involved in their studies and other treatments. It's the age when kids start to become social. It helps them developmentally. They're learning to become aware of themselves. Boys in fifth grade are noticing girls, starting to worry about clothes. Kids with autism don't pay attention to that. With Metronome they suddenly care about a lot of stuff."

Matthew finds it difficult to stand or sit still once he steps away from the game-like program. Just like any pre-teen, he likes to be involved whether



Occupational therapist Teresa Garland guides client Matthew Cripps through the therapeutic exercises of Core:Tx. The tool made it possible for the young boy to wash his hair independently.

playing sports or video games, eating fast food or watching an action movie. Before long he's asking to go to the gym where jumping on a trampoline decreases anxiety and builds balance.

"He's doing a lot more things," said Cripps. "He's been in a swim program and has been able to participate and succeed."

lchomin@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-2241

Checkups help keep kids well

Keeping a child well is as important as receiving treatment when he or she is sick. Preventive care is quite different than "sick child care". Preventive care allows the health care provider to review the child's growth and development, give shots, provide tests and exams, and answer a parent's questions.

Oakland County Health Division's Child Health Clinics offer free well-care services for children birth through school entry. Children must be enrolled in the program by two years of age. Skilled public health nurses provide a variety of services ranging from immunizations to physical examinations, growth and developmental testing, information on health and safety issues, lab testing, and guidance and referrals on behavioral, learning and health problems.

Oakland County Health Division Clinics are offered at sites in Lake Orion, Pontiac, Southfield, and Walled Lake. Families without well-care coverage through their health insurance provider are eligible for this service.

For information on enrollment, call (248) 858-1311 (North Oakland County), (248) 424-7066 (Southern Oakland County), (248) 926-3341 (Western Oakland County), or (888) 350-0900, ext. 84003. (Holly residents).

JANUARY

Stress clinic

With Dr. Arthur Weaver 7:30-9 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 22, Tuesday, Jan. 27, and Thursday, Jan. 29, at the Livonia Civic Center Auditorium, 32777 Five Mile, east of Farmington Rd. No charge but donations accepted. Questions, call the Livonia Department of Community Resources at (734) 466-2540.

Breast feeding classes

Began Jan. 15 and continue 10:30 a.m. to noon Thursdays to Feb. 5, at the Oakland County Health Division, 27725 Greenfield, Southfield. Public health nurses cover topics ranging from pumping to starting solids and weaning. Mothers are encouraged to bring their babies to sessions. Information is targeted to mothers involved in the first year of breastfeeding. For details or to register, call (248) 858-4003 or toll free (888) 350-0900, ext. 84003. For information on other classes and services, visit www.oakgov.com/health.

Healthy eating workshop

Start the New Year Healthy: What Are You Eating? is the topic for a workshop 7-8:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 28, with guest speaker Dr. William H. Karl, D.C. The workshop is for everyone who needs help making healthy choices when buying food at the grocery store, deciding what to eat at a restaurant or cooking family meals. Karl will talk about organic vs. non-organic, GMO foods and the role of supplements in diet. To register, call (734) 425-8588.

Overeaters Anonymous

Meet 7 p.m. Thursdays in the Courtyard Room at Unity of Livonia Church, 28660 Five Mile, between Middlebelt and Inkster roads, Livonia; and 7 p.m. Sundays at the Marion Professional Building at St. Mary's Hospital, 14555 Levan at Five Mile, Livonia, in Classroom 1. Call Wendy first at (313) 387-9797. Anyone who wants to stop eating compulsively is welcome. For more Greater Detroit Overeaters Anonymous Information visit www.oa.org or call (248) 559-7722.

UPCOMING

Winter fitness classes

Exercise classes for men and women begin Monday, Feb. 2, and continue through April for 22 sessions at the Metropolitan Adventist Jr. Academy Gym, 15585 Haggerty, north of Five Mile. Jeanie Weaver is a certified personal fitness trainer with 30 years of teaching/training experience. The session infuses Pilates, functional strength training, balance work, flexibility, and motivational techniques in a 90-day fitness plan. Call (248) 446-9176 or (313) 300-0957 to register. For information, e-mail to jeanieweaver@charter.net.

CHADD meeting

Children and Adults with Attention-Deficit

MEDICAL DATEBOOK

Disorder meet on Monday, Feb. 2, at Way Elementary, 765 W. Long Lake Road, east of Telegraph, Bloomfield Hills. Sign in begins at 7 p.m. and the meeting at 7:30 p.m. The Parent group will have Neuropsychologists Isabelle Beaulieu Ph.D. and Roger Lauer Ph.D. speaking on AD/HD, Sleep Problems, and Executive Functioning: What are the Links? The adult group will hear psychiatrist Dr. Phil Parker speaking on Medication Treatment for AD/HD: Bringing us back to the Future. Meetings are free to members and their families. Non-member families can donate up to \$5 to attend and receive literature. Call (248) 988-6716. The website is www.chadd.net/527.

Medical certificate programs

Registration deadline is 5 p.m. Friday, Feb. 6, for Madonna University's Office of Continuing Education and Professional Studies' 13-week or less medical certificate programs. The winter schedule runs 6-9:30 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays, Feb. 17-April 16, for EKG Technician; Mondays and Wednesdays, Feb. 16-April 13 for Pharmacy Technician; and Feb. 16-May 20 for Medical Billing and Coding. All courses prepare students to take national board exams and apply for entry-level positions. As part of the classes, students are able to attend free workshops at Madonna University for resume writing and job interviewing tips. Classes offered at the main campus at the intersection of Schoolcraft and Levan Roads, off I-96 in Livonia. Visit www.madonna.edu or call (734) 432-5804.

Understanding diabetes

St. Mary Mercy Hospital hosts a Diabetes Support Group presentation 7-8:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 11, in the hospital's Auditorium, 36475 Five Mile at Levan, Livonia. Use the Main Entrance on Five Mile. Registered dietician Judy Swancutt presents Diabetes and Vitamins, Minerals and Herbs: What's Right for You. All are welcome. A new topic is presented on the second Wednesday of each month for adults with diabetes and family members. There is no charge, pre-registration not required. For information, call (734) 655-8961.

'Go Red' luncheon

The American Heart Association event features a fashion show, keynote speaker Dr. Annabelle Volgman, and a silent auction including celebrity purses donated by the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 25, at the Detroit Marriott at the Renaissance Center, 100 Renaissance Center, Detroit. Tickets \$250, available by calling Tasheena Young at (248) 936-5806. Proceeds benefit education and research for women and heart disease.

Thyroid cancer support

The group is free and open to all thyroid cancer patients and survivors as well as their family

members and friends. The next meeting is 7-8:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 27, at 1641 Charlevoix Drive, Troy. For more information, call Gwynne at (248) 740-9759.

Reconnect with food

Registration is now being taken for a Candlelight Yoga and Discussion Program 7:30-9:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 27, at the Center for Yoga, Birmingham. The program is for individuals interested in exploring their relationship with food, body image and emotions. Cost is \$29, one week prior to program. Pre-registration required. For information, log onto www.reconnectwithfood.com or call (248) 390-4150.

Butterfly Ball

The American Lung Association of Michigan has rescheduled its black tie fund-raiser to 6-11 p.m. Saturday, May 9, at the Ritz-Carlton in Dearborn. Proceeds go to lung health research, education and advocacy. Tickets \$250 per person. The Butterfly Ball will include a cocktail reception, dinner, dancing, and a live auction featuring trips, dinners and a variety of experiences. Sponsorships available. Call Jessica Jimenez, Development specialist, (248) 784-2018 or jjimenez@alam.org.

ONGOING

Breast cancer support group

Meets 6:30-8 p.m. on the second Tuesday of the month in the Atrium of Our Lady of Hope Cancer Center, St. Mary Mercy Hospital, 36475 Five Mile (use south entrance off Levan Road), Livonia. Call (734) 655-1100 for more information, or visit www.stmarymercy.org.

Caregiver's support group

St. John's Support Group for the Caregiver's of Alzheimer's patients or patients with other forms of dementia meet the first and third Friday of each month at 10 a.m. at St. John's Episcopal Church, 574 South Sheldon, Plymouth. Respite care for your loved one will be provided. Call Connie McNutt at (734) 895-1426 for more information. This group is authorized by the Alzheimer's Association.

Wayne metro caregiver support

Are you a caregiver of an aging parent, spouse or relative? Wayne Metro's Caregiver Support Groups offer assistance to those struggling to find or give quality care to their loved ones. Meetings are held 10 a.m.-noon the third Tuesday of the month at the Kay Beard Building on Michigan Avenue in Westland. Meetings are also held 10 a.m.-noon on the second Thursday of the month; and 6-8 p.m. the fourth Thursday of the month at the Village of Redford on Six Mile in Redford. Adult care may also be available. For information or if attending for the first time, call Nancy Coman at (313) 843-2550, Ext. 233.

Physical performance classes

One hour sessions incorporate jump-rope

training, core work and functional strength training using dumbbells and body weight for resistance 5:30 p.m. Mondays and Thursdays. Exercise Therapy classes that stress functional fitness, core, balance, strength and flexibility 8:45 a.m. Mondays and Thursdays. All classes at Metropolitan Adventist Jr. Academy Gym, 15585 Haggerty, north of Five Mile. Drop-in sessions \$6 each; 10 sessions \$48. Classes are led by Jeanie Weaver, a certified personal fitness trainer with 30 years experience, to spare joints and improve back mobility and strength. Call (248) 446-9176 or (313) 300-0957 or e-mail jeanieweaver@charter.net.

Parkinson Support

Western Oakland Parkinson Support Group meets 7-9 p.m. on the second Tuesday of the month except January, July and August, at Farmington Hills Baptist Church, 28301 Middlebelt, between 12 Mile and 13 Mile. Enter at rear of church. For more information, call (248) 433-1011.

Flu shots

Wayne County Department of Public Health offers flu shots for residents at its clinic in Wayne 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Monday and Thursday (walk-ins), Tuesday-Wednesday and Friday (by appointment only), at 33030 Van Born at Venoy. The cost is \$15-\$35 each for flu and pneumonia vaccines. Medicare (Part B) and Medicaid are accepted. Vaccines are offered for adults and children. Call (734) 727-7000 or visit www.wayne-county.com/hhsvcs/public/pamphlet.htm.

Flu shots

Flu shots for adults and children 6 months and older are available at Oakland County Health Division, 1200 N. Telegraph in Oakland County Complex Bldg. 36 East in Pontiac; 27725 Greenfield, north of 11 Mile at Catalpa Road in Southfield; and 1010 E. West Maple at Pontiac Trail, Walled Lake. Hours are noon-8 p.m. Monday; and 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday-Friday. Cost is \$11 (cash only). Medicare and Medicaid accepted. Bring photo ID and insurance cards. Call (800) 434-3358 or visit www.oakgov.com/health.

CPR classes

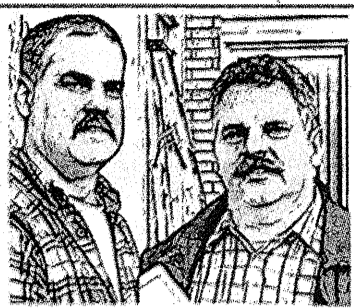
Classes range from basic CPR for people who wish to know how to help save a life, to certification for those who need CPR for work and state licensure, at DMC Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital, 1 William Carls Dr., Commerce. First aid classes also available. Classes offered weekday evenings and Saturday mornings. Price varies. Pre-registration required at www.hvsh.org/hvsh/calendar or call (248) 937-3314.

Arthritis support group

2-3:30 p.m. the third Thursday of the month at the Krieger Center, DMC Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital, 1 William Carls Dr., Commerce. Enter the building via the South Garden entrance. Registration not required.

STAYING PUT?

A Message
From
Mike & Mark



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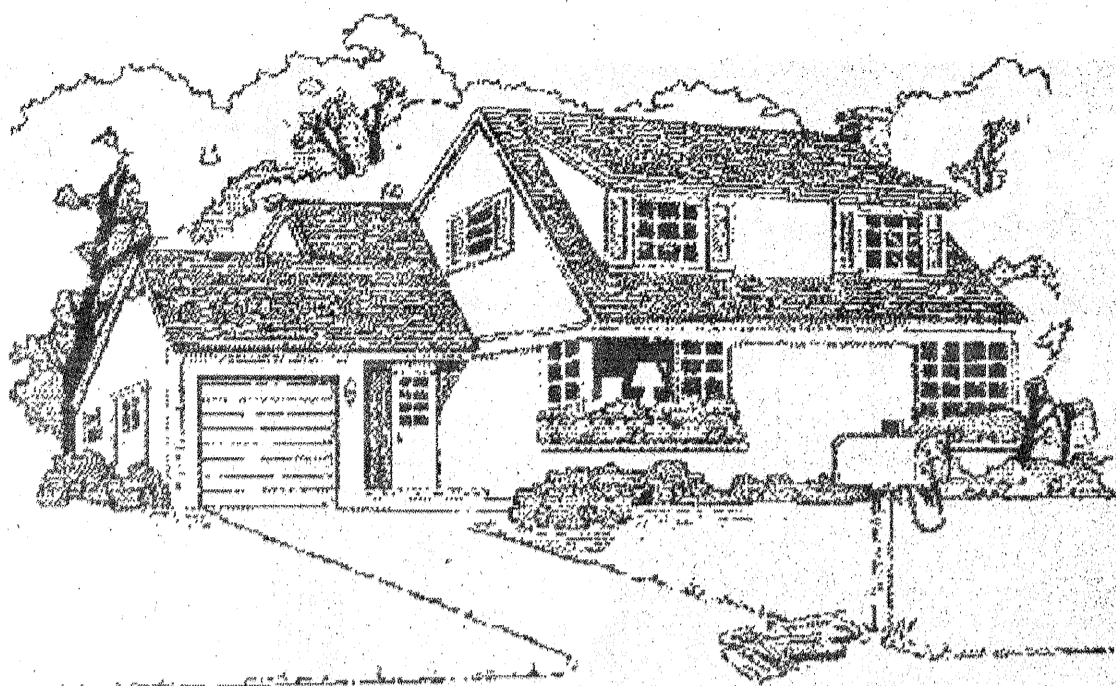
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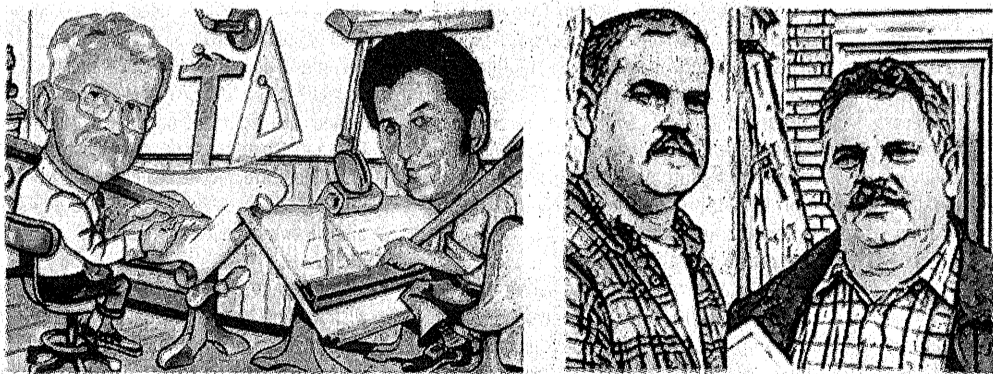
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Making every moment count



Nearly 1,300 people turned out to hear West Bloomfield writer Jeffrey Zaslow speak at Northwood University. Zaslow co-authored the book, 'The Last Lecture,' with the late Randy Pausch. Published by Hyperion in April 2008, the book became a New York Times No. 1 best-seller.

Dads learn valuable lessons at conference

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
O&E STAFF WRITER

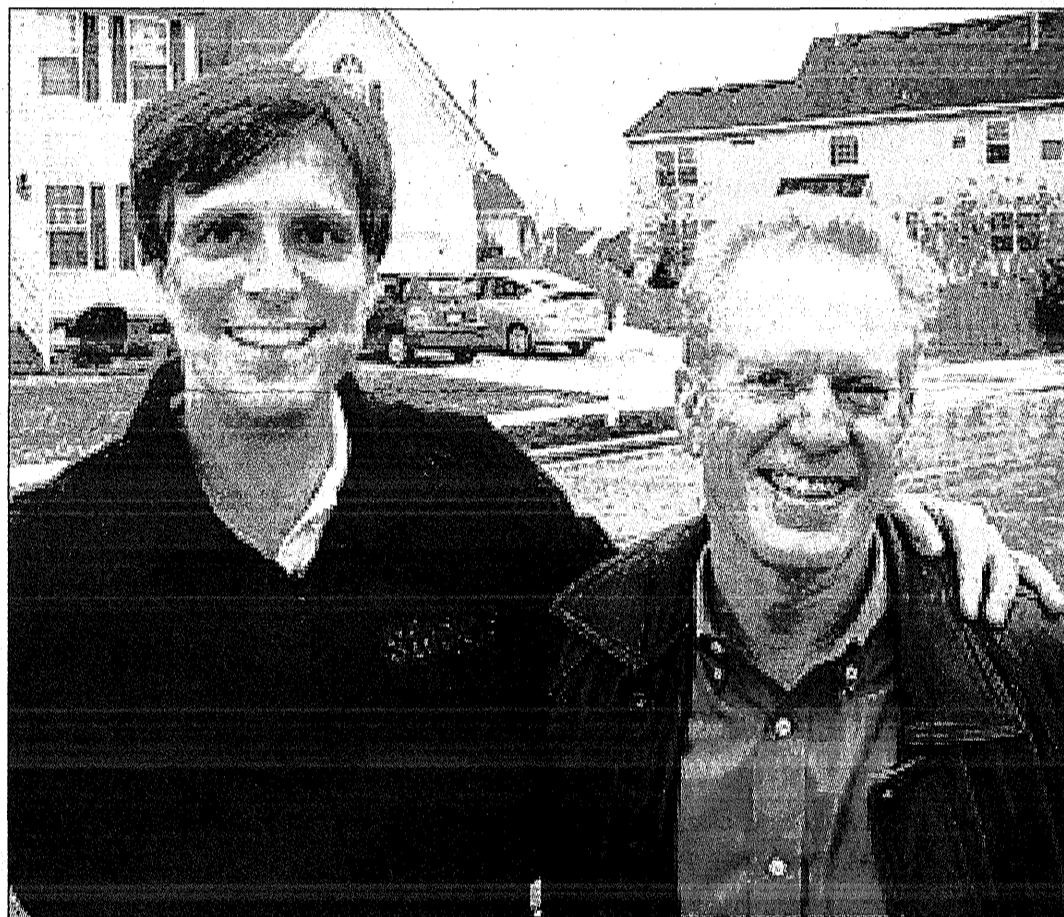
Chris Edwards is excited about Jeffrey Zaslow giving the keynote speech at the Midwest Fathers Conference Saturday, Jan. 24, at North Farmington High School. This year's theme, Making Every Moment Count, focuses on helping dads improve parenting skills in workshops ranging from discipline strategies to setting priorities as a father and husband, grandfathering, love and logic, divorced dads' issues, and the joys of African-American fatherhood.

Zaslow, a West Bloomfield writer, co-authored *The Last Lecture* with Randy Pausch who wanted to leave a message for his children to live life to the fullest. Pausch was a terminally ill professor at Carnegie Mellon University when his speech was heard by millions around the world after YouTube made it available on the Internet. The first 300 registrants receive an autographed copy of the book released by Hyperion not long before Pausch died of pancreatic cancer in July 2008 at age 47. He left his wife, Jai, and three young children.

"We don't know how many moments we have," said Edwards of Farmington Hills. "Too often as a dad we say I'll do it next year. Kids are going to grow up way too fast."

Edwards, who co-founded the conference, resigned as chief meteorologist for Fox 2 about 18 months ago to spend more time with his son, Chase, 12, and daughter Summer, 9. When he isn't working on the conference he co-founded or with Partnership for Dads which sponsors the event, Edwards fills in occasionally at the television station.

"It's a very energizing day," said Edwards.



Jeffrey Zaslow (right) co-authored 'The Last Lecture' with the late Randy Pausch.

"Every year I make it a point to sit in the workshops focused on giving men practical information they can use from the moment they go home. There's a session each year devoted to dads and daughters. Last year I came away with how I need to be very careful with my words about body image, talking about the beauty of every kind within her. All come away with something different."

LAST LECTURE

Zaslow will share lessons learned while writing the book with Pausch. Even though he gave about 50 lectures last year, Zaslow always finds time for his three teenage daughters with wife Sherry Margolis, a co-

Please see **DADS, C2**

MIDWEST FATHERS

What: ninth annual conference features workshops and keynote speaker Jeffrey Zaslow

When: 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 24

Where: North Farmington High School, 32900 W. 13 Mile

Tickets: The cost in advance, including breakfast and lunch, is \$29, \$60 for three people, \$40 at the door. For information or to register, visit www.partnershipfordads.org or call (248) 646-1445.



Bob Phillips is one of the presenters at the Midwest Fathers Conference at North Farmington High School Jan. 24.

Brains and beauty

Book traces change in auto show models through stories, photos

BY SHARON DARGAY
O&E STAFF MEMBER

Go to the North American International Auto Show to see the vehicles and talk to the models and then put it all into historical perspective with Margery Krevsky's book, *Sirens of Chrome: The Enduring Allure of Auto Show Models*.

Krevsky, a Bloomfield Hills resident who owns Productions Plus, a Bingham Farm-based agency that supplies auto show talent, will sign her coffee table-style book during the show, which runs daily through Sunday, Jan. 25, at Cobo Center in downtown Detroit.

Packed with rare photos, pro-

grams and posters from private collections and corporate files, the book traces the history of the auto show model from the early 1900s — when images of mythological goddesses and sirens first appeared in vehicle marketing materials and as hood ornaments — to present day, when product information specialists of both sexes entice customers with both their knowledge of the vehicle, as well as their appearance.

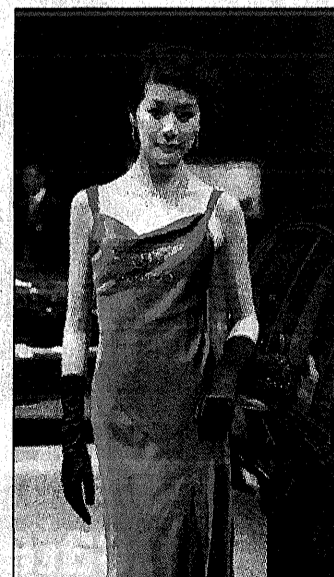
Stories highlight the auto show displays, event hoopla, vehicle advertising campaigns, celebrity spokespersons and model changes — both human and automotive — over the past century.

RESEARCHING

"When you go into business, you collect a lot of stories,"

Please see **BOOK, C4**

Auto show models in hot pants show off themselves — and a concept car from Czech automaker Skoda — at the 2005 Frankfurt Auto Show in Germany.



You wouldn't guess sore feet and backs are an occasional hazard of the job by looking at this glamorous auto show model.

Inauguration a time to reflect on race relations

While Ronalee Bowman believes the inauguration of Barack Obama as the first mixed race president on Tuesday is a monumental occasion, we still have a long way to go. Granted, progress has been made since Bowman founded PLAID (People of Livonia Addressing Issues of Diversity) in 1992. Back then she couldn't find a local organization devoted to ensuring the equality of



Linda Chomin

people of different cultures, races and religions after marrying her husband, Hugh, a black man from the Caribbean.

In all fairness, Livonia was much like the rest of the suburbs, yet most denounced in the press because it was

the whitest in the country in terms of population. Thanks to the prodding of PLAID members, Livonia is changing. It still isn't a melting pot like Canton, but now has a program to honor legendary civil rights movement leader Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. this year on Monday, Jan. 19. PLAID continues to do its part in eliminating prejudices. Last February, the proactive group hosted a four-week series of well-attended racism workshops at Stevenson High School. St. Mary Antiochian Orthodox Church has held diversity programs as well.

In an e-mail to the *Observer*, Bowman writes "The election of a mixed-race president is a positive step in race relations, but we cannot assume that it is an end to racism as there is still much more to be done on a local level as well as nationally. I think we need to get to know each other as individuals instead of lumping people together by race, culture or religion. When we get to know people who are different than we are, we realize that we have much more in common and can focus on our similarities rather than our differences."

Colleen Mills shares Bowman's beliefs that's why she and husband George joined PLAID 10 years ago. The Livonia woman is president of Citizens for Peace.

"I see us as all united," said Mills. "You can not have peace when you're focusing on differences. This year, Citizens is doing an essay contest on peace to engage young people. PLAID donated \$300 for Citizens for Peace activities including the essay contest. It's a wonderful partnership. We've raised a lot of awareness."

Scott Heinzman sadly remembers the 1967 Detroit race riots and that's why he helped Bowman start PLAID. The tense relations between blacks and whites resulted in the clash that burned the city. When I think back to those scary times I can still hear the gunfire downtown from my street in Livonia. It's going to take all of us to continue building bridges between the races.

"Having grown up in Livonia I felt there were definitely strong bigoted attitudes in our city," said Heinzman, who graduated from Franklin High School in 1979. "I still feel there's a lot of work to be done, I'm hopeful. People (age) 20-something are far less racist. I think younger people have a greater sense of justice. When I was born in the '60s there were states where you couldn't marry someone of a different race. Today the anger is more right now for Middle Eastern immigrants. We need leaders that can address these issues."

Heinzman's hope is that one day PLAID becomes unnecessary. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. had a dream too but didn't live to see his children living "in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character."

"I hope we get to a point where we're not going to have scorn for anybody except for their behaviors," said Heinzman, co-chairman of PLAID.

For those interested in joining or learning more about PLAID, call (734) 427-4199.

Linda Ann Chomin is the health and Community Life reporter for the *Observer & Eccentric Newspapers*. She can be reached at lchomin@hometownlife.com or (313) 222-2241.

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DADS

FROM PAGE C1

anchor at Fox 2 News. "I hope I'm more patient and appreciative," said Zaslow. "Time is all we have and one day it's less than what they think. I admire the fathers who get up on a Saturday morning to attend the conference to learn more about being a better father. I'm thrilled there are fathers out there like that."

Zaslow is glad he took time to drive to Pittsburgh to hear Pausch give his last lecture and write a column for the *Wall Street Journal*. Zaslow could have done the interview over the phone. The actual experience was so inspiring he decided to write the book which went on to become a No. 1 *New York Times* best-seller.

"I wanted to tell the story and about Randy as a father. He didn't want to write the book. He was conflicted about it cause he wanted to spend time with his kids. He ended up doing interviews with me while riding his bike so he didn't have to take any time

from his children. I hope I can be brave as Randy was at the end and take the lessons and use them as a father. I would always send e-mails from readers and links to Web sites to Randy about the book. He said stop Googling my name and go hug your kids. Randy was never interested in accolades. The book was full of advice he wanted to give his kids."

VARIETY OF SPEAKERS

Edwards looks forward to hearing the dads and daughters talk by Drew Yanke, Tom Haller on the best discipline strategies, and Bob Phillips on transitioning to middle and high school. Yanke is a regular speaker for the father's program at Beaumont Hospital; Haller is a child, adolescent and couples therapist as well as a nationally known author and speaker on parenting issues; and Phillips is dean of students at Flint Powers Catholic High School.

Phillips' words of wisdom for parents are based on studies of children in the transition period between elementary and middle school, and

middle and high school. He became interested in the subject while dean of students at Orchard Lake St. Mary.

He has a son Mitchell, 14, and daughter Mara, 12, with wife Shari. He's concerned about the trend of teens experimenting with prescription drugs from the medicine cabinet.

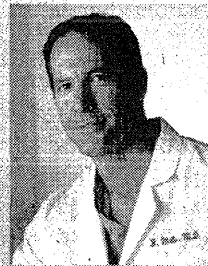
"Research shows students are at greatest risk for making risky choices, alcohol and substance abuse experimentation, getting in with the wrong peers during the transitional period," said Phillips, a Waterford resident who grew up in Berkeley. "These dads know how to parent and what is right, I empower and reaffirm them. Kids need parents. They don't need friends. If my kids are going to a party at someone's house I make it a point to call and introduce myself. It might be embarrassing for children but I find they're well-received by the other parent. The more parents connect with each other the more we can ensure our kids' safety."

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Livonia youth to present concert

The Livonia Youth Philharmonic of Michigan (LYPM) presents its first concert of the season at noon Saturday, Jan. 31, at Churchill High School, 8900 Newburgh, north of Joy Road, Livonia. Doors open at 11:30 a.m. The program is scheduled to run between 90 minutes and two hours, and features the music of J.S. Bach, Tchaikovsky's Nutcracker, and Franz Schubert. Tickets are \$8 adults, \$6 children and seniors, \$1 off prior to concert day, and can be pre-purchased during rehearsals 8:30-11:30 a.m.

Saturdays by the Orchestra Room in the high school or by e-mailing David Lindenmuth at president@lypm.org with the number and type of tickets needed. Ticket buyers will receive a confirmation for the purchase by e-mail. Tickets are also available at the Livonia Civic Center Library, 32777 Five Mile, east of Farmington Rd. LYPM is 501(c)3 non-profit charitable organization and always appreciates donations because it receives no public funding.

GARDEN CALENDAR

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

Winter planting
Advanced Master Gardener, LeRoy Wolff will talk about planing seeds in late winter for an early crop of lettuce and other plants by late April or early May, at 7 p.m., Jan. 21, in the EIC building at U of M -Dearborn, room 119. The program is free and designed for novices. For more information call (734) 786-6860 or visit www.mgawc.org/prog_intro.htm.

Orchids
Michigan Orchid Society's speaker for Jan. 18, 2009 will be Russ Vernon will talk

about Lycaste culture at the next meeting of the Michigan Orchid Society, 2:30 p.m., Sunday, Jan. 18, at First Baptist Church of Birmingham, 300 Willets, Birmingham. Vernon has grown orchids for more than 40 years and is the owner of New Vision Orchids which is located in Indianapolis, Ind. He specializes in growing Paphlaenopsis, Odontoglossums, Miltoniopsis and Lycastes. For more information call (586) 416-1496.

North American gardens
Oakland University's Meadow Brook Hall Garden Club will meet at 10 a.m., Friday, Jan. 23, in the Meadow Brook Hall Ball Room. Guest speaker Julia Hofley, will present a travelogue of favorite public and private gardens from trips across America

and British Columbia. Guests are welcome. Coffee and refreshments will be served at 9:30 a.m. There is a \$5 non-member donation. Reservations are not required. For more information call (248) 887-1983, or (248) 276-0136, or visit www.meadowbrookhall.org.

Rain Gardens
This day-long how-to-do-it seminar is designed for ecological gardeners who are working with clay soil. Register beginning at 6:30 p.m., Monday, Feb. 9, at the Southfield Public Library, 26300 Evergreen, south of I-696. The program will run from 7-8:30 p.m. There is no admission charge, but advance registration is required. Call Karen Bever at (248) 288-5150 or e-mail LFDean@aol.com.

Livonia library to host used book sale

The Friends of the Livonia Library's three-day used book sale is a good time to stock up on winter reading for a fraction of the price. Hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Feb. 6-7, and 1-5 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 8, at the Civic Center Library, 32777 Five Mile, east of Farmington Road. Hard cover books are priced at \$1, paperbacks 50 cents, Romances are even cheaper at 25 cents, CD's and videos as priced. On Sunday, Feb. 8, a bag of books is less expensive still and can be purchased for \$5. For more information, call the library at (734) 466-2495.

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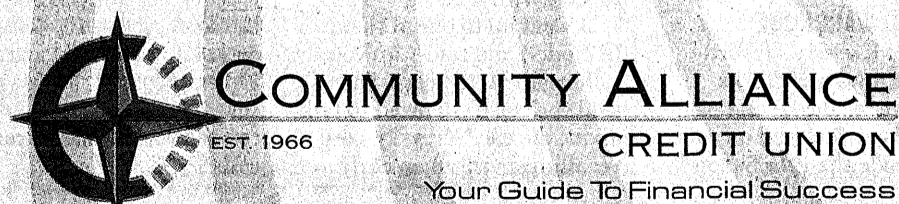
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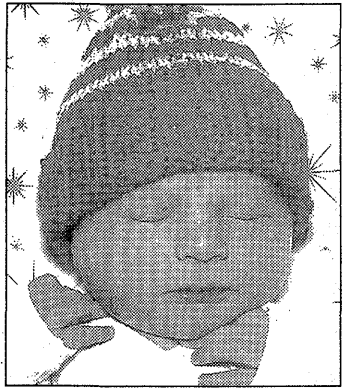
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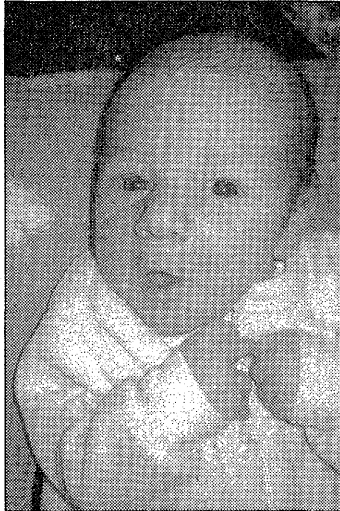


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BIRTHS

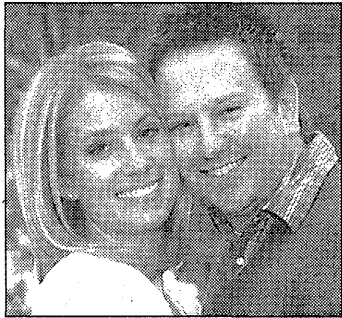


Brian Joseph St. Clair
Donald and Dawn St. Clair of Milford announce the birth of their son, Brian Joseph St. Clair, on Dec. 16, 2008, in Huron Valley Sinai Hospital, Commerce.
Brian's older brother is Raymond Dennis St. Clair, 18 months.
Proud grandparents are Dennis and Lois St. Clair of Grand Blanc and Daniel and Carol Szelong of Redford. Great-grandparents are Louise Denyer of East Pointe and the Rev. Edwin Wallace of Brooksville, Fla.



Dominic Daniel Caccamo
Kay and Todd Caccamo of Canton announce the birth of their son, Dominic Daniel, born Dec. 26, 2008 at Beaumont Hospital, Royal Oak.
Caccamo joins big brother Carter, 22 months, at home.
Grandparents are Daniel and Ethie Neuzil of Fort Atkinson, Iowa and Frank and Rosemary Caccamo of Auburn Hills.

ENGAGEMENT



Richeson-Yoder
Emily Ruth Richeson and Dustin John Charles Yoder announce their engagement.
The bride-to-be, daughter of David Richeson of Livonia and the late Nina Richeson, graduated from Grand Valley State University in 2007 and works for United States Probation in Grand Rapids. Her fiancé, son of Sue and Mike Harvey of Prudenville and Kwan and Colette Yoder of Waterford, graduated from Grand Valley State University in 2006 and is a marketing director and talent buyer in Grand Rapids.
The couple plans to wed in October 2009 in Leonard.

Modeling on auto show circuit demands smarts and stamina

BY SHARON DARGAY
O&E STAFF WRITER



Petrik Kowalski

Bobbie Petrik Kowalski is living her dream.
Cloud 9 comes complete with an occasional sore back, tired feet and overtaxed vocal cords, but the Canton woman says they're a mere inconvenience compared to all of the benefits she receives working in the glamorous and glitzy world of auto show modeling.
"The good outweighs the aches and pains," said Kowalski, a 10-year veteran of the auto show circuit who spends six to eight hours a day on her feet — in heels — pitching Honda nationwide.
"I would miss this job if it were no longer here. I love who I work for. Whoever is your agent can make or break how you feel about the job. Productions Plus treats us so well," she said, adding that Honda also regards its models "like family."

ON THE ROAD

Kowalski, who is married and has two teenagers and two stepchildren, has worked auto shows in San Francisco, Calif., Miami, Fla., and Indianapolis, Ind., this season. After the North American International Auto Show in Detroit, she'll head to Philadelphia, Pa., Chicago, Ill., and New York City, N.Y., among other towns. She'll work events at dealerships and take other work through her agent when the season ends.
During the shows, she'll

serve as both a narrator, describing cars from atop a revolving platform, and as a product information specialist, who will answer questions one-on-one in the Honda display area.
"When you work for Honda you have to know the whole line. There are well over a dozen and you have to know each (vehicle model) level."
Kowalski, a Michigan State University graduate, enjoys talking about alternative fuels. The tailors her twice-hourly narrations to the audience around the car turntable.
"I'm not scripted at all, only because I know the car inside and out. I can get up there and start with what's under the hood. I improv it."
Growing up in Redford, Kowalski "always wanted to be that girl" on the platform, standing next to a car and wearing glamorous clothing. As a Honda representative, she wears a business suit or a business casual outfit. "Back in the day, girls used to stand up there and smile in their gowns. Today you have to be intelligent, as well," she noted.

SWITCHING CAREERS

Kowalski worked as an accountant for eight years, all while taking acting classes, modeling and working various promotional gigs — from checking VIP wristbands

backstage at Aerosmith concerts to performing a dance routine at the Parade Company's annual fireworks VIP Rooftop Party.
Her supportive family helped the then single mother while she prepared for a job change and later, landed the Honda account, launching a new career in 1999.
The 40-year-old now also credits her husband, Bob, for "pulling the weight" at home while she's on the road with her "extended family," the other Honda product specialists and narrators. While he's at home cooking dinner or tending to their children, she might be lounging on a Miami beach waiting for her work day to start.
When her 17-year-old daughter talks about following in mom's footsteps, Kowalski cringes a little, envisioning her firstborn on the road. But she is helping her with resume and head shot photos, all while insisting that she attend college, as well.
"The whole job is about having personality. You do have to love people and love travel, too."

Stop by the Honda exhibit and see Kowalski in action at the North American International Auto Show, at Cobo Center in Detroit. The show runs 9 a.m. to 10 p.m., through Saturday, Jan. 24. It is open from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 25. Tickets are \$12 for adults; \$6 for senior citizens, age 65 and older and children, age 7-12. Children under age 6, accompanied by a parent, are admitted free.

Certificate programs prepare students for health care jobs

Madonna University's Office of Continuing Education and Professional Studies is offering 13-week or less medical certificate programs that will qualify students for immediate employment. Students can earn an EKG technician, pharmacy technician or medical billing and coding certificate. Pharmacy technician jobs, as well as positions in the field of medical billing and coding, are listed among the most in-demand occupations on the state of Michigan's web site www.michigan.gov/healthcareers.
The winter schedule for Madonna's medical certificate programs runs 6-9:30 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays from Feb. 17 to April 16, for EKG technician; Mondays and Wednesdays Feb. 16 to April 13

for pharmacy technician, and Feb. 16 to May 20 for medical billing and coding.
Registration deadline is 5 p.m. Friday, Feb. 6.
All courses prepare students to take national board exams and apply for entry-level positions. According to Joan Stephens, director of Madonna's Office of Continuing Education and Professional Studies, approximately 90 percent of students immediately pass their board exams after completing the programs.
As part of these classes, students are able to attend free workshops at Madonna University for resume writing and job interviewing tips. Upon graduation, Stephens and the course instructors continue to work with students,

assisting with their employment search. "After providing our students with a graduation pack filled with job search tools, we follow-up with them and provide job postings," said Stephens. "We do everything we can to ensure that they put their training to good use and are employed as soon as possible."
All classes are offered at Madonna's main campus in Livonia, located at the intersection of Schoolcraft and Levan Roads, off I-96. A detailed course schedule and online registration are available at www.madonna.edu by clicking on Future Students, then Continuing Education & Professional Studies. For more information about Continuing Education courses, call (734) 432-5804.

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Passages

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DREAMA GRACE ROYAL (NEE ESTEP)
Age 77, died Sunday Jan. 11, 2009 following an extended bout with heart disease. She lived at Fox Run Retirement Community, Novi, Michigan, since 2007. A long-time resident of the Birmingham area, she was born in St Albans, W.V. She is survived by her beloved husband Richard Royal and daughters Martha (John) Cooper and Nancy (Dave) Crouch, and grandchildren Liam and Kieran Cooper and Alexander, Catherine, and Jack Crouch. Dreama was active in the music community in greater Detroit, as an adjunct professor of voice at Macomb Community College, as a private voice teacher, as a soloist at All Saints Episcopal Church in Pontiac and as choir director at University Presbyterian Church in Rochester Hills. In their retirement, Dreama and her husband, Dick, created textile art, especially for liturgical settings. A memorial service was held Thursday, Jan. 14 at 3:30 p.m. at Fox Run Retirement Community, Belmont. Contributions may be made to the American Heart Association.

MARJORIE GRISWOLD
January 14, 2009, age 85 of Farmington Hills. Survived by her children; Dr. Mary Lynn Griswold and Dr. John D. (Carol) Griswold. Also survived by three grandchildren; Emilia age 24, Kevin age 23, and Daniel age 20. Marjorie was preceded in death by a son, Dr. Jim Griswold. Marjorie was a 1944 graduate of Michigan State University. She worked for many years in the Farmington Hills School District. She was very active in the congregation of Hope Lutheran Church and will be missed by her loving family and community. A memorial service will take place 2pm Sunday at Hope Lutheran Church, 39200 W. 12 Mile Rd., Farmington Hills. Memorial contributions in Marjorie's name may be made to Hope Lutheran Church or Best Friends Animal Society, 5001 Angel Canyon Rd., Kanab, UT 84741-5000.
www.mccabefuneralhome.com



RITA C. BURGESS
Passed away January 14, 2009. Age 66. Preceded in death by parents George and Clare Burgess. Survived by cousin Mary Ellen Rafferty and her family. Also dear friends John Camilleri and Richard and Lynn Bone Beck. Visitation Fred Wood Funeral (Rice Chapel), 36100 Five Mile Rd. (one mile west of Farmington Rd.) Sunday 3:00-9:00 p.m. with a rosary at 7:00 p.m. In state St. Kenneth Catholic Church, 14961 Haggerty Rd. (south of five mile) Monday 10:00 a.m. until time of Mass 10:30 a.m. In lieu of flowers, donations to Angela Hospice or Fellowship Presbyterian Church.

STELLA MAY (LINDEMANN) SMITH
Age 94, a fifty-year resident of Plymouth. Died January 13th in Haverhill, MA. She is survived by her son Hal Smith and his wife Mary of Overland Park, KS; daughter Leslie Felts and her husband Dick of Gainesville, GA; daughter Susanne Dillman and her husband Dick of Andover, MA; seven grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. A memorial service will be held at the First Presbyterian Church of Plymouth on Saturday, April 25th at 10:00am. Interment will be private.

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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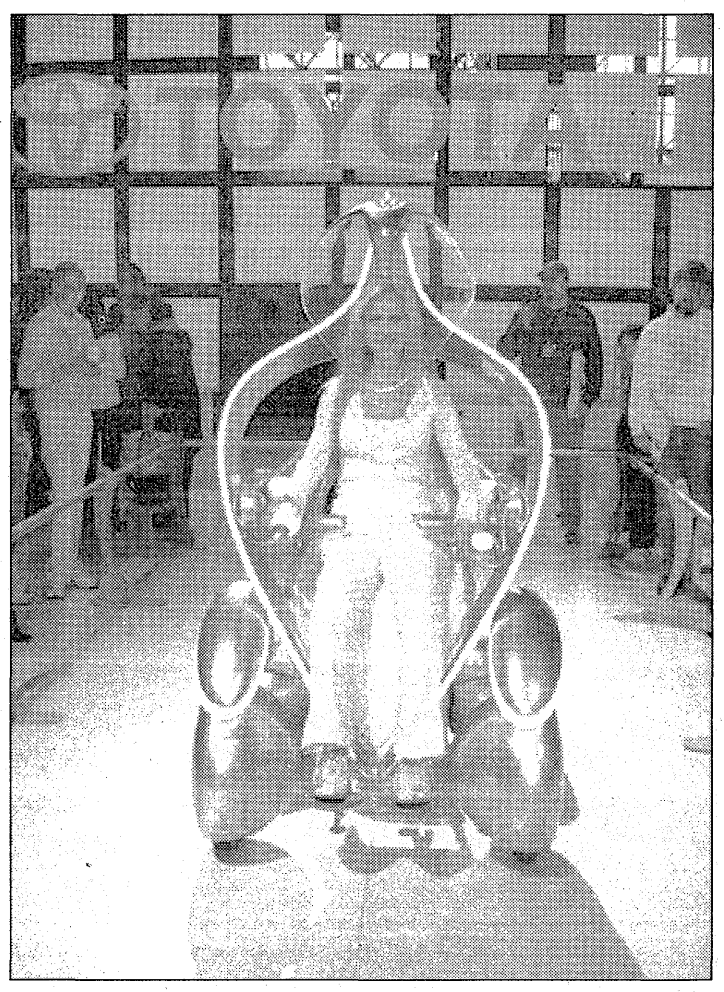
For more information call:
Jennifer Musztuk 586-826-7115
or Charolette Wilson 586-826-7082
or toll free 800-579-7355
ask for Jennifer or Charolette

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BOOK
FROM PAGE C1

said Krevsky, who founded Productions Plus with former auto show model Harriet Fuller, in 1991. "There are so many stories connected with the auto shows. I started thinking, what if I connect them to a picture? I started to think of stories to go with pictures. I thought it might be interesting to do a history."
She jotted down ideas and began searching for photos, first through the National Automotive History Collection at the Detroit Public Library, and then from corporate and private collections.
"It took a year to conceptualize. There were so many pictures. That was the hard thing to do, to put them in order, to get permission to use them."
In some cases, Krevsky knew exactly what she wanted.
"I knew I wanted a picture from the 60s ... there was an incident at a press conference where a model was mauled by a lion at BMW. I had heard the story. It was difficult to find the picture."
The black and white shot on page 112 of the book, shows the 21-year-old woman in short lederhosen, sitting with her arm around a live lion on the floor of the New York Auto Show in 1966. The accompanying copy says the animal locked its teeth on her thigh seconds later. The model survived, her leg intact, but a decade later took her own life.
Krevsky had heard another story, about a concept car called the Cadillac Debutant. It had debuted at a show in the 1950s, showing off an interior of 187 "Somali leopard pelts" and hardware plated in 24-karat gold.
The photo, found on page 68 of *Sirens*, shows a model seated in the \$35,000 vehicle, wearing a suit with matching leopard cuffs and collar.

UPDATED WARDROBE
One of Krevsky's favorite photos shows suffragists Alice Snitzer Burke and Nell Richardson, stopped on a dirt road beside the 1916 Saxon — which was marketed as a woman's car — on their 10,000-mile trip across the country, advocating for the vote. Along the way the pair changed tires, replaced spark plugs and repaired its engine during an era when women still wore ankle-length dresses and tight corsets.
"They left wearing their vintage Victorian clothing and by the time they had finished the trip, their corsets and bustles had bit the dust."
Krevsky was instrumental in the evolution of auto show models, changing the glamor and cheesecake image to a more sophisticated look that complemented the client's product line. She also gave voice to the models, training them as product information specialists able to entice customers with facts.
"I went up to one of them (a model) and said 'Can you tell me about the car?' She said she wasn't allowed to talk about the car," Krevsky said, recalling a visit to an early



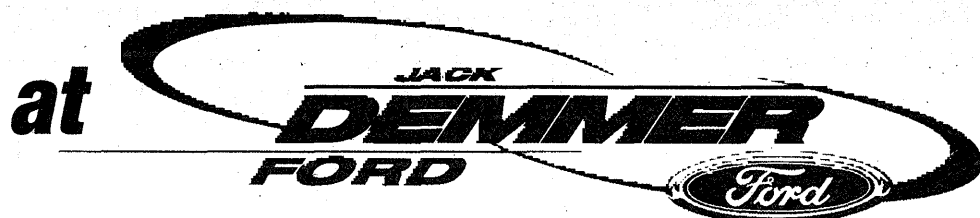
A model demonstrates a Toyota 'i-unit' at the 2005 New York Auto Show.

1980s auto show. "I thought to myself, there is some opportunity here. What if everyone could be both attractive and a gearhead?"
She turned her attention from the local fashion show scene to the auto show industry. Her revolutionary ideas — training models to become thoroughly versed in the vehicle and matching wardrobe to the brand — met with "a great deal of resistance" at first.
"Pontiac gave us the first opportunity, Nissan the next. They gave me one year to let me make my point. Historically, the time was right."
An exhibition featuring the "Sirens of Chrome" continues through April 30, at the Detroit Public Library's Rose and Robert Skillman Branch in Detroit. "Sirens of Chrome," a hardcover published by Momentum Books LLC, is available through select Barnes & Noble, and Borders bookstores, as well as online at Amazon.com and MomentumBooks.com. It costs \$24.95.



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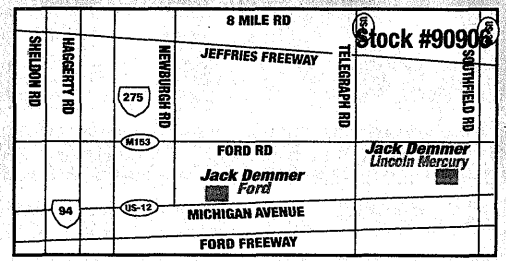
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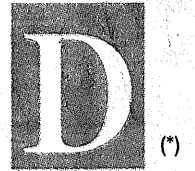


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New Homes



Sunday, January 18, 2009

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

Julie Brown, editor . (313) 222-6755 . jcbrown@hometownlife.com

www.hometownlife.com

Gracious Garcia features Great Room, roomy 3-car garage

Stucco and rock gives a craftsman touch to this luxurious home with generously proportioned rooms. The Garcia (406-34) has 1,936 square feet of living area and a three-car garage, which contains 881 square feet. A large set of covered windows enhances the look of the face of the garage.

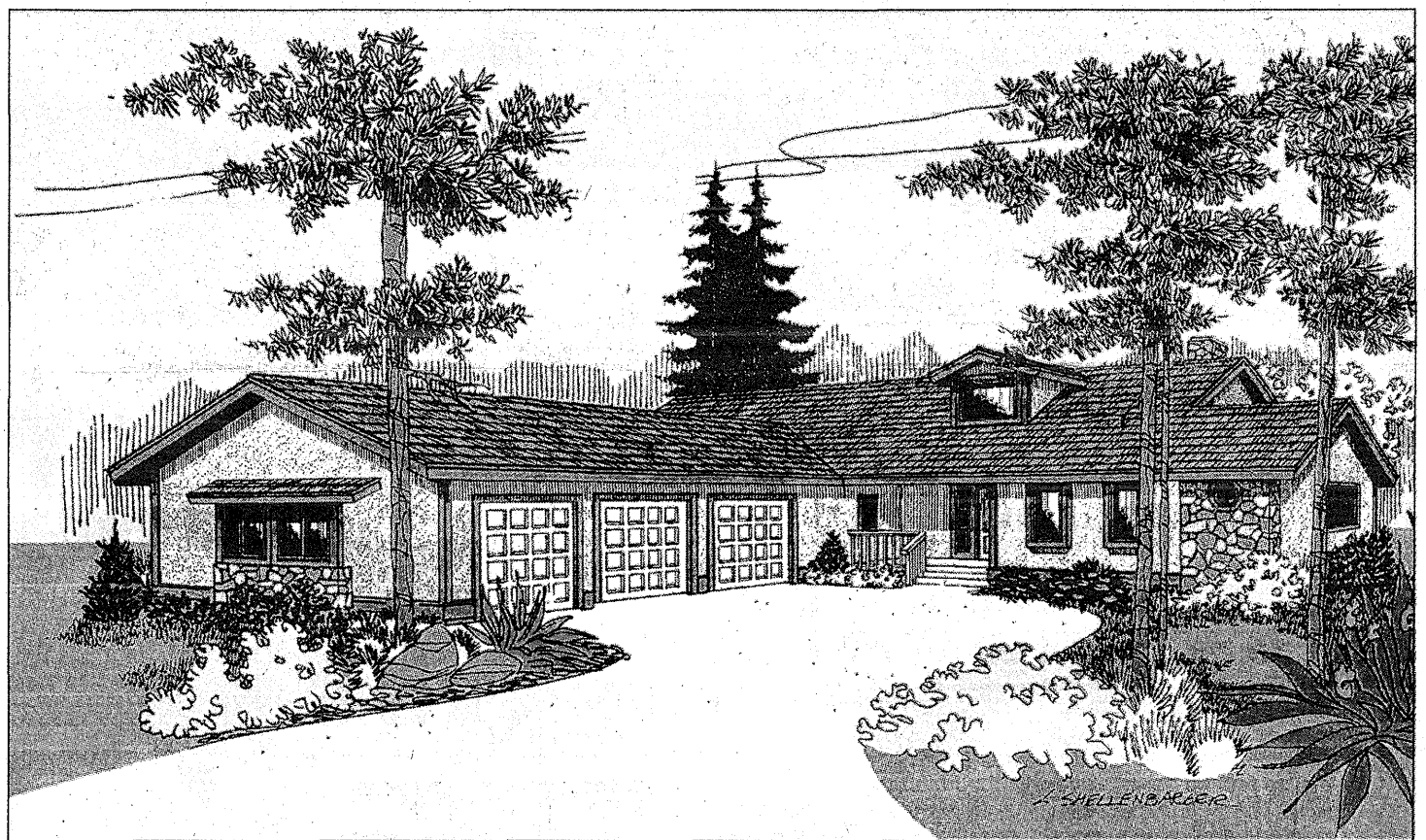
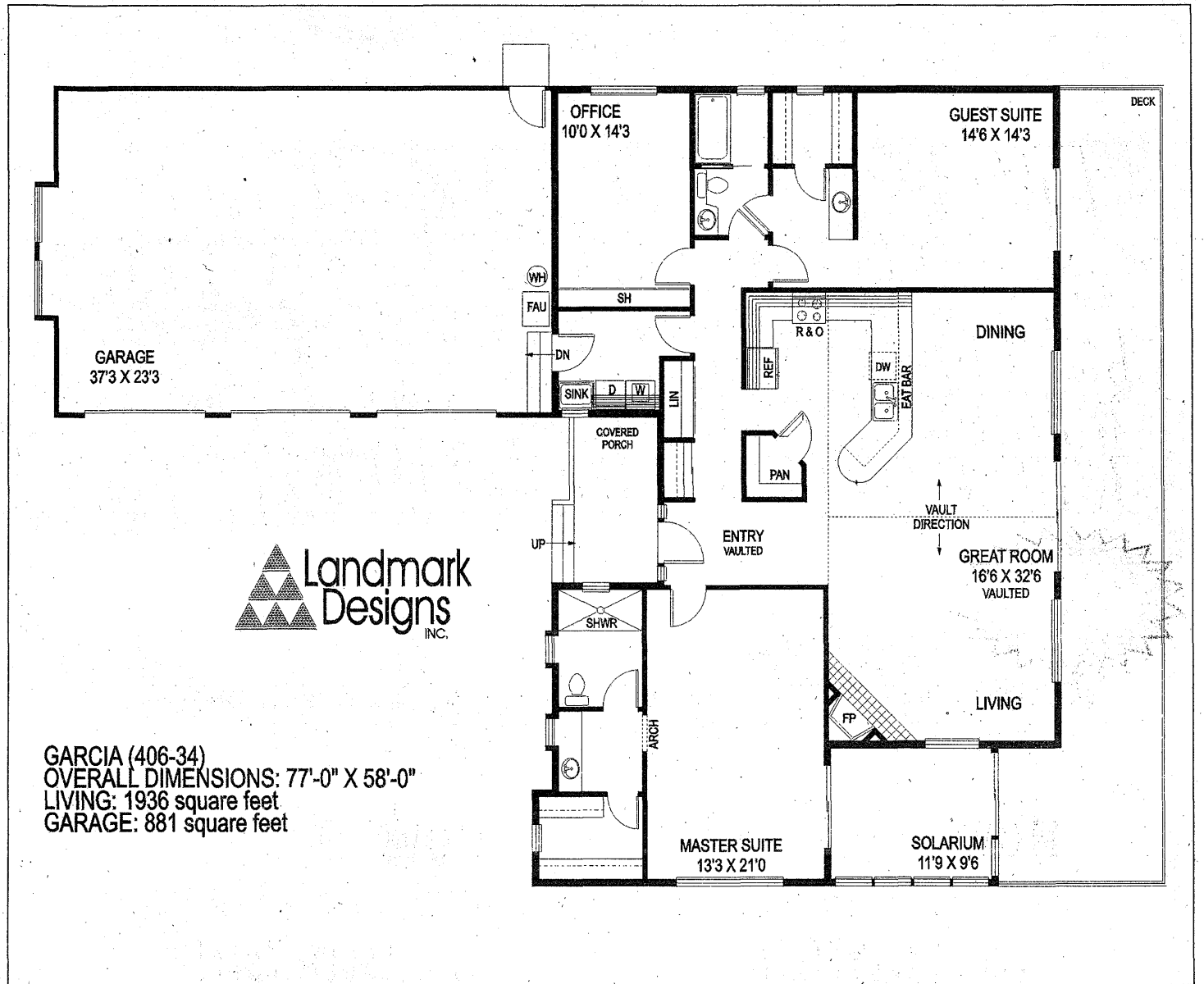
The inset entry to the Garcia is covered and two full-length windows flank the door. Opening the door, guests look directly into the enormous Great Room. The vaulted living room portion of the Great Room contains a corner fireplace, large windows overlooking the back yard and solarium. The dining area is open with its matching window, viewing the backyard. The highlight of the Great Room is enlarged sliding glass door out to the rear deck. With all the glass area, the Great Room has a bountiful supply of natural light.

The Garcia is unique in that it has only two large bedrooms. The guest suite, located completely across the home from the master suite, has access to the backyard through sliding glass doors, along with a private entrance to the bathroom area. A sink next to the walk-in closet gives guests personal privacy. Rest of the home can also use the bath area with an office adjacent. It has a full wall of shelves and a large window.

The kitchen peninsula shares the vault of the dining area. While cabinets run overhead around the back wall, the eating bar, sink and counter space are open, ideal for family gatherings and the sharing of conversation with the cooks. The pantry forms a corner of the kitchen and is large enough to store those items needed for the family and for holidays. To the right of the entry is the master suite. An archway separates the main suite from the bath and closet areas. There are doors dividing the corner walk-in closet from the bath area. Sliding glass doors off the main suite allows access to the solarium.

The Garcia is unique in that it has only two large bedrooms. The guest suite, located completely across the home from the master suite, has access to the backyard through sliding glass doors, along with a private entrance to the bathroom area. A sink next to the walk-in closet gives guests personal privacy. Rest of the home can also use the bath area with an office adjacent. It has a full wall of shelves and a large window.

The Garcia (406-34) is our plan of the week. For a limited time, we are offering up to 50 percent off construction plans for this design. Call us at (800) 562-1151 or visit us on line at www.ldiplans.com for details. A \$25 study plan is also available consisting of: an artist rendering, elevations, floor plans, and cross section. Order online or search hundreds of other designs including garages, multifamily, and standard and luxury homes at www.ldiplans.com. Order this week to save up to 50 percent off construction plans using the discount code (LOE48) or send payment to Landmark Designs, Inc. PO Box 5625 Eugene, OR 97405, remember to indicate Garcia (406-34) and code.



BRIEFS

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Thinking about a career in real estate? Is working in real estate your dream? Keller Williams Realty is seeking experienced or non-experienced people in the real estate field. The candidates must be hard working and have a passion for learning. There's a free seminar every week: Tuesday or Saturday, 11 a.m. to noon at 27555 Executive Drive (off West 12 Mile and Halsted), Farmington Hills 48331. For more details, contact Steve Leibhan, (248) 553-0400, Ext. 2500.

Free seminar

A free seminar offered by Keller Williams Realty will cover: \$7,500 tax credit for new buyers; current mortgage interest rates; inspections, appraisals, title work and more. It will be held 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 24, at Keller Williams Farmington Hills Market Center, 27555 Executive Drive, Suite 100, Farmington Hills. Call for reservations: (248) 893-1550

Giving ways

Weir Manuel Realtors announced that Lighthouse Path was the recipient of \$165 in cash and hundreds of dollars in contributed items as a result of WMR's holiday charity drive. Lighthouse Path provides homeless families with transitional housing through a safe, structured, nurturing

environment and programs to foster the development of self-esteem, self-sufficiency and economic autonomy, thereby strengthening the family.

Organized by Birmingham agent Kathleen Goodrich, the response to her request for gifts and money was immediate and generous. Along with \$165 in cash, among the items Lighthouse Path received were children's clothes, blankets, kitchen and bath supplies, cleaning supplies, baby items, cookware, jewelry, toys and games, along with hats, mittens and 10 winter jackets.

"We are committed to supporting our community," said Kelly Sweeney, president and CEO of Weir Manuel. "Lighthouse Path is a wonderful organization, and we are happy to contribute to them — and to the families who benefit."

Weir Manuel is a leading real estate company in Southeast Michigan, with more than 150 real estate professionals in three Michigan offices: Birmingham, Rochester and West Bloomfield. Its Web site is at www.weirmanuel.com.

BIA

Building Industry Association of Southeastern Michigan (BIA) will present its economic forecast luncheon and meeting — "Moving Michigan Forward" — on Tuesday, Jan. 27, from noon to 2 p.m. at the Best Western Sterling Inn, 34911 Van Dyke

Avenue in Sterling Heights.

Featured speakers are Robert A. Ficano, Wayne County executive, and Dennis W. Archer, former mayor of Detroit, and chairman of Dickinson Wright, PLLC. The speakers will address topics pertinent to those involved in the residential and light construction industries including: What can we expect during 2009? What new companies are locating in Michigan? Potential economic stimulus for our area. The vision for moving Michigan into the future.

Registration fees are \$40 for BIA or Apartment Association of Michigan members with advance reservations made by Jan. 21; \$60 for members at the door, and \$75 for guests. Registration fees include entry to BIA's Builders & Remodelers Trade Show at the same location from 10 a.m. to noon. For registration information, call (248) 862-1008 or register online at www.builders.org.

Building Industry Association of Southeastern Michigan (BIA) presents Green Built™ Michigan Building Training on Wednesday, Feb. 4, 2009 from 9 a.m. to noon at association headquarters, 30375 Northwestern Highway, Suite 100, in Farmington Hills.

Chris Pratt of Construction and Development Services LLC will present tips on making your homes more energy efficient, durable and envi-

ronmentally sustainable. The importance of indoor air quality and low impact development will also be discussed.

The training is required for all builder members of Green Built™ Michigan. The cost is \$65 per person. For registration information, call (248) 862-1008 or register online at www.builders.org.

Building Industry Association of Southeastern Michigan (BIA) and its National Association of Home Builders Professional Remodelers Council (NAHBR) will present a scheduling seminar at BIA headquarters, 30375 Northwestern Highway, Suite 100, in Farmington Hills on Thursday, Feb. 12, 2009 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. The seminar is part of the Certified Graduate Remodeler (CGR) series and counts toward CGR, Certified Graduate Associate (CGA) and Certified Graduate Builder (CGB) designations.

Chuck Breidenstein, CAPS, of Builder Professional Services Group, Inc. will present methods to keep your projects running smoothly by learning how to set workable schedules. Participants will become comfortable with the latest tools for information and time management.

Registration fees are \$155 for NAHBR Professional Remodelers Council members, \$175 for BIA members and \$200 for guests. For registration information, call (248) 862-1033 or register online at www.builders.org.

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Northville - 2 bdrm, quiet, near downtown. Recently updated. Must See! \$600/mo + security. No dogs. 248-474-2096

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CANTON 41004 Westfield Circle. 2000 sq. ft., 4 bdrm, 2 1/2 bath, 2 car attached garage, family rm & fireplace. Avail. now! \$1495/mo. Showing Wed. & Sun. at 4pm. 734-444-5212, 313-920-5966

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REDFORD
18411 Poinciana, 3 bdrm bsmt, \$875 (734) 664-1884

REDFORD SOUTH Elegant 3 bdrm brick, updated kitchen & bath. \$995 + sec. Option avail. 866-250-2497 ext. 4005.

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VERY CLEAN 3 Bdrms. Laundry facilities, Basement. Nice landscaping and yard. All appliances including washer and dryer. Window A/C units. Nice deck on front of house. No garage. No dogs! Immediate Occupancy. \$850. month \$850. Security deposit 248-470-4557

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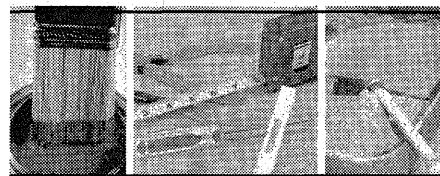
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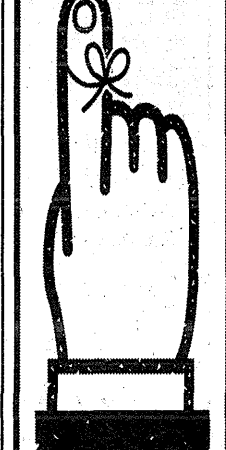
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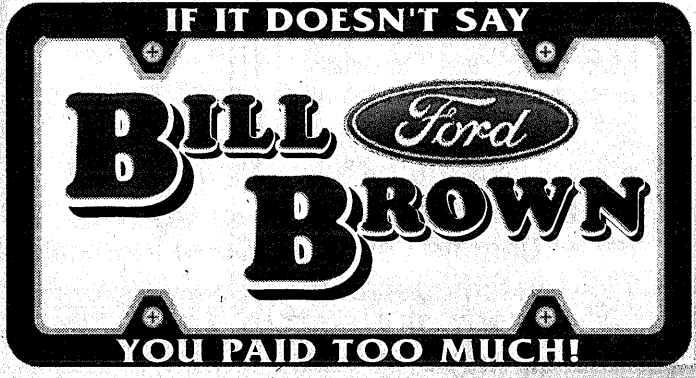
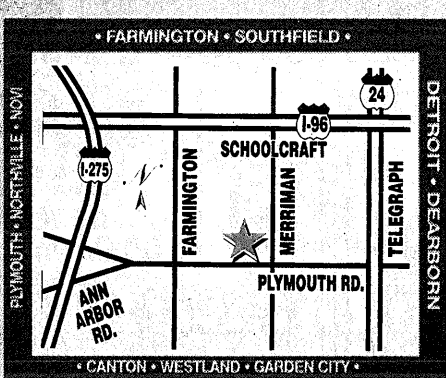
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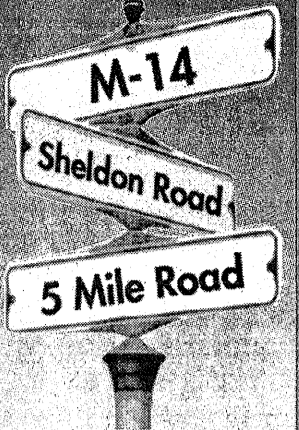


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37 MPG



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Stk. #90059

33 MPG



Was \$21,315 **-OR-** LEASE FOR
NOW **\$13,858*** | **\$215*** PER MO.
48 MONTHS
\$0 Down Payment

2009 PONTIAC G8

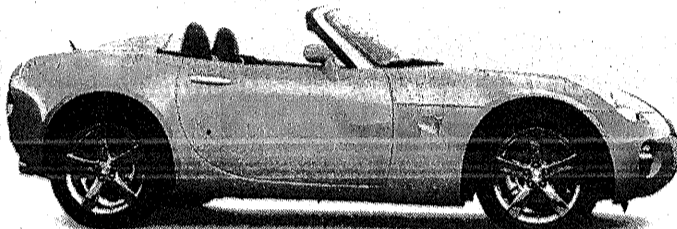
Stock #90177



Was \$28,875 **-OR-** LEASE FOR
NOW **\$20,795*** | **\$329*** PER MO.
36 MONTHS
\$0 Down Payment

2008 PONTIAC SOLSTICE CONVERTIBLE

Stock #6429



Was \$28,915
NOW **\$19,995***

2009 BUICK ENCLAVE CX FWD

Stk. #93052



Was \$35,385 **-OR-** LEASE FOR
NOW **\$26,995*** | **\$419*** PER MO.
48 MONTHS
\$0 Down Payment

90 Day Deferred Payment Available**

2009 BUICK LUCERNE CX

Stock #93099



Was \$30,030 **-OR-** LEASE FOR
NOW **\$21,712*** | **\$363*** PER MO.
48 MONTHS
\$0 Down Payment

2009 BUICK LACROSSE CX

Stk. #93035



Was \$26,390 **-OR-** LEASE FOR
NOW **\$18,880*** | **\$314*** PER MO.
48 MONTHS
\$0 Down Payment

2009 GMC ENVOY

Stk. #95036



Was \$31,650 **-OR-** LEASE FOR
NOW **\$20,750*** | **\$344*** PER MO.
48 MONTHS
\$0 Down Payment

2009 GMC ACADIA

Stock #95098



Was \$32,700 **-OR-** LEASE FOR
NOW **\$24,571*** | **\$386*** PER MO.
48 MONTHS
\$0 Down Payment

2009 GMC YUKON

Stock #95111



Was \$38,345 **-OR-** LEASE FOR
NOW **\$26,194*** | **\$452*** PER MO.
48 MONTHS
\$0 Down Payment

2009 SIERRA EXT CAB

Stock #95073



Was \$25,605 **-OR-** LEASE FOR
NOW **\$14,839*** | **\$232*** PER MO.
39 MONTHS
\$0 Down Payment

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*All sales prices and lease payments include lease to buy incentives. Must have a GMAC or competitive lease ending by 6-30-09. Plus first payment, tax, title, lic., and plates. **On purchase finance contract thru US Bank. Must take delivery by 1-31-09.