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February 1
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Number 48

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A new look debuts today

Dear readers:
Your hometown *Plymouth Observer* has a new look. The changes are a result of your feedback in e-mail surveys and local interviews over the past four months. The design has been updated and inside you'll find new features on "Education" and "Neighbors," pages about the special events in your life. It's all local and packaged in shorter stories, with more photos and more local names. On Thursday, look for new features on public safety, business, food and wine and entertainment. In addition, you will see a new emphasis on local opinions — from *The Observer* and you.

I welcome your comments. You can reach me at (313) 222-5397 or srosiek@hometownlife.com.

Susan Rosiek
Executive Editor

PIPELINE

Concert premiere

The Plymouth Symphony brings a concert full of percussion and colorful themes to Ward Presbyterian Church in Northville Township 8 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 7.

The concert includes the Midwest premiere of Alexis Alrich's composition, *Mirimba Concerto*, featuring percussionist Gwendolyn Burgett Thrasher, professor of percussion at Michigan State University.

The concert will also feature a special performance of the Finale of Symphony No. 2 by Borodin which will include a side-by-side performance with the Celebration Youth Orchestra of the Plymouth Canton Symphony. This season marks the 10th anniversary of musical director and conductor, Nan Washburn.

Order tickets online at www.plymouthsymphony.org or by calling (734) 451-2112.

Democrats meet

The second meeting of the Plymouth Democrats takes place 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 26, at the Plymouth District Library.

More than 50 people attended the first meeting last month. At this second meeting, the group hopes to fill four positions on the interim board, and offer committee signups at this meeting.

RSVP to PlymouthDemocrats@gmail.com if you plan to attend.

Free financial seminar

If your income has changed due to job loss, divorce or retirement, Community Financial invites you to attend a free seminar to help you through these tough transitions. The seminar will be held from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. Monday, Feb. 9, at the Summit on the Park located at 46000 Summit Parkway in Canton.

Michelle Richards of Community Financial will present "Life Transitions-How to Survive a Change in Income." Richards will share how careful planning, useful tools and a positive approach can help individuals and families overcome challenging and stressful situations.

For more information or to make a reservation to attend this free seminar, call (734) 582-8702.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Green team

Holly Haddad and Lauren Hildreth hold the trashy trophy at Isbister Elementary School in Plymouth Township. The wall at left offers student's tips and ideas for going green. The rest of the Isbister Green Team is: Cequoia Bobee, Sydney Good, Ktisti Belanger, Saniya Kale, Stefan Gligor, Alexis Barbosa, Isabella Bologna, Nikhil Patel, Emma Thornburg, Alysa Meadows, Kate Amin, Meghan Mans, Kelly Torolski, Andrew Paulus, Alyssa Rowley, Josh Gage, Marissa Zorney, Alexa Ebling, Hannah Parent, Maya Leisinger, Alexis Hess and Owen Pollack. For the story and more photos, please turn to our new Education Page on page A4.

Chamber rocks out a new marketing campaign

BY BRAD KADRICH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

When Fran Toney was executive director of the Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce, she didn't even have a computer in her office.

Now, a year after Toney retired, the chamber has a Facebook page.

In terms of the information highway, the chamber has come a long way, baby. Facebook and other Internet networking sites are among the chamber's plan to market the community to an as-yet untapped audience, part of the "Plymouth Rocks" campaign executive director Wes Graff unveiled at Thursday's State of the Chamber breakfast.

"We're going to wrap all of our marketing into 'Plymouth Rocks,'" Graff told an audience of more than 200 Thursday. "We think it spans all generations and gives a hip, cool feeling to the community."

The campaign is represented by a logo that features the slogan inside the outline of a guitar. Graff said the slogan is something with which all generations can identify. He said "you rock" is a popular saying among people, and rock

music is "a popular trend again" with the popularity of video games such as Guitar Hero, all of which helps the slogan appeal particularly to people 35 and younger who make up what he called "the market of the future."

Graff said the slogan can be used for the next couple of years on banners, T-shirts, Web sites and posters.

"Plymouth Rocks" is only one part of a marketing strategy chamber board members developed at their annual retreat. There will be a new chamber directory, a map due out this spring, and Graff plans to continue to expand the capability of the chamber's Web site.

They've revised their traditional networking opportunities, include addition of a new 6-on-6 concept designed to get smaller groups together. And they're integrating more technology into the plan, using sites such as Facebook.

"It's a matter of using trends," Graff said. "People are looking for inexpensive ways to network. It's a way to target specific groups. We're not going to change the world (with 'Plymouth Rocks'), but we're going to do our part."

bkadrich@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-8899

Police: Woman's death 'suspicious'

BY MATT JACHMAN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Police in Plymouth Township on Friday were continuing to investigate what they are calling the suspicious death of a 20-year-old Farmington Hills woman.

Erin Gillis was found Wednesday unresponsive in a home in the 9400 block of Rocker. She had been visiting a 40-year-old male friend, the brother of the homeowner, said township Detective Sgt. Steve Rapson, the detective in charge of the case.

The friend called police around noon Wednesday, Rapson said.

Ambulance crews were unable to revive Gillis, police said, and she was pronounced dead at St. Mary Mercy Hospital in Livonia.

An autopsy was performed Thursday, but a spokeswoman at the Wayne County medical examiner's office said Friday the cause of death was pending.

Rapson said Gillis lived primarily with her father in Farmington Hills, and that police have been talking to her friends and relatives in order to piece together her background.

He said a preliminary investigation found Gillis had met the 40-year-old man several months ago at a Royal Oak coffee shop.

Anyone with information on the case is asked to call Rapson at (734) 354-3233.



Gillis

mjachman@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-2405

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Modest priest served those most in need

BY MATT JACHMAN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

A priest known by thousands of suburban Catholics — from Plymouth to Redford to Bloomfield Hills — was remembered Friday as a modest, quiet man whose actions spoke volumes.

The Rev. Paul Berg, who died Monday at age 87 after a battle with leukemia, marched for civil rights in the 1960s, helped the Rev. William Cunningham found Focus: HOPE after the 1967 Detroit riot, and taught local seminarians for more than 50 years. But he rarely spoke of his accomplishments, family members and friends said.

"He was a man of a few well-chosen words," said a nephew, John Berg, at the close of Friday's funeral in the packed chapel at Sacred Heart Major



Rev. Berg

Seminary in Detroit.

His uncle had a special calling for ministering to the less fortunate — the disabled, the sick and the imprisoned, John Berg said.

"He taught us how to follow in the footsteps of Christ, without calling any attention to himself," he said.

"He acted in a way that served whomever was most in need," said the Rev. Robert Morand, during the formal eulogy at Friday's Mass, which was celebrated by newly installed Detroit Archbishop Allen H. Vigneron.

The Rev. Berg, a priest for nearly 61 years, regularly said Mass at St. Kenneth in Plymouth Township until late

last year. He had also assisted at Our Lady of Loretto in Redford and at St. Hugo of the Hills in Bloomfield Hills.

"He was a wonderful person and a great homilist. Always had a kind word and a smile for everyone," said Art Michalak, a co-president of the parish council at St. Kenneth.

Michalak said Berg's homilies stood out because he didn't spoon-feed lessons to churchgoers. "He led you along the path and let you find your way," he said. Berg taught philosophy at Sacred Heart and also coached the seminary basketball team for many years.

Morand said Berg had a passionate love of sports, particularly University of Notre Dame football.

Please see **BERG, A2**

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Open skate's just great at Cultural Center rink

BY JULIE BROWN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Bryce and Paula Korowin of Plymouth are glad there's open skating for their sons to enjoy at the Plymouth Cultural Center.

"We probably go a little less often because they're involved with hockey now," Bryce Korowin said of sons Roman, 9, and Nathan, 7. The boys skate for the Plymouth Sharks, Nathan the Killer Sharks and Roman the Great White Sharks.

"I think it's a great perk to have in the city," their dad said of the rink at the Cultural Center, 525 Farmer. "The programs they have are very good there. They both started out in the Learn-To-Skate program."

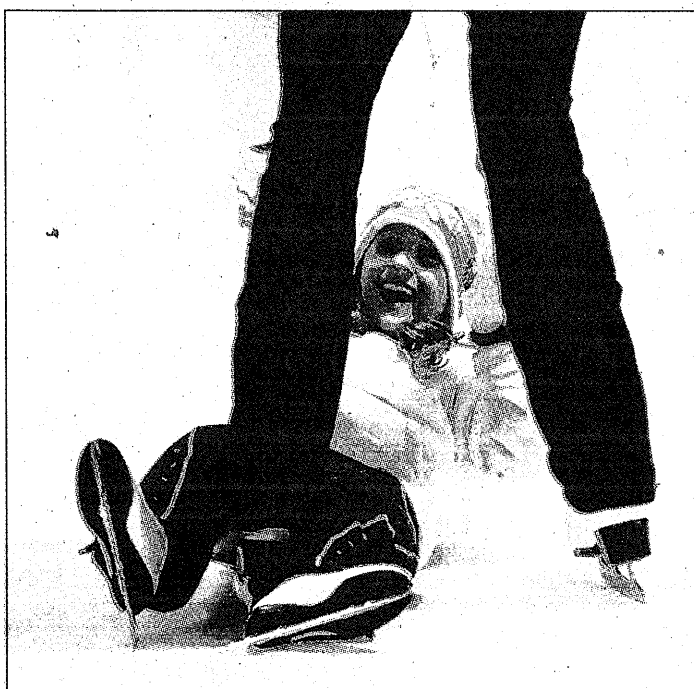
He added that skating, and hockey, are safe with the good equipment used: "It's a good activity for them."

The current open skate schedule is: noon to 1:50 p.m. Mondays, 11 a.m. to 1:50 p.m. Tuesdays and Wednesdays, noon to 1:50 p.m. Fridays, 4-5:50 p.m. Sundays. Days and times are subject to change, and you should contact the open skate line at (734) 455-6620 or visit www.ci.plymouth.mi.us online for the current schedule.

"Sundays, we get a lot of families," said Ron Baase, facility operations manager for the Cultural Center. "Sundays are extremely popular. We probably get a couple hundred on Sundays."

A few seniors come during the week, Baase said, as do some school groups on field trips. He's been on the job 12-13 years, and knows open skating goes way back: "Ever since the rink opened, probably."

Open skating is \$5 for adults,



Nina Dorigo, 5, takes a spill while skating with her mom, Michelle Dorigo.

PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

\$4 for kids up to age 15, \$4 for seniors 55 and up, with skate rental an additional \$2.

"A lot of people come in to stay in shape," Baase said of the city of Plymouth



Michelle Dorigo and daughter Nina Dorigo, 5 years old, skate at the city's Cultural Center.

Korowin said. "They compete for ice time."

An outdoor rink would probably be less expensive, he said. "I prefer having an indoor rink." You can still skate when it's 20 degrees below if indoors, Korowin said.

"They love it," he added of Roman and Nathan. Nathan wasn't much past his third birthday when he put on skates.

"When he fell, it wasn't that bad. They thoroughly enjoy being out there."

"They've got the fever of skating," Korowin added.

Erin Archambault of Plymouth Township appreciates the rink, where her kids, Michael and Corey, 18-year-old twins, used to skate.

"They did a lot when they were little. They loved it," she said of Michael, now at Johnson & Wales University in North Carolina and his sister at the University of Evansville in Indiana.

"We took advantage of the ice skating lessons and the open skate quite a bit," Erin Archambault said.

Recreation Department offering. "A great family activity."

Bryce Korowin noted the rink's particularly good for city residents as it's close. His work schedule keeps him away from weekday skating.

"Obviously, you've got a lot of kids who play hockey,"

BERG

FROM PAGE A1

"To say he was interested in the Fighting Irish was a tremendous understatement," Morand said.

Asked how a coming Notre Dame football season was shaping up, Berg would typically reply, "The schedule is murder," Morand said, drawing laughter.

He also once gave a cryptic response — "woosh" — when asked about a point guard on the Detroit St. Martin DePorres High School basketball team, Morand said. Michalak said Berg had expressed regret at

Christmastime when he didn't feel up to visiting St. Kenneth.

"We're very much going to miss him," Michalak said.

In addition to his nephew John and John's wife, Patricia, Rev. Berg is survived by two other nephews, Paul (Susan) and James Berg; a sister, Sister Barbara Berg of the Immaculate Heart of Mary order; a sister-in-law, Betsy Berg Jachman; and grandnieces and grandnephews. He was preceded in death by a brother, Emil.

Burial was to take place Friday at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery in Southfield.

Condolences may be sent to Sister Barbara Berg, IHM, 15603 Northline Road, Southgate, MI 48195.

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Ⓢ TAKEN (PG-13)
11:05, 1:15, 3:25, 5:35, 7:45, 9:55
FRI/SAT LS 12:00

Ⓢ THE UNINVITED (PG-13)
12:05, 2:10, 4:15, 6:50, 9:00
FRI/SAT LS 11:30

Ⓢ INKHEART (PG)
FRI-WED 11:25, 1:45, 4:05, 7:00
TH 11:25, 1:45, 4:05

HOTEL FOR DOGS (PG)
11:45, 2:05, 4:25, 6:45

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

DEFIANCE (R) 9:10

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

WED 11:00, 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 9:50

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

BEDTIME STORIES (PG) FRI-WED 9:20 PM

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Retirement new chapter for Plymouth librarian

BY JULIE BROWN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Friday was adult services librarian Ellen Stross' last day at the Plymouth District Library, but she'll be around to head up the Low Vision Support Group she started.

"I thought it was an appropriate thing to be doing," said Ann Arbor resident Stross, who was on the job 18 years at the library on Main Street. "It's a tremendous need."

Physicians are not giving information to patients as to how to handle sudden or gradual vision loss.

Stross, who earned her bachelor's and master of library science degrees from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, has plans.

"I'm going to read, something I haven't had time to do," said Stross, who's a bit sad about retirement, as she's enjoyed her work. "I love meeting the public. I love meeting with people individually." She's liked working with those of all ages.

Stross has a couple of unusual reference questions she's gleaned over the years. One man had a winter cruise planned, and wanted systems for successful gambling. "And he was very happy," she said.

Another patron was a mural painter who did work for Busch's markets as well as Ernesto's restaurant. "He wanted marvelous and unusual quotes about food," which were provided.

Stross and her husband, who's retired, have two grown children and two grandkids. "Traveling around the world we hope to continue," including seeing family, she said. Stross also hopes to play more tennis.

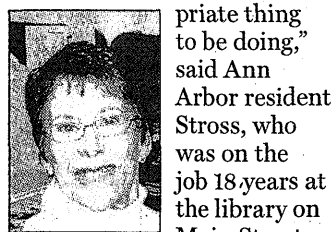
She's coordinated health-related programming at the library, including the vision support group which has met

for more than three years. She's proud that the library with community partners offers magnifying aids and devices for patrons with vision limitations.

Stross knew it would take some time to load up her car

Friday, and to say her good-byes to her professional home. "I have lots on my plate so I will be busy," she said. "It's an important part of my life," she added of the library.

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State Rep. Marc Corriveau, D-Northville
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Plymouth Mayor Phil Pursell
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Plymouth Township Supervisor Richard Reaume
Send correspondence to him at Plymouth Township Hall, 9955 N. Haggerty, Plymouth, MI 48170. Call his office at (734) 354-3200. E-mails can be sent via the township's Web site at www.plymouthtwp.org.

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

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

U.S. Rep. Thaddeus McCotter
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EDUCATION

Students leading Isbister on path to become 'Green School'

BY TONY BRUSCATO
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Students at Isbister Elementary are making others green with envy as they're well on their way to becoming Plymouth-Canton Schools first official Michigan Green School.

Green Team fourth- and fifth-graders are Isbister's leaders in energy-saving and environmental activities which are expected to result in an official Michigan Green School designation.

It started with a paper drive in the fall in which the recycling dumpster was filled three times in one day. And, once a month there's a contest among all grades to see which class has the most waste free lunches, ones that contain reusable sandwich containers and thermos bottles instead of throw-away plastic sandwich bags and drink boxes. The winning class gets possession of a traveling trophy made out of materials that would normally end up in a landfill - a cereal box, drink boxes, toilet paper rolls and a plastic 2-liter bottle.

"A lot more kids in the school bring waste-free lunches," said Maya Leisinger, 10, of Plymouth Township, a member of the Green Team who recycles everything she can at home. "Most of the landfills are mostly made out of plastic and paper, and it makes it bigger and bigger every time you throw something away. If you recycle, landfills become smaller and smaller because



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The use of reusable lunch containers like Maya Leisinger's helped Isbister students cut down on the amount of trash barrels filled from 5 to 1.

you are reducing the waste."

Projects underway at Isbister that will lead to the Green School designation include recycling of paper, visits by an ecological spokesperson, recycling batteries and participation by students in an ecology club - the Green Team. The construction of a wildlife habitat and building of bird houses in the spring will help get the needed 10 projects to earn the "green" designation.

"We recycle plastic water bottles, CDs, DVDs, batteries and Crocs shoes," said Lisa Dietz, the school's administration secretary who advises the Green Team with media specialist Becky Cole. "There's a company that will shred Crocs shoes and make new ones and send them to kids in countries that need shoes."

"We have a paper bin in each classroom, and in each of our three learning areas we have a bin for anything else that's recyclable," she said. "The kids on our Green Team empty them once a day and sort them in our bins before we dispose of them."

Students will vote soon on which animal to "adopt" at the Detroit Zoo, with the Green Team selecting a polar bear, tiger and gorilla as the choices.

"Me and my mom decided to go green because it helps global warming, and it reduces animals becoming endangered, like polar bears," said Isabella Bologna, 9, of Plymouth Township.

The Green Team will soon begin a campaign to get students and teachers to turn off lights in unused classrooms.

WHAT IS WASTE-FREE LUNCH?

- Start with a reusable lunchbox, backpack or briefcase. Avoid disposable plastic and paper bags.
- Pack your food in reusable containers. Avoid plastic bags, plastic wrap, aluminum foil and prepackaged foods whenever possible.
- Include a drink in a refillable bottle. Avoid single-use juice boxes, drink bottles and cans.
- Add reusable utensils. Eliminate disposable forks and spoons.
- Use a cloth napkin. Eliminate paper napkins.

"Me and my sister get mad at my brother and mom because they always leave the lights on," said Hannah Parent, 9, of Canton. "I usually go around and turn them off."

Lisa Bologna, Isabella's mother, said students are taking "going green" seriously.

"It's so encouraging that these kids are learning and making a difference in their families so that as they grow this will be their pattern," said Lisa Bologna. "If you plant the seed, the kids want to make a difference."

That difference has become very noticeable to Isbister's plant engineer, Matt Takesian.

"I think it's great," said Takesian. "We've cut our trash down two-thirds."

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

SCHOOL BRIEFS

Rouge friends award habitat to Smith

Smith Elementary School in Plymouth Township is benefitting from a decision by local non-profit organization Friends of the Rouge to implementing a Schoolyard Habitat program for the 2008-2009 school year.

Smith is one of three schools awarded habitats for the school year. The others are the Burger School for Students with Autism in Garden City and O.W. Holmes in Detroit.

The habitat program is focused on getting kids outside to learn by providing grants to create outdoor classrooms at local schools. Schoolyard habitats vary widely but usually incorporate four basic elements: food, water, shelter and space - all things required for plants and animals to survive. Habitats are used as multi-disciplinary teaching tools to enhance school curriculum and to teach children why having a healthy, clean environment, is important.

"Schoolyard habitats provide children with an opportunity to become environmental stewards," Friends of the Rouge spokesperson Brianna Knoppow said. "It is this type of place based learning we're working to expand within our educational communities."

The three schools selected to participate in the program this year are all located in the Rouge River watershed and were chosen through a competitive application process. Each school's grant includes \$500 to purchase native Michigan plants and another \$500 for expert assistance with implementing their project.

The Burger School for Students with Autism will be combining the creation of a garden with the conduction of a study on the effectiveness of regular sensory lessons with autistic students.

At Smith Elementary School, Principal Jill D. Cantin was thrilled to get the grant.

"We are are eager to transform a vacant area of our school grounds into a vibrant habitat that will benefit the environment and provide hands-on education for our students," Cantin said. "With the support from the Friends of the Rouge, we look forward to working as a team with the teachers, the students, the parents, and the community to develop a schoolyard habitat that can be used as an outdoor classroom and be enjoyed by the entire community."

The program has been made possible by the Rouge River National Wet Weather Demonstration Project.

Principal honored

Susan Kelty, the principal of Bird Elementary School in the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools, received the Regional Honors Award at the Michigan Elementary and Middle School Principals Association annual conference.

Kelty is in her second year at Bird. She previously served seven years as a learning specialist at Miller Elementary and five years as an elementary principal in the Wayne-Westland District. In all, she has taught in five different states and four districts here in Michigan.

"I was delighted (to get the award) but it's a very humbling experience," said Kelty, a past president of MEMSPA Region I, which covers Wayne County. "There are many, many fine principals everywhere in Wayne County. We're all working every day to do what's best for kids. I can think of many of them who deserve this award."



Kelty

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- Scholarships Earned: \$5.2 million

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www.divinechildhighschool.org

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

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 Chautauqua 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.

Blood drives

NorthRidge Church hosts a blood drive 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 28.

It's one of several the church has scheduled in 2009. The others: April 5, July 25 and Oct. 24.

Donors can register to give online at www.givelife.org and enter NorthRidge in Step One (sponsor code) or call (800) GIVELIFE (1.800.448.3543).

Plymouth Democrats

The second meeting of the Plymouth Democrats takes place 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 26, at the Plymouth District Library. More than 50 people attended the first meeting last month.

The group hopes to fill four positions on the interim board, and offer committee sign-ups at this meeting. RSVP to PlymouthDemocrats@gmail.com if you plan to attend.

On Target seminar

Chris Johnson presents an On Target Living Seminar 7-9 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 10 at the Plymouth Cultural Center located at 525 Farmer.

Johnson helps people improve the quality of their lives by making one small change at a time - small

changes that yield large improvements for both people and the organization. This workshop is made possible through the combined efforts of Downtown Plymouth Merchants: Core Sport Pilates Fitness Studio, Gabriela's and Center for Plymouth Wellness.

The On-Target Living presentations will include Achieving Balance, Energy and Vitality; Hitting the Mark with Nutrition; Hitting the Mark with Fitness; and Living for Executives.

Johnson is an adjunct professor in both the College of Osteopathic Medicine and the College of Education at Michigan State University. He is the author of Meal Planning - Developing Healthy Nutritional Patterns for a Lifetime. Chris has been featured in the Wall Street Journal and Runner's World Magazine.

For more information about On Target Living - Achieving Balance, Energy & Vitality through Nutrition and Fitness contact Chris Johnson at (517) 339-6909 or visit www.ontargetliving.com.

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

New Morning open house

New Morning School hosts its February open house and student museum Saturday, Feb. 8.

The school, a pre-K through eighth-grade parent cooperative operating since 1973, hosts the open house 1-2 p.m., and the student museum 2-4 p.m.

Families are welcome. To



Period piece

The 5th Michigan Regiment Band performs at the Plymouth District Library 3 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 8. Directed by Lieutenant Colonel Guy Smith, the 5th Michigan Regiment Band is an historical recreation of the 1861 Band of the 5th Michigan Volunteer Infantry. The band's musical repertoire includes popular marches, polkas, schottisches, and waltzes that were played on both sides of the Mason-Dixon line. Music is performed on period antique and replica Saxhorns and rope tension wooden drums. This performance represents the library's musical recognition of the 200th anniversary of Lincoln's birthday and is funded in part by Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs and Michigan Humanities Council. Registration is requested by phone at (734) 453-0750, Ext.4, or on-line at plymouthlibrary.org.

register or find out more about the school, visit the Web site at www.newmorningschool.com or call (734) 420-3331.

DAR meets

The Daughters of the American Revolution-DAR-Sarah Ann Cochrane Chapter meets 10:30 a.m. Monday, Feb. 16, at the Plymouth Historical Museum, 155 S. Main in Plymouth.

The program will feature a tour of the Lincoln Room and "A look at Lincoln after 200 years, with speaker Gary Packer, member of the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Committee for the State of Michigan.

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

DIA lecture series

The Plymouth Community Arts Council presents an installment of the DIA Lecture Series with an evening lecture at the Plymouth District Library, 223 S. Main, 7 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 4.

The topic of the lecture is

"The Beauty of Bronze"

The PCAC also presents a Brown-Bag lecture at the Joanne Winkleman Hulce Center for the Arts, 774 N. Sheldon.

The topic is Life After Death, and the lecture starts at noon.

The lectures are free. For more information, visit the Web site at www.plymoutharts.com or call (734) 416-4278.

Prisoner family support

Do you have a family member currently in prison? Do you feel alone? Do you wish you had a support group that you could turn to?

If you answered "yes" to any of these questions, then this support group is for you. Contact Bonnie at (734) 646-2237 or e-mail hope4healing@rocketmail.com for more information. This support group is to provide adult family members with support and a place to talk with others that have experienced similar pain. Meetings are free and run

6:30-8:30 p.m., the second Monday of every month at Kirk of Our Savior, 36660 Chery Hill, Westland.

Plakas investiture

The investiture of James A. Plakas as judge of the 35th District Court will be held at 5 p.m., on Wednesday, Feb. 4, at The Inn at St. John's, Grande Ballroom, 44045 Five Mile Road, Plymouth Township. A reception will immediately follow. Judges are asked to bring their robes. The public is welcome. For more information, call (734) 414 0600.

Crafters wanted

The Plymouth-Canton Music Boosters host their annual Spring Arts and Crafts Ensemble Saturday, March 14.

Exhibitors who hand-craft their own items are invited to submit an application to exhibit at the fund-raising event to be held at Plymouth High School in Canton. The juried art event is produced twice each year by the PCMB to help support the band and color guard programs at the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park.

Artists and crafters who are interested in applying for consideration to exhibit should visit www.pcm.net/artcraft to download an application and submit with photos by early February or contact Carol Rosati at (734) 455-0714. Only 100 exhibitors will be permitted to exhibit at this event.

Plymouth High School is located at 8400 Beck Road in Canton. The Spring Arts & Craft Ensemble will be held 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. March 14. In addition to over 100 exhibits, there will be food, a raffle, and entertainment by local musicians and artists throughout the day. Admission is \$2.

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 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/classof/2009/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/classof/2009/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.

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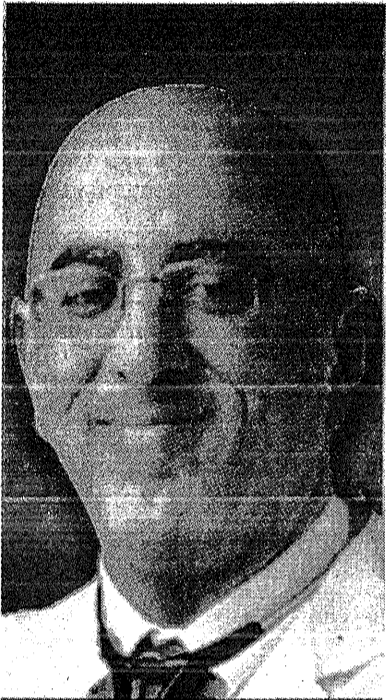
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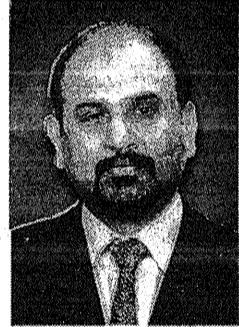
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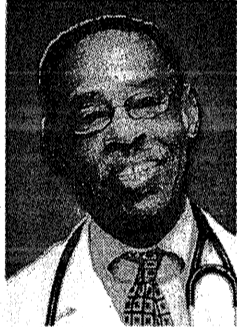
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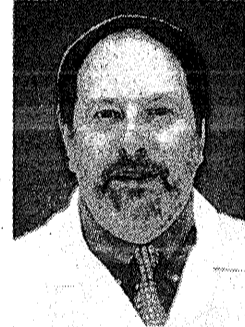
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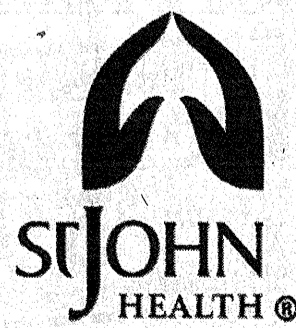
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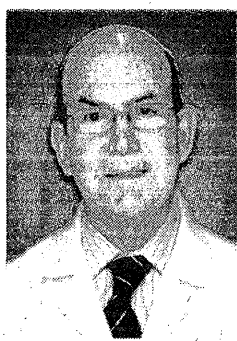
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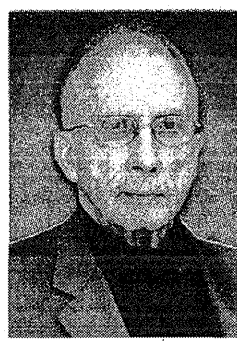
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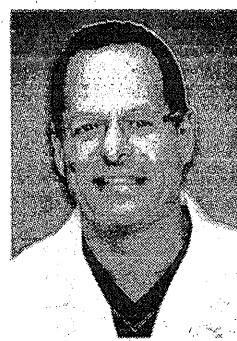
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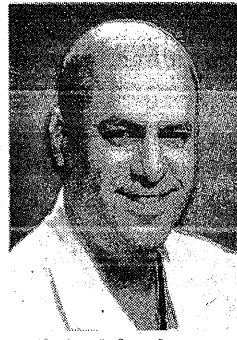
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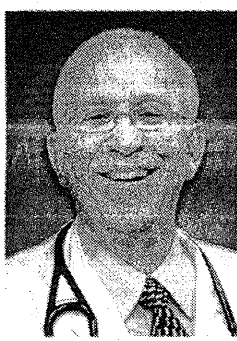
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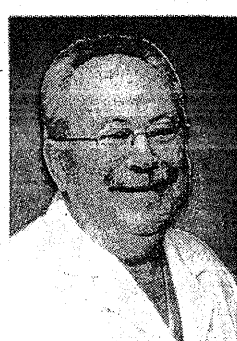
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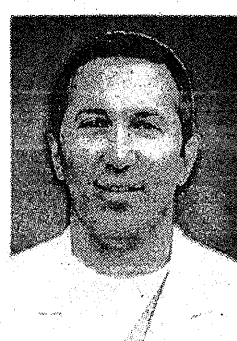
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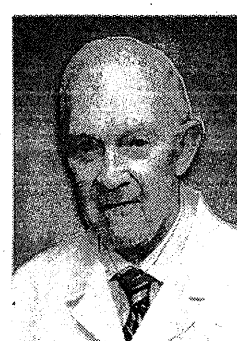
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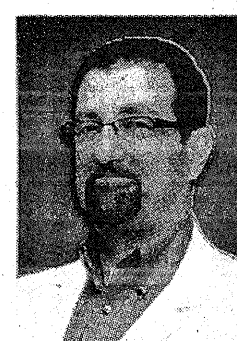
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BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

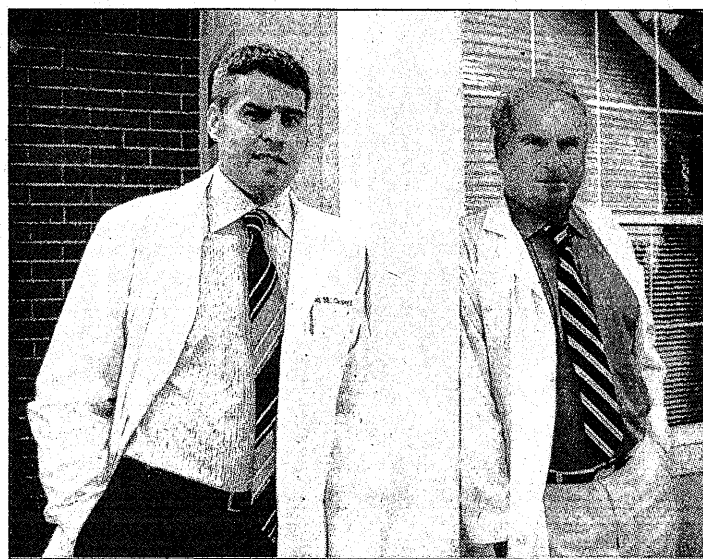
When Dr. Brian M. Carney took the reigns for his family business, Benchmark Optical in Plymouth, he carried on a tradition four generations in the making.

Benchmark Optical grew out of a watch and jewelry business spearheaded around 1897 by Carney's great-grandfather Charles Draper. According to family records Draper holds one of the very first optometric licenses in Michigan. Though he initially started the business in South Lyon, Draper re-located to Plymouth, and opened shop in the building current residents might recognize as the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home on Main Street. Plymouth was where the family stayed, and remains deeply rooted.

Though the time of the horse and buggy is long gone, the Draper family remained in the business. Draper's daughter, Winifred Carney wed Dr. Elmore L. Carney, and he continued on in the practice, eventually moving it from Main Street to Penniman Ave. In 1972 when their son James Carney joined the team, yet another move placed Benchmark Optical back where it stands today, at 1358 S. Main Street.

James Carney said he thought of the work as "a nice job" and one where he might "help people while they're not sick." His son Brian Carney joked that he "had no choice," when it came to a career. But smiling all the while he said he imagines one of his three daughters might also follow in his footsteps someday. He and wife Lisa met while working in the field of optometry. They are parents to Lily, Celia and Mia.

"I started as an apprentice in 1996," said Brian Carney. He'd come in one day a week. While he also gained experience working for various optometry chains. But it seemed a natural decision, once his father retired in July, to take over the



Brian and James Carney have helped keep Benchmark Optical in the family for four generations.

business. He is keeping an eye on the future as the industry continues to take advantage of technological advancements.

The Carney family is well-known throughout their hometown of Plymouth.

James Carney said he treated grandchildren of his patients before he retired. It was those strong ties that he liked most about the business. Clients have become friends.

The business has grown by word-of-mouth, said Brian Carney. And, his father added, they are known for the quality of materials they offer.

"We don't go the low route," he said. The business also offers hours to cater to busy professionals. Benchmark Optical is open 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday, Thursday and Friday, and 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Tuesday and 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday. They offer everything from eye exams and diagnosis to contact lens or frame selection to co-management for laser or cataract surgeries.

The Carney family has also seen its share of advancements in the field, over the years. Brian Carney said the materials have changed dramatically. "It's ever-changing," he said. "I pride myself on having the best stuff around."

Brian Carney said when his father was practicing bi-

focals showed distortion off to the sides, making peripheral vision a challenge.

Newer lenses have corrected such problems. Glasses have scratch-resistant and special coatings for extra protection, something that didn't exist decades ago.

And even contact lenses are now able to correct vision near and far at once. "Lenses are high-definition," Brian Carney. With materials like silicone, eyes can breathe easier and be healthier while users correct their vision problems. "I get really excited about the new stuff," said Brian Carney.

And the increase in use of computers has posed challenges to vision correction. "There are special lenses for computer users," said Brian Carney. "There is a lot of eye strain," added his father, James. "We have them wear safety glasses."

But not everything has changed. James Carney said optometrists still encounter children who are hesitant to wear their glasses to school.

But for adults, Lisa Carney said, choosing the right pair of glasses is like choosing just the right fashion accessory. "People care about what they look like," she said. "They're really a reflection of who you are."

For more information, call Benchmark Optical at (734) 453-6190.

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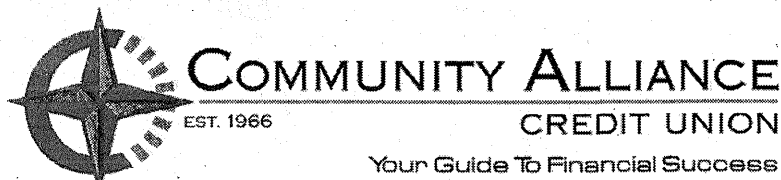
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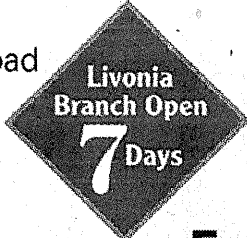
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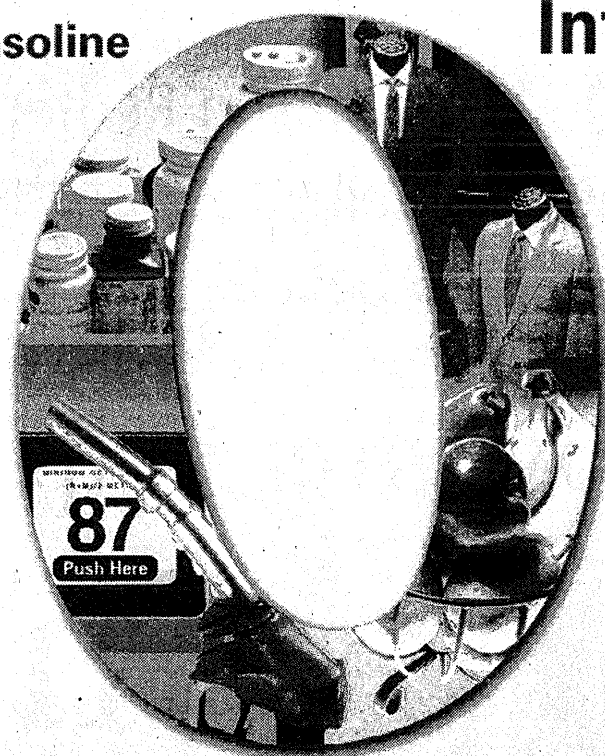
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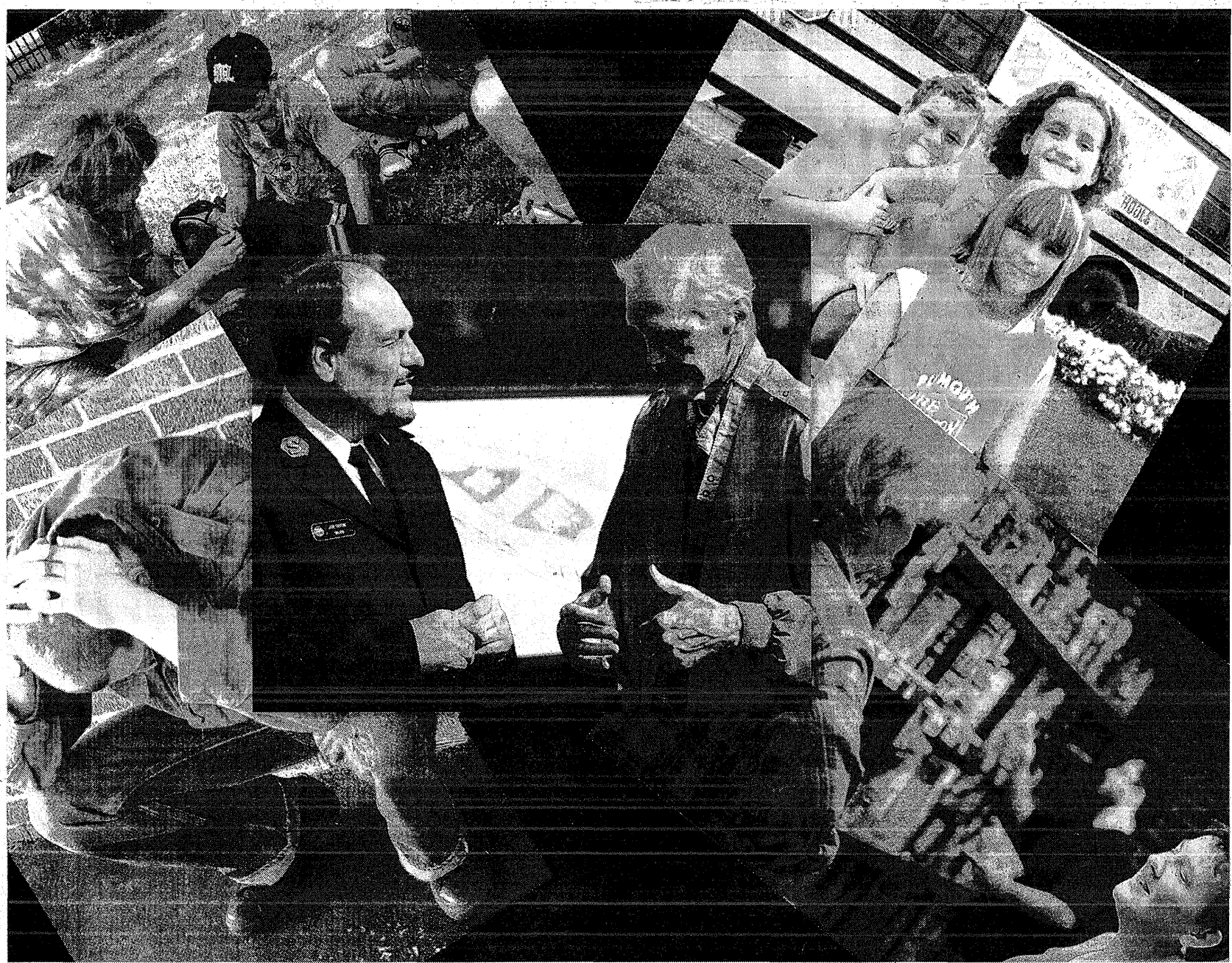
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CDs, annuity may be best for an anxious investor

I am very troubled by the economy and the stock market. I don't have confidence that the new administration will be able to solve the problems and I don't think things will get better anytime soon. I respect your opinion. I want to know what I should do with cash. I have sold all my stocks and I am looking for something guaranteed for at least another five to six years. What do you recommend?



Money Matters
Rick Bloom

a discipline during these times.

I hope, as I assume all Americans do, that the new economic team can work through our difficulties to put the economy back on solid ground. I have confidence in the American people and ultimately, it is the American people who will bring us out of this crisis.

No matter what, investors should never invest in anything they do not

feel comfortable with and that applies to stocks. I would not recommend stocks for you. There are, however, a couple different investments with no principle fluctuation that can offer positive returns. The first is the old-fashioned certificate of deposit (CD). Certificates of deposit are sold through banks, are federally insured and will give you a guaranteed rate of return. You can shop five- or seven-year CDs around the country. A good Web site to use is www.bankrate.com. The key in buying a CD is to use a federally insured institution. Bankrate.com only provides information regarding federally insured institutions. In

addition, since you do not need the income from the CD and you will be rolling over the interest, the rate to focus on is the *effective rate of return*. The other investment vehicle to consider is a traditional-fixed or equity-indexed annuity. Both are insured up to \$100,000 and have no principal fluctuations. The one advantage an annuity has over a CD is it grows tax deferred. Taxes are paid when the money is withdrawn. Unfortunately, it is not as easy to buy an annuity. They are more complex and you cannot buy them directly through the insurance company. You must go through a

representative of the company. I recommend Hutton Financial, (800) 870-4444. We are in difficult times and no one knows when things will turn around. However, as hard as this may sound, as investors it is important we don't let short-term comfort cause long-term pain.

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

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Madonna offers Chinese students new degree

Increasing campus diversity with international programs has been a top priority at Madonna University.

The recently approved China 3+1 business bachelor's degree program will enable Chinese students to attend Madonna, successfully complete their bachelor's degree and experience American life and culture.

The majority of Chinese students earn a three-year degree with a concentration in a specific major, based on the British model for higher education. Madonna University will offer these students an opportunity to complete the fourth-year of their education

and earn a bachelor's degree in applied management or applied technology.

"There is stiff competition in China for educational programs beyond the three-year degree," said William McMillan, business professor and 3+1 program director. "These highly-respected business programs will prepare students for China's expanding, yet fiercely competitive employment market, where a four-year Western degree is valued."

McMillan and other Madonna officials believe the China 3+1 program not only will benefit Chinese students, but also other Madonna students.

"Madonna University prepares students to be successful in a global society, where the workplace is characterized by diversity and international linkages," said Ernest Nolan, vice president for academic administration. "By increasing campus diversity, the University will enrich the educational experience of all its students and create opportunities for intercultural communication and understanding."

Currently, Madonna University is recruiting throughout China, so as to have students begin the program this summer. The Chinese students will live on Madonna's

campus in Livonia for a year taking courses specifically designed to educate them on American culture and business.

New courses added for the China 3+1 program include: Orientation to American Higher Education; American Culture through Literature, Music and Art; Science and Social Responsibility; and Advanced Reading and Writing for Business. To aid in their success, the students are tested on their English skills before being accepted into the program and are offered English as a Second Language (ESL) classes the summer before their courses begin and throughout.

Madonna University offers film boot camp Feb. 7

Members of the community can train for jobs in Michigan's burgeoning film industry at Madonna University during "Production Algebra/Production Assistant (P.A.) Boot Camp," offered through the Michigan Production

Alliance (MPA). The unique workshop, hosted by the Madonna University Broadcast Club, is 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 7.

The P.A. Boot Camp will provide more than just an overview of what is expected of production assistants on

both film and video sets. MPA instructor Mark Adler will engage students with demonstrations, hands-on activities, form usage exercises, and give a review of set/client etiquette. Students will gain job search tips from a panel of production profes-

sionals during an informative discussion on local production companies, unions and film organizations, and the resources they offer.

"Those who attend the workshop will gain valuable skills and credentials that will help prepare them to work in Michigan's growing movie industry," said Charles Derry, director of Broadcast and Cinema Arts at Madonna University.

The P.A. Boot Camp takes place at Madonna University's main campus in Livonia, room 1605, located at 36600 Schoolcraft Road, at the intersection of Levan and Schoolcraft Roads, off I-96. The cost is \$40 for general admission and \$35 for students. For more information, contact Mark Adler at (313) 447-0566. Register and pay online at www.mpami.org.

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P.S. Treatment of periodontal (gum) disease has previously been linked to better control of other systemic disease, including cardiovascular disease and diabetes.

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Local family uses march to take a stand

BY BRAD KADRICH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Jeanne Stevenson of Plymouth Township rode a bus with her 11-year-old son, Dillon, and some 50 others from Our Lady of Good Counsel and Spiritus Sanctus Academy in Plymouth Township to Washington for the 2009 March for Life pro-life walk to the Supreme Court building.

On another bus, daughter Sophie Stevenson rode with some 50 students from Madonna University in Livonia.

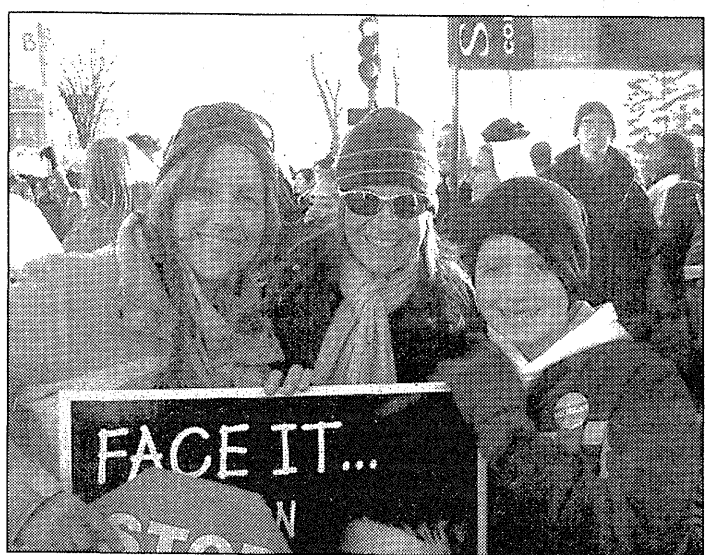
When they got there, they joined - if organizers' estimates are correct - some 300,000 people in what would be the largest crowd of marchers since the event was organized for the first march in January 1974. The march is designed to promote Right to Life causes, and protest abortions. The first march was made less than a year after the Roe vs. Wade Supreme Court decision.

It's the second time Jeanne Stevenson attended the march, and she was thrilled to take her son.

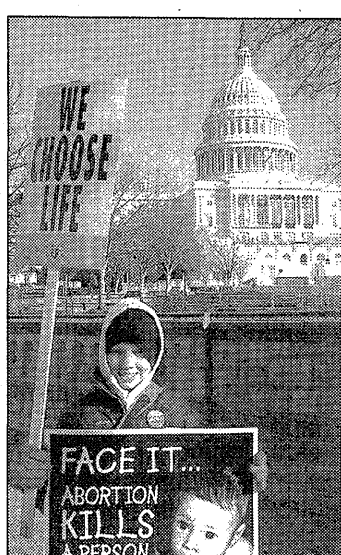
"Dillon was so excited and felt so strongly that he wanted to go," Jeanne Stevenson said. "I promised him last year I would take him this year, and it was a fabulous experience."

Jeanne Stevenson said the family attended the march to "help speak for the unborn." She said it was not a religious issue for her, but rather a "matter of reason and of science."

"These are persons that we need to take care of and not allow them to be killed," she said. "The Declaration of Independence says all men are created equal, endowed by their creator with certain unalienable rights, including



Jeanne Stevenson (left) and her son Dillon (right) with fellow Our Lady of Good Counsel parishioner Angela Maile of Novi at the March for Life.



Dillon Stevenson, 11, near the Capitol Building in Washington, D.C.



Madonna University in Livonia sent a contingent to the March for Life.

life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. If we don't have the right to life, then none of the

other rights matter." Dillon Stevenson wanted to attend last year's march, but

family circumstances made it impossible. There was some question about whether he'd

Father, son put on show to fight homelessness

BY KEN ABRAMCZYK
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Patrick Elliott first learned about homelessness while he was attending Divine Child High School.

He took trips with classmates to St. Aloysius in Detroit to see firsthand the destitute conditions surrounding the poor and homeless.

Even attending Tiger games he would see the homeless. "It's sad," Elliott said. "My dad and I talked, asking 'What can we do?'"

Four years ago, Patrick and his father, Dr. Gregory Elliott, both of Livonia, started Hilarity for Charity, a comedy show fund-raiser, with proceeds to help St. Aloysius' community outreach program.

Comics will take the stage at this year's event at 8 p.m. Friday, Feb. 6, at the Village Theatre in Canton, 50400 Cherry Hill (at Ridge Road).

The show features headliner



Musical comedian Dan Orr will do parodies similar to Weir Al Yankovic at Hilarity for Charity at 8 p.m. Friday, Feb. 6, at the Village Theatre in Canton.

Paul Kelly and special guest Dan Orr. Patrick's uncle, Jerry Elliott, who hosts the radio show "Wags and Elliott" on a Columbus, Ohio, radio station, will host the event.

Patrick Elliott, a 22-year-old marketing student at the University of Michigan-

Dearborn, and his father, a dentist in Farmington Hills, developed the show to create awareness of homelessness in Detroit. Just days ago, a newspaper published a photo of a man who froze to death inside a block of ice.

"It's really bad right now," Patrick said of homelessness. "St. Aloysius works with drug addicts in their programs, and they have a warming center and soup kitchen." All of the proceeds go to the outreach program, 100 percent to helping the homeless, Elliott said.

They chose the Village Theatre in Canton because "we just love the theater," Elliott said. "It's beautiful and (Canton arts coordinator) Jennifer Tobin does a great job."

Elliott describes Dan Orr as a musical comedian, who

does parodies similar to Weir Al Yankovic. Paul Kelly, of Chicago, features a show of comedy surrounding family life. Elliott, who is a filmmaker too, will show his short film of kids and comedy.

Doors open at 7 p.m. The event features free appetizers before the show and a cash bar. Tickets are \$40 for adults and \$25 for students. Tickets can be purchased by visiting the Village Theatre Web site at www.canton-mi.org/villageheater, visiting the Summit at the Park ticket office, 46000 Summit Parkway (located south of Cherry Hill, west of Canton Center Road) in Canton, or by calling Elliott's dental office at (248) 473-2000. Major credit cards, cash or checks are accepted.

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make this year's event, but in the end took the bus ride to Washington D.C. with his mom.

He was happy to go, and even happier to see the turnout.

"This was my first chance to stand up for what I believe in," Dillon said. "I didn't imagine there'd be as many people. So many people in America like abortion, I was happy to see how many people put that day aside to stand up for pro-life causes."

Sophie Stevenson, 19, a student at Madonna University in Livonia, made the trip

for the fourth time. Like her brother, Sophie believes life begins at conception and that abortion is a way of killing children.

She believes it's important to stand up against that.

"I think it's such an important cause, it's a human child that's being murdered in an abortion," Sophie said. "It's something our country doesn't even realize. It's important to show this is a human life. Under our Constitution we protect human life. Abortion is a contradiction to that."

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SECTION B
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Ed Wright, editor, (313) 222-2047
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Women unite to open cat rescue shelter - Neighbors, B6

SPORTS, HEALTH & FITNESS, NEIGHBORS

HOMETOWN LIFE



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The senior-less Canton's girls basketball team has raced to a 10-2 record this season. Pictured are (front row from left) Robyn Mack, Ciara Williams, (back row from left) CarolAnn Sexauer, Melanie Pickert, Kelly Larimore, Sara Schmitt, Kayla Bridges, Alyssa Cottrell, Kari Schmitt, Yuki Krolicki and Lindsey Winters.

GAME WRAPS

Chief girls dominate

Canton's girls basketball team surged to a 29-4 first-quarter lead before handing visiting Wayne Memorial at 73-16 setback Friday night in the Phase III gymnasium.

The victory improved the Chiefs' record to 10-2 overall and 3-1 in the Kensington Lakes Activities Association's South Division. The Zebras plummeted to 2-10 and 0-4, respectively.

Canton led 49-7 at the half and 60-7 with eight minutes to play.

"The girls came out and played hard and we did a nice job executing our offense," said Canton coach Brian Samulski. "All 11 girls on the roster contributed and scored, which was nice."

Canton was led by Kari Schmitt, who tallied 11 points, six rebounds and five steals. Kayla Bridges and Alyssa Cottrell netted 10 points each while Kelly Larimore poured in a season-high eight points.

Allie Coleman led the Zebras with six points.

Canton made 4 of 5 free throws. Wayne was 2 for 4 from the stripe.

Whalers triumph, 5-3

Ryan Hayes scored twice, Matt Caria, RJ Mahalak and Tyler Seguin scored singles and goaltender Matt Hackett stopped 39 shots as the Plymouth Whalers built a 5-1 lead into the third period and withstood a late Sarnia rally to defeat the Sting, 5-3, in an Ontario Hockey League game played Wednesday evening at Compuware Arena.

Steve Ferry (7th), Mark Katic (8th) and Justin DiBenedetto (34th) replied for Sarnia.

Following the game, Plymouth (23-21-5-0, 51 points) was two points behind Sarnia (24-20-2-3) for fifth spot in the OHL's Western Conference playoff race.

PCA cagers win big

Freshman center Kristin Malcolm played like a senior in the Plymouth Christian Academy girls basketball team's 52-43 victory over visiting Detroit Urban Lutheran Friday night.

Malcolm netted 12 points, 10 rebounds and five blocks for the Eagles, who led 28-20 at the half and 39-32 with eight minutes to play.

Jessica Murphy (11 points) and Megan Greve (eight) also played well for PCA.

Brenna Draper scored 15 to lead Urban Lutheran.

PCA coach Carol Gerulis praised the play of Autumn McKenzie, who grabbed 10 offense rebounds and scored six points.

So young, so good

Senior-less Chiefs thrive thanks to chemistry and gritty play

My pre-season expectations for this season's Canton's girls basketball team were about as high as my vertical leap, which on a good day can barely clear two telephone books stacked atop one another.

My modest forecast for the Chiefs was formed by a combination of factors: They were just a year removed from a 6-15 season, their leading scorer had graduated, they

had no seniors on their roster and their December schedule was as daunting as

the Pittsburgh Steelers' defense.

On a positive note, a majority of the players on this year's roster starred on last season's 20-0 junior varsity team, so they knew how to win.

However, the leap from JV to varsity is comparable to jumping from long-division math to advanced-placement calculus overnight.

For coach Brian Samulski, I figured the early phase of this season would be kind of like buckling up his seatbelt on a 747 as it taxied down the runway and hearing an announcement on the intercom that went something like this:

"Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. This is your pilot speaking. My crew and

I have never been in a plane this big, let alone fly one, but don't worry — we kicked butt in the flight simulators."

Cool, calm and confident

But as I talked to Samulski in November while collecting information for a preview story, he couldn't have sounded less like a nervous, white-knuckle flier.

In fact, I noted a calm, confident tone in his voice.

I sensed he had a feeling this young, sophomore-led team would not only get off the runway, but that it would soar.

Please see **WRIGHT, B3**

ALL ABOUT THE CHIEFS

Record through Friday: 10-2 overall, 3-1 in the KLAA South;

Roster make-up: 5 juniors, 5 sophomores, 1 freshman;

Significant team stats: Through 10 games, Canton outscored its foes by an average score of 45.8 to 35.2 and outrebounded them 31-25;

Vital individual stats: Sophomore forward Kari Schmitt leads the team in both scoring (11.4) and rebounding (8.5); sophomore guard Melanie Pickert leads in both steals (2.8) and deflections (2.1);

Double-duty: All 11 players on the Chiefs' roster play at least two sports.

Salem icers run on all cylinders against 'Cats

BY ED WRIGHT
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

With their forwards executing with the precision of surgeons and goalie Adam Powers numbing Plymouth's offense like an anesthesiologist, Salem's hockey team skated away with a 5-1 triumph over the Wildcats Friday night at Compuware Arena.

The Rocks' fourth consecutive victory elevated their record to 9-6-3 overall and 2-1-2 in the Kensington Lakes Activities Association's South Division. Plymouth slipped to 10-6-2 overall.

Salem jolted the Wildcats with four goals in the game's opening 5:32 and was never threatened thereafter.

The winners scored on their first two shots and on three of their first five.

Always steady, Powers was

spectacular at times, knocking away 20 of 21 shots.

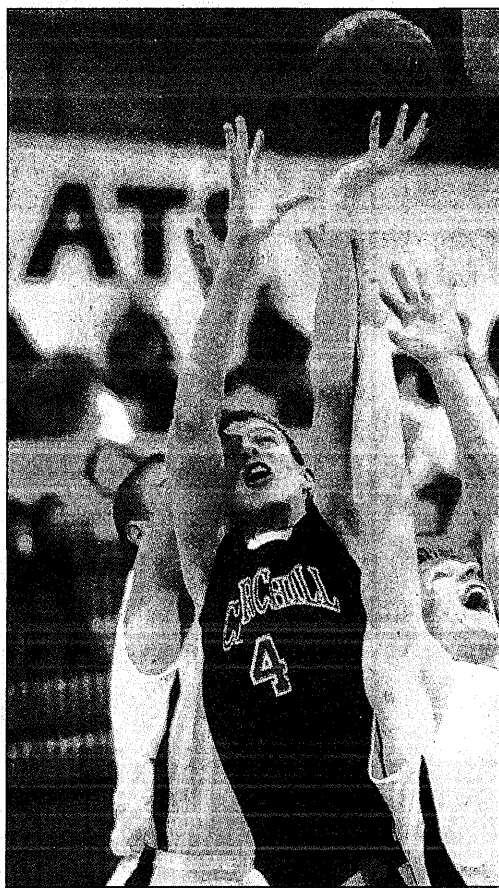
The Rocks outshot their hosts, 26-21.

"The size of the ice surface plays to our strength since we have a strong skating team," said Salem coach Ryan Ossennmacher, analyzing his team's fast start. "We were able to move the puck well tonight and the larger surface gave us more time to react."

"Adam played very well. He's getting stronger as the season goes on. He's probably the most athletic goalie I've seen at this level this year."

The cheers from the "National Anthem" had barely subsided before Salem bolted to a 2-0 lead on goals from Kurt Driscoll, who was assisted by Josh Jarvela and Kenneth Novak; and Sam Ott, who whistled a shot through

Please see **ICERS, B2**



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Plymouth's Brennen Beyer (42) battles Churchill's Adam Bedell for a rebound during Friday night's overtime victory for the Wildcats.

Super sophs pace Plymouth victory

BY ED WRIGHT
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Plymouth's boys basketball team used a "soph" touch to upend Livonia Churchill Friday night.

A trio of Wildcat sophomores — Justin Moss, Dan Nadratowski and Brennen Beyer — combined for 46 points in Plymouth's 66-57 overtime triumph over the visiting Chargers.

The win boosted Plymouth's record to 6-4 overall and 2-2 in the Kensington Lakes Activities Association's South Division. The Chargers dropped to 4-5 and 1-3, respectively.

Moss led the way with a monster game that included 23 points and 18 rebounds. Nadratowski added 12 points while Beyer notched 11.

The winners also received key contributions from seniors Cliff Buttermore (11 points) and Brad Lineberry, who tallied seven points, seven assists and six rebounds.

Four Churchill players reached the double-digit scoring plateau: Adam Bedell (15), Scott Senczysny (11 points) Ryan Woods (10) and Tony Frezzell (10).

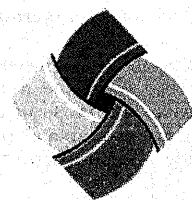
The Chargers raced to a 22-13 halftime lead before the Wildcats narrowed the gap to 30-27 at

Please see **PLYMOUTH, B3**

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Unbeaten Lions toppled by Stone

BY ED WRIGHT
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The South Lyon girls basketball team's aspirations for a perfect season were deflated by a Stone Friday night.

Salem's Sara Stone enjoyed a career night against the Lions, tallying 19 points, nine rebounds and six assists to lead the Rocks to a 48-32 triumph over previously unbeaten South Lyon.

The victory was a pivotal one for the 5-7 Rocks, who remained in the thick of the Kensington Lakes Activities Association's Central Division race by improving their division mark to 3-1, the same as the Lions. Novi sits atop the standings with a 4-0 record. "We played as well tonight as we've played all year,"

PREP GIRLS HOOPS

emphasized Salem coach Fred Thomann. "We had a good week of practice leading up to this game and it seems like we're starting to get into a rhythm."

"I thought we played really well Tuesday against Novi, but we didn't quite finish."

The difference-making quarter Friday night was the second when Salem outscored their visitors 18-3 to seize a 26-10 halftime lead. The teams battled to a 22-all draw over the final 16 minutes, which was just fine with Salem.

Joining Stone in the major-contributions category for Salem were Victoria Brotz (11 points, five assists),

Chelsea Davis (eight points, 10 rebounds) and Rachel Norman, who scored six points while playing 12 stellar first-half minutes while Davis sat out with foul trouble.

Thomann also praised the play of Brett deBear and Tracy Whalen. deBear chipped in with four points and five assists while Whalen provided four rebounds and a shut-down defensive effort on South Lyon leading scorer Danielle Gotham, who stands 6-foot-3.

"I thought Sara and Brett did a great job handling South Lyon's full-court pressure," said Thomann. "They helped us get a number of open looks."

Salem made 1 of its three free throws. South Lyon was 13 for 20 from the charity stripe.

ewright@hometownlife.com | (734) 578-2767

Running game sparks Wildcats' win

BY ED WRIGHT
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Plymouth's girls basketball team offset a height disadvantage with a speed advantage Friday night at Livonia Churchill.

The Wildcats improved their record to 4-8 overall and 2-2 in the Kensington Lakes Activities South Division by running whenever the opportunity presented itself.

"We more of an up-tempo game tonight," said Plymouth

coach Ted Sturdivant, whose team overcame a 19-16 half-time deficit with a 25-point second half. "We were able to get out on our break and key times in the game and push the ball."

"I thought Churchill played a good game as well. Every time we managed to get a little lead, they powered their way back into it."

Senior guard Kelsi Robinson led the winners with 12 points, half of which were the result of a pair of triples.

Senior forward Shaakira Haywood contributed 10 points and 10 rebounds while Troi Davis netted six points.

Plymouth's Stacey Klonowski scored just two points, but she hauled down a game-high 11 boards.

Alysa Boldiszar paced the Chargers with 11 points. Boldiszar knocked down three three-point shots.

Plymouth connected on 8 of 15 free throws. Churchill hit half of their six freebies.

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THE WEEK AHEAD

BOYS PREP BASKETBALL
Tuesday, Feb. 3
Wayne Memorial at Plymouth, 7 p.m.
Trillium Academy at Agape, 6 p.m.
John Glenn at Canton, 7 p.m.
South Lyon East at Salem, 7 p.m.
Thursday, Feb. 5
Northville at Salem, 7 p.m.
Friday, Feb. 6
John Glenn at Plymouth, 7 p.m.
Agape at Huron Valley, 7:30 p.m.
Livonia Franklin at Canton
Oakland Christian at PCA, 8:30 p.m.
GIRLS PREP BASKETBALL
Tuesday, Feb. 3
PCA at Roeper, 7 p.m.
Agape at Franklin Rd., 7 p.m.
Canton at John Glenn, 7 p.m.
Plymouth at Wayne Memorial, 7 p.m.
Salem at South Lyon East, 7 p.m.
Thursday, Feb. 5
Salem at Northville, 7 p.m.
Friday, Feb. 6
Oakland Christian at PCA, 7 p.m.
Agape at Huron Valley, 4 p.m.
Canton at Franklin, 7 p.m.
Plymouth at John Glenn, 7 p.m.
GIRLS PREP HOCKEY
Tuesday, Feb. 3
Country Day at PCS at Arctic Edge, 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Feb. 4
PCS at Grosse Pointe North at Grosse Pointe Civic Arena, 7 p.m.
BOYS PREP HOCKEY
Tuesday, Feb. 3
Canton at Riverview Gab. Richard, 7 p.m.
Thursday, Feb. 5
South Lyon at Plymouth at Compuware Ice Arena, 6:10 p.m.
Friday, Feb. 6
Salem at Canton at Arctic Edge, 8:30 p.m.
PREP WRESTLING
Wednesday, Feb. 4
Canton at Plymouth Quad, 5:30 p.m.
Salem at Northville Quad, 5:30 p.m.
Friday, Feb. 6
Canton, Plymouth at KLA Quad, 5:30 p.m.
KLA Quad at Salem, 5:30 p.m.
BOYS SWIMMING
Tuesday, Feb. 3
Canton at Salem, 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday, Feb. 4
Wayne Memorial at Plymouth, 6:30 p.m.
Thursday, Feb. 5
John Glenn at Canton, 6:30 p.m.
South Lyon East at Salem, 6:30 p.m.
Saturday, Feb. 7
Plymouth at Woodhaven Invitational, TBA
PREP GYMNASTICS
Monday, Feb. 2
Farmington at Canton

at Plymouth, 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday, Feb. 4
Canton at Plymouth, 6:30 p.m.
Salem at Walled Lake Maroon at Walled Lake Central, 6:30 p.m.
Saturday, Feb. 7
Canton Invitational at Plymouth High School, 10 a.m.
MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
Wednesday, Feb. 4
Madonna at Cornerstone, 7:30 p.m.
Flint Mott CC at Schoolcraft, 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, Feb. 7
Siena Heights at Madonna, 3 p.m.
Schoolcraft at Kirtland CC, 3 p.m.
WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
Wednesday, Feb. 4
Madonna at Siena Heights, 3 p.m.
Cornerstone at Madonna, 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, Feb. 7
Schoolcraft at Kirtland CC, 1 p.m.
Madonna at Siena Heights, 3 p.m.
ONTARIO HOCKEY LEAGUE
Friday, Feb. 6
Owen Sound at Plymouth (Compuware), 7 p.m.
Saturday, Feb. 7
Belleville at Plymouth (Compuware), 7 p.m.
TBA - time to be announced.

Canton gymnasts vault to 4-1

Canton's gymnastics team improved its record to 4-1 Tuesday night in the Kensington Lakes Activities Association by sweeping conference foes Howell and Brighton.

The Chiefs racked up 138.95 points to edge the Highlanders, who tallied 137.625. The Bulldogs netted 132.85.

"The combination of our top two girls — Robyn Piwowar and Cathy Huang — and contributions from some other kids carried us to

the wins," said Canton coach John Cunningham.

The Chiefs trail only unbeaten Livonia Blue and Northville in the KLA A standings.

Piwowar earned first-place honors in the all-around with a score of 36.90. She won the vault (9.3), balance beam (9.35) and floor-exercise (9.55) and took second on the uneven bars with a score of 8.7.

Huang took third in the all-around with a 35.0 score. The sophomore won the bars

(9.15) and placed second on the floor (8.85).

Also shining for the Chiefs were Marina Milad (second on the beam), Brittany Granowicz, who was fourth on the bars and Mallory Hudak, who placed fourth on the floor; and Lauren Martin, who was third on the beam and fourth on the vault.

Olivia Stephens, performing in her first meet of the year, excelled on the vault, posting an 8.5.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH PLANNING COMMISSION PROPOSED TEXT AMENDMENT 004

ACTION:

AMEND THE TEXT OF PLYMOUTH CHARTER TOWNSHIP ZONING ORDINANCE NO. 99 BY AMENDING ARTICLE XXVII, NONCONFORMITIES, related to Effect of Denial of a Class A Designation; ARTICLE XXVIII, SPECIAL PROVISIONS, related to Fire Apparatus Access; and ARTICLE XXXI, ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS, related to Petitions Previously Denied.
Wednesday, February 18, 2009
7:00 P.M.

DATE OF HEARING: TIME OF HEARING: PLACE OF HEARING:

Plymouth Township Hall, 9955 North Haggerty Road

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Planning Commission of Plymouth Charter Township on its own motion proposes to amend Ordinance No. 99 Article XXVII, Section 27.3.6; Article XXVIII, Section 28.17; and Article XXXI, Section 31.13, as follows:

A. Section 27.3.6, Effect of Denial of a Class A Designation, is proposed to be amended by replacing the existing language with the following new text:

6. Effect of Denial of a Class A Designation

Neither an application for a Class A designation that has been denied by the Planning Commission, nor an administrative decision made by the Chief Building Official regarding a modification of a Class B structure or use that has been previously considered by the Planning Commission shall be eligible for appeal to the Zoning Board of Appeals, but may be resubmitted for Planning Commission consideration as a new application after a minimum of three hundred sixty five (365) days have elapsed from the date of denial.

B. Section 28.17 is presently RESERVED. Section 28.17 is proposed to be amended to add new language as follows:

SEC. 28.17 FIRE APPARATUS ACCESS

1. Definition

A fire apparatus access is defined as a road (this is a general term inclusive of all other terms such as fire lane, public street, private street, parking lot lane and access roadway) that provides fire vehicles access to a facility, building and portions thereof.

2. Fire Apparatus Access Requirement

All buildings, facilities and all portions thereof shall be located within 150 feet of a fire apparatus access. This distance shall be considered the maximum distance unless otherwise modified and approved by the Township Fire Chief or his designee

3. Additional Fire Apparatus Access Required

a. Multiple Family Residential

Every multiple family residential development with more than 100 units must include a second separate fire apparatus access. Subject to the approval of the Township Fire Chief or his designee, the second access road may be permitted to be closed to public access, and may be a locked, gated entrance accessible only by fire and emergency vehicles.

b. Commercial and Industrial

Every commercial or industrial development with a building exceeding 62,000 square feet, including every facility, building, or portion of a building constructed or moved within the Township, must include a second separate fire apparatus access in the determination of the Fire Chief or his designee.

4. Length, Width and Turnaround Requirements

In addition to the requirements above, all access roads shall meet the following requirements:

Length	Width	Turnaround Required
0 150 ft.	20 ft.	None
151 500 ft.	20 ft.	Must have one of the following turnarounds:
	If a hydrant is present, the width shall be increased to 26 ft. for a distance of 20 ft. on either side of the hydrant.	1. 120 ft. hammerhead; 2. Y turn; or 3. 96 ft. diameter cul-de-sac
501 750 ft.	26 ft.	Must have one of the following turnarounds: 1. 120 ft. hammerhead; 2. Y turn; or 3. 96 ft. diameter cul-de-sac
Over 750 ft.		Special Approval Required

5. Vertical Clearance

The vertical clearance above the fire apparatus access shall be a minimum height of thirteen feet and six inches (13' 6") and maintained as such.

C. Section 31.13, LIMITS ON AUTHORITY, is proposed to be renumbered as Section 31.14. New language for Section 31.13 is proposed to be added as follows:

SEC. 31.13 PETITIONS PREVIOUSLY DENIED

Where a prior petition for an appeal applying to a specific piece of property or a part of such property was denied by the Zoning Board of Appeals, a new application for the same appeal shall not be accepted by the Zoning Board of Appeals for consideration for a period of three hundred sixty five (365) days, unless the Zoning Board of Appeals determines that one or more of the following conditions has been met:

1. There is a substantial change in circumstances relevant to the issues or facts considered during review of the application that might reasonably affect the decision-making body's application of the relevant review standards to the development proposed in the application.
2. New or additional information is available that was not available at the time of the review that might reasonably affect the decision-making body's application of the relevant review standards to the development proposed.
3. The new application is materially different from the prior application.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the proposed amendments may be examined at the Plymouth Township Division of Public Services, Community Development Department, during regular business hours from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM. Written comments will be received prior to the meeting and may be mailed to 9955 N. Haggerty Rd., Plymouth, MI 48170 or call 734-354-3270, ext. 6. The meeting will be held in the Meeting Room at Township Hall which is located at 9955 N. Haggerty Rd., Plymouth Township, MI 48170. At the public hearing, the Planning Commission may recommend approval of the text changes as proposed, or as amended.

PLEASE TAKE NOTE: The Charter Township of Plymouth will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at all Township meetings to individuals with disabilities at the meetings/hearings upon one week notice to the Charter Township of Plymouth by writing or calling the Supervisor's Office, 9955 N. Haggerty Rd., Plymouth, MI 48170. Phone 734-354-3201. TDD users: 800-849-3777 (Michigan Relay Service).

KENDRA BARBERENA, Secretary
Planning Commission

Publish: February 1, 2009

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ICERS

FROM PAGE B1

Plymouth goalie Mike Justus' five-hole 2:44 into the contest.

Garrett Berg earned the assist on Ott's goal when his hard shot deflected high off Justus' blocker before settling in front of the curved blade on Ott's stick.

Novak made it 3-0 with 10:42 left in the first period when he maneuvered behind the 'Cats' defense and secured a slick pass from Kyle Zink.

Plymouth called a timeout, but it didn't help as Salem lit the lamp again just over a minute later when Ott scored off helpers from Berg and Mario Macari to make it 4-0.

Thanks to some nifty netminding by Powers, Salem extinguished a 1:23 two-man Plymouth advantage late in the first stanza.

The Rocks' final goal came 1:48 into the second period when Ryan Quigley deposited a pass from Steve Haburne. Ryan Blakey also garnered an assist on the play.

Plymouth avoided the shut-

out thanks to a third-period goal from Nick Sofios, who was assisted by Taylor Currier.

Ossenmacher said his team was pumped to face off against its cross-campus rival — but not too pumped.

"In the past, we've had a tendency to get a little too emotional when we play our rivals, which leads to us ending up in the penalty box a little too often," the second-year coach said. "Tonight, we came out and played on more of an even keel."

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WRIGHT
FROM PAGE B1

Boy, was he right. "During the summer, I could tell this was a special group of kids," said Samulski. "I wasn't sure this was going to be a special season as far as number of wins, but I knew it was a special group in terms of how hard they'd work and how much they liked to compete."

No messin' around

Playing with a tough-minded scrappiness that would make Tom Izzo smile, the Chiefs won their first seven games, including a confidence-building triumph against perennial power Birmingham Marian, which has more gold in its trophy case than Fort Knox.

They did so with a top-eight player rotation that included one freshman, five sophomores and two juniors — and not one player taller than 5-foot-10.

Following Friday's win over Wayne Memorial, they're 10-2 and 3-1 in the KLAA South Division — impressive numbers for a team whose nucleus of players don't even have their driver's licenses yet.

The amazing thing about this team is that six of its 11 players technically should still be competing on the junior-varsity level — and I can reel off about 12 junior-varsity teams in the area that are thankful they're not.

"Our chemistry is a lot better this year than it was last year," said sophomore forward Kayla Bridges, the lone player on this year's Canton roster who spent the entire 2007-08 campaign on the varsity roster. "Our team is more together this year."

Admirable work ethic

Bridges said the team's success can be traced back to its practice habits. "We're very competitive in

Canton hoops player watches history unfold

If ever there was a golden, non-illness-related excuse for missing a basketball game, Canton sophomore forward Kayla Bridges owned it last Tuesday.

Bridges missed the Chiefs' game against Livonia Franklin so that she could witness history.

"My mom's family lives in Washington, D.C., so we got to go to President Obama's inauguration," said Bridges. "We stayed in D.C. Monday night, then got up early to get down there."

Bridges said she hated to miss the game against one

of the Chiefs' top rivals in the KLAA South Division, but she wouldn't have missed the history-making event in the nation's capital for anything.

"It was amazing," she said. "We were right by the Washington Monument. There were big screens everywhere so you could see everything that was going on."

"There were people crying, everybody was happy. It's something I'll never forget."

- Ed Wright

practice because we want to do whatever we can do to make each other better. We really go after it."

"Yeah, our practices can get kind of physical, but it's because everybody on this team is so competitive," said smooth-shooting sophomore CarolAnn Sexauer. "You might even catch an elbow every once in a while. Everybody plays as hard as they do in the games."

The foundation for the Chiefs' toughness has been laid by twin sophomore sisters Kari and Sara Schmitt, who, believe it or not, are even better hockey players than they are basketball players.

The Schmitts set the tone for the Chiefs by banging the boards with a relentless drive and diving through opponents after loose balls like bowling balls through pins.

"We've been known to get a little too aggressive when we're playing hockey," said Sara Schmitt, smiling. "And that probably carries over to the

basketball court sometimes."

"When we're off the court, this team is always laughing and fooling around," added Kari Schmitt. "We hang out a lot together and have pasta parties at different players' houses."

"Brian's a good coach for us because he knows when we need to stop giggling and get down to work."

No excuses

Samulski is adamant about one thing regarding his youthful squad.

"When we do struggle or lose a game, we lost because we didn't play well or I didn't do a good enough job of coaching — we didn't lose because we're young," he said. "We're not going to lean on our youth as an excuse."

In closing, I'd like to say my expectations for the Chiefs are still as high as a vertical leap.

Only now it's LeBron James', not mine.

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PLYMOUTH
FROM PAGE B1

the break. Plymouth led 44-42 with eight minutes to play but, according to Plymouth coach Tom Van Wagoner, failed to convert a series of makeable shots down the stretch, leading to the extra session.

Nadratowski was the hero of the OT for the winners, going 4-for-4 from the free throw line along with scoring a field goal.

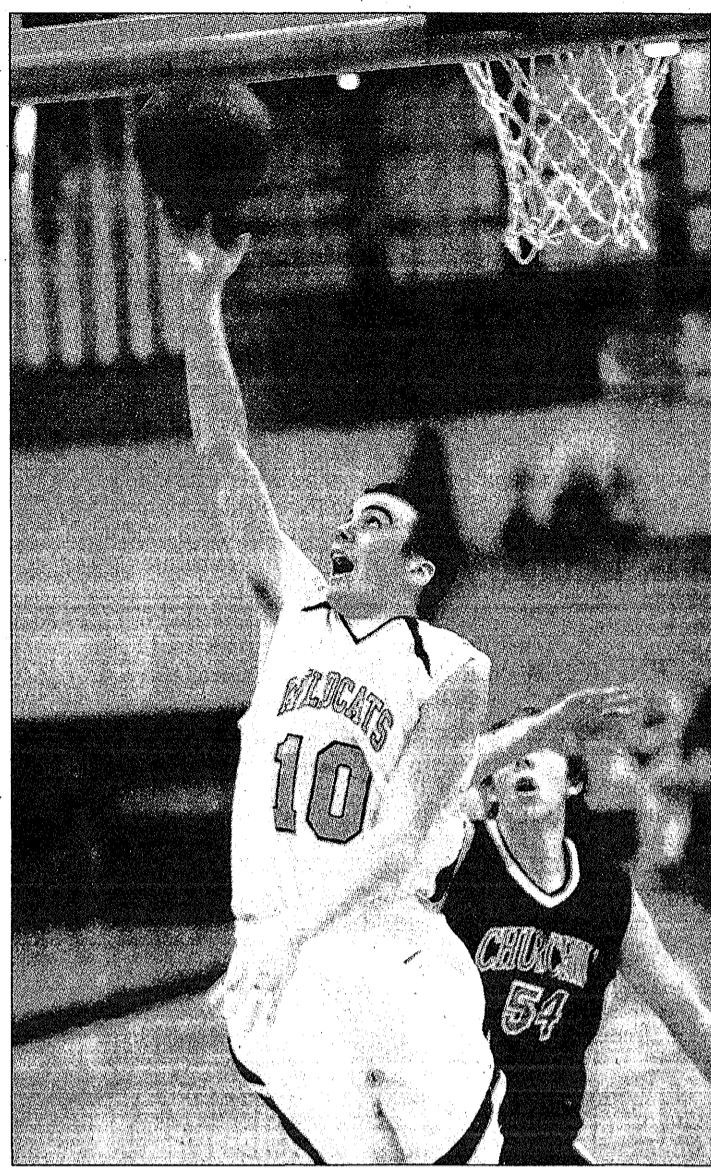
"This was a big win for us," said Van Wagoner, whose team remained in the thick of a KLAA South Division log-jam. "Churchill just beat John Glenn, which has a very good club."

"At 2-2, we're still in the hunt for the division because everybody seems to be beating everybody else up."

Van Wagoner said his 10th-graders are gaining more confidence with every passing minute of the season.

"They're definitely getting more comfortable," he said. "If they start playing better against the more athletic teams in the league — teams like Wayne and John Glenn — we'll be a contender."

Plymouth swished 11 of 20 free throws. The Chargers connected on just 4 of 11 shots from the charity stripe.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

ewright@hometownlife.com | (734) 953-2108 Plymouth's Mike Nadratowski soars for two of his 12 points Friday night.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Vipers tryouts

The 2009 U13 Vipers Baseball Team will be holding a tryout on Tuesday, Feb. 10, from 4 to 6 p.m. at Adams Middle School on Palmer in Wayne. The Vipers are a travel team that plays in the KVBSA and local tournaments. For more information contact Tony Boucher at (734) 454-4992.

HVS Fun Days

High Velocity Sports will offer Fun Days during Mid-Winter (February 23-27) and Spring (April 13-17) Breaks. From 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., parents can drop off children for supervised sports activities for \$5/hour. The program is for boys and girls ages 5-12. Kids will play soccer, flag football, dodge ball, basketball, volleyball and much more.

Specialty camps for Soccer, Basketball, and Craft Camp are also available. Soccer Camp (\$125)

is from 1-3 p.m., Basketball Camp (\$125) from 10 a.m. to noon, and Craft Camp (\$135) from 9 a.m. to noon. Lunch is from noon to 1 p.m. each day and can be brought or purchased. For more information, visit www.hvsports.com or call (734) 487-7678.

Salem grid news

Parents of all PCCS middle school students that know they are going to Salem and may be interested in playing football are encouraged to get in touch with Don Turner at (734) 812-0504 or dturner@longwalkpartners.com.

If you played Salem Football at any time... ever, the Salem Linebackers Booster Club will be hosting a dinner (date and time TBD) with all Salem Alumni invited. Send your name, year graduated, phone number, address and email.

Please e-mail or call Don Turner at (734) 812-0504 or dturner@

longwalkpartners.com.

Do you play a band instrument? The Salem Rocks Football Team needs you.

The Salem Linebackers Booster Club is assembling a team of former, current and future high school band members from any school to play at Salem Rocks home (and away?) games.

This is open to anyone who can play an instrument and would be interested in joining us in the stands at the Salem Rocks Football games. No marching required! Contact Don Turner at 734-812-0504 or dturner@longwalkpartners.com.

Canton football meeting

The Canton Chiefs Football Booster Club meeting will be held at 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 5, at the Plymouth Crossing Restaurant, which is located at 340 N. Main St. The meeting will take place in the back meeting room.

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Deadline for entries is Sunday, February 8th.

Send your entries to info@detroitignition.com today!



Next Ignition home game is Sunday, February 8!

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SWIM RESULTS

PLYMOUTH 130 LIVONIA CHURCHILL 55 Thursday at Canton
200-yard medley relay: 1. Plymouth (Ethan Weiner, Alex Jouney, Ethan Christenson, Adam Liakos), 1:57.13; 2. Plymouth, 2:01.77; 3. Churchill, 2:06.98.
200 freestyle: 1. Adam Wing (P), 1:59.79; 2. Nate Larsen (LC), 2:02.40; 3. Paul Snyder (P), 2:03.39.
200 IM: 1. Dan Stoscup (P), 2:17.34; 2. Kyle Dull (P), 2:21.30; 3. Peter Burns (P), 2:29.78.
50 freestyle: 1. Jason Oldani (P), 24.43; 2. Ethan Weiner (P), 25.18; 3. Jacob Rimatzki (LC), 25.31.
1-meter diving: 1. Travis Holt (LC), 202.95 points; 2. Andrew Richards (LC), 197.30; 3. Kyle Wilkinson (P), 172.05.
100 butterfly: 1. Chris Wilson (P), 1:01.71; 2. Jack Gruczynski (P), 1:07.35; 3. Dan Stoscup (P), 1:07.47.
100 freestyle: 1. Jason Oldani (P), 52.92; 2. Nate Larsen (LC), 55.55; 3. Greg Van Gorp (LC), 56.29.
500 freestyle: 1. Paul Snyder (P), 5:44.69; 2. Alex Jouney (P), 5:54.14; 3. Jacob Rimatzki (LC), 5:58.07.
200 freestyle relay: 1. Plymouth (Chris Wilson, Ethan Christenson, Jason Oldani, Adam Wing), 1:39.12; 2. Churchill, 1:43.06; 3. Plymouth, 1:44.35.
100 backstroke: 1. Ethan Weiner (P), 1:06.24; 2. Chris Wilson (P), 1:09.76; 3. Kyle Dull (P), 1:10.67.
100 breaststroke: 1. Adam Wing (P), 1:15.48; 2. John Yurgil (LC), 1:15.54; 3. Jack Gruczynski (P), 1:18.95.
400 freestyle relay: 1. Plymouth (Chris Wilson, Ethan Weiner, Adam Wing, Jack Gruczynski), 3:39.15; 2. Plymouth, 3:39.94; 3. Churchill, 4:00.84.
PLYMOUTH'S DUAL-MEET RECORD: 4-2 overall, 3-1 in KLAAs South Division.

Canton cagers fall in Wayne pressure cooker

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Daniel Hill's game might be described as "old school."
 And the 6-foot-3 junior forward from Wayne Memorial continued to stay ahead of the curve Friday night as he scored a game-high 20 points to lead the host Zebras to a convincing 64-47 boys basketball win over Canton.

The battle for first place in the KLAAs South Division was all Wayne as the Zebras led 24-9 after one quarter and by as many as 25 early in the fourth. Wayne is now 4-0 in the KLAAs South Division and 7-3 overall, while Canton drops to 6-4 and 3-1.
 Hill, plays with his back to the basket and uses either hand. He was his usual efficient self offensively, going 9-of-12 from the floor and 2-of-2 from the foul line. He also grabbed 11 rebounds and made life miserable around the basket with his inside post presence for the Chiefs, who made just 4-of-24

had 12 points for the Chiefs, while Marlan Glenn and Kiere Daniels added 11 and nine, respectively.
 "We had a hard time making shots," Colligan said. "Because of Wayne's high pressure, it make things tough and took us out of our offensive flow. Wayne's quick, they play aggressive defense. And in our case, our offensive looks were not great looks. They were contested shots."
 Wayne was coming off a come-from-behind 57-44 KLAAs crossover win Thursday night against Northville. The Zebras erased a late 43-30 third-quarter deficit by outscoring the Mustangs 27-1 to end the game.
 "I kind of mentioned that we did play well last night - not to take anything away from Northville - but we had an opportunity to redeem ourselves," Woodard said. "It was nice to get back at it."
 And it's nice to have Hill on his side.
 "Daniel has great hands, he's strong around the hoop,"

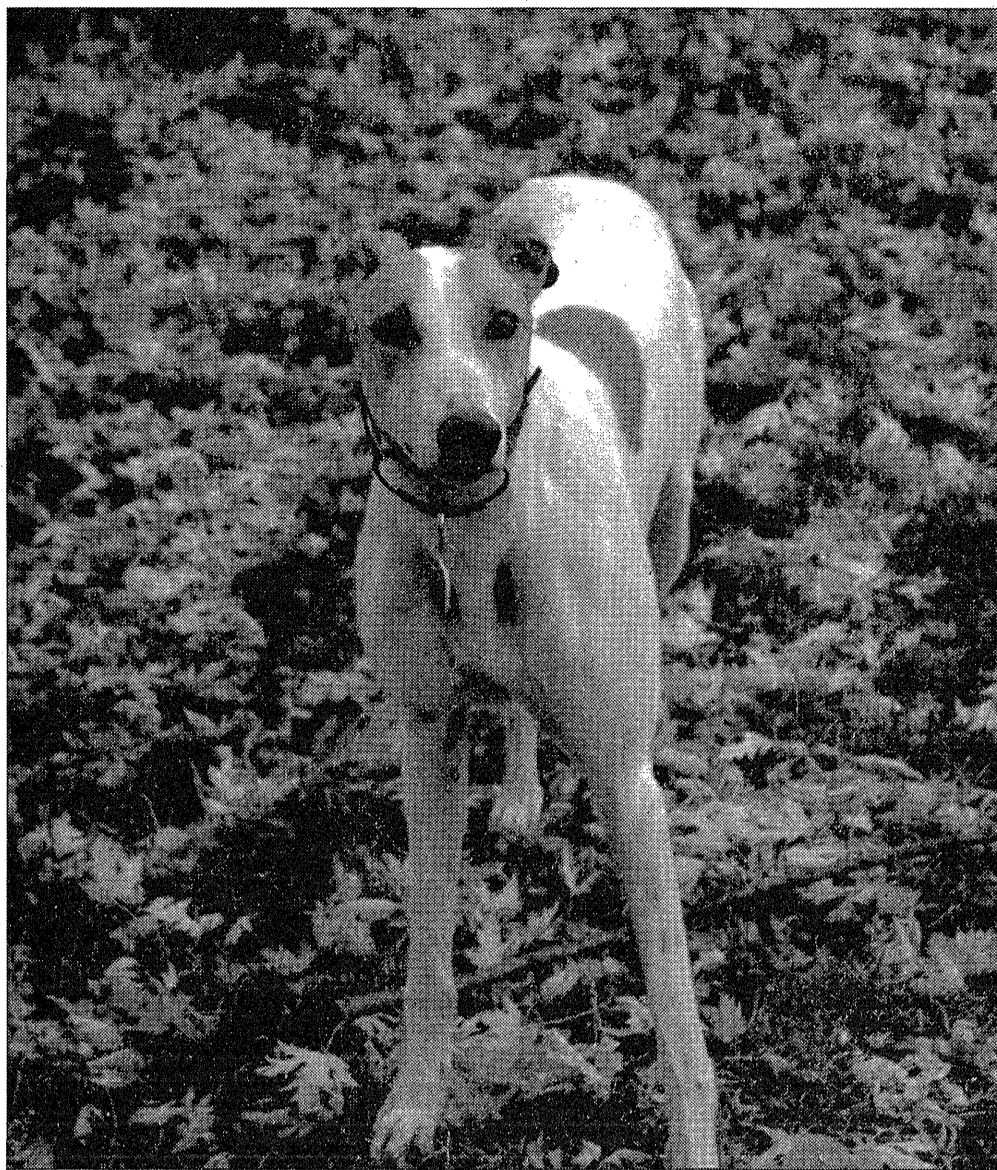
Woodard said. "He was our first 'big' off the bench last year. He got some minutes as a sophomore, but he's really stepped up his game this year and his having a nice junior year."
 Woodard said Hill remains a "work in progress."
 "He has a good feel and we keep working on his footwork," the Wayne coach said. "He has a nice left-hand and he'll tell you prefers dunking with his left hand. He's good with both hands around the basket. He was a 37 percent free throw shooting last year and now he's up to 60 percent."
 Hill, a captain, is also a delight to coach both on-and-off the court.
 "He's a good student, I never worry about him being in the wrong place at the wrong time," Woodard said. "His brother (Robert) Hill was a two-year captain for us. Same kind of kid. Both of his parents are prison guards, so they've seen the other side. They do a great job."

Senior point-guard Robert Woodson added 17 points and Delorean Holland six for the Zebras, who made 27-of-55 shots from the floor.
 Sophomore Dietrich Lever

NOTICE OF ADOPTION
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH
ORDINANCE NO. 99.009

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH BY AMENDING THE ZONING MAP. THE TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH ORDAINS:

Part I. The Zoning Ordinance No. 99 of the Plymouth Charter Township, is hereby amended by amending the Zoning Map, by changing those areas indicated on the Amended Zoning Map No. 011, attached hereto, and made part of this Ordinance.



Stunning and sweet

Jill is a very nice 2-year-old greyhound looking for a permanent home. She's just learning about retirement because she hasn't been off of the track for very long. She's looking for a family to love her because she's very shy and a little nervous about her new life. She loves car rides and to go for walks. She has been spayed and is up to date on vaccinations. To meet Jill, call Greyheart Greyhound Rescue and Adoption at (866) 438-4739 or visit www.greyheart.org.

Mark Abe Lincoln's birthday in Plymouth

The Plymouth Historical Museum is showcasing original furniture from Abraham Lincoln's home in Springfield, Ill., through Nov. 4. "In the Presence of Lincoln" includes four furniture pieces — two rockers, a claw-foot table, and a mantle clock, all on loan from the William L. Clements Library of the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. The Museum's own voluminous Weldon Petz Lincoln Collection will enhance displays throughout the Main Street exhibits, as well as in the permanent Petz Lincoln Collection area. The permanent collection's displays recently were refreshed with new signs and a more historic interpretation. Items of note from the Petz Lincoln Collection include:

- Artifacts from Lincoln's youth
- A rare book belonging to Lincoln as a boy
- Rare family genealogy and

the furniture to enhance its collection. Although the furniture is the highlight of the exhibit, the Museum also is displaying original historic ephemera associated with Lincoln, on loan from the William L. Clements Library of the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. The Museum's own voluminous Weldon Petz Lincoln Collection will enhance displays throughout the Main Street exhibits, as well as in the permanent Petz Lincoln Collection area. The permanent collection's displays recently were refreshed with new signs and a more historic interpretation. Items of note from the Petz Lincoln Collection include:

- Artifacts from Lincoln's youth
- A rare book belonging to Lincoln as a boy
- Rare family genealogy and

photographs

- Handwritten legal documents and law books
- Life mask of Lincoln made in 1860
- A lock of Lincoln's hair
- Artifacts relating to Lincoln's assassination

Lincoln's birthday is Feb. 12. He was born 200 years ago. The Plymouth Historical Museum is located at 155 S. Main Street just north of downtown Plymouth. Hours are 1-4 p.m., Wednesday and Friday-Sunday. Admission prices are \$5 for an individual, \$2 for students, 6-17, and \$10 for families. Call in advance for tour groups. For more information, call (734) 455-8940 or visit www.plymouthhistory.org. The exhibit is made possible through sponsorship from Hines-Park Lincoln Mercury, as well as donations from Citizens Bank and the McLaren Family.

Mercy artists brush up regional awards

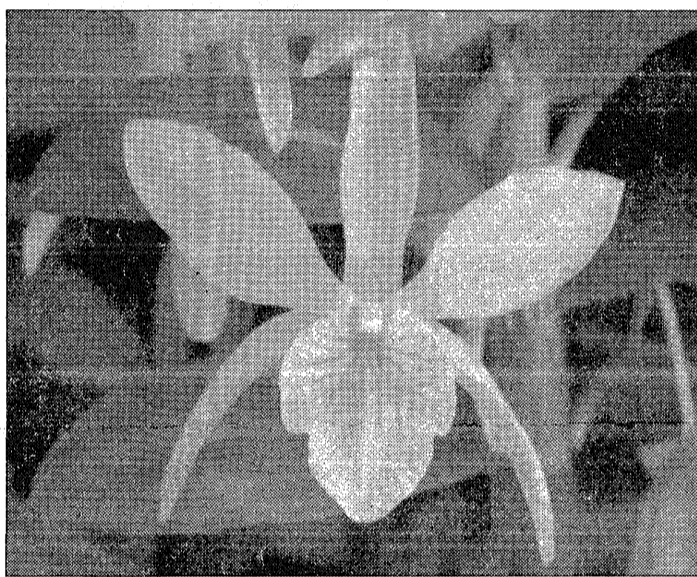
Mercy High School in Farmington Hills announced six students who won 13 awards in this year's Regional Scholastic Art Awards competition. They are Tara Ellis, Jessica Ford, Egan Franks, Christina Lehman, Kathryn Smith and Kelly VanDenBerg. These Mercy artists captured either gold key, silver

key, and/or certificate awards in mixed media, apparel design, painting, ceramics, glass, and digital photography. The winning pieces will be on display at the College for Creative Studies in Detroit from Feb. 14 through March 6 on the following schedule: Monday-Friday, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Saturday and

Sunday from noon to 5 p.m.. Seniors Jessica Ford of White Lake and Egan Franks of Northville had their portfolios make finalist status and will compete in New York City for talent scholarships. Junior Kelly VanDenBerg of Farmington was awarded a gold key for a digital photography piece, which will also compete on the national level.

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.



Orchids, such as this Dendrobium, will be on display and for sale at English Gardens' Orchid Festival this month.

Grow vegetables
Marlene Uhljanuk of Coon Creek Farms, Armada, will offer tips on growing vegetables in gardens and containers, during a meeting of the Community House Garden Club, 7 p.m., Monday, Feb. 6, at The Community House, 380 South Bates, Birmingham. The presentation is open to the public. A \$5 donation is requested at the door. Or \$20 for Garden Club membership. For more information, contact The Community House, (248) 594-6410, or e-mail patj@communityhouse.com.

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., and cover topics such as compost benefits and water quality, native wildflowers and shrubs for rain gardens, and sizing and locating a rain garden. Speakers will include Rick Lazzell, landscape designer and consultant; Suzan Campbell, Michigan Natural Features Inventory; Lillian Dean, Southeast Oakland County Water Authority (SOCWA) Healthy Lawns and Gardens program. There is no admission charge, but advance registration is required. Call Karen Bever at (248) 288-5150 or e-mail LFDean@aol.com.

At English Gardens
The store celebrates its 7th Annual Orchid Festival with free seminars, visits from growers and displays of more than 50 varieties of orchids shipped weekly from Florida, California and Hawaii.

orchid repotting demonstration, 2:30 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 7, at all English Gardens stores.
 ■ Growing beautiful orchids, 1 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 14, at all English Gardens stores. Orchid experts will give an overview on the best varieties to grow, and offer tips for proper watering, fertilizing and advice for re-blooming. A repotting demonstration will be held at 2:30 p.m.
 ■ How to start seeds indoors, 1 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 21, at all stores. Learn how to grow your own plants. English Gardens experts will share their knowledge of growing flowers and vegetables from seed. Learn which varieties work best, and what's required to get the best results.
 ■ Perennial gardening, 1 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 28, at all stores. Garden experts will discuss the basics of design, care and planting perennials in the garden, and will provide information on selection, as well as combining colors and varieties. Visit English Gardens stores at 44850 Garfield at Hall in Clinton Township, (586) 286-6100; 6370 Orchard Lake Road at Maple, West Bloomfield, (248)

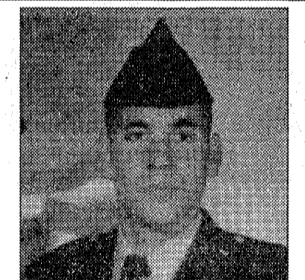
851-7506; 4901 Coolidge, Royal Oak, (248) 280-9500; 22650 Ford Road at Outer Driver in Dearborn, (313) 278-4433; and 155 Maple at Jackson, Ann Arbor, (734) 332-7900.
Postage Stamp Gardens
Michael Saint, certified master gardener, will teach a one-night session in planting small garden areas, such as entrances or courtyards, from 7-8:30 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 12, at Waterford Kettering High School, 2800 Kettering Driver, Waterford. Cost is \$19. Register by calling (248) 682-1088. Saint owns Good Earth Landscape Institute in Clarkston and is a member of the Michigan Wildflower Association, The National Wildlife Federation and the Remineralize the Earth Foundation.
Michigan Orchid Society
Jim Heilig will talk about "Multiflora Phalaenopsis" at the organization's next meeting, 2:30 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 15, at First Baptist Church of Birmingham, 300 Willits, Birmingham. The presentation is free and open to the public. For more information go to www.miorchids.com or call (586) 416-1496.

Visit us online at hometownlife.com

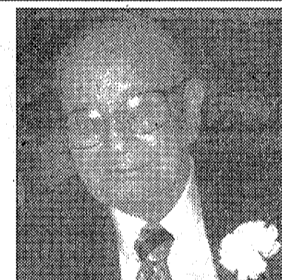


Passages

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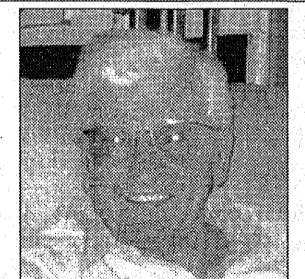
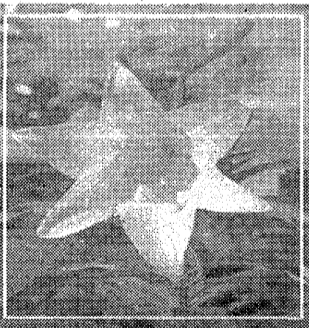
SGT. BRYAN A. DEVLIN
 Age 24. Of Pickney and Livonia, MI. Killed Dec. 17, 2008 in Hawaii. Father of Landon A. Arquette of NY. Son of James Devlin of MI and Linda Fruth of FL; sisters Nichole Devlin, FL and Annette Porcaro, MI. Grandson of Dan and Cathie Devlin of MI and Jack Fruth of FL. Memorial Service Feb. 14, 2008 at 9318 Newburgh Rd., Livonia, MI 48185. Contributions to Landon A. Arquette Education Fund.



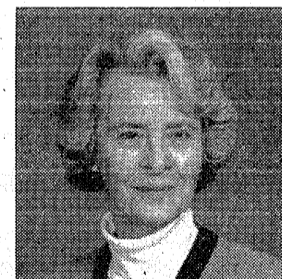
STEPHEN KOZAK
 Age 88. Passed on January 4, 2009. Beloved husband of Neoma for 65 years. Loving father of Judith Ann (Genereaux), Gail Marie (Sartele), Paula Sue (Hollens) and the late Alan Paul. Grandfather of six and great-grandfather of four. Resident of Rochester since 1966. Retired from GM. Steve was a WWII Veteran serving in the 101st Airborne. Funeral services were held at the Potere-Modetz Funeral Home and he was laid to rest at Van-Hoosen Jones Cemetery.



KEREN ELYSE WARNEMUENDE
 Age 6, January 28, 2009. Of Canton. Beloved daughter of Kraig and Loren. Loving sister of Clarissa and Evelyn. Granddaughter of Lawrence and Sharon, and David and Elizabeth Givens. Visitation Sunday 2:00 pm until time of service at 4:00 pm at Calvary Baptist Church, 43065 Joy Rd., Canton. She will be dearly missed by all who knew and loved her. Please share a memory of Keren at www.rgrharris.com. Those wishing to make a contribution in Keren's name are asked to consider Old Village School, Northville, MI



MARVIN R. KEMP
 Age 86. January 26, 2009. Loving father of Bob (Pat), the late Terrance Clay (Diane), Linda (Marty) Droz and Jeffrey (Lori). Eight grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren. Memorials requested to a charity of your choice. Share a memory of Marv at www.rgrharris.com



JANE UNDERHILL MOSHER
 Born December 1, 1922 in Buffalo, NY, died peacefully at home on January 25, 2009. Beloved wife of W. Edwin Mosher, Jr. for 67 years. Dear mother of W. E. Mosher III, Robert Lawrence Mosher (Denise Sica) and the late Richard Underhill Mosher. Grandmother of W. E. Mosher IV, Mary Elizabeth Cinnamon, Melissa Anne Smith, Andrew Mosher, Jamie Mosher, Ashley Naegele, Sophia Sica Mosher, Elena Sica Mosher, and six great-grandchildren. Mrs. Mosher was the director of community relations for Meadowbrook Music Festival and Meadowbrook Theater, and a member of the Village Women's Club. She was a long-standing member of Christ Church Cranbrook where a memorial service will be held this spring. A.J. Desmond & Sons (248) 549-0500. View obituary and share memories at www.DesmondFuneralHome.com

Laugh the night away and help seniors

The Senior Alliance will team with Joey's Comedy Club in Livonia for a night of entertainment, food and spirits on Tuesday, Feb. 10. Eighty percent of ticket proceeds will be donated back to The Senior Alliance, helping the organization with funds for advocacy, programming, planning, contracting, and hiring personnel necessary to enable older

persons to function as independently as possible in their community. Tickets are \$20. Ticket-holders can receive 25 percent off their meal at Kickers All American Grill, the restaurant located below Joey's or half off a pizza during the show. Reservations are required for dinner. Call (734) 261-0555.

Joey's is located at 36071 Plymouth, Livonia. Order tickets and find out more about The Senior Alliance by calling Linda DeVore at (734) 722-2830. The Senior Alliance works to help older persons in western Wayne County to function as independently as possible in their community environment that best suits their needs.

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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.

e-mail your obit to oeobits@hometownlife.com or fax to:
Attn: Obits c/o Jennifer Musztuk 586-826-7318

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

OE08579123



NEIGHBORS

Don't leave pets out in the cold

A co-worker recently reminded me that winter can be especially dangerous for pets when left outdoors. It's hard to believe anyone who loves an animal could perpetrate this kind of cruelty. Imagine standing on ice or snow for hour after hour. His friend made an innocent mistake by letting out the cat who preceded to climb under a vehicle hood. When the engine was started the cat was nearly eviscerated. It did survive but not without pain and suffering.



Linda Chomin

Nancy Gunnigle of the Michigan Humane Society says many of the injuries to animals during winter could be prevented by not leaving them outdoors by themselves for any length of time.

"Our cruelty investigators are responding to large numbers of animals being left in the cold without proper housing. One was frozen to death. He had a dog house, a little bit of straw but not enough and was a short-haired dog," said Gunnigle, MHS communications manager. "We're educating animal guardians to bring animals inside. We always recommend animals live inside year round. Dogs have coats but most short-haired dogs or small animals need to be brought in when it drops to 15 or 20 degrees, taking into account wind chills or precipitations. Otherwise, they can face charges."

Leaving a dog outside without proper shelter, food and water is against the law. Gunnigle urges the public to keep an eye out for animals whose owners don't provide extra food (10 to 20 per-

It's all about meow

Women unite to open rescue shelter

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
O&E STAFF WRITER

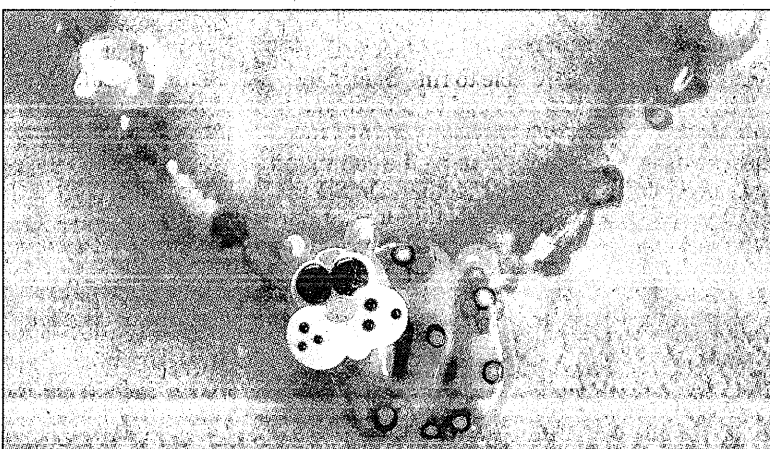
It's funny how a little ball of fur is able to draw people together. Less than a year ago, Ann Grenier had never met Donna Brewer, JoEllen Wuotinen or her daughter, Carolyn Foster. Even though they're all cat lovers, the four women led separate lives, Grenier working in a factory, Brewer enjoying retirement, Foster driving a delivery truck, Wuotinen running a business, but all had one thing in common. They were cat lovers who couldn't see a stray without taking it home. Each has collected so many cats and kittens they're planning to open a rescue shelter in the building owned by Wuotinen and her husband, Wayne, in Livonia.

There's one small problem, though — money. It takes funding to apply for licenses and provide food for the felines. A recent garage sale brought in some cash to care for the cats, but Grenier pays for the rest. The Livonia woman took in her first stray 15 years ago and has been looking for homes for kittens ever since.

"We believe in 100 percent no kill," said Grenier who affectionately calls all cats kitties regardless of their age. "Everybody stays until they get adopted."



JoEllen Wuotinen and Benedicta at the building she and husband Wayne own in Livonia.



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

At left, Donna Brewer makes cat-themed jewelry. The Livonia woman is donating as well as selling necklaces and earrings at a fundraiser for Country Cat/City Kitty Rescue Group March 28-29.

Please see **COLD, B7**

Please see **CATS, B7**

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COLD
FROM PAGE B6

cent more), unfrozen drinking water, a well-built and correctly sized dog house, and straw for bedding, not linens which quickly become wet and freeze. Take the time to report dogs without proper shelter. It's not uncommon for MHS to receive more than 100 cold weather calls a week and although MHS responds quickly, many times it's too late because the animal has been left outside too long. MHS says, if a pet is shivering, trying to curl up into a tight ball, or attempting to dig a bed in the snow, he is probably too cold to remain outdoors. If extremely cold to the touch or if paws, ears or tail tip have turned bright red, he may be showing signs of frostbite. If so, the pet needs to be moved to a warmer area and a veterinarian contacted immediately.

NEGLECT PENALTIES

According to MHS, "lack of proper care or shelter can result in misdemeanor animal cruelty charges, carrying a sentence of up to 90 days in jail, up to a \$1,000 fine, community service and loss of pet ownership for a specified amount of time."

"We can all be on the lookout for animals who are at risk. To report pets outside, call our cruelty hot line for Detroit, Hamtramck or Highland Park, or contact local animal control or police. We can remove an animal by state law. Visit the Web site and review the laws about providing conditions for animals. Even if left outside with proper housing, food and water, it's ideal for animals to live indoors with the rest of the family around. Dogs are pack animals and need to be around others for social reasons."

VEHICLE DANGERS

A number of dangers lurk outside besides the cold. According to MHS, outside cats often seek the warmth of car engines. Be sure to knock on the car hood or honk the horn before starting your car. Antifreeze is extremely toxic to dogs and cats. Carefully cap antifreeze containers and keep them out of the reach of pets. If small amounts drip when antifreeze is being added to the car radiator, clean and flush the area with water. To report pets left outside without proper shelter in Detroit, Hamtramck or Highland Park, call the MHS Cruelty Hotline at (313) 872-3401. To view Michigan's anti-cruelty laws, visit www.michiganhumane.org and click on Cruelty & Rescue.

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



Ann Grenier holds Benedict and Benedicta. Donna Brewer holds Jean-Paul and Waldo lounges on the couch.

CATS
FROM PAGE B6

HOW THEY MET

The four women just seem to attract strays as evidenced by the half a dozen purring creatures padding around on paws. That's how they were drawn to each other. Grenier initially called Wuotinen in response to an ad to find homes for four kittens born in a wood pile near her cottage Up North. Brewer gave her phone number to Grenier after seeing the cats at one of the adoption days at Pet Supplies "Plus" in Livonia. Foster grew up watching her mother bring cat after stray cat into the house. Today, Foster oversees the Web site page for the group at www.myspace.com/countrycatcitykitty.

Although some of the cats are currently in foster homes, more could be helped if Country Cat/City Kitty is able to open a shelter inside R & L Wall. Wuotinen says business is down anyway because the building of new homes has come to a halt. "We have

a shop in back we could use if business does come back. There are a lot of possibilities," said Wuotinen.

DESIGNING A SHELTER

Brewer traveled to Utah to visit Best Friends Sanctuary for ideas to turn the one-story building into a haven.

"We hope to have an open area with cats roaming the room not in cages," said Brewer.

In the meantime, the four women are putting their heads and hearts together to make the dream of opening the shelter reality. In late March, they're holding a fund-raiser where shoppers can buy jewelry and crafts or even adopt a cat. They need help to do both. Volunteers as well as artists, vendors, and foster cat parents are being sought to enable the organization to continue its work. From July to December of last year, they were able to find homes for 105 cats and kittens through adoption events thanks to a lot of people in the community working together. Dr. Shera Dickie of St. Julian's Cat Care in Dearborn provides veteri-

narian services at a discount to the rescue group. Grenier's sister, a nun in Ohio, even is helping. The Sisters of Charity are donating a guitar and amp, and keyboards to the fund-raiser. Brewer is making whimsical cat jewelry and stained glass panels for the raffle.

"We're looking for anyone who wants to donate or has skills to fix up the building," said Grenier. "At the fund-raiser we're going to have a blessing of the animals and Dr. Dickie will be there to answer questions. We want to educate people about spaying and neutering and not to take kittens away from the mother too soon if they've found a litter because they won't survive."

The charity fund-raiser takes place 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, March 28, and 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Sunday, March 29, at the Livonia Elks, 31117 Plymouth Road, between Merriman and Middlebelt. For more information, call Brewer at (248) 777-1430 or e-mail dmbrewer1@aol.com, or Grenier at (248) 249-9267.

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

Milestones

Powers-Bufalini

Jesse and Susan Powers of Wayne announce the engagement of their daughter, Lisa, to Ryan Bufalini, son of Gary and Kim Bufalini, of Westland. The bride-to-be is a graduate of John Glenn High School and Eastern Michigan University. Her fiancé graduated from John Glenn High School and Michigan State University. The



couple plans to wed in May 2009 in Pisciotta, Italy.

Kosik-Templeton

Richard and Rosanne Kosik of Plymouth announce the engagement of their daughter, Kristin, of Canton, to Ryan Templeton, also of Canton, son of Sandra and Darrell Templeton of Middletown, Ohio. The bride-to-be graduated from University of Michigan with an undergraduate degree in 2001 and an MBA in 2007. She works in marketing for Ford Motor Company. Her fiancé graduated from Ohio State University in 2001 with a degree in elec-



trical engineering, and works as an engineer at an automotive supplier. The couple plan to wed in August 2009 in Plymouth.

Ciszewski-Silvestri

Natalie Ciszewski of Livonia, daughter of Tom and Connie Myler and the late Keith Ciszewski, announces her engagement to Michael Silvestri, son of Lorenzo and Barb Silvestri, also of Livonia.

The bride-to-be graduated from Stevenson High School and Madonna College of Nursing, and works at Karmanos Cancer Institute. After graduating from Divine Child High School, her fiancé also attended Madonna



College of Nursing, and now works at Harper Hospital. The couple will wed in June 2010 at St. John's Chapel with a reception to follow at the Italian American Club.

Sydney Marie Hartke

Brandon and Amanda Hartke of Royal Oak announce the birth of their daughter, Sydney Marie Hartke, on Dec. 22, 2008 at Botsford Hospital, Farmington Hills. Sydney is the granddaughter of Bruce and Mary Barnes of Rochester and Michael and Toni Hartke of Plymouth. Great-grandparents are Ethel Barnes of Rochester and Joan Barton of Belleville.

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Wayne State University's Concert Choral.

New suite to debut at WSU concert

Wayne State University Big Band and Concert Choral will perform the world premiere of *Suite Justice*, an original jazz composition by WSU professor Russell Miller, at 4 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 22, at First Presbyterian Church of Farmington, 26165 Farmington Road, at 11 Mile, Farmington Hills.

Suite Justice includes eight pieces representing each of the beatitudes from Matthew (5: 3-10) wherein the strengths of the Concert Choral and the Big Band are combined in a presentation of original jazz compositions that reflect the composer's thoughts and feelings about these teachings. The rhythm and inflection of the text of each of the beatitudes suggests a melodic shape and song form that allows for musical expression of the idea. Employment of a wide range of musical textures — a Capella chorus, vocal solo, chorus with jazz band, full jazz band, small ensemble and jazz soloists — provide variety from piece to piece while the treatment of the text assists in maintaining continuity.

Saxophonist, flutist, composer and arranger Russell Miller teaches jazz improvisation, jazz bands and arranging and orchestration classes at Wayne State. His 30-year professional music career includes performances with Dizzy Gillespie, Buddy DeFranco, J.C. Heard, Rob McConnell, Jon Faddis, Joe Williams, Milt Hinton, Rosemary Clooney and Sammy Davis Jr. among others. Miller has also performed with his own group and guest artists at the Detroit International Jazz Festival, the Michigan Jazz Festival, Music on the Plaza in Grosse Pointe and at various local venues.

Big Band performs a wide range of traditional and contemporary repertoire. Led by Professor Christopher Collins, the elite ensemble has performed to sold-out concerts with the legendary Joe Lovano and his quartet at the Detroit Symphony Orchestra's Max M. Fisher Music Center and to enthusiastic audiences on the main stage of the Detroit International Jazz Festival with Diane Schuur and Kurt Elling.

Concert Choral, a highly selected mixed ensemble of 30-plus voices under the direction of Dr. Norah V. Duncan IV, performs a diverse and demanding repertoire literature of the 16th through 20th centuries including compositions with orchestra and works in contemporary formats.

The Concert Choral has performed and recorded internationally, including featured performances at festivals in the Central and Eastern Europe.

No tickets are required for this concert.

Donations (suggestion: \$10 per person, \$25 per family) will be accepted at the door. All donations will go directly to the WSU Music Program.

Information about the Wayne State University Department of Music is available at the WSU web site: <http://music.wayne.edu/>. Information about the Performing Arts Series at First Presbyterian Church of Farmington is available at the church's Web site: www.farmington-pres.org.



WSU professor Russell Miller will debut his new suite at a performance of the Wayne State University jazz Big Band and Concert Choral.

IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

The Observer Newspapers wants to know what's going on in your neighborhood. Send items to Linda Chomin, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 615 W. Lafayette, Second Level, Detroit, MI 48226-3124.

DIA LECTURE SERIES

The Plymouth Community Arts Council presents lectures 7 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 4, at the Plymouth Library, 223 S. Main, and noon Tuesday, Feb. 10, at the Joanne Winkelman Hulce Center for the Arts, 774 N. Sheldon Road. The evening topic is *The Beauty of Bronze*, noon is *Life After Death*. No charge.

Lectures are given by volunteers from the Detroit Institute of Arts. For information, call (734) 416-4278.

SATURDAYS @ THE PENN

The Plymouth Canton Symphony Society and Plymouth Community Arts Council spotlight guest performers, Like Water Drum and Dance, with special host Guy Louis of Chautauqua Express noon Saturday, Feb. 7, at the Penn Theatre, 760 Penniman, Plymouth. Tickets \$3 and available at the door. For group purchases, call (734) 377-0914. For more information, visit www.PennSaturdays.com. Doors open at 11:15 a.m.

DIVERSITY PROGRAMMING

Madonna University's Office of Diversity and Multicultural Affairs offers two events to inaugurate Diversity Week Programming. Detroit Police Chief James Barren discusses his academic and professional journey 1 p.m. Monday, Feb. 9. Rick Robinson, first chair bassist from the Detroit Symphony Orchestra performs 7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 10. Both take place in the Kresge Auditorium at Madonna University, 36600 Schoolcraft at Levan, Livonia. To RSVP, call (734) 432-5308 or send e-mail to bjohnson@madonna.edu.

NEIGHBORS MEETING

Livonia Neighbors & Friends (a women's club) holds their annual Bingo and Pizza meeting on 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb.

10H, at Emmanuel Lutheran Church on Seven Mile, west of Gill Road. New members always welcome. For more information, send e-mail to LivoniaNeighborsFriends@hotmail.com or visit www.geocities.com/LivoniaNeighborsAndFriends. Questions? Call Dorrie at (248) 777-3848.

SCHOOLYARD HABITATS

Smith Elementary in Plymouth and Burger School for Students with Autism in Garden City will participate in The Friends of the Rouge Schoolyard Habitat Program thanks to funding from the Rouge River National Wet Weather Demonstration Project. The program is focused on getting kids outside to learn by providing grants to create outdoor classrooms. Schoolyard habitats vary widely but usually incorporate four basic elements: food, water, shelter and space, all things required for plants and animals to survive. The multidisciplinary teaching tools educate children on the importance of having a healthy, clean environment.

Each school receives a \$500 grant to purchase native Michigan plants, and \$500 for expert assistance with implementing programs.

Burger students will combine the creation of a garden with the conduction of a study on the effectiveness of regular sensory lessons on children with autism.

Smith students will transform a vacant area of the school grounds into a vibrant habitat that will benefit the environment and provide hands-on education, according to principal Jill Cantin.

BENEFIT DINNER DANCE

Two charities, Goodwill Industries and the Livonia Elks, are working toward one goal to help the community by holding the 4th Annual Valentine's Dinner Dance and Reverse Raffle Saturday, Feb. 14. The event benefits the Elks National Foundation and Goodwill Industries of Greater Detroit. For more information, call (734) 425-2246 or (313) 557-8791.

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Bone mineral density of femoral neck (either T or Z score)
Previous fracture refers to any past fracture whether spontaneous or because of trauma. Current smoker refers to tobacco smoking. Oral steroids means having taken a dose of prednisone or equivalent of 5 mg/day for 3 months or more. The diagnosis of rheumatoid arthritis must be a firm one; having "arthritis" requires a "no" answer.
One should enter "yes" for alcohol if drinking means 3 or more beers/day, or 3 or more glasses of wine/day. The reference value for Bone Mineral Density is a DXA scan of the femoral neck.
The assessment answers to into a computer that mathematically works out the 10 year osteoporotic risk. Doctors will have at hand the information necessary to determine one's overall need for osteoporosis therapy.

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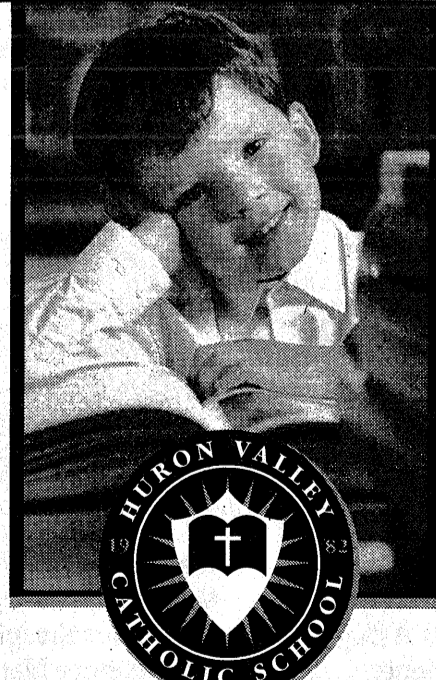
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RELIGION CALENDAR

To submit an item for the religion calendar, fax it to (734) 591-7279 or write: Religion Calendar, Observer Newspapers, 615 W. Lafayette-second level, Detroit, MI 48226, Attn: Linda Chomin. Deadline for an announcement to appear in the Thursday edition is noon Monday.

JANUARY

New worship schedule

Sunday worship at 8 a.m., Faith Forum at 9 a.m., worship and Sunday school 10 a.m. Wednesday worship at 7:30 p.m. in the Chapel, at Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA), 30650 Six Mile, Livonia. Call (734) 427-1414.

Time change

Worship is 9:30 a.m. Sunday, at Faith Lutheran Church, 30000 Five Mile, west of Middlebelt, Livonia. Learning hour is at 8:15 a.m. for all ages. For more information, visit www.livon-faith.org.

Church moves

Westwood Community Church has moved to 1119 N. Newburgh, Westland. Service time is 10-11:15 a.m. Come as you are. Coffee and doughnuts every Sunday. Children's church.

UPCOMING

Healing training

Learn how to receive and offer the healing of one's body, heart, mind and spirit in Christian training sessions 6-10 a.m. Friday, Feb. 6, and 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 7, at Good Hope Lutheran Church, 28680 Cherry Hill, Garden City. For information or to RSVP, call (734) 427-3660. Steve and Beverly Bubb, directors of the Community Healing Rooms of Southeast Michigan lead the two sessions.

Special needs dance

Emmanuel Lutheran Church and its Open Arms Ministry hosts a valentine's dance for adults with special needs, developmental disabilities, and their caregivers 6:30-8 p.m. Friday, Feb. 13, at the church 34567 Seven Mile, between Farmington and Newburgh roads, Livonia. Snacks will be served. Reservations required as space is limited. Call Judy Cook at (248) 442-8822 or e-mail to elc-ed@arounddetroit.biz no later than Friday, Feb. 6. If Livonia schools are closed due to inclement weather, this event will be canceled.

Bethany singles

Dance, 8 p.m. to midnight Saturday, Feb. 7, in Redford. Cost is \$10, includes

refreshments. Doors open at 7:30 p.m. Call Diane for information at (734) 261-5716.

Breakfast, 9:30 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 21, at Leon's 30149 Ford Road, south side (next to Tim Horton's) in Garden City, 48135. All separated, divorced and singles welcome. For details, call Kathy at (734) 513-9479. Bethany is a Catholic organization under the auspices of the Archdiocese of the Detroit Office for Family Ministry. Bethany provides spiritual, social and educational assistance through peer-to-peer ministry to the divorced and separated of all Christian faiths.

Sunday night lights

Riverside Park Church of God presents the non-traditional service designed to touch all the senses, every second and fourth Sunday of the month at 6:30 p.m. at the church, 11771 Newburgh, corner of Plymouth Road, Livonia. Call (734) 464-0990 for more information. Step into the light with relevant messages and modern music within a casual atmosphere.

Special needs Bible class

Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Livonia invites adults with developmental disabilities and special needs to attend a new Open Arms Bible class Monday, Feb. 9, at the church, 34567 Seven Mile, between Farmington and Newburgh roads, Livonia. The class will include songs, Bible lessons, crafts and activities, prayer, snacks and fun. Contact Judy Cook at Emmanuel, (248) 442-8822 or e-mail to elc-ed@arounddetroit.biz.

Kids against hunger

The Kiwanis Club of Colonial Plymouth hosts a benefit for Kids Against Hunger, 6:30-11 p.m. Friday, Feb. 13, at Our Lady of Good Counsel Church Social Hall on the corner of North Territorial and Beck in Plymouth. Tickets are \$35 and available by contacting Jeanne Baldwin at (734) 414-8900, by e-mail at jagonyer@ameritech.net, or Dan Herriman at (734) 459-5440 or dherriman@herriman.net. The event will feature a Las Vegas-style wedding chapel, silent auction, the new Liberty Street Microbrewery beer, strolling buffet dinner with cash bar and dancing. Attendees will have the opportunity to renew their vows at the chapel to help raise money for Kids Against Hunger, an international food relief campaign that began in 1999. It has operations in metro-Detroit and distributes a specially formulated

dry rice-soy casserole to starving children and their families in Detroit, elsewhere in Michigan, the U.S. and more than 40 other countries. Kiwanis Club of Colonial Plymouth regularly organizes food packaging activities by partnering with other local organizations that provide both funding and volunteers for their packaging events. Proceeds from the event go to assist in defraying the cost for the food that is packaged.

Hunger workshop

Bread For The World, a Christian non-partisan hunger legislation organization, holds a Hunger Offering Of Letters workshop 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 14, at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 814 North Campbell, Royal Oak. Registration and continental breakfast start at 8:30 a.m. For information, contact Bob Krzewinski at (734) 487-9058, e-mail wolverbob@gmail.com or visit www.breadmichigan.org. During an Offering of Letters, individuals and congregations are asked to write to Congress on specific hunger-fighting legislation. This hunger advocacy event is free and open to the public.

Valentine's Day dance

7-10 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 14, at First United Methodist Church of Garden City, 6443 Merriman, north of Ford Road. Music by Solitaire. Tickets \$8. For information, call Kay at (734) 522-8868 or Sally (734) 421-0699.

VBS preview

Presented by International Christian Education Association 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 21, at Ward Church, Six Mile and Haggerty, Northville. A day of meeting Christian publishers to view their curriculum. Sit in on four of 20 workshops. This is a nondenominational event. Call (248) 557-5526 or visit www.iceaonline.org. Holy Communion & Imposition of Ashes 7:30 p.m. Ash Wednesday, Feb. 25, Lenten Evening Prayer 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays, at Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA), 30650 Six Mile, Livonia. Call (734) 427-1414.

Music at St. John's

Collegium Musicum performs cantatas and instrumental works, 6 p.m. Sunday, March 29, and The Saline Fiddlers, 6 p.m., Sunday, May 17, at St. John's Episcopal Church, 574 S. Sheldon, Plymouth. All concerts are free except The Saline Fiddlers (\$7 and available in advance or at door). Call (734) 453-0190.

All-you-can-eat pancakes

The Ushers' Club of St. Michael the Archangel Parish in Livonia continues its more than 30-year tradition of all-you-can-eat pancake breakfasts 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on the third Sunday of each month in the school cafeteria at 11441 Hubbard, south of Plymouth Road, with an expanded menu that features pancakes, scrambled eggs, sausage, bacon, hash browns, and assorted breakfast beverages. Meals are served buffet-style at family friendly prices: \$5, adults, \$3 children ages 4-11, free for children under age 3, \$15 a family (2 adults and all children). Everyone is welcome.

Clothing bank

Free clothing (men, women and children) for those in need 10 a.m. to noon on the fourth Saturday of each month, at Canton Christian Fellowship Clothing Bank, 8775-Ronda Drive, south of Joy between Haggerty and Lilley. For information, call (734) 404-2480, visit www.CantonCF.org or send e-mail to info@cantoncf.org.

ONGOING

Church schedule

9:30 a.m. Sunday School followed by 10:30 a.m. Worship Service with Communion each Sunday, Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Wednesdays, at Good Hope Lutheran Church, 28680 Cherry Hill, Garden City. For information, call (734) 427-3660.

Caregiver's support group

St. John's Support Group for the Caregiver's of Alzheimer's patients or patients with other forms of dementia meets at 10 a.m., the first and third Friday of each month 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.

Worship

Sundays 8 a.m. worship; 9 a.m. Adult Faith Forum, 10 a.m. worship service, Sunday School and Nursery, at Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA), 30650 Six Mile, Livonia. Call (734) 427-1414.

Sunday school

Takes place at 9:30 a.m. with worship service and communion at 10:30 a.m. each Sunday, at Good Hope Lutheran Church, 28600 Cherry Hill, between Inkerster and Middlebelt roads, Garden City. Bible study 6:30 p.m. every Wednesday. Call (734) 427-3660.

The Reunion Calendar runs Sundays in the newspaper as space allows, and online in its entirety at www.hometownlife.com. Submit your reunion announcement at least two weeks in advance to Linda Chomin, e-mail lchomin@hometownlife.com.

Brighton High School

Class of 1989 Planning a July 25 reunion at Barnstormer Entertainment Complex in Green Oak Township. There will be a buffet dinner, DJ, and cash bar. Tickets \$75 per person or \$140 per couple. Contact Kelley (Doan) Simpson at (269) 375-5773 or at email4kelley@yahoo.com, or see groups.yahoo.com/group/brightonclassof1989.

Class of 1959

50th reunion with activities June 5-7, 2009. Events will include a Saturday evening dinner party at Plum Hollow Country Club in Southfield. Visit www.casstech59.com or contact Marge Teramino Knable, reunion@casstech59.com; Debbie Friedman, (248) 626-3729; or Steve Sperling, (248) 360-9658.

Dearborn Fordson

Class of 1969

Planning a reunion. Contact Kathy Nisun at (248) 363-5679 or e-mail: Kayniniilu@aol.com or Kathy Shoebridge @ Klivingston@nu-core.com.

Detroit St. Brigid

Class of 1959

Planning a reunion and looking for classmates. Contact szonyek@att.net with any information about classmates.

Garden City High School East

Class of 1959

3 p.m. Friday, Sept. 18, 2009 High School Tour; 6:30 p.m. Albert's On The Alley; 11 a.m. Saturday Sept. 19, Garden City Museum Tour; 6 p.m. to midnight party at K. of C., 30759 Ford Road and noon to 5 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 20, picnic and old car show at Garden City Park Large Pavilion. Bring your own picnic and some to share. For more information, call Lana Clark at (734) 721-2331, Jim McKendrick (734) 788-5165, Carl Gowan (517) 548-1523, or Jim Porth (734) 522-1845.

Detroit St. Casimir High School

Class of 1959

Planning a Sept. 13, 2009 Class Reunion. All upper and lower classmates invited. Contact Judy (Zimski) Coogan at JudyCoo@hotmail.com or (734) 675-0148 or Pete Rakowski at

Pjcrusin@wowway.com.

Garden City High School

Class of 1960

Mini-reunion luncheons held the second Saturday of every month at 1 p.m. in the banquet room in the Plymouth Denny's on Ann Arbor Road, east of I-275. Call Gary Simon at (734) 751-4101 or send e-mail to GCHS.MCMLX@yahoo.com.

Class of 1989

20th reunion Aug. 29, 2009, at Joy Manor (6 p.m. to midnight. No tickets will be sold at the door. Tickets include dinner, premium open bar, dj, door prizes, picture cd and other gifts, and available for purchase at www.gardencity89.com or contact Paula at gchs1989reunion@hotmail.com.

Grosse Pointe North

Class of 1991

Call (800) 677-7800, visit www.taylorreunions.com or e-mail: info@taylorreunions.com.

Lincoln Park High School

Looking for members of Lincoln Park High School class of 1958 for 50-year reunion. Contact Nancy, (313) 535-8777 or ncc6897@sbcglobal.net.

Livonia Franklin

Class of 1969

A reunion is in the pre-planning stages. For more information, contact Kathy Nisun at (248) 363-5679 or e-mail: Kayniniilu@aol.com.

Milford High School

Class of 1978

Planning a 30th reunion. Class members should contact the reunion committee as soon as possible. E-mail milford78@gmail.com.

Mother Of Our Savior

All class reunion

Aug. 15, 2009 at Monahan's K of C in Livonia. For more information, Call Joe McCauley at (734) 420-2898.

Our Lady of Fatima Elementary School

Class of 1970

Planning a May 23, 2009 reunion at OLF Bradley Hall. Still looking for classmates that graduated with us or joined us any time during those years. E-mail Joan Barrett-Stec at stecland@aol.com.

Rochester Adams

Class of 1989

Announces its 20 Year Reunion Saturday, July 18, 2009. For details and more information, visit rochesteradams89.com or e-mail rahs89@gmail.com.

Love is in the air at choral concert

St. John Lutheran Church of Farmington continues its 2008-2009 concert series Sunday, Feb. 8 with "A Valentine Concert," a selection of love-themed songs by The Novi Choralaires.

Songs on the program range from Broadway hits by Lerner and Lowe and Gershwin to pop hits.

The Novi Choralaires is a non-profit, self-supporting group under the auspices of Novi Parks Performing Arts. Established in the Fall of 1975, the chorus is open to men and women from Novi and surrounding communities by audition in September.

The group performs a Christmas concert series each December; their major concert is a spring show which is per-

formed in May. They also sing for senior adults, service clubs, and at civic events. "Many of our folks have been in the group for 20 years or more and have forged lasting friendships. We really enjoy the fellowship as well as the music," said Johanna Bermann, a member.

Director Janet Wassilak has directed the Novi Choralaires since 1977. She holds a Bachelor of Music Education degree and a Master of Music degree in Applied Voice from Boston University. An active church musician in Massachusetts and Michigan since 1967, she is currently Director of Music Ministries at First United Methodist Church in Farmington.

Accompanist Trena Baldrige currently works with the University of Detroit-Mercy Jazz Ensemble and Chorus. She has also been the musical director of the Redford Youth Theater and is actively involved in several churches in the Detroit area.

The Novi Choralaires are available to sing for church functions, nursing homes, service clubs, and at civic events.

A free will offering will be taken. Refreshments will be served during intermission.

St. John Lutheran Church is located at 23225 Gill Road, two blocks west of downtown Farmington between Grand River Avenue and Freedom Road.

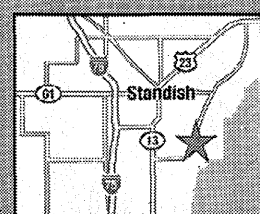


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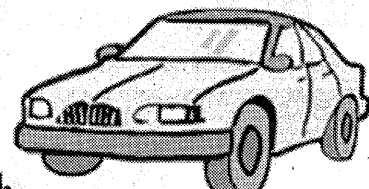
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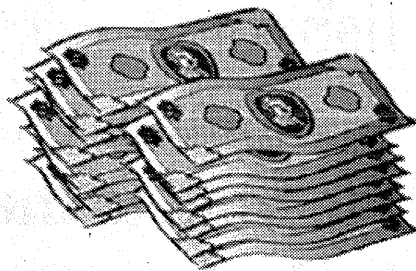
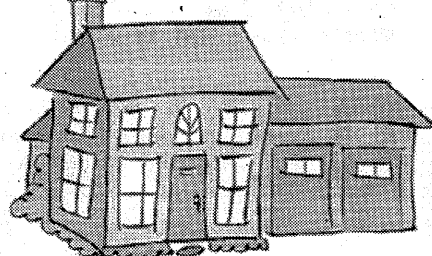


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HEALTH & FITNESS

Close to home Cancer center makes care convenient

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
OSE STAFF WRITER

The short walk from the parking lot to the front door of the new Botsford Cancer Center was planned that way. Radiation oncology is only a few steps further on the first floor. One flight up is the doctor.

Cancer treatment is taxing enough on patients' bodies without having to travel from location to location for care. The 30,000-square-foot building is meant to be a one stop center bringing not only chemotherapy and radiation together in one building, but offices of oncologists and surgeons as well as a lab for blood testing.

In the past patients had to leave the Botsford Hospital campus in Farmington Hills if they needed radiation. The \$17 million building offers state of the art equipment for treatment and diagnostics.

"Our objective was to make the cancer center convenient and comforting for patients," said Dr. Paul LaCasse, president and CEO of Botsford Health Care including the hospital. "Here they don't

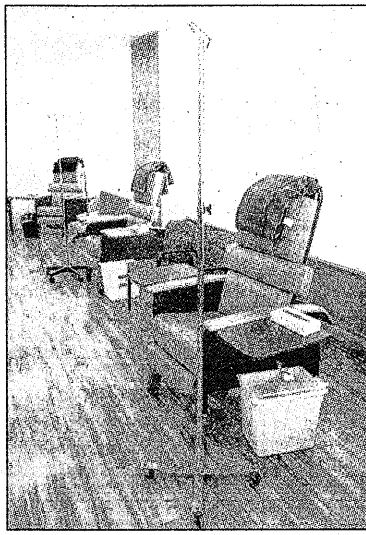
have to drive a distance and navigate the parking and facility."

Ted Tenenbaum was especially concerned that all systems were operational by the time the first radiation therapy patient was treated Thursday, Jan. 22. From the beginning in early 2005 the vision was to offer all cancer related services close to home.

"A diagnosis like this does consume your life," said Ted Tenenbaum, chief administrative officer for the cancer center. "You've already lost control and you get moved around from appointment to appointment. The cancer center makes their life a lot easier."

The availability of partial breast irradiation and diagnostics such as digital mammography is only a few months away once a breast care center in the building is completed. CT scan is already in use to plan radiation treatments customized for each patient. Diagnostic imaging should begin this week.

"It's the first step in planning safe treatment," said radiation therapist Clare English. "The new equipment takes slices through the body and does everything but



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

This infusion room is one of the locations where chemotherapy is administered.

cook dinner. It has the ability to line up the patient to reproduce treatment consistent from day to day."

Clinical trials should be available later in the year through the Community Clinical Oncology Program at Beaumont Hospital. Tenenbaum is currently in the process of hiring a nurse trained at Beaumont. The Botsford and Beaumont connection is a strong one.

Dr. Larry Kestin was at Beaumont until four months ago when he became the Botsford Cancer Center medical director. Like Kestin, all of the radia-



Radiation technician Clare English prepares a CAT scan machine for a patient at the new Botsford Cancer Center in Farmington Hills.

tion oncologists in the Botsford Cancer Center are also on staff at Beaumont.

"I've been involved since the beginning with (medical oncologist) Jeff Margolis," said Kestin. "We're a comprehensive cancer center and plan to lease space to surgeons to make it a multidisciplinary clinic with three doctors to see all in one day."

Every thought was given to the care of patients including the \$2 million spent on the renovation of the historic Botsford Inn which eventually will serve as a meeting place for physicians as well as patients seeking support.

LaCasse is equally as proud of the history as the LEED certification of the building designed by Marshal Erdman & Associates in Wisconsin. The Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design registration means the building has met the highest environmental and health standards. The center uses 30 percent less water and 17 percent less energy.

"The Inn's been restored to 1924 configuration, the year Henry Ford bought the inn originally built in 1836," said LaCasse. "It was the resting point between Detroit and Lansing on the stage

coach trail. It's next to Clara Ford Rose Garden outside the cancer center. All infusion bays overlook the healing garden. We wanted the building to be convenient, aesthetically pleasing. It's a green building. We used environmentally friendly paints and wall coverings. Our mission is to provide health care to the community. There are toxins linked to some cancers. We felt we should reduce all those risks and toxins, reduce the hazards. We treat about 2,000 patients a year, diagnose about 800 cases a year. The prevalence seems to be increasing in our community."

Conference to focus on autism

The public is invited to attend the first International Conference on Biomedical and other treatments that offer hope to individuals and families with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) Friday-Sunday, Feb. 20-22, at the Crown Plaza in Novi.

Autism Spectrum Disorders affect 1 in 150 children today and are present in many teens and adults. This is an opportunity to learn new treatment options for those diagnosed with autism, PDD, NOS, AD/HD, Asperger Syndrome, RAD, OCD, and

other developmental disorders.

Presented by the American Medical Autism Board and Phillip DeMio, M.D., the conference includes general sessions and sessions for physicians and health care professionals. General sessions are designed for persons living with ASD, their families, caregivers, health care providers, educators, and other professionals.

Attending all or part of the conference will accumulate credits for eligible physicians toward American Medical

Autism Board certification.

Speakers and panel members include biomedical treatment physicians, parent advocates, chiropractic physicians, and other professionals in the field. Heidi Scheer, Mrs. Michigan United States and a parent of an ASD child, will be a special guest speaker and will show her son's "Road to Recovery" film.

Registration for one, two or three days is available with discounted pricing for all three days. Register online at www.asdboards.com.

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A Note from Florine

Let's face it - winter isn't the easiest time of year to stay active. The brisk cold air sends many of us into hibernation until spring. But the best way to keep that healthy momentum year round is to remain energized and rev up your metabolism. The New Year is still fresh and so should your commitment to a better, healthier you. Be creative with your workout. The gym isn't the only place to get some exercise. Try taking the stairs, going for a brisk walk outside, or even take on the mall with some good sneakers!

Florine Mark

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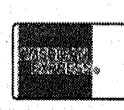
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Sunday PUZZLE CORNER

Challenging fun for ALL ages

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ACROSS

- 1 Chatter
- 4 Nile goddess
- 12 Boxing great
- 13 Criterion
- 14 Lisbon lady
- 15 Once called
- 18 McHale of the NBA
- 20 Catches cold
- 21 After deductions
- 23 Miller or Sheridan
- 24 Empathize
- 27 Athena's symbol
- 29 Spanish painter
- 33 — and yang
- 34 Milne marsupial
- 35 Physique
- 36 Tree growth
- 38 Floss, to Ben
- 39 Flog waver?
- 40 Zodiac sign
- 42 Sweater letter

DOWN

- 1 Jerk
- 2 Helm position
- 3 Chicken style
- 4 Wrinkled fruit
- 5 Hotfoot it
- 6 Sitcom alien
- 7 Give — break!
- 8 In neutral
- 9 Gardener's need
- 10 Places to sleep
- 11 Hang loosely

Answer to Previous Puzzle

U	G	H	W	I	N	G	S	A	O
K	N	E	I	O	T	A	E	L	K
E	U	C	L	I	D	H	O	T	E
K	E	A	T	S	L	O	S		
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Caddy SRX: Best American-Made Luxury Crossover

Advertising Feature

CAReport



By Kevin Koloian
For Avanti NewsFeatures
and AllOpinionsAlltheTime.com

The new SRX is Cadillac's offering to the popular crossover SUV segment. Crossovers are car-based as opposed to truck-based. So with the SRX you get the roomy cabin, elevated driving position and confident power of an SUV, without the awkward driving dynamics typically associated with them.

Cadillac didn't reinvent the wheel when it designed the SRX a few years back. Instead it based it on the same platform of its CTS luxury sport sedan. This was a smart move, because the sharp-edged styling and precise handling of the CTS has translated perfectly to the SRX.

The SRX, assembled in Lansing, has earned an award-winning reputation for its crisp design, outstanding performance, practical functionality and value, as evidenced by being named a Car and Driver Best Luxury SUV a few times.

Despite its high accolades, Cadillac enhanced the SRX's interior two years ago with a new instrument panel, hand-wrapped upper trim, console, center stack, door trim, wood trim, analog clock and steering wheel.

The cockpit has soft tactile surfaces, new flush-mounted switches and controls, and classy, not tacky, use of wood-grain and chrome trim. The SRX's spaciousness is complemented by a streamlined center console and the addition of a new storage compartment on the passenger side of the instrument panel.

The SRX's instrument panel and door trim were built using Cadillac's "cut-and-sew" interior process that combines advanced technology with the hand-rendered expertise of expert craftsmen. The SRX's cockpit is hand-built, in the same way the limited-production STS-V and XLR-V models are.

On the exterior, the SRX has a large profile. Besides giving the SRX a bold stance, its long wheelbase, which is the longest in its class, help provides superior ride quality and dynamic stability. A near 50-50 weight distribution, low center of gravity and stability control system help the SRX deliver a fine balance between sports-car performance and refined ride quality.

The SRX is offered in two trim levels, which are separated by what's under the hood: V6 or V8. The V6, at just over \$37K, includes 17-inch alloy wheels, leather seating, OnStar telematics, a Bose audio system with CD player and XM satellite radio, dual-zone automatic climate control, an auto-dimming rearview mirror, full power features and rear park assist.

With the V8 for around \$44K you'll also get 18-inch alloys, xenon HID headlights, a tire-pressure monitor, heated front seats, power-adjustable pedals, real wood accents, a power front-passenger seat and a six-disc CD changer. Most of the V8's features are optional on the V6.



The Cadillac SRX offers a luxurious interior that befits the Cadillac moniker. So if you want the prestigious driving experience of the Escalade, but don't want to be robbed at the pump, the SRX is for you.

Stand-alone options for both models include a Magnetic Ride Control suspension, a third-row seat, a separate rear air-conditioning system, an extra-large Ultra View sunroof, a DVD rear entertainment system, surround-sound audio and a navigation system. The Sport Package adds larger 18- or 20-inch wheels, unique front and rear ends and a limited-slip differential.

On a sunny day, if you want the wind in your hair while seating in the second row, an optional Ultra View sunroof is available. It spans both front rows, allowing nearly all passengers to experience open-air driving.

Also available is UltraView Plus, a vented glass panel that extends over the available third-row seating, and turns the SRX into a greenhouse on wheels.

The V6 SRX comes with a 5-speed automatic transmission and the V8 SRX has a 6-speed automatic. Both versions are available in a rear-wheel or all-wheel-drive.

The technologically advanced interior of SRX boasts a voice recognition system that is programmed to understand around 40 commands, enabling drivers to switch between audio controls and map views without taking their hands from the wheel. While the system doesn't support destination entry via voice command, it does let you "voice tag" destinations that have been manually entered on the map.

The cabin may be sleek, but the steering wheel doesn't telescope, and its manual-tilt function adjusts in wide increments rather than a precise range. It may be small, in retrospect, but those are the types of things a discerning luxury-car buyer wants.

Standard safety features on the SRX include anti-lock disc brakes, stability control and front-seat side as well as side curtain airbags for the first two rows.

In National Highway Traffic Safety Administration crash tests, the SRX scored four out of five stars for driver and front-passenger protection in frontal impacts. Side-impact tests resulted in a perfect five-star rating for front and rear passengers. In Insurance Institute for Highway Safety frontal-offset crash tests, the SRX scored "good," the highest rating possible.

Another standard safety feature, though underrated, is the

rearview mirror, which is auto-dimming with an eight-point compass. Its ultrasonic rear parking feature will let you know if you are close to backing into another object. This is most useful when you are backing into a tight parking place.

The SRX is not only a good people hauler, but also a good luggage hauler. There's plenty of room in the second row, though the optional power third-row seat should be reserved for kids. But with the third seat folded flat into the floor, 32 cubic feet of capacity behind the second-row seats is freed up. And with the second-row down, too, you'll have 70 cubic feet available.

In addition to numerous storage areas, an optional rear cargo management system, available as an alternative to the third-row seat, offers three cargo compartments and includes a removable storage bin. It's perfect for stowing anything from emergency kits to sports equipment to DVDs or CDs for a long drive. For still more cargo packing, large side storage bins along the rear cargo area are standard.

Although the SRX is a big vehicle, weighing around 4,500 pounds, it blends a smooth ride and sporty handling of a regular-sized car. For an even more superior ride the optional Magnetic Suspension system is available. This system uses shock absorbers that are filled with a special fluid that changes its flow when subjected to a magnetic force. The result is a computerized, real-time adjustable suspension in which the shocks can switch from their softest to firmest settings in the time it takes the Cadillac to cover 1 inch of the road at 60 mph.

If you want the capability of an SUV and the luxury that is synonymous with the Cadillac name, get the new SRX. It is one of the best all-around American luxury vehicles there is.

Kevin Koloian reviews cars for AllOpinionsAlltheTime.com and Avanti NewsFeatures. Write to him at avanti1054@aol.com. Distributed by Fracassa News Group. ©2009, Fracassa Communications

Cadillac SRX
Vehicle class: Crossover SUV.
Power: Equipped with V6 and V8 engines.
Mileage: 16 city / 24 highway.
Where built: Lansing, Mich.
Price as tested: \$47,055.

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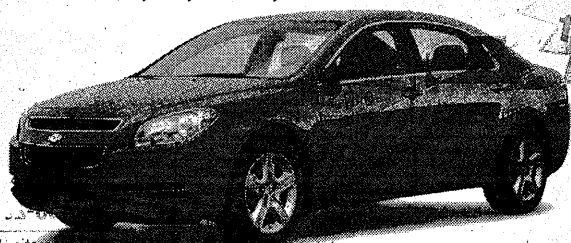
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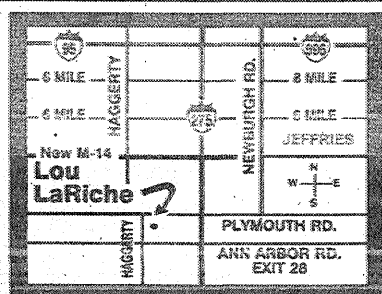
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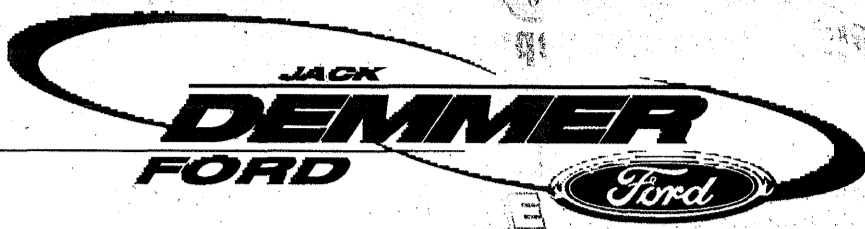
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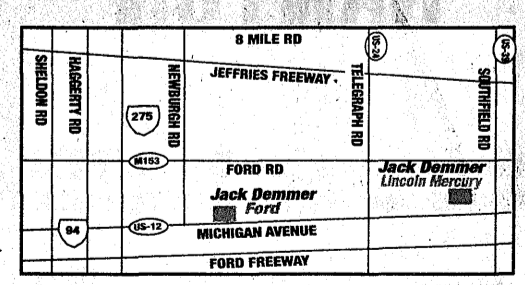
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