

PLYMOUTH OBSERVER

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

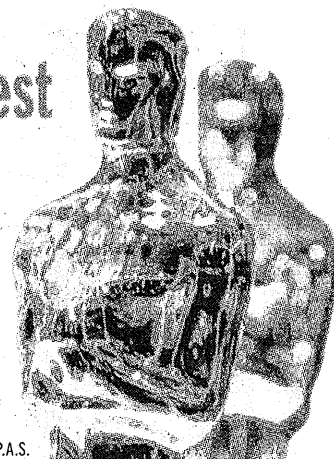
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Pipeline

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Simply log on to www.hometownlife.com and click on "Customer Service." Under "Reader Services," you'll find complete instructions for our online submission process. Of course, we still accept submissions by mail. Send your announcements and photos to [Wendy Von Buskirk](mailto:WendyVonBuskirk@observer.com), features editor, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 615 W. Lafayette, 2nd Level, Detroit, MI 48226-3124.



Benjamin Karl of Redford plays George and Betty Berryman of Canton is Doris in Barefoot Productions' 'Same Time, Next Year,' a romantic comedy by Bernard Slade.

Play time

Barefoot Productions, the Plymouth-based production company, presents *Same Time, Next Year*, at the former Walker-Buzenberg building in downtown Plymouth.

Performances of the play, which follows the relationship of George and Doris over the course of decades, take place 8 p.m. Feb. 19-21 and Feb. 26-28 and 2 p.m. Feb. 22 and March 1.

The Walker-Buzenberg building is located at 240 N. Main in Plymouth. Tickets are \$15 general admission, \$10 for students and seniors 60 and older. For tickets and reservations, call (734) 560-1493, visit www.Ticketleap.com or Barefoot's Web site at www.just-gobarefoot.com

Egg hunt

Local residents are being asked to get their Easter baskets ready.

The Plymouth Lions Club will sponsor the 2009 Easter Egg Hunt Saturday, April 11. Club officials are looking for donations to help make the event a success.

Questions, and donations, can be phoned in to Debbie Baudino-Dowling, (734) 207-7464.

Bird students take cultural journey

BY BRAD KADRICH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

If someone had said "Jamba!" to Bird Elementary School fifth-grader Drew Smiley before Thursday, he wouldn't have known how to respond.

Now, Drew knows the proper retort: "Hello!"

It's one of the many things Drew and his fellow Bird students learned Thursday from author and storyteller Jacqueline Galloway-Blake, who conducted a storyteller assembly on Black History Month at the school Thursday afternoon.

Blake used musical instruments, storytelling, authentic ethnic artifacts, singing, visual aids and a ton of audience participation to take students on a 600-year journey through African-American history and culture.

"She was wonderful," Bird Principal Susan Kelty said of Galloway-Blake. "It was rich in African history, children's literature and historical facts."

It was rich in fact partly because Galloway-Blake has a pretty rich history herself. Her great-grandfather was a slave. At 15, she marched with Dr. Martin Luther King in the March on Washington, and heard King's "I Have A Dream" speech.

When civil rights legend Rosa Parks died in October 2005, Galloway-Blake was a flower bearer at her funeral. And when Americans elected their first African-American president in November, she was invited to Barack Obama's inauguration.

With that kind of history, it's no surprise Galloway-Blake's presentation drew raves from administrators, teachers and students. Kelty said by Friday morning she'd already received several thank-you notes from students, including one from Drew Smiley.

"I thought the way she asked for so many volunteers was cool because we got to participate



Storyteller Jacqueline Galloway-Blake uses authentic African artifacts, musical instruments and fabric samples to take Bird Elementary students on a 600-year journey through Black history.



Jacqueline Galloway-Blake, who has done hundreds of presentations to schools and libraries around the area, likes to involve the students in her work, as she did Thursday at Bird Elementary.

in the show," Drew said. "Even though I already knew a lot of the information, it was a fun way to review."

"I also learned some interesting new facts ... like 'Jamba' means hello," he added. "That will be a fun way for me to greet my family!"

Galloway-Blake, who has done hundreds of presentations to schools and libraries around the area, approached Kelty last month with the idea of doing an assembly in conjunction with King's birthday, but an assembly couldn't be worked into the school's schedule. Kelty said she wanted to take advantage of Galloway-Blake's availability, and the pair coordinated a Black History Month assembly, instead.

"I think it's important for our children to understand all cultures," Kelty said. "They need to value all people, of all races and colors and religions."

Hearing delayed; township, union look at arbitration

BY MATT JACHMAN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

A Thursday hearing on an unfair labor practice charge against Plymouth Township was postponed as township and union officials looked for a faster way to resolve the dispute.

At issue is the Board of Trustees' decision in December to cut the work weeks of seven full-time employees to 30 hours a week, which meant they lost benefits such as health insurance.

The American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees

local that represents the seven, as well as 20 other mostly clerical township workers, contended the move violated the contract with the township because the jobs are defined in the contract as full-time jobs.

The decision came three weeks before local members voted on whether to continue with AFSCME, join the administrative section of the Police Officers Association of Michigan, or do without union representation. Having such disruption so close to such an election could have tainted it, union members say.

Township Supervisor Richard

Reaume said the cuts were made because of budget concerns and that the board was within its rights to make them.

AFSCME lawyer Robert Fetter said Friday that the union and township officials were going over the language of an agreement that would scrap the planned unfair labor practice hearing with the Michigan Employment Relations Commission in favor of binding arbitration, which could take place late next month.

"I think we're very close" to an agreement, Fetter said Friday afternoon.

Under the proposal, the results

of the Jan. 8 vote by local members on representation, which have been sealed because of the dispute, would be opened, Fetter said. The MERC process could drag on for months, he said, but the union's chief concern is the job status of the workers whose hours were cut and the fact that their benefits were eliminated.

If a deal is not reached, a MERC hearing that was rescheduled for Tuesday would take place, Fetter said.

Township officials could not be reached late Friday.

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

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Merchants bring taste of the bayou downtown

BY BRAD KADRICH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Plymouth merchants are hoping to ease the winter doldrums a little and help residents and visitors have a little fun at the same time when they bring a taste of the bayou to downtown Feb. 21.

MARDI GRAS

- What: 1st Plymouth Mardi Gras
- When: noon to nighttime, Saturday, Feb. 21
- Where: Downtown Plymouth and Old Village
- Featuring: Activities for youngsters in Kellogg Park, concert featuring Steve King and the Dittillies
- Info: Downtown DDA, (734) 555-1453 or e-mail dda@plymouthmi.us

Commerce, the Downtown Merchants and the Plymouth recreation department. Some 60 shops in downtown and Old Village



Steve King and the Dittillies hit the stage Saturday, Feb. 21, during the Plymouth Mardi Gras celebration.

are participating. Plymouth-Canton high school artists will decorate the windows of some 20 shops. Party goers will be able to collect beads and win prizes. Kellogg Park will feature a variety of activities for youngsters.

One of the more popular concert acts in town performs a free concert when Steve King and the Dittillies take the stage in Kellogg Park at 8 p.m. After 8 p.m. is also when the nighttime fun begins at some 30 shops, restaurants and bars around downtown.

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

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

Rhyer's dinner

Leo's Coney Island in Plymouth Township sponsors a benefit night for 18-month-old Rhyer, born in September 2007 with a rare heart defect, Hypoplastic Left Heart Syndrome.



In his short life, Rhyer has been through five surgeries, he suffered a stroke that left him with motor and cognitive delays and will likely need another heart surgery in spring 2010.

The benefit night takes place 5-10 p.m. Friday, Feb. 20, when the restaurant will donate 10 percent of all dinner sales to Rhyer's cause. Friday is also "Family Night" at Leo's, with balloon and face-painting artist "Aunt Wilma" on hand for the young ones.

Leo's is located at 41498 Ann Arbor Road, near Haggerty. For details, call (734) 416-8200.

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.

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).

Outreach program

The ARC of Northwest Wayne County in cooperation with the Garden City Public Schools is offering informational outreach sessions for all parents and families of young children with disabilities, delays and special needs, beginning Wednesday, Feb. 25.

Gain information, support and parent mentoring services so your children will be able to enter school ready to learn. Sessions will provide parents and families with information about technical assistance and training in both navigating the service and education systems and successfully advocating for a child's maximum development.

The programs will be 6-8 p.m. at the Garden City Public Schools Administrative Center, 1333 Radcliff, between Marquette and Ford. Light refreshments will be served and child care will be provided.

On Feb. 25, consultant Ann Heler will present "Just Like Everybody Else," on March 11, Michelle Driscoll, advocacy



Musical support

The Community Foundation of Plymouth's Abe Munfakh (right) recently presented Plymouth Fire & Drum Corps President Al Johnson and other members of the PFDC with a check for \$1,395, a donation which will be used to purchase replacement bass drums, which are over 25 years old. The Foundation selected PFDC for their efforts in preserving the history of the country. PFDC strives to preserve our nation's musical heritage through the art of fifing and drumming, which was used during times of war to relay commands to soldiers, direct movements of units, as well as, to provide inspiration and marching rhythm. The donation to the Corps is part of the CFP's grant program to support the Plymouth area 'For Good, For Ever.'

director for ARC Northwest, will present "Understanding IEPs and Special Education Rights," and on March 18 the topic will be Conflict Resolution and Negotiating Techniques for Parents and Students.

Parents interested in attending can reserve a seat by contacting Barbara Lea Jones at (313) 532-5776, Ext. 205 or by e-mail at barbaralea@aol.com.

Plymouth Democrats

The second meeting of the Plymouth Democratic Club 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.

Helping homeless pets

Three Dog Bakery and Jill Andra Young Photo in Plymouth are teaming up to help fill items on the "Wish List" of the Humane Society of Huron Valley.

Both downtown businesses are teaming up to be drop-off

points for items to be donated to the Human Society. Among the items most in demand are FELIWAY and soft, cheap canned chicken. Yesterday's News cat litter, hand sanitizer in pump bottles and stuffed sterilized bones and sterilized bones.

Three Dog Bakery is located at 550 Forest, Suite 7 and can be reached at (734) 453-9663; Jill Andra Young Photo is located at 825 Penniman and can be reached (734) 455-7787.

Beginning ballet

Metro Dance Company in Plymouth is hosting a 6-week session of Beginning Ballet for adults 1:30-2:30 p.m. Saturdays starting Feb. 21.

This class will teach the basics of ballet including barre and center work, perfect for the novice dancer and the dancer looking to refresh their skills. Cost for the entire session is \$65.

Contact the studio at (734) 207-8970 or info@MetroDanceCompany.com with any questions.

Metro Dance Company is located just outside downtown Plymouth on the north east corner of Mill (Lilley) and Ann Arbor Trail at 541 S Mill St.

Financial aid seminar

As part of their Financial Seminar Series, Catholic Parishes Federal Credit Union will be hosting a free seminar on College Student Financial Aid, Federal Loans and Scholarships.

The information presented will help parents to better plan and prepare for their student's college education. The event will take place at the credit union's Plymouth branch located at 8817 Sheldon Road on Wednesday, Feb. 25 at 6:30 p.m. All are invited to attend. Reserve your spot by calling (734) 432-0212, Ext. 301.

Drop-in art classes

The Plymouth Community Arts Council offers drop-in art classes led by Pam Grossman, a local artist and illustrator of the children's book *Gemba: Legends of Leadership*, who offers drawing based classes that allow students to explore various media and techniques through the use of pencil, color pencil, pastel, pen and ink, or watercolor.

Classes meet at the Joanne Winkleman Hulce Center for the Arts located at 774 N. Sheldon in Plymouth. Adult drop-in classes meet on Monday, 1:30-3 p.m. and Wednesday, 7-8:30 p.m. Members pay \$14 and non-members pay \$17. Youth ages 6-14 meet each Tuesday from 4-5 p.m. Youth ages 11-14 meet on Wednesday, 3:45 to 4:45 and ages 6-19 meet Wednesday, 5-6 p.m. Members pay \$11 while non-members pay \$15. All materials are provided.

For more information please visit our website at www.plymoutharts.com or contact us at (734) 416-4278.

CORRECTION

A story in the Feb. 8 *Plymouth Observer*, "Trustee calls for deeper board cuts," should have more clearly stated Plymouth Township Trustee Michael Kelly's position on elected officials taking a pay cut. Kelly, a first-year trustee, said he is willing to take a

10-percent cut if the full-time elected officials do the same. "I will gladly take a pay cut if all three full-time officials take the same 10-percent pay cut from their 2008 pay levels, as I requested in late December 2008. Equal sacrifice from all," Kelly said.

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11:00, 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00

SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE (R)

FRI-TUE/TH 11:00, 1:35, 4:20, 7:00, 9:40

WED 11:00, 1:35, 4:20

3D CORALINE (PG)

11:30, 1:50, 4:10, 6:40, 9:10

TAKEN (PG-13)

12:15, 2:30, 4:55, 7:10, 9:20

FRI/SAT LS 11:35

THE UNINVITED (PG-13)

9:00 FRI/SAT LS 11:30

HOTEL FOR DOGS (PG)

11:45, 2:05, 4:25, 6:45

MY BLOODY VALENTINE 3D (R)

FRI/SAT LS 11:35

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CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON NOTICE TO PUBLIC BOARD OF REVIEW APPOINTMENTS

Notice is hereby given by the undersigned, Terry G. Bennett, Clerk of the Charter Township of Canton, County of Wayne, State of Michigan to all residents of the Charter Township of Canton: that all persons protesting their assessment must complete petitions prior to appearing before the Board. A personal appearance is not required. All petitions must be received in the Assessor's office by March 13, 2009 at 12:00 p.m.

The Board of Review will be held in the Canton Township Hall on the first floor, at 1150 S. Canton Center Road. Entry into the building can be accessed through the front doors of Township Hall. Please come prepared, as an eight (8) minute limit before the Board will be strictly adhered to.

The following is the schedule for March Board of Review.

Tuesday, March 3, 2009 Organizational Meeting - 4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. (No Appointments)

Monday, March 9, 2009 Hearings from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Appointments Only)

Tuesday, March 10, 2009 Hearings from 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. (Appointments Only)

Wednesday, March 11, 2009 Hearings from 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. (Appointments Only)

Thursday, March 12, 2009 Hearings from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. (Appointments Only)

Friday, March 13, 2009 Hearings from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. (Appointments Only)

Please be advised that on Tuesday March 10 after 5:00 p.m. and Wednesday, March 11 after 5:00 p.m. entry to the building can only be accessed through the front entrance of the Township Hall.

If you have any questions regarding the March Board of Review, you may call Courtney Dugger, Secretary to the Board of Review (734) 394-5111.

TERRY G. BENNETT, CLERK
Charter Township of Canton Township

Publish: February, 12, 15, 19 and 22, 2009

PLYMOUTH-CANTON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS NOTICE TO BIDDERS

The Board of Education of the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools invites all interested and qualified companies to submit a Bid for Site-work at Gallimore and Isbister Elementary Schools. Bidding documents prepared by TMP Associates, Inc. will be available for public inspection at the office of the Construction Manager, McCarthy & Smith Inc., 24317 Indoplex Circle, Farmington Hills, MI, 48335 or (248) 427-8400, FW Dodge Plan Room, Southfield; Construction Association of Michigan Plan Room, Bloomfield Hills; Daily Construction Reports Plan Room, Detroit; and the Builders Exchange, Lansing.

There will be a pre-bid meeting at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, February 12, at the office of the construction manager, McCarthy & Smith, Inc. located at 24317 Indoplex Circle, Farmington Hills, MI 48335. The purpose of the meeting will be to review the bidding requirements, schedule, project scopes of work, and to answer any question that bidders may have. Bidders are strongly encouraged to attend. This Bid Package will consist of separate sealed bids for the following Bid Divisions:

- 101: Earthwork / Site Utilities
- 102: Asphalt Paving / Exterior Concrete
- 143: Electrical
- 148: Landscaping

Each bid shall be accompanied by a Bid Security in the amount of five (5) percent of the amount of the bid, payable to the Plymouth Canton Community Schools, as a guarantee that if the proposal is accepted, the bidder will execute the contract and file the required bonds within ten (10) days after notice of award of contract. Bid securities may be in the form of a Bid Bond or Certified Check.

Bids are to be submitted in a sealed envelope supplied by the Construction Manager, McCarthy & Smith Inc. with the corresponding bid division identified on the outside of the envelope. All submissions should include 1 original and 1 copy and the Proposal Execution Form provides a space for the bidder to disclose any familial relationship as required by the State of Michigan and this form must be signed and notarized in order for the bid to be accepted. Bids are due to the PCCS E.J. McClendon Educational Center on or before 1:30 p.m., Tuesday, February 24, 2009 where they will be opened and read publicly. These projects are to be bid and the work performed at the Prevailing Wage Rates. For additional information, phone Dan Phillips, Assistant Director of Finance & Purchasing at (734) 416-2746. The Board of Education reserves the right to accept and/or reject all bids, as they judge to be in the best interest of the school district.

Board of Education
Plymouth-Canton Community Schools
Thomas Wysocki, Secretary

Publish: February 8 & 15, 2009

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Neighbors wary of firm's expansion plans

BY MATT JACHMAN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Plans by a Plymouth Township business to enlarge its Wilcox Road headquarters have raised concerns among some residential neighbors.

Herriman & Associates Inc., a condominium management firm, is planning a two-story addition to its building on Wilcox near Schoolcraft Road, next to the Lake Pointe subdivision. Site plans show a single-story office layout of nearly 4,000 square feet; a company spokeswoman said the second floor would be reserved for possible future expansion.

Some nearby residents fear the addition would mean a more intense use of the property that would hurt their quality of life. Some complain that commercial trucks and vans are now being stored on the site, which, they say, is prohibited under

the current office services zoning.

"This is like a truck stop here in a residential area," said Sonia Mayer, who lives on Shadywood, behind the Herriman property. Township planning consultant McKenna Associates, in a report to the Planning Commission, also questioned the vehicle storage.

"I'm very concerned about the Herriman property ... and the affect it has on our neighborhood," said another resident, Dorothy Davenport.

Township public services director Jim Anulewicz said the Planning Commission will address residents' concerns when it meets Wednesday on the site plan. The meeting begins at 7 p.m. at the township hall.

"They will look at this hard and long, and if they think there are potential impacts in some negative manner, they will make sure those are addressed," Anulewicz said.

Mayer and others complain they weren't formally notified of Herriman's plans, but Anulewicz said no notification of neighbors is required for a site-plan review. Only in the cases of a zoning change or a special-use petition are notifications required, he said.

Herriman spokeswoman Beverly Ellis said the planned additions intended to add a conference room, more office space and barrier-free restrooms. The company plans to hire one or two new associates this year, she said.

Ellis said Herriman is reviewing township regulations related to vehicle storage.

Jennifer Worth, president of the Lake Side Homeowners Association, recently sent a letter to commission members that outlined residents' concerns.

mjachman@hometownlife.com
(313) 222-2405

Tonquish residents help children's hospital

Residents of Plymouth's Tonquish Creek Manor went to a baby shower last week, though it didn't include any actual babies.

The residents took part in the third-annual baby shower to benefit C.S. Mott Children's Hospital in Ann Arbor, in an event sponsored by the Plymouth Canton Kiwanis Breakfast Club.

The "Baby Shower" was initiated by Michigan Kiwanians and, according to Mark Ott of the Plymouth Canton club, it "is unique in that it targets needs for the hospital program.

Gifts included crayons, coloring books, crafts, T-shirts for art, dolls and other current popular toys, games, and gift cards from merchants. The gifts are intended for children of all ages, not just infants, Ott explained.

The ladies from Tonquish Creek gathered for a lunch of sandwiches, punch and cake, and also played "Baby Bingo."

Dan Fischer, Director of Child & Family Life for C.S. Mott, was on hand to not only receive and open the "gifts," but he also made a presentation of the history of C.S. Mott explaining all the programs. In addition, he presented a power point presentation on the construction of the new hospital.

C.S. Mott Children's Hospital serves all of Michigan with many patients from the Plymouth Canton communities, and they have developed programs to assist the children that are admitted for inpatient care as well as outpatient services. The Michigan District of Kiwanis



Dan Fischer, Director of Child & Family Life for C.S. Mott Children's Hospital in Ann Arbor, brought a couple of 'friends' to help him with his presentation on the history of C.S. Mott.

has been sponsoring programs with direct financial support since the Ann Arbor Club started it in 1922, and that support continues today.

Kiwanis is a global organization of volunteers serving the world one child, and one community at a time. In addition to this event, the Plymouth Canton Kiwanis provides dictionaries to all Plymouth Canton Community School third graders, totaling over 1,400. It is active with the Salvation Army, First Step and Youth Leadership Canton.

More information on this event or Kiwanis in general is available at the club's Web site at www.pckiwianis.org or by calling (734) 981-0460.

Relay for Life kickoff coming March 3

BY JULIE BROWN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Cancer fighters will be out in full force again this June when Plymouth hosts its annual Relay for Life, to benefit the American Cancer Society.

Cynthia Flora of Plymouth is handling public relations for the Relay for Life of Plymouth.

"This is our third year," she said. The 24-hour event will be at Central Middle School again, Saturday and Sunday, June 13-14, 10 a.m. to 10 a.m. You can visit www.relayforlife.org/plymouthmi for information on the fund-raiser.

There will be a kickoff party Tuesday, March 3,

at the Plymouth Cultural Center, 525 Farmer. That will include 6:30 p.m. registration, 7 p.m. dinner and program. You should R.S.V.P. by Feb. 23 to kathryn.brennan@cancer.org or call her at (248) 663-3436.

"The kickoff party is primarily designed to bring people in, let them know what we're doing," Flora said. Organizers want to bring cancer survivors in; if you'd like to be a team captain or need a team to walk with, you can get that help at the March 3 kickoff.

"Last year, we had 17 teams which is great," she said. The Plymouth event, one of a number held in different metro communities, raised \$46,806

for the American Cancer Society Relay for Life. "It's for all types of cancer.

"Now more than ever people need help," Flora said. "One of the best ways to feel good about yourself is to give."

"Come get involved," she urged. Brian Waskiewicz is chairman this year for the Plymouth event.

At the Relay for Life, walkers walk in teams for 24 hours continuously on a track. There's entertainment, along with a survivors' lap and a luminaria ceremony Saturday night to honor those who fight cancer or who have lost their fight.

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EDUCATION

Spiritus Sanctus freezes tuition

In response to Michigan's tough economic times, Spiritus Sanctus Academies are freezing tuition for the 2009-2010 academic year.

Although costs have increased by almost 6 percent, the schools decided not to pass that increase on to students' families.

"Our ultimate goal is to make Catholic education affordable for every family who wants it" said Sister John Dominic, principal of the Ann Arbor Spiritus Sanctus

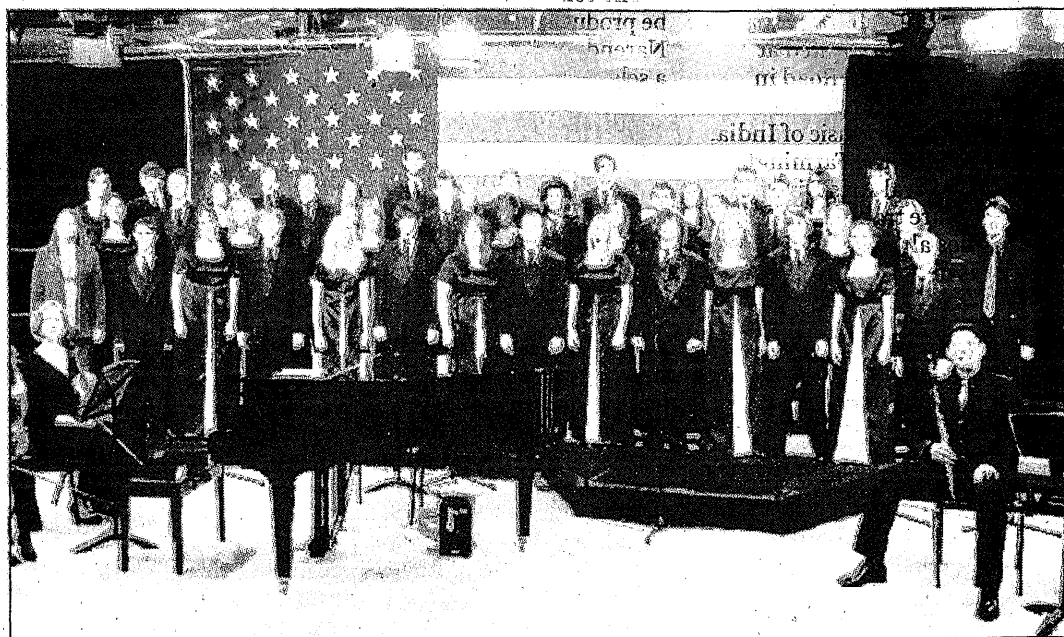
Academy. Parents of students are delighted, and relieved. It is normal for tuition at private schools to increase every year.

"In economic times like these, lots of people talk about helping others, but the Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist have really demonstrated their compassion and generosity to help others in need while putting their expenses second to ours. We feel so blessed to be at this Catholic school," said Carolyn Palka, mother of a kindergart-

ner, and a ninth-grader who graduated from the school last year.

The two Spiritus Sanctus Academies are K-8 Catholic Schools located in northeast Ann Arbor and Plymouth Township. The schools are administered by the Dominican Sisters of Mary Mother of the Eucharist.

For more information or to tour the Plymouth school call (734) 414-8430 for the Plymouth school, or see www.spiritusanctus.org.



The Plymouth-Canton Select Choir joins composer Tim Janis for a PBS special 8 p.m. March 4.

ON CAMPUS

Northwood University

Four students from the Plymouth-Canton area have made the Dean's List at Northwood University for the Fall Term 2008.

The criteria for the Dean's list is 3.25 grade point on a 4.0 scale.

The local students are junior Kevin Frusti and senior Bradley Gallison of Canton, and freshman Shannon Corby and junior Matthew Czajkowski of Plymouth.

Madonna University

Named to Madonna University's Dean's List in recognition for superior academic achievement during the fall 2008 term were the following Plymouth residents:

- Jamie Marie Anderson
- Angela Nicole Arbitter
- Beth A. Baise
- Ginger Nicole Binder
- Daniel M. Bowe
- Andrea Rose Burdette
- Kali Dawn Burnette
- Rachel Choate

- Megan C. Daniels
- Anna Kathryn Dempsey
- Caroline Foster
- Lindsay Renee Fricke
- Alyssa Ann Guerin
- Molly Michele Gullen
- Rachel A. Hardy
- Kyle T. Harold
- Lindsey M. Head
- Erika Lynn Henaughen
- Kendall Marie Henaughen
- Jenna Renea Hilderley
- Meghan A. Hill
- Pamela Lee Isanhart
- Gregory Charles Kaminski
- Joelen Elizabeth Kersten
- Douglas Clayton Kinney
- Christina Klein
- Scott Richard Kus
- Jennifer Ryan Lee
- Jennifer Jean Machnee
- Brittany Marie Majeske
- Joshua James Malinowski
- Bethany Marie Matthews-Johnson
- Marta Michalowska
- Carla Momongan
- Sheryl Ann Phillips
- Matthew Charles Pickard
- Javier Alfonso Ramirez
- Garrett S. Reban
- Cynthia Marie Richter

- Margaret Helena Roosevelt
- Derek Ryba
- Katelyn A. Rzetelny
- Kristen Renee Sabatini
- Angela Savastano
- Heather M. Selewski
- Sarah Elizabeth Sherwood
- Kristen Lee Snelling
- Tonni Ann Steffes
- Jennifer Michelle Stephens
- Sophie Marie Stevenson
- Mary Angela Stock
- Jessica Lynn Teper
- Sheila M. Vander
- Marleigh Justine Whetstone
- Theresa Marie White
- Brandon Lee Wilcox
- Jem Wojcik Shook

Northern Michigan University

Five students from Canton made the Dean's List for the Fall 2008 semester at Northern Michigan University.

The students qualified for the list by posting grade-point averages of 3.25-3.99. The students were: Bryanne Bellovary, Joe Kowal, Andrew Lane, Amy Markey and Ashley Olson.

P-CEP's Select Choir helps composer debut TV special

When nationally acclaimed composer Tim Janis premieres his new PBS special, "Tim Janis Celebrate America" on Detroit Public TV next month, the show will have a local flavor.

The Plymouth-Canton Educational Park Select Choir, under the direction of Jennifer Kopp, will join Janis for the premiere of the special, which airs 8 p.m. Wednesday, March 4.

Under Kopp's direction, the Select Choir traveled to DPTV Public Television studios to perform in the special. The choir has consistently been rated as one of the top high school vocal ensembles in the state of Michigan and has performed in Chicago, Toronto, and at New York's famed Carnegie Hall.

Janis is well known for the work he calls "Music with a Mission." In the past he has worked on many philanthropic projects with artists such as Sir Paul McCartney, Billy Joel, Ray Charles, Andre Previn, and The New York Philharmonic and has produced fund-raising programs for PBS along with George

Clooney and James Earl Jones. This time he has teamed up with DPTV and "Do Something.org" to create his new special.

"Working with such a talented group of students is so exciting," Janis said. "I truly believe through music we can really inspire our own communities during these trying times."

That's why Janis said he is so pleased to have Do Something.org as a sponsor in the project.

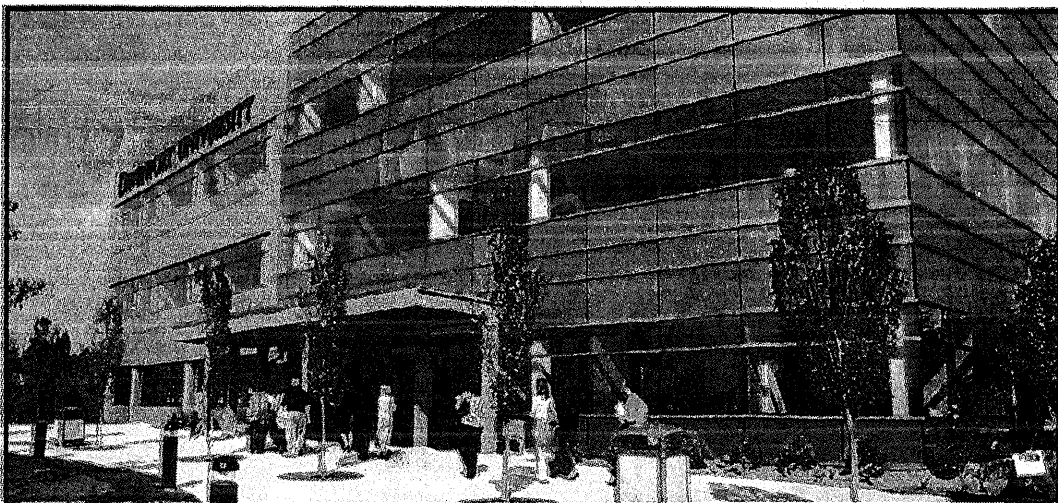
"Do Something.org" is an amazing organization for kids," Janis said. "It is the only organization that leverages communications technologies to enable teens to convert their ideas and energy into positive action. They inspire, empower, and celebrate a generation of doers: teenagers who recognize the need to do something, believe in the ability to get it done, and then take action. Do Something supports young world changers through volunteer opportunities, community service clubs, social action grants, national cause campaigns and much more."

The Plymouth-Canton Educational Park High School Choir is one of 14 schools that were chosen to partake in the program "Celebrate America." They will be performing a song written by Samuel A. Ward entitled "America the Beautiful."

"I really wanted to create a program that honors our country. I am so grateful for all the students' work at Plymouth-Canton Educational Park High School that made this possible" said Janis.

Student Patrick Buzas said it shows the younger generation that "we can give back to the community." Another student, Andrew Buckshaw, said "it feels great to come here and be on TV and have the opportunity to express our talent for America to see." Student Alex Domin said being part of Celebrate America "is a way, even though we're young, to show we care and can influence the future."

The program is scheduled to run during prime time in March during DPTV's popular fund-raising program specials.



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Slice of Bollywood music coming to area

The culture of India takes center stage at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 28 at the Costick Center, located at 28600 W. 11 Mile Road in Farmington Hills.

Bollywood - Music of India, presented by the Farmington Hills Cultural Arts Division, will feature traditional Indian melodies along with new, upbeat movie songs from

India's expansive cinema. The concert, which will be produced and directed by Narendra Sheth, will feature a select group of soloists and musicians of national repute. Sheth, a community leader known for his humanitarian activities, developed the radio show, *Geetmala*, in 1974 with the purpose of promoting cultural exchange.

Geetmala, heard all over the world through the Web site www.wpon.com, features celebrities and legendary figures from India in the areas of music, dance, religion, education, and humanity/social service. Sheth has also produced shows from Indian music legends such as Amitabh Bachchan, Lata Mangeshkar, Asha Bhosle, Bhimsen Joshi,

and Ravi Shankar. Tickets for Bollywood - Music of India are \$25 for adults and \$20 for seniors and students. Tickets are available at the Costick Center, Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. or can be charged by calling (248) 473-1848. Some tickets may also be available at the door on the night of the concert.



Bollywood - Music of India will feature the culture of India during a performance at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 28 at the Costick Center, at 28600 W. 11 Mile Road in Farmington Hills.

He's a pro at picks

A Livonia resident proved he was a real pro when it comes to football and picked enough winners to take first place in the *Observer & Eccentric's* Pick the Pros contest.

Bruce Lambert, a self-employed television producer and director, scored 193 points to take first place out of 573 contestants. Season scores

were the sum of the best 17 out of 21 weeks, with the worst four thrown out.

Lambert won a room and golf package for two at the Garland Resort

in Lewiston.

Lambert came on strong during the NFL playoffs, picking all four wild card game winners, then three of four victors in the conference playoffs and both winners of the conference championships along with the eventual champion Pittsburgh Steelers in the Super Bowl.

Contestants earned one point for each accurate pick during the regular season, four for playoff games, eight for the conference championships and 16 for the Super Bowl.

Lambert has played Pick the Pros for four years.

On picking winners, Lambert said: "It's just a gut feeling. I just started picking them right and left." (Translation: He guessed.)

Lambert said he was "pleasantly surprised" at the news of his win. "Some weeks I got all 16 points," he said. "It was fun."



Lambert

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

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Ficano accentuates the positive in State of the County

BY HUGH GALLAGHER
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Wayne County may be at the center of the United States' economic woes, but on Thursday County Executive Robert Ficano chose to accentuate the positive in his seventh annual State of the County address, including touting several development projects for western Wayne County.

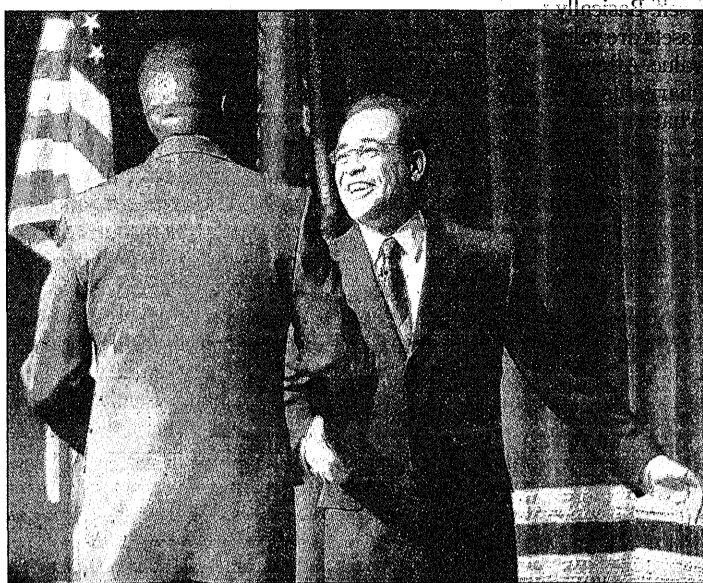
"I am determined to lead the county through tough times," Ficano told an overflow invited audience at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill in Canton Township. "Our assets far outweigh our challenges. We have a diverse county that looks like the rest of the world. We have a skilled workforce, first-class universities, an international border, a world-class airport and a resolve to succeed."

Ficano hit on some themes he has been promoting for years including the development of an "aerotropolis" around the two Wayne County airports, expanding business contacts with China and promoting a more diverse economic base. He also touted his administration's cost-cutting efforts that have included downsizing the size of the executive branch, which he said has 1,500 fewer employees than during the previous administration.

He was pointedly critical of Sheriff Warren Evans for suing the administration over budget cuts.

But the heart of the speech was the announcement of several economic initiatives:

- A Life Science Innovation Center will be built in Plymouth Township on property formerly occupied by Pfizer. The Innovation Center is being developed by Dr. Roger Newton, a former Pfizer executive and co-founder of the drug Lipitor. Ficano said the county is partnering with Washtenaw County, the state, Ann Arbor SPARK and others to develop the center.
- A Stem Cell Commercialization Center will be created at Wayne State University's Tech Town. The center will build on the recently



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Emcee Lloyd Jackson welcomes County Executive Robert Ficano to the stage.

based state legislation that allows embryonic stem cell research. Ficano said the center will be the first of its kind in Michigan.

"We are creating a new biotechnology industry that will attract new companies, new jobs and alliances with researchers around the world," he said.

- The county is working with AT&T to build a fiber optic infrastructure to connect key business hubs throughout the region, including the airport development areas.
- County government will move into the Guardian build-

ing this year, which Ficano said would save the county millions of dollars in rent. The county purchased the historic skyscraper for \$14 million.

Ficano took note of the county's hard economic situation, including a county government deficit that could reach \$100 billion.

"Unprecedented cuts in the auto industry and a struggling economy have ravaged this region," he said. "Many of you have lost jobs. Some of you have lost your homes. All of you, in some way, have been

affected by the pain."

As an example, Ficano introduced Jacqueline Madden of Redford Township. Madden, a single mother with a teenage son, had lost her job at Ford Motor Co. and was facing foreclosure on her house. Ficano said county foreclosure counselors were able to work out a short-term reduced payment program to help give Madden time to renegotiate her mortgage and stay in her home.

Ficano touted the county's Mortgage Foreclosure Prevention Program as a "national model" that has helped more than 600 county residents resolve their mortgage problems.

But it was Ficano's upbeat assessment that seemed to draw the best response, including loud applause when he said that groundwork be broken this year on the controversial expansion of Cobo Hall.

"It's always good in these economic times to have something that's uplifting," said Richard Reaume, Plymouth Township supervisor. "It makes you proud when you think about what's going on in the county. We have to believe in ourselves and the future."

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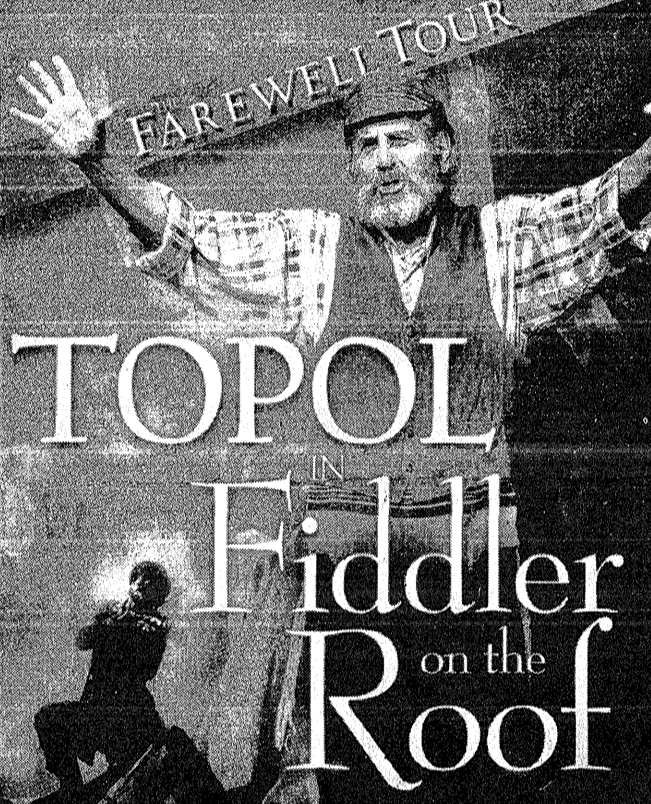
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Why Does My Back Hurt More When It's Cold?

Scientists ponder this very question!



Dr. Thomas J. Gerou
Canton Doctor of Chiropractic

Have you ever noticed your back hurts more when it's cold out? And, it's probably not just your back. Joints all over your body stiffen up and things seem to hurt "all over."


If that describes you, then you are not alone. Many people seem to suffer more from back and joint pain related conditions as soon as the temperature starts to dip.

Many people with back pain, joint pain, headaches and fibromyalgia attest to the correlation of cold weather and worsening of their symptoms.

So what can you do? Since you can't change the weather (although living in a warm, sunny place might help!) Chiropractic care may dramatically minimize its effects on your back pain.

So if you haven't tried Chiropractic for your back pain, give Canton chiropractor Dr. Thomas Gerou a call. Like all doctors' offices, care may vary from office to office. But if you are looking for a Chiropractor who offers short term, affordable back pain care, or if you have questions, call Dr. Gerou's friendly and caring office at 556-1717. You can be seen immediately...and here's the best part: no obligation to extensive treatment plans! CE08044881

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Changes ahead for estate inheritance taxes

Dear Rick: If the stepped-up basis for inherited assets is canceled in 2010, do you anticipate its reinstatement in 2011?

Yes. The stepped-up basis will be back in 2011, although the estate tax exemption will be much lower than it is today. The exemption in 2011 is scheduled to be \$1 million. Today it's \$2.5 million.

It is important to explain what is happening with estate tax laws. Presently, there is a \$2.5 million exemption for estate taxes.

That means upon your death, the first \$2.5 million — above and beyond money going to a charity and/or a spouse — in assets is estate tax free. Remember it is not the beneficiaries who are subject to the estate tax, rather, the estate

itself. Basically, upon death your assets are valued at fair market value. After deductions for charitable contributions and/or what a spouse inherits, the first \$2.5 million is estate tax free. Then and only then does the estate pay federal estate taxes.

Over the last several years, the exemption amount has grown dramatically. It wasn't too long ago that the exemption was only \$600,000. The problem arises because of quirks in the estate tax law. In 2010, there will be no estate taxes. Basically, if someone passes away in 2010 their estate is not subject to any estate tax. However, in 2011 the law reverts back to an older version of the estate tax law and the exemption drops to \$1 million. The other quirk in this law deals with stepped-up basis.

When someone inherits money from an estate, that money is not subject to estate taxes. In addition, the beneficiary receives what is known as a stepped-up basis in the assets that they are inheriting.

For example, if you inherited ABC Stock and at the time of inheritance the stock was selling for \$10 a share but the decedent had only paid two dollars a share, your cost basis would be \$10 a share. That means if you sell stock for \$11 a share, only one dollar is subject to income tax.

If you inherit money in 2010, you receive a transfer-cost basis as opposed to a stepped-up basis. In the example above, if you sold the stock for \$11 a share your transfer cost basis is only two dollars a share, thus you would pay taxes on \$9 per share. The quirk in the law only deals with 2010. In 2011, the stepped-up basis rules are reinstated.

What makes this issue a little more complex is there probably will be some estate tax reform this year that will have an impact on 2010 and beyond. We don't know what the changes will be and when they will take effect.

When it comes to estate planning, many believe it's necessary if you have a large estate. Although reducing and

eliminating estate tax is one goal of planning, it is only one factor. As far as I am concerned, every adult needs some sort of estate planning.

Estate planning also deals with how to handle family emergencies when you are alive. I believe the more you keep judges, courts and lawyers out of family affairs, the easier life is. The Medical Durable Power of Attorney and Michigan Patient Advocate Form, which is a free medical durable power of attorney, is available at public libraries or download one at www.bloomassetmanagement.com.

The main reason for estate planning is not to save on taxes or to avoid probate but because you love your family.

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.

Focus:HOPE celebrates 40th anniversary with ball

Focus: HOPE will conclude its 40th anniversary year with a Rubies of HOPE Ball on March 7 at which several key supporters will be recognized for their contributions to Focus: HOPE's civil rights mission.

"As we embark on our next decade, we want to truly celebrate all that Focus: HOPE has accomplished over the last 40 years," said William F. Jones, Jr., CEO. "We are taking this opportunity to reflect on our past achievements and the impact our food and education programs have had on hundreds of thousands in our community. As we move forward, we are inspired to address current and future challenges with renewed commitment, passion and energy."

The event is expected to raise \$250,000 for scholarships for students in Focus: HOPE's education and training programs. The theme for the evening recognizes Rubies, the gems appropriate for a 40th anniversary, and HOPE, for optimism for the future.

Co-founders Father William T. Cunningham (1930-1997) and Eleanor M. Josaitis will be honored for starting an organization that addressed the social and economic problems that led to the 1967 Detroit riots. In 40 years, the organization has worked to bridge the racial divide and dedi-

cated itself to using "intelligent and practical action to overcome racism, poverty and injustice."

Rubies of HOPE awards also will be presented to:

■ The Honorable Damon J. Keith, chief judge for the United States Court of Appeals and a nationally-recognized jurist, for his outstanding leadership on civil rights issues.

■ United States Senator Carl Levin, an ardent supporter of Focus: HOPE throughout his career, for his leadership in government and for facilitating government partnerships with Focus: HOPE.

■ Lloyd E. Reuss, who upon retiring as president of General Motors came to Focus: HOPE as a volunteer to lead its innovative engineering program in the Center for Advanced Technologies. He also chairs the Focus: HOPE Advisory Board.

■ Neal Shine (1930-2007), a journalist and eventual publisher of the Detroit Free Press, for his leadership and commitment to the City of Detroit and the Focus: HOPE mission.

■ Noel M. Tichy, Ph.D., professor and author, at the University of Michigan's Ross School of Business, for his leadership in education and for engaging business leaders and business students in the work of Focus: HOPE. He has profiled Focus:

HOPE in several books.

■ William S. White, president and CEO of the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, for his longstanding support of Focus: HOPE's education and training programs.

The anniversary event is hosted by Jill and Steve Miller, chairman and CEO of Delphi. It will be held at the Detroit Marriott in the Renaissance Center and will begin with a reception at 6 p.m., followed by dinner at 7 p.m., then dancing to Mel Ball and Colours. The black-tie preferred event is the first formal celebration held by Focus: HOPE in its 40 years.

"I hope everyone who appreciates the impact Focus: HOPE has had on our community, will join us March 7 to pay tribute to its co-founders and supporters," said Jill Miller. "In particular, I hope people will join Steve and me in showing our appreciation to Eleanor Josaitis for her leadership and commitment to civil rights."

Honorary co-chairs of the 40th anniversary gala/celebration include Retired General Colin L. Powell, who attended the opening of Focus: HOPE's Center for Advanced Technologies in 1993, Gov. Jennifer M. Granholm, former Detroit Mayor Dennis

Archer, Ford President and CEO Alan Mulally, Chrysler Chairman and CEO Robert Nardelli, and General Motors Chairman and CEO Rick Wagoner.

Tickets are \$250 each, or \$2,500 for tables of 10. Tickets may be reserved by calling 313-494-4371 or via the web site at www.focushope.edu.

Dow Chemical is the presenting sponsor for the evening. Other sponsors Chrysler LLC and Chrysler Financial, Bank of America, Comerica, Delphi Corporation, Ford Motor Company and General Motors Corporation.

Throughout the years, Focus: HOPE developed numerous programs in its efforts to overcome racism, poverty and injustice. It offers a food program, which assists 42,000 seniors, mothers and children each month; career training programs in machining, engineering and information technology; a child care center, a community arts program targeted to high school students, and neighborhood revitalization initiatives. Through Focus: HOPE, thousands of individuals — especially women and minorities — have become financially independent. www.focushope.edu.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE OF LIENED PROPERTY

Notice is hereby given that a closed bid sale will be held on February 26, 2009 at 1:00 P.M. at 40671 Joy Road, Canton Michigan 48187, County of Wayne. AMERICA'S BUDGET STORAGE will sell to satisfy the lien on the property stored at 40671 Joy Road, Canton Michigan 48187, by the following persons. The inventories listed below were notated by the tenants at the time of rental. AMERICA'S BUDGET STORAGE makes no representation or warranty that the units contain said inventories. Unit H03, Beck, Furn./boxes; Unit B31, Lapp, Furn./ boxes; Unit C115, Saifuddin, Furn./boxes; Unit G05, Foster, Misc. HHG; Unit I11, Farris, Furn./boxes; Unit B15, May, Furn./boxes; Unit I35, Hancock, HHG; Unit E32, Withers, HHG; Unit B06, Howard, HHG; Unit J30, Graves, HHG; Unit E24, Glazer, HHG.

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 If you are looking to place an ad for any of the above positions, ask about our: **MEDICAL/DENTAL RECRUITMENT SECTION**
 You can place your ad for only \$55/inch (three inch min.)! The Observer & Eccentric's Medical/Dental Recruitment Section will publish on Sunday, February 22nd. Deadline to place an ad in this section is Thursday, February 19th at noon. Contact one of our Representative for more information, or to reserve your space!
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Help Wanted-Office 5020
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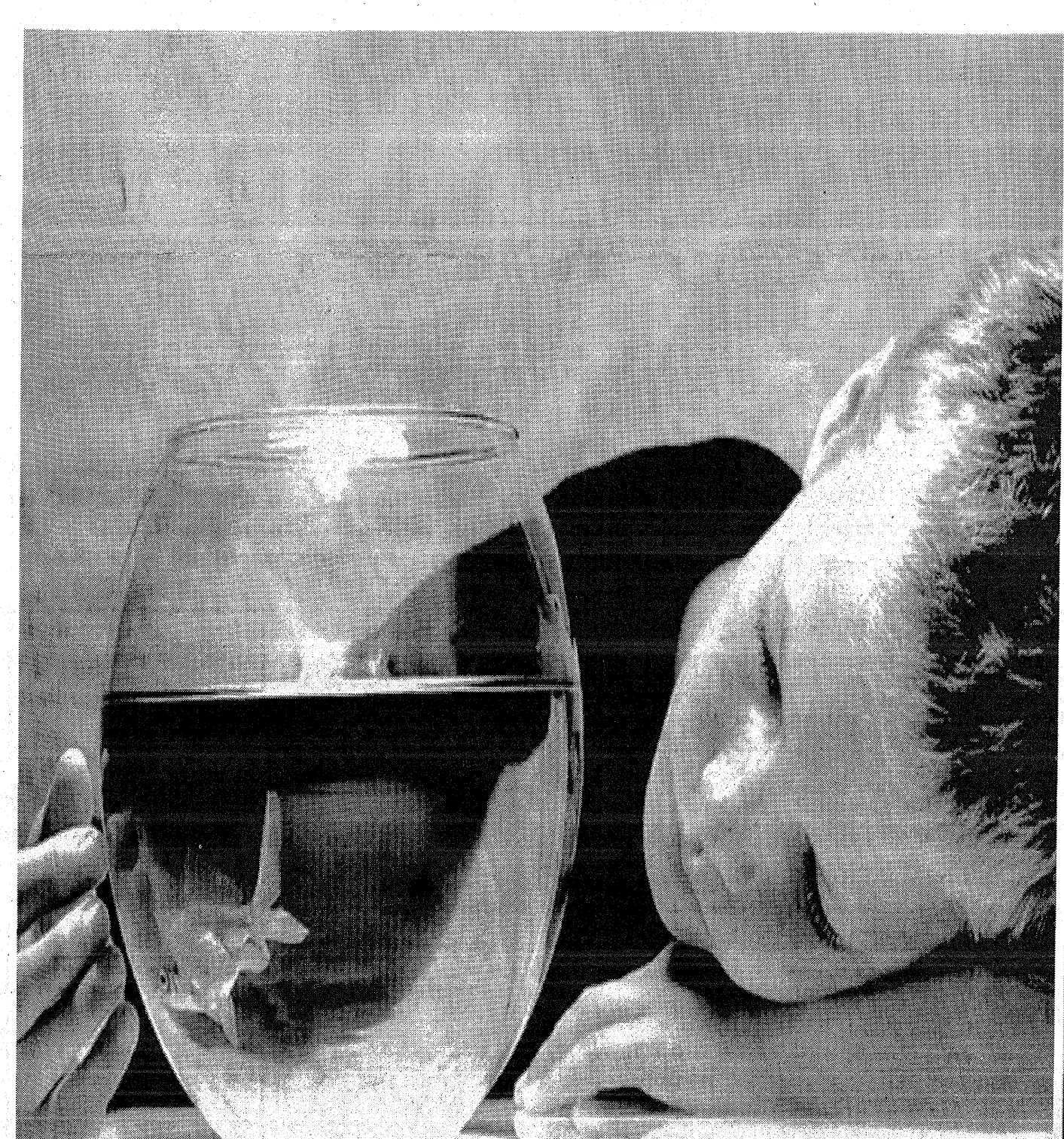
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Independence Village wins Fire & Ice

The winning formula for the salsa competition in Northville's Fire and Ice Festival competition had a distinctly Plymouth flavor.

Plymouth Independence Village won the Judge's Choice honor in the fourth-annual chili and salsa cook-off with Executive Chef Tim Bryant's Roasted Jalapeño-Tomato Salsa with Fresh Cilantro.

The Judge's Choice for chili was Poole's Tavern. Hotz Catering won the People's Choice salsa competition, while the Rusty Bucket took the People's Choice honor for chili.

Competitors include George's Senate Coney Island, Poole's Tavern, Rocky's of Northville, Solid Grounds Coffee House, Sweetie Pies Bakery and Caterers, Rusty Bucket, Deadwood Bar and Grill, Riffle's Homestyle Restaurant, Hotz Catering, Dino's Sports Grill, and Independence Village of Plymouth.

The festival also had ice carvings and carving demonstrations in town, live Salsa music by Saoco, Kidz Art Zone activities, and a Parks and Recreation breakfast fundraiser.

Fire and Ice for 2009 was proudly hosted by the Northville Chamber of Commerce. Sponsors included Northville Downtown Development Authority (DDA), Tom Holzer Ford, The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, Everdry Waterproofing, American Laser Centers, and Varsity Lincoln Mercury.

CASS dinner

Cass Community Social Services celebrates 79 years of service when they host their 15th annual dinner March 28 at the Inn at St. John's in Plymouth Township.

The event takes place at 6 p.m. and recognizes the efforts and accomplishments of CASS' staff and supporters over the past year. Awards will be presented for Volunteer, Staff Person, Church and Corporate Partner of the Year. Funds raised will help establish per-



Leasing representative Lauren Lucas and executive chef Tim Bryant of Plymouth Independence Village were the Judges' Choice winners of the salsa competition at the Northville Fire And Ice Festival.

manent housing for participants of the agency's Mom's Place program. Suburban Infiniti is the sponsor of this year's annual dinner.

Jeffery Zaslow, senior writer and columnist for the Wall Street Journal who co-authored the New York Times bestseller *The Last Lecture*, will be the keynote speaker. Zaslow is a graduate of Carnegie Mellon University.

Along with his work at the WSJ, Zaslow was a columnist for The Chicago-Sun Times, and has made considerable contributions to USA Weekend. Zaslow's "Moving On" column for The Wall Street Journal garnered accolades from the National Society of Newspaper Columnists. He has appeared on "The Tonight Show," "The Oprah Winfrey Show," "Larry King Live" and "The Today Show." Zaslow lives in suburban Detroit with his wife, Fox 2 anchor Sherry Margolis, and his three daughters.

"We are thrilled to have Jeff as our Keynote Speaker," says CASS Executive Director, Rev. Faith Fowler. "He is extremely talented and humorous and I think everyone will be able to take something away from his talk."

The evening features appetizers and cocktails, along with a silent auction that includes eight books autographed by

Zaslow. Other items include ticket packages to sporting events, a Waterford Vase, an autographed copy of New York Times Bestseller "Three Cups of Tea," CASS memorabilia and much more. There will also be a live auction. Dinner will be served at 7 p.m. followed by a program.

Tickets to the event are \$100 per person or \$900 for a table of 10, and can be purchased by calling (313) 883-2277 or going to www.casscommunity.org. The Inn at St. John's is located at 44045 Five Mile Plymouth. For more information, call (734) 414-0600.

Medfusion expansion

Huron Valley Physicians Association, an Independent Physicians Association with over 750 members located throughout Southeastern Michigan, has selected Medfusion products and services to improve patient satisfaction, referral communication and clinical integration across additional practices.

"We work to serve our patients and community by providing an integrated and collegial network of physicians committed to the highest standards of patient-centered healthcare," said Lori Kostoff, Pharm. D., Executive Director of Huron Valley Physicians Associates. "Medfusion will help us continue to achieve our

NEWS BRIEFS

goals as we strive to meet the elements of a patient-centered medical home."

Of the 22 practices fully licensed and using Medfusion applications, 156 HVA physicians have gone live on the patient-provider portal, and over 45,000 patient portal transactions have occurred in ten months. Nearly 10 percent of the surrounding Ann Arbor population with a median age of 30 is registered users on the HVA patient portal, and in the last two months nearly 282 referrals have been received through the referral portal which enhances physician-to-physician communication.

Other solutions from Medfusion's self-serve Web-based platform that will enhance HVPA's patient communications and satisfaction include:

- "Ask a Biller," a patient communication solution that permits patients to send questions about their medical bills to office staff, resulting in less time spent on the phone for both patients and staff.

- Online Prescription Renewal/Refill Request, which offers patients the flexibility to submit refill requests online and enables staff to fulfill the requests by using an automated fax to the pharmacy option.

- Online Appointment Requests that enables patients to request an appointment online rather than being placed on hold or playing phone tag with the doctor's office to make an appointment.

"HVPA has shown a continued commitment to their patients and to the quality of care they provide," said Stephen Malik, CEO and founder of Medfusion. "We're confident that our solutions will not only enhance the patient and community experience, but also foster operational efficiency and connectivity within the organization."

GOVERNMENT CONTACTS

Gov. Jennifer M. Granholm

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

State Sen. Bruce Patterson, R-Canton

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

State Rep. Marc Corrivau, D-Northville

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

Plymouth Mayor Phil Pursell

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

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.

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NOTICE TO BIDDERS

The Board of Education of the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools invites all interested and qualified companies to submit a bid for **Broadcast Video Distribution Server**. Bid documents are available by contacting Dan Phillips, Assistant Director of Finance & Purchasing at (734) 416-2746 or via e-mail at phillid@pccs.k12.mi.us. Sealed bids must be clearly marked "PCCS BROADCAST SERVER BID" and are to be received at the E.J. McClendon Educational Center 454 South Harvey, Plymouth, MI 48170 no later than 3:00 p.m. local time on Wednesday, **March 4, 2009** at which time they will be read publicly. A notarized familial disclosure agreement must accompany every bid. For technical information, please phone Jim Casteel, Director of Integrated Technology Systems at (734) 416-2708. The Board of Education reserves the right to accept and/or reject all bids and to waive any bid irregularities, as they judge to be in the best interest of the school district.

Board of Education
Plymouth-Canton Community Schools
THOMAS WYSOCKI, Secretary

Publish: February 15 & 22, 2009

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON

ACCESS TO PUBLIC MEETINGS

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

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

Publish: February 15 & 22, 2009

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH

To all residents and other interested parties: Agenda's and Minutes for the Township of Plymouth Board of Trustee Meetings scheduled for January 20, February 17, March 10 & 24, April 21, May 12 & 26 and June 9 & 23 are available for review under the Reference Desk Page of the Township Website: www.plymouthtwp.org.

Minutes and agenda's are also posted in the Clerk's Office at Plymouth Township Hall, 9955 N. Haggerty Road, Plymouth, for public perusal.

Joe Bridgman, CMC
Clerk, Charter Township of Plymouth

Publish: January 22, February 15, March 8, April 19, May 10, and June 7, 2009

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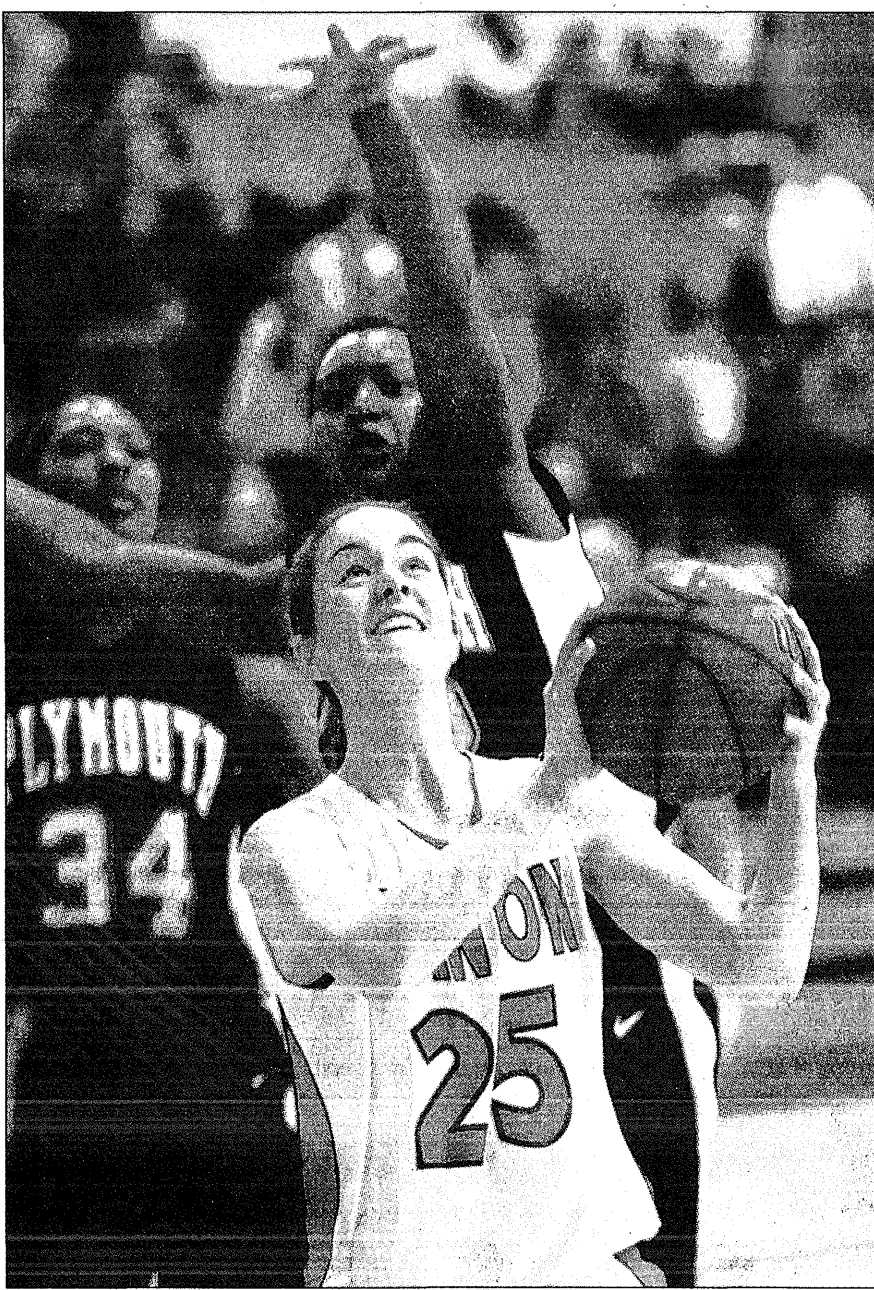
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HOMETOWN LIFE

CROSS-CAMPUS HOOP SHOWDOWNS: CHIEFS 2, 'CATS 0



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Canton's Kari Schmitt focuses on the basket as she is defended by Plymouth's Alex Roberts during Friday night's 36-22 Canton victory. Schmitt's eight points tied CarolAnn Sexauer for team scoring honors.

The defense never rests

Canton forces 18 first-half turnovers to stymie 'Cats

BY ED WRIGHT
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Playing on Friday the 13th — on the night before Valentine's Day — Canton's girls basketball team turned in a defensive effort that was both scary good and full of heart against Plymouth.

Playing a velcro-like girl-to-girl defense, the Chiefs forced 18 turnovers in the first half alone and blue-collared their way to a 36-22 home victory over their cross-campus foes.

Nothing came easy for the Wildcats, who finished with 21 turnovers while hitting just 10 of 39 field goals (24 percent). With hands constantly in their face, the 'Cats hit just five of their first 25 shots.

"The reason why they force so many turnovers is because of their great athleticism and they have surprisingly good upward mobility on defense," said Plymouth coach Ted Strudivant. "They deflect a lot of passes that lead to turnovers and fast-breaks at the other end for them."

The surging Chiefs improved to 14-2 overall and 7-1 in the Kensington Lakes Activities Association's South Division. Plymouth slipped to 5-8 and 3-5, respectively.

Canton earned a 19-8 halftime advantage thanks in large part because they outshot mistake-prone Plymouth 32-15.

"Defense is the key to this team and it always will be," said Canton coach Brian Samulski. "There are going to be nights when your shots aren't falling, but you can always play hard on the defensive end. That's what we pride ourselves on."

Typically, the balanced Chiefs didn't have one individual who lit up the scoreboard. Sophomores CarolAnn Sexauer and Kari Schmitt led the way with eight points a piece. Melanie Pickert and Lindsey Winters both added five while Alyssa Cottrell and Sara Schmitt chipped in with four.

Kari Schmitt ripped down 11 rebounds while her twin sister Sara collected six steals.

Senior center Shaakira Haywood led Plymouth with eight points, 11 rebounds and four blocked shots. Kelsi Robinson scored seven points while reserve guard Alyssa Calcatera hustled to grab six boards.

Canton didn't light it up offensively, making just 14 of 49 shots (28.5 percent), but with the way it played

Please see **CANTON, B2**

GAME WRAPS

Agape cruises

Canton Agape Christian freshman Ayanna Martin continued to play like a senior in the Wolverines' 55-28 thrashing of Ypsilanti Calvary Christian Friday night.

Martin produced 27 points and seven rebounds to lead the winners, who improved to 8-8 overall and 6-4 in the Michigan Independent Athletic Conference's Blue Division.

Although the Wolverines were technically the home team — it was their homecoming — the game was played at Calvary Christian.

"We started really fast — I think we led 12-0 at one point," said Agape coach Dan DeWitt. "They played us pretty even the second two quarters, but we held them to one point in the fourth quarter."

Agape led 21-6 after one quarter, 33-18 at the half and 43-27 with eight minutes to play.

Brooke Purcell excelled for the winners, registering 13 points and 11 rebounds.

Jamie Thurmond led CC with 15 points.

The Wolverines knocked down half their 18 free throws while CC sank just 2 of 13 attempts from the charity stripe.

Agape takes on Eaton Academy on Tuesday.

Ocelot men win

Greg Leavell continued his sterling play — with 16 points and eight rebounds to pace a balanced attack Wednesday as the Schoolcraft College men's basketball team surprised visiting Wayne County Community College, 56-56.

Schoolcraft is now 7-19 overall and 4-11 in the MCCA's Eastern Conference.

Leavell, a 6-foot-4 sophomore from Farmington Hills Harrison, had plenty of help as other contributions came from Bruce Watson (14 points), Wayne Memorial's Martez Abney (12 points) and Ryan Matthews (10 points, 10 rebounds).

The loss drops Wayne County to 15-8 overall and 8-7 in the conference.

Please report results

Local high school athletic coaches are encouraged to report their teams' results to Observer Sports Editor Ed Wright at (734) 578-2767 or ewright@hometownlife.com.

The deadline for Thursday editions is Tuesday at 11 p.m.

The deadline for Sunday editions is Friday at 11 p.m.

Marlan the magician leads Chiefs over 'Cats

BY ED WRIGHT
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

With season-long leading scorer Dietrich Lever content to distribute dimes Friday night, Canton's Marlan Glenn stepped up to deposit the money shots against cross-campus foe Plymouth.

Glenn, a senior guard, torched the nets for 20 points to lead the Chiefs to a 54-45 victory.

The win allowed Canton to stay alive in the Kensington Lakes Activities Association's South Division with a 5-3 record — two games behind Wayne Memorial, who the

Chiefs host on Tuesday.

The Wildcats, who just a week ago were riding a wave of momentum following a convincing win over the Zebras, slipped to 4-4 in the South.

Both teams share 8-6 overall marks.

"Marlan had probably his best game of the season tonight," raved Canton coach Dan Colligan. "He had 10 points in the first quarter and that's what really got us going. Dietrich kind of ran the show and engineered the offense for us."

Glenn received plenty of assistance from his fellow Chiefs,

especially senior guard Sherif Hassani, who netted 11 second-half points.

"Sherif had three big threes in the third quarter," said Colligan. "Kiere Daniels also played well with six points and 12 rebounds."

Kevin Weisz tossed in seven points for the winners.

Sophomore forward Brennen Beyer paced the Wildcats with 10 points.

Sophomore guard Mike Nadratowski also played well, adding eight points.

The game was nip and tuck for the first 24 minutes, which

ended with the contest deadlocked at 39-all.

Canton eventually wore down the Wildcats and nailed some clutch free throws down the stretch to pull away.

"Plymouth played extremely hard the entire night — they never quit," said Colligan.

Canton made 11 of 18 free throws while Plymouth nailed just 9 of 19 freebies.

"We had great team play tonight," Colligan said. "I was pleased with our ball pressure on defense, too."

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BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Canton's Marlan Glenn, pictured driving to the basket against Plymouth's Brennen Beyer, was the man of the hour for the Chiefs, scoring 20 points in his team's 54-45 victory.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Salem junior basketball players Brett de Bear (left) and Sara Stone have done an admirable job of filling the backcourt void created by the departure of last year's All-League player Alaya Mitchell, who now plays for Division I Marshall University.

Junior achievers Stone, de Bear step up for the Rocks

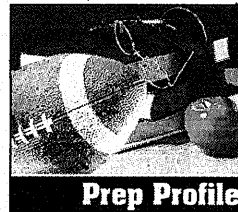
Salem knocks off Novi, see Page B2

BY ED WRIGHT
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Salem basketball standout Alaya Mitchell left such big shoes to fill — figuratively speaking — when she graduated last summer, it's taken four feet to fill them.

But after taking a while to get comfortable in their more demanding soles, er, roles, as Mitchell's successors, Sara Stone and Brett de Bear have been stepping it up big-time, so to speak.

Following a callous-forming 1-6 start, the Rocks have evolved into one of the



Prep Profile

hottest teams in the state the past month as they've won eight of their past nine games to surge into a first-place tie

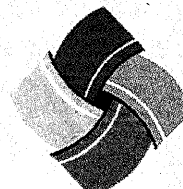
with South Lyon in the Kensington Lakes Activities Association's Central Division.

The two first-place squads face off for sole possession of first place on Tuesday and, without question, the Rocks' fate will hinge largely on the performances of Stone and de Bear — a pair of juniors

Please see **ACHIEVERS, B2**

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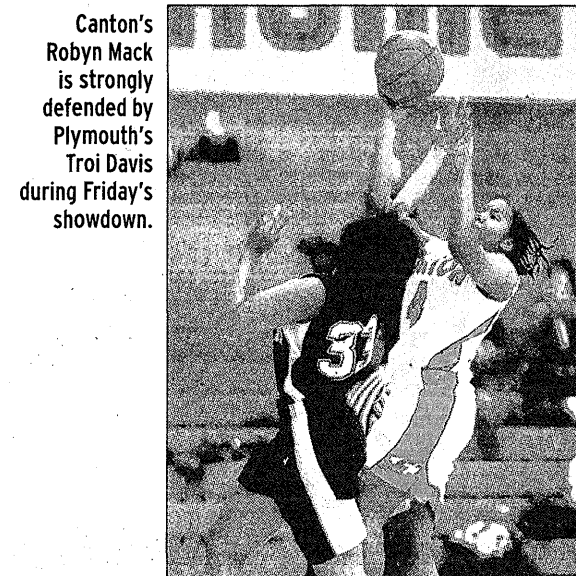
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Canton's Robyn Mack is strongly defended by Plymouth's Troi Davis during Friday's showdown.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

CANTON
FROM PAGE B1

defense, it didn't matter. The Chiefs drained 7 of 12 free throws. Plymouth was just 2 for 8 from the charity stripe. After falling behind 15-3 on Winters' triple three minutes into the second quarter, Plymouth nudged back to within 15-7 on back-to-back hoops by Haywood and Robinson. However, the Chiefs reeled off a 9-3 run to build an advantage that would never sink below double-digits.

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SPORTS BRIEFS

Scouting combine

SportsWeave will be holding its 2009 All-American College Football Scouting Combine and free NCAA Football Recruiting Seminar at Velocity Sports Performance of Canton on Saturday March 28, 2009. Open to all High School Football Players graduation classes 2009 through 2012. Top Performers will be invited to the annual All-American Football Skills Academy in April 2009. Register before 2.27.09 at www.SportsWeave.com.

Precision Baseball

Canton's Precision Baseball will be holding open-gym sessions every Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

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For more information call (734) 459-5921.

PCEP girls lacrosse

There will be an informational meeting for all Plymouth-Canton Educational Park girls interested in playing high school lacrosse this spring on Wednesday, Feb. 18, at 7 p.m. in the Canton High School library. Anyone returning or interesting in learning to play the game should attend the upcoming meeting.

Resurgent Rocks forge first-place tie with Lions

BY ED WRIGHT
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Unfortunately for the rest of the Kensington Lakes Activities Association's Central Division, Salem's girls basketball team has rediscovered its groove.

And the grooviest player in recent weeks has been senior Chelsea Davis, who continued who scoring play of late with a 12-point/10-rebound effort in the Rocks' must-win 44-34 victory over Novi Friday night in

the Salem gymnasium.

The triumph — Salem's seventh in its last eight games — boosted the Rocks' record to 8-7 overall and 7-1 in the KLAAC Central. Novi slipped to 6-2 in the division.

The two division co-leaders — Salem and South Lyon — hook up Tuesday at 7 p.m. in the Lions' gym for sole possession of first place.

Friday's key win was a balanced effort for Salem, which received nine points from Tracy Whalen, eight points

from Sara Stone and 11 points from Victoria Brotz.

Brett de Bear added our points and contributions that don't show up in the box score. "Brett did an outstanding job of limiting their running game," said Salem coach Fred Thomann.

Salem never trailed after securing a 12-8 first-quarter lead. The Rocks extended their advantage to 21-14 at the half and 31-21 after three quarters.

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ACHIEVERS

FROM PAGE B1

who have shared the title of teammates since eighth grade.

"As juniors on a veteran team with three seniors in the front court, Sara and Brett's primary responsibilities this season have been to make sure they get the ball to the seniors inside," said Salem coach Fred Thomann. "They're both two-year starters who rarely sat out last year, so their experience has been a tremendous asset."

"They both have good quickness, they play good defense and, most importantly, their understanding of the game is very good."

"Sara has emerged as a dynamic scorer and Brett has emerged as probably our top defender the past two years. The bottom line is they're both really good basketball players with good instincts." Thomann said it's not surprising it took the duo a while to get used to filling the void created by Mitchell's departure.

"I don't think anyone realizes how difficult it is to take the place of a three-year starter who has gone on to player Division 1 basket-

ball," said Thomann. "I was as guilty as anyone when it came to expecting more out of them sooner than I should have. It's not fair to expect them to do what Alaya did. Brett is Brett and Sara is Sara."

Long-time friends

Since meeting for the first time at a Western Wayne Wolfpack AAU basketball team tryout three years ago, Stone and de Bear have developed an uncanny ability to know what the other is going to do next.

"Having played together so long, we have pretty good chemistry," said de Bear. "We know how each other plays. I know what she's going to do and she knows what I'm going to do."

A three-year varsity performer, Stone said her hoop skills have improved "1,000 percent" since the first day she stepped on the Rocks' court as a freshman.

"I wasn't even sure I wanted to play varsity my freshman season," Stone said. "It was a little intimidating playing against girls that were so much older than I was. But my teammates really encouraged me and made it easier. When I

messed up, Teresa Coppielli or Chelsea Davis would tell me not to worry about it and to just keep playing."

"Fred has taught me a lot, too, especially to forget about my mistakes and to just keep on playing."

Outstanding mentor

Both Stone and de Bear admitted they learned a lot playing alongside Mitchell.

They also admitted playing without her created a tough transition.

"Alaya was so aggressive offensively last year that we always counted on her to make the big shot or the big pass," said de Bear. "We missed that this year, especially early in the season when we were struggling. We got frustrated when we were losing all those games, just like any team would, but we fought through it."

"Fred would encourage us, but we knew we had to do it on our own."

Which they have. And now, sparked by two players who had to fill some pretty big shoes, Salem is within a foot-step of winning a division title.

Alaya would be proud.

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BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Canton's Ryan Boes is pictured competing in the 200 individual medley during a meet earlier this season. The Chiefs lost to Stevenson on Thursday.

SWIM RESULTS

LIVONIA STEVENSON 125 CANTON 58
Feb. 12 at Stevenson
200-yard medley relay: 1. Stevenson (Kellen Schoff, Joey Wingett, Michael Cruce, Chris Behler), 1:42.1; 2. Stevenson, 1:46.38; 3. Canton, 1:47.46.
200 freestyle: 1. Daniel Schoff (LS), 1:54.81; 2. Jay Jin (C), 1:54.95; 3. Jack Hiltz (LS), 2:02.36.
200 individual medley: 1. Jake McNamara (LS), 2:17.8; 2. Eric Schuman (LS), 2:18.12; 3. Brendan Stanisz (LS), 2:22.4.
50 freestyle: 1. Cruce (LS), 23.26; 2. Richard Zhang (C), 23.39; 3. Ryan Scott (LS), 23.48.
1-meter diving: 1. Jeff Kinsvater (LS), 236.82 points; 2. Ryan Kilgore (C), 157.28; 3. Nick Austin (C), 153.67.
100 butterfly: 1. Victor Zhang (C), 55.49; 2. Adam Dabowski (LS), 59.65; 3. Mark Johnston (LS), 1:04.53.
100 freestyle: 1. R. Zhang (C), 51.45; 2. Scott (LS), 52.26; 3. Mohamed Ghoiteimi (LS), 53.11.
500 freestyle: 1. Jin (C), 5:11.48; 2. Adam Laporte (LS), 5:13.87; 3. McNamara (LS), 5:27.93.
200 freestyle relay: 1. Stevenson (Scott, Dabowski, Cruce, Behler), 1:32.66; 2. Stevenson, 1:33.53; 3. Canton, 1:37.61.
100 backstroke: 1. Charles Turlo (LS), 1:01.17; 2. Mikel Schaub (LS), 1:04.42; 3. Christopher Krebs (C), 1:05.93.
100 breaststroke: 1. Wingett (LS), 1:01.32; 2. K. Schoff (LS), 1:07.0; 3. David Bladdecki (LS), 1:10.14.
400 freestyle relay: 1. Stevenson (Turlo, Dabowski, Jerome Pesta, Behler), 3:30.21; 2. Stevenson, 3:32.48; 3. Canton, 3:50.93.
Stevenson's dual meet record: 8-2 overall.

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Soccer Camp
 Weekly Rate: \$125
 1 pm-3 pm

Craft Camp
 Weekly Rate: \$135
 9 am-12 pm

New! Supervised stations including sports and non-sport activities. Check-in and Check-out are required and children will be monitored at all times. Stations will rotate every 30 minutes. Kids may play soccer, flag football, basketball, volleyball, dodge ball, make crafts, play video games, watch movies, play board games, etc.

Lunch: 12-1 pm
 Bring a sack lunch
 or buy 2 pieces of pizza & pop for \$4.
 Additional snacks & drinks available.
 Available for ALL school break dates.

THE WEEK AHEAD

PREP BOYS BASKETBALL
Tuesday, Feb. 17
 South Lyon at Salem, 7 p.m.
 Wayne at Canton, 7 p.m.
 Plymouth at Churchill, 7 p.m.
 Agape at Eaton Academy, 6 p.m.
 PCA at Inter-City Baptist, 7 p.m.
Friday, Feb. 20
 Salem at South Lyon East, 7 p.m.
 Canton at John Glenn, 7 p.m.
 Agape at Covenant, 6 p.m.
 Roeper at PCA, 7 p.m.
 Plymouth at Wayne, 7 p.m.
PREP GIRLS BASKETBALL
Tuesday, Feb. 17
 Salem at South Lyon, 7 p.m.

Canton at Wayne, 7 p.m.
 Churchill at Plymouth, 7 p.m.
 Agape at Eastpointe Eaton, 4:30 p.m.
 Inter-City Baptist at PCA, 7 p.m.
Thursday, Feb. 19
 Baptist Park at PCA, 7 p.m.
Friday, Feb. 20
 John Glenn at Canton, 7 p.m.
 South Lyon East at Salem, 7 p.m.
 Wayne Memorial at Plymouth, 7 p.m.
 Agape at Covenant, 4:30 p.m.

PREP GYMNASTICS
Tuesday, Feb. 17
 Canton at Livonia Red
 at Churchill, 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Feb. 18
 Salem at Plymouth, 6:30 p.m.
PREP BOYS HOCKEY
Tuesday, Feb. 17
 Canton at Plymouth
 at Compuware Arena, 6:10 p.m.
Friday, Feb. 20
 KLA cross-overs, TBA
PREP WRESTLING
Wednesday, Feb. 18
 Team Districts, TBA
 Saturday, Feb. 21
 Individual Districts, TBA
 Tuesday, Feb. 17
 Plymouth at Tecumseh, 6:30 p.m.

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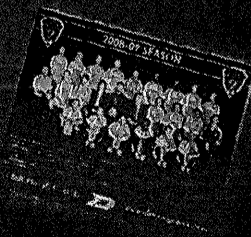
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Friday, February 20, 2009
7:35 pm at Compuware Arena
 14900 Beck Road in Plymouth



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Thu 19 San Antonio 8:00pm	Fri 20 LA Clippers 8:00pm
March	Sun 22 Miami 1:00pm
Tue 03 Denver 7:30pm	Sun 29 Philadelphia 6:00pm
Fri 06 Golden State 8:00pm	April
Mon 09 Orlando 7:30pm	Sun 05 Charlotte 6:00pm
Wed 11 New York 7:30pm	Fri 10 New Jersey 8:00pm
	Mon 13 Chicago 7:30pm

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Bellamy's threes sink Rocks

BY ED WRIGHT
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

PREP BOYS HOOP

For the second time this season, Novi's "Bombs Away" offense registered a direct hit on Salem's won-loss record Friday night.

The Wildcats hit the target on nine of 31 three-point shots in their 78-63 home triumph over the Rocks.

Novi improved to 12-2 overall and 7-1 in the Kensington Lakes Activities Association's Central Division while Salem dropped to 4-10 and 2-6, respectively.

"Novi has a very good basketball team," emphasized Salem coach Bob

Brodie. "They play tenacious defense, they fast-break well and they have quite a weapon with their three-point shooting."

While Novi was racking up 27 points from beyond the arc, the Rocks drained just one of nine triple attempts.

Senior guard Anthony Mullins led Salem with 15 points. Fellow senior Jim Dexter added 14.

Salem's Heath Parling drained all eight of his free-throw attempts.

On a night when 10 Rocks scored, junior Andrew Daniels led all rebounders

with 10 in a reserve role.

Senior guard Chris Bellamy paced the winners with 31 points — almost half the result of five made threes.

Brandon Bryant chipped in with 13 points for the Wildcats, who sit atop the KLAAs Central.

Novi led 17-12 after one quarter, 40-26 at the half and 60-47 with eight minutes to play.

On a bright note, Salem connected on 24 of 32 free throws. Novi also sizzled from the stripe, swishing 11 of 15 attempts.

ewright@hometownlife.com
(734) 578-2767



Shaakira signs

Plymouth senior basketball standout Shaakira Haywood (second from left) recently signed a national letter of intent to play college basketball for Northern Illinois University. A four-year varsity player, Haywood is one of the school's all-time leaders in rebounds and blocked shots. She is pictured with (from left) Plymouth coach Ted Sturdivant, her mom Linda and PCS athletic director Sue Heinzman.

Justus prevails: 'Cat goalie blanks Birmingham

PREP HOCKEY

"Justus" was served during Thursday's Plymouth-Birmingham United boys hockey game.

Wildcat goal-tender Michael Justus stopped all 19 shots he faced to lead Plymouth to a 2-0 victory.

Pat Smiatacz broke the scoring ice with his 10th goal of the season early in the second period off assists from Luke Merandi and Evan Swieczkowski.

Mid-way through the third stanza, the Wildcats added an insurance goal when freshman Zach Gambrell tallied his ninth of the campaign off assists from Kyle Callahan and Tyler Sanders.

"The 'Green Line' — Callahan, Gambrell and Sanders — has been our best line as of late," said Plymouth coach Paul Fassbender. "They continue to work hard and do a lot of the

little things right.

"Our defensemen played pretty well also. They were able to get the puck out when needed."

Fassbender said he's looking for improvement in certain areas as the post-season nears.

"Overall today, I thought we played weak," Fassbender said. "Our forwards are playing soft. We had 13 turnovers on the boards by our wingers. We need to get better in this area of the game. We look timid."

SALEM 4, CHURCHILL 0: They made start calling him Super Mario, too, after the Rocks' Mario Macari notched a hat trick Wednesday night as Salem (11-7-3, 4-1-2) took a giant step in clinching the KLAAs South Division crown with win over Livonia Churchill (6-8-4, 5-2-1).

The Rocks can earn the KLAAs South title outright with a victory Friday at Edgar Arena against winless Livonia Franklin (0-18, 0-7).

After a scoreless opening period, Macari scored at 1:27 of the second period from Kurt Driscoll and Josh Jarvela.

Shawn Lyons made it 2-0 just 67 seconds later off assists from Patrick Patin and Kyle Powell. Macari's second of the night from Jarvela increased the Salem lead to 3-0 at 11:20 of the same period.

Macari closed out at the scoring at the 46-second mark for the third with an assist from Driscoll. Salem netminder Adam Powers stopped all 24 shots to post the shutout.

Aaron Crouse had 12 saves for the Chargers.

"We had our chances, but our power play was ineffective," Churchill coach Pete Mazzoni

said. "Powers played well and Salem capitalized on its chances. They deserved the 'W'."

CANTON 8, FRANKLIN 0:

Nick Tomilenko scored twice Wednesday as the host Chiefs (15-5-1, 3-3-1) invoked the eight-goal mercy rule in the final period to beat Livonia Franklin (0-18, 0-7) in a KLAAs South Division game at Arctic Edge.

Mark Barath, Trent Taylor, Andrew Juback, Anthony Bonnett, Donnie Barlow and Ryan Lash also scored for Canton, which led 4-0 after one period and 6-0 after 13 minutes.

Jimmy Lafontaine contributed three assists.

Franklin, coming off losses to Walled Lake Northern (8-0) and Livonia Churchill (9-1), used two goaltenders starting Brandon Hawkins, who played the opening period. He was relieved by Travis Ferrier.

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CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH NOTICE OF HEARING ASSESSMENT BOARD OF REVIEW

NOTICE OF HEARING given that the Plymouth Township Board of Review will meet on the following dates and times:

Hearings are by appointment, please call 354-3269, between 8 am and 4:30 pm for an appointment.

Tuesday, March 3	9 am - Noon	Organizational Meeting
	2 pm - 5 pm	Hearings by Appointment
Monday, March 9	2 pm - 5 pm	Hearings by Appointment
	6 pm - 9 pm	Hearings by Appointment
Wednesday, March 11	9 am - Noon	Hearings by Appointment
	2 pm - 5 pm	Hearings by Appointment
Saturday, March 14	9 am - 11 am	First Come- First Served

Other hearing dates and times may be scheduled as needed.

All persons protesting their assessment must complete petitions prior to appearing before the Board. A personal appearance is not required. Appeals by mail will be accepted if received by March 20, 2009.

The Board of Review will be held in the Board Meeting Room of Plymouth Township Hall, 9955 N. Haggerty Road, Plymouth, MI 48170.

Please come prepared as a ten (10) minute time limit before the Board of Review will be strictly adhered to.

Publish: February 12, 15 and 19, 2009

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PLYMOUTH-CANTON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS NOTICE TO BIDDERS

The Board of Education of the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools invites all interested and qualified companies to submit a **Bid for Bid Packet #23: Miscellaneous Projects at Isbister Elementary School along with Central Middle School and Canton and Salem High Schools.** Bidding documents prepared by TMP Associates, Inc. are available for public inspection and pick-up (1 set per company) at the office of the Construction Manager, McCarthy & Smith Inc., 24317 Indoplex Circle, Farmington Hills, MI, 48335; (248)-427-8400. They can also be viewed at: FW Dodge Plan Room, Southfield; Construction Association of Michigan Plan Room, Bloomfield Hills; Daily Construction Reports Plan Room, Detroit; and the Builders Exchange, Lansing.

Bid Division descriptions include: 109:Roofing (Salem) / 124:Gymnasium Wood Flooring (Isbister) / 133:Pool Equipment (Central, Canton, & Salem) / 141:Fire Protection (Canton) / 151:Cafeteria Folding Pocket Tables (Isbister) / 178:Automotive Spray Booth Assembly (Canton).

A pre-bid meeting will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, February 19, 2009 at the construction trailer site located at Canton High School - 8415 Canton Center Road, Plymouth, MI 48170. Bidders are **STRONGLY** encouraged to attend. Any and all questions in regards to the bidding or the Project Documents should be addressed in writing and faxed to the Construction Manager, **McCarthy & Smith Inc.** Questions or clarifications will be promptly answered and returned to the bidder/bidders.

Bids are to be submitted in a sealed envelope supplied by the Construction Manager, McCarthy & Smith Inc. with the corresponding bid division identified on the outside of the envelope. All submissions should include 2 bid copies (1 original, 1 copy), a valid familial disclosure statement, and a Bid Security in the amount of five (5) percent of the amount of the bid. Bids are due to the PCCS E.J. McClendon Educational Center on or before 1:30 p.m., Tuesday, March 3, 2009 where they will be opened and read publicly. Faxed bids will not be accepted. For additional information, phone Dan Phillips, Assistant Director of Finance & Purchasing at (734) 416-2746. The Board of Education reserves the right to accept and/or reject all bids, as they judge to be in the best interest of the school district.

Board of Education
Plymouth-Canton Community Schools
THOMAS WYSOCKI, Secretary

Publish: February 15th and 22nd, 2009

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PLYMOUTH-CANTON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS NOTICE TO BIDDERS

The Board of Education of the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools invites all interested and qualified companies to submit a bid for **School Bus Parts.** Specifications and bid forms are available by contacting Dan Phillips in the PCCS Purchasing Department at (734) 416-2746. Technical questions can be directed to Kurt Miles of the PCCS Transportation Department at 734-416-3040. Sealed bids are due to the E.J. McClendon Educational Center (attn: Bus Parts Bid), 454 S. Harvey, Plymouth, MI 48187 on or before 2:30 p.m., Friday, March 13, 2009. The Board of Education reserves the right to accept and/or reject all bids, as they judge to be in the best interest of the school district.

Board of Education
Plymouth-Canton Community Schools
THOMAS WYSOCKI, Secretary

Publish: February 15 and 22, 2009

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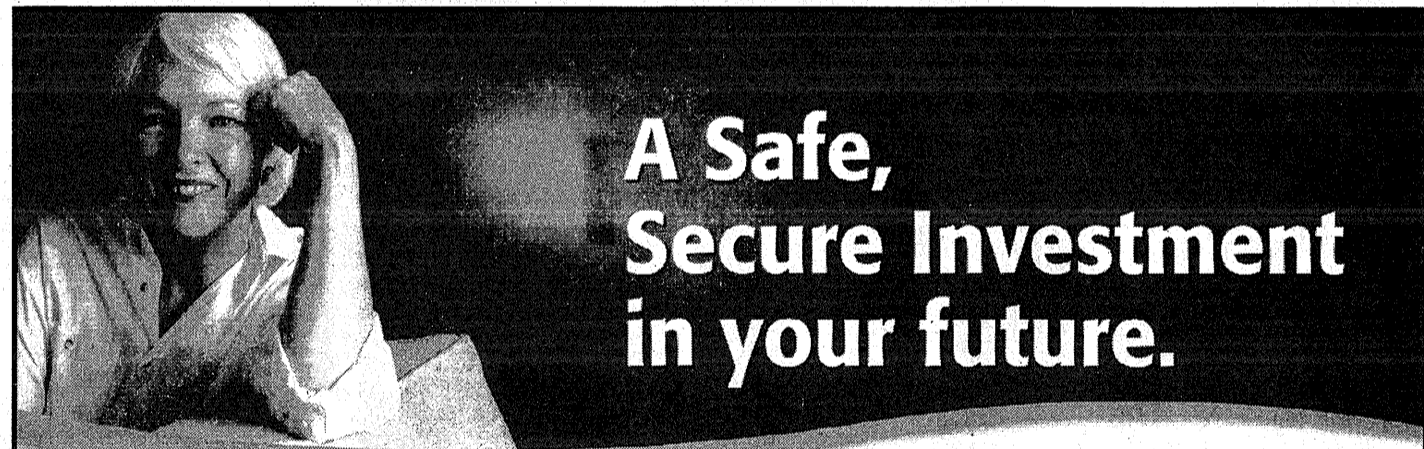
PLYMOUTH-CANTON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS NOTICE TO BIDDERS

The Board of Education of the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools invites all interested and qualified companies to submit a bid for **School Bus Tires.** Specifications and bid forms are available by contacting Dan Phillips in the PCCS Purchasing Department at (734) 416-2746. Technical questions can be directed to Kurt Miles of the PCCS Transportation Department at 734-416-3040. Sealed bids are due to the E.J. McClendon Educational Center (attn: Bus Tire Bid), 454 S. Harvey, Plymouth, MI 48187 on or before 2:00 p.m., Friday, March 13, 2009. The Board of Education reserves the right to accept and/or reject all bids, as they judge to be in the best interest of the school district.

Board of Education
Plymouth-Canton Community Schools
THOMAS WYSOCKI, Secretary

Publish: February 15 and 22, 2009

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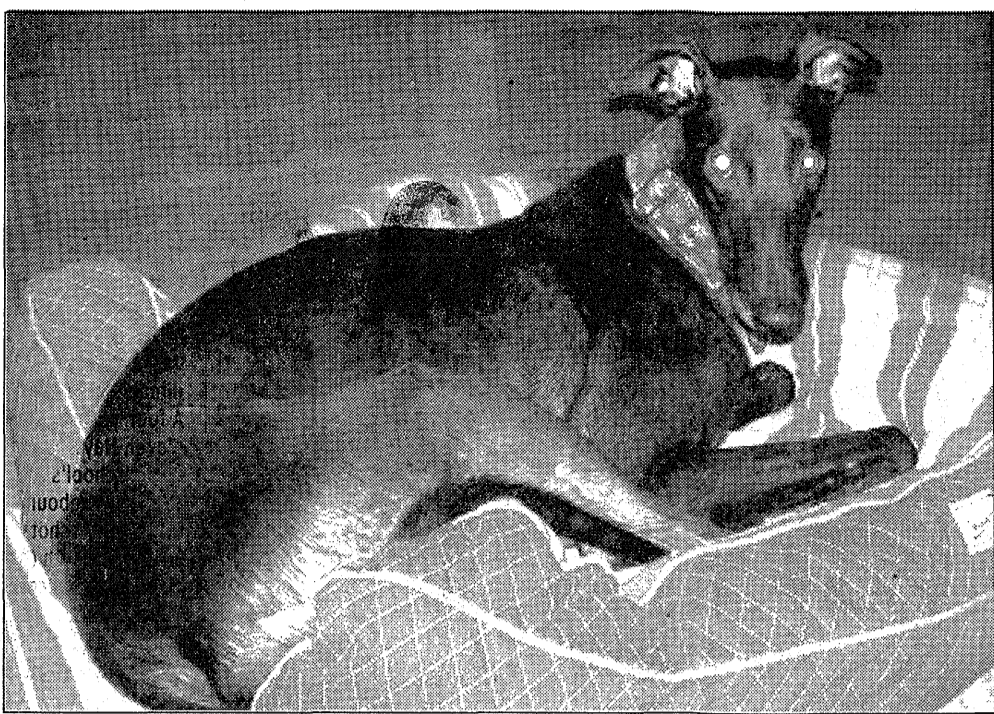
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800989890



Needs a home

Bailey is a 2-year-old handsome black greyhound in need of a permanent home. He has very good manners, loves to be with people and play with his stuffed toys. He has been neutered and is up to date on vaccinations. If you would like to meet Bailey, contact Greyheart Greyhound Rescue and Adoption at (866) 438-4739 or visit www.greyheart.org.

Is your dog a star?

The Humane Society of Huron Valley wants to know if your dog has what it takes to star in the 30th annual Walk & Wag fund-raiser Saturday, May 16. The winner of the Celebrity Spokesdog contest will lead the way as



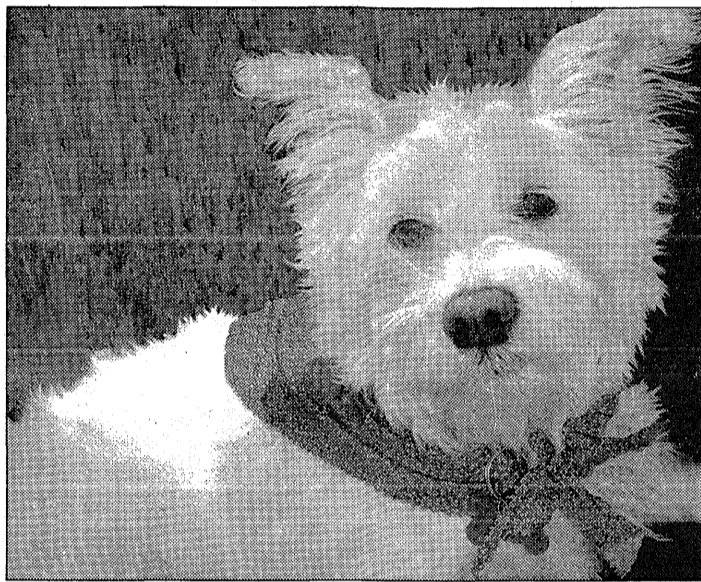
Linda Chomin

thousands of pets and their owners step off for the dog walk and fun family day at County Farm Park in Ann Arbor.

Clancy, our big blond Irish Wolfhound, doesn't have the good looks of a celebrity dog but we love him anyway. Five minutes after you brush his wiry coat he's back to scruffy. My sister, Gwen, and I call him ruggedly handsome but beauty is definitely in the eye of the beholder when it comes to this dog.

It's a good thing beauty isn't one of the criteria to be a celebrity spokesdog because Clancy is cute in other ways. Yesterday afternoon, he was trying to look as innocent as he could while gently reaching for the broccoli on the kitchen counter. Those big brown eyes could melt a snowman. Clancy adds many touching moments to our lives. I can have the worst day in the world and when I come home that wagging tail cheers me up. The joy he brings my sister and me doesn't stop there. I suppose we're like any other dog-loving family and these stories are the ones the Humane Society of Huron Valley would like to hear. The winning dog not only leads the walk but appears in posters, brochures and the HSHV Web page publicizing the event.

Entries must be received by March 1, and include a picture of your dog along with a \$15 donation and essay (250 words or less) telling why your special pooch should be the 2009 Walk & Wag Celebrity Spokesdog. For more information, visit www.hshv.org or call (734) 662-5585.



Libby, a shelter dog, was the 2008 Celebrity Spokesdog for Walk & Wag, the Humane Society of Huron Valley fund-raiser.

"Last year, a terrier mix won after a 9-year-old girl wrote about how much their dog had changed their family and Libby was a shelter dog — but the dog does not have to be an alum of the Humane Society to enter. They just have to be spayed or neutered and able to be friendly with other dogs," said Deb Kern, HSHV marketing director. "We want every dog to enter, if they think their dog could be a celebrity spokesdog. It's about the best story and the one that touches the judges' hearts. We had about 80 entries last year. It was very difficult. We just read and read."

"I'll bet there are plenty of heart-warming stories out there. Last year, HSHV reunited 790 lost animals and their owners and helped 3,343 dogs, cats, guinea pigs, hamsters, bunnies, and birds find homes. The nonprofit shelter services Washtenaw County, Canton and Plymouth. I learned something this week that could mean the difference in finding Clancy if he is ever lost. When dogs are picked up in Plymouth and Canton, they are taken to HSHV not the Michigan Humane Society in Westland. HSHV is not affiliated with MHS and its funding comes only from donations,

adoption fees, the clinic, and Walk & Wag fund-raiser. That's why the event is so important, plus it's fun.

"Everybody brings their dog and walks," said Kern. "Friends and family donate pledges for the walk. There's doggie entertainment and doggie games, a contest for the best dog trick, a bone and biscuit hunt, bobbing for weenies, a pet psychic, sponsors with tables and lots of giveaways."

A raffle offers prizes including \$1,000 and four tickets to see the University of Michigan football team play rival Ohio State.

"Last year, we raised \$130,000. We're trying to raise \$140,000 this year," said Kern. "The money goes to our general operating fund. We did 2,029 low cost spay and neuter last year and are building a new facility. It will increase dog space by almost half, cats almost triple. We're an open admissions shelter. It doesn't matter what kind of animal it is. We have a 72 percent save rate. We aspire to do the best for every animal."

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

REUNION CALENDAR

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/brighton-classof1989.

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: Kaynini@aol.com or Kathy Shoebriidge @ 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.

Detroit schools

We are planning a mini reunion for anyone who graduated from Bagley Elementary in January 1957 or Post Junior High School in January 1960 in Detroit. If interested, call Gloria Weinman Little at (248) 352-9114 or Marlene Kutnick Yamron (e-mail) hahatdc@yahoo.com. The reunion is planned for Feb. 27, 2009.

Henry Ford II Class of 1982

Looking for classmates. We are having a reunion picnic on June 6, at Stony Creek MetroPark and we're also planning a reunion in 2010. For details, contact Gwynne (Doemer) Bambach at 248-740-9759, ford21982@aol.com or visit our FREE class webpage on www.classreport.org.

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 Plcruisin@wowway.com.

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.

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 6 p.m.-midnight, Aug. 29, 2009, at Joy Manor. 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 gch-s1989reunion@hotmail.com.

Grosse Pointe North Class of 1991

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

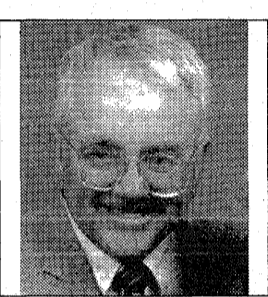
Lincoln Park High School

Looking for members of Lincoln Park High School class of 1958 for 50-year reunion. Contact Nancy, (313) 535-8777 or nc6897@sbcglobal.net.

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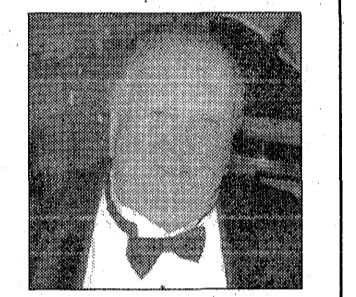
BARBARA E. BLACKFORD

Age 73, of Romulus. Joined her husband and son in heaven on Tuesday, February 10, 2009. Dear mother of Denise Staley, Darlene Staley, Darryl Staley, James Staley, and Frank Blackford. Grandmother of 11 and great-grandmother of five. Sister of Richard Pulley, Phyllis (Donald) Kilgore, Rose (Roy) Cook, Mary (Chuck) Parish, and Janet (Ray) Fisher. As many other family and friends who will miss her dearly. She was preceded in passing by her parents Ezra F. and Edna Maxine (Feeney) Pulley, son Daniel Staley, husband James Staley, and brother Donald Pulley. Friends may call at Crane Funeral Home, 36885 Goddard Rd., Romulus, MI 48174 Tuesday, Feb. 17 after 10:00 a.m. Memorial Service to be held at 12:00-Noon. Memorials may be directed to the family.



LOWELL D. SCHLANBUSCH

There was no separating church life from everyday life as Lowell Dale Schlanbusch saw things...to him every person he came in contact with was a life to be celebrated. Through his generous spirit and sense of humor, he brought joy and comfort to hundreds of Detroiters with whom he worked at General Motors and thru spiritual leadership in the Episcopal Church. Born in Saint Paul, Minnesota, raised in Columbus, Ohio, Lowell settled in the northern metropolitan Detroit area in the early 1950's. He was hired at General Motors as a mail boy and worked his way up the corporate ladder in the financial staff with a career that spanned 30 years at the auto giant. Lowell is an alumni of Ohio State University, University of Detroit and Detroit College of Law. While working at GM, Lowell attended night classes at the Whittaker School of Theology in Detroit and was ordained to the Priesthood in the early 1970's at St. David's Episcopal Church in Southfield. He was Vicar of St. Alfred's Episcopal Church in Lake Orion and later Rector of St. Patrick's Episcopal Church in Madison Heights. However, his largest parish he jokingly referred to as "St. General Motors" as he dedicated his life to serving people when ever and where ever he could. Upon retirement from General Motors, he obtained his Master in Divinity from St. John Provincial Seminary in Plymouth, Michigan. Wearing many hats, especially from January thru April, he completed hundreds of individual income taxes, being recognized by the Detroit Free Press in an article entitled, "Holy 1040." Lowell was enormously involved with the Detroit Cursillo Movement serving as Spiritual Director for 32 Cursillo weekends and was a founding member of "The Disciples", a group of Christian men and women dedicated to fellowship and service. He served as Diocesan Chaplain for the Order of The Daughters of the King and was involved in the Prison and Liturgical Clown ministries. Lowell had a passion for working with youth. As a boy he was active in the Boy Scouts of America earning the rank of Eagle Scout. His love of scouting continued, establishing two Boy Scout Troops in the Birmingham area and serving as Scoutmaster for many years. He developed youth programs based upon the Cursillo method for the Episcopal Diocese of Michigan which influenced and inspired hundreds of teens from Detroit to Alpena. Lowell passed away on February 8, 2009 after a long battle with Alzheimer's Disease. He is survived by his wife and high school sweetheart of 58 years, Sue (Zahn) Schlanbusch, four children: Joan Walsh (Richard), Lewis (Dr. Mary Puls), Sara Mattocks (Norman) and Amy Schlanbusch as well as six grandchildren: Laura and Jeffrey Walsh, Luke and Emily Kujawa, Gus Schlanbusch and Noah Mattocks. There will be a Requiem Eucharist and Celebration of Lowell's life at St. David's Episcopal Church, 16200 W. 12 Mile Road, Southfield on Sunday, February 22, 2009 at 2:00 p.m. Arrangements handled by Gendernalik Funeral Home 586-725-0177. Memorial Contributions can be made in Lowell D. Schlanbusch's name to St. Mark's Episcopal Church 527 N William Street, Marine City, MI 48039 or the Boy Scouts of America, Detroit Area Council, BSA Dauch Scout Center, Attn: Wanda Bohannon, 1776 W. Warren Ave, Detroit MI 48208, or online @ www.bsadetroit.org following the link to "Support Scouting & Scout Tribute". Memorial messages can be posted on sympathytree.com/lowellschlanbusch



ROBERT R. MEYERAND "BOB"

Of Canton, passed away at his home surrounded by his family on Friday, January 30th, 2009. Age 61 after a 3 and 1/2 courageous battle with Prostate Cancer. Beloved husband of Bonnie (nee: Seemann). Loving father of Lori (Tom) Moesta, Kimberly (Joe) Collieran, Shawn (Dawn) Ipavec, Robert J. (Jen) Meyerand, Lisa Meyerand and Lisa Lemley. Devoted grandfather of Christopher, Rikki, Nicolas, Richard, Samantha, Myles, Alexis, Ainsley, Hillarie, Brendan and Kevin. Proud brother of James Meyerand and Karol (Rick) Aune. He was born on September 24, 1947 in Detroit, graduated in 1965 from Lakeview High School in St. Clair Shores. He attended Wayne State University and graduated in 1979 with a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration and Finance. He was elected to the Wayne State Beta Gamma Sigma and the National Honor Society for Business Management. Bob was the Controller for Center Steel Sales in Allen Park. Bob loved family gatherings, parties with friends, Corvettes, travel, the Red Wings and the Canton Soccer Club. Bob has been involved for over 20 years with the Canton Soccer Club, coaching his son and grandson and in 2001 received the Canton Soccer Club Coach of the Year Award. Bob has also been involved with the MSYSA teams and leagues for over 20 years. In addition to coaching, Bob served the Canton Soccer Club administratively as President, Treasurer, Representative to GLSL, In House Coordinator, Premier/Select Coordinator, Tournament Treasurer and Tournament Age Group Coordinator. He continued to be actively involved in soccer administration until shortly before his passing. Bob is being inducted into the MSYSA 2009 Hall of Fame on February 28th, 2009. Memorial contributions may be included at Bob's name to the Prostate Cancer Foundation; 1250 Fourth Street; Santa Monica, CA. 90401.

Paying Tribute to the Life of Your Loved One

ELDEAN "DEAN" GOLTZ

Age 62. February 10, 2009. Beloved husband of Lynn. Dear father of Michelle (Chris) Anderson and Eric Goltz. Grandfather of Rachel and Nicholas Anderson. Brother of Carol (Michael) Jensen and Brian (Lisa) Goltz. Uncle of Miranda Goltz and Christopher Jensen. Funeral Services were held Saturday at the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home of Plymouth. Contributions suggested to the American Heart Association or Michigan Humane Society. Share your special thoughts and memories at www.schrader-howell.com

ELIZABETH M. WHITBECK

Age 85. Formerly of Redford, MI. Feb. 7, 2009. Arrangements by THAYER-ROCK Funeral Home, Farmington.

GERALD ZMIKLY

February 12, 2009. Age 62, of Canton. Beloved husband of Diane. Loving father of Brian (Penny), Nichole Cullin and Shelly (Tim) Harden. Grandfather of Marcus, Mitchell, Paige, Emma, and Ty. Also survived by his mother Josephine and siblings Bob, Ken, Carol, and Linda. Visitation Sunday 2-8pm, McCabe Funeral home, 851 N. Canton Center Rd., Canton. In state Monday 10am until time of Mass 10:30am, St. Thomas a Becket Catholic Church, 555 S. Lilley Rd., Canton. In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to St. Vincent DePaul. www.mccabefuneralhome.com

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When you've lost a loved one, place your notice on our website and in "Passages"...a directory located in every edition of your hometown newspaper.
Observer & Eccentric
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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.

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.
■ 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.

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.

At Meadow Brook

Don Lafond will talk about rock gardening in south eastern Michigan at Meadow Brook Hall Garden Club's next meeting, at 10 a.m., Friday, Feb. 27, in the ballroom at the hall, located on the Oakland University campus in Rochester Hills. Guests are welcome. Coffee and refreshments will be served at 9:30 a.m. There is a \$5 non-member donation. For more information call (248) 887-1981, or (248) 276-0136, or visit www.meadowbrookhall.org.

Mark your calendars

The Michigan State African Violet Society will hold its annual spring display and plant sale, 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m.,

Saturday, April 4 and 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Sunday, April 5 at Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 Dixboro, Ann Arbor. African Violets will be on display and available for purchase. Gesneriads will be available, along with supplies. For more information call (248) 698-3628 or e-mail to INGRIDBOWMAN07@comcast.net.

Water solutions

Beth Rowley, owner of Landscape Beauty by Design, will offer practical, water-saving advice on mowing, fertilizing and watering your lawn at 7 p.m., April 21, at the Canton Public Library, 1200 South Canton Center, Canton. She'll also talk about creative landscaping to save water. The program is free, although registration is required. (734) 397-0999.

Yard Scraps to Garden Treasure

Advanced Master Gardeners and composters Nancy Perry and Luann Davis of the Canton Garden Club, will talk about using inexpensive vermicomposting methods to enrich soil and reduce waste, at 7 p.m., April 22, at the Canton Public Library, 1200 South Canton Center, Canton. Register for the free program by calling (734) 397-0999.

NEIGHBORS

Marching for life

Local youth join together to stop abortion

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
O&E STAFF WRITER

Curtis Schuelke is only 15 but he's already fired up about abortion. As a young person he's not alone. High school and college students made up at least half of the hundreds of thousands of pro-life marchers in Washington, D.C., Jan. 22.

Schuelke was one of the teens from St. Michael the Archangel Catholic Church who took part in the event. Youth groups from St. Michael in Livonia and St. Gerald Catholic Church in Farmington joined together to travel to the 36th annual March for Life that marks the anniversary of Roe vs. Wade, the U.S. Supreme Court decision which in 1973 gave women the right to choose. They recently spoke about the trip that left St. Gerald with every bus seat filled.

"Abortion isn't really talked about," said Schuelke, a 10th-grade student at University of Detroit Jesuit High School. "We need to start publicizing what abortion is. The march is one of the ways to do it."

Patrick Cummings not only demonstrates annually in Washington, but is out on the streets every Saturday morning counseling women on their way in to abortion clinics. The Westland man is one of the Guadalupe Partners, a nonprofit organization that will present a Life Fair on March 1 along with St. Michael's Gospel of Life Committee, which sponsored their youth group at the march. The March 1 event is an opportunity to learn about right-to-life activism in the community. In

LIFE FAIR

What: An afternoon to learn about opportunities for right-to-life activism in the community
When: 2-5 p.m. Sunday, March 1
Where: St. Michael the Archangel Catholic Church, 11441 Hubbard at Plymouth Road, Livonia. For information, call (734) 261-1455, Ext. 207, or visit www.livoniastmichael.org or www.guadalupepartners.org.

addition to sidewalk counseling, Guadalupe Partners supports mothers emotionally and materially by delivering food and furniture and helping them get assistance, a GED or job training.

"Guadalupe Partners tries to support them to have their children," said Cummings. "The first time a mom decides not to go in you know you've saved a life. It changes you forever. More people would be against abortion if they knew the truth about how far the baby was along."

TEEN ACTIVISTS

The sea of young people attending the march gave Cummings hope for the future. It was his 16-year-old daughter, Alex Cummings, who enlightened Mike Shesterkin, her best friend's father, about abortion and the belief that life begins at conception. The Livonia man even voted against Barack Obama after he learned about his pro-choice stand.

"It was important to be counted among the many who were there," said Shesterkin,



PHOTO BY PATRICK CUMMINGS

Megan Doulette, Mike Shesterkin, Alex Cummings, and Hillary Shesterkin took part in the March for Life in Washington, D.C. They are all members of St. Michael the Archangel Parish in Livonia.

whose daughter, Hillary, goes to Ladywood High School with Alex. "My daughter was touched and inspired. It was an inspiring experience for me as well. I was inspired to see a number of legislators there who continue to fight for life. They're not giving up."

Launa Wakenhut is just happy to see the focus being put on the unborn babies.

"In years past, it was on the woman's life and the thinking was her life should come first," said Wakenhut. "Over the years, a set of language has developed that talks about the life being taken."

BEYOND CATHOLICISM

Sister Felicity Marie Madigan says it's not only Catholics who

feel strongly about abortion.

"It's an ecumenical movement," said Sister Madigan, assistant youth minister at St. Michael, where she teaches seventh-grade catechism. "Last year, we were out there about seven hours but we were there for a good cause."

This was the second year Amanda Posh, 17, and her mother, Annemarie, made the trip. Not even the memory of freezing cold and rain last year could keep them away. Amanda could have gone with classmates at Divine Child High School but wanted to share the experience with her mother and students in the St. Michael youth group.

"Life is probably the most precious gift God has given us and I wanted to be there to protest," Amanda said. "I talked to my friend about it and she came with us. After I told other friends about the march and they want to go next year. There are a lot of people at school against abortion."

Annemarie Posh sees abortion as a "cop out."

"I feel adoption is so courageous to give life to people who want a baby so bad," she said.

The big sign in front of St. Gerald lets women know help is available. The church's pro-life



PHOTO BY PATTY BREEN

Members of St. Gerald Catholic Church's Youth Group on their way to Washington, D.C. for the March for Life. Pictured are Candace Majewski (left standing), Caitlin McInnis, (clockwise) Mary Taffe, and Carly Burke (left front).

Gabriel Project is holding a baby shower March 7-8 to collect donations of strollers, cribs, diapers, and formulas. For information, call (248) 477-7470.

Patty Breen can't imagine a woman having an abortion. The 23-year old Livonia resident is coordinator of youth ministry at St. Gerald.

"It was good for them to see hundreds of thousands of people

who value the gift of life from God," said Breen. "I remember my mom telling me what abortion was, I thought why would someone want to do that. Years later I think it's weird to think about who might be missing — your neighbor, your sibling, your cousin — if there had been an abortion."

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A Note from Florine

President's Day celebrates the leadership of America's two most respected presidents. This year, be your own Lincoln or Washington and take charge of your health. I can't say enough how important it is to work exercise into your life. Whether its 10 minutes a day of walking outdoors, or "window shopping" around the mall for 30 minutes, remaining active and raising your metabolism will make you feel better and burn calories.

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MILESTONES

Sutton-Devlin

John and Wendy Sutton of Garden City wish to announce the marriage of their daughter, Sandra Jane, to Anthony Joseph of Livonia, on Oct. 4, 2008.

The bride graduated in 2005 from Garden City High School. She obtained her medical certification certificate from Schoolcraft College and is currently working in an urgent care clinic in Tucson, Ariz., and attending school to earn a bachelor's degree in biochemistry.

The groom, son of Linda and Joseph Devlin of Livonia, graduated from Livonia Churchill High School in 2004. He attended Schoolcraft College before enlisting in the U.S. Air Force, where he is a C-130 crew chief at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base in Tucson.

The Rev. Kevin Brown of Metro South Church of Trenton officiated the ceremony.

The bride was attended by maid of honor Rachel Telfer, and bridesmaids Amy Brehmer, Becky Pakos, Amber Devlin, Katie Ferrell and Kala Jackson. The groom was attended by best man Dan Rais, and groomsmen Jason Sutton, Tyler Tagami, Marc Couillais, Nick Davio and Brandon Genette.

Their two 'flower dudes,' who carried top hats with rose petals, were Benjerman Ferrell, 8, and Joseph Ferrell, 6. The ring bearer was Logan



Ferrell, 3. The reception was held at Joy Manor. The couple plans to reside in Arizona until Tony's tour of duty ends.

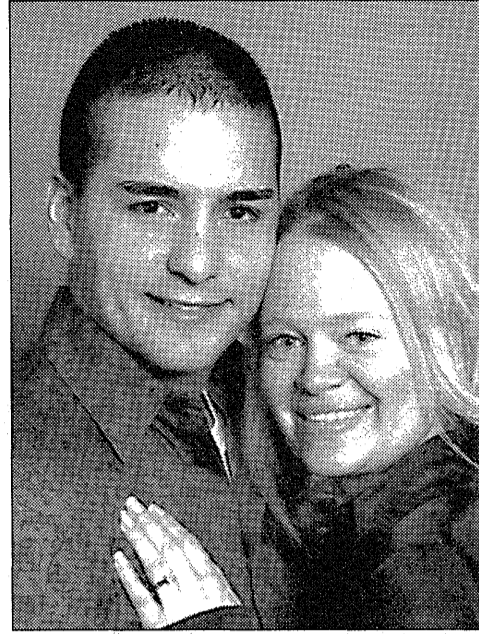
Walthers-Albrecht

Mr. and Mrs. John Albrecht of Westland announce the engagement of their son Jeffrey Bryant Albrecht to Elizabeth Ann Walthers of Essixville.

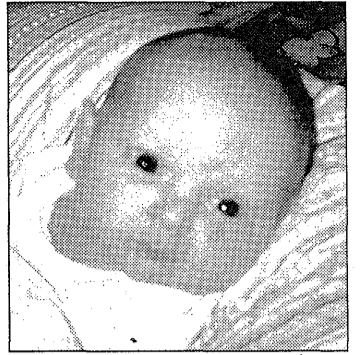
Elizabeth is the daughter of Dominique and Tammy Walthers. She is a graduate of Northwood University and currently employed at Delphi.

Jeffrey is a graduate of John Glenn High School in Westland and has a teaching degree from Olivet College.

Jeffrey is a math teacher at



Riverside Academy. A July wedding is planned. The couple will reside in Essixville.



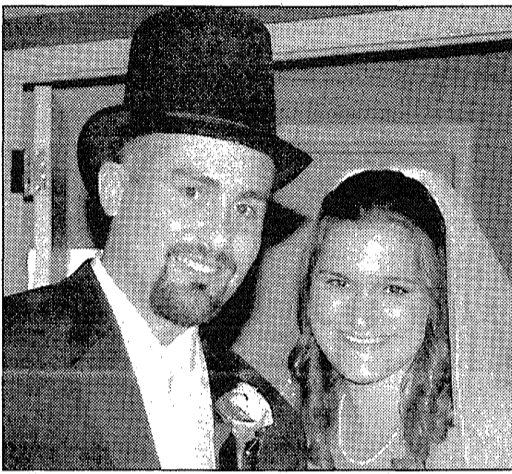
Reid baby

Francine Moore, who works for the Farmington Hills Police Department, and Don Reid, of Redford Township, announce the birth of their son, Spencer Ronald Reid. The 6-pound, 8-ounce Spencer measured 19-1/2 inches at his birth, at 7:56 a.m. on Aug. 4, 2008 at Botsford Hospital in Farmington Hills. He is the grandson of Delores Moore and half-brother of Donnie Reid and Danielle McNamara.

Kain-LaMontagne

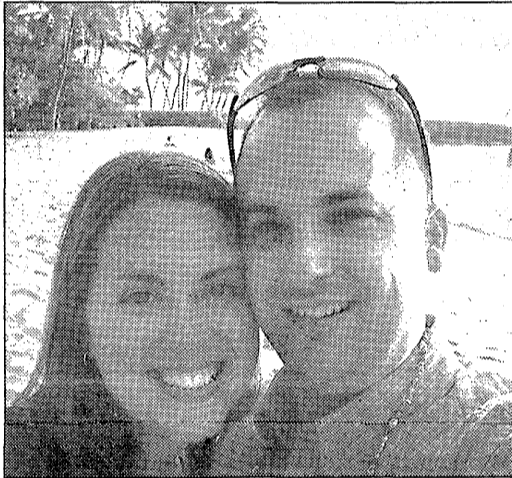
Ellen and Robert Kain of Livonia announce the marriage of their daughter, Mallory A. Kain to Craig D. LaMontagne of Westland, son of Lynne and John LaMontagne of Livonia

The couple were wed Nov. 8, 2008 at Christ Church in Redford by Pastor Mark Einem. The bride was attended by Megan Kain, Michelle Kain, Megan LaMontagne, Jennifer Katrich and flower girl Mia LaMontagne. The groom's attendants were Jeff Springer, Kevin Jarvis, Dan LaMontagne and Joe Katrich. Following the ceremony, the couple received guests at Glen Oaks Country Club in Farmington Hills and enjoyed an evening of dinner and dancing. They plan to reside in Westland.



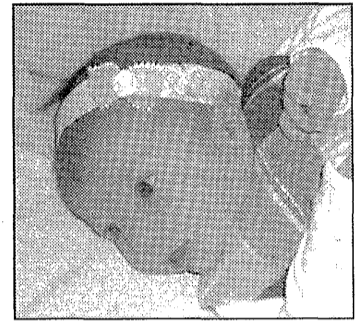
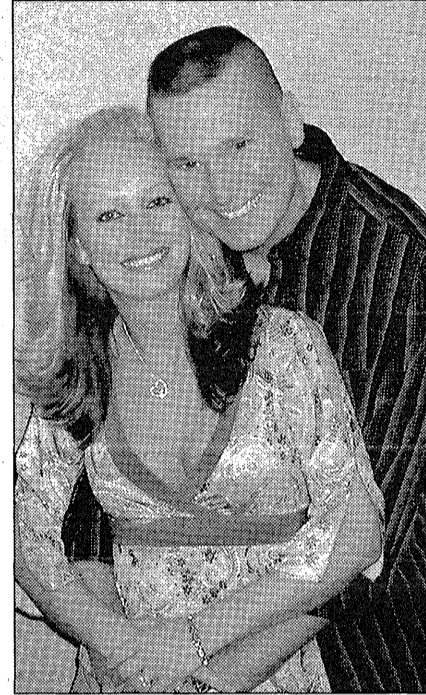
Brown-Kramer

Richard and Katherine Brown of Livonia announce the engagement of their daughter, Katie Rose Brown, to Joel Douglas Kramer, son of Dennis and Diane Kramer of Troy. The bride-to-be is a 1998 graduate of Franklin High School in Livonia and a 2003 graduate of Madonna University in Livonia. She works in corporate communications at Valassis. The groom graduated in 1994 from Bishop Foley High School. He earned a bachelor's degree in 1998 from Michigan State University, and a master's degree in 2003 from Lawrence Technological University. He works as a structural engineer at SSOE, Inc. in Toledo, Ohio. The couple plans to wed in October at St. Hugo of the Hills Catholic Church in Bloomfield Hills.



Wysocki-Kenyon

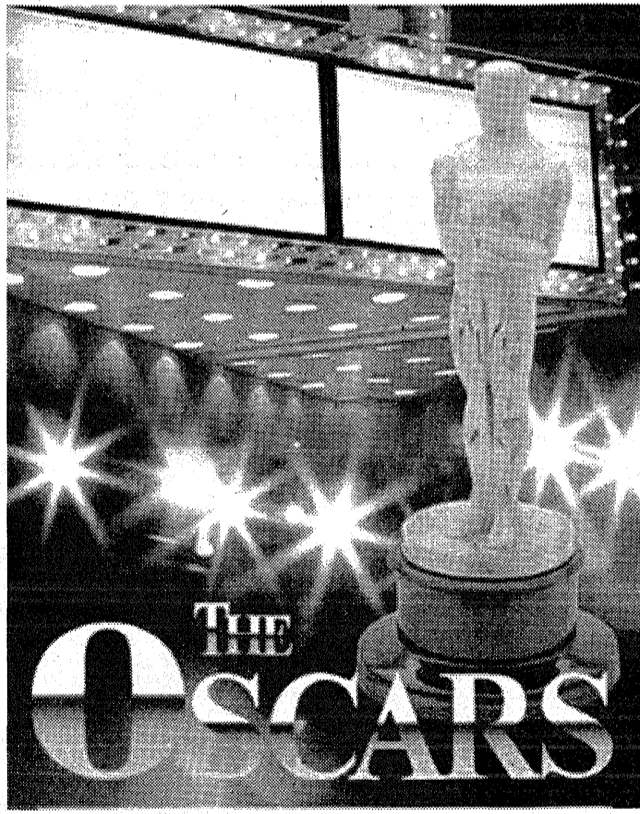
Randolph and Cathy Wysocki of Garden City announce the engagement of their daughter, Sara Melissa, to Robert Shawn Kenyon, son of Doris Kenyon of Wayne and Robert Lee Kenyon of Plymouth. The bride-to-be graduated from Garden City High School and now owns Hair FX Studio in Canton where she is a hair stylist. The groom graduated from John Glenn High School and Eastern Michigan University. He is a police officer for the city of Westland. Their wedding is planned for March.



Derouin baby

Melissa Lanier and Nik Derouin of Plymouth announce the birth of their daughter, Zoey Leeza Derouin. She was born Dec. 16, 2008 at University of Michigan hospital in Ann Arbor. Her grandparents are John and Anne Lanier of Canton and Bill and Mary Derouin of Fowlerville and Canton. Her great-grandparents are Larue Lanier of Waxahachie, Texas; and the late Clyde Lanier, Jean Dutton, David and Liza David, and Don and Ann Humphrey.

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- Directing
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(In the event that there is a tie a name will be randomly selected)

All entries must be received by Friday, February 20, 2009 at 5:00 p.m. to be considered.

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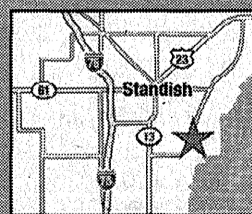


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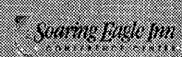
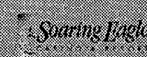
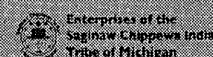
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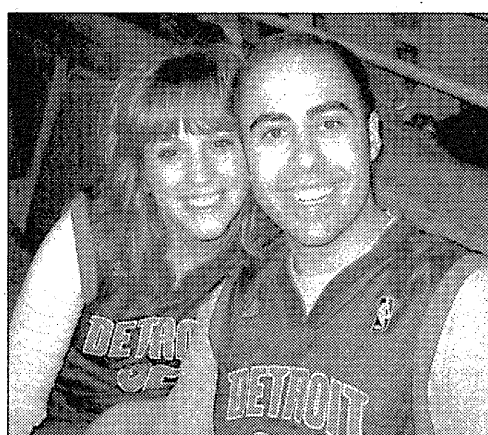
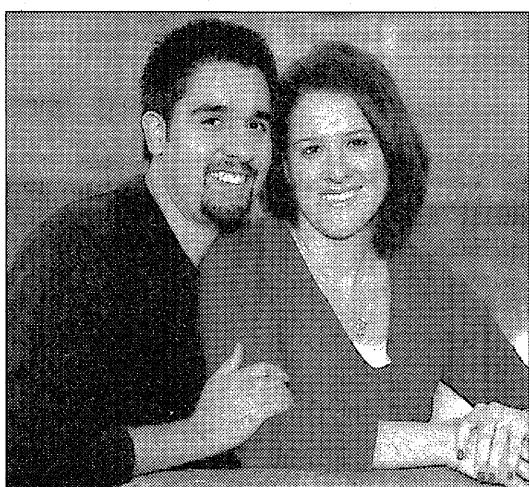
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MILESTONES

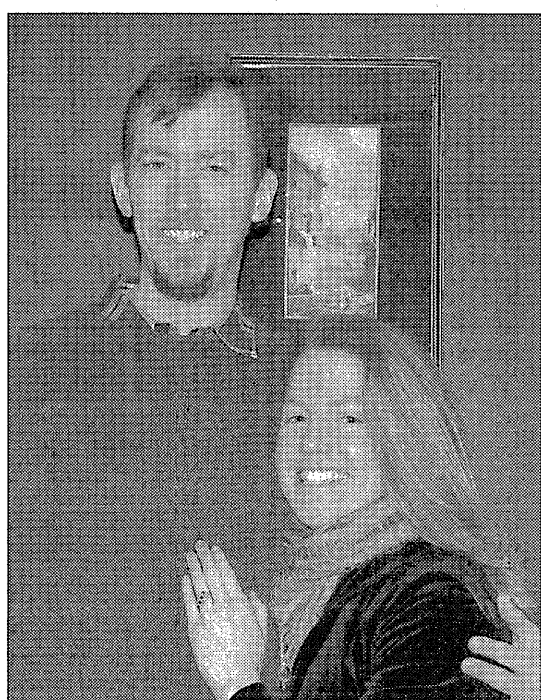
Baringhaus-Edwin

James and Charlene Baringhaus of Livonia announce the engagement of their daughter, Stephanie Baringhaus to David Edwin, son of Samuel and Kim Edwin of Troy. The bride-to-be graduated from Stevenson High School in Livonia in 2002, and earned a Doctor of Pharmacy degree from Wayne State University in 2008. She works as a pharmacy resident at the University of Michigan. The groom graduated from Troy Athens High School in 2002, and earned a bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering from Wayne State University. He works as a quality engineer at Terumo Medical Corporation. The couple plan to wed in May at the Basilica of St. Mary in Livonia.



Miller-Haglund

Steve and Sandi Miller of Westland announce the engagement of their daughter, Nicole Miller to Lars Valdor Haglund, son of Valdor and Iora Haglund of Farmington Hills. The couple plan to wed in September 2010 in Michigan.



Sieg-Oelkers

David and Molly Sieg of Redford announce the engagement of their daughter, Annette Sieg, of Philadelphia, to Peter Oelkers, son of Irmgard and the late Kenneth Oelkers of Montvale, Pa. The bride-to-be is a 1998 graduate of Redford Union High School and a 2002 graduate of Kalamazoo College. She is currently a graduate student at Drexel University. The groom is a 1987 graduate of Pascack Hills High School and a 1991 graduate of the College of William and Mary. He is a biology professor at Arcadia University. The couple have a July wedding planned in Lancaster, Pa.



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 or lchomin@hometownlife.com.

FIRST STEP BENEFITS

Several long-time supporters are holding fund-raising events for First Step in the coming months.

The 19th annual Charity Dance presented by Brian Duggan takes place 7:30 p.m.-1:30 a.m. Friday, Feb. 20, at Burton Manor in Livonia. Visit www.firststepcharitydance.com for ticket and sponsorship information.

Zonta Club of Farmington/Novi's Stepping Out in Style Event happens 6:30-9 p.m. Sunday, March 22, at Parisian, Laurel Park Place in Livonia. Enjoy an evening of shopping, food, fashion, and fun while supporting First Step. Visit www.zontafarmingtonnovi.org for ticket and sponsorship information. Tickets \$20. For more information, visit www.firststep-mi.org.

GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY MEETINGS

On Saturday Feb 21, at 1:30 p.m. the Irish Genealogical Society of Michigan will present programs on "Using Legacy Family Tree and Family Tree Maker 2006 and 2009" at the Gaelic League/Irish American Club, 2068 Michigan Avenue, Detroit. Brenda Halseth demonstrate Legacy Family Tree, an easy-to-use genealogy software program that will help track, organize, print, and share family history. Bill and Margaret O'Neill provide an in-depth look at Family Tree Maker - Version 2009 and discuss Version 2006, including a demonstration on how to use some of the tools within the programs. The program is open to the public and there is no charge. For information, call Liam Neary at (734) 464-4645.

Western Wayne County Genealogical Society meets Monday Feb. 23, at the Livonia Senior Center, 15218 Farmington Road, Livonia. The main speaker following the 7:30 p.m. business meeting will be Carmen Collins on "Adoption Research" and her quest on her adoption. At 6:30

p.m. Brenda Halseth will present "705 New Books on CD coming to the Livonia Library." She will show how to use this upcoming wealth of information. Meetings open to the public. Guests welcome. For information, visit www.rootsweb.com/~miwwegs/.

FROG SURVEYORS NEEDED

In as little as one month, the skies will fill with the calls of amorous amphibians. If you are interested in learning more about why and where frogs call, sign up for Friends of the Rouge's annual frog and toad survey.

"You need no prior experience, just some interest in the local environment. We provide all the information and materials needed to do the survey at our training workshops," said Sally Petrella, Volunteer Monitoring Program Manager for Friends of the Rouge and manager of the annual Rouge Frog and Toad Survey.

Volunteers attend one of four Frog & Toad Survey Training Workshops in February or March to learn about seven frogs and one toad found in the Rouge River Watershed, the 466-square-mile area drained by the Rouge River. Attendees go home with an assignment to learn eight calls from a CD they are provided.

Once spring comes, they will be expected to venture out to a nearby wetland after dark and determine what type of frogs and toads are calling. Volunteers are encouraged to sign up in teams, and children over 5 are welcome when accompanied by a responsible adult.

Register for one of the following workshops by calling (313) 792-9621 or e-mailing monitoring@therouge.org.

■ 7-9 p.m. Wednesday, March 4, at Canton Summit on the Park, Walnut Room, 46000 Summit Parkway, Canton

■ 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, March 14, at Farmington Hills Council Chambers, 31555 W. 11 Mile Road, Farmington Hills

■ 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, March 21, Plymouth Township Hall, 9955 N. Haggerty Road, Plymouth

For more information, visit www.therouge.org.

RE-OPENING CELEBRATION

Art Is In Market is having a Grand Re-Opening to celebrate its move into a larger space

at Laurel Park Place mall, Six Mile and Newburgh, Livonia with a wine and cheese reception 3-9 p.m. Saturday, March 7. The gallery offers hand crafted art objects, jewelry, clothing, baskets, glass, floral items, photography, and paintings by Southeast Michigan artists. Paul Adams will reveal his latest print for sale, "Old Main," of Wayne State University and will offer some of his original works for sale.

Many of the other artists will be on hand for the meet and greet and will demonstrate aspects of their art. While there, check out the gallery's schedule of events and sign up for a class or demonstration to be offered later in the year. The store also has a Blog, <http://artisinmarket.blogspot.com>, with links to individual artist's websites.

DONATIONS HELP FEED HUNGRY

During the holiday season, which had many people worrying about the struggling economy and paying their bills, customers at Westborn Market helped the less fortunate by donating to Forgotten Harvest, www.forgottenharvest.org, a mobile food rescue organization in metro Detroit.

For the past several years the independent gourmet grocer has requested donations from customers to support Forgotten Harvest's mission to feed the hungry.

In less than three weeks in December customers of Westborn's three stores, including Livonia, contributed nearly \$5,000. The money will enable Forgotten Harvest to rescue and deliver more than 28,000 meals.

THANK YOU

The community of Harding Elementary School in Detroit would like to say "THANK YOU" to Livonia Franklin High School students and staff who work so hard to make life just a little brighter despite a time of economic difficulty.

The men, women, children, and young adults of the school work hard to provide clothes, toys, art projects and snacks which are often distributed throughout Harding Elementary, a school located in Northwest Detroit's Brightmoor area every month.

Arthritis Today

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INFORMATION AND THE INTERNET

The Internet is a valuable source of information on arthritis. The following sites allow you to quickly find the arthritis topic of your interest and the information they provide is clear:

- www.healthfinder.gov
- www.medlineplus.gov
- en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arthritis
- mayoclinic.com

For information on Southeast Michigan programs in arthritis education, on activities for people with arthritis and a physician directory or area rheumatologists, go to the Michigan Arthritis Foundation home page:

www.arthritis.org/chapters/michigan

If you want more information, go to Google and use key phrases to find what you seek. For more technical and medical information, I would not go to PubMed, the traditional site, but to Google Scholar-advanced search.

I cannot provide a source that accurately rates physicians. Going to your health insurance site, will only give you the physicians in that health insurance company's network of providers. The methods the insurance companies use to rate their doctors is difficult to determine, but are not the ways that physicians assess their colleagues.

If you need a physician referral, the old ways are still the best ways: ask a doctor whom you know, or inquire from friends and relatives for a physician they would recommend.

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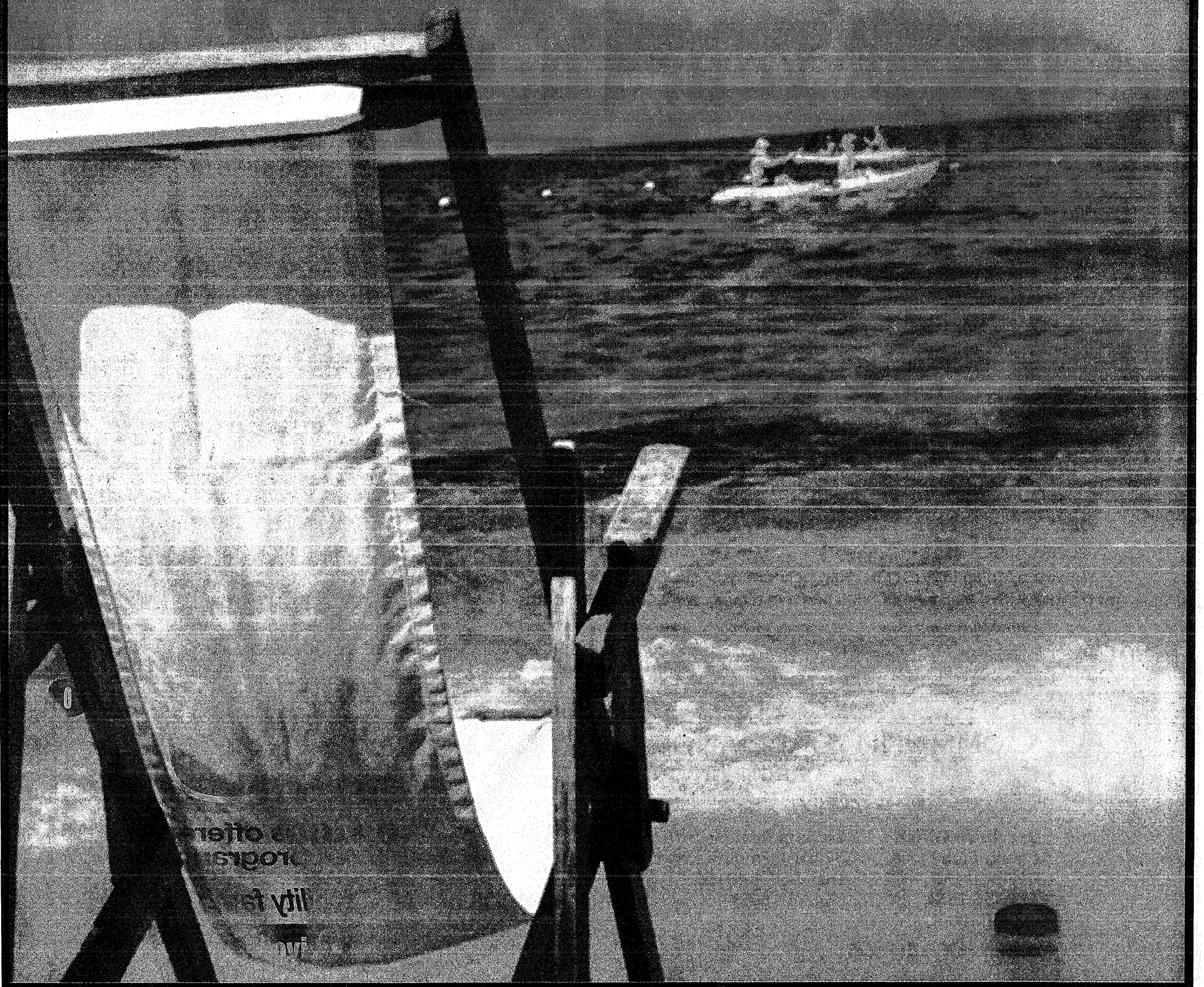
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HEALTH & FITNESS



Heidi Scheer holds son Gannon who stopped speaking and faded into his own world at age 15 months. Scheer is one of the speakers at the first international conference presented by the American Medical Autism Board Feb. 20-22, at the Crown Plaza in Novi.

Conference covers alternative therapies

The American Medical Autism Board (AMAB) presents speakers on the controversial biomedical treatment options for disorders ranging from autism to AD/HD, Asperger Syndrome, and OCD Friday-Sunday, Feb. 20-22, at the Crown Plaza in Novi.

Register online at www.asdboards.com. Credits available for physicians toward AMAB certification.

HEALTH & WELLNESS

FEBRUARY

Healthy relationships conference

Wayne County Head Start hosts its Healthy Marriage/Healthy Relationships Conference Sunday, Feb. 15, at the Dearborn Inn, 23031 Oakwood Blvd. The conference is free for all current or former Wayne County Head Start parents. It begins at 12:30 p.m. and features workshops on marriage, raising a family, and relationships. For details, call 866-534-KIDS (5437).

Climbing for a cause



Rick Braun of Rochester at Climb Detroit last year.

CLIMB DETROIT

What: A stair climb to raise funds for the American Lung Association of Michigan
When: Sunday, March 8.
Registration: at 9 a.m., first step at 10 a.m.
Where: Detroit Marriott tower of the Renaissance Center, 629 East Jefferson
Register: Online at www.ClimbDetroit.org. For information, call Jessica Jimenez, (248) 784-2018.

Steps lead to research, education, advocacy

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
 O&E STAFF WRITER

When Laura Bertalan's 58-year-old mother died from lung cancer in 2007, she felt she had to do something. She packed up and came home to Troy leaving her job as part of the producing team for The Ellen DeGeneris Show in Los Angeles.

Along with being closer to her family Bertalan wanted to work to prevent lung disease and promote lung health. At 10 a.m. Sunday, March 8, she'll be one of hundreds climbing 70 floors of steps at the Detroit Marriot tower of the Renaissance Center to raise funds for the American Lung Association of Michigan (ALAM) where she became marketing director in April. She's taking on the challenging 1,035 steps in honor of her mother Georgena Bertalan.

"I just felt I had to take action," said Bertalan, 32. "She was coughing and asthmatic and would have to go to the ER. They did a scan and found lesions. They tried radiation then chemotherapy, but it was stage 4. It was very aggressive. She died in three months."

Georgena was not a smoker but inhaled second-hand smoke that's why it's important for Bertalan to support ALAM's work in research, education and advocacy. ALAM is part of a campaign for smoke-free air. The national ALA grades each state on the quality of air in its State of Tobacco Control Report. Michigan received an F in 2008.

"All of the money stays in Michigan for research on lung cancer, COPD, asthma education in schools and for adults, and the campaign in Lansing," said Bertalan. "Mom was a bowler. You can't go to a bowling alley without breathing in second hand smoke."

Many of the climbers have family members who died from lung disease. Rick Braun lost his grandmother to COPD weeks before the first climb three years ago. He trains by running up almost 200 stairs in Bloomer Park near his Rochester home.

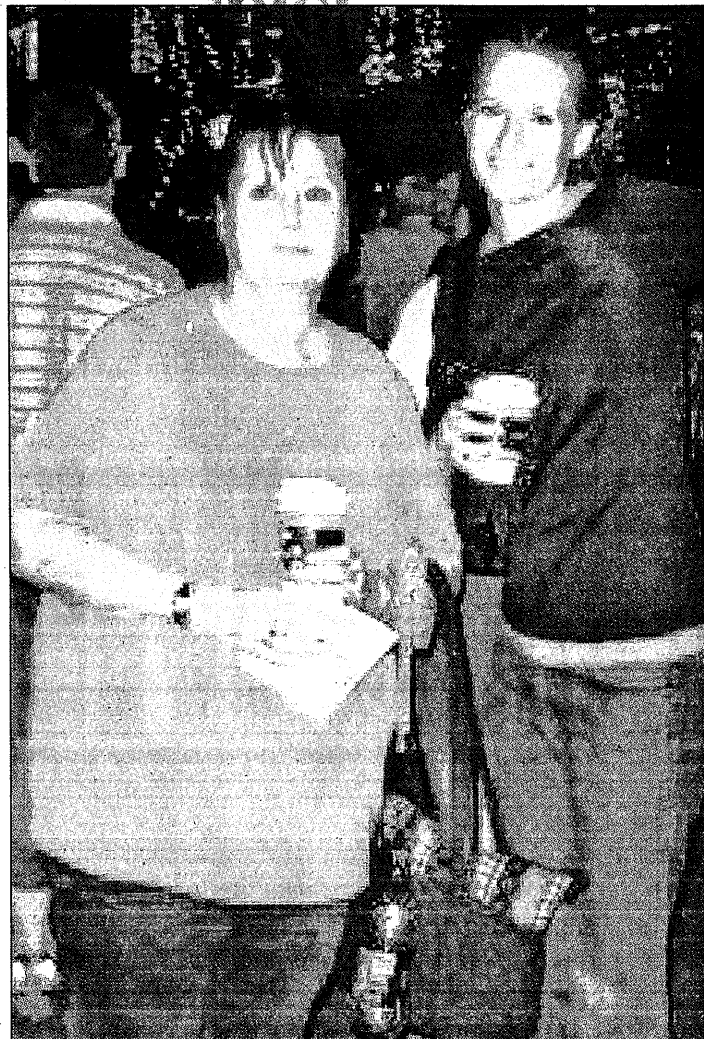
"We'd be out and she had to sit down and catch her breath," said Braun. "One of the hardest parts is watching. You are so powerless. I'd hate for anybody to have to go through

that and to watch people go through that if I can help. Even though I'm not a scientist I can do something just to get the word out. I'm a runner. It's perfect for others who like to run and compete. I'm trying to talk to as many people as possible, work my network of runners and those who are active."

Patty Brehler won't be running up the stairs this year. She'll have to walk because of her asthma. The manner in which she reaches the top doesn't matter though. For years Brehler was able to compete in long distance bicycle races, stair climbs and running marathons until being diagnosed with asthma. Maybe someday research will make it possible for medication to completely control the respiratory disease.

"People are put off by maybe how hard it can be but if you approach it as for a good cause and a fun day," said Brehler, 52. "If you train I think anybody can do it if you pace yourself and take a little break. I'm trying to get permission to walk up with the Leader Dog puppy I'm raising."

Brehler is still looking for climbers to join her team,



Laura Bertalan shared many happy times with her mother before Georgena died of lung cancer in 2007.

Patty's Pack. Like Braun, she trains on the stairs in Bloomer Park.

Participants without a plan can visit climbdetroit.org for a program designed by a personal trainer who's completed the climb. Jessica Jimenez thinks it's a great way to keep a new year's resolution to get in shape. Last year 521 people participated in the climb that attracts ages 12 to 80. About 400 have signed up so far. The cost to register is \$50 until March 4 plus \$100 to participate. Registration closes March 6.

"A lot of people do walks. This is a little bit more of a challenge," said Jimenez, ALAM development manager. "It's for people who do very

little exercising to those who do marathons. It depends on how intense you make it. You can do all 70 floors or 40. Propelling your body up 70 sets of stairs is a much more intense workout than cycling or running. It's a timed event and takes 12 to 24 minutes to finish. There's a post climb celebration in the GM Wintergarden where visitors can come for \$5 for food and beverages to congratulate participants."

For details, visit www.climbdetroit.org.

For information about the American Lung Association, www.lungusa.org.

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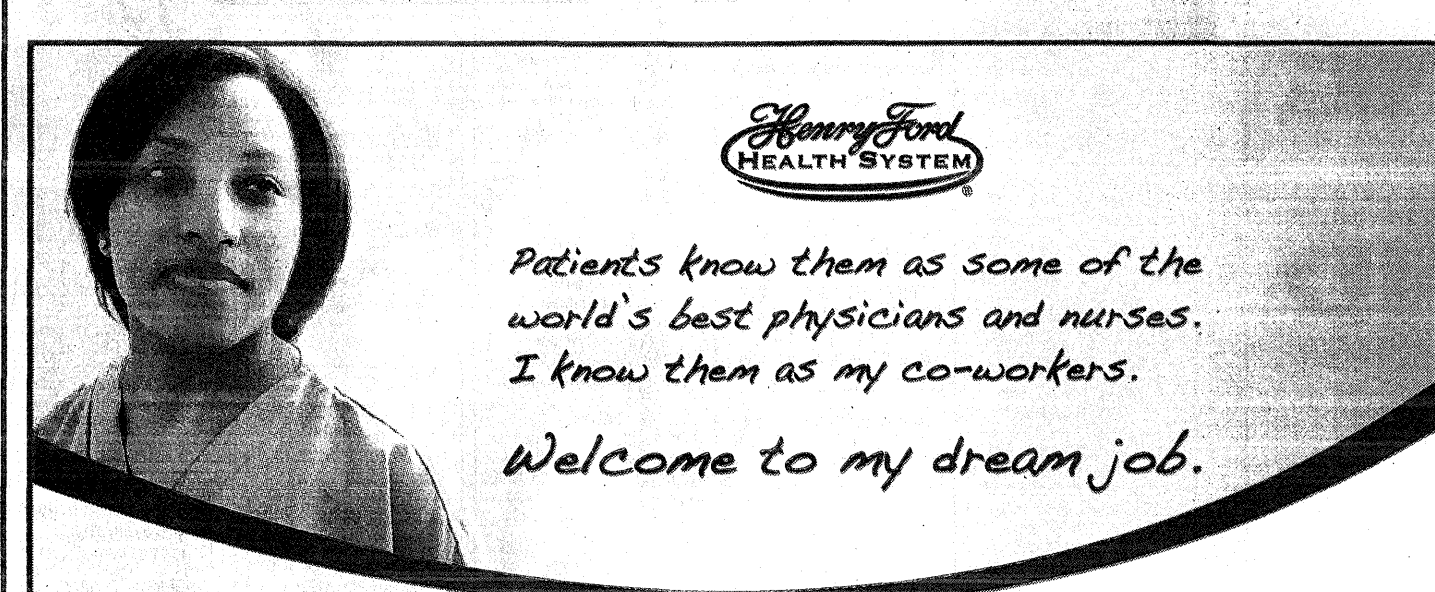
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CAREER MARKETPLACE



Henry Ford Health System offers:
• Competitive benefits and pay • Continuing education • Flexible schedules

HENRY FORD WEST BLOOMFIELD HOSPITAL REGISTERED NURSE OPEN HOUSE
THURSDAY, FEB. 19, 2009
(1-6 p.m.)
Henry Ford West Bloomfield Hospital
Large conference room - lower level
6777 W. Maple Road
West Bloomfield, MI 48322
Hard hat tours (after 3 p.m.)

HENRY FORD HOSPITAL REGISTERED NURSE OPEN HOUSE
FRIDAY, FEB. 20, 2009
(11 a.m.-6 p.m.)
Henry Ford Hospital
Education and Research Building - second floor
Staff dining room
2799 W. Grand Blvd.
Detroit, MI 48202
Validated valet parking

Henry Ford Health System, one of the nation's leading comprehensive and integrated health systems, is looking for Registered Nurses to join our team. Our health system thrives on teamwork, and we know our employees achieve the greatest results when they are working together for a common goal - to provide the care for our patients. If you enjoy working in a collaborative environment then we have a job for you.

• On-site interviews • Unit tours • Refreshments will be served
For more information or to register for events, log on to henryfordcareers.com
Henry Ford Health System is an AA/E/O employer.

POLICE CADET PROGRAM
City of Southfield Police Department
The Police Cadet program is a training program and is also used as an applicant pool for regular positions as full-time Police Officers.
To apply, must be a U.S. citizen, 18 yrs. or older and must possess a high school diploma or G.E.D. at the time of application.
Apply by 5:00 p.m. on March 6, 2009 to: City of Southfield HR Dept. 26000 Evergreen Road, Southfield, MI
Applications may be downloaded from the City's website at: www.cityofsouthfield.com
Southfield
the center of it all™
EOE/Drug Free Workplace

For The Opportunity To Be Seen On This Page Call 1-800-579-7355 Or E-Mail Your Ad To Careers@Hometownlife.Com

Sunday PUZZLE CORNER

Challenging fun for ALL ages

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

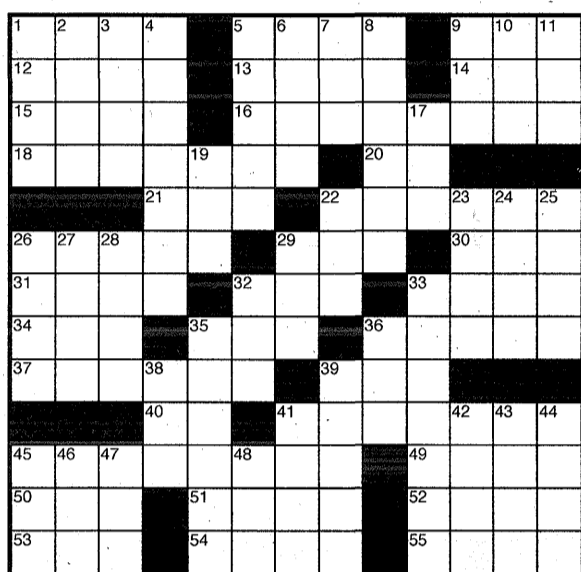
- ACROSS**
- Traipse
 - Actor - Estrada
 - Provide help
 - Flying piscivore
 - Signify
 - Old card game
 - New Jersey cagers
 - Lake activity
 - Spy's file
 - Tellurium symbol
 - Tavern fare
 - Low-carb diet
 - Edge
 - Install tile
 - Caveman from Moo
 - Theater award
 - Dit opposite
 - Mix together
 - Crumple
 - Sticky fruit
 - Hair-raising
 - Computer network
- DOWN**
- Pull apart
 - Two-piece cookie
 - Formic acid producers
 - Main point
 - Quiz-show VIP
 - Be a parent
 - Fleming of 007 novels

Answer to Previous Puzzle

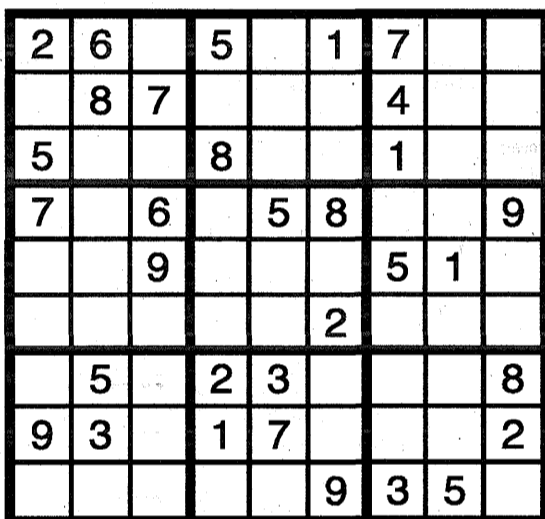
LES ZEBRA BOA
 AYE AURAS RAM
 BEN PREY SARI
 TEPID MC
 DI REP ROUSTS
 ODE DISEMBARK
 TANS DUD ASIA
 THICKENED HAT
 YODELS PRO LE
 NM ALIKE
 BUNT FLOE WEB
 ATA PLOYS ERA
 MAP GUEST RES

12-26 © 2007 United Feature Syndicate, Inc.

- Difficult
- Spinks defeater
- Solar wind component
- Vet patient
- Mouse alert
- Seine vista
- Ooh companion
- Kappa preceder
- Roulette color
- Nimble
- Oaths
- Auction site
- Tosses out
- Decrease gradually
- Shadowy
- Disunions
- Felt hat
- Antonio
- Earmark
- Ring-shaped cake
- Get in shape
- Court case
- Cuzco founder
- Petri-dish contents
- Resort
- Friendly advice
- Bastille Day season
- Smidgen



SUDOKU



Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

SEEK AND FIND

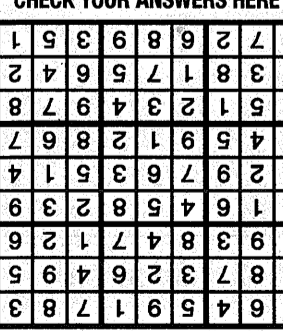
FIND THESE WORDS IN THE PUZZLE BELOW.

- | | | |
|-------------|---------|----------|
| AVANT-GARDE | INITIAL | ORIGINAL |
| CURRENT | MODERN | RECENT |
| FRESH | NEW | TOPICAL |
| HOT | NOVEL | YOUNG |

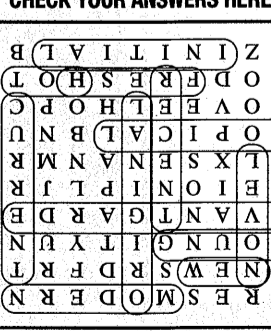
THE WORDS READ UP, DOWN AND ACROSS.

F R E S M O D E R N
 A N E W S R D F R T
 Y O U N G I T Y U N
 A V A N T G A R D E
 U E I O N I P L J R
 V L X S E N A N M R
 T O P I C A L B N U
 N O V E L H O P C
 M O D F R E S H O T
 W Z I N I T I A L B

CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE



CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE



SUDOKU

SEEK AND FIND

REAL ESTATE

3000-3990
 Real Estate For Sale

Open Houses 3030

DRAKESHIRE APARTMENTS
 Check us out during our Limited Time Only Apartment BLOW OUT OPEN HOUSES 2/13, 2/14, 2/15, & 2/27, 2/28, 3/1, 1 & 2 bdrm apts. AVAILABLE FOR IMMEDIATE OCCUPANCY. RENT STARTING AT 500!!!! Refreshments & snacks. Referrals welcome, preferred employer programs, AND Job LOSS early termination available on all leases. Ask for details. Located in fabulous Farmington, on Grand River & Drake. You'll love the life! 248-477-3636 www.drakeshireapartments.com

Open Houses 3030
 PLYMOUTH TWP Open House Sun 12-4, 11798 Deer Creek Run, N off Powell Rd, W of Beck Renovation by Dynasty Builders in desirable Deer Creek Subdivision

Open Houses 3030

All new cabinets, hardwood floors, carpeting, windows, roof, fixtures, granite, baths, paint, landscaping and appliances. Come see this all new 4 bdrm, 2800 sq. ft. colonial, 12x15 sunroom with 9' ceiling and 3 car garage today. \$398,000. KC Mueller: 734-459-6222, 734-368-4959 (cell) Remerica Hometown

Foreclosed Homes 3035
 FREE FORECLOSURE TOURS (248) 787-7325 www.AddedValueRealty.com

Garden City 3170

DOUBLE LOT
 Updated kitchen, bsmt, 2 Car Garage, \$40,000. Century 21 Castellani (734) 525-7900

Redford 3350

2 FAMILY FLAT
 18835 Fivepoints, Worth \$130,000 will sell for \$65,000. Cash or mortgage. 248-737-0018

SOUTH LYON WOODS Bail Out Savings!

Home Prices DRASTICALLY REDUCED! Select homes can be purchased for as low as \$196.00 PLUS ZERO security deposit & up to 2 months free site rent. Call Jackie for details 248-361-0266 www.bayshorehomesales.com

Real Estate Services 3640
 INVESTMENT AND LANDLORD CLASSES Beginning & Advanced offered thru Livonia, West Bloomfield and Birmingham continuing education programs. Call: (248) 787-7325 for details. www.AddedValueRealty.com

Lower Your Mortgage Payment

We negotiate for you. Free consultation. Call: 248-341-3363

Condos 3720

BIRMINGHAM 2 bdrm, 1.5 bath condo, 1,000 sq. ft., low assoc. fee, Possible rent to own. \$99,500. 248-643-9195.

Manufactured Homes 3740

HUGE DISCOUNTS ON REPOSSESSED HOMES! EASY FINANCING AVAILABLE! Call Steve @ (734) 414-9760 in Plymouth Hills

PUT \$7,500 IN YOUR POCKET NOW!

Government tax credit available on homes this year only! 3 bdrms at \$765/mo, 4 bdrms at \$850/mo, down pmt. as low as \$1,500! BAD CREDIT NO PROBLEM with our E-Z in financing. Novi area call 248-566-6582

Manufactured Homes 3740
 MILFORD. 1999 SCHULTE. 1600 sq ft. All appliances stay. Fireplace, open floor plan, C/A, 4 Br, 2 baths, w/storage shed. Crest Homes. 517-548-0001 Ask for Stacie.

Cemetery Lots 3880

LIVONIA Mt. Hope Memorial Gardens. Double death space, 2 top sealed vaults, 32x10 bronze marker. \$3500. 734-475-0007.

Commercial/Industrial/Retail For Sale 3890

By Owner
 Reduced price, zoned commercial, 1 blk. from Kellogg park in downtown Plymouth. Victorian style home previously used as an owner occupied business on the 1st floor & living quarters on the second floor. Paved parking lot for 11 cars, 2 car attached garage, newer roof, built-in hot tub, commercially rated elevator & much, much more. \$619,900. Call: 734-954-4239 for info. package.

Business Opportunities 3900

WESTLAND HAIR SALON Fully equipped, 5 chairs, nail & pedicure station. Exc. location. Call for price 734-637-8585.

KINGS MILL COOPERATIVE
 "Cooperative living at it's finest"
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APARTMENTS

4000-4980
 Real Estate For Lease

Apartment/Unfurnished 4000

BIRMINGHAM 1ST MONTH FREE
 Studios, 1, 2 & 3 Bedrooms. Furnished apartments avail. Gorgeous new kitchens and baths. Available in town Birmingham at the 555 Building. Call Michelle (248) 645-1191

FARMINGTON HILLS 23078 Middlebelt Rd.
 Spacious 1-bdrms, C/A, \$300 security, 50% off first 3 months rent w/ approved credit. 248-473-5180

FARMINGTON HILLS ANNIE APTS.
 NO APPLICATION FEE FREE HEAT! 1 bedroom \$505. 9 Mile/ Middlebelt 248-478-7489

FARMINGTON HILLS FREEDOM VILLAGE APTS.
 1 Bdrm, 1 Month Free Luxury 1 & 2 bdrm. Laundry in unit. Water incl., no pets. \$580-700/mo. 586-254-9511

FARMINGTON MANOR APTS.
 Deluxe studio & 1 bedroom, carport, \$300 security, 50% off first 3 months with approved credit. (248) 888-0868

FARMINGTON PLAZA APTS
 Luxury 2 bdrms, A/C, pool & parking. New kitchen & baths, laundry rooms, heat incl. \$650/mo. Call for specials. (248) 478-8722

FIVE, FIVE, FIVE 1ST MONTH FREE
 Studios, 1, 2 & 3 Bedrooms. Furnished apartments avail. Gorgeous new kitchens and baths. Available in town Birmingham at the 555 Building. Call Michelle (248) 645-1191

GARDEN CITY - Spacious updated 1 bdrm, air, deck, storage room, laundry. FREE heat & water. \$605. 248-346-6108

GARDEN CITY-A ZERO MOVE-IN!
 Ford & Merriman. Large 1 bdrm. Free heat & water. \$545/mo. 734-459-1160

LINCOLN PARK. Lowest rent in the area. Deluxe 1 & 2 bedrooms, quiet, safe, balconies. (313) 386 6720

Apartment/Unfurnished 4000

LIVONIA
 Mid 5/Middlebelt. 1 & 2 bdrm w/laundry room in unit. 50% off first 2 months with approved credit. \$595/mo. 248-521-1978

NOVI WESTGATE VI Apartments
 LIMITED TIME OFFER Starting @ \$570 With Move In By 2/15/09 * Carport Included * Storage In Unit. * Call for Daily Specials CALL NOW! (248) 624-8555 On West Park Dr. Just S. of Pontiac Tr. www.cmlproperties.net *Select Models

NOVI FREE FLAT SCREEN TV
 Newly updated 1 & 2 bdrm apts. New berber carpet, new cherry flooring, full size washer/dryers, central air. EHO

NOVI-MAIN STREET AREA.
 1 & 2 Bdrm Apts. Washer/Dryer, Private Entrance & Balcony. 248-348-0626 EHO

PLYMOUTH
 1 Bdrm. \$600, 2 Bdrm. \$670 First month free w/approved credit. W/ 1 yr. lease. Walk-in closets. (734) 455-1215

PLYMOUTH - Prime location.
 1 bdrm avail, \$580 plus security. Near downtown. Incl. heat. No dogs. 734-455-2635

PLYMOUTH 1 Bdrm \$300 Moves You In!
 Washer/dryer included* Private entry/patio Single story, attic storage Bring your dog! *Call for details (734) 459-6640 EHO

PLYMOUTH DUPLEX
 Re-done 2 bdrm. Appliances, laundry, air. \$650/mo.+ utilities & dep. No pets. 734-459-0854

Apartment/Unfurnished 4000

Plymouth Rent Starting at \$499
 1 & 2 Bedroom Apt's. Plymouth Manor Plymouth House 734-455-3880 www.yorkcommunities.com

PLYMOUTH, DOWNTOWN
 1 bdrm apt. above dental office. Non-smoking & no pets! \$550/mo., utilities included. 734-459-2400

PLYMOUTH-SHELDON PARK
 Spacious 1 & 2-bdrms. From \$565 \$300 Security 50% off 1st-3 months with good credit! Call: (734) 453-8811

ROCHESTER SPECIAL 2 bdrm
 \$595 & 1 bdrm, \$565, both incl heat. Spacious, close to downtown. (586) 295-8540

ROYAL OAK/CLAWSON/TROY ONE STOP APT. & townhouse
 shopping. Pet? Ask! Come Sunday to Open House 1-4. (248) 280-1700 www.amberapt.com

WALLED LAKE Pick Your Special 1st Mo. Free or Free Heat This Winter!
 1 Bdrm; \$499; 2 Bdrm Townhomes: \$650 Reduced deposit, pets & Section 8 welcome. (248) 624-6006 EHO

WAYNE
 2 bdrm apt, fireplace, garage, laundry hook up, \$500/mo. + security. (734) 645-1890

WESTLAND
 2 bdrm, 1.5 bath, close to schools. \$600/month. 248-892-0262

Westland Estates "WOW" One Bedrooms from \$495

No fine print in this ad! -Heat/Water included -\$30.00 Application Fee -\$200 Deposit w/ Credit New Resident's Only 734-722-4700 734-444-5655 Mon. - Fri. 10-9pm Sat. Sun. 10-4pm

South Lyon 2 & 3 BR. Townhomes
 in unit laundry. Move-in Specials. Private Entrances, Pet friendly. Agent: 248-767-4207 Visit us at: meadows@southlyon.com

WHY RENT WHEN YOU CAN OWN FOR LESS?
 3 bdrms 1765/mo 4 bdrms \$950/mo Appliances, central air, pet friendly! BAD CREDIT, BANKRUPTCY, FORECLOSURE ok with our E-Z in house financing. \$7,500 tax credit available on all purchases till May 2009! Call 248-566-6576

Apartment/Unfurnished 4000

WESTLAND First Month FREE!
 1 Bedroom - \$485/mo. Walk-in Closets Newburgh Colonial Apts. 2400 Newburgh Rd. (734) 271-6699 EHO

WESTLAND
 1 bdrm, appliances, small pets ok. \$550/mo. + sec. Inc. heat & water. (734) 453-8375

WESTLAND A \$0 MOVE-IN!
 Mail area. Lg 1 & 2 bdrms. Free heat/water. Starting at \$495/mo 734-459-1160

WESTLAND Beautifully remodeled, 1 bdrm; appl private
 perches & drive, \$475+sec. inc. heat/water. 734-728-7427

WESTLAND FOREST LAKE APTS.
 2 Bdrms, \$595/mo, incl heat & water. Convenient location, many amenities. (734) 722-5155

WESTLAND Hickory Woods Apts.
 ** \$224 ** MOVES YOU IN! (for qualified applicants) 1 Bdrm. - \$550 2 Bdrm. - \$600 FREE GAS AND WATER (734) 729-6520

Westland Park Apts. LOOK

FREE RENT
 1st month Free and Reduced Rate 2 Bdrm, 1.5 Bath, \$565, 936 Sq. Ft. 1 Bdrm, \$490, 728 Sq. Ft. \$200 Security Deposit Heat and Water Incl (New residents only) with approved credit No Pets, C/A, Vertical Blinds, Intercom. Appliances include dishwasher. Very clean Apartments Excellent Maintenance (734) 729-6636

Westland VENOY PINES APTS. Rent Starting at \$449
 • 1 & 2 bedroom apts. with fireplace. No Application Fee, Limited Time Only. (734) 261-7394 www.yorkcommunities.com

Westland-LIVONIA SCHOOLS
 1 & 2 bdrm, 2 baths. Washer & dryer. Private entrance & balcony (734) 459-1711 EHO

NEED A HOME? BAD CREDIT? RENT OR BUY!
 We can help with our E-Z in house financing! 3-4 bdrms available including all appliances, pet friendly! For as low as \$702/mo. Call 248-461-3029

PUT \$7,500 IN YOUR POCKET NOW!
 Government tax credit available on homes this year only! 3 bdrms at \$765/mo, 4 bdrms at \$850/mo, down pmt. as low as \$1,500! BAD CREDIT NO PROBLEM with our E-Z in house financing. Novi area call 248-461-3004

Apartment/Unfurnished 4010

BIRMINGHAM DOWNTOWN
 1 bdrm newly furnished, parking, short term, \$995/ mo. incl. utilities. Molly: 248-705-8281

CONDOS/TOWNHOUSES 4020

BIRMINGHAM - DOWNTOWN
 2 bdrm townhouse, 1.5 bath, hardwood floors, a/c, bsmt, washer/dryer. No pets, non-smoking. \$1100/mo. 248-901-0425

COMMERCE/WALLED LAKE
 15 Mile & Beck. All appliances, 2 bdrm, 2 bath, garage, no stairs, pool & patio. \$1095/mo. (248) 474-9302

Weatherstone Townhomes
 Spacious 2 & 3 Bedrooms from \$1,395 \$499 Security Deposit \$8 Good Credit Price \$8 2 Car Attached Garage Condo Style Living Full Basement Close to Northwestern Hwy (248) 500-1296

LIVONIA
 1 bdrm, screened balcony, carport, bsmt storage, all appliances, pool, heat/water incl. \$700. 734-522-0357

LIVONIA 3 bdrms, 2 baths, 8 Mile & Farmington, \$1,050.
 Call Bahar 248-890-1923 / Anu 248-396-3261

Romulus Birch Run Townhomes Cooperative
 Now accepting applications for 1, 2, and 3 bedroom townhomes. Prices range from \$453-\$511 per month. For more information please call: (734) 728-5311

SOUTHFIELD All new! 2 bdrm,
 2 bath ranch condo. Carport, c/a, appliances, pool, 1300 sq. ft. \$1099/mo. 248-346-6108.

WESTLAND - 2 bdrm, 1 bath,
 partially finished bsmt, new kitchen, C/A, new washer/dryer, freshly painted, private entry. \$795/mo. 734-330-6164

Duplexes 4030

CANTON - 1741 ELMHURST
 3 bdrm, 1 1/2 bath, move-in March 1st. \$900/mo. + sec dep. Call: (734) 455-1215

LIVONIA - 2 bdrm duplex,
 carpeted, A/C, all appliances, fenced large yard, well insulated, new windows, avail March 1st. 9905 Shady Side. \$825/mo. (734) 516-7589


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 APARTMENTS FROM \$499*
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Franklin Square Apartments
 www.FranklinSquareApts.com 734-427-6970

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Recreational Vehicles



Auto Misc. 8150
WE BUY CARS
Our buyers will come to your home for written approval. We will pay \$500 more than appraisal value.
TYME AUTO 248-924-0820

Why Wait for Your Income Tax Check?
Bring in your W2 and get approved!
TYME AUTO 734-455-5566

Junk Cars Wanted 8200
ALL AUTOS TOP \$\$
Junked • Wrecked • Running
E & M 248-474-4425
Evenings 734-717-0428

Trucks for Sale 8220
CHEVY AVALANCHE 1500 266 2004 Fully loaded, low miles, save! Only \$15,950
JOHN ROGIN BUICK 734-525-0900

CHEVY AVALANCHE 2006 Crew Cab, 37K miles, blue, moonroof \$17,995
BOB JEANNOTTE PONT, BUICK, GMC (734) 453-2500

CHEVY SILVERADO 1500 2007 Torch Red, CD/mp3, 14K & ABS! The Truck You Want! Just \$17,995!
888-372-9836
Lou LaRiche

CHEVY SILVERADO 2008 Polar White, 3K, mp3 and CD, OnStar! Must See To Believe! Only \$15,995!
888-372-9836
Lou LaRiche

FORD F-150 XLT 2004 Super Crew, V8, auto, A/C, cap \$12,994
Bill Brown Ford (734) 522-0030

FORD F-250 4x4 2007 Super Cab, 27K, \$23,998
AVIS FORD (248) 355-7515

Ford F100 1979 6 cylinder, auto, runs great, 80% restored, very clean. \$2400. (734) 564-0508

FORD F350 2002 White, 7.3 liter diesel, 4x4 dump truck, 4 ft. alum diamond plate sides, plow hook-up, 45K miles. Very good cond. \$13,500. Call Brad: 248-854-8550

FORD RANGER 2001 Ext Cab, black, 4x4, only \$6,495
BOB JEANNOTTE PONT, BUICK, GMC (734) 453-2500

FORD RANGER FX4 2005 S-Cab, 4x4, loaded \$13,950
Stk. 9T1110A
NORTH BROS. FORD 1-800-586-3518

FORD RANGER S-CABS 2006 9 to choose, V6, auto, A/C, from \$10,996
Bill Brown Ford (734) 522-0030

Trucks for Sale 8220
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AVIS FORD (248) 355-7515

Mini-Vans 8240
CHEVY ASTRO 2003 Front/rear heat/air, new tires, Pewter, exc. cond., 38,000 miles. \$8700. SOLD

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Bill Brown Ford (734) 522-0030

FORD WINDSTAR SE 1999 62K miles, warranty, power sliding doors \$4,995
RALPH THAYER AUTO 734-425-5400

HANDICAP VANS - USED, BOUGHT & SOLD. Mini & full size. I come to you. Call Date anytime. 517-882-7299

Vans 8260
CHEVY EXPRESS 1500 2004 Cargo van, V8, auto, air, bulk head \$9,950
JOHN ROGIN BUICK 734-525-0900

CHEVY EXPRESS 2008 Summit White, 5K and Air. Perfect For All Your Company's Needs! Only \$19,995!
888-372-9836
Lou LaRiche

FORD CONVERSION VAN 1999 Loaded, V8, \$3,995
BOB JEANNOTTE PONT, BUICK, GMC (734) 453-2500

FORD E-150 2006 Cargo van, 11K, \$11,998
AVIS FORD (248) 355-7515

FORD E-150 CLUB WAGON 2008 Leather seats, quad buckets, 5,800 miles, \$22,998
Bill Brown Ford (734) 522-0030

4 Wheel Drive 8280
FORD ESCAPE 2008 4x4, red, auto, A/C, CD, PW, PL \$15,998
Bill Brown Ford (734) 522-0030

FORD ESCAPE XLS 2007 Auto, A/C, certified \$13,997
AVIS FORD (734) 522-0030

FORD ESCAPE XLT 2006 FWD, V6, auto, PW, PL, tilt, cruise, low miles \$11,996
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4 Wheel Drive 8280
FORD ESCAPE XLT 2006 Low miles, \$11,998
AVIS FORD (248) 355-7515

FORD ESCAPE XLT 2007 Moon, \$13,998
AVIS FORD (248) 355-7515

FORD FREESTYLE LTD 2007 AWD, power moonroof, navigation, loaded \$17,997
Bill Brown Ford (734) 522-0030

Sports Utility 8290
CHEVROLET HHR 2008 Two to Choose From, Nicely Equipped, Fun To Drive!
Starting at \$14,995
888-372-9836
Lou LaRiche

CHEVY TAHOE HYBRID 2008 Triple Black, Loaded, 4WD and Rare! Must Drive to Appreciate! Call For Details!
888-372-9836
Lou LaRiche

CHEVY TRAILBLAZER 2007 4x4, white, moon \$16,995
BOB JEANNOTTE PONT, BUICK, GMC (734) 453-2500

CHEVY TRAILBLAZER 2008 Dark Cherry, 5K, Sunroof, ABS, CD, and Much More! Comfortability Meets Durability! Only \$17,995!
888-372-9836
Lou LaRiche

FORD EXPEDITION EL 2008 \$27,998
AVIS FORD (248) 355-7515

FORD EXPEDITION LTD 2006 4x4, leather, loaded \$15,996
Bill Brown Ford (734) 522-0030

FORD EXPEDITION XLT 2007 3rd seat, leather, low miles, loaded \$14,950
JOHN ROGIN BUICK 734-525-0900

FORD EXPLORER 2000 4x4, great transportation \$5,450 Stk. 9T9119A
NORTH BROS. FORD 1-800-586-3518

FORD EXPLORER 2004 4x4, 15K, \$12,998
AVIS FORD (248) 355-7515

FORD EXPLORER E.B. 2007 4x4, 100K warranty \$18,950 Stk. P20782
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G8 Is Flagship Of Pontiac's GXP Performance Series

Advertising Feature

CAReport



By Kevin Koloian
For Avanti NewsFeatures
and AllOpinionsAlltheTime.com

For years Pontiac's tagline was that it is General Motors' Performance Division, though in recent years its vehicles haven't lived up to the claim.

That started to change last year when the 2008 Pontiac G8 sedan hit showrooms. It gained instant popularity for its rear-wheel-drive dynamics.

The 361 horsepower GT version was particularly well-received for those with the belief, "The more power the better."

But for all of its praise, some wanted more power. And they found it elsewhere in its domestic rear-wheel drive competitors, the Dodge Charger and the Chrysler 300.

Now with the 402 horsepower 2009 G8 GXP, Pontiac can truly tout its performance lineage again.

Pontiac has dropped the 2008 Corvette's 6.2-liter LS3 V8 engine into the G8 GXP to give it the oomph it needs.

This upgrade gives the G8 GXP a 0-60 mph time of 4.7 seconds.

To harness all of that power will be a choice of a six-speed automatic transmission or a Tremec six-speed manual transmission. The latter will likely be available on the GT model eventually.

We expect fuel economy ratings of a little less than last year's GT's number of 15 miles per gallon in the city and 24 mpg on the highway.

At around \$35,000 this car is notably cheaper than its direct competition the Dodge Charger SRT-8 that starts at about \$40,000.

A limited-slip differential is standard on the GXP, as is an aggressively tuned independent suspension developed at the Nürburgring racetrack in Germany.



The 361 horsepower GT version was particularly well-received for those with the belief, "The more power the better."

The fully adjustable suspension consists of MacPherson struts up front and a four-link independent system on the rear, while a variable-ratio rack-and-pinion steering assembly keeps the G8 GXP tracking straight on its 19-inch 245/40 summer performance tires.

Not much differentiates the GXP from the regular G8 on the outside. Exterior changes include more aggressive front and rear fascias and the same 19-inch polished and machined aluminum wheels that last year's GT version got.

Pontiac interiors have received criticism in recent years for being bland. But the company changed that with the 2008 Pontiac G8's interior and went one step further with the GXP's.

Available in black or red and black, the GXP's leather-trimmed interior features GXP badges embroidered on the high bolstered seats. The center stack is imbued with Pontiac's traditional, racecar-inspired red lighting.

The GXP's cabin is functional as well. There's ample leg and shoulder room front and back. The rear seats don't fold down, though there is a ski pass-through. The trunk offers a capable 17.5 cubic feet of storage space.

Besides the upgraded hardware, the 2009 Pontiac G8 GXP provides buyers with anti-lock brakes, traction and stability control systems, six airbags, XM satellite radio and OnStar telematics.

For those looking for less power, but the same rear-wheel drive performance of the G8, Pontiac didn't

stop at the GXP. A sport truck of the G8 will be available for the 2010 model year.

It's no surprise that Pontiac will produce another offshoot of the G8. It is doing what any other carmaker would do with a successful model - make tons of variations of it in hopes of selling more units.

However, Pontiac only gets half-credit for the G8. It is based on GM's global Zeta platform, which was developed by its Australian subsidiary, Holden, for that company's Commodore sedan. The same platform also underpins the 2009 Chevrolet Camaro.

The Commodore and the G8 are virtually twins under the sheet metal, although the Pontiac benefits from meaner exterior styling that hints at the brand's performance-oriented nature.

With the G8 GXP, Pontiac has done what it has promised for years. It has taken the driving experience of its performance series to a new level.

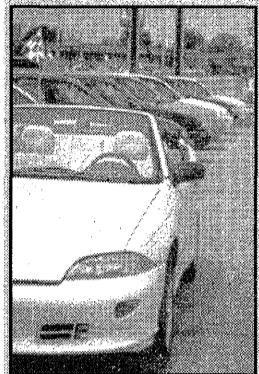
Kevin Koloian covers General Motors for Avanti NewsFeatures and AllOpinionsAlltheTime.com. Write to him at avanti1054@aol.com. Distributed by Fracassa News Group. ©2009, Fracassa Communications.

2009 Pontiac G8 GXP
Vehicle class: Sedan.
Power: V8 engine.
Where built: Adelaide, Australia.
Price: Around \$35,000.

OE08643048

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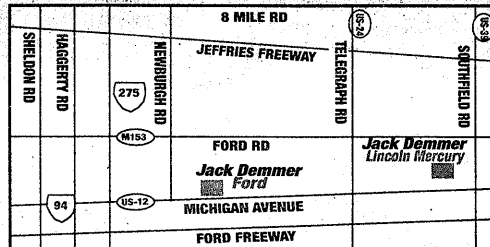
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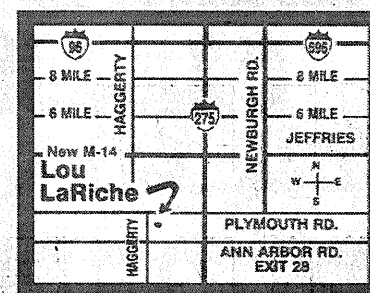
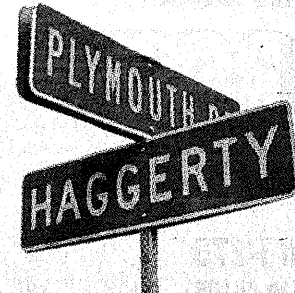
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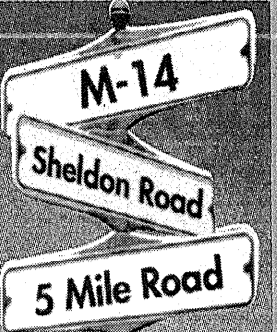
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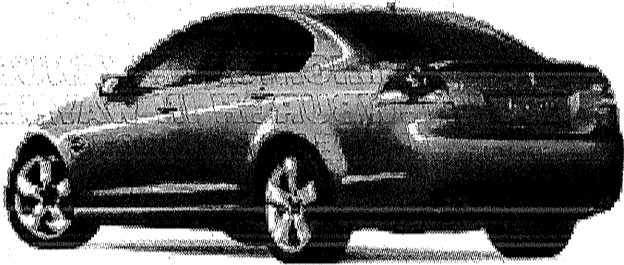
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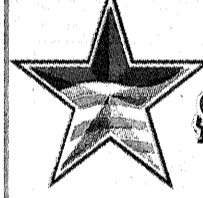
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Featuring: remote start, power windows, seat, locks, speed control, tilt wheel, reverse sensing system

3 at this price 109 available



BUY FOR

\$20,515[†]

\$1,000 DOWN

\$348^{36 MO}

\$1,473 DUE AT DELIVERY*

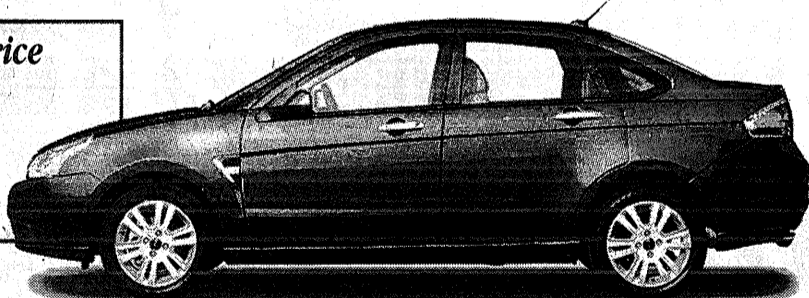
SIGN & DRIVE

\$388^{36 MO}

We make your first payment

NEW 2009 FORD FOCUS SE Sedan

4 at this price
146 available



BUY FOR **\$9,566[†]**

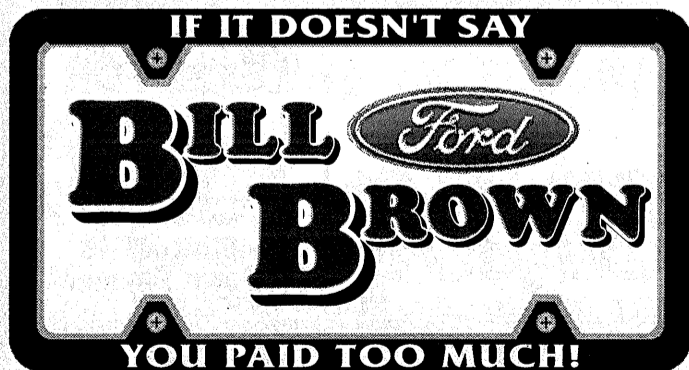
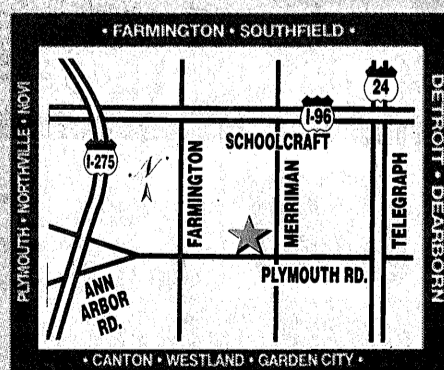
NEW 2009 FORD ESCAPE XLT

Featuring: Remote start, moon roof, SYNC, power windows, locks, seats, speed control and tilt wheel

44 at this price
150 available



BUY FOR **\$18,184[†]**



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*All lease payments and buy payments are for qualifying A/Z planners. For qualifying non A/Z planners an additional \$900 to \$1500 would be required to keep the payment or price the same. All payments include acquisition fee, exclude tax and license fees. 10,500 miles per year. Security deposit waived. Buy for price add tax title, doc & destination fee. Subject to availability. All factory rebates assigned to dealer including previous leases or owner loyalty where applicable and may require Ford Credit financing. Pictures may not represent actual vehicles. Payments and prices per programs in effect at time of publication and are subject to change. All offers expire March 2, 2009. †Per 2008 rankings by Ford Division.

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