

# PLYMOUTH OBSERVER

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Canines compete at annual dog show

Neighbors, B7

## Pipeline

### Monday teleclass

Professional Life Coach Scott Harris presents teleclasses on "Overcoming Destructive Behaviors and Compulsive Addictions" at 7 p.m. Mondays beginning March 2.

The teleclasses are presented in three parts, lasting 45 minutes each: March 2 (What am I doing? Identifying Behaviors and Addictions); March 9 (Look in the Mirror - Do I Like What I Am?); and March 16 (New Paths - Rehsaping Our Choice-Making).

Harris is a compulsive addiction specialist and the author of *Compulsive No More* and *Compulsive Stop!*

Register with Harris at Scott@compulsivenomorestop.com or call (248) 767-2482. Registrants will receive the phone number and pass code.

### Talented artists

In keeping with its dedication to promoting the work of local artists, Lotus Arts Gallery announced the second annual Local Artist Exhibit.

This exhibition will showcase the extraordinary work of some of Michigan's talented artists. Fifteen exciting artists will be displaying their work. Their styles are as unique and diverse as their chosen media. This eclectic array of artwork includes paintings in oils and acrylics, pen and ink renderings, works on paper, ceramic pieces, photography and mixed media on paper and canvas.

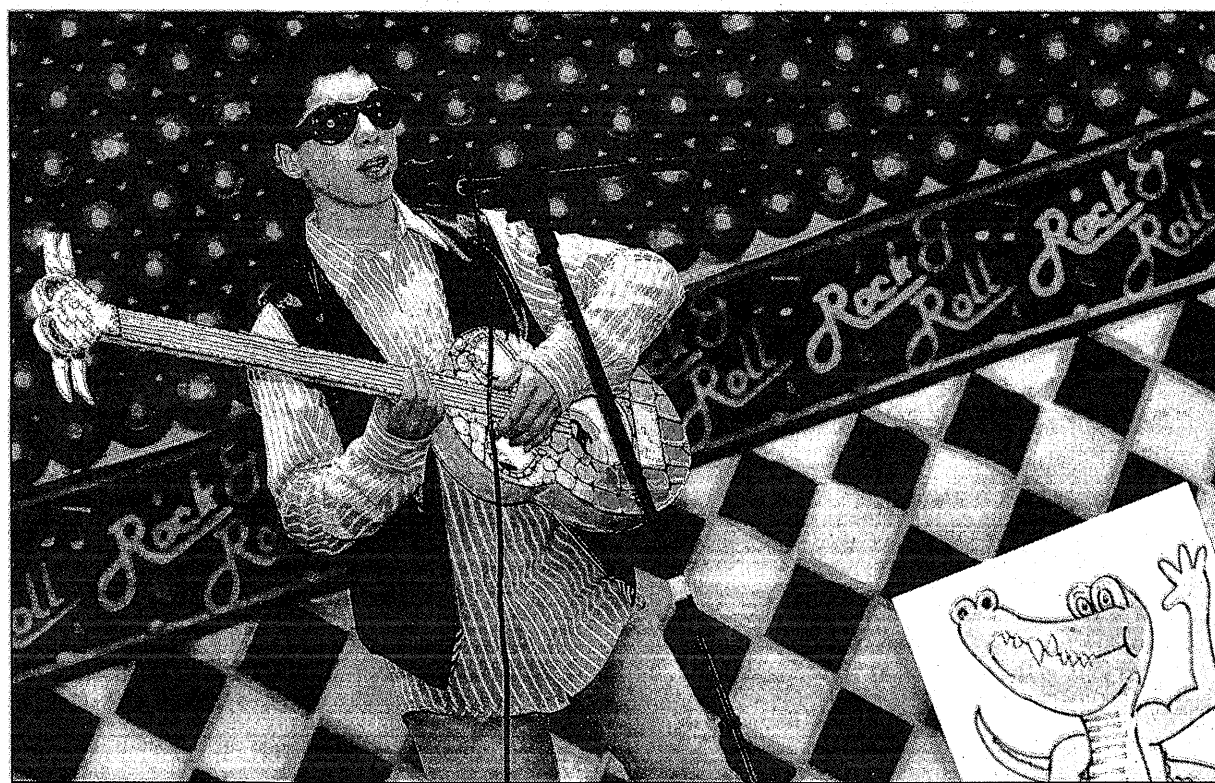
Designed to feature local artistic endeavors, this exhibition encourages public dialogue, understanding and enjoyment of visual art.

The public can preview the exhibition and meet the artists at the opening reception 6-9 p.m. Friday, March 6. Lotus Arts Gallery is located at 995 W. Ann Arbor Trail (corner of Ann Arbor Trail and Harvey Street) in downtown Plymouth. Please join us in celebrating this very special evening. Enjoy complimentary hors d'oeuvres, beverages and conversations with the artists.

The exhibition will be on display March 6-27. The public is welcome to view the exhibit during gallery hours from 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. If you have any questions, or for more information, please contact the gallery toll free at (888) 889-4ART or at (734) 453-5400.

### Cookie monsters

The Girl Scouts of Farrand Elementary will be holding a Rolling Cookie Booth in the Lake Pointe subdivision Saturday, Feb. 28. More than 60 Scouts will be participating to raise money for local Scouts.



### Talent to burn

Nicholas Bair of Canton, who designed his guitar and props, acts out "Crocodile Rock" during the annual Burger Center for Students with Autism talent show. For more on the students and their acts, turn to page A4.

## Stimulus funds could ease budget crunch

BY BRAD KADRICH  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Administrators in the Plymouth-Canton school district were already staring at a potential \$3 million deficit in the 2009-10 budget before Gov. Jennifer Granholm started talking about a \$59 per-student cut in state aid to public schools.

With the state's third-largest school district at some 19,000 students, Plymouth-Canton was looking at nearly \$1.2 million in further cuts. And since the district has cut some \$16 million the last half-dozen years, officials were wondering where the additional cuts were going to come.

President Barack Obama's federal stimulus plan apparently took care of that. Granholm said this week the money from the federal stimulus package would negate the need for the \$59 cut to which she'd been alluding.

"This certainly helps. This is better news," said Dr. Craig Fiegel, Plymouth-Canton's superintendent. "We were looking at \$4 million (in cuts) before we even got started."

Even the \$59 cut Granholm had earlier suggested would have been better than numbers Fiegel said they'd been hearing, perhaps as much as \$130 per student.

Granholm said this week rules governing the federal stimulus money prohibit cutting state aid to education below 2008 levels. Even so, Plymouth-Canton will need to cut some \$3 million.

They're trying to do it, Fiegel said, without affecting the classroom, but with some 90 percent of the costs people-related, it's getting tougher. That's why the district is looking at areas such as food service, which the school board just decided to take in-house, for improvements.

"You look at places like operations or food service or transportation," Fiegel said. "Are there ways to be more efficient, energy costs, those types of things. Can we control them better? Those kinds of things don't affect the classrooms."

The school board has already begun looking at next year's budget. Fiegel said a budget workshop is likely to be held in mid-March and the public is certainly welcome to attend as the board decides where it can cut.

"It just gets harder and harder, because there's just not much left in there," Fiegel said. "The board has been very concerned about class size, and we certainly don't want those to go up. But there aren't a lot of other places to look."

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## Bridging the gap

### Group wants to harmonize area's cultural environment

BY BRAD KADRICH  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Canton High School junior Heidi Nguyen-Tran serves on the schools' Diversity Council, helping students bridge cultural gaps and broaden horizons.

Now she's willing to serve in a group designed to do the same thing for the community as a whole.

Nguyen-Tran was one of several students among the crowd of nearly 100 people who filled the meeting room at Plymouth Township Hall for a meeting aimed at creating a more inclusive community in increasingly diverse Plymouth and Canton townships.

The meeting, sponsored by the Michigan Roundtable for Diversity, drew an eclectic mix of school administrators, teachers, government officials, students and residents.

"I think it's necessary," Nguyen-Tran said of the meeting. "It brings all cultures together, it creates diversity in our community. Instead of just tolerance, hopefully it will create more acceptance."

The Michigan Roundtable, an organization committed to building bridges across differences in race, religion, ethnicity, age, gender and other cultural characteristics, is putting to work a \$1 million grant it got from the Ford Foundation building cultural tolerance and acceptance in three targeted communities, including Plymouth-Canton. The group is also talking to city of Warren officials; officials didn't want to say who the third community is because talks are in the preliminary stage.

Please see DIVERSITY, A5



Plymouth-Canton students (from right) Heidi Nguyen-Tran, Angie Zou, Marvic Malabanan and Joel Mallare led a panel discussion about the cultural differences at the high school complex.

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## Cleanup ordered at unfinished Parkside project

BY MATT JACHMAN  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

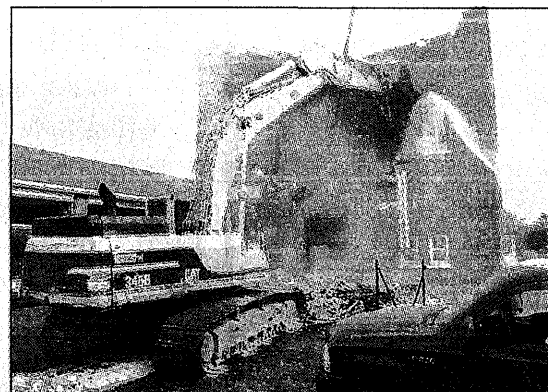
Troubles are continuing for the unfinished Parkside retail, office and condominium development in downtown Plymouth.

Parkside Group L.L.C. of Birmingham was ordered Monday to clean up a number of alleged code violations at its site on Penniman south of Main Street. City building official James H. Penn's notice says the vacant building needs to be secured, the site cleaned up, fencing and scaffolding removed and an excavation on nearby Union Street filled in. The notice says the work must be done before March 10.

In addition, sidewalks must be put in and repairs made to the public alley, and two damaged trees on Penniman replaced, before May 18, Penn's notice says.

The project, for which the city's historic Masonic Temple was razed, has been beset by other troubles since it began. A citation was issued over the cutting down of the trees (replacing them was the solution reached in court), plus the project was picketed by union workers.

Failure to comply with the notice could mean



The old Masonic Temple was demolished to make room for the Parkside development, work for which has stalled in recent months.

a fine for Parkside Group of up to \$500 a day, or other court sanctions. The company does have the right to appeal.

Developer Fabian Ciavaglia of Meridien Development did not return calls Friday.

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# Real-estate giant reorganizes as market slump continues

BY MATT JACHMAN  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Hurt by the troubled economy and the falloff in the real-estate market that helped cause the trouble, a major area realty firm is seeking to reorganize under federal bankruptcy protection.

Century 21 Town & Country, which has offices throughout the region, including in Troy, Rochester and Northville, filed for Chapter 11 protection earlier this month. The company for years had an office in Plymouth, but that was closed in 2008.

Company founder, owner and president John Kersten said Friday that much of the reorganization work, including job cuts, has already been done.

"Like many businesses, it was necessary to consolidate over" several years, Kersten said. "We're in an economic gridlock. Nobody is untouched." He added that business is down about 60 percent.

Kersten he doesn't expect to make more work force reductions between now and Town & Country's emergence from Chapter 11 in four to six months.

"We're in a reorganization process," he said. "Everything is going to be business as usual."

Town & Country, often ranked as one of the top real-estate companies in the country and sometimes the top company when measured by the number of homes sold, consolidated its Plymouth

office on Main Street into its Northville office early last year. Kersten said he hopes to grow the business following the reorganization and eventually return to Plymouth.

He said the restructuring will involve cost-cutting other than job cuts, including resolving outstanding issues with landlords, which he did not detail.

Documents the company filed with the bankruptcy division of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan state Town & Country has \$10 million or less in assets and more than \$10 million in debt.

Town & Country has about 800 associates and about 80 support employees.

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# Charity event will mark return of the 'Diabetic Rockstar'

BY TONY BRUSCATO  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Friday will be a homecoming, of sorts, for Christopher Thomas of New York City.

The 27-year-old former Canton resident will hold a concert fund-raiser at the Cherry Martini Lounge in Cherry Hill Village for his Fight It charity that supports diabetics who can't afford the high costs associated with medications and supplies.

Thomas was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes and takes insulin to avoid kidney failure, blindness or even amputations. However, instead of the "woe's me" attitude he could have had, Thomas — who dubbed himself Diabetic Rockstar — moved to New York where he waits tables, pursues his writing career and created diabeticrockstar.com, an online community where people can share personal stories, information and resources.

"If you are looking for a 'Poor me, I am diabetic' support group, you've come to the wrong place," writes Thomas on the Web site. "This Community is for those who wish to live the life the way it's meant to be lived, the true Rockstar way."

Friday's fund-raiser will include a \$5 cover charge, which will go to the charity. There will also be raffles and door prizes to raise money.

"I know how important every dollar is for people these days so we kept the amount low, while at the same time trying to give back something for their money, like a concert and raffle," said Thomas. "It's hard to raise money, these days, for non-profits... especially being new."

Thomas said he's raised about \$12,000 in cash and received another \$16,000 in product donations from companies and individuals.

Cherry Martini General Manager Chris Phillips decided to host the fund-raiser after



A blog on MySpace has evolved into a Web site for Christopher Thomas who will be in Canton this week to raise money for his Fight It! which provides medications and supplies to uninsured diabetics.

talking with one of his customers, Rose Burns, who is Thomas' mother.

"We wanted to open our doors to a group that could benefit," said Phillips. "We'll have a couple of live bands, which is a change of pace of what normally goes on in this neighborhood. People who know the family are excited about it."

Burns said she's proud her son took the challenge of moving to New York and his success working with supply companies to help diabetics who can't afford medications and supplies.

"There are a lot of people who are uninsured and can't afford supplies, it's an awareness people need to know," said Burns. "I'm proud he took a negative in his life and turned it into a positive."

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**CORRECTION**

A story in the Feb. 19 *Observer* about green projects at the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park should have identified the Canton company working with school officials as Mechanical Energy Systems.

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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

**Rotary month**

February is International Rotary Month, and Rotary International is doing some amazing work to improve the condition of people around the world.

On Tuesday, the Rotary Club of Plymouth A.M. welcomes John and Lois VanStipdonk from the Wayne Rotary Club. John and Lois will be bringing us up to date on their work in Honduras - the progress of the water purification project and the school and orphanage for young women. Their efforts, commitment and passion are compelling.

All are invited to attend, join us for breakfast and learn more of this wonderful work being done by Rotary International and some pretty great folks right here in our own community.

The Rotary Club of Plymouth A.M. meets every Tuesday at 7 a.m. at the Plymouth Community Arts Council at 774 N. Sheldon Rd. (at Junction).

**New band members**

The Plymouth-Canton Marching Band, a 22-time Bands of America Finalist at Grand Nationals in Indianapolis, hosts a series of informational meetings for students and parents who are interested in joining the 2009 Marching Band program.

The meeting is designed for existing eighth graders, but is open to any high school student. Interested students will spend time with the existing marchers, while parents listen to a presentation by the Plymouth Canton Music Boosters on how eighth-graders can become a member of the award-winning marching band for the 2009 summer/fall season.

Parents and students are asked to attend one of the scheduled Open House meetings Tuesday, March 10, Wednesday, April 22, Thursday, May 7 or Monday, June 15.

All meetings begin at 7 p.m. in the Plymouth High School band room (enter near the big yellow truck). For more information, call Barb Hawkins, New Member Representative, PCMB, 734-420-5355.

**Saturdays at Penn**

The Plymouth Community Arts Council and the Plymouth Canton Symphony Society are presenting a series of family variety shows in downtown Plymouth. These shows are offered at noon on the first Saturday of each month at the Penn Theater. Cost is \$3 per person.

The next performance on March 7 will feature special musical host Guy Louis, Chautauqua Express with special guest performers Nan Washburn, conductor of the Plymouth Symphony Orchestra, and acts to be announced. The announcer for this performance is Timothy Thompson.

The Penn Theater is located at 760 Penniman in Plymouth. Tickets may be purchased the day of the show. Doors open at 11:15 am. These shows are sponsored by a grant from the Wilcox Foundation, as well as by several local businesses and individuals: Travel Leaders, Quixworks, Signature Audio, Plymouth Rotary AM and Steve and Renee Alexandrowski.

**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.

**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 25, July 25 and Oct. 24.

Donors can register to give online at [www.givelife.org](http://www.givelife.org) and enter NorthRidge in Step One



**Mboni for children**

Mboni Village will introduce area children to the songs, stories and customs of African culture in a performance at 2 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 26. Children ages 5-12 are invited to attend and to bring a drum if they have one. Drums and sticks provided for all others. Registration is requested for this free program; call the library at (734) 453-0750, Ext. 5. The Plymouth District Library is located at 223 S. Main in downtown Plymouth.

(sponsor code) or call (800) GIVELIFE (1.800.448.3543).

**Penn classics**

March is "Hitchcock Month" at the Penn Theatre, with Alfred Hitchcock classics being featured each Thursday.

The schedule: March 5, "Marnie;" March 12, "Shadow of a Doubt;" March 19, "Saboteur;" and March 26, "To Catch a Thief."

Box office opens at 6:30; screenings start at 7 p.m. All seats are \$3. The movies are sponsored by the Plymouth Downtown Development Authority. Free passes available (while supplies last) at Haven, Michigan Made & More, Sean O'Callaghan's Irish Public House, Three Dog Bakery.

For more information visit the Penn's Web site at [www.penntheatre.com](http://www.penntheatre.com) or call (734) 453-0870.

**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 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 [barbaraljones@aol.com](mailto:barbaraljones@aol.com).

**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 refills, 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.

**Pottery classes**

Jeff Burda will be returning to the Plymouth Community Arts Council to teach two sessions of Pottery A-Z. Burda graduated in 2008 with a Bachelor's of Fine Arts and is currently pursuing a teaching degree. He has diligently worked at the potter's wheel for eight years and brings his joy and passion of ceramics to help teach children. Classes offer children the opportunity to observe an artist at work and to sit and create at the potter's wheel themselves.

Classes are offered in six week sessions for children ages 6 to 12. The first session runs March 7 to April 11, while the second session is from April 12 to May 30. Classes meet from 9:30-11 a.m. each Saturday at the Joanne Winkleman Hulce Center for the Arts at 774 N. Sheldon, in Plymouth. The cost is \$150 per child per session. Receive a 10-percent discount on a second child enrolled in the same class.

To find out more information on this class or for information on all of the PCAC programs please visit the website: [www.plymoutharts.com](http://www.plymoutharts.com). Registration forms are available on line and are taken by drop-in at the PCAC Mondays-Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. You can also reach us by calling (734) 416-4278.

**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 *King 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](http://www.plymoutharts.com) or contact us at (734) 416-4278.

**Prisoner family support**

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

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

Meetings are free and run 6:30-8:30 p.m., the second Monday of every month at Kirk of Our Savior, 36660 Cherry Hill, Westland.

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"People don't know that there are experienced doctors who can help them with specialized low vision care," says Dr. Smith. Patients often end up using weak, clumsy hand-held magnifiers trying to help themselves see better. Conversely, Dr. Smith prescribes hands-free devices that are easier to use.

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

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# EDUCATION

## Burger students 'shine' at annual talent show

BY SUE MASON  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The stars came out from an afternoon of rock n'roll. Michael Jackson was there. Kiss made an appearance. Even Bob Seger put in an appearance ... Well, sort of.

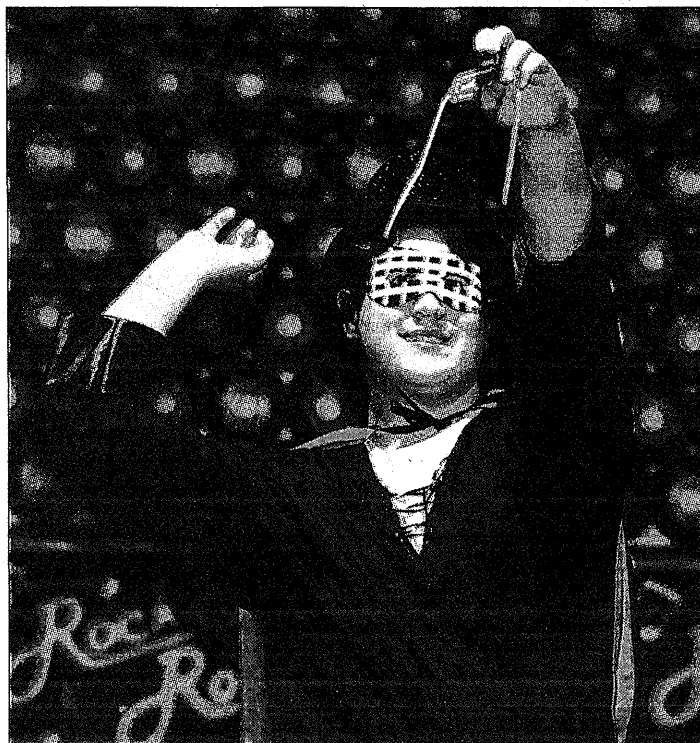
Students at the Burger Center for Students with Autism put on their best rock star faces and took to the stage recently to present a talent show that had something for everyone.

"It's amazing for us to see," said James Boogren, the center's associate director. "We like to think we know the kids, but with this, they show us another side."

The students showed off their moves, "strumming" guitars and singing with performances ranging from a simple children's song, *Wheels on the Bus*, by Logan King-Campbell to a rocking rendition of *Hound Dog* right down to Elvis Presley's swivel hips by Brandon Davis.

Robyn Castle and Donna Lober's Crew - Brandy Abgell, Rylee Crawford, Carmela Dean, Chelsey Goslin, Erica Hall, Trinity Irby, Nicole Johnson, Tamara Little, Renee Mills, Mary Ann Muldoon, Jeni Ottathengil, Meghan Perkins and Lauren Wadrzck - high kicked their way into the hearts of the audience, drawing loud applause for their dance routine set to the music of Cyndi Lauper's *Girls Just Want to Have Fun*.

Gladys Knight and the Pips may have made *Heard It Through the Grapevine* a hit, but Charlotte Yaeger and her backups Ameer Abdelrahman, Colin King-Campbell, Michael Lomas and Jordan Lee Peterson gave it a California Raisin spin dressed as bunches



PHOTOS BY TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Jared 'The Masked Magician' Rudolph showed off his prestidigitation skills during Burger's talent show.

of grapes and singing into oversized telephones.

"They've been practicing for weeks, it's not easy because they're not in the same classroom," teacher LeeAnn Dye said. "They've been getting together and working their heinies off."

Jonathan Walker glided across the stage in his version of the Michael Jackson hit, *Thriller*, while Kayla Duka impersonated preteen idol Miley Cyrus with her performance of *Best of Both Worlds*. And Brandon Davis rocked with *Hound Dog*.

And Gabrielle Kreza didn't need the platform shoes and face makeup to get the audience into her performance of the Kiss hit, *I Want to Rock and Roll*. She got help singing the chorus from the members



Brandon Davis of Wayne brings down the house with his interpretation of "You Ain't Nothing but a Hound Dog."

of the audience like Ryan Goldsworthy of the DSHL Band who were waiting to perform *Seek and Destroy*.

There was even feats of prestidigitation, as Jared (Rudolph) the Masked



Kayla Duka of Westland performs the Hannah Montana hit, "Best of Both Worlds."

Magician amazed his audience with his ability to make things disappear and guess which one of three items his helper had selected.

"Is it the pot of flowers?" he asked.

This is the sixth year the students have presented the talent show.

"It's wonderful to see how capable and entertaining our students can be," said Susan Pinto, talent show co-chair. "They really shine on stage."

"The staff put a lot of time into this, but to see the kids come out for this, it's hard to find words," Boogren added.



Jonathan Walker of Redford dances his way into the audience's heart to Michael Jackson's "Thriller."

### ON CAMPUS

#### State Department intern

Canton's Alexander Marinica is one of four Wayne State University students who will be interns at the United States Department of State this summer, receiving \$6,000 stipends as part of the inaugural Internship Fellows Program (IFP). Wayne State University is the only post-secondary in Michigan selected for the pilot of the IFP.

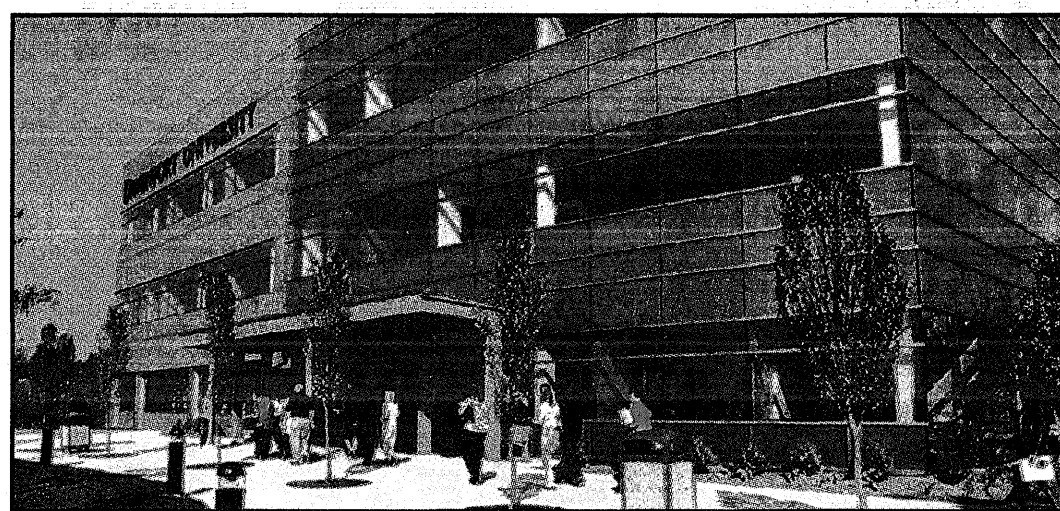
Marinica, a pre-med junior, will graduate with a philosophy degree. She, along with the other three WSU students, will spend the summer in Washington, D.C., or at embassies

throughout the world.

"I am honored to participate in the Internship Fellows Program," Marinica said. "This opportunity with the Department of State will provide a solid foundation for my career in public health and health policy."

#### Engineering scholarship

Canton's Kyle Stabile earned a \$1,000 University of Michigan-Dearborn scholarship from the Michigan Society of Professional Engineers (MSPE). Stabile, a graduate of Salem High School, is attending U of M-Dearborn's College of Engineering and Computer Science.



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# DIVERSITY

FROM PAGE A1

Tom Costello, president/CEO of Michigan Roundtable, said the changing culture in these communities makes Plymouth-Canton a viable candidate for change. According to Costello, the area was 90 percent white 10 years ago; that figure, he said, has dropped to 70 percent.

"At every level — law enforcement, schools, business, faith, government — you want people to know regardless of what my socio-economic status, race or religion, there's a place for me," Costello said, "not just to live, but to be a voice, a presence."

The idea, at least in part, is to build a cultural presence in places such as local gov-

ernment. While the Canton Township Board of Trustees has one trustee — Syed Taj — of Indian descent, the Plymouth Township and city of Plymouth governing bodies are made up of white men and women.

"We hear so much about how diverse the community is, and that's wonderful, but it also has to be inclusive," said Michigan Roundtable spokesman Steve Spreitzer, himself a Plymouth resident. "The face of public service in this community should look like the public being served."

It's not just whether ethnic diversity exists on the governing bodies. Plymouth City Commissioner Stella Green, the former director of the Plymouth Community Arts Council who now works in Dearborn, has seen first-hand the feelings of an ethnic group that feels it isn't being heard.

She thinks the group being discussed Thursday for Plymouth-Canton could help prevent that here.

"We have a diverse community, and we need to recognize that and include them before we have a problem," Green

said. "I work in Dearborn, and I've seen what happens when you ignore an ethnic group."

It was the second meeting in the community for the group, which first met last month in Canton. On Thursday, the focus shifted to key areas the group will tackle during a year-long timeline, including law enforcement, youth, community life, history and public service.

The group hopes to build a consensus on action areas by April, build an organizational structure and rally public support by summer, kick off a strategic plan in September

and spend the rest of the year executing the plan.

"We want to set up a leadership table, and let them decide where they go from there," said Spreitzer, a track and field coach in his spare time. "This is definitely not a 5K race. This is an ultra-marathon."

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 26, at the Plymouth Cultural Center. For more information, visit the Michigan Roundtable's Web site at [www.miroundtable.org](http://www.miroundtable.org)

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FREDA SAMPSON

Heidi Nguyen-Tran talks diversity during the Michigan Roundtable for Diversity and Inclusion's meeting Thursday at Plymouth Township Hall.

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As part of your healthcare team, we are concerned about all aspects of your health. If you have artificial joints, you may want to discuss the necessity of taking antibiotics prior to dental visits with your health care professional. If a medical condition comes to our attention during a dental exam, you can be sure we will discuss the issues with you as well as any other healthcare provider if you choose. We bring our dental column as a way to inform our friends and neighbors here in the community of the many benefits of professional dentistry. For gentle dental care for the family, please call us at **734-453-9413, 496 W. Ann Arbor Trail, Ste. 201, Plymouth (one block East of Kellogg Park).**

P.S. New guidelines also suggest that dental patients at risk for endocarditis (infection that can strike an artificial heart valve) receive fewer antibiotics that previously recommended.

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# BBB warns buyers on acai-berry product ads

BY JULIE BROWN  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The Better Business Bureau is warning consumers to be wary of online ads to sell acai-berry-related weight loss products. The ads rely on celebrity endorsements.

BBB has received thousands of complaints from Michigan consumers, including those in Plymouth, Westland, Livonia and Northville. The consumers thought they were signing up for a free trial offer of products supposedly endorsed by Oprah Winfrey, Rachael Ray and other celebrities; instead, the consumers ended up paying a month after month.

The BBB can't evaluate health benefits of the products, according to Tim Burns,

public affairs director for the Better Business Bureau Serving Eastern Michigan, based in Southfield. "They're taking this generic endorsement and using it," he said of companies. "It may or may not be the same product she (Oprah) used."

Burns, a Clawson resident and Oakland County commissioner, noted there have also been Oakland County complaints including Berkley, Royal Oak, Madison Heights, West Bloomfield, Pontiac, Troy, Waterford, Auburn Hills and Oakland Township.

Marketing claims about the acai include that it fights cancer and aging, as well as promoting dietary health and weight loss. According to the BBB, sales of acai products

approached \$15 billion last year, up from \$500,000 in earlier years. Product producers use ads on the Internet and on social networking sites like Facebook.

Burns noted people are getting locked into fee payments for the products. "We're just trying to let people know what's going on." You should be leery of giving a credit card number for shipping or handling; that amount may be minimal, but consumers have been stuck with monthly billings of \$40-\$80.

"That free trial gets to be very expensive," he said. Burns, an attorney, also urged that people know the difference between a credit card and debit card, with the latter offering less consumer protection.

"A credit card, you do have some resources to dispute charges," he said.

Burns cited two companies representative of dozens of others selling acai-related products with a similar sales model:

■ FX Supplements.com, a Web site selling products such as Acai Berry Maxx and Maxx Slim Hoodia. Although the company offers a risk-free trial of products for cost of shipping/handling, consumers who do not cancel within the trial period are sent additional bottles every month and billed \$85.90. Complaints indicate the trial period fluctuates between 10-14 days from when the consumer requested the free trial, not from when the

product was received.

Complaints included difficulty canceling either by phone or e-mail. Several customers reported that they were forced to close bank accounts and cancel credit cards to stop recurring charges.

■ Central Coast Nutraceuticals, for which the BBB has received more than 1,400 complaints in the last 12 months. The company operates several Web sites selling acai, hoodia and male enhancement products. It uses Oprah endorsements of the acai berry in ads for weight loss, and offers a free trial of acai-related products such as supplements and tea.

Due to the company's negative option, if, after the free trial, the consumer no longer wishes to receive a monthly supply, he or she must cancel the subscription or be billed \$40 monthly.

Also reported were difficulties contacting the company and canceling subscriptions, including 75 minutes on hold. There were complaints of unauthorized charges on credit cards or bank accounts for products not ordered. Central Coast Nutraceuticals earned an F grade from the BBB for a large volume of unanswered and unresolved complaints.

Katie Walker of Plymouth Township filed a complaint

with the BBB over Central Coast Nutraceuticals after she signed up for what was advertised as a free risk-free trial offer.

"I tried to call to cancel it and they don't have a real number," said Walker, a 27-year-old Eastern Michigan University student with a daughter, 13 months. She found the pills weren't working, and her dad urged Walker to throw them away.

She heard from a friend the offer wasn't really free. When Walker tried to call, she got a message about heavy call volumes and long waits.

She had no address to send the pills back; Walker went online and learned a lot of people were unhappy with the products and advertising. "All these people wrote it's definitely a scam," she said. Walker ended up canceling her credit card and getting a new one to avoid the unauthorized charges.

The BBB's Burns recommends using the BBB Web site at [www.bbb.org](http://www.bbb.org) to check out companies ahead of time. You need to read fine print, he said, as you could be obligated to certain charges.

You need to determine who the company is and where it's located, he noted. "Just make sure you do your homework and understand what you're getting into."

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HE'S JUST NOT THAT INTO YOU (PG-13)  
11:00, 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00

SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE (R)  
11:30, 1:50, 4:10, 6:40, 9:10  
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TAKEN (PG-13)  
12:15, 2:30, 4:55, 7:10, 9:20  
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HOTEL FOR DOGS (PG)  
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## 'Plymouth Reads' returns to library

BY JULIE BROWN  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The Plymouth District Library will again offer its "Plymouth Reads" program, focusing this year on "The Last Lecture" by Randy Pausch.

Pausch, a computer science professor at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, wrote of his facing a diagnosis of pancreatic cancer. Co-author Jeffrey Zaslow, who lives in suburban Detroit and is married to Fox 2's Sherry Margolis, will speak about his experiences with Pausch 7 p.m. Monday, March 30.

Programs will be at the library, 223 S. Main in downtown Plymouth. Advance registration is needed for the March 30 Zaslow presentation by calling (734) 453-0750, Ext. 4.

"It has universal appeal," said adult services librarian Sue Patterson of the book. "It's a beautiful story." She noted "the wit and frankly the humor

he showed in facing his own death."

Pausch's lecture on "Really Achieving Your Childhood Dreams" wasn't about dying, but rather overcoming obstacles and taking opportunities. The Plymouth library will show that lecture in its entirety 2 p.m. Saturday, April 4, which also requires advance registration.

Two additional programs don't require you to sign up in advance. The library's Contemporary Books group will discuss the book 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 18, with copies available there. Also, the Brown Bag Books group will discuss it noon Wednesday, April 22.

There's a statewide book chosen every other year for reading and discussion, Patterson said, with the 2009 effort specific to Plymouth. The statewide program takes place every other year.

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# Money held by custodian companies not subject to creditors

**Q:** Dear Rick: Thank you for your advice over the years. About 10-15 years ago, I decided to consolidate my holdings at Charles Schwab. I now have accounts at Schwab and Fidelity. I own mostly mutual funds, but I do own some stocks and individual bonds. With all the economic chaos, my fear is what would happen to my money if Schwab or Fidelity went under. I do not plan to sell my investments, but I am wondering if it would make sense to hold them individually as opposed to Fidelity or Schwab. What do you think?

**A:** Thanks so much for being a loyal follower. It is an honor to come into people's homes through the radio and the newspaper to help them make better decisions with their money.

As to your question, I do not believe you have to move your money out of Charles Schwab or Fidelity. Even if one of those companies did declare bankruptcy, your money would be protected.

It is important to understand that when you use a custodian such as Schwab or Fidelity, you are not investing in the custodian. They are operating as a fiduciary to hold and maintain your investments. Your money would not be subject to the creditors of the bankrupt company because it is not their asset.

Using companies like Schwab and Fidelity makes it easier for investors. Basically, these companies are super-markets of investments. As opposed to getting individual statements from every investment you own, you get one consolidated statement. It's much easier for an investor to manage his/her portfolio. In addition, with companies like Schwab, Fidelity, TD Ameritrade and Vanguard, you can invest in many commission-free mutual funds. I am a believer of commission-free investing.

When using a company such as Schwab or Fidelity, it is important to recognize that certain funds may be commission-free (no load) if you purchase them directly through the mutual fund company, but do have fees if purchased through one of the custodians. Some mutual funds, in order to purchase them through one



Money Matters  
Rick Bloom

of the custodians, will have a transaction fee. Although the transaction fee is substantially lower than a commission, nonetheless, it is still a fee. If you wish to avoid that fee, purchase the investments directly through the company. For convenience purposes, you may pay the transaction fee in order to have the benefit of consolidated statements.

**Q:** Dear Rick: I've started reading about the Stanford Group and how investors lost billions of dollars on CDs purchased through that company. I thought CDs are federally insured up to \$250,000, so how can investors lose that money?

**A:** The fraud perpetrated by the Stanford Group is still being uncovered. However, the simple answer to your question is that the CDs they were selling were not federally insured. They were CDs issued by an offshore bank. The Stanford Group used its own bank on the island of Antigua. Those types of CDs are not federally insured and have virtually no protection.

Many investors got scammed by the Stanford Group because they were enticed by the high rates of return that the CDs were paying. Unfortunately, investors never considered the CDs were not federally insured. If purchasing CDs, you are saying this is the very conservative portion of your portfolio and there is no reason to take risk.

I recommend shopping around for the highest rate possible on a certificate of deposit. However, I only recommend shopping at federally-insured institutions. Whether issued by internet banks or out of state banks, as long as CDs are federally insured, you are protected.

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

# Growth Works lauds kids who overcome, their helpers

Young people and those who help them overcome obstacles to success were recognized Thursday, Feb. 19, at the Growth Works 2009 Recognition & Awards Dinner.

The Plymouth-based agency offers help to young people with substance abuse problems as well as those who've experienced trouble with the law. The annual dinner was held Feb. 19 at Fox Hills Country Club west of Plymouth.

"It's been a great year in terms of the services we are providing for kids," said Dale Yagiela, Growth Works executive director. He's pleased with outcomes, but also concerned about funding in this rough economy.

Yagiela praised Wolverine Human Services' partnership with Growth Works which includes substance abuse treatment for boys started in 2006. "We were able to begin a girls' program this year," with Wolverine at a facility in Vassar, Mich., Yagiela said.

Growth Works leaders are looking to a similar partnership approach for kids with mental health issues. "I think we've got some very good quality efforts to help kids," said Yagiela of that endeavor, with more news to come in April.

Recognized at the Fox Hills dinner for milestone years of dedication and service were: Ann O'Flaherty of Plymouth (20 years), David Sculati of Farmington Hills and Bill Ventola of Plymouth Township (five years), all Growth Works board members.

Academic Awards included: For special achievement and outstanding effort in academics earning the General Education Development certificate or high school diploma: Lawrence Jordan Anquetil of Canton (GED), Brendan Allender of Livonia and Rick Bergquist of Livonia.

Growth Works Program Awards included: For special achievement and outstanding effort over the last year in Aftercare and Residential Treatment: Steve Chapman of Westland and Christopher Rothley of South Lyon.

For special achievement and outstanding effort over the last year in the Western Wayne Care Management Organization: Janell Reeves of Westland and Brennan Orndorff of Dearborn.

For special achievement and outstanding effort over the past year in Community Intervention & Treatment (Youth Programming):

Amanda Mog of Canton, Tori Bergquist of Livonia and Resul Bahtijari of Dearborn Heights.

For special achievement and outstanding effort over the past year in Community Intervention & Treatment (Adult Programming): Steven Harsch of Belleville and Arnie Newman of Westland.

Community Awards included:

For efforts aimed at improving the lives of young people: Ronaele Bowman of Westland, Phil Cavanagh of Redford, Kay Beard of Canton and Cindy King of Belleville.

Yagiela, in an interview before the dinner, noted lower-

income families have been on the edge. "Their lives have been affected for the last five-six years." He's seeing more middle-class kids in treatment.

Yagiela and others at Growth Works are concerned about increased heroin use among young people. He noted one teen could ride from his western Wayne County home on his bike to buy heroin in Detroit.

"I think it's cost and availability," said Yagiela, adding there's a strong link between juvenile delinquency and drug use.

-By Julie Brown

# Ficano asks community leaders to help with census

During a breakfast meeting Thursday, Executive Ficano urged mayors and supervisors of the 43 Wayne County communities to help with the census 2010 count.

"We need to stand up and be counted," said Executive Ficano at the Guardian Building in Detroit. "We depend on this count for federal funding. We need to bring together a cross-section of community members whose only focus is 2010 Census awareness. We need to increase the Census questionnaire - mail-back response rate through a community wide/neighborhood-to-neighbor program."

As the Chair of the Committee for Wayne County, Executive Ficano has formed several subcommittees. He asked that mayors and supervisor identify people who can work on the various committees that include government, religious, community based, recruiting Subcommittee, education, media, business, multi-

To find out more about Census 2010 log onto [census.gov/2010census/](http://census.gov/2010census/)

cultural and labor. Dwight Dean, Detroit regional director, said that they would be opening several offices and hiring dozens of people to work on the census count during the next year.

"With just 14 months before the next Census, we are reaching out to local officials, and community leaders to deliver the message to every resident of the importance of an accurate and complete population count for each locality. People listen to leaders they know and trust, and the Mayors and other elected officials that serve in Wayne County are critical to our success with an accurate and complete count."

To find out more about Census 2010 log onto <http://www.census.gov/2010census/>

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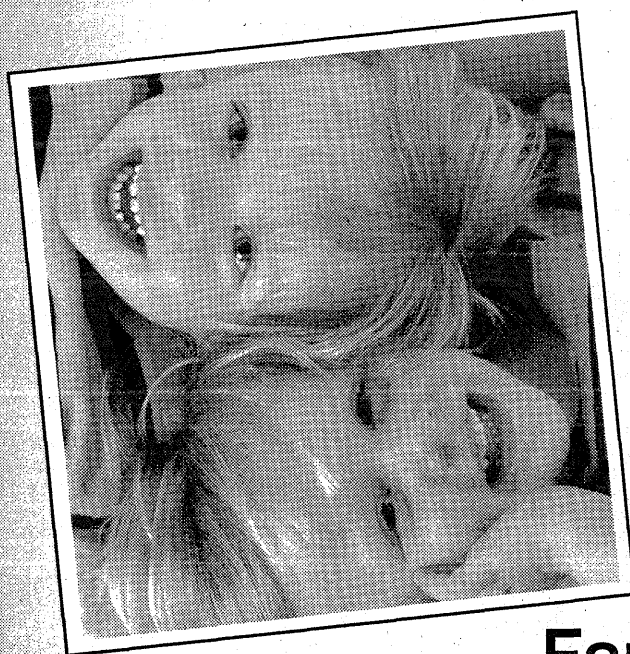
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# Return of an American icon

## Dick Scott one of a handful of dealers selling revitalized Indian motorcycles

BY TONY BRUSCATO  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The first American-made motorcycle is making a comeback, and the Dick Scott Automotive Group — Dick Scott Nissan in Canton and Dick Scott Dodge in Plymouth — plans to be part of it.

Indian Motorcycles, which dates back to 1901, is back in production after going out of business in 1953. The Dick Scott Automotive Group is one of only seven dealers nationwide selling the exclusive bikes that sell for \$31,500 to \$38,500.

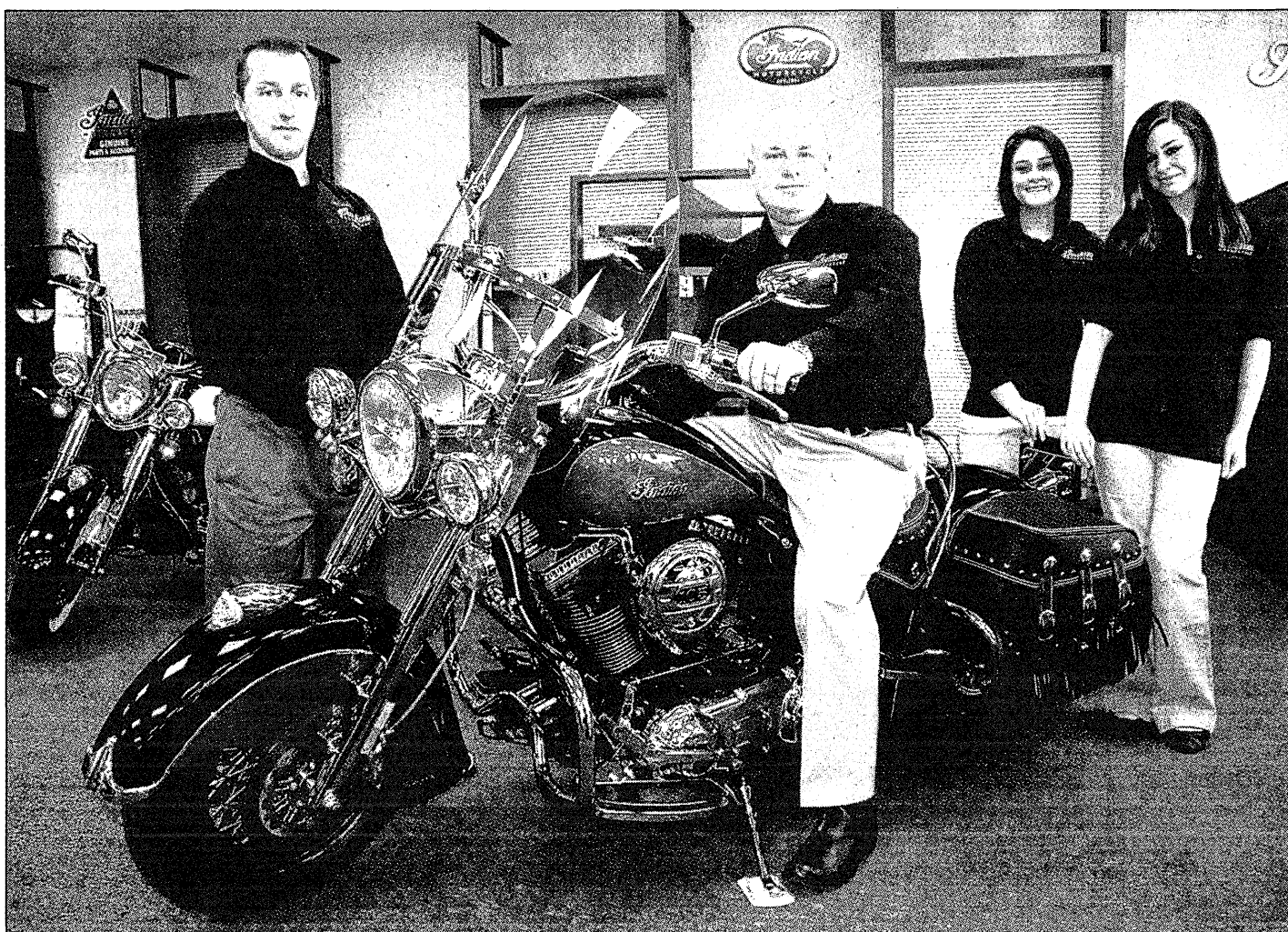
"We've been open since Jan. 5 and we've already sold 10," said Jeff Scott, 45, whose motorcycle dealership is on Michigan Avenue west of I-275. "It's amazing the brand equity that Indian carries in the motorcycle community. Even though they've had their problems and have been back once since 1953, the Indian name is an iconic brand."

Indian was big in racing in the early part of the 20th century and supplied the majority of police and military motorcycles during World War II. After the war ended, the company fell on hard times and stopped production in 1953.

Scott, who's the motorcycle rider in the family, said he pushed hard to get the automotive group to add Indian to its line-up.

"We're dealing with customers in California, Illinois, Ohio, Indiana... from all over," said Scott, who noted the features on Indian bikes are very distinctive. "You've got premium leather seats, the deep valanced fender is an Indian trademark as is the lighted Indian head fender ornament."

"What makes them great motorcycles is they're all



Indian Motorcycle dealer Jeff Scott astride an Indian. At left, Terry Berendt, Kaitlyn Dwyer, and Lisa Beam.

PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

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hand built by two-man teams in North Carolina from start to finish," he said. "They have the highest content of American-made parts of any bike made."

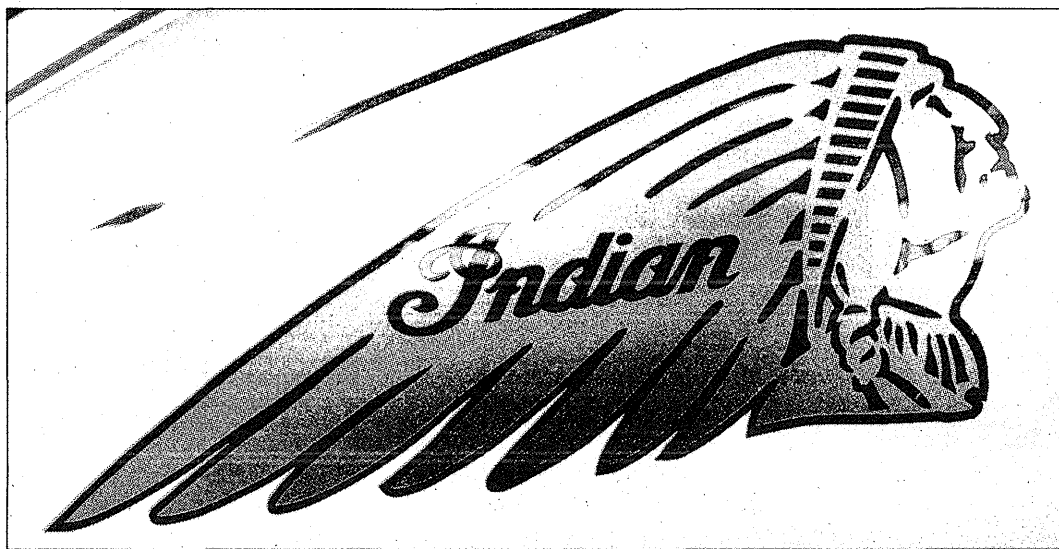
Scott said the Baker six-speed transmissions are made in Haslett, Mich., and the high-level of chrome is standard.

"The power of the engine is great for a cruiser," said Scott. "It's got 84 horsepower and 100-foot pounds of torque. That will get you moving pretty quick."

The Indian Chief comes with four different trim packages, pricing it much higher than its well-known competitor, Harley-Davidson, which sells from \$14,000 to \$18,000.

Scott plans to have his grand opening June 27 when the riding weather should be much better.

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The classic Indian logo on the fuel tank of one of the motorcycles in stock.



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# HOMETOWN LIFE

## Chiefs edge Salem for 5th straight district title

BY ED WRIGHT  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Even if he coaches another 50 years, 24-year-old Canton wrestling coach Cory Mancuso will probably never forget Keith Zech's drama-coated overtime victory Wednesday night in the Chiefs' Division 1 District final match against Salem.

With Canton leading 31-13 — and three talented Rock upper-weight performers waiting in the wings — Zech clinched the Chiefs' fifth-consecutive

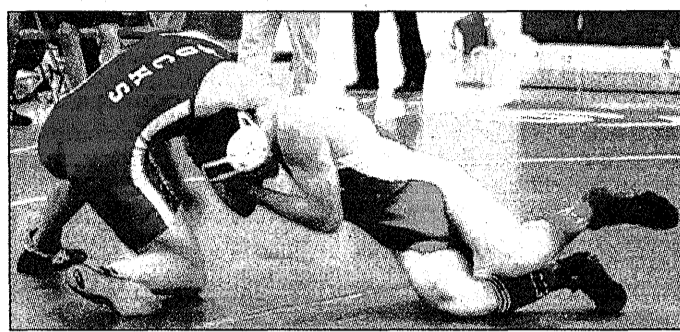
District championship — and Mancuso's first as a head coach — when he rallied to edge Colin Gross, 8-6, in overtime in a 171-pound thriller.

When referee Tom Arsenault stuck up the two fingers on his right hand that confirmed Zech's triumphant OT take-down, Mancuso pumped both his fists and jumped at least three feet in the air, much like the members of his jubilant team that celebrated behind him. Canton voided the final three

matches and won 34-31.

The Chiefs' quest for a second-straight trip to the team finals in Battle Creek will continue on Wednesday at Westland John Glenn when they take on Southgate Anderson, which is 33-5, in a Division 1 Regional semifinal. A victory against the Titans would earn Canton a berth in the Regional final against the winner of the John Glenn-Temperance-Bedford semifinal

Please see **CHIEFS, B2**



BRIAN ABBEY

Canton's Keith Zech (right) defeated Salem's Colin Gross, 8-6, in a 171-pound overtime match Wednesday to secure the Chiefs' fifth-consecutive Division 1 District title.

## GAME WRAPS

### Wildcat icers fall

Plymouth's hockey team dropped a 4-0 decision to South Lyon Wednesday night that dropped its record to 12-9-2 heading into Friday's final home game of the season.

Despite the loss, Plymouth coach Paul Fassbender praised "Considering we were outshot 42-16 and outworked in every area, I thought Mike did an outstanding job keeping us in it."

The game was scoreless following the opening period in which the Lions outshot the Wildcats, 12-6.

"We didn't show up for the second period and trailed 2-0 after two," said Fassbender. "In the third period, I thought we showed some spark, but we took too many chances."

"It was a tough game for us mentally. We have a lot of young kids who we rely on and coming off our extremely emotional victory over Canton on Tuesday, I thought we just came out flat."

"We have to regroup. We have a week before our last regular-season game."

The Wildcats will host Waterford Mott Friday at 7 p.m. at Computware Arena.

### PCA girls win pair

The Plymouth Christian Academy girls basketball team continued its successful season this past week with a pair of Michigan Independent Athletic Conference victories over Taylor Baptist Park (58-53 on Thursday) and Allen Park Inter-City Baptist (40-32 on Tuesday).

The Eagles improved their record to 12-6 overall and 5-5 in the MIAC heading into Saturday's game at Novi Franklin Road (results will appear in Thursday's Observer).

Brooke Williams' 15 points spearheaded the impressive victory over Baptist Park, which suffered its first league setback of the season. Jessica Murphy (14 points) and Kristin Malcolm (10 points, eight blocked shots) also shone. The Eagles won despite the fact Malcolm and Brianna Harris (nine points) both missed significant time due to injuries suffered in the game.

PCA led 27-19 at the half, but BP rallied to take a 51-50 fourth-quarter lead. A Malcolm putback during the game's closing moments proved to be the eventual game-winner.

Malcolm, a freshman, also sparked in the win against Inter-City, tallying 14 points and double-digit rebounds. Williams added 12.

Amanda Isom, one of the top players in the MIAC, was limited to 12.

"We played very good man-to-man defense against Amanda," said PCA coach Carol Gerulis. "We tried to keep the ball out of her hands as much as possible."

## Jordan rules in Whalers' 8-3 triumph

Defenseman Michal Jordan registered his first career hat trick, and Chris Terry and Matt Caria each tallied two goals and two assists as the Plymouth Whalers hammered the Sarnia Sting, 8-3, in an Ontario Hockey League contest played Friday night before 3,635 at the Sarnia Sports and Entertainment Centre.

Tyler G. Brown scored the other goal for the Whalers, who won their sixth straight game and fourth in a row on the road. Plymouth is now 30-22-5-0, good for 65 points and in fifth place in the tight OHL Western Conference race.

Gregg Sutch scored twice for Sarnia (now 28-23-3-3, 62 points, sixth in Western Conference) and Matt Martin added one.

The Whalers moved to the lead early, scoring on their first five Grade-A scoring opportunities.

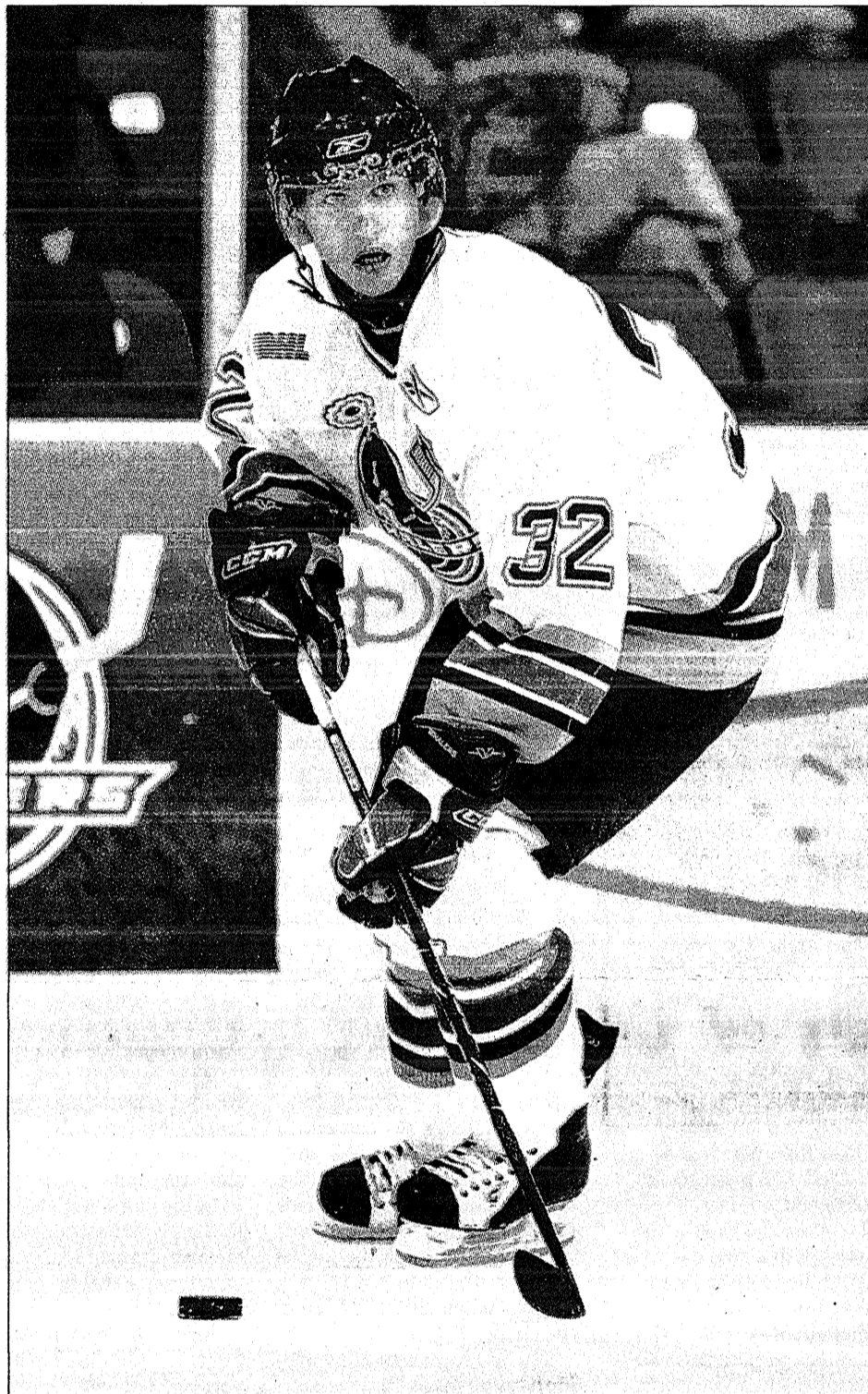
Brown got Plymouth rolling with his sixth of the year at 2:42 after tipping AJ Jenks' shot from the left circle past Sarnia goaltender Dan Spence.

Jordan scored his first of the game at 6:54 of the period, tapping home a loose puck home from the right of the Sarnia goal.

Later in the period, Plymouth blew the game open with three goals in a span of 1:42 — Caria at 15:30 (one-timer and 21st of the year all alone from the right doorstep), Jordan at 16:08 (8th of the year with a shot from the top of the left circle that deflected past Spence) and Terry at 17:12 (32nd of the year on a shot from the left wing).

Plymouth led, 5-0, after one period.

Please see **WHALERS, B4**



WALT DMOCH

On Friday in Sarnia, Plymouth's Michal Jordan became the first Whaler defenseman to register a hat-trick since James Wisniewski registered the feat in 2002.

## 'Cats maul Zebras on Senior Night

BY ED WRIGHT  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Right on cue, the girls of the hour stepped up big-time for Plymouth Friday night against Wayne Memorial.

Playing on "Senior Night", seniors Shaakira Haywood (23 points, 15 rebounds and two blocked shots), Kelsi Robinson (10 points, eight rebounds) and Megan Quinlan (eight points) led the Wildcats to a lopsided 68-24 victory over the Zebras.

The win improved Plymouth's record to 7-11 overall and 5-5 in the Kensington Lakes Activities Association's South Division. Wayne fell to 2-16 and 0-10, respectively.

"Our entire starting line-up was made up of seniors tonight and our first player off the bench was a senior, so it worked out nice," said Plymouth coach Ted Strudivant.

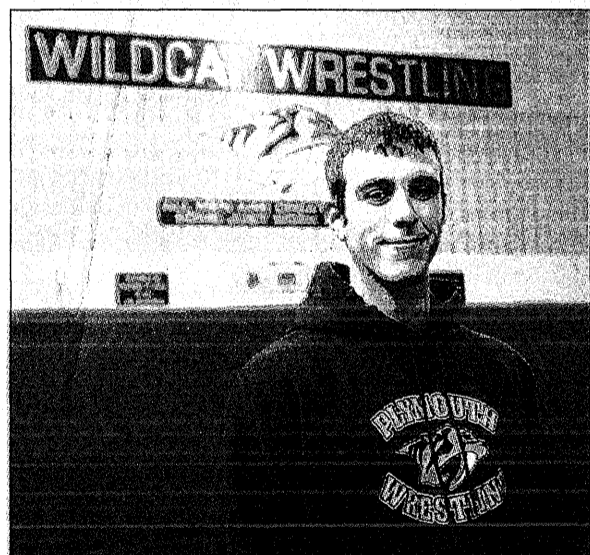
Joining Haywood, Robinson and Quinlan in the starting line-up were Jalesa Moise and Bri'annah Hightower with Nicole Rottell coming off the bench. The team's seventh senior, Paige Visser, did not play due to an injury.

Plymouth led 15-5 after one quarter, 29-16 at the half and 47-22 after three quarters.

Allie Coleman led Wayne with nine points.

The winners hit 3 of 7 free throws. The Zebras drained half of their six freebies.

### GIRLS PREP HOOPS



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Senior captain Vince Rizzo has been an outstanding leader both on the mat and off for Plymouth's wrestling team this season.

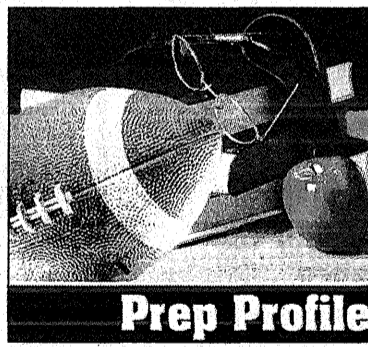
## Captain Vince Rizzo combines strong mat skills with leadership

BY ED WRIGHT  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Vince Rizzo's close-to-impeccable technique was honed by countless hours in the Wildcats' wrestling room.

His admirable strength was built up by lord knows how many repetitions in the school's weight room.

And the endurance that has helped him compile a 75-20 record heading into yesterday's Division 1 Individual District tournament was developed by the kind of monotonous cardiovascular



Prep Profile

workouts only other accomplished wrestlers can relate to.

But Rizzo's most impressive

trait — his unwavering leadership ability — is an inherent quality that can't be measured in sweat or muscle mass.

"Vince is the best captain I could have asked for," emphasized first-year Plymouth wrestling coach Quinn Guernsey. "He's the heart and soul of this team. He's our leader. The entire team looks to him to be our pride."

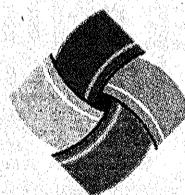
"We were in a couple tough individual tournaments this year when a lot of our guys were out of it in

Please see **RIZZO, B2**

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**RIZZO**

FROM PAGE B1

round one, two or three, but they stuck around just to cheer on Vince. There's been a lot of pressure on Vince, but he's risen to it."

**Best in the 'Land**

Rizzo was never better than he was at last month's talent-stocked Observerland tournament. The senior bulldozed through the 171-pound brackets before outlasting Livonia Churchill's Curtis Castleberry, 12-5, in an overtime thriller. "That's been the highlight of my career so far," said Rizzo, referring to his Observerland triumph. "Winning that last match in overtime was more mental than it was physical." Rizzo's introduction to the sport unfolded when the then-sixth-grader attended one of former coach Sam Amin's youth clinics at Plymouth High School. It didn't take him long to make a major decision: He

loved it. "I liked the independence that comes with wrestling," he said. "It's all on you. You don't have to rely on anyone else."

**Steady improvement**

After spending his freshman year wrestling at the junior-varsity level, Rizzo racked up an impressive 14-2 record at 140 pounds as a sophomore before suffering a season-ending injury. As a junior, he went 33-12 at 152 and 160 before sculpting a stellar 28-6 mark heading into Saturday's D1 individual competition. "The toughest parts of the sport in my opinion are the endurance it takes and the mind games," Rizzo said. "You have to be mentally strong or you're not going to be successful." Rizzo's discipline in the wrestling room has carried over to the classroom — where he's established a solid 3.0 grade-point average — and at

the dinner table, where he's learned to avoid fast food and all other edibles that would threaten to push his weight past his 171-pound wrestling limit. "I stay away from sugar and bread," he said. "I've learned to like a lot of fruits and veggies and drink a lot of water. I'll splurge once in a while, but not much during the season."

**Family matters**

Rizzo, who said he will attend either the University of Detroit Mercy or Schoolcraft College in the fall, has enjoyed serving as a mentor to his younger brother, Nick, a sophomore on the Plymouth wrestling team. "It's been cool having Nick on the team," he said. "We're closer now than we would have been if he wasn't wrestling because we spend so much time together and we can relate a lot to wrestling."

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**Cougars no match for Rocks**

BY ED WRIGHT  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Salem's boys basketball team completed the two-part, week-long "South Lyon Sweep" Friday night.

And, as expected, the first part was a lot tougher than the second.

The Rocks pounded South Lyon East, 62-38, Friday night 72 hours after handing South Lyon its first KLAAC Central Division loss on Tuesday.

Friday's 24-point win lifted the Rocks record to 6-10 overall and 4-6 in the division. The Cougars slipped to 0-16 and 0-10, respectively.

The two teams' first encounter earlier this month was much closer: a 59-56 Salem triumph.

"We played a lot better defensively tonight than we did the first time we played them," said Salem coach Bob Brodie. "We did a lot better job of defending their three-point shots and we took care of the basketball."

Salem led 16-6 after one quarter, 34-12 at the half and 45-28 with eight minutes to play.

Senior Joe Posler turned in his second straight big statistical game, registering 19 points and 10 rebounds. Fellow senior Anthony Mullins also excelled, scoring.

Rock senior Heath Parling dished out a team-high six assists.

Andrew Mapley led the Cougars with 10 points.

Salem hit 10 of 17 free throws while the Cougars nailed 3 of 8.

Salem will travel to Livonia Franklin on Monday before hosting Livonia Churchill on Thursday.

**WAYNE MEMORIAL 63, PLYMOUTH 56:**

On Friday at Wayne, the Zebras buried nine shots from beyond the arc to improve their record to 12-4 overall and 9-1 in the KLAAC's South Division.

Plymouth, which has now lost four straight games, slipped to 8-8 and 4-6, respectively.

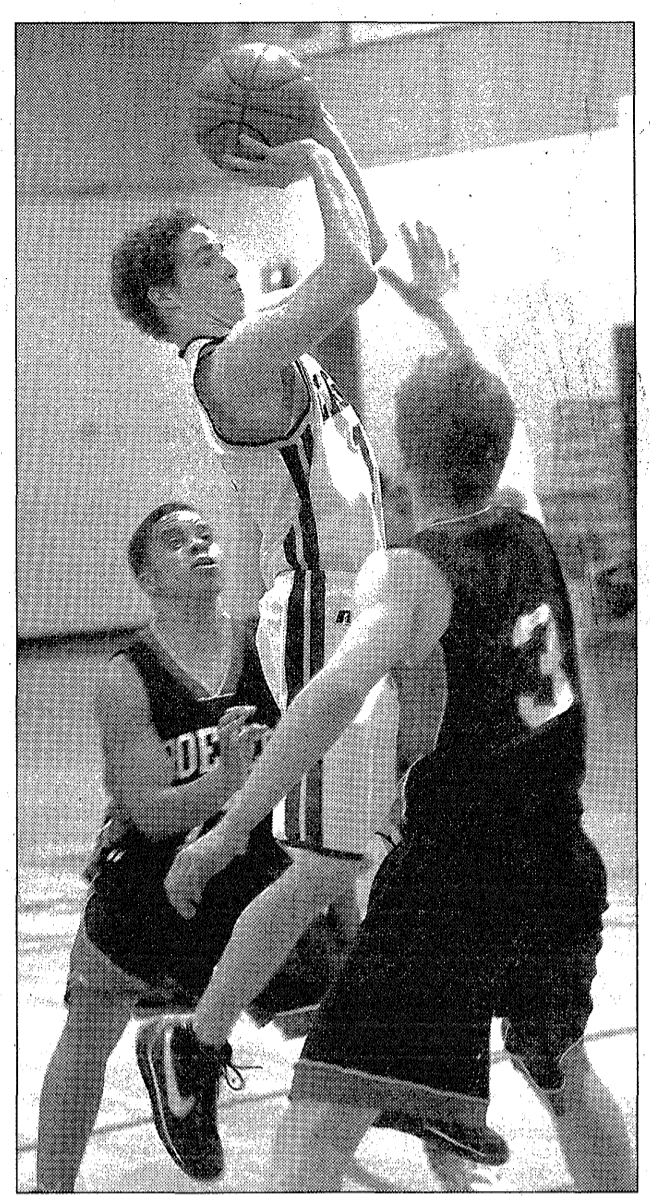
Jimmel Bennett spearheaded a balanced Wayne attack with 16 points, 12 coming on four threes. Robert Woodson added 15 and Daniel Hill tossed in 12.

Sophomore Brennen Beyer paced the Wildcats with 15 points. Senior guard Cliff Buttermore added 13 and sophomore Justin Moss contributed 11.

Wayne led 19-15 after one quarter, 29-27 at the half and 49-38 after three periods. The Wildcats rallied to within four points in the final stanza, but couldn't quite catch the Zebras.

Plymouth made 7 of 10 free throws. Wayne hit 2 of 4 from the stripe.

The Wildcats host Novi on Monday at 7 p.m. for "Senior Night." They'll travel to



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

**Eagle eye**

Plymouth Christian Academy's Caleb Middleton takes aim at the rim during Friday night's Michigan Independent Athletic Conference game with Birmingham Roper. Results of the game were not reported to the Observer.

**CHIEFS**

FROM PAGE B1

showdown.

"This feels good," said Mancuso, clutching the District trophy tightly in his right hand. "I was nervous the whole day because I know Salem is getting good. Their upper weights are very tough, so I knew we had to try and put them away in the lower weights. It was close."

Zech led Gross 5-3 with 38 seconds left in regulation when he was penalized two points for stalling.

Gross grabbed a 6-5 lead seconds later with an escape, but the intensity-driven Zech drew even at 6-all with 11 seconds left.

Eighteen seconds into the extra session, Zech managed to haul Gross to the mat.

The 160-pound showdown that pitted Canton's Anthony Abro against Salem's Chris Sweet may not have been quite as dramatic, but it was equally

crucial to the Chiefs' title hopes.

Abro built an early 4-2 lead before hanging on to win, 7-4. "That was huge," said Mancuso. "They wrestled each other Saturday in the KLAAC individual tournament and it went to overtime, so we knew it would be close. That was a big win."

Canton, which advanced to the finals of the three-team event by hammering Plymouth 55-15, fell behind early against Salem when 103-pound Rock Nick Kim registered a 15-5 victory. However, the Chiefs won six of the next seven matches to secure a 28-7 cushion. Included in the streak were pins from mainstays Carl Lucke (119), Donnie Watkins (135) and Brent Winekoff.

Salem stayed alive when Robbie Schultz pinned Austin Mach with two seconds left in their 152-pound battle to bring the hosts to within 28-13, however, Abro and Zech reversed the momentum.

Salem's formidable trio of

Austin Root (189), Sam Lepper (215) and Blake Abbey (285) were the benefactors of the voids.

"When Zech won, we sealed it, so why risk getting anybody hurt," Mancuso said, explaining the match-ending voids.

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

- CANTON 34 SALEM 31**  
Wednesday at Salem
- 103 pounds: Nick Kim (S) won by major decision over Danny Filippelli, 15-5;
  - 112: Waleed Faraj (C) won by major decision over Ian Phillips, 13-3;
  - 119: Carl Luck (C) pinned Devon Stratton in 1:55;
  - 125: Mitch Wolski (C) decisioned John Bills, 9-4;
  - 130: Jeremy Filippelli (C) decisioned James Middletdich, 6-4;
  - 135: Donnie Watkins (C) pinned Ben DeWitt in 44 seconds;
  - 140: Johannes Olind (S) decisioned Ryan Terrel, 6-3;
  - 145: Brent Winekoff (C) pinned Dylan Hatcher in 1:18;
  - 152: Waleed Faraj (S) pinned Austin Mach in 5:58;
  - 160: Anthony Abro (C) decisioned Chris Sweet, 7-4;
  - 171: Keith Zech (C) decisioned Colin Gross, 8-6, in OT;
  - 189: Austin Root (S) won by void.
  - 215: Sam Lepper (S) won by void.
  - 285: Blake Abbey (S) won by void.

**Storm stalls Ignition, 15-7**

Reeling from injuries and playing its third game in five days, the Detroit Ignition (7-4) had its 15-game home winning streak snapped by the Chicago Storm (4-8) Friday night.

The Storm won, 15-7, to improve to 4-8. Despite the loss, the 7-4 Ignition remains in a first-place tie with Milwaukee.

The Ignition surged to a 4-0 lead in the first quarter with goals from Miki Djerisilo and Zach Wilkes, but the Storm answered with a six-goal run that went unmatched by Detroit until the fourth quarter. Ryan Mack scored a three-pointer for the Ignition with just over a minute to play, but

the Storm's Ian Bennett completed a hat trick with a three-pointer of his own at 14:48 that brought the final tally to 15-7.

On Feb. 18, even different Ignition players found the back of the net in its 21-13 rout of the New Jersey Ironmen (4-7). Detroit wasted no time getting on the board, as Kyt Selaipoulos and Mack scored goals a few seconds apart to give the Ignition an early 4-0 lead.

The Ironmen responded with goals from Chile Farias and Randi Patterson.

Following a two-pointer from New Jersey's Tiguinho five minutes into the second, Detroit launched an 11-point

run with goals from Drew Crawford, Leo Gibson, Wilkes and Josh Rife, who had a three- and two-point scores.

Farias and Adatao Neto tried to close the gap for the Ironmen with a goal each, bringing the score to 15-10 heading into the fourth.

Selaipoulos opened the final stanza for Detroit with his second tally of the match, an unassisted two-point goal at 2:21. Farias notched his third of the game at 6:53, but Mack and Drew Ducker knocked in two more for the Ignition to bring the final score to 21-13.

The Ignition will return to action on Saturday when it battles the Ironmen.

**BOYS PREP HOOPS**

Northville on Thursday.

**JOHN GLENN 63, CANTON 54:** On Friday at John Glenn, the Rockets' victory was fueled in the second quarter when they outscored their visitors 21-7.

John Glenn improved to 9-6 overall and 5-5 in the KLAAC's South Division while the Chiefs slipped to 8-8 and 5-5, respectively.

"The second quarter was definitely a problem for us," said Canton coach Dan Colligan. "We got into foul trouble and we had a hard time containing Austin Anderson."

Anderson, the Rockets' slick-shooting senior guard, scored 13 of his game-high 28 points in the pivotal second quarter. He also drained 5 of 6 fourth-quarter free throws to help seal the win.

Sophomore guard Dietrich Lever led the Chiefs with 15 points, 13 of which came in the second half.

Seniors Marlan Glenn (11 points) and Kyle Biega (eight) also played well for Canton.

Daniel Stoney was solid in the paint for the Chiefs, contributing a team-high seven rebounds to go along with his five points.

John Glenn led 14-10 after one quarter before stretching its lead to 35-17 at the intermission.

The Chiefs battled back to within 45-35 after three quarters and to within six in the final eight minutes.

"I was proud of the way we played in the second half," said Colligan. "We made a nice comeback, but Glenn's big guys really did a nice job on the boards to hold us off and Anderson made some big free throws."

Canton made 15 of 25 attempts from the charity stripe while the Rockets were 13 of 20.

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**Rocks prep for conference title game with 50-21 win**

Salem's girls basketball team will be riding a wave of momentum into Tuesday's Kensington Lakes Activities Association Conference championship game against Livonia Franklin following Friday night's resounding 50-21 victory over visiting South Lyon East.

**GIRLS PREP HOOPS**

Tuesday night's title game is set for 7 p.m. in the Rocks' gym.

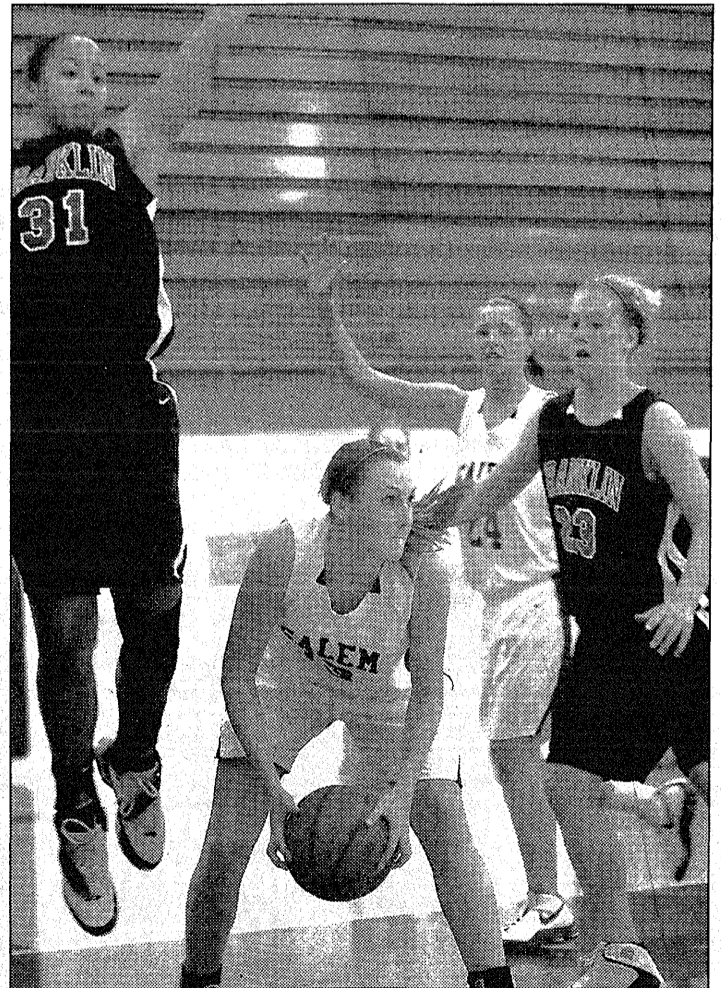
Senior Chelsea Davis spearheaded Friday night's victory by posting a double-double (10 points and 12 rebounds). Also making major contributions to the Rocks' cause were Rachel Norman (nine points), Sarah Durocher (eight points and eight rebounds), Brett de Bear (five points) and Heidi Schmidt (five points).

**CANTON 32, JOHN GLENN 13:** In a low-scoring game Friday, the host Chiefs (16-2, 9-1) earned a share of the KLAAC South Division crown with a win over Westland John Glenn (7-11, 3-7).

Kari Schmitt and CarolAnn Sexauer paced Canton with nine and eight points, respectively. Sara Schmitt made 5-of-6 foul shots, while Melanie Pickert grabbed 12 rebounds and had four steals.

Canton, stymied by Glenn's packed-in zone defense, led only 4-3 after one quarter and 13-7 at halftime before pulling away in the second half.

Glenn senior center Brittany Holbrook tallied five points.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Salem's Rachel Norman (with ball), pictured in a game earlier this season against Livonia Franklin, tallied nine points in the Rocks' 50-21 victory over South Lyon East Friday night. The Rocks will host the Patriots Tuesday at 7 p.m. for the KLAAC Kensington Conference title. The winner will advance to the KLAAC Association championship game on Friday.



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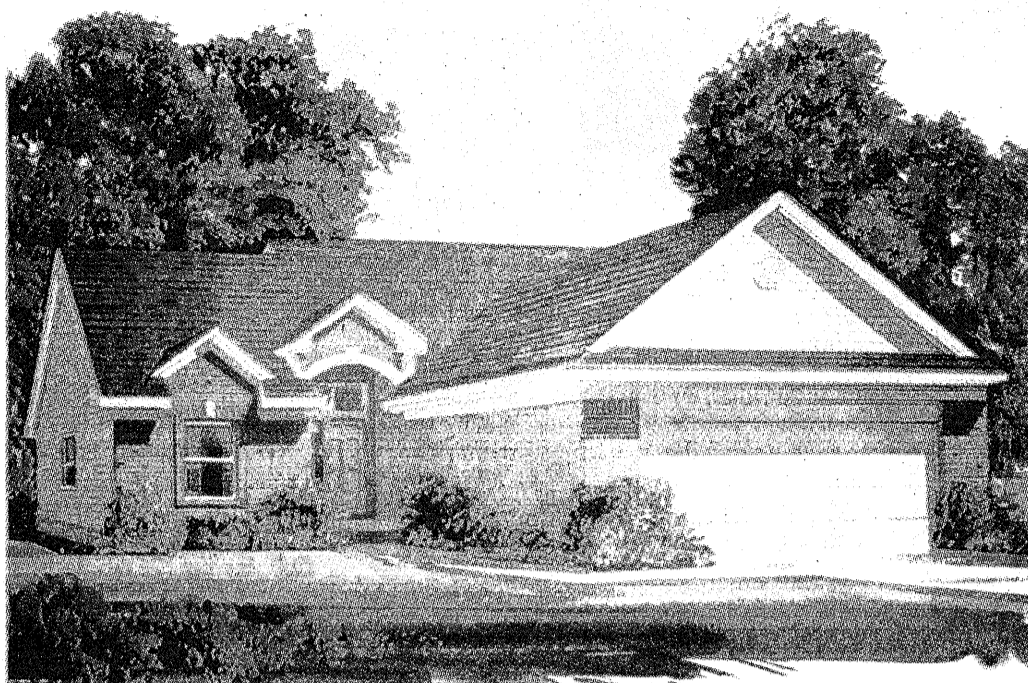


Advertising Feature

# NEW CONSTRUCTION AT PRICES BETTER THAN FORECLOSURES



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Livonia Builders and Breault Homes have a winning formula that has worked for the past 2 years. Although the housing market has been dismal here in Michigan, they have been able to sell over 120 homes since January, 2007. Producing great homes with excellent standard features at foreclosure prices is a winning combination for the consumer.

"Two years ago we met with our contractors and suppliers and discussed our philosophy moving forward. We must offer standard features that exceed our customers' expectations at a price more attractive than our competition," said Danny Veri, partner of Livonia Builders. "Our competition isn't other home builders, it's the used home market and foreclosures. We need to

make sure the buyer can see what our homes have to offer, and once they do that there will be no comparison."

When the new home buyer walks into a Livonia Builders or Breault home they are welcomed with upgraded features at standard prices. Features include: granite countertops, site sanded and stained hardwood floors, oversized baseboards and casings, Andersen or Jel-Win windows, Merrilat cabinets, 12 inch ceramic tile in baths and laundry, bedroom ceiling lights and an egress basement window. They also have outstanding energy products such as high-efficiency furnaces and hot water tanks, up to R-49 insulation in the attic, energy seal package,

windows have low E glass with argon gas, and Energy Star dishwasher.

"What we hear over and over from our customers is that they never expected to be able to afford a brand new house with all of these features as their first home," said Veri. "It is unbelievable to think that someone can buy a home from us for only \$5,000 down and have a payment with taxes and insurance for around \$1,000 a month. When you calculate the net payment after writing off interest and taxes, the monthly payment is down to around \$700." A household income of \$20 an hour can qualify for this

type of financing. Another quality product they offer is the financing. "The mortgage broker we work with has 5% and 3.5% down programs. "With interest rates extremely low, pricing depressed, and the first time home buyer tax credit being proposed, this is truly a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity."

"We focus on good neighborhoods with good schools," said Veri. We have sites in Canton, Westland, Woodhaven, Ann Arbor, with South Lyon and Northville coming soon. The pricing of the neighborhoods are as follows: Canton starts at \$189,900 with 2-story

homes starting at 1600 sq ft, Westland

has ranch and colonial homes that are 1330 to 1650 sq ft starting in the \$140's, Woodhaven has ranches and colonials starting in the \$130's, the Ann Arbor area starts in the \$160's and has homes that range from 1330 to 2100 sq. ft. South Lyon starting price is in the \$160's and the homes start at 1800 sq ft. Northville homes start at 2600 sq ft and are in the low \$300's.

"The major difference between our homes and a foreclosure is that you know what you are getting with ours. It is brand new and comes with a warranty. With a foreclosure, there are no warranties or disclosures, it is buyer beware." In most cases with foreclosures, there is a huge time delay getting a

response back from the bank once you make an offer. With us you deal directly with the owner of the company and have an immediate answer. Our homes are much more energy efficient than even homes built just a few years ago. Finally, our homes have more up-to-date features than most foreclosures have. So you don't have to spend another \$20-\$30,000 to remodel the kitchen and/or bathrooms," said Tim Breault of Breault Homes.

To learn more about the homes that Livonia Builders and Breault Homes are constructing, or to view a model home, call Danny Veri at 734-NEW-HOME email him at: dannyveri@sbcglobal.net or visit the website at www.michbuilder.com.

## HIGH VELOCITY SPORTS

### WINTER 3 (Mar. 2--Apr. 28)

Reg. Deadline: Feb. 20th

#### SOCCER LEAGUES

Under 6--Under 8 Free Agent Fee: \$80 OR, Under 6--Under 8 Team Fee: \$600

Under 9--Over 40 Free Agent Fee: \$100 Under 9--Over 40 Team Fee: \$950



#### FLAG FOOTBALL LEAGUES

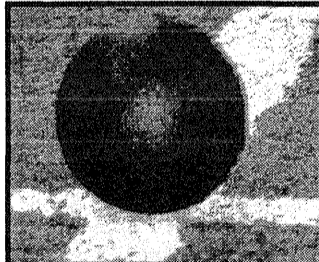
Youth (6-12 years old) Agent Fee: \$100 Youth (6-12 years old) Team Fee: \$950

Adult Free Agent Fee: \$100 Adult Team Fee: \$950



#### DODGE BALL LEAGUES

High School and Adult Leagues Hi-Density Foam Balls Team Fee: \$450 6 Games + End-of-Season Tournament

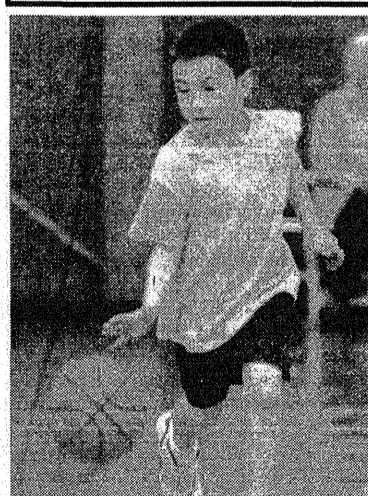


### BASKETBALL

WINTER: Mar. 1--May 31

Reg. Deadline: Feb. 27th Adult Team Fee: \$550 (\$20 referee fee due each game).

Youth Team Fee: \$850 Yout Free Agent Fee: \$100 10 Weeks + Playoffs



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7:35 pm at Compuware Arena

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ticketmaster

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Sunday, March 8 is Scorch's Bday Party!

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### Supreme net-minder

Plymouth Christian Academy's Brent Zinn (seated, middle) recently signed a National Letter-of-Intent to play soccer for Cedarville (Ohio) University. Also pictured are Cedarville coach Ben Belleman (seated to Zinn's right), Zinn's mom Brenda, (standing from left) PCA soccer coach Larry Machonga, PCA Director of Schools David Butler and PCA athletic director Rick Swilley.



### Onward and upward

Six members of the 2008 Plymouth High School football team will be playing collegiate football in the fall. Pictured (from left) on "National Signing Day" earlier this month are Kelly Waite (Northern Michigan University), Mike Rose (Butler University), Ronnie Goble (Bowling Green State University), Travis Mewton (Northern Michigan), Jake Gilbert (Hope, Kalamazoo or Elmhurst) and Matt Skubik (Heidelberg, Adrian or Kalamazoo College). Pictured behind the players are Plymouth head coach Mike Sawchuk and Carl Lowe, the team's receivers coach and recruiting coordinator.

# Lady Ocelots humble OCC, 80-51

BY TIM SMITH  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Even though Wednesday was a very special event at Schoolcraft College — a so-called "pink out" to raise awareness and funds to fight breast cancer — it was just another day at the office for the high-flying Lady Ocelots and their coach, Karen Lafata. Schoolcraft, ranked No. 2 in the latest NJCAA Division II poll and perennial champions in the MCCA-East, rolled to an 80-51 victory over Oakland Community College to move to 24-2 overall and 17-0 in the conference. "It wasn't a distraction at all," said Lafata, referring to Get in the WBCA Pink Zone night honoring the memory of legendary North Carolina State head women's basketball coach Kay Yow while helping build awareness

toward American Cancer Society Initiatives such as Relay For Life. "They (Schoolcraft players) were really excited about it. It was fun for me and for them to have fans and a DJ." Yow recently died from breast cancer after battling the disease since 1987. All of the festivities of the first-annual event might have hampered some teams, but not the Lady Ocelots. They stormed out to a 10-2 lead, with four points each from sophomore forwards Tayler Langham (Salem) and Sheray Brown. The Raiders (19-6, 13-4) did hold Schoolcraft to just 34 points in the opening 20 minutes, but still trailed 34-22 at the break. Schoolcraft really took off in the second half, shooting at a 60 percent clip (17-29) to bust the

game wide open. Epitomizing that surge was Langham, who led the Lady Ocelots with 17 points. Seven of those came in a two-minute span when she tallied all of her team's points to build a 67-40 edge. Langham converted a layup after a spin-a-rama move through the lane, then drained a triple from the right corner. In between, Langham stole the ball and made two free throws. **BALANCED ATTACK** Also in double figures for Schoolcraft were Brown (16 points, 15 rebounds), freshman forwards Jasmine Brown (12 points) and Southfield-Lathrup product Amber Avery (10 points, 7 boards). Freshman center April Goins contributed nine points and six rebounds.

Chipping in with eight points, six rebounds and six assists was freshman forward Antania Shepherd while freshman guard Angela Burrell tallied eight assists. Lafata also pointed to her team's potent attack and ability to win with any style of play. "You choose it," she emphasized. "If you want to sit in a zone, we'll do it one way. If you want to come out man-to-man, we'll do it another way. And we're so conditioned that you can't beat us down the floor the whole game." After Saturday's regular season finale against Henry Ford Community College, Schoolcraft opens MCCA postseason action with a 7 p.m. Wednesday contest against the fourth seed in the East. That game will be played at Schoolcraft.

### SPORTS BRIEFS

#### YMCA programs

The Plymouth Family YMCA is currently holding registrations for instructional programs. The focus of these programs will be on fun, exercise and social interaction through sports instruction. The programs are preschool basketball for 4- and 5-year-olds; preschool soccer for 3- to 5-year-olds; and youth volleyball for kids between the ages of 8 and 12. The programs run the weeks of March 2 through April 10. All classes are held in local schools. For more information, contact the YMCA at (734) 453-2904 or visit [www.ymcadowetroit.org](http://www.ymcadowetroit.org). The YMCA is also looking for instructors for these programs. If you are interested, please call the number listed above.

#### 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](http://www.SportsWeave.com).

#### LAX coach needed

Plymouth High School has an opening for a head coach for its junior varsity team. Prior playing and coaching experience at the high school level is preferred. The season runs from March through May. Candidates must be available from 3:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. daily and available on some weekends. This is a paid position.

#### 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. The charge is \$10 per player, who can hit off the machines, off tees or off live pitching in the cages; or throw on the facility's spacious fields. For more information call (734) 459-5921.

## WHALERS

FROM PAGE B1

The teams traded goals the rest of the way, with Caria and Terry scoring in the second period for the Whalers and Sutch and Martin replying for Sarnia. Jordan completed his

hat trick for Plymouth and 9th goal off the year at 4:41 of the third period with a hard shot from the top of the left circle. Sutch completed the scoring with his second of the game at 6th of the year at 5:28 of the third period. Sarnia outshot Plymouth, 45-34, by the Whalers had the

better scoring opportunities all game long and capitalized. Jordan's hat trick for Plymouth is the first for a Whalers defenseman since Nov. 2, 2002, when James Wisniewski (now with the Chicago Blackhawks) completed the feat in a 9-3 victory over London. The eight-goal

outburst is the first of the season for Plymouth this year. The Whalers scored eight goals last season in an 8-1 victory over Erie on Jan. 12, 2008. The Whalers are home against Saginaw this afternoon at 2 p.m. Tickets are available by calling (734) 453-8400.

### 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

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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 **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](mailto: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

0E8644501-2x2.5

### 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 Asbestos Abatement at the District Curriculum Center and Transportation Building**. The project will be completed prior to the April 14, 2009 building renovation activities and will include the removal and disposal of asbestos flooring materials, asbestos thermal system insulation, and windows with asbestos window caulk as needed. Bid documents will be available on or after Monday, February 23, 2009 by contacting Steve Roach at The healthAIR Group at 248-426-0165 or in writing at 23437 Research Drive, Farmington Hills, Michigan 48335. A Pre-Bid meeting will be held on Thursday, March 5, 2009 at 12:00 p.m. at the PCCS Transportation Building located at 1024 South Mill Street, Plymouth, MI 48170. All submissions should include 3 bid copies (1 original, 2 duplicates) which are due to the PCCS E.J. McClendon Educational Center, RE: Abatement Bids, 454 South Harvey, Plymouth, MI 48170, on or before 2:00 p.m., Thursday, March 12, 2009 where they will be read publicly. 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 22 and March 1, 2009

0E8645347-2x4

### 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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### 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

0E8641376-2x7

### 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 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.

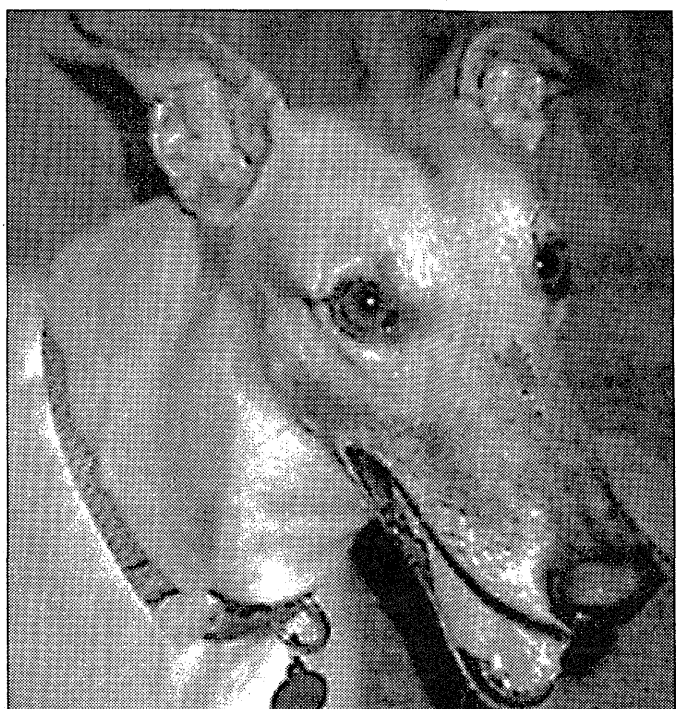
Board of Education  
Plymouth-Canton Community Schools  
THOMAS WYSOCKI, Secretary

Publish: February 15th and 22nd, 2009

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## Rescue Rocky

Rocky is an 11-year-old greyhound in need of a "Forever Home." He's very affectionate and up to date on his vaccinations and has been neutered. For more information, contact Greyheart Greyhound Rescue and Adoption at (866) 438-4739 or [www.greyheart.org](http://www.greyheart.org). The nonprofit is hosting a Meet and Greet with several greyhounds available for adoption noon to 4 p.m. Sunday, March 1, at the Canton Petco, 43435 Ford Road.



### 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](mailto:lchomin@hometownlife.com).

#### ST. PADDY'S PARADE BENEFIT

The United Irish Societies Annual St. Patrick's Parade Fund-raiser is 1-7 p.m. Sunday, March 1, at Monaghan Council Knights of Columbus Hall, 19801 Farmington Rd., south of Eight Mile, Livonia. Donations \$10 in advance, \$15 at the door, and available at the hall (248) 476-8385; Colleen's Gaelic Gifts, 15373 Farmington Rd., Livonia, (734) 513-2107; International Minute Press, 1058 Main, Plymouth, (734) 414-6203; Murphy's Restaurant, 36009 Five Mile, Redford, (313) 534-5809, or Mike Kelly (313) 791-2600 or [mikek@teameme.com](mailto:mikek@teameme.com). There will be food and beverages available.

Entertainment includes Irish dancers from the Heinzman School of Dance, Shamrock Shore, Bill Grogan's Goat, Birmingham Celtic Pipe & Drums, Brian Bonner, Inis-Ceol, FOUJ Chowder Society, the Kreellers, and Kathleen O'Neill along with the Irish Radio Show. The Maid of Erin and Court and The Queen and Court of St. Brigid will also be there.

The theme of the 51st parade Sunday, March 15, in Detroit, is "Irish were green before it was cool."

#### SPAGHETTI DINNER

It's time for Schoolcraft College's annual Spaghetti Dinner and Wine Glow Tuesday, March 10, in the VisTaTech Center on the college's main campus in Livonia, 18600 Haggerty, between

Six Mile and Seven Mile. The evening's festivities include a 6 p.m. Wine Glow, Dinner at 7 p.m., 8 p.m. program, and the popular Basket Raffle.

The Spaghetti Dinner and Wine Glow is sponsored by Schoolcraft College Transitions Center and Advisory Board. The Transitions Center incorporates the services of the Women's Resource Center, Adult Student Services, Family Resources and Student Engagement Programs. Proceeds from the event go to scholarships for students and the Transitions Center at Schoolcraft College. Last year nearly \$15,000 was raised from the event.

Tickets, sponsorships and advertising space in the program are currently available. Tickets are \$30, sponsorships \$75 (includes two dinners and listing in the program). Advertisements available in varying sizes from \$20 to \$100. For information, call (734) 462-4443.

Schoolcraft College is a public two-year college offering classes at the Livonia campus, the Radcliff Center in Garden City, and online at schoolcraft.edu.

#### UPCOMING CONCERTS

Local symphonies are busy rehearsing for upcoming concerts ranging from ballet masterpieces to selections focusing on freedom.

The Livonia Symphony Orchestra performs a program featuring Tchaikovsky's Swan Lake Suite as well as timeless treasures written by Chopin, Bizet, Berlioz, Saint Saens, and Debussy 4 p.m. Saturday, March 7, at Clarenceville High School, 20155 Middlebelt, south of Eight Mile, Livonia. Tickets \$17 adults, \$5 children and students, and available by calling (734) 421-1111 or (734) 591-0266.

The Plymouth Symphony Orchestra rings in freedom with a fanfare featuring a grand performance of Beethoven's Ninth Symphony 8 p.m. Saturday, March 14, at Ward Presbyterian Church, 40000 Six Mile at Haggerty. Joining them on stage are the Plymouth Oratorio Society, Madonna University Chorale, members of Ward Presbyterian Chancel Choir, and soloists Martha Sheil, soprano; Deanna Relyeamezzo; Juan Héctor Pereira, tenor, and Stephen Lusmann, baritone. Also featured is a short work, "Rhyme of Taigu" by composer Zhou Long who's experiences as a young composer in the conservatory in Beijing during the Cultural Revolution complement the theme of freedom for this concert. Zhou will be visiting as guest composer for this piece and will be speaking about his music and his experiences at the Canton Library 7 p.m. Friday, March 13, and the Plymouth Library 2 p.m. Saturday, March 14. Concert tickets will be available for purchase at both of these programs and cost \$25 adults, \$20 seniors, \$10 children/students. For information, visit [www.plymouthsymphony.org](http://www.plymouthsymphony.org) or call (734) 451-2112.

#### YOUNG VOLUNTEERS

Seventh and eighth grade National Junior Honor Society (NJHS) members of All Saints Catholic School in Canton spent Saturday, Feb. 7, packaging food at Gleaner's Food Bank in downtown Detroit. Students toured the warehouse, sorted donated goods, and packaged boxes to be delivered to needy families in addition to bringing a food donation. The group sorted food into a full 4 pallets and packed over 108 food boxes. That equals over 4,536 pounds of food.

# Learn about green interior design, home fashion fabrics

The International Academy of Design & Technology will host its annual Interior Design Conference, Campus Green, Thursday-Friday, Feb. 26-27 at its Troy location, 1850 Research Drive, in conjunction with American Society of Interior Designers (ASID).

Campus Green is a two-day event dedicated to educating students and professionals about the applications of environmentally-friendly products for interior design. It also includes guest speakers and a showcase of student work.

Rachelle Schoessler Lynn of Studio 2030 in Minneapolis, Minn., will talk about thinking outside the box when it comes to sustainability, innovation and interior design, during her keynote address from 5:30-8:30

p.m., Thursday. She has devoted her career to sustainable design, serves on the licensing board for the State of Minnesota, previously chaired the National Sustainable Design Council for ASID, and currently serves on the ASID National Board of Directors.

She'll expand on the topic by presenting a case study, from 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m., on Friday.

Tickets must be purchased in advance to attend one or both days. To RSVP and for more information on the Thursday program, e-mail to [Admin@ASIDMI.org](mailto:Admin@ASIDMI.org). To RSVP for more information on the Friday program, call the Academy at (866) 544-2200.

#### COMMUNITY HOUSE CLASS

Have you ever wondered if

stripes and plaids can mix? What about mixing florals with florals? Or luxurious silks and cotton weaves?

Wonder no more. The Community House in Birmingham is offering a one-night class that will help you understand pattern-mixing and will teach you how to incorporate texture for a warm, cozy feeling. The instructor will bring designer fabrics to class to demonstrate how fabrics blend in one room.

The class, from 7-9 p.m., Thursday, March 12, costs \$25. There's also a \$5 materials fee payable to the instructor.

Register for the class by calling (248) 644-5832 or by visiting [www.communityhouse.com](http://www.communityhouse.com)

The Community House is located at 380 South Bates, Birmingham.

# Passages

Obituaries, Memorials & Remembrances

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**GERALDINE I. CASLER**  
"Gerri"

Age 79, passed away February 18, 2009 following heart surgery. Gerri was born in Toronto, Ontario, grew up in Detroit, married, raised her family in Livonia and retired in Canton. Gerri will be reunited with her parents James and Irene Barr, mother-in-law Ruth Cullers and brother James Barr. She is survived by her loving husband of 57 years, Robert "Bob", brother-in-law William (Dorothy) Casler. Dearest mother of Sue, Gayle, Barb (Mike) Mikulski and Jim (Kim). Grandmother of Jennie (Eric), Bobby, Jonathan and Meagan. Great-grandmother of Addison. She is also survived by special cousins, the Pons, Guerin and White families. Gerri was a wonderful wife, the best Mom and a loyal friend to so many people. She will be remembered by her sweet personality and bright smile. Family will receive visitors Sunday 2-8 p.m. at the Fred Wood Funeral Home (Rice Chapel), 36100 Five Mile Road (One Mile West of Farmington Road). Funeral service will be held at Rosedale Gardens Presbyterian Church 9601 Hubbard, Livonia Monday 11 a.m. (Visit 10 a.m.). Memorials to Rosedale Gardens Church or American Heart Association.

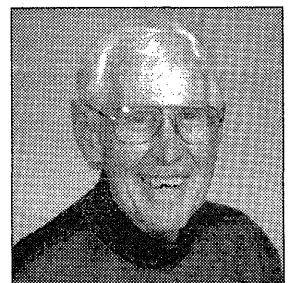
#### GERALD D. JURVA

Age 75. Of Farmington Hills, MI. Feb. 17, 2009. Arrangements by THAYER-ROCK Funeral Home, Farmington.



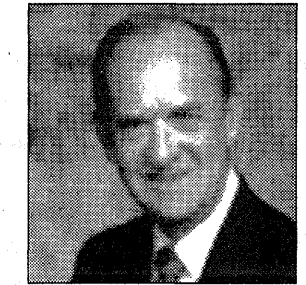
**IRENE H. KLAPPERICH**

February 18, 2009. Irene was a WWII Coast Guard Veteran; a 54 year resident of Farmington and a retiree from Farmington Public Schools. She is survived by Ted, her beloved husband of 62 years; her loving children Judy Larson (Glen), Ted (Nancy), Terry Hotke (Don); her cherished grandchildren T.J. Klapperich, III (Julie) and Lara Ligerakis (Nick); and great-grandchildren A.J., William, Hudson, Eleni and Stelios. Dear sister of Virginia Baran (Joe), Leonard Krasnowski (Patricia), Frank Krasnowski (Pat) and Lenore Lobo (Mike). She is also survived by other loving family members and friends. Irene is preceded in death by her daughter Mary F. Klapperich. Funeral Mass, Monday, February 23rd, 10 a.m. (in state 9:30 a.m.), at Our Lady of Sorrows Church, 23615 Power Rd., Farmington. Visitation Sunday 2-8 p.m. with a 7 p.m. rosary at the Heenev-Sundquist Funeral Home, 23720 Farmington Rd. (just N. of Grand River, btw. 9-10 Mile Rd.), downtown Farmington (248-474-5200). In lieu of flowers, memorial tributes suggested to the Parkinson's Foundation, [www.parkinsons.org](http://www.parkinsons.org). [heenev-sundquist.com](http://heenev-sundquist.com)



**ROBERT RICHARD WELCH**

Age 87, of Annapolis, MD and formerly of Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, died of respiratory failure on February 12, 2009 at Anne Arundel Medical Center in Annapolis surrounded by his children. Mr. Welch was born January 30, 1922 in Detroit, Michigan to the late George Welch and Grace McInerney Welch. He attended Lincoln High School and grew up in Pleasant Ridge, Michigan. The family owned a cottage at Higgins Lake and spent most summers there. He attended college and attained an Associates Degree. He was a Navy pilot in World War II and flew corsairs. He owned an outdoor advertising company in Detroit and was a small business owner and entrepreneur. He was committed to volunteerism and helped out at Focus Hope, a training school for the underprivileged. He also worked at a soup kitchen in Pontiac, Michigan for many years. He spent 13 summers in Ireland with his deceased friend, Mary McSherry Ward. He had a great interest in genealogy and his friends. He was divorced from the late Marian Rae and is survived by his children, Nancy Welch Almgren of Annapolis, Jon D. Welch of Murietta, California and Robert R. Welch, Jr. of Evergreen, Colorado. He is also survived by four grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. Inurnment will be at Arlington National Cemetery on Tuesday, April 14, 2009 at 11:00 a.m. Condolences can be sent through [www.johnmtaylorfuneralhome.com](http://www.johnmtaylorfuneralhome.com) In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to Focus Hope at [www.focushope.edu](http://www.focushope.edu).



**JOHN M. "JACK" FARR**

Age 81, of St. Clair. Died Wednesday, February 18, 2009. John was born in St. Clair, Michigan to the late Robert and Carroll (nee Jenks) Farr. John graduated from Washington University. He was a veteran of WW II serving US Navy. He married Phyllis Jean Farr on February 14, 1948 and she died July 3, 2006. John retired as President of the State Savings Bank of Fenton, and was a member of the Sarnia Yacht Club. John is survived by sons Robert (Laurie) Farr of Beverly Hills, MI, and Stephen (Grace) Farr of Yorba Linda, CA. Grandchildren Jennifer, Kristine, Sarah, David and Grace. In addition to his wife and parents, John was also preceded in death by a son David Farr, and brother Robert Farr. Cremation has taken place with a memorial service to be held at a later date at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, St. Clair. Memorials may be made in John's name to American Cancer Society. Arrangements by L.C. Friederichs & Son Funeral Home, St. Clair.

#### PAMELA M. HUMEN

Age 48, February 16, 2009, of Westland. Beloved wife of Robert. Dear mother of Katrina. Loving daughter of Claude and Constance Conn. Memorial contributions may be made to the Katrina Humen Education Fund. To share a memory with the family, please visit [vermeulenfuneralhome.com](http://vermeulenfuneralhome.com)



#### HAZEL "ELAINE" LODEN

Age 63, February 19, 2009. Dearest mother of Tony (Suzie) Loden. Loving grandmother of Tony Jr. and Jesse, and great-grandmother of Riley Ann. Dear sister of Carol Gooch, Dottie Downing, Lanny Haynes, Debbie Arrwood and the late Jonnie Sue King. Also survived by a large extended family. Memorial Service Monday, February 23, 6 p.m., at Abundant Life Church, 2100 Hannan Rd. Canton, MI 48188. Final resting place in Hornbeak, TN. Memorials in her honor suggested to the church. Arrangements by Generations Funeral & Cremation Services, Farmington Hills.

#### HAROLD E. MATTINGLY

Of Livonia. Age 84, went to be with the Lord on February 20, 2009. God looked down upon this earth and saw a tired face. He put his arm around him and lifted him to rest. He saw the road getting rough, and the hills were hard to climb, so he closed his eyes and whispered "peace be thine". Son of the late Elmer and Iva Mattingly; step-son of the late Pearl Mattingly; husband of Judith Mattingly; father of JoAnne McCulloch of White Lake, MI and Patricia Krulikowski (Alex); step-father of Sherri Haller (Jeff), Michelle Byrne (Michael) and Michael Reese (Susan); grandfather of Denise Wioskowski (Chris) and Kenneth Blinn, Jr.; step-grandfather of Heather Molnar (Jim), Adam, Daniel, Becky, Sara and Cathy Haller, Derek and Sean Riberdy, Evan and Olivia Byrne and Mark and Jany Krulikowski; great-grandfather of Gavin Wioskowski; brother of the late James Mattingly; brother-in-law of Juanita Mattingly. Mr. Mattingly served in the U.S. Navy during WWII and retired from Grand Trunk Rail Road. He liked to travel and attend family gatherings. A Celebration of Harold's Life will be held Monday, February 23, 2009, 11:00 a.m. at Donelson, Johns and Evans Funeral Home, Waterford. Interment to follow at Perry Mt. Park Cemetery. The family will receive friends at the funeral home Sunday 2-5 and 7-9 p.m. Memorial contributions may be made to Angela Hospice or the American Cancer Society. Envelopes available at the funeral home.

## A secret causes big expense to consumers

A secret is something that is private, not to be revealed and sometimes very mysterious. A little detective work in deceptive ways can bring to light what that secret is and so I give you what Ken recently wrote me about his front loading washing machine:

"A picture is worth a thousand words. My son sent me this picture of my washer and a way to fix the problem. My washer quit spinning the water out because the filter was plugged up and this picture shows just how to fix the problem. My washer is not on a pedestal and with lots of towels on the floor I drained the water out myself and fixed the problem. One more thing, from GE, they told me to run the washers with hot water and baking soda in a regular cycle to take care of the smelly water problem."



**Appliance Doctor**

Joe Gagnon

Thank you Ken, now I'll try to create a picture for the readers of this column.

Folks, Ken has a stinky problem with his front loader just like millions of other homeowners have across this coun-

try. He solved the problem, not with help from the manufacturer, but from his son who I suspect is an engineer.

On the front of his washer there is a lower panel which is removable. There are two screws on the bottom of the front panel which you can't see unless the washer sits on a pedestal. If the washer is just sitting on the laundry room floor you will have to tip it back to get to the two screws. Once you remove the front panel you will see a plastic cap the size of the palm of your little hand. It unscrews in the normal way.

Once you remove it there is going to be plenty of water that comes out of this hole plus a brush type of filter clogged with lint, guitar picks and whatever. From the way Ken described it in his phone call with me, you may want to pinch your nose with a clothes pin.

The odor will be worse than a skunk. This is the reason that Ken had a bunch of heavy bath towels lying on the floor in front of the washer.

Now if the washer is on a pedestal you will be able to let the water pour into a bucket or attach a hose to the spout. Or you could lift the washer up and place it on couple of cinder blocks.

Ken told me that because the washer wasn't draining out all

the water that the wash time had increased to three hours. He believes that the plugged filter caused this because now it works normally. He thinks that it is totally irresponsible of the company not to put down instructions on how to do this simple maintenance in their customer's instruction booklet. As a matter of fact, I think it is absolutely despicable that a manufacturer can create a problem in the life of a clothes washer knowing full well that the majority of consumers will have to spend money to have a trained service technician come out and do a job that so many of us are easily capable of doing. Plus, after millions of complaints regarding this national odor problem, why do they not give us the cause and solution?

Ken's machine is only three years and you know he will have to clean that filter again down the road. Oh how I wish for the old days when the lint filter was in or around the tub area and was easily removed to be cleaned. You didn't need to break someone's secret to clean it. It wasn't a secret! Stay tuned.

Joe Gagnon can be heard at 8 a.m., Saturdays on WAAM 1600 and Sundays at 2 p.m. on WDTK 1400. You can e-mail your problems and questions on appliances to [appldr@twm1.rr.com](mailto:appldr@twm1.rr.com).

# NEIGHBORS

## A family affair Pierogi business a labor of love

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN  
O&E STAFF WRITER

It's been a busy day at Lila's Pierogi but the family who owns the business remains unfrazzled. Waleria "Lila" Orłowska, son Antonio Calimazzo and his wife, Connie, love working together, although making 150 dozen of the Polish dumplings at a time is a chore.

A typical run is 90 dozen but they're preparing for the Easter rush. That's not easy because the Livonia shop offers 21 different fillings from potato and onion to mushroom with portabella and mozzarella. All are sold frozen so that gives them some breathing space between batches but it's not unusual for them to come in after church on Sunday to mix up the farmer's cheese or potato and cheddar, their best seller.

"You just don't quit. When you're ready to pass out you go home and sleep and then start again," said Antonio Calimazzo, who admits he's not too fond of onion day when the three peel and chop 50 pounds of the tear jerkers. He loves his pierogi fried in butter and onion though. Sons Luc, 7, and Logan, 8, love them straight out of the frying pan.

"Christmas is chaos when they're waiting outside the door. It's our busiest time when they load up for parties and to take to their families out of town," said Connie. "Once they try them they keep coming back. We have one family that comes once a month with a hamper, others with laundry



Lila Orłowska works with her son and daughter-in-law, Tony and Connie Calimazzo at their pierogi shop in Livonia. Here they're pictured in front of a mural by Orłowska.

baskets. We're busy before Christmas and through Easter and we're gearing up for Lent so we're stocking up."

### WORKING TOGETHER

In years past, the entire family pitched in. Antonio works construction so weekends and rainy days find him at the shop.

"My brother worked to 3 a.m. in the morning," said Lila Orłowska. "Connie's sister sometimes works and my mother and brother."

Lila (pronounced Leela) is proud of the authentic Polish recipe she learned at her mother's knee. Both were born in Poland and came to this country in 1967 when Lila was 14. Today Janina, age 82, doesn't help out much any more. She lives with Lila in Redford.

"We'll be here five years next month," said Orłowska. "It was my grandmother's recipe. I was named after my grandmother. She was a tough lady. We had four kids in our family. Mom made the oldest girls learn. They had to learn."

### ART AND PIEROGI

Orłowska's strength must have come from Waleria and Janina because she raised Antonio as a single mother from age 2 after her divorce. It took Orłowska 11 years to earn three arts degrees from College for Creative Studies and Oakland Community College in Farmington Hills, but she kept pursuing her dream of becoming a graphic artist. While she cleaned houses to pay the bills, Lila never stopped painting or making pierogi. She eventually opened the shop. Her mural of the Polish eagle is one of the first things customers see when they enter the door.

"It's a lot of hard work, but I never get enough of pierogi," said Lila.

Antonio couldn't agree more. Pierogi are a staple at the family's kitchen table.

"You don't get sick of them because then you just move on to another flavor. As far as the work, even on rough days we still have fun. We have fun constantly," said Antonio as he demonstrated how pierogi are filled two at a time and then the edges of the dough sealed in a machine.

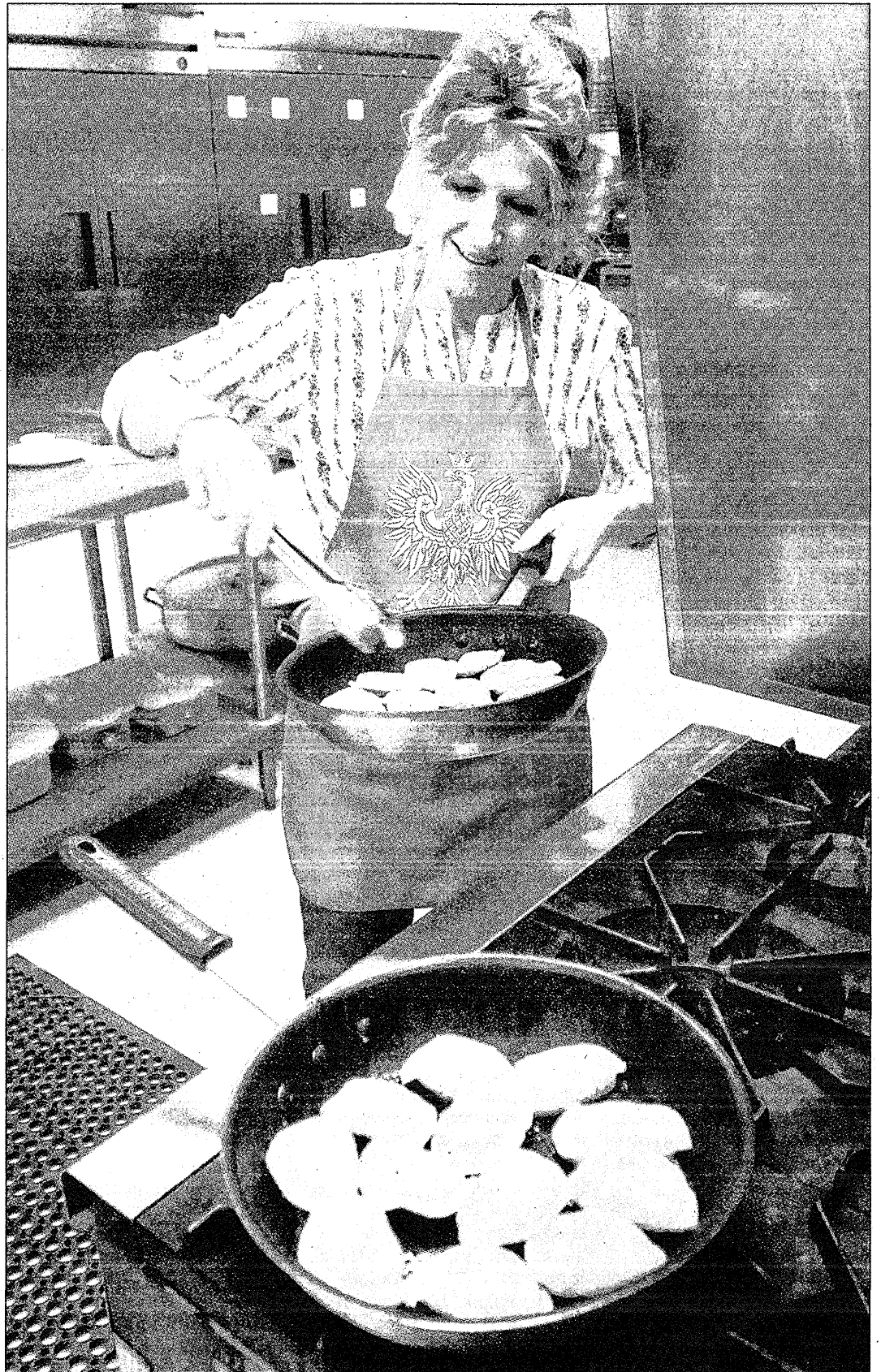
Annmmary Demyan is a regular customer at Lila's shop. A week ago Friday, she was picking up a dozen farmer's cheese pierogi.

"They're the best around," said Demyan of Redford. "I've told people in church about them. I come from a Slovak family. My mom used to make them. My sister and I tried a couple of times but it's a lot of work."

Lila's Pierogi is at 27811 Five Mile, between Middlebelt and Inkster roads. Hours are 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday-Friday, until 4 p.m. Saturday. Call (734) 421-7444 or visit www.lilaspierogi.com.



Potato and cheddar cheese pierogi are always a big seller at Lila's.



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Waleria "Lila" Orłowska fries up a batch of potato and cheese pierogi at Lila's Pierogi in Livonia.

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**SYMPATHETIC NEURODYSTROPHY**

The term sympathetic neurodystrophy is an example of a forbidding looking medical phase that breaks down to an understandable concept. "Sympathetic" refers to the sympathetic nervous system, a part of the body's neural system that controls the size of blood vessels. "Neuro" refers to the nerve endings that connect to the body's small arteries. "Dystrophy" means that a part of the body's machinery is not working right. The term, in total, states that the nerve endings are not regulating the blood vessels properly.

The main features of sympathetic neurodystrophy are swelling and pain, usually involving one hand or one foot. The problem comes on over several days and often is not associated with recent injury or an underlying condition such as diabetes.

A doctor cannot usually make a diagnosis of sympathetic neurodystrophy on the patient's first visit as the swelling and pain may mimic injury, gout, infection or a blood clot. These possibilities need evaluation, and at times trials of treatment for infection or arthritis. When therapy fails to bring improvement, the possible diagnosis arises of sympathetic neurodystrophy.

Initial treatment requires daily cortisone at a high dose for at least a month. Thereafter, the doctor slowly lowers the dose. Taking high dose-steroids for a prolonged period brings on unwanted side effects such as weight gain, irritability, hypertension, susceptibility to infection, and possibly diabetes. Unfortunately, to date no other regimen has successfully substituted for this draconian treatment.

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# Series addresses economic crisis

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN  
O & E STAFF WRITER

Rev. Paul Perez isn't thinking about basketball when he talks about March Madness. The name of the economic series was meant to illustrate the dire circumstances facing many families today.

Perez has seen the effects of the financial crisis first hand as it effects members of Newburg United Methodist Church where he is a deacon and directs adult and children education. That's why he's starting March Madness, a series of forums on surviving and thriving in the current economy. On Monday, March 2, Perez has invited Cindy LaFond and Tracey Emmanuel of the Livonia Housing Department to speak about Home Foreclosure. All forums start at 6 p.m. on Monday nights in March at the church in Livonia.

"The series came about from discussion with me and my pastor about how we can respond to the current economic crisis. We have church members, folks who have lost jobs, have foreclosed houses within their neighborhoods. I thought about issues folks may be facing and wanted to connect with folks in Livonia who could speak to the issues," said Perez, a Rochester Hills resident. "The financial crisis has hit close to home, at the church, if not

ourselves friends and family members."

Perez has lined up a number of experts in the community to share their knowledge. On March 9, Julie Puginni of Career Counseling at Schoolcraft College speaks about Career Transitions. March 16 is living in Anxious Times with Paul Melrose of the Samaritan Counseling Center. Sue Sweeney, department of Gerontology, Madonna University, redefines retirement on March 23. Closing the series is Observer & Eccentric columnist Rick Bloom of Bloom Asset Management focusing on Investing in a Down Economy.

"The series is a new thing for us, an opportunity to connect with the surrounding community on an important issue. Newburg as a faith community has been part of this community for 175 years and we have a lot of deep concern for the community," said Perez who grew up in Livonia. "We wanted to help the community while partnering with the community."

The forum is open to all communities not just Livonia. For more information, call (734) 422-0149. Newburg United Methodist Church is at 36500 Ann Arbor Trail, between Newburgh and Wayne roads, Livonia.

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

## MILESTONES

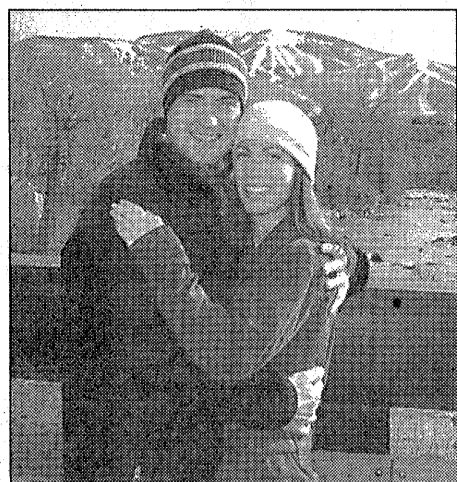
### Miriani-McLeod

Carolyn and Dean McLeod of Livonia are pleased to announce the engagement of their son, Matthew Dean McLeod, to Allison Renee Miriani, daughter of James and Barbara Miriani of Oakland Township.

Matt is a 1999 graduate of Livonia Stevenson High School and a 2003 graduate of Michigan State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering.

Allison is a 1999 graduate of Lake Orion High School. She also graduated from MSU in 2003 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Journalism. She is currently the news editor of the Steamboat Pilot & Today newspaper and co-editor of At Home in Steamboat Springs, Colorado.

Matt and Alli reside in Steamboat Springs where their April 2009 wedding will take place at Perry-Mansfield Performing Arts School.

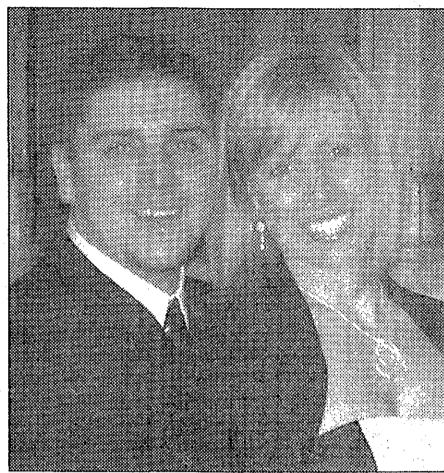


### Allen-Coleman

Jennifer Lyn Allen and Joshua Mark Coleman, both of Livonia, announce their engagement.

The bride-to-be is daughter of Tresa and Jim Stillely of West Jordan, Utah, and her fiancé is the son of Chris and Kim Coleman of Rochester.

They plan to marry in November 2009 in Rochester.



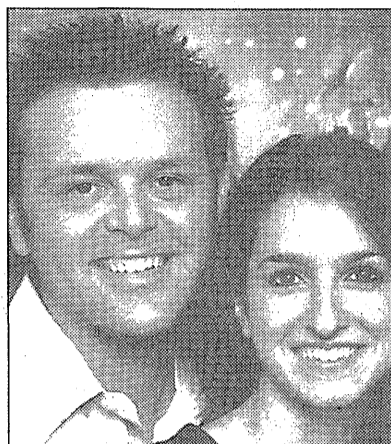
### Orza-Sergent

Alfredo and Anna Orza of Port Orange, Fla., are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter, Dr. Danielle Marie Orza, to Dr. Adam William Sergent, son of Jerry and Karen Sergent of Plymouth.

Danielle graduated from Spruce Creek High School in Port Orange in 2002, the University of Florida in 2005, and the University of St. Augustine in 2008.

Adam graduated from Franklin High School in Livonia in 1997, Madonna University in Livonia in 2002, and Palmer College of Chiropractic in Port Orange in 2006.

A spring wedding is set for May 16 at St. Paul's Basilica in Dayton Beach, Fla., followed by a reception at the Daytona Beach Hilton and a honeymoon in St. Lucia.

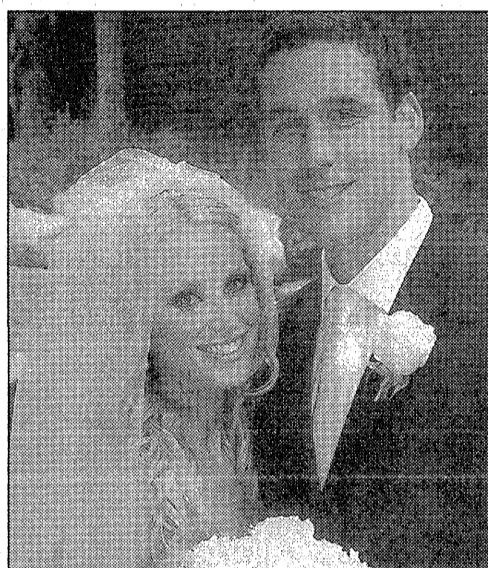


### Zengerle wedding

Sarah Plafchan and Ryan Zengerle were married on July 19, 2008 at The Chapel at St. John's in Plymouth.

The bride is the daughter of Larry and Rosemary Plafchan, of Farmington Hills. The groom is the son of Michael and Mary Ann Zengerle, of Fenton.

Sarah and Ryan are graduates of Michigan State University. Sarah is employed by DIRECTV in Chicago, as an account service representative. Ryan is a dental solutions specialist to Nobel Biocare in Chicago. The couple spent their honeymoon in Italy and they reside in Chicago.



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### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Department of Management and Budget, Office of Retirement Services and the Department of Labor and Economic Growth, State Office of Administrative Hearings and Rules

The Public School Retirement Board, the State Police Retirement Board, the Judges Retirement Board, and the State Office of Administrative Hearings and Rules will hold a public hearing on March 9, 2009, from 10:00am to 12:00pm. The hearing will be held in Conference Room A, 1st Floor of the General Office Building, 7150 Harris Drive, Dimondale, Michigan.

The public hearing is being held to receive comments from interested persons on the promulgation of General Rules: Adding R 38.1371 - R 38.1386 and rescission of R 38.1201, R 38.1203, R 38.1204 and R 38.1207 for the Public School Retirement Board; adding R 38.1761 - R 38.1886 for the State Police Retirement Board; and adding R 38.2171 - R 38.2186 for the Judges Retirement Board by the State Office Administrative Hearings and Rules.

The Rules for the State Office of Administrative Hearings and Rules are being promulgated under the authority of Executive Order 2005-1, MCL 445.2021. It is proposed that all of the Rules will take effect immediately after filing with the Secretary of State.

Comments may be presented in person and in writing at the time of the hearing. Comments may also be submitted by mail of FAX until March 9, 2009, at 5:00pm. Address any comments to:

Public School Retirement Board  
or  
State Police Retirement Board  
or  
Judges Retirement Board  
Attention: Executive Secretary to the Board  
P.O. Box 31070  
Lansing, Michigan 48909  
Or FAX: 517-322-6145

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Date: February 5, 2009 SOAHR# 2008-046 SR, 2008-047  
SR, 2008-048 SR

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## OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC NEWSPAPERS



Cleo Parker and her three English Bull Terriers Anna Nicole (left), Ada and Marley in their Livonia home.

# Learn about doggie quirks at shows

Marley and Madeleine have a lot in common with Clancy our Irish Wolfhound when it comes to stubbornness. The cute English Bull Terrier and large Great Pyrenees breeds require extra patience from the owner during obedience training just like our big guy.

Lucky for Cleo Parker, Marley's owner and Alexa White, Madeleine's mom, they're competing in conformation trials based on looks at the Detroit

Kennel Club Dog Shows Saturday, Feb. 28, and Sunday, March 1, at Cobo Hall in Detroit.

Parker fell in love with English Bull Terriers long before the Target dog in TV commercials made the breed popular. She lives with three of the dogs in Livonia where they have her wrapped around their paws. If they want a toy or treat they beg first on one side then the other and never give up. They might even lick an arm or leg to get what they want.

"They're extremely friendly with people and pretty much go up to anybody," said Parker. "They have a lot of personality and make you laugh with the things they do, but they're very independent and stubborn and can be hard to obedience train."

If you're looking to add a four-legged member to your family the DKC shows are a good way to find out about a particular breed's little quirks. Parker brought home her first English Bull Terrier at age 14 after saving her money and begging for a dog. Three-year-old Marley, CH

### DKC DOG SHOWS

**What:** Detroit Kennel Club spotlights more than 2,000 dogs in competition in two separate shows

**When:** 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 28, and Sunday, March 1, with Best in Show contenders entering the ring at 6 p.m.

**Where:** Cobo Hall, Detroit  
**Tickets:** \$12 adults, \$8 children under age 12 and seniors age 60 and over, free for children under age 2, \$35 for family packs of two adults and three children, and available at the door. For group rates, call (248) 540-5206

Nuance Nonsense, has won trophies in Canada and the U.S. Anna Nicole, Marley's mom, age 6, and Anna's mother Ada, almost 11, have retired to a nice cozy couch in Parker's home.

"The DKC shows are a bench show to meet with the general public," said Parker who's been breeding the dogs since 1985. "When you're not rushed going into and out of the ring, it gives you a chance to educate people."

Parker showed her first dog at 16 in the DKC shows in the early 1970s as a junior handler. This year Alexa White is one of the competitors getting her feet wet in the ring with her first show dog, United Kennel Club CH Depyrmont La Belle Absolue. The 16-year-old Livonia girl has wanted to become a professional handler since attending a match several years ago. Many young people share her dream. That's why the DKC is shutting down the rings from noon to 1 p.m. Saturday for youth to talk to handlers from prestigious shows such as Westminster.

White probably could use



Alexa White of Livonia is showing her nearly one-year-old puppy Madeleine in the Detroit Kennel Club Dog Shows at Cobo Hall.

a few tips since Madeleine is still a puppy at nearly one year old.

"I have to compete against all the kids ages 9 to 18. It's broken down into six classes of handling skills," said White, a student at Livonia's Stevenson High School. "They judge on how you groom and present yourself. If the dog misbehaves you can't lose your cool."

"Depyrmont La Belle Absolue means the absolutely beautiful in French. She is all white with some reddish color on her back. I love their temperament. They're very stubborn and independent but very loyal, a good watchdog, and I love all of the hair."

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

## REUNION CALENDAR

The Reunion Calendar runs Sundays in the newspaper as space allows, and online in its entirety at [www.hometownlife.com](http://www.hometownlife.com). Submit your reunion announcement at least two weeks in advance to Linda Chomin, e-mail [lchomin@hometownlife.com](mailto: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](mailto:email4kelley@yahoo.com), or see [groups.yahoo.com/group/brighton-classof1989](http://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](http://www.casstech59.com) or contact Marge Teramino Knable, [reunion@casstech59.com](mailto:reunion@casstech59.com); Debbie Friedman, (248) 626-3729; or Steve Sperling, (248) 360-9658.

### Dearborn Fordson

#### Class of 1969

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

### Dearborn Heights Riverside

#### Class of 1967

A 42-year reunion is planned for Sept. 18-19, 2009. Event includes: Friday night graduate-only get-together with pizza and salad (\$10) at DeLuca's, 27424 W. Warren Rd., Westland; Saturday night dinner at Joy Manor, 28999 Joy Rd., Westland. Tickets for Saturday event are \$35 per person. Contact Gerry Porta for more information at (734) 718-9401 or [gwiatr@gmail.com](mailto:gwiatr@gmail.com).

### Detroit St. Brigid

#### Class of 1959

Planning a reunion and looking for classmates. Contact [szonyek@att.net](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:ford21982@aol.com) or visit our FREE class webpage on [www.classreport.org](http://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](mailto:JudyCoo@hotmail.com) or (734) 675-0148 or Pete Rakowski at [PJcruisin@wowway.com](mailto:PJcruisin@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](mailto: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](http://www.gardencity89.com) or contact Paula at [gchis1989reunion@hotmail.com](mailto:gchis1989reunion@hotmail.com).

### Grosse Pointe North

#### Class of 1991

Call (800) 677-7800, visit [www.taylorreunions.com](http://www.taylorreunions.com) or e-mail: [info@taylorreunions.com](mailto: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](mailto:nc6897@sbcglobal.net).

### Livonia Bentley High School

#### Classes of 1968-1970

Combined class reunion Friday, Nov. 27, 2009, at the Radisson Hotel Detroit-Livonia, I-275 and Six Mile. For details, visit [www.bentley686970.org](http://www.bentley686970.org) to e-mail, or call Connie (Scarlett) Flynn class of '68' at (734) 812-7936, Bev (Valentine) Wilkie class of '69 at (248) 366-6492 or Colleen Siembar class of '70 at (734) 455-1395.

### Livonia Franklin

#### Class of 1969

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

### Livonia Thurston

Class of 1972 37th Reunion/55th Birthday Bash May 2, 2009, at Mama Mia Restaurant in Livonia. For more information, contact [ths72reunion@gmail.com](mailto:ths72reunion@gmail.com) or call (248) 348-9214.

*Special tickets available Wednesday!*

# Divine Stella Devine

written by  
Eddie McPherson

Produced by special arrangement with Pioneer Drama Services, Inc., Englewood, Colorado

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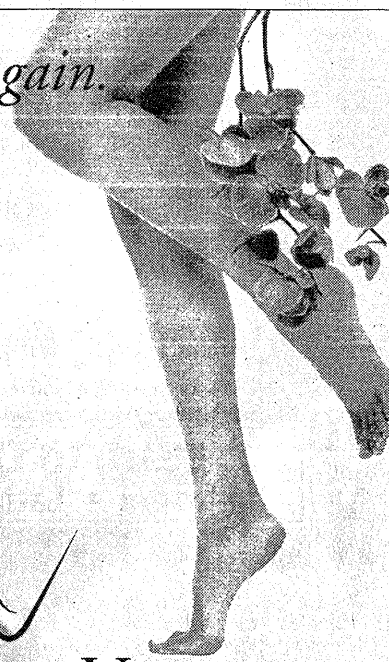


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# HEALTH & FITNESS

## Moving on

EMDR unlocks traumatic events frozen in time

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN  
O & E STAFF WRITER

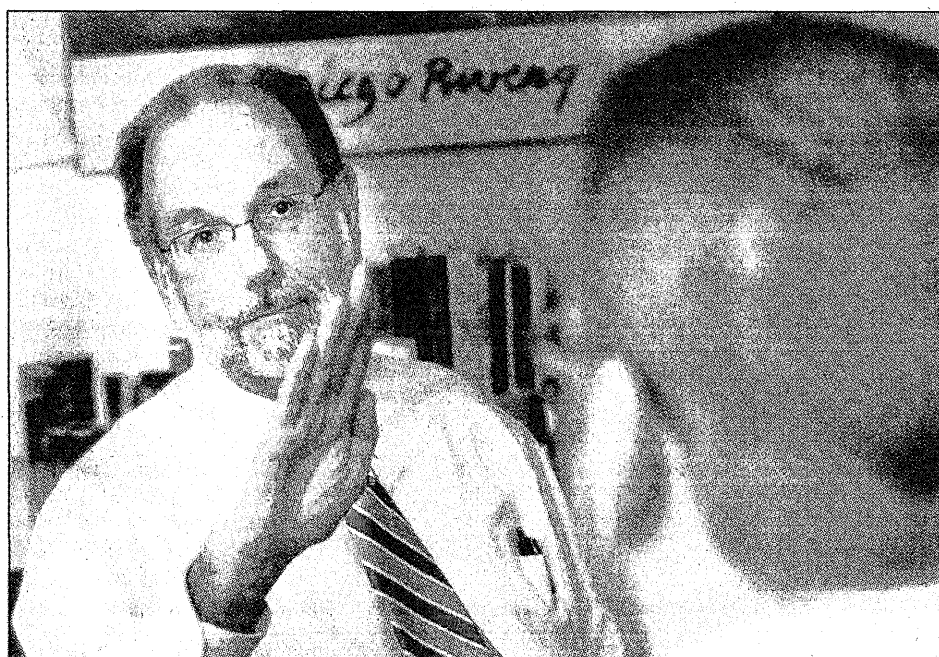
More than 10 years after Dan Chaloux's grandmother died he was still having problems dealing with his grief. It wasn't until the 39-year old Farmington man started having flashbacks that he sought help from psychotherapist David Breeden at Life Cyle Family Counseling in Livonia.

Complicated grief is one of the traumatic events in which Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing (EMDR) can be used to unlock and resolve disturbing events that remain frozen in time. Chaloux had been partying with a friend on Super Bowl Sunday and missed the call that his grandmother was dying. Family thought his presence might have strengthened her will to live since the two were close. Chaloux's grandmother helped raise him.

"It was like I was living through it all again," said Chaloux who admits he felt guilty about not being there before she slipped into a coma. "I had wonderful memories of my grandmother. I'm who I am because of my grandparents. EMDR is a way to touch base with those feelings. It brought up a conversation I had prior to her passing away about how proud she was of me and loved me and I blocked it out. EMDR made me feel better. It was very enlightening. You're talking your way through it."

Chaloux went from not being able to visit her gravesite to sharing memories of her with his young children after EMDR. Last Tuesday Breeden demonstrated the method in his office. Chaloux was asked to focus on the traumatic event and follow Breeden's hand with his eyes back and forth for about 30 seconds of bilateral stimulation. Typically EMDR is used for 15 to 20 sets a visit for several sessions.

"We're not sure why or how it works but it begins to reduce the anxiety that's part of the trauma. EMDR allows communication to occur within the client," said Breeden



Psychotherapist David Breeden demonstrates how EMDR is used to unlock and resolve disturbing thoughts surrounding traumatic events.



Psychotherapist David Breeden (left) listens as Dan Chaloux talks about how he was helped by Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing.

of Beverly Hills, "The traumatic event is stuck, locked in a disturbing area like a hot spot and you can't touch it. The effect of the trauma is the world looks a little less safe. I believe anxiety disorders are rooted in traumatic events and could be helped. EMDR helps with any disturbance."

Psychologist Francine Shapiro discovered the method of psychotherapy back in 1987 to help Vietnam War veterans suffering with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. Breeden has used EMDR to deal with a variety of traumatic events from a teen who suffered child

abuse to youth frightened by nightmares and thunderstorms, and an adult afraid to drive on expressways after witnessing a truck accident.

Clients dredge up the emotionally disturbing memories while focusing on external stimulus such as a hand or sound so it's essential that Breeden assesses them first through a history. If their anxiety over the trauma has remained high on a scale of 1 to 10 over time then EMDR might help especially if talk therapy has failed. Breeden begins by giving clients a safe place to retreat if the memories become too much. Chaloux recalled sights, sounds and smells of the beach.

"It's important to tell if somebody is ready to do this," said Breeden. "With Dan 10 years later it was still a 10 plus. Clients therefore develop negative beliefs about themselves and begin to say I'm a failure. It's the legacy of trauma. With EMDR the number begins to come down and helps a person instill a positive belief about themselves."

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

### HEALTH & WELLNESS

#### FEBRUARY

##### 'Go Red' luncheon

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

##### Lupus support group

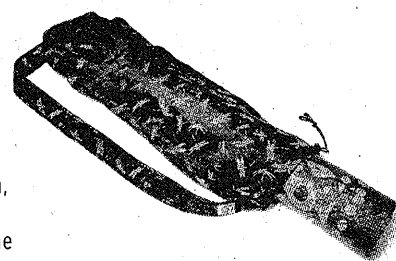
The Lupus Alliance hosts a free meeting 6:30-7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 25, at the Lupus Alliance of America's office, 26507 Harper, St. Clair Shores. Guest speaker is Chuck Pottenger on how memory is affected by lupus. Call (800) 705-6677 to pre-register or for more information online at www.milupus.org.

##### Families in action workshops

The National Association for Mental Illnesses 10-week educational program begins 7-9 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 25, at St. Regis Parish School Campus in Bloomfield Hills. The program is for people with a loved one diagnosed with a serious mental illness. The workshop meets either every Wednesday or Thursday evening and ends on April 29/30. The goal is to help families better understand mental illness, how it affects the family and what they can do to help. A nominal fee of \$20 per person or \$30 per couple will be charged at the time of registration. Families In Action is funded in large part by the Oakwood Healthcare Foundation and the Oakwood Heritage Hospital Auxiliary. Call Mary Ellen at (248) 348-7197. Space is limited, so pre-registration required.

##### Thyroid cancer support

The group is free and open to all thyroid cancer patients and survi-



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

##### Go Red Auction

A silk butterfly yoga mat bag from Blue Lotus in Franklin (www.bluelotusyogawear.com) is up for auction at the American Heart Association's Go Red Luncheon Feb. 25. It is among 30 purses, totes, satchels and clutches donated by the community and gathered by the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers for the cause.

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

##### Reconnect with food

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

##### Winter fitness classes

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

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**A Note from Florine**  
There are a few four letter words that shouldn't be said in polite company and I'm adding another one: "Diet". Dieting implies a temporary change in eating habits. Losing a pound or two is one thing, but achieving a healthy weight takes more than just a diet. It takes a commitment to better eating habits and sensible portion control. Don't deny yourself the foods you love, just add things that are good for you. Cut up some carrots for a snack, instead of grabbing some chips or enjoy an apple to curb your mid-meal hunger.

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