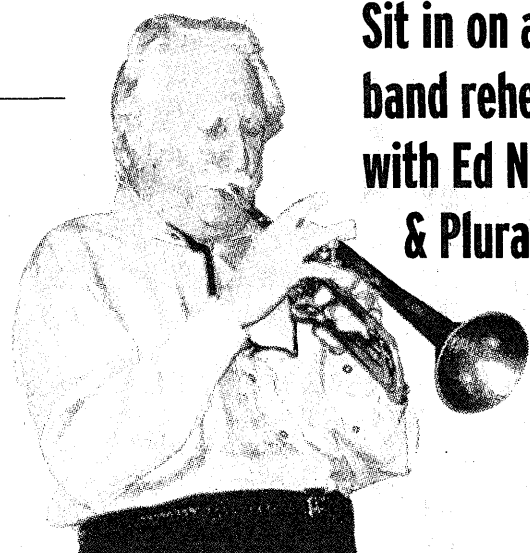


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& Plural Circle

Filter, B9

PIPELINE

New deadlines

Deadlines have been extended on a pair of popular local scholarship programs.

Applicants shooting for the Sagar Rotary Scholarship now have until Wednesday, April 8, to submit their applications.

Meanwhile, the deadline for the Damaris Fine Arts Award has been extended to April 27, to accommodate students entering work in the PCCS 2009 Art Exhibit.

The Sagar scholarships are handed out each year by the Rotary Club of Plymouth A.M., which awards several \$500 scholarships to Plymouth-Canton district high school seniors who have displayed courage, perseverance, spirit and creativity in succeeding in achieving an education despite a physical, mental or emotional barrier.

The Damaris Fine Arts Award comes from the Plymouth Community Arts Council and recognizes a Plymouth-Canton Schools senior who has displayed outstanding abilities in visual arts and plans to continue an education in this field.

Interested students should contact Debra Madonna via e-mail at clarion@storytellerdesign.com or by calling (734) 453-2781.

Easter egg hunts

The Plymouth Lions Club sponsors an Easter egg hunt at Plymouth Township Park Saturday, April 11.

The park is located off Ann Arbor Trail at McClumpha. The hunt will begin promptly at 10 a.m. Don't forget to bring your baskets, bags and cameras.

Organizers will also be collecting hearing aids, eyeglasses and cell phones.

For more information, e-mail Debbie Baudino-Dowling at debbaudino@hotmail.com, call (734) 207-7464 or see the Web site at www.plymouth-lionsclub.org

Plymouth businesses are banding together to sponsor "The Great Easter Egg Hunt" in downtown Plymouth's Kellogg Park 1-2 p.m. Saturday, April 11.

Some 20,000 Easter eggs will each be stuffed with candy and select eggs will have a ticket to redeem for large toys. Easter bags are also offered as a free gift for gathering eggs.

Maggie Moo's is sponsoring a Coloring Contest, and children will receive a coupon just for entering. Caribou Coffee in Plymouth is offering free coffee at the event. Disney characters will be signing autographs while children can dance to kiddie music.

The event is sponsored by Maggie Moo's, Caribou Coffee and Real Life Plymouth, a new community awareness and service group.

Finances fuel fire merger talks

BY MATT JACHMAN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Facing falling tax revenue and tightening budgets, area officials have revived the idea of sharing firefighting and emergency medical services through a combined fire department.

Plymouth Township Supervisor Richard Reaume said Wednesday that he recently had informal discussions with officials from Northville Township about merging its fire department with the Plymouth Community Fire Department, which serves the township and the city of Plymouth.

Reaume called the talks very preliminary.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Should Plymouth Township officials explore the possibility of sharing fire services to save money? E-mail your thoughts to Editor Brad Kadrich at bkadrich@hometownlife.com or post a comment on our Web site at www.hometownlife.com.

"We just agreed to at least look at it," he said.

Officials in the two communities are examining each department's union contracts, fire department finances and emergency run history, he said, and have agreed to do a feasibility

study.

Reaume said he couldn't estimate the savings combining the departments might yield.

"It's so preliminary, we have no idea," he said.

The PCFD has a budget of approximately \$4 million a year; the city of Plymouth contributes roughly \$1 million; the township pays for the rest and manages the department of about 25.

Plymouth City Manager Paul Sincock said discussions, formal and informal, about combining area fire departments have a long history. Former Mayor Dan Dwyer, Sincock said, spent a lot of time on the issue, and involved Canton Township and the

cities of Livonia and Westland, but the idea was disbanded.

"I'm sure the township's looking at the same kind of budget issues we're looking at," Sincock said.

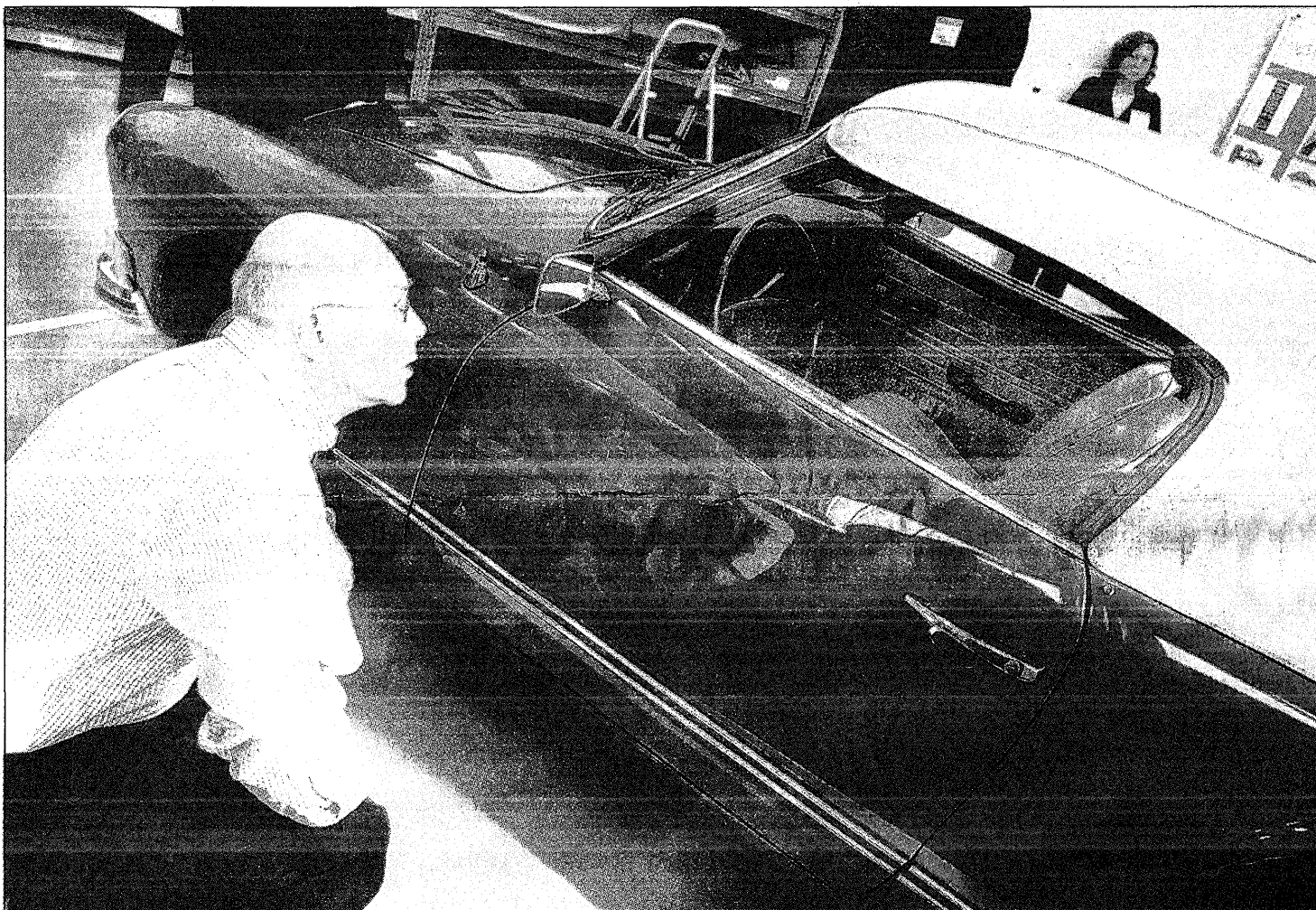
The Plymouth and Plymouth Township fire departments were combined in the mid-1990s.

Reaume said the firefighters unions will be brought into the picture as the township's discussions with Northville Township progress.

Fire Lt. Rick Tefend, president of International Association of Firefighters Local 1496, which represents PCFC firefighters, said he'd

Please see **MERGER, A4**

Market-driven



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Tom Siligato of Farmington Hills admires the replacement ragtop on a 1974 Karmann Ghia. At last count, Siligato owns eight Volkswagens.

Vintage climate drives car-top maker's new venture

BY MATT JACHMAN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Defying Michigan's chilly economy and Rust Belt location, the folks at Karmann USA are seeing sunny days ahead — in convertibles.

The Plymouth Township company, which has its roots in the 108-year-old German carmaker, announced Tuesday the launch of a new division, Karmann Classics, that will restore and build tops for vintage Karmann

Ghia and Volkswagen Beetle convertibles.

"These vehicles, really, are carriers of the Karmann name," Erik Roeren, president and chief executive officer of Karmann USA, said during a media event at the company's headquarters. "Now is the right time for me," he added.

Karmann USA, which has both manufacturing and research and

Please see **VENTURE, A3**



Karmann's facility will build and fit new convertible tops on vintage Beetles or Karmann Ghias.

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Fund-raiser turns into 'hair'y experience

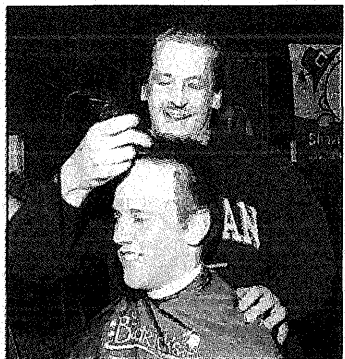
BY BRAD KADRICH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Plymouth Township resident Eric Baczynski needed a haircut anyway, so why not make it for a good cause?

That's why Baczynski decided to take part in a fund-raiser for the St. Baldrick's Foundation, a charity dedicated to raising awareness and funds to cure kids' cancer by supporting cancer research and fellowships.

The organization raised more than \$51 million between 2000 and 2008. During that time, more than 73,000 shaves — more than 5,200 women — have shaved their heads at more than 1,700 St. Baldrick's events in 48 U.S. states, Washington D.C. and 18 countries.

"I was just going to get a regular haircut and then I thought, 'Why not do something positive out of it, as well?'" said Baczynski, a constituent



Plymouth Township resident Eric Baczynski gets his head shaved for charity by his dad, Robert.

analyst for Attorney General Mike Cox. "I know how thankful I am for my daughter's health and I figured participating is the least I can do to support children who suffer from such a terrible disease."

Baczynski researched potential charities online and found St.

Baldrick's which, on its Web site, claims to be the world's largest volunteer-driven fund-raising event for childhood cancer research.

Baczynski raised \$430 (including \$345 in online donations) for the event, which wound up raising some \$10,000 for children's cancer research. Baczynski chose a 4-year-old little girl named Brooke from Escanaba to honor with his donation. Brooke, he said, was diagnosed more than two years ago with acute lymphoblastic leukemia and is now nearly fully recovered.

"It looked like a unique and fun way to give back to those less fortunate," said Baczynski, whose father, Robert, wielded the razor. "I know how blessed my life has been and anything I can do to help out those in need is just my way of saying thanks."

Visit www.stbaldricks.org/index.php for more information.

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Wonder 'bread'

Walkers hope fund-raiser gets money flowing

BY BRAD KADRICH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

None of the seven members of a team which has dubbed itself "The Wonder Broads" has ever been diagnosed with breast cancer.

But between them, they know nearly three dozen women, including mothers and sisters, friends and family, who have either survived - or succumbed to - the disease.

That's reason enough for the seven of them to take part in the Michigan Breast Cancer 3-Day in August.

"We walk for many reasons but our greatest common goal is to pay tribute to the many women we have been asked to honor with our efforts," said Wonder Broad Gina Schremser. "Our group strongly believes that we have all been richly blessed, and it's our duty to give back."

The Wonder Broads - Plymouth residents Schremser, Melissa Amin, Marti Chamberlain, Alice Ahearn and Cindy Rutyna, Canton resident Sally Mitchell and Dimondale resident Carolyn "Sparky" Hutting - grew out of a



The Wonder Broads - (back, from left) Marti Chamberlain, Sparky Hutting, Melissa Amin, and Alice Ahearn and (front, from left) Gina Schremser, Sally Mitchell, Cindy Rutyna - will walk in the Michigan Breast Cancer 3-Day in August.

book club to which five of the seven belong. Another member is mom to one of the women, and the seventh is a running partner.

The book club that spawned The Wonder Broads

is a 12-member group that has morphed more into a group of good friends who happen to all enjoy reading. Charitable deeds have become important to them and, when one suggested the

RAISING AWARENESS

- **What:** Pancake breakfast and used-book sale fund-raiser
- **When:** 9-11 a.m. Saturday, April 4
- **Where:** Plymouth VFW Hall, 1426 Mill
- **Why:** To raise money for The Wonder Broads, a seven-member team walking in the Breast Cancer 3-Day in August
- **Cost:** Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5 for children under 10, and \$25 for a family of 4 or more.

3-Day, the group was up for it.

While some will walk, others will do what they do best: Provide support.

"They'll have Starbucks, band-aids, fresh socks and anything else we need during the walk," Schremser said. "They'll be with us the whole way."

The support starts Saturday, when the group hosts a pancake breakfast fund-raiser and used-book sale at the Plymouth VFW Hall. The Wonder Broads hope to raise some \$16,000 for the 3-Day, and will use Saturday's fund-raiser to kick it off.

They'll have a fairly heavy bat to use Saturday; former Michigan Gov. Jim

Blanchard will attend the fund-raiser. Blanchard and his wife, Janet, are long-time supporters of the 3-day and Susan G. Komen for the Cure.

"Janet and I are thrilled to sponsor the team's pancake breakfast and used book sale," Blanchard said in a statement released by the Wonder Broads. "We're proud of the fact that Michigan has so many dedicated people giving their time and money to find a cure for this, the most common cancer among women of all ages, and the one that takes the life of one woman every 13 minutes in the United States."

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BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Erik Roeren is President and CEO of Karmann USA.

VENTURE
FROM PAGE A1

development facilities on Pilot Drive, builds convertible tops for a range of cars, including some domestic models. The new Karmann Classics is already well-established, Roeren said: a work area has been dedicated, workers have been trained by vintage car experts from Germany, and some convertible tops have been finished.

The new division is not expected to create jobs in the near future.

Karmann Classics will work with the owners of old Karmann Ghia and VW convertibles to restore, or rebuild, tops for their cars. The scope of work will vary from customer to customer; some tops may only need new fabric, while others may need to be completely rebuilt.

"For us, it's critical to work with the customer," Roeren said.

The tops won't be mass-produced, he said, but fitted to individual cars. Fit specifications are tight, he said, and time and weather are likely to have changed the vintage convertibles. Transportation of the cars will be arranged if needed, he said.

Several Volkswagen and Karmann Ghia enthusiasts attended the launch event.

"This kind of service is at a quality level that is yet unknown in the restoration business," said John Deikis of Chelsea, president of the Michigan Vintage VW Club, which will hold its annual car show at Karmann

USA next month.

"This is a wonderful day for my community of vintage Karmann Ghia owners," said Richard Troy of Cheboygan, who restores and collects vintage cars.

Troy said the winters are likely to have taken a toll on vintage cars in the region.

"Karmann has a much more difficult job than it might appear," Troy said. "These cars will be rusty in all the critical structures."

Roeren said Karmann Classics will initially target vintage Beetle and Karmann Ghia convertible owners in a 250-mile radius, including in Michigan, Ohio, Indiana and Ontario. He said research shows roughly 12,000 Beetle convertibles and 3,000 Karmann Ghia convertibles in the targeted area.

But, he said, the plan is to eventually expand into areas, such as Los Angeles and Miami, that have more convertible-friendly weather. In addition, Roeren said, company officials also intend to expand Karmann Classics into convertible-top restoration for all types of convertibles.

He said Karmann Classics is not expected to amount to more than 5 percent or 10 percent of Karmann USA's business.

Company officials said restorations should range from about \$1,000 to \$3,000 each, depending on the time and parts required. Karmann Ghia enthusiast Troy, who said he has restored convertible tops, called that price range extremely competitive.

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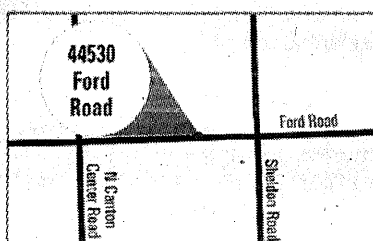
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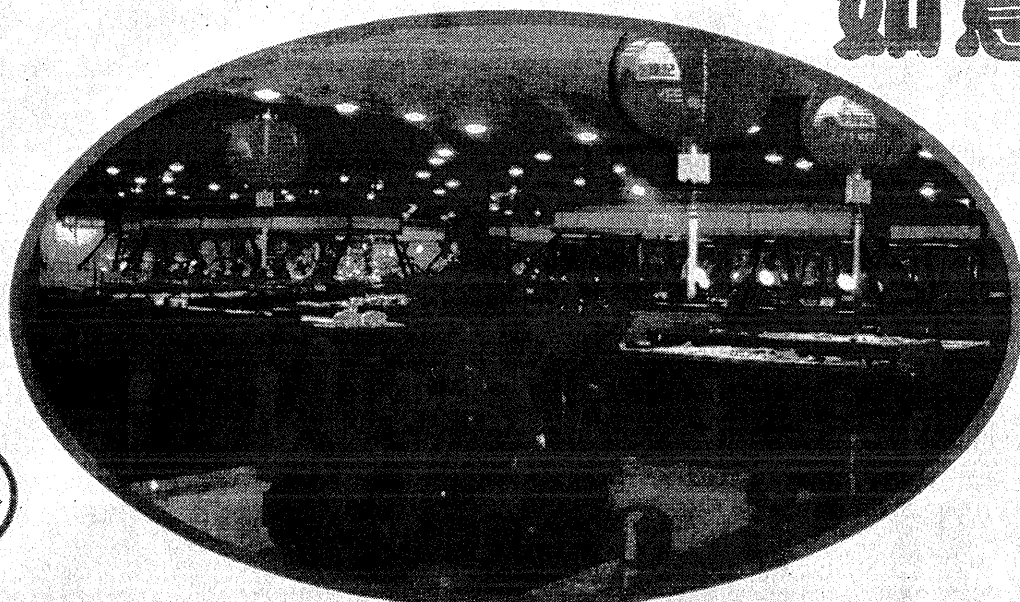
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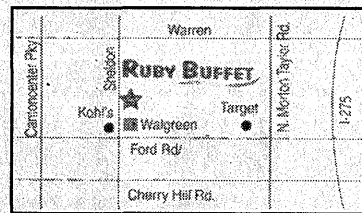
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PUBLIC SAFETY

4 teens arrested following report of gun

Four teenagers were arrested on various charges March 23 after a report that someone was brandishing a pistol while riding in a car in the area of Canton Center Road and Wildwing.

No one was hurt; the pistol turned out to be a BB gun. Police searched the area after the report came in just after 4 p.m., and officers stopped four boys in a blue Chrysler Sebring in the parking lot of the CVS drug store at Sheldon and Ann Arbor roads, a Plymouth Township Police Department report said.

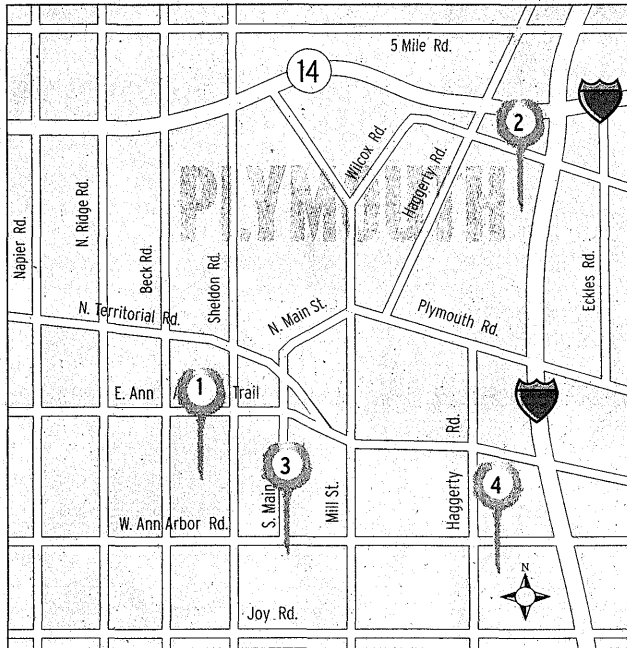
A BB pistol was found in a map pocket, police said, and a small amount of what turned out to be marijuana was found tucked under a seat. One of the teens told police they had been smoking a "blunt," and police say they also found an electronic scale in the glove compartment. A 15-year-old Plymouth boy was arrested on charges of marijuana and drug paraphernalia possession.

Two other boys, a Plymouth 16-year-old and a Canton Township 15-year-old, were arrested for underage possession of a BB gun, and the 16-year-old on an additional charge of underage tobacco possession. The fourth boy, 17, of Canton, was also arrested on a tobacco possession charge.

All four were later issued citations and released to their parents.

Pot possession

An unoccupied car led police to a man carrying a small amount of marijuana near I-275 and Hines Drive Saturday evening. The 23-year-old Westland resident was arrested on marijuana and drug paraphernalia pos-



session charges.

According to a township police report, a patrolling officer spotted the 1996 Chrysler near Hines Drive and Sycamore shortly before 6 p.m. The car smelled of burned marijuana, police said.

The officer headed down a footpath and encountered two men on a freeway overpass, police said. One of them smelled of marijuana and, during a pat-down, the officer found a plastic bag of suspected marijuana in a pocket of his pants, police said.

A field test confirmed the substance in the bag was marijuana, police said. The suspect admitted to having a pipe in his car, police said, and the officer found it.

The suspect's companion was released.

Paraphernalia arrest

A township officer who spotted a man leaving a business long after closing time March 18 arrested him on a drug paraphernalia

charge after finding scales, a pipe and "blunt" wrappers — paper used to make cigar-sized marijuana cigarettes — in his car.

The incident took place near Ann Arbor Road and Main Street, police said, where the officer saw the man pull out of a Boston Market parking lot shortly after 1 a.m., police said.

When speaking to the driver, police said, the officer saw a pipe in a door handle of the car. A search of the car turned up the scales and the "blunt" wrappers, police said.

The suspect, 20, of Livonia, also faces a charge of driving with a suspended license.

Shoplifting arrests

Two suspected shoplifters, both of Plymouth Township, were chased down by police shortly after using bicycles to flee the Kmart on Ann Arbor Road on March 11.

Police were called to the store around 2:30 p.m. on a report that two men were

removing the packaging from compact discs and concealing the discs on their persons, a police report said.

Upon arriving, one officer spotted a man on a bicycle being chased by a security guard, police said. The officer stopped the man. Police then stopped the second suspect, who was also on a bike.

Three CDs and a digital video disc were recovered. The suspects, 22 and 24, were released on personal bonds.

By Matt Jachman

Fire Runs

The Plymouth Community Fire Department responded to the following runs during the period March 25-31:

- Tuesday, March 31 - Rescue run to a public building on Haggerty; vehicle accident with wash-down at M-14 and Beck; vehicle accidents with mutual aid and a wash-down on westbound M-14 at Sheldon and at 5 Mile and Haggerty; residential rescue runs on South, on Pinewood (mutual aid), on Green Valley and on Northville Road.

- Monday, March 30 - Residential rescue runs on Wilson, on Sheridan, on Spicer, on Plymouth Ridge and on Burroughs; rescue run on Ann Arbor Trail; vehicle accident on northbound I-275 at M-14.

- Sunday, March 29 - Residential rescue run on Brougham.

- Saturday, March 28 - Residential rescue run on Pinecrest.

- Friday, March 27 - Residential rescue runs on Evergreen, on Sheldon, on Northville Road and on Old Pond Circle; rescue run to a public building on Canton Center Road.

Canton, Livonia optimistic about merging dispatch

BY TONY BRUSCATO
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Canton Township and Livonia are moving forward with discussions on the consolidation of police and fire department dispatch centers.

Canton Executive Director John Santomauro said the next step is for consultant Plante & Moran to develop a feasibility study on consolidation.

"They are doing the majority of the consolidation studies, right now, in the state," Santomauro said. "They are gathering some preliminary information for us for the purpose of submitting a grant request through various funding sources to hopefully fund the consolidation study."

Santomauro said there is money available through Wayne County for studies on consolidation of services.

"Our purpose is to evaluate the efficiency of the merger of dispatch and the cost-effectiveness," Santomauro said. "At the end of the day, if we end up with a cost-effective way to deliver dispatch service and both communities are assured the dispatch center is accountable in delivering services, we certainly will move in that direction."

Livonia Police Chief Bob Stevenson said he's excited about the possibilities.

"Such as the synergy that comes with the two departments working

together, which allows for the same amount of work to be done, but overall would cost less," Stevenson said. "The reality of today's world is that we no longer can do business as we always have, so we need to look at partnerships."

"We would be doing a disservice to our communities if we didn't look to combine services where we can," he added. "Regionalization of services is driving the bus right now, and this is one of those projects."

Canton Finance Director Rick Eva said it costs the township about \$1.1 million annually to pay salaries and benefits for the township's dispatch center, which has 18 dispatchers.

One immediate common goal for the two communities, which helped spur the discussions, is the fact the Livonia Police Department is in the process of replacing its radio system and Canton police are looking to buy one.

Both Santomauro and Stevenson believe if they can make dispatch consolidation work, it could lead to other combined services and expand to other communities.

"If this concept becomes a reality, we're very optimistic this will open the door for an even larger consolidation of dispatch in the western Wayne County area," Santomauro said. "One natural evolution of central dispatch is consolidation of lockup facilities."

MERGER

FROM PAGE A1

heard of the talks, but didn't know what transpired.

"We've been kept in the dark," he said. "We haven't been given any information on it."

Union officials are to meet with Reaume on the topic next week, he said.

"We are sympathetic to economic times and we're always willing to take

a look at ideas the township has" for saving money, Tefend said.

In a related development, officials from Livonia and Canton are studying the possibility of combining police and fire dispatch services.

That proposal could be broadened to include Plymouth and Northville townships and other western Wayne County communities, Reaume said.

"I don't think that's ever been looked at before," he said.

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Non-athletes can learn from sports stars' money mistakes

You can't go anywhere these days without hearing or reading something about the economy. I pulled out my *Sports Illustrated* recently and there was an article — with a different twist — on what's happening in the economy.

The article dealt with athletes and how they go through money and what was a surprise was some of the statistics cited. For example, according to the *SI* article, 75 percent of all NFL players are in bankruptcy or in serious financial shape two years after they retire. Of course, you are asking how someone could be in serious financial shape when they have made millions and millions of dollars. As I always say, it is not what you make, it is what you save.

The *SI* article pointed out some of the common problems athletes have when it comes to investing money. There are some lessons to be learned from their mistakes. What's not surprising is one of the common mistakes athletes made was dealing with unscrupulous finan-

cial advisers. It is amazing how many athletes have been conned out of millions by their financial adviser. Dealing with the wrong financial adviser is not unique to athletes. It happens to many people. The lesson to learn from athletes is the importance of dealing with the right financial adviser. I believe the majority of individuals should be dealing with fee-only financial advisers. Fee-only financial advisers do not work on commissions. They are independent from investment products. One of the problems many investors have is that they're getting advice from an adviser who has an inherent conflict of interest. When there is commission involved, you have to ask where is the loyalty. Is it to the product or to the investor? I believe an investor should deal with an adviser whose loyalty is to the investor and only the investor. Another common subject amid the athlete's stories was excessive fees. Unfortunately, it's not only athletes who are paying excessive fees. For as long as I have been involved in the investment world, I have always preached to investors the need to understand fees. Never buy an invest-



Money Matters
Rick Bloom

ment unless you know what it cost to buy, to sell and to hold. Fees matter and if you don't ask about fees there is no doubt that you will be taken advantage of. The reality of the situation is high fees equal low returns. Particularly in today's financial environment, high fees make it impossible for an investor to make money. Another common issue involving athletes and their money is that they get involved in deals that are "can't miss." As far as I am concerned, investments and deals described this way are those to walk away from. All investments have risks. When an investment sounds too good to be true, it generally is. Athletes have some unique issues when it comes to investing. After all, very few of us will ever make the money they do. However, we can learn from their mistakes and become better investors. The result of becoming a better investor is that more money stays in your pocket, exactly where it belongs.

Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial adviser. Observer & Eccentric readers can submit questions at moneymatters@hometownlife.com. For more information, visit Rick's Web site at www.bloomassetmanagement.com.

Yard waste pickup restarts for spring cleanup time

Cleaning up the yard for spring — or finishing up the snow-delayed fall leaf-raking?

Plymouth Township's curb-side yard waste pickup service resumed on Monday.

Yard waste — grass clippings, leaves, prunings, garden waste, branches and brush — should be set at the curb by 7 a.m. on the regular trash-collection day, and no earlier than 6 p.m. on the day before collection day.

Leaves and grass clippings should be put into brown paper yard waste bags available at

local stores, or into garbage cans (maximum capacity of 35 gallons each) marked with a compost sticker or the letter "X" or "C" drawn twice on the sides. Compost stickers are available at the township hall; make sure the labels face the roadway when setting out containers.

Filled yard waste containers, and brush and branch bundles, should not exceed 50 pounds each.

For more information, call the township's solid waste department at (734) 354-3270, Ext. 4.



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sale \$19 per room steam clean. Two-room minimum. Reg. \$55. A room area is up to 250 sq. ft.; extra charge for heavily soiled carpets.

sale \$109 to clean a seven-foot sofa and loveseat. Reg. \$195. Extra charge for loose back cushions, sectionals, specialty fabrics & fabric protector.

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AROUND PLYMOUTH

"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

Art show

The Plymouth Coffee Bean presents a blend of realism and abstract when it hosts an art show featuring the work of artist Gregory Carr 8-11 p.m. Friday, April 3.

The show will feature very realistic pen-and-ink drawings and an assortment of paintings. There's no admission, but there is a one-drink minimum. The art work will be on display in the Orange Room through June 1.

The Plymouth Coffee Bean is located at 884 Penniman.

Senior party fund-raisers

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

Fund-raisers take place at the following restaurants on the following dates: Monday, April 6 and Thursday, May 7, both at Palermo's on Ford Road in Canton.

Detail information and a flyer is available at <http://web.pccs.k12.mi.us/pcep/pages/classof/2009/senior-party09.htm> (this flyer must be presented at time of purchase for us to receive 20% credit of your purchase).

Visit the committee's blog at <http://pcep09seniorparty.blogspot.com/> or its Web page at <http://web.pccs.k12.mi.us/pcep/pages/classof/2009/senior-party09.htm>

To volunteer or for questions, contact pcep-senior-party@comcast.net

Career seminar

Anyone who has thought about a career in Real Estate has a chance to get plenty more information when Keller Williams hosts a 59-minute career seminar 6:30 p.m. April 16.

The seminar takes place at Keller Williams Realty, 40600 Ann Arbor Road, Suite 100, in Plymouth. The seminar is designed to answer questions about commission, costs, what it takes to succeed and your potential for success.

For more information or to reserve a seat, call (734) 459-4700.

Book signing

Canton author and photographer, Cheryl A. Vatcher-Martin has published her latest book,

"Haiku For You: With Some One Room School House History." She'll be autographing copies at the Westland Library Saturday, April 4, at 2 p.m.

This full-color children's book includes a handful of historic photographs of one-room school houses from the 1800s. Two of these one-room school houses were located in Michigan. There are many full color photographs to inspire the haiku artist in children of all ages. The reader will find Canton, Westland, Romulus and Frankenmuth's one-room Schoolhouses in this book. Additionally, there is one from Rhode Island, the author's birth state. The book is available to view at the Canton Historical Museum.

Vatcher will also showcase her art and poetry at the rEVOLUTION: Making Art For Change, Friday, April 3, at 7 p.m., on the campus of the University of Michigan, inside the Art Lounge at the Union. It will run through April 16.

The book can be purchased online through Amazon.com and other retailers. Vatcher is also the owner of Pero Inc., a full service writing, fine art photography, editing, publishing, and consulting company. She offers classes through Wayne-Westland Community Schools to teach students to write and learn a second language. She can be reached directly at peroinc5@comcast.net or (734) 397-1626.

Spring Break Camp

The Plymouth Community Arts Council offers a Spring Break Camp for kids April 13-17 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day, with popular artist/teacher Jeff Burda at the Joanne Winkelman Hulce Center, 774 N. Sheldon in Plymouth.

During this week kids will experience various art forms including: pottery, visual arts, music appreciation, creative writing and theatre. Kids will get on stage for theatre games and skits, learn about different types of music and have quiet time for creative writing in camp journals. The theatre portions will be taught with the help of instructors from the PCAC children's theatre troupe, Plymouth Uptown Players. Recommended for ages 5-13.

The cost is \$45 per day or \$200 for the week. Receive a 10-percent discount for any second child enrolled. Children must bring a bagged lunch each day.

To find out more information on this camp or for information on all of the PCAC programs please visit the website: 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. Reach the PCAC by calling (734) 416-4278.

Financial Freedom workshop

Achieving lifelong financial success can sometimes seem like an overwhelming task. However, when developed step by step, you can gain long-term control of your finances. Community Financial offers a free workshop, Steps to Financial Freedom, 6:30-8 p.m. Wednesday, April 22, at Community Financial, 500 S. Harvey in Plymouth.

The workshop is designed to help attendees gain long-term control of their finances and achieve lifelong financial success. Participants will learn how to create a step-by-step plan that will include setting goals, communicating with family members, creating a budget, building savings and more. Light refreshments will be provided. To RSVP, call (734) 582-8702.

Giving Circle event

Giving Hope Women's Giving Circle will host an educational evening focusing on women's heart health at 6:30 p.m., Wednesday, April 8, at the Plymouth Arts Council. The event, which will feature Oakwood Health System cardiologist Peter Mancini II, MD, is open to all women in the community.

The American Heart Association states that car-



Classical concert

The Plymouth District Library presents the Celebration Youth Orchestra 3 p.m. Sunday, April 5, for classical music performed by area musicians who are a part of this youth education program of the Plymouth Canton Symphony Society. Enjoy the musical stylings of soloist Josh Braun (violin), the duet of David Cunnien (viola) and Drew Cunnien (violin), and performances by the newly formed Celebration Flute Choir (comprised of nine students). The event is sponsored by Friends of the Library. Registration requested for this free program; call (734) 453-0750, Ext 4.

diovascular disease is the leading killer of women over the age of 25, claiming nearly twice as many women in the United States than all types of cancer, including breast cancer. Dr. Mancini will discuss the risk factors and explain how women can play an active role in achieving and maintaining their heart's health.

The event will begin with light, heart healthy refreshments. Dr. Mancini's presentation will be followed by a question and answer period, deserts and coffee. The evening should conclude by 9 p.m. There is no charge to attend, but reservations are recommended and space is limited. The Plymouth Arts Council is located at 774 N. Sheldon Road, Plymouth. To make your reservation, contact the Canton Community Foundation at (734) 495-1200 or e-mail givinghopewgc@gmail.com.

Giving Hope Women's Giving Circle provides grantmaking initiatives that address the needs of women and families in Plymouth and Canton, creates an endowment fund for the future, and builds a community of women philanthropists. There are currently 63 women in the Giving Circle and new members are always welcome.

Elvis tribute

The Plymouth Council on Aging, together with Heartland Plymouth Court, co-host "Tribute to Elvis" at the Plymouth Cultural Center 1-3 p.m. Monday, April 13.

The show will feature many favorite Elvis songs performed by tribute artist Chuck Horan. Light complimentary refreshments will be served. This is a free event.

Call (734) 453-1234, Ext. 236 ASAP to reserve a spot at this one time show. Seats are limited.

Senior spellers

Once again the Plymouth Community Council on Aging will host the Wayne County sponsored Senior Spelling Bee Tuesday, May 12, from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Friendship Station, 42375 Schoolcraft Road, Plymouth.

A free complimentary catered lunch, prizes and raffles will be offered by Wayne County. Space is limited so call today to register to spell or to just come and enjoy the competition and the lunch. Everyone will be entered for the drawings.

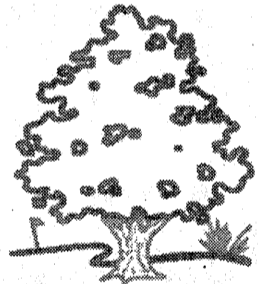
This is an entirely free event for everyone whether you participate or not. Call (734) 453-1234, Ext. 236.

Soldier benefit.

The Fallen and Wounded Soldiers Fund will host their fourth annual dinner May 2, at the Laurel Manor in Livonia. All proceeds go to veterans or families of fallen soldiers that are in need.

The keynote speaker at the event will be Marcus Luttrell, a Navy SEAL and author of New York Times best-selling book "Lone Survivor" — the harrowing story of four Navy SEALs who journeyed into the mountainous border of Afghanistan and Pakistan on Operation Redwing. A motivational story of survival, the book is also a moving tribute to the friends and teammates who did not make it off the mountain. A powerful testament to the courage, integrity, patriotism, and community that forged these American heroes, "Lone Survivor" is an incredible account of teamwork, fortitude, and modern warfare.

For more information or to purchase tickets contact Ann Cornelius at (248) 346-5976 or visit www.fwsf.org

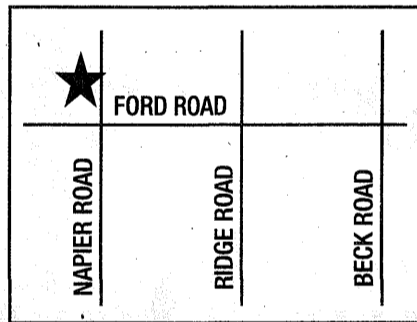


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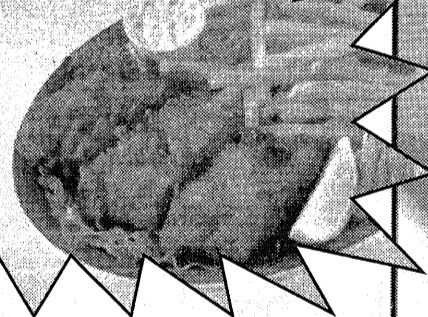
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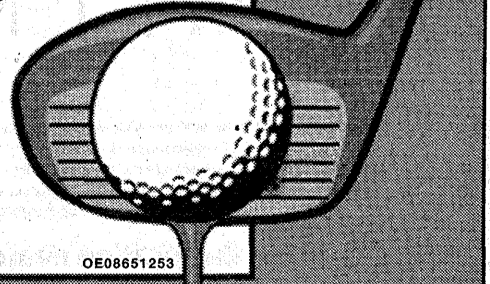
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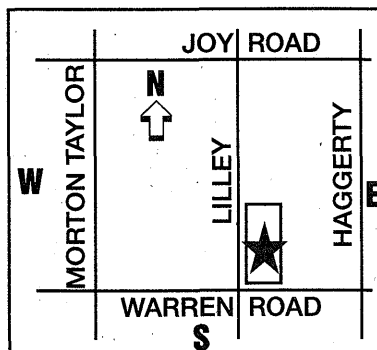
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LOCAL OPINION

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

OUR VIEWS

Battery legislation shows lawmakers can work together

With shock waves continuing to reverberate through General Motors and Chrysler after recent developments in Washington, including the sacking of GM CEO Rick Wagoner, confidence in the American auto industry (and its survival) might just be at an all-time low.

Obviously that doesn't bode well for the state of Michigan, which itself is in the midst of an economic recession not seen for many, many years. Michigan and the automobile industry have always had a symbiotic relationship, so it's no surprise that the fortunes of Michigan are so intertwined with the Big Three.

This week in Washington, the Obama administration shot down the reorganization plans for GM and Chrysler, both of which are hoping to get more federal money to keep them afloat until the economy turns around. Obama's team feels, among other things, that the auto companies need to shift their fleet away from gas guzzling models to a new breed of vehicles that rely on renewable energies. There is no question that battery technology is vital to the future of the auto industry, something the Japanese seemed to have figured out before Detroit.

That is why it is refreshing to see our state Legislature — working on a bipartisan basis no less — passing legislation that will expand the number of Michigan Business Tax credits available for battery cell manufacturers. The legislation, which has passed both the House and Senate, could make the state a leader in this emerging high tech sector, and perhaps even help save the American auto industry.

Republicans in the Senate, including John Pappageorge of Troy and Bruce Patterson of Canton, and Democrats in the House, most notably Dian Slavens of Canton, worked together to get the legislation passed last month, and it now awaits Gov. Jennifer Granholm's signature.

The plan will provide and additional \$200 million in tax credits for companies involved in advanced battery development, including battery pack assembly; research and engineering to support battery use in vehicles; engineering of advanced battery technologies; and capital investment for construction of battery manufacturing facilities.

The tax credits would be spaced out over the next four years, which will ease the tax burden and help the companies develop the new battery technology. In addition, the plan rewards companies even further for using local suppliers, which is good for Michigan jobs, and it qualifies the state to be eligible for \$2 billion in federal stimulus money.

According to Patterson, many experts predict the U.S. battery market could reach \$18 billion a year by 2020 and cell manufacturers could create nearly 40,000 Michigan jobs by 2020.

With legislation like this, it appears our leaders in Lansing are starting to understand the message that voters sent in recent elections — that we want them working for us. It also shows state government can be useful in attracting businesses and strengthening the economy. That's something we can all cheer.



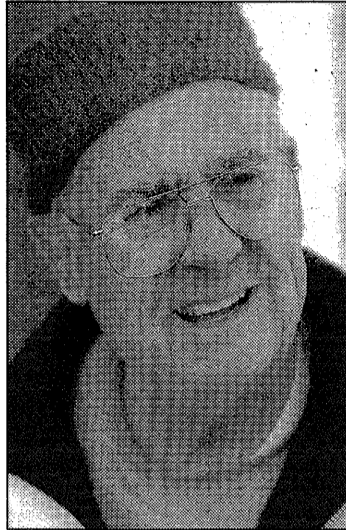
Patterson



Slavens

COMMUNITY VOICE

What do you think of the job President Obama is doing so far?
We asked this question at the Plymouth District Library.



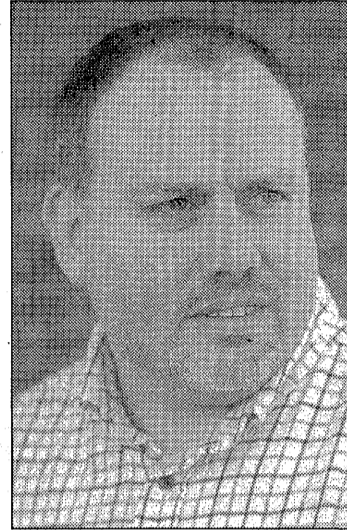
"I think he's doing a fine job, especially under the circumstances."

John Beems
Plymouth Township



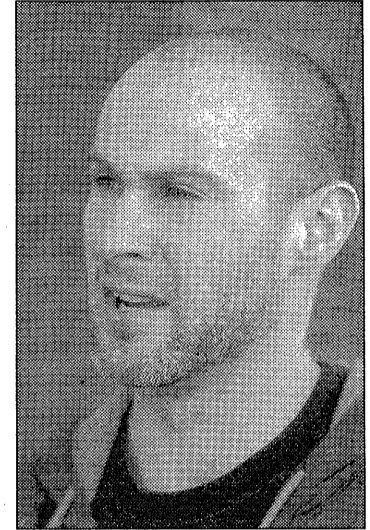
"I feel like he has such a tough job. I feel he's doing the best he can, but one man can't do it all."

Anita Hazlewood
Plymouth



"I can't really say. All I know is, he's spending a lot of money."

Tom Constantine
Livonia



"I'm a libertarian at heart. I voted for Ron Paul. There's a lot of bait and switch, especially with the stimulus package. ... In some sense, he's picking up where George Bush left off."

Sasha Chwastek
Plymouth Township

LETTERS

Review assessments

Two things happened recently that should be cause for celebration. I made it to 75 in reasonably good health and reached my 30th year as a resident of Plymouth Township.

Tempering the good news was a letter from the Plymouth Township Assessor's Office that notified me that my S.E.V., during this period of plummeting home prices, went UP \$146,990. My first impression was that this was a typo but the board assured me that it was a real number. (After taking a Google Earth photo of my lot to the assessor showing that it was mostly under water, they said some adjustment would be made.) The second surprise I found was that the total livable area of my house increased by 1,214 square feet.

To put this error in perspective, it is the size of my grandson's entire house.

Unfortunately, my house is exactly the same as it was 30 years ago when I built it. Not that I couldn't use a little more closet space for all the junk I accumulated over all these years but where is all that space hiding?

I reviewed the dimensions on record at the assessor's and found the measurements to be accurate almost to the inch. I suggested that they redo the math and was told they had to come out AGAIN to re-measure. This time two people would come. Just what I need — a committee to make the decision.

My response was "No thanks, save the taxpayer's money and use it to fix the potholes. You have the correct dimensions, just do the math right this time"

Their response was "You want me to tell the board that you refuse to let us come out?"

So it appears that during my 31st year as a township resident, I will be living in a much larger more expensive house that I thought I possibly could afford. I guess I have the assessor to thank for that.

Howard Meyer
Plymouth Township

Fiscal responsibility?

The Plymouth-Canton Schools' administration is planning to spend "top of the pay scale" to hire a new Director of Bands for the high school band program. Is this a wise investment of Plymouth-Canton funds in light of 1) current economic conditions and 2) what the present staff has accomplished?

The present staff has provided high quality leadership to the music program and their record speaks for itself.

■ This month at the MSBOA District Band Festival, all four high school concert bands, under the direction of Mrs. Amy Boerma and Mr. Martin Montoya, earned straight first division ratings from all four judges (a total of 20 "1's").

■ Some of the adjudicators at the District Festival actually awarded a number of A+ ratings in several sub-captions to two of the bands. This rarely occurs anywhere in the state.

■ This year the Plymouth-Canton High School Marching Band was taken to the BOA Grand National finals by Mr. Martin Montoya, a late-in-the-summer-hired substitute teacher who had previously been on the band's music staff. The band

What do you think?

Mail comments to the Plymouth Observer, 615 W. Lafayette, Second Level, Detroit, MI 48226 or e-mail to bkadrich@hometownlife.com.

made it into the national finals (one of 12 bands in the entire nation). How often does a first year teacher accomplish this?

■ Mrs. Amy Boerma, who was named MSBOA District XII band director of the year, has been one of the Plymouth-Canton High School band directors for fourteen years (hired as the Co-Director of Bands in 1995). Under Mrs. Boerma's direction, bands at Plymouth-Canton High School have earned first division ratings at every high school concert band festival each year. In previous teaching positions in other schools, she also achieved the same consistency with her marching bands and choirs. As a matter of fact, none of her student ensembles have ever received less than a first-division rating during her 18 years of teaching experience. Has any other high school band director at Plymouth-Canton or in the state of Michigan ever equaled that record?

■ This year, with Mrs. Boerma and Mr. Montoya team-teaching the Plymouth-Canton High School band program, the atmosphere in the Plymouth-Canton band office and rehearsal hall has been one of collegiality and mutual support. Their shared vision and their strong leadership skills have resulted in significant growth in the program. Teamwork is a value that the administration should recognize and promote.

■ The band program has grown over the past six months, providing a rich variety of musical experiences to students. There has been an increase in the number of small ensembles, the number of students in honors bands, and the number of students participating in summer camps. The students have had opportunities to work with college level music directors. The wind ensemble performs more repertoire which is also more challenging. Enrollment in the band program for next year has increased by 20 percent.

Again, the facts speak for themselves. Is there a reason why the Plymouth-Canton administration has decided to hire neither Mrs. Boerma nor Mr. Montoya to continue as the Director of Bands next year? The administration needs to consider, and the community needs to be aware of, these facts. We hope that the administration is not placing a hidden agenda over what is best for students, the high school band program, and the taxpayers of our community.

Brian and Janet Carson
Plymouth Township

Help the people

Is the middle class being sold out?
1. How is freeing up credit going to help the millions of middle class Americans that have lost their jobs due to the financial institutions' reckless lending practices obtain any type of credit to purchase homes or any other high end purchases?
2. Millions of middle class Americans have already been foreclosed on due to these job losses and are now faced with a

bad credit score. What bank is going to go out on a limb and extend credit to them (without high risk interest rates)? 3. How is middle class America that is still fortunate to have a job but have been subject to wage cuts and can barely, if at all, keep their heads above water going to be able to qualify for any type of credit to sustain their households?

While our government tries to fix this catastrophic problem, what happens to the people already in financial ruins (through no fault of their own)? Their credit scores will be so low that they won't qualify for any type of loan from the banks (who created this problem). These Americans will be left behind so to speak.

While billions and billions of dollars are being thrown around to the institutions that caused this mess, millions of households are going to have to struggle for years to overcome the mess they put us in. While tax credits for people buying homes is a good gesture, they don't help the millions already kicked out of their homes. These once-proud homeowners are going to be forced into renting a home until their credit is repaired to the point that a bank might give them another chance. That could take years.

I constantly listen to the news and I fume over the fact that we have to act immediately to save the economy. How is this economy going to rebound when no one that has been left behind (millions of people) will be able to buy an automobile or a home because no one will finance them due to the fact that there is a foreclosure on their credit report?

With all the billions being thrown around I have yet to hear any politicians say "let's bail out the middle class Americans affected by this crisis." If this government (for the people) were to go that route, I think it would cost a lot less. The government could have given every American over the age of 21 \$250,000 dollars to take care of mortgages, student loans, auto loans and credit cards. With all that debt wiped away, what do you think would happen with the money they may have left over? I know what I would do, I would spend it.

That is just what this economy needs, me to spend my money. The government would save money due to the fact that the banks wouldn't have all these toxic assets on their books, they would be paid off by the people who own those debts.

Dan Storm
Westland

Patterson for AG

Sen. Bruce Patterson has been my state senator and I am very happy with his commitment to his constituents and the State of Michigan.

His experience more than qualifies him for the position of state Attorney General and the citizens of Michigan would have an excellent advocate in the AG's office. My family definitely would support him in this endeavor.

I am confident that as AG Sen. Patterson would not support laws that invade our privacy or mandate behavior and hopefully, he could advise our legislature on these issues.

Janet Richards
Woodhaven

Join the discussion

Do you agree that General Motors CEO Rick Wagoner had to be fired?

Go to hometownlife.com to give us your feedback.

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Short and sassy trends set stage for prom

This prom gown by Alyce Designs is short and sparkly in line with today's trends.



Today's teens are doing their research when it comes to finding the perfect prom dress.

That's according to Claudine Hamm at Alyce Designs, which has been designing dresses for over 40 years — including the one Britney Spears wore to her own prom.

"Today's prom-goers have been watching their favorite television shows, ripping out pages of inspiration from fashion magazines and taking notes on what young Hollywood stars wore during the recent award season," Hamm said.

So what's hot for prom this year? Hamm shares the top trends:

Metallic mix: From shimmer satins to silver lame, the gold standard is still metallics. Look for them in burnished tints, from bronzed and coppered satin to softly minted taffetas with a blush of shine.

Animal prints: The wild side of fashion remains in vogue. If you're not daring enough for a full leopard print gown,

try a hint of animal print in sashes, exposed lining or bead details.

Brilliant hue: Bright, juicy color choices are knocking out the little black dress this year. Whether you favor fuchsia, emerald green, neon yellow or radiant red, no color is too bold for prom night.

Noticeable necklines: From the recent Academy Awards to fashion runways around the world, varying one-shoulder silhouettes and sweetheart necklines have turned heads. Simple or striking, the necklines can also be embellished with sequins and beads.

Short and sassy: Cocktail length is completely acceptable for Prom 2009. Try on short dresses with bubble hems, belted bodices, full skirts or tulle for a fun and flirty look.

Alyce Designs Prom Collections are sold at over 1,800 retailers nationwide including Star Fashion, Troy; First Lady, Southfield; and Boutique Angeliq, Rochester. Visit www.alycedesigns.com.

MALLS & MAIN STREETS

SISTER & SISTER

BIRMINGHAM — The 3rd Annual Sister & Sister Luncheon and Fashionable Event for Men and Women will take place 3-5 p.m. April 5 at the Townsend Hotel, 100 Townsend, Birmingham. POH Regional Medical Center doctors will join cancer survivors as models, and WDIV Reporter Paula Tutman is mistress of ceremonies. Tickets, \$100, benefit the POH Riley Foundation, which provides free mammograms to uninsured and underserved women in Oakland County. For more information, call (248) 338-5385.

NCAA FASHION FLASH

DETROIT — Curator Laura Deljanin will host "Champions Play Here," an art, music and fashion event at Tangent Gallery April 4 in conjunction with the NCAA championship. The event features basketball- and Detroit-themed artwork, DJ Raj Mahal, V.I.P. reception with buffet and drinks, and a 313Fad halftime fashion show, \$10, reception; gallery show, free. Tangent Gallery is located at 715 E. Milwaukee in Detroit. Call (313) 873-2955.

DETROIT ROCKS!

BIRMINGHAM — Detroit Rocks! will host a grand opening event 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. April 22. The new store, launched by Robert Dempster and Steve Main at 115 West Maple in the old Sherman Shoe Store, carries "everything Detroit," including vintage clothing, men's and women's T-shirts, buttons, rock posters, decals, CDs, and women's shoes, sandals and boots. Hours are 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Wednesday; 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Thursday-Friday; and 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday. Call (248) 646-1032 or visit www.detroitrockusa.com.

NADWA HAIR SPA OPENS

WEST BLOOMFIELD — Nadwa Hair Spa, a new salon and spa from owner Nadwa Yono, recently opened at 6923 Orchard Lake Road, south of Maple, in the Boardwalk Shopping Center. Nadwa's offers an array of hair, health and beauty services — including Australian Hydrotherapy, found nowhere else in Michigan. The new salon also provides the latest products for women suffering from diffused hair loss, including hair attachments, wigs and extensions; hand and foot hydrotherapy; manicure treatment bar; makeup area featuring pure, hand-made mineral offerings; chemical studio area which utilizes steam to promote color changes and enhancements in mere minutes; and a separate area for men's grooming. Call (248) 851-8100 or visit nadwa.com.

hairspa.com.

SHOE CARNIVAL GOES BOGO

METRO DETROIT — Shoe Carnival customers will receive a "BOGO When You Want 2" card with any purchase during its Spring Sale Event, April 1-11. The card allows shoppers to return anytime through Jan. 19, 2010 and get 1/2-off a second pair of shoes with another purchase. Shoe Carnival is a chain of more than 300 footwear stores located in the Midwest, South and Southeast. Visit www.shoecarnival.com for locations and information.

SHIRT BOX COLLECTS CLOTHES

FARMINGTON HILLS — The Shirt Box continues to collect gently used men's professional clothing through "The Shirts Off Our Back: From Our Closet to Yours," in partnership with Detroit's Neighborhood Service Organization. Drop off dress shirts, slacks, ties and sports coats at The Shirt Box, 32500 Northwestern Highway, Farmington Hills. The clothing will help NSO's clients dress for success when applying for new jobs and making the transition back into the workforce. Call (248) 851-6770.


VINTAGE CLOTHING SHOW

SOUTHFIELD — The Midwest Vintage Clothing, Jewelry and Textile Show and Sale will be held April 3-4 at the Southfield Pavilion, 26000 Evergreen Road. Show hours are 5-10 p.m. Friday; and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday.

EASTER BUNNY ARRIVES

METRO DETROIT — The Easter Bunny is holding court at area malls through April 11. He has already arrived at Twelve Oaks in Novi, Westland Center in Westland, Oakland Mall in Troy, and Laurel Park Place in Livonia, and The Village of Rochester Hills. Somers's bunny, Hester Fairweather, will arrive today at the North Grand Court amidst whimsical pop-up book decor and a labyrinth carpet. All locations offer photo packages. Check online for times.

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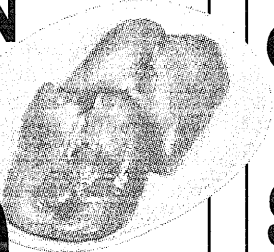
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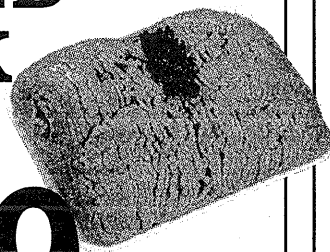
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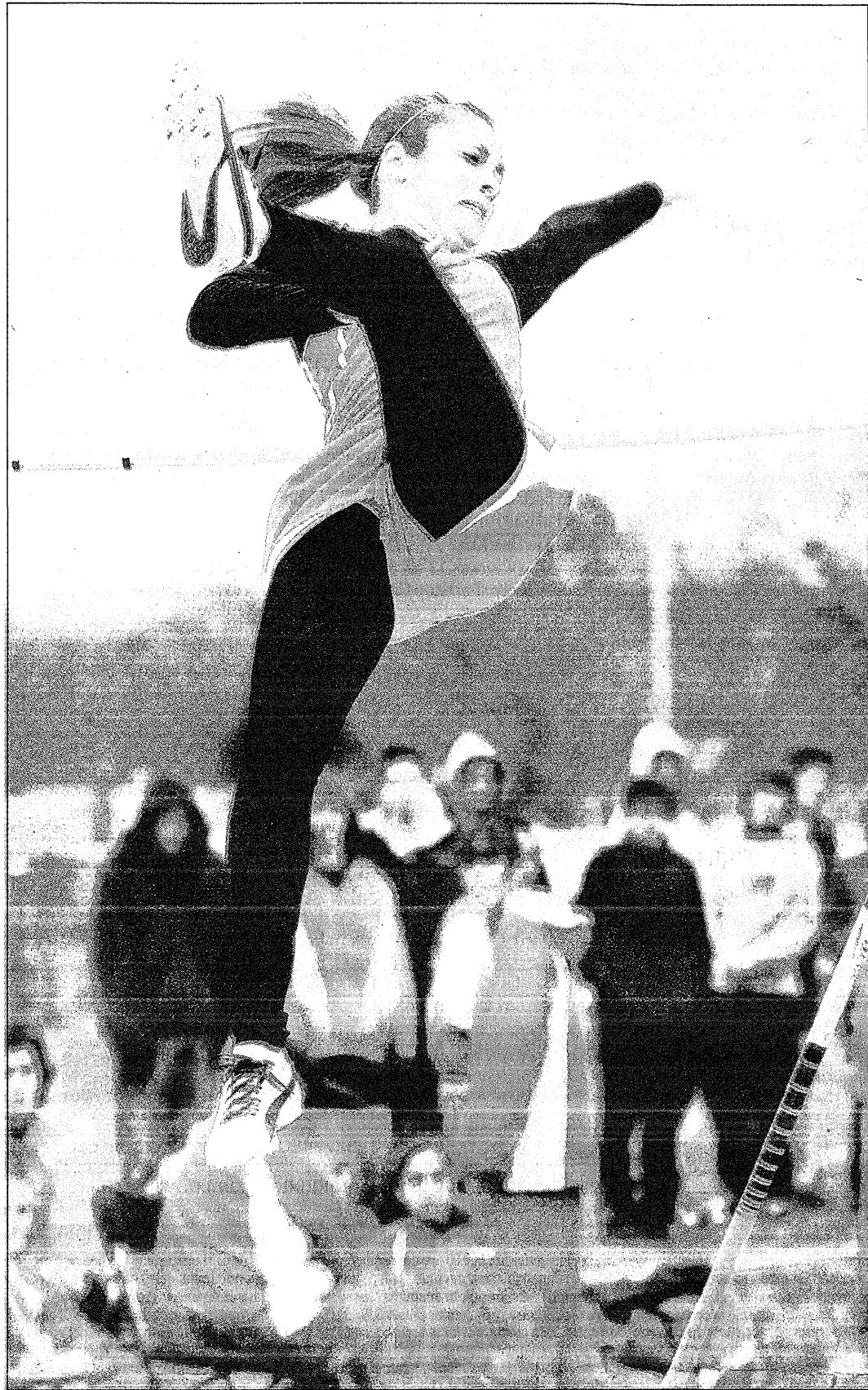
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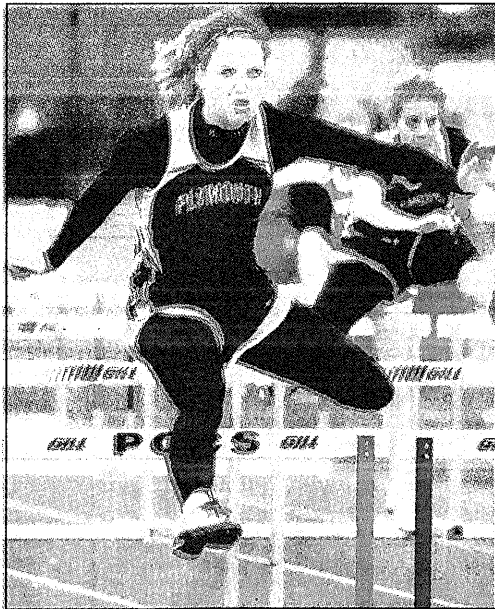
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HOMETOWN LIFE

Ed Wright, editor, (313) 222-2047
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Above, Canton pole vaulter Kara Bongiovanni cleared the bar at 7 feet, 9 inches to place first in Tuesday's meet against Plymouth. At right, Plymouth's Mandy McManus was focused on the next hurdle during her first-place effort in the 100-meter hurdles event Tuesday against Canton.



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



Plymouth's Jordan Birman launches the shot during Tuesday's meet against Canton. Birman won the event with a toss of 41 feet, 10.25 inches.

Split decision

Plymouth boys, Canton girls claim track wins

See complete meet results on Page B4.

BY ED WRIGHT
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Canton's girls track team was "relay," "relay" good in its dual meet with Plymouth Tuesday afternoon and Plymouth's boys team was really, really fast against the Chiefs.

As a result, the Chief girls and Wildcat boys opened their seasons with 83-53 and 75-62 victories, respectively, against their cross-campus rivals.

"I couldn't have been more pleased with tonight's meet," said Canton coach Pam Stom. "We had cold temps in the low-40s, wind and rain, and we still had great times and performances."

Keying the Canton girls' triumph were victories in all four relay events. The Chiefs sparkled in the sprints, too, as sophomore Lindsay Lipa won the 100-meter dash in 13.31 seconds and junior Ashley Banks captured the 200 with a time of 28.9. Lipa also won the high jump with a leap of 5 feet, 2 inches.

Plymouth's top performer was Mandy McManus, who won the 100-meter and 300-meter hurdle races with times of 18.22 and 53.5, respectively.

In the boys' meet, the Chiefs built a 30-20 edge following the field events, however, Plymouth's superior distance crew — led by Swedish exchange student Elmar Engholm — proved to be the difference.

Engholm placed first in all four events he raced: the 3,200-meter relay, the 1,600-meter run, 800-meter run and the 3,200-meter run.

"We knew it was going to be a competitive meet because coach Kurt Britnell and his staff do a great job getting their kids ready," said Canton coach Bob Richardson. "The weather was challenging for both schools, but I thought the young men stepped up and performed well."

Senior Sherif Hassani was the Chiefs' leading point-earner as he won both hurdles events and anchored Canton's first-place 1,600-meter relay foursome.

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

GAME WRAPS

Hail to the Eagles

The Discovery Middle School boys basketball team captured the overall Plymouth-Canton title for the fifth consecutive year with a 14-2 record. Team members include Devin Slominski, Scott Gring, Chase Winningham, Kyle Cameron, Matt Lawrence, Mike Montgomery, Malik El, Brett Mattson, James Buchanan, Chris Mattei, Jon Malone, Jamal Eiland, Mike Kennedy, Dan Marsden, Josh Mayberry, Kevin Mack, Josh Dennard and Andrew Klenk.

Dave Van Wagoner coached the "A" team while Discovery grad Dominique Washington coached the "B" squad to an 8-0 record.

Chiefs upend 'Cats in boys lacrosse

Canton's boys lacrosse team knocked off cross-campus rival Plymouth Monday night, 9-3.

Following a hard-fought first quarter that ended knotted at 1-1, the Chiefs tallied four unanswered second-period goals. Canton led 7-3 after three.

Jason Avedesian paced the winners' scoring barrage with four goals. Jake Underwood and Jordan Emery both contributed a pair of goals while Matt Rodgers notched a single net-finder.

Canton goalie Sean Walsh was spectacular in net, stopping 16 Wildcat shots.

Scoring for the Chiefs were: Jason Avedesian for four goals with two assists from Jordan Emery (Captain) and one from Jake Underwood, one goal unassisted.

Canton's defense was sparked by Ryan Dunleavy, Dakota Dark Bird, Bryan Davison and Alec Gilo.

"We only ran two midfield lines tonight; I was hoping they wouldn't run out of gas," said Canton coach Kevin Riley. "Sean (Walsh) really kept us in the game tonight."

Lions tame Lady Warriors

The Plymouth-Canton-Salem girls lacrosse team dropped a 12-4 decision to state-ranked South Lyon Monday night.

"Watching the game, you had the feeling that if we had some offensive thrust, this would have been a close game," said PCS coach Dave Medley. "The girls played hard."

South Lyon outshot PCS, 29-8. Lady Warrior goalie Lexie O'Conner played well in just her second appearance of the season.

Nicole Rottell scored twice for PCS while Edra Burris and Chelsea Olson added single goals.

Coaches: Please report results

Local high school spring sports coaches are encouraged to report their results to Plymouth and Canton Observer Sports Editor Ed Wright — whether their team wins or loses; or they're home or away.

Wright can be reached at (734) 578-2767 or at ewright@hometownlife.com.

The deadline for Thursday print editions of the Observer is 11 p.m. on Tuesday evenings. The deadline for Sunday print editions of the paper is Friday at 11 p.m.

Results of games reported to Wright will appear on www.hometownlife.com the following morning.

Spits decision: Whalers earn semis vs. Windsor

The Plymouth Whalers exploded for six goals in the second period and cruised to an 8-1 victory over Sarnia in an Ontario Hockey League playoff game played Saturday night before 2,876 at Compuware Arena.

Plymouth won the first-round OHL Western Conference quarter-final series in five games over the Sting, outscoring its foes, 21-6, in the series and 21-2 from early in the first period of Game 2.

Plymouth will open its next series tonight in Windsor against the top-ranked Spitfires in the OHL Western Conference semifinals. The other OHL Western Conference semifinal features London against Saginaw.

Whalers captain Chris Terry led the offensive attack with a hat trick and now has five goals in the playoffs. Ryan Hayes scored a goal (his third in three playoff games) and added two assists.

Kaine Geldart, AJ Jenks and Beau Schmitz all scored their first playoff goals this season for

Please see **WHALERS, B2**

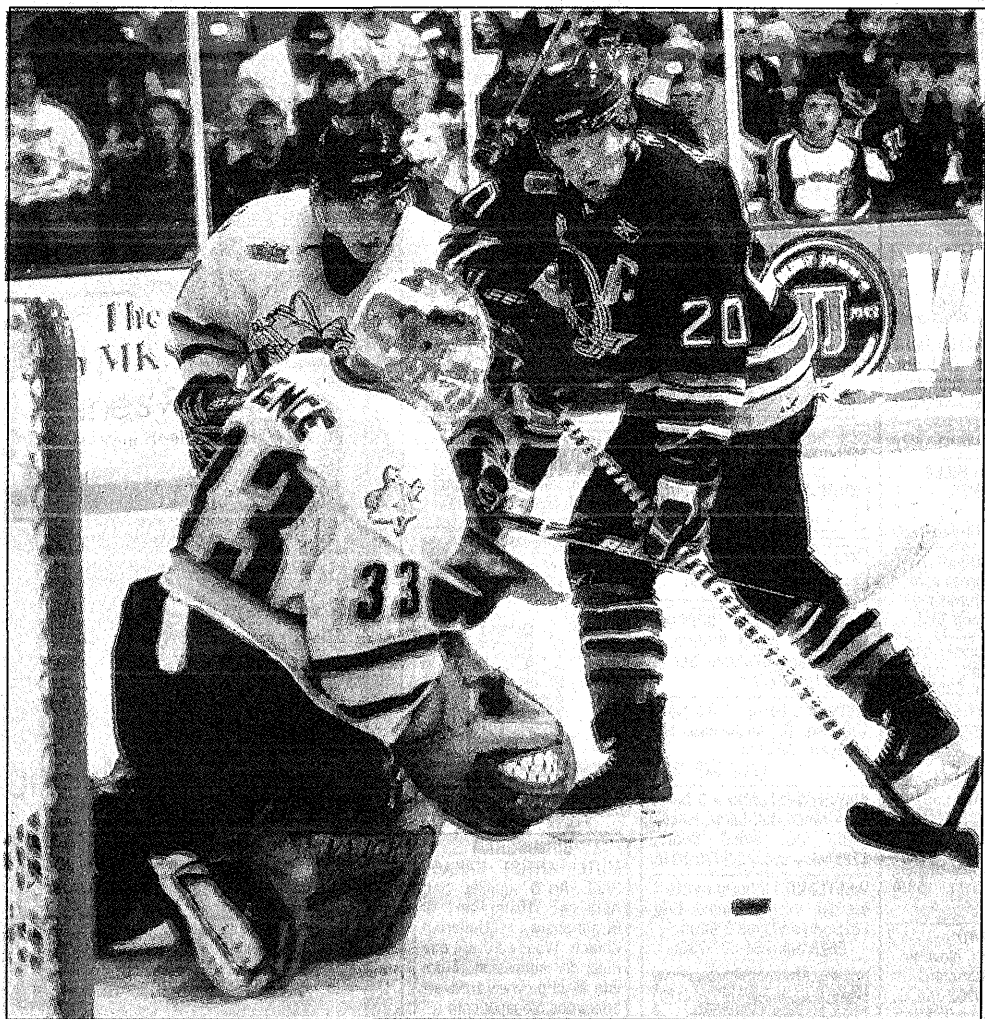
WINDSOR TUNNEL VISION

What: Ontario Hockey League Western Conference best-of-seven semifinal series;

Who: Longtime rivals Plymouth Whalers (37-26-5-0 regular season) vs. Windsor Spitfires (57-10-0-1);

When: Game 1 is set for tonight in Windsor; Game 2 will be Saturday at Compuware Arena; Game 3 will be Sunday in Windsor; Game 4 will be Tuesday at Compuware; Game 5 (if necessary) will be April 9 in Windsor; Game 6 (if necessary) will be April 11 at Compuware; and Game 7 (if necessary) will be April 13 in Windsor; all Whalers home games will start at 7:05.

Tickets: Prices have remained the same as the regular season: \$11 and \$15. Tickets are available by calling (734) 453-8400 or by visiting Compuware Arena in person Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. or on Saturday starting at 11 a.m.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Plymouth captain Chris Terry (20), pictured during last week's 5-1 win over Sarnia, was voted the No. 1 star in the Whalers' series-cinching 8-1 triumph over the Sting Saturday night.

WHALERS

FROM PAGE B1

the Whalers, while Joe Gaynor scored his second. Defenseman Leo Jenner added three assists.

Although the Whalers scored 21 goals in the series, defense was a key to their success as well. Matt Hackett stopped 27-of-28 shots on Saturday, keeping his playoff goals against average at 0.98 (five goals allowed in 305 minutes) and his save percentage at .970 (164-169). Both marks currently lead the OHL playoffs.

In addition, Plymouth penalty killers went six-for-six in the game and went 32-for-34 in the series.

Mark Katic scored the lone Sarnia goal, his first of the playoffs.

Although the Whalers scored six goals in the second period, there was an explosion of a different kind in the Plymouth dressing room during the first intermission.

"There was an explosion in the (Whaler) locker room in between the periods," said Mike Vellucci, Plymouth president, general manager and head coach. "I thought it (the first period) was our worst period of the year, to be honest. I thought we were so bad. Our guys thought that Sarnia would roll over and die and they didn't. Sarnia played way better than we did in the first period. So I was glad to see it (six goals in the second period) — I didn't expect that many goals, but we worked hard for them once they started going in."

The second game of the Windsor series is slated for Saturday night at Compuware Arena. Saturday's opening face-off is set for 7:05 p.m.

Windsor defeated Plymouth in six of eight games during the regular season, with two of the Spitfire victories by scores of 1-0.

Late surge lifts Wildcats over Rocks

BY ED WRIGHT
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

With the sun setting fast in its season opener against Salem last Friday, Plymouth's softball team turned the power on.

The Wildcats turned a pitchers' duel into a home run derby with back-to-back eighth-inning round-trippers from Stacey Klonowski and Amanda Burnard to defeat the host Rocks, 4-1.

Plymouth won the darkness-shortened second game of the twinbill, 7-3.

Sophomore Lauren Smith earned the victory on the mound for the Wildcats, scattering nine hits while striking out two. Sophomore Brianna Lee

suffered the loss for the Rocks despite blanking the 'Cats from the second inning through the seventh.

"We were patient at the plate and made her throw a lot of pitchers; we laid off her rise ball," said Plymouth coach Val Canfield, explaining her team's strategy against Lee. "I was shocked when we hit those back-to-back home runs. It's nice to see the girls hitting so well early in the season."

Early on, the opening game appeared destined to be a slugfest as both teams scored a single first-inning run: Klonowski singled in Erin Rodes for Plymouth while the Rocks countered with Lee's RBI double that plated Schmidt.

Both pitchers then dug in and posted goose-

eggs on the scoreboard until Plymouth's three-run eighth. The frame started when Rodes walked was sacrificed to second by Beth Heldmeyer. Klonowski then rocked a pitch over the center-field fence — just like Burnard one batter later.

Plymouth defeated Salem, 1-0, in last spring's Division 1 District final at Salem.

In the nightcap, Plymouth scored two runs in the first and second innings and three in the fourth. Salem scored twice in the second and once in the fifth.

Miranda Oliver earned the win. Schmidt pitched the first five innings for Salem before giving way to Lee, who registered the final three outs.

Canton ace Dunleavy throws no-no at Novi

BY ED WRIGHT
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

To say Canton's Amy Dunleavy was zeroed in Friday afternoon would be an understatement.

The junior right-handed pitcher fired a no-hitter in the Chiefs' season-opening 12-0 rout of Novi in a game shortened to five innings due to the MHSAA's mercy rule.

Dunleavy struck out nine and did not walk a batter. The Wildcats' lone

base-runner reached on an error.

Dunleavy nearly lost the no-hitter with two outs in the fifth, but Canton left-fielder Sam Podorsek made a diving catch to preserve the gem.

"We had to wait a few seconds for the umpires to make the call," said Canton coach Jim Arnold, referring to Podorsek's game-ending web gem.

Arnold said Dunleavy's feat wasn't surprising considering the off-season sweat equity she put in.

"She's been working extremely hard

the entire off-season," said Arnold.

"She had good velocity and her ball was moving. She was hitting her locations well, too. Amy's been ready to pitch for two weeks now, and it showed today."

The Chiefs broke open a close game in the third when they scored seven times to pad their advantage to 9-0. The added one run in the fourth and two more in the fifth.

Pacing the winners' 13-hit attack were sophomore shortstop Carol Ann

Sexauer, who went 2-for-3 with three RBI; Miranda Rysdorp, who contributed two hits and two RBI; and Podorsek, who went 2-for-4 with three runs.

Canton won the second game of the twinbill, 6-2, behind the bat of Sexauer, who went 2-for-3 with a home run and four RBI. Rysdorp also sparked at the plate, going 2-for-3 with a triple.

Dunleavy pitched the final four innings to earn the victory.


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A strong quartet of captains leads Canton boys LAX team

The 2009 season promises to be a rebuilding and reloading campaign for Canton's boys lacrosse team, according to head coach Kevin Riley.

The Chiefs lost two All-State players and two All-Conference performers to graduation.

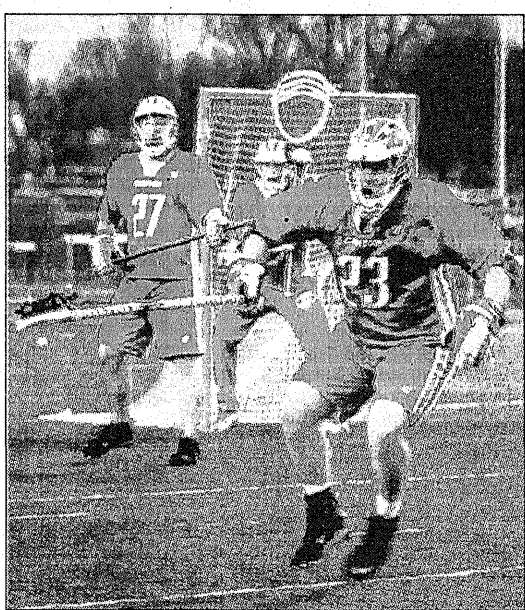
"We will be a young team with mostly juniors and sophomores," said Riley, who added the team's roster will run just 18 or 20 players deep.

"This season will be a learning experience for the young players because many are just learning the game with minimal experience."

The Chiefs will be led by senior captains Mark Barath, Jordan Emery, Kyle Dunleavy and Alex Loisel.

Additional players who will be counted on to make key contributions include junior attackman Jake Underwood; sophomore attackman Matt Rodgers; sophomore mid-fielder/face-off specialist Jordan Smith; junior defenseman Dakota Dark Bird and Ryan Dunleavy; and junior goalie Sean Walsh.

"Sean has been working hard to improve his technique and he should be a valuable asset as the season continues," said Riley.



MAGGIE WALSH

Pictured are three key members of the 2009 Canton lacrosse team: (left to right) Ryan Dunleavy, Sean Walsh and Kyle Dunleavy.

Ignition clinches inaugural XSL title

A one-point loss by the Milwaukee Wave Sunday afternoon clinched the first Xtreme Soccer League championship for the Detroit Ignition.

The Ignition finished its first two seasons with the league's regular-season title, but this is the first time the team has clinched the overall league

championship.

"I'm so happy, this was three years in the making for our guys," Ignition Head Coach Matt Johnson said. "This was a team that got along really well and worked hard for each other. It's a perfect example of how the team is more important than its individual play-

ers."

Immediately following the Ignition's final home game on Friday, an on-field presentation will be made to celebrate the team's first championship.

Friday's game is set to kick off at 7:35 p.m. at Computware Arena against the Chicago Storm (7-11).

THE WEEK AHEAD

PREP BASEBALL
Thursday, April 2
 Trillium Academy at PCA, 4:30 p.m.
 Novi at Plymouth (DH), 4 p.m.
Friday, April 3
 Salem at Franklin (DH), 4 p.m.
 Northville at Canton (DH), 4 p.m.
Saturday, April 4
 PCA at University of Liggett (DH), 1 p.m.
PREP SOFTBALL
Thursday, April 2
 University Liggett at PCA, 4:30 p.m.
 Novi at Plymouth (DH), 4 p.m.
Friday, April 3
 Northville at Canton (DH), 4 p.m.
 Salem at Franklin (DH), 4 p.m.
Saturday, April 4
 Trillium Academy at PCA (DH), 10 a.m.
BOYS & GIRLS TRACK
Thursday, April 2
 Novi at Salem, 3:30 p.m.

Saturday, April 4
 Salem boys at EMU Indoor Meet, 10 a.m.
GIRLS SOCCER
Thursday, April 2
 PCA at Calvary Christian, 4:30 p.m.
 Canton at Novi, 7 p.m.
Friday, April 3
 Lutheran Westland at PCA, 3:35 p.m.
 Plymouth at Northville, 7 p.m.
 Salem at W.L. Northern, 7 p.m.
GIRLS TENNIS
Friday, April 3
 Livonia Franklin at Canton, 4 p.m.
 Plymouth at John Glenn, 4 p.m.
 Salem at Northville, 4 p.m.
Saturday, April 4
 Canton and Salem at Monroe Olson Classic, 8 a.m.
BOYS LACROSSE
Friday, April 3
 South Lyon at Canton, 7 p.m.

Northville at Plymouth, 7 p.m.
 Salem at Northville, 7 p.m.
Saturday, April 4
 Plymouth at Ypsilanti Lincoln, 2 p.m.
COLLEGE BASEBALL
 (all double-headers unless noted)
Thursday, April 2
 Rochester College at Madonna (I), TBA.
Saturday, April 4
 Indiana Tech at Madonna, 1 p.m.
Sunday, April 5
 Madonna at Indiana Tech, 1 p.m.
COLLEGE SOFTBALL
 (all double-headers)
Friday, April 3
 Concordia at Madonna, 4 p.m.
Saturday, April 4
 Madonna at Davenport, 1 p.m.
Sunday, April 5
 Indiana Tech at Madonna, 1 p.m.

GIRLS TRACK RESULTS

CANTON 83 PLYMOUTH 53
March 31 at PCEP
Discus: 1. Hakala (C), 80 feet, 6 inches; 2. Tyler Buchanan (P), 78-3; 3. Nicole Douglas (C), 71-6.
High jump: 1. Lindsay Lipa (C), 5-2; 2. Christina Bradley (C), 4-3; 3. Kristyn Sturtz (P), 4-3.
Long jump: 1. Rebecka Knox (P), 15-5.5; 2. Ashley Banks (C), 15-0; 3. Bree Edge (C), 14-2.
Pole vault: 1. Kara Bongionanni (C), 7-9; 2. Robyn Piowar (C), 6-9.
Shot put: 1. Tyler Buchanan (P), 31-10.25; 2. Nicole Douglas (C), 29-10.5; 3. Isis Haywood (P), 27-1.25.
3,200-meter relay: 1. Canton (Sarah Thomas, Lizzie Gatzek, Beth Swanberg, Bianca Kubicki), 10:25; 2. Plymouth, 10:29.
100-meter hurdles: 1. Mandy McManus (P), 18.22; 2. Jenna Hamed (P), 19.09; 3. Krahn (C), 20.9.
100 dash: 1. Lindsey Lipa (C), 13.31; 2. Ashley Banks (C), 13.5; 3. Rebecka Knox (P), 13.6.
800 run: 1. Canton (Reed, Robyn Piowar, Cathy Huang, Bree Edge), 1:57.9; 2. Plymouth, 1:58.9.
1,600 run: 1. Paula Green (P), 5:49; 2. Bianca Kubicki (C), 5:53.4; 3. Sarah Thomas (C), 5:55.8.
400 relay: 1. Canton (Bree Edge, Ashley Bica, Lindsay Lipa, Ashley Banks), 53.2; 2. Plymouth 57.4.

400 dash: 1. Beth Swanberg (C), 1:04; 2. Cathy Huang (C), 1:06.4; 3. Lindsay Schmidt (C), 1:06.6.
300 hurdles: 1. Mandy McManus (P), 53.5; 2. Jenna Hamed (P), 54.8; 3. Yuki Krollicki (C), 56.0.
800 run: 1. Kelly Hahn (P), 2:34; 2. Julie Forster (P), 2:38; 3. Bianca Kubicki (C), 2:41.
200 dash: 1. Ashley Banks (C), 28.9; 2. Robyn Piowar (C), 29.0; 3. Bree Edge (C), 29.0.
3,200 run: 1. Molly Slavens (P), 12:15.59; 2. Paula Green (P), 13:18; 3. Yuki Krollicki (C), 13:59.
1,600 relay: 1. Canton (Lindsay Schmidt, Martin, Cathy Huang, Beth Swanberg), 4:30.12; 2. Plymouth, 4:38.5.

100-meter hurdles: 1. Becky Adamcheck (LS), 17.7; 2. Parvta (Salem), 19.1; 3. Nikki Yon (LS), 20.1.
300 hurdles: 1. Adamcheck (LS), 48.2; 2. Kovsky (LS), 54.0; 3. Parvta (Salem), 54.8.
100 dash: 1. Deja Wright (Salem), 12.5; 2. Frye (Salem), 13.6; 3. Stephanie Matter (LS), 14.2.
200: 1. Wright (Salem), 26.7; 2. Stephanie Batshon (LS), 28.4; 3. Belikov (Salem), 29.4.
400: 1. Linda Ling (Salem), 1:05.0; 2. Gudeman (LS), 1:06.4; 3. Katie Glynn (LS), 1:07.6.
800: 1. Courtney Calka (LS), 2:26.7; 2. Christina Joss (LS), 2:38.3; 3. Kelley Determan (Salem), 2:41.3.
1,600: 1. Calka (LS), 5:22.7; 2. Sarah Opdyke (LS), 5:56.3; 3. Moore (Salem), 6:03.3.
3,200: 1. Victoria Tripp (Salem), 13:13.8; 2. Kara Booms (Salem), 13:22.3; 3. Victoria Saferian (LS), 13:25.7.
400 relay: 1. Stevenson (Megan DeMarco, Alyssa Adams, Erin Erickson, Matter), 56.6; 2. Salem, 58.7; **800 relay:** 1. Stevenson (Erickson, LeBlanc, Kovsky, Batshon), 1:58.0; 2. Salem, disqualified; **1,600 relay:** 1. Stevenson (Batshon, LeBlanc, Glynn, Calka), 4:24.5; 2. Salem, 4:35.4; **3,200 relay:** 1. Salem, 11:16.8; 2. Stevenson, 11:17.2.
Dual meet records: Stevenson, 1-0 overall; 1-0 KLA Central Division; Salem, 0-1 overall; 0-1 KLA Central.

BOYS TRACK RESULTS

PLYMOUTH 75 CANTON 62
March 31 at PCEP Stadium
Discus: 1. Jason Foster (C), 129 feet, 3 inches; 2. Keith Choma (P), 117-10; 3. Kyle Brindza (P), 113-0.
High jump: 1. Ben Spreitzer (C), 5-11; 2. Pawan (P), 5-7; 3. Keith Zech (C), 5-5.
Long jump: 1. Nick Alaniva (C), 19-6; 2. Adam Payne (C), 18-11; 3. Zach Koch (P), 18-9.5.
Pole vault: 1. Eddie Koelzer (C), 11-11; 2. Nick Alaniva (C), 10-11; 3. Grant Senkbeil (P), 10-5.
Shot put: 1. Jordan Birman (P), 41-10.25; 2. Alex Marsh (C), 39-8.25; 3. Kyle Brindza (P), 39-6.
3,200-meter relay: 1. Plymouth (Warren Buzzard, Matt Neumann, Joe Porcari, Elmar Engholm), 8:21.0; 2. Canton (Keith Zech, Josh Hurst, Zach Spreitzer, Paul Rakovitis), 8:27.
110 high hurdles: 1. Sherif Hassanien (C), 16.5; 2. Brandon Pilgion (P), 16.6; 3. Ben Spreitzer (C), 17.9.
800 relay: 1. Plymouth (Malek Rich, Connor McKinney, William Askew, Victor Hicks), 1:34.0; 2. Canton (Ryan Randall, Sherif Hassanien, August Garrett, Jordan Wisniewski), 1:38.4.
1,600 run: 1. Elmar Engholm (P), 4:43.0; 2. Matt Neumann (P), 4:46.1; 3. Joe Porcari (P), 4:48.3.
400 relay: 1. Plymouth (Malek Rich, Connor McKinney, William Askew, Victor Hicks), 46.0; 2. Canton (Ryan Randall, August Garrett, Nick Austin, Jeremy Quillico), 46.8.

400 dash: 1. Kevin Buford (C), 55.0; 2. Jordan Wisniewski (C), 55.1; 3. William Askew (P), 55.4.
300 low hurdles: 1. Sherif Hassanien (C), 40.7; 2. Hyatt Ali (C), 44.6; 3. Doug Deykes (P), 44.6.
800 run: 1. Elmar Engholm (P), 2:02; 2. Warren Buzzard (P), 2:04.5; 3. Keith Zech (C), 2:08.4.
200 dash: 1. Malek Rich (P), 23.6; 2. Victor Hicks (P), 24.0; 3. Ryan Randall (C), 24.5.
3,200 run: 1. Elmar Engholm (P), 10:25.6; 2. Zach Spreitzer (C), 10:31; 3. Derek Lax (P), 11:06.
1,600 relay: 1. Canton (Kevin Buford, Keith Zech, Ryan Randall, Sherif Hassanien), 3:39.0; 2. Plymouth, 3:41.5.
SALEM 80 LIVONIA STEVENSON 57
March 31 at Stevenson
Shot put: 1. Dana Baltazar (Salem), 48 feet, 5.5 inches; 2. Ed Mehri (Salem), 46-1; 3. Andrew Nelson (LS), 41-9.
Discus: 1. Baltazar (Salem), 137-0; 2. Courtney Frazier (Salem), 124-5; 3. Mehri (Salem), 109-9.
High jump: 1. Zach Gaskell (Salem), 5-11; 2. Wyatt Stahl (LS), 5-9; 3. Austin White (LS), 5-7.
Long jump: 1. Nate Sergison (LS), 20-1.25; 2. Dominique Williams (Salem), 19-10.75; 3. Austin Root (Salem), 19-6.
Pole vault: 1. Jon Gudeman (LS), 11-11; 2. John Krutty (Salem), 11-8; 3. Henry Weyand (LS), 10-11.

110-meter hurdles: 1. Scott O'Connor (Salem), 16.35; 2. Will Burek (LS), 16.51; 3. Charles Williams (Salem), 17.34.
300 hurdles: 1. O'Connor (Salem), 40.29; 2. Burek (LS), 42.51; 3. C. Williams (Salem), 44.25.
100 dash: 1. Nick Anagnostou (LS), 11.2; 2. White (LS), 11.54; 3. D. Williams (Salem), 11.67.
200: 1. Anagnostou (LS), 22.83; 2. D. Williams (LS), 23.13; 3. Pat Patin (Salem), 23.62.
400: 1. Gaskell (Salem), 52.62; 2. Stephen Pollard (LS), 54.45; 3. Matt Williams (LS), 55.05.
800: 1. Alex Lang (Salem), 2:07.14; 2. Dan Martin (Salem), 2:08.73; 3. Zach Basanese (Salem), 2:10.0.
1,600: 1. Shawn Howse (LS), 4:46.29; 2. Lang (Salem), 4:48.14; 3. Martin (Salem), 4:50.73.
3,200: 1. Matt Devey (Salem), 10:08.01; 2. Howse (LS), 10:08.41; 3. Mike Charara (Salem), 10:13.89.
400 relay: 1. Stevenson (White, Jacob Gudeman, David Simor, Anagnostou), 44.68; 2. Salem, 45.37; **800 relay:** 1. Stevenson (White, Jacob Gudeman, Sergison, Anagnostou), 1:32.67; 2. Salem, 1:36.67; **1,600 relay:** 1. Salem, 3:37.65; 2. Stevenson, 3:41.25; **3,200 relay:** 1. Salem (Basanese, Dan Adgitt, Devey, Charara), 8:42.02; 2. Stevenson, 8:43.38.
Dual meet records: Salem, 1-0 overall; 1-0 KLA Central; Stevenson, 0-1 overall; 0-1 KLA Central.

Chiefs tie for 15th at the EMU Relays

Canton's boys track-and-field team tied for 15th at Saturday's EMU Indoor Relays, which were held in Bowen Fieldhouse on the Eastern Michigan University campus. Ann Arbor Pioneer won the event with 75 points, 9.5 more than runner-up Toledo Rogers. Salem was the top local finisher, placing 11th with 55.5 points. The Chiefs tallied 10.5 points thanks in large part to sixth-place finishes by high-

jumper Ben Spreitzer, who cleared six-feet even; and pole-vaulter Eddie Koelzer, who set a personal-best height of 11-6. Two Canton relay teams placed eighth: the 3,200-meter contingent of Keith Zech, Josh Hurst, Zach Spreitzer and Duncan Spitz (8:28.0) and the sprint medley four-some of Zech, Ryan Randall, Jordan Wisniewski and Hurst, who were clocked in 3:50.7.

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Last year the event was bigger than ever with 700 attendees and 90 exhibitors. Showcase and Taste of Plymouth was created to celebrate the Plymouth Community; it's businesses, restaurants, and the people who live here.

Cost for exhibit space is \$100. To help members during difficult economic times, the chamber is also offering half an exhibit space that can be purchased for \$50. The chamber will match companies with other firms in a non-competing business to share space, even attempting to match complementary companies to give them a chance to co-market the event. Sharing a space would consist of using half of the 6' x 3' table provided to exhibitors. Businesses interested in exhibiting

should contact the chamber at (734) 453-1540 or e-mail: terl@plymouthmich.org.

Keller Williams

The new Keller Williams Real Estate office in Plymouth celebrates its grand opening 4 p.m. Friday, April 3. The event will feature refreshments and appetizers and the grand opening ribbon will be cut at 4:30 p.m. Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce officials are hoping folks can join fellow Chamber members and community leaders as to welcome Jeff Glover and his team to Plymouth.

The office is located at 459 S. Main Street.

Beauty to behold

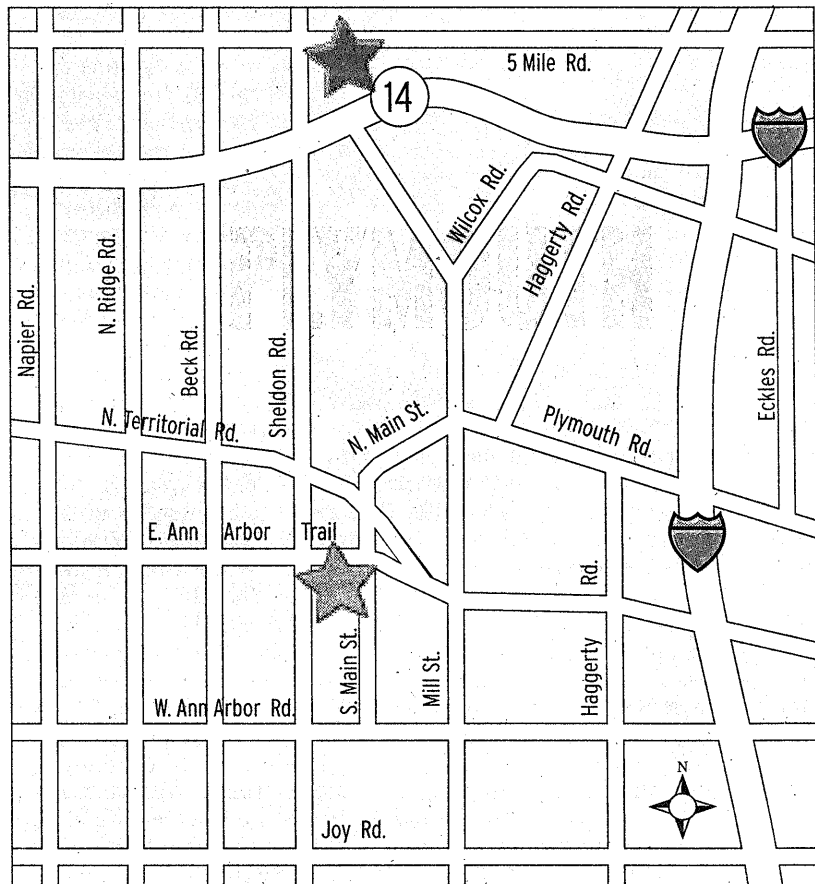
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For a more velvety option, trace and fill in with dual-sided Satin Lip Pencil in blushing-nude Caramel Pink or lilac-laced Angel Mist. To finish the look, give fingers and toes a coat or two of SALON FORMULA™ Nail Color in ethereal Heavenly Pink or decadent Cranberry Rose. The "Pretty Charming" Spring 2009 Color Collection is available now for a limited time only, at Merle Norman, 595 Forest, in Plymouth. For more information about Merle Norman Cosmetics, call us at (734) 414-4089.



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Our new local business page runs each Thursday in your *Plymouth Observer*. We welcome comments and suggestions, too. We're looking forward to hearing from you.

IT'S YOUR BUSINESS Q&A

Legal firm a 'good fit' in Plymouth community

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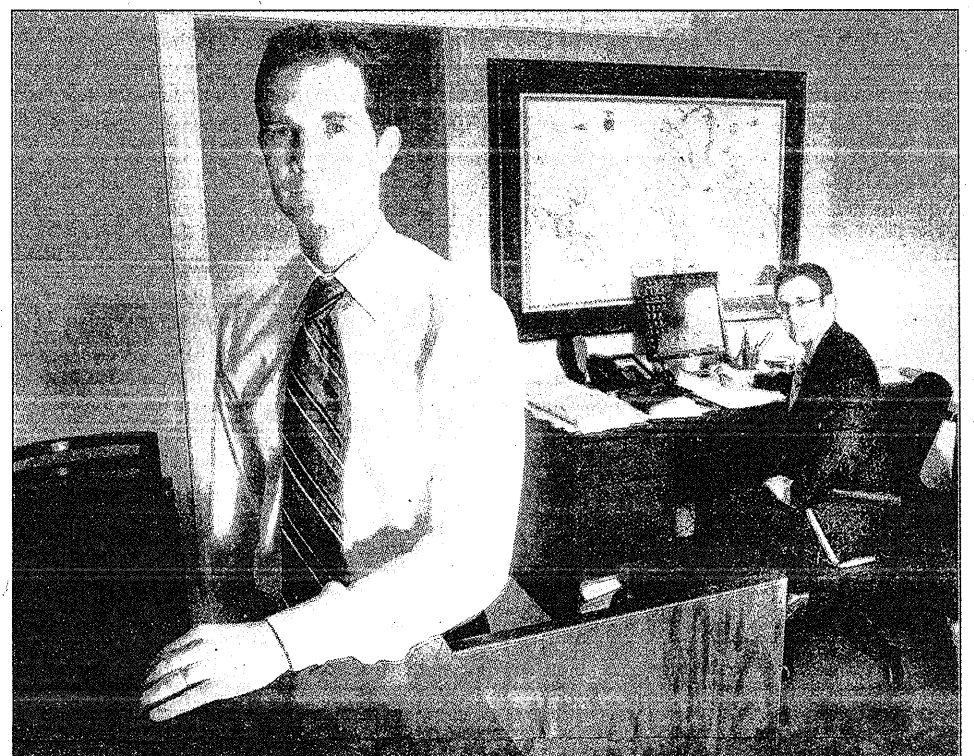
ALDRICH LEGAL SERVICES PLLC

- Business name: Aldrich Legal Services PLLC
- Business address: 276 S. Union, Suite 1, Plymouth
- Your name and title: Brad Aldrich, attorney
- Your hometown: Plymouth
- Business opened when? Practice started in Detroit, relocated to Plymouth in November 2005
- Number of employees: Besides Aldrich, there are two employees. Ben Henry is an attorney who was recently licensed to practice law in Michigan and has worked for Brad for 2 years as a clerk while finishing law school. Sandy Saleh is the firm's secretary and has been with Aldrich Legal Services, PLLC since its move to Plymouth.
- Your business specialty: General practice law firm working in the areas of bankruptcy, estate planning, unemployment, personal injury, traffic tickets, and criminal misdemeanors, specializing in real estate law including property acquisition, property taxation, and ownership disputes.
- Hours of operation: Our office is typically open from 9 to 5 although arrangements can be made to meet with clients outside of those hours.
- Business phone and Web site: (734) 404-3000; aldrichlegalservices.com

work would not suit his personality. Brad opened his own law firm right out of law school and has been practicing ever since.

Observer: How did you decide to locate in the Plymouth community?

Aldrich Legal Services: After Brad moved to the Plymouth area he experienced the incredible community and felt that his business would be a good fit for the community that would provide a mutual benefit.



Attorneys Brad Aldrich and Ben Henry of Aldrich Legal Services.

BILL BRESLER / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

CHAMBER CHAT

Upcoming April Chamber Events: Mark Your Calendars

■ April 3 - Grand Opening-Keller Williams Realty, Jeff Glover Agency, 4:00, 459 Main.

■ April 17 - 6 on 6 Networking, 8 - 9:00, Chamber office

■ April 28 - Good Morning Plymouth Community Breakfast, 7:30-9, Station 885, Speaker is Detroit Tigers VP of Communication, Ron Colangelo.

■ April 30 - Forty Free Tickets available for members to attend "Prescription Murder" by Barefoot Productions, 8 p.m., 240 N. Main St.

'Plymouth Rocks'

The Chamber now has T-shirts available with the "Plymouth Rocks" logo. In the coming weeks you will start to see the campaign logo on the Chamber building, on window decals around the area and on our web site that receives 45,000 hits per month.

The community marketing campaign is designed to give us a contemporary image we can centralize our marketing around to attract people to visit or locate to our community. Thus far, we have received great feedback regarding this new approach to marketing the Plymouth area.

Small-group networking

Call today to reserve your seat at the table for 6 on 6 Small Group Networking session April 17. At typical networking events you often briefly meet to exchange cards and then have to follow up later. This event eliminates the need for follow up, since you have time to get to know the other people participating in this intimate network setting. To avoid overlap, the 12 participating members are each from a different industry.

To sign up for this session 8-9 a.m. Friday, April 17, call Wes Graff, (734) 453-1540. You also can put your name on the list for a future session if this one is full. The event is at the Chamber office,



Wes Graff

850 West Ann Arbor Trail. Please bring marketing materials to handout. We ask that you do not attend two consecutive months to allow for a new mixture of people each time.

Chamber golf

The Chamber will hold its annual golf outing on Monday, July 13 at Northville Hills. If you are interested in playing or would like sponsorship information, please call (734) 453-1540.

Top Web site

To help members see other web sites in the community and get ideas they could use for their own sites, we will feature a different member's site each week. This week we are featuring the web site from Magnolia: www.magnolia-flowers@sbcglobal.net

Community/Business News

Divas took over Plymouth on Saturday. The first Diva Day was a tremendous success attracting hundreds of Divas who shopped and dined in Plymouth. You can click on the following link to see a slide show about the day's festivities: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/plymouthmichigan/sets/72157616081191368/show/>

Spring Cleaning

Dearborn Jewelers has their own version of spring-cleaning happening as they offer 20-percent off all in-stock merchandise to make room for new items on the way for Spring. Dearborn Jewelers is located in downtown Plymouth on Ann Arbor Trail. The company is family owned and is celebrating their 59 years of doing business in Michigan.

Wes Graff is executive director of the Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce. He can be reached via e-mail at wes@plymouthmich.org or by phone at (734) 453-1540.

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Grow 'Green' with Us!

RELIGION FROM PAGE B6

Road, Farmington Hills. The choir and string ensemble will be conducted by Cantor Amy Studt. The work describes the history of the passion of the Lord as written by the evangelist St. Mark. Using the Biblical text of the passion, traditionally read on Palm Sunday, it is sure to be a powerful and meaningful history through the chorales and soloists. Contact Amy Studt at astudt@sbccglobal.net or (248) 626-7906.

Holy week services April 5, Palm Sunday, Traditional Worship Services 8 a.m. Hess Chapel; 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. Sanctuary; Contemporary Worship Service 9:30 a.m. Knox Hall; Easter Concert in the Sanctuary at 5 p.m. (childcare through age 4). April 9, Maundy Thursday Service of Shadows and Holy Communion 7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary (childcare thru Age 4). April 10, Good Friday noon to 3 p.m. (Sanctuary). April 12, Easter Sunday Traditional Worship Services at 8 a.m. Hess Chapel, 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. Sanctuary, Contemporary Worship Services 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. Knox Hall. All services at Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church, 40000 Six Mile, Northville. For information, call (248) 374-7400.

Dining in the kingdom of God Luke's Gospel revealed in 10 meals that describe different dimensions of the Eucharist, presented by St. Aidan's Faith Formation Director, David Conrad, M.A. Theology, 7-9 p.m. April 8, Free. Call (734) 425-5950.

Midweek Lenten services Lola Park Lutheran Church, 14750 Kinloch, Redford, will have mid-week Lenten services at 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday evenings. Call (313) 532-8655 or (734) 968-3523.

Lenten services Passover Seder Dinner at 6 p.m. for \$8 followed by the Maundy Thursday service at 7 p.m. April 9, at St. James Presbyterian Church, 25350 W. Six Mile, Redford, Call (313) 534-7730. Easter Sunday Worship Service 10 a.m. April 12.

Lenten services Evening Prayer 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays, at Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA), 30650 Six Mile, Livonia. Call (734) 427-1414.

Holy Week Maundy Thursday Service, 7 p.m. April 9; Good Friday Service Stations of the Cross, 7 p.m.; and Easter Sunday Events 9 a.m. breakfast, 10:30 a.m. baptisms, 10:45 a.m. worship with music from "The Mass of the Celtic Saints," Trinity Church, 34500 Six Mile, Livonia. Call (734) 425-2800.

Holy Week Maundy (Holy) Thursday, 7:30 p.m. April 9, celebration of Holy Communion concludes with "Stripping of the Altar" as a reminder of Lord being stripped of His power and glory in preparation for crucifixion. Festival Choir and Jubellation Handbell Choir enhance this worship service. 12:30 p.m. Good Friday, April 10, meditative worship service centered on "The Passion of our Lord" and 7:30 p.m. Tenebrae service of darkness with music by Christ Our Savior Festival Choir. 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. Easter Sunday, April 12, festival worship services include the singing of favorite Easter hymns accompanied by brass and timpani and the celebration of Holy Communion. Children (up to 8) celebrate Easter at a fair 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Saturday, April 11 featuring crafts. Easter video, egg hunt, cookie decorating, and more. Call (734)

522-6830. Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church, 14175 Farmington Road, north of I-96, Livonia. www.christsaviors.org.

Men's Good Friday breakfast Former Detroit Lion Quarterback Eric Hipple will be the guest speaker at the 34th Annual St. Michael Men's Good Friday Breakfast 8 a.m. Friday, April 10, at St. Michael Lutheran Church, 7000 N. Sheldon Road, Canton. Tickets are \$5 adults, \$2 for boys 10 and under. Call (734) 459-3333 for tickets.

Easter weekend services 1:15 p.m., 3:15 p.m., 5:15 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Friday, April 10; 3:15 p.m., 5:15 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Saturday, April 11, and 9:15 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. Sunday, April 12, at NorthRidge Church, 49555 N. Territorial/Lat Ridge, Plymouth. Call (734) 414-7777 or visit northridge-church.com. A weekend series about relationships runs April 18 to May 17.

Fish fry Fridays 4-7 p.m. (or until dinners run out) Friday, April 10, at St. Robert Bellarmine on the corner of West Chicago and Inkster roads, Redford. All you can eat fish dinner is \$8, \$7 seniors, \$4 kids under age 12, \$8 baked cod dinner, \$6 fish sandwich, \$2 cheese pizza. Dinners include choice of fries or mac & cheese, coleslaw, roll and butter, coffee, tea or milk. Carry out diners do not include beverage.

Easter eggstravaganza 10:30 a.m. Saturday, April 11, at First Church of the Nazarene, 21260 Haggerty, north of Eight Mile, east of Haggerty. Call (248) 348-7600. Over 6,500 eggs to hunt, plus "Eggciting" show by Two Can and Araya Sunshine; photos with the Easter bunny; games and prizes; hot dogs, chips, cookies and drinks. Rain or shine. Don't forget your Easter basket. Easter sunrise gathering

8 a.m. Sunday, April 12, in Kellogg Park on Main Street, downtown Plymouth. Revival Outreach Center pastors Shawn and Sonny Hennessy are Plymouth residents and want to offer this gift. Live Band, short message, children's activities, free muffins and coffee provided by Plymouth's Caribou Coffee at Five Mile and Sheldon. Call (248) 719-2380.

Easter festival Harvest Ministries, 23233 Drake Road, north of Freedom Road will host an Easter Festival Sunday, April 12. Festival includes an egg hunt for ages 3-12 at 9:30 a.m. with prizes. Guests from Servanthands will also be present with inflatables and other exciting items. Food, fellowship and fun for the whole family. All are welcome. Call (248) 478-1511.

All-you-can-eat pancakes The Ushers' Club of St. Michael the Archangel Parish in Livonia continues its 30-year tradition of all-you-can-eat pancake breakfasts 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. the third Sunday of each month in the school cafeteria at 11441 Hubbard. Expanded menu features pancakes, scrambled eggs, sausage, bacon, hash browns and assorted beverages served buffet-style, \$5, adults; \$3, children 4-11; free, under 3; \$15, family (two adults and all children). Everyone welcome.

Registration opens St. Mary School, 34516 Michigan Ave., Wayne, recognized as a School of Distinction, is now accepting registrations for the 2009-10 school year for grades Kindergarten through 8. Call (734) 721-1240.

New worship schedule Sunday worship at 8 a.m., Faith Forum at 9 a.m., worship and Sunday school 10 a.m. Wednesday worship at 7:30 p.m. in the Chapel, at Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church, 30650

Six Mile, Livonia. Call (734) 427-1414. Historic Polish church tour West Side Detroit Polish American Historical Society, a nonprofit organization with headquarters in historic St. Hedwig Catholic Church in Detroit, will hold its second annual west side Detroit historic Polish church pilgrimage and wi conka (traditional Polish Easter meal) Saturday, April 18. The pilgrimage starts at 10 a.m. at St. Hedwig, 3245 Junction, and includes St. Francis d'Assissi (4500 Wesson), and St. Stephen (4311 Central) in Detroit, and Our Lady of Mt. Carmel (976 Pope John II Ave.) and St. Stanislaus Kostka (266 Antoine St.) in Wyandotte. The wi conka will be held at Biddle Hall, 3239 Biddle, Wyandotte. The menu includes kielbasa, ham, potato salad, tossed green salad, beet horseradish (wiklia), bread, butter lamb, dessert (variety of cakes, or babkas), and beverages. Coaches do not have wheelchair lifts. Return to St. Hedwig between 5-5:30 p.m. Optional Our Lady Queen of Angels Mass at 5 p.m., and confession at St. Stephen, 5:30 p.m. Advance reservation only by April 8. Call (248) 477-8518, e-mail lpalazzolo@detroitpolonia.org, or visit www.detroitpolonia.org. As a special feature, during dessert a video will be shown about traditional palm weaving by Sr. Cecilia Schmitt, a Franciscan nun in St. Cloud, Minnesota, who wrote "the" book on weaving palms. There will be emphasis on weaving the Polish palm cross.

Open house And Science Fair 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 6-8 p.m. Thursday, April 23, at All Saints Catholic School, 48735 Warren Road, Canton. Call (734) 459-2490.

Landscape project Trinity Church of Livonia is holding a Native Landscape informational

meeting 12:30-1:30 p.m. Sunday, April 26, in the church library at 34500 Six Mile, next to Stevenson High School, west of Farmington Road, Livonia. The meeting is to discuss native landscape plans for the church property. They have been working with the City of Livonia and the Friends of the Rouge at ways to be good stewards. Goals include reducing air and water pollution, embracing a sustainable aesthetic, and building community. All are welcome. A planting day is scheduled for May 16. The church is also hosting a site at a Livonia Park for the Rouge Rescue set for June 6. Call (734) 425-2800.

Clothing bank Free clothing (men, women and children) for those in need 10 a.m.-noon on the fourth Saturday of each month, at Canton Christian Fellowship Clothing Bank, 8775 Ronda Drive. The bank continues in April. Call (734) 404-2480, visit www.CantonCF.org or send e-mail to info@cantoncf.org.

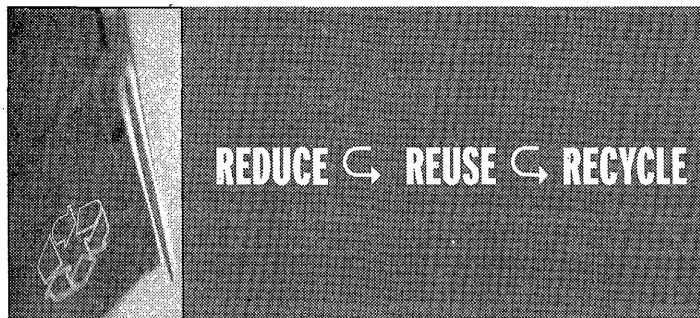
Families in action workshops The National Association for Mental Illnesses 10-week educational program continues at St. Regis Parish School Campus in Bloomfield Hills. The program is for people with a loved one diagnosed with a serious mental illness. The workshop meets at 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays or Thursdays through April 30. \$20 per person; \$30 per couple. Families In Action is funded in large part by the Oakwood Healthcare Foundation and the Oakwood Heritage Hospital Auxiliary. Call (248) 348-7197 to register.

Music at St. John's The Saline Fiddlers, 6 p.m., Sunday, May 17, at St. John's Episcopal Church, 574 S. Sheldon, Plymouth. All concerts free except The Saline Fiddlers (\$7). Call (734) 453-0190.

Your Invitation to Worship

Advertisement for church directory featuring logos and service details for various denominations including Catholic, Evangelical Covenant, United Methodist, Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, Presbyterian, and others. Each entry lists church name, address, phone number, and service times.

For Information regarding this Directory, please call Senny Lee at 586-977-7651 or e-mail: sslee@dnps.com



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'Joey' hosts 2 nights of high-flying comedy

BY WENDSY VON BUSKIRK
O&E STAFF WRITER

What do you get when you cross a pilot and a comic? Find out as Joey Bielaska hosts two nights of comedy at Karl's Cabin in Plymouth April 3-4.

Bielaska, a senior captain for Spirit Airlines, gets plenty of fodder for his standup routines from his day job. His act includes a healthy dose of cockpit humor, including a gay flight attendant character named Curtis.

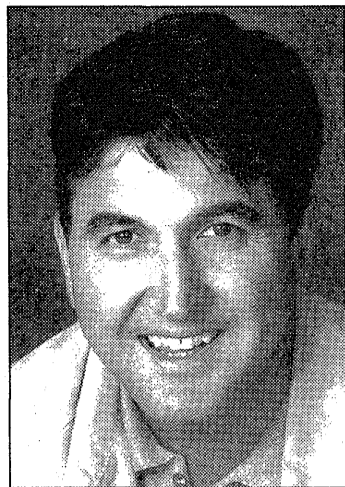
Likewise, the comic isn't shy about using his improv skills in the friendly skies.

"Say the plane's a few minutes late. I throw a joke in over the loudspeaker to lighten things up," he said. "Look out the left window and you'll see your luggage. Look out the right and you'll see your stuff."

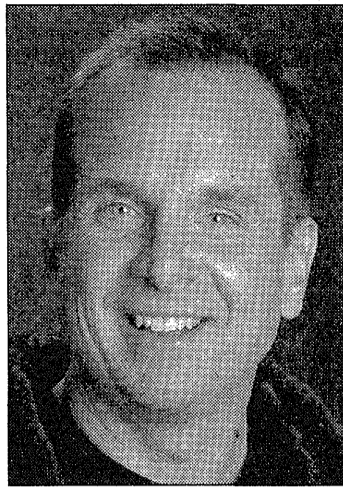
Bielaska, a Plymouth native, grew up idolizing comics who appeared on the Johnny Carson Show, and first took the stage in 1979 at Mark Ridley's Comedy Castle in Royal Oak, where he appeared with the likes of Tim Allen and Dave Coulier.

"Mark was my mentor. All us guys started out there and I decided to take it one step further," Bielaska said.

Partnering with his brother Ed, who now owns Stone Fire Bistro in Brighton,



Sal Demilio, "Detroit's Don of Comedy," focuses on his Italian upbringing, current events and his battle with the bulge.



Comic Joey Bielaska, founder of Joey's Comedy Club of Livonia, will stage two shows at Karl's Cabin April 3-4.

KOMEDY AT KARL'S

What: Comedians Joey Bielaska and Sal Demilio
When: April 3-4; dinner at 8:30 p.m., show at 9:30 p.m.
Where: Karl's Cabin, 6005 Gotfredson Road, Plymouth
Tickets: \$10 in advance; \$12 at the door, available at www.minnehahacomedyclub.com
Information: Call (734) 455-8450 or visit www.karlscabin.com

see this place at night." Set on a rural stretch of Gotfredson Road off M-14, Karl's has a log cabin feel, with twinkling lights accenting the rustic wood interior.

Before the comedy shows, guests will be seated at private tables and booths in the dining room and order off the menu, which includes an extensive wine list and entrees like Herb Roasted Prime Rib, Salmon Chardonnay and Smoked Mozzarella Ravioli (\$12.95-\$19.95).

The laughs start at 9:30 p.m.

Bielaska said he expects good attendance, as people are turning to comedy to get their mind off the economy.

"It's going to be a fun night. I think people need a good chuckle," he said.

Bielaska eventually operated three comedy clubs in metro Detroit including Joey's Comedy Club of Livonia, which still bears his name.

Bielaska has shared the stage with many talented comics, including Soupy Sales and Bobby Collins, and has performed across the country, including several appearances at the Riviera Hotel Comedy Club in Las Vegas.

With fellow pilot/comedian Mike Orenstein, Bielaska now operates MinneHAHA Comedy Club, which stages comedy at venues throughout Minneapolis.

Bielaska describes his humor as "gently shocking"

and "Bill Cosby-ish — real life with a twist."

"It's a set routine with ad lib moments. I like thinking on my feet. That's why I love hosting shows," he said.

Bielaska will emcee the shows at Karl's Cabin, which also feature Sal Demilio, "Detroit's Don of Comedy," whose jokes focus on his Italian upbringing, current events and his battle with the bulge.

Bielaska said he decided to stage shows at Karl's Cabin after being inspired by the atmosphere at the cozy restaurant.

"I came here for dinner with my wife and thought it would be perfect. It's a great venue," he said. "You should

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NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED 2009-10 BUDGET

In compliance with "Act No. 43," State of Michigan Public Act of 1963, and "Act No. 2," State of Michigan Public Acts of 1968 ("Section 16" of the Uniform Budgeting and Accounting Act), Schoolcraft College publishes this notification of a public hearing on the proposed 2009-10 College budget. This hearing is to take place at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 22, 2009, at the Grote Administration Center, 18600 Haggerty Road, Livonia, Michigan. A copy of the proposed budget is available for public inspection at the above address during normal business hours.

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

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

Publish: April 2, 2009

SIMPLY SELF STORAGE

Notice is hereby given that on April 16, 2009 on or after 9:30 a.m. that Simply Self Storage will be offering for sale under the judicial lien Process by Public Auction the following units. The goods to be sold are generally described as household goods. Terms of the sale are cash only. Simply Self Storage reserves the right to refuse any and all bids. The sale will be at the following location: 34333 E. Michigan Ave. Wayne MI. 48184 (734)728-8204.

A111	Latvia McDaniel	Microwave, Air Conditioner, Speakers
A118	Saria Johnson	Mattress, 2 Boxes, Bookshelf
A145B	Randall Frye	File Cabinet, Fax Machine, Microwave
A160	Rosanne Stevens	10 Bags, Clothes, 5 Boxes
C103	Avon Adams	Washer, Dryer, Refrigerator
C120	Robert Powell	Refrigerator, Freezer, Big Screen TV
D132	Marco Davis	Couch, Tools, Bike
D166	Kenneth Siebert	4 Tables, 2 Show Cases

Publish: March 26, and April 2, 2009

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FILTER

Sit in on a rehearsal with Ed Nuccilli & Plural Circle

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
O&E STAFF WRITER

JAZZ CONCERT

What: Ed Nuccilli & Plural Circle Big Band Jazz Orchestra
When: 3-5 p.m. Sunday, April 19
Where: Schoolcraft College VisiTech Center, 18600 Haggerty, between Six Mile and Seven Mile, Livonia
Tickets: \$15, and available by calling (248) 474-2720

Ed Nuccilli is like the name of his 18-piece band Plural Circle, never ending. At age 84 he just keeps traveling around the Detroit area playing gigs. The Southfield trumpeter has no intention of stepping down from the stage.

On Sunday, April 19, Nuccilli brings his straight ahead jazz to Schoolcraft College in Livonia from 3-5 p.m. This time though he's donating their talents so the Michigan Jazz Festival can continue to provide fans with an entire afternoon and night of the American art form July 19, on campus. But this isn't any jazz concert — he and the band will let the audience sit in on a live rehearsal.

Nuccilli started studying trumpet at age 12 with his father Peter who played the instrument with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra. While the classical music foundation did serve him well over the years, Nuccilli wasn't about to sit and wait for 90 bars to play a few notes. For him trumpet was all about jazz.

"I got exposed to Swing when I went to Cass Tech," said Nuccilli. "I used to go across the street to a confectionery store for Cokes and chips for a nickel, and put a nickel in the nickelodeon. That's where I first heard Benny Goodman and Jimmy Lunsford. I started performing professionally at age 14 in a little neighborhood band and began writing arrangements during my junior year of high school."

Nuccilli didn't stop playing even when drafted into the U.S. Army infantry during World War II. He managed to find a group of musicians who shared his love for Count Basie, Woody Herman and the big bands. Nuccilli returned home only to leave again to tour the Midwest and East Coast with Shorty Sherock and Bobby Sherwood. In 1949 he came back to Detroit, this time to stay.

Nuccilli began studies at the

Detroit Institute of Musical Arts, but met wife Jean and decided to raise a family. He took a 4-year hiatus from music in the mid 1950s but couldn't stay away from the trumpet. Nuccilli played nights while first working in property accounting at Ford Motor Co, and then as a Metropolitan Life Insurance Company agent. In 1960 he formed a Latin band and started playing at Elmwood Casino in Windsor where he was asked to become band leader in 1972.

Because of the training his father gave him, Nuccilli was able to read all styles of music and by 1963 was house trumpet for performers like Paul Anka. In 1969 he retired from Metropolitan Life and made the rounds of clubs including the Roostertail.

It wasn't long before he was writing commercials, one of which brought him to Motown in the early 1970s. When the record company moved to the West Coast he decided to stay in Detroit. He formed Plural Circle around 1972.

Nuccilli and the group's CDs will be available at the April 19th concert at Schoolcraft College. The program combines Nuccilli's original arrangements with standard jazz classics. "My philosophy for jazz emanates out of improvisation, creating on the spot. That's what jazz is all about," said Nuccilli. "I enhance it with a lot more horns with the emphasis on improvisation."

Midge Ellis is grateful Nuccilli is bringing his sound



Ed Nuccilli, trumpeter, of Southfield and his 18-piece band let the audience experience a rehearsal session in a benefit concert at Schoolcraft College in Livonia Sunday, April 19.

to Schoolcraft College for the fund-raiser. It was she who suggested they hold their regular Sunday rehearsal on campus so ticket sales could go to the Michigan Jazz Festival, which features nearly 200 local musicians. It should be an interesting experience.

"The audience gets to sit in on their rehearsal. Most are closed rehearsals and the audience doesn't know how they got there. Ed is a composer and he's going to bring some new music

and they're going to discuss it and the audience is going to hear that," said Ellis of Livonia. "Our mission with the festival is to get people to appreciate jazz

more so they're learning about what they're hearing. It's very innovative, jazz, and the solos are off the tops of their heads. To hear somebody do that is

incredible."

For more information and tickets (\$15), call (248) 474-2720.

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

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For information and a complete list of The Sixties events, please visit www.LorenzoCulturalCenter.com or call 586.445.7348
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"1964" The Tribute - Apr. 24

Bobby Vinton Live in Concert - Apr. 25

Mitch Ryder - Apr. 30

Ask about our April Show Deals
586.286.2222
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For more information please visit www.MacombCenter.com

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Friday Night Live:
Due to a special event, Friday Night Live! musical performances have been cancelled. The museum will remain open, and there will be drawing in the galleries and a drop-in workshop.

Saturday:
Watch artist Sabrina Nelson create her version of Norman Rockwell's poster—Freedom of Worship.

Target Family Sundays:
Corinne Stavish shares stories about "American Family."

Now on View:
American Chronicles: The Art of Norman Rockwell

Programs are made possible with support from the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs and the City of Detroit.

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PHOTO BY RICK SMITH

The Trip to Bountiful

Julianne Somers and Mary Benson star in 'The Trip to Bountiful' through April 12 at Meadow Brook Theatre. The American classic, written by Horton Foote and directed by Dennis E. North, tells the story of an elderly woman who sets off for Bountiful, the small Texas town where she grew up. On the road she befriends a young traveler whom she entertains with stories of her past. Tickets, \$24-\$39, are available at the Meadow Brook Theatre box office, on the campus of Oakland University, 2200 N. Squirrel Road, Rochester; by calling (248) 377-0300; or online at www.ticketmaster.com.

GET OUT

FROM PAGE B10

Cranbrook Institute of Science: "Hatching the Past," through Sept. 6; Planetarium shows Friday nights and weekends; 11 permanent exhibits, 39221 Woodward, Bloomfield Hills, (248) 645-3200, <http://science.cranbrook.edu>.

Detroit Institute of Arts: "American Chronicles: The Art of Norman Rockwell," through May 31; "Learning by Line: The Role and Purpose of Drawing in the 18th Century," through June 15; "Representing the Black Male Body in Art," artist's talk by Kehinde Wiley, 2 p.m. March 29; "On Life and Loss: The Polish Photographs of Roman Vishniac and Jeffrey Gusky," April 15-July 12, 5200 Woodward, Detroit. Call (313) 833-7900.

Detroit Science Center: "Leonardo Da Vinci: Man, Inventor, Genius," tickets \$13.95 to \$16.95; "Star Trek: The Exhibition," 5020 John R, (313) 577-8400, www.detroit-sciencecenter.org.

Museum of Contemporary Art-Detroit: New Wave logo design contest for students, enter by April 10, www.mocadetroit.org/new-wave; "Black Is, Black Ain't," "I Repeat Myself When Under Stress," through May 3, 4454 Woodward, Detroit, (313) 832-6622.

Plymouth Historical Museum: "In the Presence of Lincoln," through Nov. 4, 155 S. Main St. Hours are 1-4 p.m. Wednesday, Friday,

Saturday and Sunday, 1-4 p.m. Admission, \$5; \$2 for students 6-17; \$10 for families. Tour groups can be accommodated, (734) 455-8940, www.plymouthhistory.org.

OPERA

Detroit Opera House: "The Elixir of Love," through April 5; "I Pagliacci," April 18-26; "Carmen," May 9-17; "Nabucco," Oct. 17-24; "A Little Night Music," Nov. 14-21; "Don Giovanni," April 17-24, 2010; "Tosca," May 8-15, 2010, Michigan Opera Theatre, 1526 Broadway, Detroit, www.michiganopera.org.

SOMETHING DIFFERENT

Green Street Fair: Non-profits, artisans, live music, workshops and speakers focused on benefits of green, organic, and eco-friendly products and services, May 1-3, free, Downtown Plymouth, (734) 259-2983, www.greenstreetfair.com.

Rock Financial Showplace: Michigan International Wine Expo, April 3-4; Spring Home and Garden Show, April 3-5; Comic Con, May 15-17, 46100 Grand River, Novi, (248) 348-5600, www.rockfinancialshowplace.com.

The Big Dance: Three days of concerts, featuring headliners Pussycat Dolls, Fergie, Gavin DeGraw and Staind, with emcee Ryan Seacrest, as well as 40 local bands, as part of the 2009 NCAA Men's Final Four weekend, April 3-5, Detroit Riverfront.

THEATER - COMMUNITY

The Farmington Players: "Sweet Charity," April 24-May 16; 32332 W. 12 Mile,

Farmington Hills, (248) 553-2955, www.farmingtonplayers.org.

Spotlight Players: "The Pajama Game," April 24-May 9, Village Theater at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill Road, Canton, (734) 394-5300, www.spotlightplayers.net.

Tipping Pointe Theatre: "The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)," April 22-24, 361 E. Cady, Northville, (248) 347-0003.

THEATER-PROFESSIONAL

Fisher Theatre: "Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street," through April 5; Mandy Patinkin and Patti LuPone, April 14-19; "Stomp," April 20-26; "Annie," May 5-10; and "Grease," June 9-28, 3011 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit, 1-800-982-2787, www.ticketmaster.com, www.broadway-indetroit.com.

Fox Theatre: "Riverdance- Farewell Performances," April 8-12; Oprah Winfrey presents "The Color Purple," April 14, 2211 Woodward, Detroit, Ticketmaster.com, OlympiaEntertainment.com, (248) 433-1515.

Jewish Ensemble Theatre: "Halpern and Johnson" April 21-May 17, 6600 W. Maple, West Bloomfield, (248) 788-2900, www.jettheatre.org.

Meadow Brook Theatre: "The Trip to Bountiful," through April 12; "By Jeeves," April 22 to May 17; "Nunsense 2: The Second Coming," May 27 to June 14, on the campus of Oakland University, Rochester Hills (248) 377-0300, www.ticketmaster.com, for more information, visit www.mbtheatre.com.

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Best bets for French wine values

If you read this column regularly, you know that we've been scouring the world of wine to bring readers top wine values available in this market.

This month, the French brand La Vieille Ferme has wines on one of the best sales ever. Don't miss it because if the economy turns around, you may never see such



Focus on Wine
Ray & Eleanor Heald

aggressively competitive pricing again - really good French wines at \$8 per bottle!

La Vieille Ferme wines are made by the Perrins, the most heralded wine-making family in France's southern Rhone Valley and producers of the legendary Chateau de Beaucastel Chateauf-neuf-du-Pape.

WHO ARE THE PERRINS?

Three highly-educated Perrin brothers (Marc, Pierre

WINE PICKS

Prices for California ZINFANDEL, considered an American heritage by aficionados, have gone through the roof. Here are five yummy zins at sensible prices.
 2006 Bogle Old Vine, \$11
 2006 Ravenswood Old Vine Sonoma County, \$15
 2007 Dry Creek Vineyard Heritage, Sonoma County, \$18
 2007 Artein Mendocino County, \$18
 2006 Ferrari-Carano Dry Creek Valley, \$28

and Thomas), all in their 30s, are the fifth generation running the family wine business.

Started in 1970, La Vieille Ferme focuses on value for money (even more so today!) with the following three wines priced at \$8.

La Vieille Ferme 2007 Cotes du Ventoux Rouge comes from vineyards high on the slopes of Mont Ventoux, east of the Rhone River. There the Perrins select grenache, syrah, carignan and cinsault, to a

make a wine reflecting their Chateauf-neuf-du-Pape tradition. It's supple and fruity with blackberry and ripe plum aromas and flavors.

La Vieille Ferme 2008 Cotes du Luberon Blanc comes from the hillside vineyards in the ancient Côtes du Luberon, where the wind known as mistral cools grapes in the heat of summer. Made from four white Rhone varieties, among which 10 percent of the Grenache Blanc is fermented in new Limousin cooperage, the wine is floral, and slightly spicy with a crisp finish.

La Vieille Ferme 2008 Cotes du Ventoux Rose is the ultimate warm weather wine that combines not only a deep pink color, but the richness of a blend of grenache, syrah, carignan and cinsault, grown in the Cotes du Ventoux.

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

CITY BITES

VISTA GALA PATRONS ON APRIL 4

LIVONIA — The Art of Fine Dining is on tap at the VisTa Gala, 6:30 p.m. Saturday April 4 at Schoolcraft College's VisTaTech Center. Patrons will stroll through Schoolcraft College's six state-of-the-art culinary kitchens, while mingling with world-class chefs and instructors and tasting their creations.

Under the direction of Chef Kevin Gawronski, the college's award-winning Salon Team will prepare Paupiettes de Sole 'a la Trouvillaise and Golden Oak Roasted Organic Chicken.

Other menu highlights include Chef Dan Hugelier's Morel Mushroom Ravioli with Chervil Cream, and Chef Brian Polcyn's Back and Girth, slow-roasted smoked pork loin and crispy braised belly. Chef Jeff Gabriel will present the Sushi Station; Chef Marcus Haight will prepare Wood-Grilled Lamb Rack; and Chef Joe Decker will fill the dessert buffet with an assortment of tempting pastries.

Tickets, \$150, include valet, photos and silent auction. Call (734) 462-4518 or visit www.schoolcraft.edu/foundation.

GOVERNOR DECLARES "WINE MONTH"

LANSING — The Michigan International Wine Expo, April 3-4 at Rock Financial Showplace in Novi, coincides with the kickoff of "Michigan Wine Month."

Governor Jennifer M. Granholm has declared April a time to honor Michigan's wide selection of quality wines and the wine industry's significant contribution to the economy, which amounts to nearly \$800 million each year.

Sales of Michigan wines rose 5 percent in 2008, while total wine sales experienced no increase.

"With eight new wineries slated to open this year, Michigan's grape and wine industry demonstrates that our state is ripe for growth and opportunity," Granholm said. "Michigan's wine industry is an important component of the state's \$71.3 billion agri-food business sector and is vital to our tourism efforts."

For more information, a complete list of events or to request a free copy of 2009 Michigan Wine Country magazine, call the Michigan Grape and Wine Industry Council at (517) 241-1207, or visit www.michiganwines.com.

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Brunch seatings are at 11 am and 2:30 pm.

Adults \$36
Seniors (62 and up) \$31
Children (age 5-12) \$11
Children 4 and under are free.

Prices do not include 6% sales tax and 20% service charge.

Phone 734/414-0600 for reservations.

44045 Five Mile Road at Sheldon Road in Plymouth
www.theinnatstjohns.com

GOLF | RECEPTIONS | CONFERENCES

THURSDAY

April 2
2009

SECTION C
(*)

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

REAL ESTATE

online at hometownlife.com

Building Industry Assn. lauds top pros

Building Industry Association of Southeastern Michigan will honor the top residential industry professionals in southeastern Michigan on Friday, April 3, in conjunction with the Spring Home & Garden Show at the Rock Financial Showplace in Novi. The premier sponsor for the 2008 Leadership Recognition and Awards Night event is Bank of America. "Throughout this tumultuous period, our honorees have continued to successfully advance our industry and homeownership in Southeastern Michigan," said Darshan S. Grewal, 2009 president of BIA. "These honorees set a positive example for others in the home building industry."

Receiving the highest honor bestowed upon a member, Paul C. Robertson Jr. of Robertson Brothers in Bloomfield Hills, will be inducted into the association's Hall of Fame.

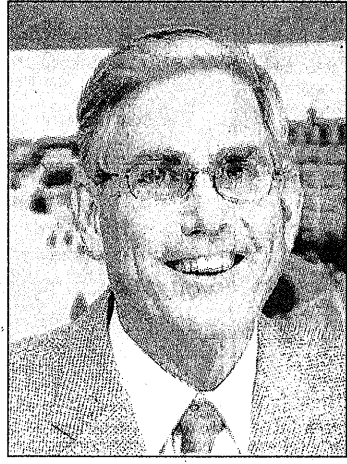
The Builders of the Year award will be presented to Joe Saylor and Roger Saylor of Saylor Building Company in Troy, for their dedication to the association and contribu-

Receiving the highest honor bestowed upon a member, Paul C. Robertson Jr. of Robertson Brothers in Bloomfield Hills, will be inducted into the association's Hall of Fame.

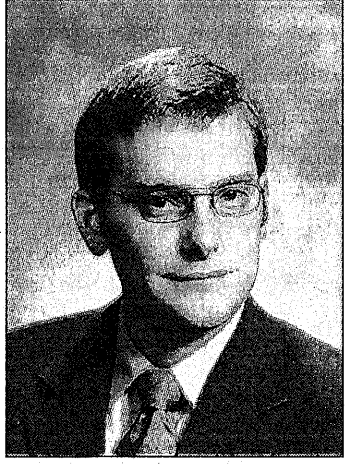
tions to the home building industry.

Other honors at the banquet include special recognition of BIA's 2008 President Richard Ives of Trinity Management in Clinton Township; Associate of the Year Robert O'Neill of Vista Mortgage Corp. in Livonia; Don Maillho Memorial Award in Banking Eric Burgoon of Bank of America in Troy; Thomas Ricketts Annual Award to the Region's Outstanding Building Official Al Hogan, building official of Lyon Township; Remodeler of the Year William Borchert, CGR, CAPS, of Borchert Construction in Washington Township; and Outstanding Subcontractor of the Year Kristen Shellenbarger of Midwest Cabinet & Countertop in Detroit.

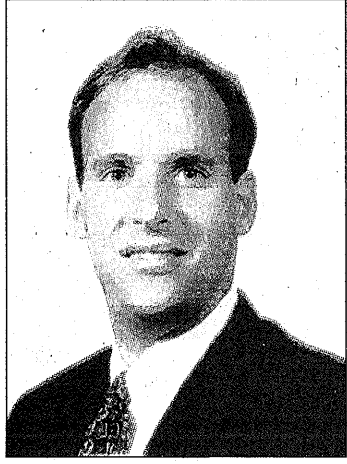
Several professionals will receive Distinguished Service



Robertson



Roger Saylor



Joe Saylor

Awards, including: Norman Finkelstein of Norwood Homes in Farmington Hills for service to the housing industry; Mark Renn of H.J. Oldenkamp in Warren for service to the remodeling industry; and Herbert Lawson of Windham Development in Bloomfield Hills for service to the building industry. "Spike" awards recognizing outstanding membership recruitment efforts are as follows: Builder Spike of the Year to Rich Kligman of Superb

Custom Homes in Plymouth; Insurance Spike of the Year to David W. Curtis of Curtis Insurance Agency in Oxford; and Associate Spike of the Year to Pat Baker of Kohler Company in Sterling Heights. The evening will begin with hors d'oeuvres and an exploration of the show at 6:30 p.m. followed by dinner and awards ceremony. Reservations are \$85 per person for the dinner and program. For more information, call (248) 862-1033. Headquartered in

Farmington Hills, BIA is a trade association representing more than 1,200 builders, remodelers, multifamily property owners, developers and suppliers to the single family and multifamily residential construction industry. BIA is affiliated with the Michigan Association of Home Builders in Lansing and the National Association of Home Builders in Washington, D.C. Membership nationwide includes more than 235,000 individuals and companies.

Experience factor in legal fees

Q: We like our lawyer but his ego is so big and he represents so many associations that we hardly ever hear from him and all we deal with is an associate. Also, the associate charges the same amount as our lawyer. Is that reasonable?

A: You are entitled to top-notch service and if your primary lawyer is so busy that he cannot return your phone calls, you ought to look somewhere else. Moreover, if the associate does not have the experience and expertise as your primary lawyer, you should not be paying the same hourly rate. Hourly rates should be based, among other things, upon experience, expertise and reputation. Charging the same rate for a new associate as opposed to a seasoned lawyer may well be unreasonable.



Robert Meisner

Investors Association

"Flipping" Houses will be presented by Bob Norton, on how to buy, finance and sell Bank-Owned Real Estate (REO's) to homeowners. Presented by Real Estate Investors Association of Oakland 5:30-9:30 p.m. Thursday, April 9, at MSU Management Education Center, 811 W. Square Lake Road, Troy. Seminar free to members. \$20 nonmembers. Call (800) 747-6742. (www.REIAofOakland.com)

Career Seminar

Thought about a career in real estate? Come to a 59-minute Career Seminar 6:30 p.m. Thursday, April 16. Questions will be answered about commissions, costs and what it takes, and your potential to succeed. The seminar will be held at Keller Williams Realty, 40600 Ann Arbor Road, Suite 100, Plymouth. Call (734) 459-4700 to reserve your seat.

Homebuyer Seminar

Keller Williams Farmington Hills will offer Homebuyer Seminars, including one 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturday, April 25, at the office, 27555 Executive Drive, Suite 100-S, 12 Mile and Halsted in Farmington Hills. RSVP at (248) 893-1550. Seminars cover real estate basics for today's buyers, mortgage information from Flagstar Bank, title work presentation by Fidelity Title Co., and the importance of an inspection. There will be a seminar following Saturday, May 16, at the same time.

Real Estate Agents, Appraising & Staging

Thinking about a career in real estate? Is working in real estate your dream? Keller Williams Realty is seeking experienced or non-experienced people in the real estate field. The candidates must be hard working and have a passion for learning.

There's a free seminar every week: Tuesday or Saturday, 11 a.m. to noon at 27555 Executive Drive (off West 12 Mile and Halsted), Farmington Hills 48331. For more details, contact Steve Leibhan, (248) 553-0400, Ext. 2500.

BIA

Building Industry Association of Southeastern Michigan (BIA) will present Green Built™ of Southeastern Michigan Introduction to Green Building on Wednesday, April 8, from 9-10:30 a.m. at 879 Benjamin, Troy, 48098 (house built by Wake-Pratt Construction).

Chris Pratt of Wake-Pratt Construction discusses building with materials and methods that result in Green Built™ certification. Building Green offers a change from selling cost per square foot to making a positive environmental statement. This is the first in a series of five trainings. The training is free for BIA members. For registration information, call (248) 862-1033 or register online at www.builders.org.

Building Industry Association of Southeastern Michigan (BIA) and its National Association of Home Builders Professional Remodelers (NAHBR) will present a seminar, Green: The Right Thing To Do, at BIA headquarters, 30375 Northwestern Highway, Suite 100, in Farmington Hills on Wednesday, April 15, from 6-8:30 p.m. Rick Rottschaffer, CGP, Builder will present the seminar. The seminar focuses on material recycling, what's green and what's moldy, "10 tiny table tops teach tasteful builders to go green," top five practical "greens" remodelers can impress with, NAHB vs. LEED certification, and it doesn't take money to be green. Registration fees are \$35 for BIA members and guests and includes dinner. For registration information, call (248) 862-1008 or register online at www.builders.org.

Building Industry Association of Southeastern Michigan (BIA) will present another in its series of Certified Graduate courses — "Estimating for Builders and Remodelers" — on Thursday, April 23, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at BIA headquarters, 30375 Northwestern Highway, Suite 100, in Farmington Hills.

Chuck Breidenstein, CAPS, of Builder Professional Services Group, Inc. will instruct remodelers and small-to-mid volume builders on estimating insur-

ance and profit, quantity takeoff for various materials, labor and equipment productivity issues, and subcontractor bid considerations. The course counts toward Certified Graduate Builder, Certified Graduate Associate, and Certified Graduate Remodeler designations.

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

The Sales and Marketing Council (SMC) of the Building Industry Association of Southeastern Michigan (BIA) will present "Success Strategies For 2009" on Thursday, April 30, from 9-10:30 a.m. at Association Offices, 30375 Northwestern Highway, Suite 100, Farmington Hills. Michael Jeffreys of The Yes Network will present the seminar. It will include how to make the decision and commitment to thrive, how to discover your major obstacle and overcome it, how to tap into your hidden potential to stay more motivated, and how to outsmart, outthink, and outperform your competition. Registration fees are \$10 for SMC, BIA or Apartment Association of Michigan members and \$25 for guests. For registration information, call (248) 862-1033 or register online at www.builders.org.

Apartment Association of Michigan's (AAM) Property Management Council (PMC) will sponsor a "Leasing 101: The 2009 Tour" seminar on Friday, April 24, from 9 a.m. to noon at AAM headquarters, 30375 Northwestern Highway, Suite 100, in Farmington Hills.

Led by Kathleen Mabie of Success on Site, the seminar will cover competitive analysis of what is being sold, setting up the close, telephone techniques, Internet and e-mail and meet-greet information. Registration fees are \$69 for PMC members, \$79 for AAM or Building Industry Association of Southeastern Michigan members and \$99 for guests. For registration information, call (248) 862-1033 or register online at www.builders.org.

HOMES SOLD

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These are the Observer & Eccentric-area residential real-estate closings recorded the week of Dec. 8-12, 2008, at the Wayne County Register of Deeds office, plus some from Oakland County. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

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