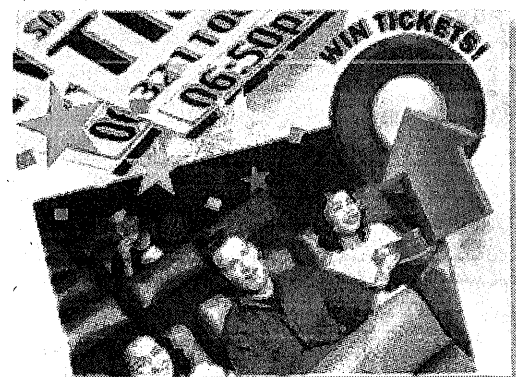


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PIPELINE



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

IKEA's Destination Shuttle IKEA bus

With the Final Four weekend in full swing, IKEA is offering free rides on its Destination Shuttle that runs between IKEA in Canton and Campus Martius Park in downtown Detroit.

Shuttle riders boarding at IKEA will enjoy rides to and from Campus Martius Park in the heart of downtown, where they can easily access the People Mover or walk less than a mile to Ford Field. Those boarding at Campus Martius can head out to IKEA for a fun day of shopping. The shuttle will run today and tomorrow from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m.

For more information, please visit www.ikea-cmpshuttle.com

Ambulance chief

Huron Valley Ambulance appointed Jerry Zapolnik as



Zapolnik

the company's chief operating officer. As COO, Zapolnik will oversee and coordinate the activities of all HVA operating units. He will also coordinate communications, information systems, fleet and facilities, and EMS education programs.

The COO position was created by HVA's Board of Trustees to improve the coordination of operations activities and allow President and CEO Dale Berry to focus on strategic planning, governance and other executive responsibilities.

Berry has served as both CEO and COO since HVA was created 27 years ago, a dual role that became more complex as HVA has grown.

Zapolnik joined HVA in 1989 as support services manager and was later promoted to vice president of support operations. He holds a bachelor's degree in information technology from Colorado Technical University, and is currently enrolled in their MBA program. He is a licensed paramedic and paramedic instructor/coordinator.

"Over the past 20 years at HVA, Jerry has provided leadership and continuity. He is also experienced in many areas of EMS," CEO Dale Berry said. "We are pleased to have someone of his caliber as our new COO."

Love 'lock'ed in



Shawna Koloff uses a ruler to make sure that Bridget Maul's donated hair is long enough to use.



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Bridget Maul is ready to donate her hair for Locks of Love. Shawna Koloff wields the scissors.

East students, staffers face 'cuts' for a good cause

BY BRAD KADRICH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

When Kavya Davuluri walked into Envy Spa in Plymouth Township Friday for an East Middle School project to benefit Locks of Love, she had more than her share of nice, long hair.

Four ponytails and some 60 inches of hair later, Kavya, an 11-year-old sixth-grader from Canton, had a lot less hair and a much bigger smile.

Kavya, eight other East students and two staffers took part, many of them for the second time, in the Locks of Love event to benefit the national charity that

Please see **LOCKS, A7**



Serena Billotto straightens Durga Tata's hair before trimming at least eight inches. Tata was one of nine East Middle School students who donated hair to the Locks of Love charity Friday.

Students rise above state in MEAP test

BY BRAD KADRICH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Two years ago, when this year's Plymouth-Canton fifth-graders were in third grade, 59 percent of them passed the writing portion of the Michigan Educational Assessment Program test.

Two years later, that percentage rose to 78, a dramatic 18-percent increase in MEAP performance that corresponds with the district's performance in the rest of the testing, results of which were announced Thursday.

Plymouth-Canton students improved in 21 of 28 categories over last year's performance, with five scores remaining the same and drops in only two of the categories.

"We did very well," said Mike Bender, the district's director of secondary education. "There's a lot to celebrate."

The biggest increases came in fifth-grade writing, where the percentage of kids passing rose 8 percent to 78 percent, and in seventh-grade mathematics, whose students raised their passing score from 88 to 94 percent.

Two classes — the third-graders at Tonda Elementary in Canton and the fourth-graders at Bird Elementary in Plymouth Township — aced the math test with 100 percent passing. The only two areas to drop were eighth-grade science (89 from 91 percent) and sixth-grade English Language Arts (89 from 90 percent).

"That's a tremendous job for those students and staff to achieve at that level," Bender said of the performances at Tonda and Bird.

The Plymouth-Canton scores top the state averages in every category, some of them well above state scores. But Bender said the district is always looking for improvement as it moves toward a federally mandated 100 percent in all area requirements coming in 2014.

"We're in the process of analyzing results at each grade level in each subject," Bender said. "We continue to look at ways to strengthen our students' performance."

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

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Township urges nighttime lawn-watering as cost-savings

BY MATT JACHMAN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Avoid the rush: Water at night. As the yard-care season starts up, that's the recommendation from Plymouth Township on sprinkling yards and gardens.

Officials are asking residents to water lawns and plants between midnight and 6 a.m., when demands on the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department's system are typically at their lowest.

A new contract with DWSD gives the township a 23-percent reduction in the wholesale water rate, but the price drop is tied to the township's pledge not to exceed a set "peak usage" during times when water demand is

highest. That's generally during the morning and evening hours, when water customers throughout the Detroit area are flushing toilets, showering and cooking.

One of the ways to cut peak usage, township officials say, is to use outdoor water after midnight and before 6 a.m.

"That will give us the greatest control over maintaining our rates," said James Anulewicz, director of the township's Public Services Division. Water customers with automatic sprinkler systems, Anulewicz said, can time them to go on during the off hours, and the township will do the same with its watering systems.

Anulewicz said he anticipated

some objections from lawn-care companies.

"We have done our homework and the Michigan State University Extension Service has indicated to us that watering during this period will not cause problems," reads a township press release.

The DWSD contract will be reviewed in two years, and if water usage in the township has exceeded established limits during peak times, Detroit can argue for a higher water rate, Anulewicz said.

For more information, call the township's public works department at (734) 354-3270, Ext. 3.

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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 bkdrich@hometownlife.com

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 cardiovascular 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.

Caregivers support

Social worker Chris Goldberg

of Adult Well-Being Services hosts two caregiver gatherings each month at the Plymouth District Library. She will answer a wide variety of concerns for individuals caring for ill or aging family members.

Evening meetings take place on the first Monday of the month; daytime meetings are for spouses only and take place on the second Tuesday of the month. Upcoming dates are April 6 and May 4 at 7 p.m. and April 14 and May 12 at 1 p.m.

For more information call 734-453-0750, ext. 4.

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.

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! We 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-lions-club.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.

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,



Eagle excellence

Rodger Kropp, the son of Rodney and Susan Kropp of Plymouth Township, reached the summit of his group's achievements when he was awarded his Eagle Scout at a recent Court of Honor. Rodger, a member of Troop 1535 of the Detroit Area Council, is a 2008 graduate of Canton High School and participated in Canton football and wrestling. He is currently attending Western Michigan University and is a member of Alpha Lambda Delta Honor Society. For his Eagle Scout Project Rodger worked with Canton baseball coach Mark Blomshield to repair and improve the baseball concession stand, press box and dugout.

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.

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.

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Faith lost, faith found

Rwandan genocide survivor describes terror – and forgiveness

BY MATT JACHMAN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

When an armed, murderous mob arrived at the house where she was hiding during the 1994 Rwandan massacres, Immaculee Ilibagiza lost — and found — her faith.

They searched in suitcases, under beds, in the ceiling and on the roof, finding none of the ethnic Tutsis they were bent on killing.

"It was such an intense moment," Ilibagiza told a large crowd at Our Lady of Good Counsel. A college student at the time, Ilibagiza was a Tutsi and a devout Catholic.

She fainted during that ordeal, she said. "The pain was too much."

Just outside the bathroom where Ilibagiza and seven other women and girls were huddled, the mob stopped.

We trust you, someone said to the Protestant pastor sheltering the hunted people. There's no way you could hide those cockroaches.

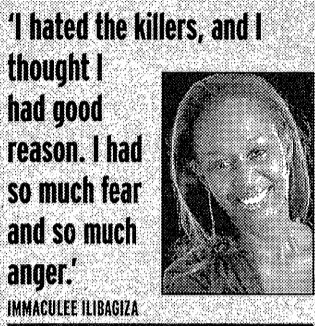
"In that moment, without a shadow of a doubt, I knew God was real," Ilibagiza said. In those minutes of terror, she had asked for a sign of God's existence, she said, and their narrow escape was that sign.

In hiding for 91 days, Ilibagiza emerged in a body she didn't recognize — she weighed just 65 pounds, she said. But her soul, she added, was "much more beautiful."

Ilibagiza had taken a faith journey, she said, "a voyage in hiding." She overcame the anger and bitterness that were destroying her, she said, and found a way to forgive those involved in the slaughter.

"I hated the killers, and I thought I had good reason," she said. "I had so much fear and so much anger."

Ilibagiza said she found solace in the saying the rosary — given to her by her father



as they said their goodbyes — and she meditated on the Lord's Prayer. She had trouble, she said, with the phrase "as we forgive those who trespass against us."

"Maybe I should just take out that part of the prayer," she thought to herself. She decided not to edit God's words, she said.

She also reflected on the story of Christ's crucifixion, she said, noting Christ is said to have asked God to forgive his killers.

The Rwandan genocide, which lasted about three months, claimed an estimated 500,000 to 800,000 Tutsis and sympathetic Hutus. Some high estimates put the death toll at a million.

Ilibagiza would learn that neighbors, friends, college classmates and almost her entire immediate family — her mother, father and two of three brothers — had been murdered in the attacks. The country was in ruins. "Dogs were going around eating people," she said.

She ended up in Kigali, Rwanda's capital, where persistence and a chance meeting with a United Nations regional spokesman landed her a U.N. job.

She rebuilt her life, and even met in prison with the man who killed her family, she said.

"Only by loving, he could have changed his future," she said. "I wanted him so much to regret what he did."

"If I can forgive, anyone can forgive," she said later.

A friend encouraged her to write her story. "I didn't know how to write a book, or (know) that I had a story," Ilibagiza said.

But she did write, she said, and three days after finishing the book, she was attending a professional workshop when she met Wayne Dyer, the counselor and self-help author. He helped her to get her book, *Left To Tell*, published in 2006.

Ilibagiza has since been involved in other projects — books, recordings and a documentary — that relate her experiences and testify to her faith. She lectures and raises money for a foundation that aids orphaned Rwandan children.

Despite its subject, Ilibagiza's talk at Good Counsel was punctuated by humor that lent to an upbeat mood and drew laughter from a welcoming audience.

Upon meeting Dyer, he noted her accent, and she thought to herself, "You're the one with the accent," she said.

And she was wry about the way she mastered Microsoft Office to prepare for her job at the U.N.: without a computer of her own, she drew one on paper, including the keyboard, and used it to study the program's functions. "My computer doesn't crash. Doesn't need electricity," she said.

Good Counsel parishioner Yvonne Lax called Ilibagiza's experiences "truly amazing" and her message of forgiveness "powerful."

"It just really got to your heart," Lax said.

Ilibagiza's March 28 appearance at Good Counsel was timed for the Lenten season and part of the church's Dignity of Life speaker series.

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AROUND PLYMOUTH

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

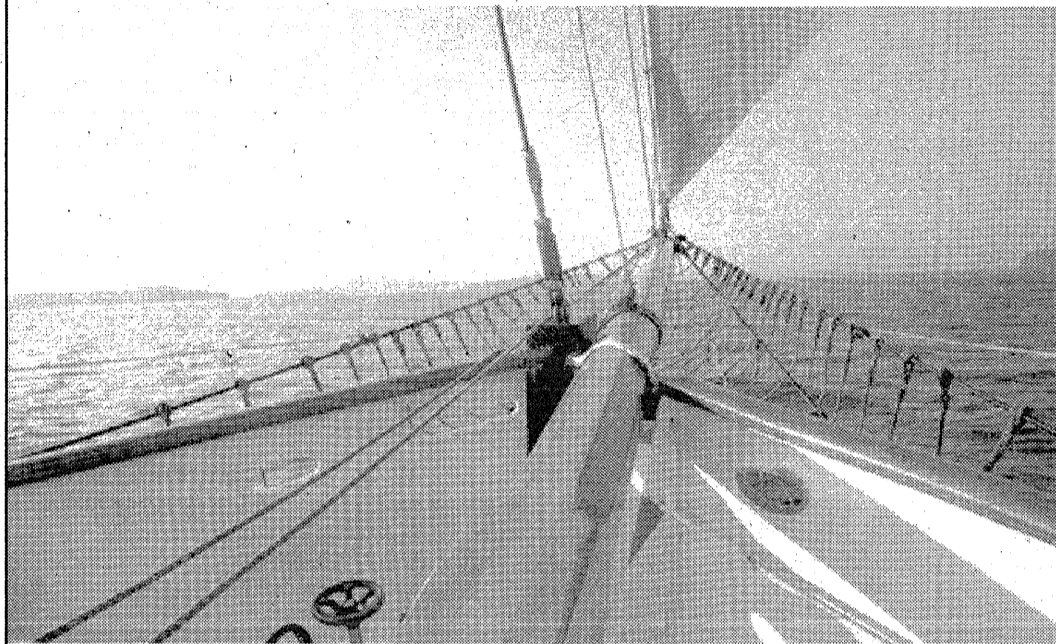
The Fallen and Wounded Soldiers Fund will host their fourth annual dinner May 2, at the Laurel Manor in Livonia. All proceeds go to veterans or families of fallen soldiers that

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.

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

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William A. Cooper, Chairman of the Board & Chief Executive Officer, 2008 TCF Annual Report



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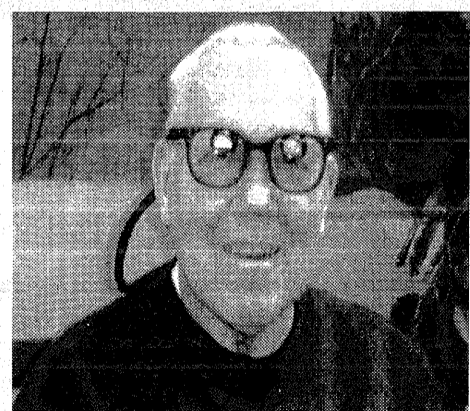
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- The outstanding (unpaid) principal balance of the first mortgage on your primary residence must be \$729,750 or less
- You have verifiable income sources that support the monthly mortgage payment, even if that income has recently been reduced.
- You can provide copies of your most recent tax return.
- You will provide a signed affidavit to explain your financial hardship and need for assistance under the MHA Plan.
- You have not previously modified your mortgage under the MHA program.
- **Note:** Mortgages on second homes, vacant homes and investment properties are not eligible for modification under this program.

Benefits you could receive under the new Treasury guidelines:

- Borrowers who are prompt in making loan repayments will receive an incentive bonus from their lender of \$1,000 per year for 5 years
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Guard, Drumline gear up for national title run

The Plymouth-Canton Band and Color Guard programs are busy this month with the Winter season coming to a close and the upcoming Fall season gearing up.

The 2009 Winter A Guard and the Winter Drumline are gearing up for their run at a national title. Both teams comprised of over 80 high school performers from Canton, Plymouth, and Salem high schools will perform at the Winter Guard International events held in Dayton, Ohio.

The A Guard will compete April 3-4, the Winter Drumline will compete April 17-18 in Dayton. Both teams are hoping to do very well, after finishing well at the MCGC State Championship. The A Guard was named State Champions for 2009 and the Winter Drumline placed second in the State Championships.

April Round-up

Every April, Michigan commemorates the Month of the Young Child, a time when communities recognize the needs of young children and their families. In conjunction, New Morning School announced an upcoming Preschool, Young 5's, and Kindergarten Round-Up 9-10:30 a.m. Thursday, April 23. Parents and potential students can see why New Morning School may be the perfect fit.

New Morning School is a state-certified, non-sectarian, non-profit school for students in preschool through grade eight. To find out more, call (734) 420-3331 or visit the school's Web site at www.newmorningschool.com

Band recruiting

The Plymouth-Canton Marching Band, a regular Bands of America finalist at Grand Nationals in Indianapolis, is hosting an informational meeting April 22 for students and their parents who are interested in joining the 2009 Marching Band program. The Marching Band Recruitment meeting is designed for incoming eighth graders, but is open to any high school student. Interested students will spend time with the existing marchers enjoying pizza, while parents listen to a presentation by the Plymouth-Canton Music Boosters on how their eighth grader can become a member of the award-winning marching band for the 2009 summer/fall season. Interested students and their parents should report to Plymouth High School's band room at 7 p.m. April 22.

Color Guard workshops

Individuals who are interested in joining the Color Guard for the 2009 Plymouth-Canton Marching Band should plan to attend a four-day workshop prior to auditions on May 11-14 from 4-6 p.m. Using music, colorful flags, rifles, sabers and dance, the PCEP fall & winter guards represent pure athleticism, grace, and talent.

The final audition date is 6-8:30 p.m. Monday, May 18, in the Plymouth High School band room. For more information, contact Color Guard Instructor Jennifer LeSeth at jennifer30@gmail.com.



Rising to the challenge

A group of Plymouth Christian Academy third graders competed in the Destination Imagination Challenge March 7 at Utica High School. The team, comprised of Seth Marano, Phillip Morby, Jenny Seyfried, Ann Stein, Emilee The and Taylor Ufford, along with team manager and teacher Rebecca Ufford, researched wood types and strengths, performed structural analysis, joint analysis, and experimented with different designs. They developed engineering skills while keeping time management and teamwork in focus. The team, pictured here just before taking the stage to present their Academy Award-inspired skit, which earned them a second-place finish at the Region 8 tournament and sent them to the state finals, which took place Saturday at Central Michigan University.


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EDUCATION

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Hope College

The Associated Collegiate Press honored four members of the staff of the weekly Hope College student newspaper, The Anchor, during the recent "Best of the Midwest College Newspaper Convention held in Minneapolis.

Among those honored was sophomore Kevin Souly of Plymouth, the paper's photo editor and Web master. Souly received fifth place in the News Photo category for "No Zebras, No Excuse," which was published Feb. 18 with a story about a visiting group's presentation on sexual assault.

Two Hope College students submitted visual or written pieces to the Opus, Hope College's student-run literary magazine that publishes once each semester.

Amanda Karby, who submitted a piece entitled "For the Director," is the daughter of Robert and Maureen Karby of Plymouth. She is a 2007 graduate of Ladywood High School in Livonia.

Hillsdale College

Daniel McHenry, a senior biology major at Hillsdale College, was named to the Dean's List for the 2008 Fall Semester.

McHenry is the son of Jim and Jim McHenry of Plymouth and is a 2006 graduate of home schooling.

Lawrence Tech

Four students from Plymouth were named to the Dean's Honor Roll for the Fall Semester at Lawrence Technological University.

The students were Steven Lent, Matthew McLeod, Steven Musselman and Matthew Showalter.

To be named to the honor roll a student must maintain at least a 3.5 grade-point average for the term.



Pom prominence

The Canton High School varsity and junior varsity cheerleaders attended the recent Mid American Pompon State Competition at the Eastern Michigan University Convocation Center. The Junior Varsity cheerleaders earned first place in the JV Class A, while the varsity earned a third-place at the Varsity Class A, Division I. Above, Varsity cheerleaders include (back, from left) Kirsten Holland, Sarah Mabie, Sarah Lindlbauer, Ashley Polydoros, Brooke Granowicz, Megan Young, Coach Jen Kesler; (middle, from left) Alex Brekke, Kayla Channell, Emily Bouse, Courtney Simpson, Melissa Krug, Lexi MacDiarmid, Tori Parrelly, Eva DeBeliso; and (front, from left) Emily Nairn, Lauren Hutchings, Jordan White, Kristina Crilley, Ashley DelBrocco, Brittney Kopchia, Michelle Smiley, Katie Schwalm. Below, The JV cheerleaders include (back) Coach Kya Sasena, Kara Bureau, Sarah Dean, Melissa Webster, Riley Miller, Jessica Goodbred, Allie Stephens, Rachael Martin, Samantha Juback, Nikki Webster, Mikayla Schnettler; (front) Kristen Hollingsworth, Lindsey Mason, Renee Janisse, Maggie Kokoszka, Julia Beydoun, Ashley Garvin, Abby Rice.



One-stop shopping

Prom, graduation expo gives students a place to start

BY BRAD KADRICH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Lori Morrison simply got tired of hearing nothing but the bad news of the daily economic situation, particularly in the state of Michigan, so she decided to create a little good news, at least for students getting ready for prom and graduation.

Morrison, who owns Ribar Floral in Plymouth, has organized a one-day event, the Plymouth Prom and Graduation Expo, to give students a shot at deals on everything from flowers and dresses to limos and jewelry.

"With the economy the way it is, I'm just tired of hearing doom and gloom," Morrison said. "With us (local businesses) pooling our resources, we figured we could offer bigger discounts and reach more people."

The event, set to take place at Ernesto's in Plymouth and open to students from any school district, features two dozen businesses with some kind of connection to a prom or graduation ceremony. Most of them are local Plymouth and Canton retailers, though others are coming from as far away as Carleton, Trenton and Grosse Pointe Woods.

There are restaurants, florists, dress shops, car dealerships and even a personal trainer. The idea, according to Morrison, is to provide students headed to prom or readying for graduation one-stop shopping potential with a shot at discounts, prizes, etc.

For instance, Ribar Floral will contribute one dollar for every corsage and boutonniere

PROM & GRAD EXPO

- **What:** Plymouth Prom & Graduation Expo
- **When:** Sunday, April 26
- **Where:** Ernesto's of Plymouth, 41661 Plymouth Road
- **Why:** Provide one-stop shopping opportunities (with discounts) to local students getting ready for prom and graduation
- **Details:** Call Ribar Floral, (734) 455-8722

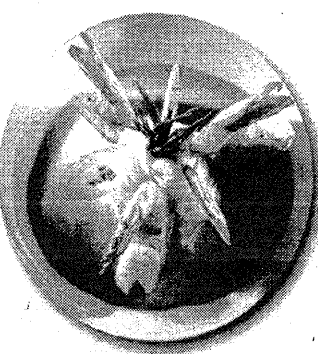
sold back to the buyer's school. Citizen's Bank is raffling off gift cards and Summit Place Kia is offering a special on cars should kids (or their parents) want to buy one as a graduation present!


"I called local businesses to see if they wanted to be part of it," Morrison said. "It's a great way to network and cross-promote. (Businesses) think it's great. A lot of them think we should do something like this for weddings, too."

Morrison said it's possible expos such as this one could be done for other events, including weddings, homecoming, etc. It's a way, she said, to give back to customers who've stood by the retailers, even in down economic times.

"We can put on this prom event, and then we'll sit down and figure out how to put our resources together and see what groups we can focus on," Morrison said. "Our customers have been good to us over the years. We want to be able to give back and help out when times are tough."

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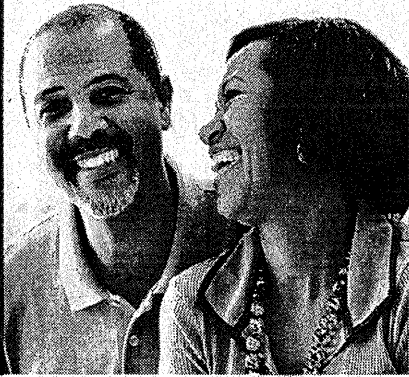
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You will lose your property if you don't pay taxes

Each week, Wayne County Treasurer Raymond J. Wojtowicz will be using this column as a



Ask the Treasurer Raymond Wojtowicz

regular forum to inform you about the tax process and to answer the questions most frequently asked about property taxes.

Always remember that your property is your most precious asset. Do not risk losing it for nonpayment of property taxes. If in doubt, ask questions.

Q: If I don't pay my taxes, will I really lose my ownership interest in the property?

A: Yes. P.A. 123 of 1999 as amended, changed the property tax revision process. Tax years

remaining unpaid for two years will be foreclosed and the property will be sold to the highest bidder.

Q: What do I do if I need help paying my property taxes?

A: If you are having difficulty paying delinquent real property taxes, call the Taxpayer Assistance Department (TAD) at 313-224-6105. The trained staff in TAD will assist you in applying for a Substantial Financial Hardship Extension that will provide more time to pay your taxes. TAD can also put you in touch with legal, financial, and other community groups and services that may be able to help you.

If you have any questions or issues related to delinquent property taxes in Wayne County, please call our Taxpayer Assistance Department at 313-224-6105. You may also find further information about delinquent taxes on the Wayne County website www.treasurer.waynecounty.com



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Canton's Kathy Brown, who has been active in beautifying downtown Plymouth, is using her Web site to help save waterfowl habitat.

Woman's nonprofit promotes 'green' gardening habits

BY TONY BRUSCATO
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Kathy Browne is on a mission to help save the environment.

The Canton Township woman, who helps beautify downtown Plymouth by voluntarily taking care of several flower planters, is doing her best to educate the public on the need to protect waterfowl wildlife habitats by using potting soil that doesn't include peat as an ingredient.

Browne said it began with the Royal Botanic Gardens in Britain which started eliminating the use of peat in potting soil mix in 2003.

"The use of peat was problematic for waterfowl wildlife," said Browne. "To get the peat you'd have to drain the bog, which destroys their habitat. And, it releases greenhouse gases into the atmosphere." Browne's Green!USA non-

profit organization is selling T-shirts and gardening aprons to help spread the word about replacing peat with other ingredients, including coconut fiber.

"After some scientific research they learned there are many items which are better than peat," Browne said. "One of them for potting soil is the fiber of a coconut shell, which is more water retentive."

The gardener's apron has a four-ingredient recipe for peat-free potting soil, which Browne said will help "protect \$25 billion of United States natural resources."

Browne has an informational display and is collecting donations at National City Bank, located on the northwest corner of Canton Center and Warren roads. The Green!USA Web site is www.green-usa.org.

tbruscato@hometownlife.com
(313) 222-2637

PLYMOUTH-CANTON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS NOTICE TO BIDDERS

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

Bid Division description:
178:Automotive Spray Booth Assembly (Canton).

Any and all questions in regards to the bidding or the Project Documents should be addressed in writing and faxed to the Construction Manager, McCarthy & Smith Inc. Questions or clarifications will be promptly answered and returned to the bidder/bidders.

Bids are to be submitted in a sealed envelope supplied by the Construction Manager, McCarthy & Smith Inc. with the corresponding bid division identified on the outside of the envelope. All submissions should include 2 bid copies (1 original, 1 copy), a valid familial disclosure statement, and a Bid Security in the amount of five (5) percent of the amount of the bid. Bids are due to the PCCS E.J. McClendon Educational Center on or before 1:30 p.m., Wednesday, April 8, 2009 where they will be opened and read publicly. Faxed bids will not be accepted. For additional information, phone Dan Phillips, Assistant Director of Finance & Purchasing at (734) 416-2746. The Board of Education reserves the right to accept and/or reject all bids, as they judge to be in the best interest of the school district.

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

Publish: March 29 & April 5, 2009

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LOCKS

FROM PAGE A1

provides wigs for youngsters undergoing treatment for cancer.

The event was held at Envy, where owner Sandy Vrзовski opened her shop to the event for the second time in three years.

"Everyone was telling me, 'You have so much hair and it's a good cause,'" said Kavya, whose mane produced four ponytails — two 16-inches and two 14-inches in length. "I thought, 'It is a good cause, so I should do it.'"

The students and staff settled on Locks of Love as their cause, and rallied some community support behind them.

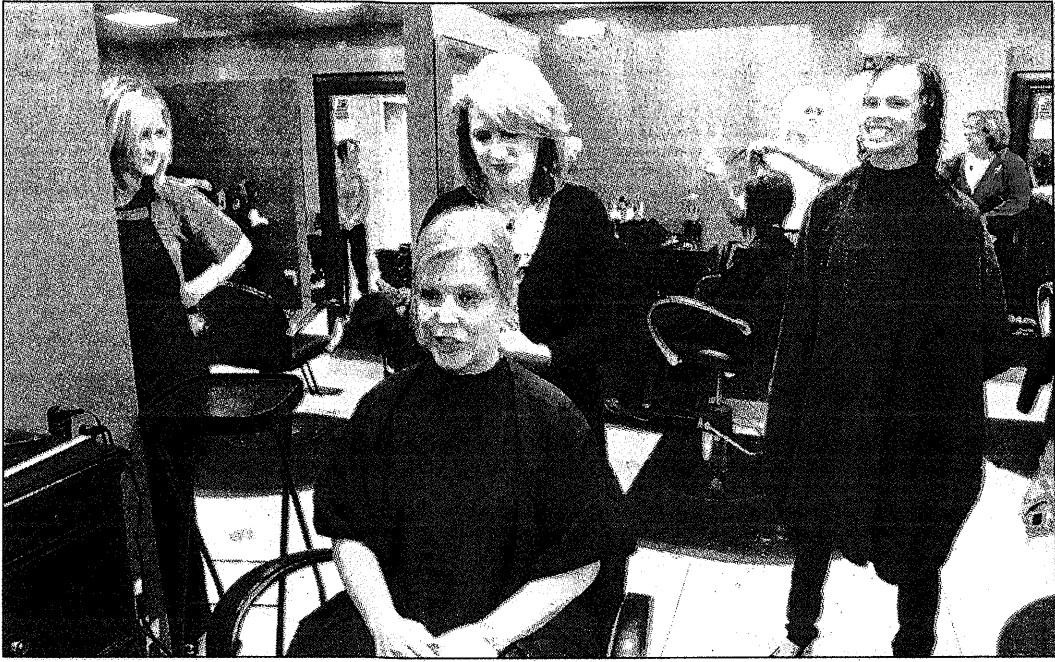
Entertainment Express provided a limousine ride to and from the event, including stops at the Ann Arbor Road McDonald's (which donated lunches) and the Dairy King in downtown Plymouth for a post-event ice cream.

And Vrзовski, who used to cut East Middle School assistant principal Tara Botosan's hair when she was a middle school student, gave up cutting time and her stylists donated their time to do the actual cutting.

"We were thrilled to do it," said Vrзовski. "We did it two years ago, and it was so much fun. We thought it's so great of the kids to be this selfless and we just wanted to help them and give them great looks while we're at it."

Eighth-grader Durga Tata donated some eight inches from his own locks, the only male student to take part.

"I thought it was just a good cause," said Durga, a 13-year-old from Canton.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Sandy Vrзовski cuts Tara Botosan's hair. Watching, at left, Bridget Makila, at right, Hannah Dembny. In the background, Hannah Davis sits as Keri Woolsey cuts her hair.

"Some people did it when we were in sixth grade, so I decided to do it this time." Classmate Tanya Lopez, one of several students donating hair for the second time, said she wanted to feel the good feeling she felt two years ago.

"I think a little girl will really enjoy my hair, and last time I felt really good," Tanya said. "I'm a little sad to see (her hair) go, but I know it's a good cause, and some little girl is going to be happy."

It's the kind of spirit that impresses Botosan, who donated a 10-inch ponytail of her own to the cause.

"These are middle school students stepping outside themselves and giving to others," Botosan said. "I'm amazed by the outpouring from the community, and from these kids. Middle school can be a scary time, and these kids are amazing."

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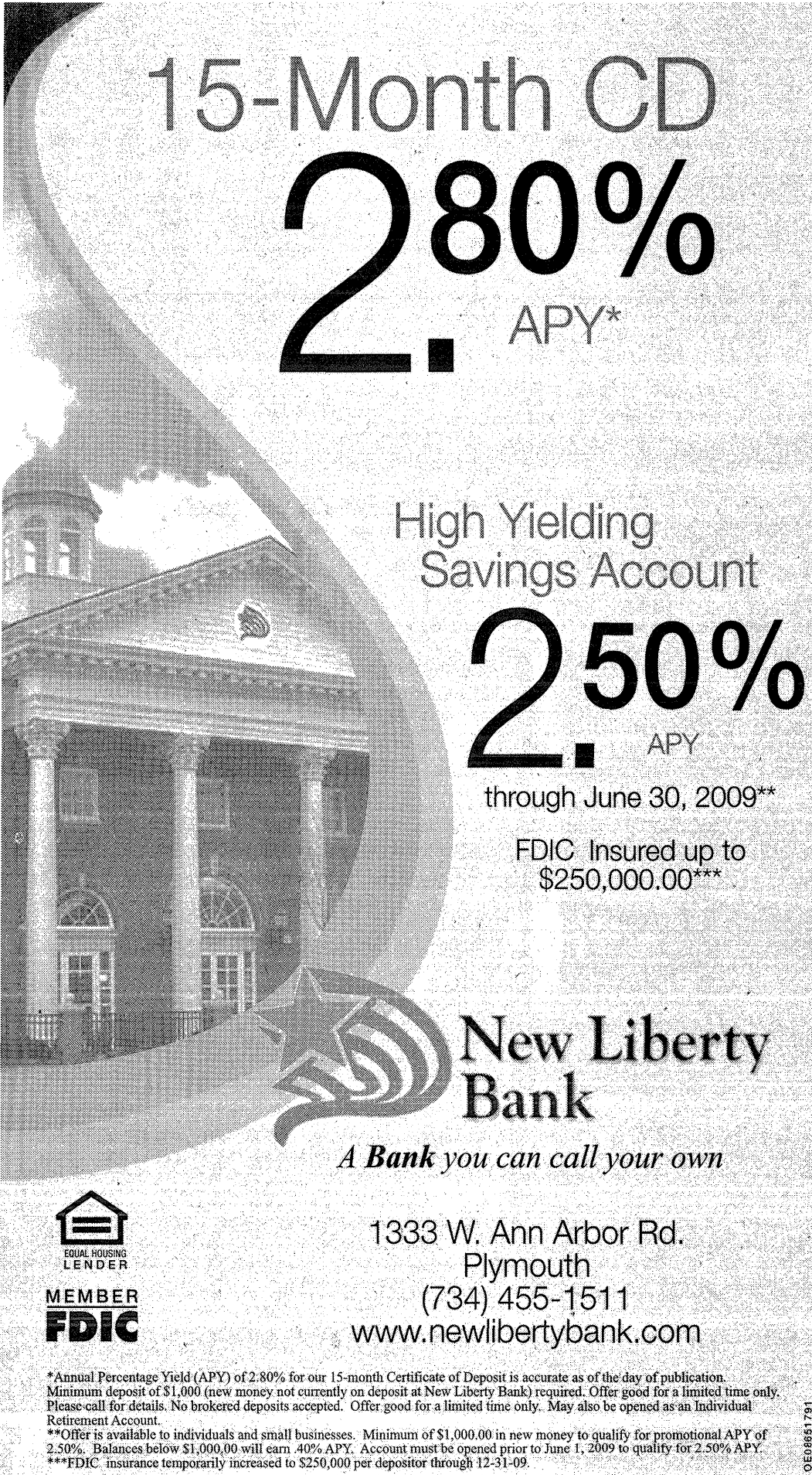
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Michigan Attorney General Mike Cox speaks to Deloris Newell and Maria Holmes before taking the podium at the Canton Economic Club's luncheon on Thursday at the Summit on the Park. Cox told reporters after his speech that he was indeed running for governor, and that he will make a formal announcement sometime this summer.

Cox lays out his vision for state's future during visit

BY KURT KUBAN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The Canton Economic Club got a preview of what Michigan residents can expect to hear from Michigan Attorney General Mike Cox when he runs for governor next year. During his half hour speech Thursday at the Summit, Cox laid out his vision for the state's future, which includes tax cuts for Michigan businesses and expanding the state's energy production by building more coal and possibly nuclear plants.

Afterwards, Cox, who will be term limited when his term runs out next year, confirmed to reporters that he is indeed running for governor.

But it was apparent to those in attendance that he sounded like a man running for the top post in the state.

"He didn't sound like an attorney general to me. It sure sounded like someone running for governor," said Luanne Berk, who attended

'Tax cuts work. Businesses react favorably or unfavorably to the level of tax rates in a state. If we have the right fiscal policy it would act to heal our state quickly.'

MIKE COX, Michigan Attorney General

the luncheon.

Berk, who is a public relations manager for the Canton-based Repairclinic.com, liked Cox's message of tax cuts.

"Tax reform is very important to attract businesses to our state," she said.

Cox, a Livonia resident, formed a committee in November to explore the possibility of him running for governor. He said he will make a formal announcement some time later this year.

During his speech, he made it clear that his platform will include pushing tax cuts, reforming the Michigan Business Tax, and reducing the

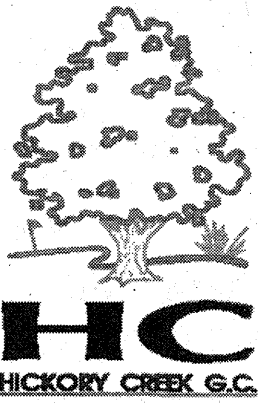
size of state government.

"Tax cuts work. Businesses react favorably or unfavorably to the level of tax rates in a state," Cox said. "If we have the right fiscal policy it would act to heal our state quickly."

Cox also discussed skyrocketing healthcare and energy costs, and how they are hampering Michigan's economy. On the energy front, Cox said the state should "embrace nuclear and clean coal technology" that could reduce costs for consumers. He disagreed with Gov. Jennifer Granholm's decision to slow down the efforts to build five new coal plants in the state, which he said could be "homegrown stimulus projects."

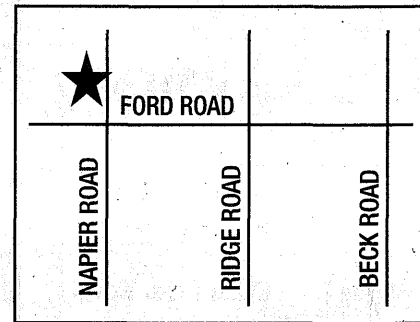
Cox said he thinks Michigan can make a recovery from its current economic recession, but it will take government getting out of the way and letting businesses succeed.

"We have all the tools here in Michigan to bring our state back if we are bold enough to act," Cox said.



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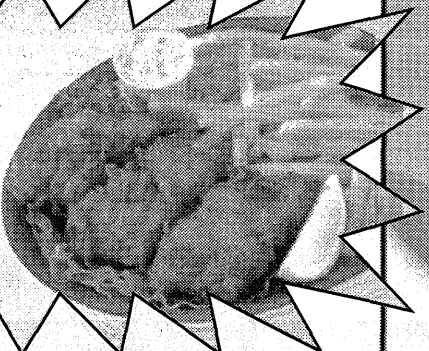
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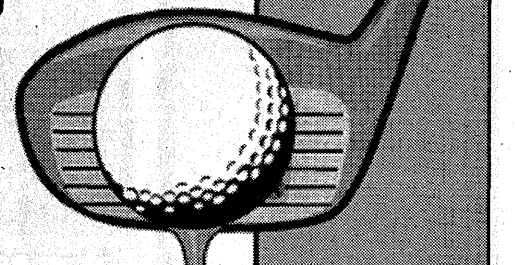
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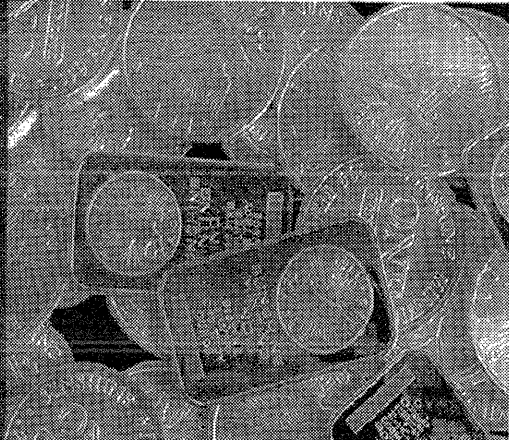
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Dear Rick: Things have been bad for me over the last year or so. I lost my job and my house. I have just completed my 2008 tax return and I'm going to owe money. I can't afford to pay the money I owe. Should I file my return by April 15 or would it make sense to file for an extension? File your return by April 15. Although I have no problem with filing an extension, it would not solve your problem.

When you file for an extension, it is an extension of time to file your return, not to pay your taxes. Therefore, you would still have interest accumulating on the unpaid tax and potential penalties. You need to file your tax return even if you cannot afford to pay the taxes owed. The IRS has a variety of different programs to assist taxpayers who are having difficulty paying. For example, you can set up an installment plan. In addition, the IRS has hardship provisions for people who cannot afford to pay their taxes. The bottom line is you will have a much easier time dealing with the IRS if you file your return.

Dear Rick: I've been having some financial difficulty and I've gotten behind on paying my taxes. In fact, I have not paid taxes in a few years. The other night I was watching TV and I saw an ad that says you can settle a tax dispute with the IRS for pennies on the dollar. I called the company and they seem legit. Is this something that's worth pursuing?

There are two issues here. The first is whether the IRS does settle cases for below the amount of tax due. Secondly, is the company you contacted legitimate? The IRS does have a procedure that allows taxpayers who are having financial difficulty to reach a compromise on the debt they owe. The procedure is known as an offer and compromise and in many situations taxpayers can substantially reduce the amount they owe to the IRS. The offer and compromise process has been around for many years, however, it is has changed. At different points in time the IRS can be more lenient in their settlement, while at other times they can be more stringent. In today's difficult economic times I believe the IRS is a little more lenient in dealing with offers and compromises than they have been in the past.

Can taxpayers do an offer and compromise themselves? Yes. However, it is not something I recommend. There is an art to dealing with the IRS and it is more than just correctly completing forms. Therefore, in the great majority of cases, I recommend taxpayers who owe the IRS and who are looking for a settlement, work with a professional who has experi-

ence dealing with the IRS. In addition to companies like the one that you saw on TV, you can also consider dealing with a certified public accountant or a tax attorney with experience involving offer and compromises. It is hard to know if the company that you saw advertise is on the up-and-up. Check them out with the Better Business

Bureau (www.bbb.org) in the Detroit metropolitan area and also in the state where the company is located. The BBB has a wealth of information about a variety of companies. In addition, you can use the Better Business Bureau service for free. It is important to know — before you retain a service — how the company will

charge you. In many situations I prefer a contingency type fee arrangement so that if your case is unsuccessful in front of the IRS you do not lose additional money. Whenever you hire a professional — tax preparer, attorney or CPA — to deal with the IRS, you are responsible for your individual tax situation.

Therefore, make sure when it comes to tax issues you're dealing with someone who is legitimate and who has your best interest at heart.

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.



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12 ROUNDS (PG-13) 11:45, 2:10, 4:35, 6:55, 9:15

DUPLICITY (PG-13) FRI/SAT LS 11:35

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Whalers draw 1st blood vs. Spitfires

Brett Bellemore's short-handed goal at 14:18 of the second period proved to be the game-winner as the Plymouth Whalers defeated the Windsor Spitfires, 6-3, in an Ontario Hockey League playoff game played Thursday night before 5,670 at the Windsor Family Credit Union Centre.

Plymouth seized a 1-0 series lead heading into Saturday's Game 2 at Compuware Arena in Plymouth.

Although Windsor finished the regular season as the top team in the Canadian Hockey League with a record of 57-10-0-1 and swept the Owen Sound Attack in the Western Conference quarterfinals, it was Plymouth that took advantage of scoring opportunities to lead 2-1 after one period and 4-3 after 40 minutes.

Plymouth rookie Tyler Seguin — the OHL's Rookie of the Month for March and the current rookie scoring leader in the playoffs — led the Whalers' attack with a pair of goals and now has four lamp-lighters and nine assists in six playoff games.

Veterans Chris Terry, Matt Caria, Joe Gaynor and Bellemore netted singles for Plymouth.

Whalers goaltender Matt Hackett stopped 46-of-49 shots to backstop the Plymouth victory.

Dale Mitchell scored twice for Windsor and Scott Timmins once for the Spitfires.

The Whalers will host Game 4 on Tuesday night at 7:05 p.m. at Compuware Arena.

Game 3 is set for Windsor on Sunday.



DETROIT IGNITION PHOTO

Members of the Detroit Ignition celebrate their Xtreme Soccer League championship Friday night following a 14-12 overtime victory over Chicago.

Xtreme measures

Ignition celebrates first XSL title with OT win

BY ED WRIGHT
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

In a league that features some of the best players in the world, it was a home-grown talent who put the icing on the Detroit Ignition's championship cake Friday night at Compuware Arena.

Livonia native Tino Scicluna — the head coach for the Madonna University men's soccer team — capped his first season with the Ignition in grand style when he rocketed a low missile between sprawling Chicago goalie Baryard Elfvin 6:15 into overtime to give Detroit a 14-12 triumph in the season

finale for both teams.

Detroit, which finished with a 12-7 mark, clinched the inaugural four-team Xtreme Soccer League title last Sunday when the New Jersey Ironmen edged the Milwaukee Wave, 15-14.

However, Friday night's pre-planned, post-game celebration wouldn't have been as sweet without a final-game win.

It took a frantic, final-quarter Chicago rally to send the game into OT. Trailing 12-6, the visitors netted six straight points — the final two coming when Andy Rosenband secured the ball off the wall and steered it past Ignition goalie Danny

Waltman with 1:31 left in regulation.

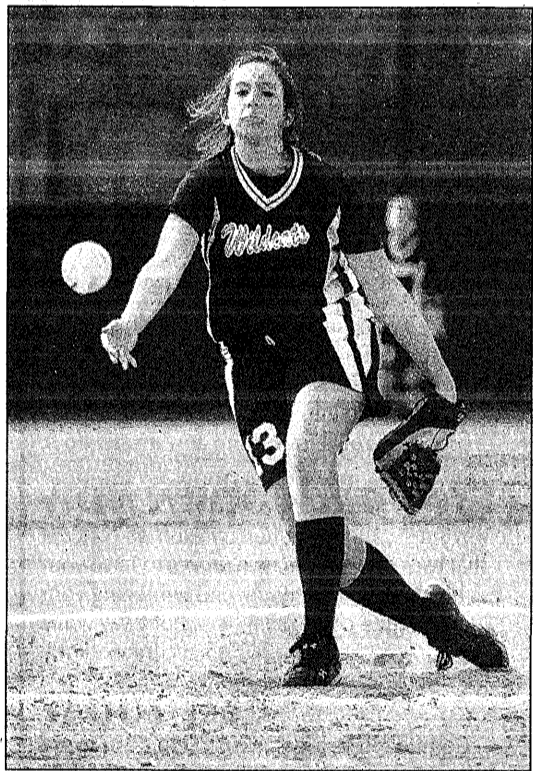
Chicago came within inches of winning the game 5:10 into the extra session, but Ian Bennett's rising laser banged off the crossbar.

Just over a minute later, Scicluna controlled a pass near mid-field and dribbled up the left side before unleashing his crowd-pleasing 22-footer.

The announced crowd of 4,299 went bonkers as Scicluna was mobbed by his joyful teammates.

Scicluna got things rolling for the Ignition

Please see **IGNITION, B2**



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Plymouth's Lauren Smith delivers a pitch during the Wildcats' 18-2 victory over Novi Thursday afternoon. Plymouth swept a doubleheader from the visiting Wildcats.

Plymouth brooms Novi in twinbill

BY ED WRIGHT
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

It was tough to tell what was rising faster Thursday afternoon: the Plymouth softball team's majestic home runs or the Novi pitching staff's earned run average.

Plymouth improved its record to 5-0 by pounding the visiting Wildcats in a KLAAs cross-over double-header, 18-2 in a three-inning, mercy-rule shortened contest; and 16-3 in the nightcap.

"The girls put in a lot of time on their own hitting inside during the off-season and it's showing now," said Plymouth coach Val Canfield. "I've never had a team that hit like this from the top of the order to the bottom."

Plymouth finished the day with 28 hits and three home runs — two off the bat of sophomore Marissa Blassic in the second game and a two-run rocket from Stacey Klonowski in game one.

Plymouth faces a critical test

Wednesday when it squares off against KLAAs South Division foe Livonia Franklin. The Patriots will host the showdown, which is set to begin at 4 p.m.

Everybody hit for the Wildcats in the first game against Novi. Lead-off hitter Erin Rodes set the tone early with a lead-off triple — her first of two three three-baggers during the afternoon.

Klonowski also had a stellar game one, going 3-for-3 with three runs. In addition to her round-tripper, the junior shortstop singled twice and stole a pair of bases.

Amanda Burnard also scored three runs for the victors.

Lauren Smith earned the win on the mound, scattering five hits while striking out three. She received plenty of defensive support as well, most notably a fine running catch by center-fielder Jill Brennan to close the top of the first.

SOFTBALL ROUNDUP

Miranda Oliver was the pitching star in the second game for Plymouth, limiting Novi to nine hits and two earned runs in seven innings.

"Lauren and Miranda complement each other well," said Canfield. "Lauren throws harder than Miranda, so it makes it tough for the opposing hitters to adjust from one game to the next. They both have outstanding movement on their pitches, too."

The Wildcats' premier plate performers in game two were Rodes (3-for-5, three RBI), Klonowski (2-for-4, two RBI), Burnard (2-for-4, three RBI) and Blassic, who went 4-for-5 with two taters and three ribbies.

FRANKLIN 9, CANTON 2: The Patriots exploded for eight runs in the 11th inning to break a 1-all deadlock en route to a win Wednesday at Canton.

The Patriots, now 4-1 overall and 2-0 in the KLAAs South Division,

Please see **SOFTBALL, B2**

GAME WRAPS

PCA wins baseball opener

The Plymouth Christian Academy baseball team open its 2009 season in high style Tuesday by throttling Lake Orion Baptist School, 10-0, in a six-inning contest.

Jon Slater earned the win, throwing one-hit ball through five-plus innings. Slater struck out 11 and excelled at the plate, ripping an RBI double.

Brent Zinn was the Eagles' top hitter, contributing two doubles, a triple, three runs and five RBI. Kevin Bottorff also excelled, scoring a pair of runs.

Matt Dodson proved to be a tough out for the winners, reaching base four times thanks to two walks, a hit-by-pitch and a single.

Reid Barber, Justin Govan and Daniel Slater also played well for PCA. David Baum pitched a hitless sixth inning.

Rock runners fall

Salem's girls track team dropped a 106-30 decision to powerful Novi on Thursday.

"Novi has a huge team," noted Salem coach Dale Maskill. "We actually ran a lot better than Tuesday against Stevenson."

Bright spots for the Rocks were performances from Deja Wright, who won the 100-, 200- and 400-meter dashes. Wright is within a half-second of breaking several school sprint records.

Sophomore Megan Paruta won the pole vault with a leap of 7 feet, 6 inches. She also scored in the 300 hurdles.

Freshman Allison Walker placed second in the 400 with a time of 1:06.22.

Sophomore Victoria Tripp placed second in the 3,200-meter run in 12:54.26.

"She made up 20 meters in the last 100 meters to beat Novi's second and third runners," Maskill said.

Novi edges 'Cats in 8

Novi scored four runs in the eighth inning to upend Plymouth, 8-4, in a Kensington Lakes Activities Association cross-over game played at Plymouth.

The second game of the scheduled double-header was postponed due to darkness.

Trailing 3-0, Plymouth closed its gap to 3-2 thanks to a Brad Lineberry opposite-field home run.

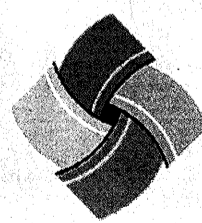
Plymouth tied it at 3-all in the fourth when Travis Mewton and Ronnie Goble singled and Mewton eventually scored on a wild pitch.

After Novi regained the lead, 4-3, in the fifth, the Wildcats deadlocked it again when Matt Priebe singled in Lineberry, who had singled.

Novi won the game in the eighth when it sent nine batters to the plate.

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Blend of youth, experience makes Salem tough to beat

BY ED WRIGHT
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Don't judge the members of the Salem softball team by their birth certificates.

For the second consecutive season, the Rocks will be ultra young — but ultra good.

Playing with just one senior in 2008, coach Bonnie Southerland's squad racked up a 25-8-1 record and captured the final Western Lakes Activities Association championship.

"Our strengths are our defense and the fact that we haven't had to change much," said Southerland, who is entering her 25th year with the program — the past 15 as head coach. "I have my entire starting infield back, so if we can get those bats moving, we should be right up there near the top again."

The Rocks' roster will be bolstered by four seniors this season — Mary Cox, Christina Parsons, Emily Pitcole and Emily Meade — all of whom should play key roles in Salem's success.

"Mary is one of the easiest kids to coach because no matter what, she is there for the team," said Southerland. "On the field, she has great range, knows the

SOFTBALL PREVIEW

game inside and out and can even pitch in emergencies."

Parsons will patrol center field for the Rocks.

"She covers a lot of ground out there," said Southerland. "She's very vocal and can make a strong throw to home."

Pitcole is a two-way threat — behind the plate and at the plate.

"Emily has a strong arm and very few runners try to steal on her," said Southerland. "She has an even stronger bat. She'll be in the No. 4 slot again this year delivering great power."

Meade will play designated hitter and some outfield, Southerland said.

The Rocks' three-player junior class is led by starting left-fielder Mary Johnson.

"Mary has great speed and agility," said Southerland. "She gets a great jump on the ball, so we moved her from the infield to outfield this year."

First-year juniors are Mia Bonello, who will serve as a back-up first baseman, and Amanda Dewyer, who will see time in the outfield.

"Both Mia and Amanda will be nice additions to the team," said Southerland.

Amazingly, all four of the Rocks' sophomores — Briana Lee, Heidi Schmidt, Kelli Janiczek and Lizzy Mazorowicz — started last spring as freshmen. Lee is the team's No. 1 pitcher, Schmidt starts at third and is the No. 2 pitcher; Janiczek is the first-string first baseman; and Mazorowicz plays second.

"Briana made a name for herself last year and has amazing potential," said Southerland. "Heidi is probably one of our best athletes and will lead-off for us. Kelli will be our back-up catcher as well as play first. She has worked well with both pitchers in the past. Lizzy has great speed and quickness and I expect her, Cox and Janiczek to be a solid double-play threat."

"Every year in tryouts it seems like there's a player that really impresses you and this year it's Alexis," said Southerland. "She swings one of the best bats as a freshman I have seen in years and she can play just about anywhere."

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Defending District champion Wildcats show few weaknesses

BY ED WRIGHT
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

SOFTBALL PREVIEW

Plymouth not only possesses the No. 1 ingredient that makes softball teams good — strength up the middle — the Wildcats are also pretty darned good around the edges.

It's that all-around excellence that gives Val Canfield's squad a serious shot at winning its fourth Division 1 District title — and possibly more — since the school opened in 2002.

"Our hitting and defense are where they need to be right now," said Canfield, whose team reached a D1 Regional final last spring before falling to Lakeland. "We have great leadership, too. Our captains are dedicated to the game and are positive role models for the rest of the team."

The Wildcats trio of senior captains — Erin Rodes, Jill Brennan and Beth Heldmeyer — also provide a lot of the team's middle strength. Rodes is a four-year-starting catcher,

Brennan is a slick-fielding center fielder and Heldmeyer is one of the top second basemen around.

For the third straight season, Heldmeyer will team up with junior shortstop Stacey Klonowski to give the Wildcats a top-notch double-play combo.

"They're like my dynamic duo," said Canfield. "If a ball is hit up the middle, one of them is either going to get it or make a diving try to get it."

Both Heldmeyer and Klonowski can swing the aluminum, too, judging by the fact they both smacked fence-clearing home runs during Friday's season-opening double-header sweep of Salem.

Rodes is armed with a cannon-like arm behind the plate. Joining her and the middle-infield tandem in the starting infield will be junior Tessa Heldmeyer, the younger sister of Beth; and junior third baseman Amanda

Burnard, who packs fence-clearing power.

"Amanda is also an outstanding defensive player, too," Canfield noted. "She made a couple plays against Salem that were unbelievable."

Flanking Brennan in the outfield will be sophomore left-fielder Marissa Blassic and sophomore right-fielder Jessica Bondy, the third Bondy sister to play at Plymouth.

Sophomore Lauren Smith will handle the bulk of Plymouth's pitching duties. Senior Miranda Oliver should also see her share of time on the mound.

"Lauren is a real go-getter," said Canfield. "Her pitches have great movement and she's a very determined player."

Providing important depth to the Wildcats' fortunes will be reserves Christy Pattison, a sophomore outfielder; and sophomore Tory Campbell.

The Wildcats return seven starters from last season.

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SOFTBALL

FROM PAGE B1

singled seven times and added a pair of doubles during the eight-run surge.

"We were hitting behind runners to advance them to the lead bases," Franklin coach Linda Jimenez said. "It was a total team effort. This was a great example how hits can be contagious. We only had three hits the first 10 innings and 16 strikeouts."

Senior catcher Brittany Taylor went 3-for-5 with a double, two RBI and three runs scored. Chelsea Williams also went 3-for-5 with a run and RBI, while Natalie Polakowski contributed two hits.

Franklin got a sterling pitching performance from senior Natalie Sanborn, who scattered nine hits. She struck out 10 and did not allow a walk.

"As a team we recognize that our defense is going to help us win or keep us close in ballgames," said Jimenez,

whose team committed three errors. "We feel that the offense will come eventually."

Canton's Amy Dunleavy, who took the loss, was coming off a no-hitter Friday against Novi. She gave up a total of 11 hits while fanning 17. She did not allow a walk.

CarolAnn Sexauer, Miranda Rysdorp and Kaitlyn Mattson each collected two hits for the Chiefs (2-1, 1-1).

PLYMOUTH 15, JOHN GLENN 0: In a four-inning mercy Wednesday, the host Wildcats (3-0, 2-0) blanked Westland John Glenn (0-3, 0-2) as Amanda Burnard homered and singled in the KLA South Division game.

Plymouth, also getting a homer from Erin Rodes, scored eight in the second inning and six in the third off Glenn starter Allie Murphy, who allowed five hits and four walks.

Plymouth starter Lauren Smith struck out five and allowed just two hits, one each to Stacey Truskowski and Amanda Murakami.

(Livonia/Westland Sports Editor Brad Emons contributed to this story.)

IGNITION

FROM PAGE B1

2:15 into the game when his high, hard shot from the left wing found the upper-right corner of the net to stake Detroit to a 2-0 lead. Mike Apple assisted.

A pair of Draws — Callahan and Ducker — added two-pointers to help the Ignition post a 6-4 lead after one quarter.

Detroit extended its lead to 10-4 at the half thanks to goals from Miki Djerisilo and Josh Rife, who scored off a re-start.

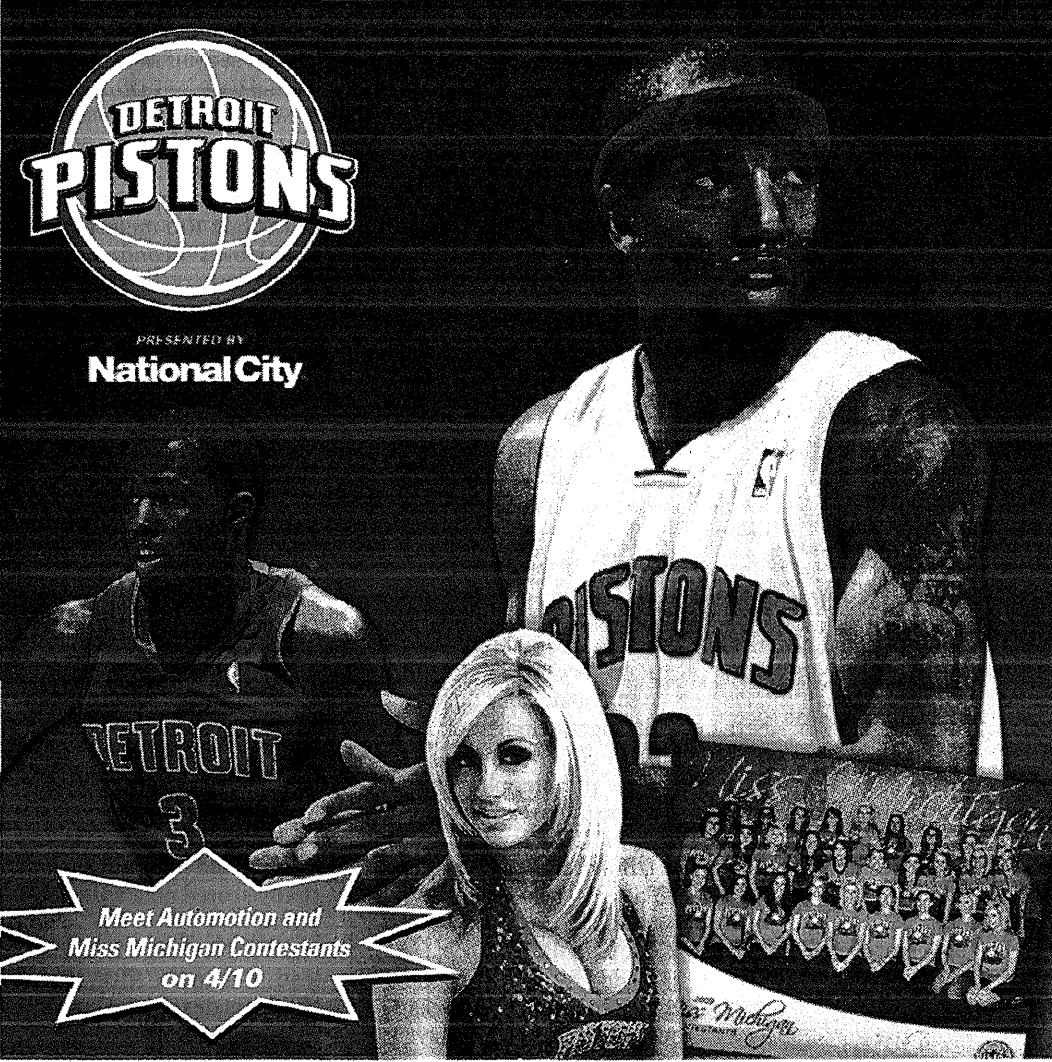
Waltman made a pair of circus saves — one when he managed to re-direct a shot while seated on his backside — with 3:30 to go in the second quarter.

The Ignition looked as if it was well on the way to a rout when Leo Gibson lit up the scoreboard with a two-pointer with 1:04 left in the third quarter, but the fast-moving Storm responded with an 8-0 run.

Thanks to Scicluna, however, it wasn't enough to spoil the Ignition's party.

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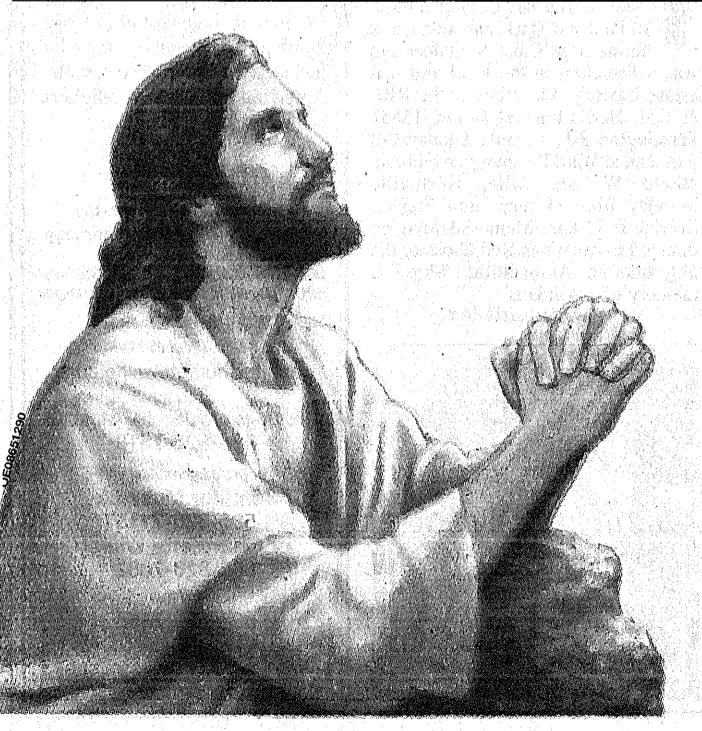
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1 p.m. - 3 p.m. Quiet Meditation
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Good Friday - 7:00 p.m. ~ Easter Sunrise - 7:00 a.m.
 (at Greenmead - 8 Mile & Newburgh Rd.)

Easter Breakfast - 8:00 a.m.
Easter Sunday Festival Worship
 9:15 & 11:00 a.m.
 (child care at both services)

"A Family in Christ"
St. Augustine Lutheran Church LCMS
 Palm Sunday April 5th
 Easter Sunday April 12th
 Worship Time 8:30 and 11:00 am
 Children's Ministry and Bible Study 9:45 am

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Prince of Peace Lutheran Church

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Come Celebrate
the Resurrection of Jesus
 Maundy Thursday 7:00 pm
 Good Friday Community Service 1:00 pm
 Easter Sunday Service 10:30 am
 Easter Breakfast 9:00 am

Central Woodward Christian Church
 (Disciples of Christ)
 3955 W. Big Beaver Road in Troy
 (Corner of Big Beaver and Adams)
 248-644-0512
www.centralwoodward.org

St. Luke's United Methodist Church
 3980 Walton Blvd., Rochester Hills
 (between Adams & Squirrel,
 across from Oakland University)
 Phone: 248-373-6960
www.stlukesrochester.org

Good Friday Services:
 12:00 Noon & 7:00 p.m.
Easter Sunday Services:
 8:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

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stpaulsrochester.org 248.651.9361

Holy Thursday, April 9
 7:30 p.m. Communion

Good Friday, April 10
 12:30 p.m. Community Worship
 7:30 p.m. The Seven Last Words of
 Christ/Dubois with orchestra

Easter Sunday, April 12
 7 a.m. Easter Vigil/Garden of Hope
 7:45-11 a.m. Easter Breakfast
 9 & 11 a.m. Worship with Choral
 Childcare (birth to 4 yrs.)
 begins at 9 a.m.

Trinity Church 10101 W. Ann Arbor Road,
 Plymouth, MI 48170
www.trinityepc.org

Join us this Easter for any of the following celebrations:
 Wednesday, April 8 - 6:30 p.m. Christ in the Passover - a Seder Meal
 Friday, April 10 - 7:00 p.m. Good Friday reflection
 - worship choir & dramatic readings
 Saturday, April 11 - 9:00 a.m. Family Easter Breakfast & Egg Hunt
 Sunday, April 12 - 9:00 & 10:30 a.m. Celebrate the resurrection of Jesus!

Reservations are required for Wednesday's Seder Meal and
 Saturday's Family Breakfast and Egg Hunt.
 Call 734.459.9550 Monday - Thursday 9:00 - 4:00.

princeofpeacewestland.com 734.722.1735

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Thursday, Friday, Saturday 7:30 p.m.
 Easter Sunday 8 a.m. & 11 a.m.
 37775 Palmer Rd. (1/4 Mile West of Newburgh)

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 5631 N. Adams • Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304
248-646-5041
www.bscl.lutheran.com

Palm Sunday April 5 • 8:00, 9:30 Traditional
 & 11:00 am Praise
 Maundy Thursday April 9 • 6:30 pm
 Seder Meal & Worship
 Good Friday April 10 • 12:15 pm Community Service
 & 7:30 Tenebrae Service
 Easter Vigil April 11 • 5:30 pm
 Easter Sunday April 12 • 8:00, 9:30 Traditional
 11:00 am Praise

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 Livonia, Michigan 48150 • 734-367-2030
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 36520 W. Twelve Mile Road, Farmington Hills
 Phone: (248) 848-1750
 Website: northcongregationalchurch.org

EASTER SUNDAY, April 12 MAUNDY THURSDAY
 9:00 a.m. Sunrise Service April 9, 7:15 p.m.
 10:30 a.m. Easter Family Worship "Out Into The World"
 "The Gladness of Easter"

Ministers: Rev. Dr. Mark P. Jensen
 Rev. Mary E. Biedron

St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church (WELS)
 17810 Farmington Road ~ Livonia, Michigan
 734-261-1360 ~ Website: stpaulslivonia.org

2009 Holy Week Worship Opportunities
 Palm Sunday.....April 5th.....8:30 & 11:00 a.m.
 Maundy Thursday.....April 9th.....6:30 p.m.
 Good Friday Afternoon.....April 10th.....1:15 p.m.
 Good Friday Tenebrae.....April 10th.....6:30 p.m.
 Easter Sunday.....April 12th.....7:00 & 10:00 a.m.
 Celebrate Jesus' victory with us!

ST. ANNE'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
 TRIDENTINE
 LATIN RITE MASS
 23310 Joy Road • Redford, MI 48239
 313-534-2121

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

4/9 HOLY THURSDAY: Confessions 5:00 - 6:45 pm
 Mass of The Last Supper 7:00 p.m.
 Followed by the procession to Altar
 of Repose-The Stripping of the Main Altar & Adoration at
 the Altar of Repose until midnight

4/10 GOOD FRIDAY: Stations of the Cross 2:00 p.m.
 Solemn Liturgy of The Passion of Our Lord at 3:00 p.m.
 No Confessions today.

4/11 HOLY SATURDAY: Confessions 8:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.
 Easter Vigil 10:30 p.m.

4/12 EASTER SUNDAY: Mass of The Resurrection - 10:00 a.m.

Pilgrim Congregational Church
 3061 N. Adams Road • Bloomfield Hills
 just north of Big Beaver (16 Mile Road) on the west side of Adams
 248-642-2290

Easter Sunday Worship Service at 11:15am
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For more information:
 Church Office Hours: Tuesday & Thursday 12-5 p.m.

Resurrection Catholic Church
 48755 Warren Rd.
 Canton, Michigan 48187
 734-451-0444
 Rev. Richard A. Peretto, Pastor

GROUP CELEBRATION WITH INDIVIDUAL CONFESSION OF SINS - Wednesday, April 8 - 7:30 p.m.
 MONDAY, TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY OF HOLY WEEK - Mass at 8:30 a.m.
 HOLY THURSDAY April 9 - 7:30 p.m. - Mass of the Lord's Supper - Adoration following the Liturgy until Friday 8:00 a.m.
 GOOD FRIDAY - April 10 - Noon - Scripture Service, 12:30- 1:00 p.m. Stations of the Cross & 1:15 p.m. Liturgy of the Lord's Passion.
 HOLY SATURDAY - April 11 - 1:00 p.m. Blessing of Food - 8:00 p.m. Easter Vigil
 EASTER SUNDAY - April 12 - 8:30 & 10:30 a.m. Mass in the Church & 10:30 a.m. Mass All Saints School Gym - Blessing of Food after all Masses.

EASTER 2009
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Calvary Baptist Church
 43065 Joy Rd.
 Canton, MI 48187
 734.455.0022
cbcjoy.org

Stations of the Cross 4/6-4/10, 8:30-4:00
 Good Friday 7:00 PM
 Easter Sunday 10:45 AM

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 Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper 7p; Nightwatch until midnight
 April 10...**GOOD FRIDAY**...St. Genevieve Church
 Silent Reflection 12noon; Stations 12:30p; Good Friday Liturgy 1p;
 1st Day of Divine Mercy Novena 3p; Private prayer until 5p
 April 11...**HOLY SATURDAY**
 Blessing of Easter Food:
 St. Maurice Church 11:30a...St. Genevieve Church 1p
THE EASTER VIGIL...St. Maurice Church 8p
 April 12...**EASTER SUNDAY MASSES**
 St. Maurice Church 9a...St. Genevieve Church 9a & 11a

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HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

4/9 HOLY THURSDAY: Confessions 5:00 - 6:45 pm
 Mass of The Last Supper 7:00 p.m.
 Followed by the procession to Altar
 of Repose-The Stripping of the Main Altar & Adoration at
 the Altar of Repose until midnight

4/10 GOOD FRIDAY: Stations of the Cross 2:00 p.m.
 Solemn Liturgy of The Passion of Our Lord at 3:00 p.m.
 No Confessions today.

4/11 HOLY SATURDAY: Confessions 8:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.
 Easter Vigil 10:30 p.m.

4/12 EASTER SUNDAY: Mass of The Resurrection - 10:00 a.m.

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 APRIL 9 MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE OF SHADOWS HOLY COMMUNION 7:30PM
 APRIL 10 GOOD FRIDAY SEASON OF REFLECTION 12:00PM - 5:00PM
 APRIL 12 EASTER SUNDAY TRADITIONAL SERVICES 9:30AM 11AM CONTEMPORARY SERVICES 9:30AM 11AM
 EASTER CONCERT 5PM

*Join us for contemporary services every Sunday at 7:30am and 11am beginning April 12

WARD 42880 Six Mile Road | Northville, Michigan 48165 | www.wardchurch.org

NEIGHBORS

Let's grow Livonia garden club invites community to dig in

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
OSE STAFF WRITER

The ladies of the Livonia Garden Club were practically cheering "let's grow" as they walked through Barson's Greenhouse in Westland. The Wednesday morning tour was in preparation for a talk Joe Barson gives at their April 7 meeting on container gardening. Thousands of patio pots and hanging baskets set the stage for questions from members. Louise Scanlan wanted to know "what kind of soil to use," Pat Smith "how often to water."

"With so many people working, container gardens are easier to take care of and have hardly any weeds because they're planted so close," said Scanlan, club president, "and you don't have to sit on the ground to tend them."

Angie Wilkie is a master gardener with a small lot. Container gardens allow her more space for growing. Wilkie's green thumb is always busy. When she isn't planting and weeding at Livonia Woods nursing center, Wilkie volunteers at Greenmead Historical Park with club members who maintain the flower beds east of Hill House.

"Container gardens are not difficult," Wilkie said. "You need plants that need the same environment, same kind of water, soil, sun or shade."

Debbie Barson, Joe's wife, likes

to use about nine plants in a 14-inch pot. She began assembling the more than 3,000 container gardens and hanging baskets at the end of February by herself. Joe jokes she won't let anyone else design the pots that add color to patios and porches. In addition to their 12 greenhouses on Merriman, the Barsons sell plants at the Garden City Farmers Market on Wednesdays starting May 1. Their business opened March 1 and carries a selection of plants and fish for water gardening as well.

"At the end of the season, I try to get feedback from customers on which varieties they liked to plan for next year," Debbie Barson said. "When I'm planting I mix it, different foliage and flowers. I use red fountain grass in the center for height, mini-super petunias, trailing plants. There's probably not two of the same plant in there."

WARM WEATHER PLANTS

Proper care is essential to the growth of plants in containers. Greenhouses offer light, humidity and warmth that isn't easily attainable inside a house. Debbie suggested taking containers outside when it warms to 50 to 60 degrees, then bringing the plants back inside if frost threatens.

Members were especially interested in learning about the Earth Box they recently saw on a morn-



Joe Barson gives members of the Livonia Garden Club an idea of the topics he'll cover at their next meeting April 7. The members toured two of the 12 greenhouses at Barson's in Westland.

ing television program. The garden kit holds several annuals or two tomato plants and comes with fertilizer, self-watering apparatus and wheels for mobility.

"You've got to have a lot of light, and warmth if you're going to plant them before May 15," Joe Barson said. "You can get flats or four-inch pots and stick them in a container. We use artificial mix instead of soil, a light, airy mix for a better root system. Something new for the greenhouses this year is using biodegradable pots. You can stick it right in the ground or pot. Not peat pots. These are coco coir liners (made from coconut fibers). We try to keep a lot of everything in

four-inch pots. New are red spikes, purple fountain grass, King Tut papyrus. Petunias can take a beating when it comes to drought."

Watering and feeding is essential to maintaining container gardens. Joe recommends dumping the potting mix every year and starting anew. "If plants are starting to die out in the center, you're not watering or feeding enough," Joe Barson said. "We started the succulent container gardens three weeks ago. They don't require as much water or as much care. The rest require water every day and to feed them every time you water with a lighter dose (than recommended on the instruction label). You eat

three times a day. You have to feed plants, too."

CLUB MEETINGS

Inspired by the informative morning with the Barsons, members were eager to put the knowledge to use. Livonia Garden Club members share tips during meetings at 7 p.m. on the first Tuesday of the month in the Livonia Senior Center. Along with their regular gathering, members organize a greens workshop and boutique during the holiday season, design arrangements for Angela Hospice patients, and hold a flower show every two years and plant exchange annually. The sharing takes place



Debbie Barson (left to right) talks to Livonia Garden Club members Angie Wilkie, Louise Scanlan, Barbara Perckett, Pat Smith, Judy Miller, and Liz Dougherty last Wednesday morning.

from 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, May 16, in Greenmead Historical Park at Newburgh and Eight Mile. Everyone in the community is invited to dig up and pot their perennials and houseplants for the event, rain or shine.

"The garden club is so great because you learn so much. Speakers are so knowledgeable," member Judy Miller said. "Now I want to go home and start digging. I already took my dahlias out (of storage) and potted them up."

Ruth Moline tries to schedule speakers on a variety of topics.

"Last year, Joe spoke about ponds," said Moline, club vice president. "Sometimes we have speakers on flower arranging. March was on native plants and good and bad bugs with an expert from the Michigan State University Extension. Guests are always welcome. It's fun."

"I was having so much fun," Barbara Perckett said, "Louise joined."

"Lots of friends join together," said Louise Scanlan who became a member in 1996.

The Livonia Garden Club meets 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 7, at the Livonia Senior Center in the city's civic center complex on Farmington Road and Five Mile. Dues are \$20 a year. For information, call Louise Scanlan at (734) 261-3835 or Susan Rakay (734) 464-7915. Liz Dougherty answers questions about the Plant Sharing on May 16. Call (734) 425-6880.

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

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Andrea S. Vivian, D.D.S.

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Financial expert delivers good news

Bottom line — there are better days ahead. That was the good news coming from Rick Bloom, a financial adviser, attorney and partner in Bloom Asset Management in Farmington Hills. The *Observer & Eccentric* columnist concluded the March "Economic" Madness series Monday night at Newburg United Methodist Church in Livonia. I for one couldn't have been happier to hear the respected financial expert take a positive attitude toward the economic crisis which is hitting Michigan hard.

"I learned we need to be hopeful," said Ginny Britton of Farmington. "We can gloom and doom it but the economy has always recouped."

TURNAROUND PREDICTED

Bloom sees a turnaround for the country at the end of 2009, but our state not coming back for two or three years. That is a relatively short period of time when you consider the economic downturn was years in the making. He blamed the mortgage industry and products like variable interest rates for creating a credit crunch forcing businesses to lay off workers. He said Michigan needs to develop another industry. He believes the life blood of America is small businesses. He reminded the audience Michigan has "some great assets" including the Great Lakes.

"It's not the worst of times," said Bloom. "Foreclosures in the Great Depression were 50 percent, now it's only 5 percent. We will have better days ahead of us but retirement has changed."

Bloom said all of us, no matter our age, will need a rising income for the rest of our lives and that means saving and investing. He recommends having six months of living expenses in liquid assets. He told the audience to do a personal balance sheet because "you can't cut unless you know what you spend." His advice is to use a credit card only if you can pay it off at the end of the month.

"I'm tight with a buck," said

Bloom. "My family and friends call me cheap. 'On sale' are favorite words. I love coupons."

Bloom told of a niece being embarrassed when he was spotted buying jeans for \$10. Cutting expenses, however, allows us to save for the future. Even though many have lost large amounts of money in 401(k)s, Bloom still recommends contributing as well as investing. He prefers mutual funds. He doesn't recommend long-term CDs because "inevitably inflation is going to start coming back." He advises not looking at terms unless under one year.

"On the whole we should always be positive and optimistic," said Bloom. "Our economy has grown through it all — wars, depression, recessions, terrorist attacks. We keep moving forward."

INVESTING TIPS

There are a few rules he lives by when investing. Keep it simple. Define your goals and objectives whether saving for a vacation or retirement. He doesn't invest in anything he can't check out independently or anything without

a track record. Barb Erickson, a retired teacher, prefers to rely on a financial adviser. Bloom says, do your homework before seeking advice. Decide beforehand whether it's best for you to pay a fee, commission or combination of both.

"If something sounds too good to be true, it is," said Bloom. "Start with a game plan. Decide how much in stocks and bonds. Stocks always eventually go up. Choose 10 to 12 different asset categories."

Bloom believes in diversifying or spreading out his risk and to sell high and buy low. But he says to be an investor not a gambler. Don't buy individual stocks. Buy mutual funds based on performance and stay with it at least two years. He recommends Roth IRAs instead of traditional because the money grows tax free.

SAVING FOR COLLEGE

Ken Smith of Livonia was taking lots of notes especially about the Michigan Education Savings Plan since it only takes a minimum of \$25 to start accumulat-

ing money for college. Bloom said, start teaching kids as young as 9 about money and credit cards. He suggests the sites planetorange.com and misaves.com.

"I want to look at MESP for my only son, age 11," said Smith. "I want to go home and have him set up an investment account."

Kevin Pope is going to research the Michigan education plan for his 10-year-old son, but also plans "to do something" with his 401(k)s from previous companies. First he was going home to create a cash flow spreadsheet.

"I didn't know what to do. I lost so much money," said Pope, "but I'm thinking about rolling it into a Roth."

Ed and Judy Dobson of Livonia planned to look into the MESP for the youngest of their three grandchildren. Ed spends as much as two hours a night studying products like mutual funds. He and Judy have been investing since the 1970s.

"I liked his attitude," said Judy Dobson. "He put a time line on things getting better."

Maureen Perri of Plymouth was encouraged by Bloom's

comment "about our economy being the best in the world." She is working on saving six months of personal expenses in case of emergency.

Jody and Ray Perez "learned not to be afraid, that things will rebound." The Livonia couple both work full time.

"We have houses in foreclosure around us and it's sad," said Jody Perez. Their son, the Rev. Paul Perez, scheduled the speakers for

the series with the approval of Newburg senior pastor Marsha Wooley. Bloom ended it on a high note.

"This is the most resilient economy, the most resilient country," said Bloom. "Don't bet against it."

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



Linda Chomin

Arthritis Today

JOSEPH J. WEISS, M.D. RHEUMATOLOGY
18829 Farmington Road
Livonia, Michigan 48152
Phone: (248) 478-7860

ARTHRITIS IN THE SPRING

Spring is a time of liberation for a person with arthritis; one can walk without encumbrance. For a patient with rheumatoid arthritis the necessity of wearing boots, hat and heavy coat placed a burden on impaired shoulder joints and swollen fingers.

In spring this need for the burden of extra clothes ends. The spring weather brings and end to black ice, dark days, and discomfort that cold brings no matter how carefully one bundles up against the cold and wind.

In short, spring means one can walk outdoors.

For a patient with arthritis, walking is not a recreation but is a therapy as important as any drug prescribed and like a medication, needs to be done on a daily basis, seven days a week. The best time to walk is early in the morning, since with that timing the biochemical benefit achieved gives the body a momentum that can carry through the day.

For patients with psoriatic arthritis walking outdoors brings an added benefit as the skin's response to light and sun causes the psoriasis to recede. For people with Lupus, early morning walking has the advantage of being outside before exposure to the heavy rays of sun can initiate a lupus flare.

For individuals with osteoporosis walking helps stimulate bone strength with added benefit by walking on a cement sidewalk. The repetitive pounding on a hard surface gives the bone the incentive for repair and remodeling.

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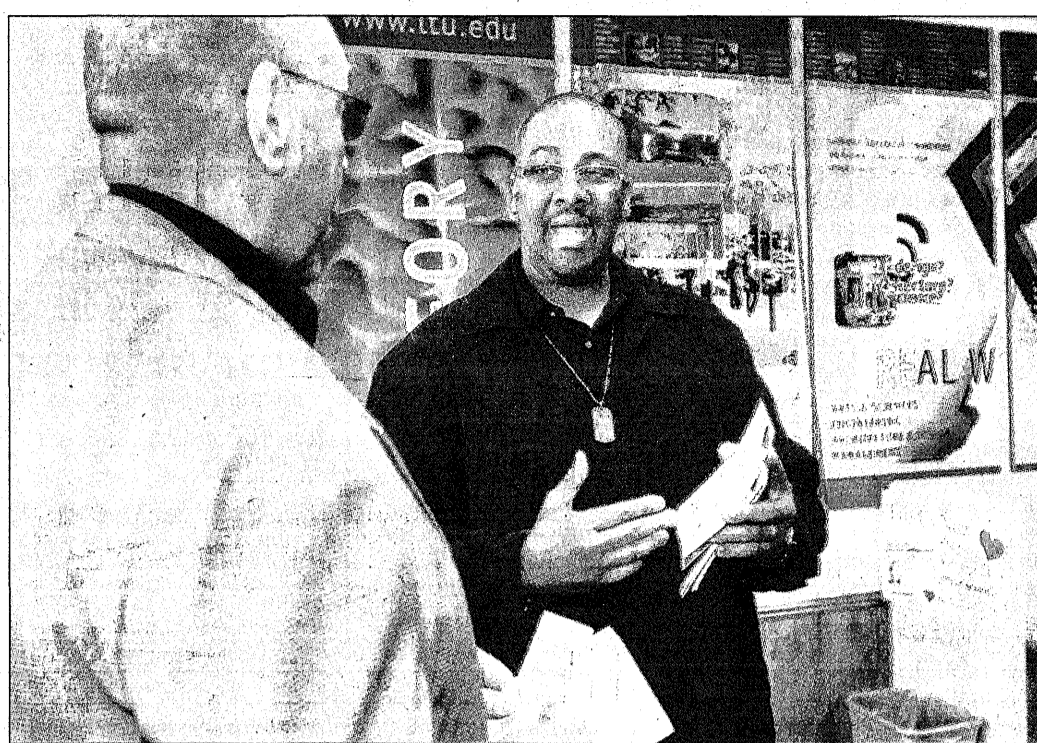
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HEALTH & FITNESS

Tell us NOW



Johnny Gonder passes out information on organ donation at the Southfield branch of the Secretary of State.



Cliff Yelder (right), recipient of a double lung transplant, talks to Larry Bragg about signing up for the Michigan Organ Donor Registry. Yelder and Johnny Gonder, who received a kidney, were passing out literature at the Secretary of State branch in Southfield on Wednesday.

Campaign urges residents to join organ donor registry

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
O&E STAFF WRITER

Cliff Yelder might not be here today if not for an organ donor. That's true of Johnny Gonder too. Both were alive and passing out information about signing up for the Michigan Organ Donor Registry at the Secretary of State in Southfield on Wednesday.

The Tell Us Now campaign continues through April and May at 31 branch offices in Wayne and Oakland counties. About 50 volunteers are still needed, according to Tammie Havermahl, grant coordinator and project manager for Gift of Life, the Michigan organ and tissue donation program.

Yelder and Gonder went through training but Havermahl says that's not necessary as a manual is provided to volunteers interested in saving lives. As of March 1, 3,004 Michigan patients were waiting for organ transplants. One donor can save as many as eight

lives. All it takes is applying a red heart sticker on your license.

"They do not have to be knowledgeable about tissue and organ donation," said Havermahl. "Within 30 seconds or less they can sign up. A lot of people don't realize how simple it is."

Tell Us Now campaigns in Kent, Saginaw and Genesee counties saw a 400 percent increase in residents who made their wish known to donate organs after death. Signing the back of a driver's license no longer registers a donor as of 2007. Individuals must sign up to receive the red heart designating them as a donor.

Yelder and Gonder couldn't be more grateful to their donors. Yelder received a double lung transplant March 25, 2008. He was diagnosed with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease in 2001 after struggling for breath one Saturday morning. Today, at age 52, he spends three to four hours a day at the gym six days a week.

Yelder is determined to take good care of his donor's lungs and spread the word about transplants and organ donation. He volunteers for Gift of Life as well as the Henry Ford Hospital program, Transplant Living Community, for which Yelder shares his experience with patients starting the process.

"My first year out the chances of living were 50 percent," said Yelder of Southfield. "I was on the list three months but the odds were against me getting a donor because of my height and blood type. The transplant is the best thing that ever happened to me. Otherwise I would be dead. They gave me two to three years to live. This gift of life gave me a chance at another life. I work out to live."

Gonder was on the waiting list nine years after suffering kidney failure in 1998. He was forced to retire from teaching math in Detroit Public Schools and underwent dialysis for 3 1/2 hours, three times a week. The 57-year-old Southfield man received a kidney

from a cadaver Jan. 7, 2008.

"We're sharing our story, information, answering questions," said Gonder.

"The most asked question is will they take my organs while I'm still alive. No, they won't but some people don't know that. I try to ease their fears. I tell them, what greater gift than giving of yourself, to give an organ so someone else can live. I feel blessed to receive this gift."

Monique Lord-Harrington already had a red heart on her driver's license when approached by the two survivors on Wednesday.

"It's all about love and sharing," said Lord-Harrington, 38. "If you could save a life, why not?" To volunteer, contact Kim Zasa at (800) 482-4881, ext. 1042, or send e-mail to kzasa@giftoflifemichigan.org. To learn about organ donation, visit www.giftoflifemichigan.org.

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

HEALTH & WELLNESS

APRIL
Low vision support group
Meets 2:30-4 p.m. Thursday, April 9, at the Summit on the Park Senior Center. Alice Raffaray will speak on Resources for People with Low Vision.
Fitness classes
Exercise classes for men and women continue through April at the Metropolitan

Seventh-Day Adventist School, 15585 Haggerty, north of Five Mile. Jeanie Weaver is a certified personal fitness trainer with 30 years of teaching/training experience. The sessions infuse Pilates, functional strength training, balance work, flexibility and motivational techniques in a 90-day fitness plan. Call (248) 446-9176 or (313) 300-0957. E-mail jeanieweaver@charter.net.

Healthy Legs, Healthy You!

"I thought it was normal for my legs to ache at the end of the day."

You may have a medical condition covered by insurance known as Venous Insufficiency if you experience any of these leg symptoms:

- Pain/aching/throbbing
- Heaviness or fatigue
- Swelling of feet/ankles
- Restless legs
- Night cramps
- Itchy veins
- Varicose veins
- Non-healing ulcers



Studies have demonstrated that there is a significant deterioration in the quality of life for persons with chronic venous insufficiency and this can be severe. Don't wait to get treated.

You're never too old or young to jumpstart your health and fitness program with healthy legs! Have your legs treated in under an hour with no-downtime, no scarring and NO STRIPPING using the latest technology.

New, safe & effective treatment for Rosacea & Facial veins with **Veinwave™**
Advanced Vein Therapies is the only location in Michigan with this technology

Please visit our website and see how we have helped others at www.AVtherapies.com or call now for consultation.



ADVANCED VEIN THERAPIES

Jeffrey H. Miller, MD is Metro Detroit's foremost board-certified authority on varicose and spider vein care, specializing in treating venous diseases for nearly fifteen years.

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