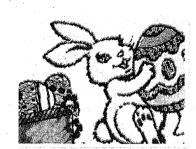
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Egg hunts

• 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., and will feature age groups 0-3, 4-6, 7-9 and 10-14. Lions officials are reminding parents to bring baskets, bags and cameras. The Lions will also be collecting hearing aids, eyeglasses and cell phones.

For more information, e-mail Debbie Baudino-Dowling at debbaudino@hotmail.com or call (734) 207-7464.

 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.

Scholar dollars

Officials from the League of Women Voters of Northwest Wayne County are reminding college students of the \$1,000 scholarship they'll be awarding in June to a qualified United States citizen, male or female, college undergraduate.

Applications must be postmarked by April 17. Applicants must reside in the LWV's service area (Plymouth, Canton, Garden City, Livonia, Redford, Wayne, Westland or the Wayne County portion of Northville), attend a Michigan college or university, major in government, political science or public policy and be entering the third or fourth year of undergraduate

Additional information and the scholarship application can be found at the League's Web site at www.lwvnww.org (click on 2009 Scholarship Application).

Thurston chief 1st Park principal

BY BRAD KADRICH OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

In seven years at the helm of Thurston High School, Bill Zolkowski believes his team has accomplished a great deal and learned even more.

Now the veteran principal has decided to see how well those lessons translate to a bigger

Zolkowski, who took over as principal at Thurston in 2002, will move from the 1,200-student school to Plymouth-Canton Educational Park, a three-school "As everyone says, with high school campus which houses more than 6,000 of the district's 19,000 students.

It's Michigan's third-largest district, and its school board recently decided to change the leadership structure at the Park and put one person in charge. On Tuesday, Plymouth-Canton school board members decided that person was Zolkowski, who has a bachelor of science and a master's in physics education, both from Eastern Michigan University.

a smile, good luck getting your arms around this one," Zolkowski said with a laugh Tuesday. "I'm really excited about the prospect. Who's done this job before? No one. It's a chance to be creative and do what I think I do pretty well manage a high school.'

Plymouth-Canton is shifting to a leadership structure with one man - the Park principal - running the show. Each of the

Please see PRINCIPAL, A5

CHANGE AT THE TOP

Who: William Zolkowski What: Hired as the first Park principal for the Plymouth-Canton **Educational Park** When: Officially starts

July 1; has arranged to



split time until then Highlights: Principal, Redford Thurston High School, since 2002; former assistant principal, Canton High School, 2000-02; has par-

ticipated in three national theatrical tours

Police nab suspect in Comerica heist try



The Michigan State Police bomb squad robot opens a suspicious bag found at the scene of an attempted robbery of the Comerica Bank branch on Ann Arbor Road east of Lilley Tuesday afternoon. No explosives were found.



Plymouth Township police officers wait for the arrival of the Michigan State Police Bomb Squad after a 40-yearold Plymouth man allegedly tried to rob the Comerica Bank branch on Ann Arbor Road. The suspect suitcase is at right, under the yellow police tape.

Bomb squad called to check out scene

BY BRAD KADRICH **OBSERVER STAFF WRITER**

A 40-year-old Plymouth man was arrested and the Michigan State Police bomb squad was called in after an attempted robbery at the Comerica Bank branch on Ann Arbor Road east of Lilley in Plymouth Township Tuesday.

The man was expected to be arraigned Wednesday in 35th District Court in Plymouth.

Plymouth Township police arrested the suspect as he left the bank. They got the call shortly after 3:30 p.m. after the suspect allegedly issued "verbal threats to rob the bank," according to Lt. Robert Smith, the department's assistant chief of police.

"Bank security had the (suspect) on videotape and called us," Smith said. "He never showed a weapon, and we arrested him as he exited the

The bomb squad was called in because during the incident, according to police, the suspect claimed to have a bomb. Police cleared the area and the MSP bomb squad was called to the scene to check a bag the suspect was carrying. No explosives were found.

No one was hurt, and the suspect didn't get any money, police said.

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

Habitat office's donors show them the money

OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The Habitat for Humanity office in Plymouth got a big boost Monday with a \$24,000 donation from the folks behind the city's annual chili cook-off.

That was on top of a \$5,000 gift from a local bank with a new corporate owner that has reaffirmed a commitment to community outreach.

Great Lakes Regional Chili Inc., a charitable fund-raising organization, made its donation — the net proceeds from October's chili cook-off — official during the local Habitat board meeting.

"It was just something we could give back," said Ken Horn, GLRC's secretary and treasurer. Horn and his wife, Annette, GLRC president, have been organizing the cookoff for 13 years and donating to Habitat for about six.

GLRC has, over the years, also donated cook-off proceeds to the Make-A-Wish Foundation, the Salvation Army, the Rainbow Coalition and the Michigan Youth Soccer Association. Its gift to Habitat last year was more than \$30,000.

Habitat for Humanity serves 17 western Wayne County communities through its Plymouth office. Executive director Alice Dent said the donations will be used to build and rehabilitate housing in Garden City, Westland, Inkster, Wayne and Taylor.

"We're just very excited to be able to partner with an organization of this stature," said Kara McInerney, an assistant vice president and branch manager at the National City Bank branch in Plymouth. McInerney and NCB marketing executive Michael Bickers were on hand for a check-passing ceremony for the bank's \$5,000 dona-

Bickers said the bank's new owner, Pittsburgh National Corp., commonly called PNC, recently strengthened a commitment to community involvement by putting an additional \$5 million in its charitable foundation.

McInerney said the Habitat branch's mission of helping area families was important to the bank.

Habitat for Humanity, with donations and help from volunteers and the people it serves, works to build and refurbish housing for needy people, who are offered mortgage discounts to purchase them. The western Wavne County branch has built houses in Canton, Inkster, Lincoln Park and other communities, and is currently starting houses in Garden City and Wayne.

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STRICTLY BUSINESS B5



Jeep plows through the front windows at local health store

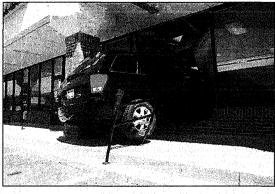
No one was hurt Wednesday afternoon when a woman drove a Jeep Laredo through the front windows at the Better Health Store in the Plymouth Township shopping plaza at Sheldon and Ann Arbor Road.

Two windows and part of a brick wall were damaged, a store manager said, and a counter was pushed about six feet.

"One of our customers was pulling into the parking spot, and she said she was hitting the brakes, but it accelerated," said the manager, Bobbie Henrie. "They're cleaning it up right now." The driver was "very shook up," Henrie said.

"Who wouldn't be?" Little inside the store was damaged, Henrie said. A computer the store was just about to put into service was damaged, however, she said.

The gentleman that was going to hook it up decided to stop for lunch, or else he would've been right there," Henrie said. Police responded immediately, Henrie said.



JOSH FREELING

No one was hurt Wednesday when a woman drove her Jeep Laredo through the front window of the Better Health store on Ann Arbor Road.

Police could not be reached in order to provide details later Wednesday.



free event.

AROUND PLYMOUTH

Observer & Eccentric | Thursday, April 9, 2009

"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.

Love stories

Concert lovers can make plans now to attend the BeckRidge Chorale's "Love Stories" Spring Concert 8 p.m. Saturday, April 25, and 4 p.m. Sunday, April 26 at Northville High School, located at 45700 Six Mile Road, Northville

Tickets for the concert, which features songs are for women and men, are \$13 and \$16. For more information or to order tickets visit the group's Web site at www.beckridgechorale.org or call us at (734) 416-9885.

Salvation Army sales

The Salvation Army is sponsoring two major shopping events at the same time: its Mom2Mom and Rummage Sale at its church location at 9451 S. Main, just south of Ann Arbor Road, on Saturday, April 25, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The Rummage Sale will feature great bargains on gently used clothing, household goods, books, kitchen gear and small appliances. We will also be accepting donations for our rummage sale at the church beginning Monday, April 14 between the hours of 9-11 a.m. and 1:30-4 p.m.

Admission is just a \$1 donation but you can visit our Web site for a coupon for free admission. Great coffee and baked goods will also be available. All proceeds from this day of shopping will benefit The Salvation Army-Plymouth's Tiny Tots Preschool Program and our Women's Ministries program.

Please visit the Web site at www.misalplymouth.org or call us at (734) 453-5464 for more information.

Blackboard Faces

The Plymouth Coffee Bean

presents an interesting display of white-on-black drawings when it hosts an art show featuring the work of local artist Aydin Akcasu 7-11 p.m. Friday, April 24.

The show will feature his drawings of people's faces, made using white chalk on a black background. He uses an iterative process that involves slowly evolving the drawing and giving it more light (white). This has the fascinating effect of giving the appearance of a person who is slowly moving out of a dark room.

There's no admission, but there is a one-drink minimum. The art work will be on display in the Blue Room through June 1. Samples can be seen at Art.AydinAkcasu.com

The Plymouth Coffee Bean is located at 884 Penniman in Plymouth.

Tea and scones

The Plymouth Preservation Network is inviting people to "Tea and Scones to Save the Stones," a benefit to save the WPA Stone Wall that stands in Plymouth Community Veterans Memorial Park.

The fund-raiser takes place 1-3 p.m. Saturday, April 18, at the Plymouth District Library, 223 South Main.

Enjoy tea and sweet treats provided by Sweet Afton Tea Room, Panera Bread Co. and Tranquilitea while you discover lovely & unique creative theme tables designed by: Basket Kreations, Bohemian Home, Haven, Home Sweet Home, Maggie and Me Magnolia, Sideways, and The Velvet Plum.

Tickets are \$15 and can be purchased at the above retail shops; no tickets will be sold the day of the event. For more information, please visit the group's Web site at www.plymouthpreservation.org

Miller Woods walks

The wildflowers of Miller Woods have arrived to announce the official end to winter. The Friends of Miller Woods are inviting walkers to join them Sundays, April 19, 26, and May 3, at 2, 2:30, and 3 p.m. Tour guides will point out some of the 25 varieties of flowers that grow there. Miller Woods is located on Powell Road between Ridge and Beck Roads in Plymouth Township.

The woods is a designated nature preserve, therefore dogs are not permitted within it. For more information about this historical property, please visit our website www.millerwoods.com.

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

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.

Friendly Fridays

Plymouth Christian Academy is now accepting applications for the 2009/2010 school year.

Potential students and their families can visit Plymouth Christian Academy on Friendly Fridays April 24 and May,1 between 8 a.m. and 2 p.m.

For more information, call Dr. David Butler, Head of School, or Caryn Huntsman, Elementary Principal, at (734) 459-3505. PCA is located at 43065 Joy Road (between Lilley and Morton Taylor) in Canton - visit PCA on the Web at www.plymouthchristian.org

Spring Break Camp

The Plymouth Community Arts Council offers a Spring



Remembering Ricky

Matthew and Gunnar Nelson, the twin sons of singer Ricky Nelson, pose with New Hope Center for Grief Support board member Sandy Prebenda and John O'Shaughnessy, the center's director of fund development, both of Plymouth Township, following the recent "Ricky Nelson Remembered" event at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill in Canton. More than 300 people turned out for the event, which featured performances by the Nelson twins, who also played family videos. The concert benefitted New Hope Center for Grief Support, the Northville-based support center run by Plymouth resident Cathy Clough.

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 infor-

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mation 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

Achieving lifelong financial success can sometimes seem like an overwhelming task. However, when developed step by step, you can gain longterm 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 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

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

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 Lutrell, 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

Women Wanted

The Canton Business & Professional Women meets 6-8:30 p.m. Monday, April 13, at Palermo's Restaurant, 44938 Ford Road in Canton.

Guests will be The Petticoat Ladies as "Mothers of Invention." The BPW's goal is to promote full participation, equity and economic self-sufficiency for America's working

Palermo's is located in the strip mall behind Murray's Auto Supply on the north side of Ford Road, east of Canton Center and west of Sheldon

For more information and to RSVP, e-mail June Nicholas at junenicholas@comcast.net or call (313) 610-2561.

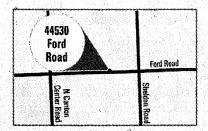
We're serving up some fun at our Community Day. Roll into our new Canton office on April 25th for a day packed full of testivities. HUNTINGTON It's a party and everyone's invited! It's a celebration of everything that makes this community great! We have something for everyone. Radio Disney will be here with fun and games for the kids. We'll be serving up snacks and surprises. Join us for our Huntington Community Day as we celebrate being part of the neighborhood. Live Performance from the D Tour! Saturday, April 25th, 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

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Mystery kicks off Barefoot season

Production company starts with fund-raiser, guest stars

Barefoot Productions presents Prescription: Murder, a clever cat-and-mouse murder mystery starring one of the genre's most beloved character detectives, Lieutenant Columbo, opening April 30, and kicks off the mystery with a much-anticipated murder mystery dinner fund-raiser April 23.

The Columbo mystery will also highlight the stage debut of prominent Plymouth community leaders in guest star roles and offer patrons dinner/theatre packages.

This is a production I've wanted to bring to the Plymouth stage for some time," explained Craig A. Hane, Barefoot Productions' artistic director and founder. "There is something wonderfully original and wacky about Columbo as a detective, far different than the austere, professional nature of a Sherlock Holmes or Hercule Poirot. Columbo's foibles portray him as an underdog of sorts - an underdog whose instincts are privy only to the

Created by Levinson and Link and originally produced more than 40 years ago, the play first introduced Lieutenant Columbo and subsequently led to a long-running television series. While the authors believed the "star" of the play would be considered Flemming, the villain, a comprehensive tour through Detroit and other cities - resulting in a near-run on Broadway - revealed that bumbling Columbo won the hearts of audiences everywhere, Hane

Barefoot Productions' ensemble cast includes Steven White (Plymouth) as Flemming; Jonathon Wennstrom (Livonia) as Lieutenant Columbo: Kristin Heitmeier (Northville) as Susan; Carol Lipinski (Garden City) as Claire; Joy Holloway (Livonia) as Miss Petrie; Kenny Konaszewski (Hamtramck) as Dave Gordon and M.R. DeLisle (Livonia) as Delivery Boy.

"Barefoot Productions is all about offering its patrons a diverse array of shows. Whether it is a romantic comedy, a classic Shakespeare or new works like our upcoming Picasso at the Lapin Agile, we carefully craft our seasons so there is something that appeals to everyone," said Hane. "This is particularly important in such turbulent economic times as we are experiencing now. We believe it's our job to provide people with quality entertainment so that for a few hours, they can escape into an imaginary world and just sit back and enjoy."

Special guest stars will make select appearances on stage as part of the Prescription: Murder production including Wes Graff, Executive Director of the Plymouth Chamber of Commerce and Sherrie Pryor, Director of Operations for Plymouth's Downtown Development Authority. Additional guest stars will be announced.

New for this show, Barefoot Productions has partnered with Ernesto's Italian Garden, The Plymouth Crossing, Steaks and Seafood; and



Jonathon Wennstrom (Livonia) as Lieutenant Columbo matches wits against Steven R. White (Plymouth) as Dr. Roy Flemming in Barefoot Productions' "Prescription:

Station 885 to offer a dinner-theatre package promotion. Guests can choose from two price options: \$70 (includes two general admission tickets valued at \$30 and a \$40 gift card/credit toward meal) or \$60 (includes two senior admission tickets valued at \$20 and a \$40 gift card/credit toward meal).

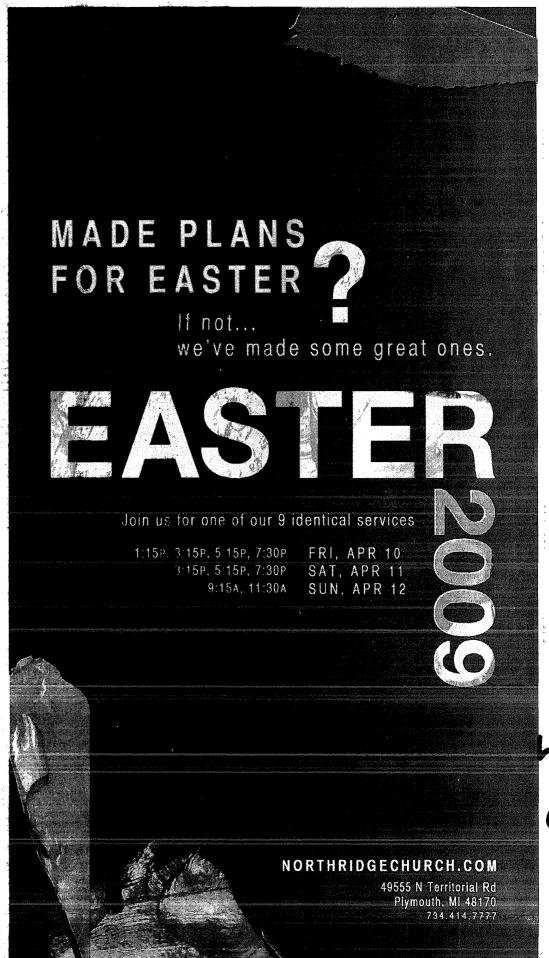
Advanced reservations are required and can made through the individual participating restaurants. Curtain is at 8 p.m. at all shows, except on May 3 and 10 which is a 2 p.m. curtain. Guests are asked to allow ample time to arrive at the theatre prior to curtain. Restaurants will offer the dinner/theatre package on the following dates:

- Ernesto's: May 1-3 and 7-9 (734/453-3002) • The Plymouth Crossing: May 7-9
- (734/455-3700)• Station 885: May 1-3 and 7-10 (734/459-

To get people into the mystery-solving mindset, Barefoot Productions will also host an interactive murder mystery fund-raiser April 23 at Station 885, 885 Starkweather in Plymouth.

Tickets are \$30 and tables of six to eight are also available. The ticket includes a full, threecourse meal as well as the evening's entertainment, "The Case of the Missing Jewels," performed by Barefoot Productions talent. A cash bar will be available to patrons, beginning at 6 p.m. with dinner immediately following at 7 p.m. A portion of the proceeds goes directly to Barefoot Productions to help continue to bring live theatre to the Plymouth area.

Barefoot Productions' Prescription: Murder offers performances 8 p.m. April 30-May 2 and May 7-9, and 2 p.m. matinees May 3 and May 10. Senior and student tickets are \$10 and general admission tickets are \$15. All performances are held in the Walker-Buzenberg Building, 240 Main in Plymouth. To purchase individual or group tickets for the show or the fund-raiser, call (734) 560-1493; or visit www. justgobarefoot.com or www.ticketleap.com





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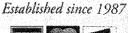
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PUBLIC SAFETY

Man implies gun, then robs downtown bank

BY MATT JACHMAN **OBSERVER STAFF WRITER**

A man who said he had a gun took an estimated \$1,200 from a bank in downtown Plymouth late Friday afternoon.

The holdup occurred about 5:30 p.m. at the Charter One Bank branch at Penniman and Main streets, said Lt. Allen Cox of the Plymouth Police Department. No gun was seen and no one was hurt.

Cox said there was only one customer in the bank, and one teller at the counter, when the man walked in. When the customer left, the man approached the teller and said he needed money, Cox said.

When the teller asked how she could help him, the robber said, "You're being robbed. I have a gun," according to Cox.

The robber had a black and red duffle bag and told the teller to put the money in it, Cox said. He held one hand inside his coat as if he had a gun, Cox said.

When the teller was finished, the robber took the bag, walked out of the bank and turned right, heading out of the sight of people in the bank.

Cox said the robber was calm and collected. "He didn't run out of there. He didn't appear nervous," Cox said.

No getaway vehicle was seen and the robber had no apparent accomplices, Cox said. Police searched the immediate area just after the holdup.

Information about the holdup was

broadcast to law enforcement, but police hadn't as of Wednesday received any information about similar holdups in other area communities, Cox said.

The robber was described as black, about 5-foot-6 and 150 pounds. He was wearing a brown leather coat over a dark sweatshirt with white trim around the hood, dark pants and a black bandana on his head. He had some short facial hair.

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



Plymouth police are looking for this man in connection with a robbery at the Charter One Bank branch at Penniman and Main in downtown

Downtown skateboarder arrested as parole violator

Noting the skateboarding ban in downtown Plymouth, a police officer told a young 'boarder to roll along - to jail – one day last week.

The man in his 20s, the officer had discovered, was a parole absconder who was supposed to be on an electronic tether, said Plymouth Lt. Allen Cox. Police jailed the man and notified state parole authorities, who agreed to pick him up, Cox said.

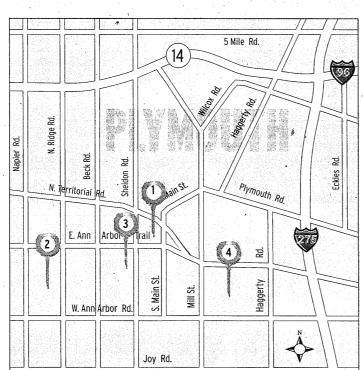
It started when the patrolling officer, on March 31, saw the man skateboarding in the area of Main and Penniman streets, Cox said. A large portion of the skateboarder's underwear was showing because of his low-hung pants, and 'boarding in the downtown district is prohibited anyway, Cox said.

The officer stopped to speak with the skateboarder, who told him the wallet in his pocket — which the officer noticed because of the chain attached to it - held his

parole identification, Cox said. "That was red flag number

one," Cox said. A check of the Law **Enforcement Information** Network, or LEIN, showed the man was listed as a parole absconder, Cox said. He was arrested on the spot.

Cox wasn't sure of the sus-



pect's original crime, but said it was a felony.

Drug arrest

2 A 17-year-old Plymouth Township boy was arrested on marijuana and drug paraphernalia charges Friday night after a police officer stopped the car in which he was riding.

The officer pulled the driver of the Chevrolet Cavalier over, for having a nonworking license-plate light, in the area

of Hillcrest and Winterset Circle shortly after 11 p.m., a Plymouth Township Police Department report said. Upon speaking with the occupants, the report said, the officer noticed the scent of burned marijuana in the car.

The driver, an 18-year-old township woman, agreed to a search of the Cavalier, police said. When the passenger exited it, police said, the officer spotted a pipe on his seat.

During a search of the car, police said, a plastic bag of what later proved to be three grams of marijuana was found. The boy said the pot was his, police said, and was arrested; the woman was released at the scene.

Second pot bust

3 A traffic stop over a defective car headlight on Sunday night led to the arrest of the driver on charges of possessing marijuana and drug paraphernalia.

A patrolling officer spotted the car, with one working headlight, on Sheldon Road south of Ann Arbor Road at about 9 p.m., a township police report said.

Upon pulling the driver over, the officer asked the 19-year-old Plymouth man if there was anything illegal inside and was told there was a pipe in the center console, the report said.

The officer found two pipes

In the trunk, police said, the officer found a plastic bag of suspected marijuana in the pocket of a coat.

The man was arrested. issued citations on the drug offenses and a warning about the nonworking headlight, and released to appear in court

Truck break-in

Audio equipment and cameras were reported stolen from a box truck parked in a driveway of a house on Southworth Avenue following a break-in of the truck on Saturday night or early Sunday.

Police said a padlock had been cut off of the doors of the 2000 Chevrolet truck.

By Matt Jachman

Fire Runs

The Plymouth Community Fire Department responded to the following runs during the period April 1-7:

• Tuesday, April 7 - Vehicle accidents at Ann Arbor Road and I-275, at Plymouth Road and Concept, and on Haggerty north of Schoolcraft (with wash-down and extrication); commercial rescue run on Main; special run on Ann Arbor Road; residential rescue runs on Northville Road and on Applecreek.

• Monday, April 6 - Rescue run to a public building on Ann Arbor Trail; residential rescue runs on Colony Farms Circle, on Marlowe, on Newporte and on Herald; single-family fire on Briarwood. • Sunday, April 5 -

Commercial rescue run on Ann Arbor Road: rescue

run on eastbound M-14; residential rescue runs on Cobblestone, on Hartsough and on Clemons: downed wires on Northville Road; vehicle accident on westbound

• Saturday, April 4 -Residential rescue runs on Forest, on Hartsough Court, on Harding and on Ann Arbor Trail; rescue run at Starkweather and Liberty; wash-down at Northville Road and 5 Mile; rescue runs to a public building on Haggerty; commercial rescue runs on Starkweather and on 5 Mile and on Ann Arbor Road.

• Friday, April 3 -Residential rescue runs on Huntington, on Carol, on Haggerty, on Tyler, on Northville Road, on Ann Arbor Trail, on Lilley, on Pinewood, on Risman and on Denise; commercial rescue run on Concept; dumpster fire on Main.

• Thursday, April 2 -Residential rescue run on Greenview; commercial rescue run on Haggerty.

• Wednesday, April 1 -Investigations on Northville Road near 5 Mile and at 5 Mile and Bradner; residential rescue runs on Millwood, on North Drive, on Shadywood and on Ann; open burning on Penniman.

Tasty... Holiday Specials!



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three buildings - Salem, Canton and Plymouth high schools — will have one assistant principal and

three associate principals. With all three current principals and four current assistant principals set to retire at the end of this school year, the PCEP board decided to re-examine the leadership structure. The district's search team reviewed 22 applications and interviewed six people, including three internal candidates. Two

- including Zolkowski - were brought back for a second interview.

Zolkowski's hiring Tuesday (the district will pay him some \$123,000) was accomplished with a unanimous vote based on the recommendation of the search team made through Supt. Dr. Craig Fiegel.

"Bill seemed to be outgoing, and a real advocate for what is going on at Plymouth-Canton," Fiegel said of Zolkowski, a former assistant principal (2000-02) based at Canton High School. "He's a strong believer in what's going on out here and he happened to have some history here, but he's far enough removed to still provide a fresh perspective.

Thurston, Zolkowski said, has changed a lot in his seven years. According to Zolkowski, the school's population 10 years ago was an all-white, blue-collar, well-employed contingent. Now, he said, it's 55 percent African-American and the economic situation — as it is everywhere — is a little

Zolkowski said he's "proud" of what his team has done at Thurston, where it has, among a variety of other things, introduced new programs to welcome incoming ninth-graders, spent some \$22 million on renovations, including a state-of-the-art performing arts center and increased



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Thurston Principal William Zolkowski.

from four Advanced Placement classes to 14.

When he told his staff last week he was leaving, he said, it was a very difficult moment.

"I got a little choked up (telling them)," he said. "Two-thirds of the people I was facing were people I'd hired. We do good work here, and we do it well. It's going to be hard to leave."

As for the size of the Park, Zolkowski said he isn't worried. When he worked in the district before, he said, he answered the question, "How are you going to learn your way around this place?" by using his own hand-held

dolley to deliver textbooks. He'll employ a similar ethic to reintegrate himself.

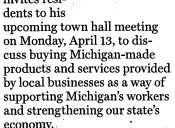
In the meantime Zolkowski, who officially starts July 1 but has arranged to split time between Redford and Plymouth-Canton until then, will help hire the rest of the leadership team, including the three assistant and nine associate principals.

"One man can't do it all," Zolkowski said. "You have to have a strong team, and you have to learn to trust them.'

bkadrich@hometownlife.com (313) 222-8899

Town hall meeting focuses on 'buying Michigan' items

State Rep. Marc Corriveau (D-Northville), whose district includes both the City of Plymouth and Plymouth Township, invites resi-



Corriveau

"Buying products that are

produced here in Michigan by our own workers is an excellent way to support our community and state," Corriveau said. "Local shops are the heart and soul of our business community, and it's important that consumers support them in order to help get our economy and our state back on track."

The event takes place 6-7 p.m. Monday, April 13, at the Northville District Library, 212

W. Cady, in Northville. Corriveau will be joined by Lisa Diggs, Founder of BuyMichiganNow.com, a Web site dedicated to building a strong, vibrant and diverse Michigan economy. Individuals

and organizations are invited to use this platform to take an active role in helping turn

around Michigan's economy. In addition to the town hall, Corriveau will host a followup seminar on Monday, May 11, for businesses interested in doing business with the state and competing for government contracts.

The seminar will take place 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at Genitti's Hole-In-The-Wall, 108 E. Main, also in Northville.

For more information, contact Corriveau's office toll-free at (877) 20TH-REP (208-4737), or by e-mail at MarcCorriveau@house.mi.gov

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Lawmakers kick off drive to force insurers to cover autism treatments

BY TONY BRUSCATO **OBSERVER STAFF WRITER**

When Jim and Stephanie Michalik of Canton were told by doctors their threeyear-old son, Keegan, was diagnosed with autism, little did they know the financial struggles they would endure.

"There's no savings, no new furniture, no vacations, no putting money away for college," said Jim Michalik. "We're just trying to keep up with bills. Without the help of family, Keegan wouldn't get the help he needs."

Michalik said speech and physical therapy costs \$59 an hour. Two days of preschool cost \$3,200 for the school year. Next year, when Keegan attends four days a week, the cost will double.

"If it was something that insurance would cover it would alleviate some of the burden," he said. "We don't really expect everything to be picked up, but at least some help."

State Rep. Dian Slavens, D-Canton Township, and House Majority Floor Leader Kathy Angerer, D-Dundee, Wednesday afternoon announced the launch of an online petition drive for residents to support efforts to require insurance companies to pay for autism treatments, which can cost families \$50,000 a year and more than \$3 million

"While health care companies cover

Schultz, Ray

Kearney, Julie

Publish: April 2, 2009

PUBLIC AUCTION

Notice is hereby given that on Monday, April 20, 2009 @ NOON.

TATE & CO. Auctioneers, Executive Administrator for Extra Space

Storage, will be offering for sale under the judicial lien process, by

public auction, the following storage units. The goods to be sold are

generally described as household goods. The terms of the sale will be

cash only. Extra Space Storage reserves the right to refuse any and

all bids. The sale will be at the following location: Extra Space

Storage, 6729 N. Canton Center Rd., Canton, MI 48187 @ NOON.

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Boxes, 2+ totes, multi-function

printer, coffee table, battery,

various shelves, metal shelf,

rolling filing tote, 2 instrument

Curio cabinet, table, aluminum

ladder, box of paints, stepstool,

4+ totes, household clothes

OE08651147 2x3.5

steamer, misc. household goods.

cases, misc. household goods



Observer & Eccentric | Thursday, April 9, 2009

Slavens

cancer and diabetes, they continue to discriminate against autism," said Slavens. "We are calling for the support of a plan to require insurance companies to cover autism treatments. It's time for Michigan's health care

companies to step up to the plate and cover this serious disorder." Slavens said Angerer has introduced legislation that is currently in the House Health Committee, chaired by Rep. Marc Corriveau, D-Northville. Slavens added she expects the bill to soon be moved to the full House. Currently, very few states require insurance companies to cover autism treatments.

The announcement, one of many around the state by lawmakers, was held at Swirls Cafe on Cherry Hill Road in Canton. Owner Jackie Rankin and her husband, Marvin, of Canton, have an autistic 10-year-old son, Marvin.

"We are spending hundreds of dollars a week on speech therapy, and we hired a speech therapist to come in and work with Marvin, which is a huge financial drain on our family because it was upwards of \$300 a week for that," said Jackie Rankin. "We need our insurance companies to step up and do what's right."

Dawn Ham-Kucharski of Canton said her son, Alex, 10, was diagnosed with autism at 26-months of age. She and her husband, Richard, were told by doctors that with intensive, early intervention of 20-40 hours of treatment a week by third grade they wouldn't notice his autism.

"I had to quit my job, we had to go into bankruptcy and ultimately lost our home from medical bills for therapies," said Dawn Ham-Kucharski. "The fact that our insurance companies aren't mandated for that coverage is wrong and

According to the Michigan Department of Education, an estimated 13,839 children in Michigan had some form of autism in 2008.

The Autism Society of Michigan says autism cases increased by more than 100 percent between 2001-2006.

The Michigan Association of Health Plans has indicated it is open to looking at specific requirements. Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan is opposed to the legislation, calling it a government mandate that would raise rates for all its customers.

Residents can sign the state petition supporting the plan at www.housedems. com/petitions by clicking on the autism petition graphic.

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NOTICE OF SALE

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Prizm/lsi Deville PickUp Safari

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Publish: April 9, 2009

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satisfy lien pursuant to F.S. 713.78 on April 16, 2009 at 10:00 a.m.

1993 Ford

Escort LX

Grand Am GT

1G6AM4784E9039112 1GKDM15Z8LB543841 1FAPP15J7PW357996

1G2NW12E4XM918487

Taxes are still due after bankruptcy is discharged

ach week, Wayne County Treasurer Raymond J. Wojtowicz will be using this column



Ask the **Treasurer** Raymond

as a regular forum to inform you about the tax process and to answer the questions most frequently asked about

property taxes. Wojtowicz Always remember that your property is your most precious asset. Do not risk losing it

for nonpayment of property

taxes. If in doubt, ask ques-

Important Tax Information about Real Property:

Know when tax bills are due and to whom they are payable. Do not assume that the seller will pay the taxes in the year of sale. If you do not receive a summer and/or winter tax bill, call the city, township or village treasurer where the property is located and request a tax bill. At the same time, check to make sure the treasurer has your correct mailing name and address. Do not send a check in the mail and assume that the check reached the treasurer.

Q:What happens to my real property taxes when I file for bankruptcy?

A: If bankruptcy is filed from Dec. 1-31, the bankruptcy will protect your current and delinquent real taxes from forfeiture and foreclosure.

If you filed in December,

the bankruptcy will protect the current and prior delinquent taxes

If bankruptcy is filed from January 1 to November 30,, the bankruptcy will only protect the delinquent real taxes from forfeiture and foreclosure, not the current taxes.

The month and year the bankruptcy is filed determines the years protected that can be paid by the trustee.

Q: I filed for bankruptcy and I need help so that I won't lose my property?

A: Bankruptcy is help to protect real property from forfeiture and foreclosure.

Q: If I filed bankruptcy on my real property taxes, do I still have to pay the taxes after discharge of the bankruptcy?

A: Yes. The property is no longer protected after the bankruptcy is discharged.

Q: Am I required to pay the interest and penalties on my taxes if I filed for bankruptcy?

A: Yes. Interest and penalties are not waived but continue to accumulate on a monthly basis until the tax is paid.

Q: Can I file for "financial hardship" if I am under bankruptcy?

A: No. The bankruptcy is already protection from forfeiture/foreclosure. You would not qualify to file for "Financial Hardship.

Q: Can partial payments be made on a bankruptcy?

A: Yes. Partial payments are accepted on bankrupt real property taxes and also on the years not covered.



You've found the right spot!

When Mom or Dad are suffering from Alzheimer's or dementia, it's tough to make the important decisions: Where can they get the proper care? Whom can I trust to provide that care? How can I prevent them from being lost in the crowd of a larger institutional setting?

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Don't let emotions rule investment strategies

s I write this column,
Michigan State's men's
basketball team did
what the experts predicted
they wouldn't do and that
is beat Connecticut and
land a spot in the national
championship game. There
is no doubt Michigan State's
run for the championship
has put a ray



Money Matters

Rick Bloom

of sunshine throughout Michigan. The surge of emotion that erupted at Ford Field and throughout the state after the Spartans' victory was

incredible.
When it comes to sports, it is great to let emotions take over. Sports would not be enjoyable unless as fans we experienced the great emotional swings between our team winning and losing.

Emotion, however, is something that investors need to guard against. It affects investors in a number of different ways — all of them bad. For example, many investors will refuse to sell an investment based upon "a love for their investment." I say, your investment doesn't love you, you shouldn't love it.

Individuals invest money to make money and that should be the primary concern. If emotion enters into the equation, inevitably, one will make the wrong decision. For example, in our area many investors held on to Kmart stock even though the company faced incredible difficulties. Investors failed to separate emotion from the economic reality faced by Kmart. Investors who held on to Kmart out of a sense of loyalty were rewarded when the company went into bankruptcy and the stock was worthless.

Loyalty, in many situations, is a great trait. Not Emotion, however, is something that investors need to guard against. It affects investors in a number of different ways – all of them bad. For example, many investors will refuse to sell an investment based upon "a love for their investment." I say, your investment doesn't love you, you shouldn't love it.

as in investor. One should not buy or hold an investment based upon love of that investment, or out of a sense of loyalty. Investments should be bought or sold based on how it fits into one's portfolio and overall investment strategy.

Emotions also hurt investors when the market is doing well. The last few weeks have been good for stocks and investors are feeling a sense of relief. Many investors don't want to miss out on an opportunity and some are rushing back into equities without any rhyme or reason. They are letting greed dictate investment decisions.

When markets are rising, investors tend to forget about the fundamentals and overall strategies and that can lead to problems. Investors need to guard against those good feelings. The result of letting emotions dictate investment decisions is a portfolio that doesn't match an individual's goals and objectives. When a portfolio doesn't match one's goals and objectives, it is a portfolio that will fail.

Over the last year, investors have let fear dictate their investment decisions. Investors have rushed out of the stock market and other investments not based upon fundamentals or an overall strategy, but based upon fear. Although the sense of relief one gets when they

bail out of the market is real, it is only temporary. Letting fear dictate your investment decisions and rushing out of the market at an inopportune time will also cause problems. The problems may not be evident today, but they will be when investors find that their money did not keep up with taxes and the increase cost of living.

Fear, greed and impatience are a triple-headed monster of emotions that all too often derails investors. Investing is like a science in that it takes a clear head and a certain resolve to be successful.

Whether or not you are an MSU basketball fan, it is hard not to get caught up in the emotion of the game. It is equally difficult for investors not to let fear, greed, impatience or other emotions dictate investment decisions. Being an investor is not easy. If it were, more people would be successful.

The bottom line is market volatility is a reality that can't be avoided. As humans, we are affected by our emotions — they are part of us. However, the more we can control our emotions, the better off we are as an investor.

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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Isn't it time you got a second opinion about your wealth?

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Recent events have sent shockwaves around the globe, causing stock markets to plummet and throwing the financial world into turmoil. Consumers are being urged not to panic, but with commentators talking of the biggest crisis since the Great Depression, many of us are wondering what the effect will be on our finances.

TI LPL Financial

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THURSDAY April 9 2009

Page A8 (P)

Brad Kadrich, editor (313) 222-8899 bkadrich@hometownlife.com

online at hometownlife.com



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

MEAP scores can be valuable tool

As they have been for years now, results of Plymouth-Canton students' performance on the Michigan Educational Assessment Program tests are replete with good news.

In 21 of the 28 scored categories, Plymouth-Canton students raised their performance; in some categories, the hike was dramatic. Five scores matched last year's and only two dropped - a one-point drop in sixth-grade English Language Arts and a two-point dip in eighthgrade science.

The Michigan Educational Assessment Program can be a valuable tool for school administrators. It can provide a sharp focus on academic areas that need work. It can also spotlight school populations that are struggling to meet the state standards.

The MEAP tests are not about comparing the educational excellence of school district A against school district B. They are about setting a standard and giving schools an opportunity to evaluate how they are doing against that standard, to improve the education at that school district.

This year's news statewide was an uptick in math scores. It was true in Plymouth-Canton, where five of the six grades tested in math showed at least a 2-percent hike, and where seventh-graders had the district's second-best improvement, rising from 88 percent passing to

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

And not much to grouse over, except maybe the ever-so-slight drop in those two scores and perhaps a few individual numbers deeper in the results. The performance is a testament not only to the students, but to the teachers, as well.

School administrators now have an opportu-. nity to go over this rich data and make adjustments, evaluate what works and what doesn't, assess the particular social and economic situation at each of their schools and provide the needed extra help. That's the value of the MEAPs. It was never meant to punish a school district or their students.

And here's the thing to like about the attitude in Plymouth-Canton: Despite the strong performance, school officials know they need to get better — federal law mandates 100 percent passing performance by 2014 - and they're going about the task of finding ways to make it happen.

'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."

That's what it's all about. The tests are in and the work continues.

ONLINE VOICES & VIEWS

Here's a look at what readers are saving about stories on our Web site, www.hometownlife.com: • In response to "Students rise above state in MEAP test:

onewestsider wrote:

"Kudos to the teachers, they've just about got the MEAP figured out. Hope Lansing doesn't change it again. Often too much pressure on the teachers, students and district for the almighty MEAP. Strategies and reviews are abundant for the first month and a half of school.

"I'm sure the district was ABOVE State average for the last 10 years at least. The State average is considerably low for students. We need to stop dumbing down our kids, they are high achievers. We need to expect better and the best from our most valuable assets, our children. Life and learning has becoming competitive in all corners of our State, we all need to step up to the front of the class."

Join the discussion



The Tigers' home opener is Friday. How will the team do this year in the A.L. Central?

Go to hometownlife.com to give us your feedback.

BSERVER

C) GANNETT

Brad Kadrich Community Editor

Hugh Gallagher Managing Editor

Executive Editor

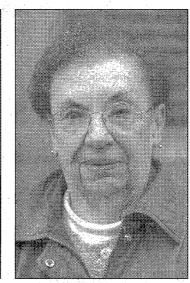
Grace Perry Director of **Advertising** Susan Rosiek

COMMUNITY VOICE

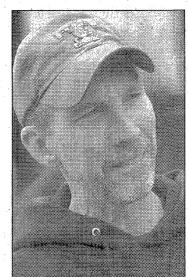
Do you think this is the season's last snowfall before spring truly kicks in?
We asked this question Monday, during a snowfall, outside the U.S. post office in downtown Plymouth.



"God, I'm hoping. ... This is ridiculous." Doug Welke Plymouth

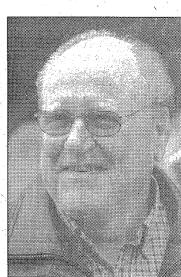


"I certainly hope so. ... I've seen it snow on Easter in April." Pat Rowley Plymouth



"No. It can't be. It's not official until they show the Tigers playing with" cold-weather gear.

Billy Brooks Westland



"Yeah. I'm going to be optimistic." Dave Van Lente **Canton Township**

LETTERS

A little sunshine

Sunshine week has come and gone. That was the special time each year where public entities are encouraged to publish documents without special requests.

It is now a little easier to find out how the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools district is spending your tax money. Since the board has decided to spend at least another month stalling on publishing the monthly expenditures, find February's list here: http://home.comcast.net/~larrymartin

This is public information that should be open to public review without needing to file Freedom Of Information Act requests. As a special bonus, you'll also find the superintendent's contract!

> **Larry Martin** Plymouth Township

Merge the fire

Yes, fire and police services should be combined. Cut staff, cut payroll, save money.

Keith Martin Plymouth

Arts thanks

On behalf of the Plymouth Community Arts Council Board of Directors, I would like to thank everyone who helped make our 40th Anniversary Celebration on March 21 a resounding success!

The evening was enjoyable for everyone who was in attendance. Those Arts Council members who have seen the PCAC grow and change over the years were able to enjoy a night with newer members, celebrating together the milestone this organization has reached and reflecting upon what it has meant for our community over the last 40

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.

years. From the Arts Volunteer Program, which has been operating since the beginning in 1969, to Music in the Park, itself marking 25 years of entertainment in Downtown Plymouth, our members and supporters know and believe that this organization makes a positive difference in our community.

We would also like to thank all of the people who gave donations to our fund-raiser drive. Thanks to you we collected nearly \$20,000 - money that will allow for thecontinuation of our programming. Thank you also to our many generous sponsors who help keep music and the arts coming back to Plymouth year after year. Thanks to graphic artist Janette Fairbanks Paull, who designed our 40th Anniversary logo and puzzle image. And, of course, thank you to our many wonderful members who help make the Arts Council what it is.

At last Saturday's reception, we put together a commemorative 40th Anniversary puzzle as a way to represent all the people that are a part of Plymouth Community Arts Council. But even though the puzzle is now complete, it does not mean we are done adding to the picture. We look forward to what the next 40 years bring and beyond.

Debra Madonna president, Board of Directors

Plymouth Community Arts Council

Granholm, the destroyer

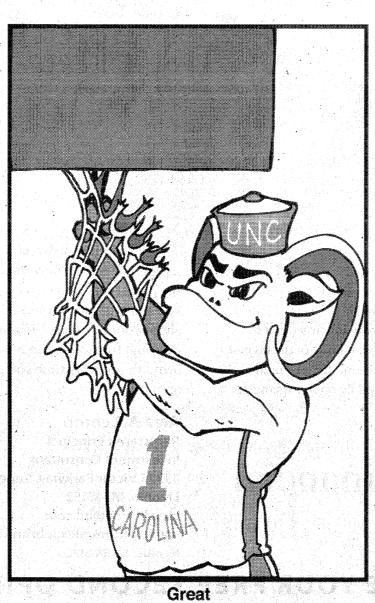
The collapse of the economy and the pride of being a Michigander can be directly correlated to the election of a Canadian socialist to the office of governor of Michigan. The Democrats along with their union allies, such as the AFL, MEA, SEIOU, environmentalist lobbies and the AFT, put Granholm, the former assistant prosecutor from Wayne County, into office without any executive experience. We have now elected a president who has almost the same nonexistent experience in finance and econom-

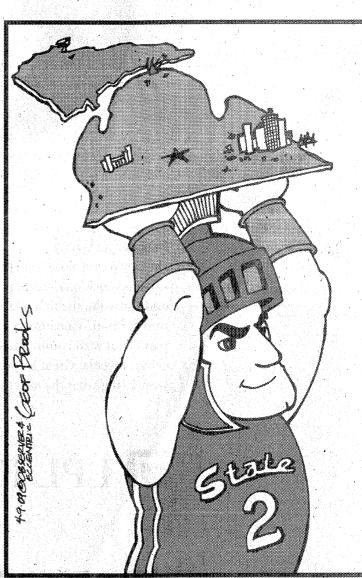
Her accomplishments have been to destroy our Michigan. In the seven-plus years she has been in office, Michigan has lost 466,000 of its population. In 2007 alone, Michigan lost 18,000 adults with college degrees.

Showing a complete lack of financial acumen, Gov. Granholm raised the taxes on all of us by \$1.4 billion, so that she could give raises to all of her supporters. At this time the unemployment rate in Michigan was approximately 6 percent; today it is 12 percent and going higher. Granholm, by taking \$1.4 billion out of the economy has pushed Michigan into a depression. Does Lt. Gov. Cherry want to run on this record?

Gov. Granholm, you collect more taxes when you increase GDP not by raising taxes on the destitute. Frankly speaking, to elect a liberal Democrat to governor after Granholm's sorry record, would be the same as if the state committed hara-

> **Richard Jedd Bloomfield Township**





Greater





Solstice Designs expects to provide 400 Project Mother's Day necklaces to domestic violence shelters across the country this year. Ongoing sales of the 2009 necklace, available at etsy.com, fund the project.

Wensdy Von Buskirk . Editor . (313) 222-8883 . wvonb@hometownlife.com

Project Mother's ay goes nationwide

BY WENSDY VON BUSKIRK **0&E STAFF WRITER**

It makes kids feel good to do something nice for their moms on Mother's Day, and children in domestic violence shelters are no exception.

For the last three years, thanks to Solstice Designs, children at First Step have been able to give their moms a beautiful piece of jewelry for Mother's Day.

And now, the Dearbornbased company is taking Project Mother's Day nationwide.

"We all remember that joy in giving a gift to our mom," said Sandra Boulton, who co-owns Solstice Designs with Sherry Duquet. "Children want to give and when they're in the protective care of a shelter they don't have the ability to purchase a gift like that.

Duquet got the idea for Project Mother's Day the same year she quit her job at Tiffany & Co. in Troy to launch Solstice Designs. She and Boulton wove the charity into their business model, and so far have donated 240 bracelets and necklaces to families involved in First Step.

This year, working through the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Boulton and Duquet have pegged 12

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Sandy Boulton (left) and Sherry Duquet started Project Mother's Day the same year they founded their jewelry business, Solstice Designs.

shelters across the country at random to participate in the program. First Step, which is headquartered in Plymouth and serves Wayne County, is included.

Solstice Designs has pledged 400 necklaces this year, and the effort is featured in this month's Family Circle maga-

"The response from the directors and these shelters has just been overwhelming," Boulton said. "I had a woman in Baton Rouge tell me that Mother's Day is the single most important day in a domestic abuse

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shelter. They are very touched by us wanting to do this."

The 2009 Project Mother's Day necklace features a heart charm, hammered bronze disc, and medallion emblazoned with the word "courage." According to Theresa Bizoe, associate director of First Step, 'courage' is an empowering word for survivors of domestic

"These women are taking steps to help their families be safer, put peace in their lives, help their children learn healthy alternatives to violence," she said. "All the moms who,come to us are courageous and strong. It's nice to be able to recognize them on Mother's Day for what they're doing for

And if a woman at the shelter doesn't have kids, Boulton and Duquet offer necklaces from "a caring friend."

"It's the ultimate anonymous gift," Boulton said. "We'll never know her and she'll never know us. But this will stay with her, a permanent symbol of the courage that's taken her through this journey at a very crucial time in her life and her children's lives."

Boulton and Duquet began making jewelry as a hobby, but were inspired to sell their creations after constant requests from family and friends.

They work out of a homebased studio and sell their creations through direct marketing, on etsy.com and at quarterly girls' night out shopping parties, usually at Dearborn Hills Golf Course.

Their clients have generously funded Project Mother's Day all along.

"People in this community and metro Detroit in general are very giving, very kind and generous," Boulton said. "People have really embraced this project, and it's touched them.'

She and Duquet are still actively fund raising to cover the remaining costs of the sterling silver chains, about

They expect to ship the necklaces at the end of April, each one wrapped and tied with a

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FORECLOSURE NOTICE This firm is a debt collector attempting to collect a debt. Any information obtained will be used for this purpose. If you are in the Military, please contact our office at the number listed below. MORTGAGE SALE - Default has been made in the conditions of a certain mortgage made by: Timothy B Baibak a/k/a Timothy Baibek, A Married Man and Christine Baibak, His Wife to Oak Street Mortgage LLC, Mortgagee, dated September 30, 2004 and recorded October 15, 2004 in Liber 41515 Page 498 Wayne County Records, Michigan. Said mortgage was assigned through mesne assignments to: Household Finance Corporation III, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of One Hundred Seventy-Four Thousand Nine Hundred Sixty-Five Dollars and Fifty-Nine Cents (\$174,965.59) including interest 11.5% per annum. Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public vendue, Circuit Court of Wayne County at 1:00PM on May 7, 2009 Said premises are situated in City of Livonia, Wayne County, Michigan, and are described as: Lot 611, Country Homes Subdivision No. 3, according to the recorded plat thereof, as recorded in Liber 78 of Plats, Page 43, Wayne County Records. Commonly known as 35809 Richland St, Livonia MI 48150 The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241 or MCL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale, or upon the expiration of the notice required by MCL 600.3241a(c), whichever is later. Dated: APRIL 6, 2009 Household Finance Corporation III Assignee of Mortgagee Attorneys: Potestivo & Associates, P.C. 811 South Blvd. Suite 100 Rochester Hills, MI 48307 (248) 844-5123 Our File No: 09-08291 ASAP# 3053527 04/09/2009, 04/16/2009, 04/23/2009, 04/30/2009

Publish: April 9, 16, 23 & 30, 2009

MALLS & MAIN STREETS

WEDDING FOR BRIDES-TO-BE PLYMOUTH - The

Plymouth DDA will stage its 2nd annual Plymouth Bridal Stroll April 25. The event starts at noon in Kellogg Park at with a mock wedding party, head table, and live music from members of the Erickson Flute Ensemble. From there, brides will follow their Bridal Stroll program on a matrimonial adventure through 35 downtown businesses offering locally-owned, personal wedding services, refreshments, discounts and drawings. Call (734) 455-1453 or e-mail dda@ ci.plymouth.mi.us.

SMOOTH STYLE

TROY — Saks Fifth Avenue and Smooth Jazz V98.7 present "Smooth Style" to benefit Goodwill Industries of Greater Detroit, 6-8 p.m. Wednesday, April 29. \$35 includes wine and hors d'oeuvres, a Wanti It! Fahsion show, live jazz, a 15 percent off shopping coupon and \$25 gift card. Call (313) 557-8790 for information. For tickets, call (866) 964-GIVE or visit www. goodwilldetroit.org.

ROLE MODELS

DETROIT — The Alternatives For Girls 20th annual Annual Role Model Dinner will be held 6-9 p.m. April 30 at the Detroit Westin. Award winners include Karen

Love, COO of The Michigan Chronicle and Michigan FrontPage, as 2009 Professional Role Model; Gail Perry Mason, vice president of Oppenheimer & Co., Inc., as Community Role Model; and Marla Tapper Young, co-owner of Tapper's Diamonds and Fine Jewelry, as Emerging Leader. A Summit Award will be presented to Rashida Tlaib, the first Muslim woman to serve in the Michigan Legislature. Angunette Jamison of Fox 2

will emcee. This year's theme is "Audacity to Succeed." Tickets, \$150, include awards presentation, silent and live auctions and valet. Proceeds benefit AFG, a non-profit organization that helps homeless and high-risk young women avoid violence, teen pregnancy and exploitation. Call (313) 361-4000 ext. 230 or e-mail lmacdonald@alternativesforgirls.org.

TIFFANY AWARDS OPEN CALL FARMINGTON HILLS

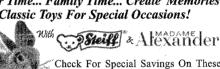
 Hairdressers and colorists are invited to enter the 7th Annual Tiffany Michigan Hairdresser of the Year Awards through 5 p.m. May 29. Contestants compete in four categories: Formal, Women's Editorial, Color and Avant Garde. First, second and third place winners in each category are presented with a crystal trophy from Tiffany & Co.

Contestants who enter in each of the three categories of Formal, Women's Editorial and Color are eligible to compete live for the title of Michigan Hairdresser of the Year at DREAMS, a benefit for the American Cancer Society, on Sept. 26 at Rock Financial Showplace in Novi. For information or to enter, visit www.thetiffanyawards.com or call (248) 347-7700 x2922.

GIRLS LEADERSHIP CAMP REDFORD — Michigan

Association for Female Entrepreneurs, based in Redford, will offer two camps aimed at helping young girls become creative, confident, and self-sufficient. Leadership Camp will take place from May 29-31 at YWCA Camp Cavell in Lexington, Mich., and BizCamp from June 13-July 25 at Lawrence Technological University, Southfield. Call (313) 363-4075 or visit www. YoungEntrepreneurSeries.com.





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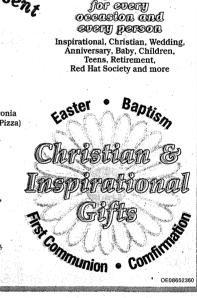




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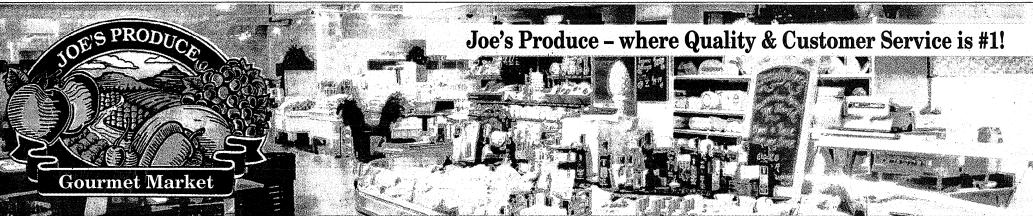
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THURSDAY April 9 2009

SECTION B

Ed Wright, editor . (313) 222-2047 ewright@hometownlife.com

SPORTS, FILTER, FOOD & WINE

HOMETOWN LIFE



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Correy Rossi fires up a jumper last month in the Canton High School gymnasium. The 16-year-old Canton resident played a key role in helping the Michigan Junior Thunderbirds' wheelchair basketball team advance to last month's national championships in Denver, Colo.

"The thing that separates the best wheelchair basketball players from the rest is chair skills—the ability to maneuver the wheelchair smoothly and quickly—and Correy's skills are amazing."



Canton sophomore Correy Rossi is pictured with the Canton varsity basketball team after he was presented with a varsity letter as a result of his accomplishments in wheelchair basketball. Rossi was presented with the letter during halftime of a February Canton game.

Steady, thrilling & more than able

Canton sophomore thrives at wheelchair basketball

BY ED WRIGHT
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

In a lot of ways, Correy Rossi is no different than most talented high school point guards.

The Canton High School sophomore can dribble the ball adeptly, distribute thread-the-needle passes to cutting teammates and bury the mid-range jumper when the need arises.

In fact, the 16-year-old Canton resident is such an accomplished basketball player that he guided his Michigan Junior Thunderbirds squad to a national championship tournament last month in Denver, Colo.

The thing that separates Rossi from most high school point guards is that he accumulates all of his impressive stats while seated in a wheelchair.

After suffering a spinal-cord injury at birth, Rossi lost the use of both his legs. But that hasn't stopped him from excelling in a sport that generally requires phenomenal footwork.

"Correy is usually one of the quickest players on the court during our games," said Noelle Colwell, who co-coaches the Thunderbirds with her husband, Tom. "The thing that separates the best wheelchair basketball players from the rest is chair skills—the ability to maneuver the wheelchair smoothly and quickly—and Correy's skills are amazing."

Someone who has never witnessed a wheelchair hoop game at the level Rossi plays would justifiably assume that players can grab a rebound, set the ball in their lap, then push themselves up the court with unlimited spins of their wheels.

That would be a wrong assumption in Rossi's case.
"We have to dribble just

"We have to dribble just like they do in able-bodied games," Rossi revealed. "We let the new players hold the ball for two pushes until they get used to it, but it's no different than regular basketball. We play by NCAA rules, so there's no traveling."

Fascinating feat

How in the world does Rossi push the angled-in wheels of his wheelchair and

Please see WHEELCHAIR, B4

GAME WRAPS

Canton LAX team falls

Canton's boys lacrosse team dropped a 13-4 decision to Novi on Saturday. The Chiefs trailed just 3-2 after one quarter before the Wildcats extended their advantage to 9-3 at the half.

Matt Rodgers led the Chiefs with three goals while Jake Underwood added one. Alex Loiselle chipped in an assist.

Novi upends Salem netters

Salem's girls tennis team opened its 2009 campaign with an 8-1 setback to Novi.

Salem coach Lin Ware said the loss to the powerful Wildcats was not a reflection of her team's potential.

"I have the best team I've had in seven years," said Ware. "We are very deep and have players at all flights this year. We have two freshmen in the singles lineup.

"The scores in singles don't reflect how close the matches were."

The Rocks' lone point came when the No. 5 doubles team of Emma Vanhoof and Bethany Haller ousted Novi's tandem of Ashley Aljadah and Meng Meng Je, 2-6, 6-2, 6-3.

Novi captured all four singles matches: Amanda Border defeated Alli Carpenter, 6-0, 6-2, at No. 1; Sara Carlson edged Linda Ling, 6-0, 6-3 at No. 2; Abby Wang swept Anna Norman, 6-1, 6-1, at No. 3; and Jennifer Felcher outhit Morgan Spencer, 6-1, 6-0.

In doubles action, Novi's Lauren Felcher and Julia Thomas outpointed Salem's Rachel Norman and Ariel Rojo at No. 1; Jenna Snyder and Megan Wenzl upended Kerry MacDonald and Alex Lamb, 6-2, 6-3, at No. 2; Andrea Lollo and Meggie Riegel outplayed Victoria Brotz and Kayla Zabowski, 7-5 and 6-3, at No. 3; and Natalie Murphy and Shaheen Skeikh edged Ashley Davis and Katie Fletcher, 6-1, 6-4, at No. 4 doubles.

Coaches: Please report results

Local high school spring sports coaches are encouraged to report their results to Plymouth/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 Tuesdays. 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.

YMCA volleyball

The Plymouth YMCA is forming spring volleyball leagues for girls between the ages of 8 and 12. The session will run from April 20 through June 5.

YMCA volleyball is a great opportunity for girls to learn the fundamental skills of volleyball in a safe and fun environment. There will be one practice per week and one game per week on Friday evenings. The cost of the program is \$71 for YMCA members or \$103 for community members.

Individual memberships are \$39 yearly and annual family memberships are \$59. All participants need a YMCA reversible youth sports jersey, the cost of which is \$15.

Programs are filled on a first-come-first-served basis. For more information on this season or other YMCA programs, visit www.ymcadetroit.org or call the office at (734) 453-2904.

Spits get 'Hayes-ed' by Whalers' late goal

BY ED WRIGHT OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

After dropping two straight games of "Crazy Eights," the Plymouth Whalers won a battle of "Hearts" Tuesday night at Compuware Arena.

In a heart-pounding contest that tested both teams' intestinal fortitude, the Whalers deadlocked their Ontario Hockey League Western Conference semifinal series with Windsor at two games all with an edgé-of-your-seat, blue-collar 3-2 triumph over the No. 1-seeded Spitfires in game 4.

Windsor captured games 2 and 3 by resounding scores of 8-1 and 8-2, but you wouldn't have known it by the way the hosts played during the opening 39 minutes Tuesday evening when they secured a solid 2-0 advantage.

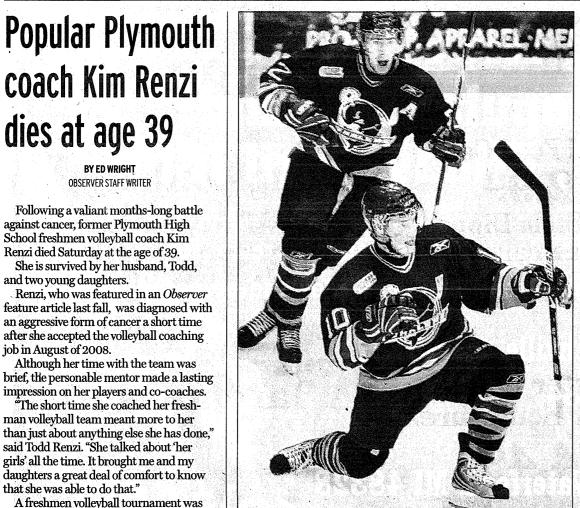
The Spits battled back to knot the game at 2-2 before scrappy Whalers forward Ryan Hayes skated into the hero's role.

The 5-foot-9, 179-pound native of Syracuse, N.Y., lit the lamp with 4:26 to play after ricocheting the puck off the back leg of Windsor goalie Andrew Engelage from a near-impossible angle near the corner of the boards.

"It seems like Ryan gets all of our big ones," said Plymouth head coach Mike Vellucci. "He has a knack for scoring big goals. It's something you can't teach. He just knows how to do it. He doesn't score many in the blowouts. He usually gets his in the 4-3, 3-2 games."

"It was kind of a scramble play," recalled Hayes, recounting his clutch shot. "I knew we had to get

Please see WHALERS, B4



organized last fall to assist the Renzi family.

Plans are under way to make it an annual

confirmed Todd Renzi.

ily," he concluded.

event that will assist other families in need,

"I do not have the words to express how

daughters attend - have meant to our fam-

much the support from the community

all the way down to the schools my

RENA LAVERTY

Plymouth's Ryan Hayes celebrates his game-winning goal with 4:26 left in Tuesday's 3-2 victory over Windsor. Hayes' teammate A.J. Jenks is pictured in the background.

Plymouth welcomes back bulk of up-and-coming kick squad

OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

If familiarity breeds success, look out for the Plymouth girls soccer team this spring.

The Wildcats return 17 of the 18 players who made up last year's roster — and the team finished strong during the second half of 2008, said coach Jeff Neschich.

"We have a well-balanced team this year," the sixth-year mentor said. "We have two very strong attacking players in Kelly Dobbs and Megan Quinlan and a couple strong returning defensive players in Meeghan Hughes and Katie Krajewski. I'm optimistic."

The team will look to captains Liz Koet (senior midfielder) and McKenzie Hengesh (sophomore mid-fielder) for leadership and on-the-field production.

Neschich is also expecting big things from sophomore goalkeeper Marissa Williams, who sparkled as a freshman starter; sophomore mid-fielder Vittoria Miller and senior mid-fielder Kasey Webb.

"Marissa was outstanding last year," said Neschich. "She got stronger as the season went

Joining Krajewski and Hughes in the back will be Jessica Heck, Carley McQuiston and Jenna Livingston.

Observer & Eccentric | Thursday, April 9, 2009

The mid-field will be bolstered by the presence of Jennifer Babcock, Katie Moss and Lauren Scott; while Alyssa Deykes, Emilie Guglielmo and Megan Peplinski provide depth at the forward spot.

CANTON

A solid core of returning players promises to make the Chiefs a serious threat to win some rather large-sized trophies in

Among the veterans who led last year's squad to a 12-6-2 mark are All-State defender Melanie Pickert and senior captains Lisa Pierce and Leslie

"We're looking solid so far," said Canton coach George Tomasso. "Our senior class of seven players is very strong. Both of our captains are fouryear varsity players and the provide us with great leadership. I like the dynamics of this team."

The Chiefs' attack will be anchored by the two captains Pierce and Weisz.

"Lisa brings a lot of power to

the game with set pieces," he said. "She has great field vision. Leslie has very good instincts and she has an a amazing awareness on the field."

The team's other four seniors will also be solid contributors: mid-fielder Megan Staub: forward Tracy Rymph, who was one of the leading scorers last spring; and defenders Katelin David, Lauren Peeler and Katie

Mid-fielders Lindsey Winters and Alyssa Cottrell, and forward Jessikah McClendon headline the Chiefs' talented junior class.

The last line of defense will be held down by junior goalie Samantha McPartlin.

She'll receive plenty of support from Pickert, who was one of the state's elite defenders as a freshman last season.

"Melanie has an upper-level mentality out there," said Tomasso, when asked what made Pickert so effective. "She does a great job of being in the right position at the right time."

SALEM

The Rocks will be relying on a balanced line-up during head coach Joe Nora's 10th year at the helm.

PREP SOCCER PREVIEWS

"This is a good group of players," said Nora, who took an 83-54-24 record into the 2009 campaign, which started with Monday's 1-all draw with Farmington Hills Mercy. "We have some seasoned vets and a lot of good young players.

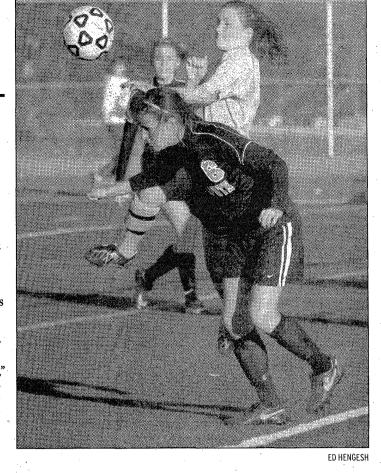
"One of the best things about this group is that the girls understand it's a process, that the harder you work, the better you're going to be. The ceiling is high for this team."

Nora didn't hesitate when asked about his team's primary strength.

'We have a lot of team speed," he said, "both on the flanks, up top and in the mid-field."

A quartet of players — senior forward Jill Behrman, senior defender Sara O'Leary, senior defender Jourdin Jaaska and sophomore defender Lindsey Roy — have earned the title of captains for the Rocks. Behrman and Jaaska are both four-year varsity performers while O'Leary has already earned a pair of varsity letters.

"One thing I really want is for this team to feel like a family and the captains have done a great job of helping out with that," said Nora.



Senior mid-fielder Kasey Webb (6), pictured during a game earlier this season, will play a pivotal role for Plymouth's soccer team this spring.

Other key starters for the Rocks include junior midfielder Lauren Booth and senior goalie Tracey Whalen, a transfer from Farmington Hills Mercy.

"We'll probably run most of our offense through Lauren,"

said Nora. "She's able to hit teammates with passes from 30 to 40 yards away.

"As far as Tracey goes, you'd never know it was her first year with us. She's fit in since the first day. It seems like she's been with us for years."

'Cats hope to build on last year's school-best record

OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Thanks to a nucleus of key players returning, last year's school-best record of 23-11 may have to take a back seat to this year's mark when it comes to

Plymouth's baseball team. Among the Wildcats' returning starters are their No. 1 pitcher, three-quarters of their infield and most of their outfielders, which means coach Chuck Adams will be reloading more than rebuilding this spring.

PREP BASEBALL PREVIEW

"I think we're going to have a strong team," said Adams. "Our hitting and our speed will be strong points. And I think some people are underestimating our pitching."

A pair of veteran seniors – Ronnie Goble and Brad Lineberry — were named captains, and deservedly so. Combined the two players have seven years of varsity experience counting this campaign.

"Ronnie is not only a complete ballplayer, but he's a wonderful young man," said Adams. "He's been a joy to coach the past four

"The same goes for Brad. Every day he arrives at the field, he's ready to play ball.'

Blessed with blazing speed, Goble will man center field for the 'Cats. He'll also hit near the middle of the batting order due to his above-average power.

Lineberry will start at shortstop and serve as one of the team's top pitchers.

The team's No. 1 hurler is senior Cliff Buttermore, who crafted a 6-2 mark on the mound as a junior.

"Cliff has great command of all three of his pitches," said Adams. "He changes speeds well and can hit his spots."

Sophomore Mike Nadratowski, a lefty, has also earned a spot in the rotation. "He has great poise for a soph-

omore," said Adams. Senior Jake Gilbert will start behind the plate. He'll be backed up by junior Matt Priebe, who

will also see action at first base and designated hitter. Nadratowski, junior Jackson Burdette and junior Erik Lee provide depth at first.

Senior Matt Skubik, the starting quarterback for the Wildcats' football team this past fall, will start at second. He'll be backed up by Luke Merandi and Buttermore.

Lineberry's primary back-up at short is Andy Dodge.

A pair of seniors — Travis Mewton and Ryan Spencer — will man the hot corner.

The Wildcats have speed galore in the outfield. Mike Rose and Kelly Waite will share time in left; Goble will be backed up by Kevin Lozier in center; and Alex Minch and Nadratowski will play right.

"Our Division (the KLAA South) should be wide open this year," said Adams. "Us, Canton, Franklin, Churchill, Wayne and John Glenn all have a shot. Anybody can beat anybody on any given day."

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DAVE PAYNE

A 'Payne' in U of M's side

Former Canton High School softball standout Hilary Payne has enjoyed a stellar freshman season at Loyola of Chicago thus far. Among her accomplishments was a four-inning relief stint against nationally ranked University of Michigan on March 27 during which she yielded zero runs.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Nike football combine

The Nike Combine Training for high school football players to prepare for the 2009 season and preparation for SPARQ and NATS testing protocols is heading to Auburn Hills. Players will be taught drills and techniques used to prepare college seniors for the NFL Combine.

This training session will be on Sundays beginning April 19 at the Auburn. Hills Sports Dome.

To register, visit www.coachjacksonspeed.com.

For more information, contact coach Jaime Jackson at (248) 535-7404.

HVS camps

High Velocity Sports in Canton will be offering "Spring Break Fun Days" April 10 and April 13-17.

Parents can drop off their children any time between 7:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. for the price of just \$5 per hour.

There will be supervised stations for soccer, flag football, dodge ball, kick ball, basket-

ball, volleyball and many more. The kids will rotate stations every 30 minutes.

Basketball, soccer and craft camps are also available. For more information, visit

www.hvsports.com or call

(734) 487-7678.

Plymouth baseball clinic

The 2009 Plymouth Wildcats **Baseball Spring Training clinic** will be held Saturday, April 18, from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Plymouth High School baseball complex. Weather permitting, the clinic will be held outside. Otherwise, it will be held in the school's gym.

The camp, which is open to kids in grades third through eighth, will focus on ageappropriate skill development in a fun, learning environment.

For the \$50 registration fee, attendees will receive instruction from the Wildcats' baseball staff and players; a T-shirt and lunch. There will also be video analysis among other constructive learning methods.

For more information, contact John Nadratowski at (734) 844-3212.

Your local golf guide

Why You Must Know the Definitions in the Rules of Golf

By Jeanne Myers

In order to apply the rules of golf, or even to find the answer to a rules problem in the rules of golf, you have to know the definitions. There are only 51 of them, but there is a huge amount of information in them.

More than one golfer has given himself a stroke penalty for causing his ball to oscillate. The rules-savvy golfer, however, knows that oscillating, according to the United States Golf Association, is not moving. For a ball to have "moved," it has to leave its position and come to rest in another spot. So, even if you accidentally nudge a ball forward, as long as it returns to its original position, you are safe from penalty — because it hasn't come to rest in another spot.

Under the definition of "equipment," you will find that when you are sharing a golf cart, when your ball is involved, that cart and everything in it belongs to you — unless the cart is being driven by the other person. And, that "everything in it" includes the other person when the cart is stationary. Therefore, assume another player in your group who is sharing a cart with you, drives the cart and parks it near the green and stays in the cart. You then proceed to play, and your shot hits the person sitting in the stationary cart. You have hit your equipment and will get a one stroke penalty. Hopefully, he will only get a sore arm.

A "stroke" is the forward movement of

the club with the intention of hitting the ball. So, if you check your downswing voluntarily or alter your swing path so that you intentionally miss the ball, you have not made a stroke. But, don't use this to try to disguise a "whiff." We all know what a "whiff" looks like.

"Through the green" is the whole area of the golf course except the teeing ground and putting green of the hole you are playing and all hazards. Therefore, through the green includes fairways and rough. When you look up relief options, you will need to know that term.

A "rub of the green" is not bad luck. It is when your ball in motion is accidentally stopped or deflected by any outside agency. Therefore, it is a rub of the green if your shot is deflected out of bounds by a piece of mowing equipment, but it is also a rub of the green if it is deflected into the hole by that equipment.

There are no sand traps or pins on golf courses, so you'll have trouble looking up a rule involving either. Instead, there are "bunkers" and "flagsticks," and you will have no problem finding the proper entries in the index to the Rules of Golf to find the answer you need using those

An "obstruction" is anything artificial except: 1) objects defining out of bounds, such as walls, fences and stakes, 2) immovable artificial objects located out of bounds; and 3) integral parts of the course. If you know this definition,

you will know that if retaining walls in a water hazard have been declared to be integral parts of the course, you will not get free relief from them even if your ball lies outside the hazard.

A "provisional ball" is one played for an original ball that may be out of bounds or may be lost outside of a water hazard.

The rest of those definitions are up to



Jeanne Myers is currently an assistant tournament director for the Golf Association of Michigan and also served as the chairman of the USGA Women's Committee and is a past president of the GAM.

Online poll: Pick the **Masters** 2009 Masters Tournament is April 6-12. Who will win this year? We want your vote!

Go online to www.hometownlife.com/section/sports25 to take part in our online poll. We'll compare your predictions with the final results on April 16!

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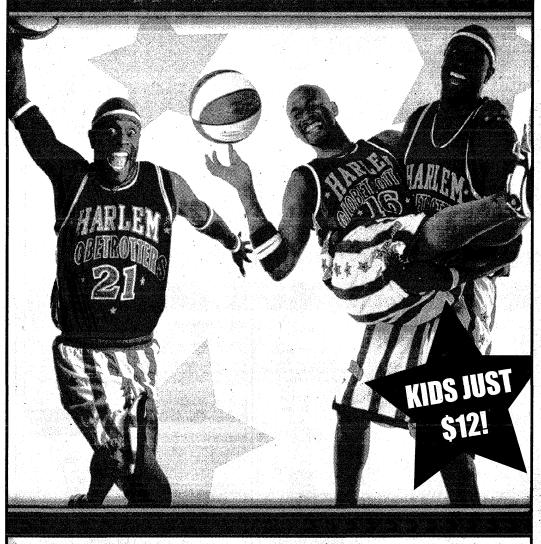
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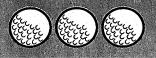


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WHEELCHAIR

dribble at the same time? Very well, Colwell explained.

'The chairs we use are specially made for quick maneuvering, so good ball-handlers like Correy can push with his left hand while he's dribbling with his right," Colwell said. "These kids are like all other high school athletes. They're competitive and - the No. 1 thing of all — they want to be treated like everyone else.

A couple of things surprised Colwell when she watched her first wheelchair game several years ago.

"It was more aggressive and physical than I expected," she said. "To increase maneuverability, the chairs the kids use have a fifth wheel in back, so they can rotate 360 degrees. The only problem is, they can also fall backwards.

"If a player's chair tips over in a game, play continues. I'd say 90 percent of

the players can get back up on their own. In fact, that's something we work on in practice.

No limitations

Observer & Eccentric | Thursday, April 9, 2009

Despite the fact he can't rely on the thrust of his legs, Rossi's shooting range is similar to that of an ablebodied high school player, Colwell said.

"When I started coaching wheelchair basketball, I got my own chair so that I could see what it was like," she said. "I learned quickly how much upper-body strength is required to shoot the ball.

"Shooting is one thing that Correy has really improved on recently. During one close game at the national championships, he dribbled down and instead of passing off, he stopped at the free throw line and made a big shot for

Special tribute

Rossi, who started playing basketball when he was 9, was recognized for his accomplishments during halftime of a Canton varsity basketball game in February. Along with drawing a loud cheer from the fans in attendance that night, Rossi was presented with an official varsity letter by PCEP co-athletic director Sue Heinzman.

"I was honored to be recognized in that way," said the well-spoken Rossi. "We have kids on our team who asked their schools if they could get a letter, but they were turned down. Getting a varsity letter from my school meant a lot to me.

"People ask me all the time what it's like to not have the use of my legs. I tell them there's really nothing I can't do if I put my mind to it. I like to think I can do the same things an able-bodied person can do."

And when it comes to leading a fast-break, or hitting a cutting teammate with a perfect bounce pass, players who have defended Rossi will tell you he can do things even better than some of his able-bodied peers.

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Best is yet to come for Salem track team

BY ED WRIGHT **OBSERVER STAFF WRITER**

Salem boys track-and-field coach Kyle Meteyer knows a talented athlete when he sees one, and he sees plenty on his squad's roster this spring.

"Of the four years I've been the head coach, this is the most confidence I've had in one of my teams," said Meteyer. "We look strong in nearly every area of the track and on the field.

"Our strongest area this year looks to be the field events, even though we have some key inju-

Star high jumper Jace Bearden may be out until May, but his absence will be softened by the presence of Zack Gaskell and Paul Classen. Gaskell was a state-qualifier in the state meet in 2008.

"Our strongest events in the field are probably our throws with juniors Ed Merhi and Dana Baltazar," said Meteyer. "And senior Courtney Frazier presents a threat in both throwing events.

John Krutty will headline the Rocks' pole-vaulting crew while junior Dominique Williams will pace the longjumpers.

The program's staple has always been its strong stable of distance runners. This year should be no different with the return of big-time point-earners Matt Devey, Mike Charara, Dan Martin, Dan Adsit, Zach Basanese, Alex Long and Jason

SALEM 88

April 2 at Novi

110 high hurdles: 1. O'Connor (S), 16.2; 2.

3,200-meter relay: 1. Novi, 8:37.5; 2.

110 high nurdles: 1. U Connor (s), 16.2; 2. Litta (N), 16.3; 3. C. Williams (S), 16.3; 100 dash: 1. D. Williams (S), 11.5; 2. Kuhn (N), 11.7; 3. Brant (N), 11.7.

800 relay: 1. Salem (Patin, Root, Mullins, O'Connor), 1:35.8; 2. Novi, 1:36.1

1,600 run: 1. Blaszczyk (N), 4:40.7; 2. Charara (S), 4:41.2; 3. Devey (S), 4:41.5.

PREP TRACK PREVIEWS

Hurdler Scott O'Connor will be counted on heavily for points and it wouldn't shock anyone if he qualified for the Division 1 state meet, Meteyer said.

"Scott has been a very good hurdler since he's been a freshman and I'm confident he can achieve any goals he sets for himself," said Meteyer.

Charles Williams will add depth to the Rocks' contingent of hurdlers.

Among the team's top sprinters are Dominique Williams at Pat Patin.

"We have a great group of senior captains who are leading the team admirably so far, but I'm thrilled that most of our best athletes are underclassmen," noted Meteyer. "This year's juniors make up a special class, and I know now that they're juniors, this year and next should be dynamite."

CANTON

The Chiefs' perennially tough team will be relying on a particularly strong middle-distance unit this season, said veteran coach Bob Richardson.

"Our middle-distance people are showing a lot of promise," said Richardson. "Overall, we have a lot of returning athletes and a lot of young athletes with potential. Hopefully, they can all blend together and turn us into a good team.

Look no further than the

Chiefs' list of captains for the team's heart and soul. As always, this year's senior leaders — Sherif Hassanien, Josh Hurst, Eddie Koelzer and Ryan Randall were selected by their peers and coaches at last spring's seasonending picnic.

Hassanien is one of the area's top hurdlers while Hurst excels in the 800, 1,600 and four-by-800 relay.

Koelzer is a steadily improving pole vaulter and relays contributor while Randall should earn plentiful points in the 200, 400 and relays.

Other key seniors include distance performers Duncan Spitz, Greg Reed, Kyle Clinton and Gage Hermann; middle man Kyle Breitmeyer: and thrower Jason

The Chiefs' strong junior class is paced by Zach Spreitzer (distance), Keith Zech (400 and 800), Paul Rakovitis (distance), Jon Peck (distance), Josh Osinski (distance), Brandon Tolinski (400 and 800), August Garrett (sprints), Winston Roberts (hurdles) and Jordan Wisniewski, who excels in the middle-distance

Ben Spreitzer, Adam Payne and Nick Alaniva have shown potential as sophomores and Kevin Buford and Miles Felton are the squad's top two freshmen so far.

The Chiefs' coaching staff - Richardson, Matti Kilpelainen, Kwon Moon and Brad Waidmann -is loaded with knowledge.

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FROM PAGE B1

shots on goal. I shot it from a bad angle, but it hit off his back leg and went in. It's the biggest OHL goal I've scored so far, definitely."

Despite the lopsided nature of the previous two games, Vellucci said his team wasn't outplayed as much as it was outnumbered.

"I don't think we got humbled," he said. "We just took too many bad penalties. Before we knew it, we were down 4-0 at their place and they had 18 power plays in the other game. When it was five-onfive, I thought we played well.

"Tonight, between the first and second periods, I asked them, 'What do you have to lose? Win or lose, if you go out and give it your

all, you can feel good about yourselves.' I told them that no matter what, leave it all out on the ice, and they

Following a scoreless first period in which Windsor outshot Plymouth, 11-6, the Whalers seized a 1-0 lead 53 seconds into the second stanza when captain Chris Terry one-timed the puck past Engelage from the door-step after controlling a behind-the-net feed from Tyler Seguin.

The hosts doubled their edge to 2-0 six minutes later when Matt Caria slammed home a pass from Seguin from between the face-off circles.

The Whalers were 1.5 seconds away from carrying a comfortable 2-0 lead into the second period, but that's when Windsor's Dale Mitchell redirected Rob Kwiet's slapshot past Plymouth goalie Matt

Hackett to cut the Spits' deficit to 2-1.

When Windsor's Eric Wellwood knocked home the equalizer with 6:44 left, Hayes stayed upbeat.

"If you start thinking 'Uh-oh' at that point, it's going to hurt your chances even more," said Hayes. "You have to keep your head up and stay positive, which we did." Windsor pulled Engelage

with 1:50 to play and fired a barrage of shots at Hackett, who came up big every time. The Spitfires, who host

game 5 Thursday night at

7:05, outshot Plymouth,

39-31. Game 6 is slated for Saturday night at Compuware Arena. The opening face-off is set for 7:05 p.m.

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TRACK RESULTS

400 relay: 1. Salem (Patin, Frazier, Broadnax, Williams), 45.16; 2. Novi, 46.9, 400 dash: 1. Gaskell (S), 53.5; 2. Pitcher (N), 53.8; 3. Mullins (S), 55.5.

300 hurdles: 1. O'Connor (S), 40.7; 2. VanBuhler (N), 42.7; 3. C. Williams (S), 42.7. 800 run: 1. Martin (S), 2;08.5; 2. Masserant (N), 2:09.6; 3. Charara (S), 2:09.6. 200 dash: 1. D. Williams (S), 22.5; 2. Kuhn (N), 23.1; 3. Patin (S), 23.2.

3,200 run: 1. Blaszczyk (N), 10:10.6; 2. Smith (S), 10:15.9; 3. Minghine (N), 10:16.6. 1,600 relay: 1. Salem (O'Connor, Mullins,

Martin, Gaskell), 3:40.2; 2. Novi, 3:42.7. **Pole vault:** 1. Furby (N), 11 feet, 6 inches; Krutty (S), 11-0; 3. Hernandez (S), 11-0. **High jump:** 1. Gaskell (S), 6-3; 2. Classen

Nigh jump: 1. Gaskett (3), 6-3, 2. Classett (5), 5-5; 3. Cingo (N), 5-3.

Long jump: 1. Kuhn (N), 21-0.5; 2. D.

Williams (S), 20-8; 3. Root (S), 18-11.

Discus: 1. Baltazar (S), 133-8; 2.

Mutnusamy (N), 117-6; 3. Frazier (S), 114-4.

Shot put: 1. Baltazar (S), 48-9; 2. Merhi (S) 147-6; 3. Frazier (S) 40-2 SALEM'S DUAL-MEET RECORD: 2-0

overall: 2-0 KLAA Central Division

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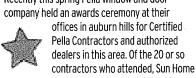
Having signed a lease at the Westchester Square mall in downtown Plymouth (550 Forest Avenue), owners of the new Genuine Toy location are starting the build-out of their specialty

retail toy store.

The store will occupy the space formerly held by Andy's Hallmark, total area of which is 2,745 square feet. Owners expect to open sometime in June if all goes well, although it could be a bit earlier (late May) or later (early July worst case). The store will feature a broad range of toys and games, something for all ages from infant to adult.

The space is currently being upgraded to increase visibility to Forest (similar to existing Three Dog Bakery frontage) as well as changes to improve the functionality and flow of the store. The new space will also be updated with a bright, fun new look.

Sun Home honors Recently this spring Pella window and door



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Sun Home Improvement, started by James Voepel and his father, Emil Voepel, is still a family owned and operated business with offices based out of Plymouth and Rochester Hills. The company installs Pella, Andersen, Marvin, and Sunrise windows, James Hardie and Certainteed Siding, and Certainteed Roofing.

For more information visit Sun's Web site at www. sunhomeimprovement.com, e-mail sunhomeimprovement@yahoo.com or call (734) 354-9988. Ashtin hires

The JB Ashtin Group announced Cindy Brown is joining the company as publications coordinator for the company's Client Services staff. Brown brings more than 17 years' experience in project and operations

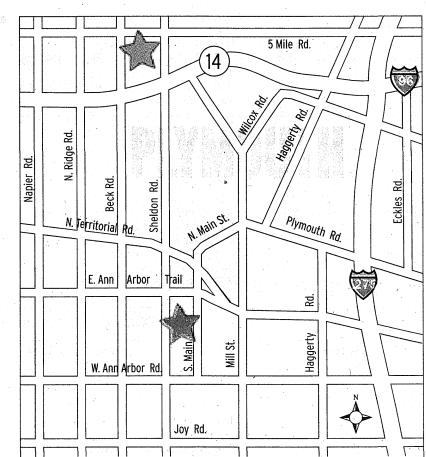
Brown comes from the Thornton-Termohlen Group, an international high-rise architectural development firm located in Henderson, Nevada, where she served as senior office manager, working closely

with the president of the company and the executive team. In addition to working with members of the senior management team for this Fortune 100 corporation, she has been a key player in preparing extensive project summaries for the company's future development and finance opportunities and has assisted in analyzing project-specific financial data and preparing financial reports.

Brown graduated from Central Michigan University with a bachelor's degree in business administration. She has been involved in a number of industry seminars with a focus on team building, problem solving, and leadership.

The company also announced Becky Boose as the newest member of the Client Services publications staff. Boose brings more than 11 years' experience in media services. She comes to Ashtin from Campbell-Ewald, the nation's eighth-largest advertising and digital communications corporation, where she served as account and media advisor. Boose graduated magna cum laude from Eastern Michigan University with a bachelor's degree in business administration in marketing. She completed an intensive internship with the advertising agency Young & Rubicam (now doing business as Team Detroit).

For more information about The JB Ashtin Group, visit www.jbashtingroup.com



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Owners hope to clean up with hand sanitizer

Observer: Tell us about your business, including the types of services and/or products you

Purgo: We manufacture and sell the Pure-Go, which is a wrist-worn hand sanitizer dispenser. At this point our main customers have been healthcare facilities including hospitals, assisted living centers and other smaller medical facilities. The Pure-Go also makes a great promotional item because we can personalize it with a company logo, and make the band in any color. We sell the product on our Web site, at Clearly You in Canton, and most recently, at all seven locations of Hiller's Markets. Observer: What makes your business unique?

Purgo: There is no other product like the Pure-Go, and there are endless applications. In addition to the health care field, we have sold to schools, the American Dental Association, construction companies; several travel related businesses, and even a tattoo parlor! Thanks to multiple studies and publicity from prestigious organizations such as the Centers for Disease Control, the general public is very aware that the number 1 way to prevent the spread of illness is to wash your hands. Alcohol based hand rub is considered equal to, or superior to washing with soap and water, and just having the Pure-Go available on the wrist at all times makes it so convenient to practice good hand hygiene.

Observer: How did you first decide to open your own business?

Purgo: Jeff has always been a frequent business traveler, and he recognized the need for a quick and discrete way to sanitize hands while in common business situations such as meetings and trade shows, and while traveling when it can be very inconvenient to locate or use a restroom to wash. He decided that a wrist-worn device to dispense hand sanitizer would be very useful to a large cross section of the general public and many different types of businesses. He believed in this concept enough to stay with the idea through the design and prototype phases, patenting, manufacturing and all of the other many details that it has taken to get to the point of sales and distribution. Observer: How did you decide to locate in the Plymouth

Purgo: Jeff and I both grew up in Plymouth and after

community?



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Kathy and Jeff Powers of Plymouth Township are marketing the Pure-Go, a wrist-worn hand sanitizer worn much like a watch.

PURGO CREATIONS, INC.

- Business name: Purgo Creations, Inc.
- Business address: 50114 Fellows Creek Court, Plymouth. • Your name and title: Kathy Powers, co-owner
- and sales and marketing manager.
- Your hometown: Plymouth.
- Business opened when?: We secured our first patents in 2003, we became a Michigan corporation in 2004, and have been actively selling the Pure-Go since 2006.
- Number of employees: Just myself and my husband, Jeff Powers, plus a network of 10 distributors worldwide.
- Your business specialty: We manufacture and sell the Pure-Go, which is a dispenser of hand sanitizer that is worn on the wrist.
- Hours of operation: We are not a store front, but we are accessible pretty much all day everyday.
- Business phone and Web site: (734) 502-6897, (877) 696-7484, www.
- cleanhandsnow.com

spending 12 years in Dallas, moved back here with our 4 children in 1998. This is a wonderful community and after spending many years participating as volunteers in the schools and athletics, and enjoying many social activities, we are very happy to now be a part of the business community.

Observer: Do you have a funny

readers about your experience so

tidbit or story to share with

far as a small business owner? Purgo: It has been very

inspiring to see how local Michigan businesses have been making every effort to support each other through these tough economic times. The efforts of local Chambers of Commerce are greatly appreciated as well as the support of the community. Hopefully soon every small business owner will have many funny tidbits to share!

CHAMBER CHAT

Showcase Plymouth

With 70 exhibitors already registered there are only about 20 exhibit spaces still left for the May 11 Showcase and Taste of Plymouth. With space going quickly, you need to reserve your space as soon as possible. Showcase is scheduled 5-7:30 p.m.

Last year the event was bigger then 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!

With exhibit space being only \$100, this is a great opportunity to market your business to residents and local businesses. For the price, this is one of the best Chamber promotional activities of the

Recession budget special (How to exhibit for half the price): To help members during these difficult economic times, we are offering half an exhibit space that can be purchased for just \$50. The Chamber will try to match your company with a

complimentary business to help you co-market at the event. Sharing a space would consist of using half of the 6' x 3' table provided to exhibitors.

If you are interested in exhibiting, please contact the Chamber at (734) 453-1540 or email teri@ plymouthmich.org.

Come to the event for just \$10: For only \$10 you can enjoy selections from almost 20 local restaurants, meet another 70 businesses that exhibit and network with other attendees. Chamber members who attend will be given special decorative name badges to identify each other. Members can also purchase five or more tickets at one time for a discount of \$2 per ticket. To RSVP for the event call (734) 453-1540 or email teri@plymouthmich.org.

Volunteer and receive a free admission. Members again have the opportunity to volunteer on the event and receive a free admission. Volunteers are needed in the morning, afternoon and during the event to assist with decorations, vendor set up and registration. Call the Chamber at (734) 453-1540.







734-453-5500

www.plymouthnursery.net Mon-Sat 9-6 • Sun 10-5

Offers Expire 4/15/09 OPEN EASTER SUNDAY 10-3

summer. Lots of patio furniture and garden art to sit on, look at and dream about... Blowout Sale SCOTT'S Pure Premium

GRASS SEED 50% OFF while supplies last



SMALL FRUITS. ROSES, PERENNIAL

8

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9900 Ann Arbor Rd./Plymouth Rd. 7 Miles West of I-275 * 1 1/2 Miles South of M-14

To submit an item for the religion calendar, e-mail Ichomin@hometownlife.com or write: Religion Calendar, Observer Newspapers, 615 W. Lafayette-2nd Level, Detroit, MI 48226, Attn: Linda Chomin, Deadline for an announcement to appear in the Thursday edition is noon Monday. For a complete listing of events online please go to hometownlife.

Holy Week schedule

Holy Thursday April 9 features the Mass of the Last Supper at 7 p.m. followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament until 11:30 p.m. Good Friday devotions will begin with Stations of the Cross at 12:15 p.m. followed by Liturgy of the Passion at 1:30 p.m. An Easter Egg Hunt begins 9 a.m. Holy Saturday followed by Blessing of Food at noon and Easter Vigil Mass at 8 p.m. Easter Sunday Masses at 8 a.m., 10 a.m., and noon April 12, at St. Michael's Catholic Church Parish, Hubbard at Plymouth roads, Livonia. Call (734) 261-1455 or visit www.livoniastmichael.org.

Holy week services

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, 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. Call (248) 374-7400.

Holy Week 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.

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

Observer & Eccentric | Thursday, April 9, 2009

Maundy (Holy) Thursday, 7:30 p.m. April 9, celebration of Holy Communion concludes with Stripping of the Altar. Festival Choir and Jubellation Handbell Choir featured in 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 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. to 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. christoursavior.org.

Holy Week services Maundy Thursday Worship at 7:30 p.m. April 10, confession with individual laying on of hands for absolution; footwashing and/or anointing of hands for service; holy communion, stripping of the altar. Good Friday service 12:30-2 p.m. The Passion According to John will be read interspersed with music, hymns, and meditative reading. 7:30 p.m. Good Friday Tenebrae service of darkness with readings from all four Gospel passion accounts. Easter Vigil Saturday at 7:30 p.m. with skits by confirmation students from the Old Testament by candlelight, a litany of the saints and a resurrection celebration of Holy Communion, Festival Worship "The Resurrection of Our Lord" Sunday April 12, at 8 a.m. and 10 a.m, with guest trumpeters, choir, Barb Myers singing "I Know That My Redeemer Liveth" from Handel's Messiah; Michael Burkhardt at the

organ, at Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church, 30650 Six Mile. Livonia. Call (734) 427-1414 or visit www.holycrosslivonia.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 at Ridge, Plymouth. Call (734) 414-7777 or visit northridgechurch.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 dinners do not include beverage.

Blood drive

3-9 p.m. Friday, April 10, at St. Mary's Catholic Church, 34530 Michigan Ave., two blocks east of Wayne Road, Wayne. For information, call Andrea at (734) 721-1129.

Holy Week music Kirk in the Hills will presents a program of choral music for Good Friday by the Kirk Chancel Choir, including music ranging from plainsong, Renaissance composers, spirituals and contemporary works, 7:30 p.m. April 10, 1340 West Long Lake Road, Bloomfield Hills. Free. Call (248) 626-2515 ext. 109, or visit www.kirkinthehills.org.

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 Sonshine; 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.

Breakfast at 9 a.m. followed by Easter Egg Hunt at 10 a.m. and Worship at 10:30 a.m. Sunday, April 12, at Good Hope Evangelical Lutheran Church, 28680 Cherry Hill, Garden City. Call (734) 427-3660.

Easter festival

Easter celebration

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-caneat 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.

Bethany west singles Saturday, April 18, Monthly Breakfast Meeting 9:30 a.m. at Leon's, 30149 Ford Road, Garden City. All separated, divorced and singles welcome. Call (734) 513-9479. Bethany is a Catholic organization under the auspices of the Archdiocese of the Detroit Office for Family Ministry. Bethany provides spiritual, social and educational assistance through peer-to-peer ministry to the divorced and separated of all Christian faiths.

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 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 meal will be held at Biddle Hall, 3239 Biddle, Wyandotte. The menu includes kiełbasa, ham, potato salad, tossed green salad. beet horseradish (cwikla), bread, butter lambs, 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.

Divine Mercy Sunday

St. Michael the Archangel Parish of Livonia will host its celebration of Divine Mercy Sunday April 19, with special devotions to which all area Catholics are cordially invited to the church, 11441 Hubbard, south of Plymouth Rd., Livonia. Mercy Sunday was formally instituted as a day of celebration by Pope John Paul II in 2001 and is based on Christ's revelations to St. Faustina Kowalska about humanity's need for His Divine Mercy in our troubled world. The day begins with Mass at noon followed by an opportunity for confessions at 2 p.m. and recitation of the rosary at 2:30 p.m. while reconciliation continues. The Divine Mercy Devotion begins at 3 p.m., traditionally the hour of "greatest mercy" commemorating the hour of Christ's death, and will include the exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, and Benediction.

Healing ministry

7-9 p.m. the first and third Tuesdays of the month for prayer, spiritual healing and outreach at Good Hope Evangelical Lutheran Church, 28680 Cherry Hill, Garden City. Call (734) 427-3660.

Holy Land pilgrimage Learn about the opportunity for

the journey of a lifetime 7 p.m. Wednesday, April 22, as Russ Goodman of Ultimate Journeys Tours and Travel speaks at St. John's Episcopal Church, 574 S. Sheldon, Plymouth. The topic will be the Current State of Pilgrimage and Travel in The Holy Land. Goodman coordinates over 40 churches and 1,000 passengers per year in travel to Israel, Greece, Turkey and several locations in Europe. Pastor Dorian McGlannan, St. John's Church rector leads the Ultimate Journey pilgrimage to the Holy Land Nov. 3-12, 2009. The trip originates in Detroit. For

Open house

information, call (734) 453-0190.

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.

Apologetics for beginners

The Mass: Christ's Once for All Sacrifice is the topic as nationallyacclaimed apologist and author, Gary Michuta, continues his series "Sharing Made Simple: Apologetics for Beginners" 7 p.m. Thursday, April 23, at St. Michael the Archangel Parish school, at 11441 Hubbard and Plymouth Rd., between Farmington and Merriman, Livonia. For information, call (734) 261-1455, ext 200, or see www.livoniastmichael.org. Michuta's presentation focuses on the reasons that Catholics believe Christ is truly and wholly present in the Eucharist and how that sacrifice figures into the point and purpose of the Catholic Mass.

Rummage sale

9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday, April 24, and 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Saturday, April 25, at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 16360 Hubbard, between Five Mile and Six Mile, Livonia.

Mom to mom sale

9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, April 25, at Newburg United Methodist Church, 36500 Ann Arbor Trail, between Wayne and Newburgh roads, Livonia. 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.

Rummage sale

Newburg United Methodist Church 36500 Ann Arbor Trail, between Wayne and Newburgh roads, Livonia will be holding a Rummage Sale fund raiser. Pre-sale 5-8 p.m. Thursday, April 30, admission \$2 per adult. Big Sale 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday, May 1, and 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, May 2, admission free. Saturday everything half price.

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.

Michigan Treasure Hunters

Meet 7:30 p.m. on the fourth Tuesday of each month at Faith Lutheran Church, 30000 Five Mile, Livonia. To contact the club write Michigan Treasure Hunters, P.O. Box 510237, Livonia, MI 48151-6237.

UPCOMING

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. ONGOING

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.

Time change

Worship is 9:30 a.m. Sunday, at Faith Lutheran Church, 30000 Five Mile, west of Middlebelt, Livonia. Learning hour is at 8:15 a.m. for all ages. Visit www.livonfaith.org.

Church moves

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

Midweek spiritual enrichment Two opportunities for spiritual enrichment are available at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, 26701 Joy, each week on Wednesday and Thursday at 10:30 a.m. Wednesdays is a study/discussion group focused on understanding our relationship with God and that of other religions and the many philosophical and scientific issues that might impact our faith. Thursday group examines early writings not included in the Bible as well as other versions, extensions and controversies concerning Christianity. Led by interim pastor

Larry Hoxey. Call (313) 274-3820 for

additional information on opportuni-

ties. Special needs Bible class

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

Church schedule

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

Caregiver's support group

St. John's Support Group for the Caregiver's of Alzheimer's patients or patients with other forms of dementia meets at 10 a.m., the first and third Friday of each month at St. John's Episcopal Church, 574 South Sheldon, Plymouth, Respite care for your loved one will be provided. Call Connie McNutt at (734) 895-1426. This group is authorized by the Alzheimer's Association.

Sunday night lights

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

music within a casual atmosphere. Rush hour concert series

Continues every Tuesday with gathering and refreshments at 5 p.m., concert 5:30-6 p.m., featuring performances by local and national jazz artists at Metropolitan United Methodist Church 8000 Woodward Detroit. Free. Visit www.metroumc.

Worship

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

(734) 427-1414. Sunday school

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

Hall rental

Volkmar Hall located in Good Hope Lutheran Church, 28600 Cherry Hill, between Inkster and Middlebelt roads, Garden City, is available for rent. For information, call (734) 427-3660.

Parkinson Support Western Oakland Parkinson

Support Group meets 7-9 p.m. on the second Tuesday of the month except January, July and August, at Farmington Hills Baptist Church, 28301 Middlebelt, between 12 Mile and 13 Mile. Enter at rear of church. For more information, call (248)

Overeaters Anonymous Meet 7 p.m. Thursdays in the

Courtyard Room at Unity of Livonia Church, 28660 Five Mile, between Middlebelt and Inkster roads, Livonia. And 7 p.m. Sundays at the Marion Professional Building at St. Marv's Hospital, 14555 Levan at Five Mile, Livonia, in Classroom 1. Call Wendy first at (313) 387-9797. Anyone who wants to stop eating compulsively is welcome. For more Greater Detroit Overeaters Anonymous Information visit www.oa.org or call (248) 559-7722.

New worship schedule Worship 8 a.m. Sunday, Faith Forum

& Other Options at 9 a.m., and Worship and Sunday school at 10 a.m. Wednesday Worship at 7:30 p.m. in the chapel at Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA), 30650 Six Mile, Livonia. Visitors welcome. For information, call (734) 427-1414 or visit www.holycrosslivonia.org.

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ELLEN J. FRIEDRICH

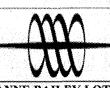
Age 54, of Northville. April 2009. Cherished wife of Paul. Loving mother of Krista King, Julia King, Nick (Danielle) Friedrich, Danielle (Alex) Ramos and Rvan Friedrich, Beloved daughter of Nancy-Jane Doescher. Dear sister of Richard (Laurie) Doescher. She will be deeply missed by Devin and Kayla Friedrich and Ariana Ramos. Dear aunt of Rosalie and Kenneth Doescher. Visitation and Celebration of Life Service were held Home. Vermeulen Funeral Plymouth. Memorial contributions may be made to Gift of Life Foundation or Cure Research Foundation. To share memories please

visit vermeulenfuneralhome.com. LILLIAN MARIE HOBLAK

Age 84, died in her sleep March 12, 2009 at the St Michael's Health Center in Virginia MN. She was born March 1st, 1925 in Alango, MN to Ailee (Hagglund) and Eino Leikas. Lillian, a 45 yr. resident of N. Farmington, moved to MN in 2004. After 28 years with the Ford Motor Co., she enjoyed retirement with her cat Twinkle, while also traveling, playing the accordion, and dancing. She is survived by her son Lars Larson and family of Seattle, WA, her daughter Arlien White of Las Vegas, NV, her long time friend Don Tate of Brooklyn, MI. and many relatives in northern

Minnesota. She will be missed by all. BRIAN THOMAS HULETT

Age 52, born July 31, 1956. Left us April 3, 2009. He leaves behind his loving soul mate Nancy, and their two children, Melinda Anne, and Brian Thomas Jr. and soon to be grandchild Owen. He has lived in Salem Township for 19 years, worked at Pepsi Cota Bottling for 25 years, and has been a Salem fire fighter for 17 years. He will be missed by so many. A private service was held. Arrangements by PHILLIPS FUNER-AL HOME, South Lyon. Online guestbook www.phillipsfuneral.com



ANNE BAILEY LOTZ

Age 84, April 3, 2009. Beloved wife of the late Robert. Dear mother of Wood Lotz (Lydia) and Anne Partlan (Brian). Grandmother of Brooke and Eric Lotz, Ryan and Colin Partlan. Also many loving nieces and nephews. Preceded in death by her sisters, Frances Bailey Wood and Janet Bailey Gilka. Memorial Visitation Saturday 1-5 p.m. at A. J. Desmond & Sons Funeral Home, 2600 Crooks Road (between Maple and Big Beaver). Memorial tributes Seedlings Braille Books for Children, P.O. Box 51924, Livonia, MI 48151-5924. View obituary and share memories at: www.DesmondFuneralHome.com



JOYCE ANN LUNAU April 6, 2009. Beloved wife the late Richard, Dear mother of Larry (Diane), Dawn (Michael) Roy and Mark (Laurel). Six grand-children and six great-grandchildren. Visitation Fred Wood Funeral Home (Rice Chapel), 36100 Five Mile Road

One Mile West of Farmington Road) Friday 2-8 p.m. and Saturday 10:00 a.m. until time of service at 11:00 a.m.

KENNETH JOSEPH MELLOY Age 78, of Livonia. Passed away Thursday, April 2. Preceded in death by loving wife, Mary (Downey), brother, John and his parents. Ken will be greatly missed by all whose lives he touched, especially by his sister, Shirley Melloy; children: hawn of Redmond WA, Brian (Erin) of Naperville IL, and Evan (Terri) of Minneapolis MN; and grandchildren: Megan, Christine, Melissa, Wyatt and Marin. Family memorial service in

Dubuque, IA Ápril 11. Memorials pre-

ferred to American Lung Association.



MARCELLA M, PLISKA

March 29, 2009. Age 89. Beloved wife of Peter. Dear mother of Robert Pliska of Bloomfield Hills and Susan Boggs. Dear sister of Wesley (Joan) Cousino and the late Wayne Cousino and the late Bernum Cousino, Grandmother of Jennifer (John) Karp and Christine (Brian) Heintz. Funeral Mass was held 10:30 am Friday, April 3, 2009 at Sacred Heart Catholic Church (Michigan Ave. & Military), Dearborn. Memorial contributions may be made to the Holy Cross Children's Services, 8759 Clinton Macon Road, Clinton, Michigan 49236 or Madonna Univer-Advancement Office, 36600 Schoolcraft Rd, Livonia, MI 48150. www.howe-peterson.com

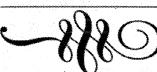


SOPHIE E. PRESTON

IL Age 91, passed away at her residence in Summerfield, FL on March 28, 2009. She was preceded in death by her husband Maxwell Preston. A loving mother of James Preston (Arlene) of Florida and daughter JoAnn Rowe (Lee) of Atlanta, Ml. Also six grandchildren, four great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild. She was dear sister of Dorothy Archer, Ted Smith and Edward Smith and will be sadly missed by many nieces and nephews. Born and reared in Michigan with residence in Plymouth until 2006 when she moved to Summerfield, FL Private interment will be at Rural

Hills Cemetery in Northville. KIMBERLY S. RENZI

(NEE-KAST) April 4, 2009, age 39, Beloved wife of Todd. Loving mother of Marina and Adeline. Dearest daughter of Richard and Elaine Kast. Dear sister of Richard, Jr. (Paula), Mark (Anne) and Kevin (Heidi) Kast. Dear daughter-in-law of Romolo and the late Nancy Renzi. The Mass of the Resurrection was held Wednesday, April 8, 2009 at St, Thomas a' Becket Catholic Church in Canton, Memorial contributions may be made to the Honor Foundation,



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Students share story of Jesus' final day on earth

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN ... O&E STAFF WRITER .

John Callen is solemn as he talks about his role as Jesus. The 14-year-old Livonia boy doesn't take the part lightly. This is the savior's final day on earth and Callen is determined the story is one the young audience remembers.

To make the experience more moving the action takes place behind a backlit screen. During rehearsal the faces of the actors were seen, but in performance they were only

shadows on the gruesome Callen was one of 10 eighth grade confirmation students

presenting the Stations of the Cross to children in first to seventh grade catechism classes at Divine Savior Catholic Church in Westland Monday night. Traditionally on Good Friday devout Catholics reflect on each of the 14 stations that follow Jesus from the time he was condemned to the crucifixion and his resurrection on

"When people see this they'll remember it more," said John Callen, a student at Frost Middle School in Livonia.

Judy Kiessel and Chris Brennan hurried around backstage making sure all was ready before the young students and a few parents entered the hall outside of the sanctuary. The two eighth grade catechism teachers organized the production which Sister Gemma Legel intended as a form of prayer.

"We're trying to create an atmosphere," said Sister Legel, director of faith formation. "We want it to be prayerful not classes as usual."

The young audience sat motionless especially for the scene where Jesus was nailed



Margaret Gordinier (left) and Heidi Payter guard John Callen (Jesus) as Adam Panaretos (Pontius Pilate) condemns Jesus to death in the Stations of the Cross at Divine Savior Catholic Church in Westland. During this rehearsal the faces of the actors were seen but in performance they were only shadows on a backlit white screen.

to the cross. They usually assemble every Monday for catechism classes so this was a special evening. Earlier they experienced Jesus' last supper in the Holy Thursday room where they broke bread.

"It's a wonderful way for students to share Jesus' last day with younger students," said Judy Kiessel of Plymouth.

Chris Brennan believes the way in which the stations were presented added to the emotion of the event.

"Doing it as shadows elimi-

nated the people and focuses on the event," said Brennan who narrated the presentation with Kiessel. "We hope they get a stronger feeling of his last days and the reason he died for our sins."

Heidi Payter, 14, was taking her role seriously as one of the soldiers leading Jesus to his fate.

"I know my stations very good now," said Payter, a student at Discovery Middle School in Canton. "It's important in Catholic reli-

gion to know what he went through as they nail him to the cross. It makes me feel bad for him but we're honoring him so it's cool."

'It's cool because it's Jesus coming alive," said Rachel Rouse, the 13-year-old Frost Middle School student portraying Mary, Jesus' mother. "It puts you back in time and how she would have felt seeing her son go through

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John Callen portrays Jesus, Rachel Rouse his mother during a rehearsal at Divine Savior Catholic Church in Westland. Both are students at Frost Middle School in Livonia.

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FILIER

Green Street Fair offers three days of eco-activities

Street Fair will return to the streets of Downtown Plymouth on May 1-3. The City of Plymouth has approved the extension of the event from two days to three, Friday through Sunday.

The event will bring together companies, nonprofit organizations, arti-

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Saturday, April 11 at 7 p.m.

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The Second Annual Green sans, live music, workshops. and speakers in a friendly and family-oriented outdoor Green Street Fair include: environment.

> Attendees will be encouraged to learn the benefits of green, organic, and ecofriendly products and ser-

The free event will showcase local and national businesses displaying, demonstrating and selling on-site. Highlights of the 2009

■ Green Speaker Series: The Gathering, located on Penniman Avenue in downtown Plymouth, will host the Green Speakers Series on a wide range of topics.

■ The Alternative Highway: Discover how to achieve greater fuel economy and lower your CO2 emissions.

■ Eco-Beats Stage: Local and regional entertainment includes The Saints, Four Finger Five, Zooropa: A U2 Tribute, Luke Winslow-King, Orpheum Bell, Bump, The Macpodz and Serena Ryder.

Fort Box: Kids are invited to build, hang out and devise secret handshakes in this cardboard box clubhouse in Kellogg

■ Green Box City: Lawrence Technological University will work with students from Eastover Elementary School in Bloomfield Hills to create

Organizers Raychel Rork (left), Dianne Quinn, Terri O'Brien, and Mandi Buckland are expanding the Green Street Fair

■ Handmade Detroit:

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Handmade Detroit believes anyone who hems a pair of pants, knits a gift or sells handmade goods is helping redefine sustainability, con-

sumerism and the future of

■ The Green Magician: Kevin Barnes uses his Green Magic Earth Show to teach children about the environment. He has performed

hotels, for the likes of Tiger Woods, Jewel and Pavarotti. Green Careers: Discover a career or a hobby that will have an impact on

magic at major Las Vegas

future generations. **■** Little Sprouts: Children will learn how to make compost by using

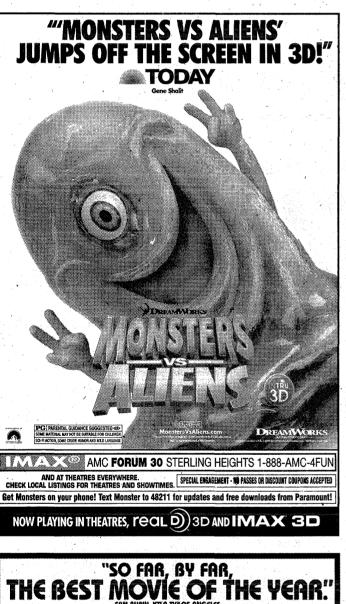
Workshop: Join the Michigan Recycling Coalition in this interactive recycling display. Learn the basics regarding what you should (and should not) put into your recycling bin.

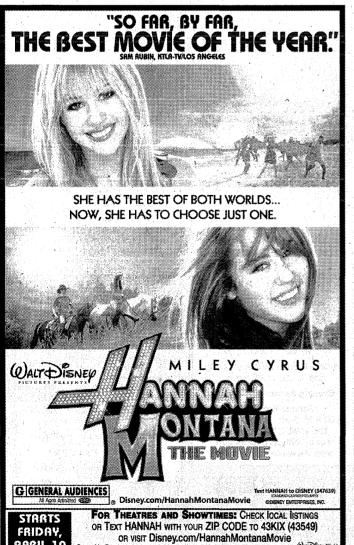
Organic Cooking **Demos:** Discover how to create organic masterpiece in the kitchen.

■ The Yoga Mat: Participate in a series of yoga and fitness demonstrations in Kellogg Park.

■ Carousel Acres Petting Farm: Visit a horse, donkey, goats, sheep, calf, alpaca, bunny and ducks on Saturday and Sunday.

For an exhibitor application and updates on the Green Street Fair, call (734) 259-2983, e-mail info@ greenstreetfair.com or visit www.greenstreetfair.com.







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E-mail items for consideration in Get Out! at least two weeks in advance to Wensdy Von Buskirk at wyonb@home

Arnold Klein Gallery: Celebrating 35 years at its current location with Water and Marine Life, through March; Landscapes, April-May; 32782 Woodward, Royal Oak, (248) 647-7709, www. arnoldkleingallery.com. Art is in Market: New location in Laurel Park Place, 37642 Six Mile Road, Livonia, http://artisinmar-

ket.blogspot.com. Art Leaders Gallery: Exhibition and sale commemorating the 105th birthday of Dr. Seuss, through April 31, 33030 Northwestern Hwy., West Bloomfield, (248) 539-0262, www.artlead-

ers.com. Birmingham Art Festival: May 9-10, Shain Park. Birmingham Bloomfield Art Center: The 27th Annual Michigan Fine Arts Competition, through Apr. 17; Sunday drop-in workshops for students K-12; 1516 Cranbrook, Birmingham, www. BBArtCenter.org, (248) 644-0866. Cary Gallery: 226 Walnut Blvd., Rochester, (248) 651-3656, www.svasara.com.

CPop Gallery: "It's Humble 2 Be Good," featuring winners of @POPpor2nity 2008, through May 1, 4160 Woodward Ave., Detroit, (313) 833-9901, wcpop.com.

Farmington Artists Club: Spring 2009 Exhibit, April 22-26, William M. Costick Activities Center, 28660 Eleven Mile Road, Farmington Hills.

Gallery@VT: Art works by teachers from the Plymouth-Canton Community School District. through April 26, 50400 Cherry Hill Road in Canton, (734) 394-5300, www.canton-mi.org/ villagetheater.

Janice Charach Gallery: "Glass Reunion '09," glass works by students from College for Creative Studies and featured artist Janet Kelman, through May 7, Jewish Community Center, 6600 W. Maple Road, West Bloomfield, (248) 432-5579, www.jccdet.org.

Lawrence Street Gallery: Call for poets: "Ut Pictura Poesis," reading 7 p.m. April 24, 22620 Woodward, Ferndale (248) 544-0394, www. lawrencestreetgallery.com. Lemberg Gallery: Lynne Avadenka: Then and Now, through Apr 18, 2009 23241 Woodward Ave.,

Ferndale, (248) 591-6623, www.lemberggallery. Lotus Arts Gallery: Kathleen Graf, May 1-27, 995

West Ann Arbor Trail, Plymouth (888) 889-4ART, www.lotusartsgallery.com. Next Step Studios & Gallery: Featuring glass works by Kaiser Suidan, Craig Paul Nowak, John Gargano, Susan Beiner and many others, 530 Hilton, Ferndale, (248) 342-5074, www.nextstepstudio.

Northville Art House: Northville Public Schools Annual Student Art Show, April 23-26; Call for Entries, Art in the Sun, June 27-28; Colonial Arts of Latin América, May 1-24 DIA Lecture Series Paul Gauguin, April 15, Vincent Van Gogh, May 20; classes for adults and children, 215 W. Cady, (248) 344-0497, www.northvillearts.org. Orchard Lake Fine Art Show: July 24-26, includes artist awards, demonstrations, entertainment. kids activities and a youth art competition. Orchard Lake St. Mary's Schools, Orchard Lake, (248) 684-2613, www.HotWorks.com. Paint Creek Center for the Arts: "Amy Sacksteder: Still," April 24-June 13, reception 6-9 p.m. April 24; Gallery Talk 2 p.m. April 25, 407 Pine, Rochester, (248) 651-4110, www.pccart.org. Paul Kotula Projects: Hartmut Austen, "Pictures," through April 18, 23255 Woodward, Ferndale,

(248) 544-3020, www.paulkotula.com.

FOOD & WINE

CITY BITES

MYSTERY DINNER THEATRE CANTON — The Village Theater at Cherry Hill will

present "Marriage Go Round and Round," a unique murder mystery dinner theater experience, 7 p.m., April 11. Join the fun and try to figure out "whodunit," as you participate in this interactive wedding and reception filled with laughter and plenty of surprises. The plot centers on famed aging beauty queen and 40s femme fatale, Olivia Heartsworth, as she weds for the 6th (or is it the 7th?) time to her much younger and studly caretaker Rod Ripper. The menu, catered by Main Street Catering of Plymouth, will include Chicken Cordon Bleu, wild rice medley, rainbow vegetables, Caesar salad, rolls and butter, chocolate torte cake for dessert, and soft MAPLE SYRUPING drinks/coffee. Wine, beer and cash bar available. For tickets, \$45 per person, call (734) 394-5460 or visit www.canton-mi.org/villagetheater.

FRIDAY FISH FRIES

CANTON — Summit Gourmet by Continental will cook up a Friday Fish Fry on 5-8 p.m. April 10 at the Summit on the Park Banquet Center, 46500 Summit Parkway, Canton. All-you-can-eat buffet items include battered Atlantic cod, herb encrusted tilapia, seafood cakes, pasta alfredo, fresh vegetables, salad bar with tossed and Caesar salad, French fries, cole slaw, soft drinks, coffee and tea.

Price is \$11.95 for adults; \$4.95 for children under 12. Desserts and a full-service bar available at additional cost. Dine-in or take-out. Call (734) 394-5460 or visit www.cantonmi.org.

JAWS COOKS UP LENO BURGER

FARMINGTON HILLS – Jaws Jumbo Burgers and Subs will offer a specialty "Thank You, Jay Leno, Burger" through April 10. The made-to-order double-decker burger features two 1/3-pound ground sirloin patties, mushrooms, double bacon and double American-Swiss cheese. Regularly \$10.75, the price was reduced to \$7.89 on April 7 and 8, the days Leno will host free shows at the Palace of Auburn Hills.

Leno and his crew are invited to Jaws Jumbo Burgers for a free lunch or dinner, any day, at any hour.

Jaws Jumbo Burgers and Subs is located at 29216 Orchard Lake Road, between 12 Mile and 13 Mile roads, in Farmington Hills. Hours are 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday-Saturday, closed Sunday. Call (248) 855-2228 or visit www. jawsjumboburgers.net.

AT MAYBURY FARM

NORTHVILLE — Maybury Farm will host Maple Syrup Tours on Saturday April 11, beginning promptly at 1, 2, and 3 p.m. Participants take a hayride to the maple tree grove to see how syrup is made and take part in the



Jaws Jumbo Burgers in Farmington Hills is offering 'Thank You Jay Leno Burgers' for a limited time.

process, from tapping trees to bringing sap back to the evaporator. Warm clothing and boots are recommended. Admission is \$5 per person, 2 and under free. Maybury Farm is located at 50165 Eight Mile Road, west of Beck. Enter past the state park at Maybury Farm. No reservations necessary. Call (248) 374-0200.

GOVERNOR DECLARES "WINE MONTH"

LANSING — The Michigan

International Wine Expo, April 3-4 at Rock Financial Showplace in Novi, kicked off of "Michigan Wine Month."

Governor Jennifer 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

'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.

OLGA'S AFTER LENO

TROY - Olga's Kitchen will provide a Free Original Olga sandwich through Friday, April 10, to anyone presenting a ticket stub from Jay Leno's shows at The Palace.

The offer will be good at all Olga's Kitchen restaurants. Olga Loizon opened her first

restaurant in downtown Birmingham in 1970. Now headquartered in Troy, Olga's Kitchen owns and operates 34 restaurants in Michigan, Ohio, Illinois, and Missouri. Call (248) 362-0001 or visit www.olgas.com.





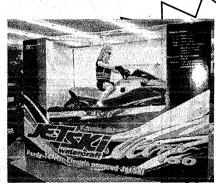


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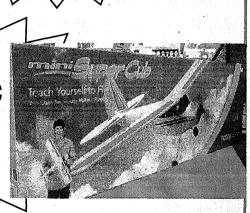
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Fair housing advocates: Improvement, ways to go

BY JULIE BROWN **O&E STAFF WRITER**

Clifford Schrupp has worked on fair housing issues in various roles since 1964, and been director of the Fair Housing Center of Metropolitan Detroit since 1977. He's seen some improvements when it comes to discrimination against people trying to rent or buy housing.

"We've gotten some positive movement from people in various phases of the housing industry," said Schrupp, noting litigation was needed. That's true both of real estate sales and rental properties.

"We still encounter different levels of treatment," he said. "We still have work to do.'

His organization uses testers, such as white and black couples seeking housing "to see if there are differences in treatment." Such differences are found locally about 35 percent of the

"But it's better than when we first started. There's certainly been some positive movement on the part of the housing industry."

The Western Wayne Oakland County Association of Realtors will present its annual Fair Housing Seminar & Luncheon 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Thursday, April 16.

Schrupp will be the keynote speaker. Topics to be discussed are: new insights into fair housing and why it is so important to everyone. Schrupp will cover news regarding fair housing issues in metro communities. Attendees will receive a CD-ROM with resources and information on complying with fair housing laws, and handouts for clients.

by Real Estate Investors Association

of Oakland 5:30-9:30 p.m. Thursday,

Education Center, 811 W. Square Lake

Road, Troy. Seminar free to members.

\$20 nonmembers. Call (800) 747-

6742. (www.REIAofOakland.com)

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16. Questions will be answered about

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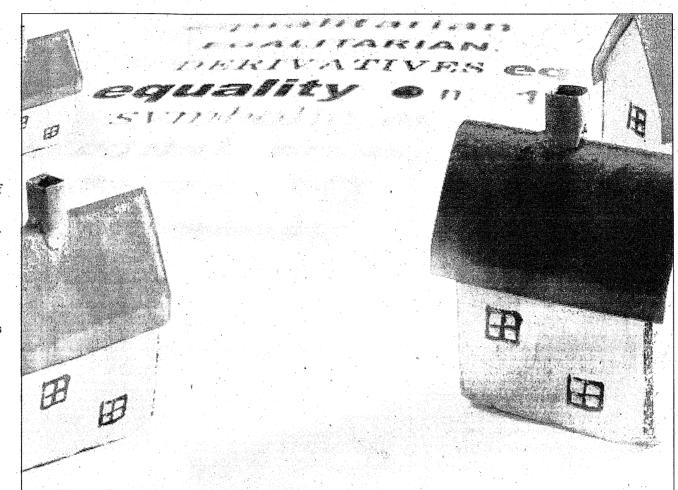
Saturday, April 25, at the office, 27555

Executive Drive, Suite 100-S, 12 Mile

Williams Realty, 40600 Ann Arbor Road, Suite 100, Plymouth. Call (734)

April 9, at MSU Management

Career Seminar



He noted his office more often speaks to rental management staffers as problems arise there more often. "We do a fair amount of training and speaking," Schrupp

If you've encountered difficulties with fair housing issues, you can contact Schrupp's office in Detroit at (313) 963-1274 or by e-mail at

fhcdet@mail.com. The local agency is working on its Web site but hasn't established that just yet, Schrupp said. (There is a related site at www. fairhousinginmichigan.org with useful information.)

"We've worked closely with the other fair housing centers in Michigan including the one in Ann Arbor," Schrupp said.

To register or for more information on the April 16 luncheon, call WWOCAR's Vickey Livernois or Terrance Baker at (248) 478-1700. Cost is \$10 per person. The event is sponsored by WWOCAR and the Detroit Association of Realtors.

You can also register on the WWOCAR Web site, www.wwocar. com. Advance registration is needed.

Lawyer knows consumer rights

Q: I have heard about the anti-kickback and anti-fleece splitting provisions of the Real **Estate Settlement Procedures** Act of 1974. Would you give me some idea of what it states?

A: In general, the statute prohibits the payment of any fee, kickback or thing of value from business referrals and also forbids that a portion, split or percentage



Robert Meisner

received for the rendering of real estate settlement be paid for services that are not actually rendered

of any charge

made or

to the customer. If violations of the prohibitions occur, the statute provides that potential defendants are liable to the person or persons charged for the settlement service involved in the violation for an amount equal to three times the amount of any charge paid for such settlement services. You are best advised to consult with a knowledgeable real estate

Q: I am thinking of having a reserve study done shortly after the takeover from our developer which is being pushed by the management company. What are your views?

attorney regarding your

consumer protection rights.

A: Reserve studies are conceptually a good idea, but if you believe you have construction defects and deficiencies that are attributable to the developer, you may wish to hold off on a reserve study, and rather hire a construction defect litigation attorney who can prepare a questionnaire for the co-owners and otherwise assist in retaining an architect and/or engineer to document in detail the problems that you have with the site. This will be a more comprehensive and detailed study and will not result in any conflict between what a reserve study analysis might find, than that of a more disciplined architect and/or engineer analysis.

Robert M. Meisner is a lawyer and the author of Condominium Operation: Getting Started & Staying on the Right Track, second edition. It is available for \$9.95 plus \$1 shipping and handling. He also wrote Condo Living: A Survival Guide to Buying, Owning and Selling a Condominium, available for \$24.95 plus \$5 shipping and handling. For more information, call (248) 644-4433 or visit bmeisner@meisner-associates. com. This column shouldn't be construed as legal advice.

BRIEFS

by Fidelity Title Co., and the impor-**Investors Association** tance of an inspection. There will be a "Flipping" Houses will be presented seminar following Saturday, May 16, by Bob Norton, on how to buy, finance at the same time. and sell Bank-Owned Real Estate (REO's) to homeowners. Presented

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■ 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 Rottschafter, 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, green means sales, NAHB versus 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 insurance 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

\$321,000

(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. 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.

| ***** | ANNOUS AND | ***** | ADDRESS AND MARKET | ACCRESSION CONTRACTOR | ****** | 000000000000000000000000000000000000000 | ***** | ****** | 000380000 | ***** | ******* | ****** | ****** | ********* | ,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,, | |
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| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | HOMES |

These are the Observer & Eccentric-area residential real-estate closings recorded the week of Dec. 15-19, 2008, at the Wayne County Register of Deeds office, plus some from Oakland

County. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices. 7728 Alton St 47062 Hidden River Cir N 44064 Parkside St \$167,000 \$230,000 2605 Siever Dr 48951 Stanton Ct E \$295,000 402 Sylvan Dr Farmington 31831 Grand River Ave 34008 Schulte Dr \$225,000 **Farmington Hills** \$235,000 25260 Westmoreland Dr Garden City

31960 Barton St 29521 Bridge St 30731 Brown St 28656 Hennepin St 29961 Leona St 14838 Country Club Dr 37670 Kingsburn Di 18072 Lathers St 29819 Lori St 16645 Mayfield St

18217 University Park Dr 19759 Clement Rd 39551 Muirfield Ln 27075 Victoria Rd

Livonia Northville

SOLD

\$40,000 \$118,000 \$116,000 40384 Ferguson Ave 19438 Beech Daly Rd \$112,000 11431 Garfield \$280,000 19628 Garfield \$133,000 \$145,000 17445 Gaylord 8950 Hemingway \$60,000 11337 Leverne \$465,000

7415 Gilman St 32601 Mackenzie Dr 7438 N Kingston Ct 34150 Tawas Trl

Plymouth \$70,000 \$95,000 \$45,000 \$110,000 \$145,000 \$70,000 \$58,000 Westland \$41,000 \$114,000 \$98,000

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| | | 30 Yr. | Pts. | 15 Yr. | Pts. | Other | | | | |
| 1st Choice Mortgage Lending | (734) 459-0782 | 4.875 | 0 | 4.5 | 0 | J/A | | | | |
| Accurate Mortgage Solutions | (800) 593-1912 | 4.875 | . 0 | 4.5 | 0 | J/A | | | | |
| Ameriplus Mortgage Corp. | (248) 740-2323 | 4.875 | 0 | 4.5 | 0.25 | J/A | | | | |
| BRINKS Financial | (800) 785-4755 | 4.625 | 0.75 | 4.375 | 0.5 | J/A/V/F | | | | |
| Client Services by Golden Rule | (800) 991-9922 | 4.75 | 0.375 | 4.5 | 0 | J/A/V/F | | | | |
| Co-op Services Credit Union | (734) 466-6113 | 5 | 0 | 4.75 | 0 | J | | | | |
| Cornerstone Community Financial | (800) 777-6728 | 4.875 | 0 | 4.25 | 1 | J/A/F | | | | |
| Dearborn Federal Savings Bank | (313) 565-3100 | 5.125 | 0 | 4.875 | . 0 | Α | | | | |
| Fifth Third Bank | (800) 792-8830 | 4.875 | 0 | 4.75 | 0 | J/V/F | | | | |
| Gold Star Mortgage | (800) 784-1074 | 4.625 | 0.75 | 4.375 | 0.75 | J/A/V/F | | | | |
| Golden Rule Mortgage | (800) 991-9922 | 4.625 | 0.75 | 4.375 | 0.75 | J/A/V/F | | | | |
| Group One Mortgage | (248) 282-1602 | 4.5 | 2 | 5 | 0 | J/A/V/F | | | | |
| Mortgages by Golden Rule | (800) 991-9922 | 4.75 | 0 | 4.625 | 0 | J/A/V/F | | | | |
| Michigan United Mortgage | (810) 844-2222 | 4.5 | 1.125 | 4.25 | 1.125 | J/A | | | | |
| Northlawn Financial | (248) 988-8488 | 4.875 | 0 | 4.625 | 0 | J/A/V/F | | | | |
| Shore Mortgage | (800) 678-6663 | 4.375 | 2 | 4.375 | . 2 | J/A/V/F | | | | |

Above Information available as of 4/3/09 and subject to change at anytime. Rates are based on a \$200,000 loan with 20% down & credit score of 740 or above. Jumbo rates, specific payment calculations & most current rates available Fridays after 2:00 P.M. at www.rmcreport.com. Key to "Other" Column - J = Jumbo, A = Arm, V = VA, F = FHA & NR = Not Reported, All Lenders are Equal Opportunity Lenders.

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.....8:30 - 5:00 Monday - Friday All advertising published in the Observer and Eccentric Newspapers is subject to the conditions stated in the applicable rate card. (Copies are available from the advertising department, Observer and Eccentric Newspapers, 41304 Concept Drive, Plymouth, MI 48170 866-887-2737. The Observer and Eccentric Newspapers reserves the right not to accept an advertiser's order. Observer and Eccentric Newspaper sales representatives have no authority to bind this newspaper and only publication of an advertisement shall constitute final acceptance of the advertiser's order. When more than one insertion of the same advertisement is ordered, no credit will be given unless notice of typographical or other errors are given in time for correction before the second insertion. Not responsible for omissions. Publisher's Notice: All

advertisement is ordered, no credit will be given unless notice of typographical or other errors are given in time for correction before the second insertion. Not responsible for omissions uplisher's Notice: All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968 which states that it is illegal to advertise "any preference limitation, or, discrimination". This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal housing opportunity basis. (FR Doc, 724983 3-31-72) Classified ads may be placed according to the deadlines. Advertisers are responsible for reading their ad(s) the first time it appears and reporting any errors immediately. The Observer and Eccentric Newspapers will not issue credit for errors in ads after THE FIRST INCORRECT INSERTION. Equal Housing Opportunity Statement: We are pledged to the letter and spirit of U.S. policy for the achievement of equal housing opportunity throughout the nation. We encourage and support an affirmative advertising and marketing program in which there are no barriers to obtain housing because of race, color, religion or national origin. Equal Housing Opportunity."

Table III - Illustration of Publisher's Notice.



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- 15 Consumer gds
- 17 Equip for battle 18 Porter pen
- name (2 wds.) 20 Comet's gaseous cloud 22 Plow into
- 23 Utmost degree 24 Deep fissure 27 Refrain syllable 28 Jiffies
- 32 Passing grade 33 "Waste not,
- want not", e.g. 36 Onassis
- demand
- 40 Office copier
- nickname 37 Zingy taste 39 Carder's
- studio 2 Reverse Cream potatoes Cattle Bracelet dangler 6 Greasy

ingredient

45 Game with

mallets

Bungle

60 Dole out

1 "Ben-Hur"

DOWN

50 Watch chain

Type of doll

47 Defective autos

- and Perrins (steak sauce) 8 Decree
- 53 Atom fragments 55 Bob Hope sponsor 56 One, in Munich 57 Kebab holder 58 Once called

10 Jealous



Answer to Previous Puzzle

1-12 © 2008 United Feature Syndicate, Inc

- 9 Meat in a can 21 Sighs of distress 23 Badger 24 Go on stage
- goddess 11 Omelet extra 19 Its HQ is 25 Maude Houston portrayer 26 Longing 27 Youth 29 Pitcher handle 30 — -Magnon
 - 31 Countdown number 34 Make a tunnel
 - 35 Quiz 38 Firm up 41 "I" trouble? 43 Errand runner 44 Defy authority
 - 45 Ask a guestion 46 A woodwind 47 Pale-green moth 48 Slangy turndown

49 Tizzy

Fun By The

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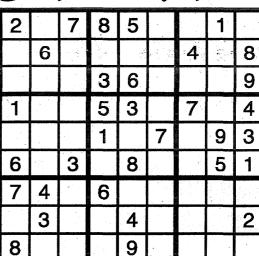
your sudoku

Numbers

50 Enjoyment

54 Sault - Marie

52 Whopper



sharpen your pencil and put

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

Level: Beginne

FIND THESE WORDS IN THE PUZZLE

CIRCLE **HEPTAGON HEXAGON OCTAGON**

OVAL **PENTAGON POLYGON** RECTANGLE

SOUARE STAR TRAPEZOID TRIANGLE

THE WORDS READ UP, DOWN AND ACROSS.

WHSQUARE R P E \mathbf{Z} S A H JHT

| C | HEC | K YO | DUR | ANS | WE | RS F | IERE | |
|---|-----|------|-----|-----|----|------|------|---|
| L | 7 | | ε | 6 | 2 | 9 | 9 | ٤ |
| | | 8 | | | | | | |
| 9 | ε | 6 | 8 | T, | 9 | 2 | 7 | 7 |

8 **b** 8 9 3 9 6 2 1 8 3 6 2 5 7 9 8 2 7 1 4 6 9 9 ε 9 7 9

CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE OBSAUJHTOL

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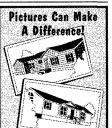
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Send us a photo with a maximum of 6 lines (see sample ad at left) and we will include your pet in our Spring Parade. Great idea for the family scrapbook! For more information, call 1-800-579-7355.

PRICE: Only \$15 per ad (\$1.00 more for color) DEADLINE for pictures and message: Friday, April 24th, 2009 Email or mail your photo, message and payment to address below Must be prepaid. Photos will not be returned.

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Intense paid

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E.O.E.

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available times to contact Help Wanted-Medical 5060

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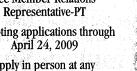
Job duties include cash handling

Intense paid training mandatory. Must be available to work Mon-Fri. 9:15am-6:30pm Saturday 9:15am-2:30pm

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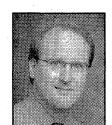
office on 13 & Northwestern. Top salary, bonus, full benefits, 401K. Great hours, no evenings or Sunday's.
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Auto Sales Needed immediatly, used car

Town & Country Just Keeps Giving Reasons To Love It

Advertising Feature

CAReport



By Dale Buss

I have to confess that I've never had anything but love for the Chrysler minivan. From the moment I saw the official unveiling of the first one at the Chrysler assembly plant across the river in Windsor, Ontario, in 1983, I have admired the vehicle, its creators and its impact on the automotive market.

Proud to say, I've also driven a couple of them as our family vehicles over the years, a white one and then a silver one, in the Nineties and early Aughts. That's when I really fell in love with these vehicles and their comfort, their versatility, their driveability, their fuel economy and even, in some ways, their looks.

To this day I maintain that there has never been a better vehicle overall if you assign points roughly equally to utility, efficiency, performance and design. And of course the latest version of the vehicle, the 2009 Town & Country (and its counterpart, the Dodge Grand Caravan), have upped their game considerably from where it was before.

Chrysler still has about 40 percent of the segment in the U.S. market. But that's only after introducing its fifth generation of the vehicles in late 2007, which included nifty new features such as an optional game table between the second and third rows of

Add the Swivel 'n Go second-row seats

and a front console that slides back into the second row to a vehicle that already is about the most useful on earth and you've got a formula that just could help Town & Country bring the minivan category back to some respectability almost by itself – regardless of whether Chrysler itself survives. The minivan concept is that strong and durable.

It's a real shame that the social stigma about minivans – that they were dreary vehicles driven only by soccer moms - ever got as bad as it is, because many Americans are missing out on an ideal vehicle for their needs just for the sake of a little vanity.

Face it: Though SUVs largely took the place of minivans in the cultural and consumer imagination in this country, there's nary an SUV that can hold a candle to a minivan in terms of room for people, room for cargo, flexibility, driveability and fuel economy.

Fortunately, Chrysler has kept its minivans the leaders of the game even as some competitors (Honda, Kia) have tried to take the segment crown away from them and as others (General Motors, Ford) have given up on the minivan market entirely.

I stil have some faith that, once American car buyers begin trickling back into the marketplace later this year, a greater sense of thrift and practicality will come along with them. And when they do,

Exterior: Utilitarian in appearance, Town & Country still is capable of inspiring passion in its owners.

Interior: The Swivel 'n Go seating system and the game table are great new features in the 2009 Town & Country.

expect the Town & Country and the Grand Caravan to benefit greatly from that enhanced point of view.

It seems like a decade ago, but it was just last fall, on the day before Election Day in this country, that over in Windsor the company and its workers celebrated 25 straight years of making minivans at the production birthplace of what was a revolutionary vehicle concept.

Chrysler pulled out all the stops. It halted the assembly line and gathered many of the plant's 5,000 workers for a presentation. It unveiled a slightly upgraded Chrysler Town & Country and Dodge Grand Caravan as "25th Anniversary" editions. It invited dignitaries, ranging from the mayor of this city directly across the Detroit River from Motown, to a Canadian federalgovernment minister.

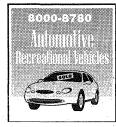
Executives and union leaders talked glowingly about how the plant has produced 12 million minivans. Even former

"With everything going on these days, you may be wondering: What's there to celebrate?" said Iacocca in his video message, appearing nicely aged from the days in the late Seventies and Eighties when he and the minivan helped save the company. And he conceded that he doesn't "know what the future holds."

Then, Iacocca told the crowd what was worth celebrating: "There have been a lot of imitators, but Chrysler is still the gold standard" in the minivan market.

union, to the proud yet anxious throngs. changed is our commitment to our customers.

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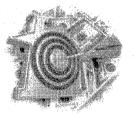
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