

THURSDAY
March 25,
2010

The Observer & Eccentric
 Newspapers

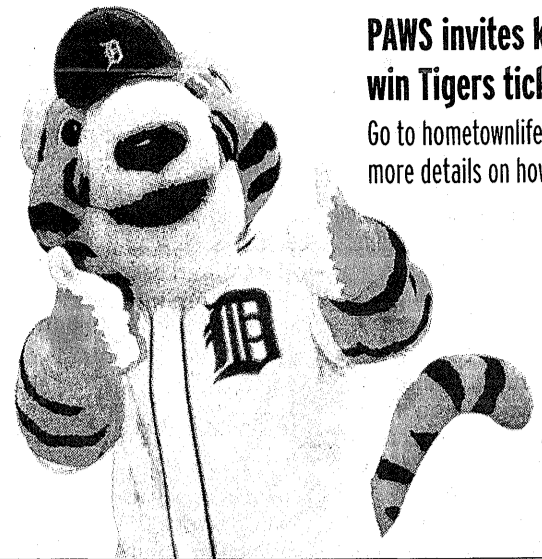
Volume 124
 Number 63

75 CENTS

Sandwich earns runner-up finish, A3

PLYMOUTH OBSERVER

online at hometownlife.com



PAWS invites kids to win Tigers tickets!
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PIPELINE

Bill payment

The Salvation Army Plymouth Corps has funds available for those facing shut-off with their gas and/or electric bills.

People finding themselves in a shut-off status who live in Plymouth, Canton, Belleville or Northville can reach out for assistance by calling The Salvation Army at (734) 453-5464, Ext. 29, or e-mail laurie_aren@usc.salvationarmy.org for additional information and to schedule an appointment.

Scholarly shot

Michigan high school sophomores and juniors are being invited to apply for full scholarships to participate in the Bill of Rights Institute's Constitutional Academy, a six-week summer distance learning program that culminates with a week in Washington, D.C., and earns them three hours of college credit, the Arlington, Va.-based institute announced.

The scholarships are being funded by the Rodney Fund in Southfield. Participating students discuss the ideals of the American Founding along with contemporary issues in weekly online reading and discussions with university scholars and other students from across the country. Five Michigan students will receive full scholarships to participate in the program and travel to the nation's capital where they will, over the course of one week, work with historical documents at the National Archives and visit landmark sites including George Washington's Mount Vernon and Thomas Jefferson's Monticello.

To apply, students must be a junior or senior for the 2010-11 school year, meet the eligibility requirements listed on the program Web site (www.ConstAcademy.org/ApplyNow), and submit a teacher recommendation. Applications must be received by April 15.

Loc'd up

Loc Performance Products Inc., of Plymouth, has signed an Employer Partnership Agreement with the Reserve Components of the United States Army.

The Army Reserve created the Employer Partnership Initiative to facilitate strategic and mutually beneficial relationships with employers and associations. As a military supplier, Loc is uniquely suited to employ soldiers of the National Guard and Reserve and dedicated to assisting veterans in their search for civilian careers. The agreement will be signed at Loc Performance Products by Maj. Gen. Paul E. Crandall, Commander of the 416th Theater Engineer Command, and Victor V. Vojcek, Loc's chief executive officer and founder.

"It is an honor to host this event today and to pledge our support for those soldiers we employ and seek to employ," said Vojcek.

Schools move ahead with diversity plan

BY BRAD KADRICH
 OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

When Plymouth-Canton Community Schools officials bought into Courageous Conversations in fall 2008, the idea was to improve the district's ability to understand minority perspectives and create an environment for academic success for students of color.

On Tuesday, the Board of Education gathered for an extensive review of the district's diversity plan, which included a conversation about the merits of Courageous Conversations,

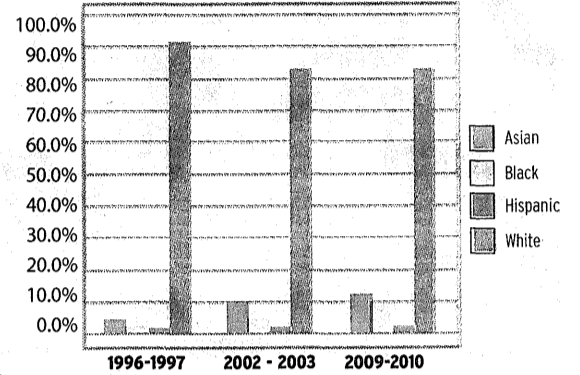
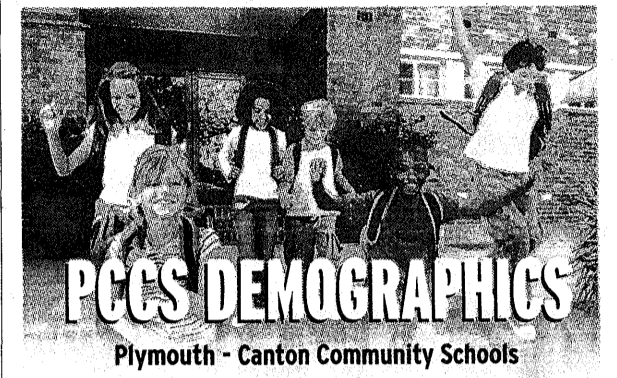
a few months ahead of a decision whether to continue it.

Nothing was settled, but it's clear pretty much everyone agrees on two things: The district has come a long way, and there's still work to do.

"We're not even two years into it and I saw the data going in the right direction," board Vice President Barry Simescu said. "I'm seeing the right trends. Are we there yet? No. But we're headed in the right direction."

Tuesday's meeting wasn't only about

Please see **DIVERSITY, A7**



Picking the Big Apple

PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Sopranos Kelly Filios, Megan Larson and Jen Piper get their work in during rehearsal for their New York appearance at Carnegie Hall. Some 45 students from the Chamber and Madrigal Choirs at Plymouth-Canton Educational Park perform with composer Eric Whitaker during an April 14-18 visit. For more, please see Page A9.



Choir director Jennifer Kopp, who also took a group to Carnegie Hall in 2004, said the trip is "an opportunity of a lifetime" for her students.

Officials look on the bright side in state-of-community event

BY MATT JACHMAN
 OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

While generally acknowledging that a slow economy and dwindling revenues have made their jobs more challenging, leaders from four units of government emphasized the positive as they talked about the state of the Plymouth area Wednesday.

"Our city is standing strong. We're weathering the storm," Plymouth Mayor Dan Dwyer said. "We're known as a stable community. Our values are holding on."

"We're seeing an uptick and an upturn throughout" automobile-related business in Plymouth Township, said township Supervisor Richard Reaume, who listed several businesses, not all vehicle-related, that have recently moved to the township or have expansion plans.

Also speaking Wednesday, to about 130 people at a Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce luncheon at Plymouth Manor, were Laura Cox, who represents the area on the Wayne County Board of Commissioners, and Dr. Craig Fiegel, superintendent of the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools.

Dwyer, who was picked to be mayor by colleagues on the City Commission after being elected last fall, listed several projects on which the city is moving forward

Please see **COMMUNITY, A8**



Brian Hanley listens to speeches during Wednesday's State of the Community luncheon at Plymouth Manor.

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A day for divas in downtown Plymouth

BY MATT JACHMAN
 OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Detroit-area divas will have their own day in downtown Plymouth on Saturday.

Shops will offer discounts, refreshments and contests, restaurants will have drink and meal specials, and the Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce, sponsor of the second annual Diva Day, will be giving away feather boas to the first 500 divas who stop by its office on Ann Arbor Trail.

Diva Day is a shopping and downtown marketing event designed to draw women to Plymouth, with more than 30 boutiques, stores and restaurants participating with the chamber. The hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Last year's inaugural Diva Day

Please see **DIVAS, A6**



Downtown Plymouth merchants take part in the second annual Diva Day Saturday, March 27, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

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

Committee meets

The Plymouth Township Citizens Committee meets 7 p.m. Monday, March 30, in the Friends' Room at the Plymouth District Library. Discussion will include the financial situation of Plymouth Township, as well as any issues that might have arisen at the Plymouth Township Board of Trustees meeting from March 23.

Egg hunt

The Plymouth Lions Club sponsors this year's Easter egg hunt Saturday, April 3, at Plymouth Township Park. The park is located off Ann Arbor Trail at McClumpha.

The hunt will begin promptly at 10 a.m. Don't forget to bring baskets, bags and cameras. Club members will also be collecting hearing aids, eye-glasses and cell phones.

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

Good Friday breakfast

All men and boys are invited to an All-U-Can-Eat Breakfast Friday, April 2, at 8 a.m. at St. Michael Lutheran Church, 7000 Sheldon Rd. in Canton.

This community outreach event includes a powerful message by Pastor Dave Woodby and son Zack. Tickets are \$5 and \$2 for boys 10 and under and can be obtained by calling the church office at (734) 459-3300.

Garden club The Plymouth Garden Club meets Monday, April 12, at

12:30 p.m. in the Plymouth District Library.

Guest speaker Vicki Hicks will discuss the "Features of Good Garden Design." Light Refreshments will be served. After the presentation, there will be a short business meeting.

For more information contact Eileen Wittenberg (734) 340-2062 or visit our Web site sites.google.com/site/plymouthgardenclub

DAR meets

The Daughters of the American Revolution-Sarah Ann Cochrane Chapter of Northville/Plymouth meets at noon Monday, April 12, at the Northville District Library on Cady Street in Northville.

Speaker Cathy Cottone, a genealogist with the Lyon Township Public Library, presents "Smorgasbord of Genealogy." It's an annual meeting featuring prepared reports from officers and the chairman.

For more information, call (734) 459-4764.

Show and tell

"Show and Tell" takes on a new dimension at the Plymouth Historical Museum when collectors display their collections and possibly sell an item or two.

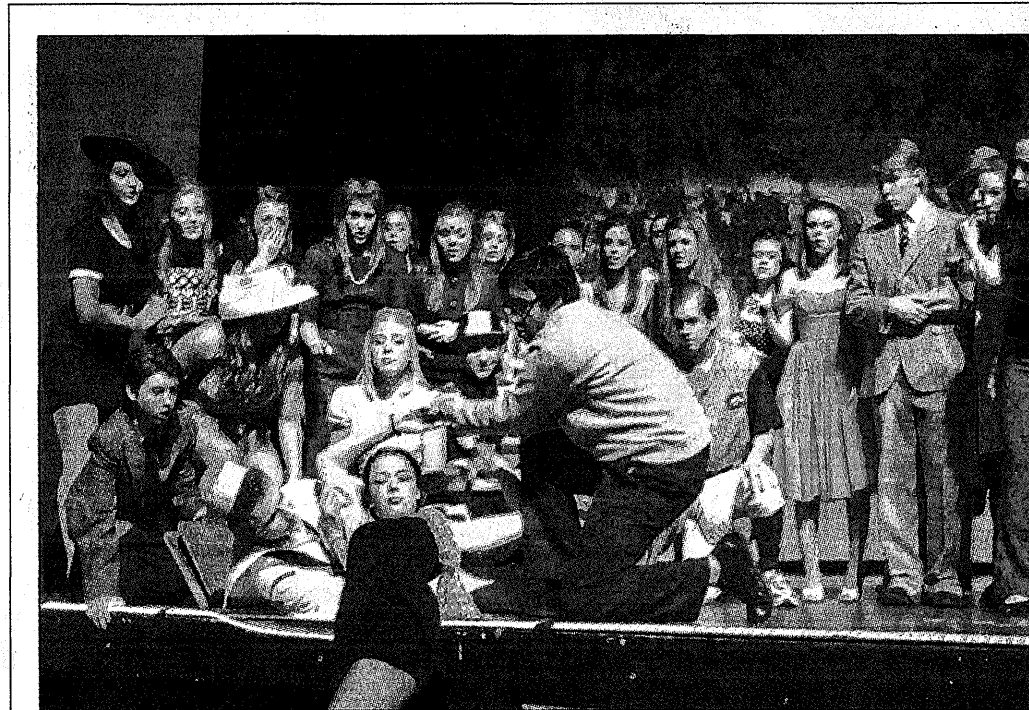
"Show and Tell... and Sell" showcases are 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday, April 17, and Saturday, May 15. The May 15 showcase is planned to feature military collectibles, as the event occurs on Armed Forces Day. The museum is still looking for collectors for these events. Details and an application can be found on the museum's Web site at http://www.plymouthhistory.org/Events.html.

The showcases are part of the Plymouth Historical Museum's current special exhibit, "Show and Tell Collectibles," which runs through Sunday, June 13. The exhibit consists of an eclectic mix of personal and Museum collections ranging from antique tools to chatelaines to stuffed animals.

The Plymouth Historical Museum is located at 155 S. Main Street, a block north of downtown Plymouth. Hours are Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday 1-4 p.m. For further information, call (734) 455-8940 or visit the museum's Web site at www.plymouthhistory.org.

Senior spellers

The Plymouth Community Council on Aging together with the Northville Senior Center will host the annual



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

On stage

A 55-member cast tackles "Sweet Charity" as the Park Players wind up their spring production Saturday and Sunday at the Gloria Logan Auditorium in Salem High School. Charity Hope Valentine (Mackenzie Elliott) is an optimistic chatterbox who, despite being stuck in a dead-end job, still sees the good in everything. Performances are at 7 p.m.; tickets are \$12.

Damaris scholars

The Plymouth Community Arts Council will recognize a Plymouth-Canton School district senior who has displayed outstanding abilities in visual arts and plans to continue his/her education in this field with the \$1,000 Damaris Fine Arts Award.

Students' artwork will be judged on its originality, creativity, and use of material. Artwork will be professionally juried.

Applications will be accepted April 27-30, the work will be juried April 30-May 3, and the Damaris Fine Arts Award will be announced May 4.

Applications can be downloaded at: www.storytellerdesign.com/DamarisAward.pdf Contact Tamara Trudelle at the PCAC, (734) 416-4278 to make an appointment to submit application and portfolio.

Hospice volunteers

Compassionate Care Hospice is a community-based organization committed to providing excellent hospice care for patients and their families.

The group is currently seeking caring and dedicated individuals to provide support by being a friendly visitor to patients in the Western Wayne County area. Training is provided.

For more information, contact Ann Christensen, Volunteer Coordinator, toll-free (888) 983-9050 or e-mail at achristensen@cchnet.net.

had similar losses. The workshop will meet at Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 34567 Seven Mile Road in Livonia.

For registration information, please call (248) 442-8822. For information about other age and loss specific grief support groups offered by New Hope Center for Grief Support call (248) 348-0115 or visit the Web site www.newhopecenter.net.

Sagear scholars

The Rotary Club of Plymouth A.M. is striving to recognize a Plymouth-Canton School District High School senior who has overcome adversity with the \$500 Sandra Sagear Rotary Scholarship.

The club is looking for students who have displayed courage, perseverance, spirit, and creativity in succeeding in achieving an education, despite a physical, mental or emotional barrier.

The recipient of this award will receive a scholarship named after Sandra Sagear, a 1969 graduate of the original Plymouth High School who imagined and believed she could succeed as she lived everyday with polio.

Application deadline is March 30, and the award will be announced April 16. Applications can be downloaded at www.storytellerdesign.com/SagearRotaryScholarship.pdf

For more information, contact Debra Madonna at clarion@storytellerdesign.com or call (734) 377-0914.

Wayne County Senior Spelling Bee on Wednesday, April 14, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Northville Senior Center located at 303 W. Main Street, Northville.

Call (734) 453-1234, Ext. 236 to RSVP as a speller or spectator.

Wayne County will offer a free lunch, prizes and raffles for everyone who attends. Remember you don't have to be a speller to participate.

Ice cream social

The Plymouth Community Council on Aging hosts a free "ice cream social" with state Rep. Marc Corrivue Monday, April 26, from 2-3 p.m. at the Plymouth Cultural Center, 525 Farmer, in Plymouth.

Call (734) 453-1234, Ext. 236 to RSVP. All invited to enjoy an ice cream sundae and to listen and voice any concerns or questions you may want to ask.

Grief seminar

Emmanuel Lutheran Church is sponsoring an eight week grief workshop, "From Grief to New Hope" beginning on April 14.

This free workshop is open to the community and will be held on eight consecutive Wednesday evenings from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Each session will begin with a talk about one aspect of grief followed by small group participation led by trained facilitators. Each person will be placed in a group with others who have

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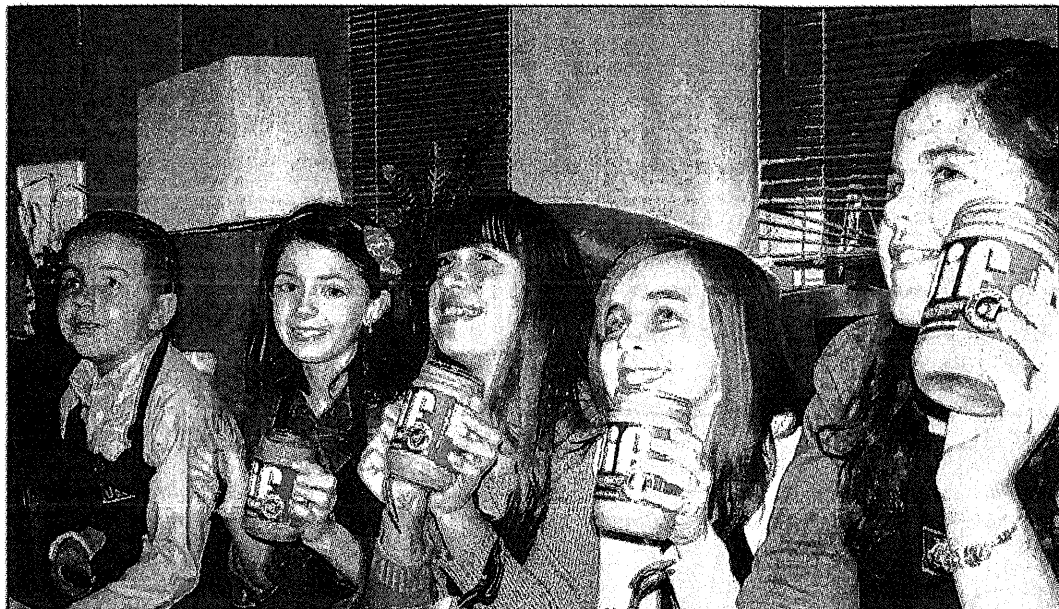
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Plymouth's Stephanie Hosko (second from right) and the other finalists in the Jif Creative Peanut Butter Sandwich contest mug for the cameras on the set of local television station CW-11 in New York.

Sandwich earns runner-up finish

BY BRAD KADRICH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Stephanie Hosko wasn't the least bit nervous before her national television appearance on NBC's Today Show last week, and took a comedic stab at co-host Ralph Macchio to prove it.

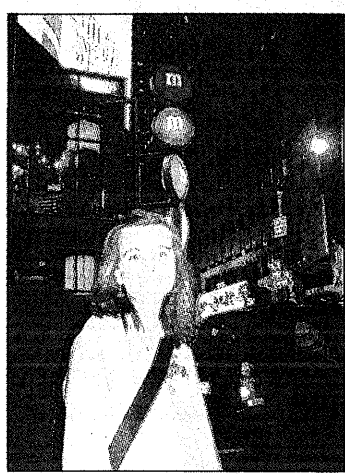
Stephanie, the 10-year-old daughter of John and Lauren Hosko of Plymouth, was in New York (and on Today) as part of her status as a finalist in the Jif Creative Peanut Butter Sandwich contest.

The national TV appearance - and a tour of NBC Studios, a visit to the Statue of Liberty and a carriage ride through Central Park - were among the highlights of Stephanie's trip to New York, a reward for being among the five finalists in the national contest.

The only downside of the trip: Stephanie didn't win the \$25,000 grand prize. She did, however, come away with a \$2,500 runner-up prize, a loss softened by the friendship she struck up with Rachel Granillo, the California girl who won the top prize.

"I was kind of disappointed, but I was happy for Rachel," Stephanie said.

Stephanie, a student at All Saints Academy in Canton,



Stephanie Hosko hit Times Square during her four-day trip to New York for the Jif peanut butter sandwich contest.

Parsons. There were also the television appearances, including on local CW-11 and the afternoon version of Today, with co-hosts Macchio and Hoda Kotb. Before that appearance, Lauren Hosko and her sister were explaining the "wax on, wax off" scene from Macchio's biggest movie, The Karate Kid.

When Kotb talked to Stephanie about the chick-enchita, Stephanie deadpanned, "The most important part is the righty circles and lefty circles." The quip drew laughs from Macchio.

It was all part of the whirlwind trip that included rehearsals, tourist sites, the television shows and, of course, the contest.

"They had us busy pretty much from 7 to 3 every day," Lauren Hosko said. "It was a very-high pressure trip, (but) Stephanie handled it like a pro. She has had an experience of a lifetime, and I hope she will carry the memories with her always."

Stephanie's response to the four-day journey was more tourist-y.

"It was just cool to see the big city and all the fancy hotels and restaurants," Stephanie said.

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

Officials: Park is still a safe place for students

BY BRAD KADRICH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

After dealing with a bomb scare this week and a fight between two freshmen that left one of them hospitalized last week, Plymouth-Canton Community Schools officials this week issued assurances the district is still safe, taking the unusual step of calling a press conference to deliver the point.

Supt. Dr. Craig Fiegel, Canton Police Department spokesman Sgt. Mark Gajeski and Park Principal Bill Zolkowski talked about both incidents and steps taken to ensure students' safety.

"This incident (bomb scare), in addition to the fight that took place last week, certainly might have some people concerned," Fiegel said. "I'm here to tell you that safety is our number-one priority and our campus is a safe place for our students."

The high school park was locked down for about 75 minutes Tuesday after a female student overheard a conversation about a possible explosive device that may have been brought to school. That student reported the conversation to a teacher - "She did exactly the right thing," Fiegel said - and the district, heeding the advice of Canton Township police, locked the high schools down around 9 a.m.

Canton Township Police, using a dog brought in from Willow Run Airport, searched the area, including the district's three high schools - Plymouth, Salem and Canton. Police interviewed students and



Zolkowski

determined the bomb threat wasn't credible. A search revealed no such device.

The fight that occurred last week was between a 14-year-old Canton High School freshman and a freshman from Plymouth High School. The fight occurred March 17 at Canton High School and ended with the Plymouth

freshman hospitalized with what district officials said was a broken pelvis. Both students were initially suspended, and the Canton freshman's suspension was extended to 10 days, pending internal investigation. He could face further disciplinary action when the investigation is completed, Fiegel said.

"It was an ongoing situation between two 14-year-old boys who were egging each other on and it escalated into the fight," Zolkowski said. "It was a matter of minutes before adults, police and medical personnel were on the scene."

Both the fight and the bomb scare are still under investigation, Gajeski said.

Zolkowski, in his first year as park principal, said the park's 6,200 students attending school on a 300-plus acre park are safe. He pointed out a recent survey that said 96 percent of the district's students said they feel safe at the park.

"We try to encourage our parents, teachers and students that violence is not the answer," Zolkowski said. "We're not only safe statistically, but that's the way our students view the park."

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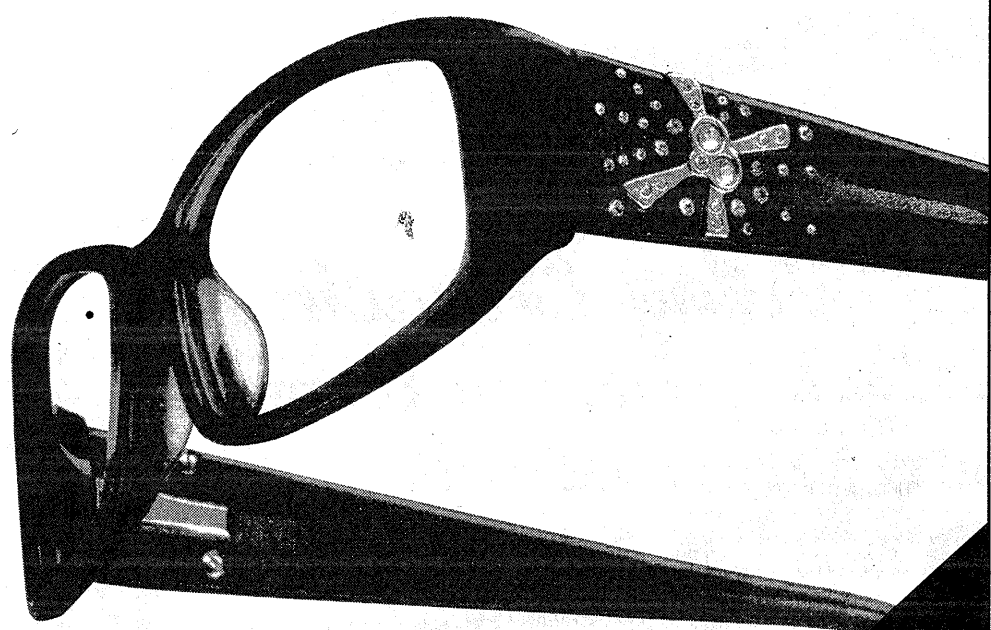
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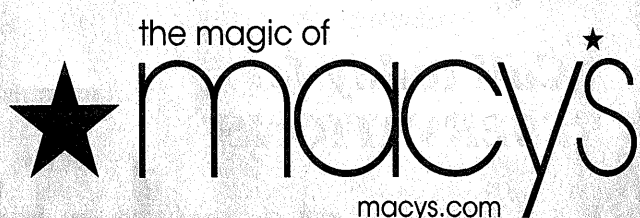
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PUBLIC SAFETY

Jewelry, mink coat reported stolen in break-in

Jewelry, a big-screen television set and a mink coat were among the things reported stolen from a house on St. Andrews Square in Plymouth Township after a break-in on Sunday. The victim told police he arrived home about 10 p.m. to discover the front door had been forced in, according to a Plymouth Township Police Department report. He started to go inside, he said, then thought better of it and called police.

CRIME WATCH

Responding officers checked the house and found no one inside, police said. Several rooms had been ransacked.

A deadbolt lock, a package from a parcel service and a pillowcase were found on the front porch, police said. A pillowcase matching the one found on the porch had been taken from the house, police said.

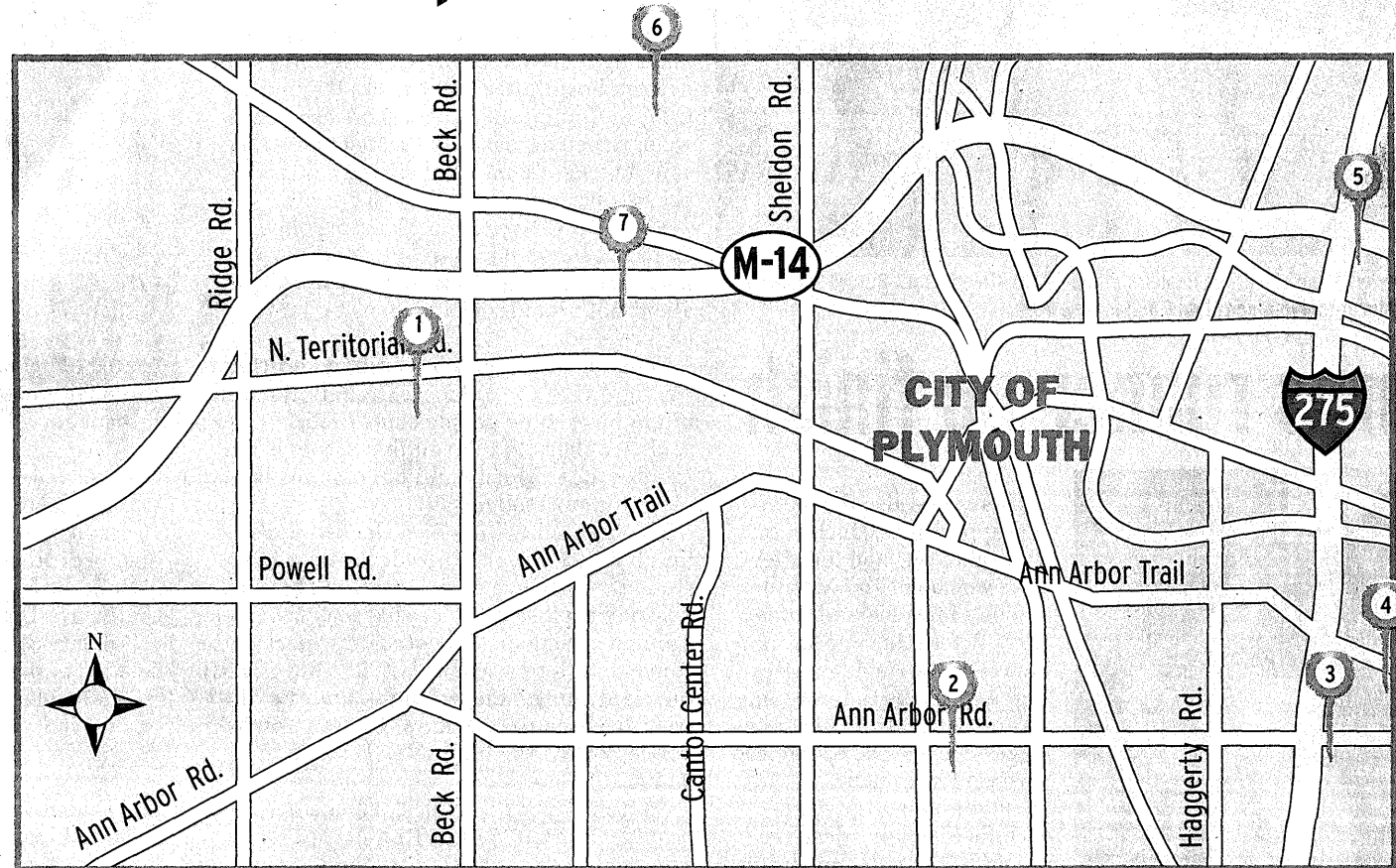
Disorderly conduct

A 26-year-old Canton man is accused of getting rowdy and vandalizing a car after being kicked out of a Plymouth Township restaurant early Sunday.

The man was cursing and causing problems with other customers shortly before 3 a.m., one of owners of Zak's Restaurant, on Main Street and Ann Arbor Road, told police. He was told to leave, and, once outside, knocked over three newspaper boxes, the owner said.

One of the newspaper boxes fell into a car, damaging it, police said. The owner was a 19-year-old Plymouth man. The suspect drove off in a silver Chrysler.

The restaurant owner told police the suspect has been to Zak's before while appearing to be intoxicated and had caused problems with customers. The owner was told to call police if the man returned to Zak's; police said he could be charged with



trespassing if he does so.

Pills found

A 28-year-old Taylor man was arrested on driving and drug charges after a traffic stop near Ann Arbor Road and I-275 early on March 11.

According to a township police report, a patrolling officer saw the man, driving a westbound Chevrolet Cavalier, move into a prohibited lane as if to turn left onto southbound I-275. The lane is stripped off from traffic, and a left turn onto the freeway ramp is prohibited, police said.

The driver moved out of the lane and continued west, police said. The officer noticed the Cavalier's license-plate wasn't working.

Upon being stopped, the driver said he was not familiar with the area and had no license. He was arrested for never having obtained a license, police said.

In the Cavalier's glove compartment, police found three bottles, with 93 pills between them, containing three different types of medication. Police also found two tablets of Vicodin on the man's person.

The suspect said the drugs belonged to his mother, police said.

Vandalism

Someone threw a rock through the window of a first-floor room at the Red Roof Inn, on Ann Arbor Road near I-275, early Sunday.

The rock, which was thrown about midnight, broke one pane of the two-paned window, a police report said. No one was hurt.

Police said there was a party going on in the room at the time, but that no one could identify the rock-thrower.

By Matt Jachman

FIRE RUNS

The Plymouth Community Fire Department responded to the following runs during the period March 17-23:

- Tuesday, March 23 - Rescue run at a public building on Haggerty; residential rescue runs on Filmore, on Woodgrove and on N. Fox Dr.; wash-down on Ann Arbor Road.

- Monday, March 22 - Residential rescue runs on Sheridan, on Newport and on Ann Arbor Trail; rescue run at a public building on Plymouth Road; vehicle accident (with wash-down) on the ramp from westbound I-96 to southbound I-275.

- Sunday, March 21 - Residential rescue runs on Main, on Fairground, on Pointe Crossing and on Ann Arbor Trail; commercial rescue run on Eastside; commercial

fire on Jib.

- Saturday, March 20 - Residential rescue runs on Sheridan and on Woodgate; rescue run at a public building on Haggerty.

- Friday, March 19 - Residential rescue runs on Simpson and on Marlowe; rescue run on Dewey.

- Thursday, March 18 - Residential rescue runs on Jackson, on Haggerty, on Mona, on Rose and on Sheridan; brush fire on Bradner; commercial rescue run on Northville Road.

- Wednesday, March 17 - Vehicle accident on westbound M-14; residential rescue runs on Chester, on Adams, on Russell, on Marguerite and on Beech; vehicle fire on eastbound M-14; smoke investigation on Dogwood; vehicle accident on Penniman; rescue run on Trailwood.

Man gets probation in home invasion

A 57-year-old man accused of breaking into his ex-girlfriend's house in Plymouth in January will spend the next two years on probation after pleading guilty to a felony charge in the case.

John Jeffery Jr. had been charged with one count of home invasion, three counts of unlawful entry and one count of malicious destruction of property.

He was arrested early on Jan. 5 after showing up unwanted — for the fourth time in two days, according to his ex-girlfriend — at her house on Parkview. He was bleeding from injuries apparently suffered during an earlier break-in there, in which the front-door glass had been smashed, police said.

Jeffery pleaded guilty to third-degree home invasion in Wayne County Circuit Court in January and was sentenced last month to two years on probation by Judge David Groner. The other charges were dropped.

The victim told police she and Jeffery had broken up in December and that she had changed the locks after he left.

By Matt Jachman

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60 years on, Plymouth jeweler hasn't lost its lustre

BY MATT JACHMAN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

From a humble beginning as a watch-repair booth with a jewelry display, Dearborn Jewelers has become a mainstay of downtown Plymouth.

The business, located on Ann Arbor Trail west of Main Street for the last seven years after more than 50 years in west Dearborn, is marking its 60th anniversary — the diamond jubilee. The celebration began with a party at the store on Saturday and continues through Saturday, April 3, with sales and prize giveaways, including a grand prize of a Lazare diamond.

"It's a major accomplishment," said Teri Allen, a partner in the business with brother Nick Pavlich Jr., of the milestone. "It's carrying on the legacy of the family."

Teri and Nick's late father, Nick Pavlich Sr., opened the business April 1, 1950, as a booth inside another shop on Monroe Street in Dearborn.

"Only three people could fit in the store with him," Teri Allen said.

The business expanded two or three times in Dearborn, the last time moving to a former dress shop on Michigan Avenue in 1965, where it remained for nearly 40 years before moving to Plymouth in time for the 2003 ice festival.

Nick Pavlich Sr. brought his children into the store at a young age.

"From the time we were probably 8, 9, Saturday mornings, we would come to the store" and perform cleaning and maintenance duties, Teri Allen said.

"I grew up here," said Nick Pavlich Jr, the master jeweler, who repairs jewelry and makes custom-designed pieces in his in-store workshop.

Teri Allen, the general manager, chief buyer and



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Dearborn Jewelers of Plymouth presents classic black and white diamonds set in 18k white gold. They are celebrating 60 years in business.

jewelry designer, has worked for the business pretty much full time since 1977, moving from sweeping floors as a child to office work, purchasing and sales. She's also worked part-time as an interior designer — she played a big role in designing the store's current look — but just dabbles in it now, she said.

Allen said she likes the feeling that family ownership brings to the business. "There's definitely more of that family experience," she said.

A family member is typically in the store at all times

during business hours, she said. Allen and her brother used to work with two other brothers as well as their father.

"This is just something that we knew we could do," she said. "We knew we could count on each other."

Allen's husband, Matthew Allen, is the sales manager. He started his career in sales by following his father's footsteps and working for automobile suppliers, and was a manufacturer's representative for a textile company that supplied the auto industry when he was "downsized out of a job," he

'It's a major accomplishment. It's carrying on the legacy of the family.'

TERI ALLEN, a partner in the business with brother Nick Pavlich Jr.

said.

It was the Christmas season and Dearborn Jewelers had just lost a key salesman, and his wife asked him to fill in.

"I stepped in and I really enjoyed it," he said. "That was 12 years ago."

Matthew Allen said he enjoys working with the public and meeting people for the first time.

"People come to see you for happy reasons," like weddings, anniversaries and graduations, he said, attributing the line to his brother-in-law Nick.

Even in a slow economy,

Teri Allen said, people want to buy jewelry to mark big events.

"It's still something people want to do to commemorate or celebrate different life experiences," she said, adding she prides herself on the store's range of quality pieces at different price levels.

Dearborn Jewelers had a loyal customer base and was well established in Dearborn, but growth there had flattened by 2003, Matthew Allen said, and many customers had moved in the direction of Plymouth and neighboring communities. He and his wife liked downtown Plymouth, saw the Mayflower Centre going up and decided to make the move.

"Teri and her brother got to design the store of their dreams," he said.

Nick Pavlich Sr. was alive

to see the move, and gave it his blessing. "He could see that there would be future growth," Teri Allen said.

"He wasn't afraid of innovation," her husband said.

Teri Allen is heavily involved with the community, especially the Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce and the Downtown Development Authority, where she serves on the board. She was similarly involved in Dearborn civic groups.

"It's an opportunity to give back to the community," she said, adding that she likes working with other Plymouth business people and knowing what's going on in town. "Created a lot of great friendships."

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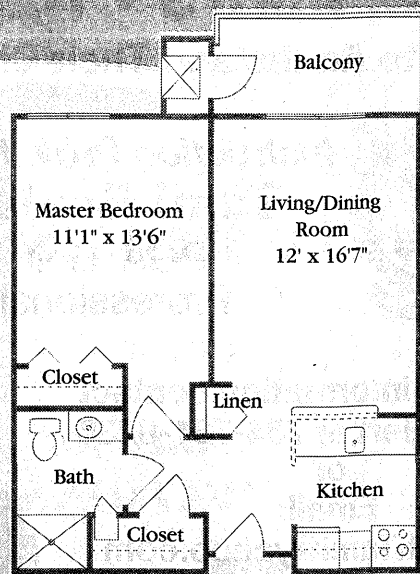
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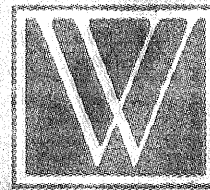
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Downtown work kicks into high gear next month

BY MATT JACHMAN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Drivers and pedestrians will begin seeing the full scope of Plymouth's \$2 million streetscape improvement project early next month.

The intersection of Main Street and Ann Arbor Trail, which is to be rebuilt as part of the project, is expected to be closed beginning Monday, April 5, along with the intersection of Ann Arbor Trail and Forest. The intersections will remain closed until mid-May.

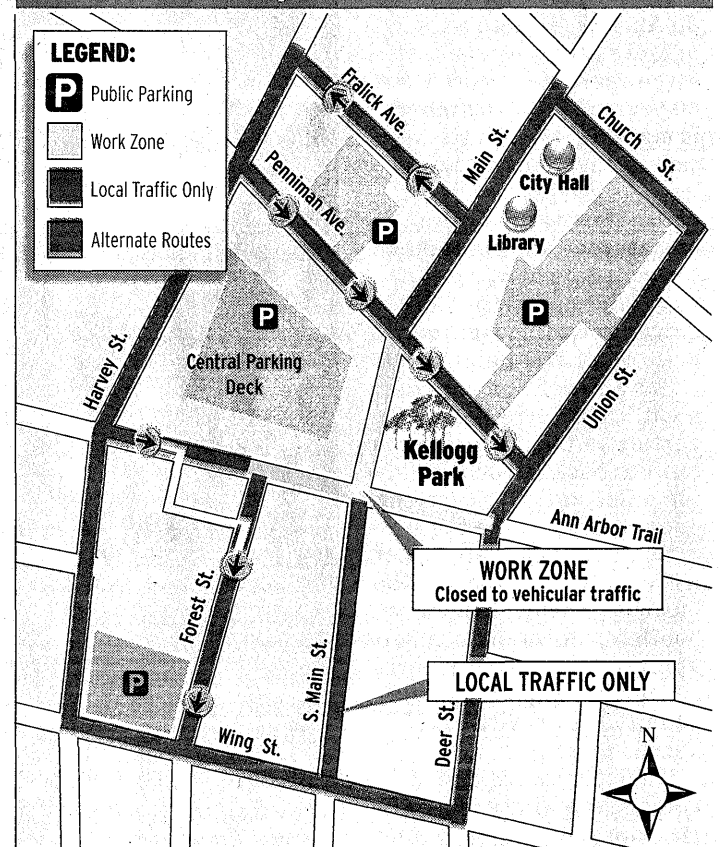
Heavy equipment and barricades are scheduled to begin arriving in the area late next week. Construction schedules are subject to changes due to the weather, site conditions, worker scheduling and other factors.

During the project, restaurants, stores and other businesses are expected to remain open on normal schedules.

For more information on the project, parking availability, or a map of suggested construction detours, visit the Downtown Development Authority's Web site, www.downtownplymouth.org.

Workers have been downtown for the last several weeks, preparing the area for the installation of new traffic sig-

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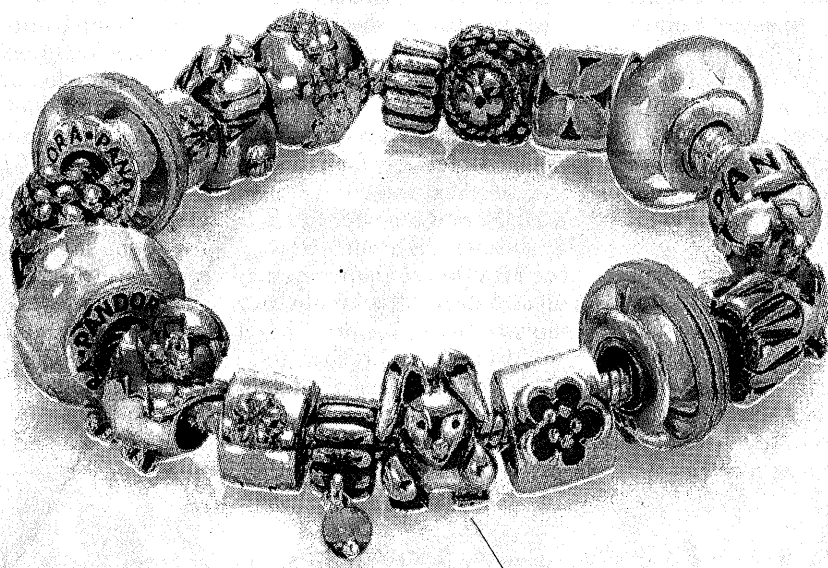


nal poles at Ann Arbor Trail and Main. The entire improvement project is scheduled to be done in three phases of several

weeks each during the warmer months.

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DIVAS

FROM PAGE A1

was a smashing success, with about 800 visitors, said Wes Graff, the chamber's executive director.

"We went through 500 boas in two hours, so that was good for us," Graff said. "It was a great way of getting people down here."

"These downtown shopping events for ladies are always successful," said Colleen Cannon, the owner of TranquiliTea, a tea specialty shop on Ann Arbor Trail. "They're fun."

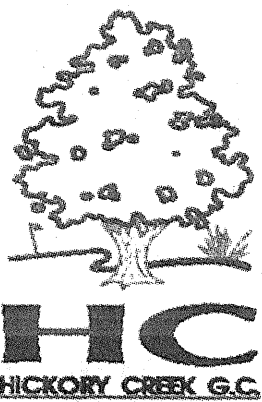
Diva Day visitors can also bring much-needed supplies, like toiletries, gift cards, clothing and baby supplies, to donate to First Step, the agency that assists victims of domestic and sexual violence in western Wayne County and Downriver. (For donation ideas, go to the Web site www.firststepmi.org and look at the 2010 Wish List.)

"It's a very worthy cause," said Cannon.

Cannon is also holding a drawing for a tea gift set that includes a tea cozy (which she made from recycled wool), a cup and saucer,

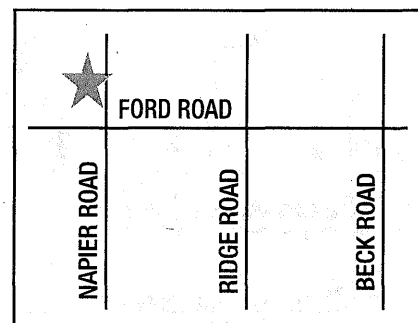
tea bag holders (which she also made) and an assortment of teas.

Other Diva Day participants include Jill Andra Young Photography (visitors can get portraits of Little Divas and Diva Dogs), Sean O'Callaghan's (offering discounted appetizers and drink specials), Creatopia Pottery, sideways, Magnolia, Dearborn Jewelers, Basket Kreations, That's Awesome, Merle Norman and Salon 550. Maps of participating businesses are available at any of the shops listed above. Call (734) 453-1540 or visit www.plymouthchamber.org.



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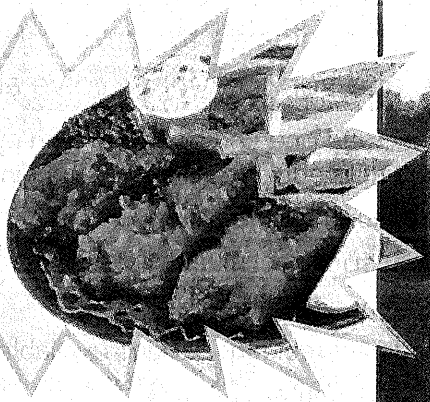
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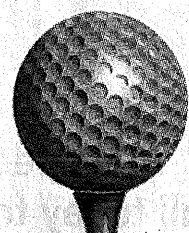


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DIVERSITY

FROM PAGE A1

Courageous Conversations. The board wanted an update on the district's diversity plan, the course administrators charted when they adopted the plan in December 2007. The plan was developed to make sure the district embraced the growing diversity of the district and to increase the educational participation and achievement of all students.

THE PLAN

The plan has three components, with certain goals in each:

- **Students** — They provide an environment where everyone develops respect for the diversity of the people in the schools; use a district-wide curriculum to serve all learners, which provides an equal opportunity for all students regardless of their developmental level or cultural or language background; and continue to treat all students with dignity and respect.
- **District officials** seem largely happy with the academic achievement of all of its students, including minority students. PCCS students routinely perform far better than both the state and Wayne County averages on the Michigan Educational Assessment Program tests. That progress is also reflected in the district's overall performance on the Michigan Merit Exam, where the scores are higher in all groups than the Wayne County averages. Asian and white students are above both state and county averages in reading and math. Hispanic and African-American students' scores are just beneath the district average, but are still above state and county averages in math, and still above the county in reading.



PHOTO COURTESY CHARLOTTE AND HOWARD MEYER

Students celebrated India's culture during Workman Elementary School's recent Celebration of Diversity.

One area of concern mentioned by administrators is the graduation rate, which fell slightly for white and Asian students (from 2006-07 to 2007-08), rose (from just under 80 to about 85 percent) for Hispanics, but dropped from 80 percent to just below 70 percent for African-Americans.

Administrators remain upbeat about the academic progress the district is making. "Districts around our state are facing similar challenges," said Mike Bender, the district's director of secondary education. "We are extremely fortunate to have outstanding educators working with our students. That, combined with outstanding students and families, is a recipe for success."

• **Staff** — The primary goal of the plan is to make a focused effort to contact,

recruit, hire and retain "highly qualified personnel with diverse backgrounds."

MAKING STRIDES?

Executive Director of Human Resources Ray Bihun said 2.85 percent of the district's teaching staff represents minorities, while 6.8 percent of the administration and better than 11 percent of building-level staffers represents minorities.

Bihun acknowledged those numbers have to get better, and detailed ways the district will attack the issue.

"We need to make a conscious effort to widen our employment base," Bihun said. "Our minority staff has given

us insight into how we retain minorities. They've given us their ideas and their concerns, and that has helped us."

The diversity plan calls for officials to market the district as increasingly diverse, using minority publications such as Teachers of Color, National Minority Update and Historically Black Colleges and Universities as advertising vehicles for staff openings. Job postings have been specifically targeted to minority schools and districts, and officials are relying heavily on personal contacts with poten-

tial candidates.

Bihun thinks the personal attention is working. Last year, he said, the district interviewed more than 300 minority candidates for jobs.

"Over the years, we've increased it quite a bit," he said.

Board members hope progress can continue.

"It would be a major accomplishment for our diversity plan if we can do some minority hiring for the fall," Trustee Dianne Gonzalez said.

• **Community** — The idea is to promote understanding and appreciation of the district's diversity through a variety of methods of communication. Director of Community Relations Frank Ruggirello pointed to the district's P-CCS Newswire and the weekly "tip sheet" his department sends out as ways of getting the word out. Those publications routinely contain information about cultural activities and issues in the district.

NEXT PHASE

As the district continues in Phase Two of the Courageous Conversations program, site-based equity teams have sprung up at 25 district buildings, teams that include one administrator and five teachers. The teams are charged with guiding professional learning and affecting school culture, policies and procedures.

And staffers have largely embraced the opportunity. Carolyn Washington, the principal at Hulsing Elementary who has been in the district

22 years, said Courageous Conversations has "been a real journey for me, being here so long and watching Plymouth-Canton change."

"One of the things we were told was we could speak our truth ... and there would be no judgment," said Washington, an African-American mother of two daughters, one of whom is a junior. "I felt uncomfortable, but that discomfort has produced growth."

Shelley Clifton of Canton, a member of the Plymouth-Canton Citizens for Diversity and Inclusion, sat through the two-hour-plus board meeting Monday and came away encouraged, though she'd like to see more details about when certain goals in the diversity plan would be reached.

"I think the schools are headed in the right direction," Clifton said. "I'd like to see more timelines with their diversity plan and how they're going to measure success. There's a lot of work to do, but they're headed in the right direction."

Board members would like the same thing, one of the reasons they scheduled the meeting in the first place.

"There was a little confusion over the role of Courageous Conversations and the overall diversity plan," school board President Steven Sneiderman said. "Diversity is being talked about in our communities, and we wanted to get them in touch with what we're doing in the schools."

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County Commissioner Laura Cox talks at Wednesday's State of the Community luncheon hosted by the Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce.

COMMUNITY

FROM PAGE A1

despite the economic times. The ongoing downtown streetscape improvements, which began recently, are important, Dwyer said, as surveys have shown a nice downtown is one of Plymouth's key attractions. The current streetscape, which is about 16 years old, is looking "beat up," Dwyer said.

"It has to stay vibrant to keep downtown vibrant, to keep people coming in," he said. The \$2 million project is to be done in three phases and funded by the Downtown Development Authority.

Dwyer also spoke about a proposed cap on the number of bars and restaurants in Plymouth that are licensed to sell alcoholic drinks. A plan in the works would set that limit at 22, the current number.

Dwyer said a lot of thought and debate has been put into the issue.

"We're not going to wake up one day and say, 'What happened?' We're going to look at it long and hard," he said.

The mayor gave credit to partnerships — with the administration, with civic groups, other communities and organizations that serve the city — for Plymouth's ability to weather tough times.

For example, he said, parks maintenance, other than lawn mowing, is handled by volun-

teers from local civic groups, which also help with downtown beautification efforts.

"It's that stuff that brings people to live here," Dwyer said.

Reaume talked about Plymouth Township's success in luring businesses, and about other businesses looking to expand, or add equipment or employees, including Burroughs Payment Systems, which split off from Unisys; Robert Bosch, a technology, tool and appliance firm; and DADCO, which makes manufacturing equipment.

A company called Bauer Controls, Reaume said, is relocating to the township from Ann Arbor and recently won a contract to provide electronic controls for the upcoming Chevrolet Volt electric car. And the former Pfizer building in the township has become a magnet for life sciences firms, he said.

Fiegel noted his district has been in the media lately for bad news — a fight resulting in serious injuries to a 14-year-old student, and Tuesday's school lockdown which resulted from talk about explosive devices — but said good things are happening in the schools as well.

Recent scores on Michigan Educational Assessment Program tests were strong, Fiegel said, and seven of Michigan's top 100 mathematics students are from the district.

"That was tremendous, and

we're very proud of those students," he said.

He also praised the district's high school athletic teams for their successes, particularly the current Canton High School girls basketball team, and last fall's Canton football team.

"Our (teams) always compete very well around the state, so we're always very proud of that," he said.

Cox noted two local road improvement projects that the county has scheduled to begin in August, one on North Territorial between Beck and Sheldon and the other on Beck between Powell and M-14.

"Be prepared for the orange cones, but be happy we're finally getting those roads repaired," she said.

Cox also spoke of her project to improve the transparency of county government. The work has borne fruit after its first year, she said, and she plans to continue it.

"My goal is for any taxpayer to be able to go online and search any information in Wayne County government," Cox said.

Wes Graff, the chamber's executive director, ended the event with a call for members to get more involved in the community.

"We encourage you to take the time and think about how you can make a difference," Graff said.

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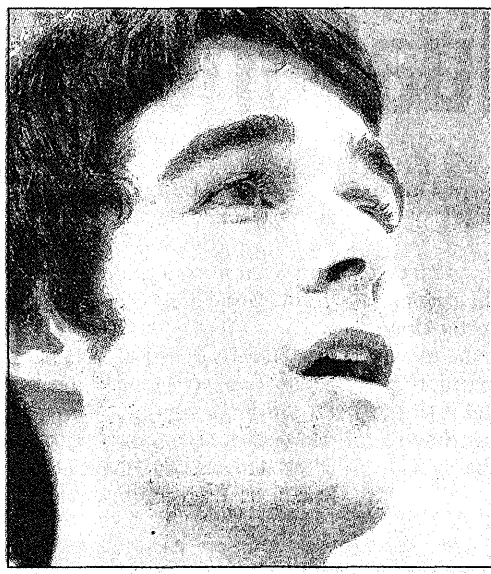
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Tanner Cottrell is a tenor and one of some 45 choir members making the trip to New York to sing at Carnegie Hall.

Working with Whitaker

Choirs share stage with 'idol' in Carnegie appearance

BY BRAD KADRICH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Because members of the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park choirs have studied and performed so much of Eric Whitaker's music, many of them keep up with the contemporary composer on social media such as Twitter.

For a few days next month, though, they won't need to "tweet" Whitaker to know what he's doing, because he'll be directing them onstage at New York's famed Carnegie Hall. Some 45 current members, along with 11 alumni and 15 chaperones, will be in New York April 14-18 after the park's Chamber and Madrigal choirs were chosen for a special Distinguished Concerts in New York series that will have them being directed by Whitaker.

"He's one of our favorites," said choir director Jennifer Kopp, who said the choirs annually perform a good deal of Whitaker's music. "He writes interesting and complex music. To work with a world-renowned, prolific composer is the opportunity of a lifetime for these kids. To perform on the Carnegie Hall stage is also a great opportunity."

Kopp, who also took choirs to Carnegie Hall in 2004, said she discovered the opportunity while surfing the Internet. She completed the application process and sent in a CD of her choir's performance. That CD was reviewed by a committee in New York, whose members listened in a "blind audition" without knowing what choirs were from where.

PCEP choirs were chosen along with high school and professional choirs from around the country and the world, including one from Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

To prepare for the appearance, the choirs have had to learn 15 pieces of Whitaker's music, in addition to their regular workload, which includes some 30 performances a year around the community. To get ready for

NEW YORK AT HOME

What: PCEP choirs perform Eric Whitaker music in a preview of their Carnegie Hall appearance

When: 7 p.m. Thursday, April 1

Where: Village Theater at Cherry Hill in Canton

Tickets: By phone at the Village Theater Box Office at (734) 394-5300 or (734) 394-5460 or on-line at www.canton-mi.org/villagetheater

Carnegie Hall, students have stayed after school, endured night-time rehearsals and basically done what they needed to do.

"It's a lot of extra work for them," Kopp said.

The trip, which is being paid for through fund-raisers and contributions from the families of students, won't be all work. The bulk of the students' time will be spent in rehearsals with Whitaker, who doesn't allow sheet music on stage, which means the kids will have to memorize everything.

But while they're in New York, students will see two Broadway plays, including *Billy Elliott* and *The Addams Family*, which stars Nathan Lane as Gomez Addams and former *Cheers!* star Bebe Neuwirth as Morticia Addams.

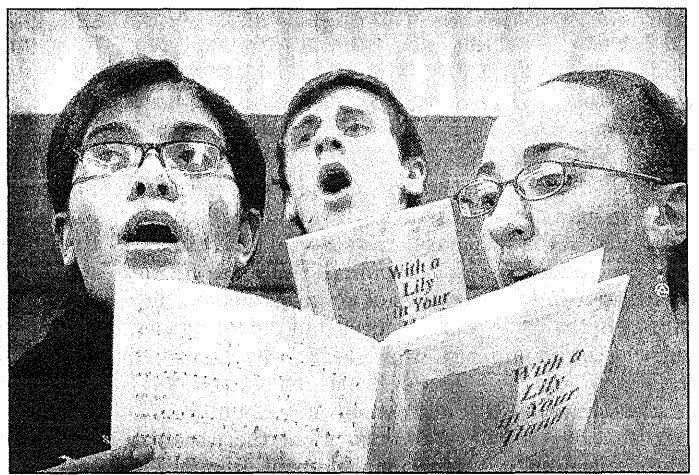
"The kids are very excited," Kopp said.

While the touristy stuff will be fun, the chance to work with Whitaker — "He often writes music to poetry ... his music does a fabulous job of bringing the text to life," Kopp said — is the big draw.

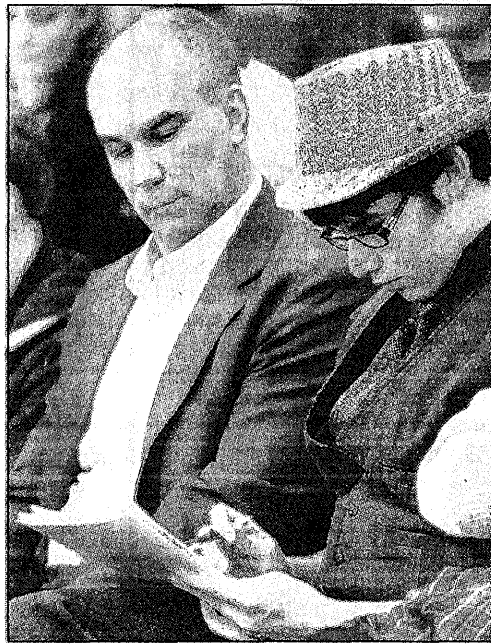
Megan Larson, a 17-year-old senior at Plymouth High School who's been a choir member for four years, said working with the composer will "be like meeting an idol."

"His songs are very dissident, but they're still beautiful," Larson said. "It's an amazing opportunity, and I'm so excited."

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

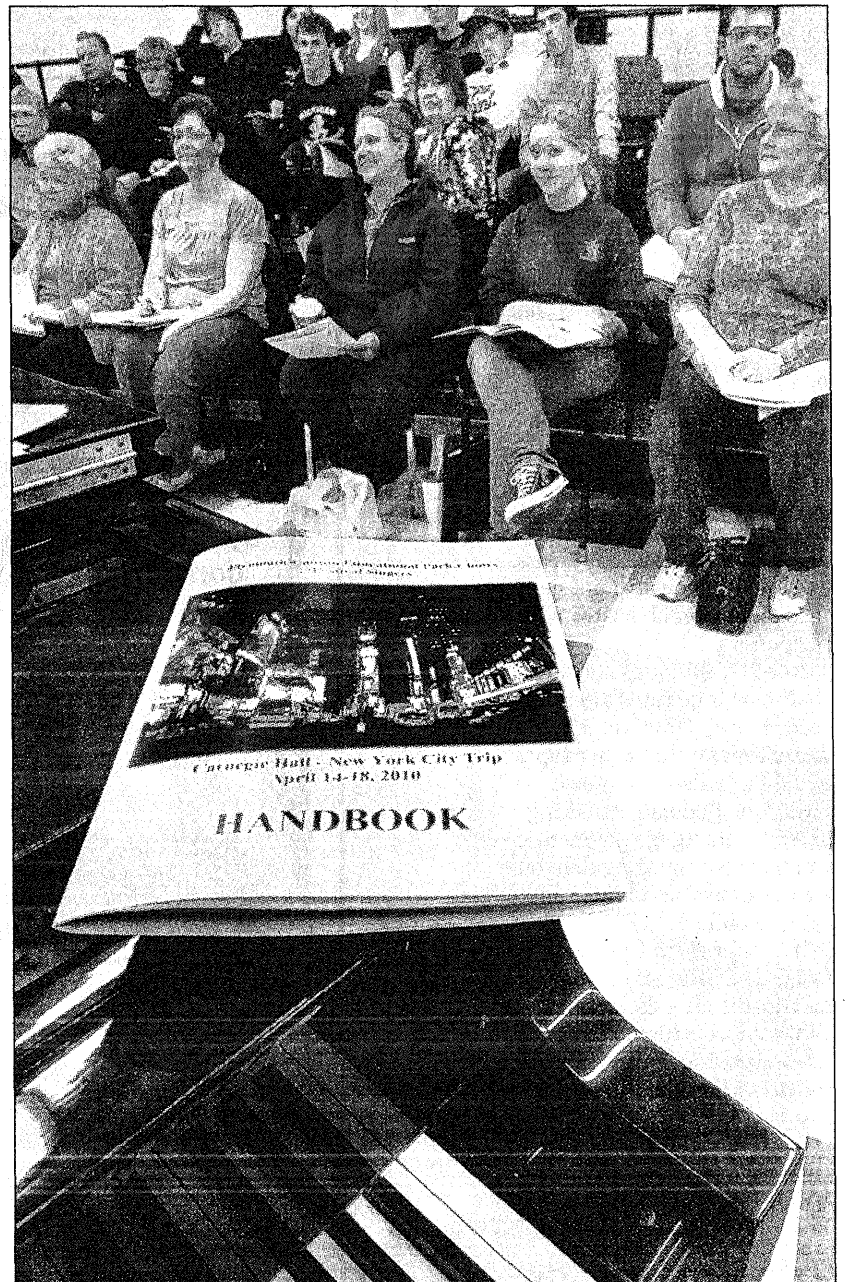


Brianna Lahr and Kristie Muckles are second altos, Kyle Scanlon sings baritone, as the PCEP choir readies for its trip to Carnegie Hall in New York.



Choir member Ryan Bardusch and his dad, Mark Bardusch, go through the student handbook for the trip.

Marlee McGinnis sings second alto and Gary Quillico sings bass.



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The P-CEP Choirs and Festival singers are headed for Carnegie Hall in New York City. Choir members, parents and guardians gathered to learn the rules and expectations for the choir members.

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Extra mortgage payment an individual choice

I am frequently asked if it makes sense — in light of what has happened in the real estate market — to make an extra mortgage payment.

Like most things in the financial world, there is no one correct answer. Rather, the issue is what makes sense in your individual situation.

In making the decision to make an extra mortgage payment, there are some facts to consider. The first is that making an extra payment will not lower future payments.

In addition, one thing that to recognize by now is that real estate is not a liquid investment. Therefore, if you do make extra mortgage payments, it won't be easy to get that money back if you should need it.

Prior to making extra mortgage payments, be sure that you will not need that money for short-term purposes.

Another factor to consider is that mortgage rates are at near record lows. However, that doesn't mean that other types of debt are also at historic lows. Don't consider making an extra mortgage payment if you have outstanding debt on a charge card or a higher interest rate obligation.

It is important to keep in mind that interest on your mortgage is tax deductible. When comparing interest rates, make sure you take into consideration the after-tax cost.

Deciding whether to make an extra mortgage payment is more than just a finan-

cial decision. If it was purely financial, it would be relatively easy. All you would have to do is compare the after-tax rate of return of an investment to the after-tax cost of the mortgage. However, there is another factor. Because most of us do not treat our homes purely as an investment, there is an emotional element. Whether it makes sense financially or

not, many people receive comfort in the fact that they own their home outright. After all, money is supposed to give you comfort and if it is more comforting to have your home paid off, then that is something that should be taken into consideration.

Other issues to examine include:

- By not making an extra

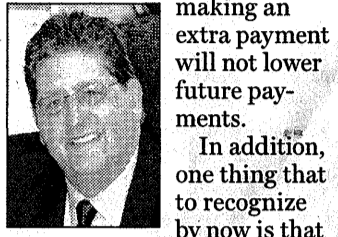
mortgage payment, can you take advantage of an employer match on a 401(k) plan? From a purely financial standpoint, I would prefer having someone invest in a Roth IRA, where money can grow tax free, as opposed to making the extra mortgage payment. On the other hand, if someone didn't need the money and he/she was just going to buy CDs I

would be leaning toward making the extra mortgage payment.

• If you're a long-term investor and you invest the money wisely you will do better than the after-tax cost of the mortgage. On the other hand, if you're just going to let it sit in the bank, then paying down the mortgage is probably a smart thing to do.

Like most financial decisions, the key is what's good for your individual situation and what allows you to sleep at night. Good luck!

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



Money Matters

Rick Bloom

making an extra payment will not lower future payments. In addition, one thing that to recognize by now is that real estate is not a liquid investment. Therefore, if you do make extra mortgage payments, it won't be easy to get that money back if you should need it. Prior to making extra mortgage payments, be sure that you will not need that money for short-term purposes. Another factor to consider is that mortgage rates are at near record lows. However, that doesn't mean that other types of debt are also at historic lows. Don't consider making an extra mortgage payment if you have outstanding debt on a charge card or a higher interest rate obligation. It is important to keep in mind that interest on your mortgage is tax deductible. When comparing interest rates, make sure you take into consideration the after-tax cost. Deciding whether to make an extra mortgage payment is more than just a finan-

Pathway 'Friends' gather for cleanup

The Friends of the I-275 Pathway get together for the first trail cleanup of the season noon to 3 p.m. Sunday, March 28, meeting in the northeast corner of the Meijer parking lot on 8 Mile and Haggerty, and working both north and south of 8 Mile.

After the long winter, organizers said, the pathway has accumulated a lot of trash and debris, so the first cleanup will focus primarily on litter pickup and general cleaning. Garbage bags, work gloves and some tools will be provided, but volunteers are encouraged to bring their own rakes, brooms, dustpans, litter spikes, or anything else to help pick up the trash.

Water and granola bars will be provided.

The I-275 Pathway is a 40-mile multi-use recreational trail that parallels the freeway in Oakland, Wayne and Monroe Counties. The trail runs through or near some of the most populated communities in southeast Michigan, including Novi, Farmington Hills, Livonia, Plymouth, Northville Township, Canton Township and Monroe. It links to many non-motorized paths in these communities, and could ultimately serve as a backbone to the entire southeast Michigan recreational trail system.

After decades of neglect, the Friends of the I-275 Pathway is working with the Michigan Department of Transportation and local governments to rejuvenate the trail and bring it up to present-day standards. Our efforts have paid off, as the Pathway is set to undergo a major overhaul this year.

For more information call Dave Duffield at (248) 994-3074 or visit the Friends of the I-275 Pathway on Yahoo! groups or Facebook.

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Plato's Closet leads the nation in the buying and selling of name brand, gently used apparel and accessories for teens and twenty-somethings.

Closet looks at fashion trends

As teens and twenty-somethings gear up for warmer weather and spring break, Plato's Closet of Canton is offering a guide of the hottest fashion trends for the spring season.

"At our store, we don't try to create new fashion trends, but rather respond to actual trends in a timely, value-oriented manner," said Paul

Wells. "All of the looks in our style guide can be achieved through a few simple wardrobe swaps or the purchase of a staple item or two, all of which can be found at Plato's Closet of Canton."

Wells said the store's unique resale concept, which allows customers to buy and sell gently-used, name brand clothes and accessories, makes it easy

for young women in the area to become eco-chic. With green-living being top of mind for many, recycling clothes is a simple way to have a positive impact on the planet while getting cash on the spot from Plato's Closet.

Wells recommends local fashionistas keep the following tips in mind when shopping for spring fashions:

- Double denim – This season, lighter, chambray-toned denim is in, not only for skinny jeans, but for a variety of items including shoes, bags, rompers, skirts and jackets. For an edgy look, don't be afraid to "double it up" by wearing it head-to-toe.

- Neutral tones – Champagne, beige, rosy hues and all shades of grey are in for spring 2010. Tees or tops in these colors can become ultra-girly with the addition of gentle ruching and intricate details like embroidered jewels, ruffles, and rosettes.

- Dressy florals – Fun, flirty and floral just in time for spring! Garden motifs have sprouted up again this season, with flowered patterns in full bloom on skirts and dresses. Dresses come in a variety of styles – T-shirt, tube, tank, or halter – something for every mood. To extend the life of any dress or skirt, wear either with a fabulous pair of leggings to create an entirely different look.

- Utilitarian adventure – Dress for adventure in olive and khaki.

Following this trend is as easy as adding a pair of soft utility pants, a scout jacket or khaki camp shirt into your closet. Choose fitted shirts and jackets for more of an effortless boy-meets-girl look than a sloppy army surplus style.

- Accessorize – This season's hot accessories include cuff bracelets, intricate cutouts (usually seen in shoes and belts), and feature colors like rose, gold, baby blue, and mint. Don't forget your woods and metals as these remain popular for jewelry and heels everywhere.

According to leading fashion publication *InStyle*, the spring season's biggest fashion perk is that "comfort doesn't have to be compromised." The magazine encourages young women to find their own warm-weather style by layering and draping pieces in jersey, cashmere or silk.

"One great feature of all of these styles is that they can easily be dressed up or dressed down to fit a particular occasion," added Wells. "They are ideal for transitioning from school or work to a night out. They also can be incorporated into looks for spring break."

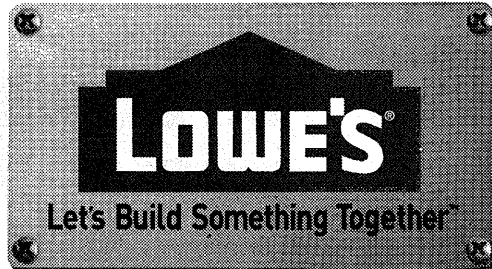
Some of the top brands featured gently used and value priced at Plato's Closet of Canton include BKE®, American Eagle®, Lucky Brand®, Roxy®, Forever 21® and True Religion®.

"We make it easy for the style-savvy to update their looks for the spring season," said Wells. "Shopping at our store is like going on a treasure hunt. You never know what you're going to find."

For more information about Plato's Closet of Canton, call Paul Wells at (734) 459-5029.

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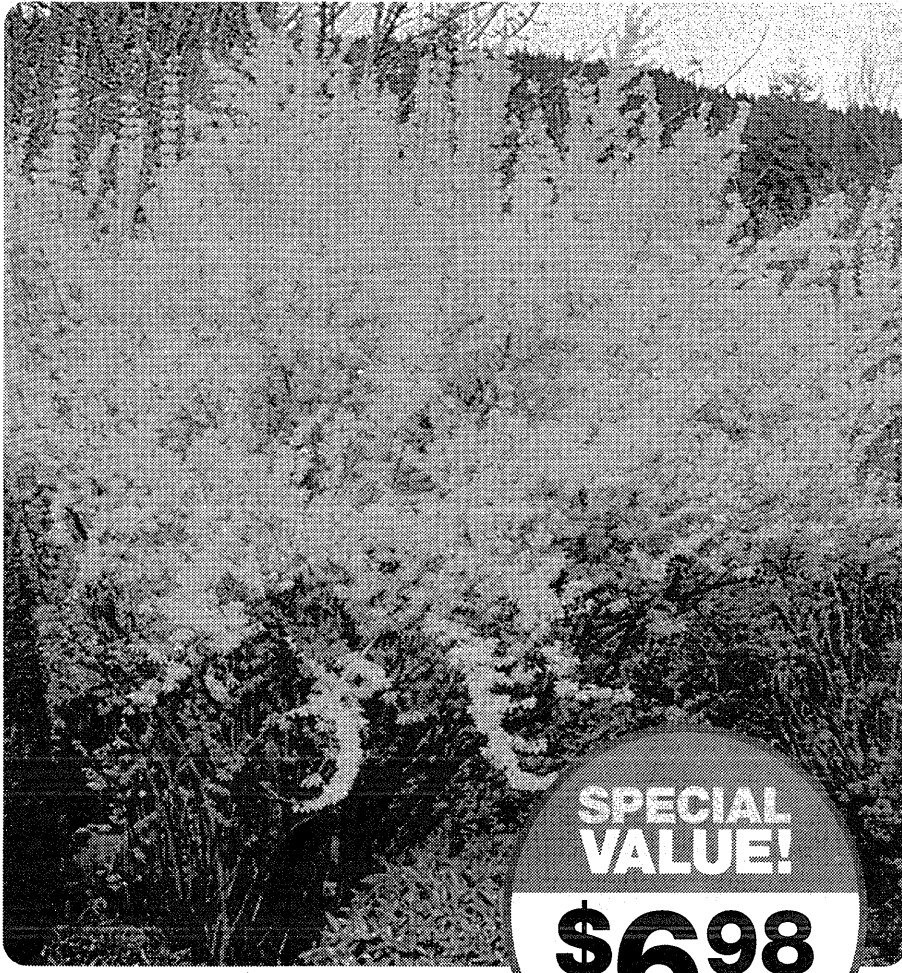
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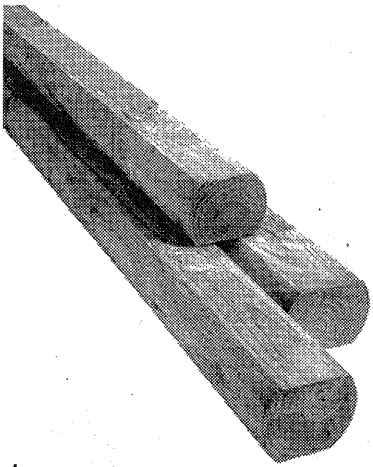
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Christmas in Action volunteers still needed

People looking to make a difference in their community get their chance to lend a helping hand and volunteer for this year's Christmas in Action event Saturday, April 24.

Both skilled and unskilled volunteers are still needed to help provide repairs to needy seniors' homes in the Canton community from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Volunteers who are skilled in the building trades are especially needed, including electricians, carpenters, plumbers, roofers and others. Unskilled volunteers are also wanted for cleaning, yard work, and painting.

House captains will coordinate the work being done at each site on the event day. Knowledgeable volunteer experts will perform electrical, plumbing, heating and roofing repairs, while teams of other volunteers will paint walls, wash windows, and do general interior and exterior spring cleaning.

The day will start with registration from 7:30-9 a.m. and a continental breakfast at the Canton Administration Building, located at 1150 S. Canton Center Road.

For more information on Christmas in Action and the clean-up event scheduled for April 24, call (734) 394-5191 or visit cantonfun.org.

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LOCAL OPINION

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

Get involved in Relay for Life

There's still time to support the American Cancer Society by participating in the local Relay for Life event, taking place from 10 a.m. June 12 through 10 a.m. June 13 at Central Middle School in Plymouth.

Each year, hundreds gather with their teams at Central Middle School, where they set up tents and attractions with everything from games for the kids, to refreshment stands and goodie tables.

While there's plenty to do and see off the track, the most important part is being conducted on the track itself. You see, it's where team members take turns walking laps — for 24 hours, nonstop. Each team member raises money for the event.

It's a special event, that's for sure. Many participants are cancer survivors, while others have loved ones who have been affected by the disease.

The word "hope" resonates throughout the event, especially during the evening lighting of the luminaries, which is a moving experience for all.

There is still time to get involved in this important fund-raiser in the community. Community members can join the movement for a world with less cancer and more birthdays by starting a new team or joining an existing team by following the links at www.relayforlife.org/plymouthmi. Donations can be made to this local Relay for Life event by visiting www.relayforlife.org/plymouthmi, as well.

Whether it's joining a team, forming a new team, making a donation or simply stopping by to encourage the teams through the 24-hour journey, it's a worthwhile effort that brings comfort to those who are affected by cancer.

Be part of Earth Hour, support work

Can you imagine sitting in the dark for one hour — no lights, no TV, no computer? In this day and time, that could be considered torture. We have a hard time living without our electronic gizmos.

But at 8:30 p.m. Saturday, March 27, people around the world will take a stand for our planet by turning off their lights for one hour to make a statement about their concern for climate change.

It's called Earth Hour, and since its inception three years ago, its nonpartisan approach has captured the world's imagination and became a global phenomenon. Nearly one billion people turned out for Earth Hour 2009 — involving 4,100 cities in 87 countries on seven continents.

Last year, 80 million Americans and 318 U.S. cities officially voted for action with their light switch, joining iconic landmarks from around the world that went dark for Earth Hour, including the Empire State Building, Broadway theater marquees and the Las Vegas Strip.

In the U.S., Earth Hour sends a clear message that Americans care about this issue and want to turn the lights out on dirty air, dangerous dependency on foreign oil and costly climate change impacts, and make the switch to cleaner air, a strong economic future and a more secure nation.

Every region of the United States is experiencing the impacts of climate change. A 2009 White House report found that climate changes are already affecting water resources, energy supply and demand, transportation, agriculture, ecosystems, and health.

Data released March 12 by NASA indicates that summer (December-January) surface temperatures in the Southern Hemisphere were the warmest on record. The same period in the Northern Hemisphere was the fifth warmest winter on record and globally it was the second warmest November-January on record. In North America, there were sharp contrasts: While the U.S. experienced the 18th coolest winter on record out of 115 years, it was the warmest and driest winter on record for Canada.

We urge our readers to do something for your planet and flip the switch to off on Saturday evening. One hour of darkness isn't a lot to ask to help the place we call home.

COMMUNITY VOICE

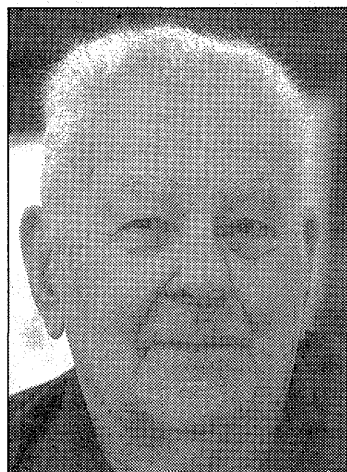
The Postal Service plans to sell the downtown Plymouth post office and lease space there, or in another spot downtown, to continue operations. What do you think of this?

We asked this question outside the U.S. Postal Service station in downtown Plymouth.



"With the history that this building has, I don't think that's a good idea. ... The post office should stay the post office."

Christine Rovet
Ann Arbor



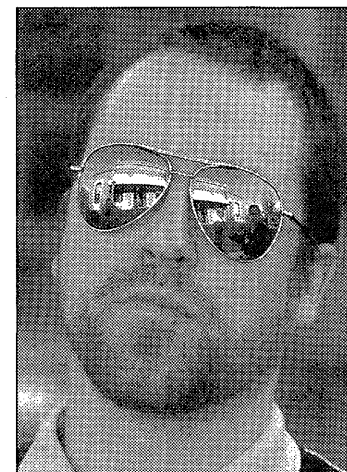
"I don't care, as long as it stays in Plymouth."

Chuck Dieterle
Plymouth Township



"(Approves). Because that means they're still wanting to stay open."

Susan Burks
Plymouth Township



"I'm OK with it because, as long as they're doing it for a reason. ... As long as they're not going to touch the building."

Nic Donakowski
Livonia

LETTERS

Smothering growth

I was fortunate enough to be picked to attend one of the city's informational meetings regarding the current moratorium on new liquor licenses in the city.

The following issues were presented as reasons supporting the moratorium.

1) There is a problem with the sewer capacity downtown: If this is a real concern, then the city should ban any high capacity use including new restaurants, whether they serve alcohol or not, and the ban should be only in areas that are affected by the problem. Additionally, the problem area should be targeted for improvements. I'd rather see money going toward having the sewers working than rebuilding a perfectly functional streetscape and a useless concrete compass.

Several existing restaurants have expressed a desire to be allowed to serve alcohol. Would there be any additional strain on the sewer system if they served wine instead of iced tea? What if an existing restaurant increases its business, doesn't that contribute to the problem? Should we put a cap on how many people each restaurant can serve?

2) Enforcement: I do not know the current workload or hourly requirements the officers of Plymouth are under. I do believe they are stretched pretty thin. The police chief retired, as far as I know they are still down one full-time officer. I believe the "recent five incidents Saturday" that was cited at the meeting is far from typical. These incidents occurred under the current moratorium so obviously a moratorium does nothing to prevent incidences from happening. My understating is that in 2009 there were on average LESS than two alcohol-related incidences per WEEK in Plymouth. That is very low by anyone's standards and a testament to how well the police and business owners are dealing with such issues. People know this is not a town where you should be causing trouble. Is a new sushi bar or seafood restaurant really going to change much other than our choice of where to eat? Is being able to have a beer with my taco going really going to tip the scale?

Someone also stated the cost of a new officer and cruiser. How big is downtown? The police department is what, 300 yards from the center of things? Do we really need to buy another 15 mph SUV to patrol downtown during "problem" times? Personally, I think a foot or bike patrol would be much more visible and effective. What about remote surveillance? How many security cameras are included in this new \$3 million streetscape?

3) There are enough places to eat. We need other businesses: The service sector is where the money is. That is why existing restaurants without licenses want to expand their offerings and new restaurants want to open in the city. There is no shortage of available space downtown. The fact is, retail is having a hard time everywhere and the bars and restaurants do more to attract business downtown than deter it.

Understandably, the existing establishments that hold license are also pushing for a cap. Obviously they are looking out for their own self-interests, I have no problem with that, it's business. But if they feel

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

We welcome your Letter to the Editor. Please include your name, address and phone number for verification. We ask your letters be 400 words or less. We may edit for clarity, space and content. Submit letters via the following formats. Web: www.hometownlife.com E-mail: bkadrich@hometownlife.com Blog: You may also let your opinions be heard with your own blog at hometownlife.com. Deadline: Letters must be received by 9 a.m. Monday to be published in the Thursday edition.

there are already enough choices why did the owner of Compari's open the Fiamma Grille? If there were enough choices why is the new Ironwood Grill so busy?

A quick check with the Michigan LCC show the numbers presented by the city are in gross error. Birmingham was said to have 15 licenses, the LCC shows they have 30, Northville was said to have nine, the LCC shows they have 14. In fact using the latest LCC information and SEMCOG's 2009 population estimates the City of Northville has a higher ratio of licenses to residents than the City of Plymouth does.

I don't have all the data from the police and really don't want to tie up their resources with a FOIA request. I hope the subcommittee will follow thru and get some real statistics and present them in a less biased fashion.

If the decision for a cap is based on the numbers presented then the city needs to re-evaluate and present its citizens with valid information, not misinformation.

Is the answer a do-nothing approach?

There was no evidence presented at the meeting to show that the current moratorium has fixed or solved any of the above issues. What happens if two or three existing places expand or extend their evening hours? Should we lock the hours of existing establishments? If the police are taxed now, we need to look at options for getting them the resources they need. You need to have a plan. Trying to put the world on pause and hope your problems will go away is not a good plan.

The commission had since October to gather data and get feedback from business and residents. The moratorium was set to expire in April. Not until March, and a looming deadline, do they gather a small random pick of residents for "input"! Now, not last fall, or before the first moratorium but that the 11th hour are they trying to get statistics from the police to bolster their position.

If the OPINION of city management and the City Commission is that there are too many places to obtain alcohol in the city then so be it, that is part of their job. Will the city lead by example and give up the license at the cultural center? I just wish each official in favor of the cap had the courage to stand up and say "we think there are too many places serving alcohol in this city" rather than hide behind fabricated excuses and fear tactics. The voters can then express their opinions in the next elec-

tion.

We have a very safe and vibrant downtown. No one in the city wants to destroy that. Most communities would love to have these "problems." I understand the desire to preserve what we have but the world is not a static place. Controlling growth is a good thing, smothering it is not.

The City Commission is set to vote on this issue Monday, April 5. I encourage residents to attend or contact their city commissioners.

David Gabrielse
Plymouth

Be aware of disabilities

March is recognized as National Developmental Disability Awareness month. It's a way to promote public awareness and help educate the community about the unique needs and issues that affect people with disabilities and to celebrate their abilities, contributions and accomplishments.

Once isolated and ignored, people with developmental disabilities are now offered greater educational, vocational and social opportunities. Today they're able to attend regular schools, hold jobs, work as volunteers and live productive lives in their communities. People with disabilities should not be feared or stereotyped.

So this month, recognize the hopes and dreams of our friends and neighbors who have a disability and also applaud the staff that makes their dreams come true. Get to know people with developmental disabilities in your congregation, your community service organization and in your neighborhood. People with disabilities are no different from everyone else. They all want, and are entitled to, a life just like you and me.

Ray Schuholz
Wayne

Background checks needed

I was appalled when I learned that only 80 percent of organizations are requiring background checks on their employees. There is a Michigan Senate bill (1100) in session that will restrict any sexual predator and any person who has been convicted of child abuse to be involved with a child care organization. I was struck by this bill, as a social worker, because of the fact that there are many organizations that still do not run background checks.

All a sexual predator needs is an opportunity to take advantage of a child and by allowing them in child care organizations they are being handed the chance. So why would we even consider letting this happen? Children deserve to be protected and have fun in a safe environment, especially in places where they go to school.

Children will learn from the environment that is shown to them, and by allowing them to be exposed to a potentially violent person, they may learn similar violence. It angers me to think of the potential danger children could be in. It is sad that we have to deal with this issue, but we do, so why not take the precautions and prevent something terrible from happening?

Emily Herrinton
South Lyon

PLYMOUTH OBSERVER



Brad Kadrich
Community
Editor

Susan Rosiek
Executive Editor
/ Publisher

Grace Perry
Director of
Advertising

Seniors pack it up for Kindergarten Roundup

BY SUE MASON
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Ruth Torok started her morning unzipping backpacks, but within a half hour she was reversing the process.

"It's organized very well around here, people sign up real good for things like this," said the Westland resident, watching a line of senior citizens work their way along tables, stuffing school supplies into the backpacks.

Torok was among 64 seniors who gathered at the Dyer Senior Center Tuesday morning to fill the backpacks destined for Kindergarten Roundup at 11 Wayne-Westland schools next month. "We have 1,200 bags to fill," said Sally Perkins, executive director of elementary education.

Working from projections, the filled backpacks were placed in lots of 20 into bags and labeled for the different



Elaine Pollock, Marcy Borso, Shirley Baumann and Dolores Sotell work on the 'assembly line,' filling backpacks that will be given to youngsters at next month's Kindergarten Roundup.

elementaries. According to Perkins, the amount of backpacks is tied to a projected number of kindergartners for 2010-11.

"We want more students, but this is what we're looking at," she said.

Seniors at the Dyer Center have been helping assemble

the bags for about eight years. This year's backpacks contain glue sticks, crayons, books like *Kissing Hand* and *Mother Goose* to read, ABC and number charts and a welcome message from the district.

"The parents love them because it contains information for them to work with

their children over the summer," said Perkins.

For seniors, the assembly line job offers them a chance to socialize and enjoy a light breakfast and lunch. For Eleanore Walsh, it was a chance to give back to the community.

"It's going a little slow, the

zippers are harder than you think," she said.

Walsh and daughter Eleanor Addison were new to the backpack stuffing party. Sitting next to veterans like Ed Turner, they wiggle and tugged and zipped the bags closed, but not before checking to see that each on the 11 items were in the bag.

"We came because we belong here and we want to get involved," said Walsh, a Westland resident.

Torok came with her neighbor Marion Mosier who sees involvement in the center as a way to reconnect with her children's friends' parents from school.

"I enjoy coming, it's such a great group," she said.

"I've known Ruth for years, we reconnected after I quit working," said Torok.

Chuck Heard said it was his wife, Katherine, who made him come to the center.

"She volunteered me," the Garden City residents said as he worked his way down the table filling two backpacks with goodies.

"Yes, I did. I twisted his arm," said Katherine Heard.

It was Chuck Heard's second year working filling the backpacks, while his wife has been doing it for three-four years.

"I love it," said Katherine. "I love the people. I love doing something for other people."

Mary Loughlin of Westland viewed the work as a form of exercise.

"It's fun," she said. "You do a little walking, it's good for the knees."

Even Dyer Center Director Mary Browe pitched in to help.

"Sixty-four people signed up, and wanted to do it, but I thought we'd be tramping all over each other," she said. "But they're not. They're well organized."

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SECTION B
(CP)

Tim Smith, editor, (313) 222-2637
tsmith@hometownlife.com

All-Observer wrestling team - B2

SPORTS, FILTER, FOOD & WINE

HOMETOWN LIFE



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Watching the final seconds of Friday's Class A state semifinal at Breslin Center are (from left) Canton seniors Kelly Larimore, Yuki Krolicki, Lindsey Winters, sophomore Jesse Larner and junior CarolAnn Sexauer. Behind the bench is the Canton student cheering section.

Chiefs deserve to try again

Every season at Breslin Center, the top girls and boys basketball teams go head-to-head with a state championship trophy within reach.

Unfortunately, only one team per sport leaves the Michigan State University venue with the ultimate prize.

Only one team's coach and selected players can truly smile in the media room under the stands when all is said and done.

The three other teams in the Final Four can only leave with mixed feelings — ecstatic to have such a successful year to make it to East Lansing in the first place, but sad to not quite reach the pinnacle.

Brian Samulski and his Canton Chiefs girls basketball team certainly fell into that category after losing a 50-47 heartbreaker to Detroit Renaissance in Friday's Class A semifinal. (By the way, so did the victorious Phoenix less than 24 hours later as



Tim Smith

they fell Saturday to East Lansing in the championship game.)

But oh, what might have been for Canton. Robyn Mack's sweet jumper from the left flank had briefly given the Chiefs a lead with less than two minutes remaining, electrifying the red-clad cheering section that came out in full, enthusiastic force to Breslin.

Of course, 1:50 in a basketball game is forever and Renaissance reminded everyone of that when Elizabeth Badgett responded by nailing a trey — yanking the magic carpet from under the feet of the Chiefs. They could not get it back.

Yet that did not diminish just how brilliant a season the Chiefs had, winning the KLAA South Division,

Please see SMITH, B5

SIDELINES

Hurricanes tryouts

The Michigan Hurricanes Midget AA hockey team wraps up its spring tryouts 3:30-5 p.m. Sunday, March 28, at the Compuware Arena NHL rink.

Contact Non-Parent Head Coach Lee McCarty at (734) 392-0888 or check out the Web site at www.eteamz.com/mihurricanes.

Dragons hoops

Parents, it's that time again to register your fifth-, sixth-, seventh- or eighth-grader for the Michigan Dragons summer basketball program. Go to michigandragons.com and register. The registration period ends April 16.

Spring coaches call

The spring season for high school sports is here and, as always, the *Observer* wants to spotlight the efforts and accomplishments of athletes from the Canton and Plymouth communities.

Please call sports editor Tim Smith at (313) 222-2637 with detailed recaps of games, matches or meets. Those also can be e-mailed to him at tsmith@hometownlife.com.

Deadlines are 11 p.m. Tuesday for the Thursday paper and 10 p.m. Friday for the Sunday paper.

Bucks College Cup

The second annual adidas Bucks College Cup, featuring some of the top men's soccer teams from the Midwest, will be Saturday, March 27, at Ultimate Soccer Arenas, located at 867 South Boulevard, Pontiac.

Games scheduled include: Oakland University vs. Notre Dame, noon; Michigan vs. Notre Dame, 1:30 p.m.; Michigan vs. NCAA runner-up Akron, 3 p.m.; and Oakland vs. Akron, 4:30 p.m.

Tickets are \$12 for all four games. Children 5-and-under are free. The first 750 youngsters 15-and-under will receive a free adidas Michigan Bucks T-shirt.

To purchase tickets, visit www.bucksoccer.com; or go to the Ultimate Soccer Arenas front desk or the Upper 90 Pub.

Team pics welcomed

Accomplishments recorded on the athletic field are important for everyone and the Canton and Plymouth editions of the *Observer Newspapers* would like to recognize those efforts of the individuals involved.

So if you know of a youth team, an adult recreation team, or just a handful of individuals with a unique accomplishment on the resume, contact us here in the sports department and we will gladly publish those achievements. Team photos displaying the personnel will also be accepted.

To submit information and photos, contact sports editor Tim Smith by e-mail at tsmith@hometownlife.com or by phone at (313) 222-6785.

Junior spikers wanted

The Crusader Junior Volleyball Club, run out of Madonna University, is seeking four to six players for its 13-and-under team (cannot be 14 before Sept. 1, 2010).

For more information, call MU assistant coach Brian McClain at (734) 432-5612; or e-mail bgmccain1@aol.com.

MHSAA to honor Hahn

Plymouth High School senior runner Kelly Hahn is one of 14 top student-athletes to Saturday receive college scholarships through the Michigan High School Athletic Association's Scholar-Athlete Award program.

Farm Bureau Insurance, in its 21st year of sponsoring the award, will give a \$1,000 college scholarship to 32 individuals who represent their member school in at least one sport in which the Association sponsors a post-season tournament.

The first 30 scholarships are awarded proportionately by school classification and the number of student-athletes involved in those classes; and there are two at-large honorees which can come from any classification.

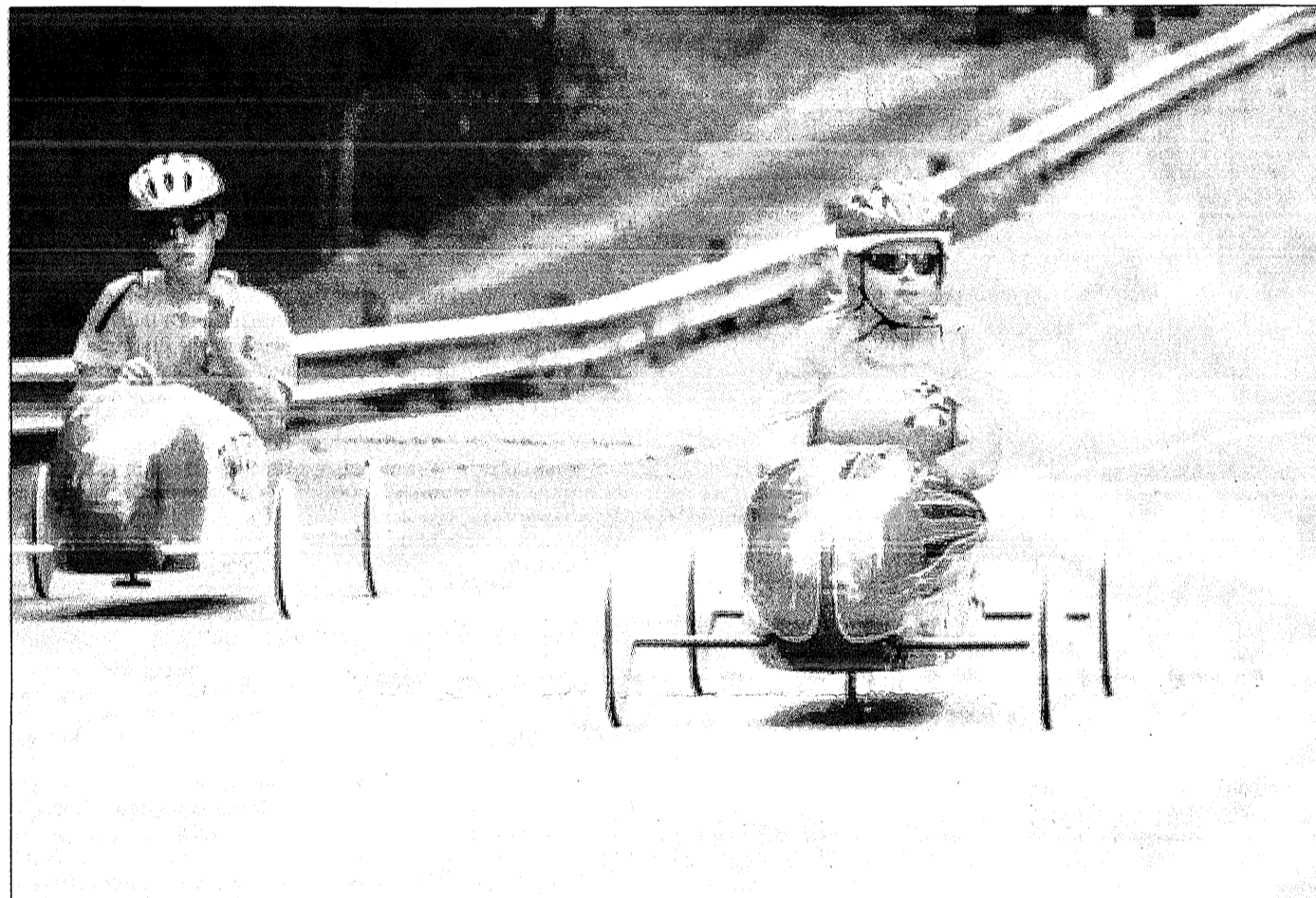
Each of the scholarship recipients will be honored at halftime ceremonies of Saturday's Class C Boys Basketball final game at the Breslin Student Events Center in East Lansing.

Commemorative medallions will be given to other finalists in recognition of their accomplishments.

The Class A Scholar-Athlete Award honorees are: Meredith Leigh Aja, Traverse City Central; Ariel Dempsey, Jenison; Nathaniel Ellsworth, Saginaw Heritage; Kelly Hahn, Plymouth; Rikki Jarvis, Oxford; Christopher Luoma, Okemos; Jordan Macocha, Oxford; Calley Murphy, Birmingham Seaholm; Katherine Pavelich, Flint Kearsley; Erin Elizabeth Riley, Battle Creek Lakeview; Jonathan Michael Roberts, Grosse Pointe South; Steven Saliga, Romeo; Alex Van Tiem, Detroit U-D Jesuit; and Matthew VanZytveld, Grand Haven.



Hahn



Showing her cool, calm and collected demeanor during a 2009 race is Samantha Howell, a seventh grader at East Middle School.

SOAP BOX SAM

Canton girl wants to race to top of national charts

BY TIM SMITH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

DERBY DOINGS

Who: Samantha Howell, 12, seventh-grader at East Middle School in Canton.

What: The daughter of Jim and Cathy Howell already is an accomplished young driver in the soap box derby circuit, winning a number of trophies.

2009: It was a year where she tallied the second-most number of NDR Soap Box Derby Rally Points and was victorious in November at a regional qualifier. This year, she's tied for fourth in NDR points.

Next: In May, Samantha is set to take part in a regional qualifier in Akron, Ohio where she will compete in the Super Stock division. Meanwhile, she has already qualified for July's national race.

Notable: Samantha recently was runner-up at the Detroit Autorama in the "special interest, nonmotorized" category.

Samantha Howell's impressive haul of trophies collected for her recent prowess in soap box derby dwarfs the 12-year-old Canton girl.

The East Middle School seventh-grader estimates she has won 37 trophies over a three-year span with a spunky little car she and her dad, Jim Howell, assembled.

This season could add to that list — at May's National Derby Rallies regional qualifier in Akron, Ohio, for starters — as she moves toward her goal of making it to the top of the NDR leader board. She'll compete in the Super Stock division, for those ages 9-20.

"I hope to become the No. 1 point earner some day," said Samantha in typical matter-of-fact fashion. What

did you expect from someone who named her sleek, red-and-blue car the *Butt-Kickin' Princess*?

She's getting there incrementally. In 2008, she was one race shy of qualifying for the national finals and last year was No. 2 in NDR Soap Box Derby Rally Points.

HONORING HER GRANDPA

But there is a tinge of sadness, because her biggest fan — grandpa Mike Zinda, a longtime teacher in the Clarenceville district — lost his battle with cancer last June.

"What I do is make sure my eyes are on the ball and that my game face is on to make sure I have a good chance," Samantha noted. "... Also, I do everything for one purpose, and that's because my grandfather (Zinda) died

Please see SOAP BOX, B3

OLGC captures first girls CYO title

Before a crowd of more than 600 cheering fans, the Our Lady of Good Counsel Girls Varsity "A" basketball team (8th graders) won the Metro Detroit Catholic Youth Organization championship on Saturday, March 13.

OLGC's first girls CYO championship culminated with a 42-26 victory over St. Isaac Jogues of St. Clair Shores in the Livonia Ladywood-hosted contest.

For the 21-1 Crusaders, contributions from many players — the case all season — helped put the icing on the season's cake.

For example, Emily Hogan

led with 10 points and four rebounds while Alyssa Dillon, Kyle Robb and playmaking point guard Rachel Winters each scored eight points. They didn't just score, either. Dillon collected six steals and Robb tallied five assists. Throw in four points and seven boards from Shannon Perry and four points and six rebounds from Jenna Reinhold and the Crusaders had the inside game to thwart St. Isaac Jogues.

Other team members who played huge roles all season long include Kayla Kavulich, Marissa Ozog, Rachel DeMarco and

Kelsey McDougall.

The 64-team tournament lasted three weeks. OLGC defeated Redford St. Valentine, Detroit Gesu, Southgate St. Pius, Novi St. James and Livonia St. Michael to reach the final.

The CYO title was just the latest success in 2009-10. The Crusaders were also St. Edith Thanksgiving Tournament champions and Mercy High School Christmas Tournament champions.

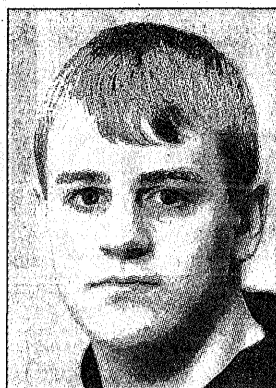
Handling coaching duties were head coach Ann Robb, assisted by Linda Reinhold and Steve Robb.



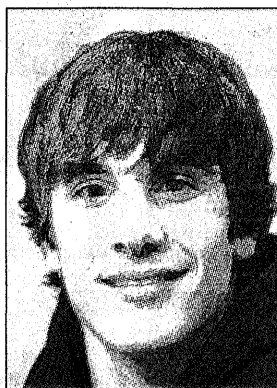
The eighth grade varsity girls basketball team at Our Lady of Good Counsel celebrates after winning its first-ever Catholic Youth Organization title. In the back row (from left) are coach Ann Robb, coach Linda Reinhold, Jenna Reinhold and Steve Robb. In the middle row (from left) are Emily Hogan, Rachel Winters, Rachel DeMarco, Shannon Perry and Alyssa Dillon. In the front row (from left) are Kelsey McDougall, Kylie Robb, Kayla Kavulich and Marissa Ozog.



Keshav Patel
Canton



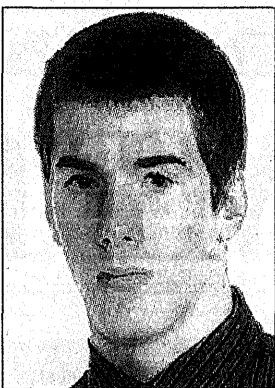
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Anthony Pavlich
John Glenn



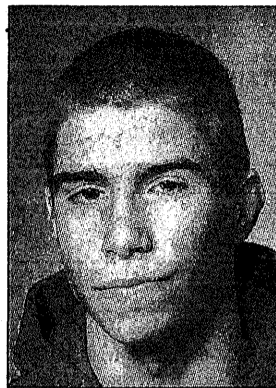
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Harrison



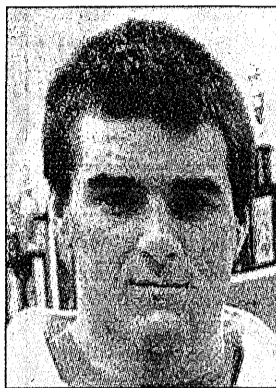
Donnie Watkins
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Michael Johnson
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Brent Winekoff
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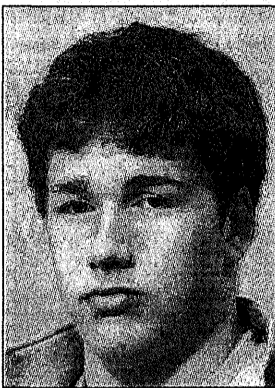
Keith Zech
Canton



Kevin Beazley
Harrison



Anthony Abro
Canton



Ben Poirier
Canton



Dustin Gajowiak
John Glenn



Jim Stuef
Harrison coach

All-Area grapplers lock up their opponents

FIRST-TEAM

Keshav Patel, Soph., Canton (103): The sophomore had an excellent season for the Chiefs, compiling a 29-14 record before sustaining a season-ending arm injury at the KLAAs Championships.

"Patel came on strong for us this season," said Canton coach Cory Mancuso, adding that the dedicated youngster also is a 4.0 student in the classroom.

At the Observerland Invitational, Patel was a finalist in his weight class for one of his other season highlights.

Steve Tuyo, Jr., Liv. Franklin (112): The junior, who went 5-14 overall, finished sixth in the Division 1 finals.

Tuyo also captured the Livonia City meet, Salem Invitational and Kensington Lakes Activities Association titles.

"With the loss of so many seniors last year, Steve immediately took control of the team, and his dedication and hard work rubbed off on everyone," Franklin coach Dave Chiola said. "He showed great leadership and was more of an assistant coach than a captain.

He holds the school record for career wins (133), wins by a junior (54) and wins by a sophomore.

"We knew that he was going to be good when he was a freshman, and he hasn't disappointed," Chiola said. "Steve really dedicated himself to be All-State and was able to accomplish his goal. Along the way he was a major factor in the team's success this year."

Josh Austin, Sr., Westland Glenn (119): The senior, who went 5-11 this season, placed fifth in the Division 1 state finals, runner-up at the regional and first in the district.

He was also Observerland and Wayne County invitational champion, as well as runner-up in the Novi-Detroit Catholic Central tournament and third in the KLAAs.

"Team was always first with Josh and he was second," Glenn coach Bill Polk said. "He helped his team accomplish two, almost three appearances in the team state finals over his career (along with our other seniors). That is something very special to him, probably most important than

2009-10 ALL-OBSERVER WRESTLING TEAMS

103 pounds: 1. Keshav Patel, Soph., Canton; 2. Kyle Gillies, Fr., Westland John Glenn; 3. (tie) Dan Martinez, Fr., Livonia Franklin; Richard DeMarois, Fr., Canton.

112-1: Steve Tuyo, Jr., Franklin; 2. (tie) Alec Meadows, Jr., Livonia Churchill; Steve Wakeford, Sr., John Glenn; 3. (tie) Alec Breckinridge, Fr., Plymouth; Gabe Martinez, Soph., Franklin.

119-1: Josh Austin, Sr., John Glenn; 2. Matt Jaisle, Sr., North Farmington; 3. Andre Sanders, Jr., Farmington Hills Harrison.

125-1: Laith Francis, Sr., Lutheran High Westland; 2. Waleed Faraj, Sr., Canton; 3. Devin Stratton, Sr., Salem.

130-1: Anthony Pavlich, Sr., John Glenn; 2. Justin Palka, Sr., Lutheran Westland; 3. Jordan McGuire, Soph., Franklin.

135-1: James Roberts, Jr., Harrison; 2. (tie) James Middleditch, Sr., Salem; Mark Thompson, Sr., John Glenn; 3. Devin Ashley, Sr., Garden City.

140-1: Donnie Watkins, Sr., Canton; 2. Travis Mann, Fr., John Glenn; 3. Charlie Kokenakes, Sr., Livonia Stevenson.

145-1: Mike Johnson, Sr., John Glenn; 2. Nick Tomski, Jr., Farmington; 3. Josh Hatfield, Jr., Franklin.

152-1: Brent Winekoff, Sr., Canton; 2. Matt Roos, Jr., Franklin; 3. Sean O'Keefe, Soph., Canton.

160-1: (tie) Keith Zech, Sr., Canton; Kevin Beazley, Soph., Harrison; 2. Colin Gross, Sr., Salem; 3. (tie) Brian Miller, Sr., North Farmington; Josh Mills, Sr., Wayne Memorial.

171-1: Curtis Castleberry, Sr., Churchill; 2. Kamaron Jones, Jr., John Glenn; 3. Jake Burns, Sr., Stevenson.

189-1: Anthony Abro, Jr., Canton; 2. Andrew Schramm, Sr., Stevenson; 3. Craig Kowalsky, Sr., Lutheran Westland.

215-1: Ben Poirier, Jr., Canton; 2. Majid Mokbel, Jr., North Farmington; 3. Justin Roe, Jr., Farmington.

285-1: Dustin Gajowiak, Sr., John Glenn; 2. Dylan Wells, Sr., Farmington; 3. (tie) Wally Eppler, Sr., Plymouth; Chris Bowie, Sr., Wayne.

HONORABLE MENTION

Churchill: John Shekell, Jonny Bannoura, James Locklear, Jon Locklear, Jared Buhagiar, Tyler Farnstrom, Josh Bridge; **Franklin:** Erik Czech, Ryan Derry, Zach Leuenberger, Alex O'Connor, Avery Opperman, Nick Simmons; **Stevenson:** Dan McCarthy, Nathan Keeble; **John Glenn:** Steve Shak, Danny Croft, Keven Wacker, Zach Redden, Reggie Timmons, Gerald Powell; **Wayne:** Tristan Jarosic, Anwar Oliver, Jalen Jones, Brandon Whittenberg, Dimitrus Renfro, Dylan Korzetti; **Livonia Clarenceville:** Michael Weiss, Coy Sillanpaa, Anthony Giordano; **Lutheran Westland:** Sean Rowe, Matt Sankey, Martin Kemp; **Canton:** Alex Eimers, Mitch Wolski, Zach Marsh; **Plymouth:** Shadi Jammoul, Said Youssef, Jimmy Ahearn; **Salem:** Danny Kemp, Adam Turner, Blake Abbey, Austin Banfield, Tyler Gross, Dylan Hatcher, Chris Sweet; **Farmington:** Nimantha Herath, Kevin Kennerly, Tres Yarmuth, Kienwa Davis, Mannie Govantes, C.J. Hicks; **North Farmington:** Garrett Fisk, Matt Russell, Kevin Miller, Courtney Drew, Jordan Russell; **Harrison:** Evan Doyle, Evan Hahn, Dan Leeb, Sultan Hubbard, Lido Zeli; **Garden City:** Kevin Allard.

COACH OF THE YEAR

Jim Stuef, Farmington Harrison

his individual accomplishments. He is also a 4.1 student and is involved in to many school activities to list. I feel wrestling has done a lot for Josh and will help be a successful young man in the near future."

Austin's overall career record is 136-64.

"The Austin family has been part of our program for several years now," Polk said. "Both Josh and his brother (Jeremiah) were the two most gifted athletes I have ever coached. I am very proud of Josh sticking with wrestling when he really wanted to be a basketball player as a ninth grader - and he was very good, too."

Laith Francis, Sr., Luth. Westland (125): The senior, who finished 52-7 overall, earned a third-place finish in the Division 4 state finals after runner-up showings at both the district and regional.

Francis captured invitational titles at Rochester Hills Lutheran

Northwest, Garden City, Madison Heights Bishop Foley (where he was MVP) and Romulus Summit Academy. He was also runner-up at the Observerland Invitational.

With a career record of 152-51, Francis also holds the school record for takedowns.

"I've very rarely have seen a wrestler with Laith's dedication and love for the sport," Lutheran Westland coach Joseph Schmidt said. "He was one of the hardest working kids I've ever coached. Laith often commented, 'Wrestling is life' and his actions supported his claim. I wish I could have 14 Laith's every year."

Anthony Pavlich, Sr., Westland Glenn (130): The Division 1 state champion posted a season record of 61-3.

Pavlich was also district, regional, KLAAs, Observerland and Wayne County Invitational champion.

"Anthony has showed dedication to the sport of wrestling sense sixth grade competing year round," Polk said. "He committed himself to the sport and our program and is walking away with the first state title that John Glenn has had in 17 years. It was nice to see that Anthony was ready and confident going into his final match at the Palace.

Pavlich's career mark is 176-33. "Anthony has been on the big stage three times medaling all three years," Polk said. "He now holds the all-time win record and all-time pin record at Glenn. All his time and hard work came together in the end and he accomplished his goal. He plans on wrestling in college, but is undecided where at this time."

James Roberts, Jr., Farm. Harrison (135): Roberts compiled a record of 44-11 the past season and is 63-28 in his two years as a varsity wrestler. He is a two-time regional qualifier in Division 2. He was the runner-up at the Lakeland and Observerland meets, and he was a finalist in the OAA White and district tournaments.

"James is a hard-working athlete who continues to get better each time he steps on the mat," coach Jim Stuef said. "He is doing all the right things in the off season to reach his goal of being an all-state wrestler. Wrestling freestyle and Greco will make James a better wrestler come next winter. Our kids at Harrison are going to surprise people, because a large group, including James, know mat time is the key to creating good wrestling habits and they're willing to do what it takes to get better."

Donnie Watkins, Sr., Canton (140): Whether Watkins wrestles next season at the University of Michigan or somewhere else, he'll bring an outstanding high school career and desire to be an All-American in the NCAA to the table.

Watkins tallied a 55-4 record and accumulated more than 200 career victories to be, according to Mancuso, "one of the best wrestlers to have ever suited up for the Canton Chiefs wrestling team."

The four-time state placer capped off his brilliant career with a third-place finish at 140 at the Division 1 individual state finals. He won twice before falling 10-2 in a major decision to eventual champion Matt Dietz of Clarkston.

"He was disappointed that he was not able to finish his career as a state champion," Mancuso said. "But being a four-time state placer is a great accomplishment."

Mike Johnson, Sr., Westland Glenn (145): The senior was a state qualifier after finishing second at the regional and first at the district.

Johnson finished the year at 37-26 overall. He also placed second at Observerland and third at both the Wayne County and KLAAs tournaments.

"Mike will be missed tremendously on this team," Polk said. "Even though he wasn't the star of the team each week with the group we had, he was the best leader on the team. Mike only wrestled three years in high school and is an example of what you can accomplish if you work hard and dedicate yourself."

"He definitely peaked at the right time going 18-5 his last 23 matches only losing to four state placers (state champ twice) and one other qualifier."

Johnson's career mark is 59-46. "Mike is the type of kid that would do whatever the coaches say," Polk said. "It didn't matter what weight class, who his opponent was, or where the next match was. Mike was always the first one to volunteer. We are very proud Mike helped his team to two Final eight appearances, we couldn't have done it without Mike placing his heart on the line each time he stepped into the circle."

Brent Winekoff, Sr., Canton (152): A three-time D1 state placer, Winekoff finished 60-1 for the season - No. 2 in the state for his weight class.

Winekoff, like Watkins, amassed more than 200 career wins as the 1-2 duo helped the Chiefs to plenty of team success.

At the individual finals, Winekoff earned a silver medal for the runner-up spot. His only loss of the season came in the

final against East Kentwood's Deshawn Nelson (in a close 7-6 decision).

Although just falling short of the ultimate goal for a high school wrestler, Mancuso sees big things for him at Eastern Michigan University.

"The great thing for Brent is that he is going on to wrestle at college where he will set new goals for himself and have the opportunity to reach them," the coach said.

Winekoff was Observerland champion at 160 in late January. **Keith Zech, Sr., Canton (160):** The three-sport athlete finished seventh at the D1 individual finals to place for the first time, ending his high school career strong.

Zech, who went 49-11 for the season, won 5-1 over Oxford's A.J. Logan and prevailed 3-1 in overtime over Dearborn's Dino Berri.

"Our goal for Zech this year was to get him on the podium and that is what we were able to accomplish," noted Mancuso.

Another highlight for Zech was winning the Observerland Invitational, although in the 171 weight division.

Despite his wrestling talent, Zech plans to run track and field next year at Central Michigan University.

Kevin Beazley, Soph., Farm. Harrison (160): Beazley, who finished seventh in the Division 2 state meet, was 53-7, setting a school record for wins, and is 99-14 in his high school career. He is a two-time state qualifier and league champion; he also has won two titles at the Berkley and Lakeland invitationals.

Beazley was the runner-up and the MVW in the upper weights at the Observerland tournament. Beazley owns school records for single-season wins, pins (35) and takedowns (197).

"Kevin loves every part of the sport, competing in three types - folkstyle, freestyle and Greco," coach Jim Stuef said. "He's also a wealth of knowledge, knowing who is tops across the nation, and he's a true fan, cheering on his collegiate favorites. Kevin will continue to get better because of his hard work and dedication to his favorite sport, wrestling. The sky is the limit; Kevin could win the state next year, and he will be ready for that challenge."

Curtis Castleberry, Sr., Liv. Churchill (171): The senior captain, who went 51-8 this season, was a state qualifier for the Chargers after earning runner-up finishes at both the district and the regional tournaments.

Castleberry also placed runner-up at the Observerland Invitational and KLAAs Tournament. He was the Livonia City Meet champion.

"He just one of those kids, from his freshman year until now, that wrestled two weight classes above the weight classes where he, never complained about it. Because we were so young he did what was needed for the team."

Anthony Abro, Jr., Canton (189): Another Chief to make all-state status, Abro held his own with a 62-4 record and finished fourth at the D1 state meet.

The Canton co-captain, who is a Greco All-American, battled to defeat Southgate Anderson's

Tomas Gomez by one point after trailing by three points with six seconds left in the match.

Mancuso praised Abro for wrestling hard to find his way onto the podium "when it looked like he was beaten in the blood round."

Ben Poirier, Jr., Canton (215): The junior three-sport athlete finished 47-17 in a breakout season, highlighted by a trip to the D1 individual finals.

Despite not earning a victory at the Palace, Mancuso said it was "a great accomplishment" for Poirier to get that far after not making it out of districts the previous year.

"He went from having a losing record last season to being a state qualifier this season," noted the coach, adding that Poirier's confidence should be very strong as a senior.

Dustin Gajowiak, Sr., Westland Glenn (285): The senior, who posted a 58-10 record, placed fourth at the Division 1 state finals after taking fifth as a junior.

Gajowiak was Observerland champion, runner-up at the CC Invitational and took thirds at the regional, district and KLAAs tournaments.

"Dustin is the most accomplished heavyweight wrestler in Glenn history," Polk said. "He had a great career. The top five guys in his weight class were all within a point of each other with no clear front runner. His goal was to win it all, but he should be happy that he gave it his all and battled with a very competitive group at the Palace."

Gajowiak's career mark was 141-41.

"Dustin came a long way over four years," Polk said. "His freshman year he was the third- or fourth-string heavyweight in his class. Due to his hard work he outlasted them all as they dropped off the team because wrestling was too hard for them. He is a perfect example of what can happen if you work hard and stick with this sport. Dustin plans to wrestle or play football in college. He is undecided at this point."

COACH OF THE YEAR

Jim Stuef, Farm. Harrison: Stuef, who was selected for the honor by his fellow area coaches, has overseen the continued rise of the Harrison program that was nearly eliminated due to a lack of participation a decade ago. The Hawks have done very well the past two seasons. They were 21-7 in dual meets and OAA White Division runners-up this year. Harrison is 40-15 the past two years with OAA Blue Division and Division 2 district titles last year. Stuef is a product of Hazel Park High School where he wrestled for coaches Frank Stagg and Bob Morrill.

"I owe my love of teaching and coaching to men like them whom God placed in my life and, without their guidance, I would not be here," Stuef said. "God continues to bless me by bringing (assistant coach) Dave Beazley into my life and rekindling my love for wrestling. This season we had our first individual all-stater (Kevin Beazley) since 1985, and we have a great group of kids returning next season. Wrestling is alive and well in all of Farmington's high schools."

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SOAP BOX

FROM PAGE B1

and I do every race for him now."

Samantha nodded her head when asked if Zinda'd be proud of her continuing accomplishments. "I think he would be, I wish he was still here to see this."

Only five months after Zinda's death, Samantha finished first in the regional qualifying race over Thanksgiving weekend in North Carolina. That showing helped her become '09's runner-up NDR point getter.

The success that weekend gave Samantha an appetite for even more, and her dad (or mom, Cathy, for that matter) isn't about to discourage such determination.

"She's been the second-place kid, the third-place kid more times than she can count, but she kept her eye on the ball," Jim Howell said. "We're always told, if you want to be the best you have to beat the best."

KEEP GOING

According to Howell, his daughter needed to best a two-time national champion and a world champion to win the regional race.

"When she did that, one of the directors said 'Don't stop her now because she just joined the circle,'" Howell recalled. "And it's a tight circle, the top 10-15 drivers in the country."

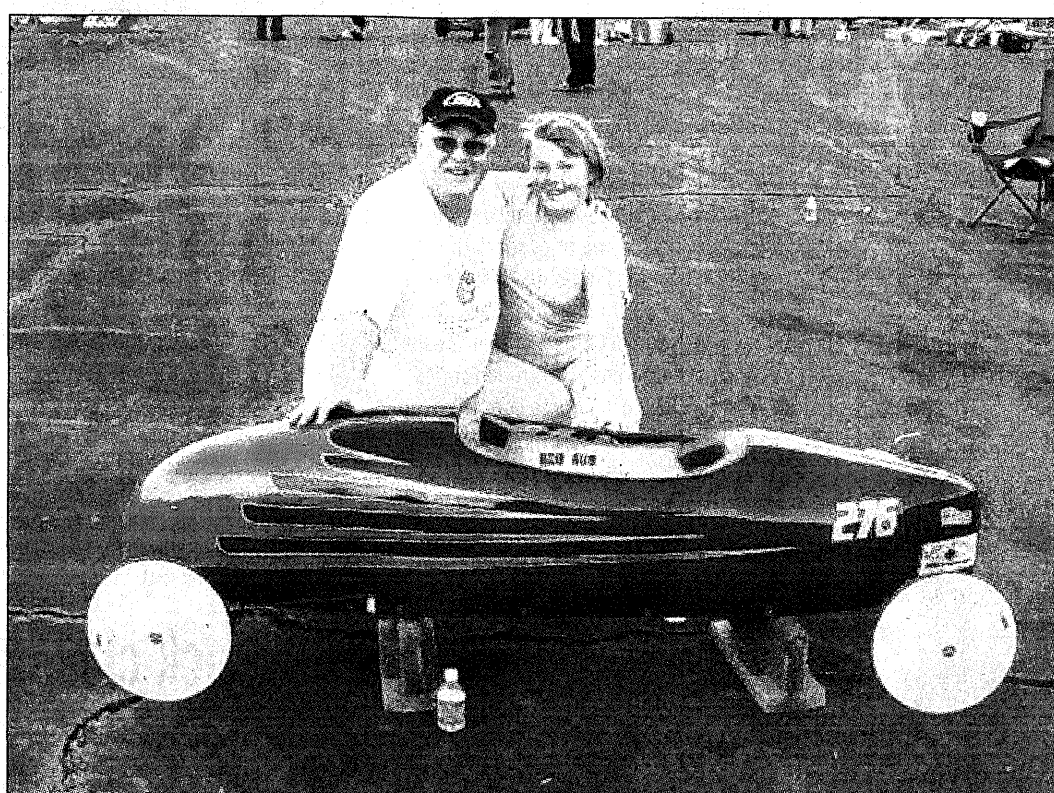
But it's not only about being a champion, or setting a big goal at the end of a 1,000-foot lane (the length of a soap box derby track) and knocking it down.

It's done with precision and gravity, with the driver almost folded in half at the bottom of the car to stay as low as possible — giving aerodynamics a chance to work.

"The lower you are you have a better chance of winning because less wind is hitting you to slow you down," said Samantha, with maturity in her voice that belies her age.

Jim chimed in with a smile. "The joke is head down, eyes up."

Samantha loves being able to do something with her dad, who in turn would rather drive all over the Midwest to another



For Canton's Jim Howell and his 12-year-old daughter Samantha, going around to soap box derby events is a fun, bonding experience.



Samantha Howell of Canton happily poses with some of the many trophies she's earned in soap box derby.

er race than sit in the bleachers at a soccer game (a sport Samantha used to play).

"It's gone from a fun thing I could do once in a while to this thing I have to do," she said.

"It's just part of my life now, it's becoming a regular thing for me and my dad to go do.

"It's easier if I'm connected to him to talk about stuff, ... instead of barely even knowing my dad in the sort of ways

I know him now."

Jim Howell seemingly looks forward to the road trips as much as his daughter does.

"It's riding for 12 hours in the car on a Friday night to get to the race in Iowa or North Carolina, or (riding) four hours over to Cleveland or down to Akron," he said. "It's getting up at 5:30 in the morning to go race up in Saginaw on a Saturday

morning. "... It's a fun ride. We've enjoyed it. We've met a lot of people from across the country. She's got friends all over the place that she trades messages with on Facebook and text messages."

FOCUS IS KEY

Samantha is absorbed with soap box derby now, but her interest started almost by acci-

dent a few years back.

"Her older brother (Josh) and I had gone to the Detroit Autorama and we saw their booth," said Jim. "And I came home, we were looking at the stuff online."

Samantha interjected that "And then I came in and said 'Oh, cool.' It really sounded cool to be racing and doing other things than I usually do, like ballet and jazz dance."

Before long, she was committed to the sport, assembling her car (with plenty of help from Jim) and even having it get spruced up by Canton High School's body shop class.

Now it's tunnel vision for the sport, but that's appropriate because intense focus is a prerequisite. Any distraction, even sweaty hands on the wheel, can be costly on the downhill path from start to finish.

"(You) pay attention to your lane and your lane only," Samantha said. "It's pretty much drag racing ... for kids."

The fast lane isn't so bad after all.

For more information, go to the Web sites for NDR (www.ndr.org) or All-American Soap Box Derby (www.aasbd.org).

tsmith@hometownlife.com

Salem girls netters win at 'Midnight'

Playing well into the early morning hours Saturday, Salem's varsity girls tennis team won the third annual "Midnight Madness" round-robin doubles tournament at Huron Valley Tennis Club to launch the 2010 season.

The Rocks, coached by Lin Ware, topped the field at the four-team doubles quad with 15 points. Trailing in second with 12 points was Ann Arbor Gabriel Richard, followed by Plymouth-Canton Educational Park rivals Canton (9) and Plymouth (6).

Ware said the tournament is aptly named, considering how it started Friday at 8 p.m. and continued until 1:30 a.m. or so.

But his team displayed plenty of energy, winning gold medals (first place) at No. 2

GIRLS TENNIS

and No. 3 doubles. Salem's No. 2 tandem consisted of sophomores Anna Norman and Morgan Spencer, while seniors Ashley Davis and Rachel Norman comprised No. 3 doubles.

Salem also posted second-place finishes in four flights to nab silver medals for each. Those silver medal duos included: No. 1, senior Allie Carpenter and junior Kerry MacDonald; No. 4, senior Alex Lamb and freshman Ashley Walker; No. 6, sophomore Bansari Patel and junior Ewa Zajac; and No. 7, juniors Emily Simmons and Lindsay Spaulding.

Each of the four schools played the other three at every flight, Ware said.

Lady Ocelots finish with win

Angela Burrell's 24-foot shot at the buzzer — a three-pointer — enabled the Schoolcraft College women's basketball team to edge Kankakee (Ill.) Community College, 69-66, in the third-place consolation game of the NJCAA Division II National Championships held Saturday in East Peoria, Ill.

Schoolcraft ends its season with a school-record 33 wins to go against just two losses.

All-Tournament pick Amber Avery led Schoolcraft with 24 points and 16 rebounds.

Jasmine Brown added 12 points off the bench, while Burrell and Emelda Chew added 10 apiece.

Burrell also chipped in with a team-high seven assists as the Lady Ocelots overcame a 33-31 halftime deficit.

Shakeeta Cotton had a team-high 17 points, but shot only 5-of-20 from the field, for

Kankakee (32-3).

Demetria Ward added 13 and 10 rebounds, while Lauren Link and Khassandra Brown contributed 11 points apiece for the Cavaliers.

Kankakee shot 33.3 percent from the floor (22-of-66) and 16-of-25 from the foul line (64 percent).

Schoolcraft connected on 26-of-63 shots from the field (41.3 percent) and 12-of-16 from the free throw line (75 percent).

The Lady Ocelots had the edge in rebounding, 45-44.

Kirkwood CC (Ia.), which eliminated Schoolcraft in Friday's semifinals, 58-44, defeated Patrick Henry (Va.) in Saturday's championship game hosted by Illinois Central CC, 62-52, earning its fourth consecutive national title.

Kirkwood defeated Schoolcraft in last year's national final.

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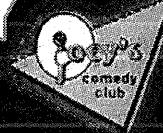
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Whalers find offense, even series

The Plymouth Whalers exploded for three unanswered goals in the second period to overcome a 1-0 deficit and the Whalers went on to defeat the Sault Ste. Marie Greyhounds, 5-2, in an Ontario Hockey League playoff game played Saturday before 2,743 at Compuware Arena.

The best-four-of-seven OHL Western Conference quarter-final series is tied at one game apiece, with games 3 and 4 set for next Tuesday and Wednesday at the Essar Centre in Sault Ste. Marie.

Plymouth received excellent offensive balance in the game, with first star Phil McRae, second star AJ Jenks and third star Tyler Seguin all scoring a goal and an assist. James Livingston and Joe Gaynor scored the other Plymouth goals.

Whalers goaltender Scott Wedgwood replaced starter Matt Hackett at the start of the second period and was also instrumental in the victory in stopping 11-of-12 shots over the final forty minutes.

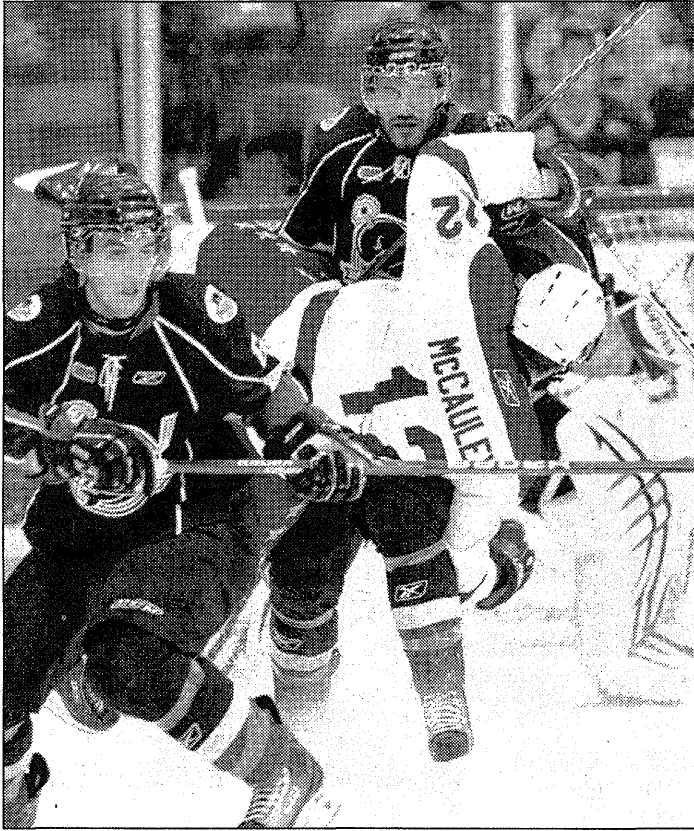
Jake Carrick and Vern Cooper scored for Sault Ste. Marie.

Carrick scored the only goal of the first period for the Soo, converting Brandon Archibald's shot from the right point in batting home the rebound past Hackett at 16:24.

Plymouth took the game over in the decisive second period, outshooting the 'Hounds, 21-5.

"We started to get a lot of shots and it was a matter of time before they started to go in," said McRae. "Finally, we were able to break them down and get a couple of goals."

McRae set up Livingston at 9:31 of second period to tie the game at 1-1. On the play, Livingston skated to the left circle in the Soo zone and roofed a back hand shot over the shoulder of Greyhounds



Sault Ste. Marie winger and ex-Whaler Myles McCauley goes flying in front of rugged Whalers blueliner Leo Jenner during Saturday's OHL playoff contest at Compuware Arena.

goaltender Robin Lehner.

"It was a great play by Livvy," McRae explained. "I just gave him the puck in the neutral zone and he beat two or three guys and was able to score."

Jenks gave the Whalers their first lead at 12:44 of the period when he skated into the Soo slot, cut to the left hash mark, faked forehand and stuffed a back hand past Lehner.

McRae scored top shelf from the severe angle at the right goal line at 19:00 of the period to give Plymouth a 3-1 lead - the first lead of more than one goal for either team in the series so far.

"We're just trying to get a lot of shots on him (Lehner) and get pucks to the net," McRae said. "We were just shooting

for the openings and tonight they just happened to be high on him."

Plymouth won many of the battles for pucks in the second period in building the 3-1 lead after forty minutes.

"We wanted to work extra hard for 'Wedge' (Scott Wedgwood)," McRae said. "He sat on the bench over the entire period and came in cold. So we wanted to help him out."

The only goal Wedgwood gave up was a strange one and cut the Plymouth lead to 3-2 in the third period, coming on a delayed call to Sault Ste. Marie defenseman Michael Quesnele when the puck was mishandled by the Whalers and the puck went over the goal line. The goal was credited to Vern Cooper at 12:44.

WHALERS ROMP IN GAME 3

Ryan Hayes scored two goals Tuesday night to spark the visiting Plymouth Whalers to an 8-1 triumph over Sault Ste. Marie in Game 3 of their Western Conference first-round series. Other Whalers to light the lamp included Leo Jenner, Jay Gilbert, Tyler Seguin, Garrett Meurs, Tyler Brown and Phil McRae (who also picked up three assists). Tallying a pair of helpers was AJ Jenks while netminders Matt Hackett and Scott Wedgwood combined to stop 31 of 32 shots. Plymouth, now leading 2-1 in the series going into Wednesday night's Game 4, led 3-0 after one frame. Hayes scored both of his goals in that period, sandwiched around a power play tally by McRae.

After the Greyhounds cut the lead to 3-1 on a second period marker by Tomas Rachunek, the Whalers scored five unanswered goals the rest of the way.

But Plymouth came right back to lead 4-2 twenty seconds later on the power play when Seguin rifled a low shot from the left circle that deflected off a Soo stick and past Lehner at 13:04.

Lehner was pulled for an extra attacker in the final minute of regulation, but Seguin blocked a shot in the Plymouth slot and the puck pinballed to Gaynor, who scored on the empty net at 19:05.

Plymouth outshot the Soo, 48-26.

- The rest of the series shapes up like this:
 - Game 5 - Friday, March 26, 7 p.m. at Plymouth;
 - Game 6 - Sunday, March 28, 7 p.m. at Sault Ste. Marie (*);
 - Game 7 - Tuesday, March 30, 7 p.m. at Plymouth (*).



Players and coaches of the Redford Wolfpack are all smiles after skating their way to the Michigan Amateur Hockey Association Midget B State Championship Sunday in Burton. The Wolfpack claimed the top spot by icing the Livonia Flyers, 4-0.

Wolfpack claims Midget B crown

BY JIM TOTH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

There wasn't a hockey game this past season the Redford Wolfpack didn't feel it could win.

And for the most part, head coach Charles TenBroeck's young squad did just that as the Wolfpack, comprised of 15-17-year-olds, culminated a stellar season of play on the ice by winning the Michigan Amateur Hockey Association Midget B Championship Sunday with a 4-0 shellacking of the Livonia Flyers at Ice Mountain in Burton, Mich.

"We just have a lot of talented kids who have great passion for the sport and go out there and give it their all," said TenBroeck after watching the Wolfpack dominate their opponents over much of the season. "This was our first year together and we knew we had a talented group, but these kids just love to play hockey and they went out and really proved it."

Affiliated with the Redford Township Hockey Association, the 2010 campaign featured several highlights for the Wolfpack, who skated to an incredible 40-7-5 overall ledger and posted an overwhelming 318-116 edge in goals scored. At one point during the season, the Wolfpack strung together 19 consecutive victories.

The squad qualified for state tournament play by defeating the Berkley Brawlers 6-4 in the District Runner-up Tournament and made the most of their ensuing opportunity by chalking up five consecutive victories. The team's 6-3 triumph over Blue Water (Port Huron) in round one was followed by a similar 6-3 victory over Summit (Fraser) the next time out. A 6-4 decision over the Livonia Flyers placed the Wolfpack in the semifinal round where TenBroeck's skaters went on to drub Capital Center Pride (Lansing), 6-0.

That set up the showdown for state bragging rights with the Flyers who were no match this time as Brady Wenson of Livonia earned tournament MVP honors by depositing two goals and spearheading the shutout victory.

"We had good goalkeeping and our defense did a great job all season," TenBroeck said. "This team has a lot of attributes. Every kid can do something different than the next. We had a good balance of play on offense and defense and that made it difficult for our opponents to match us. The games we lost this year we

lost to teams that were older than us."

In addition to Wenson's heroics at tournament time, the Wolfpack received solid contributions throughout from forwards Rory MacLennan (Livonia), Daniel Blayaert (Canton), Derek Johnson (Livonia), Michael Lesinski (Canton), Joseph Holland (Livonia), Michael Taylor (Westland), Nicholas Wiecezorek (Livonia), Steven Smoltz (Livonia), Ryan Davis (Livonia), Gordon Sparks (Livonia), Justin Pingston (Plymouth), defensemen Justin TenBroeck (Livonia), Dakota Lucas (Redford), Michael Abdo (Livonia), Eric Gabriel (Bloomfield Village), David Smith (Westland), Jeremy Atkins (Livonia) and goalkeepers Justin Gizinski (Davidson) and Brandon Djuric (Livonia).

"Before the season started every kid wrote down three individual goals and three team goals," TenBroeck said. "My personal goal was for the team to get to the state tournament and, if we could reach that, I knew if we played our best we were the team to beat."

"We're built to do well at tournaments because we're so deep," said TenBroeck, who saw his skaters back up those words up by going a perfect 13-0 in the three tournaments they participated in. "We have so many goal scorers on this team and just had the right kids playing in the right positions. Every kid on the team did everything the coaches asked of him."

Johnson finished as the team's top offensive gun, compiling 100 points on 51 goals and 49 assists. Thirteen of his points were tallied during the five-game state tournament, including a goal and two assists in the deciding game.

Holland finished second on the team in goals with 37 and a total of nine players (MacLennan, Lesinski, Wiecezorek, Smoltz, Wenson, Sparks, Pingston) tallied 20 or more on the season.

Djuric and Gizinski combined to record nine shutouts in goal and were supported by a stifling defense that kept opponents' scoring chances to a minimum.

"The kids played like you wouldn't believe all year long," said Jim Blayaert, who served as an assistant coach on the squad, along with Doug Johnson. "In the tournament they played like a team and that was the biggest difference. They are just an extremely talented bunch of kids who love to play hockey."



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Contest is open to kids up to 18 years old.

MU swept by Ohio Dominican

The Madonna University women's softball team suffered its first double-header setback since March 14, 2009 on Saturday as host Ohio Dominican won both ends, 4-3, and 5-0.

Kaylee Crisp belted a 3-run homer in the bottom of the sixth inning to give the Panthers a one-run triumph in the opener.

MU's All-America pitcher Jess Irwin suffered her first loss in nine decisions, allowing four runs (two earned) on four hits. She struck out seven and walked four.

Rachael Kethe went 2-for-3 with an RBI, while Cat Sidor (Livonia Churchill) drove in the other run for MU.

Winning pitcher Erica Sutter (3-4) worked the first six innings, allowing just four hits and one earned run. Shana Etter got the save despite give up a run on two hits.

In the nightcap, Maria Staton (5-5) pitched a complete-game, four-hit shutout for the Panthers, who improved to 10-13 overall.

Losing pitcher Hallie Minch (Garden City) fell to 5-3 overall. She allowed four earned runs on seven hits and a walk.

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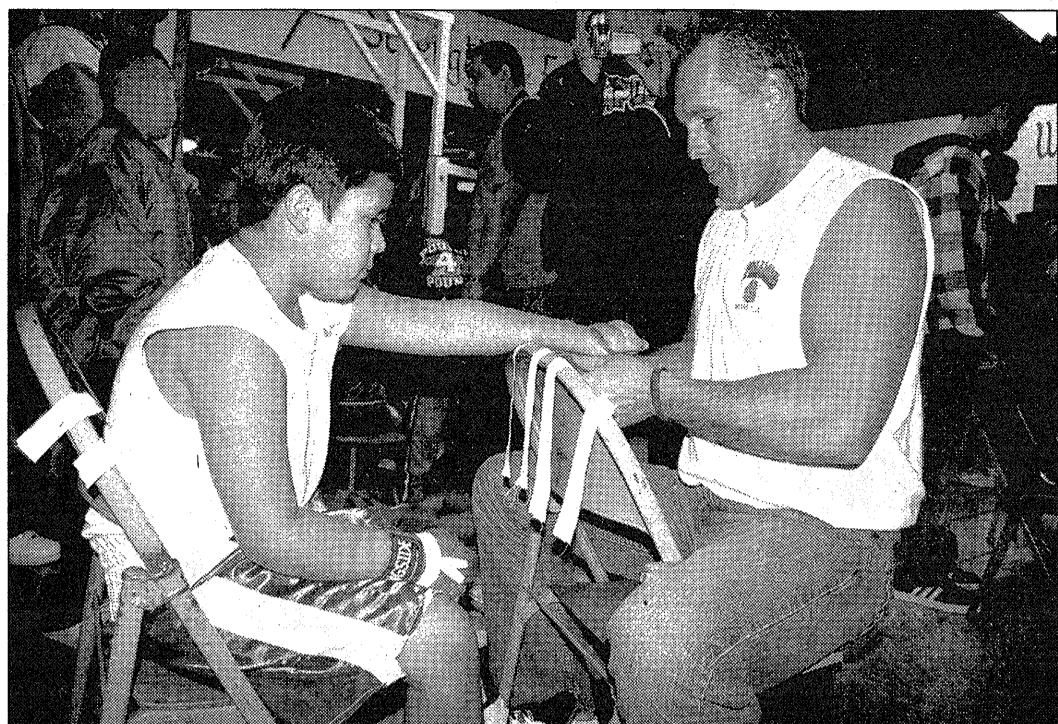
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Dynamic Boxing Club trainer Todd Vickers applies hand wraps to 7-year-old Julian Sierra before the recent Fight Night.

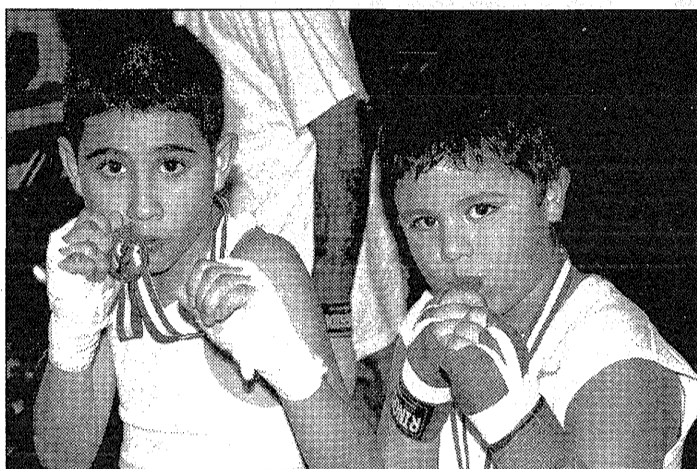
Here's Canton's 1-2 punch

It was "same bus, same school but different gyms" for young fighters Julian Sierra and Arnoldo Tostado last month at Dynamic Boxing Club's annual Fight Night before a packed crowd.

Julian, age 7, a second grader at Hoben Elementary in Canton who fights out of Westland's Dynamic Boxing Club, went toe-to-toe for three rounds against Hoben fourth-grader Arnoldo, age 9 — who competes out of the Warriors Boxing Club in Southwest Detroit. The schoolmates didn't know they'd be meeting up on Fight Night, largely because they go to the same school and the annual event pits top fighters from one facility against the other.

"Julian Sierra could not believe that not only was Arnoldo there but he would be his first opponent for his debut fight," said Fight Night spokesman John Cassar.

According to Cassar, it was a positive to see how kids



Arnoldo Tostado (left) and Julian Sierra, who both attend Hoben Elementary School in Canton, recently opposed each other at the annual Fight Night at Dynamic Boxing Club in Westland.

parlay discipline and teaching learned from dedicated trainers like Paul Soucy, Todd Vickers, Roger Coon and Chad Jaquillard.

"(They) should be commended for their time and hard work into these kids," Cassar continued. "Dynamic Boxing Club not only teaches boxing

lessons, but also touches (on) life lessons (such as) discipline, training and focusing on goals."

After such an experience, Julian and Arnoldo "now have a little more to talk about on their bus ride to school besides football, baseball and recess," added Cassar.

SMITH

FROM PAGE B1

KLAA Western Conference, then districts, regionals, state quarterfinals. Only Detroit Renaissance defeated Canton during the regular season, in overtime, and that was the very team that squashed the Chiefs' title quest.

As numbing as the conclusion of Friday's game was for the team and its "Reddy Zone" fans (many supporters of the boys basketball team, coached by Jimmy Reddy, cheered on the girls throughout the postseason), the disappointment and pain should subside over time.

Certainly, Canton seniors Lindsey Winters, Alyssa Cottrell, Yuki Krolicki and Kelly Larimore won't have another chance.

But much of the core of a 24-2 juggernaut team will be back, with the special postseason run tucked away in its collective back pocket. How about junior twin forwards Kari and Sara Schmitt? Don't forget Mack, who will only be a junior next season. Other returnees from Samulski's deep rotation with a Breslin encore in mind will be forwards Kayla Bridges, CarolAnn Sexauer and guard Melanie Pickert. All three will be seniors in 2010-11. Sophomore reserve guard Jesse Larner also will be back.

So will Samulski and a talented cast of assistant coaches led by the venerable Bob Blohm.

Those coaches will try to temper the girls' enthusiasm, reminding them about a little something called the regular season.

Don't fool yourself, though. It's a good bet that Canton's coaches also are secretly wishing next season was here already.

Tim Smith is sports editor of the Plymouth and Canton Observers. He can be reached at (313) 222-2637 or via e-mail at tsmith@hometownlife.com.



Hot stuff

The St. John Neumann Catholic Youth Organization Dragons No. 1 junior varsity boys basketball team recently won the 5th/6th Grade Division championship with a regular season record of 11-1. Members of the Dragons include: (front row) Jared Redman, Evan Voyles, Gavin McAuliffe, Jase Kochan and Pete Caravallah; (back row) Jacob Donnelly, Kenny Topolovec, Connor Wingate, Trevor Nowaske, and coaches Ryan Voyles, Ian Wingate, Brian Naszradi and Jim Nowaske.



Dragons did it

St. John Neumann in Canton had both Dragons Catholic Youth Organization boys basketball teams win their respective league titles. Pictured is the Dragons' No. 2 junior varsity squad, which won the 5th/6th Grade Division championship with a 9-0 regular season record. Members of the team include: (front row, from left) Corey Vitez, Corey Cremer, Aaron Garbarino, Isaac Emminger, Joseph Vespaziani and Ryan McAuliffe; (back row, from left) Danny Lanava, Nich Upshur, Brendan Doyle, Lou Baechler and coach Tim Baechler. Not pictured is coach Angelo Lanava.

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SOCIAL SECURITY

Many people are wrongly rejected when they apply for Social Security Disability benefits. Money was taken out of their paychecks for Social Security taxes to ensure that they would receive disability benefits if they could no longer work full-time. Sadly, the government denies approximately 60% of those who apply for disability benefits.

The tragedy is that less than half of those persons who are denied benefits file an appeal. Thus, many thousands of people who deserve benefits never receive them.

Those denied can appeal on their own, but statistics for many years reveal that those represented by attorneys win a much higher percentage of appeals. And attorneys who specialize in Social Security Disability cases win a much higher percentage yet.

Attorney J.B. Bieske has represented only Social Security Disability clients for over 20 years. That is the only type of law he practices. And, he personally meets with all clients and appears himself at all court hearings. Many large firms assign clients to young associate attorneys with much less experience.



In addition to practicing only Social Security Disability law Bieske has written a book for attorneys about the subject. He also has been interviewed on various radio and television programs and has given speeches to many groups. Bieske's office staff consists of paralegals and secretaries who are also highly experienced in assisting him with Social Security Disability cases. And they are extremely helpful in answering questions with regard to the status of clients' cases and administrative procedure.

Attorney Bieske welcomes you to call him to determine if you may be

eligible for these benefits. He offers free phone or office consultations. If Bieske represents you, there will be no fee charged until the case is won. The fee is a percentage of retroactive benefits.

In a recent radio interview attorney Bieske explained that many people are not even aware that they are eligible for Social Security Disability benefits. These are not the same as Workers' Compensation benefits. It is possible to receive both benefits at the same time. If you have an illness or injury (whether or not related to your work), are under 65 and unable to work full-time you may be eligible. Social Security Disability benefits are based on your work record or your deceased spouse's work record (Widow's/Widower's benefits).

Bieske represents clients from all over the state of Michigan. Call him at 1-800-331-3530 for a FREE consultation if you have been denied. Or if you are thinking of possibly applying for Social Security benefits call him for FREE advice.

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CHAMBER CHAT

Grill owner comes back and gets cookin'

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

Courthouse Grill: We have expanded our fine dining menu to include more family friendly dishes.

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

Courthouse Grill: Had the opportunity in 1983 to purchase an iconic restaurant.

Observer: Why did you choose Plymouth?

Courthouse Grill: Location of the Hillside Inn.

Observer: What makes your business unique?

Courthouse Grill: Seven private rooms and great food.

Observer: How has your business changed?

Courthouse Grill: I returned after having sold the restaurant in 2001.

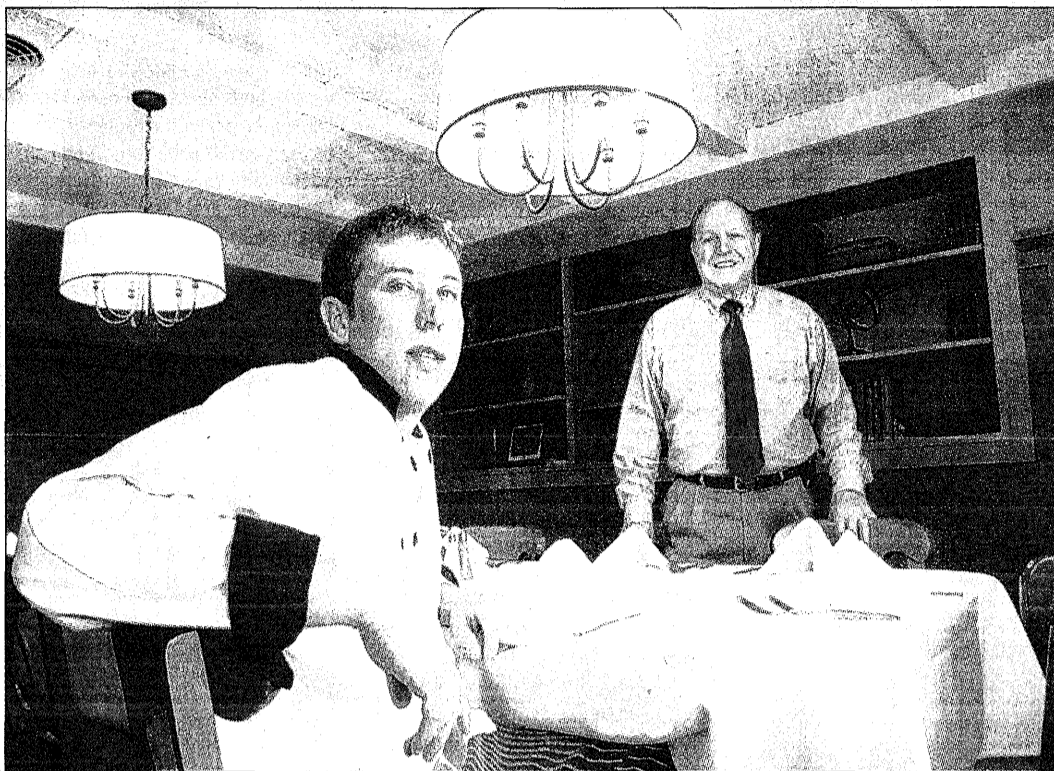
Observer: How has the economy affected your business?

Courthouse Grill: Yes, price sensitivity and strong competitors require us to sharpen our skills.

Observer: Do you have any advice for other business owners?

Courthouse Grill: Stay alert, stay flexible.

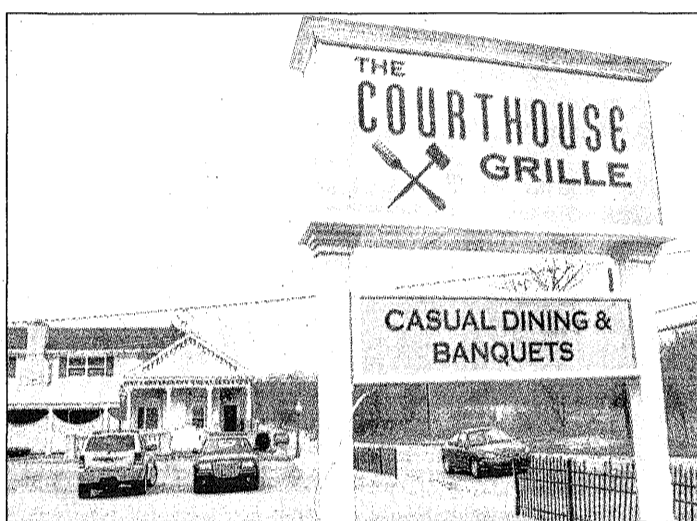
Observer: What does the future



Owner Sam Messina (right) and chef Casey Philo at The Courthouse Grille, located in the former Ernesto's near the 35th District Court.

hold for your business?

Courthouse Grill: Ready to launch an aggressive promotional program to let the community know of our changes.



The Courthouse Grille replaces Ernesto's, near the 35th District Court, in Plymouth.

PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

COURTHOUSE GRILL

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Your Hometown: Plymouth

Business Opened: Early 1900s as Hillside Inn

Number of Employees: 30

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BUSINESS BRIEFS

Massage anniversary

Healing Arts Massage hosts an open house April 1 to celebrate their 10-year anniversary at 383 Starkweather St. in Plymouth.

Formerly in the old Daisy Rifle Building, and prior to that in the Forest Place Shopping Center since 1987, Healing Arts Center has been massaging the Plymouth and surrounding communities for over 23 years.

Rather than the old notion that massage is just a luxury, business owner Celeste Hamilton reports that clients use massage as a healthy alternative for relief from stress, pain and fatigue in these tough economic times. Research has shown that many people recognize the benefits of massage therapy in relieving stress and pain without the side effects of pain-killing medications.

Due to the economic downturn, many people are reducing doctor visits and cutting down on medications to save money. However, expenditures for fitness and wellness are actually increasing, with consumers reporting that they are more willing to invest in getting healthy, according to Hamilton.

Healing Arts is a full-service massage and bodywork center offering a variety of personalized, affordable massage and bodywork modalities from qualified and experienced Nationally Certified Massage Therapists. Appointments are available mornings, afternoons and evenings, seven days a week.

The open house will offer the opportunity to experience several different massage and bodywork modalities for free or at a reduced cost. Healthy food and beverages will be provided, along with a raffle for free gift baskets. To reserve an appointment or for more information, call (734) 207-0557 or visit www.healingartsmassage.com.

Business connections

Bruce Webb and Kevin DeVoy, Coldwell Banker Preferred Realtors, host a "Business Connections Event" with local business professionals coming together for a good time and to network at the Plymouth Roc, 1020 Ann Arbor Road in Plymouth, 6-8 p.m. Thursday, March 25.

Those attending are encouraged to bring their networking ideas, business cards and brochures. Appetizers will be provided.

RSVP to Bruce Webb (bruce@brucewebb.com or (734) 392-6021) or Kevin DeVoy (kevindevoy@cbpreferred.com or (734) 392-6028).

Food drive

Downtown Plymouth is undergoing a Streetscape Project to improve the downtown Plymouth community. In conjunction with this, the Downtown Development Authority wants to support underprivileged families within the Plymouth community. In an effort to do so, the DDA is partnering with the Plymouth



Grand re-opening

Health and fitness expert Peter Nielson (left) helped Better Health manager Bobbie Henrie and operations manager Larry Best open the expanded Better Health Markets location in Plymouth Township. The grand reopening at 44427 Ann Arbor Road featured a ribbon-cutting event with in-store samples and give-aways. The market was recently expanded to 7,200 square feet and features more produce, deli meats, fresh and frozen foods, everyday groceries, beauty and cleaning products, and beer and wine. "We expect the newly expanded location to do quite well and are excited it is open," said Tedd Handelman, owner of Better Health Markets. For more information visit www.thebetterhealthstore.com.

Community United Way to collect food and supplies to donate to the Salvation Army Plymouth Corps.

Looking for downtown Plymouth businesses to participate, the DDA is encouraging downtown businesses to accept donations April 17 to May 17 of non-perishable items. This will afford donors the opportunity to walk the streets of Plymouth and explore downtown establishments. The DDA will provide a donation box that each owner is free to decorate.

Businesses interested in participating can contact the DDA.

Small-biz partners

Through a new partnership with the 14-campus Davenport University, members of the Small Business Association of Michigan and their employees (along with dependents) have the opportunity to further their education at a reduced rate. The SBAM/Davenport program offers 25 percent off tuition and waiving of the \$25 application fee.

For more information, go to www.sbam.org/davenport.

Davenport offers associates, bachelor's and master's degrees in business, technology and health programs - areas essential to Michigan's new economy. The university also offers a number of certificates to add to current credentials or prepare for certification exams. Campuses are conveniently located across Michigan and courses can be completed on campus or online.

Fourth Tuesdays

New Liberty Bank at 1333 W. Ann Arbor Road hosts casual information coffees on the fourth Tuesday of each month from 7:30-9 a.m. Join them for free coffee, donuts and their panel of experts who will be on hand to answer banking and financial questions. Registration is not necessary, just stop by.

New member directory

The chamber's new Membership Directory and Area Profile just arrived at the Chamber office. The directory is a high quality, full-color publication that serves as a first class, quality of life piece for the community and as our printed membership directory. Members are listed alphabetically and by business category.

The new guide incorporates our Plymouth Rocks community marketing campaign into the design and has the same appearance as our web site, street map and social networking sites. We are excited to now have another excellent marketing tool to promote this community as a great place to live, work and visit.

Directories will be mailed to all members during the first full week of April.

New Morning auction

New Morning School will hold their 34th annual live auction at Laurel Manor on March 27. The gala event includes a silent auction, seated dinner and open bar followed by the much-anticipated live auction. Items up for bid in the live event include a Red Wings Suite, a Malta Vacation, a Sunset Cruise for Eight, a Suite at The Palace to the event of your choice and an Extra Part in a Movie. More live auction items can be viewed at <http://tinyurl.com/NMSLiveAuction>.



Wes Graff

Money raised by the auction will help New Morning School to continue to provide an extraordinary learning environment where they nurture children to their full potential as critical thinkers, creative problem-solvers, and responsible citizens. Limited tickets are still available and may be purchased by contacting New Morning School at (734) 420-3331 or email auction@newmorningschool.com. Tickets are \$75. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. and dinner begins at 6:00 p.m.

Hazardous Waste Day

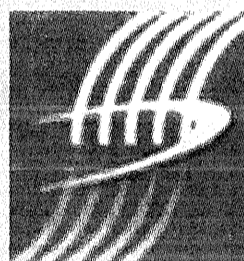
Wayne County will hold a household hazardous waste collection day on Saturday, March 27 at Redford Township Public Services (12200 Beech Daly Road). Acceptable items to dispose of include pesticides, fertilizers, automobile fluids, car batteries and electronic devices. For more information on computer equipment disposal read Guide 12 at www.plymouthwp.org/Departments/PublicServices/factsheets.htm.

Weekly Web site

To help members see other web sites in the community and get ideas they could use for their own sites, we will feature a different member's site each week. This week we are featuring the web site from Creatopia Pottery Studio: www.creatopiapottery.com.

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

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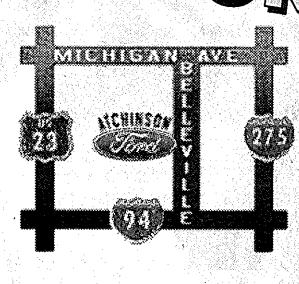
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ART

Lotus Arts Gallery

Location: 995 West Ann Arbor Trail, downtown Plymouth
Details: 3rd annual Michigan Local Artist Exhibit runs through March
Contact: (888) 889-4ART (toll free) or (734)453-5400

Northville Art House

Time/Date: April 2-24
Location: 215 W. Cady, Northville
Details: "Mudville USA," an installation by Eric Mesko; with reception and artist talk, 6-9 p.m., April 2
Coming up: Dollmaking class taught by Charlie Patricolo, 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., April 24-25. The two-day class costs \$100, along with a \$10 kit fee. Registration is available now
Contact: (248) 344-0497 or visit www.northvillearts.org

Village Theater at Cherry Hill

Time/Date: 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., Monday-Friday, through March 29
Location: 50400 Cherry Hill Road, Canton
Details: Works by Plymouth resident and self-taught artist Tony Roko on display
Contact: (734) 394-5300

AUDITIONS

University of Detroit Mercy

Time/Date: 7 p.m., March 29
Location: 4001 W. McNichols, Detroit; in Studio 164 in Reno Hall
Details: Non-equity auditions for the theater's 2010-2011, 40th season. Provide a recent headshot, resume and two monologues: one classical and one modern. RSVP at the theater's Facebook page; search "UDM Theatre Company" on Facebook
Contact: Greg Grobis at grobisg@udmercy.edu or at (313) 993-3273

COMEDY

Go Comedy!

Time/Date: Various show times Wednesdays thru Sundays
Location: 261 E. Nine Mile, Ferndale
Details: Improv most nights. Open mic/jam session show for improvisers is 10 p.m. Wednesdays
Contact: (248) 327-0575; www.gocomedy.net

JD's House of Comedy

Time/Date: Various show times Wednesday-Saturday evenings
Location: 25333 W. 12 Mile, inside Star Theatre complex, Southfield
Details: Stand-up shows, 8 p.m. Thursday and 8 p.m., 10:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday; Apollo amateur night, 8 p.m. Wednesday
Contact: (248) 348-2420 or www.ticketmaster.com



Mudville USA by Eric Mesko opens April 2 at Northville Art House.

Joey's Comedy Club of Livonia

Time/Date: 8 p.m. Mondays, Open Mic; 8 p.m. Tuesdays, Local Legends; 8 p.m. shows Wednesdays, Thursdays; 8 p.m. & 10:30 p.m. Fridays, Saturdays
Location: 36071 Plymouth Road, Livonia
Details: Myq Kaplan, through March 27
Contact: (734) 261-0555, www.kickerscomplex.com

Mark Ridley's Comedy Castle

Time/Date: 3rd Annual International Comedy Festival - Laugh Detroit, through March 27
Location: 269 E. Fourth, Royal Oak
Contact: (248) 542-9900, www.comedycastle.com

CONCERTS

The Ark

Time/Date: Altan, March 25; Paul Thorn, March 26; South Memphis String Band, March 27; Gemini, March 29; The Fabulous Thunderbirds, March 29; Celtic Crossroads, March 30; Bitch, March 31

Location: 316 South Main, Ann Arbor
Contact: (734) 763-8587; www.theark.org

Detroit Institute of Arts

Time/Date: Friday Night Live concerts, 7 and 8:30 p.m.
Location: 5200 Woodward Ave
Contact: (313) 833-7900, www.dia.org

JWH Center for the Arts

Time/Date: 6:15-6:45 p.m., open mic sign up; performances, 7 p.m.
Location: 774 N. Sheldon, Plymouth
Details: BaseLine Folk Society open mic is for acoustic, folk and traditional musicians. Admission is \$5. BaseLine Folk Society open mic runs every third Saturday of the month through May
Contact: Mike Mullen, founder, mjmmullen@yahoo.com

Magic Bag

Time/Dates: The Killer Flamingos, March 26; Bob Schneider with Steve Palmer, March 27; The Beggars record release, April 2; Bump, April 3; The Mega 80's, April 9, 17 and 24; Mackinac

Island's Last Waltz, April 10; Deadstring Brothers CD release, April 16; The 30th Anniversary Tour, An Evening with The Church, April 18; The Hard Lessons, April 23; Greensky Bluegrass, April 30
Location: 22920 Woodward, Ferndale
Contact: (248) 544-3030, www.themagicbag.com

Seligman Performing Arts Center

Time/Date: 8 p.m., March 27
Location: 22305 West 13 Mile, on the campus of Detroit Country Day School, Beverly Hills
Details: The Chamber Music Society of Detroit presents Steven Isserlis, on cello and Dénes Várjon, on piano, 8 p.m., March 27, in a program that consists of sonatas by composers Barber, Dohnanyi, Schumann and Chopin. Tickets range from \$43-\$75; students pay \$25
Coming up: Richard Goode on piano, 8 p.m., April 10; repertoire includes Bach, Haydn and Schumann. Tickets range from \$43-75; students pay \$25
Contact: (248) 855-6070

Trinity House Theater

Time/Date: Gemini, 8 p.m., March 27, tickets: \$15, \$12 for subscribers
Location: 38840 West Six Mile, Livonia
Contact: (734) 464-6302, www.trinityhouse.org

FAMILY

Bakers Keyboard Lounge

Time/Dates: 2-5 p.m. Sundays
Details: Jazz for Kids Program
Location: 20510 Livernois Ave., Detroit
Contact: (313) 345-6300, www.bakerskeyboard-lounge.com

Detroit Institute of Arts

Time/Dates: 2 p.m. Sundays
Details: Target Family Sundays, storytelling, performances, free with admission
Location: 5200 Woodward, Detroit
Contact: (313) 833-7900, www.dia.org

Detroit Zoo

Time/Date: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. through March; open 9 a.m.-5 p.m. beginning in April
Location: I-696 service drive and Woodward, Royal Oak
Details: Admission is \$11 for adults 15 to 61, \$9 for senior citizens 62 and older, and \$7 for children ages 2 to 14; children under 2 are free.
Coming up: Bunnyville, featuring treats, games, crafts, live entertainment and more, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., April 3. Bunnyville visitors who bring a canned or other non-perishable food item to be donated to Gleaners Community Food Bank will receive a reduced admission price of \$5, parking not included.
Contact: (248) 541-5717

Marquis Theatre

Time/Dates: 2:30 p.m. all shows; Saturday, March 27, April 10, 17, 24 and May 1; Monday-Friday, April 5-9; and Sunday, March 28, April 11,

18, 25 and May 2
Location: 135 E. Main, Northville
Details: "Peter Cottontail," tickets, \$8.50, ages 3 and up
Contact: (248) 349-8110, www.northvillemarquis-theatre.com

FILM

Penn Theatre

Time/Dates: "Up in the Air" 7 p.m. and 9:05 p.m., Friday-Saturday, March 26-27 and 5 p.m. and 7:05 p.m. Sunday, March 28
Location: 760 Pennington Ave., Plymouth
Details: \$3 admission
Contact: (734) 453-0870, www.penntheatre.com

Redford Theatre

Time/Date: 8 p.m. March 26 and 2 p.m. and 8 p.m., March 27
Location: 17360 Lahser, Detroit
Details: "Rio Bravo," with John Wayne, Dean Martin, Ricky Nelson and Walter Brennan, admission \$4
Coming up: "Spartacus," with Kirk Douglas, Laurence Olivier and Tony Curtis, 8 p.m. April 2 and 2 p.m. and 8 p.m., April 3
Contact: www.redfordtheatre.com

MUSEUMS

Cranbrook Institute of Science

Time/Date: "Artology: The Fusion of Art and Science at Cranbrook" showcases the work of artists whose creations intersect with science; through June 4
Location: 39221 Woodward, Bloomfield Hills
Contact: (248) 645-3200, <http://science.cranbrook.edu>

Detroit Science Center

Time/Date: "Black Holes" in the planetarium; "Accidental Mummies of Guanajuato" through April 11
Location: 5020 John R, Detroit
Contact: (313) 577-8400, www.detroitsscience-center.org

Greenfield Village

Time/Date: "Good Design: stories from Herman Miller" through April 25
Location: 20900 Oakwood Blvd., Dearborn
Details: The touring exhibition explores the problem-solving design process employed at the world-renowned West Michigan-based furniture company Herman Miller Inc. Developed in collaboration with the Muskegon Museum of Art, the exhibition draws upon The Henry Ford's Herman Miller Design Collection, a comprehensive archive of the company's innovative processes and products, most of which have never been on public view.
Contact: (313) 982-6001 or thehenryford.org

Please see **GET OUT!**, B9

Downtown Plymouth

March 27
 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Sponsored by the Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce



Diva Day

Bring your daughter, mother, sister, aunt, or friends!
 Just come and enjoy a day of shopping and pampering. Have lunch, dinner or just a drink! But have FUN!

Free Boas to the first 500 Divas

Many of the participating businesses will be donating a portion of their Diva sales to First Step Abuse and Violence Center. They will also be collecting much-needed items for the Center. For a donation wish list go to <http://www.firststep-mi.org/donate>.

PARTICIPATING SHOPS

All Dressed Up, Basket Kreations, Bella Mia, Brass & Iron Bed Shop & Gift Boutique, Candy Trail, Creatopia Pottery, Dearborn Jewelers, Gabriela's, Genuine Toy Co., Gigi's Mode, Hands on Leather, Home Sweet Home, Jill Andra Young Photography, Magnolia, Penniman Gallery, Plymouth Yoga Room, R.S.V.P., sideways, Sun & Snow, Sunny J's, Sweets 21, That's Awesome, TranquiliTea, Wilcox Consignment and Z-Place.

SALONS

Merle Norman and Salon 550

RESTAURANTS

1999 Tavern, 336 Main, Compari's, E.G. Nicks, Ironwood Grill, Sean O'Callaghan's, The Rock Bar & Grill

Look the for yellow & turquoise balloons



Steven Isserlist will play cello March 27 at the Seligman Performing Arts Center, in Beverly Hills.

GET OUT!

FROM PAGE B8

Historic Greenmead

Location: 20501 Newburgh, Livonia
Contact: (248) 477-7375

Plymouth Historical Museum

Time/Dates: "Show and Tell Collectibles" exhibit, through June 13

Location: 155 S. Main, Plymouth

Coming up: Show and Tell! takes on a new dimension at the Plymouth Historical Museum when collectors display their collections and possibly sell an item or two. "Show and Tell... and Sell" Showcases will be held 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday, April 17, and May 15. The museum is still looking for collectors for these events. Details and an application can be found on the Museum's Web site at <http://www.plymouthhistory.org/Events.html>.

Contact: (734) 452-8940, www.plymouthhistory.org

THEATRE

Barefoot Productions

Time/Dates: May 7-9, 14-16 and 21-22

Details: "Steel Magnolias"

Location: 240 N. Main, Plymouth

Contact: (734) 582-9688; www.justgobarefoot.com

Comic Opera Guild

Time/Date: 8 p.m. Thursday-Saturday, April 8-10 and 2 p.m. Sunday, April 11

Location: 50400 Cherry Hill Road, Canton

Details: "Sally," a 1920 hit, tells the story of an orphan dishwasher who gets a chance to dance in the Ziegfield ballet. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$17 for senior citizens and youth, except on April 8 when all seats are \$15

Contact: Visit www.CantonVillageTheater.org and click on box office or call (734) 394-5460.

Inspire Theatre

Time/Dates: 7:30 p.m. March 26-27 and 3 p.m. Sunday, March 28

Location: Warren Road Church, 33445 Warren Road, Westland

Details: "Once Upon a Trunk," a musical comedy revue

Contact: (734) 751-7057

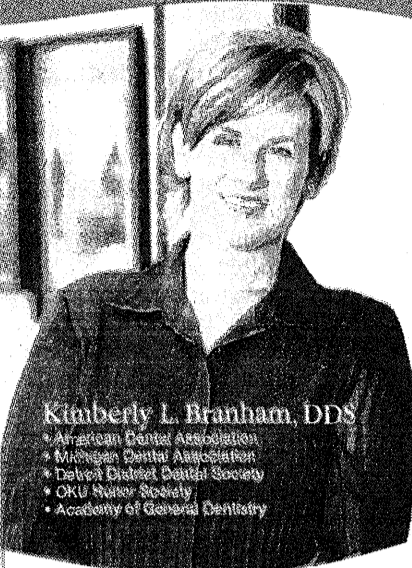
Oakland Community College

Time/Date: 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, March 26-27 and 2 p.m. Sunday, March 28

Location: The Orchard Ridge Campus, Orchard Lake Road, just south of I-696, Farmington Hills

Details: "Black Comedy," tells the story of a young man who tries to impress his fiancée's father while hilariously dealing with a power failure and the ensuing confusion among his invited and uninvited guests; tickets are \$8 general admission, \$5 for senior citizens

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Dr. Branham earned her doctorate from the University of Detroit Mercy School of Dentistry, and each year continues to study advanced dental techniques with some of the nation's foremost clinicians. She and her husband, Isaac, have been married ten years and have one son. They enjoy an active lifestyle and being involved in our local community.



Carl M. Mueller, DDS

• American Dental Association
• Michigan Dental Association
• Detroit District Dental Society
• Academy of General Dentistry
• American Academy of Orofacial Pain

Dr. Mueller is a Detroit native and earned his doctorate from the University of Detroit Mercy School of Dentistry. In addition to being a skilled general dentist and clinician, he is also an expert on TMJ (jaw joint) pain therapy and treatment.



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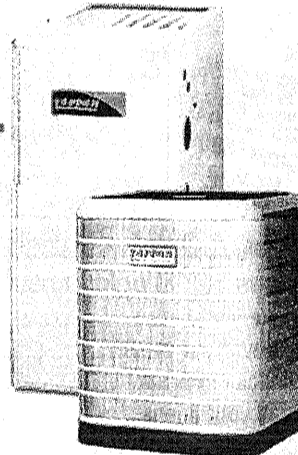
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Glowing wire brings puppet forms to life

Music Hall Center for the Performing Arts presents Darwin The Dinosaur, an innovative blackout theatre experience, 4 p.m., Sunday, April 18 featuring eye-popping, larger-than-life, glow-in-the-dark crayon drawing-like characters.

The story begins with Professor Henslow, a famous scientist with magic powers who is in the process of bringing to life his newest creation and dinosaur friend, Darwin. The story tells of Darwin's

experiences as he explores his new world, encountering many different types of creatures — Verla, the gangly ostrich; Peche, the beautiful fish; and Brutus, the menacing red dinosaur. In the end when Brutus threatens Professor Henslow, Darwin is forced to make a decision that ultimately, leads him to discover the true meaning of love.

Darwin The Dinosaur is performed in the dark, using bright electroluminescent

wire (EL wire) on costumes and inventive puppet forms. Electroluminescent wire is a thin, flexible copper wire coated in a phosphorescent substance that glows when AC current is applied to it. EL wire glows in a variety of different colors at a high efficiency — a few hundred feet of EL wire can run on two AA batteries for hours.

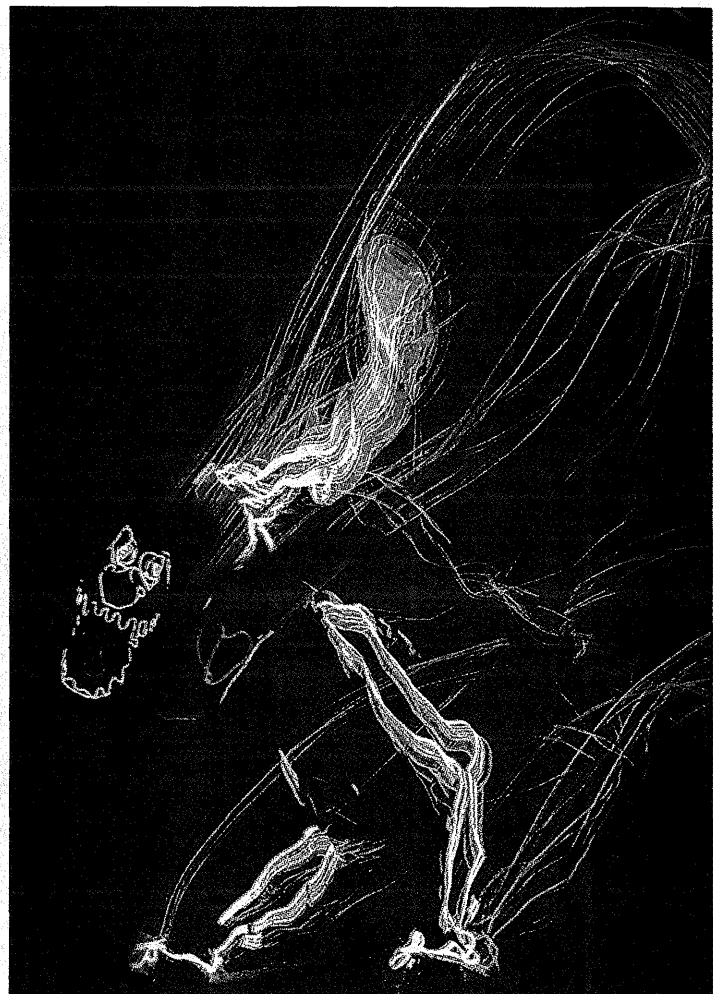
Through a unique combination of puppetry, dance, storytelling and technology, co-directors, co-creators and co-choreographers Ian Carney and Corbin Popp of CORBIAN Visual Arts and Dances strives to rethink conventional theatre. They originally met as dancers in Twyla Tharp's Broadway show, *Movin' Out*. They discovered their mutual love of art, theatre and technology, and created CORBIAN Visual Arts and Dance to develop puppetry-based creatures, educational workshops and original theatre.

The show is family-friendly and recommended for those

The show is family-friendly and recommended for those age 7 and up. Music Hall has extended its "Family Pack Deal," allowing two adults and two children to be admitted to the show for \$35. Individual tickets are \$7 per child and \$17 per adult and are available at Music Hall box office, or at www.ticketmaster.com.

age 7 and up. Music Hall has extended its "Family Pack Deal," allowing two adults and two children to be admitted to the show for \$35. Individual tickets are \$7 per child and \$17 per adult and are available at Music Hall box office, or at www.ticketmaster.com.

Music Hall is located at 350 Madison, Detroit. (313) 887-8500



Darwin the Dinosaur comes to Music Hall for the Performing Arts April 18.

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Kids: Get ready to rock at Parisian fashion show

BY SHARON DARGAY
O&E STAFF WRITER

Kids Day is a fashion show, rock concert, and clothing sale all rolled into one big event Saturday, March 27 at Parisian, in Laurel Park Place, Livonia.

"Kids Day is a semi-annual event that we do. We haven't done a fashion show in a few years. We opted to put one together. I think customers are excited that we're bringing the fashion show back," said Jill Engel, Parisian special events coordinator. The children's apparel sale — which

offers a 20 percent discount off the purchase of \$25 or more, a 25 percent discount off the purchase of \$50 or more and a 30 percent discount off the purchase of \$75 or more — runs Friday-Saturday, March 26-27.

The fashion show starts at noon in the mall. Approximately 50 youngsters will model spring fashions, holiday outfits and clothing for vacationing over spring break. "The models are children of our associates. Others are children of customers who shop in the store," Engel noted.

ROCKER MOMS

The Mydols, a rock band consisting of four musician-moms, will perform immediately following the fashion show. They'll play such songs as "Hula Twist," "Dinosaur Rock," and "Twinkle Twinkle Little Star" off their upcoming CD release, *Family Rules*.

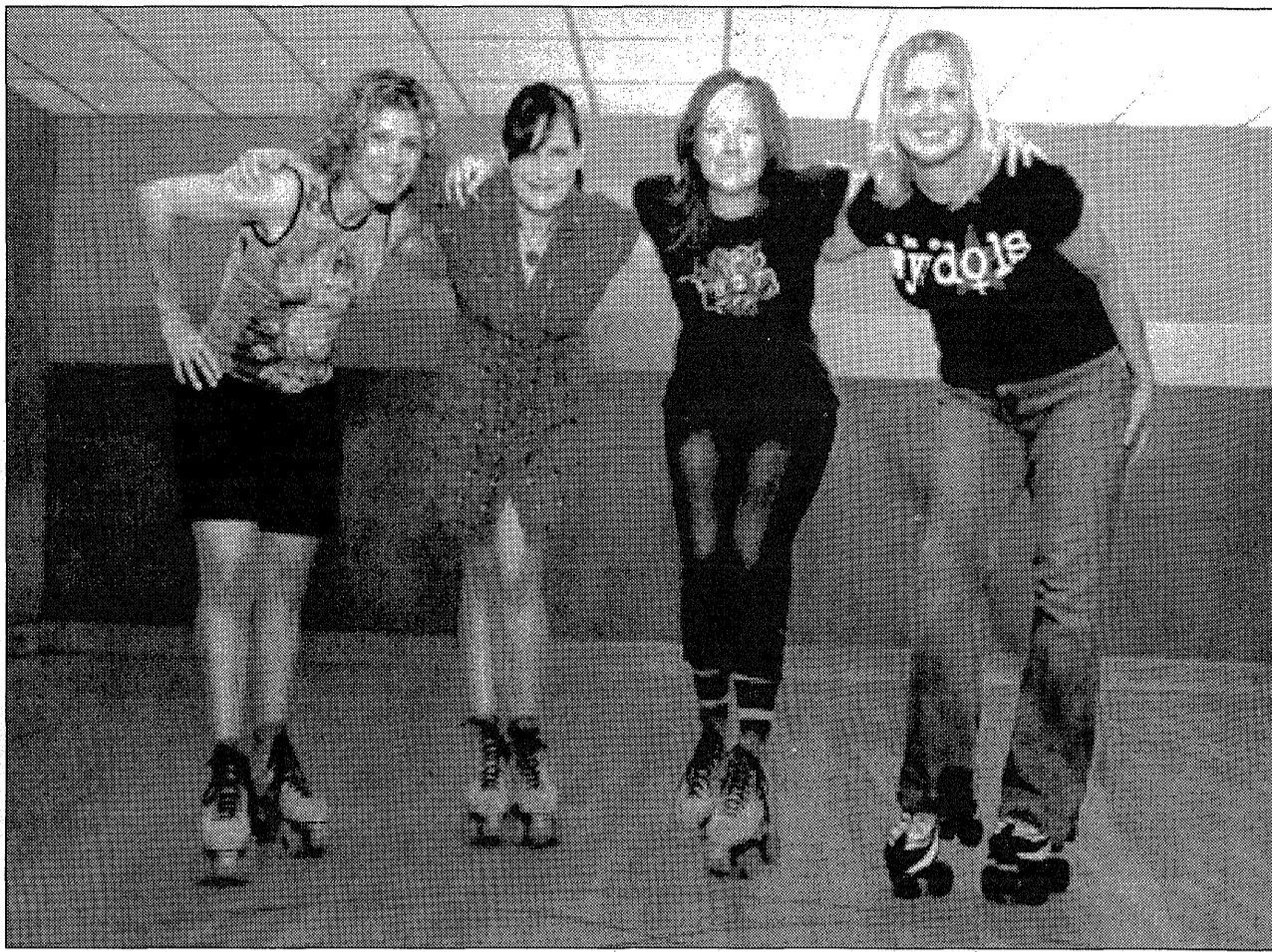
The Mydols previously released three CDs with rock music geared toward adults.

"For the longest time we viewed ourselves as a band for moms and in the last year we've started playing exclusively for mom and kids," said Mydols founder Judy Davids, of Royal Oak. The other members are April Boyle of Pleasant Ridge, Wensdy Von Buskirk of South Lyon and Laura Sperrn of Royal Oak.

"The sound of our band is more kid-friendly now. After years of playing in bars and getting home at 2 a.m., it's really nice to play music that kids and moms like and dads as well."

The group now plays in libraries, festivals and family events. The foursome also will appear in an upcoming episode of *Gene Simmons Family Jewels*, a reality show about the former KISS rocker on A&E TV.

"About five years ago we were in *People Magazine* and a kid working for MTV contacted us. He thought we would be a cool idea for a TV series. That kid went on to be the producer and director of *Family Jewels*," Davids explained their connection with the reality show.



The Mydols will perform at Kids Day at Parisian, in Laurel Park Place, Livonia.

FUN ACTIVITIES

In addition to the fashion show and the Mydols performance, Parisian will offer continuous activities from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the children's department. Participants include Michigan Youth Football, Indigo Salon and Day Spa, Max & Erma's Restaurant, Borders, D & M Art Studios, John Casablancas Modeling School, Tail Waggers USA and Pump it Up.

"There will be a football toss and Tail Waggers will set up a bowling lane," Engel said. "The art studio is from Canton and participated with us this past fall. The kids will be able to do an art project in the store."

Tail Waggers, an animal welfare organization from Livonia, will be on hand with a bowling game, promoting its annual fall bowl-a-thon, and will feature its pet cadet program for children.

Laura Zain, Tail Waggers' founder, said pet cadets get involved in animal welfare by raising money or collecting pet food for the organization.

"We encourage them to do something

for the organization's benefit, to help animals directly," she said. "We give everyone a membership card, put their name on it and Tail Waggers' phone number. If someone sees an act of cruelty they can comfortably call me."

Last week a youngster did. The Westland boy had seen other children shooting pellets at a dog chained to a fence.

"He had participated in one of our events. Bless his heart. He was nervous," said Zain, remembering the call.

"I went out there myself. The dog was chained to the fence. I spoke with the owners and let them know we'd check up on them."

For more about Kids Day at Parisian call (734) 953-7500.



Just in time for Easter, Parisian will show spring children's attire during a fashion show at Kids Day.



Looking for a casual outfit for spring break? The fashion show at Parisian during Kids Day will offer ideas for vacation, school and spring holiday attire.

Find thousands of used books, DVDs, CDs at Bookstock in Livonia

Metro Detroit's largest used book and media sale, with all proceeds benefitting literacy and education projects, will run Sunday-Sunday, April 18-25 at Laurel Park Place, located on Six Mile, east of I-275 in Livonia.

A true book lover's paradise, Bookstock will sell thousands of donated used books, DVDs, CDs, books on tape, magazines and records at bargain basement prices. Savvy shoppers and collectors can get first crack at the Bookstock Pre-Sale from 8:45 a.m.-1:45 p.m., Sunday, April 18. There is a \$10 admission charge for the Bookstock Pre-Sale only.

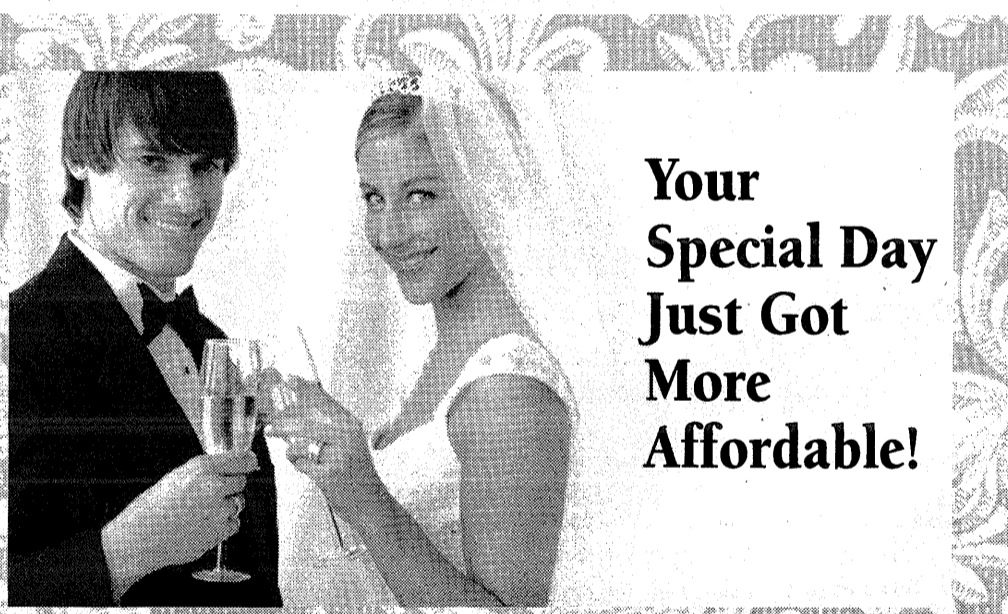
Bookstock runs noon-6 p.m. Sunday, and 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday-Saturday. Books will be sold at half-price on Sunday, April 25, the last day of the sale.

This year, Bookstock will host Celebrity Author Evenings, which will include the premiere of an exhibit by renowned photographer Linda Solomon, "Show Us Your Favorite Book in Photographs," that features snapshots by area students reflecting on what their favorite book means to them. The Celebrity Author Evenings will begin at 7 p.m. and will feature:

- Michael Rosenberg -- *War As They Knew It: Woody Hayes, Bo Schembechler and America in a Time of Unrest*, Monday, April 19
- Devin Scillian -- *Memoirs of a Goldfish*, Tuesday, April 20
- Linda Solomon -- The premiere of the photo exhibit "Show Us Your Favorite Books in Photographs," Wednesday, April 21
- Rochelle Riley -- *Raising a Parent: Lessons My Daughter Taught Me While We Grew Up Together*, Friday, April 23

Bookstock has generated nearly \$450,000 for literacy and education programs throughout Oakland County and Detroit over the past seven years. More than 600 volunteers work together throughout the year to organize and staff the weeklong Bookstock sale.

For more information about Bookstock, call the Bookstock hotline (248) 645-7840, ext. 365 or visit www.bookstock.info.



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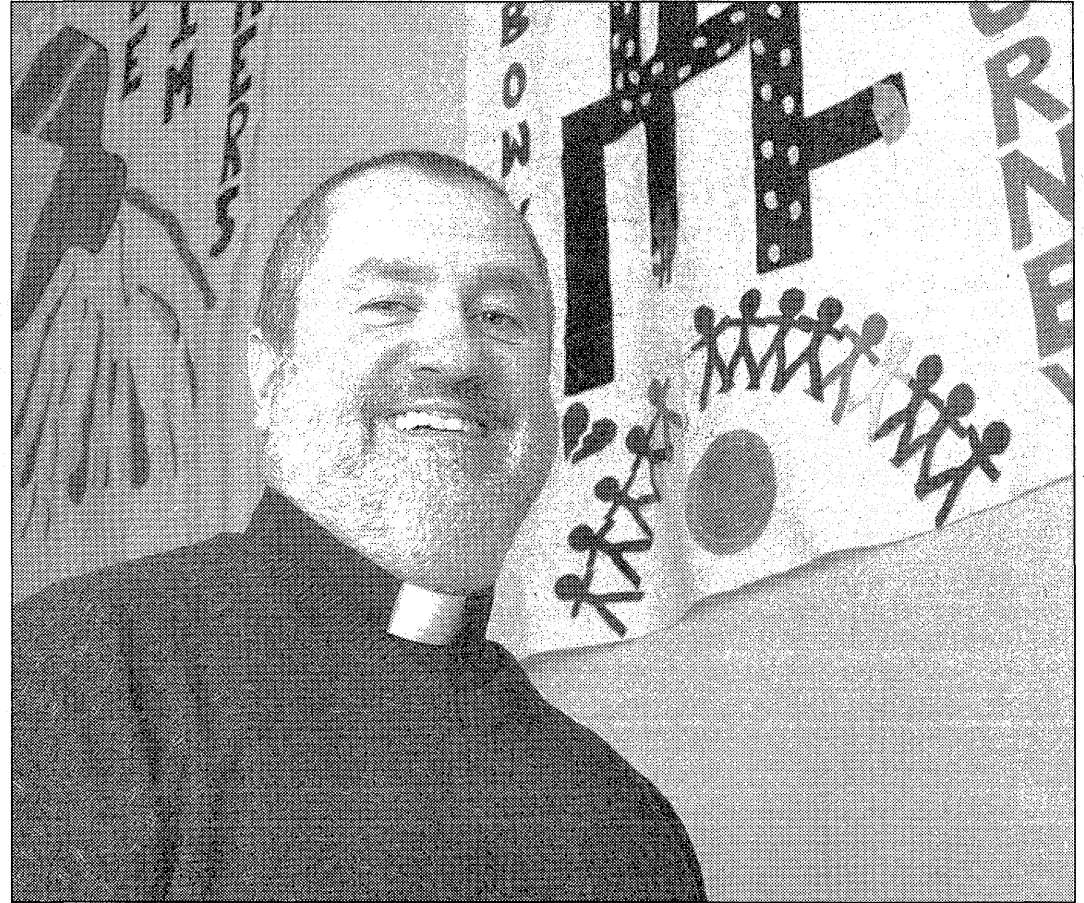
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Priest will start St. Colette assignment this summer

BY JULIE BROWN
O&E STAFF WRITER



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The Rev. Gary Michalik will be the new pastor at St. Colette, in Livonia.

The Rev. Gary Michalik is looking forward to serving as pastor at St. Colette Catholic Church in Livonia. He's been pastor at St. Theodore of Canterbury Catholic Church in Westland the last 12 years.

"I see it as an opportunity for new challenges, new ways of offering my ministry," said Michalik, whose successor at the Westland parish hasn't yet been announced. "Hopefully we'll know something around Easter" for St. Theodore's pastor.

He's been a priest for almost 30 years, having been ordained June 21, 1980. "I've had wonderful opportunities and met many wonderful people," he said of his years as a priest.

Michalik, 57, grew up in southwest Detroit, attending St. Andrew parish. "My parents were always actively involved in their church. For us, church was like a second home."

He considered a service-type career like teaching as a young man, but upon college graduation felt a call to the priesthood. Michalik, who will start July 2 at St. Colette, earned a bachelor of arts degree in religious studies from what's now the University of Detroit Mercy. He also earned a master of divinity degree from St. John's Seminary when it operated in Plymouth Township.

Michalik has a brother who lives with his wife in Livonia and worships at St. Aidan Catholic Church. The pastor also has a niece and her family in Redford as well as a nephew and his wife in Beverly Hills. Many cousins, aunts and uncles round out the family.

In his free time, Michalik enjoys live theater, movies, history, vacationing, dining out, and "being with family and friends."

READY TO SERVE

He's had a couple meetings with the Rev. Henry Roodbeen, who's retiring from his ministry at St. Colette, and with the St. Colette staff. The Livonia parish is a bit larger than his current parish, and Michalik looks forward to serving.

Priests are eligible for retirement at age 70, so he could finish up his work at St. Colette.

"Just the ministry of priesthood, but that's a lot right there," Michalik said of gifts he brings to the Livonia parish.

Roodbeen will miss the 40-year-old parish, where he's served for 16 years. He's been a priest for 35 years.

"The hard part is going to be leaving the people," said Roodbeen, who will move

'I see it as an opportunity for new challenges, new ways of offering my ministry.'

REV. GARY MICHALIK, coming to St. Colette Church

and also provides school supplies to Detroit students. Some women of the parish, upon learning that lightweight blankets were needed at night even in the tropics, began to sew such coverings for babies, children and adults. The women also use pillowcases to make dresses for girls.

"So they really have come forward in 16 years to respond to the poor," Roodbeen said. Hurricane Katrina and the more recent Haitian earthquake also found St. Colette worshippers responding generously.

Roodbeen leaves the parish in good hands. "He's going to have to be his own man," he said of Michalik, noting his experience at St. Theodore. "He's going to put his own stamp on the parish."

to Salem Township upon retirement. "It's the people I'm going to miss. They help you grow in your faith, too."

CHURCH OUTREACH

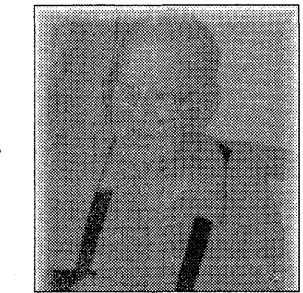
He's focused on teaching people about blessings. "We've done a lot of things for the poor," Roodbeen said. That includes building homes for poor people overseas and other foreign mission work.

St. Colette Church holds a monthly food drive for inner-city Detroit parishes,

Passages

Obituaries, Memorials & Remembrances

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FREDERICK R. BERRY

March 19, 2010. Age 91 of Plymouth. Loving husband of the late Shirley. Beloved father of Carl (Lucy) and Elaine (Tom) Goebel. Proud grandfather of five and great grandfather of ten. Funeral services were held Wed, March 24 at Vermeulen Funeral Home 46401 W Ann Arbor Rd., Plymouth. Mr. Berry was a long time member of the Plymouth Elks, the Plymouth Rock Masonic Lodge and the Scottish Rite Shriners. He was a retired engineer from Michigan Bell and a lifetime member of the "Pioneers". To share a memory, please visit vermeulenfuneralhome.com

DOLORES G. GRECH

Age 91, of Plymouth, formerly of Westland, died March 18, 2010 at Angela Hospice in Livonia where memorials may be made in her memory. Funeral services were held Saturday. Dolores was born February 5, 1919 in Malta the daughter of Joseph and Lucy (Azzopardi) Gatt. She married Joseph M. Grech in Detroit on October 2, 1937. She was formerly a custodial engineer with the Livonia schools. Preceding her in death were her parents, husband, and a brother, Manuel Gatt. Surviving are children, Rita (Bill) Bryant of Livonia, Tony (Pat) Grech of Roscommon and Phyllis (Norman) Tritten of Plymouth; eight grandchildren; 22 great-grandchildren; sister, Mary Gatt of Saline and a sister-in-law, Mary Cameron of Northville. Walsh Funeral Home, Roscommon 989-275-3600.

OBITUARY POLICY

The first five "billed" lines of an obituary are published at no cost. All additional lines will be charged at \$4 per line. You may place a picture of your loved one for an additional cost of only \$6. Symbolic emblems may be included at no cost (example: American Flags, religious symbols, etc.)

Deadlines:

Friday 4:15 PM for Sunday
Wednesday 9:45 AM for Thursday

Obituaries received after these deadlines will be placed in the next available issue.

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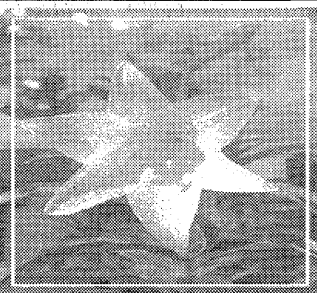
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Faith - Freedom-Fellowship

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For Information regarding this Directory, please call Donna Hart at 248-437-2011, Ext. 247 or e-mail: dhart@dnps.com



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Celebrate Easter with a bunny breakfast or brunch

If you want to spend more time with the family hunting for eggs than cooking them next weekend, consider making reservations now for Easter brunch on Sunday, April 4.

Or combine a visit with the Easter Bunny and other fun activities visit with breakfast.

Children can make a craft, watch clowns make balloon animals and see the Easter Bunny, all while also eating pancakes at Canton Leisure Services' annual bunny breakfast, 8-11 a.m., Saturday, March 27, at Summit on the Park, 46000 Summit Parkway, Canton.

Afterwards, they can join the hundreds of other kids and their parents at the free Eggstravaganza in Heritage Park.

"Registration doesn't fill up as quickly for this as it does for the Santa breakfast," said Jason Lombardo, recreation specialist. "There are still spots available, but we're trying to get a final count on Friday."

Lombardo encourages parents to sign up for the breakfast by Thursday, March 25, but said he'll likely take a few late registrations on early Friday morning.

He expects more than 200 individuals will register for the breakfast, which will include a buffet of breakfast pastries, pancake bar, sausage, juices, milk and coffee from 9-10 a.m.

No tickets will be sold at the door and children must be accompanied by an adult. All attendees must pay for admission.

Cost is \$15 for age 13 and up; \$10 for age 4-12 years; and \$3 for ages 3 and under. Register by calling (734) 394-5460.

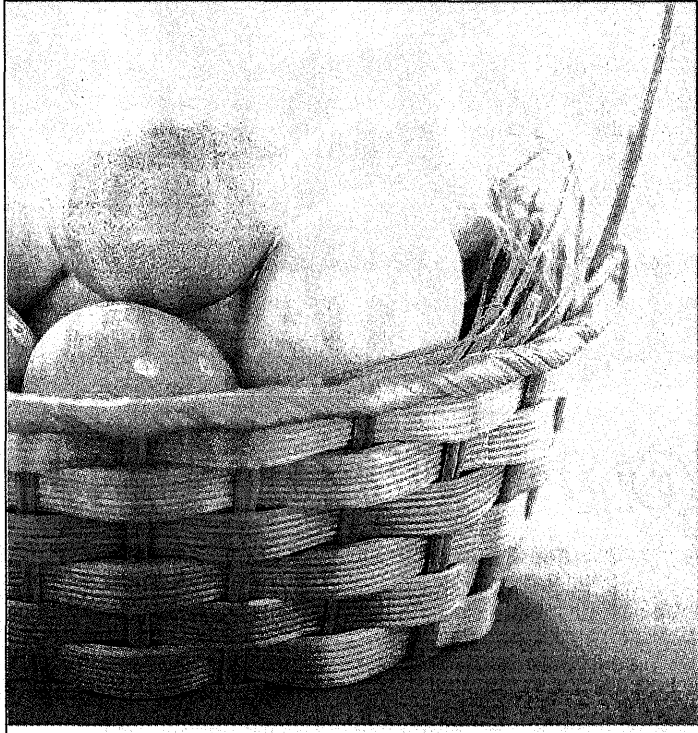
No registration is needed for the Eggstravaganza afterward.

"There are two different egg hunts and a craft outside as well. We'll have pony rides — at an additional cost — and a petting farm, and strolling characters," Lombardo noted.

Youngsters exchange the eggs they collect for a chocolate bunny.

"The kids have a blast. It's a feel good event."

The Eggstravaganza is free, but Canton Leisure Services suggests a \$5 donation per family to offset costs.



PLYMOUTH BREAKFAST

The Golden Fox at Fox Hills Golf and Banquet Center, located on N. Territorial, west of Goffredson, in Plymouth, also offers a bunny breakfast, 9 a.m.-noon, Saturday, April 3.

Tickets are \$17 per person, age 2 and up for a breakfast of Danish, blueberry and banana nut muffins; mini bagels with cream cheese, assorted doughnut holes and sliced pound cake, assorted sugar cereals with milk, fresh fruits, golden hash browns, golden silver dollar pancakes, banana bread, French toast without nuts, breakfast-style pizza, macaroni and cheese, omelet stations, waffle station, ice cream sundae bar, juices and hot chocolate.

The breakfast includes games, crafts, a helicopter egg drop and golf cart rides (weather permitting), and a visit by the Easter Bunny. Register online at www.foxhills.com; (734) 453-7272

AT THE MALL

The Livonia Jaycees sponsor a bunny breakfast from 9-10:30 a.m., Saturday, March 27 at Laurel Park Place, 37700 W. Six Mile, Livonia.

Leo's Coney Island will provide the breakfast of eggs, bacon, sausage, hash browns, juice, and coffee that will be served in the food court. Tickets are \$5 per person and include

breakfast, Easter activities, and giveaways. Space is limited to the first 200 people.

Tickets are available for sale at the Laurel Park Place Management office, the Livonia Chamber of Commerce offices, and Parkside Credit Union, located at Plymouth and Levan roads. Tickets will also be available at the door.

EASTER DAY BRUNCHES

•Andiamo Livonia, 38703 Seven Mile, Livonia, offers a brunch buffet from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. and dinner from 4-8 p.m. Cost is \$24.95 for adults, \$14.95 for kids, 5-10, and free for kids under 5. The menu includes an omelet station, carving station, breakfast specialties, gourmet dessert table, and classic Andiamo Italian fare. (734) 953-3200 for reservations.

•Hawthorne Valley Country Club, 7300 Merriman, Westland, serves breakfast items from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. and dinner items from 11 a.m.-5 p.m. The Easter Bunny will be on hand for the buffet, which will include scrambled eggs, bacon, sausage, hash browns, French toast sticks, biscuits and gravy, rolls, orange juice, carved top round of beef, baked chicken, ham, fish, Polish sausage, Valley Meatballs, Mostaccioli, whipped and sweet potatoes, vegetables, salads, fruits and sweets. Adults pay \$16.95; children, 10-4, pay

\$9.95 and age 3 and under eat for free. Register by calling (734) 422-3440 or online at www.hawthornevalley.com

• The Inn at St. John and 5ive Restaurant, 44045 5 Mile, Plymouth both offer special Easter fare.

The conference center at the Inn is taking reservations for seatings at 11 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. The buffet includes a pasta station, meat station, seafood, desserts, breakfast station, children's station and bread and cheese station. Cost is \$38 for adults, \$33 for senior citizens, age 62 and up, \$12 for children, 5-12 and free for children 4 and under. Make a reservation at (734) 414-0600.

5ive Restaurant will serve a plated brunch from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. The four-course meal includes such items as Ginger Pear Braised Beef Short Rib Wellington, Alaskan salmon, French Quarter Omelet, Butter Pecan Waffle, a vegetarian option and more. Cost is \$40 per person. Call (734) 357-5313 for reservations.

• Longacre House, 24705 Farmington Road, Farmington Hills, offers brunch beginning at 1 p.m. Cost is \$30 for adults, \$20 for children under 12 and free for those 3 and under. For an additional \$20 adults can play a round of 18 holes at Farmington Hills Golf Club after brunch, which will include a special order omelet station, carving station, dessert tables and more. Make reservations at (248) 477-8404.

• One Under Banquet Center, 35780 Five Mile, Livonia, has brunch seatings at 11 a.m., 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. The menu includes a carving station with ham and prime rib, chicken, pork roast, fish, tortellini, mashed potatoes, a vegetable medley, rice, salads, a made-to-order omelet station, desserts and more. Pop, coffee, juice and tea are included. Cost is \$18.99 for adults, \$13.99 for seniors, \$8.99 for children, 10-5 and free for ages 4 and under. All children, 4 and under, will receive a free coloring book and crayons. Make reservations by calling (734) 464-5555.

CITY BITES

Chili lovers

Livonia — Got a favorite chili recipe? Tail Waggers' USA challenges you to put your chili concoction up against other recipes in the Chili, Hoops & Hounds chili cook-off, 1 p.m., Sunday, March 27, at the UAW Local 182, 35603 Plymouth Road. The cook-off will benefit Tail Waggers', a Livonia-based animal welfare organization that not only rescues animals.

Cost of entering the cook-off is \$25. Participants will receive a signature Chili, Hoops & Hounds apron and a chance to win a prize. Grand prizes will be awarded in each of the three categories: red meat, white meat and vegetarian. The People's Choice Award, voted on by the general public, will be a Char-Broil Commercial Series 3-Burner Quantum LP Grill valued at \$399.

Chili cooks can register for the event by calling Marilu Reznik at (248) 231-2842 or by e-mailing her at tailwaggersusa@aol.com.

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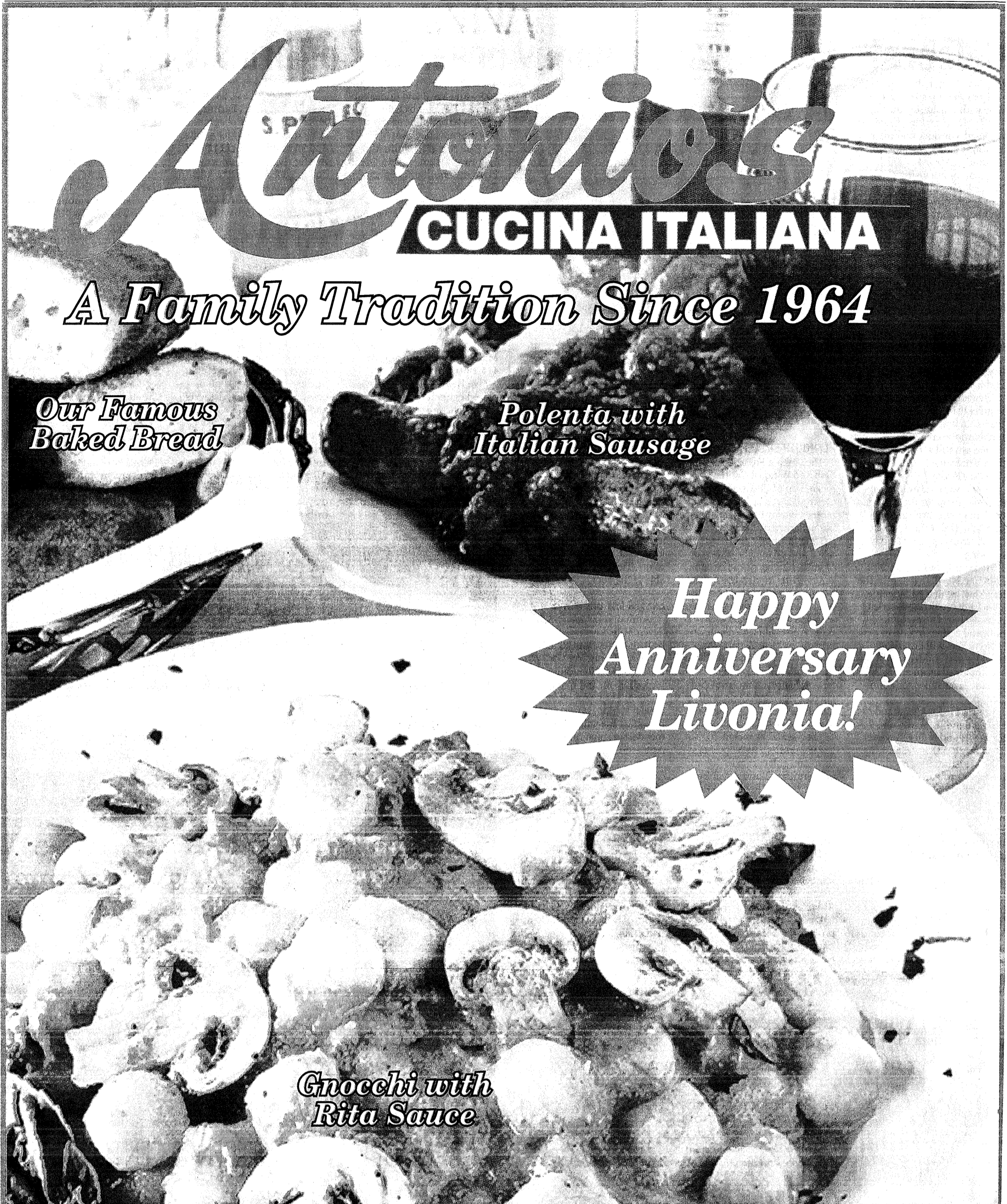
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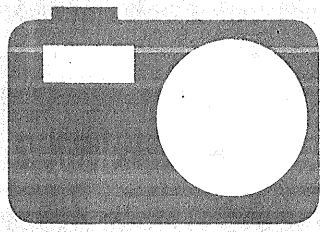


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Section C REAL ESTATE

THURSDAY, March 25, 2010

hometownlife.com

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

Spring great time to fix up home, pros agree

BY JULIE BROWN
O&E STAFF WRITER

Nicki Wilson of Interiors by Decorating Den was eager to answer questions at the Canton Home Improvement Expo.

The Pittsfield Township resident has had the business, which serves Canton, for 23 years. She does furniture, including upholstery, as well as custom window treatments.

Stopping by at the Summit Saturday, March 6, was Dianne Wilder of Canton. "A bunch of my friends are coming," said Wilder, part of a hand-crafts group that does Salvation Army volunteer work at the Summit. "I need a lot of work done on my house. It's 40 years old."

Wilder wanted a couple chairs reupholstered and Wilson was able to answer her questions. "My husband's probably interested in the insulation and that kind of thing," Wilder said.

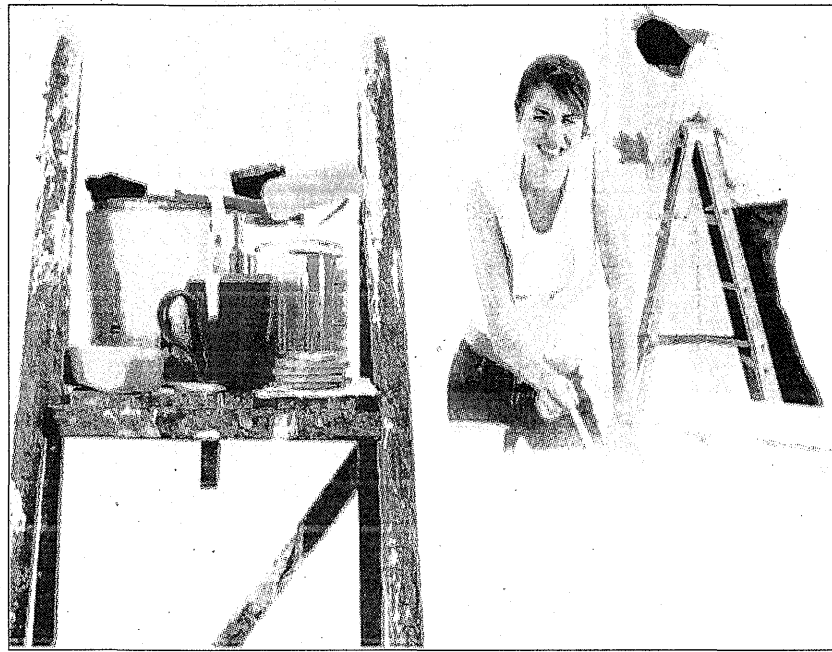
Wilson said, "Red is in. Purple is in. The primary colors are in." She was glad she came to the March 6-7 Expo, offered by Canton's Building and Inspection Services Division, the Canton Chamber of Commerce and the *Observer & Eccentric Newspapers*.

Wilson added bright colors are coming on strong for spring, and plum and brown remain popular. "More casual," she said of home interior looks. "Mixing old things and new things together."

Those "old" items can actually just look old, she said.

"It's a great opportunity to get your name out," she said of the Expo. Wilson finds business picks up in the spring when people want new looks. "They're tired of the winter, want to change things around."

Nearby was Will Cronkhite of Garden City, a staffer for Garden City's Town 'N' Country Hardware. He's been there almost six years.



"We're really busy with the paint area in the spring," he said, adding lawn and garden is also busy. Barbecue season is coming right about now. "Now it's starting to pick back up," he said of business at Town 'N' Country, in business nearly 53 years. "We don't blame anyone for watching their money."

He and colleague Aaron Bohns of Garden City were answering questions, including about the Weber grills they'd brought to the Summit. The aptly-named Summit line was represented by a stainless steel model, also available in other colors. "That's just the four-burner," Cronkhite said. "They make a six-burner also."

They had fire pits, a kettle grill, and a wood

burning stove. The stove has up to 30 percent or up to \$1,500 back as a tax credit, Cronkhite said.

"We sold a lot last year at the end of the year," he said, adding that business is still going strong.

Also among vendors at the ninth annual Expo were Jason Benward of Canton and Sam Stukel of Plymouth representing Horton Plumbing & Remodeling of Plymouth.

The men had brought a toilet, a tub with shower enclosure and even a running faucet. They also had a sump pump to display.

"Remodeling is huge," Benward said. "They're staying home and improving their houses which is where we come in."

People are spending on bathrooms, kitchens and basements. Some replace water heaters or sump pumps. Low-flow toilets are popular, Benward added.

Interiors by Decorating Den can be reached at (734) 528-2657, nicki@DecoratingDen.com, www.decdens.com/nickiwillson. It is an independently owned franchise.

Town 'N' Country Hardware, 27740 Ford Road, is on the north side of Ford between Middlebelt and Inkster in Garden City. It can be reached at (734) 422-2750, www.etownncountry.com. Horton Plumbing and Remodeling is at 1382 S. Main in Plymouth. It can be reached at (734) 455-3332, www.hortonplumbing.com.

Solar growth likely in future

Q: Our association is somewhat energy minded but hasn't got the money to deal with some of our plans concerning, for example, solar power. Do you have any information?

A: While you are always able to seek local financing,



Robert Meisner

I have been advised that at least one major bank in California will be kicking off a financing program specifically designed for community associations' solar energy projects this coming spring. The bank has been cultivating relationships with their appropriate contractors in anticipation. You may wish to contact the following e-mail site for more information: <http://msquire.wordpress.com/2009/11/14/solar-energy-for-community-associations-or-contact-your-local-legislator>.

Q: I am a condominium developer and have heard about a recent change in VA requirements as well as Fannie Mae requirements regarding condominium projects. Do you have any information?

A: Yes, effective Dec. 30, 2009, Fannie Mae will no longer accept FHA-approved condominium projects for conventional mortgage loans. Fannie Mae will continue to purchase FHA secured loans secured by condominium units located in an FHA approved project that are delivered with the project type code UFHA-Approved Project. Fannie Mae will require that all conventional mortgages secured by units in condominium projects meet Fannie Mae's project eligibility requirements. Also, the VA has announced its rescission of the VA policy regarding acceptance of HUD/FHA approvals of condominium projects. In addition, effective Dec. 7, 2009, the VA will no longer accept HUD/FHA condominium project appraisals in lieu of VA project review. However, condominiums previously accepted by VA, based upon HUD/FHA acceptance, will continue to be acceptable to VA. You are best advised to consult with your lawyer in terms of how it affects your project.

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.

HOMES SOLD-OAKLAND

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of December 7-11, 2009, at the Oakland County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

City	Address	Price	City	Address	Price	City	Address	Price
Auburn Hills	786 Amberwood St	\$139,000	Clarkston	6623 Andersonville Rd	\$90,000	Lathrop Village	18778 Roseland Blvd	\$115,000
	3016 Carly Ct	\$47,000		5464 Boulderwood Rd	\$450,000		2665 Longview Ave	\$92,000
	3545 Lexington Dr	\$165,000		5344 Guyette St	\$110,000		3386 Palm Aire Ct	\$250,000
	208 Raleigh Ave	\$90,000		10160 Hadley Rd	\$205,000		1996 Pondview Ct	\$68,000
	2447 Snellbrook Rd	\$50,000		6456 Heron Park Way	\$152,000		535 Sarsfield Dr	\$160,000
Beverly Hills	18258 Beverly Rd	\$305,000		4870 Lakeview Blvd	\$412,000		828 Snowmass Dr	\$273,000
	32840 Robinhood Dr	\$248,000		5968 N Hwy	\$50,000		3379 Talbert Cir	\$50,000
Birmingham	1440 Birmingham Blvd	\$261,000	Commerce Township	8016 Flagstaff St	\$500,000	South Lyon	54817 Grenlefe Cir W	\$350,000
	1424 Chapin Ave	\$133,000		330 High Bank Ct	\$210,000		1209 Hackney Ct	\$232,000
	1952 Oak Ave	\$275,000		3094 Ravinewood Dr	\$271,000		229 Harvard Ave	\$107,000
	1806 Pierce St	\$457,000		585 Sherbrooke St	\$150,000		849 Westhills Dr	\$240,000
	1309 Shipman Blvd	\$205,000		5517 Starwood Dr	\$135,000	Southfield	25883 Greenfield Rd	\$139,000
	1897 Stanley Blvd	\$210,000	Davisburg	2645 Woodcreek Ln	\$183,000		20989 Mada Ave	\$70,000
Bloomfield Township	1800 E Tahquamenon Ct	\$205,000	Farmington Hills	29263 Autumn Rd	\$215,000		21314 Mada Ave	\$23,000
	520 Hillboro Dr	\$254,000		37674 Blossom Ln	\$197,000		15539 Stratford Dr	\$108,000
	2464 Mulberry Sq	\$62,000		33645 Cadillac St	\$154,000		19609 Villa Dr N	\$45,000
	213 N Berkshire Rd	\$308,000		21313 Collingham Ave	\$59,000		30065 Wildbrook Dr	\$63,000
	7475 Old Mill Rd	\$171,000		30906 Country Ridge Cir	\$195,000	Oxford	409 Ashlawn Ct	\$430,000
	4222 Orchard Way	\$267,000		37253 Ladywood St	\$137,000		4234 Carson Dr	\$382,000
	2625 Roxie Rd	\$88,000		19471 Osmus St	\$115,000		3422 Colwell Dr	\$165,000
	2285 Rutherford Rd	\$215,000		16559 Penn Dr	\$168,000		2048 Connelly Dr	\$205,000
	177 S Berkshire Rd	\$140,000		14107 Riverside St	\$160,000		1638 Crestline Dr	\$182,000
	6572 Spruce Dr	\$181,000		37587 Scone Ct	\$25,000		6068 Glyndebourne Dr	\$152,000
	6821 White Pine Dr	\$207,000		15624 Sunset St	\$135,000		967 Kirts Blvd	\$60,000
	1883 Winglee Dr	\$280,000		14935 Taylor Blvd	\$50,000		2122 McIntosh Dr	\$225,000
	3015 Woodcreek Way	\$465,000	Keego Harbor	2229 Willow Beach St	\$165,000		3212 Newbury Pl	\$160,000
	5104 Woodlands Ln	\$110,000	Lake Orion	1075 Cottonwood St	\$208,000		1974 Relling Woods Dr	\$340,000
				3027 Maplewood Ct	\$33,000		887 Wesley Dr	\$245,000
				3786 Rolling Hills Rd	\$155,000		1559 Witherbee Dr	\$116,000

HOMES SOLD-WAYNE

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of Nov. 30 to Dec. 4, 2009, at the Wayne County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

City	Address	Price	City	Address	Price
Canton	44259 Brandywine Rd	\$140,000	Plymouth	46082 Academy Dr	\$259,000
	3991 Brighton Ln	\$127,000		9094 Countrywood Dr	\$287,000
	48265 Chesterfield Dr S	\$270,000		608 Kellogg St	\$236,000
	50290 Colonial St	\$260,000		44434 Marc Trl	\$163,000
	44118 Cranberry Dr	\$160,000		40528 Orangelawn Ave	\$193,000
	8790 Elmhurst Dr	\$184,000		1320 Palmer St	\$205,000
	48300 Gyde Rd	\$210,000		1859 Sycamore Dr	\$93,000
	1464 Hampshire Dr	\$128,000	Redford	14748 Beech Daly Rd	\$26,000
	6432 Kennesaw Rd	\$320,000		9256 Berwyn	\$95,000
	44434 Palmer Rd	\$169,000		18228 Centralia	\$69,000
	4548 RainTree Ct	\$215,000		18288 Delaware Ave	\$77,000
	44433 Ridgefield Rd	\$137,000		25731 Dover	\$105,000
	353 S Village Way	\$136,000		17341 Five Points St	\$15,000
	2995 Stanton St	\$255,000		9902 Hazelton	\$31,000
	45308 Thornhill Rd	\$285,000		18268 Lennane	\$15,000
	6409 Trafalgar Dr	\$305,000		18822 Wakenen	\$24,000
Garden City	33280 Alvin St	\$100,000	Westland	35071 Barton St	\$59,000
	31620 Brown St	\$80,000		7359 Cavell St	\$31,000
	1157 Deering St	\$80,000		38475 Chestnut Ln	\$79,000
	154 Harrison St	\$55,000		34240 Florence St	\$85,000
	33200 Hennepin St	\$64,000		6700 Geronimo St	\$109,000
				32123 Harvard St	\$85,000
				7506 N Hawthorne St	\$85,000
				7777 Ritz Ave	\$96,000
				446 S Hawthorne St	\$73,000
				38667 Shelby Dr	\$161,000
				1731 Stieber St	\$72,000

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Learn about a career in residential real estate. Attend a free one-hour seminar, or shadow a top agent to get an inside feel of the business. Seminars are at noon or 6 p.m. Mondays.

To reserve a spot or for information, contact Steve Leibhan, Keller Williams Realty International, at (248) 893-2500, 27555 Executive Drive, Suite 100, Farmington Hills 48331.

Homebuyers

A free Homebuyers Educational Seminar will be held on Thursday, March 25, at 7 p.m. at the Novi Civic Center. provided. Register online at www.MiHomeBuyer.info or call (248) 747-8653.

Top seller

Jeff Duneske, an associate broker with Remerica United Realty, was awarded with 2009 Top

Selling Agent at his office. This month, Duneske also celebrates his 10th anniversary in the profession. He was a Novi firefighter for 10 years and also completed the Eagle Scout Award.

Duneske lives in Novi where he has been a lifelong resident, with wife Joy and two daughters, Kayla and Khloe.

Career Seminar

Keller-Williams will hold a Career Seminar 6:30-7:30 p.m. Thursday, April 15, at 40600 Ann Arbor Road, Suite 100, Plymouth. Call (734) 459-4700 to reserve a free seat.

Candidates would benefit from previous experience or successes in: service industries, account management, retail sales, small business operations, marketing or event planning. Seminar includes: cost vs. income potential, available training, company profit share, commission structures.

Challenging fun for ALL ages Thursday PUZZLE CORNER

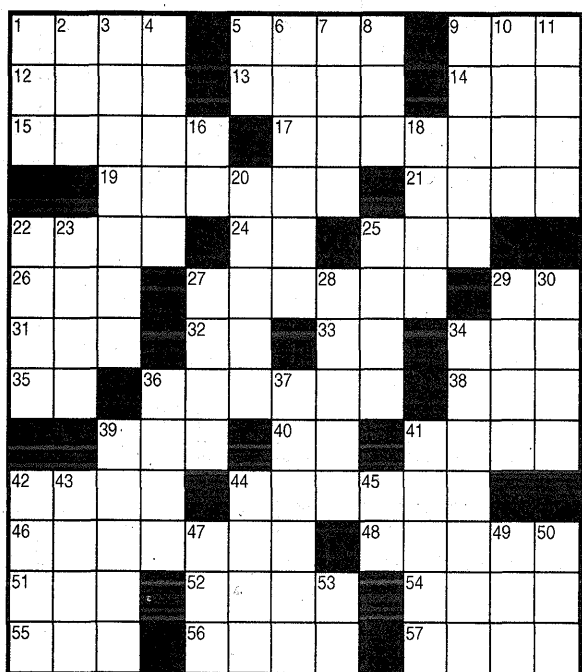
CROSSWORD PUZZLER

- ACROSS**
- 1 Ave. cousin
 - 5 Night flyers
 - 9 Place to surf
 - 12 Slayer of Adonis
 - 13 Toronto Blue —
 - 14 Before
 - 15 Like a file
 - 17 Limerick locale
 - 19 Amaze
 - 21 Currier's partner
 - 22 Droplet
 - 24 Shoe width
 - 25 Pamplona shout
 - 26 Olive in the comics
 - 27 Full of passion
 - 29 You, to Pablo
 - 31 AMA members
 - 32 Laugh sound
 - 33 Deja —
 - 34 Homo sapiens
 - 35 Quaker pronoun
 - 36 Gets smart with
- DOWN**
- 1 Consumer org.
 - 2 Old card game
 - 3 Barbarians
 - 4 Cringe at
 - 5 Vit. C source
 - 6 Lamented
 - 7 Orpheus' harp
 - 8 NW opposite
 - 9 Drive recklessly

Answer to Previous Puzzle

DUCK AWED UMP
OHIO RARE CAR
MONA GRAB LAY
HELIUM TEAM
AGE CST
GESSO AD AWLS
REG RAISE EYE
ROTE PM ASSET
POE BRO
EDAM REPOSE
ZOO AWOL NETS
ANN HILO EROS
GSA ANEW RENT

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- 10 Sea eagle
- 11 Motel offerings
- 16 Egg qty.
- 18 Cheerful tune
- 20 Round numbers?
- 22 Trunk or torso
- 23 Bronte governess
- 25 Burden
- 27 Moby Dick pursuer
- 28 Olympic contest
- 29 Narrative
- 30 Appliance
- 34 Takes vows
- 36 Gin-fizz flavor
- 37 Tough and wiry
- 39 "Star Trek" physician
- 41 Luau
- 42 Barbecue favorite
- 43 No future
- 44 Yachting
- 45 16 oz.
- 47 The Big Apple
- 49 Lick
- 50 Urban rds.
- 53 Retirement income

SUDOKU

			9	6				4
1	7		5	3				8
3		9	7					5
			8		4			
	2		9	5				
6		4			8			1
8			5	4	9	7	2	
		4		2	8			9
			7					

Fun By The Numbers

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

Here's How It Works:

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

SEEK AND FIND

FIND THESE WORD IN THE PUZZLE BELOW.

- acrobat children elephant games tent
- big top circus enjoy lion tightrope
- carousel clowns entertainer stilts trapeze

WORDS READ UP, DOWN, ACROSS & DIAGONAL

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

CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE

8	7	9	1	9	7	3	6	2
6	9	1	8	2	8	7	9	7
3	2	7	6	4	9	9	1	8
1	6	8	2	3	7	5	7	9
7	8	9	6	1	8	2	7	4
2	9	4	7	8	9	1	3	6
9	1	2	7	8	6	9	3	8
9	8	6	3	9	2	7	4	1
4	7	3	9	1	6	2	8	5

CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE

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

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Luxury Upgrades
On Merriman Rd.
1 blk S of 8 Mile.
248-471-0001

FARMINGTON PLAZA APTS
Luxury 2 bdrms, A/C, pool,
New kitchen & baths, laundry
rooms, heat incl. \$650/mo.
50% off 1st 3 month's rent
w/ approved credit.
(248) 888-0868

LIVONIA
Large 2 BDRM.
\$50 off w/13 mo. Lease
\$100 off w/18 mo. Lease.
Move in Cost as low as:
\$200. April or May move
in now available. Pool,
Private Entrance
Full size Washer/Dryer.
Call Now
734-464-4100

Apartment/Unfurnished 4000

NORTHVILLE - Downtown Re-
modeled 1 bdrm apt., water &
heat incl. \$595/mo. 248-242-
1709, morning. 248-349-5660

PLYMOUTH
1 Bdrm, bath, Porches/Patios,
A/C, Laundry Facilities, Base-
ment Storage, Gas and Water
included! \$495. 248-637-9800

PLYMOUTH
1ST MONTH FREE!
\$300* Deposit
1 Bdrm. Single story/
Private Entry/Patio
Dogs Welcome.
734-459-6640 EHO
www.cormorantco.com
*Call for details

PLYMOUTH
2 bedroom/2bath
Enormous master suite!
Hurry! Last one left!
Single story/private entry
Patio & garden space
Attic storage, laundry rm
\$780 per month
Call today!
734-459-6640 EHO
www.cormorantco.com

PLYMOUTH - Downtown lg. 1
bdrm. c/a, private parking.
Small pets ok. Washer/dryer
hookup. \$550. 734-717-5397

PLYMOUTH PARK APTS
1st Mo Free Rent.
55+, 1 & 2 bdrm apts avail
starting at \$450/mo. incl
all util. (313) 350-1270

Plymouth
Rent Starting
at \$489
FREE HEAT
1 & 2 Bedroom Apt's.
Plymouth Manor
Plymouth House
734-455-3880
www.yorkcommunities.com

APARTMENTS

HOMETOWNlife.com

Apartments/Unfurnished **4000**

PLYMOUTH SQUARE APTS.
\$300 security deposit.
50% OFF 1ST 3 MO. RENT
with approved credit
1 & 2 bdrm. \$570 - \$705.
734-455-6570

Westland Estates "WOW"

1 Bdrms. \$505
2 Bdrms. \$655

No fine print in this ad!
-Heat/Water included
-\$20.00 Application Fee
-\$200 Deposit w/ Credit

New Resident's Only
734-722-4700
Mon.-Fri. 9am-7pm
Sat.-Sun. 10am-4pm

WESTLAND
First Month Free!
1 bdrm - \$460/mo.
Reduced Deposits
Walk-in closet, private
entry. Near Ford Plant
734-721-6699 EHO
www.cormorantco.com

WESTLAND
Hickory Woods Apts.
\$224 MOVE IN!
1st Month Rent Free
(for qualified applicants)
1 Bdrm-\$550
2 Bdrm-\$625
FREE GAS AND WATER
(734) 729-6520
*Short term leases avail.

Homes For Rent **4050**

Manufactured Homes for Rent
Starting at \$649!
No Rent Until 5/1/10
On Select Units.*
Academy/Westpoint
www.academywestpoint.com
1-888-272-3099
*Some restrictions apply. Expires 3/31/2010
EHO

Apartments/Unfurnished **4000**

Westland Park Apts.

FREE RENT
2 Bdrm. 1.5 Bath,
\$565, 936 Sq. Ft.
1 Bdrm. \$520,
728 Sq. Ft.

\$200 Security Deposit
Heat and Water Incl
(New residents only)
with approved credit
No Pets, C/A, Vertical
Blinds, Intercom.
Appliances include
dishwasher.
Very clean Apartments
Excellent Maintenance
(734) 729-6636

Westland
VENOY PINES APTS.
Rent Starting
at \$569

* 1 & 2 bedroom apts.
with fireplace.
(734) 261-7394
www.yorkcommunities.com

Condos/Townhouses **4020**

LIVONIA: Spacious 2 bdrm,
2.5 bath, fireplace, 2 car. Quiet
& Private. Great Location.
\$1395/mo. (313) 657-8730

LYON TWP
2 Bedroom, 1.5 baths,
Immediate Occupancy.
Call: 248-290-5300 ext 333

NORTHVILLE: 7 Mile &
Northridge condo. 1200 sq ft,
2 bdrm/2 bath, carport, C/A,
refrigerator & stove incl.
Small dogs & cats welcome!
\$795/mo.+sec. 248-465-0262

Condos/Townhouses **4020**

PLYMOUTH - 2 bdrm, 950 sq.
ft., all appls, washer/dryer,
C/A, balcony, fireplace, car-
port, private entrance. Rent
incl utilities & condo fee. Mo
to no lease, pets okay.
\$1000/mo. (313) 531-4363

Duplexes **4030**

WESTLAND/NORWAYNE
3 bdrm from \$599 & also 1
bdrm from \$399. Sect. 8 Ok.
248-939-1491, 734-578-0669

Flats **4040**

WESTLAND/CANTON -Remo-
deled, all new carpet & appls.
2 bdrm lower with c/a. \$750.
1 bdrm avail. 734-341-6203

Homes For Rent **4050**

CANTON: 3 bdrm, 1.5 bath,
basement, appliances. Credit
report. \$895/mo. + Security.
Avail Now. (734) 459-0853

CANTON Condo 2 Bdrms,
bath, Ford/Sheldon area.
Gas/Water Included \$850.
734 644 6640

CANTON - Lg brick ranch, 1
acre, 4 bdrms, 3 baths, hard-
wood floors, bsmt, rent to
own. \$1200, 734-658-8823

Homes For Rent **4050**

LOOK

DEARBORN HEIGHTS: 2
bdrm, appls, bsmt, gar. \$725.
CANTON: 2 bdrm, appliances,
bsmt, \$900. 734-223-6523

DEARBORN HGTS 3 bdrm
ranch, fin. bsmt, Crestwood
School, \$1150. Also in
Canton, \$1100, 313-580-5018

FARMINGTON HILLS
Very clean, 2 bdrm, 1 bath,
w/garage. Backs to park. \$725.
Call Todd 248-535-2300

INKSTER - Sharp 3 bdrm brick
ranch, utility room, Wayne/
Westland Schools, Option/LC
avail, \$650. 248-788-1823

LIVONIA 3 bdrm., 1 full bath,
1000 sq. ft., appliances. Lg.
backyard. (208) 342-0314

Livonia: 3 bdrm, 2.5 bath brick
ranch, finished bsmt, appls,
freshly redecored, no pets.
\$1200 +sec. 313-530-2622

LIVONIA: Newly decorated 2
bdrm, 1 bath, appliances, car-
peted, 1.5 car garage. No pets.
\$750+ sec. (248) 345-6544

Homes For Rent **4050**

LIVONIA - Remodeled 3 bdrm
ranch, family rm, covered back
porch, 2.5 car gar, option/LC
avail, \$900. (248) 788-1823

AFFORDABLE HOMES FOR RENT

**Rent your own 3 Bed,
2 Bath Home for:**

\$629*
Per Month!

Nearly 1,000 Sq. Ft. &
All Appliances, incl. Washer/Dryer!

SUN HOMES AT
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Estates

51074 Mott Road #243
Canton, MI 48188
(888) 264-4080
www.4collegepark.com

*See select homes. All applicants must complete a credit
application. See Dep from 528, Expires 3/31/10 EHO, WIC

PLYMOUTH: 3 bdrm, 1 bath
Ranch. Large family room.
Deck w/large fenced backyard.
\$975/mo. (734) 844-3521

Homes For Rent **4050**

REDFORD: 3 bdrm bungalow,
2 bath, appls, lawn & snow
service. No pets. \$850/mo.
Must See. 734-464-6304

WAYNE: 4 bdrm, 1.5 bath, 1.5
car garage, fenced, basement,
1600 sq.ft., \$800/mo. \$1200
security. 734-772-4317

West Bloomfield-Lakefront.
3 bdrm, 2 bath, bsmt, gar, fam-
ily rm, fireplace, wood floors,
new kitchen. (248) 568-6119

WESTLAND - 2 bdrm ranch,
freshly painted, C/A, \$650.
Wayne Duplex - 3 bdrm, C/A,
bsmt, \$725. (734) 837-7355

WESTLAND: Ford Rd area. 3
bdrm ranch, 1.5 bath, bsmt,
very clean, c/a, exc. location,
no pets, \$900. 734-591-9163

WESTLAND - Sharp 3 bdrm, 2
bath trilevel is all updated.
Newer kitchen appli. Fenced,
2+ car gar. \$1250/mo. 1129
Judith. Agent, 734-216-1206

Westland: Super clean, 2 or 3
bdrm duplex. New carpet,
some fenced. Low move-in.
\$595-\$650/mo. 313-418-9905

Mobile Home Rentals **4070**

CAN YOU USE \$8,000?

Relocate your home by
3/31/10 and receive:
\$5,000/\$8,000
(single section/multi-section)
+
\$100 off
monthly site rent for 3 years*
Max Site Rent: \$299/mo!

Apply Online at:
www.relocatemyhouse.com

College Park
Estates

51074 Mott Road #243
Canton, MI 48188
(888) 264-9760
www.4collegepark.com

Mobile Home Rentals **4070**

FREE HOME
**You Fix It,
You Keep It!**
\$279 SITE RENT
FOR 12 MONTHS*

**Sun Communities,
College Park**
www.FreeMobileHome.net
(888) 856-6709
Expires 3/31/10 EHO
*Some restrictions apply, call for details.
0E08894382

**Living Quarters To
Share** **4120**

WESTLAND - Cherry Hill &
Wayne. Mature male, \$400 +
sec dep, includes utilities. All
appliances. (734) 261-2397

Rooms For Rent **4140**

LUXURY MOTELS: Low Rates,
Fairlane 248-347-9999, Royal
248-544-1575, Days 734-427-
1300, Comfort 248-504-5080.

NORTHVILLE or **PLYMOUTH**
Downtown. 1st week with full
deposit. Furnished sleeping
rooms. Newly decorated. \$35
weekly. Security deposit.
734-355-6453, 248-305-9944

REDFORD-
ROOM FOR RENT
\$110/week.
Call: (313) 600-5514

SOUTHFIELD: Quiet, wooded
area, room for rent, private
entrance, close to X-ways,
non-smoking. (248) 352-4528

**Office/Retail Space For
Rent/Lease** **4220**

Farmington Hills: 14/Middle-
bett, 228 sq.ft. Lease all inclu-
sive. Negotiable. Avail. Now.
Ely: 248-626-3800
etama@trcpa.com

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Offices and Hours:
Eccentric office.....6200 Metro Pkwy., Sterling Heights, MI 48312
Observer office41304 Concept Drive, Plymouth, MI 48170
Hours8:30 - 5:00 Monday - Friday

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THE OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC MORTGAGE MONITOR

	30 Yr.	Pts.	15 Yr.	Pts.	Other
1st Choice Mortgage Lending (734) 459-0782	4.75	0	4.25	0	J/A
Accurate Mortgage Solutions (800) 593-1912	4.75	0	4.25	0	J/A
America Financial Group (248) 974-8087	4.75	0	4.125	0.5	J/A
Ameriplus Mortgage Corp. (248) 740-2323	4.875	0	4.25	0	J/A
BRINKS Financial (800) 785-4755	4.625	0.875	4	1	J/A/V/F
Client Services by Golden Rule (800) 991-9922	4.5	1.25	4	1	J/A/V/F
Co-op Services Credit Union (734) 466-6113	5.125	0	4.5	0	J
Cornerstone Community Financial (800) 777-6728	5.125	0	4.375	0	J/A/F
Dearborn Federal Savings Bank (313) 565-3100	5.125	0	4.5	0	A
Fifth Third Bank (800) 792-8830	4.99	0	4.5	0	J/V/F
First State Bank (800) 372-2205	5	0	4.375	0	F
Gold Star Mortgage (800) 784-1074	4.75	0	4.125	0.5	J/A/V/F
Golden Rule Mortgage (800) 991-9922	4.625	0.875	4.125	0.5	J/A/V/F
Group One Mortgage (248) 282-1602	5	0	4.375	0	J/A/V/F
Michigan United Mortgage (810) 844-2222	4.75	0.75	4.25	0	A
Mortgages by Golden Rule (800) 991-9922	4.5	1.25	3.875	1.625	J/A/V/F

Above information available as of 3/19/10 and subject to change at any time. 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. Lenders to participate call (734) 922-3032 / © 2010 Residential Mortgage Consultants, Inc., All Rights Reserved

MARKETPLACE

HOMETOWNlife.com

7000-7780
Merchandise

7100 Estate Sales **7100**

LIVONIA ESTATE SALE
New items, furniture & more!
March 25-27, 9-5pm. 12610
Newburgh Rd, Livonia, 48150.

Garage Sales **7110**

NORTHVILLE MOVING SALE
3/26: 8am-6pm; 3/27: 8am-4pm. Furniture, household/
kitchen items, tools. 17405
Victor Dr., MAPLE HILL SUB,
6 Mile & Haggerty area

WEST BLOOMFIELD Huge
Garage Sale! Items for
kitchen, bathroom, toys,
decorations, rugs, clothes,
and more! LIKE NEW! 6593
Bristol Dr., Southwest corner
of Maple and Farmington.
Friday to Sunday, March 26-
28, from 10AM to 6PM.

Moving Sales **7130**

MILFORD: MOVING SALE.
Antiques, Collectibles,
Furniture, Household Items
and much more. Thur., Fri. &
Sat. 10am-4pm. 30782
Artesian Dr. Btwn. Southliff &
Old Plank, S. of Pontiac Trail.

PLYMOUTH CONDO MOVING SALE 15694 Edgewood Circle. Fri. 4pm-7pm. Sat. 9am-5pm. Nicer furniture & household. Leather sectional, glass top tables. Jacobson's Dishes. Decorative Coral & more.

PLYMOUTH TWP
Fri-Sat, 9-5pm. Couches,
TVs, tables, lawn equip, etc.
50622 Tyler Dr., 48170-4660

Household Goods **7160**

APPLIANCES - Gas stove, dryer, fridge, full size bed set with dresser. Call: 734-578-7981

DINING ROOM SET - Quality, formal, cherry. Table, 6 chairs, china cabinet. Exc. cond. Originally \$10,000, asking \$2800. 734-451-0657

Over 10,000 listings online

HOMETOWNlife.com

REAL ESTATE

FILE CABINET: 30" wide lateral file cabinet. New. Side to side hanging files. \$175 priced to sell. 734-422-7788

Household Goods **7160**

FURNITURE - Oak drop leaf table w/3 additional leaves opens to 8 ft., one captain chair and 3 mate chairs, \$150. Glass front China cabinet, oak, 3 doors on top, \$30 on bottom & silver tray, \$150. Marble top 3 drawer dresser, dates to early 1900s, \$100. Call: 734-355-5044

HUTCH - Maple. Beautifully detailed. Exc. cond. \$225. Westland. 734-467-6352

KITCHEN SET - Glass & rock iron w/ matching baker's rack. Leather settee sofa, mahogany trim, chairs, Victorian chase lounge & more. Must see! Call: (248) 229-9563

MATTRESS
New queen pillow-top mattress. Can Deliver. \$200. (734) 444-7277

MISC ITEMS: Dining room set- round oak formal table, light wood, w/ 4 chairs & leaf, \$700. Italian leather sofa bed, U-shaped, w/end tables & lamp, \$700. Exercise equip., \$250. 313-212-3756

There is something for everyone in our Classifieds!

Business & Office Equipment **7240**

OFFICE FURNITURE FOR SALE
Desks, chairs, copiers and phone system. All must go A.S.A.P! (734) 207-7563

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CASH FOR GUITARS/MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS
Any Condition. Will Pick Up. 313-424-9212

Sporting Goods **7520**

HUNTING BLIND
Green camo, \$35
Call 734-427-6288

Wanted to Buy **7540**

CASH PAID For costume jewelry, vintage to antique. Marcy. Cell: 248-880-5700

Dogs **7840**

Bull Dog Pups-Old English
Papers, short, thick & bulky. Shots. \$1300. 517-992-9077

Dogs **7840**

CHIHUAHUAS
Tiny adorable 6 weeks old. Vet checked, wormed & 1st vacc inc. Additional discounts on future vacc available. \$375. 248-890-6568

GOLDEN RETRIEVER PUPS
AKC registered.
11 wks. old. \$400.
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Mini and multi generation. Non-shed. \$1200-\$2500. jubileelabradoodles.com 517-467-6811 517-442-9329

Household Pets **7880**

RABBIT - Very cute, white & brown male. 1 yr old. Just in time for Easter. To good home. 248-473-1376

Lost - Pets **7930**

FOUND BLACK CAT
Found near 13 and Orchard Lake. 1-800-436-2193

LOST Tri-Colored Border Collie in the area of Pontiac Trail and Grand River on 3/21/10. Name is Guinness. 248-880-9157

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5000-5980


Employment Instructional Services



Help Wanted-General 5000

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FAX (586) 826-7318

INTERNET ADDRESS www.hometownlife.com

Help Wanted-General 5000

BUYER
Engine Manufacturer is seeking a full-time Buyer for our Plymouth facility.

Candidates must have at least 4 to 5 yrs. experience in purchasing machine parts, castings, fabrications and raw material.

Responsibilities include: identifying and recommending suppliers by researching potential suppliers and the products, processes, and services they provide. Evaluate bid proposals and negotiate supplier agreements that require improvements in suppliers' cost, delivery, quality, order lead time, payment cycles, technology and risk mitigation. Must be able to read and interpret technical prints, data and work with engineering on changes and deviations. Knowledge of measuring tool and CMM preferred. Certification in Purchasing Management (CPM) or APICS desired. Automotive experience and understanding of APQP, PPAP and Quality Control is preferred. Good written and oral communication skills. Bachelor's degree in technical discipline is required. Computer skills are mandatory. Travel is required.

We offer a competitive salary and benefits package.

Qualified applicants should send resumes with salary requirements to:

Email: hr@ilmor.com

Help Wanted-General 5000

DELIVERY/SALES
\$675-\$975/wk. Will train. Valid Driver's License required. Call between 10am-2pm. (248) 471-5200

Help Wanted-General 5000

DENTAL RECEPTIONIST/PATIENT COORDINATOR
Min. 5 yrs. exp. 248-288-9000 or email: wattzz@msn.com

Help Wanted-General 5000

DIRECT CARE STAFF
For our Group Homes in Wayne County. Valid Drivers License required. Call: (248) 814-6714

Help Wanted-General 5000

FACILITIES/PRODUCTION TECHNICIAN (Materialise, Plymouth)
Manage start up of top-class medical production site. Perform small maintenance & installation jobs; oversee larger projects. Perform production machine maint. & repair (incl SLA & SLS machines). Vocational Cert. preferred. 3-5 yrs facilities experience req. Resumes: jobs@materialise.com

Help Wanted-General 5000

General
•Heavy Equip. Mechanic: Must be certified.
•Operators & Laborers: -Underground Utility Work -Directional Drilling Work
Hard working individuals need only apply. Call (734) 481-1565

Help Wanted-Office 5020

CLERICAL
A word to the wise, when looking for a great deal check the Observer & Eccentric Classifieds!

Help Wanted-General 5000

CONCRETE LABORER
Min. 5 yrs. flatwork exp. w/CDL. A. Must have clean driving record, drug test required. email resume w/ desired wage to: Mikepbc@bscglobal.net or fax: 313-937-5070

Help Wanted-General 5000

MARKETING
The Village of Westland, is looking for a new person to join our marketing team FT. If you enjoy a fast paced environment, are a team player & enjoy people, let's talk! The qualified candidate will have at least 3 yrs of leasing exp w/a proven track record. Good phone skills & computer exp a must. Must be able to work weekends. Comm. along w/hry wage & benefits. Please send your resume: roberts@pvm.org No phone calls please.

Help Wanted-General 5000

ROUTE DRIVERS
No experience necessary. Apply at: www.TruGreenJobs.com EOE/M/F/D/V/A

Help Wanted-General 5000

SPORTS MGMT (Up to \$400-\$600/WK)
Intl Marketing/Public Relations firm looking for team players to aid us in our ad dept. WE NEED HELP FAST No Experience Necessary. Call Danielle: 734-266-3397 Send resume to: info@entadv.com

Help Wanted-General 5000

SUMMER HELP
We are taking apps for Service Tech trainees & Summer Helpers: Worton Irrigation, 797 Industrial Ct., Bloomfield Hills, 48302 (M-F, 9-4)

Help Wanted-General 5000

WAIT STAFF Full & Part-Time
Apply at: Starting Gate 135 N. Center St., Northville

Help Wanted-Office 5020

CLERICAL
DATA ENTRY OPERATORS Exp. req'd. PT. Days & afternoons. Southfield. Call for appt. 248-559-0200

Help Wanted-General 5000

LEGAL SECRETARY
Full-Time for Farmington Hills Insurance Defense Law Firm. Some exp. required. Please fax resume to: 248-406-8001

Help Wanted-General 5000

LANDSCAPE FOREMAN Exp. req. \$25/hr MDOT projects. Crimball Inc., 734-495-1700 Fax 734-495-1700

Help Wanted-Dental 5040

DENTAL ASSISTANT
Livonia dental office currently seeking well-qualified, exp'd Dental Assistant to join our established general dentistry practice. 25-30 hrs/wk incl eve & Sats. Fax resume clearly noted as being for the dental assistant opening, to: 248 777-8717

Help Wanted-Dental 5040

ORTHODONTIC ASSISTANT
Needed for friendly orthodontic office in Canton. Part time, Mon, Tues, Wed; must have friendly outgoing personality. Exp preferred, but not required. Duties incl chairside assisting. Call Mary: 734-459-4430 or Fax resume: 734-459-5954

Help Wanted-Medical 5060

CHIROPRACTIC ASSISTANT
Duties include clerical work, some billing, taking patients to rooms and learning x-rays. Requires good communications skills, friendly & outgoing personality. Must be mature & responsible & have computer skills. 20 hrs/wk. Mon-Wed-Fri. 8:34-12:30pm Tue. & Sat. 8:45am-1:30pm. 27527 Joy Rd. Westland. 734 522-5501

Help Wanted-Medical 5060

MEDICAL ASSISTANT
Allergy Office-W. Bloomfield/Livonia. 20-24 hrs/wk. (Mon, Tues, Thurs, alternate Sat am). Exp. Mandatory. Cover Letter, Resume + Names of References MUST be included with application. Fax 248-932-0182

Help Wanted-Medical 5060

MEDICAL RECEPTIONIST
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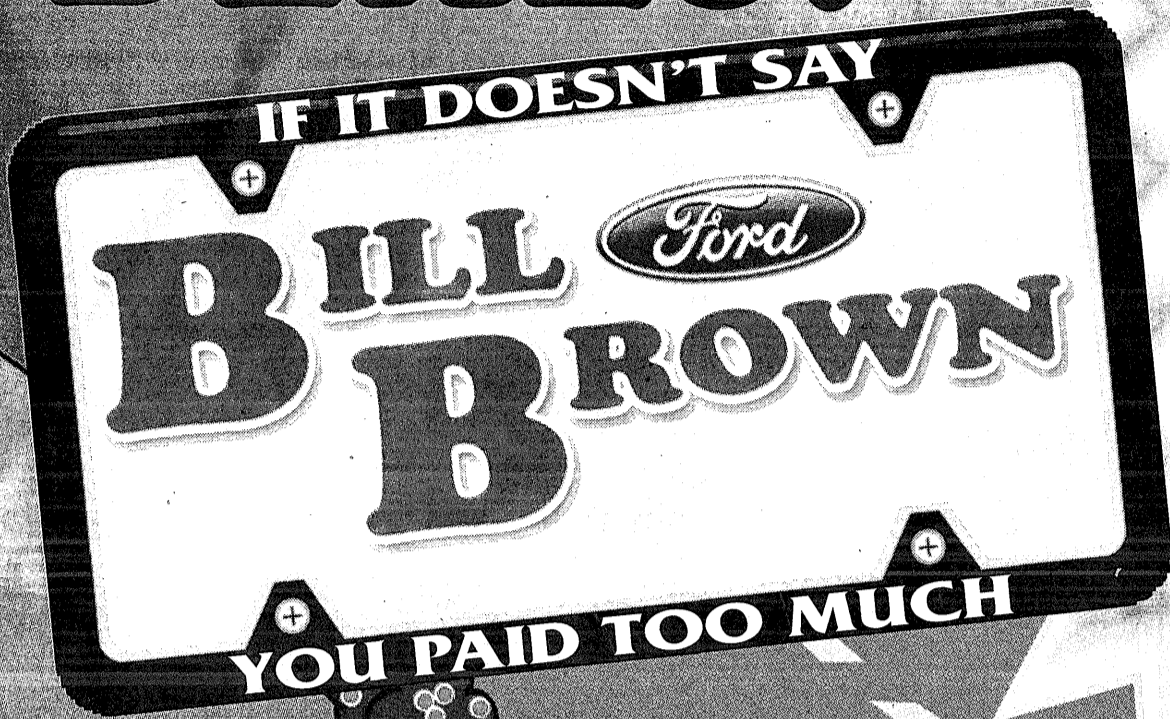
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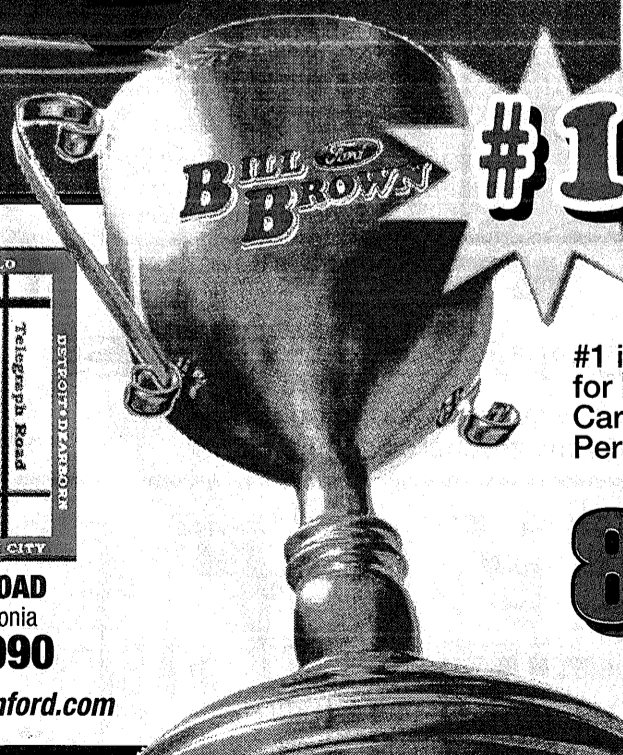
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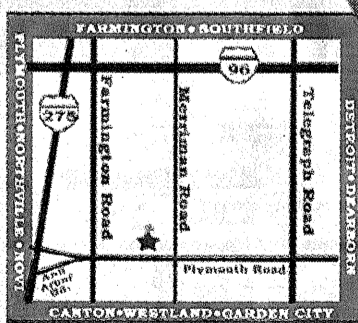
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