

DONT BLAME CARRIER FOR LATE DELIVERY Today's late delivery is not the fault of your Observer carrier. Due to technical difficulties, we were unable to get the newspapers out on time.

Century Club of Plymouth is formed, A5

Thursday March 18, 1999

Plymouth Observer

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HomeTown COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK Putting you in touch with your world

VOLUME 113 NUMBER 57

PLYMOUTH, MICHIGAN • 78 PAGES • http://observer-eccentric.com

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Officials work toward change

Togetherness appears to be the theme for the year as four community leaders addressed members of the community in an annual "State of the Community Address" Wednesday.

BY DUNCAN E. WHITE
STAFF WRITER
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Government officials from the local area spoke at the annual "State of the Community Address" Wednesday morning at Ernesto's Restaurant in Plymouth Township with working together on projects in mind.

Plymouth Mayor Don Dismuke, Ply-

mouth Township Supervisor Kathleen Keen McCarthy, Wayne County Commissioner Lyn Bankes and Plymouth-Canton Community Schools Superintendent Chuck Little each gave an update of issues impacting the Plymouth communities in the last year.

Dismuke pointed to an alteration in the city's parking ordinance that resulted in more development in the downtown area. Several restaurants,

including an E.G. Nicks and a Paisano's, are currently slated to open later this year.

"It's going to be the same feeling of Plymouth but with an evening life," he said. "A different spin to the city."

He also said that the joint commission between the city and the township, formed within the last year, is producing positive things and is working toward a common goal on several projects, including the overpass project on Sheldon Road, south of M-14.

"To me, that's the biggest issue," he said. "It affects the county because of funding and does it affect the schools? I'd say so. And it affects both communi-

ties. I drive that way every day and it gets backed up on the freeway."

As far as unification of the communities, Dismuke said he was all ears.

"Let's talk about it and see what happens," he added.

McCarthy discussed development in the township with Monday's grand opening ceremony at the Hilton Garden Inn near M-14 and Sheldon Road as the headliner and mentioned that two more hotels are planned in that immediate area.

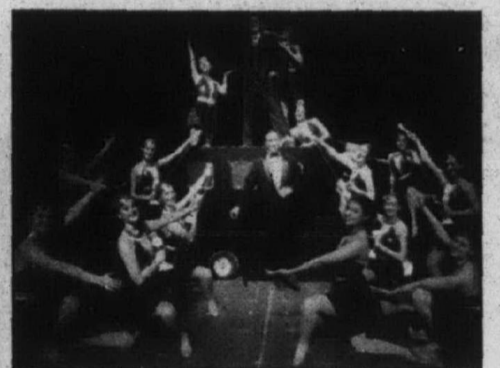
"They had their ribbon-cutting ceremony on Monday and within the first

Please see CHANGE, A5

'Crazy for You'



STAFF PHOTOS BY PAUL HURSCHEMANN



Crazy for you: At left, Wes Farrow as New Yorker "Bobby Child" holds Nicole Reitz as Deadrock resident "Polly Baker" in the Plymouth Players production of "Crazy For You," the '90s musical revision of the 1932 Broadway show featuring music by George and Ira Gershwin. Above, Farrow, top center, and Pat Gray as New Yorker "Bella Zangler," lower center, are surrounded by The Follies Girls. The performances of "Crazy For You" are scheduled for March 19, 20 and 26, 27. For ticket information call (734) 416-7723.

Parents' Day offers child-rearing choices

BY VALERIE OLANDER
STAFF WRITER
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The best gift a parent can give a child is good character development, according to motivational speaker Rolfe Carawan.

Carawan will be sending that message to parents of Plymouth-Canton Community Schools on Saturday, March 27, as keynote speaker for Parents' Day '99. The third annual event is held from 8:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. at East Middle School, 1042 S. Mill. Cost

is \$5.

"There's a lot of choices out there. The best gift we can give our kids is good character development to make moral choices," said the Seattle, Wash., educator. "We can do that by modeling our behavior and ... practicing what we preach, so we don't have a double standard."

"Moms, Dads and Other Endangered Species" is the topic of Carawan's talk. He also will moderate one of the 14 breakout sessions that are being offered. The seminar is sponsored by

the Educational Excellence Foundation.

"The point is bringing parents together to talk about the problems they are dealing with and realizing it's the same problems as others are dealing with," said Betty Bloch, Business Education Partnership coordinator for Plymouth-Canton Schools.

About 400-450 people are expected to attend. Fourteen breakout sessions with topics such as "self-esteem," "single parenting," "parenting styles" and "taking charge of your TV" are slated.

Carawan started out as a motivational speaker while a college athlete in 1975. He challenged high school students to live a drug and alcohol-free lifestyle. After becoming a teacher and coach his motivational message expanded.

"An outgrowth of all this is the rising demand for it in corporate America because of the new generation of workforce. I'm from the Baby Boomer generation, but there's a new generation of workers out there with a different

Please see PARENTS' DAY, A3



PHOTO BY RON PONKEY

Discovery Middle School: State, township and school leaders were on hand Sunday for the groundbreaking of the new middle school. From left to right: state Sen. Thad McCotter; Lowell teacher Alan Kohring; school board members Mark Horvath and Carrie Blamer; Lowell principal Roche LaVictor; school board member Judy Mardigan; state Rep. Bruce Patterson; Lowell Student Council president Katie Thompson; Canton Supervisor Tom Yack; school board president Mike Maloney; and board members Elizabeth Givens, Sue Davis, Roland Thomas and Darwin Watts.

School breaks ground

BY TONY BRUSCATO
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It may have been a misnomer, considering the ground is as hard as a rock. However, that didn't stop nearly 100 people from attending Sunday's "groundbreaking" for Discovery Middle School, the first middle school to be constructed in Canton.

"Symbolically, with this ground-

breaking, we are taking a step towards the future." Superintendent Chuck Little told the onlookers who were standing on Hanford Road. "Not only are we having a place called a school constructed here, but we believe it will symbolize our continuing commitment to education for everyone, and reach well into the future to shape our community."

Please see SCHOOL, A4

City increases water rates by 46 percent

BY TONY BRUSCATO
STAFF WRITER
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The Plymouth city commission voted 4-3 Monday night to increase water and sewer rates for the average user by 46 percent.

The figure is a bit higher than the 42 percent announced two weeks ago, but far short of the 86 percent rate increase originally passed by the commission.

Administration figures show the average user, one which uses 18,000 gallons per quarter, will see quarterly bills rise from \$69.62 to \$101.92.

After a long debate, the vote count favored those commissioners who wanted a lower rate hike, combined with three, 20-year bond issues to eliminate a nearly \$1 million sewer and water fund deficit, as well as build cash reserves for the future.

Those who voted against the resolution wanted to take a bigger bite out of user pocketbooks now, in order to save on what could be millions of dollars in interest costs to taxpayers over the long run.

"My biggest problem is that by borrowing money, the city would be paying close to \$4 million in interest," said Commissioner Ron Loiselle of a plan which includes bond issues for each of the next 10 years. "While (a bigger rate increase) is more of a bite

■ The figure is a bit higher than the 42 percent announced two weeks ago, but far short of the 86 percent rate increase originally passed by the commission.

for our citizens, I don't believe ... they deserve to pay more than \$4 million in interest."

Loiselle was in favor of a plan to repay bonds over a five-year period with a rate increase of 42 percent this year and 30 percent next year. According to figures supplied by Loiselle, interest costs could be kept to \$263,000.

"We have some major projects to undertake," added Commissioner Stella Greene. "To extend this expenditure over 20 years to make it palatable today, and then add who knows what kind of costs on top of that ... in the next three or four years doesn't seem very responsible to me."

Commissioner Dave McDonald liked the idea of long-term debt with a lower immediate cost.

"It sounds good to pay it (the deficit) off, and \$4 million is a lot of

Please see RATES, A4

Afternoon goes to the dogs in annual Dog Jog



Legal beagles: 35th District Court Magistrate Eric Colthurst, also known as Boss Dog and his legal assistant, Vice Boss Dog Denise Chapman, organize the annual Dog Jog, a fund-raiser for the Humane Society. Sponsored by the Plymouth Kiwanis Club, the 2-mile walk/run begins 1:30 p.m. Saturday, May 8, in Kellogg Park. Colthurst is pictured with his Sheltie, Shelby, and Chapman's Bichon Frise is Spencer.

BY DIANE GALE ANDREASSI
SPECIAL WRITER

Here's the poop on the third annual Plymouth Dog Jog: The 2-mile walk/run will begin 1:30 p.m. Saturday, May 8, beginning and ending in Kellogg Park in downtown Plymouth. Sponsored again this year by the Plymouth Kiwanis Club, all proceeds go to the Michigan Humane Society and the Kiwanis.

Registration forms are available at Plymouth, Canton and Livonia veterinarian offices; Pet Supply Plus in Canton; Pet Smart in Northville and Specialty Pets in Plymouth, as well as the law office of event chair Eric Colthurst, 35th District Court magistrate, also known as Boss Dog, at 9450 S. Main, Suite 101.

"We try to make it a fun event," said Vice Boss Dog Denise Chapman, a legal assistant in Colthurst's office.

This year, registration forms will be sent to the 225 people from Plymouth, Canton, Livonia, Redford, Westland and other southeast Michigan residents who strutted with their

Last year, the event raised \$8,500. Part of the registration fee goes to the Humane Society and part goes to the Kiwanis to support charities like the Terrific Kids program in local schools.

best friends during last year's event.

Participants are also invited to collect pledges and bring their sponsor sheets and pledge money to the jog. One hundred percent of the pledges submitted the day of the race go to the Humane Society, Chapman said.

Last year, Dog Jog participation increased 100 percent, said Chapman, who is predicting another rise in participation this year. "The first two years we had great weather and we're praying for three in a row," she said.

The cost is \$20 to register before May 1, and \$25 the day of the jog. Registration begins at noon.

Last year, the event raised \$8,500. Part of the registration fee goes to the Humane Society

and part goes to the Kiwanis to support charities like the Terrific Kids program in local schools; the Salvation Army; high school scholarships; the Plymouth Community Band; Plymouth Canton Special Olympics and the Plymouth Community Arts Council. The Dog Jog is the club's biggest fund-raiser.

Walkers and joggers will receive a T-shirt, provided by Pet Supply Plus, and an "oops scoop," as well as water and treats for their four-legged partners.

Prizes will go to three age groups each for male and female people race winners; best costume, longest tail and best owner and dog look-alike. Participants with the highest amount of pledges will be awarded grand prizes.

Businesses interested in supporting the event can buy advertising space on promotional posters or make cash donations to be included in newspaper advertisements.

This year, for the first time, the Dog Jog, also known as the "Bark in the Park" will include a Pooch Smooch booth where pets and their human buddies can have their pictures taken for a fee. The event also includes a demonstration of dog obedience by trainer Dan Morris of Livonia, who will be accompanied by the Dogmatics, a precision drill team often seen at area parades. Dogs in the race must be on a 6-foot leash.

"We've been lucky, because no one has ever brought unruly dogs," Chapman said. "I think people who participate in something like this know their own dogs and they wouldn't bring dogs that wouldn't get along with other dogs or other people."

For more information call Doggie Central, which is Colthurst's office, at 459-7000.

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Published every Sunday and Thursday by Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150. Periodical postage paid at Livonia, MI 48151. Address all mail (subscription, change of address, Form 3669) to P.O. Box 3004, Livonia, MI 48151. Telephone 581-0500.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES		Mail Delivery
Monthly	\$3.95	One year
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Newsstand	per copy 75	One year (Out of State)
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NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Charter Township of Canton, 1150 Canton Center S, Canton, Michigan will accept sealed bids at the Office of the Clerk up to 10:00 a.m., April 1, 1999 for the following:

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Specifications are available in the Finance and Budget Dept. The Township reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals. The Township does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age or disability in employment or the provision of services.

TERRY G. BENNETT, Clerk
Publish March 18, 1999

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Charter Township of Canton
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STAFF WRITER
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SHO

EEF enriches district by offering programs not in school budget

BY VALERIE OLANDER
STAFF WRITER
volander@oe.homecomm.net

Parents' Day is just one of several programs the Educational Excellence Foundation offers to Plymouth-Canton Community Schools.

EEF board chairman Jim Kosteva calls the EEF "a post-Proposal A foundation" that enhances and enriches programs in line with the school district's goals.

Although formed 12 years ago to administer scholarships and endowments in pre-Proposal A days, the EEF expanded its focus when fewer tax dollars were generated through local property taxes for school coffers. The EEF provides the financial resources for curriculum enrichment programs that may otherwise not be available.

The Summer Skills Academy at Field Elementary is one such program that originated from the EEF. The academy operates in conjunction with Eastern Michigan University to provide additional educational opportunities to students with low reading and math MEAP scores.

About 100-120 students attended last summer. The four-week program has been so successful in boosting MEAP scores, it was extended to include Hoben last year, said Kathy Chorbagan, who raises funds for the EEF. Eriksson Elementary is expected to be added this year.

A mini grant program also was initiated by the EEF, which allows teachers to buy specialized equipment or study materials for the classroom. The grants range in dollar amount depending upon the request.

"This year, we'll give out between \$10,000 and \$12,000," Chorbagan said.

Other programs include extended day

'We can do this without changing legislation, we don't have to march on Lansing ... People are doing the same thing by writing a tax deductible check (to the EEF). We can do exactly the same things as a property tax increase.'

Jim Kosteva
-EEF chairman

care and a clothing bank.

"We can do this without changing legislation, we don't have to march on Lansing ... People are doing the same thing by writing a tax deductible check (to the EEF). We can do exactly the same things as a property tax increase," said Kosteva.

"In an era where people feel their hands are tied (due to school funding reform) ... this is a property tax vehicle."

The EEF raises money through individual and business donations and several fund-raisers.

A dinner theater is set for Friday, March 26, at Plymouth Salem High School Auditorium. The EEF has 100 tickets available for a special dinner prepared by culinary arts students at Plymouth-Canton Educational Park, followed by a Plymouth Park Players' performance of the Gershwin musical-comedy "Crazy for You." Tickets are still available at a cost of \$35.

A golf outing is planned for June 21 at Eagle Crest Golf Course in Ypsilanti.

For more information about the EEF, call Kathy Chorbagan at 420-7010.

March, 1999 Parenting Awareness Month

Plymouth-Canton Community Schools believes that the education of students is enhanced by the involvement of parents and families in their children's education. We advocate strong connections between the home, school and the community as one means of reducing barriers to student achievement. Studies demonstrate that when parents are involved in their children's education, the attitudes, behaviors and achievement of students are positively enhanced.

Please become a part of your child's educational experience. Work in partnership with your local school and your child's teachers.

Remember our children are our future.

Plymouth-Canton salutes our parents in the community.

Break Out Sessions

Session I: 10:30-11:15 a.m. & Session II: 11:30 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

1. "I HATE WHEN THAT HAPPENS"
2. PARENTING A NEW GENERATION
3. GANES
4. THE MIDDLE SCHOOL YEARS
5. ADD
6. ALTERNATIVES TO YELLING AND THREATENING
7. PARENT INVOLVEMENT IN STUDENT LEARNING
8. SELF-ESTEEM
9. DRUGS, ALCOHOL & ADOLESCENTS
10. SINGLE PARENTING
11. MANAGING BEHAVIOR IN YOUNG CHILDREN
12. PARENTING STYLES
13. TAKING CHARGE OF YOUR TV
14. CHARACTER COUNTS!

Selections for Break Out Sessions will be made during the Parents' Day event.

PARENTS' DAY '99

Saturday
March 27, 1999
8:30 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.
East Middle School
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featuring •
Roife Carawan
Keynote Speaker

"Moms, Dads and Other Endangered Species"



Registration Form

List adults attending Parents' Day: (please print)

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Free Child Care is provided by the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools Extended Day Program. SPACE IS LIMITED. Children must be between the ages of 3 - 10.

Name of child _____ Age _____ Name of child _____ Age _____

Please make checks payable to:
Educational Excellence Foundation

Number of adults attending: _____ @ \$5.00 ea.

Amount enclosed with this registration: \$ _____

Please return this form by Friday, March 12, 1999.

Selections for Break Out Sessions will be made on the day of the event.

Parents' Day from page A1

value system," he said.

About 60 percent of his speaking engagements are education-related, the other 40 percent are for the corporate sector.

Carawan's message is said to be heartfelt and humorous. He is the father of two elementary-aged children, although he gears his talk for parents with children of all ages.

"We can insulate them without isolating them," he said of societal and peer pressures all children face.

"The better relationship they have with their parents, the better they'll be able to deal with peer pressure... that doesn't mean being a friend, it means giving a child autonomy and to know their boundaries."

Bloch said one of the reasons Carawan was chosen as keynote speaker of Parents' Day '99 was because his message aligns with the Character Counts program that has been implemented by civic leaders in Plymouth and Canton. Character

Bloch said one of the reasons Carawan was chosen as keynote speaker of Parents' Day '99 was because his message aligns with the Character Counts program that has been implemented by civic leaders.

Counts emphasizes character development as well. Registration is suggested, although walk-ins are welcome the day of the seminar. Free child care is also provided by the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools Extended Day program. Space is limited. Children must be between 3-10.

"My wife and I went ourselves (last year) and found it to be worthwhile. There's challenges to raising kids. This allows parents to ask questions and get some feedback and you can share with other parents," said Jim Kosteva, chairman of the EEF board.

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Century Club of Plymouth to focus on community need

BY VALERIE OLANDER
STAFF WRITER
volander@oe.homecomm.net

Residents in need of financial assistance during bad economic times will have an easier go of it. And, so will community projects that need a little boost getting off the ground.

The Century Society of Plymouth was born this morning, Thursday, with about 50 people expected to be in attendance at Station 885.

The Century Society met half at its membership goal, which is limited to 100 members. Each will pledge \$1,000 per year. Fifty percent of the money collected each year will go toward an endowment fund with the remaining 50 percent funding a variety of community projects, including emergency needs.

"This is something I think there is a need for," said former Plymouth Mayor Jim Jabara, one of the founders of the Century Society.

"I've thought about this for a long time. It would be a supplemental thing, something that the Salvation Army already does, but they can't do everything. We have the Kiwanis

Foundation and Rotary Foundation ... What if someone needs a wheelchair, or some kind of operation? Some people don't have hospitalization (insurance)."

The Century Society is a take-off of the Crisis Club in Grosse Pointe and the Canton Century Club.

In addition to Jabara, the board of directors for the Century Society are Tom Caviston, Ron Edwards, Dan Herriman, Bill Joyner, Dennis Shrewsbury and Jim McKeon.

"We have \$3,500 in hand right now," Joyner said Monday.

"There's a good cross section of people - business, old-time community leaders, school people. It's just a good group of people who want to pool their resources," he said.

Two projects are already being initiated with the funds. Seed money has been committed to help the Plymouth Community Arts Council form a Shakespearean Troupe. A portion of the funds also will be used to mail out a community survey that will culminate in a Summit on Community Excellence in mid-May.

The survey will be mailed to

every home in the Plymouths in April, allowing residents to evaluate the Plymouth community lifestyle and needs for the future. The survey has been developed by the Gallup organization and is currently being tested in communities around the nation.

Results will be shared at the Summit on Community Excellence when government leaders, spiritual, health and educational organizations, advocacy groups and business leaders convene to discuss the results. A Tuesday, March 23, breakfast is planned for outlining the community initiative.

The Century Society of Plymouth has filed for 501(c)3 non-profit status. All checks payable to the Century Society are expected to be tax-exempt by the end of this year.

"The first 50 (members) will be easier than last 50," said Jabara in regards to the Century Society's membership drive. "I don't think it'll be a problem. There's a lot of people in town."

For more information, call 455-1166.

Back to the 1930s



Jazz time: Ragtime piano player Dan Milne, above, performs for a group gathered at the Plymouth Historical Museum last Thursday. The museum is hosting monthly programs themed after each decade of the 20th century. This month featured the 1930s. At right, Luan Brownlee laughs with server Don Peterson in the "bread (and soup) line" sponsored by The Breadsmith Bakery. On April 8, the 1940s will be featured in museum activities.



STAFF PHOTOS BY PAUL HUBSCHMANN

Rates from page A1

interest," said McDonald. "However, I think those that move into the city over the next 20 years should help pay for those bills, not at the expense of the elderly in this town."

Figures from Assistant City Manager Paul Sincock indicate bonds totaling \$995,000 and \$860,000 will be issued before July first, with another bond issue for \$995,000 set for the fall. Sincock says the interest total for the three bond issues will equal slightly more than \$1.6 million at the end of 20 years.

In the end, it was Mayor Don Dismuke, Mayor Pro Tem Joe

Koch, and commissioners McDonald and Colleen Pobur voting in favor of the lower rate increase combined with 20-year bond issues. Commissioners Loiselle, Greene and Dennis Shrewsbury voted against the plan.

"If we shorten the bond retainment time, it puts pressure on rates," said City Manager David Rich. "We can shorten it to reduce financing costs, but the rates will go up. That's the trade-off."

Plymouth resident Jerry Vorva blamed the city administration for failing to foresee a water and sewer fund deficit.

"The administration has to take a big chunk of the blame," said Vorva. "Maybe there needs to be some belt tightening. Take a real look at where we can tighten our budget. Maybe no raises, or maybe we need to look at all (administration) positions to see if they're really needed."

After the meeting, Loiselle remained upset about the vote.

"After voting taxpayers to pay another \$4 million in interest, while the budget is a quarter-of-a-million dollars out of balance, I'm surprised the commissioners didn't give themselves a raise because they're doing such a good job."

School from page A1

"Think about the thousands and thousands of children who will benefit by what we are doing today," added Mike Maloney, school board president. "This community cares about children, and cares about education. That's what makes it a great place to live, and that's what's going to continue to make it a great place to live over the next century."

Site preparation for the Hanford and Canton Center roads location is expected to begin when the weather cooperates, hopefully by the end of this month. Bids for construction are expected March 31, with construction to begin shortly afterward.

"We're encouraged by the competition that's being generated," said architect Ron Fanning of Fanning/Howey Associates, who noted at least 60 bid packages were sent out to prospective contractors in two days. "The market is pretty tight right now, so we'll have to keep our fingers crossed on the numbers."

Voters last October approved an \$18.1 million bond proposal to build the new middle school, which will replace Lowell.

With interest on the bonds, the total project budget jumps to more than \$19.7 million. That includes \$15 million for construction costs; \$775,000 for instructional technology; \$775,000 for construction contingencies; and \$600,000 for educational equipment.

Discovery Middle School will be the first new middle school constructed in 30 years in the Plymouth-Canton school district. It will be the largest middle school in the district at 127,000 square feet, with a planned capacity of 765 students. The opening is planned for the beginning of the 2000-01 school year.

Canton Township Supervisor Tom Yack praised the cooperative efforts between the township and school district.

"We can really celebrate the support that both units of government have towards each other," Yack told the crowd. "I

can name about 15 different programs ... that we work cooperatively with the Plymouth-Canton school district and administrative staff."

Cheers went up among the crowd, many by staff members from Lowell who helped in designing Discovery, when the ceremonial first shovels of dirt were overturned.

"This is a big day in the life of the Plymouth-Canton school district," said Lowell math teacher Al Kohring. "I've been teaching 24 years, and this will be a nice way to finish out my career."

"This is so exciting," added chorus teacher Joann Gustafson, who has been teaching 32 years.

Gustafson is one of a handful of teachers who began at Lowell 18 years ago, when Plymouth-Canton began leasing the school from Livonia. "We call ourselves the Pilgrims because we came on the Mayflower 18 years ago," quipped Gustafson. "It looks like we're going to make it to the New World, Discovery."

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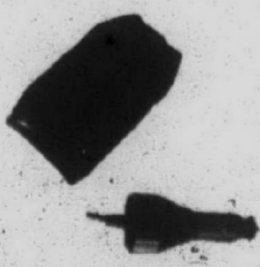
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Change from page A1

week, they've reached 100 percent booking," she said. "So, it's definitely satisfying a pent-up need for something like that in the area."

One of the hotels that is planned is the next phase in the redevelopment project at the former St. John's Seminary at Five Mile and Sheldon, with the other eyeing a site in the industrial park along Halyard.

Traffic, especially along Beck Road, was also one of the questions raised at the address.

McCarthy said that the township is currently looking at the project in conjunction with Wayne County in terms of what needs to be done to alleviate the problem.

She said that the road could be widened to a full five-lane artery through the community but also said that making changes to a separate road in the area might give motorists another option, lightening the traffic load on Beck.

Also a hot issue, which ties in with the question of traffic, was the proposed restaurant and condominium development near Haggerty and Ann Arbor Road.

With the possibility of adding more than 300 condominiums to the area and blocking off two roads that currently exit to Ann Arbor Road, traffic flow will increase on an already busy Haggerty Road and Ann Arbor Trail.

Little mentioned student ACT test scores and the school dis-

trict's reputation as a couple of the strong points for the local education system but said that there are plenty of concerns in that department as well.

He stated that the Plymouth-Canton district as one of the lowest funded in the area and is extremely over-crowded, currently 1,000 students over capacity.

With the construction of three new schools (one elementary, one middle and one high school) planned for the near future, the future looks bright.

"Technology will be one of our biggest assets," he said. "You have to remember that every one of these kids in the schools grew up with Nintendo and it's us, the adults, that have to catch up."

Bankes has been making the rounds to meet with local government officials, including the township board of trustees and the city commission, in identifying issues in the area that need to be addressed by the county.

She is planning to drive around several of the local communities with Cameron Priebe, Wayne County director of Public Works, Friday to determine a plan to fix roads that need repair and eventually take that master plan to Wayne County Executive Ed McNamara.

In talking Wednesday, Bankes said that she is welcoming local government heads to help her with identifying problem areas.

"As you can tell from this speech, I'm in the learning mode," she said. "But, if there's anything that you would like me



Don Dismuke
Plymouth mayor



Kathleen Keen McCarthy
Plymouth Township supervisor



Chuck Little
schools superintendent



Lyn Bankes
Wayne County commissioner

to know, please feel free to tell me."

The Y2K scare also surfaced at the address with local business owners inquiring about the government's preparedness.

All four speakers were confident that local governments have made adequate changes in fixing the problem but some concerns are still looming as to what higher authorities are doing.

"The big question is Detroit Water and Sewer," said Dismuke. "It's a question of whether they'll be ready."

McCarthy agreed, saying, "There's only so much that the local communities can do. We should be all right as long as we have power. But we don't control power."

PLYMOUTH PIPELINE

Henry Ford

The new Henry Ford Medical Center in Plymouth will host Open House for the public from 12:30-4 p.m., Sunday, March 21, located at 14300 Beck Road, between M-14 and Commerce Drive.

Activities at the center include: Child ID finger printing by AAA Michigan; Gizmo the Robot; appearance by Plymouth Whalers Mascot, "Slapshot"; blood pressure and vision screenings; make your own ice cream sundaes and root beer floats; meet the staff; dedication of the Community Room; canned food drive for First Step, a United Way agency working to end domestic violence; and a free drawing to win Piston, Red Wings, Tigers or Whalers tickets.

The 21,000-square-foot medical center offers services in the areas of internal medicine, family medicine, pediatrics, obstetrics and gynecology, urgent care, radiology, pharmacy and laboratory services.

For more information, call (734) 453-5600.

Chamber activities

The Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce 1999 board members and officers will be sworn in by 35th District Judge Ron Lowe 8-9

a.m. Thursday, March 25. Chamber members are invited to the special morning coffee at the chamber office (lower level). Refreshments will be served. For reservations, call (734) 453-1540.

■ Plymouth downtown retailers will be open 7-11 p.m. Friday, March 26, during Moonlight Madness.

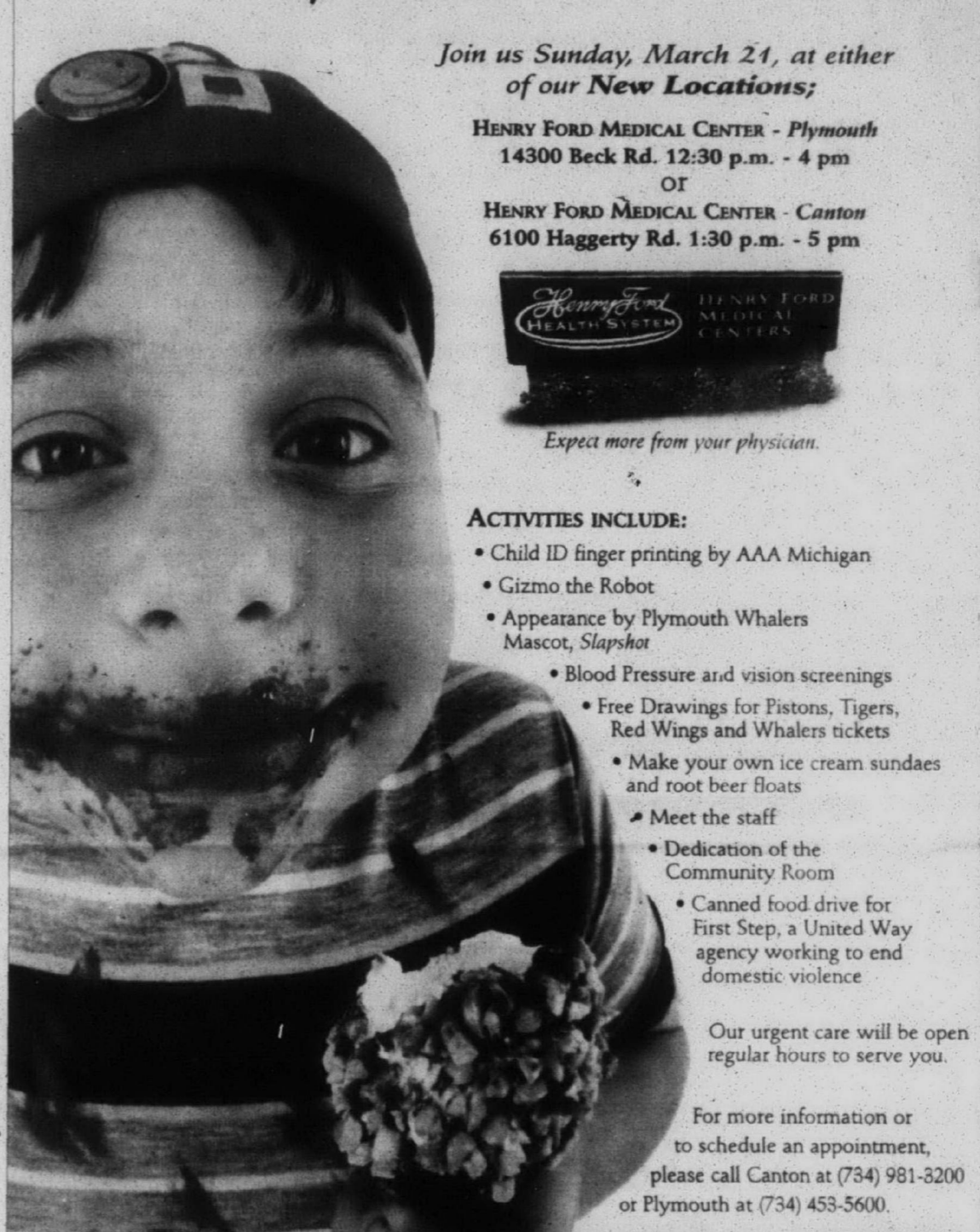
■ All Plymouth service clubs are asked to send in nominees for the 1999 "Volunteer of the Year." The volunteers and their clubs will be honored at Showcase Plymouth 5:30-7:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 11, at the Plymouth Manor. Information should be forwarded to the Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce, 386 S. Main, Plymouth 48170, (734) 453-1540. Deadline is May 1.

Builder's Show

Absopure Water, American Blind & Wallpaper and Mark J. Baldwin & Associates of Plymouth will be among the companies to exhibit at the 81st annual Builders Home and Detroit Flower Show, which runs from March 18-21 at Cobo Center.

The show is a member of the Home & Garden Television National Show Series.

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- Blood Pressure and vision screenings
- Free Drawings for Pistons, Tigers, Red Wings and Whalers tickets
- Make your own ice cream sundaes and root beer floats
- Meet the staff
- Dedication of the Community Room
- Canned food drive for First Step, a United Way agency working to end domestic violence

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Changes eyed for Hines Park, nature preserve

BY KEN ABRAMCZYK
STAFF WRITER
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The William Holliday Forest Nature Preserve in Westland may obtain a new board walk and trail repairs, while park facilities throughout Hines Park will be continued to be made accessible for the disabled.

The Wayne County parks master plan listed these improvements for funding this year. The five-year plan was released to Wayne County commissioners in February.

Hurley Coleman, director of Wayne County parks, said the plan serves two purposes.

"We get to look at Wayne County parks and what we'd like to see in 2004 and 2010. It's a dynamic plan of action. It gives a good evolution of where we are.

"We've gone through the master plans from local communities and look at what Wayne County ought to be doing. We've got 43 communities in Wayne County, so there is only a limited amount of what we can do.

Coleman said the parks department uses the report to help lobby the state Department of Natural Resources and the Department of Environmental Quality to obtain grants through

PARK MASTER PLAN

land trust and federal land conservation funds. One of the applications calls for an approved five-year plan, Coleman said. "That requirement forces communities to take the time and think of the scope of their projects," Coleman said.

The plan highlighted many of the \$31 million in improvements made since 1997. Approximately 82 percent of the funds needed for the five-year action plan for parks and recreation improvement came from the special five-year property tax, approved by voters in August 1996 and scheduled to expire in 2001. The remaining funds came from grants and the Wayne County general fund.

About 51 percent of the money from the tax, grants and general funds were spent in Wayne County parks, including 22 percent spent in all the parks, and Hines with 16 percent. The remaining 49 percent went to "Partnership Parks," such as historic Fort Wayne, Mariner Park and Chandler Park in Detroit.

"These (partnership parks) will range from cooperative improvement of existing local

parks, that will have regional significance, the example there is the Chandler Park Aquatic Center (in Detroit), and the maintenance and programming functions as performed at Crosswinds Marsh (in Sumpter Township)."

Coleman hopes the plan lays the groundwork for property acquisition. "We ought to be buying into areas for passive recreation in areas of development.

"In the past we were not able to do this because of a lack of resources."

Wayne County is not actively pursuing property yet, but Coleman identified Brownstown and Sumpter townships as areas Wayne County may be interested in.

Property acquisition would help connect Hines Park and the Lower Rouge Parkway where private land holdings "disrupt the flow and continuity of the park," according to the report.

Land acquisition would assist with the protection of water resources, particularly along tributaries along the Rouge River and the Detroit River. Such a program would help protect historically significant sites, such as the Hines Drive bridge over Plymouth Road in Livonia, where Ann Arbor Road begins. That bridge was recently nominated by the State Historic Preservation Office as a historical site.



FILE PHOTO BY BRYAN MITCHELL

Park programs: The annual Mud Day, sponsored by Wayne County Parks, is one of many activities which draws hundreds of youngsters and their families to picnic and recreation areas in Hines Park.

Other ongoing projects in Hines Park were highlighted in the plan:

- Nankin Mills Interpretive Center, a renovation of a mill

once owned by Henry Ford, will review the history and nature of the region in exhibits;

- Expenditures include a bike path, new backstops and bleachers,

soccer fields, basketball courts and ice rinks;

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BY TIM RICHARD
STAFF WRITER
trichard@oe.ho

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Phone companies battle for middle-distance business

BY TIM RICHARD
STAFF WRITER
trichard@oe.homecomm.net

MCI, the long-distance telephone company, and Ameritech Michigan, the local telephone system, are slugging it out in the state Supreme Court over the middle-distance business.

In telephone jargon, the prize is the "IntraLATA" market — mid-distance calls to a neighboring town or county, though not long-distance. Ameritech has tight grip on IntraLATA.

The Michigan Public Service

Commission, prodded by MCI and AT&T, ordered Ameritech to provide "dialing parity," and the Court of Appeals agreed. But Ameritech won't give up.

"A customer in Southfield calling Ann Arbor would have to dial an extra seven digits, in addition to the number," said David Voges, an assistant attorney general representing the state PSC in March 11 oral arguments before the high court.

He referred to the 10-10-288 or 10-10-321 prefixes a caller must dial in order to have the mid-

distance IntraLATA call handled more cheaply by a long-distance company instead of Ameritech.

"There's no doubt that requiring an extra seven digits has taken a large bite out of competition," added Peter Lark, another assistant attorney general.

Lark noted that in recent years Ameritech Michigan's flat rate went up 20 percent, from 15 to 18 cents per minute while Ameritech Illinois' rate fell from 12 to 7 cents per minute.

Under the PSC-ordered "dialing parity," a caller wouldn't

have to dial the seven-digit prefix in order to use MCI or AT&T. Dialing parity was supposed to start Jan. 1, 1996.

The Supreme Court tries to decide cases within a year of hearing oral arguments. Easy decisions come out in a few weeks. Difficult ones like MCI take many months.

Arthur LeVasseur, AT&T's attorney, added that the PSC ordered a 55 percent discount by Ameritech "to the extent its orders weren't applied." He added, "The Court of Appeals

found in 1997 that the Public Service Commission had authority to set a 55 percent discount rate. There's a constitutional issue."

Ameritech attorney Peter Ellsworth replied, "Competition goes both ways." He complained that a federal law says Ameritech must provide mid-distance dialing parity when it is allowed into the long-distance market. So far that hasn't happened.

"The inability of Ameritech to compete in InterLATA (long dis-

tance) is a severe disability. It (Ameritech) has absolutely no ability to offer a package," Ellsworth told the justices.

Under federal law, said Ellsworth, there's a "linkage" between competitive markets for long-distance and mid-distance business, "but Ameritech never was granted relief to compete."

"In 1996 the U.S. Congress and the Michigan Legislature wrestled with the problem. Congress linked IntraLATA par-

Please see PHONE, A11

S'craft to hold blood drive March 25

Every 20 seconds, someone in southeastern Michigan needs blood.

Transfusions are life giving, not only for accident and emergency victims, but for hospital patients, people with sickle cell anemia, cancer, heart disease, leukemia and other major illnesses.

You can help meet this need by donating blood Thursday, March 25, at Schoolcraft College's Radcliff Center. The American Red Cross Bloodmobile will be stationed in the Community Room from noon to 9 p.m. To schedule an appointment, call (734) 462-4400, Ext. 6470 or 5050.

Walk-in donors are welcome.

The Radcliff Center is located 1751 Radcliff, just south of Ford Road between Wayne and Merimian roads, in Garden City.

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DeHart, Kelly say tax break bill is nothing but corporate welfare

BY TIM RICHARD
STAFF WRITER
trichard@oe.homecomm.net

Sen. Bill Bullard's new business tax break ran into a couple of rough spots before landing this week on Gov. John Engler's desk for signing.

Bullard, R-Milford and chair of the Senate Taxation Committee, won 32-4 approval in the Senate on Feb. 25 and 93-15 approval in the House March 9.

His SB 102 would allow local units — cities, villages and townships — in an "eligible distressed area" to exempt all new personal property of a business relocating there. Bullard said the goal is to encourage businesses to locate in older urban areas.

"Another form of corporate welfare," said Rep. Eileen DeHart, D-Westland. "My communities are in jeopardy of losing business to a neighboring community who fits the criteria of being 'distressed.'"

LEGISLATIVE NEWS

Added Rep. Ruth Ann Jamnick, D-Ypsilanti: "There is no provision for repayment to the taxing units if a corporate decision is made to move to another community, county or state."

Rep. Tom Kelly, D-Wayne, also voted no. They were the only three area House members to dissent.

In the Senate, the four dissenters were all Republicans, including John J.H. Schwarz of Battle Creek. They made no on-the-record protests, however. All area senators of both parties voted yes.

Bullard's bill defines an "eligible distressed area" as one that has seen population drop since 1970, has poverty and unemployment rate higher than the statewide average, and has an area certified by the state as a

"neighborhood enterprise zone." SB 102 also provides:

To be eligible for the tax break, businesses must employ at least 25 and be in the manufacturing, mining, research and development, wholesale or office operations.

Ineligible would be retail stores, professional sports stadiums or portions of a business used for retail trade.

"Personal property" includes machinery, equipment and inventory.

The Senate Fiscal Agency didn't calculate potential tax losses, but it noted that school districts would be "held harmless" — that is, the state would pay their guaranteed per-pupil foundation allowances.

A business planning to move

Please see TAX, A11

Free shuttle service on tap for patrons at O&E job fair

Free shuttle bus service will be available to those attending the Observer & Eccentric/HomeTown Newspapers Job Fair on Wednesday, March 24, at Laurel Manor in Livonia.

The 18-seat shuttle bus will run in a continuous loop from Madonna University, located on the corner of Schoolcraft and Levan Roads, to Laurel Manor, located on Schoolcraft, just south of I-96. Job fair attendees who wish to catch the shuttle bus will be able to park for free at Madonna University's southeast corner parking lot and board the bus. The bus will make a complete loop every 15

minutes. This service is available from noon to 5 p.m. on the day of the job fair. Job fair hours are 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

"Due to the overwhelming success of our September 1998 job fair, we realized that a shuttle bus service was needed in order to grow this event," said Rick Ficorelli, director of marketing for the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers.

"We anticipate an even larger attendance at the March job fair, and the shuttle bus service should help us realize that goal. We hope that those who come to the job fair and find limited

parking at Laurel Manor, will drive one mile to Madonna University and catch the free shuttle."


This free shuttle bus service is provided courtesy of the City of Livonia Community Transit. For more information, contact Kurt Sonoras at the City of Livonia (734) 466-2700.

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers publishes 15 twice-weekly community papers in western Wayne and Oakland counties. The HomeTown Newspapers publishes papers in Northville, South Lyon, Brighton, Novi, Northville, Milford and Livingston County.

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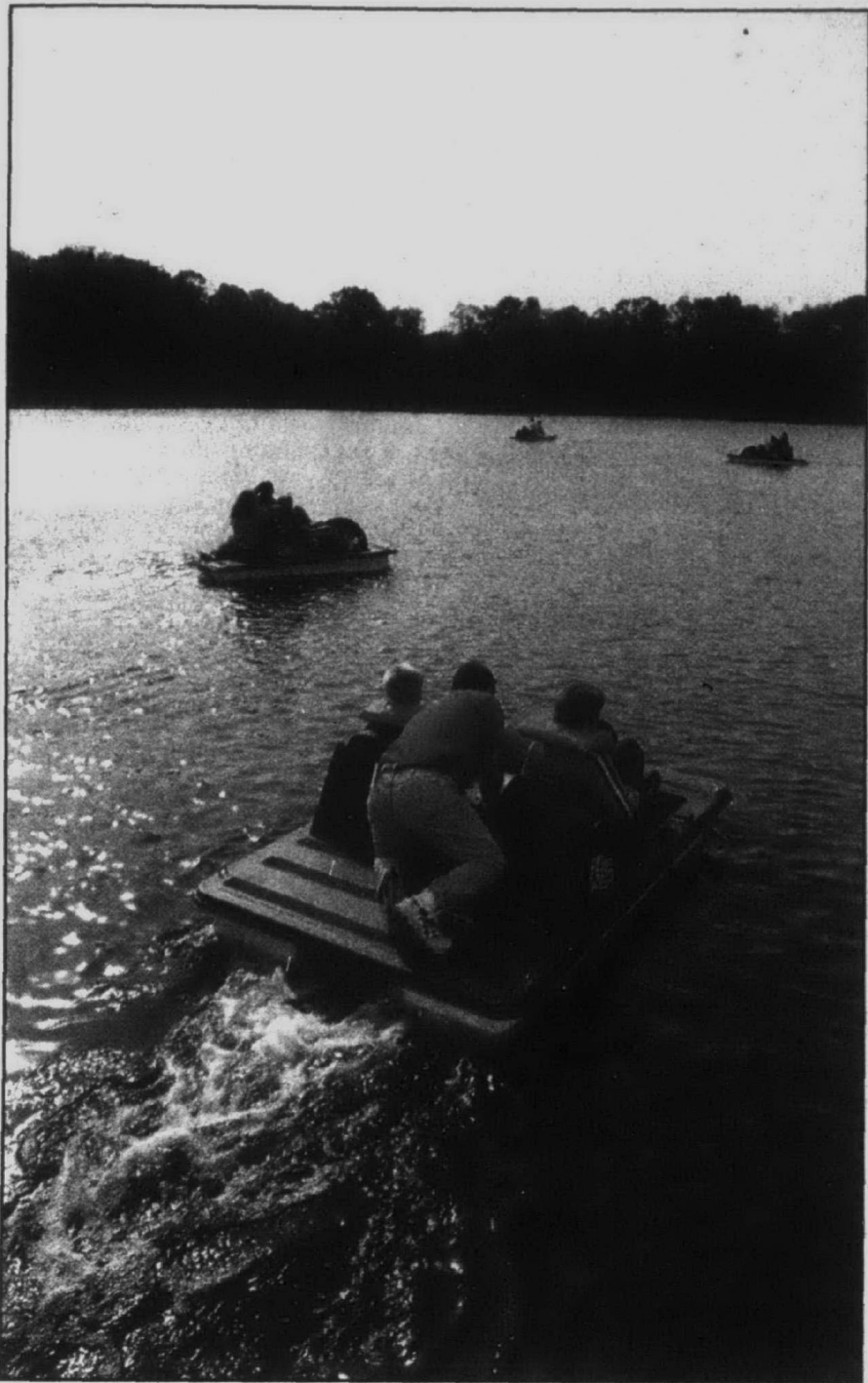
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Park users can reel in summer fun



FILE PHOTO BY BRYAN MITCHELL

Paddleboat party: Youngsters enjoy a paddleboat during the official dedication of Newburgh Lake in October 1998. Paddleboats will be available for rental at Newburgh Pointe after Memorial Day, according to Wayne County Parks Director Hurley Coleman.

BY KEN ABRAMCZYK
STAFF WRITER
kabramczyk@oe.homecomm.net

You can get your fishing rod and reel ready for Newburgh Lake, but please, please, please don't eat the fish.

Newburgh Lake will be open for catch-and-release fishing this year, but public fish consumption advisories from the Michigan Department of Community Health will remain in effect.

Newburgh Lake, an impoundment of the Rouge River in the city of Livonia and Plymouth Township, was officially dedicated in October after a 19-month, \$10 million restoration project to remove contaminated sediments, but Memorial Day will mark the lake's actual reopening to the public for recreational activities.

Canoes and paddleboats will be available at Newburgh Pointe after Memorial Day. Residents can bring their own small boat to launch at the lake's public site, but they will need a permit. Motor boats will not be allowed.

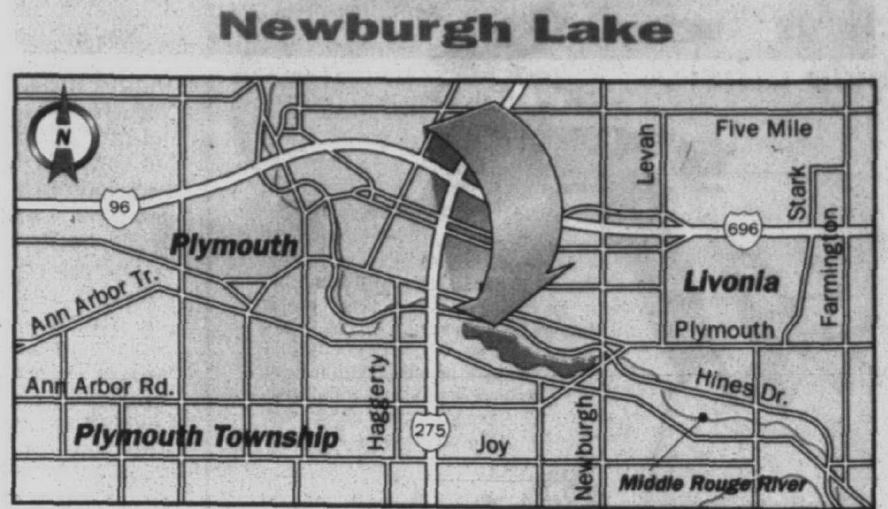
"Fishing will be allowed, but of course, they will have to follow the (Department of Natural Resources) rules," said Hurley Coleman, director of Wayne County parks. "We're not doing anything different from the DNR rules. For sportfishing, we'd always advise catch and release."

Fish advisories against consumption will continue this year for the middle branch of the Rouge River, including the impoundment of Newburgh Lake, below Phoenix Lake.

Gary Towns, district fisheries biologist, said the DNR encourages anglers to enjoy the lake, but they should, of course, follow state regulations outlined in fishing guides and advisories distributed when they purchase their fishing licenses. After the DNR had received requests from people who wanted to fish at the lake last fall, Towns met with county officials to discuss it.

"(Anglers) knew they weren't going to be able to catch any fish, if any at all, but they just wanted to wet a line and enjoy the park. There's no reason why they can't do that."

Towns doubts that any fish would



grow large enough this year to be "keepers." "If they do get to the legal size, we have these regulations and we will be patrolling it. Those regulations protect 'subregulated' fish."

Towns expects the fish to grow quickly and could reach legal size next year. "There's no reason for (recreational anglers) not to enjoy it."

Wayne County commissioners are expected to study a proposed list of parks fees next week at a meeting of the commission's Committee on Roads, Airports and Public Services, which will then return the fee schedule to the full commission for a vote, possibly for the following week.

The fees include a small-boating permit for \$5; canoe rentals from Newburgh to Nankin and Nankin to Merriman, \$10 each, or Newburgh to Merriman, \$15.

Coleman proposed \$100 fees for the daily rental of picnic shelters throughout the park system.

The canoe livery will be opened at the Nankin impoundment on Hines Drive just west of Ann Arbor Trail and, for the first time, at Newburgh Road. For the first time, canoeing will be permitted from Newburgh to Ann Arbor Trail.

A public health advisory against consumption will not be lifted by the Michigan Department of Community and Public Health until the fish are cleared of any possible contamination.

These contaminants that once

were present in Newburgh Lake — polychlorinated biphenyls — bioaccumulate in large fish, so if any PCBs were present, they would be evident in species, such as largemouth bass. Contaminants are not expected to be found in the fish, as 558,000 tons of sediment were removed from Newburgh Lake over the past two years. Approximately 250,000 tons were contaminated with PCBs.

Two fish kills over the last two years removed about 30,000 pounds of fish, some contaminated with the PCBs.

Newburgh was stocked last year with 50 gallons of fathead minnows, 10,000 bluegills, 4,000 largemouth bass, 3,000 catfish and 1,000 wall-eye. None of these fish would grow to a catchable legal size except for possibly the bluegill.

Those same fish are expected to be restocked this year, along with 4,000 northern pike, 300 crappie and 100 pumpkinseed sunfish. In 2000, 3,000 catfish and 2,000 northern pike will be restocked.

Coleman said county parks staff have discussed having Newburgh Lake as a recreational activity since 1989.

"So much is being done on the Rouge, it's an exciting thing for the people to go out there with their families. There's more recreational activities for them."

"Paddleboats and rowboats — that's great stuff."

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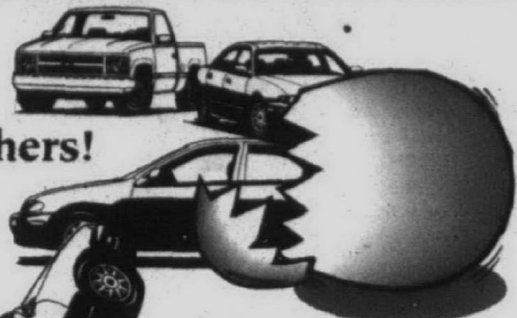
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Robert Dodds, MD, recently joined the practice of David Clarke, MD, Christina DiMaggio, MD, and Kang-Lee Tu, MD. He specializes in Obstetrics and Gynecology, and has a special interest in treating conditions of infertility, urinary incontinence, and pelvic prolapse.

After earning his medical degree at Wayne State University, Dr. Dodds completed his internship and residency at Providence Hospital. Among his other awards and activities, Dr. Dodds was honored as Resident Teacher of the Year each year from 1995 through 1998. He is also a member of the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology and the American Medical Association.

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Legal review

Prosecutor to examine airport bus leases

BY KEN ABRAMCZYK
STAFF WRITER
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Wayne County Prosecutor John O'Hair is reviewing the vehicle lease agreements of an airport parking operator after an auditor general's report indicated that Wayne County may be overpaying an airport parking operator \$400,000 for the lease of 37 shuttle buses.

The prosecutor's office stopped short of calling it a criminal investigation, referring to it as a review to check whether the lease reimbursements were "unreasonable."

Auditor General Brendan Dunleavy released a report in December, which disclosed that lease agreements with the Cleveland-based APCOA cost an average of \$28,000 per vehicle. Dunleavy and his staff found that airport could have leased the majority of these vehicles for an average of about \$17,000 per vehicle.

"At this rate, the airport could be paying as much as \$400,000 too much to lease the 37 vehicles," Dunleavy said.

Auditor's report

Dunleavy sent his report to the prosecutor's office in accordance with the county ethics ordinance.

In a letter received Tuesday by Wayne County commissioners and addressed to Wayne County Corporation Counsel Edward Ewell and Airport Director David Katz, O'Hair said: "We have not yet reached any conclusion with respect to intentional wrongdoing."

Said George Ward, chief assistant prosecutor: "We're still getting information. We've been focusing on whether the payments and reimbursements were unreasonable." Ward expected the prosecutor's review would be completed in two weeks, at which time the county would decide whether to attempt to recover any reimbursement.

Dunleavy's report also found that \$1.4 million in parking taxes were underreported, but O'Hair's office was not reviewing that audit problem, Ward said.

"The state Treasurer's got jurisdiction on that," Ward said. Wayne County was waiting for an interpretation of state statute on what percentage of the parking tax should be levied.

APCOA deducted labor costs from the valet parking receipts before calculating the parking tax. Dunleavy calculated that that amount was less than 25 percent of the total charge of the parking tax. Airport officials say APCOA now computes the park-

ing tax on the entire amount.

County commissioners received the letter the same day they were to study a recommended approval of APCOA to a three-year contract, but decided to pass the contract for the day, which means it is expected to be discussed again at the next committee-of-the-whole meeting March 30. Commissioners also are meeting today for a regularly scheduled business meeting.

The contract calls for APCOA to operate and manage the public parking facility's 11,810 parking spaces at Metro. Wayne County would pay to APCOA-Williford Parking an amount equal to 0.23297 percent of the total gross revenues. APCOA-Williford Parking is a joint venture between APCOA of Cleveland and Williford Enterprises of Detroit.

Commission to act

Vice Chair Kay Beard, D-Westland, wanted to wait to discuss APCOA's contract until the prosecutor's office completed its investigation.

"The report on APCOA's contract was one of the most shocking things I've ever read," Beard said. "Things were egregious."

Beard said she was "disappointed" she didn't hear from Katz or Ewell about the letter.

"Until things are cleared up, I think it would be unwise (to OK the contract)," Beard said.

Ward told the commissioners they could approve the contract, if they chose to do so, but it would not affect the prosecutorial review. "Whether or not you do will not prejudice our review of the past reimbursement," Ward said.

Katz agreed that the commission should wait before acting on the contract. "Let the prosecutor complete his review before you act on it," Katz said. "Whatever makes the board comfortable." Katz said in a recent interview the APCOA contract was the low bidder, less than one-half the cost of the other bidders.

Commissioner Lyn Bankes, R-Livonia, said she wanted a copy of the previous contract to compare it to the new one before she acted on it. Dunleavy listed some recommended changes to the contract, which he forwarded to the commission.

Katz said APCOA has acted in good faith during the last contract and bid process. He said his department has answered questions from Ward and others from the prosecutor's office. Ward also said Katz was cooperative.

"If we feel we are owed some money, we will get a refund," Katz said.

Great Lakes water analysis available free from state

Extra copies of the Department of Environmental Quality's Great Lakes trends analysis have been printed and are available free of charge.

The DEQ's Office of the Great Lakes has reprinted 2,000 copies to meet the anticipated high

demand for the report "Great Lakes Trends: A Dynamic Ecosystem."

The analysis, originally printed in January 1998, focuses on the chemical, physical and biological aspects of the Great Lakes ecosystem. It reviews

trends such as polychlorinated biphenyl levels in coho salmon and herring gull eggs; annual phosphorous loadings from the Detroit River; lead and mercury in Lake Michigan sediments; atmospheric deposition; land-use changes and the introduction of

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BY TIM RICH
STAFF WRITER
trichard@oe.h

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FA

Dems balk at bill to fill lieutenant governor vacancy

BY TIM RICHARD
STAFF WRITER
trichard@oe.homecomm.net

Senate Democrats balked, defeating a plan to fill any vacancy in the office of lieutenant governor.

The plan required a two-thirds vote of the Senate, or 25 of the 37 sitting members. It died when just 20 Republicans voted yes, and 14 Democrats said no.

Both House and Senate would

have to vote to put it on the November 2000 ballot as a constitutional amendment for voters to approve.

Senate Joint Resolution G, as it's known, would allow the governor to appoint a lieutenant governor with the concurrence of the Senate.

Here's how area senators voted:

YES - Republicans Loren Bennett of Canton, Bill Bullard Jr. of

Milford, Thaddeus McCotter of Livonia, Mike Rogers of Brighton, John Schwarz of Battle Creek.

NO - Democrats Dianne Byrum of Onondaga, John Cherry of Clio, George Hart of Dearborn, Gary Peters of Bloomfield Township and Alma Wheeler Smith of Salem.

ABSENT - Mat Dunaskiss, R-Lake Orion, along with one other Republican and one Democrat.

One Senate seat is vacant.

The vote came March 9 after senators rejected, by voice vote, an amendment by Alma Smith, D-Salem, to require concurrence by both the House and Senate.

Republicans rejected it, arguing that only Senate concurrence is needed for most appointments. And the governor is allowed to fill vacancies for secretary of state and attorney general with no legislative concurrence at all.

Afterward, Rogers, as majority floor leader, moved for reconsideration, leaving the plan still on the Senate calendar.

But the 1961 Constitutional Convention intentionally didn't provide for filling a vacancy for lieutenant governor, according to SJR G's sponsor, Sen. Ken Sikkema, R-Grandville.

Without a lieutenant governor

to cast a tie-breaking vote, the Senate could deadlock 19-19, Sikkema said.

Only once under the current constitution - in 1969-70 - has there been no lieutenant governor. Gov. George Romney resigned to take a post in the Nixon cabinet. Lt. Gov. William G. Milliken moved up to governor. The lieutenant governor post went vacant until voters elected James Brickley in 1970.

Phone

from page A7

ity to InterLATA with two exceptions. One doesn't apply to Michigan.

"The other applies to states with dialing parity. This allows states to proceed with dialing parity, but not until Ameritech can compete in InterLATA," said Ellsworth, contending federal regulations are controlling over state law.

"This case is moot," said the Ameritech attorney, saying it should be held in abeyance and not decided by the Michigan Supreme Court. He said a U.S. Supreme Court decision held the Federal Communications Commission had authority to control IntraLATA (mid-distance) rates.

"It is not moot," shot back Albert Ernst for MCI. "We still have the 55 percent (discount) issue. Michigan could implement dialing parity on its own. Thirty-five states have implemented dialing parity. We (Michigan) can't get it."

"They (Ameritech) want to keep their 1+ monopoly. That's all it's about. Ameritech won a great victory by delaying."

Justice Maura Corrigan, who was elected in November of 1998, asked about the state act that limited Ameritech's requirement to offer mid-distance dialing parity to 10 percent of customers on a graduated scale. "Ameritech made a good case with the Legislature for a level playing field," she added.

"Ameritech has an obligation," said Voges, the assistant attorney general. "It doesn't say the converse (that Ameritech must be allowed access to the long-distance market)."

Tax

from page A8

would have to give notice to the State Tax Commission, Michigan Jobs Commission and the losing local unit of government.

The business would not get the exemption, however, if the losing governmental unit adopted a resolution objecting to the relocation within 60 days of notification.

The bill blocks the gaining governmental unit from getting around the tax exemption by accepting any charge, fee or payment in lieu of personal property taxes.

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The Michigan Head-Pain & Neurological Institute is conducting a research study evaluating a potential treatment for cluster headache. Participants must be at least 18 years old and suffer 1-4 headaches per day in current cycle. Study related medical care and compensation are provided.

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County parks to host marshmallow drop

More than 20,000 marshmallows will be dropped April 2 from a helicopter to the delight of hundreds of awaiting children, who will scramble to collect these goodies during the county's 14th Annual Great Marshmallow Drop, which also falls on April 2.

Children can turn in the marshmallows for prize-filled eggs at the drop at 11 a.m. at Nankin Mills in Westland. Children will collect the marshmallows in different age groups.

If the weather does not cooperate, the event will be rescheduled for Saturday, April 3.

"This is an exciting event for children of all ages," said Wayne County Executive Edward McNamara. "What a great way to start out the spring with a wonderful outdoor activity."

The Great Marshmallow Drop is co-sponsored by WNIC-FM and is the first of a record number of warm weather events planned by Wayne County Parks for 1999.

Nankin Mills is located on Hines Drive just east of Ann Arbor Trail in Westland. For additional information on this or any other Wayne County parks event, call (734) 261-1990.

Schoolcraft will offer basic boating class

Schoolcraft College offers a class, Michigan Boating Basics and Responsible Boating, that is an approved boating safety course necessary to operate legally a personal water craft.

New laws effective in 1999 require that all persons born after Dec. 31, 1978, must attend

and pass such a class to operate a boat or a PWC such as a Jet Ski legally.

The class offers a review of safe, legal and responsible boating operation in the state, including equipment requirements, preparation for trailering, navigational rules and safe

operation.

All boating safety course students must be at least 12 years old and will receive state certification to legally operate a boat or PWC upon successfully completing the class.

The two-week class begins at 8:30 a.m. Saturday, March 20,

for a \$32 fee.

For more information on fees and schedules, call (734) 462-4448.

Schoolcraft College is at 18600 Haggerty, between Six Mile and Seven Mile roads, just west of I-275 in Livonia.

Employers sought for collegiate job fair

Michigan employers are invited to take part in the 23rd Michigan Collegiate Job Fair 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday, March 26, at Burton Manor, 27777 Schoolcraft in Livonia.

The fair is co-sponsored by Wayne State and Eastern Michigan universities and pro-

moted by more than 70 other four-year and two-year institutions. ESD, the Engineering Society, is a supporting sponsor.

The fair is expected to draw 1,000 to 1,200 seniors and recent alumni from colleges and universities throughout Michigan and surrounding states.

The employer registration fee is \$325. Included in that cost is floor space, table and chairs, a company sign, parking, lunch and refreshments for up to four recruiters per firm.

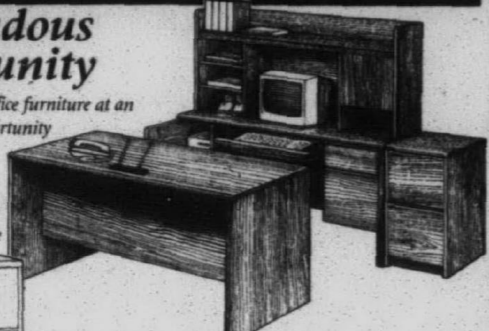
Registration is first-come, first served and should be sub-

mitted as soon as possible. For more information, call Nannette McCleary of Wayne State at (313) 577-9947 or Renee Elliott at (734) 487-4395 for information or contact local university or college placement offices or visit the Internet: www.sa.wayne.edu

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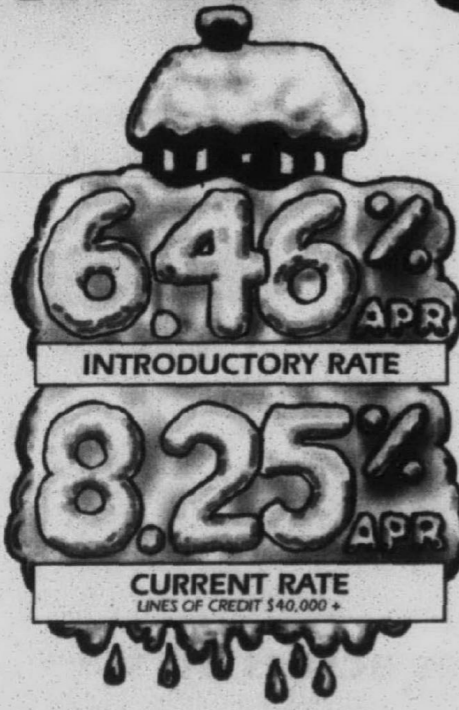


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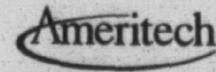
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Plymouth Observer

OPINION

794 SOUTH MAIN, PLYMOUTH, MICHIGAN 48170

THURSDAY, MARCH 18, 1999

A14(P)

Wanted

Active residents to seek office

The latter part of 1999 promises to be a busy political year with two local elections ahead.

In June, Plymouth-Canton Community Schools hold an election to fill two seats on the Board of Education. Terms expire for Carrie Blamer and Mike Maloney. Both are expected to make an announcement soon as to whether they will seek re-election.

In November, the Plymouth City Commission will fill four vacancies. Terms expire for Stella Greene, Ron Loiselle, Joe Koch and Dennis Shrewsbury. Koch is the only incumbent who is eligible to run, although he has yet to decide. The other three can't run due to term limits.

We'd first like to say thank you to all six of these officials for their commitment to the community. Each has given endless hours of time. We can attest that their dedication did not stop by simply attending bimonthly board meetings. They attended community activities, committee meetings and spent even more hours on research and study to ensure their votes were not made arbitrarily.

At times, their jobs were thankless. Complaints seem always to outnumber the compliments.

However, we suspect most of these individuals will not disappear from the scene as their political careers come to a halt. Their names have become synonymous with other passions. For Stella Greene, that is the Plymouth Com-

munity Arts Council; Dennis Shrewsbury, the Tonquish Creek Yacht Club; Joe Koch, the Lions Club; and Ron Loiselle, the Rotary Club.

If Blamer and Maloney decide not to seek re-election, the school district still has two concerned parents willing to do what it takes to ensure Plymouth-Canton has the best schools possible.

We also want to encourage other residents to become involved in the government process. It's easy to grumble about the way things ought to be. The challenge is taking action to create change. The opportunity is here.

The deadline to file a petition to run for the Board of Education is April 12. Applications are available at the E.J. McClendon Educational Center, 454 S. Harvey. A minimum of 20 signatures from registered voters are needed to put your name on the ballot.

Petitions also will be accepted at the city clerk's office, 201 S. Main, from April 2 through May 11 for people interested in filling for city commission. A minimum of 25 signatures are needed. An Aug. 3 primary election will be held if eight or more legal petitions are received from interested candidates. Winners of that race will then go on to the general election, Tuesday, Nov. 2.

So much is happening in the Plymouth community, new minds and new ideas are needed to bring us into the 21st century. Pick up a petition.

Stay alert to potential crime

Plymouth is a safe community. The statistics tell us so. Your chances of being the victim of a random, violent crime in Plymouth are significantly smaller than in a big city and smaller than in some rural areas.

Still, violent crimes do occur here and in the last few weeks we've reported on several. A Plymouth Township woman, 84-year-old Helen Klocek, was found dead in Detroit last week. Klocek's purse was missing and witnesses last reported seeing her at Three Brothers Restaurant on Joy, east of Lilley. Several elderly women have been victimized by purse snatchers along Joy Road and Ann Arbor Trail this winter. In neighboring Canton, a Realtor working in a model home on

Woodbine was raped last December. The alleged assailant - a Monroe man with a history as a sex offender - was eventually arrested and last week he was ordered to stand trial.

Area communities have taken positive steps in helping residents and businesses protect themselves. Plymouth's city and township police have held seminars with the elderly and neighborhood associations offering tips on crime prevention.

While it can't be eliminated altogether, random crime can be deterred somewhat by using common sense and remaining aware of one's surroundings.

Drug tests violate constitution

To get a handle on this welfare drug test question, ask yourself: What percentage of drug users would you have to find to justify invading everyone's bloodstream or urine sample?

That's the constitutional heart of the debate over requiring all welfare recipients to be tested. Here's what the Michigan Constitution says:

"The person, houses, papers and possessions of every person shall be secure from unreasonable searches and seizures. No warrant to search any place or to seize any person or things shall issue without describing them, nor without probable cause supported by oath or affirmation."

That's a high, tough standard. Law enforcement people must swear they have probable cause to believe someone has drugs before obtaining a warrant.

But the bills passed by the state House of Representatives fall far short of that standard. House Bills 4090 and 4091 give the state Family Independence Agency authority to run three pilot sites to test welfare recipients for drug use. One test area would be urban, another rural, the third in Wayne County.

If a welfare client refuses to take the test, he's punished by loss of benefits - no trial.

The sponsor, Rep. Lauren Hager, R-Port Huron, calls it "tough love and compassion in its purest form. A welfare client who is shown to be addicted is offered state-paid treatment." That's wise. Welfare should do more than subsidize people. The new welfare system is designed to get people on their feet, not, in the words of the bills' sponsors, to pay for their addiction.

money into other programs. He used it to match welfare federal grants and signed the biggest welfare bill in Michigan's history.

But back to our original question: What percentage would have to test positive for drugs to justify testing everyone? FIA estimates 15 percent will test positive. Elsewhere, we read of 20 percent testing positive.

Michigan has run into this kind of constitutional problem before. In the mid-1980s, Gov. James Blanchard advocated vehicle check lanes to catch drunken drivers. Cops would figure out which bars would generate lots of drunken drivers on which roads and stop every one passing by.

The courts shot it down for precisely the constitutional reason we cited - there was insufficient "probable cause" to justify stopping every driver.

Moreover, we note that supporters of HB 4090-4091 rejected an amendment requiring all state officials, including the governor and 148 legislators, to submit to drug tests. What's sauce for the welfare goose could well have been sauce for the legislative gander, particularly since lawmakers from both parties have been nailed for drug usage over the years.

One could argue that job applicants at private firms often are required to pass a drug test. It seems the constitution doesn't apply in business. So be it. Requiring a welfare recipient to pass a drug test can be viewed as practice in getting a job in the corporate world.

But we still bump into Sec. 11 in the state constitution's Declaration of Rights: "The person ... unreasonable searches and seizures ... probable cause supported by oath or affirmation."

Reps. Nancy Quarles, D-Southfield, and Tom Kelly, D-Wayne, bucked their colleagues in voting against the drug test bills. We applaud them for reading the Michigan Constitution, which their oaths of office require them to uphold.

The bills probably will be passed. The courts may well call them unconstitutional. The unsavory mess could be avoided if we would all read our constitution and take it more seriously.



LETTERS

Merger talks

There is a need to discuss, and share, the potentials of unification of the two Plymouths. This need evolves from unresolved issues between our two communities concerning the sharing of services and like issues.

A committee is being formed to gather facts relating to the potential of unification and the impact it would have on our community so that residents can make informed decisions on what they would like their community's future to be; and, to deter political polarization from arising.

The committee's mission will be: a) to gather factual data, determine issues (legal and otherwise), and assemble other pertinent data necessary for a resident in making an informed decision, and then b) present the findings to the community at large.

I am asking for input from all sections of the Plymouth community.

If you have a predisposed opinion, or pertinent information, I am asking you, if you are unable to attend the meeting, to submit your information in writing to the committee or to contact me. All information, written or verbal, will be considered and reviewed by the committee. Either by mail to: Committee, 45000 Gov. Bradford, Plymouth, MI 48170; by phone at (734) 354-6075; fax at (734) 354-6080 or by e-mail xcop97@mindspring.com. We are promoting an open forum of discussion on this important issue and what it means.

The first committee meeting will be held at 7 p.m. Monday, March 29, at the Plymouth District Library to open discussion and a gathering concerning this important issue.

Carl Berry
Plymouth

Supervisor responds

In the Observer recently, Mr. Robert Bilkie Jr. commented on the recent name change of the junior baseball organization.

The action taken by the junior baseball league to change its name simply reflects changing realities. Canton is now the 20th largest community in Michigan and its elected leaders recognize the importance of creating a positive quality of life for its residents. As a result Canton's leadership has for the past 10 years placed an emphasis on recreation.

As stewards of our taxpayers' funds it is the Board of Trustee's responsibility to represent the best interests of its constituents. For many years Canton has supported in a meaningful way youth sports. The purchase of Canton Softball Center brought to a head the ongoing issue of commitment levels on the part of the municipalities. It is a disservice to

Canton residents that they be expected to carry the recreation responsibility for other municipalities. It is clear that Canton residents and its elected Board of Trustees have a different attitude toward recreation than does Mr. Bilkie's community. This difference can best be illustrated by comparing the two communities' recreation expenditures over the last six years. During that period Plymouth Township has spent about \$500,000 on capital improvements to its only park, while Canton was investing over \$25 million on a variety of recreation facilities including the development of three new parks.

During the same period Canton spent in excess of \$2.5 million each year on operation, while Plymouth Township spent a few thousand dollars. For many years, the City of Plymouth and Canton Township have provided the area with virtually all recreation facilities and programs. Another example of the difference in recreation funding philosophy and community support can be seen in the recent defeat of a dedicated recreation millage in Plymouth Township. Clearly Canton and Plymouth Township residents and their leaders have a different philosophy and approach as it relates to recreation and leisure. It can be expected that as Canton's population grows it may be necessary to offer programs, services and facilities exclusively to Canton residents. As long as recreation facilities and programs are offered by neighboring communities there will be no incentive for the residents of Plymouth Township or its elected leaders to meet the recreation needs of its community.

We make no apologies for offering our residents one of southeast Michigan's finest recreation programs. We make no apologies for making the youth of our taxpayers a priority. We also make no apologies for protecting the financial interests of our taxpayers. We will continue to respond to the recreational and leisure needs of Canton residents through the planning, acquisition and construction of new recreation/leisure facilities.

Thomas Yack
Canton Township supervisor

Opinions are to be shared: We welcome your ideas, as do your neighbors. That's why we offer this space on a weekly basis for opinions in your own words. We will help by editing for clarity. To assure authenticity, we ask that you sign your letter and provide a contact telephone number.

Letters should be mailed to: Editor, The Plymouth Observer, 794 S. Main, Plymouth 48170.

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— Philip Power

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POINTS OF VIEW

Educators too often use language merely to obfuscate

Many readers are leery of watching and listening to U.S. senators at the recently closed (thank goodness) impeachment trial of President Clinton talk like lawyers.

Those in the legal profession, like all professions, have a language of their own.

Fortunately, most people don't spend a lot of time with lawyers or in a courtroom listening to lawyers and judges talk they are from another planet.

Recently, an Oakland County school superintendent was chastised by his school board for using too many educational abbreviations that the public doesn't understand.

After covering various school

boards for 41 years, I agree there is a problem of how some educators communicate with the public.

In recalling countless curriculum and budget presentations, I can understand why some parents can be confused after leaving a school board meeting or watching proceedings at home on cable TV.

Let me enlighten you on a few key words that have a variety of meanings.

For example, when there is a budget crunch, school administrators and some board members will moan and groan about the lack of "resources."

That's a long word that really means "money."

When they complain about the state Legislature and/or governor



LEONARD POGER

■ For example, when there is a budget crunch, school administrators and some board members will moan and groan about the lack of 'resources.'

reducing state "support" to local schools, "money" is still the operative word.

When the board and administration discuss "prioritizing our precious resources," they mean that "we have to cut art, music and physical education (that's gym to most people) programs."

When the board talks about "overcapacity of buildings," it means that your neighborhood school has too small of an enrollment to be "economically viable" and might be closed down next year.

Why can't educators say that history textbooks aren't keeping up with events when it makes more sense to say that the books are hopelessly out of date, ending about the time the

Vietnam War was just starting to escalate?

One recent comment from a school board meeting was to praise local teachers for "working very hard for a positive outcome" on Michigan Educational Assessment Program tests.

Officials would be able to communicate more effectively if the officials boiled it down to a comment that teachers are hoping to improve academic test scores.

City and township officials have a similar language of their own - but that's another column.

Leonard Poger, Garden City community editor, may be reached via e-mail at lpoger@oe.homecomm.net or by phone at (734) 953-2107.

'Use it or lose it' plan takes aim at school elections in state

This column started out as an April Fool joke. Then I took a trip to the local library, and it got serious.

My idea for civic reform is called "Use it or lose it." Any local election where voter turnout was less than 10 percent would be declared null and void.

The proposal is aimed at school elections in June. Typical turnouts are 10 to 15 percent. Only when there's a controversial money issue on the ballot do 20 or 25 percent turn out. Many elections are decided by a 3-percent turnout.

Some school officials like it that way, particularly when they want to slip through a bond issue. There's a whole science devoted to scheduling special elections. March is a good time because people are sluggish and the senior citizens are in Florida. Saturday is a good day because most people are used to Tuesday elections in Michigan.

So you pick a day when turnout will be small, you buy only legal

advertisements with small type, you don't seek audiences before the Rotary and League of Women Voters, you use telephone banks to contact identifiable "school people," and you hope for a low turnout of just your supporters.

Well, my "Use it or lose it" plan would block that. If just 8 percent of voters turned out, the bond issue would lose, even if 95 percent of those voting said "yes." Only elections with at least a 10-percent turnout could be valid.

Scanning the library shelf, I came across the Feb. 21 issue of the Los Angeles Times with a page-one story that many cities were canceling their elections. These included the famed Beverly Hills (inc. 1915), Lakewood, San Gabriel, Hidden Hills and City of Industry.

That was in Los Angeles County alone. Other elections were canceled in Orange and Ventura counties. It seems that if there are no contests, the clerk can cancel the election, and those on the ballot are declared elect-



TIM RICHARD

ed. Saves money.

My plan is different. If the turnout were too low, the posts wouldn't be filled at all, and the money proposals would fail.

This brings us to the question of why voter turnouts are so dismal.

In L.A., city officials say they're doing such a good job that the lack of competition signifies the public is ecstatic with their performance.

Michigan's low school turnouts are a bit of an optical illusion. For decades, we have had an increasing

amount of deadwood on the voter rolls - people who have died or moved, but their registrations haven't been canceled.

Bill Ballenger, in his Inside Michigan Politics newsletter, tells of a petition circulator whose work was challenged before the state Board of Canvassers. Seems the lady had registered to vote in six different places in Detroit. To her credit, she voted only once, but her five deadwood registrations never were canceled.

Democrats love deadwood. In Michigan, they fought long and hard to prevent inactive voters on the rolls for 10 years. In Congress, they twice passed "Motor Voter" bills so that states would have to register people at welfare, unemployment and public health offices - but not at banks or churches. Good George Bush vetoed it in 1992. Clinton signed it in 1993. Even aliens were registered.

Michigan's Secretary of State Can-

dice Miller has worked to set up a computerized master voter list. As soon as you reregister in a new location, your old registration is canceled. Of more than six million registered voters, she reports, 600,000 were deadwood and have been removed.

With a smaller denominator, our percentage turnouts won't look so bad. What looked like a 5-percent turnout now will become a 5.5-percent turnout. Now that we have good registration numbers, it's time to try the "Use it or lose it" plan.

Phil Power has a plan for improving public knowledge of, and participation in, school elections. I will let him explain it in future issues. His plan is superb. Stay tuned.

Tim Richard reports on the local implications of state and regional events. His voice mail number is (734) 953-2047, Ext. 1881.

Blanchard's choice is our loss

It wasn't all that surprised when I got the fax from Jim Blanchard.

"I thought long and hard about once again serving the people of Michigan in Washington but have decided not to seek election to the Senate for personal and professional reasons."

For months, Blanchard had been considering running against Republican freshman Sen. Spencer Abraham.

Like most potential candidates, Abraham has been working on fund-raising. Aiming at a \$9 million war chest for his campaign, last week he raised \$1 million at a single event in Livonia. But Abraham was widely regarded as vulnerable, especially to Blanchard, a skilled campaigner and still a popular former governor who served with distinction as ambassador to Canada.

Blanchard's departure from the race says more about the sad state to which our politics has descended than it does about Abraham's relative vulnerability. Over the weekend, Blanchard and I talked at length about his decision and about how the current state of politics affected it.

Power: "It seems as though state-of-the-art politics has turned into little more than an exercise in fund-raising."

Blanchard: "I'm afraid that's true. (U.S. Sen.) Carl Levin told me he went to 250 fund-raisers for his last campaign, and I know that I'd have to do something close to that if I decided to run. Politicians today tend to look at people as though they're walking wallets. It's gotten completely out of hand."

Power: "Moreover, the kind of mud-slinging and personal abuse would make anybody but the toughest flinch before getting into a big race."

Blanchard: "There's a rule of thumb in politics: You have to want to get elected to whatever office you're running for with every atom of your heart and every piece of your soul. If you have any hesitation at all, it's wise not to do it."

Power: "Campaigns used to be regarded as an opportunity for public debate about issues and a chance for people to show what they're like. Has that changed, too?"

Blanchard: "Entirely. I got into politics because of ideas and people. Ideas to help people. But people, especially. I love old-fashioned campaigning because it puts you directly in touch with people. Media campaigns are just the reverse. They take the candidate away from the people, and they're the main reason politics has gotten so expensive and requires so much fund-raising."



PHILIP POWER

Power: "So how are you going to contribute? Are you going to withdraw entirely from public service?"

Blanchard: "No. I'm going to be working hard to elect (Vice President Al) Gore. I can live a life of public service, accomplish a lot, have a lot of fun without all the invective and hate, without running for elective office. That's why I took the job as ambassador, and that's why I wrote my book on that experience. I wanted to show young people it's still possible for folks to contribute to society in other ways than running for office."

Blanchard's answers to my questions - thoughtful, humane, practical - helped persuade me that his decision not to make the race for the Senate was the best decision for him ... and the worst outcome for the people of Michigan. Because, whether you're a Democrat or a Republican, people like Jim Blanchard are exactly the sort who should be making the race for significant office in our country.

No doubt the Democrats will come up with a credible candidate to run against Sen. Abraham. But the net effect of what has happened to our politics in recent years is to have deterred from running for public office precisely the kinds of able, effective, thoughtful and sane people who should be in positions of responsibility in a democracy. Sadly for the republic, the field is increasingly being left to the insecure and the egomaniacal, the wealthy and the celebrities with high name ID and the passionately ideological.

Is this why I'm not surprised Geoffrey Fieger is talking about running for the Senate?

Phil Power has known Blanchard for years and served as chair of job training while Blanchard was governor. Power is chairman of HomeTown Communications Network Inc., the company that owns this newspaper. He welcomes your comments, either by voice mail at (734) 953-2047, Ext. 1880, or by e-mail: ppower@oeonline.com

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Senate takes action against drunken snowmobilers

BY TIM RICHARD
STAFF WRITER
trichard@oe.homecomm.net

The Michigan Senate moved quickly this month against drunken snowmobilers, drugged welfare recipients, and aliens registering to vote.

Points charged

Snowmobilers with serious violations would be charged "points" on their driving records under Senate Bills 125-126, which the Senate passed 34-1.

"Snowmobilers are running around, killing themselves and others," said Sen. Harry Gast, R-St. Joseph, sponsor of the measure.

Added Sen. Don Koivisto, D-Ironwood: "Two factors account for the increase in accidents: increased speed and alcohol."

Drinking is involved in 60 percent of accidents and excessive speed in 80 percent, added Sen. Walter North, R-St. Ignace.

Only Sen. Chris Dingell, D-Trenton, voted against the measures. He sought a three-year "sunset" on the bills, so their effect could be re-examined, but the Senate shot down his amendment 7-17.

If the bills become law, they would take effect in October of 2000. They would treat off-road offenses the same as motor vehicle offenses. The would require

LEGISLATIVE NEWS

the Secretary of State to record on a violator's driving record:

- Six points for manslaughter, negligent homicide or felony resulting from operation of a snowmobile or off-road vehicle (ORV).

- Six points for operating a snowmobile or ORV under the influence of alcohol or controlled drugs, or allowing another to operate under the influence.

- Four points for operating while visibly impaired.

- Up to 93 days in jail for violations. Currently, the jail term is 90 days. The extra three days bring this law into line with other state laws.

One bill amends the vehicle code; the other, the natural resources act.

The bills go to the House. Refer to SB 125-126 when writing to your state representative, State Capitol, Lansing 48909.

Welfare testing

Sen. Chris Dingell, D-Trenton, threw a monkey wrench into Gov. John Engler's effort to have welfare recipients tested for drugs.

A pair of bills would allow the Family Independence Agency to test the program in three areas. Clients who test positive would

be required to enter a treatment program or lose benefits.

The Senate passed House Bills 4090-4091 by 25-10 votes, but a two-thirds vote is required to give the bills immediate effect as soon as they are signed by the governor.

Dingell voted yes on both but withheld his vote on SB 4091, leaving 24 votes for immediate effect, one shy of the two-thirds requirement. Result: Unless Dingell changes his mind soon, the bills may not become law until about April of 2000.

All Republicans and four Democrats voted yes.

Among those voting no were area Democrats Dianne Byrum of Onondaga, John Cherry of Clio, George Hart of Dearborn, Gary Peters of Bloomfield Township and Alma Smith of Salem.

Byrum objected that the cost of the program was underestimated. "You cannot take the same number of dollars, divide it among clients and have the same level of service," she said.

The Senate Fiscal Agency estimated cost of testing at \$172,300 to \$1.6 million. Sen. John J.H. Schwarz, R-Battle Creek, put the cost of individual tests at \$50.

The bills say the Legislature

intends to implement the laws statewide by April 1, 2003. Currently the state has 287,400 welfare clients, of whom one-third are estimated to be adults eligible for testing. The laws wouldn't apply to those 65 or older.

Aliens blocked

A quirk in the federal Motor Voter Act allowed some aliens to register to vote in Michigan, and the state Senate is moving to correct the problem.

The Senate passed 35-0 a bill by Beverly Hammerstrom, R-Temperance, to prohibit the Secretary of State, other registrars, city and township clerks from offering noncitizens the opportunity to register to vote.

Motor Voter became federal law after a bitter partisan debate in the U.S. Congress. President George Bush vetoed it in 1992. President Bill Clinton signed it in 1993 after a Democratic Congress repassed it. Republican Gov. John Engler sued unsuccessfully to block it.

It requires state welfare, unemployment and public health agencies, as well as driver's license agencies, to offer their customers a chance to register to vote. Hammerstrom, a former township clerk, said many aliens, not understanding the system, "would sign everything put before them. This (bill) pro-

tects them from trouble."

Her bill would prohibit state agencies from offering a person the opportunity to register if the person had submitted a written document saying he or she was not a U.S. citizen.

The bill goes to the House. Refer to SB 312 when writing to your state representative, State Capitol, Lansing 48909.

Beware of ties

Lawmakers are working on measures to prevent tie votes at everything from the township park board level to the state Senate itself.

The first is called the West Bloomfield case, because that Oakland County township has seen 3-3 tie votes on its elected park commission. So last week:

- The Senate passed 35-0 a bill amending the election law to allow the township board to set the number of parks commissioners to be elected. Sponsor of SB 336 is Bill Bullard Jr., R-Milford.

- The House passed 100-7 a companion measure changing the township parks law to require an odd number of parks commissioners — as few as five, as many as nine. Sponsor of HB 4011 is freshman Rep. Marc Shulman, R-West Bloomfield.

The bills are tie-barred, meaning both must be passed in order to become law.

Schoolcraft's Waterman is site of beekeepers' school

The 61st annual Bee School, sponsored by the Southeastern Michigan Beekeepers Association in cooperation with the Schoolcraft College Beekeepers Club and the Cranbrook Beekeepers Club, is scheduled 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, April 17, in the Waterman Campus Center on Schoolcraft's campus.

Featured speakers are Zachary Huang from Michigan State University, speaking on "Social

Organization of the Honey Bee Colony," and Roger Hoopingarner, a retired professor from Michigan State University.

Nonmembers must pay a \$5 registration fee at the door, and attendees should bring a dish to pass and table service for the noon potluck lunch.

For information, call Roger Sutherland at (734) 668-8568 or Jim Goodrich at (248) 628-0321.

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Thursday, March 18, 1999

Sue Mason, Editor 734-953-2131

on the web: <http://observer-eccentric.com>



JACK GLADDEN

A doorknob, broomstick and privacy

It started about 10 o'clock one night when The 10th-Grader came downstairs and said, "Dad, I can't get in my room!"

"Of course you can," I said. "You're 15 years old."

"No," she said, starting to get irritable. "I can't open the door. The doorknob doesn't work."

"Oh, for heaven's sake. Let me see." I trudged up the stairs, a little irritated myself. "Doorknob doesn't work. Right?"

The door was closed. It usually was, even years ago when it was her brother's room. It's a privacy thing with teenagers.

I put my hand on the knob and turned it. It turned. But the door didn't open. I tried again. And again. The knob was turning, but it wasn't moving the bolt, which was firmly in place in the doorjamb.

"Well, time for the old screwdriver trick," I said to the cat, who was watching me with great interest.

Down three flights of stairs to the basement, then back up with an assortment of screwdrivers in hand.

Let's see, what size do I need for that little hole that you put the screwdriver in to unlock the door when the bratty little toddler has locked himself in the bathroom?

Uhhh, there's no hole there. Just a solid doorknob. Wait a minute!

There's a hole in the bathroom doorknob, but not this one. Why not? Well, of course, this one doesn't lock.

■ 'The broomstick falls out if I don't keep a towel stuffed in there. I need a doorknob.'

But it doesn't open, either. Now what? Maybe the old credit card trick. Nope, I'd have to take the molding off to get a credit card or even a screwdriver inside that latch.

Nothing to do but take the doorknob off. That's easy enough.

"What in the world's going on up here?"

It was The Feminist. Checking things out.

"I'm trying to get this door open. That's what."

"Why don't you just take the doorknob off?"

"I did that already. But the bolt is jammed into this doohickey in the wall. It won't turn, it won't slide, it won't budge."

"Maybe if you try jiggling the door..."

"It won't jiggle. It's jammed too tight. Give me a hammer."

"Be careful."

"There. It's open. Look at this. That latch is cheap plastic. It just broke apart and jammed everything up."

"Uh, Dad?"

"Now what?"

"There's a hole in my door."

"Of course there is. I took the doorknob out."

"I need a new one."

"Not tonight."

"But I can't shut my door."

"You'll survive."

"Is it morning already? Must be, I can smell the coffee."

"Dad!"

"What?"

"I need a doorknob."

"I know. I know. But ... what's that in your door? I can't open it."

"It's a broomstick."

"And why do you have a towel stuffed in the hole?"

"The broomstick falls out if I don't keep a towel stuffed in there. I need a doorknob."

"She's right, you know. You really should get her a doorknob. It's been six weeks. Besides, I want my broom back."

"Oh, all right. I'll go to the hardware store tomorrow."

"How hard is it to install a doorknob? You had enough trouble getting the old one out."

"Should be simple enough. Just a couple of screws. Uh-oh."

Please see GLADDEN, B2

Fans go 'cuckoo' for Laurel and Hardy

BY CHRISTINA FUOCO
STAFF WRITER
cfuoco@oc.homecomm.net

Diners at Mama Mia's Restaurant in Livonia may hear some strange noises coming from the back room five times a year. Singing, dancing and laughing radiates through the eatery.

As absurd as it sounds, it's a group of metro Detroit-area Laurel and Hardy fans, collectively known as the Dancing Cuckoos, celebrating the movie stars' legacy.

"I'm sure they hear us when we're singing our Cuckoos song, our 'Sons of the Desert' song. If nothing else, we do it loud," said Rose Lahiff, "corresponding Cuckoo" and Canton resident.

The Dancing Cuckoos is the local chapter or "tent" of Sons of the Desert, a national fraternal organization devoted to the memory of the persons and films of Stan Laurel and Oliver Hardy. It is named for the Laurel and Hardy film of the same name.

Lahiff joined the Dancing Cuckoos 15 years ago, but some of the members have been around since the group's inception in 1965. The Dancing Cuckoos was the second tent formed after Sons of the Desert was founded in 1964 by Orson Bean, Al Kilgore, John McCabe, Chuck McCann and John Muncion.

"When they started in New York, it was men-only membership. I think it's only been about the last 15-18 years that women could come. Women could come as guests on certain nights and then they started allowing them membership. They joined the '90s, what can I say?" Lahiff said.

All of the tents have taken their names from a Laurel and Hardy film with the exception of the Dancing Cuckoos, which is named after the duo's theme music.

"This is an international organiza-



STAFF PHOTO BY PAUL HURSCIMANN

Following tradition: Derby hats are only part of the costume Dancing Cuckoo members Jean Senkowski of Westland and Rose Lahiff of Canton don in memory of their favorite comedians, Stan Laurel and Oliver Hardy.

tion and every second year they have a convention that's an international event," Lahiff said. "Last year Jean (Senkowski, fellow Cuckoo) and I went to England. The convention was in Birmingham, England, we had the opportunity to go to Ulverston, which is a small community not too far from Birmingham, but that's where Stan Laurel was born."

Between 300-400 Laurel and Hardy fans invaded Ulverston.

"They literally closed down the

town for us," Lahiff recalled. "They had policemen out there directing traffic. The lord mayor came. People were lining the streets applauding us. We were walking around singing Laurel and Hardy songs with our paper umbrellas and our fezzes or Derbies. We had a wonderful time."

The Cuckoos have a knack for making spectacles of themselves.

"Last year at Redford Theatre they had a Laurel and Hardy weekend. We got up on the stage and joined hands before the movies started and sang 'We are the Sons of the Desert' in front of all the people who had come to see the movie," Lahiff said.

Longtime fans

Growing up in Detroit, Lahiff remembers watching Laurel and Hardy movies as far back as 5 years old.

"I suppose because it's so absurd," she explained about why she's a fan. "It's absolutely funny. It has no relationship to real life whatsoever. It's definitely a stress reliever."

She learned about the club from friends who took her to a meeting for her birthday. She did her part in spreading the Cuckoos' wings. She recruited her friend, Jean Senkowski of Westland eight years ago.

"It's just good clean fun," Senkowski said. "You can't go in there with a sad face. You don't stay that way very long. There's no way you cannot laugh. You go around and see a bunch of grown ups sitting there with Derbies and fezzes and sitting down eating their dinner. And then getting up, joining hands and singing their songs and going through this mish-mash we call business."

Meetings begin with dinner at 6:30 p.m. followed at 8 p.m. by the "nonsense meeting" filled with jokes, political satire and announcements.

"If anybody has anything they want to say, they get up and say it," Lahiff said. "We usually toast Laurel or Hardy or members of the various casts. We show old Laurel and Hardy flicks."

The Dancing Cuckoos also raffle off Laurel and Hardy memorabilia, which fills the basement of Lahiff's home. The group generally meets the third Thursday of the months of September, November, January and March. This year, however, the May meeting will be replaced by "Mae Busch Night," a gala celebration of Laurel and Hardy, Friday, May 21, at Vassel's Banquet Hall, 26750 W.

Please see CUCKOOS, B2

A bit about the Cuckoos

The Dancing Cuckoos, a Laurel and Hardy appreciation organization, holds their next meeting on Thursday, March 18, at Mama Mia's, 27770 Plymouth Road, west of Inkster Road, Livonia. The evening begins with 6 p.m. dinner (at your own expense), followed by the 8 p.m. "business" meeting and movies.

Membership for The Dancing Cuckoos is \$20 a year, however, the meetings are open to the public.

The group meets the third Thursday of September, November, January, March and May. This year, the May meeting will be part of the gala party, "Mae Busch Night," on Friday, May 21, at Vassel's Banquet Hall, 26750 W. Eight Mile Road, Southfield.

The evening begins with cocktails at 7 p.m. and dinner at 8 p.m. followed by entertainment and dancing. Tickets are \$35. For more information, call Rose Lahiff at (734) 981-2798 or visit <http://members.aol.com/rozla/cuckoos.html>.

Being an effective advocate for your child



Parenting Awareness Month

BY TERESA VANBOURGONDEN
GUEST COLUMNIST

Is your child getting enough academic attention in school? Are your doctors paying enough attention to the welfare of your daughter? Do you sometimes feel overwhelmed with the challenges of parenting and wonder if there's anyone who could help?

Because your children are your most precious possessions, you want to make sure they have access to the support they deserve. You may sense that your children aren't getting their needs met by others who are responsible for their care, like doctors, teachers or day care workers.

This article is meant to serve as a guide for advocating for your child, whether it be for a more appropriate school placement, for more intensive medical attention, or for more community support. Knowing how and when to advocate for your children will help

them reach their full potential now and as they grow into adulthood.

Get the facts: We know that no child is perfect and sometimes children get into trouble. We also know that every child has possibilities. To effectively advocate for your child to realize those possibilities, you need all the facts.

If your child is having difficulties in school, ask for documentation supporting these difficulties. If your child is having medical problems, ask for literature on the medical condition and possible courses of treatment.

At Lifespan Clinical Services, for example, a mother brought in her child for an assessment for respite care because he was diagnosed with a developmental disability.

During the evaluation, the social worker realized that the mother did not know what constituted a developmental disability. She also did not know that her child was entitled to a number of services because of his disability.

Having thorough information is the first step in

making a plan of action for your child.

Know your rights and responsibilities: In every system - medical, educational, and mental health - the individual has both rights and responsibilities. When advocating for your child, it is necessary to be fully informed regarding these rights.

For example, a father at a local elementary school disagreed with the special education placement for his daughter. However, he did not realize that he had the right to not sign the forms, placing his daughter in the specialized classroom.

The father was frustrated that, in his opinion, his child was inappropriately placed. The school did not realize the extent of the father's frustration because he had signed the forms, agreeing to the placement.

For information on your educational rights and responsibilities, contact your local school board. For medical rights, contact your local hospital or department of health. For mental health rights, contact your local Department of Community Mental Health.

Please see PARENTING, B2

Cuckoos from page B1

Eight Mile, Southfield.
"Mae Busch Night" is a mini convention. We're presenting a 'Fine Mess Award' to somebody who's really goofed up some way. Hopefully, one of the nominees will come to accept the award," Lahiff said slyly. She wouldn't reveal the names of the nominees, but said they are "dignitaries."

Absurdity at its best

The basic premise of all the tents is the members to agree to disagree. The bylaws were

approved by Laurel, but "being the type of organization that we are, it's never been ratified," Lahiff said.

"Once a year somebody will stand up and say, 'It's time we discuss the constitution and consider ratifying the articles.' They never seem to get beyond the first one," Lahiff explained. "It's a good humor type of argument about yes and no, or why and why not."

All the articles contradict each other. Article Six says "Despite his lack of authority, the grand

sheik or his deputy shall act as chairman at all meetings and will follow the standard parliamentary procedure in conducting same." The next article says Article Six is ridiculous.

"It's an absolute hoot," Lahiff said.

Despite all the friendly arguments, the organization's members, which average at age 40 and older, get along swimmingly.

"The people who belong to this organization are very outgoing,

very friendly. They just accept everybody at face value. I don't think a harsh word (has been said). It's just a great group of people," Lahiff explained.

And anybody is welcome - even skeptics.

"Anybody who likes Laurel and Hardy .. if they think they don't like them, they're still invited to come because by the time they're done they'll like the club," Lahiff said. "We have greeters, so that when anybody walks in, they're not just left to fend for themselves."

Parenting from page B1

Access community agencies: Community agencies can provide an enormous amount of support for families. They often have extensive resource lists that will link you with the appropriate programs for your child.

Whether you're looking for an after-school program that provides tutoring or an evening program that works with troubled adolescents to examine their consequences and make better decisions, community agencies can help.

They also provide families with the opportunity to communicate with other families, to share information, and to provide support. The support and information parents receive from community agencies can be invaluable in addressing a child's needs.

Communicate with individuals working with your child: Open communication is the key to having a good working relationship with those who are assisting your child. Teachers, doctors and counselors need to know that you are invested in the growth of your child. They

also need to know when you have particular concerns.

Attendance at parent-teacher conferences, counseling sessions, and doctor appointments will afford you the opportunity to gather needed information and to relay concerns. It also allows all of the individuals involved to work as a team toward common goals and to provide consistent feedback to the child.

A mother who received family counseling from Lifespan Clinical Services, for example, wanted her child to identify his goals and steps to achieve them. She invited everyone who works with her child to attend a planning meeting, including his teacher, counselor and school social worker. The group assisted the child in identifying his strengths, weaknesses and goals. They then helped him to develop a plan for achieving his goals.

At the end of the meeting, the child stood up, without any prompting, and thanked each person for caring enough about him to come to the meeting. Working as a team, with open communication, allows those involved to work with the child for the child.

Involve your child: Despite parents' best intentions to provide a supportive environment for their child, their plans will not succeed, if the child is not invested. The child should be informed of the need for more assistance.

Include your child in the process by having him identify his personal goals and express his anxieties regarding the process. Invite the child to team meetings, such as the Individualized Educational Planning Committee in school or a meeting with the family doctor.

Some discussions and issues are meant for adults only. There are a few times the child should not be invited:

- When the discussion is too advanced for the child.
- When the individuals involved are antagonistic towards one another.
- When the discussion will focus more on someone else than the identified child.

The child should not feel that his life choices are being decided solely by others. Children need to feel that those involved with their personal issues are people who truly care about their welfare. It is always difficult to decide how much the child should be involved, but the guiding principle should be to keep the child's best interests at the center of your decisions.

Advocating for your child is a necessary role that each parent plays at some time. For your child, it could be one of your most important roles. But your child will be grateful that you care enough to do it.

Teresa VanBourgondien is the program manager of Respite Care at Lifespan Clinical Services, a program of Starfish Family Services.

Lifespan Clinical Services provides resources to assist children, individuals and families through guidance, counseling, crisis assessment and respite for families of developmentally disabled individuals. Call (888) 355-LIFE for more information on Lifespan Clinical Services.

CRAFTS

Listings for the Crafts Calendar should be submitted in writing no later than noon Friday for the next Thursday's issue. They can be mailed to 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150, or by fax at (734) 591-7279. For more information, call (734) 953-2131.

MADONNA UNIVERSITY
Madonna University will hold its 14th annual spring arts and crafts showcase 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Saturday, March 20, in the Activities Center on campus, Schoolcraft and Levan, Livonia. The show will feature a variety of handmade arts and crafts, including pottery, jewelry, paintings, textiles, woodworking, plastic and cross-stitch. A raffle with a grand prize of \$1,000 and five additional \$100 prizes will be held at 4:30 p.m. Tickets will be available at \$1 each at the door. Admission will be \$2. For more information, call (734) 432-5603.

LIVONIA FRANKLIN
The Livonia Franklin High School Patriots Club craft show will be 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, March 20, at the school, 31000 Joy, Livonia. There will be more than 75 crafters, and a raffle to support athletic scholarships. Admission will be \$1 and no strollers will be allowed.

Gladden from page B1

"What?"
"The bolt is too big for the hole in the door. It's off by about a 16th of an inch. Gotta go back to the store."

"So'd you get another door-knob?"

"Nope. They're all the same size. It's the door that's off. I got a round file. Have to make the hole bigger."

"Are you almost done, Dad? You've been working on it for an

hour."

"Just leave him alone. You know how he is when he gets like this. Just stay away from him. That's what I'm doing."

"All right, it's in. Now let's see if it'll close."

"Well?"
"Aargh! I put the bolt in backwards. Gotta take it out and start over."

"Never mind, Dad. I don't really need a doorknob."

"It's OK. I've got it now. It closes, but it won't stay shut. Guess I'll have to change the latch plate. Oh, great."

"Now what?"

"The new latch plate is too thick. Now the door won't close."

"Can you fix it?"

"I'll fix it. I'll fix it! Just take this new plate off and ... well, look at that. There's another thing here underneath the old plate. Maybe I don't even need

this part."

"Does it work?"

"Well, it closes. And it latches. Yeah. Yeah, I think it's fixed. It works."

"Dad?"

"What?"

"Thank you."

"No problem. Heck, it's just a doorknob."
Jack Gladden is a copy editor for the Observer Newspapers. He lives in Canton Township.

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Oakwood

Simmons

Frieda J. S. Simmons announced the engagement of their son Eric J. Feld to Robert J. Feld Hoffman-Cool. The bride is the Delphi headquarters. Her fiancé is U.S. Military stationed in V. A June planned.

Schafer-

Glen and S. lor announced their daughter Schafer, to J. gler, the son Shingler of W. The bride is the uate of Plym School. She is Lay Inc.

Her fiancé is Edsel Fore graduate of University, degree in com. He is Frito-Lay.

A June wedding in Hope Lutheran Hill.

Galindo

Ricardo Galindo, announced the engagement of their daughter to Raymond son of Ruth Cleveland, Raymond Ad.

The bride is the uate of Live School and Kalamazoo. Her fiancé is a doctor of arts and computer employed as a specialist for U. in Ramsey.

Her fiancé is the New Technology degree. He is a professional Griener Wo.

Papcia

Edward Novi, for announced the engagement of their daughter Barnett, to Jacque Bar. The bride is the uate of Ply School and Western M.

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WEDDINGS AND ENGAGEMENTS

Simmons-Feldkamp

Frieda J. Simmons and David Simmons announce the engagement of their daughter, Amy, to Eric J. Feldkamp, the son of Robert J. Feldkamp and Diane Hoffman-Cook, both of Canton. The bride-to-be is employed at the Delphi Automotive world headquarters in Troy. Her fiancé is a specialist in U.S. Military Intelligence. He is stationed in Washington, D.C. A June 1999 wedding is planned.



Schafer-Shingler

Glen and Sue Nicholas of Taylor announce the engagement of their daughter, Suzanne Marie Schafer, to Jeffrey Joseph Shingler, the son of Roger and Jan Shingler of Wixom. The bride-to-be is a 1993 graduate of Plymouth Canton High School. She is employed at Frito-Lay Inc. Her fiancé is a 1991 graduate of Edsel Ford High School and a graduate of Eastern Michigan University with a bachelor's degree in construction management. He is also employed at Frito-Lay. A June wedding is planned at Hope Lutheran Church of Farmington Hills.



Galindo-Krahe

Ricardo Galindo and Helen Galindo, both of Livonia, announce the engagement of their daughter, Cheryl Frances, to Raymond Joseph Krahe, the son of Ruth Krahe Buettner of Cleveland, Ohio, and the late Raymond Adam Krahe. The bride-to-be is a 1984 graduate of Livonia Stevenson High School and a 1988 graduate of Kalamazoo College with a bachelor's degree in mathematics and computer science. She is employed as a lead technical specialist for United Parcel Service in Ramsey, N.J. Her fiancé is a 1990 graduate of the New Jersey Institute of Technology with a bachelor's degree. He is employed as a professional engineer for URS Griener Woodward Clyde in New Jersey. An April wedding is planned at St. Colette Catholic Church in Livonia. She is employed as a SAP consultant for Deloitte Consulting. Her fiancé is a 1981 graduate of Arcadia High School in Phoenix and a 1986 graduate of Arizona State University. He is employed as a systems analyst with ASML of Tempe, Ariz. An April wedding is planned at Arizona Community Church in Tempe.



Papciak-Barnett

Edward and Joan Papciak of Novi, formerly of Plymouth, announce the engagement of their daughter, Laurie, to Kevin Barnett, the son of George and Jacque Barnett of Phoenix, Ariz. The bride-to-be is a 1986 graduate of Plymouth Canton High School and a 1991 graduate of Western Michigan University.

An April wedding is planned at St. Colette Catholic Church in Livonia.

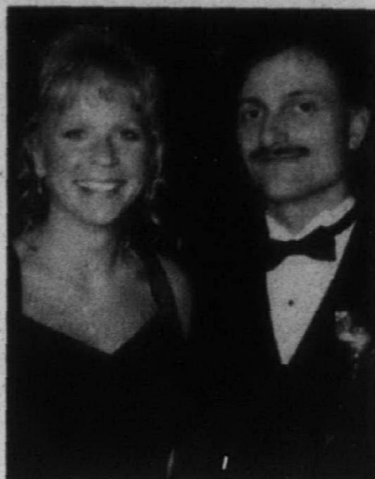
Toomey-Yeskie

Jerry Toomey of Ann Arbor and Sally Haynes of Plymouth announce the engagement of their daughter, Julie Marie, to Christopher Harry Yeskie, the son of Carol and Howard Yeskie of Canton. The bride-to-be is a graduate of Plymouth Canton High School. She is employed by Signature & Associates. Her fiancé is a graduate of Plymouth Canton High School. He is employed by the Ford Motor Company. An October wedding is planned at Risen Christ Lutheran Church, Plymouth Township.



Lewandowski-Romps

James and Donna Lewandowski of Pinellas Park, Fla., announce the engagement of their daughter, Lisa Marie, to Kenneth Ronald Romps, the son of Gregory and JoAnna Romps of Livonia. The bride-to-be is a 1987 graduate of Plymouth Canton High School and a 1994 graduate of Eastern Michigan University with a master's degree. She will earn her doctoral degree in clinical psychology in August from Bowling Green State University. Her fiancé is a graduate of Livonia Churchill High School and a 1993 graduate of Wayne State University with a bachelor's degree in accounting. He has been employed by United Parcel Service since 1981. An October wedding is planned at St. Thomas a' Becket Church in Canton.



Davis-Haran

Scott William Davis and Joanne Theresa Haran were married Oct. 23 in Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church in Plymouth by Deacon Don Leach. The bride is the daughter of Jim and Tina Haran of Marshall, formerly of Livonia. The groom is the son of Ken and Jan Davis of Ashley. The bride is a 1991 graduate of Livonia Stevenson High School and a 1995 graduate of Miami University, Oxford, Ohio, with a bachelor's degree in geology. She works for McLaren/Hart Engineers Midwest Inc. in Novi. The groom is a 1991 graduate of Ithaca High School and a 1995 graduate of Michigan State University with a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering. He works at the Ford Motor Co. in Dearborn. The bride asked Patti Ann Waldrop to serve as matron of honor, with Debbie Carrel, Kathleen Nettie and Danielle Paul as the bridesmaids and Meredith Carrel as the flower girl. The groom asked Dave Dais to serve as best man, with Robert Stipcak, Chris Peel and Marc Holcomb as groomsmen and Patrick Carrel as the ring bearer. The couple received guests at a reception at the Mayflower Meeting House in Plymouth. Following a trip to the Hawaiian islands of Oahu, Kauai and Maui, the couple is making their home in Plymouth.



Barczak-Murphy

David and Cathy Barczak of Jackson, Mich., announce the engagement of their daughter, Lori, of Canton to Donald Murphy, also of Canton, the son of Lawrence and Margaret Murphy of West Rotunda, Fla. The bride-to-be, a graduate of Northwest High School, attended Central Michigan University. Her fiancé is a graduate of Grosse Ile High School, Eastern Michigan University with a bachelor's degree and Wayne State University with a master's degree. A September wedding is planned at Dixboro First United Methodist Church in Dixboro.



Weber-Fox

Allen and Joan Weber of Redford announce the engagement of their daughter, Michelle Jean, to David Norman Fox, the son of Stuart and Jean Fox of Westland. The bride-to-be is a 1985 graduate of Redford Thurston High School. She is employed as a bank teller at NBD Bank. Her fiancé is a 1975 graduate of Thurston High School. He is employed as a press operator at Masco Tech Braun. A May wedding is planned at Aldersgate United Methodist Church in Redford.



Koth-Posch

Mr. and Mrs. Donald B. Koth of Plymouth Township announce the engagement of their daughter, Kristyn DeAnn, to John David Posch, son of Joseph L. and Margaret A. Posch Jr. of Grosse Pointe Shores. The bride-to-be is a graduate of the Center for Creative Studies in Detroit. She is self-employed. Her fiancé is a graduate of Loyola University of Chicago. He also is self-employed. A May wedding is planned for Sts. Peter and Paul Cathedral Church in Detroit.



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Zonta Club members step out in style for First Step

BY SUE MASON
STAFF WRITER
smason@oe.homecomm.net

In the four years since it was started by Zonta Club of Farmington/Novi Area, the First Step Stepping Out in Style has generated more than \$100,000 for First Step Western Wayne County Project on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault.

And if Beverlee McAllister and her fellow Zonta club members have their way, the Sunday, March 21, benefit will attract 900-plus people and top last year's \$30,000 donation to First Step.

"Each year, we've been able to increase attendance by 20 per-

cent," said McAllister. "We had 900 last year, but have branched out. We have people coming from Auburn Hills, Rochester, Bloomfield Hills ... Part of the reason is the cause and part of it is because it's a fun evening."

The fifth annual benefit will be 6-9 p.m. at the Parisian store at Laurel Park Place, Six Mile and Newburgh, Livonia. Tickets cost \$25 each and are available in advance by calling McAllister at (734) 453-0822 or by faxing her at (734) 455-6125. Tickets also will be available the door.

The evening will feature informal modeling of petite and women's plus sizes and men's wear as well as a 7 p.m. fashion

show, featuring the latest spring styles.

Entertaining guests will be a caricaturist, singer/guitarist Ryan Winkler, the Ad Libitum string quartet from Farmington High School, the Motor City Mix quartet of the Sweet Adelines and a disc jockey from Silver Sounds in Canton. Also making an appearance will be Miss Michigan Laura Welling.

Twenty restaurants will be providing the strolling supper. Participants will include Carlson Catering Co. of Taylor, Catering by Sayers/BBQ Man of Redford, Coffee Beanery, Macaroni Grill, Outback Steakhouse, Real Seafood Grill, Rio Bravo Canti-

na, Schoolcraft College Culinary Gourmet Club and Villa deRoma of Livonia, Great Harvest Bread Company of Northville, Schulz Cap 'N' Cork, Plymouth Fish-Seafood Restaurant and the Water Club Seafood Grill of Plymouth, Michigan Star Clipper Dinner Train of Walled Lake, Putter's Restaurant and Corner Pub of New Hudson, TGI Fridays of Novi, 10th Street Market-Bakery and Catering of Wyandotte and Two Unique Caterers and Event Planners of Bloomfield.

"This is a great chance to sample new places like Putter's in New Hudson," McAllister said. "You might be out on a Sunday

drive and want to stop for something to eat and know about the place."

There also will be a raffle with prizes ranging from cash, gift certificates for lunches and dinners to free hotel stays and other exciting raffle prizes. Benefactors also will be entitled to a 15 percent discount on purchases at Parisian during the evening.

Zonta Club of Farmington/Novi Area is a chapter of Zonta International, worldwide service organization of female executives in business and the professions working to improve the status of women.

Proceeds from Stepping Out in Style will be used to support and

enhance the services and programs offered by First Step. The nonprofit agency offers crisis intervention and assistance to the victims of domestic violence and sexual assault in 35 western Wayne and Downriver communities.

First Step recently moved its offices to 44567 Pinetree Drive, Plymouth. For more information, about its programs, call (734) 416-1111.

"One of the reasons we've been able to make the money we have for First Step is because everything is donated," McAllister said. "It shows there's a lot of people who are interested in a nonviolent world."

ANNIVERSARIES

Dziekian

Raymond and Lillian Dziekian of Garden City recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary at a family gathering at the home of son and daughter-in-law Ryan and Linda Dziekian of Brighton.



The couple exchanged vows on Nov. 20, 1948, at Our Lady Queen of Angels Catholic Church.

The Dziekians have six other children - Ray and wife Linda of Howell, Shirley O'Neil, Jim and

wife Nancy of Livonia, Gary and wife Jennifer of Plymouth and the late Suzanne Dziekian.

They also have 13 grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Kassel

Glenn and Winifred Kassel of Westland will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on March 27 at a dinner party at Montana's Steak and Seafood House in Westland. The party was given by their family and friends.

The couple married on March 27, 1949, in Warren, while he was serving in the Army. They moved to Wayne in 1951 and to Westland in 1963.

The Kassels have seven children. All are college graduates, and three served in the armed forces. They also have eight grandchildren.

Interested in politics, Glenn Kassel also enjoys operating the Sims Real Estate Agency in Wayne, which he has owned since 1955. He is active in the Knights of Columbus in Wayne and the Salvation Army.

Winifred Kassel studied art at Detroit Cass Technical High School before she married and, when her children were old enough, returned to school to complete her high school educa-



tion in 1969. She volunteered in the Wayne-Westland Community Schools for many years and later became an employee, retiring in 1991 as a library clerk after 15 years of service. She enjoys oil painting, participating in church activities, playing cards and visiting her family.

The Kassels also were involved in the Boy Scouts in the 1960s and 1970s.

Performance benefits SandCastles

Teveye once again will be scheming to marry off his five daughters in pre-Revolutionary Russia when the Village Players present a benefit performance of "Fiddler on the Roof" 7:45 p.m. Wednesday, March 24, at the Village Player Theater, 725 Chestnut, Birmingham.

The one-time evening performance will benefit SandCastles, a grief support program for children and families and a division of Hospices of Henry Ford Health System.

"Fiddler on the Roof" takes place in 1905 in Anatevka, a small Jewish village in Russia. The story revolves around Teveye, a dairyman, and his attempts to preserve his family's traditions in the face of a changing world.

When his eldest daughter, Tzeitel, begs him to let her marry a poor tailor rather than the middle-aged butcher that he has already chosen for her, he must choose between his daughter's happiness and those beloved traditions that keep the out-

side world at bay.

Tickets cost \$20 for adults and \$10 for children under age 12. For ticket information or to purchase tickets, call Jean Butrico Cooper or Lorrie Chopra at (313) 874-6881.

The proceeds will help SandCastles in the opening new programs for children and families who have lost a loved one through death. Programs currently are offered in Southfield, St. Clair Shores, Clinton Township and Downriver.

Women Hibernians host Heritage Day

The Rose Kennedy Division of the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians will host an Irish Heritage Day 11 a.m. Saturday, March 20, at the Ancient Order of Hibernians Hall, 24242 Grand River Ave., Detroit.

Different events and demonstrations are planned throughout the day and Irish food will be served noon to 5 p.m.

The Irish are well-known for their woolen goods, so that day will include spinning wheel demonstrations at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m., and genealogy expert Dick Doherty talking about tracing Irish roots at 12:30 and 2:30 p.m.

There will be an explanation of how St. Brigid's Cross originated and a demonstration of

how to make it (materials will be provided) at 11:30 a.m. and a demonstration on making Irish soda bread by Peggy Boland at 1:30 p.m.

Irish dancers will perform at noon, with Irish storytelling at 1 p.m. and noted Irish musician of local fame Jim Perkins performing at 3 p.m.

The Celtic Shamrock of Farm-

ington will present a fashion show featuring Irish styles for all ages at 4 p.m., with Irish music by INIS COL closing out the event at 5 p.m.

There also will be a display of Irish collectibles and memorabilia and a virtual museum of Ireland. Participants will be able to mark on a large map of Ireland where their ancestors originated.

Conference aims to empower women

The Student Life Office at the University of Detroit Mercy will host a women's empowerment seminar, "You Make It Happen!" 2:30-5 p.m. Saturday, March 20, at the Ward Conference Center on the Outer Drive campus.

The conference will focus on the spiritual, personal, and professional development of women. It is free and open to the public. (Free child care will be provided on site.)

The keynote address will be delivered by Congresswoman Carolyn Cheeks Kilpatrick, D-Detroit, who will deliver a moti-

onational address on how women can "make it happen" in their lives, professionally, personally and spiritually.

The program also will include workshops on Job Search Strat-

egies for Women, Leadership Skills for Women, Getting the Relationship You Want and Deserve, Spirituality 101 and Spirituality in a Hostile Environment.

The University of Detroit Mercy Outer Drive Campus is located at 8200 W. Outer Drive, Detroit. For more information, call Pam Reese in the Student Life Office at (313) 993-1593.

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RELIGIOUS NEWS

Listings for the Religious News should be submitted in writing no later than noon Friday for the next Thursday's issue. They can be mailed to 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150, or by fax at (734) 591-7279. For more information, call (734) 953-2131.

KINDERGARTEN
Registration currently is taking place now for kindergarten classes offered through the Christ Our Savior Early Childhood Program at Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church, 14175 Farmington Road, Livonia. The Christian program has a class size of 15-18 children with two teachers from 8:30 a.m. to noon. Extended care is available. For more information, call (734) 513-8413.

FISH FRY
St. Edith Parish will have Lenten fish fries 4:30-7 p.m. Fridays, March 19 and 26 and April 2, at the church, 15089 Newburgh, Livonia. The menu will include baked and fried fish, shrimp, pierogi, french fries, macaroni and cheese, salad bar, desserts, coffee, tea and pop. For more information, call the church at (734) 464-1222.

'JOURNEY OF HOPE'
"The Journey of Hope ... from Violence to Healing," a program on forgiveness, will be presented at 6 p.m. Lenten soup supper Friday, March 19, at St. Hilary Catholic Church, 23901 Elmira, Redford. Murder victim family members will share their personal spiritual journeys and discuss their opposition to the death penalty. There is no charge. People planning to attend should call (313) 533-1560.

SINGLE POINT MINISTRIES
Single Point Ministries of Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church in Northville Township will host a Stepping Stones Seminar 7-9 p.m. Friday, March 19, and 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, March 20, at the church, 40000 W. Six Mile, Northville.

Gary Sprague, executive director of KIDS HOPE ministries, will speak to children in grades one-12 whose birth parents are divorced, separated or never married. This workshop will aid in the emotional, relational and spiritual healing of children who live in single parent families and help the kids know that even difficult situations can turn into hope. The cost is \$15 per child or \$30 per family.

Women legislators honor Baker Eddy

The National Foundation of Women Legislators has honored the late Mary Baker Eddy, founder of The Christian Science Monitor, with the 1999 Media Award.

John Selover, manager of The Christian Science Publishing Society, accepted the award at the foundation's annual awards luncheon.

"What has been considered an 'untold story' of the contributions and achievements of

Mary Baker Eddy, with the help of this honor, is now becoming more of a 'told story,'" Selover said.

During National Women's History Month this month, The Christian Science Reading Room at 445 S. Harvey St., Plymouth, is featuring this remarkable pioneering woman.

Mary Baker Eddy established a sound basis for fair and balanced journalism during the 19th century, a time

when women's opportunities were severely limited.

In the face of life's challenges, she never gave up, even in her own life where she faced and overcame homelessness, poverty, divorce and chronic poor health. Her desire to find freedom, purpose and individual worth led to the discovery of a system of healing that she later recorded in her best-selling book, "Science and Health With Key to the Scrip-

tures."
"We welcome everyone to come and explore the life and ideas of Mary Baker Eddy here in our reading room," said Sharon Rea, librarian of the Plymouth reading room. "Science and Health," The Christian Science Monitor and other works by and biographies about Mary Baker Eddy are available at the Plymouth Christian Science Reading Room.

A grief seminar will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, March 27, in the chapel. Cathy Clough will speak about "The Process of Grief," and Ruth Sissom will speak about "How Do We Move Beyond Grief?" The cost is \$20 and that includes continental breakfast, lunch and seminar materials.

For information about any of the events, call the church at (248) 374-5920.

WOMEN'S RETREAT
Tri-City Christian Center is hosting "Let God Touch Your World," a women's spring retreat Friday-Saturday, March 19-20, at the Sheraton Inn, 3200 Boardwalk, Ann Arbor. Through costume, storytelling and song, Bonnie Bachman brings to life the stories of ordinary women in history who have touched our world. Tickets are \$79 per person. For more information, call (734) 326-0330.

SPECIAL VISIT
Actor Bruce Marchiano will speak to young adults in a relaxed coffeehouse atmosphere 7:30 p.m. Saturday, March 20, at Clarenceville United Methodist Church, 20300 Middlebelt, north of Seven Mile, Livonia. Reservations are necessary and can be made by calling (248) 474-3444. Marchiano will return to Clarenceville UM to give his personal testimony at 6 p.m. Sunday, March 21, for The Gathering. A love offering will be accepted. For more information, call the church at (248) 474-5581.

MOM TO MOM SALE
Sacred Heart Church will have a Mom to Mom sale 10 a.m. to 1

p.m. Saturday, March 20, at the church, 29125 W. Six Mile, east of Middlebelt, Livonia. Second-hand children's clothes (newborn and up), baby furniture and maternity items will be sold. Admission will be \$1. For more information and table rental, call Jennifer at (248) 426-6227.

STORYTIME
Timothy Lutheran Church of Livonia is hosting TLC Storytime for children and their parents 3-4 p.m. Saturday, March 20, at the church, 8820 Wayne Road, between Joy and Ann Arbor Trail. The books are chosen for children ages 3-10, but kids of all ages are welcome to participate. For more information, call (734) 427-2290.

BETHANY SUBURBAN WEST
Bethany Suburban West, a Catholic organization which provides spiritual, social and support assistance for divorced and separated Christians, will have a St. Patrick's Day dance 8:30 p.m. Saturday, March 20, at St. Kenneth Catholic Church, Haggerty, south of Five Mile, Plymouth Township. The charge of \$8 includes refreshments. Call Val at (734) 729-1974.

DINNER-DANCE
Prince of Peace Lutheran Church will have a dinner-dance Saturday, March 20, at the church, 37775 Palmer, Westland. Music will be by Carolyn Cherney and the Blue Mountain Rockers.

Representatives of Hegira will present a program on drugs for junior and senior high students and their parents on Sunday, March 21, at the church. For more information, call the

church at (734) 722-1735.

PRAYER GROUP
The Madonna University Prayer Group will meet 6 p.m. Sunday, March 21, on the Ground Floor Patio Room 1, on campus, Schoolcraft and Levan, Livonia. Ben Stapel of the Detroit Charismatic Center will be the guest speaker. For more information, call Cecile at (734) 591-3247 or John at (734) 422-5611.

IN CONCERT
Canton Free Methodist Church will present the special contemporary instrumental music of Mike Jones 11 a.m. Sunday, March 21, at the church, 44815 Cherry Hill Road, Canton. For more information, call the church at (734) 981-5350.

LENTEN PROGRAMS
St. Matthew's United Methodist Church will have a potluck dinner and performance Sunday, March 21, at the church, 30900 W. Six Mile, Livonia. Dinner will be at 6 p.m. and will be the seventh annual Potluck Dinner. Cost will be \$3.50 for adults, \$2 for children and \$14 maximum for families. The choral group from Canton's Geneva Presbyterian Church, Geneva Convention will perform. Proceeds will benefit the Society of St. Andrew. Registration is required. For more information, or to sign up for the dinner, call the church office at (734) 422-6038.

Newburg United Methodist Church will have a Lenten dinner and program Sunday, March 21, at the church, 36500 Ann

Arbor Trail, Livonia. The potluck dinner (there is a small cost for meat, coffee and milk) will be at 6 p.m., followed by the presentation, "Juggler for Jesus," by David Cain, at 7:15 p.m. For more information, call the church at (734) 422-0149.

Good Hope Lutheran Church, 28680 Cherry Hill Road, Garden City, has a soup supper and Lenten services, beginning 6 p.m. Wednesdays. There is no charge for the soup supper. For more information, call the church at (734) 427-3660.

The First United Methodist Church of Garden City will have a dinner and Lenten program Thursday, March 25, at the church, 6443 Merriman. The potluck dinner will be at 6 p.m., followed by Ralph Janka presenting "A Visit with Martin Luther." For more information, call the church office at (734) 421-8628.

FAMILY ACTIVITY
The Board of Fellowship and Social Welfare of Hosanna Tabor Lutheran Church will present "The Breath of Prayer" fellowship activity 12:30-1:30 p.m. Sunday, March 21, at the church, 9600 Leverage, Redford. Families and members the opportunity to discover how they can worship God together through prayer. Participants must register in advance by calling Lisa Clayton at (313) 533-2009 by March 19.

BIBLE FAIR
St. Maurice Religious Education will sponsor a Bible Fair 3-5 p.m. Sunday, March 21, in the parish hall of the church, 32765 Lyndon, Livonia. There will be

games, activities, storytelling and a chance to visit your favorite Holy Land "sites" and get snacks in the Saints' Cafe. For more information, call the religious education office at (734) 421-5240.

MUSICAL DRAMA
Covenant Community Church will present a musical drama, "Who Will Call Him King of Kings," at 6 p.m. Sunday, March 21, at the church, 25800 Student, north of Five Mile, Redford. Admission is free, and a nursery will be provided. A cafe reception will follow. For more information, call the church at (313) 535-3100.

SISTERHOOD
The Sisterhood of Congregation Beit Kodesh will meet 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 23, at the synagogue, 31480 W. Seven Mile, Livonia. The Passover Seder will be discussed by Anita Cottrell, president. Refreshments will be served.

PARENTS DISCUSSION
Timothy Lutheran Church's Parenting Book Discussion Group on parenting will be held at four different times once a month - 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. Wednesdays-Thursdays, March 24-25 and April 28-29, at the church, 8820 Wayne Road, Livonia.

The group will begin with Thomas Lickona's "Raising Good Children." The church will supply the books as long as participants register at least one week in advance. For more information, call (734) 427-2290.

LENTEN SERVICES
Lola Park Lutheran Church will have midweek Lenten services at 10 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays at the church, 14750 Kinloch, Redford. The Rev. Gregory Gibbons will preach on the general theme of "Only Jesus." Each service will be followed by a fellowship time, featuring light refreshments. For more information, call the church at (313) 532-8655.

GLORY OF EASTER
Temple Baptist Church's annual "The Glory of Easter" performance will be held 7:30 p.m. Fridays, March 26 and April 2, 6 p.m. Saturdays, March 27 and April 3, 1 p.m. Saturday, April 3, and 6 p.m. Sunday, March 28, at

Please see RELIGION, B5

Gardens Church (USA) Chicago, Livonia, MI Farmington Hills 422-0494

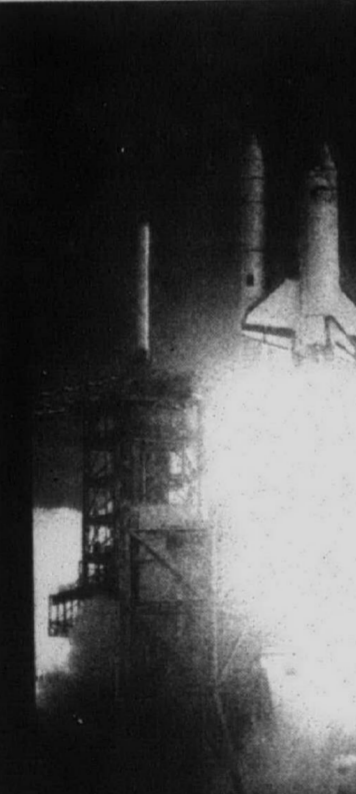
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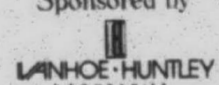
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NEW VOICES

Ronald and Nichole Esch of Westland announce the birth of Joshua Thomas Nov. 15 at the Birthing Center of Garden City Hospital. He joins a sibling, Ronnie, 2. Grandparents are Sharon Esch, Ron Esch, Marilyn Williams and Thomas Tetreault.

Erin M. Meek of Westland announces the birth of Parris John Meek Dec. 9 at Oakwood Hospital Annapolis Center-Wayne. Grandparents are Charles and Elizabeth Morgan of Westland and Jerry Meek of Ypsilanti.

John and Paulette Donahue of Westland announce the birth of Justan Taylor Nov. 15 at the Birthing Center of Garden City. He joins a brother, Brandon Joshua Roberts, 2 1/2. Grandparents are Larry and Peggy Armstrong of Cedar Springs, Lor-

raine Donahue of Redford and Thomas Donahue of Milford.

Jim and Brooke Walton of Plymouth announce the birth of Aaron Henry Dec. 7 at Oakwood Hospital/Annapolis Center-Wayne. He joins a sister, Abbi. Grandparents are Jim and Dawne Fournier and Don and Mary Walton, all of Livonia.

David and Connie Boyd of Westland announce the birth of Michelle Renae Nov. 16 at the Birthing Center of Garden City Hospital. She joins two sisters, Hannah Mae, 2, and Rebeca, 1. Grandparents are John and Hanny Lear of Westland.

Ron and Karen Ainsworth of Garden City announce the birth of Raymond Alan Dec. 7 at Oakwood Hospital/Annapolis Center-Wayne. He joins two sisters, Jessica, 20, and Amber, 3.

Grandparents are Robert and Candance McHale of Westland, Louise and Jack Bostwick of Dearborn, Mary Ainsworth of Carson City, Nev., and Richard Ainsworth of Riverside, Calif.

Joshua Lee Chadwick and Melissa Jeanann Holman of Westland announce the birth of Cheyenne Elizabeth Chadwick Nov. 17 at the Birthing Center of Garden City Hospital. She joins a brother, Christopher Lee Chadwick, 4. Grandparents are Bob and Mary Hunt of Garden City.

Ed Pawczuk and Tracey Bailey of Westland announce the birth of Sydney Michelle Pawczuk Dec. 10 at Oakwood Hospital/Annapolis Center-Wayne. Grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. James Bailey of Hudson, Mich., and Mr. and Mrs.

Chester Pawczuk of Westland.

Marc and Monica View of Canton announce the birth of Matthew Scott Nov. 18 at the Birthing Center of Garden City Hospital. He joins a sister, Macayla, 3 1/2. Grandparents are Larry and Mary Rasmussen of Canton, Dennis and Dee Szymanski of St. Clair Shores and Mr. and Mrs. Henry View of Farmington Hills.

Jim and Sharon Stanley of Redford announce the birth of Joseph Robert Nov. 9 at Botsford General Hospital in Farmington Hills. He joins a sister, Katerina, 3. Grandparents are Robert and Marie Hamel of St. Clair Shores and the late Josephine and Matt Stanley.

Dan and Lisa Vega announce the birth of Allison Theresa Jan. 3 at St. Mary Hos-

pital in Livonia.

Christopher and Tammy Law of Redford announce the birth of Christopher William Jr. Nov. 23 at the Birthing Center of Garden City Hospital. He joins a sister, Jessica Jade, 15 months. Grandparents are William and Trina Law of Kauai, Hawaii, and George and Janece Gomolak of Westland.

Ron and Dorene Vensko of Livonia announce the birth of Mallory Edith Dec. 29 at Oakwood Hospital in Dearborn. Grandparents are Aurel and Jill Schryer of Dearborn Heights, Marie Zammit of Lexington, Mich., and John Vensko of Uniontown, Pa. Great-grandmother is Mary Lashock of Deltona Beach, Fla.

Randy and Candace Brouwer of Redford announce the birth

of Shelby Nicole Nov. 25 at the Birthing Center of Garden City Hospital. She joins a sister, Savannah Renea, 22 months. Grandparents are Dick Brouwer, Shirley Klenn and Vince Klenn.

Patrick and Lisa Dufour of Westland announce the birth of Victoria Rose Aug. 11 at St. Mary Hospital in Livonia. She joins a sister, Kaitlyn, 2 1/2. Grandparents are Ted and Marie Chorney of Livonia and David and Noreen Dufour of Amherstburg, Ontario, Canada.

Paula Gearin of Westland announces the birth of Michaela Cathleen Jan. 7 at Oakwood Hospital Annapolis Center-Wayne. Grandparents are Mike and Barb Gearin of Livonia. Great-grandmother is Winnie Shorkey of Avon Park, Fla.

Religion from page B7

the church, 49555 N. Territorial, Plymouth Township. This year's play is "A Soldier's Choice." Tickets are \$10. For more information, call (734) 414-7777 or visit www.templenet.org.

LENTEN BREAKFAST

The First United Methodist Church of Garden City will have a Lenten breakfast 9:30 a.m. Saturday, March 27, at the church 6443 Merriman. It will be a time of meditation and breakfast, followed by a program featuring Joseph Jessup, tenor, soloist and guitarist.

A program for women sponsored by the United Methodist Women, there is no charge, but a donation will be accepted. Reservations are requested and can be

made by calling (734) 421-8628.

SILENT-LIVE AUCTION

Meadowbrook Congregational Church will have a live and silent auction 7-10 p.m. Saturday, March 27, at the church, 21355 Meadowbrook, Novi.

Doors open at 6 p.m. for sign-in and preview of all items. Admission will be \$5 for adults, children 12 year and under free. Admission includes, refreshments, hors d'oeuvres, desserts and beverages and a chance to win a variety of door prizes. Trips, dinners and sports memorabilia will be among the items auctioned off.

For more information, call (248) 348-7757.

CHILDREN'S MUSICAL

The Praisemaker Choir of Memorial Church of Christ will present their musical, "Two by Two," 6:30 p.m. Sunday, March 28, at the church, 35475 Five Mile, Livonia.

The children, in costume, will sign songs about Noah and his ark. The directors are Mike and Shona Vincent, Dave and Diane Jacobs, Jim and Leslie Buchanan and Paul Pilat. For more information, call the church at (9734) 464-6722.

CONGREGATION SKATE

Hosanna Tabor Lutheran Church will have an afternoon of roller or in-line skating Sunday, March 28, at the Skating Station II, Joy Road between Haggerty

and Lilley roads, Canton. Skate times will be 1:30-4:30 p.m. and cost \$4.50 plus \$2 skate rental. For more information, call the church at (313) 937-2424.

NEW BEGINNING

New Beginnings, a grief support group, will have its regular meeting 7 p.m. Thursday, April 1, at St. Matthew's United Methodist Church, 30900 W. Six Mile, east of Merriman, Livonia. The program is for people suffering as the result of the death of a loved one. There are no fees.

People may attend any or all sessions as they feel the need. For more information, call the church office at (734) 422-6038, Marilyn Wilkinson at (248) 380-7903, or Rosemary Kline at (734)

462-3770.

SPECIAL PROGRAM

Ronald C. Smeenge will present the one-person play, "Pontius Pilate," based on the historical novel by Paul L. Maier, at continental breakfast and service Maundy Thursday, April 1, at St. Matthew's United Methodist Church, 30900 Six Mile, Livonia.

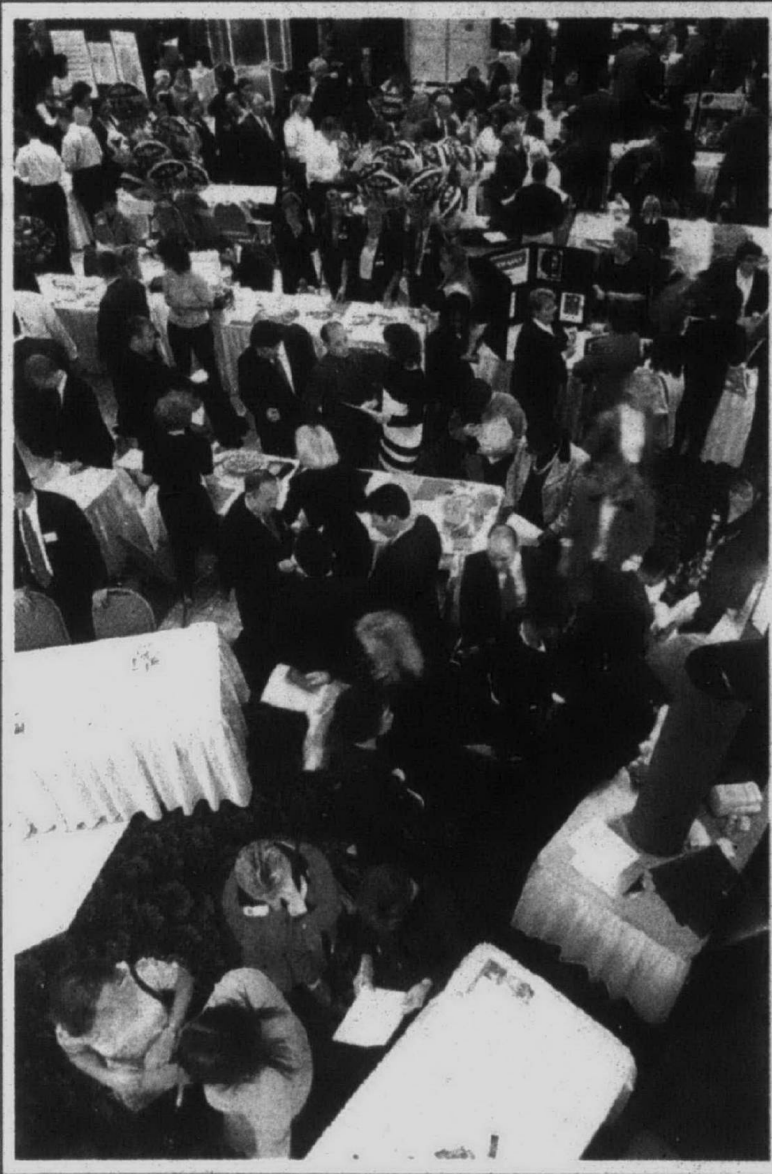
Sponsored by St. Matthew's United Methodist Women, the continental breakfast will be at 9:30 a.m., followed by the program at 10:15 a.m. A nursery will be provided free of charge. Tickets cost \$5 each and are available in advance only through Monday, March 22. For reservations, call (734) 422-6038.



Ronald Smeenge as Pontius Pilate

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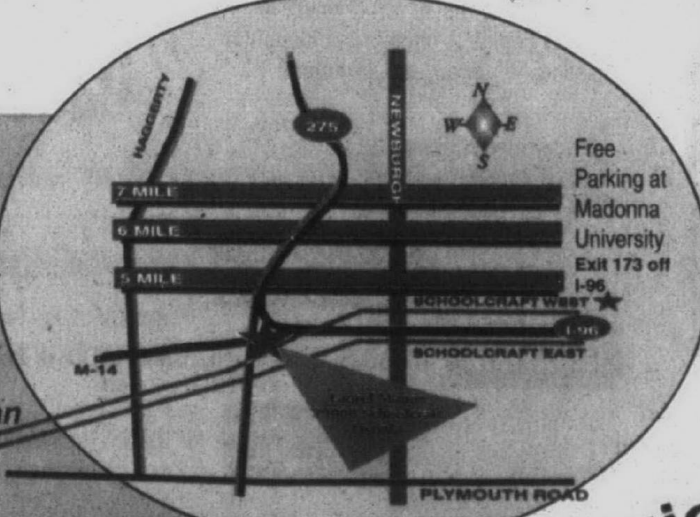
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Observer Sports

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The Observer

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Thursday, March 18, 1999

OBSERVER SPORTS SCENE

Counsel JVs perfect

Can't get better than perfect. And that's just what the Our Lady of Good Counsel Boys A junior varsity basketball team was this season.

The Good Counsel JVs posted a 20-0 record, winning the St. Clare pre-season tournament, the Dearborn Divine Child Christmas Tournament, and the St. Valentine post-season tournament. They were also perfect in West Suburban League play, and — to cap off their season — they were voted the Catholic Youth Organization's Sportsmanship Award, selected by opposing coaching staffs.

Team members include Andy Case, Dave Coppiellie, Dave Hall, Kyle Gendron, Tony Leon, Greg Marrone, John Napolitano, Dave Neu, Andrew Riedy, Tim Schroeter, Jon Smart, Tim Storch and Brian Whiting.

Sharks win crown

The Mighty Sharks of the Plymouth-Canton Hockey Association are the 1998-99 league champions in the Little Caesars Mite 'B' Division III. The Sharks, coached by Rick Cigile, posted a 15-1-1 record.

Team members are Don Barlow, Joseph Beard, Ryan Blakey, Ryan Cigile, Zachary Cisek, Kenny Durham, Nicholas Gennety, Spencer Hall, Joshua Hope, Matthew Hull, Steven Manser, Ryan May, Brendan Muir, Brett Shanley, Patrick Smiatacz and Bradley Wilhelm. Assistant coaches are Dave Smiatacz and Don Barlow; the team manager is Craig Manser.

Cushman honored

Katie Cushman, a senior guard on Madonna University's women's basketball team, has been named to the NAIA Division II All-American Scholar-Athlete team for the second-straight year.

Cushman, a Flint Powers HS graduate, will complete her double-major in criminal justice and sign language studies in May. She has a cumulative 3.73 grade-point average. Cushman also holds virtually every offensive record at Madonna, including all-time leading scorer.

To be named to the all-academic squad, a student-athlete must be at least a junior, have a cumulative grade-point average of 3.5 or higher, and be a significant contributor to their team.

Football meeting

A meeting to help organize the three football teams sponsored by Our Lady of Good Counsel will be held at 7 p.m. Wednesday, April 14 at Our Lady of Good Counsel, located at 1062 Church in Plymouth. The meeting is for all boys in third through eighth grades who want to play football, and their parents. Those eligible are members of the following parishes: Our Lady of Good Counsel, St. Kenneth, Our Lady of Victory, St. Mary's of Wayne, St. Richard, St. Thomas A'Beckett, Divine Savior, Resurrection, St. James and St. John Neumann.

The third/fourth grade team will be coached by Ed Jeffery; the fifth/sixth grade team will be coached by Mark Zygomtonwicz; and the seventh/eighth grade team will be coached by Mike Girsakis. A summer camp with the OLCG coaches and others from local high school and college staffs is scheduled for August.

For more information, contact Mike Girsakis at (734) 427-6270.

Plymouth T-Ball

The city of Plymouth Recreation Division will have registration for its 5-6 year-old T-Ball League from 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m., April 12-30 at the Plymouth Cultural Center. Cost is \$55, with Plymouth city residents receiving a \$35 discount. The season lasts seven weeks, from June 19-Aug. 7. A birth certificate is required; those eligible must be born from July-December 1992; January-December 1993; and January-July 1994.

For more information, call the Recreation office at (734) 455-6620.

Anyone interested in submitting items to Sports Scene or Sports Roundup may send them to sports editor C.J. Risak, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI, 48150, or may FAX them to (734) 591-7279.

Taking flight!

Rocks knock out Northern, 70-68



At the top: Without doubt, Salem played one of its best games of the season to beat Detroit Northern in Tuesday's regional semifinal — something that Rob Jones (21), Andy Kocolowski (31), Andy Brandt (41) and James McCaffrey could cheer about. Tough play by Tony Jancevski (below, with ball) helped the dream come true.

BY C.J. RISAK
SPORTS EDITOR
cjrisk@oe.homecomm.net

The final buzzer was sounding, and still the outcome was in doubt.

This Class A state regional semifinal played Tuesday ended the way it should have — without certainty. At least not until the shot Detroit Northern's Tony White launched from just past the half-court line a moment before the buzzer blasted had banged off the rim, coming perilously close to being a game-winner.

Instead, it just provided a thrilling climax to a game that had been packed with them. Indeed, the final minute alone had more turning points than some teams witness in a season.

But this game ended as it should have: With the team that had dominated most of the way on top.

Plymouth Salem 70, Northern 68.
The Rocks, now 19-4, return to Birmingham Groves at 7 p.m. tonight to play Southfield-Lathrup (now 21-3) for the regional championship. The Chargers defeated North Farmington 65-41 in the other regional semi.

Northern finishes 17-7.
Now for those last-minute turning points.

With 3:20 left in the final quarter, Salem led 65-60. But a turnover and an offensive foul helped the Jay Hawks score seven-straight points (five by White) to give them a 67-65 lead with 55 seconds remaining.

That turning point was followed by a missed jumper by Salem's Adam Wilson and a missed one-and-one free throw by Northern's Gary Solomon, the latter with 42.4 seconds left. After a timeout, the Rocks worked the ball into the paint to Rob Jones, and he was fouled by Brynell Jones (his fifth). Rob Jones made both, and the game was tied at 67-all with 25.6 seconds to play.

Turning point No. 3: Northern's White dribbled toward the top of the key, and Jake Gray dived in to knock the ball away. Aaron Rypkowski retrieved it and sped downcourt with the final seconds ticking away, but his layup was blocked by Shannon Pope, who was whistled for his fifth foul with 6.8 seconds remaining. Rypkowski missed his first from the line, but hit the second, and the Rocks were up 68-67.

Turning point No. 4: Solomon tried to split the Salem defenders near half-court, but lost control of the ball — and the whistle blew again, this time signalling a foul on the Rocks' Mike Korduba. Solomon tied the game at 68-all with his first shot, but he missed his second with 3.4 seconds to



go.
Which led to turning point No. 5: Wilson took the inbounds pass and tried to get in position for a last-second shot, and was inexplicably fouled by White with .5 left. Wilson hit both, leading to White's last-ditch, half-court shot that barely missed.

And that led to delirium on Salem's bench.

It was a huge win for a team that started the season fast, then fell into a funk midway through and is just now coming out of it. "We played as well as this earlier this season," said Rocks' coach Bob Brodie. "Even better — the first time we played (and beat) Northern, we played better."

"But we played just as hard tonight as we've ever played." A quick start got the Rocks on track early, and they were never derailed.

"We jumped out on them big early," said Brodie. "The dif-

Please see ROCKS, C4

Kicking Mules finish Salem's tourney run

BY RICHARD L. SHOOK
STAFF WRITER

They went just about as far as they could go.

Temperance-Bedford defeated Plymouth Salem's volleyball team, 15-10, 15-7, Tuesday night in the quarterfinals of the Michigan High School Athletic Association tournament.

Still, the Rocks' first season with Tom Teeters as coach has to be judged a success.

"We set some goals at the start of the season," said Teeters, whose teams in recent seasons have been kicked out of the state tournament by the Kicking Mules. "We wanted to go where no Plymouth Salem team has gone in 23 years."

"We wanted to take the regionals, which no Salem team had done since 1977. Obviously, once we'd done that we wanted to go to the final four."

"It didn't happen but this was an accomplishment since two-thirds of the starters from last year had graduated."

"This was a big burden off our backs

and will help the team next year and in the future."

Andrea Pruett and Angie Sillmon stood out for the Rocks, 48-11-1, but Temperance-Bedford blocked so many of their hits it looked like Coach Jodi Manore had gotten a copy of Teeters' play book.

But maybe she's played Teeters' teams so many times she has his style down pat. And has the players to execute it, of course.

Midway through the first game Sillmon put on an exhibition worthy of Flo Hyman or Rita Crockett, stars of perhaps the best women's volleyball team the U.S. has ever seen — its 1984 Olympic Gold Medal winners.

Sillmon rallied Salem from a 12-6 deficit with a sterling four-point string in which she had two kills, a block plus a pair of blocked shots which preceded one of her kills.

Plymouth pulled up to 12-10 but Shayna Munson buried a hit to return the momentum to Bedford. Eight side-

Please see SALEM, C5

PCA repels 'Skins rally

BY C.J. RISAK
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In retrospect, it's perfectly understandable.

Here the goal embedded in the young minds of the Plymouth Christian Academy Eagles was clearly visible, dangling enticingly before them. All that separated them from it was a 32-minute stretch of basketball.

It would be easy to look beyond those four quarters to what lay ahead. But that's not what PCA did in its Class D regional semifinal against Camden-Frontier Wednesday at Hillsdale College.

The Eagles played some tough, unbeatable basketball — for the better part of two quarters, anyway. Then their vision shifted.

And it very nearly cost them. At the end, however, PCA regrouped and managed to hold off the Redskins for a 49-46 triumph.

The Eagles, 21-3 overall, now have the opportunity to fulfill their pre-tournament goal: They go up against Adrian Lenawee Christian at 7 p.m. Friday at Hillsdale for the regional title. Lenawee is 23-0 on the season and ranked second in Class D.

"Our team goal at the start of the tournament was to try and get back to the regional final and play the No. 2-ranked team again," said PCA coach Doug Taylor. "I mean, how many teams get a chance to play a team that good?"

"They're a great team. They do everything well."

The two regional finalists aren't strangers. PCA lost to the Cougars 65-51 Dec. 29, giving the Eagles their first loss of the season. A 12-game win streak followed for PCA, with a league championship and a first-ever state district title. Still, that loss to Lenawee Christian lingered.

But to get to the Cougars, the Eagles had to get past Camden-Frontier. Initially, that did not look to be a problem. PCA roared out of the gate against the smaller, slower Redskins (now 11-12); indeed, it appeared this game would degenerate into an early blowout. The Eagles blanked C-F 15-0 in the first quarter; it was 19-2 with less than 4 1/2 minutes left in the half, with the 'Skins making just 1-of-8 floor shots and committing nine turnovers.

But on a team noted for its three-point shooting, such surges can be quickly reversed. "We just wanted to tease them," said C-F coach Dave Follis. "Actually, we had a lot of mental mistakes for our team. And we came out real tight in the first quarter."

With all five PCA starters on the bench, the 'Skins started their comeback with 2:30 left in the first half, facing a 28-10 climb. They started their trek by scoring the last eight of the half to make it 28-18 at the break.

By the end of the third period, C-F had made it a six-point game, thanks to eight points from Chad Heller. When the senior forward nailed two more shots to start the fourth quarter, it was a one-basket game — and the young Eagles (just two seniors) were rattled.

Aaron Smith took over for Heller after that. His two baskets, the second a triple, in a 40-second span put the 'Skins ahead, 43-42, with 3:33 left in the game.

If players are defined by such situations, PCA found a few. The Eagles wasted no time in retaliating, with Mike Huntsman scoring consecutive baskets and Evan Gaines making a steal and scoring. The six-point run put them up 48-43 with 1:52 left.

It wasn't over — not yet. Smith nailed another three to narrow the gap to two with 1:07 to go, but rebounding by Derric Isensee and Huntsman, and the quick hands of Jordan Roose, sealed the outcome. Roose hit the first in a one-and-one free throw situation with seven seconds left to increase PCA's lead to three; after C-F's Heller rebounded the miss, Roose stole the ball and time ran out.

Roose finished with 13 points and seven assists, while Huntsman had 13 points and eight rebounds. Isensee totaled 11 points and seven boards, and Gaines had 10 points. Heller finished with 18 points; Smith had 10.

Salem matmen solid at state

For two of the three Plymouth Salem wrestlers who advanced to compete in the Division I state individual wrestling championships last weekend at Detroit's Joe Louis Arena, it was a good showing.

For both heavyweight Charlie Hamblin and 112-pounder John Mervyn, it started out well, too. Hamblin, a senior who finished second in the state to Redford Catholic Central's Casey Rogowski last year, beat Nic LaFear of Davison 6-4 in his opening match.

Mervyn, a junior, enjoyed similar success with an opening-round 13-2 triumph over Adam Cross of Rochester Adams.

But both lost their next matches, Hamblin getting pinned by Utica's Aaron Lambert in 1:07 and Mervyn losing to eventual champion Eric Gervais of Grand Haven 7-5.

Salem's third competitor, Ron Thompson, another junior who wrestled at 112, got off on the wrong foot but fought his way back

STATE WRESTLING

with a strong finish. Thompson lost his opener, 19-4, to Scott Walker of Flushing.

In the Wrestleback bracket, Thompson excelled, pinning Harry Durbin of Royal Oak Kimball in 2:00 and Brooks Cozart of Howell in 4:14. That put him up against Mervyn, who defeated Brian VanEman of Rochester 9-6 in his first Wrestleback bracket match.

Mervyn beat his Salem teammate, 11-8, which left him in the running for a possible third-place finish. But he lost to Flushing's Walker, 7-0.

Mervyn did win his final match, however, besting Craig Shutick of Rockford 7-0 to place fifth. Thompson was also successful, bouncing back from his loss to Mervyn to pin Randy Jackson of Saginaw, in 4:25. Thomp-

son finished seventh.

Mervyn's final match record is 45-7; Thompson finishes at 47-16.

Hamblin's stay at state was shorter. He lost his first match in the Wrestleback bracket 7-3 to James Pack of Rochester Adams and was eliminated. Hamblin ended up with a 32-10 record.

Rogowski, meanwhile, captured his second-straight heavyweight state title and kept his unbeaten match record alive, beating Kyle Croskey of East Lansing, 11-6 in the final.

CC teammate Mitch Hancock reached the final at 152, but lost to Brad Anderson of Forest Hills Central in the final, 8-6 in overtime.

Also, Livonia Stevenson's Josh Gunterman ended up with a state title at 103, beating Jordan Earley of East Kentwood 2-1 in the final.

STATE INDIVIDUAL WRESTLING RESULTS

STATE INDIVIDUAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

AREA WRESTLERS RESULTS

March 11-13 at Joe Louis Arena

DIVISION I

Casey Rogowski, heavyweight, Redford Catholic Central (1st place); pinned Andy Iszler (Grand Ledge), 5:04; decisioned Ted Bowersox (Northville), 19:4; dec. Jim Kilcoyne (Portage Central), 7-3; dec. Kyle Croskey (East Lansing), 11-6. Final record: 46-0.

Charlie Hamblin, heavyweight, Plymouth Salem (did not place); defeated Nic LaFear (Davison), 6-4; pinned by Aaron Lambert (Utica), 1:07; lost to James Pack (Rochester Adams), 7-3. Final record: 32-10.

John Mervyn, 112, Plymouth Salem (fifth place); defeated Adam Cross (Rochester Adams), 13-2; lost to Eric Gervais (Grand Haven), 7-5; defeated Brian VanEman (Rochester), 9-6; defeated Ron Thompson (Salem), 11-8; lost to Scott Walker (Flushing), 7-0; pinned Craig Shutick (Rockford), 7-0. Final record: 45-7.

Ron Thompson, 112, Plymouth Salem (seventh place); lost to Scott Walker (Flushing), 19-4; pinned Harry Durbin (Royal Oak Kimball), 2:00; pinned Brooks Cozart (Howell), 4:14; lost to John Mervyn (Salem), 11-8; pinned Randy Jackson (Saginaw), 4:25. Final record: 47-16.

Mitch Hancock, 152, Redford CC (runner-up); dec. Chris Schuyler (Saline), 16-1; dec.

Brandon Cooper (Holt), 5-4; dec. Doug Norton (Romeo), 10-5; lost to Brad Anderson (Grand Rapids Forest Hills Central), 8-6 (OT). Final record: 47-4.

Brocc Nayamith, 215, Redford CC (3rd place); p. Jon Rugenstein (Bay City Western), 4:12; dec. Josh Adams (Temperance Bedford), 7-3; lost to Pat DeGain (Clarkston), 17-4; dec. Vic Moya (Bay City Central), 17-4; dec. Mike DeLorge (Flint Carman-Ainsworth), 8-2. Final record: 35-4.

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Shamrock star secures 2nd-straight title

BY STEVE KOWALSKI
 STAFF WRITER
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The next championship Redford Catholic Central's Casey Rogowski and East Lansing's Kyle Croskey vie for will be of the team variety when they become football teammates at Central Michigan University.

But on Saturday, they battled only for themselves in the Division I individual state wrestling tournament at Detroit's Joe Louis Arena.

Rogowski secured his second-straight state championship and two-straight undefeated seasons with an 11-6 win over Croskey in the finals of the heavyweight division.

Each finalist has accepted foot-

WRESTLING

ball scholarships to CMU, which gave this match a subplot.

Croskey has a playing weight of about 285 pounds in football which means he had to cut weight just to be eligible for the 275-pound division.

Rogowski dismissed Croskey in methodical fashion. The two were tied 0-0 after the first period.

Rogowski will be glad to have him as a college teammate.

"He's the biggest guy I've ever wrestled," Rogowski said. "You think 285 pounds and you think fat, but he wasn't. He was about 6-2, 6-3 and really put together."

Rogowski is 91-0 over the last two years, including 46-0 this year.

From day one, he was the prohibitive favorite to defend his championship. He surprised the field in his junior year, winning the state title despite not being ranked No. 1 throughout the season.

"It's just like a great relief that it's over, I accomplished all I wanted and all my worrying is done," Rogowski said. "It's a lot harder being the favorite."

Rogowski is the Shamrocks' ninth repeat state champion.

"He's an awesome wrestler and so were the other eight before him," said CC coach Mike Rodriguez, who shed tears while hugging Rogowski afterward. "When you're close to a young man like Casey it's just tearful."

Rogowski was teary-eyed but none of the tears fell.

"I was too tired to cry," he said.

To reach the finals, Rogowski had to beat a familiar opponent, Portage Central's Jim Kilcoyne, in the semifinals. After falling behind early, Rogowski rallied for a 7-3 victory.

"He got ticked because he got

STATE SWIM RESULTS

Salem finishes 12th at Class A state meet

Just like the Western Lakes Activities Association season.

The three boys swimming powerhouses in the WLAA weren't among the top teams in the state, it's true, but they made it interesting in a battle between themselves — and Livonia Stevenson won this time, placing 10th at last Saturday's Class A state final, hosted by Oakland University.

The Spartans scored 39 points to edge WLAA rivals North Farmington, which was 11th with 36 points, and Plymouth Salem, which placed 12th with 35.

The Rocks had one swimmer reach the individual championship finals: Andrew Locke, who qualified with the second-fastest time in the 50-yard freestyle (21.19). However, in the finals, Locke placed sixth in 21.97 in a race that separated second and sixth by .85.

North's Matt Zald was fifth in 21.63.


Locke was 17th in the 100 free (48.49).

Salem did score in two of three relays. The Rocks' 200 free relay team of Mike Johnson, Aaron Shelton, Matt Casillas and Lock was fifth in 1:27.29. Their 200 medley relay team of Eric Lynn, Paul Perez, Locke and Shelton placed 10th in 1:40.07.

Other state qualifiers for Salem were Casillas in the 200 free (29th, 1:50.08) and Brian Mertens in the 500 free (21st, 4:59.23). The Rocks' 400 free relay team was disqualified.

Plymouth Canton failed to score. Its 200 medley relay team was 20th (1:41.90), its 400 free relay was 17th (3:19.67) and its 200 free relay team of Kurtis Hornick, Justin Allen, Don LeClair and Chad Williams finished 15th (1:30.19). Individually, Hornick was 20th in the 50 free (22.55) and Aaron Reeder was 29th in the 100 backstroke (56.27).

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STATE HOCKEY CHAMPIONSHIPS

Double-winner

CC wins title; Rowe is top player

BY STEVE KOWALSKI
STAFF WRITER
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Redford Catholic Central senior Keith Rowe will take home a trophy from the 1998-99 season but the one he'll cherish most is the one that will stay in the school's trophy case.

Shortly after the Shamrocks defeated East Kentwood 2-0 in Saturday's Class A hockey championship at the Flint IMA, Rowe learned he won this year's Mr. Hockey award.

The trophy honoring the year's top senior will look nice at home but he'll look forward to returning to school on occasion to get a glimpse at the state championship hardware.

Rowe also played on CC's 1997 state champion team when he was more of a follower than leader.

"This year I was more a part of it as a leader," said Rowe, who led the Shamrocks in assists and was fourth in goals scored. "What I took more pride in is my leadership skills. I matured as a person, not just as a hockey player. I think we have the hardest working team in the state and it shows. We worked through the summer, running hills in 90 degree weather."

Rowe said his biggest influence in hockey growing up in Redford Township was Joe Job, his coach for five years with the Detroit Diesel Power travel teams. A 3.1 student who

scored 22 on his ACT, Rowe plans on playing either for a junior A program or attending a prep school next year.

Former CC player Scott Curtin was the Mr. Hockey recipient two years ago.

"It's really an honor and I'm happy for it," Rowe said. "Team awards come first but I'll take individual awards, too."

Jim Spiewak, a sophomore sensation, scored both CC goals, which weren't easy to come by against East Kentwood's senior goaltender Gary Olson.

Olson stopped 39 shots and was helped a couple times when CC shots rang off the goal post.

"They're a good team, real fast, and have done it all year," Olson said. "They deserved it. I'm very exhausted. I can hardly walk right now."

East Kentwood, which lost a non-league game to the Shamrocks 4-2 earlier in the year, managed only 10 shots at CC junior goalie Ben Dunne.

As dominant as CC was, East Kentwood nearly tied the score at 1-1 with 4:16 left in the second period when Dunne made brilliant saves on a breakaway by Eric Jensen and the rebound shot by Mike Lenhertz.

After a scoreless first period the Shamrocks opened the scoring with a goal by Spiewak, assisted by Todd Bentley and David Moss 41 seconds

into the second period.

Spiewak finished the two-on-one after taking a perfect pass from Bentley and firing the puck over Olson's outstretched legs.

"I skated into the zone, the defenseman faded off to Bentley, the goalie went down and I just chipped it over him," said Spiewak, who finished the season with 11 goals and 19 assists.

Spiewak added an insurance goal at 13:11 of the third period, picking up a loose puck and driving a wrist shot past Olson from close range.

Bentley had the assist on that goal, too.

"To be honest with you I didn't see the second one go in," Spiewak said. "It was a little luck."

This was the Shamrocks third state championship in Gordie St. John's six seasons as coach, and the school's fourth overall. They finished the season with a 29-1-1 overall record.

East Kentwood finished at 23-7-1.

"This goalie did a great job, held them in the game, but right to the end we were very patient tonight," St. John said. "It was frustrating that we couldn't put it in and we hit the pipe a couple times. Tonight we played three solid 15 minute periods. I was throwing four lines at them and they had two and a half for 45 minutes and that makes a difference."

Whalers clinch 1st



Let's just get to the playoffs, shall we?

The win over the Windsor Spitfires last Thursday proved to be pivotal for the Plymouth Whalers — at least considering the circumstances that followed over the weekend.

The Plymouth Whalers came up flat in a pair of performances, losing twice at home — 3-1 to the Guelph Storm Saturday and 6-1 to the Spitfires Sunday.

The losses dropped the Whalers to 50-13-4 overall, but they remained atop the overall Ontario Hockey League standings with 104 points (two more than the Barrie Colts) and, with one game remaining, clinched the top spot in the upcoming OHL playoffs.

Guelph, first in the OHL's Midwest Division, is 43-21-2; Windsor, last in the West Division, is 23-38-6.

Unfortunately, it did mean Plymouth's term at the top of the Canadian Hockey League polls was short-lived. The Whalers dropped to third.

Robert Holsinger made 17 saves in goal against Guelph, but gave up a power-play goal to Eric Beaudoin in the first period and second-period goals to Kevin Mitchell and Joe Gerbe. Jamie Lalonde scored for Plymouth on the power play in the third period, ruining the shutout bid by Storm goalie Craig Anderson (40 saves).

In the loss to the Spitfires, Holsinger surrendered three goals in the first two periods and Rob Zepp allowed three more in the third. They combined to make 21 saves. Ron Vogel allowed one goal and made 45 stops for Windsor.

Nikos Tselios scored Plymouth's only goal, in the third period. Jason Polera and Jeff Martin each scored two goals for the Spitfires.

The Whalers final game of the regular sea-

ONTARIO HOCKEY LEAGUE STANDINGS				
East Division	W	L	T	Pts.
Ottawa 67s	47	13	6	100
Bellefonte Bulls	39	21	6	84
Oshawa Generals	39	24	2	80
Peterborough Petes	37	24	5	79
Kingston Frontenacs	20	42	4	44
Central Division	W	L	T	Pts.
Barrie Colts	48	13	6	102
Sudbury Wolves	23	35	8	54
North Bay Centennials	22	39	6	50
Toronto St. M. Majors	20	40	6	46
Miss. Ice Dogs	4	58	3	11
West Division	W	L	T	Pts.
Plymouth Whalers	50	13	4	104
Sarnia Sting	36	25	5	77
London Knights	33	30	4	70
SSM Greyhounds	31	28	7	69
Windsor Spitfires	23	38	6	52
Midwest Division	W	L	T	Pts.
Guelph Storm	43	21	2	88
Owen Sound Platers	39	23	5	83
Erie Otters	29	33	4	62
Kitchener Rangers	22	38	6	50
Brampton Battalion	8	55	3	19

son is Friday at Brampton.

Ambassadors still 1st

The Compuware Ambassadors knocked off the Chicago Freeze 5-1 Sunday in Chicago to stay in first place in the North American Hockey League with a 34-11-6 record, one point ahead of the Soo Kewadin Casino Indians (36-15-1).

Josh Bowers collected a goal and an assist, and Mark Mink, Pat Brush, Nick Schrader and Rob Globke added single goals for the Ambassadors, who host the Indians in a showdown for first place Saturday and Sunday at Compuware Arena in Plymouth.

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MADONNA BASEBALL Slow start, fast finish

Crusaders win final 4 games in their Florida trip

Call it climate adjustment. Leave one weather zone during a snowstorm and arrive at another where it's 80 degrees and sunny, and the natural response is to relax and soak it up. But that isn't the best attitude to start an 11-game spring baseball trip with, even if it is Florida.

Madonna University spent nine consecutive days in Florida, but it seemed more like two different trips. The start was an ominous one for the Fighting Crusaders: six games, six losses, 71 runs allowed, three shutouts suffered.

Madonna returned with a respectable 4-6-1 mark. It's next two games are scheduled for Friday at Walsh University in North Canton, Ohio.

That March 10 turnaround started out badly for the Crusaders. They matched

Webber in hits, but not in runs, losing 3-0. Aaron Shrewsbury, who enjoyed a phenomenal trip (.333 batting average with five home runs and 10 runs batted in), collected two of Madonna's six hits. Bob Mason (from Westland) suffered the loss (0-2, 7.94 earned run average for the trip), allowing three runs on six hits and four walks, with three strikeouts in 5 1/3 innings.

That's where Madonna's slide ended. In the second game against Webber, the two teams battled through 11 innings before the game was halted with the score tied at 5-5. Dave O'Neill slugged a three-run home run in the sixth inning to put the Crusaders up 4-2; Jeff Warholik (.313, four RBI for the trip) and Daryl Rocho (.314, four doubles, one homer, 10 RBI) each had two hits and an RBI.

James O'Connor (Redford Catholic Central) started and worked 6 2/3 innings, giving up four runs (two earned) on five hits and two walks, with eight strikeouts. Jeremy Stevens hurled the last 4 1/3 innings, surrendering one run on four hits and a walk, with three Ks.

Madonna followed by beating Baltimore City 8-4 on March 11; Ohio Valley 7-6 and Washington University (Mo.) 8-4 on March 12; and Ohio Valley again 5-3 on March 13. All four games were played at Cocoa Beach.

Shrewsbury provided the offensive punch in the win over Baltimore City, slugging a double and two solo homers while going 3-for-3 at the plate. Bob Hamp added two hits and an RBI; Rocho had a double and two RBI; and Jason Brooks had two hits. E.J. Roman was the winning pitcher, allowing four runs on seven hits and six walks in 6 2/3 innings.

The first win over Ohio Valley required a three-run rally to tie the score at 5-5 after five and two more to win it in the sixth. Mike Butler evened his record at 1-1 by giving up four earned runs in six innings, on eight hits and four walks, with three Ks. Hamp slugged a two-run homer for Madonna, with Derrick Wolfe and Hamp adding two hits and an RBI apiece.

A two-run homer by Delano Voletti (Westland/Dearborn Divine Child) highlighted an eight-hit attack in the win over Washington. Rocho added two hits and two RBI, O'Neill had a double and two RBI, and Warholik had two hits (including a double) and an RBI. Stevens got the victory in relief of starter Mike Fisher (Lutheran Westland); Stevens worked 4 2/3 innings, surrendering one unearned run on eight hits and a walk, with five strikeouts. The game ended after five innings.

The last game of the spring trip, a 5-3

win over Ohio Valley, featured homers by Voletti (solo) and Rocho (two-run); a run-scoring double by Brooks; and two hits by Warholik (one a triple) and Neil Wildfong (Plymouth Canton). Warholik was the winner, giving up three runs on four hits and a walk, with eight strikeouts, in 5 2/3 innings.

The first half of the trip was dismal, record-wise. Madonna was no-hit by Rollins College 12-0 on March 5; was edged by Eckerd College 12-11 on March 6; lost twice to Florida Southern, the No. 1-ranked team in NCAA II, 6-0 on March 7 and 10-7 on March 8; and was beaten by Rensselaer Poly 18-7 March 8.

The Crusaders gave up 66 hits in those five losses (more than 13 a game) and committed nine errors. But against Eckerd they got a single, a double and a home run with two RBI from Wolfe; a homer and a single with four RBI from Shrewsbury; four hits from O'Neill (.364, one homer, six RBI for the trip); three hits from Todd Miller (Farmington Hills/Birmingham Brother Rice); two hits and two RBI from Rocho; and two hits and one RBI from both Voletti (.244, three homers, nine RBI) and Warholik.

Shrewsbury had another two-homer day in the 10-7 loss to Florida Southern, both of them solos. Voletti added a two-run blast in the loss.

ho scored the early... the Rocks but they with their... Northern's 50-all with... points. nts for the... ne more... win Northern. ed 15 and... h 14. The... of-20 from... ing a 1-of-7... a quarter... he line (83... -10 in the... ough," pre-... st going to... an (in the... win attempted... six, in the... ard. fouled out... th 23 fouls... ng because... ine points... ed all 11 of... rter to lead

Salem - CI

outs later, a Salem error made it 14-10 and Sarah Oleszczuk served an ace to close it out. Munson is one of just four seniors on Manore's team — but it's a team which won the state title last year. The frustrating part for Salem was having kills attempts by Sillmon, Pruett and Amanda Suder blocked back over the net. "That's the best we've blocked all year," said Manore, whose team takes a 74-7-3 record into Friday's semifinals at Western Michigan. "They have a couple of people they have to go to more often than not. "We can spread it out, which makes it easier. We knew they had to get the ball to Angie. "Munson had six kills in the first game plus four key kills at the end of the second. She also had two solo blocks plus three shared blocks. Valerie Lyczkowski had five kills in the first game plus two in the second while Melissa Meinhart was strong at the net, getting three blocks in the first game plus a solo and a shared block in the second. Linda Bankowski was outstanding as the setter. Ten Salem errors contributed to Temperance-Bedford racing out to a 13-0 lead in the second game. Sillmon, Pruett and Suder teamed up to bring the Rocks back to 13-6 before a Lyczkowski kill put them on the brink. Salem fought off five match points but Munson finally buried the winner despite some good returns by the Rocks. Pruett split nine kills between the two games while Sillmon notched eight and Suder four. Sillmon also had three blocks. "They're a talented team," Teeters said. "You've got to give them credit. "Teeters' Livonia Ladywood teams had been ousted by Temperance-Bedford in recent years. He's always made it a point of playing the Kicking Mules during the regular season, too. Salem played Temperance-Bedford once this year, winning a game but not the match in the finals of the Kicking Mules' tournament. The Rocks were strong defensively at the start of the match, taking leads of 2-0 and 5-3 before the Kicking Mules ran off four straight points on Bankowski's serve and three more in a row later to take a 10-5 lead. Temperance-Bedford had a run of nine points in a row while Oleszczuk was serving in the second game to go up 13-0. The Rocks kept the ceiling from caving in. But they'd come to the end of the road.



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George N. Atsalis, D.D.S., P.C.

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A home is probably the largest investment you'll ever make, and there are many things to consider before choosing your builder. Homeowners across the Metro-Detroit area have trusted Tri-Mount for years to provide that extra measure of personalized service.

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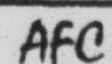
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Entertainment

The Observer

★ Page 1, Section E

Keely Wygonik, Editor 734-953-2105

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Thursday, March 18, 1999

THE WEEKEND

FRIDAY



Margaret Exner (left to right), Mary Jane Pories, Mary Vinette and Nyima Anise Woods in "Impeachment and Cream," 8 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. at The Second City-Detroit. Tickets \$17.50, call (313) 965-2222.

SATURDAY



David Copperfield brings his show "U" to the Fox Theatre, 6 p.m. and 9 p.m. Tickets \$45, \$37.50 and \$27.50, available at all Ticketmaster outlets, or call (248) 433-1515.

SUNDAY

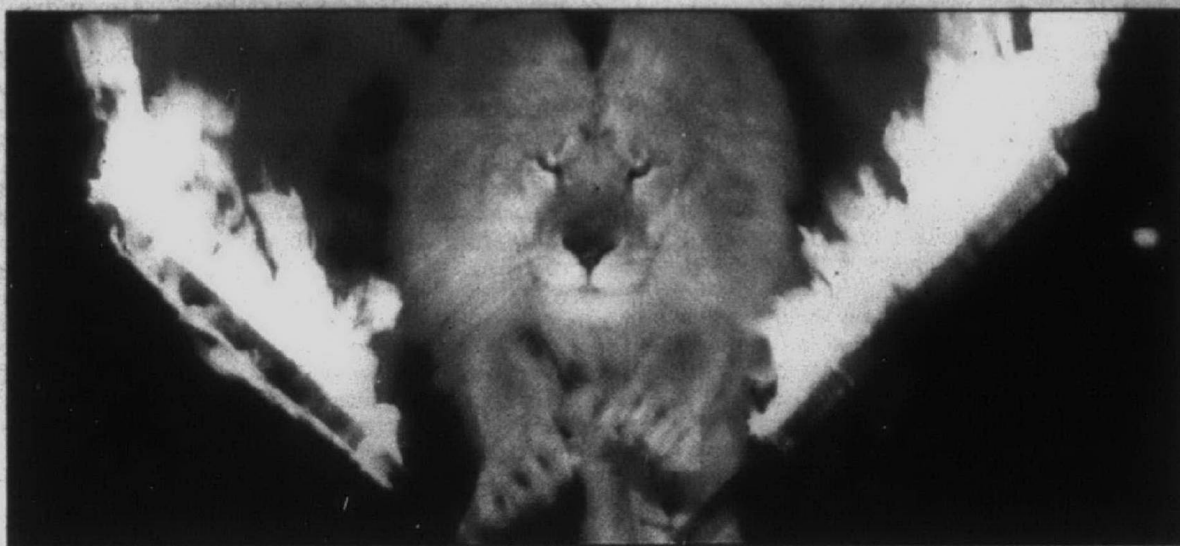


The musical "Annie" returns to the Masonic Temple Theatre, direct from Broadway. Performances 1 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. Tickets range from \$19.50 to \$49.50, and are available at the Masonic Temple Theatre and all Ticketmaster outlets. Call (248) 645-666 to charge tickets, or (313) 832-2232 for information.

HOT TICKET



You can tune in the Academy Awards Ceremony on TV to find out if "Private Ryan," (pictured) wins the Oscar for Best Picture, or watch it with others at "Starry, Starry Night," 8 p.m. Sunday, March 21 at the Star Southfield Theatre. Tickets \$40 per person, or \$70 per couple. Proceeds benefit the Detroit Area Film & Television's scholarship fund, call (248) 547-0847 for tickets.



Hot act: All eyes turn to Andre when he steps into the ring with his Serengeti Lions.

UNDER THE big top

Clowning aside, Shrine Circus is serious fun

BY KEELY WYGONIK
STAFF WRITER
kwygonik@oe.homecomm.net

The Shrine Circus — "The Circus with a Heart" is celebrating its 91st year bringing laughter joy and smiles to children of all ages.

This year's spectacle begins with a multi-colossal light show of amazing animations, thunderous songs and 3D laser beams zapping through the air featuring the circus on parade.

You'll see Andre and his Serengeti Lions, Circus Elephants, the Flying Redpaths, and Boitchanivis, Bulgarian teeterboard specialists who take to the skies from four springboards.

There's always something amazing going on in the three rings. Other highlights include, California Benni's trampoline comedy, Justino the Juggling Genius who performs with authentic machete knives, hoops and flaming torches, and human cannonball David Smith-Captain Circus.

"It's our biggest fund-raiser,"



Clowning around: Friends will hardly recognize "Howie" Howard Zimmerman, one of the members of the Shriner's Clown Unit.

said Larry Ode, Potentate of the Moslem Shrine Temple and circus ceo. "The money from the circus is for the running of our temple, which enables us to do our work."

Shriners have a soft spot for children, especially those that are handicapped or burned.

Through the generosity of the Shriner's and various community organizations, which sponsor school groups, thousands of under-privileged children, whose families can't afford the price of a ticket, get to see the circus.

"The tickets are very inexpensive," said Ode. "We want people coming."

John Thornhill of Farmington Hills, Assistant Rabban, will be Potentate, and in charge of the circus in the year 2001.

"It's for the children, we have fun and raise money," he said. "There's nothing that means

more to a Shriner than seeing a kid who was on crutches being able to walk."

Thornhill has been attending the Shrine Circus since he was a Boy Scout in the 1940s. "I give the clowns a lot of credit," he said. "They're all Shrine Clowns, and they work hard every year as part of the circus."

Hugh Laird of Redford enjoys clowning around as "Racer." A teacher for 17 years, and administrator for 20, Laird loves kids and nothing makes him happier than to see them laugh and smile.

The best part of being a clown is "I can be with kids, and I don't have to mark report cards," he said. A white face clown, Racer "always has fun, he loves kids and to play tricks on them," said Laird who retired five years ago from the Redford Union School District.

"You know the saying — when you grow up you want to run away and join the circus. Fortunately we get to in Detroit," said

Please see CIRCUS, E2



Aerial magic: The Flying Redpaths display one of the most daring aerial presentations ever witnessed on the flying trapeze.

Gypsy caravan brings celebration of culture, music

BY HUGH GALLAGHER
STAFF WRITER
hgallagher@oe.homecomm.net

In the past Gypsy caravans would travel across Europe in brightly colored wagons. The Gypsies were both romanticized as vagabonds of the road and persecuted as thieves and "outsiders," victims of the churches, the Nazis and the Communists alike.

On March 26 another kind of Gypsy caravan comes to the Michigan Theater in Ann Arbor, a celebration of the culture and music of the Gypsies or Roma, the people who originated in Rajasthan, India, and began moving across Europe in the Middle Ages. Their music is instantly recognizable for its speed, its lilt, its dancing spirit. And yet it is as varied as the lands where the Gypsies settled and the cultures they absorbed.

The Yuri Yunakov Ensemble plays a style called "wedding music."

"Wedding music is a style that became popular in Bulgaria in the 1970s and incorporated other styles of music. The new elements included Western instrumental influences, rock, jazz ..." said Carol Silverman, a folklorist and cultural anthropologist who sings with the group.

The music is rhythmically complex, incredibly fast and joyously upbeat.

Silverman acted as translator during a telephone interview with saxophonist and band leader Yuri Yunakov.

Yunakov began winning a wide following in the 1970s when he joined with Bulgarian clarinet player Ivo Papisov, modernizing traditional Bulgarian dance music with western instruments and outside ethnic influences, which landed Yunakov in jail twice during the Communist era.

"Well, it was because of politics," Yunakov said. "Politics was tied to all of this music. At that time, the government prohibited Turkish and Rrom (Gypsy) music. ... The only kind you could play was Bulgarian and Russian. The government wanted to remove foreign impurity from the music."

But wedding music became too popular for government resistance. Yunakov and his band would play scores of weddings, attracting as many as 2,000 people, some standing outside in the street just to hear the music.

By the late 1980s, the government began to embrace the music and even held contests.

Ironically, the situation for wedding musicians has deteriorated with the end of Communism.

Please see GYPSY, E2

WHAT: Gypsy Caravan: Gypsy Culture from India to Eastern Europe and Iberia, featuring Taraf de Haidouks (Romania); Kolyakov (Russia); Kalyi Jag (Hungary); Yuri Yunakov Ensemble (Bulgaria/Macedonia); Antonio Pipa's Flamenco Dance Company (Spain); and Musafir (Rajasthan, India)

WHERE: The Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty, Ann Arbor

WHEN: 8 p.m. Thursday, March 25

TICKETS: \$22-\$34. Call (734) 764-2538 or (800) 221-1229.

MAGIC

Guns, gorillas and bunny rabbits in store for Penn and Teller fans

BY CHRISTINA FUOCO
STAFF WRITER
cfuoco@oe.homecomm.net

The ever-quiet Teller isn't mum about the highlights of he and partner Penn Jillette's stint at the Music Hall Center for the Performing Arts.

"We're going to start a religion in which I am the messiah," Teller said matter of factly. "My proof of divine power is that I am capable of healing polyester with my mind. We'll move on from that to take you backstage in a sleight-of-hand routine, show you all the ins and outs of cigarette tricks."

"Get an audience member on stage and throw knives around him or her. I'm not telling you everything. There's a lot that goes on there. We're going to make a bunny rabbit disappear by throwing it into a chipper shredder. It's a splashy trick. Audience members don't get splattered. I'm not saying anything about me."

Just like the Energizer bunny, Teller keeps on going. As if he's reading from his agenda, Teller recalls calling the spirit of Houdini, a meeting with Mofo the Psychic Gorilla ("It's a talking gorilla head attached to a fax machine"), and a seemingly impossible trick.

"We'll stick Penn in a very small barrel and ram him full of conduit in a way that, well, it's earned Penn the nickname 'the amazing rubber boy.'"

In a daring game of chance, Jillette and Teller will shoot at each other.

"I suppose the most spectacular thing is we'll have a couple audience members up on stage and, unlike many other traveling shows we don't use any plants ever, and we usually ask for police people or military personnel or target shooters who examine some ammunition, load some guns, mark the ammunitions and hand the guns to us," Teller explained.

Please see MAGIC, E2

WHO: Penn and Teller

WHEN: Various times through Sunday, March 21, as part of the "1999 Just Off-Broadway Series"

WHERE: The Music Hall Center for the Performing Arts, 350 Madison Ave., Detroit

HOW: Tickets are \$22, \$25, \$27, \$32 and \$37 and can be purchased at the Fox Theatre and Music Hall box offices and all Ticketmaster locations. Discounts for groups of 20 or more are available by calling (313) 471-3099. For information about show times, call Olympia Entertainment guest information at (313) 983-6611.



THEATER

Village Players put heart into 'Fiddler on the Roof'

Village Players of Birmingham presents "Fiddler on the Roof," March 19-21 and 26-27. Performances 8 p.m. Fridays-Saturdays and 2 p.m. Sundays, at the playhouse, 752 Chestnut, Birmingham. Tickets \$14, call (248) 644-2075.

BY MARY JANE DOERR
SPECIAL WRITER

As far as musicals go, the Village Players seems to have become enamored with the creative team of Jerry Bock and Sheldon Harnick this year.

Last fall they produced a light hearted "She Loves Me." Now the company is presenting a heart-felt production of "Fiddler on the Roof."

Keeping the fiddler on the roof is a delicate show biz balance between the harsh realities of the show and its romantic sentiment.

Director Barbara Anne Gowans dwells on the personal relationships of the four love stories, down playing the cruel scenes between the soldiers and the Anatevka Jews.

The show centers on the families and not as much on the volatile politics of 1905 Russia.

There is little thrown around by the Russian soldiers during the ransacking scene that breaks up the wedding dancing, and few actions to physically create the reality of the coming Revolution, just a real sense of warmth between the couples.

Perhaps, it is because Gowen has cast vibrant young actors and actresses to play Tzeitel and Motel, Hodel and Perchik, and Chava and Fyedka.

Concetta La Macchio (Tzeitel), Rachel Cantor (Hodel), and Courtney Thomasma (Chava) quickly win over audiences in their harmonious "Matchmaker." Later, Rachel Cantor sings a beautiful "Far From the Home I Love" turning what has to be one of the most heart wrenching scenes in all musical theatre into an understanding of the depth of love. Her fiancé, Perchik, is portrayed by a convincing Paul Bernstein. Together they elicit a "made for each other" impression.

The other couples has the same appeal. Courtney Thomasma is a soft Chava that matches up with Joey Bybee as Fyedka. Concetta La Macchio is well paired with Nate Topie as Motel.

Topie has bright appeal in "Miracle of Miracles."

Even though her matching proved fruitless regarding these three couples who marry for love, Diane D'Agostino as Yente, the Matchmaker, is a penetrating character with her dominate and clear voice. Barry V. Levine has the same ability with a pronounced and humorous Rabbi. George D. Cirilli's Lazar Wolf, the butcher, makes its hard to understand why Tzeitel turns him down.

Cirilli handles the bar room scene and the wedding scene with a sense of humorous timing. Both scenes are enhanced by Debra Bernstein-Siegel's simple but appropriate choreography, especially in the bottle dance which the moveable set design leaves as much stage space as possible.

Liz Walters has the difficult part of playing Golde and she does it with a strong voice singing "Sunrise Sunset." Her Golde is a softer one than we are used to, in keeping with tone of this production. One of the best scenes in the show is the dream scene with Ann Stevenson as

Grandma Tzeitel and the chorus. The nine member orchestra supports well from the back of stage pit. Good placement for the sound.

Walter's role is made even more difficult because she must play opposite the inimitable Dan Castle. More than anything this show belongs to Dan Castle who plays and sings Tevye with a very fine voice. This time Castle has traded his traditional comedy for a no adlib, no shenanigans, no fiddling around role. From time to time, Castle throws a few sideways glances at the audience, drawing more humor out of the lines, but it is never out of keeping with the role or out of place. Perhaps "If I were a Rich Man" is a little low for his range but the later songs bring out a lovely richness. He plays the very kindly Tevye whose musings with God reflect our questions about life but with a kindly attitude toward his daughters.

With his humor and warmth as Tevye, his style of interaction with the daughters and Golde, more than anything else, Castle keeps this fiddler fiddling on the roof.



Loving couple: Dan Castle (Tevye) and Liz Walters (Golde) in a scene from the Village Players production of "Fiddler on the Roof."

Grace and Glorie:
Gloria, Elizabeth Bradford of Plymouth (left) and Grace, Laura Gumina of Redford, play two women from opposite backgrounds who struggle with issues of living and dying.



Trinity House tackles tough issues

Trinity House Theatre presents Tom Ziegler's "Grace and Glorie" 8 p.m. Fridays-Saturdays and 2 p.m. Sundays through March 28 at the theater, 38840 West Six Mile, west of I-275, Livonia. Some adult language. Tickets are \$10, \$8 for groups of 10 or more, (734) 464-6302.

BY SUE SUCHYTA
SPECIAL WRITER

Trinity House Theatre's touching and heartwarming production of "Grace and Glorie" has the potential to be their sleeper hit of the season. Don't be scared off by it being a play about death: the dialogue-driven play is more about life and the choices one makes. Director Trudy Mason has been blessed with a strong, believable cast, a compelling script and a talented technical team. "Grace and Glorie" is community theater at its finest.

Gloria is an agnostic, Harvard-bred New York business woman turned hospice volunteer, whose lawyer husband relocated them to the laid-back pace of Appalachia after the devastating loss of their 12-year-old son in a car accident.

Grace is a simple yet profound Appalachian woman who has outlived her husband and five

sons, never traveled more than 50 miles from her home, and is unable to read. However, her profound faith and her simple yet remarkably insightful observations about life allow Grace to help Gloria confront and understand her own personal demons.

Elizabeth Ladd Lee of Hazel Park plays the efficient yet insecure Gloria with her heart on her well-tailored sleeve. Although Gloria tries to maintain the aloof, detached composure she developed as a business woman, she ends up receiving more from Grace than she could have possibly imagined. Lee plays the role with both nervous energy and gentle compassion. Impeccably costumed and made up, she's both likable and annoying, and convincingly real.

Laura Gumina of Redford is outstanding in the role of Grace, weary yet regal, a queen holding court in her small Appalachian cabin with a homemade quilt as her mantle and Walkman headphones as her crown. A fall and a broken hip led her to the unexpected discovery of cancer, and she has gone home to spend her last few days in her rustic cabin to escape the antiseptic smell of the hospital and its well-meaning but condescending staff.

The chemistry between Lee and Gumina cements the strength of the budding relationship and provokes the liveliest dialogue. Grace brings Gloria down to reality by reminding her that "Glorie, honey, you didn't come here to see me through this, you came here to see me die."

As Gloria helps Grace with her physical needs, Grace helps Gloria deal with her emotional conflicts, reminding her that "each life is like one stitch in a sweater. If one stitch is gone, the whole thing is gone."

The set is a homey and comfortable rustic cabin with a working pump sink, an offstage oven that billows smoke when Gloria forgets to open the flue, and amazing attention to details through the props.

The sound effects are a major component of the play, as they create the realistic backdrop of encroaching bulldozers eager to level Grace's beloved farm.

Theatre Guild's 'Little Foxes' is a well-cast production

Theatre Guild of Livonia-Redford presents Lillian Hellman's "The Little Foxes," March 19-21, 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, 2 p.m. Sunday, at the theater, 15138 Beech Daly, south of Five Mile, Redford. Tickets \$10, \$9 seniors/students, call (313) 531-0554.

BY MAGGIE BOLEYN
SPECIAL WRITER

Greed, lies and warped family values. No, not 1999, but 1900 is the setting for Lillian Hellman's unsettling play "The Little Foxes." Presented by The Theatre Guild of Livonia-Redford, under the direction of Cranbrook graduate Peter Sonnberg, the turn of the 20th century set is a delight as we turn to the 21st century.

The set showed great care and attention to details such as the pitcher and wash basin as well as period photographs hanging on the walls.

The costumes are equally imaginative, with cast members working with Sonnberg to create their outfits. A feathered pink dress worn in the first scene is a real eye popper.

The cast members are all seasoned community theater performers, and were well cast in

their roles.

Annette Hissong as Addie the maid presented a solid performance as one of the few wholesome characters in this play. Morris Goodman, an attorney by day, was convincing as Cal the butler. Connie Fox, in the role of Birdie Hubbard, was very believable as the sad captive of her abusive husband Oscar Hubbard, played to perfection by theater veteran Thom Hinks. Hinks has a fine voice, and puts it to good use on stage as well as lending his time as a reader for the Detroit Radio Information service (a reading service for the blind). Hinks also serves as an Audio Descriptor for blind patrons at Meadow Brook Theatre.

Joshua Ebi, in a marked contrast to his previous roles as Tiny Tim and Linus, was able to pull off the role of young wastrel Leo Hubbard quite well. The role of William Marshall, unsuspecting business partner of the Hubbard family, was well played by Dennis Day. Jeff Bartos is marvelous as Benjamin Hubbard, brother of Oscar. He has the smiling Southern civility routine that barely disguises hostility down pat.

Kristen Mudge as Alexandra Giddens, portrays a young

"Steel Magnolia" type, the only who has the gumption to stand up to the whole dysfunctional Hubbard family. Mudge works at Hancock Fabrics and put together very attractive costumes for her character.

Matt Eskola, in the role of Horace Giddens, Alexandra's father, a true Southern gentleman in very poor health. His make-up and demeanor was quite convincing.

But, Lorreta Wilson, as Regina Giddens (nee Hubbard), was the show stopper in both costume and character. Sister and business partner of Oscar and Benjamin, she is a Gibson Girl gone gonzo with greed. The twisted family and business relationships all center around this grasping character. Whether she's leaving her ailing husband, Horace, to founder on the stairs, or is flirting with William Marshall, Regina Giddens is always impeccably dressed and the clear matriarch of this scheming family. The complex relationships of the entire cast are a real treat to see.

To paraphrase a line from the play: "There are those who act upon a stage, and those of us who watch them."

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by Karim Alraoui

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DINING

Escape to New Orleans at Fishbone's Rhythm Kitchen Cafe

BY KEELY WYGONIK
STAFF WRITER
kwygonik@oe.homecomm.net

Mardi Gras is over, but New Orleans is still a nice place to escape. For those of us who can't just hop on a plane and go, it's a good thing there's Fishbone's Rhythm Kitchen Cafe.

With locations in Detroit, Southfield and St. Clair Shores, Fishbone's is about as close to New Orleans as you can get in metro Detroit.

"It's a place where we like to have fun, it's a restaurant with energy. It's not necessarily a quiet place," said John Furbush, general manager of the Southfield restaurant. He recently moved to the Detroit area from New Orleans. "We're trying to provide a dining experience. I have the music shipped in from New Orleans. Right now you're hearing vintage Louis Armstrong from the 1920s. We try to make it as authentic as possible."

Fishbone's offers plenty of atmosphere, from the lace curtains in the windows, to the murals on the wall, and potted palms. You'll feel like you stepped into another world. It's easy to get comfortable at one of the tables or booths, and forget it's Michigan and below freezing outside.

For those unfamiliar with New Orleans cuisine, Furbush recommends the brunch where you can try a little bit of this, and that. The brunch also offers an omelet station, waffles and other traditional breakfast fare.

"We have a number of stations at brunch — a hot line, dessert and salad," he said. "It's an opportunity to go after real New Orleans style dishes such as deep fried Cajun turkey, collard greens, and candied yams. If you

Fishbone's Rhythm Kitchen Cafe

Where: 29244 Northwestern Highway, (just north of 12 Mile Road), Southfield (248) 351-2925, fax (248) 351-2919.

Hours: Open 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 11 a.m. to midnight Friday; noon to midnight Sunday; 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday brunch, 2-10 p.m. regular menu.

Menu: Taste of New Orleans, including Seafood Gumbo, Jambalaya, seafood, steaks, chops and chicken. Salads and sandwiches also available. Some vegetarian items.

Cost: Moderate. Sandwiches \$5.95 to \$8.95; Entrees \$9.95 to \$21.95.

Reservations: For parties of six or more

Credit cards: All majors accepted

Private parties: Semi-private space available for parties of up to 60 people.

Carry-out: Every item on menu available for carry-out. Also offer "Pans to Go" a carry-out service for groups and parties. All pans feed six to eight people.

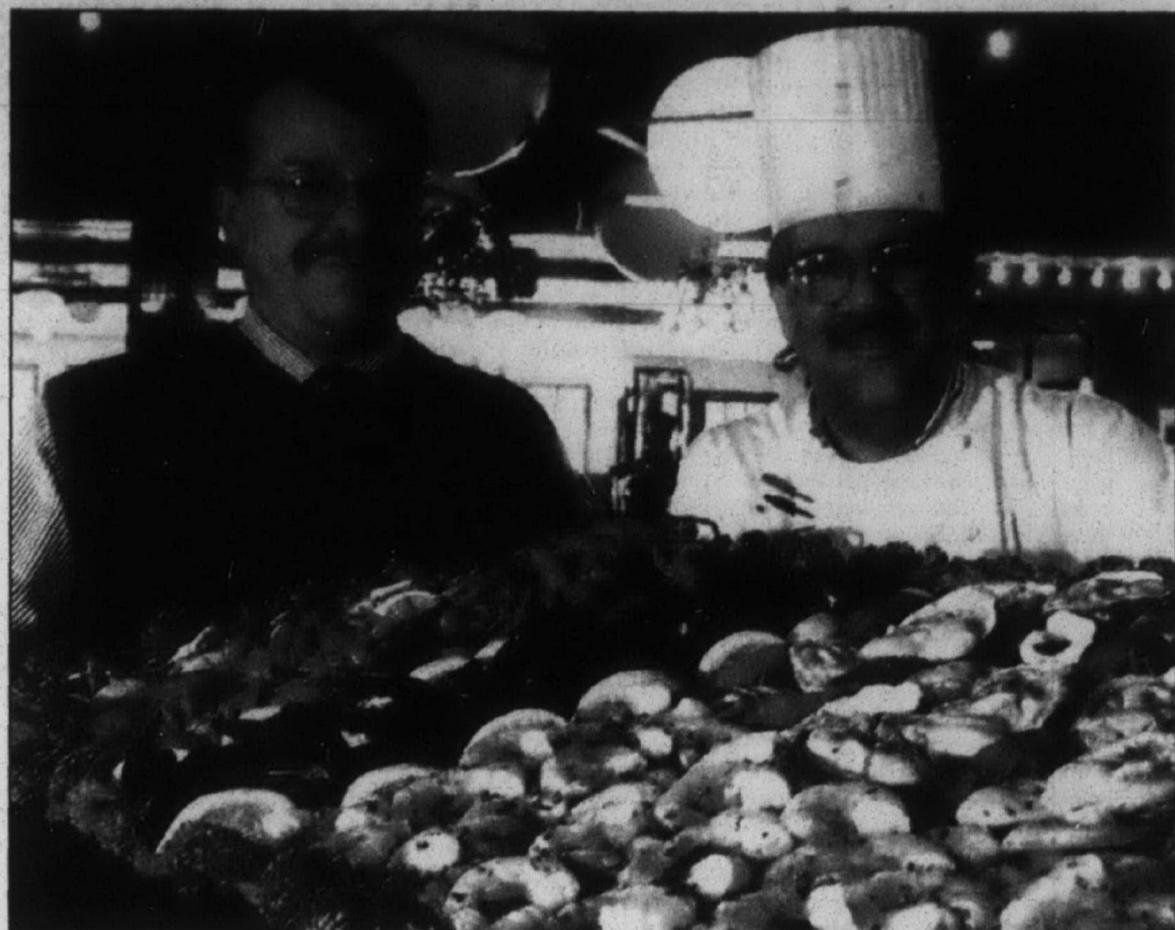
Entertainment

- 5-8 p.m. Wednesdays, Pamela Wise, piano jazz
- 5-8 p.m. Thursdays, Henry Gibson, piano jazz
- 5-8 p.m. Fridays, Harold McKinney, piano jazz; 8:30 p.m. to midnight, Pamela Wise and the Afro-Cuban All Stars, jazz with Afro-Cuban rhythms
- 5-8 p.m. Saturday, Harold McKinney, piano jazz; 8:30 p.m. to midnight, Audrey Northington, jazz vocalist
- 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday, Janet Tenaj, jazz vocalist

Other Fishbone's Rhythm Kitchen Cafe locations:

Greektown — 400 Monroe St., International Building, Detroit, (313) 965-4600

St. Clair Shores — 23722 Jefferson, St. Clair Shores, (810) 498-3000



Cool crustaceans: General manager John Furbush and Executive Chef Faiz Alban at Fishbone's Rhythm Kitchen Cafe in Southfield.

went down South you'd be in heaven with this type of brunch." The cost for brunch is \$16.95 adults, \$8.95 children under age 12, and \$2.95 for children under two.

Starting with appetizers on the main menu, Furbush recommends New Orleans Bar-B-Que Shrimp served with a spicy butter/pepper sauce. Fresh crawfish, flown in from Louisiana, are also available. Catfish Beignets and Crab Cakes are other often requested appetizers. You can also order Crab Cakes as an entree. They're served with a lemon caper dill sauce.

Moving on, you've got to try

the Seafood Gumbo, "it's guaranteed to warm you up a little bit," said Furbush.

Fishbone's offers a selection of grilled "bronzed" steaks including Filet Mignon, Ribeye and Porterhouse. Scallops, catfish, snapper, pork chops, lamb chops and chicken are on the menu too. Bronzing is Fishbone's method of blackening food. They use a mild, flavorful blend of spices and herbs.

Crawfish Etouffee is a Fishbone's specialty along with Shrimp Creole, Zydeco Chicken, Chicken & Sausage Sauce Piquant, and Jambalaya. The Creole Baked Eggplant is a vege-

tarian eggplant casserole baked with jalapeno jack cheese and marinara sauce.

Fishbone's is known for its Whiskey Ribs served with Dirty Rice and a vegetable. They also offer a variety of fried seafood selections such as shrimp, oysters, scallops, and catfish served with homemade fries and Charleston Slaw. If you can't make up your mind, try the Combo Mombo — a platter of fried shrimp, catfish, crab fingers and oysters.

For lunch, Furbush points to the Po-Boy sandwiches — fried shrimp, catfish, chicken, pork, or fried chicken. Another favorite is the Muffuletta sandwich — layers of Genoa salami, ham, Mortadella and Provolone topped with an olive salad on a large bun. "I'm a big fan, and our's is pretty close to what you'd find in the French Quarter of New Orleans," said Furbush.

If you're hungry for just a salad, Fishbone's aims to please with Galvez Shrimp Salad, Fried

Crawfish Salad, Pirate's Alley Olive Salad, and the familiar Caesar, Grilled Chicken, and Greek Salad.

Save room for dessert, made by Fishbone's own pastry chefs — Bourbon Street Bread Pudding, Banana Foster Sundae, Pecan Pie, Key Lime Pie, and Peach Cobbler.

Quench your thirst with a Blackened Voodoo beer. There are a number of bottled beers to choose from, premium wines, and specialty drinks.

Epoch Enterprises restaurants maintain ownership

BY ELEANOR HEALD
SPECIAL WRITER

Epoch Enterprises owns high-profile Tribute restaurant in Farmington Hills, also Too Chez in Novi and Forte in Birmingham. Negotiations related to sale of Larry Wisne's Progressive Tool and Industries automotive-allied company fueled speculations about the Wisne family's other business, Epoch

Enterprises.

In the March 31, Wine Spectator now in distribution, Tribute and Executive Chef Takashi Yagihashi became the first Detroit metro-area restaurant to receive expansive three-page coverage in this widely read wine and lifestyle periodical. Forte's executive chef Tim Voss is being touted in restaurant and lifestyle magazine cir-

cles as a rising star. Too Chez restaurant's Greg Upshur has received recognition by Food Arts and Nation's Restaurant News, a weekly trade publication for the restaurant and food industry.

Epoch's restaurants are now being represented by a Santa Monica-Beverly Hills public relations/advertising agency and this added to the rumor

mill. Does such publicity enhance the sale of Tribute and its sister eateries?

While Epoch president Toni Wisne remained unavailable for comment, Tribute's Maitre d' Mickey Bakst was willing to squelch rumors.

"I say this with the utmost certainty," he said. "Epoch is a complete and separate entity from Progressive Tool.

"Epoch is opening Latitude, it's new

Up North restaurant in the Bay Harbor complex. A chef is in the process of being hired. Epoch is also aggressively involved in the Lion's stadium project in Detroit.

"Tribute is like the Wisne family's baby. All the restaurants are an important part of the family's business ventures. The Wisnes are not selling any of their restaurants at this time."

WHAT'S COOKING

Send items for consideration in What's Cooking to Keely Wygonik, Entertainment Editor, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, Inc., 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150, fax (248) 591-7279, or e-mail kwygonik@oe.homecomm.net

CAFE HAWAII

A dance instructor from Dane Avenue — Social Dance Specialists, leads Cafe Hawaii patrons in a complimentary one-hour lesson of basic Salsa dance steps, 9-10 p.m. Fridays. Afterward, students are encouraged to stay as the dance floor opens up for a salsa dance party. For more information, call the restaurant, 22048 Michigan Ave. in Dearborn, (313) 724-2233.

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root vegetable cassoulet with truffled Yukon Gold Duchess. The cost is \$34.95 per person, not including tax or gratuity. Call the restaurant of your choice for reservations.

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