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Cops go high-tech for clues

BY TONY BRUSCATO STAFF WRITER

Plymouth and Canton Township police are going high-tech in efforts to solve crimes.

Plymouth residents can now use the city's Web site to give police anonymous tips on current cases or information on happenings in their neighborhoods.

"If someone has information on anything criminal in nature on an ongoing or active case and are hesitant to come forward, they can email the information to us," said Detective Lt. Al Cox. "It can potentially give us leads and different directions we don't already have.

"Sometimes we have hunches on what happened and who did it, but we may not have enough evidence to put us over the top," he said. "A citizen may help us get to a point where we can put some probable cause to what we already think, which could lead to search warrants and arrest warrants in a case."

None of the larger neighboring police departments - Plymouth Township, Canton Township, Livonia, Westland and Farmington Hills - have yet moved to solving crime with tips via the Internet.

However, Canton Public Safety Director John Santomauro said if the township Board of Trustees approves a major revision in the police department's Web site on Tuesday, an avenue for providing anonymous tips will be part of the plan.

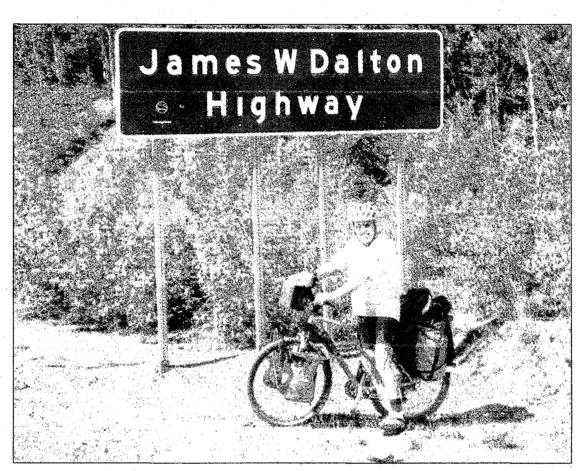
"We think that's a real plus," Santomauro said. "We recognize that a number of people view the use of the Internet a major part of communication, and provides a comfort level and anonymity for reporting crime. The bottom line is not how we get the information, but that we do get the information.

"There are also a number of major renovations planned, like video broadcasting, emergency broadcasts and the ability to run public service announcements," he said.

Cox said those offering anonymous tips shouldn't be concerned about police trying to find them for further questioning.

"That's not our intent," said Cox. "We're not looking to trick people to tell us information so we can attempt to find them."

Plymouth's Web site is



Part of the 12,000-mile trip Gary Gothard took included the 414-mile James W. Dalton Highway, which stretches across Alaska.

Wheels done turning

Bicyclist back from Alaska-Argentina trip

BY BRAD KADRICH

He never ran into Matt Lauer, and there were times when his family and friends wondered where in the world Gary Gothard was, but by mid-January they knew.

Gary Gothard was home.

Gothard, 71, returned after finishing a 12,000mile bicycle trek from Deadhorse, Alaska down to Argentina. He left Deadhorse with a group of riders June 2, originally hoping to complete the journey in 12 months. He finished the ride, sans the group, in early January.

And he made it back, mostly, without incident. The Number One thing is, I made it back," the 71-year-old Plymouth man said. "There was a bit of trouble, but nothing you couldn't overcome."

Gothard hooked up with the group with which he took off from Alaska during an Internet search. The group of some half-dozen riders which left in early June began early on to experience some personality clashes, but Gothard wanted to press on.

"I knew I had to make it work," Gothard said. "You're going to be living with these people 8-10 months, so you deal with stuff. Most of the time, I rode by myself, because I was the slowest rider in the group. Sometimes I wouldn't even see the group all day until we were camping at night."

It's just the latest in the high-endurance, bigchallenge type rides taken by Gothard, who has bicycled through Canada, across Europe and



Gary Gothard of Plymouth, who rode his bicycle some 12,000 miles from Alaska to Argentina, stopped to have a little fun along the way.

But this one was the longest, and his family wondered - albeit briefly - about the wisdom of his taking it.

"He sort of broke us in with his trips to Europe and Japan," said Brenda Hogue, Gothard's daughter and a South Lyon resident. "We were sort of intimidated by this one because of the distance, but when he said he was going with a group, we felt a little better."

To get ready, Gothard did most of his training at the Livonia YMCA, where he is a long-time member. His level of commitment and zest for such challenges has impressed folks there.

PLEASE SEE BICYCLIST, A4

www.ci.plymouth.mi.us. even in China. Woman found dead in bed at apartment complex

BY BRAD KADRICH STAFF WRITER

The body of a 47-year-old Plymouth Township woman was found in the bed of her Plymouth Heritage apartment when a maintenance worker at the apartment complex entered her apartment at the request of a neighbor around 10 a.m. Thursday.

Police believe the woman,

whose identity is being withheld pending notification of next of kin, died of natural causes. Plymouth Heritage is located at

Sheldon and North Territorial. According to police, the discovery was made after a neighbor, worried because he hadn't seen the woman, asked the maintenance worker to check on her.

"The neighbor knew there might have been some sort of medical issue with this woman," said Plymouth Township Police Detective Dennis Wilson said. "She had apparently been estranged from her family for some time, and didn't have much contact with them."

Police found a variety of medications in the apartment. While they don't believe foul play was involved, police do think it's possible the woman overdosed.

They're awaiting results of an autopsy by the Wayne County medical examiner.

'We're still working to determine the exact cause of death," Police Chief Tom Tiderington said. "There were lots of medications in the apartment, so apparently she'd been under the care of a doctor."

bkadrich@hometownlife.com | (734) 459-2700

First ACT

Juniors set for first shot at college exam

BY TONY BRUSCATO STAFF WRITER

Plymouth-Canton high school juniors are in for three days of testing next week, as for the first time all Michigan 11th-graders are required to take the American College Test and a work skills assessment exam in place of the high school MEAP tests.

The Michigan Merit Exam begins Tuesday, with students taking the ACT in science, mathematics, reading and writing. On Wednesday, the testing will concentrate on WorkKeys, a work skills assessment program that focuses on career preparation experiences. And on Thursday, juniors will take Michiganbased tests on social studies and science.

Mike Bender, Plymouth-Canton's director of secondarv education, said only juniors will be in attendance at the high school park Tuesday.

How would you do? Some sample ACT questions, A5.

'We're trying to create the best possible testing conditions for juniors," Bender said. "Personally, for the kids, the ACT is very high stakes, and we want the conditions to be the best for them. The College Board, which oversees the ACT, is very strict on testing regulations ... a certain number of students in a classroom, a certain amount of space between students, no bells or announcements.

"Secondly, the tests are important for students because the governor has put in place the Michigan Promise scholarships in which students can earn up to \$4,000 for a college education," he said. "The other benefit is for the district, as the student achievement level is reflected in our federal adequate yearly progress report, the state

report cards and meeting our own district expectations. Bender said classes for freshmen, sophomores and seniors Wednesday and Thursday will start at 10:29 a.m. to facilitate the testing for juniors. Changes in class times and bus schedules can be found on the district's Web site at pccs.k12.mi.us.

Matthew Majzlik, 17, of Canton Township, said while the stakes are high, he's not taking this week's testing too seriously.

"I'm pretty confident," Majzlik said. "I'm not really studying that much for the test. For really big exams, it's like testing myself to see how much I know and what I can remember by studying as least as possible. I'm curious to see what the score will be, but it's not that nerve-wracking."

PLEASE SEE ACT, A5



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

High-flying Penguins

The Plymouth-Canton-Salem girls hockey team defeated the Cranbrook-Kingswood Cranes, 5-2, Friday night to win its first state championship. Adrienne Cercone (left) and Kelsey Nikkila celebrate Cercone's goal. For details on the game, see page B1.

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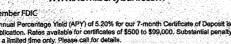
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Easter Bunny breakfast

E.G. Nick's hosts "Breakfast with the Easter Bunny" 9-10:30 a.m. Friday, March 30.

Attendees will enjoy a full buffet breakfast (includes eggs, bacon and sausage), an Easter Egg hunt and an extra special visit from the Easter Bunny. Parents are encouraged to bring cameras for pictures with the Easter Bunny.

Tickets must be purchased in advance from the Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce (9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Friday), located at 850 W. Ann Arbor Trail in downtown Plymouth, or at E.G. Nick's located at 500 Forest.

Ticket prices are \$8 for children and \$12 for adults; children 3 and younger admitted free. Visa and Mastercard are accepted.

Contact the Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce with any questions or for ticket information at (734) 453-1540.

Players are 'Footloose'

The Park Players present their production of Footloose, based on the 1980s screen version starring Kevin Bacon, March 22-24 and March 30-31 with 8 p.m. performances in the Gloria Logan Auditorium for the Performing Arts inside Salem High School.

Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, March 11, 2007

Footloose tells the story of city boy Ren McCormack who has to move to a small rural town in America where dancing is banned. Pandemonium strikes as Ren cuts loose and soon has the whole town on its feet.

Tickets are \$10 for all shows, all ages. Tickets can be purchased 2:30-5:30 p.m. Monday-Thursday in the upper auditorium at Salem High School, or at the door one hour before curtain on performance nights.

Visit www.parkplayers.org or contact Kristen Quesada for more information by e-mail at quesadk@pccs.k12.mi.us. or by calling (734) 582-6836.

Christian Peace Witness

A service of prayer and song from the Taize tradition will be held at St. John's Episcopal Church in Plymouth Friday,

The service, which begins at 7 p.m., is part of a national witness for peace in Iraq. The Rev.

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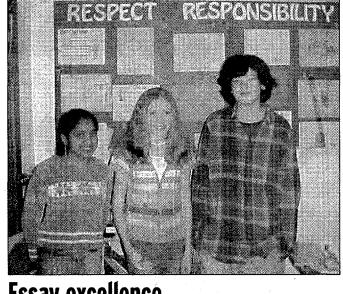
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Essay excellence

Three students from Central Middle School — Ishani Shah (left), Ellen Crilley and John Bohanon - were named local winners in the 38thannual America & Me Essay Contest sponsored by Farm Bureau Insurance. All three received award certificates for their achievements. As Central's first-place winner, John's name will also be engraved on a plaque for permanent display in the school. Ellen finished second and Ishani finished third. John's essay now advances to the state level competition, from which the state's top 10 essays will be chosen. Those winners, to be announced in April, receive plaques, cash and U.S. Savings Bonds valued from \$500 to \$1,000.

Dorian McGlannan, the rector of St. John's will offer reflec-

tions. A service will be held that same evening at The National Cathedral in Washington D.C. Hundreds of other churches around the country will be

conducting similar services. The Christian Peace Witness for Iraq calls on people of faith to pray for peace, remember the dead and wounded, promote alternatives to war and advocate for lasting peace and security at home and abroad.

Taizé music comes from the Taizé Community in France, an international ecumenical Christian monastic group committed to the ministry of reconciliation. Taizé was formed during World War II.

St. John's Episcopal Church is located at 574 S. Sheldon Road in Plymouth, just south of Ann Arbor Trail on the west side of the street.

Lincoln round-table

On Thursday, March 15, the Abraham Lincoln Civil War Round Table hosts author Samuel Martin, who has written numerous articles for Civil War magazines and has published biographies including The Road to Glory concerning the life of Southern General chard S. Ewell: Kill-Canal about the life of Yankee General Hugh Judson Kilpatrick and Southern Hero, the life of South Carolina's General Matthew Calbraith

Butler.

Martin will speak about Confederate General Braxton Bragg, on whose biography he is currently working. The meeting takes place 8 p.m. at the Plymouth Historical Museum, 155 S. Main in downtown Plymouth. The public is invited; admission is free. For more information call (734) 459-7324.

Rummage sale

The Plymouth Salvation Army hosts its annual indoor rummage sale 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, April 21.

For the first time, table space will be rented to individuals who wish to sell their own belongings. The cost is \$25 for an eight-foot table.

Anyone interested in renting a table can contact Cassie at 734-453-5464 or by e-mailing cassie_hull@usc.salvationarmy.org. The Salvation Army is located at 9451 S. Main in Plymouth.

Strong Kids program

The Plymouth Family YMCA is kicking off its Strong Kids campaign, an annual fundraiser which helps provide services to people who can't afford the program costs.

Summer camp and youth rograms for ki single parents are just two examples. The Plymouth Family YMCA offers an intensive youth volunteer program during the summer. "Summer community and develop a lifelong ethic of service. The YMCA is looking for help in funding these pro-

tunity to give back to their

in Service" is a free week long

aged young people the oppor-

program that gives high-school

grams. To contribute, call the YMCA at (734) 453-2904.

Radio station tours

Cub Scout and Girl Scout troops can learn first-hand about the behind-the-scenes operation of 88.1-FM, the student radio station for Plymouth-Canton Community

WSDP has opened its studio for local scout tours for many years. Scouts tour the studios at Salem High School, learn about the station's history and record a short announcement to air on the radio station. Tours take place in the early evening and last 30 minutes.

"I think it's a great chance for the scouts to learn about the station and their parents seem to have a lot of fun, too," station manager Bill Keith

Tours can be booked by calling (734) 416-7732.

Human rights program

The League of Women Voters of the Detroit

Metropolitan Area presents "Immigration Policies And Human Rights In Michigan Before and After September 11th" 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, March 24, at the Southfield Public Library.

Speakers will include David Koelsch, Secretary of the American Immigration Lawyers

Association/Attorney/U-of-D Professor; Scott Cooper. President of the American Immigration Lawyers Association/Attorney; and a third speaker to be named.

Questions will be welcome from the audience and coffee will be served. The Southfield Library is located at 26300 Evergreen Road in the Southfield Civic Center Complex. Ample parking is available.

Antiquing opportunity

There's a friendly group who travels to different locations once a month to shop and have lunch, and they're looking for more members.

Anyone interested can call Helen at (734) 455-4863.

Little Lambs registration

Little Lambs Christian Preschool is now enrolling for the 2007-2008 school year. The school is located inside

The Choice is Yours!

First Baptist Church, 45000 N. Territorial in Plymouth Township, and offers kindergarten readiness programs with degreed teachers, low student/teacher ratios of 1-5, prereading, writing and math skills, Spanish and sign language, student evaluations and parent conferences, field trips

and a book club. For more information, call (734) 414-7792.

Health seminar

The Fit Zone for Women-Canton hosts a weight loss and health solution seminar, "Learn the Secrets of Achieving Balance, Energy and Vitality," 6:30-8:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 20, at the Plymouth Cultural Center, 525 Farmer.

The seminar is presented by Chris Johnson, author of Meal Patterning. Tickets are \$8 in advance (\$10 at the door) and can be purchased at Fit Zone for Women-Canton, (734) 927-9991; Gabriala's, (734) 455-8884; or Plymouth Chiropractic Wellness Center, (734) 453-7090.

Wrestlemania bowling

Bowldetroit.com has announced a partnership between WrestleMania 23, the Make-A-Wish Foundation and **Community Bowling Centers** to bring the "Bowl with Bobby Lashley WrestleMania 23 Make A Wish Foundation Charity Bowling" event.

The Make a Wish Foundation is a participant in the WWE Circle of Champions program. This first bowling event revolving around WrestleMania 23 will be held Saturday, March 31, at Skore Lanes in Taylor.

The event runs 1-3:30 p.m. Skore Lanes is located at 22255 Ecorse in Taylor. It features a photo with Extreme Championship Wrestling champion Bobby Lashley; unlimited pizza and soda; more than two hours of bowling; door prizes; a silent auction; trophies and awards. Tickets begin at \$100.

For more information, call (313) 291-6220.

DAR meets

The Daughters of the American Revolution of Northville/Plymouth meet noon Monday, March 19, at the Northville District Library in downtown Northville.

A speaker the staff at St. oseph Mercy Health System will present a program on "Women's Health and Fitness-Sandwich Luncheon."

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

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Tight knit troop

Local Girl Scouts have been together since first grade

BY TIFFANY L. PARKS STAFF WRITER

Gathered around four small children's tables, the teenage girls giggle and joke about the day they will cross over into adulthood. Literally.

The girls are members of Girl Scout Troop No. 1451 and will have their final Girl Scout activity at a bridging ceremony today. The event. which will have an actual bridge for the girls to cross, will mark the culmination of a group that has been together since the first grade.

As many as 25 girls at one point, the troop is now a group of 10 teenagers that have seen each other through puberty, boys, uniform changes and thousands of boxes of Girl Scout cookies.

The members are: Ria Barker, 17; Katie Bartus, 18; Maggie Burr, 17; Caitlyn Elliott, 17; Lisa Foster, 17; Rhianon Hall, 17; Kati Lebiodo, 18; Melissa Miller, 17; Sarah Mirsky, 17 and Lauren Patterson, 18.

Rhianon joined the national organization as a Brownie.

"We moved from Westland so my mom wanted me to get involved with something," she said, adding that she didn't expect to be a part of the program for so long.

Rhianon's mother, Sharon Hall, is the troop leader.

With hundreds of meetings behind them and dozens of projects under their belts, the troop lives by their own unofficial motto: Girl Scouts Gone Wild.

The teens, who recite the Girl Scout promise in unison when asked if they know it, have planned murder mystery weekends for other troops, hosted a baby shower for one of their mothers, spent the night in the Toledo Zoo, sent care packages to deployed soldiers and have

vacationed together. Recently, they've been meeting every other Monday, but at their peak they were gathering every Friday.



Tonda Girl Scouts Lisa Hall and Rhianon Hall (foreground), Sarah Mirsky, Ria Barker, Melissa Miller and Caitlyn Elliott (middle) and Kati Lebiodo and Katie Bartus have been together their entire Scouting careers.



Lisa Foster laughs along with the rest of her Tonda Girl Scout troop during a recent gathering.

They all joke about a camping incident last year when their tent flooded from heavy rains. While Ria cringed at the thought of the outing, Melissa said she will miss those chaotic moments with her friends.

"Everything about that trip was terrible, but we still had

fun," she said.

While browsing through a scrapbook chronicling their Girl Scout journey, the girls shrieked at old photographs and agreed that today's ceremony will be emotional.

"We're all really good friends so this is going to be hard," Caitlyn said.

District eyes cuts to pare deficit

BY TONY BRUSCATO STAFF WRITER

As the Plymouth-Canton Board of Education prepares for its first 2007-08 budget session Monday evening, freshman board member Dianne Gonzalez said — as far as she's concerned — "there shouldn't be any stone left unturned."

At the 7 p.m. budget session scheduled for the E.J. McClendon Educational Center, trustees will determine exactly how much budget deficit they'll be dealing with, though preliminary indications have the figure at about \$8 million.

"I joined the board to make the tough decisions," said Gonzalez, who was elected in May. "I'd like to keep the cuts out of the classroom as much and long as possible. But, the next two years we have to change the way we do business or we'll go bankrupt.

"That means we need to look at everything from a new perspective ... determine what we need to educate a child and strategize from that point," she

said. "Always in the forefront of my mind, when we make budget cuts, is the priority of educating children. Everything after that we should look at."

Bill Keith, station manager of WSDP radio — which is celebrating its 35th anniversary — seemingly finds the radio station on the list of possible cuts more times than not. Keith said it's become a way of life as the school board has to determine each year which cuts to make.

"I always get nervous because of the reality that school districts face," Keith said. "I'm always impressed the school board has found a way to save the radio station. which shows how valuable a program it is.

"The school board has tough decisions to make, and every program is important to somebody," he said. "I don't envy board members for the decisions they have to make. I always keep my fingers crossed."

Gonzalez said if she had a list of 100 cuts, affecting class size would be at the bottom.

"Increasing class size is the easiest thing to do," Gonzalez said. "We have to get a little creative with our solutions. I hope they (the administration) have more in their (budget cutting) repertoire than cutting class size."

With nearly 90 percent of the budget consisting of people, salaries and benefits, Gonzalez didn't rule out the possibility of layoffs. "I think we have to talk about everything," she said. Superintendent Jim Ryan

said just like previous years, he expects layoffs to be announced as contractual agreements call for administrators to be notified by the end of March and teachers by the end of April. In the past, most have been recalled because enrollment in the district continues to climb.

"If ultimately the board votes to raise class sizes, we will lay off teachers. That's just the fact of the numbers," Ryan said. "However, enrollment growth, retirements and leaves of absences will affect the final

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DEATHS

Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, March 11, 2007

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Dennis A. Ouellette

Ouellette, 66, died March 1.

Township, died March 1.

Purdy, 90, died March 4:

Susan Pomeroy Roberts

Helen Grischuk Roddy

died Feb. 19.

David W. Porter

Mary Lou Purdy

died Feb. 8.

Joseph Slenzak

David A. Solomon

Patricia T. Welch

Robert W. Williams

on page C5.

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Welch, 78, died March 1.

Williams, 86, died Feb. 27.

Morris, 84, of Bloomfield Township,

Porter, 85, formerly of Bloomfield

Roberts, 74, formerly of Birmingham,

Roddy, formerly of Birmingham, died

Slenzak, 83, of Troy, died March 6.

Solomon, 51, of Wayne, died March 8.

Complete paid obituaries can be found

inside today's newspaper in Passages

Dennis (Denny) Burton Burton, 52, of Livonia, died.

Thomas N. Carmody Carmody, 76, of Plymouth, died Feb. 27.

Robert D. Den Uyl Den Uyl, 81, of Bloomfield Hills, died

Feb. 25.

Elmer East East, 84, of Plymouth, died March 7.

John F. Gabel Gabel died Feb. 24.

Toivo W. Huurto Huurto, 90, died March 1. Helena M. Hyma Hyma, 90, died Feb. 28.

Jack D. Malanev Malaney, 83, formerly of Westland, died March 2.

Venus Massarello Massarello, 91, of Zeeland, died March

Lillian Milczarek Milczarek, 92, formerly of Garden City, died Feb. 5.

Sally Miller

Miller, 76, of Birmingham, died March

BICYCLIST

"He'd do everything from general cardio work to some weight training to biking and riding the stationary bike," said Jamie Stepanian-Bennett, director of marketing and membership for the Livonia YMCA, "Being around him makes you want to kick yourself for not being as motivated as this guy."

There were challenges along the way. The first day out of Deadhorse, there was a blizzard. In Peru, a taxi driver stole everything but the clothes on his back. Luckily, he had his passport and credit cards with him at the time.

Physically, Gothard said, the ride was not that tough. He had to deal with the lack of shower facilities and a lot of sleeping outdoors, and there were some cockroaches along the way he'd rather forget, but other than that, the ride went fairly smoothly.

"It was a long grind," Gothard admitted. "Each day I looked at that day's 60 miles. I didn't look at the 10,000 miles we still had to go. I took it one day at a time."

While he was pedaling down the West Coast, his family and friends were following his exploits via e-mail, written by Gothard from the rode and facilitated by his daughter, Hogue, who made sure everyone got her dad's notes.

While the group was made up mostly of family at first, it soon grew.

"He was pretty regular about getting in touch, about every week," said Hogue, who works for Ford. "Occasionally, he'd stretch it out to 9-10 days, and just when we were wondering where he was and whether we should call an American embassy, he'd get in touch."

The group soon expanded to friends and family, and then to friends of the friends of the family, and even included peo-



For much of the journey, Gothard kept himself bundled from the cold.



Gary Gothard, 71, of Plymouth, didn't spend the entire journey on his bicycle, taking time out to put some equestrian time in.

ple with whom Hogue works at Ford.

"I was asking people to email him so he knew there were people who wanted to know how he was doing," Hogue said. "There were a lot

of people living vicariously through him. It was amazing."

The toughest part, Gothard said, came with a 12-percent grade that lasted 12 miles. He said he hopped off the bike, stuck his thumb out and

bummed a ride for part of it. "My main thought was the duration," Gothard said. "I wanted to take care of myself and not do something I can't physically do. I didn't want to push too hard and end up getting sick. That happened to a

With this trip in his rearview mirror, Gothard is already turning his attention to his next adventure - a 6,000-mile trek through the Baltics he plans on taking starting in May. He'll take that trip with a gentleman he met during a trip through England.

And, with his bicycling days winding down, Gothard is doing nothing but looking ahead.

"I've probably got five years of good riding left in me," Gothard admitted. "You get the airline ticket and you go. You don't worry about it. You just do it."

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Corriveau schedules Plymouth-area events

State Rep. Marc Corriveau, D-Northville, is inviting area residents to sit down to talk ove a cup of coffee during his first coffee hour in Plymouth Monday, March 12.

Corriveau will hold the coffee hour 8-9 a.m. at the Panera Bread restaurant at the corner of Main and Ann Arbor Trail.

"I look forward to meeting more of our residents and listening to their concerns." Corriveau said.

Corriveau has another coffee

hour scheduled 8-9 a.m. Monday, March 26 at the Cozy Corner in Wayne.

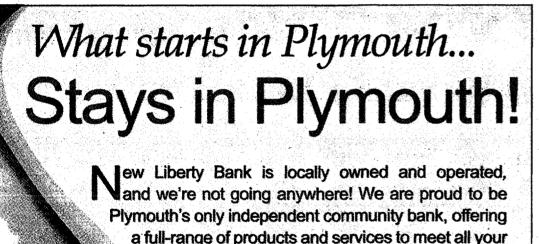
Businesses or organizations interested in hosting a coffee hour with Corriveau can call his office, (877) 20TH-REP (208-4737) or send an e-mail to MarcCorriveau@house.mi.gov.

Corriveau will also host the

gatherings on strengthening education 7-8 p.m. Thursday, March 15 at the Plymouth District Library.

Corriveau will be joined by three school superintendents, including Dr. James Ryan, head of the Plymouth-Canton district.

The Plymouth District Library is located at 223 S. Main in downtown Plymouth.





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FROM PAGE A1

Plymouth High School English teacher Wendy Ochoa, knowing she would be administering the ACT, took the test herself.

"I didn't get a perfect score on the English," chuckled Ochoa, who did record a 34 out of a possible 36. "I figured that since I teach English, I should know everything. But when I took the ACT in high school,

English was my worst score." Ochoa, 38, last took the ACT before graduating from Huron High School in Ann Arbor in

"Overall, this time my score was 30 (out of a perfect 36), which is pretty good considering in high school my ACT score was 27," Ochoa said. "I'm

happy I improved in 20 years." Bender said while this year's test is a different process, district officials are confident they've taken the steps to help students succeed.

"Teachers incorporated the format that's used in the ACT, as well as WorkKeys, in the test questions they use in their classes," Bender said. "Steps were taken to confirm our curriculum lines up with the content assessed on the ACT. We've provided students with testtaking strategies as well as

(sample) test questions." Ochoa said taking the ACT test herself helped in preparing her students.

"I could honestly look at them and tell them what we needed to work on," Ochoa said. "Since it's a graduation requirement, there's pressure on teachers and students. This is much more pressure-filled than any MEAP test we were ever given when I went to

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ACT SUCCESS

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You are preparing to tile the floor of a rectangular room that is 15.5 feet by 18.5 feet in size. The tiles you plan to use are square, measuring 12 inches on each side, and are sold in boxes that contain enough tile to cover 25 square feet. How many boxes of tiles must you order to complete the job?

b. 12

c. 34

d. 59 e. 287

Minh cuts a board in the shape of a regular hexagon and pounds in a nail at an equal distance from each vertex. How many rubber bands will she need in order to stretch a different rubber band across every possible pair of nails?

a. 15 b. 14

> c. 12 d. 9

The parallel sides of an isosceles trapezoid are 10 feet long and 16 feet long, respectively. What is the distance, in feet, between these two sides?

b. 4

c. 5 d. 10

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Answers: (1) b; (2) a; (3) c.

Bomb threat turns out to be hoax

BY TONY BRUSCATO STAFF WRITER

Plymouth police say a note indicating there was a bomb inside East Middle School Friday afternoon turned out to be a hoax.

Detective Lt. Al Cox said the school was "pretty much cleared out" by the time the note was found about 3:30 p.m.

"The note was very vague, and addressed to a specific student, indicating there was a bomb in Room 5," Cox said. "It did not indicate the bomb would go off at a particular time.

"Unfortunately, in a crosscheck for the name on the note which was a first name and

last initial - there was no student at East with that name," he said.

Plymouth-Canton Schools Supt. Jim Ryan said the note was found by two students in the media center, about a half hour after school was let out for the weekend.

"Two kids found a note in the library and turned it over to a teacher," Ryan said. "The teacher took it to the assistant principal, who immediately called Plymouth police.

"School was out at 3 p.m., so there were very few people left in the building," Ryan said. "There were about 10 extended day kids in the building, and we worked with our transportation department to get a bus and moved

them to Allen Elementary. There was also a dance class in the building at the time, and they were taken out. The building was then shut

down." Cox said they called in a bomb-sniffing dog from the Wayne County Airport police and spent about a half hour searching for a bomb or explosive device.

"We blocked off the indicated room and those around it, and walked the dog all through the hallways surrounding the entire southeast section of the building," Cox said. "The dog didn't hit on anything."

Ryan said the school district will conduct its own investigation next week.

"The principals will do their best to find out who wrote the note," Ryan said. "We're hoping maybe someone will tell us

who did it." Cox said if someone thought it was a joke, the police department isn't laughing.

"We're going to look into it to see if we can find who left the note and what their intentions were," Cox said. "Kids don't realize that when they do these things, the logistics are big. We put all our resources - police, fire department, bomb dog and tie them up for a long time.

If we would have had an emergency somewhere else, we could have been caught short."

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@ THE LIBRARY

The Plymouth District Library, 223 S. Main in Plymouth, offers the following programs in March:

■ GREAT BOOKS, Monday, March 19, 7 p.m. — This discussion group is open to anyone who is curious and willing to work with others in develop-Ting an understanding and appreciation of great literature. For further information, contact group facilitator Karen Berrie at (734) 453-2454. To learn more about The Great Books Foundation, see the Internet Web site: http://www.greatbooks.org/

WRITING MY LIFE STORY: A SENIOR WRIT-ING GROUP, Tuesday, March 20, 4 p.m. - Seniors can share and preserve their life stories with the guidance of Plymouth author, Jane Saylor. No previous writing experience nor advance registration is required. Attend either meeting or both.

■ BLOOD DRIVE, Friday, March 9, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. -The American Red Cross will conduct a blood drive at the Library and reminds donors that they can safely give blood every 56 days. A signup sheet

CANTON CINEMA



can be found in the Library lobby – but walk-ins are welcome, too.

Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, March 11, 2007

■ YOUR POETRY GROUP, Sunday, March 11, 1:30-3:30 p.m. — Round table readings of poems, your own or by others, are held on the second Sunday of the month. Reader's discretion of language is asked in the works read. For more information, contact Don Hewlett, (313) 272-3548, or donhewlett@aol.com

■ STARS, MOONS & PLANETS, Monday, March 19, 7 p.m. — Want to know more about the spring sky? Plan now to attend this lively exchange of thoughts with local astronomy expert, Mike Best. All are welcome - ages 6 to 106. For more information contact (734) 459-BEST or starmikebest@comcast.net

CONTEMPORARY BOOKS DISCUSSION, Wednesday, March 21, 7:30 p.m. - Members of this book discussion group are invited to read Prep by Curtis Sittenfeld. Copies of this book are available at the circulation desk. New members are welcome at any time. For further information, please call Sue Patterson at the Library, (734) 453-0750, or e-mail spatterson@plymouthlibrary.org

■ LIBRARY ĞARDEN GROUP - There will be no Garden Group meeting in March. Start planning your 2007 garden at the next meeting to be held on Thursday, April 19 at 7 p.m.

■ NEEDLECRAFTERS MEETING, Monday, March 26, 7 p.m. — Kick off a new project or keep after your current one. Knitters, quilters, needlepointers are all invited to attend this informal group gathering. Lessons are not provided, but ideas exchanged among attendees. No registration required.

■ DETROIT INSTITUTE OF ARTS/PLYMOUTH COM-MUNITY ARTS COUNCIL, Monday, March 26, 7 p.m. -For nearly 10 years, the Arts Council has offered exceptional presentations about the DIA's permanent collections and special exhibits. Register by calling the library's Reader's Advisory Desk at (734) 453-

0750, Ext. 4.

BROWN BAG BOOK DISCUSSION, Wednesday, March 28, noon - Thismonth's discussion invites members to read The Year of Magical Thinking by Joan Didion. Copies of this book are available at the circulation desk. Bring a lunch; beverages are provided. For more information about Brown Bag Books, ask at the Reader's Advisory Desk, call Linda Pride at the Library, (734) 453-0750, or e-mail lpride@ply-

mouthlibrary.org. ■ HOMEBOUND BOOK DELIVERY— Joining the Plymouth Community Council on Aging, the Plymouth District Library will deliver library books and audio books to homebound residents of the City of Plymouth and Plymouth Township. Call (734) 453-0750, Ext. 240 to enroll or go to plymouthlibrary.org and complete the homebound delivery service registration.

Youth programs

LAP SIT STORYTIME, Monday, March 12, 10 & 11 a.m. and Saturday, March 17, 10 a.m. — This 15-minute program is designed for the very young, babies ages 6-24 months and their caregivers. No older siblings please. Registration is required; call Reader's Advisory Desk at (734) 453-0750, Ext. 4.

■ BACKYARD METEO-ROLOGY, Saturday, March 17, 11 a.m. — This program is part of our continuing Family and Science Reading series. In conjunction with the University of Michigan Exhibit Museum, it is designed specifically for children 6-12 and their parents - a parent or caregiver must accompany each participant. Registration is limited to 30 children; call (734) 453-0750,

BABY PLAY, Monday, March 26, 10 & 11 a.m., Saturday, March 31, 10 a.m. This fun program is for babies ages 6-24 months. Baby Play is a less formal companion to the library's Lapsit program. Babies and caregivers listen to a story, followed by play with developmentally appropriate toys and interaction with other

Teen program

required for Baby Play.

■ Get Connected @ the Library during TEEN TECH WEEK, March 4-10:

children. Registration is not

■ GET YOUR GAME ON, Thursday, March 8, 4–6 p.m. Bring your friends and enjoy video games and DDR.

■ AMAZING 3-D ART & PHOTOGRAPHY, Saturday, March 10, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. - Learn the process of 3D design in the Library's new. computer lab. Graphic designer and animator Sean Amberger will teach you about Anaglyphs and Phantograms and show you how to make your own 3D images. Space is limited - sign up at (734) 453-0750, Ext. 4.

■ BOOKS & BAGELS, Tuesday, March 13, 4 p.m. -Teens are invited to read Looking for Alaska by John Green, the story of 16-year-old Miles and his first year at Culver Creek Preparatory School in Alabama. It includes good friends and great pranks, but is defined by the search for answers about life and death after a fatal car crash. This title won the 2005 ALA Michael Printz Award for Excellence in Young Adult Literature. Register at the Reader's Advisory Desk, 734-453-0750, ext. 4.

■ VOLUNTEER TRAIN-ING SESSION, Wednesday, March 14, 7 p.m. — Teen residents of the City and Township of Plymouth have several library volunteer opportunities available. Learn more about these opportunities at this brief training meeting. One training session is required for all teen volunteers.

Roommate accused of scamming money from dead woman's father

BY TIFFANY L. PARKS STAFF WRITER

The story gets more bizarre with every detail.

That's how one Heathmore Apartments resident is describing the events surrounding the death of 19-year-old Ashley Ann Pierce.

Police have said Pierce's 28year-old roommate kept the woman's death a secret for three weeks because she was scamming money from Pierce's father. Police have declined to identify the roommate, who is under investigation, but neighbors have referred to her as both "Tina" and "Christina."

Police are investigating if the woman, who they believe impersonated Pierce over the telephone, was sent money intended for Pierce.

"I can't give an exact figure (on how much she got from the father) but it was less than \$2,000," Canton Sgt. Rick Pomorski said, adding that he 'could only imagine" the telephone conversations.

Pierce, who was born in Trenton but lived much of her life with her dad in northwest Michigan, moved into Heathmore Apartments off of Haggerty Road about two months ago. Her decaying body was found underneath a pile of clothing on her living room floor late Tuesday by police acting on an anonymous tip. Pierce's roommate was still living in the apartment.

The discovery of her corpse has rocked the small, ranchstyle apartment complex that has been described as quiet and friendly.

As media swarmed the area Thursday, some of Pierce's former neighbors refused to

answer their doors while others spoke freely about the incident.

"This is really strange," said Alea Shinn, 27, who's lived in the complex since August.

"Every bit gets more bizarre." Heathmore Apartments resident Annette Corradi agreed.

"This is kind of unusual," she said, referencing the body being in the apartment for so long with the roommate. "How could she stay there?"

At Pierce's former apartment, two gold hearts hung in the window, a pair of dirty socks were lying on the patio area and a cleaning service business card was tucked in the front door.

Steven Reifler, who lived next door to the two women, said "Tina" used to come over to his place several times a day to use his telephone.

"It's a sad situation," he said. Pomorski said foul play doesn't appear to be a factor in Pierce's death. The results of her autopsy are still pending but preliminary results have indicated drugs could have been involved. He said a small amount ("user quantity") of heroin and some drug paraphernalia were found in the

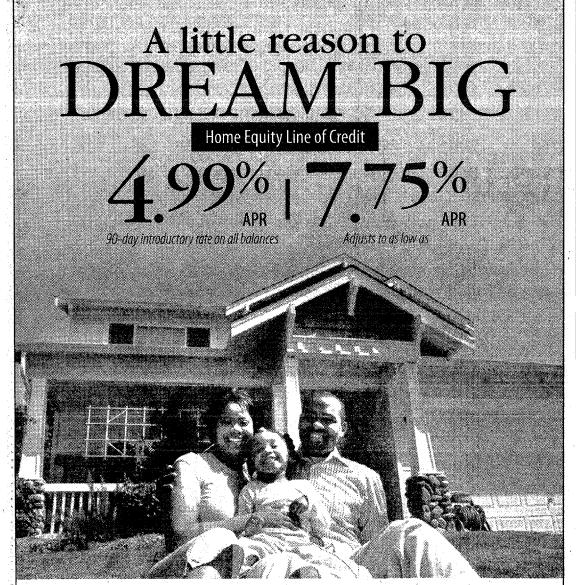
Pomorski said the department is awaiting the final results of an autopsy that was performed by the Wayne County Medical Examiner's Office last week, which he said could take some time because Pierce had been deceased for three weeks.

When police finish investigating whether the roommate profited from Pierce's death, criminal charges could be filed. Pomorski said it's not a crime to not report a dead body.

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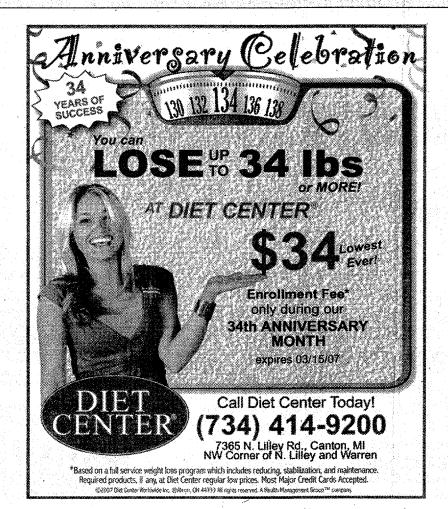
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College fair helps students sort out their options

BY HUGH GALLAGHER STAFF WRITER

Hundreds of Detroit-area high school students jammed into Burton Manor in Livonia Thursday. They were on a

College recruiters from as far away as Alaska and Hawaii and as near as Madonna University and Oakland University were on hand to make their pitch and help the students navigate their way through the college admissions process. The college fair in Livonia is one of several spring fairs around the country sponsored by the National Association of College Admission Counseling.

"The purpose of the fair is to give students a good start, not just on finding out about colleges in general but about colleges that are right for them," said Patrick O'Connor, director of college counseling at Roeper School and an organizer for the event.

This year, 123 colleges participated. Detroit, Flint and other school systems brought busloads of students to the Thursday fair. Students could check out each college booth, talk with admission counselors and pick up literature. In addition special programs were presented on NCAA athletic eligibility, financial aide, minority opportunities and preparing for the ACT.

"We know from the college merit exam that they have the skills to go college and because of the Michigan Promise, they'll have some money to go to college, but it's not just about going to college but about going to a college that's right for them," said O'Connor.

The fair provided a wide range of possibilities for the students on their quest for just the right college, from tech schools to art academies, large public universities to small private liberal arts colleges, and military academies to business schools.

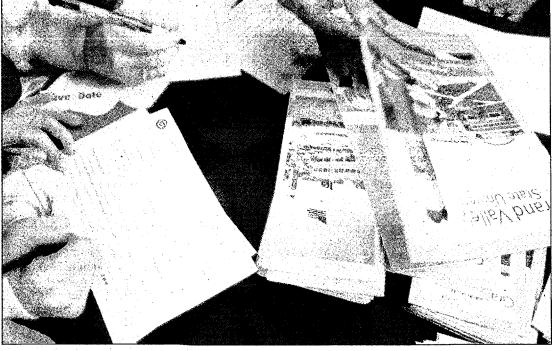
Livonia Churchill High School junior Michelle Emmanuel was looking to sort out which of those schools would fit her needs.

"I wanted to know which schools have the major I'm interested in, which is physical therapy," she said. "I'm not sure about all the specific questions I wanted to ask, I just wanted to know which colleges were there."

The fair also provides help in sorting out how to get into the college that fits the students'

Society names

Humane



Students fill out information cards for Grand Valley State University during the college fair.

"I wanted information to know what requirements I needed to get into college or the program of study I'm interested in," said Marcin Rivera, a junior at Churchill interested in pursuing a nursing degree.

The college counselors were there to sort it out.

PROVIDING A ROAD MAP

"We try to provide a road map of what the process looks like, encouraging them to explore their options," said Michael Guy, associate director of admissions outreach for Central Michigan University.

He said the college fairs help students narrow down their

"We encourage them to do more than just grab the material, take the time to ask good questions, get more materials, take time to do research on the Web and as summer goes on, have a goal of making applications to at least three-five schools," he said.

Guy, who has been with CMU for 20 years, said students are becoming more savvy about the often complex admissions process.

"But it's a double-edged sword, with so much information out there it becomes overwhelming. This is a process to make more sense of it all," he

For Richard Duncan, an admissions counselor for the Illinois Institute of Technology in Chicago, it's all about defining what makes his college appealing for Michigan students living in a economically challenged area.

"Students come to work and stay in Chicago and get the experience of living in a different city, a much larger one, more on the upswing and bring it back to their home area," he said.

He said not all students want a big city environment but that IIT has a lot of selling points.

"We're a small school, so they get to go to a small school in a big city. We have two major train lines through our campus. There are all the shows and sports centers. The Sox play across the street from us," he said.

In addition, he said the school offers a focused technological education.

The process is different at the United States Military Academy at West Point. Tom Lynch, a 1982 West Point graduate who lives in Bloomfield Hills, is a field force representative for West Point's admissions office. He said the military academies are not for everyone.

"Academics are important but the biggest thing is that West Point is looking for wellrounded individuals - 60 percent is academics, 30 percent is activities and sports and 10 percent in a physical test we give them," he said.

He said applicants need to understand that the academies are a big commitment as they pay students to attend to receive an education valued at up to \$300,000 but require a five-year post graduation commitment. Students must be nominated by a member of the U.S. House or Senate.

SMALL BUT STRONG

A different educational model is represented by small, competitive Kalamazoo College.

"We make sure they know we're small so they're not shocked by the 1300 students we have," said Hillary Teague. "Mostly I try to get a feel for what the student is looking for and tailor what I tell them based on their interest."

For many students, Kalamazoo and other private colleges might seem out of their financial reach, but the fair offered students an opportunity to learn about financial

"I wanted to learn about more colleges than the University of Michigan and Michigan State," said Asia Hawkins, a Detroit Crockett Career High student, who is interested in studying to become a pharmacist.

The fair gave her a good lead on financial resources.

"At Howard University, I'm eligible for a presidential scholarship because of my GPA," she said.

For some the fair was reassuring that the quest might not be so difficult.

"I was surprised," said Michelle Emmanuel. "I thought you had to have a high GPA to get into all the schools and some schools were much lower than I expected."

hgallagher@hometownlife.com (734) 953-2149



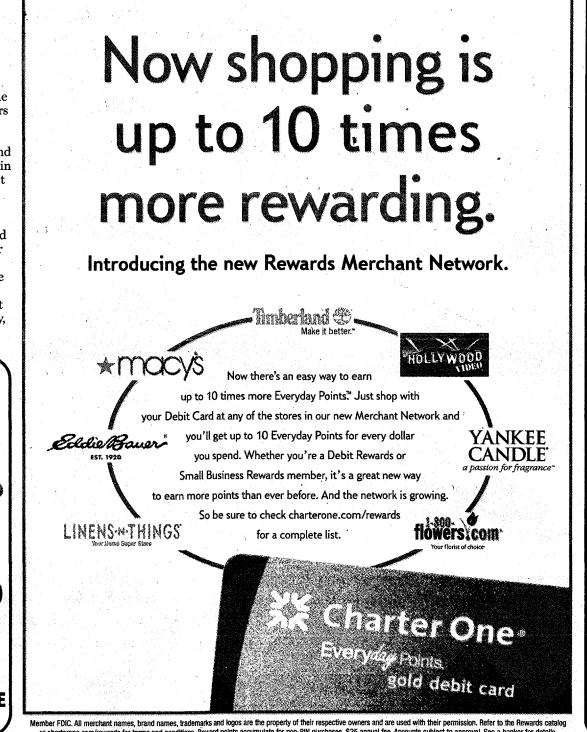


new board members The Michigan Humane * Society recently announced the addition of three new members to the board of directors. David L. Bialosky serves as the executive vice president and

general counsel for TRW Inc. in Livonia. Elizabeth Correa, first vice president of Comerica Bank, is a resident of Birmingham. Tina Ford is a resident of St. Clair Shores and also serves as a board member with the Children's Center of Wayne County. Each will serve a three-year term.

For more information about the Michigan Humane Society, call (866)MHUMANE.





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FIRE RUNS

Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, March 11, 2007

The Plymouth Community Fire Department responded to the following runs during the period Feb. 28-March 6:

■ Tuesday, March 6 — Residential rescue runs on Carol, on Mayflower and on Postiff; carbon monoxide detector run on Ivywood; industrial rescue run on Plymouth Road; vehicle accident (with washdown) on eastbound M-14 at Schoolcraft; investigation on Provincetown.

Monday, March 5 — Rescue runs on Sheldon and on Ann Arbor Trail; residential

rescue runs on Woodleigh Way, on Innsbrook and on Harvest; fire on Halyard.

■ Sunday, March 4 -Residential rescue runs on Newport, on Princeton, on Countrywood, on Ann Arbor Trail and on Northville Road: commercial rescue run on General.

■ Saturday, March 3 — Residential rescue runs on Pinecrest, on Cassidy Place, on Francis, on N. Territorial and on Newporte; rescue run to a public building/school on Haggerty.

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON ACCESS TO PUBLIC MEETINGS

The Charter Township of Canton will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting, to individuals with disabilities at the meeting/hearing upon two weeks notice to the Charter Township of Canton. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Charter Township of Canton by writing or calling the following:

David Medley, ADA Coordinator Charter Township of Canton, 1150 S. Canton Center Road Canton, MI 48188 (734) 394-5260

Publish: March 11 & 15, 2007

PLYMOUTH-CANTON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS NOTICE TO BIDDERS

The Board of Education of the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools invites all interested and qualified companies to submit a Bid for Asbestos Abatement at Eriksson, Field, and Hulsing Elementary Schools as well as Pioneer Middle School. The project will be completed in early 2007 prior to building renovation activities and will include the removal and disposal of asbestos flooring materials, asbestos thermal system insulation, asbestos transite materials, and windows with asbestos window caulk. Bid documents will be available for pickup on or after Tuesday, March 27, 2007 at HealthAir, Inc., 23491 Research Drive, Farmington Hills, Michigan 48335 or by phoning (248) 426-0165. A Pre-Bid meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 6, 2007 at 4:30 p.m. at Pioneer Middle School located at 46081 Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth, MI 48187. All submissions should include 3 bid copies (1 original, 2 duplicates) which are due to the PCCS E.J McClendon Educational Center, RE: School Abatement Bids, 454 South Harvey, Plymouth, MI 48170, on or before 2:00 p.m., Tuesday, March 20, 2007 where they will be read publicly. For additional information, phone Dan Phillips, Assistant Director of Finance & Purchasing at (734) 416-2746. The Board of Education reserves the right to accept and/or reject all bids, as they judge to be in the best interest of the school

> Board of Education Plymouth-Canton Community Schools JUDY MARDIGIAN, Secretary

Publish: March 4 & 11, 2007

Friday, March 2 — Residential rescue runs on Kellogg, on Williams (with extrication), on Wilson and on Ball; rescue run to a public building/school on Mill; downed wires on Halyard; commercial rescue run and dumpster fire on Ann Arbor Road: vehicle accidents on eastbound M-14 east of N.

Territorial and at Ann Arbor

extrication).

Road and Fellows Creek (with

■ Thursday, March 1 — Special run on Pacific; rescue run at Beck and Walnut Tree; vehicle accidents on southbound I-275 at westbound M-14 and on westbound M-14 east of I-275; commercial rescue runs on Ann Arbor Road and on General: residential rescue run on Wendover; mutual-aid-given fire run on E. Harbor Village.

■ Wednesday, Feb. 28 — Investigation on Ann Arbor Trail; vehicle accident on Beck south of N. Territorial; mutualaid-given rescue run on Jamestown Circle; residential rescue runs on Northville Road and on Sheldon; smoke investigation on Massey.



Canton man accused of duct taping boy bound over for trial

BY TIFFANY L. PARKS STAFF WRITER

Accused child abuser Andre Thornton Montgomery, 27, waived his preliminary hearing Friday at 35th District Court in Plymouth and is scheduled to be in court again later this

Charged with second-degree child abuse, Montgomery of Canton, was allegedly caught on a video tape tying up with duct tape and tormenting the son of his girlfriend when the child was about two years old. The boy is now four. The mother came across the 90second video in late February and called police.

While in court Friday, Montgomery, who was dressed in jeans and a white hooded sweatshirt, briefly interacted with a group of his supporters.

"What up, baby," one woman happily whispered to him while another woman confirmed he had her telephone

Montgomery, who is being held in Wayne County Jail on a \$50,000 cash bond for the

child abuse charge, also waived his preliminary hearing on another charge dealing with prescription drug fraud.

Montgomery defended himself to Judge Ronald W. Lowe by saying he never hit or beat the child.

Calling himself Montgomery's "stand-in" attorney, Craig F. Shrewsbury asked the judge to release him on personal bond or "something more affordable" saying that the township man doesn't have a record.

Wayne County Assistant Prosecutor Louisa Papalas quickly argued against it referencing the footage that allegedly shows Montgomery taunting the small child who was bound with duct tape around his hands, feet, mouth and eyes.

At mention of the tape, Montgomery's supporters sighed loudly and muttered to themselves.

They also gave a reaction when Papalas told the judge that Montgomery's family members had been harassing the mother of the allegedly

abused child and her family members. Montgomery and the woman were living together when he was arrested.

"They have made phone calls of a threatening nature," Papalas said.

When Lowe declined to alter Montgomery's bail, some of his supporters burst into tears. One woman rested her head against the bench in front of her and wept.

Saying that the case is strong against Montgomery, Papalas applauded the judge's decision.

Lowe also ordered Montgomery not to contact the woman or her family and advised him to tell his family not to make contact.

"Let them know it's not going to help you, it's only going to come back to hurt you," he said, adding that he understands Montgomery may not be able to control his fami-

Montgomery will be arraigned on the information March 23 at the Frank Murphy Hall of Justice in Detroit.

tlparks@hometownlife.com | (734) 459-2700

Visit hometownlife.com for daily updates of news, sports and photos

PLYMOUTH DISTRICT LIBRARY **PUBLIC NOTICE**

The Plymouth District Library Board will hold its REGULAR February meeting Tuesday, March 20, 2007 at 7:30 p.m. at 223 S. Main Street, Plymouth, Michigan 48170.

The Plymouth District Library will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audio tape of printed materials being considered at the meeting, to individuals with disabilities at the meeting/hearing upon seven (7) days notice to the Plymouth District Library. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Plymouth District Library by writing or calling the following:

> Barbara Kraft, Library Secretary Plymouth District Library 223 S. Main Street Plymouth, MI 48170 734-453-0750

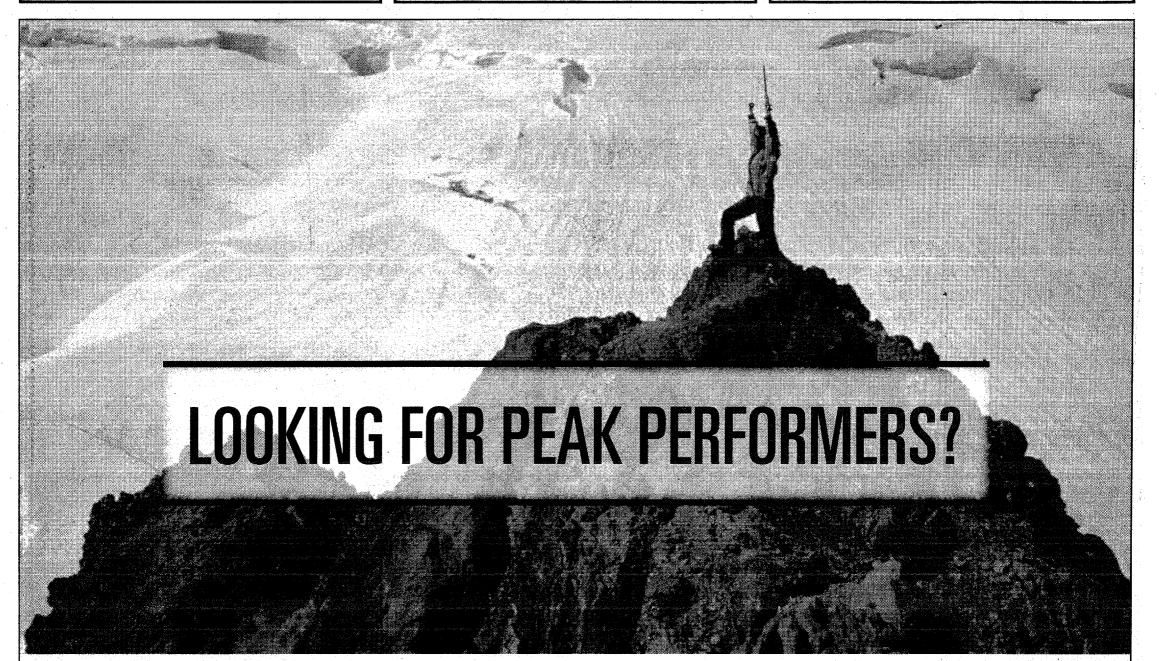
Publish: March 11, 2007

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING FY 2005 CONSOLIDATED ANNUAL PERFORMANCE EVALUATION REPORT

On March 20, 2007, at 3 p.m. in the Administrative Services Conference Rooms, first floor, Administration Building, 1150 S. Canton Center Road, Canton, Michigan, there will be the second public hearing on the above captioned activity. The purpose of the Consolidated Annual Performance Evaluation Report ("CAPER") is to report on Community Development Block Grant activities for FY 2005 (July 1, 2005-June 30, 2006). The CAPER is available for inspection at the Community Services Division during regular business hours. Written comments or requests for information should be directed to: Gerald Martin, Community Services Specialist, Community Services Division, 1150 S. Canton Center Road, Canton, Michigan 48188, (734) 394-5194.

Terry Bennett, Clerk

Publish: March 11, 2007



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teaching assistant's job at the Freedom of

Information Center. I worked with Dr. Paul Fisher, a longtime expert on government

accountability, and others to answer questions

Those lessons have stayed with me, and it's good to see that Sunshine Week is still going

strong. This year, journalists Ben Bradlee, Tom

executive editor and now vice president at large

News and now a contributing reporter and pro-

ducer for NBC News documentaries. Woodruff

is special correspondent for the NewsHour with

Those are substantial names in media circles,

Jim Lehrer and anchor of Conversations with

The gap in what those survey respondents

believe about the Bush administration's tenden-

cy to secrecy, as contrasted with state and local

questions have loomed about lack of accounta-

The issue of weapons of mass destruction, or

governments, is noteworthy. Certainly large

bility by Bush and his top leaders in the Iraq

lack thereof, as a justification for war has put

Bush in the hot seat. The furor over the Patriot

Act, and its allowing government to spy on pri-

vate citizens for questionable reasons, remains

have fought the good fight.

as well and has been an issue for librarians who

Local and state governments are closer to the

people, and thus it's harder to cover things up. (I

like to think an aggressive press is a factor here

Judy Woodruff on Bloomberg Television.

but they're not fighting this fight alone.

Brokaw and Judy Woodruff are the honorary

chairs of Sunshine Week. Bradlee is former

of *The Washington Post*. Brokaw is former anchor and managing editor of NBC Nightly

and provide printed information on openness

(this was before the Web, of course).

corporations flee Michigan

Pfizer. Chrysler. Comerica.

Recent news that these three Michigan corporate mainstays are closing up shop, up for sale, and moving its corporate headquarters, respectively, was a major punch in the gut to our state's already fragile economy.

And in the cases of Pfizer and Comerica, the announcements also dealt a major blow to Gov. Jennifer Granholm's efforts to transform the

Many of the impacts of these continuing job losses are apparent: More people will leave Michigan in search of jobs; less disposable income will hurt the service industry; state revenue from income tax, sales tax and property taxes will squeeze state spending even further.

There is another aspect that is not as obvious, but which will have an equally devastating impact: Corporations, and their employees, contribute millions of dollars and donate thousands of volunteer hours to the state's network of nonprofit and chari-

table organizations. With corporate donations already reduced and the state's economy tanking, local charities

already were finding it more and

more difficult to meet their fund-raising goals. Pfizer and its employees were major supporters of the greater Ann Arbor community, and the true impact of those 2,000 lost jobs won't be felt fully for a few years.

Bauman

And if Daimler ditches Chrysler and it is broken up into several smaller companies, it could prove to be doomsday for the region's many cultural institutions, from the Detroit Institute of Arts to the Chrysler Art Beats and Eats festival, that have benefited greatly from the company's generous support over the years.

And even though Comerica has pledged that it will not abandon the metro area when its corporate headquarters migrates to Texas, it is logical to assume that, eventually, the philanthropic efforts will follow where the headquarters goes.

What's at stake? Last year alone, Comerica reportedly pumped \$8.3 million into the coffers of some 1,300 metro Detroit organizations, while bank employees donated some 20,000 community service hours in metro Detroit.

Only time will tell which scenario proves true. ■ Quiet, please! Next week, high school juniors throughout the state will be taking the new Michigan Merit Exam. The exam (think the ACT on steroids) replaces the old 11th-grade MEAP test and comes with a considerable financial carrot for those who do well on the test: A \$4,000 state grant to be used at any Michigan higher learning institution.

There are other benefits to the new MME as well for students and their parents. The ACT is a test required by most four-year universities as part of the application process, historically has

been given on a Saturday, and costs students \$40. Now, the ACT portion of the MME can be used for the application process, is free and students and their parents don't have to give up a Saturday to take it.

So what's the problem?

If my daughter's high school is typical of what is happening next week - and I suspect it is - a whole lot more students than just the juniors are being impacted by the testing.

The ACT portion of the test is scheduled to be administered statewide Tuesday, with additional components taking up portions of two addition-

Apparently to limit distractions for those kids taking the exams next week, my daughter's school district saw fit to cancel classes all day Tuesday for the rest of the student body, and scheduled half days the other two days. In effect, everyone loses the equivalent of two full school

Add those days on top of a lost day and a half this week for teacher conferences, a full week of mid-winter break just a few weeks back, a couple of recent snow/ice/cold days and spring break just around the corner, and I start to worry about how all of the broken weeks of learning are affecting the educational process.

I hope the decision to provide a nice, quiet environment for the juniors to take the new test

Losers become winner. You have to love politics. It might be the only environment where even those who lose elections are rewarded handsomely for their efforts.

Consider the political fortunes of former state Sen. Laura Toy, R-Livonia, unsuccessful congressional candidate Nancy Skinner and unsuccessful state Senate candidate Andy Levin. In a matter of weeks following their losing bids for office, all three were able to land on their feet, and land jobs inside the political bureaucracy.

Levin, a Democrat who narrowly lost his state Senate bid to John Pappageorge, R-Troy, was rewarded for his valiant effort with a job in the Granholm administration. Toy, who lost her state Senate seat to Democrat Glenn Anderson, is now in the employ of her former fellow Senate Republicans.

And Skinner, a liberal radio talk show host who moved back to Michigan to challenge (and almost beat) venerable U.S. Rep. Joe Knollenberg, R-Bloomfield Township, was recently named chief of staff for First Gentleman Daniel Mulhern.

I am not sure why the spouse of the governor needs a chief of staff, but I am sure that Skinner will do a fine job of doing whatever it is she will

There is an old saying that "to the victors go the spoils." But in Michigan politics, even the losers appear to be winners. Joe Bauman is managing editor for the Eccentric

Newspapers. He welcomes feedback at jbauman@home-

townlife.com or call him at (248) 901-2563.

We're Giving You Reason to

™hen you first hear about this being Sunshine Week, your thoughts might turn
to spring break plans or perhaps a trip to to spring break plans or perhaps a trip to Lakeland for some spring training fun (some-

more serious but no less deserving of attention. It pertains to government secrecy and the right

I recently got my National Federation of Press Women newsletter, which regularly opines on openness in government. It's important to note, however, that concerns about open government

shouldn't just be a media con-

Information's available at not all that encouraging. According to the Web site, Americans increasingly suspect the federal government has become cloaked in secrecy, a concern they don't have with

People overwhelmingly

The poll, conducted by Scripps Howard News Service and Ohio University, found that concerns about federal secrecy are rising.

ernment is either "very open" or "somewhat open," while 69 percent said it's either "somewhat secretive" or "very secretive."

when 33 percent thought the federal government was open and 62 percent thought it was secretive. About 6 percent and 5 percent were undecided in the 2007 and 2006 polls, the Web

Lisa McGraw, public affairs manager for the Michigan Press Association, is the point woman for the effort here. "This year, it's gone all over North America. It includes Canada and Mexico, too," McGraw said. There's a lot in Spanish on

"For the most part, yes," McGraw said of Michigan's track record on government openness being positive. There's "always room for a

She agreed the week isn't just a media one (in fact, librarians have been at the forefront of this

"I think that's the purpose of this week to promote why it's important to everyone," McGraw said. MPA papers have always participated,

The effort pertains to openness both in gov-

as well, recognizing its watchdog role.) If you're going to run into the mayor and council members, or someone from your school board, while shopping at the grocery store, they're going to

have a harder time keeping secrets. Of course, many public officials recognize the value of openness in government and have concerns about voter apathy as well. It would be

unfair to characterize all as trying to keep

secrets from the public. Sunshine Week's worth noting in schools and elsewhere this week, as we teach our future leaders about the importance of openness in governing. Granted, schools have a lot to teach

but a little time on this timely topic is worth it. Take some time, too, to think about how you can encourage openness (and interest) in how our nation is governed. A lot of things compete for our time, but Sunshine Week's a good time to

remember this particular topic. Julie Brown of Plymouth Township is presentation editor for the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers and interim editor of the Mirror. She can be reached at (248) 901-2536.



ernment meetings and documents. McGraw's happy to answer questions and can be reached at (517) 372-2424. When I was at the University of Missouri in the early 1980s, I was lucky enough to have a

thing my brother-in-law and his family recently This Sunshine Week, observed March 11-17, is

of citizens to know how their government gov-



Julie **Brown**

cern. They're germane for all of www.sunshineweek.org, and it's

their local and state governments

believe that their federal leaders have become sneaky, listening to telephone conversations or opening private mail without getting court permission, according to a survey of 1,008 adults commissioned by the American Society of Newspaper Editors for Sunshine Week.

Twenty-five percent believe the federal gov-

That's a shift from a similar poll last year,

the Web site.

little improvement" in Michigan.

issue, along with others).

"showed examples of why it's important."



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I have just inherited a substantial amount of money and I would like to invest it. I have never invested before and would like some ideas. I saw on the Internet an investment opportunity where you can double your money in a year. What do you think?

First, I would run as fast as I can from that Internet ad. As far as I am concerned, ads and solicitations such as these are meant to do one thing and one thing only and that is to separate you from your money. No one who is responsible in the investment world will tell you that you can double your money in a

Before you invest one penny of your money, you need to decide your goals and objectives for that money. In other words, are you looking for current income or are you investing for long-term growth? Until you define what you are looking for from your money, you cannot begin to invest. Since you are a new investor, I recommend that before you invest you begin to learn a little about investing. An investor who understands even a little bit about the investment world will be a better investor. Whether that individual uses a professional or not, the more you understand the investment process, the better investor you

If you decide to use a professional to manage your money, you need to make sure that the adviser is working for you and only you and that you can communicate with them. Unfortunately, too many people in the financial world are what I refer to as financial salespeople as opposed to financial advisers. My recommendation is to consider a firm that is fee only who will charge you for their service and will not get involved with investment products that have commissions. Unfortunately, commissions create a conflict of interest and tend to make the adviser more of a salesperson than an adviser.

The bottom line when it comes to investing is take your time, don't rush and make sure that you have an overall game plan that fits your

I heard an ad on your station about return of premium term life insurance policies. I am thinking of purchasing a term life policy. Do you think the return of premium is a good option? Stephanie



Matters

Rick

thinking of buying term insurance as I believe for the great majority Bloom of people term insurance is the

I love the fact

that you are

best type of insurance to purchase. However, I am not a big fan of the return of premium option. In looking at the return of premium option, it certainly sounds enticing. What this feature provides is that if you purchase a policy, for example a 20-year term policy and you pay premiums for 20 years, if you were still living at the end of the 20 years you receive your premiums back. If you pass on during that 20-year period you receive the death benefit. Therefore, in principal this policy seems like you can't lose. However, as always, the devil is in the details.

The first issue you need to consider is the cost you are paying for the return of premium option. In many situations, you are increasing your yearly premiums substantially. When I run the math on this option, the rate of return is relatively minor. What I recommend is to take the difference between what you are paying for the return of premium option and what you would pay for normal term policy and invest that money using some low-cost mutual funds. If you have the discipline to invest the savings on a regular basis, at the end of the term period you will have substantially more money than on the return of premium option. In addition, if you can, invest in a Roth IRA that money grows tax-free.

Another downfall of the return of premium option is if you decide to cancel the policy for whatever reason, you typically take a substantial hit on the return of premium. In fact, in some situations you would get nothing back. Therefore, all you've done is pay higher premiums for no benefit.

Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial adviser. Observer & Eccentric readers can submit questions at moneymatters@hometownlife.com. For more information, visit his Web site at www.bloomassetmanagement.com. You canhear Rick noon to 3 p.m. Sundays on WDTK 1400 AM.

Rouge alliance hires director

BY KURT KUBAN STAFF WRITER

The fledgling Alliance of Rouge Communities (ARC), formed last year to deal with stormwater issues in the Rouge

River watershed, took a huge step in its evolution last week when the body hired its first executive director. The group,

Ridgway

which has about 40 member communities, hired

Jim Ridgway, who has been involved with Rouge River restoration efforts since the mid-1970s, when he helped the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG) write the original watershed plans required by the federal Clean Water Act.

"I am thrilled to have this assignment," said Ridgway, 55, who is a resident of Grosse Pointe Park.

ARC is a unique alliance formed to provide watershedwide cooperation and mutual support to meet water quality requirements and restore beneficial uses of the Rouge River.

The group hired Ridgway and his firm, Environmental Consulting & Technology (ECT), to provide leadership and a number of services to help accomplish those goals. Among these services is to administer federal grants from the Rouge River National Wet Weather Demonstration Project, as well as develop stormwater permits and public education programs.

According to Canton's Tim Faas, who heads the group's finance committee, the ARC budget for 2007 is \$650,000. The contract with ECT and Ridgway will consume about \$170,000 of the budget.

At a meeting in Dearborn last week, ARC members expressed relief that they finally filled the position, especially someone with Ridgway's experience dealing with Rouge River issues.

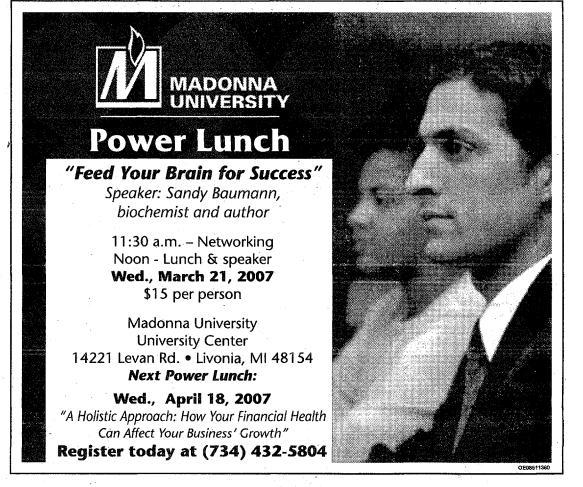
"I would like him to look closely over the next year and see what are the most important issues for this group, and begin to establish some goals," said Jim Anulewicz of Plymouth Township.

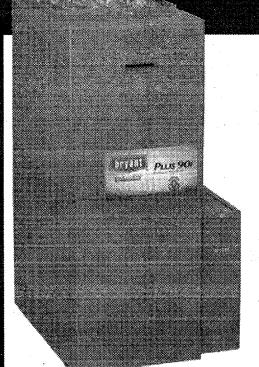
Ridgway, who is also a board member for Friends of the Rouge, was instrumental in the efforts to create ARC. He said the group, which needed a change in state law to come to fruition, is on the cutting edge in watershed restoration efforts. The group can pool its resources, as well as apply for grants and seek other funding sources.

"This is an excellent example of institutional arrangement. If we can make it work, it could be a model for the rest of the country," Ridgway said.

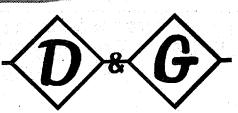
Ridgway said one of his first chores will be to help ARC communities develop new stormwater pollution prevention initiatives that are required by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality.

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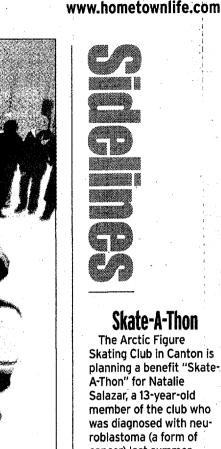
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Sunday, March 11, 2007

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

Ed Wright, editor . (734) 953-2108 . ewright@hometownlife.com



Skate-A-Thon

The Arctic Figure Skating Club in Canton is planning a benefit "Skate-A-Thon" for Natalie Salazar, a 13-year-old member of the club who was diagnosed with neuroblastoma (a form of cancer) last summer.

The event will be held from 7:30-9 p.m. Friday. March 30, at the Arctic Edge Arena in Canton. Donations can be sent to "The Natalie Salazar Fund" c/o Arctic Figure Skating Club, 46615 Michigan Ave., Canton, MI 48188.

Salazar has been treated at Children's Hospital of Michigan. Her father was recently forced to take a buyout from Ford Motor Company, so the family's financial need is great.

OLGC football

The Our Lady of Good Counsel (OLGC) football program will hold its parents meeting for the 2007 season at 7 p.m. on Thursday, March 29, in. the OLGC gym, which is located at 1151 William St. in Plymouth.

OLGC offers teams for boys in third through eighth grades.

families that belong to the following parishes are eligible: OLGC, St. Kenneth, Our Lady of Victory, St. Mary's of Wayne, St. Richard, St. Thomas a'Becket, Divine Savior, Resurrection, St. James (third-graders 🖔 only) and St. John Neumann.

Parents of interested players should attend the meeting. Program information and registration materials will be distributed.

For further information. contact Kevin Suppelsa at ksuppelsa@wowway.com; or (734) 414-8275; or 3 visit www.olgcfootball.net.

Baseball clinic

The annual Salem Baseball Clinic is set for March 24 and 31. There will be two sessions each day - the first from 9 a.m. to noon; and the second from 1-4 p.m.

Sessions include training in baseball skills by the Salem varsity coaches and players.

The \$25 registration fee includes lessons, T-shirts

and a snack. For more information or

to register, contact Ron or Pat Myers at (734) 459-4026; or send an e-mail to: pcmyers@hotmail.com.



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The Plymouth-Canton-Salem girls hockey team poses with its state championship trophy a few moments after it defeated Cranbrook-Kingswood, 5-2, Friday night at the Eddie Edgar Arena in Livonia. The Penguins finished the season with a 22-0-2 record.

PENGUINS MARCH TO STATE TITLE

Unbeaten PCS girls hockey team ices Cranbrook, 5-2,

Visit www.hometownlife.com for a photo gallery of Friday night's state championship girls hockey game.

> BY RYAN DOHERTY CORRESPONDENT

The final chapter of the Plymouth-Canton-Salem girls hockey team's storied season came to a victorious end Friday night at Eddie Edgar Arena in Livonia.

Sophomore forward Katie Zimmerman led the Penguins to their first ever Michigan Metro Girls High School Hockey League state championship as PCS

knocked off Bloomfield Cranbrook-Kingswood, 5-2, before a packed house.

Zimmerman, who has led the Penguins in scoring the past two seasons, netted a hat-trick and an assist to lead all scorers

"It's amazing and it's the best feeling I've ever had," said a smiling Zimmerman after the game. "We've been working at it all year, and we weren't going to have our first loss come in the finals," she said, referring to the Penguins stellar 22-0-2 overall record.

Her slick stick-handling and shifty skating got the Penguins on the board first with a short-handed

tally late in the opening period. Zimmerman scooped up the loose puck at the Cranes' blue line, skated around the lone defender, and sent a back hand over the glove of Cranbrook goalie Catherine LaGrasso.

"(Zimmerman's) speed is phenomenal, she can set other players up, and she's a great weapon to have on your team," said PCS firstyear head coach Eric Mink.

However, the Penguins' celebration was short-lived as the Cranes responded just 14 seconds later when Ariel Magdison fired a

PLEASE SEE **PENGUINS**, **B4**



Plymouth-Canton-Salem forward Katie Zimmerman slips the puck past goalie Cranbrook-Kingswood goaltender Catherine LaGrasso for the first goal in the Penguins' 5-2 victory in the state title game

Rising to the occasion

Canton runs past Novi for 2nd consecutive District hoop title

BY ED WRIGHT STAFF WRITER

The team that couldn't win in December is having a March to remember.

After struggling through its pre-Christmas schedule at 0-4, Canton's boys basketball team continued to play like worldbeaters Friday night when it outplayed Novi, 68-54, to win its second consecutive Class A District title in the Phase III gymnasium.

The Chiefs, who improved to 17-6, have gone 17-2 since Jan. 1 with both setbacks coming to Northville.

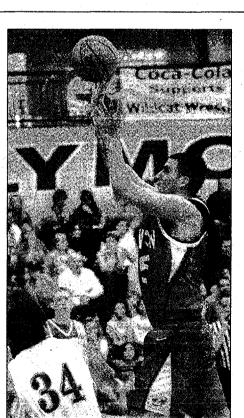
Canton earned the right to

take on No. 3-ranked Orchard Lake St. Mary's in a Regional semifinal game Wednesday at 6 p.m. at Troy High School. The Kalin Lucas-led Eaglets defeated the Chiefs in last year's Regional final.

Appropriately, this week's tournament was labeled District No. 25 — the same number worn by Canton's Neil Sharma, who poured in a team-high 22 points against the Wildcats after totaling team-leading point totals of 19 and 25, respectively, in the tournament's first two

games. "I think we may have doubted

PLEASE SEE CANTON, B3 Friday night.



Canton senior center Ryan Waidmann, pictured above in a game earlier this season, contributed three points, five rebounds and strong interior defense to the Chiefs' 68-54 victory over Novi

Phillips in hunt for the state title

Canton wrestler Corey Phillips' bid for an individual state wrestling title was still alive as of Friday night.

Phillips advanced to Saturday night's 140-pound final match against Rockford's John Johnson by going 3-0 to improve his overall record to 55-0. Phillips, a senior bound for Eastern Michigan University in the fall, pinned Flint Carman-Ainsworth's Ronnie Latimer in 3:54 in his opening match. He followed that with a 9-3 major decision over Grand Haven's Derek Houseman before pinning Grand Blanc's David Cheza in 4:12 in a semifinal bout.

PREP WRESTLING

A pair of Donnies from Canton -103-pound Watkins and 285-pound Laramie — could still finish as high as third as of Friday night.

Watkins defeated Midland's Mike Maxwell, 11-0, in the opener before falling to Jenison's Nate Falbe, 4-2, in a tight second-round match. Watkins then stayed alive with an 8-6 win over Wayne's Chad Dunn. Laramie won his first two matches by taking a 9-1 major decision over Romeo's Andrew Stebbins before pinning D.J. Charneski of Hartland in 2:36.

However, he dropped to the consolation brackets after getting pinned by Novi Catholic Central's Mike Martin. He needed two wins on Saturday to finish third. Two other local 112-pound wrestlers - Plymouth's Ben Kosmalski and Canton's Carl Lucke — were sidelined after falling in their first two matches.

For the results of Saturday's matches, visit www.hometown-

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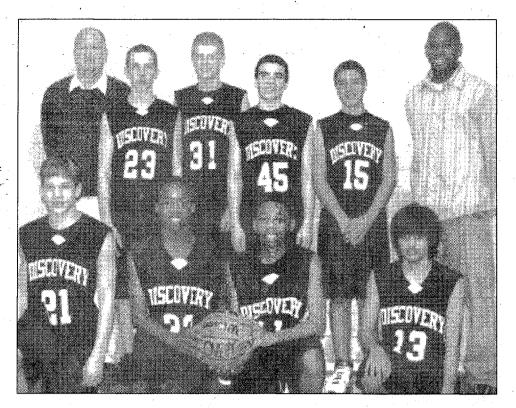


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Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, March 11, 2007

Discovering perfection

Discovery Middle School's "A" basketball team recently captured the league title with an 8-0 record. No team came within eight points of the Eagles all season. Pictured (front row from left) are Clay Behrman, C.J. Mwila, Dietrich Lever, Abdul Chaudry, (standing from left) coach Dave Van Wagoner, Steve Jahn. Luke Hager, Mike Nadratowski, Zach Yokum and coach Dominique Washington. The Discovery "B" team won the championship with a 7-1 record.

Whalers pounce on Otters, 5-1

The Plymouth Whalers outskated Erie, 5-1, Friday night to pad their Ontario Hockey League-leading record to 47

Vern Cooper opened the scoring with 6:18 left in the first period off assists from Wes Cunningham and Daniel Ryder. Andrew Fournier's goal from Evan Brophey and Chris Terry 4:47 into the second period increased the Whalers' lead to 2-0.

After Erie's Michael Liambas scored from Shayne Taylor to make it 2-1, Terry lit the lamp with 5:09 left in the second period.

Steve Ward and A.J. Jenks tallied insurance markers in the third period for the win-

Michal Neuvirth earned the victory between the pipes for the Whalers with 36 saves.

PLYMOUTH 6. WINDSOR 3: Daniel Ryder scored two goals

and an assist and linemate Dan Collins added a goal and three assists as the Whalers defeated the Windsor Spitfires in an Ontario Hockey League game played Thursday night before 3.127 at Windsor Arena.

With the victory, Plymouth (now 46-14-1-3, 96 points) moved into a first-place tie with London (also 46-14-1-3) as the top team in the OHL.

Plymouth swept the season series with Windsor, winning all eight games this year.

Ryan McGinnis (6), Andrew Fournier (18) and rookie Jordon O'Neill (first-ever OHL goal) also scored for the Whalers. Kevin Hudes (12), Josh Bailey (21) and Adam



Plymouth goaltender Michal Neuvirth (pictured above in a game earlier this season) led the Whalers to a 5-1 victory over Erie Friday night.

Henrique (19) replied for Windsor. Plymouth outshot Windsor, 48-41. Whalers goaltender Jeremy Smith stopped 38-of-41 shots as the game's third star and his sixth win against Windsor this year.

After Hudes tapped home a rebound at 4:16 of the first period to give Windsor their only lead, Plymouth tied the game on Ryder's first goal of the night at 39th of the year at 10:29 to tie the game at 1-1. On the play, Collins passed to Cooper from the left wing to the right hashmark and Cooper found Ryder on the left wing lip of the Windsor crease. Ryder gave Plymouth their first lead on a power play

at 18:19 of the period when he

threaded a shot from the right

wing that beat Windsor goal-

tender Andrew Engleage on

the short side post. Plymouth pulled away with

two unanswered goals in the second period to lead 4-1 after forty minutes. Collins scored on a stuff from the right wing goal line at 1:32 and then McGinnis scored on a power play at 3:12 when his high shot from the right wing pinballed around Engleage. Fournier (rebound at 4:29),

O'Neill (shot from the left faceoff circle at 10:12) and Henrique (backhand shot right wing at 18:49) completed the scoring in the third period.

Plymouth returns home Sunday at 2 p.m. to host the Sault Ste. Marie Greyhounds. Tickets are available by calling the Compuware Sports Arena at (734) 453-8400 or by going to Ticketmaster at www.ticketmaster.com.

Ignition select locals in MISL college draft

The Detroit Ignition announced the selection of Michigan State defender Greg Janicki with the club's first selection in the 2007 Major Indoor Soccer League (MISL) College Draft, which was held via teleconference on Wednesday.

Detroit selected Janicki with the eighth overall pick during the territorial round before adding five additional players in four subsequent rounds as the club builds depth for its roster going into a 2007-08 MISL season.

"Looking forward towards our second season, I strongly feel this draft class will provide our club with a wealth of new talent," stated Ignition head coach Mark Pulisic. "Not only were we fortunate enough to obtain a number of talented players, but we also gained a few local products that I hope will have the chance to play in front of fans here in Detroit down the road."

Janicki finished his career as a Spartan starting as a defender in 57 consecutive games. He earned All-Big Ten First Team honors and recognition as a second team member of the NSCAA/adidas All-Great Lakes Region team. A graduate of Anchor Bay High School in New Baltimore, Janicki helped Michigan State to a 10-6-2 record in his senior sea-

With its first numerical pick, the Ignition tabbed Rochester native Nate Norman out of the University of Notre Dame. A four-time Big East academic honoree, Norman registered seven goals and 13 assists over 82 games in his collegiate career in South Bend. The midfielder and Rochester Adams graduate received national honors as a thirdteam all-American selection by Top Drawer Soccer in 2006.

With its second-round pick, Detroit selected midfielder Allan Nekuda from William Jewell College in Liberty, MO. Nekuda played an integral role in the Cardinals' 18-3-2 season that included a trip to the NAIA Final Four and an undefeated run in the HAAC Conference.

Nekuda, the team's co-captain, was also recognized as a 2006 NAIA First-Team All-American and ranked amongst the League's leaders in assists with 13.

Goalkeeper Kevin Trapp, of James Madison University, was the Ignition's third-round choice. The 6-3, 200-pound netminder started 70 of 72 game over his career, including all 17 games in 2006 where he posted a 1.01 goals-against

During his four years as a member of the Dukes, Trapp tallied 26 shutouts and was honored for his play in 2006 with selections to the Charlotte JAKO Invitational all-tournament team and VCU Classic all-tournament team.

With the club's first selection in the fourth round, the Ignition chose another local product in University of Detroit-Mercy midfielder Vahid Assadpour. A three-time All-Horizon League selection, Assadpour finished his senior season as the League co-leader in assists per game at 0.44.

Detroit concluded its second college draft class with the acquisition of the rights to midfielder Craig Neal of Ohio Wesleyan University. The 5-9, 165-pounder from Powell, OH, was named North Coast Athletic Conference Offensive Player of the Year in 2006 with 10 goals and four assists while helping his university to the national semifinals of the NCAA Division III tournament.

IGNITION CAMPS

The Detroit Ignition will be hosting a series of summer soccer camps for youth players. The camps, which will be located throughout metropolitan Detroit, will give young players an opportunity to train with Ignition players as well as members of the Major Indoor Soccer League

Designed for kids between the ages of 4 and 18, the camp curriculum will offer a broad spectrum of training — from basic soccer introduction for younger players to advanced training for older

players who are looking for both a technical and

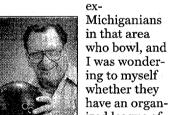
Camp instruction will be led by Ignition head coach Mark Pulisic and team members. Instructors will be subject to camp dates and availability, but they may include Jamar Beasley, Jonathan Greenfield, Doug Rice and Danny

For locations and schedules of the camps, visit www.detroitignition.com; or call (888) 436-4625. The camps are sponsored by the Hantz Group and the Henry Ford Medical Group.

Desert gives bowlers different perspective

n the road again, this time it was a few weeks in Arizona where I traded some single-digit Michigan temperatures for the 70s with lots of bright sunshine in the Phoenix area.

I visited the AMF Shea Lanes to watch the locals have the usual fun associated with bowling. There are plenty of



Ten Pin Alley

Harrison

lanes.

late news featured a bowler, Arthur Iola, who celebrated his 100th birthday with a party at one of the nearby

who bowl, and

I was wonder-

whether they

ized league of

The local TV

their own.

The TV crew had some nice highlights as Arthur rolled up

a 160 score. He began his bowling career in 1933 and still has the ability to deliver a pretty good shot.

Desert TV viewers can also find a show, Country Fried

Home Videos, which I staved up late to watch. It's silly stuff on the order of America's Funniest Home Videos.

One segment featured "Shotgun Bowling."

In this scenario, a full set of bowling pins was the target for a bunch of guys armed with shotguns. They were blasting away at the pins and keeping score just like regular bowlers would in league play.

They apparently use discarded pins that are not likely to last very long in these conditions. Don't try this at home. Arizona is a nice place to visit, but I'll still take our state. which is a great place to live.

All of the hootin' and hollerin' for the high school varsity bowling season is over. And the local area kids did quite well although they did not come home with a state team

Livonia Clarenceville's Danielle Fecso, who was a Division II singles competition quarterfinalist, will be headed to Fayetteville, N.C. next fall with a full ride bowling scholarship.

And coach Pam Jones says of her team, "Wait 'til next year."

For details on the past high

school bowling season, stats, names and records, log on to mhsibca.com.

Bowldetroit.com announces a partnership between WrestleMania 23, the Make-A-Wish Foundation and **Community Bowling Centers** to bring the Bowl with Bobby Lashley charity bowling event. The Make-A-Wish

Foundation is a participant in the WWE Circle of Champions program, which is scheduled for Saturday, March 31 at Skore Lanes in Taylor. You can be a part of the

WrestleMania weekend madness at an exclusive party with WWE superstars to help raise money for Make-A-Wish.

Here are several package options available, call (313) 291-6220 or e-mail Fran Wood at

fwood@bowldetroit,com. Eight bowlers remain this season in the Mayflower Senior Men's Classic to bowl a perfect game as Al Messecar of Westland rolled the fifth 300

Al Harrison is a resident of Livonia and a member of the Bowling Writers Association of America. He can be reached at (248) 477-1839 or email: tenpinalley@sbcglobal.net

of his career.



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• Choice New York Strip Chibatta...80z. Choice New York Strip smothered with grilled onions and mushrooms, topped with your choice of cheese and served on a chibatta roll with steak or seasoned fries.

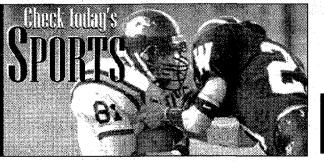
· Chicken Club Wrap...Crispy chicken, ham, bacon, Swiss cheese, American cheese, lettuce, tomato and our homemade ranch dressing. Served with coleslaw and steak or seasoned fries.

• Salmon Alfredo...Fettuccine noodles with our homemade Alfredo sauce topped with grilled salmon. Served with your choice of soup or salad.

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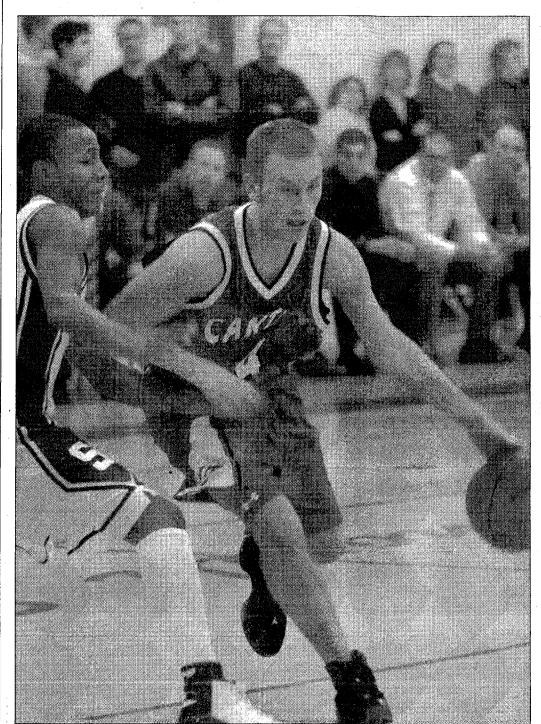
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BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Canton's Ryan Langdon (with ball), pictured above in a game earlier this season, scored five points in the Chiefs' 68-54 victory over Novi Friday night.

ourselves a little bit at the beginning of the year after starting 0-4, but I kept 10 seniors on this team because I believed in them," said Canton coach Charlie Paye. "They've really come through after the rough start and Neil Sharma has been unbelievable for us the second half of the season.

'I feel good for the Kias. They have a few days to enjoy this, but then we have a tough one on Wednesday."

The Chiefs threatened to run away and hide from Novi on a few occasions Friday night, but the resilient Wildcats found a way to counter just about every Canton run with one of their own. That is, until the final 3:20 when the hosts stretched a 56-51 advantage into the 14point victory thanks largely to 10-of-12 shooting from the free-throw line.

Altogether, Canton swished 21-of-26 free-throw attempts (80.7 percent) while Novi connected on just 5-of-13 (38.4 percent).

"At halftime, we told the kids that Novi wasn't about to quit," said Paye. "Every time we'd get an eight- or nine-point lead, it seemed like they'd get a couple baskets or we'd make a couple mental errors and they'd get

"I give Novi credit for hanging around and our kids credit for stopping their runs when we had to."

Canton senior guard Josh Butler was solid, netting 12 points, three rebounds and five assists. Reserve forward Steve Paye also made a major contri-

BRING ON THE EAGLETS

- What: Class A Regional semifinal basketball game; ■ Who: Canton (17-6) vs. Orchard Lake St. Mary's (21-2);
- **When:** Wednesday, 6 p.m.;
- Where: Troy High School, 4777 Northfield Pkwy., Troy.
- How they advanced: Canton ousted Novi, 68-54, Friday night while Orchard Lake St. Mary's knocked off North Farmington, 71-43.
- Who to watch: Canton junior forward Neil Sharma has been on fire the second half of the season and has led the Chiefs in scoring the past four games; the Eaglets are led by MSU-bound senior quard Kalin Lucas.

bution with 11 points and five boards.

A pair of reserve forwards -Eric Zech and Caleb Larner also played major roles for the winners, pitching in with four and seven points, respectively.

"Zech and Larner were huge for us tonight coming off the bench," said Paye. "Caleb scored some key baskets and Eric gave us a lot of energy."

Caleb Dean paced the Wildcats with 15 points. Reserve forward Tyler Hoover added 11 and sophomore guard Brandon Bradford chipped in with 10 points and five rebounds.

The game was knotted at 9all after one quarter. Novi then grabbed its only lead of the night — 11-9 — on a Dean basket 10 seconds into the second

stanza. The Chiefs never trailed after Steve Pave countered four straight free throws on consecutive trips down the court to

make it 13-11. Paye's basket with two seconds left in the half extended Canton's lead to 33-24.

The Wildcats cut a 50-40 deficit down to seven when Brandon Bradford canned a triple from the corner with one second left in the third quarter.

Larner banked in a glasser 31 seconds into the fourth quarter to push the Chiefs' advantage to 52-43. The closest Novi could get over the final eight minutes was 56-51.

Charlie Paye pointed to his team's low turnover total (nine) for one of the keys to the victo-

"We've been taking care of the ball, which is something we weren't doing early in the season," he said. "If we can keep the turnovers under 12 or 13.

that's pretty good." Led by Sharma's seven boards, Canton outrebounded Novi, 30-22.

Mike Longo led the Wildcats with six caroms.

The Chiefs shot well, hitting 22-of-46 field goals (47.8 percent). They were especially hot in the third quarter when they connected on 7-of-11 shots.

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Canton gymnasts 8th at state

BY JIM TOTH STAFF WRITER

Coaches always look for their teams to be peaking at tournament time and for Troy Athens girls gymnastics coach Deanna Fakhouri, that sight couldn't be more pleasing.

Fresh off their high-point total a week ago in state regional competition, the Red Hawks followed up with another ster-ling performance Friday night in the 2007 MHSAA State Team Championships held on their home turf. Backed by another solid night of performances from the sister combination on Megan and Michelle Mather, the Red Hawks were able to achieve a third-place finish with a season-best 145.200.

"We had an outstanding vault and floor today," Fakhouri said of her team's performance. "They wanted it really bad, especially after starting off on balance beam and having a rough start. The girls have learned throughout the season to really come back from a bad start, and that's awesome."

"I am thrilled and they gave it their all and that's the most important thing," she continued. "It was the best night. Everybody had a hit for it to be a best night. Consistency is the name of the game and had we stayed on the balance beam, we might have even been better than 145.

Holt, which entered the finals as the team to beat, lived up to that billing as they captured the '07 championship with a 148.325. Grand Ledge placed second with 146.700.

Following Athens in order of finish were Forest Hills (144.225), Livonia Stevenson (143.900), Livonia Churchill (143.300), Farmington (142.700), Canton (142.600), Northville (141.550), Portage (138.125), Rochester/Adams (137.400), Rockford (137.100) and Brighton (133.175).

Megan Mather, a senior, was Athens' top placer on vault (9.500, fifth) and floor (9.475,10th), while Michelle, a sopho-

Following Athens in order of finish were Forest Hills (144.225), Livonia **Stevenson (143,900).** Livonia Churchill (143.300), **Farmington (142.700)**, Canton (142.600), **Northville (141.550),** Portage (138.125), Rochester/Adams (137.400), **Rockford (137.100) and** Brighton (133.175).

more, led the team on beam (9.425, fifth and bars (9.075, 10th). Michelle finished with a 36.975 all-around, while Megan totaled 36.675.

Naomi Cherup, Karen Guo, Brooke Madzia and Angela McCormick all aided the Red Hawks finish.

Farmington, which entered as three-time defending state champion, saw that reign come to an end, despite an outstanding showing from Jill Haapaniemi that was highlighted by a gold medal 9.300 showing on bars among Division 2 competitors.

Elana Cocke turned in Farmington's top finish in Division 1 with a 9.550 showing on floor that earned her a tie for third place. Cocke posted a 35.775 that included 9.125 on beam, 8.900 on vault and 8.200 on bars.

Others scoring well for Farmington included Amv Ancona, Danielle Bresso and Samantha Kohl.

"I think we got about as much out of this team as we could this year," Farmington coach Jeff Dwyer said after the meet. "I'm happy as a coach. We were competitive. Our goal coming in was trying to crack the top five and we just missed

"Our bars hurt us today; other than that, we had no falls on beam and that was nice to see," Dwyer continued, "I've got a pretty young team and at the state meet it's always a different

level of competition." Stevenson and Churchill were neck-and-neck all night seeking to secure a top five finish and thanks to strong efforts from Laura Nomura, Meghan

Powers and Emily Quint, were

able to edge out their city rivals. Quint, a Division 1 participant, posted a 37.425 all-round that featured a 9.525 on floor and 9.450 on vault. Powers, also Division 1, totaled 36.725, and Nomura recorded a 35.500 in Division 2.

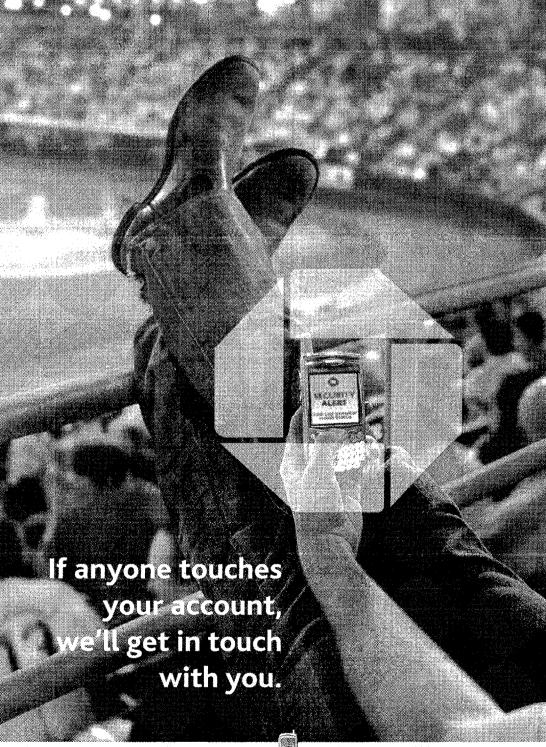
Andrea Pisani, Paula Guzik and Alicia DiMauro came away as Churchill's top performers. Pisani's 37.550 all-around in Division 1 was topped by a 9.500 on floor. Guzik scored 37.050 in Division 1, thanks primarily to a 9.500 on beam and 9.475 on vault, and DiMauro finished with a 34,100 all-around in Division 2 with an 8.875 best on floor.

Rochester/Adams, which had such a promising regional weekend just a week earlier by totaling 142.52, fell well below that level as injuries and falls made an impact right from the

"Unfortunately, it was not the best of days," Rochester/Adams coach Larry Adams said. "It was a combination of the injuries we had, the lack of focus - there just didn't seem to be a whole lot of fire in us tonight right from the beginning. Coming in we thought we had a chance if we gave it our best shot, but it didn't happen today."

Sara Moore and Cristal Klein were two of the Rochester/Adams tumblers who did draw praise from Adams for their efforts. Moore compiled a 35.200 all-around in Division 2 and Klein tallied a 35.375 in Division 2 as well.

Meaghen McWhorter of Grand Ledge, competing in Division 1, emerged as the meet's top gymnast, taking the top spot on vault (9.775), bars (9.725) and floor (9.700) and placing second on beam



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REC OFFERINGS

The Northville Parks & Recreation Department will be offering adult women's and adult co-ed softball leagues beginning in early May. The entry fee for women's teams is \$445; the co-ed fee is \$410. For more information, call (248) 449-9947.

DIESEL TRYOUTS

The Detroit Diesels minor league football team that plays its home games in Livonia will be holding tryouts from 2:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Saturday, March 24, at High Velocity Sports, which is located at 46245 Michigan Ave. in Canton. You must be 18 years old or older to try out. The registration fee is \$30.

SPORTS BRIEFS

For more information, call (313) 294-0890.

RUNNING CLUB

Runners are invited to join the Northville (Redford) Road Runners running organization. All levels are welcome.

The club meets at 6:30 p.m. each Tuesday at Northville's Hillside Recreation Center, located off Center Street just south of Eight Mile, and at 6:30 p.m. Thursdays and 9 a.m. Saturdays at the Eight Mile Road entrance to Maybury State Park.

Varying distances are run, ranging from 4-6 miles.

For more information, send an e-mail to Bo@sprauer.com or call Gary Haf at (248) 231-

BEACH PARTY

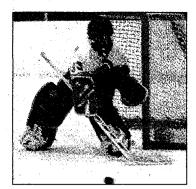
FUND-RAISER

The Plymouth Wildcat Beach Party Fund-raiser to raise funds for the Plymouth High School athletic programs will be held from 6 p.m. to midnight Saturday, March 24, at the VFW Hall, located at 1055 S. Wayne Rd. in Westland.

The night will be highlighted by a reverse draw down that will award \$1,000 to the firstprize winner, \$500 to second and \$250 to third. Last year over \$10,000 in prizes were

given away. Tickets, which cost \$40 a piece, can be purchased at the Plymouth High School Athletic

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Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, March 11, 2007.

Goalie Kristie Kowalski deflects a Cranbrook-Kingswood shot during Friday night's championship game.

PENGUINS

FROM PAGE B1

rebound past PCS netminder Kristie Kowalski, who couldn't corral the initial stop.

Meanwhile, Zimmerman and company outshot Cranbrook in the second period, 11-6, and as a result scored three goals to expand their lead to 4-1.

Zimmerman snapped a wrist shot past LaGrasso on the stick side with 9:22 left to put the Penguins ahead for good. Keely Kowalski drew the assist.

Adrienne Cercone added a power-play goal four minutes later, as she slid the puck under a sprawling LaGrasso after a mad scramble in front of the net. Zimmerman and Kelsev Nikkila recorded assists. "We've all worked hard

together to get this done and it feels a little surreal right now," said Zimmerman.

She dropped in her third goal with 19 seconds left in the second, and Kowalski rounded

'The girls really came out and played loose tonight and it's just been an unbelievable year.'

Eric Mink PCS first-year head coach

out the scoring for the Penguins in the third period with a nice wrist shot from the point.

Kristie Kowalski turned aside 25 of Cranbrook's 27

"I think Kristie is one of the top goalies in the state," said

Kowalski started all 24 games for the Penguins this season.

"We wouldn't have made it anywhere without Kristie because she's always there to make the big save," said Zimmerman.

As the final buzzer sounded, Kowalski described what it felt like on the ice.

"It was kind of funny because I really didn't hear the buzzer go off, and the next thing I knew my teammates knocked me over and we began celebrating," she said.

Kowalski also made several big saves in the closing minutes as PCS held off a late surge from Cranbrook, including a six-on-three advantage after the Cranes pulled their

"Those last few minutes were intense but I just tried to stay focused and count on my defenseman," added Kowalski.

Friday night's loss was only Cranbrook's fourth of the season, three of which came against PCS.

They just kept coming at us in waves tonight, and they're a well-coached team," said Cranbrook head coach Tom LaGrasso.

The Penguins also avenged last year's trip to the finals where they lost to Grosse Pointe South, 5-1.

"The girls really came out and played loose tonight and it's just been an unbelievable year," said Mink, who served as an assistant coach at PCS for two years before taking over the reins this season. "Three years ago I knew very little about girls hockey, and now to be a part of this is a pretty awesome feeling," added Mink.



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Penguins skate past Pioneers in semis

BY ED WRIGHT STAFF WRITER

With 2:28 left in Thursday night's Michigan girls high school hockey semifinal game, Ann Arbor's Angie Chronis lost her balance and slid into the net skates-first after misfiring on a break-away.

It turns out that was the only thing got past Plymouth-Canton-Salem goalie Kristie Kowalski all night.

Sparked by Kowalski's stellar play between the pipes, the Penguins held off a late Pioneer surge and won 2-0 to advance into Friday's state championship contest against the winner of Thursday night's Cranbrook Kingswood-Livonia Ladywood matchup.

Kowalski turned away 17 Ann Arbor shots in the third period alone to record her 10th shutout of the season.

"Kristie was outstanding tonight," said PCS coach Eric Mink.

"I'm very proud of her. The girls were a little nervous before the game tonight, but they played well enough to win. I don't think we've

played our best game yet."

PCS, which improved to 21-0-2 overall, notched the only goal it needed just over five minutes into the game when Nikki Songer controlled a loose puck near mid-ice, deked Pioneer Clarice Grantham then back-handed the puck into the back of the net to make it 1-0. Edra Burris was credited with an assist on the goal.

The Penguins registered an insurance marker with 1:16 left in the second period when Adrienne Cercone ripped a power-play goal past Grantham. Katie Zimmerman assisted.

The Penguins received strong efforts from defensemen Stephanie Matusiak, Keely Kowalski, Amy Coleman, Kristin Callahan and Shauna Siebert.

Kristie Kowalski's most sensational save came with 9:58 left when she smothered a shot off the stick of Annelise Heeringa from the doorstep.

The Pioneers outshot the Penguins, 26-21.

ewright@hometownlife.com (734) 953-2108



Penguin Amy Coleman keeps the puck from Cranbrook's Anna Brown.

Plymouth-Canton-Salem captains Kristin Callahan, Amy Coleman and Adrienne Cercone accept the state championship trophy.



Cranbrook-Kingswood Cranes 5-2.







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DIEGO

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What are you attracting?

f I have heard it once, I have heard it a million times: "Be careful of the company you keep."

Mom always felt it was important for me to know this. And how many times have you heard the phrase "guilty by association?"

As a young child, my parents always made it clear that in life it was very important not only for me to live a decent, upstanding life, but that it was critical for me to pay



Jones

individuals surrounding me. As I grew older, nowever, I was able to do my own observing and viewing of life and have discovered one universal truth that many may be confused by, but is something very

clear if we just open our eyes. If you have ever been a fan of the theory "opposites attract" think about this: How many times have you seen a couple together and you've noticed they have the same . sense of humor, whether that humor is sinister or something more lighthearted, the couple just seems to have a private language all their

Or how many times have you come across an individual in business who is all about the money, then you meet their assistant? You think to yourself, they must be twins, because of the simple fact they are so much alike.

Social scientists and behavioral scientists have been discussing this human makeup for years, and that is we as human beings attract to ourselves what we are. It's not difficult to understand that we humans truly like being around those, and with those, who are like ourselves. I am not talking about what's on the outside — and the key to understanding this is, first, having a good sense of

Example: If you are a woman and you keep saying, "I want a nice, sweet and kind guy in my life," but all you seem to be attracting are mean, angry and hostile men, I say look inside. Ask some tough questions. Do you harbor resentment? Do you like to give people little digs in conversation if you suddenly decide you don't like them? Think about it.

Who we are at our deepest core is who we really are. If deep down you only want what's best for people and you are working hard to achieve that, that shines through and people who are on the same page as you will be attracted to you.

Those that reject you for who you are at your core are not like you, so understand that and don't be offended by them. Just move on.

When it comes to people, positive and negative can never share the same space without friction that only occurs when we are talking

about batteries. Remember that. So in life as you try to accomplish your goals and set priorities, keep in mind that whatever stage in life you are in, you need individuals around you who are on the same page as

If you are a positive and upbeat person, keep negative and complaining individuals at a distance. If you have the opportunity to pick a team to work with and you happen to be a stickler for time, choose those around you that value time and deadlines as much as you do. It will make life so much easier.

What are you attracting? Just look inside yourself. If you don't like what you see, the greatest strength we human beings have is the power to change. If while at work, too much of your time is being spent gossiping and you don't want to be involved in that anymore, just stop. You have the power to take your life where it needs to go.

You say you want good, reliable friends in your life, I say to you, "Be one." It may take some time, but believe me, it will happen. When you start changing for the better, better will come to you.

Bobbie Jones is a Belleville resident and regular contributor to the Observer. She can be reached via e-mail at WORKHARD36@aol.com.



Amy Watts (left) and Jackie Dostine look over materials from the library that tell groups how to start a book club.

Avid

Book clubs bring literature lovers together

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN

Holly Bedour admits the book she selected for the Canton club to discuss in February is a trashy, historical romance novel, but all of the members seemed to love learning about Mary Boleyn, a mistress of Henry VIII in The Other Boleyn Girl by Philippa Gregory.

The book was on the Canton Public Library list of must reads as part of the Book-Club-ina-Bag kits that include eight copies of a specific title, discussion questions, a biography of the author, and any reviews.

The Canton library lends 60 different titles regularly to the nearly 40 clubs it's registered, including the as-yet-unnamed one that meets at Panera Bread on Ford Road in Canton. Founded in June 2005 by Michelle Grytzelius, the club varies in size with about 12 members who are neighbors in Fellows Creek subdivision. The women, ranging from their mid-30s to early 50s, meet about every six weeks and take turns selecting books.

"Most of the members are working moms of small children, friends and neighbors of Michelle," said Bedour. "Most reviews are done at Panera except for Memoirs of a Geisha when we met at a Japanese restaurant. It's

PLEASE SEE BOOK CLUBS, C4

The Canton library's Book-Club-in-a-Bag kits consist of eight copies of a specific the author, and any published reviews.

reoders



title, discussion questions, a biography of Canton librarian Ellen Pare joined the women in a neighborhood book club for a discussion of 'The Other Boleyn Girl' at Panera Bread



Jackie Dostine (left). Holly BeDour, librarian Ellen Pare, Michelle **Grytzelius and** Amy Watts discuss 'The Other Boleyn Girl,' historical fiction by Philippa Gregory, at Panera Bread in Canton.

Catholic conference inspires men of all ages

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN STAFF WRITER

Not everyone goes on to join the seminary like Jeff Allan did, but participants do leave the annual Catholic Conference for Men feeling inspired about following Christ.

Sponsored by the Archdiocese of Detroit, the event takes place from 8 a.m. (doors open at 7 a.m.) to 3:30 p.m. Saturday, March 24, at University of Detroit Mercy, Calihan Hall, 4001 W. McNichols, Detroit.

Cost is \$40 in advance, \$50 at door, \$25 students, and includes box lunch. For information, call (734) 459-9558 or visit www.christschosen.com or www.mensfellowship.com.

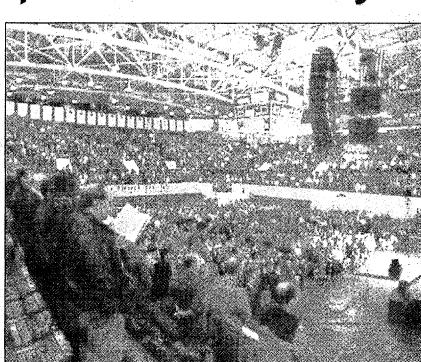
The day features speakers and a 2:30 p.m. Mass. Confession is available throughout the event.

"There's always something special when 3,000 to 3,500 men come together to celebrate Christ and

their faith, and learn from one another," said Allan, a 28-year-old first-year seminarian at Sacred Heart Major Seminary in Detroit. Allan, a former Livonia resident, hopes to be ordained a priest in five

years. "Attending the past conferences impacted and influenced me just how the Lord is working in the lives of men. There's something special happening in men's fellowship here and around the world. Men are being faced with a lot of challenges - family life, work, different distractions like media, pornography, alcoholism, drugs. Conferences like this can make men accountable and helps to find answers to some of those questions."

The Rev. John Riccardo opens the conference by challenging men to be Courageous Companions of Christ, the theme of this year's event. Riccardo is the 41-year-old pastor of St. Anastasia Parish in



PLEASE SEE CONFERENCE, C7 In 2006, 3,200 men attended the conference sponsored by the Archdiocese of Detroit.

AROUND TOWN

Sciencepalooza

The Sciencepalooza science street fair gears up for FUN-tastic Physics at the Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum April 7-8. Sciencepalooza is held the first weekend of every month at the Museum and explores a specific topic in a fun and festive environment with in-depth hands-on experiments, activities, special guests and demonstrations. Twenty different hands-on activities developed and presented by the Society of Physics students will be on display in conjunction with the FOCUS labs, a UM research laboratory. The Blake Lilly prize, a national award that recognizes outstanding community outreach and physics education, was awarded to the UM student group after last year's Sciencepalooza. The Museum will host hands-on activities and interactive projects exploring many different aspects of physics. Unveil the mystery of magnets. explore gravity and simply have fun with simple machines. This event is free with regular Museum admission, and will take place Saturday, April 7, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday, April 8, noon-5 p.m. For more information visit www.aahom.org or call (734) 995-5439.

Golf league

The Livonia Women's Golf League is hoping to expand with 18-hole women. golfers. The league plays at Whispering Willows Golf Course on Newburgh just south of 8 Mile Thursday mornings teeing off at 8 a.m. beginning May 3. Cost is \$25 per week, which includes golf and a cart. Non-residents are encouraged to join. For more information, call Kathy, (248)

Register for St. Genevieve School

St. Genevieve Catholic School is accepting applications for the 2007-08 school year. The school, preschool through eighth grade, is accredited by the Michigan Association of Nonpublic Schools, It's at 28933 Jamison in Livonia, east of Middlebelt, south of Five Mile, and offers full academic curriculum, full- and half-day preschool and kindergarten, extendedday program before and after school, CYO program and more. (734) 425-

Firefly Club

Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, March 11, 2007

On Sunday, March 11, the Firefly Club of downtown Ann Arbor will be hosting a "Cool Cats and Jazz Hounds" jazz brunch benefiting the Humane Society of Huron Valley. The brunch runs 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and will feature the talented performances of jazz pianist Jim Dapogny, vocalist Susan Chastain and the Firefly Club Jazz All-

Stars. The brunch menu will feature made-to-order Belgian waffles, an array of fresh fruit, granola and breakfast meats and, of course, Susan's famous sausage, gravy and biscuits. Suggested donation for attending the brunch is \$50 per person. Space at the event is limited, so call (734) 662-5585 ext. 125 or email amy@hshv.org to reserve your place. Donations will be taken at the door. Proceeds from "Cool Cats and Jazz Hounds" benefit the Humane Society of Huron Valley, the only humane

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

County. Crafters/vendors needed

society serving all of Washtenaw

Crafters and vendors are wanted for the springtime craft show/bazaar 1-6 p.m. April 28 at the Inkster Recreational Center, 2025 Middlebelt in Inkster. Cost is \$30 per booth. Email Vdotson@twmi.rr.com for application or call (734) 595-1083.

Prostate screening

St. Mary Mercy Hospital hosts a prostate screening and Men's Health Day 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, March 31. Men can receive a prostate screening, learn about medical and health information and more. Prostate screening Day consists of a blood test for Prostate Specific Antigen, total cholesterol and HDL, a prostate exam by a physician and a blood pressure check. Hospital officials suggest men 40 and older get checked. A \$10 donation to the new St. Mary Mercy Cancer Center is optional. Appointments fill quickly. To register, call (734) 655-8963. St. Mary Mercy Hospital is located at 36475 Five Mile (at Levan) in Livonia.

AAUW's 'The Petticoat Ladies' The American Association of University Women (AAUW) will host a public performance by "The Petticoat Ladies" at 6:45 p.m. Tuesday, March 13, at Fox Run Retirement Community, 41000 13 Mile Road, Novi (just west of M-5). Beth Ann Knisely, (248) 305-

Mom-to-Mom Sale

The St. Edith/St. Kenneth Mothers of Preschoolers group will host a Momto-Mom Sale from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, April 21, at St. Edith Church, 15089 Newburgh, south of Five Mile. Gently used baby and children's items will be sold. Admission is \$1. Lindsay, (248) 252-4775.

Lenten fish fry

St. Sebastian Catholic Church, 20700 Colgate in Dearborn Heights, hosts its annual all-you-can-eat Lenten Fish Fry 4-7 p.m. Fridays through April 6. The event features baked and fried fish, macaroni and cheese, spaghetti, cole slaw and dessert. Cost is \$8.50 for adults, \$4.75 for children under 12. For more information, call (313) 562-5356.

Bocce for bucks

Visiting Nurse Association of Southeast Michigan's signature fundraising event, Bocce for Bucks III, sponsored by Complete Infusion Services, offers patrons an opportunity to receive professional instruction on the sport from World Cup Bocce players. The event takes place 2-6 p.m. Sunday, April 22, at the Palazzo di Bocce in Orion Township. Bocce for Bucks III features an afternoon of indoor bocce ball tournament play, ideal for families and people of all ages, an Italian buffet. silent auction and much more. No prior experience or equipment needed. Dress is casual and prizes will be awarded to the top teams. New this year is a private benefactor reception

to be held 6 p.m. Sunday, March 25, at

raised will help provide an innovative, life-saving system - VNA's TeleHomecare program, used by VNA

to educate and empower patients by checking their health between home visits. Tickets are available with the following benefits: \$100 Guest ticket -Receives bocce play, Italian buffet dinner, beer,wine, desserts, silent auction and exit gift; \$150 Patron ticket -Receives all of the above plus expert bocce instruction from World Cup Bocce Players one-hour prior to event start; and \$200 Benefactor ticket -Receives all of the above plus invitation to Private Benefactor Reception. For sponsorship, advertising or ticket information for Bocce for Bucks III.

call (248) 967-8324 or visit vna.org. **Waste to Watts**

The Ann Arbor Hands-on Museum has extended the Waste to Watts exhibition through summer of 2007 due to popular demand. Waste to Watts shows how new environmentally friendly technology can turn our trash into electricity. Developed by Landfill Energy Systems of Wixom, Michigan, this one-of-a-kind exhibit demonstrates how methane gas recovery from landfills can be used as an alternative energy source, ultimately reducing our dependency on other fuels. Hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Saturday, noon to 5 p.m. Sunday. For information, visit www.aahom.org or call (734) 995-5439.

Card party/luncheon

Victoria Chapter #290, OES, Livonia Masonic Temple hosts a card party/luncheon noon-3 p.m. the second Tuesday of each month. Admission is \$6; event features table prizes and door prizes. The temple is located at 27705 W. Seven Mile in Livonia. For more information, call (734) 459-6063.

LIBRARY PICKS

Every week the Plymouth District Library staff provides the library's list of best-sellers based on the number of requests for titles by library patrons. The books are available by placing a request with the library at (734) 453-0750 or online at plymouthlibrary.org

FICTION

1. "Innocent in Death," J.D.

Robb 2. "Step on a Crack," James Patterson/Michael Ledwidge

3. "Sisters," Danielle Steel 4. "The Double Bind," Chris Bohjalian

5. "For One More Day," Mitch Albom

NON-FICTION

1. "The Audacity of Hope," Barack Obama

2. "Somebody's Gotta Say It," Neal Boortz

3. "A Long Way Gone," Ishmael Beah

4. "The Innocent Man," John Grisham

5. "About Alice," Calvin Trillin

PARENT'S CHOICE

NEW CHILDREN'S PICTURE BOOKS

1. "Lily Brown's Paintings," Angela Johnson

2. "Skunk's Spring Surprise," Leslea Newman

3. "Sock Monkey Rides Again," Cece Bell 4. "Pirate Treasure Map,"

Colin Hawkins 5. "I Love You Always and

Forever," Jonathan Emmett

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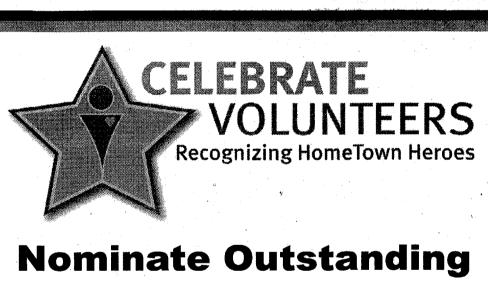
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Community Volunteers Winners will be honored at United Way for Southeastern Michigan's

Celebrate Volunteers...Recognizing HomeTown Heroes Awards Luncheon, April 16.

The award categories are as follows:

Bernie Firestone Labor Award CorPLUS Award Exemplary Group Service Award Governor's Honor Roll Heart of Gold Award Outstanding Youth Award Young Adult Award of Excellence Outstanding Business Award

Call United Way at 313-226-9430 for complete nomination information or go to www.uwsem.org. All nominations are due to United Way by 5 p.m., March 16.

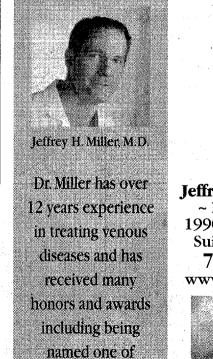
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BOOK CLUBS

FROM PAGE C1

certainly a good time to get together with friends and we all like to read."

Jackie Dostine of Canton is reading four books at a time. All of the women are avid readers. They came together after Grytzelius sent a flier announcing the book club to 99 homes in her subdivision.

"It's a fun night out," said Grytzelius, an engineer at Ford. "It's interesting to hear other points of view. It's a good way to broaden your horizon. I like the book club because it promotes a sense of community in our neighborhood.

"I really enjoy reading. I have a 4-year-old and a 1-year-old. I used to read all the time before I had kids.

Grytzelius researched the history of Mary Boleyn and Henry VIII of England on www.wikipedia.com while reading the book about the girl who at age 14 became Henry's mistress. Later, her sister, Anne, seduces Henry while Mary is recovering from childbirth.

"This book was interesting," said Grytzelius. "You wanted to know what was real and not. It was based on history.

"I was drawn in on the first page or part of the book," said Dostine. "The book begins and ends with a beheading. I said I have to read more."

Amy Watts enjoyed reading about Anne who becomes drunk with power and was beheaded for treason.

Becky Schmitz doubted the validity of the book because she never heard of Mary Boleyn until she went online to read about her.

STARTING A CLUB

Canton librarian Ellen Pare is fairly quiet during the book club meeting until asked how books are selected for the kits.

Pare is one of the adult services librarians who called Grytzelius for information when the library's fiction committee was writing the brochure

How to Start a Book Club in 7 Easy Steps which became available last fall. Tips include how to search for members, cost and organization, choosing a time and place for meetings, what to talk about, and selecting future

Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, March 11, 2007

Only recently the library began offering clubs the option of having a librarian present to assist in the discussion and answer questions such as how to select a book.

"We usually wait until they're in paperback except for large print which only comes in hardback," said Pare. "I admit we've picked dogs." Among the librarians' current

favorites are the nonfiction ALife in Two Genders by Jennifer Finney Boylan, Nickel and Dimed: On (Not) Getting By in American by Barbara Ehrenreich, and Blink: The Power of Thinking Without Thinking by Malcolm Gladwell. Favorite fiction titles includes Interpreter of Maladies: Stories by Jhumpa Lahiri; My Sister's Keeper by Jodi Picoult, and *Plainsong* by Kent Haruf.

Canton librarian Kim Brandow says even if readers don't like a book, they can learn from it. Brandow serves on the library's fiction committee and helped write the brochure.

"We're not the first library to put together such a resource," said Brandow. "We recognize these book clubs are a phenom-

Starting a club is not brain surgery. It's relatively easy. We give them simple steps on how to start a book club and let them know what resources we have as a library.

"We do encourage them to have a few people with different beliefs and perspectives and obviously to pick a good book. That is a bit of an art, but sometimes books you don't like generate the best discussions, and book clubs generate books you might not pick yourself."

Brandow says book clubs today meet at a variety of interesting places including Internet cafes, churches, Canton's Summit recreation center and

other community centers, and homes.

The Canton library offers a number of clubs including their Lunch and a Book group, teen and children's book groups, and the Adult Contemporary Book Discussion.

For information, visit www.cantonpl.org.

PEOPLE WANT TO SHARE

"For a lot of people it's a social outlet. Primarily women belong to clubs but men too," said Brandow. "Homes and restaurants are the two most popular places to meet.

"It can be fairly inexpensive if you get your books from a library. It's a fairly inexpensive way to get together."

Canton librarian Rebecca Havenstein-Coughlin has watched the book club phenomena grow over the last 27 years.

"They seem to be more popular now," said Havenstein-Coughlin. "People are listening to books on tape as well as reading it. It gives it another dimension. A lot of books are made into movies.

"People read and want to share. That's the main incentive for book clubs. They want somebody else's perspective."

Pare is especially excited about the new Family Book Talk group the Canton library is starting for children in fourth to sixth grade with their parents. Online registration begins March 12.

"They read the same book and come together and discuss it," said Pare. "I'm the mother of daughters, 10 and 11. When I first heard about the concept of a mother-daughter book group I thought it would be a wonderful opportunity for us to discuss things and get to know each other better. I worked for two years to get a mother-daughter book club off the ground. It turned out people were just too busy, but I think book clubs have been growing steadily since I started (at the library) in 2001.

For more information, call the Canton library at (734) 397-0999.

Book clubs offer opportunity to share

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN STAFF WRITER

Book clubs are springing up all over, many in conjunction with local libraries, but some run by individuals.

At the Alfred Noble Library in Livonia, Carol Harrison always welcomes new members 1:30 p.m. on the fourth Thursday of the month. For details, call (734) 421-6600. March's book is Mermaids Singing by Lisa Carey, a novel about three generations of women. It is set partly in Ireland.

We try not to do things from the best seller list," said Harrison, branch librarian. "We try to find authors they might not know of to introduce them to new authors. Because we've been meeting for quite a while people are comfortable with one another and frequently move on to other topics."

WESTLAND LIBRARY

The Westland library caters to a range of tastes and ages. For information, call (734) 326-6123 or visit

www.westland.lib.mi.us. Barbara Given, children's associate, especially is excited about Beginning Bookies for kindergarten to second grade. The club meets 2 p.m. Sunday,

'It's literature-based," said Given. "We talk about the book and then do some kind of fun activity. March they'll learn to read a thermometer and make their own froggy thermometer. The third- and fourth-grade book club also read and do some kind of craft or activity. Kids register and get a book to read and at the meeting discuss the book and socialize.

Given leads the fifth- and sixth-grade book club which reads a variety of genres.

"We read a book about a magician and the kids made wizard hats," said Given. "This month we're reading Chasing Vermeer and will be doing something with geometric shapes. We're trying to broaden their horizons hopefully so they'll look at all sorts of books - science fiction, historical fiction." Bridget Sturdy, the teen

librarian, leads the animemanga (Japanese animation or comics) group. This summer, she hopes to start a teen discussion club for sixth-through 12thgrade students who like to read supernatural fiction about vampires, werewolves or books like the Princess Diaries and Sisterhood of the Traveling

Cathy Pense, adult services librarian, likes to pair books with movies. At 7 p.m. March 20, the selection is The Other Boleyn Girl by Philippa Gregory about the lesser known mistress of Henry VIII. The novel is set to be made into a movie in October.

"Anyone can come," said Pense. "We vote on the books to read and try to do a good variety, different cultures, some historical fiction, couple of nonfiction, maybe a biography a year so men and women readers both like it."

Science fiction is the newest club for adults in Westland. It meets at 7 p.m. on the last Wednesday of each month and draws readers ranging from their mid-20s to a retired science teacher.

We started it about one year ago," said Jane Lowry, reference librarian. "It started taking off in November 2006 when I listed it on the Internet. We had four people come out right away and it's been growing ever since. We welcome just about anybody and don't require you to have a lot of background, just read the book and show up. Science fiction takes you out of everyday things. It's an easy way to get really lost in a book."

REDFORD TOWNSHIP LIBRARY

Children's librarian Karen Clinton is proud of the fact the Redford library offers book clubs for all ages, but especially teenage boys and girls. Call (313) 531-5960 or visit www.redfordlibrary.org.

"My daughter, Alison, is in the teen club," said Clinton, "She doesn't get an opportunity to read the kinds of things she likes to read. The club meets 7 p.m. the last Thursday of the month. You have to have a library card and be at least 13 and get to

keep the book. If you don't show up you won't get the next book."

Redford Readers, ages 9-12, meets 7 p.m. on the second Tuesday. New is the adult book club starting in April - Redford Recreational Readers - 7 p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month. It will be lead by Linda Pride, an adult services librarian at the Redford and Plymouth libraries.

"I believe every library should have a book club to get readers together," said Pride. "One of the things I really enjoy about book clubs, you expand your horizons; read things you wouldn't read on your own."

Two years ago, Mark and Karen Sleboda formed The History Buffs Book Club that meets the first Monday of the month at the Redford library. For details, call (313) 255-7841 or send e-mail to slavmail sleboda@yahoo.com. Two of the last books dealt with the development of U.S. railroads.

"We read every kind of history - American, European, Asian, and even Greek history," said Mark Sleboda, who's studying for a master's degree in history at Eastern Michigan University. "The nicest thing about the discussion group is everyone gets to articulate what they thought was interesting."

PLYMOUTH DISTRICT LIBRARY

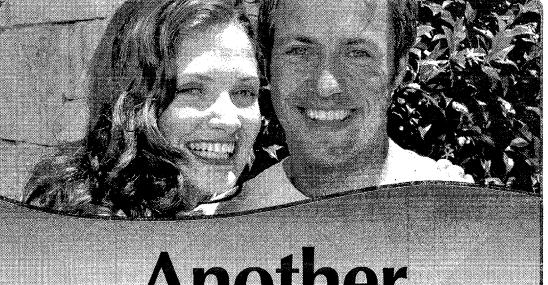
Sue Patterson, adult services librarian, leads the adult Contemporary Books club that meets in the evening at the Plymouth library, which also offers a teen club and is discussing forming a tween club.

"We're always open to anybody, no obligation, just come when you can and enjoy good book talk," said Patterson.

Linda Pride leads the discussion of The Year of Magical Thinking by Joan Didion, the selection for the Brown Bag Lunch group at noon March 28.

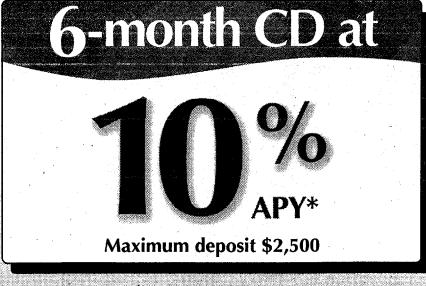
"It's mostly female members, but we've had two guys," said Pride. "We have some retirees, stay-at-home moms, people who work an afternoon shift.

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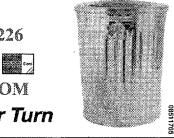
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receptacle/s and recycle bin from the outdoor place of storage and sets them out to the curb the day before trash day. And once they've been emptied, returning the containers back to the original place of storage. This service gives to those it supports (the elderly, the physically impaired, their caregivers, husbands, wives, their children, single parents, really anyone), one less needless chore to be performed and more uninterrupted time to focus on the more important concerns of their lives.

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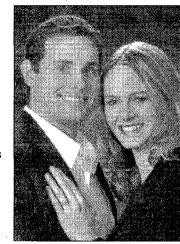
Brown-Morris

Rick and Nancy Morris, of Canton, announce the engagement of their son. Shane Morris, to Kelli Brown, of Des Moines, Iowa.

Shane is a graduate of Plymouth-Canton High School and Michigan State University. He has a bachelor's degree in economics. He works at the Des Moines Register as an advertising account executive.

Kelli is a graduate of the University of Missouri-Columbia. She works as a graphic designer in the Des Moines Register newsroom.

The couple met in Lansing, Mich., and now live in Des



Moines. They are planning their wedding in early September in Des Moines.

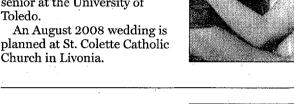
Walters-Hansen

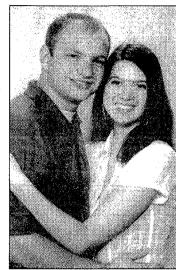
Robert and Diane Walters of Livonia announce the engagement of their daughter, Emily Elizabeth Walters, to Christin Julius Hansen, the son of Hans and Joyce Hansen of Canton.

The bride-to-be earned an associate's degree from Schoolcraft Community College and is currently a senior at Central Michigan University.

The prospective groom is a senior at the University of Toledo.

An August 2008 wedding is planned at St. Colette Catholic





Bullock-Smith

Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Bullock of Livonia announce the engagement of their daughter, Jennifer Mary Bullock, to Eric Ryan Smith of Scottsdale, Ariz. Eric is the son of Mr. and

Mrs. Michael Smith of Quincy,

A spring 2008 wedding is planned at St. John's of Plymouth.

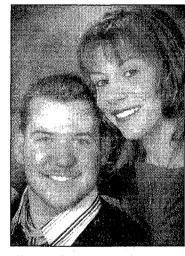


Malaniak-Niemiec

Gordon and Sandra Malaniak of Livonia announce the engagement of their daughter, Melissa Marie Malaniak of Rochester, Minn., to Timothy Donald Niemiec of Westland.

Melissa Marie Malaniak is a 2001 graduate of Livonia Churchill High School and a 2006 graduate of Wayne State College of Nursing. She is employed at the Mayo Clinic in

Rochester, Minn. Timothy Donald Niemiec is the son of Donald and Frances Niemiec of Westland. He is a 1999 graduate of Livonia Churchill High School. He is currently pursuing doctor of pharmacy degree at Wayne State University.



A July 2007 wedding is planned for St. Theodore of Canterbury Church in Westland.

Londberg-Keyes

Kristy Marie Londberg and Joshua John Keyes are planning a March 2008 wedding at Kirk of Our Savior Presbyterian Church in Westland.

Kristy Londberg is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Rav Jackson of Plymouth and Mr. and Mrs. Norman Londberg of Allen Park. She is a graduate of John Glenn High School and the Henry Ford Nursing School. She is employed as a registered nurse at Henry Ford Hospital.

Joshua Keyes is the son of Russ and Cathy Keyes of Westland. He is a graduate of John Glenn High School and Eastern Michigan University and the Henry Ford Nursing School. He is employed as a registered nurse in trauma at Garden City High School.



A reception is planned for Laurel Manor. The couple will make their home is Garden City.

Herald-Rangaswamy

Kathy and John Herald announce the engagement of their daughter, Lesley Anne Herald, to Chetan Rangaswamy.

Lesley Anne Herald is a 1996 graduate of Canton High School and a 2000 graduate of Michigan State University with a degree in supply chain management. She is employed by Accenture Consulting in Chicago as a manager.

Chetan Rangaswamy is the son of Dr. and Mrs. B.V. Rangaswamy of Cambridge, Ohio. He is a 1999 graduate of Ohio University with a degree in engineering and business. He is employed by Accenture Consulting in Chicago.

A May 2007 wedding is planned in Plymouth with a



Conference Center. The couple will honeymoon in the Maldives and make their home in Chicago.

As space permits, the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers print, without charge, announcements of class reunions. Send the information to Reunions, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft. Livonia, MI 48170. Please include the date of the reunion, one contact person, and a telephone number.

REUNIONS

Berkley High School Class of 1987

A 20-year reunion in planned for Nov. 24, 2007. Looking for all current contact info for alumni from class of 1987. Contact Kim (DeWilde) Everingham at (734) 422-0087 or e-mail info to kimsliasophia@gmail.com, Reunion website is www.BHSreunion1987.com for further information and details.

Bishop Borgess Class of 1987

A 20-year reunion, Sept. 15, 2007, at the Livonia Marriott. Contact borgess87@hotmail.com for more information.

Dearborn Fordson Class of 1977

A 30-year reunion, Friday, Aug. 3 to Sunday, Aug. 5, 2007. Contact Val Schulte (Wrenbeck) at msugrad81@cox.net with your current address and phone number.

Dearborn Edsel Ford Class of 1967

Moon-dusters

A 40-year reunion 7:30 p.m. Saturday,

SINGLES

MISC. SINGLES

Ballroom Dancing to a live band every

Saturday 8:30-11 p.m. at the Livonia

Civic Center, 15218 Farmington Road,

Livonia. Admission: guest/\$6, associ-

ates/\$5.50, members/\$5. Dress: women

- date style clothes, men - jackets and

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for special events. Information (248)

Anytime 6:30-9:30 p.m. Meets at the

Main Lounge at Drakeshire Lanes,

35000 Grand River Ave. just east of

Drake Road in Farmington Hills, Cash

bar and reasonable priced dinner is

also available off the menu. \$5/mem-

Drop-in volleyball in the gym and field-

house of the Bloomfield Hills Middle

School, 4200 Quarton Road, west of

In the park, Farmington Hills, anytime

Farmington Road, between 10 Mile and

THE AMERICAN SINGLES' GOLF

ASSOCIATION

Thursday, March 15 at the Bahama

Breeze Restaurant, 19600 Haggerty

Cocktails and mingling between 6-7

p.m. with announcements at 7 p.m.

Dinner is optional and is off the menu.

For more information contact Diane at

(248) 347-0379 or stop by our booth at

the Michigan Golf Show held on March

BETHANY SUBURBAN WEST

Saturday, March 17, at Leon's Family

Dining, 30249 Ford Road, Garden City.

For details, contact Kathy M. at (734)

9 a.m. Sunday, March 25, Felician Sister

Mass, for details contact Kathy M. (734)

8 p.m. Saturday, March 31, at St. Robert

Bellarmine, 27101 W. Chicago, Redford.

Limited to 450 paid admissions only.

Proper attire. \$12 admission. For more

information, call Loretta from Bethany

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The Wayne-Westland chapter of

Chapel at Madonna University, 36600

Newburgh exit. Breakfast to follow

Schoolcraft Road, Livonia. Use

9-11 at the Rock Financial Showplace,

46100 Grand River, Novi.

Breakfast meeting

513-9479.

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ties. For more information, call Joe

Castrodale (248) 968-5197.

Aug. 4, 2007, at Doubletree Hotel, Dearborn. Hors d'oeuvres and cash bar, approximately \$35. For informa-

tion, call Cheryl Riske Brown at (313)336-0192 or e-mail efhs67@yahoo.com

Detroit Chadsey Class of 1957

A 50th Reunion is being planned for Sept. 29, at Weber's Inn in Ann Arbor. Looking for January, June and Summer '57 graduates. If interested in attending or know of the whereabouts of other classmates, contact Pat Gorski-Zielinski, (989) 366-9288.

Detroit Cody Class of 1957

A 50th reunion at the Embassy Suites, Livonia

Oct. 5, 2007. Cost is \$90 per person, complete with dinner, open bar, memory book, CD, champagne toast and much more. This invitation is to all 50s' graduates. Deadline is June 25. Call 800-859-9502 or email loret@wideopenwest for details. Cost is \$90.00 per person, complete with dinner, open bar, memory book, champagne toast and much more.

Detroit Cooley

Classes of 1967, 1968 Reunion 6:30 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 29, 2007, at Laurel Manor, Livonia. Discounted tickets before March 1. Contact Dave Junguist at (810)667-9131. Website www.geocities.com/cooleyreunions67. All classmates are encouraged to register for inclusion in memory book at

ELMER H. EAST

formerly of Toledo, Ohio, died Wednesday, March 7, 2007 in Plymouth, Michigan, where he resided

for the past ten years. Born in Akron, Ohio on April 23rd, 1912, he lived the

early part of his life in Cincinnati, Ohio, moving to Toledo in his late 20's. He worked for the Baltimore &

Ohio Railroad and later was a Certified

Life Underwriter for Massachusetts

Mutual Life Insurance Company. He

was a member of Ashland Avenue

Baptist Church where he taught

Sunday school, was a Deacon and was

on the executive committee. He started Cub Scout units at Ashland Church,

McKinley School, and Old Orchard

School. He was president of Glass City

Toastmasters and president of the

Optimist Club. He coached students for the Optimist Club speech contests.

Many of these contestants went on to

State competition. Other memberships

and activities in his rich life include

Toledo Zenobia Shriners in which he

was a past president of the Drum & Bugle Corp Unit and a former ambas-

sador to Wood County. In addition, he

was a member in good standing with

The Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite, Lodge Council Chapter Consistory,

Valley of Toledo; The Grand Lodge of

Free and Accepted Masons of Ohio, Ft.

Industry Lodge; The Grand Chapter of

Royal Arch Masons of Ohio, Ft. Miami-Calumet Chapter #191; Grand

Council Royal & Select Masons of

Ohio, Calumet Council #133; and

Toledo Knights Templar. Mr. East was

also a member of the Maumee, Ohio Elks Club and later, the Plymouth,

Michigan Elks Club. For seven years,

he was a director of the Jack Lake

Association, Apsley, Ontario, Canada.

This, and so much more, makes up the "dash" between 1912-2007. Preceding

him in death was his wife, Dorothy

(Derby) East. Surviving are his daugh-

ters, Sally (Gary) Galliers of Plymouth, Mi. and Polly (Powell)

Kingsley of Michigan; grandchildren,

Powell Kingsley, Jr. of Michigan; Douglas Galliers of Plymouth, Mi;

Kelly (Kingsley) Hooton of Clarkston,

Mi; Michael Galliers of Plymouth, Mi;

Christy (Galliers) Rosebush of

Pinckney, Mi; Mindy (Kingsley) Tehero of Highland, Mi.; and David

Kingsley of Plymouth, Mi. There are

also seven great grandchildren. The

family will hold a private memorial

service. Memorial contributions may be made to: ANGELA HOSPICE,

www.classreport.org/usa/mi/detroit/co oley/1967

Detroit Denby Class of 1957

CLASS REUNIONS

A 50th reunion is planned for Sept. 7, 8, and 9, 2007, at the Thomas Edison Inn, Port Huron. Seeking lost graduates, January/June classes. If you are not yet on the mailing list, please email maroonfowl@aol.com or call (248) 642-0249.

Detroit Girls Catholic Central Class of 1967

Searching for classmates of the class of 1967 for a 40th reunion this summer/fall. Contact Diane Kangas (Krok) at (586)446-9011 or Mary Mezzardi (Winowiecki) at mmezzadri@hotmail.com.

Detroit Henry Ford

Class of 1967 A 40th reunion will be held 6:30-11:30 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 8, at Laurel Manor Special Event Center in Livonia. Seeking January, June and summer graduates from 1967. For information, call Ellen (Neihoff) VanderRoest at (248)684-7705 or email chuckandelvan@comcast.net.

Detroit Holy Redeemer

Class of 1957 A 50-year reunion. Oct. 12, 2007, at O'Kelley KofC Council, Dearborn. In interested in attending or know the whereabouts or former classmates, contact John Duff at oliverlynn@aol.com or phone (734)261-

3346. Detroit Mackenzie

Obituaries, Memorials, Remembrances

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Class of 1957

Looking for graduates to attend a reunion scheduled for Oct. 19, 2007. Call Eleanor at (734) 425-8278.

Detroit Western Class of 1962

A 45-year reunion will be held in Sept., 15, 2007 at Warren Valley Country Club, Dearborn Heights. Seeking information on classmates from that year. All other classes welcome. Contact Helen Knights at (734) 285-4927 or Ralph Brighton at (734) 513-7499.

Detroit Southwestern

Class of 1957 A 50-year reunion is being planned for September 2007. Looking for January and June graduates. If interested in attending or know of the whereabouts of other classmates, contact Angle (Conz) Maccani at (313) 532-4379 or

Ken Suski at (313) 291-5450. Ferndale Lincoln High

Class of 1947 January and June 60th class reunion, Aug. 3, 4 and 5 at The Hilton Hotel on Crooks Road in Troy. For information or details contact: Treva (Powell)Hamill, 248-667-1601, bobtrev9@aol.com or, Dick Reising, 248-623-9060, dreisings@sbcglobal.net

Fordson High School

Class of 1969 Planning a reunion for 2007, Please contact Kathy Nisun at (248) 363-5679 or e-mail: Kayninilu@aol.com or Kathy Shoebridge @ Klivingston@nucore.com.

VENUS MASSARELLO

Age 91, of Zeeland, died Wednesday. March 7, 2007 at an area care center. She was preceded in death by her husband, Jack Massarello, an infant son, Anthony Mass rello and an infant grandson Ronald Hornback. She was a member of Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Church. She is survived by her children: Paula and Gene Hornback of Ann Arbor; Jane and George Lomas of Livonia: Jovce and Richard Sanderson of Livonia; Jack and Cecelia Massarello of Canton; David and Shelly Massarello of Portland, Oregon; Michael Massarello of Plymouth; RoseMary and Frank Bishop of Zeeland; 26 Grandchildren; 39 Great grandchildren; Two Greatgreat-grandchildren; Sisters: Mrs. Frank (Effie) Massey of Grand Rapids; Mrs. Ralph (Rose) Huckins of Coral; Several nieces and nephews. Funeral services will be 11:00 a.m. Saturday, at Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Church, 480 152nd Ave., Holland with the Rev. Phillip Nguyen officiating. Burial will be in Oakland Hills Cemetery in Novi. Visitation will be 7-9 p.m. with scripture services at 8 p.m. Friday at the Yntema Funeral Home, 251 S. State St. Zeeland. Memorial contributions may be given to Hospice of Michigan. An online registry is available at www.yntemafh.com

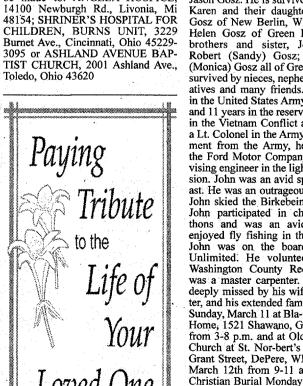
JOSEPH SLENZAK

Age 83, March 6, 2007 of Troy. Loving husband of Jo Anne for 38 years. Dear father of Ronald (Connie), Sharon McPhee (Michael) and David (Lantie). Beloved grandfather of Robin, Betsy, Michael and Dylan. Brother of Josephine Kozich and the late Adam, John (Enid) and Helen Scipione. Also survived by many nieces and nephews. Services were held privately. In lieu of flowers, memorial tributes may be sent to WWII Memorial Fund, Attn.: GR048, P.O. Box 96074, Washington, DC 20090-6074. A. J. Desmond & Sons 248-362-2500.

DAVID A. SOLOMON

Age 51, of Wayne, March 8, 2007. Beloved husband of Kathleen. Dear father of Angela (Adam) Moore, Michelle (Michael) Tyson and Laura Solomon. Loving grandfather of Dylan and Madeline. Dearest son of Pete and Stella. He is also survived by his sisters Marsha Holt and Kathy (Jim) Miller. He was preceded in death by his brother Pete W. Solomon. Funeral services are Tuesday at 10:00 a.m. at Michigan Memorial Funeral Home, (next to Michigan Memorial Park), 30895 Huron River Dr., Huron Twp., (734) 783-2646. Visitation is Monday, 1-9 p.m.. Entombment in Michigan Memorial Park.

of Slinger, Wisconsin passed away on Wednesday, March 7, 2007 at the age of 65 Manitowoc, WI, March 23, 1941, the son of John and Helen Gosz. John married Karen Wagner in Theresa, WI on June 11 1966. He is preceded in death by their daughter Jennifer Gosz, his father John Gosz and his nephew Jason Gosz. He is survived by his wife Karen and their daughter Jacqueline Gosz of New Berlin, WI; his mother Helen Gosz of Green Bay, WI; his brothers and sister, JoAnn Gosz, Robert (Sandy) Gosz; and Joseph (Monica) Gosz all of Green Bay. Also survived by nieces, nephews, other relatives and many friends. John served in the United States Army for 14 years and 11 years in the reserves. He served in the Vietnam Conflict and retired as a Lt. Colonel in the Army. After retirement from the Army, he worked for the Ford Motor Company as a supervising engineer in the light trucks division. John was an avid sports enthusiast. He was an outrageous Packer fan. John skied the Birkebeiner ten times! John participated in charity bike-athons and was an avid golfer. He enjoyed fly fishing in the mountains. John was on the board for Trouts Unlimited. He volunteered for the Washington County Red Cross and was a master carpenter. John will be deeply missed by his wife and daughter, and his extended family. Visitation Sunday, March 11 at Bla-ney's Funeral Home, 1521 Shawano, Green Bay, WI from 3-8 p.m. and at Old St. Joseph's Church at St. Nor-bert's College, 100 Grant Street, DePere, WI on Monday, March 12th from 9-11 a.m.. Mass of Christian Burial Monday at 11 a.m. at St. Joseph's Church, Rev. Jim Nielson,



DAVID CHARLES EMMETT

Age 64 of Superior Township, March' Dear father of Brad (Julie), Jodie and Kelli. Dear grandfather of Wyatt David Emmett. Dear brother of Karen (Dave) Phipps. Visitation Monday 2-9 PM at Vermeulen Funeral Home, 46401 W Ann Arbor Rd (btwn Sheldon and Beck) Plymouth. Funeral service Tuesday, call Vermeulen Funeral Home for time and place (734) 459-2250. Mr. Emmett earned degrees in mechanical and electrical engineering from GMI, (now known as Kettering University), and worked for 21 years at General Motors from student engineer to Plant Manager at Hydromatic. He was also founder and President of Superior Controls of Plymouth, and lately as the owner of Plymouth Orchards in Superior Township. He was a member of the Kettering University Alumni Association and served for 12 years as a Superior Township Board Trustee. He enjoyed mountain biking, travel, body-buildng, wind-surfing, and running. He enjoyed piloting and enjoyed cars, as well as micro-biology. Interment will be at Glen Eden Memorial Park in Livonia. Memorial Contributions may be made to Children International, P.O. Box 219055, Kansas City MO 64121. www.children.org To leave a message of condolence, log on to: www.vermeulenfuneralhome.com.

JOHN P. GOSZ

years. He was born in O. Praem, and Rev. Tim Shillcox, O. Praem, officiating.

OBITUARY POLICY The first five "billed" lines of

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

Friday 4:30 PM for Sunday Wednesday Noon for Thursday Obituaries received after these deadlines vill be placed in the next available issue.

e-mail your obit to

oeobits@hometownlife.com or fax to: Attn: Obits c/o Charolette Wilson 734-953-2232 For more information call: **Charolette Wilson** 734-953-2070 or Liz Keiser 734-953-2067 or toll free 866-818-7653 ask for Char or Liz



reception at the St. John's

singles dance on the second Saturday of every month at the Dearborn Elks Club at 25000 Michigan Ave. 9 p.m.-1 a.m. Disc jockey, cash bar. \$6 members, \$8 nonmembers. Public invited. Information, Pat, (248) 478-8977, or Diana, (734) 751-7386.

5080



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CLEANER WANTED Part time, evenings to clean busy doctors office in Farmington Hills. Please fax resume to Cindy 248-477-9370

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Tool & Gear, 12693 Marlin Redford, MI 48239 Or fax resume 313-532-1699 **CUSTOMER SERVICE REP**

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5000

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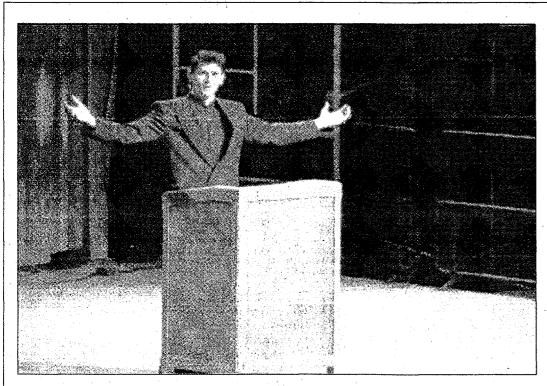
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The Rev. John Riccardo returns to open the annual Catholic Conference for Men on March 24. Riccardo is pastor of St. Anastasia Parish in Troy.

CONFERENCE

FROM DAGE CL

Troy. This is his fifth consecutive appearance at the conference.

"I set the tone for the conference, give the pep talk or the challenge of the day, the challenge of the theme, that what we desperately need is not just church, but a world of truly courageous men willing to go to battle for the right things — the family, their faith, part of it's a challenge. We're looking for noble, courageous, loving men," Riccardo said. "I'll contrast that with how we see men whether at a sporting event without any inhibitions, yet when it comes to faith, often times men clam up, for them not to be ashamed of the gospel."

While Ken Castel is excited about hearing Riccardo speak again this year, he especially is looking forward to an appearance by his father, John J. Riccardo, who served as chairman of the Chrysler Corp. during challenging times

"I'm excited about the whole conference in general, but John J. Riccardo was chairman of the Chrysler Corp. in the late '70s and early '80s," Castel said. "He led Chrysler through very tumultuous times. It's so timely for the men to hear how John's faith helped him get through tough economic times. Men at Ford are facing the same problems right now."

Castel is also enthusiastic about a Youth
Breakout Session led by Jim Beckman from
the Denver archdiocese.

"I set the tone for the conference, give the pep talk or the challenge of the day, the challenge of the theme, that what we desperately need is not just church, but a world of truly courageous men willing to go to battle for the right things – the family, their faith, part of it's a

challenge...' the Rev. John Riccardo

"A number of families in his parish were directly impacted by (the shooting at) Columbine (High School)," Castel said. "We have room for up to 400 young people. He'll be giving them some tools to live in this difficult society as a young person."

Luke Popiel is finding it difficult to grow up in today's world. He plans to attend the conference for a third year to find inspiration.

"You have to be more open to Christ and give the Lord our total attention, and get some of the distractions, Internet, the TV, out of our lives," said Popiel, a 17-year old junior at DeLaSalle High School in Warren.

Like Popiel, Adam Smith will be attending his third conference. The 15-year old Farmington boy finds the event inspirational as well

"I think it's moving because when they talk, I feel closer to God," said Smith, who's homeschooled.

BIRTH

Daniel Jacob Brockway

Donald and Ewa Brockway of Novi, formerly of Livonia, announce the birth of their son Daniel Jacob Brockway on Feb. 27, 2007.

He weighed $7\frac{1}{2}$ pounds at birth and was $20\frac{1}{2}$ inches long.

His grandparents are Gary and Ellen Brockway of Livonia. His greatgrandmother is Mary Heitman of Livonia.





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Reducing costs of health care and diseases

Bill encourages wellness programs in workplace

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN

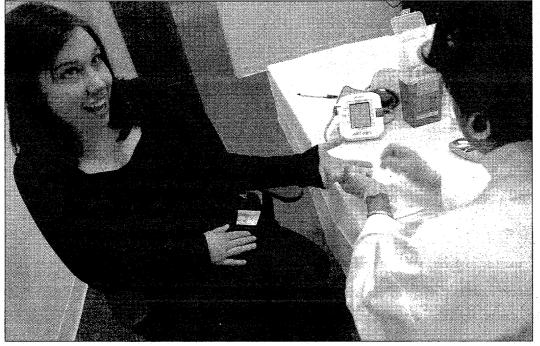
Joshua Kugelman would still be carrying around 270 pounds on his 6-foot-1 frame if Metaldyne hadn't launched its employee wellness program in early 2006. The product engineer has lost 52 pounds since the automotive supplier began partially subsidizing Weight Watchers at its facilities in Plymouth Township.

Kugelman's health benefits have far outweighed the minimal fee he pays to participate in weekly sessions. For months now he's been able to take only one blood pressure medication instead of his usual three.

"I don't think I would have done it otherwise," said Kugelman of Pontiac.

If U.S. Rep. Joe Knollenberg's Wellness and Prevention Act of 2007 is passed, more employees could not only reduce their risk for disease, but help lower health care costs. Studies have shown for years how unhealthy lifestyle choices lead to disease. The bill promotes screenings and prevention programs in the workplace by offering businesses a \$200 tax credit for employees who join their wellness program. At least 50 percent of employees must participate. Additionally, the act provides a \$200 tax credit for employees as encouragement.

H.R. 853 was introduced on Feb. 6 and referred to the House Ways and Means Committee and House Energy and Commerce Committee. So far it has received support from the American College of Preventive Medicine, American College of Occupation and Environmental Medicine, Beaumont Hospital, Henry Ford Health System, Detroit Medical



PHOTOS BY TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Human resources communication specialist Kara Kohls gets her finger pricked for a blood sample by Vivian Perkins, a registered nurse with Retail Health Network, during a health screening as part of the employee wellness program at Metaldyne in Plymouth Township.



Kara Kohis talks about her results during a health screening at Metaldyne as part of the company's wellness program.

Center, Pfizer, AARP, and Oakland County Wellness Coalition.

In addition to tax credits, the bill provides a \$20,000 loan forgiveness for individuals pursuing a preventive medicine specialty and achieving board certification between 2008 and 2012.

RETURN ON INVESTMENT

Knollenberg says, this is not the solution to the rising costs of health care, but does save the government Medicare money by preventing diseases.

"There's a payback here," said Knollenberg, R-Bloomfield Township. "You can deduct interest on the mortgage so you can own your own home so why not your health care. It encourages people to do something about their own health."

Knollenberg and his wife, Sandi, eat right, avoid fast food and exercise daily. Knollenberg, 73, was a runner for 35 years but now walks and lifts weights to maintain his 176-pound frame. Sandi, 67, does pilates, aerobics, spinning, yoga, and weight lifting.

"Twenty years ago I was trying to sell my aerobics program to companies," said Sandi Knollenberg, who owned Sandi's Fitness Firm for which she taught aerobics for 20 years. "Management didn't want to look at it. Now costs are skyrocketing. In the long run they'll see the benefits (of wellness programs) in lower costs and lower absenteeism."

Metaldyne spent \$200,000 on its wellness program in 2006, but hopes to lower its health care costs in three years, according to Debbie McCarthy, corporate benefits manager. The program makes it easier for employees to make life style changes by offering a free Smoking Quitline, online risk assessment, a Living Well Web site, lunch and learns, screenings, and chronic disease

PLEASE SEE **WELLNESS**, **C9**

Wellness bill gaining support of businesses

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN STAFF WRITER

The Oakland County Wellness Coalition is supporting the Wellness and Prevention Act of 2007 introduced by U.S. Rep. Joe Knollenberg, R-Bloomfield Township, in early February, according to Michele Hodges, a coalition member and president of the Troy Chamber of Commerce.

The coalition formed in November 2005 to pioneer wellness in the workplace and ensure wellness is part of the solution in controlling health care costs. For details, visit www.oaklandcountywellness.com.

The coalition is in the process of creating an information clearing house for businesses on how to implement wellness in the workplace.

"We've elected to support the bill," said Hodges.
"It's consistent with our goals and further promotes wellness and lower costs. It's more of a focus on prevention than management of disease."

Bill Parsons thinks the act is "wonderful." He says the only way to reduce health care costs is to keep people healthy. Miller Canfield established its wellness program 3½ years ago to cover the law firms 600 U.S. employees. It includes lectures by the Visiting Nurse Association on how to eat better, offering incentives of \$100 if employees renew a gym membership after a year, subsidized Weight Watchers and personal training, and a Web site for health and fitness.

"It's good to have the incentive for the companies to do this," said Parsons, Miller Canfield director of administrative and human resources. Parsons is also involved with the Oakland County Wellness Coalition. "It's important to strike at the heart of the problem, to strike at bad health choices."

The Miller Canfield program is multifaceted and includes nurses who travel to each of the firms sites in Michigan and Canada to meet with each employee willing to participate. The nurses give them a mini medical exam or physical fitness assessment to identify risks.

"The fewer risks the more resistant people are to getting ill," said Parsons. "So far we have 70 percent of employees participating.

"The national statistics show that for every dollar you put in (to wellness programs) you save \$3 to \$5 dollars. In 2005 we had 7 percent more people in the health plan, yet health care costs went down 5 percent."

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"The best part of losing weight

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The Arctic Figure Skating Club in Canton is planning the

skate-a-thon 7:30-9 p.m. Friday, March 30, at the Arctic Edge

Arena, Canton, to benefit club member Natalie Salazar, 13,

who was diagnosed with neuroblastoma (cancer) in summer

of 2006. She has been treated at Children's Hospital and is

treatments at the University of Michigan. Donations can be

sent to The Natalie Salazar Fund, c/o Arctic Figure Skating

Club, 46615 Michigan Ave., Canton.

now investigating stem cell transplant and experimental

Eat green for health this St. Pat's Day

St. Patrick's Day is a great time to think about adding more greens to your diet. In addition to the regular festivities surrounding St. Patrick's Day this month, consider adding a new tradition -

more green foods to your diet. "Green foods across the board are healthy in terms of their vitamin, mineral, water and antioxidant content," said Erica Wald, Registered Dietitian, a wellness coordinator with the MFit Health Promotion Division at the University of Michigan Health System.

"You want to incorporate lots of different intensities of green - all the various colors of green. The more varied the colors, the more varied your vitamin and mineral intake."

Wald also says that preparing them in a variety of ways, such as putting them in soups, stews and casseroles even serving them raw - are great ways to incorporate more greens into your diet.

The following are Wald's seven healthy and delicious tips for eating green for your

■ Increase fiber with broccoli. Broccoli provides many health benefits including soluble and insoluble fiber; vitamins A, C and E (important antioxidants for staving off

cellular damage from freeradicals); vitamin K for bone health; and a special antioxidant called sulforaphane, known for its powerful anticancer properties.

■ Vary your leafy greens. Wald says it's important to remember that leafy green vegetables, such as lettuces, come in varying shades of green. The lighter the green, the less vitamins and minerals they contain. The darker the green, the higher the concentration of vitamins and minerals they contain, such as A, C and folate, which is good for preventing birth defects. Spinach, a dark leafy green, contains lutein which is good for eye health. Collard greens also contain sulforaphane and beta carotene.

■ Choose vitamin K for increased bone health. While vitamin K isn't a substitute for a good source of calcium, eating green vegetables high in vitamin K is good for bone health. Choose vegetables like asparagus, green/herbal teas, spinach, kale, turnip, collard and mustard greens, broccoli, cabbage, endive, and brussel sprouts.

■ Improve cholesterol with avocado, a good source of monounsaturated fats which can help lower your cholesterol. It's also a good source of

vitamin E. Consider tossing your dark-green, leafy salad with a few slices of fresh avocado and balsamic vinegar for added benefit.

■ Alternate oranges with kiwifruit. If you're used to grabbing an orange to ensure you're getting your daily dose of vitamin C consider eating kiwifruit instead. Kiwifruit contain even more vitamin C than oranges and they're a great source of dietary fiber.

■ Snack on green apples. While green apples offer about the same benefits as red or yellow apples, green apples are a great source of soluble and insoluble fiber which aid in digestion and heart health.

■ Drink tea – green tea. If you like to drink tea, consider choosing green tea instead of black, oolong or other darker teas. Green tea - next to white tea - packs the biggest punch when it comes to antioxidants. It also contains flavonoids, a class of naturally occurring plant compounds that function as antioxidants that are good for the heart.

Whether you like your green vegetables raw or cooked, there are many ways you can incorporate them into your meals. But whatever you do, remember that variety is the key.

MEDICAL DATEBOOK

MARCH

Biblical perspectives on health

Migraines

linked to

A seminar exploring how the principles hidden in the ancient Scriptures are being confirmed by recent scientific research 2:30-5:30 p.m. Sunday, March 11, at Plymouth Seventh-day Adventist Church, 4295 Napier, between Ann Arbor and Warren roads. Program concludes with a delicious meal based on the health principles. To register, call (248) 349-5683 or (313) 531-2179.

Karen from Livonia suffers from severe migraine headaches. She emails for the latest research on their potential dangers.

scar tissue

Karen, startling new research shows that migraines may actually scar the tissue of the brain. The scarring indicates cell death and poor blood flow. It was first detected by MRIs and it is important to note that it hasn't yet been linked to loss of brain function. But the research shows that migraine sufferers are more likely to have so-called dead spots in the part of the brain that controls motor function. The new research

Peter's **Principles**

Peter Nielsen

may cause doctors to re-think the way they view migraine headaches. Scientists now think they should be viewed as a progressive problem with the potential to lead to long-term damage. Nearly 30 million Americans suffer from occasional to frequent migraine headaches.

Clarissa from Livonia suffers from type-2 diabetes. She e-mails for an all-natural way to help control the condition.

Clarissa, you are sure to find this new research easy to swallow. It shows that diabetes sufferers can lower blood-sugar and lipid levels with just a small amount of cinnamon

every day. Researchers assigned a group of patients to take between one and six grams of cinnamon per day. Another group got a placebo. Forty days later, every patient taking the dose of cinnamon had a drop in blood glucose, triglycerides and total cholesterol. The group taking the placebo showed no change. Scientists say the cinnamon appears to help body insulin work more efficiently. One gram of cinnamon is roughly equal to one teaspoon. When it comes to natural disease fighters, it doesn't get much sweeter.

If you have a health or fitness question you would like answered in the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, email Peter through his Web site www.peternielsen.com. Contact him at Peter Nielsen's Personal Training Club in West Bloomfield or Nielsen's Town Center Health Club in Southfield.

WELLNESS

management by partnering with

organizations such as the American Cancer Society, Weight Watchers, and its health care insurer Blue Cross/Blue Shield.

FEEDBACK POSITIVE

So far, management has received favorable comments from employees about the program that goes global to encompass all 7,000 of its employees this year. The program was initially offered only to its 4,500 U.S. employees.

"This year they get incentives. They get co-pays waived for office visits," said McCarthy. "And we're going to do the facility challenge again where they compete to earn the most points for participating in the wellness program.

Last year, our two Pennsylvania facilities tied for a \$5,000 check."

Gail Woodward especially enjoyed last year's Active for Life Team Challenge. Woodward and Cyndie Holbrook, an accounts receivable specialist, worked together to present in-place walking sessions and record the daily activity. As a result, Holbrook, 50, became more fit and lost weight. The walking increased Woodward's energy

"I feel like I can do more," said Woodward, accounts pavable manager and a Canton resident. "We now do this everyday at lunch in a training room. We'd like to do this ongoing. The challenge gave us the motivation to go out and do it."

McCarthy says Metaldyne founded its wellness program before Knollenberg's bill was

introduced. She shared concerns about refining the requirements. Metaldyne's program was developed internally. The act says a company must have an experienced outside source to administer its wellness program.

"I think that anything supporting a company to have programming that enables employees to live a healthy, happier life and lowers our health care costs is good," said McCarthy.

TO YOUR HEALTH

Martin Ingman is one of the employees who underwent blood pressure and blood panel screenings provided by the Retail Health Network on Tuesday. Ingman always has an annual physical. During the Action for Life challenge, his team of mountain bikers rode local trails to acquire points. He'd like to see

Metaldyne provide more education on nutrition. He tries to eat healthy, stays away from fast foods and trains after work so when he returns home there's only time to make a simple stir fry of vegetables. He'd like to learn to cook a variety of meals quickly.

Like Ingman, Knollenberg said most people who work find it hard to have time to exercise or have a healthy meal. Business wellness programs would teach them how to change their lifestyle.

"The tax credit wouldn't be that much of an incentive," said Martin Ingman, a product development engineer who lives in Canton. "I'd do it anyway, but I could always find something to do with the extra money."

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Arthritis Today

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ACHING ELBOWS

A painful elbow is not merely an irritation. Elbow pain can mean you cannot groom your hair, reach for a plate or undertake the numerous tasks that self care requires. Most elbow pain does not occur from a problem within the

Usually the pain comes from the muscles that originate at the elbow joint. The inside aspect of the elbow is the origin of the muscles that go into the wrist and palms. The outside bone of the elbow is the seat of the muscles

going to the back of the wrist and fingers.

Bowlers elbow is the common name for the pain you experience at the inside of the elbow, while tennis elbow identifies the pain from the tendon originating at the outside. Both bowlers and tennis elbow occur because of the

Another source of elbow plain is in the triceps tendon where it anchors into the back of the elbow. Again the cause is strain.

I have deliberately not included olecranon bursitis as a condition causing

elbow pain. Enlargement of the sac in back of the elbow is common. Inflammation of the bursa is rare.

The treatment for these tendon pains is injection. If you can determine what causes the strain, then it is in your best interest to take the time to remove the strain or learn a different way to deal with it. Otherwise you will face the same pain and need for therapy repeatedly.

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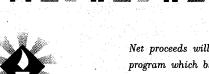
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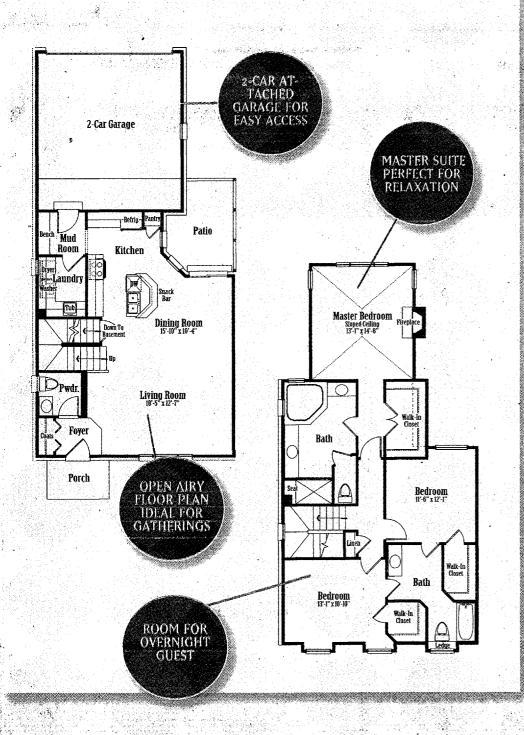
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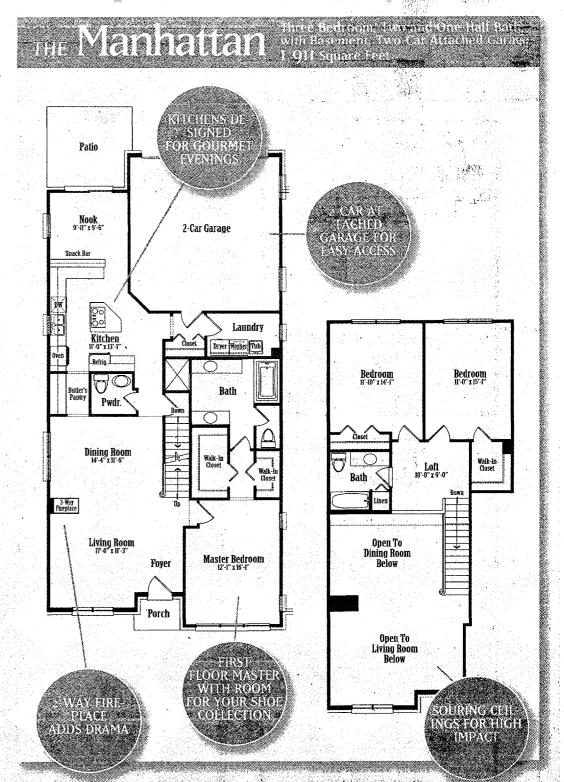
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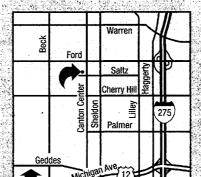




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buildef.com* www.hometownlife.com Successful maternity leave requires preparation Local women offer tips

Planning to take a maternity leave soon? These tips come from babycenter.com.

The first thing to take care of in determining how much maternity (or paternity) leave you can take is to find out which state and federal regulations apply to your situation. The Family and Medical Leave Act, a U.S. federal law, makes available to many Americans 12 weeks of unpaid time off to care for an immediate family member, such as a newborn or newly adopted child. The FMLA applies to most men and women who can answer yes to all three of these questions:

- 1. Do you work for a company with 50 or more employees or for a public agency (federal, state, or local)?
- 2. Have you been employed there for at least 12 months? 3. Have you worked at least
- 1,250 hours in the last 12 months? Whether or not the FMLA applies to you, one or more of
- these additional options may exist for your maternity leave: ■ Short-term disability coverage from your state, company, or a private policy, if applicable. (Currently, only California, Hawaii, New Jersey, New York, and Rhode Island offer a shortterm disability program. For a

state-by-state rundown of

parental leave programs, con-



sult the National Partnership for Women & Families Parental Leave Report. (Michigan earned a D-, having no laws guaranteeing job protection or benefits for new parents in the private sector. Michigan state employees are entitled to 26 weeks of unpaid job-protected parental leave, the report noted.)

- Paid sick time or medical leave if it's offered by your company
- Paid vacation time if it's

offered by your company ■ Unpaid leave provided for by state family-leave laws, if

your state has them ■ Maternity leave benefits offered by your union, if you belong to one

PREPARING DOCUMENTS

As you organize your leave, put your paperwork in a folder. Keep copies of everything, including any forms you submit.

■ FMLA application(s) ■ State family leave application(s), if your state has its own

- family leave law(s) ■ Vacation time request ■ Any forms your family doctor
- or pediatrician will need to fill out Your company's family
- leave policy ■ Letters and e-mails (print
- them out) to or from your boss, human resources department, or others Notes you take during
- phone calls to or from your boss, human resources department, and others

QUESTIONS TO ASK

Ask around to find out how other women at your company managed their maternity leave.

1. What kind of response did you get from your immediate supervisor, higher-level managers, and colleagues when you asked about maternity leave?

2. How much time did you take off and how did you structure your leave?

 $3. \ What arrangements \ did \ you$ make to have your responsibilities covered while you were gone?

4. How did you transition back to work afterward?

5. Were you able to arrange any kind of flexible schedule before or after the baby arrived? 6. What forms did you fill out and where did you get them?

BY JULIE BROWN STAFF WRITER

Maria Von Buskirk and husband Peter expect their first baby in September.

"It took us a while to even get pregnant, about a year and a half," the Garden City resident said. "It's pretty exciting that it's happening."

She works for Mechanical Energy Systems of Canton in office management and marketing. It's a family business

"I'll be working from home," after the baby comes, said Von Buskirk, who works for her mom and dad. Her parents have been helpful in her preparing for maternity leave.

"It's their first grandkid. Anything I say goes," she said with a laugh.

Von Buskirk, 30, is finishing her first trimester, and has had some illness and fatigue. "Be honest with your employer on your plans," she recommends to other women preparing for a maternity leave.

They may need to make some changes to allow her to work from home, possibly adding an upgrade to the home computer.

Also expecting is Mandi Buckland of Plymouth, who owns Street Marketing in Northville. She and husband Dave expect their first baby June 29.

"I've definitely thought about it. I know I'll be working from home," Buckland & said. She'll try to get things done when she can after the baby arrives. "I will have access to work stuff from

She'll get help from her sis ter who is her business partner at Street Marketing, which offers marketing, public relations and media placement.

home, definitely."

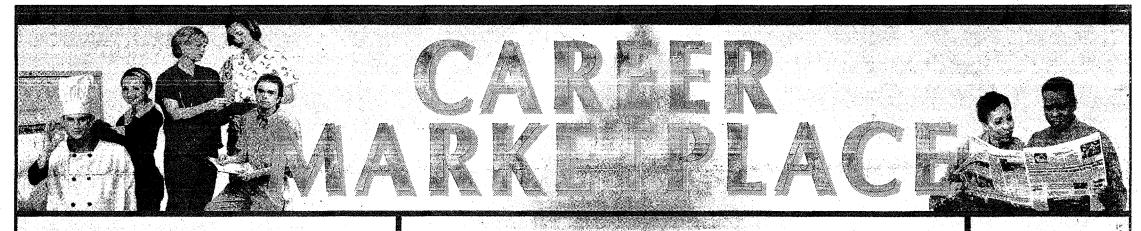
'We just got married in September and got pregnant in October," she said. The Bucklands just learned they're having a girl, and haven't settled on a name yet. "It's all brand new and fresh

for me as well," said Buckland, 36, of maternity leave. She has talked to other women about it; Buckland would love the opportunity to stay home with her daughter but will need to work. "It's important for moms who

own businesses, they can become role models." Staying home with your child is also a great contribution, Buckland noted. "This is our first, so it's defi-

nitely a learning process." She's been feeling good.

"I didn't have any morning sickness or anything. I feel good. I can't believe it's gone by so fast," Buckland said.



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An Associates Degree in Accounting and 2-3 years Accounting experience required; a Bachelor's degree preferred. Above average skills in Microsoft Excel and fixed asset accounting experience preferred.

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Michigan First Credit Union has an immediate opening for a Mortgage Portfolio Manager. This position is responsible for managing and growing Michigan First Credit Union's \$160M mortgage portfolio. A key component of this position will involve managing the relationship with our third party mortgage provider and related collection activities. This position may involve underwriting and approving both mortgage and consumer loans. This will include coordination of marketing initiatives and promotions, product development, and tracking and analyzing market trends.

Candidates must have a bachelor's degree and a minimum of five years of related experience in mortgage lending. Candidates must also have excellent communication skills in order to develop and maintain positive business partner relationships.

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Starting Salary Range: \$50,000 - \$68,000

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decision making written and oral communication skills. Exp working with provider net-works a plus. Compensation Customer Service Rep For Belleville Independent nackage includes health benefits and simple IRA. Send resumes to jobs@mybci.com or fax to 248-626-8301 insurance agency, insurance 36251 Sci MI 48150 exp. needed. Full or Part time. Mon-Fri. 9-5. 734-697-5544

Michigan First

CREDIT UNION

Branch Manager

The Branch Manager is responsible for managing, directing, and administering the operations of a credit union branch office. The Branch Manager is also responsible for all policies, procedures and employees in the branch. This position is also responsible for coaching and developing branch employees, supporting the Michigan First sales and service approach, and ensuring that the branch consistently delivers a high level of member service and member

A Bachelor's degree from a four-year college or university and three to five years of related experience and/or training at a supervisory level in a financial institution is required.

Starting salary range: \$49,000 - \$68,000

Retail Sales Manager

The Retail Sales Manager will be responsible for growing and managing the credit union's business account program and activities. This will include monitoring and expanding service usage and membership growth, generating commercial accounts and loans, prospecting and generating leads to drive new business loan and deposit relationships. This position will also be responsible for designing a yearly written business plan; documenting annual goals and strategies for prospecting and closing new business

The ideal candidate will possess a bachelor's degree and two to three years of public speaking, sales and/or public relations experience. Excellent verbal communications skills and customer service skills are critical to this position. This person must be creative, self-motivated, and able to work independently without direct supervision. Must also have reliable transportation and a valid Michigan driver's license and be able to work outside of normal business hours

if needed; this job may require significant local travel.

Starting salary range: \$48,000 - \$68,000

relationships; and tracking market penetration.

Please apply online at our website www.michiganfirst.com or fax cover letter, resume and salary requirements to: 248 395-4064

Michigan First Credit Union is an Equal Opportunity Employer.



D3



Careerbuilder.com Deserver Eccentric HOMETOWN/16e.com

Help Wanted-General 5000

LEASING AGENT F/T, for multi property company. Benefits available. Leasing/ Customer Service exp required. May work Saturdays Please fax resumes: 248-352 2837. No phone calls, please.

LEASING AGENT-Westland Part time, non smoker, 20 hours per week, and every other Saturday. \$8.00 per hour. Please call 734-729-6636, or send resume to 734-326-5912

LEASING CONSULTANT Birmingham rental communit has an immediate opening for an enthusiastic individual with good closing skills and dependable transportation. Must be able to work weekends. Please send resume to: O & E Newspapers

36251 Schoolcraft Livonia., MI 48150 Ref # 1502

LEASING CONSULTANT Full-Time

Singh is seeking to fill ar immediate Full-Time leas ng consultant position in the Canton area. Must be able to work consisten weekends. We offer cometitive wages, commis sions, health, and dental insurances. EOE. Email resumes to: Turnbury@singhmail.com

LEASING

CONSULTANT Large property management company is seeking leasing consultant for Novi apartment community. Candidate must have enthusiastic personality and excel in sales. We offer a great wage benefit package commission & 401k. A drug screen plus criminal & driv ing check will be run prior to employment. Fax resume to 248-624-9425 Attn: Denise.

LOOKING FOR A CAREER (not a job,) a Career?

Change your life-Real Estate Sales Agent Feel good about yourself personally and financially

CALL ED BOWLIN



LUBE, OIL & FILTER **TECHNICIAN**

For large dodge dealership. Fulltime position. Benefits included. Exp. preferred. Email resume service.jobs@hotmail.com

MACHINIST Large Engine Lathe operator needed. Experienced only. Westland manufacturer. Full

time w/ overtime. Medical, dental, 401(k). Fax resume: 248-595-0149 or call 734-595-6400



MAINTENANCE Needed for a retirement community in Westland. 20-25 hrs per week. **FAX RESUME TO:** 734-729-9840 EOF

MAINTENANCE Residential property mainte-nance. Good driving record/ drug screen. \$8-\$10 per hr. wadvancement. 734-844-0112.

Management MULTI SITE

PROPERTY MANAGER Property management company has an opening for a Multi-Site Manager to oversee a portion of our Michigan apartment community portfolio. Primar responsibilities are to over see all community opera-tions including scheduling marketing and resident relations, with a focus on staf motivation and develop ment. Additional responsi-bilities include budget control, vendor selection and operational accountability The position provides full benefits including a 4011 with employer contribu tions, a bachelor degree of equivalent multi-site man

agement exp. is required. Please send resumes to: Box 1492 Observer & Eccentric Newspapers 36251 Schoolcraft Rd., Livonia, MI 48150

MANAGEMENT POSITION

Michigan's leading window & home improvement co., Majic Window, is looking to fill immediate openings. Experience preferred, not necessary, will train. Salary -communication. Good com munication skills a must! Please call April, 734-748-4380

Manager - Group Home To support a diverse group of people with disabilities. Requires good driving record

Openings in Livonia. \$910-\$1000 Bi-weekly.

Justin (248) 477-5209 x107

MANAGER

Large apt. community is seeking individual who is motiviated, has outgoing personality & compute knowledge. Requirements have first contact with prospective clients, do fol low-up calls, process serv pay. Minimum 3 yrs. exprequired. Email resume to: wilshire555@hotmail.com

Help Wanted-General (5000)

MARKET RESEARCH **ANALYST** sought by healthcare co. Req's Bachelor degree or

equivalent with major in Marketing, Business, or Economics. 1 year. exp. in Marketing. Send resume to: President.

Rizvi Health Associates, Inc., 29933 Southfield Rd., Southfield, MI 48076.

Marketing Assistant Front Desk

Prestiaious downtown Birmingham RIA seeks exp'd professional to facilitate marketing efforts for this growing money management firm. Responsibilities incl: Answering incoming calls; greeting clients, visitors. Supporting CEO, CDO tracking

revenues, manage client lists arrange, confirm mktg. mtgs prepare mktg. materials. Manage supply inventories incl. office, kitchen, stationery misc. Liaison for all svc/repair calls. Ideal candidate will have min. 8 yrs. work in professional environment. Strong organi zational skills, exp. in use of daily planner; meticulous work. execution. Min. type 60 wpm. Superior verbal, written communication. Abstract thinker; Min. intermed level MS suite, Word, Excel, PPT.
Proven history in spreadsheets, formulas - bring examples. Cheerful, enthusiastic, can-do approach to problem solving. Remain poised amids pressures, deadlines. Sophist.

To Apply for This Position, Please Submit Introductory Cover Letter, Current Resume, and Salary

discrete interpersonal skills polished front-desk demeanor

Requirements to: Nancy M. Larke 322 N. Old Woodward Avenue, Suite 100 Birmingham, MI 48009 Or via e-Mail to: nlarke@tagllc.net MECHANIC

All around shop person. Must have own tools. Maintain fleet of vehicles. Diesel exp. needed. Serious inquiries pleasecall after 4pm 734-320-1886. **MECHANIC FOR TRAILERS**

Great Dane semi-trailer deal ership in Dearborn looking for qualified trailer mechanics w/min. 2 yrs. exp. and proper tools. Good pay & benefits, 401K. Call: 313-584-6879

MECHANIC HEAVY DUTY 3rd Shift

Experience with moto coaches preferred, but no mandatory. Heavy equipment & air conditioning experience required.

Excellent Pay & Benefits 401K with company Holidays and Vacations

We are looking for a career minded person who is interested in contributing to the success and growth of a stable and secure com-pany. A self-starter who knows how to get results. Contact Bob Frickson at

1-800-292-3831 989-725-6185 or send resumes to: 28685 Smith Rd. Romulus Mi 48174

MECHANICS & MECHANIC **TRAINEES** Immediate Openings!!!

Min 1 yr. exp. & your ow tools. Call 734-953-9700 or Fax your resume to 734-953-9701

MEDICAL BILLER for surgeon in Bloomfield Hills. Email or fax resume: pleatman@comcast.net 248-334-5484

MORTGAGE ORIGINATORS **Top** commission plus benefits for **Top** producers. Call Fred at 248-307-3640 or email

fred@liberty-lending.com A word to the wise. when looking for a great deal check the Observer & Eccentric Classifieds!

NETWORK ANALYST Virginia Tile in Livonia is seeking a FT Network Analyst. Must have 3-5 yrs exp with MS Servers, Active Directory, Cisco Routers, and MS Exchange. MCSA / MCSE

preferred. Full benefits. Send resume to hrmanager@virginiatile.com or fax 734-421-0993.

NEW CAR SALES POSTIONS

Great pay, benefits See Keith Land TENNYSON CHEVROLET 32570 Plymouth Rd Livonia, MI

NIGHT SHIFT FOREMAN Exp. Regid Apply at Quality Tool & Gear, 12693 Marlin Redford, MI 48239 Or fax resume to 313-532-1699

★ Oil Change

Technicians ★ 10 Minute Oil Change experi ence or will train. Full &/or part-time. Apply in person. 34680 W. 8 Mile Rd., Farmington Hills. ½ mile W. of Farmington Rd. 248-476-1313

OUTDOOR MAINTENANCE

PT position avail, at Livonia funeral home to do outside yard maintenance & garden-ing. Please call btwn 9-5pm, RG & GR Harris Funeral Home for more info 734-422-6720 PARKING LOT ATTENDANT Mature person preferred. Retirees welcomed. Apply in person. 111 S. Woodward, Suite

Birmingham. 9am-4 pm.

222,

Help Wanted-General 5000

PART-TIME OPENINGS \$15 base/appt. Customer sales/service, no experience necessary. Conditions exist. Apply Now! (248) 426-4405

PAYROLL

BOOKKEEPER Two years experience in com puterized accounting includ ing payroll: experienced with personal computers including spreadsheets; bookkeeping and/or accounting course-work at high school level, col-lege level preferred; typing test required; deadline 4pm March 30. For complete job posting and to download application access district website: www.pccs.k12.mi.us Plymouth-Canton Community Schools, 454 S. Harvey, Plymouth.

PET RESORT HELP WANTED Canton area, 734-397-8899

PLUMBER Retired master plumber to license with Pat's Sewer Cleaning Call 734-427-3192.

POLICY

All advertising published in the Observer and Eccentric Newspapers is subject to the conditions stated in the applicable rate card. (Copies are available from the advertising department, Observer and Eccentric News-papers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150 (734) 591-0900.) The Observer and Eccentric Newspapers reserves the right not to accept an advertiser's order, Observer and Eccentric Newspapers sales representatives have authority to bind this have paper and only publication of an advertisement shall consti-tute final acceptance of the advertiser's order. When more than one insertion of the same advertisement is ordered, no credit will be given unless notice of typographical or other errors is given in time for correction before the second insertion. Not responsible for omissions, Publisher's Notice All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968 which states that it is illegal to advertise "any preference limitation, or discrimina-tion". This news-paper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in

violation of the law. Our read

newspaper are available on an equal housing opportunity basis. (FR Doc, 724983 3-31-

72) Classified ads may be placed according to the dead-

lines. Advertisers are respon-

sible for reading their ad(s) the

first time it appears and

reporting any errors immediately. The Observer and Eccentric Newspapers will not

issue credit for errors in ads after THE FIRST INCORRECT

INSERTION, Equal Housing

Opportunity Statement: We ar

pledged to the letter and spiri

of U.S. policy for the achieve-ment of equal housing oppor-tunity throughout the nation.

We encourage and support an affirmative ad-vertising and

marketing pro-gram in which there are no barriers to obtain

housing because of race

color, religion or national ori-gin. Equal Housing

Housing

gin. Equal Housing Opportunity slogan: "Equal Housing Opportunity". Table III - Illustration of Publisher's

PRESSER

Silks & wools. Reliable trans

portation. Full time. West

PRODUCTION SANDBLASTER

For Monument Company Lifting required. Apply btwn.

9am-4pm, Mon-Fri. at: 580 S. Main St., Northville

PRODUCTION

TECHNICIANS

Due to growth our

Plymouth is recruiting for

Production Technicians.

Qualified candidates will

nave a related associat

degree and/or at least two

vears experience operating

maintaining and adjusting

manufacturing equipmen

to maximize production output while maintaining

quality & safety. Electrica and Mechanical experience

required. This is a 24/7

operation with various shifts/schedules. We offe

a competitive benefits package including medical

dental, 401K with compan

Send resume to

Attn: PT #14, email: HR@Absopure.com

Obsopure Water Co.

E.O.E.

QUALITY

CONTROL

TECHNICIANS

Growing company in Plymouth has a need for Quality Control Technicians

Responsibilities include: cleaning and sanitizing tanks, filters, and filling of tanks. Qualified candidates

will have 2 years of college

biology or chemistry, or 1 year QC experience in the

food/beverage industry, or allied field. Additional weekends & overtime will

be required as needed to support the needs of the

husiness. We offer com

petitive benefits package.

Submit resumes to:

Attn: QC #14 Email: HR@Absopure.com

Obsopine Water Co.

E.O.E.

THAT WORK FOR YOU!

1-800-579-SELL

Bloomfield. 248-202-9107

AT&T HIRED US Now We're Hiring You! EMS is a national firm, Seeking 12 ers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this

\$1500 + per week Transportation Needed
* No felonies

SCREW MACHINE **OPERATORS** With 3-5 years exp. Exc. pay.

SPRINKLER SERVICE TECHNICIAN For Landscape company

(734) 738-0002 TEACHERS/ LEAD & Only exp'd apply. Livonia area. Call 9-2:30 248-474-

LOWER-ELEMENTRAY MONTESSORI (EXP'D) Montessori School is expand ing and offering an exciting

reg. Contact Leila A.S.A.P. at 248-736-2949. Fax resume montessoricenterfh.com

Science, Fax resume 248-344-2206 or email clubz17@comcast.net

Credit Union is seeking motivated individual for part-time position. Mus have experience at a credi rately, cross sell products excellent interpersonal computer & organizationa

Must be available for

No phone calls accepted. E.O.E.

SUPERVISOR esponsible, well- organized individual with a background in warehouse management

and general maintenance Computer skills and chauf feur's license a plus.Fax resume to: (248) 304-1221.

Taylor area. Fax resumes Attn: Scott: (734) 955-6466

warehouse positions in Livonia MI. Must be reliable & have high scool diploma.

WELDER/FABRICATOR

fax or email resume to 248-305-7705/ resume@custom-electric.com or apply in person at Custom Electric Mfg, 48941 West Road, Wixom MI 48393

Full time. Maximum 2 yrs experience in PC hardware and Windows 2000?XP up, networking and trou-bleshooting. Configure and install new workstations and peripherals with common software applications, pro-vide help desk services, and perform preventative mainte-nance. TCP/IP network technology experience required Competitive salary and bene-fits. EOE. Send resume and salary requirements to: Computer Mgr. 23689 Industrial Park Dr.

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, classes with New Horizons. MI 48150. Ref Box #1500 oeresume@hometownlife.com

Target 13 Million Homes With Your Ad

Help Wanted-General 5000

QUALITY MANAGER

Midsize auto supplier looking for a team oriented Quality Manager with a 4 year degree

in Quality Assurance/ Engineering and 2-4 years exp in the plastics industry.

Managerial/Supervisory exp

important as well as technica

and processing knowledge The preferred candidate wil

have a thorough working knowledge of ISO, APQP, PPAP, MSA, SPC, QSA, cus-

tomer counter measure activi

ty, along with excellent writter

and verbal communication

skills. We offer competitive wages and benefits. EOE

Please submit your resume along with salary require-

Advertise your product or service to 13 million households in North America's best suburbs by placing your classified ad in 800 suburban newspapers just like this one. Only \$895 for a 25word ad. One phone call one invoice, one payment. Call the Suburban Classified Advertising Network fax-on demand service at 800-356 2061 or 312-644-6610 x4731 to speak with a sales coordinator.

with clientele Call 248-553-2480

ROUTE DRIVERS No experience necessary Apply TruGreenChemlawn 48932 Wixom Tech Dr. Wixom. 248-960-1216 248-960-1468 EOE/M/F/D/V/AA

SALES/CUSTOMER **SERVICE REPS**

\$600 - \$1,000 per week 2 Managers Needed

734-266-9086

area. Call 9-2:30 248-474 0001. After 3p 248-926-1656

and references to 248-851-4237 o email to leila@ TEACHERS/TUTORS NEEDED Premium \$ paid for Math &

TELLER

union or bank. Able to process transactions accu-

resume@priorityccu.com

TOW TRUCK DRIVER w/ exp., needed for Farmington Hills/ Southfield based co. Call 248-427-1869

WAREHOUSE Full-Time positions Full benefits.

WAREHOUSE POSITION

Starting pay \$9- \$10 p/hr. Email resume to

Wixom, MI manufacturing company has immediate open ing for FT welder/fabricator. Welding skills (TIG/MIG) & production management exp desired. This position offers excellent pay, paid medical, dental, life, disability coverage, 4011K, paid vacation/holidays, nd opportunities for OT. Please call **248-305-7700**

COMPUTER TECHNICIAN

TRAINING Want to earn 6 computer cer tifications in less than 1 year? Enroll now in March & April

fy. *A member of Works! Association* Help Wanted-Office

RECEPTIONIST - 2 days per week. STYLIST to rent space

Sales/Customer Service Reps

Call for interview

734-464-6856 Leave message

inimum 3 years exp. Good driving record a must.

Small general contractor, part-time. Flexible hrs. Computer exp. & AIA knowledge needed

opportunity for teachers. Excellent environment. Exp

Part-Time

skills. Reliable transporta tion, dependability, and flexibility will also be required, with possible travel between branches.

20 to 30 hours per week Email resumes to:

WAREHOUSE/ FACILITY

Immediate Openings
Illtime persons needed for

aillc001@yahoo.com or fax resume to 734-762-0814

Farmington Hills, MI 48335

1-866-307-1436 Job placement assistance & financing to those who quali *A member of the MI

5020 Account Receivable/Payable

Livonia. Mon-Fri. 7:30-3:30. Exp. needed. Email resume: Box 1504 oeresume@hometownlife.com **ADMINISTRATIVE**

ASSISTANT

20 hrs per week Mon- Fri Administrative exp. Proficient in Word & Excel. Life insurance agency in Bingham Farms Fax resume to Mr. Steinman at

248-647-6523

Administrative Assistant

35 hrs/per wk. Benefits. Competitive pay. Visit First Presbyterian Church of Farmington website for job description, qualifications & link to send resume. www.farmington-pres.org ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT Part time, 30 hours. Word Excel a plus. Email resume:

cheryl@ detection-systems.com **BOOKKEEPER**

Full charge bookkeeper will be responsible for payroll and benefits, A/R, A/P, daily cash management, collect tions, trial balance through Requires monthly quarterly and annual report ing to owners. Successful candidates will have a at least 7 years accounting experience or an account ing degree with 5 years experience. Must be able to prioritize tasks, meet dead effectively and profession ally. Compensation and benefits package competitive. Located in the Ann Arbor area. Send resume

jackie200@earthlink.net or fax to 586-775-0359 BOOKKEEPER, Full-Time for construction business. Mail resume: Mr. D., 27499

with cover letter and salary

Schoolcraft, Livonia MI 48150 BOOKKEEPER/SECRETARY Part-Time. Must know Excel Microsoft. 2 yrs. exp. 313-534-5930 BOOKKEEPER



DREAM Home? SHOPPING VIEW 30,000 Additional Homes ONLINE

www.hometownlife.com CHIROPRACTIC ASSISTANT Fast-paced Plymouth Chiro-practic office. Part Time. Mon., Wed. & Thurs. 2-7pm. Non-smoker. (734) 354-0020

CLERICAL PART-TIME For our outpatient services in Northville. Evenings, week-ends, some days. Prefer exp. in a medical setting. High school diploma, good customer service, general office/organizational skills. Send resume to:

Hegira Programs, Inc., 8623 N. Wayne Rd., Ste 200 Westland, MI 48185 **CUSTOMER SERVICE**

Detailed oriented with excellent follow through habits. Smal non-smoking office. Fax/email resume & salary requirements to: (734) 721-4000 jill@championsprinklers.com

CUSTOMER SERVICE for Insurance Office. Need mature, reliable, helpful, riendly professional to assist us. We provide training in a professional workplace. Hrs.: Mon. & Tues, 2-7pm, Wed, Thurs, Fri,

position w/ growth poten-

10am-2pm.

Permanent

tial. Call 734-546-8400. **Executive Assistant** Downtown Northville firm looking for competent & detailed individual to work closely w/owner of boutique financial firm. Duties include: working with Microsoft Word & Excel, developing marketing materials and managing schedule, 30 hours/week

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT Needed for wide range of func-

Email resume: kwarner@

midtownfinancial.com

tions including brochure development, mailers, bookkeeping, office administration, contact management, scheduling, etc. Need advanced skills on MS Office Suite. Flex hours. Send Office Suite. Flex hours. Con-resume and salary regs. to: Stebb Assoc., 300 Park St. Suite 400, Birmingham, MI 48009

GENERAL OFFICE al office help. Exp in answer ing phone, data entry and typ-ing a must. Approximately 30 hours per week. Please send resume to Cindy Ball, 26555 Evergreen Rd, Suite 1530 Southfield, MI 48076 or emai cmball@gurstenlaw.com

GENERAL OFFICE WORK with background in graphic design. Part time 20-30 hrs design. Falt line 20-30 his per week. Computer knowl-edge of IN Design, PhotoShop, Illustrator, and Quark Express. Resume to: PIM, Attn Nick Wagner, 23815

Northwestern Hv Southfield, MI 48075-7713 OFFICE ASSISTANT General office duties to include answering telephones, data entry for AR, AP, payroll, filing, scheduling appointments. Good communication skills a must. Full time position with benefits. \$10-12 per hr. Email

resume showing relevant exp. to JobOff9@aol.com

OFFICE MANAGER Seeking a qualified individ-ual to serve as Office Manager for a Licensec Home for Aged in West Bloomfield. Must be a selfstarter, organized, able to handle multiple tasks/ projects, strong computer knowledge, people skills and leadership. Prefer 2 years college or related experience. Excellent benefits and salary.

Email resume to: bgiles@jhas.org Fax to: 248-661-1628. Attention: B. Giles 6710 W. Maple Rd. West Bloomfield, MI 48322

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT Requirements At least 2 years experience in real estate. (Preferably licensed agent) 3 years experience as an admin, clerical and/or secretarial work Must be fluent with Microsoft office (i.e. Word and Excel, etc)

Must be capable of multi-

task at a very high pace

Availability has to be 30 to Monday thru Friday Pay rate based on experience

 (w/potential bonuses)
 90-day probation and after 90-days potential raise Please be prepared to take Real Estate test

All resumes should be

e-mailed as an attachment to

tammybias@kw.com RECEPTIONIST Canton Mortgage Broker seeks F/T receptionist \$7.00 non-negotiable, benefit package. start date ASAP Fax Besume to Cortney at 734-455-5713

RECEPTIONIST Full time receptionist opportunity in boutique Birmingham law firm. Candidates must have experience as a receptionist answering multi-line phones, filing, copying and faxing. Computer experience preferred. High profile clien-tele. Looking for a compassionate, upbeat person with excellent telephone skills who relates well with all people, is hardworking, dependable, organized, a team player, and organized, a team player, and is able to multi-task. Salary consistent with experience and ability. References required. Please fax resume to

Laura, 248-642-7878, or e-mail to lec@lfjfs.com Sale Associates/ Office Manager QuickBooks. New construction

exp. is a must. 734-422-5557

5030 igineering Research Engineer

Plymouth, Mi) - Develop prorietary software algorithms for machine vision applicaions used in the automotive plant, aerospace, and general manufacturing environments. Masters Degree in Mechanical Engineering or Manufacturing Engineering required. 40 hrs/ wk. Mail resume to: VRSI, Inc. Attn: HR 47019 Five Mile

Rd. Plymouth MI 48170 E.O.E. 5040 Help Wanted-Dental

DENTAL ASSISTANT Exp'd only. Enjoy the enthusiasm of our progressive dental

DENTAL ASSISTANT

practice. (248) 474-0224

Friendly, busy pediatric dental office in Novi seeking full-time assistant. Exp. preferred. Will train. Must be detail oriented. calm, self-starter, & adaptable to change. No evenings. Benefits. (248) 478-3232 Benefits. DENTAL ASSISTANT: Part-Time Chairside Assistant need ed in Plymouth, Mon-Thurs

DENTAL FRONT DESK Great office & nice staff. Dental exp. & computer knowledge a must. Full-time. (734) 425-4206

afternoons. (734) 459-9360

THAT WORK FOR YOU! 1-800-579-SELI

Time for progressive Westland Wayne area office. Benefits DENTAL RECEPTIONIST

Southfield office Minimum

3 yrs. dental experience

a must! Computer liferate

& PPO/HMO knowledge

Excellent salary/benefits

Call: 866-869-9445

DENTAL RECEPTIONIST Full-

Help Wanted-Dental

FRONT DESK RECEPTIONIST/MANAGER A terrific opportunity at a new family oriented dental practice. Looking for Dental & Dentrix experience. Needs to be organized, friendly, multi-task & capable individual. Fax to: 734-844-0136

MEDICAL RECRUITMENT

- RNs
- Case ManagersMedical Receptionists LPNs Dental Assistants Respiratory Therapist
- Medical Assistants Nurse Managers
- PsychologistsMedical Biller And more! If you are looking to place

an ad for any of the above positions, check out our: MEDICAL RECRUITMENT

SECTION You can place your ad for only \$46/inch (three inch min.)! The Observer & Eccentric's Medical Recruitment Section will publish on Sunday, November 19th. Deadline to place an ad in this section is Monday,
November 20th at 5pm.
Contact one of our

> 1-800-579-7355 oeads@ hometownlife.com Observer & Eccentric

Help Wanted-Medical 5060

Representative for more

information, or to reserve

ADMISSIONS/MARKETING Assisted Care in Livonia. Exp'd, Excel People person, with sense of urgency. Call (248) 212-4740

week to start. Email resume kabgcg@yahoo.com CHIROPRACTIC OFFICE MGR/INSURANCE BILLER For a fast-paced Farmingto Hills health center. Organized self-motivated, good commu-nicator, energetic, detail ori-ented, computer. Part time long term. 3+ yrs exp. in chiropractic & insurance req.

248-626-5006

ASSISTANT to office manager

for doctor office. Two days per

DIRECT CARE STAFF Needed, full or part time, benefits available. \$7.46/hr. Call Debbie: 734-524-1361

Front End Biller/Receptionist

For small office. Part-Time Must multi-task. 2 yrs. exp

Fax resume: (734) 293-5379

FRONT OFFICE

Busy medicine/pediatric office in Farmington Hills seeks motivated self starter to work front office. Fulltime & benefits. Please fax resume to 248-477-6850 LIVE-IN CAREGIVERS

For elderly. 2-3 days p/week. Must have exp. & references. Call 248-350-8700 LPN/RN

MEDILODGE

of Plymouth

Experienced LPN/RN for

Midnight Shift. If you are looking for a friendly work ing environment in a small senior nursing facility. Please Call: (734) 453-3983

MEDICAL ASSISTANT

Experienced for Livonia area Please fax 248-476-6452.

Liverson



www.hometownlife.com

MEDICAL **ASSISTANT**

IHA's Cherry Hill Internal Medicine is seeking a fulltime Medical Assistant, with responsibility for rooming patients, vitals, assisting in direct patient care and communicating information between the patient and provider. We require excellent customer service skills and previous experience as a Medical Assistant. Competitive salary and excellent benefits package offered.

> Please send resume to: Melissa Stifter, Nurse Manager, via email at melissa stifter@ ihacares.com or fax to 734.398.7805

Help Wanted-Medical 5060

MEDICAL & DENTAL RECRUTMENT

Medical Assistants

Nurse Managers

Psychologists
 Medical Biller

Dental Receptionist

If you are looking to place an ad for any of the above

positions, check out our

MEDICAL & DENTAL

RECRUITMENT

SECTION

You can place your ad for only \$50/inch (three inch min.)! The Observer &

Eccentric's Medical &

Dental Recruitment Sec

tion will publish the last Sunday of each month. Deadline to place an ad in

this section is eacl

Monday prior to the pub-lication date. Contact one

of our Representative for more information, or to

1-800-579-7355

or email

oeads@

hometownlife.com

Observer & Eccentric

Erickson Retirement Com-

munities, the leader in affordable, worry-free con-

tinuing care retirement, has an exciting opportunity at Fox Run, located in Novi,

MEDICAL PRACTICE

MANAGER

The desired candidate will

provide leadership and

management to the daily operations of a Geriatric

Medicine practice. Responsibilities include

directing and supervising all office functions, work-ing effectively with and

resolving physician, patient and employee

issues, training new and

existing staff, managing a

budget, and financial reporting. Knowledge on aspects of medical billing, including ICD-9, CPT and HCPCS coding is req'd. The candidate must be able to subtract and the conditions of the conditions of the candidate of the conditions of the condit

to multitask and be a team player within a corporate structure. Bachelor's

degree preferred with 3-5 years current experience in

medical office manage-ment. Competitive salary

At Erickson, we've created communities since 1983

pelieve in your dedication to

the same ideal. If you are looking for a challenging position with an innovative

industry leader, join us, and make our success yours.

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Sunday, March 11, 2007

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

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Choosing an AC system that benefits the environment

(NAPSI) — There are many factors to consider when replacing or installing an air-conditioning or heat pump system and one of them is the environment. Besides comfort issues, such as cold spots, drafts, humidity and air quality, the air conditioner should also be environmentally friendly.

According to the Clean Air Act, by the year 2010, heating, ventilating and air-conditioning (HVAC) manufacturers can no longer produce new air conditioners and heat pumps that use R-22 refrigerant, a hydrochlorofluorocarbon (HCFC) that contributes to ozone deple-

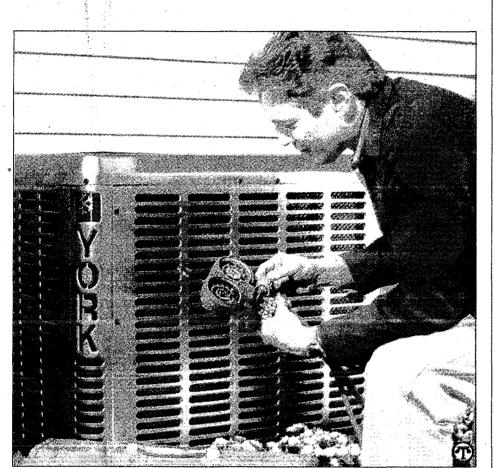
Since R-410A will likely become the new refrigerant standard to replace R-22, HVAC manufacturers are already starting to produce air-conditioning equipment that uses this refrigerant.

However, refrigerant substitutes, such as R-410A, cannot be used in an air conditioner that currently operates with R-22 refrigerant, unless a contractor makes some changes to the HVAC sys-

New cooling systems, on the other hand, incorporate compressors and other components specifically designed for use with environmentally friendly replacement refrigerants, such as R-

Another point for homeowners to keep in mind is that the HVAC contractor they select should be properly trained in the installation and service techniques required for the use of substitute refrigerants, like R-410A.

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), homeowners should select a reputable contractor that employs service technicians who are EPA- and NATE-certified to handle refrigerants. Properly installed AC systems rarely develop refrigerant leaks,



Make sure the HVAC contractor that you select is certified and knows about the latest environmentally friendly regulations concerning air conditioners.

and with proper servicing, a system using refrigerant will have a minimal impact on the environment.

ENERGY-EFFICIENT EQUIPMENT

Another important thing homeowners can do for the environment and their wallets is to purchase an energyefficient system. HVAC manufacturers, such as Johnson Controls, offer several types of energy-efficient air conditioners. For example, the York® Affinity™ 15+ SEER air conditioner uses innovative scroll compressor technology that features a two-stage design, making it as much as 60 percent more efficient than traditional air-conditioning units.

To learn more about energy-efficient and environmentally responsible airconditioning systems, call (877) 874-7378 or visit www.yorkupg.com/affinity.

Parade of Homes opens Friday

Parade of Homes, the 18th annual exhibition of new model homes located across southeastern Michigan, will open on March 16. The formerly monthlong event is being extended this year, and will run through Aug. 1. Building Industry Association of Southeastern Michigan and LaSalle Bank are the sponsors.

"There has never been a better time to buy a new home in Michigan," said Richard Ives, president of BIA. "Extending the program to nearly five months will give the community more of an opportunity to see the incredible homes that are available all over the region, and at a time when new homebuyers are enjoying historically low interest rates. This is truly a buyer's market."

The Parade of Homes offers potential homebuyers an opportunity to visit the area's finest model homes, from condominiums and single-family homes to homes in gated communities and lakeside villas. Participants will also have an opportunity to see firsthand the latest trends in architecture, interior design, amenities and materials. The 58 model homes range in price from \$97,400 to \$1.4 million.

Architects and building industry experts will judge the homes and award winners in several categories prior to the event opening. This year's judges are Sharon Glinka of La Salle Bank; Michael Gordon, AIA, of Moiseev/Gordon Associates Inc.; and Michael T. Miller, AIA, of The Design Group. The judges will make their decisions based on the use of innovative design, use of space, aesthetic appeal of the home and value for

PARADE OF HOMES

What: An exhibition of 58 new model homes located throughout southeastern Michigan. The free scattered site showcase of new homes gives potential homebuyers an opportunity to visit the area's finest model homes.

When: March 16 through Aug. 1,

Where: Throughout southeastern Michigan

Features: An array of homes ranging from condominiums and single-family homes, to homes in gated communities and lakeside villas.

A Parade of Homes magazine containing renderings, features, and location maps for all homes will be available at 300 LaSalle Bank branches and 205 CVS/pharmacy locations throughout southeastern Michigan, at all participating model homes, and at BIA's Spring Home & Garden Show, April 13-15 at the Rock Financial Showplace in Novi.

For additional information on the 2007 Spring Parade of Homes, call (248) 862-1032 or visit www.builders.org. The Parade of Homes Web site, www.BIAparadeofhomes.com, will go live on March 16 and will feature informative news stories on home ownership and economic issues as well as details on each home.

BIA and LaSalle Bank will also sponsor a Parade of Homes event in the fall.



Elegance is within reach... Kheder Homes presents Charleston Park... a refreshing change from the ordinary!

From the \$290's

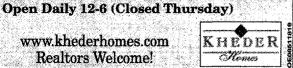
Just steps from downtown South Lyon, the Charleston Park community is nestled within an exquisite, natural setting and offers many superior amenities:

- 111 acres of lush landscape;
- Wooded, cul-de-sac, walk-out & daylight homesites;
- · Ranch, colonial and cape cod homes;
- Exceptional South Lyon schools;
- · City services;
- Tot lot, and much, much more!

Located on 10 Mile, 1/2 Mile West of Pontiac Trail

(248)446-2100"Parade of Homes" Model Hours

www.khederhomes.com Realtors Welcome!





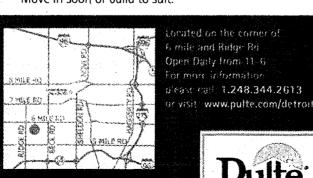
Your Kids Have Successfully Moved On. You Deserve More

Than a New Coat of Paint.

Your kids are grown. You have more time and resources to enjoy life - and each other. And we know what you want because we've been listening to people just like you for almost 60 years. Impressive location. Something sized just right for the two of you. And all the extras you deserve without costly upgrades.

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- around the corner from quaint downtown Northville.
- Low Northville Twp. taxes. *Move in soon or build to suit.



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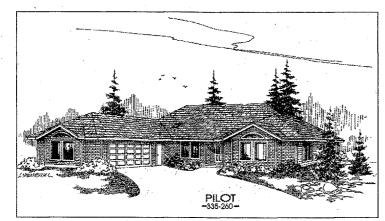
The Upland team is committed to delivering quality construction

Elegant Pilot perfect fit for medium-sized lot

Brick and glass dominate the front view of the handsomely planned Pilot (335-260). Designed for a medium-sized lot, the interior of this 2,475-square-foot gem is a perfect match for the elegant exterior. Windows surround the rear entry to the family room, allowing the available sunlight to brighten the entire area.

Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, March 11, 2007

The two-car garage boasts 595 square feet that is partially dedicated to the do-ityourself person or hobbyist in the family. At one end is a liberal shop area with builtin workbench and overhead storage cabinets. The opposite end of the garage has another built-in workbench set beneath twin windows. It is possible to step directly from the garage, through the skylit utility room, and into the kitchen. This positioning will allow you to unload groceries quickly and safely, with no concern for the weather. Once inside the Pilot, the excellent allotment of space is unmistakable. On the left side of the floor plan, a long skylit hallway leads to the two secondary bedrooms and home office. The bedrooms are identical in size and will work well for a family with

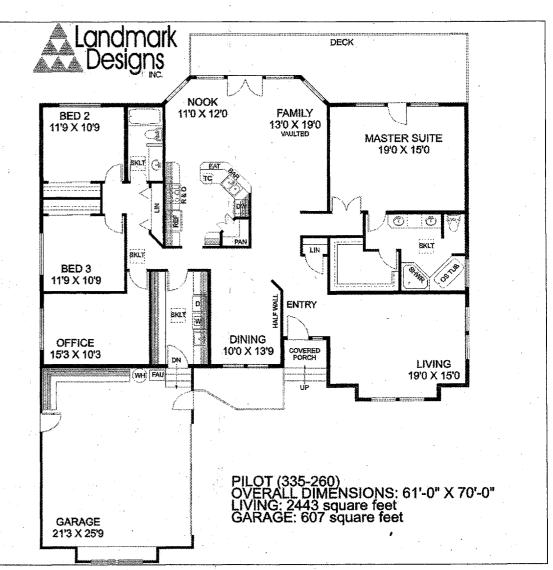


children old enough to get by without constant supervision, or they can serve as guest accommodations for empty nesters. There is a full bathroom and generous linen storage off the hallway, and each bedroom has a large closet. Install a computer, filing cabinet and some chairs in the home office, and you can maintain the household accounts while students in the home will have a tranquil place to study.

The isolated master suite is sure to please. Amenities here include a big sleeping area, huge walk-in closet and private bathroom with skylight, double vanity, spa and tub. There is also a personal door to the back.

The cook in the house will appreciate the walk-through design of the kitchen. Serving meals to either the nook or the dining room is easily done. The kitchen features a raised eating bar, handy pantry and trash compactor.

For a study plan of the PILOT (335-260), send \$15, to Landmark Designs, 33127 Saginaw Rd. E., Cottage Grove, OR 97424 or call (800) 562-1151. Be sure to specify plan name and number. Compact discs, with search functions, are free of charge, to help you search our portfolio for your dream home (\$5 shipping and handling will apply). Or you may order or search online at www.ldiplans.com.





It's the best time to invest in Michigan?

In the 75 years since my grandfather founded our company, there has rarely been a better combination of low interest rates and a larger inventory of homes, making this year the best time to purchase your home.

- Dan Elsea, President, Brokerage Services

RealEstateOne.com



LIVONIA-Many of the major updates have been done- windows, furnace, a/c, copper mbing, all hardwood floors have ius been refinished, and lots of neutral paint! Call Jim Donohoe.

OPEN HOUSE 1-4

LIVONIA - Super solid brick bungalow with a warm up north homey feel. Great updates include newer roof t/o, newer electrical HWH, gar doors too. Mechanics dream garage w/220 amp serv, heat, dry-walled and built in air lines, 2nd story for studio or storage. Call Jim Donohoe



SOUTHFIELD Fireplace, custom California closets, Custom blinds t-o, neutral carpet & Maple kitchen cabinets The FP is gas w/ lovely surround, 2 car



WESTLAND - Beautiful kitchen w/new cabinets, counter tops, & floor, Freshly hardwood firs, nicely updated bath, new light fixtures thru-out. New H-20 tank, All appls are incl. Nice covered patio in bkyd. Call Ed Bowlin



NOVI - Open staircase to loft and bedrooms, a Jack and Jill bath and a grand double door entrance to the master ste featuring bath w/garden tub and lg w-i shower. Lovely cherry kitch cabs, a built in china cabinet & center island w/Corian top 1st fir laundry. Call Cheryl Krug.



LIVONIA - Great starter home for family wanting Livonia schools. Hardwood floors pool table. Needs some TLC. Call Cheryl

\$164,900

\$139,900

734-276-3731

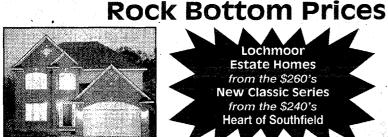
Condominiums

R

Livonia (734) 591-9200 38705 Seven Mile Road, Suite 150 Plymouth (734) 455-7000 217 W. Ann Arbor Road

NEW HOME DIRECTORY

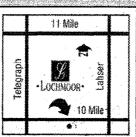
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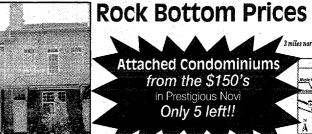
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Model Phone: (734) 578-7635 **Model Hours:** Noon-6:00 p.m. Daily. Closed Thursday www.landmarcbuilding.com

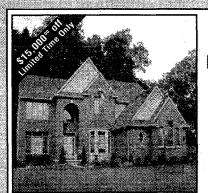


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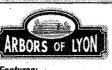
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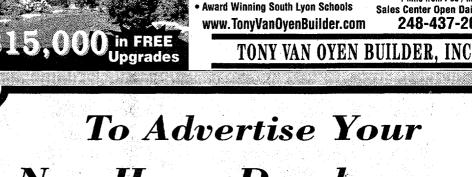
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Observer Eccentric



Homes

HOWELL - New Construction Builder Close-Outs. Major price reductions! Two 1760 sq.ft. 2-story homes near historic downtown. \$219,900. One 2122sq.ft., 4BR \$259,900. 517-404-3016 or

3030

Open Houses

BEVERLY HILLS 31330 PICKWICK; OPEN 1-4 N/ 13 Mile, W/ Southfield Rd Reduced \$20,000! Walk to Beverly Park! Updated 4 bdrm, 3 bath brick ranch w/ finished level walkout. \$319,000 STEVE MACKE, RE/MAX in the Hills 248-563-6811, 248-646-6000

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CANTON OPEN SUN 2-4 46633 Aarons Way River Meadows sub off Geddes Rd. Must see home- 4 bdrm. 2 1/2 bath. Finished basemen with custom bar. Large inground pool. \$279,000. Teamone Realty (734) 218-3935

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Real Estate One 734-662-8600 FARMINGTON HILLS OPEN HOUSE SUN 12-3 21125 SUNNYDALE N of 8 Mile, W of Orchard Lk. Updated 3 bdrm ranch on nearly an acre! Bsmt, 3 car



INTEGRITY REALTORS 16172 Middlebelt Rd.

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room w/WIC, bath, fireplace. 1-year home warranty. \$309,000. View this www.mariavitto.com Maria Vitto 248-342-4378 Max Broock Inc

248-656-6500 **FARMINGTON HILLS** OPEN SUN 1-4; 36114 Hardenburg,

N/11 Mile, W/Drake Gorgeous 4 bdrm 3 1/2 bath Colonial features: 3 car garage, fin bsmt & in-law or student suite with separate entrance. \$424,900, (26215067)

CENTURY 21 HARTFORD (248) 478-6000

By Owner

LIVONIA 14542 Melrose, Merriman /Lyndon, Open Sun 12-4. 4 bdrm., 1.5 bath brick ranch. Beautifully remodeled. New roof, windows, deck, refinished hardwood floors thru All new kitchen ceramic tile, maple cabinets new Whirlpool appliances Full bath updated. Finished bsmt w/new carpet \$179,000. 248-914-1325

LIVONIA March. 11th, 1-4pm 37781 Grantland, Newburgh S. of Schoolcraft. 3 bdrm., 3 bath, half acre fenced w/pool, \$229,900 734-432-0654

Northville OPEN HOUSE SUNDAY 17059 Carriage Way \$40K Price reduction on stun-ningly beautiful Colonial w/over 3700 sq ft of luxury living! \$499,000.00. Northville Ridge Sub - S side of 6 mile W of Ridge Rd Century 21 Town & Country,

Laine Buszka (248) 735-2540 NOVI OPEN SUN 1-4 22649 Foxmoor (N/of 9 mile, W/off Tatt) 4 bdrm, 2.5 bath, Colonial some updates, finished bsmt. Asking \$379,000.

Call Wendy 248-982-5291 Re/Max Classic

734-432-1010 REDFORD RANCH OPEN SUN. 1-4

26361 Barbara 3 bdrm, 2.5 baths, bsm family room. \$139,900. Call Kathy 734-262-5570 Remerica Signature 734-432-9700

TROY OPEN SUNDAY 1-4 4797 Rivers Edge Dr S/Long Lake, W/Coolidge Oak River Ranch. Very open floorplan has 3 bdrms, 2 Master Stes. & 4 full baths! Kitchen, breakfast rm & sitting area, living room w/cathedra ceiling, courtyard in front Very private treed back yardw/deck. \$449,000 or L-\$2,70

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By Owner

Large 2250 sq.ft. Ranch. Only Large 2230 Sq.ft. Hanch, Only \$299,000. WOW! Well below market. 3 bdrm, 1.5 bath, many upgrades. First floor laundry/craft. Family room w/fireplace. Walk-out bsmt, 3 car garage. Lg. wooded lot, walk to park and Birmingham schools. MUST SELL! (248) 593-0363

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By Owner

BLOOMFIELD TWP Westchester Village Sub Birmingham schools, beau tiful refinished, white Oak floors, newly painted and carpeted built-ins, fireplace all appliances, updated kitchen and bath, great home or investment. home or investment \$299,000. Agents welcome 248-884-4863 248-553-8213

Brighton



1.5 story contemporary home with 3 br., 2.5 baths, walkout lower level finished. Call 810-333-3029 for more info or personal tour

Dearborn Hgts •

BAD CREDIT OKAY Land contract or rent-to-own. Big 3 bdrm, 2 bath, bsmt., 2 car. NO 888-856-7034

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3 BEDROOM RANCH Grantite kitchen, hardwood floors, full basement, garage. \$134.899. BEAUTIFUL

Cape Cod, large updated kitchen. Partially finished basement, garage, \$142,900 Century 21 Castelli 734-525-7900 **GORGEOUS**

Close to Farmington Elemer tary - great location, 3 bdrm 2 bath, finished bsmt, garage All updated top to bottom DENISE McGUIGAN

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HOWELL - New Construction Builder Close-Outs, Major sq.ft. 2-story homes near his-toric downtown. \$219,900. One 2122sq.ft., 4BR \$259,900. 517-404-3016 or www.franksoavebuilder.com

Keego Harbor

By Owner

CASS LAKE ACCESS 2 bdrm, 1 bath, W Bloomfield schools. Wood laminate flooring, vaulted ceilings, skylights, al appliances, baseboard heat, privacy backyard great \$98,500. starter home. . 248-705-8245

Livonia

FOR SALE BY OWNER Beautiful setting backing to woods, 3 bdrm, 1.5 bath ranch, attach garage, finishe bsmt. many updates, 14660 Yale. \$189,000. 734 462-0714

HIGHEST BIDDER-BY OWNER Spacious Colonial 3 bdrm, 1.5 bath, 1609 sq. ft. \$159,900 or Best Offer. Inspecton March 17 & 18 Sat./Sun. 10-5. Home will be sold Sun. night to HIGHEST

BIDDER. Details Contact 734-812-1330 IMMACULATE - BUILT 1998 3 bedroom, 1.5 bath ranch. 1325 sq.ft., 1/4 acre, attached garage, custom kitchen with nook. 248-767-8354

www.31181richland.com LIVONIA-OPEN SUN 2-4PM 18352 Floral; S of 7 Mile htwn Middlebelt and Inkster Beautiful opportunity! 1220 sq. ft. 3 bdrm, 1 bath home on sq. 1. 3 bdrfff, 1 bdff florie bri ig 90X137 (.28A) lot. Double sized garage, plenty of stor-age, carport too! Most appli-ances incl. (MLS#27036741) CALL DAN WIERSIG

MAYFAIR REALTORS (734) 522-8000

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UPDATED RANCH Great 3 bdrm, full finished bsmt & garage. In past 10 vrs. - new - windows, furnace siding, gutters, remodeled

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bath, big oak kitchen & more!

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By Owner WEST BLIOMFIELD

West Bloomfild

5702 Brafford Dr. Gorgeous 5|21 sq.ft., story brick uxury home. New kitchen, bdrms, 4 1/2 baths, 2 fireblaces, 3 car attached garaje. Great location, immacuate, like new \$3,000,000.586-932-1234

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NO QUALIFYING Land Contract, 2 & 3 bdrms homes, \$2500down, \$650/monthly Ross Realty

(734) 3:6-8300 WEST WESTIAND RANCH bedroom, 1/2 bath brick ranch next to Canton. Roof, furnace, C/A, vindows w/in past 5 years. Feady for you now! \$130.000

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3450

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WHITE LAKE Cape Cod on private cul-de-sac,|1850 sq.ft 4 bdrm, 2 1/2 bths, 2 1/2 acres. Appraised over \$320K must sacrifice | \$260.000 New appliances, washer & dryer, hot tub. 1800 sq.ft.deck, 2 1/2 ar garage. No unreasonable (ffer turned down. Call 248-82 -1566

3520 Livingston County

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Oakland County

By Owner

WASHINGTON TWP Aprox 4200 sq. ft. anch, 5 bedrooms, 5.5 baths, 2 full kitchens, finished basement, walk out to pool: Outdoo pool bathroom, home the-ater, vaulted ceiling, sustom woodwork. 3.5 car garage Home site sits on 2 jonds \$1,450,000. For more info. 810-602-3368 Appt. Only

Lakefront/Waterfront 3580



By Owner

Cass Lake's Dollar Bay Built 2002, 2200 sq.ft., 4 bdrm, 2.5 bath, all granite all appliances, garage, gas fireplace, master w/balcony hardwood, 1st floor laun dry, 3 boat slips, too much to mention! W. Bloomfield schools. Just Reduce \$399,000, 248-640-2652

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By Owner

BIRMINGHAM Steal this condo! Lowest price in quiet building. Walk to downtown. 15 & Southfield. 2 bdrm, 2 bath.

1100 sq.ft., clean, wood floors, private balcony, car move-in \$185,000. 248-553-3007 CANTON - Golf Course Setting - 2 bdrm, 2 1/2 bath,

many updates, finished bsmt 734-595-0013 LIVONIA DETACHED RANCH Open 12-3:00: 30241 Vassar N off 7 Mile, W of Middlebelt

2 bdrm. 2 bath, full bsmt, 2 car garage. Built in 1997. Beautiful DENISE MCGUIGAN 734-564-4310 REMERICA HOMETOWN III

6231 N. Canton Center Rd.

3720

LIVONIA LOVELY 3 bdrm. 3.5 bath, over 1800 sq.ft. 2 car garage & finished bsmt. built in 1991 - Wow! Newburgh & Ann Arbor Trail Immaculate condition with newer appliances! \$199,900

Condos

734-564-4310 REMERICA HOMETOWN III 6231 N. Canton Center Rd NORTHVILLE ~ 2 br., 2 baths 1500sq.ft. 6 Mile/Ridge.

DENISE McGUIGAN

Ridgewood Elementary \$182,500 248-320-1699 Duplexes & 3730

By Owner

ROCHESTER DUPLEX 524 Ludlow. Walkout bsm Totálly remode<mark>led inside 8</mark> out. 3 bdrm down w/ 1.5 & 2 bdrm up w/1 bath. Newer furnace, wate tank, electrical, appliances windows, siding & flooring \$337,300. 248-656-346

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in Cannes 43 Campus building 45 Some

newlyweds 46 Put up alfalfa 48 Unduly 49 Appliance-tag

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DOWN 1 Holy cats!

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21 Yes, to Yvette

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22 Flour holder 24 Labyrinths 26 Did a clerk's job 28 Like Capp's

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30 Murky 32 Answers a charge 34 Gets a whiff 35 Roost sitter

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shrieks

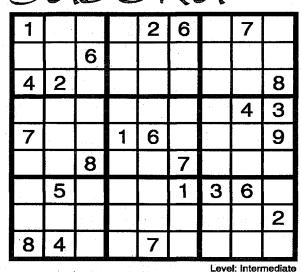
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THE WORDS READ UP, DOWN AND ACROSS.

BEAR

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CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE

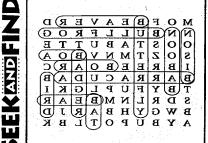
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CANTON-Beautiful condo 3 bdrm, 1 1/2 bath bsmt, all appli ances. \$,050/mo. Call Eugen: 734-834-4854

CLAWSON/BOYAL OAK Broadare at Manitou – N. of 14/Nile, E. off Crooks. WOW! Must see these beautifully updated 2 bdrm., 1.5 bath townhomes with custom moldings & paint, tsmts., private vards Check out our carports. Check out out 19'x12' master bedroom! The Beneicke Group

(248) 642-8686 FARMINGTON HILLS - 2100 sq.ft/, new decor, underground parking, pool, clubhouse, \$1350/mo. 248-953-4461 MILFORD- 2 bdrm, 1 bath downlown, appliances. \$750/ mo cr option to buy. Great investment! 248-345-7086

NORTHVILLE CONDO FOR

RENT Lg 1 bdrm., 1 bath. Heat & water incl. \$650/mo. 24 hr. recorded message 866-237-2647 ext 21 NORTHVILLE - Nice 2 bdrm, 3 bath, finished bsmt, attached

2 car garage, new paint & car-pet, neutral. Avail April 1st. Minimum 1 yr lease. Ref. \$1390/mo. 734-646-3643 PLYMOUTH - 1 bdrm, 1 bath, garage, balcony, heat, launno smoking / no pets 0/mo. (734) 455-1487

SOUTHFIELD 2 Bedrooms 2 baths, carport, laundry facilities, pool. Quiet complex, great location. Newly remodeled 2nd floor w/all appliances. No pets! Imme diate Occupancy. \$850 + security + utilities A MUST SEE! \$850 - 248-991-1472

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Spacious FARMINGTON- 22773 Violet 2 & 3 bedroom Orhcard Lk/GrandRiver, Clean townhomes 2 bdrm, bsmt. \$950/mo. 0 dep. Call Tom: 248-739-1180 2 car attached garage and fireplace **FARMINGTON HILLS** All For As Low As

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FARMINGTON HILLS 2 bdrm. 2 bath, updated kitchen, bsmt., storage, 2 carports, pool/clubhouse. \$1200/mo. D&HProperties-248-888-9133

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FARMINGTON HILLS- 2000

sq.ft., remodeled 4 bdrm, 3 bath, lg yard, 2 car att. garage. \$1375/mo. 248-872-3572

Homes For Rent

FARMINGTON HILLS 3 bdrm, 1 1/2 bath, fireplace, 1294 sq.ft., 2 car attached. N of 13 Mile, \$1400/mo 248-477-5184

FARMINGTON HILLS bedrooms, 2 bath, brick home. \$1100/month. New kitchen, fenced backvard

Immediate occupancy. 248-476-5325 FARMINGTON HILLS bdrm, 2 baths, C/A, 2 car garage. All new appliances. No pets! Avail now! Ref & denocit pets! Avail now! Ref & deposit req. \$1350/mo. 810-560-2089

FARMINGTON HILLS - Cute 2 bdrm brick ranch, finished bsmt, kitchen appliances option. \$850, 248-788-1823 FARMINGTON HILLS - Large, nicely finished, 3 bdrm, 2 bath bsmt, quiet neighborhood 248-497-9951

\$1095/mo. FERNDALE- Updated 3 bdrm family/dining room, bsmt, appliances. Wood floors. \$875/mo. + sec 313-999-4540 GARDEN CITY - 2 bdrm w/bsmt, pets neg. \$750/mo. + dep. Also 4 bdrm Inkster

home w/bsmt. 734-658-3275 GARDEN CITY (N) - 3 bdrm bungalow, new carpet, VERY clean, all appliances, big yard. \$900/mo., Call: 734-536-8976 GARDEN CITY, Sharp remodeled 3 bdrm, hardwood/carpet, bsmt. \$850/mo. + 1½

sec. Sec 8 ok. 734-397-8074 HOMES FOR RENT **Located In Canton** Starting at \$699/mo, \$0 Application Fee

Sharp 3 Bdrm, 2 Bath homes from 924 sq.ft. Appliances included Pets welcome Ask about our specials Call Sandy at Sun Homes (888) 372-9017 *Offer expires 3/31/07 Exclusive Skyline/

Clayton Retailer INKSTER- 2 homes, 1- three bdrm, 1 four brdm. HIGHLAND-1 home, 4 bdrm 248-894-1364

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Garage, 2 bedroom, 2 bath, \$1295/mg. W.BLOOMFIELD-Waterford 3 Bdrm, 2baths, \$1895/mo. PLYMOUTH Ranch Condo, \$1295/mo. AAA Leasing 248-471-7368

LIVONIA - Clean 2 bdrm brick fireplace, finished bsmt, fenced yard, pets neg. \$840/ mo. +security. 734-425-9225 LIVONIA- Ranch, 3 bdrm, 1.5 bath, completely remodeled, new 2.5 car garage & appli-ances. Beauty in a great

neighborhood. \$1250/mo. 734-968-3911 NOVI 22747 Shadow Pine. 9 Mile & Meadowbrook area. 3 bdrm, 2 bath ranch, 2 car attached garage, appliances. Novi schools. \$1350. 248-355-2200

OAK PARK - Cute 2 bdrm brick

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3 bdrm, 1.5 bath, fireplace, large fenced yd. Avail. immed. \$1095/mo. (248) 735-5464 REDFORD-15370 LEONA

REDFORD - 18603 Norborne, 3 bdrm, xlg. garage, c/a, appliances, no bsmt, \$1000/mo



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E5



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lomes For Rent

REDFORD 2 bdrm., 1 bath, 2 1/2 car garage, large lot, quiet street. \$850/mo. 12280 San Jose, Redford. Call 313-937-7933

REDFORD 20449 Woodworth, 3 bdrm, air, full bsmt. Pets neg. \$975/mo. with option. Call: 734-461-3155

REDFORD - 3 bdrm, 1.5 bath, 1000 sq.ft. ranch. Very updated, with 2 car garage. With appliances. \$900/mo. Keller Williams Realty Call Jim, (734)-765-1081

REDFORD - 3 bdrm brick ranch, finished bsmt, 2 car garage, C/A, appliances, option avail. \$900, 248-788-1823

3 bdrm. New paint, carpet windows, bath. No pets. \$700 mo. + security. 734-717-4510 REDFORD - BRICK Clean 3

REDFORD 5 & Beech. Newer

bedroom, 2 bath, finished basement, 2 car, c/a \$1200. 248-477-2643, 248-320-8027 ROMULUS - Cute, 2 bdrm cape cod. Bsmt, oversized

garage, dining room, option to buy avail. \$750. 248-788-1823

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4050 Homes For Rent ROMULUS

Huge lot! 2 bdrm, \$750/mo security deposit. 734-459-6968 ROYAL OAK- 3 bdrm colonial

1 1/2 bath remodeled kitchen & bath, all appliances, c/a, washer/dryer, 2 car garage. Lawn service incl. Catalpa near Washington, \$1200/mo. 939 N. Maple Ave. 248-689-6502 ROYAL OAK - Newly remodeled 2 bdrm, all appliances WAYNE, 3 bdrm, 1.5 bath c/a, 2 car garage, fenced yard. \$895/mo. 248-613-9403

ROYAL OAK - NORTH 2 bdrm, hardwood floors, c/a remodeled, bsmt, garage \$1100/mo. 248-613-9403

CLASSIFIEDS WORK! 1-800-579-7355

SOUTHFIELD-2 bdrm, hardwood floors, appliances. Large yard. 248-388-6853. SOUTHFIELD

S/9. E/Inkster, N/Grandriver. 2 bdrm, 1 bath, new carpet, appliances, fenced yard, pets okay. \$650/mo. 248-669-3012 Stop Renting! Govt & Bank Foreclosures! \$0 to low down! No credit OK! Call

now! 800-859-9527

Homes For Rent

Taylor/Westland-Best 2 bdrm houses. Wood firs & updates. Also apt., Dearborn Heights, Hazel Park. 248-974-6469

WAYNE 2 homes available both redecorated. 2 bedroom, garage, fenced, stove, Frig, 3583 Swanson, \$650/mo. 3 bedroom, 4148 Filbert,garage fenced, \$760/mo. NO PETS. 248-763-1294

1000 sq. ft. Bungalow with bsmt. 2 car garage, with appliances. \$1000/mo.

Keller Williams Realty Call Jim, (734)-765-1081

WAYNE 3 bdrm, 1.5 bath warne 3 bdrm, 1.5 bath ranch, finished bsmt, all appli-ances, 2 car garage, fenced yd., c/a. Avail. immed. \$950/mo./sec. 734-397-8187 WAYNE- Newly remodeled 3

bdrm, full bsmt, close to schools & hospital. \$850/mo. + 1 1/2 mo. sec: 734-421-8491 WESTLAND 2 Bdrm, decorated, large yard, no pets. \$650/mo.

(734) 326-8300 WESTLAND- 2 bdrm. pice fenced in yard, all appliances. No bsmt/garage. \$325 bi-weekly + dep. 734-398-6668

Auction Sales

AMERICAN TOWING

221 N. LINCOLN., YPSI

734-390-3939 AUCTION Mar. 16, 2007

9:00am

CANTON P.D. AUCTION:

• 1994 PLYMOUTH VAN 2P4GH45R1RR601681

• 1990 FORD RANGER 1FTCR14T4LPA22155

1997 CHEVY ASTRO
 1GNDM19W4VB134449
1998 PLYMOUTH VOYAGEI

2P4GP44RXWR846611

PUBLIC AUCTION

Undercover Self Storage

13995 North Haggerty Rd Plymouth, MI. 734-354-9855

Wed., March 14th, 10:10am

Cash only.
Units to be auctioned:

C-15, D-33, D-45, G-52,

G-58, H-23

ESTATE SALE - BIRMINGHAM

1030 Wakefield Drive, (14 & Southfield). March 15,16,17,

9am-5pm. Glassware, jewelry

lamps, chandeliers, antiques furniture, evening wear dress

es household items Backs of coats, dresses & shoes.

LIVONIA 30555 7 Mile Rd Entrance on Flamingo Rd March 14-17th 9-4pm

14-17th

Basement sale. Household, etc

GOMOMS-M2M Sale

March 17th 11-2pm strollers after 12, Lutheran HS NW

1000 Bagley, Rochester 48309 www.gomoms.org

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BUFFS! Video Mania 25069 W. 6 Mile Rd, Redford. 313-531-1501 M-Sat. 12-8pm.

LIVONIA- Mar 16 & 17 , 9-5

35625 Elmira St., S/Plymouth W/ Wayne. Antiques, col

lectibles, furniture, electronics

many new items in boxes, iew

elry, household & much more

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Moving Sales

Garage Sales

7110

7100 Estate Sales

7060

4050

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Homes For Rent

WESTLAND - 3 bdrm colonial, 1 1/2 bath, garage, stove, fridge, pets neg. \$1050/mo. 734-717-3452, 734-717-7643 WESTLAND- Ford/1-275 area 3 bdrm, brick ranch, 1.5 bath finished bsmt, clean, C/A, no pets. \$975/mo. 734-591-9163

garage, appliances, fenced \$1095/mo. (734) 425-9225 Observer & Eccentric Classifieds Just a guick cali away.... 1-800-579-SELL 🗬

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Sell it on EBAY & get top mar-ket value for your items. Call: 866-361-4869 or log on:

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BED - 1 Absolute all brand

new PILLOW TOP QUEEN MATTRESS SET. In pkg. \$90. 734-891-8481

BED - 1 ABSOLUTE ALL

BRAND NEW PILLOW-TOP Queen Mattress Set in plastic \$90.Can deliver 734-231-6622

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PILLOW TOP MATTRESS SET New in bag, only \$180. Deliverable, 734-891-8481

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Black leather, like new condition, \$1650/best. 248-477-6429, 248-568-1948

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Solid oak. 5 pieces, good condition \$800 or best offer.

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Genuine Chestnut Burl armoire 46" w, 19"deep, 75"high, \$350. Light pick-led finish entertainment center 42' w, 22" deep, 80"

high, \$450. French writing desk, dark oak finish 52" w.

27"deep, 30" high, \$300. Dining Room set, Asian style, designer faux dark goatskin finish, square table 42" has two 22"

leaves w/ pads 6 chairs 2

chests each 32"w,18"deep 31" high, \$1,350.

I can email pictures to you Call 248-353-1979

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FURNITURE - Living room, den, dining room & deck, Lamps. All exc. cond., 3-4 yrs old. Most: House of Denmark.

Also quilts & bedding for queen & king size beds. Fri., March 9, 12-5pm. By appt. 248-592-9994, 313-562-3210

FURNITURE- Oak table

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w/mirror-\$400. 734-751-0068

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7160

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FARMINGTON HILLS Professional Roommate wanted. \$400 mo. Furnished. Safe area. Incl. util., cable, internet. Immaculate. 813-205-9926 NORTHVILLE -Private bath, Non-smoking. Female only. Avail. now! \$550. No pets. 248-505-0645 WESTLAND - Livonia schools Clean 3 bdrm, 1.5 bath, bsmt

> WESTLAND, Male to share clean furnished home. \$110/week. (734)261-1623

WESTLAND - Non-smoking person wanted to share new condo, 2 bdrm, 1.5 bath, fin-ished bsmt, 2 car garage, hardwood floors & patio. Full hardwood floors & patio. Full use of condo. \$600/mo + every other mo. gas. Avail April 1st. No pets. 734-765-0499 or Deb0829@yahoo.com

When seeking out the best deal check out J the Observer & Eccentric Classifieds! 1-800-579-7355

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REFRIGERATOR - GE, 21.6

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w/ private entrances, 1 w/ private bath. Quiet, wooded. Non-smoking. 248-352-4528 SUNRISE STUDIOS

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Roval Inn

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WESTLAND Mall area. Clean/ Quiet. Cable, TV, mini fridge for male student or employed \$75/ per wk. (734) 525-5794

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Large Multi Purpose Room Can be used for sporting events, basketball, etc. Day Eve. rentals. 734-564-8402

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Rent/Lease

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Lease/Option To Buy

FARMINGTON HILLS-Lease/option to buy. 3 bdrm home with full laundry, fenced yard, \$1200. 734-776-7503

Misc To Rent

(ouchelles-

Auction Dates: Friday, March 16th at 6:30pm. Saturday, March 17th at 11:00am; Sunday, March 18th at Noon.

Exhibition Dates: Friday, March 9th; Saturday, March 10th; Tuesday, March 13th; Thursday, March 15th from 9:30am - 5:30pm; Wednesday, March 14th 9:30am - 8:30pm

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ing will be sold by competitive

Redford, 9125 W. Telegraph Rd., Redford, MI 48239.

Unit# 407 Ernestine Grundy

Unit# 407 Ernestine Grundy, Misc. small appliances, Household furnishings, Boxes/bags, Rec. Equip., Other Misc. items. Unit# 442 Randy Anderson, Household appliances, TV/ Electronics, Household furnishings, Toys, Power tools, Rec. Equip., Other Misc. items.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE OF LIENED PROPERTY

LIENED PROPERTY
Notice is hereby given that a
closed bid sale will be held on
March 28, 2007 at 1:00 P.M.
at 40671 Joy Road, Canton,
Michigan 48187, County of
Wayne. AMERICA'S BUDGET
STORAGE will sell to satisfy
the lien on the property stored
at 40671 Joy Road, Canton

the lien on the property stored at 40671 Joy Road, Canton, Michigan 48187, by the following persons. The inventories listed below were notated by the tenants at the time of rental. AMERICA'S BUDGET

STORAGE makes no repre-

sentation or warranty that the

units contain said inventories. Unit D42, Videcoq, House-hold; Unit K36, Bicknel,

Business Inventory; Unit B04, Farah, Household; Unit K37,

Frazier, Household; Unit H11, McDaniel, Misc. household; Unit G44, Redd, Misc. house-

onli G44, Hedd, Misc. Rouse-hold; Unit J42, Solar, Furn-iture/Boxes; Unit H46, Wright, Business Inventory; Unit H05, Parmer, Furniture/Boxes.

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Notices

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Pravix \$51.00,



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VIAGRA \$1.38/50MG, Flomax

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6300

6420

Air

7180

248-476-9398

HEALTHCARE for \$59,93/mo. Per family! Hospitalization, Prescriptions, Dental, Vision & more. No restrictions on current health conditions! Call now 1-800-218-5105

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Model L, Ebony Satin. Half the price of new. Exec. Cond. \$25,000. (248) 425-4562

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POOL TABLE Beautiful, mint cond., 7' long. \$457. 248-203-1751

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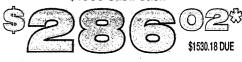


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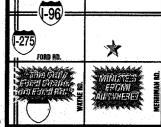
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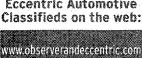
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Durango SLT 4x2 offers a comfy big-girl ride

Advertising Feature





By Wendy Clem **Avanti NewsFeatures**



At first blush, the 2007 Dodge Durango SLT 4x2 is basically your hand-me-a-stepladder-so-I-can-getinto-it kind of vehicle for women. It is, after all, a prettied-up truck, built to transport people (not much cargo!), sit higher than when in many other vehicles, and feel power beneath you.

But this new Durango – touted as "refreshed and redesigned" – has some nice extras, and a few surprises. And they're worth mentioning.

How many of us actually read the full instruction manual prior to turning the key? Well, if it's the number I suspect it is, you'll appreciate the ease with which you can adjust and still drive the Durango simultaneously.

From fine-tuning the mirrors and perfecting the seats to self-teaching the instrument panel, this vehicle has what the learn-as-you-go driver needs.

Yes, your eyes will have to veer to the dash at a red light so you can locate all the rear accourrements, but overall, it's a pretty feasible task.

The interior is award-winning and well-appointed. Hats off to the dash designer for the two-tone color use, accented with faux wood in the middle. The mix of light and medium slate gray on the doors and seats is visually pleasing and will disguise dust, but I'm not sure how the lighter gray will fare over time with dirt

Luckily, the seats have the mom-approved YES! Essentials stain-resistance protection. It's a muchappreciated innovation.

The front leather-trimmed seats are roomy and comfortable. However, I found my right arm dangling while driving. The console - although higher than most - doesn't reach high enough to be an erstwhile armrest for people who are not-so-vertically endowed or don't arm-wrestle for a living. Two other details worth improving: The console is

too narrow and not very deep. Yes, the double cup-holder area and rubberized pad beyond are very handy and even eye-catching, but you can't fit much into the actual console.



Dodge's 2007 Durango SLT 4x2 has spacious passenger room, a 5-star government safety rating and power in its 4.7-liter V8 engine.

An overhead console is a great addition for smaller cargo like sunglasses, and reveals direction as well as outside temperatures.

Also, the Durango is plagued with the usual DaimlerChrysler seatbelt debacle for women. That is: Strangles-R-Us. No matter how much you try and adjust these babies (and there is even a little button on the belt itself to aid in the process), the seatbelt is built for tall men, not shorter women.

It lies very uncomfortably across the neck and looms as a sure hazard or a choke-filled reaction during any potential impact.

One handy feature: the helpful handgrips for the second seat, specially molded to assist the entry or exit of Durango travelers. Being part of the actual door frame grounds that movement safely with stability.
The power sunroof, heated front seats, remote

starter, heated power/foldaway mirrors, cargo net and rear climate controls are well-received luxuries in this glorified truck. The 4.7-liter V8 engine is unmistakably power-en-route, with 235 horsepower and 290 foot pounds of torque.

By adding the third row of seats, the Durango provides the quintessential group ride, but the very limited cargo space just beyond the third seat is only marginally accommodating.

One trip to the grocery store strains the cargo net. Forget luggage, sports/band equipment or serious picnic supplies unless you're planning on hauling it on the roof or separately. In fairness, the split third row seat does fold down, so that is minimal help. Fully loaded, the Durango SLT 4x2 comes in at

under \$36,000, but the lessened mileage catches up with that powerful engine.

Fourteen miles to the gallon in the city improves slightly to 19 on the highway – another potential area for improvement. But if power and feeling secure in your driving environment is important, this is your

Safety features include a tire-pressure monitor and warning signal and a battery with run-down protection.

An electronic stability program, front advanced multi-staged airbags and supplemental side curtain airbags in all rows ensure some protection for all

Having earned the U.S. government's 5-star safety rating, the Durango's 152.4 cubic inch interior also snagged it a best-in-class interior award, with a nod to the spacious head and legroom. It's power at its best in the 2007 Durango, with

safety approval and enough comfort and fringes to make any ride a pleasure. Wendy Clem covers the automotive beat for Avanti

NewsFeatures. Write her at wendyclem@gmail.com. ©2007, Fracassa Communications.

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2007 Dodge Durango SLT 4X2 Vehicle class: Sport-utility vehicle. Power: 4.7-liter V8 engine. Mileage: 14 city / 19 highway. Where built: Newark, Del. Base price: \$28,950.

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GMC ENVOY 2003 4X4 loaded, great SUV, \$15,960. Stk 7T6035A NORTH BROTHERS FORD







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Bob Jeannotte Pontiac (734) 453-2500 **GMC YUKON XL AWD DENALI**

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AVIS FORD (248) 355-7515 MERCURY MOUNTAINEER 1999, one owner, dark blue,

Bob Jeannotte Pontiac (734) 453-2500 MERCURY MOUNTAINEER 1999, V-8, AWD, 36,300

original miles, \$8,995. North Bros. Linc-Merc (248) 283-6377

MERCURY MOUNTAINEER 2002, 3rd seat, AWD, \$10,940. Stk3P20040 NORTH BROTHERS FORD (734) 524-1264 MERCURY MOUNTAINEER 2002 -white, AWD, loaded, heated leather, 70,000 miles.

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Chevrolet

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8400

CAMARO SS 1999- 17.000 miles, white exterior, gray cloth interior, like new, auto. \$13,500. 248-442-0122 COBALT 2005 2 dr., full ower \$13 495 Stk P20045

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IMPALA LS 2006, GM Certified, \$13,995. Lou LaRiche Chevrolet 888-372-9836



MALIBU LS 2003, forest green, leather, moon roof, loaded, \$9,995. Lou LaRiche Chevrolet 888-372-9836

MALIBU LT 2006, NORTH BROTHERS FORD (734) 524-1264

MONTE CARLO SS 2003, yellow, loaded, low miles, 10w, 10 \$15,950.

JOHN ROGIN BUICK 734-525-0900

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PT CRUISER LIMITED 2002, NORTH BROTHERS FORD (734) 524-1264



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(734) 453-7890 MUSTANG GT 2002 fect! \$15.870. Stk# 7T6214A (734) 524-1264

MUSTANG GT 2004, V-8, fully equipped, silver Bill Brown Ford

(734) 522-0030 MUSTANG GT 2005 Convertible, triple black, auto, JACK DEMMER Ford 734-721-2600

MUSTANG GT 2005 Show Bill Brown Ford

(734) 522-0030 MUSTANG LX 2002, super

Bill Brown Ford (734) 522-0030 TAURUS 2006, 10 to choose AVIS FORD

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Mazda

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2005

ACCORD EX 2002, leather, moon, 57K, silver, like new, reduced, \$11,940. Saturn of Plymouth

(734) 453-7890 8530 JAGUAR XJ8 2002

Excel. cond. 73,000 miles, warranty avail. \$15,500 or best offer. Call. 734-930-6597 S-TYPE 2004, what a car! Loaded, \$26,950. Stk#P20088 NORTH BROTHERS FORD (734) 524-1264

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Pontiac

Saturn of Plymouth

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BONNEVILLE SLE 2001, auto,

Bob Jeannotte Pontiac

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BONNEVILLE SLE 2004.

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BONNEVILLE SLE 2004.

leather, moon, loaded, like

new, 1 owner, 42K, \$15,930.

Saturn of Plymouth

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(734) 453-2500

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GRAND AM GT 1998, auto,

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GRAND AM GT 1998 Coupe,

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power, \$6,980. Stk 6T6577B NORTH BROTHERS FORD

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leather

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chromes, \$12,995

From \$13,495.

air, silver, \$6,995

WRANGLER 2006, auto, air, soft top, 3K, \$20,540. Stk NORTH BROTHERS FORD (734) 524-1264

LS 2003 Premium, V-8, silver moon, leather, certified, 30K North Bros. Linc-Merc (248) 283-6377

TOWN CAR 1999 Cartie Edition, low miles, maroor w/gray leather, \$8,495. North Bros. Linc-Merc (248) 283-6377

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miles, leather, low miles, low price, \$12,395 North Bros. Linc-Merc (248) 283-6377

8610 Mitsubishi ECLIPSE GS 2003, \$8,998. AVIS FORD (248) 355-7515

Nissan SENTRA SE-R 2004, Spec-V moon, 5 speed, \$12,888 Fox Hills

auto, only \$5,995

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Chrysler-Jeep (734) 455-8740 8680 **Pontiac** AZTEK 2002, gold, save, air,

REAL **Bob Jeannotte Pontiac ESTATE**

GRAND PRIX GT 2004, red BONNEVILLE SE 2004, 43K one owner, \$12,995. one owner, like new, \$12,380.

Bob Jeannotte Pontiac (734) 453-2500 GRAND PRIX GT 2004, white, uto, air, Certified, \$12,495.

Bob Jeannotte Pontiac (734) 453-2500 GRAND PRIX GT2 2004, white, leather, power moon

Certified, \$11,495. **Bob Jeannotte Pontiac** (734) 453-2500

GRAND PRIX GTP 2004 leather, moon, \$12,888 Fox Hills Chrysler-Jeep (734) 455-8740



SOLSTICE 2006 Convertible, 4,000 miles midnight blue, \$24,900.

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SUNFIRE 2005, white, 26K, sharp! Certified \$9.995 **Bob Jeannotte Pontiac** (734) 453-2500

VIBE 2004, auto, 34K, one GRAND AM GT 2002, moon owner, \$12,970. roof, fully loaded, \$9,960. Stk Saturn of Plymouth NORTH BROTHERS FORD (734) 453-7890

VIBE 2005, charcoal, 28K, air, GRAND AM SE 2002, full certified, \$12,495. **Bob Jeannotte Pontiac** (734) 453-2500

> VIBE 2006, auto, 28K, factory warranty, one owner, extra clean, \$13,970. Saturn of Plymouth (734) 453-7890

> LW2 WAGON 2000, V-6,

leather, only 48K one owner

Saturn of Plymouth

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CAMRY LE 2003. V-6, alloy

wheels, one owner, 52K, new

Saturn of Plymouth

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miles, \$8,450.

tires. \$13,640.

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V-6, silver, \$9,900. loaded, one owner, 7,318 Lou LaRiche Chevrolet miles, \$23,750. 888-372-9836 Saturn of Plymouth (734) 453-7890

(734) 453-2500 GRAND AM SE 2005 4 dr., 46K, gold, like new, \$9,560. SL1 1995, auto, air, \$2,495. Saturn of Plymouth **Bob Jeannotte Pontiac** (734) 453-7890

GRAND AM SE 2004 4 dr.

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Bob Jeannotte Pontiac

GRAND PRIX 2006 (4) low iles. GT. From \$15,950. JOHN ROGIN BUICK **GRAND PRIX COUPE 1997**

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8740 Volkswagen

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BEETLE GLS 2002, double yellow, leather, sunroof, auto, \$12,950. JOHN ROGIN BUICK 734-525-0900

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utos Under \$2000

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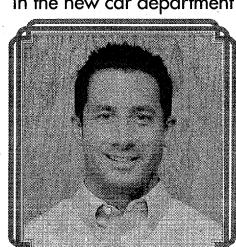
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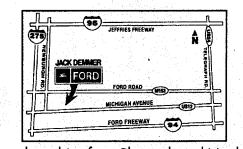
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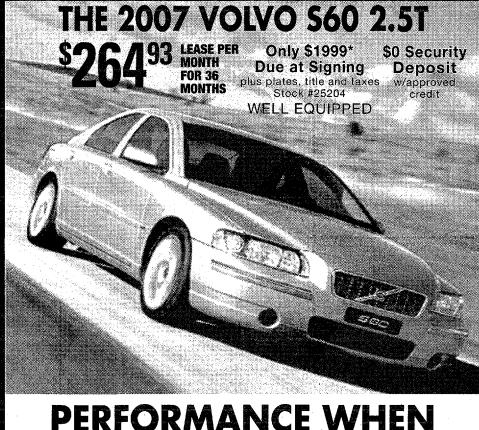
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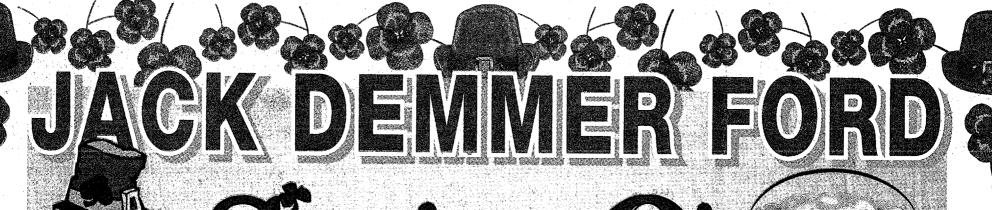
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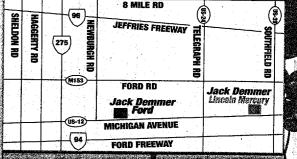
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