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PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The practice competition begins. Tyler Berguist, Kiyo Miller, Andrew Greeneisen, and Kevin Frader race against the clock to prepare the meal.

Hitting the kitchen Culinary arts students ready to start cookin'

BY TONY BRUSCATO OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Since he was 9 years old, Kevin Frader has always liked developing his culinary skills in the kitchen.

"I liked to be in the kitchen and cook with my mom," remembers Frader, now 16, of Plymouth Township. "When I was 11, the first thing I made on my own was an apple pie.



Defense appeals judge's decision

BY BRAD KADRICH OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Defense attorneys for the two teenagers accused of killing a River Rouge man are appealing a Wayne County Circuit Court judge's decision to reinstate a felony murder charge originally dismissed by a district court judge.

While neither attorney would comment, the Observer has learned both lawyers filed appeals of Judge Annette Berry's decision to the Michigan Court of Appeals Feb. 28. According to information on the Michigan Court of Appeals Web site, prosecutors have until March 20 to file an answer.

Both lawyers also asked the Court of Appeals to delay the trial's April 7 start date in order to hear the latest motions.

In a motion hearing last month, Berry reinstated the felony murder charge against 18year-old Alexander Letkemann of Westland and 17-year-old Plymouth Township resident Jean Pierre Orlewicz. The pair faces an April 7 trial date in the murder of 26-year-old Daniel

Sorensen.

They were originally charged with first-degree murder, felony murder and mutilation of a corpse. At the preliminary hearing in 35th District Court in November, Judge Michael Gerou refused to bind them over on the felony murder charge, brought because Orlewicz allegedly stole a gun from Sorensen after police say he killed him.

Gerou ruled because the alleged theft occurred after the murder, it didn't meet Michigan's statutory requirement. In reinstating the charge, Berry, the Circuit Court judge, called it "a matter for the jury to decide."

Neither Raymond Cassar, the lawyer for Letkemann, nor Joseph Niskar, Orlewicz's attorney, would comment due to a gag order imposed in the case.

Orlewicz and Letkemann are charged with luring Sorensen to the Canton garage of Orlewicz's grandfather, killing him, beheading him and then burning and disposing of his body in a Northville Township field.

Å

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"I like to cook for my family, and my best is spaghetti and meatballs," he said. "I use a recipe from my great-grandmother. It's not as simple as you think to make it really" good. You have to cook it all day."



Frader, along with nearly a dozen culinary arts and hospitality students from Plymouth-Canton Educational Park, will be among those in the field of 18 schools from across Michigan that will meet in Lansing Sunday and Monday for the annual Michigan ProStart Student Invitational.

Strawberries and raspberries will become a sauce for dessert.

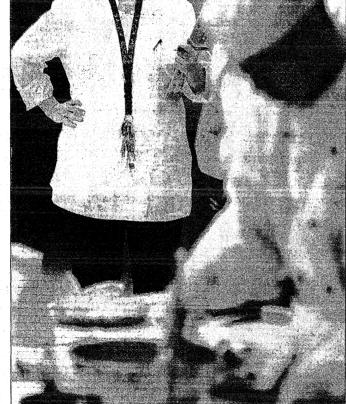
The competition, presented by the Michigan Restaurant Association Educational Support Foundation, will be held at the Sheraton Hotel and includes culinary, management and marketing competitions.

P-CEP students have finished no worse than third in the annual competition, and in 2005 were the national high school champions.

"Students will have to prepare a three-course meal with no running water, no refrigeration and no electricity," said Diana Woodward, culinary arts instructor at Salem High School. "They will only have two camp stoves to prepare the meals."

The menu begins with a Mediterranean vegetable soup with crab ravioli, followed by a goat cheese and pine nut

Please see KITCHEN, A5



Instructor-coach Diana Woodward watches her team practice.

Book Cellar on way to new chapter?

BY TONY BRUSCATO OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

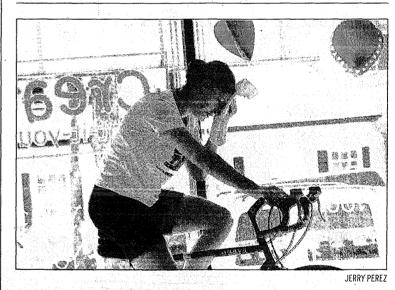
The Book Cellar & Cafe in downtown Plymouth is expected to close its doors Monday for an extended period of time.

"We're going to do an inventory evaluation, which could last a couple of weeks," said Bashar Salame, owner of the bookstore on Ann Arbor Trail. Salame declined to comment on persistent rumors of the imminent sale of the bookstore and interior remodeling, indicating "no papers have been signed."

Salame and his partner, Nader Iskandar, opened the Book Cellar in August 2005. Two years later, the owners put a posting on Craigslist. com which advertised "everything is included in this sale ... price (\$269,000) reduced for a quick sale."

"Ideally, we would like to sell the place to someone who can dedicate more time to ensure it will be downtown for years to come," said Salame at the time. "We're selling it with a good P&L (profit and loss statement)."

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Jessica Perlman rode her bike in her store window for some four hours to raise money for charity.

Going nowhere with purpose

Stationary bike ride raises cash for a cause

. **BY BRAD KADRICH** OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Jessica Perlman likes to beat the winter blues by finding something she calls her "Winter Challenge."

This year, she picked a doozy. Perlman, 27, the owner of Creatopia Pottery in downtown Plymouth, will take part in an Olympic-distance triathlon next month to benefit the Michigan chapter of the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society.

To help get ready, both physi-

cally and financially, Perlman performed a unique fund-raiser recently: riding a stationary bicycle in the window of her Ann Arbor Trail store.

"The fund-raising goal to participate is \$4,000 ... you have to be creative in coming up with (fund-raising) ideas," said Perlman, taking part in the Society's Team in Training program for the triathlon. "I'm trying to develop a personal relationship with our customers.

Please see BIKE, A2



FROM PAGE A

(P)

A2

I wanted to do more things in the studio that show people what my belief system is and the values I hold."

Perlman rode the bike in here store window for some four hours, drawing interest from customers and from passersby.

"At about the three-anda-half hour mark my joints started screaming at me," she said, laughing. "Thankfully, the next morning I could still walk."

It's not the first time she's challenged herself. Perlman has been doing triathlons for some five years, and rode the MS-150, a 150-mile bike ride to benefit multiple sclerosis research.

This year, she's chosen to benefit the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. Some of the reasons (statistics courtesy





JERRY PEREZ

Jessica Perlman, owner of downtown Plymouth's Creatopia Pottery, is raising money for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society.

the Society's Web site):

Some 785,000 Americans and more than 25,000 Michigan residents are currently living with leukemia, Hodgkin's or non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, or myeloma.

Every five minutes, someone new is diagnosed with a blood cancer.

Every nine minutes, someone with a blood cancer will die. ■ Leukemias are the leading cancers among children and

young adults. Blood cancers will strike an estimated 118,000

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Who: Jessica Perlman, owner of Creatopia Pottery

What: Benefit for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society Goal: Raise \$4,000 to participate in an Olympic-distance

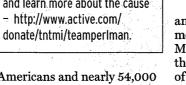
triathlon To donate: Swing by the studio (Creatopia Pottery) and drop off a donation (all checks made payable to The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society); visit Perlman's Web site to donate and learn more about the cause http://www.active.com/

Americans and nearly 54,000 will lose their battle with these diseases this year. Leukemia is the leading form of childhood cancers.

So the relationship between the physical challenge and the beneficial cause is no accident. "It's always important to

me when I pick a 'winter challenge' I want to make sure it's for a good cause," said Perlman, who noted she's raised about \$1,000 of the \$4,000 tab so far. "I've been blessed with health, with family. It's important to give back to society."

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"Their styles are as unique and diverse as their chosen media," gallery owner Walt Menard said in announcing the exhibit. "This eclectic array of artwork includes paint-

work.

ings in oils and acrylics, pen and ink renderings, works on paper, ceramic pieces, photography and mixed media on paper and canvas." Designed to feature local

artistic endeavors, this exhibition encourages public dialogue, understanding, and enjoyment of visual art.

In keeping with their dedi-

cation to promoting the work

Lotus Arts Gallery announced

the opening of a new exhibit,

Exhibition of Local Artists."

The exhibition will show-

case the extraordinary work of

Michigan's talented contempo-

rary artists. Twelve emerging

artists will be displaying their

of local artists, officials at

"Fresh Expressions: An

The gallery hosts the public and the media in a preview of the exhibition at which they can meet the artists at the opening reception 6-9 p.m. Lotus Arts Gallery is located at 995 West Ann Arbor Trail (corner of Ann Arbor Trail and Harvey) in downtown Plymouth. The reception will feature hors d'oeuvres and beverages, classical music of small string ensemble, Rumore d'oro, and conversations with

the artists. The exhibition will be on display March 14-27. The public is welcome to view the exhibit during gallery hours

between 11 a.m. and 5 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday. For more information, contact the gallery toll-free at

NEWS BRIEFS

Gallery exhibit features local artists

(888) 889-4ART or at (734) 453-5400.

Pompon scholarship

Mid American Pompon, Michigan's leader in pompon instruction, competitions and summer camps for pompon and dance teams at the middle school through the collegiate level, has awarded \$3,000 worth of scholarships to six

of the scholar-



ship recipients.

last 20 years.

Each student will be pre-

sented with a \$500 check

made payable to the college

or university that they will

attend. The organization has

donated more than \$50,000

ship, students must meet the

following criteria: is a graduat-

ing senior with a 3.2 or above

more Mid American Pompon

events as a participant or com-

petitor; composed an essay in

an anonymous format which

dance has enriched their life

to the sport, and submitted

a letter of recommendation

from a coach. A scholarship

committee, comprised of a

advisory board, selects the

Mid American Pompon coach

and how they have contributed

describes how pompon or

GPA; has attended two or

worth of scholarships over the

To be eligible for the scholar-

finalists. The awards were presented at the 29th Annual Mid American Pompon State Championship at Eastern Michigan University on Sunday, February 10, 2008.

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Hockey benefit

The fourth-annual charity hockey game between the Detroit Red Wings Alumni and the Fifth Third Bank All Stars takes place Saturday, March 8, at the Detroit Skating Club, 888 Dennison Court in Bloomfield Hills (north of Square Lake, west of Franklin).

Doors open at 6 p.m.; game time is 7 p.m.

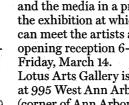
Proceeds benefit The Autism Society of America-Oakland and O.U.R. Camp, a specialized day camp for children ages 3-9 with developmental needs, including those who are autistically impaired, physically impaired, and mentally impaired.

Autism is a neurological regulatory disorder that impairs socialization and communication. It is a life-long disability that can make learning difficult without appropriate supports across the lifespan. Autism typically appears within the first 30 months of life. The Autism Society of America-Oakland County chapter is a member organization committed to meaningful participation and self-determination in all aspects of life. for individuals on the autism spectrum and their families.

Tickets are \$5 and can be purchased by calling Tina Szegda, (248) 603-0588. The event features a silent auction, raffles and more.

For more information, call (248) 332-3000.







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Arbor Hospice is a community-based nonprofit agency



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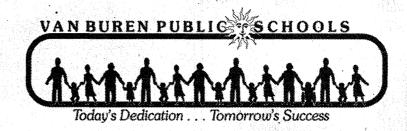


Do you have a son/daughter who will be five years old on or before December 1, 2008, the eligible age to begin kindergarten next September? If so, please contact the elementary school in your attendance area to enroll your child in Van Buren Public Schools kindergarten during Kindergarten Round-Up March 10 through March 13. If you are not sure of your attendance area, please call the administration building at (734) 697-9123, ext. 209.

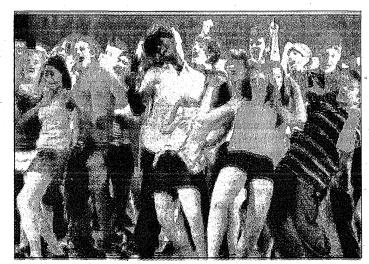
We have been in the business of educating children since 1827. We understand that making the right choice for your child by selecting the correct kindergarten program can make all the difference. Van Buren Public Schools offer:

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- A well-balanced, rigorous curriculum that emphasizes literacy, mathematics, science, and technology.
- A curriculum that encourages personal and social development.
- Free, in-district transportation.

Please contact the administration building at (734) 697-9123, ext. 209 for further information.



LOCAL NEWS



The Evening of Excellence showcases performances by more than 200 district students in all age groups, including the Park Players (above).

Evening showcases student performances

The Plymouth-Canton Schools Education Excellence Foundation is hosting the annual An Evening of Excellence on Friday, March 14, at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill in Canton Township.

The event showcases performances by more than 200 district students in all age groups.

An Evening of Excellence is a benefit to support the programs of the Educational Excellence Foundation (EEF), a 501(c)3 non-profit organization serving P-CCS. EEF has made a commitment to support the Performing Arts and will be donating \$500 to each group that performs. Comcast Newsmakers anchor Laurel Hess will be this year's Mistress of Ceremonies.

Tickets are \$100 per person for the 6:15 p.m. strolling dinner, wine, performance, dessert and champagne. The EEF is also selling \$50 adult tickets, \$25 for students, which include 7:30 p.m. performance, dessert and champagne). Cocktail attire is required. A portion of the ticket price is tax-deductible.

To order tickets, or for more information, call Carole Kody at (734) 416-2718 or e-mail Kodyc@pccs. k12.mi.us.

District has plenty of snow days left

BY TONY BRUSCATO OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Despite Wednesday being the third snow day this winter in the Plymouth-Canton school district, K-12 students appear to be in no danger of having to extend their school year.

Interim Superintendent Ken Jacobs said state law requires schools to plan for 1,098 hours of instruction, of which 30 hours can be used for snow days. Each snow day is the equivalent of six hours, which means P-CCS has two snow days left.

"If we go beyond the 30

KNOW THE

SCORE

check out the

numbers in

today's

Sports

section

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micy.

iship chigan hours, we have to make them up," said Jacobs. "If we don't, we won't get out any earlier (in June)."

Jacobs said it wasn't a tough call in deciding to cancel classes Wednesday. "By 3:15 a.m. I had seven

inches of snow in my driveway," said Jacobs, who resides in Plymouth Township. "I immediately had my transportation supervisor on the back roads and it was bad."

Jacobs said despite the road salt shortage plaguing many county and community road commissions, P-CCS has been able to have enough on hand, sometimes barely.

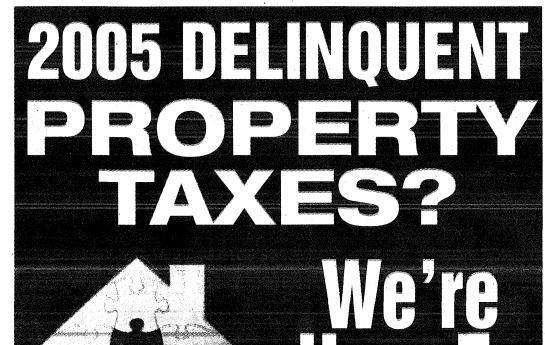
"We're not getting our full allotments when we order,

but we're getting it on delayed deliveries," Jacobs said. "We have come close, on more than one occasion, to running out.

"We've used over 1,700 tons, which is 30 percent more than we used all of last year," he said. "Our cost has gone up 40 percent over last year."

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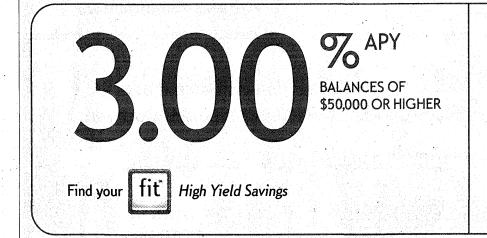
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PLYMOUTH PIPELINE

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Marching band meeting

(P)

The Plymouth-Canton Marching Band hosts a series of informational meetings for students and parents who are interested in joining the 2008 Marching Band program.

The meeting is designed for existing eighth-graders, but is open to any high school student. Interested students will spend time with the existing marchers, while parents listen to a presentation by the Plymouth Canton Music Boosters on how eighth-graders can become a member of the award-winning marching band for the 2008 summer/fall season. Musicians and future color guard members welcome.

Parents and students are asked to attend the open house meeting 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 11, in the Plymouth High School band room (enter near the big yellow truck), 8400 Beck in Canton.

For more information, call band director Marc Whitlock, (734) 582-5666.

Preschool site nite

Plymouth-Canton Community Schools' Early Childhood Department will host a Preschool Site Night 6:30-8:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 11. All preschool classrooms at our various sites will be open for visitation.

For more information, please contact the Early Childhood Office at (734) 416-6190 or visit our Web site at: web.pccs. k12.mi.us/earlychildhood

Easter Bunny brunch

E.G. Nick's hosts Brunch with the Easter Bunny 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Sunday, March 16. Attendees will enjoy a full buffet breakfast (eggs, bacon and sausage) and a visit from the Easter Bunny.

Tickets must be purchased from the Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce (9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Friday), 850 W. Ann Arbor Trail, or at E.G. Nick's (500 Forest). Tickets are \$8 for children, \$12 for adults, children 3 and younger eat free.

For more information, call the chamber, (734) 453-5464.

Doing business with **USPS.com**

The Plymouth District

Library will host the U.S. Postal Service in a business seminar 6-8 p.m. Thursday, March 13.

Postal training will cover all facets of doing business from home to include printing postage, purchasing mailing supplies, arranging package pick-up and buying and selling with eBay.

Intended for business or personal postal use, this free program requires registration - contact the library at (734) 453-0750, Ext. 4 or on-line at plymouthlibrary.org

Sagear scholarship

Students wanting to apply for the Sagear-Rotary Scholarship have until April 1 to get in their applications. The Rotary Club of Plymouth A.M. is striving to recognize a Plymouth-Canton School District High School Senior who has overcome adversity. We are looking for students who have displayed courage, perseverance, spirit, and creativity in succeeding in achieving an education, despite a physical, mental or emotional barrier. They have also shown an appreciation of others and a commitment to their community.

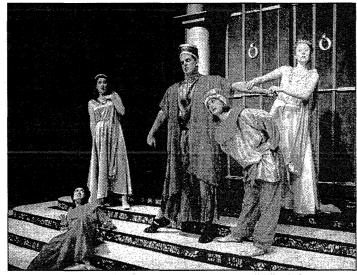
The recipient of this award will receive a \$500 scholarship. This award is named after Sandra Sagear a 1969 graduate of the original Plymouth High School who imagined and believed she could succeed as she lived everyday with Polio.

Information and applications on the Sagear-Rotary Scholarship are posted at www.storytellerdesign.com/ SagearRotaryScholarship.pdf. Applications should be returned to Debra Madonna, Rotary Club of Plymouth A.M., 40200 Pinetree, Plymouth, MI 48170. The award will be announced April 25.

Feed the need

PBJ Outreach Inc. is sponsoring a Super Slammin' Spaghetti Jam 5-8 p.m. Saturday, April 5, (following 4 p.m. Mass) at Our Lady of Good Counsel Church Social Hall (47650 N. Territorial, Plymouth).

Enjoy a fun family night including spaghetti dinner, cash bar, activities for kids, and raffle/door prizes.



'Comedy of Errors'

Drama students Cari Skrzynski (Dromio of Syracuse), Chelsey Coleman (Luciana), Timothy Thompson (Antipholus of Syracuse/Ephesus), Noelle Skrzynski (Dromio of Ephesus) and Hannah Fox (Adriana) prepare for the Second Stage Players' production of 'Comedy of Errors,' which plays March 13-15 at Canton High School's DuBois Theatre. All tickets are \$10 and can be purchased from 2:30-4:30 p.m. in the DuBois Theatre at Canton High School. Tickets also can be purchased at the door on the night of the performances. For further information contact Shannon McNutt at (734) 416-7514.

All proceeds go toward the Peanut Butter and Jelly Ministry which provides food on a weekly basis to brothers and sisters in Detroit's Cass Corridor.

Tickets cost \$7 for adults, \$3 kids (age 3-12), under 3 eat free. For tickets/information please contact Linda Barterian at 734-459-0771.

Damaris scholarship

The Plymouth Community Arts Council will recognize a Plymouth-Canton School district senior who has displayed outstanding abilities in visual arts and plans to continue his/ her education in this field with the 2008 Damaris Fine Arts Award.

The Damaris Application is posted at www.artsculturelink.com/damarisaward. pdf. Applications will be accepted March 24-April 4. Artwork will be juried April 5-11, and the \$600 award will be announced April 21.

Students artwork will be judged on its originality, creativity, and use of material. Artwork will be professionally Juried by Dennis Jones, Architect, Artist, Sculptor.

The Damaris Fine Arts Award was established in memory of Damaris (Dee) Schulte by her family: husband, Dick, sons, Philip and Mike. Dee, an artist in her own right, had a Bachelor's Degree in Art and a Master's Degree in Art Education. This award honors Dee as an artist and recognizes the dedication and many contributions she made to the Plymouth Community Arts Council. **Celebrating Town** Baseball

The Plymouth Historical Museum's monthly meeting on Thursday, March 13, will feature Raymond Rolak discussing "Celebrating the Spirit of Town Baseball." The meeting, free to the public, is held at the Plymouth Historical Museum,

155 S. Main Street, Plymouth, at 7:30 p.m. The talk coincides with the

Museum's current exhibit, "Batter Up! Generations of Baseball," which will be open until June 1. The Museum is open Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, 1-4 p.m. Admission is \$5 for adults, \$2 for children 5-17, and \$10 for families. For more information, contact the Museum at 734-455-8940.

Evening of excellence

The Educational Excellence Foundation hosts its fourthannual "Evening of Excellence" Friday, March 14, at the Village Theater in Canton. The event includes a stroll-

ing dinner, performances by Plymouth-Canton Community Schools' students and champagne afterglow. Guest Master of Ceremonies is Laurel Hess, host of CNN's Comcast Newsmakers.

Evening of Excellence is a benefit to support the projects and programs of P-CCS' **Educational Foundation.** Profits from last year's event were used to fund a \$500 donation to each of the 11 student groups that performed, as well as funding a portion of the **Elementary Summer Academy** for students needing extra help with math and reading. Three local elementary schools also received a donation ranging from \$250-\$500.

Tickets must be purchased in advance. Tickets are not available at the door. Prices: Dinner/ Performance/Afterglow, \$100 each; performance/afterglow, \$50 each (adult) and \$25 each (student). A portion of each ticket is a tax-deductible donation to the Educational Excellence Foundation, a 501(c)(3) organization.

LWV scholarship

The League of Women Voters of Northwest Wayne County will award a \$1,500 scholarship in June to a qualified United States citizen, male or female, college undergraduate. Applicants need to meet the following criteria: Reside in Canton, Garden City, Livonia, Northville, Plymouth, Redford, Wayne or Westland; attend a Michigan college or university; major in government, political science or public policy; and be entering the third year of undergraduate studies.

Additional information can be found, and the application can be downloaded, from the league's Web site at www. lwvnww.org. Click on 2008 Scholarship Application.

Applications must be postmarked by April 18.

Gettysburg trip

The Plymouth Historical Society sponsors a field trip to Gettysburg, Pa., May 15-18, to see the site of the largest battle of the American Civil War. The new Gettysburg Museum & Visitors Center will open in April with state-of-the-art exhibits and interactive displays.

The fully escorted trip includes a motor coach roundtrip ride from Plymouth to Gettysburg, three nights at

America's Best Value Inn (located within three blocks of the battlefield), three breakfasts, two lunches, and three dinners. Mail-in reservation forms can be obtained at the Plymouth Historical Museum during open hours, or call the local trip coordinator, Dan Packer, at (734) 420-4439. The form, along with additional information, is also available on the museum's Web site at http://www.plymouthhistory. org/Events.html.

Music boosters craft show

The Plymouth-Canton Music Boosters hosts its annual Spring Arts and Crafts Ensemble Saturday, March 15. The juried art event is produced each year by the PCMB to assist the music programs at the Plymouth-Canton **Education Park.**

Artists and crafters who are interested in applying for consideration to exhibit should visit www.pcmb.net/ artcraft to download an application. Only 100 exhibitors will be permitted to exhibit at this artistic event. Last year, over 1500 attendees visited the Spring Arts & Crafts Ensemble.

Plymouth High School is located at 8400 Beck Road in Canton, Mich. The Arts & Craft Ensemble will be held 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. In addition to over 100 exhibits, there will be food, baked goods, a raffle, and entertainment by local musicians and artists throughout the day. Admission is \$2.

Council on Aging

The Plymouth Council on Aging will host Sanford Burr, president of the Plymouth Historical Society, who will deliver a presentation on "The History of Plymouth," 1:30 p.m. Monday, March 10 at the Plymouth Cultural Center.

Refreshments will be served. Call (734) 453-1234, Ext. 236 for more information.

On Friday, March 14, from 10–11:30 a.m. the Plymouth Council on Aging will host "Oil Painting by Sharon Dillenbeck," who will present a demonstration using oil and water colors.

This demonstration takes place at the Plymouth Cultural Center. Refreshments will be served. Call (734) 453-1234, Ext. 236 to register for this free demonstration. Space is limited.

An exceptional home-like setting for Active/Alert,



LOCAL NEWS



Sheri Frader, foreground, and Leslie and Julie Greenheisen watch their sons and brothers prepare the competition meal.

are actually like cooking on a

stove."

Theodore.

AROUND TOWN

Crop for a Cure

An all-day scrapbooking event, Crop for a Cure, will be held 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday, March 29, in the gymnasium at the Maplewood Community Center, 31735 Maplewood, west of Merriman, Garden City. The cost is \$35 per person and includes lunch, dinner, beverages and snacks. Pay by March 20 and receive five free prize tickets for a raffle of scrapbooking and non-scrapbooking related merchandise. A Close to My Heart consultant will be on

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

site with some cash-and-carry stock and limited supplies for purchase. Registration fee is non-refundable. First come, first serve. For more information, call Dawn Downer at (734) 502-4277 or contact her by e-mail at downt@comcast.net. All proceeds will benefit the 2008 Michigan 3-Day Breast Cancer Walk.

Mom2Mom sale

The Livonia YMCA will host a Mom2Mom. Sale, 2-5 p.m., Sunday, March 30, at the YMCA, 14255 Stark Road, just north of Schoolcraft. Tables are still available by calling Jean at (734) 261-2161 or (248)

615-1080. There will be a large item room, with furniture and baby equipment and a bake sale and hot dogs for sale to benefit the YMCA. Admission is \$1. Strollers are allowed after 3 p.m. Preschool open house

A5

(P)

Academic Pathways Cooperative Preschool, located at 30330 Schoolcraft Road, Livonia, hosts an open house 6-8 p.m. Tuesday, March 11. The preschool offers 3- and 4-year programs. Potty training not required. Certified teacher. For more information, please contact (734) 459-6689 or visit www. academicpathwayspreschool.com.

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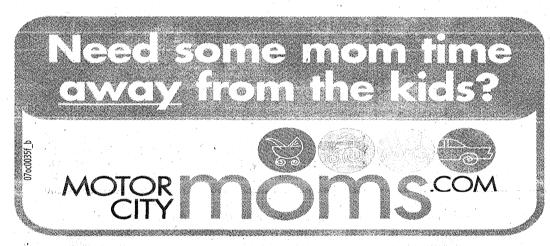
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rusted lamb loin entree; and, for dessert, chocolate and banana mousse dome with caramelized bananas.

We're excited, a little bit nervous, but we'll be ready," said Tyler Bergquist, 16, of Canton Township, who cuts the vegetables for the soup, prepares the artichoke for the entree and cooks the lamb in the hourlong competition. "All we have are iced down coolers to keep foods at a proper temperature. The butane burners

Students on the culinary team also include Kivokazu Miura, Andrew Greeneisen, and Kenneth Jadczak (alternate). Students on the management team, who will demonstrate their ability to analyze management situations that contain business dilemmas and present a resolution to professionals in the hospitality industry, include Keshia Roberts, Kenneth Jadczak, Hannah Maxam, Lauren Pettovello, and Emily

tbruscato@hometownlife.com | (734) 459-2700 Kiyo Miura whips egg whites.



The Inn at St. John's joyfully presents

Sunday, March 23, 2008

Featuring a delectable special occasion buffet, live entertainment, and, of course, a visit from the Easter Bunny. Seatings are at 11 am and 2:30 pm.

Easter Sunday Brunch

Phone 734/414-0600 for reservations.

Adults \$36 Seniors (62 and up) \$31 Children (age 5-12) \$9.95 Children under 5 are free.

Prices do not include 6% sales tax and 20% service charge.



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COUNTY NEWS

It's nature's way: Lessons learned from a corn bin mouse

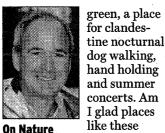
"That land is a community is the basic concept of ecology, but that land is loved and respected is an extension of ethics. That land yields a cultural harvest is a fact long known, but latterly often forgotten." - Aldo Leopold, March, 1948.

n the first Saturday of this waning month of winter, I took time to reflect on land, ethics, nature's way and wisdom gleaned from a mouse in a corn bin.

Fact: I love my land perhaps more than ever because my limited acreage is surrounded by other limited acreages, but all interconnected into a relatively functional landscape in spite of humans.

A name does not make a landscape whole. In some cases nature exists in name only. Pheasant Run and Quail Hollow in Bloomfield Township no longer host their feathered namesakes. Meadowbrook has not much in the way of a natural meadow or a wild brook. The West **Bloomfield Woods Nature** Preserve and Dinosaur Hill are certainly no longer parts of functional interconnected wild landscape.

They do remain vital islands, with diminishing biodiversity and increased human pressures. And Shain Park is little more than a fragment of



exist? You bet. We need them. Jonathan But as nature-Schechter

based education in "wild nature" slips

away, our children's phobias, creature fears and misconceptions grow.

We sometimes play elaborate word games to satisfy egos or remove guilt when it comes to nature. I'm guilty too. And then there is that infantile, meaningless statement that some still toss around in land use and park meetings. "Let's think out of the box." Others believe if they drive biodiesel to the mega mall or plant a tree in their chemically bathed parking lot green spot they have turned the tide against a changing climate.

And some with naivety or arrogance cite this winters snow as proof global warming is myth, instead of understanding the evidence of warmer waters and climatic upheaval. Isolating oneself from nature ethics is not new.



A white-footed mouse finds plenty to eat in a corn bin.

In 1930 Aldo Leopold penned, "The problem is how to bring about a striving for harmony with land and people, many of whom have forgotten there is such a thing as land, among

is the problem of conversation education."

Back to my love of the land and corn bin mouse: I shuffled out to the bin to fill a bucket for squirrels, doves, deer and

JONATHAN SCHECHTER

survival of the fittest by providing an easy food source. For the fifth time bulging eyes of a white footed mouse stared up at me from the sea of corn. I think it's the same

AND bin-tilting freedom, or if he is just so pea-brained that he forgets he will get stuck during corn bingeing. Is the lure of food greater than fears? I suspect so, but I try to not to philosophize in a manner that forces a conclusion. Trying to draw a conclusion on every nature observation is not needed. Sometimes we just appreciate.

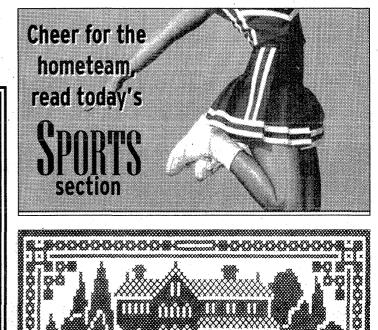
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Appreciation is not the wisdom of conservation education, the protection of wildlife travel corridors, the understanding of the spread of bovine tuberculosis in wild deer and related lofty and emerging issues. Today I simply look forward to a month that brings herons and vultures home. A month of emergence of groundhogs, first blooms of woodland wildflowers on southern slopes, tom turkeys practicing their gobbles and pussy willow catkins forming down by my swamp during ice-out. March is a good month of transition, for well off man and corn rich mice, a time when spring thoughts outweigh the truth of realities.

Perhaps that's spring fever or a quiet acceptance of the altered reality of our natural world.







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at are Journary For?

COUNTY NEWS

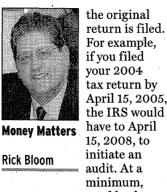
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Tax records should be kept seven years and then shredded

Dear Rick: I just got done with my 2007 tax return. How long do I need to save my tax information? I have tax information for over 20 years and I am running out of room. What should I keep and what can I throw out?

My general rule is you should never throw out the return. However, the backup documentation you're saving can be disposed of sooner.

Generally, the Internal Revenue Service can audit a return up to three years after



save tax returns and backup documentation for three vears

If the IRS believes you have a 25 percent error in your return or greater, it can audit up to six years. Although rare, it does happen. Because of this, I recommend retaining backup tax records for seven years. After that, shred all backup documentation.

It is amazing to me how much paper the typical American saves. I know individuals who have cancelled checks for their phone bill from 10 years ago. There is no reason to do this. For most recurring bills, I hold them for one month. When I receive the next month's bill, I shred the last month's bill along with the cancelled check.

It is imperative for everyone to have a family recordkeeping system, including a permanent file which should contain an up-to-date list of assets and where they are located. In addition, the permanent file should contain a listing of liabilities and a contact list of professionals that you deal with such as

financial adviser, accountant and attorney. A permanent file should contain where you keep legal documents such as medical power of attorney and durable power of attorney.

It is not sufficient just to have a good record-keeping system and a permanent file. In addition, someone other than yourself needs to have access to your permanent file. In an emergency, someone will need to access your information.

Livonia

The key to any record-keeping system is to use one that works for you. Tax time is a good time to organize records and establish a record-keeping system that works for you.

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

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Family Pack

Families need plan to deal with home fires

ost people place as much importance on family fire safety as they do on rearranging their sock drawers. But when you consider that over 80 percent of all fire deaths in the United States occur in residences, it just makes good sense to take a few minutes to devise your home fire escape plan.

Map out an overhead plan of your home on a piece of paper and draw in the walls that let you see a "birds eye" view of each room. If you have more than one floor, put each floor on a separate piece of paper. Mark in the primary escape path for each room in the house, usually consisting of following the door out of a room and out the main door of the house.

Then, make a secondary escape path, in case the primary path is blocked by heat, smoke and/or fire. This is usually a window out of each room. Make sure they open freely, and the person who normally sleeps in bedrooms can easily open their windows. An outside meeting place is a necessity.

Smoke alarms are an inexpensive way to get an early warning in case there is smoke in your home. There is a lot of talk about types of sensing technology, and we suggest you spend a bit more on smoke alarms that have "dual sensing technology", that includes both ionization and photoelectric sensing chambers. Have a minimum of one smoke alarm per floor, with units outside of any sleeping area. Having more only increases your warning time, so just avoid a few places prone to nuisance alarms, like bathrooms, kitchens and by fireplaces.



For those of you who have family members who sleep upstairs, and slipping out a window onto the ground is not an option, purchase safety ladders. They are compact and fit nicely under a bed or in a closet until needed. They simply hook onto the window sill and you can descend from there. They are

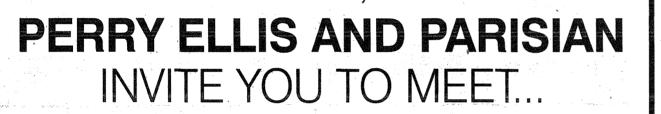
available in two- and three-story models, so measure how far from window to ground you need and purchase the appropriate ladder.

Fire extinguishers make good sense to have in any home, to extinguish small fires that may break out while you are close by. Most home fires start in the kitchen, so that makes great sense to keep one there. If you want to get a few more, the garage and basement are good places to keep those. Purchase extinguishers rated for "A, B and C" type fires, as that covers any fire you may have in your home. Teach those in your family how to use them, but never delay calling the fire

department to use a portable fire extinguisher. The most important part of any family safety plan is practicing the plan with all members of the family present. The hardest part is the few minutes needed to develop the plan (which can be a fun family assignment), and the easy part is practicing it at least twice a year. If you have any questions, feel free to contact us at any Livonia fire station or call (734) 466-2444. Tom Kiurski is a Livonia firefighter.



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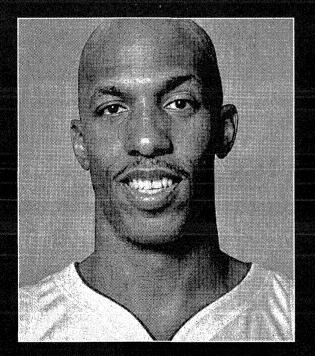


DETROIT BASKETBALL STAR

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Pre-Sell Autograph Line: Pre-select \$50 or more worth of Perry Ellis merchandise by March 12 and receive first access to Chauncy for an autograph and a basketball from Perry Ellis. Merchandise will be rung and available for pick up on the day of the event.

Same-day Purchase Autograph Line: Purchase \$50 or more of Perry Ellis merchandise on the day of the event and receive second access to Chauncy for an autograph and a basketball from Perry Ellis.

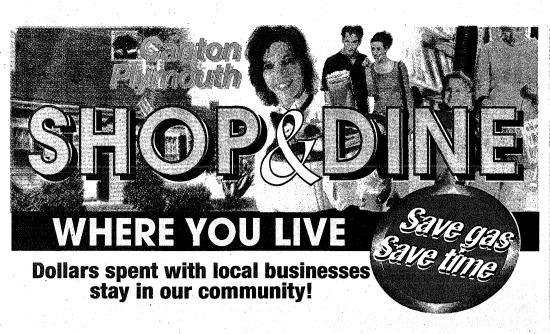


COME TO THE RIGHT PLACE

Basketball available while supplies last; limit one per customer. Only items supplied by Perry Ellis will be signed. Sorry, no other memorabilia or personal items will be signed. Limit one signed item per purchase. Due to the usual large turnout for personal appearances, Perry Ellis cannot guarantee that all individuals will be able to obtain an autograph during the scheduled appearance. Offer and items available while supplies last. No posed photographs permitted. [17378A]







Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, March 9, 2008

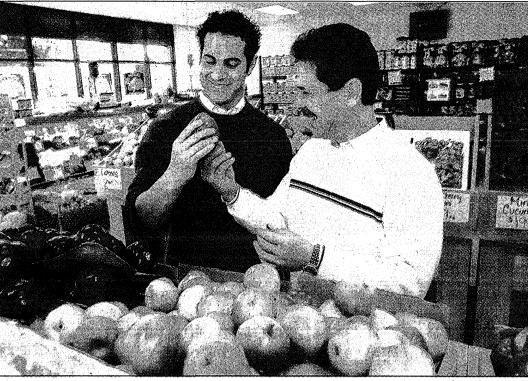
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section



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

www.hometownlife.com

Eddie Daibess, at right, retired from Ford and now spends his time helping his son, Hass Daibess, at left, open Mango's Fruit Market.

Family lives out son's dream with Canton grocery

BY TIFFANY L. PARKS STAFF WRITER

After Eddie Daibess worked his last day as an employee of Ford Motor Co., he didn't go home and honeymoon with his bride of 27 years — he began plotting his entry into the grocery business.

Daibess, 53, of Dearborn recently opened Mango's Fruit Market with his 25-year-old son, Hass, at 7209 Canton Center Road.

"I was at Ford for 33 years so it was time to get out and help fulfill my son's dream," he said, adding that he didn't have to think too long about accepting a buyout from the automaker in June. "This was my son's dream."

The 2,400-square-foot store anchors the Westbrook Plaza and offers a wide selection of deli products, fruits and international foods.

"We are extremely excited by the response we've gotten," said Hass, who began mapping out his entrepreneurial wishes as a University of Michigan student. "I would take a fruit market any day over an oil change center or gas station. I love this.'

Although Eddie and Hass put up the money to finance the venture, the whole Daibess family puts in time at the market, including Eddie's wife, Grace, and his other children, Farrah, Michael and Joseph.

"We almost opened in Sterling Heights but my daughter lives here and persuaded us to come here and the people of Canton have been so wonderful to us," Eddie said. "Not 80 percent but 99.9 percent of the people who come in here thank us for coming into the community."

Township resident Chris Zebari, the deli salesman for Mango's, stumbled upon the father and son team four months ago and has since become their most loyal customer.

"I'm in here all the time and my wife is in here all the time,' Zebari joked. "Their first \$20 bill came from me." Zebari, who raves that Eddie makes a mean batch of hummus, applauded Eddie and Hass for their business philosophies.

"People are getting tired of the big box stores and they want a personal touch. You come in here and you get a smiling face," he said, while walking over to the deli case

and pointing out a brand of ham. "You see this ham, this is high quality. They sell it in the big stores for \$6.99 a pound, these two (cut into their profit margins) and sell it for \$3.99 a pound."

In between ringing up orders and chatting with the children of his customers, Eddie said he and his son are proud of their competitive pricing.

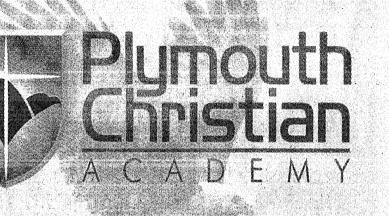
"We are trying to make a living not get filthy rich," he said. "I know what it's like to raise a family and how much money it takes. We are not here to hurt families and we are not greedy."

When asked whether he has any regrets about leaving his longtime position at Ford's Wayne Stamping and Assembly Plant, Eddie grins and says "I don't even think about (Ford) anymore. It's good to be free and on your own."

Hass said that's good news to him.

"When I first asked him (about opening Mango's) I didn't know what he would say," he said. "So I just asked him: What are you doing after retirement?'

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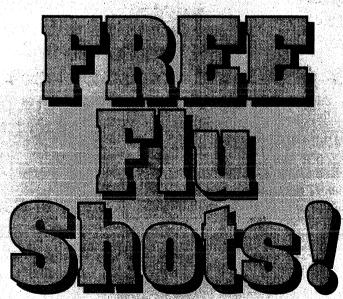


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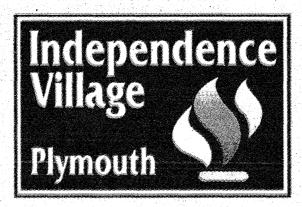
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Celebrating 10 years in the Plymouth Community

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A letter from the heart

Dear Friends:

It is no secret; we are facing difficult times in Michigan. Our automotive industry is in crisis. Other long standing businesses are leaving our great state, placing families in difficult financial



I'm proud to call Independence Village of Plymouth my home. Having lived here 10 years, that says a lot! - Arlene Schroeder, resident since 1998

folks" home."

situations. Senior Citizens are worried about the cost of their health care, prescriptions, and maintaining their homes. Many are losing pensions that they once felt were secure. The housing market is at an all time low. The writing is on the wall that over the next few months Michiganders will need to tighten their belts until our economy picks back up. We hear your concerns and we would like to address a few.

"I can't sell my home"

We work with real estate agents that can help you effectively market and sell your home, even in these difficult times. We also offer programs that allow you to live here while you still own your home.

"I'm not ready to move to an "old



We are not an old folks home. As Plymouth's premier retirement community, you will have your own private apartment home. You can enjoy our award winning food, take part in our many activities, or join one of our Wii bowling or golf leagues. Leave the housework to us and never worry about maintenance. With the added peace of mind knowing that we are staffed 24 hours a day, you and your family can relax knowing that we are here to help if you ever need it day or night!



Making the move wasn't easy, but I'm glad I did. Come and join us!- Carter E. Porter, resident since 2003



"I can't afford it."

Our basic lifestyle package includes a continental breakfast, evening dinner, heat, water, electric and central air. With weekly flat linen service and bi-monthly housekeeping along with scheduled transportation, it is very economical! We have also lowered our prices on our one bedroom apartments for new residents moving in to \$1998.00 until March 20, 2008.

Even though I still have to sell my home of 38 years in Dearborn, my family and I realized that the house was no longer manageable. My home is a two story colonial; managing the stairs was no longer practical or safe. Although my home is still on the market, I am glad that I made the move. My children and I all have peace of mind and my life is so much more comfortable here. And yes, I am still independent! – Eleanor Morgan- resident since 2005

We understand as seniors, you have many concerns. While we are experts in retirement communities, we want you to hear from fellow seniors about making a decision to move to Independence Village of Plymouth and how it has enhanced their lives.

As you can see, you are not alone with your concerns. Please call us at (734) 453-2600 to have lunch with one of our retirement specialists and a current resident who can share their experience with you. We are here to help.

Sincerely, Rick Goren General Manager Independence Village of Plymouth





The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

OUR VIEWS

Look to small business for state job growth

Michigan's economic equivalent of a long, hard winter, which saw the loss of 58,000 jobs in 2007, could be melting with initiatives now under way.

Workers shouldn't expect a flood of employment opportunities immediately, but the drip-drip-drip of job prospects may have already begun.

Programs such as Michigan's No Worker Left Behind, which recently awarded \$296,000 for training in Macomb and St. Clair counties, offer economic opportunity to displaced workers.

Meanwhile, a bipartisan plan to offer a 40-percent tax break to companies in the

film industry is the kind of aggressive economic welcome needed to bring new business to Michigan.

A look at job opportunities in the last year, however, shows that job prospects aren't coming from the really large companies, but from individual startups and smaller companies that are brushing the frost off of economic forecasts.

MOT(

A look at job opportunities in the last year, however, shows that job prospects aren't coming from the really large companies, but from individual startups and smaller companies that are brushing the frost off of economic forecasts.

For instance, a young company called Fathead, which creates life-size sports and entertainment figures for household use, has brought 55 jobs to its Livonia headquarters.

In Troy, six new restaurants have opened in the last year, while another is under construction.

Some entrepreneurs are taking on a can-do attitude, such as the West Bloomfield woman who is developing a business in welcoming families to the neighborhood.

True, there are big companies that fearlessly walk out on the ice, like Urban Retail, that recently bought the Oakland Mall, whose officials see opportunities in the marketplace.

But the likelihood is that Michigan's frozen economy will be warmed, job by job, by opportunities coming from the small business sector.



Something wrong with case

I read, with great interest, the recent article regarding Alex Letkemann, and the fact that he took (and passed) a polygraph test that refutes the ACO manager's testimony. She has said that she saw Alex in her store two days before the murder, looking at hatchets and blow torches.

I cannot understand why the prosecutor is not interested in this polygraph. If the goal is to seek the truth and ultimately find justice, why would they not want to consider a polygraph? Is it because it does not fit their original theory on this crime? I understand that Alex even offered to take a police polygraph on the issue.

I have to believe that the detectives involved would want to know everything related to this case, especially if a key witness is mistaken. Does anyone remember the Duke lacrosse player that was on TV screaming that he took a polygraph showing his innocence, but the prosecutor was too arrogant to care?

It seems to me that the Wayne County Prosecutor's office should want to look at all aspects of this case and not ignore things that may tell a different story.

Something is wrong here and I don't know how anyone could read that story and not feel the same way.

Donna Bowman

Garden City

Thanks for helping troops

Plymouth-Canton school board

The Plymouth-Canton Board of

The board will consider a resolution to

Thank you to those who helped support my care package collection last week to benefit our Michigan and Ohio Marines in Iraq. We raised almost \$800 and collected over 365 pounds of supplies. These health

ON THE AGENDA

bid packages for upgrades to several district school buildings. The Superintendent's Report will be an update on Special Education Redesign and Inclusion.

Plymouth Township Board of Trustees

The Plymouth Township board meets 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 11, at the township hall on Haggerty north of Ann Arbor

LETTERS

and comfort items will be truly useful to our fighting men and women overseas. This outpouring of support is critical not only for the successful completion of the mission, but is essential in supporting the mental health of our troops in harm's way and helps to make for a successful transition home.

I must take this space to recognize some folks whose "extra support" made this event as successful as it was: Canton Observer, state Sen. Bruce Patterson, state Rep. Phil LaJoy, Canton Supervisor Tom Yack, Canton Clerk Terry Bennett, Canton trustees Melissa McLaughlin and Todd LaJoy, Canton Leisure Services Director Ann Conklin, Canton Public Safety Director John Santomauro, Canton ZBA Member Steve Johnson, Wayne County Commissioner Kevin McNamara, Glenn Shaw and family, fellow employees at General Electric and SABIC Innovative Plastics, Gary Kohn and the Yellow Mustang Registry, township trustee candidate Pat Williams and, of course, a huge special thanks to Canton Computers' Dave Wisniewski and Jason Lewkut for their unwavering support of the troops!

> **Todd Caccamo** Canton Township trustee

Part-time Legislature

A citizen from birth and a proud Michiganian, I'm proactive in the campaign to put a part-time Legislature initiative on the November ballot. The reasons are many.

Michigan does not need and cannot afford 148 lawmakers for 9.6 million citizens. California has 120 for 33 million citizens. Ours are the second highest paid after California and Michigan is only one of four states with a full-time Legislature.

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But more dire, more disturbing and, sadly, more prophetic for the future, is the disquieting and appalling indifference of many who are eligible to vote, to let their voices be heard, by the simple act of signing a petition but don't! Many have signed: It's the don'ts and won'ts to whom this article is addressed.

Why? Some responses: "I don't believe Michigan is one of only four states with a full-time Legislature" (from an academic); "The part-time thing is just another Internet scam"; "I don't trust Lansing" "I'm not interested!"; "I've heard this song before." Many responses are laced with vulgar military expressions not fit to print. They all tell a story, a story of cynicism, skepticism and distrust: they smell a rat!

Many feel disenfranchised; they don't trust politicians; they believe they've been "snowed" by party rhetoric and — most of all - Michigan's economy is negatively affecting them while Lansing generates more hot air, useless tax proposals and spurious press releases. I share many of these feelings. But I also believe that "We the People" still has meaning if "We the People" act in concert and demand better government in Michigan. Signing a petition is a step toward that goal.

Michiganians did not just fall off the turnip truck, and most know they're getting "the treatment" from Lansing. Wanna get even? Get off your duff and sign. The computer savvy can get the whole story at: www.TurnMichiganAround.com and/or www.Reformmichigangovernment.com.

Royal Oak

The board will consider a tuition reimbursement request from a township employee; take necessary action to establish an easement agreement for ingress and egress between Plymouth Associates, 30407 W. 13 Mile, Farmington Hills, and Charter Township of Plymouth; and set a date for a public hearing for a request from Dadco to amend Industrial Facilities

of Plymouth-Canton Schools. The board will also consider additional resolutions to award Road. **Exemption Certificate.** PURE ENTERTAINMENT! Sugar Thucesday.

William Carruth



McManus Distinguished Business Lecture

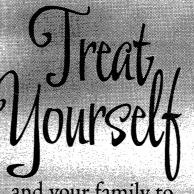
presents Jim Croce, **CEO, NextEnergy**

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TANNING & SMOOTHIES

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Penguin skaters surge in post-season

BY ED WRIGHT OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Following a luke-warm regular season, the Plymouth-Canton-Salem girls hockey team turned on the after-burners during the post-season.

The defending state champion Penguins advanced all the way to the semi-final round of the Michigan Metro Girls High School Hockey League playoffs this week before eventually falling to unbeaten powerhouse Grosse Pointe South, 9-1, Thursday night at City Sports Arena in Detroit.

The loss left PCS with a season-ending 5-14 record, but with plenty of positive

vibes about how it capped the campaign. "Before the playoffs started, I told the

girls to believe in themselves because I knew they could do it," said PCS coach Lori Callahan. "They really started believing in themselves this week and they stepped up and played great hockey."

On Saturday, March 1, the Penguins upended Walled Lake Unified, 6-3, behind Brooke Caccavelli's hat-trick. Annie McTurner, Lauren Smith and Kelsey Nikkila netted single goals for the winners. Nikkila, Jennifer Fedon and Jenny Grodus registered assists.

Michelle Shaffer was solid in net for the Penguins, stopping six shots. PCS out-shot Walled Lake, 39-9. In Tuesday's quarterfinal encounter with Farmington Hills Mercy, the Penguins prevailed, 3-2, on Nikkila's game-winner with 3:46 to play.

"There was a scrum in front of the net and Kelsey did a good job of putting in a rebound," said.

Caccavelli was credit with an assist on Nikkila's dramatic lamp-lighter.

Caccavelli and Grodus also scored for the winners. Smith assisted on Grodus's goal.

The Penguins played their hearts out in the opening period against Grosse Pointe South and went into the first intermission deadlocked at 0-0.

However, the Blue Devils scored three

goals in the opening four minutes of the second period to seize control.

Caccavelli scored from Amy Coleman at 9:05 of the second to make it 3-1, but PCS couldn't dent South's defense the rest of the way.

"I'm very pleased with how the girls finished the season," said Callahan. "They worked very hard throughout the entire season. Our won-loss record wasn't great, but they really stepped up and showed what they're all about in the playoffs."

Grosse Pointe South was set to play Ann Arbor in Saturday's final.

ewright@hometownlife.com | (734) 953-2108



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Salem's Stan Chen has established himself into one of the state's top breast-strokers. The senior is a four-time state-qualifier for the Rocks.

Four local grapplers moving on

Four P-CEP grapplers still harbored hopes of All-State finishes following Friday night's action at the Division 1 Individual Wrestling Tournament at the Palace of Auburn Hills.

Three Canton matmen — Donnie Watkins (125 pounds), Steve Cox (135) and Brent Winekoff (140) — along with Salem 160-pounder Jeremy Epley were still alive heading into Saturday's final rounds.

After dropping his opener, 5-4, to Rochester Adams' Tyler Bunting, Watkins battled back by defeating Rockford's Ian Martin, 4-0, and Holly's Bryan Sears, 8-3.

Cox opened with a 9-2 triumph over Kalamazoo



Fellows Creek

fund-raiser The Friends of Fellows Creek and Canton Leisure Services are offering a unique opportunity to create a lasting tribute to friends or family members by purchasing a commemorative bench or brick paver at Fellows Creek Golf Club.

Personalized benches and brick pavers will be placed in a pathway around Fellows Creek Golf Club, which is located at 2936 S. Lotz Road in Canton.

Each paver is 4-by-8 inches in size and can include up to three lines of inscription with 14 characters per line, including spaces.

Brick pavers can be purchased for \$100 and are 100 percent tax deductible.

The program was initiated by the Friends of Fellows Creek, a group of residents dedicated to the preservation and improvement of Fellows Creek Golf Club.

Proceeds from the program will go toward improvements at Fellows Creek. For more informa-

Chen has flourished since Day 1 for Salem swim team

y 'stan'nar

Locals fare well at state swim meet. See Page B2.

BY ED WRIGHT Observer staff writer

If you would have seen Stan Chen during the "dog paddle" stage of his swimming career, you never would have predicted the great things that were on the horizon for the Salem senior.

"I wasn't very good when I first started," revealed Chen, who competed in his fourth Division 1 state meet this weekend. "When I was young, I just kind of splashed around and did the dog paddle — and I didn't even do that very well."

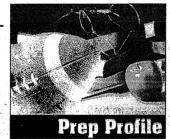
How times — both figuratively and with a stop watch – have changed for Chen, who has worked his way into

becoming one of the best breast-strokers in the state. Chen's ability to master the breaststroke speaks volumes about his work ethic and coordination skills because the

stroke is widely considered the most difficult to execute.

Tough angle

The breaststroke is performed with the swimmer leaning



on his or her chest, with their arms breaking the surface. of the water slightly and the legs always under water. In other words, it's not easy.

"The most important thing with the breaststroke is that you have to keep your momentum going at all

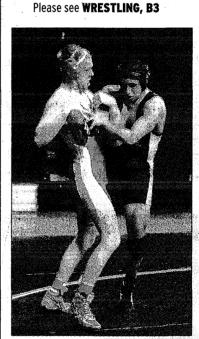
times; it's easy to stop," said Chen.

Chen finished 15th in the 100-yard breaststroke at last year's state meet — a showing he's a good bet to improve upon this weekend.

Real close to a record

One of his goals this weekend was to break the Salem school record of 59.96, which was set nearly two decades ago. With a pre-state meet personal-best of 1:01.96, Chen was on the brink of kicking his way into the records books.

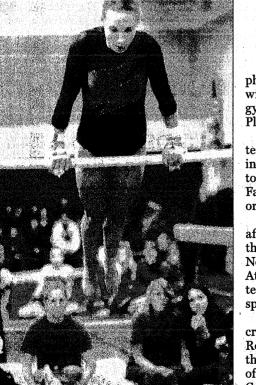
Please see CHEN, B2



JOHN STORMZAND | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Canton's Steve Cox gets a leg up on Rochester Stoney Creek's Charlie Cordero during a 135-pound match at Friday's Division 1 state individual wrestling finals at the Palace of Auburn Hills.

Robyn Piwowar, pictured above in a meet earlier this year, was Canton's all-around performer at Friday's **Division 1** gymnastics state meet held at **Plymouth High** School.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Canton gymnasts 10th at state meet

BY BRAD EMONS OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Barring some sort of catastrophe, Grand Ledge was going to win its first-ever MHSAA girls gymnastics title Friday night at Plymouth High School.

And the state's No. 1-ranked team all season didn't falter, scoring a team-high 148.65 points. And to nobody's surprise, No. 2-ranked Farmington took runner-up honors with 146.75.

The surprises, however, came afterwards as Livonia Blue placed third with 144.725 followed by Northville (144.45) and Troy Athens (144.375) in a hotly contested battle for the next three spots.

Also coming through with a credible performance was Livonia Red, which finished ninth in the 13-school field with a total of 141.025. Regional runner-up Canton was 10th with a 139.05. Leading the way for regional champion Livonia Blue squad was the trio of Emily Quint, who scored a 37.050 in the all-around; Meghan Powers, 36.125; and Laura Nomura, 35.675.

Livonia Blue's best events were the vault (37.05) and uneven bars (35.9), which put them second and third overall.

"On the whole, it was a good meet," Livonia Blue coach Lisa Fierk said. "It was pretty high (score) for a meet like this. Laura Nomura's 9.55 on vault was an excellent score for her and the same goes for Emily Quint with a 9.55 on floor."

Livonia Blue finished seventh on floor (36.825) and eighth on the balance beam (36.825).

"I thought we were mostly relaxed, but some nerves came into play because we started on beam, which we haven't done all season," Fierk said. "But we took the beam and increased our scores from there. It was an excellent meet overall. They exceeded my expectations. I'm so proud of them."

Livonia Red, the only team to make the field as an at-large (fourth at the regional), got another sterling performance from Paula Guzik, who had the fourth-best allaround score on the night (37.35).

"I'm very pleased because we were almost right where we were at the regional," Livonia Red coach Kelly Grodzicki said. "I think some nerves came into play. But we were so happy to be here because our goal was to make it to 'states.'

"Paula Guzik's balance beam (9.375) – where she did consecutive back-tucks for the first time – was outstanding. And her floor (9.65) was amazing. Margarita Lazarevska was also very solid on the beam (9.125)."

Canton, runner-up to Livonia Blue in last week's regional,

Please see GYMNASTICS, B2

Madonna University women's softball coach Al White announced

the signing of his second recruit Thursday with the addition of Milan's Tori Turner.

tion, call (734) 728-

MU signs Turner

1300.

She is joined by Garden City pitcher Hallie Minch, who signed last month. Three-year varsity letter winner Turner hit .528 last season en route to All-Huron League, All-District

and All-Region honors. "We are extremely

excited to add a student-athlete of Tori's caliber to join our program," White said."She has been on our radar for quite some time and it is nice to see the process come to fruition. Coach (Jennifer) Jackson has done a great job getting Tori ready for the next level and we know we are getting a very talented player and an even better character person off the field."

Softball Showcase

The Paramount Scouting Bureau and National Scouting Report will host the Motor City Showcase Friday, July 4, as part of the Paramount Softball Showcase Series.

The showcase, which begins at 10 a.m., will be held at Victory Park in Canton.

Professional scouts will rate all players with the top players receiving invitations to play in a national showcase. A college recruiting session will follow the showcase.

Contact Steve LaMay at (248) 249-0129 or slamay@nsr-inc.com. **LOCAL SPORTS**

P-CEP swimmers shine at state meet

A trio of P-CEP swimmers advanced to the second day of the Division 1 state finals at Oakland University on Friday afternoon.

B2 (CP)

Salem's Adam Seroka and Plymouth's Mike Conger had especially productive days. Seroka placed 10th in the 200-yard IM with a time of 2:00.28. Later in the day, the senior touched ninth in the 500 freestyle, missing a berth in the championship heat by just over two seconds.

Conger placed ninth in the 200 IM preliminaries with a time of 2:00.20. He followed that up with a 13th-place showing in the 100 backstroke (55.84).

Salem's Stan Chen advanced to Saturday's round with a 13th-place showing in the 100

breaststroke. The senior cap tain was clocked in 1:02.08.

Individuals and relay teams needed to place in the top 16 of their respective events to move on to Saturday's competition.

Among the local state qualifiers who didn't advance were Plymouth's 200 medley relay team of Conger, Dan Stoscup, Paul Snyder and Chris Wilson, who placed 25th; Salem's 200 medley relay contingent of Seroka, Chen, Cameron Dunn and Nathan Spala, who placed 27th; Canton's 400 freestyle relay quartet of Richard Zhang, Kevin Karlinski, Brandon Tolinski and Chris McGinnis, who placed 19th; and Salem's 400 freestyle relay foursome of Spala, Matt Collingwood, Chen and Seroka, who touched 27th.



Signed, sealed, delivered

Canton senior basketball player Baylee Hollowell recently signed to play collegiate basketball for Siena Heights. The All-WLAA Western Division forward averaged 14.2 points and 12.4 rebounds this past season for the Chiefs. Pictured (seated from left) are Canton coach Brian Samulski, Hollowell, Roni Radowick (Hollowell's mom) and (standing) Siena Heights coach Susan Syljebeck.

then a lot of nights he'd have another practice after our practice. That's something I've never forgotten."

Words of advice

When asked what advice he'd give a first-time state meet qualifier, the four-time state qualifier offered a gold medal-caliber answer.

"I'd tell them to acknowledge the fact that they're competing in a big, important meet, but at the same time they should have fun and not let the pressure get to them," he said.

Chen is an outstanding student who has sculpted a sparkling 3.8 grade-point average.

"The toughest thing about swimming season is doing my homework after practice,' Chen said. "I'm usually dead tired when I get home, but I have three AP (advanced placement) classes, so I usually have about an hour and a half or two hours of homework."

Chen will be attending the University of Michigan in the fall to pursue a pre-med degree.

"Looking way into the future, I'd like to become a neuro-surgeon," he said.

learned about the brain and I

think it would be an interest-

"There's still a lot to be

ing field to work in."

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(734) 953-2108

Ignition bites Sharks, clinches playoff berth

The Detroit Ignition defeated the expansion Orlando Sharks, 13-6, at Amway Arena Friday night to secure a berth in the Major Indoor Soccer League's post-season playoffs.

The win also gave the 16-7 Ignition a share of first place in the MISL.

The setback dropped the Sharks to 3-22. The Ignition got off to a red-hot start, scoring nine unanswered points.

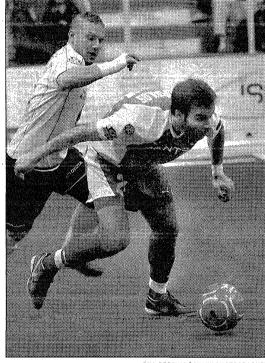
Defender Jonathan Greenfield got things started for the winners with a two-point tally with just over a minute to play in the first quarter.

Midfielder Vahid Assadpour put an unassisted two-point shot past Orlando keeper Antonio Iriarte at 3:11 of the second quarter to give Detroit a 4-0 lead at the half.

Birmingham native Ryan Mack continued the club's assault in the third quarter, adding two more points for the Ignition at 2:06. At 6:59, midfielder Kyt Selaidopoulos buried a threepointer to give Detroit a 9-0 lead.

With just over a minute left in the third quarter, Orlando forward Felipe Lawall gave the Sharks their first points of the night with an

unassisted two-point goal.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

GYMNASTICS RESULTS

www.hometownlife.com

MHSAA TEAM GIRLS GYMNASTICS FINALS

March 7 at Plymouth H.S. TEAM STANDINGS: 1. Grand Ledge, 148.65; 2. Farmington, 146.75; 3. Livonia Blue, 144.725; 4. Northville, 144.45; 5. Troy Athéns, 144.375; 6. Sturgis; 143.375; 7. Grand Rapids Forest Hills, 141.425; 8. Portage, 141.175; 9. Livonia Red. 141.025; 10. Canton, 139.05; 11. Holt, 138.55; 12. Freeland, 130.125.

AREA INDIVIDUAL SCORES FARMINGTON Vault: Kristin Nagle, 9.35; Jill Haapaniemi, 9.2; Lena Schneewind, 9.1; Samantha Kohl, 9.0; Amy Ancona. 8.75

Uneven bars: Nagle, 9,55; Elana Cocke, 9.025; Haapaniemi, 8.8; Kohl, 8.7; Ancona, 8.4. Balance beam: Haapaniemi, 9.4; Ancona, 9.275 Cocke, 8.9; Nagle, 8.725; Danielle Bresso, 8.525. Floor exercise: Cocke, 9.675; Haapaniemi and Ancona, 9. 4 each; Nagle, 9.25; Khol, 9.025 LIVONIA BLUE

Vault: Laura Nomura, 9.55; Emily Quint, 9.4; Meghan Powers, 9.1; Kelly Charniga, 9.0; Kelly Tapella 8.95

Uneven bars: Brittany Janis, 9.175; Quint, 9.1; Powers, 8.9; Tapella, 8.725; Nomura, 8.475 Balance beam: Quint, 9.25; Powers, 8.9; Nomura, 8.9; Carley Lukas, 8.125; Charniga, 8.0. Floor exercise: Quint, 9.525; Powers, 9.225; Charniga, 9.075; Tapella, 9.0; Nomura, 8.75. TROY ATHENS

Vault: Naomi Cherup, 9.4; Michelle Mather, 9.2; Brooke Madzia, 8.85; Karen Guo, 8.65; Kelly Madzia, 8.5.

Uneven bars: B. Madzia, 8.9; Mather, 8.85; Jackie Stewart, 8.75; Cherup, 8.7; Guo, 8.15. Balance beam: Mather, 9.1; B. Madzia, 8.95; K. Madzia, 8.975; Cherup, 8.875; Guo, 8.6. Floor exercise: B. Madzia, 9.525; Paige Pennycook, 9.3; Mather, 9.2; K. Madzia, 9.15; Cherup, 8.925.

NORTHVILLE Vault: Allison Kemp, 9.2; Cassidy Winter, 9.05; Makenna Pohl, 8.9; Amy Reynolds, 8.8; Amy O'Brien, 8.5.

Uneven bars: Winter, 9.025; Pohl, 8.9; Kemp, 8.775; Reynolds, 8.75; Julie Davison, 7.925. Balance beam: Reynolds, 9.325; Kemp, 9.2;
 Balance beam: Reynolds, 9.325; Kemp, 9.2;
 Winter, 9.175; Pohl, 9.1; Kemp, 9.05; Davison, 8.5.
 Floor exercise: Winter, 9.175; Pohl, 9.1; Kemp, 9.05; Caileigh Deacon, 8.975; O'Brien, 8.8.
 LIVONIA RED
 Vault: Paula Guzik, 9.45; Alicia DiMauro, 9.2;
 Marrarita Jazravska, 8.95; Prittany Swazay

Margarita Lazarevska, 8.95; Brittany Swazey, 8.6; Jamie Marihugh, 8.5. Uneven bars: Guzik, 8.875; DiMauro, 8.5; Katina St. Pierre, 8.25; Marihugh, 7.875; Lauren Patla,

7 575 Balance beam: Guzik, 9.375; Lazarevska, 9.125;

DiMauro, 8.675; Swazey, 7.85; St. Pierre, 7.6. Floor exercise: Guzik, 9.65; DiMauro, 9.2; Lazarevska, 8.8; Swazey, 8.65; Patla, 8.625

Vault: Robyn Piwowar, 9.425; Jessie Murray, 9.1; Cathy Huang, 9.1; Kali Pierce, 8.25; Mallory Hudak, 8.15

Uneven bars: Murray, 8,725; Piwowar, 8,65; Hudak, 7.8; Huang, 7.5; Pierce, 7.05. Balance beam: Murray, 9,025; Piwowar, 8,825; Pierce, 8.0; Huang, 7.65; Hudak, 6.6. Floor exercise: Piwowar, 9.4; Murray, 9.325; Huang, 9.25; Hudak, 9.025; Pierce, 8.65.

WALLED LAKE NORTHERN Vault: Kiley Tobel, 8.6; Hannah Saaranen, 8.55; Shannon Slayton, 8.35; Elizabeth Sommer, 8.275; Jenna Thomas, 7.9. Uneven bars: Sommer, 9.025; Saaranen, 8.975; Tobel and Slayton, 7.7 each; Amanda Robertson

Balance beam: Saaranen, 8.85; Sommer, 8.5; Tobel, 8.25; Slayton, 8.0; Cooper Balestring 6.75.

Floor exercise: Sommer, 9.1; Saaranen, 8.95; Tobel and Slayton, 8.775 each; Thomas, 7.95.

GYMNASTICS FROM PAGE B1

slipped to 10th overall with a

139.05, "We had two good events

FROM PAGE B1

"Stan is a good, all-around swimmer who happens to be a very good breast-stroker," said Salem coach Chuck Olson. "Obviously, it's nice to

have a good breast-stroker like Stan because there aren't a lot of good ones out there. You have to have a strong kick, flexibility and great timing - all things that Stan has worked hard to get.

"A lot of times, good breast-strokers will have a hard time with the other strokes, but Stan is very adaptable. He's a very good freestyler and one of the reasons why our 400 freestyle relay team qualified for the state meet.

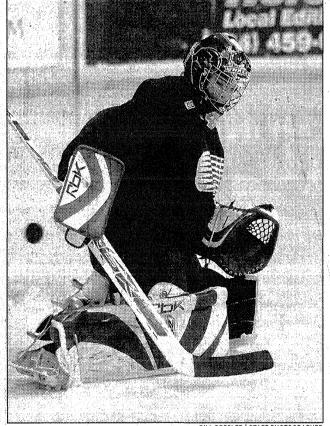
Of Chen's numerous accomplishments, he lists a nonswimming honor as his No. 1 highlight.

"Being chosen captain this year has meant the most to me," he said, without hesitation. "My job as captain is to make sure everyone is making good decisions and to make sure everyone is motivated before and during the meets."

Chen said he's had great role models when it comes to his captaincy.

"One of the captains my freshman year, Nick Dixon, really left a positive impression on me," said Chen. "He'd work so hard at practice and

Plymouth Whalers goalie Jeremy Smith, pictured above at a team practice last year, signed a contract with the Nashville Predators of the National Hockey League.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

At 3:06 of the fourth quarter, Ignition rookie Leo Gibson scored his first MISL goal — a twopoint tally off an assist from Droo Callahan. Forward Jorge Valle notched two points for Orlando with an unassisted goal at 5:44.

Less than two minutes later, midfielder Ze Roberto netted a two-point shot for Detroit with an assist from Selaidopoulos.

Nashville Predators President of Hockey

announced earlier this week that the club had

signed Plymouth Whalers goaltender Jeremy

by the Predators in the second round (54th

overall) of the 2007 National Hockey League

Entry Draft. Smith was originally selected by

Plymouth in the 4th round (64th overall) of the

"We're excited for Jeremy," said Plymouth

President and General Manager Mike Vellucci.

"He's worked very hard to develop into one of

Smith is in his second full season with the

Whalers and currently has a 2.86 goals against

Last season, Smith shared Plymouth goal-

recording the lowest team goals against average

Smith also won USA Hockey's Dave Peterson

en route to winning the OHL Championship.

tending duties with Michal Neuvirth as the

Whalers won the Dave Pinkney Trophy in

average, .921 save percentage and three shut-

the best goaltenders in the Ontario Hockey

Smith, a native of Brownstown, was selected

Operations/General Manager David Poile

Smith to an entry-level contract.

2005 Ontario Hockey League Draft.

Detroit Ignition mid-fielder Kyt Selaidopoulos, pictured above in a game earlier this season, played a key role in his team's 13-6 victory over Orlando Friday night.

The Ignition will host the Chicago Storm (13-10) this afternoon at Compuware Arena. The opening kick is set for 4:35 p.m.

Jeremy Smith, a native of Brownstown, was

selected by the Predators in the second round

Entry Draft. Smith was originally selected by

2005 Ontario Hockey League Draft.

Central Scouting Services.

March 15 against Sarnia.

United States and made the OHL's All-

Plymouth in the 4th round (64th overall) of the

Academic Team. Smith finished the season as

the No. 1-rated North American goaltender by

This season, Smith played for the United

Holidays and represented the OHL Western

Plymouth (33-24-2-3, fifth seed in the

Western Conference) is on the road this week-

end. Plymouth's next home game is Saturday,

Tickets can be purchased for all Plymouth

(734) 453-8400 or by going to Ticketmaster at

games by calling the Compuware Arena at

Conference in the OHL All-Star Classic in Sault

States at the World Junior Championships

in the Czech Republic over the Christmas

(54th overall) of the 2007 National Hockey League

Whalers' Smith signs with Nashville

- the floor (37.0) and the vault (35.875), where we were sixth and seventh, and two bad events (beam and bars)," Canton coach John Cunningham said. "We were way ahead of 10th (place) in the floor and vault, but 12th in the other two.

"We went out first on beam and we got nervous. We had two good routines, then we had a couple of falls. On bars, my girls should have performed better, but they also deserved a better fate (scoring wise). But when you get two 'sevens' you can expect to be 10th.'

The previous week Canton finished with a score of 143.70. "Three of my five are freshmen, along with a sophomore and one senior. Maybe experi-

ence was a problem instead of nerves." Canton's best event was the floor as Robyn Piwowar scored 9.4; Jessie Murray, 9.325;

and Cathy Huang, 9.25. On vault, Piwowar scored a 9.425, while Murray and Huang each marked 9.1s.

"We were borderline exceptional in those two events,' Cunningham said.

On Saturday, Division I and II gymnasts competed for individual honors at Plymouth.

bemons@oe.homecomm.net | (734) 953-2123

Macomb Lutheran North: Brian Budchuk, Sr. F; Andrew MacDonald,

Grosse Pointe Woods University

Liggett: Patrick Gustine, Sr. G. Harper Woods: Vincent Bright, Sr. G. Bloomfield Hills Cranprook: Eric

Gainer Jr C

Fishman Jr (

Spring Break Camps

ALL-SPORT CAMP

Dates: Apr. March 24-28 Half-day: 9a-12p \$25/day or Full-day: 9a-4p \$45/day

CRAFT CAMP

Dates: March 24-28 Half-day: 9am-12pm \$30/day (all supplies included)

> SOCCER CAMP Dates: March 24-28 Fee: \$95/child

1:00-3:00 pm (5-day camp)

BASKETBALL CAMP Dates: March 24-28 Fee: \$95/child 10am-12pm Ages: 6-12 (5-day camp)

(734) HV-SPORT 46245 Michigan Ave. hvsports.com

SPORTS SHORTS

Diesels tryouts

League.'

outs in 40 games.

The Detroit Diesels, a minor league football team, will be holding tryouts March 8 and March 15 — both Saturdays — from 2-5 p.m. at High Velocity Sports, which is located at 46245 Michigan Ave.

Tryouts are for men 18 years old and older. The fee is \$35, which includes a T-shirt.

For more information, call (313) 299-1277 or visit www.dieselsfootball.homestead.com.

Coaches needed

The Christian Football League of Michigan is looking for high school and middle school coaches for a new team in the Plymouth/ Canton/Livonia area. Interested coaches should download the coaching application and background check available at www.cflmi.com.

The Christian Football League of Michigan is set to begin play this fall.

ALL-WESTERN DIVISION: John Hill 6-2 Sr. F, Wayne; Robert Woodson, 5-11 Jr. G, Wayne; Greg Hasse, 6-3 Sr. F, Northville; Dramell Hogan, 6-2 Sr. F, Northville, Drainein Hogan, 6-2 Sr. F, Walled Lake Western; Brandon Roberts, 6-0 Sr. G, Plymouth; Navraj Sandhu, 6-4 Sr. G, Plymouth: Ryan Matthey, 6-0 Sr. G, Livonia Franklin; Neil Sharma, 6-4 Sr. F, Canton. ALL-LAKES DIVISION: Stefan Marken, 6-4 Sr. E. Jaho Cloan; Kachawa 6-4 Sr. F, John Glenn; Keshawn Martin, 6-1 Sr. G, John Glenn; Andrew Vagnetti, 6-2 Sr. G, Churchill; Ross Davis, 6-4 Sr. F, Salem; Derek Mitchell, 6-2 Sr. F, W.L. Central; Mark Grisa, 6-1 Jr. F. Livonia Stevenson. COACH OF THE YEAR

Dan Young, John Glenn HONORABLE MENTION Wayne: Jeremy Lovelady, 6-10 Sr. C; Martez Abney, 5-10 Sr. G; Daniel Hill, 23 Sonb E. Matt Louis C. 15 C. Bariel Hill, 6-3 Soph. F; Matt Lewis, 6-1 Sr. F; John WLAA BOYS BASKETBALL Fairfax, Sr. G (Co-MVP); Jamie Stewart, Jr. F (Co-MVP); Jeremy

Glenn: Austin Anderson, 6-1 Jr. 6; Jordan Manier, 6-8 Sr. C; Daris Smith, 5-8 Sr. G; Churchill: Ryan Woods, 5-11 Jr. G; Daran Carey, 5-8 Sr. G; Ryan Whittum, 6-2 Sr. G; Nick Seger, 6-5 Sr. F; Northville: Martin Trautmanis, 6-2 Sr. F: Stow Anderson, 6-15 r. GMike Sr. F; Steve Anderson, 6-1 Sr. G; Mike Rogers, 6-8 Sr. C; David Burke, 6-7 Sr F; **Salem:** Tyler Jeleniewski, 5-10 Sr. G; Jesse Pointer, 6-4 Sr. C; Joe Posler 6; Jesse Pointer, 6-4 Sr. C; Joë Posite 6-4 Jr. F; W.L. Lake Western: Sean Armstrong, 6-2 Sr. F; Edison Yushaj, 6-5 Jr. F; Quinton Cooper, 6-2 Jr. F; Michell Vercellino, 6-1 Sr. F; Ricky Arlen, 5-10 Sr. G; Plymouth: David Harvey, 6-1 Sr. F; Mike Hanchett, 6-4 Sr. F; Garcott Pabain, 6-1 Sr. F; Chris Sr. F: Garrett Rebain, 6-1 Sr. F: Chris Daniels, 6-0 Sr. G; W.L. Central: Jordan Anderson, 6-0 Jr. G. Brian Indianer, 6-0 Sr. G; Ian Sherman, 6-0 Sr. G; Jared Pietras, 6-2 Sr. G; Franklin: Jeff Poole, 6-2 Jr. F; Kevin Percin, 5-10 Sr. G; Connor Leidal, 6-3 Percin, 5-10 Sr. 6; Connor Leidal, 6-3 Jr. F; **Stevenson:** Gary Cobb, 6-2 Jr. F; Bobby Naubert, 5-9 Soph. 6; Brian Rowe, 6-1 Jr. 6; Jordan El:Sabeh, 6-3 Soph. F; **Canton:** Chris Bailey, 5-11 Sr. F; Brody Coplai, 6-0 Sr. 6; **Walled** Lake Northern: Tim Ferenc, 5-9 Sr. 6; Nerve Jerson E-0 Soph 6: Leroy Jackson, 5-9 Soph. G. ALL-METRO CONFERENCE

FIRST-TEAM Livonia Clarenceville: Lonnie

Rochester Hills Lutheran Northwest: Mat Schrupp, Sr. C. Hamtramck: DeWayne Stevens, Sr. G. Clawson: Rob Feeman, Soph. G. AT-LARGE Cranbrook: Xander Strek, Sr. G. SECOND-TEAM Clarenceville: Darryl Whitaker, Jr. G. Lutheran North: Jordan Buuck, Sr. G. Liggett: Jeremiah Manning, Jr. G; Aaron Heanew, Sr. G.

Aaron Heaney, Sr. G. Harper Woods: Quentin Lewis, Sr. F. Cranbrook: Matt Broder, Sr. F. Northwest: Danny Brown, Jr. G. Hamtramck: Chris Taylor, Jr. G. Lutheran High Westland: Josh

Kruger, Jr. G. AT-LARGE Northwest: Matt Rolf, Jr. G. COACH OF THE YEAR Liggett: Sidney Johnson.

Award as the Top Junior Goaltender in the www.ticketmaster.com. 2007-08 ALL-WESTERN LAKES ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION BOYS BASKETBALL TEAMS

Ste. Marie.

ALL-CONFERENCE: Mike Lee, 5-11 Sr. 6, Wayne Memorial; Earl Hardison, 6-1 Sr. F, Westland John Glenn; Ryan Rosenick, 6-3 Sr. F, Livonia Churchill; Dan Kirkpatrick, 6-7 Sr. F./Northville; Grant Stone, 6-5 Sr. F. Salem; Cody Rzeznik, 6-3 Sr. G, Walled Lake Central.

www.hometownlife.com



Striking Shamrocks

Several Observerland-area residents excelled for the Novi Catholic Central bowling team this past season. Livonia's Kerry Kirsch (second from left) bowled a 300 game on Jan. 28 against Dearborn Divine Child. The Shamrocks combined to roll a Baker 300 on Feb. 11 at the Woodland Lanes against Birmingham Brother Rice. Those participating in the perfect Baker game were Kirsch, Scott Kujawa (far left), Westland's Mike Erlingis (middle), Brian Graham (second from right) and Plymouth's Mike Clemente (far right). The Shamrocks' varsity and JV teams placed first in the Catholic Tri-County League this season. Other varsity bowlers included Zak Belisle (Canton), Tom Langan (Walled Lake), Eric Sarlitto (Canton) and Ryan Thomas (Plymouth).

Zuzo earns \$500 pom scholarship

Zuzo

10.

sented at the 29th Annual

Championship at Eastern

Michigan University on Feb.

Mid-American Pompon State

Gabrielle Zuzo, a Plymouth senior, is one of six state-wide recipients of the \$500 Mid-American Pompon scholarships.

Zuzo is a member of the award-winning Plymouth pompon team.

To be eligible for the scholarship, students had to have a 3.2 or higher grade-point average; attended two or more Mid-American Pompon events as a participant; composed an essay that described how pompon or dance had enriched their life: and submitted a letter of recommendation from a coach.

A scholarship committee comprised of Mid-American Pompon Coach Advisory Board members selected the finalists.

The awards were pre-

NORTHVILLE RECREATION

Following are leagues offered this spring and summer by the Northville Parks & Recreation Department:

Adult women's and co-ed softball leagues are set to begin Tuesday, May 6. The entry fee is \$445 per team for an 11-game schedule.

An adult open morning softball league will commence the week of June 16. The proposed game times are 8:30 a.m. Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday (game day has yet to be determined). The entry fee is \$445 per team for an 11-game schedule (based on an eight-team league).

A men's spring basketball league is set to tip off April 21 (approximate).

Games will be played on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.

The per-team entry fee is \$375 for eight games.

For more information on all of the leagues, call (248) 449-9947.

WRESTLING

Central's Alex Ermatinger before falling to Rochester Hills Stoney Creek's Charlie Cordero, 9-7. Cox kept his hopes alive by out-dualing Jason Van Wasshenova, 4-1.

Winekoff pinned Richard Newbill to start the tournament before dropping a heart-breaking 5-4 decision to Flint Carmen-Ainsworth's Ronnie Latimer. He then blanked Holt's Koort Leyrer, 4-0.

Epley trounced Macomb Dakota's Mike Wranosky, 13-1, in Round 1 before getting pinned by East Kentwood's Jake Bohn in Round 2. Epley got back on the winning track with a 4-3 victory over Flint Southwestern's Quentin LeFear.

Four local state-qualifiers saw their season come to an end on Friday.

Canton sophomore Waleed Faraj was pinned by Lanse Creuse North's Gary Cicotte Round 1 before suffering a hard-fought 5-3 setback to Chase Snider.

Salem's Kevin Hayter went 1-2 at 130. After getting pinned in his opener by Holly's Josh Houldsworth, the senior bounced back by pinning Lansing Eastern's Chris Beal in Round 2. He then fell to John Glenn's Jared Stephens, 9-5.

Canton's Rodger Kropp lost to Kyle Summerfield of Hartland, 7-5, in his first match before slipping by Troy Athens' James West, 10-8, in an epic overtime struggle.

Kropp was ousted, 9-2, in Round 3 by Livonia Franklin's Dan Woodall. Chief senior Dan Wanshon lost both his matches via pins.



Sr. F, Salem. ALL-WESTERN DIVISION: Austin Mesler. Sr.

WLAA BOYS HOCKEY

2007-08 ALL-WESTERN LAKES BOYS HOCKEY TEAMS ALL-CONFERENCE: Pat McHugh, Sr. G, Livonia Stevenson; Jordan Duff, Sr. Def., Northville; Mark Bekkala, Sr. Def., Stevenson;

Nathan Milam, Sr. F, Livonia Churchill; Mike Voran, Sr. F, Stevenson; T.J. Hohl, Sr. F; Northville: Korv Sosnowski, Sr. F. Canton ALL-LAKES DIVISION: Brett Malbin, Sr. G, Walled Lake Central; Thomas Ropek, Sr. Def., Walled Lake Northern; Nick Harakas, Sr. Def., Churchill; Garrett Miencier, Sr. F; Churchill; Ryan Baratono, Sr. F, Stevenson; R.J. Kierdorf, Jr. F. Stevenson: Joe Cheesman

G, Livonia Franklin; Wesley Gates, Jr. Def., Northville; Don Barlow, Jr. Def., Canton; Colin Rolfe, Sr. F, Plymouth; Alex Brewin, Jr. F, Northville; Jordan Chisholm, Jr. F, Franklin; Ryan Logan, Jr. F, Walled Lake Western.

COACH OF THE YEAR David Mitchell, Stevenson HONORABLE MENTION

Northville: Matt Kreager, Jr. Def.; Alex Arthur, Jr. F; Ted Keranen, Jr. G; Churchill: Keith Yackley, Sr. F; Tyler Cotter, Sr. F; Kyle Burke, Sr. F; Mitch Carpenter, Sr. Def.; **Stevenson:** John Vella, Jr. F; Sean Lerg, Sr. F; Jacob Harbowy, Sr. Def.; **W.L. Northern:** Bobby Bell, Sr. F; Greg Smith, Jr. F; Conner Hellebuyck, Fr. <u>G</u>; **Plymouth:** Ryan Schultz, Soph. G; Jerry Pitts, Sr. F; Connor Dresser, Soph. F; Jake Jossey, Sr. F-Def.; Canton: Nick Tomilenko, Jr. F; Clark Albers, Sr. F; Bryan Davison, Jr. Def.; Franklin: Alex Wypych, Sr. F; Viet Miller Soch, F: Debbie Beatting Sc. Defi Tyler Miller, Soph. F; Robbie Beattie, Sr. Def.; Salem: Ian Barnaby, Sr. Def.; Mike Haburne, Sr. Def.: W.L. Western: Ben Shaham, Sr. G Jeff Cartwright, Jr. F; Dave Learner, Sr. Def.; W.L. Central: Cody Farber, Sr. Def.; Jack Kennedy, Sr. Def.

THIS MARCH **DON'T MISS DOLLAR DAYS & GREAT GIVEAWAYS**

Wings vs. Blackhawks Tuesday, March 11, 7:30 pm Swedish Player Poster to all fans courtesy of IKEA. Plus \$1 ice cream sandwiches for all fans.

Wings vs. Stars

Thursday, March 13, 7:30 pm Ladies night and \$1 soft pretzels for all fans.

Wings vs. Predators Saturday, March 15, 1:00 pm

Less than 300 tickets left Pencil Case featuring Chris Osgood and Dominik Hasek to the first 5,000 kids.

Plus \$1 hot dogs for all fans.

Wings vs. Blue Jackets Wednesday, March 19, 7:30 pm Henrik Zetterberg Flag to all fans courtesy of AT&T. Plus \$1 popcorn for all fans.

Actual flag size is 3 ft. x 5 ft.



(CP)

R3



MON, 3/24 • 7:30 PM vs. PHOENIX Automotion Workout DVD to first 7,500 fans courtesy of Medical Weight Loss Clinic

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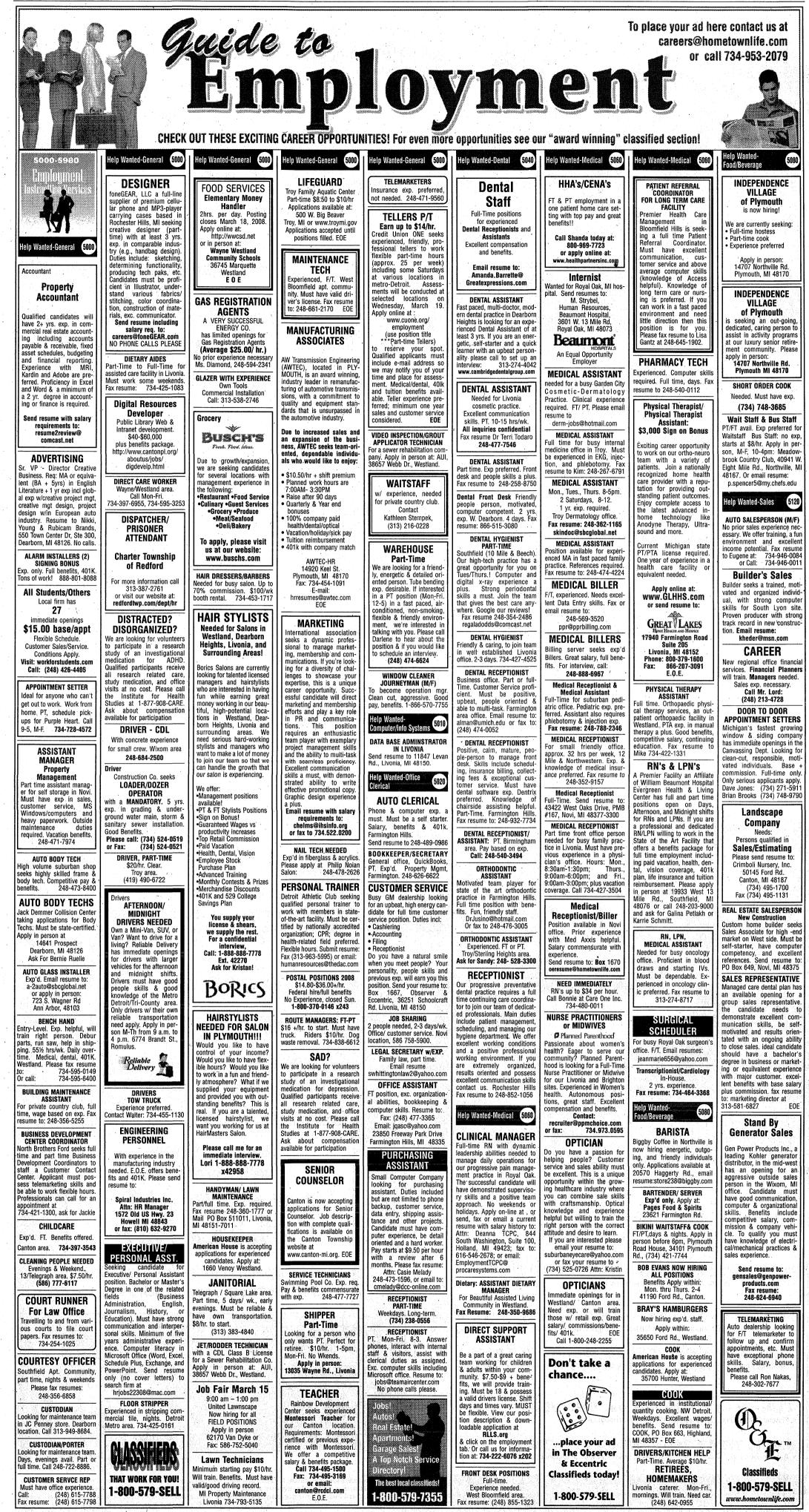
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The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers Sunday, March 9, 2008

www.hometownlife.com

Hugh Gallagher, editor . (734) 953-2149 . hgallagher@hometownlife.com

Toxic homes What's lurking in your home's cupboards

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN O&E STAFF WRITER

Toys weren't the only items **Dennis Marzec brought** in for testing Feb. 25 at the Plymouth Community Church of Christ in Plymouth Township. As the father of a 10-month-old daughter he's concerned about teething rings, sippy cups and products around the home. He reads the labels in search of toxic ingredients in everything from diaper rash cream to baby shampoo, powder and wipes.

More and more parents and consumers are concerned about the items they use for household cleaning and personal care. Marzec's already switched to natural products.

"It's up to the parents to get them tested. We're concerned about a lot of things she chews on. We're concerned about toxicity. The diaper rash creme has a cancer causing ingredient. She plays with rubber ducks when she takes a bath and I'm fearing it could con-

tain lead. We're starting to look into buying glass baby bottles because of phthalates (a probable human carcinogen)."

Laura Russello cleaned out her cupboards more than a year ago. She is the environmental health organizer for Clean Water Action which is sponsoring a presentation on toxic household and personal care products with the Rochester area Sierra Club as part of their Green Lunch Series noon to 1:30 p.m. Friday, March 14, at Whole Foods Market, 1404 Walton Blvd., Rochester Hills. To register, call (248) 652-2100. For information, visit www. sierraclub.org/community/ oakland/events.asp. The series continues through May on the second Friday of the month and covers the topics of composting, landscaping with native plants, and protecting Michigan's groundwater. For those who can't attend

the March 14 luncheon, Russello recommends visit-

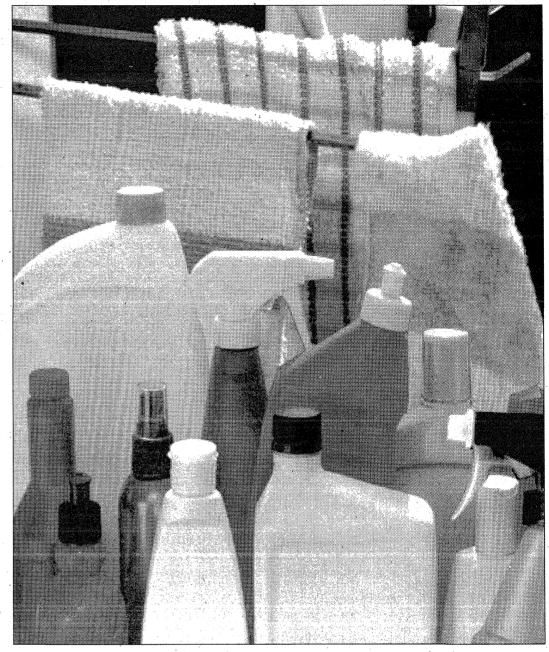
ing www.safer-products.org and www.safecosmétics.org as the first step to becoming an educated consumer. Clean Water Action offers Home Safe Home parties that include the showing of a documentary on how chemicals may affect children's health and development. For information, send email to lrussello@cleanwater. org or visit www.cleanwater-

> html. "When you wash anything down the drain it goes into our water. Now I buy beeswax not scented candles, changed makeup, and started using pine litter that's totally biodegradeable," said Russello, who was one of the speakers at the Toxic Toy Town Hall and testing event sponsored by the environmental groups Clean Water Action, Michigan Network for Children's Environmental Health, Ecology Center, and Blue Green Alliance.

> action.org/mi/saferhomeparty.

The Ecology Center in Ann Arbor offers product testing services with a hand-held XRF analyzer for \$150 an hour (www.ecocenter.org). People waited in line on Monday night to have their items screened for heavy metals and chemical elements for free.

"It only takes 30 seconds to detect lead, arsenic, chromium, mercury, cadmium," said Mike Shriberg, the center's policy director as he tested the XRF analyzer to make sure the device was working. Two pieces of china contained higher than recommended levels of lead. Schriberg said the ramifications of eating off the dishes is unclear as it pertains to health but "a microscopic chip is dangerous."



When Italia Milan and her husband decided they wanted to use "more earth- and animalfriendly products" more than three years ago, they did their research. One of the lectures she attended was by the Local Motion environmental group. Milan is chairwoman of the Rochester Hills/Rochester/ Auburn Hills Sierra Club. She and her husband were most concerned about what they were using to clean floors because of their two dogs and four cats.

"These products have a diverse group of ingredients

that might or might not have been tested," said Milan. "They usually come in small quantities that do not affect our health, but sometimes we use several that might contain the same ingredient. Instead of using that small amount we may be using more or using products with ingredients that there's no research on how they act together. At the lecture people learn how to read labels and replace dangerous products with safer alternatives, the top five personal care ingredients to avoid. We try to use more

natural things, many are cruelty free also."

"There's a lot of really good products out there," said Lynna Kauchek, community organizer with Clean Water Action. "You can find them just about anywhere. The thing I use the most is baking soda and vinegar, a natural disinfectant. Tea tree oil is a natural disinfectant and mixed with baking soda is good for cleaning grout, counter tops."

Ichomin@hometownlife.com (734) 953-2145

MARCH

Breastfeeding classes

10:30 a.m. to noon Monday, March 10 and 17, at the Oakland County Health Division, 27725 Greenfield. Southfield. Classes for mother and baby are taught by public health nurses and cover everything from pumping to starting solids and weaning. Information targeted to first year of breastfeeding. For information or to register, call (248) 858-4003 or (888) 350-0900, Ext. 84003.

Low vision support group

Meets 1-3 p.m. on the first Thursday of each month at the Plymouth District Library, 223 S. Main. For more information, call Ellen Stross at (734) 453-0750, Ext. 232.

Divorce support group

Group discussion 7-9 p.m. Tuesday, March 11, Attorney Patricia Kasody-Coyle will also be available to answer questions on a first come, first served basis, in the Women's Resource Center (room 225) of the McDowell Center, Schoolcraft College, 18600 Haggerty, Livonia. Call (734) 462-4443.

Fibromyalgia support

The Metro Fibromyalgia and CFS Support Group features speaker Esther Morton on Pain Relief at Your Fingertips, Serenity ear acupressure program 1-3 p.m. Thursday, March 13, at Merriman Road Baptist Church, 2055 Merriman, south of Ford. Donations accepted. Group meets monthly on second Thursday. For information, call Lucy Rowley at (734) 462-1768.

Sharing & Caring

Intervention for chemo-induced peripheral neuropathy with Charlotte Versagi 6:30 p.m. Thursday, March 13, at Beaumont Hospital Cancer Center, Royal Oak. Sharing & Caring offers education and support programs for breastcancer survivors. For reservations, call (248) 551-8585.

Vegetarian seminar

Nutrition and cooking seminar 2:30-5:30 p.m. Sunday, March 16, at Plymouth Seventh-day Adventist Church fellowship room, 4295 Napier, between Ann Arbor and Warren roads. Lectures by a physician and nutritionist will be followed by cooking demonstrations with recipes and menu plans. Suggested donation is \$10 per person. To register, call (248) 349-5683 or (313) 531-2179.

Art of aging

9th annual Art of Aging Successfully 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursday, March 27, at Greater Grace Temple, 23500 W. 7 Mile. Detroit icon Sonny Eliot talks about his decades of working in radio and TV and his personal triumphs and tragedies. Cost \$18 for age 55 and older, includes sit-down lunch. To register, call Donna at (313) 577-2297. Hosted by the Institute of Gerontology at Wayne State University.

Divorce support group

Learning to love after divorce, Lisa Pasbjerg discuss the new science of happiness, what researchers have learned that can make us happy and how it applies to your life, she will also present strategies to help you build assertiveness skills and self esteem need to love yourself and your new life 7-9 p.m. Tuesday, March 25, in the Women's Resource Center (room 225) of the McDowell Center, Schoolcraft College, 18600 Haggerty, Livonia. Call (734) 462-4443.

Sharing & Caring

Bone health and breast cancer treatment with Michael Stender, M.D., 6:30 p.m. Thursday, March 27, at Beaumont Hospital Cancer Center, Royal Oak. Sharing & Caring offers education and support programs for breast cancer survivors. For reservations, call (248) 551-8585.

PLAY Project Level | Workshop

With Rick Solomon, M.D. 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, March 29, for Family members of children with autism and education and health care professionals, at The Futures HealthCore Therapy Center, 3231 South Gulley, Dearborn. Visit www. futurestherapycenter.com or call Dawn Ham-Kucharski at (734) 407-2500, Ext. 459.

Volunteers needed

For Camp Discovery for children with epilepsy (June 29 to July 3), at Sherman Lake YMCA Outdoor Center in Augusta, northwest of Kalamazoo. Volunteer training from experts on epilepsy and camp procedures Saturday, June 28. Free room/board. For information/application, visit www.epilepsymichigan. org, call (800) 377-6226, option 1, Ext. 231, or send e-mail to sdarroch@epilepsymichigan.org.

MEDICAL DATEBOOK

UPCOMING

Self-defense class

For women and men 11 a.m. the first Saturday of every month at the Sanctuary Chiropractic & Wellness Spa, 35275 Plymouth, Livonia. Call (734) 421-7100. No charge, but a \$5 donation will be sent to a shelter for abused women and children.

Divorce support group

Group discussion 7-9 p.m. Tuesday, April 8, Attorney Patricia Kasody-Covle will also be available to answer questions on a first come, first served basis, in the Women's Resource Center (room 225) of the McDowell Center, Schoolcraft College, 18600 Haggerty, Livonia. Call (734) 462-4443.

Cure gala

The 16th Annual Commitment for a Cure Gala presented by the Join the American Diabetes Association 6-10 p.m. Thursday, April 10, at the The Ritz-Carlton Dearborn. Gala tickets \$200 per person. For more information, contact Kelli Dobner at (888) DIABETES, Ext. 6688 or kdobner@ diabetes.org.

Cuisine for a Cause

Benefits Josephine Ford Cancer Center at Henry Ford Health System, Detroit's historic Opus One fund-raising for 10 metro Detroit charities, which includes JFCC continues to April 17, patrons who dine at Opus One, Monday through Thursday, to April 17, will have the opportunity to designate that one of the 10 chosen charities receive 25 percent of their bill. In addition, any private function that is held at Opus One through Sept. 30 can be designated as a Cuisine for a Cause event and 25 percent of the bill will be donated to JFCC. To qualify, you must mention that this is a Cuisine for a Cause event upon booking. A celebratory wine-tasting reception will be held 5:30-9 p.m. Friday, April 25, at the Ford Conference and Event Center in Dearborn with a live auction, more than 60 premium wines and a strolling supper specially prepared by Opus One. Tickets \$100, \$80 is tax deductible. To purchase tickets for wine-tasting or more information, call (313) 876-9237.

Divorce support group

(c)

Attorney Patricia Kasody-Coyle and/or her partner Wade Jackman of Jackman & Kasody present an overview of the divorce process,

the firm specializes in domestic/family law, 7-9 p.m. Tuesday, March 11, in the Women's Resource Center (room 225) of the McDowell Center, Schoolcraft College, 18600 Haggerty, Livonia. (734) 462-4443.

Tour de Cure event

Tour de Cure, the American Diabetes Association's annual cycling event is June 8 at Island Lake Recreation Area in Brighton. Sign up by calling (800) TOUR-888 or visit www.diabetes.org/tour.

ONGOING

Arthritis Foundation programs Winter classes begin for warmwater and land-based exercise programs, Tai Chi, and a six-week series that offers keys to successful arthritis self-management, in Canton, Redford and Westland. For a schedule and fees, call (800) 968-3030 or visit www.arthritis.org.

Recovery, Inc.

The support group meets at 10 a.m., Wednesdays at Prince of Peace Church, Walnut Lake Road and

Green, West Bloomfield. Recovery, Inc., is an international, non-profit, self-help community based service organization that helps people with nervous and emotional disorders reduce their suffering and improve their quality of life. Call Martha Paul at (248) 682-9362 or e-mail her at marthapaul@sbcglobal.net. The self-help meetings in Livonia run 7:30 p.m. Monday St. Matthew's Methodist Church, 30900 W. Six Mile, between Middlebelt and Merriman; 1:15 p.m. Thursday, Mt. Hope Congregational Church, 30330 Schoolcraft, west of Middlebelt, and 2:30 p.m. Sunday at Rosedale Gardens Presbyterian Church, 9601 Hubbard at West Chicago. For information, call (313) 561-2521 or visit www.recovery-inc.org. There is no charge, contributions are collected.

Health enhancement classes Classes began Feb. 4 for exercise (including yoga), CPR and childbirth, and support groups. for cardiac, cancer, stroke and diabetes patients; eating disorders; Alzheimer's caregivers, and the hard of hearing. The offerings are part of an array of offerings at Garden City Hospital's Health Enhancement Center. For more information, call (734) 458-3242. Blood pressure (free) and cholesterol testing \$5) are also available noon to 2 p.m. on the first Tuesday of the month in Garden City Hospital lobby. No registration required. The hospital also offers free blood pressure testing for senior citižens at 10:30 a.m. Feb. 6 and every other Wednesday at Maplewood Community Center. For information. call (734) 458-4330.

Free mask fitting clinic

For CPAP and BiPAP users, most insurances cover new supplies every year, try a new style of mask and learn how to get one 5-6 p.m. every Wednesday, at the Garden City Hospital Sleep Disorders Center of Michigan, 35600 Central City Parkway, Suite 103, Westland. No appointment needed. For information, call (734) 458-4330.

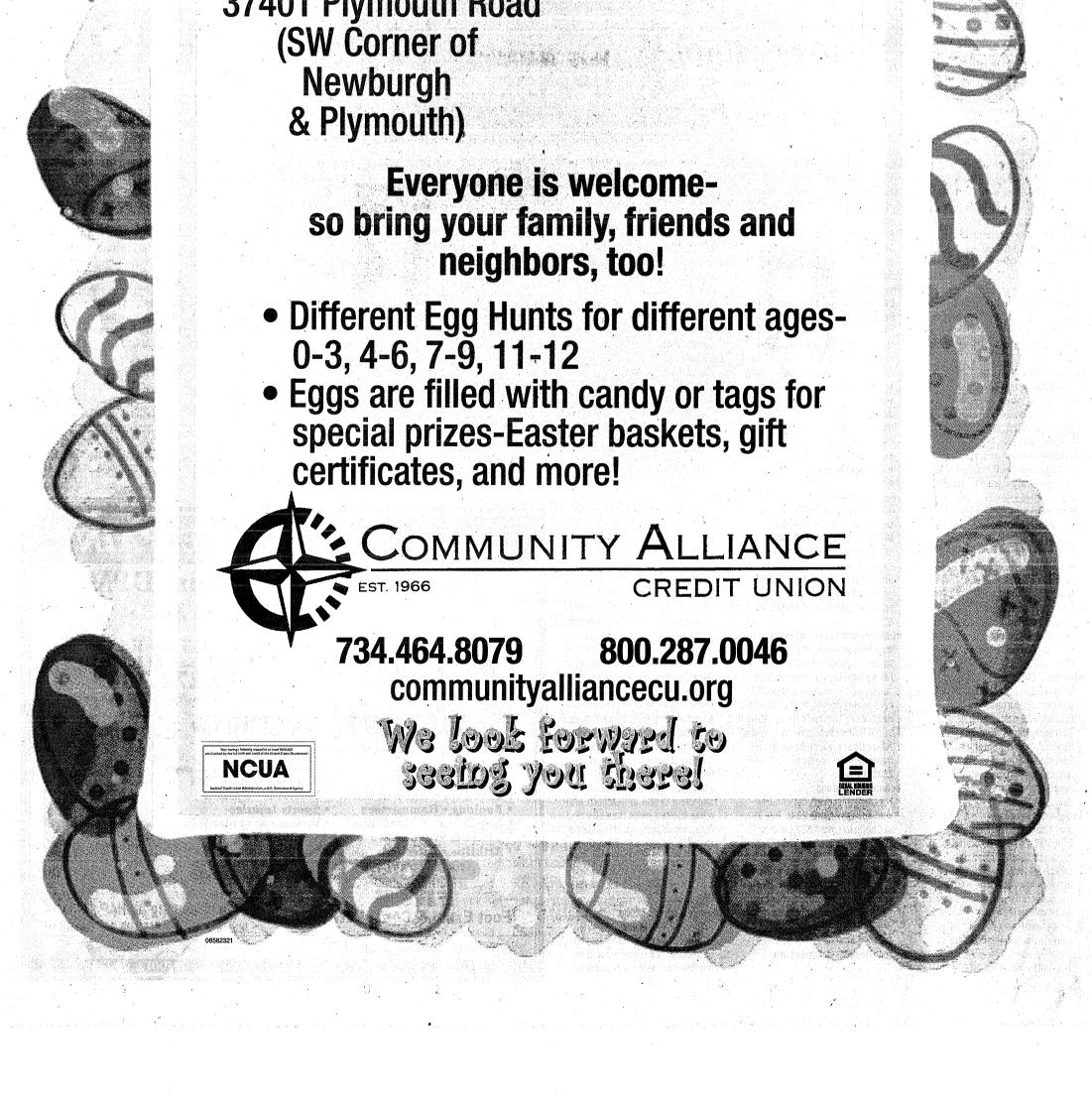
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Sunday March 16th

1 p.m.