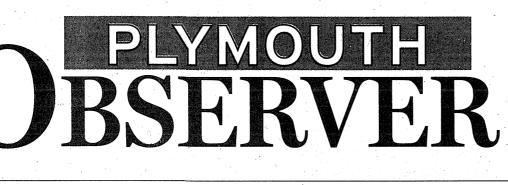


The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

> Volume 123 Number 87

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Dealership hit by rash of break-ins - Public Safety, A4



online at hometownlife.com

It's big-time finale for baseball pals Sports, B1

PIPELINE Honor Dad

What was the most important thing your father ever taught you? Tell us in 100 words or fewer and include a photo of yourself and your Dad. We will publish as many tributes as we can on Father's Day.

Dad or child or both must live in Plymouth. Include your name and city and your father's name and city. Include the year the photo was taken.

E-mail to bkadrich@hometownlife.com or mail to Brad Kadrich, Plymouth Observer, 615 W. Lafayette, Second Level, Detroit MI 48226. E-mailed photos must be in JPEG format. Call (313) 222-8899 for questions.

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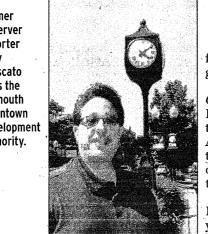
To signup, click on the E-newsletters tab on Hometownlife.com (top left of the homepage). E-newsletters for all Observer & Eccentric and Hometown publications will be available as well as special editions for entertainment and local business news.

E-newsletter subscriber contact information will be kept private so there is no need to worry that signing up will lead to a barrage of thirdparty sales calls.

E-newsletter subscribers will be entered into weekly drawings for Emagine Theatre movie passes, concert tickets at the Palace and DTE and gift certificates for dinner at restaurants throughout western Wayne and Oakland counties.

Newspaper veteran to head DDA

Former Observer reporter Tony Bruscato joins the Plymouth Downtown Development Authority.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

BY MATT JACHMAN **OBSERVER STAFF WRITER**

After years of reporting the news from Plymouth, Tony Bruscato is getting a chance to make some news.

A reporter for the *Plymouth* Observer for more than a decade, Bruscato has been picked to lead the city's Downtown Development Authority. He is expected to begin the job, which is formally called operations director, before the end of the month.

Bruscato, 55, will replace Sherrie Pryor, who ended a nearly threeyear stint as operations director last month. The DDA, founded in

the 1980s, works to improve central Plymouth, and bring in visitors and shoppers, through marketing, special events and physical projects such as streetscape beautification.

City Manager Paul Sincock, who made the job offer with the approval of the DDA board, said Bruscato's familiarity with downtown business people, and the city overall and the way city government operates, will be a big advantage as he leads downtown improvement efforts.

"We're really excited about Tony," Sincock said Monday. "We think he's going to be a tremendous asset to our DDA."

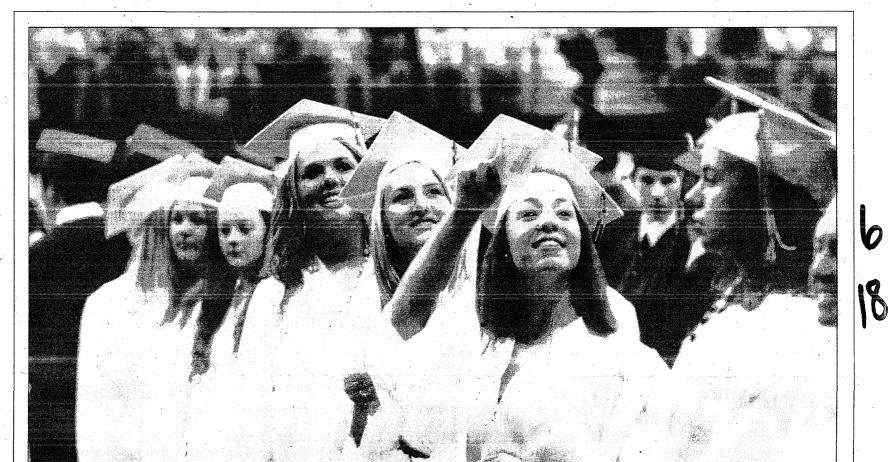
Sincock said Bruscato has a lot of

respect and "street credibility" in the community, and that he maintained good relations with city officials even though his work as a reporter sometimes put them at odds with him. Bruscato's reporting was fair and consistent, he said.

Bruscato will have big challenges on his plate when he starts at the DDA, Sincock said, including working against a recessionary economy that's hit Michigan hard, plus a major maintenance project at the central parking deck, and planned streetscape updates.

Bruscato said his new role in

Please see DDA, A2

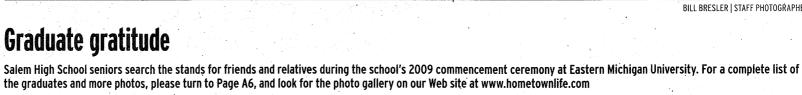


Getting the newsletter is easy. The first thing you have to do is become a member of our Web site by going to Hometownlife.com and clicking on the link Become a member, which is just above the main carousel of stories. Once you are a member, click on the E-newsletters tab at the top left of the homepage to sign up.

Sunrise sale

Downtown Plymouth's annual Sunrise Sale takes place 7-10 a.m. Saturday, June 20. Bargains ranging from 20 to 50 percent off selected merchandise (with some restrictions applying) will be available. Shoppers should look for the yellow balloons outside each of the participating shops.

Participating shops include: Basket Kreations; Bohemian Home; Brass & Iron Bed Shop; Core Sport Pilates Studio; Gabriala's; Gigi's Mode; Hands on Leather; Haven; Jill Andra Young Photography; Magnolia - A Fresh Flower Market; Michigan Made & More; Parkside Gallery, Penniman Gallery, RSVP, sideways, Spa Julianna, The Candy Trail, Venture Kitchen and Bath; Vic's Mart-All Things Purses.



the graduates and more photos, please turn to Page A6, and look for the photo gallery on our Web site at www.hometownlife.com

Plymouth city manager gets positive review

BY MATT JACHMAN **OBSERVER STAFF WRITER**

Plymouth City Manager Paul Sincock has won high marks from his supervisors on the Plymouth City Commission.

Tight finances, though, mean no raises for Sincock or any other nonunion Plymouth employee

this year. Department heads voluntarily agreed not to accept raises about two months ago as they put together a budget for the next fiscal year.

Commissioners met in a brief closed session Monday to discuss Sincock's annual evaluation, then emerged with a glowing assessment of the man who handles the ity, budget-making ability and

city's day-to-day operations for them.

"We as a commission thank Paul and are very grateful to have him as a city manager," said Commissioner Stella Greene.

Of 21 categories describing overall knowledge, leadership, teamwork, management abil-

more, commissioners' grades for Sincock averaged "very good" or better in 19 of them. That included perfect scores - mean ing "outstanding" - in three categories: budgeting skills, selfmanagement and professional knowledge.



Please see MANAGER, A2

Sincock

BILL BRESLER | STAFE PHOTOGRAPHER

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Grant to provide art therapy for local grieving children

BY MATT JACHMAN OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

An area nonprofit that helps bereaved people of all ages is redoubling its support for children with the help of a \$3,000 grant from the Plymouth Community United Way.

Circles of Hope for KIDZ and Teens, part of the Northvillebased New Hope Center for Grief Support, plans to use part of the recent gift for an art therapy program at Creatopia in downtown Plymouth.

"Art therapy is helpful, especially with children - expressing their emotions," said John O'Shaughnessy, New Hope

Center's fund development director. "We want to do more for our young ones.'

Participants will be painting ceramic piece of their choosing - a mug, say, or a vase — at Creatopia on Tuesday, June 23, and the studio will later bake the pieces to make the designs permanent before the children pick them up. O'Shaughnessy said he hopes to get to the point at which participants are making as well as decorating their own ceramics.

Part of the money will also be used for staff training, O'Shaughnessy said.

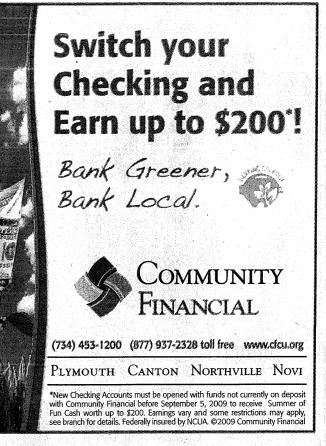
Circles of Hope for KIDZ and Teens is a support group for children ages 3 to 18 who have lost a loved one. The group typically meets twice a month.

Marie Morrow, the Plymouth Community United Way president, said New Hope is providing a much-needed service.

We're happy to help them support this program," Morrow said. "We had nobody that was actually providing that type of program" in the Plymouth Canton area, she added.

"It was a wonderful donation and we're very appreciative of the United Way for doing that," O'Shaughnessy said.

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Observer & Eccentric | Thursday, June 18, 2009

AROUND PLYMOUTH

online at hometownlife.com

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

Tour of hope

(P)

A2

New Hope Center for Grief Support is offering a one-hour Tour of Hope in their new home at 315 Griswold in Northville.

This tour will give insight into how New Hope was started, the types of grief support services they offer, testimonials from people who have been helped, and the vision of the future from the founder and CEO, Cathy Clough of Plymouth.

Tour dates include 9 a.m. June 19; 5 p.m. July 15; 9 a.m. Aug. 21; 6:30 p.m. Sept. 16; and 9 a.m. Oct. 16.

To attend one of the tours, RSVP to New Hope at (248) 348-0115 or e-mail griefhelp@newhopecenter. net.

Cheer clinic

The Canton High School Summer "Kids Cheerleading Clinic" takes place 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday, June 22, with check-in at 8:30 a.m. in the Canton cafeteria.

The clinic is open to kids ages kindergarten through eighth grade. Kids should wear comfortable shorts, gym shoes and sun screen and bring a water bottle. Cost is \$50, which includes clinic, lunch, snack/drink and a Canton Cheer sports bag.

Registration deadline is June 10. For information on the clinic and how to register, call (734) 765-1998 or e-mail carriers @comcast.net, or call (734) 397-3766 or e-mail cdruckenmiller@gpworldwide.com

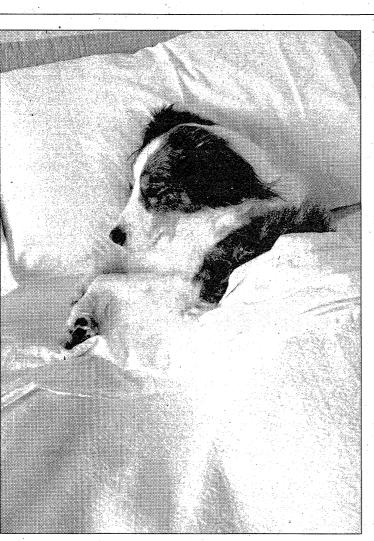
Spotlight auditions

The Spotlight Players are getting ready to present *Oliver*, written by Lionel Bart and directed by Barbara Bloom.

Auditions take place Sunday, July 12 (for youth up to age 16). Registration begins at 4:30 p.m. Auditions for all adult roles (age 16 and over) are Monday, July 13, and Tuesday, July 14, registration each night begins at 6:30 p.m. Performance dates are September 18-20, 25-27 at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill, 504300 Cherry Hill in Canton.

, Follow Oliver, an orphan, from the workhouse of his birth to an upper class neighborhood in London and meet all the strange, wicked, miserly and nice people that enter his life including Fagin, Nancy and the Artful Dodger through wonderful songs and a light hearted approach to a very dark Dickens tale.

For more information contact (734) 480-4945 and leave a message for Barbara Bloom and visit www.spotlightplayersmi.org.



Pet adoptions

To help the Michigan Humane Society find loving families for homeless animals, US-Mattress will host a dog and cat adoption event on Saturday, June 20, at its retail showroom, located at 1087 Ann Arbor Road in Plymouth. The event will take place from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. During the event, potential adopters can also learn more about "Sleep Well," an ongoing program and partnership between the Michigan Humane Society and US-Mattress, one of the largest mattress retailers in the Midwest. The purpose of the program is two-fold: to deliver the perfect night's sleep to people and pets alike, and to positively impact animals who are currently without a home, or in an abusive or neglectful situation. To generate a \$100 donation to MHS for each mattress you purchase, simply mention "MHS" at the US-Mattress retail showroom, or enter the coupon code "MHS" when purchasing online from www.us-mattress.com. You'll also receive free shipping on your online mattress order. For more information about the adoption event, call the Michigan Humane Society at 1-866-MHUMANE, Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., or visit www.michiganhumane.org.

Corriveau (D-Northville) invites residents to talk with him about any issues or concerns during his new office hours.

Corriveau's new office hour schedule is set to begin on July 6. He will hold office hours on the first Monday of each month at the following times and locations:

10 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the Northville District Library, 212 W. Cady St., in Northville
1 p.m. to 2 p.m. in the Council

• 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. in the Council Chambers at Wayne City Hall, 3355 S. Wayne Road

• 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the Plymouth District Library, 223 S. Main St., in Plymouth ness or organization would like to schedule an event with Corriveau, please contact his office toll-free at (877) 20TH-REP, or send an e-mail to MarcCorriveau@house.mi.gov.

Crafters wanted

The Plymouth-Canton Music Boosters (PCMB) is hosting its Annual Holiday Arts and Crafts Ensemble on Saturday, November 21, 2009. Exhibitors who hand-craft their own items are invited to submit an application to exhibit at the fundraising event to be held at Plymouth High School in Canton, Mich. The juried art event is produced twice each year by the PCMB to help support the band and color guard programs at the **Plymouth-Canton Educational** Park.

interested in applying for consideration to exhibit should visit www.pcmb.net/artcraft to download an application and submit with photos by June 26th for the first wave of jurying. For more details, contact exhibit coordinator Carol Rosati at 734-455-0714. Only 100 exhibitors will be permitted to exhibit at this artistic event. Over the last four years, over 7000 attendees have visited the PCMB Arts & Craft Ensembles.

"The Arts & Craft Ensembles are two of the most successful fundraisers we host each year," stated Dennis Carnevale, president of the 2009 Plymouth-Canton Music Boosters. "The money raised helps the Concert and Marching Bands, Color Guard and Percussion programs that provide students with a one of a kind arts experience. Our craft shows have built a reputation for being some of the best run arts and craft events in the area."

Plymouth High School is located at 8400 Beck Road in Canton, Mich. The Holiday Arts & Craft Ensemble will be held from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. on Nov. 21. In addition to over 100 exhibits, there will be food, a raffle, and entertainment by local musicians and artists throughout the day. Admittance is \$2.

Museum bike ride

Before you let another summer go by, dust off that old bicycle and join other riders on a leisurely 10-mile tour of portions of an historic local railway system. The June 20 bike ride, sponsored by the Plymouth Historical Museum, takes participants along a stretch of the Detroit, Plymouth & Northville Railway, also known as the Detroit United Railway, or DUR, founded in 1899.

The ride also traverses a portion of the 400-mile, 13,000year-old proglacial Great Lake Whittlesey shoreline ridge. Great Lake Whittlesey formed in the Erie basin and its shoreline was formed by ice that initially drained to create an early route for aquatic life to migrate into the waters of the Great Lakes.

The majority of the historical ride is on sidewalks or paved pathways with some residential streets, and there will be various "water stops" for discussions. The ride leader is Plymouth Historical Society (PHS) member Alan Van Kerckhove.

Tickets for the ride are available at the Plymouth Historical Museum, 155 S. Main Street, in downtown Plymouth, or online at http://www.plymouthhistory. org/Events.html, using PayPal. The cost is \$10 per person for PHS members and \$15 per person for non-members. For more information, call 734-455-8940.

MANAGER

In the remaining two categories, interpersonal skills and representing the city, Sincock missed the "very good" mark by a few decimal points.

Sincock said he welcomes such evaluations and sees them as good management tools.

"It's a time for the commission to come together and get everybody on the same path and move forward," he said.

He stressed his good grades are a reflection of the efforts of his department heads and all employees, not just his own work.

"Running the city is definitely a team sport," Sincock said. "This takes a good group of people

to make our operations what they are."

Commissioner Gerald Sabatini agreed. "He has a great staff. There's great teamwork there," Sabatini said.

Sabatini said Sincock is always conscious of budget constraints, and that the city staff continues to maintain services despite cost-cutting, and keeps a lookout for even more chances to save money.

In a recessionary economy, Sabatini said, keeping city services going has been even more difficult, but Sincock and his staff have come through. The irony, he noted, is that although they're doing a great job with fewer people, there's no money for pay raises that would reward them for that.

Sincock is currently paid just over \$100,000 a year.

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

DDA FROM PAGE A1

Plymouth is a sort of homecoming.

"It's a place that I've really come to enjoy," he said.

He doesn't expect to come in and make wholesale changes at the DDA. He said he sees his primary mission as helping downtown Plymouth business become and stay successful, and that he's looking forward to the challenges.

"Sherrie and John (Buzuvis, the assistant operations director) have been doing a really good job and set the bar high," Bruscato said.

Despite the general recession, and struggles at some businesses, downtown Plymouth is on the whole flourishing, Bruscato said, and is more successful than many small downtowns in Detroit-area communities.

Bruscato lives in Canton Township. He was a reporter at the *Canton Observer*, after being transferred from the Plymouth beat earlier this year, when he was among more than three dozen employees laid off from the *Observer* S *Eccentric Newspapers*, owned by Gannett Co., in late May.

Bruscato said he has a lot of personal ties in Plymouth and is grateful for the many expressions of support he received, both when he was transferred to Canton and later when he was laid off.

His compensation as DDA operations director will be \$53,000 a year plus benefits. Bruscato can be heard giving traffic reports on radio station WJR; he works part time for Metro Networks, which provides radio stations with traffic reporting services.

Corriveau hours

State Representative Marc

• 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at 129 w. Liberty St. in Plymouth

Corriveau also holds coffee hours and other events throughout the 20th District to talk with as many residents as possible about any issues or concerns. If your busi-

Artists and crafters who are

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



LOCAL NEWS

Observer & Eccentric | Thursday, June 18, 2009

New additions add to festival lineup

BY BRAD KADRICH OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Visitors to the 2009 Canton Liberty Fest are going to be dazzled by all the usual events: the spaghetti dinner, the pancake breakfast, the International Festival, the parade and, of course, the fireworks display.

But Canton Township **Recreation Specialist Jennifer** Provenzano says organizers are even more excited about the new and exciting things at this year's festival.

According to Provenzano, some of the highlights include:

 Canton Kitchen Stadium activities on Saturday, including new cook-offs and interactive demonstrations.

• The Plymouth-Canton Kiwanis Club Goes "Hog Wild for Kids," with pulled-pork sandwiches and sides for \$5.

• An "Adult Beverage Tent" will serve Jimmy Buffettinspired summer cocktails from 7-10 p.m. next to the Canton Live Stage while "Air Margaritaville" performs on Friday and on Saturday from 5-10 p.m., "Oktoberfest"inspired beverages will be served to those 21 and older



There will be plenty for kids to do when Liberty Fest returns to Canton this weekend.

while The Alpiners perform the music of Bavaria.

• There are big additions to the Family Zone, including more rides, games and attractions, sky-high performances by the Flying Wallenda family and the IGX Interactive Gaming Area (Wii, Playstation, etc.) including a Guitar Hero Tournament Celebrating Canton's 175th

anniversary as a township

(special activities/signs throughout the park will pay tribute to Canton's history), the Canton Historical Museum will be open and an "old-fashioned shuttle" (carriage ride) will take visitors there from the park and back.

"We could probably go on all day about everything exciting happening at this year's Liberty Fest," Provenzano said. "A lot of people dedi-

cate months of energy and enthusiasm to make the event enjoyable for the whole community. We're always honored to be a part of such an incredible tradition and hope that Canton residents will officially kick off their summers with us and come out to enjoy the weekend with their families, neighbors and friends.'

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

Township vacant building ordinance on the way

BY MATT JACHMAN **OBSERVER STAFF WRITER**

The owners of vacant buildings in Plymouth Township would have to register them with officials, maintain the grounds and allow interior inspections during emergencies under a proposal on its way to adoption.

The township Board of Trustees on June 9 approved a first reading of the so-called vacant property ordinance with a 6-0 vote (trustee Kay Arnold was absent). A second reading is scheduled for the board's Tuesday, June 23, meeting, and the ordinance would take effect shortly after that approval, which is expected.

Applicable to any vacant building in the township, the proposal is aimed mainly at vacant houses, said Supervisor Richard Reaume. The recession and the real estate crisis haven't left the township with the number of home vacancies seen in other Detroit suburbs, but officials want to stay ahead of the curve, Reaume said.

Officials estimate there are between 50 and 60 vacant homes in the township. In comparison, an October 2008 survey in Redford Township found more than 400 vacant homes there.

"It's not a huge number," Reaume said of the vacancies, "but it's important to their neighbors ... it's important to their neighborhood." Reaume said officials want

lenders who have taken pos-

session of foreclosed homes to "be responsible" and keep the properties up to community standards. Township attorney Tim Cronin said an increasing number of area communities have adopted such ordinances.

The township's ordinance would:

Require the owners of properties that become vacant to register them with the building department within*30 days. The owners of currently vacant properties would have 30 days to register them once the ordinance takes effect.

Reaume said registration will inform the township of the parties responsible for vacant properties, and provide a contact in case of a building problem or public safety issue.

Mandate basic yard maintenance, including grass height of no more than six inches. The township would be allowed to send landscaping contractors to properties that owners have failed to maintain, and add the cost to the property tax bill.

Allow for interior inspections in some circumstances, such as when a major water leak is suspected. The township would also have the right to have buildings secured when, for example, a broken window or door is not addressed by the owner.

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Free forum aims at melanoma education

A free melanoma forum organized by Kim's Klub, created in honor of the late Plymouth-Canton freshman volleyball coach, Kim Renzi, has been scheduled for 7-9 p.m. Tuesday, June 23, at the Comfort Suites in Wixom.

Renzi, who lost a battle with melanoma, inspired efforts to teach others how to protect skin from sun and other toxins, particularly during summer months.

The forum has been scheduled in the large meeting room of Comfort Suites, 28049 S. Wixom Road near I-96. Speakers are to include Dr. Mark Naftanel, chief resident in dermatology, and Dr. Christopher Lao, assistant clinical professor of oncology and hematology, both from the University of Michigan Health Systems in Ann Arbor; Su Benteley and Sandra K., natural skin care specialists and motivational writers/speakers; and Roben Coury, 2002 graduate of the U.S. School of Naturopathy.

A3

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Topics for discussion are to include identifying melanoma; the difference between melanoma and skin cancer; stages of melanoma; new treatment options; how the disease can spread to other organs; and genetic predisposition.

Other topics include how to safely protect skin from the sun and toxic chemicals; how the skin absorbs chemicals; the important of a pH balanced body; being empowered to live healthy; and a holistic approach to melanoma treatment.

Seating for the forum is limited. Those who want to attend must register at www. kimsklub.com (see the "contact us" link) or by calling Leslie Garoufalis, account manager for Royal Oak-based Titan Benefit Communications LLC, at (248) 953-0884.





Observer & Eccentric | Thursday, June 18, 2009

PUBLIC SAFETY

Dealership hit by rash of break-ins

A Plymouth Township auto dealership was hit hard by break-ins one night last week, when stereo and navigation systems were stolen from eight different vehicles.

A4

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The five Lincoln MXKs and three Mercury Mountaineers at Hines Park Lincoln Mercury, on Hines Drive, each had a window broken out, a Plymouth Township Police Department report said. The equipment was ripped from the dashboard of each vehicle, police said.

A dealership employee discovered one break-in early Friday morning; when an officer arrived to take a report, the two searched the lot and found that seven additional vehicles had been broken into, police said.

Cigs swiped

A man stole two cartons of cigarettes from a township drug store Saturday afternoon after distracting the cashier by asking for a cigar.

The shoplifting occurred at a CVS store on Sheldon Road shortly

POLICE BRIEFS

before 2 p.m., a township police report said.

The cashier had already bagged up the cigarettes but the man had not paid for them, the report said. When he asked for a cigar and the cashier turned, the report said, he took the cigarette cartons and ran from the store.

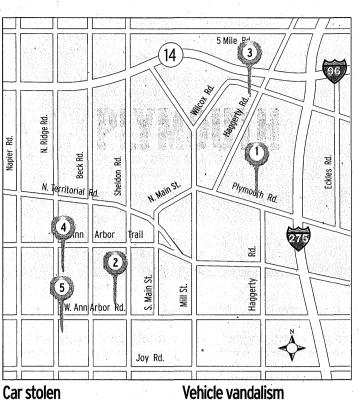
The cashier yelled and a manager followed the thief for a short distance. He was last seen running south along Sheldon.

The manager told police the man has done the same thing two or three times in the past.

Truck burglary

Stereo equipment was reported stolen June 11 from a Ford pickup truck that was parked in the driveway of a house on Inbrook Drive. It was not clear when the burglary took place. The complainant told police the truck had been locked; after the burglary, it was

found with a door ajar, though still locked.



Car stolen

A Commerce Township man who was visiting his niece in Plymouth Township had his 2000 Ford Taurus stolen from him minutes after arriving at her house Sunday afternoon.

The man told police he parked the car in the driveway of his niece's house on Plymouth Lake Circle, leaving it unlocked and with the windows down but taking the keys. A few minutes later, the car was gone, he told police. No one reported witnessing the theft.

The window on a GMC Envoy was smashed, apparently by someone wielding a rock that was found at the scene, as the vehicle sat parked in the owner's driveway on Countrywood Saturday after-

noon. A police report said the vandalism occurred between 12:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m.

Nothing was reported stolen from the Envoy.

By Matt Jachman

Plymouth Township Police would like to talk to this person in connection with a rash of automobile break-ins in the township.

• If a friend or taxi takes you home, ask the driver to wait until you are safely inside.

• When walking, act calm, confident, and know where you are going. Trust your instincts: If vou feel uncomfortable in a place or situation, leave.

Tips aimed at helping seniors avoid crime

The Plymouth Township Police Department features a wide variety of crime prevention tips for township residents. The tip sheets are available on the township's Web site at www.plymouthtwp. org

Crime Prevention for Seniors

WHEN YOU ARE OUT

• If you must carry a purse, hold it close to your body. Do not dangle it.

• Never carry a wallet in your back pocket. Put it in an inside jacket pocket or front pants pocket.

 Make sure someone knows where you are going and when you expect to return.

• Avoid dark, deserted routes even if they are the shortest.

 Carry change for emergency telephone and transportation use.

• Whenever possible, travel with friends. Check with your senior citizen center about escort services or the police.

• When using public transportation, sit near the driver.

• Do not overburden vourself with packages and groceries that obstruct your view and make it hard to react.

• Have your car or house key in hand as you approach your vehicle or home.

Carry a whistle or freon horn to use if you need to summon help.

• When you drive, keep doors locked and windows up. Park in well-lit, busy areas.

If you have car trouble, be wary of strangers who offer help. Stay in your car an ask them to call a service truck or the police.

WHEN YOU ARE AT HOME

• Use deadbolt locks on all exterior doors. Keep your doors locked at all times, even when you are inside.

• Protect windows and sliding glass doors with good locks or other security devices.

• Make your home appear occupied when you go out by using a timer to turn on lights and a radio.

• Never let repair or sales persons into your home without checking their identification.

Call their company to verify their identity if you are not sure. • Install a viewer in your door, and use it.

• If you live alone, do not advertise it. Use only your first and middle initials in telephone books, directories, and apartment lobbies.

• Get to know your neighbors, and keep their telephone numbers handy for emergencies.

• Work out a buddy system with a friend to check on each other daily.

• Engrave your valuables with a unique identification number recommended by the police. Check with local senior citizen centers for available services.

• Keep bonds, stock certificates, seldom-worn jewelry, and stamp and coin collections in a safe deposit box.

• Do not hide extra house keys under a doormat or in other obvious spots

PROTECT YOUR MONEY

• If you receive checks in the mail regularly, arrange for them to be sent directly to the bank.

• Avoid carrying large sums of money. If you must carry a large sum, have a friend accompany you.

• Do not display large amounts of cash.

· Do not sign a check or contract until you are sure it is for a legitimate reason. Know the details. If in doubt, check with a friend, a lawyer, or the police.



Plymouth Township Police have a surveillance photo from a Canton Township fast-food restaurant they believe is of a man they say was in possession of property taken during a vehicle burglary in Plymouth Township.

The area has seen a rash of burglaries of parked vehicles in recent weeks, and police are advising motorists to lock their vehicle doors and stow valu-

ables out of sight, or take them out of the vehicle altogether, when leaving vehicles unattended.

Anyone with information about the man pictured should call Plymouth Township Sgt. Steve Rapson at (734) 354-3233. Rapson said there is no evidence linking the man in the surveillance photo to any of the other Plymouth Township vehicle burglaries.





LOCAL NEWS

Observer & Eccentric | Thursday, June 18, 2009

(CP) A5

Balance retirement and home purchase planning

When it comes to IRAs, it seems most questions deal with how to invest money. It is essential to have a strategy and invest your IRA wisely.

I believe one should treat an IRA as a portion of an entire portfolio rather than a separate investment. That said, I also believe it is important to have a strategy when it comes to withdrawing money from an IRA.

> Most people assume you should let your

IRA grow tax-deferred for as long as you can before



Money Matterstaking distributions. I don't
believe in this
strategy for

everyone. So much of the strategy regarding how to withdraw money from an IRA is dependent upon an individual financial situation. For example, someone in a low tax bracket should consider taking money from his/her IRA and letting outside investments continue to reinvest and grow. The reason is because nonretirement accounts would be subject to capital gain rates which are substantially lower than the ordinary income tax bracket.

The key is to do what's good for you.

On the topic of withdrawals, I've had a number of questions of on whether to withdraw money from an IRA to purchase a home. With housing prices continuing to fall, many individuals are looking at taking advantage of the bargains but they need money for the down payment. Should they withdraw money from their IRA? First, it is important to understand that if you are under 591/2 there are ways that you can access your IRA without having to pay a penalty. Of course, while you are subject to the tax on the money there are ways you can avoid penalties. The real issue isn't the tax, but rather should someone use a retirement account to purchase a home. Generally, my advice for most people is don't touch the IRA. However,

retirement you must factor into the equation what Social Security will be in the future is unknown, people are living longer and also the numerous changes in the financial marketplace. That is why I generally recommend against tapping into an IRA to purchase a home.

But there are exceptions,

and one just might be the firsttime homeowner. The credit available to first-time homebuyers for federal tax purposes and the low prices of homes provide a good argument for using an IRA to purchase a home. Even for those who do not receive the first-time homebuyer tax credit, tapping using IRA money may make

sense. Of course, the individual who is tapping into an IRA must make a dedicated effort to eventually replenish that money by continuing to make ongoing contributions.

There used to be a rule that in the great majority of cases, one had to put 20 percent down in order to purchase the home. Although that rule has unfortunately gone away, I believe it is a rule that most people should follow. If you end up buying a house that you cannot afford you will be unable to save for retirement and that could lead to problems down the road.

If you commit yourself to being fiscally responsible and continue to save for retirement, accessing an IRA to purchase a home can be a very good strategy particularly for first-time homebuyers.

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.



we are in extraordinary times and in some situations it may make sense.

I cannot stress enough the importance of saving for retirement and investing retirement money wisely. In the past, I have discouraged people from using retirement money to purchase a home because my general view was if you had to touch your retirement money, you probably could not afford the home. After all, when you consider

Frequent Center

NEWS BRIEFS

HVA camp

Huron Valley Ambulance conducts its free two-day annual Camp 9-1-1 day camp for 8- to 12-year-olds in Plymouth, where space has been donated. The camp is on Thursday, July 16 and Friday, July 17 at the Plymouth Cultural Center, 525 Farmer Rd. in Plymouth. Hours are 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. both days. The day camp's activities

The day camp's activities include touring an ambulance, learning CPR, and visiting a local emergency room. HVA Paramedics and EMTs serve as "camp counselors", teaching campers about safety at home and at play, how to perform lifesaving skills on injured victims, and all about Emergency Services careers.

For a registration form or more information, call Jason Trojan, Camp 9-1-1 Coordinator, at (734) 477-6781 or email him at camp911@hva. org. Registration forms are also available at www.hva.org.



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See store for details regarding product warranties. We reserve the right to limit quantities. *Ask for 10% off your first single-receipt in-store purchase charged to your new Lowe's Consumer Credit Card Account when you open your new account in any Lowe's store and make your first purchase between 6/11/09 - 6/21/09. Coupon must be presented at time of purchase and cannot be used in conjunction with any other coupon or discount. This coupon is good for a single-receipt purchase of any in-stock or Special Order merchandise only up to \$5000 (maximum discount \$500). Coupon is not redeemable for cash, is nontransferable and cannot be replaced if lost or stolen. Void if altered, copied, transferred, or sold through any on-line auction. Limit one coupon per household. Not valid on sales via Lowe's Consult sales, purchase of any in-stock or Special Order merchandise only up to \$5000 (maximum discount \$500). Coupon is not redeemable for cash, is nontransferable and cannot be replaced if lost or stolen. Void if altered, copied, transferred, or sold through any on-line auction. Limit one coupon per household. Not valid on sales via Lowes com, previous sales, purchase of services or gift cards. Offer must be requested at the time of purchase. Offer is subject to credit approval. Coupon valid for one-time use only. Offer is not valid for accounts opened prior to 6/11/09. Excludes Lowe's® Business Credit Accounts, Lowe's® Project CardSM Accounts and all Lowe's WISA® Accounts. While Lowe's strives to be accurate, unintentional errors may occur. We reserve the right to correct any error. Prices and promotions apply to US locations only. ©2009 by Lowe's®. All rights reserved. Lowe's and the gable design are registered trademarks of LF, LLC. (090692)

A6

online at hometownlife.com

Life's next step: Salem grads move into the future

Presenting the Salem High School Class of 2009: James Donald Abraham Andrew Arthur Adams **Eduard Emanuel Aelenei** Mayada Akbar William S. Allen Ali Mohammed Alley Jonathan Manuel Alverio Stephanie P. Amado **Alyse Nicole Anderson** Matthew Dean Andreoli Matthew J. Arlen-Olsen Raheem K. Armstrong Whitney Lucille Aumiller **Emily Christina Bair** Jason A. Balazovich Laurvn Elizabeth Bane Sarahbeth Barlas **David Robert Bartlett** Sarah Ashley Bartlett Justin Faraj Bashi Brittany Ferrari Battaglia **Jessica Corinne Battle** Jace R. Bearden Sean Michael Beccaccio **Garrick Sinclair Beckett** Jill C. Behrman David M. Benson Maurice Mark-Anthony Benton John K. Bills Chelsea Kristina Bitter **Devon Marie Bleyaert Richard Franklin Bliss** Autumn Boards Daniel A. Boileau Kathleen Mary Borg Melissa Marguerite Bowling Jacquelyn Marie Breneman Kyle D. Bricker Leah Mary Bridges **Justine Noelle Brish** Wesley Adam Brock Simon T. Brodzik **Devin Nicole Bromley** Ashley Kay Brookshire Victoria Anne Brotz Al-Malik Brown Ashley Nicole Brown Matthew R. Brown Michael G. Brown **Russell Aaron Brown** Stephanie Mae Brown Tonya Marie Broxholm **Michael Devon Bryant** Abigail Louise Bulmer Fallon Victoria Burke Jacob Parker Burnstein Édra Diane Burris Matthew Roberto Calupina Kristen Erin Campbell Danielle Theresa Canty Erica Noelle Carlock Kenneth J. Carter Jacquelyn Jean Castellese Marie Patricia Catallo April Anne Cehaich Samuel R. Charara Zainab Tahir Chaudhry **Dominic Vincent Ciantar** Michael Cieslak **Christopher Charles Clark** William J. Clark Erin Rae Classen **Kirsten Elizabeth Clemans** Danielle Joi Clifford Emily Kathleen Cochran **Katherine Patricia Coffey** Trevor N. Collins **Rachael Elizabeth Conroy** Allissa Cathryn Constantine Nikita Consul Carissa Sue Coon Kevin J. Cope **Alexander Steven Covert Alexander Bracy Covington Emily Elizabeth Cox** Mary Elizabeth Cox Kaitlyn Rose Cray Ashleigh Marie Cybak Kalina Elizabeth Dalal John Richard Dalton, Jr. Jason Stephen Dane Patrick Jay David Anthony Joe Davis Chelsea Lynn Davis **Rebecca Lynn Davis** Jaclyn Rose Denomme James David Deska Jozsef S. deTassanvi Kelley Victoria Determan Jessica Rose Dethloff Matthew Floyd Devey Benjamin B. DeWitt Ariel Marissa Dews James S. Dexter Daniel M. DiLernia Francesco Robert DiNicola Jonathan P. Dixon Kaya Whitney Dobson **Alexander Scott Domin** Heather E. Dunnigan Patrick Harold DuPrie **Tara Genevieve Durocher** Angela L. Edgecomb Nathan Thomas Eidson Laura N. Ene Sabrina M. Eyob Jansan Dominique Falcusan Ashley Helen Fallon William S. Fellows Keifer Wolfgang Fillinger Johnathon A. Finkelstein Lauren Faye Fletcher **Thomas Michael Forrester Cortney Frazier** Eric J. Fredriksen Steven A. Fryer **Derrick Fu** Claria Briana Gant Elizabeth Marie Gauthier Stephanie Lee Gazdag Nicholas M. Gennety Neal Joseph Gerlach John Moylan Getschmann

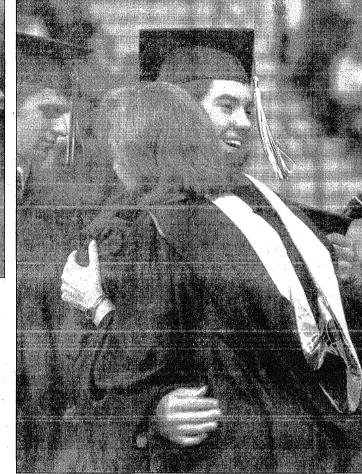


Tim Schoenherr directs the P-CEP Bands during the graduation ceremony at EMU.

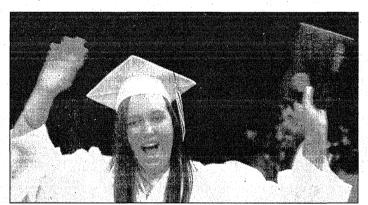


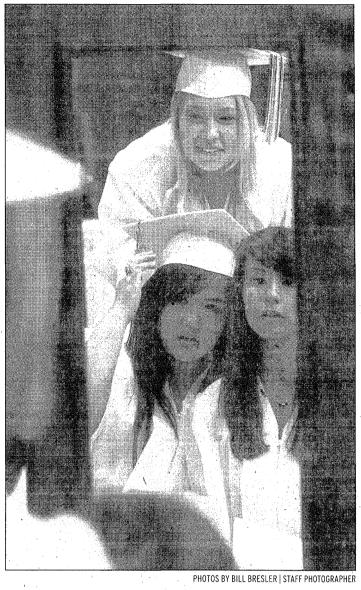
Salem Senior Class President Armani Paresh Patel addresses her classmates one last time.

Corinne Rose Ghastin Megan Teresa Ghastin Melissa Jean Giannini Ashlee Marie Gillikin Eric Robert Gilson Kelly Marie Gitre **Brandon Felix Goble** Travis Jordan Gore Andrew J. Grabowski Nickolas K. Gravlin Amber Rose Greenfield Ana Grozdanovska David E. Gubry Lourdes Gizelle Guerra Kathleen Mae Guevara Nadeem Ulhag Gulam Natalie A. Haddad **David Anthony Hales Bethany Siobhan Haller** Shelby Lynn Hammel Adam Jeffrey Hammell Drew R. Hansen Jessica Lynn Hansen Autumn Marie Harper Brian Ross Hartdegen Joshua Jordan Hartge Brian Flanigan Hattie Brent A. Hauser **Raqueliah E. Hayes** Jacob W. Haynes Grant T. Heidenreich **Drew Henson James Bryant Hicks** Amy Elizabeth Hill **Caitlin Rose Holloway** Mazell Tierre Holman Hieu Duc Hong Sharnia J.R. Hooks DeAia Jonee Hopkins-Shaw Brittany Irene Houston **Tyonna Shanelle Howard Courtney Lynn Howell** Michael J. Hudson Anna Jane Huey Jesse Ross Hulet Michael William Hutchison Shannvn Marie Hvland Alphonsus 0. Ibe III Anthony Mark Ignasiak Sara Ann Isiminger Jourdin Elayne Jaaska Tonya Susan Jaghab Heather Nicole Jahn Kathryn Mae Janda Lisa A. Jarzab Ahmad R. Johnson Sarah Nicole Johnson Jared Wesley Jones **Tommy Lee Josie** Paige Amber Jowski Ryan Zaven Kabodian Saisharanya Kandagatla Joseph Easa Kassees Gopaldeep Kaur Adam T. Kaye Jacob T. Kearly Melissa Ashley King Laura Elizabeth Kirby Sean M. Knipp **Brittany Northcott Knoll Christopher Michael Koetting** Katrina Patrice Koetting Alyssa Anne Kolb Candace Irene Kotulak Jordan Nicole Krivitz Samantha Frances Kruse Daniel W. Kuang Andrew Jay Lacy Alex M. Lang Jennifer R. Langwell **Christopher Michael Leib** Samuel James Lepper

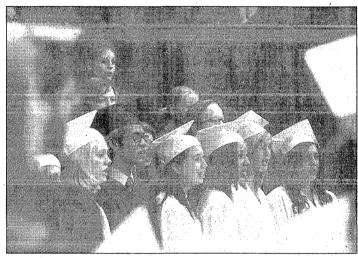


Jacob Parker Burnstein has a hug for school board trustee Nancy Eggenberger.





Fallon Burke, Kathleen Guevara and Gizelle Guerra check out the mirror before marching in to the arena for Salem High School's graduation exercise at Eastern Michigan University.



The P-CEP Combined Choirs sing 'Like An Eagle' at Salem's graduation ceremony.

Adam Christopher Powers Amanda Kaye Price Christopher Austin Proctor Alicia Alexandra Stephan Emily Rebecca Stone

Taylor Marie McPhail grasps her diploma and cheers as she is graduated.

Miyi Li Thaddeus C. Lincoln Linda W. Ling Daniel Lucas Lipford Samantha Michelle Lipp Christina Marie Livermore **David Marshall Loos Richard Michael Lorey** John Thomas Louis Christina Lynn Lozier **Desiree Luker** Shawn David Lyons Mengyi Ma Kelly Lynn MacDonald Heather Lynn Maclean Jessica A. Madau **Gustanio Elias Mady** Rachel Elizabeth Marsden Kortney Lynn Marsh **Caitlin Jo Martin** Brittany Nicole Marzinski Brandon James Massimilla Sarah M. Masty Jacquelyn Nicole Matalavage **Michael Ambrose Matera** Zachary Paul Mayes Breanna H. Maynard **Edward Michael Mazorowicz** Odera Ogugua Mbanugo Sarah Camille McCabe Cierra Lachelle McCartha **Jacqueline Susanne McCormick** Kevin G. McCulloch Shannon Lorraine McElfresh **Brittany Elizabeth McIntosh** Samantha R. McKay Terrance J McKay Erin Marie McLin Taylor Marie McPhail Emily Anne Meade Diego Mauricio Medina **Robert Lee Menning** Julia Alison Michael **Rebecca Michael** Brittany JoAnn Miller Joseph Eric Mohan Julia Cynthia Molnar Destiny Desireé Moore Diamond Marie Moore Lindsey Elaine Moore **Celeste Ann Morency** Joseph J. Morton

Christopher Joseph Moylan

Rema Hussein Mroueh Kristie Marie Muckles Anthony B. Mullins Alex J. Murray Surya Deepak Nagaraja Jaclyn L. Nagel Valentin C. Najjar Katherine Rose Negele Devon Erynn Nelms Mary Elizabeth Newman Tram Bao Nguyen Austin Raymond Nickol Kelsey Marie Nikkila Curtis Lee Nolen Lauren E. Novak Ashlee Marie O'Brien Kate Elizabeth O'Connor Megan Marvann O'Connor Michael Patrick O'Donnell Sara Marie O'Learv **Jeffrey Vincent Oldani** Johannes Karl Olind Samuel M. Ott Rosetta M. Palazzolo Brandon Michael Parker Heath James Parling Kathleen Claire Parr Christina M. Parsons Joshua M. Pascarella Armani Paresh Patel **Chintan Patel** Monikaben P. Patel Romil K. Patel Patrick F. Patin Rachel Anne Pawlowski Gregory Gabriel Pearson II Jordan Marc Peerbolte Zachary P. Pelech Bohdan Pelekh Joanna Jo Pennebaker **Brittaney Renee Penny** lan S. Phillips Gail Lynne Piazzi **Emily Jane Pitcole** Bryan S. Poike Alexander Lee Poli Jeremy Charles Poli **Jeffrey Steven Popa** Kiara Michell Pope Alexander Robert Porambo Joseph S. Posler Lauren Elizabeth Postma Kyle Matthew Powell

John W. Radford Daniel M. Radosevich Victoria R. Ranger Elyssa Mylise Rautiola **Alison Michelle Reed** Samantha Marie Regan **Alison Janet Reitzel** Phillip James Renas Jennifer Lynne Rice Paige R. Rich Jonathan M. Richard Joanna Christina Roberts Michael T. Robinson Michelle Renee Robinson Jessica Margaret Rocheleau Ann-Sophie Katharina Roehm **Garrett Michael Rogers** Ariel L. Rojo Bailey Kaitlyn Ross **Kelsey Michelle Ross** Emily M. Rossman Sarah Hope Rouston Matthew David Rowley Gabrielle Octavia Rucker **David Alex Russell** Katelyn Márie Sabada Awss J. Saied Sarah Melissa Sajewski Dina Marie-Jihad Salhani Nicholas Alexander Samsonow Lauren Carole Samuels Alisha Patricia Sarb Kayla Nicole Sartorius Mary Dawn Schremser **Robert Thomas Schultz** Brandon M. Schwartz Dharini D. Shah Muhammad Ali Shahid Courtney Lucille Shelby Ryan M. Shelton Jaeyoon Shim Chelsea R. Shirmer Mohammad Azharuddin Shirur Jacob G. Shroat Matthew Robert Siedlik Danielle Kristine Simmons **Jason P. Singh Jugdeep Singh** Peter Alan Skaggs Joshua B. Skelly Lauren Shea Slavick Matthew Edward Smidebush Amber Marie Smith Jake L. Smith **Jason Earl Smith** Marguese M. Smith Sherri Lauren Smith Zackery Austin Smith Christina Therese Smudski Adeline R. Soucy Zachary Thomas Sponseller Alyssa Lauren Spooner Jeffrey A. Sroka Sara Marie Stanley Stephen Michael Stark-

Jeremy M. Stoychoff Natalie Michelle Stoynoff Aman Suri Sara Elizabeth Svabik Haley Anne Swart Farah F. Sved Nicole Ann Sytsma Tarig Naim Tahhan Stephanie Lynn Tankersley Markiez Lee Tatum Nemi G. Thakker Joseph Aaron Thayer Christopher James Theisen Deon R. Thomas Joshua M. Thomas Samantha Rochelle Thompson Timothy David Thompson **Alexis Marie Thornbury** Stephanie Renée Torok Amy Kerr Trent Ashley Lauren Tucker **Chelsea Lauren Turner** Laura Patricia Urioste-Aviles' Brittni Nichole Valicenti Emma Mary VanHoet Amelia Kathryn VanHoof Brooke Ashleigh VanOoyen Raffaele Vivenzio **Emily Marie Voglewede** Austin J. Vojcek Janaki B. Vyas Daniel Andrew Wagner Sarah Annette Walsh **Deanna Marie Wampler** Angela C. Warnemuende Alexandra Diane Warner Lorraine Rose Warner Sha'lisa Chere'z Washington Christopher James Watkins Nicholas Alan Weiss Theresa K. Whalen Anna M. White XavierWhite Mark J. Widak Samantha Renee Wilder Robert Lynn Wildman Latisha Gwenae Wilkey Carly Anne Williams Cameron J. Wilson Jonathan J. Wimer **Ryan Matthew Winkler** Miranda Nicole Winningham Alexander Joseph Witoslawski Matthew H. Wolfe Matthew L. Woster Kaila Elizabeth Wright Sandup Singh Yonzon Alissa Joy Yu Kayla A. Zabowski Jayson Zapolski AnnaZhang ChenxiaoyangZhang **Olivia Terese Ziegler** Casey Marie Zimmerman Katherine Stevenson Zimmerman Kyle P. Zink

LOCAL NEWS

(CP) **A7**

The fight for Life

Plymouth Relay for Life draws record number of survivors and top amount of money, too

BY BRAD KADRICH OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Jeff Wright was walking with a purpose Saturday when he took the track at Central Middle School for the 2009 Plymouth Relay for Life.

Wright and his wife, Lisa, marched in the relay on the team representing Wright Asset Management Group. The Wrights were walking after finding out a Wright Asset employee had been diagnosed with cancer.

"The company decided to sponsor a team, and I've always felt it's important to give back to the community," said Wright.

Lisa Wright, who was walking while carrying niece Gracie piggy-back, had several family members on her mind as she took her walk. Lisa's grandmother and a great aunt had breast cancer, and her grandfather had prostate cancer.

"I like to give back, too, but I'm doing this for other reasons," Lisa Wright said. "Maybe by the time I'm susceptible to cancer, there won't be cancer."

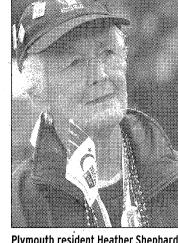
The Wright team was one of some 23 teams that contributed to the third Plymouth Relay for Life, an event that has grown every year.

This year's event had a goal of \$57,000 and, as of Wednesday, had reached more than \$56,000 with donations still pouring in.

"We're pretty confident we're going to make (the goal)," said Katie Brennan, the community representative for the American Cancer Society.

Brennan said the event was successful for other reasons, too. For instance, nearly 500 Luminaria bags, honoring victims of cancer, were sold, and the event raised more on-site money (people purchasing things at the event) than in the previous two years.

More importantly, 37 cancer survivors attended the event (a record) and some 50 people made pledges to



Plymouth resident Heather Shephard listens to the Fight back ceremony. She's a nine-year colon cancer survivor.



It's not Rocky, but Shane O'Donohue, of Livonia.



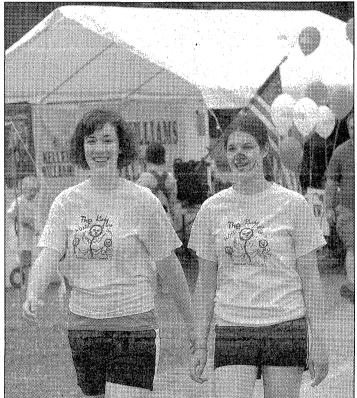
Rick and Sue Gilbert of Novi walk the track at Central Middle School.

PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



The 188 flags represent those in Plymouth who will be diagnosed with cancer in the next year.

BOOTCAMP



take preventative measures against cancer in the coming year.

The event was so successful, the ACS already has nearly enough volunteers to make up the committee for next year's Relay, a rarity, according to Brennan.

"The whole vibe of the event was positive," she said. "Everyone had a good time. We have so many volunteers who want to get involved."

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

Sisters Nicole, Erica and Jennifer Harris of Detroit were among the hundreds of walkers who took part in the third Plymouth Relay for Life.

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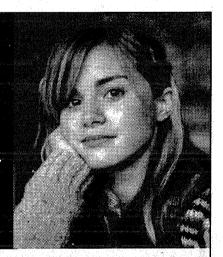


Plymouth Relay For Life participants Laura Haldane and Kathleen Salata walk the track at Central Middle School. They are both Livonia residents.

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Our fundamental purposes are to enhance the lives of our readers, nurture the hometowns we serve and contribute to the business success of our customers.

OUR VIEWS City moves quickly with smart DDA hire

Sherrie Pryor did a great job as operations director for the Plymouth Downtown Development Authority, and her departure to



spend more time with her family left a big hole. This week, city officials moved quickly and — we believe —

smartly to fill the gap. City Manager Paul Sincock, with the blessing of the DDA's Board of Directors, tapped Tony

Bruscato

Bruscato to replace Pryor and team with Jon Buzuvis as the new leadership team for the DDA. If

that name sounds familiar, it's because you're used to seeing it at the top of stories in this newspaper.

Sincock believes Bruscato, who covered Plymouth for some 11 years as an Observer reporter, brings a unique perspective to the DDA job. While filling what some would call an "adversarial" role as a newspaper reporter, Bruscato earned the respect of city officials, business owners, political leaders and residents. "When Tony wrote about (negative) aspects of city issues, he was right," one leader told us.

Bruscato brings a deep understanding of city issues, the budget structure and the operational process in the city. So much of the DDA job is marketing, an area that Bruscato's writing skills and positive attitude will serve well.

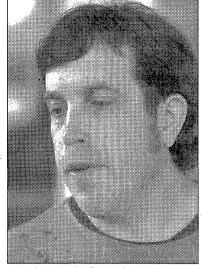
Perhaps most importantly, over his 11 years in town, Bruscato developed a respect and fondness for Plymouth that make him a natural choice to help promote it.

Relay walkers deserve our thanks

For the last three years, we have taken the time to urge residents to show their support for the hundreds of people who spend months fund raising and then 24 hours walking for the American ancer Society's Relay for Life

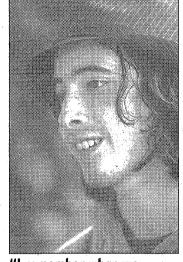
COMMUNITY VOICE

What was your favorite activity with your father when you were growing up? We asked this question at the Plymouth District Library.



"Go to (Red Wings) hockey games, generally. I remember going to the finals in New Jersey."

Brian Ochmanski Plymouth



were kids we used to go go-carting a lot. ... I still remember beating him three Good father-son pastime." out of four." **Tim Newby**

Plymouth

"I'd say playing catch. ...

I'm into football, but dad wanted to play baseball. Ken Campbell

Plymouth

"I would say household projects. Building things." Jennifer Towell Plymouth Township

LETTERS

financed off the books so that an egotistical chief executive, in pursuit of a legacy, could gain political traction that would translate into "leverage" in matters foreign and domestic by making himself a wartime Commander in Chief?

What about the "tyranny" of hacked emails, government wiretaps and other suspensions of civil liberties, crimes perpetrated and laws enacted in response to fear over the contrived emergencies, WMDs in Iraq and a nonexistent conspiracy between al Qaeda and Saddam Hussein, that have haunted us for the last six years?

Yes we have "exhausted international lenders" in Jim's words, by borrowing the funds to conduct two wars from China, but this did not occur during the current administration. Jim states that the recipe for tyranny includes "giant debt load, lingering unemployment, inflated money and market control," all characteristics of the previous administration, but neglects to include the impact of the Iraq war on the American psyche. Remember that war that seemed absolutely necessary because the administration falsified its own intelligence, ignored intelligence from allies and obtained false information through torture after the fact to evidence the inescapability of war. As far as "bailouts driven" by "Fannie, Freddie and the Fed," those too began on the prior watch. By the way, the failures of Fannie and Freddie played a relatively small part in the meltdown. Noted economist Paul Krugman termed those who believe that Fannie and Freddie were the causal agents of the cataclysm as "delusional." They were mere symptoms the result of 28 years of conservative-led, greed motivated deregulation that has resulted in the banking industry behaving more like a casino than the keeper of the currency. Jim may be right on the assumption that we will all have to tolerate regressive, "relentless taxation upon anything produced, moved or used in America" to maintain the status quo. If we continue to allow corporations a virtual free pass with a loophole-ridden tax code featuring the legal off-shoring of the fair tax burden as well as low marginal tax rates and low capital gains taxes on wealthy individuals, someone will have to foot the bill. Amazingly, corporations in the '50s paid over 30 percent of the federal tax bill and now pay about 7 percent. In addition, low marginal tax rates on that second or third million encourage the "boom, bubble, bust" economies that have become painfully all too familiar. Perhaps Jim and I agree on ousting "arrogant incumbents" if he is a citizen of the 11th U.S. Congressional district, the home of "Dr. No." In that eventuality Jim, speaking of arrogance, states that there are "real Americans" who should feel the "calling to serve" but I fear that those folks who qualify are only those who agree with him and who now. after having things their way for 20 or more of the last 28 years and thoroughly messing things up, are having to adjust to a new reality.

search of the happiness guaranteed under our Constitution?" To this question, one must answer, when was the last time you actually read the Constitution?

The U.S. Constitution was written and adopted under the principle of "positive grant." What this means is quite simple. The federal government is authorized to exercise only those powers which are "positively granted" to it by the Constitution. If a power is specifically listed in the Constitution, the federal government can do it - if not specifically listed, the federal government has no power. This principle was so important to the founding fathers that they codified it in law as the 10th Amendment.

The language of the 10th is clear and concise: "The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited to it by the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people." Thus, the federal government's powers are limited to a specific set of activities - the rest is to be handled by the state government, or locally, by the people themselves, Each of the sovereign states has, through its own legislature, adopted a State Constitution and set of regulations, based upon issues important to its own citizens. It has always been the right of the people to decided under which set of rules they wish to be governed, simply by choosing which state in which to live. Those searching for certain employment may migrate to states with "right to work" laws. Entrepreneurs look for states with the lowest business tax burden. Parents seek states providing the best educational opportunities for their children. Gun owners choose states with strong Second Amendment protections. The sovereignty of each state to govern itself has, in turn, provided this diversity of choice. The federal government's attempt to impose legislative mandates meant to override State Constitutions and statutes is clearly unconstitutional, and has been ruled such by the U.S. Supreme Court in New York vs. United States, 112 S. Ct. 2408 (1992), "... Congress may not simply commandeer the legislative and regulatory processes of the states." When the federal government oversteps the powers "positively granted" to it by the sovereign States and We the People, the possibility for tyranny grows. It becomes incumbent upon the States, and the people, to rein in their servant government. The State of Michigan, through its legislators in Lansing, is attempting to do just that. Rep. Paul Opsommer has introduced legislation in the Michigan House (HCR 004) which will serve to remind our federal government of the meaning of the 10th Amendment. Similar legislation (SCR 004) has been introduced in the Michigan Senate by Sen. Bruce Patterson. Both Concurrent Resolutions have been referred to committee, where they will be agreed to and sent to the floor for debate and adoption by the whole body, or simply die of inaction. Now is the time for the people of the sovereign state of Michigan to raise their voices and be heard all the way to Washington. Please call, write or visit your state representative and senator, urging them to co-sponsor and support these Concurrent Resolutions. The last protection from tyranny rests with the People. The time to act is NOW.

Focus on big picture

Please find my thoughts on the article regarding the House of Representatives vote to ban smoking in bars and restaurants. I am a nonsmoker, yet I do not support the ban on smoking. Here are my reasons:

• Economy - In this horrid economy the government should not shoulder local businesses with additional regulations. If an individual does not like the smell of a specific establishment they can simply turn around and walk out the door. No need to regulate. Consumer's wallets will complete the regulation process.

• Hypocrisy – I find it humorous that people want to ban smoking in a BAR. If you ban smoking in a bar why not ban a number of other items found in bars and restaurants.

"I remember when we

The relay is a celebration of life, a huge party to recognize those who have fought the battle with cancer and won. It's also a somber remembrance of those who were not so lucky.

This year, the goal for the Plymouth Relay for Life — in just its third year — was to raise more than the \$50,000 it raised a year ago, money that will be used to help cancer patients and help further research for a cure. Or should we say cures, since there are so many different types of cancer and each one responds to a different treatment.

We want to take this time to say a heartfelt "Thank you" to the many people who committed their time and talent to the 2009 Plymouth Relay for Life. It is not a easy undertaking, it required a lot of hard work and a lot of commitment.

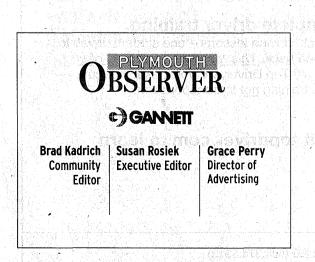
We congratulate all those people who made it happen, and all those people who went and showed their support. In three short years, Plymouth has shown a growing spirit aimed at fighting this disease.

Cancer doesn't sleep, doesn't take a vacation. It sucks the life out of whomever it can. We hope that somewhere in the money raised this year, one lowly Plymouth dollar bill will be the one that tips the scale for a cure. If not, we know that the money will be well spent in helping those who are battling the disease.



How has the switch to digital TV transmission impacted you?

Go to hometownlife.com to give us your feedback.



For example, while banning smoking in bars, they should also ban alcohol. Alcohol causes birth defects in children and millions of dollars are spent in treating alcohol abuse. In addition, drunk driving is one of the leading causes of accidents; thus they should ban alcohol.

While banning smoking and alcohol in bars and restaurants they should not overlook red meat and cheese products. These items are proven to contribute to high cholesterol, heart disease and obesity which are known killers. Thus, we should add cheeseburgers to the list of banned items.

Along with smoking, alcohol and cheeseburgers the state should also ban Keno. Keno is a first step into gambling which has caused financial hardships for people throughout Michigan. The state cannot risk their citizens falling into the clutches of gambling.

Oops. Strike that. The state makes millions on gambling and has omitted casinos from the smoking ban. The House of Representatives would not want to appear hypocritical.

I would ask that the State of Michigan's government focus on the most important item on their plate; to increase the favorability of Michigan to business by reducing taxes so that jobs will remain/return to the state. Their intentions may be noble but I ask that they focus on the big picture and leave the smaller decisions up to the remaining citizens of the state.

Of course, this could all be an elaborate plan by Lansing. If all businesses/citizens leave the state there will be no need for bars/ restaurants: thus there will be no bar/restaurant patrons and there will be no remaining citizens to inhale secondhand smoke. Problem solved. Sarcastically yours,

Geff Phillips Plymouth

Selective amnesia

In response to a letter to the editor by Jim of Northville, printed on June 11, it seems that he is suffering from a case of selective amnesia or using psychological projection. Jim speaks of blank checks issued by "legislative sycophants" in response to a presidential declaration that we are "out of money" that "wildly enlarged all government costs without a whimper."

I wonder how Jim thinks we got to this point? What about a \$155 billion surplus that was transformed into a \$1.5 trillion deficit in eight years? What about a presidential budget of \$3.1 billion for 2008 with the two foreign wars, one necessary the other chosen, being

Protection from tyranny

There is no doubt times are changing. Many honest, hardworking citizens wonder "what has become of the individual freedom to choose our own path through life, in

Mitch Smith

Canton

Melanie Collinsworth

MALLS & MAINSTREETS

MALLS & MAIN STREETS

If you have an item for Malls & Main Streets, please e-mail Susan Steinmueller at ssteinmueller@hometownlife.com or Sharon Dargay at sdargay@hometownlife.com

Free classes

Art Van Furniture, Michigan's largest furniture retailer, will offer design classes this fall. The store's Visual Merchandising team will present classes on four main topics: Determining Your Style, The Impact of Color, Furniture Placement, and Accessorizing. The style class will teach participants how to make smarter decisions about major purchases and make a home more comfortable for the family. The color session will explain the value of color and how to pick the right hues for a style. The furniture placement class will cover traffic patterns, focal points, floor plans and visual balance. The final session will clarify how to clear clutter, work with pieces that hold an emotional connection, and mix old and new pieces together.

Classes will be held Sept. 15,22,29 and Oct. 6 at the Novi store, 27775 Novi Road, and Sept. 17, 24, Oct. 1 and 8, in the Ann Arbor store, 425 E. Eisenhower Parkway.

Reservations are requested. Register by calling (888) 619-2199.

Reading incentive

Borders Express at Laurel Park Place in Livonia is challenging youngsters 12 and under to read this summer and offering a 50 percent savings on merchandise when they do.

Kids can pick up a Reading Challenge form at Borders, read any eight books they like (no purchase necessary) and list them on the form. If they return the form they'll receive a coupon for half off on selected items.

Forms must be returned by Aug. 31.

Meet the author

Tom Lowe, author of A False Dawn, will sign his new crime novel at 7 p.m., Tuesday, June 23, at Barnes & Noble's Northville store, 17111 Haggerty. (248) 348-0696. At 7:30 p.m., the store's mystery book group will meet.

Grill or Barbecue? Learn the difference at the All-American Summer class, 11 a.m., Sunday, June 28 and 6 p.m., Monday June 29 at the Williams-Sonoma store in Somerset Collection, Troy. You'll also learn how to capture slow-cooked flavors with ease. The class will include all-American recipes that are perfect for a Fourth of July cookout.

Class sizes are limited. (248) 637-0672

Trade electronics

RadioShack at Westland Mall will appraise your used electronics - MP3 players, GPS receivers, digital cameras, mobile phones, games and gaming systems, and camcorders - and give you their value in the form of a RadioShack gift card on trade-in. The program runs through December. Westland Mall is located at 35000 W. Warren Road, Westland. (734) 421-0291

Wall the mall

Too hot or wet to hit the pavement outdoors? Head to Laurel Park Place Mall where the doors open to walkers at 6 a.m., Monday through Saturday and at 9 a.m. on Sunday. You'll log more than a half mile for every completed trip through the mall, including hallways. Laurel Park Place is located on Six Mile, between I-275 and Newburgh, in Livonia.

Inline skating

Summit Sports and the Farmington Inline Skate Club will host inline skating events 6:30 p.m.-midnight. Intermediate/advanced skaters will meet every Monday in June in the rear parking lot of Our Lady of Sorrows, 23815 Power Road, Farmington for a 15-25 mile skate through hilly terrain.

Beginner/intermediate skaters will meet Wednesdays, through Aug. 26, in the public parking area on Orchard Street (behind the Farmington Shopping Center at Farmington and Grand River) for 4-12 miles of skating in two loops.

The store is located at 28942 Orchard Lake Road. On July 29 and Aug. 26, Summit Sports will hold a skate maintenance clinic at 7:30 in between the loops Call (248) 737-0970.

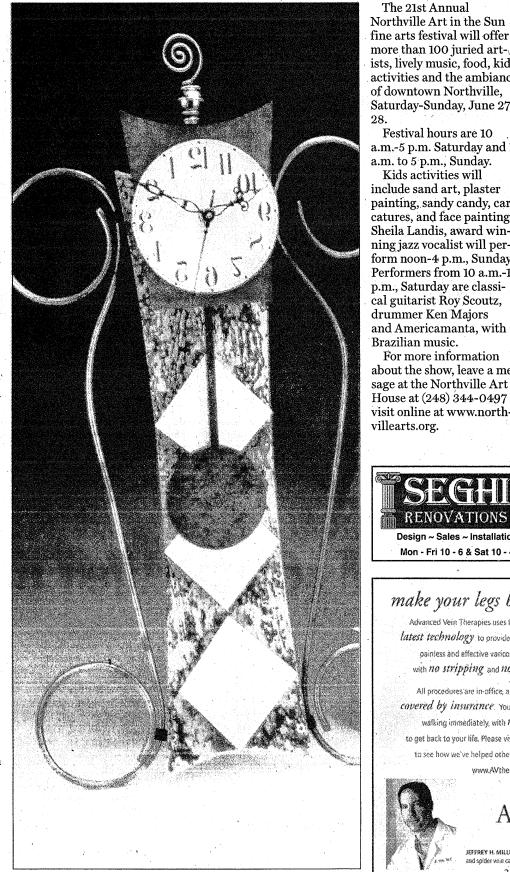
- Compiled by Sharon Dargay

Downtown Northville gears up for art festival

The 21st Annual Northville Art in the Sun

more than 100 juried art-

ists, lively music, food, kids'



Artist Duane Scherer's clock sculptures will be on display at Northville's upcoming art festival.

activities and the ambiance of downtown Northville, Saturday-Sunday, June 27-28.Festival hours are 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sunday. Kids activities will include sand art, plaster painting, sandy candy, caricatures, and face painting. Sheila Landis, award winning jazz vocalist will perform noon-4 p.m., Sunday. Performers from 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Saturday are classical guitarist Roy Scoutz, drummer Ken Majors and Americamanta, with Brazilian music. For more information about the show, leave a message at the Northville Art House at (248) 344-0497 or visit online at www.northvillearts.org. KITCHENS • BATHROOMS • LAUNDRY ROOMS WET BARS • SUNROOMS • BASEMENTS ADDITIONS • BARRIER-FREE ROOMS www.segbi.net RENOVATIONS 248-437-2454 Design ~ Sales ~ Installation 440 Lafayette, South Lyon Mon - Fri 10 - 6 & Sat 10 - 4 make your legs beautiful again Advanced Vein Therapies uses the latest technology to provide you safe, non-invasive painless and effective varicose and spider vein care with no stripping and no scarring. All procedures are in-office, and most are covered by insurance. You'll be up and walking immediately, with relief that allows you to get back to your life. Please visit our web site to see how we've helped others at

www.AVtherapies.com.

EFFREY H. MILLER, MD is Metro De

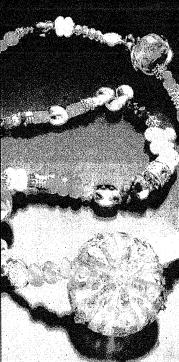
Advanced Vein

id spider vein care, specializing in treating venous diseases for nearly lifteen year

As seen in the Yellow Pages

248.344.9110 | www.AVtherapies.com

48325 W. 12 MILE ROAD | SUITE 335 | NOVI | West of Novi Road near 1-98



(*)

A9

Jewelry, like this glass bead necklace by artist Ann Jalsa, will be sold at Northville's Art in the Sun festival.



AIO (CP) Observer & Eccentric | Thursday, June 18, 2009

LOCAL NEWS

online at hometownlife.com

Cavaliers calling Drum corps expects local audience at Wayne show

BY SUE MASON OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The Cavaliers are coming. If you're a fan of drum lines and drum and bugle corps, you won't want to miss the Rosemont, Ill., Cavaliers when they make a two-day stopover at Wayne Memorial High School to rehearse for competition in Toledo, Ohio.

"Their visit is creating a lot of excitement," said Wayne High band director Matt Diroff, who is organizing band boosters and students to prepare for the group's arrival. "I'm amazed at the hard work that's put in for one of these visits. It's a great learning experience for the kids."

Diroff was contacted at the end of May about hosting the Cavaliers. The school will provide sleeping areas and shower rooms for the members and their drivers and cooks and provide the high school football stadium for rehearsals. The group — five motor coach-



Founded in 1948, The Cavaliers is an all-male drum and bugle corps.

es, three tractor-trailers and several cars — will arrive at the Wayne high school around 2 a.m. Wednesday, June 24, Diroff said.

They'll use the high school football field for practice 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Wednesday and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thursday before heading to Toledo where they compete with sixseven other drum and bugle male drum and bugle corps. corps in the Glassman All-Star Review at the University of Toledo.

"They only need a place to rehearse and sleep, they have their own food truck," said Diroff. "What we try to do is make them feel welcome and let them know they're at a place that appreciates the opportunity to host them." Band boosters are creating goodie bags for the group filled with snack foods that they can take with them when they leave. They also will man the concessions stand where corps members and people who come to watch the practice can buy hot dogs and snacks throughout Wednesday afternoon and evening.

One booster is also creating vinyl signs to hang up outside the gym and stadium welcoming and wishing the Cavaliers good luck. "The boosters are doing an

a mazing job. Having been a member of one of those groups, I know how nice it was to have someone make you feel at home in a strange place," said Diroff. "These kind of groups take off in June and stop at their home base once or twice over three months."

"They do their performances then pack up and move on to the next stop. They do that until August when they converge on Indiana for the world championships," he added.

The Cavaliers have 150 members and a support staff of some 35 people. The group got its start in 1948 when a Chicago Scoutmaster organized his troop members into a drum corps after seeing a performance at Soldier Field by a group of Racine, Wis., Eagle Scouts. The all-male Cavaliers perform in the Drum Corps International's world class division and has won five world championships over the last eight years, including a first-place finish in 2006.

Diroff expects the Cavaliers visit will attract alumni and fans from around the state as well as a large contingent from Plymouth-Canton, which has a strong music program. He expects the largest crowds during the afternoon and evening practices.

And the Cavaliers aren't the only drum and bugle corps that will stop by the school this summer. Wayne High also will host a one-day visit by the Santa Clara Vanguard from Santa Clara, Calif., on Aug. 3. Diroff said the visit will be "exciting" because the Vanguard will be "in tiptop shape."

"After they come here, I'm pretty sure they'll head to Indiana," he said.

The high school has been hosting drum and bugle corps for several years and has done such a good job that it's now at the top of the list for host schools. Diroff made the connection through a friend of a friend. According to Diroff, the Cavaliers' visit should be a must for bandsmen serious about their performances.

"If you want to learn how to do what you do better, you have to see it done at the highest level," he said.

Wayne Memorial High School is at 3001 Fourth St. at Glenwood in Wayne. For more information, contact Diroff by e-mail at diroffm@wwcsd.net.

smason@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-6751

Local Star Trek fans create their own online movie

BY ALEX LUNDBERG OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

With the last televised incarnation of Star Trek off the air since 2005 and a new Star Trek movie that set box office records, some local fanshave created their own version of the show and are hoping to tell as many stories as they can.

In *Eclipse*, the first episode of *Star Trek: Osiris*, worsening relations between perennial Federation enemies the Klingons and Romulans are framed against the launching of the U.S.S. Osiris, Starfleet's newest and fastest ship, and a coup against the president of the United Federation of Planets. The ship's captain is wrestling with his superiors, the crew is fractious, the



Carr and Miller after the computergenerated backgrounds have been added. All of the other props and costumes were made for the production specifically.

puter-generated.

Executive producer, writer and actor Todd Adams of Waterford ("Cmdr. Alaric Thorrson") was working with co-creator Jay Miller at Best Buy in 2007 when they watched *Hidden Frontiers*, the Mary Gibbs (associate producer, casting director) of Redford plays the part of helmsman Kara Donovan. A veteran of independent features, murder mystery dinner theater and the Michigan Renaissance Festival, she got the part after answering an online ad.

"I responded to a Craigslist ad looking for actors for a *Star Trek* fan Web series," she said. "I went there, auditioned on the green screen set and got the job."

After getting the job, she said Miller was doing casting as well as producing and directing, and she asked if she could take over some of those responsibilities. She used her contacts in Michigan film to get people she knew, other actors, to come out and audition for parts in the production.

Adams said getting the actors together turned out to be a regular chore. Only two of the people involved were professional actors, the rest were people with day jobs so shooting was a weekend balancing act. Others found other challenges inherent in the project.

All acting is make believe, but the set of *Star Trek: Osiris* is entirely a green screen environment where everything that isn't in a character's hands or on his/her back is computer-generated. Gibbs said it can be difficult to adjust. "I had done green screen before but nothing like this," she said. "You're sitting there with the console in front of you but it's plywood sprayed green and you're pretending to push buttons."

Jay Miller (director, producer, editor, "Capt. Kieran Bale") created all of the computer generated sets and effects using an editing program he taught himself to use. It was a lot of work.

"It was more work than I originally thought," he said. "Now I realize how hard it is to manage talent and work with the computer. I gained a lot of respect for the guys who created *Hidden Frontiers.*"

The first episode of *Star Trek: Osiris, Eclipse*, has been online since April 18 and thousands have already seen it.

"The positive response of the Trek community has been more than I expected," Adams said, "It's been above and beyond."

How long can it go on? Miller said he expected a few more episodes will be needed to flesh out the story arc started in *Eclipse*. After that, who knows?

"We've got a general idea where we want it to end," he said. "I'd like to keep it going, to say what life is like after these events, what is the change after this."

The episode can be seen for free at www.stosiris.com.

alundberg@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-5379

engine just doesn't want to work ... all familiar Star Trek flavors.

On top of that, all of the props, costumes, sound effects and dialogue are as close to the image and feeling of the Star Trek products since *Star Trek: The Next Generation* as the filmmakers could get. All of the sets and effects are commost extensive fan-generated Star Trek online series. It gave them both ideas.

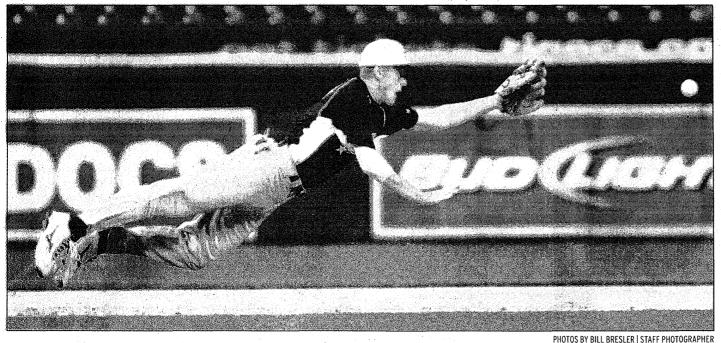
"After watching it we were saying that we could do thàt," he said. "One day those conversations got serious."

Starting with the idea that all they needed was a camera and a green screen they started planning their own series.









East All-Star third baseman Brad Lineberry of Plymouth High School stretches for a hot shot in 'Brandon Inge territory' on Tuesday night. But he couldn't quite reach the ball.



East All-Stars fall 13-4 at Comerica Park, but local players shine

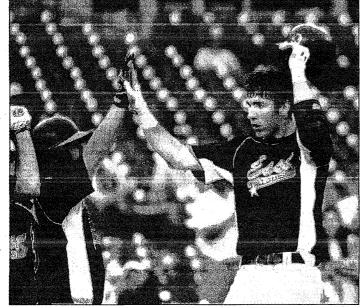
BY TIM SMITH OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Today's top high school baseball players Tuesday night put an undeniable exclamation point on their prep careers at Comerica Park.

Plymouth's Brad Lineberry, Salem's Sam Ott and several others with area ties had strong showings, even though it turned out to be a lopsided affair on the scoreboard.

The 28th annual Michigan High School Baseball Coaches Association East-West All-Star Baseball Classic went to the West, by a 13-4 final.

"It was amazing, just the atmosphere, playing on a nice field," said Lineberry, who played third base and was robbed of a hit in his only atbat. "I could never wish for anything else. I was standing at third thinking, hey, Brandon Inge is here almost every day. It was great."



East All-Stars congratulate teammate Matt Conway, of Birmingham Brother

Garrett Green doubled and made a sparkling defensive play to save a run in the eighth and West Bloomfield's Takahiro Fukui singled.

The West scored single runs in the second and third and tacked on two more in the third helped out by some sloppy East fielding. But Conway drilled his home

single in the fourth to get the East thinking comeback.

GIVING IT BACK

Pinch hitter Mike Carson (Lapeer East) made it 4-2 with a single and two more runs scored on a passed ball and wild pitch.

It didn't take long for the West to get the lead back as Jason Hockemeyer (Meridian)

It's big-time finale for baseball pals

BY TIM SMITH OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

How unbelievable Tuesday night must have been for Plymouth's Brad Lineberry and Salem's Sam Ott?

Both are longtime friends who played baseball together growing up as well as against each other during high school. But Tuesday at Comerica Park, they finished their high school careers in the best possible way — on the same team in the place the Detroit Tigers roam.

"This is probably the best experience I've ever had playing baseball," said Lineberry, who lined out and played third base in the East All-Stars 13-4 loss to the West All-Stars. "It's the best life experience ever."

According to Ott, "It was great, not only because we played in the same park but I've played with Brad since I was probably 7 or 8 years old." "Just our last high school

game we're ever going to play

we played together, that's really cool," Ott said. "The whole thing was awesome, there's nothing that could be better."

"Me and Sam played travel ball since we were 8 years old," chimed in Lineberry. "We hung out together, everything."

Lineberry came up to bat in the sixth, trying to get a base knock and match what Ott did in the fourth (a single to right).

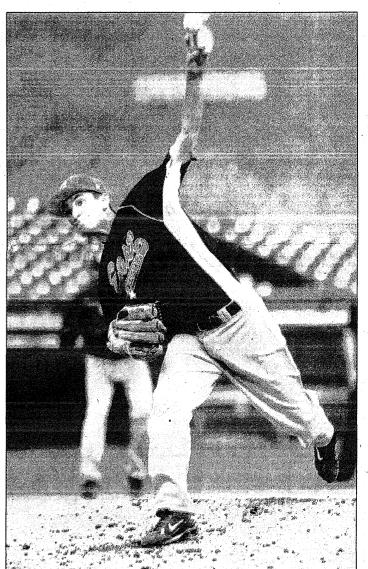
But the West centerfielder dove headfirst to pick Lineberry's shot off the carpet.

Ott had a bit more success, not only singling but scoring a run.

"I didn't want to go 0-fer," he said, smiling as he talked on the field after the game. "I was happy to get a hit off a good pitcher and it was great to get a run, too."

AMAZING OPPORTUNITY They said it was great to

Please see PALS, B2



Ott, the starting left-fielder, contributed a line single to right field and scored a run in two at-bats while also pitching a frame for the East.

"Everything is just so much bigger, not only the dimensions but the stands and everything," Ott said. "It's a little harder to pick up the ball. You just have to get used to the ball going up in the seats. It's great playing here."

On a night when big-league scouts probably were watching Detroit Tigers draft pick Daniel Fields of University of Detroit-Jesuit (0-2) it was Rice, after he clobbered a solo home run into the Comerica Park bullpen in left.

Birmingham Brother Rice senior Matt Conway who wowed the crowd.

Conway, the East MVP, socked a solo homer into the left-field bullpen in the fourth, to spark a four-run surge that would briefly tie the contest at 4-4.

But things went downhill fast for the East (coached by West Bloomfield's Pat Watson), largely due to the heavy hitting of West MVP Torsten Boss of Lowell, who doubled, tripled and drove in four runs.

GOING YARD

"Even when I hit it, I was like 'There's no way it's going out,' and then it goes out of the park and everyone's going crazy," said Wake Forestbound Conway, who played twice before at the Copa in the Catholic League championship. "It was a great experience rounding second. Even some of the guys in the field were saying nice shot. So it was great camaraderie out here. Everyone's pulling for each other even though we're kind of competing to win. It was something I'll never forget."

Conway, ironically, also served up a round-tripper. He pitched the ninth inning only to yield a three-run shot to left by Rockford's Shane Street. Other area players made their presence felt. Novi's doubled home Boss. A two-run triple to the scoreboard in right-center by Boss opened up a 7-4 edge in the sixth and he drove in two more in the seventh on a double to left. Picking up the victory for the West was Temperance Bedford lefthander Mitch Hooven, while the loss was pegged on Carson, who allowed the go-ahead run in the fifth. The Classic again was pre-

sented by the Detroit Tigers Foundation, an affiliate of Ilitch Charities, to provide prep players a chance to showcase their talents and strengthen the game throughout Michigan.

tsmith@hometownlife.com

Sam Ott of Salem High School launches a pitch toward home plate during the fourth inning of Tuesday's East-West All-Star Game at Comerica Park.

Salem's Cox leads lacrosse honorees

Another successful season for the Plymouth Canton Community Schools girls lacrosse team yielded a number of honors, bestowed at the team's recent awards banquet.

At the top of the list of honorees was senior captain and Salem student Emily Cox, who was the second recipient of a \$1,000 scholarship award.

Lady Warriors' head coach Dave Medley described Cox as "a solid defensive force" throughout her three-year varsity career and she "demonstrated a very calm confidence on and off the field, which was the reason she was named captain.

It should be noted that Cox and Lady Warriors' teammates Lauryn Ebersole (Plymouth) and Chelsea Olson (Canton) played in the senior Hall of Fame game Saturday and Ebersole was named by the Michigan Women's Coaches Lacrosse Association for honorable mention All-State.

Olson was the first scholarship recipient. The PCS Lady Warriors is a combined varsity team with players from Salem, Canton and Plymouth high schools.

There were other honors for Cox. The Michigan Women's Coaches Lacrosse Association recognized Emily's strong defensive skills this season.

She received an Honorable Mention award for defense for 2009 in the All East Central League.

The coaches of the teams that the PCS Lady Warriors faced this season voted on the award.

Her teammates also voted her as the Best Defensive Player for the season, Medley said.

In addition to her lacrosse excellence, Cox has participated in numerous volunteer service activities. She is an active participant in the Open Door Ministry Food Bank, packaging food for local needy families, volunteers for the Canton Goodfellows and for the Kids Time After School Program.

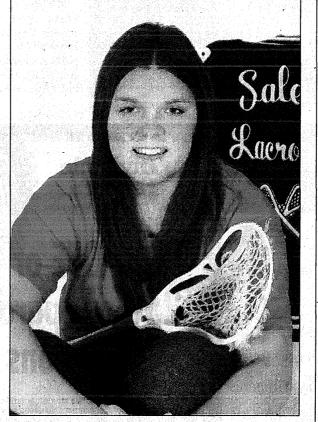
Her assets extend beyond the field and her service; she is an excellent student. Finishing high school with a 4.0 gradepoint-average, Cox has been accepted at Michigan State University, and has been invited into the Academic Scholars Program at MSU.

Emily also was one of 14 players to earn a Scholar Athlete Award in recognition for her academic and athletic achievement (*Check the list below for* other winners).

OTHERS EARN AWARDS

A number of other awards were presented at the banquet. They include the following:

Please see COX, B2



Salem senior Emily Cox recently became the second winner of a \$1,000 scholarship awarded by the Plymouth Canton Community Schools girls lacrosse team.

Tourney success in Cards

BY TIM SMITH OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Hard work, fun and commitment to team success is the right blend for the winning machine that is the Canton Cardinals' 11U baseball team.

The Cardinals, coached by Dan Hejka Sr., are 29-4-1 following recent tournament championships at the Frankenmuth Baseball Showcase and Farmington Hills Cobra Classic.

Hejka's team follows the mantra that "players play, teams win."

The youngsters keep that in mind when they dive to catch a fly ball, sacrifice runners over or make a fundamentally sound relay throw to the plate. Every player makes a contribution.

Meanwhile, the head coach also points to other attributes that contribute a great deal, such as solid character and encouragement from family.

"They are a great group of boys," Hejka emphasized. "And (they) are hard-working and deserve any accolades that come their way.

"I am also blessed with very supportive families that are the main reason for our success."

The Cardinals, a travel team based out of the Greater Canton Youth Baseball and Softball Association, will try to extend that run of success June 19-21 at the USSSA State Championships in Sterling Heights.

With another month or so of games to be played, the Cardinals have been clicking when it counts most — going 4-0 at the Cobra Classic tourney.

In the semifinal, the Cardinals outslugged the Grosse Pointe Park Titans, 9-7. They then went on for a 9-1 victory over the North Farmington West Bloomfield Cobras, 9-1.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

FROM PAGE BI

compete with the cream of the crop, many of who will play in college or perhaps even professionally. Lineberry and Ott are looking to play baseball at Madonna University and Eastern Michigan University, respectively.

"Getting an opportunity to play in a game like this is so cool because you've got a bunch of kids either going to big-time colleges or maybe even the pros," Ott said. "Just being able to say you were one of the 36 people out of however many play high school baseball that got to play in this game is just amazing."

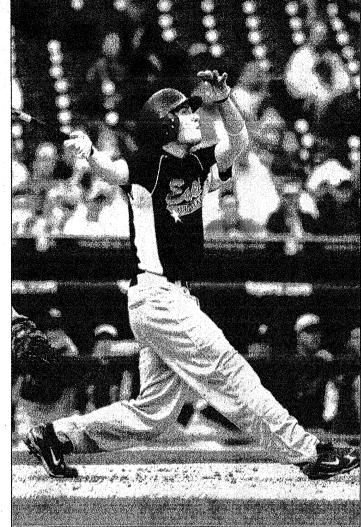
Surprisingly for such a big stage, they didn't battle too many jitters.

But the main thing was getting used to a different kind of environment.

"Everything is just so much bigger, not only the dimensions but the stands and everything," Ott said. "It's a little harder to pick up the ball.

"You just have to get used to the ball going up in the seats but it's great playing here."

tsmith@hometownlife.com



BILL BRESLER I STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Lacing a single to right field at Comerica Park Tuesday is Salem's Sam Ott.



Niles foils Ladywood title hopes

BY BRAD EMONS **OBSERVER STAFF WRITER**

Niles pitcher Jenny Ignowski barely left a crack in the door before slamming it shut on Livonia Ladywood's bid to become the Division 2 state girls softball champions.

The senior right-hander struck 14 and allowed just two hits to propel the Vikings to a 4-0 triumph over the Blazers for the coveted title Saturday at Battle Creek's Bailey Park.

Ignowski, who also made a pivotal play in the top of the sixth inning to protect a 1-0 lead, enabled Niles (35-5) to earn its first state crown of any kind since 1964.

Ladywood, making its longest softball tournament run in school history, bows out with a 38-7 overall record.

"We've seen a lot of good ones throughout the season and she's one of the top three or pitchers we've seen," Ladywood coach Scott Combs said of the 2008 Michigan Gatorade Player of the Year. "She's good because she mixes it up well. It's her senior year and it was her time. She deserves everything she gets. You have to tip your cap to her.'

• Plymouth junior Lauryn

But Ebersole also was

• Canton senior and co-cap-

Olson received a Scholar-

Ignowski started the game on fire by fanning the entire Ladywood batting order through the first three innings. Through five innings, the Eastern Michigan Universitybound hurler allowed only one base runner (a fifth-inning walk to Julie Bushart).

Meanwhile, Ladywood freshman pitcher Briana Combs kept the Blazers close by allowing just one run on just four hits through five innings herself.

Niles, however, got on the board in the bottom of the fourth on a single and stolen base by Heather Daniels followed by a sharp double to left-center field off the bat of Demi Schrader.

In the top of the sixth, senior Courtney LaValley, the offensive hero in Friday's 1-0 state semifinal win over Williamston, led off by reaching base on an infield single.

Freshman Nicole Payne came on to pinch run, but Ignowski got the next two outs after the Blazers were unable to execute successive sacrifice bunt attempts.

"Both Briana (Combs) and Jennifer Kelley are two of our best bunters, but against somebody that throws hard

and high, it's harder to hit against," Combs said. "After we were able to go through the lineup one time, we started to put the bat on the ball."

The first bonafide Ladywood offensive threat came the very next at-bat when freshman left fielder Carli SanMillan ripped a shot to right-center field for a double.

Combs, coaching third, waved Payne around and home on the play, but Daniels relayed the throw from right field and into the waiting hands of Ignowski just in front of the plate. The Niles pitcher flipped the toss to catcher Maggie Ernsberger and Payne was cut down at home for the final out of the inning.

"She (Ignowski) is a very good pitcher and that's why we had to take a chance to score - you've got to run," Combs said. "I thought when she cut the ball she would throw it down to second (base) and we'd score and it would be 1-1."

"We had only one or two chances and we took a shot to sneak across a run. We just did not get enough balls in play."

bemons@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-6851

Rottell was voted by MWCLA and was honorable mention attack for the 2009 All East Central League. • Plymouth senior Elyse

Ohryn, "Best Attitude" award. Canton sophomore Lauren Allard, "Hustle" and Scholar-Athlete awards.

 Canton freshman Stephanie Bower, "Most Improved Lady Warrior" and Scholar-Athlete awards.

• Salem senior and cocaptain Melissa Giannini, "Toughest Lady Warrior" and Scholar-Athlete awards.

• Salem senior and co-captain Edra Burris, "Humor" award and recognized for establishing a Salem singleseason goal record of 17. Also a Scholar-Athlete recipient.

 Plymouth sophomore Taylor Martin, "Most Reliable" and Scholar-Athlete awards.

• Canton senior and co-captain Natalie Sitko, "Wolf Team Spirit" and Scholar-Athlete

O'Connor, tied for "Most Improved" award and also was honorable mention goalie for KLAA and second team goalkeeper for the 2009 All East Central League. Also a Scholar-Athlete recipient.

 Salem sophomore Meaghan Eldridge, "Leadership" award.

 Scholar-Athlete Awards also were presented to Plymouth sophomores Taylor Birman and Rhianna Fleisher, Canton junior Kylie Miller and Salem junior Stephanie Poe.

• All team members received certificates of participation, letters and pins. Those not yet named include: Canton senior and co-captain Stephanie Pettovello, Canton senior Abbeygail Epelman, Plymouth freshman Katelyn Hill, Plymouth freshman Shannon Lubin, Plymouth sophomore Lauren Manner, Salem sophomore Katie Meagher, Canton freshman Marissa Paponetti, Canton freshman Tessa Warner Canton junior Cady Struble, Salem junior Jennifer Herzfeld, Plymouth junior Brittany Lewis and Salem junior Rachel Sedlik.

Summer savings

Smart money-saving tips to keep your summer sizzling.





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Rottell, in addition to "Humo and "Best Assist" awards. She was the first PCS lacrosse player to receive a scholarship to play the sport in college.

Summer programs and

The Plymouth Family

ety of summer sports pro-

grams and several clinics.

YMCA also is offering a vari-

The summer programs

17) will focus on fun, exercise

and social interaction through

"Kickers and Shooters" soccer,

preschool and youth basket-

ball, preschool soccer class,

Morning and evening

thing for children between

munity members.

preschool and youth baseball.

classes are available; ages vary

by program but there is some-

ages 3-9. Programs are open

to YMCA members and com-

Three sports clinics also

are on tap through Plymouth

Family YMCA. Those include

baseball (July 21-25, for ages

9-11), soccer (July 28 through

Aug. 1, ages 6-9) and basket-

ball (Aug. 4-8, ages 6-9).

(from July 13 through Aug.

instruction and include

camps

Plymouth senior Nicole

awarus

 Canton sophomore Sarah Coleman, "Wolf Team Spirit" and Scholar-Athlete awards. • Salem sophomore Lexi

SPORTS BRIEFS

Call (734) 453-2904 or visit www.ymcadetroit.org for information on the summer programs and clinics.

PCEP alumni lacrosse

The fourth annual Plymouth-Canton **Educational Park Men's** Alumni Lacrosse Game is fast approaching, with game time slated for 1 p.m. Saturday, June 20.

It will be an "alumni vs." alumni" matchup, with teams picked prior to the start of action - so players should try to get to the PCEP Varsity (Turf) Field no later than 12:30 p.m.

Each players should bring a stick, helmet, full pads and any practice penny one might have. Officiators and scorekeepers will be provided.

For more information, contact PCEP Alumni Booster Nina Smithpeters at nsmithpeters@wowway.com.

Wildcat grid camp

Ready to get cracking? The Plymouth Wildcats football team is holding its Youth Camp from Monday, June 22, through Wednesday, June 24, at the PCEP Turf Stadium for players interesting in honing their linemen or passing skills.

There will be two sessions of the camp, being run by coach Mike Sawchuk. For those going into grades 5-9, sessions will be 5-7 p.m. each day; players entering grades 10-12 go 7-9 p.m.

Please go to www.plymouthwildcats.com for camp brochures and more information. Sawchuk can be reached at (734) 582-5696.

Learn to skate

The Arctic Edge Ice Arena in Canton is offering eight weeks of learn-to-skate sessions, beginning Tuesday,

June 23.

Classes are 30 minutes each with 15 minutes of free time and are grouped by age and ability.

Parents can register children at the Arctic Edge, 46615 Michigan Avenue, or call (734) 487-777 for more information.

New CAHA site

The Canton Amateur Hockey Association recently unveiled a new and improved Web site for the 2009-10 season

The site has all the information anyone might need about CAHA teams, leagues and coaches for next year as well as brand new online registration.

Check it out at www.cantonhockey.org.

Summer spikers

Plymouth varsity volleyball coach Kelly McCausland is hosting a camp for those entering grades 6-10, to take place 1-4 p.m. Monday, July 27, through Wednesday, July 29. The camp is slated for Plymouth High School.

The fee is \$65. Contact McCausland at mccausk@taylor.k12.mi.us for more information.

Ultimate soccer tourney

A Post Tryout Tournament hosted by Ultimate Soccer Arenas is slated for July 26-28

Three games are guaranteed for all age groups, including U9-U18 (girls) and U9-U14 (boys). U9-U10 teams will played 6v6; U11-U12 will play 8v8; and U13-U18 play 11v11.

The cost is \$199 per team, and prizes will be given to first- and second-place finishers in each age division.

For registration information, call (248) 648-7000 or go online at www.ultimatesoccerarenas.com.

(*) **B3**



The U.S. Open 2009 is June 15-21

Online Poll: Who will win this year? We want your vote!

Go online to www.hometownlife.com/section/sports25 to take part in our online poll. We'll compare your predictions with the final results on June 25!

Is a golf course slope rating of 130 always really tough?

By Doug Hendershot

With nearly 900 golf courses in Michigan, there is certainly a wide range of golf course and slope ratings to select from. With this many courses you can find any degree of difficulty one chooses. And with some knowledge of the USGA Course Rating System, it is possible to find that special "hidden gem" that suits your game and makes the golfing experience even more fun.

The USGA Course Rating of a golf course (not slope rating) is designed to ensure that the rating of a golf course is in proper relation to the ratings of the other courses. This applies to your local courses, as well as courses throughout the entire United States.

The USGA Course Rating, generally found on a scorecard, is based on the performance of the scratch player and his or her scoring ability related to playing length and 10 obstacle factors. This USGA Rating System also provides procedures for determining a Bogey Rating based on the performance of the Bogey golfer and his or her scoring ability. This rating is used in connection with the USGA Course Rating to provide a slope rating. For a comprehensive list of all current USGA Course and Slope ratings in Michigan, go to www.gam.org and click the course finder tab under the Handicap section of the Golf Association of Michigan Web site.

OK, so now you have your list of courses that may be suited to your playing ability. It's time to take a closer look at both the course ratings and slope numbers to get a better feel for the type of poison you are about to be encounter. Through the collection of data on thousands of golfers and thousands of golf holes, the factors that affect the difficulty of a golf hole have been evaluated and assigned numerical values that yield an accurate course rating and slope rating when applied to an entire course. The slope rating is an indicator of the relative difficulty of a course for players who are not scratch players. Since the vast majority of golfers are not scratch players, we will now take a closer look at what really makes a tough golf course.

With permission from the author, the following are excerpts from an article, "Setting the Record Straight," by David Parsigian:

"What do the ratings Mean? Many golfers and golf magazine editors believe "slope" is the best indicator of difficulty. This is incorrect. Slope allows the golfer to accurately determine the number of handicap strokes they are entitled to on a given golf course. That's it! The true key to fulfilling your need for selfpunishment is course rating. The USGA has weighted all of the factors for effective playing length and obstacles, and adjusted those weightings for how they affect the scratch and bogey player differently. Plugged into a formula with this weighting, the factors result in a different course rating for the scratch and bogey golfer.

Now we are ready to put it all together, the course rating represents the average of the better half of the scores of the scratch or bogey golfer under normal course and weather conditions. On a course rated 69.0 with a par 72, a scratch player will shoot that score one out of four times. So where does slope come in?

Slope simply measures how much more difficult a course is for the bogey golfer than the scratch golfer. The higher the slope, the greater the relative difference in difficulty between these two golfers. So, if you perfectly fit the criteria

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for a bogey golfer, slope is a reasonably good measure of difficulty. But a better one is to use the course and slope rating to determine the bogey rating. Below is the formula for men. Once you've figured out the bogey rating, you'll know that a bogey golfer will, on average, shoot that score only one out of four times.

Course Rating (Bogey) = Course Rating (Scratch)+(Slope Rating divided by 5.381), for women, just replace 5.381 with 4.24."

Now that I have empowered you with course rating knowledge, you can look at both the USGA slope and course rating to decide if a "130 Slope" is really that tough. Hint, "Remember to look at the course rating."

Doug Hendershot is the Golf Association of Michigan's Director of Course Rating.



(WGcReLCP) Observer & Eccentric | Thursday, June 18, 2009 **B4**

ALL-AREA GIRLS TENNIS TEAM

online at hometownlife.com

All-Area players prove their net worth

FIRST-TEAM SINGLES

Jennifer Yen, N. Farmington: The junior standout is one of the top singles players in the state. She was a regional finalist and a No. 4 seed at the Division 2 state tournament where she reached the quarterfinals.

Yen didn't have the opportunity to win an OAA title since the division meet was not completed due to rain. She did post a 16-8 overall record with half her losses to two players.

"Jen has so many strengths; she has continued to improve and move up in the lineup every season," coach Whitney Wasielewski said. "She started her high school career with a state title at No. 3 singles as a freshman and has continued to impress me every year. She is steady and powerful, which is why she can compete with the top players in the state at No. 1 singles.

Ariana Kabodian, Mercy: The sophomore was unseeded but won her first two matches at the Division 2 state tournament and reached the quarterfinals where she lost to top-seeded Talia Johnson of Portage Northern. Playing against some of the best competition in the state, Kabodian had an 11-10 record.

"Ariana is a great girl who dealt with some injuries during the season but really pulled everything together at states," coach Jake Stocker said. "She should be very successful over the next two seasons.'

Katie Blumberg, Farmington: Blumberg was the top player on a solid team, posting a 14-10 record against quality competition at No. 1 singles and leading the Falcons into the Division 2 state tournament. The junior won her flight at the Goodrich Invite and was a regional semifinalist. She and Yen split two matches.

2009 ALL-OBSERVER **GIRLS TENNIS** FIRST-TEAM SINGLES

Jennifer Yen, Jr., N. Farmington Ariana Kabodian, Soph., F.H. Mercy Katie Blumberg, Jr., Farmington Tori Amponsah, Soph., Farmington Margaux Kabodian, Fr., F.H. Mercy Michelle Mac, Jr., Farmington

FIRST-TEAM DOUBLES Emily Hand, Jr., N. Farmington-Emily Jan. Jr., N. Farmington Alyssa Paul, Sr., F.H. Mercy Victoria Facchini, Sr., F.H. Mercy Lisa Carlson, Jr., F.H. Mercy Michelle Ho, Jr., F.H. Mercy COACH OF THE YEAR Denise Berg-Grant, Liv. Churchill HONORABLE MENTION Singles: Angelica Woods, Soph. Franklin; Emily Wisniewski, Sr., Franklin; Allison Carpenter, Jr., Salem; Paige McNamara, Sr., Stevenson; Akanksha Vaishnav, Fr., N. Farmington; Gabrielle Sabatini, Sr., Stevenson; Linda Ling, Sr. Salem; Emily Walsh, Soph., Mercy; Janelle Burdiss, Sr. Canton; Carli Marschner, Jr., Stevenson; Katelyn Foster, Sr., Churchill; Laura Gumpper, Soph., Stevenson; Stephanie Petrusha Soph., Ladywood; Susan Vulaj, Sr., Redford Union; Jessica Sawyer, Sr., Redford Union; Michelle Mullen, Sr., Redford Union

Doubles: Val Rose, Jr., and Kristi Walker, Jr.; Churchill; Kimmy Ervin, Jr. and Erica Ley, Fr., Ladywood; Shannor Costello, Sr., and Chrissy Healy, Sr., Farmington; Danielle Balsis, Soph., and Heena Patel, Jr., N. Farmington; Lauren Dubosh, Sr., and Sarah Tiernan, Jr.; Mercy; Ariel Rojo, Sr. and Rachel Norman, Jr., Salem; Shannon Dwight, Soph., and Ashley Benvenuti, Soph. Stevenson; Paige Babala and Kayla Davis, Canton; Britta Swanson and Kayla Griffey, Plymouth.

"Katie is an excellent leader who worked extremely hard to make her team better by giving time to younger varsity players and even assisting with the JV team," coach Gary Nicholls said, adding Blumberg was chosen team captain by her teammates. "She played very well against the most talented players in Oakland County.



Katie Blumberg Jennifer Yen **N. Farmington** Farmington

Victoria Amponsah, Farmington: Amponsah compiled an impressive 23-1 record at No. 2 singles for the Falcons. She was the Goodrich Invitational winner at her flight and was the OAA White Division champion. The sophomore standout was seeded No. 2 and was a semifinalist at the Division 2 state meet.

"Victoria is a powerful player with great strokes off both wings," coach Gary Nicholls said. "By improving her serve, she also captured many easy points. She plays an attacking style that intimidates many opponents."

Margaux Kabodian, Mercy: The freshman sensation was a quarterfinalist at No. 2 singles in the Division 2 state tournament. falling to the No. 1 seed from Forest Hills Northern, Caroline Aleck. Kabodian finished her first season of high school tennis with an 18-9 record.

"Margaux did a great job for our team the entire year, coming up with some huge wins," coach Jake Stocker said. "Having her back for another three years will be very helpful for our team."

Michelle Mac, Farmington: The junior had'a super season at No. 3 singles, finishing with a 22-1 record. She was the Goodrich Invite and regional champion at her flight. Mac was seeded No. 3 and advanced to the quarterfi-



Michelle Mac Victoria Amponsah Farmington Farmington

nals of the Division 2 state tournament. She's also a 4.0 honor student and a classical concert

pianist "Michelle is a well-conditioned athlete who consistently wore opponents down," coach Gary Nicholls said. "She improved her ability to attack this season, but her strength was still the ability to get every ball back. If you want to win a point from her, be ready to hit 20 to 30 balls.'

FIRST-TEAM DOUBLES Emily Hand-Emily Jan, N. Farmington: The outstanding junior duo, known affectionately as Emand-Em, compiled a 24-2 record at No. 1 doubles. Hand and Jan were 19-0 until losing to Lahser in a three-set regional final. They were seeded No. 2 at the Division 2 state tournament and won three more matches before losing to the No. 1 seed from Forest Hills Northern in the final.

"Emily Jan and Emily Hand are not only amazing players and contributors to the North Farmington tennis team; they are also wonderful team leaders (as tri-captains)," coach Whitney Wasielewski said. "Their leadership skills on and off the court helped lead our team to a very successful season.

"Emily and Emily play doubles the way it is supposed to be played, being very aggres-



Emily Hand

sive and working together as a team This is why they only had two losses the entire season and were state finalists. They work and play beautifully together."

Mercy: Though they were unseeded at No. 1 doubles, the senior combination of Paul and Facchini fared well at the Division 2 state tournament. They upset the Nos. 4 and 5 seeds from Birmingham Groves (6-3, 3-6, 6-3) and Birmingham Seaholm (6-2, 6-4), respectively, to earn a semifinal berth. Their Cinderella run ended with a loss to the No. 1 team and eventual state champs from Forest Hills Northern. The Marlins finished with an 11-8 record.

"Victoria and Alyssa were great players and did a great job this entire year," coach Jake Stocker said. "Their run to the state semifinals was a great accomplishment, and they will greatly be missed next year."

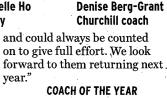
Lisa Carlson-Michelle Ho, Mercy: The juniors ended the season with an 18-4 record at No. 3 doubles. They were seeded No. 2 for the Division 2 state meet but were upset by the East Lansing team in the quarterfinals (3-6, 6-4, 6-4).

great doubles team," coach Jake Stocker said. "They provided the team with many important wins

N. Farmington Mercy year."

Alyssa Paul-Victoria Facchini,

"Lisa and Michelle are a



Denise Berg-Grant, Churchill: The 15th-year Churchill girls coach posted her best season as the Chargers finished with a 10-2 overall dual-match record and a KLAA South Division title.

Berg-Grant also guided Churchill to a third-place finish at the Woodhaven Tournament, as well as sixth places at both the Kensington Conference and Division 1 regional tourneys.

We had people pick us up where others couldn't, and we were able to pull off the win," said Berg-Grant, who has coached a total of 20 seasons. "We had a set lineup, but we had some depth."

Berg-Grant also credits assistant coach John Webster for the team's 2009 success.

"We work well together and he works hard," Berg-Grant said. "We also have a group of parents willing to help. They take care of other things, which allows us to coach."

Berg-Grant, a graduate of Inkster Cherry Hill High School, played four years of collegiate tennis - three at Wayne State and one at Henry Ford CC. She teaches physical education and health at Livonia Franklin.

Livonia bowler gets new lease on life through the sport



Ten Pin Alley

Al Harrison

et's call this story "The Curious Case of Timothy Wilson."

He is a 69-year-old bowler from Livonia who said that being a

bowler actually saved his life. "In the late summer of '08 I was having a problem keeping my balance while riding my bicycle," Wilson explained. "I kind of wanted to go left all the time. Otherwise, everything else seemed bowling average had dropped by a staggering 25 pins and this was more worrisome as I had always been in the 190-200 range.

"When I got up on the approach, It didn't feel just right and I couldn't get to the line in my normal way. The coordination wasn't there and it seemed that I couldn't get my body to do what I wanted it to do." Some people might pass this off

as part of getting older, but for-

time in getting to his doctor.

"My doctor sent me directly to a neurologist and he ran an MRI which led to a diagnosis of something called Hydrocephalus of the third Ventriculostomy," Wilson said. "That translates to water on the brain, a very serious condition which if untreated would lead to severe problems which include memory loss, loss of bladder control and balance."

If not treated early, these symp-

likely lead to Alzheimer's disease.

"I thank bowling for discovering the problem early enough that I was able to get the proper treatment for it," he said.

The procedure included drilling a hole into his skull to the bottom of his brain so the liquid could drain.

Wilson has been a very active bowler on the local scene for about 50 years. He has been secretary-treasurer of the Woodland Men's League

Tuesday Men's Classic at Town 'n Country Lanes in Westland, as well as the Friday Nite Men's Classic at Country Lanes in Farmington Hills.

You might say that bowling has been a focal point in the life of Wilson, and he is ever so thankful for that.

Al Harrison is a resident of Southfield. a member of the Detroit Bowling Hall of Fame and the Bowling Writers Association of America. He can be reached by email: tenpinalley710@yahoo.com.

normal. I was concerned that my

tunately, not Tim. He wasted no

toms would only get worse and most for 25 years and has bowled in the



Strictly Business

BUSINESS MILESTONES

Therapy credential

Jennifer Farley of Plymouth earned the prestigious Registered Play Therapist-Supervisor credential conferred by the Association for Play Therapy (APT), according to its executive director Bill Burns. Farley is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker. To become a Registered Play Therapist-Supervisor, applicants must have earned a traditional masters or doctoral mental health degree from an institution of higher education, 150 clock hours of play therapy training, five years and 5,000 hours of post-Master's clinical experience, 500 supervised and 500 additional hours of play therapy experience, and be licensed or certified by their state boards of practice. Additional information is available at www.a4pt.org.

From the DDA:

• Construction was expected to start this week on the Central Parking Deck and is expecting to run through mid-August. The upper level of the deck is expected to be closed for about two weeks.

Construction Update

Courtesy the Plymouth Downtown Development Authority: • Genuine Toy Company - Finish work continues on the interior of the space. Owners expect to open later this month. • E.G. Nicks - Work on the new outdoor patio and entrance is complete and opened last

week. • Ironwood Grill - Interior finish work continues on the space. Owner Dan Johnson hopes to open in mid-July.

• Plaka Mediterranean Grill - Interior finish work is nearly complete. Owners hope to open in the near future,

New yoga stop

Come join your friends and neighbors at Miss Harriet's Dance Studio for a gentle flow yoga class. We meet every Wednesday and Friday at 9 a.m. and share an experience that builds awareness of breath, movement and relaxation. Participants of all fitness levels are welcome and encouraged to work at the level that is comfortable for them that day. Modifications are given to increase or decrease the intensity of postures. Terri Irrer, owner of Miss Harriet's, and Tricia Ptak believe that it is very important for us to have a way to give back to the community. This is a way to offer healing for those who truly need yoga but who might be afraid to try or

who simply cannot afford classes at a yoga

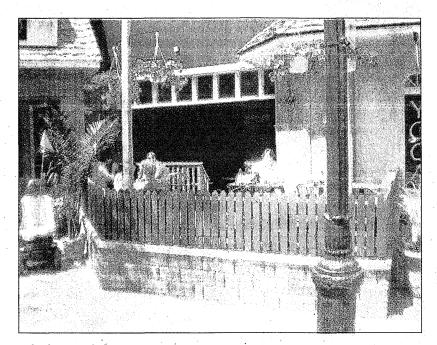
studio (average is \$17 per drop in). Donation is the act of giving from the heart, allowing you to pay what you can. Miss Harriet's is located in the Northville Square Mall at 133 W. Main Street, Suite 190 in downtown Northville. Contact Tricia Ptak at yogatrish@wowway. com or (734) 259-9588 for more information.

Karmann PR

Karmann USA, a leading supplier of automotive convertible tops, has selected AutoCom Associates as its public relations agency of record in North America.

Founded in 1996, Karmann USA is based in Plymouth Township and is a subsidiary of the Karmann Group. The world's leading Tier-1 supplier of convertible tops, the Karmann Group also has served as the contract manufacturer of several complete vehicles, including the VW Karmann Ghia, the VW Beetle convertible and the Mercedes-Benz CLK convertible.

At its Plymouth Township campus, Karmann USA employs more than 300 people. In addition to the manufacture of convertible roof-top systems, Karmann USA provides OEMs with world class engineering solutions and recently launched a new aftermarket unit -- Karmann Classics - a convertible top



Thursday, June 18, 2009

Dining al fresco

Work on the new patio and entrance to E.G. Nicks in downtown Plymouth was completed last week. Outdoor dining is now available at the restaurant. E.G. Nicks is located at 500 Forest Ave. in Plymouth.

restoration service for Karmann Ghias and classic VWs. Based in suburban Détroit, AutoCom Associates provides public relations services and counseling to automotive and high-technology businesses on a global basis.

IT'S YOUR BUSINESS Q&A

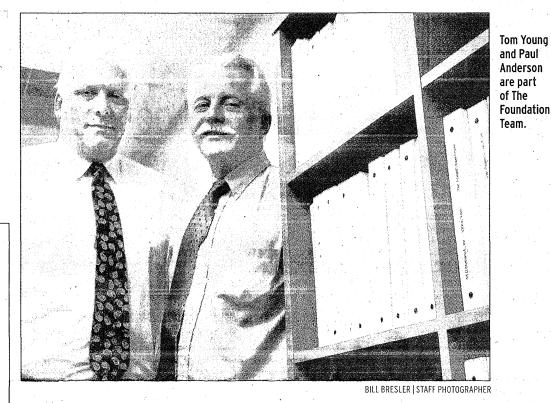
Human touch: Firm provides personnel 'Foundation'

Observer: Please tell us about your business.

Foundation Team: The Foundation Team is a Human **Resource Outsourcing firm** that utilizes the Professional **Employer** Organization business model to provide you the human resource management "foundation" to grow your business cost effectively. You maintain complete control over hiring, firing, compensation, and all worksite related tasks and duties. We "lease" you employees from you and become your offsite Human Resource department administering payroll and all aspects of payroll taxes, employee benefits, insurance administration coordination, Workers' Compensation claims management, as well as providing comprehensive human resource support including government compliance, employee handbooks and much more. Our services include human resource administration, payroll administration and benefits administration. **Observer: What makes your** business unique?

THE FOUNDATION TEAM

- Business Name: The Foundation Team
- Business Address: 127 South Main, Suite 2, Plymouth
- Tom Young, partner, Plymouth; Paul Andersen, partner, Northville; Bill Lang, partner, Franklin
- Business Opened: Started in 2005, opened Plymouth office in September 2008
- Number of Employees: 7
- Your Business Specialty: The Foundation Team is one of the fastest growing Human Resource Outsourcing firms utilizing a Professional Employer Organizations (PEO) business model in metro Detroit. A PEO is a provider of comprehensive business model in metro Detroit.



Foundation Team: Unlike other Human Resource outsourcing firms or PEO's we truly act like our clients HR department. Our clients have full on-line access to all their employee information;

ns a provider of comprehensive numan resource services for small and medium-sized businesses. • Hours of Operation: Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

• Business Phone and Web site: (888) 811-0450; www.tftpeo.com

we are completely transparent with our clients in billing showing them exactly what our fee's are with a detailed breakdown of all insurance and tax information as well as any client specific benefit information. Our clients' employees have complete access to their own personal ` information on-line so that they can get accurate pay history and employment status any time they need it. Observer: How did you first decide to open your own business? Foundation Team: This

is not the first business the partners have owned. We decided to get into this business because we could not find a local PEO that provided the transparent information that we felt was required for small business owners to properly manage their operations. Observer: How did you decide to locate in the Plymouth community?

Foundation Team: We selected Plymouth because it was centrally located to our clients and gave us access to both the metro Detroit and Ann Arbor business communities which have a large number of small businesses that we felt we could best support.



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E GALESSE

CHAMBER CHAT

New Web site

Better graphics, more pictures, more capabilities and guitars are all part of the dynamic new Chamber web site (www.plymouthmich.org). The site is redesigned to reflect the new Plymouth Rocks community-marketing theme that the

Chambe motions. Receiv hits per the Char

Chamber is using in all our promotions.

Receiving an average of 45,000 hits per month, the web site is the Chamber's number one tool to promote the community. In the site there are specific sections designed for people interested in moving to the community, for business development and for visitors. There is also a section

Wes Graff

listing upcoming community events and major festivals. Additionally, there is information on the Chamber, including a calendar of upcoming Chamber events and a business search section.

The new site also provides more capabilities for members who can now be listed in multiple business categories on the business search and there is a map displayed with each listing showing a member's location. In the future, we will be able to allow members to add text and pictures to their listings.

Chamber member Powerful Design created the new site. We encourage you to review your listing in the "business search" section. Please let us know if we need to update your information, list your business in a different category or add a link to your Web site. Our Web site's address is www.plymouthmich.org. If you would like to make changes to your listing, please contact the Chamber at wes@plymouthmich.org or call the Chamber at (734) 453-1540

Golf outing

The Chamber Golf Outing, Monday, July 13, at Northville Hills Golf Club, is looking for volunteers and gift items for golfers

For this year's outing we are seeking volunteers to assist with registration and on course contests. Volunteers can join us for sun, fun, lunch and a great time with our 100 golfers. Volunteers can work part of the day or the entire event. Golfers start arriving at 10:30, tee-off at 12:30 and will be off the course at 5:30. If you are interested, please contact the Chamber at (734) 453-1540.

There are other ways you can showcase your business if you are not golfing in this year's outing by being a sponsor, donating a silent auction item or providing items for the golfers' gift bags. Also, if you are interested in golfing in this year's outing there is still room to play. The golfing package includes lunch, refreshments on the course, cocktails and dinner. Foursomes also receive a tee sign, sponsor recognition and one free raffle ticket.

For more information about volunteering, making a contribution or golfing, please call (734) 453-1540 or e-mail wes@plymouthmich. org.



Observer & Eccentric | Thursday, June 18, 2009

BELIEFS & VALUES

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B6

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FRANCES WIMSETT "Wimpy" FORESTER

Died in Southfield on Sunday, June 14, 2009. Age 88. Wife of the late "Tiny" George Wayne Forester, Jr. (1920-2001) for 55 years. Life-long resident of Birmingham, Michigan. Born Frances Marion Wimsett on April 20, 1921 at a house her parents were renting in Birmingham which is four houses north of her residence for the last 49 years on Pierce Street. She was the only child of the late Nellie Elizabeth Smith (1894-1954) of Clarkston, Michigan and the late George Leo Wimsett (1894-1942) of New Haven, Kentucky. Frances was educated in Birmingham at Barnum Elementary School and graduated from Birmingham Baldwin High School in June of 1939. She was a member of the Baldwin school bands, playing the saxophone which two of her children later played. Frances began working at Michigan Bell Telephone Company as an operator in 1939, eventually becom-ing an assistant chief operator and then head clerk. At the First Presbyterian Church in Birmingham on April 10, 1946 she married her beloved "Tiny" George Wayne Forester, Jr., the last of six children of the late Mary Elizabeth Clift (1890-1957) of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma and the late George Wayne Forester, Sr. (1885-1951) of Detroit, Michigan. After her marriage, Frances continued to work part-time at Michigan Bell helping with monthly accounting and statistics. She was very proud to be asked to come back to work full-time during 1950 to help with what was called "the cutover" the change to dial telephone service in the Birmingham area. After that was completed, Frances left Michigan Bell to start preparing to raise what would be a large family. Three years later her children began arriving at an almost alarming rate. By the summer of 1953 Frances and George had built a small summer cottage on the water on Bay near Caseville, Saginaw Michigan. Their six children were born from 1953 to 1962 so two more bedrooms were added to the cottage in the 1950's. The family spent many happy summers there, she and the children from June through Labor Day and George driving up almost every week-end and for vacations. Frances was active in Baldwin Elementary School, Barnum Junior High School, and Seaholm High School in a variety of roles. Her children were involved in school and outside of school and she made every effort to attend as many games, meets, and performances as she could to support them. Frances was a voracious reader and very knowledgeable about what happening locally and globally. She was a strong supporter of all the Detroit sports teams and loved to watch any team or individual sport tennis, golf, the Olympics – on televi-sion. There can be no mistake that Frances raised her children with help from George. Her children and grandchildren, all Foresters, sorely miss her and honor her memory. Steve (Kathy Nunez) and daughter Mackenzie and son Jack of Dearborn, Greg (Lisa Boynton) and son George of Randolph (Rochelle Metamora, Rosenthal) and daughter Ivy of Birmingham, Thom (Lauretta Gambino) and sons Mike and Tom, Jr., of Royal Oak, Nancy of Portage, and John (Elaine Staley) of Oak Park. She is survived by two sisters-in-law, Helen Forester Seiden of Florida and Irmalee Forester Halsey of Michigan. Frances is mourned by her many nieces and nephews and their children and grandchildren. She was a person who never failed to keep in touch with her family and the people she knew. Frances is greatly missed by the many people whose lives she touched. Service of remembrance was held Thursday, June 18th. Interment Greenwood Cemetery. Memorial trib-utes to The National Audubon Society, or Leader Dogs for the Blind, or The Lighthouse Preservation Society. view obituary and share memories at: www.DesmondFuneralHome.com



KATHLEEN "Kathy" P. GOUDREAU

Age 69, of Northville, MI, passed away suddenly in the early morning hours of Saturday, June 13, 2009 at Providence Hospital as the result of a heart attack. Her loving family was with her when she went to be with the Lord. Kathy was raised in St. Ignace MI by her parents, Bernard and Gertrude Crouch. She graduated in 1957 from La Salle High School. She started college at Northern Michigan University but left to marry her high school sweetheart Wilbur "Pudd" Goudreau and to raise her children They moved to the Detroit area and she began her career in her 20's selling Rubbermaid and Tupperware. In 1981 Kathy and her husband opened Kamai Office Products in Pontiac, MI. She devoted endless hours to building a successful business and worked so hard until the very end. When Kathy wasn't working she enjoyed travelling with her family, especially taking trips to Disney World with her grandchildren. She enjoyed her collection of Beanie Babies, Santa Bears, and dolls. Shopping at TJ Maxx was a favorite pastime. Kathy gave a lifetime of gen-erosity to her family, friends, employees, and even strangers. She was a very strong and proud woman who was loved deeply by her family and friends. They will miss her more than words can express. She leaves to cherish her memory her husband of 51 years Wilbur; daughters Carol Goudreau, Roxanne (Jeffrey) Fesko, and Angela (Ryan Terry) Goudreau; grandchildren Amanda, Christian, and Cassie; father Bernard Crouch; sister Bonita Meade; brothers Terry (J.A.) Crouch, Daniel (Stephanie) Crouch, and Brian (Lisa) Crouch. Also surviving are many nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles, cousins, her beloved dog Coco and cat Rumor. Kathy was preceded in death by her son Robert Paul, her mother, her brother Bill and sister Penny. Friends and family may visit Wednesday, June 17, 2009 from 5 p.m. until 8 p.m. A Funeral Service will be held Thursday, June 18, 2009, 11 a.m. at Casterline Funeral Home, Inc. 122 W. Dunlap, Northville. She will be laid to rest a Rural Hill Cemetery in Northville. The family would appreciate memorial contributions to American Heart Association, American Cancer Society or Michigan Humane Society.

THERESA A. RINGHOLZ

Church collects nonfood items for those in need

BY JULIE BROWN OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Rickey Amstutz is Cross Connections coordinator at Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Livonia. "It means I get people to do things in the community," she said.

The church, with partners including the city of Livonia, has begun a nonfood pantry for residents of Livonia.

We try to supply the nonfood pantry to all the Livonia residents that need it." St. Matthew's United Methodist Church of Livonia, Emmanuel Lutheran Church of that city, and the Livonia Rotary Club assist.

"They have helped at times," said Amstutz. A couple who help with inventory and notices of what's needed, Tammy and Joe Wojcik, members of Holy Cross, are key.

"They're the ones that kind of organize it, and make sure I have things to give out.'

It's been about a year for the project, which helps those who can't use their government assistance for nonfood items, as only food is covered. "I real-

ized that a lot of people do a lot of things helping people with food assistance," Amstutz said. She contacted the city of

Livonia and bounced the idea off officials. Together, they came up with a method to get items to the items to people who need them.

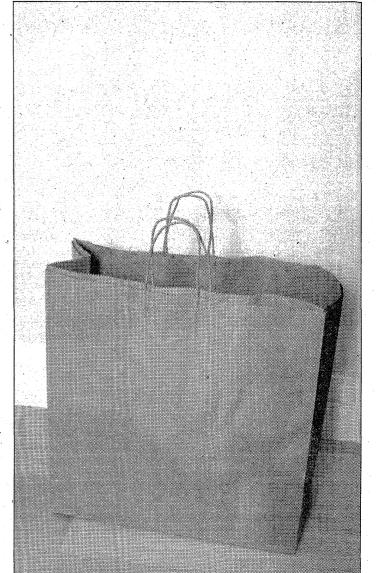
Those in need go to Sharon Sabat at the city of Livonia for referrals. "They bring those referrals to me." The demand

is great. "Oh, my goodness, the need is growing." Amstutz said Holy Cross distributes six-10 boxes a week to Livonia residents only. "We can't possibly do every-

body. Any donations would definitely be appreciated."

Items needed include: toilet paper, dish soap, paper towels, floor cleaner, Kleenex, shampoo, bleach, toothpaste, laundry soap, bar soap, and dryer sheets. Any help (one time or ongoing) is appreciated. Organizers can receive donations 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. weekdays. Holy Cross is on Six Mile between Merriman and Middlebelt in Livonia. Nonfood items are generally

give out Mondays, Thursdays



online at hometownlife.com

You can help fill empty grocery bags with nonfood items being collected by Holy Cross Lutheran Church working with the city of Livonia.

and Fridays during business hours.

For additional information, contact Rickey Amstutz at

Holy Cross at rickey@holycrosslivonia.org, (734) 427-1414 (9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday, Thursday, Friday).

Local Felician Sister Jamroz tapped to serve on religious order's council

Sister Nancy Marie Jamroz, Madonna University's dean of Students and vice president for Student Services and Mission Integration, recently was elected to serve on the Felician Sisters new governing council.

Sister Jamroz represents the Livonia province on the council, which includes representatives from the eight provinces that make up the religious order's organizational structure in North America.

With its recent election of council members, a new vicar and minister, the religious order is taking steps to merge its eight separate provinces into one. The Felician sisters have more than 2,000 members on four continents, with about

"This new configuration will allow us to more effectively meet the needs of the times and to fulfill the mission of the Congregation which is to cooperate with Christ in the spiritual renewal of the world,," stated the provincial ministerelect Sister Mary Christopher Moore of Coraopolis, Pa.

The new council will be installed Nov. 21, on the 154th anniversary of the founding of the Congregation.

Felician Sisters can be found working with the underprivileged and within poor communities, as well as in schools, hospitals, parishes, and various other locations.

Sister Jamroz attended St. Raphael

Ladywood High school in Livonia before entering the Felician Sisters in 1959. She received an undergraduate degree from Madonna (College) University; a master's in educational administration from Marygrove College and a Ph.D. in clinical psychology from the University of Detroit Mercy. She ministered in elementary and

secondary schools in the Detroit and Jackson areas for 25 years. She has been with Madonna University since 1983.

The other Felician council members are from Connecticut, Illinois, Ontario, New York and New Jersey.

For more information about the religious order, visit www.feliciansisters.org

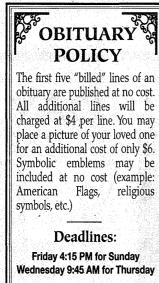
May peace be with you in this time of Jorrow.

June 14, 2009, Age 56 of Westland. Beloved wife of Michael. Dear moth er of Joseph (Christina), Terry, and Shaun (Angie). Daughter of Virginia and the late William Helfrich. Sister of Gail Hassel and Richard Strain Grandmother of Michael, Shayler, Drake, Amelia, and Haley. Services at The Uht Funeral Home, Westland, Thursday, June 18, at 11:30am. Visitation at the funeral home Wednesday, 3-9pm. Cremation rights were accorded. Please view memorial and send tributes at: www.uhtfh.com

STANLEY TELMAN

Age 95, passed away June 14, 2009 Beloved husband of Sophie for 72 years; dear father of Don (Mickie), Ray (Rhonda), and the late Diane (John) Breintenbach; dearest grandfather of Mark, Teri, Ashley, and Kristen; and great grandfather of Tori and Donovan; also survived by sister Anita Conser. Funeral services will be 10:30 am at the Harry J. Will Funeral Home, 37000 Six Mile, Livonia. The family appreciates memorial contributions to the Livonia Rotary Charitable Trust, PO Box 51964, Livonia, MI 48151. Please share a memory with the family at:

www.harryjwillfuneralhome.com



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

e-mail your obit to oeobits@hometownlife.com

or fax to: Attn: Obits c/o Char Wilson 313-496-4968

For more information call: **Char Wilson** 586-826-7082

or Liz Keiser 586-977-7538

or toll free

800-579-7355 ask for Char or Liz

OE08658429

900 in the United States and Canada

JUNE 18-24

www.betheloflivonia.com.

Horton's), Garden City. Separated,

divorced and singles welcome. For

details, call Kathy M. (734) 513-9479.

JUNE 25-JULY 1

A Day at the Races 10 a.m. Saturday,

June 27, at Pinnacle Race Track,

18000 Vining, between Sibley and

West Rd., New Boston (Exit 13 off I-

275). Buffet at 11 a.m. For details, call

Saturday, June 27, at Trinity Church,

10101 Ann Arbor Road, west of Beck,

in Plymouth. Reserve a pick-up time

in advance by calling (734) 459-9557

between 9:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. from

Monday-Thursday, June 22-25.

9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Thursday-Friday,

Saturday, June 27, at St. Innocent

Orthodox Church, 23300 W. Chicago

American Historical Society, a non-

profit organization in historic St.

Hedwig Catholic Church in Detroit,

holds a 60s Polish Wedding Party.

7-11 p.m. Saturday, June 27 at the St.

June 25-26 and 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.,

Road, Redford. (313) 538-1142

The West Side Detroit Polish

Polish wedding party

Bethany Suburban West

Bethany Suburban West

Robin (734) 676-4515.

Food pantry

Garage sale

Family film

Elementary in Garden City and

RELIGION CALENDAR

Aidan Catholic Church social hall, Religion calendar items appear on Thursdays on a space available 17500 Farmington Rd., north of Six basis. To submit an item, e-mail Mile, Livonia, from 7 until 11 p.m. sdargay@hometownlife.com or Highlights of the evening include write: Religion Calendar, Observer dancing to the music of a live polka Newspapers, 615 W. Lafayette-2nd band; a traditional, full-course Polish dinner (as it would have been served Level, Detroit, MI 48226, Attn: Sharon Dargay. Item must include at a '60s wedding reception); a the venue address and phone number and "bridal party" with musical accomany admission costs for events. Items paniment; traditional bread and salt blessing by the cook as the "bride must be submitted at least a week and groom" enter the hall; wedding in advance of publication. For a complete listing of events online cake; Oczepiny (unveiling) and Grand please go to hometownlife.com. March, and dancing to mainstream '60s music played by the band. All are welcome. Those married in the '60s are invited to bring a framed photograph of their wedding to be used as a table centerpiece and ladies are See "Kung Fu Panda" outdoors at 8 invited to bring a bridal veil to wear p.m., June 19 at Bethel Baptist, 29475 for one of the Oczepiny dances. '60s attire is encouraged but optional. Six Mile, Livonia. (734) 525-3664 or Tickets \$25 per person, \$45 per couple (any two people) and include two Monthly breakfast meeting 9:30 a.m. drink tickets with each ticket. Tickets are by advance reservation only no Saturday, June 20, at Leon's 30149 Ford Road, south side (next to Tim later than Friday, June 19. Send check

or money order payable to WSDPAHS to Laurie Gomulka Palazzolo, c/o 32101 Shiawassee Rd., Farmington, MI 48336. All reservations will be held at the door, no tickets will be mailed. For information, contact Laurie Gomulka Palazzolo at (313) 407-5534 or lpalazzolo@detroitpolonia.org. Reservation form can be downloaded

at www.detroitpolonia.org. ONGOING

AWANA

Every Wednesday night Faith Bible Church offers an AWANA program for children from kindergarten through fifth grade at Faith Bible Church, 23414 Orchard Lake Road, Farmington Hills. Drop children off or stay for a Bible study offered to parents from 7-8:30 p.m. For more information, call (248) 426-0096.

Classes/study

Orchard United Methodist Church, 30450 Farmington Road, Farmington Hills, is hosting a Tai Chi Class by Sam Purdy, Wu Style Tai Chi. This meditative form of Martial Arts is designed to reduce stress and is great for over-all health memory and balance. Everyone is welcome from beginning to experienced participants at any

time. Classes continue every Monday. Cost per class depends on number of participants. For information or to reserve your space, call (248) 701-1587 or (248) 626-3620. Visit www. orchardumc.org for updates. 🛤 Adult and English as a Second Language literacy classes are available for those who want to improve reading, writing and English conversational skills. Open to age 18 and over. Trained tutors available for day or evening. For information, call Merriman Road Baptist Church in Garden City at (734) 421-0472.

Leave your name and phone number and someone will contact you. Scripture studies, from 7-8:30 p.m. Mondays in the lower level of Our Lady of Loretto Church, Six Mile and Beech Daly, Redford. Call (313) 534-9000.

Learner's Bible study, 7 p.m., Mondays, in Room A101, at Ward Presbyterian Church, 40000 W. Six Mile, Northville. Call (248) 374-5920. Learn Qigong, the ancient form of Chinese energetic medicine - a safe and effective way to rid the body of toxic pathogens and years of painful emotions - at Livonia Unity, 28660 Five Mile. Classes include: Monday movement Qigong, 7-8:30 p.m.; Thursday Qigong meditation, 10-11:15 a.m., and Friday Therapeutic Qigong, 7-8:30 p.m. Call (810) 813-4073 for more information or send e-mail to gary@energeticarts.org. Bible study, 7 p.m., first and third Thursdays, at St. Michael the Archangel Church, located at the southwest corner of Plymouth and Hubbard Roads. The informal classes are open to all interested persons regardless of religious affiliation. To register, call (734) 261-1445, Ext. 200. Bible talks, 4 p.m. Sundays at the Friendship Center, 1119 Newburgh, Westland. Call (734) 728-9157. Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Livonia invites adults with developmental disabilities and special needs to attend a new Open Arms Bible class the second Monday of the month at the church, 34567 Seven Mile, between Farmington and Newburgh roads, Livonia. The class will include songs, Bible lessons, crafts and activities, prayer,

snacks and fun. Contact Judy Cook al Emmanuel, (248) 442-8822 or e-mail to elc-ed@arounddetroit.biz. Tuesday Ladies Bible Study from 9:30-11:15 a.m. Tuesdays, at Detroit First Church of the Nazarene, 21260 Haggerty, north of Eight Mile. \$15 registration fee includes interdenominational study materials. Child care available for children through age 5. Call (248) 348-7600.

A study/discussion group focuses on relationship with God and that of other religious groups and philosophical and scientific issues that might impact faith, at 10:30 a.m., Wednesday, at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, 26701 Joy. A group at 10:30 a.m., Thursday examines early writings not included in the Bible as well as other versions, extensions and controversies concerning Christianity. Led by interim pastor Larry Hoxey. (313) 274-3820.

Concerts

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

Fellowship dinner

The Cookie Lady, Susan Navarro, caters dinners at 6 p.m., Thursday. at St. James Presbyterian Church, 25350 W. Six Mile, Redford. Cost is \$8. Call (313) 534-7730. Hall rental

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

Prayer

Music, singing, prayer at 7 p.m. Thursdays at St. Edith Church, 15089 Newburgh, Livonia. Enter through entrance #2, at the back of the church. For more information, call Grace at (734) 464-1896, Shirley at (734) 464-3656, or Geri at (734) 464-8906.

🔳 7 p.m. Wednesday, at Nardin Park 🖉 United Methodist Church, 29887 W. 11 Mile, Farmington Hills. Participate in

Please see CALENDAR, B7

CALENDAR FROM PAGE BG

an open time of praying silently and aloud together as well as responding to personal requests. Call (248) 476-8860.

 Parish prayer and Eucharistic Adoration, third Wednesday of each month at St. Michael's Church of Livonia, corner of Plymouth and
 Hubbard roads. The church will be open for worship from 10 a.m. until 7 p.m. followed by Benediction service.
 For information, call (734) 261-1455.
 7-9 p.m. the first and third Tuesdays of the month for prayer, spiritual healing and outreach at Good Hope Evangelical Lutheran Church, 28680 Cherry Hill, Garden City. Call (734) 427-3660.

Singles

■ Single Point Ministries, for ages 30 and older, offers fellowship and related topics at 11:30 a.m., Sundays, in Knox Hall at Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church, 40000 Six Mile, Northville. Coffee, doughnuts, conversation. Call (248) 374-5920. Tennis continues from 1-5 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays, and 4-7 p.m. weekdays any time the weather is above 45 degrees, at Rotary Park, Six Mile and Hubbard, Livonia. Walking club meets at 6 p.m., Tuesday and Thursday in the Single Point office. All fitness levels welcome.

■ Single Place Ministry continues to meet Thursdays 7:30-7:45 p.m. for social time, 7:45-8 p.m. opening, 8-9 p.m. program, at First Presbyterian Church, 200 E. Main St., Northville. Call (248) 349-0911 or visit www. singleplace.org. Cost is \$5.

Soup kitchen

Learn about the Capuchin Soup Kitchen and the Solanus Casey Center in Detroit by participating in its "Day of Service" program. Dine with guests at the soup kitchen, tour the Earth Works urban garden, and take a self-guided tour of the Solanus Casey Center, a spirituality center dedicated to the Cápuchin friar who is credited with miraculous cures and valued for his wise and compassionate counsel. The minimum age is seventh grade and the maximum size of the group is 30. The day starts at 8:30 a.m. and ends at 2:30 p.m. There is no cost. Lunch included. For information, send e-mail to ccrane@ thecapuchins.org. To learn more about the Capuchin Soup Kitchen, visit www.cskdetroit.org.

Support

A weekly drop-in Food Cupboard (non-perishable items) is available 10 a.m. to noon Saturday mornings at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 16360 Hubbard, Livonia.

There are no requirements, this a service the church wants the community to be aware of and utilize if needed. Donations of nonperishable items also accepted for the cupboard.

Are you or someone you know struggling with depression, divorce, grief, addiction, relationship difficulties, or job loss? Real Life Church through its volunteers and partnerships with area ministries and professionals provides classes, seminars, care, support & recovery groups, counseling, and prayer to help you get through life challenges. Visit the Web site for details on current classes and groups offered as well as location, days and times www.realifeplymouth.com. 🗰 The Clothing Bank has moved to a new location west of Canton Christian Fellowship. Free clothing (men, women and children) for those in need is available 10 a.m.-noon the fourth Saturday of each month, at 41711 Joy Rd. Call (734) 404-2480, visit www.CantonCF.org or send e-mail to info@cantoncf.org for information.

Overeaters Anonymous meets

7 p.m. Thursdays in the Courtyard Room at Unity of Livonia Church, 28660 Five Mile, between Middlebelt and Inkster roads, Livonia, and 7 p.m. Sundays, in Classroom 1 at the Marion Professional Building at St. Mary's Hospital, 14555 Levan at Five Mile, Livonia. (313) 387-9797. www.oa.org St. John's Support Group for the Caregiver's of Alzheimer's patients or patients with other forms of dementia meets at 10 a.m., the first and third Friday of each month at St. John's Episcopal Church, 574 S. Sheldon, Plymouth. Respite care is provided. Call Connie McNutt at (734) 895-1426. This group is authorized by the Alzheimer's Association. Take Off Pounds Sensibly, meets at 7 p.m. every Thursday at St. Thomas a' Becket Church, 555 S. Lilley, Canton. Weigh-in is from 6:15-6:55 p.m. for this weight support group that encourages members to lose weight and keep it off. Call Margaret at (734) 838-0322.

Western Oakland Parkinson Support Group meets 7-9 p.m. on the second Tuesday of the month except January, July and August, at Farmington Hills Baptist Church, 28301 Middlebelt, between 12 Mile and 13 Mile. Enter at rear of church. For more information, call (248) 433-1011.

Addiction No More offers support for addictive behavior problems, drugs, alcohol, overeating, gambling, 7-8:30 p.m. Tuesday in Room 202 at Detroit World Outreach, 23800 W. Chicago, Redford. For more information, call (313) 255-2222, Ext. 244. Ward Evangelical Presbyterian . Church in Northville offers Celebrate Recovery, a Christ-centered recovery program helping men and women find freedom from hurts, habits and hang-ups (addictive and compulsive behaviors), meets every Friday for 6 p.m. dinner (optional), 7 p.m. praise and worship, 8 p.m. small group

discussion, 9 p.m. Solid Rock Cafe (optional coffee and desserts). Child care during Celebrate Recovery is free and available by calling (248) 374-7400. For information, visit www. celebraterecovery.com and www. wardchurch.org/celebrate.

Thrift store

Open Wednesdays 9:30-11:30 a.m. and Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at St. James Presbyterian Church, 25350 W. Six Mile, Redford. Call (313) 534-7730. Worship ■ Adat Shalom Synagogue, 29901

Middlebelt, Farmington Hills: 6 p.m. Friday, 9 a.m. and 9 p.m., Saturday, 7:30 a.m., 8:30 a.m., Sunday and 6 p.m., week days. (248) 851-5100. Anglican Church of Livonia: 7:45 a.m. at Trinity Church, 34500 Six Mile, west of Farmington Road, Livonia, 10 a.m., service at Livonia YMCA, 14255 Stark, between Lyndon and the I-96 service drive. www.hischurch.us. E Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church, 14175 Farmington Road, just north of I-96, Livonia: 9:45 a.m., Sunday, contemporary multimedia service is informal, using modern and praise music, led by vocalists and various instruments, and occasionally dramas; 8:15 a.m. and 11 a.m. traditional services; 9:45 a.m. and 11 a.m., Sunday school and youth and adult Bible classes. (734) 522-6830 Community Free Will Baptist Church, 33031 Cherry Hill, west of Venoy, Westland: 11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m., Sunday worship, 9:45 a.m., Sunday school, 7 p.m., Wednesday prayer and Bible study. Youth fellowship 7 p.m., every other Friday. Due Season Christian Church holds services at Stevenson High School on Six Mile, west of Farmington Road, in Livonia: Nondenominational, multicultural, full gospel church services at 10 a.m. Sunday, with 7:15 p.m., Tuesday Bible study. (248) 960-8063 or visit www.DueSeason.org.

🖬 Faith Lutheran Church, 30000 Five

Mile, west of Middlebelt, Livonia: 9:30 a.m., Sunday, 8:15 a.m., learning hour is at 8:15 a.m. for all ages. Visit www. livonfaith.org.

■ Garden City Presbyterian Church, Middlebelt one block south of Ford Road: 10 a.m. Sunday worship service with traditional hymns, scripture readings and choral music; 10 a.m., youth Sunday school and nursery care; 8:30 a.m. adult Sunday school; 6 p.m., informal gathering with scriptures and discussion every Sunday. Call (734) 421-7620.

 Good Hope Lutheran Church, 28680 Cherry Hill, Garden City: 9:30 a.m. Sunday school followed by 10:30 a.m. worship service with communion each Sunday; Bible study 6:30 p.m. Wednesdays. (734) 427-3660.
 Grace Lutheran Church, 46001 Warren, between Canton Center and Beck, Canton: 8 a.m. traditional Sunday service, and 10:30 a.m., contemporary; Sunday school and adult Bible study at 9:15 a.m. (734) 637-8160.

 Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church, 30650 Six Mile, Livonia: 8
 a.m. and 10 a.m., Sunday, 9 a.m., Faith Forum, 10 a.m. Sunday School, 7:30
 p.m., Wednesday worship in the chapel. Call (734) 427-1414.
 New Beginnings United Methodist Church, 16175 Delaware at Puritan, Redford: 10:30 a.m., Sundays. (313) 255-6330.

Plymouth Baptist Church, 42021 Ann Arbor Trail, west of Haggerty: 8:30 a.m. and 10:45 a.m., Sunday worship. Both services feature contemporary and traditional worship music and in-depth Bible teaching. Full nursery and preschool programs available at both services. (734) 453-5534.

■ Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 37775 Palmer, Westland: 8 a.m. and 11 a.m. Sundays with an education hour from 9:30-10:40 a.m. Social hour follows each service. (734) 722-1735. ■ Riverside Park Church of God, 11771 Newburgh, Livonia: Non-traditional service designed to touch all the senses, 6:30 p.m., every second and fourth Sunday of the month at the church. Step into the light with relevant messages and modern music in a casual atmosphere. (734) 464-0990.

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Rosedale Gardens Presbyterian Church, 9601 Hubbard, Livonia: 9 a.m., last Sunday of the month features a contemporary service with church members presenting a short drama on a theme relevant to the season, a church event, or current newsworthy situation. For more information, call (734) 422-0494. St. John Lutheran Church, 23225 Gill Road, Farmington Hills: 5:30 p.m. Saturday, traditional worship at 8:30 a.m., and 11 a.m., Sunday, contemporary service at 9:50 a.m. Sunday and Sunday school hour for all ages is at 9:45 a.m. Call (248) 474-0584 for additional information.

■ St. Matthew's United Methodist Church, 30900 Six Mile, Livonia: contemporary service, 11:30 a.m., fourth Sunday of the month. (734) 422-6038.

■ St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, 27475 Five Mile, one block west of Inkster, Livonia: 10 a.m., Sunday. (734) 422-1470.

 Trinity Episcopal Church, 11575
 Belleville Road, four miles south of Michigan Avenue: 8 a.m. and 10 a.m., Sunday, 6:15 p.m., Wednesday, 6 p.m., Sunday Bible studies and worship center for all ages includes dinner, child care. Call (734) 699-3361.
 Unity of Livonia, 28660 Five Mile, between Middlebelt and Inkster roads: 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m., Sundays. (734) 421-1760.

■ Westwood Community Church, 1119 N. Newburgh, Westland: 10-11:15 a.m., Sunday: Come as you are. Coffee and doughnuts, children's church every Sunday.

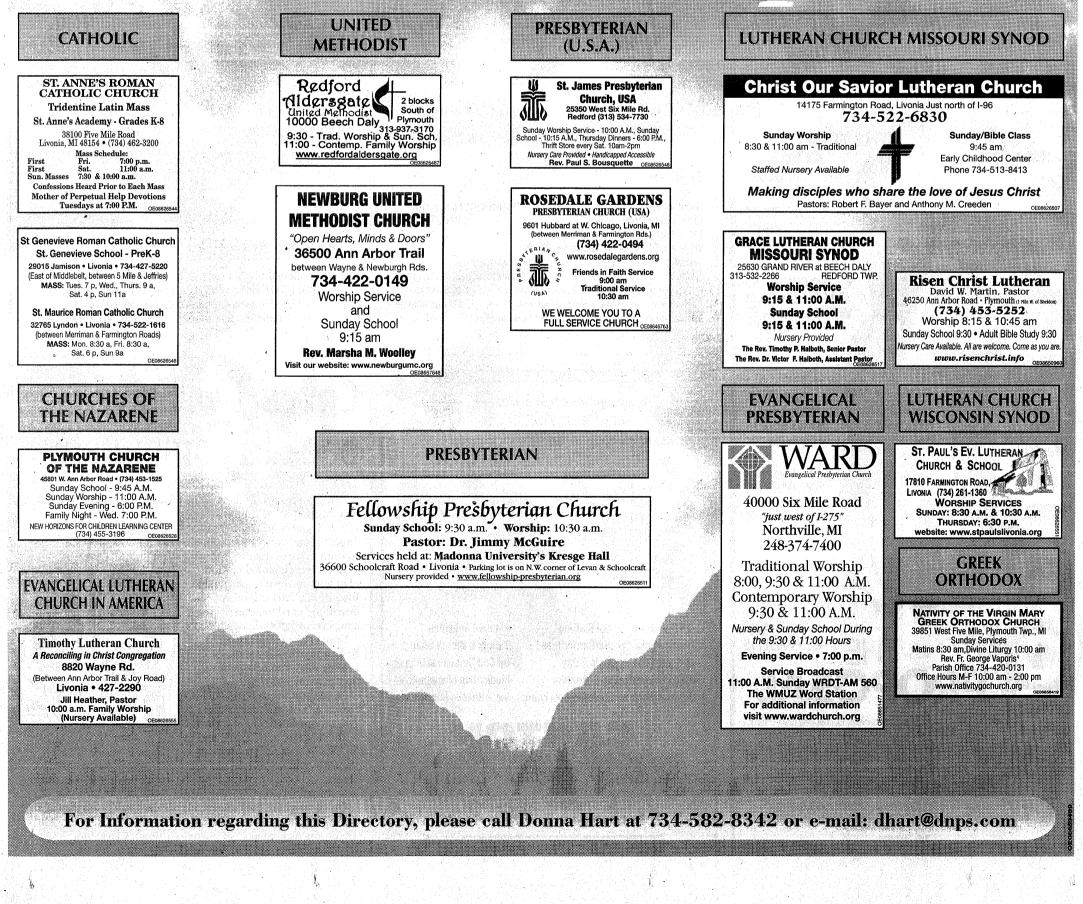
KNOW THE SCORE: Check out the numbers in today's **Sports** section

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to Worship

Your Invitation



.

FILTER Oooh ... aahh ... fireworks!

BY SHARON DARGAY O&E STAFF WRITER

B8

(*)

The Rev. Faith Fowler promises "out of this world" food, a "spectacular view" and a sky-high seat for anyone who attends Catch the Fireworks with Cass on Wednesday, June 24 in downtown Detroit.

Rev. Fowler heads Cass Community Social Services, (CCSS) the organization that will benefit from the \$250 per ticket fund-raiser set in the Coach Insignia restaurant at the top of the Renaissance Center.

"This is our fourth or fifth year (for the fund-raiser). There's nothing better. It doesn't feel like many other fund-raisers — it's pure fun."

The event will start at 6 p.m., with a gourmet strolling dinner, open bar and silent auction. Ticket-holders will get an in-your-face view of the pyrotechnics at approximately 10 p.m. Honorary chairman, Earvin "Magic" Johnson will be on hand to meet and mingle with other guests. Parking is included in the ticket price.

"For me it puts everything in perspective. From that height you can see for miles, from Detroit to the suburbs. You see how it all is one piece of the pie."

Rev. Fowler said ticket proceeds this year will benefit CCSS' operating budget because some of the grants the organization has depended on in the past have been 'slashed."

"More and more people are needing help with emergency services, in particular as they are facing foreclosure."

CCSS runs eight sites throughout Detroit, offering food, permanent ar sitional housing, clothing, medical aid, job training and placement, and youth mentoring and recreation. Tickets for Catch the Fireworks with Cass are available by calling (313) 883-2277 or by visiting casscommunity.org.

SANDRA BULLOCK

GSUR PLUKSmeen a MARTEL PUR meesens aa AMA HE DA Para SAMA

STARTS FRIDAY, JUNE 19

For Theatres and Showtimes: Check local listings or Text PROP with your ZIP CODE to 43KIX (43549)

or visit ProposalMovie.com Sory, No Passes

Representatives from one of CCSS' Green industries will be on hand June 19-20 at the Canton Liberty Fest, selling mud mats made from discarded tires. Check out their booth in the festival's "green" area.

The Parade Company's VIP Rooftop Party will benefit the Michigan Thanksgiving Parade Foundation and offers a view of the Target Fireworks from atop the Miller Parking Garage. Benefit tickets are \$175 and children's tickets (6 and under) are \$75. Entertainment, food, games and children's activities will keep participants busy until the fireworks start. Buy tickets at (313) 432-7831.

LIBERTY FEST

John LaFever is in "crunch mode" this week as the 18th annual Liberty Fest - three days of entertainment, food, games, carnival rides, with a car display, parade and fireworks – gets underway in Canton.

LaFever coordinates the festival, including the fireworks, and says every seat in Heritage Park offers a great view of the 40-minute display.

"Anywhere within the park you're within 300 yards away from where they're being shot," he said. "The amphitheater is usually packed because we have entertainment leading up to it and we've added a second stage.

"Some people sit in their cars, but the regulars will bring a lawn chair or blanket.'

LaFever suggests that viewers wait for the grand finale and "not be faked out" by the great displays leading up to "Some people left early last year," he explained.

get." Heritage Park is located on Heritage Park Drive, west of S. Canton Center Road, south of Cherry Hill.

Look for a more fluid show this year with less time between each spectacular display. Other upcoming fireworks displays:

LIVONIA

Fireworks cap Spree 59, the city's annual birthday celebration from June 23 to June 28. The 30-minute show starts at 10:15 p.m., Sunday, June 28, at Ford Field, located between Stark and Farmington roads, between Lyndon and Schoolcraft. Shuttles will run from noon until after the fireworks, from Livonia City Hall, 33000 Civic Center Drive, south of 5 Mile and east of Farmington Road.

WESTLAND

The Westland Summer . Festival runs July 1-5 on the grounds of Westland Citv Hall, located south of Ford Road, east of Newburgh. The fireworks show, one of the largest in the tri-county area, starts at approximately 10:15 p.m.



See the 51st annual Target Fireworks and help Cass Community Social Services at the same time, Wednesday, June 24 in downtown Detroit.





He's a fan of the fireworks that "blow out like a flower," but says viewers will see a variety of dazzling colors and shapes.

"We change the show every year based on comments we

THE PROPOSAL' IS WITHOUT QUESTION

THE YEAR'S BEST

COMEDY.

LAUGH-OUT-

LOUD FUNNY."

OUTRAGEOUS

AND LOADED

WITH LAUGHS

GALORE.

David Sheehan HOLLYWOOD CLOSE-UPS

HYSTERICAL!

SANDRA

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ARE A MATCH MADE IN

Leonard Mallin, ENTERTAINMENT TONIGHT

Pete Hommond HOLLYWOOD.COM

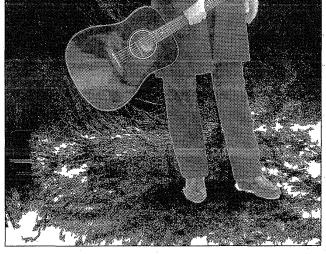
Gypsy swing

Music lovers can enjoy an evening of hot acoustic jazz music with the Caravan Gypsy Swing Ensemble 8 p.m. Saturday, June 27, at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill in Canton. All seats are \$15-general admission. Currently on tour promoting their self titled release "Caravan Gypsy Swing Ensemble" on Hot String Swing Records, this ensemble is an instrumental acoustic jazz group based out of Madison, Wisc. For more information, or to purchase tickets, visit www.canton-mi.org/villagetheater. Tickets can also be purchased at Summit on the Park by phone at (734) 394-5460 or in person.

An exceptional home-like setting for

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Memory Impaired and Alzheimer's residents.



Starring in the Park

Terry Lee Goffee, the "Ultimate Johnny Cash Tribute Artist," drew a crowd of 1,500 Cash fans to Heritage Park in Farmington Hills last year. He'll sing again on June 23, during a special Tuesday presentation of the Thursday summer series, Stars in the Park.

Concert will give back to community

Bring some cans of food to the Chicago and Earth, Wind &

Fire concert at DTE Energy Music Theatre on Wednesday, June 24, and you'll have access to even more of their music.

In exchange for a donation of at least three non-perishable food items, fans will be given a download card to access three songs recorded earlier this year. Concertgoers will also

be helping the Gleaners Community Food Bank of Southeastern Michigan.

In conjunction with Palace Sports & Entertainment, the two groups have also partnered with Oldies 104.3 WOMC and WXYZ - Channel 7 to support the 15th Annual Woodward

Dream Cruise. A portion of the ticket proceeds will benefit the Woodward Dream Cruise charities.

On the night of the concert, classic cars will be on display in the DTE Energy Music Theatre parking lot. DTE Energy Music Theater is located at 7774 Sashabaw Road, Clarkston.

Scott Montz, ACCESS HOLLYWOOD الكالاكان -24 Hour Professional Staffing RYAN REYNOLDS -Private/Semi Private/Barrier Free -3 Home Cooked Meals A Day -Daily Housekeeping & Laundry -Wander Secured/Enclosed Courtyard -Incontinence Management "THE PROPERTY WHEN A REAL MADE IN THE REAL AND A THE WARD PARTY AND A PROPERTY AND A PROPERTY AND A PROPERTY A AREA ALL AND AND A REAL AND AND AND A REAL AN

-Planned Activities -Beauty & Barber Shop -On Call Nurse Practitioner -Medication Management

Pravatal Creek

CANTON 4) 453-3203 Located at 8121 Lilley between Joy & Warren Roads

ART

Northville Art House: The Painted Stage Theatre Portrayed Through the Artist's Brush, (A Tipping Point collaboration) through June 20. Classes for adults and children, 215 W. Cady, (248) 344-0497, www.northvillearts.org.

Orchard Lake Fine Art Show: July 24-26, includes artist awards, demonstrations, entertainment, kids activities and a youth art competition, Orchard Lake St. Mary's Schools, Orchard Lake, (248) 684-2613, www.HotWorks.com.

Plymouth Art in the Park: July 10-12, Kellogg Park.

AUDITIONS

Village Theater at Cherry Hill: Still Got It theater group, (for actors, age 50-plus) auditioning for "Anybody for Tea?" and "Funeral Tea" auditions, 4:30-7:30 p.m., June 23, at the theater, 50400 Cherry Hill, Canton. Performances will be in August. Call Debbie Lannen at (248) 739-0987 or visit www.spotlightplayersmi.org.

BENEFITS

AIDS Partnership Michigan: Solstice, live jazz, wine, strolling dinner, dancing, silent auction, casual chic attire, 7 p.m. June 20, \$95, 34500 Woodward Ave., Birmingham, www.aidspartnership.org. The Parade Co: The Parade Company's Official VIP Rooftop Party, 6-11 p.m. June 24. Entertainment, food, games, activities for all ages, viewing of fireworks. Benefits the Michigan Thanksgiving Parade Foundation, Miller Parking Garage, 400 Renaissance Center Drive Detroit. \$175, children six and under \$75. Tickets: (313)432-7831, www.theparade.org.

CLASSICAL/CHAMBER MUSIC

Detroit Chamber Winds & Strings: Final Concert, 8 p.m. June 20, Seligman Center at Detroit Country Day School, 22305 W. 13 Mile, Beverly Hills, (248) 559-2095, www.detroitchamberwinds.org.

CLUBS

Soundboard: Sinbad, July 25; Melissa Etheridge, June 26; Gary Allan, Aug. 21: An Evening With Natalie Cole, Oct. 3. MotorCity Casino Hotel, Detroit, www.ticketmaster.com, www.motorcitycasino.com.

COMEDY

JD's House of Comedy: Stand-up shows, 8 p.m. Thursday and 8 p.m., 10:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday; Apollo àmateur night, 8 p.m. Wednesday; 25333 W. 12 Mile, inside Star Theatre complex, Southfield, (248) 348-2420 or www.ticketmaster.com. Jazz Cafe at Music Hall: Show Up, and Go Up, 9 p.m. third Thursdays, open call, free, 350 Madison Ave., Detroit, (313) 887-8532, www. jazzcafedetroit.com

Joey's Comedy Club of Livonia: Joey's Summer Variety Extravaganza, 8 p.m. Tuesday, June 30. 7:30 p.m. seating and live music. Live orchestra, stand up comedy, improv, mime, break dancing, tap dancing, belly dancing. \$5. 36071 Plymouth Road, (734) 261-0555, www.kickerscomplex.com.

Mark Ridley's Comedy Castle: Open Mic 8 p.m. most Wednesdays; 269 E. Fourth, Royal Oak, (248) 542-9900, www.comedycastle.com.

CONCERTS

Callahan's: Summertime blues concerts, 8 p.m. Ronnie Baker Brooks, June 18: Cedric Burnside & Lightnin' Malc& Olm, June 19: Roomful of Blues, July 12: Tinsley Ellis, July 24, 2105 South Boulevard, south of the Palace, Auburn Hills. www.atcallahans. com, 248-858-9508

Clutch Cargo: Framing Hanley and Red, July 2, 65 E. Huron, Pontiac.

(248) 645-6666.

GET OUT

Comerica Park: Kid Rock, July 18; Vans Warped Tour, July 31; 1-800-745-3000, Ticketmaster.com, www.warpedtour.com. Detroit Institute of Arts: Friday Night Live concerts, 7 & 8:30 p.m., 5200 Woodward Ave. (313) 833-7900, www.dia.org. DTE Energy Music Theatre: The Music of Led Zeppelin: A Rock

Symphony, June 20: The Legends of Motown, June 21: Earth, Wind & Fire and Chicago, June 24; New Kids on the Block, June 25; The Fray with Jack's Mannequin, June 27; Rock The Bells 2009 Festival, June 28; Heart, June 30; Bad Company/Doobie Brothers, July 1; Blue Oyster Cult/Over the Rainbow, July 8; REO Speedwagon/Styx with .38 Special, July 9; Brad Paisley w/Dierks Bentley, July 10; Judas Priest w/Whitesnake, July 15. 7774 Sashabaw Road, Clarkston (248) 377-0100 Fillmore: Rise Against, June 24, 2115 Woodward, Detroit. (248) 645-

6666.

Fox Theatre: Aretha Franklin, July 11, 2211 Woodward, Detroit, Ticketmaster.com (248) 433-1515.ww

Magic Bag: The Motorflys, June 19; The Lemonheads, June 21; Taylor Hicks, June 22; The Cliks, June 23; The Church, June 25; Leon Russell, June 26; Dr. John, June 27; Live The Who, July 10; The Original Wailers, Aug. 7; The Why Store, Aug. 14; 40oz. To Freedom, Aug. 16; AJA, Aug. 21, 22920 Woodward, Ferndale, (248) 544-3030, www.themagicbag.com.

Heritage Park, Farmington: "Stars in the Park" Thursday nights. Farmington Community Band, June 18; Terry Lee Goffee/"Johnny Cash." Tuesday, June 23; "Night Moves," June 25, 24915 Farmington Road, Farmington Hills. Rain-out site, Costick Center. www.fhgov.com, 248-473-1857.

Meadow Brook Music Festival: "Regeneration Tour" with ABC, Wang Chung, Heaven 17 and Cutting Crew, June 27; Counting Crows w/ Augustana, July 8; 1964 The Tribute, July 9; Comedian David Alan Grier, July 11; ABBA The Tour, July 16. 3554 Walton Blvd Rochester Hills. Ticketmaster.com. (248) 377-0100

Magic Bag: The Motorflys, June 19; The Mega 80's,

June 20; The Lemonheads, June 21; Taylor Hicks, June 22; The Cliks, June 23; The Church, June 25; Leon Russell, June 26; Dr. John, June 27; Live The Who, July 10; The Original Wailers, Aug. 7; The Why Store, Aug. 14: 40oz. To Freedom, Aug. 16: AJA, Aug. 21. 22920 Woodward, Ferndale, (248) 544-3030, www.themagicbag. com.

Magic Stick: The Homosexuals, June 18; Propagandhi, June 19; The Detroit Cobras, June 20; The Germs, June 25; Thunderheist!, June 26; Jay Reatard, June 27; Greg Cartwright, June 28; The Present, June 29; Black Moth Super Rainbow, June 30, 4120-4140 Woodward Ave., Detroit, www.majesticdetroit.com.

Majestic Theatre: The Gories/The Oblivians, June 27: Leftover Crack/Casualties, July 1, 4120-4140 Woodward Ave., Detroit, www. maiesticdetroit.com.

Northville Friday Night Concerts: Shawn Riley Band, June 19; Gia Warner, June 26; Randy Brock Band, July 3; Mass Transit Band, July 10; The Kris K Band, July 17; Soul Academy, July 24; Fifty Amp Fuse, July 31, 7-9 p.m., Town Square, (248) 349-7640, www.northville.org. Royal Oak Music Theatre: Robin Trower, June 20; Sonic Youth, June 29; Reel Big Fish & The English Beat, July 3; Asher Roth and Kid Cudi live, July 18; Wilco, July 21; Fleet Foxes, Aug. 5; The Decemberists, Aug. 11. 318 W. Fourth, Royal Oak. (800) 919-6272, www.royaloak musictheatre.com

St. Andrew's Hall: Robin Trower, June 20, 431 E. Congress, Detroit, (248) 645-6666.

Canton's Liberty Fest offers fun for whole family, fireworks too

Hero Tournament. A day-long

for the rides and attractions.

wristband is \$20 or \$1 per ticket

All ages will enjoy the enter-

tainment, which starts Friday

with a 4:15 p.m. performance

by Juice. That's followed by

Show; Live Band Karaoke;

Under the Stars, featuring

"Madagascar 2." Guests are

LIANG Acrobatic & Comedy

Air Margaritaville; and Movie

Enjoy a full lineup of rides, games and special attractions as Liberty Fest returns to Heritage Park in Canton June 19 - 20.

This year's festival kicks off from 1 p.m. to dusk on Thursday, June 18, with a special sneak preview of Family Zone activities, with over a dozen rides and games. A free concert by Trilogy is set for Thursday evening at the Heritage Park Amphitheater.

Family Zone will feature over 30 rides, midway games, inflatables and attractions. Video game enthusiasts can play popular games for free at the new IGX Interactive Video Gaming Area and participate in a Guitar

encouraged to bring their own On Friday and Saturday, the chairs or blankets.

Saturday's highlights include: the Annual Liberty Fest Parade down Ford Road; the Iron Chef Competiton; Senior Activity with a "Yankee Doodle Dandy" theme; K9 presentations by Canton's Public Safety

and "Rock'n Roll K9;" and the International Festival.

Back by popular demand, America's Most Wanted Car Show will be located around the pond throughout the day on Saturday.

Mick Archer's Dueling Piano Show Saturday evening will be followed with a spectacular fireworks show at dusk.

There's lots more, too. For more information, visit www. cantonfun.org.

Now in its 18th year, Liberty Fest 2009 is hosted by Canton Leisure Services. Heritage Park is adjacent to Canton's Administration Building, west of Canton Center Road.





FOOD AND WINE

Observer & Eccentric | Thursday, June 18, 2009

Celebrate Dad with dinner and a toast

Carrabba's Italian Grill suggests two ways to make Dad happy on Father's Day.

First, whip up a tasty steak or chicken dinner from an authentic family recipe by Carrabba's founders, Johnny Carrabba and Damian Mandola.

Next, raise a glass and honor Dad with a toast. And don't forget to enter Carrabba's Toast to Dad contest online. He'll thank you if the entry wins the grand prize four-day trip to Napa Valley for two. It includes a tour of the Rubicon Estate and Francis Ford Coppola Winery, a case of Coppola wine and dinner with a Coppola winemaker for the prize recipient and their dad.

Ten runners-up will get dinner for four and Coppola wine at Carrabba's. All contestants will receive a certificate for a free appetizer valid on a future Carrabba's visit.

The restaurant has eight locations in Michigan, including Canton and Novi.

Enter the contest through June 30 at www.carrabbas.com.

CHICKEN BRYAN

(Yields 1 serving) Ingredients: 1 chicken breast, boneless, skinless 2 teaspoons salt 3 teaspoons pepper 4 tablespoons olive oil 2 Ounces goat cheese 2 Ounces Lemon Butter Sauce 10-12 pieces sundried tomatoes 2 tablespoons fresh basil, chopped



Chicken Brvar

Instructions:

Season chicken on both sides with salt and pepper. Dab with olive oil.

Grill chicken until cooked to a minimum internal temperature of 165 degrees, and then place goat cheese on each side of the breast and continue to cook until warm.

To a sauté pan add the lemon butter sauce, sundried tomatoes, and the basil. Place over medium flame until hot. Do not overheat or sauce will break.

When done, place chicken on a hot plate with grill spatula and spoon sauce over. Accompany chicken with choice of side.

LEMON BUTTER SAUCE

0

Ingredients:

4 tablespoons butter

2 teaspoons fresh garlic chopped 3 tablespoons white wine 4 tablespoons fresh lemon juice Pinch White pepper to taste

Instructions:

In a sauté pan place 1 tablespoon butter, and sauté onions and garlic until softened. Add white wine and lemon juice; simmer approximately 10 minutes on medium-low heat to reduce. A little at a time, add remaining 3 tablespoons butter until butter melts and mixture emulsifies.

MARSALA DI CARRABBA

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Instructions:

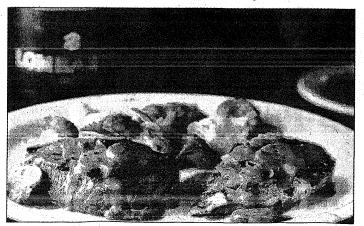
Season the sirloin and grill to desired temperature. While the steak cooks, prepare the rest of the dish.

Lightly season chicken with salt and black pepper. Heat oil or clarified butter over medium high heat in a sauté pan. When the oil is hot, lightly dredge the chicken in flour and add to sauté pan.

Cook chicken for 2-3 minutes until browned and then flip over. Cook about 1 minute more, add the mushrooms and cook for another minute. When chicken is almost finished, add the Marsala wine, prosciutto, onion, a pinch of salt and black pepper, and allow the wine to reduce by 85 percent. When most of the wine has been evaporated, remove from heat and toss the chicken and mushrooms well. The wine should be almost all evaporated and reduced to a thick syrup.

Allow the pan to cool for a minute. Cut the butter into small cubes (about 6). Return the pan to low heat and, using a wire whip, fold the butter into the reduced wine one cube at a time. Stir constantly as you add the butter. Do not allow the sauce to get too hot or it will separate. After all the butter is folded in, add chopped parsley and toss.

Place the cooked sirloin on a plate. Place the sautéed chicken on the plate and spoon the remaining sauce over the chicken and sirloin. Serve with your favorite side of pasta or vegetable.



Marsala di Canabba

online at hometownlife.com

CITY BITES

Donating Produce

NORTHVILLE - Seed producers, green house growers, and garden retailers all report booming sales as more families plan vegetable gardens this year to save on food costs. In Northville, volunteers at the food pantry Civic Concern hope most of those gardeners will plant a row of produce to donate to Wayne County residents in need.

We're thrilled by a partnership with the Master Gardener Association of Wayne County and the Northville Farmers Market which will allow us to distribute fresh produce to our clients," stated Marlene Kunz, Director of Civic Concern.

"Every Thursday at the Northville Farmers Market home gardeners can drop off produce at the Master Gardeners' booth until the Market closes at 3 p.m," said Sher Watkins, market master., "And if the rabbits get to the romaine before gardeners do, they can consider purchasing produce from one of the market's vendors and walking it over to the Master Gardeners in booth #57 for the benefit of Civic Concern."

Produce collection at the Master Gardener booth continues every Thursday through Sept. 24. Community gardeners also may donate produce directly to Civic Concern, from 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Monday, Wednesday or Friday, at its location in Highland Lakes Shopping Center, 42951 Seven Mile.

Tagalong Blizzards

WAYNE COUNTY — No, you can't earn a Girl Scout patch for ordering Dairy Queen's newest Blizzard. But you'll satisfy off-season cravings for Girl Scout cookies as you spoon your way through the vanilla soft serve ice cream layered with crispy Tagalongs, the peanut butter patties sold by troops every February and March.

The Tagalong Blizzard will be Dairy Queen's flavor of the month for July, just in time for Girl Scouts Appreciation week beginning July 20. The DQ will celebrate with events at its locations nationwide.

This is the second year that Dairy Queen has partnered with the Girl Scouts. Last year's team-up resulted in the Thin Mint Blizzard, which will be August's Blizzard flavor of the month this year.

The average price of the Girl Scouts Tagalongs Peanut Butter Patties Blizzard and the Thin Mint Cookie Blizzard is \$3.09 for the 12 ounce, \$3.49 for the 16 ounce and \$3.99 for the 21 ounce.

Free Pizza

WESTLAND — There's just one week left to win a free Toarmina's Pizza in celebration of the restaurant chain's 22nd anniversary. The restaurant opened in Westland in 1987 and now has locations in Canton, Livonia, Novi, Plymouth, South Lyon and many other communities.

We are showing our gratitude by offering 22,000 dollars in free pizzas to our loyal customers," stated founder Lou Toarmina. "We hope that by celebrating our 22nd anniversary with a bang we can attract new customers and at the same time reward the customers who have been coming to us for years."

Toarmina's Pizza is calling customers to let them know they've won a free 12-inch pie.

Find the nearest location of a Toarmina's Pizza by calling (888) 24DELIVer or by visiting toarminas.com.

2 teaspoons onion, chopped

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Marsal

VISIT ONE OF OUR CONVENIENT LOCATIONS: PLYMOUTH LIVONIA REDFORD 8817 Sheldon Road 36111 Five Mile Road 25800 Dow Street

REAL ESTATE **THURSDAY** June 18, 2009



Metro Realtor proud to be tapped for national '30 Under 30' rank

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

Realtor Christian Grothe, 27, of Birmingham's Max Broock real estate firm is among honorees in Realtor magazine's "30 Under 30" selection.

"This is an absolute passion," said Grothe, a Royal Oak resident, speaking of real estate. He was particularly pleased to see the region, which has taken an economic battering, so recognized nationally and is proud to represent Detroit.

"It felt great," said Grothe, who's married and enjoys classic cars (he's from an automotive family) and contemporary architecture. "It really means a lot because it comes from a group of my peers."

He hasn't yet met any of the other "30 Under 30" professionals face to face, but has been in touch with them to send congratulations and share stories, beneficial as they can share ideas for success.

"A positive, upbeat attitude and just a ton of work," he said of his success. "A lot of this comes from hard work."

Grothe's career answer has been Max Broock Select, a rewards program he created whereby selected high-end clients are issued membership cards that entitle them to discounts of 25 to 40 percent at about 30 local restaurants, boutiques, and

'It felt great. It really means a lot because it comes from a group of my peers.'

CHRISTIAN GROTHE, honored Realtor

country clubs. That's helped to get his name out, Grothe said.

Grothe's volume more than doubled in 2008 (he closed just over \$13 million in sales). He works closely with clients, taking care of such details as arranging movers, which is appreciated.

Grothe, a 2000 Detroit Country Day graduate, said people are buying. high-end homes. "They are moving as long as they're priced right."

When he came to Max Broock two years ago, his goal was to work in the high-end market, usually handled by Realtors with more experience. He's learned a lot of good lessons: "I've learned to work a bit smarter," he said, tipping his hat to his two assistants. Technology also helps to get the work done

Grothe is near completion of a bachelor's degree he plans to finish with a background in international business marketing. He sees glimmers of hope in metro Detroit's real estate market. Volume of sales is up with inven-

tory being reduced, although pricing

remains an issue. He noted some communities like Ferndale homes under \$100,000 have become a sellers' market.

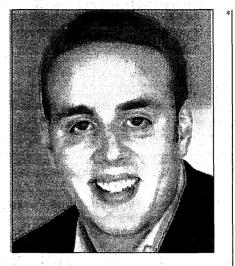
Grothe said the Obama administration's \$8,000 tax credit to first-time homebuyers has been "a huge help." It's impacted Royal Oak, Ferndale and even lower-end Birmingham homes. There are now more showings and homes spend less time on the market.

Although there's always some seasonal adjustment, he said, more people are feeling a sense of comfort with a home purchase. Grothe has developed a parallel specialty in short sales and foreclosures by establishing relationships with a number of loan officers at banks and mortgage firms. To learn more, visit www.christiangrothe.com.

The Class of 2009 is focused, energetic, and upbeat, according to Realtor magazine, published by the National Association of Realtors. Members are driven by youthful enthusiasm but also embrace innovation and seek out knowledge when they don't know the answer.

"Many of our younger members have little experience with market downturns, but they have confidence in the long-term value of homeownership and real estate investment," said National Association of Realtors President Charles McMillan, a broker

BRIEFS



Christian Grothe

with Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage in Dallas-Fort Worth. "Whether they're exploring new industry innovations, making significant contributions to their communities, or simply providing tremendous value to their clients, this new generation of Realtors represents the future of the real estate industry."

Six of the 30 Realtors recognized this year do much of their business in foreclosures and short sales, which account for 45 percent of recent sales, according to NAR's most recent existing-home sales report. Whether they're helping homeowners avoid a foreclosure by facilitating a short sale, or assisting buyers who might not have been able to afford a home a few years ago, the young pros are passionate about making a positive difference in people's lives, according to the NAR.

The NAR Web site contributed to this report.

Realtors know Florida lay of land

Q: I am just wondering what your experience has been in the Naples, Fla., area, in terms of the opportunities for investment and/or the real estate market as a whole?

A: On recent visits to Naples, Fla., in March and April of 2009, speaking with Realtors I have learned that the market is beginning to pick up and it



appears to have bottomed out. While Naples' real estate suffered severe loss in value, it was partly due to the extraordinary increase in market value of

Robert Meisner

the properties for a considerable period of time. Most Realtors say that the West Coast of Florida will come back financially before the East Coast. As always, you are best advised to consult with a real estate consultant and an attorney before you purchase any property.

Q: We have a number of construction defects at our condominium and are in the process of considering retaining an experienced lawyer. One of the attorneys that we have interviewed indicates that he has a builder's license and can save us money because of that particular expertise in dealing with the problems. Is that a significant factor to take into consideration in retaining an attorney?

A: The most important thing that you have to consider is the expertise and quality of the attorney from a lawyering standpoint that you will hire. The fact that someone has a builder's license may or may not be neipiul, particularly, depending upon how he or she is representing that they will use that credential. For example, if you are led to believe that you will not need experts such as engineers and architects because the person has a builders license, that is, obviously, not the case. Indeed, the fact that he or she has a builder's license may be detrimental to the objectivity of the attorney in terms of handling your case and whether or not you get qualified architects or engineers. You should consider foremost the experience of the attorney in these types of cases, the reputation of the attorney among developers and/or builders (which sometimes has a therapeutic effect on you getting a more expeditious and better result), and the availability of the attorney to assist you competently in connection with your matter.

Career Seminar

For those who've thought about a career in real estate, a free 59-minute Career Seminar will be held 7 p.m. Tuesday, July 14. Questions regarding startup cost, commission and success potential will be answered. It will be at Keller Williams Realty, 36642 Five Mile, Livonia. Call (734) 266-9000 to reserve your seat.

BIA

Building Industry Association of Southeastern Michigan (BIA) and its Sales & Marketing Council (SMC) will present "Recession Proof Mini Boot Camp Sales Training" on Wednesday, June 24, from 8:30-10:30 a.m. at BIA headquarters, 30375 Northwestern Highway, Suite 100, in Farmington Hills

tration information, call (248) 862-1016 or register online at www.builders.org.

The Building Industry Association of Southeastern Michigan (BIA) will host its "Macomb County Golf Spectacular" on Thursday, July 30, at the Cherry Greek Golf Club, 52000 Cherry Creek Drive (24 Mile and Van Dyke), Shelby Township.

The complete golf package includes: 18 holes of golf with a cart, lunch, drink tickets, dinner, holein-one and other golf contests, and door prizes. There will also be a 50/50 raffle. Note that this is a "spike-less" course.

Registration and a continental breakfast begin at 9 a.m. Golf begins with a shotgun start at 10 a.m. Steak dinner begins at 3 p.m.

Registration fees are \$125 for a complete golf ackage for BIA and Apartment Association of Michigan members, guests and non-members or \$45 for dinner only. For registration information, call (248) 862-1016.

Home staging

Impact Interior Design solutions participated in the third annual "Parade of Staged Homes" on Sunday, June 14, from 1-4 p.m. "The fea-tured homes had all been Staged by IAHSP (International Association of Home Staging Professionals) Great Lakes IAHSP Chapter members. The event is a fund-raiser for the 2009 World-Wide Staging Service Week charity project, sponsored by The International Association of home staging Professionals (IAHSP). Proceeds will benefit the Ronald McDonald House of Detroit.

The "Parade of Staged Homes" will bring consumer attention to the benefits of using Home Staging to prepare homes for a quick and profitable sale. Visitors will learn why Home Staging is a good investment and how it can provide a costeffective solution for selling homes in this tough market.

Dave Tear, "The Sales Coach" of Sale Coaches' Corner, will show participants how to stop letting the tough economy get them down. Participants will learn techniques to deal with the demand to lower prices, with canceled orders, with prospects' fear of spending money on products and services, and with feeling scared and/or desperate.

Registration fees are \$10 for SMC members, \$15 for BIA or Apartment Association of Michigan members and \$25 for guests. For registration information, call (248) 862-1033 or register online at www.builders.org.

Building Industry Association of Southeastern Michigan (BIA) presents Green Built[™] of Southeastern Michigan Introduction to Green Building on Wednesday, July 8, from 9-10:30 a.m. at Association Offices, 30375 Northwestern Highway, Suite 100, in Farmington Hills.

Chris Pratt of Wake-Pratt Construction discusses building with materials and methods that result in Green Built[™] certification. Building Green offers a change from selling cost per square foot to making a positive environmental statement. This is the first in a series of five trainings.

The training is free for BIA members. For regis-

Real Estate Agents, Appraising & Staging

Thinking about a career in real estate? Is working in real estate your dream? Keller Williams Realty is seeking experienced or non-experienced people in the real estate field. The candidates must be hard working and have a passion for learning.

There's a free seminar every week: Tuesday or Saturday, 11 a.m. to noon at 27555 Executive Drive (off West 12 Mile and Halsted), Farmington Hills 48331. For more details, contact Steve Leibhan, (248)

553-0400, Ext. 2500.

Tours, classes

Free Foreclosure Tours are 1 p.m. Sunday. Call (248) 787-7325 or visit FreeForeclosureTour.com.

Real estate investors can learn from experts in a two-day class, \$99 includes classroom and field experience. Contact AddedValueRealty.com, (248) 787-7325.

Tours are Sunday at 1 p.m. Meeting place is the Home Depot parking lot at I-96/Telegraph.

43664 Westminister Way

17220 Catherine Ct

19358 Hardy St

32421 Hees St

15255 Knolson St 30651 Mason Ct 18964 Norwich Rd

34170 Richland St 31420 Schoolcraft Rd

46291 Norton Ct

1658 S Hill Cir

5325 Ridge Trl I

9494 Westwood Cir

34080 Alta Loma Di

29429 Lochmoor St

26165 Northpointe

3750 N Shoreline D

41475 Burroughs Ave

51116 E Bourne Te 42601 Faulkner Di

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335 Eaton Dr

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44489 Broadmoor Blvd 16196 Crystal Downs E 39718 Dun Rovin Dr

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Livonia

Northville

Clarkston

Commerce Townshin

Davisburg

Farmington

Farmington Hills

Milford

Northvill

The featured Staged Homes are located throughout the greater Detroit and surrounding metro areas. For more information, visit the Web site: http://www.paradeofstagedhomes.com/

Impact Interior Design Solutions had three properties featured in this year's event:

1576 Hazel, Birmingham

3020 Bridgefield, Ann Arbor

10208 King, Davisburg

If you wish to contribute, you may mail a check (payable to Ronald McDonald House) to 1012 N. Pleasant St., Royal Oak, MI. 48067. Funds generated by the event will support renovation projects at the Ronald McDonald House in Detroit, to be completed in September by the Great Lakes IAHSP Chapter members.

Home sellers can get more home staging information by visit www.impactids.com, or call (248) 761-3320.

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These are the Observer & Eccentric-area residential real estate closings recorded the week of March 2-7, 2009, at the Wayne County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

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50492 Amberley Blvd		
6449 Carlton Rd		
1372 Colonade Ct		
51230 Glen Hollow Ave		
50335 Lansdowne Rd		

These are the Observer & Eccentric-area residential real estate closings recorded the week of March 9-13, 2009, at the Oakland County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

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Auburn Hills 80 N Squirrel Rd	. \$50,000
Birmingham 125 E 14 Mile Rd	\$41,000
1042 Floyd St	\$208,000
1276 Hillside Dr	\$138,000
635 N Old Woodward Ave	\$171,000
1769 Pine St	\$305,000
Bloomfield Townshi	D
4284 Covered Bridge Rd	\$300,000
2595 Hunters Blf	\$570,000
6145 Idlewyle Rd	\$165,000
524 Rolling Rock Rd	\$233,000
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	28375 Brooks Ln	
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	4419 Coffey Ct 1522 Devon Ln 1066 Salma Dr 2645 South Blvd W
	Walled Lake 1765 Alton Cir 1131 S Commerce Rd Waterford
	5919 Dwight Ave 3350 Homestead Dr 4073 W Walton Blvd
1.34	West Bloomfield
	6878 Alderley Way 7432 Azalea Ct 2091 Daintree Ave 3593 Elder Rd S 5317 Fairway Ln 3617 Valleyview Ln
	White Lake 8929 Nature View Cir 11107 Sugden Rd

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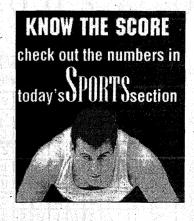
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Robert M. Meisner is a lawyer and the author of Condominium Operation: Getting Started & Staying on the Right Track, second edition. It is available for \$9.95 plus \$1 shipping and handling. He also wrote Condo Living: A Survival Guide to Buying,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





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BRINKS Financial	(800) 785-4755	5.25	0.375	4.75	0.875	J/A/V/F	
Client Services by Golden Rule	(800) 991-9922	5.125	1.25	4.625	1.5	J/A/V/F	
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Gold Star Mortgage	(800) 784-1074	5.25	0.375	4.75	0.875	J/A/V/F	
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Michigan United Mortgage	(810) 844-2222	5.375	0	5	0	J/A	looking to buy or sell that special
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Shore Mortgage	(800) 678-6663	5.25	2	4.875	2	J/A/V/F	
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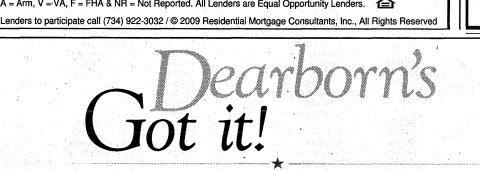
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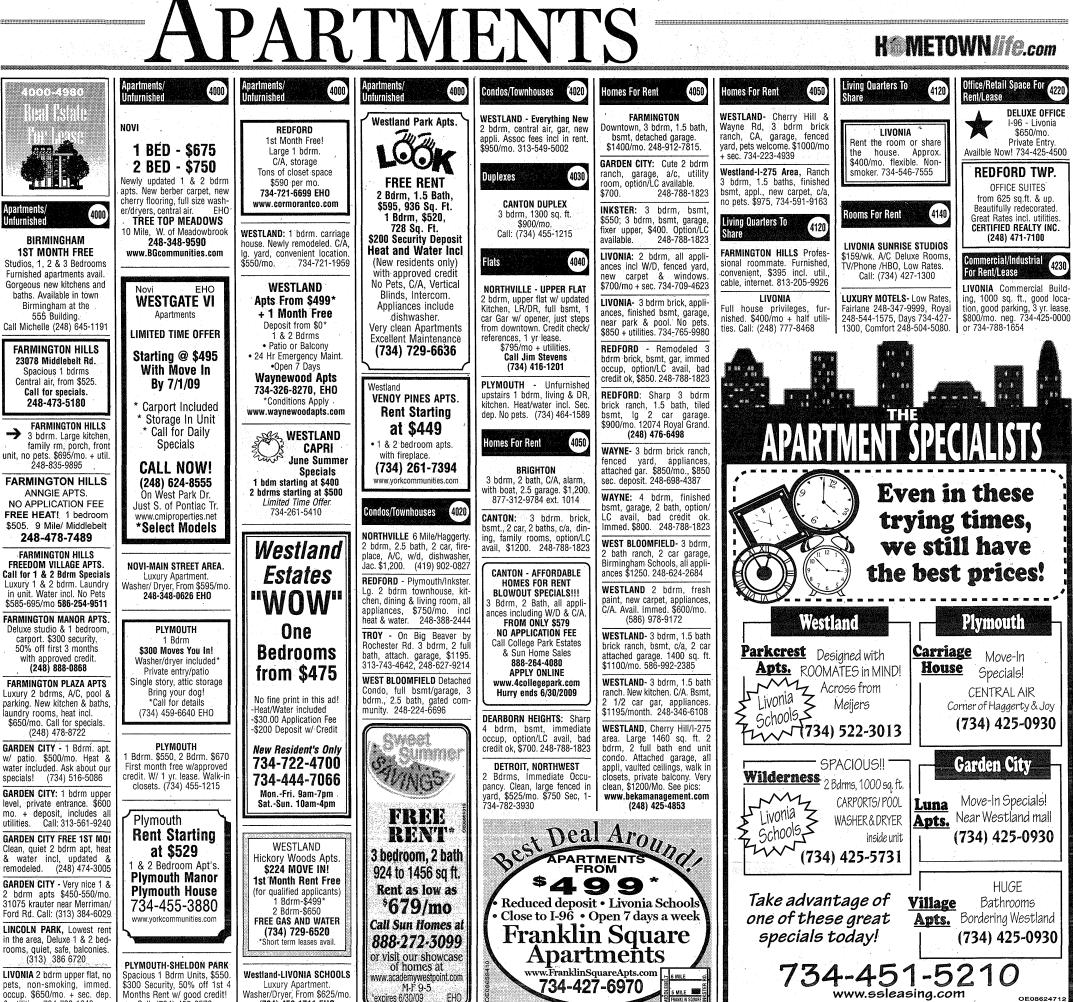
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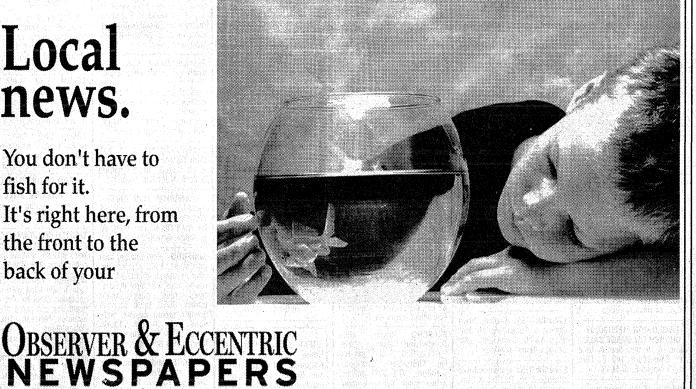
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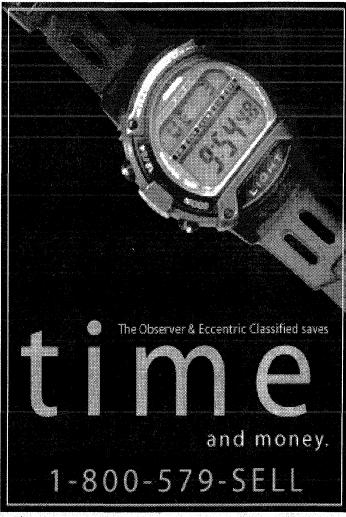


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online at hometownlife.com

EcoBoost Engines Lead Ford's Charge Back to 'Green' Forefront

AdvertisingFeature



By Dale Buss

CAReport

Ford Motor Co. has marked all kinds of environmental firsts for the U.S. auto industry.

It became the first domestic automaker to introduce a hybrid, and the first anywhere to launch a hybrid sport utility vehicle, with the Escape Hybrid in 2004.

Ford was the first OEM to put a grass roof on an assembly plant – the top of its refurbished River Rouge complex that manufacturers the F-150 truck in Dearborn, Mich., not far from corporate headquarters.

corporate headquarters. And, Ford was the first of the American Big Three to be run by a CEO who made "green" a rhetorical priority. "The day will come when the notion of car ownership becomes antiquated," William C. Ford Jr. declared at a Greenpeace conference in London in 2000. "If you live in a city, you don't need to own a car."

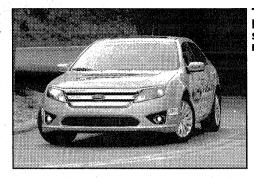
But times changed quickly. Bill Ford had to cancel the company's all-electric vehicle program, its pledge to build 250,000 hybrids a year by 2010, and other green initiatives before he stepped down as CEO in 2006. And when Alan Mulally arrived from the CEO post at Boeing to take over the same job at Ford Motor, his priority was different: ensuring the company's very survival.

As a result, while continuing to broaden its portfolio of hybrid models over the last few years, Ford notably has fallen back on its previous overall industry leadership on green issues. "Ford is still in there, but there has been a difference sometimes between talk and action," said David Cole, chairman of the Center for Automotive Research, in Ann Arbor, Mich.

Indeed, these days, Ford is regathering itself on the environmental front. Despite the fact that it has been able to avoid seeking the kind of federal bailouts that have rescued General Motors and Chrysler, Ford will be required to play by the same tougher rules on emissions and other green criteria that the Obama administration is advancing.

So, Ford is emphasizing improvements in conventional internalcombustion engines through its EcoBoost technology. It demonstrates a fuel-economy performance edge in new current-generation hybrids, such as its Ford Fusion and Mercury Milan compacts, even though Ford admits trailing GM and Toyota in its timetable for introducing a plug-in hybrid. The company continues to pursue hydrogen fuel-cell development and keeps rolling out new FlexFuel models that can operate on ethanol. And Ford arguably is the domestic-industry leader in development of soy foam and other environmentally friendly materials for use inside vehicles.

EcoBoost already has been a clear



Production of EcoBoost engines begins in Brook Park, Ohio.

winner for Ford both in terms of performance and image-building. At a time when gyrating oil prices, climatechange politics and an actively green administration are exerting enormous pressures on automakers to come through with environmental advances, EcoBoost is carrying the weight for Ford.

"It's the cornerstone of our sustainability plan," Brett Hinds, Ford's advanced-engine design manager, said of EcoBoost.

The technology, of course, combines turbocharging and direct injection to deliver the power of a V8 and the fuel economy of a smaller V6 – a savings of as much as 10 percent to 20 percent. "We're using more advanced materials

in the turbochargers and more precision machining and semi-synthetic oils that have become available only now," Hinds explained. "There also are advancements in the control systems that interact with the throttle and turbocharges. All of that together has made [EcoBoost] a very reliable technology that isn't intrusive to the customer in any way."

This summer, EcoBoost is being

The 2010 Ford Fusion Hybrid gets a segment-topping 41 mpg in city driving.



offered as an option on the Lincoln MKS and Ford Taurus SHO sedans and will be available on the Lincoln MKT and Ford Flex crossovers in the fall. Next year, the V6 EcoBoost engine will be offered in the Ford F-150 pickup, which now comes only with a V8.

Next year, Ford plans the first applications of an inline-four-cylinder EcoBoost engine to replace some of today's V-6s, though it hasn't yet announced displacements or applications.

And Mulally has promised that, by 2013, Ford will offer the EcoBoost engine in 90 percent of its models, amounting to a projected 700,000 vehicles annually in North America and 1.3 million globally. And by 2020, Hinds said, Ford believes that all of its gasoline engines will be EcoBoost versions.

Underscoring Ford's determination on EcoBoost, the company held the official kick-off of production of the engine in May at its Brook Park, Ohio, plant, even as President Obama was announcing stricter fuel-economy and emissions standards in Washington, D.C.

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