

PLYMOUT PIPELINE

Oscar® contest

Choose the winners of several major Academy Awards® categories for the chance to win some great prizes, courtesy of Emagine Theatres of Canton and Novi and the Observer & Eccentric/Hometown Newspapers. First prize is a 12-month pass for two to Emagine, second prize is four movie passes and a \$25 concession gift card and third prize is two movie passes and a \$15 concession gift card.

It's easy to enter - just predict how the academy will vote in seven major categories: best film, director, actor, actress, supporting actor, supporting actress and animated film. Tiebreaker categories include winner for best musical score and best documentary feature. In the event that there is a tie, a name will be randomly selected. Select your choices by 11:59 p.m.

Friday, March 5, to be eligible for this year's contest. Go to www. hometownlife.com and click on Oscar Contest.

Tiny Tots

Anyone interested in obtaining more information about the Plymouth Salvation Army's Tiny Tots preschool program can get their questions at an informational meeting scheduled 7-8:30 p.m. Thursday, March 4, at the Plymouth Corps building, 9451 S. Main, just south of Ann Arbor Road, in Plymouth.

Tiny Tots preschool director Sheila Johnson and corps officer Capt. Jolene Hull will be on hand to answer questions regarding the program's play-based curriculum. The meeting provides parents an opportunity to visit the facilet the preschool staff and learn about the philosophy of the program. The Plymouth Salvation Army services Plymouth, Canton, Belleville and Northville. For more information, call (734) 453-5464 or visit the corps' Web site at www.misalplymouth.org



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The evening's honorees include Clarissa Hubenschmidt, Brandon Murray, Hunter Cook, Amanda Johnson and Brian Poteracki.

'They can see their hope' **Growth Works recognizes clients' success**

BY MATT JACHMAN **OBSERVER STAFF WRITER**

Pam Yagiela says she's rarely at a loss for words.

But she was Thursday night, overcome with emotion as she stood at the podium at Fox Hills Golf and Banquet Center to offer thanks for the gift she had received.

Yagiela teaches yoga Fridays to troubled young women at Vassar House, where the Plymouthbased Growth Works Inc. has programs to help them with their problems and return them safely to society. At Thursday's Growth Works awards din

class, personally inscribed by each of the girls.

"I am the one who gets to see the hope," said Yagiela, whose husband, Dale Yagiela, is the Growth Works executive director. "Sometimes when I'm with them, I know they can see their hope.'

The owner of a hair salon, Yagiela said she doesn't look forward to teaching after a spending the day at work - and the trip to Vassar, Mich., takes about two hours. The girls, emotions stirred up by counseling sessions, give her a hard time.

But when class is done, she aid, she knows she's reached

to tears," she said. "It's so amazing."

Yagiela's surprise award was among the 10 awards bestowed Thursday by Growth Works, a nonprofit human services agency. Professionals were honored for their service to the agency and former clients were honored for their successes in staying sober and drug-free, or for continuing their education.

"We're working to save people's lives," Dale Yagiela said. "We're working on saving people's lives and bringing communities back where there's been dysfunction."

"You're doing things that many eople don't even know exist

Defense team wants mother's confession tossed in baby's death

BY MATT JACHMAN **OBSERVER STAFF WRITER**

Testimony will continue on Thursday in Wayne County Circuit Court as the lawyer for a Plymouth Township woman accused of smothering her infant daughter seeks to have her confession ruled inadmissible.

Meanwhile, the murder trial for Emily Portellos, 29, which was to begin Tuesday, has been pushed back to Wednesday, March 10.

Defense attorney Henry Scharg said Friday that Portellos had just come from surgery at St. Mary Mercy Hospital when she was questioned by a township detective, Officer Marcy Linton.

Linton said Portellos "agreed" to a scenario in which she killed the baby girl, according to Scharg, who contends Portellos was in no condition to make a confession and that Linton shouldn't have been speaking to her under the circumstances. There was no written confession.

The incident took place Oct. 15, Portellos' mother found her bleed she was taken to the hospital, where she u went surgery and doctors found a placenta

Police later found the baby, which 7.5 pounds, inside a garbage ba room.

Dr. Cheryl Loewe, the deputy Wayne County medical examiner who performed an auto ruled the death a homicide caused by asph due to smothering. Port who has been custody since her discharge m the hospi about four weeks later, is cha murder, first-degree m murder and first-degr ouse. victed of first She faces life in pr

degree murder.

"Had this baby received (proper care after birth) ... the baby would probably be having her picture taken by now," Loewe testified at Portellos' preliminary hearing. "The baby was a victim of infanticide — the killing of a baby shortly after birth, usually by the mother."

The hearing on Sharg's motion to have the confession ruled inadmissible began in December and continued on Wednesday and

Lions scholars

The Canton Lions Club announced the availability of a scholarship grant to a senior student in the Plymouth-Canton School District who is vision or hearing impaired, or to a student who plans to major in a college program which will benefit the vision or hearing impaired.

Students who are interested in applying for this scholarship should submit a letter detailing their impairment or their plan of study in the future. Letters should include name, address, gradepoint average, counselor's name and school, plus a short biography.

Interested students should send the letters to Nancy Spencer, 42764 Woodbridge Road, Canton, MI 48188. Letters must be postmarked by March 1.

ner, Yagiela was given a framed photograph taken during a yoga

them. She calls her husband. "He knows I'm moved usually

Please see GROWTH, A5

Thursday. It is expected to be completed on Thursday, and Scharg said he expects a quick ruling from Judge Dan Ryan.

Scharg has already tried unsuccessfully to have Ryan removed from the case, claiming conservative Roman Catholic and anti-abortion views would prevent him from being impartial.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Defense lawyers are trying to get the confession of Emily Portellos of Plymouth Township, accused of killing her newborn daughter, declared inadmissible in her trial, which starts March 10.

Index

APARTMENTS C2	
AUTOMOTIVE C4	
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Fund-raising firm ready to pay police union, golf course

BY MATT JACHMAN **OBSERVER STAFF WRITER**

A fund-raiser for the Plymouth Police Officers Association, the union that represents the city's patrol officers, fell short last fall, but Tony Fantuzzi says he's going to make things right. Fantuzzi, whose Redford Township-based Community Safety Inc. raises money for police groups, said Friday he's ready to pay the union and work out a payment plan with the Inn at St. John, where he produced the union's golf outing fundraiser last fall.

"I'm willing to do what it takes to rectify and make this right," Fantuzzi said. He said the fundraising campaign didn't go as planned, and that he owes the officers about \$1,200 and the Inn at St. John about \$2,500.

Plymouth Officer Matt Stoops, who was the chairman of the golf outing committee, said the union had been pleased with Fantuzzi's fund-raising services in the past.

"Unfortunately, the promoter that we used in the past, who worked, did not work," Stoops said. The money raised, Stoops said, is for the union's "shield fund," which can only be used for charitable causes. He said the fund has contributed to the Salvation Army, Gleaners Food Bank, and to the family of a Northville Township officer injured

Stoops said the police union was promised \$5,000. "We're trying to work with him cordially' go obtain the rest of the money, he said.

But the union won't be hiring Community Safety again, he said.

Fantuzzi on Friday also responded to allegations that his company's telephone soliciting is misleading and intimidating.

Bob Doroshewitz, a member of the Plymouth Township Board of Trustees, said he recently received a third invoice for the police union, despite not having made any pledges. His wife, Doroshewitz said, took a solicitation call in October and only asked to be sent some information

Doroshewitz said the inference is that the appeal is coming directly from police. "For a lot of people, it's intimidating," he said.

Plus, he said, the money is for the city officers' union, not the township. But Stoops said a wound-

Please see FUND-RAISER, A3

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New Patients Welcome!

County Commissioner Laura Cox speaks with Lauren Yagiela, Heather Johnson and Jason Johnson.

in a car crash.

Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, February 21, 2010

AROUND PLYMOUTH

online at hometownlife.com

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

Show and tell

Have you ever seen a "bung hole auger"? How about an "etui" or a "Steiff monkey"? These unusual items and more will be on display in the Plymouth Historical Museum's new special exhibit, "Show and Tell Collectibles," which debuted Wednesday.

The exhibit is composed of an eclectic mix of personal and Museum collections ranging from antique tools (including the bung hole auger) to chatelaines (including the "etui") to stuffed animals (the Steiff monkey). You'll also find dogs, fire items, several porcelain or china collections, aprons, birthday collectibles, toy horses, and the Museum's timeline of mannequins. The exhibit will run through Sunday, June 13.

Penn finale

The Plymouth Community Arts Council and the Plymouth Canton Symphony Society will present the final "Saturday @ the Penn" musical variety show of the season on Saturday, March 6. This family event will be held at the Penn Theater in downtown Plymouth, with doors opening at 11:05 a.m., show starting at 11:30 a.m. Admission is \$4 per person.

The featured performer for March is the ever popular Guy Louis, Chautauqua Express who delights families with musical adventures, incorporating a wide variety of instruments and a lience participation into his program. Special guests are the crowd pleasers

Compini." The Penny Theater is located

Newsroom

at 760 Penniman in Plymouth. Saturdays @ the Penn is generously sponsored by a grant from the Wilcox Foundation, as well as by several local businesses and individuals: Quixworks, Signature Audio, Kelly & Tom Doneth, Optimist Club of Plymouth and Steve & Renee Alexandrowski.

Changing choices

Changing Choices Foundation will hold its first annual "Bowling For Changing Choices" Event from 1-4 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 28 at Westland Bowl in Westland.

Ticket donation is \$25 and will be available at noon at Westland Bowl on the day of the event or they can be purchased in advance at the office of WMUZ at 12300 Radio Place, Detroit, MI 48228. The station phone number is (313) 272-3434. Tickets can also be purchased by calling Barbara Jean at (734) 239-2752.

The event, which benefits the Changing Choices Foundation radio show and its "Speaking to Youth" program, will include prizes, raffle prizes, a silent auction and live DJ music by Jimmy Barrios. Among the items are a \$100 Savings Bond and a "Silver" Detroit Lions Autographed Football including players Charles Johnson and Matthew Stafford.

Bowlers will get three games, shoes, pizza and a free ticket for continued chance raffle drawings throughout the event. Plus, meet Scott Harris, Certified Life Coach, Founder of the Changing Choices Foundation and Member of WMUZ's Team of Experts & Host of Changing Choices Radio Show.

Sponsorship opportunities are still available to local businesses and organizations. For information regarding

...(313) 223-3318

...(734) 582-8363



Kitty forts

Teens will enjoy the fifth annual Kitty Fort event March 1 at the Plymouth District Library. Participants get community service hours for making cardboard forts for cats at the Westland Humane Society. All supplies are provided. Register by calling (734) 453-0750, Ext. 4.

sponsorships please contact Barbara Jean at (734) 239-2752.

Irish dancing

The staff at Plymouth Park Apartments has extended an open invitation to join them 1-2:30 p.m. Saturday, March 13, at 107 N. Haggerty, for an enjoyable afternoon of wonderful entertainment with Irish Dancers and complimentary refreshments.

There's no need to RSVP; just come wearing "green" even if you're not Irish. This is a free event. For more information call

(734) 453-1234, Ext. 236.

St. Patty's lunch

The Council on Aging and Heartland Plymouth Court invite the public to join them on Wednesday, March 17, for a delicious traditional St. Patrick's lunch of corned beef, cabbage, potatoes, dessert and a beverage.

The lunch is free and takes place in the main floor dining room at Heartland Plymouth Court, 105 Haggerty at 12:30 p.m.

Call (734) 453-1234, Ext. 236 to RSVP; call (734) 459-8888 to arrange transportation.

Ice Cream Social

The Council on Aging also hosts an Ice Cream Social with State Representative Marc Corriveau 2-3:30 p.m. Monday, Feb. 22, also at the Plymouth Cultural Center.

It's an opportunity to come out and get updates on what is currently happening in the

Nerce You Get Antiques Wichtigan's FAMOUS F State Legislature. Corriveau will also entertain questions and concerns.

Call (734) 453-1234, Ext. 236, to RSVP.

AAUW meets

The Plymouth/Canton branch of the American Association of University Women meets 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb.25, at the Plymouth Community Arts Council, 774 N. Sheldon (just north of North Territorial) in Plymouth.

The meeting will feature a light dinner (\$5 per person) followed by a skit, "The Tater Girls," written by Sharon Belobraidich and Mickey Edell and performed by AAUW members. Visitors and nonmembers are always welcome.

For more information contact Esther Nelson at enelson1c@att.net or (734) 981-4938.

New Morning

New Morning School hosts an open house 9:15 a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 24, for families interested in enrolling their children in preschool through 8th grade for the 2010-2011 school year.

Prospective families will be offered coffee and muffins as well as opportunities to see our classrooms in action, meet with teachers, and tour the building. The school is located at 14501 Haggerty Road in Plymouth. New Morning School is an independent parent cooperative offering individualized education, multi-age classrooms, a 12:1 student-teacher ratio, and student-directed goal management plans.

More information is available at www.newmorningschool.com. Call (734) 420-3331 with questions or to set up a private appointment to discuss and observe the school.

Sagear scholars

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

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

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

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

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

Garden Club

The next scheduled meeting of the Plymouth Garden Club will be on Monday, March 8 at 12:30 p.m. in the Plymouth Library.

The scheduled speaker will be Garden Club member Rosemary Hughes speaking on the topic of growing the herb Rosemary. A brief business meeting will follow. Light refreshments will be served.

For more information view our web site at: sites. google.com/sites/plymouthgardenclub or contact Eileen Wittenberg at (734) 340-2062.

Egg hunt

The Plymouth Lions Club is making plans for their annual Easter Egg Hunt Saturday, April 3.

Youngsters through age 14 will be eligible to take place. The Plymouth Lions Club is looking for donations to help make the hunt a success.

For more information or to make a donation, call Debbie Baudino-Dowling, (734) 207-7464.



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LOCAL NEWS

(P)

Put me in, coach

Miracle League offers baseball for disabled kids

BY JULIE BROWN **OBSERVER STAFF WRITER**

Spring training's a ways off, but the Miracle League of Plymouth leaders are thinking baseball.

The program, under the auspices locally of the Plymouth A.M. Rotary, provides a baseball field for young people with disabilities, including wheelchair users.

"It gives the families a chance to be a spectator and enjoy watching their children play," said Rotarian Deb Madonna. "It's needed. The physical activity is essential."

As an occupational therapist and massage therapist, she knows that's true. "That's where they learn how to interact with people," Madonna said of children playing.

Siblings enjoy cheering on family members, she added. "We're going to do it because we need it. Fellow Rotarian Bob

Bilkie Jr. and his wife. Shari, are also leading the project, to be located near Central Middle School in Plymouth. Bilkie said the field costs about \$500,000, the land about \$300,000, with a total cost of \$1.1 million. The site is under generous lease terms from the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools.

Work's to begin on building the field in the spring of 2011. Play is to begin



ed township officer could benefit, as the union doesn't limit its contributions to the city alone.

Township Police Chief Tom Tiderington said such campaigns undercut his depart-

in summer 2011 on the Plymouth field serving the region. one of more than 200 Miracle League fields in the U.S. and Puerto Rico.

"It's about a 90-day construction process," said Bilkie, president/CEO of Sigma Investment Counselors in Southfield. "Any child that wants to" can play. "There's no geographical limit."

He anticipates families will come from within two hours, noting the challenges of transporting a handicapped child. Children and teens play with a buddy to help them hit and then navigate around the field.

"Right now, we're talking about youth," he said. Down the road, there may be a special needs adult league as well. Bilkie and others are open to partnerships with Special Olympics or other organizations.

"We're very open to anybody who wants to participate, to contribute, to play," he said.

Checks payable to Miracle League of Plymouth are welcome at P.O. Box 5384, Plymouth, MI 48170. Bilkie can be contacted at bob_bilkie@yahoo.com, Madonna at debramadonna@miracleleagueplymouth.org.

There is a Web site at www.miracleleagueplymouth.org which includes information on the program.

jcbrown@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-6755

ment's advice that people not donate money based on phone solitications.

Fantuzzi said Community Safety has been in business for 23 years, and that its approach is legal and not misleading or intimidating.

'We're not high pressure. We don't squeeze people," he said.

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

Locals plan hero's welcome for fallen Marine

BY DARRELL CLEM OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Marine Cpl. Jacob H. Turbett, killed last weekend while fighting in the Afghanistan war, will get a hero's welcome Monday when the military brings his body from Willow Run Airport to L.J. Griffin Funeral Home in Canton.

Local leaders are asking people to bring flags and line Ford Road from Sheldon Road east to the funeral home, located at 42600 Ford, where visitation and services will occur before the 21-yearold Turbett is laid to rest in Arlington National Cemetery.

Canton leaders have asked crowds to line the stretch of Ford Road from 9:15 a.m. to 9:45 a.m. Monday, when a large procession escorted by Canton police is expected to make its way to the funeral home.

"He's a hero, and he laid his life on the line for all of us that are here," Canton **Township Supervisor Phil** LaJoy said. "So, at the very least, we can just try to demonstrate our appreciation for all he did for us. It's a way to show our appreciation and respect.'

Turbett's body is expected to arrive around 8 a.m. at Willow Run Airport. A procession will travel north on Belleville Road and north on Canton Center to Ford, where it will head east to L.J. Griffin Funeral Home and pass by the welcoming crowd, said Deb Zevalkink, the supervisor's assistant.

"We're asking people, if they have a flag, to bring it," she said.

· Local leaders hope the gesture will, in some small way, bring comfort to Turbett's family and honor his memory.

Officer Eric Kolke of the **Canton Police Department's** Special Enforcement Unit said township officers will escort the procession from the airport to the funeral home, with assistance from

neighboring township. 'We will have police cars

as we pass through," Kolke said. Jana Porter, administra-

tive assistant for the Canton Chamber of Commerce, said efforts were being made Friday to alert some 750 chamber members by e-mail, in an effort to draw a crowd to the stretch of Ford Road on Monday morning.

"I'm sending out a mass email to all our members," she said.

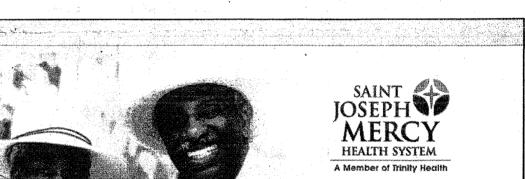
Turbett, a 2007 Canton High School graduate who entered the Marines right out of high school, was killed Feb. 13. His mother, Sheila Turbett of Redford Township, has said her son "was actually looking forward to going" to Afghanistan because of his "honor, courage, commitment."

Turbett's visitation will be from noon to 9 p.m. Monday and from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesday at L.J. Griffin Funeral Home, with the funeral at 1 p.m. Tuesday. He will be buried March 9 at **Arlington National Cemetery** in Arlington, Va.

Survivors also include his wife, Crystal; father, Richard; sister, Jaime Turbett; stepbrother, Joseph Marsh; grandparents, aunts and uncles. One of his cousins, Sgt. David Ratliff of the U.S. Marine Corps, is expected to help escort Turbett's body.

Turbett also was the nephew of Rosie and Odell Ratliff; son-in-law of Elizabeth Bouffard and Daniel Mielke; and brother-in-law of Joe Mielke.

dclem@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-2238



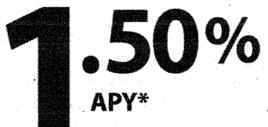
In happier times, Marine Cpl. Jacob Turbett, killed over the weekend in Afghanistan, wrote of wife Crystal: "She's the best thing that ever happened to me."

> Van Buren police as the line of cars moves through the

shutting down intersections

AKE INTERES

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Atrial fibrillation attects over two million Americans and is the most common type of abnormal heart rhythm in the elderly. If left untreated, AF can lead to stroke and congestive heart failure.

Saint Joseph Mercy Health System offers a new minimally invasive surgical procedure called the "Wolf-Mini-Maze" that has the potential to cure AF. This procedure allows patients to discontinue many of the medications they use for existing AF and to potentially stop the use of blood thinners altogether.

Thursday, March 4, 2010 6 - 8:30 p.m.

Registration/Refreshments: 6 p.m. + Lecture: 6:30 p.m.

St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Ann Arbor Education Center - Auditorium, 5305 Elliott Drive, Ypsilanti

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(CP)

Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, February 21, 2010

EDUCATION

The power of the wind

State grant brings renewable energy instruction to W-W

BY SUE MASON **OBSERVER STAFF WRITER**

The spring thaw can't come too soon for Ginny Kowalski, principal of the William D. Ford Career Technical Center. That's when work will begin on installing what quite likely is the first wind turbine in Wayne County.

The center is one of 15 schools chosen to share a \$1 million Renewable Energy **Education Grant offered** through the state of Michigan.

"We're waiting for the tower to arrive and for the thaw," Kowalski said.

Wayne-Westland was the only district in Wayne County to receive the grant, which will provide the center with three types of wind turbines, a solar array. biofuel equipment, biomass converter and weather station, that will be used in its new alternative energy technology program.

The 30-foot tall Skystream will be erected near the gazebo between the center and the district's administrative offices. The Cascade Swift will be mounted on the south side of the building near the auto technology, while the Bergey turbine, which is four feet tall, will be used in the classroom.

Teacher Zachary MacLean will switch gears from teaching electronics at the center to the new alternative energy class. According to Kowalski, MacLean wants to integrate the program so that a lot of students are involved. Construction technology students will build a 12-foot by 16-foot green building as part of a competition between the 15 grant recipients,

William D. Ford Career Technical Center Assistant Principal Steve Kay (left) and grant facilitator Brion Dickinson take delivery of Wayne-Westland's Bergey wind turbine. while HVAC students will be involved in the installation of the solar panels. Information about the grant surfaced in January 2009, and came at a perfect time. With

interest in electronics dropping off, the center was looking for something new. With the governor's push to put Michigan on the map in alternative energy and the center's experience with alternative fuels through the Innovative Vehicle Design competition, it seemed like a perfect fit.

"In 2002 we got on the renewable energy bandwagon. It was one reason we were chosen," Kowalski said. "Renewable energy was one of the programs we were hoping to bring to here."

She added that the district

had several things in the application process that caught the state's attention, including a commitment to renewable energy not seen in other districts, a center that's state of the art, innovative and supported by the district and the support of Supt. Greg Baracy.

Students will be able to monitor the operation of the wind turbine on the Internet and the weather station also is Web-based. They'll also be able to tilt the wind mast to see the mechanism.

The grant requires a twoyear commitment and the hope is that it will produce 15 different ideas that will be blended into a final program that will be shared throughout the state, Kowalski added.

Flagstar

Merit finalists

Twelve students from the **Plymouth-Canton Educational** Park were named National Merit Scholarship Program Finalists this week. The students - Canton High School seniors Lillian Chen, James Keena, Nicholas Wasylyshyn, Linda Yang, Plymouth High School seniors Sijia Hao, Rebecca Kiefer, Shan Kothari, Amy Mathew and Salem High School seniors Akshay Amin, John Krutty, Alexandria McHugh and Jason Yu - rank in the top 1 percent of their peers across the nation.

The National Merit Scholarship Program has named approximately 16,000 academically talented high school seniors as finalists. These seniors now have an opportunity to advance in the competition for 8,200 Merit Scholarship awards (about \$32 million) to be offered next month. Students entered the National Merit and Achievement competitions by taking the 2009 PSAT/ NMSQT.

Students must fulfill several requirements to become a Finalist - record of very high academic performance in college prep course work, SAT scores that confirm the PSAT/NMSQT performance, detailed scholarship information about extracurricular activities and leadership positions, self-descriptive essays and full endorsement of the high school principal.

Math majors

Seven students from the **Plymouth-Canton Educational** Park rank in the top 100 math students in the State of Michigan.

The finalists are Salem High School students Akshay Amin, Natasha Consul, Peter Su and Scott Su. Canton High School students Bryant Chen, Yuanyuan Chen and Nicholas Wasylyshyn.

These students have qualified as finalists on Part II of the Fifty Third

SCHOOL NOTES



online at hometownlife.com

Linda Yang, Plymouth High School seniors Sijia Hao, Rebecca Kiefer, Shan Kothari, Amy Mathew and Salem High School seniors Akshay Amin, John Krutty, Alexandria McHugh and Jason Yu were named National Merit Scholarship Program Finalists.

Michigan Mathematics Prize Competition. This is the most students P-CEP has ever had finish in the top 100.

This exam consists of 40 multiple-choice questions involving topics from high school mathematics. From approximately 10,000 participants in Part I, the top 1,000 students are invited to take Part II of the MMPC. These students work on five challenging problems and write their solutions providing full justification and proof of their claims.

The students with the top 100 scores in the two parts of the competition are honored at an awards program. Approximately \$32,000 in scholarships ranging from \$500 to \$2,600 is awarded each year.

Kindergarten registration

The Plymouth-Canton **Community Schools begin** enrolling kindergarten students March 8-12 for the 2010-11 school year. All P-CCS elementary schools will accept applications, but each school will offer different hours for registration. Parents are advised to contact their neighborhood school in advance for hours. Parents also should bring their child's birth certificate (children should be 5 on or before Dec. 1, 2010), immunization records and two pieces of identification as

proof of residency. For more information, residents should call their neighborhood P-CCS elementary school, or call the Board of Education office at (734) 416-2701.

Chamber scholarships

Plymouth-Canton **Community Schools and** the Plymouth Chamber of Commerce are accepting applications for the Student Citizenship Award scholarship. Nominations from all employees, parents and friends of high school seniors from the Plymouth and Canton area will be accepted before 4 p.m. Friday, April 16. The \$250 scholarship is based on community service only. Grade point average does not play a role in the committee's decision.

The selection committee will pick one student each from Canton, Plymouth, Salem, Starkweather and a non-P-CCS high school for the award. The scholarship application, which is available at the Board of Education office, requires the student to give a one paragraph description of what community service means to them, a one page, bulleted list of the student's community service and a one page testimonial by the person nominating the student for the award.

Inquires should be directed to the P-CCS Community Relations office at (734) 416-2755.



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Honorees described as caring leaders, mentors

BY MATT JACHMAN **OBSERVER STAFF WRITER**

Ten people were honored Thursday night at Fox Hills Golf and Banquet Center during the annual Growth Works Inc. awards dinner.

The recipients were: • Amanda Johnson and Brandon Murray, both of whom were described as leaders in their respective treatment groups. Amanda was also praised for her optimism and Brandon for his dedication to treatment.

"Sometimes he would say the tough stuff (in group treatment) and it made our jobs easier," said counselor Erin Ennis.

• Dr. David Logan, a psychiatrist, and John Zech, the city manager of Wayne, who each won a community service award for their support of and work with Growth Works.

Zech spoke of Growth Works' involvement in

addressing an addiction problem in his own family.

'We feel a tremendous debt for all the help and concern they showed," he said.

• Hunter Cook, who won an award for his work in treatment after a couples of brushes with the law. He won a second award for passing the general educational development test; he is now enrolled at Schoolcraft College.

"I wasn't on the right track before," he said.

 Clarissa Hubenschmidt, who was also honored for passing the GED test. Her score qualified her for a \$500 scholarship to Schoolcraft, which she plans to attend in the fall.

• Ronald Drangin, who was formerly part of the relapse prevention program for adult alcoholics. He was described as a leader in group treatment who could both challenge and support others.

Some of the skills that I've learned in this class have

NEWS BRIEFS

really helped me out," Drangin said.

• Brian Poteracki, who was a client in Growth Works' Western Wayne Care Management Organization. He was described as a leader in group treatment who struggled at first but then came to terms with substance abuse. After dropping out, he later qualified to re-enroll in high school.

• Pam Yagiela, the wife of Growth Works executive director Dale Yagiela. She teaches yoga to troubled young women, and was presented with a framed photograph of a yoga class that was signed by each of the students.

Rachel White, Growth Works' program manager for young women's recovery services, said Pam Yagiela has a special bond with the girls. They see that she truly

believes in their ability to grow," White said.

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

GROWTH FROM PAGE A1

and it's wonderful to be a part of it," said Dr. David Logan, a psychiatrist, who won a community service award.

Growth Works' clients include young people who've had scrapes with the law and are in Wayne County's juvenile justice system.

Amanda Johnson, who won a community intervention and treatment program award, said the Growth Works experience turned her life around.

"It's weird to think, if I hadn't gotten in trouble, who would I be?" she told the crowd. "It's scary."

"I kind of can't believe I'm here right now," said Brandon Murray, who also won a community intervention and treatment award. "I didn't think I would stick with it.'

Brandon's father, Scott Murray, credited counselors Erin Ennis and Jokena Islam for their work. "I just can't



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

County Commissioner Diane Webb and Dale Yagiela of Growthworks.

state enough the admiration we have for the help that we've gotten," he said.

After computer difficulties cut short a video presentation, Dale Yagiela ended the program on a somber note. Tight state and Wayne County budgets, Yagiela said, threaten the juvenile justice

program. He said changes to the program may be on the way, and urged attendees to lobby for continued funding.

"It's conceivable that we might not be here next year unless we find solutions to this." he said.

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

ALTO

CFCU scholars

Community Financial, in collaboration with the Community Foundation of Plymouth and the Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation, will be awarding 11 scholarships in April, valued at \$1,000 apiece.

Applications can only be made on-line by going to http://scholarships.egrant.org, creating an account and logging in. Read the guidelines for our "Community Financial Margaret Dunning and George Lawton Scholarships.

Students who qualify need only complete just one application; they will be considered for both scholarships.

Deadline to submit four copies of the application is March 5.

Headquartered in Plymouth, membership in Community Financial is open to anyone who lives, works, worships, volunteers or attends school in the Michigan cities, townships or counties of Plymouth, Canton, Northville, Novi, Alpena, Otsego and Montmorency.

For more information, visit the credit union Web site at www. cfcu.org or call (734) 453-1200 or (877) 937-2328, toll free.

Dental contest

grade. The first-place prize winner in each grade receives a \$100 U.S. Savings Bond and a goody bag of smaller prizes; second-place winner gets the goody bag and a \$50 bond.

Children can use crayons, pencils, markers, paint or even beads and other materials on the special coloring sheet. For a copy of the coloring contest picture and entry form, contact your Michigan Dental Association member dentist or visit the MDA's Web site at www.smilemichigan.com. Deadline is March 5.

Tea and tales

Cozy up to the table for some midwinter tales of yesteryear during the Plymouth Historical Museum's upcoming "Tea and Tales" event, Sunday, Feb. 28 at 2 p.m.

Debra Christian will regale listeners with stories following the delectable treats prepared by Sweet Afton Tea Room in Plymouth, Christian is a speech and language pathologist at Douglas Elementary School in Garden City. A Victorian-style tea will be served complete with scones, tea sandwiches, and other fare. The tea that will be served is the Museum's new signature blend, "Mary's

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February is National Children's Dental Health Month, and the Michigan Dental Association and the Michigan Dental Foundation are sponsoring their 17th annual statewide coloring contest, with the goal of helping raise awareness of oral health and encourage children to develop good habits to prevent dental problems as they grow up.

Children in kindergarten through sixth grade are eligible; prizes will be awarded for the top two entries in each

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Plymouth Historical Museum or using Paypal on the Museum's website at www. plymouthhistory.org/Events. html. Tickets are going fast and will not be available at the door.

For more information, call (734) 455-8940 or e-mail secretary@plymouthhistory.org. The Plymouth Historical Museum is located at 155 S. Main Street. one block north of Kellogg Park.

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Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, February 21, 2010

Long-term care not a good future investment

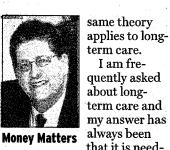
Q: Dear Rick: I am in my mid-40s and I've been approached about buying long-term care. I think I am too young for it, however, the agent told me that if I buy it now. it's much cheaper. What do you think? Should I consider buying it now or just walk away?

A: Walk away.

I believe someone in their 40s is too young to purchase long-term care. If you are going to consider long-term care, do so in your 50s or early 60s. Someone in their 40s is just too young.

I hear from a lot of people that insurance salespeople tell them if they buy long-term care now, even though they really wouldn't need it for at least 10 to 15 years, it's much cheaper. This doesn't make sense. If you had a 5-year-old child, you wouldn't buy them a car today even though they'll need one in the future. The

h.w.djmaltese



about longterm care and my answer has always been that it is needbased. Not **Rick Bloom** everyone needs

long-term care despite what many salespeople say.

All insurance is needbased. The issue is if the event occurs, will there be a financial loss that you do not have the resources to cover? If the answer is yes, consider purchasing insurance.

Long-term care is probably the most oversold insurance coverage there is. Many of the salespeople prey on seniors and scare them into purchasing a policy. If you are dealing with an insurance salesperson who uses aggressive tactics and tries to scare you, walk away and deal with someone else. Good luck!

Q: Dear Rick: I'm in the process of doing my tax return and my wife and I have a question about whether we should take a deduction. I think we are entitled to it, my wife does not. What is your general view as to being aggressive on tax returns?

A: Most people believe when it comes to doing tax returns, things are black and white. Unfortunately, that is not the case. There are many gray areas and you must decide how aggressive you wish to be.

Generally, I tell people as long as you have justification, you should take the deduction for your benefit. Recognize, however, there is a possibility your return will be scrutinized. And it is possible the IRS will disallow the deduction and assess you interest and penalties. If you have justification for the deduction, there's a possibility any penalties may be waived.

When it comes to taking deductions, taxpayers need to look at themselves. If you're an individual that does not want any IRS scrutiny, gray areas

probably should not be taken to your benefit. On the other hand, if you don't mind dealing with the IRS, you should take gray areas to your benefit.

The IRS has a lousy reputation. However, to be fair, over the last decade the IRS has become easier to deal with and taxpayers have a better opportunity to resolve their difficulties than at any time in the past.

Taxpayers should not be afraid of the IRS. That doesn't mean that someone should be overly aggressive on his/her tax return. However, they shouldn't be afraid of taking deductions or taking aggressive tax positions if they have

the justification.

When it comes to taxes, always remember that you are responsible for your tax return. If you use a professional tax preparer and if he/ she takes aggressive positions, you should be informed. After all, you're signing the return and you're ultimately the one who is responsible for any additional taxes, interest and penalties. Good luck!

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.

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LOCAL NEWS

Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, February 21, 2010

Lions seek donations for second Easter egg hunt

The Plymouth Lions Club sponsors its second Easter Egg Hunt Saturday, April 3, and the club is looking to use the hunt to benefit local children by providing a "safe and enjoyable atmosphere for them to share quality time with their family."

The project will consist of Lions Club members stuffing thousands of plastic eggs with festive toys and goodies for the kids and gathering a variety of prizes for children through age 14. Members will also be setting up, organizing, funding and manning this event.

The Lions are asking for donations to allow them to purchase items such as bags of Easter candy, small toys, pens, pencils, coloring books, stuffed animals, plastic eggs, pre-stuffed Easter baskets, and any other prizes or monetary donations donors might find appropriate. Make checks payable to the Plymouth Lions Foundation for a tax deductable donation.

For a donation of \$25 or more, the donor's business name will be printed on a banner of appreciation, which will be hung at the event. All donations will receive recognition in the club's monthly newsletter as well as print media.

The Plymouth Lions Club is an organization that provides men and women the opportunity to provide local community service and organizational involvement. It supports many local organizations including Penrickton Center. Michigan Eye Bank, Leader Dogs for the Blind, and **Plymouth High Schools** Scholarship Programs. For more information email jehincker@comcast. net or call Debbie Dowling at (734) 207-7464 during normal business hours.

Three lucky Michigan Lottery players won over \$3 million in cash in the second episode of "Make Me Rich!" the Lottery's game show.

"Make Me Rich!" which aired last week, was hosted by Christopher Knight, best known for his role as Peter Brady on the 1970s hit TV series "The Brady Bunch" and most recently as host of "Trivial Pursuit America Plays."

Mary Cuschieri of Canton was the grand prize winner of \$1 million in the Million Dollar Mega Play game. Other finalists participating in the game included Ala Brikho of Sterling Heights, and Erin Horton of Howell. Each finalist earned the right to appear on the show after each winning \$1,000 on the Million Dollar Mega Play instant ticket. In addition to their \$1,000 prize, non-grand prize winners were each given a \$5,000 appearance fee.

Allen Byrd of Detroit was the lucky winner of \$500,000 in the Holiday Riches game. Other contestants participat-



Canton woman wins \$1 million prize

Mary Cuschieri of Canton was the grand prize winner of \$1 million in the Million Dollar Mega Play game.

ing in the Holiday Riches game included Lori Smith of East China Township and Lisa Felice of Holt, who each received a \$5,000 appearance fee.

David Alton of Troy was the lucky winner of a \$2 million prize in the \$20 Instant games \$2,000,000 drawing. Additional contestants for the game included Beverly Laforest of Bay City, Daniel Hersey of Traverse City, Laura Sadro of Caro, and Marilyn Perry of Howell. Each nongrand prize winning contestant received a \$5,000 appearance fee.

Created by Hollywood game show producer Jonathan

Goodson Productions, "Make Me Rich!" will air new shows quarterly with a variety of prizes. Christopher Knight will host future productions, with the third show slated to air in the summer.

Contestants won the opportunity to appear on "Make Me Rich!," by winning cash prizes on Michigan Lottery Instant games, including \$750 on the Holiday Riches Instant ticket; \$1,000 on the Million Dollar Mega Play instant ticket, \$1,000 on the Lottery's \$20 Instant games \$2,000,000 drawing tickets. Viewers at home were also able to participate in the game show fun by texting-in for a chance to win one of five \$1,000 prizes.

Anyone interested in being a future contestant can get more information by visiting www. michigan.gov/lottery and clicking on "Make Me Rich!".

Over 98.5 cents of every dollar spent on Michigan Lottery tickets is returned to the state in the form of contributions to the state School Aid Fund, prizes to players and commissions to retailers. In fiscal year 2009, the contribution to schools was \$724.5 million. Since its inception in 1972, the Lottery has contributed more than \$15 billion to education in Michigan.





(CP) A7

online at hometownlife.com

Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, February 21, 2010

Plymouth kicks off its cancer Relay for Life event

The American Cancer Society Relay For Life of Plymouth officially gets underway as event volunteers and participants gather at the Plymouth Cultural Center for a kick-off rally to launch their fund-raising efforts for the year.

The event runs 6-7:30 p.m. March 16.

Although the Relay For Life of Plymouth is more than four months away, now is the time to get involved, said Katie Brennan, Community Representative, Great Lakes Division, Inc., Metro Detroft American Cancer Society. "Residents are invited to

attend the kick-off celebra-

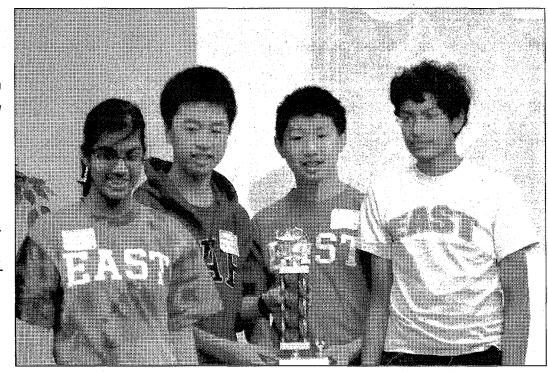
tion to learn more about the upcoming Relay For Life and how they can become part of an exciting overnight event that can lead to world with less cancer and more birthdays," Brennan said. "During the kick-off, we will be honoring cancer survivors and remembering those who have lost their battle with cancer."

Relay For Life is the American Cancer Society's signature event, dedicated to increasing awareness and raising funds to fight cancer. Teams of family, friends and co-workers camp out overnight, taking turns walking the track to represent the fact that cancer never sleeps. "You can help us fight back by attending the kick-off and learning about Relay," Brennan said.

Anyone interested in creating a team or making a donation can visit www.relayforlife. org/plymouthmi.

The 2010 Relay For Life of Plymouth will take place starting 10 a.m. Saturday, June 12 and running through 10 a.m. Sunday, June 13 at Central Middle School in downtown Plymouth.

For more information on how to get involved or about the kick-off event, contact Katie Brennan at (248) 663-3436 or e-mail at Kathryn. Brennan@cancer.org.



East Middle School math team members included Rima Das, Madhav Goli, Kevin Ni and Johnny Young won the math competition at Detroit Country Day. Das also took fourth place overall in the individual competition.

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East students claim DCD math title

BY BRAD KADRICH OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

East Middle School's math competition team did something it hadn't done in six years when it won the Detroit Country Day Invitational Math Competition.

It's just the second time since the event's inception in 1995 an East Middle School team won the title.

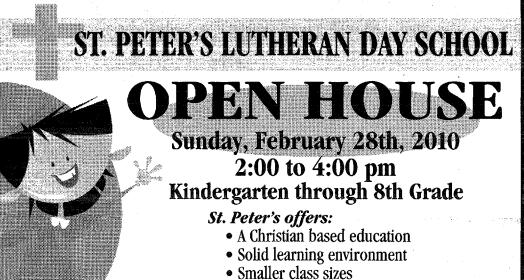
Team members included Rima Das, Madhav Goli, Kevin Ni and Johnny Young. Das also took fourth place overall in the individual competition. The competition consists of three events: • Power test, a 45-minute exam consisting of 30 questions (25 multiple choice and five short-answer questions). The test, which is not an achievement test, is designed to test the mathematical ingenuity of the students. The number of correct responses determine the participant's score. The five short-answer questions were also used as tiebreakers in case of duplicate scores.

• Rapid Rabbit Relay, a team event where each member of the team is given a problem, which requires for its solution the answer from another team member's problem. Answers are passed from one member to the next with the anchorperson signaling completion of the relay. After the practice round, there are three rounds which count for points.

• Math Rally, an event that required a team effort. Members of the school team received copies of the questions and the students were required to work quickly and accurately as a group.

"The victory was awesome because many of the top teams in the area were there, and we ended up beating all of them!" said Stephanie Fendrick, East's Math/TAG teacher.

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

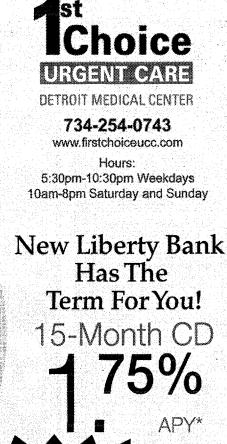


A8 (CP)

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Players don't let snow stop softball fun

BY BRAD KADRICH **OBSERVER STAFF WRITER**

As major league pitchers and catchers prepared to report to the sun-drenched baseball fields of Florida and Arizona, hearty softball players trudged into the snowcovered fields at the Canton Sports Center for the annual Snowball Tournament.

Only four teams took advantage of the tournament, but that didn't stop the players from having fun.

'We had a great time," said Lyle Livingston, whose Coolers beat Multi-Task, 9-2, in the title game. "Of course we wish we'd had more teams, but it was still a great time." Using Chicago-style rules,

the tournament, sponsored by Tri-County Beverage, differed in several ways from traditional softball. A 16-inch ball is used (four inches larger than a traditional softball), and pitchers were throwing to their own hitters, each of whom got two swings to put the ball in play.

"Going out in the snow, hav-

OPEN



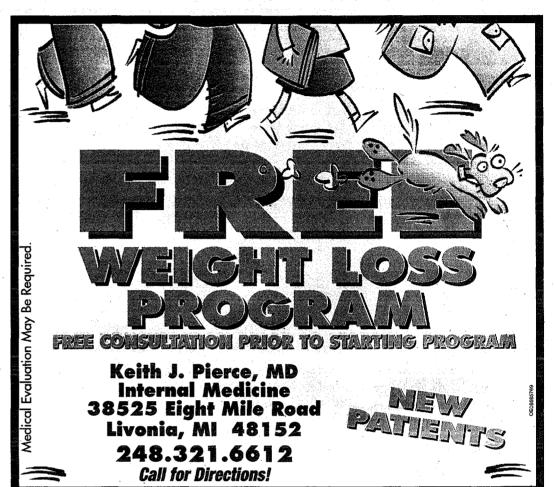
Players took to the snow-covered fields of the Canton Sports Center for the annual Snowball tournament Saturday.

ing a good time ... we've done it for a couple of years now," said Livingston. "I've got a competitive team, but that's not why we're out there. We just go out to have a good time, and it's always fun."

Ann-Marie Carravallah, recreation coordinator with Canton Leisure Services, said she would have preferred more plays in the tournament but, with "a great base of snow and more flurries in the sy," there was enough fun to go around.

"It was a perfect snow day, and a pile of fun," said Carravallah, who said she's played "in my share" of snowball tournaments. "We would have liked more teams, but the ones who were there had a lot of fun."

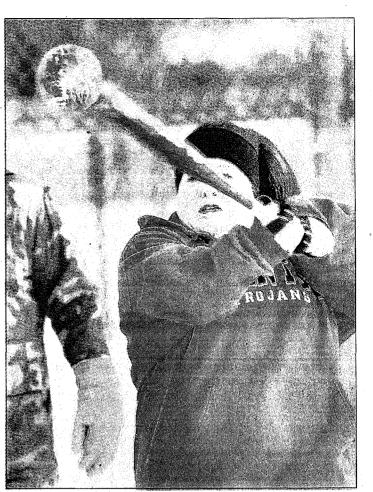
bkadrich@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-8899 Rachele Pasquali puts the ball in play during Saturday's tournament.





Ryan Gafford gets Matt North out at third during Saturday's annual Snowball softball tournament, using Chicagostyle rules.





A9 (CP)

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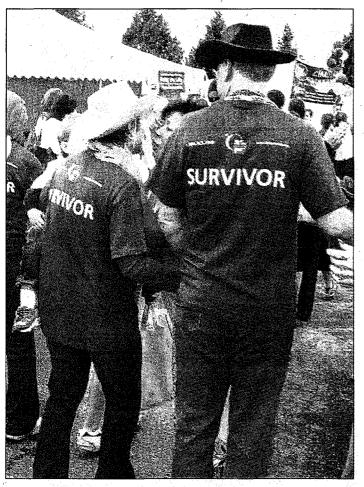
PROGRAM RULES SUMMARY: Customer must take new retail delivery from dealer stock between 2/4/2010 and 3/1/2010. Customer must be a resident of the U.S. to be eligible. Limit of one certificate may be applied per household This offer is transferable within household. It may be transferred from business to bus

MINING

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Cancer survivors were among Team Chemosables members last year.

Relay for Life effort starts with annual kickoff

BY BRAD KADRICH **OBSERVER STAFF WRITER**

Steve and Marie Farkas have watched cancer dog their family for years.

Steve's uncle died of pancreatic cancer in 1973, while lung cancer claimed his father in 1981. Marie's father died of pancreatic cancer in 1985. Marie's mother survived a bout with cancer, and Steve himself beat back chronic lymphositic leukemia.

After the couple's daughter, Shannon, was diagnosed with breast cancer, the Farkases decided to kick back, and used the annual American Cancer Society Relay for Life as the battering ram.

The Farkases last year formed a team - the Chemosabies - to walk in the annual event at Canton's Heritage Park, raising more than \$9,000 in the process. This year, they decided to do

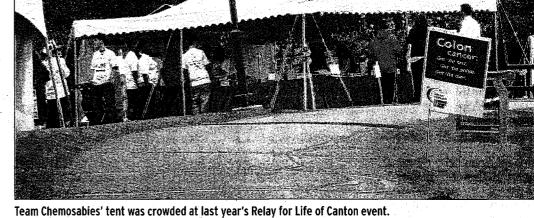
Relay.

aged her family "that's how the whole course of life goes." Then, it hit her daughter. "When it hits your kids,

whether they're young or not (Shannon was 31), you just think, 'There's something you've got to do, and for us, it was Relay for Life," Marie Farkas said. "We had just gotten my mom through it, and the following year we heard about Shannon. It just really hit home to the point where we needed some mechanism to release our frustration and our anxiety. It worked out really well. It's become a good fit for us."

Steve Farkas was diagnosed with chronic lymphositic leukemia in 1996, in a stage where the doctors decided to monitor it. Steve began treatment in October 2003 - a week on chemotherapy, then three weeks off for six months - and had his last treatment in April 2004. His family's history with cancer weighed heavily on him the whole time.

"It was pretty shattering, almost to the point where you throw up your hands and say, What's the use?" he recalled. "I came home and thought about it, and decided I wasn't



What: Relay for Life of Canton

When: 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 25

Where: Village Theater at Cherry

HOOFIN' IT

kick-off event

more and joined the entertainment committee for the 2010 Marie Farkas said she con-

sidered how the disease rav-

Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill, Canton Purpose: Kick off the annual campaign to help fight all forms of cancer. Teams pledge to walk the Heritage Park course for 24 hours and raise money to help. fight cancer. More info: Contact Kelsey Ruder at kelsey.ruder@cancer.org or call 248-663-3441

> going to let it beat me. I decided I would fight it and do whatever it takes.'

> Their daughter's battle galvanized both Steve an Marie last year. Marie's sisterin-law had been involved in the Relay for years, and the couple decided to walk. The Chemosabies raised upwards of \$9,300 but, when planning for this year's event rolled around, they wanted to do more. It wasn't just about the money.

"(Shannon's) diagnosis is what galvanized us to get involved and do more and try to eradicate this disease in some of its forms," Steve Farkas said. "We did the relay

for the first time last year and felt like even though we had raised quite a bit of money, there was more we could be doing to make the event a little more enjoyable."

The 2010 Relay for Life starts 10 a.m. Saturday, May 15. Teams pledge to walk the track for 24 hours in an effort to bring a cure for cancer. The Farkas family joined the entertainment committee in an effort to make it easier for teams to stay on the track the whole night.

"The objective was to make it through the night," Steve Farkas said. "We want to try to find things that give teams reasons to stay and spend the night."

Relay for Life of Canton kicks off its relay season Thursday with a 7 p.m. event at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill in Canton.

As teams prepare for the event, American Cancer Society officials are pointing out the event supports patients of all types of cancer.

"Relay for Life benefits all types of cancer, as opposed to walks for breast cancer or leukemia," said Charina Hansen, the PR chair for Relay for Life of Canton. "There is no minimum to participate in Relay for Life. Our teams come in all sizes."





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A10 (CP)

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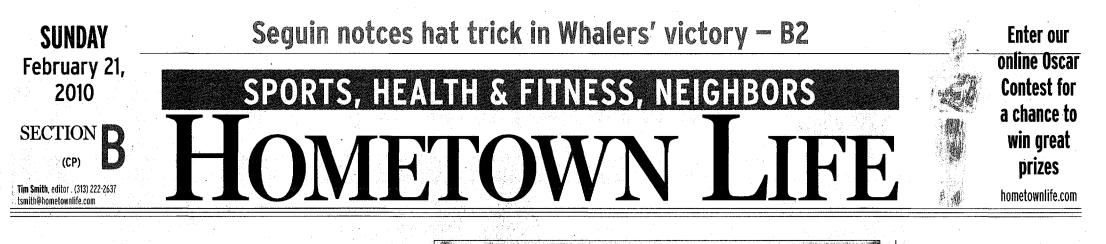
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Salem takes care of glass, Canton

Wipe out

BY TIM SMITH OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Prowess in the paint eventually enabled Salem to wear down rival Canton down the stretch and rip victory out of the hands of the host Chiefs, 59-53.

The Rocks trailed 42-35 with eight minutes to go in the first round of the KLAA Kensington Conference boys basketball playoffs. But with 6-5 senior center Jake Peterson and junior power forward Ethan Walsh boxing out and controlling the boards, Salem outscored Canton 24-11 in the fourth to come away victorious.

"Salem did a great job rebounding the ball," Canton first-year head coach Jimmy Reddy said. "They had 15 offensive rebounds and just did a great job attacking the glass.

"Jake Peterson was a load inside and he did a good job scoring and getting to the line."

Peterson led the Rocks (9-8) with 22 points and contributed plenty to Salem's 37 total rebounds, compared to just 19 for the Chiefs.

Walsh scored 11 points, as did junior guard Devonta Riley.

SLIPPING AWAY

For Canton (11-6), senior forward Kevin Weisz and senior point guard Dietrich Lever were the offensive sparkplugs. Weisz registered 24 points and led Canton with five boards, while Lever tallied 18 points to go with seven assists and five steals.

They helped the Chiefs get out to a 13-6 lead after one quarter and the defensive-minded squad kept the momentum going for a while, 'Salem did a great job rebounding the ball ... attacking the glass.'

JIMMY REDDY, Canton boys basketball coach

anyway.

It was 21-19 Canton at intermission and the Chiefs played well in the third, outscoring Salem 21-16 to go up 42-35 with one quarter left.

But with Peterson and Walsh getting the job done in the paint, not to mention proficient field-goal shooting by the Rocks (21-of-45 for the contest), the Chiefs could not hold the fort the rest of the way, to the chagrin of Reddy.

Veteran Salem head coach Bob Brodie could not be reached for comment about the victory.

Plymouth falls

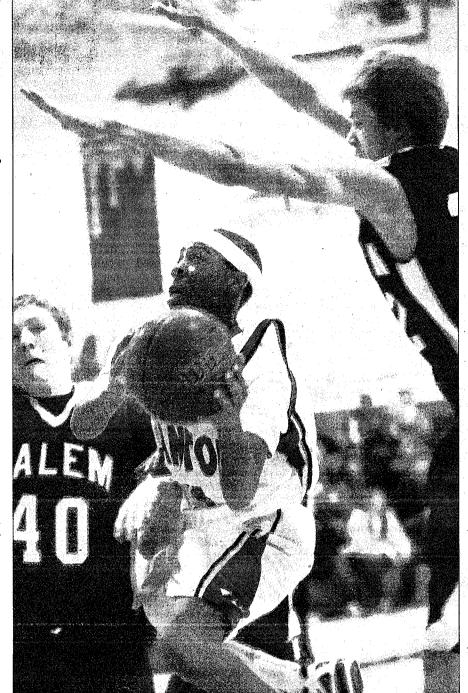
In a KLAA Conference boys basketball first-round playoff clash of Wildcats Friday night, visiting Novi outdid Plymouth in all categories to register a 54-40 win.

"We just didn't come out with a lot of energy tonight," disappointed Plymouth head coach Mike Soukup said. "They were a little more hungry, they wanted it more and beat us in every facet of the game."

Samer Oveir and Antwan Batwo each scored 12 points to pace Novi (14-3), with Justin Hopton adding 11.

For Plymouth (9-8), Brennen Beyer and Mike Nadratowski scored 15 and 11 points, respectively.

The Wildcats will move down to the lower bracket of the KLAA conference tourney, and will face South Lyon on Tuesday.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Canton's Dietrich Lever (No. 3) cuts through the Salem defense of Zinoviy Pelekh (No. 22) and Ethan Walsh during Friday night's KLAA Kensington Conference crossover playoff.

Canton cruises to final

It's Canton's turn now to play for the Kensington Conference girls basketball championship.

The state-ranked Chiefs improved to 17-1 overall Thursday night with a 39-28 triumph over neighbor Salem, the 2008-09 defending Kensington Lakes Activities Association champion.

Canton, the South Division champ, will now take on Central Division champ and state-ranked Novi, also 17-1 overall, for the Kensington title. Game time is 7 p.m. Monday at Canton.

Canton, beating Salem for the second time this season,

GIRLS BASKETBALL got contributions from

several players led by Kari Schmitt's 12 points and eight rebounds.

Robyn Mack chipped in with 10 points, while CarolAnn Sexauer, Kayla Bridges and Sara Schmitt each scored five.

Bridges also pulled down a team-high 11 boards.

"It was a pretty intense game where you had to grind it out to score," said Canton coach Brian Samulski, whose team toppled the Rocks 49-34 on Jan. 5. "Both teams defended well. To hold a good team like Salem to 28 points is solid. We also did a nice job on the glass."

Canton led 23-16 at halftime and 28-20 after three quarters. Sara Stone paced the Rocks

(12-6) with 13 points, while Brett deBear added eight.

Samulski credited the Schmitt twins, Kari and Sara, for a stellar defensive job on Stone, while both Melanie Pickert and Alyssa Cottrell took turns guarding deBear along with Bridges. "Kayla (Bridges) scored three of her five points in the fourth quarter, she made some big free throws," Samulski said. "She also rebounded the ball very well."

Chiefs give Shamrocks scare in final match

BY TIM SMITH OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

In front of a loud, large crowd Wednesday at Canton High School, the host Chiefs perhaps startled Novi-Detroit Catholic Central early in their Division 1 regional championship matchup.

Canton's Brent Winekoff pinned his

D-1 TEAM REGIONALS

opponent at 160 to get things started and teammates Keith Zech and Anthony Abro followed with decisions at 171 and 189 to give the Chiefs a quick 12-0 lead over the No. 2-ranked Shamrocks.

Abro fell behind 4-0 to Mike

Trealout, but stormed back for an 8-7 win.

But while that further excited the Canton faithful, it also might have given CC a collective jolt because the Shamrocks went to work, taking seven straight bouts on the way to a 42-21 match triumph.

"We started off good," Canton head coach Cory Mancuso said, "(but) CC's studs were just too much for us." The Chiefs did finish on a high note

as Donnie Watkins (145) and Sean O'Keefe (152) earned wins to wrap up the match. "Catholic Central is a really well-

coached team with a solid wrestler at every weight," Mancuso said. "I was

Please see WRESTLING, B2

Please see CANTON, B2

DION JOHNSON

Wild win for Wildcats over Western



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER Battling for the upper hand Thursday are Plymouth's Pat Smiatacz (No. 9) and Walled Lake Western's Kyle Shreve. Smiatacz scored a goal in the Wildcats' 8-6 victory.

BY TIM SMITH OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The goal lights got quite a workout Thursday as 14 goals hit the twine during the KLAA Kensington Conference playoff crossover between Plymouth and Walled Lake Western at Compuware Arena.

But the KLAA South codivision champs (with Salem and Livonia Churchill) were more prolific on the Olympicsized ice sheet, earning an 8-6 triumph at Compuware Arena. "We moved the puck really well tonight," Plymouth head coach Paul Fassbender said. "We were able to get everyone with ice time."

And everyone got in on the fun, as the Wildcats fired 51

Tough loss for Salem, B3.

• shots at the Warriors' goal (with just 13 directed in the other direction).

Although the visitors took a quick 1-0 lead just 17 seconds into the contest, senior forward Pat Smiatacz evened the score with a goal set up by senior defenseman Evan Swieczkowski and senior forward Ryan Renault.

The teams continued to trade goals, with Plymouth's Nick Schultz (freshman forward) and sophomore forward Zach Gambrell (with 43 seconds to go in the first) giving the 'Cats a 3-2 lead after one.

Gambrell scored again to

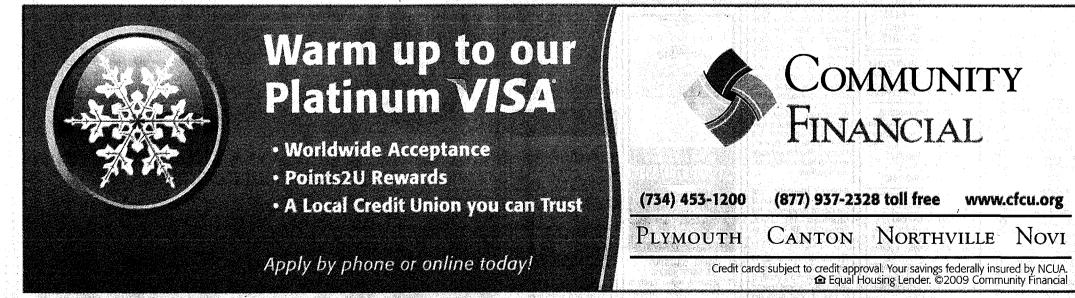
Captain's CORNER

Who: Dion Johnson, senior captain, Plymouth boys basketball team.

Miscellany: The 18-year-old Johnson holds a 3.2 grade-point average. His parents are Toni and Oliver.

Captain's job: "Keep a positive attitude, lead the team, make sure everyone is on the same page and always encourage everyone. ... never give in." Leadership style: "I lead by example, follow coaches direc-

tions and make sure they are carried out on the floor." Why him?: "They chose me because I am a senior and had varsity experience. I demonstrated positive leadership during pre-season workouts."



LOCAL SPORTS

WRESTLING

B2

(CP)

really proud of the effort we put forth tonight, but we just aren't at their level as a team right now."

But Mancuso saluted his guys for breaking the school's all-time mark for dual meet victories thanks to a 29-7 mark.

And a substantial contingent of Chiefs competed Saturday at the D-1 individual regionals hosted by Saline High School.

"We still have nine wrestlers wrestling on Saturday at Saline that we need to focus on and get ready," Mancuso said.

Canton's 29th and recordbreaking team win was a 73-6 rout of Dearborn Fordson in the regional semifinal. Catholic Central (26-4) breezed in the other semifinal, 78-0 over Livonia Franklin.

> MHSAA TEAM WRESTLING TOURNAMENT RESULTS DIVISION 1-REGION 104 Feb. 17 at Canton NOVI-DETROIT CATHOLIC CENTRAL 42 CANTON 21

(Championship match) 160: Brent Winekoff (C) pinned Matt Longe, 3:16; 171: Keith Zech (C) won by decision over Andrew Erickson, 7-3; 189: Anthony Abro (C) dec. Miles Trealout, 8-7; 215: Andrew Johnson (CC) won by void; 285: Mike Kinvilled (CC) won by DQ over Ben Poirier; 103: T.J. Fagan (CC) won by major dec. over Richard DeMarois, 11-0; 112: Ken Bade (CC) tech. fall Daniel Filippelli, 17-2; 125: Alec Mooradian (CC) maj. dec. Waleed Faraj, 16-6; 130: Charlie Joseph (CC) dec. Mitch Wolski, 8-1; 135: Nick Mason (CC), dec. Mitch Wolski, 8-1: 140: Justin Melick (CC) p. Zach Marsh, 1:29; 145: Donnie Watkins (C) tech. fall Alex Kas-Marogi, 15-0; 152: Sean O'Keefe (C) dec. Steve Kraska, 11-3

Dual match records: Catholic Central, 26-4 overall; Canton, 29-7 overall.

rebounds, eclipsing the old

mark of 78 set on Jan. 6, 2001 against Wayne County CC.

Other scoring leaders for

Schoolcraft included Kimberly

Bee (20 points), Angela Burrell

(18), Emelda Chew (12) and

April Goins also grabbed

12 rebounds, while Shepherd

and Chew added 11 and nine,

Chelsea Manasian (Livonia

Antania Shepherd (10)

Churchill) and Jasmine

Hawks (10-16, 6-9).

Johnson scored 16 and 14

points, respectively, for the

MADONNA 78, UM-DEARBORN

tallied a career-high 21 points

University (11-14, 7-6) led from

Dearborn (1-26, 0-13). Heather

Goodwin contributed 12 points

start-to-finish with an easy

Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic

Conference victory over the

University of Michigan-

and eight rebounds, while

freshman Shantelle Herring

chipped in with 11 points for

the Crusaders, who led 36-28

at halftime.

52: Freshman Heather Pratt

Wednesday as Madonna

respectively.

Lady Ocelots roll to Eastern title

After dropping from the top spot to No. 6 in the latest NJCAA Division II rankings, the Schoolcraft College women's basketball team attended to some more pressing business Wednesday night.

The Lady Ocelots wore pink and raised funds for the Kay Yow Women Coaches Breast Cancer Research Fund, while earning their fourth straight MCCAA Eastern Conference title with a whopping 109-58 victory over Henry Ford Community College.

Amber Avery scored a careerhigh 25 points and pulled down 18 rebounds as Schoolcraft improved to 24-1 overall and 14-1 in the conference.

And thanks to a 67-52 loss by second-place St. Clair County CC to Oakland CC, the Lady Ocelots claimed the outright crown.

Schoolcraft jumped out to a 23-8 lead eight minutes into the game and never looked back in earning its 47th straight home court victory.

The Lady Ocelots also set a new school record with 86

Seguin scores three goals as Whalers romp

Tyler Seguin scored the hat trick and added an assist as the Plymouth Whalers defeated the Mississauga St. Michael's Majors, 6-2, in an Ontario Hockey League game played Friday night before 2,297 at Compuware Arena.

Seguin — who leads the OHL with 42 goals and 52 assists for 94 points in 53 games — had plenty of help from his teammates. Goaltender Matt Hackett stopped 41-of-43 shots as the game's third star and the Whalers won the battle of special teams, going 2-for-6 on the power play while stopping 9-of-11 Majors power plays (including three separate 3on-5's).

Besides Seguin's fifth hat trick of the season, AJ Jenks (21st), Phil McRae (16th) and James Livingston (16th) scored single goals for the Whalers (34-23-0-2). Casey Cizikas (24th) and David Corrente (sixth) replied for Mississauga (37-15-4-2).

The Whalers led, 2-0, after one period, but the work of the penalty killers set the tone in stopping the Mississauga power play on penalties to Seguin at 4:58, Leo Jenner at 8:30 and Jay Gilbert at 10:16.

"We had a couple of big kills and we knew they were crucial early on," Livingston said. "We went right to work after that and our power play got an awesome goal."

Seguin started the scoring at 13:48 for Plymouth, picking up a pass from Robbie Czarnik and snapping a shot from the left circle that Majors goaltender JP Anderson got his shoulder on, but the puck caromed off him and into the net.

Jenks scored at 16:19 of the period on the Whalers first power of the evening, threading a hard, low shot from the high slot through an effective Joe Gaynor screen in front of Anderson.

After Cizikas finally scored on a power play for Mississauga at 3:02 of the second period to cut the Plymouth lead to 2-1, Seguin scored a disputed goal at 6:55. Taking a stretch pass from Czarnik, Seguin skated in all alone on Anderson and stuffed a backhand at the Majors goaltender. After a lengthy delay, it was ruled that Anderson's pad was over the goal line and the goal counted.

ROOM TO MANEUVER

"I had so much time," Seguin said of the goal. "I wanted to deke as many times as I could and then I went backhand. I couldn't see the puck in the net, but I could see the goaltender's pad and it was behind the goal line, so I know it (the puck) was in."

Leading 3-1 at that point, Plymouth killed off another penalty to Beau Schmitz at 8:22 before scoring again at 13:02, as McRae took Garrett Meurs' pass from the right circle and scored from just outside the left side of the crease past Anderson. Plymouth led, 4-1, after forty minutes.

The Whalers extended the lead to 6-1 in the third period on Seguin's hat trick at 6:29 and Livingston's re-direct of a Ryan Hayes' shot 0:29 later. Corrente scored at 10:52 for the Majors to complete the scoring. Mississauga outshot

Plymouth, 43-27. Plymouth's goal over the final ten games of the regular season is to play as well as possible and gain traction for the

playoffs

Katelynn Krause (No. 5) during Thursday's KLAA Kensington Conference tourney game.

FROM PAGE B1

Canton made 12-of-18 free throws on the night, while Salem connected on 5-of-8. Salem returns to the court for the third-place Kensington Conference game 7 p.m. Monday at home against

KLAA Central Division rival South Lyon (11-7). NORTHVILLE 48, PLYMOUTH 38:

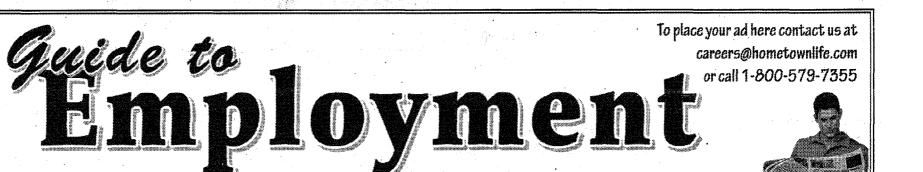
In a KLAA consolation girls basketball tournament matchup Thursday, the Mustangs (99) got out in front early (13-9 after one) and held on to take care of the Wildcats (6-12).

JOHN KEMSKI

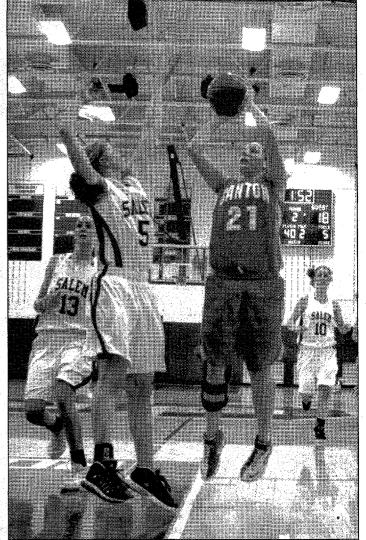
Plymouth did enjoy some balanced scoring in defeat, with junior Alex Johnson tallying 13 points and sophomores Alyssa Burris and Katelyn Watson each chipping in with five. Adding a fistful of points was sophomore Rachael Hille.

Julia Ramey scored 13 for Northville.

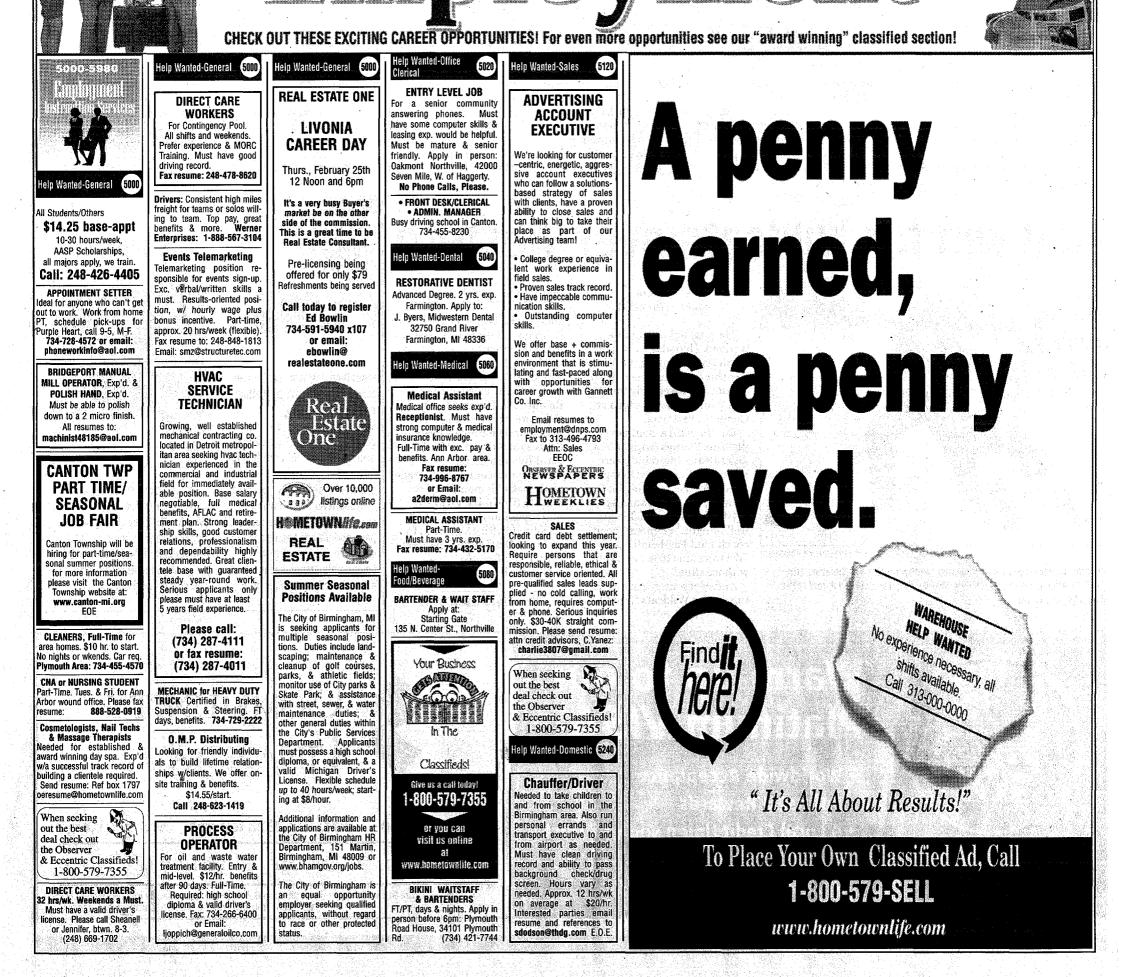
Next up for Plymouth is another tourney consolation game, 7 p.m. Monday against visiting Westland John Glenn.







Canton's CarolAnn Sexauer (No. 21) launches a jumper over Salem defender



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ily@aol.com.

April.

Saberettes Kids Clinic

from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., March 20, at the Plymouth

High School cafeteria. The

Pre-registration is now

open on the www.pompons.

plymouthwildcats.com Web

Saberette parents Lisa Krahel

Lori Schroeder at weearefam-

Cost is \$40 per child and

includes a T-shirt, poms and

a snack. Discounts are avail-

able for additional siblings.

Parents are invited to come

see their daughters perform at

noon on the day of the clinic.

All girls attending the clinic

will be invited to perform at the Plymouth Variety Show in

should arrive between 8:45

tion is also available at 8:30

to the first 100 participants.

Plymouth Y programs

Several spring offerings

• Registration is ongoing

for instructional clinics. The

focus of these programs will

interaction through sports

be on fun, exercise and social

Clinics include: Preschool

Soccer for ages 3-5; Preschool

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The programs run the weeks

All classes are held in local

of March 17-April 28.

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Training, a class to focus on

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form and technique) and agil-

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straight line at a fixed pace for

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techniques through drills and play games to put learned

Participants will learn new

The class will improve move-

Basketball for ages 4-5; and

are being served up by the

Plymouth Family YMCA,

including:

instruction.

-9:00 a.m. Same day registra-

a.m., but enrollment is limited

Pre-registration participants

at lisalynn1509@aol.com or

site. You may also contact

clinic is open to children ages



Salem junior forward Connor Berlin gets set to shoot the puck past Livonia Stevenson defenders during Wednesday's

Gritty Rocks fall in upset bid

BY BRAD EMONS OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

hockey game.

Livonia Stevenson picked up some additional hardware Wednesday night when they defeated upset-minded Salem, 3-2, for the Kensington Conference boys hockey championship at the Plymouth Cultural Center.

The state-ranked Spartans needed a third-period goal from Tim Pruchnik, his 15th of the season, with only 3:31 remaining to earn the victory.

Salem netminder Steven Manser, who stopped 36 pucks on the night, made the initial right pad save on Andrew Palushaj's shot, but Pruchnik pounced on the rebound and popped home the game-winner.

With the win, Stevenson improves to 18-3-2 overall and earns a spot in the Kensington Lakes Activities Association title matchup. The game will be either next Thursday or Friday on the road against the winner of the Lakes Conference final between Howell and Waterford Kettering.

"For some of our seniors, who have been here two or the season on a four-on-four situation from Cole Rochowiak and Kyle Gabrielson at 3:38 of the second.

The Spartans made it 2-0 at 6:23 of the same period taking advantage of a fiveon-three advantage after the Rocks were assessed a pair coincidental minor penalties. Defenseman Jake Poynter tallied the power-play goal from John Strauch and Shureb.

Salem, despite being outshot 9-6 in the opening period and 19-6 in the second, clawed its way back when Steve Haburne, who was ejected late in the game after getting a game disqualification and a 5-minute minor, tallied a power play goal from Ryan Quigley at 11:32 of the second period to cut the deficit to 2-1.

Mark McGee then tied it a 2-all with only 4:05 remaining in regulation on a quick wrist shot off an assist from Mario Macari.

"That's kind been our trademark this year," Salem coach Ryan Ossenmacher said. "We have tendency to get off to slow starts. I'm not really sure what that is. In game like this you can't afford to have mental

division and earned the right to be in this. (Salem actually shared the title with Plymouth and Livonia Churchill.)

"Give them all the credit in the world, they didn't quit and they didn't back down When we got a couple goals, they just kept coming. They bounced right back and tied it. They gave us everything we could handle. Hats off to them for an outstanding game tonight."

The Rocks, beaten by Stevenson 6-1 in December, put together their best period in the third, which resulted in the tying goal by McGee.

"The last time we were just disappointed because we felt we got outworked,' Ossenmacher said. "This game, our commitment to working hard was a little bit better. But at the same time you just got to be smarter - too many mental mistakes for this late in the season. But to our credit, we battled back and tied it up. But as soon as we tied it up, we had a mental breakdown and they scored. That's kind of the way the game went. Stevenson is a good is team and they earned the victory."

Meanwhile, Stevenson goaltender Danny Sager was solid throughout, stopping 19-of-21 shots. "We just really never established any flow or got pucks to net early," said Mitchell, whose third-ranked team in Division 1 was coming off a loss Saturday to No. 4 University of Detroit-Jesuit. "The first period wasn't we wanted, but again, it was still a 0-0 hockey game and we couldn't be too disappointed with that."

SPORTS ROUNDUP

1. Coaches also are welcome. • For all programs, contact The Plymouth Saberettes are the Plymouth Family YMCA at

holding a Kids Pompon Clinic (734) 453-2904 or visit www. ymcadetroit.org. Are you a Bad Bowler?

Super Bowl on Ford Road in Canton might be your place if you are. The facility is hosting a 12-week "Bad Bowlers Club" at 8 p.m. Thursdays through March. The program is for beginning or low-average bowlers.

Teams of four (any combination of men and women) may participate in a pressure-free environment. The cost is \$9.95 per person per week. Call (734) 459-6070 for more information.

Football inductees

Longtime Detroit Catholic Central assistant coach Rick Coratti and former Wayne Memorial standout Al Slamer (Holt) will be among those honored at the Michigan High School Football Coaches Association Hall of Fame induction and banquet Saturday, March 27, at the Four Points Sheraton Hotel in Ann Arbor.

Doors open at 5:45 p.m., with the social hour at 6 p.m. Dinner is at 7 p.m., followed by induction ceremonies at 8 p.m. Guest speaker will be

University of Michigan head coach Rich Rodriguez.

To obtain tickets, call Gandalf Church at (269) 963-0865. For more information, call Larry Merx at (845) 837-9438; or e-mail lmerx@maxpreps.com.

Lacrosse coach wanted

Applications are being taken by the city of Plymouth Recreation Department for a boys seventh- and eighth-grade lacrosse coach. Lacrosse experience as a player or coach is preferred, but not mandatory. Contact recreation director Steve Anderson at (734) 455-6620, Ext. 302, or e-mail him at sanderson@ci.plymouth.mi.us.

Coaches, please call

Coaches of high school teams for the winter season are reminded to send in results to Tim Smith, Plymouth-Canton sports editor, in order to spotlight the achievements of local student-athletes. Call (313) 222-2637 or e-mail him at tsmith@hometownlife.com.

Please provide as much detail as possible as well as your team's current record. Deadlines are 11 p.m. both Tuesday nights for the Thursday edition and Friday evenings for Sunday's paper.

quarterbacks and 16 receiver. Walk-ins, when space available, are \$35 per date.

For more information, email Richard Popp at: theqbtutor@yahoo.com.

Ice shavings

Plymouth Cultural Center is hosting drop-in hockey sessions through March 31, from 4-5:20 p.m. Tuesdays. Fees are \$5 for skaters except for the first four goalkeepers to sign up (they can play for free). Full equipment is required and participants must be age 14 or older.

The Cultural Center (525 Farmer) also features open skating and "Sticks & Pucks" through March 31.

Open skating is 12 noon to 1:20 p.m. Tuesdays and Fridays and 4-5:50 p.m. Sundays. Fees: adults, \$5; under 16 and over 55, \$4; skate rental, \$2.

For "Sticks & Pucks" all skaters must pay \$5 and wear full equipment for the sessions, 2-3:50 p.m. Monday-Friday, also until the end of March. Parental supervision is required for participants under age 16.

Call 734-455-6620 or go to www.ci.plymouth.mi.us for more information.

Give 'Pickleball' a try

Plymouth and Canton residents are welcome to sign up for a unique recreational sport being offered by Northville Parks and Recreation - pickleball.

The sport combines ping pong and badminton, with a hard paddle used to send the ball over the net. Open pickleball sessions are held at the Northville Recreation Center based out of Hillside Middle School.

Beginner to intermediate play is 1-3 p.m. Mondays and Tuesdays (\$2 per person) and 10 a.m. to 12 noon Wednesdays and Thursdays (\$2). Three courts are available.

Intermediate to advanced play is 12 noon to 3 p.m. Wednesdays (\$3) and 6-8 p.m. Saturdays (\$4).

Paddles and pickleballs are provided at the center. Call (248) 349-0203 for more information.

Need lacrosse coach

Livonia Ladywood is seeking a varsity girls lacrosse coach for the 2010 spring sea-

three years, this was the first time, and a chance to play for something," Stevenson coach David Mitchell said. "It's our first conference championship in awhile and it's a heck of an accomplishment. I'm so happy for the guys to experience something like this because 10 years from now they can go back to Stevenson High School and see that trophy in the trophy case."

After a scoreless opening period, Stevenson broke the ice on Justin Shureb's 19th goal of

lapses, you can't afford to start slow because Stevenson is a good team.

"It's hard enough to battle uphill against an average team, but when you're playing really a good team, and constantly fighting an uphill battle, most of the time it's going to end up like it did." The loss dropped Salem to 12-7-3 overall.

"It's a game for the conference championship and Salem did a heck of a job," Mitchell said. "They won their (South)

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

will be taught by an NCAA Division I athlete with a degree in Exercise Science.

skills into use. The class

• Registrations are being accepted for the Spring Co-Ed Soccer League and Girls' Volleyball League.

Both seasons run from April 19-June 12. There will be one practice and one game each week. The cost is \$71 for program members or \$103 for community members. All participants need a YMCA Youth Sports Reversible Jersey (\$15).

The signup deadline is April

Football tutorials

Popps QB Tutor will offer instruction for quarterbacks and wide receivers from 2-3 p.m. Sundays, Feb. 21, 28; March 7 and 14 (Session VII), at Center Court, located at 7171 N. Haggerty, Canton.

The cost is \$150 per session. Sessions are limited to 16

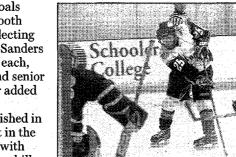
son. If interested, fax a resume to Ladywood Athletic Director Sal Malek at (734) 591-2386.

Track coach wanted

The University of Detroit Jesuit High is seeking a varsity boys track and field coach for the 2010 season.

Those interested should forward a resume to: Mickey Barrett, Athletic Director, 8400 S. Cambridge, Detroit, MI. 48221; or fax to (313) 862-3299; or e-mail mickey.barrett@uofdjesuit.org.

7



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Firing one of Plymouth's 51 shots toward Walled Lake Western goalie Benny laquinta Thursday is sophomore Zach Gambrell (No. 25).

Salem is KLAA South boys hockey champion for 2009-10 ... but so is campus rival Plymouth.

In Thursday's Observer, it was reported that Salem was the division champion, and they kinda still are - just with some company.

The Rocks, Wildcats and Chargers all finished the division schedule with marks of 5-3-1. But Salem won the tie-breaker with the other teams for the top spot for purposes of seeding in the conference playoffs. As a result, "first-place" Salem received the prize of facing one of the best teams around, Livonia Stevenson (first-place in the Central Division), in Wednesday's playoff game at Plymouth Cultural Center. Both Plymouth and Churchill squared off against lesser foes, like Walled Lake Western, for example.

Maybe it's semantics, maybe it's splitting hairs. But all three teams go into the books as South cochamps and trophies are headed to all three places.





make it 4-2 early in the second, only to have the lead cut to one shortly thereafter. But Renault and senior forward Ryan Bauer found the mark, building a 6-3 edge entering the final period.

The Wildcats stayed in front, with third-period goals by junior forward Tyler Sanders and senior forward Cody Hunt making it that much tougher for the Warriors (4-10-2).

Plymouth had six players with multiple points. Gambrell

Ċ,

led the way with two goals and two helpers, with both Renault and Bauer collecting a goal and two assists. Sanders chipped in with one of each, while Swieczkowski and senior forward Taylor Currier added two assists. Plymouth, which finished in

a three-way tie for first in the KLAA South Division with Salem and Livonia Churchill at 5-3-1 (Salem won the division tie-breaker for the right to face Central champ Livonia Stevenson in the playoffs), improved to 17-5-1 overall entering a game against the winner of the Pinckney-Waterford Mott matchup.

FORECLOSURE NOTICE In the event this property is claimed as a principal residence exempt from tax under section 7cc of the general property tax act, 1893 PA 206, MCL .7cc please contact our office at (248) 844-5123. This firm is a debt collector attempting to collect a debt. Any information obtained will be used for this purpose. If you are in the Military, please contact our office at the number listed below. MORTGAGE SALE - Default has been made in the conditions of a certain mortgage made by: Charles Barksdale Jr. and Rosemary D Barksdale, Husband and Wife to Mortgage Electronic Registration System, Inc., solely as nominee for Crevecor Mortgage Inc., Mortgagee, dated June 16, 2004 and recorded August 5, 2004 in Liber 41097 Page 257 Wayne County Records, Michigan. Said mortgage was subsequently assigned to: Household Finance Corp III, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of Seventy-Four Thousand Four Hundred Eighty-Two Dollars and Forty-Two Cents (\$74,482.42) including interest 11.5% per annum. Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public vendue, Circuit Court of Wayne County at 1:00PM on March 25, 2010 Said premises are situated in City of Detroit, Wayne County, Michigan, and are described as: Lots 76, 77 and north 25 feet of Lot 78, including half vacated alley at the rear thereof, of B.E. Taylor's Brightmoor-Canfield Subdivision, according to the plat thereof as recorded in Liber 47, Page 63, Wayne County Records. Commonly known as 14610 Dolphin, Detroit MI 48223 The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241 or MCL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale, or upon the expiration of the notice required by MCL 600.3241a(c), whichever is later. Dated: 2/21/2010 Household Finance Corp III. Assignee of Mortgagee Attorneys: Potestivo & Associates, P.C. 811 South Blvd. Suite 100 Rochester Hills, MI 48307 (248) 844-5123 Our File No: 10-21278 ASAP# 3454849 02/21/2010, 02/28/2010, 03/07/2010, 03/14/2010

FOR THE RECORD And Livonia Churchill, too. What?

B4 (*)

Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, February 21, 2010

NEIGHBORS

online at hometownlife.com

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT

Johnston-Nicolosi Kristina Johnston and

Johnathan Nicolosi announce their engagement.

The bride-to-be is the daughter of Charles and Maria Kristine Johnston of Livonia. Her fiancé is the son of Thurman and Ada Safell of Pineland, S.C.

Kristina is a 2000 graduate of Ladywood High School and earned an undergraduate degree from Eastern Michigan University in 2004. She also earned a masters degree in language and hearing sciences at the

University of Colorado at Boulder. She is employed as a language and speech pathologist in Denver, Colo. Johnathan is a 1998 graduate of Soddy-Daisy High School in Soddy-Daisy, Tenn. He is cur-



Johnston-Nicolosi

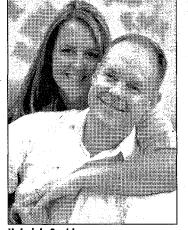
rently completing a bachelor's degree in information technology at the American Military University. Johnathan is a staff sergeant with the U.S. Air Force in Denver, Colo. A September wedding is planned in Denver, Colo.

Helmick-Corbin

Maj. Adam R. Corbin and Amanda L. Helmick, together with their families, are pleased to announce their engagement.

The bride-to-be is the daughter of the late Donald Helmick and Edward Button of Hagerstown, Md., and the late Deborah Button. The prospective groom is the son of Robert and Jeannelle Corbin of Farmington Hills. Amanda graduated from

West Virginia University with a bachelor's degree in advertising and marketing. She works as an orthopedic and urology medical sales specialist in Charleston, W.Va. Adam graduated from the University of Michigan with a bachelor's degree in aerospace engineering. He is a veteran of

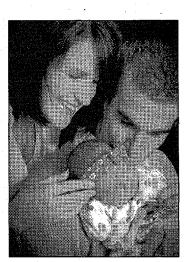


Helmick-Corbin

Operation Iraqi Freedom and **Operation Enduring Freedom** and is currently serving as a C-130 pilot in the West Virginia Air National Guard. A July wedding is planned.

AYLA MAE DAIGNEAU

Ayla Mae Daigneau was born Jan. 16, 2010 at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, Ann Arbor. Proud parents are David and Jennifer Daigneau of Belleville. Grandparents are Philip and Martha Daigneau of Canton, and Michael and Julie Skelton of Belleville. Great-grandparents are Thomas and Marsha Franklin of Clare, Donald and Marjory Priest of Petoskey, and Troy and Mary Skelton of Huber Heights, Ohio.



Ayla Mae Daigneau and her parents



ARTHUR A. HARTMAN

February 17, 2010, age 78. Beloved husband of Dorothy. Dear father of Roger and Randy. Visitation Sunday 2-8pm. Funeral Service Monday 11:30am at the John N. Santeiu & Son Funeral Home, 1139 Inkster (between Ford Rd. and Cherry Hill).



BETTY ALMBURG

Died February 11, 2010, age 83. Beloved wife of the late Paul. Dear Mother of Scott, Tim (Darlene), Beth (Stuart) Delaney, and the late Jeff. Grandmother of Sean and Cara Delaney. Preceded in death by parents, Edward Tuttle and Ella Stomberg Tuttle. Graduate of Madonna University. Long time Livonia resi-dent, and member of St. Paul's Presbyterian Church for almost 50 years. Visitation was at Manns-Ferguson Funeral Home 17000 Middlebelt (S. of 6 Mile) on Saturday, February 20th from 2 to 5 p.m. and 6 to 8 p.m. In State Sunday, February 21st p.m. until time of Services, 3 p.m. at St: Paul's Presbyterian Church 27475 femorials are Mile Road. Livonia.

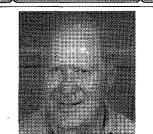
GALE E. ELLIS

February 10, 2010, age 63, of Pontiac, Husband of Mary. Father of Tonya. Arrangements by: Simple Funerals (248) 227-1954 SimpleFuneralsInMichigan.com

Let others know...

When you've lost a loved one, place your notice on our website and in "Passages"...a directory located in every edition of your hometown newspaper.

Observer & Eccentric Call 1-800-579-7355





HOWARD PAYTON WHITE

Chelsea, Michigan. Age 90, died Friday, February 12, 2010 at Chelsea Retirement

Community. He was born March 15, 1919 in Minneapolis, MN, the son of John and Laura (Bond) White. Howard grew up in Rocksboro, PA. He lived in Livonia for the major-ity of his adult life and moved to Chelsea Retirement Community three years ago. Howard was a WWII veteran, serving in the Army. He worked at Burroughs as a mechanical engineer, retiring in 1982. Howard enjoyed golfing his whole life. He married Claire Van Horn in 1961 and she preceded him in death on March 27, 1991. He is survived by a son, Phil (Anita) White of Temecula, CA; two daughters, Lauriel (Enrique) Ralston-Pardo of Plymouth, Karen (Todd) Kauranen of Chelsea; two sisters, Ethel Strohm of PA, Bernice Alsop of PA; a sister in law Grace White of PA, 6 grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his brothers, John and George, and sister, Ruth Collie. A memorial service was held at 10:30 am on Feb. 20th at Towsley Village Chapel at the Chelsea Retirement Community, with Pastor Dominic Aquilino officiating. Burial at Glen Eden Memorial Cemetery, Livonia, Michigan. Memorial contributions may be made to the UMRC Heritage Foundation (c/o CRC) or the Alzheimer's Assoc. Arrangements by Cole Funeral Chapel, Chelsea.

G. LOUISE "SHORTY" **TAYLOR**

Formerly of Wayne, died Feb. 16, 2010 in Cincinnati, Ohio where she lived with her niece since 2002. Born March 14, 1924 in Ohio, she graduated high school and became a beautician. In 1951, she married John Taylor, of Marietta, Ohio. She was very skilled at sewing and quilting. Survived by her cousin, Alice R. Campbell of Oklahoma, several nieces, nephews and caring neighbors of Wayne. She was preceded in death by her husband of 29 years, John Taylor (Buckeye Pipe Line Co.) mother, Myrtle Williams Van Allen; father, Gregory Williams, a step-father and step-brother. Funeral services were held at The Uht Funeral Home, Westland, Saturday Feb. 20, 2010 at 10am. Burial took place at Glenwood Cemetery, Wayne. Please view memorial and



JOYCE A. ROBERTS February 1, 2010, age 85. Longtime resident of Birmingham, MI. Retired Art Teacher for Clawson School

years, died February 18, 2010. Beloved husband of Diana for 49 years. Loving Father of Debra Carver Robert), Cleston "Chuck" Miracle, ynthia Askew, Sarah Dye (Leslie), Luanne Heavin, Denise Palazzolo, Forrest Miracle (Debra) and Bliss White (Gary). Cherished grandfather of 18, great-grandfather of 16. Dear Brother of Edna Miracle. Funeral Monday 11 a.m. at Thayer-Rock Funeral Home, 33603 Grand River Ave., downtown Farmington (1 block west of Farmington Road). Visitation

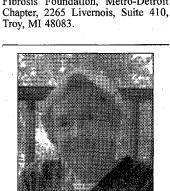
Sunday 2-7 p.m. Memorial contribu-

tions may be made to the Cystic

Fibrosis Foundation, Metro-Detroit

CLESTON MIRACLE

Age 81, resident of Redford for 43



MAUREEN BREEN HUTTON

75, passed away in Venice, Florida on February 10, 2010. Her husband of 30 years, John, preceded her in 2001. Maureen was born October 31, 1934 in Detroit. She was a graduate of the University of Detroit and went on to receive her Masters degree from the University of Michigan. She taught business at Western High School for many years. Maureen and John were members of St. Fabian's parish for 30 years and both were in the choir. Their oint Irish heritage was enriched by their numerous trips to visit relatives in Ireland. Maureen was a fiercely independent woman and she did not "suffer fools gladly." She touched the lives of her many nieces and nephews in profound ways and the entire family mourns her premature passing. Maureen had a deep faith and it is a comfort to know she is now reunited with her beloved John. Maureen is survived by her beloved sister in law Beatrice (the late Jerome) Breen, many nieces, nephews, and other members of her late Husband's family. Funeral Mass was held Thursday, February 18, 2010, 10:30am at St.Fabian Catholic Church, Farmington Hills. Memorial contribu-

VICTORIA "VICKI" OAKLEY

Of Troy, an educator passionate about the well-being of others, who embodied the true spirit of sportsmanship and had a genuine love of the outdoors, died February 13, 2010 following an 18-month battle with ovarian cancer. She was 40. "As recently as three weeks ago, she was teaching Upper School physical education and heading our school's 'So Be Fit' program," said Sr. Bridget Bearss, Head of School at the Academy of the Sacred Heart. "For 15 years, Vicki impacted us in ways that were visible and invisible. She was a great friend, colleague and mentor, who pushed me and others in the challenge of maintaining a healthy lifestyle." A native of Droitwich, England, Ms. Oakley played lacrosse for Wales. At the Academy of the Sacred Heart in Bloomfield Hills, she was a teacher, chair of the physical education department and varsity lacrosse coach. She coached the Sacred Heart lacrosse team to seven state championships. Ms. Oakley enjoyed spending time outdoors, and enjoyed camping, tennis and soccer. She was also an avid runner, and could often be seen in the annual Detroit Turkey Trot and mini-marathons supporting local charities. Bearss said, "Vicki categorically refused to accept my position that 'I don't do sports' as she began to attempt to transform me from complete resistance to one who was willing to don a hat resembling a cooked turkey and join her in the Turkey Trot." Dino Vandenheede, Academic Technology Director at the Academy, said, "I can say that I 'ran' with the best. I know her soul lives on

... a spirit such as hers can never be extinguished." Vicki started her Sacred

Heart career when Meredith Keller

was a freshman. Keller remembers

Ms. Oakley as "her own British

Invasion ... As a teacher, coach, and friend, Vicky instilled in us the confi-

dence to embrace our individual

strengths, the understanding that

humility is a key part of success, and

above all to learn that laughing at our-

selves is an essential part of the adven-

Steeby; her parents, Mary and John

Oakley; sister Sue (Pieter van der

Schee) Oakley; brother, Richard

(Kate) Oakley; and five nieces and

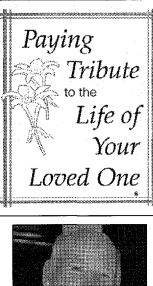
nephews. A memorial service was

held at the Academy of the Sacred

ture."

Vicki is survived by Laura

suggested to the Open Door program at Fort Street Presbyterian Church, or St. Paul's. Online Guestbook at: www.mannsfuneralhome.com



BURKE "BUCK" JOHNSON Age 77, of Punta Gorda, FL passed away February 14, 2010. He was born January 3, 1933 in Nankin, MI to Clifton and Anna Johnson. He served in the US Army. He retired from the City of Westland, MI where he had worked as a Heavy Equipment Operator and an Animal Control Officer. He moved to this area in 1991 from Westland. Buck was a member of the American Legion Post 251, the Moose Lodge 2121, the Eagles #4104 and attended Bethany Evangelical Lutheran Church. He loved spending time in his garage with friends and was an avid motorcycle enthusiast. He is survived by his loving wife of 29 years, Linda Diane Johnson; children, Dianna Rose Linder; Clifton (Treasa) Johnson, Shiela (Rodney) Peace, Ann Marie Johnson; grandchildren, Jessica, Crystal, Patricia, CJ, Taylor, Sara (Nick), Sarina, Breann, Jesse, Brittney, Joey; great grandchildren, Heather, April, Jonathan, Alexis, Lorianna, Michael, De'Mya; mother-in-law, Jean Johnson; many nieces, nephews and extended family. He was preceded in death by his parents, his sister Pauline Hedger and a brother, Phillip Johnson. Services were held Friday at the Kays-Ponger & Uselton Funeral Home, 635 E Marion Ave, Punta Gorda, FL 33950. In lieu of flowers, please make donations available to Linda Johnson in memory of Buck. Please visit kaysponger.com to leave the family condolences and to sign the online guestbook. Kays-Ponger & Uselton Funeral Home, Punta Gorda chapel, is in charge of arrangements.

14

GARY B. NAVARRE

Passed away on February 12, 2010 at the age of 76. Born in Monroe, Michigan and was a veteran of the Korea Conflict. Graduated with a B.S. from Eastern Michigan University, M.S. from the University of Oregon and an Ed.D from Wayne State University. Professor emeritus from Eastern Michigan University. Also worked as a teacher, school psychologist and Director of Special Services at various southeastern Michigan school districts. Received a Green Cross Life Saving Award from Ohio for saving five lives on Lake Erie. Self-described lovable curmudgeon, survived by his wife Nancy; sons Jeffrey and Steven (Veronica) Navarre and siblings Beverly Dines, Sam Navarre and Carolyn Navarre Chiera. Services were held on Wed at the First United Methodist Church of Plymouth. Contributions are suggested to the Halmhuber-Navarre Endowed Scholarship, c/o Eastern Michigan University Foundation, 1349 S. Huron Street, Ypsilanti, MI 48197 or the Salvation Army. Share your special thoughts and memories at: www.schrader-howell.com.



INGRID E, NELSON NAGY

Age 89 of Farmington MI, quietly departed this earth for the great kitchen in the sky on February 14, Valentine's Day, 2010. Her cheerfulness, kindness boundless optimism, fashion sense and fabulous cooking will be missed by daughters Linda Heard and Nancy Youngdahl. Predeceased by husband of 54 years Alex, she is also survived by grandsons Michael (Cheryl) and David (Tina) Heard, great-grandchildren Melinda, Allison, Lexi, Landon and Weston, sister Britta Mather and two nephews, Steven (Jean) Mather, and Robert (Margi) Nagy. Born in Detroit, she was a resident of Farmington for 55 years, but remained "Detroiter" and Wayne State a loyal Alumni her entire life. She was a devoted home economics teacher, a dedicated runner, an eager church volunteer, an enthusiastic gardener, and a faithful friend, admired by many for her kind and generous nature. Her light will always shine. Services have already been held. Donations may be made to the First United Methodist Church of Farmington or Botsford Foundation Fullness of Life Program. www.thaver-rock.com

JOAN L. MASSON

Passed away February 16, 2010 at the age of 74. Beloved wife of the late John. Dearest mother of David (Randa) Masson and Jeffrey (Sharon) Masson. Dear grandmother of Alex, Ryan, Kristin, David and Michael. Dear sister of George (Tammy) Lampros. She was a retired Legal Assistant having worked for Sobieraj and Michael Law Firm in Detoit. She was a resident of Plymouth for the last 12 years, previously of Detroit. She was a current member of St. Kenneth Catholic Church and a former member of St. Christopher Church Choir in Detroit. Joan served as a board member on her condominium association board and was a former board member for the Warrendale Community Credit Union. She enjoyed going to casinos, as she would travel to Las Vegas to join family and friends every 6 months. She loved going out to dinner and to plays at the Fisher Theatre. She also enjoyed music, basketball and baseball. Most of all she loved to be with family and friends. Funeral from St Kenneth Catholic Church 14951 Haggerty, Plymouth was Friday. Visitation was held at Schrader-Howell Funeral Home, 280 S. Main St., Plymouth. Memorials may be made to Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation. To share a special thought or memory www.schrader-howell.com

JO SCHELLMAT (nee ROGERS)

Age 54, of Farmington, passed away February 6, 2010. Arrangements by THAYER-ROCK Funeral Home, Farmington.

JOAN A. VAN DYKE

of Traverse City, formerly of 79. Livonia, passed away in her home Wednesday, February 15, 2010 with the caring help of Munson Hospice. Joan is survived by her two daughters Gair Van Dyke and Lea (Gary) Wood, daughter-in-law Ann Van Dyke and three grandsons; Tim Wood, Scott Van Dyke, and Paul Van Dyke. Joan was preceded in death by her husband Robert Van Dyke, Sr., and her son Robert Van Dyke, Jr. Those wishing to honor her memory with a charitable contribution are asked to consider Cherryland Amateur Radio Club or Munson Hospice. The family is being served by Reynolds Jonkhoff Funeral Home, Traverse City, MI.

District. Dear mother of Leigh Williams Marciniak (Dennis) and Richard Williams (Mary). Grandmother of Melinda Marciniak Spada (Tom), Robert Marciniak and Katie Williams (R.J.). Memorial service was held at Christ Church Cranbrook on February 5th. Memorial tributes to Christ Church Cranbrook Artworks Fund, 470 Church Rd., Bloomfield Hills, MI 48303 or Episcopal Relief and Development, c/o Haiti Relief Fund, P.O. Box 7058, Merrifield, VA 22116.

A.J. Desmond & Sons, 248-549-0500. View obituary and share memories at: www.DesmondFuneralHome.com

AJ DESMOND SONS



LORETTA M. DAIEK

February 12, 2010, age 85, of Troy. Beloved wife of the late Joseph S. for 59 years. Dear mother of Lynn Byrd (Gerry), Thomas (Christine), John (Cindy), Karl (Deborah), Joseph, William (Donna), David (Jennifer), Patricia Wagner (Robert), and Amy Patton (David). Loving grandmother of 26, and great-grandmother of 6. Sister of Yvonne Woodley. Services have been held. A.J. Desmond & Sons Funeral Home, 248-362-2500. Memorial Tributes to Orchard Lake Schools, St. Hugo of the Hills Church, or charity of donor's choice. View obituary and share memories at www.DesmondFuneralHome.com

W DESMOND SONS

WILLIAM EVERETT MINDER JR.

Age 53, passed away February 5, 2010 at St. Joseph's Mercy Hospital in Ann Arbor. He was preceded in death by his parents Helen and William Everett. Bill was a long standing member and past president of Garden City Rotary and a brother to the Vaclavek Family, formerly of Garden City. He will be fondly remembered by Richard, Jack, Grace, Gus, Alexandra, Kristina and Gerard as 'Uncle Bill' and sorely missed by Mary, his dear friend of 3 years. A memorial service will be held at Amantea's Restaurant on Warren Road east of Venoy on February 20, 2010 at 2:30pm. His remains will be interred at Parkview Memorial Cemetery in Livonia. Details available on request. Donations can be made in his memory to the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation.

tions may be made to the church. www.mccabefuneralhome.com



MARGARET WISELEY RANDALL

Peacefully February 18, 2010, age 82. Beloved wife of Bruce F. Randall for 60 years. Cherished mother of Dave (Marjorie), Barbara Koss (Jerry), and Jim (Patty). Devoted grandmother to John Randall (Jen), Leslie Bixenmann (Ben), Michael Koss, Kathryn Koss, Laura Randall and Kristin Randall. Great grandmother of Madaline Bixenmann. Sister of Martha Loy (David). Margaret was born on July 26, 1927, to the late Joe and Vera Wiseley, She was raised in Findlay, Ohio, and graduated from Denison University where she was a member of the Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority. She met her future husband while at Denison, married and moved to Birmingham, MI in 1949 where togeth-er they raised their family. Margaret enjoyed traveling with Bruce, volunteering at church, chocolates, and being great mother to her 3 children. Services were held Saturday at First Presbyterian Church of Birmingham. Interment Greenwood Cemetery. Memorial tributes to St. John Health Foundation, P.O. Box 673271, Detroit, MI 48267-3271. A.J. Desmond & Sons (248) 549-0500. View obituary and share memories at

www.DesmondFuneralHome.com a i Desmond - Sons



included at no. cost (example: American Flags, religious symbols, etc.) Deadlines: Friday 4:15 PM for Sunday Wednesday 9:45 AM for Thursday Obituaries received after these deadlines will be placed in the next available issue. 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

Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, February 21, 2010 (WGcReLCP)

NEIGHBORS

Plastic fast

Church members receive ashes, relinquish credit cards

1234 1234 1234

VALID FROM: NOW UNTIL EASTER

EXPIRES: 04/10

BY SHARON DARGAY **O&E STAFF WRITER**

The Rev. Steven Schafer, pastor of Mt. Hope Congregational Church in Livonia, expects to save a few dollars during Lent.

Noreen Panizzoli of Garden City, says she'll think twice before she makes a purchase.

And Lynn Rife, a Southfield resident, suspects she'll will live within her means.

They and a handful of other Mt. Hope members are "fasting" financially until Easter Sunday, April 4. After receiving ashes last Wednesday at a service marking the start of Lent, the period of penance and fasting that recalls Jesus' 40-day fast in the wilderness, a handful of congregants sealed their credit cards in envelopes and stashed them in the church safe.

"We had about 50 people at Ash Wednesday service. Five turned in cards. So, it was not an overwhelming response," said Schafer, who suggested

the idea in an article he wrote for the church bulletin a few weeks ago. "We've told them that this may not be for everyone and that is OK and that they may not even feel comfortable turning over their cards to the church safe. If they want they can keep them at home if they want to participate.'

They'll also have another chance to submit cards to the church safe at today's regular Sunday worship service.

Schafer said the idea for "plastic fast" came to him while listening to an interview on National Public Radio that challenged audience members to try buying only essentials for 30 days.

"I realized Lent was just around the corner and only 46. days – at bit longer than 30 days — but a natural time on the calendar for Christians, and credit cards would be a good sacrifice," he said. "The idea probably came from my own credit card bills. I always pay them off every month,

never have a service or late fee, but I've been surprised by the number of times those cards are used in the course of a month. The amount charged, for me, was not as significant as the number of times it was used — and the fact that we seldom realize how much we are spending because they are so convenient."

ONLY CASH

Panizzoli, church secretary, said she's going without debit cards, too.

"I'd just like to try using cash. I think I'll spend differently when I have to hand over my greenbacks," she said.

Rife, a nurse midwife at Henry Ford Hospital, West Bloomfield, said she initially thought giving up credit cards for Lent was a good idea, although not for her.

"But when I thought about it more, I thought I'd just do it from home."

At the Ash Wednesday service, however, she took emergencies."

"One of them was a Kohl's card. I'll feel the impact," she said, anticipating the card user discounts she'll miss on pre-Easter sales.

But Rife also said the sacrifice will make her think about potential purchases, challenge her to live within her means and pay down her credit card debt.

She also gave up vanilla-flavored chai for Lent and will

TRADITIONAL SACRIFICE

Giving up food and sweets is along the lines of a typical Lenten fast, Schafer said.

"The plastic fast helps us to look closely at what we spend our money on and how much, and what kind of priorities we have," he said. "We've become so addicted to credit cards that giving them up really does constitute a real sacrifice and personal reflection."

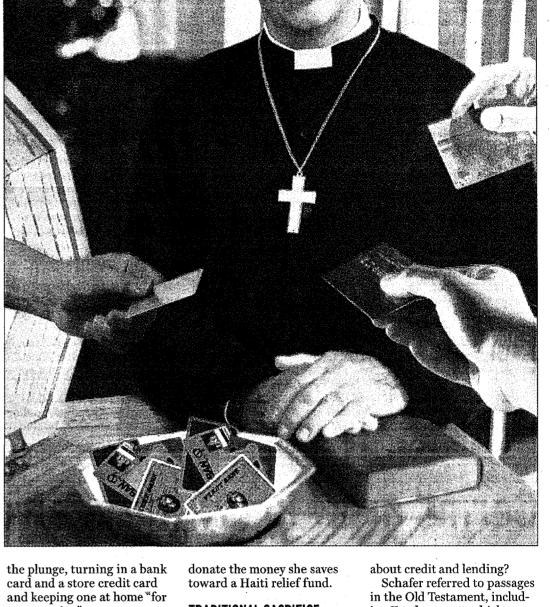
What does the Bible say

ing Exodus 22:25, which prohibits usury, and to Levitical laws commanding that loans be made to the poor without interest.

"For those in debt, the year of Jubilee, every 50th year, was important because debts were canceled. Psalm 112:5 suggests that those who lend freely and are generous will be blessed," he noted. "Probably doesn't apply to credit card companies.'

New Hudsons MI

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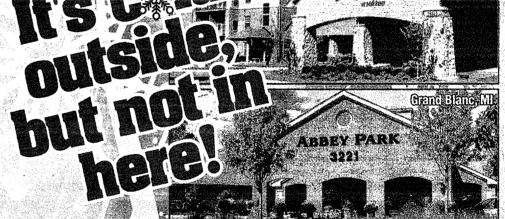
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IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

GET READY TO WALK

A "getting started" meeting for anyone interested in participating in the Susan G. Komen 3-Day for the Cure walk, will be held 6:30-8:30 p.m. Thursday, March 4, at New Balance, 37606 12 Mile, Farmington Hills and 10:30 a.m.-noon, Saturday, Feb. 27, in the Plymouth District Library, 223 S. Main, Plymouth.

Register at a meeting and you will receive your registration kit, including legacy pin. and milestone tracker, on the spot. If you are already registered, this meeting is for you, too. Organizers will talk about training and fund-raising, and answer questions. For more information call (800) 996-3Day.

MHS TELETHON

Michigan Humane Society's Valentine's Telethon, which aired on WXYZ-TV Channel 7, raised enough support to provide care for more than 2,700 animals in need. Although the thousands of homeless animals who arrive at the Michigan Humane Society each year need varying levels of care, on average it costs the organization \$120 to transform the life of one ani-



This 3-month-old Boxer mix was found wandering the streets, covered in bite marks and with a deep, painful wound on her stomach, injuries consistent with being used as a bait dog for dog-fighting. "Alice" underwent surgery at Michigan Humane Society (MHS) Berman Center for Animal Care in Westland, recovered in foster care and soon will be settling into her own home. She's among thousands of homeless animals who arrive at MHS every year.

mal in need.

"We are incredibly grateful for the support of the community, whose compassionate contributions allow the organization to continue its lifesaving work," stated Cal Morgan, MHS president and CEO.

The Michigan Humane Society runs shelters in Westland, Detroit and Rochester Hills. To make a donation in support of the MHS Valentine's

Telethon, visit www.michiganhumane.org or call (866) MHUMANE from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday-Friday.

SAVE THE DATE

Schoolcraft College's annual Spaghetti Dinner and Wine Glow starts with a 5:30 p.m. wine glow, followed by dinner at 6:30 p.m. and a brief program at 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, March 9 in the DiPonio Room of the VisTaTech Center on

the college's main campus, on Haggerty between Six and Seven Mile Roads, in Livonia.

The Spaghetti Dinner and Wine Glow is sponsored by Schoolcraft College Transition Center and Advisory Board. The Transition Center incorporates the services of the Women's Resource Center, Adult Student Services, Family Resources and Student Engagement Programs. Proceeds from the event benefit scholarships for students and the Transitions Center at Schoolcraft College.

Tickets, sponsorships and advertising space in the program are available. Tickets are \$30; sponsorships for \$75 include two dinner tickets and listing in the program. Advertisements are available in varying sizes and cost \$20-\$100. For more information call (734) 462-4443.

PENNY WARS

Seventh- and eighth-graders at St. Matthew Lutheran School in Westland recently raised just under \$1,000 for the AAA Crisis Pregnancy Center in Livonia. The classes collected coins in baby bottles and "sabotaged" each other by placing silver coins and paper money in each other's bottles



Nick Garber (left) and Holly Sayger, both seventh-graders, count pennies.

during the on-going "penny war." Coins also were used in math lessons. In the end, the sixth grade won the competition.

HEART AND SOUL

Metropolitan Church and School in Plymouth offers heart healthy activities this spring, starting with a vegetarian dinner club, with meetings one Monday night a month. Participants will bring a vegetarian dish to pass, share nutrition ideas and discuss health topics. Call (734) 591-0018 for more information.

Other activities include: Cholesterol blood screening, 9 a.m., March 14.

 Plant-based diet seminar, 2:30 p.m., March 28

• Biblical perspectives on health, 2:30 p.m., April 25 • Health Camp 2010 at Camp Ausable, Grayling, May

9-16 • Ongoing strength, core,

and balance work in exercise classes; call (248) 446-9176 For screening, seminar,

Biblical perspectives and camp information or registration, call (248) 349-5683.

The church and school are located at 15585 N. Haggerty.

Germs grow in refrigerator drain pan

Anne writes: "I started reading your column after becoming a first-time homeowner a couple of years ago and it quickly became the

item I looked for first in my Observer. I now clean my washer seal and dryer exhaust line regularly, would never consider a Doctor front-loading washing Joe Gagnon machine, and conserve my

well-functioning older appliances so that I don't have to take my chances with new ones.

"There's something more personal that makes me grateful for this column.

make your little dog even more enjoyable. I'm sorry to say that when you have to purchase a new refrigerator you may not be able to clean the defrost drain pan underneath the newer model. Most of the drain pans are not removable today and if I had my way, I would put a stop on all refrigerator production until they went back to the old system. Up until five or six years

ago the homeowner could reach under the refrigerator after removing the bottom kick plate and take out the plastic drain pan, wash it with hot water and detergent, sprinkle a little peroxide in it and replace it in a matter of minutes.

A doctor in Garden City told me in 1993 of the health problems associated with

underneath and can't be removed by the typical homeowner. If the good doctor were still alive today I know he would do a house call with me to verify the facts he once professed.

KITCHEN SMELLS

I remember the days when I would walk into a consumer's house and I knew exactly what the odor was in that person's kitchen. I would take out the drain pan, and before I would clean it I made sure that the customer had a good look at it. I would actually scare them into cleaning it a few times a year. Many times a few days later that person would call me to inform me that the kitchen smells so much better after the drain pan was cleaned.

Let me explain the defrost system so you can better understand the necessity for a drain pan. The refrigerator goes into defrost two or three in a 24-hour period. A heater comes on and melts the snow accumulated on the evaporator coil inside the freezer. The melted snow runs down a tube underneath the refrigerator and into the drain pan. Along the way it may pick up any food particle or food spillage and puts it right

into the drain pan.

Under every refrigerator we have a very warm dirty condition and bacteria will multiply very quickly. In most cases we have a fan motor that is blowing air across the drain pan right into the air into the kitchen. Your furnace motor will take care of blowing that serious health hazard throughout the rest of your house. Is this as serious a problem as I make it out to be? Medical fact and my own common sense tell you it is.

In days gone by the instruction book with your refrigerator told you to remove and clean the drain pan. I wonder how many millions of people have suffered sickness or even death from a dirty drain pan. Why do refrigerator manufacturers care so little for the health of their customers? If a clean drain pan can turn the tide for a little dog's health, it should be able to do the trick for humans. Stay tuned.

Gilda's Club teams with Botsford Center on cancer support

Gilda's Club Metro Detroit and Botsford Cancer Center have partnered to provide free emotional and social support to people touched by cancer.

Beginning March 2, Gilda's Club will be offering new support programs at the center every Tuesday night.

Groups offered include: • Life After Treatment Group - a bi-weekly support group for adult cancer survivors who are finished with treatment. Held the first and third luesdays 5:30-7:30 p.m. Breast Cancer Networking Group - a biweekly support group for adults touched by breast cancer. Held the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month. 5:30-7:30 p.m. • Wellness Group - a weekly support group for adult men and women living with any type of cancer. There is no charge to attend these program activities.

5:30-7:30 p.m.

• Yoga Workshop - a weekly yoga class. Anyone is welcome. The facilitator can modify the movements for varying physical capabilities. 4:30-5:30 p.m.

There is no charge to attend these program activities. Participants do not have to be a patient at Botsford Hospital to attend any of the groups. For more information about Gilda's Club support programs at Botsford contact Gilda's Club at (248) 577-0800 or **Botsford Cancer Center** Information at (248) 442-0482. **Botsford Cancer Center is** located 27900 Grand River Ave. in Farmington Hills.

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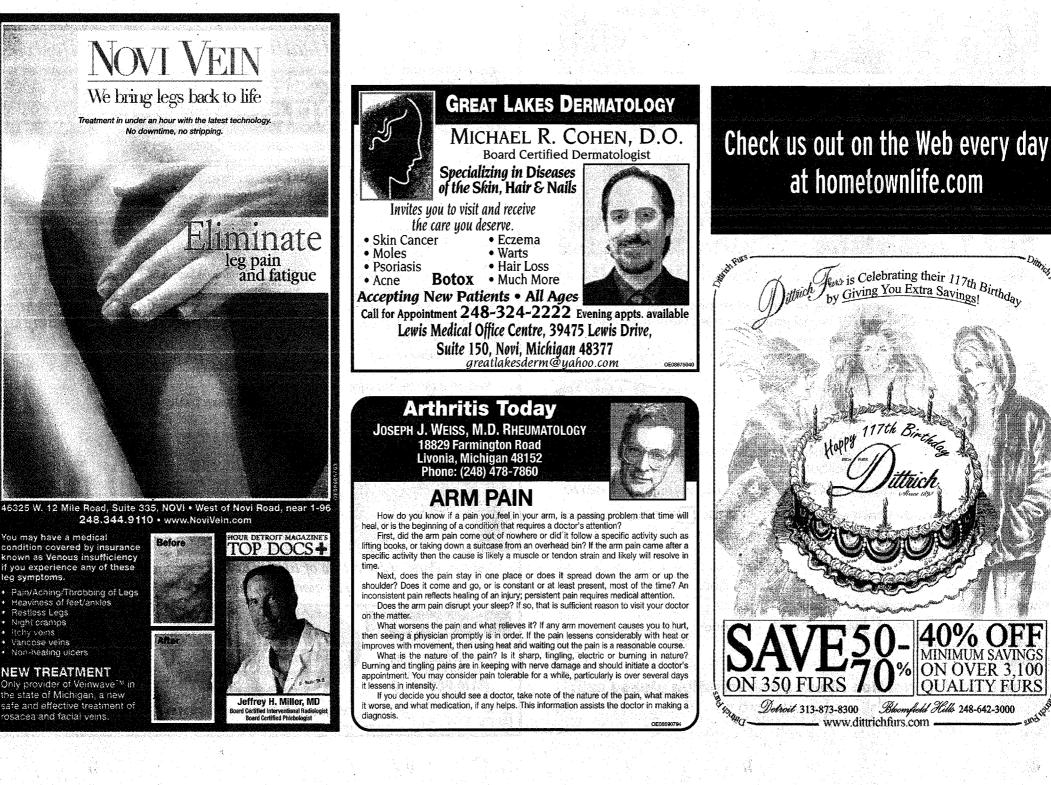


Ever since she was a puppy, my Shih Tzu had terrible asthma attacks, especially in the mornings. One day the Observer ran your piece about the importance of cleaning your refrigerator pan, which I did. My dog hasn't had an asthma attack since. We both appreciate your advice very much."

Thank you Anne for the kind words and I'm pleased that the advice has helped

the refrigerator drain pan. 1 quote, "The drain pan is the worst place in the kitchen as far as bacteria is concerned. It is a hot house and a definite health hazard." The doctor was good enough to check out a drain pan I had removed from a used refrigerator and if I wanted to do the same thing today I would have to bring him the whole refrigerator. Most of these drain pans are welded

Joe Gagnon can be heard at 8 a.m., Saturdays on WAAM 1600 and Sundays at 2 p.m. on WDTK 1400. You can e-mail your problems and questions on appliances to appldr@twmi.rr.com



GET OUT

(CP)

ART

Costick Center

Time/Date: Through Feb. 26 Location: 28600 W. 11 Mile, in **Farmington Hills** Details: "Metallics: Photography by Janna Bissett" Contact: (248) 473-1856

Lotus Arts Gallery

Location: 995 West Ann Arbor Trail, downtown Plymouth Details: Yuroz is the artist of the month Contact: (888) 889-4ART (toll free)

or (734)453-5400

Northville Art House Time/Date: Through Feb. 26; Location: 215 W. Cady, Northville Details: 4th annual exhibition

showcasing the varied styles and mediums of more than 50 artist members

Contact: (248) 344-0497 or visit www.northvillearts.org

COMEDY

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

gocomedy.net

JD's House of Comedy

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

Joey's Comedy Club of Livonia

Time/Date: 8 p.m. Mondays, Open Mic; 8 p.m. Tuesdays, Local Legends; 8 p.m. shows Wednesdays, Thursdays; 8 p.m. & 10:30 p.m. Fridays, Saturdays Location: 36071 Plymouth Road, Livonia

Details: Ty Barnett, Feb. 25-27, Ruben Paul, March 3-6; Sheila Kay, March 10-13; Jay Black, March 17-20;



Blackthorn polays a fund-raiser for the American Cancer Society Action Network today, at The Ark in Ann Arbor.

Myg Kaplan, March 24-27 Contact: (734) 261-0555, www.kickerscomplex.com

Mark Ridley's Comedy Castle

Time/Date: Denver native Phil Palisoul, Feb. 25-27; Gary Valentine, a series regular on "The King of Queens," March 4-6; Brooklyn native Brian Soolaro, March 11-13; Bret Ernst, who appeared in the movie "Beer League," and hosted MTVs "Wrestling Society X," March 18-20

Location: 269 E. Fourth, Royal Oak Contact: (248) 542-9900, www. comedycastle.com

CONCERTS The Ark

Time/Date: Blackthorn, Feb. 21 - a fund-raiser for the American Cancer Society Action Network, Feb. 21, Catie Curtis, (folk-rock) March 3; Monte Montgomery, (acoustic guitar) March 4; Howie Day, (rockinfluenced) March 5; Po' Girl, (Canadian 21st Century roots music) March 6; Richard Shindell, (folk, storytelling songs) March 7; Scythian, (Celtic) March 8; Horse Feathers, (Western) March 10; Caravan of Thieves, (gypsy jazz) March 11; Joe Henry, (mixed genre) March 12; Justin Roberts & The Not Ready for Naptime Players, (rock music for kids) March 13; The Band of Heathens (country and Americana) March 13; Lehto & Wright (folk rock) March 14 Location: 316 South Main, Ann

Arbor

Contact: (734) 763-8587; www. theark.org

Bluefish Music Time/Date: 8 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 25

Location: 744 Starkweather St., Plymouth

Details: Bobby Pennock and guitar player Terry Birkett perform songs from the CD "10,000 Stories" as well as some new songs from two upcoming CDs. The show is free Contact: (734) 927-0675 **Detroit Institute of Arts** Time/Date: Friday Night Live concerts, 7 and 8:30 p.m. Location: 5200 Woodward Ave Contact: (313) 833-7900, www.dia. ora

Hill Auditorium

Time/Date: Swedish Radio Choir. 4 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 21, \$10-\$50 tickets; Location: 825 N. University Avenue,

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH

To all residents and other interested parties: Agenda's and Minutes for the Charter Township of Plymouth Board of Trustees Meetings are available for review under the Reference Desk Page of the Township Website: www.plymouthtwp.org. They are also posted in the Clerk's Office at Plymouth Township Hall, 9955 N Haggerty Road Plymouth, Michigan for public perusal.

Meeting dates: January 19, February 23, March 9 & 23, April 20, May 11 & 25, June 22

The public is invited and encouraged to attend the Board of Trustees Meetings.

Township Clerk

Servina th

Publish: Jan. 24, Feb. 21, Mar. 7, Apr. 18, May 19, 23 & June 20, 2010 0E08687742 2x25

Ann Árbor Details: University Musical Society

events Contact: (734) 764-2538 JWH Center for the Arts

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

Magic Bag

Time/Dates: PBM & Jamie McCarthy, Feb. 26; The Mega 80's, Feb. 27; 40oz. To Freedom, March 2; Reverend Peyton's Big Damn Band, March 4; Laith Al Saadi & Back Forty, March 5

Location: 22920 Woodward, Ferndale Contact: (248) 544-3030, www.

themagicbag.com

Max M. Fisher Music Center Time/Date: 3 p.m., Feb. 21 Details: The Detroit Symphony Orchestra and Ontario-based rock group, Jeans 'N Classics, play the music of the Beach Boys; tickets range from \$19 to \$123

His Band, 8 p.m., Feb. 26, tickets \$12, \$9 for subscribers; Blue Water Ramblers, 8 p.m., Feb. 27, tickets \$12, \$9 for subscribers; Stacey Earle and Marek Stuart, 8 p.m., March 5,

tickets \$15, \$12 for subscribers; Rachele Eve with Ben Salazar, 8 p.m., March 6, tickets \$12, \$9 for subscribers; Michael McDermott with John D. Lamb, 8 p.m., March 12, tickets \$15, \$12 for subscribers; Jill Jack with Luke Brindley, 8 p.m. March 13, tickets \$15, \$12 for members: Brooks Williams and Beaucoup Blue, 8 p.m. March 19, tickets \$15, \$12 for subscribers: Annie and Rod Capps, 8 p.m., March 20, tickets \$15, \$12 for subscribers; Gemini, 8 p.m., March 27, tickets \$15, \$12 for subscribers Location: 38840 West Six Mile,

Livonia Contact: (734) 464-6302, www.

FAMILY

trinityhouse.org

Bakers Keyboard Lounge Time/Dates: 2-5 p.m. Sundays

Details: Jazz for Kids Program Location: 20510 Livernois Ave., Detroit

Contact: (313) 345-6300, www. bakerskeyboardlounge.com

Detroit Institute of Arts

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

Marguis Theatre

Time/Dates: 2:30 p.m. all shows; Saturday, March 13, 20, 27, April 10, 17, 24 and May 1; Monday-Friday, April 5-9; and Sunday, March 14, 21, 28, April 11, 18, 25 and May 2 Location: 135 E. Main, Northville Details: "Peter Cottontail," tickets, \$8.50, ages 3 and up Contact: (248) 349-8110, www. northvillemarquistheatre.com

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS **MEETING NOTICE CITY OF PLYMOUTH, MICHIGAN** (734) 453-1234

A regular meeting of the Zoning Board of Appeals will be held on Thursday, March 4, 2010 at 7:00 P.M. in the Commission Chambers of the City Hall, 201 S. Main Street, Plymouth, MI, to consider the following:

> Non-Use Variance Requested 718 Burroughs Fence Variance Zoned: R-1, Family Single Residential Applicant: Kelly O'Donnell

Z 10-03 1490 W. Ann Arbor Rd Use Variance Requested

Temporary Use Sales Zoned: ARC, Ann Arbor Road Corridor Applicant: Jerry Mijal

All interested persons are invited to attend.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City of Plymouth will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audiotapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting/hearing, to individuals with disabilities. Requests for auxiliary aids or services may be made by writing or calling the following:

> Maureen Brodie, ADA Coordinator 201 S. Main Street Plymouth, MI 48170, (734) 453-1234, Ext. 206

> > We cater Funera

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Joe Bridgman, CMC Publish: February 21, 2010

Z 10-02

Location: 3711 Woodward Ave. Detroit Contact: (313) 576-5111 Trinity House Theater Time/Date: Mike Mangione and



RELIGION CALENDAR

Religion calendar items appear on Thursdays on a space available basis. To submit an item, e-mail sdargay@hometownlife.com or write: Religion Calendar, Observer Newspapers, 615 W. Lafayette-2nd Level, Detroit, MI 48226, Attn: Sharon Dargay. Item must include the venue address and phone number and any admission costs for events. Items must be submitted at least a week in advance of publication. Feel free to send a related photo in ipg form. For a complete listing online, go to hometownlife.com.

FEB. 21-24

Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church Time/Date: 5:30 p.m. meal and Bible study; worship service at 7:30 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 24 Location: 14175 Farmington Road, north of I-96, in Livonia Details: The Lutheran Choraliers will sing

at the Lenten midweek service: a free will offering will be accepted for the meal Contact: (734) 522-6830 St. John's Episcopal Church

Time/Date: 4:30 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 21 Location: 574 S. Sheldon, Plymouth Details: A cappella choral groups, "BackBeat" and "TrebleMakers" from Northville High School, will perform; admission is a free will offering Contact: (734) 453-0190, Ext. 16, or www. stjohnsplymouth.org **Council of Orthodox Christian**

Churches of Metropolitan Detroit Time/Date: 6 p.m., Feb. 21

Location: Antiochian Orthodox Basilica of St. Mary, 18100 Merriman, Livonia Details: This is the first of five Sunday Lenten Vespers. The Very Rev. Roman Star of St. Innocent of Irkutsk Orthodox Church, Redford, president of the Orthodox Clergy Brotherhood of St. John Chrysostom of Metropolitan Detroit and spiritual advisor to the COCC, will preside at the service, assisted by other members of the Clergy Brotherhood. The Very Rev. Archimandrite Joseph (Morris), abbot of St. Gregory Palamas Greek Orthodox Monastery, Hayesville, Ohio, will be the homilist. An inter-Orthodox choir under the direction of Victoria Kopistiansky, choir director at Holy Trinity Orthodox Church, Detroit, will sing during the service. Refreshments will be served after the service

Contact: Robert Mitchell. at (313) 204-5103 or e-mail to rmitc02@ameritech.net St. Theodore Catholic Church Time/Date: 8:30 a.m.-noon, Sunday, Feb. 21

Location: St. Theodore Social Hall, 8200 N. Wayne Road, Westland

Details: All you can eat pancake and French toast breakfast: \$3 for adults and \$1.50 for children, ages 2-10. Menu includes pancakes, French toast, ham, sausage, scrambled eggs, applesauce, tea, coffee, milk and juice. Sponsored by St. Theodore Men's Club. Contact: (734) 425-4421

FEB. 25-MARCH 3 **Congregation Beth Ahm**

Time/Date: 7 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 27, full, dramatic Megillah reading and costume parade for all ages; Hamentashen Hoe Down & Square Dance for adults, featuring cocktails and hors d'ouevres at 8 p.m. followed by square dancing at 8:30 p.m., Feb. 27; 9 a.m., Sunday, Feb. 28 second full dramatic Megillah reading featuring Prof. Howard Lupovitch; 11 a.m. to noon, Sunday, Feb. 28, family-friendly Megillah reading and costume parade; and noon to 3 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 28, Purim Carnival featuring music by Joe Cornell, food, games, and a 50/50 raffle Location: 5075 W. Maple, West Bloomfield

Details: Hoe Down & Square Dance is a fund-raiser for Beth Ahm. Cost is \$36 per person and reservations are requested by Feb. 24. A light breakfast will follow minyan on Sunday. No charge, and no reservations are needed for the breakfast, costume parades and carnival. Contact: (248) 851-8820 or e-mail relschool@cbahm.org

Faith Community Church

Time/Date: 7-10 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 27 Location: 14560 Merriman, Livonia Details: Anger resolution seminar offers help, based on scripture, to turn conflicts into blessings and anger into love; cost is \$35 and includes workbook Contact: (313) 541-0396

Newburg United Methodist Church Time/Date: Orders taken for Cornish Pasties, 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., March 1-2. Call in orders only. Any orders left on the answering machine, faxed or e-mailed will be ignored. Pick up is 1-6

p.m., March 11 and noon to 5 p.m., March 12

Location: 36500 Ann Arbor Trail. Livonia Details: Cost is \$4. Contact: (734) 422-0149 St. Michael the Archangel

Time/Date: 7 p.m., Sunday-Tuesday, Feb. 28-March 2

Location: 11441 Hubbard, just south of Plymouth Road, between Farmington and Merriman Roads in Livonia Details: Catholic author, theologian. and founder of Renewal Ministries, Ralph Martin, LTS, will be the featured speaker at a three-evening Lenten mission. He'll speak about preparing for Christ's Resurrection through a purposeful Lenten season Contact: (734) 261-1455

St. Timothy Presbyterian Church

Time/Date: 7 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 27 Location: 16700 Newburgh, Livonia Details: Do all paths lead to God? Do all good people ultimately go to Heaven? Bob Dutko, WMUZ radio host will answer such questions during a special hourlong talk followed by a question & answer period. Suggested donation of \$10 per person Tickets are limited Contact: Reserve a place by calling (734) 464-8844 or visit sttimothypcusa. org

Trinity Church

Time/Date: Reserve a pick-up time for the food pantry by calling from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday-Wednesday, Feb. 22-24 Location: 10101 Ann Arbor Road, located on the north side of the street, Plymouth

Details: Food Pantry pick up day is Saturday, Feb. 28 Contact: (734) 459-9557

MARCH 4-10

Antioch Preschool

Time/Date: 2-4 p.m., Sunday, March 7 Location: Corner of 13 Mile and Farmington Road, Farmington Hills Details: Open house Contact: Sharon Detter at (248) 626-7906, Ext. 28, or e-mail to antiochpreschool@sbcglobal.net **Congregation Beth Ahm** Time/Date: March 5-6 Location: 5075 W. Maple, West. Bloomfield

Details: Bet Midrash will be led by two quest scholars-in-residence. Rabbi Elie Kaunfer and Rabbi Ethan Tucker, from Mechon Hadar in New York City, N.Y. and is made possible by the congregation's Menasche and Sara Haar Fund. Advance reservations are required for Friday night dinner and Shabbat lunch. The cost is \$36 for adults and \$15 for kids age 4-10 (includes meals). High-school and college students and professional Jewish educators may attend for \$18. A special family rate is available for parents and children attending the Bet Midrash together (\$100 or basic registration, whichever is less). Complimentary child care for babies and toddlers as well as Shabbat Club (supervised activities for children in grades K through 5) available throughout the morning and afternoon on March 6 at no charge. Reservations are required for afternoon child care and

Shabbat Club. Meal reservations due by March 2 Contact: Nancy Kaplan (248) 737-1931 or e-mail nancvellen879@att.net

Faith Community Church

Time/Date: 6 p.m., Sundays, beginning March 7

Location: 14560 Merriman, Livonia Details: GriefShare is a special seminar and support group for people grieving the loss of someone close. GriefShare is a non-denominational group and features biblical teachings on grief and recovery topics. There is a \$15 fee to cover the cost of the workbook/journal. Contact: (313) 682-7491

Rosedale Gardens Presbyterian Church

Time/Date: 6-7 p.m., March 7, 14, 21, 28 and April 11, 18, 25

Location: 9601 Hubbard, Livonia Details: Ballroom dancing lessons, followed by a practice session, with music, A dance party will be held 7-9:30 p.m., March 28 and April 25. Light refreshments will be served. Cost is \$6 for each lesson and \$6 for the dance. Attend the class and dance for \$10. Pay at the door in Fellowship Hall. The proceeds from the March classes will go to the Cancer Relay for Life; April's proceeds will go to the Capital Improvement Fund. Contact: (734) 751-1957 or (734) 422-0494

REUNION CALENDAR

The Reunion Calendar runs Sundays in the paper as space allows, and online in its entirety at www.hometownlife.com. Submit your announcement at least two weeks in advance to Sharon Dargay at sdargay@hometownlife.com.

Dearborn Heights Haston High - Class of 1965

45-year reunion, 6 p.m. to 1 a.m. July 24; Contact Pat Beadle-Kopczyk, 3334 Kneeland Circle, Howell, MI 48843, at (517) 552-1182 or e-mail to her at patkopczyk@aol.com.

Detroit Cooley High School - Class of 1960

50th Reunion May 1 at Crown Plaza-Metro Airport. Call (248) 625-4598 or (734) 464-1692 for more information.

Detroit Mackenzie - Class of 1962

Planning class reunion in 2012. Seeking classmates and contact information. Mail the committee at mackenzie1962@gmail.com. Detroit Pershing - Class of 1960

50th reunion festivities in September will be held at the Doubletree Guest Suites Fort Shelby in downtown Detroit. For more information call Sherry Forbush (Sharon Bailey) at (248) 994-0664 or Joan Harrington (Mazev) at (734) 595-7508.

Farmington High School - Class of 1970

Planning reunion in 2010, Seeking classmates, Join the group on

Facebook by searching Farmington High School Class of 1970 Reunion.

Or e-mail Carla Campbell Lehn at dblehn@aol.com.

Garden City High School - Class of 1960

Mini-reunion luncheons held the second Saturday of every month at 1 p.m. in the banquet room in the Plymouth Denny's on Ann Arbor Road, east of I-275. Call Gary Simon at (734) 751-4101 or send e-mail to GCHS. MCMLX@vahoo.com.

Garden City West - Class of 1970

40th reunion on Saturday, Oct. 9 at Hawthorne Valley Country Club in Westland. Dinner and DJ included for \$50 per person. Classmates from the classes of 1968-1972 also invited to attend. For more information, call Larry Conn at (734) 788-5254.

Oak Park High School - Class of 1980

30th reunion, July 2-4: for information e-mail to ophighschool1980@ vahoo.com

Redford Union - Class of 1960

50-year reunion, 5:30 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 14. For more information contact Mike and Carol (Gerogeff) Pontius (248) 446-9948 or e-mail to mikecarol91500@att.net. Or call Tena (Fear) Keith at (248) 437-6827.

Warren Fitzgerald - Class of 1974

35-year reunion, 6 a.m.-midnight, March 20, at Crank's Enchantment Banquet Center, 46915 Hayes, at 21 Mile, in Shelby Township. Tickets are \$30. Call Louise DeLuca at (248) 496-8916 or Lisa Zientek, (586) 291-7998

West Bloomfield High School - Class of 1980

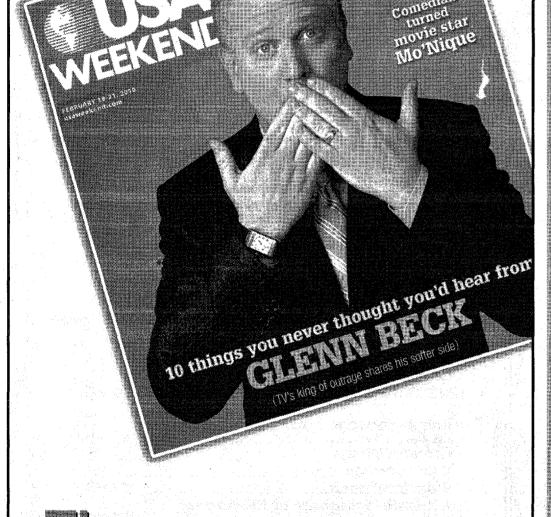
Planning for a 30th reunion is underway. The main event will be held July 17 at Hotel Baronette in Novi. More events are being planned for the same weekend. For more information e-mail the reunion cochairs, Lori (Hess) Conklin at Iconklin@conklinsystems.com or Jill (Butts) Beaulac at jibeau@cox.net. A Facebook group for the WBHS Class of 1980 has also been formed and can be found at http://www. facebook.com/group.php?gid=48471044685&ref=ts (search Facebook West Bloomfield High School Class of 1980). The Reunion Committee is publishing monthly newsletters to help classmates reconnect, share memories, and locate missing classmates. Those not registered who would like to receive a copy of the newsletter should contact Lori (Hess) Conklin at Iconklin@conklinsystems.com.

Westland John Glenn - Class of 1985

Planning 25th Reunion for 2010. Seeking classmates. Join the event on Facebook by searching "John Glenn Class of 1985 25 Year Reunion" or join the group "John Glenn High School Class of 1985 and other years - Westland Michigan." Or e-mail Tracy Dunsmore at tracy1420@wideopenwest.com.



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The **Inside Story** TV's king of outrage **Glenn Beck**

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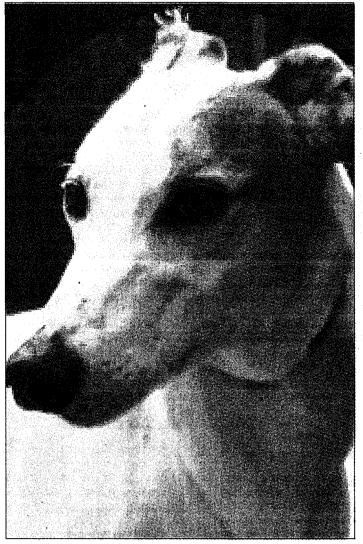
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NEIGHBORS

Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, February 21, 2010



Lucky, 6, loves to romp and cuddle.

ADOPTABLE GREYHOUND

Lucky is the featured dog from Greyheart Greyhound **Rescue and Adoption this** week. He's one of six new arrivals from a Florida race track.

"These dogs came in thin and in much need of some TLC which their foster families lavish on them," says Jackie Bowen, public relations coordinator for the group.

At his foster home, Lucky likes to romp in the snow and then settle down to a nice, fluffy bed. He's age 6, loves to cuddle and is an easy going dog.

To meet Lucky, call Greyheart Greyhound Rescue and Adoption at (866) 438-4739. Check out the group's Web site at www.greyheart.org.

Adoptable greyhounds will be on hand at three Hiller's Markets today, Sunday, Feb. 21. Meet them from noon to 3 p.m., at 3010 Union Lake Road, Commerce; from noon to 2 p.m., at 15455 Haggerty, at Five Mile, Plymouth; and from noon to 3 p.m., at 425 North Center St., Northville.

Hillers is donating all profits from the sale of its Greytful Meat Lasagna, available in its prepared foods department, to Greyheart this month.

Two new monthly publications are coming to your Observer and **Hometown Newspapers**

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Hometown Life Woman contains stories on education, careers, food, parenting, health & fitness, fashion, beauty, books, pets, technology and more.



GARDEN & NATURE

Visit hometownlife.com to view the Garden Calendar in its entirety.

At English Gardens

Learn about fresh flower arranging at 1 p.m., Feb. 27.

A Make It & Take It Workshop: Spring Bouquet will be held at 2:30 p.m., Feb. 27. It costs \$19.99 and will include everything participants need to design a fresh flower arrangement to take home. Area stores are at 155 N. Maple, Ann Arbor,

(734) 332-7900; 22650 Ford Road in Dearborn Heights, (313) 278-4433; and 6370 Orchard Lake Road, in West Bloomfield; (248) 851-7506. For information, log onto www.EnglishGardens.com.

Cactus & Succulent Society

More than 100 colorful cacti in flower will be shown in a free slide program by the Michigan Cactus & Succulent Society, 1 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 21, at Goldner-Walsh Nursery, 559 Orchard Lake Road, Pontiac. Contact (248) 790-9089 or e-mail to CuzenLouie37@yahoo.com.

Livonia Garden Club

Margo McCormack, member and Advanced Master Gardener, will describe how to prepare lawns and prune shrubs this spring for summer-long beauty at the club's next meeting, 7 p.m., Tuesday, March 2, at the Livonia Senior Center, Five Mile and Farmington Road.



hometown life

Hometown Life Inspire includes features on DIY projects, gardening, regional entertainment, food and wine, fitness, travel and more.

Look for Hometown Life Woman on March 4, 2010 and Hometown Life Inspire on March 18, 2010

Both sections will publish in the Farmington Observer, Livonia Observer, Canton Observer, Plymouth Observer, Garden City Observer, Westland Observer, Milford Times, Northville Record, Novi News and South Lyon Herald.

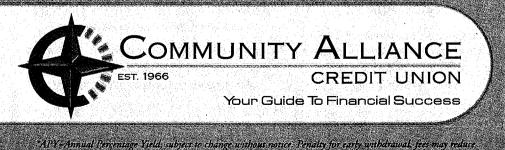
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Smokers likely to see HPV-positive head, neck cancer return

cer, which is cancer of the tonsils or

the base of the tongue. Most of these

HPV being a major factor in oropha-

ryngeal cancer development. All 22

of the HPV-negative patients were

of the 102 HPV-positive patients

were current or former tobacco

tobacco users, and about two-thirds

Of the HPV-positive patients who

had never used tobacco, 6 percent

had a recurrence of their cancer.

Meanwhile, 19 percent of former

tobacco users and 35 percent of cur-

rent tobacco users had a recurrence.

Still, the outcomes were better than

the HPV-negative patients, all of

whom were smokers, and among

whom half recurred.

patients had HPV DNA in their

tumors, which is consistent with

Patients with head and neck cancer linked to high risk human papillomavirus, or HPV, have worse outcomes if they are current or former tobacco users, according to a new study from researchers at the University of Michigan Comprehensive Cancer Center.

B8

High-risk HPVs are the same viruses that are associated with cancers of the uterine cervix.

The research suggests that current or former tobacco users may need a more aggressive treatment regimen than patients who have never used tobacco.

Past research shows that HPVpositive head and neck cancers tend to be more responsive to current treatments and these patients overall tend to have better outcomes

FEBRUARY

St. Mary Mercy Hospital

Cardiologist Roy Misirliyan will

to women and include symptoms,

at "Ladies Night Out," Wednesday,

Feb. 24, in the auditorium at the

hospital. Bone density screening,

blood pressure screening and mas-

sage will be offered from 5:30-7 p.m.

Registration is required. There is no

charge, but a \$5 goodwill donation is

requested to benefit Marian Women's

Center Programs. Call the Marian

Women's Center at (734) 655-1182 to

register, or register online at stmary-

mercy.org and click on "classes and

The hospital is located at 36475 Five

Prostate Screening and Men's Health

Fair, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., Saturday, March

6, will include a prostate exam by a

physician, blood test for prostate-

specific antigen, cholesterol check,

blood pressure screening, skin can-

cer check and information related to

healthy living. These screenings are

free, but registration is required. Call

Hydrocephalus Association

Dr. Steven Ham. Chief of Pediatric

Neurosurgery at Children's Hospital

of Michigan is the quest speaker at

a support group meeting, 6:20-8:30

events."

Mile, Livonia.

MARCH

St. Mary Mercy

(734) 655-8940.

discuss heart health issues specific

diagnosis, treatment and prevention,

than patients with HPV-negative tumors. However, the new study found that current tobacco users with HPV-positive tumors were five times more likely to have their cancer recur. Even former smokers had an increased risk of recurrence.

"Because the effect of HPV is so strong in giving a very good prognostic picture, we were surprised to find that smoking remained a huge issue, and it actually affected the outcome in patients who smoked." said senior study author Thomas Carey, professor of otolaryngology and pharmacology, and co-director of the Head and Neck Oncology Program at the U-M Comprehensive Cancer Center.

The study looked at 124 patients with advanced oropharyngeal can-

p.m., Friday, March 19, at Orchard Hills Baptist Church, 23455 Novi Road, Novi. RSVP to Jennifer Bechard by Friday March 12 at (734) 890-2665 or e-mail to p-jenniferb@hydroassoc. org

Teens and drugs

St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Education Center, 5305 Elliott Drive, Ypsilanti, offers a two-part program, "Teens Using Drugs: What To Know and What To Do," 7:30-9 p.m., March 2 and 9. The first session will provide information on understanding and recognizing teen substance abuse problems. The second session will provide information on what should and should not be done when a teen substance abuse problem is suspected or identified. It will include a recovering teen speaker. The programs are free and open to the public. Free literature about alcohol/ other drugs and teens is provided. (734) 973-7892, e-mail teensusingdruas@amail.com or visit http://www. teensusingdrugs.org.

ONGOING Fitness classes

Exercise classes for men and women continue through April at the Metropolitan Seventh-Day Adventist School, 15585 Haggerty, north of Five Mile. Jeanie Weaver is a certified personal fitness trainer with 30 years of teaching/training experience. The sessions infuse Pilates, functional strength training, balance work, flexibility and motivational techniques in a 90-day fitness plan. Call (248)

446-9176 or (313) 300-0957. E-mail ieanieweaver@charter.net.

users.

Overeaters Anonymous

Meet 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 at the Marion Professional Building at St. Mary's Hospital, 14555 Levan at Five Mile, Livonia, in Classroom 1. Call (313) 387-9797. Anyone who wants to stop eating compulsively is welcome. For more Greater Detroit Overeaters Anonymous information call (248) 559-7722 or visit www.oa.org.

Breast cancer support group

Meets 6:30-8 p.m. on the second Tuesday of the month in the Atrium of Our Lady of Hope Cancer Center, St. Marv Mercy Hospital, 36475 Five Mile (use south entrance off Levan Road), Livonia. Call (734) 655-1100, or visit www.stmarymercy.org.

Caregivers support group

St. John's Support Group for the **Caregivers of Alzheimer's Patients** or patients with other forms of dementia meet the first and third Friday of each month at 10 a.m. at St. John's Episcopal Church, 574 South Sheldon, Plymouth. Respite care for your loved one will be provided. Call Connie McNutt at (734) 895-1426 for information. Authorized by the Alzheimer's Association.

Metro Fibromyalgia

Meets the second and fourth Thursday of the month at 2055 Merriman, Garden City. For more infor-

REDUCING TREATMENT

Tobacco users have traditionally been more likely than non-users to develop head and neck cancers. But a recent rise in these cancers linked to HPV has meant more non-smokers are being diagnosed with the disease. HPV-positive head and neck cancers tend to be more responsive to chemotherapy and radiation treatments, which has made researchers wonder if these highly toxic treatments could be reduced in this group of patients.

"The side effects of these treatments affect critical functions such as eating and swallowing. Since the HPV-positive tumors respond so well to treatment, our research team has been asking, could we potentially spare patients some of these side effects while maintaining good out-

comes if we reduce the doses given? If we decide to reduce intensity of treatment, our study shows we will want to take tobacco use into account. Any smoking or tobacco use increases the risk of recurrence or a second primary cancer," Carey said.

Researchers from U-M's multidisciplinary head and neck oncology program are planning a clinical trial to look at reducing treatment intensity for low-risk patients — those whose tumors express certain markers, including HPV, and who are not tobacco users. The trial is expected to begin this spring.

According to the American Cancer Society, 35,720 Americans will be diagnosed with head and neck cancers this year and 7,600 will die from the disease.

org/hvsh/calendar or call (248)

Arthritis support group

2-3:30 p.m. the third Thursday of the month at the Krieger Center, DMC Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital, 1 William Carls Dr., Commerce. Enter the building via the South Garden entrance. Registration not required.

Tai Chi classes

At 165 E. Square Lake, Bloomfield Hills (7 p.m. Monday and Wednesday), and 38121 Ann Arbor Road (11 a.m. Wednesday, and 7 p.m. Monday-Thursday. Presented by nonprofit Michigan Tai Chi Association in Livonia, For details, call (734) 591-3530.

Recovery, Inc.

The support group meets at 10 a.m., Wednesdays at Prince of Peace Church, Walnut Lake Road and Green, West Bloomfield. Recovery, Inc. is an international, non-profit. self-help, community-based organization that helps people with nervous and emotional disorders reduce their suffering and improve quality of life. Call Martha Paul at (248) 682-9362 or e-mail marthapaul@sbcglobal.net. Self-help meetings in Livonia run 7:30 p.m. Mondays, St. Matthew's Methodist Church, 30900 W. Six Mile; 1:15 p.m. Thursdays, Mt. Hope Congregational Church, 30330 Schoolcraft; and 2:30 p.m. Sundays at Rosedale Gardens Presbyterian Church, 9601 Hubbard. Call (313) 561-2521 or visit www.recovery-inc.org. No charge, contributions collected.

Low vision support group

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

Arthritis Foundation programs

Winter classes begin for warm-water and land-based exercise programs, Tai Chi, and a six-week series that offers keys to successful arthritis self-management, in Canton, Redford and Westland. Call (800) 968-3030 or visit www.arthritis.org.

Health enhancement classes

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

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

MEDICAL DATEBOOK mation call Lucy at (734) 462-1768. 937-3314.

Wayne metro caregiver support

Are you a caregiver of an aging parent, spouse or relative? Wayne Metro's Caregiver Support Groups offer assistance to those struggling to find or give quality care to loved ones. Meetings are held the third Tuesday of the month, 10 a.m.noon, at the Kay Beard Building on Michigan Ave., Westland. Meetings are also held at the Village of Redford on Six Mile. The morning group meets 10 a.m. to noon on the second Thursday of the month; the evening group meets the fourth Thursday of the month from 6-8 p.m. Adult care may also be available. Call Nancy Coman at (313) 843-2550, Ext. 233.

Parkinson Support

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 information, call (248) 433-1011.

CPR classes

Classes range from basic CPR for people who wish to know how to help save a life to certification for those who need CPR for work and state licensure, at DMC Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital, 1 William Carls Dr., Commerce. First aid classes also available. Classes offered weekday evenings and Saturday mornings. Price varies. Pre-registration required at www.hvsh.





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Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, February 21, 2010

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Deadlines: Sunday edition 4:30 p.m. Friday Thursday edition 4:30 p.m. Tuesday

Eccentric office: 6200 Metro Pkwy., Sterling Heights, MI 48312 Observer office: 41304 Concept Dr., Plymouth, MI 48170 Hours: 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. Monday - Friday

6 Tips for Making a Fresh Start in a New Career

Robert Half International

Emerging signs the economic downturn is ending may mean you're considering a job change, especially if you've been struggling under large workloads and high levels of stress. But what if you seek not just a new position but an entirely new career? You may dream of pursuing a personal passion, taking advantage of opportunities in an industry with significant growth potential or finding a path that better fits your skill set.

A new start can be attractive and worthwhile, but go in with your eyes open. It's not always an easy road. Here are a few tips to help you make a successful leap into a new career.

1. Take a step back

Before you head full steam into your next opportunity, evaluate your present situation and make sure that switching careers is the right path. Are you unhappy with your job or the type of work you do? Would working for a company that provides better employee recognition or clearer paths for promotion, for instance, be enough to rejuvenate you? Be certain of your motivation before taking the leap.

2. Do your due diligence

If you feel your current career path lacks promise, you can quickly convince yourself that any other option is better. But that may not be true. Pursuing a position in a struggling industry or area of the country, for example, could actually set you back professionally.



Read trade publications, conduct online research and speak to members of your network to get a better sense of the field you'd like to pursue and its future prospects. Also research any potential hurdles you may have to overcome prior to making the switch. You may have to gain new training

or certifications, for instance, or face steep competition from a large labor pool.

3. Seek advice

Consider arranging an informational interview with someone in the field or position that interests you to get a realworld perspective. If you don't know anyone, find out if people in your network do. Once you've identified the right person, contact him or her to . schedule an informational interview. Be clear that you're not asking for a job.

An informational interview will give you the chance to find out what's currently happening in your field of interest and, potentially, additional insight into the hiring environment. You also can ask the people you meet with about how they started out in their careers, the challenges you might face when you make the transition and whether or not your contact can share any helpful advice for getting a foot in the door.

4. Know thyself

Once you know what opportunities are achievable, evaluate your current skills and experience and consider how qualified you are. For example, communication, organizational and leadership skills can often be effective across industries. Other skills, such as specific software knowledge, may not. The more transferable your skills are, the www.roberthalf.com. better able you will be to make a quick switch. At the same time, consider what

skills or qualifications you might need to develop. Is extensive schooling or training involved? Do you need to become licensed or certified in a certain software or procedure? Think about the time and cost involved to determine the ease or difficultly of making a switch.

5. Transition slowly

Look for opportunities to give your new career a "test run." Depending on the industry, you may be able to pursue volunteer or temporary work and determine if the new situation feels like a good fit.

6. Be realistic

No matter the economic climate, a career switch won't usually happen overnight. It can often take time to transition into a new field, especially if you need to build skills, and you may have to start in an entry-level position until you gain experience.

Although it may not be a path to immediate employment, a career transition is an opportunity for you to rethink where you are headed and potentially discover a new course that gives you the professional satisfaction you crave.

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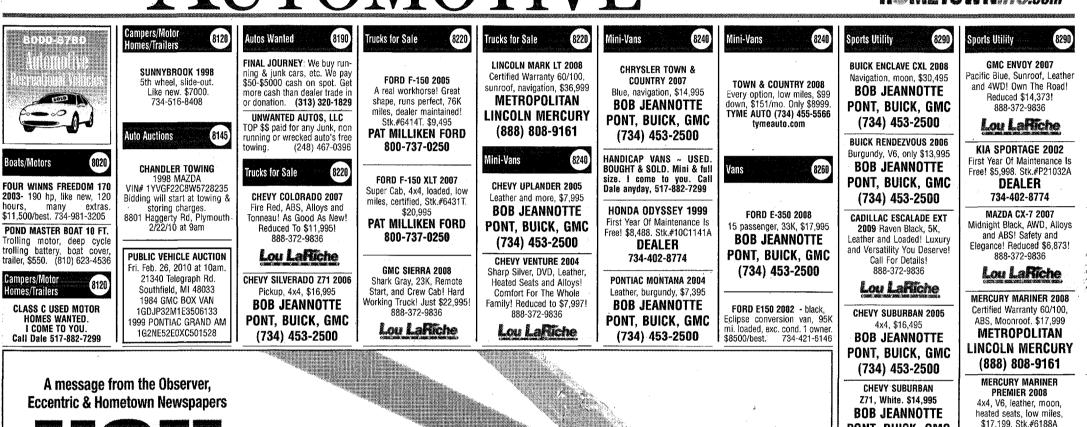
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A used Solstice -- if you can find one -- delivers lots of power

AdvertisingFeature



By Kevin Koloian For Avanti NewsFeatures and AllOpinionsAlltheTime.com

The Pontiac Solstice debuted as a 2006 model and quickly sold out in its initial production run. It is Pontiac's spin on the classic European roadster, featuring rearwheel drive, two seats and a manually operated cloth top.

CAReport

Sharing the same platform and components as the more upscale and pricier Saturn Sky, the Solstice's interior is set apart by its cousin by having sharp angular[•] design cues while the Sky is more curvaceous.

Although Pontiac as a brand is gone, you can still find Solstice GXPs on lots owned by dealers of other marques. The Solstice brings much needed power the driver, boasting a high-tech turbocharged engine that increases power nearly 50 percent over the base engine.

The GXP's engine is the first from General Motors to come with direct injection technology, which boosts power and fuel economy by altering the way fuel is provided to the engine's cylinders.

The Solstice GXP we tested accelerated from zero to 60 mph in 5.5 seconds, which is slightly quicker than the more expensive Porsche Boxster that starts at \$45,000.

The Solstice to get, if you can get a used one, is a 2007 model. It comes in two trims: the base originall sold for \$21,515 and the GXP, for \$26,515. Standard equipment for both includes 18-inch wheels with all season performance tires on the standard Solstice and summer tires for the GXP, a manually operated top with a glass rear window and defogger, a tiltadjustable steering wheel and a six-speaker audio system with an in-dash CD player.

The performance-oriented GXP adds a turbocharged engine, a sport-tuned suspension, dual exhaust outlets, foglamps, cruise control, power windows and mirrors, keyless entry and a leather-wrapped steering wheel. Most of these convenience features are available as options on the base Solstice.

Other options for both trims include air conditioning, leather seats, OnStar telematics and satellite radio.

Upgraded sound systems are an area of options unto itself. There's a CD player that can play MP3 coded discs as opposed to a plug-in MP3 player. Up from that, there's a high-watt Monsoon system with subwoofer, which requires the MP3 upgrade. There is also is an in-dash six-CD changer that includes the MP3 capability.

For added customization, Solstices are available in seven exterior colors, each inspired by a personality trait: Aggressive (red), Cool (silver), Deep (blue), Envious (green), Mysterious (black), Pure (white) and Sly (gray). A new premium exterior color, Mean (yellow), is also available at extra cost.

Powered by a 2.4-liter 4-cylinder engine, the base Solstice has 177 horsepower. The GXP's 2.0-liter turbocharged engine is good for 260 horsepower. They both come



mated to a five-speed manual transmission with a five-speed automatic optional for either engine.

The base model gets 20 miles per gallon in the city and 28 mpg on the highway compared to the GXP's 22 city and 31 highway.

Safety is provided by four-wheel disc brakes as standard equipment on both trims, with ABS optional on the base model and standard on the GXP. The GXP also comes with stability control, which is not available on the standard Solstice. Side airbags aren't offered on either model.

OnStar-equipped Solstice models feature OnStar Turn-by-Turn Navigation, the first factory-installed, fully integrated GPS navigation system from OnStar.

Turn-by-Turn allows consumers to talk to a live advisor, who in turn sends complete step-by-step directions to customers' vehicles through their OnStar system. These audio directions automatically play through the vehicle's stereo.

The biggest strike against the Solstice is its lack of storage space. Even by two-seat roadsters standards it is sparse.

Besides its glove box and bin to store small items, there's barely any room behind the seats.

The trunk, which doubles as storage for

the convertible top, provides 5.4 cubic feet of space with the top up, and just 2.1 cubic feet of space with the top down. To make matters worst, Solstice engineers put the gas tank in the middle of the trunk, so the usable storage space is even smaller than listed.

The engineers can also be blamed for the unease of operation of the manual top.

You begin with opening the rear-hinged trunk lid, which must be done from outside the car. Then you must get in the car to lower the windows and release the top. Next, get back out, fold the top down and close the trunk lid.

Minor inconveniences aside, the pros of the Solstice far outweigh the cons. It's an affordable and fun-to-drive convertible that fits the role of second car / weekend toy perfectly.

Write to Avanti NewsFeatures auto critic Kevin Koloian at avanti1054@aol.com. Distributed by Fracassa News Group. @2010, Fracassa Communications.

Pontiac Solstice Vehicle class: Sports car. Power: 4-cylinder engine. Mileage: 20 city / 28 highway. Where built: Wilmington, Del. Original base price: \$21,515.





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C8 (*) Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, February 21, 2010

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